

Arkansas Labor Market

March 2014

Employment Headlines

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Falls to 6.9 Percent

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Increase 12,900 in March

Employment Quick Facts

Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted

	<u>Mar 14</u>	<u>Feb 14</u>	<u>Mar 13</u>
AR Unemployment Rate	6.9	7.1	7.4
US Unemployment Rate	6.7	6.7	7.5

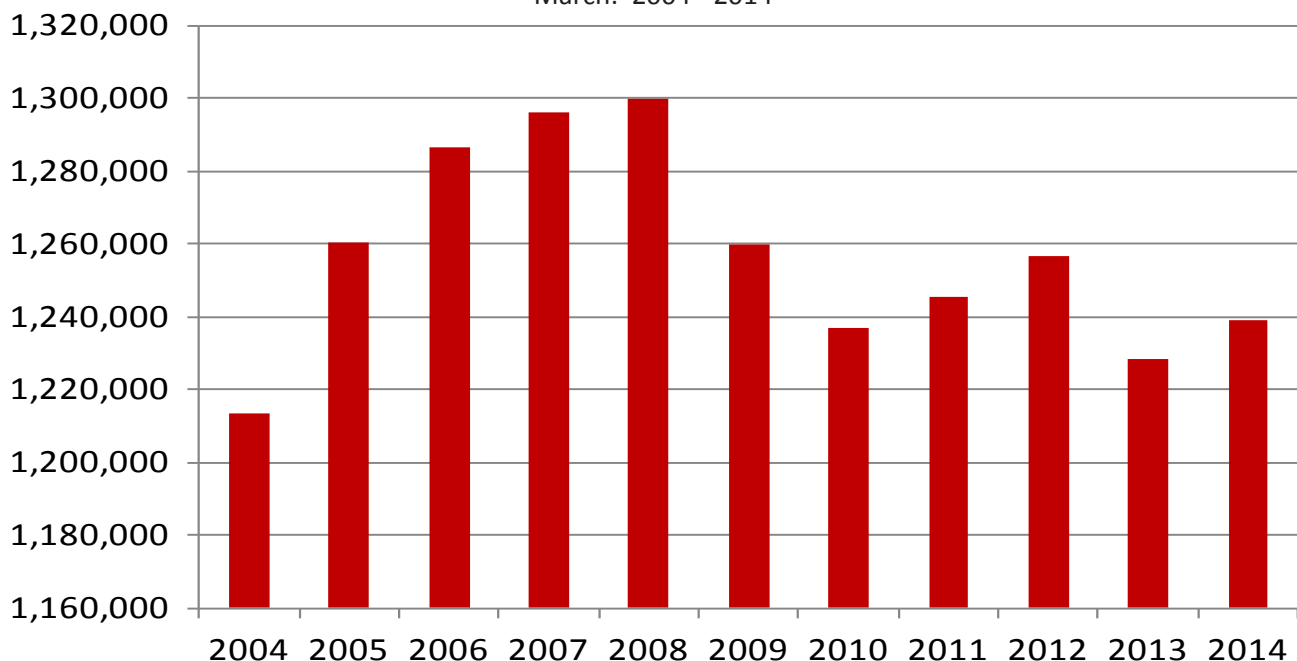
Nonfarm Payroll Summary

State of Arkansas

	<u>Mar 14</u>	<u>Feb 14</u>	<u>Mar 13</u>
Total Nonfarm	1,189,600	1,176,700	1,176,600
Goods Producing	209,800	206,800	207,900
Service Providing	979,800	969,900	968,700

Number of Employed (Seasonally Adjusted)

State of Arkansas
March: 2004 - 2014



Nonfarm Payroll Employment

State of Arkansas

February 2014 - March 2014

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs rose 12,900 in March to total 1,189,600. All major industry sectors posted gains. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** increased 3,200. Gains were related to typical seasonal hiring. Employment in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose 3,000. A majority of the growth was seen in retail trade (+1,600), as stores begin preparing for seasonal spring shopping. **Construction** added 1,900 jobs. Most of the hiring occurred in specialty trade contractors (+1,100). Jobs in **government** rose 1,200. A majority of the gains were in state government (+700), as educational facilities and tourism-related agencies reported expansions.

March 2013 - March 2014

Since March 2013, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas have increased 13,000. Eight major sectors added jobs, more than offsetting minor declines in three sectors. **Leisure and hospitality** posted the greatest gains (+4,400). Expansion occurred in all subsectors. Employment in **educational and health services** rose 2,900. Most of the growth was seen in health care and social assistance (+2,500). Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** are up 2,200. Increases were posted in all three subsectors, with wholesale and retail trade both adding 900 jobs each. **Construction** added 1,600 jobs over the year. Jobs in **professional and business services** rose 1,100. A majority of the growth was posted in administrative and support services (+1,300).

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Mar 14	Feb 14	Mar 13
Total Nonfarm	1,189,600	1,176,700	1,176,600
Goods Producing	209,800	206,800	207,900
Mining & Logging	9,500	9,300	9,600
Construction	46,900	45,000	45,300
Specialty Trade Contractors	30,000	28,900	28,200
Manufacturing	153,400	152,500	153,000
Durable Goods	76,500	75,800	75,300
Nondurable Goods	76,900	76,700	77,700
Service Providing	979,800	969,900	968,700
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	241,900	238,900	239,700
Wholesale Trade	48,000	47,400	47,100
Retail Trade	132,300	130,700	131,400
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	61,600	60,800	61,200
Information	13,700	13,600	14,200
Financial Activities	49,700	49,000	49,100
Finance & Insurance	36,800	36,300	36,200
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,900	12,700	12,900
Professional & Business Services	129,300	128,400	128,200
Professional, Scientific & Technical	39,900	40,100	40,300
Management of Companies	31,700	31,600	31,500
Administrative & Support Services	57,700	56,700	56,400
Educational & Health Services	174,400	173,900	171,500
Educational Services	14,800	14,800	14,400
Health Care & Social Assistance	159,600	159,100	157,100
Ambulatory Health Care	49,600	49,200	47,800
Social Assistance	38,100	37,900	36,300
Leisure & Hospitality	107,300	104,100	102,900
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	9,900	9,400	9,300
Accommodation & Food Services	97,400	94,700	93,600
Accommodation Services	11,000	10,500	10,700
Food Services	86,400	84,200	82,900
Other Services	43,800	43,500	43,000
Government	219,700	218,500	220,100
Federal Government	20,000	19,900	20,400
State Government	79,600	78,900	79,000
Local Government	120,100	119,700	120,700

Hours and Earnings of Arkansas Production Workers

(Manufacturing Industries)

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar 14	Feb 14	Mar 13	Mar 14	Feb 14	Mar 13	Mar 14	Feb 14	Mar 13
Manufacturing	\$633.55	\$628.28	\$616.61	40.2	40.3	40.7	\$15.76	\$15.59	\$15.15
Durable Goods	690.51	685.57	660.01	41.2	41.6	42.2	16.76	16.48	15.64
Nondurable Goods	581.25	575.55	578.79	39.3	39.1	39.4	14.79	14.72	14.69

Spotlight

A Comparative Look at Unemployment Rates

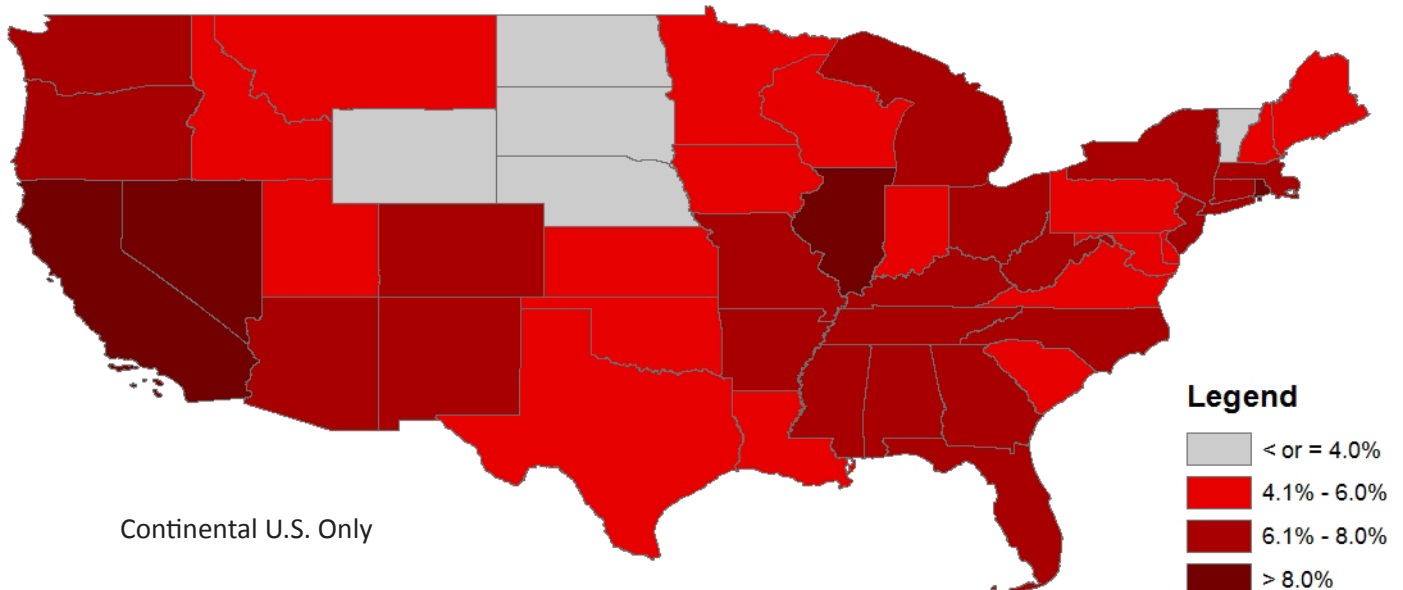
Due to differing economies and labor force conditions in various parts of the country, unemployment rates vary greatly from state to state. In March 2014, state jobless rates ranged from a low of 2.6 percent in North Dakota to a high of 8.7 percent in Rhode Island. The unemployment rate in Arkansas in March reached 6.9 percent, a ranking of 36 out of 51 states. 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, Ranked by State (Seasonally Adjusted)
March 2014

Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	North Dakota	2.6	20	Indiana	5.9	39	New Mexico	7.0
2	Vermont	3.4	20	Maine	5.9	42	New Jersey	7.2
3	Nebraska	3.7	20	Wisconsin	5.9	43	Arizona	7.3
3	South Dakota	3.7	24	Pennsylvania	6.0	44	District of Columbia	7.5
5	Wyoming	4.0	25	Ohio	6.1	44	Michigan	7.5
6	Utah	4.1	25	West Virginia	6.1	46	Mississippi	7.6
7	Hawaii	4.5	27	Colorado	6.2	47	Kentucky	7.9
7	Iowa	4.5	28	Florida	6.3	48	California	8.1
7	Louisiana	4.5	28	Massachusetts	6.3	49	Illinois	8.4
7	New Hampshire	4.5	28	North Carolina	6.3	50	Nevada	8.5
11	Minnesota	4.8	28	Washington	6.3	51	Rhode Island	8.7
12	Kansas	4.9	32	Alaska	6.6			
12	Oklahoma	4.9	33	Alabama	6.7			
14	Virginia	5.0	33	Missouri	6.7			
15	Montana	5.1	33	Tennessee	6.7			
16	Idaho	5.2	36	Arkansas	6.9			
17	South Carolina	5.5	36	New York	6.9			
17	Texas	5.5	36	Oregon	6.9			
19	Maryland	5.6	39	Connecticut	7.0			
20	Delaware	5.9	39	Georgia	7.0			

U.S. Unemployment Rate = 6.7 Percent

Unemployment Rates by State (Seasonally Adjusted)
March 2014



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fort Smith MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Mar 14</u>	<u>Feb 14</u>	<u>Mar 13</u>
Total Nonfarm	116,600	115,700	116,000
Goods Producing	25,000	24,900	25,100
Mining, Logging & Construction	6,800	6,700	6,900
Manufacturing	18,200	18,200	18,200
Service Providing	91,600	90,800	90,900
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	24,100	24,000	23,600
Wholesale Trade	4,100	4,100	4,100
Retail Trade	13,100	13,000	12,800
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	6,900	6,900	6,700
Information	1,300	1,300	1,300
Financial Activities	4,200	4,200	4,200
Professional & Business Services	12,500	12,400	12,200
Educational & Health Services	16,500	16,400	17,000
Leisure & Hospitality	9,300	9,000	9,000
Other Services	4,100	4,100	4,200
Government	19,600	19,400	19,400
Federal Government	1,500	1,500	1,600
State Government	3,200	3,100	3,200
Local Government	14,900	14,800	14,600

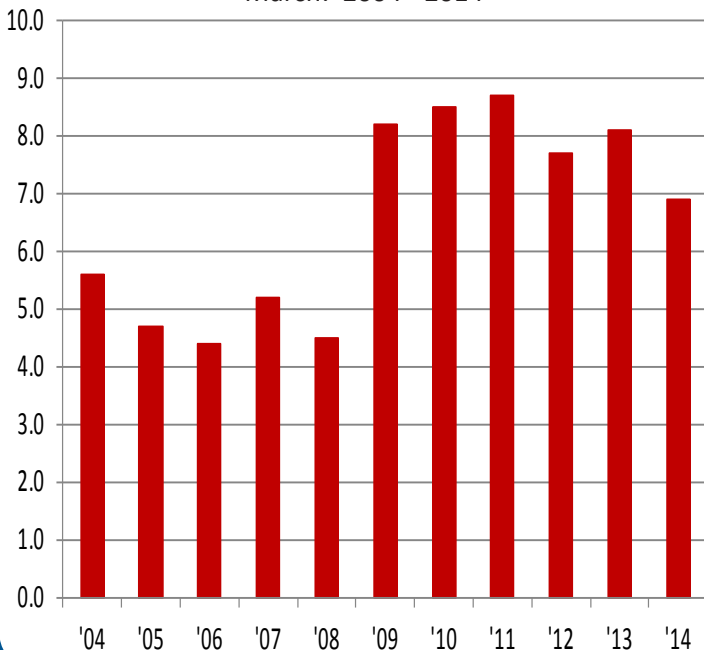
The FS MSA consists of the following counties: Crawford, Franklin, Sebastian, and LeFlore and Sequoyah (in Oklahoma)

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	<u>Mar 14</u>	<u>Feb 14</u>	<u>Mar 13</u>
Civilian Labor Force	128,450	128,725	129,875
Employment	119,575	119,175	119,350
Unemployment	8,875	9,550	10,525
Unemployment Rate	6.9	7.4	8.1

Unemployment Rates

March: 2004 - 2014



Hot Springs MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Mar 14</u>	<u>Feb 14</u>	<u>Mar 13</u>
Total Nonfarm	38,200	37,700	37,600
Goods Producing	4,500	4,500	4,400
Service Providing	33,700	33,200	33,200
Government	4,800	4,800	4,900

The HS MSA consists of the following county: Garland

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	<u>Mar 14</u>	<u>Feb 14</u>	<u>Mar 13</u>
Civilian Labor Force	41,400	41,200	40,725
Employment	38,475	38,050	37,550
Unemployment	2,925	3,150	3,175
Unemployment Rate	7.1	7.7	7.8

Jonesboro MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Mar 14</u>	<u>Feb 14</u>	<u>Mar 13</u>
Total Nonfarm	53,200	52,700	51,400
Goods Producing	8,700	8,600	8,600
Service Providing	44,500	44,100	42,800
Government	9,100	9,100	9,000

The Jonesboro MSA consists of the following counties:

Craighead and Poinsett

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	<u>Mar 14</u>	<u>Feb 14</u>	<u>Mar 13</u>
Civilian Labor Force	59,975	60,025	58,475
Employment	56,025	55,800	54,300
Unemployment	3,950	4,225	4,175
Unemployment Rate	6.6	7.1	7.1

Pine Bluff MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Mar 14</u>	<u>Feb 14</u>	<u>Mar 13</u>
Total Nonfarm	35,400	35,100	35,800
Goods Producing	7,100	7,000	7,300
Service Providing	28,300	28,100	28,500
Government	10,000	10,000	10,200

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

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	<u>Mar 14</u>	<u>Feb 14</u>	<u>Mar 13</u>
Civilian Labor Force	40,850	41,025	41,375
Employment	37,025	36,875	37,300
Unemployment	3,825	4,150	4,075
Unemployment Rate	9.4	10.1	9.8

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

State of Arkansas

(Seasonally Adjusted)

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Mar 14</u>	<u>Feb 14</u>	<u>Mar 13</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>	<u>Mar 14</u>	<u>Feb 14</u>	<u>Mar 13</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	1,330,600	1,330,600	1,327,500	0	3,100	1,322,900	1,321,700	1,317,500	1,200	5,400
Employment	1,238,900	1,236,500	1,228,700	2,400	10,200	1,230,400	1,221,800	1,218,400	8,600	12,000
Unemployment	91,700	94,100	98,800	-2,400	-7,100	92,500	99,900	99,100	-7,400	-6,600
Unemployment Rate	6.9	7.1	7.4	-0.2	-0.5	7.0	7.6	7.5	-0.6	-0.5
U.S. Unemployment Rate	6.7	6.7	7.5	0.0	-0.8	6.8	7.0	7.6	-0.2	-0.8

Out-of-State MSAs

Memphis, Tennessee

	<u>Mar 14</u>	<u>Feb 14</u>	<u>Mar 13</u>
Civilian Labor Force	591,950	590,075	605,125
Employment	543,275	540,625	548,450
Unemployment	48,675	49,450	56,675
Unemployment Rate	8.2	8.4	9.4

Texarkana, Texas

	<u>Mar 14</u>	<u>Feb 14</u>	<u>Mar 13</u>
Civilian Labor Force	62,650	62,325	62,600
Employment	58,525	57,800	58,200
Unemployment	4,125	4,525	4,400
Unemployment Rate	6.6	7.3	7.0

Between February and March, unemployment rates declined in 72 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Two counties posted rate increases, while one county remained stable.

In March, seven counties enjoyed jobless rates at or below six percent. Twelve counties posted rates at or above ten percent, down from nineteen counties in February.

Compared to March 2013, unemployment rates are down in all 75 counties.

Unemployment Rates by County

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Mar 14</u>	<u>Feb 14</u>	<u>Mar 13</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Mar 14</u>	<u>Feb 14</u>	<u>Mar 13</u>
3	Arkansas	5.5	6.1	6.9	75	Lee	11.3	12.5	11.1
72	Ashley	11.0	12.3	11.8	49	Lincoln	8.4	10.2	8.6
36	Baxter	7.4	8.3	8.3	26	Little River	7.0	7.8	7.5
1	Benton	5.2	5.6	5.7	18	Logan	6.6	7.0	7.9
32	Boone	7.2	8.2	7.6	8	Lonoke	6.1	6.3	6.5
57	Bradley	8.8	10.0	9.1	7	Madison	5.8	6.2	6.1
42	Calhoun	8.0	9.2	8.5	39	Marion	7.6	8.5	8.4
4	Carroll	5.6	7.1	5.8	26	Miller	7.0	8.5	6.9
74	Chicot	11.2	12.5	10.8	66	Mississippi	10.2	11.0	10.8
36	Clark	7.4	7.6	9.2	28	Monroe	7.1	7.8	8.0
73	Clay	11.1	12.7	11.9	53	Montgomery	8.6	9.5	7.3
51	Cleburne	8.5	9.5	8.1	17	Nevada	6.5	6.4	7.6
43	Cleveland	8.1	8.2	7.2	8	Newton	6.1	7.6	6.8
43	Columbia	8.1	8.5	8.8	57	Ouachita	8.8	9.3	9.7
33	Conway	7.3	7.9	8.5	49	Perry	8.4	9.0	9.7
11	Craighead	6.3	6.7	7.0	70	Phillips	10.7	11.6	10.9
21	Crawford	6.7	7.3	7.9	46	Pike	8.2	8.7	8.5
67	Crittenden	10.3	12.1	10.1	40	Poinsett	7.7	8.6	7.9
41	Cross	7.9	8.3	8.7	33	Polk	7.3	7.6	7.7
61	Dallas	9.8	10.7	10.2	28	Pope	7.1	7.5	7.2
68	Desha	10.4	11.6	11.3	11	Prairie	6.3	6.8	6.8
61	Drew	9.8	10.7	10.7	11	Pulaski	6.3	6.6	6.9
23	Faulkner	6.8	7.2	6.9	53	Randolph	8.6	9.6	9.5
24	Franklin	6.9	6.7	7.3	69	St. Francis	10.5	11.5	11.0
24	Fulton	6.9	7.6	7.3	5	Saline	5.7	6.0	6.1
28	Garland	7.1	7.7	7.8	5	Scott	5.7	6.1	6.3
16	Grant	6.4	7.0	6.7	33	Searcy	7.3	7.7	8.0
46	Greene	8.2	8.9	9.3	11	Sebastian	6.3	6.9	7.6
18	Hempstead	6.6	7.3	7.5	28	Sevier	7.1	7.2	7.9
11	Hot Spring	6.3	6.7	7.4	64	Sharp	10.0	11.7	10.2
18	Howard	6.6	7.0	7.4	71	Stone	10.9	12.5	10.7
53	Independence	8.6	9.6	8.9	43	Union	8.1	8.5	8.3
38	Izard	7.5	8.8	8.3	48	Van Buren	8.3	9.3	9.4
61	Jackson	9.8	11.3	9.8	2	Washington	5.4	5.4	5.5
60	Jefferson	9.7	10.4	10.4	53	White	8.6	9.1	9.1
21	Johnson	6.7	7.3	6.8	65	Woodruff	10.1	11.0	10.2
59	Lafayette	9.6	10.1	9.9	8	Yell	6.1	6.5	6.0
51	Lawrence	8.5	9.7	9.4					

Lowest Rates

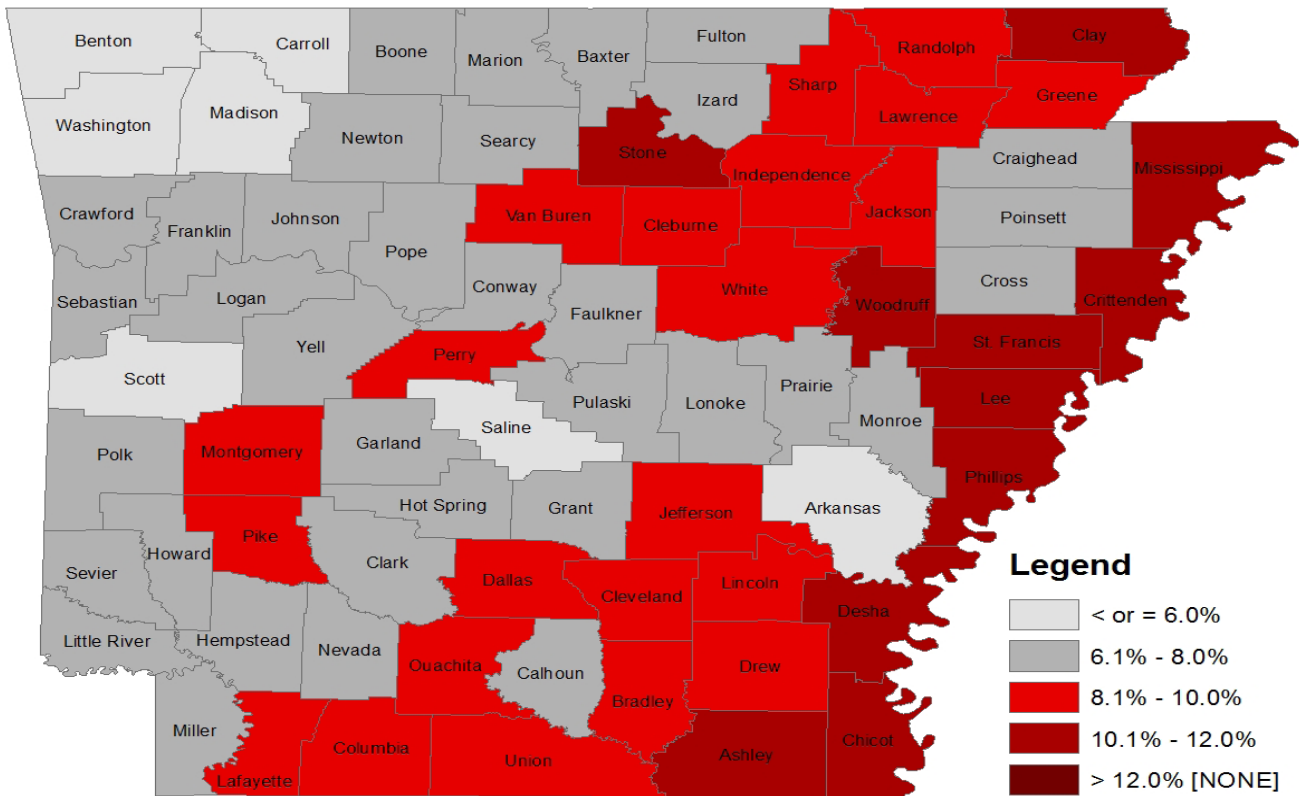
<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1	Benton	5.2
2	Washington	5.4
3	Arkansas	5.5
4	Carroll	5.6
5	Saline	5.7
5	Scott	5.7

Highest Rates

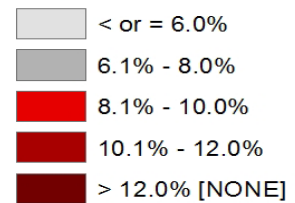
<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
72	Ashley	11.0
73	Clay	11.1
74	Chicot	11.2
75	Lee	11.3

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

For complete County Labor Force Statistics, please visit our website at www.discover.arkansas.gov



Legend



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 2013 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 5,000 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 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

March 2014

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.

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