

Arkansas Labor Market

May 2012

Employment Headlines

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Increases to 7.3 Percent

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Up 4,100 in May

Employment Quick Facts

Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted

	<u>May 12</u>	<u>Apr 12</u>	<u>May 11</u>
AR Unemployment Rate	7.3	7.2	8.1
US Unemployment Rate	8.2	8.1	9.0

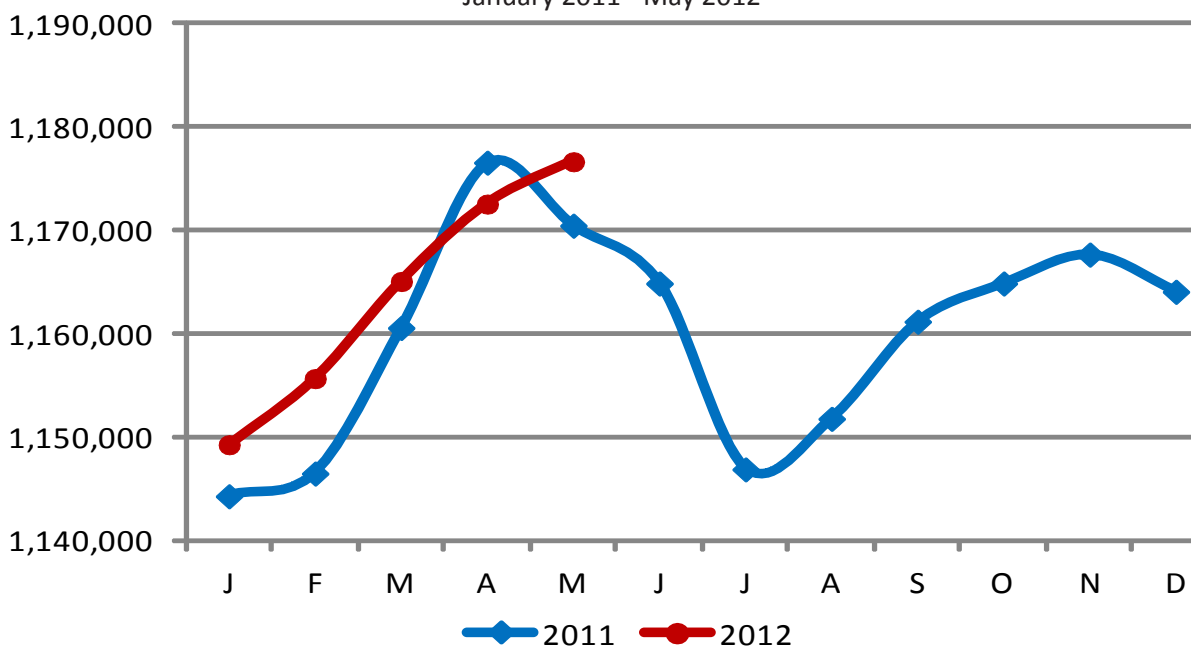
Nonfarm Payroll Summary

State of Arkansas

	<u>May 12</u>	<u>Apr 12</u>	<u>May 11</u>
Total Nonfarm	1,176,700	1,172,600	1,170,500
Goods Producing	213,700	211,300	217,900
Service Providing	963,000	961,300	952,600

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

State of Arkansas
January 2011 - May 2012



Nonfarm Payroll Employment

State of Arkansas

April 2012 - May 2012

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs increased 4,100 in May to total 1,176,700. Eight major industry sectors posted gains, more than offsetting minor declines in three sectors. **Manufacturing** added 1,800 jobs. Most of the increase occurred in durable goods (+1,300), attributed to reported hiring in the manufacturing of transportation equipment, miscellaneous products and fabricated metal products. Employment in **professional and business services** rose 1,000, related to reported gains in landscaping services and at employment agencies. **Construction** added 500 jobs, a typical weather-related expansion. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** increased 500. Seasonal hiring in arts, entertainment, and recreation more than offset the decline in food services.

May 2011 - May 2012

Since May 2011, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 6,200. Five major industry sectors posted gains, with three adding 3,700 or more jobs, each. **Leisure and hospitality** increased 4,900. A majority of the gain occurred in food services (+4,000). **Educational and health services** added 4,500 jobs. Most of the growth was reported in health care and social assistance (+3,300). Jobs in **government** rose 3,700. The gain occurred in local government (+4,700), attributed mostly to public school expansions. **Manufacturing** decreased 2,900, related to continued layoffs and closures.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	May 12	Apr 12	May 11
Total Nonfarm	1,176,700	1,172,600	1,170,500
Goods Producing	213,700	211,300	217,900
Mining & Logging	11,100	11,000	10,800
Construction	45,200	44,700	46,800
Specialty Trade Contractors	27,600	27,700	27,600
Manufacturing	157,400	155,600	160,300
Durable Goods	81,500	80,200	79,100
Nondurable Goods	75,900	75,400	81,200
Service Providing	963,000	961,300	952,600
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	235,700	236,200	236,200
Wholesale Trade	46,500	46,300	46,300
Retail Trade	128,600	129,500	130,200
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	60,600	60,400	59,700
Information	14,300	14,200	14,800
Financial Activities	47,200	46,700	48,300
Finance & Insurance	34,700	34,400	35,300
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,500	12,300	13,000
Professional & Business Services	117,300	116,300	119,100
Professional, Scientific & Technical	36,700	36,800	38,100
Management of Companies	26,900	26,800	25,700
Administrative & Support Services	53,700	52,700	55,300
Educational & Health Services	171,400	171,600	166,900
Health Care & Social Assistance	155,800	155,800	152,500
Ambulatory Health Care	47,500	47,300	45,400
Social Assistance	35,000	35,600	34,500
Leisure & Hospitality	106,800	106,300	101,900
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	10,800	10,100	10,200
Accommodation & Food Services	96,000	96,200	91,700
Accommodation Services	11,800	11,500	11,500
Food Services	84,200	84,700	80,200
Other Services	44,400	44,500	43,200
Government	225,900	225,500	222,200
Federal Government	20,100	20,100	21,100
State Government	77,200	78,900	77,200
Local Government	128,600	126,500	123,900

Hours & Earnings of Arkansas Production Workers

(Manufacturing Industries)

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	May 12	Apr 12	May 11	May 12	Apr 12	May 11	May 12	Apr 12	May 11
Manufacturing	\$618.10	\$633.18	\$594.22	41.4	42.1	40.7	\$14.93	\$15.04	\$14.60
Durable Goods	673.51	696.60	659.75	42.6	43.0	40.6	15.81	16.20	16.25
Nondurable Goods	561.59	568.15	535.70	40.2	41.2	40.8	13.97	13.79	13.13

Spotlight

A Comparative Look at Unemployment

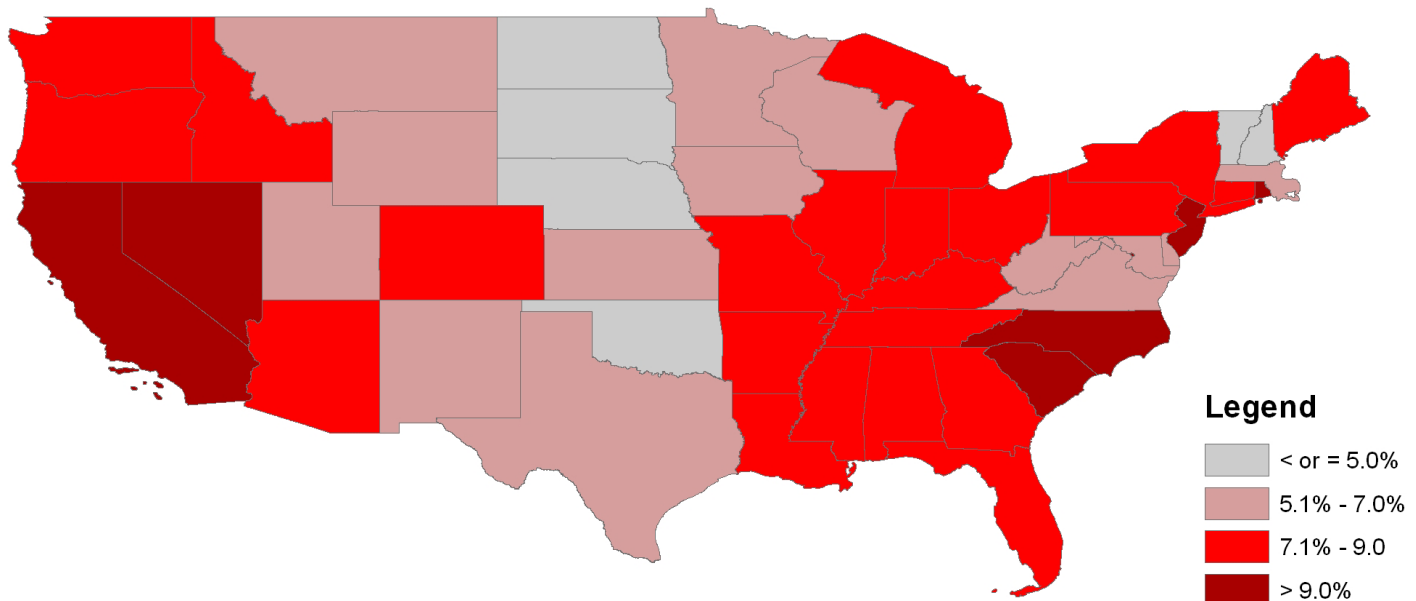
Due to differing economies and labor force conditions in various parts of the country, unemployment rates vary greatly from state to state. In May 2012, state jobless rates ranged from a low of 3.0 percent in North Dakota to a high of 11.6 percent in Nevada. The unemployment rate in Arkansas generally falls somewhere in the middle, ranking 24th in May with a rate of 7.3 percent. 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 by Rank (Seasonally Adjusted)
May 2012

Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	North Dakota	3.0	20	West Virginia	6.9	40	Illinois	8.6
2	Nebraska	3.9	22	Alaska	7.0	40	New York	8.6
3	South Dakota	4.3	23	Louisiana	7.2	43	Mississippi	8.7
4	Vermont	4.6	24	Arkansas	7.3	44	Georgia	8.9
5	Oklahoma	4.8	24	Missouri	7.3	45	South Carolina	9.1
6	New Hampshire	5.0	24	Ohio	7.3	46	New Jersey	9.2
7	Iowa	5.1	27	Alabama	7.4	47	District of Columbia	9.3
8	Wyoming	5.2	27	Maine	7.4	48	North Carolina	9.4
9	Minnesota	5.6	27	Pennsylvania	7.4	49	California	10.8
9	Virginia	5.6	30	Connecticut	7.8	50	Rhode Island	11.0
11	Massachusetts	6.0	30	Idaho	7.8	51	Nevada	11.6
11	Utah	6.0	32	Indiana	7.9			
13	Kansas	6.1	32	Tennessee	7.9			
14	Hawaii	6.3	34	Colorado	8.1			
14	Montana	6.3	35	Arizona	8.2			
16	New Mexico	6.7	35	Kentucky	8.2			
17	Delaware	6.8	37	Washington	8.3			
17	Maryland	6.8	38	Oregon	8.4			
17	Wisconsin	6.8	39	Michigan	8.5			
20	Texas	6.9	40	Florida	8.6			

U.S. Unemployment Rate = 8.2 Percent

Unemployment Rates by State (Seasonally Adjusted)
May 2012



Continental U.S. Only

Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

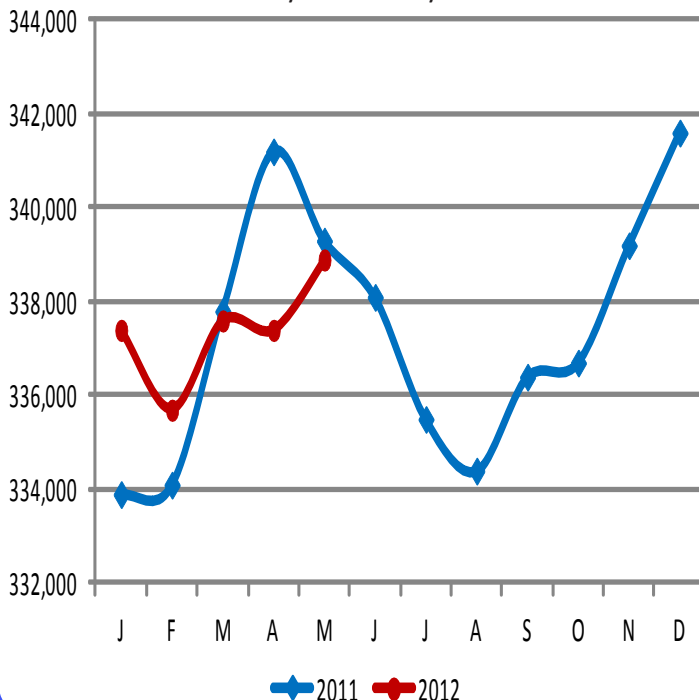
(NAICS)	May 12	Apr 12	May 11
Total Nonfarm	338,900	337,400	339,300
Goods Producing	35,900	36,000	36,500
Mining, Logging & Construction	16,800	17,000	16,700
Manufacturing	19,100	19,000	19,800
Service Providing	303,000	301,400	302,800
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	65,900	64,700	64,900
Wholesale Trade	16,300	16,200	16,100
Retail Trade	36,600	35,600	36,100
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	13,000	12,900	12,700
Information	7,300	7,300	7,700
Financial Activities	18,700	18,700	19,000
Professional & Business Services	43,100	42,000	44,000
Educational & Health Services	50,700	50,700	50,400
Leisure & Hospitality	31,000	31,300	30,100
Other Services	15,300	15,200	15,200
Government	71,000	71,500	71,500
Federal Government	9,300	9,400	9,500
State Government	33,600	34,100	33,400
Local Government	28,100	28,000	28,600

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	May 12	Apr 12	May 11
Civilian Labor Force	350,325	348,950	347,375
Employment	327,000	327,375	323,225
Unemployment	23,325	21,575	24,150
Unemployment Rate	6.7	6.2	6.9

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs January 2011 - May 2012



Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

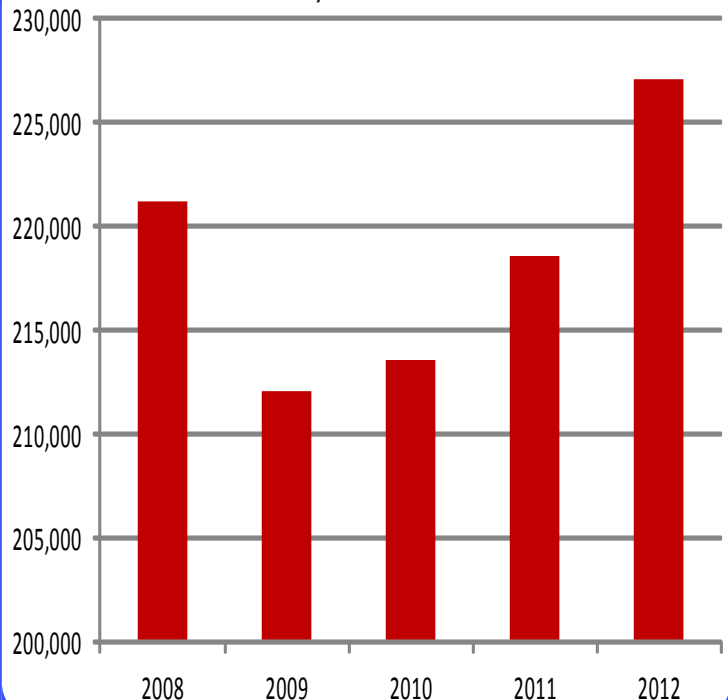
(NAICS)	May 12	Apr 12	May 11
Total Nonfarm	210,500	210,600	204,800
Goods Producing	35,700	34,700	35,700
Mining, Logging & Construction	7,800	7,500	7,700
Manufacturing	27,900	27,200	28,000
Service Providing	174,800	175,900	169,100
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	46,600	47,400	45,900
Wholesale Trade	10,100	10,100	9,800
Retail Trade	21,800	21,900	21,200
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	14,700	15,400	14,900
Information	1,900	1,900	1,900
Financial Activities	7,000	7,000	7,200
Professional & Business Services	37,000	37,600	35,600
Educational & Health Services	23,800	23,900	22,600
Leisure & Hospitality	20,600	20,500	19,200
Other Services	7,200	7,200	6,900
Government	30,700	30,400	29,800
Federal Government	2,300	2,300	2,400
State Government	10,400	10,200	9,800
Local Government	18,000	17,900	17,600

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	May 12	Apr 12	May 11
Civilian Labor Force	240,825	240,825	232,750
Employment	227,125	228,150	218,575
Unemployment	13,700	12,675	14,175
Unemployment Rate	5.7	5.3	6.1

Number of Employed May: 2008 - 2012



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fort Smith MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	May 12	Apr 12	May 11
Total Nonfarm	110,600	110,000	115,600
Goods Producing	26,100	25,600	27,700
Mining, Logging & Construction	6,800	6,700	7,100
Manufacturing	19,300	18,900	20,600
Service Providing	84,500	84,400	87,900
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	23,300	23,400	24,000
Wholesale Trade	3,900	3,900	4,000
Retail Trade	12,500	12,600	13,000
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	6,900	6,900	7,000
Information	1,100	1,100	1,100
Financial Activities	3,600	3,600	4,100
Professional & Business Services	9,500	9,500	10,100
Educational & Health Services	15,000	15,000	16,100
Leisure & Hospitality	8,700	8,600	8,800
Other Services	4,200	4,200	4,400
Government	19,100	19,000	19,300
Federal Government	1,600	1,600	1,600
State Government	3,400	3,400	3,400
Local Government	14,100	14,000	14,300

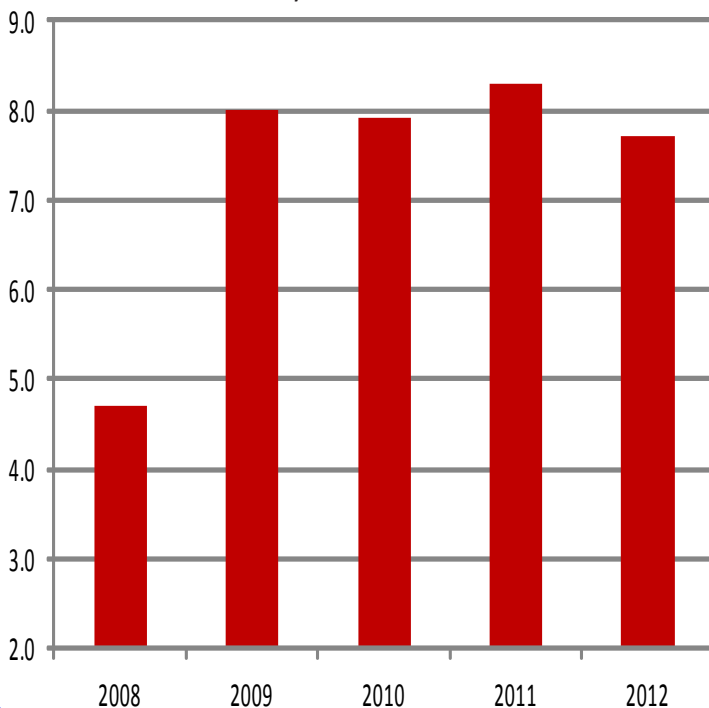
(The following counties make up the Fort Smith MSA: Crawford, Franklin, and Sebastian in Arkansas and LeFlore and Sequoyah in Oklahoma.)

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	May 12	Apr 12	May 11
Civilian Labor Force	128,875	128,050	134,050
Employment	119,000	118,625	122,850
Unemployment	9,875	9,425	11,200
Unemployment Rate	7.7	7.3	8.3

Unemployment Rates

May: 2008 - 2012



Hot Springs MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	May 12	Apr 12	May 11
Total Nonfarm	36,500	36,600	36,900
Goods Producing	4,000	4,000	4,000
Service Providing	32,500	32,600	32,900
Government	5,700	5,600	4,900

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	May 12	Apr 12	May 11
Civilian Labor Force	42,325	42,375	42,425
Employment	39,025	39,325	38,900
Unemployment	3,300	3,050	3,525
Unemployment Rate	7.8	7.2	8.3

Jonesboro MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	May 12	Apr 12	May 11
Total Nonfarm	49,500	49,800	49,700
Goods Producing	8,500	8,500	8,500
Service Providing	41,000	41,300	41,200
Government	8,700	8,600	8,600

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	May 12	Apr 12	May 11
Civilian Labor Force	59,725	59,775	59,325
Employment	55,525	55,900	54,800
Unemployment	4,200	3,875	4,525
Unemployment Rate	7.0	6.5	7.6

Pine Bluff MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	May 12	Apr 12	May 11
Total Nonfarm	37,100	36,800	36,800
Goods Producing	7,300	7,300	7,500
Service Providing	29,800	29,500	29,300
Government	10,400	10,500	10,700

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	May 12	Apr 12	May 11
Civilian Labor Force	44,775	44,350	44,250
Employment	40,675	40,525	39,850
Unemployment	4,100	3,825	4,400
Unemployment Rate	9.2	8.7	10.0

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

State of Arkansas

(Seasonally Adjusted)

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>May 12</u>	<u>Apr 12</u>	<u>May 11</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>May 12</u>	<u>Apr 12</u>	<u>May 11</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	1,390,400	1,390,200	1,366,700	200	23,700	1,392,400	1,385,900	1,373,000	6,500	19,400
Employment	1,289,400	1,289,500	1,256,200	-100	33,200	1,290,200	1,290,200	1,264,600	0	25,600
Unemployment	101,000	100,700	110,500	300	-9,500	102,200	95,700	108,400	6,500	-6,200
Unemployment Rate	7.3	7.2	8.1	0.1	-0.8	7.3	6.9	7.9	0.4	-0.6
U.S. Unemployment Rate	8.2	8.1	9.0	0.1	-0.8	7.9	7.7	8.7	0.2	-0.8

Out-of-State MSAs

Memphis, Tennessee

	<u>May 12</u>	<u>Apr 12</u>	<u>May 11</u>
Civilian Labor Force	620,575	614,675	619,025
Employment	565,875	563,275	557,450
Unemployment	54,700	51,400	61,575
Unemployment Rate	8.8	8.4	9.9

Texarkana, Texas

	<u>May 12</u>	<u>Apr 12</u>	<u>May 11</u>
Civilian Labor Force	68,675	67,800	66,475
Employment	64,200	63,525	61,600
Unemployment	4,475	4,275	4,875
Unemployment Rate	6.5	6.3	7.3

Unemployment Rates by County

Between April and May, unemployment rates increased in 68 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Jobless rates declined in four counties, while remaining stable in three. Rates ranged from a low of 5.1 percent in Carroll County to a high of 12.2 percent in Clay County.

In May, five counties enjoyed unemployment rates at or below six percent. Twelve counties posted jobless rates at or above ten percent, up from nine counties in April.

Compared to May 2011, unemployment rates are down in 69 counties. Five counties posted jobless rate increases, while one county remained the same.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>May 12</u>	<u>Apr 12</u>	<u>May 11</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>May 12</u>	<u>Apr 12</u>	<u>May 11</u>
30	Arkansas	7.4	7.3	11.0	72	Lee	10.8	10.4	11.1
74	Ashley	11.1	11.4	10.4	51	Lincoln	9.1	8.6	8.3
40	Baxter	7.9	7.5	8.2	18	Little River	6.9	6.6	7.5
4	Benton	5.7	5.3	6.0	40	Logan	7.9	7.6	8.6
15	Boone	6.8	6.8	6.9	6	Lonoke	6.3	5.6	6.6
67	Bradley	10.3	10.4	11.4	2	Madison	5.3	5.0	6.0
59	Calhoun	9.3	9.2	9.1	43	Marion	8.0	7.7	9.0
1	Carroll	5.1	5.0	5.9	5	Miller	5.9	6.3	6.8
64	Chicot	10.0	9.8	11.8	64	Mississippi	10.0	8.9	11.1
55	Clark	9.2	8.9	9.2	37	Monroe	7.8	7.7	8.6
75	Clay	12.2	11.7	13.2	33	Montgomery	7.6	7.1	8.3
21	Cleburne	7.0	6.7	8.0	18	Nevada	6.9	6.2	10.0
18	Cleveland	6.9	6.8	8.0	24	Newton	7.2	6.5	7.5
55	Columbia	9.2	8.3	9.4	51	Ouachita	9.1	8.8	8.9
30	Conway	7.4	7.1	8.1	33	Perry	7.6	7.4	8.8
21	Craighead	7.0	6.4	7.4	68	Phillips	10.4	10.0	11.0
37	Crawford	7.8	7.3	8.2	45	Pike	8.2	7.8	9.4
73	Crittenden	11.0	11.6	12.0	24	Poinsett	7.2	6.9	8.7
36	Cross	7.7	7.3	8.4	33	Polk	7.6	7.2	8.0
64	Dallas	10.0	10.0	11.2	27	Pope	7.3	6.5	7.8
69	Desha	10.6	10.2	12.0	27	Prairie	7.3	6.8	7.9
69	Drew	10.6	10.5	11.6	15	Pulaski	6.8	6.3	7.1
8	Faulkner	6.5	6.2	6.9	63	Randolph	9.9	9.4	10.2
24	Franklin	7.2	6.8	7.1	69	St. Francis	10.6	9.8	10.8
15	Fulton	6.8	6.2	7.3	7	Saline	6.4	6.0	6.5
37	Garland	7.8	7.2	8.3	11	Scott	6.7	5.9	6.8
11	Grant	6.7	6.3	7.4	30	Searcy	7.4	7.2	8.1
49	Greene	8.7	8.6	9.5	27	Sebastian	7.3	7.0	8.0
21	Hempstead	7.0	6.8	8.3	40	Sevier	7.9	7.3	8.1
11	Hot Spring	6.7	6.1	7.7	61	Sharp	9.5	8.9	10.2
11	Howard	6.7	6.4	7.9	51	Stone	9.1	8.8	9.9
48	Independence	8.6	7.8	8.7	50	Union	9.0	8.4	9.7
46	Izard	8.3	7.5	9.2	47	Van Buren	8.5	8.0	9.5
55	Jackson	9.2	8.9	10.5	3	Washington	5.6	5.1	6.0
60	Jefferson	9.4	8.9	10.4	43	White	8.0	7.5	8.7
8	Johnson	6.5	6.0	7.5	62	Woodruff	9.8	9.8	10.9
55	Lafayette	9.2	8.9	10.0	8	Yell	6.5	5.3	6.6
51	Lawrence	9.1	8.3	10.1					

Lowest Rates

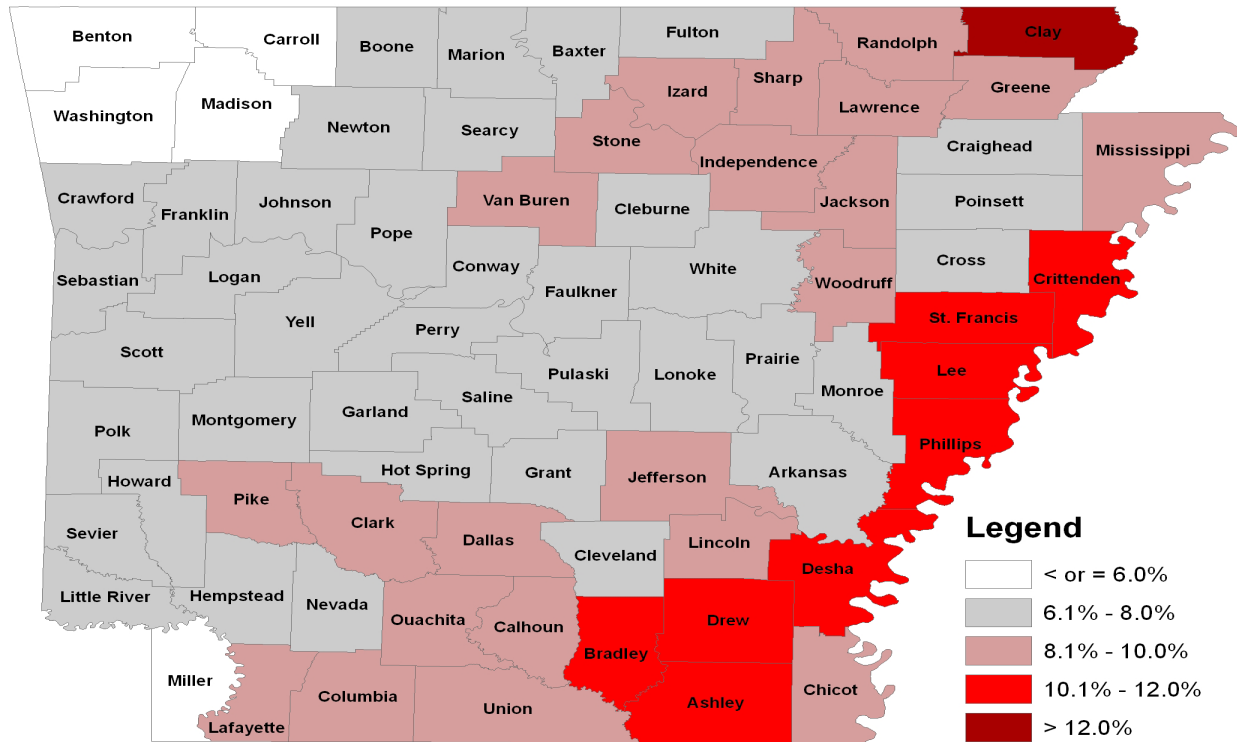
<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1	Carroll	5.1
2	Madison	5.3
3	Washington	5.6
4	Benton	5.7
5	Miller	5.9

Highest Rates

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
72	Lee	10.8
73	Crittenden	11.0
74	Ashley	11.1
75	Clay	12.2

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

May 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.

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