

Arkansas Labor Market

May 2011

Employment Headlines

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Increases to 7.8 Percent

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Decline 300 in May

Employment Quick Facts

Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted

	<u>May 11</u>	<u>Apr 11</u>	<u>May 10</u>
AR Unemployment Rate	7.8	7.7	7.8
US Unemployment Rate	9.1	9.0	9.6

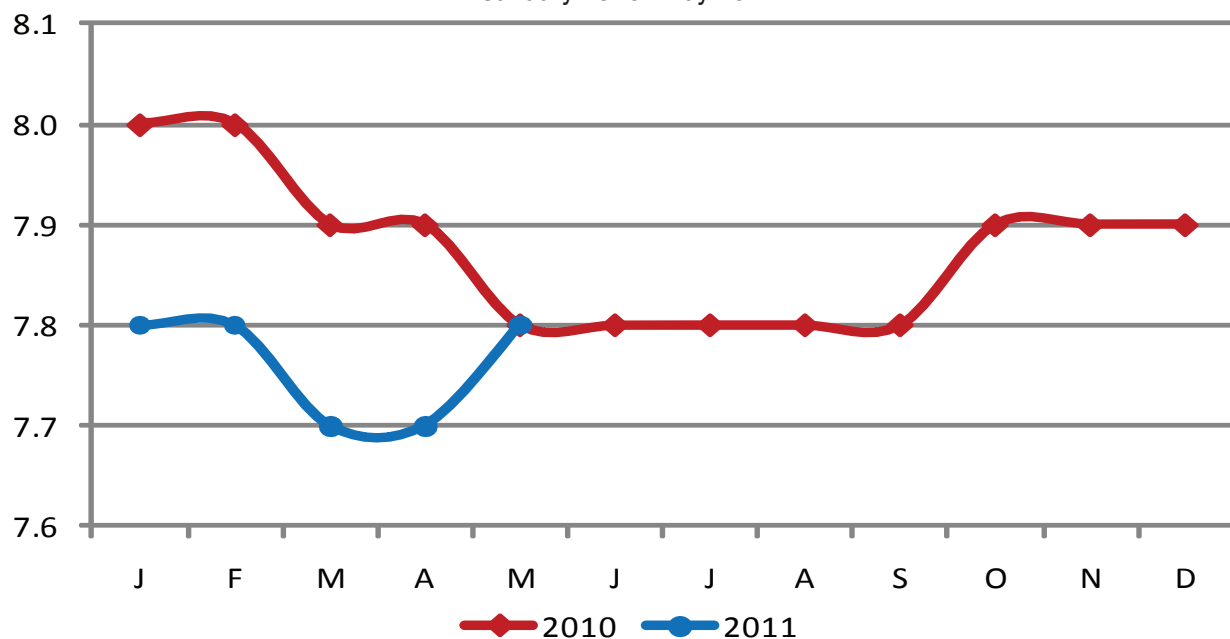
Nonfarm Payroll Summary

State of Arkansas

	<u>May 11</u>	<u>Apr 11</u>	<u>May 10</u>
Total Nonfarm	1,178,700	1,179,000	1,174,200
Goods Producing	216,100	214,500	220,500
Service Providing	962,600	964,500	953,700

Unemployment Rates (Seasonally Adjusted)

State of Arkansas
January 2010 - May 2011



Nonfarm Payroll Employment

State of Arkansas

April 2011 - May 2011

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas declined 300 in May to total 1,178,700. Three major industry sectors posted job losses, more than offsetting minor increases in six industries. Employment remained stable in two sectors. The greatest decrease occurred in **professional and business services** (-2,600). The administrative and support services subsector posted the largest drop (-1,400), attributed in large part to reported declines at employment agencies. Jobs in **educational and health services** decreased (-1,200), as some educational facilities have closed for summer break. **Leisure and hospitality** added 1,400 jobs. Gains were mostly seasonal and spread evenly throughout the sector.

May 2010 - May 2011

Since May 2010, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs increased 4,500. Seven major industry sectors enjoyed growth, with three adding 3,200 or more jobs, each. The largest increase occurred in **leisure and hospitality** (+4,700), as accommodation and food services posted a gain of 4,200 jobs. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 3,400 jobs. A majority of the growth occurred in transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+2,600). Employment in **professional and business services** rose 3,200. Administrative and support services posted most of the increase (+2,900). The largest annual decline occurred in **government** (-7,000). This loss was mostly attributed to the end of temporary federal jobs.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	May 11	Apr 11	May 10
Total Nonfarm	1,178,700	1,179,000	1,174,200
Goods Producing	216,100	214,500	220,500
Mining & Logging	10,600	10,600	10,700
Construction	47,000	46,200	49,600
Specialty Trade Contractors	28,200	27,800	28,400
Manufacturing	158,500	157,700	160,200
Durable Goods	77,000	76,400	78,000
Nondurable Goods	81,500	81,300	82,200
Service Providing	962,600	964,500	953,700
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	237,100	237,300	233,700
Wholesale Trade	46,600	46,600	46,700
Retail Trade	129,900	130,200	129,000
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	60,600	60,500	58,000
Information	15,900	15,800	15,500
Financial Activities	50,500	50,200	48,600
Finance & Insurance	36,700	36,600	35,000
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13,800	13,600	13,600
Professional & Business Services	120,700	123,300	117,500
Professional, Scientific & Technical	38,200	39,500	37,800
Management of Companies	25,900	25,800	26,000
Administrative & Support Services	56,600	58,000	53,700
Educational & Health Services	166,800	168,000	166,200
Health Care & Social Assistance	152,200	152,500	152,300
Ambulatory Health Care	44,400	44,900	45,700
Social Assistance	34,800	35,300	34,200
Leisure & Hospitality	106,100	104,700	101,400
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	11,100	10,400	10,600
Accommodation & Food Services	95,000	94,300	90,800
Accommodation Services	11,700	11,300	11,300
Food Services	83,300	83,000	79,500
Other Services	45,000	45,000	43,300
Government	220,500	220,200	227,500
Federal Government	20,600	20,700	27,000
State Government	76,300	77,900	75,500
Local Government	123,600	121,600	125,000

Hours & Earnings of Arkansas Production Workers

(Manufacturing Industries)

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	May 11	Apr 11	May 10	May 11	Apr 11	May 10	May 11	Apr 11	May 10
Manufacturing	\$584.91	\$575.84	\$577.68	40.2	40.1	41.8	\$14.55	\$14.36	\$13.82
Durable Goods	655.23	642.38	631.50	40.1	40.3	40.9	16.34	15.94	15.44
Nondurable Goods	523.90	517.90	529.98	40.3	39.9	42.5	13.00	12.98	12.47

Spotlight

Seasonal Patterns in Employment

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 related to set schedules of operation, holidays, and weather patterns. Examples of all three types are provided.

Education is probably the most obvious example of seasonal employment. Most Arkansas public school districts and universities are scheduled to operate from August to May. Chart 1 shows how state and local government employment is affected by the operation schedules of public schools. Note that the number of jobs begins to decline drastically between May and June, is at a low in July, then increases significantly between August and September. Jobs remain fairly stable during the rest of the year, with the exception of a drop in January.

A seasonal pattern is also evident in the retail trade sector, as an employment increase occurs during the Christmas holiday season. While other patterns can be seen earlier in the year, the most obvious jump in employment happens between October and November (see Chart 2). This increased need for employees continues through December and then drops sharply after the first of the year.

Leisure and hospitality is one of the sectors most affected by seasonal patterns, particularly weather patterns. First, 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 general 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 throughout the second half of the year.

Chart 1. Jobs in State and Local Government
January 2009 - May 2011 (Statewide)

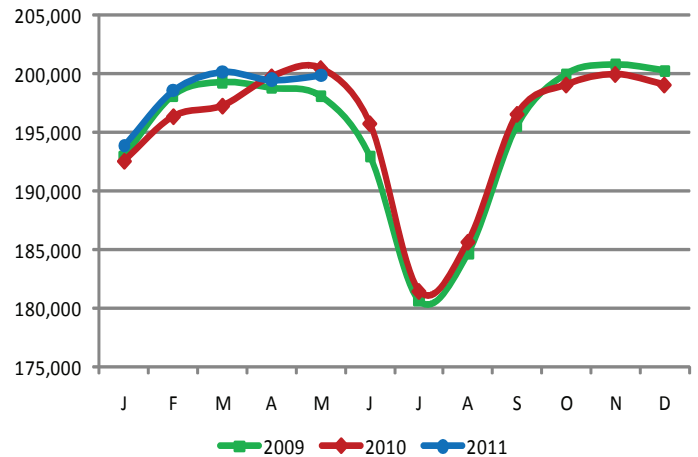


Chart 2. Jobs in Retail Trade
January 2009 - May 2011 (Statewide)

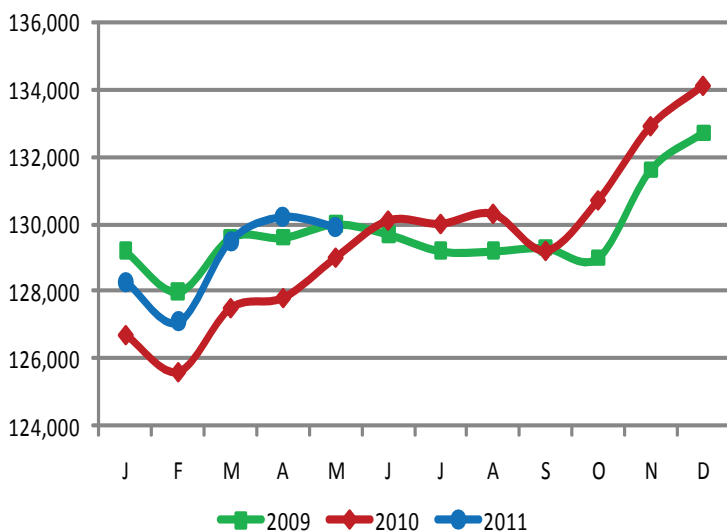
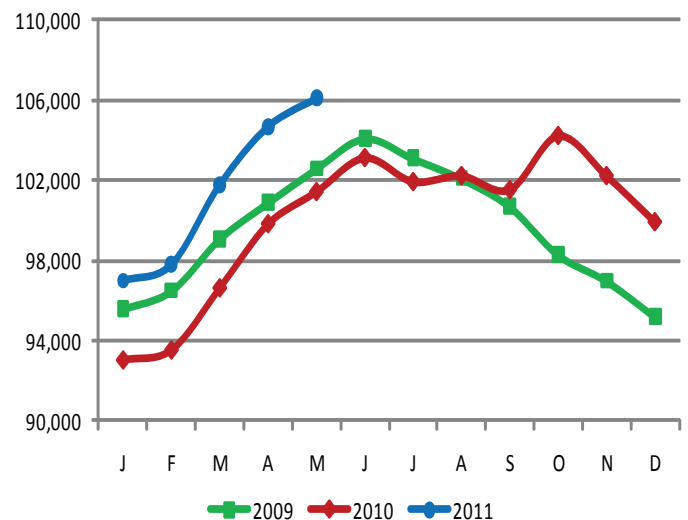


Chart 3. Jobs in Leisure and Hospitality
January 2009 - May 2011 (Statewide)



Spotlight Continued in the June Issue

Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	May 11	Apr 11	May 10
Total Nonfarm	339,700	342,400	339,500
Goods Producing	37,200	37,200	37,200
Mining, Logging & Construction	17,200	17,300	17,100
Manufacturing	20,000	19,900	20,100
Service Providing	302,500	305,200	302,300
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	63,900	64,500	64,100
Wholesale Trade	16,700	16,800	16,900
Retail Trade	35,500	35,900	35,300
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	11,700	11,800	11,900
Information	7,700	7,700	7,900
Financial Activities	18,700	18,600	18,500
Professional & Business Services	45,000	45,700	43,700
Educational & Health Services	50,100	51,500	50,000
Leisure & Hospitality	30,800	31,000	30,600
Other Services	15,000	14,900	15,000
Government	71,300	71,300	72,500
Federal Government	9,300	9,400	10,500
State Government	33,400	33,800	33,200
Local Government	28,600	28,100	28,800

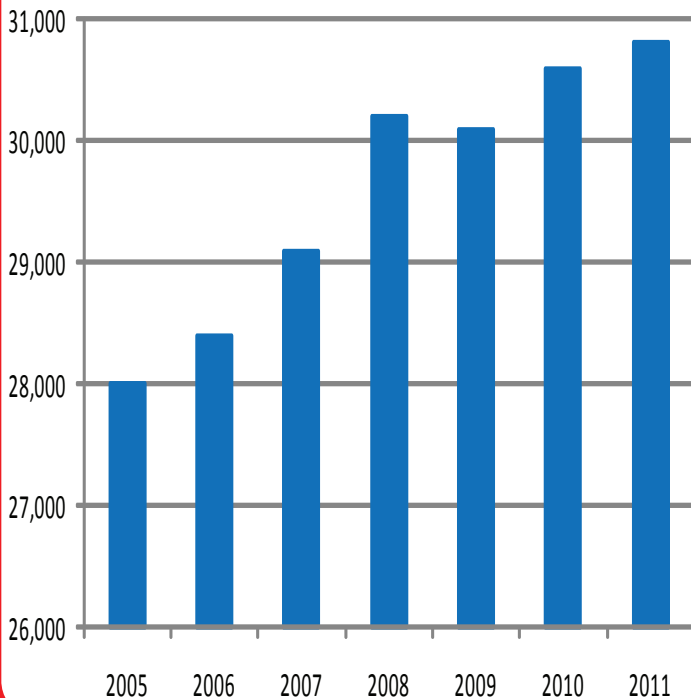
(The following counties make up the LR-NLR-Conway MSA:
Faulkner, Grant, Lonoke, Perry, Pulaski, and Saline.)

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	May 11	Apr 11	May 10
Civilian Labor Force	346,525	349,975	341,550
Employment	322,425	327,200	318,400
Unemployment	24,100	22,775	23,150
Unemployment Rate	7.0	6.5	6.8

Jobs in Leisure and Hospitality

May: 2005 - 2011



Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	May 11	Apr 11	May 10
Total Nonfarm	203,700	203,500	201,200
Goods Producing	36,300	36,500	36,900
Mining, Logging & Construction	7,900	7,900	8,000
Manufacturing	28,400	28,600	28,900
Service Providing	167,400	167,000	164,300
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	45,100	44,800	44,300
Wholesale Trade	9,000	8,900	8,900
Retail Trade	20,900	20,700	20,700
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	15,200	15,200	14,700
Information	2,100	2,100	2,100
Financial Activities	7,300	7,200	7,300
Professional & Business Services	35,100	35,100	33,900
Educational & Health Services	22,800	22,700	22,000
Leisure & Hospitality	19,600	19,200	18,600
Other Services	7,000	6,900	6,700
Government	28,400	29,000	29,400
Federal Government	2,400	2,400	3,400
State Government	8,800	9,500	8,900
Local Government	17,200	17,100	17,100

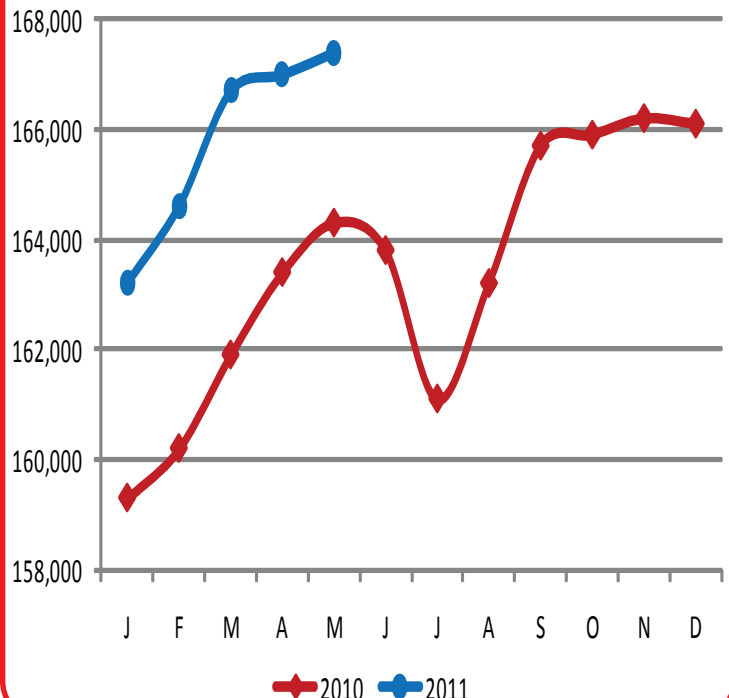
(The following counties make up the FSR MSA:
Benton, Madison, and Washington in Arkansas and McDonald in Missouri.)

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	May 11	Apr 11	May 10
Civilian Labor Force	229,675	229,950	225,850
Employment	215,450	216,550	211,575
Unemployment	14,225	13,400	14,275
Unemployment Rate	6.2	5.8	6.3

Jobs in Service Providing Sectors

January 2010 - May 2011



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fort Smith MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	May 11	Apr 11	May 10
Total Nonfarm	118,700	117,500	118,100
Goods Producing	29,000	28,500	29,000
Mining, Logging & Construction	7,400	7,300	7,400
Manufacturing	21,600	21,200	21,600
Service Providing	89,700	89,000	89,100
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	24,500	24,400	24,100
Wholesale Trade	4,000	4,000	4,000
Retail Trade	13,200	13,100	13,000
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	7,300	7,300	7,100
Information	1,200	1,100	1,200
Financial Activities	4,200	4,100	4,100
Professional & Business Services	11,900	12,000	11,600
Educational & Health Services	16,200	16,200	16,200
Leisure & Hospitality	9,500	9,200	8,800
Other Services	3,700	3,600	3,600
Government	18,500	18,400	19,500
Federal Government	1,600	1,600	2,100
State Government	3,700	3,700	3,500
Local Government	13,200	13,100	13,900

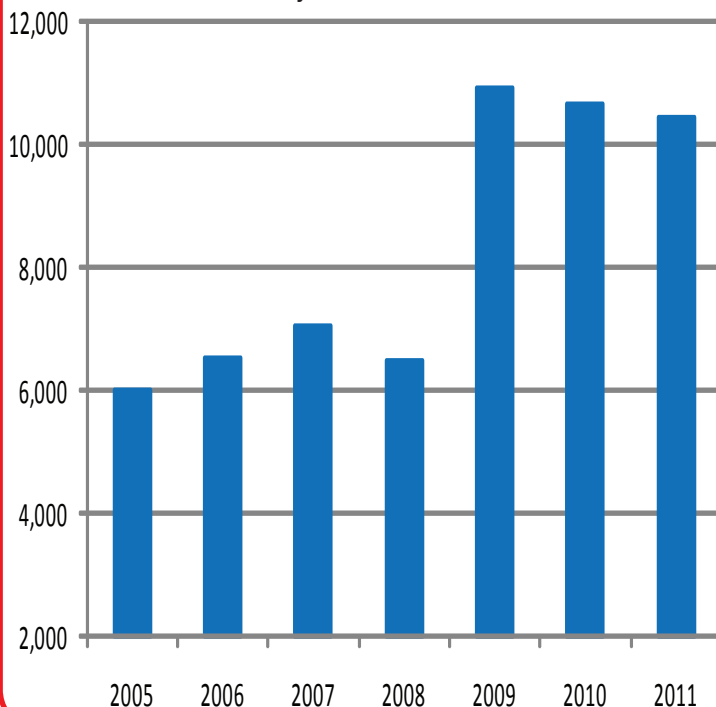
(The following counties make up the Fort Smith MSA: Crawford, Franklin, and Sebastian in Arkansas and LeFlore and Sequoyah in Oklahoma.)

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	May 11	Apr 11	May 10
Civilian Labor Force	135,050	134,475	134,325
Employment	124,600	124,125	123,675
Unemployment	10,450	10,350	10,650
Unemployment Rate	7.7	7.7	7.9

Number of Unemployed

May: 2005 - 2011



Hot Springs MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	May 11	Apr 11	May 10
Total Nonfarm	38,700	39,200	37,500
Goods Producing	4,100	4,100	4,000
Service Providing	34,600	35,100	33,500
Government	4,700	4,600	5,300

(The following county makes up the Hot Springs MSA: Garland.)

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	May 11	Apr 11	May 10
Civilian Labor Force	43,950	44,200	42,000
Employment	40,450	40,875	38,700
Unemployment	3,500	3,325	3,300
Unemployment Rate	8.0	7.5	7.8

Jonesboro MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	May 11	Apr 11	May 10
Total Nonfarm	49,300	49,200	49,600
Goods Producing	8,500	8,500	8,500
Service Providing	40,800	40,700	41,100
Government	9,100	9,000	9,100

(The following counties make up the Jonesboro MSA: Craighead and Poinsett.)

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	May 11	Apr 11	May 10
Civilian Labor Force	58,275	58,300	58,225
Employment	53,925	54,150	53,975
Unemployment	4,350	4,150	4,250
Unemployment Rate	7.4	7.1	7.3

Pine Bluff MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	May 11	Apr 11	May 10
Total Nonfarm	36,600	36,500	38,000
Goods Producing	7,600	7,600	7,600
Service Providing	29,000	28,900	30,400
Government	10,800	10,900	11,600

(The following counties make up the PB MSA: Cleveland, Jefferson, and Lincoln.)

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	May 11	Apr 11	May 10
Civilian Labor Force	43,650	43,500	44,400
Employment	39,300	39,250	40,350
Unemployment	4,350	4,250	4,050
Unemployment Rate	10.0	9.8	9.1

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

State of Arkansas

(Seasonally Adjusted)

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>May 11</u>	<u>Apr 11</u>	<u>May 10</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>	<u>May 11</u>	<u>Apr 11</u>	<u>May 10</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	1,364,400	1,368,000	1,350,800	-3,600	13,600	1,362,000	1,360,500	1,357,400	1,500	4,600
Employment	1,257,500	1,262,300	1,245,200	-4,800	12,300	1,254,600	1,257,100	1,254,700	-2,500	-100
Unemployment	106,900	105,700	105,600	1,200	1,300	107,400	103,400	102,700	4,000	4,700
Unemployment Rate	7.8	7.7	7.8	0.1	0.0	7.9	7.6	7.6	0.3	0.3
U.S. Unemployment Rate	9.1	9.0	9.6	0.1	-0.5	8.7	8.7	9.3	0.0	-0.6

Out-of-State MSAs

Memphis, Tennessee

Texarkana, Texas

	<u>May 11</u>	<u>Apr 11</u>	<u>May 10</u>		<u>May 11</u>	<u>Apr 11</u>	<u>May 10</u>
Civilian Labor Force	622,350	619,025	611,925	Civilian Labor Force	64,675	65,025	65,100
Employment	559,225	556,650	553,025	Employment	59,875	60,400	60,325
Unemployment	63,125	62,375	58,900	Unemployment	4,800	4,625	4,775
Unemployment Rate	10.1	10.1	9.6	Unemployment Rate	7.4	7.1	7.3

Unemployment Rates by County

Between April and May, unemployment rates increased in 57 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Twelve counties posted rate declines, while six remained stable. Jobless rates ranged from a low of 5.8 percent in Miller County to a high of 17.4 percent in Arkansas County.

In May, two counties enjoyed unemployment rates at or below six percent. Twenty counties posted rates at or above ten percent, up from 15 counties in April.

Since May 2010, jobless rates are up in 58 counties. Ten counties have lower rates than this time last year, while seven were the same.

Lowest Rates

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1	Miller	5.8
2	Benton	6.0
3	Washington	6.1
4	Carroll	6.2
4	Madison	6.2

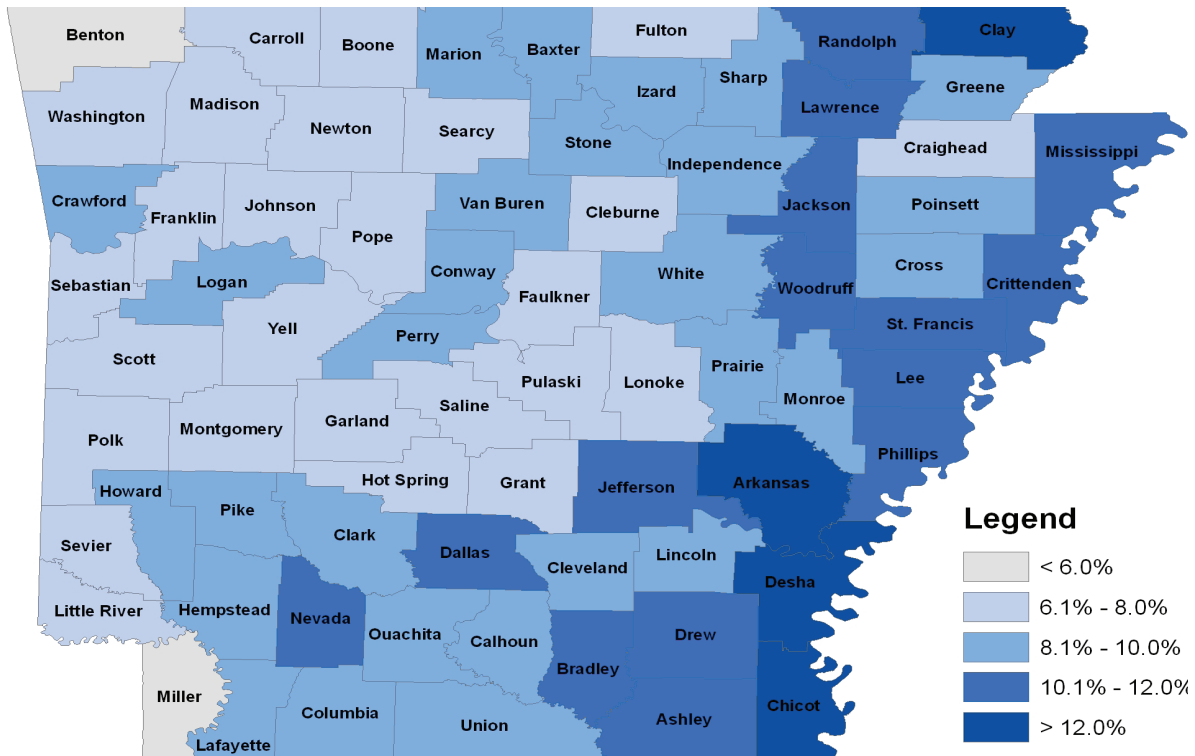
Highest Rates

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
72	Chicot	12.1
73	Desha	12.8
74	Clay	13.6
75	Arkansas	17.4

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>May 11</u>	<u>Apr 11</u>	<u>May 10</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>May 11</u>	<u>Apr 11</u>	<u>May 10</u>
75	Arkansas	17.4	17.7	15.8	64	Lee	10.6	10.3	8.4
58	Ashley	10.2	10.6	9.5	43	Lincoln	8.7	7.8	8.6
33	Baxter	8.4	8.2	8.4	13	Little River	7.1	7.2	7.3
2	Benton	6.0	5.7	6.3	32	Logan	8.3	7.8	7.9
11	Boone	7.0	7.0	7.0	8	Lonoke	6.8	6.3	6.4
66	Bradley	10.9	10.9	9.1	4	Madison	6.2	5.7	6.2
49	Calhoun	9.3	9.2	8.6	45	Marion	9.1	8.9	10.0
4	Carroll	6.2	6.3	6.0	1	Miller	5.8	5.9	5.4
72	Chicot	12.1	12.4	10.4	67	Mississippi	11.1	10.9	11.2
51	Clark	9.7	9.1	7.4	37	Monroe	8.5	8.3	7.5
74	Clay	13.6	13.5	10.6	26	Montgomery	8.0	8.0	7.2
22	Cleburne	7.7	7.6	7.3	60	Nevada	10.3	10.7	8.3
33	Cleveland	8.4	9.0	8.2	17	Newton	7.3	6.5	6.5
45	Columbia	9.1	8.6	9.2	33	Ouachita	8.4	8.3	8.2
29	Conway	8.1	7.9	7.8	41	Perry	8.6	7.9	8.6
16	Craighead	7.2	6.8	7.1	57	Phillips	10.1	9.9	8.4
29	Crawford	8.1	7.8	7.3	48	Pike	9.2	9.1	7.4
65	Crittenden	10.7	12.1	11.2	41	Poinsett	8.6	8.6	8.5
44	Cross	9.0	8.6	7.9	24	Polk	7.9	7.6	7.1
69	Dallas	11.4	11.3	11.3	24	Pope	7.9	7.2	7.5
73	Desha	12.8	12.7	11.0	33	Prairie	8.4	8.1	7.7
71	Drew	11.6	11.4	10.3	9	Pulaski	6.9	6.5	6.7
17	Faulkner	7.3	6.9	7.4	62	Randolph	10.5	9.9	8.7
13	Franklin	7.1	6.7	7.3	62	St. Francis	10.5	9.9	9.9
13	Fulton	7.1	6.6	7.1	6	Saline	6.7	6.1	6.5
26	Garland	8.0	7.5	7.8	11	Scott	7.0	6.6	6.5
17	Grant	7.3	6.9	6.4	26	Searcy	8.0	8.3	7.5
54	Greene	9.9	9.8	9.1	23	Sebastian	7.8	7.7	6.9
37	Hempstead	8.5	8.3	8.9	9	Sevier	6.9	7.0	5.5
21	Hot Spring	7.6	7.1	7.3	54	Sharp	9.9	9.5	9.3
37	Howard	8.5	8.3	7.7	56	Stone	10.0	9.8	8.2
31	Independence	8.2	7.7	8.1	53	Union	9.8	9.6	10.4
45	Izard	9.1	8.6	9.1	51	Van Buren	9.7	9.7	9.1
67	Jackson	11.1	11.0	10.2	3	Washington	6.1	5.7	6.1
60	Jefferson	10.3	10.1	9.3	37	White	8.5	8.5	8.1
20	Johnson	7.5	7.2	7.2	70	Woodruff	11.5	13.8	10.4
50	Lafayette	9.4	9.1	9.2	6	Yell	6.7	6.0	6.3
58	Lawrence	10.2	9.3	8.8					

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 2010 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 3,000 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 in this publication 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, shifts in schedules, harvest times, and the opening/closing of schools.

Arkansas Labor Market

May 2011

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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