

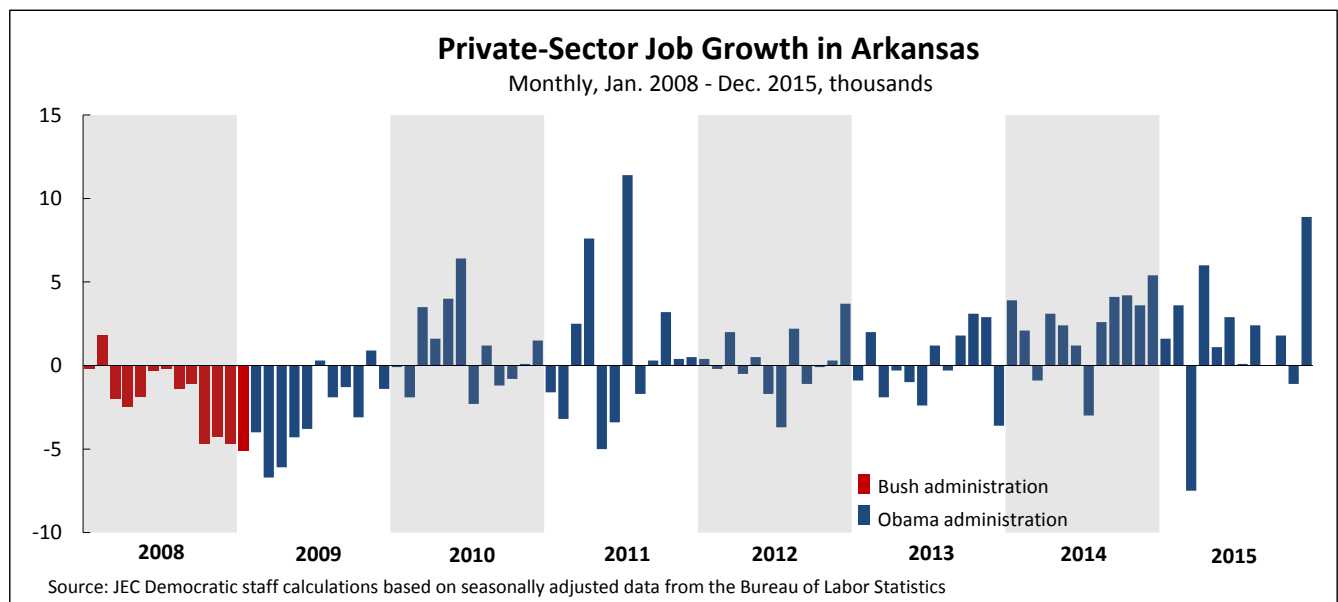


2015 YEAR IN REVIEW: ARKANSAS

***Includes Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs, unemployment and earnings data through December 2015**
Last updated on January 26th; January 2016 data will be released on March 14th*

JOBS

- In 2015, private-sector employment in Arkansas grew by 19,800 jobs, an average of 1,650 jobs per month. This represents a slowdown in job growth from the 2,390 jobs per month added in 2014. In December, Arkansas businesses added 8,900 jobs.
- The state sectors with the greatest job gains in percentage terms in 2015 were: construction at 11.0 percent (5,200 jobs), professional and business services at 4.7 percent (6,400 jobs) and information services at 4.5 percent (600 jobs).
- Since February 2010, the national low point for private-sector employment, Arkansas businesses have added 75,900 jobs (an increase of 8.1 percent). Nationally, private payrolls have increased by 13.1 percent over this time.



UNEMPLOYMENT

- The Arkansas unemployment rate fell by 0.9 percentage point in 2015 and was 4.8 percent in December. The rate is 3.6 percentage points below its recent peak of 8.4 percent in May 2011.
- Unemployment in Arkansas was 0.2 percentage point below the national rate of 5.0 percent in December. The rate was down 0.2 percentage point from November.
- There were 64,500 state residents unemployed in December, down 9,700 from one year prior.

EARNINGS

- Adjusting for inflation, average hourly earnings of private-sector workers in Arkansas rose by 0.4 percent in 2015. Nationally, these earnings increased by 1.7 percent (not seasonally adjusted).
- In December, average hourly earnings of private-sector workers were \$19.62. The average workweek was 34.6 hours, and average weekly earnings were \$678.85.

STATE QUICK FACTS

		Arkansas	United States
Private-Sector Jobs Added	In 2015	19,800	2.6 million
	Since Feb. 2010	75,900	14.1 million
Unemployment Rate	December 2015	4.8%	5.0%
	December 2014	5.7%	5.6%
	Recession-Era Peak	8.4%	10.0%
Median Household Income (2014 \$)	2014	\$44,900	\$53,700
	2007 (Pre-Recession)	\$46,600	\$57,400
Poverty Rate	2014	18.4%	14.8%
	2007 (Pre-Recession)	13.8%	12.5%
All Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2014	6.0%	5.3%
Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2014	14.2%	7.2%
Percentage Without Health Insurance	2014	11.8%	11.7%
	2013	16.0%	14.5%

Note: full 2015 data are not yet available for many indicators on this page; they will be included in future reports

STATE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

- Real gross domestic product (GDP) in Arkansas grew by 1.5 percent in 2014, below the national average growth rate of 2.2 percent.*
- Since 2009, annual Arkansas GDP growth has averaged 1.8 percent, the same as the national average annual growth rate over that period.

HOUSING

- Home prices in Arkansas increased by 3.6 percent from the third quarter of 2014 to the third quarter of 2015. They are up 14.6 percent since their recent low in the second quarter of 2011.
- In November 2015, builders in Arkansas broke ground on 5,930 new housing units (seasonally adjusted annual rate), bringing the average over the past 12 months to 8,544 units. That marks an increase of 26.6 percent from the average over the prior 12 months.

EXPORTS

- In Arkansas, goods exports totaled \$396 million in November and \$5.9 billion over the past year, down 4.1 percent from the 12 months ending in November 2014 (inflation-adjusted).
- Exports over the past 12 months are up 8.0 percent from their level in 2009 (inflation-adjusted).

* Note: Because of methodological differences, total U.S. real GDP by state differs slightly from headline national GDP figures

** A list of sources used to compile the Arkansas economic snapshot is available at: <http://bit.ly/JEC-state-by-state-sources>

*** For additional Arkansas-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Arkansas office: <http://www.discoverarkansas.net/>