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Labor Force Participation in Arkansas: A Comprehensive Study

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Labor Market Information**

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Summary of Findings- Statewide

- Arkansas' Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) has been in decline since the mid-1990s
- In March 2023, Arkansas' LFPR was 57.4% (5th lowest in the country)
 - Highest LFPR are among those Aged 20-54
 - Hispanic Males have the highest LFPR at 83.4%; White Females have the lowest rate at 51.6%
 - LFPRs for Young Adults (20-24) have increased since the Pandemic, while school enrollment has declined
 - Higher Educational Attainment associated with higher levels of LFP, higher wages, & lower unemployment
- Potential Causes for Low LFP:
 - Aging and Declining Population-
 - Decline in number of residents under the Age of 65; Increase in population 65+
 - Sharp decline in International Migration since 2017
 - Most population increase now coming from Domestic Migration from other States
 - Decline of Working Age Men in the Workforce
 - Decline in LFPRs for Males Aged 45-54
 - Loss of manufacturing jobs
 - Trends in Young Workers and Education
 - Higher LFPRs in young adults since the Pandemic, Decline in school enrollment
 - Number of Disabled
 - Increase of 14,600 residents reporting a disability keeps them out of the Labor Force
 - 349,836 Arkansas residents Age 16+ are Out of the LF due to a disability (2021)
 - High Incarceration Rates
 - 17,022 Arkansans incarcerated in 2021
 - Arkansas has 2nd highest incarceration rate in the country
 - Addition and Drug Abuse
 - In 2020, Arkansas ranked as the state with the 2nd highest number of legal opioid prescriptions
 - An estimated 43,400 Arkansas workers fell out of the LF due to opioid addiction from 1999-2015

Summary of Findings- Substate

- Population growth in Arkansas is declining
 - 51 Arkansas counties reported population declines between 2012 and 2022
 - Four counties declined by more than 5,000 residents
 - Jefferson County has lost 10,388 residents over the last decade
 - 24 Arkansas counties reported population gains between 2012 and 2022
 - Most growing counties are located in Central and Northwest Arkansas
 - Benton County added 67,925 residents; Washington County added 44,298 residents
- 63 Arkansas counties reported a decline in the number of ‘working aged’ adults Aged 20-64

The Bureau of Labor Statistics does not produce Labor Force Participation Rates at the county level. ADWS Labor Market Information staff created a methodology to calculate an *Inactive in the Labor Force estimate at the county level (see caveat below). The following summary is based on those findings:

- 14 counties in Arkansas had an *Inactive in the Labor Force rate above 30% in 2021
 - Lincoln County = 57% (high prison pop) Sevier County = 37%
 - Lee County = 51% (high prison pop) Montgomery County = 37%
 - Jackson County = 44% Ashley County = 33%
 - St. Francis County = 44% (high prison pop) Clay County = 32%
 - Chicot County = 44% Johnson County = 31%
 - Izard County = 42% Lafayette County = 31%
 - Sharp County = 38% Cleburne County = 31%
- 4 Local Workforce Development Areas experienced large population and employment declines in the last decade:
 - Eastern LWDA
 - Population down in all counties (-16,005)
 - Employment down in all counties (-6,767)
 - Southeast LWDA
 - Population down in most counties (-24,737)
 - Employment down in all counties (-12,718)
 - Southwest LWDA
 - Population down in all counties (-20,793)
 - Employment down in all counties (-10,028)
 - Western LWDA
 - Population down in most counties (-16,005)
 - Employment down in all counties (-6,767)

*Inactive in the Labor Force is not a calculation produced or endorsed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This number was calculated in-house by Arkansas’ Labor Market Information staff using a combination of Civilian Labor Force statistics and Population by Age data collected by the US Census Bureau. Inactive in the Labor Force was calculated by subtracting the Civilian Labor Force from the Population Aged 20-64. While it provides an estimate of how many residents are Inactive in the Labor Force, it does include some double counting of residents in the Civilian Labor Force that are aged 16-19 and over the age of 65. This number is intended as a guide for determining what portion of a county’s population is Inactive in the Labor Force and should not be published or treated as an official estimate.

The Labor Force Participation (LFP) Rate represents the number of people in the Labor Force, as a percentage of the civilian non institutional population. The LFP Rate is the percentage of the population that is either working or actively looking for work.

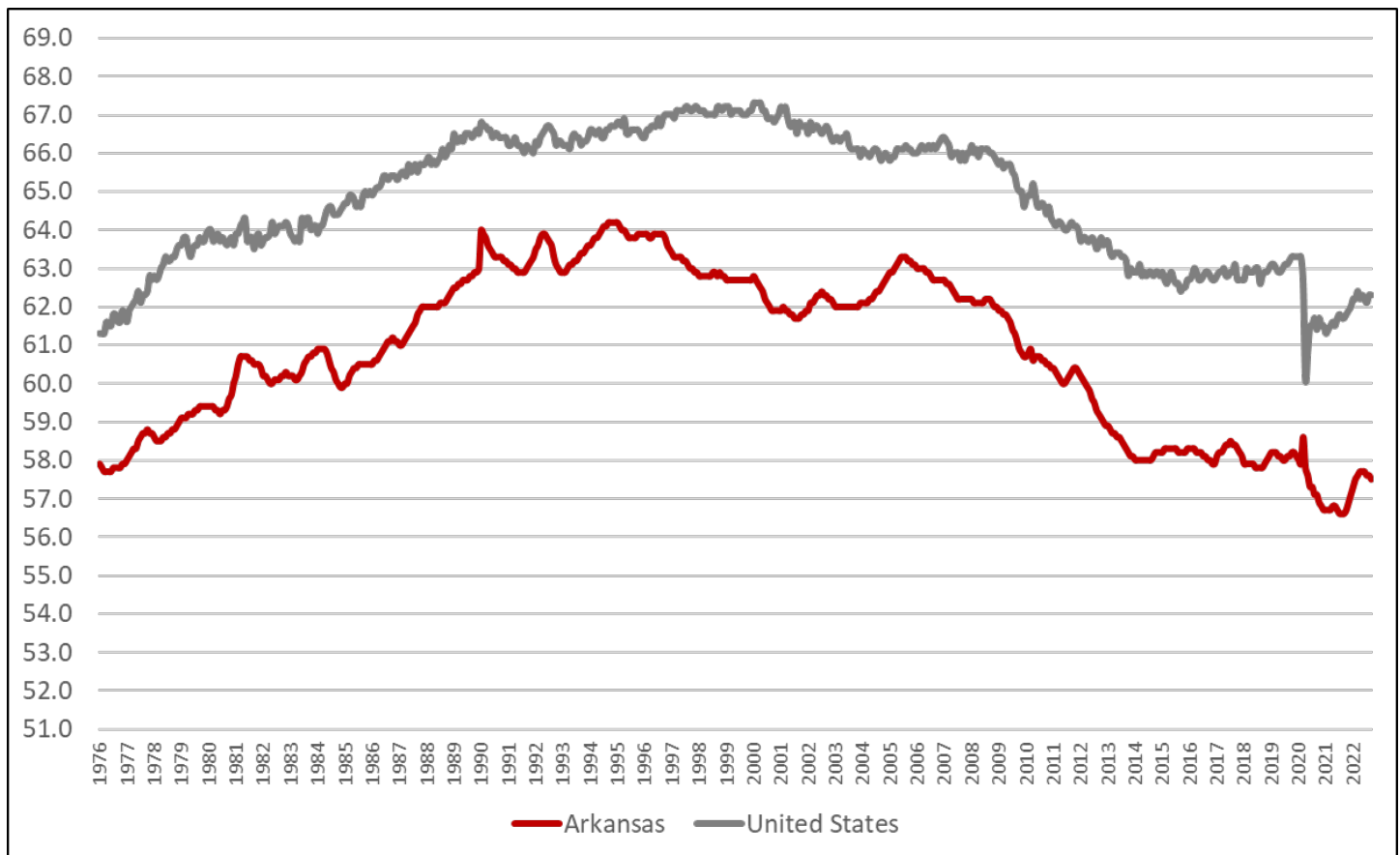
$$\text{Labor Force Participation Rate} = (\text{Labor Force Civilian} \div \text{non institutional population}) \times 100$$

Trends in Labor Force Participation

The national Labor Force Participation Rate (LFP) peaked at 67.3% in early 2000 and remained just above 66% through 2008, when rates began to decline slowly and steadily. The country's LFP Rate fell to a record low of 60.1% in April 2020, during the peak of the pandemic closures, but rebounded to 62.6% in March 2023 (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2023).

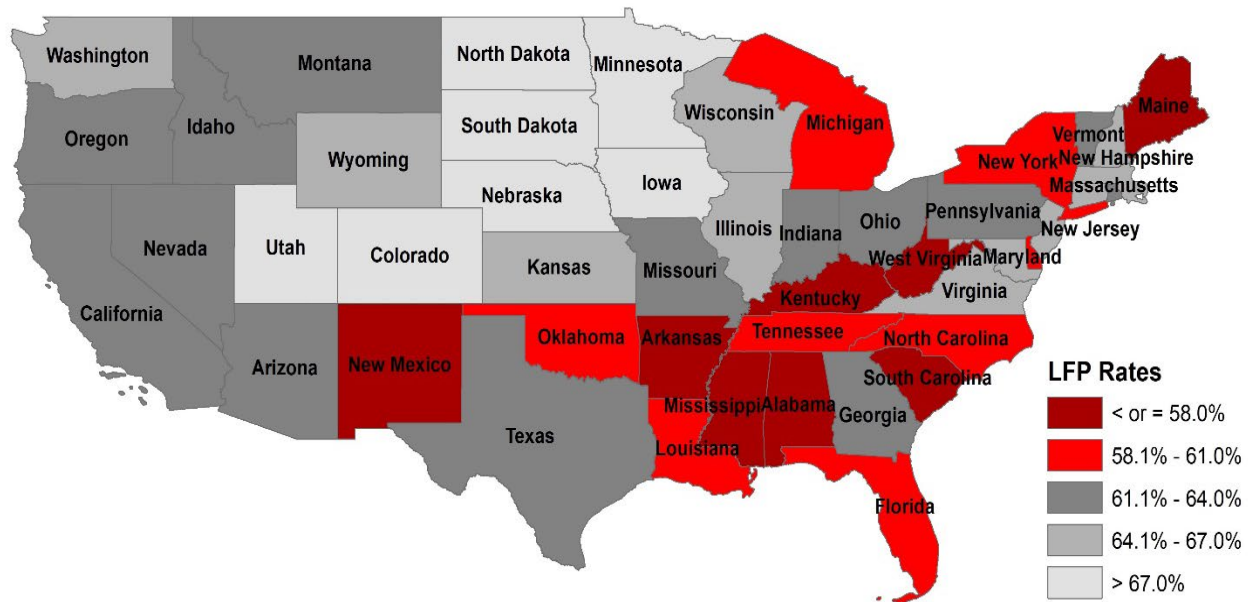
In Arkansas, LFP Rates were at their highest in the early and mid-1990s. The highest rate ever reached was 64.2%, which occurred several times in 1994 and 1995. Comparable rates were reached again in 2005 (63.3%) but have steadily declined since then. LFP Rates in Arkansas reached a new low of 56.6% in September 2021 but have since rebounded slightly and fluctuated between 57.4% - 57.7% in 2022. The latest data available shows Arkansas' LFP Rate at 57.4% in March 2023 (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2023).

**Labor Force Participation Rates (Seasonally Adjusted)
January 1976 – March 2023 (Arkansas vs United States)**



While the years of peak LFP Rates do not mirror one another, the long-term trends in Arkansas are similar to those seen at the national level. There are also regional trends and similarities. States in the Southern Region of the US have the lowest average LFP Rate of 60.9%. That is significantly lower than the rate of Midwest Region states, which had a LFP Rate of 63.9% in March 2023 (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2023).

**Labor Force Participation Rates by State (Seasonally Adjusted)
March 2023**



In March 2023, only five states reported LFP Rates lower than Arkansas— New Mexico (56.7%), Alabama (56.7%), South Carolina (56.1%), West Virginia (54.6%), and Mississippi (54.4%). Arkansas’ Rate ranks low, even when compared to the surrounding states (Bureau of Labor Statistics, March 2023):

Texas	= 63.9%	Tennessee	= 59.0%
Missouri	= 62.9%	Arkansas	= 57.4%
Oklahoma	= 61.0%	Mississippi	= 54.4%
Louisiana	= 59.3%		

Demographics of Labor Force Participation

Age and Gender

The highest levels of Labor Force Participation occur in ‘working aged’ adults Aged 20-54. As shown in the chart below, there were approximately 1,672,600 Arkansans Aged 20-64 in the Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population in 2022. Of those, 73.5% participated in the Labor Force. With 1,219,200 Arkansans Aged 20-64 participating in the Labor Force, that leaves **roughly 453,400 Arkansans Aged 20-64 Out of the Labor Force** for various reasons.

**Labor Force Participation Rates and Population by Age
Current Population Survey (2022)**

Age Range	LFPR	Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population	Total in the CLF	Out of the CLF
Total, Age 16-19	39.5%	166,700	65,700	101,000
Total, Age 20-24	77.1%	184,200	142,000	42,200
Total, Age 25-34	81.2%	399,700	323,200	76,500
Total, Age 35-44	81.1%	363,900	295,100	68,800
Total, Age 45-54	73.2%	335,100	244,500	90,600
Total, Age 55-64	55.0%	389,700	214,400	175,300
Total, Age 65+	15.3%	540,600	81,500	459,100
Total, Age 16+	60.3%	2,379,900	1,366,400	1,013,500
Total, Age 20-64	73.5%	1,672,600	1,219,200	453,400

As shown on the two charts on Page 6, there were roughly 821,400 Males Aged 20-54 in the Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population in 2022. Of those, 78.2% were active in the Labor Force **leaving 179,400 ‘working age’ Males Out of the Labor Force for various reasons**. Compare that to 851,200 Females Aged 20-54 in the Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population in 2022, in the Labor Force at a lower rate of 68.8%. **In 2022, approximately 274,000 ‘working age’ Females were Out of the Labor Force for various reasons** (Current Population Survey, 2022).

Females Age 20+ have lower LFPRs than their Male counterparts. A ‘Spotlight on Women and the Labor Force’ study released in April 2023 by the US Department of Labor found that “many women are not currently seeking employment because they continue to experience a lack of affordable childcare or are responsible for other caretaking responsibilities.” The study, conducted at the US level, found that 67.3% of women with children younger than 5 years of age are Out of the Labor Force due to lack of childcare or other family responsibilities. Similarly, 48.7% of women with children over the age of 6 report being Out of the Labor Force due to the same reasons. **In Arkansas, there were 829 individual daycare establishments in 2018. In 2022, that number had dropped to 790 daycares, a loss of 39 daycares in Arkansas over a 5-year period (Arkansas Covered Employment and Earnings, 2018-2022).**

**Labor Force Participation Rates and Population- Males vs Females
Current Population Survey (2022)**

Age Range/Gender	LFPR	Civilian Non- Institutionalized Population	Total in the CLF	Out of the CLF
Male, Age 16-19	33.8%	84,700	28,700	56,000
Male, Age 20-24	77.6%	91,400	70,900	20,500
Male, Age 25-34	89.9%	193,000	173,400	19,600
Male, Age 35-44	86.0%	182,600	157,100	25,500
Male, Age 45-54	79.1%	161,600	127,900	33,700
Male, Age 55-64	58.4%	192,800	112,700	80,100
Male, Age 65+	17.7%	246,700	43,700	203,000
Male, Total Age 16+	63.2%	1,152,800	714,400	438,400
Male, Total Age 20-54	78.2%	821,400	642,000	179,400

Age Range/Gender	LFPR	Civilian Non- Institutionalized Population	Total in the CLF	Out of the CLF
Female, Age 16-19	45.1%	82,000	37,000	45,000
Female, Age 20-24	76.6%	92,800	71,100	21,700
Female, Age 25-34	72.4%	206,700	149,800	56,900
Female, Age 35-44	76.1%	181,300	138,000	43,300
Female, Age 45-54	67.2%	173,500	116,600	56,900
Female, Age 55-64	51.6%	196,900	101,700	95,200
Female, Age 65+	12.9%	293,900	37,800	256,100
Female, Total Age 16+	57.4%	1,227,100	652,000	575,100
Female, Total Age 20-54	68.8%	851,200	577,200	274,000

Race and Gender

While gender plays a large role in Labor Force Participation Rates, other demographics characteristics have impacts on LFP as well. The chart below shows the breakdown of LFP Rates by Race in 2022 (Current Population Survey, 2022). According to data collected by the Current Population Survey in 2022, **Hispanic Males (83.4%) participate in the Labor Force at significantly higher rates** than both White Males (62.0%) and Black Males (60.3%). When comparing LFPR for Females, Black Females (57.3%) have higher rates than both Hispanic Females (55.1%) and White Females (51.6%). **White Females have the lowest levels of LFPR.**

Labor Force Participation Rates and Population by Race and Gender Current Population Survey (2022)

Includes All Ages 16+, Not just 'Working Aged' Adults Aged 20-54

Race/Gender	LFPR	Civilian Non- Institutionalized Population	Total in the CLF	Out of the CLF
White- All Aged 16+	56.7%	1,913,300	1,085,300	828,000
Males	62.0%	939,600	582,500	357,100
Females	51.6%	973,700	502,800	470,900
				-
Black- All Aged 16+	58.7%	350,500	205,600	144,900
Males	60.3%	159,600	96,200	63,400
Females	57.3%	190,900	109,400	81,500
				-
Hispanic- All Aged 16+	69.7%	171,000	119,200	51,800
Males	83.4%	88,500	73,800	14,700
Females	55.1%	82,500	45,400	37,100

Educational Attainment

There is a direct correlation between increased educational attainment and lower levels of unemployment. People with higher education levels also earn more on average than those with lower education levels. According to the Current Population Survey, educational attainment also has an impact on Labor Force Participation Rates. As shown in the chart below, those with higher educational attainment are also more likely to be active in the Labor Force. **In 2022, Arkansans (Age 25+) with less than a High School Diploma participated in the Labor Force at a rate of 38.8%. Arkansans with a bachelor’s degree or higher (Age 25+) had a LFPR of 66.8%.**

In terms of the Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population, **the largest cohort of Arkansans (726,300) have a High School Diploma/No College but only participate in the Labor Force at a rate of 53.3%.** This leaves 338,900 Arkansans with a High School Diploma Out of the Labor Force for various reasons.

Labor Force Participation Rates and Population by Educational Attainment Current Population Survey (2022)

Includes All Ages 25+, Not just ‘Working Aged’ Adults Aged 20-54

Educational Attainment	LFPR	Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population	Total In the CLF	Out of the CLF
Less than HS Diploma	38.8%	183,800	71,400	112,400
HS Graduate, No College	53.3%	726,300	387,400	338,900
Some College or Associates	58.2%	551,600	321,000	230,600
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	66.8%	567,400	379,000	188,400

Reasons for Labor Force Participation Declines

Researchers from various fields and governmental agencies have conducted studies on declining LFP and have determined multiple potential causes:

- Aging and Declining Population
 - **23.7% of Arkansas' population is over the Age of 60** (Census Bureau, 2021)
 - That is a 3.1% increase in individuals over the Age of 60 compared to 2011
 - The state is attractive to retirees due to a relatively low cost of living and the mild climate
- Decline of Men in the Labor Force
 - Slow decline in LFP Rates for men Aged 25-54 over the last 60 years, especially those with less education
 - Attributed to loss in employment opportunities due to technological advancements and globalization
 - Manufacturing jobs in Arkansas were as high as 247,300 in mid-1995 (when LFP Rates peaked)
 - Lowest job levels of 149,400 were reported in the months following the pandemic
 - Lowest pre-pandemic job levels of 152,800 were reported in 2013
 - **Manufacturing jobs began to increase in 2021 and 2022**, with 163,900 jobs reported in March 2023 (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics)
- Trends in Young Workers and Education
 - The LFPR of Young Workers (aged 16-24) has dropped significantly since the early 2000s and is projected to decline further by 2024 (Bureau of Labor Statistics)
 - **School enrollment for Arkansans aged 20-24 declined from 37.6% in 2011 to 30.7% in 2021**
 - **Arkansans aged 20-24 had a LFP rate of 77.1% in 2022, up sharply from 68.5% in 2018**
 - After age 25, there is a direct correlation between educational attainment and increased LFP and average wages (Current Population Survey)
- Number of Disabled
 - Research indicates that an increase in the number of Disabled individuals has contributed to the decline in LFP Rates (Bureau of Labor Statistics)
 - Approximately 476,616 Arkansans (aged 16+) reported living with a disability in 2021
 - Of those, 73.4% are out of the labor force due to the disability (Census Bureau, 2021)
- High Incarceration Rates
 - High levels of adult incarceration also impact the LFP Rate
 - 2.1 million adults were imprisoned in the US, with 27,753 inmates in Arkansas (Census Bureau, 2019)
 - The US Department of Justice predicts that Arkansas' incarceration rate will increase 0.9% each year through 2028
- Addiction and Drug Abuse
 - A recent Princeton study established a link between opioid prescription levels and low LFP Rates
 - Arkansas has the 2nd highest opioid prescription rate per capita (Arkansas Department of Health, 2020)

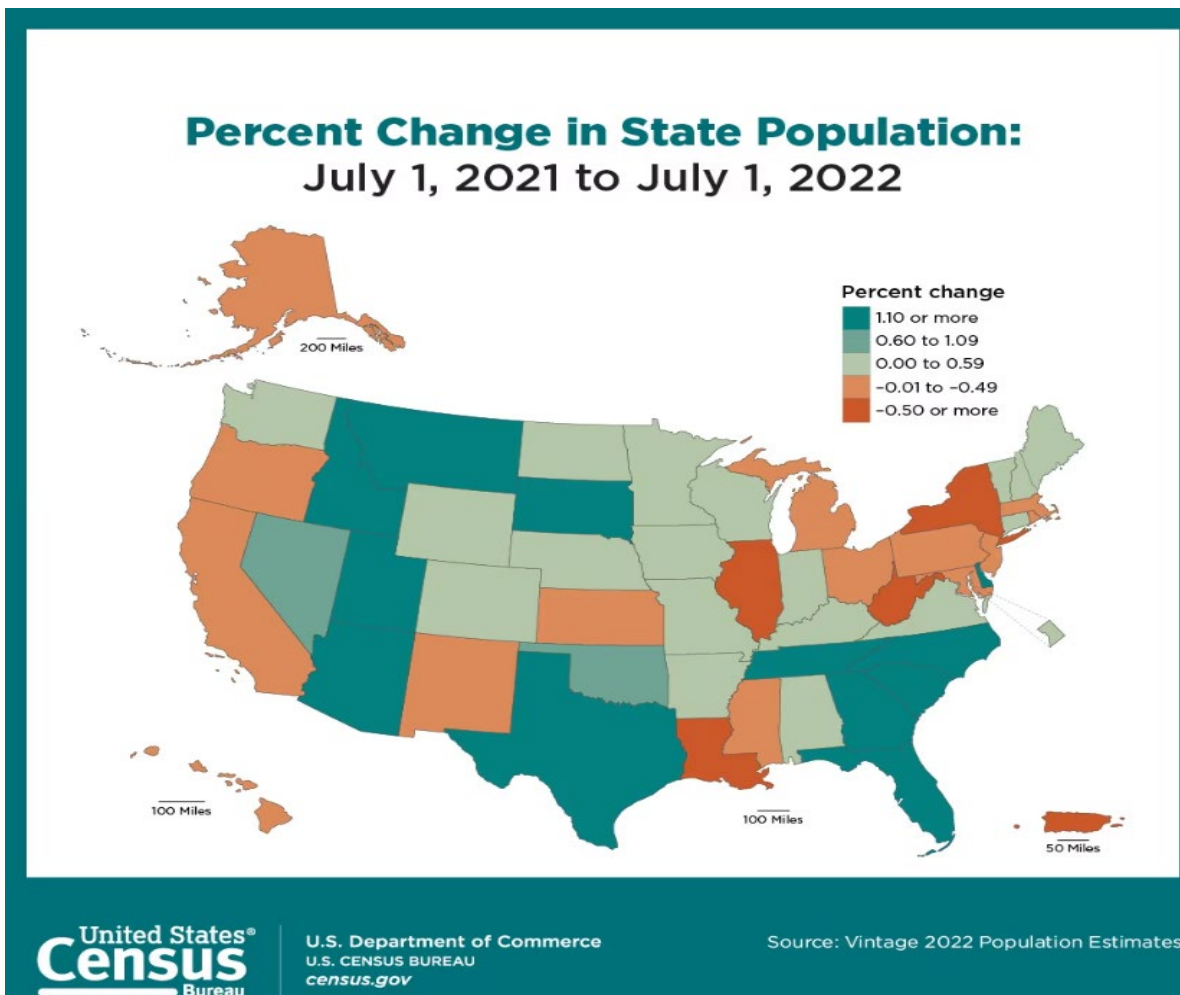
Aging and Declining Population

“After reaching its historical peak at 67.1 percent in 1999 and 2000, the United States’ labor force participation rate for all workers (age 16 and over) is projected to decline to 61.0 percent in 2026. The decline in the rate is largely the result of the aging population, as more and more workers move into higher age groups that tend to have lower participation rates. The overall Labor Force Participation Rate has been declining since 2000, dropping sharply following the 2007–09 recession (The Economics Daily, Bureau of Labor Statistics 2017).”

“The continued shift of the population into older age groups will have long-lasting effects on the labor force and the overall Labor Force Participation Rate. In 1996, the entire baby-boom generation was in the 25-to-54-year-old group, with a LFPR of 83.8 percent. In 2001, the first of the baby boomers moved into the 55-and-older age group (The Economics Daily, Bureau of Labor Statistics 2017).”

As of 2021, approximately 23.7% of Arkansas’ population was over the Age of 60. That is only slightly higher than the national average of 23.4% and an increase from the 20.6% reported in 2011 (Census Bureau, 2011 and 2021).

In addition to an aging population, the United States is also experiencing a decline in population growth. **The US population grew by 0.4% between 2021 and 2022, the second slowest rate of growth since the establishment of the Census Bureau (lowest growth rate was 0.1% between 2020 and 2021). Arkansas’ total population rose 17,515 between 2021 and 2022, a growth rate of 0.57% (Census Bureau, 2022).**



Based on data from the US Census Bureau, Arkansas' total population continues to trend upward. However, the reason for our population increase has changed in the last decade.

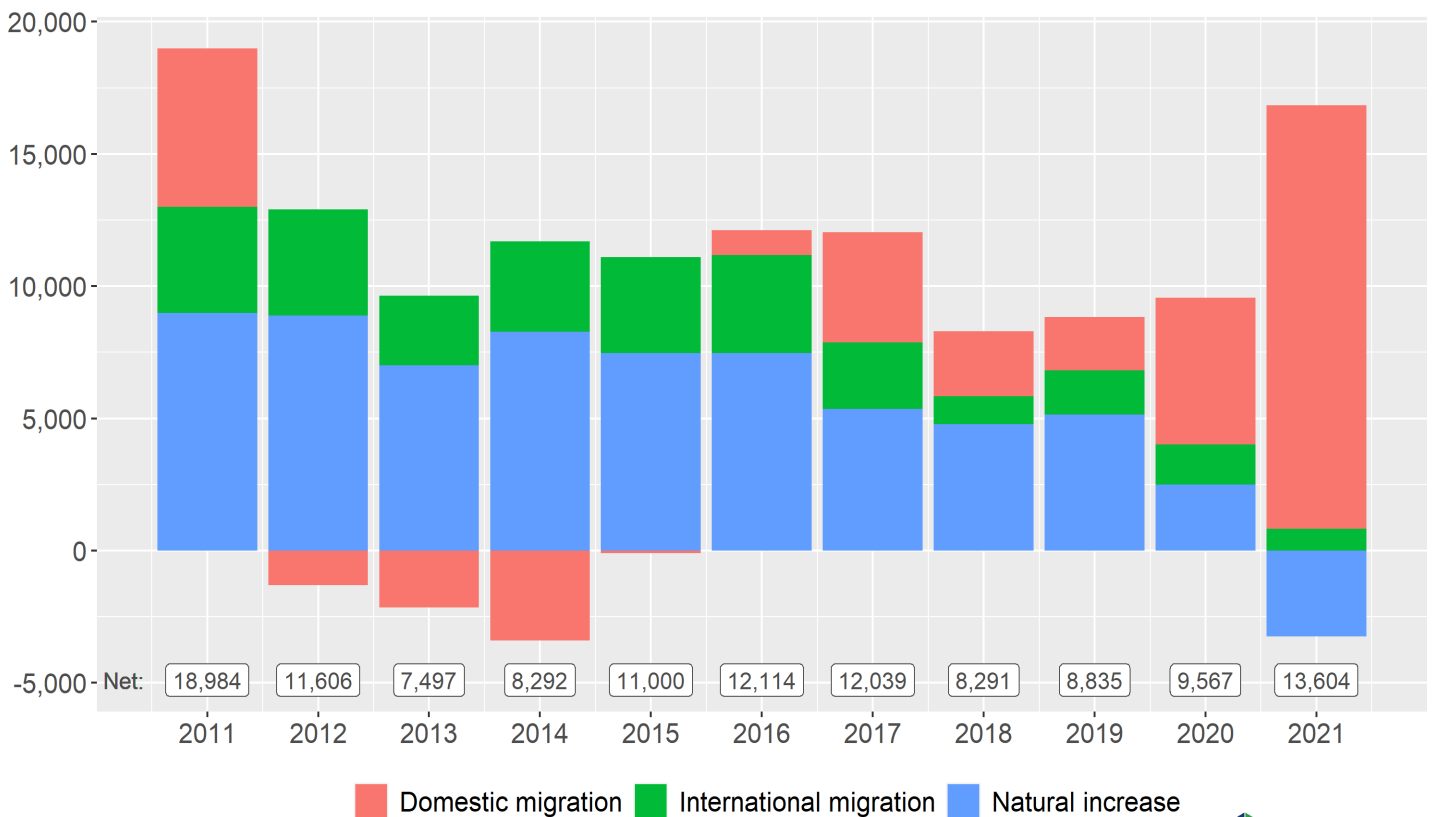
- In 2011, Arkansas' population increased by 18,984
 - Roughly 8,000 was due to more births than death (natural increase)
 - Roughly 4,000 was due to international migration into the State
 - Roughly 6,000 was due to domestic migration (moving to AR from other States)

- Between 2012-2015, the trend changed as the population increased at a slower rate
 - Birth/Death ratios were relatively stable
 - International migration into the state began to decline
 - People started to leave Arkansas to move to other States

- Between 2016-2020, Arkansas' population increase slowed even more
 - Birth/Death ratios changed as fewer births occurred each year
 - International migration declined even more
 - More people began to move to Arkansas from other states

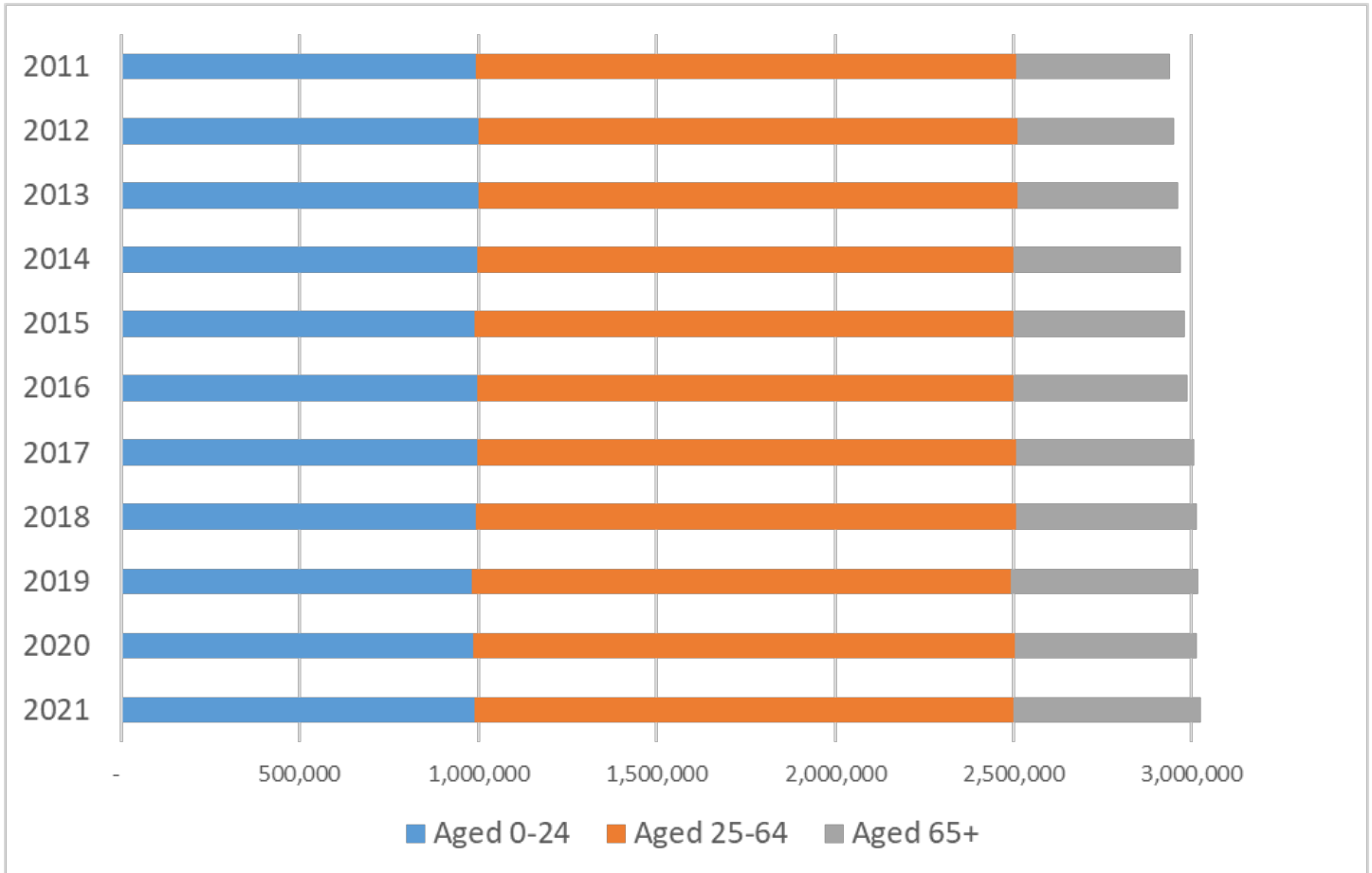
- In 2021, the trend shifted again
 - Deaths outpaced births for the first time by 2,500
 - International migration fell to the lowest levels in a decade
 - The vast majority of Arkansas population growth in 2021 was attributed to domestic migration of people moving to Arkansas from other states

**Components of Population Change in Arkansas
2011-2021 (US Census Bureau)**



According to the US Census Bureau, the largest percentage of domestic migration in 2021 was in the 18-24 age group. This might indicate that much of the migration is due to young adults moving to Arkansas to attend college. In addition to components of change, there have also been demographic population changes in the last decade:

**Total Population by Age Cohort
State of Arkansas: 2011 – 2021**



- Between 2011 and 2021, Arkansas’ total population increased 87,912
- Between 2011 and 2021, Arkansas population aged 0-24 declined 4,909
- Between 2011 and 2021, Arkansas’ population aged 25-64 declined 3,387
- Between 2011 and 2021, Arkansas’ population aged 65+ increased 96,208

Decline of Men in the Workforce

“A noteworthy development in the nation’s labor force over the past six decades has been the slow decline in the labor force participation rate of men 25–54 years. After peaking at 97.4 percent in the mid-1950s, the participation rate of men 25–54 years fell to about 88 percent in 2015. The rate fell by an average of 1.2 percentage points per decade between 1960 and 1990, and it declined more rapidly between 1990 and 2015 (Monthly Labor Review, Bureau of Labor Statistics 2016). Within the 25-54 age group in Arkansas, **Males Aged 45–54 are less likely to participate in the Labor Force than those in the 25-34 and 35-44 age groups.** The LFPR of Males Aged 45-54 have declined slightly over the last five years. Below is a comparison of LFP by age cohorts in Arkansas (Current Population Survey, 2018-2022):

**Labor Force Participation Rates by Males
State of Arkansas (Annual Average 2018-2022)**

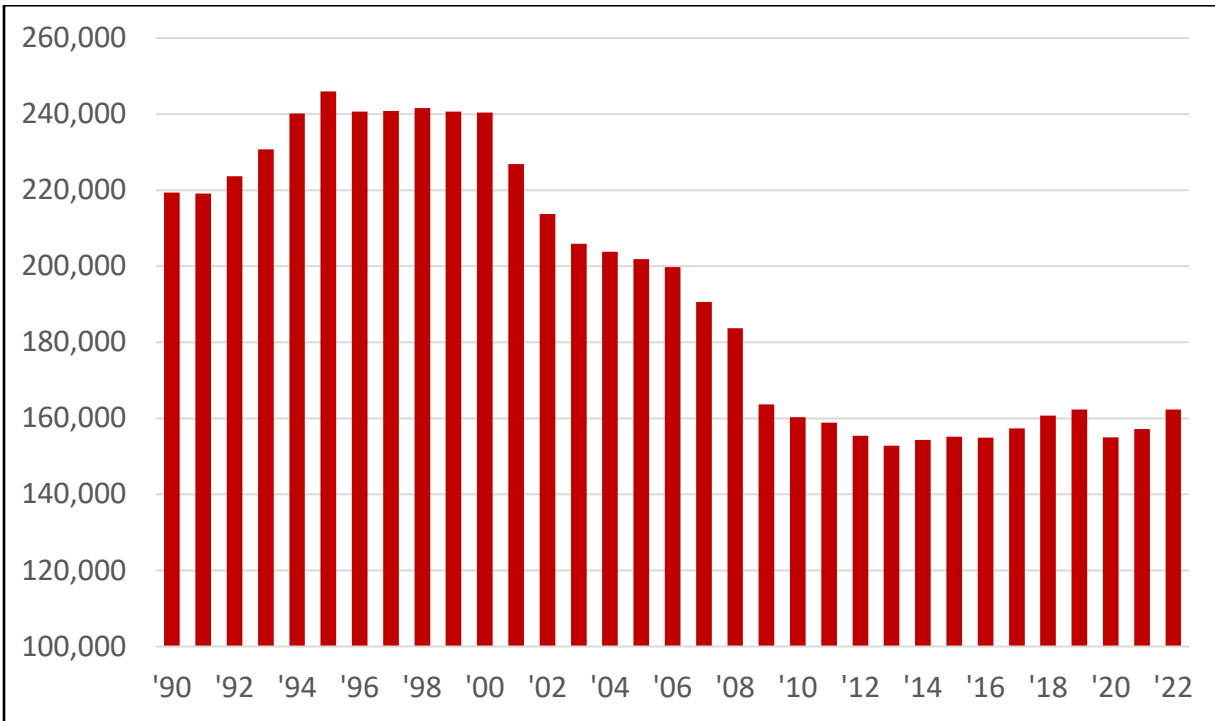
Age Range	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Male, Age 16-19	35.1	38.9	35.9	35.5	33.8
Male, Age 20-24	73.8	78.0	73.4	75.4	77.6
Male, Age 25-34	81.3	85.4	85.4	87.9	89.9
Male, Age 35-44	85.8	86.5	86.2	85.9	86.0
Male, Age 45-54	81.6	82.5	80.4	82.1	79.1
Male, Age 55-64	63.2	63.0	60.6	57.0	58.4
Male, Age 65+	19.8	19.0	21.2	19.8	17.7

“One reason for the large decline in participation, particularly among men who did not attend college, could be that the types of jobs available to this group might have become less desirable and lower paying. Among men in the US, inflation-adjusted wages for those with less than a high school diploma and those with a high school diploma (no college) fell over the 2000–2015 period by 6.8 and 6.6 percent, respectively; by contrast, inflation-adjusted wages for those with at least a bachelor’s degree edged up by 1.2 percent over this period. Researchers have suggested that employment opportunities of less-educated men have deteriorated in part because technology has changed and globalization increased (Monthly Labor Review, Bureau of Labor Statistics 2016).”

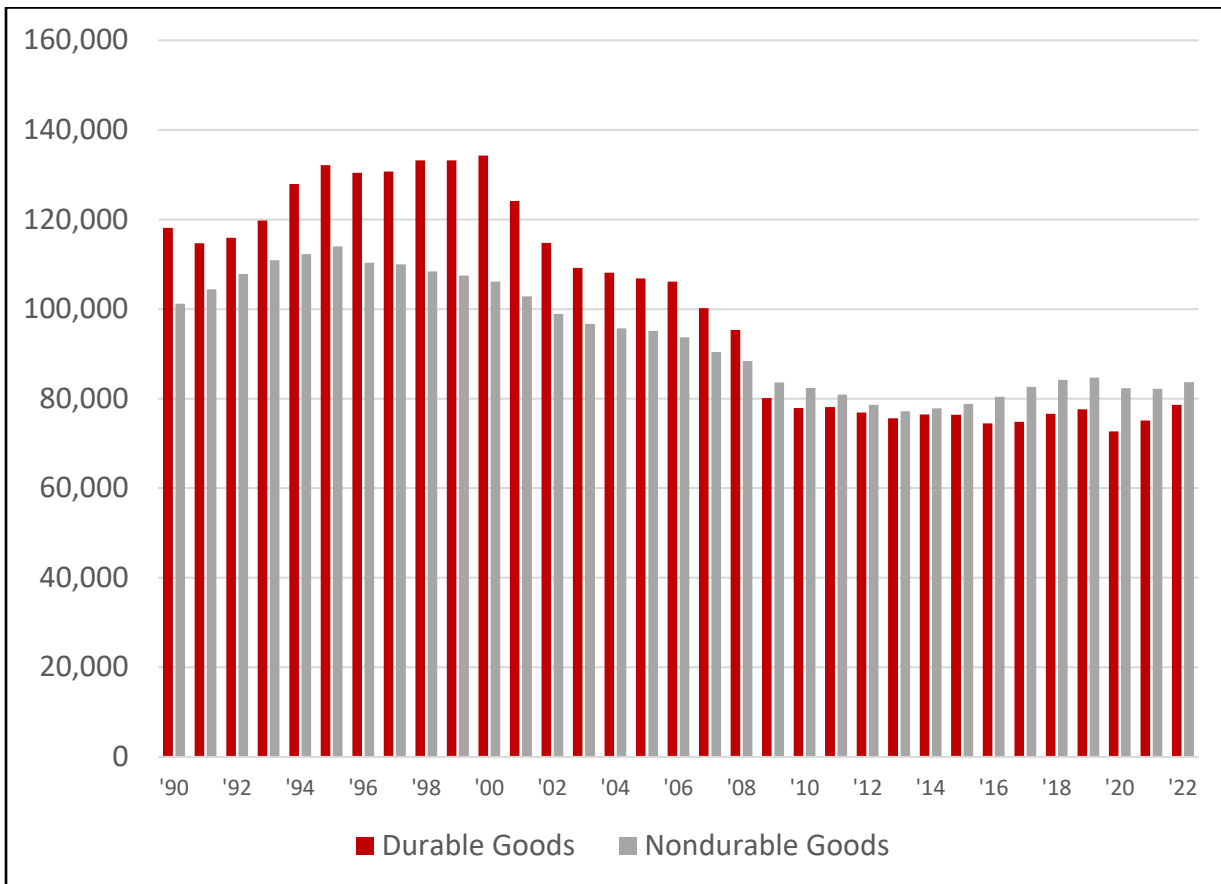
Technological changes and globalization have had a sizable impact on manufacturing, particularly since the 1990s. In Arkansas, manufacturing jobs peaked in 1995 with as many as 247,300 jobs in the industry. This was also the same time that LFP Rates in the state were at their highest levels. Since the mid-1990s, manufacturing jobs in the State have declined significantly due in large part to a shift to overseas production. Arkansas’ lowest number of manufacturing jobs (not including the months following the pandemic) occurred in 2013, when job levels reached as low as 152,800. While jobs in the industry have been slowly increasing since 2021, there were still only 163,900 manufacturing jobs in Arkansas in March 2023 (ADWS Labor Market Information, 2023).

The charts on Page 14 show the decline in manufacturing jobs in Arkansas since the mid-1990s. While durable goods manufacturing made up the majority of manufacturing jobs prior to 2008, nondurable goods manufacturing has become the majority of manufacturing jobs since 2008. While jobs in nondurable goods have increased since 2014 (not including the pandemic years), they tend to be lower paying jobs. In 2022, the average hourly earnings for production working in nondurable goods manufacturing was \$18.74. That is notably lower than the 2022 average hourly earnings of \$22.01 for durable goods production workers.

**Manufacturing Jobs in Arkansas
Annual Average (1990 – 2022)**



**Manufacturing Jobs in Arkansas- Durable Goods vs Nondurable Goods
Annual Average (1990 – 2022)**



Trends in Young Workers and Education

“Teen labor force participation in the US has been on a long-term downward trend. Since reaching a peak of 57.9 percent in 1979, the rate fell to 52.0 percent in 2000, just prior to the 2001 recession. The rate then dropped rapidly during and after the 2007–09 recession to reach 34.1 percent in 2011, and since then, it has stayed within a narrow range (Monthly Labor Review, Bureau of Labor Statistics 2017).”

The participation rates of both 16-to-19-year-olds and 20-to-24-year-olds have decreased sharply over the past several decades. A number of factors are contributing to this trend: an increased emphasis toward school and attending college, reflected in higher enrollment; more summer school attendance; and more strenuous coursework. Parental emphasis on the rewards of education has contributed to the decline in youth labor force participation. Teens who do in fact want jobs face competition from older workers, young college graduates, and foreign-born workers (Monthly Labor Review, Bureau of Labor Statistics 2017).”

Arkansas had experienced the same trend in education and youth LFP Rates as the rest of the country, up until recently. In 2011, 37.6% of Arkansans aged 20-24 were enrolled in school. In 2021, that number had declined to 30.7% (Census Bureau, 2015-2021).

**School Enrollment by Year (Aged 20-24)
State of Arkansas (Annual Average)**

Year	% Enrollment	# Enrolled
2015	37.8%	75,644
2016	35.7%	69,808
2017	34.6%	69,340
2018	34.7%	69,338
2019	35.4%	70,081
2020	34.9%	70,209
2021	30.7%	61,575

During that same time, labor force participation rates for the age cohort increased from 68.5% in 2018 to 77.1% in 2022. The data shows that since the pandemic, more young adults are forgoing a post-high school education in favor of entering the workforce. Pre vs Post pandemic LFPRs show that Arkansans Aged 20-24 have increased their participation in the labor force by over 8% (Current Population Survey, 2018-2022). The rise has been particularly large in females, who increased their LFPRs by 13.4% over the last five years. See the chart below:

**Labor Force Participation Rates by Gender and Year (Aged 20-24)
State of Arkansas (Annual Average)**

Age Range/Gender	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Male, Age 20-24	73.8%	78.0%	73.4%	75.4%	77.6%
Female, Age 20-24	63.2%	68.7%	66.3%	70.0%	76.6%
Total, Age 20-24	68.5%	73.4%	69.9%	72.7%	77.1%

Number of Disabled

“Researchers have suggested that an increase in the number of people receiving Social Security disability insurance (SSDI) benefits has contributed to the decline in labor force participation among both men and women. The SSDI program was enacted into law in 1956 and was meant to provide income for people with severe disabilities who are unable to work. Over time, changes in eligibility requirements for SSDI benefits may have increased the number of beneficiaries. The number of men 25–54 years who received SSDI benefits rose from 1.6 million (or 2.7 percent of men in this age group) in 2000 to 2.0 million (or 3.2 percent) in 2014. The decline in labor force participation of men over this period coincided with the increase in disability recipients (Monthly Labor Review, Bureau of Labor Statistics 2016).”

According to the Census Bureau, approximately 476,616 Arkansans (age 16+) were living with a disability (not the same as the number drawing SSDI benefits) in 2021. Approximately 73.4% of disabled Arkansans were not participating in the labor force in 2021. That is up from 452,399 disabled Arkansans in 2011, with 74.1% out of the labor force (Census Bureau, 2011). See the chart below for a 10-year comparison of the number of disabled in Arkansas:

**Number of Disabled by Year (Aged 16+)
State of Arkansas (Annual Average)**

Year	# Disabled	% Out of Labor Force	# of the LF due to Disability
2011	452,399	74.1%	335,228
2012	440,147	74.6%	328,350
2013	459,896	76.8%	353,200
2014	461,891	76.4%	352,885
2015	465,144	76.5%	355,835
2016	466,051	76.0%	354,199
2017	493,533	76.1%	375,579
2018	487,552	76.6%	373,465
2019	484,710	75.6%	366,441
2020	485,829	76.0%	369,230
2021	476,616	73.4%	349,836

High Incarceration Rates

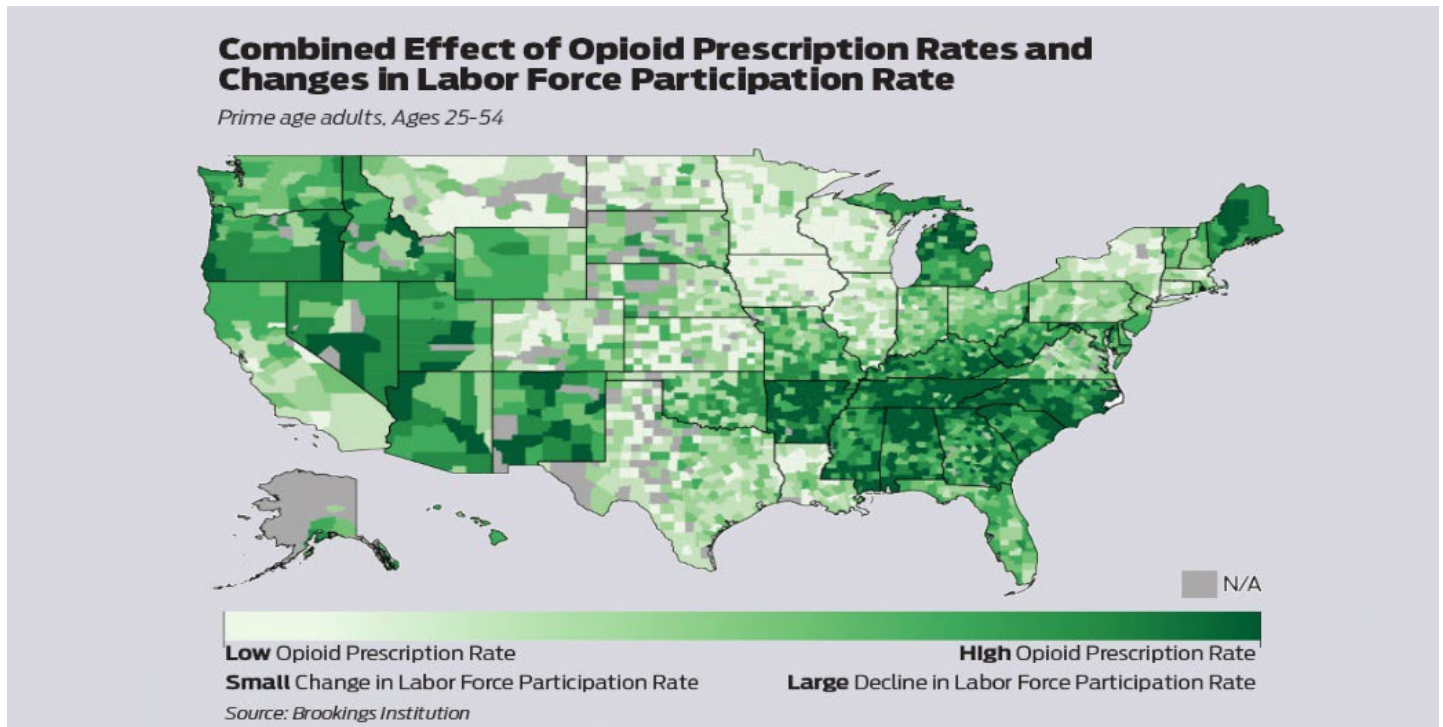
A recent study conducted by the Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD) found that the high number of incarcerated men aged 25-54 is a contributing factor to the decline in LFP Rates in the United States. Incarceration rates in the US began to increase in the 1980s, a result of the “War on Drugs” and later the mandatory minimum sentencing enacted in the 1990s.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, there were 1,204,300 U.S. prisoners in 2021. That is a decline of 1% from 2020. **In Arkansas, there were 17,022 adult inmates incarcerated in federal, state, county, and city facilities in 2021**, an increase of 928 inmates compared to 2020. Seventeen states reported incarceration increases over the year, while Arkansas reported the 4th largest incarceration rate increase.

In 2021, 559 per 100,000 Arkansans were incarcerated. That is the second highest incarceration rate in the country, trailing behind Louisiana with 564 prisoners per 100,000 residents. **More than 1% of male residents in Arkansas were incarcerated in 2021.** Other states with comparable male incarceration rates include Mississippi, Louisiana, and Oklahoma (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2022).

Addiction and Drug Abuse

Princeton University conducted a study in 2017 on the decline in LFP Rates across the country. The study found links between high levels of opioid prescriptions and low LFP, where counties with higher prescription levels had experienced greater losses in LFP over the last 15 years. The map below, published in the paper, shows that Arkansas has both a large drop in LFP Rates and a high level of opioid prescriptions:



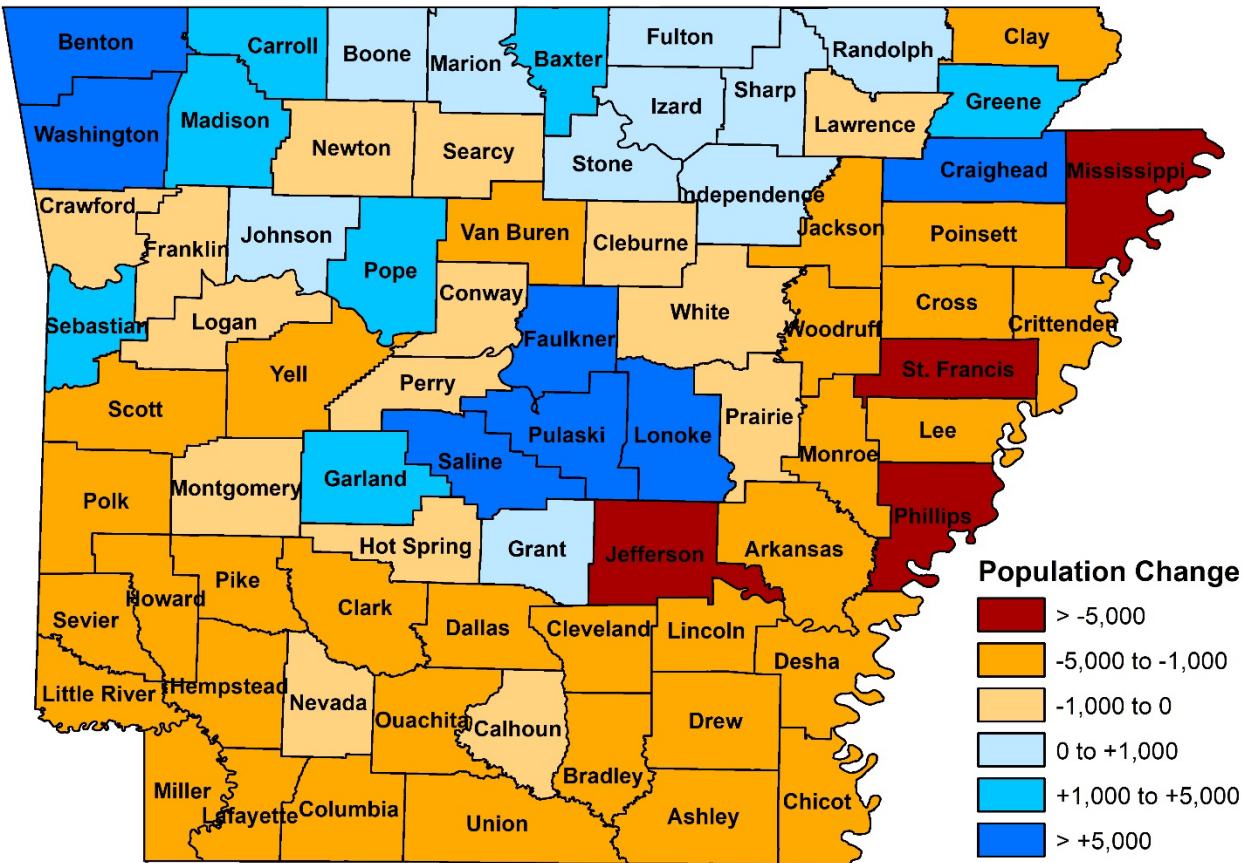
The National Institute on Drug Abuse found that Arkansas ranked as the state with the 2nd highest number of legal prescriptions per capita in 2020. A study by the American Action Forum on Opioids found that Arkansas is ‘tied for the state economy most damaged by the opioid crises.’ They estimate that 43,400 workers were lost to opioid addiction between 1999 and 2015.

Labor and Population Changes at the Substate Level

Between 2012 and 2022, Arkansas' total population increased by 92,761 to reach 3,045,637. While some counties saw large population growth, the population in most Arkansas counties declined. Fifty-one of Arkansas' 75 counties reported population declines between 2012 and 2022. Four counties lost more than 5,000 residents, with Jefferson County losing 10,388 residents.

Twenty-four counties reported population gains over the last decade. The largest gains were in the central and northwestern regions of the State, with Washington and Benton counties adding 44,298 and 67,925 residents respectively (Census Bureau, 2022).

**Population Change by County
2012 – 2022**



**Largest Population Declines
2012 – 2022**

County	Decline	County	Decline	County	Decline
Jefferson	-10,388	Ashley	-3,161	Columbia	-2,197
Mississippi	-6,657	Union	-3,109	Drew	-1,877
St. Francis	-5,541	Crittenden	-3,016	Lee	-1,820
Phillips	-5,432	Hempstead	-2,891	Desha	-1,819
Ouachita	-3,349	Arkansas	-2,452	Poinsett	-1,804

Inactive in the Labor Force* by County (2021)
Residents Aged 20-64

County	Inactive in LF*	County	Inactive in LF*	County	Inactive in LF*
Pulaski	45,195	Independence	4,356	Drew	2,166
Benton	27,052	Cleburne	4,063	Franklin	2,159
Washington	22,019	Columbia	3,680	Madison	1,875
Sebastian	18,652	Logan	3,567	Stone	1,773
Faulkner	14,563	Sharp	3,507	Montgomery	1,689
Saline	12,559	Yell	3,393	Bradley	1,566
Garland	12,124	Conway	3,315	Perry	1,416
Jefferson	11,237	Ashley	3,306	Hempstead	1,388
Lonoke	10,286	Izard	3,237	Pike	1,385
White	10,195	Clark	3,227	Howard	1,284
Pope	9,095	Sevier	3,153	Fulton	1,260
Craighead	8,241	Randolph	2,878	Searcy	1,241
Crawford	7,933	Poinsett	2,811	Scott	1,098
Greene	7,172	Lee	2,620	Lafayette	1,053
Union	6,160	Clay	2,521	Little River	1,053
Crittenden	6,105	Marion	2,520	Nevada	1,040
St. Francis	6,023	Ouachita	2,475	Cleveland	1,014
Mississippi	5,958	Van Buren	2,417	Desha	888
Miller	5,535	Polk	2,368	Monroe	838
Hot Spring	5,328	Phillips	2,363	Prairie	793
Lincoln	4,891	Chicot	2,358	Newton	522
Boone	4,834	Lawrence	2,351	Dallas	514
Baxter	4,702	Cross	2,254	Woodruff	458
Johnson	4,468	Carroll	2,227	Calhoun	348
Jackson	4,401	Grant	2,192		

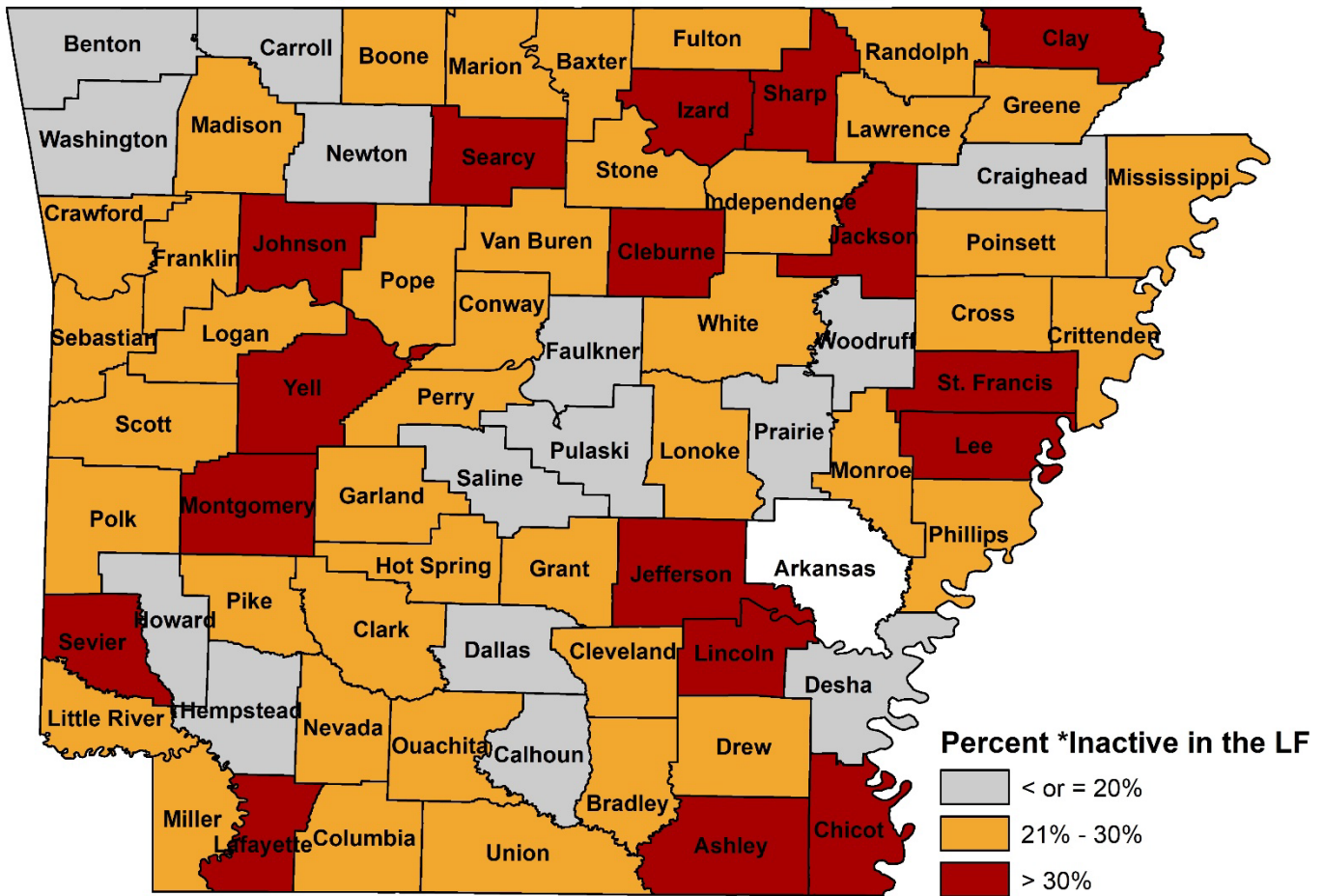
*Inactive in the Labor Force is not a calculation produced or endorsed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This number was calculated in-house by Arkansas' Labor Market Information staff using a combination of Civilian Labor Force statistics and Population by Age data collected by the US Census Bureau. Inactive in the Labor Force was calculated by subtracting the Civilian Labor Force from the Population Aged 20-64. While it provides an estimate of how many residents are Inactive in the Labor Force, it does include some double counting of residents in the Civilian Labor Force that are aged 16-19 and over the age of 65. This number is intended as a guide for determining what portion of a county's population is Inactive in the Labor Force and should not be published or treated as an official estimate.

Percent Inactive in the Labor Force* by County (2021)
Residents Aged 20-64

County	% Inactive in LF*	County	% Inactive in LF*	County	% Inactive in LF*
Lincoln	57%	Stone	28%	Baxter	22%
Lee	51%	Hot Spring	28%	Poinsett	22%
Jackson	44%	Bradley	28%	Grant	21%
St. Francis	44%	Greene	27%	Independence	21%
Chicot	44%	Clark	27%	Scott	21%
Izard	42%	Mississippi	27%	Little River	20%
Sharp	38%	Lawrence	26%	Fulton	20%
Sevier	37%	Perry	26%	Ouachita	20%
Montgomery	37%	Sebastian	25%	Madison	20%
Ashley	33%	Pope	25%	Pulaski	20%
Clay	32%	Pike	25%	Faulkner	19%
Johnson	31%	Cleveland	25%	Howard	19%
Lafayette	31%	Cross	24%	Prairie	18%
Cleburne	31%	Monroe	24%	Saline	18%
Yell	30%	Nevada	24%	Benton	16%
Jefferson	30%	Lonoke	24%	Dallas	16%
Searcy	30%	Boone	23%	Desha	15%
Logan	30%	Polk	23%	Carroll	15%
Columbia	30%	Crawford	23%	Washington	15%
Van Buren	29%	White	23%	Woodruff	14%
Marion	29%	Crittenden	23%	Newton	14%
Union	29%	Franklin	23%	Hempstead	13%
Phillips	29%	Miller	23%	Calhoun	13%
Conway	29%	Garland	23%	Craighead	13%
Randolph	28%	Drew	22%		

*Inactive in the Labor Force is not a calculation produced or endorsed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This number was calculated in-house by Arkansas' Labor Market Information staff using a combination of Civilian Labor Force statistics and Population by Age data collected by the US Census Bureau. Inactive in the Labor Force was calculated by subtracting the Civilian Labor Force from the Population Aged 20-64. While it provides an estimate of how many residents are Inactive in the Labor Force, it does include some double counting of residents in the Civilian Labor Force that are aged 16-19 and over the age of 65. This number is intended as a guide for determining what portion of a county's population is Inactive in the Labor Force and should not be published or treated as an official estimate.

**Percent Inactive in the Labor Force* by County (2021)
Residents Aged 20-64**



*Inactive in the Labor Force is not a calculation produced or endorsed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This number was calculated in-house by Arkansas' Labor Market Information staff using a combination of Civilian Labor Force statistics and Population by Age data collected by the US Census Bureau. Inactive in the Labor Force was calculated by subtracting the Civilian Labor Force from the Population Aged 20-64. While it provides an estimate of how many residents are Inactive in the Labor Force, it does include some double counting of residents in the Civilian Labor Force that are aged 16-19 and over the age of 65. This number is intended as a guide for determining what portion of a county's population is Inactive in the Labor Force and should not be published or treated as an official estimate.



Central Local Workforce Development Area

Faulkner, Lonoke, Monroe, Prairie, Pulaski (including LR), and Saline

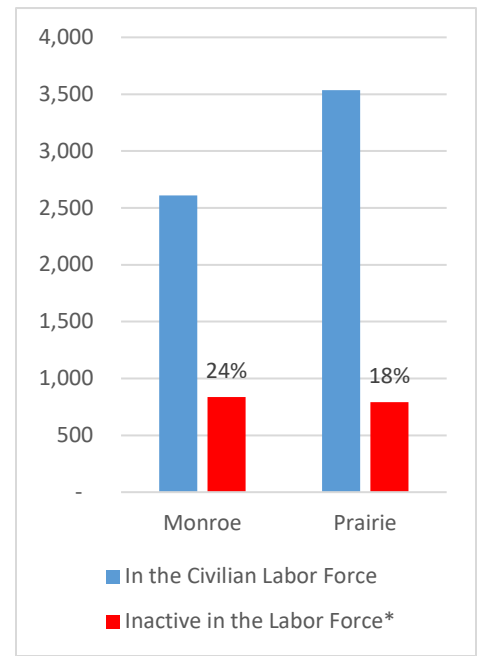
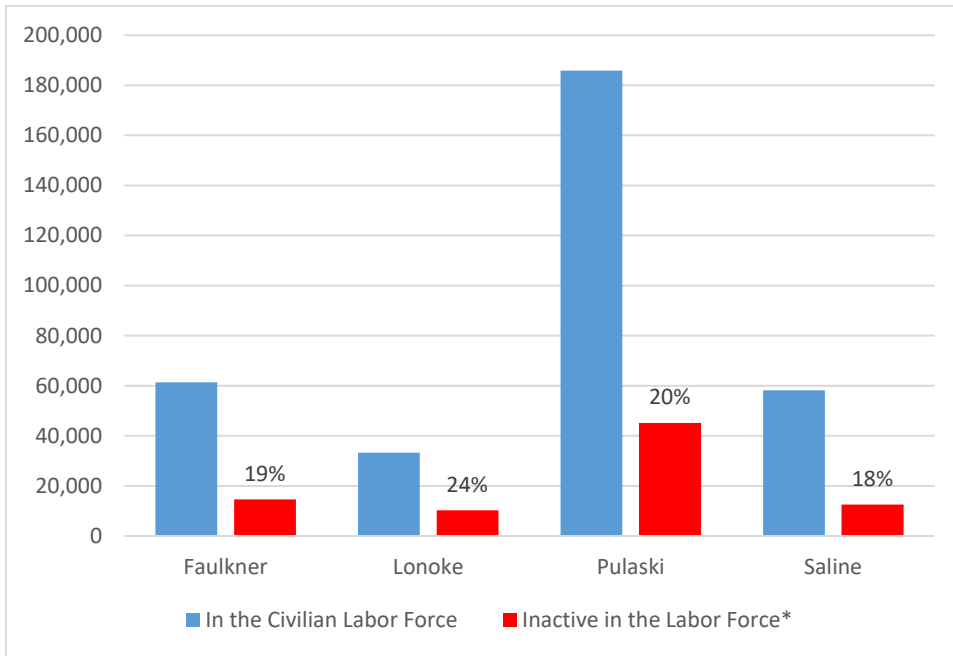
Population and Labor Force Composition Central LWDA Counties

	Faulkner	Lonoke	Monroe	Prairie	Pulaski	Saline	LWDA
Population							
2012	118,523	70,109	7,854	8,482	389,225	111,442	705,635
2022	127,665	75,225	6,564	8,069	399,145	127,357	744,025
10-Year Change	9,142	5,116	-1,290	-413	9,920	15,915	38,390
Population Aged 20-64							
2011	72,076	41,168	4,530	4,870	238,269	64,181	425,094
2021	75,952	43,617	3,448	4,329	231,123	70,813	429,282
10-Year Change	3,876	2,449	-1,082	-541	-7,146	6,632	4,188
Civilian Labor Force							
2011	59,201	33,304	3,381	3,916	189,186	53,987	342,975
2021	61,389	33,331	2,610	3,536	185,928	58,254	345,048
10-Year Change	2,188	27	-771	-380	-3,258	4,267	2,073
Employment							
2011	55,162	31,099	3,075	3,591	175,745	50,565	319,237
2021	59,233	32,203	2,469	3,404	176,789	56,393	330,491
10-Year Change	4,071	1,104	-606	-187	1,044	5,828	11,254
Inactive in the Labor Force*							
2011	12,875	7,864	1,149	954	49,083	10,194	82,119
2021	14,563	10,286	838	793	45,195	12,559	84,234
10-Year Change	1,688	2,422	-311	-161	-3,888	2,365	2,115

Between 2012 and 2022, the population in the Central LWDA has increased by 38,390. Four of the six LWDA counties reported population gains over the decade, with Saline (+15,915) and Pulaski (+9,920) adding the most residents. The 2021 Population Aged 20-64 has increased in three of the LDWA counties, with Saline County adding 6,632 working aged adults. While the Central LWDA has fared well in general, the number of residents that are Inactive in the Labor Force* has increased in Lonoke (+2,422), Saline (+2,365), and Faulkner (+1,688) counties despite increases in the total and working aged populations.

*Inactive in the Labor Force is not a calculation produced or endorsed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This number was calculated in-house by Arkansas' Labor Market Information staff using a combination of Civilian Labor Force statistics and Population by Age data collected by the US Census Bureau. Inactive in the Labor Force was calculated by subtracting the Civilian Labor Force from the Population Aged 20-64. While it provides an estimate of how many residents are Inactive in the Labor Force, it does include some double counting of residents in the Civilian Labor Force that are aged 16-19 and over the age of 65. This number is intended as a guide for determining what portion of a county's population in Inactive in the Labor Force and should not be published or treated as an official estimate.

Employment Status of Residents Aged 20-64 Annual Average 2021



The charts above show the number of residents In the Civilian Labor force vs the residents that are Inactive in the Labor Force*. The percentage of Inactive* residents range from a low of 18% in Saline and Prairie counties to as much as 24% in Lonoke and Monroe counties. Please note that 24% of Monroe County residents is roughly 838 individuals while 24% of Lonoke County residents is 10,286, based on differences in population levels.

Top 5 Industries by County 4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment

	Rank	Industry	Jobs	# of Establishments	Average Weekly Wages
Faulkner	1	Food Services	4,991	216	\$ 429
	2	Education	4,743	43	\$ 1,095
	3	Ambulatory Health Care	2,998	259	\$ 1,406
	4	Administrative Support	2,093	145	\$ 1,054
	5	Nursing Care Facilities	1,991	18	\$ 752
Lonoke	1	Education	2,023	13	\$ 910
	2	Food Services	1,844	87	\$ 408
	3	Fabricated Metal MFG	ND	ND	\$ 1,344
	4	General Merch Retail	889	6	\$ 487
	5	Specialty Trade Contractors	746	115	\$ 1,051
Monroe	1	Food Services	218	16	\$ 409
	2	Ambulatory Health Care	214	11	\$ 851
	3	Education	ND	ND	\$ 802
	4	Social Assistance	123	31	\$ 599
	5	Food & Beverage Stores	86	7	\$ 449

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies

**Top 5 Industries by County (continued)
4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment**

	Rank	Industry	Jobs	# of Establishments	Average Weekly Wages
Prairie	1	Education	ND	ND	\$ 950
	2	Ambulatory Health Care	ND	ND	\$ 979
	3	Nursing Care Facilities	ND	ND	\$ 759
	4	Misc MFG	ND	ND	\$ 392
	5	Government (General)	90	6	\$ 678
Pulaski	1	Hospitals	28,284	17	\$ 1,625
	2	Food Services	17,549	723	\$ 470
	3	Administrative Support	15,325	766	\$ 939
	4	Education	14,826	209	\$ 1,038
	5	Ambulatory Health Care	14,152	1,151	\$ 1,944
Saline	1	Food Services	3,425	158	\$ 434
	2	Education	2,242	21	\$ 1,019
	3	Specialty Trade Contractors	1,881	234	\$ 1,300
	4	General Merch Retail	1,528	14	\$ 516
	5	Social Assistance	1,507	115	\$ 649

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies

The chart above shows the largest employing industry in 3 of the 6 LWDA counties is the Food Services industry, one of the lowest paying industries. Education and Ambulatory Health Care also has a notable presence in most of the counties. Manufacturing and Professional Services, the higher paying industries, have a much smaller presence in the LWDA.

**Top 5 Declining and Growing Industries by County
4th Quarter 2021 - 4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment**

	Rank	Industries with Largest Declines	Jobs Lost	Percent Change	Rank	Industries with Largest Gains	Jobs Gained	Percent Change
Faulkner	1	Management of Companies	-49	-11%	1	Social Assistance	267	18%
	2	Food Services	-43	-1%	2	Ambulatory Health Care	260	10%
	3	Building Supply Stores	-33	-5%	3	Professional/Tech Services	149	12%
	4	Chemical MFG	ND	-63%	4	Warehousing	ND	430%
	5	Support for Transport	-23	-10%	5	Education	108	2%
Lonoke	1	Food Services	-34	-2%	1	Administrative Support	96	30%
	2	Motor Vehicle Dealers	-29	-10%	2	Heavy/Civil Construct	68	42%
	3				3	Social Assistance	63	12%
	4				4	Building Supply Stores	37	15%
	5				5	Nursing Care Facilities	29	4%
Monroe	1	Wood Product MFG	ND	-54%	1	Ambulatory Health Care	52	32%
	2	Food Services	-31	-13%	2			
	3				3			

Red = Declining Industry is a Top 5 Industry in the County Blue = Growing Industry is a Top 5 Industry in the County

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies

**Top 5 Declining and Growing Industries by County (continued)
4th Quarter 2021 - 4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment**

	Rank	Industries with Largest Declines	Jobs Lost	Percent Change	Rank	Industries with Largest Gains	Jobs Gained	Percent Change
Prairie	1	Animal Production	-23	-41%	1	No Gains > 20		
	2				2			
	3				3			
Pulaski	1	Warehousing	ND	-7%	1	Education	712	5%
	2	Administrative Support	-427	-3%	2	Hospitals	691	3%
	3	Couriers	-334	-11%	3	Ambulatory Health Care	642	5%
	4	Postal Service	ND	-15%	4	Management of Companies	627	12%
	5	Motor Vehicle Dealers	-160	-4%	5	Insurance	469	6%
Saline	1	Ambulatory Health Care	-80	-5%	1	Social Assistance	238	19%
	2	Wholesalers- Nondurable	-37	-34%	2	Administrative Support	158	22%
	3	Fabricated Metal MFG	-25	-13%	3	Heavy/Civil Construction	151	70%
	4	Construction of Buildings	-21	-8%	4	Professional/Tech Services	133	19%
	5				5	Food Services	124	4%

Red = Declining Industry is a Top 5 Industry in the County Blue = Growing Industry is a Top 5 Industry in the County

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Eastern Local Workforce Development Area

Crittenden, Cross, Lee, Phillips, and St. Francis

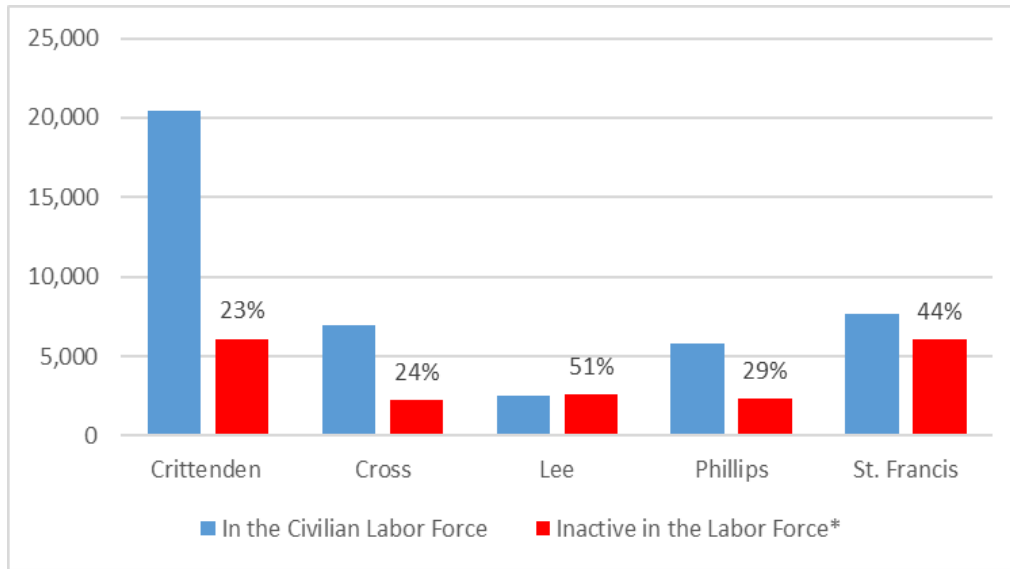
Population and Labor Force Composition Eastern LWDA Counties

	Crittenden	Cross	Lee	Phillips	St. Francis	LWDA
Population						
2012	50,077	17,703	10,184	20,736	27,992	126,692
2022	47,061	16,601	8,364	15,304	22,451	109,781
10-Year Change	-3,016	-1,102	-1,820	-5,432	-5,541	-16,005
Population Aged 20-64						
2011	29,158	10,113	6,335	11,637	17,247	74,490
2021	26,504	9,236	5,167	8,192	13,648	62,747
10-Year Change	-2,654	-877	-1,168	-3,445	-3,599	-11,743
Civilian Labor Force						
2011	22,636	8,785	3,675	8,391	9,789	53,277
2021	20,399	6,982	2,547	5,829	7,625	43,583
10-Year Change	-2,237	-1,803	-1,128	-2,562	-2,164	-9,694
Employment						
2011	20,277	8,084	3,342	7,415	8,747	47,866
2021	19,285	6,673	2,403	5,381	7,153	41,099
10-Year Change	-992	-1,411	-939	-2,034	-1,594	-6,767
Inactive in the Labor Force*						
2011	6,522	1,328	2,660	3,246	7,458	21,213
2021	6,105	2,254	2,620	2,363	6,023	19,164
10-Year Change	-417	926	-40	-883	-1,435	-2,049

Between 2012 and 2022, the population in the Eastern LWDA has declined 16,005 with all 5 counties reporting population declines. The greatest losses were in St. Francis (-5,541) and Phillips (-5,432) counties. In addition to a general population decrease, every county in the LWDA has also seen a loss in the population aged 20-64 and a decline in the number of employed. All but one county showed a smaller Inactive in the Labor Force* population, which is consistent with the population decline.

*Inactive in the Labor Force is not a calculation produced or endorsed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This number was calculated in-house by Arkansas' Labor Market Information staff using a combination of Civilian Labor Force statistics and Population by Age data collected by the US Census Bureau. Inactive in the Labor Force was calculated by subtracting the Civilian Labor Force from the Population Aged 20-64. While it provides an estimate of how many residents are Inactive in the Labor Force, it does include some double counting of residents in the Civilian Labor Force that are aged 16-19 and over the age of 65. This number is intended as a guide for determining what portion of a county's population is Inactive in the Labor Force and should not be published or treated as an official estimate.

**Employment Status of Residents Aged 20-64
Annual Average 2021**



The chart above shows the number of residents In the Civilian Labor force vs the residents that are Inactive in the Labor Force*. The percentage of Inactive* residents ranges from 23% in Crittenden County to as much as 51% in Lee County (2nd highest in the State). Note that 23% of Crittenden County residents is roughly 6,105 individuals while 51% of Lee County residents is only 2,620 individuals, based on differences in population levels. **Lee and St. Francis counties are both home to prison facilities, which brings up the rate of Inactive* residents.**

**Top 5 Industries by County
4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment**

	Rank	Industry	Jobs	# of Establishments	Average Weekly Wages
Crittenden	1	Food Services	1,759	72	\$ 455
	2	Education	1,336	10	\$ 981
	3	Truck Transport	1,195	55	\$ 1,532
	4	Transport Equip MFG	ND	ND	\$ 1,279
	5	Gambling/Recreation	ND	ND	\$ 788
Cross	1	Education	ND	ND	\$ 908
	2	Food Services	412	27	\$ 375
	3	Ambulatory Health Care	345	30	\$ 1,174
	4	Social Assistance	312	44	\$ 440
	5	General Merch Retailer	ND	ND	\$ 520
Lee	1	Government (Safety)	ND	ND	\$ 931
	2	Education	ND	ND	\$ 950
	3	Ambulatory Health Care	160	13	\$ 1,281
	4	Crop Production	119	29	\$ 665
	5	Agri Support	ND	ND	\$ 1,534

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies

**Top 5 Industries by County (continued)
4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment**

	Rank	Industry	Jobs	# of Establishments	Average Weekly Wages
Phillips	1	Education	806	9	\$ 948
	2	Social Assistance	334	185	\$ 584
	3	Food Services	310	23	\$ 411
	4	General Merch Retail	ND	ND	\$ 530
	5	Chemical MFG	238	5	\$ 1,107
St. Francis	1	Government (Safety)	718	6	\$ 1,781
	2	Education	582	4	\$ 1,045
	3	Food MFG	ND	ND	\$ 974
	4	Social Assistance	546	128	\$ 781
	5	Food Services	417	29	\$ 343

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies

The chart above shows the largest employing industries in 4 of the 5 LWDA counties are Education and Government (Safety), which are government funded industries (except for private schools). Social Assistance and Food Services, both low paying industries, also have a notable presence in most of the counties. Manufacturing and Professional Services, the higher paying industries, have a much smaller presence in the Eastern LWDA.

**Top 5 Declining and Growing Industries by County
4th Quarter 2021 - 4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment**

	Rank	Industries with Largest Declines	Jobs Lost	Percent Change	Rank	Industries with Largest Gains	Jobs Gained	Percent Change
Crittenden	1	Arts and Spectator Sports	-504	-90%	1	Gambling/Recreation	ND	1107%
	2	Warehouse and Storage	-264	-52%	2	Food Services	373	27%
	3	Administrative Support	-122	-22%	3	Transport Equip MFG	ND	43%
	4	Education	-48	-4%	4	Truck Transport	172	17%
	5	Government (General)	-33	-10%	5	Government (Safety)	129	57%
Cross	1	Government (General)	-31	-24%	1	Hospitals	ND	18%
	2	Ambulatory Health Care	-31	-8%	2			
	3	Social Assistance	-24	-7%	3			
	4	Leather Product MFG	ND	-17%	4			
	5	Wholesalers- Durable	-21	-21%	5			
Lee	1	No Declines > 20			1	Real Estate	43	205%
	2				2	Social Assistance	25	36%
	3				3	Food Services	21	35%
	4				4			
	5				5			

Red = Declining Industry is a Top 5 Industry in the County Blue = Growing Industry is a Top 5 Industry in the County

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies

Top 5 Declining and Growing Industries by County (continued)
4th Quarter 2021 - 4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment

	Rank	Industries with Largest Declines	Jobs Lost	Percent Change	Rank	Industries with Largest Gains	Jobs Gained	Percent Change
Phillips	1	Education	-90	-10%	1	Social Assistance	69	26%
	2	Administrative Support	-55	-34%	2	Wholesale- Nondurable	35	21%
	3	Ambulatory Health Care	-45	-16%	3	Government (General)	32	25%
	4				4	Repair & Maintenance	22	275%
	5				5			
St. Francis	1	Food Services	-58	-12%	1	Wholesale- Nondurable	72	27%
	2	Government (Safety)	-25	-3%	2	Food MFG	ND	13%
	3	Couriers	ND	-23%	3	Social Assistance	60	12%
	4	Nursing Care Facilities	-20	-7%	4	Wholesale- Durable	48	38%
	5				5	Government (General)	34	29%

Red = Declining Industry is a Top 5 Industry in the County Blue = Growing Industry is a Top 5 Industry in the County

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies



North Central Local Workforce Development Area

Cleburne, Fulton, Independence, Izzard, Jackson, Sharp,
Stone, Van Buren, White, and Woodruff

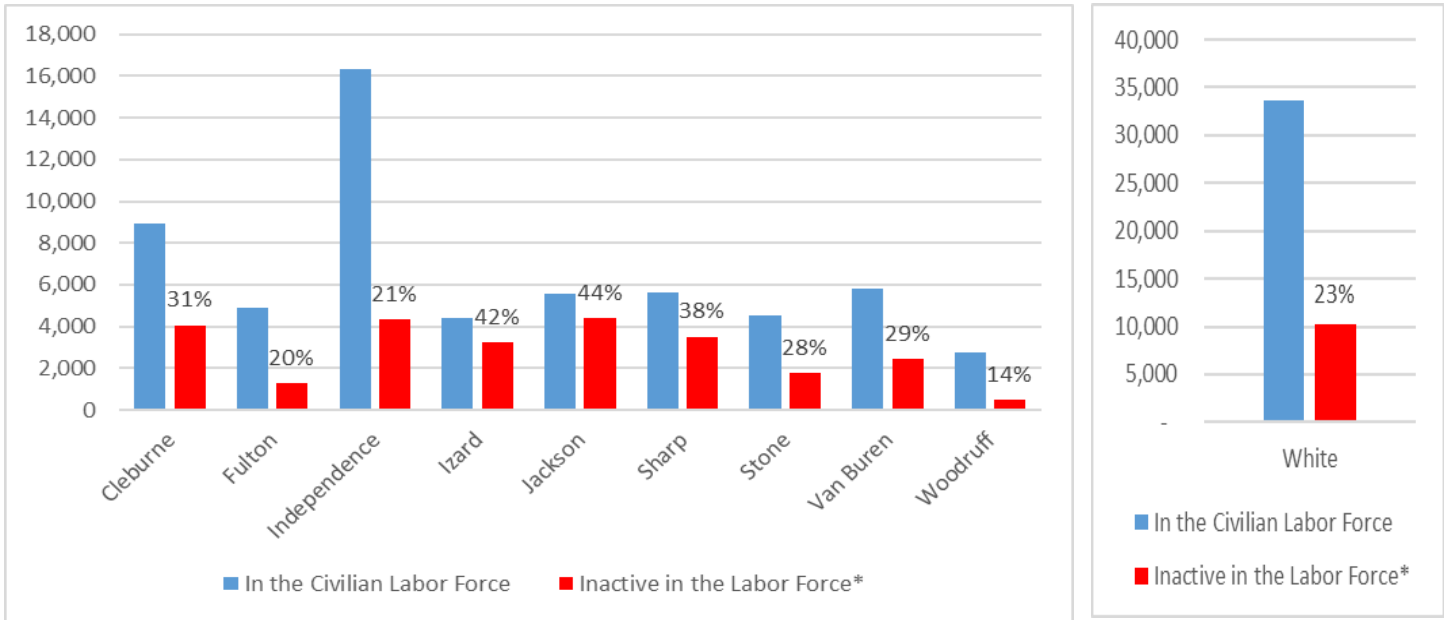
Population and Labor Force Composition North Central LWDA Counties

	Cleburne	Fulton	Independ	Izzard	Jackson	Sharp	Stone	Van Buren	White	Woodruff	LWDA
Population											
2012	25,763	12,169	36,953	13,541	17,680	17,034	12,542	17,162	78,641	7,052	238,537
2022	25,284	12,382	37,945	14,048	16,624	17,810	12,575	16,102	77,755	6,049	236,574
10-Year Change	-479	213	992	507	-1,056	776	33	-1,060	-886	-1,003	-1,963
Population Aged 20-64											
2011	14,046	6,672	21,262	7,507	10,954	9,101	6,807	9,405	45,540	4,080	135,374
2021	13,011	6,171	20,712	7,649	9,972	9,141	6,287	8,233	43,849	3,209	128,234
10-Year Change	-1,035	-501	-550	142	-982	40	-520	-1,172	-1,691	-871	-7,140
Civilian Labor Force											
2011	10,531	5,105	16,639	5,203	6,674	6,259	5,372	6,735	36,645	3,540	102,703
2021	8,948	4,911	16,356	4,412	5,571	5,634	4,514	5,816	33,654	2,751	92,567
10-Year Change	-1,583	-194	-283	-791	-1,103	-625	-858	-919	-2,991	-789	-10,136
Employment											
2011	9,609	4,727	15,154	4,710	5,931	5,617	4,916	6,021	33,620	3,170	93,475
2021	8,527	4,728	15,712	4,171	5,273	5,353	4,283	5,530	32,280	2,611	88,468
10-Year Change	-1,082	1	558	-539	-658	-264	-633	-491	-1,340	-559	-5,007
Inactive in the Labor Force*											
2011	3,515	1,567	4,623	2,304	4,280	2,842	1,435	2,670	8,895	540	32,671
2021	4,063	1,260	4,356	3,237	4,401	3,507	1,773	2,417	10,195	458	35,667
10-Year Change	548	-307	-267	933	121	665	338	-253	1,300	-82	2,996

Between 2012 and 2022, the population in the North Central LWDA decreased by 1,963. The greatest population losses were Van Buren (-1,060), Jackson (-1,056), and Woodruff (-1,003) counties. Five counties saw small increases in population, with Independence County adding 992 residents. Only Izzard and Sharp counties had a population increase in the number of working aged adults, but also had a gain in the number of those aged 20-64 that are Inactive in the Labor Force*. Five counties in the LWDA show an increase in the number of working aged adults that are Inactive in the Labor Force*.

*Inactive in the Labor Force is not a calculation produced or endorsed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This number was calculated in-house by Arkansas' Labor Market Information staff using a combination of Civilian Labor Force statistics and Population by Age data collected by the US Census Bureau. Inactive in the Labor Force was calculated by subtracting the Civilian Labor Force from the Population Aged 20-64. While it provides an estimate of how many residents are Inactive in the Labor Force, it does include some double counting of residents in the Civilian Labor Force that are aged 16-19 and over the age of 65. This number is intended as a guide for determining what portion of a county's population in Inactive in the Labor Force and should not be published or treated as an official estimate.

**Employment Status of Residents Aged 20-64
Annual Average 2021**



The chart above shows the number of residents In the Civilian Labor force vs the residents that are Inactive in the Labor Force*. The percentage of Inactive* residents ranged from 14% in Woodruff County to as much as 44% in Jackson County. Please note that 23% of White County residents is roughly 10,195 individuals while the 44% of Jackson County residents is only 4,01 individuals, based on differences in population levels.

**Top 5 Industries by County
4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment**

	Industry	Jobs	# of Establishments	Average Weekly Wages
Cleburne	Transport Equip MFG	732	5	\$ 1,012
	Food Services	623	55	\$ 380
	Education	589	8	\$ 895
	Misc. MFG	314	6	\$ 862
	General Merch Retailer	314	5	\$ 520
Fulton	Education	306	4	\$ 801
	Heavy/Civil Construct	ND	ND	\$ 1,241
	Social Assistance	206	22	\$ 639
	Nursing Care Facilities	187	3	\$ 770
	Hospitals	ND	ND	\$ 635
Independence	Administrative Support	1,415	37	\$ 711
	Education	1,324	11	\$ 846
	Hospitals	ND	ND	\$ 1,240
	Food MFG	1,210	3	\$ 1,015
	Food Services	1,103	67	\$ 387

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies

Top 5 Industries by County (continued)
4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment

	Industry	Jobs	# of Establishments	Average Weekly Wages
Izard	Education	528	5	\$ 889
	Ambulatory Health Care	239	18	\$ 790
	Government (Safety)	ND	ND	\$ 1,016
	Nursing Care Facilities	191	4	\$ 780
	Government (General)	147	8	\$ 568
Jackson	Government (Safety)	ND	ND	\$ 963
	Education	479	4	\$ 910
	Food MFG	ND	ND	\$ 1,023
	Primary Metal MFG	ND	ND	\$ 1,550
	Food Services	275	18	\$ 346
Sharp	Education	538	4	\$ 913
	Ambulatory Health Care	466	31	\$ 1,221
	Food Services	365	28	\$ 368
	General Merch Retail	ND	ND	\$ 535
	Social Assistance	245	32	\$ 512
Stone	Food Services	272	22	\$ 343
	Education	ND	ND	\$ 1,230
	General Merch Retail	ND	ND	\$ 528
	Accommodation	166	9	\$ 385
	Ambulatory Health Care	163	23	\$ 1,436
Van Buren	Nursing Home Care	452	3	\$ 746
	Education	408	4	\$ 1,027
	Pipeline Transport	ND	ND	\$ 534
	General Merch Retail	ND	ND	\$ 353
	Food Services	207	14	\$ 1,817
White	Education	3,286	27	\$ 915
	Food Services	2,512	125	\$ 379
	Ambulatory Health Care	1,760	133	\$ 1,454
	Hospitals	ND	ND	\$ 1,054
	Warehousing	ND	ND	\$ 802
Woodruff	Ambulatory Health Care	221	10	\$ 1,194
	Education	197	3	\$ 762
	Management of Companies	ND	ND	\$ 1,332
	Crop Production	168	23	\$ 1,139
	Primary Metal MFG	ND	ND	\$ 1,088

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies

The chart above shows the largest employing industries vary greatly among the 10 counties in the North Central LWDA, though 5 of the 10 counties have Education as the largest industry. Food Services and Nursing Care Facilities also have a notable presence in the LWDA but are both lower paying industries. Ambulatory Health Care appears in the Top 5 Industries in five counties and has relatively high wages for the area. Four counties have a sizable manufacturing presence.

**Top 5 Declining and Growing Industries by County
4th Quarter 2021 - 4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment**

	Rank	Industries with Largest Declines	Jobs Lost	Percent Change	Rank	Industries with Largest Gains	Jobs Gained	Percent Change
Cleburne	1	Oil/Gas Extraction	ND	-93%	1	Transport Equip MFG	49	7%
	2	Motor Vehicle Dealers	-30	-12%	2	Food Services	29	5%
	3	Heavy and Civil Construction	-27	-20%	3			
	4				4			
Fulton	1	Heavy and Civil Construction	ND	-19%	1	Nursing Care Facilities	22	13%
	2	Ambulatory Health Care	-27	-20%	2	Social Assistance	21	11%
	3	Education	-22	-7%	3			
	4				4			
Independence	1	Food Services	-95	-8%	1	Administrative Support	374	36%
	2	Ambulatory Health Care	-70	-6%	2	Personal & Laundry Services	133	91%
	3	Machinery MFG	ND	-3%	3	Transport Equip MFG	ND	25%
	4	Construction of Buildings	-21	-33%	4	Hospitals	ND	7%
	5	Nursing Care Facilities	-21	-6%	5	Social Assistance	54	8%
Izard	1	Food Services	-28	-21%	1	Ambulatory Health Care	32	15%
	2	Hospitals	-26	-26%	2	Data Processing/Hosting	22	88%
	3	Wood Product MFG	-25	-31%	3	Fabricated Metal MFG	22	43%
	4				4			
	5				5			
Jackson	1	Food Services	-28	-9%	1	No Gains > 20		
	2	Ambulatory Health Care	ND	-10%	2			
	3				3			
Sharp	1	Plastic/Rubber Parts MFG	ND	-29%	1	Machinery MFG	ND	92%
	2				2	Food Services	43	13%
	3				3	Ambulatory Health Care	32	7%
	4				4	Nursing Care Facilities	ND	12%
	5				5			
Stone	1	Food Services	-28	-9%	1	Wholesale- Durable	22	147%
	2				2			
Van Buren	1	No Declines > 20			1	Pipeline Transport	ND	17%
	2				2	Administrative Support	30	57%
	3				3			
White	1	Warehousing	ND	-10%	1	Transport Equip MFG	134	117%
	2	Motor Vehicle Dealers	-81	-14%	2	Professional/Tech Services	115	25%
	3	Food MFG	-40	-5%	3	Food Services	102	4%
	4	Waste Management	-40	-37%	4	Wholesale- Durable	82	26%
	5	Specialty Trade Construct	-34	-6%	5	Truck Transport	72	10%
Woodruff	1	No Declines > 20			1	Heavy/Civil Construction	ND	450%
	2				2			
	3				3			

Red = Declining Industry is a Top 5 Industry in the County Blue = Growing Industry is a Top 5 Industry in the County

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies



Northeast Local Workforce Development Area

Clay, Craighead, Greene, Lawrence, Mississippi, Poinsett, and Randolph

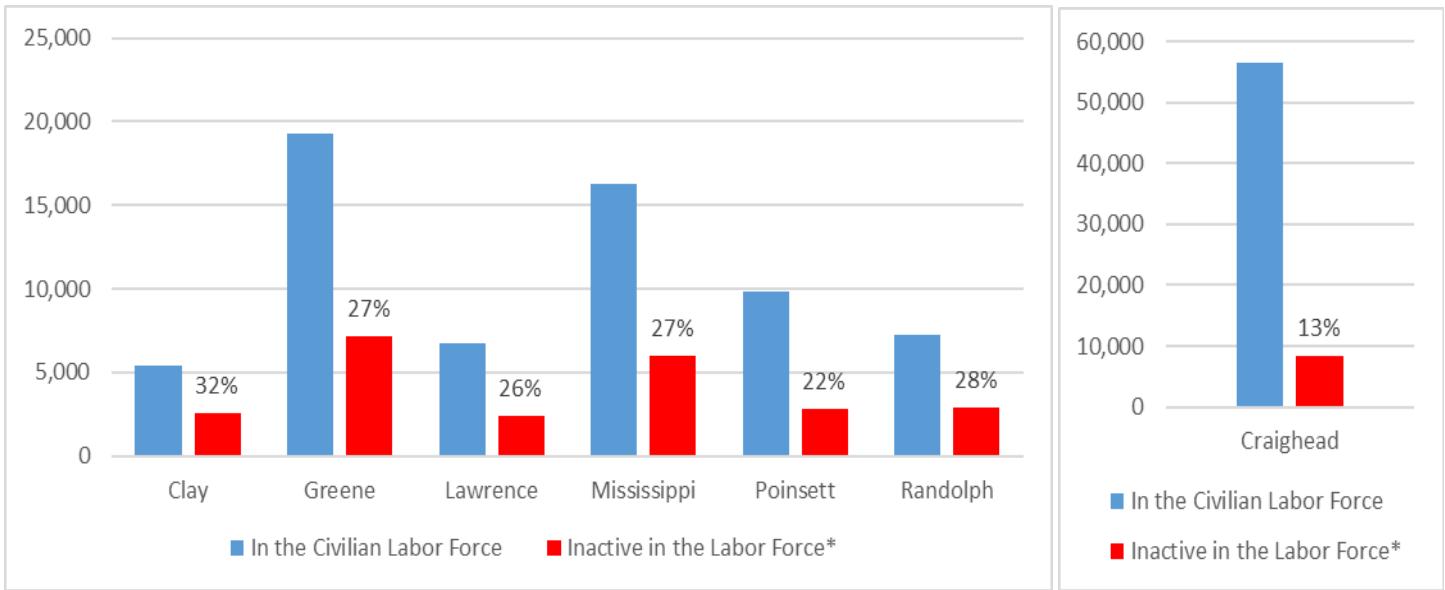
Population and Labor Force Composition Northeast LWDA Counties

	Clay	Craighead	Greene	Lawrence	Mississippi	Poinsett	Randolph	LWDA
Population								
2012	15,710	99,993	43,229	17,040	45,553	24,299	17,840	263,664
2022	14,265	113,017	46,448	16,205	38,896	22,495	18,837	270,163
10-Year Change	-1,445	13,024	3,219	-835	-6,657	-1,804	997	6,499
Population Aged 20-64								
2011	8,809	58,570	24,898	9,663	26,353	14,047	10,056	152,396
2021	7,910	64,696	26,481	9,060	22,191	12,612	10,148	153,098
10-Year Change	-899	6,126	1,583	-603	-4,162	-1,435	92	702
Civilian Labor Force								
2011	7,263	48,963	20,021	7,474	20,852	10,755	7,146	122,474
2021	5,389	56,455	19,309	6,709	16,233	9,801	7,270	121,166
10-Year Change	-1,874	7,492	-712	-765	-4,619	-954	124	-1,308
Employment								
2011	6,420	45,520	18,169	6,772	18,453	9,775	6,376	111,485
2021	5,172	54,602	18,631	6,419	15,080	9,418	6,977	116,299
10-Year Change	-1,248	9,082	462	-353	-3,373	-357	601	4,814
Inactive in the Labor Force*								
2011	1,546	9,607	4,877	2,189	5,501	3,292	2,910	29,922
2021	2,521	8,241	7,172	2,351	5,958	2,811	2,878	31,932
10-Year Change	975	-1,366	2,295	162	457	-481	-32	2,010

Between 2012 and 2022, the population in the Northeast LWDA has increased by 6,499. Craighead County reported the largest gain (+13,024), followed by Greene (+3,219) and Randolph (+997) counties. The largest population decline was in Mississippi County, down 6,657 residents. As a whole, the LWDA has fared well over the last decade. The 2021 Civilian Labor Force in most counties is comparable to 2011, except for Mississippi County (-4,691) and Craighead County (+7,492). Employment has followed a similar trend to the Civilian Labor Force. Four counties posted employment declines over the decade, with Mississippi County down by 3,373 employed residents. The number of working aged residents Inactive in the Labor Force* has remained fairly stable, with four counties noting an increase and 3 counties reporting a slight decrease.

*Inactive in the Labor Force is not a calculation produced or endorsed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This number was calculated in-house by Arkansas' Labor Market Information staff using a combination of Civilian Labor Force statistics and Population by Age data collected by the US Census Bureau. Inactive in the Labor Force was calculated by subtracting the Civilian Labor Force from the Population Aged 20-64. While it provides an estimate of how many residents are inactive in the Labor Force, it does include some double counting of residents in the Civilian Labor Force that are aged 16-19 and over the age of 65. This number is intended as a guide for determining what portion of a county's population is Inactive in the Labor Force and should not be published or treated as an official estimate.

**Employment Status of Residents Aged 20-64
Annual Average 2021**



The chart above shows the number of residents In the Civilian Labor force vs the residents that are Inactive in the Labor Force*. The percentage of Inactive* residents ranges from 13% in Craighead County to as much as 32% in Clay County. Please note that 13% of Craighead County residents is roughly 8,241 individuals while the 32% of Clay County residents is only 2,521 individuals, based on differences in population levels.

**Top 5 Industries by County
4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment**

	Industry	Jobs	# of Establishments	Average Weekly Wages
Clay	Education	352	4	\$ 897
	Hospitals	ND	ND	\$ 904
	Wholesale- Durable Goods	202	9	\$ 922
	Food Services	200	16	\$ 322
	Ambulatory Health Care	177	17	\$ 1,388
Craighead	Education	5,169	40	\$ 1,071
	Food Services	5,042	212	\$ 443
	Hospitals	4,736	5	\$ 1,409
	Ambulatory Health Care	3,603	250	\$ 1,893
	Food MFG	2,606	10	\$ 1,196
Greene	Transport Equipment MFG	2,629	4	\$ 1,128
	Education	1,333	11	\$ 851
	Food Services	1,187	71	\$ 414
	Plastic/Rubber Product MFG	ND	ND	\$ 1,062
	Ambulatory Health Care	770	74	\$ 1,079

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies

**Top 5 Industries by County (continued)
4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment**

	Industry	Jobs	# of Establishments	Average Weekly Wages
Lawrence	Education	646	7	\$ 939
	Food Services	361	28	\$ 340
	Government (General)	233	10	\$ 534
	Nursing Care Facilities	220	3	\$ 715
	Ambulatory Health Care	204	17	\$ 1,315
Mississippi	Primary Metal MFG	4,120	17	\$ 2,393
	Education	1,311	12	\$ 866
	Food Services	788	69	\$ 363
	Administrative Support	763	36	\$ 849
	Specialty Trade Contractors	637	34	\$ 1,635
Poinsett	Education	725	6	\$ 922
	Food Services	421	35	\$ 366
	Machinery MFG	ND	ND	\$ 2,141
	General Merch Retail	262	4	\$ 490
	Ambulatory Health Care	261	23	\$ 1,304
Randolph	Food MFG	ND	ND	\$ 1,072
	Education	557	4	\$ 891
	Social Assistance	421	24	\$ 599
	Food Services	405	26	\$ 344
	General Merch Retail	ND	ND	\$ 510

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies

The seven counties that comprise the Northeast LWDA are diverse in terms of top industries. Education is the leading industry in 4 counties. Manufacturing, with some of the higher paying jobs, is on the Top 5 Industry list in four of the seven LWDA counties. The highest paying Top 5 Industry jobs are in Manufacturing and Ambulatory Health Care, both of which have a strong presence in the LWDA. Unlike many of the small counties in other LWDA's, only one county in the Northeast has Government in the Top 5 Industries. Note that every county has Food Services in the Top 5 industries, one of the lowest paying industries.

**Top 5 Declining and Growing Industries by County
4th Quarter 2021 - 4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment**

	Rank	Industries with Largest Declines	Jobs Lost	Percent Change	Rank	Industries with Largest Gains	Jobs Gained	Percent Change
Clay	1	Crop Production	-34	-20%	1	Machinery MFG	ND	3300%
	2	Ambulatory Health Care	-22	-11%	2			
	3				3			
	4				4			
	5				5			

Red = Declining Industry is a Top 5 Industry in the County Blue = Growing Industry is a Top 5 Industry in the County

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies

Top 5 Declining and Growing Industries by County (continued)
4th Quarter 2021 - 4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment

	Rank	Industries with Largest Declines	Jobs Lost	Percent Change	Rank	Industries with Largest Gains	Jobs Gained	Percent Change
Craighead	1	Administrative Support	-560	-19%	1	Social Assistance	322	15%
	2	Wholesale- Nondurable	-92	-11%	2	Hospitals	305	7%
	3	Ambulatory Health Care	-54	-2%	3	Specialty Trade Contractors	163	10%
	4	Truck Transport	-45	-5%	4	Food Services	159	3%
	5	Plastic/Rubber Product MFG	-44	-21%	5	Machinery MFG	131	6%
Greene	1	Other Information	ND	-80%	1	Ambulatory Health Care	169	28%
	2	Machinery MFG	-60	-12%	2	Furniture MFG	ND	62%
	3	Food Services	-41	-3%	3	Transport Equip MFG	87	3%
	4	Nursing Care Facilities	-36	-9%	4	Education	43	3%
	5	Motor Vehicle Dealers	-33	-8%	5	Food & Beverage Stores	35	12%
Lawrence	1	No Declines > 20			1	Nonmetallic Mineral MFG	ND	733%
	2				2	Food Services	36	11%
	3				3	Nursing Care Facilities	35	19%
	4				4	Government (General)	31	15%
	5				5	Wholesale- Durable	20	25%
Mississippi	1	Printing	ND	-17%	1	Primary Metal MFG	312	8%
	2	Support for Transport	-70	-15%	2	Specialty Trade Contractors	157	33%
	3	Education	-52	-4%	3	Administrative Support	138	22%
	4				4	Waste Management	62	63%
	5				5	Wholesale- Nondurable	59	34%
Poinsett	1	Nursing Care Facilities	-55	-18%	1	Motor Vehicle Dealers	37	97%
	2	Machinery MFG	ND	-9%	2	Management of Companies	ND	18%
	3	Administrative Support	-28	-53%	3	Specialty Trade Contractors	21	36%
	4				4			
	5				5			
Randolph	1	Food MFG	ND	-9%	1	Administrative Support	147	96%
	2	Social Assistance	-57	-12%	2	Repair & Maintenance	99	319%
	3	Motor Vehicle Dealers	-35	-66%	3	Nursing Care Facilities	27	10%
	4	Food Services	-26	-6%	4	Hospitals	ND	13%
	5	Wholesale- Durable Goods	-22	-33%	5			

Red = Declining Industry is a Top 5 Industry in the County Blue = Growing Industry is a Top 5 Industry in the County

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies



Northwest Local Workforce Development Area

Baxter, Benton, Boone, Carroll, Madison, Marion, Newton, Searcy, and Washington

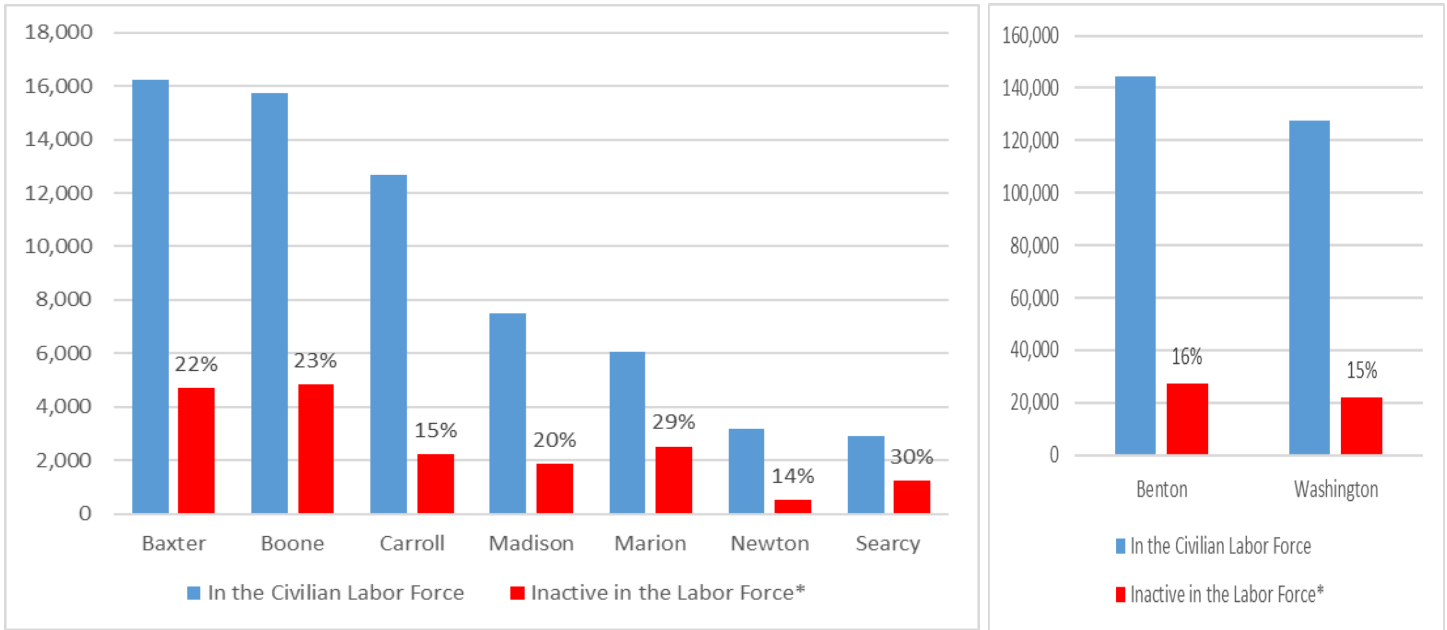
Population and Labor Force Composition Northwest LWDA Counties

	Baxter	Benton	Boone	Carroll	Madison	Marion	Newton	Searcy	Washington	LWDA
Population										
2012	41,080	234,938	37,333	27,623	15,597	16,621	8,052	8,005	211,756	601,005
2022	42,435	302,863	38,284	28,742	17,486	17,254	7,078	7,918	256,054	718,114
10-Year Change	1,355	67,925	951	1,119	1,889	633	-974	-87	44,298	117,109
Population Aged 20-64										
2011	21,420	132,194	20,939	15,427	9,074	9,336	4,649	4,517	126,037	343,593
2021	20,941	171,365	20,591	14,884	9,353	8,596	3,700	4,130	149,782	403,342
10-Year Change	-479	39,171	-348	-543	279	-740	-949	-387	23,745	59,749
Civilian Labor Force										
2011	16,523	109,127	16,613	12,852	7,213	6,721	3,785	3,318	104,405	280,557
2021	16,239	144,313	15,757	12,657	7,478	6,076	3,178	2,889	127,763	336,350
10-Year Change	-284	35,186	-856	-195	265	-645	-607	-429	23,358	55,793
Employment										
2011	15,057	102,361	15,354	11,968	6,748	6,118	3,515	3,028	98,139	262,288
2021	15,619	140,227	15,277	12,219	7,243	5,812	3,078	2,763	124,018	326,256
10-Year Change	562	37,866	-77	251	495	-306	-437	-265	25,879	63,968
Inactive in the Labor Force*										
2011	4,897	23,067	4,326	2,575	1,861	2,615	864	1,199	21,632	63,036
2021	4,702	27,052	4,834	2,227	1,875	2,520	522	1,241	22,019	66,992
10-Year Change	-195	3,985	508	-348	14	-95	-342	42	387	3,956

Between 2012 and 2022, the population in the Northwest LWDA has increased by 117,109. Benton (+67,925) and Washington (+44,298) saw the largest gains. Only two of the nine LWDA counties had population declines. Overall, the Northwest LWDA has seen an economic boom over the last decade. However, six of the smaller rural counties reported both working age population (20-64) and Civilian Labor Force declines. Regardless of population gains, five counties in the LWDA posted an increase in the number of residents Inactive in the Labor Force*, including both Benton and Washington counties.

*Inactive in the Labor Force is not a calculation produced or endorsed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This number was calculated in-house by Arkansas' Labor Market Information staff using a combination of Civilian Labor Force statistics and Population by Age data collected by the US Census Bureau. Inactive in the Labor Force was calculated by subtracting the Civilian Labor Force from the Population Aged 20-64. While it provides an estimate of how many residents are Inactive in the Labor Force, it does include some double counting of residents in the Civilian Labor Force that are aged 16-19 and over the age of 65. This number is intended as a guide for determining what portion of a county's population is Inactive in the Labor Force and should not be published or treated as an official estimate.

**Employment Status of Residents Aged 20-64
Annual Average 2021**



The chart above shows the number of residents In the Civilian Labor force vs the residents that are Inactive in the Labor Force*. The percentage of Inactive* residents ranged from 14% in Newton County to as much as 30% in Searcy County. Please note that 14% of Newton County residents is roughly 522 individuals while the 15% of Washington County residents is 22,019 individuals, based on differences in population levels.

**Top 5 Industries by County
4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment**

	Industry	Jobs	# of Establishments	Average Weekly Wages
Baxter	Hospitals	ND	ND	\$ 1,379
	Ambulatory Health Care	1,391	125	\$ 1,428
	Food Services	1,165	74	\$ 411
	Misc. MFG	ND	ND	\$ 991
	Education	990	12	\$ 869
Benton	Management of Companies	ND	ND	\$ 2,233
	Food Services	11,696	434	\$ 492
	Professional/Scientific/Tech	9,012	1115	\$ 1,864
	Education	8,399	114	\$ 1,026
	Truck Transport	ND	ND	\$ 1,469
Boone	Education	1,417	13	\$ 801
	Food Services	1,120	58	\$ 426
	Truck Transport	1,039	24	\$ 1,765
	Administrative Support	907	41	\$ 1,247
	Hospitals	ND	ND	\$ 1,257

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies

Top 5 Industries by County (continued)
4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment

	Industry	Jobs	# of Establishments	Average Weekly Wages
Carroll	Food MFG	ND	ND	\$ 855
	Food Services	803	76	\$ 394
	Education	682	7	\$ 1,067
	Accommodation	604	84	\$ 649
	General Merch Retail	ND	ND	\$ 526
Madison	Food MFG	ND	ND	\$ 1,075
	Education	ND	ND	\$ 868
	Transport Equip MFG	ND	ND	\$ 940
	General Merch Retail	ND	ND	\$ 487
	Food Services	172	10	\$ 327
Marion	Transport Equip MFG	942	3	\$ 915
	Education	347	3	\$ 832
	Plastic Product MFG	316	3	\$ 1,124
	General Merch Retail	ND	ND	\$ 520
	Food Services	160	16	\$ 364
Newton	Education	224	4	\$ 917
	Social Assistance	137	9	\$ 554
	Government (General)	ND	ND	\$ 697
	Accommodation	76	7	\$ 561
	Food Services	63	6	\$ 340
Searcy	Social Assistance	211	20	\$ 595
	Education	ND	ND	\$ 970
	Food Services	136	14	\$ 317
	Ambulatory Health Care	133	10	\$ 1,269
	Government (General)	ND	ND	\$ 436
Washington	Education	13,594	89	\$ 1,202
	Food Services	12,116	466	\$ 465
	Food MFG	7,941	38	\$ 1,067
	Ambulatory Health Care	6,733	505	\$ 1,575
	Hospitals	6,147	10	\$ 1,428

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies

The Northwest LWDA comprises Arkansas' fastest growing counties—Benton and Washington counties. While Benton County's largest industry is Management of Companies, Washington County's largest industry is Education. Aside from the very specific economies of the largest counties, 5 counties in the LWDA have Manufacturing in the Top 5 Industries. Food Manufacturing has a particularly large presence, though the industry tends to pay less than other manufacturing industries. Hospitals also have a large industry presence in the larger LWDA counties and have the highest paying wages of all the Top 5 Industries (excluding Management of Companies).

Like most rural counties in the State- Boone, Newton, and Searcy counties rely heavily on the Education and Food Services industries to employ residents. Note that every county has Food Services in the Top 5 industries, the lowest paying industry.

**Top 5 Declining and Growing Industries by County
4th Quarter 2021 - 4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment**

	Rank	Industries with Largest Declines	Jobs Lost	Percent Change	Rank	Industries with Largest Gains	Jobs Gained	Percent Change
Baxter	1	Miscellaneous MFG	ND	-10%	1	Hospitals	ND	7%
	2	Ambulatory Health Care	-43	-3%	2	Administrative Support	76	18%
	3	Agri and Forestry Support	ND	-78%	3	Insurance	68	26%
	4	Social Assistance	-35	-6%	4	Building Supply Stores	41	11%
	5	Nursing Care Facilities	-28	-6%	5	Truck Transport	36	157%
Benton	1	Warehousing	ND	-16%	1	Management of Companies	ND	14%
	2	Repair and Maintenance	-115	-10%	2	Hospitals	846	40%
	3	Wholesale- Nondurable	-112	-3%	3	Food Services	823	8%
	4	Insurance	-104	-11%	4	Specialty Trade Contractors	370	9%
	5	Professional/Tech Services	-55	-1%	5	Truck Transport	ND	5%
Boone	1	Primary Metal MFG	-181	-28%	1	Nursing Care Facilities	107	32%
	2	Telecommunications	-69	-34%	2	Social Assistance	56	9%
	3	Plastics/Rubber Product MFG	-41	-24%	3	Wood Product MFG	ND	20%
	4	Building Material Stores	-27	-10%	4	Ambulatory Health Care	42	7%
	5	Insurance	-20	-21%	5	Administrative Support	38	4%
Carroll	1	Ambulatory Health Care	-113	-30%	1	Food MFG	ND	3%
	2	Transport Equip MFG	ND	-25%	2	Repair & Maintenance	49	61%
	3	Hospitals	-58	-25%	3	Construction of Buildings	27	79%
	4	Accommodations	-29	-5%	4			
	5	Wholesale-Durable	-26	-27%	5			
Madison	1	Food MFG	ND	-12%	1	Specialty Trade Contractors	23	27%
	2	Heavy and Civil Construct	ND	-61%	2			
	3				3			
Marion	1	Specialty Trade Contractors	-39	-41%	1	Transport Equip MFG	42	5%
	2	Plastic/Rubber Product MFG	-30	-9%	2			
	3				3			
Newton	1	Nursing Care Facilities	ND	-32%	1	No Gains > 20		
	2	Ambulatory Health Care	-22	-55%	2			
	3				3			
Searcy	1	Social Assistance	-28	-12%	1	Government (General)	ND	677%
	2				2			
Washington	1	Food MFG	-100	-1%	1	Food Services	880	8%
	2	Wood Product MFG	-82	-13%	2	Hospitals	462	8%
	3	Arts & Sports	-82	-22%	3	Repair & Maintenance	261	26%
	4	Data Processing/Hosting	-40	-22%	4	Ambulatory Health Care	259	4%
	5	Postal Service	ND	-6%	5	Specialty Trade Contractors	239	5%

Red = Declining Industry is a Top 5 Industry in the County Blue = Growing Industry is a Top 5 Industry in the County

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies



Southeast Local Workforce Development Area

Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Cleveland, Desha, Drew, Grant, Jefferson, and Lincoln

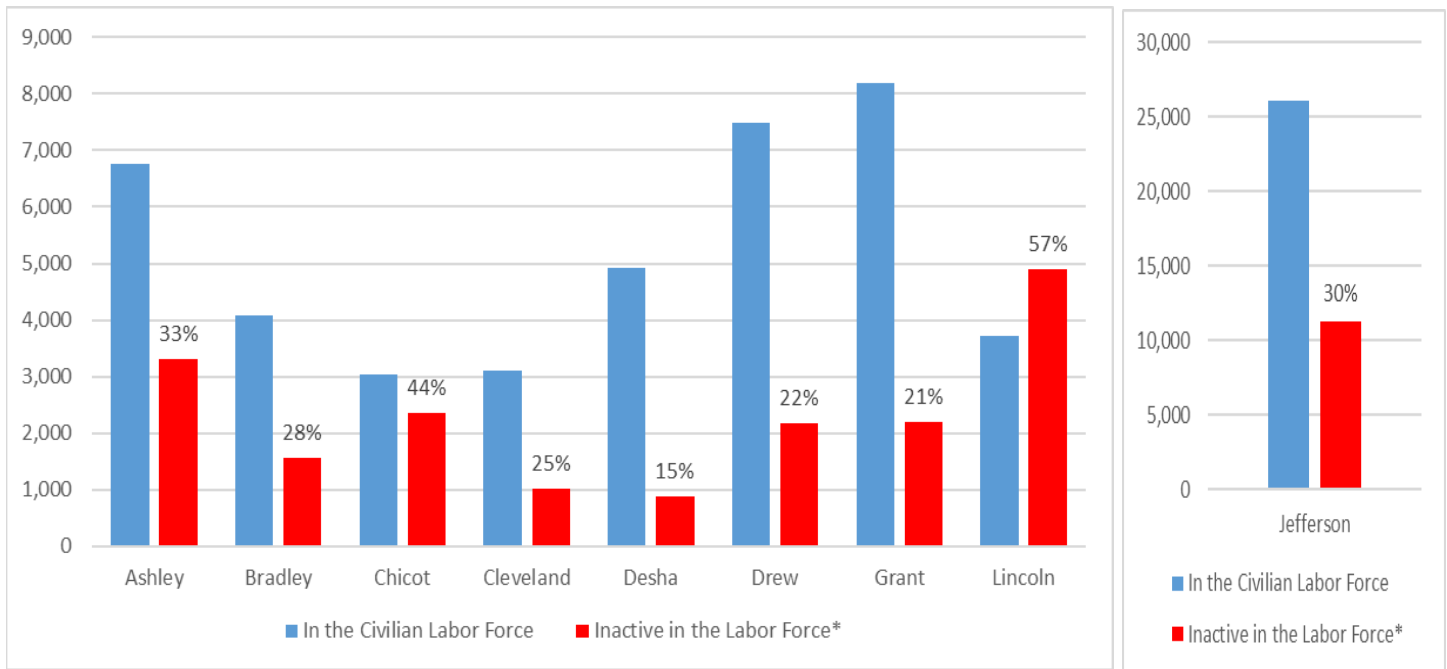
Population and Labor Force Composition Southeast LWDA Counties

	Arkansas	Ashley	Bradley	Chicot	Cleveland	Desha	Drew	Grant	Jefferson	Lincoln	LWDA
Population											
2012	18,964	21,515	11,266	11,498	8,609	12,590	18,788	18,038	74,634	14,180	210,082
2022	16,512	18,354	10,135	9,873	7,467	10,771	16,911	18,160	64,246	12,916	185,345
10-Year Change	-2,452	-3,161	-1,131	-1,625	-1,142	-1,819	-1,877	122	-10,388	-1,264	-24,737
Population Aged 20-64											
2011	10,952	12,322	6,538	6,570	4,920	7,133	10,819	10,573	45,272	9,534	124,633
2021	9,091	10,075	5,638	5,397	4,120	5,816	9,641	10,388	37,318	8,616	106,100
10-Year Change	-1,861	-2,247	-900	-1,173	-800	-1,317	-1,178	-185	-7,954	-918	-18,533
Civilian Labor Force											
2011	10,509	10,004	4,695	4,261	3,867	6,132	8,754	8,522	33,538	4,756	95,038
2021	9,351	6,769	4,072	3,039	3,106	4,928	7,475	8,196	26,081	3,725	76,742
10-Year Change	-1,158	-3,235	-623	-1,222	-761	-1,204	-1,279	-326	-7,457	-1,031	-18,296
Employment											
2011	9,286	8,953	4,153	3,726	3,551	5,481	7,800	7,922	29,954	4,331	85,157
2021	9,030	6,275	3,877	2,780	2,890	4,633	7,094	7,929	24,379	3,552	72,439
10-Year Change	-256	-2,678	-276	-946	-661	-848	-706	7	-5,575	-779	-12,718
Inactive in the Labor Force*											
	Data is										
2011	under	2,318	1,843	2,309	1,053	1,001	2,065	2,051	11,734	4,778	29,595
2021	review	3,306	1,566	2,358	1,014	888	2,166	2,192	11,237	4,891	29,358
10-Year Change		988	-277	49	-39	-113	101	141	-497	113	-237

Between 2012 and 2022, the population in the Southeast LWDA decreased by 24,737. The greatest losses were in Jefferson (-10,388), Ashley (-3,161), and Arkansas (-2,452) counties. Only Grant County had a population increase over the decade (+122). The population aged 20-64, the Civilian Labor Force, and Employment are all down in every county in the LWDA. Counties had varying changes in the number of residents Inactive in the Labor Force*, with changes ranging from a gain of 988 in Ashley County to a decline of 497 working aged adults in Jefferson County. **Please note that Lincoln County is home to two state prisons, which significantly brought up the rate of Inactive* residents.**

*Inactive in the Labor Force is not a calculation produced or endorsed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This number was calculated in-house by Arkansas' Labor Market Information staff using a combination of Civilian Labor Force statistics and Population by Age data collected by the US Census Bureau. Inactive in the Labor Force was calculated by subtracting the Civilian Labor Force from the Population Aged 20-64. While it provides an estimate of how many residents are Inactive in the Labor Force, it does include some double counting of residents in the Civilian Labor Force that are aged 16-19 and over the age of 65. This number is intended as a guide for determining what portion of a county's population in Inactive in the Labor Force and should not be published or treated as an official estimate.

**Employment Status of Residents Aged 20-64
Annual Average 2021**



The chart above shows the number of residents In the Civilian Labor force vs the residents that are Inactive in the Labor Force*. The percentage of Inactive* residents ranged from 15% in Desha County to as much as 57% in Lincoln County (largest in the State but houses populations from two state prisons). Please note that 57% of Lincoln County residents is roughly 4,891 individuals while 30% of Jefferson County residents is 11,237 individuals, based on differences in population levels.

**Top 5 Industries by County
4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment**

	Industry	Jobs	# of Establishments	Average Weekly Wages
Arkansas	Machinery MFG	ND	ND	\$ 1,176
	Food MFG	1,283	9	\$ 1,115
	Food Services	518	53	\$ 374
	Education	453	6	\$ 956
	Leather Product MFG	ND	ND	\$ 505
Ashley	Paper MFG	710	6	\$ 1,697
	Education	566	3	\$ 830
	Food Services	326	21	\$ 358
	Hospitals	ND	ND	\$ 1,524
	General Merch Retail	252	4	\$ 550
Bradley	Wood Product MFG	495	7	\$ 1,224
	Food MFG	ND	ND	\$ 1,584
	Nursing Care Facilities	354	3	\$ 679
	Education	ND	ND	\$ 751
	Hospitals	ND	ND	\$ 994

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies

Top 5 Industries by County (continued)
4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment

	Industry	Jobs	# of Establishments	Average Weekly Wages
Chicot	Warehousing	ND	ND	\$ 706
	Education	228	5	\$ 1,089
	Government (Safety)	ND	ND	\$ 941
	Hospitals	ND	ND	\$ 1,050
	Ambulatory Health Care	186	21	\$ 1,228
Cleveland	Education	ND	ND	\$ 812
	Nursing Care Facilities	ND	ND	\$ 721
	Wood Product MFG	121	3	\$ 1,166
	Forestry and Logging	84	9	\$ 1,139
	Ambulatory Health Care	ND	ND	\$ 1,102
Desha	Education	448	3	\$ 924
	Paper MFG	ND	ND	\$ 2,193
	Transport Equip MFG	ND	ND	\$ 1,090
	Social Assistance	281	94	\$ 503
	Food Services	275	27	\$ 375
Drew	Education	976	4	\$ 1,060
	Food Services	536	35	\$ 395
	Ambulatory Health Care	436	32	\$ 850
	Wood Product MFG	382	8	\$ 1,126
	Hospitals	ND	ND	\$ 1,053
Grant	Fabricated Metal MFG	ND	ND	\$ 1,167
	Education	ND	ND	\$ 1,006
	General Merch Retail	ND	ND	\$ 477
	Wood Product MFG	255	8	\$ 1,408
	Food Services	227	22	\$ 373
Jefferson	Education	2,822	15	\$ 1,125
	Government (Safety)	1,960	5	\$ 908
	Food MFG	ND	ND	\$ 1,116
	Food Services	1,594	84	\$ 405
	Hospitals	1,490	2	\$ 1,282
Lincoln	Government (Safety)	ND	ND	\$ 1,088
	Education	ND	ND	\$ 900
	Apparel MFG	ND	ND	\$ 1,028
	Nursing Care Facilities	148	4	\$ 753
	Food Services	123	13	\$ 323

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies

The charts above show the largest employing industries in 5 of the 10 LWDA counties are Education and Government (Safety), which are government funded industries (except for private schools). Manufacturing is the largest Industry in 4 counties—Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley, and Grant. Manufacturing has a large presence in the LWDA and is a relatively high paying industry. Seven counties have Food Services in the Top 5, one of the lowest paying industries.

**Top 5 Declining and Growing Industries by County
4th Quarter 2021 - 4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment**

	Rank	Industries with Largest Declines	Jobs Lost	Percent Change	Rank	Industries with Largest Gains	Jobs Gained	Percent Change
Arkansas	1	Food MFG	-156	-11%	1	Machinery MFG	ND	30%
	2	Couriers and Messengers	ND	-92%	2	Food & Beverage Stores	38	29%
	3	Administrative Support	-88	-38%	3	Accommodations	29	39%
	4	Leather Product MFG	ND	-9%	4	Social Assistance	27	9%
	5	Management of Companies	ND	-15%	5	Warehousing	26	17%
Ashley	1	Wood Product MFG	ND	-98%	1	Fabricated Metal MFG	52	54%
	2	Ambulatory Health Care	-37	-25%	2	Social Assistance	43	26%
	3	Forestry & Logging	-32	-15%	3	Food & Beverage Stores	37	29%
	4	Nursing Care Facilities	-32	-16%	4	Utilities	32	82%
	5	Truck Transport	-27	-15%	5			
Bradley	1	Agri/Forestry Support	-112	-76%	1	Social Assistance	39	52%
	2	Wood Product MFG	-58	-11%	2			
	3	Nursing Care Facilities	-23	-6%	3			
Chicot	1	Warehousing	ND	-10%	1	Government (General)	55	57%
	2	Real Estate	-38	-61%	2	Social Assistance	45	45%
	3				3	Nursing Care Facilities	29	20%
Cleveland	1	Credit Intermediation	ND	-83%	1	No Gains > 20		
	2				2			
Desha	1	Government- Economic Dev	ND	-73%	1	Transport Equip MFG	ND	63%
	2	Ambulatory Health Care	-26	-26%	2	Social Assistance	39	16%
	3	Food Services	-25	-8%	3	Wholesale- Nondurable	21	26%
Drew	1	Plastic/Rubber Product MFG	ND	-19%	1	Education	54	6%
	2	Crop Production	ND	-24%	2	Ambulatory Health Care	43	11%
	3	Forestry & Logging	-32	-18%	3	Building Supply Stores	27	27%
	4	Specialty Trade Contractors	-29	-20%	4	Social Assistance	23	10%
	5	Wood Product MFG	-22	-6%	5			
Grant	1	Fabricated Metal MFG	ND	-15%	1	No Gains > 20		
	2	Food Services	-47	-17%	2			
	3	Ambulatory Health Care	-32	-29%	3			
	4	Motor Vehicle Dealers	-24	-41%	4			
Jefferson	1	Amusement/Gambling/Rec	ND	-8%	1	Social Assistance	210	22%
	2	Administrative Support	-64	-4%	2	Education	138	5%
	3	Couriers	ND	-36%	3	Government (Safety)	112	6%
	4	Food MFG	ND	-3%	4	Professional/Tech Services	94	23%
	5	Transport Equip MFG	ND	-96%	5	Credit Intermediation	50	8%
Lincoln	1	No Declines > 20			1	Social Assistance	22	38%

Red = Declining Industry is a Top 5 Industry in the County Blue = Growing Industry is a Top 5 Industry in the County

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies



Southwest Local Workforce Development Area

Calhoun, Columbia, Dallas, Hempstead, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Nevada, Ouachita, Sevier, and Union

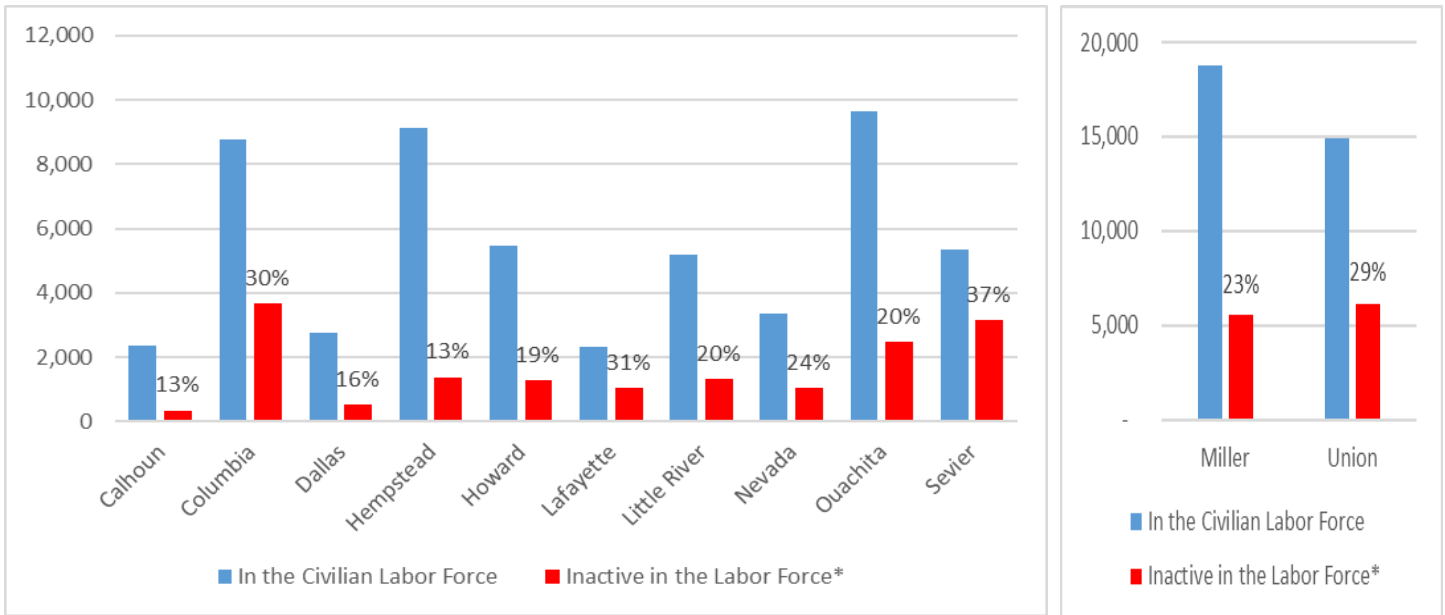
Population and Labor Force Composition Southwest LWDA Counties

	Calhoun	Columbia	Dallas	Hempstead	Howard	Lafayette	Little River	Miller	Nevada	Ouachita	Sevier	Union	LWDA
Population													
2012	5,278	24,413	7,952	22,344	13,675	7,450	12,916	43,663	8,909	25,398	17,188	40,861	230,047
2022	4,695	22,216	6,191	19,453	12,557	6,101	11,821	42,552	8,181	22,049	15,686	37,752	209,254
10-Year Change	-583	-2,197	-1,761	-2,891	-1,118	-1,349	-1,095	-1,111	-728	-3,349	-1,502	-3,109	-20,793
Population Aged 20-64													
2011	3,147	13,931	4,526	12,682	7,716	4,160	7,348	26,010	5,062	14,725	9,478	24,080	132,865
2021	2,722	12,441	3,274	10,505	6,745	3,367	6,520	24,295	4,390	12,122	8,491	21,094	115,966
10-Year Change	-425	-1,490	-1,252	-2,177	-971	-793	-828	-1,715	-672	-2,603	-987	-2,986	-16,899
Civilian Labor Force													
2011	2,642	10,386	3,409	11,003	6,746	3,017	6,114	20,723	4,172	11,090	6,402	16,952	102,656
2021	2,374	8,761	2,760	9,117	5,461	2,314	5,187	18,760	3,350	9,647	5,338	14,934	88,003
10-Year Change	-268	-1,625	-649	-1,886	-1,285	-703	-927	-1,963	-822	-1,443	-1,064	-2,018	-14,653
Employment													
2011	2,402	9,390	3,017	10,080	6,265	2,742	5,658	19,468	3,796	9,982	5,842	15,234	93,876
2021	2,293	8,288	2,645	8,790	5,278	2,179	4,948	17,834	3,211	9,261	5,097	14,024	83,848
10-Year Change	-109	-1,102	-372	-1,290	-987	-563	-710	-1,634	-585	-721	-745	-1,210	-10,028
Inactive in the Labor Force*													
2011	505	3,545	1,117	1,679	970	1,143	1,234	5,287	890	3,635	3,076	7,128	30,209
2021	348	3,680	514	1,388	1,284	1,053	1,333	5,535	1,040	2,475	3,153	6,160	27,963
10-Year Change	-157	135	-603	-291	314	-90	99	248	150	-1,160	77	-968	-2,246

Between 2012 and 2022, the population in the Southwest LWDA decreased by 20,793. All 12 counties posted population losses, with Ouachita (-3,349), Union (-3,109), and Hempstead (-2,891) seeing the largest declines. The population aged 20-64, the Civilian Labor Force, and Employment are all down in every county in the LWDA. Counties had varying changes in the number of residents Inactive in the Labor Force*, ranging from a gain of 314 in Howard County to a loss of 1,160 Inactive* working aged adults in Ouachita County.

*Inactive in the Labor Force is not a calculation produced or endorsed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This number was calculated in-house by Arkansas' Labor Market Information staff using a combination of Civilian Labor Force statistics and Population by Age data collected by the US Census Bureau. Inactive in the Labor Force was calculated by subtracting the Civilian Labor Force from the Population Aged 20-64. While it provides an estimate of how many residents are Inactive in the Labor Force, it does include some double counting of residents in the Civilian Labor Force that are aged 16-19 and over the age of 65. This number is intended as a guide for determining what portion of a county's population is Inactive in the Labor Force and should not be published or treated as an official estimate.

**Employment Status of Residents Aged 20-64
Annual Average 2021**



The chart above shows the number of residents In the Civilian Labor force vs the residents that are Inactive in the Labor Force*. The percentage of Inactive* residents ranged from 13% in Calhoun and Hempstead counties to 37% in Sevier County. Please note that 37% of Sevier County residents is roughly 3,153 individuals while 29% of Union County residents is 6,160 individuals, based on differences in population levels.

**Top 5 Industries by County
4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment**

	Industry	Jobs	# of Establishments	Average Weekly Wages
Calhoun	Fabricated Metal MFG	1,288	3	\$ 1,440
	Education	ND	ND	\$ 1,038
	Truck Transport	106	9	\$ 1,219
	Real Estate	ND	ND	\$ 1,207
	Government (General)	50	4	\$ 590
Columbia	Education	1,076	4	\$ 1,119
	Food Services	716	41	\$ 342
	Wood Product MFG	662	9	\$ 1,277
	Chemical MFG	ND	ND	\$ 2,388
	Social Assistance	340	90	\$ 527
Dallas	Nursing Care Facilities	ND	ND	\$ 992
	Wood Product MFG	282	5	\$ 1,236
	Education	184	4	\$ 1,175
	Social Assistance	137	30	\$ 280
	Paper MFG	ND	ND	\$ 662

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies

Top 5 Industries by County (continued)
4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment

	Industry	Jobs	# of Establishments	Average Weekly Wages
Hempstead	Food MFG	ND	ND	\$ 949
	Education	778	7	\$ 875
	Food Services	454	30	\$ 406
	Fabricated Metal MFG	ND	ND	\$ 1,887
	Ambulatory Health Care	338	26	\$ 897
Howard	Food MFG	ND	ND	\$ 879
	Machinery MFG	ND	ND	\$ 719
	Education	514	5	\$ 1,042
	Food Services	303	23	\$ 355
	General Merch Retail	ND	ND	\$ 472
Lafayette	Education	165	2	\$ 930
	Food Services	83	7	\$ 383
	Social Assistance	66	18	\$ 554
	Nursing Care Facilities	ND	ND	\$ 727
	Government (General)	66	6	\$ 585
Little River	Paper MFG	ND	ND	\$ 2,063
	Education	337	3	\$ 838
	Food Services	218	14	\$ 335
	General Merch Retail	ND	ND	\$ 512
	Nursing Care Facilities	ND	ND	\$ 764
Miller	Plastic/Rubber Product MFG	ND	ND	\$ 1,588
	Education	1,041	10	\$ 1,046
	Food Services	1,031	65	\$ 427
	Administrative Support	662	32	\$ 855
	Government (Safety)	513	7	\$ 991
Nevada	Plastic/Rubber Product MFG	ND	ND	\$ 1,428
	Education	ND	ND	\$ 867
	Gasoline Stations	210	7	\$ 674
	Nursing Care Facilities	164	4	\$ 708
	Truck Transport	135	12	\$ 1,105
Ouachita	Transport Equipment MFG	ND	ND	\$ 1,751
	Education	929	6	\$ 849
	Wood Product MFG	461	8	\$ 1,658
	Ambulatory Health Care	442	41	\$ 1,703
	Food Services	386	33	\$ 364
Sevier	Food MFG	ND	ND	\$ 955
	Education	883	4	\$ 872
	Ambulatory Health Care	326	31	\$ 988
	Food Services	316	21	\$ 291
	General Merch Retail	ND	ND	\$ 535
Union	Education	1,345	13	\$ 3,306
	Food Services	1,156	66	\$ 363
	Ambulatory Health Care	839	103	\$ 1,206
	Wood Product MFG	804	9	\$ 1,425
	Management of Companies	ND	ND	\$ 2,215

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies

The twelve counties that comprise the Southeast LWDA are similar in terms of top industries. Manufacturing, with some of the higher paying jobs, is on the Top Industry in 8 of the 12 LWDA counties. While Food Manufacturing, a lower paying industry than other manufacturing, has a large presence in the LWDA, there are also sizable Fabricated Metal Product, Plastic/Rubber Product Manufacturing, and Wood Product Manufacturing facilities. These durable goods manufacturing industries tend to pay more than non-durable goods manufacturing.

**Top 5 Declining and Growing Industries by County
4th Quarter 2021 - 4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment**

	Rank	Industries with Largest Declines	Jobs Lost	Percent Change	Rank	Industries with Largest Gains	Jobs Gained	Percent Change
Calhoun	1	Fabricated Metal MFG	-100	-7%	1	No Gains > 20		
	2	Specialty Trade Contractors	-69	-65%	2			
	3				3			
Columbia	1	Education	-48	-4%	1	Food Services	81	13%
	2				2	Social Assistance	73	27%
	3				3	Chemical MFG	ND	10%
	4				4	Primary Metal MFG	ND	15%
	5				5	Credit Intermediation	30	14%
Dallas	1	Wood Product MFG	-69	-20%	1	Nursing Care Facilities	ND	5%
	2	Administrative Support	ND	-100%	2	Government (General)	21	39%
	3	Food Services	-23	-17%	3			
	4				4			
	5				5			
Hempstead	1	Wood Product MFG	-60	-38%	1	Food MFG	ND	18%
	2	Motor Vehicle Dealers	-41	-38%	2	Administrative Support	ND	324%
	3	Wholesale-Durable	-32	-23%	3	Ambulatory Health Care	99	41%
	4				4	Animal Production	ND	25%
	5				5	Food Services	37	9%
Howard	1	Machinery MFG	ND	-28%	1	Food MFG	ND	3%
	2	Plastic/Rubber Product MFG	ND	-32%	2	Social Assistance	35	26%
	3				3	Specialty Trade Contractors	25	81%
	4				4	Repair & Maintenance	23	36%
	5				5			
Lafayette	1	Specialty Trade Contractors	-33	-49%	1	No Gains > 20		
	2				2			
Little River	1	No Declines > 20			1	Administrative Support	57	168%
	2				2			

Red = Declining Industry is a Top 5 Industry in the County Blue = Growing Industry is a Top 5 Industry in the County

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies

Top 5 Declining and Growing Industries by County (continued)
4th Quarter 2021 - 4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment

	Rank	Industries with Largest Declines	Jobs Lost	Percent Change	Rank	Industries with Largest Gains	Jobs Gained	Percent Change
Miller	1	Administrative Support	-309	-32%	1	Social Assistance	87	22%
	2	Food Services	-142	-12%	2	Data Processing/Hosting	ND	6400%
	3	Couriers	-60	-14%	3	Ambulatory Health Care	51	12%
	4	Accommodations	-36	-17%	4	Education	43	4%
	5	Nursing Care Facilities	-32	-8%	5	Amusement/Recreation	42	40%
Nevada	1	Nursing Care Facilities	-30	-16%	1	Plastic/Rubber Product MFG	ND	9%
	2				2			
	3				3			
Ouachita	1	Education	-26	-3%	1	Chemical MFG	ND	865%
	2	Nonmetallic Mineral MFG	ND	-47%	2	Fabricated Metal MFG	ND	128%
	3	Couriers	ND	-25%	3	Specialty Trade Contractors	63	39%
	4				4	Administrative Support	63	50%
	5				5	Social Assistance	56	23%
Sevier	1	Government (General)	-29	-13%	1	Ambulatory Health Care	79	32%
	2				2	Food MFG	ND	4%
	3				3	Education	51	6%
	4				4	Food Services	44	16%
	5				5			
Union	1	Specialty Trade Contractors	-121	-13%	1	Management of Companies	ND	20%
	2	Credit Intermediation	-114	-34%	2	Food Services	105	10%
	3	Repair & Maintenance	-91	-37%	3	Waste Management	82	13%
	4	Ambulatory Health Care	-61	-7%	4	Construction of Buildings	78	17%
	5	Administrative Support	-47	-13%	5	Fabricated Metal MFG	64	19%

Red = Declining Industry is a Top 5 Industry in the County Blue = Growing Industry is a Top 5 Industry in the County

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies



Western Local Workforce Development Area

Crawford, Franklin, Logan, Polk, Scott, and Sebastian

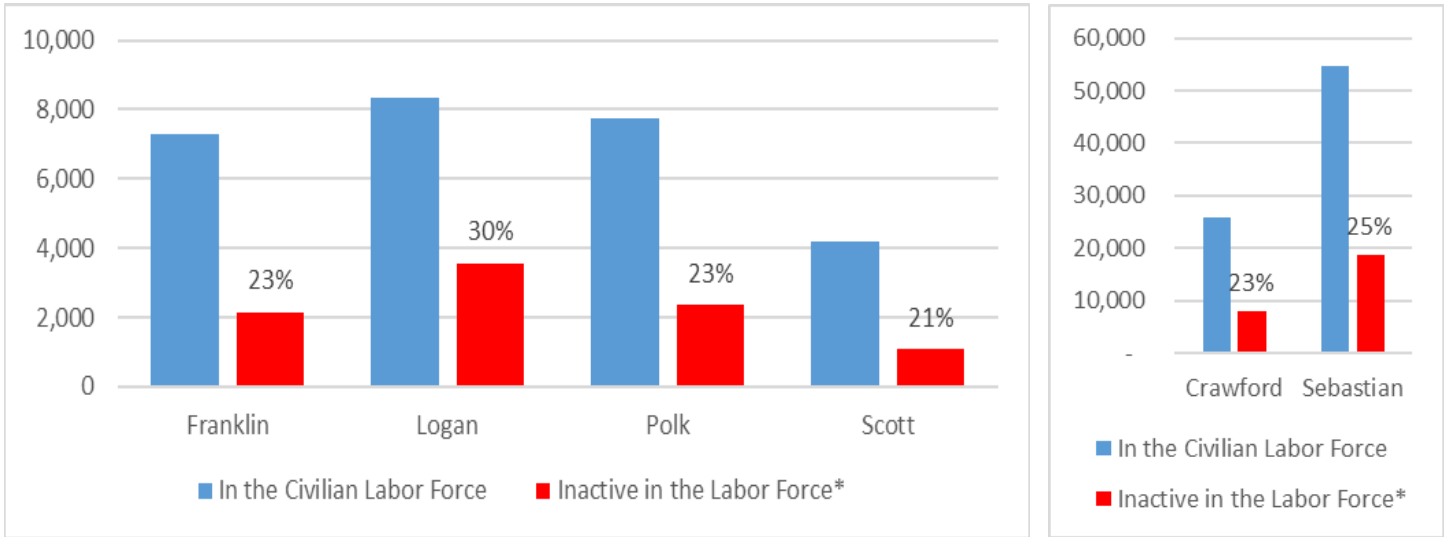
Population and Labor Force Composition Western LWDA Counties

	Crawford	Franklin	Logan	Polk	Scott	Sebastian	LWDA
Population							
2012	61,911	17,959	21,928	20,420	11,033	127,571	260,822
2022	61,075	17,271	21,253	19,337	9,805	129,059	257,800
10-Year Change	-836	-688	-675	-1,083	-1,228	1,488	-16,005
Population (20-64)							
2011	35,848	10,163	12,450	11,211	6,175	74,964	150,811
2021	33,823	9,432	11,904	10,090	5,271	73,188	143,708
10-Year Change	-2,025	-731	-546	-1,121	-904	-1,776	-7,103
Civilian Labor Force							
2011	27,874	7,769	9,616	8,929	4,855	59,300	53,277
2021	25,890	7,273	8,337	7,722	4,173	54,536	43,583
10-Year Change	-1,984	-496	-1,279	-1,207	-682	-4,764	-9,694
Employment							
2011	25,519	7,201	8,809	8,246	4,529	54,399	47,866
2021	24,948	6,999	7,981	7,372	4,030	52,482	41,099
10-Year Change	-571	-202	-828	-874	-499	-1,917	-6,767
Inactive in the Labor Force*							
2011	7,974	2,394	2,834	2,282	1,320	15,664	32,468
2021	7,933	2,159	3,567	2,368	1,098	18,652	35,777
10-Year Change	-41	-235	733	86	-222	2,988	3,309

Between 2012 and 2022, the population in the Western LWDA decreased by 16,005. Five of the six LWDA counties posted small population declines of less than 1,300 residents. Only Sebastian County saw a population increase over the decade, up 1,488 residents. The population aged 20-64, the Civilian Labor Force, and Employment are all down in every county in the LWDA. Counties had varying changes in the number of residents Inactive in the Labor Force*, with changes ranging from a gain of 2,988 in Sebastian County to a decline of 235 Inactive* working aged adults in Franklin County.

*Inactive in the Labor Force is not a calculation produced or endorsed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This number was calculated in-house by Arkansas' Labor Market Information staff using a combination of Civilian Labor Force statistics and Population by Age data collected by the US Census Bureau. Inactive in the Labor Force was calculated by subtracting the Civilian Labor Force from the Population Aged 20-64. While it provides an estimate of how many residents are Inactive in the Labor Force, it does include some double counting of residents in the Civilian Labor Force that are aged 16-19 and over the age of 65. This number is intended as a guide for determining what portion of a county's population is Inactive in the Labor Force and should not be published or treated as an official estimate.

**Employment Status of Residents Aged 20-64
Annual Average 2021**



The chart above shows the number of residents In the Civilian Labor force vs the residents that are Inactive in the Labor Force*. The percentage of Inactive* residents ranged from 21% in Scott County to 30% in Logan County. Please note that 30% of Logan County residents is roughly 3,567 individuals while 25% of Sebastian County residents is 18,652 individuals, based on differences in population levels.

**Top 5 Industries by County
4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment**

	Rank	Industry	Jobs	# of Establishments	Average Weekly Wages
Crawford	1	Food MFG	3,618	15	\$ 1,133
	2	Truck Transport	ND	ND	\$ 1,354
	3	Education	1,648	11	\$ 991
	4	Food Services	1,465	63	\$ 388
	5	General Merch Retail	ND	ND	\$ 536
Franklin	1	Education	650	10	\$ 964
	2	Food MFG	ND	ND	\$ 966
	3	Administrative Support	ND	ND	\$ 875
	4	Food Services	334	26	\$ 364
	5	Electrical Equip MFG	ND	ND	\$ 1,172
Logan	1	Education	549	4	\$ 938
	2	Nursing Care Facilities	495	5	\$ 756
	3	Transport Equip MFG	ND	ND	\$ 905
	4	Paper MFG	ND	ND	\$ 736
	5	General Merch Retail	ND	ND	\$ 525
Polk	1	Education	653	4	\$ 798
	2	Food Services	461	31	\$ 346
	3	Food MFG	ND	ND	\$ 872
	4	Ambulatory Health Care	415	36	\$ 970
	5	Electrical Equip MFG	ND	ND	\$ 1,013

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies

**Top 5 Industries by County (continued)
4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment**

	Rank	Industry	Jobs	# of Establishments	Average Weekly Wages
Scott	1	Food MFG	ND	ND	\$ 745
	2	Education	400	3	\$ 781
	3	Administrative Support	171	6	\$ 852
	4	Wood Product MFG	164	4	\$ 626
	5	Food Services	163	11	\$ 288
Sebastian	1	Food Services	5,434	239	\$ 432
	2	Education	4,532	43	\$ 1,012
	3	Administrative Support	4,489	179	\$ 735
	4	Ambulatory Health Care	4,155	310	\$ 1,874
	5	Hospitals	3,628	7	\$ 1,328

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies

The chart above shows the largest employing industries in 3 of the 6 Western LWDA counties is Education, a mid-level wage industry which is government funded (except for private schools). Five counties also have a notable manufacturing presence, as well as Administrative Support. Both are relatively high paying industries. Food Services is a Top 5 Industry in all by one county and is the largest employing industry in Sebastian County.

**Top 5 Declining and Growing Industries by County
4th Quarter 2021 - 4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment**

	Rank	Industries with Largest Declines	Jobs Lost	Percent Change	Rank	Industries with Largest Gains	Jobs Gained	Percent Change
Crawford	1	Administrative Support	-522	-56%	1	Food MFG	219	6%
	2	Truck Transport	ND	-9%	2	Specialty Trade Contractors	76	13%
	3	Couriers	-50	-33%	3	Construction of Buildings	54	47%
	4	Food and Beverage Stores	ND	-14%	4	Professional/Tech Services	49	14%
	5	Misc. MFG	ND	-22%	5	Fabricated Metal MFG	45	7%
Franklin	1	Food MFG	ND	-12%	1	Administrative Support	ND	34%
	2	Professional/Tech Services	-45	-37%	2	Food & Beverage Stores	ND	29%
	3				3			
	4				4			
	5				5			
Logan	1	Fabricated Metal MFG	ND	-15%	1	Transport Equip MFG	ND	15%
	2	Ambulatory Health Care	-20	-10%	2	Social Assistance	27	22%
	3				3	Food & Beverage Stores	ND	33%
	4				4			
	5				5			

Red = Declining Industry is a Top 5 Industry in the County Blue = Growing Industry is a Top 5 Industry in the County

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies

Top 5 Declining and Growing Industries by County (continued)
4th Quarter 2021 - 4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment

	Rank	Industries with Largest Declines	Jobs Lost	Percent Change	Rank	Industries with Largest Gains	Jobs Gained	Percent Change
Polk	1	Support for Transport	-45	-28%	1	Electrical Equip MFG	ND	11%
	2	Ambulatory Health Care	-39	-8%	2	Repair & Maintenance	31	70%
	3				3	Transport Equip MFG	28	21%
	4				4	Social Assistance	20	13%
	5				5			
Scott	1				1	Ambulatory Health Care	62	82%
	2				2	Administrative Support	ND	38%
	3				3	Wood Product MFG	ND	29%
	4				4			
	5				5			
Sebastian	1	Nursing Care Facilities	-484	-26%	1	Hospitals	492	16%
	2	Food MFG	-225	-7%	2	Food Services	203	4%
	3	Administrative Support	-92	-2%	3	Food & Beverage Stores	184	22%
	4	Ambulatory Health Care	-81	-2%	4	Utilities	166	29%
	5	Support for Mining	-66	-64%	5	Wholesale- Nondurable	134	25%

Red = Declining Industry is a Top 5 Industry in the County Blue = Growing Industry is a Top 5 Industry in the County

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies



West Central Local Workforce Development Area

Clark, Conway, Garland, Hot Spring, Johnson, Montgomery, Perry,
Pike, Pope, and Yell

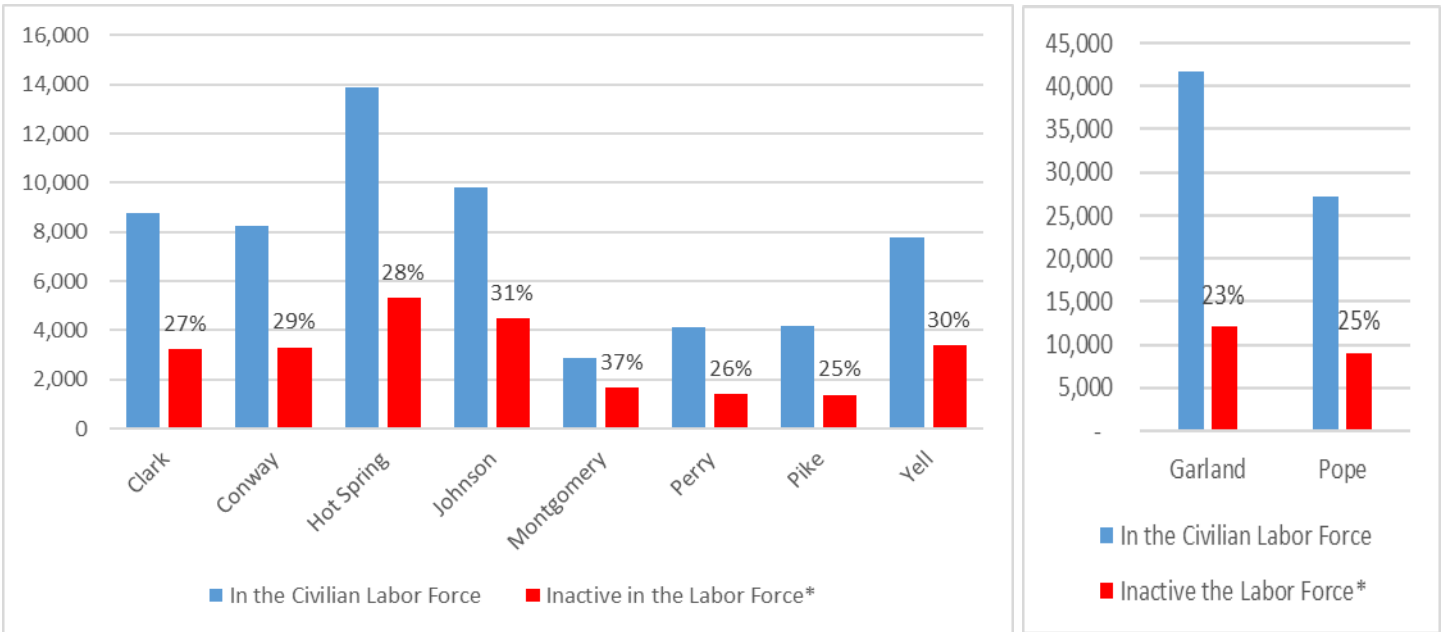
Population and Labor Force Composition West Central LWDA Counties

	Clark	Conway	Garland	Hot Spring	Johnson	Montgomery	Perry	Pike	Pope	Yell	LWDA
Population											
2012	22,755	21,141	96,986	33,507	25,914	9,340	10,328	11,254	62,631	21,824	315,680
2022	21,250	21,046	100,089	33,203	26,001	8,556	10,063	10,179	64,065	20,129	314,581
10-Year Change	-1,505	-95	3,103	-304	87	-784	-265	-1,075	1,434	-1,695	-1,099
Population Aged 20-64											
2011	13,436	12,019	54,196	19,486	14,778	5,150	5,973	6,266	37,043	12,342	180,689
2021	11,995	11,577	53,791	19,182	14,266	4,574	5,531	5,584	36,234	11,189	173,923
10-Year Change	-1,441	-442	-405	-304	-512	-576	-442	-682	-809	-1,153	-6,766
Civilian Labor Force											
2011	10,411	8,995	41,566	14,581	11,107	3,832	4,495	4,691	30,519	9,604	139,801
2021	8,768	8,262	41,667	13,854	9,798	2,885	4,115	4,199	27,139	7,796	128,483
10-Year Change	-1,643	-733	101	-727	-1,309	-947	-380	-492	-3,380	-1,808	-11,318
Employment											
2011	9,392	8,146	38,097	13,434	10,274	3,493	4,095	4,248	28,246	8,921	128,346
2021	8,347	7,913	39,624	13,311	9,329	2,742	3,944	4,012	26,036	7,478	122,736
10-Year Change	-1,045	-233	1,527	-123	-945	-751	-151	-236	-2,210	-1,443	-5,610
Inactive in the Labor Force*											
2011	3,025	3,024	12,630	4,905	3,671	1,318	1,478	1,575	6,524	2,738	40,888
2021	3,227	3,315	12,124	5,328	4,468	1,689	1,416	1,385	9,095	3,393	45,440
10-Year Change	202	291	-506	423	797	371	-62	-190	2,571	655	4,552

Between 2012 and 2022, the population in the West Central LWDA decreased by 1,099. Seven of the ten LWDA counties posted population declines, all less than 1,700 residents each. Three counties saw population increases, with Garland County adding 3,103 residents. The population aged 20-64, the Civilian Labor Force, and Employment are down in all the LWDA counties. Employment in Garland County was up 1,527 over the decade. Counties had varying changes in the number of residents Inactive in the Labor Force*, with changes ranging from an increase of 2,571 in Pope County to a decline of 190 Inactive* working aged adults in Pike County.

*Inactive in the Labor Force is not a calculation produced or endorsed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This number was calculated in-house by Arkansas' Labor Market Information staff using a combination of Civilian Labor Force statistics and Population by Age data collected by the US Census Bureau. Inactive in the Labor Force was calculated by subtracting the Civilian Labor Force from the Population Aged 20-64. While it provides an estimate of how many residents are Inactive in the Labor Force, it does include some double counting of residents in the Civilian Labor Force that are aged 16-19 and over the age of 65. This number is intended as a guide for determining what portion of a county's population is Inactive in the Labor Force and should not be published or treated as an official estimate.

**Employment Status of Residents Aged 20-64
Annual Average 2021**



The chart above shows the number of residents In the Civilian Labor force vs the residents that are Inactive in the Labor Force*. The percentage of Inactive* residents ranged from 23% in Garland County to 37% in Montgomery County. Please note that 23% of Garland County residents is roughly 12,124 individuals while 37% of Montgomery County residents is only 1,689 individuals, based on differences in population levels.

**Top 5 Industries by County
4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment**

	Industry	Jobs	# of Establishments	Average Weekly Wages
Clark	Education	1,765	11	\$ 729
	Food Services	898	41	\$ 359
	Wood Product MFG	ND	ND	\$ 1,442
	Nursing Care Facilities	383	7	\$ 801
	Social Assistance	375	58	\$ 578
Conway	Education	1,203	9	\$ 1,009
	Administrative Support	ND	ND	\$ 772
	Specialty Trade Contractors	448	42	\$ 1,374
	Food Services	440	32	\$ 358
	Paper MFG	ND	ND	\$ 2,033
Garland	Food Services	4,964	237	\$ 464
	Ambulatory Health	3,912	280	\$ 1,401
	Education	2,413	34	\$ 1,026
	Administrative Support	1,749	154	\$ 746
	General Merch Retail	1,674	12	\$ 525

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies

Top 5 Industries by County (continued)
4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment

	Industry	Jobs	# of Establishments	Average Weekly Wages
Hot Spring	Education	851	8	\$ 955
	Government (Safety)	ND	ND	\$ 857
	Food Services	564	38	\$ 376
	Wood Product MFG	541	8	\$ 1,316
	Truck Transport	495	19	\$ 1,383
Johnson	Food MFG	ND	ND	\$ 975
	Education	964	7	\$ 943
	Warehousing	ND	ND	\$ 896
	Food Services	507	32	\$ 359
	Hospitals	ND	ND	\$ 873
Montgomery	Education	208	3	\$ 951
	Government (General)	ND	ND	\$ 540
	Amusement & Recreation	ND	ND	\$ 659
	Food Services	66	6	\$ 356
	Nursing Care Facilities	ND	ND	\$ 788
Perry	Education	241	3	\$ 991
	Government (General)	103	5	\$ 675
	Nursing Care Facilities	102	3	\$ 710
	Social Assistance	78	17	\$ 653
	Food Services	68	6	\$ 372
Pike	Education	360	4	\$ 825
	Wood Product MFG	337	7	\$ 1,321
	Food Services	157	13	\$ 344
	Government (General)	148	6	\$ 520
	Credit Intermediation	113	7	\$ 1,736
Pope	Education	2,630	25	\$ 986
	Food Services	2,506	102	\$ 423
	Social Assistance	1,229	151	\$ 613
	Ambulatory Health Care	1,192	142	\$ 1,019
	Food MFG	1,148	9	\$ 882
Yell	Food MFG	2,056	4	\$ 839
	Education	646	7	\$ 995
	Hospitals	ND	ND	\$ 985
	Administrative Support	294	16	\$ 688
	General Merch Retail	ND	ND	\$ 510

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies

The chart above shows the largest employing industries in 7 of the 10 West Central LWDA counties is Education, a mid-level wage industry which is government funded (except for private schools). Seven counties also have a notable manufacturing presence, with Food Manufacturing being the largest industry in both Johnson and Yell counties. Food Services is a Top 5 Industry in all by one county and is the largest employing industry in Garland County.

**Top 5 Declining and Growing Industries by County
4th Quarter 2021 - 4th Quarter 2022 Covered Employment**

	Rank	Industries with Largest Declines	Jobs Lost	Percent Change	Rank	Industries with Largest Gains	Jobs Gained	Percent Change
Clark	1	Museums/Zoos/Parks	ND	-87%	1	Education	113	7%
	2	Ambulatory Health Care	-41	-13%	2	Wood Product MFG	ND	5%
	3	Management of Companies	-29	-63%	3	Administrative Support	31	13%
	4	Nursing Care Facilities	-33	-8%	4	Heavy/Civil Construct	22	38%
	5	Professional/Tech Services	-26	-10%	5			
Conway	1	Truck Transport	-47	-13%	1	Food Services	45	11%
	2	Paper MFG	ND	-9%	2	Museums/Zoos/Parks	40	34%
	3	Nursing Care Facilities	-37	-21%	3	Social Assistance	28	17%
	4	Administrative Support	ND	-4%	4			
	5				5			
Garland	1	Plastics/Rubber Product MFG	-94	-14%	1	Social Assistance	164	11%
	2	Building Supply Stores	-58	-9%	2	Ambulatory Health Care	143	4%
	3	Arts & Spectator Sports	ND	-5%	3	Transport Equip MFG	130	18%
	4	Beverage/Tobacco MFG	ND	-21%	4	Accommodations	83	8%
	5	Professional/Tech Services	-42	-4%	5	Wood Product MFG	ND	416%
Hot Spring	1	Administrative Support	-279	-41%	1	Museums/Zoos/Parks	ND	3100%
	2	Accommodations	-58	-45%	2	Truck Transport	69	16%
	3	Ambulatory Health Care	-33	-10%	3	Nursing Care Facilities	44	16%
	4	Education	-32	-4%	4	Food Services	24	4%
	5				5	Machinery MFG	ND	18%
Johnson	1	Electrical Equipment MFG	ND	-20%	1	Truck Transport	ND	43%
	2	Government (General)	-39	-14%	2	Apparel MFG	ND	29%
	3	Warehousing	ND	-4%	3	Fabricated Metal MFG	46	42%
	4	Wood Product MFG	-22	-25%	4	Hospitals	ND	7%
	5	Professional/Tech Services	-20	-18%	5	Primary Metal MFG	ND	30%
Montgomery	1	No Declines > 20			1	No Gains > 20		
Perry	1	No Declines > 20			1	No Gains > 20		
Pike	1	Ambulatory Health Care	-42	-62%	1	Professional/Tech Services	25	46%
	2	Personal and Laundry Services	ND	-94%	2	Wood Product MFG	22	7%
	3				3			
Pope	1	Truck Transport	-87	-10%	1	Ambulatory Health Care	174	17%
	2	Nursing Care Facilities	-79	-12%	2	Paper MFG	ND	42%
	3	Administrative Support	-67	-6%	3	Food MFG	120	12%
	4	Building Supply Store	-44	-12%	4	Social Assistance	77	7%
	5	Support for Agri & Forestry	ND	-7%	5	Management of Companies	53	40%
Yell	1	Nursing Care Facilities	-35	-15%	1	Food MFG	62	3%
	2				2	Administrative Support	47	19%
	3				3	Specialty Trade Contractors	22	13%
	4				4	Truck Transport	20	16%

Red = Declining Industry is a Top 5 Industry in the County Blue = Growing Industry is a Top 5 Industry in the County

ND = Non-Disclosable data due to ADWS confidentiality policies

Definitions and Sources

Average

Quantity calculated by adding a set of numbers and dividing the resulting sum by the quantity of numbers summed.

Average weekly earnings

Average weekly hours estimates multiplied by average hourly earnings estimates. Average weekly hours are affected by the ratio of full-time to part-time workers, as well as by the numbers of individuals in high- and low-paying occupations.

Baby-boom generation

Cohort of individuals born between 1946 and 1964, inclusive

Covered Employment

Comes from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, which calculates all employment and wages for businesses that are covered under Unemployment Insurance Tax laws in Arkansas.

Civilian labor force

People aged 16 years and older and classified as employed or unemployed

Civilian noninstitutional population

Residents aged 16 and older, who do not live in institutions and who are not on Active Duty in the Armed Forces

Current Population Survey (CPS)

National survey conducted by the US Census Bureau that samples 60,000 households monthly and collects information on labor force characteristics of the U.S. civilian noninstitutional population. Approximately 1,000 Arkansas households are in the monthly survey. Small sample size can trigger a higher level of sampling error, thus there are reliability concerns. Data from the CPS is calculated as a 12-month moving average.

Disability

Physical, mental, or emotional condition that substantially limits an individual from one or more daily life activities

Durable goods

Products that are able to be used for a relatively long time (life expectancy of more than 3 years) before deteriorating.

Note: Durable goods include tools, machinery, furniture, and electronics.

Educational attainment

Highest diploma or degree, or level of work toward a diploma or degree, that an individual has completed.

Employed

People who, during the reference week, did any work for pay or profit; did at least 15 hours of unpaid work in a family-operated enterprise; or were temporarily absent from their regular job(s) because of illness, vacation, bad weather, an industrial dispute, or various personal reasons. *Note:* Each employed person is counted only once, even if he or she holds more than one job.

Establishment

Economic unit that produces goods or services, usually at a single physical location, and that is engaged in one or predominantly one type of economic activity.

Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

Ethnicity of individuals who identify themselves in the Current Population Survey (CPS) questionnaire as being Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino. *Note:* People whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

Inactive in the Labor Force

Not a calculation produced or endorsed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This number was calculated in-house by Arkansas' Labor Market Information staff using a combination of Civilian Labor Force statistics and Population by Age data collected by the US Census Bureau. Inactive in the Labor Force was calculated by subtracting the Civilian Labor Force from the Population Aged 20-64. While it provides an estimate of how many residents are Inactive in the Labor Force, it does include some double counting of residents in the Civilian Labor Force that are aged 16-19 and over the age of 65. This number is intended as a guide for determining what portion of a county's population is Inactive in the Labor Force and should not be published or treated as an official estimate.

Industry

A category of business activities as defined by the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). For the purposes of this document, all industries are defined at the 3-digit NAICS level.

Labor force participation rate

Proportion of the age-eligible population that is in the labor force.

Nondurable goods

Products that are able to be used only for a relatively short time (life expectancy of less than 3 years) before deteriorating. *Note:* Nondurable goods include textiles, food, clothing, petroleum, and chemical products.

Not in the labor force

All individuals who are neither employed nor unemployed. *Note:* Discouraged workers are included.

Race

Concept of dividing people into populations or groups based on various sets of physical characteristics that usually result from genetic ancestry.

School enrollment

Attendance at a regular school—that is, an elementary school, a junior or senior high school, or a college or university. *Note:* Respondents are asked whether they were currently enrolled in a regular school, including day or night school in any type of public, parochial, or other private school. Regular schooling is that which may advance a person toward a high school diploma or a college, university, or professional degree. Other schooling, including trade schools, on-the-job training, and courses that do not require one's physical presence in school, such as correspondence courses or other courses of independent study, is included only if the credits granted count toward promotion in regular schools.

Unemployed

People who had no employment during the reference week, were available for work at that time, and had made specific efforts to find employment sometime during the 4-week period ending with the reference week. *Note:* People who were waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been laid off need not be looking for work to be classified as unemployed.

Unemployment rate

Number unemployed as a percentage of the labor force.