

Arkansas Labor Market

October 2015

Employment Headlines

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Declines to 5.1 Percent

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Increase 3,200 in October

Employment Quick Facts

Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted

	Oct 15	Sep 15	Oct 14
AR Unemployment Rate	5.1	5.2	5.8
US Unemployment Rate	5.0	5.1	5.7

Nonfarm Payroll Summary

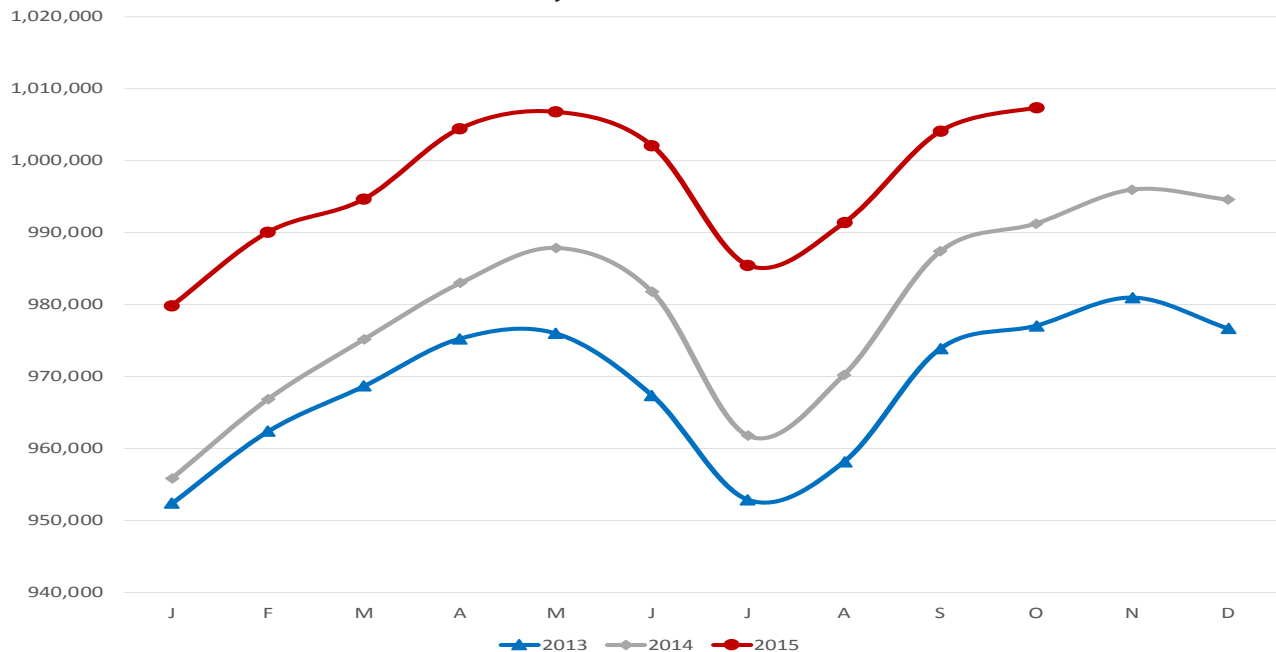
State of Arkansas

	Oct 15	Sep 15	Oct 14
Total Nonfarm	1,223,300	1,220,100	1,203,600
Goods Producing	215,900	216,000	212,300
Service Providing	1,007,400	1,004,100	991,300

Jobs in Service Providing Industries

State of Arkansas

January 2013 - October 2015



Nonfarm Payroll Employment

State of Arkansas

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

September 2015 - October 2015

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 3,200 in October to total 1,223,300. Employment rose in six major industry sectors, while four sectors declined. **Government** added 2,200 jobs. Local (+1,400) and state (+800) government posted all the gains, as public school employment reaches full capacity. **Educational and health services** increased 1,100. Most of the additions occurred in health care and social assistance (+800). Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose 1,100. All gains were in retail trade (+1,600), which more than offset minor declines in other subsectors. **Leisure and hospitality** decreased 2,100. Losses occurred in arts, entertainment, and recreation (-800) and accommodation and food services (-1,300), both typical seasonal declines.

October 2014 - October 2015

Compared to October 2014, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment is up 19,700. Seven major industry sectors reported job growth, as four sectors declined. **Construction** posted the greatest increase, adding 8,200 jobs. Most of the gains were in specialty trade contractors (+7,200). Jobs in **educational and health services** rose 5,400. Expansions in health care and social assistance (+6,200) more than offset the losses in educational services (-800). **Professional and business services** added 4,400 jobs, with additions reported across all subsectors. Employment in **leisure and hospitality** rose 3,200. A majority of the growth was in food services (+2,500). Jobs in **manufacturing** declined 3,900. Losses were reported in both durable goods (-2,300) and nondurable goods (-1,600) manufacturing.

(NAICS)	Oct 15	Sep 15	Oct 14
Total Nonfarm	1,223,300	1,220,100	1,203,600
Goods Producing	215,900	216,000	212,300
Mining & Logging	8,300	8,300	9,000
Construction	54,600	55,300	46,400
Specialty Trade Contractors	36,200	36,000	29,000
Manufacturing	153,000	152,400	156,900
Durable Goods	75,400	75,300	77,700
Nondurable Goods	77,600	77,100	79,200
Service Providing	1,007,400	1,004,100	991,300
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	246,700	245,600	246,300
Wholesale Trade	47,700	48,100	46,500
Retail Trade	136,400	134,800	136,200
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	62,600	62,700	63,600
Information	13,600	13,700	13,700
Financial Activities	51,300	51,000	49,500
Finance & Insurance	38,200	37,900	36,700
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13,100	13,100	12,800
Professional & Business Services	140,800	140,900	136,400
Professional, Scientific & Technical	41,200	40,200	39,300
Management of Companies	34,700	34,300	33,200
Administrative & Support Services	64,900	66,400	63,900
Educational & Health Services	180,500	179,400	175,100
Educational Services	14,200	13,900	15,000
Health Care & Social Assistance	166,300	165,500	160,100
Ambulatory Health Care	51,700	51,500	50,000
Social Assistance	39,200	38,600	37,500
Leisure & Hospitality	112,400	114,500	109,200
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	10,900	11,700	10,300
Accommodation & Food Services	101,500	102,800	98,900
Accommodation Services	11,100	11,100	11,000
Food Services	90,400	91,700	87,900
Other Services	45,200	44,300	43,700
Government	216,900	214,700	217,400
Federal Government	20,200	20,200	20,200
State Government	80,400	79,600	79,800
Local Government	116,300	114,900	117,400

Hours and Earnings of Arkansas Production Workers (Manufacturing Industries)

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Oct 15	Sep 15	Oct 14	Oct 15	Sep 15	Oct 14	Oct 15	Sep 15	Oct 14
Manufacturing	\$661.57	\$666.20	\$669.44	41.4	41.2	41.4	\$15.98	\$16.17	\$16.17
Durable Goods	710.12	711.79	719.35	41.0	39.5	41.2	17.32	18.02	17.46
Nondurable Goods	612.57	622.05	621.92	41.7	42.9	41.6	14.69	14.50	14.95

Spotlight

A Comparative Look at Unemployment Rates

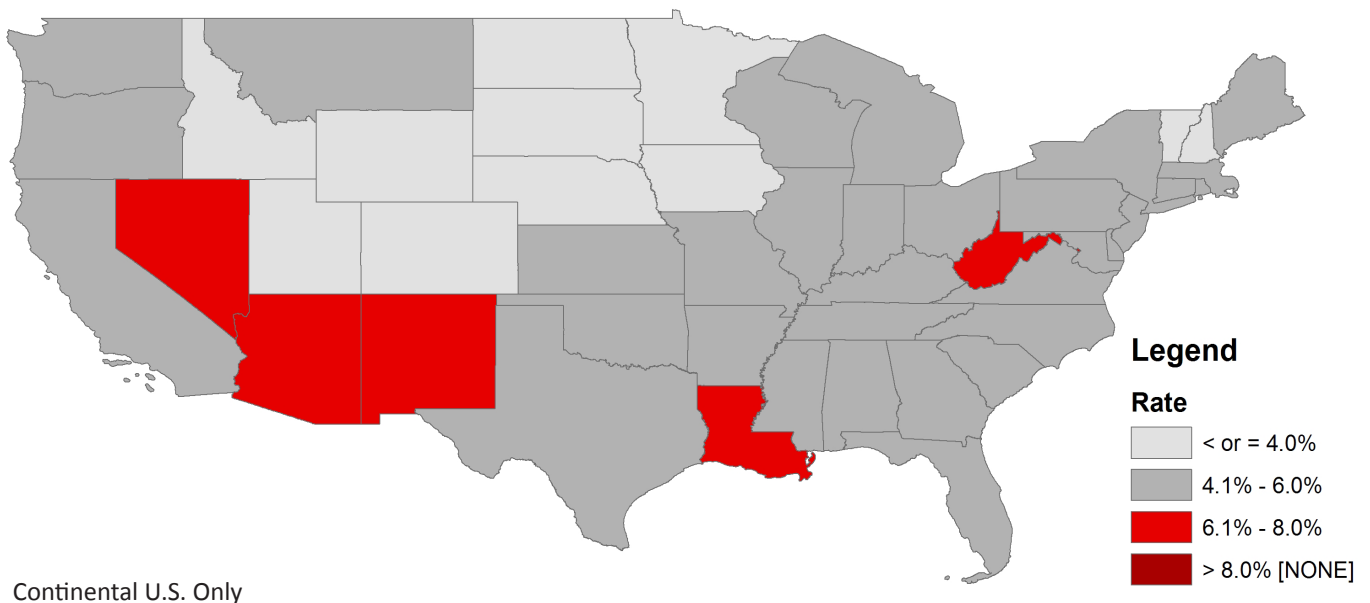
Due to differing economies and labor force conditions in various parts of the country, unemployment rates vary greatly from state to state. In October 2015, state jobless rates ranged from a low of 2.8 percent in North Dakota to a high of 6.9 percent in West Virginia. The unemployment rate in Arkansas in October declined to 5.1 percent, a ranking of 27 out of 51 states. By looking at the map below, it becomes apparent that trends exist among states that are located within the same region. While there are some exceptions, western states tend to have higher jobless rates than states located in the midwest. Similarly, states located in the northeast generally experience lower unemployment rates than states located in the southeast. These regional trends occur because states often experience economic similarities based on shared industries, work forces, and climates.

Unemployment Rates, Ranked by State (Seasonally Adjusted)
October 2015

Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	North Dakota	2.8	19	Texas	4.4	41	California	5.8
2	Nebraska	2.9	22	Massachusetts	4.6	42	Alabama	5.9
3	South Dakota	3.2	23	New York	4.8	42	Mississippi	5.9
4	Hawaii	3.3	24	Kentucky	4.9	44	Oregon	6.0
4	New Hampshire	3.3	25	Michigan	5.0	45	Arizona	6.1
6	Iowa	3.5	25	Missouri	5.0	46	Louisiana	6.2
7	Utah	3.6	27	Arkansas	5.1	47	Alaska	6.4
8	Minnesota	3.7	27	Connecticut	5.1	48	District of Columbia	6.6
8	Vermont	3.7	27	Delaware	5.1	48	Nevada	6.6
10	Colorado	3.8	27	Florida	5.1	50	New Mexico	6.8
11	Idaho	4.0	27	Maryland	5.1	51	West Virginia	6.9
11	Wyoming	4.0	27	Pennsylvania	5.1			
13	Kansas	4.1	33	Washington	5.2			
13	Montana	4.1	34	Rhode Island	5.3			
15	Virginia	4.2	35	Illinois	5.4			
16	Maine	4.3	35	New Jersey	5.4			
16	Oklahoma	4.3	37	South Carolina	5.6			
16	Wisconsin	4.3	37	Tennessee	5.6			
19	Indiana	4.4	39	Georgia	5.7			
19	Ohio	4.4	39	North Carolina	5.7			

U.S. Unemployment Rate = 5.0 Percent

Unemployment Rates, Ranked by State (Seasonally Adjusted)
October 2015



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Oct 15	Sep 15	Oct 14
Total Nonfarm	355,100	353,600	348,400
Goods Producing	39,200	39,200	37,100
Mining, Logging & Construction	18,900	18,900	16,800
Manufacturing	20,300	20,300	20,300
Service Providing	315,900	314,400	311,300
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	66,600	65,800	67,100
Wholesale Trade	14,800	14,900	15,000
Retail Trade	38,300	37,200	37,900
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	13,500	13,700	14,200
Information	6,600	6,600	6,700
Financial Activities	20,800	20,800	20,500
Professional & Business Services	46,600	45,600	45,000
Educational & Health Services	53,300	53,100	52,300
Leisure & Hospitality	34,000	34,900	32,200
Other Services	16,300	16,400	16,000
Government	71,700	71,200	71,500
Federal Government	9,700	9,700	9,500
State Government	34,900	34,800	34,600
Local Government	27,100	26,700	27,400

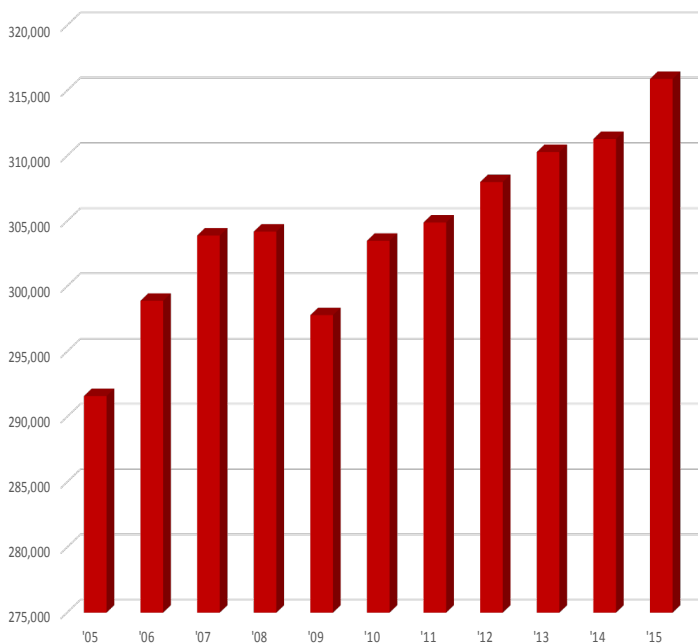
The LR-NLR-Conway MSA consists of the following counties:
Faulkner, Grant, Lonoke, Perry, Pulaski, and Saline

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Oct 15	Sep 15	Oct 14
Civilian Labor Force	352,100	351,050	340,475
Employment	337,425	335,725	324,050
Unemployment	14,675	15,325	16,425
Unemployment Rate	4.2	4.4	4.8

Jobs in Service Providing Industries

October: 2005 - 2015



Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Oct 15	Sep 15	Oct 14
Total Nonfarm	232,100	231,300	227,200
Goods Producing	35,500	36,100	36,100
Mining, Logging & Construction	8,800	8,900	8,600
Manufacturing	26,700	27,200	27,500
Service Providing	196,600	195,200	191,100
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	51,400	51,400	50,600
Wholesale Trade	11,100	11,200	10,800
Retail Trade	24,700	24,500	24,100
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	15,600	15,700	15,700
Information	1,800	1,900	1,900
Financial Activities	7,000	6,900	6,800
Professional & Business Services	45,900	45,300	45,500
Educational & Health Services	25,800	25,700	25,000
Leisure & Hospitality	23,800	23,800	21,400
Other Services	6,800	6,800	6,600
Government	34,100	33,400	33,300
Federal Government	2,500	2,600	2,500
State Government	13,600	13,300	12,900
Local Government	18,000	17,500	17,900

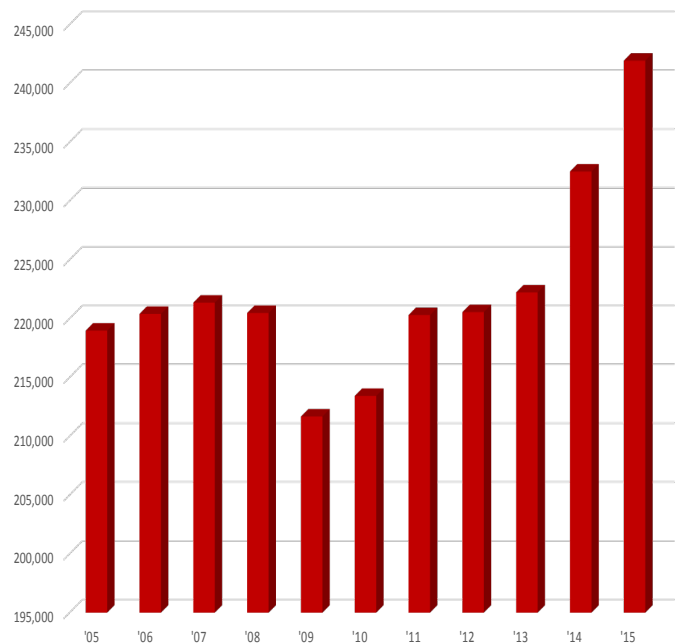
The FSR MSA consists of the following counties:
Benton, Madison, Washington, and McDonald (in Missouri)

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Oct 15	Sep 15	Oct 14
Civilian Labor Force	250,400	248,850	241,975
Employment	241,925	240,075	232,500
Unemployment	8,475	8,775	9,475
Unemployment Rate	3.4	3.5	3.9

Number of Employed

October: 2005 - 2015



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fort Smith MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Oct 15	Sep 15	Oct 14
Total Nonfarm	113,100	112,900	113,400
Goods Producing	24,000	24,100	25,100
Mining, Logging & Construction	6,000	6,100	6,900
Manufacturing	18,000	18,000	18,200
Service Providing	89,100	88,800	88,300
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	23,200	23,000	23,100
Wholesale Trade	4,400	4,300	4,200
Retail Trade	12,100	12,000	12,000
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	6,700	6,700	6,900
Information	1,200	1,200	1,200
Financial Activities	3,900	3,900	3,900
Professional & Business Services	12,900	12,900	12,300
Educational & Health Services	16,600	16,700	16,300
Leisure & Hospitality	8,700	8,600	9,100
Other Services	4,400	4,500	4,200
Government	18,200	18,000	18,200
Federal Government	1,300	1,300	1,300
State Government	3,200	3,100	3,200
Local Government	13,700	13,600	13,700

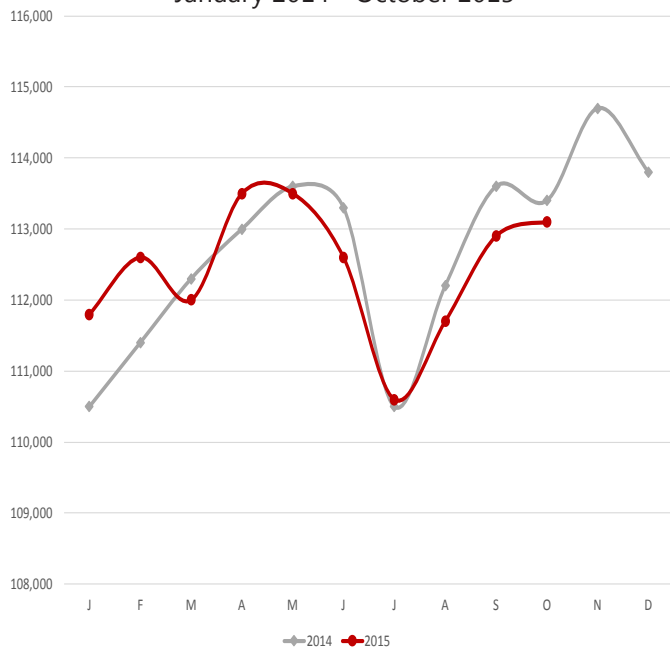
The FS MSA consists of the following counties: Crawford, and Sebastian, and LeFlore and Sequoyah (in Oklahoma)

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Oct 15	Sep 15	Oct 14
Civilian Labor Force	121,200	120,950	119,400
Employment	114,975	114,550	112,850
Unemployment	6,225	6,400	6,550
Unemployment Rate	5.1	5.3	5.5

Nonfarm Payroll Employment

January 2014 - October 2015



Hot Springs MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Oct 15	Sep 15	Oct 14
Total Nonfarm	38,300	38,700	37,800
Goods Producing	4,300	4,400	4,300
Service Providing	34,000	34,300	33,500
Government	4,700	4,700	4,700

The HS MSA consists of the following county: Garland

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Oct 15	Sep 15	Oct 14
Civilian Labor Force	40,950	41,225	39,875
Employment	38,825	39,050	37,600
Unemployment	2,125	2,175	2,275
Unemployment Rate	5.2	5.3	5.7

Jonesboro MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Oct 15	Sep 15	Oct 14
Total Nonfarm	56,200	56,100	54,400
Goods Producing	9,100	9,200	9,100
Service Providing	47,100	46,900	45,300
Government	9,100	9,000	9,000

The Jonesboro MSA consists of the following counties:

Craighead and Poinsett

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Oct 15	Sep 15	Oct 14
Civilian Labor Force	62,800	62,475	60,350
Employment	60,275	59,800	57,450
Unemployment	2,525	2,675	2,900
Unemployment Rate	4.0	4.3	4.8

Pine Bluff MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Oct 15	Sep 15	Oct 14
Total Nonfarm	31,900	31,600	34,300
Goods Producing	5,500	5,400	6,700
Service Providing	26,400	26,200	27,600
Government	9,400	9,200	9,700

The PB MSA consists of the following counties:

Cleveland, Jefferson, and Lincoln

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Oct 15	Sep 15	Oct 14
Civilian Labor Force	34,900	34,575	36,850
Employment	32,600	32,150	34,250
Unemployment	2,300	2,425	2,600
Unemployment Rate	6.5	7.0	7.1

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

State of Arkansas

(Seasonally Adjusted)

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Oct 15</u>	<u>Sep 15</u>	<u>Oct 14</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>	<u>Oct 15</u>	<u>Sep 15</u>	<u>Oct 14</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	1,337,200	1,337,300	1,306,600	-100	30,600	1,336,800	1,331,800	1,309,800	5,000	27,000
Employment	1,268,700	1,267,500	1,231,100	1,200	37,600	1,275,000	1,267,300	1,241,400	7,700	33,600
Unemployment	68,500	69,800	75,500	-1,300	-7,000	61,800	64,500	68,400	-2,700	-6,600
Unemployment Rate	5.1	5.2	5.8	-0.1	-0.7	4.6	4.8	5.2	-0.2	-0.6
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.0	5.1	5.7	-0.1	-0.7	4.8	4.9	5.5	-0.1	-0.7

Out-of-State MSAs

Memphis, Tennessee-Mississippi-Arkansas MSA

	<u>Oct 15</u>	<u>Sep 15</u>	<u>Oct 14</u>
Civilian Labor Force	611,900	610,475	602,925
Employment	574,450	571,500	559,275
Unemployment	37,450	38,975	43,650
Unemployment Rate	6.1	6.4	7.2

Texarkana, Texas-Arkansas MSA

	<u>Oct 15</u>	<u>Sep 15</u>	<u>Oct 14</u>
Civilian Labor Force	62,975	63,075	64,625
Employment	59,900	59,975	61,075
Unemployment	3,075	3,100	3,550
Unemployment Rate	4.9	4.9	5.5

Unemployment Rates by County

Between September and October, unemployment rates decreased in sixty-six of Arkansas' 75 counties. Rates increased in four counties, while five counties were unchanged.

In October, fifty-eight counties posted jobless rates at or below six percent. For the third month in a row, no county had a rate above ten percent.

Compared to October 2014, unemployment rates are down in 70 counties. Four counties reported over-the-year rate increases and one county was the same.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Oct 15</u>	<u>Sep 15</u>	<u>Oct 14</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Oct 15</u>	<u>Sep 15</u>	<u>Oct 14</u>
8	Arkansas	4.0	4.0	4.4	56	Lee	6.0	6.3	6.5
70	Ashley	6.8	6.9	7.6	47	Lincoln	5.6	6.3	6.0
31	Baxter	5.0	5.2	5.9	39	Little River	5.3	5.2	5.9
2	Benton	3.5	3.6	4.0	45	Logan	5.5	5.8	5.1
13	Boone	4.4	4.7	5.3	6	Lonoke	3.9	4.1	4.5
39	Bradley	5.3	6.1	6.8	2	Madison	3.5	3.8	4.1
31	Calhoun	5.0	5.7	5.4	28	Marion	4.9	5.0	5.4
4	Carroll	3.6	3.7	4.1	24	Miller	4.8	5.1	5.3
75	Chicot	7.8	8.5	9.2	74	Mississippi	7.7	8.1	7.2
42	Clark	5.4	4.9	5.6	59	Monroe	6.1	5.9	6.3
52	Clay	5.9	6.1	6.6	62	Montgomery	6.3	6.6	6.8
62	Cleburne	6.3	6.5	6.7	20	Nevada	4.6	4.9	5.2
33	Cleveland	5.1	5.6	6.0	10	Newton	4.1	4.6	5.2
59	Columbia	6.1	6.6	6.4	52	Ouachita	5.9	6.1	6.6
56	Conway	6.0	6.1	6.0	47	Perry	5.6	5.8	6.5
6	Craighead	3.9	4.1	4.7	73	Phillips	6.9	7.3	7.7
24	Crawford	4.8	5.1	5.3	45	Pike	5.5	5.8	6.5
33	Crittenden	5.1	5.6	6.6	24	Poinsett	4.8	5.0	5.7
33	Cross	5.1	4.9	5.8	42	Polk	5.4	5.7	5.8
62	Dallas	6.3	7.1	8.0	21	Pope	4.7	5.0	5.2
67	Desha	6.5	6.7	6.6	17	Prairie	4.5	4.6	5.4
56	Drew	6.0	6.3	7.1	11	Pulaski	4.2	4.5	5.0
13	Faulkner	4.4	4.5	4.9	52	Randolph	5.9	6.3	6.6
24	Franklin	4.8	4.8	4.9	69	St. Francis	6.6	7.0	7.3
21	Fulton	4.7	5.2	5.1	5	Saline	3.8	3.9	4.4
38	Garland	5.2	5.3	5.7	17	Scott	4.5	4.7	4.3
11	Grant	4.2	4.4	4.7	28	Searcy	4.9	5.1	5.8
21	Greene	4.7	4.9	5.3	17	Sebastian	4.5	4.7	5.0
13	Hempstead	4.4	4.7	5.0	39	Sevier	5.3	6.1	5.7
28	Hot Spring	4.9	4.9	5.1	62	Sharp	6.3	6.6	7.2
8	Howard	4.0	4.2	4.4	42	Stone	5.4	6.2	6.3
67	Independence	6.5	6.5	6.7	50	Union	5.8	6.2	6.8
50	Izard	5.8	6.5	6.2	61	Van Buren	6.2	6.3	6.8
66	Jackson	6.4	6.8	7.7	1	Washington	3.2	3.4	3.7
70	Jefferson	6.8	7.3	7.3	47	White	5.6	5.8	6.0
33	Johnson	5.1	5.4	5.6	52	Woodruff	5.9	5.9	6.8
70	Lafayette	6.8	7.6	6.7	13	Yell	4.4	4.8	4.7
33	Lawrence	5.1	5.4	5.9					

Lowest Rates

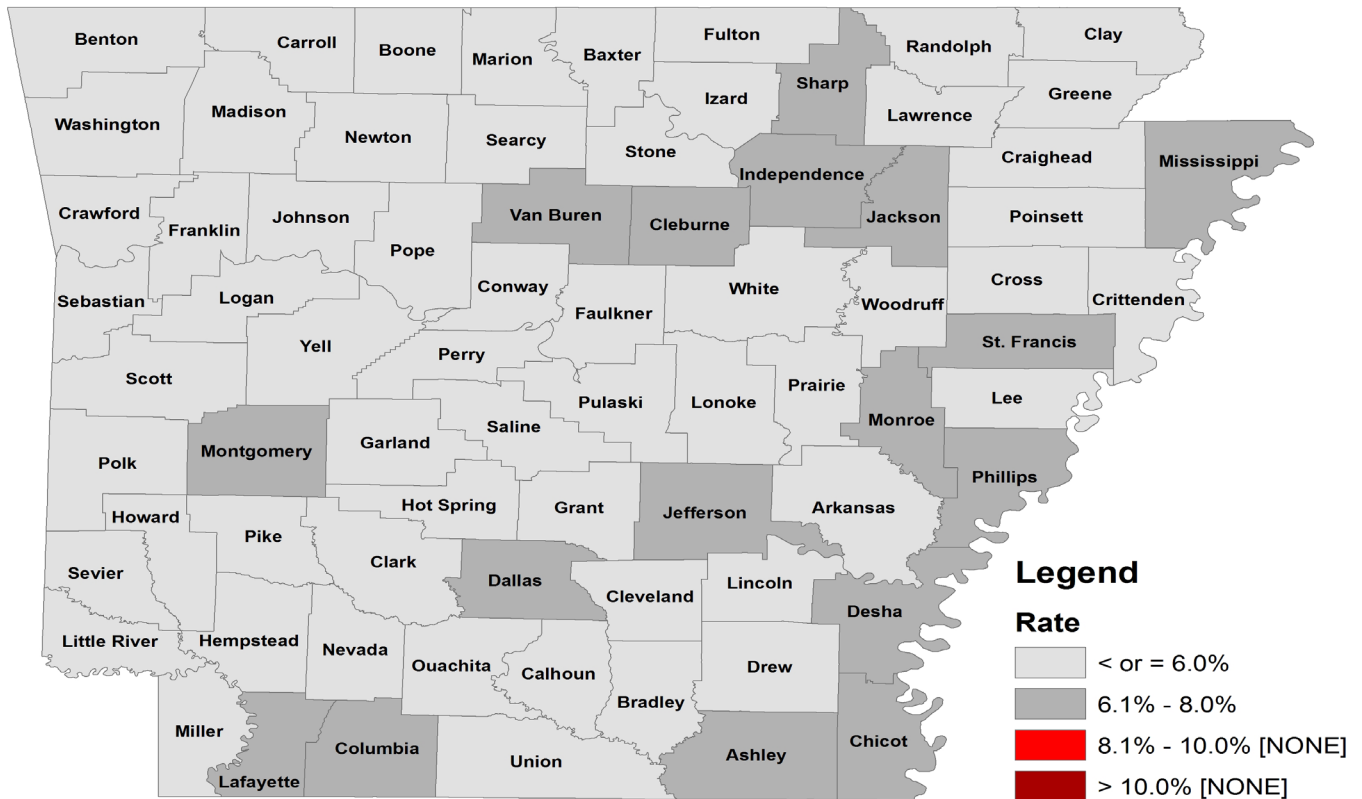
<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1	Washington	3.2
2	Benton	3.5
2	Madison	3.5
4	Carroll	3.6
5	Saline	3.8

Highest Rates

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
73	Phillips	6.9
74	Mississippi	7.7
75	Chicot	7.8

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

October 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.

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