

Arkansas Labor Market

February 2012

Employment Headlines

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains Stable at 7.6 Percent
 Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Increase 6,100 in February

Employment Quick Facts

Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted

	<u>Feb 12</u>	<u>Jan 12</u>	<u>Feb 11</u>
AR Unemployment Rate	7.6	7.6	8.0
US Unemployment Rate	8.3	8.3	9.0

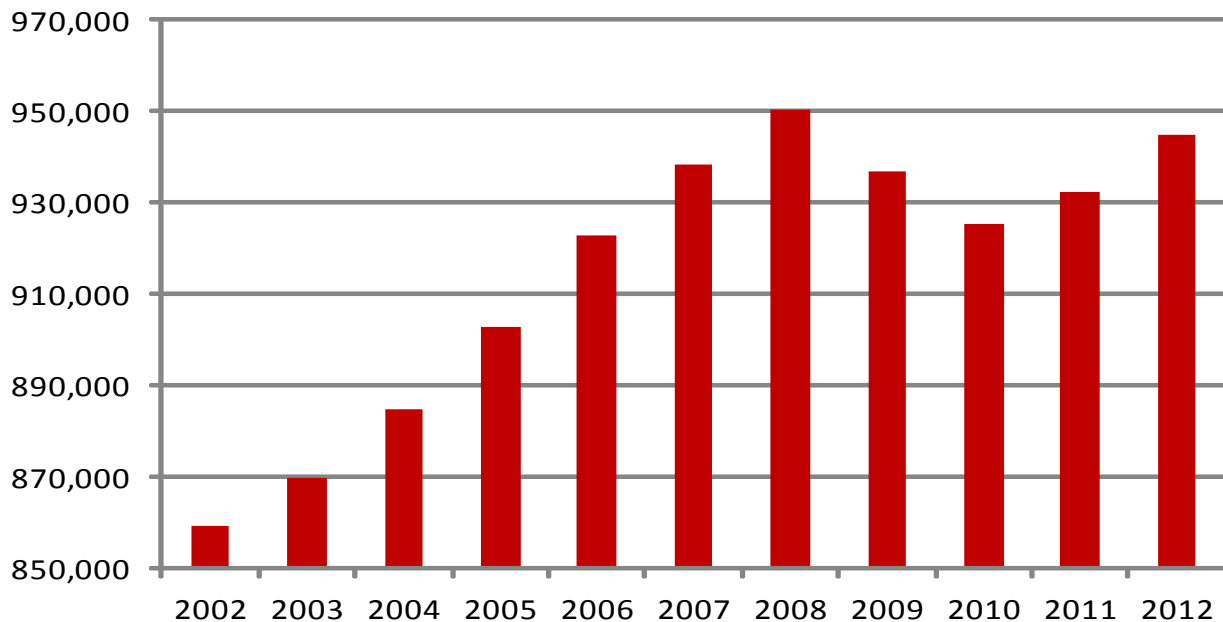
Nonfarm Payroll Summary

State of Arkansas

	<u>Feb 12</u>	<u>Jan 12</u>	<u>Feb 11</u>
Total Nonfarm	1,155,400	1,149,300	1,146,500
Goods Producing	210,400	211,600	213,900
Service Providing	945,000	937,700	932,600

Jobs in Service Providing Industries

State of Arkansas
 February: 2002 - 2012



Nonfarm Payroll Employment

State of Arkansas

January 2012 - February 2012

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 6,100 in February to total 1,155,400. Employment in five major industry sectors increased, while four sectors declined. **Government** gained 6,000 jobs. Growth occurred in state (+5,200) and local (+900) government, as employment levels at public universities returned to normal after the winter break. Jobs in **professional and business services** rose 1,400. Most of the increase occurred in professional-scientific-technical services (+1,100), largely related to seasonal hiring in accounting, tax preparation, bookkeeping, and payroll services. **Leisure and hospitality** added 1,400 jobs. Growth occurred in accommodation and food services. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** posted the largest decline (-2,700).

February 2011 - February 2012

Since February 2011, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs increased 8,900. Six major industry sectors enjoyed growth, more than offsetting declines in four sectors. **Government** added 4,600 jobs, mostly at the local level (+4,400) due to expansions in public education. Employment in **educational and health services** rose 4,500. Most of the growth occurred in health care and social assistance (+3,600). **Leisure and hospitality** increased 3,700, largely related to gains in food services (+3,300). **Construction** added 1,700 jobs, all in specialty trade contracting. Employment in **manufacturing** declined 5,200.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs			
(NAICS)	Feb 12	Jan 12	Feb 11
Total Nonfarm	1,155,400	1,149,300	1,146,500
Goods Producing	210,400	211,600	213,900
Mining & Logging	10,600	10,600	10,600
Construction	45,300	45,500	43,600
Specialty Trade Contractors	27,600	27,500	25,700
Manufacturing	154,500	155,500	159,700
Durable Goods	78,900	79,100	78,000
Nondurable Goods	75,600	76,400	81,700
Service Providing	945,000	937,700	932,600
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	231,900	234,600	231,300
Wholesale Trade	45,100	45,000	45,400
Retail Trade	127,000	129,600	127,400
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	59,800	60,000	58,500
Information	14,200	14,200	15,000
Financial Activities	47,000	47,200	48,000
Finance & Insurance	34,800	34,900	35,300
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,200	12,300	12,700
Professional & Business Services	116,500	115,100	116,900
Professional, Scientific & Technical	37,500	36,400	39,400
Management of Companies	26,700	26,700	25,600
Administrative & Support Services	52,300	52,000	51,900
Educational & Health Services	169,800	169,600	165,300
Health Care & Social Assistance	154,700	154,600	151,100
Ambulatory Health Care	47,200	47,400	45,300
Social Assistance	35,000	34,800	34,000
Leisure & Hospitality	97,700	96,300	94,000
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8,300	8,300	8,400
Accommodation & Food Services	89,400	88,000	85,600
Accommodation Services	10,500	10,100	10,000
Food Services	78,900	77,900	75,600
Other Services	43,800	42,600	42,600
Government	224,100	218,100	219,500
Federal Government	20,100	20,200	20,900
State Government	78,000	72,800	77,000
Local Government	126,000	125,100	121,600

Hours & Earnings of Arkansas Production Workers

(Manufacturing Industries)

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb 12	Jan 12	Feb 11	Feb 12	Jan 12	Feb 11	Feb 12	Jan 12	Feb 11
Manufacturing	\$618.44	\$635.78	\$546.44	40.5	41.5	38.7	\$15.27	\$15.32	\$14.12
Durable Goods	690.48	708.34	609.74	42.0	42.8	38.3	16.44	16.55	15.92
Nondurable Goods	547.79	564.41	492.27	39.1	40.2	39.1	14.01	14.04	12.59

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. Once a business has been identified as having a potential layoff, MLS staff members contact the business to assess the situation and 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 are published monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and are available at www.bls.gov. Statistics are published at the statewide level only, due to confidentiality.

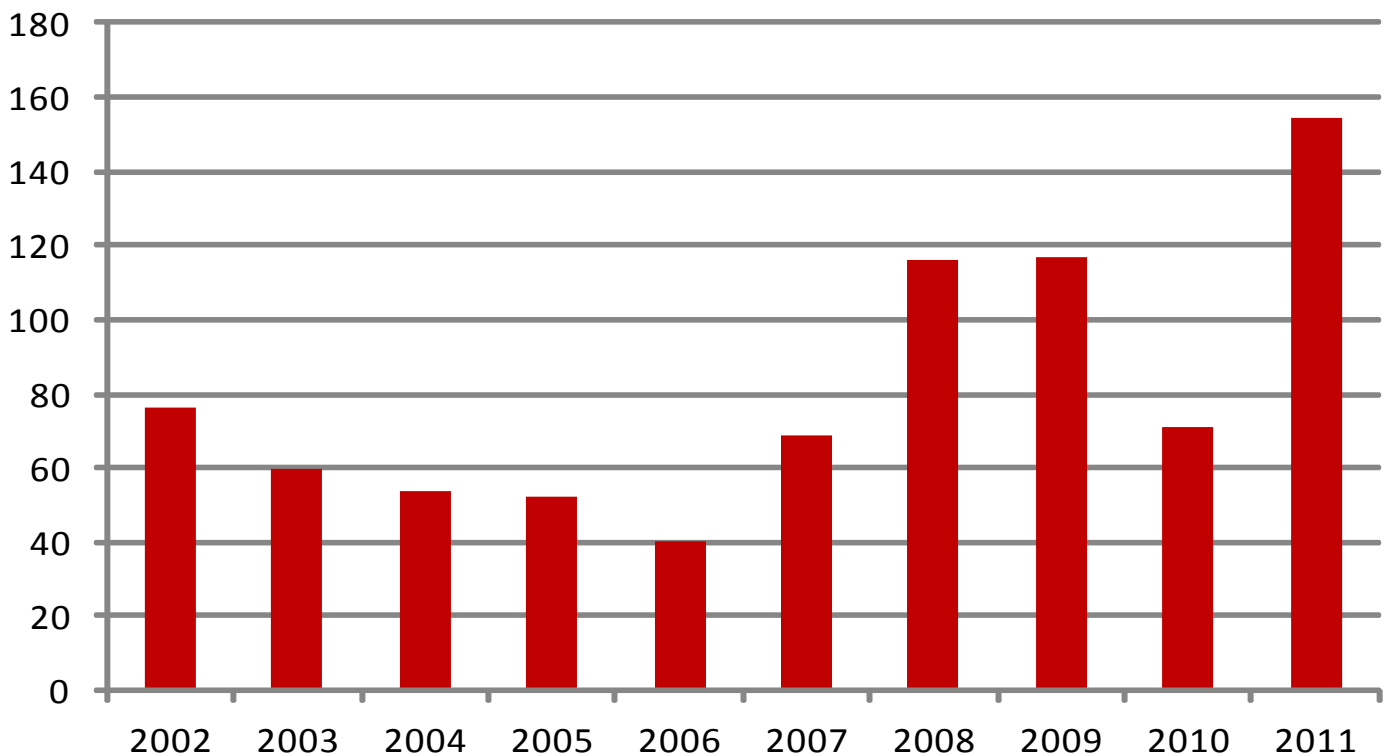
In 2011, Arkansas' MLS program implemented a new method for collecting Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims data. This new method counts UI claims data and more accurately associates each claim with the company in which the claimant was separated from. The program now captures a more accurate count of initial UI claims, which also relates to a potential increase in the number of MLS events detected.

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.

The graph below shows the total mass layoff events in Arkansas by year, from 2002 through 2011. The number of events ranged from a low of 40 in 2006 to a high of 154 in 2011.

Total Mass Layoff Events by Year
State of Arkansas
2002 - 2011



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

Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Feb 12	Jan 12	Feb 11
Total Nonfarm	335,300	337,400	334,100
Goods Producing	35,100	35,900	35,600
Mining, Logging & Construction	16,200	16,800	15,900
Manufacturing	18,900	19,100	19,700
Service Providing	300,200	301,500	298,500
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	64,700	66,900	64,000
Wholesale Trade	16,000	16,000	15,900
Retail Trade	35,900	38,000	35,700
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	12,800	12,900	12,400
Information	7,400	7,400	7,800
Financial Activities	18,700	18,700	19,000
Professional & Business Services	42,000	42,300	43,100
Educational & Health Services	50,400	50,000	49,800
Leisure & Hospitality	30,200	30,100	28,300
Other Services	15,000	14,900	14,900
Government	71,800	71,200	71,600
Federal Government	9,300	9,400	9,500
State Government	34,100	33,600	33,700
Local Government	28,400	28,200	28,400

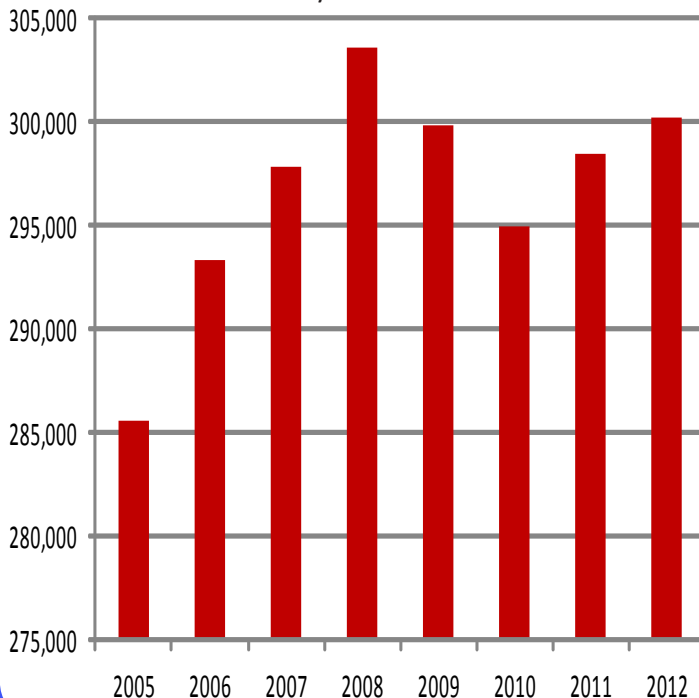
(The following counties make up the LR-NLR-Conway MSA:
Faulkner, Grant, Lonoke, Perry, Pulaski, and Saline.)

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Feb 12	Jan 12	Feb 11
Civilian Labor Force	347,650	347,175	344,850
Employment	321,850	322,175	319,050
Unemployment	25,800	25,000	25,800
Unemployment Rate	7.4	7.2	7.5

Jobs in Service Providing Industries

February: 2005 - 2012



Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Feb 12	Jan 12	Feb 11
Total Nonfarm	205,900	202,500	198,900
Goods Producing	34,600	35,100	35,100
Mining, Logging & Construction	7,400	7,500	7,200
Manufacturing	27,200	27,600	27,900
Service Providing	171,300	167,400	163,800
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	46,100	45,700	44,600
Wholesale Trade	9,900	9,700	9,600
Retail Trade	21,100	21,000	20,400
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	15,100	15,000	14,600
Information	1,900	1,900	1,900
Financial Activities	7,000	6,900	7,100
Professional & Business Services	37,000	36,200	34,600
Educational & Health Services	23,300	22,900	22,200
Leisure & Hospitality	18,600	18,100	17,500
Other Services	7,000	6,900	6,700
Government	30,400	28,800	29,200
Federal Government	2,300	2,300	2,400
State Government	10,300	8,800	9,600
Local Government	17,800	17,700	17,200

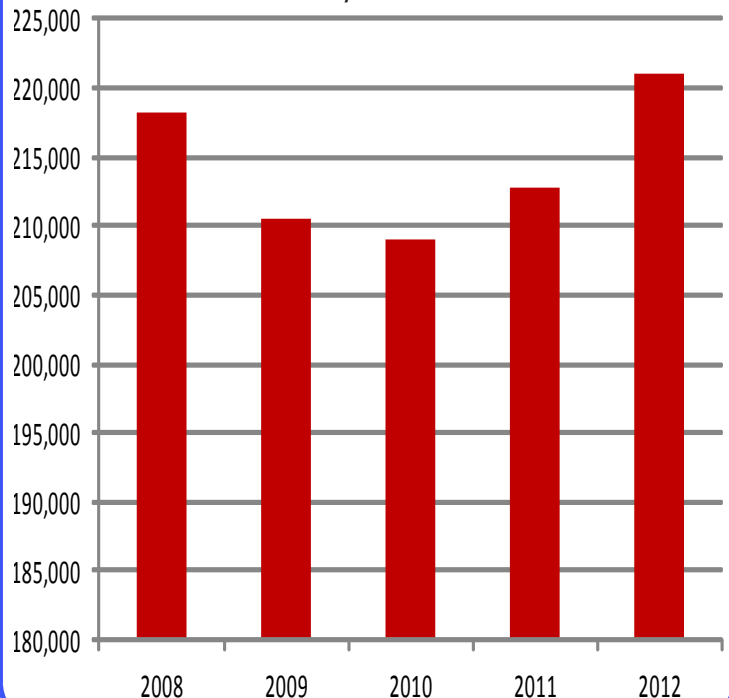
(The following counties make up the FSR MSA:
Benton, Madison, and Washington and McDonald in Missouri.)

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Feb 12	Jan 12	Feb 11
Civilian Labor Force	236,300	231,275	228,475
Employment	221,075	216,675	212,675
Unemployment	15,225	14,600	15,800
Unemployment Rate	6.4	6.3	6.9

Number of Employed

February: 2008 - 2012



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fort Smith MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Feb 12	Jan 12	Feb 11
Total Nonfarm	108,700	109,000	114,500
Goods Producing	25,500	25,400	27,200
Mining, Logging & Construction	6,700	6,700	6,400
Manufacturing	18,800	18,700	20,800
Service Providing	83,200	83,600	87,300
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	22,900	23,400	23,400
Wholesale Trade	3,800	3,900	4,000
Retail Trade	12,300	12,600	12,700
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	6,800	6,900	6,700
Information	1,100	1,100	1,100
Financial Activities	3,600	3,700	4,100
Professional & Business Services	9,300	9,300	10,700
Educational & Health Services	15,400	15,500	16,100
Leisure & Hospitality	7,900	7,900	8,200
Other Services	4,100	4,200	4,300
Government	18,900	18,500	19,400
Federal Government	1,600	1,600	1,600
State Government	3,300	3,000	3,400
Local Government	14,000	13,900	14,400

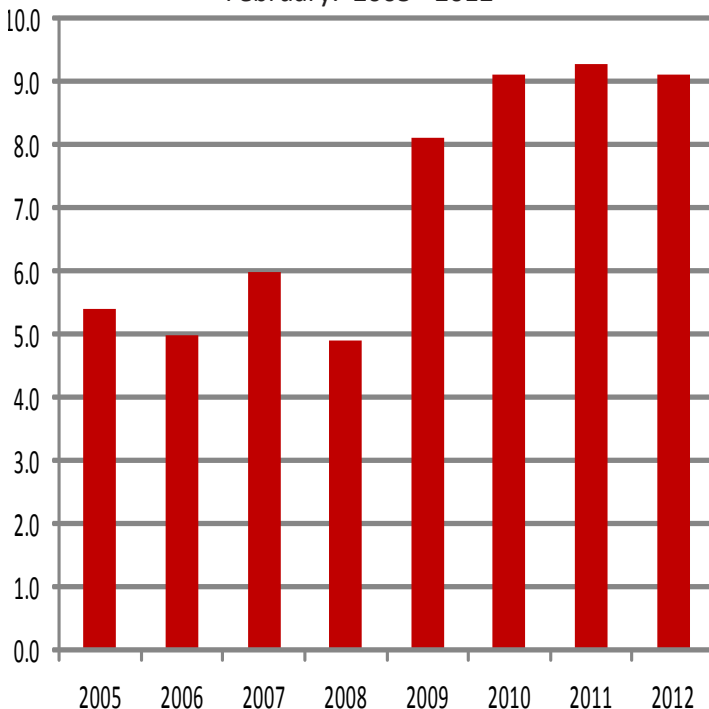
(The following counties make up the Fort Smith MSA: Crawford, Franklin, and Sebastian and LeFlore and Sequoyah in Oklahoma.)

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Feb 12	Jan 12	Feb 11
Civilian Labor Force	128,075	127,475	134,750
Employment	116,425	116,100	122,150
Unemployment	11,650	11,375	12,600
Unemployment Rate	9.1	8.9	9.3

Unemployment Rates

February: 2005 - 2012



Hot Springs MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Feb 12	Jan 12	Feb 11
Total Nonfarm	36,300	36,700	36,400
Goods Producing	3,900	4,000	4,000
Service Providing	32,400	32,700	32,400
Government	5,600	5,400	5,000

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Feb 12	Jan 12	Feb 11
Civilian Labor Force	42,300	42,375	42,125
Employment	38,575	38,750	38,225
Unemployment	3,725	3,625	3,900
Unemployment Rate	8.8	8.5	9.2

Jonesboro MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Feb 12	Jan 12	Feb 11
Total Nonfarm	48,500	48,800	48,900
Goods Producing	8,400	8,500	8,300
Service Providing	40,100	40,300	40,600
Government	8,600	8,600	8,900

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Feb 12	Jan 12	Feb 11
Civilian Labor Force	59,000	58,825	59,000
Employment	54,225	54,075	54,050
Unemployment	4,775	4,750	4,950
Unemployment Rate	8.1	8.1	8.4

Pine Bluff MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Feb 12	Jan 12	Feb 11
Total Nonfarm	36,300	36,600	36,400
Goods Producing	7,200	7,200	7,300
Service Providing	29,100	29,400	29,100
Government	10,600	10,700	10,800

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Feb 12	Jan 12	Feb 11
Civilian Labor Force	44,275	44,500	44,125
Employment	39,700	39,875	39,375
Unemployment	4,575	4,625	4,750
Unemployment Rate	10.3	10.4	10.8

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

State of Arkansas

(Seasonally Adjusted)

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Feb 12</u>	<u>Jan 12</u>	<u>Feb 11</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>	<u>Jan 12</u>	<u>Feb 11</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	1,386,000	1,383,000	1,369,800	3,000	16,200	1,376,400	1,363,400	1,359,400	13,000	17,000
Employment	1,280,700	1,277,300	1,259,700	3,400	21,000	1,261,500	1,249,200	1,239,900	12,300	21,600
Unemployment	105,300	105,700	110,100	-400	-4,800	114,900	114,200	119,500	700	-4,600
Unemployment Rate	7.6	7.6	8.0	0.0	-0.4	8.3	8.4	8.8	-0.1	-0.5
U.S. Unemployment Rate	8.3	8.3	9.0	0.0	-0.7	8.7	8.8	9.5	-0.1	-0.8

Out-of-State MSAs

Memphis, Tennessee

	<u>Feb 12</u>	<u>Jan 12</u>	<u>Feb 11</u>
Civilian Labor Force	620,600	621,475	616,375
Employment	563,650	562,850	552,975
Unemployment	56,950	58,625	63,400
Unemployment Rate	9.2	9.4	10.3

Texarkana, Texas

	<u>Feb 12</u>	<u>Jan 12</u>	<u>Feb 11</u>
Civilian Labor Force	67,875	67,100	65,925
Employment	63,075	62,050	60,800
Unemployment	4,800	5,050	5,125
Unemployment Rate	7.1	7.5	7.8

Unemployment Rates by County

Between January and February, unemployment rates declined in forty-two of Arkansas' 75 counties. Jobless rates increased in twenty-six counties, while seven remained stable. Rates ranged from a low of 6.1 percent in Washington County to a high of 14.8 percent in Clay County.

In February, no county enjoyed an unemployment rate below six percent. Twenty-seven counties posted rates at or above ten percent, the same number of counties as seen in January.

Compared to February 2011, jobless rates are down in sixty-one counties. Ten counties posted over-the-year increases, while four remained the same.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>	<u>Jan 12</u>	<u>Feb 11</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>	<u>Jan 12</u>	<u>Feb 11</u>
36	Arkansas	9.0	9.5	13.4	73	Lee	12.9	13.0	12.5
74	Ashley	13.6	14.4	12.1	57	Lincoln	10.6	10.9	11.2
43	Baxter	9.5	9.2	10.2	15	Little River	7.8	8.1	8.4
5	Benton	6.6	6.7	7.0	27	Logan	8.5	8.4	8.9
34	Boone	8.9	8.9	8.9	6	Lonoke	7.1	6.9	7.6
66	Bradley	11.8	12.0	12.8	4	Madison	6.5	6.4	8.0
44	Calhoun	9.7	9.5	11.1	53	Marion	10.4	9.9	11.3
10	Carroll	7.5	7.9	9.1	2	Miller	6.4	7.3	7.4
67	Chicot	12.0	12.6	13.7	59	Mississippi	10.9	10.8	12.3
53	Clark	10.4	11.6	8.3	52	Monroe	10.2	10.0	9.7
75	Clay	14.8	16.0	15.1	30	Montgomery	8.7	8.9	10.4
22	Cleburne	8.4	8.3	9.4	20	Nevada	8.0	8.7	9.1
27	Cleveland	8.5	7.9	8.9	34	Newton	8.9	8.5	9.1
36	Columbia	9.0	9.3	10.0	58	Ouachita	10.7	10.7	9.3
22	Conway	8.4	8.2	9.4	42	Perry	9.4	9.2	9.1
14	Craighead	7.7	7.7	7.9	68	Phillips	12.1	12.5	12.3
30	Crawford	8.7	8.8	9.3	45	Pike	9.9	9.9	10.9
70	Crittenden	12.2	13.2	14.0	49	Poinsett	10.0	9.6	10.5
39	Cross	9.1	9.2	9.4	32	Polk	8.8	9.1	9.3
60	Dallas	11.1	11.5	12.3	15	Pope	7.8	8.0	7.8
68	Desha	12.1	12.6	13.2	22	Prairie	8.4	8.6	9.4
70	Drew	12.2	12.9	12.4	10	Pulaski	7.5	7.3	7.5
10	Faulkner	7.5	7.4	7.2	60	Randolph	11.1	11.7	11.0
17	Franklin	7.9	8.0	7.6	63	St. Francis	11.6	11.7	11.8
21	Fulton	8.2	7.7	8.4	6	Saline	7.1	6.7	7.3
32	Garland	8.8	8.5	9.2	6	Scott	7.1	7.1	7.7
17	Grant	7.9	7.3	8.1	40	Searcy	9.2	8.6	10.2
49	Greene	10.0	10.6	11.0	22	Sebastian	8.4	8.5	9.0
22	Hempstead	8.4	8.2	9.7	27	Sevier	8.5	8.7	8.9
13	Hot Spring	7.6	7.6	8.5	63	Sharp	11.6	11.4	11.6
17	Howard	7.9	7.9	8.5	65	Stone	11.7	10.9	12.5
41	Independence	9.3	9.4	9.2	45	Union	9.9	10.2	10.6
45	Izard	9.9	9.8	10.3	45	Van Buren	9.9	10.1	11.8
62	Jackson	11.2	11.5	12.2	1	Washington	6.1	6.0	6.6
55	Jefferson	10.5	10.6	10.9	36	White	9.0	9.1	9.7
9	Johnson	7.4	7.5	7.8	70	Woodruff	12.2	12.4	12.7
49	Lafayette	10.0	10.3	11.1	2	Yell	6.4	6.6	7.4
55	Lawrence	10.5	10.6	11.0					

Lowest Rates

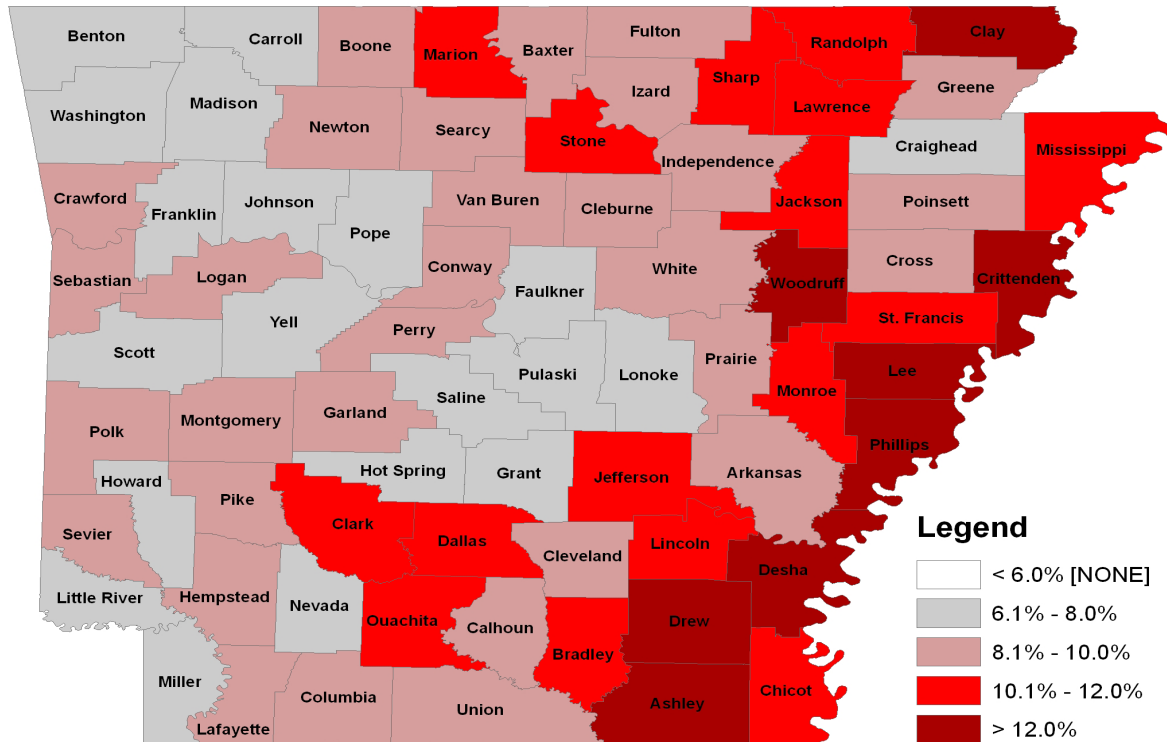
<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1	Washington	6.1
2	Miller	6.4
2	Yell	6.4
4	Madison	6.5
5	Benton	6.6

Highest Rates

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
73	Lee	12.9
74	Ashley	13.6
75	Clay	14.8

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 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

February 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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