

## **WEST & SOUTH LEAD U.S. JOBS GROWTH ARKANSAS TRAILS U.S. AVERAGE**

(September 2007) Federal tax cuts passed earlier this decade continue to fuel the U.S. expansion, which is approaching its seventh year. U.S. nonfarm payroll employment (Bureau of Labor Statistics) expanded 5.5 percent between November 2001, the expansion's first month and July, a growth rate exceeded by regional economies in the West, Plains and South.

Regional economies creating new jobs at rates greater than the U.S. included the 13-state West (9.4%), the six Plains states (7.7%) and the 12-state South (7.5%). Regions recording below-average growth rates were the five Mid-Atlantic states (3.2%), the six New England states (1.3%) and eight states in the Great Lakes and Midwest (0.8%) region.

### **States Without an Income Tax**

States without an income tax continue to expand at rates greater than the U.S. average. These include Nevada (25.7%), which led the West region; Florida (13.9%), which led the South region; Wyoming (15.3%), Alaska (10.2%), Washington (9.5%), Texas (9.1%); South Dakota (8.3%); and Tennessee (5.5%). New Hampshire (5.1%) was below the U.S. average, but led the New England region in job growth.

### **Arkansas**

Arkansas's job creation rate (5.2%) in the expansion is less than the national and regional averages.

-- Greg Kaza