

# Arkansas Labor Market

## November 2015

### Employment Headlines

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Decreases to 5.0 Percent

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Decline 300 in November

### Employment Quick Facts

#### Unemployment Rates

*Seasonally Adjusted*

	<u>Nov 15</u>	<u>Oct 15</u>	<u>Nov 14</u>
AR Unemployment Rate	5.0	5.1	5.7
US Unemployment Rate	5.0	5.0	5.8

#### Nonfarm Payroll Summary

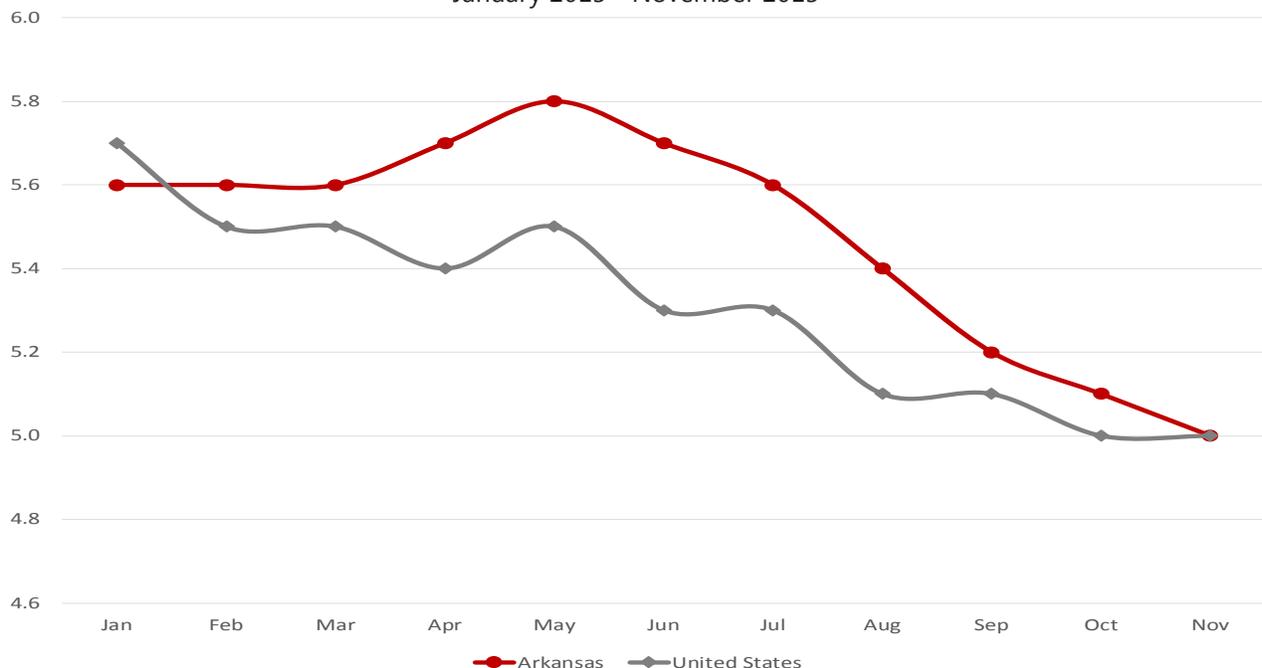
*State of Arkansas*

	<u>Nov 15</u>	<u>Oct 15</u>	<u>Nov 14</u>
Total Nonfarm	1,224,100	1,224,400	1,209,300
Goods Producing	212,500	215,800	213,300
Service Providing	1,011,600	1,008,600	996,000

#### Unemployment Rates (Seasonally Adjusted)

State of Arkansas vs. United States

January 2015 - November 2015



# Nonfarm Payroll Employment

## State of Arkansas

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

#### October 2015 - November 2015

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs declined 300 in November to total 1,224,100. Employment in six major industry sectors decreased, while four sectors posted gains. Jobs in **construction** dropped 2,000, an expected seasonal loss. Employment in **manufacturing** fell 1,200. All of the declines were spread throughout durable goods manufacturing (-1,200). **Professional and business services** decreased 1,100. A majority of the loss occurred in administrative and support services (-800), which includes employment agencies. **Leisure and hospitality** dropped 1,000, a typical seasonal contraction. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 3,700 jobs. Most of the increase was in retail trade (+2,600), as stores begin preparation for the holiday shopping season.

#### November 2014 - November 2015

Compared to November 2014, nonfarm payroll employment in Arkansas has increased 14,800. Seven major industry sectors posted growth, more than offsetting declines in four sectors. **Professional and business services** added 6,000 jobs. Gains occurred in all three subsectors. Employment in **educational and health services** rose 5,900, all in health care and social assistance (+6,600). Jobs in **construction** increased 5,700. A majority of the expansions were reported in specialty trade contractors (+5,500). **Leisure and hospitality** added 2,600 jobs, mostly in food services (+1,900). Employment in **manufacturing** dropped 5,700. Most of the decline was in durable goods manufacturing (-4,000), attributed in part to reported losses in primary metal manufacturing.

(NAICS)	Nov 15	Oct 15	Nov 14
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	1,224,100	1,224,400	1,209,300
<b>Goods Producing</b>	212,500	215,800	213,300
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	8,200	8,300	9,000
<b>Construction</b>	52,600	54,600	46,900
Specialty Trade Contractors	35,200	36,200	29,700
<b>Manufacturing</b>	151,700	152,900	157,400
Durable Goods	74,100	75,300	78,100
Nondurable Goods	77,600	77,600	79,300
<b>Service Providing</b>	1,011,600	1,008,600	996,000
<b>Trade, Transportation &amp; Utilities</b>	250,600	246,900	251,800
Wholesale Trade	47,600	47,900	46,800
Retail Trade	139,000	136,400	140,200
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	64,000	62,600	64,800
<b>Information</b>	13,900	13,800	13,700
<b>Financial Activities</b>	51,100	51,100	49,900
Finance & Insurance	38,100	38,000	37,100
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13,000	13,100	12,800
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	140,200	141,300	134,200
Professional, Scientific & Technical	40,500	41,100	39,400
Management of Companies	35,000	34,700	33,200
Administrative & Support Services	64,700	65,500	61,600
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	181,300	180,800	175,400
Educational Services	14,400	14,300	15,100
Health Care & Social Assistance	166,900	166,500	160,300
Ambulatory Health Care	52,200	51,700	50,100
Social Assistance	39,300	39,300	37,900
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	111,600	112,600	109,000
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	10,000	10,900	9,500
Accommodation & Food Services	101,600	101,700	99,500
Accommodation Services	10,900	11,100	10,700
Food Services	90,700	90,600	88,800
<b>Other Services</b>	45,100	45,200	43,800
<b>Government</b>	217,800	216,900	218,200
Federal Government	20,400	20,200	20,200
State Government	80,600	80,400	80,000
Local Government	116,800	116,300	118,000

## Hours and Earnings of Arkansas Production Workers (Manufacturing Industries)

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Nov 15	Oct 15	Nov 14	Nov 15	Oct 15	Nov 14	Nov 15	Oct 15	Nov 14
<b>Manufacturing</b>	\$663.69	\$659.56	\$671.15	41.3	41.3	41.2	\$16.07	\$15.97	\$16.29
Durable Goods	707.77	708.39	723.76	40.7	40.9	41.5	17.39	17.32	17.44
Nondurable Goods	620.31	612.57	621.97	41.8	41.7	41.0	14.84	14.69	15.17

# Spotlight

## Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization

In addition to the unemployment rate, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) also calculates five additional estimates based on various definitions of 'unemployment'. These are known as Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization and are referred to as U1-U6, with U-3 being the definition used to calculate the official unemployment rate. These measures are calculated using data from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly survey of households (roughly 800 Arkansas households are surveyed each month).

### Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization

State of Arkansas

4 Quarter Average: 4th Q 2014 - 3rd Q 2015

U-1	U-2	U-3	U-4	U-5	U-6
1.9%	2.7%	5.5%	5.8%	6.7%	10.0%

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization are available at the statewide level, but they are not produced on a monthly basis. Estimates are calculated using a four quarter moving average. The most recent data represents an average of 4th Quarter 2014 through 3rd Quarter 2015.

The following are the definitions used to calculate each measure of labor underutilization:

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

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

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

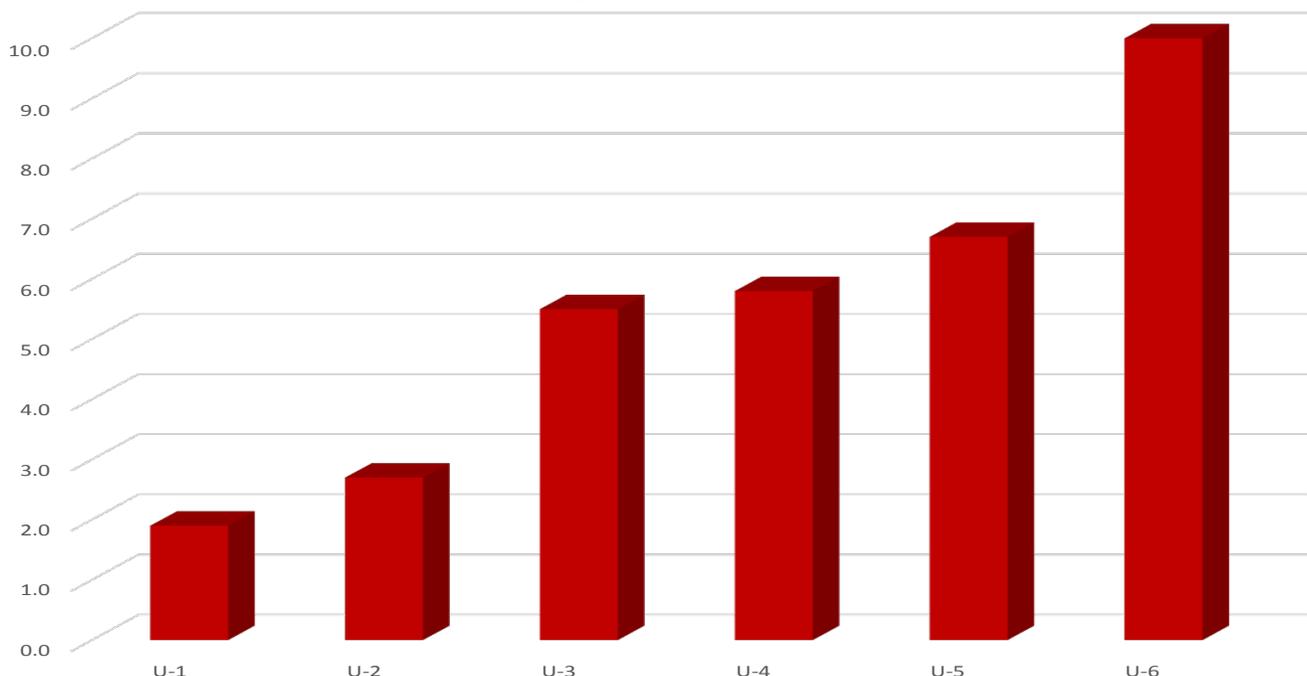
**U-5 Measure:** Total number of unemployed, discouraged workers, and all other marginally attached workers, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus marginally attached workers.

**U-6 Measure:** 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.

### Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization

State of Arkansas

4 Quarter Average: 4th Q 2014 - 3rd Q 2015



# Metropolitan Statistical Areas

## Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

## Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

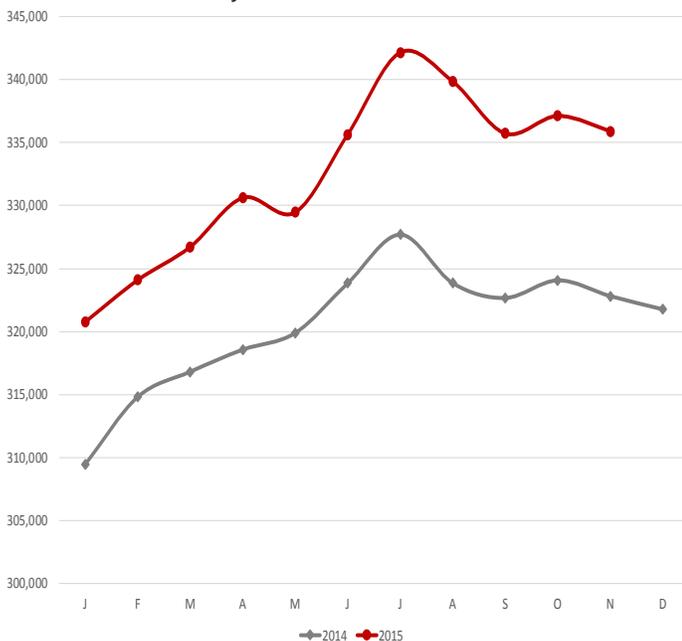
NAICS	Nov 15	Oct 15	Nov 14
Total Nonfarm	355,300	354,600	348,800
Goods Producing	38,500	39,200	37,200
Mining, Logging & Construction	18,400	18,900	16,900
Manufacturing	20,100	20,300	20,300
Service Providing	316,800	315,400	311,600
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	67,600	66,700	68,400
Wholesale Trade	14,700	14,800	15,000
Retail Trade	39,100	38,300	39,100
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	13,800	13,600	14,300
Information	6,600	6,600	6,700
Financial Activities	20,900	20,800	20,600
Professional & Business Services	45,500	46,200	44,200
Educational & Health Services	53,300	53,200	52,100
Leisure & Hospitality	34,600	33,900	31,800
Other Services	16,300	16,300	16,000
Government	72,000	71,700	71,800
Federal Government	9,800	9,700	9,600
State Government	35,000	34,900	34,700
Local Government	27,200	27,100	27,500

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

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Nov 15	Oct 15	Nov 14
Civilian Labor Force	349,475	351,800	339,200
Employment	335,900	337,125	322,825
Unemployment	13,575	14,675	16,375
Unemployment Rate	3.9	4.2	4.8

Number of Employed  
January 2014 - November 2015



### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

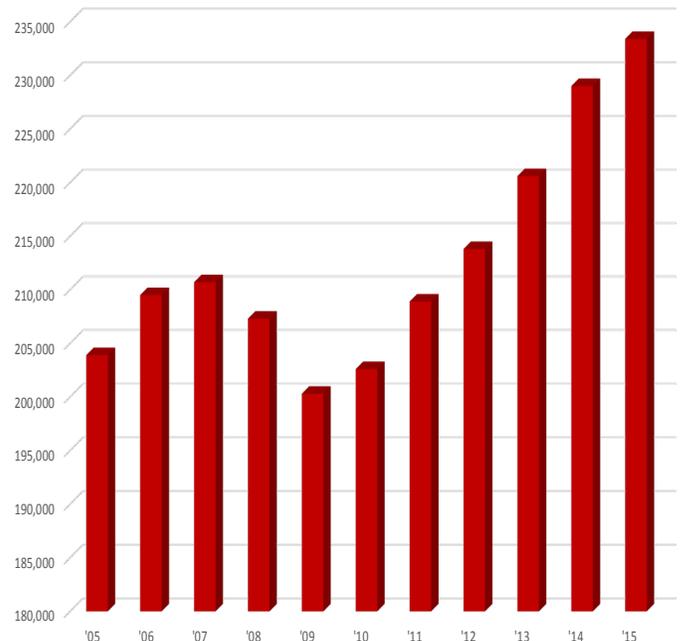
NAICS	Nov 15	Oct 15	Nov 14
Total Nonfarm	233,400	232,200	229,000
Goods Producing	35,400	35,600	36,000
Mining, Logging & Construction	8,700	8,800	8,500
Manufacturing	26,700	26,800	27,500
Service Providing	198,000	196,600	193,000
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	52,200	51,400	52,000
Wholesale Trade	11,100	11,100	10,800
Retail Trade	25,300	24,700	25,400
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	15,800	15,600	15,800
Information	1,900	1,900	1,900
Financial Activities	7,000	7,000	6,800
Professional & Business Services	45,600	45,700	45,300
Educational & Health Services	25,900	25,800	25,000
Leisure & Hospitality	24,100	23,900	21,800
Other Services	6,800	6,800	6,600
Government	34,500	34,100	33,600
Federal Government	2,600	2,500	2,600
State Government	13,700	13,600	12,900
Local Government	18,200	18,000	18,100

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

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Nov 15	Oct 15	Nov 14
Civilian Labor Force	249,850	250,575	242,825
Employment	242,050	242,075	233,350
Unemployment	7,800	8,500	9,475
Unemployment Rate	3.1	3.4	3.9

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs  
November: 2005 - 2015



# Metropolitan Statistical Areas

## Fort Smith MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

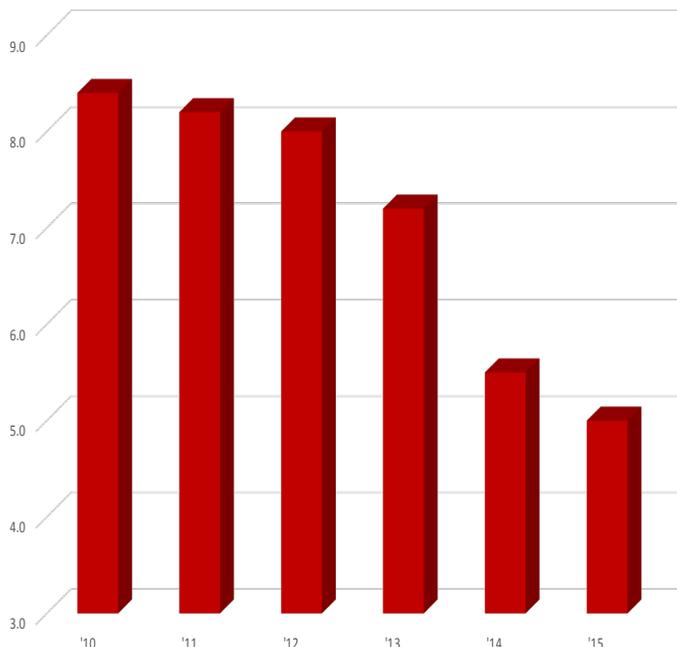
NAICS	Nov 15	Oct 15	Nov 14
Total Nonfarm	112,800	113,000	114,700
Goods Producing	23,800	24,000	25,200
<b>Mining, Logging &amp; Construction</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>6,900</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>17,800</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>18,300</b>
Service Providing	89,000	89,000	89,500
<b>Trade, Transportation &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>23,300</b>	<b>23,200</b>	<b>24,100</b>
Wholesale Trade	4,300	4,400	4,300
Retail Trade	12,300	12,100	12,800
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	6,700	6,700	7,000
<b>Information</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,200</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>3,900</b>
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>12,700</b>	<b>12,900</b>	<b>12,100</b>
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>16,800</b>	<b>16,700</b>	<b>16,400</b>
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>8,600</b>	<b>9,200</b>
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>4,300</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>18,300</b>	<b>18,200</b>	<b>18,300</b>
Federal Government	1,300	1,300	1,300
State Government	3,200	3,200	3,200
Local Government	13,800	13,700	13,800

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

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Nov 15	Oct 15	Nov 14
Civilian Labor Force	120,400	121,200	119,900
Employment	114,350	114,975	113,325
Unemployment	6,050	6,225	6,575
Unemployment Rate	5.0	5.1	5.5

**Unemployment Rates**  
November: 2010 - 2015



## Hot Springs MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Nov 15	Oct 15	Nov 14
Total Nonfarm	38,400	38,500	37,800
Goods Producing	4,400	4,400	4,300
Service Providing	34,000	34,100	33,500
Government	4,800	4,700	4,800

The HS MSA consists of the following county: Garland

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Nov 15	Oct 15	Nov 14
Civilian Labor Force	40,575	41,075	39,800
Employment	38,600	38,950	37,450
Unemployment	1,975	2,125	2,350
Unemployment Rate	4.9	5.2	5.9

## Jonesboro MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Nov 15	Oct 15	Nov 14
Total Nonfarm	56,700	56,300	54,900
Goods Producing	9,200	9,200	9,100
Service Providing	47,500	47,100	45,800
Government	9,200	9,100	9,100

The Jonesboro MSA consists of the following counties:

Craighead and Poinsett

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Nov 15	Oct 15	Nov 14
Civilian Labor Force	62,875	62,975	60,675
Employment	60,425	60,450	57,725
Unemployment	2,450	2,525	2,950
Unemployment Rate	3.9	4.0	4.9

## Pine Bluff MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Nov 15	Oct 15	Nov 14
Total Nonfarm	32,000	31,900	34,500
Goods Producing	5,400	5,500	6,700
Service Providing	26,600	26,400	27,800
Government	9,500	9,400	9,800

The PB MSA consists of the following counties:

Cleveland, Jefferson, and Lincoln

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Nov 15	Oct 15	Nov 14
Civilian Labor Force	34,775	34,925	36,875
Employment	32,575	32,625	34,250
Unemployment	2,200	2,300	2,625
Unemployment Rate	6.3	6.5	7.1

# Civilian Labor Force Statistics

## State of Arkansas

(Seasonally Adjusted)

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	Nov 15	Oct 15	Nov 14	OTM	OTY	Nov 15	Oct 15	Nov 14	OTM	OTY
Civilian Labor Force	1,335,700	1,337,500	1,309,700	-1,800	26,000	1,330,300	1,337,600	1,310,700	-7,300	19,600
Employment	1,269,100	1,268,900	1,234,900	200	34,200	1,271,600	1,275,600	1,240,800	-4,000	30,800
Unemployment	66,600	68,600	74,800	-2,000	-8,200	58,700	62,000	69,900	-3,300	-11,200
Unemployment Rate	5.0	5.1	5.7	-0.1	-0.7	4.4	4.6	5.3	-0.2	-0.9
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.0	5.0	5.8	0.0	-0.8	4.8	4.8	5.5	0.0	-0.7

## Out-of-State MSAs

### Memphis, Tennessee-Mississippi-Arkansas MSA

	Nov 15	Oct 15	Nov 14
Civilian Labor Force	614,350	611,825	602,425
Employment	577,100	574,400	558,625
Unemployment	37,250	37,425	43,800
Unemployment Rate	6.1	6.1	7.3

### Texarkana, Texas-Arkansas MSA

	Nov 15	Oct 15	Nov 14
Civilian Labor Force	63,075	63,125	64,750
Employment	60,075	60,000	61,200
Unemployment	3,000	3,125	3,550
Unemployment Rate	4.8	5.0	5.5

## Unemployment Rates by County

Between October and November, unemployment rates declined in 56 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Thirteen counties posted rate increases, while six counties were unchanged.

In November, fifty-six counties reported jobless rates at or below six percent. For the fourth consecutive month, no county had a rate above ten percent.

Compared to November 2014, unemployment rates are down in 73 counties. Only two counties, Logan and Mississippi, posted higher rates over the year.

Rank	County	Nov 15	Oct 15	Nov 14	Rank	County	Nov 15	Oct 15	Nov 14
12	Arkansas	4.1	4.0	4.8	52	Lee	5.7	5.9	6.7
67	Ashley	6.4	6.9	8.0	54	Lincoln	5.9	5.6	6.3
31	Baxter	4.8	5.0	5.9	33	Little River	4.9	5.5	6.5
2	Benton	3.2	3.5	4.0	44	Logan	5.3	5.6	5.2
12	Boone	4.1	4.4	5.4	5	Lonoke	3.6	3.9	4.5
37	Bradley	5.0	5.3	6.8	3	Madison	3.4	3.5	4.0
43	Calhoun	5.2	5.0	5.7	23	Marion	4.6	4.9	5.4
7	Carroll	3.8	3.7	4.7	21	Miller	4.5	5.0	5.2
74	Chicot	7.7	7.9	9.2	75	Mississippi	7.8	7.7	7.6
23	Clark	4.6	5.3	5.6	64	Monroe	6.3	6.2	6.4
67	Clay	6.4	5.9	7.1	57	Montgomery	6.1	6.3	7.1
61	Cleburne	6.2	6.3	6.9	16	Nevada	4.3	4.6	5.5
37	Cleveland	5.0	5.1	6.0	11	Newton	4.0	4.2	5.5
53	Columbia	5.8	6.1	6.3	49	Ouachita	5.6	5.9	6.7
49	Conway	5.6	6.0	6.0	44	Perry	5.3	5.6	6.8
6	Craighead	3.7	3.9	4.7	73	Phillips	7.4	7.0	8.0
23	Crawford	4.6	4.9	5.4	44	Pike	5.3	5.5	7.4
37	Crittenden	5.0	5.2	6.7	29	Poinsett	4.7	4.8	5.7
42	Cross	5.1	5.1	6.1	37	Polk	5.0	5.4	5.6
57	Dallas	6.1	6.3	8.2	23	Pope	4.6	4.7	5.5
70	Desha	6.6	6.5	7.4	18	Prairie	4.4	4.4	5.5
54	Drew	5.9	6.0	7.4	9	Pulaski	3.9	4.2	4.9
15	Faulkner	4.2	4.4	4.9	54	Randolph	5.9	5.9	6.8
21	Franklin	4.5	4.8	4.8	64	St. Francis	6.3	6.6	7.5
29	Fulton	4.7	4.8	5.0	4	Saline	3.5	3.8	4.4
33	Garland	4.9	5.2	5.9	12	Scott	4.1	4.5	4.2
9	Grant	3.9	4.2	4.8	33	Searcy	4.9	4.9	5.8
23	Greene	4.6	4.7	5.7	18	Sebastian	4.4	4.5	5.0
16	Hempstead	4.3	4.4	6.3	37	Sevier	5.0	5.4	6.8
23	Hot Spring	4.6	4.9	5.1	61	Sharp	6.2	6.3	7.5
7	Howard	3.8	3.9	7.7	47	Stone	5.5	5.4	6.6
64	Independence	6.3	6.5	6.8	49	Union	5.6	5.8	6.8
57	Izard	6.1	5.8	6.9	61	Van Buren	6.2	6.2	6.9
69	Jackson	6.5	6.4	8.3	1	Washington	3.0	3.2	3.7
70	Jefferson	6.6	6.8	7.4	47	White	5.5	5.6	6.3
31	Johnson	4.8	5.1	5.7	57	Woodruff	6.1	5.9	6.9
72	Lafayette	6.7	6.8	6.9	18	Yell	4.4	4.4	4.8
33	Lawrence	4.9	5.0	6.1					

### Lowest Rates

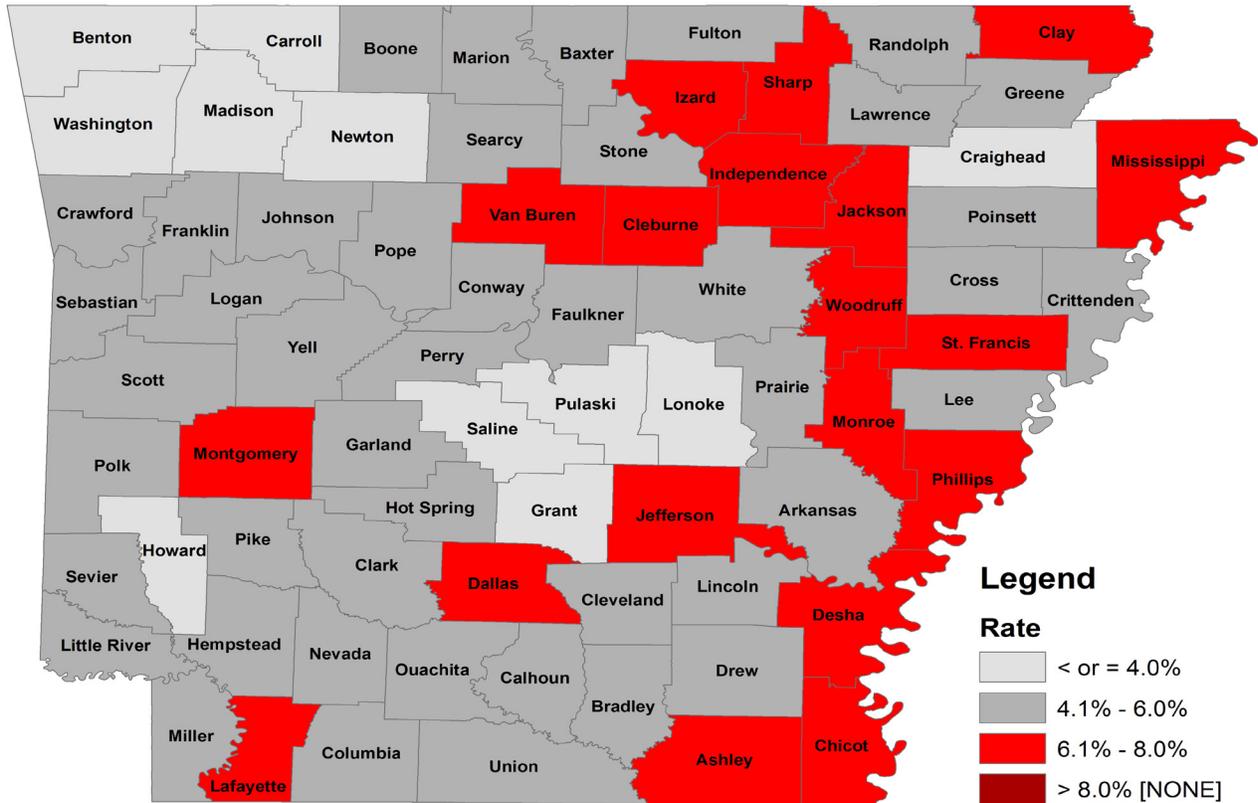
Rank	County	Rate
1	Washington	3.0
2	Benton	3.2
3	Madison	3.4
4	Saline	3.5
5	Lonoke	3.6

### Highest Rates

Rank	County	Rate
72	Lafayette	6.7
73	Phillips	7.4
74	Chicot	7.7
75	Mississippi	7.8

# 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 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

## November 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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