

Arkansas Labor Market

February 2013

Employment Headlines

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains Stable at 7.2 Percent

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Up 7,600 in February

Employment Quick Facts

Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted

	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Jan 13</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>
AR Unemployment Rate	7.2	7.2	7.3
US Unemployment Rate	7.7	7.9	8.3

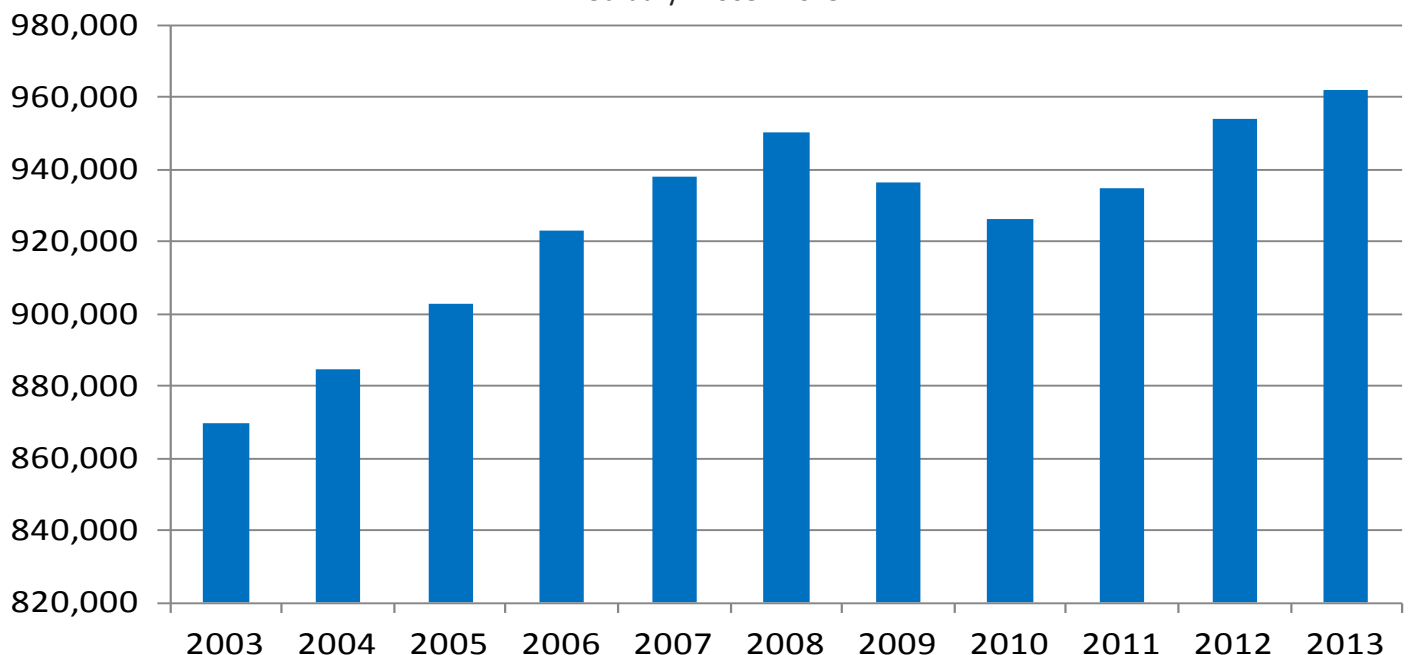
Nonfarm Payroll Summary

State of Arkansas

	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Jan 13</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>
Total Nonfarm	1,170,800	1,163,200	1,166,800
Goods Producing	208,600	208,100	212,700
Service Providing	962,200	955,100	954,100

Jobs in Service Providing Industries

State of Arkansas
February: 2003 - 2013



Nonfarm Payroll Employment

State of Arkansas

January 2013 - February 2013

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 7,600 in February to total 1,170,800. Seven major industry sectors posted gains, while three declined. One major industry remained the same. **Government** added 5,200 jobs. Most of the increase occurred in state government (+4,600), as public school employment returned to normal levels after the winter break. Jobs in **professional and business services** rose 2,100. A majority of the expansions were posted in administrative and support services (+1,500), related to reported gains in employment services and business support services. **Leisure and hospitality** added 1,100 jobs, a typical seasonal increase. Employment in **other services** dropped 1,600.

February 2012 - February 2013

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment increased 4,000 since February 2012. Five major industry sectors posted growth, more than offsetting declines in six sectors. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** enjoyed the greatest increase (+8,900). A majority of the expansion was reported in retail trade (+5,700). **Educational and health services** added 2,600 jobs, mostly in health care and social assistance (+2,100). **Construction** posted the largest decline (-2,900), attributed in part to the completion of recent highway projects. Employment in **other services** decreased 1,900. Losses were reported throughout the industry.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Feb 13	Jan 13	Feb 12
Total Nonfarm	1,170,800	1,163,200	1,166,800
Goods Producing	208,600	208,100	212,700
Mining & Logging	9,800	9,800	11,200
Construction	43,200	43,000	46,100
Specialty Trade Contractors	28,500	28,200	27,600
Manufacturing	155,600	155,300	155,400
Durable Goods	77,300	76,900	76,400
Nondurable Goods	78,300	78,400	79,000
Service Providing	962,200	955,100	954,100
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	245,900	245,800	237,000
Wholesale Trade	47,200	46,000	46,600
Retail Trade	135,500	136,800	129,800
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	63,200	63,000	60,600
Information	14,100	14,300	14,600
Financial Activities	48,800	49,100	48,600
Finance & Insurance	35,800	36,000	35,600
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13,000	13,100	13,000
Professional & Business Services	120,700	118,600	121,600
Professional, Scientific & Technical	39,700	39,200	39,600
Management of Companies	31,900	31,800	30,600
Administrative & Support Services	49,100	47,600	51,400
Educational & Health Services	173,700	173,000	171,100
Educational Services	15,800	15,000	15,300
Health Care & Social Assistance	157,900	158,000	155,800
Ambulatory Health Care	47,800	47,900	46,600
Social Assistance	36,100	35,700	36,100
Leisure & Hospitality	99,000	97,900	98,300
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8,800	8,500	8,600
Accommodation & Food Services	90,200	89,400	89,700
Accommodation Services	9,900	9,800	10,100
Food Services	80,300	79,600	79,600
Other Services	41,100	42,700	43,000
Government	218,900	213,700	219,900
Federal Government	20,200	20,300	20,400
State Government	78,200	73,600	77,500
Local Government	120,500	119,800	122,000

Hours and Earnings of Arkansas Production Workers

(Manufacturing Industries)

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb 13	Jan 13	Feb 12	Feb 13	Jan 13	Feb 12	Feb 13	Jan 13	Feb 12
Manufacturing	\$626.89	\$615.66	\$618.74	41.0	39.9	40.6	\$15.29	\$15.43	\$15.24
Durable Goods	706.48	677.33	695.84	44.1	41.2	42.3	16.02	16.44	16.45
Nondurable Goods	554.28	560.66	548.57	38.2	38.8	39.1	14.51	14.45	14.03

Spotlight

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization

In addition to the unemployment rate, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) also calculates five additional estimates based on various definitions of 'unemployment'. These are known as Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization and are referred to as U1-U6, with U-3 being the definition used to calculate the official unemployment rate. These measures are calculated using data from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly survey of households (roughly 800 Arkansas households are surveyed each month).

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization

State of Arkansas
2012 Annual Average

U-1	U-2	U-3	U-4	U-5	U-6
3.4%	3.6%	7.6%	7.9%	8.9%	13.0%

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization are available at the statewide level, but they are not produced on a monthly basis. Estimates are calculated using a four quarter moving average. The most recent data represents an average of 1st Quarter 2012 through 4th Quarter 2012.

The following are the definitions used to calculate each measure of labor underutilization:

U-1 Measure: Persons unemployed for 15 weeks or longer, as a percent of the civilian labor force.

U-2 Measure: Job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs, as a percent of the civilian labor force.

U-3 Measure: Total number of unemployed persons, as a percent of the civilian labor force (this is the definition used for the official unemployment rate).

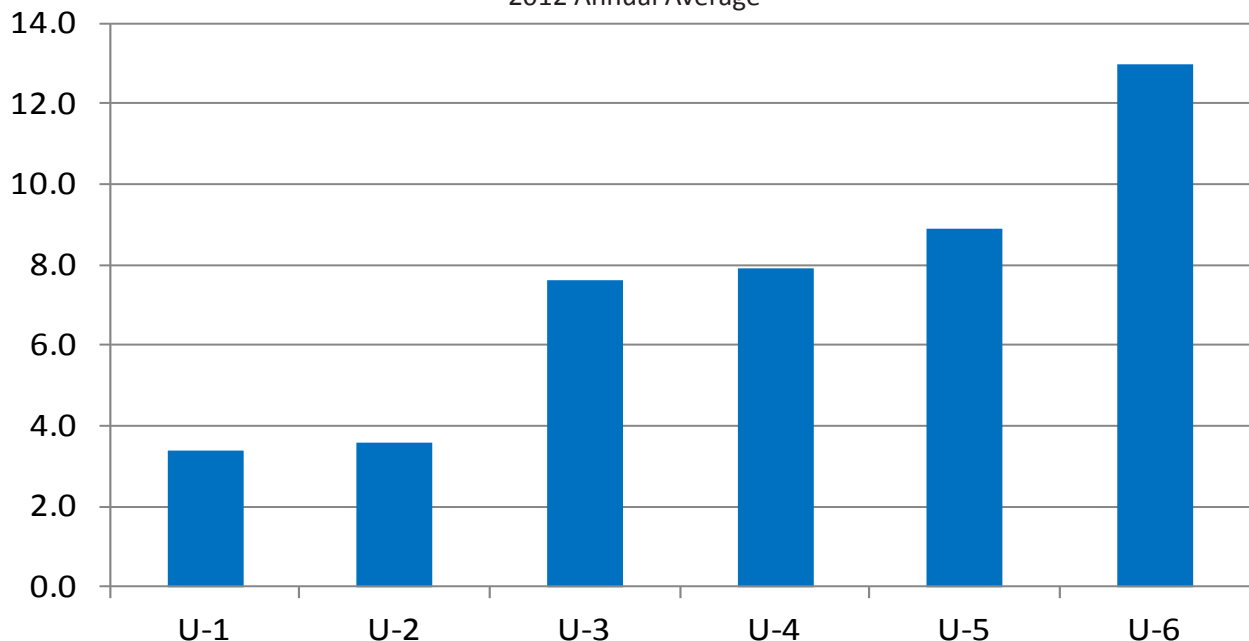
U-4 Measure: Total number of unemployed and discouraged workers, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus discouraged workers.

U-5 Measure: Total number of unemployed, discouraged workers, and all other marginally attached workers, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus marginally attached workers.

U-6 Measure: Total number of unemployed, discouraged workers, marginally attached workers, and those employed part-time for economic reasons (not by choice), as a percent of the civilian labor force plus marginally attached workers.

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization

State of Arkansas
2012 Annual Average



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Feb 13	Jan 13	Feb 12
Total Nonfarm	340,400	339,600	339,200
Goods Producing	35,900	35,700	36,800
Mining, Logging & Construction	16,000	15,800	16,800
Manufacturing	19,900	19,900	20,000
Service Providing	304,500	303,900	302,400
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	69,200	69,800	64,900
Wholesale Trade	15,600	15,500	15,600
Retail Trade	39,500	40,200	35,900
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	14,100	14,100	13,400
Information	7,100	7,200	7,300
Financial Activities	19,700	19,700	19,900
Professional & Business Services	40,800	40,200	42,600
Educational & Health Services	51,900	51,800	51,700
Leisure & Hospitality	29,600	29,700	29,300
Other Services	15,300	15,300	15,300
Government	70,900	70,200	71,400
Federal Government	9,500	9,500	9,400
State Government	33,200	32,700	33,400
Local Government	28,200	28,000	28,600

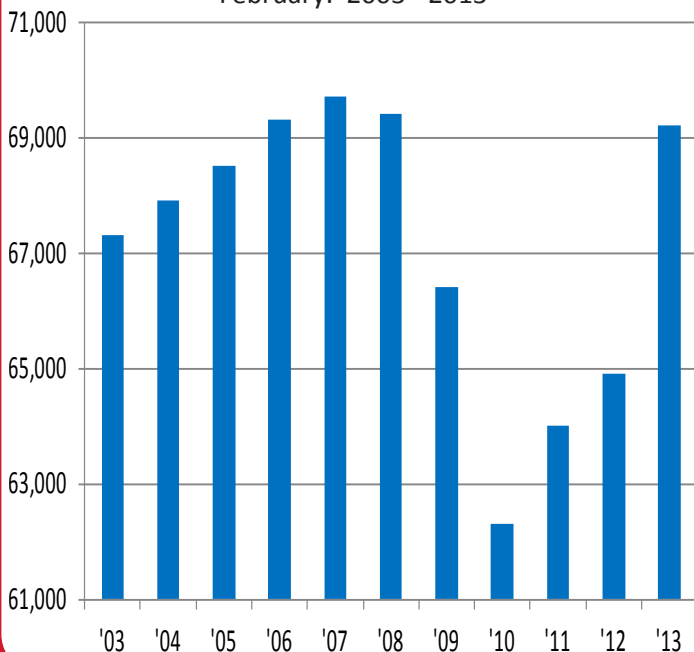
The LR-NLR-Conway MSA consists of the following counties:
Faulkner, Grant, Lonoke, Perry, Pulaski, and Saline

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Feb 13	Jan 13	Feb 12
Civilian Labor Force	336,050	335,600	344,550
Employment	312,475	311,625	319,600
Unemployment	23,575	23,975	24,950
Unemployment Rate	7.0	7.1	7.2

Jobs in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities

February: 2003 - 2013



Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Feb 13	Jan 13	Feb 12
Total Nonfarm	215,500	213,300	206,000
Goods Producing	35,500	35,200	34,100
Mining, Logging & Construction	8,200	8,100	7,600
Manufacturing	27,300	27,100	26,500
Service Providing	180,000	178,100	171,900
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	48,600	48,800	46,300
Wholesale Trade	10,700	10,600	10,100
Retail Trade	22,600	22,900	21,300
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	15,300	15,300	14,900
Information	1,900	1,900	1,900
Financial Activities	6,400	6,400	6,200
Professional & Business Services	40,900	40,500	38,300
Educational & Health Services	24,700	24,600	23,400
Leisure & Hospitality	20,200	19,900	19,000
Other Services	6,800	6,800	6,600
Government	30,500	29,200	30,200
Federal Government	2,300	2,400	2,300
State Government	10,600	9,200	10,300
Local Government	17,600	17,600	17,600

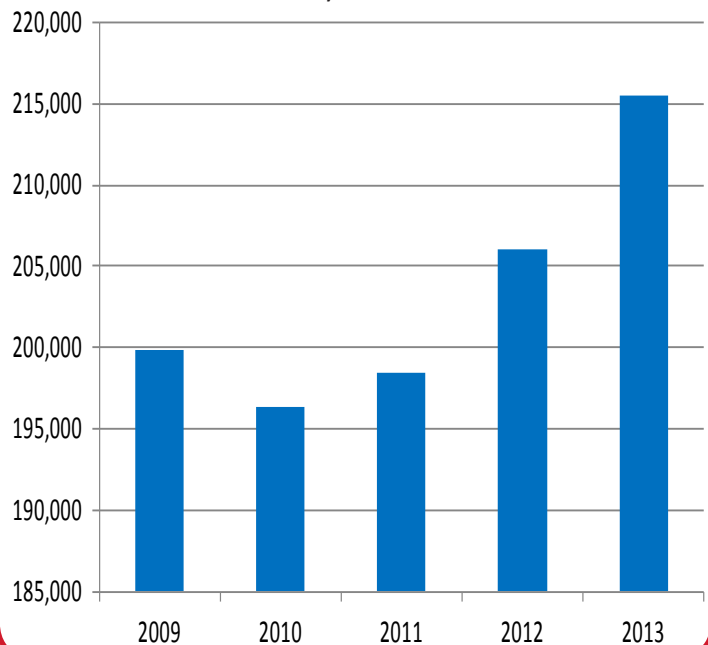
The FSR MSA consists of the following counties:
Benton, Madison, Washington, and McDonald (in Missouri)

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Feb 13	Jan 13	Feb 12
Civilian Labor Force	235,150	233,275	232,150
Employment	221,625	219,475	217,350
Unemployment	13,525	13,800	14,800
Unemployment Rate	5.8	5.9	6.4

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

February: 2009 - 2013



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fort Smith MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Jan 13</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>
Total Nonfarm	116,000	115,600	115,700
Goods Producing	25,000	24,900	26,300
Mining, Logging & Construction	6,300	6,300	6,900
Manufacturing	18,700	18,600	19,400
Service Providing	91,000	90,700	89,400
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	24,500	24,700	23,900
Wholesale Trade	4,100	4,100	4,100
Retail Trade	12,900	13,100	12,900
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	7,500	7,500	6,900
Information	1,400	1,400	1,300
Financial Activities	4,200	4,300	4,200
Professional & Business Services	10,800	10,700	10,500
Educational & Health Services	17,400	17,400	16,900
Leisure & Hospitality	8,600	8,600	8,600
Other Services	4,300	4,400	4,500
Government	19,800	19,200	19,500
Federal Government	1,600	1,600	1,600
State Government	3,200	2,800	3,100
Local Government	15,000	14,800	14,800

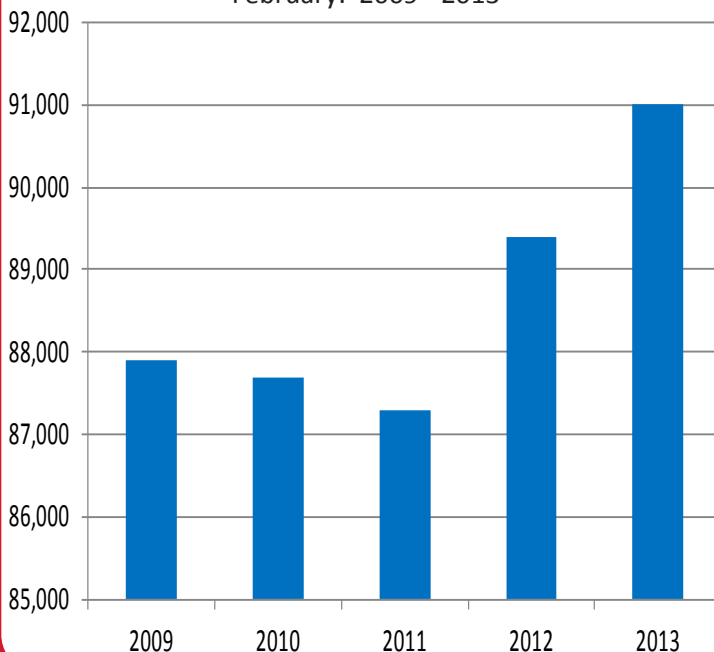
The FS MSA consists of the following counties: Crawford, Franklin, Sebastian, and LeFlore and Sequoyah (in Oklahoma)

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Jan 13</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>
Civilian Labor Force	131,050	131,300	132,825
Employment	120,150	119,825	121,775
Unemployment	10,900	11,475	11,050
Unemployment Rate	8.3	8.7	8.3

Jobs in Service Providing Industries

February: 2009 - 2013



Hot Springs MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Jan 13</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>
Total Nonfarm	37,400	37,400	37,100
Goods Producing	4,000	4,100	4,000
Service Providing	33,400	33,300	33,100
Government	5,100	5,000	5,100

The HS MSA consists of the following county: Garland

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Jan 13</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>
Civilian Labor Force	40,925	41,025	42,275
Employment	37,575	37,600	38,675
Unemployment	3,350	3,425	3,600
Unemployment Rate	8.2	8.4	8.5

Jonesboro MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Jan 13</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>
Total Nonfarm	51,800	51,600	50,700
Goods Producing	9,100	9,200	8,700
Service Providing	42,700	42,400	42,000
Government	9,100	8,900	8,900

The Jonesboro MSA consists of the following counties:

Craighead and Poinsett

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Jan 13</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>
Civilian Labor Force	59,200	59,325	59,800
Employment	54,900	54,675	55,200
Unemployment	4,300	4,650	4,600
Unemployment Rate	7.3	7.8	7.7

Pine Bluff MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Jan 13</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>
Total Nonfarm	35,900	35,700	36,700
Goods Producing	7,000	7,000	7,400
Service Providing	28,900	28,700	29,300
Government	10,600	10,500	10,800

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

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Jan 13</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>
Civilian Labor Force	41,575	41,475	43,800
Employment	37,350	37,125	39,425
Unemployment	4,225	4,350	4,375
Unemployment Rate	10.1	10.5	10.0

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

State of Arkansas

(Seasonally Adjusted)

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Jan 13</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Jan 13</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	1,337,500	1,344,500	1,366,900	-7,000	-29,400	1,319,000	1,316,800	1,357,400	2,200	-38,400
Employment	1,241,600	1,248,000	1,266,600	-6,400	-25,000	1,215,900	1,208,700	1,246,600	7,200	-30,700
Unemployment	95,900	96,500	100,300	-600	-4,400	103,100	108,100	110,800	-5,000	-7,700
Unemployment Rate	7.2	7.2	7.3	0.0	-0.1	7.8	8.2	8.2	-0.4	-0.4
U.S. Unemployment Rate	7.7	7.9	8.3	-0.2	-0.6	8.1	8.5	8.7	-0.4	-0.6

Out-of-State MSAs

Memphis, Tennessee

	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Jan 13</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>
Civilian Labor Force	608,525	609,375	611,775
Employment	551,675	550,400	554,650
Unemployment	56,850	58,975	57,125
Unemployment Rate	9.3	9.7	9.3

Texarkana, Texas

	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Jan 13</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>
Civilian Labor Force	63,625	63,800	65,175
Employment	59,275	59,225	60,400
Unemployment	4,350	4,575	4,775
Unemployment Rate	6.8	7.2	7.3

Between January and February, unemployment rates declined in 65 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Jobless rates increased in five counties, while remaining stable in five counties.

In February, three counties enjoyed unemployment rates below six percent. Twenty-three counties posted rates above ten percent, down from twenty-seven counties in January.

Since February 2012, jobless rates are down in 51 counties. Seventeen counties posted rate increases over the year, while seven remained the same.

Unemployment Rates by County

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Jan 13</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Jan 13</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>
21	Arkansas	7.7	8.4	8.9	73	Lee	12.6	13.2	12.9
74	Ashley	12.9	13.6	14.2	52	Lincoln	9.8	9.7	10.2
38	Baxter	8.8	9.0	9.0	10	Little River	7.1	7.9	7.5
2	Benton	5.8	6.0	6.6	26	Logan	8.0	8.4	8.2
19	Boone	7.6	7.6	8.8	7	Lonoke	6.6	6.9	6.9
55	Bradley	10.2	10.6	11.8	2	Madison	5.8	5.4	6.5
60	Calhoun	10.6	10.4	10.1	45	Marion	9.2	9.1	10.1
9	Carroll	6.9	7.4	7.4	5	Miller	6.5	8.2	6.5
69	Chicot	11.8	12.5	11.8	62	Mississippi	10.7	11.2	11.0
48	Clark	9.4	10.6	10.3	42	Monroe	9.1	10.0	9.7
75	Clay	13.1	13.5	14.8	36	Montgomery	8.6	9.7	9.0
30	Cleburne	8.2	8.8	8.0	28	Nevada	8.1	8.0	7.7
26	Cleveland	8.0	8.3	8.3	35	Newton	8.5	9.2	8.6
45	Columbia	9.2	9.3	8.7	53	Ouachita	10.0	10.5	10.9
36	Conway	8.6	8.9	8.4	57	Perry	10.3	11.1	9.1
10	Craighead	7.1	7.5	7.3	71	Phillips	12.2	13.0	12.0
28	Crawford	8.1	8.7	8.1	42	Pike	9.1	9.7	10.0
60	Crittenden	10.6	11.9	12.2	30	Poinsett	8.2	9.1	9.6
48	Cross	9.4	9.9	9.0	34	Polk	8.4	8.7	8.7
59	Dallas	10.5	10.9	11.2	21	Pope	7.7	8.4	7.7
72	Desha	12.3	12.9	11.8	24	Prairie	7.8	8.6	7.9
64	Drew	11.2	12.2	12.2	10	Pulaski	7.1	7.1	7.3
15	Faulkner	7.3	7.7	7.3	55	Randolph	10.2	11.1	11.3
15	Franklin	7.3	8.0	7.3	69	St. Francis	11.8	12.3	12.0
19	Fulton	7.6	7.6	7.8	4	Saline	6.4	6.5	6.9
30	Garland	8.2	8.4	8.5	7	Scott	6.6	6.8	7.3
10	Grant	7.1	7.1	7.7	40	Searcy	8.9	8.9	9.2
47	Greene	9.3	9.8	9.9	24	Sebastian	7.8	8.4	7.7
15	Hempstead	7.3	7.8	8.2	33	Sevier	8.3	8.7	8.5
18	Hot Spring	7.4	7.5	7.5	64	Sharp	11.2	11.5	11.3
21	Howard	7.7	7.8	8.0	68	Stone	11.6	12.5	11.4
50	Independence	9.6	10.3	9.3	41	Union	9.0	9.2	9.6
38	Izard	8.8	9.5	9.2	51	Van Buren	9.7	10.6	9.5
64	Jackson	11.2	11.9	10.9	1	Washington	5.6	5.9	6.1
58	Jefferson	10.4	10.9	10.2	42	White	9.1	9.8	8.9
14	Johnson	7.2	8.1	7.6	67	Woodruff	11.5	12.4	12.0
63	Lafayette	10.9	11.8	10.0	5	Yell	6.5	7.0	6.5
54	Lawrence	10.1	10.6	10.2					

Lowest Rates

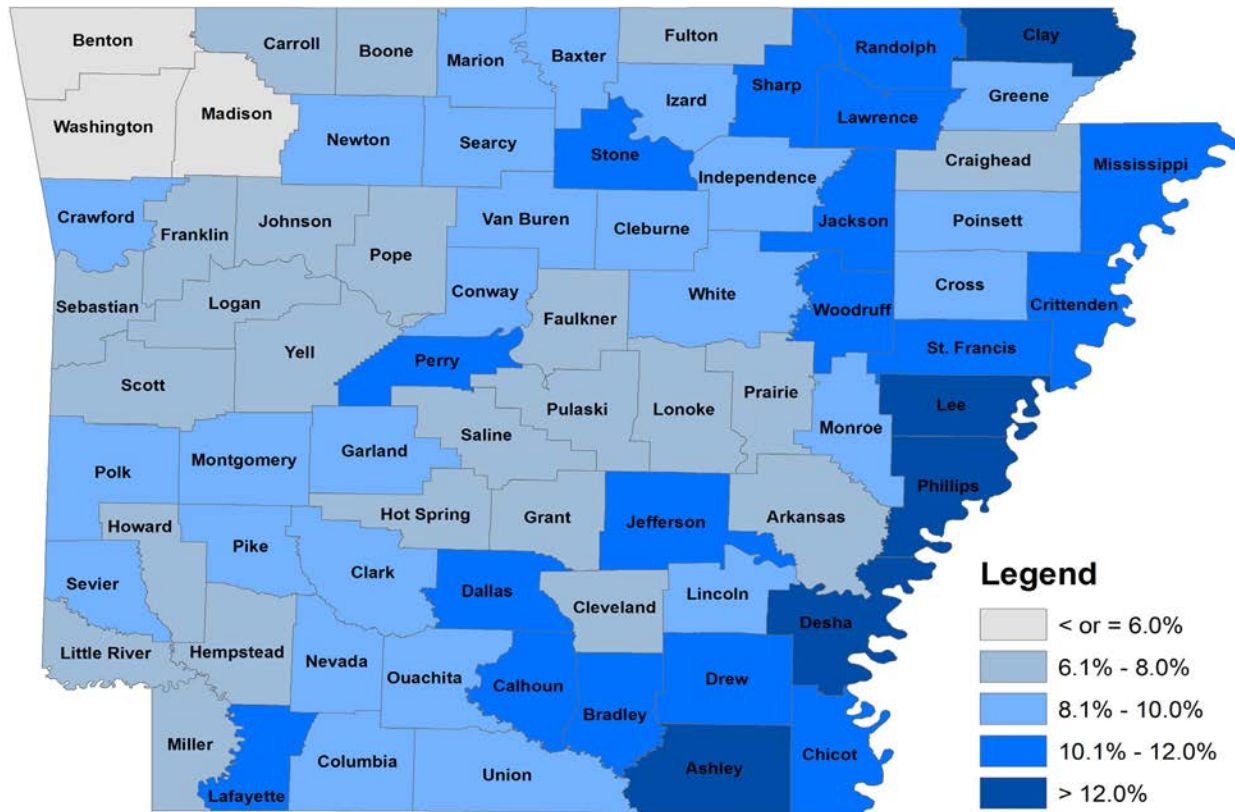
<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1	Washington	5.6
2	Benton	5.8
2	Madison	5.8
4	Saline	6.4
5	Miller	6.5
5	Yell	6.5

Highest Rates

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
72	Desha	12.3
73	Lee	12.6
74	Ashley	12.9
75	Clay	13.1

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 2012 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 5,500 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.

Arkansas Labor Market

February 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.

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

Voice: 1-800-285-1121

TDD: 1-800-285-1131

Mike Beebe- Governor

Artee Williams- DWS Director



Department of Workforce Services
Bureau of Labor Statistics
P.O. Box 2981
Little Rock, AR 72203-2981