

# Arkansas Labor Market

## August 2012

### Employment Headlines

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains Stable at 7.3 Percent  
 Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Increase 4,900 in August

### Employment Quick Facts

#### Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted

	<u>Aug 12</u>	<u>Jul 12</u>	<u>Aug 11</u>
AR Unemployment Rate	7.3	7.3	8.1
US Unemployment Rate	8.1	8.3	9.1

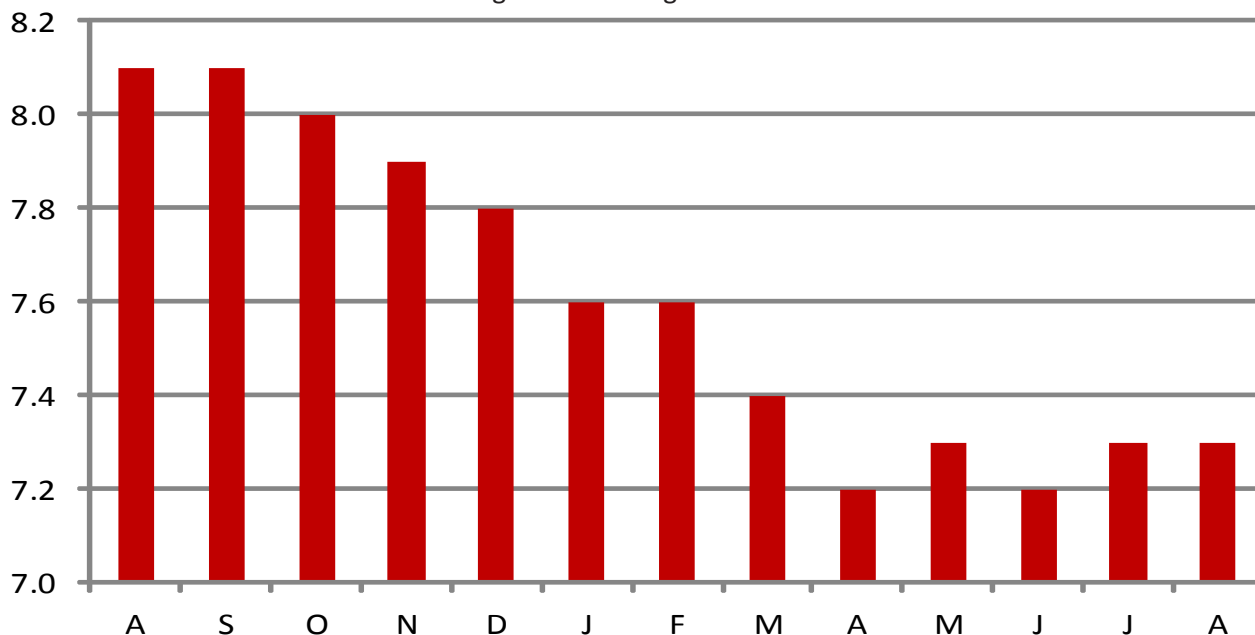
#### Nonfarm Payroll Summary

State of Arkansas

	<u>Aug 12</u>	<u>Jul 12</u>	<u>Aug 11</u>
Total Nonfarm	1,161,400	1,156,500	1,151,800
Goods Producing	213,600	213,400	216,900
Service Providing	947,800	943,100	934,900

#### Unemployment Rates (Seasonally Adjusted)

State of Arkansas  
 August 2011 - August 2012



# Nonfarm Payroll Employment

## State of Arkansas

### July 2012 - August 2012

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 4,900 in August to total 1,161,400. Five major industry sectors added jobs. **Government** posted a seasonal gain of 4,500 jobs. Local (+2,900) and state (+1,600) government increased as public schools began hiring for the 2012/2013 school year. Jobs in **educational and health services** rose 1,700. While some of the gain was attributed to private school employment, a majority was posted in social assistance (+1,400). **Construction** added 1,500 jobs, a result of reported hiring in heavy and civil engineering construction, building equipment contractors and other specialty trade contractors. **Manufacturing** posted the largest decrease (-1,200). Declines were reported in both durable goods (-700) and nondurable goods (-500) manufacturing.

### August 2011 - August 2012

Since August 2011, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment rose 9,600. Seven major industry sectors enjoyed growth. **Educational and health services** reported the largest increase (+7,500). Most of the gain occurred in health care and social assistance (+5,500). Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** rose 4,300. A majority of the growth was related to food services (+3,700). **Construction** posted the largest decrease (-2,400). Employment in **manufacturing** decreased 1,200. Declines in nondurable goods (-3,400) more than offset reported growth in durable goods manufacturing (+2,200).

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs				
(NAICS)	Aug 12	Jul 12	Aug 11	
Total Nonfarm	1,161,400	1,156,500	1,151,800	
Goods Producing	213,600	213,400	216,900	
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>11,300</b>	<b>11,400</b>	<b>11,000</b>	
<b>Construction</b>	<b>46,000</b>	<b>44,500</b>	<b>48,400</b>	
Specialty Trade Contractors	27,500	26,800	29,000	
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>156,300</b>	<b>157,500</b>	<b>157,500</b>	
Durable Goods	81,300	82,000	79,100	
Nondurable Goods	75,000	75,500	78,400	
Service Providing	947,800	943,100	934,900	
<b>Trade, Transportation &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>235,200</b>	<b>236,000</b>	<b>235,400</b>	
Wholesale Trade	46,300	46,900	46,200	
Retail Trade	128,200	128,900	129,500	
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	60,700	60,200	59,700	
<b>Information</b>	<b>14,200</b>	<b>14,300</b>	<b>14,500</b>	
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>47,600</b>	<b>47,700</b>	<b>47,300</b>	
Finance & Insurance	35,000	35,100	34,400	
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,600	12,600	12,900	
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>118,200</b>	<b>118,000</b>	<b>117,700</b>	
Professional, Scientific & Technical	37,100	37,000	35,700	
Management of Companies	26,900	26,800	26,100	
Administrative & Support Services	54,200	54,200	55,900	
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>172,300</b>	<b>170,600</b>	<b>164,800</b>	
Health Care & Social Assistance	157,100	155,600	151,600	
Ambulatory Health Care	47,500	47,500	45,800	
Social Assistance	35,200	33,800	33,700	
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>106,100</b>	<b>107,000</b>	<b>101,800</b>	
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	11,000	11,600	10,500	
Accommodation & Food Services	95,100	95,400	91,300	
Accommodation Services	12,000	12,300	11,900	
Food Services	83,100	83,100	79,400	
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>44,000</b>	<b>43,800</b>	<b>43,900</b>	
<b>Government</b>	<b>210,200</b>	<b>205,700</b>	<b>209,500</b>	
Federal Government	20,300	20,300	21,100	
State Government	72,800	71,200	73,400	
Local Government	117,100	114,200	115,000	

## Hours & Earnings of Arkansas Production Workers

(Manufacturing Industries)

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Aug 12	Jul 12	Aug 11	Aug 12	Jul 12	Aug 11	Aug 12	Jul 12	Aug 11
<b>Manufacturing</b>	\$637.14	\$630.77	\$583.78	42.0	41.2	40.4	\$15.17	\$15.31	\$14.45
<b>Durable Goods</b>	687.80	680.09	639.60	42.8	41.8	39.9	16.07	16.27	16.03
<b>Nondurable Goods</b>	584.63	580.17	530.47	41.2	40.6	40.9	14.19	14.29	12.97

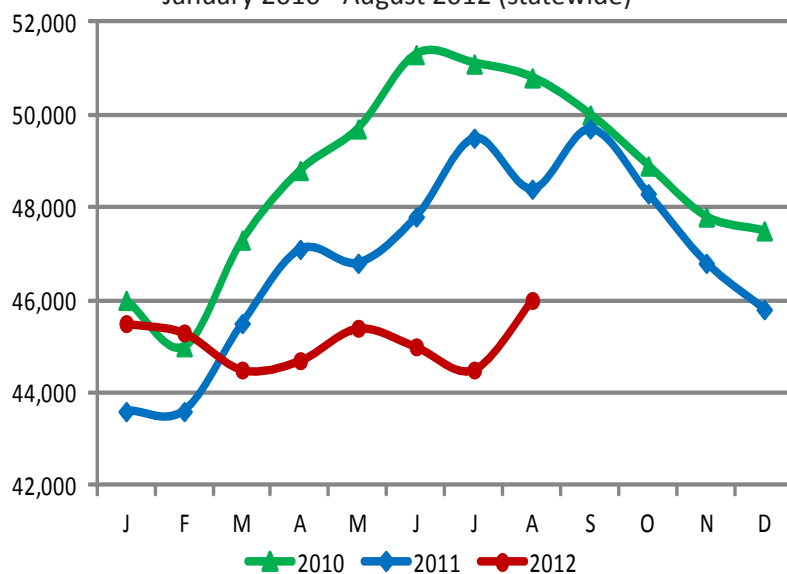
# Spotlight

## Seasonal Employment Trends

(continued from the July Issue)

As discussed in the July Labor Market Report, employment in some major industry sectors is directly influenced by seasonal trends. When employment from multiple years is compared, these patterns become apparent. Seasonal trends can be related to set schedules of operation, holidays, and weather patterns. Last month's Spotlight discussed the seasonal trends seen in state and local government, retail trade, and **leisure and hospitality**. In this issue, the seasonality of **construction** and professional-scientific-technical services are detailed along with some of the industries that are *indirectly* affected by seasonal movements.

**Chart 4. Jobs in Construction**  
January 2010 - August 2012 (statewide)



Employment in the **construction** sector is significantly affected by weather patterns. While construction operations run year round, more projects are commissioned during the spring and summer months than in the winter. In general, employment in **construction** begins to increase around March and April, peaks in June, and then tends to decline after September (see Chart 4). Non-typical weather patterns also influence jobs in construction. Notice that employment in 2012 follows a somewhat different trend than in previous years. This was caused by the higher than usual temperatures this summer, which affected certain construction projects.

Found under the **professional and business services** sector, the professional-scientific-technical services subsector includes a particular type of business that is extremely seasonal-- accounting

and tax preparation services. Seasonal hiring related to tax preparation typically begins in November or December, with employment in the subsector peaking from February to April. Employment tends to remain fairly constant throughout the summer and fall months.

There are also other seasonal businesses, many of which may not be visible when tracking the movement of the major industry sectors as a whole. Landscaping services, for example, is influenced by weather and the seasons. While employment in landscaping services does increase during the spring and summer months, the number of workers is not large enough to impact the movement of the administrative and support services subsector as a whole. Similarly, employment in other services to buildings and dwellings (also under the administrative and support services subsector) tends to increase in the spring and summer. This includes activities such as cleaning swimming pools, driveways, and gutters and power-washing building exteriors.

It is important to keep in mind that some other industries are *indirectly* affected by these seasonal employment fluctuations. The timber industry, for example, relies heavily on the **construction** sector and may experience declines and increases in employment related to construction patterns. Similarly, movement within the retail trade sector will affect both wholesale trade and the transportation of goods. Some industries are indirectly affected by school closures in the summer. Employment in day care services (found under the social assistance subsector) increases in the summer when schools are closed, as does employment at businesses such as day camps and summer sports programs. There are also many non-profit organizations (under **Other Services**) with activities targeted towards children during the summer months.

# Metropolitan Statistical Areas

## Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

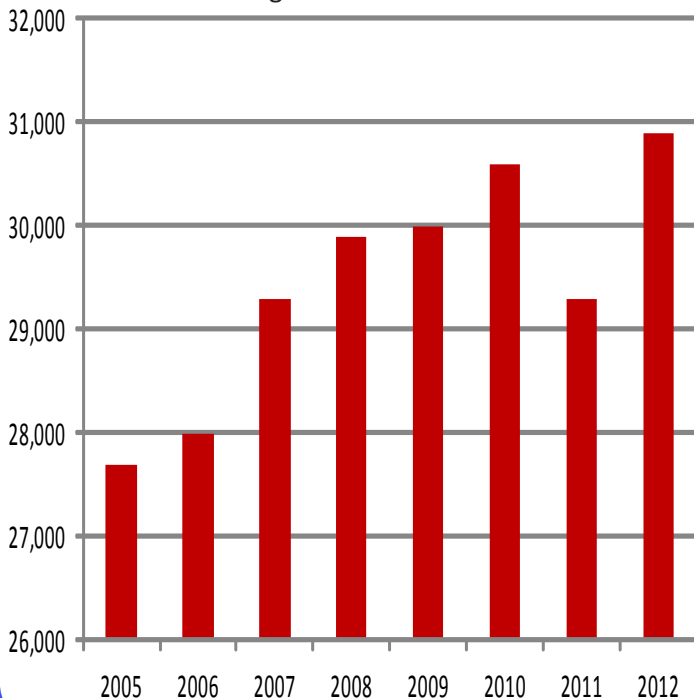
(NAICS)	Aug 12	Jul 12	Aug 11
Total Nonfarm	336,800	337,300	334,400
Goods Producing	35,300	35,300	36,500
Mining, Logging & Construction	16,300	16,200	16,800
Manufacturing	19,000	19,100	19,700
Service Providing	301,500	302,000	297,900
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	65,700	66,000	65,100
Wholesale Trade	16,300	16,600	16,100
Retail Trade	36,300	36,300	36,100
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	13,100	13,100	12,900
Information	7,300	7,400	7,600
Financial Activities	18,800	18,900	19,000
Professional & Business Services	43,400	43,500	43,600
Educational & Health Services	51,200	51,100	49,300
Leisure & Hospitality	30,900	31,900	29,300
Other Services	15,400	15,400	15,300
Government	68,800	67,800	68,700
Federal Government	9,400	9,400	9,500
State Government	33,000	32,300	32,900
Local Government	26,400	26,100	26,300

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

### Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Aug 12	Jul 12	Aug 11
Civilian Labor Force	352,400	357,650	347,650
Employment	330,250	332,750	322,650
Unemployment	22,150	24,900	25,000
Unemployment Rate	6.3	7.0	7.2

### Jobs in Leisure and Hospitality August: 2005-2012



## Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

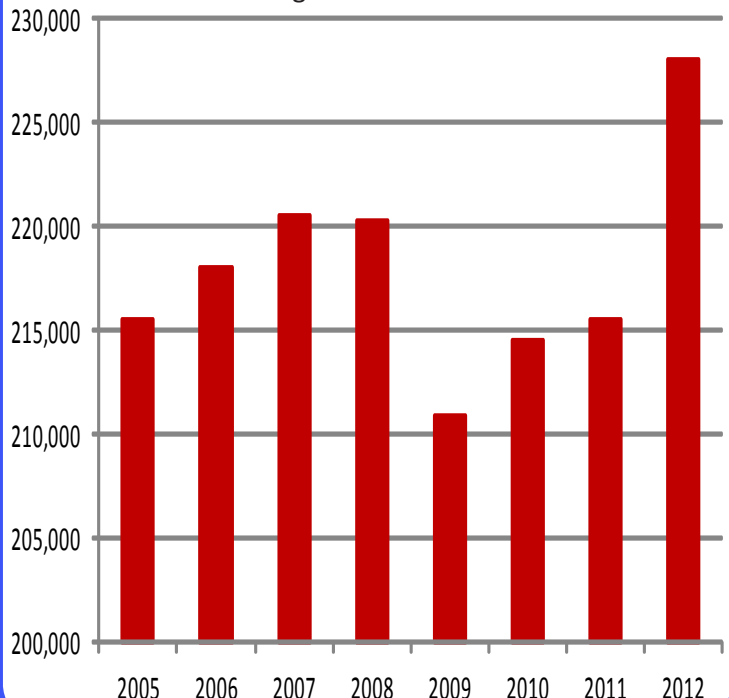
(NAICS)	Aug 12	Jul 12	Aug 11
Total Nonfarm	208,700	206,400	199,300
Goods Producing	35,800	35,900	35,200
Mining, Logging & Construction	8,000	7,900	7,800
Manufacturing	27,800	28,000	27,400
Service Providing	172,900	170,500	164,100
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	47,000	46,800	45,700
Wholesale Trade	10,200	10,200	9,800
Retail Trade	22,000	21,900	21,100
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	14,800	14,700	14,800
Information	1,900	1,900	1,900
Financial Activities	7,100	7,100	7,100
Professional & Business Services	37,600	37,200	35,100
Educational & Health Services	23,500	23,200	22,100
Leisure & Hospitality	20,700	20,600	19,100
Other Services	7,300	7,200	7,000
Government	27,800	26,500	26,100
Federal Government	2,300	2,400	2,400
State Government	9,000	8,400	8,700
Local Government	16,500	15,700	15,000

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

### Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Aug 12	Jul 12	Aug 11
Civilian Labor Force	240,675	242,550	230,250
Employment	227,975	227,700	215,475
Unemployment	12,700	14,850	14,775
Unemployment Rate	5.3	6.1	6.4

### Number of Employed August: 2005 - 2012



# Metropolitan Statistical Areas

## Fort Smith MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

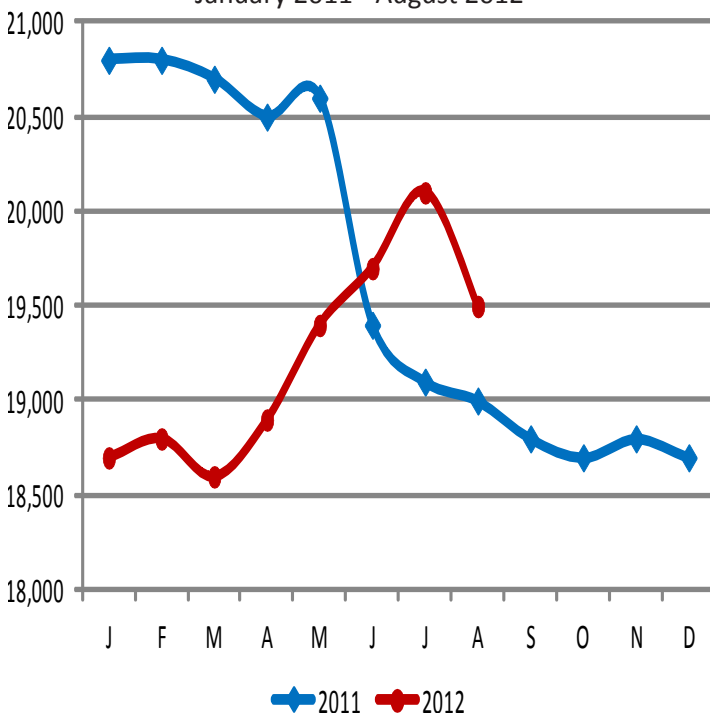
(NAICS)	Aug 12	Jul 12	Aug 11
Total Nonfarm	110,100	109,000	111,700
Goods Producing	26,500	27,200	26,100
<b>Mining, Logging &amp; Construction</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>7,100</b>	<b>7,100</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>19,500</b>	<b>20,100</b>	<b>19,000</b>
Service Providing	83,600	81,800	85,600
<b>Trade, Transportation &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>23,700</b>	<b>23,500</b>	<b>23,900</b>
Wholesale Trade	4,000	4,000	4,000
Retail Trade	12,600	12,500	12,900
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	7,100	7,000	7,000
<b>Information</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>1,100</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>4,000</b>
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>9,800</b>	<b>9,600</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>15,200</b>	<b>14,900</b>	<b>16,000</b>
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>8,700</b>	<b>8,700</b>	<b>8,700</b>
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>4,400</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>17,200</b>	<b>16,100</b>	<b>17,500</b>
Federal Government	1,600	1,600	1,600
State Government	3,200	3,200	3,100
Local Government	12,400	11,300	12,800

(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

	Aug 12	Jul 12	Aug 11
Civilian Labor Force	130,025	130,675	131,000
Employment	119,775	119,525	119,800
Unemployment	10,250	11,150	11,200
Unemployment Rate	7.9	8.5	8.5

### Jobs in Manufacturing January 2011 - August 2012



## Hot Springs MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Aug 12	Jul 12	Aug 11
Total Nonfarm	36,600	36,800	38,500
Goods Producing	4,000	4,000	4,100
Service Providing	32,600	32,800	34,400
Government	5,500	4,900	4,900

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

### Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Aug 12	Jul 12	Aug 11
Civilian Labor Force	42,575	43,650	44,325
Employment	39,475	40,150	40,775
Unemployment	3,100	3,500	3,550
Unemployment Rate	7.3	8.0	8.0

## Jonesboro MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Aug 12	Jul 12	Aug 11
Total Nonfarm	49,900	48,900	49,200
Goods Producing	8,500	8,500	8,600
Service Providing	41,400	40,400	40,600
Government	8,100	7,900	8,200

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

### Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Aug 12	Jul 12	Aug 11
Civilian Labor Force	60,475	60,625	59,575
Employment	56,450	56,000	55,050
Unemployment	4,025	4,625	4,525
Unemployment Rate	6.6	7.6	7.6

## Pine Bluff MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Aug 12	Jul 12	Aug 11
Total Nonfarm	36,700	36,200	36,700
Goods Producing	7,300	7,300	7,500
Service Providing	29,400	28,900	29,200
Government	9,900	9,600	10,300

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

### Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Aug 12	Jul 12	Aug 11
Civilian Labor Force	44,350	44,950	44,575
Employment	40,475	40,550	40,025
Unemployment	3,875	4,400	4,550
Unemployment Rate	8.8	9.8	10.2

# Civilian Labor Force Statistics

## State of Arkansas

(Seasonally Adjusted)

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Aug 12</u>	<u>Jul 12</u>	<u>Aug 11</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>	<u>Jul 12</u>	<u>Aug 11</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	1,379,400	1,383,000	1,366,500	-3,600	12,900	1,382,400	1,404,700	1,369,900	-22,300	12,500
Employment	1,279,300	1,282,300	1,255,400	-3,000	23,900	1,286,300	1,295,300	1,260,600	-9,000	25,700
Unemployment	100,100	100,700	111,100	-600	-11,000	96,100	109,400	109,300	-13,300	-13,200
Unemployment Rate	7.3	7.3	8.1	0.0	-0.8	6.9	7.8	8.0	-0.9	-1.1
U.S. Unemployment Rate	8.1	8.3	9.1	-0.2	-1.0	8.2	8.6	9.1	-0.4	-0.9

## Out-of-State MSAs

Memphis, Tennessee

Texarkana, Texas

	<u>Aug 12</u>	<u>Jul 12</u>	<u>Aug 11</u>		<u>Aug 12</u>	<u>Jul 12</u>	<u>Aug 11</u>
Civilian Labor Force	625,500	632,225	628,575	Civilian Labor Force	68,150	69,625	65,950
Employment	569,650	571,475	564,475	Employment	63,650	64,700	60,800
Unemployment	55,850	60,750	64,100	Unemployment	4,500	4,925	5,150
Unemployment Rate	8.9	9.6	10.2	Unemployment Rate	6.6	7.1	7.8

## Unemployment Rates by County

Between July and August, unemployment rates declined in 74 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Only Nevada County posted a rate increase. Jobless rates ranged from a low of 4.4 percent in Carroll County to a high of 11.3 percent in Clay County.

In August, nine counties enjoyed unemployment rates below six percent. Nine counties posted rates at or above ten percent, down from twenty counties in July.

Since August 2011, unemployment rates are down in 73 Arkansas counties. Rates in both Ashley and Lafayette counties increased over the year.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>	<u>Jul 12</u>	<u>Aug 11</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>	<u>Jul 12</u>	<u>Aug 11</u>
17	Arkansas	6.6	7.2	9.7	73	Lee	10.8	12.2	11.4
74	Ashley	11.1	11.9	10.2	56	Lincoln	9.0	9.9	9.2
33	Baxter	7.2	8.1	8.6	23	Little River	6.9	7.5	7.7
4	Benton	5.3	6.2	6.4	42	Logan	7.6	8.6	8.5
17	Boone	6.6	7.4	6.8	6	Lonoke	5.8	6.5	6.6
61	Bradley	9.4	10.2	10.5	2	Madison	4.7	5.5	6.0
52	Calhoun	8.5	9.3	9.0	38	Marion	7.4	8.5	8.8
1	Carroll	4.4	5.2	5.5	6	Miller	5.8	6.7	6.7
63	Chicot	9.5	10.6	11.4	64	Mississippi	9.6	10.3	11.1
59	Clark	9.1	10.2	9.6	45	Monroe	7.9	9.0	8.9
75	Clay	11.3	12.8	13.7	19	Montgomery	6.7	7.3	7.4
19	Cleburne	6.7	7.3	7.6	43	Nevada	7.7	7.0	9.0
12	Cleveland	6.3	7.1	7.4	33	Newton	7.2	7.6	7.4
48	Columbia	8.3	9.4	10.3	53	Ouachita	8.7	9.6	9.6
29	Conway	7.1	8.0	8.1	38	Perry	7.4	8.1	8.9
15	Craighead	6.5	7.5	7.5	71	Phillips	10.5	11.7	11.7
26	Crawford	7.0	8.1	8.1	44	Pike	7.8	8.9	8.9
72	Crittenden	10.7	11.1	12.0	29	Poinsett	7.1	8.2	8.2
36	Cross	7.3	8.4	8.1	29	Polk	7.1	8.2	8.1
66	Dallas	9.9	10.7	10.2	23	Pope	6.9	8.1	7.9
61	Desha	9.4	11.1	11.2	23	Prairie	6.9	7.7	7.7
69	Drew	10.2	11.7	11.7	15	Pulaski	6.5	7.1	7.5
12	Faulkner	6.3	7.0	7.0	60	Randolph	9.2	10.6	10.4
10	Franklin	6.2	7.4	7.0	67	St. Francis	10.0	11.2	11.1
21	Fulton	6.8	7.6	7.9	5	Saline	5.7	6.5	6.6
36	Garland	7.3	8.0	8.0	14	Scott	6.4	7.2	6.9
6	Grant	5.8	6.7	7.0	29	Searcy	7.1	8.0	8.3
51	Greene	8.4	9.7	10.1	33	Sebastian	7.2	8.1	7.6
26	Hempstead	7.0	7.5	8.4	40	Sevier	7.5	8.2	8.4
10	Hot Spring	6.2	6.8	7.4	65	Sharp	9.7	10.1	10.0
21	Howard	6.8	7.3	8.1	46	Stone	8.2	9.6	9.8
53	Independence	8.7	9.1	9.6	46	Union	8.2	9.2	9.6
48	Izard	8.3	9.4	9.6	48	Van Buren	8.3	9.3	9.2
56	Jackson	9.0	10.0	10.3	3	Washington	5.2	5.9	6.2
56	Jefferson	9.0	10.1	10.7	40	White	7.5	8.3	8.8
26	Johnson	7.0	7.8	7.6	68	Woodruff	10.1	11.2	10.5
69	Lafayette	10.2	10.8	9.8	6	Yell	5.8	6.9	6.5
53	Lawrence	8.7	10.3	9.6					

### Lowest Rates

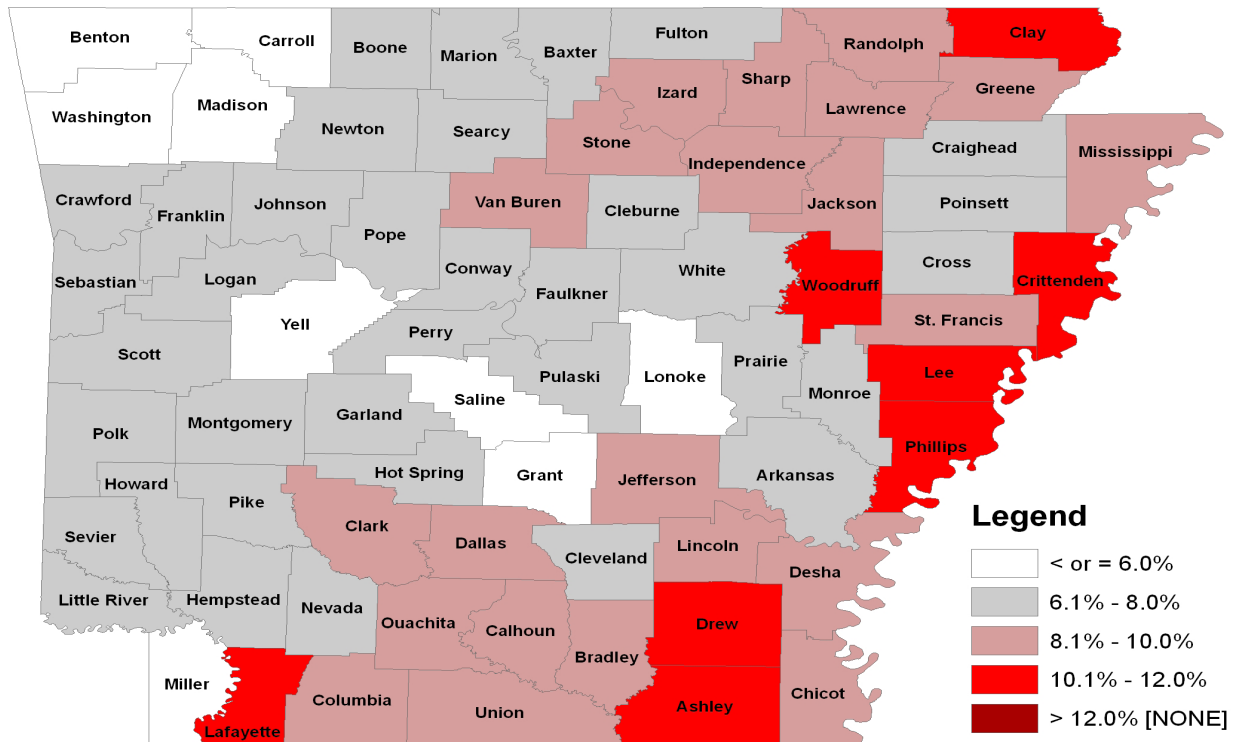
<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1	Carroll	4.4
2	Madison	4.7
3	Washington	5.2
4	Benton	5.3
5	Saline	5.7

### Highest Rates

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
72	Crittenden	10.7
73	Lee	10.8
74	Ashley	11.1
75	Clay	11.3

# 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 2011 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

## August 2012

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.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.



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