

Arkansas Labor Market

September 2015

Employment Headlines

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Falls to 5.2 Percent

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Increase 12,300 in September

Employment Quick Facts

Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted

	Sep 15	Aug 15	Sep 14
AR Unemployment Rate	5.2	5.4	5.8
US Unemployment Rate	5.1	5.1	5.9

Nonfarm Payroll Summary

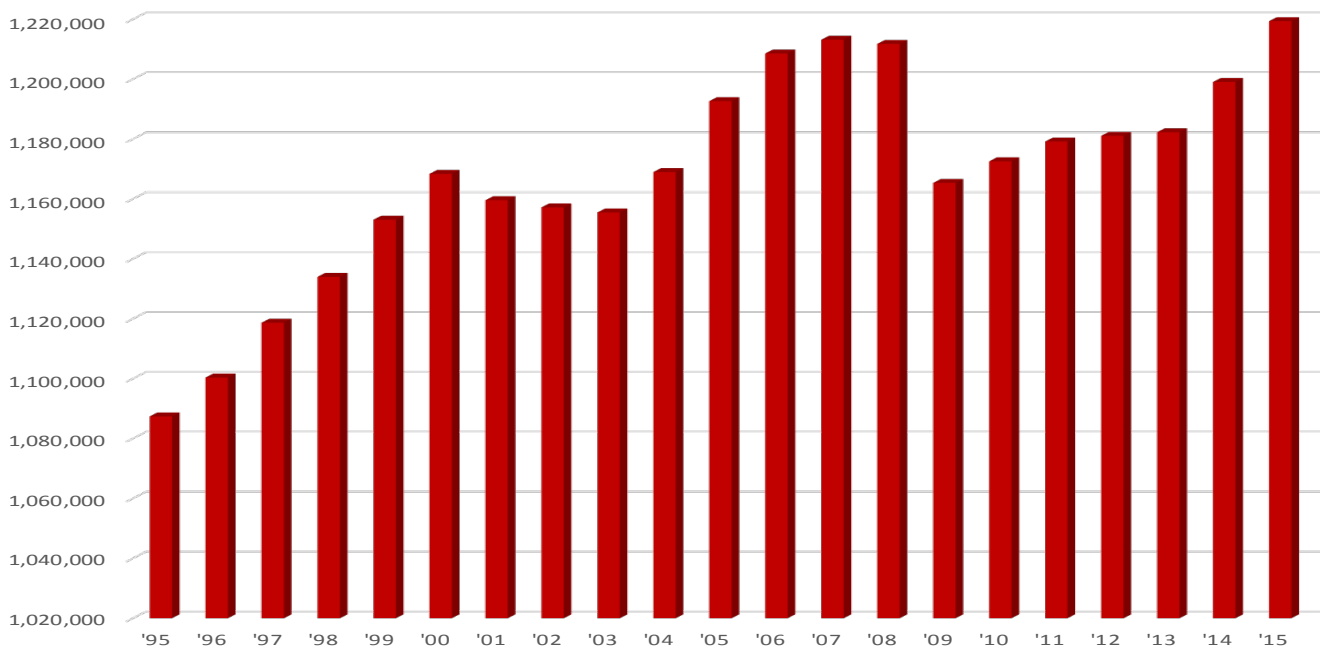
State of Arkansas

	Sep 15	Aug 15	Sep 14
Total Nonfarm	1,219,400	1,207,100	1,199,100
Goods Producing	216,000	215,700	211,700
Service Providing	1,003,400	991,400	987,400

Nonfarm Payroll Employment

State of Arkansas

September: 1995 - 2015



Nonfarm Payroll Employment

State of Arkansas

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

August 2015 - September 2015

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment rose 12,300 in September to total 1,219,400. Five major industry sectors added jobs, more than offsetting declines in six sectors. **Government** increased 12,900. All gains occurred in local (+7,800) and state (+5,200) government, due to public school employment. Jobs in **educational and health services** rose 2,000, related in large part to seasonal growth in educational services (+1,600). **Construction** added 1,100 jobs, with hiring reported in both heavy and civil engineering and in construction of buildings. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** dropped 1,900. Most of the loss occurred in retail trade (-1,400), an expected decline between shopping seasons.

September 2014 - September 2015

Compared to September 2014, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas have increased 20,300. Seven major industries posted growth, while employment in four sectors decreased. **Construction** added 7,800 jobs, mostly in specialty trade contractors (+5,800). Employment in **educational and health services** rose 5,600. Gains in health care and social assistance (+6,300) offset losses in educational services (-700). **Professional and business services** added 5,400 jobs. Growth was posted across all three subsectors. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** increased 4,100, largely in food services (+3,600). **Manufacturing** posted the largest decline. A majority of the loss was reported in durable goods manufacturing, down 2,100.

(NAICS)	Sep 15	Aug 15	Sep 14
Total Nonfarm	1,219,400	1,207,100	1,199,100
Goods Producing	216,000	215,700	211,700
Mining & Logging	8,300	8,400	9,000
Construction	55,200	54,100	47,400
Specialty Trade Contractors	35,900	35,800	30,100
Manufacturing	152,500	153,200	155,300
Durable Goods	75,100	75,700	77,200
Nondurable Goods	77,400	77,500	78,100
Service Providing	1,003,400	991,400	987,400
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	245,900	247,800	246,200
Wholesale Trade	48,300	48,100	47,000
Retail Trade	135,000	136,400	136,100
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	62,600	63,300	63,100
Information	13,700	13,800	13,500
Financial Activities	50,900	51,400	49,700
Finance & Insurance	37,800	38,200	36,700
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13,100	13,200	13,000
Professional & Business Services	141,000	140,600	135,600
Professional, Scientific & Technical	40,200	40,700	39,600
Management of Companies	34,300	34,300	32,400
Administrative & Support Services	66,500	65,600	63,600
Educational & Health Services	178,800	176,800	173,200
Educational Services	13,700	12,100	14,400
Health Care & Social Assistance	165,100	164,700	158,800
Ambulatory Health Care	51,100	51,600	49,700
Social Assistance	38,600	38,300	37,000
Leisure & Hospitality	114,100	115,300	110,000
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	11,700	12,700	11,100
Accommodation & Food Services	102,400	102,600	98,900
Accommodation Services	11,100	11,300	11,200
Food Services	91,300	91,300	87,700
Other Services	44,300	43,900	44,000
Government	214,700	201,800	215,200
Federal Government	20,200	20,300	20,200
State Government	79,600	74,400	79,000
Local Government	114,900	107,100	116,000

Hours and Earnings of Arkansas Production Workers (Manufacturing Industries)

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Sep 15	Aug 15	Sep 14	Sep 15	Aug 15	Sep 14	Sep 15	Aug 15	Sep 14
Manufacturing	\$673.09	\$676.45	\$687.44	41.6	41.5	42.2	\$16.18	\$16.30	\$16.29
Durable Goods	718.60	731.29	728.23	39.9	40.9	41.4	18.01	17.88	17.59
Nondurable Goods	628.13	623.08	647.36	43.2	42.1	42.9	14.54	14.80	15.09

Spotlight

Business Employment Dynamics (BED)

Business Employment Dynamics, also known as BED statistics, are a relatively new employment statistic. BED is primarily concerned with tracking employment changes at the establishment level, meaning each individual business location.

BED statistics are linked closely to the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) Program and are calculated from quarterly reports provided by individual employers. Like QCEW data, BED statistics are produced on a quarterly basis, with longitudinal data dating back to 1992. At this time, BED data is only published at the national and state level. No statistics currently exist to provide data at the county or city levels in Arkansas.

The information produced from BED statistics includes gross job gains and losses at establishments with changes in employment. These employment changes occur when establishments open/expand or close/contract. Gross job gains are a combination of jobs created from both openings of new businesses and expansions at existing businesses. Gross job losses are a combination of jobs lost from both existing businesses that close and those that reduce their number of employees. The net change is the difference between gross job gains and gross job losses.

The chart below shows gross job gains versus gross job losses for a nine quarter period (4th Q 2012 through 4th Q 2014).

Gross Job Gains and Losses by Quarter (Private Sector)

State of Arkansas
(Seasonally Adjusted)

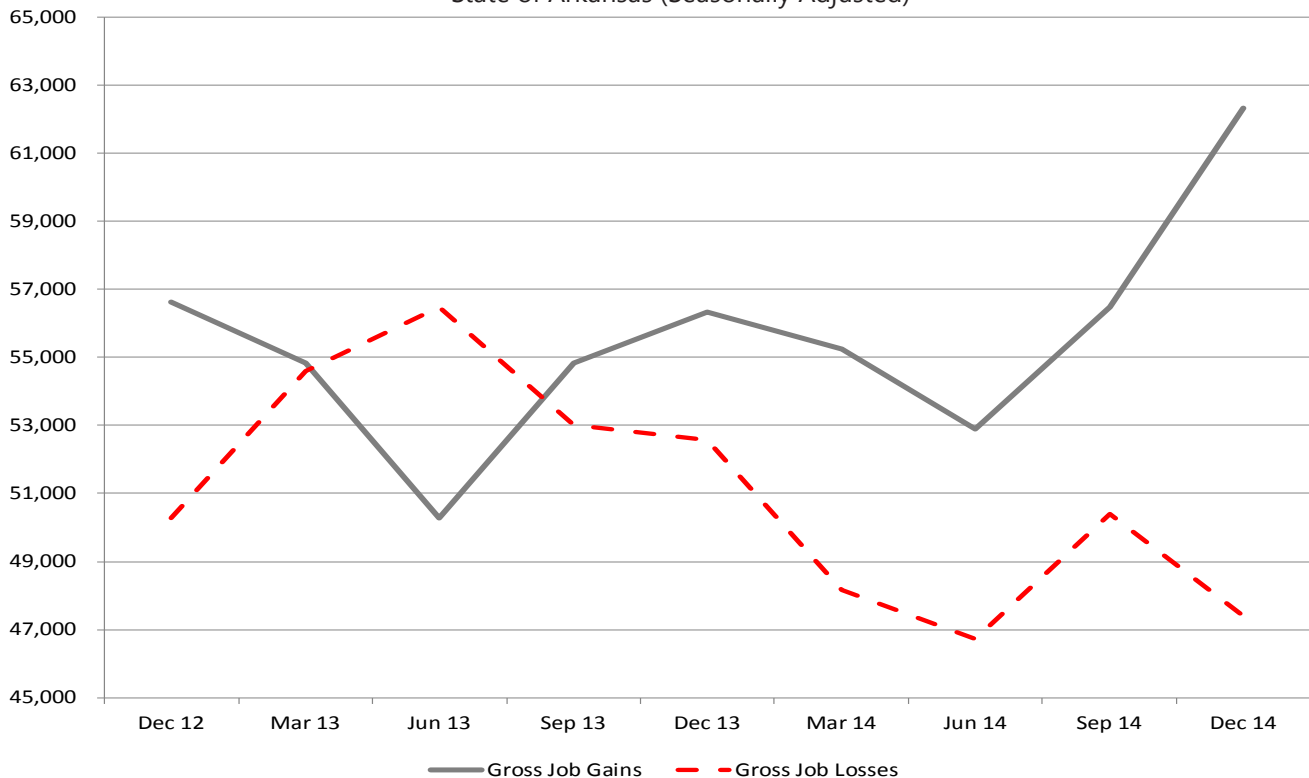
3 months ended

Category	Dec 13	Mar 14	Jun 14	Sep 14	Dec 14*
Employment Levels					
Gross job gains.....	56,317	55,241	52,907	56,474	62,332
Gross job losses....	52,575	48,156	46,722	50,404	47,403
Net Change.....	3,742	7,085	6,185	6,070	14,929

*Most recent BED data available is for 4th Quarter 2014

Gross Job Gains vs. Gross Job Losses (Private Sector)

State of Arkansas (Seasonally Adjusted)



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

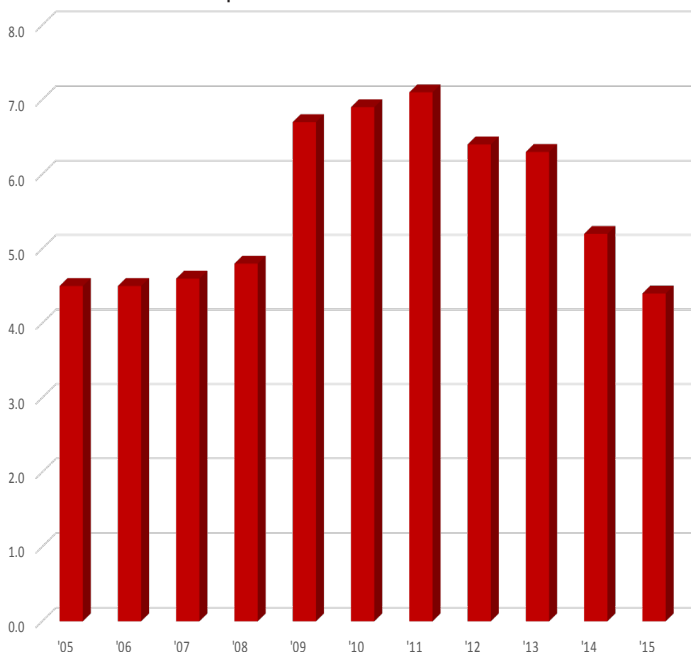
NAICS	Sep 15	Aug 15	Sep 14
Total Nonfarm	353,100	352,800	347,200
Goods Producing	39,200	39,400	36,900
Mining, Logging & Construction	18,900	19,100	16,800
Manufacturing	20,300	20,300	20,100
Service Providing	313,900	313,400	310,300
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	66,000	66,700	66,900
Wholesale Trade	14,900	14,900	15,100
Retail Trade	37,400	38,000	37,700
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	13,700	13,800	14,100
Information	6,600	6,600	6,600
Financial Activities	20,800	20,900	20,500
Professional & Business Services	45,400	45,700	45,200
Educational & Health Services	52,800	52,700	51,600
Leisure & Hospitality	34,700	35,100	32,400
Other Services	16,400	16,500	16,100
Government	71,200	69,200	71,000
Federal Government	9,700	9,700	9,500
State Government	34,800	33,700	34,500
Local Government	26,700	25,800	27,000

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

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Sep 15	Aug 15	Sep 14
Civilian Labor Force	350,750	355,575	340,375
Employment	335,450	339,850	322,675
Unemployment	15,300	15,725	17,700
Unemployment Rate	4.4	4.4	5.2

Unemployment Rates September: 2005 - 2015



Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

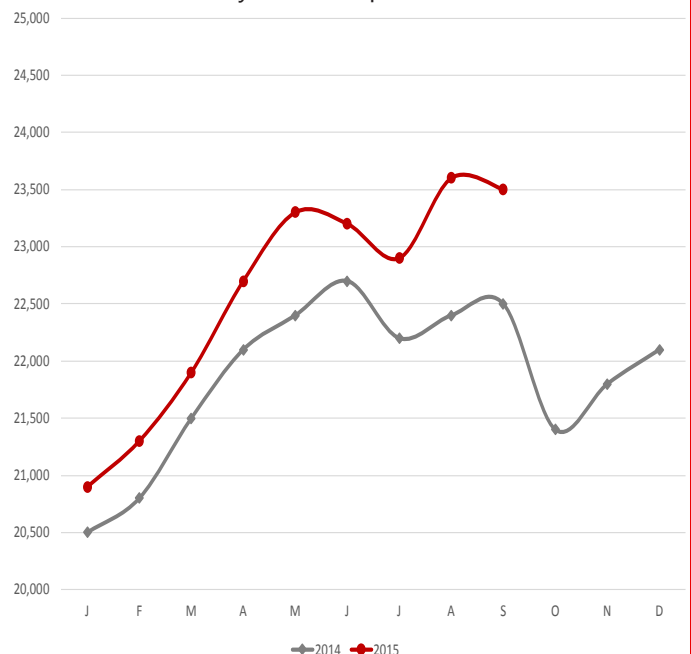
NAICS	Sep 15	Aug 15	Sep 14
Total Nonfarm	230,800	227,700	227,500
Goods Producing	36,100	36,100	36,200
Mining, Logging & Construction	8,900	8,900	8,800
Manufacturing	27,200	27,200	27,400
Service Providing	194,700	191,600	191,300
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	51,400	51,400	50,900
Wholesale Trade	11,200	11,200	10,900
Retail Trade	24,500	24,500	24,400
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	15,700	15,700	15,600
Information	1,900	1,900	1,800
Financial Activities	6,900	7,000	6,800
Professional & Business Services	45,100	45,600	45,500
Educational & Health Services	25,700	25,100	24,800
Leisure & Hospitality	23,500	23,600	22,500
Other Services	6,800	6,800	6,600
Government	33,400	30,200	32,400
Federal Government	2,600	2,600	2,500
State Government	13,300	11,300	12,600
Local Government	17,500	16,300	17,300

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

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Sep 15	Aug 15	Sep 14
Civilian Labor Force	248,550	248,950	242,225
Employment	239,775	239,950	231,825
Unemployment	8,775	9,000	10,400
Unemployment Rate	3.5	3.6	4.3

Jobs in Leisure and Hospitality January 2014 - September 2015



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fort Smith MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

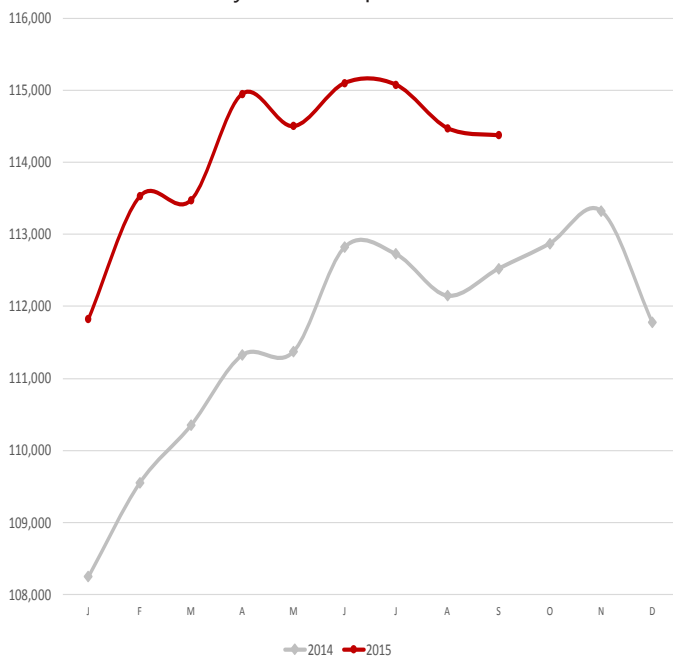
NAICS	Sep 15	Aug 15	Sep 14
Total Nonfarm	112,700	111,700	113,600
Goods Producing	24,100	24,100	25,100
Mining, Logging & Construction	6,100	6,100	6,900
Manufacturing	18,000	18,000	18,200
Service Providing	88,600	87,600	88,500
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	23,000	23,400	23,300
Wholesale Trade	4,400	4,300	4,200
Retail Trade	11,900	12,200	12,300
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	6,700	6,900	6,800
Information	1,200	1,200	1,200
Financial Activities	3,900	3,900	3,900
Professional & Business Services	12,900	12,900	12,300
Educational & Health Services	16,600	16,400	16,400
Leisure & Hospitality	8,600	8,700	9,200
Other Services	4,400	4,400	4,200
Government	18,000	16,700	18,000
Federal Government	1,300	1,300	1,300
State Government	3,100	2,900	3,100
Local Government	13,600	12,500	13,600

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

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Sep 15	Aug 15	Sep 14
Civilian Labor Force	120,750	121,075	119,250
Employment	114,375	114,475	112,525
Unemployment	6,375	6,600	6,725
Unemployment Rate	5.3	5.4	5.6

Number of Employed
January 2014 - September 2015



Hot Springs MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Sep 15	Aug 15	Sep 14
Total Nonfarm	38,800	38,800	38,000
Goods Producing	4,400	4,400	4,400
Service Providing	34,400	34,400	33,600
Government	4,700	4,400	4,700

The HS MSA consists of the following county: Garland

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Sep 15	Aug 15	Sep 14
Civilian Labor Force	41,325	42,025	40,075
Employment	39,150	39,825	37,650
Unemployment	2,175	2,200	2,425
Unemployment Rate	5.3	5.3	6.1

Jonesboro MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Sep 15	Aug 15	Sep 14
Total Nonfarm	56,100	55,000	53,600
Goods Producing	9,200	8,900	8,800
Service Providing	46,900	46,100	44,800
Government	9,000	8,500	8,800

The Jonesboro MSA consists of the following counties:

Craighead and Poinsett

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Sep 15	Aug 15	Sep 14
Civilian Labor Force	62,475	62,425	59,400
Employment	59,800	59,675	56,275
Unemployment	2,675	2,750	3,125
Unemployment Rate	4.3	4.4	5.2

Pine Bluff MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Sep 15	Aug 15	Sep 14
Total Nonfarm	31,600	31,100	33,800
Goods Producing	5,400	5,400	6,500
Service Providing	26,200	25,700	27,300
Government	9,200	8,900	9,500

The PB MSA consists of the following counties:

Cleveland, Jefferson, and Lincoln

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Sep 15	Aug 15	Sep 14
Civilian Labor Force	34,600	34,700	36,375
Employment	32,175	32,100	33,550
Unemployment	2,425	2,600	2,825
Unemployment Rate	7.0	7.5	7.7

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

State of Arkansas

(Seasonally Adjusted)

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	Sep 15	Aug 15	Sep 14	OTM	OTY	Sep 15	Aug 15	Sep 14	OTM	OTY
Civilian Labor Force	1,337,100	1,338,500	1,303,200	-1,400	33,900	1,331,200	1,335,900	1,305,500	-4,700	25,700
Employment	1,267,400	1,266,300	1,227,000	1,100	40,400	1,266,900	1,269,000	1,231,600	-2,100	35,300
Unemployment	69,700	72,200	76,200	-2,500	-6,500	64,300	66,900	73,900	-2,600	-9,600
Unemployment Rate	5.2	5.4	5.8	-0.2	-0.6	4.8	5.0	5.7	-0.2	-0.9
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.1	5.1	5.9	0.0	-0.8	4.9	5.2	5.7	-0.3	-0.8

Out-of-State MSAs

Memphis, Tennessee-Mississippi-Arkansas MSA

	Sep 15	Aug 15	Sep 14
Civilian Labor Force	610,550	610,875	601,375
Employment	571,525	571,625	555,650
Unemployment	39,025	39,250	45,725
Unemployment Rate	6.4	6.4	7.6

Texarkana, Texas-Arkansas MSA

	Sep 15	Aug 15	Sep 14
Civilian Labor Force	63,000	62,850	64,500
Employment	59,950	59,700	60,750
Unemployment	3,050	3,150	3,750
Unemployment Rate	4.8	5.0	5.8

Between August and September, unemployment rates declined in fifty-six of Arkansas' 75 counties. Nine counties posted rate increases, while ten counties remained stable.

In September, fifty counties posted jobless rates at or below six percent. For the second month in a row, no county had a rate above ten percent.

Compared to September 2014, unemployment rates are down in 72 counties. Only one county-- Logan County-- posted a rate increase over the year, while two counties were the same.

Unemployment Rates by County

Rank	County	Sep 15	Aug 15	Sep 14	Rank	County	Sep 15	Aug 15	Sep 14
6	Arkansas	4.0	4.1	4.8	59	Lee	6.3	6.8	7.2
67	Ashley	6.9	7.5	8.5	54	Lincoln	6.2	6.4	6.9
33	Baxter	5.2	5.2	6.2	33	Little River	5.2	5.3	6.2
2	Benton	3.6	3.6	4.5	42	Logan	5.8	6.1	5.7
16	Boone	4.7	4.9	5.5	6	Lonoke	4.0	4.1	4.9
51	Bradley	6.1	6.2	7.7	4	Madison	3.8	3.7	4.5
39	Calhoun	5.6	6.0	6.2	28	Marion	5.0	4.9	5.8
3	Carroll	3.7	3.6	4.5	19	Miller	4.8	5.2	5.6
75	Chicot	8.5	8.6	9.8	74	Mississippi	8.1	9.5	8.1
19	Clark	4.8	5.7	6.8	46	Monroe	5.9	5.9	6.6
51	Clay	6.1	6.2	6.9	61	Montgomery	6.5	6.4	7.6
61	Cleburne	6.5	6.6	7.2	23	Nevada	4.9	5.1	5.7
38	Cleveland	5.5	5.6	6.4	13	Newton	4.6	4.7	5.5
64	Columbia	6.6	6.9	6.6	48	Ouachita	6.0	6.1	7.3
48	Conway	6.0	6.2	6.3	42	Perry	5.8	5.7	7.0
8	Craighead	4.1	4.3	5.0	71	Phillips	7.3	7.6	8.9
28	Crawford	5.0	5.2	5.6	42	Pike	5.8	6.0	6.8
39	Crittenden	5.6	6.0	7.3	28	Poinsett	5.0	5.2	6.3
23	Cross	4.9	5.3	6.3	41	Polk	5.7	5.9	6.2
70	Dallas	7.1	7.0	8.6	23	Pope	4.9	5.6	6.0
65	Desha	6.7	7.2	7.4	13	Prairie	4.6	4.4	5.3
54	Drew	6.2	6.7	7.8	11	Pulaski	4.5	4.5	5.3
11	Faulkner	4.5	4.6	5.2	54	Randolph	6.2	6.2	6.9
19	Franklin	4.8	5.0	5.3	69	St. Francis	7.0	7.8	7.8
31	Fulton	5.1	4.9	5.2	5	Saline	3.9	3.9	4.8
35	Garland	5.3	5.3	6.1	13	Scott	4.6	4.9	4.9
10	Grant	4.4	4.4	5.2	31	Searcy	5.1	5.3	5.9
23	Greene	4.9	5.0	5.6	16	Sebastian	4.7	4.7	5.3
16	Hempstead	4.7	5.0	5.2	48	Sevier	6.0	6.1	6.4
23	Hot Spring	4.9	4.9	5.5	65	Sharp	6.7	6.8	7.5
9	Howard	4.2	4.8	4.8	51	Stone	6.1	6.0	7.1
61	Independence	6.5	7.1	7.4	54	Union	6.2	6.6	7.3
59	Izard	6.3	7.3	7.2	54	Van Buren	6.2	6.5	7.2
67	Jackson	6.9	7.4	8.1	1	Washington	3.4	3.5	4.0
71	Jefferson	7.3	7.8	8.0	42	White	5.8	6.0	6.5
36	Johnson	5.4	6.1	6.2	46	Woodruff	5.9	6.3	7.3
73	Lafayette	7.5	7.9	7.6	19	Yell	4.8	5.1	5.4
36	Lawrence	5.4	6.1	6.6					

Lowest Rates

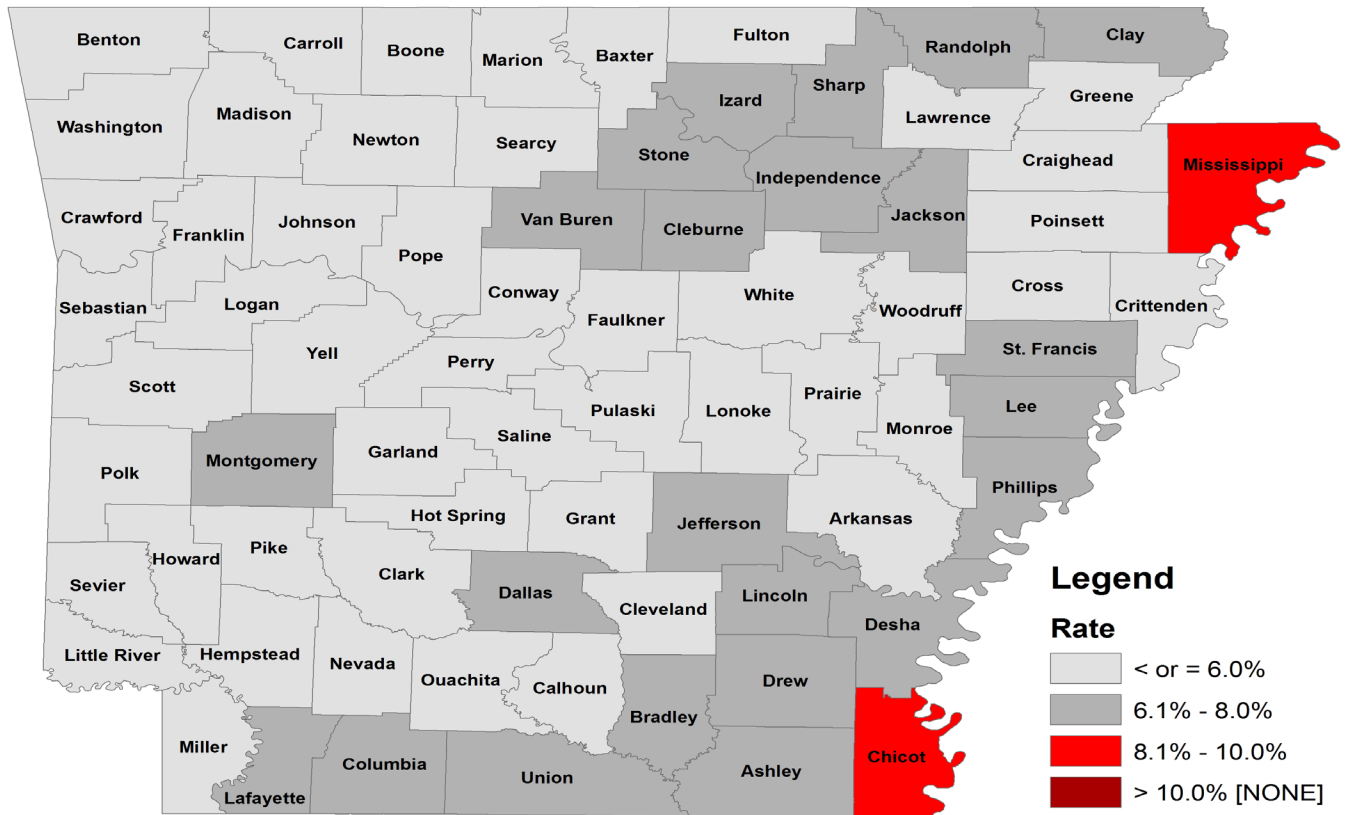
Rank	County	Rate
1	Washington	3.4
2	Benton	3.6
3	Carroll	3.7
4	Madison	3.8
5	Saline	3.9

Highest Rates

Rank	County	Rate
71	Jefferson	7.3
71	Phillips	7.3
73	Lafayette	7.5
74	Mississippi	8.1
75	Chicot	8.5

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

September 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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