

Economic Overview And Outlook: Arkansas

JOBS

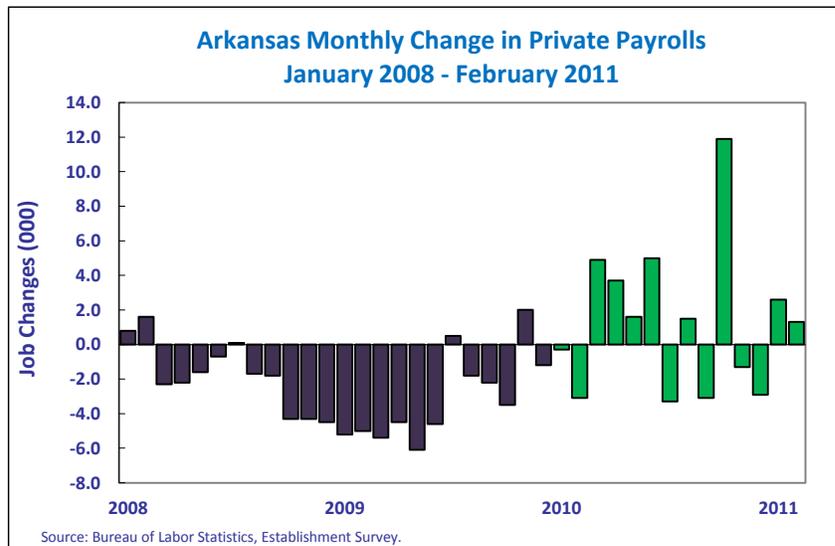
- In February, the private sector gained jobs nationwide for 12 consecutive months.
- In Arkansas, private sector employment fell by 6.2 percent from January 2008 to February 2010. Since February 2010, private sector employment has grown by 2.3 percent.
- In Arkansas, employees in the manufacturing, construction, and information services sectors faced the largest job losses (as a percent of employment within an industry) over the recession. Since the beginning of 2010, the following sectors in Arkansas have experienced the greatest employment increases: professional and business services; mining; and other services.*
- As the economy recovers from the Great Recession, service-providing industries are projected to add the most jobs between 2008 and 2018, with the largest gains in professional and business services, education, health care and social assistance, and State and local government. Within the goods-producing sector of the economy, only the construction industry is projected to add jobs above its 2008 level.

EMPLOYMENT

- The unemployment rate in Arkansas was 7.8 percent in February 2011, up 2.7 percentage points from December 2007, but down from its most recent peak of 8.0 percent reached in February 2010.
- 106,000 Arkansas residents were counted among the unemployed in Arkansas during February 2011.

EARNINGS

- Between the start of the recession in the 4th quarter of 2007 and the 3rd quarter of 2009, inflation-adjusted total personal income in the United States declined 2.2 percent. Most recently, in the 4th quarter of 2010, total personal income is 0.3 percent above its 4th quarter of 2007 level.
- Real per capita personal income (in 2005 \$) in Arkansas was \$30,187.20 in the 4th quarter of 2010, up from \$29,761.40 in the 4th quarter of 2008.



HOUSING

- National home prices, including distressed sales, saw a decrease of 5.7 percent in January 2011 from January 2010 compared to a 4.7 percent decrease in December. In Arkansas, home prices saw a decrease of 3.6 percent in January 2011 from January 2010 following December's year over year decrease of 2.6 percent.
- The median price of single-family homes in Arkansas was \$120,560 in the second quarter of 2010, compared to \$180,176 nationwide.
- As of the 4th quarter of 2010, 2.2 percent of all mortgages, including 7.6 percent of subprime mortgages, were in foreclosure in Arkansas.
- Housing starts in Arkansas totaled 4,350 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in February 2011, a decrease of 38.9 percent from January.
- Within the South census region, which includes Arkansas, sales of new single-family homes totaled 148,000 units in February 2011, a decrease of 6.3 percent from January. Sales of existing single-family homes decreased 9.5 percent to 1,620,000 units (at seasonally adjusted annual rates) from January to February 2011.

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

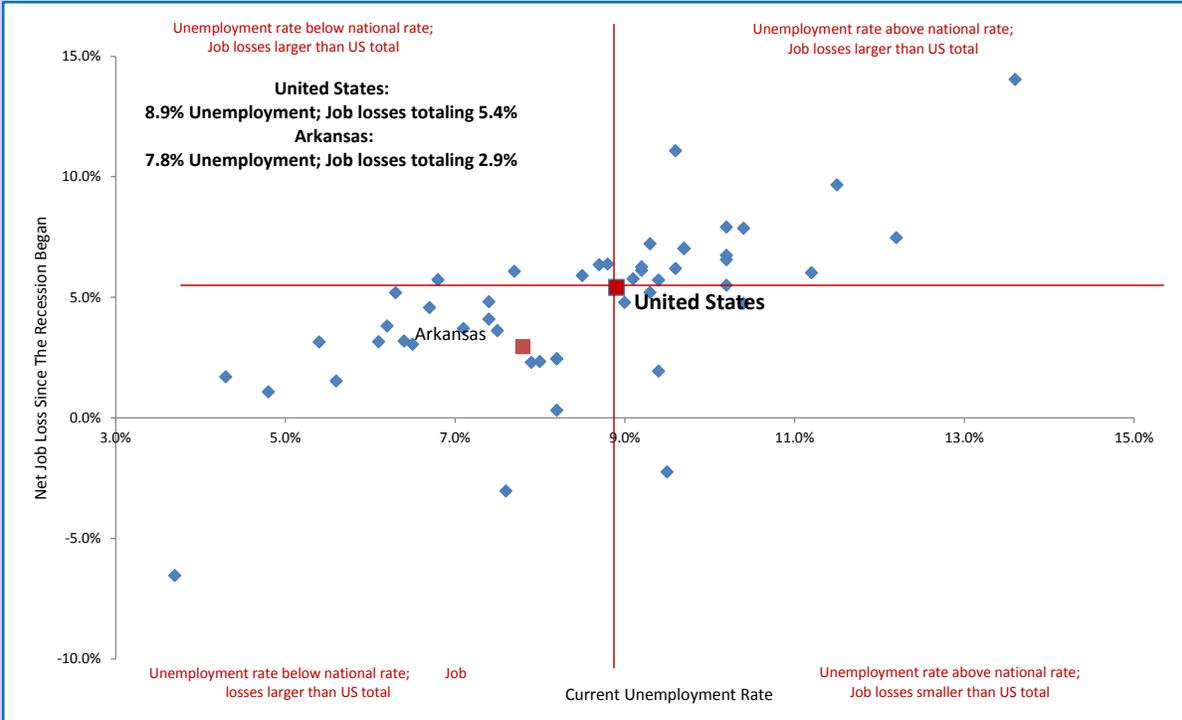
Prepared by the Chairman-designate Staff of the Joint Economic Committee

How Does Arkansas Compare To Other States?

Workers across the country were hard hit during the Great Recession. Although labor markets in many states have started recovering, employment in most states still remains below pre-recession levels. The chart below allows you to compare Arkansas to other states using two metrics.

The current unemployment rate (measured along the horizontal axis) serves as a gauge of current labor market conditions faced by residents, while the proportion of jobs lost within Arkansas since the start of the recession (shown along the vertical axis) measures the toll the recession took on the job supply in Arkansas.

States falling in the upper right quadrant have lost a disproportionate share of jobs, relative to the total United States, and have unemployment rates higher than the national unemployment rate. States falling in the lower left quadrant have unemployment rates job losses (or even gains) lower than the national average.



STATE QUICK FACTS

		Arkansas	United States
Unemployment Rates	February 2008	4.9%	4.8%
	February 2009	6.8%	8.2%
	February 2010	8.0%	9.7%
	February 2011	7.8%	8.9%
Percent of Population Who Are Veterans	2009	8.2%	7.1%
Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2009	7.7%	8.9%
Median Household Income	2007	\$ 42,202	\$ 51,965
	(2009 \$) 2009	\$ 36,538	\$ 49,777
Poverty Rate	2007	13.8%	12.5%
	2009	18.9%	14.3%
No Health Insurance	2007	16.1%	15.3%
	2009	19.2%	16.7%