

Arkansas Labor Market

August 2013

Employment Headlines

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains Stable at 7.4 Percent
 Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Up 3,500 in August

Employment Quick Facts

Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted

	<u>Aug 13</u>	<u>Jul 13</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>
AR Unemployment Rate	7.4	7.4	7.3
US Unemployment Rate	7.3	7.4	8.1

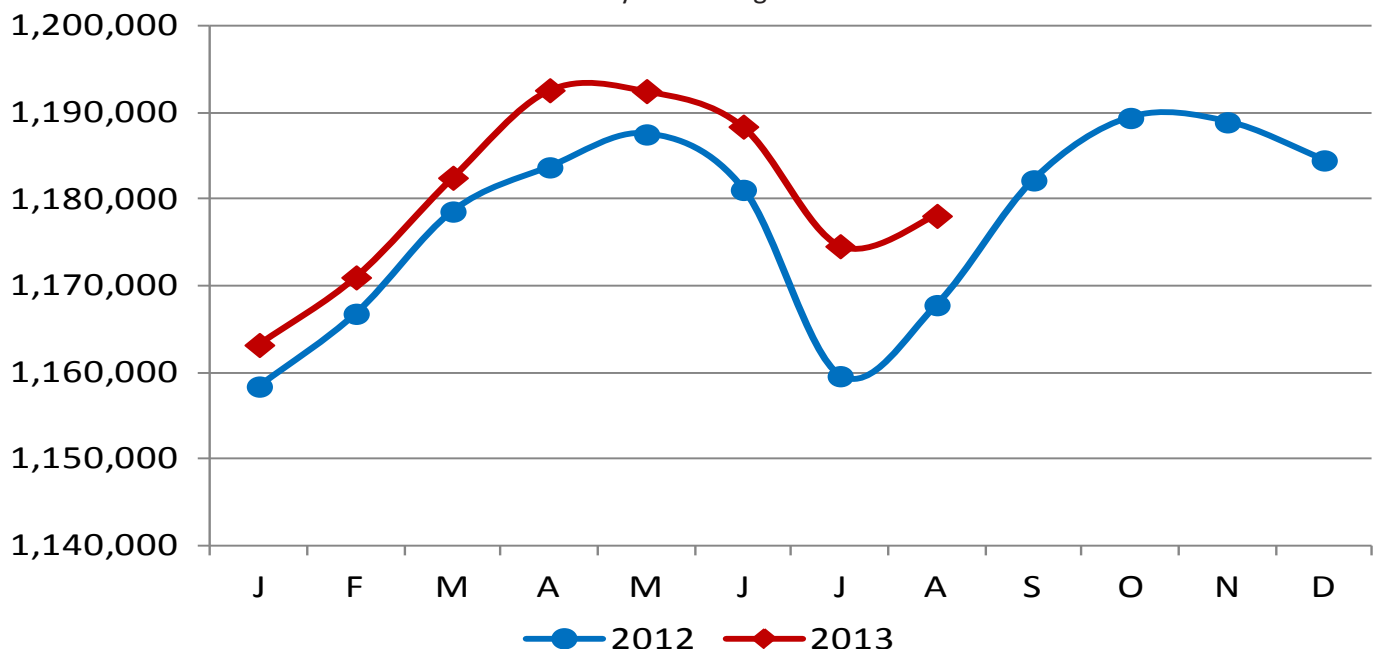
Nonfarm Payroll Summary

State of Arkansas

	<u>Aug 13</u>	<u>Jul 13</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>
Total Nonfarm	1,178,100	1,174,600	1,167,800
Goods Producing	213,800	212,300	215,000
Service Providing	964,300	962,300	952,800

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

State of Arkansas
 January 2012 - August 2013



Nonfarm Payroll Employment

State of Arkansas

July 2013 - August 2013

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 3,500 in August to total 1,178,100. Eight major industry sectors posted gains, while three sectors declined. Jobs in **government** rose 3,900. Increases occurred in both local (+2,500) and state (+1,500) government, reflecting the start of the 2013/2014 school year. **Construction** added 1,200 jobs. A majority of the increase occurred in specialty trade contractors (+900), with reported hiring in site preparation contractors and plumbing-heating-air conditioning contractors. Employment in **trade, transportation, and utilities** dropped 1,900. Most of the loss occurred in wholesale (-900) and retail (-900) trade. **Leisure and hospitality** decreased 1,000. Accommodation and food services posted a majority of the decline (-800).

August 2012 - August 2013

Since August 2012, Arkansas' nonfarm employment rose 10,300. Five major industry sectors posted growth, more than offsetting decreases in six sectors. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** enjoyed the greatest increase, adding 8,400 jobs. A majority of the gain was reported in retail trade (+6,200). Employment in **educational and health services** rose 4,600. Growth was posted in both health care and social assistance (+2,700) and educational services (+1,900). Jobs in **professional and business services** increased 1,800. Most of the additions were reported in professional, scientific, and technical services (+1,500). **Leisure and hospitality** declined 1,900.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Aug 13	Jul 13	Aug 12
Total Nonfarm	1,178,100	1,174,600	1,167,800
Goods Producing	213,800	212,300	215,000
Mining & Logging	10,500	10,400	10,400
Construction	48,300	47,100	48,500
Specialty Trade Contractors	30,800	29,900	29,900
Manufacturing	155,000	154,800	156,100
Durable Goods	78,400	78,600	77,700
Nondurable Goods	76,600	76,200	78,400
Service Providing	964,300	962,300	952,800
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	250,100	252,000	241,700
Wholesale Trade	46,100	47,000	47,500
Retail Trade	138,700	139,600	132,500
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	65,300	65,400	61,700
Information	14,400	14,600	14,500
Financial Activities	49,700	49,300	49,300
Finance & Insurance	36,200	35,900	35,900
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13,500	13,400	13,400
Professional & Business Services	125,900	125,800	124,100
Professional, Scientific & Technical	39,500	39,500	38,000
Management of Companies	32,000	32,000	31,100
Administrative & Support Services	54,400	54,300	55,000
Educational & Health Services	174,900	174,400	170,300
Educational Services	14,100	13,400	12,200
Health Care & Social Assistance	160,800	161,000	158,100
Ambulatory Health Care	49,200	50,200	48,000
Social Assistance	37,500	36,800	35,900
Leisure & Hospitality	104,100	105,100	106,000
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	10,600	10,800	11,100
Accommodation & Food Services	93,500	94,300	94,900
Accommodation Services	11,400	11,600	11,700
Food Services	82,100	82,700	83,200
Other Services	42,100	41,900	43,500
Government	203,100	199,200	203,400
Federal Government	19,900	20,000	20,500
State Government	73,000	71,500	72,200
Local Government	110,200	107,700	110,700

Hours and Earnings of Arkansas Production Workers

(Manufacturing Industries)

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Aug 13	Jul 13	Aug 12	Aug 13	Jul 13	Aug 12	Aug 13	Jul 13	Aug 12
Manufacturing	\$652.54	\$646.50	\$633.95	41.3	41.1	41.9	\$15.80	\$15.73	\$15.13
Durable Goods	703.91	684.70	687.04	41.8	41.0	42.7	16.84	16.70	16.09
Nondurable Goods	604.66	609.51	584.63	40.8	41.1	41.2	14.82	14.83	14.19

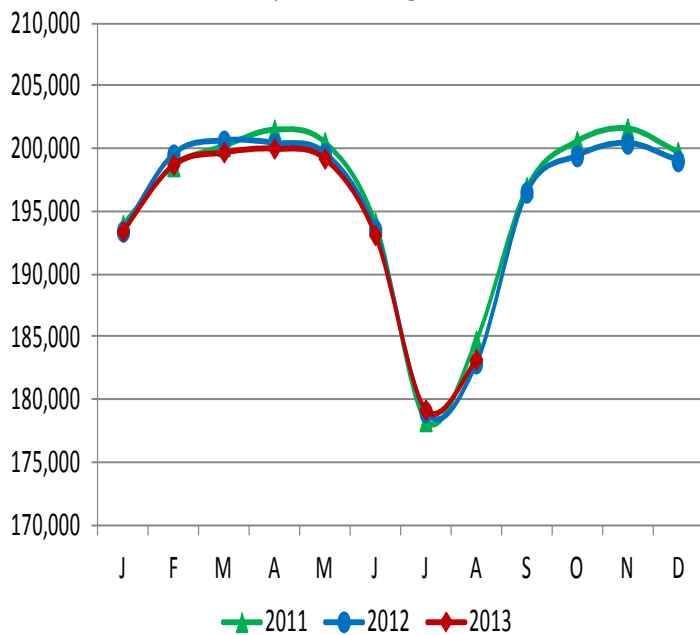
Spotlight

Seasonal Employment Trends (Part 1 of 2)

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 one of the most obvious examples 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 the holiday-related drop in January.

Chart 1. Employment in State and Local Government
January 2011 - August 2013



While employment at public universities and public secondary schools falls under state and local government, employment at *private* universities and *private* secondary schools falls under educational services. This is a subsector under **educational and health services**. With the exception of the few schools that utilize a three-quarter system, the majority of private schools operate on the same August to May schedule as public schools. Chart 2 shows the seasonal employment trends of private educational services, which mirrors the trend seen in state and local government.

Leisure and hospitality is another sector affected by seasonal 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 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 2. Employment in Educational Services
January 2011 - August 2013

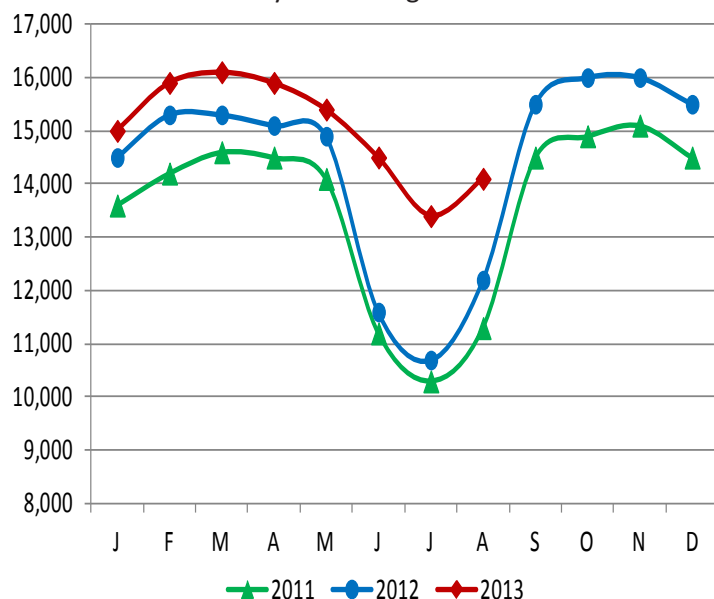
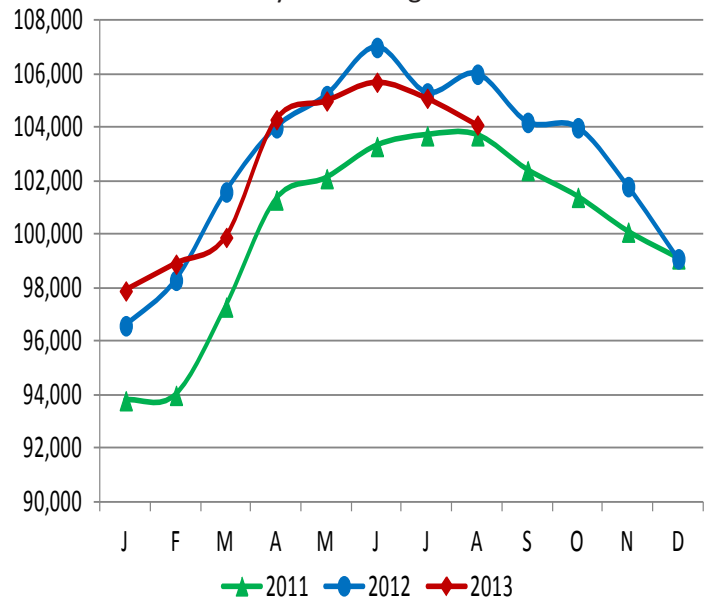


Chart 3. Employment in Leisure and Hospitality
January 2011 - August 2013



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

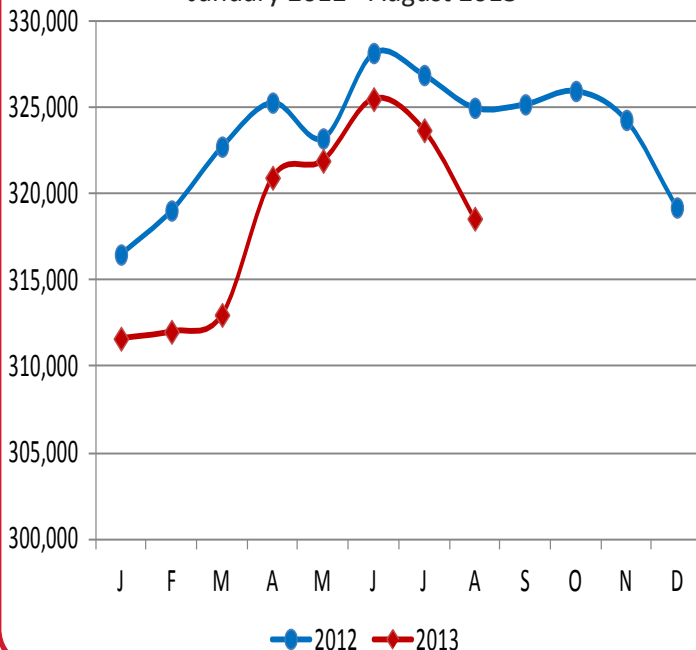
NAICS	Aug 13	Jul 13	Aug 12
Total Nonfarm	347,200	347,000	340,800
Goods Producing	37,000	36,900	37,100
Mining, Logging & Construction	17,100	17,000	17,100
Manufacturing	19,900	19,900	20,000
Service Providing	310,200	310,100	303,700
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	70,300	70,500	66,300
Wholesale Trade	15,700	15,800	15,900
Retail Trade	40,300	40,300	36,800
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	14,300	14,400	13,600
Information	7,100	7,100	7,300
Financial Activities	19,800	19,900	20,000
Professional & Business Services	45,400	45,200	43,700
Educational & Health Services	53,600	53,600	51,700
Leisure & Hospitality	30,700	31,100	31,000
Other Services	15,700	15,800	15,600
Government	67,600	66,900	68,100
Federal Government	9,200	9,300	9,400
State Government	32,000	31,500	32,200
Local Government	26,400	26,100	26,500

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

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Aug 13	Jul 13	Aug 12
Civilian Labor Force	340,750	347,175	347,550
Employment	318,575	323,700	325,000
Unemployment	22,175	23,475	22,550
Unemployment Rate	6.5	6.8	6.5

Number of Employed
January 2012 - August 2013



Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

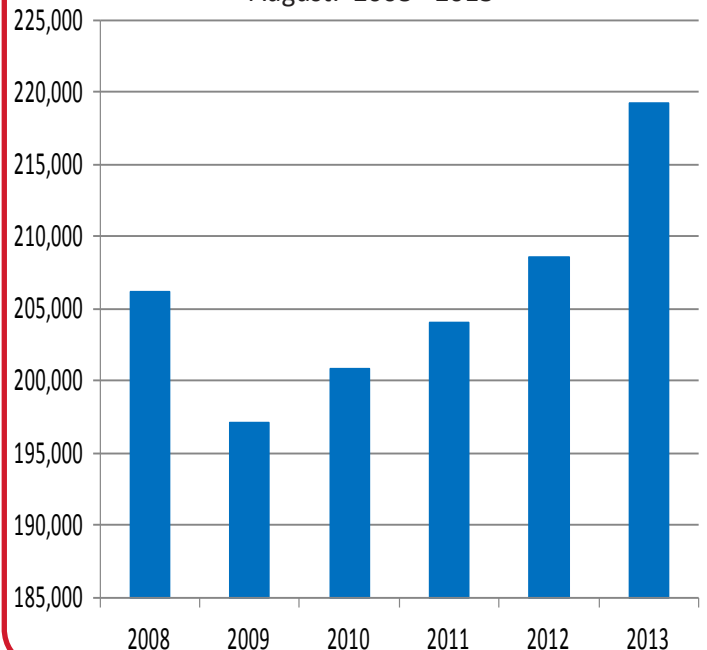
NAICS	Aug 13	Jul 13	Aug 12
Total Nonfarm	219,300	217,700	208,600
Goods Producing	36,000	35,900	35,100
Mining, Logging & Construction	9,000	8,900	8,300
Manufacturing	27,000	27,000	26,800
Service Providing	183,300	181,800	173,500
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	50,600	50,800	47,700
Wholesale Trade	11,100	11,200	10,400
Retail Trade	23,700	23,800	22,200
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	15,800	15,800	15,100
Information	2,000	2,000	1,900
Financial Activities	6,600	6,500	6,400
Professional & Business Services	41,900	41,800	38,800
Educational & Health Services	25,100	24,900	23,400
Leisure & Hospitality	22,100	22,100	21,000
Other Services	7,100	7,100	6,700
Government	27,900	26,600	27,600
Federal Government	2,300	2,300	2,400
State Government	9,300	8,700	9,000
Local Government	16,300	15,600	16,200

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

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Aug 13	Jul 13	Aug 12
Civilian Labor Force	238,775	241,325	234,325
Employment	225,850	227,200	221,350
Unemployment	12,925	14,125	12,975
Unemployment Rate	5.4	5.9	5.5

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs
August: 2008 - 2013



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fort Smith MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

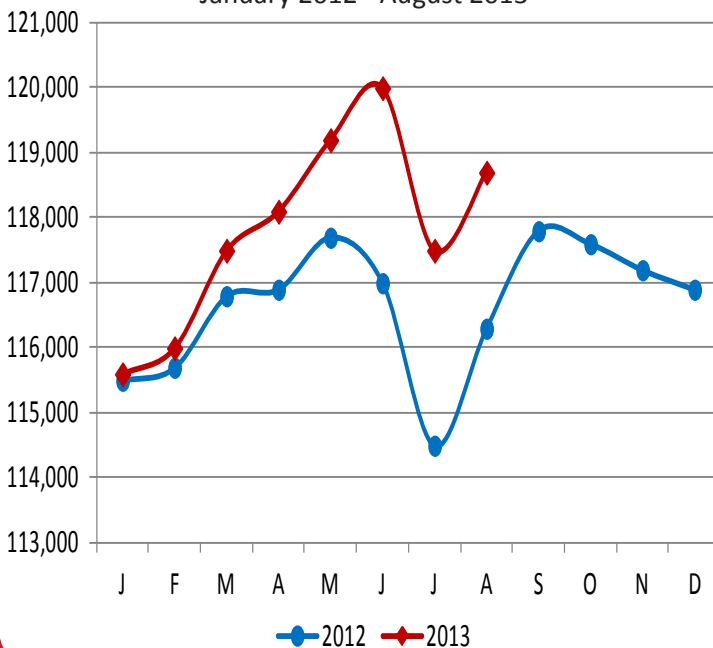
<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Aug 13</u>	<u>Jul 13</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>
Total Nonfarm	118,700	117,500	116,300
Goods Producing	25,600	25,600	26,200
Mining, Logging & Construction	7,000	7,000	6,900
Manufacturing	18,600	18,600	19,300
Service Providing	93,100	91,900	90,100
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	25,700	25,700	24,300
Wholesale Trade	4,300	4,300	4,100
Retail Trade	13,500	13,500	13,000
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	7,900	7,900	7,200
Information	1,400	1,400	1,400
Financial Activities	4,400	4,400	4,300
Professional & Business Services	11,800	11,700	11,500
Educational & Health Services	17,900	17,900	17,100
Leisure & Hospitality	9,500	9,500	9,300
Other Services	4,600	4,600	4,500
Government	17,800	16,700	17,700
Federal Government	1,500	1,600	1,500
State Government	2,900	2,900	3,000
Local Government	13,400	12,200	13,200

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

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	<u>Aug 13</u>	<u>Jul 13</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>
Civilian Labor Force	132,825	133,350	133,375
Employment	123,200	123,250	122,875
Unemployment	9,625	10,100	10,500
Unemployment Rate	7.2	7.6	7.9

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs January 2012 - August 2013



Hot Springs MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Aug 13</u>	<u>Jul 13</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>
Total Nonfarm	37,400	37,700	38,000
Goods Producing	4,200	4,200	4,200
Service Providing	33,200	33,500	33,800
Government	4,900	4,600	5,000

The HS MSA consists of the following county: Garland

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	<u>Aug 13</u>	<u>Jul 13</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>
Civilian Labor Force	41,025	42,150	42,850
Employment	37,950	38,850	39,700
Unemployment	3,075	3,300	3,150
Unemployment Rate	7.5	7.8	7.3

Jonesboro MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Aug 13</u>	<u>Jul 13</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>
Total Nonfarm	53,000	52,200	50,700
Goods Producing	9,500	9,500	8,900
Service Providing	43,500	42,700	41,800
Government	8,500	8,400	8,400

The Jonesboro MSA consists of the following counties: Craighead and Poinsett

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	<u>Aug 13</u>	<u>Jul 13</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>
Civilian Labor Force	60,375	60,650	59,700
Employment	56,350	56,250	55,625
Unemployment	4,025	4,400	4,075
Unemployment Rate	6.7	7.2	6.8

Pine Bluff MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Aug 13</u>	<u>Jul 13</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>
Total Nonfarm	35,300	35,000	35,600
Goods Producing	7,100	7,000	7,300
Service Providing	28,200	28,000	28,300
Government	10,000	9,700	10,000

The PB MSA consists of the following counties: Cleveland, Jefferson, and Lincoln

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	<u>Aug 13</u>	<u>Jul 13</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>
Civilian Labor Force	41,175	41,850	42,425
Employment	37,125	37,525	38,525
Unemployment	4,050	4,325	3,900
Unemployment Rate	9.8	10.3	9.2

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

State of Arkansas

(Seasonally Adjusted)

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Aug 13</u>	<u>Jul 13</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>	<u>Aug 13</u>	<u>Jul 13</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	1,323,000	1,327,800	1,350,400	-4,800	-27,400	1,324,700	1,343,400	1,351,200	-18,700	-26,500
Employment	1,224,600	1,229,900	1,251,200	-5,300	-26,600	1,229,100	1,240,800	1,253,500	-11,700	-24,400
Unemployment	98,400	97,900	99,200	500	-800	95,600	102,600	97,700	-7,000	-2,100
Unemployment Rate	7.4	7.4	7.3	0.0	0.1	7.2	7.6	7.2	-0.4	0.0
U.S. Unemployment Rate	7.3	7.4	8.1	-0.1	-0.8	7.3	7.7	8.2	-0.4	-0.9

Out-of-State MSAs

Memphis, Tennessee

	<u>Aug 13</u>	<u>Jul 13</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>
Civilian Labor Force	609,400	619,700	614,250
Employment	552,125	561,050	558,350
Unemployment	57,275	58,650	55,900
Unemployment Rate	9.4	9.5	9.1

Texarkana, Texas

	<u>Aug 13</u>	<u>Jul 13</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>
Civilian Labor Force	63,525	64,525	64,525
Employment	58,975	59,825	60,050
Unemployment	4,550	4,700	4,475
Unemployment Rate	7.2	7.3	6.9

Between July and August, unemployment rates declined in 70 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Four counties posted rate increases, while one county (Cleveland) remained stable.

In August, six counties enjoyed unemployment rates at or below six percent. Fourteen counties posted rates at or above ten percent, down from twenty counties in July.

Compared to August 2012, jobless rates are lower in 33 counties. Thirty-one counties posted rate increases, while eleven remained the same.

Unemployment Rates by County

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Aug 13</u>	<u>Jul 13</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Aug 13</u>	<u>Jul 13</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>
8	Arkansas	6.2	6.5	7.2	72	Lee	11.1	12.3	11.6
74	Ashley	11.2	11.9	12.5	44	Lincoln	8.1	8.8	9.3
32	Baxter	7.6	8.2	7.5	38	Little River	8.0	8.2	7.3
4	Benton	5.4	5.8	5.6	32	Logan	7.6	8.0	7.9
19	Boone	6.9	7.6	6.9	6	Lonoke	6.0	6.3	6.0
53	Bradley	8.9	9.4	9.8	2	Madison	5.3	5.8	5.0
50	Calhoun	8.7	10.1	9.1	38	Marion	8.0	8.7	7.5
1	Carroll	4.9	5.5	4.9	15	Miller	6.7	7.2	6.6
65	Chicot	10.2	11.0	10.0	68	Mississippi	10.5	11.5	10.1
51	Clark	8.8	9.7	9.1	38	Monroe	8.0	8.5	8.4
70	Clay	10.6	11.8	11.7	19	Montgomery	6.9	7.0	7.9
22	Cleburne	7.1	7.6	7.2	30	Nevada	7.5	7.9	7.8
34	Cleveland	7.7	7.7	6.8	25	Newton	7.3	7.6	7.4
55	Columbia	9.2	9.5	8.4	57	Ouachita	9.3	9.4	9.1
38	Conway	8.0	8.3	7.6	37	Perry	7.9	7.6	7.6
10	Craighead	6.4	7.0	6.7	72	Phillips	11.1	12.0	11.0
23	Crawford	7.2	7.6	6.9	45	Pike	8.2	9.4	8.5
75	Crittenden	11.5	11.1	11.4	34	Poinsett	7.7	8.1	7.4
34	Cross	7.7	8.2	7.9	25	Polk	7.3	8.1	7.5
59	Dallas	9.4	10.2	10.7	38	Pope	8.0	8.2	7.1
61	Desha	9.7	11.0	9.7	12	Prairie	6.6	7.2	7.3
67	Drew	10.4	11.3	10.3	12	Pulaski	6.6	7.0	6.8
17	Faulkner	6.8	6.7	6.5	55	Randolph	9.2	10.3	9.5
11	Franklin	6.5	6.7	6.2	71	St. Francis	10.9	11.5	11.3
17	Fulton	6.8	7.3	6.9	5	Saline	5.9	6.1	5.8
30	Garland	7.5	7.8	7.3	8	Scott	6.2	6.9	7.0
12	Grant	6.6	6.9	6.0	23	Searcy	7.2	8.2	7.6
47	Greene	8.3	8.8	8.6	21	Sebastian	7.0	7.4	7.1
25	Hempstead	7.3	7.8	7.2	25	Sevier	7.3	8.1	7.9
15	Hot Spring	6.7	7.2	6.5	62	Sharp	10.0	10.3	10.0
25	Howard	7.3	7.6	7.3	64	Stone	10.1	11.0	9.3
57	Independence	9.3	9.7	9.1	49	Union	8.4	9.0	8.4
47	Izard	8.3	9.8	8.6	51	Van Buren	8.8	9.0	8.8
60	Jackson	9.5	10.4	9.5	2	Washington	5.3	5.7	5.4
66	Jefferson	10.3	10.9	9.5	38	White	8.0	8.5	8.0
45	Johnson	8.2	7.9	7.0	62	Woodruff	10.0	11.0	10.9
68	Lafayette	10.5	11.1	10.5	7	Yell	6.1	7.0	6.0
54	Lawrence	9.0	10.5	8.7					

Lowest Rates

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1	Carroll	4.9
2	Madison	5.3
2	Washington	5.3
4	Benton	5.4
5	Saline	5.9

Highest Rates

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
72	Lee	11.1
72	Phillips	11.1
74	Ashley	11.2
75	Crittenden	11.5

Arkansas Labor Market

August 2013

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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