

**"Our recruiting efforts have brought in \$7 billion in new investments and led to the creation of more than 11,000 jobs throughout the state."**

— Gov. Asa Hutchinson, State of the State address, February 12, 2018

**Arkansas ED Commission**  
900 West Capitol Avenue,  
Suite 400  
Little Rock, AR 72201

**Mike Preston**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
1-800-ARKANSAS

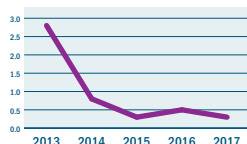
**arkansasedc.com**

# Arkansas

**Pop. (2018):** 3,067,536  
**Median household income:** \$44,518  
**Credit Rating:** AA/Stable

**Pop. growth 2018–2023:** 0.56%  
**Median age:** 39  
**Right-to-work state:** AA/Stable

**GDP**  
**34<sup>th</sup>**



**2017 GDP**  
(in millions of current US\$)  
**\$113,951.6**

## Legislative Update

- The Arkansas legislature in 2019 will consider a proposal to reduce the state's top marginal income tax rate from 6.9 percent to 6 percent, representing a potential tax cut of \$180 million.
- Arkansas voters in November approved a constitutional amendment legalizing casinos in four counties. The measure allows the casinos at the Southland dog track in West Memphis and the Oaklawn horse track in Hot Springs, and also legalizes casinos in Pope and Jefferson counties.
- Legislative committees approved the removal of more than 800 regulations deemed outdated and unnecessary. Among those was a rule by the Arkansas Racing Commission declaring that racing fans should not be obnoxious in the stands.



**46<sup>th</sup>**

Business Tax Climate Rank Change 2018-2019: -3



**38<sup>th</sup>**

Higher Ed. R&D Expenditure: **\$312,533**



**28<sup>th</sup>**

Number of NCRCs: **75,306** | Percent Improvement 2017-2018: **6.7%**



2018 Workers' Comp Index Rate: **0.9**



**3<sup>rd</sup>**

Lowest Electric Power Cost (cents/kWh): **5.43**



**6<sup>th</sup>**

**25<sup>th</sup>**

Fiscal Condition Index Rank

## Selected Corporate Facility Projects 2018

COMPANY	CITY	COUNTY	TYPE	NEW/ EXPANDED	PRODUCT	INVESTMENT (US\$ M)	EMP
Big River Steel	Osceola	Mississippi	MF/DW	E	Metals	1,200	500
Simmons Prepared Foods	Decatur	Benton	MF	N	Food & Beverage	300	1,500
Aerojet Rocketdyne Holdings	East Camden	Ouachita	MF	E	Metals	50	140
Granges Americas	Newport	Jackson	MF	E	Metals	26	100
Safe Foods Corp.	North Little Rock	Pulaski	MF	N	Life Sciences	15	35
Calstrip Industries	Blytheville	Mississippi	MF	N	Metals	15	45
Zero Mountain	North Little Rock	Pulaski	DW	E	Transport & Logistics	13	22
First Orion Corp.	North Little Rock	Pulaski	HQ	N	Business & Financial Services	10	
Veranda Luxury Pontoons	Malvern	Hot Spring	MF	N	Transport & Logistics	4	80
Select Sands Corp.	Newark	Independence	MF	N	Minerals	4	
Midwest Automation							
Custom Fabrication	Fort Smith	Sebastian	MF/HQ/RD	E	Metals	2	85

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

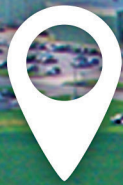
## Did You Know?

Arkansas' Public School Computer Network has the capacity to provide internet service at a rate of 1 Megabit per second per user to 98 percent of all public schools in the state — more than any other state, according to the 2018 State of the States report from EducationSuperHighway.

Simmons Prepared Foods is investing \$300 million in a new chicken processing plant that will eventually employ about 2,300 people in Bentonville.

Aircraft and spacecraft are among Arkansas' largest exports, accounting for more than \$1.8 billion per year.





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Paragould South Industrial Site  
McCallum Sweeney Certified  
78.8 acre general industrial site

ARKANSAS  
INC

Searching for a build-ready site that can help your project hit the ground running? Arkansas' 78-acre Paragould South Industrial Site is "shovel-ready" and McCallum Sweeney Certified. Better still, Paragould was recently named as a Competitive Community. So it's not only a great place to live and work, the community is proven to meet infrastructure and workforce criteria. This site is ready for business, and speed-to-market matters. Get there quicker from Arkansas.



[ArkansasEDC.com/Paragould](http://ArkansasEDC.com/Paragould)