



“We wanted to have a more competitive tax rate in Arkansas. We wanted to upgrade STEM education in this state, computer science in every high school ... We accomplished them, and we did it in an 81-day session.”

— Gov. Asa Hutchinson, May 11, 2015, in a speech to the Political Animals Club of Little Rock

Gov. Asa Hutchinson (R)

Arkansas Economic Development Commission

900 W. Capitol Ave., Suite 400
Little Rock, AR 72201
Grant Tennille, Exec. Dir.
1-800-ARKANSAS

arkansasedc.com

Arkansas

Pop. (2014): 3,013,667

Median household income: \$44,922

Credit Rating: AA/Negative

Pop. growth 2013–2018: 3.50%

Median age: 37.8

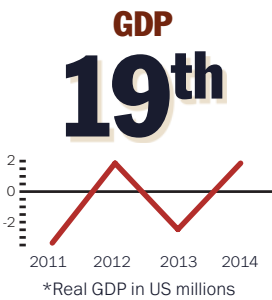
Right-to-work state: Yes

Legislative Update

- Thanks to an initiative led by Gov. Hutchinson, every high school in the state in 2016-2017 will offer computer coding classes. Wired magazine called Arkansas “the first to pass a truly comprehensive law requiring all public and charter high schools to offer computer science courses to students, beating better known tech centers like California and New York to the punch.”
- The Middle Class Tax Relief Act of 2015 will cut approximately \$100 million in taxes paid by the state’s middle class. “Arkansas has been an island of high taxation for too long,” said Gov. Hutchinson, “and I’m pleased that we are doing something about that.”
- A special session was convened in May to consider (and ultimately pass) Amendment 82 funding for a potential 500-plus-job investment by Lockheed Martin in Calhoun County’s Highland Industrial Park in Camden, should it win the bid to assemble the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle for the Dept. of Defense. The project in August was awarded to Oshkosh Defense in Wisconsin.

Rankings that Matter

Business Tax Climate	38
Legal Climate	41
Higher Ed. R&D Expenditure	39 (281,799)
ACT Career Readiness Certificates	21 (61,948)
Lowest Electric Power Cost	9 (8.80)
Fiscal Solvency	29
College Attainment	49 (28.8%)



Selected Corporate Facility Projects 2015

Company	City	County	Type	New/ Expansion	Product	Investment (\$ millions)	Employment
Hytrol Conveyor Company, Inc.	Jonesboro	Craighead	MF	N	Conveyor Equipment	12	75
Plastic Ingenuity	Maumelle	Pulaski	MF	E	Plastic Products	3	10
Enviro Tech Chemical Services	Helena	Phillips	MF	N	Chemicals	2	30
Metova	Conway	Faulkner	OF	N	Software	2	60
HanesBrands	Clarksville	Johnson	MF	E	Apparel	1	120

DT = Data Center MF = Manufacturing OF = Office HQ = Headquarters RD = Research & Development DW = Distribution/Warehouse

Did You Know?

After being shown to have the highest obesity rate in the nation, the state in Oct. 2015 launched the Healthy Active Arkansas program (www.healthyactive.org). Its nine focus areas include Physical and Built Environment; Nutritional Standards; Physical Education and Activity; Healthy Worksites; Access to Healthy Foods; Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Reduction; and Breastfeeding.

The Governor’s Military Affairs Committee will bring together public and private leaders around the state to prepare and advocate for Arkansas on both a national and state level to accomplish short- and long-term economic objectives for the state’s military installations.



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