

Arkansas Labor Market

July 2012

Employment Headlines

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Increases to 7.3 Percent

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Decline 16,800 in July

Employment Quick Facts

Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted

	<u>Jul 12</u>	<u>Jun 12</u>	<u>Jul 11</u>
AR Unemployment Rate	7.3	7.2	8.2
US Unemployment Rate	8.3	8.2	9.1

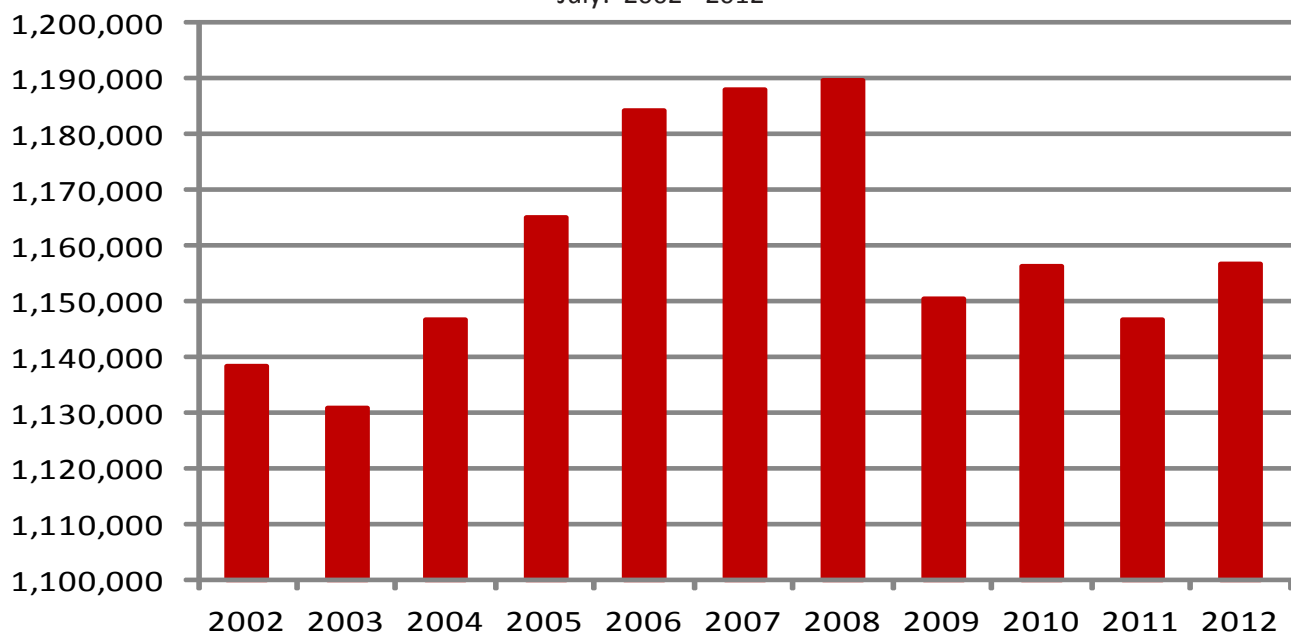
Nonfarm Payroll Summary

State of Arkansas

	<u>Jul 12</u>	<u>Jun 12</u>	<u>Jul 11</u>
Total Nonfarm	1,156,600	1,173,400	1,146,900
Goods Producing	213,500	212,800	218,000
Service Providing	943,100	960,600	928,900

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

State of Arkansas
July: 2002 - 2012



Nonfarm Payroll Employment

State of Arkansas

June 2012 - July 2012

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs declined 16,800 in July to total 1,156,600. Seven major industry sectors posted decreases, more than offsetting gains in two sectors. Jobs in **government** decreased 14,400, reflecting seasonal summer declines at public schools and universities. Employment in **leisure and hospitality** dropped 1,200. All losses occurred in accommodation and food services, largely attributed to education-related food service contractors. Jobs in **manufacturing** rose 1,000. Durable goods (+900) reported gains in fabricated metal product manufacturing and in wood product manufacturing.

July 2011 - July 2012

Since July 2011, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 9,700. Five major industry sectors enjoyed growth, with three adding 3,400 or more jobs, each. Three major sectors reported losses. **Educational and health services** posted the largest gain (+7,200). Most of the increase occurred in health care and social assistance (+5,000). **Government** added 3,600 jobs. The growth in local government (+5,100) more than offset the declines in both federal (-900) and state (-600) government. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** rose 3,400. Food services (+3,000) reported a majority of the gain. Employment in **construction** decreased 4,800. Declines were reported in utility system construction, building equipment contracting, and nonresidential building construction.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs			
(NAICS)	Jul 12	Jun 12	Jul 11
Total Nonfarm	1,156,600	1,173,400	1,146,900
Goods Producing	213,500	212,800	218,000
Mining & Logging	11,300	11,300	11,000
Construction	44,700	45,000	49,500
Specialty Trade Contractors	26,800	27,400	30,100
Manufacturing	157,500	156,500	157,500
Durable Goods	82,000	81,100	78,700
Nondurable Goods	75,500	75,400	78,800
Service Providing	943,100	960,600	928,900
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	236,300	236,500	235,400
Wholesale Trade	47,000	47,100	45,600
Retail Trade	129,200	128,700	130,000
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	60,100	60,700	59,800
Information	14,300	14,300	14,600
Financial Activities	47,900	47,700	47,900
Finance & Insurance	35,300	35,000	34,900
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,600	12,700	13,000
Professional & Business Services	117,300	117,800	117,900
Professional, Scientific & Technical	36,400	37,000	36,800
Management of Companies	26,600	26,800	26,100
Administrative & Support Services	54,300	54,000	55,000
Educational & Health Services	171,000	171,800	163,800
Health Care & Social Assistance	156,000	156,300	151,000
Ambulatory Health Care	47,400	47,700	45,800
Social Assistance	33,800	34,400	32,800
Leisure & Hospitality	106,700	107,900	103,300
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	11,600	11,500	11,100
Accommodation & Food Services	95,100	96,400	92,200
Accommodation Services	12,200	12,300	12,300
Food Services	82,900	84,100	79,900
Other Services	43,700	44,300	43,700
Government	205,900	220,300	202,300
Federal Government	20,500	20,300	21,400
State Government	71,200	72,900	71,800
Local Government	114,200	127,100	109,100

Hours & Earnings of Arkansas Production Workers

(Manufacturing Industries)

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Jul 12	Jun 12	Jul 11	Jul 12	Jun 12	Jul 11	Jul 12	Jun 12	Jul 11
Manufacturing	\$629.54	\$652.13	\$599.41	41.2	42.1	41.8	\$15.28	\$15.49	\$14.34
Durable Goods	676.37	696.50	659.66	41.7	43.1	41.1	16.22	16.16	16.05
Nondurable Goods	579.36	607.05	543.58	40.6	41.1	42.5	14.27	14.77	12.79

Spotlight

Seasonal Employment Trends

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

Education is probably the most obvious example of seasonal employment. Most of Arkansas' public schools and universities are scheduled to operate from August to May. Chart 1 shows how state and local government employment is affected by the operation schedule of public schools. Note that the number of jobs begins to decline between May and June, reaches a low in July, and then increases between August and September. Jobs remain fairly stable during the rest of the year, with the exception of 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). The 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. 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 2010 - July 2012 (statewide)

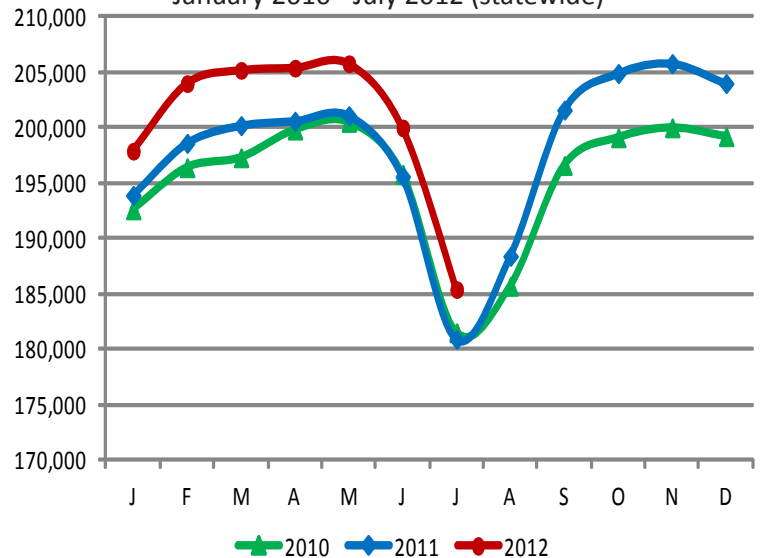


Chart 2. Jobs in Retail Trade

January 2010 - July 2012 (statewide)

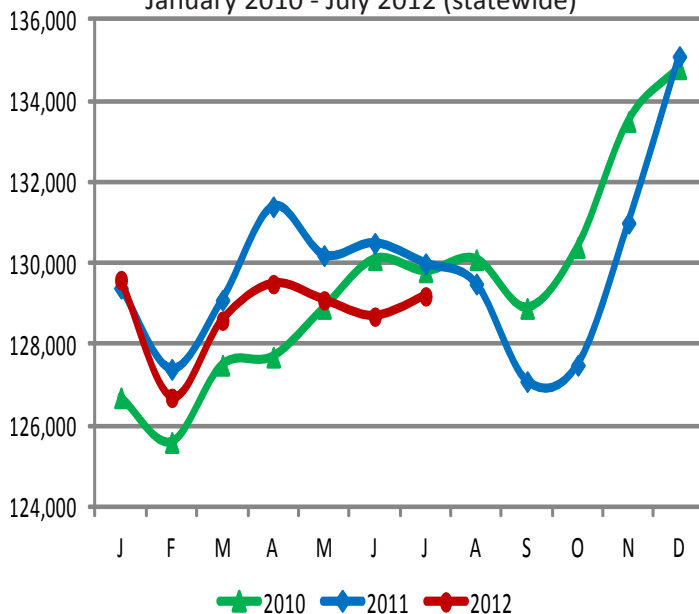
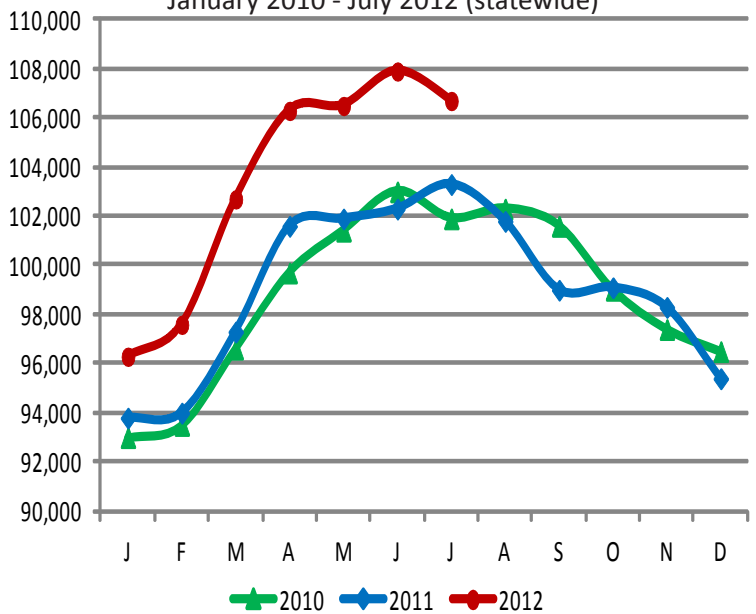


Chart 3. Jobs in Leisure and Hospitality

January 2010 - July 2012 (statewide)



Spotlight Continues in the August Issue

Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

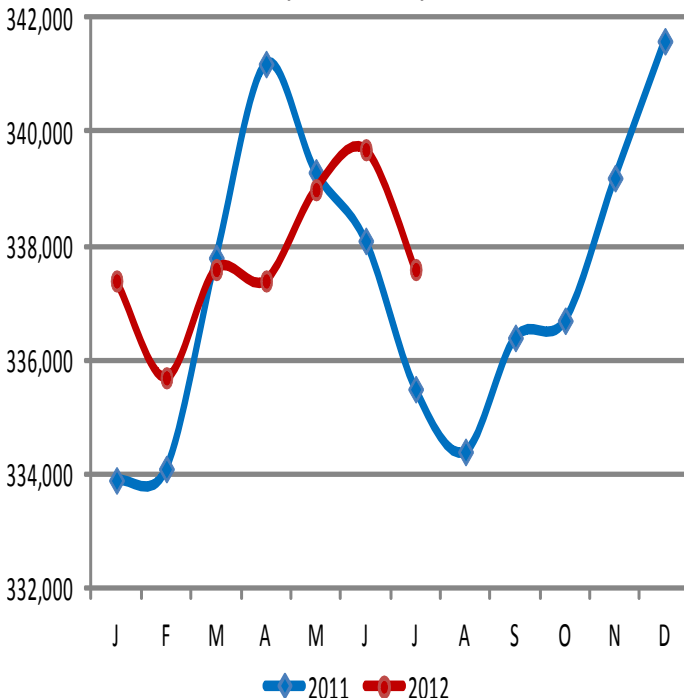
(NAICS)	Jul 12	Jun 12	Jul 11
Total Nonfarm	337,600	339,700	335,500
Goods Producing	35,500	35,500	37,100
Mining, Logging & Construction	16,400	16,400	17,400
Manufacturing	19,100	19,100	19,700
Service Providing	302,100	304,200	298,400
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	66,100	66,100	64,800
Wholesale Trade	16,600	16,700	16,000
Retail Trade	36,500	36,300	36,000
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	13,000	13,100	12,800
Information	7,400	7,400	7,600
Financial Activities	18,900	18,800	19,000
Professional & Business Services	43,500	43,600	44,000
Educational & Health Services	51,200	51,600	49,500
Leisure & Hospitality	31,800	31,400	30,200
Other Services	15,400	15,500	15,300
Government	67,800	69,800	68,000
Federal Government	9,400	9,300	9,700
State Government	32,300	32,600	32,300
Local Government	26,100	27,900	26,000

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Jul 12	Jun 12	Jul 11
Civilian Labor Force	357,875	355,900	352,850
Employment	332,925	332,500	326,300
Unemployment	24,950	23,400	26,550
Unemployment Rate	7.0	6.6	7.5

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs January 2011 - July 2012



Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

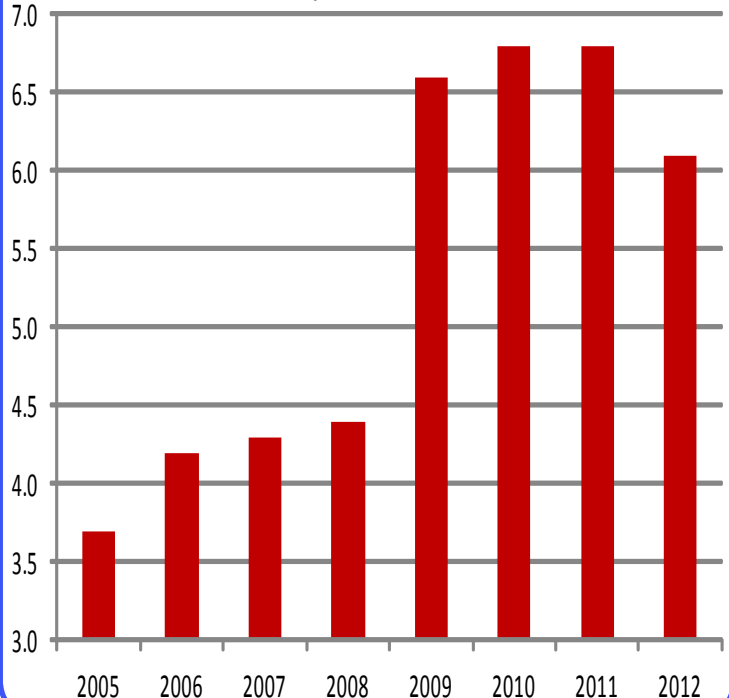
(NAICS)	Jul 12	Jun 12	Jul 11
Total Nonfarm	205,600	209,700	198,700
Goods Producing	35,900	35,900	35,500
Mining, Logging & Construction	7,900	7,900	7,900
Manufacturing	28,000	28,000	27,600
Service Providing	169,700	173,800	163,200
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	46,600	47,100	46,000
Wholesale Trade	10,200	10,300	9,800
Retail Trade	21,800	22,000	21,200
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	14,600	14,800	15,000
Information	1,900	1,900	1,900
Financial Activities	7,100	7,100	7,100
Professional & Business Services	36,700	37,400	35,200
Educational & Health Services	23,100	23,500	22,100
Leisure & Hospitality	20,600	20,800	19,200
Other Services	7,200	7,200	7,000
Government	26,500	28,800	24,700
Federal Government	2,400	2,300	2,400
State Government	8,400	8,700	8,100
Local Government	15,700	17,800	14,200

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Jul 12	Jun 12	Jul 11
Civilian Labor Force	241,725	242,650	232,050
Employment	226,900	228,875	216,350
Unemployment	14,825	13,775	15,700
Unemployment Rate	6.1	5.7	6.8

Unemployment Rates July: 2005 - 2012



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fort Smith MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Jul 12	Jun 12	Jul 11
Total Nonfarm	108,700	111,000	111,400
Goods Producing	27,100	26,700	26,300
Mining, Logging & Construction	7,100	7,000	7,200
Manufacturing	20,000	19,700	19,100
Service Providing	81,600	84,300	85,100
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	23,500	23,600	23,900
Wholesale Trade	4,000	4,000	4,000
Retail Trade	12,500	12,600	12,900
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	7,000	7,000	7,000
Information	1,100	1,100	1,100
Financial Activities	3,600	3,700	4,000
Professional & Business Services	9,600	9,600	9,900
Educational & Health Services	14,900	15,000	15,900
Leisure & Hospitality	8,700	8,800	8,700
Other Services	4,300	4,300	4,500
Government	15,900	18,200	17,100
Federal Government	1,600	1,600	1,700
State Government	3,000	3,200	3,100
Local Government	11,300	13,400	12,300

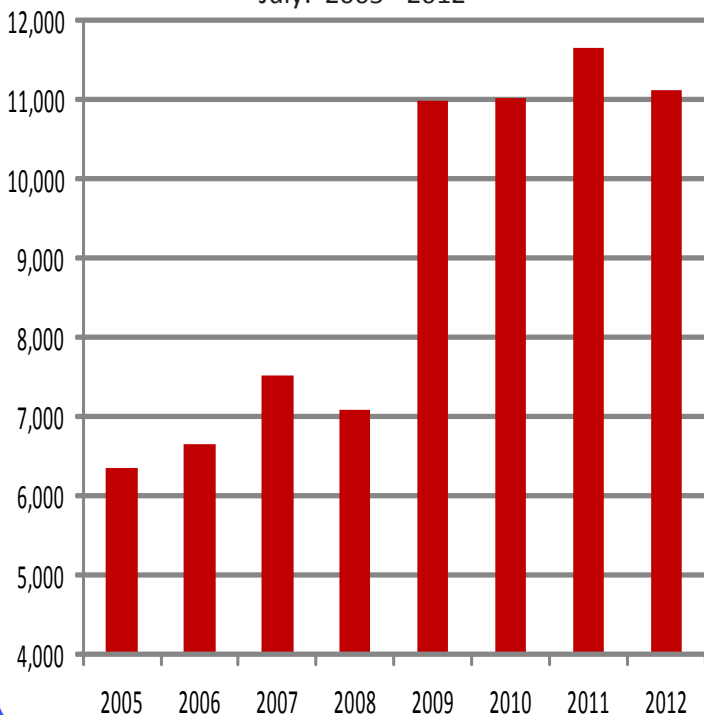
(The following counties make up the Fort Smith MSA: Crawford, Franklin, and Sebastian in Arkansas and LeFlore and Sequoyah in Oklahoma.)

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Jul 12	Jun 12	Jul 11
Civilian Labor Force	130,200	130,600	132,050
Employment	119,075	120,575	120,400
Unemployment	11,125	10,025	11,650
Unemployment Rate	8.5	7.7	8.8

Number of Unemployed

July: 2005 - 2012



Hot Springs MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Jul 12	Jun 12	Jul 11
Total Nonfarm	36,800	36,900	38,600
Goods Producing	4,000	4,000	4,100
Service Providing	32,800	32,900	34,500
Government	4,900	5,300	4,600

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Jul 12	Jun 12	Jul 11
Civilian Labor Force	43,675	43,425	45,125
Employment	40,175	40,100	41,375
Unemployment	3,500	3,325	3,750
Unemployment Rate	8.0	7.6	8.3

Jonesboro MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Jul 12	Jun 12	Jul 11
Total Nonfarm	48,700	49,700	49,100
Goods Producing	8,500	8,500	8,700
Service Providing	40,200	41,200	40,400
Government	7,800	8,300	8,100

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Jul 12	Jun 12	Jul 11
Civilian Labor Force	60,375	60,450	60,100
Employment	55,750	56,150	55,225
Unemployment	4,625	4,300	4,875
Unemployment Rate	7.6	7.1	8.1

Pine Bluff MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Jul 12	Jun 12	Jul 11
Total Nonfarm	36,300	36,900	36,100
Goods Producing	7,300	7,300	7,500
Service Providing	29,000	29,600	28,600
Government	9,600	10,200	9,800

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Jul 12	Jun 12	Jul 11
Civilian Labor Force	45,025	45,050	44,750
Employment	40,625	40,925	39,875
Unemployment	4,400	4,125	4,875
Unemployment Rate	9.8	9.2	10.9

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

State of Arkansas

(Seasonally Adjusted)

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Jul 12</u>	<u>Jun 12</u>	<u>Jul 11</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>Jul 12</u>	<u>Jun 12</u>	<u>Jul 11</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	1,383,000	1,386,400	1,364,900	-3,400	18,100	1,404,600	1,401,600	1,382,500	3,000	22,100
Employment	1,282,300	1,287,100	1,253,500	-4,800	28,800	1,295,300	1,299,000	1,264,900	-3,700	30,400
Unemployment	100,700	99,300	111,400	1,400	-10,700	109,300	102,600	117,600	6,700	-8,300
Unemployment Rate	7.3	7.2	8.2	0.1	-0.9	7.8	7.3	8.5	0.5	-0.7
U.S. Unemployment Rate	8.3	8.2	9.1	0.1	-0.8	8.6	8.4	9.3	0.2	-0.7

Out-of-State MSAs

Memphis, Tennessee

Texarkana, Texas

	<u>Jul 12</u>	<u>Jun 12</u>	<u>Jul 11</u>		<u>Jul 12</u>	<u>Jun 12</u>	<u>Jul 11</u>
Civilian Labor Force	632,625	631,325	633,425	Civilian Labor Force	69,550	69,475	65,425
Employment	571,850	570,950	568,375	Employment	64,675	64,675	60,150
Unemployment	60,775	60,375	65,050	Unemployment	4,875	4,800	5,275
Unemployment Rate	9.6	9.6	10.3	Unemployment Rate	7.0	6.9	8.1

Unemployment Rates by County

Between June and July, unemployment rates increased in 73 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Only Mississippi County enjoyed a rate decrease, while Miller County remained the same. Jobless rates ranged from a low of 5.1 percent in Carroll County to a high of 12.7 percent in Clay County.

In July, three counties enjoyed unemployment rates at or below six percent. Twenty-one counties posted rates at or above ten percent, up from twelve counties in June.

Compared to July 2011, jobless rates are down in 70 counties. Five counties posted over-the-year rate increases.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Jul 12</u>	<u>Jun 12</u>	<u>Jul 11</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Jul 12</u>	<u>Jun 12</u>	<u>Jul 11</u>
14	Arkansas	7.2	7.1	10.9	74	Lee	12.3	11.0	12.0
73	Ashley	11.9	11.4	10.9	55	Lincoln	10.0	8.9	9.9
29	Baxter	8.0	7.7	8.6	17	Little River	7.3	6.9	8.4
4	Benton	6.2	5.7	6.8	43	Logan	8.6	7.9	9.3
17	Boone	7.3	6.7	7.1	6	Lonoke	6.5	6.1	6.9
57	Bradley	10.1	9.8	11.8	2	Madison	5.6	5.3	6.3
48	Calhoun	9.3	8.8	10.2	41	Marion	8.4	7.8	9.4
1	Carroll	5.1	4.9	5.9	5	Miller	6.3	6.3	7.3
64	Chicot	10.6	10.0	12.7	61	Mississippi	10.3	11.2	12.3
60	Clark	10.2	9.9	10.5	45	Monroe	9.0	8.2	9.6
75	Clay	12.7	12.0	14.9	21	Montgomery	7.4	6.8	7.6
17	Cleburne	7.3	6.8	8.0	11	Nevada	7.0	6.4	9.5
13	Cleveland	7.1	6.2	7.9	26	Newton	7.7	7.1	8.2
51	Columbia	9.4	9.1	10.4	53	Ouachita	9.6	9.2	10.2
29	Conway	8.0	7.5	8.8	33	Perry	8.1	7.6	9.0
23	Craighead	7.5	7.0	7.9	71	Phillips	11.6	10.7	12.3
37	Crawford	8.2	7.7	8.6	44	Pike	8.9	8.4	9.6
67	Crittenden	11.0	10.9	13.4	37	Poinsett	8.2	7.3	9.0
41	Cross	8.4	7.7	8.7	37	Polk	8.2	7.6	8.7
65	Dallas	10.7	10.3	11.1	33	Pope	8.1	7.6	8.8
68	Desha	11.1	10.3	12.7	27	Prairie	7.8	7.2	8.3
71	Drew	11.6	10.7	12.6	14	Pulaski	7.2	6.8	7.8
11	Faulkner	7.0	6.5	7.5	63	Randolph	10.5	9.9	10.9
21	Franklin	7.4	7.3	7.9	69	St. Francis	11.2	10.5	12.2
25	Fulton	7.6	7.0	8.1	7	Saline	6.6	6.2	6.9
29	Garland	8.0	7.6	8.3	14	Scott	7.2	6.6	7.4
8	Grant	6.7	6.4	7.1	29	Searcy	8.0	7.4	8.7
54	Greene	9.7	8.9	10.7	33	Sebastian	8.1	7.1	8.3
23	Hempstead	7.5	7.0	8.9	33	Sevier	8.1	7.7	9.0
9	Hot Spring	6.8	6.4	7.9	57	Sharp	10.1	9.4	10.4
17	Howard	7.3	6.6	8.6	52	Stone	9.5	9.2	10.6
46	Independence	9.1	8.5	10.0	47	Union	9.2	8.7	10.1
48	Izard	9.3	8.6	10.4	48	Van Buren	9.3	8.3	10.0
55	Jackson	10.0	9.4	11.2	3	Washington	6.0	5.6	6.5
57	Jefferson	10.1	9.5	11.4	40	White	8.3	7.9	9.3
27	Johnson	7.8	7.0	8.2	69	Woodruff	11.2	10.9	11.4
66	Lafayette	10.8	9.8	10.4	9	Yell	6.8	6.5	7.4
61	Lawrence	10.3	9.3	10.7					

Lowest Rates

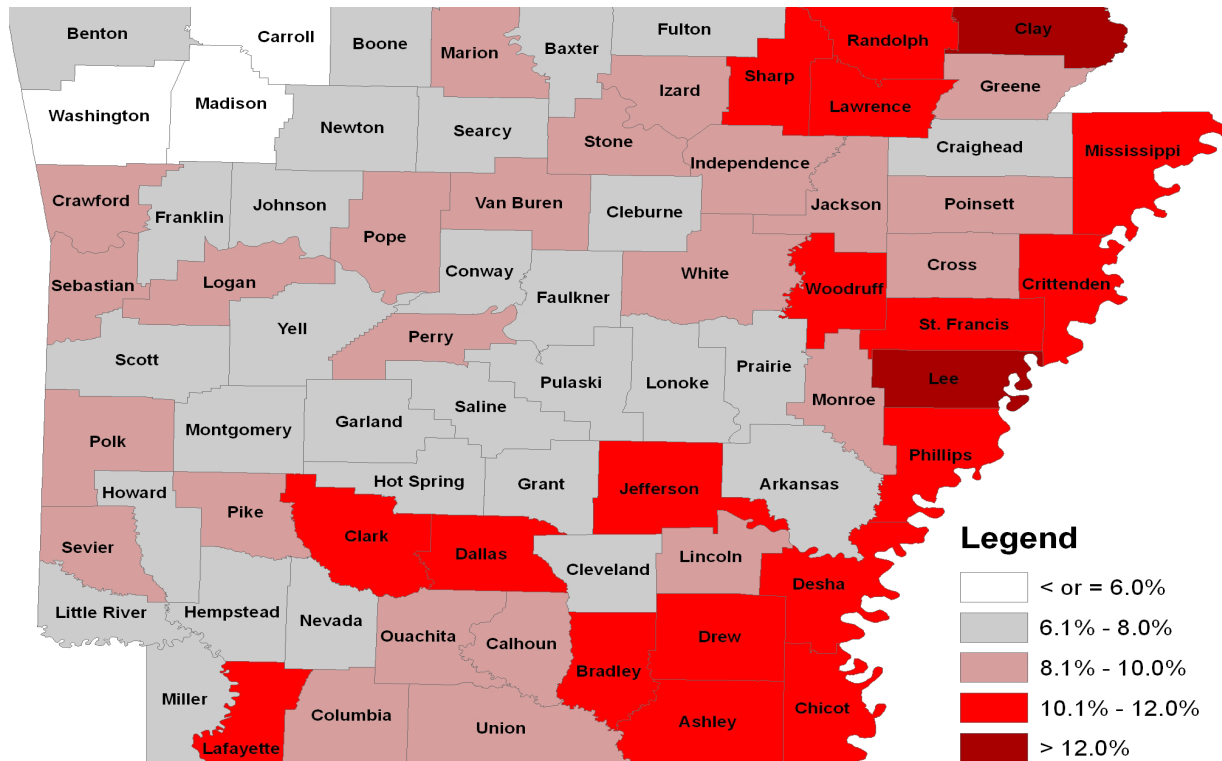
<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1	Carroll	5.1
2	Madison	5.6
3	Washington	6.0
4	Benton	6.2
5	Miller	6.3

Highest Rates

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
71	Drew	11.6
71	Phillips	11.6
73	Ashley	11.9
74	Lee	12.3
75	Clay	12.7

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 2011 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

July 2012

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.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.



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