

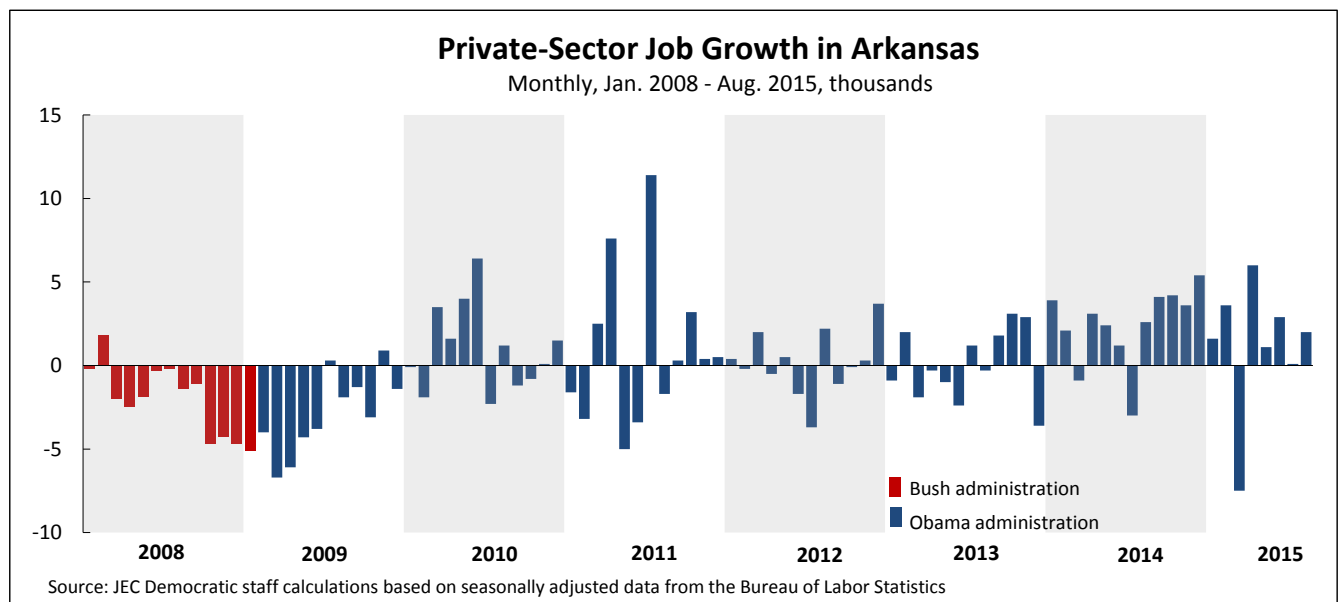


ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT: ARKANSAS

***Includes Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs, unemployment and earnings data through August 2015**
Last updated on September 18th; Data update next on October 20th*

JOBS

- In August, private-sector employment in Arkansas grew by 2,000 jobs. Over the past year, Arkansas businesses have added 27,100 jobs. This compares with an increase of 15,600 jobs over the 12 months through August 2014.
- Since February 2010, the national low point for private-sector employment, Arkansas businesses have added 65,900 jobs (an increase of 7.1 percent). Nationally, private payrolls have increased by 12.2 percent over this time.
- The state sectors with the greatest job gains in percentage terms since February 2010 are: professional and business services at 20.1 percent (23,400 jobs), leisure and hospitality at 15.3 percent (14,900 jobs) and construction at 9.3 percent (4,400 jobs).



UNEMPLOYMENT

- The unemployment rate in Arkansas was 5.4 percent in August 2015, down 0.2 percentage point from July. The rate was 0.3 percentage point above the national rate of 5.1 percent.
- Unemployment is down 0.5 percentage point from one year earlier and is 3.0 percentage points below its recent peak of 8.4 percent in May 2011.
- There were 72,100 Arkansas residents unemployed in August 2015.

EARNINGS

- In August 2015, average hourly earnings of private-sector workers in Arkansas were \$19.57. The average workweek was 34.8 hours, and average weekly earnings were \$681.04.
- Adjusting for inflation, state average hourly earnings have risen by 0.7 percent over the past year. Nationally, real average hourly earnings have increased by 2.7 percent (not seasonally adjusted).

STATE QUICK FACTS

		Arkansas	United States
Private-Sector Jobs Added	Past 12 Months	27,100	2.8 million
	Since Feb. 2010	65,900	13.1 million
Unemployment Rate	August 2015	5.4%	5.1%
	August 2014	5.9%	6.1%
	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%

STATE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

- Real gross domestic product (GDP) in Arkansas grew by 0.8 percent in 2014, below the national average growth rate of 2.2 percent.*
- Since 2009, annual Arkansas GDP growth has averaged 1.9 percent, compared with a national average annual growth rate of 1.9 percent.

HOUSING

- Home prices in Arkansas increased by 2.7 percent from the second quarter of 2014 to the second quarter of 2015. They are up 12.8 percent since their recent low in the second quarter of 2011.
- In July 2015, builders in Arkansas broke ground on 9,920 new housing units (seasonally adjusted annual rate), bringing the average over the past 12 months to 7,938 units. That marks an increase of 25.3 percent from the average over the prior 12 months.

EXPORTS

- In Arkansas, goods exports totaled \$445 million in July and \$6.2 billion over the past year, up 1.6 percent from the 12 months ending in July 2014 (inflation-adjusted).
- Exports over the past 12 months are up 11.3 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/>