

# Arkansas Labor Market

## March 2015

### Employment Headlines

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains Steady at 5.6 Percent

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Up 4,000 in March

### Employment Quick Facts

#### Unemployment Rates

*Seasonally Adjusted*

	<u>Mar 15</u>	<u>Feb 15</u>	<u>Mar 14</u>
AR Unemployment Rate	5.6	5.6	6.4
US Unemployment Rate	5.5	5.5	6.6

#### Nonfarm Payroll Summary

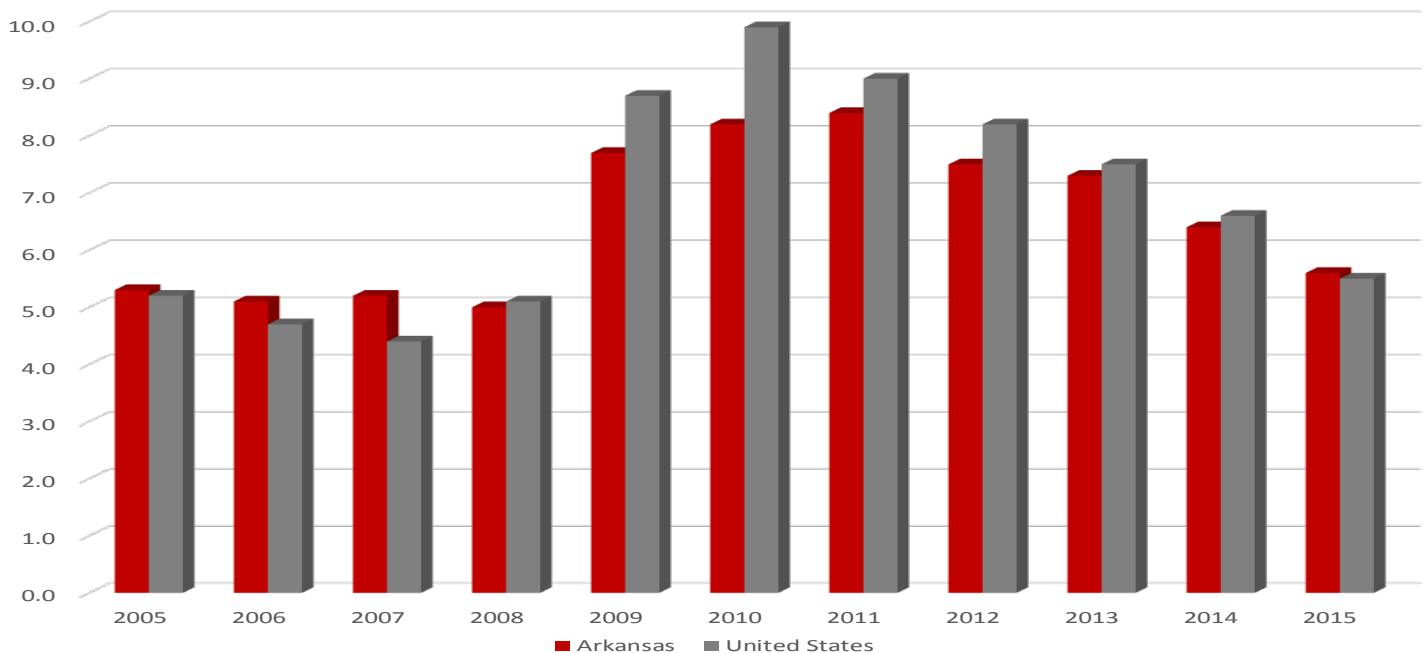
*State of Arkansas*

	<u>Mar 15</u>	<u>Feb 15</u>	<u>Mar 14</u>
Total Nonfarm	1,202,600	1,198,600	1,180,500
Goods Producing	207,400	208,500	205,300
Service Providing	995,200	990,100	975,200

#### Unemployment Rates (Seasonally Adjusted)

State of Arkansas vs. United States

March: 2005 - 2015



# Nonfarm Payroll Employment

## State of Arkansas

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

#### February 2015 - March 2015

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment rose 4,000 in March to total 1,202,600. Eight major industry sectors added jobs, while two declined and one remained stable. Employment in **leisure and hospitality** increased 2,300. Gains were largely seasonal and spread throughout all subsectors. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 1,000 jobs. Hiring in both retail (+600) and wholesale (+600) trade was related in part to the start of the spring shopping season. Employment in **government** rose 1,000, due in part to seasonal winter activities in both state (+700) and local (+300) government. **Construction** declined 2,000, as many projects were temporarily shut down due to weather conditions.

#### March 2014 - March 2015

Compared to March 2014, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas have increased 22,100. Nine major industry sectors posted gains, while two sectors decreased slightly. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** rose 7,200. A majority of the increase was in food services (+5,900), reported in both full and limited service restaurants. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 5,700 jobs. Growth occurred in all three subsectors. Employment in **educational and health services** rose 3,300, mostly in health care and social assistance (+2,900). **Professional and business services** increased 2,200. Gains were in management of companies (+1,600) and administrative and support services (+1,400).

(NAICS)	Mar 15	Feb 15	Mar 14
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	1,202,600	1,198,600	1,180,500
<b>Goods Producing</b>	207,400	208,500	205,300
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	8,500	8,500	8,700
<b>Construction</b>	45,000	47,000	43,700
Specialty Trade Contractors	29,900	30,300	27,800
<b>Manufacturing</b>	153,900	153,000	152,900
Durable Goods	76,200	76,400	75,900
Nondurable Goods	77,700	76,600	77,000
<b>Service Providing</b>	995,200	990,100	975,200
<b>Trade, Transportation &amp; Utilities</b>	246,300	245,300	240,600
Wholesale Trade	47,900	47,300	46,200
Retail Trade	134,500	133,900	133,400
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	63,900	64,100	61,000
<b>Information</b>	13,600	13,500	13,700
<b>Financial Activities</b>	50,200	50,000	49,300
Finance & Insurance	37,500	37,500	36,600
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,700	12,500	12,700
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	136,000	135,900	133,800
Professional, Scientific & Technical	40,400	41,100	41,200
Management of Companies	33,500	33,400	31,900
Administrative & Support Services	62,100	61,400	60,700
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	175,200	174,500	171,900
Educational Services	14,800	14,800	14,400
Health Care & Social Assistance	160,400	159,700	157,500
Ambulatory Health Care	50,200	49,900	48,700
Social Assistance	37,900	37,200	36,800
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	112,500	110,200	105,300
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	10,700	10,000	9,500
Accommodation & Food Services	101,800	100,200	95,800
Accommodation Services	10,700	10,400	10,600
Food Services	91,100	89,800	85,200
<b>Other Services</b>	43,900	44,200	43,200
<b>Government</b>	217,500	216,500	217,400
Federal Government	20,100	20,100	20,000
State Government	80,200	79,500	79,600
Local Government	117,200	116,900	117,800

## Hours and Earnings of Arkansas Production Workers (Manufacturing Industries)

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar 15	Feb 15	Mar 14	Mar 15	Feb 15	Mar 14	Mar 15	Feb 15	Mar 14
<b>Manufacturing</b>	\$657.32	\$662.40	\$633.11	40.5	41.4	40.3	\$16.23	\$16.00	\$15.71
Durable Goods	709.60	693.05	690.56	40.0	40.2	41.5	17.74	17.24	16.64
Nondurable Goods	605.73	631.55	581.64	40.9	42.5	39.3	14.81	14.86	14.80

# Spotlight

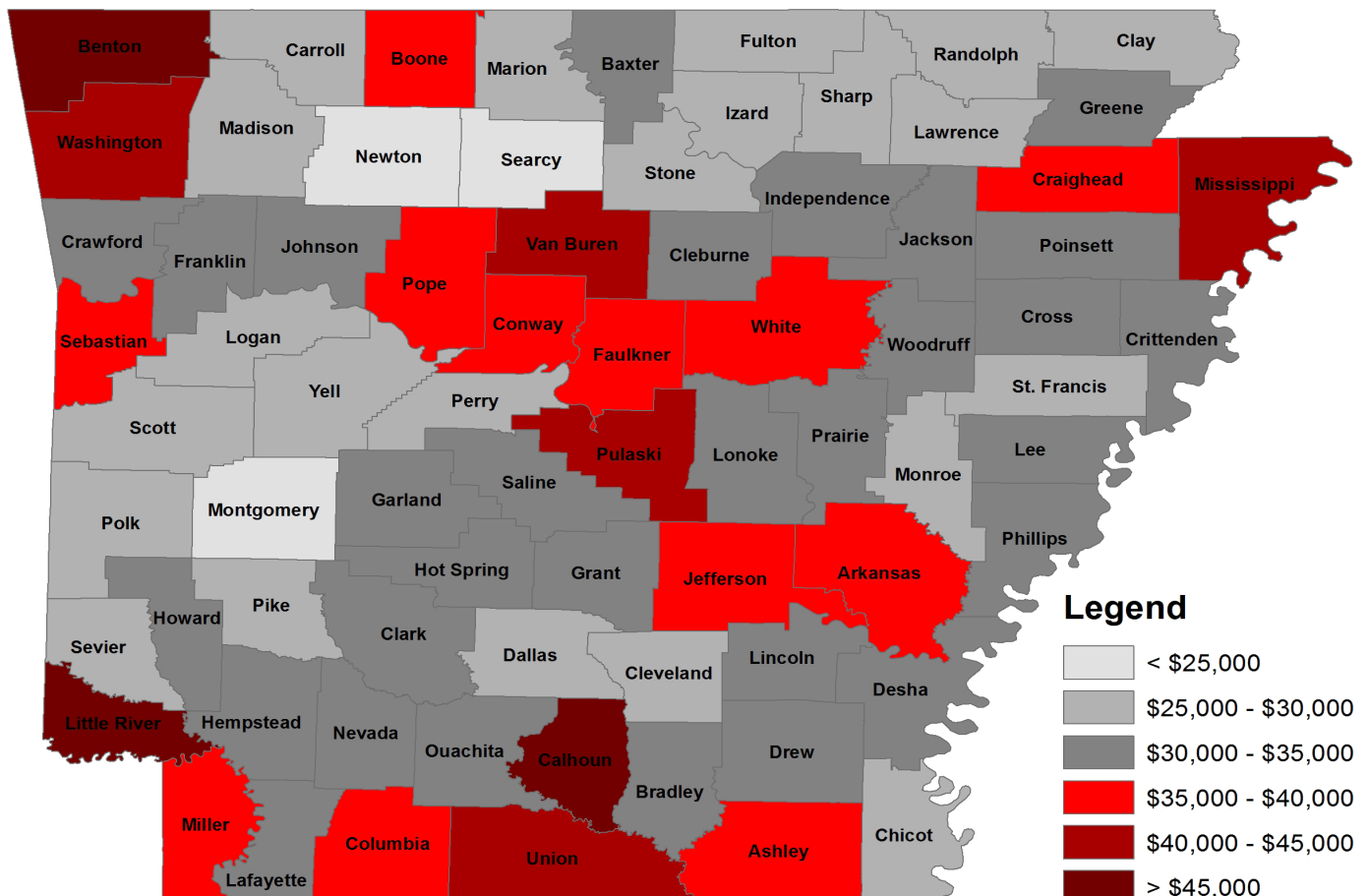
## Wages in Arkansas

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 covered employment, the program also tracks the wages paid to employees. Due to the comprehensive 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 are compiled using all industries and includes both private and government jobs, 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 2014, average annual wages ranged from a high of \$53,391, for those employed in Benton County, to a low of \$22,893 in Newton County. The map below represents the wages of Arkansas workers by county, with wages divided into six different monetary ranges.

**Wages in Arkansas by County**  
2014 Annual Average



# Metropolitan Statistical Areas

## Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Mar 15	Feb 15	Mar 14
Total Nonfarm	347,900	344,700	344,800
Goods Producing	36,800	36,700	35,500
Mining, Logging & Construction	16,600	16,600	15,600
Manufacturing	20,200	20,100	19,900
Service Providing	311,100	308,000	309,300
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	66,300	66,100	65,900
Wholesale Trade	14,900	14,800	15,000
Retail Trade	37,300	37,300	37,000
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	14,100	14,000	13,900
Information	6,600	6,600	6,800
Financial Activities	20,600	20,500	20,400
Professional & Business Services	44,000	43,000	46,000
Educational & Health Services	51,900	51,900	51,300
Leisure & Hospitality	33,600	32,000	31,500
Other Services	16,200	16,100	15,800
Government	71,900	71,800	71,600
Federal Government	9,700	9,700	9,500
State Government	34,800	34,700	34,500
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

	Mar 15	Feb 15	Mar 14
Civilian Labor Force	344,625	342,425	336,525
Employment	327,000	324,100	316,850
Unemployment	17,625	18,325	19,675
Unemployment Rate	5.1	5.3	5.8

Number of Employed  
March 2014 - March 2015



## Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

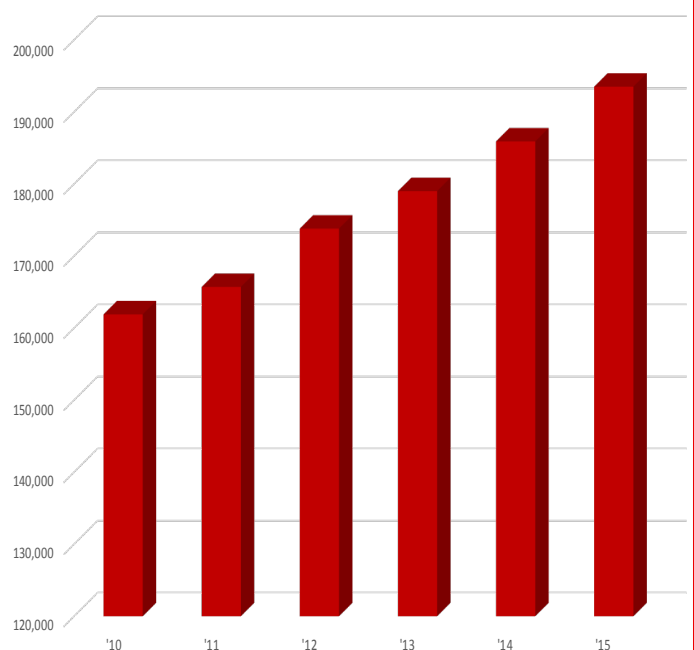
NAICS	Mar 15	Feb 15	Mar 14
Total Nonfarm	229,400	227,900	221,200
Goods Producing	35,900	35,800	35,300
Mining, Logging & Construction	8,600	8,500	8,300
Manufacturing	27,300	27,300	27,000
Service Providing	193,500	192,100	185,900
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	51,600	50,800	48,800
Wholesale Trade	11,000	10,900	10,400
Retail Trade	24,800	24,100	23,400
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	15,800	15,800	15,000
Information	1,900	1,900	1,800
Financial Activities	6,900	6,900	6,600
Professional & Business Services	46,200	46,600	43,700
Educational & Health Services	24,900	24,800	24,300
Leisure & Hospitality	21,900	21,300	21,500
Other Services	6,600	6,600	6,500
Government	33,500	33,200	32,700
Federal Government	2,600	2,500	2,500
State Government	12,800	12,700	12,100
Local Government	18,100	18,000	18,100

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

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Mar 15	Feb 15	Mar 14
Civilian Labor Force	247,125	245,600	235,475
Employment	236,700	234,850	223,625
Unemployment	10,425	10,750	11,850
Unemployment Rate	4.2	4.4	5.0

Jobs in Service Providing Industries  
March: 2010 - 2015



# Metropolitan Statistical Areas

## Fort Smith MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

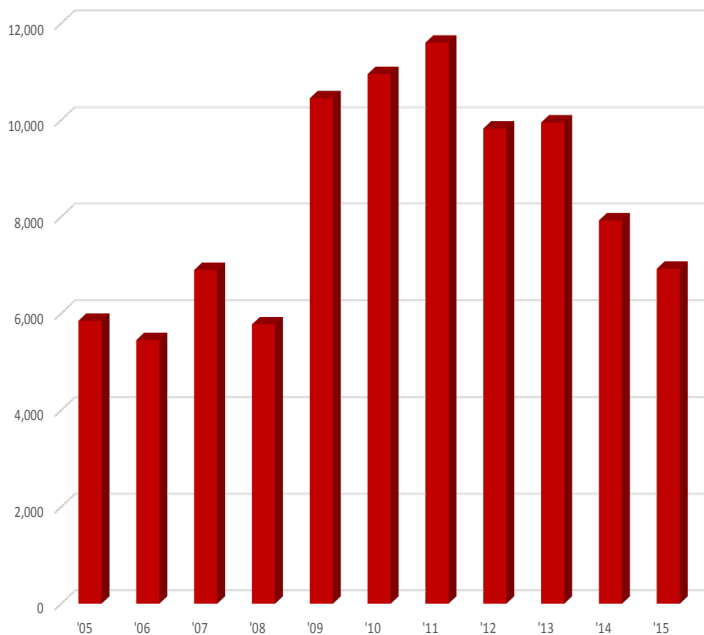
NAICS	Mar 15	Feb 15	Mar 14
Total Nonfarm	112,000	112,600	112,300
Goods Producing	24,300	24,800	24,200
Mining, Logging & Construction	6,200	6,700	6,300
Manufacturing	18,100	18,100	17,900
Service Providing	87,700	87,800	88,100
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	22,800	22,800	23,100
Wholesale Trade	4,400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

	Mar 15	Feb 15	Mar 14
Civilian Labor Force	120,400	120,800	118,275
Employment	113,475	113,525	110,350
Unemployment	6,925	7,275	7,925
Unemployment Rate	5.8	6.0	6.7

Number of Unemployed  
March: 2005 - 2015



## Hot Springs MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Mar 15	Feb 15	Mar 14
Total Nonfarm	38,500	38,300	37,900
Goods Producing	4,200	4,300	4,200
Service Providing	34,300	34,000	33,700
Government	4,800	4,700	4,800

The HS MSA consists of the following county: Garland

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Mar 15	Feb 15	Mar 14
Civilian Labor Force	40,850	40,700	39,700
Employment	38,425	38,175	37,025
Unemployment	2,425	2,525	2,675
Unemployment Rate	6.0	6.2	6.8

## Jonesboro MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Mar 15	Feb 15	Mar 14
Total Nonfarm	54,600	54,500	52,200
Goods Producing	8,700	8,900	8,400
Service Providing	45,900	45,600	43,800
Government	9,100	9,100	8,900

The Jonesboro MSA consists of the following counties: Craighead and Poinsett

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Mar 15	Feb 15	Mar 14
Civilian Labor Force	61,475	61,150	58,225
Employment	58,300	57,850	54,550
Unemployment	3,175	3,300	3,675
Unemployment Rate	5.2	5.4	6.3

## Pine Bluff MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Mar 15	Feb 15	Mar 14
Total Nonfarm	33,300	33,300	33,800
Goods Producing	6,300	6,100	6,300
Service Providing	27,000	27,200	27,500
Government	9,600	9,600	9,800

The PB MSA consists of the following counties: Cleveland, Jefferson, and Lincoln

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Mar 15	Feb 15	Mar 14
Civilian Labor Force	36,400	36,475	36,750
Employment	33,650	33,550	33,350
Unemployment	2,750	2,925	3,400
Unemployment Rate	7.6	7.9	9.2

# Civilian Labor Force Statistics

## State of Arkansas

(Seasonally Adjusted)

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<b>Mar 15</b>	<b>Feb 15</b>	<b>Mar 14</b>	<b>OTM</b>	<b>OTY</b>	<b>Mar 15</b>	<b>Feb 15</b>	<b>Mar 14</b>	<b>OTM</b>	<b>OTY</b>
Civilian Labor Force	1,330,900	1,326,200	1,293,200	4,700	37,700	1,328,500	1,319,000	1,290,700	9,500	37,800
Employment	1,256,400	1,252,500	1,210,900	3,900	45,500	1,252,400	1,239,900	1,205,800	12,500	46,600
Unemployment	74,500	73,700	82,300	800	-7,800	76,100	79,100	84,900	-3,000	-8,800
Unemployment Rate	5.6	5.6	6.4	0.0	-0.8	5.7	6.0	6.6	-0.3	-0.9
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.5	5.5	6.6	0.0	-1.1	5.6	5.8	6.8	-0.2	-1.2

## Out-of-State MSAs

### Memphis, Tennessee-Mississippi-Arkansas MSA

	<b>Mar 15</b>	<b>Feb 15</b>	<b>Mar 14</b>
Civilian Labor Force	608,000	606,750	608,475
Employment	568,400	564,050	560,525
Unemployment	39,600	42,700	47,950
Unemployment Rate	6.5	7.0	7.9

### Texarkana, Texas-Arkansas MSA

	<b>Mar 15</b>	<b>Feb 15</b>	<b>Mar 14</b>
Civilian Labor Force	63,925	64,000	64,600
Employment	60,600	60,475	60,275
Unemployment	3,325	3,525	4,325
Unemployment Rate	5.2	5.5	6.7

## Unemployment Rates by County

Between February and March, unemployment rates declined in 66 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Rates increased in six counties, while three counties were stable over the month.

In March, twenty-eight counties enjoyed jobless rates at or below six percent. Only one county posted an unemployment rate at or above ten percent, down from two counties in February.

Compared to March 2013, jobless rates are down in 73 Arkansas counties. One county posted an over-the-year rate increase, while one county was the same.

<b>Rank</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Mar 15</b>	<b>Feb 15</b>	<b>Mar 14</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Mar 15</b>	<b>Feb 15</b>	<b>Mar 14</b>
5	Arkansas	4.6	5.1	5.8	60	Lee	7.8	8.8	8.6
69	Ashley	8.5	9.0	10.3	42	Lincoln	6.9	7.6	7.6
36	Baxter	6.4	6.7	7.3	29	Little River	6.1	6.6	6.8
2	Benton	4.3	4.5	4.9	36	Logan	6.4	6.1	6.4
23	Boone	5.9	6.1	6.7	7	Lonoke	4.8	5.1	5.6
60	Bradley	7.8	7.4	9.3	3	Madison	4.5	4.5	5.5
35	Calhoun	6.3	6.3	7.3	29	Marion	6.1	6.4	7.0
14	Carroll	5.6	6.7	5.8	17	Miller	5.7	6.0	6.5
75	Chicot	10.3	11.3	11.2	73	Mississippi	9.1	9.7	9.8
33	Clark	6.2	6.0	7.5	36	Monroe	6.4	7.3	6.9
60	Clay	7.8	8.6	8.9	57	Montgomery	7.6	8.2	8.8
64	Cleburne	7.9	8.2	9.4	17	Nevada	5.7	5.6	6.5
47	Cleveland	7.0	6.9	7.5	23	Newton	5.9	6.3	6.1
42	Columbia	6.9	7.0	7.6	57	Ouachita	7.6	7.7	8.8
41	Conway	6.5	6.6	7.7	51	Perry	7.1	7.5	8.5
8	Craighead	5.0	5.2	6.0	69	Phillips	8.5	9.0	10.4
26	Crawford	6.0	6.2	6.6	42	Pike	6.9	7.0	7.9
47	Crittenden	7.0	7.3	7.8	29	Poinsett	6.1	6.6	7.7
36	Cross	6.4	6.9	7.1	33	Polk	6.2	6.6	6.5
74	Dallas	9.2	8.9	10.0	21	Pope	5.8	5.9	6.6
71	Desha	8.6	9.5	8.9	10	Prairie	5.3	5.5	6.1
59	Drew	7.7	8.6	9.1	9	Pulaski	5.2	5.4	5.9
10	Faulkner	5.3	5.5	6.2	67	Randolph	8.3	9.0	8.8
17	Franklin	5.7	6.0	6.4	66	St. Francis	8.2	8.7	9.8
26	Fulton	6.0	6.2	6.6	6	Saline	4.7	4.8	5.2
26	Garland	6.0	6.2	6.8	10	Scott	5.3	5.4	5.6
13	Grant	5.4	5.4	6.1	53	Searcy	7.2	8.0	7.1
23	Greene	5.9	6.3	7.2	14	Sebastian	5.6	5.7	6.2
21	Hempstead	5.8	6.0	6.3	29	Sevier	6.1	6.4	7.5
14	Hot Spring	5.6	5.7	6.2	65	Sharp	8.0	8.9	9.5
3	Howard	4.5	4.9	5.7	55	Stone	7.4	8.5	8.6
47	Independence	7.0	7.8	8.4	42	Union	6.9	7.2	7.9
47	Izard	7.0	7.7	7.4	55	Van Buren	7.4	8.1	8.9
72	Jackson	8.9	10.1	9.8	1	Washington	4.0	4.1	4.9
60	Jefferson	7.8	8.1	9.7	53	White	7.2	7.4	7.8
36	Johnson	6.4	6.6	6.9	51	Woodruff	7.1	7.9	8.7
67	Lafayette	8.3	8.7	8.6	17	Yell	5.7	5.8	5.9
42	Lawrence	6.9	7.4	8.0					

### Lowest Rates

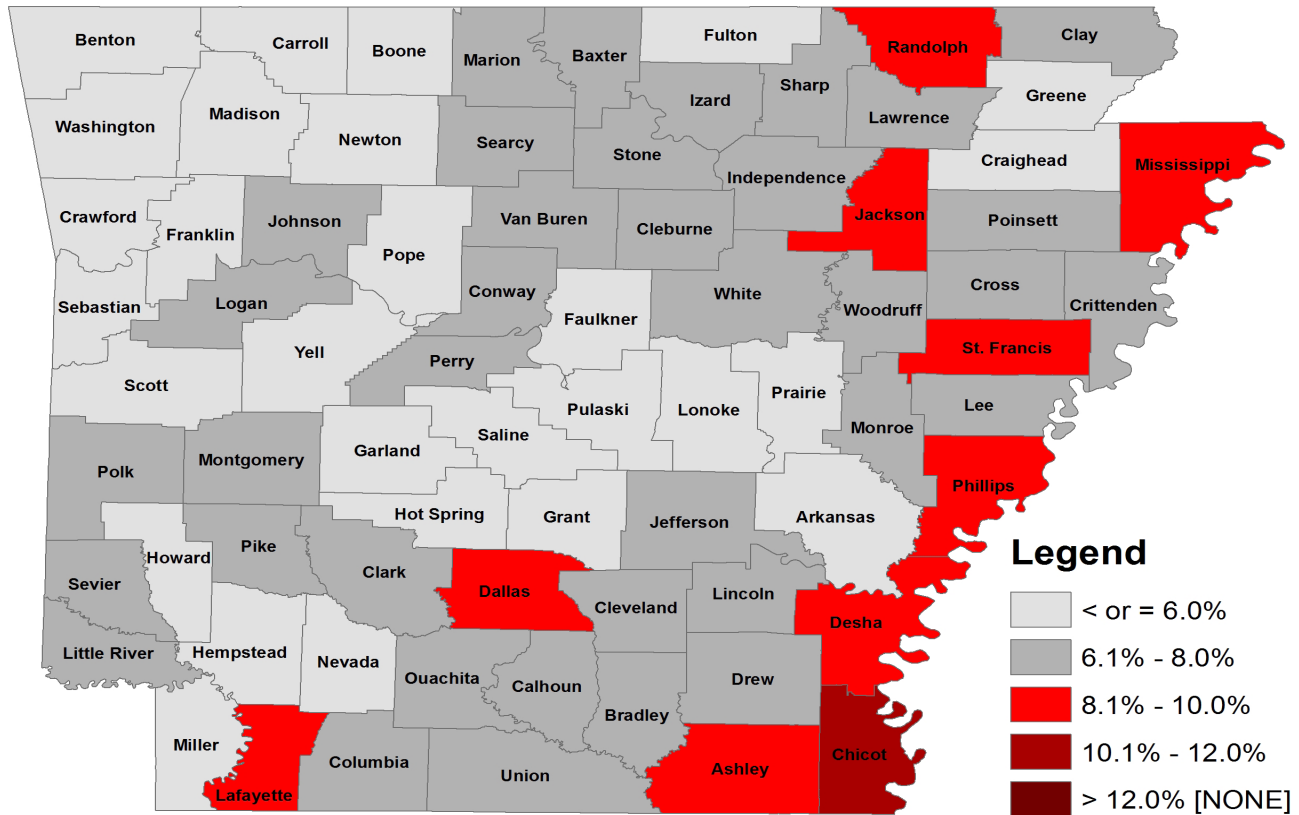
<b>Rank</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Rate</b>
1	Washington	4.0
2	Benton	4.3
3	Howard	4.5
3	Madison	4.5
5	Arkansas	4.6

### Highest Rates

<b>Rank</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Rate</b>
71	Desha	8.6
72	Jackson	8.9
73	Mississippi	9.1
74	Dallas	9.2
75	Chicot	10.3

# 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 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

## March 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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