

Arkansas Labor Market Report

March 2017



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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 month's data is 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 2016 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.

March Spotlight

A Comparative Look at Unemployment Rates

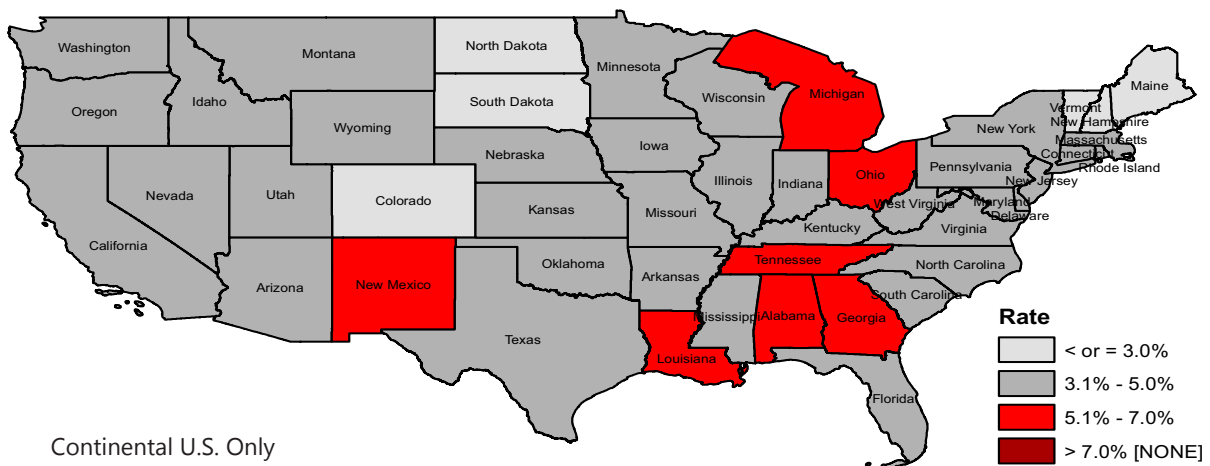
Due to differing economies and labor force conditions in various parts of the country, unemployment rates vary greatly from state to state. In March 2017, state jobless rates ranged from a low of 2.6 percent in Colorado to a high of 6.7 percent in New Mexico. The unemployment rate in Arkansas in March declined to 3.6 percent, a ranking of 13 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)

March 2017

Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	Colorado	2.6	15	Oregon	3.8	35	California	4.9
2	Hawaii	2.7	15	Virginia	3.8	35	Illinois	4.9
3	New Hampshire	2.8	20	Indiana	3.9	35	North Carolina	4.9
3	North Dakota	2.8	20	Missouri	3.9	35	West Virginia	4.9
3	South Dakota	2.8	22	New Jersey	4.2	39	Arizona	5.0
6	Maine	3.0	23	Maryland	4.3	39	Kentucky	5.0
6	Vermont	3.0	23	New York	4.3	39	Mississippi	5.0
8	Iowa	3.1	23	Oklahoma	4.3	39	Texas	5.0
8	Nebraska	3.1	23	Rhode Island	4.3	43	Georgia	5.1
8	Utah	3.1	27	South Carolina	4.4	43	Michigan	5.1
11	Wisconsin	3.4	28	Delaware	4.5	43	Ohio	5.1
12	Idaho	3.5	28	Wyoming	4.5	43	Tennessee	5.1
13	Arkansas	3.6	30	Washington	4.7	47	Louisiana	5.7
13	Massachusetts	3.6	31	Connecticut	4.8	48	Alabama	5.8
15	Kansas	3.8	31	Florida	4.8	48	District of Columbia	5.8
15	Minnesota	3.8	31	Nevada	4.8	50	Alaska	6.4
15	Montana	3.8	31	Pennsylvania	4.8	51	New Mexico	6.7

U.S. Unemployment Rate = 4.5 Percent



State of Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Summary

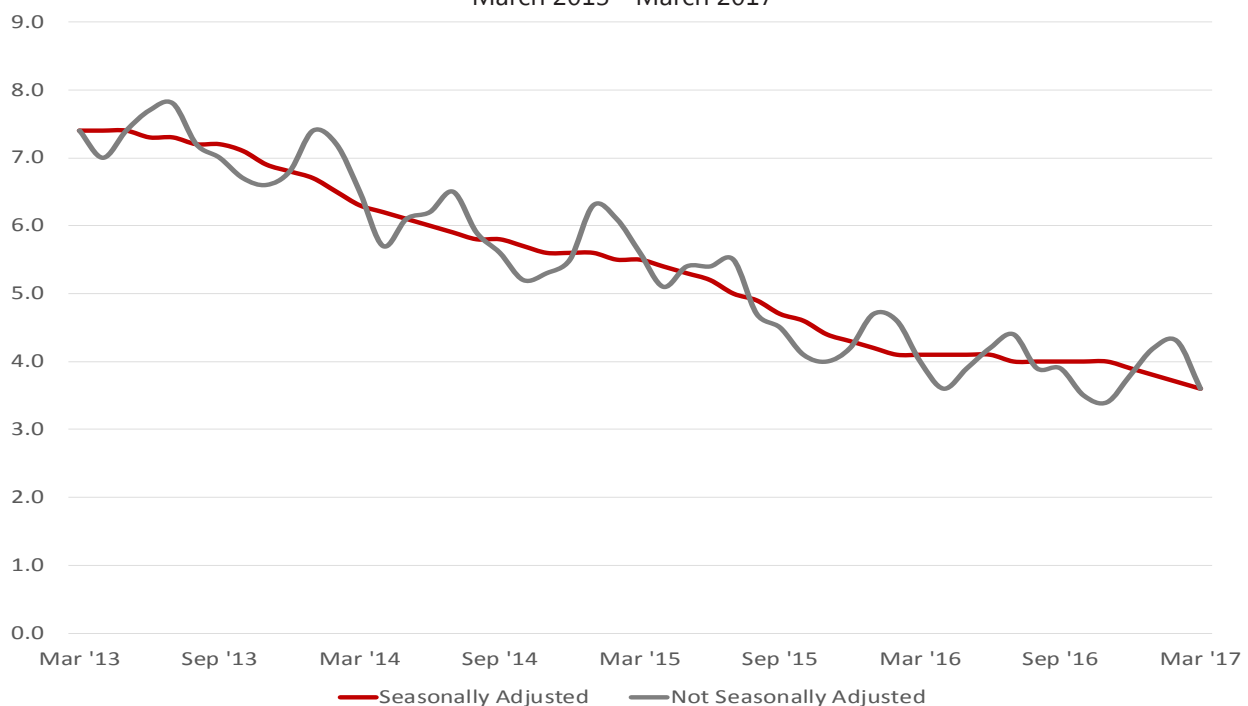
Labor force data, produced by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and released by the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, show Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.7 percent in February to 3.6 percent in March. Arkansas' civilian labor force gained 3,188, a result of 4,428 more employed and 1,240 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate declined two-tenths of a percentage point, from 4.7 percent in February to 4.5 percent in March.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "The unemployment rate decline to 3.6 percent marks a new record low for Arkansas, breaking last month's previous record low of 3.7 percent. Arkansas' jobless rate has fallen each month since December, after remaining fairly stable throughout most of 2016."

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Seasonally Adjusted				Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Mar 17	Feb 17	Mar 16		Mar 17	Feb 17	Mar 16
Civilian Labor Force	1,341,183	1,337,995	1,345,488	Civilian Labor Force	1,343,083	1,336,804	1,343,609
Employment	1,292,574	1,288,146	1,290,525	Employment	1,295,244	1,279,386	1,289,318
Unemployment	48,609	49,849	54,963	Unemployment	47,839	57,418	54,291
Unemployment Rate	3.6	3.7	4.1	Unemployment Rate	3.6	4.3	4.0
U.S. Unemployment	4.5	4.7	5.0	U.S. Unemployment	4.6	4.9	5.1

Unemployment Rates (Seasonally Adjusted vs. Not Seasonally Adjusted)
March 2013 - March 2017



State of Arkansas
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

(NAICS)	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>Feb 17</u>	<u>Mar 16</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	1240.9	1233.4	1224.3	7.5	16.6
Goods Producing	211.7	211.7	209.8	0.0	1.9
Mining, Logging, and Construction	55.1	55.2	55.8	-0.1	-0.7
Mining & Logging	6.0	6.0	6.6	0.0	-0.6
Construction	49.1	49.2	49.2	-0.1	-0.1
Specialty Trade Contractors	31.3	31.8	31.5	-0.5	-0.2
Manufacturing	156.6	156.5	154.0	0.1	2.6
Durable Goods	73.6	73.6	74.7	0.0	-1.1
Nondurable Goods	83.0	82.9	79.3	0.1	3.7
Service Providing	1029.2	1021.7	1014.5	7.5	14.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	252.0	249.7	250.4	2.3	1.6
Wholesale Trade	46.6	45.7	46.3	0.9	0.3
Retail Trade	140.9	139.7	140.7	1.2	0.2
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	64.5	64.3	63.4	0.2	1.1
Information	13.1	13.1	13.6	0.0	-0.5
Financial Activities	50.9	50.7	50.8	0.2	0.1
Finance & Insurance	37.9	37.8	37.8	0.1	0.1
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.0	12.9	13.0	0.1	0.0
Professional & Business Services	148.1	146.1	142.3	2.0	5.8
Professional, Scientific & Technical	44.3	44.7	43.0	-0.4	1.3
Management of Companies	34.7	34.5	34.4	0.2	0.3
Administrative & Support Services	69.1	66.9	64.9	2.2	4.2
Educational & Health Services	185.8	187.1	178.8	-1.3	7.0
Educational Services	17.1	17.0	15.0	0.1	2.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	168.7	170.1	163.8	-1.4	4.9
Ambulatory Health Care	55.5	56.3	52.6	-0.8	2.9
Social Assistance	39.6	39.5	39.4	0.1	0.2
Leisure & Hospitality	115.3	112.5	113.8	2.8	1.5
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	10.2	9.7	10.4	0.5	-0.2
Accommodation & Food Services	105.1	102.8	103.4	2.3	1.7
Accommodation Services	10.9	10.4	10.9	0.5	0.0
Food Services	94.2	92.4	92.5	1.8	1.7
Other Services	48.2	48.0	46.9	0.2	1.3
Government	215.8	214.5	217.9	1.3	-2.1
Federal Government	20.3	20.3	20.3	0.0	0.0
State Government	80.2	79.5	80.7	0.7	-0.5
Local Government	115.3	114.7	116.9	0.6	-1.6

State of Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary

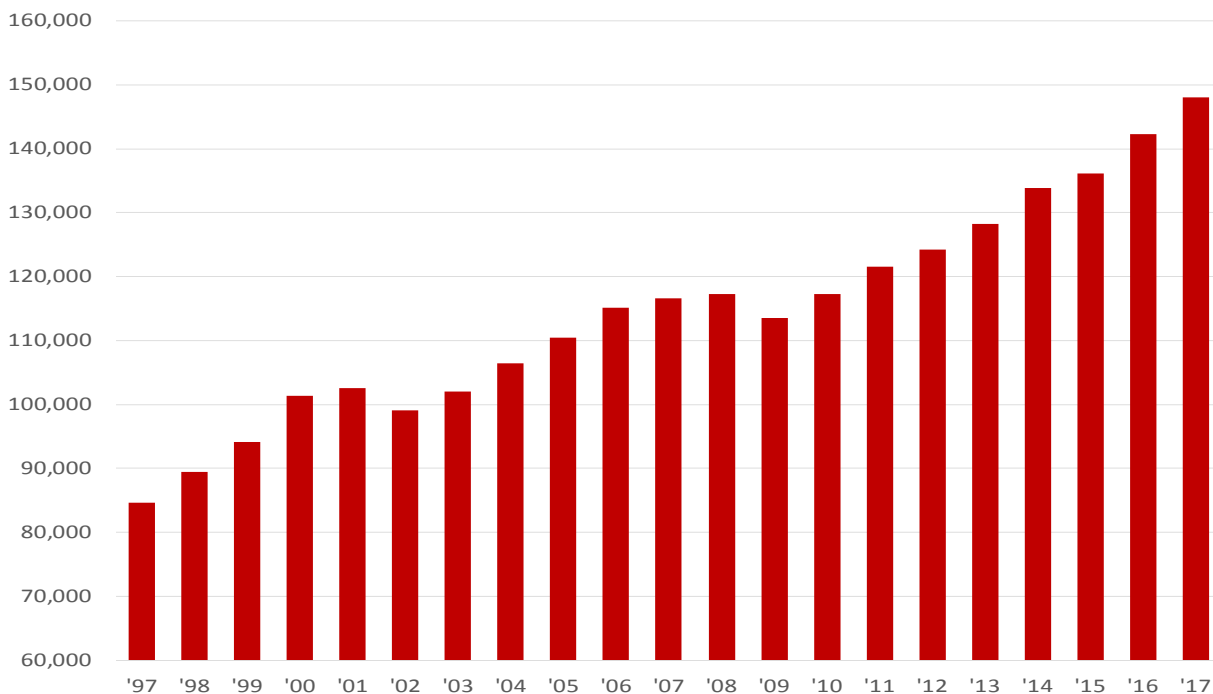
February 2017 - March 2017

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 7,500 in March to total 1,240,900. Seven major industry sectors posted gains, while two sectors declined and two were unchanged. **Leisure and hospitality** added 2,800 jobs, mostly in accommodation and food services (+2,300). Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose 2,300. A majority of the expansion occurred in retail trade (+1,200), typical hiring for the spring shopping season. Employment in **professional and business services** increased 2,000. Most of the gains were in administrative and support services (+2,200). **Educational and health services** decreased 1,300. Losses were reported in health care and social assistance (-1,400), with reported declines at nursing care facilities, hospitals, and physicians' offices.

March 2016 - March 2017

Compared to March 2016, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment is up 16,600. Growth was posted in seven major industry sectors, as four sectors declined. Employment in **educational and health services** rose 7,000, mostly in health care and social assistance (+4,900). **Professional and business services** added 5,800 jobs, with gains posted in all three subsectors. Jobs in **manufacturing** are up 2,600. Hiring in nondurable goods (+3,700) more than offset losses in durable goods (-1,100). Small increases were reported in **trade, transportation, and utilities** (+1,600), **leisure and hospitality** (+1,500), and **other services** (+1,300). Jobs in **government** fell 2,100. Decreases occurred in local (-1,600) and state (-500) government.

Jobs in Professional and Business Services
March: 1997 - 2017



Labor Market Report

State of Arkansas

Production Workers- Hours and Earnings

Manufacturing

	Mar 17	Feb 17	Mar 16
Average Weekly Hours	38.5	38.4	39.7
Average Hourly Earnings	15.93	15.94	15.90
Average Weekly Earnings	613.31	612.10	631.23

Durable Goods and Nondurable Goods Manufacturing

Durable Goods Manufacturing				Nondurable Goods Manufacturing			
	Mar 17	Feb 17	Mar 16		Mar 17	Feb 17	Mar 16
Average Weekly Hours	40.8	40.3	41.0	Average Weekly Hours	36.5	36.8	38.5
Average Hourly Earnings	17.57	17.28	17.52	Average Hourly Earnings	14.35	14.66	14.26
Average Weekly Earnings	716.86	696.38	718.32	Average Weekly Earnings	523.78	539.49	549.01

Average Hourly Earnings in Manufacturing
March 2015 - March 2017



Labor Market Report

Metropolitan Statistical Areas Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

The Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA= Faulkner, Grant, Lonoke, Perry, Pulaski, & Saline counties.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

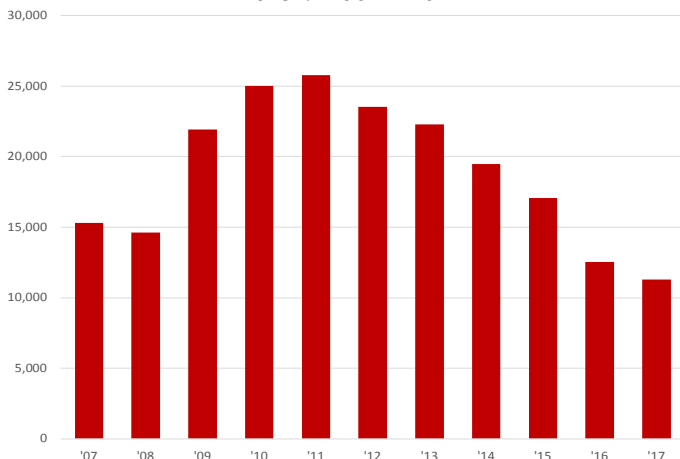
	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>Feb 17</u>	<u>Mar 16</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	349,775	348,254	350,064	1,521	-289
Employment	338,502	334,842	337,518	3,660	984
Unemployment	11,273	13,412	12,546	-2,139	-1,273
Unemployment Rate	3.2	3.9	3.6	-0.7	-0.4

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>Feb 17</u>	<u>Mar 16</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	356.5	354.6	353.5	1.9	3.0
Goods Producing	36.5	36.5	37.1	0.0	-0.6
Mining, Logging & Construction	16.5	16.5	17.0	0.0	-0.5
Manufacturing	20.0	20.0	20.1	0.0	-0.1
Service Providing	320.0	318.1	316.4	1.9	3.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	70.8	70.6	69.8	0.2	1.0
Wholesale Trade	14.9	14.9	15.2	0.0	-0.3
Retail Trade	40.0	39.8	39.0	0.2	1.0
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	15.9	15.9	15.6	0.0	0.3
Information	6.1	6.1	6.4	0.0	-0.3
Financial Activities	20.4	20.3	20.3	0.1	0.1
Professional & Business Services	47.9	47.5	47.4	0.4	0.5
Educational & Health Services	56.3	56.2	53.0	0.1	3.3
Leisure & Hospitality	32.9	32.4	33.2	0.5	-0.3
Other Services	14.7	14.6	14.4	0.1	0.3
Government	70.9	70.4	71.9	0.5	-1.0
Federal Government	9.8	9.7	9.6	0.1	0.2
State Government	35.3	35.2	35.1	0.1	0.2
Local Government	25.8	25.5	27.2	0.3	-1.4

Number of Unemployed
March: 2007 - 2017



Jobs in Educational and Health Services
March 2014 - March 2017



Labor Market Report

Metropolitan Statistical Areas Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

The Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA= Benton, Madison, & Washington counties in Arkansas & McDonald county in Missouri.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	Mar 17	Feb 17	Mar 16	OTM	QTY
Civilian Labor Force	269,347	267,189	262,252	2,158	7,095
Employment	262,512	258,927	254,599	3,585	7,913
Unemployment	6,835	8,262	7,653	-1,427	-818
Unemployment Rate	2.5	3.1	2.9	-0.6	-0.4

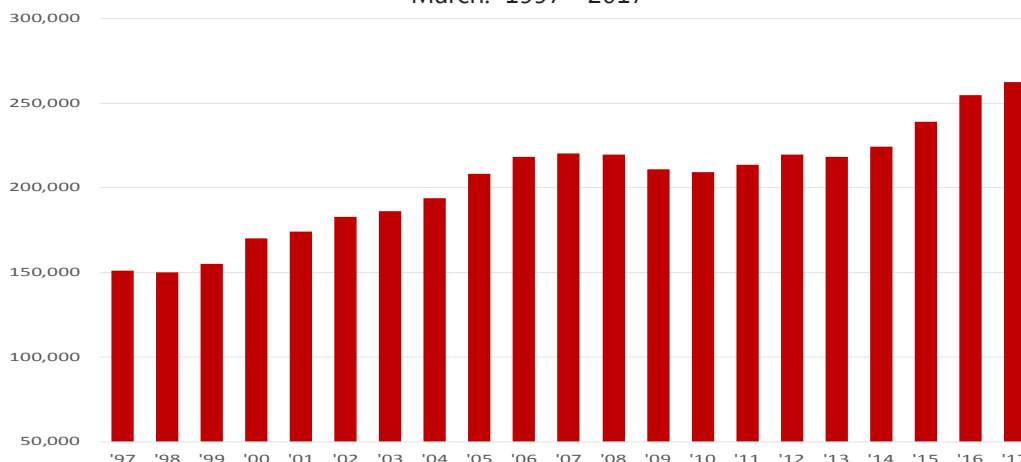
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

NAICS	Mar 17	Feb 17	Mar 16	OTM	QTY
Total Nonfarm	253.5	251.0	243.7	2.5	9.8
Goods Producing	38.1	37.9	37.4	0.2	0.7
Mining, Logging & Construction	10.6	10.4	10.2	0.2	0.4
Manufacturing	27.5	27.5	27.2	0.0	0.3
Service Providing	215.4	213.1	206.3	2.3	9.1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	55.9	55.5	55.2	0.4	0.7
Wholesale Trade	12.6	12.5	12.2	0.1	0.4
Retail Trade	25.9	25.6	26.3	0.3	-0.4
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	17.4	17.4	16.7	0.0	0.7
Information	1.9	1.9	2.0	0.0	-0.1
Financial Activities	7.8	7.7	7.6	0.1	0.2
Professional & Business Services	53.3	52.4	47.9	0.9	5.4
Educational & Health Services	28.0	27.9	27.0	0.1	1.0
Leisure & Hospitality	25.0	24.5	24.2	0.5	0.8
Other Services	7.7	7.6	7.5	0.1	0.2
Government	35.8	35.6	34.9	0.2	0.9
Federal Government	2.5	2.5	2.6	0.0	-0.1
State Government	14.3	14.2	13.5	0.1	0.8
Local Government	19.0	18.9	18.8	0.1	0.2

Number of Employed

March: 1997 - 2017



Labor Market Report

Metropolitan Statistical Areas Fort Smith MSA

The Fort Smith MSA= Crawford & Sebastian counties in Arkansas & LeFlore & Sequoyah counties in Oklahoma.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

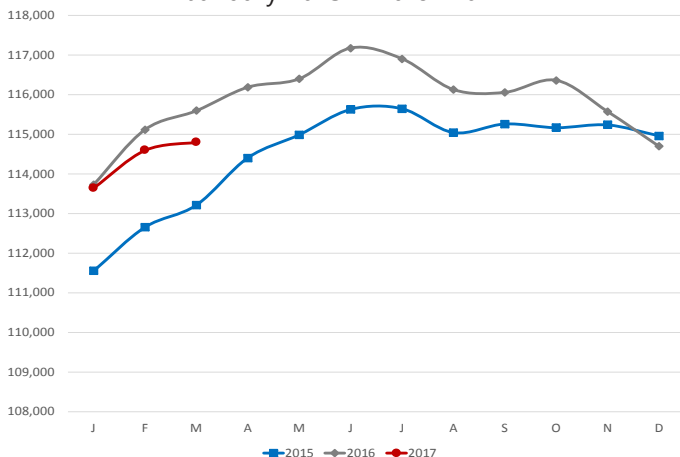
	Mar 17	Feb 17	Mar 16	OTM	QTY
Civilian Labor Force	119,652	120,140	121,288	-488	-1,636
Employment	114,793	114,592	115,594	201	-801
Unemployment	4,859	5,548	5,694	-689	-835
Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.6	4.7	-0.5	-0.6

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

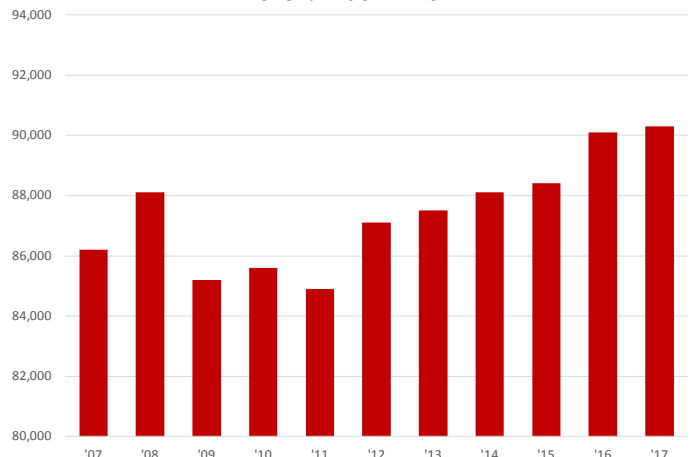
(In Thousands)

NAICS	Mar 17	Feb 17	Mar 16	OTM	QTY
Total Nonfarm	112.9	113.4	113.5	-0.5	-0.6
Goods Producing	22.6	22.9	23.4	-0.3	-0.8
Mining, Logging & Construction	5.2	5.3	5.5	-0.1	-0.3
Manufacturing	17.4	17.6	17.9	-0.2	-0.5
Service Providing	90.3	90.5	90.1	-0.2	0.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	23.1	23.3	23.4	-0.2	-0.3
Wholesale Trade	3.9	3.9	3.8	0.0	0.1
Retail Trade	12.7	12.9	12.9	-0.2	-0.2
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	6.5	6.5	6.7	0.0	-0.2
Information	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.0	0.1
Financial Activities	3.8	3.8	3.7	0.0	0.1
Professional & Business Services	12.8	13.0	12.8	-0.2	0.0
Educational & Health Services	16.8	16.8	16.5	0.0	0.3
Leisure & Hospitality	9.5	9.4	9.5	0.1	0.0
Other Services	4.3	4.3	4.3	0.0	0.0
Government	18.7	18.6	18.7	0.1	0.0
Federal Government	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
State Government	3.2	3.1	3.2	0.1	0.0
Local Government	14.2	14.2	14.2	0.0	0.0

Number of Employed
January 2015 - March 2017



Jobs in Service Providing Sectors
March: 2007 - 2017



Labor Market Report

Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Hot Springs MSA

The Hot Springs MSA= Garland County.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>Feb 17</u>	<u>Mar 16</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	40,583	40,252	40,249	331	334
Employment	39,052	38,399	38,531	653	521
Unemployment	1,531	1,853	1,718	-322	-187
Unemployment Rate	3.8	4.6	4.3	-0.8	-0.5

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>Feb 17</u>	<u>Mar 16</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	38.6	38.1	37.8	0.5	0.8
Goods Producing	4.5	4.4	4.3	0.1	0.2
Service Providing	34.1	33.7	33.5	0.4	0.6
Government	4.5	4.5	4.7	0.0	-0.2

Employment and Unemployment

March: 1997 - 2017



Labor Market Report

Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Jonesboro MSA

The Jonesboro MSA= Craighead & Poinsett counties.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>Feb 17</u>	<u>Mar 16</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	62,468	62,375	62,054	93	414
Employment	60,571	60,084	59,887	487	684
Unemployment	1,897	2,291	2,167	-394	-270
Unemployment Rate	3.0	3.7	3.5	-0.7	-0.5

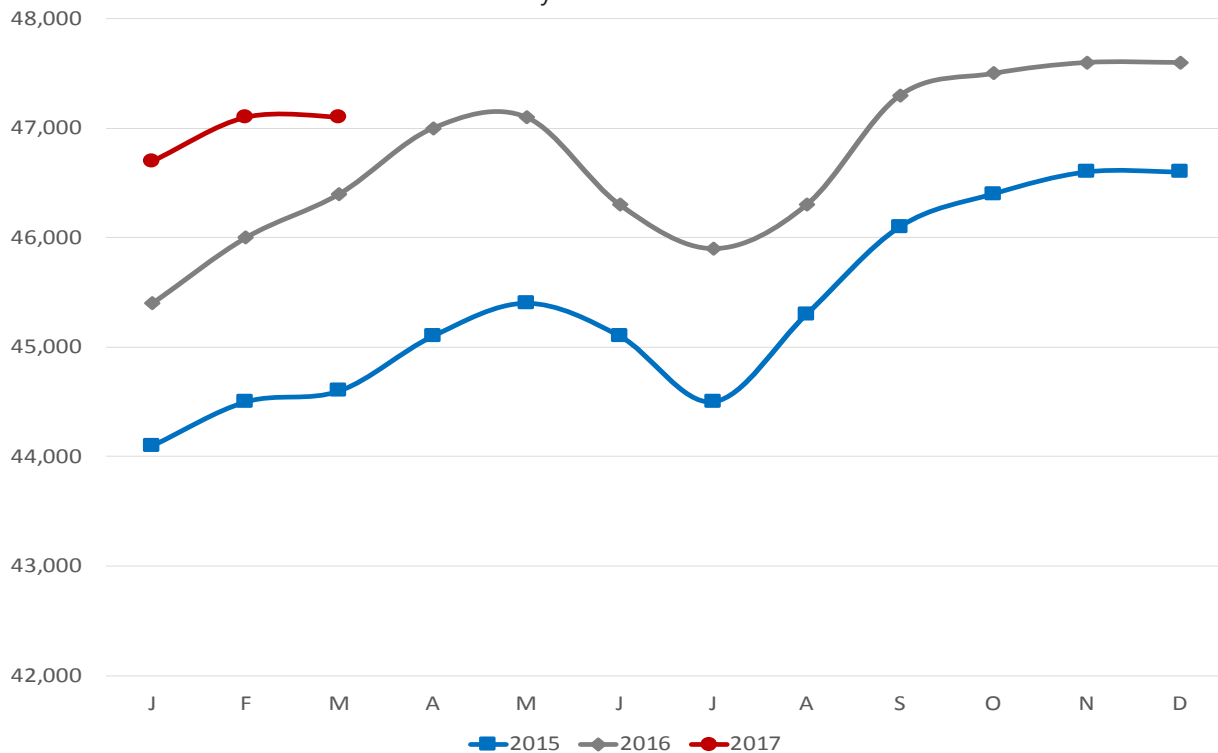
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>Feb 17</u>	<u>Mar 16</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	56.5	56.5	55.3	0.0	1.2
Goods Producing	9.4	9.4	8.9	0.0	0.5
Service Providing	47.1	47.1	46.4	0.0	0.7
Government	9.1	9.1	8.9	0.0	0.2

Jobs in Service Providing Industries

January 2015 - March 2017



Labor Market Report

Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Pine Bluff MSA

The Pine Bluff MSA= Cleveland, Jefferson, & Lincoln counties.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>Feb 17</u>	<u>Mar 16</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	35,689	35,640	36,248	49	-559
Employment	33,928	33,579	34,282	349	-354
Unemployment	1,761	2,061	1,966	-300	-205
Unemployment Rate	4.9	5.8	5.4	-0.9	-0.5

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>Feb 17</u>	<u>Mar 16</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	33.4	33.2	33.5	0.2	-0.1
Goods Producing	6.0	6.0	6.1	0.0	-0.1
Service Providing	27.4	27.2	27.4	0.2	0.0
Government	9.6	9.6	9.7	0.0	-0.1

Number of Employed
March 2014 - March 2017



Labor Market Report

Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Out-of-State MSA

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Memphis, TN-MS-AR MSA

The Memphis, TN-MS-AR MSA= Fayette, Shelby, & Tipton counties in Tennessee; Benton, Desoto, Marshall, Tate, & Tunica counties in Mississippi; & Crittenden County in Arkansas.

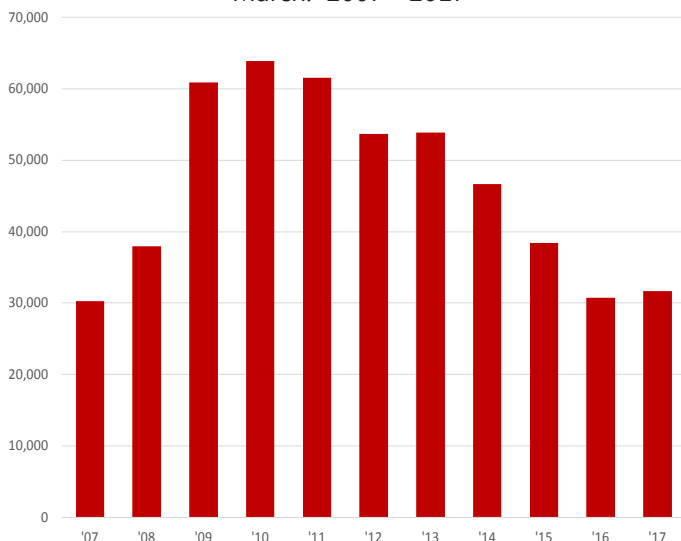
	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>Feb 17</u>	<u>Mar 16</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	629,130	626,302	617,757	2,828	11,373
Employment	597,471	594,206	586,999	3,265	10,472
Unemployment	31,659	32,096	30,758	-437	901
Unemployment Rate	5.0	5.1	5.0	-0.1	-0.0

Texarkana MSA

The Texarkana MSA= Bowie County in Texas & Little River & Miller counties in Arkansas.

	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>Feb 17</u>	<u>Mar 16</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	65,253	64,922	65,240	331	13
Employment	62,093	61,481	62,425	612	-332
Unemployment	3,160	3,441	2,815	-281	345
Unemployment Rate	4.8	5.3	4.3	-0.5	0.5

Number of Unemployed- Memphis MSA
March: 2007 - 2017



Number of Employed- Texarkana MSA
March 2015 - March 2017



Labor Market Report

Micropolitan Statistical Areas and Cities

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Micropolitan Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Micro Area	March 2017				February 2017				March 2016			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Arkadelphia Micro	9,536	9,191	345	3.6	9,510	9,084	426	4.5	9,525	9,124	401	4.2
Batesville Micro	16,124	15,468	656	4.1	16,100	15,281	819	5.1	16,099	15,298	801	5.0
Blytheville Micro	17,981	16,929	1,052	5.9	17,937	16,679	1,258	7.0	18,046	16,826	1,220	6.8
Camden Micro	12,157	11,636	521	4.3	12,133	11,522	611	5.0	12,205	11,614	591	4.8
El Dorado Micro	16,279	15,407	872	5.4	16,223	15,274	949	5.8	16,708	15,813	895	5.4
Forrest City Micro	8,891	8,462	429	4.8	8,860	8,354	506	5.7	8,923	8,433	490	5.5
Harrison Micro	19,453	18,815	638	3.3	19,358	18,543	815	4.2	19,563	18,790	773	4.0
Helena-West Helena Micro	6,566	6,192	374	5.7	6,511	6,075	436	6.7	6,902	6,475	427	6.2
Hope Micro	13,625	13,180	445	3.3	13,553	13,020	533	3.9	13,673	13,145	528	3.9
Magnolia Micro	9,092	8,638	454	5.0	9,069	8,525	544	6.0	9,498	8,980	518	5.5
Malvern Micro	14,048	13,567	481	3.4	13,970	13,392	578	4.1	14,300	13,702	598	4.2
Mountain Home Micro	16,233	15,579	654	4.0	16,131	15,332	799	5.0	16,124	15,422	702	4.4
Paragould Micro	19,631	18,912	719	3.7	19,628	18,782	846	4.3	19,930	19,067	863	4.3
Russellville Micro	38,193	36,704	1,489	3.9	37,985	36,164	1,821	4.8	38,311	36,589	1,722	4.5
Searcy Micro	33,292	31,724	1,568	4.7	33,228	31,405	1,823	5.5	34,529	32,625	1,904	5.5

Arkadelphia Micro= Clark County
 Batesville Micro= Independence County
 Blytheville Micro= Mississippi County
 Camden Micro= Calhoun & Ouachita counties
 El Dorado Micro= Union County

Forrest City Micro= St. Francis County
 Harrison Micro= Boone & Newton counties
 Helena-West Helena Micro= Phillips County
 Hope Micro= Hempstead & Nevada counties
 Magnolia Micro= Columbia County

Malvern Micro= Hot Spring County
 Mountain Home Micro= Baxter County
 Paragould Micro= Greene County
 Russellville Micro= Pope & Yell counties
 Searcy Micro= White County

City Labor Force Statistics (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

City	March 2017				February 2017				March 2016			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Bella Vista	12,260	11,859	401	3.3	12,193	11,692	501	4.1	11,946	11,487	459	3.8
Benton	16,299	15,825	474	2.9	16,246	15,658	588	3.6	16,281	15,768	513	3.2
Bentonville	24,206	23,570	636	2.6	23,949	23,238	711	3.0	23,487	22,830	657	2.8
Blytheville	6,136	5,771	365	5.9	6,146	5,686	460	7.5	6,225	5,736	489	7.9
Cabot	11,673	11,318	355	3.0	11,594	11,183	411	3.5	11,694	11,325	369	3.2
Conway	32,993	31,959	1,034	3.1	32,845	31,609	1,236	3.8	32,992	31,874	1,118	3.4
El Dorado	7,115	6,669	446	6.3	7,089	6,611	478	6.7	7,275	6,845	430	5.9
Fayetteville	47,149	45,965	1,184	2.5	46,707	45,317	1,390	3.0	45,764	44,523	1,241	2.7
Fort Smith	39,694	38,328	1,366	3.4	39,832	38,234	1,598	4.0	40,270	38,741	1,529	3.8
Hot Springs	14,169	13,580	589	4.2	14,044	13,353	691	4.9	14,037	13,399	638	4.5
Jacksonville	11,711	11,225	486	4.1	11,692	11,107	585	5.0	11,741	11,184	557	4.7
Jonesboro	36,718	35,679	1,039	2.8	36,654	35,409	1,245	3.4	36,443	35,226	1,217	3.3
Little Rock	96,504	93,344	3,160	3.3	96,018	92,359	3,659	3.8	96,358	93,003	3,355	3.5
North Little Rock	29,799	28,784	1,015	3.4	29,667	28,480	1,187	4.0	29,834	28,679	1,155	3.9
Paragould	12,335	11,826	509	4.1	12,342	11,744	598	4.8	12,506	11,923	583	4.7
Pine Bluff	16,935	16,014	921	5.4	16,915	15,860	1,055	6.2	17,204	16,152	1,052	6.1
Rogers	34,342	33,485	857	2.5	34,052	33,013	1,039	3.1	33,385	32,434	951	2.8
Russellville	13,651	13,180	471	3.5	13,569	12,995	574	4.2	13,656	13,110	546	4.0
Searcy	10,212	9,792	420	4.1	10,175	9,693	482	4.7	10,536	10,070	466	4.4
Sherwood	15,553	15,094	459	3.0	15,503	14,935	568	3.7	15,529	15,039	490	3.2
Springdale	38,991	38,106	885	2.3	38,656	37,569	1,087	2.8	37,921	36,910	1,011	2.7
Texarkana, AR	13,862	13,228	634	4.6	13,778	13,063	715	5.2	13,872	13,299	573	4.1
Van Buren	10,249	9,909	340	3.3	10,270	9,877	393	3.8	10,430	10,033	397	3.8
West Memphis	10,650	10,107	543	5.1	10,598	9,983	615	5.8	10,589	10,051	538	5.1

County Labor Force Statistics

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

County	March 2017				February 2017				March 2016			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Arkansas	9,192	8,905	287	3.1	9,124	8,776	348	3.8	9,291	8,968	323	3.5
Ashley	7,763	7,310	453	5.8	7,724	7,186	538	7.0	7,874	7,392	482	6.1
Baxter	16,233	15,579	654	4.0	16,131	15,332	799	5.0	16,124	15,422	702	4.4
Benton	129,091	125,711	3,380	2.6	128,048	123,938	4,110	3.2	125,485	121,766	3,719	3.0
Boone	16,026	15,506	520	3.2	15,944	15,287	657	4.1	16,099	15,470	629	3.9
Bradley	4,515	4,290	225	5.0	4,485	4,223	262	5.8	4,339	4,142	197	4.5
Calhoun	2,376	2,286	90	3.8	2,363	2,257	106	4.5	2,408	2,299	109	4.5
Carroll	13,082	12,654	428	3.3	12,913	12,331	582	4.5	12,777	12,292	485	3.8
Chicot	3,501	3,251	250	7.1	3,483	3,194	289	8.3	3,620	3,372	248	6.9
Clark	9,536	9,191	345	3.6	9,510	9,084	426	4.5	9,525	9,124	401	4.2
Clay	5,893	5,617	276	4.7	5,877	5,523	354	6.0	6,141	5,752	389	6.3
Cleburne	9,291	8,828	463	5.0	9,281	8,709	572	6.2	9,540	8,919	621	6.5
Cleveland	3,322	3,171	151	4.5	3,301	3,131	170	5.1	3,381	3,223	158	4.7
Columbia	9,092	8,638	454	5.0	9,069	8,525	544	6.0	9,498	8,980	518	5.5
Conway	8,292	7,885	407	4.9	8,307	7,800	507	6.1	8,570	8,105	465	5.4
Craighead	52,236	50,752	1,484	2.8	52,166	50,368	1,798	3.4	51,826	50,108	1,718	3.3
Crawford	26,345	25,458	887	3.4	26,461	25,377	1,084	4.1	26,861	25,776	1,085	4.0
Crittenden	21,466	20,537	929	4.3	21,377	20,284	1,093	5.1	21,403	20,423	980	4.6
Cross	7,885	7,577	308	3.9	7,823	7,430	393	5.0	8,008	7,634	374	4.7
Dallas	3,009	2,891	118	3.9	3,000	2,853	147	4.9	2,955	2,798	157	5.3
Desha	5,358	5,091	267	5.0	5,334	5,000	334	6.3	5,535	5,210	325	5.9
Drew	7,959	7,540	419	5.3	7,913	7,440	473	6.0	8,007	7,539	468	5.8
Faulkner	60,255	58,264	1,991	3.3	59,985	57,627	2,358	3.9	60,473	58,109	2,364	3.9
Franklin	7,348	7,104	244	3.3	7,321	7,025	296	4.0	7,456	7,126	330	4.4
Fulton	4,640	4,453	187	4.0	4,638	4,384	254	5.5	4,765	4,542	223	4.7
Garland	40,583	39,052	1,531	3.8	40,252	38,399	1,853	4.6	40,249	38,531	1,718	4.3
Grant	8,266	8,015	251	3.0	8,245	7,920	325	3.9	8,350	8,021	329	3.9
Greene	19,631	18,912	719	3.7	19,628	18,782	846	4.3	19,930	19,067	863	4.3
Hempstead	9,944	9,621	323	3.2	9,898	9,500	398	4.0	9,993	9,607	386	3.9
Hot Spring	14,048	13,567	481	3.4	13,970	13,392	578	4.1	14,300	13,702	598	4.2
Howard	6,026	5,854	172	2.9	5,969	5,748	221	3.7	6,022	5,817	205	3.4
Independence	16,124	15,468	656	4.1	16,100	15,281	819	5.1	16,099	15,298	801	5.0
Izard	4,994	4,753	241	4.8	4,954	4,666	288	5.8	5,056	4,770	286	5.7
Jackson	5,981	5,619	362	6.1	5,923	5,488	435	7.3	6,241	5,836	405	6.5
Jefferson	28,321	26,886	1,435	5.1	28,299	26,627	1,672	5.9	28,713	27,117	1,596	5.6
Johnson	10,544	10,144	400	3.8	10,552	10,045	507	4.8	10,510	10,013	497	4.7
Lafayette	2,550	2,426	124	4.9	2,551	2,401	150	5.9	2,600	2,442	158	6.1
Lawrence	6,958	6,712	246	3.5	6,924	6,618	306	4.4	7,114	6,818	296	4.2
Lee	3,144	2,997	147	4.7	3,130	2,943	187	6.0	3,158	3,006	152	4.8
Lincoln	4,046	3,871	175	4.3	4,040	3,821	219	5.4	4,154	3,942	212	5.1
Little River	5,599	5,350	249	4.4	5,576	5,284	292	5.2	5,621	5,379	242	4.3
Logan	9,048	8,724	324	3.6	9,021	8,620	401	4.4	9,183	8,748	435	4.7
Lonoke	33,182	32,164	1,018	3.1	33,033	31,778	1,255	3.8	33,322	32,184	1,138	3.4
Madison	7,384	7,196	188	2.5	7,317	7,070	247	3.4	7,314	7,077	237	3.2
Marion	6,475	6,233	242	3.7	6,443	6,135	308	4.8	6,544	6,287	257	3.9
Miller	19,974	19,146	828	4.1	19,873	18,907	966	4.9	20,086	19,250	836	4.2

(continued on Page 16)

County Labor Force Statistics

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(continued from Page 15)

County	March 2017				February 2017				March 2016			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Mississippi	17,981	16,929	1,052	5.9	17,937	16,679	1,258	7.0	18,046	16,826	1,220	6.8
Monroe	2,858	2,734	124	4.3	2,825	2,678	147	5.2	2,987	2,853	134	4.5
Montgomery	3,050	2,901	149	4.9	3,000	2,827	173	5.8	3,157	2,985	172	5.4
Nevada	3,681	3,559	122	3.3	3,655	3,520	135	3.7	3,680	3,538	142	3.9
Newton	3,427	3,309	118	3.4	3,414	3,256	158	4.6	3,464	3,320	144	4.2
Ouachita	9,781	9,350	431	4.4	9,770	9,265	505	5.2	9,797	9,315	482	4.9
Perry	4,195	4,013	182	4.3	4,188	3,963	225	5.4	4,235	4,018	217	5.1
Phillips	6,566	6,192	374	5.7	6,511	6,075	436	6.7	6,902	6,475	427	6.2
Pike	4,195	4,033	162	3.9	4,147	3,951	196	4.7	4,227	4,041	186	4.4
Poinsett	10,232	9,819	413	4.0	10,209	9,716	493	4.8	10,228	9,779	449	4.4
Polk	7,857	7,473	384	4.9	7,764	7,328	436	5.6	8,307	7,896	411	4.9
Pope	29,391	28,230	1,161	4.0	29,248	27,833	1,415	4.8	29,408	28,081	1,327	4.5
Prairie	3,634	3,489	145	4.0	3,612	3,433	179	5.0	3,678	3,528	150	4.1
Pulaski	187,400	181,224	6,176	3.3	186,594	179,312	7,282	3.9	187,257	180,562	6,695	3.6
Randolph	6,749	6,470	279	4.1	6,721	6,377	344	5.1	6,386	6,082	304	4.8
St. Francis	8,891	8,462	429	4.8	8,860	8,354	506	5.7	8,923	8,433	490	5.5
Saline	56,477	54,822	1,655	2.9	56,209	54,242	1,967	3.5	56,427	54,624	1,803	3.2
Scott	4,485	4,353	132	2.9	4,448	4,294	154	3.5	4,497	4,325	172	3.8
Searcy	2,953	2,833	120	4.1	2,924	2,775	149	5.1	2,971	2,832	139	4.7
Sebastian	56,992	55,025	1,967	3.5	57,215	54,890	2,325	4.1	57,824	55,619	2,205	3.8
Sevier	5,721	5,475	246	4.3	5,686	5,376	310	5.5	5,726	5,444	282	4.9
Sharp	6,076	5,767	309	5.1	6,069	5,694	375	6.2	6,026	5,679	347	5.8
Stone	4,659	4,419	240	5.2	4,602	4,319	283	6.1	4,714	4,464	250	5.3
Union	16,279	15,407	872	5.4	16,223	15,274	949	5.8	16,708	15,813	895	5.4
Van Buren	5,908	5,556	352	6.0	5,864	5,441	423	7.2	6,391	5,945	446	7.0
Washington	122,075	119,206	2,869	2.4	120,959	117,526	3,433	2.8	118,682	115,466	3,216	2.7
White	33,292	31,724	1,568	4.7	33,228	31,405	1,823	5.5	34,529	32,625	1,904	5.5
Woodruff	2,948	2,797	151	5.1	2,912	2,742	170	5.8	3,014	2,843	171	5.7
Yell	8,802	8,474	328	3.7	8,737	8,331	406	4.6	8,903	8,508	395	4.4

County Labor Force Summary

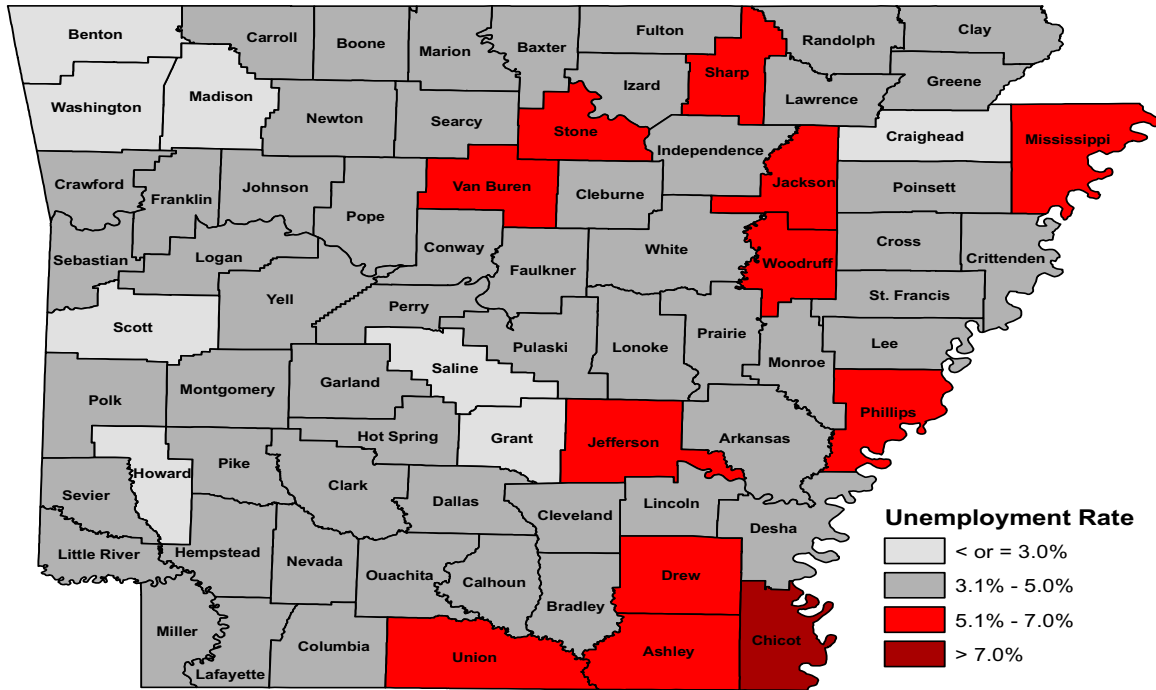
Between February and March, unemployment rates declined in all 75 Arkansas counties. Jobless rates ranged from a low of 2.4 percent in Washington County to a high of 7.1 percent in Chicot County.

In March, thirty-eight counties posted unemployment rates at or below four percent. That is more than double the 15 counties at or below four percent last month. No county reported a jobless rate above eight percent.

Compared to March 2016, unemployment rates are down in 70 counties. Three counties posted rate increases while two were unchanged.

Labor Market Report

County Labor Force Statistics



Ranked by Unemployment Rates

March 2017- Not Seasonally Adjusted

Rank	County	Rate	Rank	County	Rate	Rank	County	Rate
1	Washington	2.4	25	Marion	3.7	51	Clay	4.7
2	Madison	2.5	25	Yell	3.7	51	Lee	4.7
3	Benton	2.6	28	Calhoun	3.8	51	White	4.7
4	Craighead	2.8	28	Garland	3.8	54	Izard	4.8
5	Howard	2.9	28	Johnson	3.8	54	St. Francis	4.8
5	Saline	2.9	31	Cross	3.9	56	Conway	4.9
5	Scott	2.9	31	Dallas	3.9	56	Lafayette	4.9
8	Grant	3.0	31	Pike	3.9	56	Montgomery	4.9
9	Arkansas	3.1	34	Baxter	4.0	56	Polk	4.9
9	Lonoke	3.1	34	Fulton	4.0	60	Bradley	5.0
11	Boone	3.2	34	Poinsett	4.0	60	Cleburne	5.0
11	Hempstead	3.2	34	Pope	4.0	60	Columbia	5.0
13	Carroll	3.3	34	Prairie	4.0	60	Desha	5.0
13	Faulkner	3.3	39	Independence	4.1	64	Jefferson	5.1
13	Franklin	3.3	39	Miller	4.1	64	Sharp	5.1
13	Nevada	3.3	39	Randolph	4.1	64	Woodruff	5.1
13	Pulaski	3.3	39	Searcy	4.1	67	Stone	5.2
18	Crawford	3.4	43	Crittenden	4.3	68	Drew	5.3
18	Hot Spring	3.4	43	Lincoln	4.3	69	Union	5.4
18	Newton	3.4	43	Monroe	4.3	70	Phillips	5.7
21	Lawrence	3.5	43	Perry	4.3	71	Ashley	5.8
21	Sebastian	3.5	43	Sevier	4.3	72	Mississippi	5.9
23	Clark	3.6	48	Little River	4.4	73	Van Buren	6.0
23	Logan	3.6	48	Ouachita	4.4	74	Jackson	6.1
25	Greene	3.7	50	Cleveland	4.5	75	Chicot	7.1

Labor Market Report

Local Workforce Development Areas Civilian Labor Force Estimates

LWDA Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

LWDA	March 2017				February 2017				March 2016			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Central (minus LR)	247,302	239,353	7,949	3.2	246,240	236,711	9,529	3.9	247,786	238,857	8,929	3.6
City of Little Rock	96,504	93,344	3,160	3.3	96,018	92,359	3,659	3.8	96,358	93,003	3,355	3.5
Eastern	47,952	45,765	2,187	4.6	47,701	45,086	2,615	5.5	48,394	45,971	2,423	5.0
North Central	93,913	89,384	4,529	4.8	93,571	88,129	5,442	5.8	96,375	90,921	5,454	5.7
Northeast	119,680	115,211	4,469	3.7	119,462	114,063	5,399	4.5	119,671	114,432	5,239	4.4
Northwest	316,746	308,227	8,519	2.7	314,093	303,650	10,443	3.3	309,460	299,932	9,528	3.1
Southeast	82,243	78,330	3,913	4.8	81,948	77,318	4,630	5.6	83,264	78,926	4,338	5.2
Southwest	94,032	90,003	4,029	4.3	93,633	88,910	4,723	5.0	95,094	90,682	4,412	4.6
West Central	132,636	127,490	5,146	3.9	131,911	125,625	6,286	4.8	133,084	127,108	5,976	4.5
Western	112,075	108,137	3,938	3.5	112,230	107,534	4,696	4.2	114,128	109,490	4,638	4.1

