

Arkansas Labor Market

March 2011

Employment Headlines

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains at 7.8 Percent

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Increase 11,900 in March

Employment Quick Facts

Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted

	<u>Mar 11</u>	<u>Feb 11</u>	<u>Mar 10</u>
AR Unemployment Rate	7.8	7.8	7.9
US Unemployment Rate	8.8	8.9	9.7

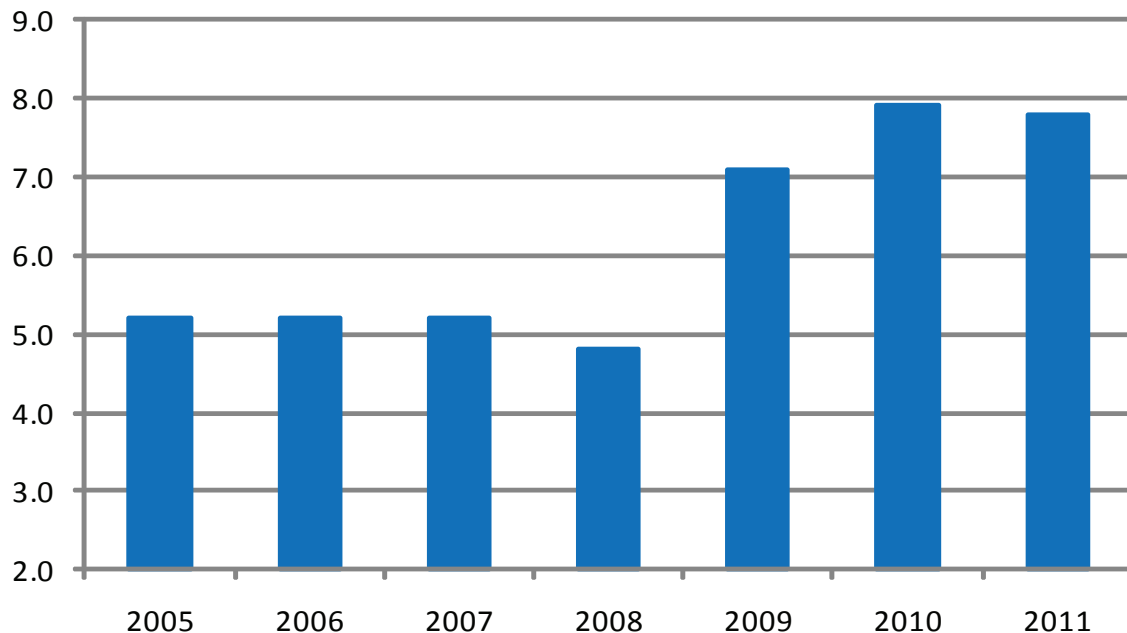
Nonfarm Payroll Summary

State of Arkansas

	<u>Mar 11</u>	<u>Feb 11</u>	<u>Mar 10</u>
Total Nonfarm	1,171,400	1,159,500	1,154,000
Goods Producing	213,700	209,100	216,600
Service Providing	957,700	950,400	937,400

Unemployment Rates (Seasonally Adjusted)

State of Arkansas
March: 2005 - 2011



Nonfarm Payroll Employment

State of Arkansas

February 2011 – March 2011

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 11,900 in March to total 1,171,400. Seven major industry sectors added jobs, while three posted decreases and one remained the same. The largest increase occurred in **leisure and hospitality** (+4,100), related in large part to seasonal gains in accommodation and food services (+3,400). Jobs in **construction** rose 3,700, with specialty trade contractors accounting for a majority of the growth. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 2,700 jobs, attributed mostly to the seasonal increase in retail trade (+2,400). **Government** posted moderate gains (+1,000), as many state and local entities began hiring seasonal workers.

March 2010 – March 2011

Since March 2010, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 17,400. Eight major industry sectors enjoyed employment growth, with five sectors adding 2,500 or more jobs, each. Three sectors posted decreases. **Leisure and hospitality** posted the largest annual increase (+5,300), with food services adding 4,000 jobs. Employment in **professional and business services** rose 5,200, attributed mostly to expansions in administrative and support services (+4,800). **Trade, transportation, and utilities** experienced a gain of 4,100 jobs. The growth occurred in retail trade (+2,000) and transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+2,100).

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Mar 11	Feb 11	Mar 10
Total Nonfarm	1,171,400	1,159,500	1,154,000
Goods Producing	213,700	209,100	216,600
Mining & Logging	10,600	10,400	10,200
Construction	46,600	42,900	47,300
Specialty Trade Contractors	27,600	25,600	27,800
Manufacturing	156,500	155,800	159,100
Durable Goods	76,500	76,000	76,700
Nondurable Goods	80,000	79,800	82,400
Service Providing	957,700	950,400	937,400
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	235,700	233,000	231,600
Wholesale Trade	46,000	45,600	46,000
Retail Trade	129,500	127,100	127,500
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	60,200	60,300	58,100
Information	15,700	15,800	15,500
Financial Activities	49,800	49,800	48,500
Finance & Insurance	36,400	36,500	35,200
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13,400	13,300	13,300
Professional & Business Services	121,400	122,000	116,200
Professional, Scientific & Technical	39,700	40,700	38,900
Management of Companies	25,800	25,900	26,200
Administrative & Support Services	55,900	55,400	51,100
Educational & Health Services	167,700	167,800	165,200
Health Care & Social Assistance	152,300	153,500	150,700
Ambulatory Health Care	44,700	46,200	45,400
Social Assistance	35,400	35,500	33,200
Leisure & Hospitality	101,900	97,800	96,600
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	9,400	8,700	8,900
Accommodation & Food Services	92,500	89,100	87,700
Accommodation Services	11,400	10,300	10,600
Food Services	81,100	78,800	77,100
Other Services	45,400	45,100	42,800
Government	220,100	219,100	221,000
Federal Government	20,500	20,500	23,700
State Government	77,500	77,100	77,400
Local Government	122,100	121,500	119,900

Hours & Earnings of Arkansas Production Workers

(Manufacturing Industries)

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar 11	Feb 11	Mar 10	Mar 11	Feb 11	Mar 10	Mar 11	Feb 11	Mar 10
Manufacturing	\$591.38	\$546.06	\$568.10	41.5	38.7	40.9	\$14.25	\$14.11	\$13.89
Durable Goods	671.16	609.74	619.81	42.0	38.3	40.3	15.98	15.92	15.38
Nondurable Goods	521.97	492.27	524.12	41.1	39.1	41.4	12.70	12.59	12.66

Spotlight

Mass Layoff Statistics

The Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) program is a standardized data collection program that uses each state's unemployment insurance (UI) database to identify and track potential mass layoff events [see box to the left]. Once a business has been identified as having a potential layoff, MLS staff members contact the business to assess the situation and to collect as much information as possible about the potential event. Data is collected concerning the reasons for the layoff and what type of workers were affected.

MLS data is primarily used in-house by other employment programs--Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) and Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). While each state's MLS are published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics as a total monthly statewide figure, Arkansas' monthly figures cannot always be published due to confidentiality issues (if too few layoffs occur, supplying the number might make the business identifiable). For this reason, it is best to view Arkansas' mass layoff events as a yearly total.

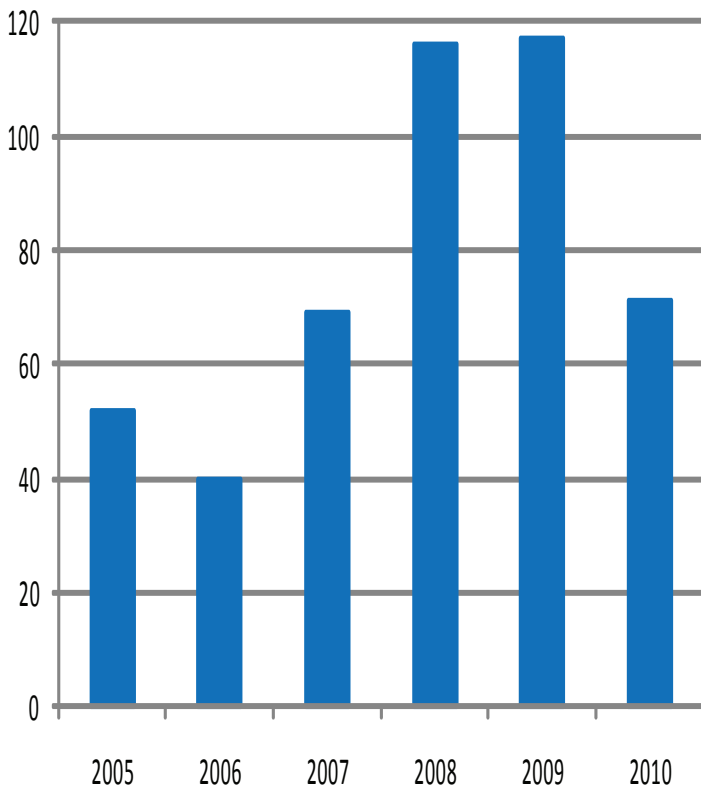
What is a Mass Layoff?

A mass layoff occurs when at least 50 initial unemployment insurance (UI) claims are filed against a particular business/company during a consecutive 5-week period. If affected workers are laid off for *less than 30 days*, the event is considered a temporary mass layoff event. If affected workers are laid off for *more than 30 days*, the event is considered an extended mass layoff event.

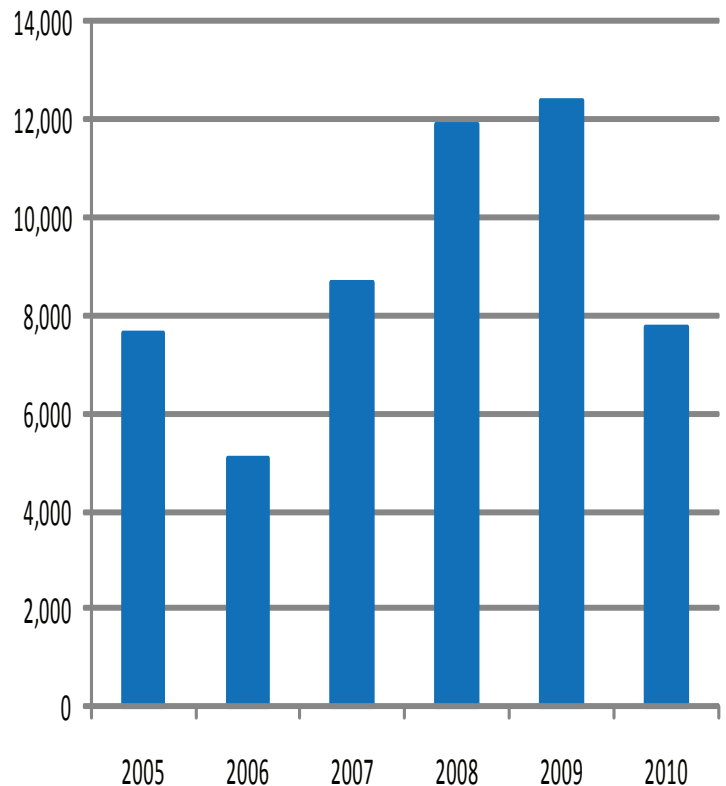
All information collected by the MLS program is confidential and cannot be released in such ways as to identify any particular business.

Graph 1 below shows total mass layoffs in Arkansas by year. The number of mass layoffs ranged from a low of 40 events in 2006 to a high of 117 in 2009, then declined to 71 events in 2010. Graph 2 shows the total initial unemployment insurance claims associated with the mass layoffs by year. During the same period, total mass layoff-related initial claims ranged from a low of 5,056 in 2006 to a high of 12,353 in 2009, then fell to 7,748 in 2010.

Graph 1. Total Mass Layoffs by Year
2005 - 2010



Graph 2. Total Initial Claims by Year
2005 - 2010



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

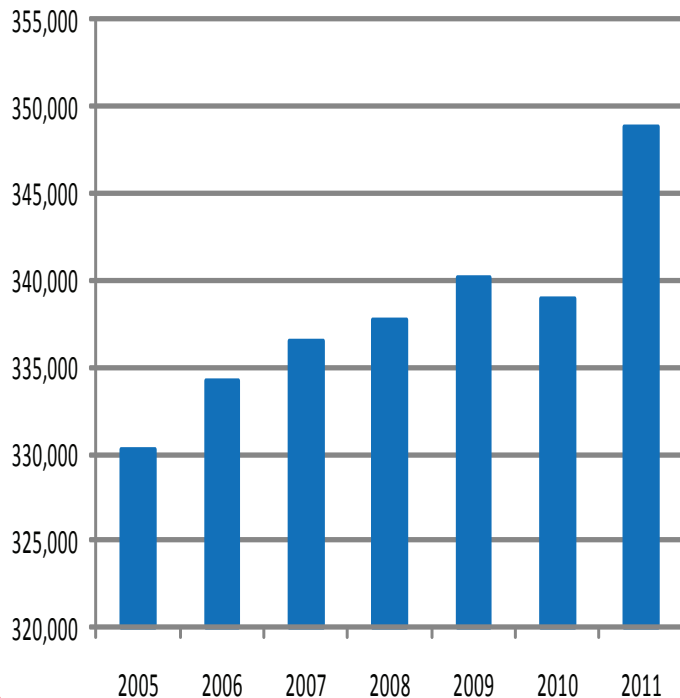
(NAICS)	Mar 11	Feb 11	Mar 10
Total Nonfarm	338,700	337,300	334,800
Goods Producing	37,000	36,100	36,200
Mining, Logging & Construction	17,200	16,300	16,000
Manufacturing	19,800	19,800	20,200
Service Providing	301,700	301,200	298,600
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	64,700	63,800	63,300
Wholesale Trade	16,800	16,700	16,400
Retail Trade	36,100	35,300	34,900
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	11,800	11,800	12,000
Information	7,700	7,700	7,900
Financial Activities	18,600	18,600	18,900
Professional & Business Services	44,600	44,200	43,200
Educational & Health Services	50,500	51,500	49,800
Leisure & Hospitality	29,500	29,600	28,900
Other Services	14,800	14,700	14,700
Government	71,300	71,100	71,900
Federal Government	9,400	9,400	9,900
State Government	33,800	33,700	33,600
Local Government	28,100	28,000	28,400

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Mar 11	Feb 11	Mar 10
Civilian Labor Force	348,800	346,600	338,925
Employment	325,025	321,925	314,050
Unemployment	23,775	24,675	24,875
Unemployment Rate	6.8	7.1	7.3

Civilian Labor Force March: 2005 - 2011



Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

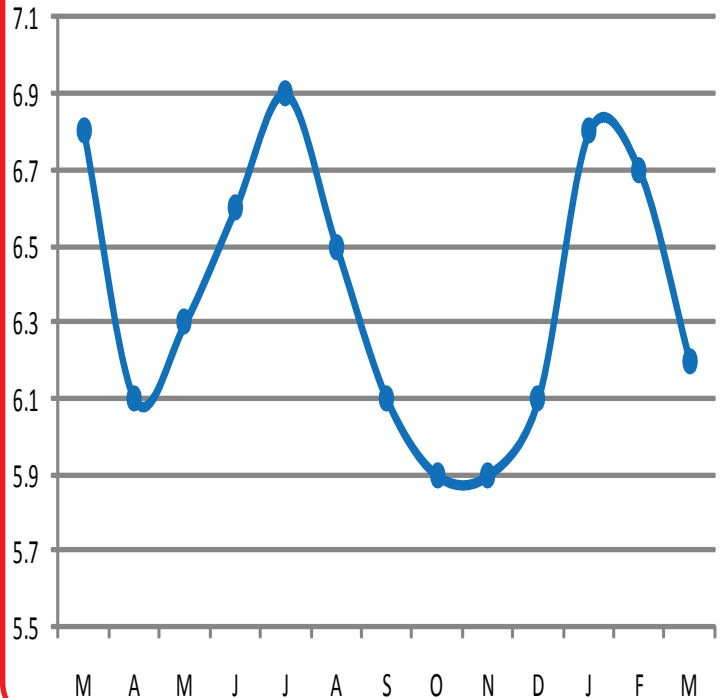
(NAICS)	Mar 11	Feb 11	Mar 10
Total Nonfarm	202,600	200,600	198,600
Goods Producing	36,300	36,000	36,700
Mining, Logging & Construction	7,900	7,600	7,800
Manufacturing	28,400	28,400	28,900
Service Providing	166,300	164,600	161,900
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	44,800	44,400	43,500
Wholesale Trade	8,900	8,800	8,700
Retail Trade	20,700	20,400	20,300
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	15,200	15,200	14,500
Information	2,100	2,100	2,100
Financial Activities	7,200	7,200	7,300
Professional & Business Services	35,100	34,700	33,900
Educational & Health Services	22,600	22,400	21,700
Leisure & Hospitality	18,600	18,100	17,400
Other Services	6,900	6,800	6,600
Government	29,000	28,900	29,400
Federal Government	2,400	2,400	2,700
State Government	9,500	9,500	9,800
Local Government	17,100	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

	Mar 11	Feb 11	Mar 10
Civilian Labor Force	230,325	228,925	223,825
Employment	216,175	213,650	208,575
Unemployment	14,150	15,275	15,250
Unemployment Rate	6.2	6.7	6.8

Unemployment Rates March 2010 - March 2011



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fort Smith MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

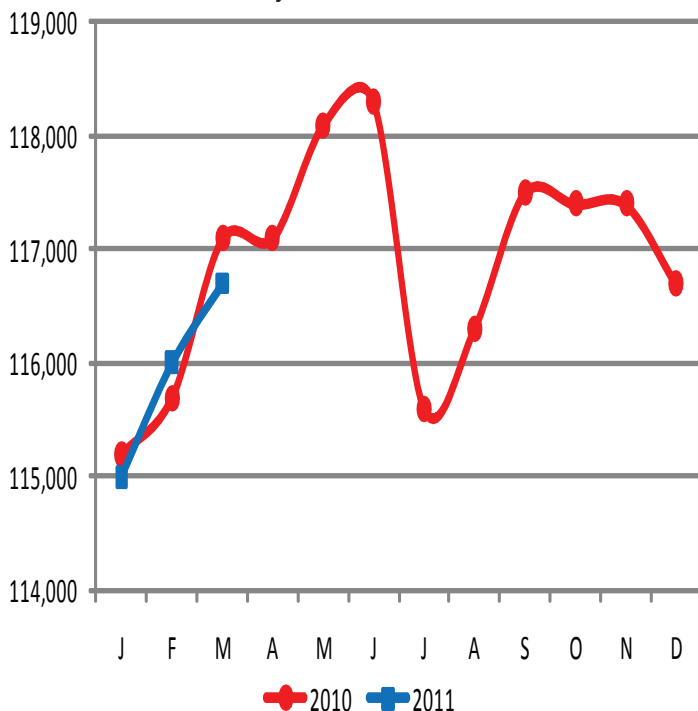
(NAICS)	Mar 11	Feb 11	Mar 10
Total Nonfarm	116,700	116,000	117,100
Goods Producing	27,800	27,900	28,500
Mining, Logging & Construction	7,100	6,900	7,200
Manufacturing	20,700	21,000	21,300
Service Providing	88,900	88,100	88,600
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	24,200	24,100	24,300
Wholesale Trade	3,900	3,900	4,000
Retail Trade	13,000	12,900	12,900
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	7,300	7,300	7,400
Information	1,200	1,200	1,200
Financial Activities	4,100	4,100	4,100
Professional & Business Services	11,800	11,800	11,400
Educational & Health Services	16,200	16,100	16,000
Leisure & Hospitality	8,900	8,500	8,600
Other Services	3,600	3,600	3,600
Government	18,900	18,700	19,400
Federal Government	1,600	1,600	1,900
State Government	3,700	3,600	3,300
Local Government	13,600	13,500	14,200

(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

	Mar 11	Feb 11	Mar 10
Civilian Labor Force	134,850	135,075	134,300
Employment	123,575	122,850	122,725
Unemployment	11,275	12,225	11,575
Unemployment Rate	8.4	9.1	8.6

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs January 2010 - March 2011



Hot Springs MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Mar 11	Feb 11	Mar 10
Total Nonfarm	38,200	36,900	37,400
Goods Producing	4,100	4,000	3,900
Service Providing	34,100	32,900	33,500
Government	4,900	4,800	5,100

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Mar 11	Feb 11	Mar 10
Civilian Labor Force	44,000	42,475	42,025
Employment	40,375	38,725	38,500
Unemployment	3,625	3,750	3,525
Unemployment Rate	8.3	8.8	8.4

Jonesboro MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Mar 11	Feb 11	Mar 10
Total Nonfarm	48,900	49,300	48,500
Goods Producing	8,500	8,400	8,200
Service Providing	40,400	40,900	40,300
Government	9,000	9,100	9,000

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Mar 11	Feb 11	Mar 10
Civilian Labor Force	58,350	58,875	57,100
Employment	53,900	54,200	52,650
Unemployment	4,450	4,675	4,450
Unemployment Rate	7.6	7.9	7.8

Pine Bluff MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Mar 11	Feb 11	Mar 10
Total Nonfarm	36,300	36,000	37,500
Goods Producing	7,500	7,400	7,500
Service Providing	28,800	28,600	30,000
Government	11,000	10,900	11,200

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Mar 11	Feb 11	Mar 10
Civilian Labor Force	43,850	43,325	44,075
Employment	39,425	38,850	39,675
Unemployment	4,425	4,475	4,400
Unemployment Rate	10.1	10.4	10.0

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

State of Arkansas

(Seasonally Adjusted)

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Mar 11</u>	<u>Feb 11</u>	<u>Mar 10</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>	<u>Mar 11</u>	<u>Feb 11</u>	<u>Mar 10</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	1,369,900	1,365,400	1,351,800	4,500	18,100	1,367,400	1,357,600	1,343,500	9,800	23,900
Employment	1,263,700	1,259,300	1,244,600	4,400	19,100	1,258,700	1,243,800	1,232,600	14,900	26,100
Unemployment	106,200	106,100	107,200	100	-1,000	108,700	113,800	110,900	-5,100	-2,200
Unemployment Rate	7.8	7.8	7.9	0.0	-0.1	8.0	8.4	8.3	-0.4	-0.3
U.S. Unemployment Rate	8.8	8.9	9.7	-0.1	-0.9	9.2	9.5	10.2	-0.3	-1.0

Out-of-State MSAs

Memphis, Tennessee

Texarkana, Texas

	<u>Mar 11</u>	<u>Feb 11</u>	<u>Mar 10</u>
Civilian Labor Force	611,225	608,900	608,875
Employment	550,500	545,625	545,600
Unemployment	60,725	63,275	63,275
Unemployment Rate	9.9	10.4	10.4

	<u>Mar 11</u>	<u>Feb 11</u>	<u>Mar 10</u>
Civilian Labor Force	65,150	65,450	64,725
Employment	60,300	60,525	59,775
Unemployment	4,850	4,925	4,950
Unemployment Rate	7.4	7.5	7.6

Unemployment Rates by County

Between February and March, unemployment rates declined in 69 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Five counties posted rate increases, while one remained the same. Jobless rates ranged from a low of 5.9 percent in Washington County to a high of 18.0 percent in Arkansas County.

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

Compared to March 2010, jobless rates are down in 42 counties. Twenty-nine counties have higher rates than this time last year, while four were the same.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Mar 11</u>	<u>Feb 11</u>	<u>Mar 10</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Mar 11</u>	<u>Feb 11</u>	<u>Mar 10</u>
75	Arkansas	18.0	18.3	17.6	63	Lee	10.9	11.6	9.7
64	Ashley	11.0	11.5	10.8	42	Lincoln	9.0	11.0	10.8
39	Baxter	8.7	9.8	9.7	20	Little River	7.5	7.6	7.5
3	Benton	6.2	6.6	6.7	24	Logan	8.0	8.4	8.6
22	Boone	7.6	8.7	8.3	7	Lonoke	6.8	7.4	6.9
55	Bradley	10.2	11.1	10.1	5	Madison	6.4	7.8	7.6
46	Calhoun	9.3	10.9	9.6	51	Marion	9.9	11.2	10.9
20	Carroll	7.5	9.2	7.5	2	Miller	6.1	5.8	6.3
71	Chicot	12.7	13.1	12.1	65	Mississippi	11.1	11.6	12.2
23	Clark	7.9	8.2	7.7	37	Monroe	8.6	9.1	9.1
73	Clay	14.1	14.7	12.8	40	Montgomery	8.9	9.9	8.2
29	Cleburne	8.2	8.7	7.9	62	Nevada	10.7	9.1	10.1
29	Cleveland	8.2	9.0	10.2	14	Newton	7.2	8.3	7.7
40	Columbia	8.9	9.4	9.6	34	Ouachita	8.3	8.6	9.2
29	Conway	8.2	8.7	8.5	24	Perry	8.0	9.0	9.5
14	Craighead	7.2	7.5	7.5	59	Phillips	10.5	11.3	10.0
26	Crawford	8.1	8.7	7.9	47	Pike	9.5	10.3	8.3
69	Crittenden	11.6	12.2	10.5	47	Poinsett	9.5	9.8	9.3
42	Cross	9.0	9.4	9.0	29	Polk	8.2	8.5	8.0
65	Dallas	11.1	11.5	12.6	14	Pope	7.2	7.6	7.3
72	Desha	13.5	13.5	12.8	36	Prairie	8.5	9.5	9.3
70	Drew	11.7	12.2	11.5	7	Pulaski	6.8	7.0	7.2
7	Faulkner	6.8	7.1	8.1	54	Randolph	10.1	10.4	10.0
14	Franklin	7.2	7.1	7.3	56	St. Francis	10.3	10.9	10.6
10	Fulton	7.1	7.9	8.4	6	Saline	6.7	7.1	7.2
34	Garland	8.3	8.8	8.4	10	Scott	7.1	7.4	6.8
18	Grant	7.4	8.0	7.5	45	Searcy	9.1	9.6	8.8
56	Greene	10.3	10.7	10.5	26	Sebastian	8.1	8.4	7.4
42	Hempstead	9.0	9.5	9.6	10	Sevier	7.1	7.3	6.1
18	Hot Spring	7.4	7.9	8.2	56	Sharp	10.3	11.0	10.1
29	Howard	8.2	8.6	8.7	68	Stone	11.2	12.1	9.6
26	Independence	8.1	8.5	8.5	51	Union	9.9	10.2	11.5
47	Izard	9.5	10.1	10.0	59	Van Buren	10.5	11.5	10.5
65	Jackson	11.1	11.8	11.0	1	Washington	5.9	6.4	6.6
59	Jefferson	10.5	10.4	9.8	37	White	8.6	9.2	9.1
10	Johnson	7.1	7.4	7.3	73	Woodruff	14.1	12.4	12
53	Lafayette	10.0	10.4	10.3	4	Yell	6.3	7.2	7.4
50	Lawrence	9.7	10.5	9.3					

Lowest Rates

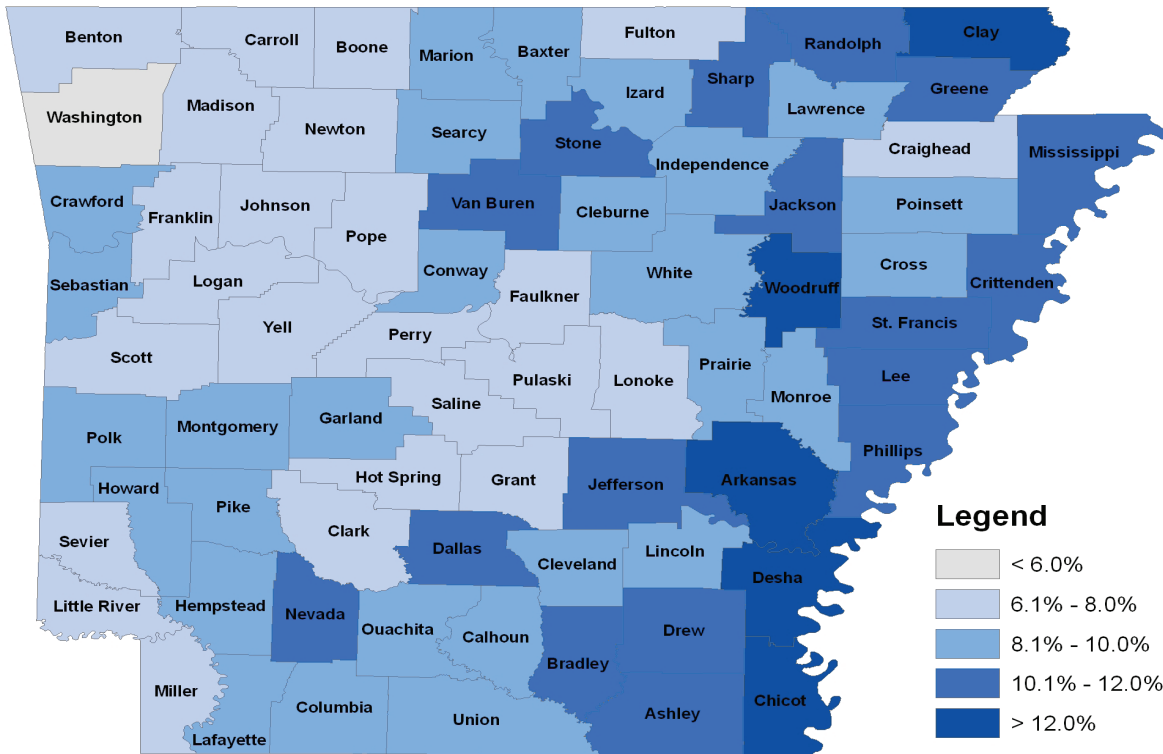
<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1	Washington	5.9
2	Miller	6.1
3	Benton	6.2
4	Yell	6.3
5	Madison	6.4

Highest Rates

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
71	Chicot	12.7
72	Desha	13.5
73	Clay	14.1
73	Woodruff	14.1
75	Arkansas	18.0

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 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

March 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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