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# KFSM

## Northwest Arkansas Unemployment Lowest In The State

### Rate Hits Yearly Low

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Reporter

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Unemployment rates are up nationwide and right here in our state. But in Northwest Arkansas, there's a decrease, and it's the lowest it's been all year. Northwest Arkansas has the lowest unemployment rate in the state.

Experts say it has a lot to do with holiday hiring, but also, with some of the businesses in the region.

Kathy Deck, Director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Arkansas says, "Northwest Arkansas is a regional shopping hub if you think about Southern Missouri and even Eastern Oklahoma and so we do get our fair share of the holiday hiring."

But for the month of October, it gave Northwest Arkansas the lowest unemployment rate in the state. In October Northwest Arkansas unemployment rate was 5.9 percent, Fort Smith's 7.8 percent, Little Rock's 6.5 percent, and state wide, unemployment was 7.8 percent.

Experts say there are many reasons for those differences, including manufacturing layoffs in Fort Smith, and the growth of some sectors in Northwest Arkansas.

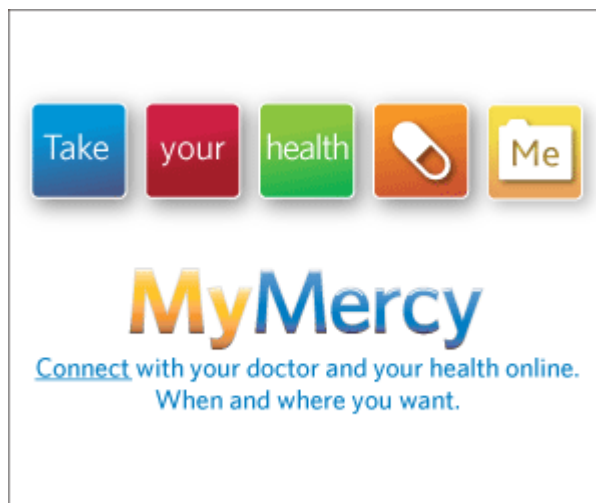
Deck says, "We're fortunate to have a very strong health care sector, professional and business services sector, leisure and hospitality our restaurants and hotels, so we have some sectors that we can look at for a little bit of strength right now."

But while the unemployment rate is decreasing, it's still higher than it was in October of 2009 and 2008, and experts say it will take more than a few months to tell if recovery is here to stay.

Deck says, "We're really waiting for that turn when we say oh November was better November December was better than December and that'll be a much stronger recovery than looking at the month to month variation."

Experts also attribute Northwest Arkansas economic strength and job numbers to area businesses like Walmart and Tyson.

advertisement



The advertisement features a row of five colorful icons: a blue square with the word "Take", a red square with "your", a green square with "health", an orange square with a white pill icon, and a yellow square with "Me". Below these icons is the "MyMercy" logo in a stylized font, with "My" in orange and "Mercy" in blue. Underneath the logo is the text "Connect with your doctor and your health online. When and where you want." in a smaller blue font.

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