County Profile 2013
Van Buren County

UofA
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System
The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service is pleased to release these updated county profiles in hopes that these publications may serve as a useful tool for local officials, community leaders and economic development professionals.

This publication provides a comparison and overview of the demographic, economic and social trends in Arkansas counties. The information is presented in graphs and maps to allow the reader to quickly grasp current trends and conditions and gain insight into local and regional contexts. We encourage leaders and decision makers to use this publication in conjunction with their knowledge of the local geography, culture and political environment to make wise decisions for Arkansas’ future.

The state agencies providing data and assistance for this publication include the State Data Center at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, the Arkansas Department of Education, and the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services. We thank the many individuals at these departments and organizations for their quick response to our requests for information.

Several departments and individuals of the University of Arkansas worked in collaboration to publish these county profiles. Wayne Miller, Community and Economic Development, coordinated the project. Thai Nguyen compiled the data and developed graphs and charts. Vuko Karov developed the maps and checked the data for accuracy. Chris Meux designed the cover, and Donna Rinke published the profiles on the Cooperative Extension website. Their many hours of effort are greatly appreciated.

We hope you find this publication useful as you plan for the future of your communities.

Tony E. Windham, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President for Agriculture-Extension
and Director, Cooperative Extension Service
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(For Local Staff Chair See Inside Backcover)
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Internet Sources of Information

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- Bureau of Census .........................................................www.census.gov
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Agriculture
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Forestry

Property Assessments
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Transportation
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The population of Van Buren County increased substantially from 7,228 in 1960 to 17,295 in 2010.

Population grew most rapidly in Northwest & Central Arkansas counties and declined in some East and South Arkansas counties between 2000 and 2010.
The population in all age groups in Van Buren County increased between 2000 and 2010.

Van Buren County

Percent of Total County Population by Age and Gender, 2010

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, 2010 Census Summary File 1

There were more people living in Van Buren County between the ages of 45 and 69 than in any other age groups in 2010.

Van Buren County

Population by Age, 2000 & 2010


The population in all age groups in Van Buren County increased between 2000 and 2010.
Counties in Northcentral Arkansas had the highest proportion of people aged 65 and older in 2010.

The elderly population as a proportion of the total population grew most rapidly in Central and Northwest Arkansas from 2000 to 2010.
Central & Northwest Arkansas had the highest domestic in-migration of people between 2005 and 2009, while Arkansas, Bradley, Clay, Desha, Mississippi, Pulaski, Sebastian, Sevier and Woodruff counties had the largest domestic out-migration of people during this period.

Most of the people (82%) in Van Buren County lived in family households. The proportion of people living in each household type in Van Buren County was about the same as it was for the state.

*Note: The data were from the five-year sample (2005-2009) collected by the American Community Survey. Since this is sample data, the margin of error for counties with small populations may be large.
The proportion of Hispanic people living in Van Buren County increased from a little over one percent in 2000 to nearly three percent in 2010 and remained below the state average between 2000 and 2010. The Hispanic population may be of any race: white, black or any other combination of races.
Public School Enrollment, 1983-1984 to 2011-2012
Van Buren County

Number of Students

Source: Arkansas Department of Education (http://adedata.arkansas.gov/statewide/Counties/Enrollment.aspx)


Educational Attainment, 2005-2009*
Van Buren County & State

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, American Community Survey

Van Buren County had a slightly larger percentage of people who did not complete high school and a smaller percentage of people who had bachelors and professional degrees as compared to the State average in the five-year period 2005-2009.

*Note: The data were from the five-year sample (2005-2009) collected by the American Community Survey. Since this is sample data, the margin of error for counties with small populations may be large.
Van Buren County schools raised slightly more of their revenue from federal aid and local sources than did the average of all Arkansas public schools in the 2009-2010 school year.

Schools in Van Buren County spent $9,306 per child in the 2011-2012 school year as compared to an average expenditure of $9,112 statewide.

Van Buren County & State

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Source: Arkansas Public School Computer Network (www.apscn.org/reports/hld/asr/asr.htm), Arkansas Department of Education
Van Buren County employment decreased and unemployment increased since 2008.

Employment growth was highest in Central & Northwest Arkansas between 2000 and 2010.
In general, Northwest, Central, and Western Arkansas counties had the lowest unemployment rates while Delta and Coastal Plain counties had the highest rates in 2010.
More people were employed in service occupations in Arkansas and in the United States than in any other occupation in 2010.

Source: Minnesota IMPLAN Group, Inc.
Nearly 30 percent of the jobs in the manufacturing sector in 2010 in Arkansas were in the food processing industries.
Income from all three categories (net earnings; dividends, interest & rent; and transfer payments) in Van Buren County increased between 1999 and 2010.
Van Buren County residents received a smaller share of income from net earnings, and a larger share from dividends, interest & rent and transfer payments than the average for all Arkansas residents in 2010.

Median household income in 2005-2009 was lower in Van Buren County than the state average.

*Note: The data were from the five-year sample (2005-2009) collected by the American Community Survey. Since this is sample data, the margin of error for counties with small populations may be large.
Per capita incomes were highest in Central & Northwest Arkansas and lowest in some West & Northcentral counties in 2010.

Van Buren County per capita income was below both the state and national averages from 1990 to 2010.
Van Buren County residents received per capita unemployment insurance benefits that about the same as the state average from 2003 to 2008, and were somewhat higher than the state average from 2009 to 2010.

The other services and transportation & public utilities sectors accounted for about about 30% of total earnings in Van Buren County in 2010, and comprised a larger share of total earnings as compared to the state as a whole.

Van Buren County residents received per capita unemployment insurance benefits that about the same as the state average from 2003 to 2008, and were somewhat higher than the state average from 2009 to 2010.
Average weekly earnings in the manufacturing sector ranged from a high of $1,089 in the paper products industry to a low of $423 in the apparel industry in 2010.

Source: Labor Market Information, Arkansas Employment Security Department
Van Buren County retail sales increased from $101 million in 1990 to a high of $169 million in 2007, followed by a decline to $153 million in 2010.

Retail sales per capita were highest in counties that are regional trade centers in 2010.
The estimated poverty level in Van Buren County was higher than the state average in 1989 and in 2005-2009.

The estimated poverty level was highest in the Delta with many counties having a poverty level over twenty-one percent in the five-year period from 2005 to 2009.

*Note: The data were from the five-year sample (2005-2009) collected by the American Community Survey. Since this is sample data, the margin of error for counties with small populations may be large.
There was a wide range in the proportion of students who received free and reduced price school lunches across the seventy-five counties in the 2009-2010 school year. Participation rates ranged from thirty-five percent to one-hundred percent with a higher percentage of youth in the Delta Region counties receiving free and reduced price lunches.

*Note: The data were from the five-year sample (2005-2009) collected by the American Community Survey. Since this is sample data, the margin of error for counties with small populations may be large.
A larger proportion of people living in the Delta counties and Columbia, Jefferson and Lafayette counties participated in the Supplemented Nutrition Assistance Program when compared to people in other parts of the state in 2010.

A substantial percentage of the population (between 30% and 51%) was eligible for Medicaid in thirty-six counties in 2010, primarily located in the Eastern and Southern parts of the state.
The teen fertility rate varied from County to County and was highest in some Delta and Coastal Plain counties in the five-year period from 2006 to 2010. Counties with the highest teen fertility rates included Bradley, Crittenden, Desha, Hempstead, Mississippi, Monroe, Ouachita, Phillips, Poinsett, St. Francis, Scott, Sevier, and Yell counties.

The infant mortality rate was highest in the Bradley, Crittenden, Dallas, Newton, Ouachita, Perry, Prairie, and Stone counties in the five-year period from 2006 to 2010.
Female headed families as a proportion of total families in Van Buren County increased from seven percent in 1970 to fourteen percent in 2005-2009 and remained below the state average.

The Delta counties and the Coastal Plains counties had the highest proportion of families with only a single parent present in 2010.

*Note: The data were from the five-year sample (2005-2009) collected by the American Community Survey. Since this is sample data, the margin of error for counties with small populations may be large.
The market value (in constant dollars) of agricultural products sold in Van Buren County decreased from a high of $45 million in 1978 to $16 million in 2007.

The two counties with the highest market value of agricultural production were in Northwest Arkansas. However, many Delta and Highlands counties also ranked high in terms of the market value of agricultural production in 2007.
Sixty-five percent of the farms in Van Buren County had sales of less than $10,000 in 2007. These farms accounted for about seven percent of total farm sales. One percent of the farms had sales of $500,000 or more and these farms accounted for thirty-three percent of total sales.

The number of farms in Van Buren County declined from 1,036 in 1964 to 566 in 2007.

*Note: Due to the lack of available data, the unknown column was added for the missing data*
Livestock & products sales were the major sources of farm income for Van Buren County farmers, decreasing slightly between 1999 and 2010.

Van Buren County farmers received a larger proportion of farm income from livestock & products when compared to all Arkansas farmers in 2010.
Van Buren County

Farm Income, 1994 to 2010

Farm income from livestock & products sales in Van Buren County declined from $31 million in 1994 to $17 million in 2010.

Timber Output, 1999 & 2009

Total Timber output of Van Buren County (both in softwood and hardwood) increased between 1999 and 2009.

Source: U.S. Forest Service, Forest Inventory and Analysis National Program
Over seventy-five percent of the land area in many Coastal Plain and Ouachita Highland counties qualified as timber acreage in 2010.

The total timber acreage in Van Buren County was 361,000 acres in 2010. Farmers/ranchers and private individuals owned a large share (about 87%) of the timberland in Van Buren County.
In general, sparsely populated counties had more miles of County roads to maintain per person than more densely populated counties in 2010.

Source: Road and Street Report, Arkansas State Highway Commission

The average property assessments per person in 2010 varied greatly among Arkansas counties, from $7,427 to $27,781.

Source: Arkansas Assessment Coordination Department, Little Rock, Arkansas; 2010 Census of Population, U.S. Bureau of Census
AGRICULTURAL SERVICES  Includes establishments primarily engaged in performing soil preparation services, crop services, veterinary and other animal services, farm labor and management services, and landscape and horticultural services, for others on a contract or fee basis.

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE  The sum of all employed and unemployed persons 16 years of age or older. Members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

"CONSTANT $"  Figures adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Index, 1982-1984 = 100.

“CURRENT $”  Figures not adjusted for inflation.

CONSTRUCTION  Includes general building contractors (residential, operative, and nonresidential); heavy construction contractors (highway, street, etc.); and special trade contractors (plumbing, heating, air conditioning, painting, paper hanging, electrical, masonry, stonework, roofing, sheet metal, concrete, and miscellaneous special trade contractors).

DELIVERED VALUE OF HARVESTED TIMBER  The value of harvested timber delivered to the first processing point.

FARMING  Includes businesses whose primary source of revenue is from crop and livestock production.

FEMALE HEADED FAMILIES  A family with a female householder and no husband present.

FINANCIAL SERVICES  Financial, insurance, and real estate services.

GOVERNMENT  Employees of city, county, state and federal governments.

IMPUTED & MISC. INCOME RECEIVED  Consists of imputed income, such as gross rental value of dwellings and value of home consumption, and other farm related income components, such as machine hire and custom work income, rental income, and income from forest products.

INCOME  Total income is the algebraic sum of the amount reported separately for wage or salary income; non-farm net self-employment income; farm net self-employment income; interest, dividend, net royalty or rental income; social security or railroad retirement income; public assistance or welfare income and all other income.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE  The number of infant deaths (under one year of age) per 1,000 live births.

JOBS  The number of full-time and part-time jobs in a geographic area.

MANUFACTURING  Includes manufacturing industries dealing with food and kindred products; textile mill products; apparel products; lumber and wood products; furniture and fixtures; paper and allied products; printing and publishing; chemicals; petroleum and coal; rubber and miscellaneous plastics; leather; stone, clay and glass; primary metal industries; fabricated metal products; machinery; electrical and electronic equipment; transportation equipment; instruments; and miscellaneous industries.
MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD  The gross market value before taxes and production expenses of all agricultural products sold or removed from place regardless of who received payment. It includes sales by the operator as well as the value of any shares received by partners, landlords, contractors, or others associated with the operation. It does not include payment received for participation in federal farm programs nor does it include income from farm-related sources such as agricultural services, or income from non-farm sources.

MINING  Includes extraction of oil and gas, non-metallic minerals, sand and gravel.

NET DOMESTIC MIGRATION  The difference between domestic in-migration to an area and domestic out-migration from the area during the period.

PER CAPITA INCOME  The per capita income is the total personal income divided by the total population of the area studied. The per capita income measure should be used with care. In the short run, it may temporarily vary from the result of unusual conditions (bumper crops, a major construction project or a catastrophe). In the long run, it may misrepresent the economic well-being of the general population because of the presence of a large institutional population (college, prison). While per capita income reflects average income per person, it does not accurately reflect family unit spendable income.

PERSONAL INCOME  The total income received by residents of an area, including earnings, transfer payments, and interest, dividends and rent.

POVERTY LEVEL  An individual or household is considered to be living below the poverty level when their income is below an income threshold established by the Bureau of Census. The income cutoffs used by the Bureau of Census to determine the poverty status of families and unrelated individuals consist of a set of 48 thresholds arranged in a two-dimensional matrix consisting of family size cross-classified by presence and number of family members under 18 years old.

RETAIL SALES  Includes sales from general merchandise stores; department stores; variety stores; food, bakery and dairy stores; automotive dealers; gasoline stations; eating and drinking establishments; and other retail trade establishments.

SINGLE HEAD OF FAMILY  Single head of a family with no spouse present.

SERVICES  Includes a variety of items ranging from hotels to attorneys. Included in this category are hotels and other lodging places; personal services (laundry, photographic studios, beauty shops, shoe repair, funeral services); business services (advertising, mailing, news syndicates, personnel supply services, computer services); auto repair services and garages (retail, parking, repair); miscellaneous repair services (electrical, etc.); amusement and recreation services (orchestra, dance halls, etc.); health services (physicians, dentists, nursing care facilities, hospitals, medical labs, outpatient care); legal services; educational services; social services (job training, individual and family services, day care); membership organizations (business, professional, labor, civic, social, etc.); engineering and architectural services; and other similar services.

STUMPAGE VALUE OF HARVESTED TIMBER  The value of timber harvested going to the landowner.

TEEN FERTILITY RATE is the birth rate for women 15 to 19 years of age. It is the number of live births per 1000 women 15-19 years of age.

TRADE  Includes wholesale and retail trade.

TRANSPORTATION  Includes railroads; trucking service and warehousing; other transportation services (bus, air, and U.S. postal service); communication systems (radio, T.V., etc.); and utilities and sanitary services.

UNEMPLOYMENT  An estimate of the number of persons who, for the entire week of reference (the week including the 12th of the month), did not work at all, were able to work, and available for work, and (1) were looking for work, or (2) would have looked for work except that (a) they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) they were waiting to report to a new job.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE  The number of unemployed workers as a percentage of the civilian labor force.
Local Cooperative Extension Office

Van Buren County Staff Chair

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***For additional copies of the County Profile or information on your county, please contact your County Staff Chair listed above.***