

Arkansas Labor Market

February 2015

Employment Headlines

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Declines to 5.5 Percent

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Increase 10,100 in February

Employment Quick Facts

Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted

| | Feb 15 | Jan 15 | Feb 14 |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| AR Unemployment Rate | 5.5 | 5.6 | 6.5 |
| US Unemployment Rate | 5.5 | 5.7 | 6.7 |

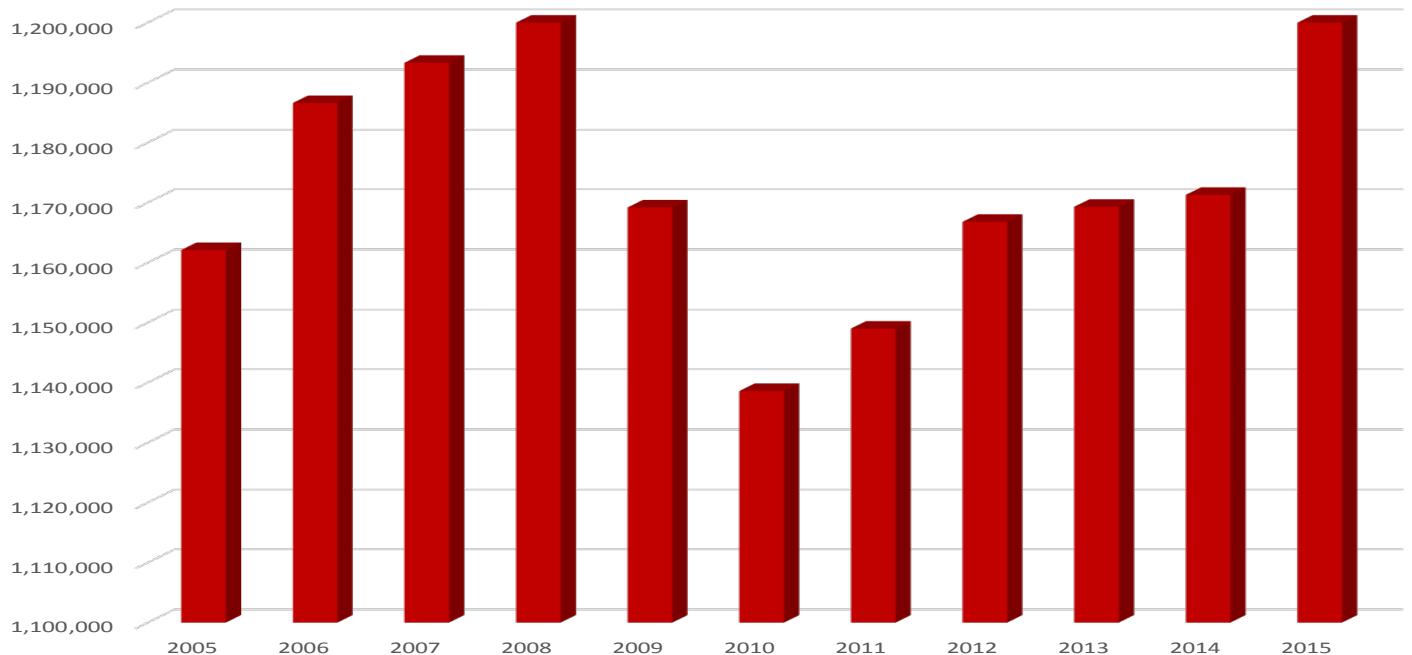
Nonfarm Payroll Summary

State of Arkansas

| | Feb 15 | Jan 15 | Feb 14 |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Total Nonfarm | 1,200,000 | 1,189,900 | 1,171,300 |
| Goods Producing | 208,300 | 210,000 | 204,400 |
| Service Providing | 991,700 | 979,900 | 966,900 |

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

State of Arkansas
February: 2005 - 2015



Nonfarm Payroll Employment

State of Arkansas

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

January 2015 - February 2015

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 10,100 in February to total 1,200,000. Seven major industry sectors posted employment gains, more than offsetting losses in three sectors. Jobs in **government** rose 5,200, as public schools re-opened after the winter break. **Leisure and hospitality** added 3,500. A majority of the increase occurred in accommodation and food services (+3,200). **Professional and business services** gained 2,900 jobs. Administrative and support services, which includes employment agencies, posted most of the growth (+2,300). Jobs in **manufacturing** declined 2,100. Most of the decrease was in nondurable goods manufacturing (-1,300), with reported losses in food manufacturing.

February 2014 - February 2015

Compared to February 2014, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment increased 28,700. Eight major industry sectors posted growth, with five adding 3,300 or more jobs, each. Employment in **leisure and hospitality** rose 8,400. A majority of the gains were reported in food services (+7,000). Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** increased 7,200. Growth occurred in all subsectors. **Professional and business services** added 4,200 jobs. Most of the expansion occurred in administrative and support services (+2,500), which includes employment services, office administrative services, and services to buildings and dwellings. Jobs in **construction** rose 3,800, mostly in specialty trade contractors (+3,100). **Educational and health services** added 3,300 jobs. The largest increase occurred in health care and social assistance (+2,800).

| (NAICS) | Feb 15 | Jan 15 | Feb 14 |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Total Nonfarm | 1,200,000 | 1,189,900 | 1,171,300 |
| Goods Producing | 208,300 | 210,000 | 204,400 |
| Mining & Logging | 8,500 | 8,600 | 8,700 |
| Construction | 47,000 | 46,500 | 43,200 |
| Specialty Trade Contractors | 30,300 | 29,200 | 27,200 |
| Manufacturing | 152,800 | 154,900 | 152,500 |
| Durable Goods | 76,300 | 77,100 | 75,600 |
| Nondurable Goods | 76,500 | 77,800 | 76,900 |
| Service Providing | 991,700 | 979,900 | 966,900 |
| Trade, Transportation & Utilities | 245,800 | 247,000 | 238,600 |
| Wholesale Trade | 47,300 | 47,200 | 45,900 |
| Retail Trade | 134,000 | 135,300 | 132,200 |
| Transport, Warehousing & Utilities | 64,500 | 64,500 | 60,500 |
| Information | 13,500 | 13,500 | 13,800 |
| Financial Activities | 50,000 | 49,700 | 49,300 |
| Finance & Insurance | 37,500 | 37,300 | 36,600 |
| Real Estate & Rental & Leasing | 12,500 | 12,400 | 12,700 |
| Professional & Business Services | 136,500 | 133,600 | 132,300 |
| Professional, Scientific & Technical | 41,600 | 40,900 | 41,500 |
| Management of Companies | 33,400 | 33,500 | 31,800 |
| Administrative & Support Services | 61,500 | 59,200 | 59,000 |
| Educational & Health Services | 174,600 | 173,700 | 171,300 |
| Educational Services | 14,900 | 14,200 | 14,400 |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 159,700 | 159,500 | 156,900 |
| Ambulatory Health Care | 50,000 | 50,100 | 48,600 |
| Social Assistance | 37,100 | 37,000 | 36,500 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 110,600 | 107,100 | 102,200 |
| Arts, Entertainment & Recreation | 10,100 | 9,800 | 9,000 |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 100,500 | 97,300 | 93,200 |
| Accommodation Services | 10,500 | 10,100 | 10,200 |
| Food Services | 90,000 | 87,200 | 83,000 |
| Other Services | 44,200 | 44,000 | 42,900 |
| Government | 216,500 | 211,300 | 216,500 |
| Federal Government | 20,100 | 20,200 | 20,000 |
| State Government | 79,500 | 74,900 | 78,900 |
| Local Government | 116,900 | 116,200 | 117,600 |

Hours and Earnings of Arkansas Production Workers (Manufacturing Industries)

| | Average Weekly Earnings | | | Average Weekly Hours | | | Average Hourly Earnings | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------------------|--------|--------|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| | Feb 15 | Jan 15 | Feb 14 | Feb 15 | Jan 15 | Feb 14 | Feb 15 | Jan 15 | Feb 14 |
| Manufacturing | \$663.23 | \$669.47 | \$628.28 | 41.4 | 41.3 | 40.3 | \$16.02 | \$16.21 | \$15.59 |
| Durable Goods | 694.25 | 716.04 | 685.57 | 40.2 | 40.8 | 41.6 | 17.27 | 17.55 | 16.48 |
| Nondurable Goods | 631.55 | 623.00 | 575.55 | 42.5 | 41.7 | 39.1 | 14.86 | 14.94 | 14.72 |

Spotlight

A Comparative Look at Unemployment Rates

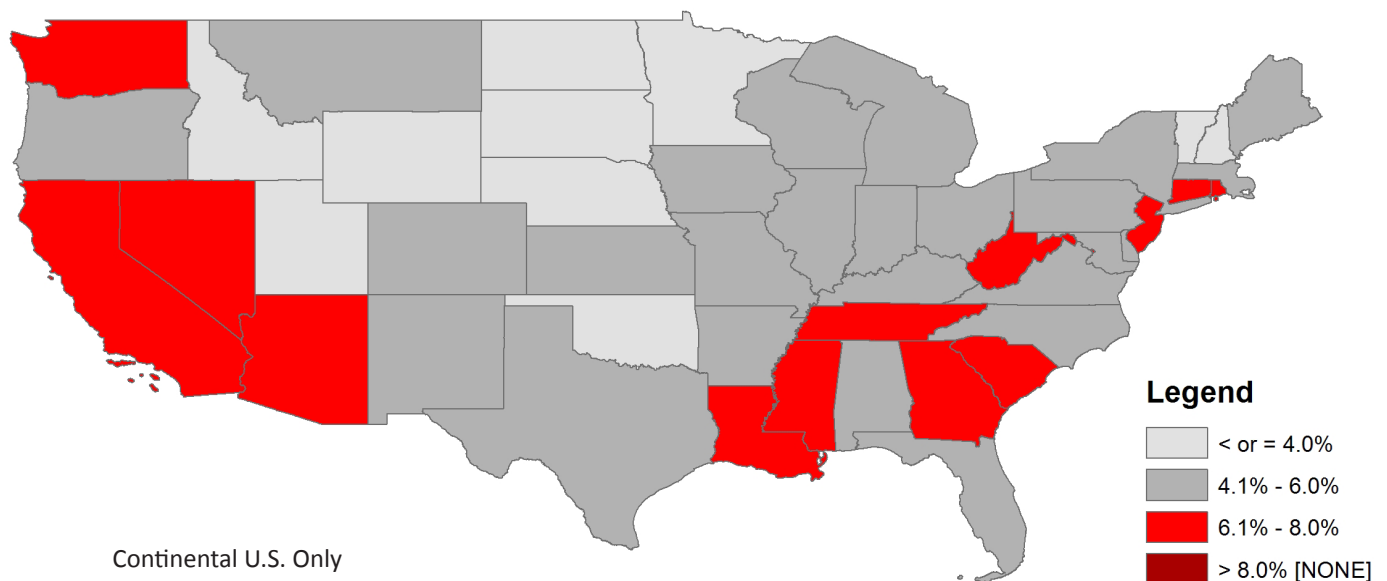
Due to differing economies and labor force conditions in various parts of the country, unemployment rates vary greatly from state to state. In February 2015, state jobless rates ranged from a low of 2.7 percent in Nebraska to a high of 7.8 percent in the District of Columbia. The unemployment rate in Arkansas in February declined to 5.5 percent, a ranking of 26 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)
February 2015

| Rank | State | Rate | Rank | State | Rate | Rank | State | Rate |
|------|---------------|------|-----------|-----------------|------------|------|----------------------|------|
| 1 | Nebraska | 2.7 | 21 | Maine | 5.0 | 38 | Washington | 6.3 |
| 2 | North Dakota | 2.9 | 22 | Ohio | 5.1 | 42 | Connecticut | 6.4 |
| 3 | South Dakota | 3.4 | 23 | Kentucky | 5.2 | 42 | New Jersey | 6.4 |
| 3 | Utah | 3.4 | 23 | Pennsylvania | 5.2 | 44 | Arizona | 6.5 |
| 5 | Minnesota | 3.7 | 25 | North Carolina | 5.3 | 45 | South Carolina | 6.6 |
| 6 | Idaho | 3.9 | 26 | Arkansas | 5.5 | 45 | Tennessee | 6.6 |
| 6 | New Hampshire | 3.9 | 26 | Maryland | 5.5 | 47 | California | 6.7 |
| 6 | Oklahoma | 3.9 | 26 | Missouri | 5.5 | 47 | Louisiana | 6.7 |
| 6 | Vermont | 3.9 | 29 | Florida | 5.6 | 49 | Mississippi | 7.0 |
| 10 | Wyoming | 4.0 | 30 | Alabama | 5.8 | 50 | Nevada | 7.1 |
| 11 | Hawaii | 4.1 | 30 | New York | 5.8 | 51 | District of Columbia | 7.8 |
| 11 | Iowa | 4.1 | 30 | Oregon | 5.8 | | | |
| 13 | Colorado | 4.2 | 33 | Indiana | 5.9 | | | |
| 13 | Kansas | 4.2 | 33 | Michigan | 5.9 | | | |
| 15 | Montana | 4.3 | 35 | Illinois | 6.0 | | | |
| 15 | Texas | 4.3 | 35 | New Mexico | 6.0 | | | |
| 17 | Virginia | 4.7 | 37 | West Virginia | 6.1 | | | |
| 18 | Delaware | 4.8 | 38 | Alaska | 6.3 | | | |
| 18 | Wisconsin | 4.8 | 38 | Georgia | 6.3 | | | |
| 20 | Massachusetts | 4.9 | 38 | Rhode Island | 6.3 | | | |

U.S. Unemployment Rate = 5.5 Percent

Unemployment Rates, Ranked by State (Seasonally Adjusted)
February 2015



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

| NAICS | Feb 15 | Jan 15 | Feb 14 |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total Nonfarm | 345,400 | 344,500 | 342,800 |
| Goods Producing | 36,700 | 36,900 | 35,200 |
| Mining, Logging & Construction | 16,600 | 16,700 | 15,400 |
| Manufacturing | 20,100 | 20,200 | 19,800 |
| Service Providing | 308,700 | 307,600 | 307,600 |
| Trade, Transportation & Utilities | 66,300 | 66,900 | 65,500 |
| Wholesale Trade | 14,800 | 14,800 | 14,900 |
| Retail Trade | 37,400 | 38,000 | 36,700 |
| Trans., Warehousing & Utilities | 14,100 | 14,100 | 13,900 |
| Information | 6,600 | 6,600 | 6,800 |
| Financial Activities | 20,500 | 20,500 | 20,400 |
| Professional & Business Services | 43,100 | 42,900 | 45,900 |
| Educational & Health Services | 51,900 | 51,900 | 51,200 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 32,400 | 31,700 | 30,700 |
| Other Services | 16,100 | 16,000 | 15,700 |
| Government | 71,800 | 71,100 | 71,400 |
| Federal Government | 9,700 | 9,700 | 9,500 |
| State Government | 34,700 | 34,200 | 34,400 |
| Local Government | 27,400 | 27,200 | 27,500 |

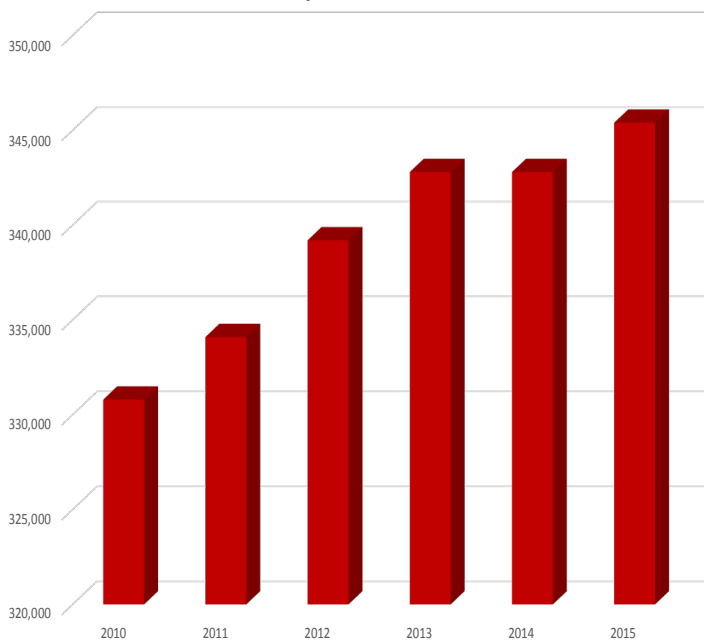
The LR-NLR-Conway MSA consists of the following counties:
Faulkner, Grant, Lonoke, Perry, Pulaski, and Saline

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

| | Feb 15 | Jan 15 | Feb 14 |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 343,175 | 340,225 | 335,875 |
| Employment | 324,925 | 320,775 | 314,825 |
| Unemployment | 18,250 | 19,450 | 21,050 |
| Unemployment Rate | 5.3 | 5.7 | 6.3 |

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

February: 2010 - 2015



Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

| NAICS | Feb 15 | Jan 15 | Feb 14 |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total Nonfarm | 227,700 | 225,200 | 219,100 |
| Goods Producing | 35,800 | 35,600 | 34,900 |
| Mining, Logging & Construction | 8,500 | 8,300 | 8,000 |
| Manufacturing | 27,300 | 27,300 | 26,900 |
| Service Providing | 191,900 | 189,600 | 184,200 |
| Trade, Transportation & Utilities | 50,700 | 51,000 | 48,600 |
| Wholesale Trade | 10,900 | 10,900 | 10,400 |
| Retail Trade | 24,000 | 24,200 | 23,200 |
| Trans., Warehousing & Utilities | 15,800 | 15,900 | 15,000 |
| Information | 1,900 | 1,900 | 1,800 |
| Financial Activities | 6,900 | 6,800 | 6,600 |
| Professional & Business Services | 46,400 | 46,400 | 43,200 |
| Educational & Health Services | 24,800 | 24,700 | 24,200 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 21,400 | 20,900 | 20,800 |
| Other Services | 6,600 | 6,500 | 6,500 |
| Government | 33,200 | 31,400 | 32,500 |
| Federal Government | 2,500 | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| State Government | 12,700 | 11,100 | 12,000 |
| Local Government | 18,000 | 17,800 | 18,000 |

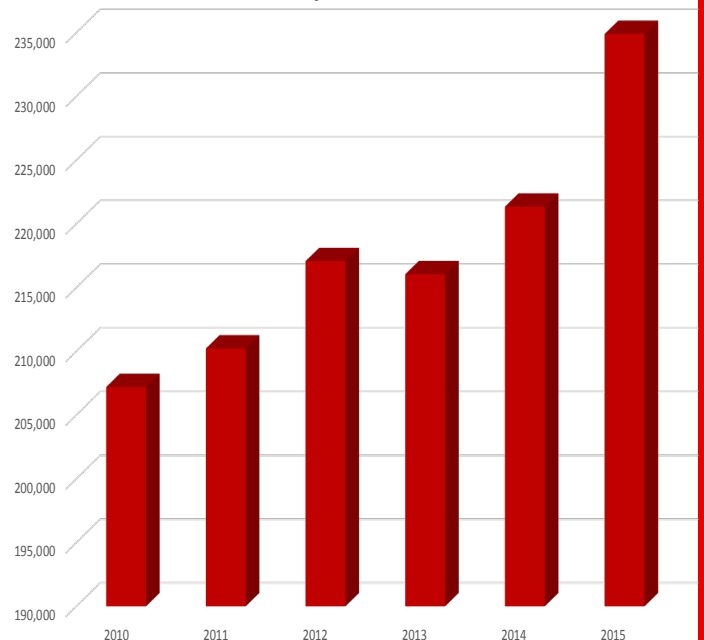
The FSR MSA consists of the following counties:
Benton, Madison, Washington, and McDonald (in Missouri)

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

| | Feb 15 | Jan 15 | Feb 14 |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 245,600 | 242,025 | 233,725 |
| Employment | 234,900 | 230,600 | 221,350 |
| Unemployment | 10,700 | 11,425 | 12,375 |
| Unemployment Rate | 4.4 | 4.7 | 5.3 |

Number of Employed

February: 2010 - 2015



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fort Smith MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

| NAICS | Feb 15 | Jan 15 | Feb 14 |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total Nonfarm | 112,700 | 111,800 | 111,400 |
| Goods Producing | 24,800 | 24,800 | 24,000 |
| Mining, Logging & Construction | 6,700 | 6,700 | 6,200 |
| Manufacturing | 18,100 | 18,100 | 17,800 |
| Service Providing | 87,900 | 87,000 | 87,400 |
| Trade, Transportation & Utilities | 22,900 | 23,000 | 22,900 |
| Wholesale Trade | 4,300 | 4,300 | 4,200 |
| Retail Trade | 11,700 | 11,800 | 12,100 |
| Trans., Warehousing & Utilities | 6,900 | 6,900 | 6,600 |
| Information | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,300 |
| Financial Activities | 3,900 | 3,900 | 3,900 |
| Professional & Business Services | 12,800 | 12,300 | 11,900 |
| Educational & Health Services | 16,100 | 16,100 | 16,300 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 8,700 | 8,600 | 8,700 |
| Other Services | 4,200 | 4,200 | 4,200 |
| Government | 18,100 | 17,700 | 18,200 |
| Federal Government | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,400 |
| State Government | 3,100 | 2,800 | 3,100 |
| Local Government | 13,700 | 13,600 | 13,700 |

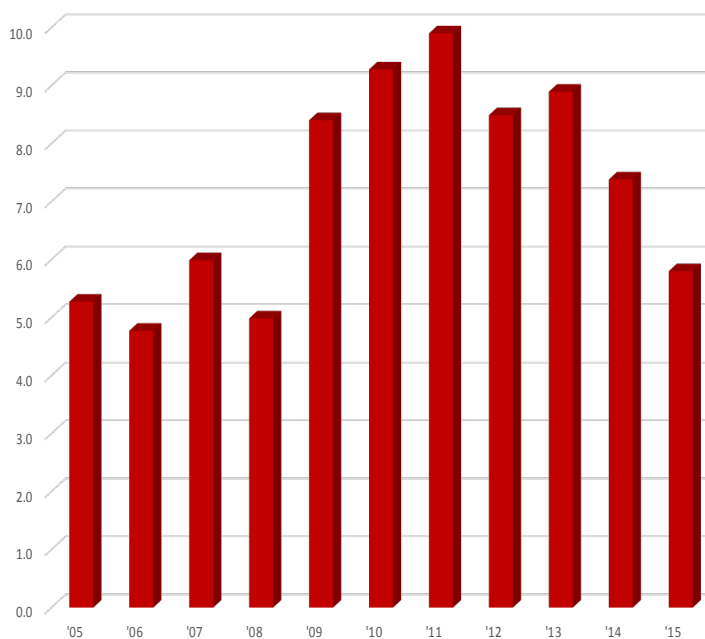
The FS MSA consists of the following counties: Crawford, and Sebastian, and LeFlore and Sequoyah (in Oklahoma)

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

| | Feb 15 | Jan 15 | Feb 14 |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 120,575 | 119,225 | 118,275 |
| Employment | 113,550 | 111,825 | 109,550 |
| Unemployment | 7,025 | 7,400 | 8,725 |
| Unemployment Rate | 5.8 | 6.2 | 7.4 |

Unemployment Rates

February: 2005 - 2015



Hot Springs MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

| NAICS | Feb 15 | Jan 15 | Feb 14 |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total Nonfarm | 38,300 | 38,200 | 37,400 |
| Goods Producing | 4,300 | 4,300 | 4,200 |
| Service Providing | 34,000 | 33,900 | 33,200 |
| Government | 4,700 | 4,600 | 4,700 |

The HS MSA consists of the following county: Garland

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

| | Feb 15 | Jan 15 | Feb 14 |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 40,725 | 40,475 | 39,500 |
| Employment | 38,225 | 37,725 | 36,550 |
| Unemployment | 2,500 | 2,750 | 2,950 |
| Unemployment Rate | 6.1 | 6.8 | 7.5 |

Jonesboro MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

| NAICS | Feb 15 | Jan 15 | Feb 14 |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total Nonfarm | 54,500 | 54,200 | 51,900 |
| Goods Producing | 8,900 | 8,800 | 8,400 |
| Service Providing | 45,600 | 45,400 | 43,500 |
| Government | 9,100 | 8,900 | 8,800 |

The Jonesboro MSA consists of the following counties:

Craighead and Poinsett

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

| | Feb 15 | Jan 15 | Feb 14 |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 61,225 | 61,025 | 58,150 |
| Employment | 57,925 | 57,325 | 54,150 |
| Unemployment | 3,300 | 3,700 | 4,000 |
| Unemployment Rate | 5.4 | 6.1 | 6.9 |

Pine Bluff MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

| NAICS | Feb 15 | Jan 15 | Feb 14 |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total Nonfarm | 33,300 | 32,900 | 33,700 |
| Goods Producing | 6,100 | 6,200 | 6,400 |
| Service Providing | 27,200 | 26,700 | 27,300 |
| Government | 9,600 | 9,300 | 9,800 |

The PB MSA consists of the following counties:

Cleveland, Jefferson, and Lincoln

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

| | Feb 15 | Jan 15 | Feb 14 |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 36,500 | 36,075 | 36,800 |
| Employment | 33,600 | 32,900 | 33,050 |
| Unemployment | 2,900 | 3,175 | 3,750 |
| Unemployment Rate | 7.9 | 8.8 | 10.2 |

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

State of Arkansas

(Seasonally Adjusted)

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

| | Feb 15 | Jan 15 | Feb 14 | OTM | OTY | Feb 15 | Jan 15 | Feb 14 | OTM | OTY |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 1,326,400 | 1,321,500 | 1,293,800 | 4,900 | 32,600 | 1,319,400 | 1,309,700 | 1,286,900 | 9,700 | 32,500 |
| Employment | 1,252,900 | 1,247,100 | 1,210,000 | 5,800 | 42,900 | 1,240,700 | 1,224,700 | 1,194,500 | 16,000 | 46,200 |
| Unemployment | 73,500 | 74,400 | 83,800 | -900 | -10,300 | 78,700 | 85,000 | 92,400 | -6,300 | -13,700 |
| Unemployment Rate | 5.5 | 5.6 | 6.5 | -0.1 | -1.0 | 6.0 | 6.5 | 7.2 | -0.5 | -1.2 |
| U.S. Unemployment Rate | 5.5 | 5.7 | 6.7 | -0.2 | -1.2 | 5.8 | 6.1 | 7.0 | -0.3 | -1.2 |

Out-of-State MSAs

Memphis, Tennessee-Mississippi-Arkansas MSA

| | Feb 15 | Jan 15 | Feb 14 |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 608,000 | 606,125 | 607,300 |
| Employment | 565,225 | 558,225 | 559,625 |
| Unemployment | 42,775 | 47,900 | 47,675 |
| Unemployment Rate | 7.0 | 7.9 | 7.9 |

Texarkana, Texas-Arkansas MSA

| | Feb 15 | Jan 15 | Feb 14 |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 64,050 | 64,225 | 64,425 |
| Employment | 60,525 | 60,425 | 59,800 |
| Unemployment | 3,525 | 3,800 | 4,625 |
| Unemployment Rate | 5.5 | 5.9 | 7.2 |

Unemployment Rates by County

Between January and February, unemployment rates declined in 71 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Rates in two counties increased, while two counties remained the same.

In February, twenty-three counties enjoyed jobless rates at or below six percent. Two counties posted rates at or above ten percent, down from six counties in January.

Compared to February 2014, unemployment rates are down in 74 counties. Only one county posted an over-the-year increase.

| Rank | County | Feb 15 | Jan 15 | Feb 14 | Rank | County | Feb 15 | Jan 15 | Feb 14 |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 7 | Arkansas | 5.1 | 5.8 | 6.7 | 65 | Lee | 8.8 | 9.2 | 10.1 |
| 69 | Ashley | 9.0 | 9.9 | 11.7 | 51 | Lincoln | 7.6 | 8.5 | 8.9 |
| 36 | Baxter | 6.6 | 7.0 | 8.3 | 33 | Little River | 6.5 | 7.4 | 7.5 |
| 2 | Benton | 4.5 | 4.9 | 5.3 | 20 | Logan | 6.0 | 6.4 | 7.0 |
| 25 | Boone | 6.2 | 6.6 | 7.4 | 6 | Lonoke | 5.0 | 5.5 | 5.9 |
| 48 | Bradley | 7.4 | 8.0 | 10.7 | 2 | Madison | 4.5 | 4.9 | 5.9 |
| 25 | Calhoun | 6.2 | 6.9 | 8.2 | 32 | Marion | 6.4 | 6.9 | 7.8 |
| 36 | Carroll | 6.6 | 7.8 | 7.3 | 20 | Miller | 6.0 | 6.3 | 7.0 |
| 75 | Chicot | 11.4 | 12.5 | 12.6 | 73 | Mississippi | 9.7 | 9.9 | 10.8 |
| 20 | Clark | 6.0 | 6.8 | 7.9 | 44 | Monroe | 7.2 | 7.6 | 7.9 |
| 63 | Clay | 8.7 | 8.9 | 10.4 | 60 | Montgomery | 8.2 | 9.0 | 9.9 |
| 57 | Cleburne | 8.1 | 9.1 | 10.6 | 16 | Nevada | 5.7 | 6.1 | 6.9 |
| 40 | Cleveland | 6.9 | 7.5 | 8.1 | 28 | Newton | 6.3 | 6.8 | 7.2 |
| 42 | Columbia | 7.1 | 7.6 | 8.2 | 51 | Ouachita | 7.6 | 7.9 | 9.6 |
| 36 | Conway | 6.6 | 7.2 | 8.4 | 48 | Perry | 7.4 | 8.4 | 9.2 |
| 7 | Craighead | 5.1 | 5.8 | 6.5 | 69 | Phillips | 9.0 | 10.3 | 11.8 |
| 25 | Crawford | 6.2 | 6.4 | 7.2 | 42 | Pike | 7.1 | 7.7 | 8.5 |
| 45 | Crittenden | 7.3 | 8.1 | 8.4 | 36 | Poinsett | 6.6 | 7.5 | 8.6 |
| 40 | Cross | 6.9 | 7.7 | 7.6 | 33 | Polk | 6.5 | 7.0 | 7.0 |
| 67 | Dallas | 8.9 | 10.0 | 11.1 | 18 | Pope | 5.8 | 6.4 | 7.2 |
| 72 | Desha | 9.5 | 10.4 | 10.2 | 13 | Prairie | 5.5 | 6.0 | 6.7 |
| 62 | Drew | 8.6 | 9.4 | 10.0 | 10 | Pulaski | 5.4 | 5.8 | 6.3 |
| 10 | Faulkner | 5.4 | 5.9 | 6.6 | 69 | Randolph | 9.0 | 10.4 | 9.8 |
| 19 | Franklin | 5.9 | 5.9 | 6.6 | 65 | St. Francis | 8.8 | 9.4 | 11.0 |
| 28 | Fulton | 6.3 | 6.8 | 7.2 | 4 | Saline | 4.8 | 5.1 | 5.6 |
| 24 | Garland | 6.1 | 6.8 | 7.5 | 9 | Scott | 5.3 | 5.3 | 6.1 |
| 10 | Grant | 5.4 | 5.7 | 6.6 | 56 | Searcy | 7.9 | 7.8 | 7.7 |
| 28 | Greene | 6.3 | 6.7 | 8.1 | 14 | Sebastian | 5.6 | 6.0 | 6.8 |
| 20 | Hempstead | 6.0 | 6.4 | 6.9 | 28 | Sevier | 6.3 | 9.6 | 7.8 |
| 14 | Hot Spring | 5.6 | 6.0 | 6.9 | 67 | Sharp | 8.9 | 9.6 | 11.2 |
| 4 | Howard | 4.8 | 5.1 | 6.2 | 61 | Stone | 8.3 | 9.0 | 10.2 |
| 54 | Independence | 7.8 | 8.3 | 9.6 | 45 | Union | 7.3 | 7.8 | 8.5 |
| 53 | Izard | 7.7 | 8.5 | 8.7 | 57 | Van Buren | 8.1 | 8.7 | 10.1 |
| 74 | Jackson | 10.0 | 11.3 | 11.6 | 1 | Washington | 4.1 | 4.5 | 5.1 |
| 57 | Jefferson | 8.1 | 9.0 | 10.6 | 45 | White | 7.3 | 8.0 | 8.3 |
| 33 | Johnson | 6.5 | 6.9 | 7.6 | 54 | Woodruff | 7.8 | 8.7 | 9.8 |
| 63 | Lafayette | 8.7 | 8.6 | 9.3 | 16 | Yell | 5.7 | 5.9 | 6.4 |
| 48 | Lawrence | 7.4 | 8.5 | 9.3 | | | | | |

Lowest Rates

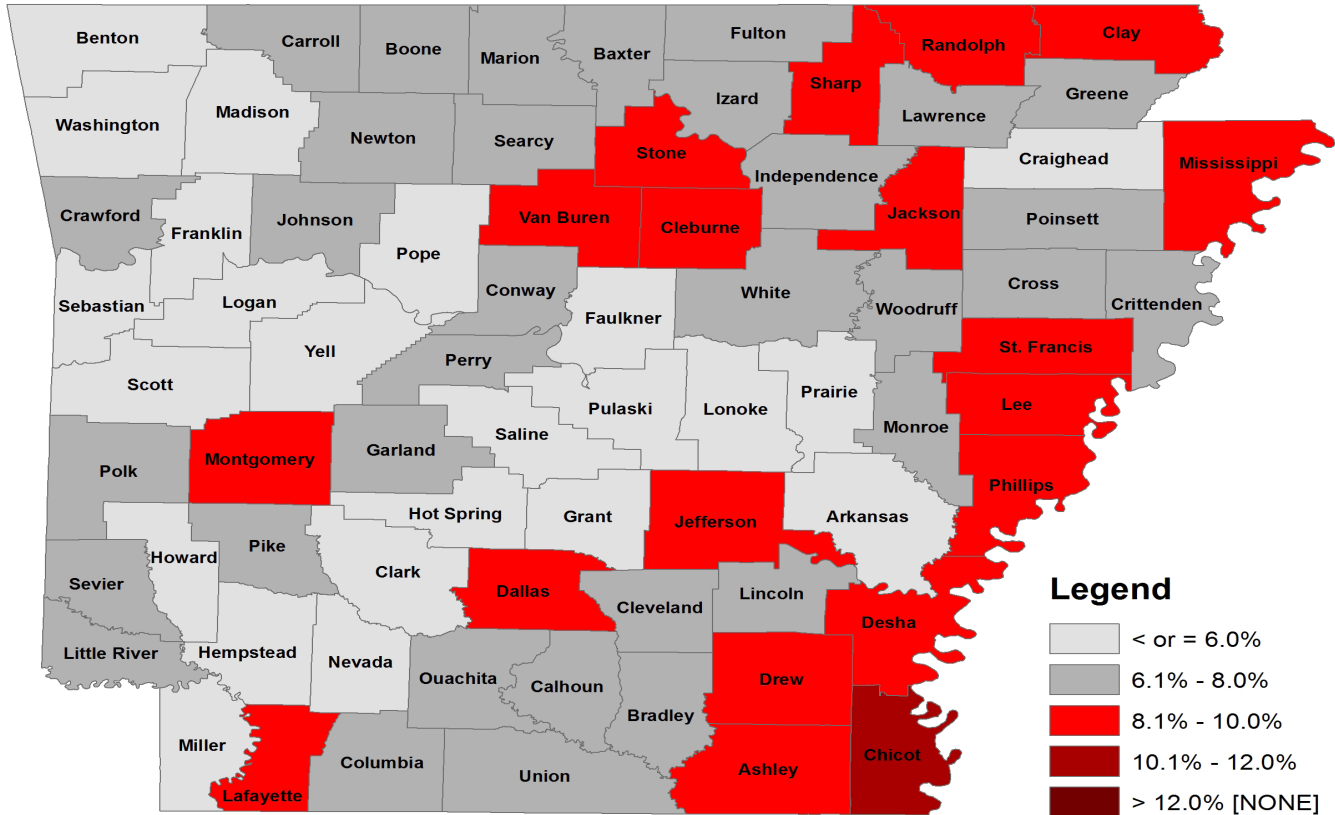
| Rank | County | Rate |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1 | Washington | 4.1 |
| 2 | Benton | 4.5 |
| 2 | Madison | 4.5 |
| 4 | Howard | 4.8 |
| 4 | Saline | 4.8 |

Highest Rates

| Rank | County | Rate |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| 72 | Desha | 9.5 |
| 73 | Mississippi | 9.7 |
| 74 | Jackson | 10.0 |
| 75 | Chicot | 11.4 |

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 2014 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

February 2015

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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