ARKANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

ARKANSAS: THE NATURAL CHOICE FOR SUCCESS



ArkansasEDC.com

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ARKANSAS INC

LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR

As Governor, I like to say I serve as Arkansas' Chief Salesperson and get to travel the country and world answering one question: **WHY ARKANSAS?**

The answers are vast: we recently ranked the number one state for lowest cost of living, the number one state Americans are moving to for the second year in a row, and top of the country for economic growth. We have a skilled and educated workforce, a friendly business environment, and endless natural beauty and amenities for your family to explore. And under my administration, we're working to make each of those assets even better.

Just recently, I signed Arkansas' fourth income tax cut in four years, lowering our tax rate by 25% since taking office – and setting our state up for more responsible tax cuts in the future. We're paving the way for significant investments and expansions to our energy infrastructure. And I signed legislation to improve literacy, teacher pay, and career readiness, so that every Arkansan graduates high school ready to be enrolled, enlisted, or employed.

Arkansas is home to both innovative startups and massive Fortune 500 companies, like Walmart, J.B. Hunt, and Tyson Foods. Numerous global brands have decided to expand in Arkansas in just the past few years: LaCroix Precision Optics, U.S. Steel, Green Bay Packaging, SIG SAUER, Dassault Falcon Jet, Raytheon and Rafael Advanced Systems, Lockheed Martin, L3Harris, General Dynamics, Taber Extrusions, and many others.

It has never been a better time to start, grow, or invest in a business in Arkansas, and there is no better place to live, work, or raise a family than in The Natural State. We would love to show off the Southern hospitality we're famous for and welcome you to Arkansas soon.

Sincerely,

Sarah Huckabee Sanders





"There has never been a better time to start, grow, or invest in a business in Arkansas."

- GOVERNOR SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS

ARKANSAS: BUILT FOR BUSINESS

With a prime location in the heart of the U.S., Arkansas combines a thriving economy with beautiful surroundings and is consistently among the most affordable states to live and work.

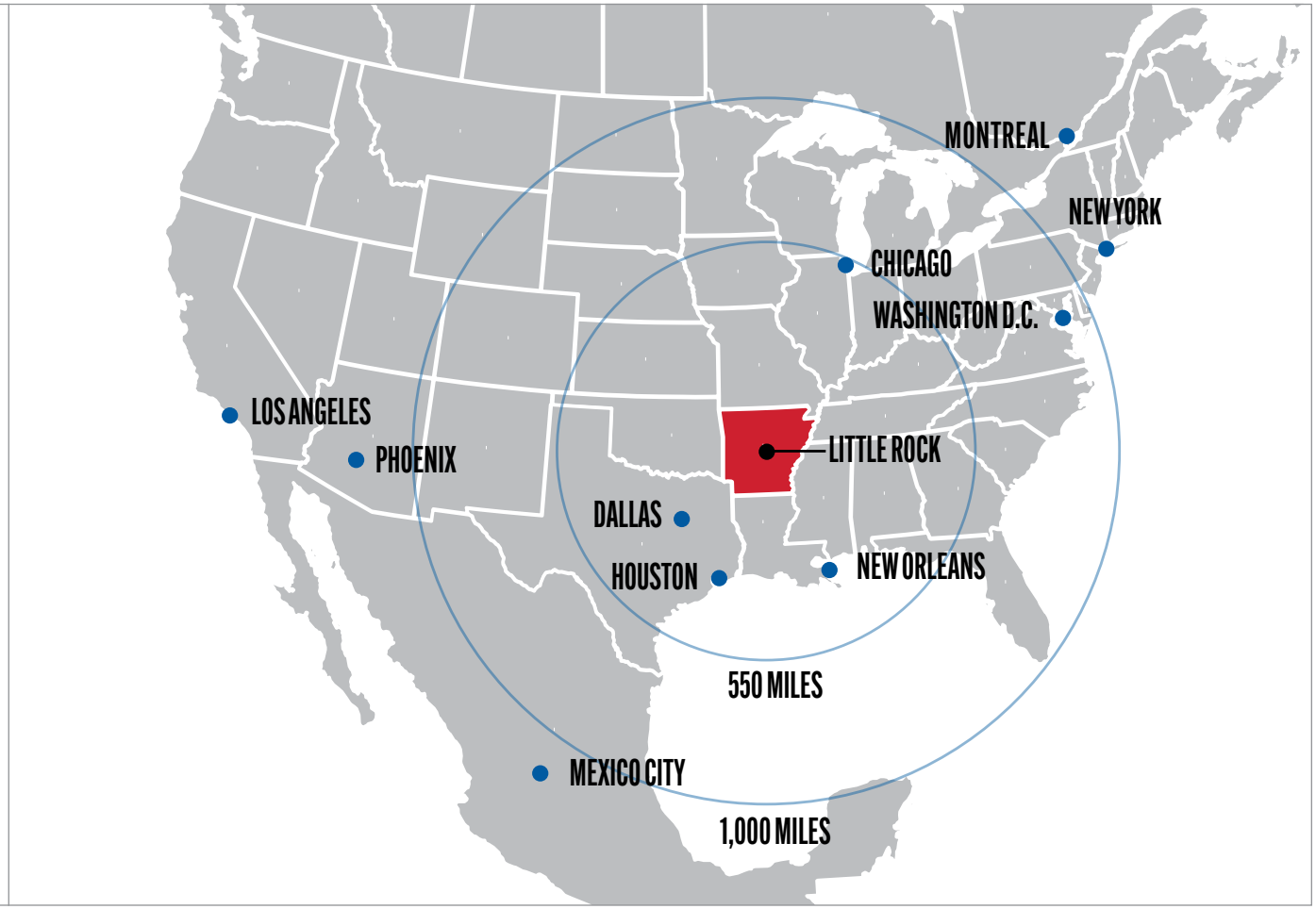
Arkansas' economy is booming, powered by a diverse mix of industries—from aerospace and steel to forestry and the food sector that helps feed the nation.

Whatever you want to accomplish, Arkansas is ready when you are.

40%

OF THE U.S. POPULATION IS WITHIN A DAY'S DRIVE OF ARKANSAS

ARKANSAS IS LOCATED HALFWAY BETWEEN MONTREAL AND MEXICO CITY




Walmart
Save money. Live better.
FINTECH
Tyson
MANUFACTURING
AUTOMATION CENTER
317 E. MEADOW STREET
J.B. HUNT
Dillard's
Dillard's
MURPHY USA

HOMEGROWN SUCCESS: ARKANSAS-FOUNDED FORTUNE 500/1000 COMPANIES

Arkansas' long history of entrepreneurship gives companies the foundations to grow and succeed. Many of America's biggest companies got their start in The Natural State. They stayed because of the support they receive, becoming major players in their industries.

"You've heard everybody use the term six degrees of separation. This is one degree of separation. There's a willingness to help and relational equity and just a general friendliness that I think is pretty unique."

- BILL DILLARD III

Senior Vice President of Dillard's Inc.



Walmart

One of the world's largest companies by revenue and the world's largest private employer.

Tyson Foods

One of the world's largest meat processors, producing approximately 20% of the beef, pork and chicken in the U.S.

MURPHY USA

Originally the retail gasoline division of Murphy Oil Corporation, Murphy USA serves about 1.6 million customers per day.

J.B. HUNT
The Transportation Logistics Company

With nearly 33,000 employees, J.B. Hunt is one of North America's largest supply-chain solutions providers and operates one of the country's largest company-owned fleets.

Dillard's

With 28,000 employees across 30 states, Dillard's continues to thrive in the United States as a leading department store, a legacy it has maintained for over 80 years.

ArcBest

Named one of "America's Most Reliable Companies" by Newsweek in 2025, ArcBest has a proven track record of dependable supply-chain services.



Walmart Home Office, Bentonville

WHY ARKANSAS?



"This is the greatest place to be an entrepreneur, to be an investor, to be a capital deployer, in commercial for-profit businesses in the world."

- SCOTT FORD

CEO and Co-Founder of Westrock Coffee

#2 STATE FOR BEST CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENT
Associated Builders and Contractors

#3 BEST STATE TO START A NEW BUSINESS
Forbes Advisor

#3 BEST STATE FOR RECENTLY LEGISLATED TAX CHANGES
American Legislative Exchange Council

#6 FOR ECONOMIC OUTLOOK IN 2026
American Legislative Exchange Council

#8 OVERALL COST OF DOING BUSINESS
Area Development



Arkansas Ozark Mountains

TALENT PIPELINE

Arkansas LEARNS (Literacy, Empowerment, Accountability, Readiness, Networking, School Safety)

- Launched in 2023 by Governor Sanders, Arkansas LEARNS is showing nation-leading student achievement results – in just its third year.
- Public school districts required to offer three Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways, including at least one that is High Demand High Wage, expanding access to career-ready opportunities.

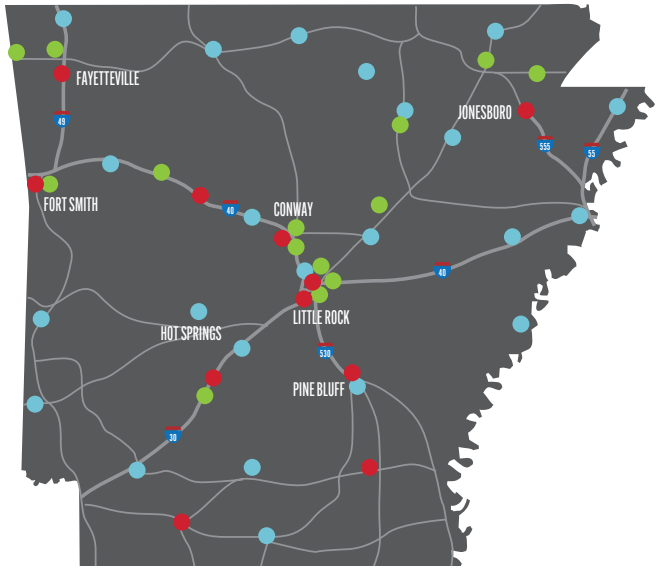
#3 IN THE NATION IN SCHOOL CHOICE
ALEC Index of State Education Freedom

State Overview *Higher Education*

11 4-YEAR STATE COLLEGES

14 4-YEAR PRIVATE COLLEGES

23 2-YEAR STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGES



Industry-Driven Higher Education and Training

Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship

Designed to help Arkansans train for high-demand careers in healthcare, information technology, and industry.

Northwest Technical Institute – Industrial Maintenance and Ammonia Refrigeration Technology

Designed to instruct and prepare students for entry-level positions in maintenance and repair of industrial machines, equipment, and power distribution.

University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College – Workforce Training Center

Will offer training for life-sustaining careers provided by current and future employers at the Port of Little Rock and across central Arkansas.

University of Arkansas at Fort Smith – Advanced Manufacturing and Workforce Development Centers

Designed to meet the need for workforce development and engineering training in the advanced manufacturing sectors.

Walton STEM University

The new institution will focus on building a skilled STEM workforce, concentrating on globally competitive areas like automation, logistics, biotech and computing.

University of Arkansas Pulaski Tech Aerospace Technology Center

Offers a dedicated Aviation Maintenance program preparing graduates in pursuit of FAA Airframe and Powerplant licenses.

Arkansas Northeastern College – Steel Tech Academy and Arkansas Steelmaking Bootcamp

A streamlined pathway into the steel industry, combining a two-year high school program that leads to a Certificate of Proficiency in Industrial Maintenance and a free, 80-hour workforce bootcamp that builds essential entry-level steelmaking skills.

Arkansas State University – CREST

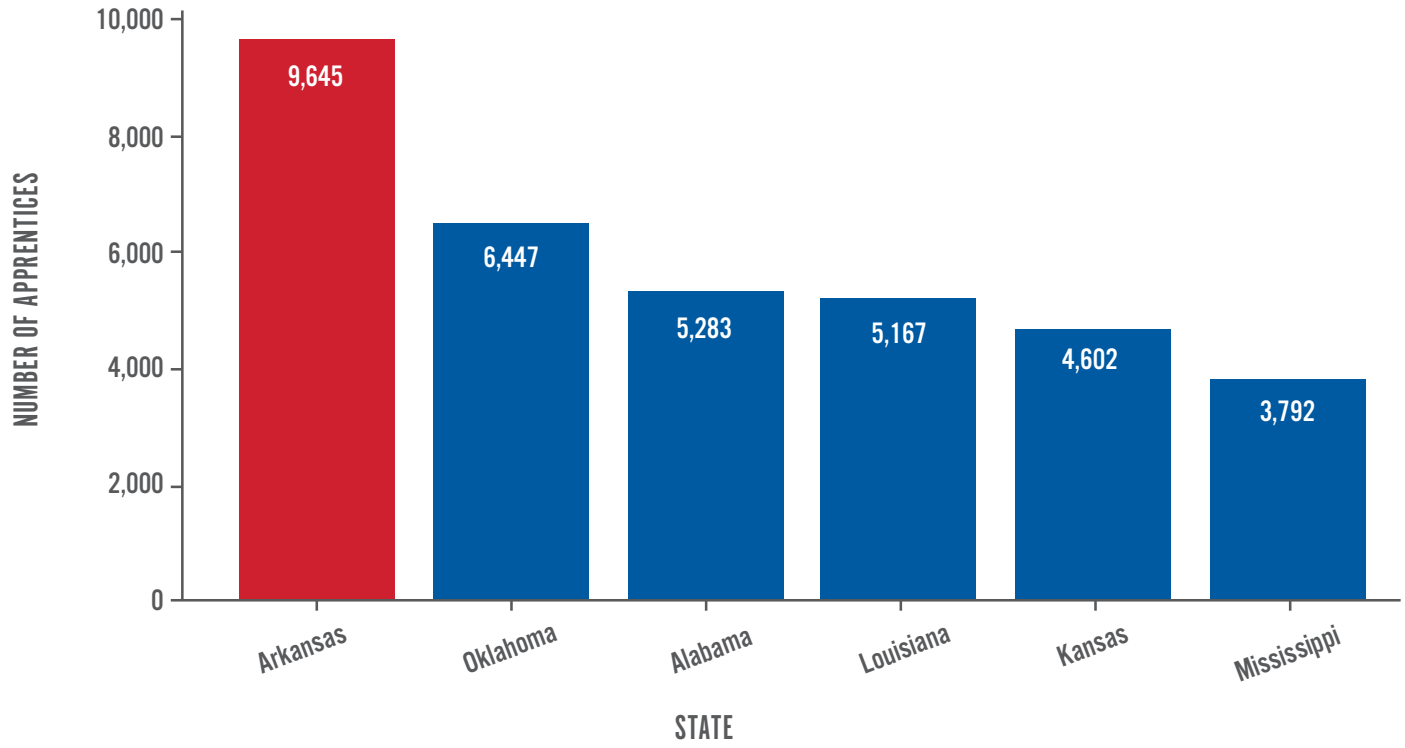
A workforce training specializing in AI-enhanced advanced manufacturing, food processing, and steel production.

WORKFORCE: TRAINED AND READY

In today's economy, it's not enough to have new hires who are eager to work. They must be ready to work – trained and prepared to hit the ground running on day one.

ARKANSAS INVESTS MORE THAN $100 MILLION ANNUALLY in workforce-development projects. That dedication to training the talent of tomorrow is attracting attention and building potential.

LEADER IN APPRENTICESHIP



SOURCE: Apprenticeship USA, U.S. Department of Labor



Highland Machine Works, Camden

WORKFORCE: TRAINED AND READY

American Manufacturing Apprenticeship Incentive Fund

In 2025, the U.S. Department of Labor tapped the Arkansas Department of Commerce as lead grantee of the $35.8 million American Manufacturing Apprenticeship Incentive Fund. Available for over 120 advanced manufacturing occupations, this pioneering initiative gives apprenticeship programs nationwide the necessary funding to scale their programs and build the workforce they need.

APPRENTICESHIPUSA

Arkansas LAUNCH

One of the nation's most comprehensive skills-based workforce platforms, Arkansas LAUNCH matches employers with ready-to-hire talent.

LAUNCH

Arkansas Industry Connect

Another of the state's innovations in workforce development, Arkansas Industry Connect (AIC) utilizes reps who serve as a single point of contact for their region, quickly guiding companies to the right resources and streamlining the path to results.

ARKANSAS WORKFORCE CONNECTIONS | Arkansas Industry Connect


#4
FOR MANUFACTURING TALENT AVAILABILITY
Manufacturing Talent Pipeline Index, Area Development
MORE ARKANSANS WORKING THAN EVER BEFORE
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Lockheed Martin, Camden

POWER: AFFORDABLE AND ABUNDANT



Having reliable power generation is critical for business success – and Arkansas is taking concrete steps to ensure that companies have the energy they need. Throughout the state, utility partners provide affordable and dependable generation and transmission services that are meeting the needs of today and tomorrow.

"In Arkansas, we have abundant power supplied through reliable utility partners with consistently lower than average U.S. industrial rates that will allow businesses to grow and scale in The Natural State."

- HUGH MCDONALD

Secretary, Arkansas Department of Commerce

TOP 10 STATE FOR LOWEST ELECTRICITY RATES IN ALL SECTORS

TOP 10 STATE FOR LOWEST INDUSTRIAL AND RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICITY RATES

TOP 10 STATE FOR LOWEST AVERAGE ELECTRICITY PRICE



Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, Multiple Locations

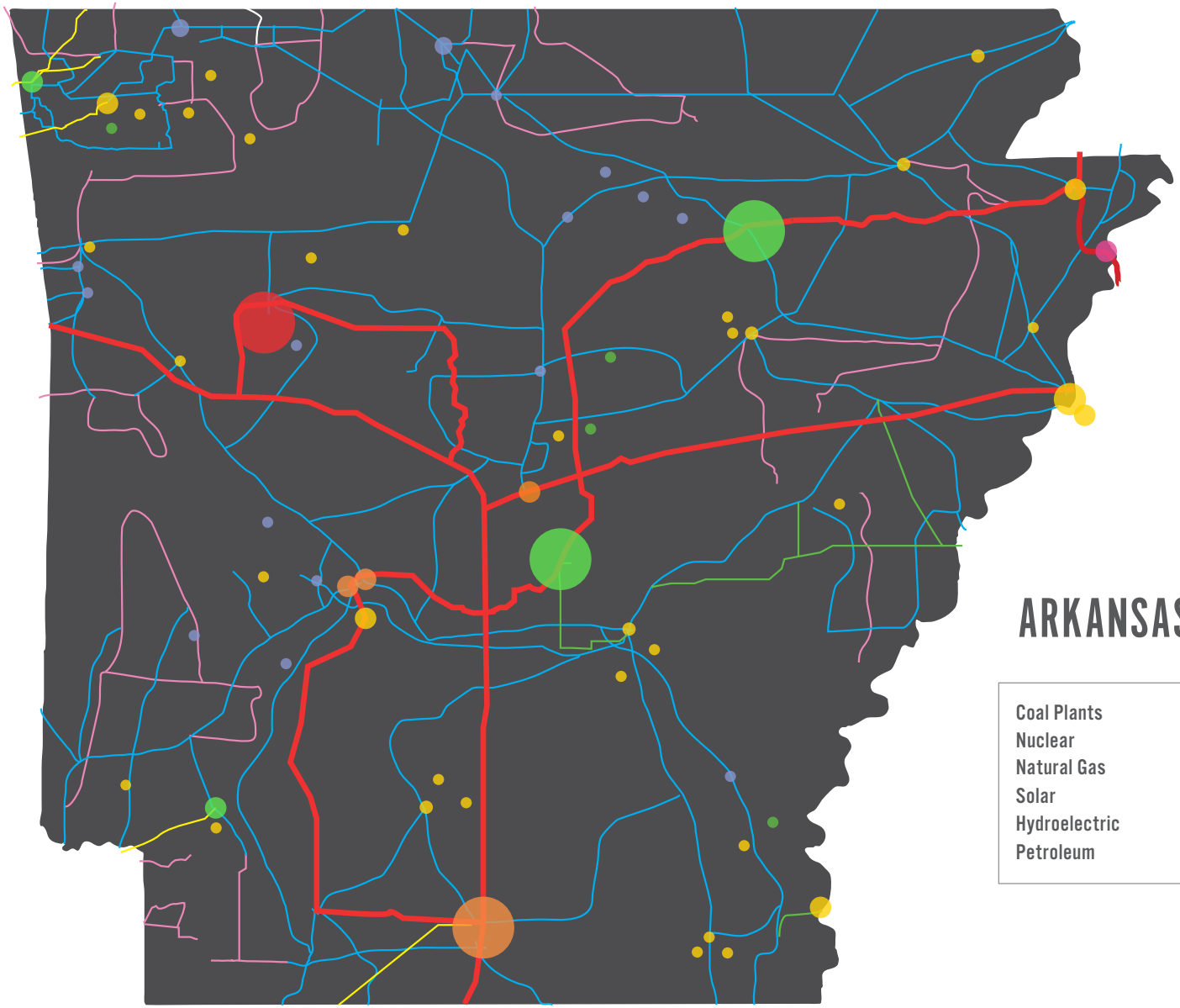
POWER: AFFORDABLE AND ABUNDANT

Pro-Business Government in Action:

Under the leadership of Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders, the Generating Arkansas Jobs Act is part of the landmark IMPACT legislation that is fueling economic growth by building infrastructure, investing in communities, supporting businesses, and keeping power affordable and reliable for Arkansans.



Click here to learn more
about the Arkansas IMPACT Legislation:



ARKANSAS ENERGY SOURCES

Coal Plants	
Nuclear	
Natural Gas	
Solar	
Hydroelectric	
Petroleum	

High Voltage Lines in Kilovolts (kV)

	500
	300-400
	200-300
	100-200
	0-100

INCENTIVES: PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT JOB CREATION AND INVESTMENT

Advantage Arkansas

- Income tax credit as a percentage of net new payroll for 5 years.
- Percentage of payroll based on tier location (1-4%).

Tax Back

- Refund of sales and use tax (minus 1%) paid on qualifying project costs.

Create Rebate

- Cash rebate based on net new payroll for up to 10 years.
- Percentage of payroll based on tier location (3.9-5%).

ArkPlus

- Income or Sales and Use Tax Credit for 4 years, based on a percentage of project costs, up to 10%.

Modernization and Automation Tax Credit

- Sales and use or income tax credit of up to 5% of eligible project costs.

Infrastructure Assistance

- State and federal funds to offset infrastructure cost.

Office of Skills Development Training Grants

- Funding and support for professional development, reducing skill gaps with customized technical training.

Corporate Headquarters Relocation

- Corporate income tax exemption.
- Based on the level of payroll over 10 years.

Specialized Incentives

- Recycling Tax Credit.
- Lithium Sales and Use Tax Exemption.
- Data Center Sales and Use Tax Exemption.
- Tourism Development Incentive.

Click here to learn more
about the incentive programs available through AEDC.



Keytronic invested more than $28 million to develop its new, state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Springdale.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION: SITE DEVELOPMENT IN ARKANSAS

Across the state, Arkansas offers a range of available sites and existing facilities that can meet the needs of companies of any size. From greenfield sites to turn-key manufacturing campuses, Arkansas has the real estate options you need for growth.

Arkansas Site Development Grant Program

Launched in 2024, the Arkansas Site Development Grant Program provides matching funds for industrial greenfield site development efforts.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

- Cities, towns and counties in Arkansas
- Economic Development Organizations
- Chambers of Commerce

ARKANSAS SITE SELECTION CENTER

Search available buildings and acreage options on the Site Selection Center

arkansassiteselection.com

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

$35 MILLION IN GRANTS AWARDED SINCE 2024

$27 MILLION TO BE AWARDED IN FY 2027

30+ ACRE SITES

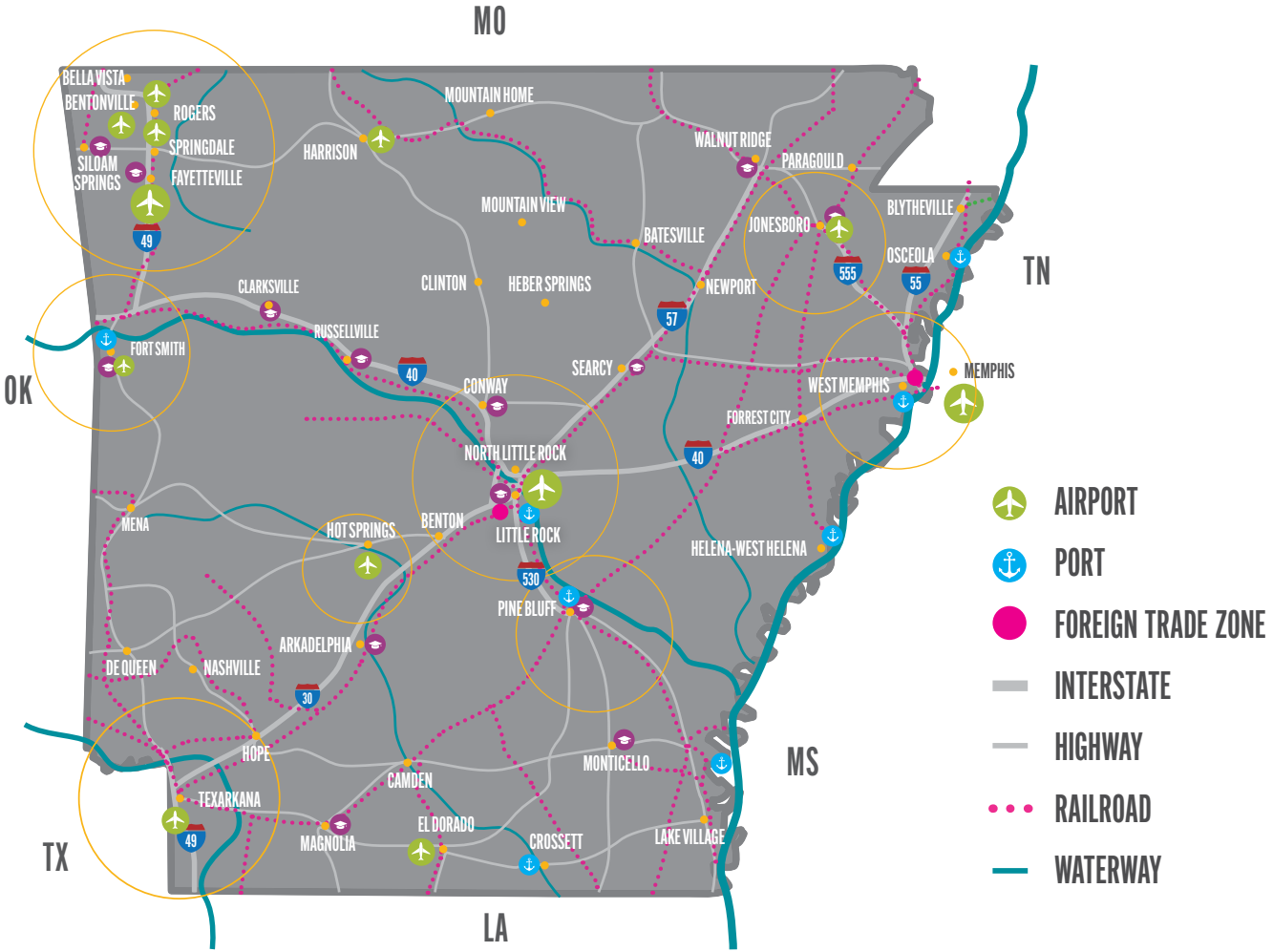


The Economic Development Corporation of Clark County broke ground on its 991-acre Southwest Arkansas Mega Site in Arkadelphia. The site received funding through the Arkansas Site Development Program.

INFRASTRUCTURE: AN ECONOMY ON THE MOVE

Arkansas' infrastructure is built for speed, scale and reliability. Featuring major coast-to-coast interstates, three Class I railroads, over 1,000 miles of navigable waterways, and two airports with more than 1 million departures yearly, Arkansas makes it easy for companies to connect, control costs, and expand with confidence.

ARKANSAS INFRASTRUCTURE





"Businesses in Arkansas succeed thanks to our strong infrastructure that empowers companies to move goods efficiently – by rail, river, road, or runway."

- CLINT O'NEAL

Executive Director – Arkansas Economic Development Commission

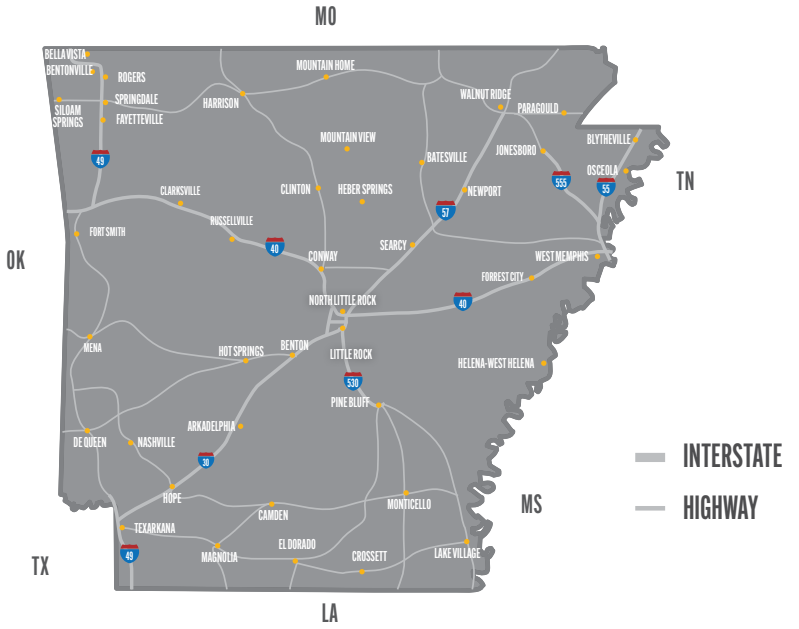
Texarkana Regional Airport, Texarkana

INFRASTRUCTURE: AN ECONOMY ON THE MOVE

Roads & Highways

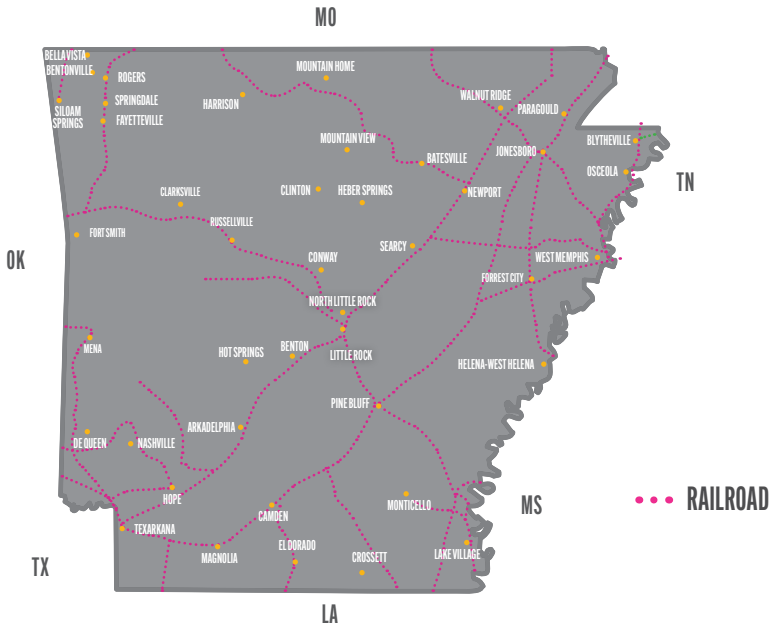
- Over 16,400 miles of state and U.S. highways, including key interstate corridors like I-40, I-30 and I-55, linking major domestic and international markets.
- Efficient east-west and north-south connectivity across the central U.S.
- Heavy trucking accounts for 28% of all vehicle miles traveled on Arkansas interstates* — the highest percentage in the nation — moving goods worth $225 billion each year.

*tripnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/TRIP_Freight_Report_December_2023.pdf



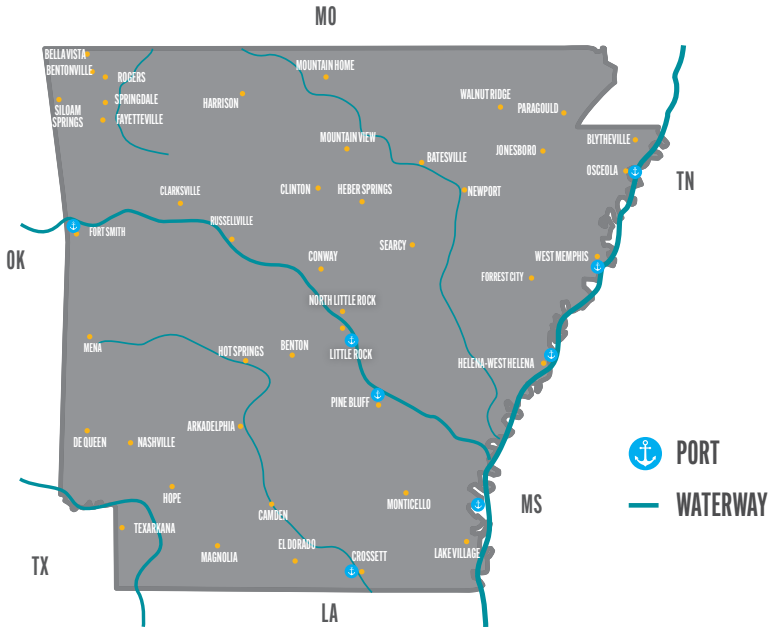
Rail

- Served by three Class I rail systems (Union Pacific, BNSF, Kansas City Southern) plus numerous short-line railroads, totaling more than 2,500 miles of track.
- Robust freight rail network supports major industrial and distribution sectors, enhancing multimodal logistics options.



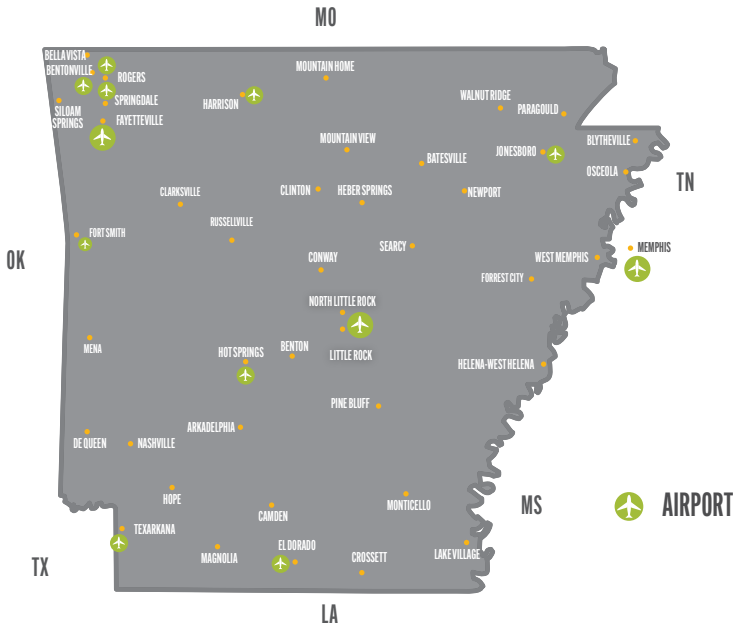
Waterways

- 1,000+ miles of navigable waterways, including the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System and the Mississippi River, with multiple ports such as Little Rock, Pine Bluff, Fort Smith, Osceola, and West Memphis.
- Ports provide cost-effective access to global markets via intermodal barge, rail and highway connections.



Airports

- Major connection points
  - **Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport**, Little Rock.
  - **Northwest Arkansas National Airport**, near Bentonville.
- Dozens of regional and general aviation airports.
- **Memphis International Airport:** North America's busiest cargo hub sits just across the state line, offering international service and direct access to every major U.S. market.



A WELCOMING HOME TO WORLD-CLASS COMPANIES

Walmart

ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST BRICK-AND-MORTAR RETAILERS headquartered in Bentonville, AR.

Tyson Foods

A WORLD-CLASS FOOD COMPANY, based in Springdale, AR since 1935.

J.B. HUNT®

With **OVER 12,000 RIGS ON THE ROAD,** the trucking giant and intermodal freight pioneer is based in Lowell, AR.

Google

In progress on a **$4 BILLION DATA CENTER PROJECT** in West Memphis, AR.

United States Steel

The company's most advanced steel mill is in Mississippi County, AR – **AMERICA'S #1 STEEL-PRODUCING COUNTY.**

DASSAULT FALCON JET
A Dassault Aviation Company

The business jet designer and manufacturer runs its **LARGEST GLOBAL FACILITY** in Little Rock, AR.

Stephens

ONE OF THE NATION'S LARGEST FAMILY-OWNED FINANCIAL SERVICES FIRMS, Stephens led Walmart's initial public offering and continues to be a leader in many finance fields.



J.B. Hunt, Headquartered In Lowell

REGULATORY AND PERMITTING

"This Executive Order puts people before paperwork, adding transparency and speed to our permitting process to ensure major economic development projects aren't held up by unnecessary red tape."

- GOVERNOR SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS

Arkansas is moving faster so that companies can move faster.

In 2026, Governor Sanders signed an executive order to streamline the state's permitting process with a goal of making Arkansas the best state to do business in the United States.

As part of the executive order, state agencies were ordered to identify:

- Unnecessary steps that can be consolidated or eliminated.
- Statutory or regulatory barriers to faster processing.
- Opportunities to align multi-permit timelines across state agencies.
- Methods for expediting permitting.
- Use of artificial intelligence for processes that would otherwise delay permits.

State Overview *Permitting*

Air Permits	90-180 days
Ground Water Permits	180 days
Wastewater Permits	180 days
Hazardous Permits	120-180 days
Erosion Permits	180 days

Case Study: United States Steel

U.S. Steel announced plans to invest $3 billion in a new advanced steel mill in Osceola, Arkansas in early 2022, breaking ground on the facility in February 2022. Company executives said the facility would be the most technologically advanced facility of its kind in North America and would create 900 new jobs.

This facility, Big River 2, was completed in 2025 thanks to the speed of permitting in Arkansas and available construction workforce.

“Enter Big River 2, which opened for business this year. Big River 2 started up in 28 months. This is the quickest startup of any 3-million-ton greenfield site in the history of the North American steel industry.” -David Burritt, CEO, U.S. Steel.

Case Study: SIG SAUER

SIG SAUER announced an expansion at its facility in Jacksonville, Arkansas in 2023. By 2024, the firearms company officially opened its Jacksonville Arkansas Ammunition Center (JAAC), a high-tech modern manufacturing facility that supports the U.S. Army Next Generation Squad Weapons and family of 6.8 Hybrid Ammunition.

SIG SAUER invested $225 million in the facility, which will create 675 new jobs.

“In just one year, we have built a manufacturing facility that will stand for generations with the mission to provide our soldiers an ammunition technology advantage in lethality and overmatch versus our enemies,” began Ron Cohen, President and CEO, SIG SAUER, Inc. “This incredible facility gives us the ability to significantly scale manufacturing and grow our output for years to come - and this is only the beginning.”

FLYING HIGH: AEROSPACE & DEFENSE

Arkansas is home to some of the biggest names in flight, aerospace, and military readiness.



"Our company has found success in Arkansas thanks to a talented workforce and business-first climate, and we look forward to many more years of success in the state."

- PATRICK PETREE

Director, Pratt & Whitney, Springdale

Major Military Installations

- **Little Rock Air Force Base, Jacksonville, AR:** The Department of Defense's flagship C-130 training base and home to the largest C-130 fleet in the world.
- **Ebbing Air National Guard Base, Fort Smith, AR:** Home to the Dept. of War's official international training center for the F-35 Lightning II fighter jet, providing over $1.2B to the state's economy annually.

Industry Support

- Aerospace and Aircraft Workforce Training Programs
- Aviation Maintenance Programs
- Avionic Program at UA-Pulaski Technical College
- Defense Manufacturing Center of Excellence at SAU Tech University
- Higher Industry Readiness through Educational Development (HIRED) grants

AEROSPACE & DEFENSE IN ARKANSAS AT A GLANCE

18,000+
DEFENSE EMPLOYEES

11,000+
SUPPORT EMPLOYEES

3,500+
AVIATION EMPLOYEES

75
MROS

5
MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

DASSAULT FALCON JET
A Dassault Aviation Company

L3HARRIS®
FAST. FORWARD.

LOCKHEED MARTIN

R2S
Raytheon-Rafael
Area Protection Systems

GENERAL DYNAMICS
Ordnance and Tactical Systems

Radius
aerospace

RTX



Dassault Falcon Jet, Little Rock

FEEDING THE WORLD: AG, FOOD & BEVERAGE

Agriculture is Arkansas' top industry, making up almost 9% of the state's GDP. We're also home to Tyson Foods, Westrock Coffee, and Walmart, as well as major manufacturing facilities for a host of leading companies like PepsiCo, Nestle, The Kraft Heinz Company, and many others.

Seven of the top 10 food and beverage companies in the world by revenue have manufacturing facilities right here in Arkansas.

Workforce

Arkansas offers a wide range of education and training programs for food and beverage industry workers including the Food Science Department at the University of Arkansas Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences and Arkansas State University.

Investment

- **OVER 460** food and beverage companies statewide
- **113** economic development projects in the food and beverage space since 2015

  5,724 NEW JOBS | $985 MILLION IN INVESTMENTS

- **6% GROWTH RATE** in the Arkansas food and beverage industry from 2019-2024

ARKANSAS AG AT A GLANCE

#1 IN RICE PRODUCTION

#3 IN FOOD GRAINS

#3 IN CHICKEN PRODUCTION, BROILER HENS, TURKEYS, AND CATFISH

#7 IN PEANUTS

#10 IN SOYBEANS



Riceland Foods, Headquartered In Stuttgart

FORGING AHEAD: METALS



Over the last decade, Arkansas has emerged as a national leader in steel production. Anchored by U.S. Steel's most advanced mill and Nucor, Mississippi County, AR, stands as the top steel-producing county in the nation.

That didn't happen by accident. Initiatives like the Arkansas Steelmaking Academy and Steelmaking Bootcamp at Arkansas Northeastern College, as well as the CREST program and the Center for Advanced Materials and Steel Manufacturing (CAMSM) at Arkansas State University, provide customizable courses and grant assistance for Arkansas-based companies, supporting both workers and the rapidly growing metals industry in Arkansas.

"Arkansas is a great place to do business because of the people... Let me put it this way: if every state did business the way Arkansas does, this whole country would be running on steel and common sense."

- DAVID BURRITT

President and CEO of United States Steel Corporation

ARKANSAS METALS INDUSTRY AT A GLANCE

#1

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, AR, PRODUCES MORE STEEL THAN ANY OTHER COUNTY IN THE U.S.

$5 BILLION

INVESTMENT IN INDUSTRY SINCE 2017

22,000

EMPLOYED IN SECTOR

13.6%

OF ARKANSAS' MANUFACTURING

NUCOR®

United States Steel

GERDAU

HYBAR

Lexicon

Bekaert

Welspun TUBULAR
HSAW & HFIW Pipes



ARKANSAS INC

Big River Steel, Osceola

ON TARGET: FIREARMS & AMMUNITION



"We are incredibly excited about expanding our ammunition operations here in Jacksonville and building upon years of success in Arkansas."

- RON COHEN

CEO, SIG SAUER, Inc.

A pro-Second Amendment state with a robust outdoor economy, Arkansas has long been a friend to the firearms and ammunitions industry. As the third-largest exporter of firearms and ammunitions in the U.S., our workers are ready to help your company hit the economic bullseye. Black River Technical College is 1 of only 11 accredited gunsmithing programs in the U.S. – and the only institution connected to a law enforcement training academy.

ARKANSAS' FIREARMS INDUSTRY AT A GLANCE

#2 HIGHEST FIREARMS OWNERSHIP RATE

#3 MOST GUN-FRIENDLY STATE

#3 IN FIREARMS-RELATED ECONOMIC OUTPUT PER CAPITA (NSSF, 2025)

#5 IN FIREARMS-RELATED JOBS PER CAPITA (NSSF, 2025)

$2.3 BILLION IN FIREARMS-RELATED ANNUAL ECONOMIC OUTPUT (NSSF, 2025)

8,431 EMPLOYED IN THE FIREARMS AND AMMO INDUSTRY

SIG SAUER

CSG Ammo+

UMAREX AIRGUNS

WALTHER

NIGHTHAWK CUSTOM

WHITE RIVER ENERGETICS, LLC

Remington



ARKANSAS INC

Remington, Lonoke

GROWING STRONG: FOREST PRODUCTS



Arkansas is at the heart of the nation's forest products industry, with more than 18 million acres of timberland and decades of economic strength in the sector.

FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY AT A GLANCE

24,500+

ARKANSANS EMPLOYED IN TIMBER AND RELATED INDUSTRIES

18+ MILLION

ACRES OF TIMBERLAND

#1 IN THE SOUTH FOR THE NUMBER OF HARDWOOD SEEDLINGS GROWN

"We've been in Arkansas since the mid 1950s. This is a great, great place to do business. Everyone has really bent over backwards to help us get this facility here."

- DEVIN W. STOCKFISH

CEO and President of Weyerhaeuser

Solid Congressional and Educational Support

- **AG-FRIENDLY CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION,** with U.S. Rep. Bruce Westerman and U.S. Sen. John Boozman chairing timber-based committees.
- **THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT MONTICELLO'S COLLEGE OF FORESTRY, AGRICULTURAL, AND NATURAL RESOURCES** owns 1,650 acres of land used for instruction.

Weyerhaeuser

suzano

GREEN BAY PACKAGING

West Fraser

Georgia-Pacific

CANFOR

Domtar



Rayonier, Ola

POWERING THE FUTURE: ARKANSAS LITHIUM



"Arkansas is poised to become a major domestic supplier of lithium, and we're excited to be at the forefront of creating new jobs and attracting more investments for this great state."

- PATRICK HOWARTH

Lithium Global Business Director for ExxonMobil

Arkansas is establishing itself as a critical hub for the U.S. lithium industry, anchored by the Smackover Formation in South Arkansas, one of North America's most promising sources of battery-grade lithium. Major global energy and chemical companies are scaling up in the region to unlock these resources and support America's energy transition.

ALTA Accelerator

The Arkansas Lithium Technology Accelerator is the first lithium and battery supply chain accelerator in the nation.

LiTHIUMLEARNS and LiTHIUMWORKS

LiTHIUMLEARNS is a partnership to help develop awareness, education, training, professional certification programs, and support services to meet the needs of the lithium industry in Arkansas. LiTHIUMWORKS is a program designed to build an end-to-end talent pipeline for lithium employers in South Arkansas.

The Arkansas Lithium Innovation Summit

Hosted in Little Rock, this is a premier industry event bringing together leaders, innovators, and policymakers to accelerate growth and highlight Arkansas' strategic role in the global lithium supply chain.

MAJOR RECENT INVESTMENTS:

ExxonMobil

Chevron

Albemarle®

Standard LITHIUM

equinor

TETRA



2025 Arkansas Lithium Innovation Summit, Little Rock

GOOD COMPANY: RECENT WINS AND INVESTMENTS

Companies are choosing to do business in Arkansas, locating new facilities in the state and expanding existing operations.

AVAIO

$6 BILLION

INVESTMENT

LITTLE ROCK, AR

United States Steel

NIPPON STEEL

$1.9 BILLION

INVESTMENT

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, AR

Google

$4 BILLION

INVESTMENT

WEST MEMPHIS, AR

Welspun TUBULAR
HSAW & HFIW Pipes

$250 MILLION

INVESTMENT + 475 JOBS

LITTLE ROCK, AR

CANTEX

$120 MILLION

INVESTMENT + 110 JOBS

NASHVILLE, AR

GENERAL DYNAMICS
Ordnance and Tactical Systems

$110 MILLION

INVESTMENT + 185 JOBS

HAMPTON, AR

GREEN BAY PACKAGING

$1 BILLION+

INVESTMENT

MORRILTON, AR

L3HARRIS®
FAST. FORWARD.

$400 MILLION

INVESTMENT + 50 JOBS

CALHOUN COUNTY, AR

amazon

$200 MILLION

INVESTMENT + 1,000 JOBS

LITTLE ROCK, AR

SIG SAUER

$225 MILLION

INVESTMENT + 675 JOBS

JACKSONVILLE, AR



"We began our journey in Little Rock in 2007, and over the years, our partnership with the state of Arkansas has only grown stronger. Today, we are proud to take a significant step forward with the expansion of our Little Rock facility to include a state-of-the-art LSAW line pipe mill and coating facility."

- B.K. GOENKA

Chairman of Welspun World

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS: A PARTNER TO THE WORLD

Arkansas offers a clear and strategic entry point into the U.S. market. From its central location, the state sits at the crossroads of America, where strong transportation and logistics networks connect businesses effortlessly to every corner of the country.

Paired with a favorable business environment, a strong manufacturing focus, and a culture of personal, responsive customer service, Arkansas is a smart starting point for companies looking to establish and grow in the U.S.

Arkansas' international offices, located across Europe and Asia, develop relationships with foreign companies interested in expanding their businesses to The Natural State and help them thrive once they are here.

R2S Raytheon-Rafael Area Protection Systems

$63 MILLION
INVESTMENT
ISRAEL/USA

WALTHER

$30 MILLION
INVESTMENT
GERMANY

NIPPON STEEL

$1.9 BILLION
INVESTMENT
JAPAN

DASSAULT FALCON JET A Dassault Aviation Company

800 JOBS
FRANCE

Welspun TUBULAR HSAW & HFIW Pipes

475 JOBS
INDIA

FAYMONVILLE GROUP

500 JOBS
LUXEMBOURG

INNOVASIAN

200 JOBS
JAPAN

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT IN ARKANSAS

189

FOREIGN-OWNED OPERATIONS IN ARKANSAS

32,055

ARKANSANS EMPLOYED AT FOREIGN-OWNED OPERATIONS

100+

PROJECTS WITH FOREIGN-OWNED COMPANIES SINCE 2015

$6.64B

IN TOTAL EXPORTS FROM ARKANSAS IN 2025



Nidec invested more than $19 million to expand its manufacturing facility in Mena.

STATE GOVERNMENT: BUSINESS FOCUSED

A package of ground-breaking legislation, collectively known as IMPACT (Improving Markets, Promoting Arkansas Commerce & Trade), was recently passed into law by the Arkansas State Legislature. This legislation will reduce regulatory burdens and unleash Arkansas' full potential in a wide range of sectors, including economic development, securities, banking, and more.

IMPACT includes:

MODERNIZATION AND AUTOMATION INCENTIVE (ACT 882 OF 2025): A tax credit of up to five percent of eligible expansion costs for existing Arkansas companies.

DATA CENTER INCENTIVE (ACT 548 OF 2025): Sales and use tax exemption for qualified data center equipment.

LITHIUM INCENTIVE (ACT 1012 OF 2025): Creates a comprehensive lithium and grid storage incentive program to encourage the growth of this industry in Arkansas – from in-state processing and refining to manufacturing and recycling.

HEADQUARTER RELOCATION INCENTIVE (ACT 881 OF 2025): A tax credit that offsets 100% of state corporate income taxes for five years and reduces rates for next five years to relocate corporate and satellite headquarters to Arkansas.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES (ACT 576 OF 2025): Creates public corporations to help develop industry in given areas.

GENERATING ARKANSAS JOBS ACT OF 2025 (ACT 373 OF 2025): Ensures that Arkansas has reliable electric and natural gas utility services.

ONGOING TAX CUTS

Arkansas has consistently cut taxes for both individuals and businesses each legislative session, **LOWERING TAX RATES BY 25%** since 2023.

Click the QR code and listen to Secretary of Commerce Hugh McDonald and AEDC Executive Director Clint O'Neal discuss the IMPACT legislative package and the effect this will have on economic development in The Natural State.

3.7% PERSONAL TAX RATE

4.1% CORPORATE TAX RATE

#3 FOR RECENTLY LEGISLATED TAX CHANGES (AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL)

#3 LOWEST PROPERTY TAXES IN U.S. (REALTOR.COM)

#9 LOWEST CORPORATE INCOME TAX RATE IN U.S. (TAX FOUNDATION)

"Without a doubt, IMPACT is the most significant economic development legislation passed in Arkansas in the past 25 years. It will have a generational effect on our state, its citizens, and our companies that will move Arkansas forward, creating wealth and new opportunities in The Natural State."

- HUGH MCDONALD

Secretary, Arkansas Department of Commerce

THE NATURAL STATE: LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY

With breathtaking landscapes and endless opportunities for outdoor adventure, Arkansas lives up to its nickname, The Natural State.

OVER 430 MILES OF LONG-DISTANCE, THRU-HIKE TRAILS	**OVER 1,000 MILES** OF MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS	**2,300** CAMPSITES, CABINS, AND LODGES
600,000 ACRES OF LAKES	**9,000 MILES** OF RIVERS AND STREAMS	**2.9M+ ACRES** OF NATIONAL FOREST LAND

Arkansas is home to an **EXTENSIVE STATE PARK SYSTEM**, Hot Springs National Park, and the Buffalo National River. Arkansas' Crater of Diamonds State Park is the only place in the world where you can search for, find, and keep natural diamonds.

Hunters enjoy **3.2 MILLION** acres of public hunting land and abundant private hunting lands available for lease with white-tailed deer, turkey, waterfowl, and small game.

There are over **200 MUSEUMS** across the state, including world-class institutions like Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts.

Arkansas has a vibrant and diverse festival scene, hosting over **350 FESTIVALS** annually, including events like the King Biscuit Blues Festival in Helena and the World Cheese Dip Championship in Little Rock.



STUTTGART: DUCK HUNTING CAPITAL OF THE WORLD



BENTONVILLE: MOUNTAIN BIKING CAPITAL OF THE WORLD



JOHNNY CASH'S BOYHOOD HOME



LAKE OUACHITA, ARKANSAS



PICTURESQUE HAWKSBILL CRAG



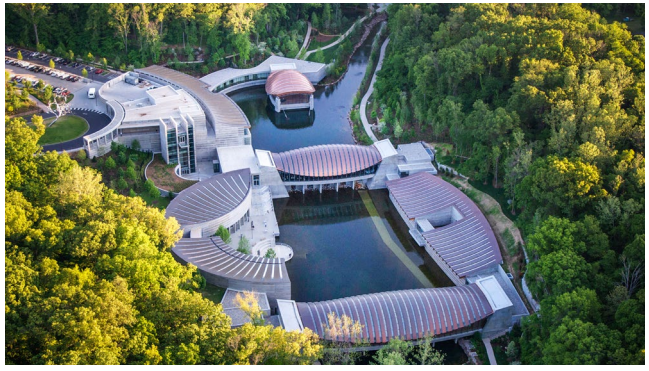
OAKLAWN RACING AND CASINO



WHITE RIVER IN ARKANSAS



BLANCHARD SPRINGS CAVERNS



CRYSTAL BRIDGES MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART



MOUNTAIN VIEW: FOLK MUSIC CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

ABOUT

The Arkansas Department of Commerce

The Arkansas Department of Commerce is the umbrella department for workforce and economic development drivers. Its divisions and regulatory boards include the Waterways Commission, Economic Development Commission, Division of Aeronautics, Workforce Connections, Reemployment, Workforce Policy and Innovation, State Broadband Office, State Bank Department, Insurance Department, Securities Department, and Development Finance Authority.

The mission of the Arkansas Department of Commerce is to champion the economic health of every Arkansas citizen and business.

Learn More: commerce.arkansas.gov

Arkansas Economic Development Commission

At AEDC, we know economic advancement doesn't happen by accident. We work strategically with businesses and communities to create strong economic opportunities, making Arkansas the natural choice for success.

Learn More: ArkansasEDC.com

Arkansas Workforce Connections

Arkansas Workforce Connections sits at the center of the state's workforce development efforts. The agency's mission is to provide support and guidance to help individuals succeed in their careers while offering companies incentives to maintain a skilled and technically trained workforce, meeting industry demands now and in the future.

Learn More: dws.arkansas.gov

LEADERSHIP



Hugh McDonald

Arkansas Secretary of Commerce



Clint O'Neal

Executive Director – Arkansas Economic Development Commission



Cody Waits

Executive Director – Arkansas Workforce Connections

ARKANSAS
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