

Arkansas

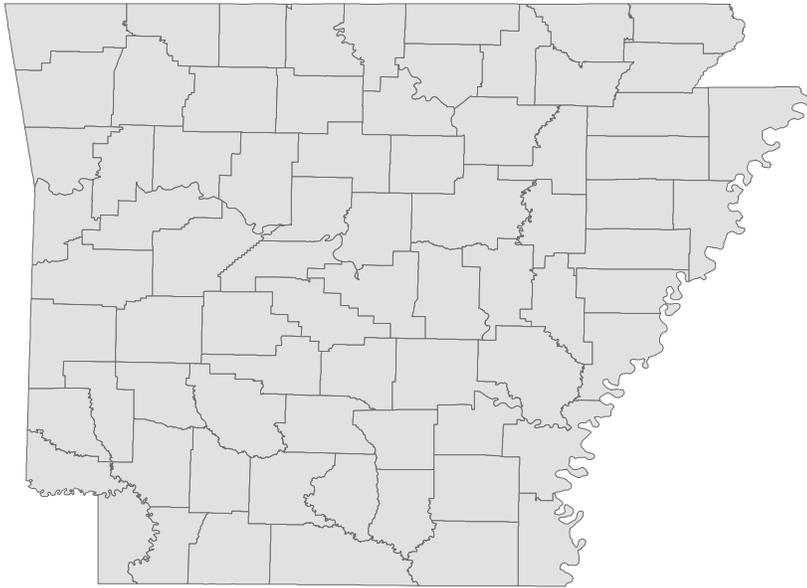
Labor Market Report



20
18

August

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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 month's data is 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 2017 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.

August Spotlight

Seasonal Employment Trends (Part 1 of 2)

Employment in several major industry sectors is directly affected by seasonal patterns. These patterns can be seen by comparing monthly employment across multiple years. Seasonal trends can be attributed to set schedules of operation, holidays, or weather patterns. Examples of all three types are provided.

Education is one of the most obvious examples of seasonal employment. Most of Arkansas' public schools and universities are scheduled to operate from August to May. Chart 1 shows how state and local government employment is affected by the operation schedule of public schools. Note that the number of jobs begin to decline between May and June, reaches a low in July, and then increases between August and September. Jobs remain fairly stable during the rest of the year, with the exception of the holiday-related drop in December/January.

While employment at public universities and secondary schools falls under state and local government, employment at *private* universities and *private* secondary schools falls under educational services. This is a subsector under **educational and health services**. With the exception of the few schools that utilize a three-quarter system, the majority of private schools operate on the same August to May schedule as public schools. Chart 2 below shows the seasonal employment trends of private educational services, which closely mirrors the trend seen in state and local government.

Leisure and hospitality is another sector affected by seasonal patterns. People tend to travel more during the summer months. Hotels, restaurants, and recreational facilities have increased business during this time and require more employees. Similarly, many recreational facilities in Arkansas are only open during the summer months—amusement parks and camps are prime examples. Chart 3 shows the seasonal employment pattern that occurs in the **leisure and hospitality** sector. Note that employment begins to steadily rise throughout the spring, peaks in June, and then typically declines slowly throughout the second half of the year.

Chart 1. Jobs in State and Local Government

January 2016 - August 2018

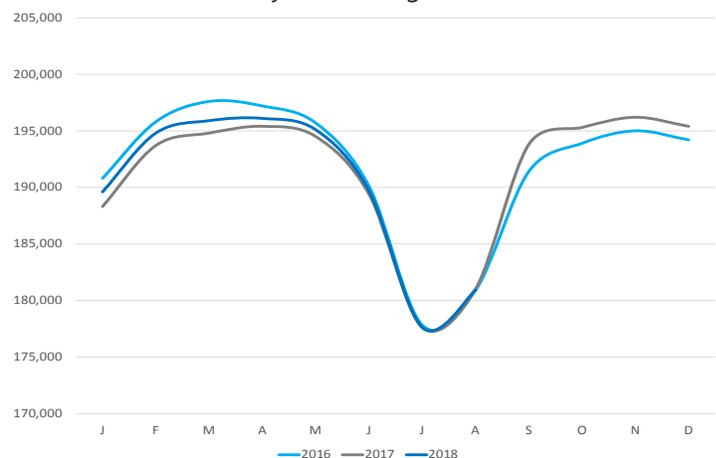


Chart 2. Jobs in Educational Services

January 2016 - August 2018

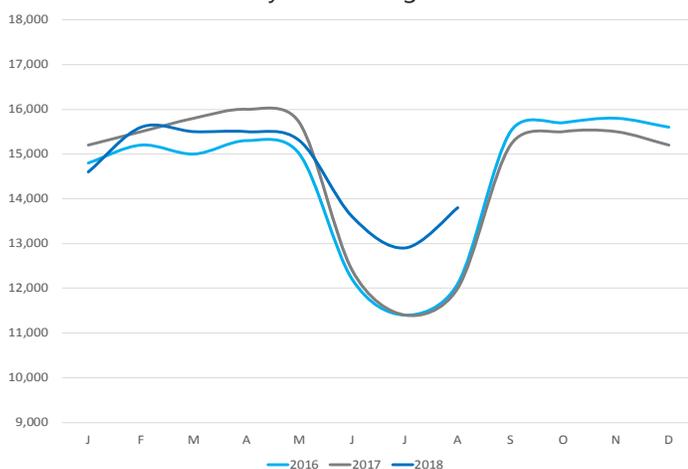
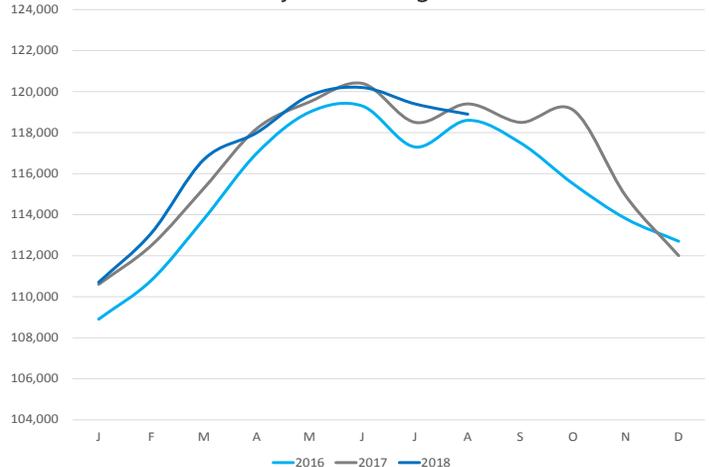


Chart 3. Jobs in Leisure and Hospitality

January 2016 - August 2018



State of Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Summary

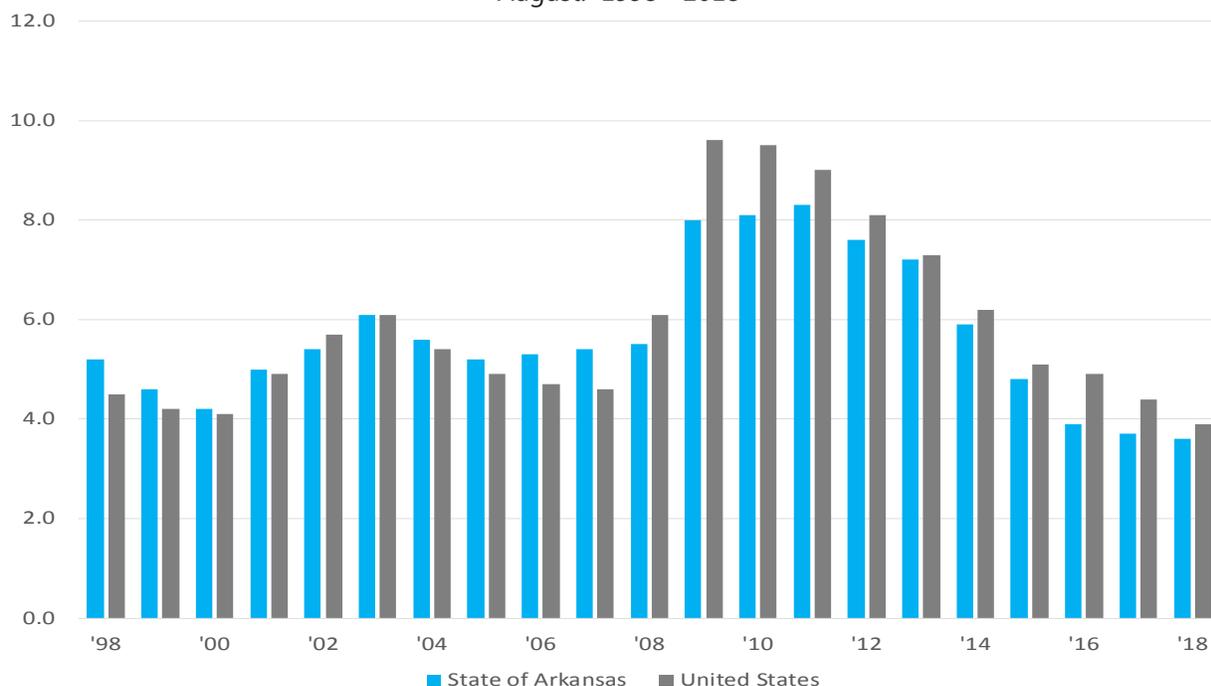
Labor force data, produced by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and released by the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, show Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.7 percent in July to 3.6 percent in August. Arkansas' civilian labor force decreased 1,693, a result of 1,419 fewer unemployed and 274 less employed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate remained unchanged at 3.9 percent in August.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Down to 3.6 percent in August, Arkansas' unemployment rate decreased for the second month in a row. This is due in part to declines in the number of unemployed over the last several months."

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted			
	Aug 18	Jul 18	Aug 17	Aug 18	Jul 18	Aug 17	
Civilian Labor Force	1,346,758	1,348,451	1,357,615	Civilian Labor Force	1,344,473	1,364,018	1,360,376
Employment	1,298,627	1,298,901	1,307,228	Employment	1,299,305	1,312,078	1,308,571
Unemployment	48,131	49,550	50,387	Unemployment	45,168	51,940	51,805
Unemployment Rate	3.6	3.7	3.7	Unemployment Rate	3.4	3.8	3.8
U.S. Unemployment	3.9	3.9	4.4	U.S. Unemployment	3.9	4.1	4.5

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates (State of Arkansas vs. United States)
August: 1998 - 2018



State of Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

(NAICS)	<u>Aug 18</u>	<u>Jul 18</u>	<u>Aug 17</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	1238.9	1237.9	1230.9	1.0	8.0
Goods Producing	219.0	220.3	215.5	-1.3	3.5
Mining, Logging, and Construction	59.3	59.4	57.7	-0.1	1.6
Mining & Logging	5.6	5.6	5.9	0.0	-0.3
Construction	53.7	53.8	51.8	-0.1	1.9
Specialty Trade Contractors	33.3	33.1	32.0	0.2	1.3
Manufacturing	159.7	160.9	157.8	-1.2	1.9
Durable Goods	75.0	76.0	74.9	-1.0	0.1
Nondurable Goods	84.7	84.9	82.9	-0.2	1.8
Service Providing	1019.9	1017.6	1015.4	2.3	4.5
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	250.5	250.6	251.5	-0.1	-1.0
Wholesale Trade	45.9	47.1	47.1	-1.2	-1.2
Retail Trade	140.8	139.7	140.5	1.1	0.3
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	63.8	63.8	63.9	0.0	-0.1
Information	12.1	12.3	13.1	-0.2	-1.0
Financial Activities	54.3	54.4	53.5	-0.1	0.8
Finance & Insurance	40.3	40.4	39.8	-0.1	0.5
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	14.0	14.0	13.7	0.0	0.3
Professional & Business Services	148.2	149.1	142.2	-0.9	6.0
Professional, Scientific & Technical	42.1	42.3	42.2	-0.2	-0.1
Management of Companies	35.0	34.8	34.7	0.2	0.3
Administrative & Support Services	71.1	72.0	65.3	-0.9	5.8
Educational & Health Services	186.2	185.3	185.9	0.9	0.3
Educational Services	13.8	12.9	12.0	0.9	1.8
Health Care & Social Assistance	172.4	172.4	173.9	0.0	-1.5
Ambulatory Health Care	56.7	57.5	57.2	-0.8	-0.5
Social Assistance	38.7	38.1	39.6	0.6	-0.9
Leisure & Hospitality	118.9	119.4	119.4	-0.5	-0.5
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	12.0	12.5	12.4	-0.5	-0.4
Accommodation & Food Services	106.9	106.9	107.0	0.0	-0.1
Accommodation Services	11.4	11.9	11.7	-0.5	-0.3
Food Services	95.5	95.0	95.3	0.5	0.2
Other Services	49.0	49.0	48.8	0.0	0.2
Government	200.7	197.5	201.0	3.2	-0.3
Federal Government	19.8	19.9	20.0	-0.1	-0.2
State Government	74.3	72.8	74.5	1.5	-0.2
Local Government	106.6	104.8	106.5	1.8	0.1

State of Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary

July 2018 - August 2018

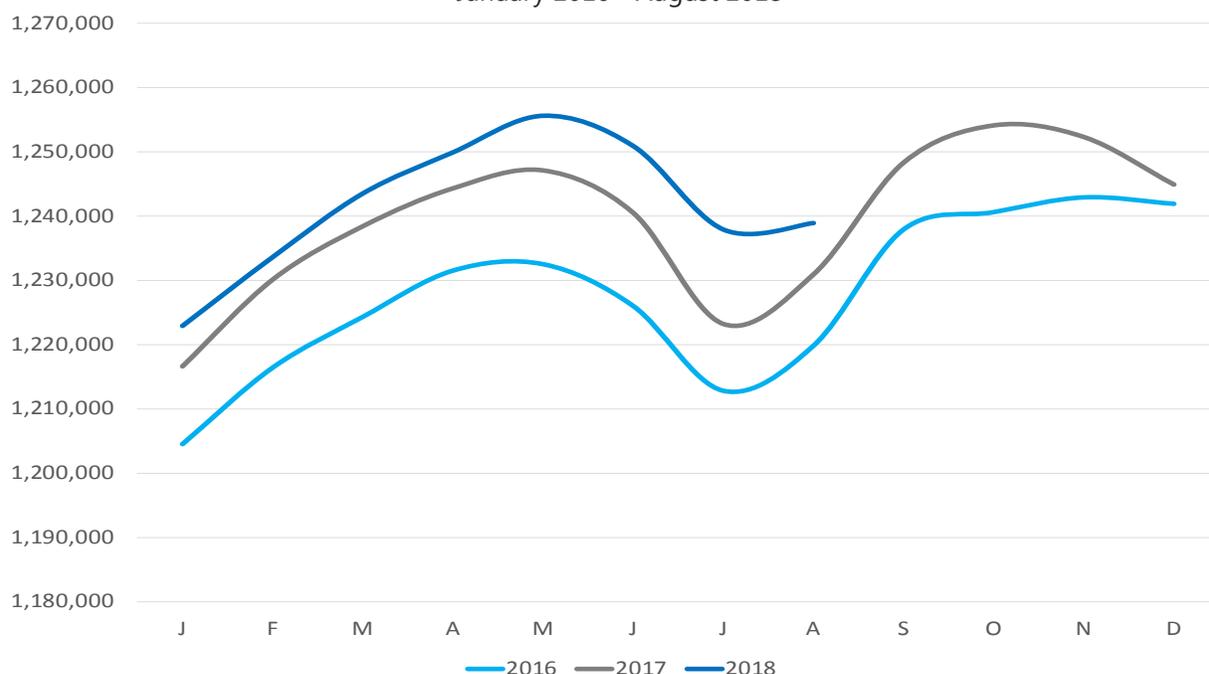
Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment rose 1,000 in August to total 1,238,900. Two major industry sectors added jobs, more than offsetting the declines in seven industry sectors. Jobs in **government** increased 3,200. Hiring in local (+1,800) and state (+1,500) government reflect the start of the 2018-2019 public school year. Employment in **educational and health services** rose 900. Gains in educational services (+900) were attributed to seasonal hiring at private educational facilities. Jobs in **manufacturing** decreased 1,200. Most of the decline was in durable goods (-1,000), due to reported losses in wood product manufacturing and machinery manufacturing.

August 2017 - August 2018

Compared to August 2017, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas are up 8,000. Growth was posted in six major industry sectors, while five sectors declined. **Professional and business services** added 6,000 jobs. A majority of the gains were in administrative and support services (+5,800), a subsector which includes employment agencies. Jobs in **construction** increased 1,900, mostly in specialty trade contractors (+1,300). Employment in **manufacturing** rose 1,900. The bulk of the expansion was in nondurable goods manufacturing (+1,800). **Trade, transportation, and utilities** declined 1,000. Small gains in retail trade (+300) were more than offset by losses in wholesale trade (-1,200) and transportation-warehousing-utilities (-100). Jobs in **information** declined 1,000. This sector includes activities such as publishing, telecommunications, and related services.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

January 2016 - August 2018



State of Arkansas Production Workers- Hours and Earnings

Manufacturing

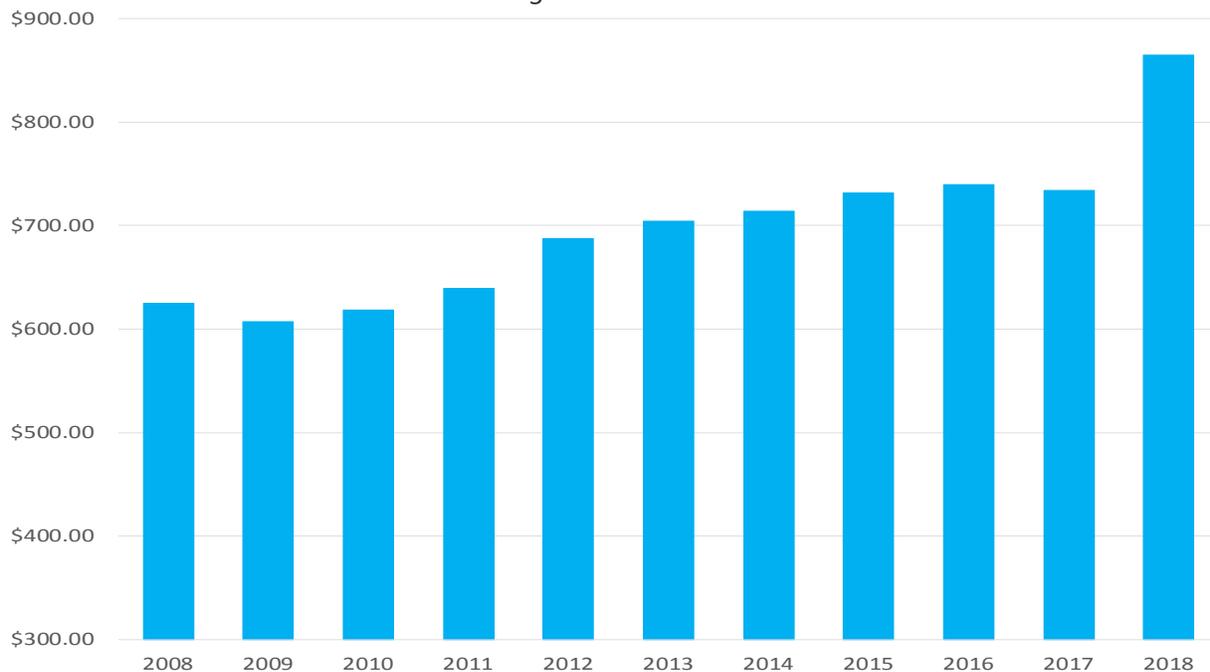
	<u>Aug 18</u>	<u>Jul 18</u>	<u>Aug 17</u>
Average Weekly Hours	42.8	41.3	39.6
Average Hourly Earnings	17.54	17.55	16.31
Average Weekly Earnings	750.71	724.82	645.88

Durable Goods and Nondurable Goods Manufacturing

Durable Goods Manufacturing				Nondurable Goods Manufacturing			
	<u>Aug 18</u>	<u>Jul 18</u>	<u>Aug 17</u>		<u>Aug 18</u>	<u>Jul 18</u>	<u>Aug 17</u>
Average Weekly Hours	43.7	42.1	40.9	Average Weekly Hours	42.0	40.7	38.5
Average Hourly Earnings	19.78	20.14	17.94	Average Hourly Earnings	15.60	15.36	14.86
Average Weekly Earnings	864.39	847.89	733.75	Average Weekly Earnings	655.20	625.15	572.11

Average Weekly Earnings in Durable Goods Manufacturing

August: 2008 - 2018



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

The Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA = Faulkner, Grant, Lonoke, Perry, Pulaski, & Saline counties.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

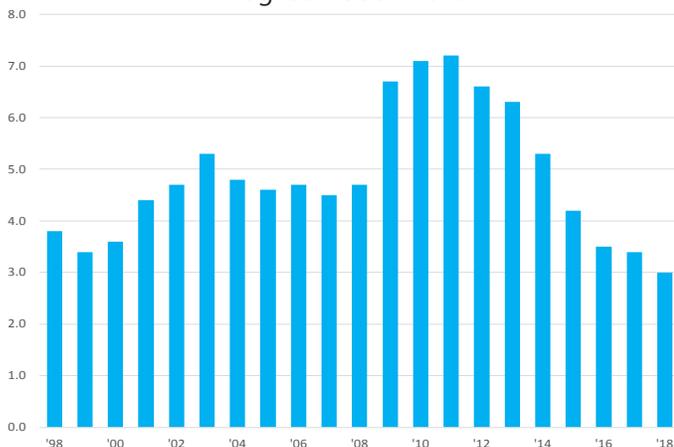
	Aug 18	Jul 18	Aug 17	OTM	QTY
Civilian Labor Force	355,989	364,607	359,772	-8,618	-3,783
Employment	345,150	352,522	347,641	-7,372	-2,491
Unemployment	10,839	12,085	12,131	-1,246	-1,292
Unemployment Rate	3.0	3.3	3.4	-0.3	-0.4

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

NAICS	Aug 18	Jul 18	Aug 17	OTM	QTY
Total Nonfarm	361.9	362.5	357.9	-0.6	4.0
Goods Producing	37.6	38.0	37.8	-0.4	-0.2
Mining, Logging & Construction	17.3	17.7	17.5	-0.4	-0.2
Manufacturing	20.3	20.3	20.3	0.0	0.0
Service Providing	324.3	324.5	320.1	-0.2	4.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	70.2	70.3	70.3	-0.1	-0.1
Wholesale Trade	15.1	15.2	15.3	-0.1	-0.2
Retail Trade	39.0	39.0	39.1	0.0	-0.1
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	16.1	16.1	15.9	0.0	0.2
Information	5.6	5.6	6.0	0.0	-0.4
Financial Activities	21.2	21.2	21.1	0.0	0.1
Professional & Business Services	49.6	49.7	47.1	-0.1	2.5
Educational & Health Services	58.0	58.6	56.0	-0.6	2.0
Leisure & Hospitality	34.9	35.0	35.0	-0.1	-0.1
Other Services	15.8	15.9	15.8	-0.1	0.0
Government	69.0	68.2	68.8	0.8	0.2
Federal Government	9.4	9.5	9.5	-0.1	-0.1
State Government	34.6	34.0	34.3	0.6	0.3
Local Government	25.0	24.7	25.0	0.3	0.0

Unemployment Rates
August: 1998 - 2018



Jobs in Professional and Business Services
August 2015 - August 2018



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

The Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA = Benton, Madison, & Washington counties in Arkansas and McDonald county in Missouri.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Aug 18</u>	<u>Jul 18</u>	<u>Aug 17</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	274,642	278,682	274,404	-4,040	238
Employment	267,652	270,720	266,317	-3,068	1,335
Unemployment	6,990	7,962	8,087	-972	-1,097
Unemployment Rate	2.5	2.9	2.9	-0.4	-0.4

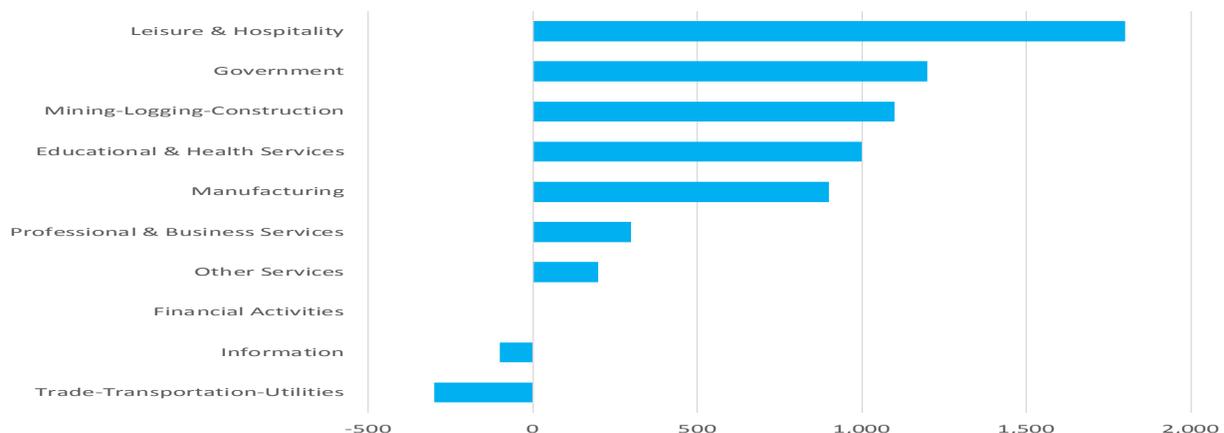
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Aug 18</u>	<u>Jul 18</u>	<u>Aug 17</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	257.3	254.8	251.2	2.5	6.1
Goods Producing	42.2	42.2	40.2	0.0	2.0
Mining, Logging & Construction	12.5	12.4	11.4	0.1	1.1
Manufacturing	29.7	29.8	28.8	-0.1	0.9
Service Providing	215.1	212.6	211.0	2.5	4.1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	56.5	56.5	56.8	0.0	-0.3
Wholesale Trade	13.5	13.5	13.1	0.0	0.4
Retail Trade	26.3	26.3	26.9	0.0	-0.6
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	16.7	16.7	16.8	0.0	-0.1
Information	1.8	1.9	1.9	-0.1	-0.1
Financial Activities	7.9	8.0	7.9	-0.1	0.0
Professional & Business Services	49.5	49.8	49.2	-0.3	0.3
Educational & Health Services	28.9	28.5	27.9	0.4	1.0
Leisure & Hospitality	27.8	26.5	26.0	1.3	1.8
Other Services	9.1	9.0	8.9	0.1	0.2
Government	33.6	32.4	32.4	1.2	1.2
Federal Government	2.6	2.5	2.5	0.1	0.1
State Government	13.4	12.5	12.6	0.9	0.8
Local Government	17.6	17.4	17.3	0.2	0.3

Over-the-Year Job Growth by Industry (Ranked)

August 2017 vs. August 2018



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fort Smith MSA

The Fort Smith MSA = Crawford & Sebastian counties in Arkansas & LeFlore & Sequoyah counties in Oklahoma.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

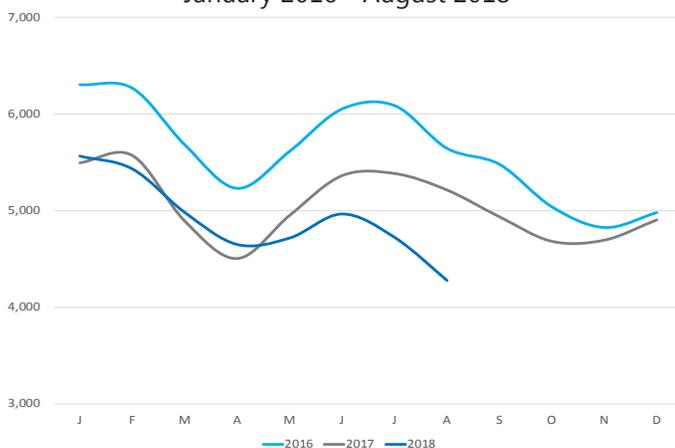
	Aug 18	Jul 18	Aug 17	OTM	QTY
Civilian Labor Force	118,266	119,451	120,596	-1,185	-2,330
Employment	113,989	114,728	115,383	-739	-1,394
Unemployment	4,277	4,723	5,213	-446	-936
Unemployment Rate	3.6	4.0	4.3	-0.4	-0.7

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

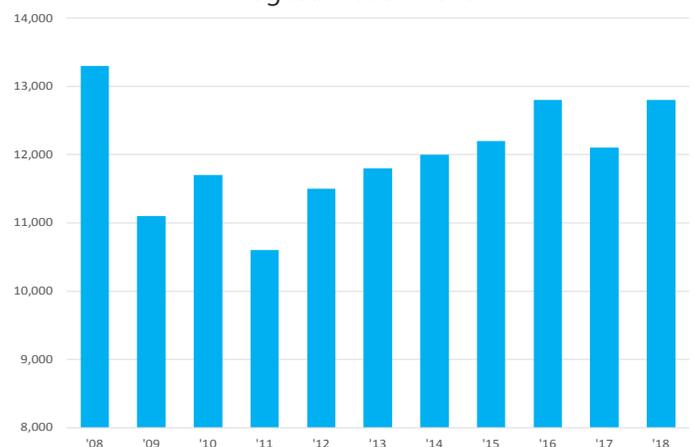
(In Thousands)

NAICS	Aug 18	Jul 18	Aug 17	OTM	QTY
Total Nonfarm	111.8	110.4	111.7	1.4	0.1
Goods Producing	22.9	23.0	23.4	-0.1	-0.5
Mining, Logging & Construction	5.5	5.5	5.5	0.0	0.0
Manufacturing	17.4	17.5	17.9	-0.1	-0.5
Service Providing	88.9	87.4	88.3	1.5	0.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	22.6	22.6	23.0	0.0	-0.4
Wholesale Trade	3.8	3.9	3.9	-0.1	-0.1
Retail Trade	12.5	12.4	12.6	0.1	-0.1
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	6.3	6.3	6.5	0.0	-0.2
Information	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	3.9	3.9	3.8	0.0	0.1
Professional & Business Services	12.8	12.7	12.1	0.1	0.7
Educational & Health Services	16.7	16.5	16.8	0.2	-0.1
Leisure & Hospitality	9.8	9.8	9.7	0.0	0.1
Other Services	4.4	4.4	4.4	0.0	0.0
Government	17.5	16.3	17.3	1.2	0.2
Federal Government	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
State Government	2.9	2.9	2.9	0.0	0.0
Local Government	13.3	12.1	13.1	1.2	0.2

Number of Unemployed
January 2016 - August 2018



Jobs in Professional and Business Services
August: 2008 - 2018



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Hot Springs MSA

The Hot Springs MSA = Garland County.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Aug 18</u>	<u>Jul 18</u>	<u>Aug 17</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	40,055	41,197	40,994	-1,142	-939
Employment	38,578	39,522	39,316	-944	-738
Unemployment	1,477	1,675	1,678	-198	-201
Unemployment Rate	3.7	4.1	4.1	-0.4	-0.4

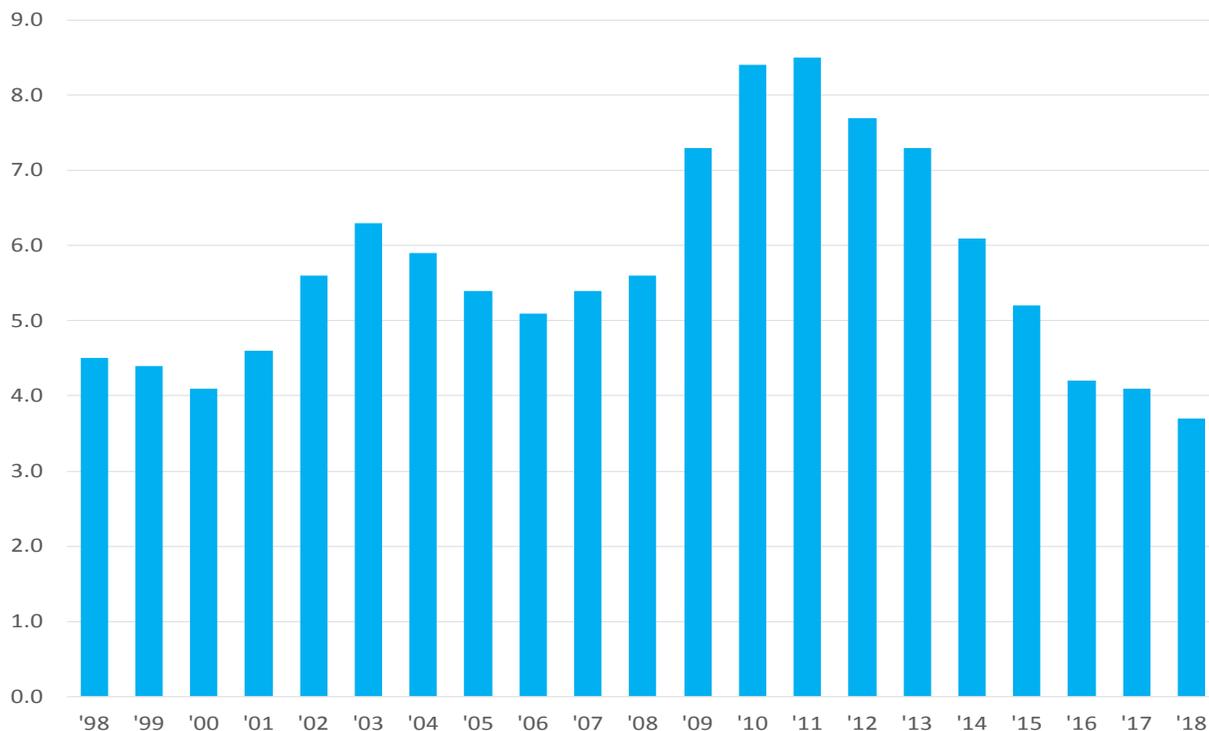
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Aug 18</u>	<u>Jul 18</u>	<u>Aug 17</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	37.9	38.1	38.0	-0.2	-0.1
Goods Producing	4.6	4.7	4.5	-0.1	0.1
Service Providing	33.3	33.4	33.5	-0.1	-0.2
Government	4.3	4.1	4.3	0.2	0.0

Unemployment Rates

August: 1998 - 2018



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Jonesboro MSA

The Jonesboro MSA = Craighead & Poinsett counties.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Aug 18</u>	<u>Jul 18</u>	<u>Aug 17</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	64,682	65,777	64,719	-1,095	-37
Employment	62,828	63,584	62,528	-756	300
Unemployment	1,854	2,193	2,191	-339	-337
Unemployment Rate	2.9	3.3	3.4	-0.4	-0.5

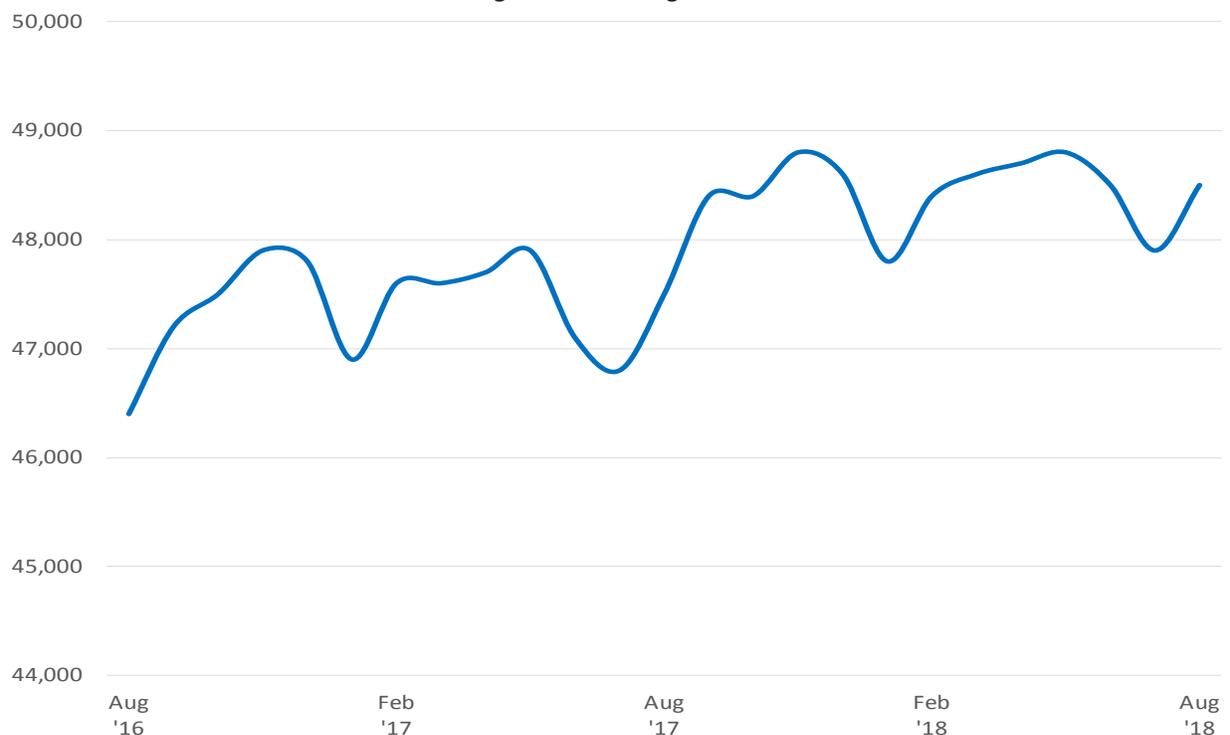
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Aug 18</u>	<u>Jul 18</u>	<u>Aug 17</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	58.5	57.9	57.3	0.6	1.2
Goods Producing	10.0	10.0	9.8	0.0	0.2
Service Providing	48.5	47.9	47.5	0.6	1.0
Government	8.9	8.7	8.8	0.2	0.1

Jobs in Service Providing Industries

August 2016 - August 2018



Metropolitan Statistical Areas Pine Bluff MSA

The Pine Bluff MSA = Cleveland, Jefferson, & Lincoln counties.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	Aug 18	Jul 18	Aug 17	OTM	QTY
Civilian Labor Force	34,513	35,304	35,457	-791	-944
Employment	32,888	33,387	33,611	-499	-723
Unemployment	1,625	1,917	1,846	-292	-221
Unemployment Rate	4.7	5.4	5.2	-0.7	-0.5

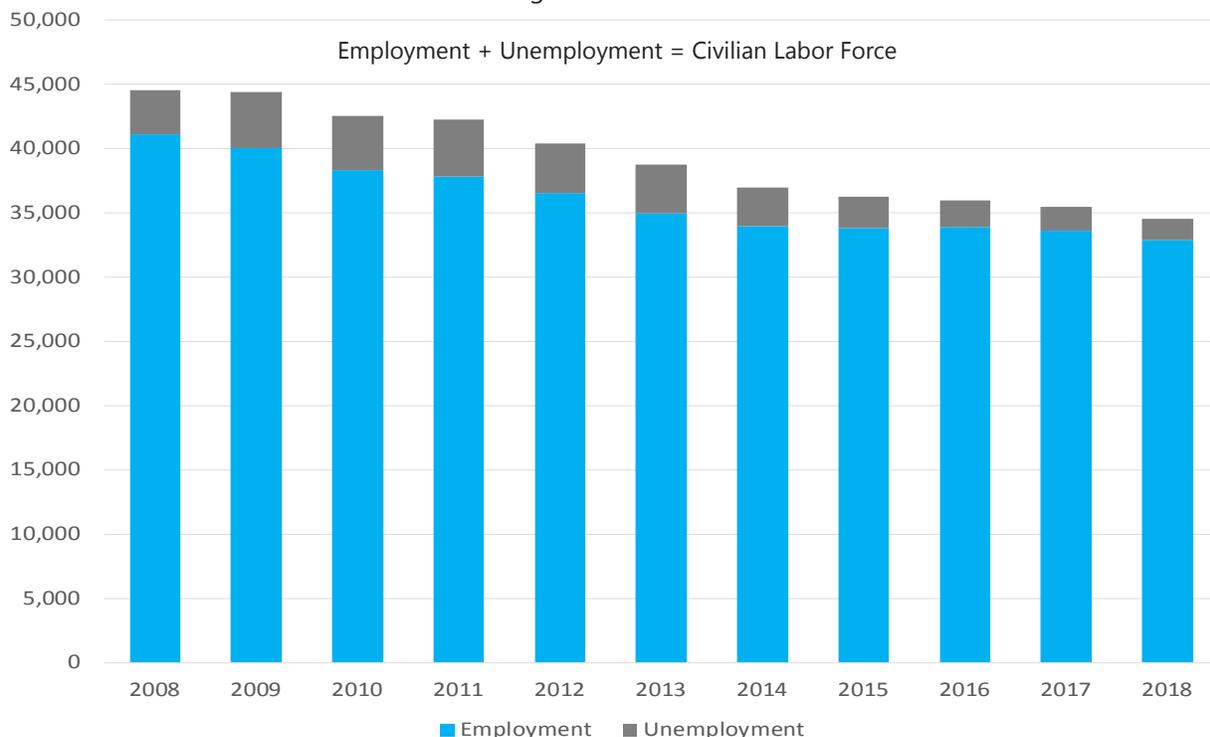
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

NAICS	Aug 18	Jul 18	Aug 17	OTM	QTY
Total Nonfarm	32.3	32.1	32.4	0.2	-0.1
Goods Producing	6.0	6.0	6.1	0.0	-0.1
Service Providing	26.3	26.1	26.3	0.2	0.0
Government	9.1	8.9	9.1	0.2	0.0

Employment and Unemployment

August: 2008 - 2018



Metropolitan Statistical Areas Out-of-State MSA

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Memphis, TN-MS-AR MSA

The Memphis, TN-MS-AR MSA = Fayette, Shelby, & Tipton counties in Tennessee; Benton, Desoto, Marshall, Tate, & Tunica counties in Mississippi; & Crittenden County in Arkansas.

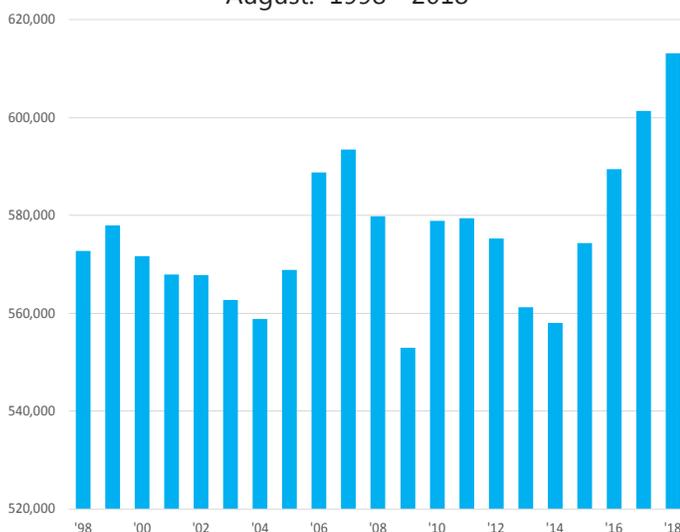
	<u>Aug 18</u>	<u>Jul 18</u>	<u>Aug 17</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	641,249	654,975	627,921	-13,726	13,328
Employment	613,111	624,457	601,363	-11,346	11,748
Unemployment	28,138	30,518	26,558	-2,380	1,580
Unemployment Rate	4.4	4.7	4.2	-0.3	0.2

Texarkana MSA

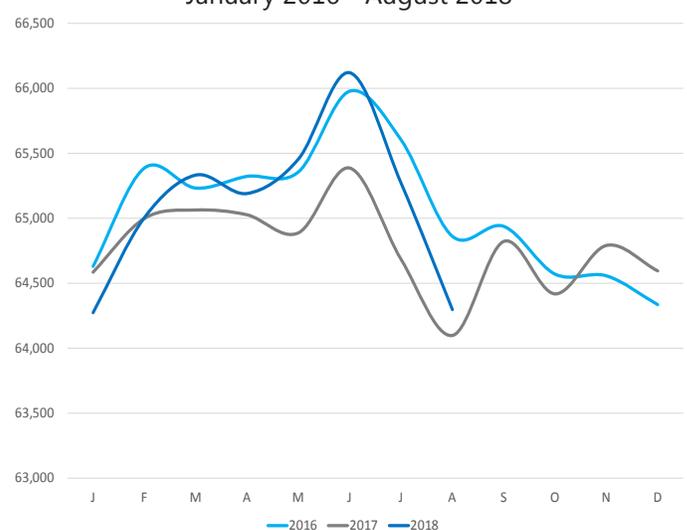
The Texarkana MSA= Bowie County in Texas & Little River & Miller counties in Arkansas.

	<u>Aug 18</u>	<u>Jul 18</u>	<u>Aug 17</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	64,296	65,270	64,097	-974	199
Employment	61,090	61,783	61,020	-693	70
Unemployment	3,206	3,487	3,077	-281	129
Unemployment Rate	5.0	5.3	4.8	-0.3	0.2

Memphis MSA - Employment
August: 1998 - 2018



Texarkana MSA- Civilian Labor Force
January 2016 - August 2018



Micropolitan Statistical Areas and Cities Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Micropolitan Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Micro Area	August 2018				July 2018				August 2017			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Arkadelphia Micro	9,439	9,104	335	3.5	9,420	9,001	419	4.4	9,327	8,933	394	4.2
Batesville Micro	15,717	15,116	601	3.8	16,026	15,301	725	4.5	15,824	15,097	727	4.6
Blytheville Micro	17,547	16,670	877	5.0	17,783	16,638	1,145	6.4	18,110	16,984	1,126	6.2
Camden Micro	11,922	11,429	493	4.1	12,076	11,525	551	4.6	12,174	11,599	575	4.7
El Dorado Micro	15,894	15,107	787	5.0	15,989	15,043	946	5.9	16,196	15,327	869	5.4
Forrest City Micro	8,216	7,841	375	4.6	8,157	7,725	432	5.3	8,494	8,055	439	5.2
Harrison Micro	18,649	18,059	590	3.2	18,726	18,076	650	3.5	18,894	18,251	643	3.4
Helena-West Helena Micro	6,405	6,068	337	5.3	6,421	5,991	430	6.7	6,514	6,125	389	6.0
Hope Micro	13,042	12,575	467	3.6	13,164	12,634	530	4.0	13,289	12,794	495	3.7
Magnolia Micro	8,647	8,255	392	4.5	8,616	8,144	472	5.5	9,020	8,526	494	5.5
Malvern Micro	13,911	13,439	472	3.4	14,201	13,619	582	4.1	14,110	13,546	564	4.0
Mountain Home Micro	16,382	15,781	601	3.7	16,497	15,824	673	4.1	16,499	15,794	705	4.3
Paragould Micro	19,426	18,838	588	3.0	19,817	19,075	742	3.7	19,721	18,997	724	3.7
Russellville Micro	36,400	34,838	1,562	4.3	36,759	34,788	1,971	5.4	37,283	35,433	1,850	5.0
Searcy Micro	33,175	31,918	1,257	3.8	32,918	31,505	1,413	4.3	33,928	32,453	1,475	4.3

Arkadelphia Micro = Clark County

Batesville Micro = Independence County

Blytheville Micro = Mississippi County

Camden Micro = Calhoun & Ouachita counties

El Dorado Micro = Union County

Forrest City Micro = St. Francis County

Harrison Micro = Boone & Newton counties

Helena-West Helena Micro = Phillips County

Hope Micro = Hempstead & Nevada counties

Magnolia Micro = Columbia County

Malvern Micro = Hot Spring County

Mountain Home Micro = Baxter County

Paragould Micro = Greene County

Russellville Micro = Pope & Yell counties

Searcy Micro = White County

City Labor Force Statistics

Not Seasonally Adjusted

City	August 2018				July 2018				August 2017			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Bella Vista	12,418	12,008	410	3.3	12,596	12,140	456	3.6	12,427	11,954	473	3.8
Benton	17,310	16,828	482	2.8	17,729	17,185	544	3.1	17,453	16,951	502	2.9
Bentonville	25,488	24,896	592	2.3	25,840	25,170	670	2.6	25,646	24,784	862	3.4
Blytheville	6,026	5,676	350	5.8	6,112	5,665	447	7.3	6,222	5,783	439	7.1
Cabot	11,910	11,558	352	3.0	12,199	11,815	384	3.1	12,048	11,635	413	3.4
Conway	33,590	32,595	995	3.0	34,419	33,303	1,116	3.2	33,957	32,822	1,135	3.3
El Dorado	6,995	6,565	430	6.1	7,076	6,537	539	7.6	7,079	6,661	418	5.9
Fayetteville	47,608	46,416	1,192	2.5	48,374	46,943	1,431	3.0	47,559	46,199	1,360	2.9
Fort Smith	39,245	37,987	1,258	3.2	39,692	38,272	1,420	3.6	40,169	38,687	1,482	3.7
Hot Springs	14,443	13,837	606	4.2	14,903	14,175	728	4.9	14,771	14,101	670	4.5
Jacksonville	11,814	11,356	458	3.9	12,113	11,595	518	4.3	11,954	11,440	514	4.3
Jonesboro	38,170	37,102	1,068	2.8	38,814	37,532	1,282	3.3	38,174	36,929	1,245	3.3
Little Rock	98,250	95,109	3,141	3.2	100,573	97,112	3,461	3.4	99,216	95,813	3,403	3.4
North Little Rock	30,137	29,148	989	3.3	30,882	29,762	1,120	3.6	30,535	29,364	1,171	3.8
Paragould	12,195	11,812	383	3.1	12,450	11,961	489	3.9	12,397	11,912	485	3.9
Pine Bluff	16,461	15,512	949	5.8	16,882	15,731	1,151	6.8	16,912	15,869	1,043	6.2
Rogers	35,271	34,405	866	2.5	35,711	34,784	927	2.6	35,285	34,250	1,035	2.9
Russellville	13,183	12,655	528	4.0	13,291	12,624	667	5.0	13,472	12,878	594	4.4
Searcy	10,275	9,889	386	3.8	10,200	9,761	439	4.3	10,486	10,054	432	4.1
Sherwood	15,831	15,406	425	2.7	16,203	15,731	472	2.9	16,007	15,520	487	3.0
Springdale	39,302	38,362	940	2.4	39,841	38,796	1,045	2.6	39,208	38,183	1,025	2.6
Texarkana, AR	13,638	12,961	677	5.0	14,058	13,230	828	5.9	13,741	13,051	690	5.0
Van Buren	10,273	9,940	333	3.2	10,399	10,021	378	3.6	10,481	10,120	361	3.4
West Memphis	10,891	10,452	439	4.0	11,162	10,604	558	5.0	10,988	10,417	571	5.2

County Labor Force Statistics Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

County	August 2018				July 2018				August 2017			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Arkansas	8,905	8,635	270	3.0	8,978	8,688	290	3.2	9,064	8,780	284	3.1
Ashley	7,595	7,231	364	4.8	7,637	7,215	422	5.5	7,598	7,158	440	5.8
Baxter	16,382	15,781	601	3.7	16,497	15,824	673	4.1	16,499	15,794	705	4.3
Benton	133,286	129,800	3,486	2.6	135,140	131,228	3,912	2.9	133,371	129,215	4,156	3.1
Boone	15,378	14,887	491	3.2	15,427	14,888	539	3.5	15,573	15,052	521	3.3
Bradley	4,322	4,153	169	3.9	4,351	4,161	190	4.4	4,224	4,024	200	4.7
Calhoun	2,302	2,225	77	3.3	2,348	2,249	99	4.2	2,344	2,253	91	3.9
Carroll	13,245	12,899	346	2.6	13,137	12,783	354	2.7	13,420	13,047	373	2.8
Chicot	3,429	3,244	185	5.4	3,431	3,221	210	6.1	3,527	3,313	214	6.1
Clark	9,439	9,104	335	3.5	9,420	9,001	419	4.4	9,327	8,933	394	4.2
Clay	5,791	5,569	222	3.8	5,777	5,523	254	4.4	5,980	5,714	266	4.4
Cleburne	9,099	8,721	378	4.2	9,192	8,796	396	4.3	9,394	8,947	447	4.8
Cleveland	3,208	3,093	115	3.6	3,278	3,151	127	3.9	3,305	3,151	154	4.7
Columbia	8,647	8,255	392	4.5	8,616	8,144	472	5.5	9,020	8,526	494	5.5
Conway	8,038	7,733	305	3.8	8,154	7,778	376	4.6	8,325	7,938	387	4.6
Craighead	54,316	52,823	1,493	2.7	55,212	53,436	1,776	3.2	54,302	52,577	1,725	3.2
Crawford	26,322	25,457	865	3.3	26,649	25,663	986	3.7	26,911	25,918	993	3.7
Crittenden	22,009	21,159	850	3.9	22,516	21,466	1,050	4.7	22,107	21,088	1,019	4.6
Cross	7,464	7,192	272	3.6	7,282	6,980	302	4.1	7,722	7,422	300	3.9
Dallas	2,785	2,672	113	4.1	2,824	2,700	124	4.4	2,822	2,681	141	5.0
Desha	5,480	5,264	216	3.9	5,382	5,130	252	4.7	5,515	5,267	248	4.5
Drew	7,655	7,320	335	4.4	7,766	7,372	394	5.1	7,576	7,162	414	5.5
Faulkner	61,263	59,461	1,802	2.9	62,799	60,752	2,047	3.3	61,958	59,875	2,083	3.4
Franklin	7,361	7,111	250	3.4	7,291	7,008	283	3.9	7,467	7,202	265	3.5
Fulton	4,634	4,461	173	3.7	4,729	4,535	194	4.1	4,614	4,411	203	4.4
Garland	40,055	38,578	1,477	3.7	41,197	39,522	1,675	4.1	40,994	39,316	1,678	4.1
Grant	8,361	8,119	242	2.9	8,564	8,292	272	3.2	8,454	8,178	276	3.3
Greene	19,426	18,838	588	3.0	19,817	19,075	742	3.7	19,721	18,997	724	3.7
Hempstead	9,553	9,210	343	3.6	9,647	9,258	389	4.0	9,727	9,369	358	3.7
Hot Spring	13,911	13,439	472	3.4	14,201	13,619	582	4.1	14,110	13,546	564	4.0
Howard	6,109	5,915	194	3.2	6,203	5,971	232	3.7	5,955	5,774	181	3.0
Independence	15,717	15,116	601	3.8	16,026	15,301	725	4.5	15,824	15,097	727	4.6
Izard	4,765	4,512	253	5.3	4,629	4,362	267	5.8	4,883	4,591	292	6.0
Jackson	5,765	5,431	334	5.8	5,766	5,407	359	6.2	5,941	5,593	348	5.9
Jefferson	27,370	26,022	1,348	4.9	27,997	26,389	1,608	5.7	28,152	26,620	1,532	5.4
Johnson	10,150	9,620	530	5.2	10,234	9,702	532	5.2	10,338	9,843	495	4.8
Lafayette	2,414	2,304	110	4.6	2,429	2,288	141	5.8	2,490	2,349	141	5.7
Lawrence	6,649	6,412	237	3.6	6,552	6,256	296	4.5	6,749	6,480	269	4.0
Lee	2,918	2,790	128	4.4	2,952	2,798	154	5.2	3,005	2,858	147	4.9
Lincoln	3,935	3,773	162	4.1	4,029	3,847	182	4.5	4,000	3,840	160	4.0
Little River	5,520	5,251	269	4.9	5,677	5,351	326	5.7	5,589	5,293	296	5.3
Logan	8,741	8,417	324	3.7	8,784	8,388	396	4.5	9,021	8,664	357	4.0
Lonoke	33,814	32,843	971	2.9	34,671	33,575	1,096	3.2	34,196	33,062	1,134	3.3
Madison	7,455	7,264	191	2.6	7,592	7,383	209	2.8	7,436	7,219	217	2.9
Marion	6,445	6,210	235	3.6	6,504	6,242	262	4.0	6,516	6,260	256	3.9
Miller	19,622	18,752	870	4.4	20,181	19,141	1,040	5.2	19,808	18,882	926	4.7

(continued on Page 16)

County Labor Force Statistics Civilian Labor Force Estimates

(continued from Page 15)

County	Not Seasonally Adjusted											
	August 2018				July 2018				August 2018			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Mississippi	17,547	16,670	877	5.0	17,783	16,638	1,145	6.4	18,110	16,984	1,126	6.2
Monroe	2,737	2,632	105	3.8	2,727	2,593	134	4.9	2,802	2,683	119	4.2
Montgomery	3,054	2,928	126	4.1	3,080	2,930	150	4.9	3,111	2,964	147	4.7
Nevada	3,489	3,365	124	3.6	3,517	3,376	141	4.0	3,562	3,425	137	3.8
Newton	3,271	3,172	99	3.0	3,299	3,188	111	3.4	3,321	3,199	122	3.7
Ouachita	9,620	9,204	416	4.3	9,728	9,276	452	4.6	9,830	9,346	484	4.9
Perry	4,186	4,033	153	3.7	4,297	4,131	166	3.9	4,221	4,056	165	3.9
Phillips	6,405	6,068	337	5.3	6,421	5,991	430	6.7	6,514	6,125	389	6.0
Pike	4,383	4,222	161	3.7	4,329	4,140	189	4.4	4,346	4,173	173	4.0
Poinsett	10,366	10,005	361	3.5	10,565	10,148	417	3.9	10,417	9,951	466	4.5
Polk	7,886	7,577	309	3.9	7,828	7,472	356	4.5	8,117	7,770	347	4.3
Pope	28,127	26,888	1,239	4.4	28,390	26,822	1,568	5.5	28,839	27,362	1,477	5.1
Prairie	3,585	3,467	118	3.3	3,557	3,428	129	3.6	3,719	3,568	151	4.1
Pulaski	190,439	184,413	6,026	3.2	194,964	188,296	6,668	3.4	192,481	185,778	6,703	3.5
Randolph	6,931	6,682	249	3.6	6,927	6,624	303	4.4	6,961	6,666	295	4.2
St. Francis	8,216	7,841	375	4.6	8,157	7,725	432	5.3	8,494	8,055	439	5.2
Saline	57,926	56,281	1,645	2.8	59,312	57,476	1,836	3.1	58,462	56,692	1,770	3.0
Scott	4,325	4,175	150	3.5	4,394	4,227	167	3.8	4,299	4,140	159	3.7
Searcy	2,969	2,861	108	3.6	2,829	2,708	121	4.3	3,140	2,995	145	4.6
Sebastian	56,377	54,580	1,797	3.2	57,031	54,990	2,041	3.6	57,758	55,586	2,172	3.8
Sevier	5,563	5,318	245	4.4	5,618	5,364	254	4.5	5,594	5,332	262	4.7
Sharp	5,839	5,584	255	4.4	5,963	5,671	292	4.9	5,953	5,666	287	4.8
Stone	4,807	4,621	186	3.9	4,770	4,573	197	4.1	4,871	4,649	222	4.6
Union	15,894	15,107	787	5.0	15,989	15,043	946	5.9	16,196	15,327	869	5.4
Van Buren	5,890	5,614	276	4.7	5,908	5,599	309	5.2	6,031	5,720	311	5.2
Washington	123,267	120,304	2,963	2.4	125,087	121,668	3,419	2.7	123,036	119,742	3,294	2.7
White	33,175	31,918	1,257	3.8	32,918	31,505	1,413	4.3	33,928	32,453	1,475	4.3
Woodruff	2,878	2,760	118	4.1	2,780	2,653	127	4.6	2,950	2,816	134	4.5
Yell	8,273	7,950	323	3.9	8,369	7,966	403	4.8	8,444	8,071	373	4.4

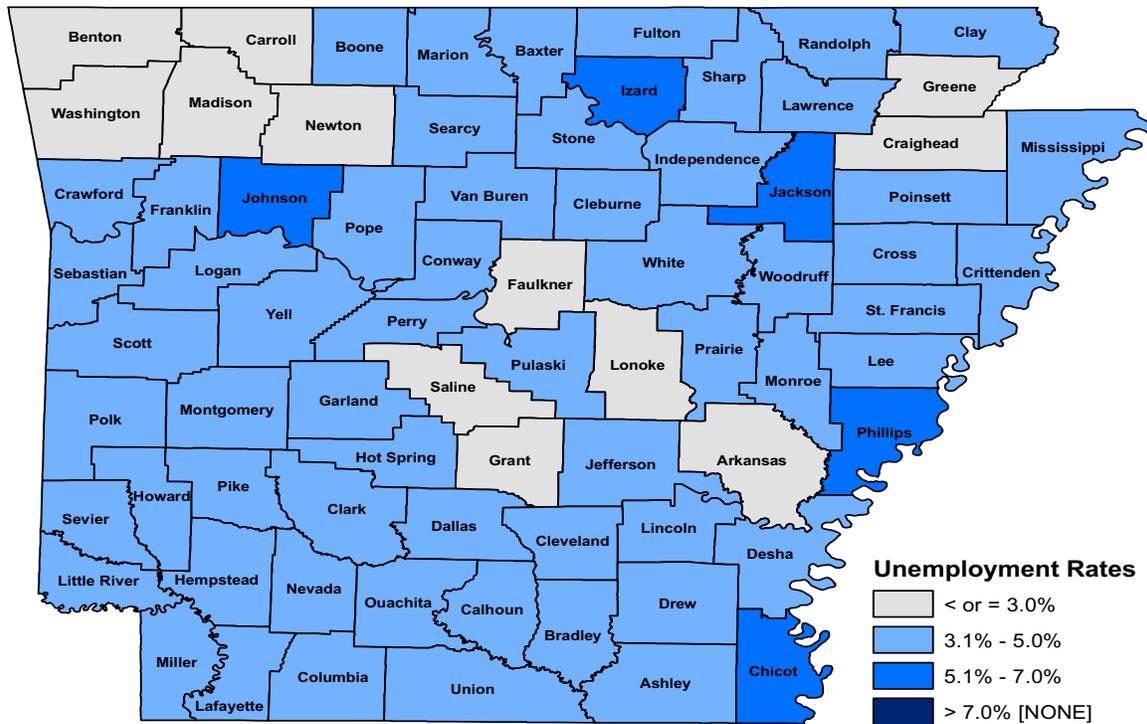
County Labor Force Summary

Between July and August, unemployment rates declined in 74 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Johnson County was unchanged over-the-month. Jobless rates ranged from a low of 2.4 percent in Washington County to a high of 5.8 percent in Jackson County.

In August, forty-nine counties posted unemployment rates at or below four percent. That is up significantly from 26 counties at or below four percent last month. For the second month in a row, no county reported a jobless rate above eight percent.

Compared to August 2017, unemployment rates decreased in 72 Arkansas counties. Three counties--Howard, Johnson, and Lincoln-- posted over-the-year rate increases.

County Unemployment Rates



Ranked by Unemployment Rates

August 2018 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Rank	County	Rate	Rank	County	Rate	Rank	County	Rate
1	Washington	2.4	25	Cross	3.6	50	Lincoln	4.1
2	Benton	2.6	25	Hempstead	3.6	50	Montgomery	4.1
2	Carroll	2.6	25	Lawrence	3.6	50	Woodruff	4.1
2	Madison	2.6	25	Marion	3.6	54	Cleburne	4.2
5	Craighead	2.7	25	Nevada	3.6	55	Ouachita	4.3
6	Saline	2.8	25	Randolph	3.6	56	Drew	4.4
7	Faulkner	2.9	25	Searcy	3.6	56	Lee	4.4
7	Grant	2.9	33	Baxter	3.7	56	Miller	4.4
7	Lonoke	2.9	33	Fulton	3.7	56	Pope	4.4
10	Arkansas	3.0	33	Garland	3.7	56	Sevier	4.4
10	Greene	3.0	33	Logan	3.7	56	Sharp	4.4
10	Newton	3.0	33	Perry	3.7	62	Columbia	4.5
13	Boone	3.2	33	Pike	3.7	63	Lafayette	4.6
13	Howard	3.2	39	Clay	3.8	63	St. Francis	4.6
13	Pulaski	3.2	39	Conway	3.8	65	Van Buren	4.7
13	Sebastian	3.2	39	Independence	3.8	66	Ashley	4.8
17	Calhoun	3.3	39	Monroe	3.8	67	Jefferson	4.9
17	Crawford	3.3	39	White	3.8	67	Little River	4.9
17	Prairie	3.3	44	Bradley	3.9	69	Mississippi	5.0
20	Franklin	3.4	44	Crittenden	3.9	69	Union	5.0
20	Hot Spring	3.4	44	Desha	3.9	71	Johnson	5.2
22	Clark	3.5	44	Polk	3.9	72	Izard	5.3
22	Poinsett	3.5	44	Stone	3.9	72	Phillips	5.3
22	Scott	3.5	44	Yell	3.9	74	Chicot	5.4
25	Cleveland	3.6	50	Dallas	4.1	75	Jackson	5.8

Local Workforce Development Areas Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

LWDA	August 2018				July 2018				August 2017			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Central (minus LR)	251,514	243,988	7,526	3.0	257,457	249,008	8,449	3.3	254,402	245,845	8,557	3.4
City of Little Rock	98,250	95,109	3,141	3.2	100,573	97,112	3,461	3.4	99,216	95,813	3,403	3.4
Eastern	47,012	45,050	1,962	4.2	47,328	44,960	2,368	5.0	47,842	45,548	2,294	4.8
North Central	92,569	88,738	3,831	4.1	92,681	88,402	4,279	4.6	94,389	89,943	4,446	4.7
Northeast	121,026	116,999	4,027	3.3	122,633	117,700	4,933	4.0	122,240	117,369	4,871	4.0
Northwest	321,698	313,178	8,520	2.6	325,512	315,912	9,600	2.9	322,312	312,523	9,789	3.0
Southeast	80,260	76,854	3,406	4.2	81,413	77,466	3,947	4.8	81,415	77,493	3,922	4.8
Southwest	91,518	87,578	3,940	4.3	92,777	88,161	4,616	5.0	92,937	88,557	4,380	4.7
West Central	129,616	124,495	5,121	4.0	131,671	125,611	6,060	4.6	132,055	126,202	5,853	4.4
Western	111,012	107,317	3,695	3.3	111,977	107,748	4,229	3.8	113,573	109,280	4,293	3.8

