

# Arkansas Labor Market

## February 2011

### Employment Headlines

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains Stable at 7.8 Percent

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Up 8,400 in February

### Employment Quick Facts

#### Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted

	<u>Feb 11</u>	<u>Jan 11</u>	<u>Feb 10</u>
AR Unemployment Rate	7.8	7.8	8.0
US Unemployment Rate	8.9	9.0	9.7

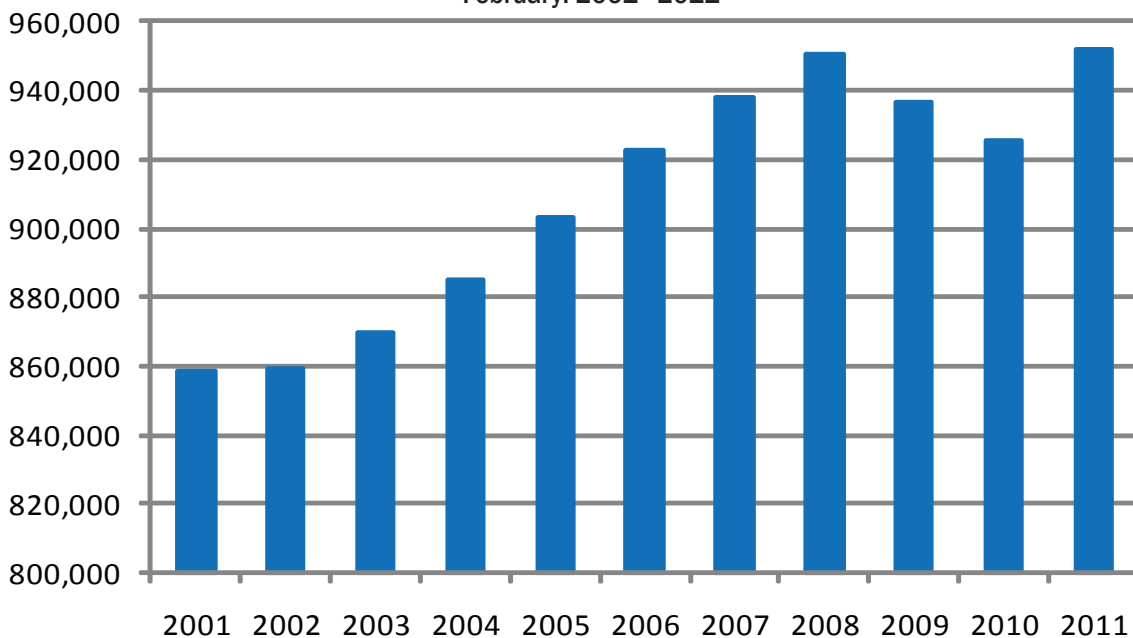
#### Nonfarm Payroll Summary

State of Arkansas

	<u>Feb 11</u>	<u>Jan 11</u>	<u>Feb 10</u>
Total Nonfarm	1,161,000	1,152,600	1,137,600
Goods Producing	209,400	212,100	212,400
Service Providing	951,600	940,500	925,200

#### Jobs in Service Providing Industries

State of Arkansas  
February: 2001 - 2011



# Nonfarm Payroll Employment

## State of Arkansas

### January 2011 - February 2011

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs increased 8,400 in February to total 1,161,000. Seven major industry sectors added jobs, more than offsetting declines in four sectors. The largest gain occurred in **professional and business services** (+4,700). Most of the increase was related to additions at employment agencies and seasonal gains in accounting and bookkeeping services. **Government** added 4,000 jobs, as public school employment returned to normal after the winter break. The largest decline occurred in **manufacturing** (-1,400), with losses in both nondurable and durable goods manufacturing. Jobs in **construction** dropped 1,100.

### February 2010 - February 2011

Since February 2010, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 23,400. Nine major industry sectors posted over-the-year expansions, with five adding 2,500 or more jobs, each. The largest gain occurred in **professional and business services** (+9,600), with administrative and support services experiencing a majority of the increase. **Trade, transportation and utilities** added 4,900 jobs, particularly in retail trade (+2,400) and transportation-warehousing-utilities (+2,800). Employment in **leisure and hospitality** rose 4,300, mostly in food services (+3,700). **Educational and health services** gained 2,900, attributed in large part to growth in social assistance (+2,600). Jobs in **other services** increased 2,500.

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Feb 11	Jan 11	Feb 10
Total Nonfarm	1,161,000	1,152,600	1,137,600
Goods Producing	209,400	212,100	212,400
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>10,400</b>	<b>10,600</b>	<b>9,800</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>42,900</b>	<b>44,000</b>	<b>45,000</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	25,700	26,500	26,800
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>156,100</b>	<b>157,500</b>	<b>157,600</b>
Durable Goods	76,300	76,800	75,600
Nondurable Goods	79,800	80,700	82,000
Service Providing	951,600	940,500	925,200
<b>Trade, Transportation &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>233,600</b>	<b>233,400</b>	<b>228,700</b>
Wholesale Trade	45,100	45,000	45,400
Retail Trade	128,000	128,300	125,600
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	60,500	60,100	57,700
<b>Information</b>	<b>15,800</b>	<b>15,700</b>	<b>15,400</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>49,700</b>	<b>49,900</b>	<b>48,600</b>
Finance & Insurance	36,400	36,500	35,400
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13,300	13,400	13,200
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>123,600</b>	<b>118,900</b>	<b>114,000</b>
Professional, Scientific & Technical	40,500	39,100	38,900
Management of Companies	27,000	26,700	26,000
Administrative & Support Services	56,100	53,100	49,100
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>167,400</b>	<b>166,800</b>	<b>164,500</b>
Health Care & Social Assistance	153,300	153,500	150,100
Ambulatory Health Care	46,000	45,500	45,300
Social Assistance	35,600	35,400	33,000
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>97,800</b>	<b>97,000</b>	<b>93,500</b>
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8,800	8,800	8,400
Accommodation & Food Services	89,000	88,200	85,100
Accommodation Services	10,300	10,200	10,100
Food Services	78,700	78,000	75,000
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>44,900</b>	<b>44,000</b>	<b>42,400</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>218,800</b>	<b>214,800</b>	<b>218,100</b>
Federal Government	20,500	20,900	21,700
State Government	76,800	72,800	77,000
Local Government	121,500	121,100	119,400

## Hours & Earnings of Arkansas Production Workers

(Manufacturing Industries)

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb 11	Jan 11	Feb 10	Feb 11	Jan 11	Feb 10	Feb 11	Jan 11	Feb 10
<b>Manufacturing</b>	\$548.10	\$570.65	\$547.79	38.9	40.5	39.1	\$14.09	\$14.09	\$14.01
<b>Durable Goods</b>	610.94	637.97	597.91	38.4	40.2	38.5	15.91	15.87	15.53
<b>Nondurable Goods</b>	494.39	512.86	505.78	39.3	40.8	39.7	12.58	12.57	12.74

# Spotlight

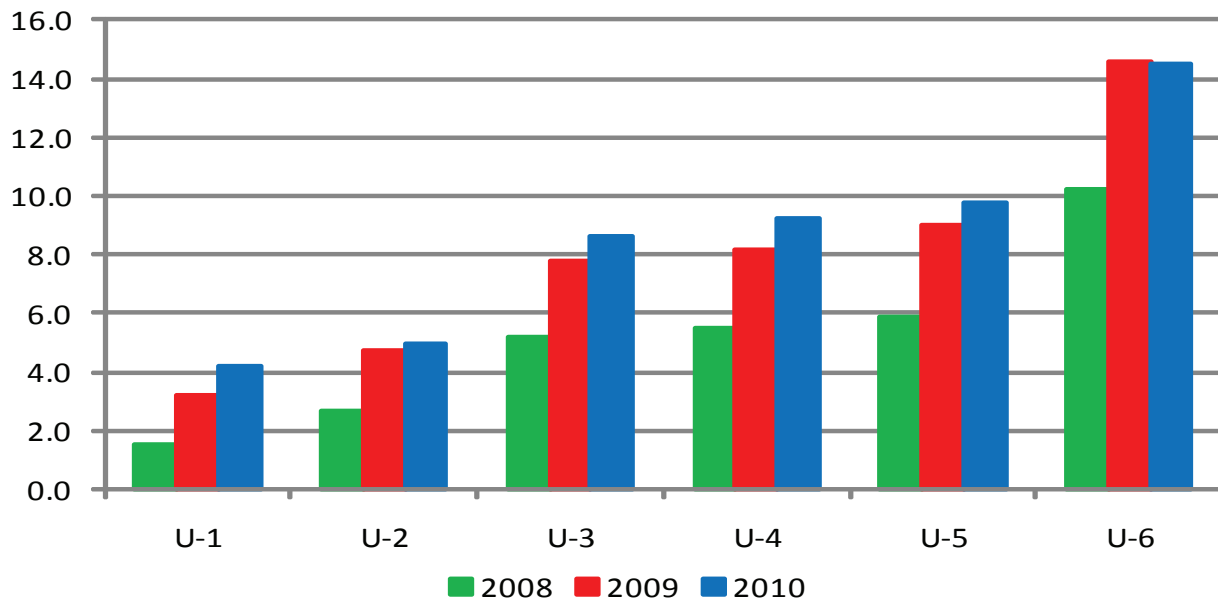
## Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization

There are six different ways to define and calculate labor underutilization-- the standard that is used in calculating the *official* unemployment rate plus five other alternative measurements. These measurements are calculated using data from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly survey of roughly 800 Arkansas households. While the CPS is a large part of calculating the *official unemployment rate*, it is not the only input used.

**Measures of Labor Underutilization in Arkansas  
2008 - 2010 Annual Average**

	U-1	U-2	U-3	U-4	U-5	U-6
<b>2008</b>	1.5	2.7	5.2	5.5	5.9	10.2
<b>2009</b>	3.2	4.7	7.8	8.2	9.0	14.6
<b>2010</b>	4.2	5.0	8.6	9.2	9.8	14.5

**Measures of Labor Underutilization in Arkansas  
2008 - 2010 Annual Average**



The following provides definitions of these alternative measurements and what these statistics say about labor underutilization in Arkansas:

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

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

**U-3 Measurement:** 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 Measurement:** Total number of unemployed and discouraged workers, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus discouraged workers.

**U-5 Measurement:** 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 Measurement:** 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.

# Metropolitan Statistical Areas

## Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

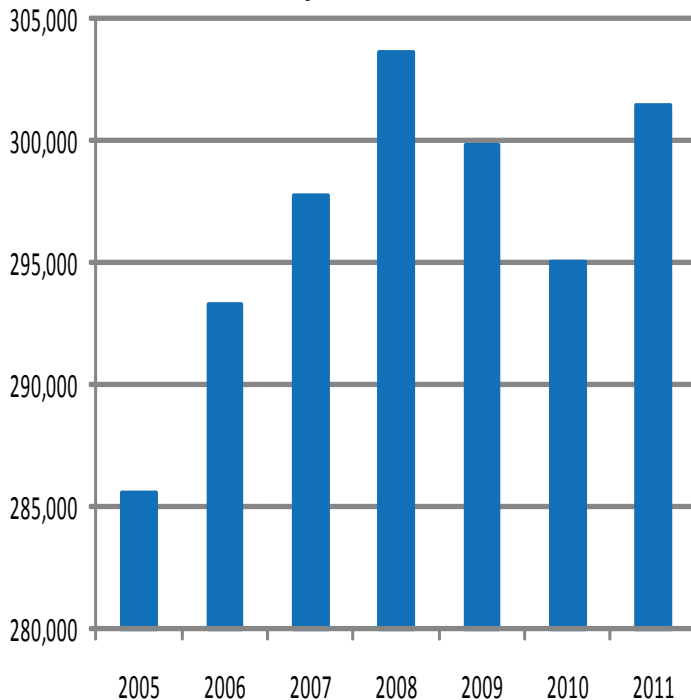
(NAICS)	Feb 11	Jan 11	Feb 10
Total Nonfarm	337,000	335,500	330,800
Goods Producing	35,600	36,400	35,800
Mining, Logging & Construction	15,800	16,500	15,600
Manufacturing	19,800	19,900	20,200
Service Providing	301,400	299,100	295,000
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	63,800	64,000	62,300
Wholesale Trade	16,700	16,600	16,200
Retail Trade	35,300	35,600	34,200
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	11,800	11,800	11,900
Information	7,700	7,700	7,900
Financial Activities	18,600	18,600	19,000
Professional & Business Services	44,300	43,500	42,200
Educational & Health Services	51,700	51,100	49,400
Leisure & Hospitality	29,600	29,500	28,000
Other Services	14,700	14,700	14,600
Government	71,000	70,000	71,600
Federal Government	9,400	9,500	9,700
State Government	33,600	32,600	33,600
Local Government	28,000	27,900	28,300

(The following counties make up the LR-NLR-Conway MSA:  
Faulkner, Grant, Lonoke, Perry, Pulaski, and Saline.)

### Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Feb 11	Jan 11	Feb 10
Civilian Labor Force	346,450	339,875	338,725
Employment	321,725	314,525	312,300
Unemployment	24,725	25,350	26,425
Unemployment Rate	7.1	7.5	7.8

### Jobs in Service Providing Industries February: 2005 - 2011



## Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

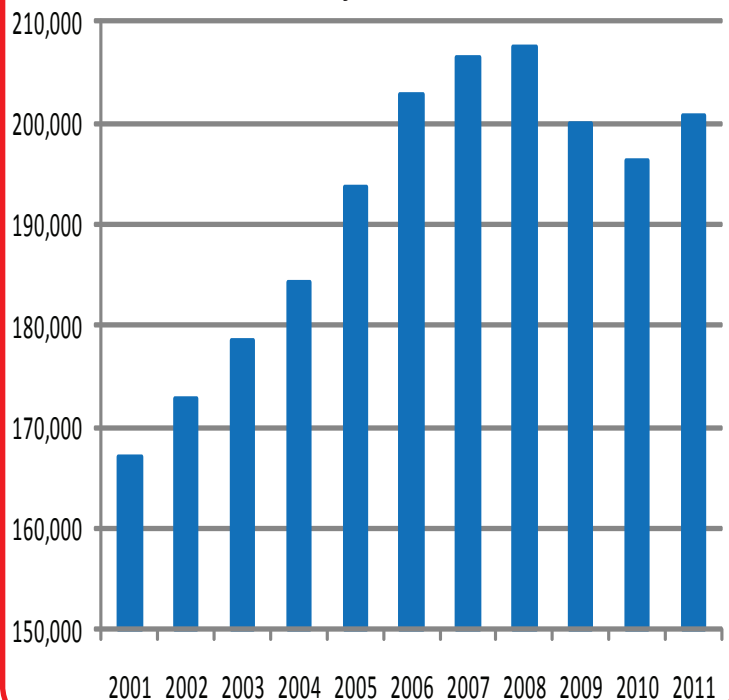
(NAICS)	Feb 11	Jan 11	Feb 10
Total Nonfarm	200,800	199,400	196,300
Goods Producing	36,000	36,200	36,100
Mining, Logging & Construction	7,600	7,600	7,500
Manufacturing	28,400	28,600	28,600
Service Providing	164,800	163,200	160,200
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	44,300	44,500	43,300
Wholesale Trade	8,800	8,800	8,600
Retail Trade	20,300	20,500	20,100
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	15,200	15,200	14,600
Information	2,100	2,100	2,100
Financial Activities	7,200	7,200	7,300
Professional & Business Services	34,800	34,500	33,400
Educational & Health Services	22,400	22,300	21,600
Leisure & Hospitality	18,100	17,900	17,000
Other Services	6,800	6,800	6,500
Government	29,100	27,900	29,000
Federal Government	2,400	2,400	2,500
State Government	9,700	8,500	9,600
Local Government	17,000	17,000	16,900

(The following counties make up the FSR MSA:  
Benton, Madison, and Washington in Arkansas and McDonald in Missouri.)

### Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Feb 11	Jan 11	Feb 10
Civilian Labor Force	229,275	224,800	223,725
Employment	213,950	209,500	207,325
Unemployment	15,325	15,300	16,400
Unemployment Rate	6.7	6.8	7.3

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs February: 2001 - 2011



# Metropolitan Statistical Areas

## Fort Smith MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

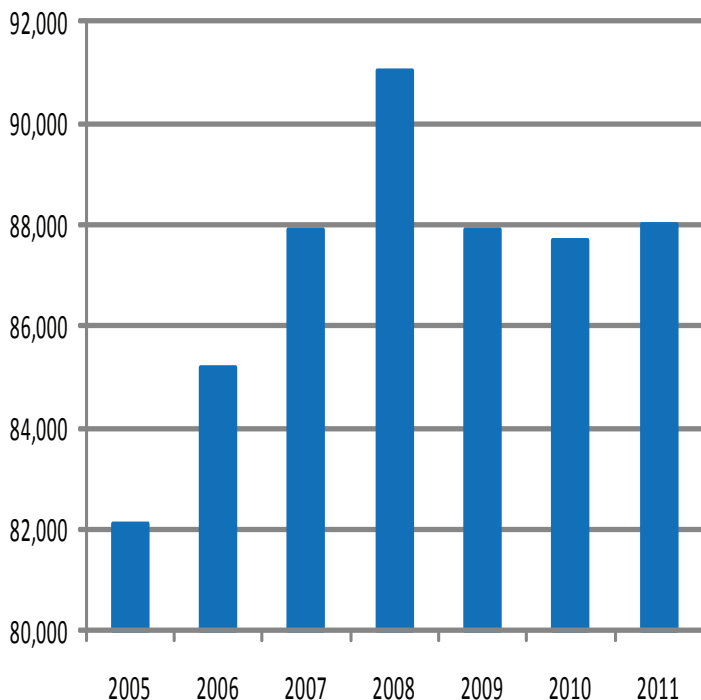
(NAICS)	Feb 11	Jan 11	Feb 10
Total Nonfarm	116,000	115,400	115,700
Goods Producing	28,000	28,000	28,000
Mining, Logging & Construction	7,000	7,000	6,900
Manufacturing	21,000	21,000	21,100
Service Providing	88,000	87,400	87,700
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	24,100	24,000	24,000
Wholesale Trade	3,900	3,900	3,900
Retail Trade	12,900	12,900	12,800
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	7,300	7,200	7,300
Information	1,200	1,200	1,200
Financial Activities	4,100	4,100	4,100
Professional & Business Services	11,800	11,700	11,200
Educational & Health Services	16,100	16,100	16,000
Leisure & Hospitality	8,500	8,500	8,400
Other Services	3,600	3,600	3,700
Government	18,600	18,200	19,100
Federal Government	1,600	1,600	1,700
State Government	3,500	3,200	3,300
Local Government	13,500	13,400	14,100

(The following counties make up the Fort Smith MSA: Crawford, Franklin, and Sebastian in Arkansas and LeFlore and Sequoyah in Oklahoma.)

### Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Feb 11	Jan 11	Feb 10
Civilian Labor Force	134,825	133,075	134,175
Employment	122,650	120,875	121,825
Unemployment	12,175	12,200	12,350
Unemployment Rate	9.1	9.2	9.2

### Jobs in Service Providing Industries February: 2005 - 2011



## Hot Springs MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Feb 11	Jan 11	Feb 10
Total Nonfarm	36,800	37,000	36,700
Goods Producing	4,000	4,000	3,800
Service Providing	32,800	33,000	32,900
Government	4,700	4,800	5,000

(The following county makes up the Hot Springs MSA: Garland.)

### Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Feb 11	Jan 11	Feb 10
Civilian Labor Force	42,425	41,975	42,025
Employment	38,675	38,225	38,225
Unemployment	3,750	3,750	3,800
Unemployment Rate	8.8	8.9	9.0

## Jonesboro MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Feb 11	Jan 11	Feb 10
Total Nonfarm	49,200	48,700	47,900
Goods Producing	8,400	8,400	8,200
Service Providing	40,800	40,300	39,700
Government	9,100	9,000	8,900

(The following counties make up the Jonesboro MSA: Craighead and Poinsett.)

### Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Feb 11	Jan 11	Feb 10
Civilian Labor Force	58,850	57,675	57,175
Employment	54,175	52,900	52,375
Unemployment	4,675	4,775	4,800
Unemployment Rate	7.9	8.3	8.4

## Pine Bluff MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Feb 11	Jan 11	Feb 10
Total Nonfarm	36,100	35,900	37,000
Goods Producing	7,400	7,400	7,300
Service Providing	28,700	28,500	29,700
Government	11,000	10,700	11,100

(The following counties make up the PB MSA: Cleveland, Jefferson, and Lincoln.)

### Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Feb 11	Jan 11	Feb 10
Civilian Labor Force	43,475	43,000	44,100
Employment	38,950	38,325	39,475
Unemployment	4,525	4,675	4,625
Unemployment Rate	10.4	10.9	10.5

# Civilian Labor Force Statistics

## State of Arkansas

(Seasonally Adjusted)

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Feb 11</u>	<u>Jan 11</u>	<u>Feb 10</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>	<u>Feb 11</u>	<u>Jan 11</u>	<u>Feb 10</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	1,365,400	1,362,400	1,351,200	3,000	14,200	1,357,800	1,338,000	1,341,200	19,800	16,600
Employment	1,259,300	1,255,500	1,243,500	3,800	15,800	1,243,800	1,222,000	1,222,400	21,800	21,400
Unemployment	106,100	106,900	107,700	-800	-1,600	114,000	116,000	118,800	-2,000	-4,800
Unemployment Rate	7.8	7.8	8.0	0.0	-0.2	8.4	8.7	8.9	-0.3	-0.5
U.S. Unemployment Rate	8.9	9.0	9.7	-0.1	-0.8	9.5	9.8	10.4	-0.3	-0.9

## Out-of-State MSAs

Memphis, Tennessee

Texarkana, Texas

	<u>Feb 11</u>	<u>Jan 11</u>	<u>Feb 10</u>
Civilian Labor Force	609,225	603,950	608,100
Employment	545,875	541,525	543,550
Unemployment	63,350	62,425	64,550
Unemployment Rate	10.4	10.3	10.6

	<u>Feb 11</u>	<u>Jan 11</u>	<u>Feb 10</u>
Civilian Labor Force	65,550	65,150	64,725
Employment	60,650	60,050	59,500
Unemployment	4,900	5,100	5,225
Unemployment Rate	7.5	7.8	8.1

## Unemployment Rates by County

Between January and February, unemployment rates declined in 59 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Twelve counties posted rate increases, while four remained the same. Jobless rates ranged from a low of 5.8 percent in Miller County to a high of 18.3 percent in Arkansas County.

In February, only one county enjoyed an unemployment rate at or below six percent. Twenty-nine counties had rates at or above ten percent, down from thirty-two counties in January.

Compared to February 2010, unemployment rates are down in 52 counties. Twenty counties had higher rates than this time last year, while three were the same.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Feb 11</u>	<u>Jan 11</u>	<u>Feb 10</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Feb 11</u>	<u>Jan 11</u>	<u>Feb 10</u>
75	Arkansas	18.3	18.8	17.8	64	Lee	11.6	11.5	10.9
62	Ashley	11.4	11.5	11.8	58	Lincoln	11.1	11.3	12.0
44	Baxter	9.8	9.9	10.8	15	Little River	7.7	7.8	8.0
3	Benton	6.6	6.8	7.3	22	Logan	8.4	8.5	9.6
24	Boone	8.5	8.8	9.4	10	Lonoke	7.4	7.8	7.4
60	Bradley	11.2	11.5	10.3	16	Madison	7.8	7.2	8.7
56	Calhoun	11.0	11.6	10.1	58	Marion	11.1	11.0	11.9
33	Carroll	9.0	9.3	9.0	1	Miller	5.8	6.2	6.2
72	Chicot	13.1	13.3	12.6	64	Mississippi	11.6	12.0	12.7
20	Clark	8.2	9.8	8.5	35	Monroe	9.1	9.5	9.9
74	Clay	14.7	14.5	14.5	45	Montgomery	9.9	10.3	9.5
30	Cleburne	8.8	8.5	8.7	35	Nevada	9.1	8.8	11.8
35	Cleveland	9.1	9.2	9.9	20	Newton	8.2	8.1	9.0
40	Columbia	9.4	9.6	10.2	24	Ouachita	8.5	8.8	9.3
29	Conway	8.7	8.8	9.4	33	Perry	9.0	8.9	10.6
12	Craighead	7.5	7.8	7.9	61	Phillips	11.3	11.6	10.9
30	Crawford	8.8	9.0	8.3	48	Pike	10.2	10.6	9.4
68	Crittenden	12.1	12.8	11.1	45	Poinsett	9.9	10.5	10.5
39	Cross	9.3	9.8	9.9	24	Polk	8.5	8.5	8.4
64	Dallas	11.6	11.7	10.8	14	Pope	7.6	8.1	8.5
73	Desha	13.5	13.7	13.4	41	Prairie	9.5	9.9	9.9
70	Drew	12.2	12.9	12.3	4	Pulaski	7.0	7.3	7.6
5	Faulkner	7.1	7.9	8.5	50	Randolph	10.4	10.8	11.1
7	Franklin	7.2	7.4	8.0	55	St. Francis	10.9	11.1	11.5
17	Fulton	7.9	7.9	9.3	5	Saline	7.1	7.2	7.7
30	Garland	8.8	8.9	9.0	12	Scott	7.5	7.3	7.5
19	Grant	8.0	8.1	8.4	43	Searcy	9.6	9.5	11.3
54	Greene	10.7	10.4	11.1	22	Sebastian	8.4	8.7	7.6
41	Hempstead	9.5	10.0	9.9	9	Sevier	7.3	7.6	6.8
17	Hot Spring	7.9	8.3	9.0	56	Sharp	11.0	11.0	11.6
28	Howard	8.6	8.7	9.5	68	Stone	12.1	11.9	11.4
24	Independence	8.5	8.7	9.5	49	Union	10.3	10.5	12.0
47	Izard	10.1	10.4	11.2	63	Van Buren	11.5	11.5	11.6
67	Jackson	11.8	12.2	11.9	2	Washington	6.4	6.6	7.0
52	Jefferson	10.5	11.0	10.3	38	White	9.2	9.7	9.6
10	Johnson	7.4	7.7	8.0	71	Woodruff	12.4	12.7	13.8
50	Lafayette	10.4	10.6	11.1	7	Yell	7.2	7.3	8.4
53	Lawrence	10.6	10.8	10.5					

### Lowest Rates

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1	Miller	5.8
2	Washington	6.4
3	Benton	6.6
4	Pulaski	7.0
5	Faulkner	7.1
5	Saline	7.1

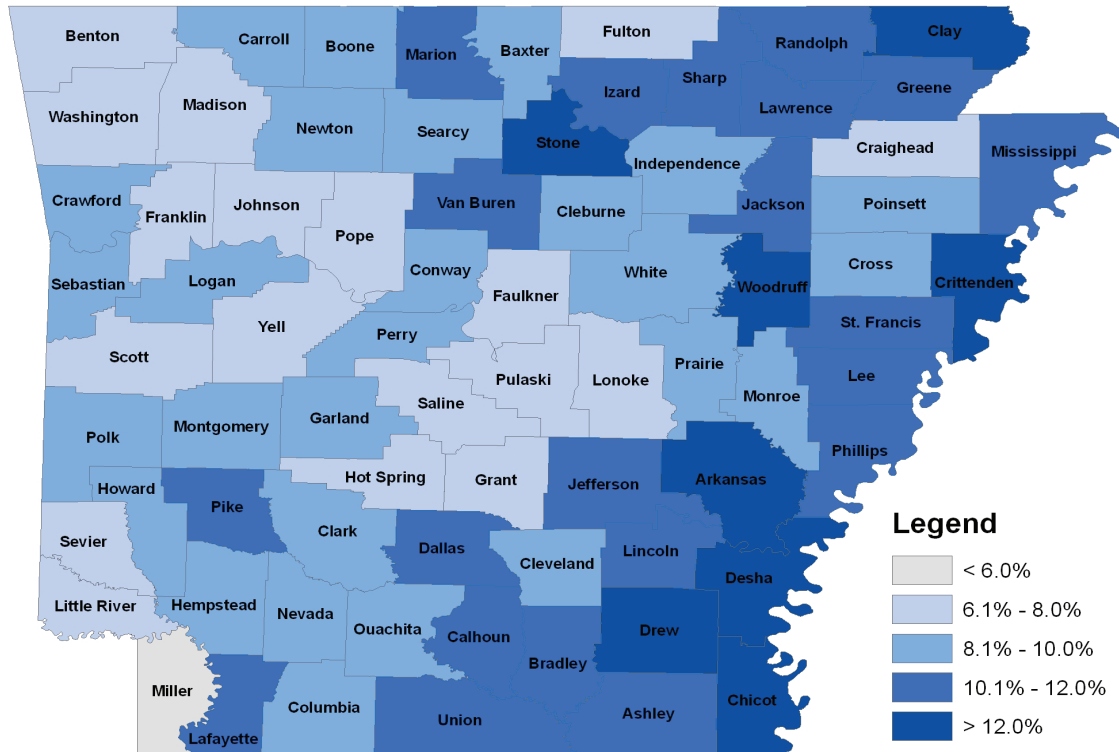
### Highest Rates

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
72	Chicot	13.1
73	Desha	13.5
74	Clay	14.7
75	Arkansas	18.3



# Civilian Labor Force Statistics

For complete County Labor Force Statistics, please visit our website at [www.discover.arkansas.gov](http://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 2010 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 3,000 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 in this publication 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, shifts in schedules, harvest times, and the opening/closing of schools.

# Arkansas Labor Market

## February 2011

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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