

Arkansas

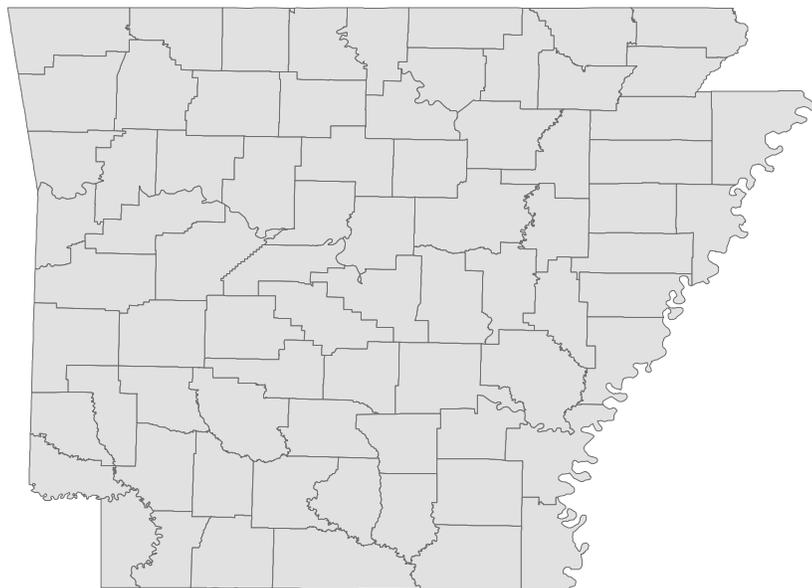
Labor Market Report



20
18

March

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Technical Notes

The *Arkansas Labor Market* is prepared monthly in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The current month's estimates are preliminary, while previous month's data is subject to revision.

Estimates of nonfarm payroll jobs show the number of jobs by industry and reflect employment by place of work. Hours and earnings estimates are based on payroll and worker-hour data collected for production workers in manufacturing industries.

Industries are classified according to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). All estimates are based on a first quarter 2017 benchmark.

Explanation of Terms and Concepts

Monthly Business Survey of Employers

A monthly sample survey designed to provide industry information on nonfarm payroll jobs. Data are compiled each month from mail surveys and telephone interviews conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in cooperation with Department of Workforce Services. The data are based on establishment records and include all workers, full- or part-time, who received pay during the payroll period which includes the 12th of

the month. Approximately 5,000 Arkansas business establishments are surveyed.

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

A term applied by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget to counties that have one or more central cities and that meet specified criteria of population density, commuting patterns and social and economic integration.

Current Population Survey (CPS)

A monthly sample survey of the population 16 years of age and over, designed to provide data on the labor force, the employed and the unemployed. The survey is conducted each month by the Bureau of the Census for BLS. The information is collected by trained interviewers from a sample of about 60,000 households. The data collected are based on the activity reported for the calendar week including the 12th of the month. Approximately 800 Arkansas households are represented in the sample survey.

Civilian Labor Force

The sum of all employed and unemployed persons 16 years of age or older. Members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

Employment

An estimate of the number of persons who worked any time for pay or profit or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in a family business during the calendar week which includes the 12th of the month. Also included are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, and persons involved in labor management disputes.

Unemployment

An estimate of the number of persons who did not have a job, but were available for work and actively seeking work during the calendar week which includes the 12th of the month.

Unemployment Rate

The number of unemployed as a percentage of the civilian labor force. Unemployment rates are calculated from unrounded data.

Seasonal Adjustment

A statistical technique applied to monthly data to eliminate changes that normally occur during the year due to seasonal events such as weather, major holidays, schedule shifts, harvest times, and the opening/closing of schools.

March Spotlight

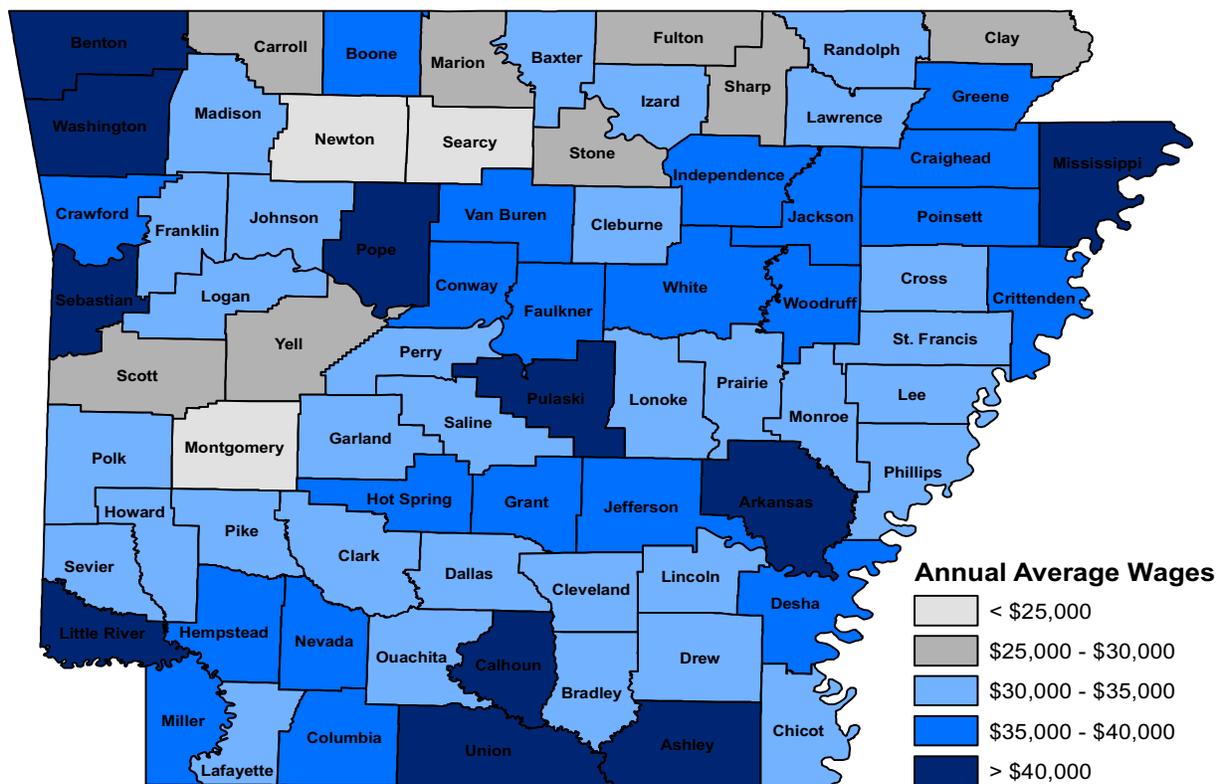
Wages in Arkansas

The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) is the most comprehensive data collection program utilized by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The program is based on each state's Unemployment Insurance (UI) program, which enables BLS to produce data using every business that is covered under UI tax law. In addition to calculating UI covered employment, the program also tracks the wages paid to employees. Due to the extensive nature of the information, data can be produced at any level--national, statewide, counties, and cities.

The information below comes from the QCEW program and provides annual average wage data for each county in Arkansas. Annual average wages are calculated using the total wages earned during the calendar year, divided by annual average employment. The wages below are compiled using all industries in the private sector, for all workers included under UI tax law. It is important to note that QCEW data is based on county of employment, not county of residency. So if an individual works in a different county than where they live, their wages are counted in the county where they work.

In 2017, average annual wages in the private sector ranged from a high of \$58,832, for those employed in Benton County, to a low of \$21,988 in Newton County.

Wages in Arkansas by County
2017 Annual Average (Private Sector)



State of Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Summary

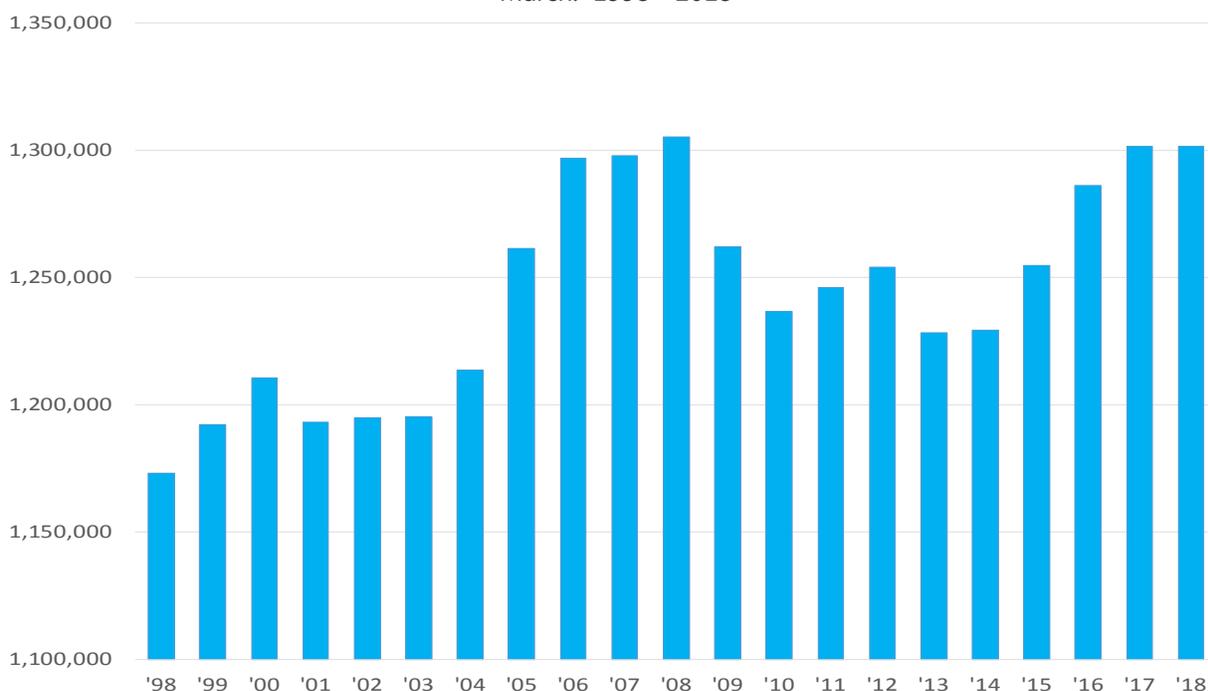
Labor force data, produced by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and released by the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, show Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.8 percent between February and March. Arkansas' civilian labor force declined 742, a result of 1,291 fewer employed and 549 more unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate remained stable at 4.1 percent in March.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate remained at 3.8 percent in March, mirroring the trend seen at the national level. The State's jobless rate is currently three-tenths of a percentage point lower than that of the U.S."

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Seasonally Adjusted				Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	<u>Mar 18</u>	<u>Feb 18</u>	<u>Mar 17</u>		<u>Mar 18</u>	<u>Feb 18</u>	<u>Mar 17</u>
Civilian Labor Force	1,353,025	1,353,767	1,350,593	Civilian Labor Force	1,349,290	1,342,068	1,347,624
Employment	1,301,673	1,302,964	1,301,684	Employment	1,296,850	1,285,294	1,300,205
Unemployment	51,352	50,803	48,909	Unemployment	52,440	56,774	47,419
Unemployment Rate	3.8	3.8	3.6	Unemployment Rate	3.9	4.2	3.5
U.S. Unemployment	4.1	4.1	4.5	U.S. Unemployment	4.1	4.4	4.6

Number of Employed (Seasonally Adjusted)
March: 1998 - 2018



State of Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

(NAICS)	<u>Mar 18</u>	<u>Feb 18</u>	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	1243.3	1233.6	1238.4	9.7	4.9
Goods Producing	213.5	213.0	213.0	0.5	0.5
Mining, Logging, and Construction	55.1	55.1	56.6	0.0	-1.5
Mining & Logging	5.5	5.5	5.8	0.0	-0.3
Construction	49.6	49.6	50.8	0.0	-1.2
Specialty Trade Contractors	30.0	30.2	31.8	-0.2	-1.8
Manufacturing	158.4	157.9	156.4	0.5	2.0
Durable Goods	75.5	74.9	74.7	0.6	0.8
Nondurable Goods	82.9	83.0	81.7	-0.1	1.2
Service Providing	1029.8	1020.6	1025.4	9.2	4.4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	249.7	246.8	248.7	2.9	1.0
Wholesale Trade	46.1	45.5	46.8	0.6	-0.7
Retail Trade	139.9	138.2	139.3	1.7	0.6
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	63.7	63.1	62.6	0.6	1.1
Information	12.2	12.3	13.4	-0.1	-1.2
Financial Activities	53.4	53.1	52.8	0.3	0.6
Finance & Insurance	40.2	39.9	39.7	0.3	0.5
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.2	13.2	13.1	0.0	0.1
Professional & Business Services	145.7	143.8	144.8	1.9	0.9
Professional, Scientific & Technical	42.9	43.1	43.6	-0.2	-0.7
Management of Companies	34.8	34.7	36.0	0.1	-1.2
Administrative & Support Services	68.0	66.0	65.2	2.0	2.8
Educational & Health Services	189.0	188.4	187.1	0.6	1.9
Educational Services	15.4	15.6	15.8	-0.2	-0.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	173.6	172.8	171.3	0.8	2.3
Ambulatory Health Care	57.0	56.5	55.8	0.5	1.2
Social Assistance	40.2	40.2	39.3	0.0	0.9
Leisure & Hospitality	116.5	113.1	115.3	3.4	1.2
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	10.8	10.3	10.4	0.5	0.4
Accommodation & Food Services	105.7	102.8	104.9	2.9	0.8
Accommodation Services	11.2	10.8	11.3	0.4	-0.1
Food Services	94.5	92.0	93.6	2.5	0.9
Other Services	47.9	48.8	48.5	-0.9	-0.6
Government	215.4	214.3	214.8	1.1	0.6
Federal Government	19.5	19.5	20.0	0.0	-0.5
State Government	80.1	79.5	80.2	0.6	-0.1
Local Government	115.8	115.3	114.6	0.5	1.2

State of Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary

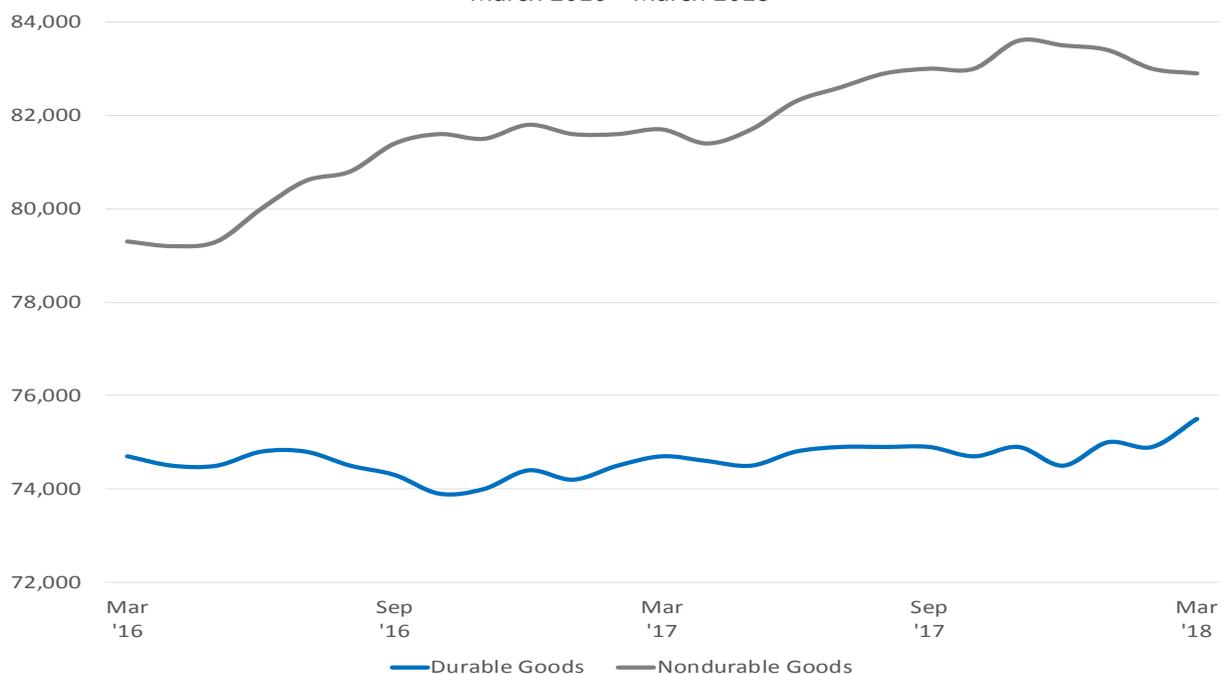
February 2018 - March 2018

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 9,700 in March to total 1,243,300. Seven major industry sectors posted gains, with four adding 1,100 or more jobs, each. Employment in **leisure and hospitality** rose 3,400, a typical seasonal expansion. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** increased 2,900. Growth occurred in all three subsectors, signaling the start of the spring shopping season. **Professional and business services** added 1,900 jobs, almost all in administrative and support services (+2,000). Employment in **government** increased 1,100. Typical spring hiring began in both state (+600) and local (+500) government.

March 2017 - March 2018

Compared to March 2017, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment is up 4,900. Growth was reported in seven major industry sectors, while jobs in four sectors declined. **Manufacturing** added 2,000 jobs. Hiring occurred in both nondurable (+1,200) and durable (+800) goods manufacturing. Employment in **educational and health services** rose 1,900. Additions in health care and social assistance (+2,300) more than offset the minor loss in educational services (-400). Notable gains were also posted in **leisure and hospitality** (+1,200) and **trade, transportation, and utilities** (+1,000). Jobs in **construction** declined 1,200 over the year, due in part to recent weather events. Employment in **information** is down 1,200.

Jobs in Manufacturing (Durable Goods vs. Nondurable Goods)
March 2016 - March 2018



State of Arkansas Production Workers- Hours and Earnings

Manufacturing

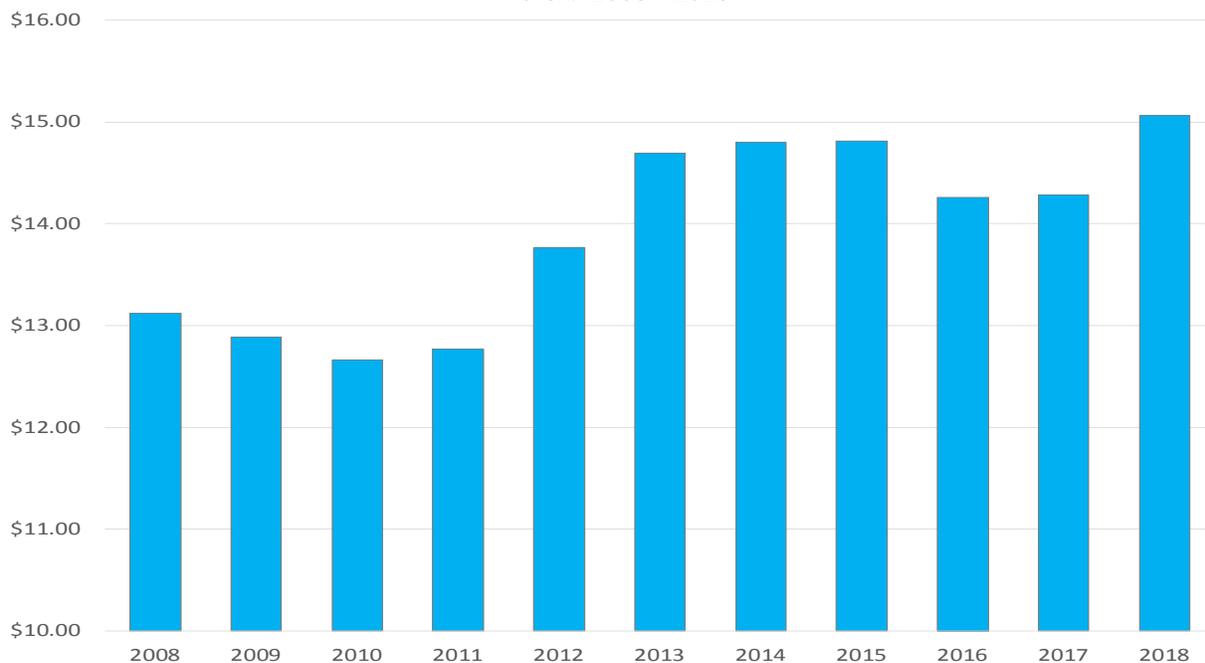
	<u>Mar 18</u>	<u>Feb 18</u>	<u>Mar 17</u>
Average Weekly Hours	42.1	41.3	38.7
Average Hourly Earnings	16.76	16.71	15.87
Average Weekly Earnings	705.60	690.12	614.17

Durable Goods and Nondurable Goods Manufacturing

Durable Goods Manufacturing				Nondurable Goods Manufacturing			
	<u>Mar 18</u>	<u>Feb 18</u>	<u>Mar 17</u>		<u>Mar 18</u>	<u>Feb 18</u>	<u>Mar 17</u>
Average Weekly Hours	41.8	42.2	40.9	Average Weekly Hours	42.3	40.5	36.7
Average Hourly Earnings	18.79	18.55	17.47	Average Hourly Earnings	15.06	15.13	14.28
Average Weekly Earnings	785.42	782.81	714.52	Average Weekly Earnings	637.04	612.77	524.08

Average Hourly Earnings- Nondurable Goods Manufacturing

March: 2008 - 2018



Metropolitan Statistical Areas Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

The Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA = Faulkner, Grant, Lonoke, Perry, Pulaski, & Saline counties.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Mar 18</u>	<u>Feb 18</u>	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	355,184	352,740	352,209	2,444	2,975
Employment	342,512	339,230	341,016	3,282	1,496
Unemployment	12,672	13,510	11,193	-838	1,479
Unemployment Rate	3.6	3.8	3.2	-0.2	0.4

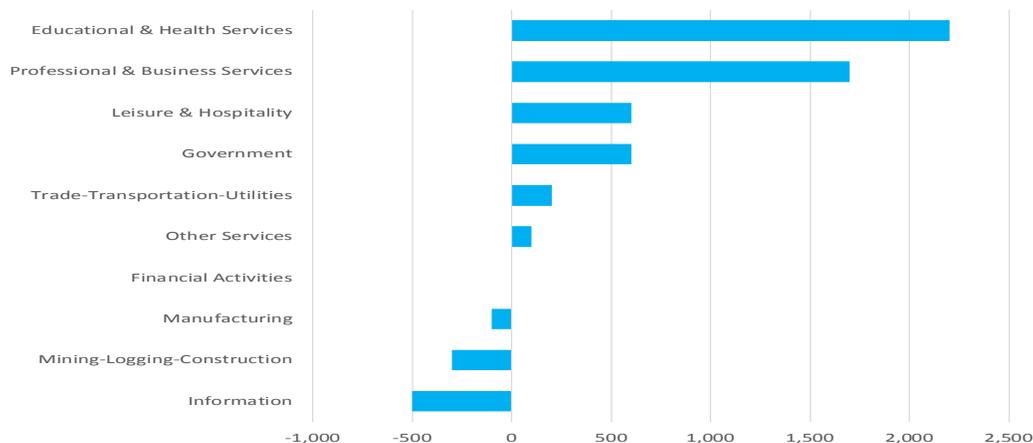
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Mar 18</u>	<u>Feb 18</u>	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	361.1	358.8	356.6	2.3	4.5
Goods Producing	37.0	37.5	37.4	-0.5	-0.4
Mining, Logging & Construction	16.8	17.4	17.1	-0.6	-0.3
Manufacturing	20.2	20.1	20.3	0.1	-0.1
Service Providing	324.1	321.3	319.2	2.8	4.9
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	69.5	69.2	69.3	0.3	0.2
Wholesale Trade	15.1	15.0	15.1	0.1	0.0
Retail Trade	38.4	38.3	38.6	0.1	-0.2
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	16.0	15.9	15.6	0.1	0.4
Information	5.7	5.7	6.2	0.0	-0.5
Financial Activities	21.0	21.0	21.0	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	48.9	48.2	47.2	0.7	1.7
Educational & Health Services	58.0	57.4	55.8	0.6	2.2
Leisure & Hospitality	34.1	33.2	33.5	0.9	0.6
Other Services	15.4	15.4	15.3	0.0	0.1
Government	71.5	71.2	70.9	0.3	0.6
Federal Government	9.4	9.4	9.5	0.0	-0.1
State Government	35.6	35.5	35.3	0.1	0.3
Local Government	26.5	26.3	26.1	0.2	0.4

Over-the-Year Job Growth by Industry (Ranked)

March 2017 - March 2018



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

The Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA = Benton, Madison, & Washington counties in Arkansas and McDonald county in Missouri.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

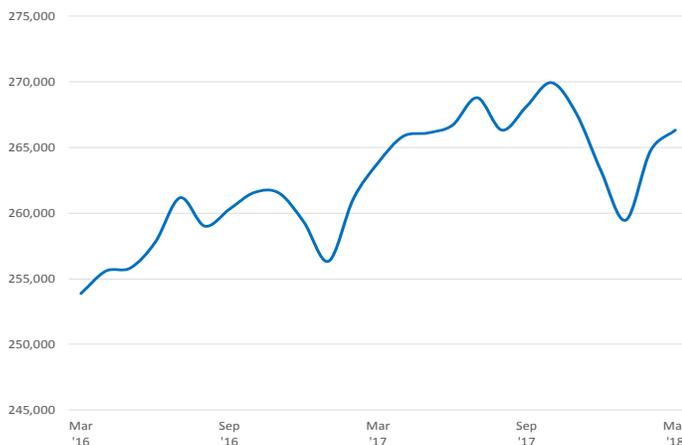
	Mar 18	Feb 18	Mar 17	OTM	QTY
Civilian Labor Force	274,062	273,047	270,707	1,015	3,355
Employment	266,319	264,740	263,835	1,579	2,484
Unemployment	7,743	8,307	6,872	-564	871
Unemployment Rate	2.8	3.0	2.5	-0.2	0.3

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

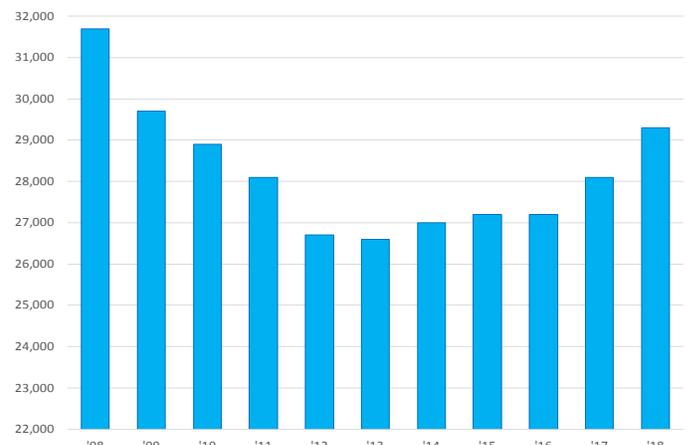
(In Thousands)

NAICS	Mar 18	Feb 18	Mar 17	OTM	QTY
Total Nonfarm	257.9	257.1	252.7	0.8	5.2
Goods Producing	40.9	40.9	39.0	0.0	1.9
Mining, Logging & Construction	11.6	11.5	10.9	0.1	0.7
Manufacturing	29.3	29.4	28.1	-0.1	1.2
Service Providing	217.0	216.2	213.7	0.8	3.3
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	55.9	55.9	56.1	0.0	-0.2
Wholesale Trade	13.4	13.3	13.0	0.1	0.4
Retail Trade	25.9	26.1	26.3	-0.2	-0.4
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	16.6	16.5	16.8	0.1	-0.2
Information	1.8	1.8	2.0	0.0	-0.2
Financial Activities	7.9	7.8	7.7	0.1	0.2
Professional & Business Services	50.4	50.2	50.4	0.2	0.0
Educational & Health Services	29.1	29.0	28.2	0.1	0.9
Leisure & Hospitality	26.1	25.7	24.7	0.4	1.4
Other Services	8.8	9.0	8.9	-0.2	-0.1
Government	37.0	36.8	35.7	0.2	1.3
Federal Government	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0
State Government	15.2	15.1	14.3	0.1	0.9
Local Government	19.3	19.2	18.9	0.1	0.4

Number of Employed
March 2016 - March 2018



Jobs in Manufacturing
March: 2008 - 2018



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fort Smith MSA

The Fort Smith MSA = Crawford & Sebastian counties in Arkansas & LeFlore & Sequoyah counties in Oklahoma.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

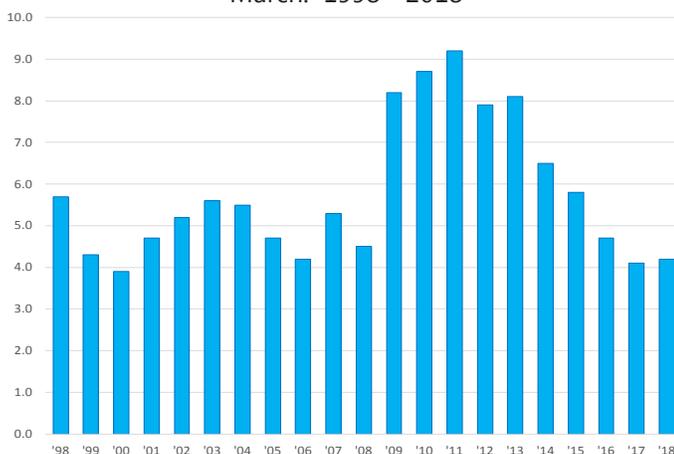
	<u>Mar 18</u>	<u>Feb 18</u>	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	118,577	118,187	120,007	390	-1,430
Employment	113,603	112,756	115,116	847	-1,513
Unemployment	4,974	5,431	4,891	-457	83
Unemployment Rate	4.2	4.6	4.1	-0.4	0.1

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

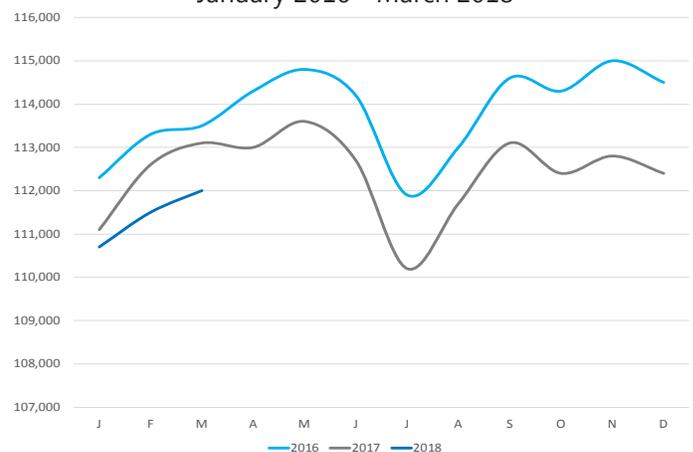
(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Mar 18</u>	<u>Feb 18</u>	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	112.0	111.5	113.1	0.5	-1.1
Goods Producing	22.7	22.8	23.2	-0.1	-0.5
Mining, Logging & Construction	5.3	5.3	5.3	0.0	0.0
Manufacturing	17.4	17.5	17.9	-0.1	-0.5
Service Providing	89.3	88.7	89.9	0.6	-0.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	22.6	22.3	22.8	0.3	-0.2
Wholesale Trade	3.9	3.9	3.8	0.0	0.1
Retail Trade	12.5	12.2	12.8	0.3	-0.3
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	6.2	6.2	6.2	0.0	0.0
Information	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	3.8	3.8	3.8	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	12.4	12.4	12.6	0.0	-0.2
Educational & Health Services	16.7	16.7	16.9	0.0	-0.2
Leisure & Hospitality	9.2	9.0	9.4	0.2	-0.2
Other Services	4.4	4.4	4.4	0.0	0.0
Government	19.0	18.9	18.8	0.1	0.2
Federal Government	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
State Government	3.2	3.1	3.2	0.1	0.0
Local Government	14.5	14.5	14.3	0.0	0.2

Unemployment Rates
March: 1998 - 2018



Nonfarm Payroll Jobs
January 2016 - March 2018



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Hot Springs MSA

The Hot Springs MSA = Garland County.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Mar 18</u>	<u>Feb 18</u>	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	40,488	40,039	40,579	449	-91
Employment	38,751	38,176	39,063	575	-312
Unemployment	1,737	1,863	1,516	-126	221
Unemployment Rate	4.3	4.7	3.7	-0.4	0.6

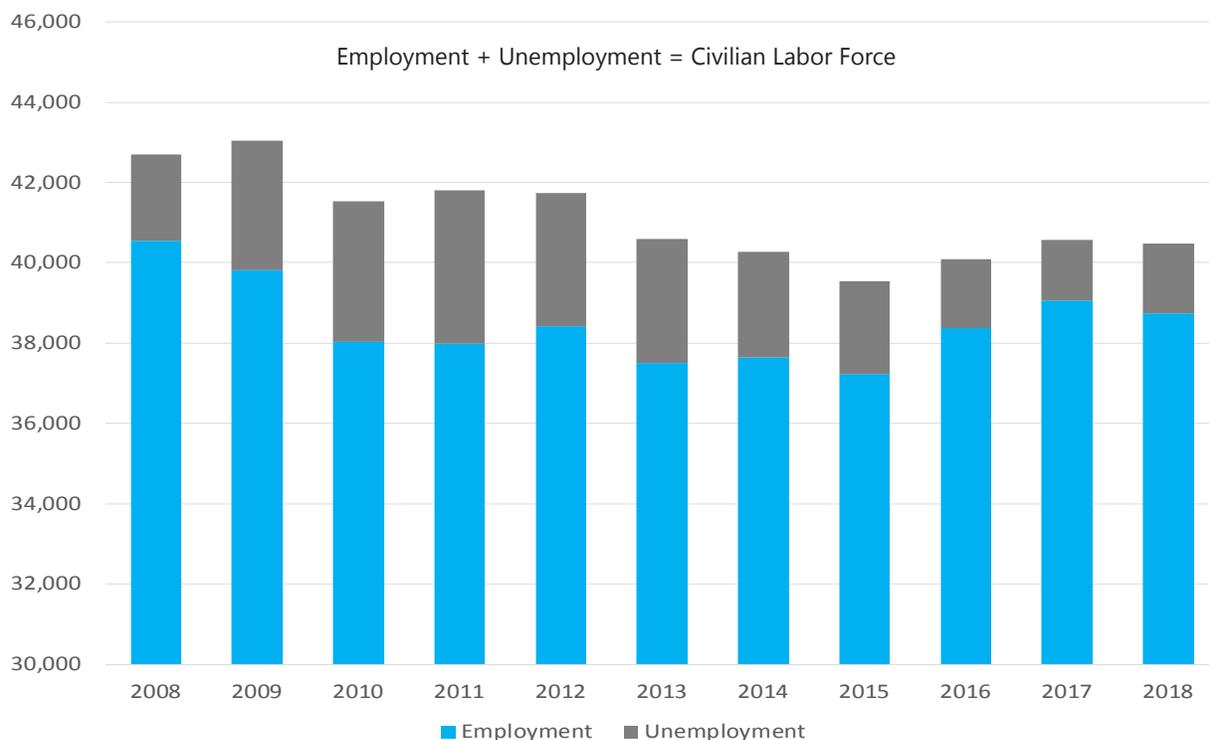
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Mar 18</u>	<u>Feb 18</u>	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	38.2	37.9	38.3	0.3	-0.1
Goods Producing	4.5	4.5	4.4	0.0	0.1
Service Providing	33.7	33.4	33.9	0.3	-0.2
Government	4.6	4.6	4.5	0.0	0.1

Employment and Unemployment

March: 2008 - 2018



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Jonesboro MSA

The Jonesboro MSA = Craighead & Poinsett counties.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Mar 18</u>	<u>Feb 18</u>	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	64,104	64,015	63,501	89	603
Employment	61,979	61,692	61,613	287	366
Unemployment	2,125	2,323	1,888	-198	237
Unemployment Rate	3.3	3.6	3.0	-0.3	0.3

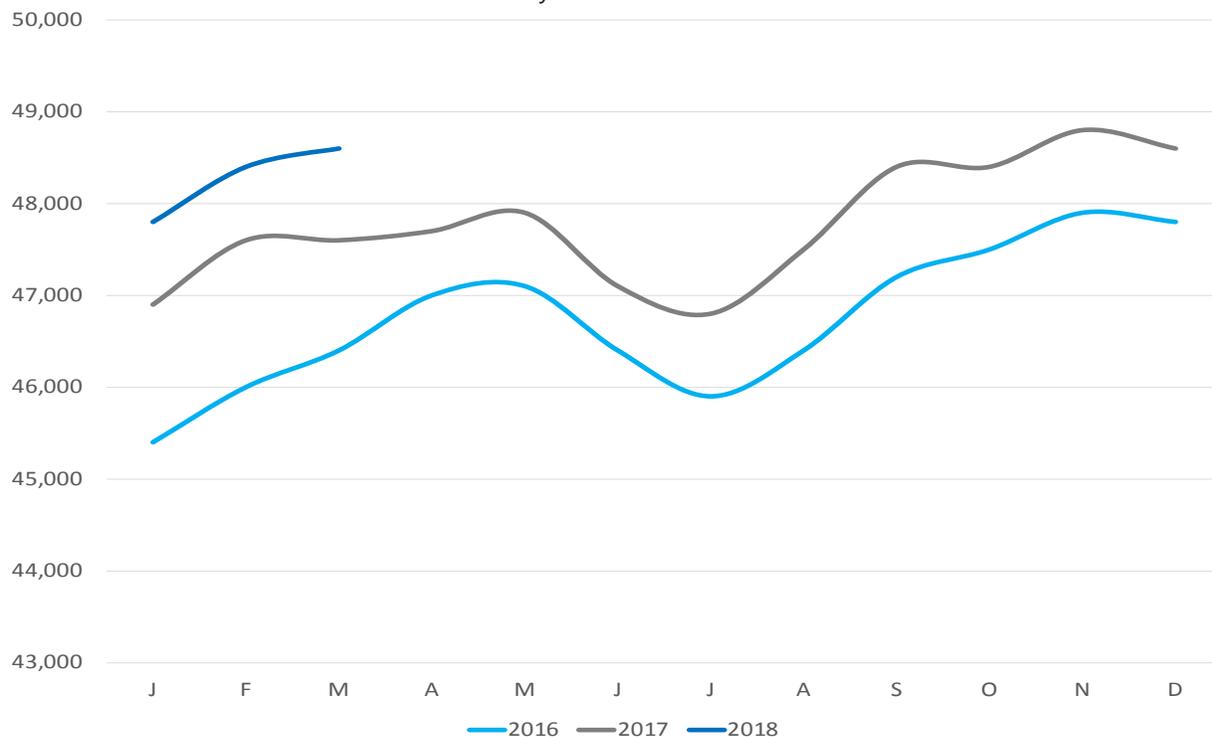
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Mar 18</u>	<u>Feb 18</u>	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	58.3	58.1	57.1	0.2	1.2
Goods Producing	9.7	9.7	9.5	0.0	0.2
Service Providing	48.6	48.4	47.6	0.2	1.0
Government	9.3	9.3	9.0	0.0	0.3

Jobs in Service Providing Industries

January 2016 - March 2018



Metropolitan Statistical Areas Pine Bluff MSA

The Pine Bluff MSA = Cleveland, Jefferson, & Lincoln counties.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Mar 18</u>	<u>Feb 18</u>	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	35,099	34,991	35,318	108	-219
Employment	33,225	33,017	33,585	208	-360
Unemployment	1,874	1,974	1,733	-100	141
Unemployment Rate	5.3	5.6	4.9	-0.3	0.4

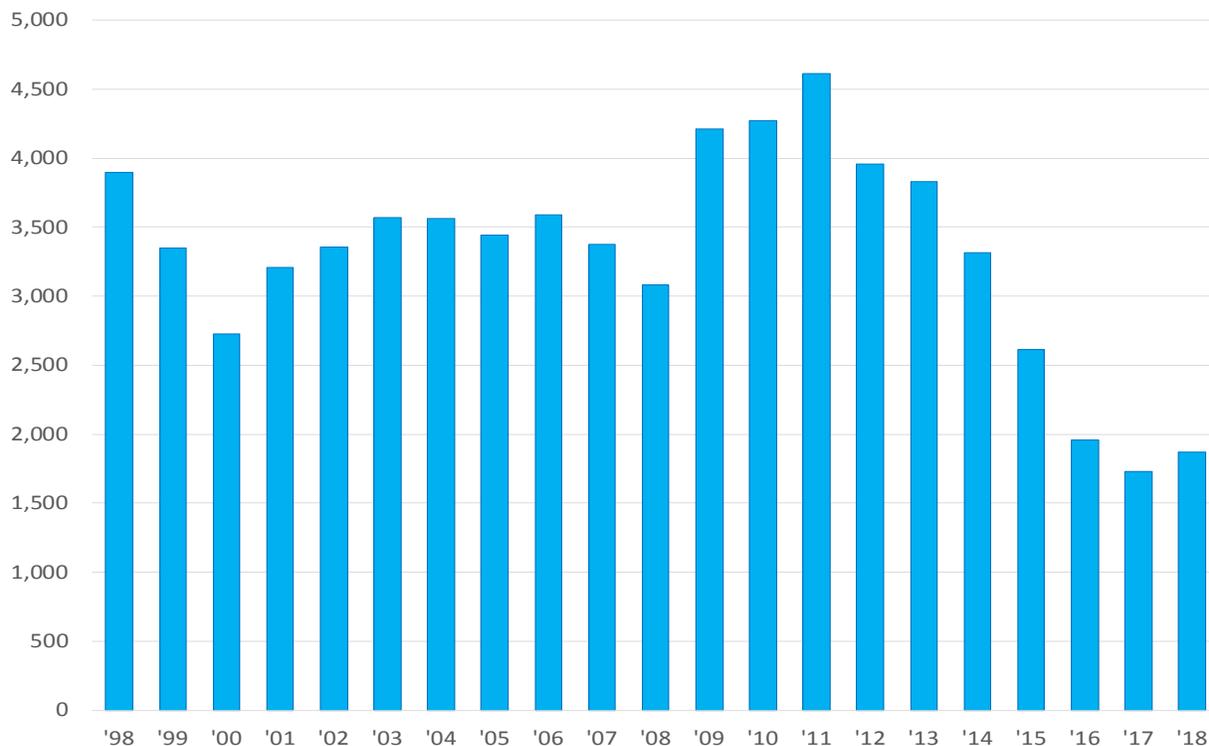
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Mar 18</u>	<u>Feb 18</u>	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	32.9	32.9	32.9	0.0	0.0
Goods Producing	6.1	6.1	6.1	0.0	0.0
Service Providing	26.8	26.8	26.8	0.0	0.0
Government	9.6	9.6	9.5	0.0	0.1

Number of Unemployed

March: 1998 - 2018



Metropolitan Statistical Areas Out-of-State MSA

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Memphis, TN-MS-AR MSA

The Memphis, TN-MS-AR MSA = Fayette, Shelby, & Tipton counties in Tennessee; Benton, Desoto, Marshall, Tate, & Tunica counties in Mississippi; & Crittenden County in Arkansas.

	Mar 18	Feb 18	Mar 17	OTM	QTY
Civilian Labor Force	638,845	635,936	626,796	2,909	12,049
Employment	613,681	609,921	598,006	3,760	15,675
Unemployment	25,164	26,015	28,790	-851	-3,626
Unemployment Rate	3.9	4.1	4.6	-0.2	-0.7

Texarkana MSA

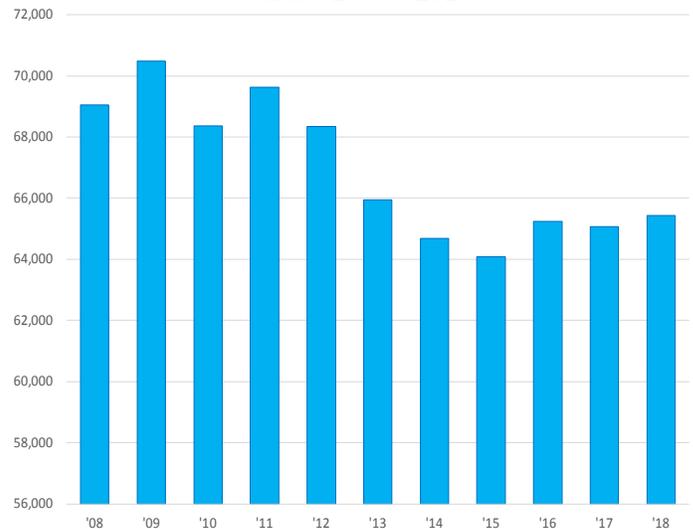
The Texarkana MSA= Bowie County in Texas & Little River & Miller counties in Arkansas.

	Mar 18	Feb 18	Mar 17	OTM	QTY
Civilian Labor Force	65,434	65,004	65,063	430	371
Employment	62,345	61,858	62,130	487	215
Unemployment	3,089	3,146	2,933	-57	156
Unemployment Rate	4.7	4.8	4.5	-0.1	0.2

Memphis MSA - Number of Employed
March 2015 - March 2018



Texarkana MSA - Civilian Labor Force
March: 2008 - 2018



Micropolitan Statistical Areas and Cities Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Micropolitan Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Micro Area	March 2018				February 2018				March 2017			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Arkadelphia Micro	9,551	9,176	375	3.9	9,498	9,096	402	4.2	9,492	9,151	341	3.6
Batesville Micro	16,189	15,542	647	4.0	16,134	15,418	716	4.4	16,244	15,595	649	4.0
Blytheville Micro	17,612	16,594	1,018	5.8	17,470	16,408	1,062	6.1	17,874	16,839	1,035	5.8
Camden Micro	12,191	11,596	595	4.9	12,125	11,519	606	5.0	12,075	11,562	513	4.2
El Dorado Micro	16,140	15,130	1,010	6.3	16,107	15,035	1,072	6.7	16,128	15,269	859	5.3
Forrest City Micro	8,175	7,717	458	5.6	8,158	7,649	509	6.2	8,409	7,987	422	5.0
Harrison Micro	19,174	18,421	753	3.9	19,059	18,221	838	4.4	19,241	18,609	632	3.3
Helena-West Helena Micro	6,414	5,954	460	7.2	6,396	5,890	506	7.9	6,559	6,196	363	5.5
Hope Micro	13,361	12,899	462	3.5	13,323	12,820	503	3.8	13,424	12,987	437	3.3
Magnolia Micro	9,078	8,628	450	5.0	9,038	8,558	480	5.3	9,176	8,724	452	4.9
Malvern Micro	14,127	13,601	526	3.7	14,028	13,450	578	4.1	14,197	13,722	475	3.3
Mountain Home Micro	16,466	15,757	709	4.3	16,287	15,532	755	4.6	16,403	15,754	649	4.0
Paragould Micro	19,593	18,848	745	3.8	19,550	18,741	809	4.1	19,939	19,229	710	3.6
Russellville Micro	37,403	35,818	1,585	4.2	37,234	35,381	1,853	5.0	37,980	36,509	1,471	3.9
Searcy Micro	33,888	32,198	1,690	5.0	33,699	31,938	1,761	5.2	33,841	32,285	1,556	4.6

Arkadelphia Micro = Clark County

Batesville Micro = Independence County

Blytheville Micro = Mississippi County

Camden Micro = Calhoun & Ouachita counties

El Dorado Micro = Union County

Forrest City Micro = St. Francis County

Harrison Micro = Boone & Newton counties

Helena-West Helena Micro = Phillips County

Hope Micro = Hempstead & Nevada counties

Magnolia Micro = Columbia County

Malvern Micro = Hot Spring County

Mountain Home Micro = Baxter County

Paragould Micro = Greene County

Russellville Micro = Pope & Yell counties

Searcy Micro = White County

City Labor Force Statistics

Not Seasonally Adjusted

City	March 2018				February 2018				March 2017			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Bella Vista	12,428	11,947	481	3.9	12,414	11,872	542	4.4	12,231	11,830	401	3.3
Benton	17,288	16,710	578	3.3	17,172	16,548	624	3.6	17,099	16,619	480	2.8
Bentonville	25,471	24,769	702	2.8	25,345	24,614	731	2.9	25,179	24,527	652	2.6
Blytheville	6,007	5,650	357	5.9	5,956	5,587	369	6.2	6,093	5,734	359	5.9
Cabot	11,845	11,437	408	3.4	11,740	11,333	407	3.5	11,800	11,450	350	3.0
Conway	33,440	32,345	1,095	3.3	33,279	32,037	1,242	3.7	33,247	32,221	1,026	3.1
El Dorado	7,059	6,575	484	6.9	7,040	6,534	506	7.2	7,076	6,636	440	6.2
Fayetteville	47,436	46,194	1,242	2.6	47,278	45,904	1,374	2.9	46,925	45,742	1,183	2.5
Fort Smith	39,347	37,818	1,529	3.9	39,176	37,487	1,689	4.3	39,824	38,473	1,351	3.4
Hot Springs	14,607	13,899	708	4.8	14,421	13,692	729	5.1	14,607	14,011	596	4.1
Jacksonville	11,782	11,275	507	4.3	11,716	11,166	550	4.7	11,695	11,213	482	4.1
Jonesboro	37,828	36,637	1,191	3.1	37,773	36,461	1,312	3.5	37,377	36,346	1,031	2.8
Little Rock	98,089	94,431	3,658	3.7	97,260	93,517	3,743	3.8	97,033	93,906	3,127	3.2
North Little Rock	30,164	28,940	1,224	4.1	29,968	28,660	1,308	4.4	29,785	28,779	1,006	3.4
Paragould	12,308	11,819	489	4.0	12,283	11,752	531	4.3	12,561	12,058	503	4.0
Pine Bluff	16,681	15,700	981	5.9	16,649	15,598	1,051	6.3	16,730	15,821	909	5.4
Rogers	35,155	34,229	926	2.6	35,011	34,016	995	2.8	34,759	33,895	864	2.5
Russellville	13,570	13,041	529	3.9	13,479	12,878	601	4.5	13,724	13,254	470	3.4
Searcy	10,401	9,975	426	4.1	10,332	9,895	437	4.2	10,419	10,002	417	4.0
Sherwood	15,797	15,297	500	3.2	15,688	15,149	539	3.4	15,670	15,212	458	2.9
Springdale	39,221	38,177	1,044	2.7	39,069	37,937	1,132	2.9	38,690	37,803	887	2.3
Texarkana, AR	13,780	13,095	685	5.0	13,650	12,959	691	5.1	13,802	13,176	626	4.5
Van Buren	10,268	9,880	388	3.8	10,228	9,796	432	4.2	10,413	10,077	336	3.2
West Memphis	10,831	10,313	518	4.8	10,756	10,195	561	5.2	10,742	10,207	535	5.0

County Labor Force Statistics Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

County	March 2018				February 2018				March 2017			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Arkansas	8,740	8,399	341	3.9	8,710	8,329	381	4.4	8,912	8,630	282	3.2
Ashley	7,750	7,295	455	5.9	7,706	7,201	505	6.6	7,789	7,344	445	5.7
Baxter	16,466	15,757	709	4.3	16,287	15,532	755	4.6	16,403	15,754	649	4.0
Benton	133,105	129,136	3,969	3.0	132,552	128,331	4,221	3.2	131,299	127,876	3,423	2.6
Boone	15,841	15,199	642	4.1	15,721	15,032	689	4.4	15,846	15,331	515	3.3
Bradley	4,446	4,215	231	5.2	4,423	4,187	236	5.3	4,331	4,110	221	5.1
Calhoun	2,350	2,240	110	4.7	2,339	2,228	111	4.7	2,346	2,260	86	3.7
Carroll	12,834	12,405	429	3.3	12,656	12,107	549	4.3	12,791	12,367	424	3.3
Chicot	3,392	3,099	293	8.6	3,389	3,078	311	9.2	3,525	3,285	240	6.8
Clark	9,551	9,176	375	3.9	9,498	9,096	402	4.2	9,492	9,151	341	3.6
Clay	5,698	5,416	282	4.9	5,693	5,377	316	5.6	5,911	5,637	274	4.6
Cleburne	9,157	8,715	442	4.8	9,114	8,617	497	5.5	9,332	8,877	455	4.9
Cleveland	3,253	3,106	147	4.5	3,245	3,088	157	4.8	3,321	3,172	149	4.5
Columbia	9,078	8,628	450	5.0	9,038	8,558	480	5.3	9,176	8,724	452	4.9
Conway	8,128	7,756	372	4.6	8,115	7,690	425	5.2	8,270	7,869	401	4.8
Craighead	53,872	52,161	1,711	3.2	53,769	51,911	1,858	3.5	53,223	51,747	1,476	2.8
Crawford	26,294	25,302	992	3.8	26,200	25,086	1,114	4.3	26,684	25,807	877	3.3
Crittenden	21,803	20,878	925	4.2	21,655	20,638	1,017	4.7	21,578	20,663	915	4.2
Cross	7,447	7,115	332	4.5	7,382	7,016	366	5.0	7,770	7,466	304	3.9
Dallas	2,871	2,733	138	4.8	2,861	2,718	143	5.0	2,833	2,717	116	4.1
Desha	5,323	5,046	277	5.2	5,292	5,002	290	5.5	5,391	5,127	264	4.9
Drew	7,913	7,481	432	5.5	7,907	7,441	466	5.9	7,822	7,410	412	5.3
Faulkner	61,112	59,006	2,106	3.4	60,781	58,443	2,338	3.8	60,759	58,779	1,980	3.3
Franklin	7,347	7,065	282	3.8	7,305	7,003	302	4.1	7,386	7,147	239	3.2
Fulton	4,748	4,548	200	4.2	4,726	4,494	232	4.9	4,739	4,555	184	3.9
Garland	40,488	38,751	1,737	4.3	40,039	38,176	1,863	4.7	40,579	39,063	1,516	3.7
Grant	8,297	8,028	269	3.2	8,237	7,955	282	3.4	8,283	8,034	249	3.0
Greene	19,593	18,848	745	3.8	19,550	18,741	809	4.1	19,939	19,229	710	3.6
Hempstead	9,764	9,435	329	3.4	9,732	9,378	354	3.6	9,832	9,516	316	3.2
Hot Spring	14,127	13,601	526	3.7	14,028	13,450	578	4.1	14,197	13,722	475	3.3
Howard	5,981	5,775	206	3.4	5,915	5,709	206	3.5	5,977	5,807	170	2.8
Independence	16,189	15,542	647	4.0	16,134	15,418	716	4.4	16,244	15,595	649	4.0
Izard	4,829	4,567	262	5.4	4,790	4,499	291	6.1	4,976	4,737	239	4.8
Jackson	5,775	5,410	365	6.3	5,736	5,337	399	7.0	5,980	5,622	358	6.0
Jefferson	27,873	26,336	1,537	5.5	27,776	26,166	1,610	5.8	27,953	26,540	1,413	5.1
Johnson	10,475	10,008	467	4.5	10,479	9,950	529	5.0	10,634	10,237	397	3.7
Lafayette	2,505	2,361	144	5.7	2,514	2,357	157	6.2	2,532	2,411	121	4.8
Lawrence	6,877	6,605	272	4.0	6,861	6,547	314	4.6	6,970	6,730	240	3.4
Lee	2,878	2,724	154	5.4	2,868	2,699	169	5.9	2,992	2,850	142	4.7
Lincoln	3,973	3,783	190	4.8	3,970	3,763	207	5.2	4,044	3,873	171	4.2
Little River	5,579	5,301	278	5.0	5,532	5,245	287	5.2	5,578	5,331	247	4.4
Logan	8,846	8,476	370	4.2	8,796	8,400	396	4.5	8,913	8,595	318	3.6
Lonoke	33,667	32,500	1,167	3.5	33,459	32,204	1,255	3.8	33,549	32,536	1,013	3.0
Madison	7,391	7,163	228	3.1	7,379	7,127	252	3.4	7,420	7,232	188	2.5
Marion	6,443	6,178	265	4.1	6,405	6,094	311	4.9	6,496	6,258	238	3.7
Miller	19,901	18,946	955	4.8	19,740	18,748	992	5.0	19,880	19,063	817	4.1

(continued on Page 16)

County Labor Force Statistics Civilian Labor Force Estimates

(continued from Page 15)

County	Not Seasonally Adjusted											
	March 2018				February 2018				March 2018			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Mississippi	17,612	16,594	1,018	5.8	17,470	16,408	1,062	6.1	17,874	16,839	1,035	5.8
Monroe	2,728	2,608	120	4.4	2,722	2,588	134	4.9	2,825	2,704	121	4.3
Montgomery	3,004	2,850	154	5.1	2,973	2,801	172	5.8	3,083	2,938	145	4.7
Nevada	3,597	3,464	133	3.7	3,591	3,442	149	4.1	3,592	3,471	121	3.4
Newton	3,333	3,222	111	3.3	3,338	3,189	149	4.5	3,395	3,278	117	3.4
Ouachita	9,841	9,356	485	4.9	9,786	9,291	495	5.1	9,729	9,302	427	4.4
Perry	4,181	3,994	187	4.5	4,173	3,957	216	5.2	4,184	4,004	180	4.3
Phillips	6,414	5,954	460	7.2	6,396	5,890	506	7.9	6,559	6,196	363	5.5
Pike	4,313	4,123	190	4.4	4,273	4,072	201	4.7	4,236	4,074	162	3.8
Poinsett	10,232	9,818	414	4.0	10,246	9,781	465	4.5	10,278	9,866	412	4.0
Polk	8,037	7,695	342	4.3	7,983	7,605	378	4.7	8,086	7,705	381	4.7
Pope	28,934	27,708	1,226	4.2	28,806	27,362	1,444	5.0	29,310	28,160	1,150	3.9
Prairie	3,584	3,425	159	4.4	3,566	3,404	162	4.5	3,710	3,568	142	3.8
Pulaski	190,171	183,098	7,073	3.7	188,733	181,326	7,407	3.9	188,204	182,081	6,123	3.3
Randolph	6,896	6,608	288	4.2	6,890	6,547	343	5.0	6,921	6,644	277	4.0
St. Francis	8,175	7,717	458	5.6	8,158	7,649	509	6.2	8,409	7,987	422	5.0
Saline	57,756	55,886	1,870	3.2	57,357	55,345	2,012	3.5	57,230	55,582	1,648	2.9
Scott	4,354	4,182	172	4.0	4,344	4,158	186	4.3	4,417	4,285	132	3.0
Searcy	2,945	2,816	129	4.4	2,918	2,759	159	5.4	2,901	2,784	117	4.0
Sebastian	56,532	54,338	2,194	3.9	56,259	53,861	2,398	4.3	57,224	55,278	1,946	3.4
Sevier	5,666	5,402	264	4.7	5,626	5,342	284	5.0	5,616	5,375	241	4.3
Sharp	6,038	5,751	287	4.8	5,998	5,696	302	5.0	6,048	5,736	312	5.2
Stone	4,679	4,443	236	5.0	4,648	4,387	261	5.6	4,788	4,550	238	5.0
Union	16,140	15,130	1,010	6.3	16,107	15,035	1,072	6.7	16,128	15,269	859	5.3
Van Buren	6,063	5,734	329	5.4	6,007	5,641	366	6.1	6,088	5,742	346	5.7
Washington	122,913	119,727	3,186	2.6	122,454	118,975	3,479	2.8	121,427	118,557	2,870	2.4
White	33,888	32,198	1,690	5.0	33,699	31,938	1,761	5.2	33,841	32,285	1,556	4.6
Woodruff	2,828	2,686	142	5.0	2,818	2,663	155	5.5	2,966	2,817	149	5.0
Yell	8,469	8,110	359	4.2	8,428	8,019	409	4.9	8,670	8,349	321	3.7

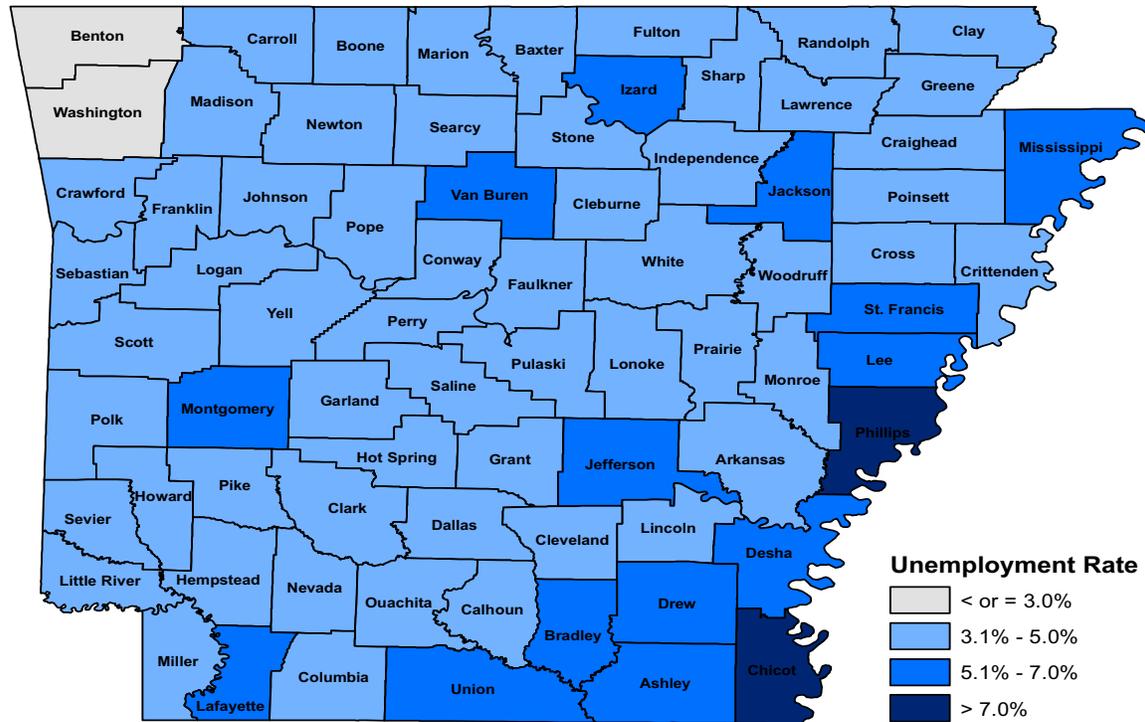
County Labor Force Summary

Between February and March, unemployment rates declined in 74 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Calhoun County remained stable over the month. Jobless rates ranged from a low of 2.6 percent in Washington County to a high of 8.6 percent in Chicot County.

In March, twenty-five counties posted unemployment rates at or below four percent. That is up significantly from the eleven counties above 4 percent last month. Only one county-- Chicot--reported a jobless rate above eight percent.

Compared to March 2017, unemployment rates are up in sixty-one Arkansas counties. Eight counties were unchanged and six declined over the year.

County Unemployment Rates



Ranked by Unemployment Rates

March 2018 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Rank	County	Rate	Rank	County	Rate	Rank	County	Rate
1	Washington	2.6	26	Boone	4.1	48	Miller	4.8
2	Benton	3.0	26	Marion	4.1	48	Sharp	4.8
3	Madison	3.1	28	Crittenden	4.2	53	Clay	4.9
4	Craighead	3.2	28	Fulton	4.2	53	Ouachita	4.9
4	Grant	3.2	28	Logan	4.2	55	Columbia	5.0
4	Saline	3.2	28	Pope	4.2	55	Little River	5.0
7	Carroll	3.3	28	Randolph	4.2	55	Stone	5.0
7	Newton	3.3	28	Yell	4.2	55	White	5.0
9	Faulkner	3.4	34	Baxter	4.3	55	Woodruff	5.0
9	Hempstead	3.4	34	Garland	4.3	60	Montgomery	5.1
9	Howard	3.4	34	Polk	4.3	61	Bradley	5.2
12	Lonoke	3.5	37	Monroe	4.4	61	Desha	5.2
13	Hot Spring	3.7	37	Pike	4.4	63	Izard	5.4
13	Nevada	3.7	37	Prairie	4.4	63	Lee	5.4
13	Pulaski	3.7	37	Searcy	4.4	63	Van Buren	5.4
16	Crawford	3.8	41	Cleveland	4.5	66	Drew	5.5
16	Franklin	3.8	41	Cross	4.5	66	Jefferson	5.5
16	Greene	3.8	41	Johnson	4.5	68	St. Francis	5.6
19	Arkansas	3.9	41	Perry	4.5	69	Lafayette	5.7
19	Clark	3.9	45	Conway	4.6	70	Mississippi	5.8
19	Sebastian	3.9	46	Calhoun	4.7	71	Ashley	5.9
22	Independence	4.0	46	Sevier	4.7	72	Jackson	6.3
22	Lawrence	4.0	48	Cleburne	4.8	72	Union	6.3
22	Poinsett	4.0	48	Dallas	4.8	74	Phillips	7.2
22	Scott	4.0	48	Lincoln	4.8	75	Chicot	8.6

Local Workforce Development Areas Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

LWDA	March 2018				February 2018				March 2017			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Central (minus LR)	250,929	242,092	8,837	3.5	249,358	239,793	9,565	3.8	249,244	241,344	7,900	3.2
City of Little Rock	98,089	94,431	3,658	3.7	97,260	93,517	3,743	3.8	97,033	93,906	3,127	3.2
Eastern	46,717	44,388	2,329	5.0	46,459	43,892	2,567	5.5	47,308	45,162	2,146	4.5
North Central	94,194	89,594	4,600	4.9	93,670	88,690	4,980	5.3	95,002	90,516	4,486	4.7
Northeast	120,780	116,050	4,730	3.9	120,479	115,312	5,167	4.3	121,116	116,692	4,424	3.7
Northwest	321,271	311,603	9,668	3.0	319,710	309,146	10,564	3.3	317,978	309,437	8,541	2.7
Southeast	80,960	76,788	4,172	5.2	80,655	76,210	4,445	5.5	81,371	77,525	3,846	4.7
Southwest	93,273	88,771	4,502	4.8	92,781	88,051	4,730	5.1	93,219	89,246	3,973	4.3
West Central	131,670	126,077	5,593	4.2	130,812	124,573	6,239	4.8	132,655	127,567	5,088	3.8
Western	111,410	107,058	4,352	3.9	110,887	106,113	4,774	4.3	112,710	108,817	3,893	3.5

