

Arkansas Labor Market

July 2015

Employment Headlines

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Decreases to 5.6 Percent

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Decline 14,400 in July

Employment Quick Facts

Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted

	<u>Jul 15</u>	<u>Jun 15</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>
AR Unemployment Rate	5.6	5.7	6.0
US Unemployment Rate	5.3	5.3	6.2

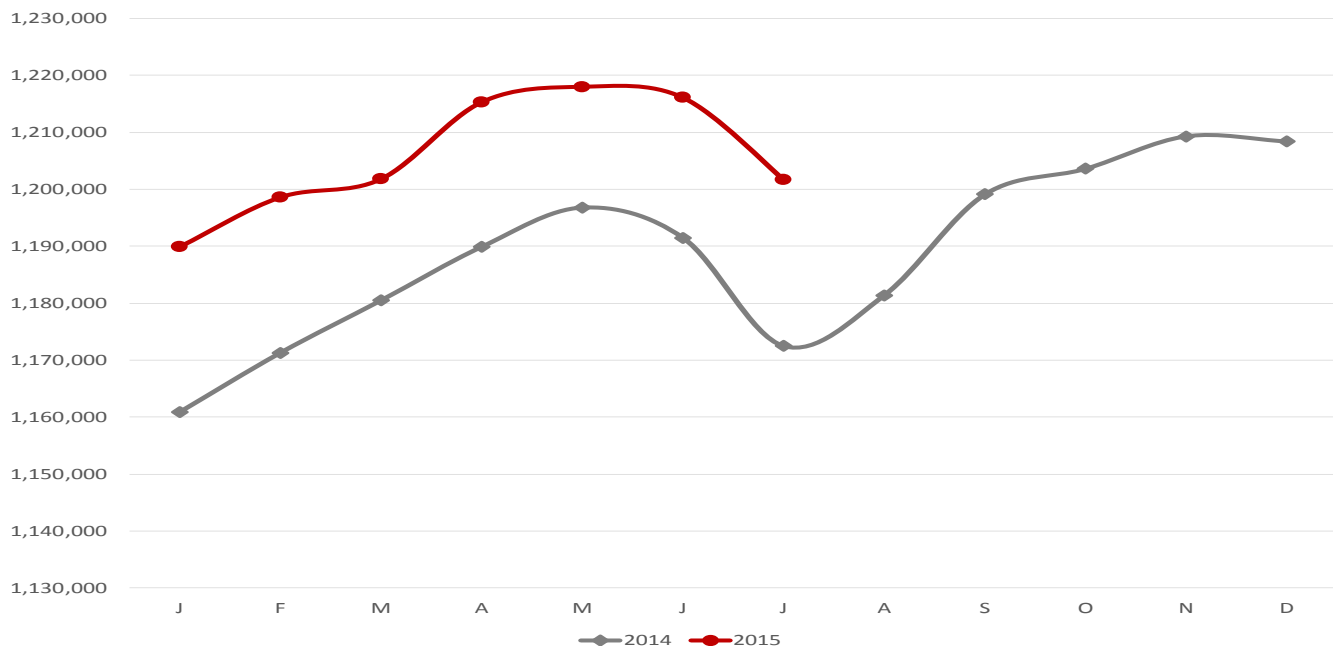
Nonfarm Payroll Summary

State of Arkansas

	<u>Jul 15</u>	<u>Jun 15</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>
Total Nonfarm	1,201,700	1,216,100	1,172,500
Goods Producing	215,300	214,000	210,700
Service Providing	986,400	1,002,100	961,800

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

State of Arkansas
January 2014 - July 2015



Nonfarm Payroll Employment

State of Arkansas

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

June 2015 - July 2015

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs decreased 14,400 in July to total 1,201,700. Seven major industry sectors declined, while three sectors posted gains. Jobs in **government** fell 12,300, with both local (-10,900) and state (-1,600) government affected by summer break at public schools. **Leisure and hospitality** dropped 2,100. Most of the loss was in food services (-1,700), related in part to the temporary summer closure of educational facilities. **Construction** added 1,500 jobs, related to both new and on-going projects. Jobs in **professional and business services** rose 1,300. Gains were mostly in administrative and support services (+1,600), which includes some seasonal activities such as landscaping and travel arrangement.

July 2014 - July 2015

Compared to July 2014, nonfarm payroll employment in Arkansas rose 29,200. Six major industry sectors experienced growth, with minor declines reported in four sectors. **Professional and business services** added 9,700 jobs. Most of the increase was in administrative and support services (+7,900), due in large part to reported gains in employment services. Employment in **educational and health services** rose 6,000. Health care and social assistance posted a majority of the growth (+4,900). **Construction** added 5,900 jobs, mostly in specialty trade contractors (+4,100). Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** increased 3,800. Additions were posted across all subsectors.

(NAICS)	Jul 15	Jun 15	Jul 14
Total Nonfarm	1,201,700	1,216,100	1,172,500
Goods Producing	215,300	214,000	210,700
Mining & Logging	8,500	8,500	8,900
Construction	52,700	51,200	46,800
Specialty Trade Contractors	33,800	32,800	29,700
Manufacturing	154,100	154,300	155,000
Durable Goods	75,800	75,900	76,800
Nondurable Goods	78,300	78,400	78,200
Service Providing	986,400	1,002,100	961,800
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	248,400	249,300	244,600
Wholesale Trade	48,600	49,100	47,000
Retail Trade	137,200	137,100	135,700
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	62,600	63,100	61,900
Information	13,800	14,000	13,800
Financial Activities	51,700	51,500	50,000
Finance & Insurance	38,400	38,300	36,800
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13,300	13,200	13,200
Professional & Business Services	140,400	139,100	130,700
Professional, Scientific & Technical	40,200	40,600	39,900
Management of Companies	33,900	33,800	32,400
Administrative & Support Services	66,300	64,700	58,400
Educational & Health Services	174,600	175,600	168,600
Educational Services	12,000	12,500	10,900
Health Care & Social Assistance	162,600	163,100	157,700
Ambulatory Health Care	51,300	50,800	49,400
Social Assistance	37,400	38,500	36,000
Leisure & Hospitality	114,900	117,000	110,600
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	12,900	13,200	12,200
Accommodation & Food Services	102,000	103,800	98,400
Accommodation Services	11,700	11,800	12,200
Food Services	90,300	92,000	86,200
Other Services	43,600	44,300	44,400
Government	199,000	211,300	199,100
Federal Government	20,400	20,200	20,200
State Government	72,900	74,500	72,300
Local Government	105,700	116,600	106,600

Hours and Earnings of Arkansas Production Workers (Manufacturing Industries)

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Jul 15	Jun 15	Jul 14	Jul 15	Jun 15	Jul 14	Jul 15	Jun 15	Jul 14
Manufacturing	\$655.28	\$654.08	\$653.63	40.6	40.5	40.1	\$16.14	\$16.15	\$16.30
Durable Goods	707.12	700.48	695.94	40.2	39.8	39.7	17.59	17.60	17.53
Nondurable Goods	604.09	608.69	613.58	40.9	41.1	40.5	14.77	14.81	15.15

Spotlight

Seasonal Employment Trends (Part 1 of 2)

Employment in several major industry sectors is directly affected by seasonal patterns. These patterns can be seen by comparing monthly employment across multiple years. Seasonal trends can be attributed to set schedules of operation, holidays, or weather patterns. Examples of all three types are provided.

Education is one of the most obvious examples of seasonal employment. Most of Arkansas' public schools and universities are scheduled to operate from August to May. Chart 1 shows how state and local government employment is affected by the operation schedule of public schools. Note that the number of jobs begin to decline between May and June, reaches a low in July, and then increases between August and September. Jobs remain fairly stable during the rest of the year, with the exception of the holiday-related drop in December/January.

Chart 1. Employment in State and Local Government
January 2013 - July 2015

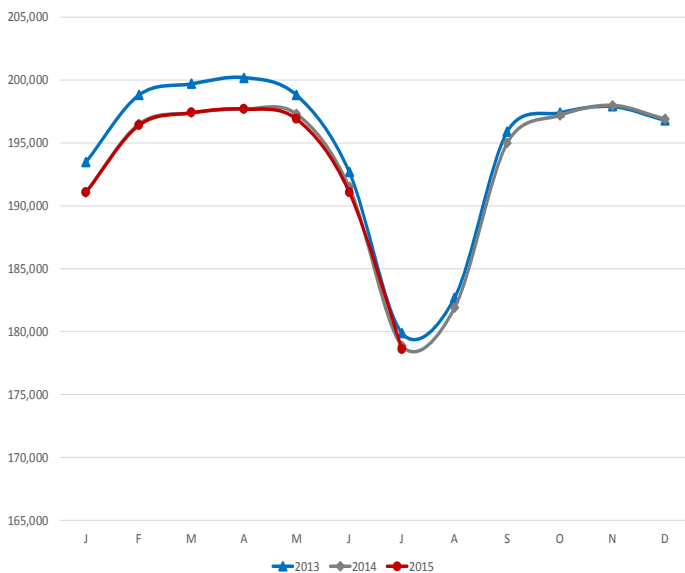


Chart 2. Employment in Educational Services
January 2013 - July 2015

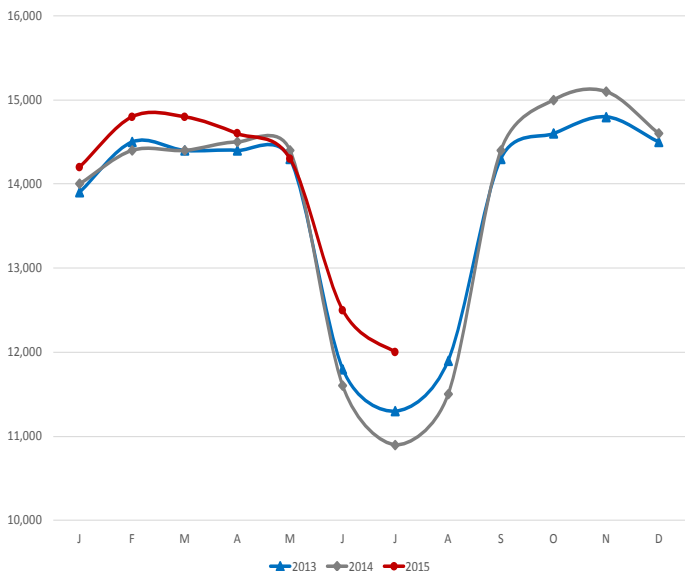
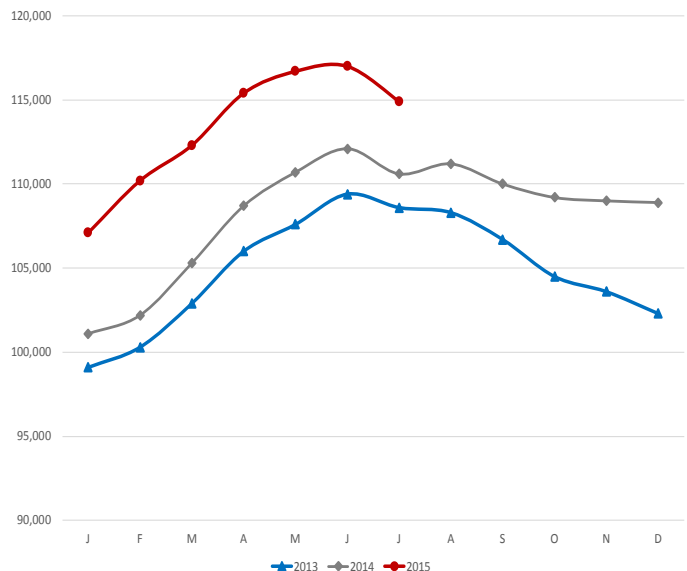


Chart 3. Employment in Leisure and Hospitality
January 2013 - July 2015



While employment at public universities and secondary schools falls under state and local government, employment at *private* universities and *private* secondary schools falls under educational services. This is a sub-sector under **educational and health services**. With the exception of the few schools that utilize a three-quarter system, the majority of private schools operate on the same August to May schedule as public schools. Chart 2 shows the seasonal employment trends of private educational services, which closely mirrors the trend seen in state and local government.

Leisure and hospitality is another sector affected by seasonal patterns. People tend to travel more during the summer months. Hotels, restaurants, and recreational facilities have increased business during this time and require more employees. Similarly, many recreational facilities in Arkansas are only open during the summer months—water and amusement parks are prime examples. Chart 3 shows the seasonal employment pattern that occurs in the **leisure and hospitality** sector. Note that employment begins to rise sharply during March and April, tends to peak in June, and then typically declines slowly throughout the second half of the year.

Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Jul 15	Jun 15	Jul 14
Total Nonfarm	351,900	352,800	342,100
Goods Producing	39,400	38,900	36,700
Mining, Logging & Construction	19,000	18,600	16,600
Manufacturing	20,400	20,300	20,100
Service Providing	312,500	313,900	305,400
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	66,600	67,000	66,700
Wholesale Trade	15,000	15,100	15,100
Retail Trade	37,700	37,800	37,600
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	13,900	14,100	14,000
Information	6,600	6,700	6,700
Financial Activities	20,900	20,900	20,600
Professional & Business Services	46,800	45,700	44,200
Educational & Health Services	52,000	51,800	50,100
Leisure & Hospitality	34,600	34,500	32,600
Other Services	16,500	16,600	16,500
Government	68,500	70,700	68,000
Federal Government	9,800	9,800	9,500
State Government	33,200	33,400	32,800
Local Government	25,500	27,500	25,700

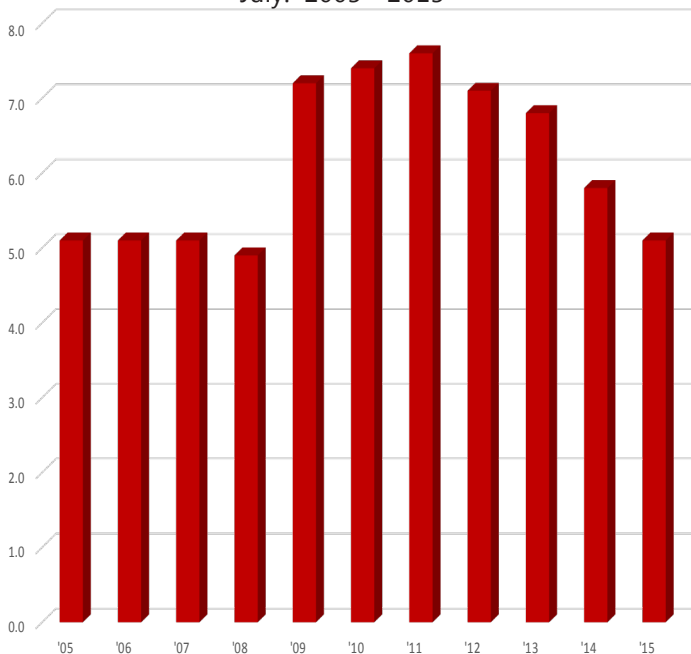
The LR-NLR-Conway MSA consists of the following counties:
Faulkner, Grant, Lonoke, Perry, Pulaski, and Saline

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Jul 15	Jun 15	Jul 14
Civilian Labor Force	361,275	353,075	347,900
Employment	342,775	335,650	327,700
Unemployment	18,500	17,425	20,200
Unemployment Rate	5.1	4.9	5.8

Unemployment Rates

July: 2005 - 2015



Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Jul 15	Jun 15	Jul 14
Total Nonfarm	226,000	229,600	220,700
Goods Producing	36,300	36,200	36,300
Mining, Logging & Construction	8,900	8,800	8,800
Manufacturing	27,400	27,400	27,500
Service Providing	189,700	193,400	184,400
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	51,700	51,800	50,000
Wholesale Trade	11,200	11,200	10,700
Retail Trade	24,700	24,800	24,200
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	15,800	15,800	15,100
Information	1,900	1,900	1,900
Financial Activities	7,000	7,000	6,800
Professional & Business Services	45,600	46,500	44,300
Educational & Health Services	24,700	24,900	23,900
Leisure & Hospitality	22,800	23,200	22,200
Other Services	6,700	6,700	6,700
Government	29,300	31,400	28,600
Federal Government	2,600	2,500	2,600
State Government	10,500	10,800	9,900
Local Government	16,200	18,100	16,100

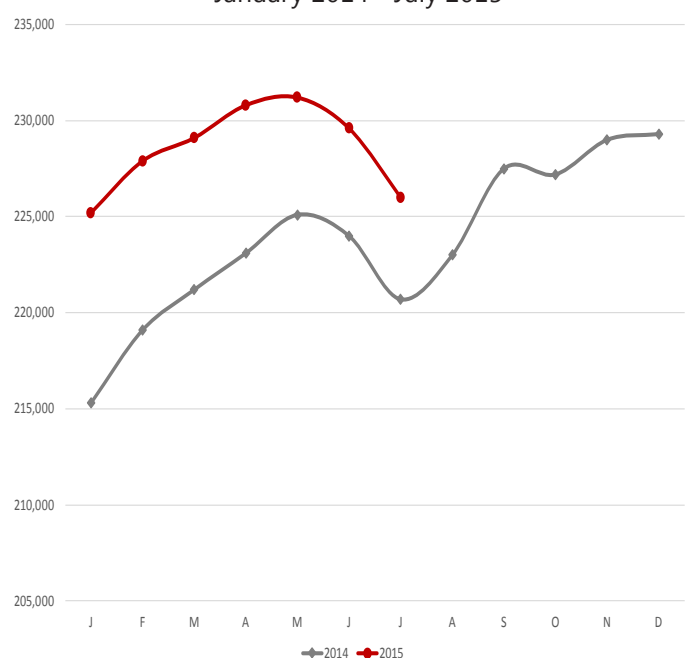
The FSR MSA consists of the following counties:
Benton, Madison, Washington, and McDonald (in Missouri)

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Jul 15	Jun 15	Jul 14
Civilian Labor Force	251,975	250,875	244,000
Employment	241,075	240,250	231,725
Unemployment	10,900	10,625	12,275
Unemployment Rate	4.3	4.2	5.0

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

January 2014 - July 2015



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fort Smith MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Jul 15	Jun 15	Jul 14
Total Nonfarm	110,600	112,600	110,500
Goods Producing	24,300	23,900	24,900
Mining, Logging & Construction	6,200	6,100	6,800
Manufacturing	18,100	17,800	18,100
Service Providing	86,300	88,700	85,600
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	23,500	23,300	23,300
Wholesale Trade	4,300	4,300	4,300
Retail Trade	12,400	12,200	12,300
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	6,800	6,800	6,700
Information	1,300	1,300	1,300
Financial Activities	3,900	3,900	3,900
Professional & Business Services	12,800	12,700	11,700
Educational & Health Services	16,100	16,400	16,300
Leisure & Hospitality	8,700	9,000	9,200
Other Services	4,500	4,500	4,300
Government	15,500	17,600	15,600
Federal Government	1,300	1,300	1,300
State Government	2,900	2,900	2,900
Local Government	11,300	13,400	11,400

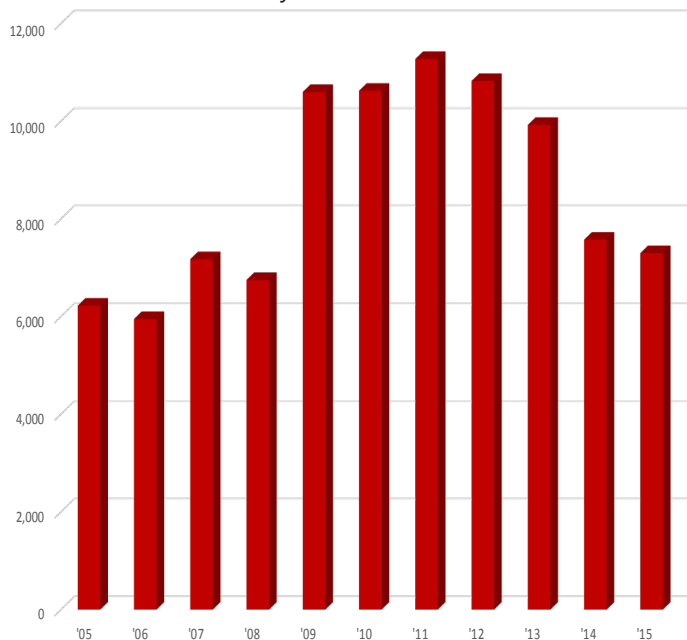
The FS MSA consists of the following counties: Crawford, and Sebastian, and LeFlore and Sequoyah (in Oklahoma)

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Jul 15	Jun 15	Jul 14
Civilian Labor Force	122,325	122,350	120,325
Employment	115,025	115,100	112,750
Unemployment	7,300	7,250	7,575
Unemployment Rate	5.9	5.9	6.3

Number of Unemployed

July: 2005 - 2015



Hot Springs MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Jul 15	Jun 15	Jul 14
Total Nonfarm	38,900	39,600	38,000
Goods Producing	4,400	4,400	4,400
Service Providing	34,500	35,200	33,600
Government	4,200	4,500	4,200

The HS MSA consists of the following county: Garland

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Jul 15	Jun 15	Jul 14
Civilian Labor Force	42,850	42,350	41,350
Employment	40,275	39,925	38,625
Unemployment	2,575	2,425	2,725
Unemployment Rate	6.0	5.7	6.6

Jonesboro MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Jul 15	Jun 15	Jul 14
Total Nonfarm	54,700	55,200	52,200
Goods Producing	9,100	9,000	8,800
Service Providing	45,600	46,200	43,400
Government	8,300	8,800	8,200

The Jonesboro MSA consists of the following counties:

Craighead and Poinsett

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Jul 15	Jun 15	Jul 14
Civilian Labor Force	63,350	62,875	60,075
Employment	60,050	59,650	56,450
Unemployment	3,300	3,225	3,625
Unemployment Rate	5.2	5.1	6.1

Pine Bluff MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Jul 15	Jun 15	Jul 14
Total Nonfarm	31,100	31,700	33,000
Goods Producing	5,400	5,400	6,400
Service Providing	25,700	26,300	26,600
Government	8,800	9,400	9,000

The PB MSA consists of the following counties:

Cleveland, Jefferson, and Lincoln

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Jul 15	Jun 15	Jul 14
Civilian Labor Force	35,500	35,475	37,400
Employment	32,525	32,650	33,900
Unemployment	2,975	2,825	3,500
Unemployment Rate	8.3	8.0	9.3

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

State of Arkansas

(Seasonally Adjusted)

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Jul 15</u>	<u>Jun 15</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>	<u>Jul 15</u>	<u>Jun 15</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	1,337,000	1,337,300	1,296,700	-300	40,300	1,348,700	1,353,500	1,315,100	-4,800	33,600
Employment	1,262,500	1,261,500	1,218,900	1,000	43,600	1,270,100	1,277,600	1,228,900	-7,500	41,200
Unemployment	74,500	75,800	77,800	-1,300	-3,300	78,600	75,900	86,200	2,700	-7,600
Unemployment Rate	5.6	5.7	6.0	-0.1	-0.4	5.8	5.6	6.6	0.2	-0.8
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.3	5.3	6.2	0.0	-0.9	5.6	5.5	6.5	0.1	-0.9

Out-of-State MSAs

Memphis, Tennessee-Mississippi-Arkansas MSA

	<u>Jul 15</u>	<u>Jun 15</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>
Civilian Labor Force	626,400	627,175	615,950
Employment	582,275	583,300	565,175
Unemployment	44,125	43,875	50,775
Unemployment Rate	7.0	7.0	8.2

Texarkana, Texas-Arkansas MSA

	<u>Jul 15</u>	<u>Jun 15</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>
Civilian Labor Force	63,475	64,425	64,350
Employment	60,025	61,075	60,075
Unemployment	3,450	3,350	4,275
Unemployment Rate	5.4	5.2	6.6

Between June and July, unemployment rates increased in 67 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Rates declined in two counties, while six counties were stable over the month.

In July, twenty-three counties posted jobless rates at or below six percent. Two counties reported rates above 10 percent, up from one county last month.

Compared to July 2014, unemployment rates are down in 70 counties. Four counties posted jobless rates higher than last July, while one county was the same.

Unemployment Rates by County

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Jul 15</u>	<u>Jun 15</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Jul 15</u>	<u>Jun 15</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>
7	Arkansas	4.9	4.3	5.7	65	Lee	8.1	6.7	8.2
72	Ashley	9.0	8.2	10.0	50	Lincoln	7.3	6.7	7.6
29	Baxter	6.3	5.8	7.2	29	Little River	6.3	6.0	7.0
2	Benton	4.4	4.2	5.1	46	Logan	7.1	6.7	6.7
15	Boone	5.8	5.3	6.6	6	Lonoke	4.7	4.6	5.5
46	Bradley	7.1	6.0	9.3	2	Madison	4.4	4.2	5.2
39	Calhoun	6.7	6.0	7.5	18	Marion	5.9	5.4	6.9
4	Carroll	4.5	4.3	5.0	15	Miller	5.8	5.8	6.3
74	Chicot	10.1	9.6	11.2	75	Mississippi	10.8	11.5	10.4
37	Clark	6.6	7.0	8.2	46	Monroe	7.1	6.0	7.4
58	Clay	7.7	6.6	8.5	43	Montgomery	7.0	6.2	8.1
63	Cleburne	7.8	7.2	8.5	24	Nevada	6.1	5.5	6.8
33	Cleveland	6.5	6.3	7.4	29	Newton	6.3	4.8	6.4
58	Columbia	7.7	7.5	8.3	50	Ouachita	7.3	7.1	8.5
41	Conway	6.9	6.5	7.5	39	Perry	6.7	5.9	7.6
8	Craighead	5.0	4.9	5.8	71	Phillips	8.8	7.8	10.4
18	Crawford	5.9	5.8	6.4	53	Pike	7.4	6.6	8.0
43	Crittenden	7.0	6.8	7.5	24	Poinsett	6.1	6.0	7.2
29	Cross	6.3	5.6	7.0	33	Polk	6.5	6.5	7.2
66	Dallas	8.2	7.6	10.0	33	Pope	6.5	6.2	7.4
67	Desha	8.7	7.9	8.7	13	Prairie	5.5	5.0	6.3
64	Drew	8.0	7.8	9.8	10	Pulaski	5.2	5.0	6.0
11	Faulkner	5.3	5.2	5.9	54	Randolph	7.5	7.4	8.8
20	Franklin	6.0	5.9	6.3	67	St. Francis	8.7	7.7	9.5
24	Fulton	6.1	5.5	6.7	5	Saline	4.6	4.6	5.2
20	Garland	6.0	5.7	6.6	15	Scott	5.8	5.8	5.7
9	Grant	5.1	4.9	5.8	33	Searcy	6.5	5.9	6.9
27	Greene	6.2	5.8	6.9	12	Sebastian	5.4	5.3	6.0
20	Hempstead	6.0	5.3	6.5	37	Sevier	6.6	6.2	7.3
20	Hot Spring	6.0	5.7	6.4	58	Sharp	7.7	7.3	9.0
14	Howard	5.6	5.2	5.8	41	Stone	6.9	6.6	8.6
54	Independence	7.5	7.1	8.8	54	Union	7.5	7.0	8.1
58	Izard	7.7	7.1	8.7	58	Van Buren	7.7	7.1	8.7
67	Jackson	8.7	7.9	9.5	1	Washington	4.1	4.1	4.8
67	Jefferson	8.7	8.4	9.8	43	White	7.0	7.0	7.9
54	Johnson	7.5	7.0	7.6	46	Woodruff	7.1	6.3	8.0
73	Lafayette	9.1	8.5	8.9	27	Yell	6.2	5.7	6.5
50	Lawrence	7.3	6.6	8.5					

Lowest Rates

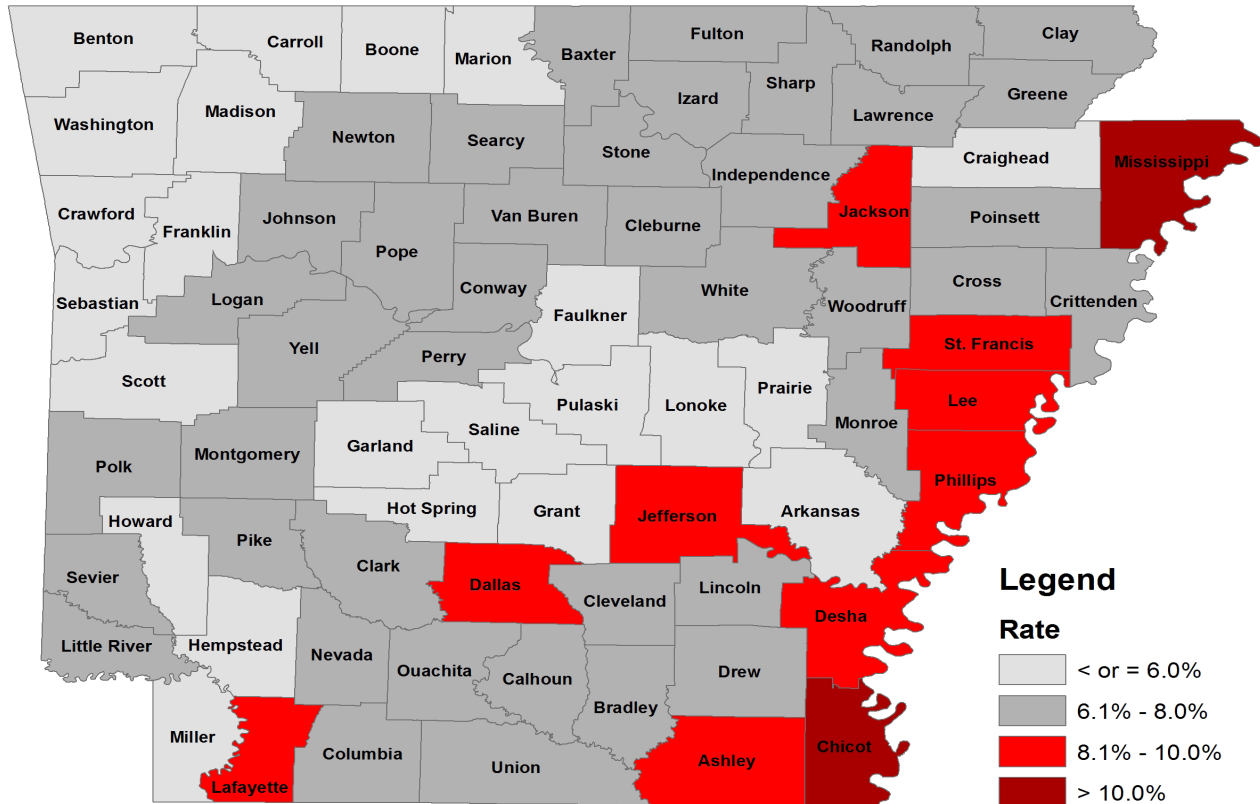
<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1	Washington	4.1
2	Benton	4.4
2	Madison	4.4
4	Carroll	4.5
5	Saline	4.6

Highest Rates

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
71	Phillips	8.8
72	Ashley	9.0
73	Lafayette	9.1
74	Chicot	10.1
75	Mississippi	10.8

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

July 2015

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