



“It’s about a new day of growing the economy and creating jobs. It’s about making sure that we can have a competitive tax rate. It is a new day in Arkansas that we can have computer science in every high school. It’s a new day in Arkansas that we can reduce the burden of regulations, that we can implement the plan. That’s why the people are excited about the future of this state.”

—Gov.-elect Asa Hutchinson, during his November 4, 2014, victory speech

Gov. Asa Hutchinson (R)

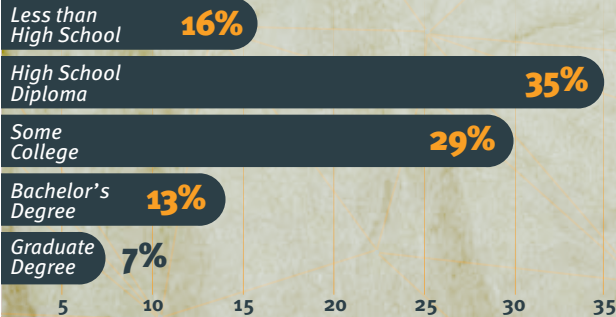
Arkansas ED Commission
 900 West Capitol Ave., Ste. 400
 Little Rock, AR 72201
 Grant Tennille, Exec. Dir.
 1-800-ARKANSAS

arkansasedc.com

Arkansas

Pop. (2014): 2,970,536 Pop. growth 2014—2019: 2.47%
Median household income: \$46,560 Median age: 37.4
Right-to-work state: Yes

Workforce Education by Percentage



Rankings that Matter

GDP.....	35 (\$115,745*)
Business Tax Climate.....	39
Small Business Policy.....	37
ACT Career Readiness Certificates.....	43 (574)
High School Graduation.....	34 (78%)
Incentives Transparency Index.....	39

*Real GDP in US millions

Legislative Update

- Arkansas voters overwhelmingly passed an initiative on the November ballot raising the minimum wage. The raise will be put into effect incrementally until 2017, with the first raise occurring on Jan. 1, 2015.
- Arkansas’ Chamber of Commerce expects the 2015 legislative session to tackle tax issues such as targeted reductions in business

taxes as well as workforce development, protecting workers’ compensation and the unemployment insurance system.

- Funding for the private option, Arkansas’s version of Medicaid expansion, will be a big battle again in 2015.