

# Arkansas Labor Market

## August 2011

### Employment Headlines

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Increases to 8.3 Percent

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Rise 5,500 in August

### Employment Quick Facts

#### Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted

	<u>Aug 11</u>	<u>Jul 11</u>	<u>Aug 10</u>
AR Unemployment Rate	8.3	8.2	7.8
US Unemployment Rate	9.1	9.1	9.6

#### Nonfarm Payroll Summary

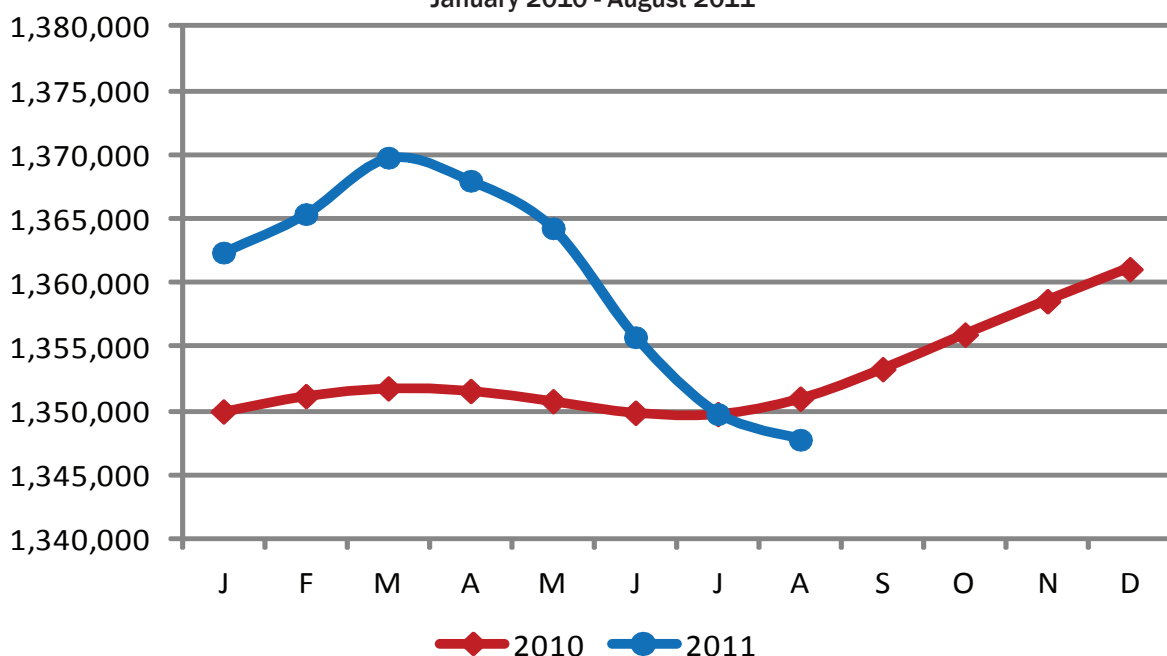
State of Arkansas

	<u>Aug 11</u>	<u>Jul 11</u>	<u>Aug 10</u>
Total Nonfarm	1,168,000	1,162,500	1,160,300
Goods Producing	216,300	217,400	222,800
Service Providing	951,700	945,100	937,500

#### Civilian Labor Force (Seasonally Adjusted)

State of Arkansas

January 2010 - August 2011



# Nonfarm Payroll Employment

## State of Arkansas

### July 2011 - August 2011

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment rose 5,500 in August to total 1,168,000. Four major industry sectors posted job gains, more than offsetting declines in five sectors. **Government** enjoyed the largest increase (+6,700). Gains occurred in state (+1,700) and local (+5,300) government, related to seasonal hiring at public school facilities. Jobs in **educational and health services** rose 1,000, attributed in large part to increases in social assistance. Employment in **construction** dropped 1,300, with contracting companies reporting employment declines throughout the various specialties. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** decreased 1,000. Losses were spread throughout all subsectors.

### August 2010 - August 2011

Since August 2010, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 7,700. Eight major industry sectors reported gains, with five adding 1,000 or more jobs, each. **Leisure and hospitality** added 6,000 jobs. A majority of the growth occurred in food services (+4,900). Employment in **professional and business services** expanded 3,100. Administrative and support services added jobs. **Other services** expanded 2,000. This sector includes repair and maintenance, personal and laundry services, and membership organizations. **Educational and health services** increased 1,500. The gains were mainly attributed to increases at private educational facilities. **Manufacturing** reported the largest over-the-year decline (-5,100).

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Aug 11	Jul 11	Aug 10
Total Nonfarm	1,168,000	1,162,500	1,160,300
Goods Producing	216,300	217,400	222,800
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>10,900</b>	<b>10,900</b>	<b>10,700</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>48,900</b>	<b>50,200</b>	<b>50,500</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	28,900	30,100	29,200
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>156,500</b>	<b>156,300</b>	<b>161,600</b>
Durable Goods	76,400	75,900	79,000
Nondurable Goods	80,100	80,400	82,600
Service Providing	951,700	945,100	937,500
<b>Trade, Transportation &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>236,700</b>	<b>236,800</b>	<b>236,400</b>
Wholesale Trade	46,300	45,500	46,800
Retail Trade	129,800	130,500	130,300
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	60,600	60,800	59,300
<b>Information</b>	<b>15,800</b>	<b>15,900</b>	<b>15,300</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>49,700</b>	<b>50,100</b>	<b>48,700</b>
Finance & Insurance	35,900	36,300	35,000
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13,800	13,800	13,700
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>122,100</b>	<b>121,600</b>	<b>119,000</b>
Professional, Scientific & Technical	37,200	38,000	37,900
Management of Companies	26,200	26,300	26,500
Administrative & Support Services	58,700	57,300	54,600
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>166,100</b>	<b>165,100</b>	<b>164,600</b>
Health Care & Social Assistance	152,900	152,500	153,600
Ambulatory Health Care	45,100	45,500	46,000
Social Assistance	34,800	33,700	34,200
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>108,200</b>	<b>109,200</b>	<b>102,200</b>
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	12,000	12,500	11,100
Accommodation & Food Services	96,200	96,700	91,100
Accommodation Services	12,400	12,700	12,200
Food Services	83,800	84,000	78,900
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>45,400</b>	<b>45,400</b>	<b>43,400</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>207,700</b>	<b>201,000</b>	<b>207,900</b>
Federal Government	20,700	21,000	22,200
State Government	72,700	71,000	71,400
Local Government	114,300	109,000	114,300

## Hours & Earnings of Arkansas Production Workers

(Manufacturing Industries)

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Aug 11	Jul 11	Aug 10	Aug 11	Jul 11	Aug 10	Aug 11	Jul 11	Aug 10
<b>Manufacturing</b>	\$582.50	\$591.00	\$569.25	40.2	41.3	41.4	\$14.49	\$14.31	\$13.75
<b>Durable Goods</b>	637.10	659.24	618.34	39.4	41.1	40.1	16.17	16.04	15.42
<b>Nondurable Goods</b>	532.11	530.79	527.39	40.9	41.5	42.6	13.01	12.79	12.38

# Spotlight

## Extended Mass Layoff Events

As discussed in a previous issue (March 2011), the Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) program collects data on mass layoffs that result in workers being separated from their jobs. A mass layoff occurs when at least 50 initial unemployment insurance (UI) claims are filed against a particular business/company during a consecutive 5-week period. The event is considered a temporary mass layoff if the workers are laid off for *less than 30 days*. If the affected workers are laid off for *more than 30 days*, the event is considered an extended mass layoff.

While each state's total mass layoff events are published monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, extended mass layoff events are published on a quarterly basis. Because Arkansas is a relatively small state, quarterly extended layoff statistics cannot always be published due to confidentiality issues (if too few layoffs occur, supplying the number might make the business identifiable). For this reason, it is best to view Arkansas' extended mass layoff events as a yearly total.

The chart to the right shows the total number of mass layoff events in Arkansas compared to the total number of extended mass layoff

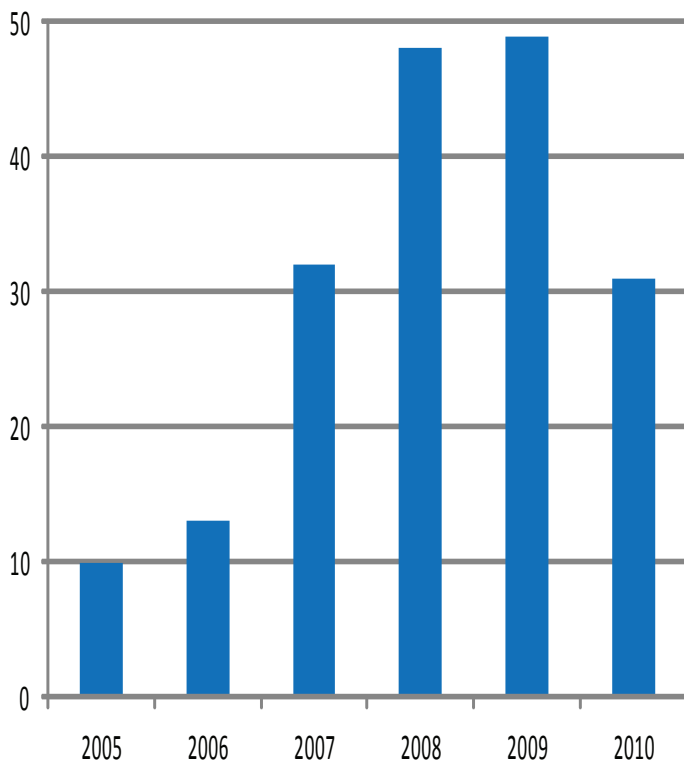
events. The percentage of total mass layoffs is also provided. Note that extended events range from a low of 19.2 percent in 2005 to a high of 46.4 percent in 2007.

Below is a graphical representation of total extended mass layoff events from 2005 to 2010 (see Graph 1). Extended events ranged from a low of 10 in 2005 to a high of 49 in 2009. Graph 2 provides the number of total initial UI claims associated with these extended layoff events. Total number of claimants ranged from a low of 1,626 in 2005 to a high of 9,845 in 2009.

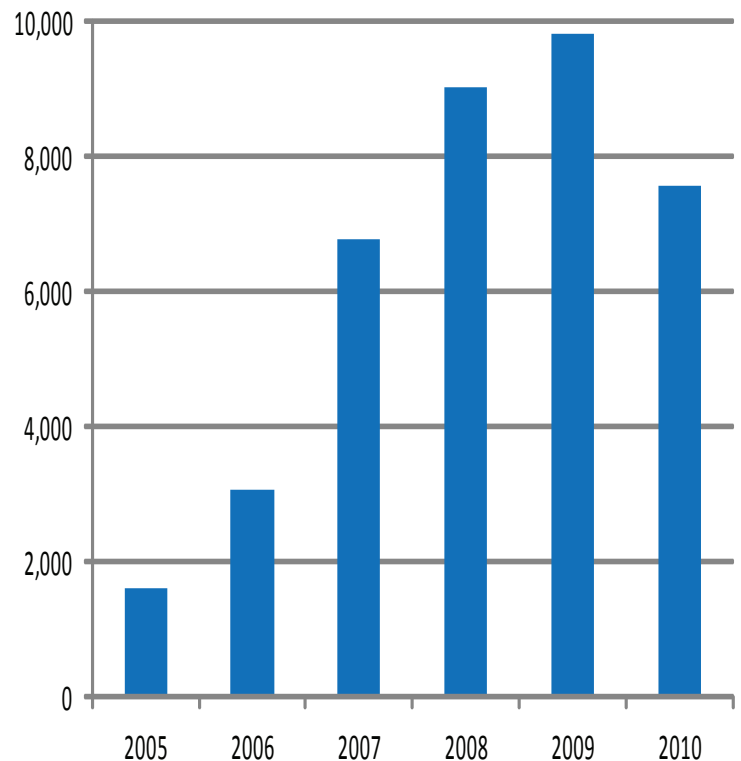
**Extended Mass Layoffs by Percent of Total  
2005 - 2010 (All Industries)**

Year	Total Mass Layoffs	Extended Mass Layoffs	% of Total Mass Layoffs
2005	52	10	19.2
2006	40	13	32.5
2007	69	32	46.4
2008	116	48	41.4
2009	117	49	41.9
2010	71	31	43.7

**Chart 1. Extended Mass Layoff Events  
2005 - 2010**



**Chart 2. Initial Claims Related to Extended Events  
2005 - 2010**



# Metropolitan Statistical Areas

## Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

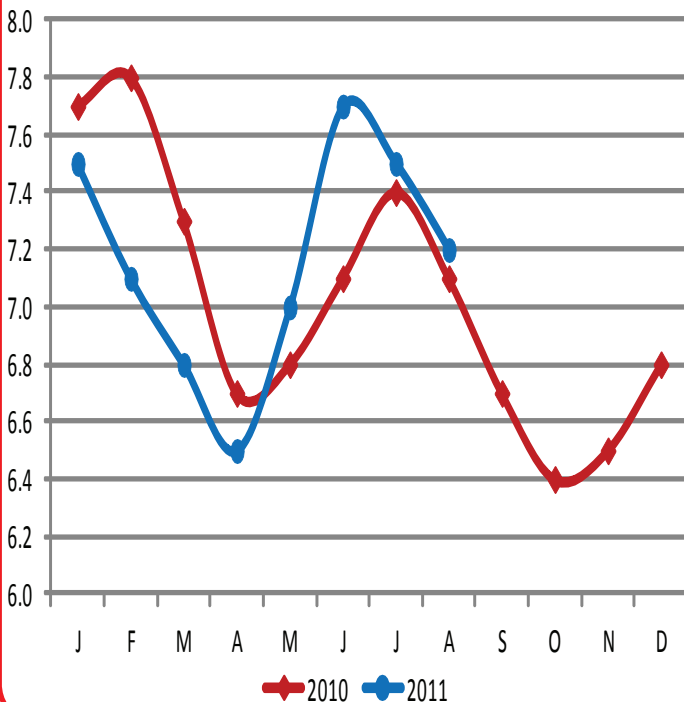
(NAICS)	Aug 11	Jul 11	Aug 10
Total Nonfarm	335,500	337,000	337,200
Goods Producing	37,900	38,400	37,600
Mining, Logging & Construction	18,100	18,600	17,500
Manufacturing	19,800	19,800	20,100
Service Providing	297,600	298,600	299,600
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	64,100	63,900	64,700
Wholesale Trade	16,800	16,700	17,000
Retail Trade	35,600	35,600	35,700
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	11,700	11,600	12,000
Information	7,700	7,700	7,800
Financial Activities	18,600	18,700	18,600
Professional & Business Services	44,800	45,200	44,200
Educational & Health Services	48,600	49,000	50,100
Leisure & Hospitality	30,600	31,500	30,500
Other Services	15,100	15,200	15,100
Government	68,100	67,400	68,600
Federal Government	9,400	9,600	9,700
State Government	32,800	32,200	32,300
Local Government	25,900	25,600	26,600

(The following counties make up the LR-NLR-Conway MSA:  
Faulkner, Grant, Lonoke, Perry, Pulaski, and Saline.)

### Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Aug 11	Jul 11	Aug 10
Civilian Labor Force	344,025	349,950	342,550
Employment	319,100	323,600	318,350
Unemployment	24,925	26,350	24,200
Unemployment Rate	7.2	7.5	7.1

### Unemployment Rates January 2010 - August 2011



## Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

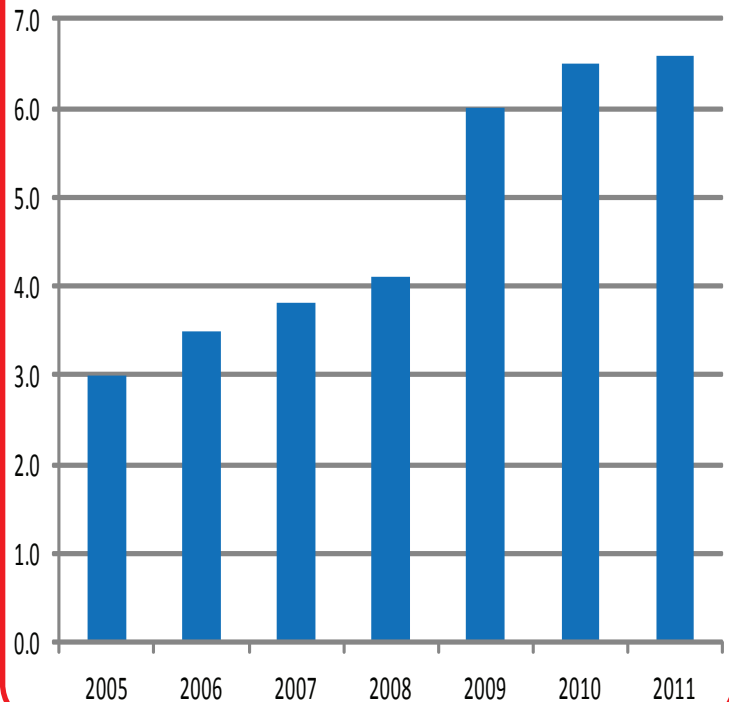
(NAICS)	Aug 11	Jul 11	Aug 10
Total Nonfarm	197,400	197,000	200,600
Goods Producing	35,800	36,300	37,400
Mining, Logging & Construction	8,100	8,300	8,200
Manufacturing	27,700	28,000	29,200
Service Providing	161,600	160,700	163,200
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	44,200	44,400	45,100
Wholesale Trade	8,900	8,900	9,000
Retail Trade	20,300	20,400	21,100
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	15,000	15,100	15,000
Information	2,100	2,100	2,100
Financial Activities	7,000	7,100	7,300
Professional & Business Services	34,900	34,800	34,800
Educational & Health Services	21,800	21,700	21,500
Leisure & Hospitality	19,300	19,300	18,800
Other Services	6,900	6,900	6,800
Government	25,400	24,400	26,800
Federal Government	2,400	2,400	2,600
State Government	8,200	8,000	8,400
Local Government	14,800	14,000	15,800

(The following counties make up the FSR MSA:  
Benton, Madison, and Washington in Arkansas and McDonald in Missouri.)

### Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Aug 11	Jul 11	Aug 10
Civilian Labor Force	224,050	226,225	227,350
Employment	209,225	210,650	212,475
Unemployment	14,825	15,575	14,875
Unemployment Rate	6.6	6.9	6.5

### Unemployment Rates August: 2005 - 2011



# Metropolitan Statistical Areas

## Fort Smith MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Aug 11	Jul 11	Aug 10
Total Nonfarm	117,300	116,300	116,300
Goods Producing	28,900	29,000	29,000
Mining, Logging & Construction	7,900	7,900	7,300
Manufacturing	21,000	21,100	21,700
Service Providing	88,400	87,300	87,300
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	24,000	24,100	24,300
Wholesale Trade	4,000	4,000	4,000
Retail Trade	12,800	12,900	13,000
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	7,200	7,200	7,300
Information	1,200	1,200	1,200
Financial Activities	4,200	4,200	4,100
Professional & Business Services	12,100	12,000	11,800
Educational & Health Services	16,300	16,200	16,300
Leisure & Hospitality	9,400	9,500	8,900
Other Services	3,700	3,800	3,700
Government	17,500	16,300	17,000
Federal Government	1,600	1,600	1,700
State Government	3,300	3,300	3,000
Local Government	12,600	11,400	12,300

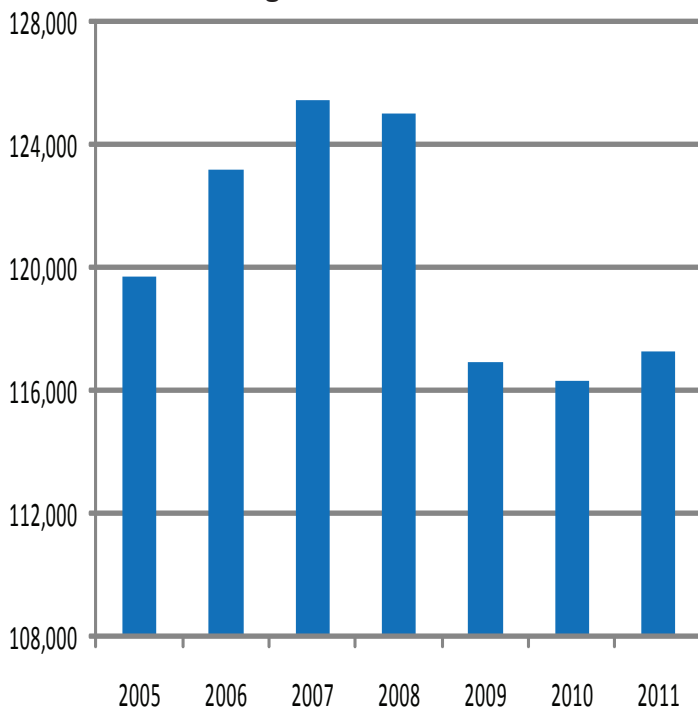
(The following counties make up the Fort Smith MSA: Crawford, Franklin, and Sebastian in Arkansas and LeFlore and Sequoyah in Oklahoma.)

### Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Aug 11	Jul 11	Aug 10
Civilian Labor Force	133,700	134,250	133,450
Employment	123,175	123,075	122,900
Unemployment	10,525	11,175	10,550
Unemployment Rate	7.9	8.3	7.9

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

August: 2005 - 2011



## Hot Springs MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Aug 11	Jul 11	Aug 10
Total Nonfarm	40,900	40,700	37,300
Goods Producing	4,100	4,200	4,200
Service Providing	36,800	36,500	33,100
Government	4,700	4,500	4,700

(The following county makes up the Hot Springs MSA: Garland.)

### Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Aug 11	Jul 11	Aug 10
Civilian Labor Force	45,975	46,400	42,250
Employment	42,400	42,675	38,850
Unemployment	3,575	3,725	3,400
Unemployment Rate	7.8	8.0	8.1

## Jonesboro MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Aug 11	Jul 11	Aug 10
Total Nonfarm	48,800	48,800	48,900
Goods Producing	8,500	8,600	8,700
Service Providing	40,300	40,200	40,200
Government	8,500	8,400	8,300

(The following counties make up the Jonesboro MSA: Craighead and Poinsett.)

### Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Aug 11	Jul 11	Aug 10
Civilian Labor Force	57,850	58,525	58,000
Employment	53,450	53,850	53,725
Unemployment	4,400	4,675	4,275
Unemployment Rate	7.6	8.0	7.4

## Pine Bluff MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Aug 11	Jul 11	Aug 10
Total Nonfarm	36,100	36,100	36,800
Goods Producing	7,500	7,600	7,500
Service Providing	28,600	28,500	29,300
Government	10,000	10,000	10,500

(The following counties make up the PB MSA: Cleveland, Jefferson, and Lincoln.)

### Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Aug 11	Jul 11	Aug 10
Civilian Labor Force	43,300	43,875	43,750
Employment	38,800	39,075	39,525
Unemployment	4,500	4,800	4,225
Unemployment Rate	10.4	10.9	9.6

# Civilian Labor Force Statistics

## State of Arkansas

(Seasonally Adjusted)

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Aug 11</u>	<u>Jul 11</u>	<u>Aug 10</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>	<u>Aug 11</u>	<u>Jul 11</u>	<u>Aug 10</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	1,347,800	1,349,800	1,351,000	-2,000	-3,200	1,358,200	1,371,400	1,349,900	-13,200	3,300
Employment	1,235,800	1,239,000	1,245,500	-3,200	-9,700	1,249,100	1,255,300	1,250,600	-6,200	-1,500
Unemployment	112,000	110,800	105,500	1,200	6,500	109,100	116,100	104,300	-7,000	4,800
Unemployment Rate	8.3	8.2	7.8	0.1	0.5	8.0	8.5	7.7	-0.5	0.3
U.S. Unemployment Rate	9.1	9.1	9.6	0.0	-0.5	9.1	9.3	9.5	-0.2	-0.4

## Out-of-State MSAs

Memphis, Tennessee

Texarkana, Texas

	<u>Aug 11</u>	<u>Jul 11</u>	<u>Aug 10</u>
Civilian Labor Force	627,100	631,500	606,375
Employment	562,750	565,775	546,650
Unemployment	64,350	65,725	59,725
Unemployment Rate	10.3	10.4	9.8

	<u>Aug 11</u>	<u>Jul 11</u>	<u>Aug 10</u>
Civilian Labor Force	64,775	64,275	64,625
Employment	59,600	59,000	59,600
Unemployment	5,175	5,275	5,025
Unemployment Rate	8.0	8.2	7.8

## Unemployment Rates by County

Between July and August, unemployment rates declined in 70 of Arkansas' 75 counties. One county (Columbia) posted a jobless rate increase, while four remained stable. Rates ranged from a low of 5.8 percent in Carroll County to a high of 16.4 percent in Arkansas County.

In August, two counties (Carroll and Miller) enjoyed unemployment rates at or below six percent. Nineteen counties posted rates at or above ten percent, down from 28 counties last month.

Since August 2010, jobless rates are up in 62 counties. Seven counties posted lower rates than this time last year, while six are the same.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Aug 11</u>	<u>Jul 11</u>	<u>Aug 10</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Aug 11</u>	<u>Jul 11</u>	<u>Aug 10</u>
75	Arkansas	16.4	17.7	15.0	69	Lee	11.3	12.0	9.1
59	Ashley	10.2	10.8	9.7	54	Lincoln	9.9	10.3	9.2
34	Baxter	8.5	8.8	8.5	13	Little River	7.3	7.7	7.5
4	Benton	6.5	6.8	6.4	33	Logan	8.4	8.9	7.9
9	Boone	6.9	7.3	6.9	6	Lonoke	6.7	6.9	6.7
54	Bradley	9.9	11.0	9.3	4	Madison	6.5	6.5	6.3
38	Calhoun	8.7	10.0	7.2	43	Marion	8.8	9.3	9.9
1	Carroll	5.8	6.1	5.8	2	Miller	5.9	6.5	5.5
72	Chicot	12.0	12.8	10.4	66	Mississippi	11.0	12.0	10.8
54	Clark	9.9	10.6	9.2	38	Monroe	8.7	9.3	8.0
74	Clay	13.9	15.1	10.7	16	Montgomery	7.4	7.5	6.6
13	Cleburne	7.3	7.7	6.9	48	Nevada	9.4	9.8	8.4
27	Cleveland	7.9	8.3	7.0	21	Newton	7.6	8.3	6.9
57	Columbia	10.1	9.9	9.6	43	Ouachita	8.8	9.1	8.6
28	Conway	8.0	8.7	8.0	38	Perry	8.7	8.7	7.4
18	Craighead	7.5	7.9	7.1	68	Phillips	11.2	11.5	9.3
25	Crawford	7.8	8.3	7.5	36	Pike	8.6	9.2	7.7
67	Crittenden	11.1	12.4	10.0	31	Poinsett	8.1	8.7	8.5
36	Cross	8.6	9.2	8.3	28	Polk	8.0	8.5	7.7
63	Dallas	10.7	11.2	10.5	28	Pope	8.0	8.6	7.9
73	Desha	12.4	13.6	10.3	34	Prairie	8.5	9.0	8.0
71	Drew	11.7	12.7	10.2	13	Pulaski	7.3	7.6	7.2
18	Faulkner	7.5	7.8	7.3	61	Randolph	10.4	10.8	9.2
7	Franklin	6.8	7.7	6.4	63	St. Francis	10.7	11.5	10.0
21	Fulton	7.6	7.8	7.0	9	Saline	6.9	7.1	6.8
25	Garland	7.8	8.0	8.1	18	Scott	7.5	7.8	7.0
11	Grant	7.1	7.1	6.8	32	Searcy	8.2	8.6	7.8
60	Greene	10.3	11.1	9.5	12	Sebastian	7.2	7.8	6.6
46	Hempstead	9.0	9.3	8.9	21	Sevier	7.6	8.0	6.6
16	Hot Spring	7.4	7.7	7.4	57	Sharp	10.1	10.1	9.3
38	Howard	8.7	9.0	8.3	49	Stone	9.5	10.2	7.9
43	Independence	8.8	9.2	8.1	51	Union	9.6	10.1	10.0
52	Izard	9.8	10.4	8.8	47	Van Buren	9.3	10.0	9.4
62	Jackson	10.6	11.6	9.9	3	Washington	6.4	6.6	6.3
63	Jefferson	10.7	11.3	10.0	38	White	8.7	9.1	8.1
21	Johnson	7.6	8.1	7.8	69	Woodruff	11.3	12.0	9.1
52	Lafayette	9.8	10.1	9.5	7	Yell	6.8	7.3	6.5
49	Lawrence	9.5	10.5	9.4					

### Lowest Rates

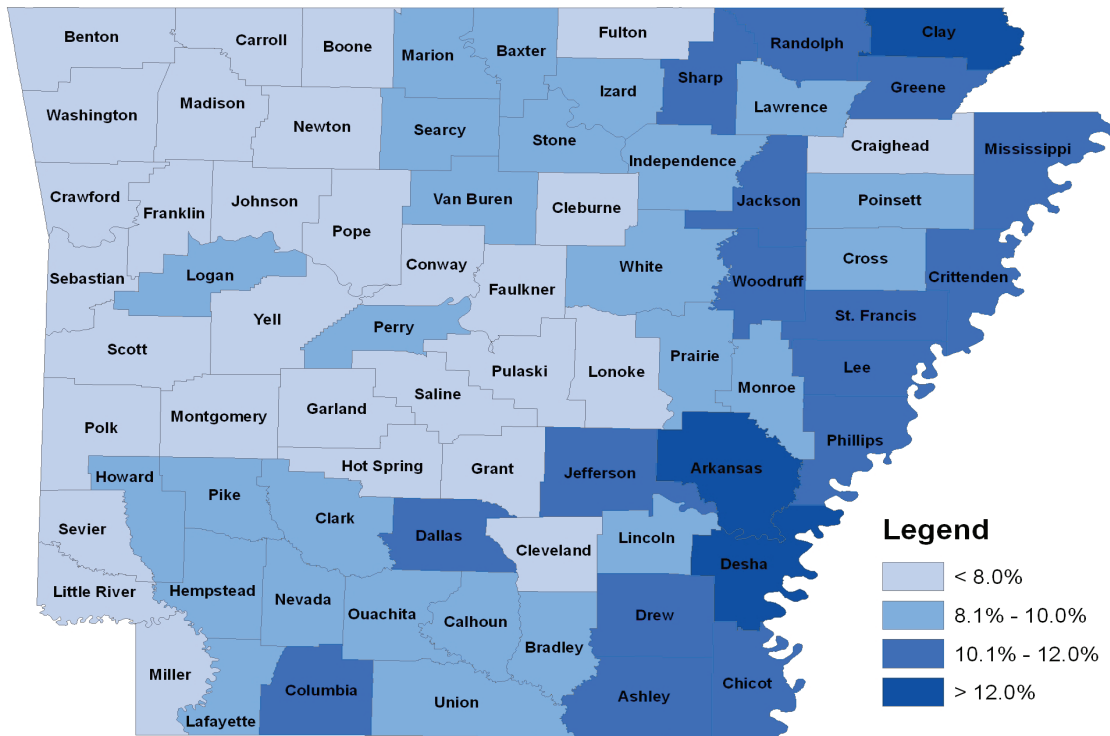
<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1	Carroll	5.8
2	Miller	5.9
3	Washington	6.4
4	Benton	6.5
4	Madison	6.5

### Highest Rates

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
72	Chicot	12.0
73	Desha	12.4
74	Clay	13.9
75	Arkansas	16.4

# Civilian Labor Force Statistics

For complete County Labor Force Statistics, please visit our website at [www.discover.arkansas.gov](http://www.discover.arkansas.gov)



## 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 data are 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 2010 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 3,000 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 in this publication 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, shifts in schedules, harvest times, and the opening/closing of schools.

# Arkansas Labor Market

## August 2011

The *Arkansas Labor Market* is produced by the Department of Workforce Services, Bureau of Labor Statistics. All Statistics are published in cooperation with the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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