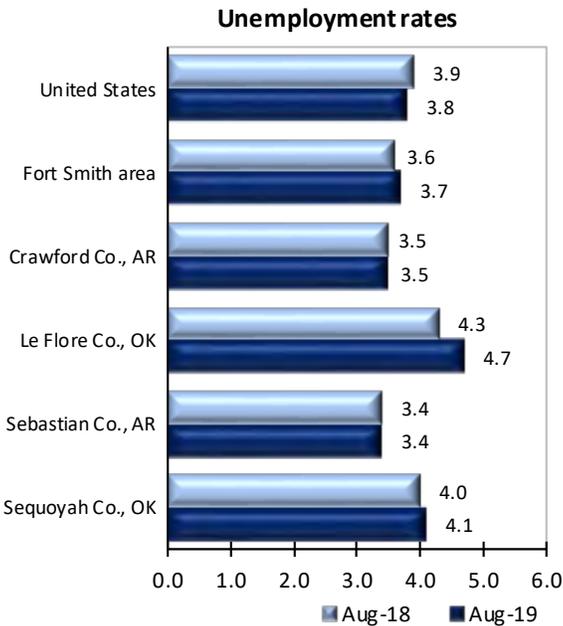


# Fort Smith Area Economic Summary

Updated October 02, 2019

This summary presents a sampling of economic information for the area; supplemental data are provided for regions and the nation. Subjects include **unemployment, employment, wages, prices, spending, and benefits**. All data are not seasonally adjusted and some may be subject to revision. Area definitions may differ by subject. For more area summaries and geographic definitions, see [www.bls.gov/regions/economic-summaries.htm](http://www.bls.gov/regions/economic-summaries.htm).

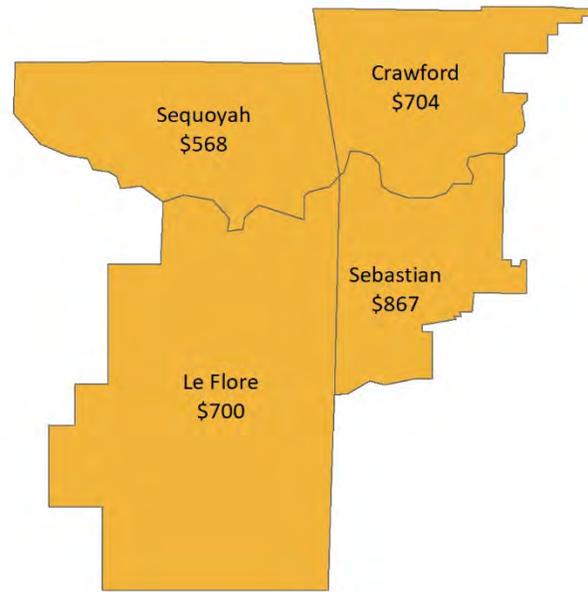
## Unemployment rates for the Fort Smith area, selected area counties, and the nation



Source: U.S. BLS, Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

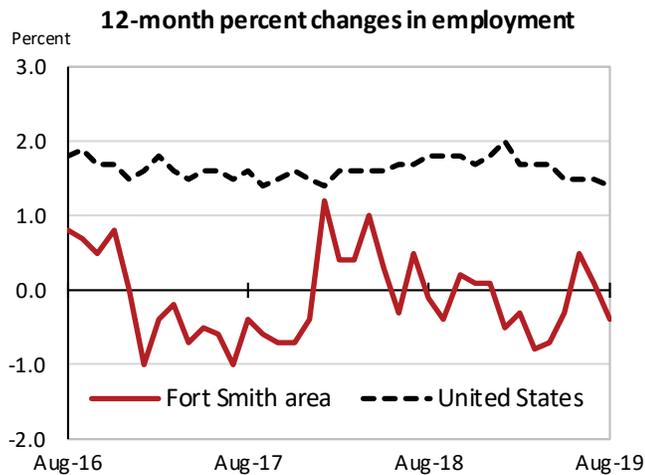
## Average weekly wages for all industries by county

Fort Smith area, 1st quarter 2019  
(U.S. = \$1,184; Area = \$792)



Source: U.S. BLS, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

## Over-the-year changes in employment on nonfarm payrolls and employment by major industry sector



Source: U.S. BLS, Current Employment Statistics.

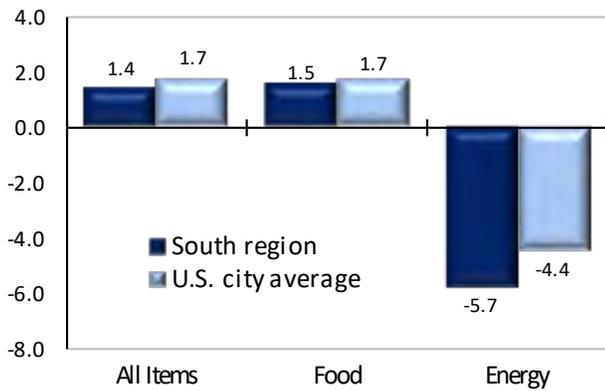
Fort Smith area employment (numbers in thousands)	Aug. 2019	Change from Aug. 2018 to Aug. 2019	
		Number	Percent
Total nonfarm	112.0	-0.5	-0.4
Mining, logging, and construction	5.2	-0.2	-3.7
Manufacturing	17.7	0.1	0.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	22.8	-0.3	-1.3
Information	1.1	-0.1	-8.3
Financial activities	4.0	0.1	2.6
Professional and business services	12.7	-0.4	-3.1
Education and health services	17.3	0.3	1.8
Leisure and hospitality	9.7	0.1	1.0
Other services	4.5	0.0	0.0
Government	17.0	-0.1	-0.6

Source: U.S. BLS, Current Employment Statistics.



Over-the-year change in the prices paid by urban consumers for selected categories

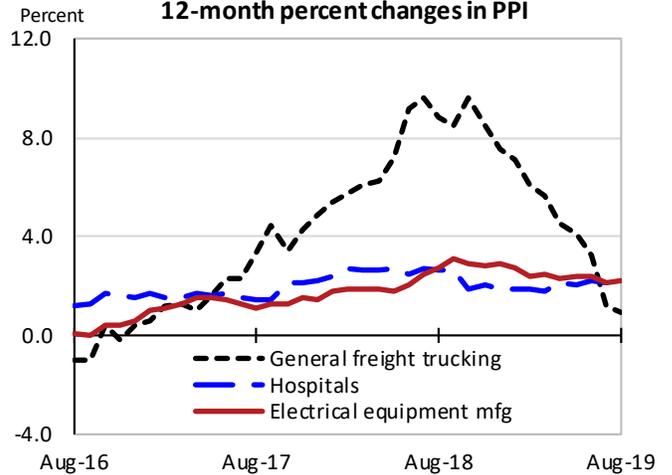
12-month percent change in CPI-U, August 2019



Source: U.S. BLS, Consumer Price Index.

Over-the-year changes in the selling prices received by producers for selected industries nationwide

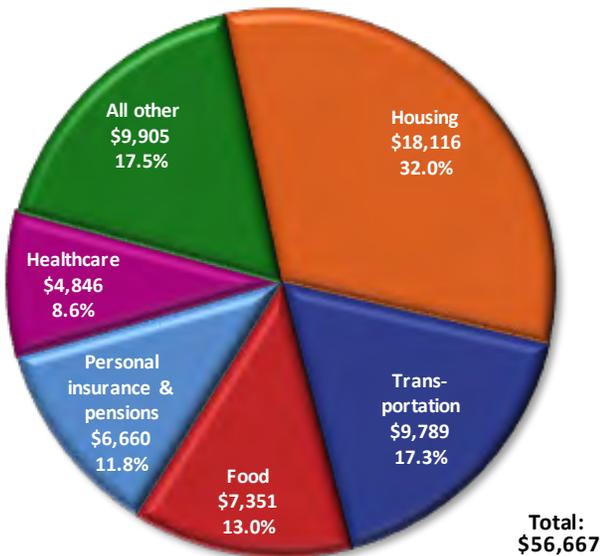
12-month percent changes in PPI



Source: U.S. BLS, Producer Price Index.

Average annual spending and percent distribution for selected categories

South Region average annual expenditures 2018



Source: U.S. BLS, Consumer Expenditure Survey.

Average hourly wages for selected occupations

Occupation	Fort Smith area	United States
Total, all occupations	\$18.52	\$24.98
General and operations managers	40.74	59.56
Human resources managers	40.19	60.91
Accountants and auditors	29.11	37.89
Registered nurses	27.81	36.30
Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers	17.99	21.91
Customer service representatives	15.02	17.53
Office clerks, general	13.74	16.92
Construction laborers	13.43	19.40
Stock clerks and order fillers	12.81	13.71
Retail salespersons	12.17	13.61
Helpers--production workers	11.64	14.12
Cooks, fast food	9.40	10.89

Source: U.S. BLS, Occupational Employment Statistics, May 2018.

Employer costs per hour worked for wages and selected employee benefits by geographic division

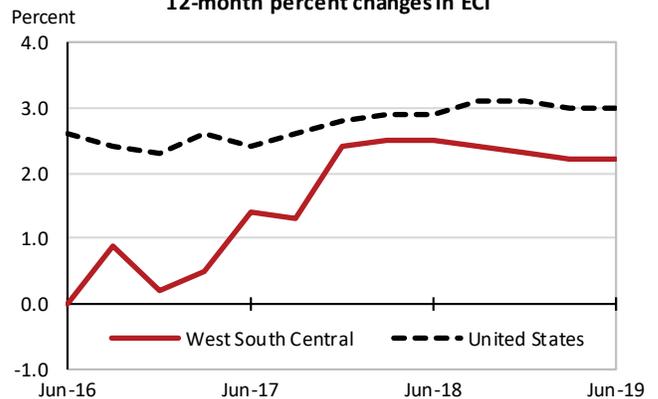
Private industry, June 2019	West South Central (1)	United States
Total compensation	\$32.21	\$34.44
Wages and salaries	23.24	24.14
Total benefits	8.97	10.30
Paid leave	2.18	2.47
Vacation	1.09	1.27
Supplemental pay	1.23	1.11
Insurance	2.12	2.76
Retirement and savings	1.04	1.31
Legally required benefits	2.40	2.66

(1) West South Central includes AR, LA, OK, and TX.

Source: U.S. BLS, Employer Costs for Employee Compensation.

Over-the-year changes in wages and salaries

12-month percent changes in ECI



Source: U.S. BLS, Employment Cost Index.