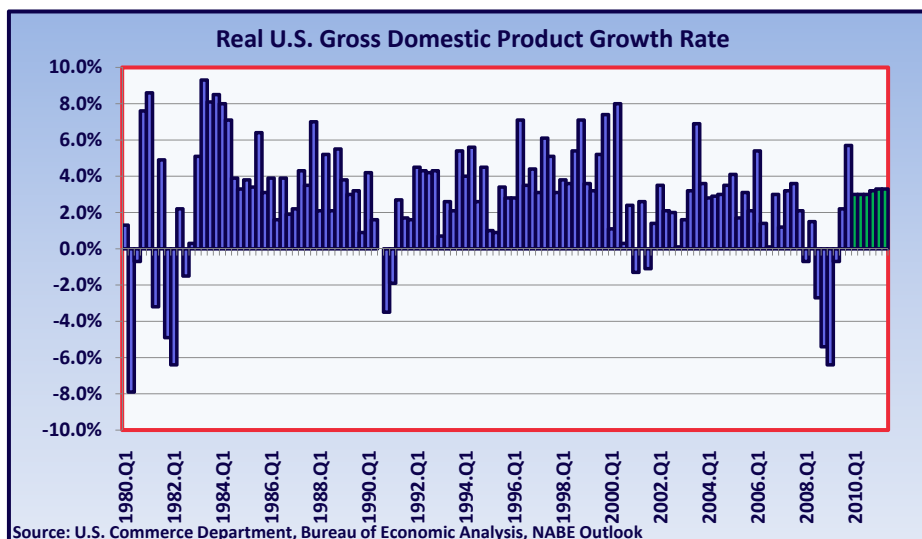


Economic Briefing

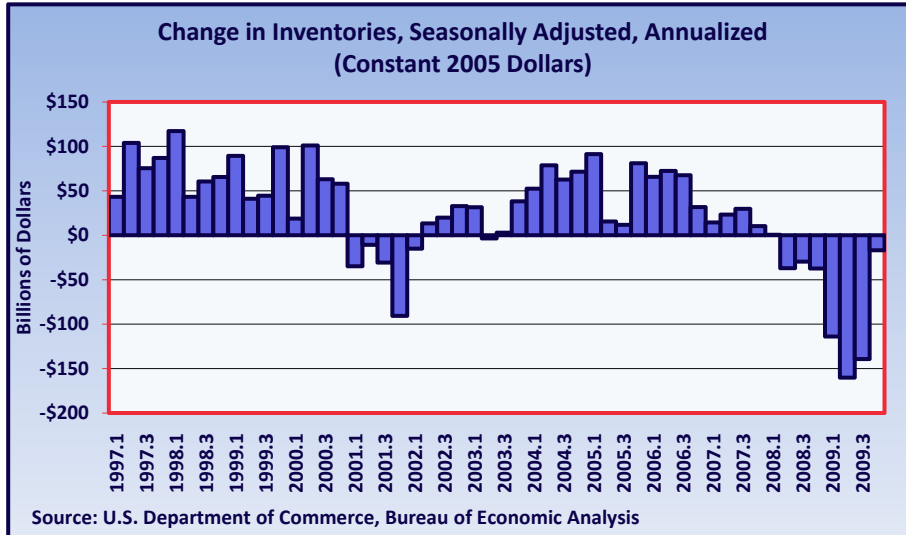
Arkansas Economic Issues Breakfast Series

March 17, 2010

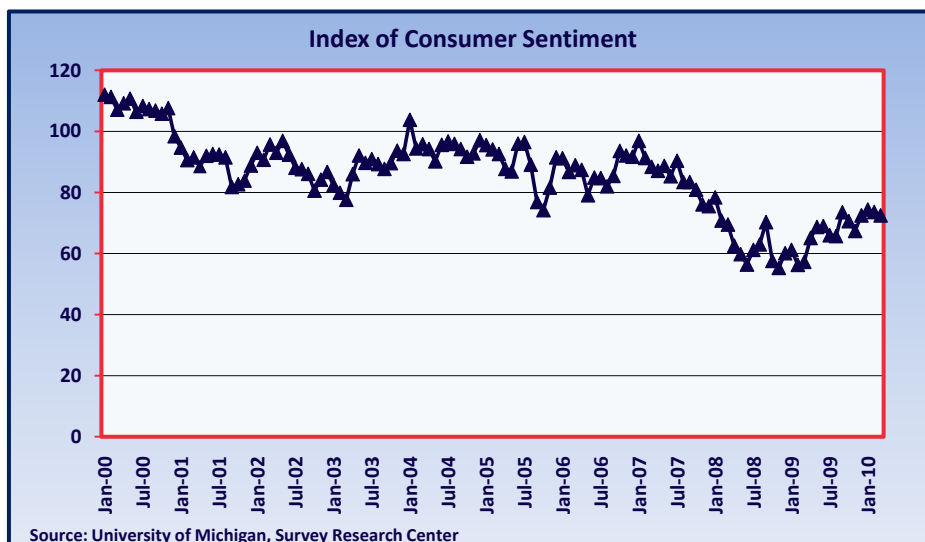
Output is Recovering



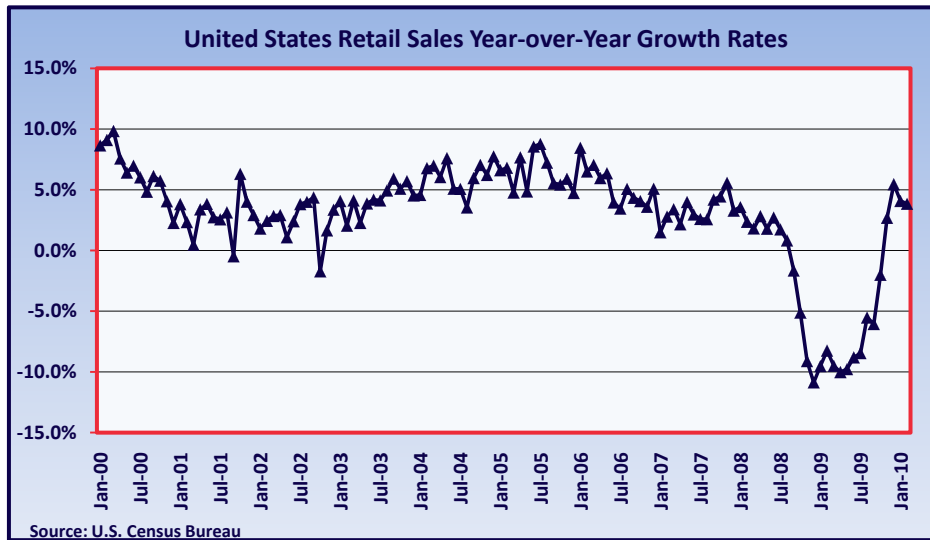
Inventories Play a Key Role



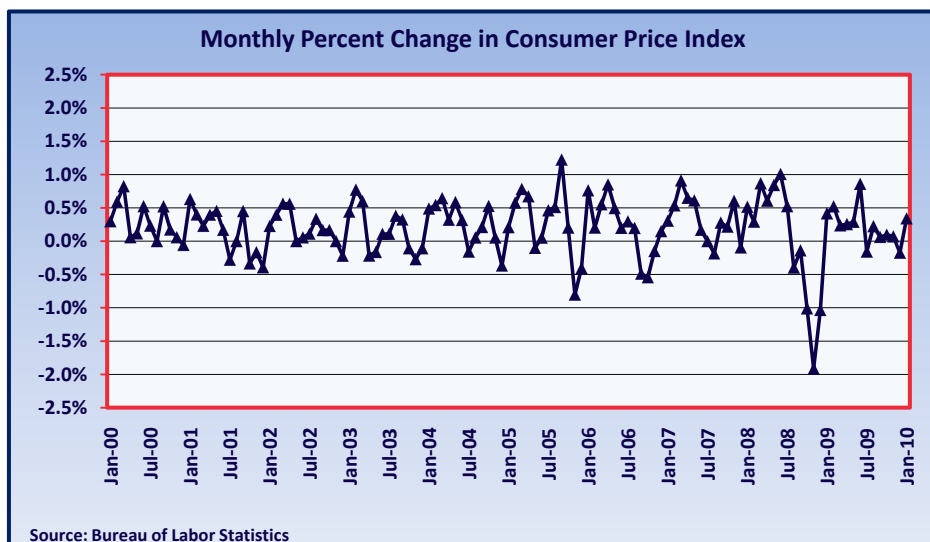
Consumer Sentiment is Wishy-Washy



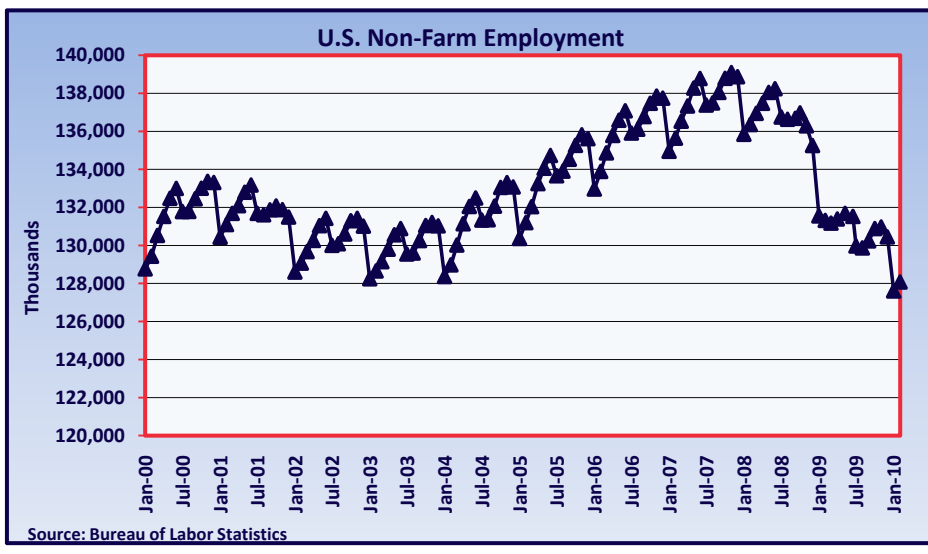
Retail Sales Suffer as a Result



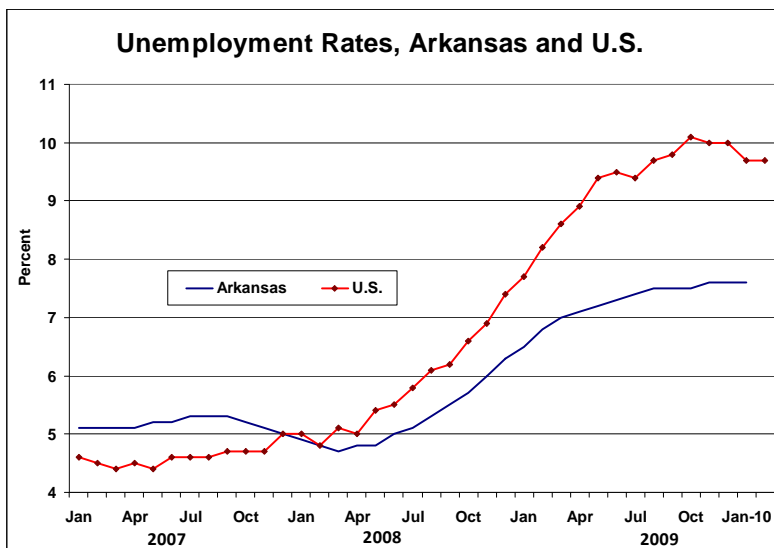
Inflation Remains in Check



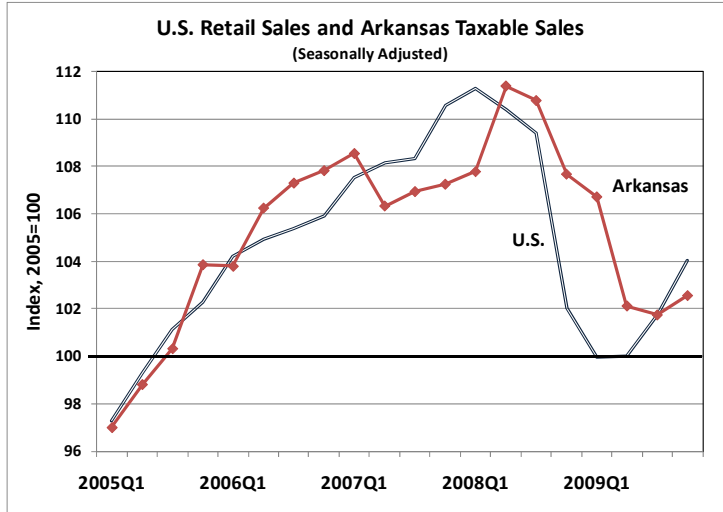
Employment Recovery is the Key



Arkansas Unemployment Rate

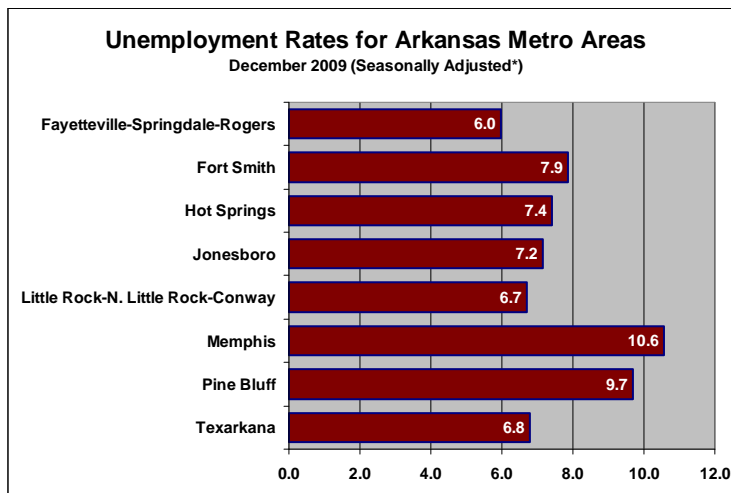


Arkansas Retail Sales



Sources: U.S. Retail Sales from the Census Bureau. Arkansas Taxable Sales is calculated by the Institute for Economic Advancement using data on sales and use tax collections from the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration.

Metro Area Unemployment



*Unemployment data for MSAs were seasonal adjusted by the Institute for Economic Advancement.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Metro Area Employment

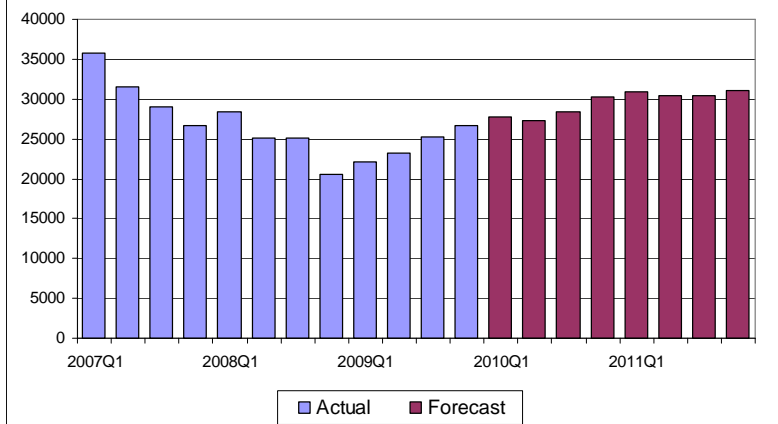
Employment Growth in Arkansas Metro Areas
December-to-December Change (Percent)

	2008	2009
Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers	-2.3%	-2.4%
Fort Smith	-2.5%	-5.5%
Hot Springs	-1.8%	-3.9%
Jonesboro	0.4%	-1.4%
Little Rock-N. Little Rock-Conway	-1.1%	-2.9%
Memphis	-3.4%	-5.0%
Pine Bluff	-0.8%	-2.1%
Texarkana	-0.2%	-2.8%
<i>Arkansas</i>	<i>-1.5%</i>	<i>-3.1%</i>
<i>United States</i>	<i>-2.6%</i>	<i>-3.6%</i>

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

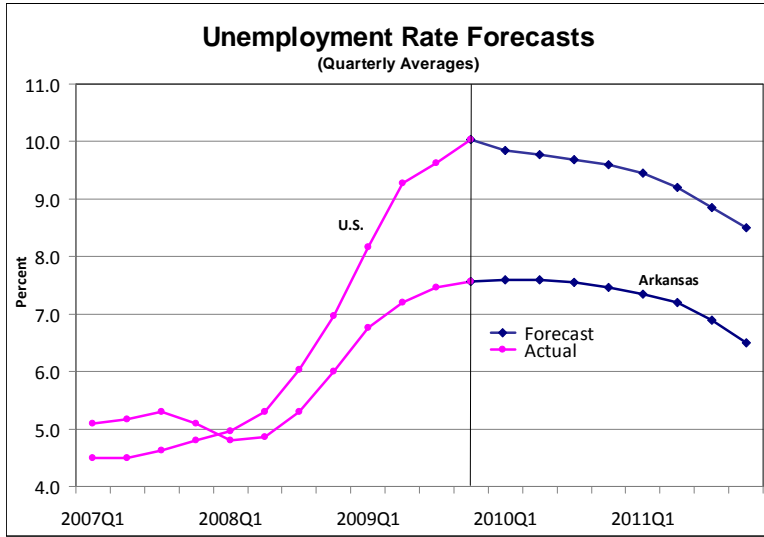
Arkansas Home Sales

Arkansas Home Sales
(Quarterly, Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rates)



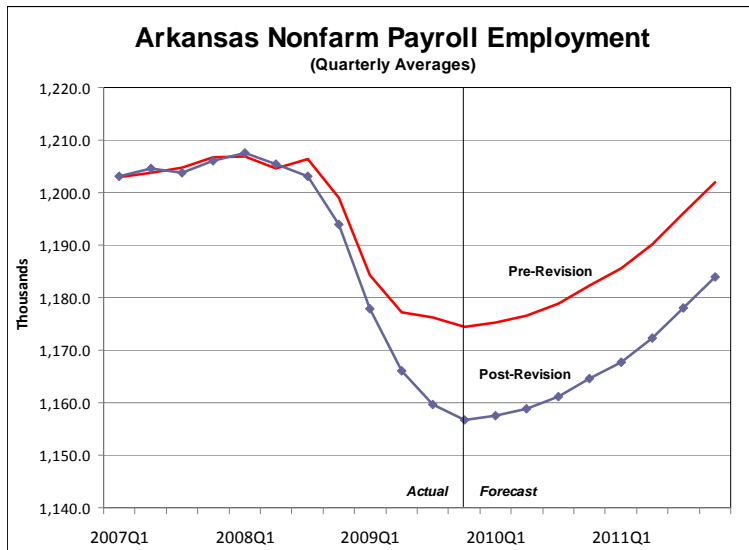
Sources: Arkansas Realtors® Association, National Association of Realtors®, Institute for Economic Advancement

Employment Forecasts



Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Institute for Economic Advancement.

Employment Forecasts



Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Institute for Economic Advancement.