

Arkansas Labor Market

April 2015

Employment Headlines

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Increases to 5.7 Percent

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Gain 13,700 in April

Employment Quick Facts

Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted

	Apr 15	Mar 15	Apr 14
AR Unemployment Rate	5.7	5.6	6.3
US Unemployment Rate	5.4	5.5	6.2

Nonfarm Payroll Summary

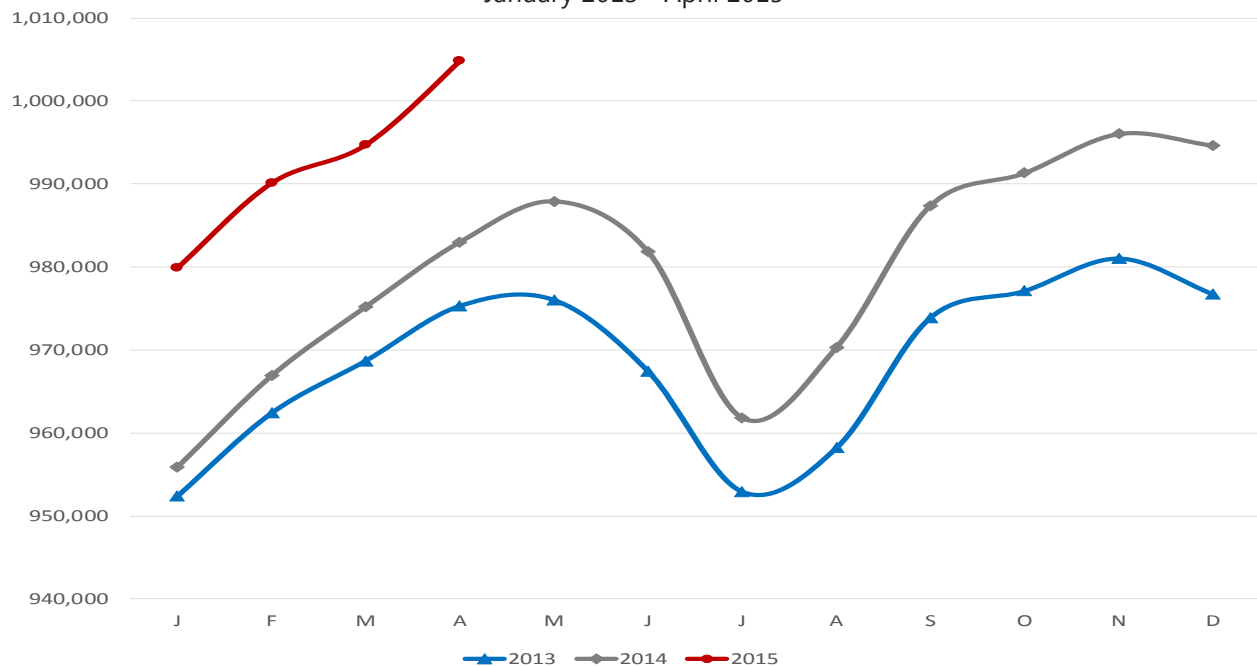
State of Arkansas

	Apr 15	Mar 15	Apr 14
Total Nonfarm	1,215,500	1,201,800	1,189,900
Goods Producing	210,700	207,100	206,900
Service Providing	1,004,800	994,700	983,000

Jobs in Service Providing Industries

State of Arkansas

January 2013 - April 2015



Nonfarm Payroll Employment

State of Arkansas

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

March 2015 - April 2015

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 13,700 in April to total 1,215,500. Eight major industry sectors posted gains. **Leisure and hospitality** added 3,100 jobs, mostly in food services (+2,200). Employment in **construction** rose 2,800, an expected seasonal expansion. Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** increased 2,600. Retail trade posted a majority of the seasonal gains (+2,200). **Professional and business services** added 1,800 jobs. All hiring occurred in administrative and support services (+2,300), which includes employment agencies.

April 2014 - April 2015

Compared to April 2014, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment has increased 25,600. Growth occurred in nine major industry sectors, with five sectors adding 3,000 or more jobs, each. Employment in **leisure and hospitality** rose 6,700. A majority of the expansion was reported in food services (+5,700). **Trade, transportation, and utilities** gained 5,500 jobs, spread throughout all subsectors. Jobs in **educational and health services** increased 4,600. A majority of the growth was in health care and social assistance (+4,400). **Professional and business services** added 3,100 jobs. Administrative and support services posted most of the gains (+2,900), related in part to temporary help services. Employment in **construction** rose 3,000.

(NAICS)	Apr 15	Mar 15	Apr 14
Total Nonfarm	1,215,500	1,201,800	1,189,900
Goods Producing	210,700	207,100	206,900
Mining & Logging	8,500	8,500	8,800
Construction	47,900	45,100	44,900
Specialty Trade Contractors	31,900	29,900	28,300
Manufacturing	154,300	153,500	153,200
Durable Goods	76,800	76,100	76,000
Nondurable Goods	77,500	77,400	77,200
Service Providing	1,004,800	994,700	983,000
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	248,200	245,600	242,700
Wholesale Trade	48,500	47,900	46,400
Retail Trade	136,600	134,400	135,200
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	63,100	63,300	61,100
Information	13,600	13,600	13,700
Financial Activities	50,800	50,300	49,400
Finance & Insurance	37,900	37,600	36,600
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,900	12,700	12,800
Professional & Business Services	137,900	136,100	134,800
Professional, Scientific & Technical	40,200	40,600	41,300
Management of Companies	33,400	33,500	32,100
Administrative & Support Services	64,300	62,000	61,400
Educational & Health Services	176,900	175,400	172,300
Educational Services	14,700	14,800	14,500
Health Care & Social Assistance	162,200	160,600	157,800
Ambulatory Health Care	50,200	50,400	48,800
Social Assistance	38,800	37,700	37,000
Leisure & Hospitality	115,400	112,300	108,700
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	11,500	10,700	10,500
Accommodation & Food Services	103,900	101,600	98,200
Accommodation Services	10,800	10,700	10,900
Food Services	93,100	90,900	87,300
Other Services	43,900	43,900	43,700
Government	218,100	217,500	217,700
Federal Government	20,400	20,100	20,000
State Government	80,400	80,200	79,800
Local Government	117,300	117,200	117,900

Hours and Earnings of Arkansas Production Workers (Manufacturing Industries)

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Apr 15	Mar 15	Apr 14	Apr 15	Mar 15	Apr 14	Apr 15	Mar 15	Apr 14
Manufacturing	\$658.53	\$657.32	\$647.60	40.6	40.5	41.7	\$16.22	\$16.23	\$15.53
Durable Goods	702.71	709.60	692.93	39.5	40.0	42.8	17.79	17.74	16.19
Nondurable Goods	614.43	605.73	604.13	41.6	40.9	40.6	14.77	14.81	14.88

Spotlight

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization

In addition to the unemployment rate, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) also calculates five additional estimates based on various definitions of 'unemployment'. These are known as Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization and are referred to as U1-U6, with U-3 being the definition used to calculate the official unemployment rate. These measures are calculated using data from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly survey of households (roughly 800 Arkansas households are surveyed each month).

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization are available at the statewide level, but they are not produced on a monthly basis. Estimates are calculated using a four quarter moving average. The most recent data represents an average of 2nd Quarter 2014 through 1st Quarter 2015.

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization

State of Arkansas

4 Quarter Average: 2nd Q 2014 - 1st Q 2015

U-1	U-2	U-3	U-4	U-5	U-6
2.1%	2.8%	5.8%	6.0%	6.7%	9.9%

The following are the definitions used to calculate each measure of labor underutilization:

U-1 Measure: Persons unemployed for 15 weeks or longer, as a percent of the civilian labor force.

U-2 Measure: Job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs, as a percent of the civilian labor force.

U-3 Measure: Total number of unemployed persons, as a percent of the civilian labor force (this is the definition used for the official unemployment rate).

U-4 Measure: Total number of unemployed and discouraged workers, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus discouraged workers.

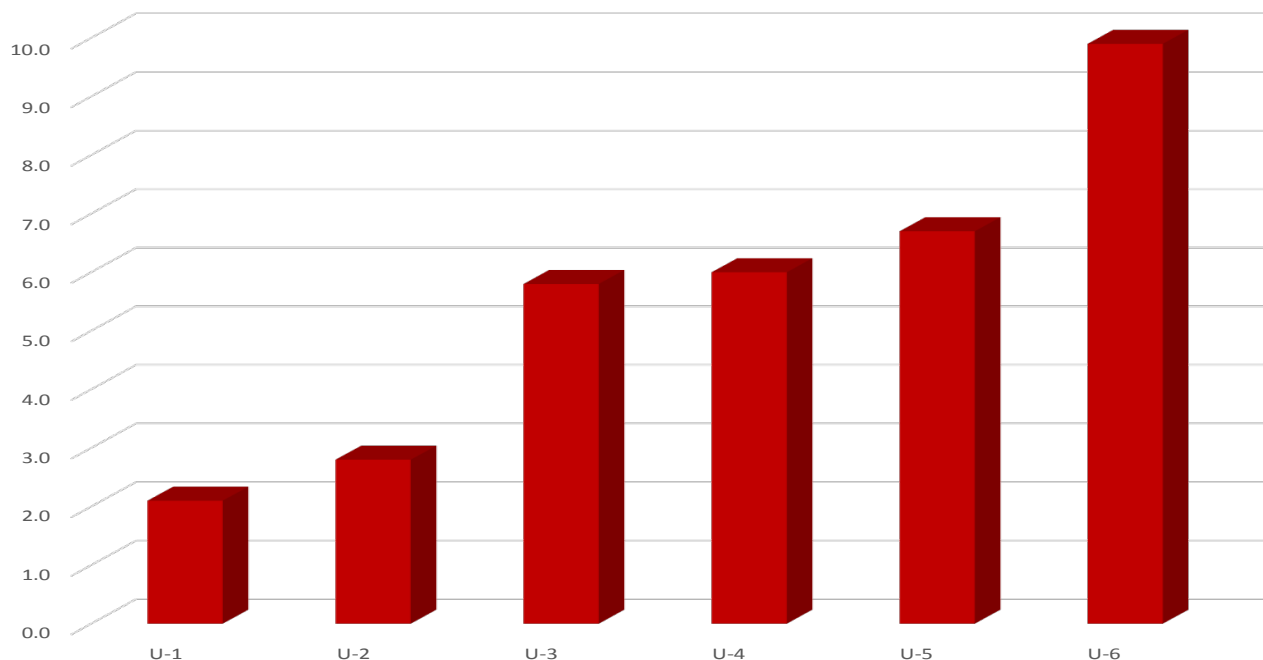
U-5 Measure: Total number of unemployed, discouraged workers, and all other marginally attached workers, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus marginally attached workers.

U-6 Measure: Total number of unemployed, discouraged workers, marginally attached workers, and those employed part-time for economic reasons (not by choice), as a percent of the civilian labor force plus marginally attached workers.

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization

State of Arkansas

4 Quarter Average: 2nd Q 2014 - 1st Q 2015



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

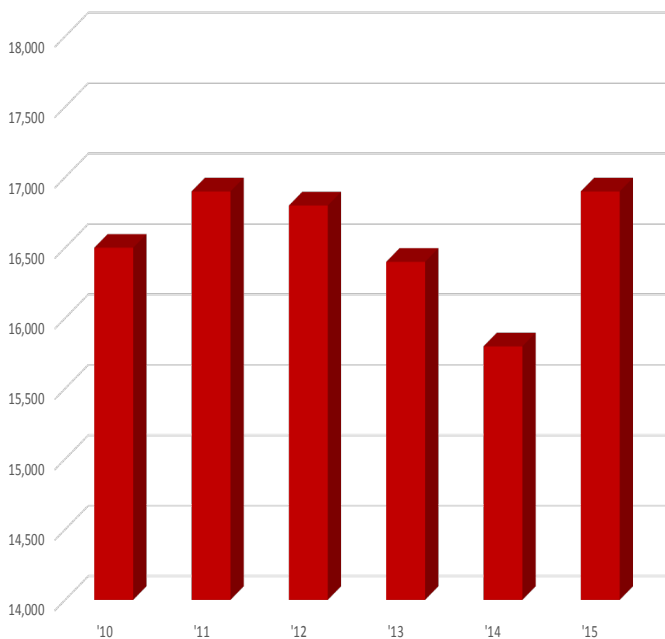
NAICS	Apr 15	Mar 15	Apr 14
Total Nonfarm	349,900	347,700	346,400
Goods Producing	37,100	36,900	35,700
Mining, Logging & Construction	16,900	16,700	15,800
Manufacturing	20,200	20,200	19,900
Service Providing	312,800	310,800	310,700
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	67,100	66,300	66,400
Wholesale Trade	15,000	14,900	15,000
Retail Trade	38,100	37,300	37,500
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	14,000	14,100	13,900
Information	6,500	6,600	6,700
Financial Activities	20,600	20,600	20,400
Professional & Business Services	44,500	43,800	46,000
Educational & Health Services	51,900	51,900	51,400
Leisure & Hospitality	33,900	33,400	32,300
Other Services	16,200	16,200	16,000
Government	72,100	72,000	71,500
Federal Government	10,000	9,800	9,500
State Government	34,700	34,800	34,400
Local Government	27,400	27,400	27,600

The LR-NLR-Conway MSA consists of the following counties:
Faulkner, Grant, Lonoke, Perry, Pulaski, and Saline

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Apr 15	Mar 15	Apr 14
Civilian Labor Force	347,400	344,425	336,100
Employment	330,550	326,725	318,550
Unemployment	16,850	17,700	17,550
Unemployment Rate	4.8	5.1	5.2

Jobs in Mining, Logging, and Construction April: 2010 - 2015



Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

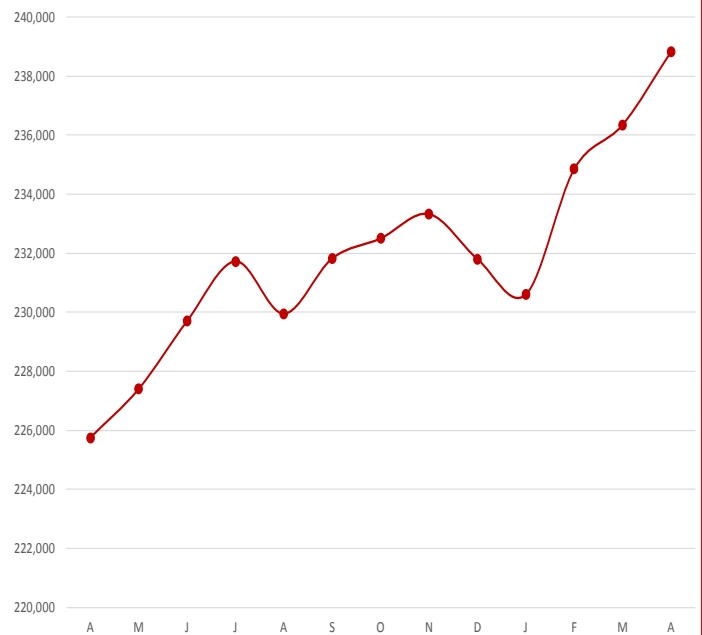
NAICS	Apr 15	Mar 15	Apr 14
Total Nonfarm	231,000	229,100	223,100
Goods Producing	36,000	35,900	35,500
Mining, Logging & Construction	8,800	8,600	8,400
Manufacturing	27,200	27,300	27,100
Service Providing	195,000	193,200	187,600
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	51,500	51,200	49,100
Wholesale Trade	11,000	11,000	10,400
Retail Trade	24,700	24,400	23,700
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	15,800	15,800	15,000
Information	1,900	1,900	1,900
Financial Activities	7,000	6,900	6,600
Professional & Business Services	46,700	46,200	44,500
Educational & Health Services	25,100	25,000	24,300
Leisure & Hospitality	22,700	21,900	22,100
Other Services	6,700	6,600	6,600
Government	33,400	33,500	32,500
Federal Government	2,600	2,600	2,500
State Government	12,700	12,800	12,000
Local Government	18,100	18,100	18,000

The FSR MSA consists of the following counties:
Benton, Madison, Washington, and McDonald (in Missouri)

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Apr 15	Mar 15	Apr 14
Civilian Labor Force	248,725	246,825	235,875
Employment	238,825	236,350	225,750
Unemployment	9,900	10,475	10,125
Unemployment Rate	4.0	4.2	4.3

Number of Employed April 2014 - April 2015



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fort Smith MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Apr 15	Mar 15	Apr 14
Total Nonfarm	113,300	112,000	113,000
Goods Producing	24,200	24,200	24,300
Mining, Logging & Construction	6,100	6,100	6,400
Manufacturing	18,100	18,100	17,900
Service Providing	89,100	87,800	88,700
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	22,900	22,800	23,300
Wholesale Trade	4,300	4,400	4,200
Retail Trade	11,700	11,600	12,400
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	6,900	6,800	6,700
Information	1,200	1,200	1,300
Financial Activities	4,000	3,900	3,900
Professional & Business Services	13,000	12,800	12,100
Educational & Health Services	16,100	16,100	16,400
Leisure & Hospitality	9,100	8,700	9,200
Other Services	4,500	4,200	4,200
Government	18,300	18,100	18,300
Federal Government	1,300	1,300	1,400
State Government	3,200	3,100	3,200
Local Government	13,800	13,700	13,700

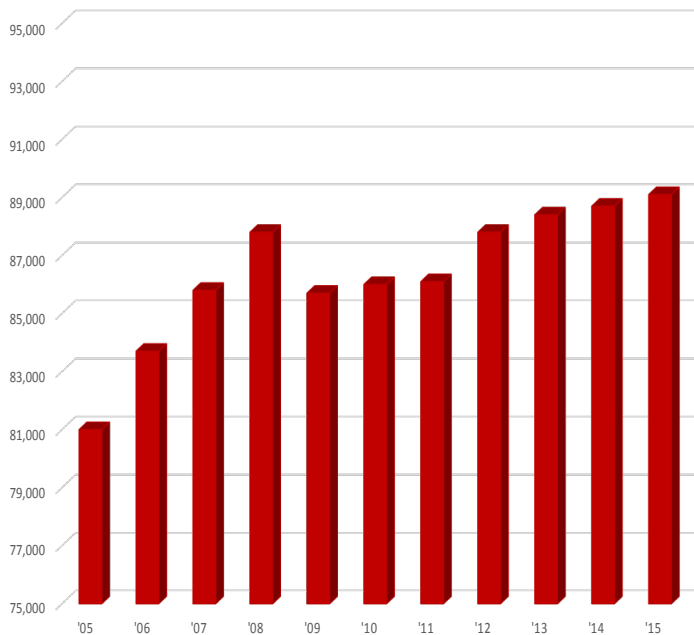
The FS MSA consists of the following counties: Crawford, and Sebastian, and LeFlore and Sequoyah (in Oklahoma)

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Apr 15	Mar 15	Apr 14
Civilian Labor Force	121,600	120,450	118,275
Employment	114,675	113,475	111,300
Unemployment	6,925	6,975	6,975
Unemployment Rate	5.7	5.8	5.9

Jobs in Service Providing Industries

April: 2005 - 2015



Hot Springs MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Apr 15	Mar 15	Apr 14
Total Nonfarm	38,600	38,500	38,600
Goods Producing	4,300	4,200	4,300
Service Providing	34,300	34,300	34,300
Government	4,700	4,800	4,700

The HS MSA consists of the following county: Garland

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Apr 15	Mar 15	Apr 14
Civilian Labor Force	41,125	40,875	40,025
Employment	38,800	38,425	37,650
Unemployment	2,325	2,450	2,375
Unemployment Rate	5.6	6.0	5.9

Jonesboro MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Apr 15	Mar 15	Apr 14
Total Nonfarm	55,300	54,600	52,800
Goods Producing	8,800	8,700	8,400
Service Providing	46,500	45,900	44,400
Government	9,100	9,100	8,900

The Jonesboro MSA consists of the following counties:

Craighead and Poinsett

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Apr 15	Mar 15	Apr 14
Civilian Labor Force	61,900	61,475	58,425
Employment	58,950	58,275	55,300
Unemployment	2,950	3,200	3,125
Unemployment Rate	4.8	5.2	5.4

Pine Bluff MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Apr 15	Mar 15	Apr 14
Total Nonfarm	33,000	33,400	33,900
Goods Producing	6,100	6,300	6,300
Service Providing	26,900	27,100	27,600
Government	9,600	9,600	9,900

The PB MSA consists of the following counties:

Cleveland, Jefferson, and Lincoln

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Apr 15	Mar 15	Apr 14
Civilian Labor Force	36,100	36,575	36,625
Employment	33,425	33,800	33,525
Unemployment	2,675	2,775	3,100
Unemployment Rate	7.4	7.6	8.4

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

State of Arkansas

(Seasonally Adjusted)

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Apr 15</u>	<u>Mar 15</u>	<u>Apr 14</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>	<u>Apr 15</u>	<u>Mar 15</u>	<u>Apr 14</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	1,334,900	1,330,800	1,293,000	4,100	41,900	1,333,400	1,328,300	1,291,400	5,100	42,000
Employment	1,258,800	1,256,200	1,212,100	2,600	46,700	1,261,500	1,251,900	1,216,700	9,600	44,800
Unemployment	76,100	74,600	80,900	1,500	-4,800	71,900	76,400	74,700	-4,500	-2,800
Unemployment Rate	5.7	5.6	6.3	0.1	-0.6	5.4	5.8	5.8	-0.4	-0.4
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.4	5.5	6.2	-0.1	-0.8	5.1	5.6	5.9	-0.5	-0.8

Out-of-State MSAs

Memphis, Tennessee-Mississippi-Arkansas MSA

	<u>Apr 15</u>	<u>Mar 15</u>	<u>Apr 14</u>
Civilian Labor Force	611,975	607,450	603,825
Employment	575,650	567,925	562,625
Unemployment	36,325	39,525	41,200
Unemployment Rate	5.9	6.5	6.8

Texarkana, Texas-Arkansas MSA

	<u>Apr 15</u>	<u>Mar 15</u>	<u>Apr 14</u>
Civilian Labor Force	63,725	63,875	64,350
Employment	60,650	60,525	60,525
Unemployment	3,075	3,350	3,825
Unemployment Rate	4.8	5.2	5.9

Unemployment Rates by County

Between March and April, unemployment rates decreased in 72 of Arkansas' 75 counties. One county posted a jobless rate increase, while two counties were unchanged.

In April, thirty-seven counties had unemployment rates at or below six percent. No county posted a rate above ten percent, down from one county in March.

Compared to April 2014, unemployment rates are down in 62 counties. Nine counties reported rate increases, while four counties were the same over-the-year.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Apr 15</u>	<u>Mar 15</u>	<u>Apr 14</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Apr 15</u>	<u>Mar 15</u>	<u>Apr 14</u>
4	Arkansas	4.3	4.7	5.2	63	Lee	7.3	7.8	7.2
71	Ashley	8.0	8.5	9.2	52	Lincoln	6.8	6.9	7.0
38	Baxter	6.1	6.4	6.4	27	Little River	5.6	6.2	6.0
2	Benton	4.1	4.3	4.3	44	Logan	6.4	6.4	5.6
19	Boone	5.4	5.9	5.8	6	Lonoke	4.5	4.8	4.8
55	Bradley	6.9	7.8	8.6	3	Madison	4.2	4.5	4.8
32	Calhoun	5.9	6.3	6.4	32	Marion	5.9	6.2	6.2
9	Carroll	4.7	5.6	4.8	19	Miller	5.4	5.8	5.8
75	Chicot	9.6	10.3	10.3	74	Mississippi	9.3	9.2	8.9
30	Clark	5.7	6.2	6.2	32	Monroe	5.9	6.4	5.8
55	Clay	6.9	7.8	7.5	58	Montgomery	7.0	7.7	8.1
64	Cleburne	7.4	7.9	8.2	24	Nevada	5.5	5.7	5.8
41	Cleveland	6.3	7.0	6.9	10	Newton	4.9	6.0	5.2
49	Columbia	6.5	6.9	6.5	60	Ouachita	7.2	7.6	8.1
44	Conway	6.4	6.5	7.0	44	Perry	6.4	7.1	7.5
7	Craighead	4.6	5.0	5.1	68	Phillips	7.7	8.6	9.2
30	Crawford	5.7	6.0	5.8	38	Pike	6.1	7.0	6.7
44	Crittenden	6.4	7.0	6.8	27	Poinsett	5.6	6.1	6.5
32	Cross	5.9	6.4	6.0	37	Polk	6.0	6.2	6.0
69	Dallas	7.8	9.3	9.5	19	Pope	5.4	5.8	5.6
72	Desha	8.1	8.6	8.1	10	Prairie	4.9	5.3	5.6
59	Drew	7.1	7.8	8.1	10	Pulaski	4.9	5.2	5.3
14	Faulkner	5.0	5.3	5.5	60	Randolph	7.2	8.3	7.5
24	Franklin	5.5	5.7	5.7	66	St. Francis	7.5	8.3	8.8
19	Fulton	5.4	6.0	5.4	7	Saline	4.6	4.7	4.7
27	Garland	5.6	6.0	5.9	16	Scott	5.3	5.3	5.0
10	Grant	4.9	5.4	5.4	44	Searcy	6.4	7.2	5.7
24	Greene	5.5	5.9	6.1	19	Sebastian	5.4	5.6	5.5
15	Hempstead	5.2	5.8	5.5	32	Sevier	5.9	6.1	6.3
16	Hot Spring	5.3	5.7	5.4	64	Sharp	7.4	8.0	8.3
4	Howard	4.3	4.5	5.2	55	Stone	6.9	7.4	7.5
41	Independence	6.3	7.0	7.2	51	Union	6.7	6.9	7.2
52	Izard	6.8	7.0	6.9	60	Van Buren	7.2	7.4	8.0
73	Jackson	8.4	9.0	8.8	1	Washington	3.8	4.0	4.2
67	Jefferson	7.6	7.8	8.8	50	White	6.6	7.3	6.9
38	Johnson	6.1	6.5	6.0	52	Woodruff	6.8	7.1	7.5
70	Lafayette	7.9	8.4	7.6	16	Yell	5.3	5.7	5.1
41	Lawrence	6.3	6.9	6.8					

Lowest Rates

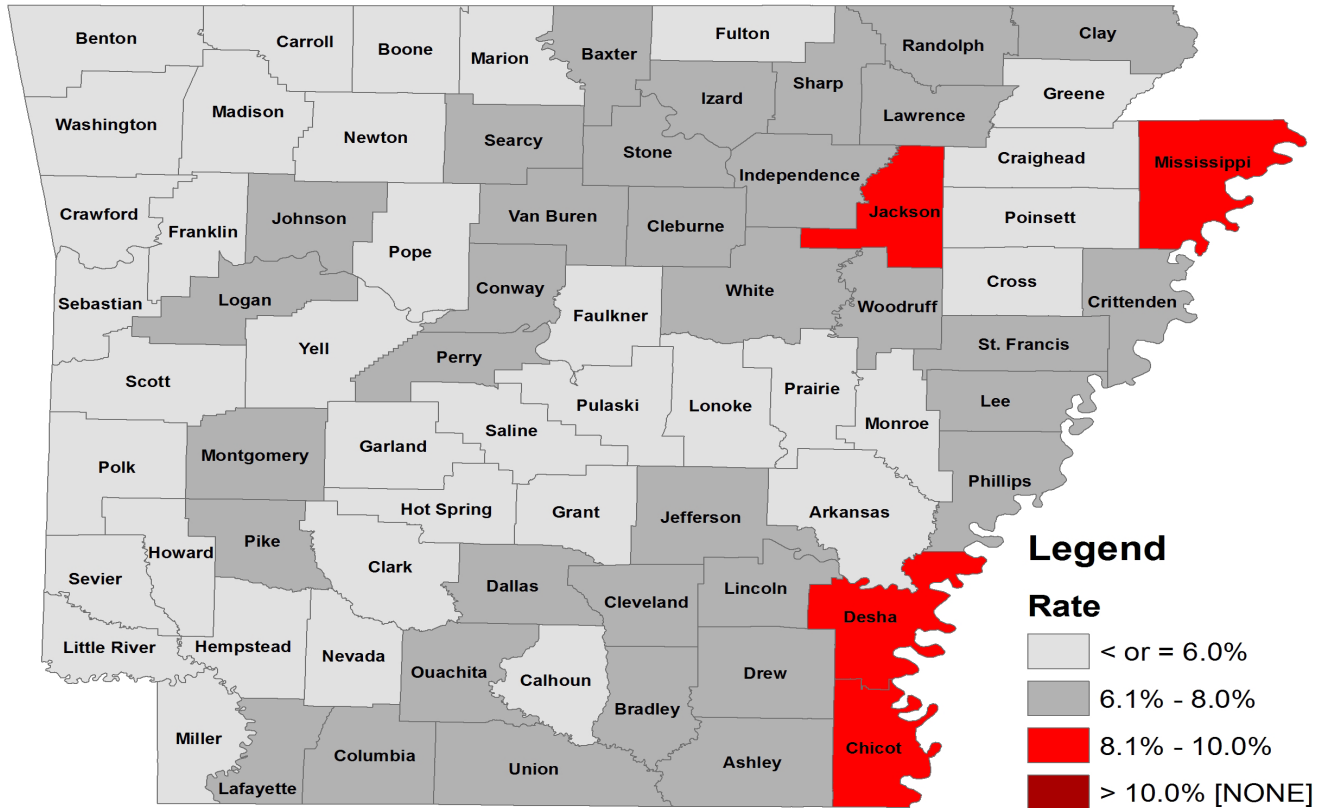
<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1	Washington	3.8
2	Benton	4.1
3	Madison	4.2
4	Arkansas	4.3
4	Howard	4.3

Highest Rates

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
71	Ashley	8.0
72	Desha	8.1
73	Jackson	8.4
74	Mississippi	9.3
75	Chicot	9.6

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

For complete County Labor Force Statistics, please visit our website at 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 2014 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.

Arkansas Labor Market

April 2015

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.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

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