DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

RURAL PROFILE OF ARKANSAS

2019

Dear Fellow Arkansans,

The Rural Profile of Arkansas - 2019 is the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture's ongoing contribution to greater understanding of the social, demographic and economic conditions in rural and urban regions of the state. This profile, in one form or the other, has been providing information for more than 20 years and has served as a valued source of data and information for elected leaders in the state as well as for local government stakeholders and public servants.

Rural areas in the state have been greatly challenged over the past several decades by economic and demographic changes, and now find the loss of businesses and continuing migration of youth and talent to urban areas of critical concern. The 2019 Rural Profile describes important social, demographic and economic trends that may be useful in developing strategies to build strong communities and support entrepreneurship, which will stabilize and reverse some of the negatives experienced by rural communities and "make sure rural Arkansas remains a great place to live AND a great place to make a living."

While the major focus of the profile remains on understanding the differences between rural and urban areas of the state, conditions also vary within the rural areas. To provide insight into how circumstances differ in rural areas, three distinct regions – the Delta, the Coastal Plains and the Highlands – were studied.

The profile is designed to be a tool for leaders in planning and directing policies and programs to enhance the well-being of all Arkansans, and we believe that positive progress in rural areas complement and enhance progress in urban areas. A healthy rural economy and society benefits everyone. If you have any questions on how to interpret and use the information in this profile, please contact your local Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service agent. They are a valuable resource to you and your community.

We look forward to continuing our service to the State of Arkansas by providing an analysis of some of the important issues facing Arkansans living in rural and urban regions of the state.

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RURAL PROFILE OF ARKANSAS 2019

Social & Economic Trends Affecting Rural Arkansas

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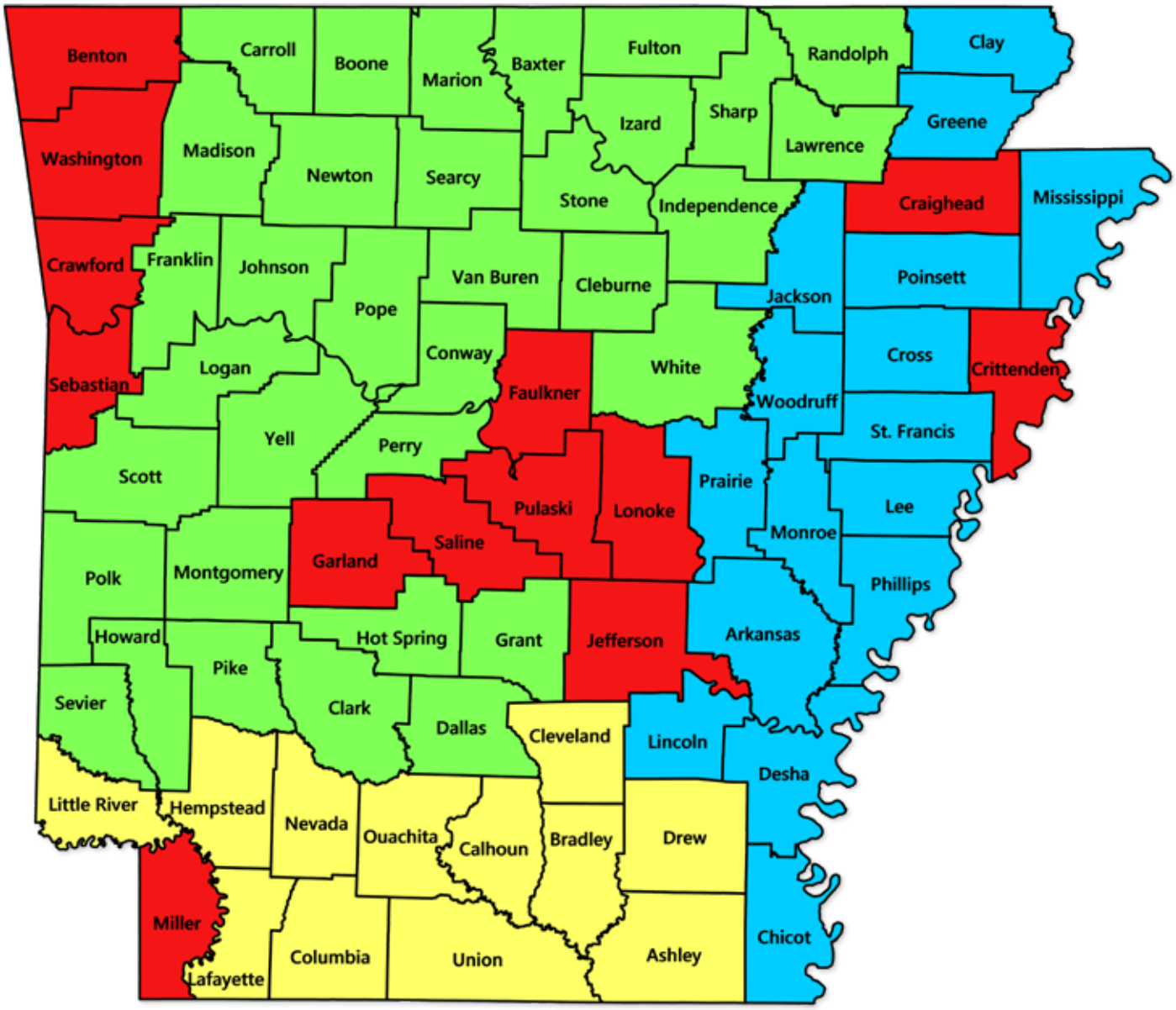
Community & Economic Development
Strengthening Arkansas Communities

ARKANSAS REGIONS AND COUNTIES



Coastal Plains

Highlands

Delta

Urban

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NOTE: All dollar values reported in this publication are constant dollars using the South Urban Consumer Price Index to adjust for inflation. The most current year for which data are available for each indicator is used as the base in calculating the constant dollar values.

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

POPULATION

- Arkansas' population grew 2.8% between 2010 and 2017, slightly more than half the 5.3% growth nationally.
- Population declined in each of Arkansas' three Rural regions, ranging from 0.4% in the Highlands to 5.3% in the Coastal Plains and 5.7% in the Delta.
- The decline of Arkansas' rural population between 2010 and 2017 was largely driven by out-migration. In the Urban region during the same period, natural increase and in-migration both played a significant role in population growth.
- Rural Arkansas counties tend to have an older population than urban counties. In 2017, the median age in the Rural region was 42.6 years compared to only 37.1 years in the Urban region.
- The share of elderly people 65 years of age and over was also considerably higher in the Rural region (19.4%) than in the Urban region (14.7%).

ECONOMY

- While Arkansas' economy, as measured by total employment, grew steadily since the end of the Great Recession, the 5.8% growth between 2010 and 2016 was only about half the 11.9% growth nationally.
- Most employment growth occurred in Arkansas' Urban region, where total employment grew 9.1%. There was considerably less growth in the Highlands (0.5%) and Delta (1.6%), while employment in the Coastal Plains decreased 1.9%.
- Between 2007 and 2016, employment in Arkansas continued to shift from manufacturing to service sector jobs.
- Average earnings per job increased 3.6% in the state from 2010 to 2016, outpacing 2.2% growth nationwide, but remains only about 78% of the national average.
- Arkansas' median household income declined slightly between the five-year estimates from 2006-2010 to 2012-2016, and was only 77% of the national median in 2016. The average median household income for rural counties in the state was only 78% of the median for urban counties, and only 65% of the national median.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- The number of structurally deficient bridges in Arkansas decreased from 1,614 in 2001 to 749 in 2017. Nonetheless, of Arkansas' 75 counties, only Grant and Conway counties had no structurally deficient bridges in 2017.
- The estimated replacement cost for structurally deficient state, county and city bridges in 2017 ranged from a low of $36 million in the Coastal Plains to a high of $342 million in the Urban region.
- As of 2012, estimated costs for needed improvements of wastewater treatment facilities totaled $714.5 million. While the Urban region had higher total costs ($402.5 million) than the Rural region ($312 million), the cost per person was slightly higher in the Rural region ($247) than the Urban region ($238) and much higher in the Highlands ($296).
- Access to high speed internet in the state remains low. In 2015, only 200 to 400 of every 1,000 Arkansas households had internet service of at least 10 Mbps.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STRESS

- Poverty in Arkansas remains high, with populations living in the Delta and Coastal Plains faring worse than those in the Highlands and Urban regions. In 2016, poverty rates for the total population, children and the elderly, were all higher in Arkansas than the nation as a whole.

- Arkansas' children are disproportionately impacted by poverty. More than one-in-four children (27%) in Arkansas were living in poverty in 2016. The poverty rate for children living in the Coastal Plains and Delta was even higher, where more than one-in-three (36%) lived in poverty.

- More than half of Arkansas' 75 counties were classified as having persistent childhood poverty in 2016. Persistent childhood poverty was especially prevalent in the Coastal Plains and Delta where 67% and 88% of the counties in these regions were characterized as having persistent childhood poverty.

- In 2017, Arkansans living in the state's Rural region were more likely to receive SNAP than those living in the Urban region. About one-in-five rural residents (21%) received SNAP compared to 16% of urban residents.

- The rate of food insecurity in the Rural region of Arkansas was 17.9% in 2016, slightly higher than the 16.4% rate in the Urban region. Child food insecurity was higher than for the total population, and was also higher in the Rural region (25.3%) than in the Urban region (21.8%).

HEALTH

- Arkansas' seven-year infant mortality rate from 2010 to 2016 was 7.1 deaths per 1,000 live births, considerably higher than the U.S. rate of 5.6. The infant mortality rate ranged from a low of 6.6 in the Coastal Plains to a high of 7.5 in the Delta.

- In 2016, Arkansas' adult population was the seventh most obese in the nation. Thirty-six percent of adults were obese and an additional 34% were overweight. The Rural regions of the state, especially the Coastal Plains and Delta, tended to be more obese than the Urban region.

- Although the rates of obesity among children aged 2-19 were considerably lower than those in the adult population, childhood obesity rates remain very high. Nearly one-in-four children (24%) were reported as obese during the 2016-2017 school year.

- Health Factor scores measuring health behaviors, clinical care, socioeconomic and environmental factors were better on average in the Urban and Highlands regions than in the Coastal Plains and Delta.

- The Urban and Highlands regions also outperformed the Coastal Plains and Delta in Health Outcome scores, which include measures of length and quality of life like premature death, days of poor physical or mental health and low birth weight of babies.

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

EDUCATION

- Less than one-half of all three-to-five year old children, in both Rural and Urban regions of the state, were enrolled in pre-K education in 2016.

- Public school (K-12) enrollment increased 11% in the Urban region and declined 7% in the Rural region, resulting in a 3% increase in Arkansas between the 2007-2008 and 2017-2018 school years.

- Levels of educational attainment for Arkansans' aged 25 and over continues to grow, but remained well below the national average in 2016.

- A larger share of urban residents 25 and over had high school diplomas (87%) and bachelor's degrees (26%) compared to rural residents (82% & 15%) in 2016. The share of residents with an associate's degree was about the same in both regions (6.5%).

- College-going rates in Arkansas increased from 46% to 51% between 2005 and 2016, but remained far below the national average of 69%.

- STEM graduates at four-year institutions increased between 2010 and 2016, but decreased at two-year institutions. In 2016, One-in-four degrees awarded in Arkansas were STEM related compared to one-in-three nationally.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Statewide, county government property and sales tax revenue each grew about 25% between 2007 and 2016.

- On average, rural counties received 18% of their revenue from the property tax and 27% from the sales tax in 2016. In contrast, urban counties received 30% of their revenue from the property tax only 22% from the sales tax.

- The property tax base, measured by total property assessments, grew 14.5% state wide between 2007 and 2017. Nine counties, all rural, had a decrease in property assessments during this period.

- The Great Recession greatly affected Arkansas' sales tax base, measured by total retail sales. The statewide sales tax base grew only 0.2% from 2007 to 2012. Growth from 2012 to 2016 was substantially higher at nealy 8%.

- Growth of total retail sales between 2012 and 2016 has been substantially higher in the Urban region of the state (9%) than in the Rural regions. Retail sales grew only 2.0% in the Delta, 2.7% in the Coastal Plains and 5.5% in the Highlands during this period.

- County government millage rates grew 0.4 mills statewide between 2007 and 2018. The 0.42 mill increase in the Rural region was slightly higher than the 0.28 mill increase in the Urban region.

- Nearly one-half of Arkansas' counties raised their sales tax rates between December 2006 and December 2017.

- The average county sales tax rate in urban counties was 1.19% in 2018, lower than the 1.77% average county sales tax rate in rural counties.

The *Rural Profile of Arkansas* presents a data-driven depiction of social, economic and demographic characteristics of Rural and Urban regions of the state. The goal is to provide information and data that allow insight into the critical issues facing different regions of the state, which may require diverse policies and programs to address regional concerns. To accomplish this, we use a classification scheme to delineate rural versus urban areas and different Rural regions of the state.

Like much of rural America, rural areas of Arkansas have been greatly affected by the changing structure of the global economy. This in turn affects the well-being of people living in these areas, population composition and migration and access to resources required to maintain viable communities. In this publication, we provide information on demographic, economic, social and fiscal conditions affecting the well-being of Arkansas citizens to inform local and state leaders as they develop policies and programs that will help people in all areas of the state live healthy and productive lives.

URBAN-RURAL CLASSIFICATION

In the current *Profile*, we continue the use of long-established categorization of counties as metropolitan and nonmetropolitan. However, we use the word "Rural" in place of "Nonmetropolitan" and the word "Urban" in place of "Metropolitan." Populations residing in counties with large cities are classified as metropolitan and those counties are grouped into a category termed "Urban."

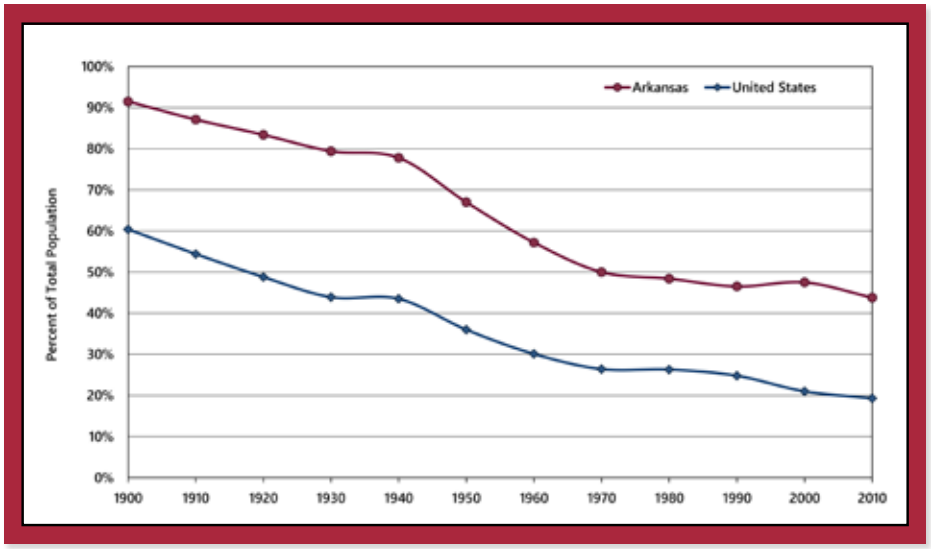
In addition to the Rural and Urban regions described above, we divide the rural areas into three regions composed of counties with similar economic activity, history, physical setting, settlement patterns and culture. The three Rural regions of Arkansas are the Coastal Plains, Delta and Highlands. This approach combines nonmetropolitan counties in similar regions and facilitates comparison with the metropolitan counties. A map showing each county and region is on page 2 of this publication.

ARKANSAS – A RURAL STATE

No matter how you measure it, Arkansas is a very rural state. When using the county-based metropolitan/nonmetropolitan definitions, 41% of Arkansans live in rural counties, according to 2017 population estimates. In contrast, only 14% of the United States population as a whole live in nonmetropolitan counties.

As seen in Figure R1, Arkansas' percentage of people living in rural areas has been higher than the nation's since 1900. In the 2010 Census, only 19% of United States population was rural compared with 44% for Arkansans. Here the rural population is defined as people living in non-urbanized areas, irrespective of county boundaries. In 1900, almost 91% of Arkansans lived in rural areas compared to only 60% of Americans. Both nationally and in Arkansas, the percentage of people living in rural areas decreased dramatically between 1900 and 2010.

FIGURE R1. RURAL POPULATION, 1900-2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

ARKANSAS' RURAL POPULATION CONTINUES DECLINE

The population of Arkansas grew 2.8% between 2010 and 2017, a little more than half the 5.3% growth nationally. However, this increase represents nearly 83,000 new residents in the state. Despite the moderate population growth statewide, the trend seen in the 2000s —loss of population from Rural regions to the Urban region—has continued into the 2010s. In 2000, Rural regions contained slightly over 47% of Arkansas' population, but declined to 41% in 2017.

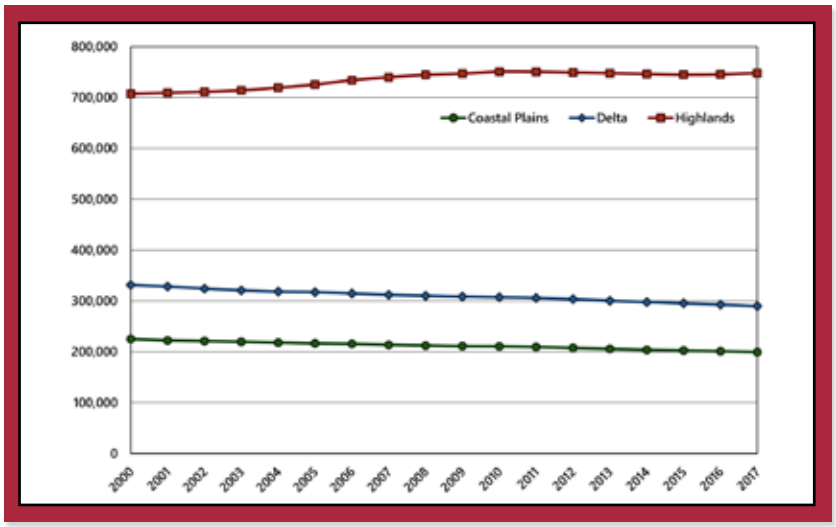
The population in the Rural regions decreased 2.5% between 2010 and 2017. While there was some variation among the Rural regions, the population of each decreased over the seven-year period. Population in the Delta decreased 5.7%, followed closely by the Coastal Plains at 5.3%. The population of the Highlands decreased by about 0.5%. Sharply contrasting the Rural regions of Arkansas, population in the Urban region grew 6.9%, nearly 2.5 times the growth statewide.

Longer-term trends are evident when analysis is extended to the year 2000. Of the Rural regions, only the Highlands had a net gain in population over the last 17 years (Figure P1). During this period, population for the region grew nearly 40,700 or 6%. The majority of the region's growth occurred between 2000 and 2010, followed by a period of decline from 2011 to 2015. While population change in the Highlands turned upward in 2016 and 2017, the growth has not been significant enough for the region's population to return to the 2010 high.

Population in the Coastal Plains and Delta has continually declined since 2000 and does not seem to have been affected by the Great Recession. In the Coastal Plains, population declined 25,700 or about 11%. The Delta's population decline was more pronounced at 41,700 or about 13%. Again, the Urban region of the state had vastly larger population growth at 25%, an increase of about 352,300. Arkansas' population grew about 12% or 325,600 over the last 17 years.

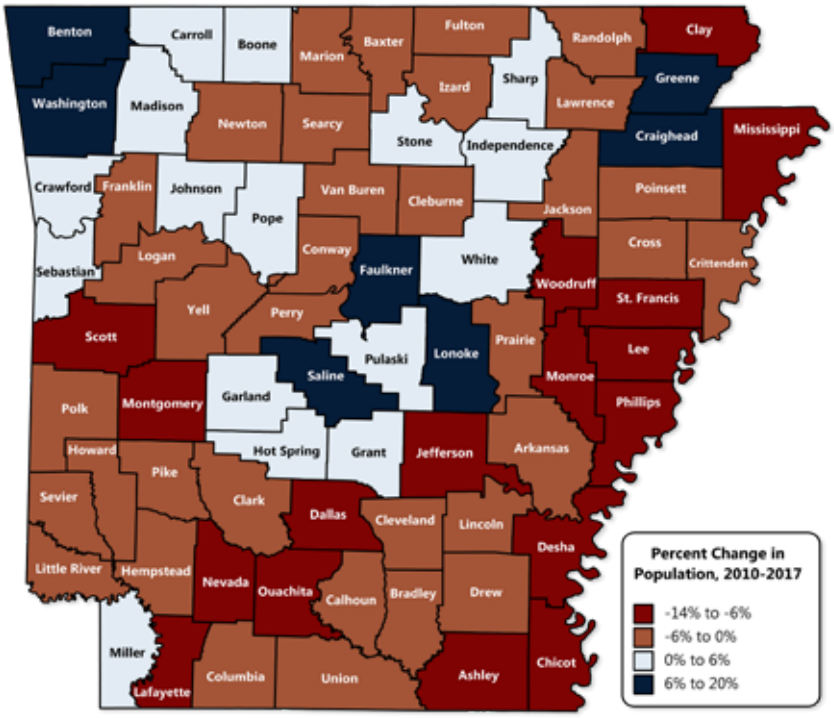
The regional trends in population mask the large differences in population change among counties. Figure P2 shows county-level population change between 2010 and 2017. Population declined in 52 of 75 Arkansas counties—50 rural counties and 2 urban counties (Crittenden and Jefferson). The largest growth rate in population, 20%, was in Benton County.

FIGURE P1. POPULATION IN RURAL REGIONS OF ARKANSAS, 2000 TO 2017



Source: Annual Estimates of Resident Population, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2017, U.S. Census Bureau

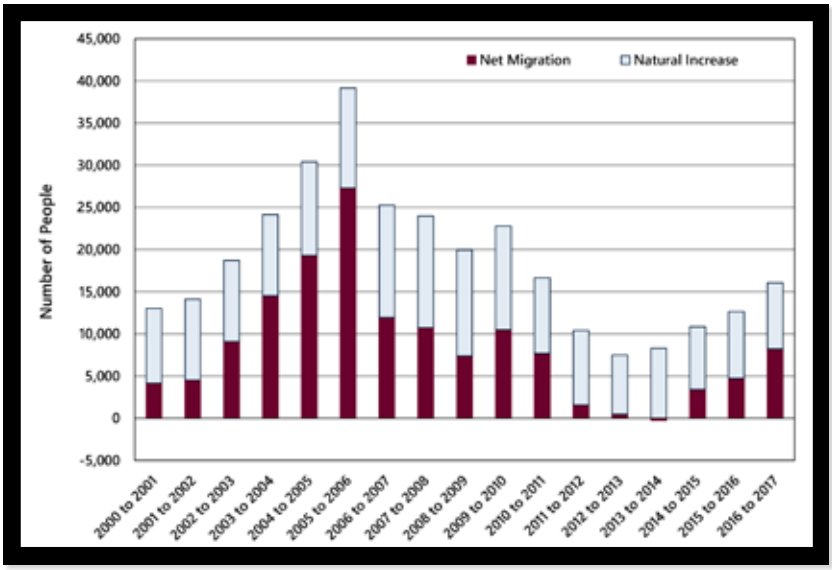
FIGURE P2. PERCENT CHANGE IN POPULATION, 2010 TO 2017



Source: Annual Estimates of Resident Population, April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2017, U.S. Census Bureau

The rate of decline was highest in Phillips County at 14%. Notably, the 23 counties with population growth during the seven-year period were overwhelmingly urban (11) or located in the Highlands (9). In comparison, among the 17 counties with population declining 6% to 14%, only three were outside of the Delta and Coastal Plains. Population decline in these regions was so widespread that only one non-urban county (Greene County) grew.

FIGURE P3. STATE POPULATION COMPONENTS OF CHANGE, 2001 TO 2017



Source: Annual Estimates of the Components of Resident Population Change, April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2017, U.S. Census Bureau

Out-migration from Rural to Urban Regions Continues

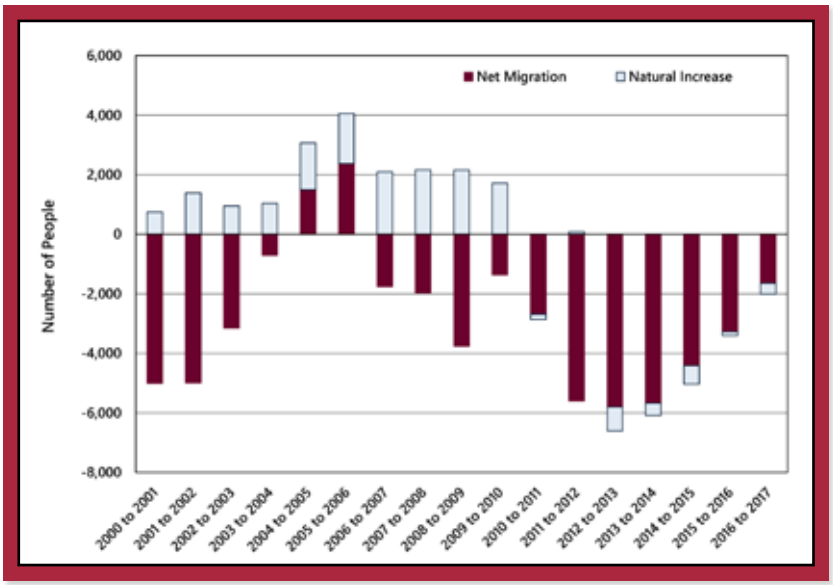
The population decline in Rural regions of the state was primarily due to out-migration of population; whereas, both in-migration and natural increase resulted in population growth in the Urban region. Populations grow and decline in two ways, from natural increase or decrease and from migration. A natural increase indicates more births than deaths (positive value) while a natural decrease denotes more deaths than births (negative value). Net in-migration indicates more in-migration than out-migration (positive value) and a net out-migration indicates more out-migration than in-migration (negative value). Figures P3, P4 and P5 clearly show that the migration patterns and rates of natural increase differ greatly between Urban and Rural regions of the state and have changed since the first half of the 2000s.

Statewide population growth slowed considerably from 2006 to 2014, the result of declining net in-migration and natural increase. Net in-migration declined from a high of about 27,300 in 2006 to a slight net-outmigration in 2014, before increasing to 8,200 in 2017. The natural increase of the population grew from 2000 to 2007 (8,880 to 13,310) before declining to a low of approximately 7,000 in 2013.

Even more notable was the difference in net migration between rural and urban counties. Every year from 2001 to 2017, except for 2005 and 2006, there was a net out-migration of people from Rural regions of the state. This was in contrast to the Urban region where there was a net in-migration of people every year during this 17-year period. Net in-migration in urban areas increased in the early 2000s to a high of about 25,000 in 2006. Net in-migration then declined to a low of about 5,000 in 2014, before increasing again from 2015 to 2017 to approximately 10,000.

The urban in-migration was in sharp contrast to the large net out-migration of people from rural areas of the state. The two years, 2005 and 2006, when

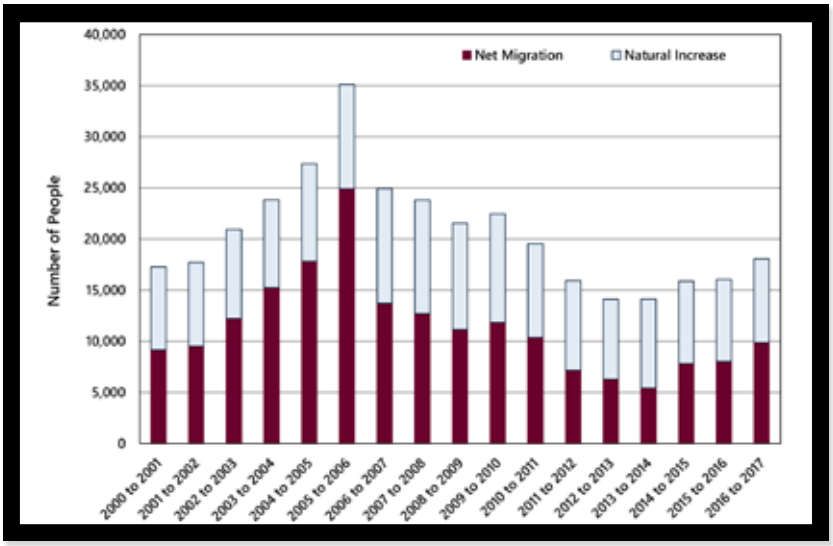
FIGURE P4. RURAL POPULATION COMPONENTS OF CHANGE, 2001 TO 2017



Source: Annual Estimates of the Components of Resident Population Change, April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2017, U.S. Census Bureau

there was a net in-migration of residents to rural areas was the result of a large net in-migration of residents to the Highlands region. The Highlands region experienced substantial fluctuations in net migration during the 17-year period, which affected the net migration numbers of the entire Rural region as shown in Figure P4. The Highlands experienced a net in-migration of residents every year during this 17-year period, except for years 2012 to 2015, when there was a net out-migration of people. During this entire period, the Delta and Coastal Plains regions experienced a net out-migration of their populations.

FIGURE P5. URBAN POPULATION COMPONENTS OF CHANGE, 2001 TO 2017



Source: Annual Estimates of the Components of Resident Population Change, April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2017, U.S. Census Bureau

Recent migration trends from 2010 to 2017 indicate that most counties in the Delta and Coastal Plains regions continue to lose population due to out-migration (Figure P6). Only Green County was an exception to this trend, having a net in-migration of residents during this seven-year period. In the Highlands and Urban regions of the state approximately one-half of the counties had a net in-migration of residents, particularly in central, Northwest and Northcentral Arkansas.

Natural Increase in Population Declined

There was a natural increase in population in both Rural and Urban regions of the state in the early 2000s. However, Rural regions experienced a natural decrease in population most every year from 2011 to 2017. This was in contrast to the Urban region that experienced a natural increase in its population during the entire 17-year period. What was similar between Rural and Urban regions was that natural increase was growing in the early 2000s, and then declined to 2017. Rural regions experienced their highest natural increase of 2,158 in 2009 and then declined to a natural decrease of 363 in 2017. Likewise, the natural increase of the population in the Urban region grew to a high of 11,200 in 2007 then declined to approximately 10,000 in 2017.

Recent trends from 2010 to 2017 indicate that approximately one-half of Arkansas counties had a natural increase of their population denoting more births than deaths (Figure P7).

FIGURE P6. NET MIGRATION OF POPULATION, 2010-2017

Source: Annual Estimates of the Components of Resident Population Change, April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2017, U.S. Census Bureau

Most of the counties with a natural decrease in their populations are in Northcentral and Southwest Arkansas. This may be the result of counties in Northcentral Arkansas having a large share of elderly people and counties in the Southwest having substantial out-migration of their young working age population.

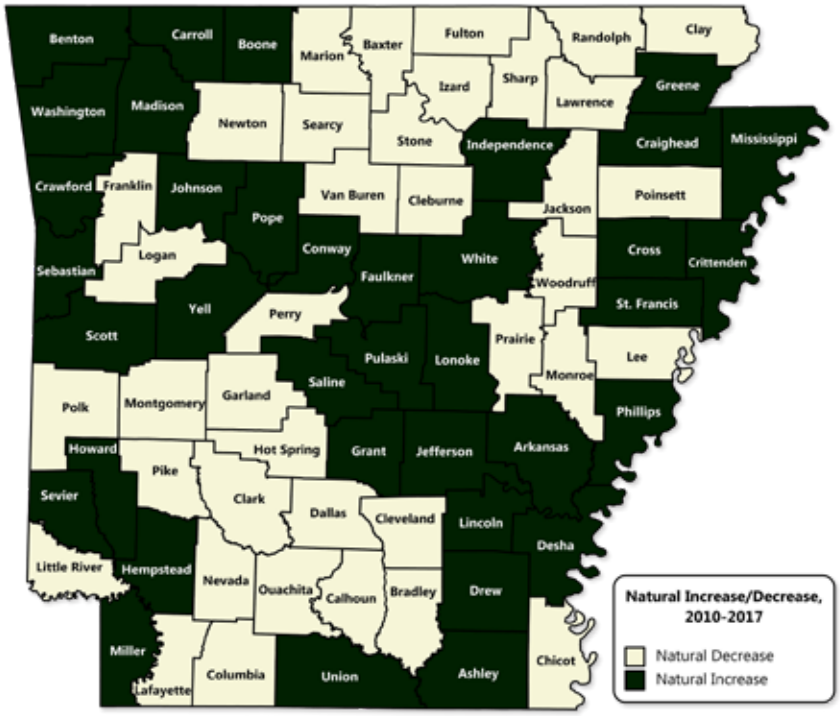
POPULATION 65 AND OLDER GROWING

Arkansas' population 65 years of age and older was growing and becoming a larger share of the total population between 2010 and 2017. The population 65 years of age and older grew 19% during this seven-year period. The share of population 65 and older increased from 14.5% in 2010 to 16.6% in 2017. This was only slightly higher than the share of the U.S. population in this age category (15.6%) in 2017.

There was considerable variation in the share of the total population in this age group among counties and regions of Arkansas. The share of county populations aged 65 and older ranges from a low of 11.5% in Washington County to a high of 30.8% in Baxter County. The counties with the largest share of their populations in this age group were clustered in the Northcentral and Southwest regions of Arkansas, but also include some Delta counties (Figure P8).

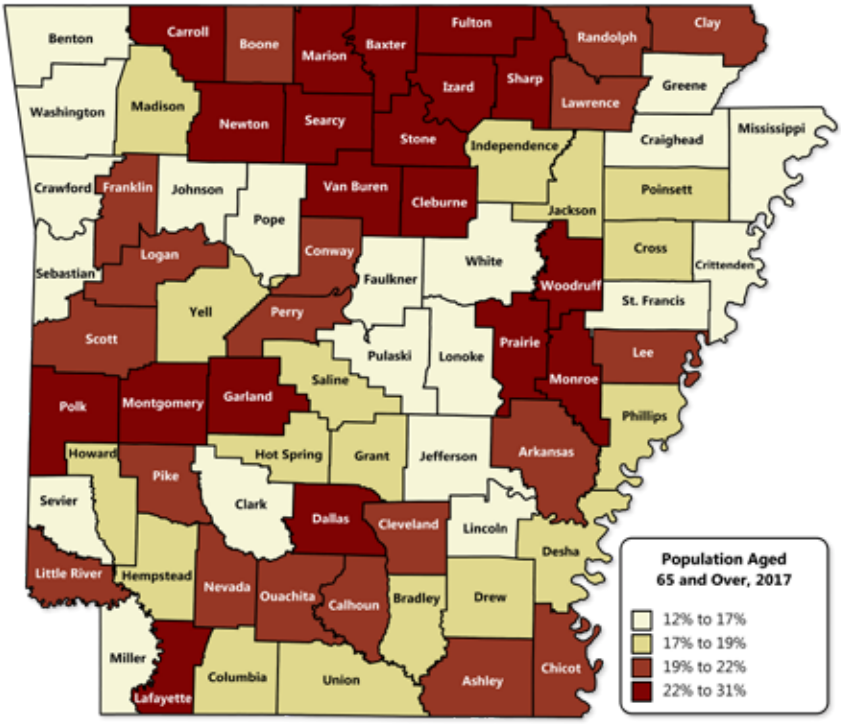
Likewise, there were large differences between rural and urban counties in the state. Slightly more than 19% of the population living in rural counties were 65 years of age and older compared to about 15% in urban counties. However, the share of the population in this age category increased in both Rural and Urban regions of the state from 2010 to 2017. This age group increased from 12.5% to 14.4% of the total population in the Urban region and from 16.9% to 19.4% in the Rural region.

FIGURE P7. NATURAL INCREASE/DECREASE OF POPULATION, 2010-2017



Source: Annual Estimates of the Components of Resident Population Change, April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2017, U.S. Census Bureau

FIGURE P8. POPULATION AGED 65 AND OVER, 2017



Source: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Selected Age Groups by Sex for the United States, States, Counties, and Puerto Rico Commonwealth and Municipios: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2017

MEDIAN AGE HIGHER IN RURAL REGIONS

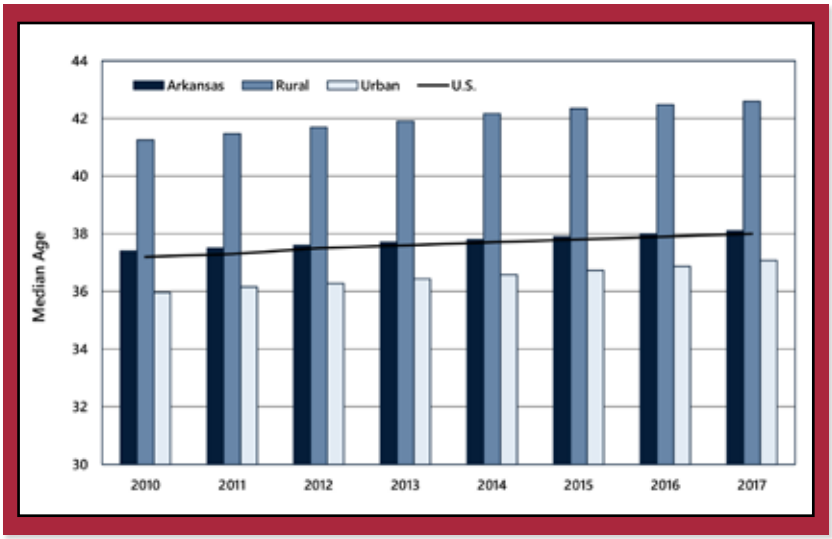
The median age of Arkansans (38.1) was similar to the national median age (38) in 2017 and both increased slightly from 2010 to 2017 (Figure P9). However, the statewide median age masks the difference in median age among regions and counties in the state (Figure P10). In 2017, the median age ranged from 31.9 in Washington County to 52.5 in Marion County. Not surprisingly the Highlands region, which has a larger share of its population 65 years of age and older, has a substantially higher median age than other regions in the state. The average median age of the Highlands region was 43.5 in 2017 compared to 41.8 in the Coastal Plains and 41.2 in the Delta.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY GROWING

Racial and ethnic diversity in Arkansas, both in terms of the number and share of the population, increased somewhat from 2010 to 2017.

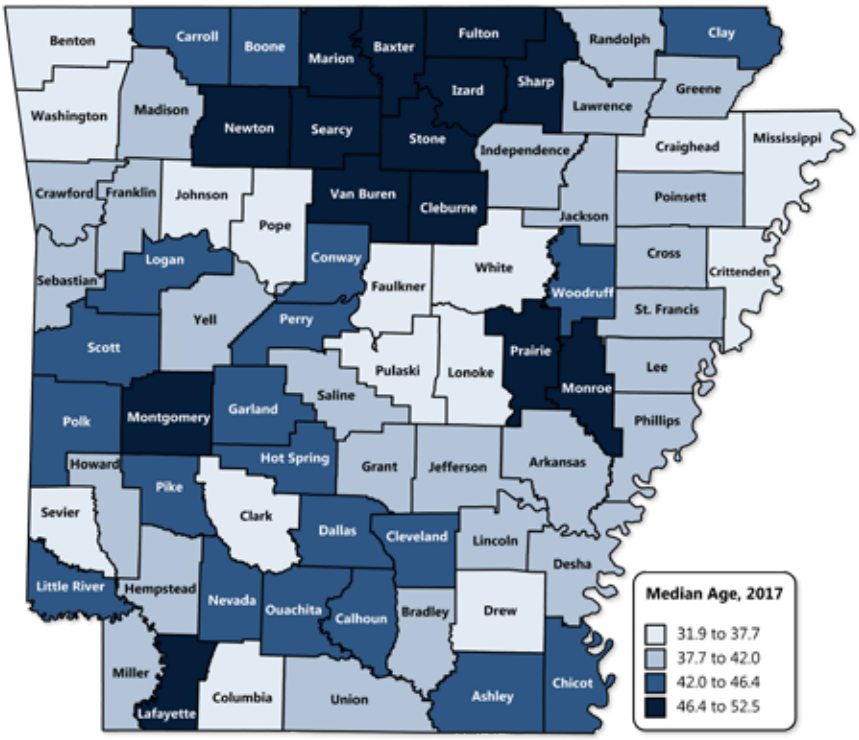
The non-white population increased 8.2% compared to 1.5% growth in the white population during this seven-year period. Most of the growth in the non-white population occurred in the urban area (Figure P11). However, the Highlands region experienced the highest percentage growth (14.3%) in its non-white population.

FIGURE P9. MEDIAN AGE, 2010-2017



Source: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Selected Age Groups by Sex for the United States, States, Counties, and Puerto Rico Commonwealth and Municipios: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2017

FIGURE P10. MEDIAN AGE, 2017



Source: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Selected Age Groups by Sex for the United States, States, Counties, and Puerto Rico Commonwealth and Municipios: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2017

Both the Delta and Coastal Plains lost non-white population from 2010 to 2017.

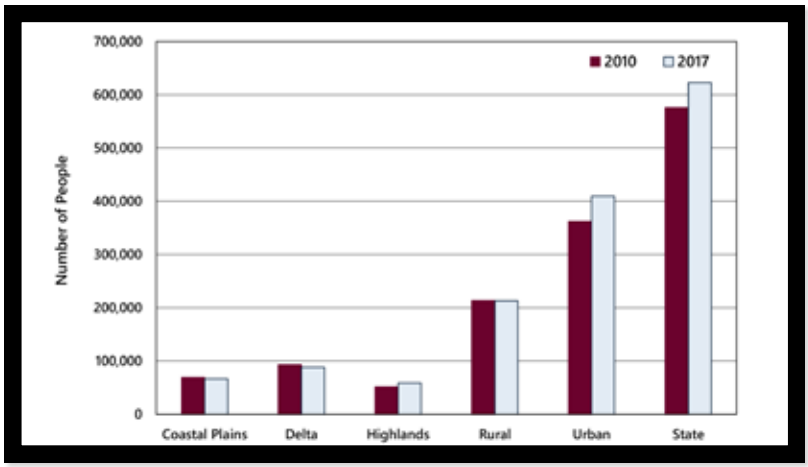
Statewide, the share of the non-white population increased by one percentage point, from 19.7% to 20.7% of the total population from 2010 to 2017 (Figure P12). The share of the non-white population increased in all regions of the state during this period. The share of the non-white population in the Urban region increased from 21.9% to 23.2% compared to an increase from 16.8% to 17.2% in the Rural region.

The Hispanic population also grew statewide and in both rural and urban areas of the state from 2010 to 2017 (Figure P13). Statewide the Hispanic population grew by over 40,000 or 21.5% during this period. Nearly three-fourths of this growth was in the Urban

region. Rural areas experienced growth in their Hispanic population of a little over 10,000 or 18.5%.

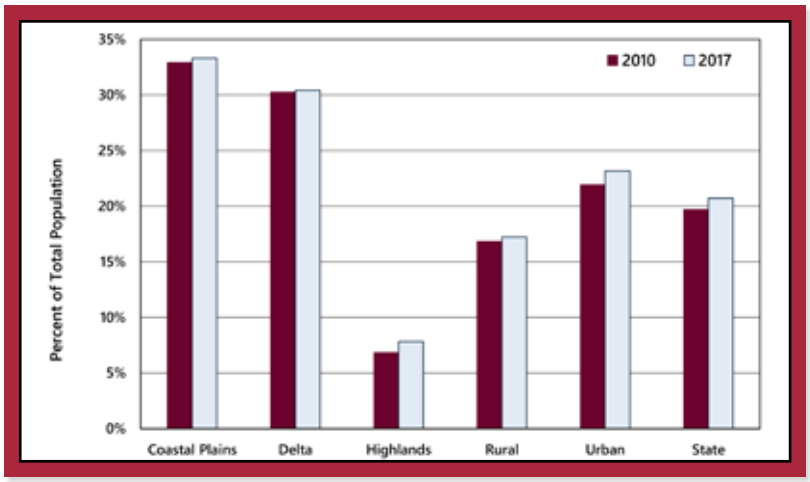
Statewide, the share of the Hispanic population grew from 6.4% of the total population in 2010 to 7.6% in 2017. The share of the Hispanic population in the Urban region was 9.1% in 2017 compared to only 5.4% in the Rural region.

FIGURE P11. NON-WHITE POPULATION, 2010 AND 2017



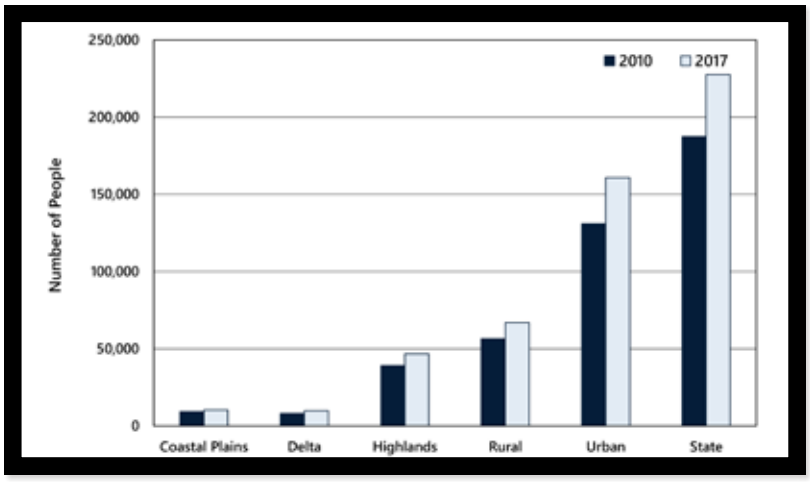
Source: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2017, U.S. Census Bureau

FIGURE P12. NON-WHITE POPULATION AS A SHARE OF TOTAL POPULATION, 2010 AND 2017



Source: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2017, U.S. Census Bureau

FIGURE P13. HISPANIC POPULATION, 2010 AND 2017



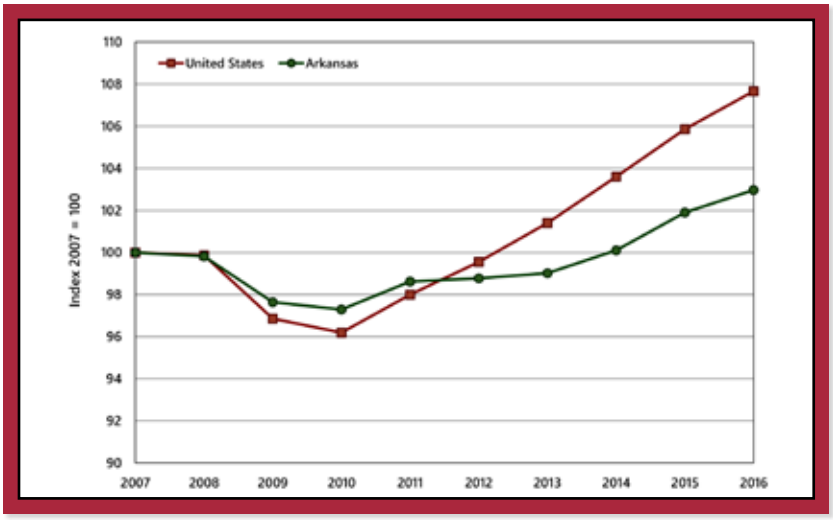
Source: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2017, U.S. Census Bureau

STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT GROWING

The Arkansas economy, as measured by total employment, declined significantly during the Great Recession. Since 2010, when statewide employment was lowest, total employment has grown consistently. However, employment growth varies greatly among regions of the state and was less than the national average.

Total employment in Arkansas declined more slowly than the U.S. economy because of the Great Recession, but also has not grown as rapidly since the low in 2010 (Figure E1). Arkansas' employment grew 5.8% from 2010 to 2016, less than the national average of 11.9%. In 2016, total employment was 3% higher than Arkansas' previous high in 2007, while the U.S. economy had 7.7% higher employment in 2016 compared to 2007.

FIGURE E1. ARKANSAS AND NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT TRENDS, 2007 TO 2016



Source: Computed from Regional Economic Accounts, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce

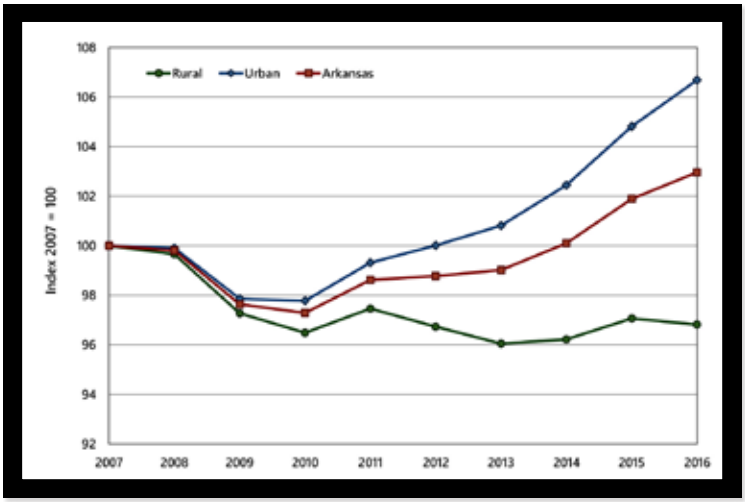
Rural and Urban Employment Differences Grow

While the Arkansas economy has grown since 2010, there continues to be a big difference in the growth/decline between the urban and rural economies in the state from 2010 to 2016.

Most urban areas of the state, with notable exceptions of Jefferson, Sebastian, and Crawford counties, experienced a smaller decline in employment during the recession and a larger increase during the post-recession recovery. Employment declined by 2.2% in urban areas from 2007 to 2010 compared to 3.5% in rural areas (Figure E2). During the post-recession recovery from 2010 to 2016, employment in urban areas increased 9.1% compared to a slight increase of 0.3% in rural areas of the state.

While the Urban region of the state experienced an increase in total employment of 6.7% from 2007 to 2016, the Rural region has not recovered from the recession and has yet to reach pre-recession employment levels. Employment in the Rural region of the state was 3.2% less in 2016 than 2007.

FIGURE E2. ARKANSAS RURAL AND URBAN COUNTY EMPLOYMENT TRENDS, 2007 TO 2016



Source: Computed from Regional Economic Accounts, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce

Declining Employment in Rural Areas

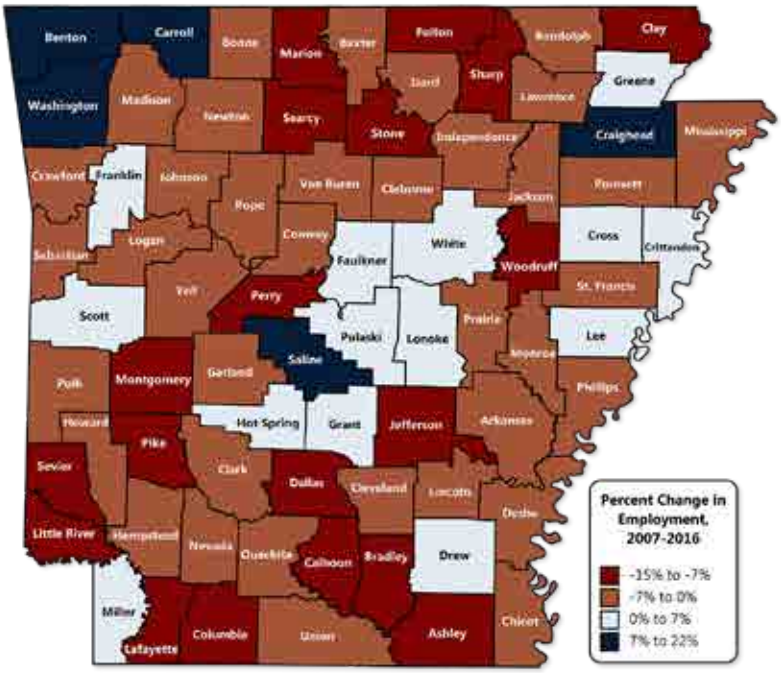
Although there were slight increases in employment in all three Rural regions of the state in 2011 and again in 2016, employment in 2016 remained below 2007 levels (Figure E3). Among all rural areas, the Coastal Plains had the largest percent decline in employment, 6.3% from 2007 to 2016. The Highlands and Delta regions experienced declines of 2.8% and 1.7%, respectively, during this period. All Rural regions experienced a decline in employment from 2007 to 2010 ranging between 3.2% and 4.5%, but only the Coastal Plains experienced a decrease

in employment (1.9%) from 2010 to 2016. Employment in the Highlands and Delta regions increased 0.5% and 1.6%, respectively, during this recent six-year period. Although some rural areas of the state created new jobs, most struggled to create the jobs that keep and attract residents.

Large Employment Differences within Regions

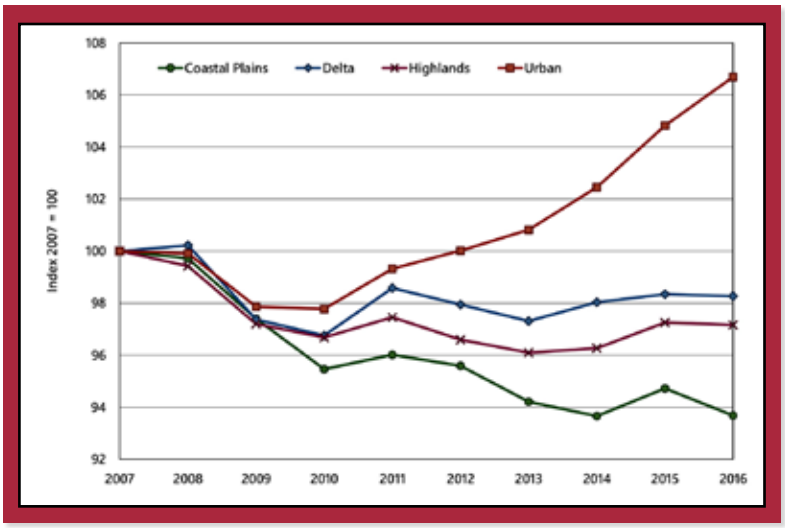
These regional averages mask large variations in employment gains and losses within the Rural and Urban regions of the state from 2007 to 2016 (Figure E4). Although there was an increase in total employment in Arkansas of 3% from 2007 to 2016, 56 of the 75 counties in Arkansas had a net loss of jobs during this period. The lost jobs were scattered across rural and urban counties alike.

FIGURE E4. PERCENT CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT, 2007 TO 2016



Source: Computed from Regional Economic Accounts, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce

FIGURE E3. ARKANSAS RURAL AND URBAN REGIONS EMPLOYMENT TRENDS, 2007 TO 2016



Source: Computed from Regional Economic Accounts, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce

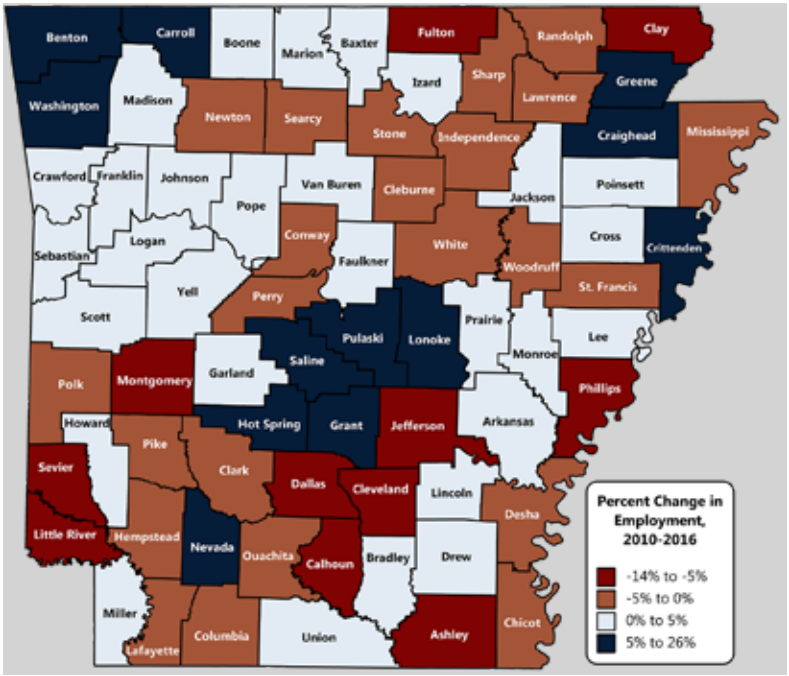
Four of the 13 urban counties experienced a decline in the total number of jobs during this period. These included Sebastian and Crawford counties in western Arkansas and Jefferson and Garland counties in central Arkansas. However, nine urban counties had an increase in employment during this period, ranging from 0.5% in Miller County to 22% in Benton County.

In the Coastal Plains, a region greatly affected by the recession, 11 of 12 counties had a net loss of jobs during this nine-year period. Only Drew County had a slight increase in employment of 0.2%. The Highlands region was also hit hard by the recession, where 28 of the 34 counties had a net loss of jobs between 2007 and 2016. Likewise, 13 of the 16 counties in the Delta region had a net loss of jobs during this same period. Nearly one-half of all rural counties lost more than 5% of their jobs, and six rural counties lost more than 10% of their jobs from 2007 to 2016. The six rural counties that were especially hard hit and lost more than 10% of their employment included Ashley, Calhoun, Clay, Little River, Montgomery and Pike. All six counties, like 26 other rural counties in Arkansas, continued to lose jobs in the post-recession recovery period from 2010 to 2016.

Although the recession took a toll on jobs across the state, 41 of Arkansas' 75 counties had net employment gains following the recession from 2010 to 2016. The highest rate of job growth occurred in counties that were in or surrounded the urban

areas of Northwest, Northeast and Central Arkansas (Figure E5). Twelve counties, seven urban and five rural, had 5% or greater growth in employment during this period. Employment grew nearly 26% in Benton County, 18% in Washington County and 16% in Craighead County during this period.

FIGURE E5. PERCENT CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT, 2010 TO 2016



Source: Computed from Regional Economic Accounts, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce

EMPLOYMENT BY MAJOR INDUSTRY SECTOR

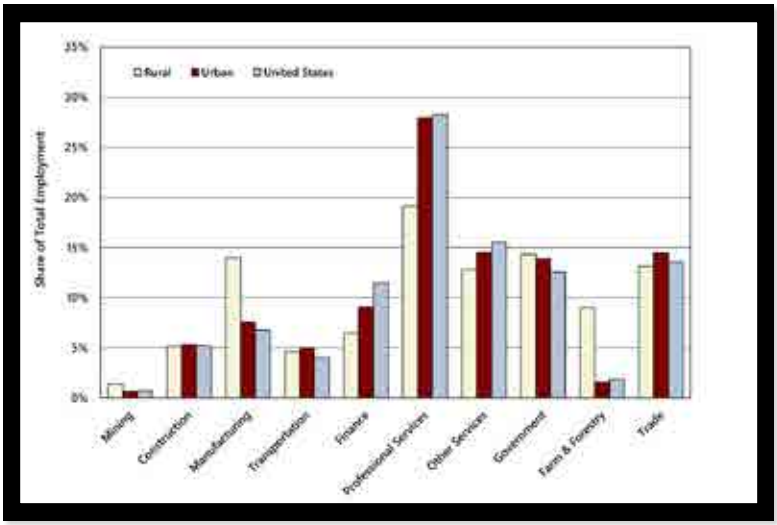
Diversity in type of industry and sources of income is vital to the success of Arkansas' economy. While the natural resources (Farm & Forestry and Mining) and Manufacturing sectors are critical to the state's economy, the Service Sector provided the largest share of employment in both urban and rural areas in 2016. However, compared to the United States economy, Farm & Forestry and Manufacturing remained larger shares of the Arkansas economy in 2016.

The major structural difference between rural and urban economies was that the Manufacturing and Natural Resources sectors provided a larger share of employment in the Rural region, whereas the service sector employed a larger share of workers in the Urban region (Figure E6). In 2016, nearly 25% of jobs in the Rural region were in Farm & Forestry, Mining and Manufacturing, compared to approximately 10% in the Urban region. The Urban region had 42% of their jobs in the Professional and Other Services sectors compared to just 32% in the Rural region.

Although Farm & Forestry provide only about 9% of the jobs in rural Arkansas, agriculture and forestry remain vital to the Rural region of the state. Many jobs in Manufacturing are processing agriculture and forestry products. Likewise, numerous Professional and Other Services sector jobs are required to support the Farm & Forestry and Manufacturing sectors. It was estimated that agriculture and forestry generated one of every six jobs in Arkansas in 2016[1]. This suggests that a strong agriculture and forestry industry remains central to the Rural regions of the state. Natural gas extraction, which is part of the Mining sector, has also become an important component of the economies of many rural counties accounting for between 3.6% and 8.4% of total employment in eight counties.

While the type of agriculture, forestry and manufacturing differs among the

FIGURE E6. EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR IN THE U.S. AND RURAL AND URBAN REGIONS OF ARKANSAS, 2016

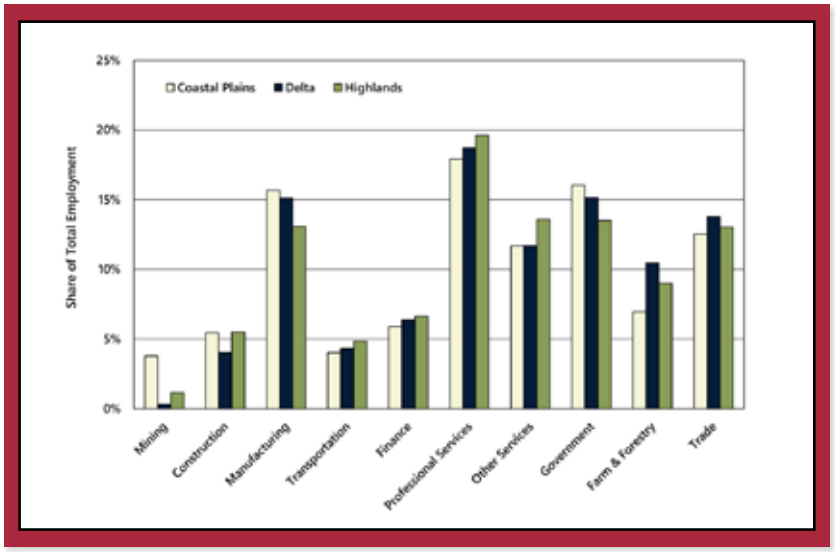


Sources: Computed from Regional Economic Accounts, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce and 2018 Woods & Poole database

[1] *2017 Arkansas Agriculture Profile, University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.*

Rural regions of the state, Figure E7 depicts the importance of these industries to all three Rural regions. Combined, the Farm & Forestry and Manufacturing sectors contribute between 22% and 26% of total employment in all three Rural regions of the state.

FIGURE E7. EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR IN RURAL REGIONS OF ARKANSAS, 2016



Source: Computed from Employment by Sector, 2018 Woods & Poole database

Employment Changes by Major Industry Sector

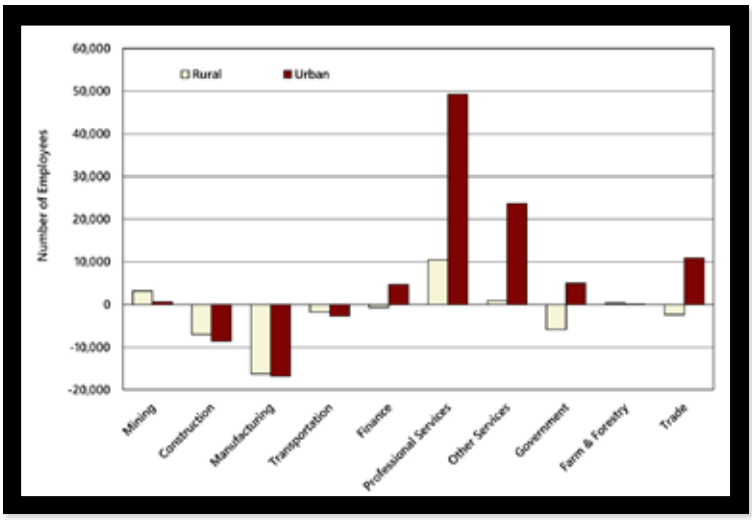
From 2007 to 2016, there was a continuing shift from Manufacturing to Service sector jobs in Arkansas. This trend disproportionately affected rural areas. Rural areas lost about the same number of Manufacturing jobs, but did not gain as many Professional and Other Services sector jobs, as the urban areas (Figure E8). Not only were manufacturing jobs lost, but Construction and Transportation & Utility jobs were also lost in both the Urban and Rural regions during this nine-year period. In addition, the Rural region lost jobs in the Government, Trade, Transportation & Utilities, and Finance, Insurance & Real Estate industries. The Manufacturing and Construction industries lost the most jobs between 2007 and 2016 in both the Rural and Urban regions of the state.

In addition to adding Professional and Other Services industry jobs, the Urban region also generated jobs in the Trade, Government, and Finance, Insurance & Real Estate industries from 2007 to 2016. The Rural region added jobs in Professional and Other Services and Mining industries during this same period.

Although both the Rural and Urban regions experienced employment growth in Professional and Other Services and Mining industries during this nine-year period, the Rural region benefited more from the increase in mining activities while the Urban region benefited more from an increase in all Professional and Other Services, Trade and Government jobs. The Urban region added approximately 72,900 Professional and Other Services sector jobs, approximately six times more than the Rural region. Two-thirds of the new service sector jobs were Professional Services. The Rural region also lost jobs in the Trade and Government sectors, whereas the Urban region gained jobs in these sectors.

Beginning in 2010, the growing state economy saw an employment increase in many sectors in the Urban and Rural regions of the state. Both Urban and Rural regions experienced job growth in the Professional and Other Services, Trade and Transportation industries from 2010 to 2016 (Figure E9). However, growth in the Urban region dwarfed the growth in the Rural region of the state. The Urban region

FIGURE E8. EMPLOYMENT CHANGE BY SECTOR IN RURAL AND URBAN REGIONS OF ARKANSAS, 2007-2016



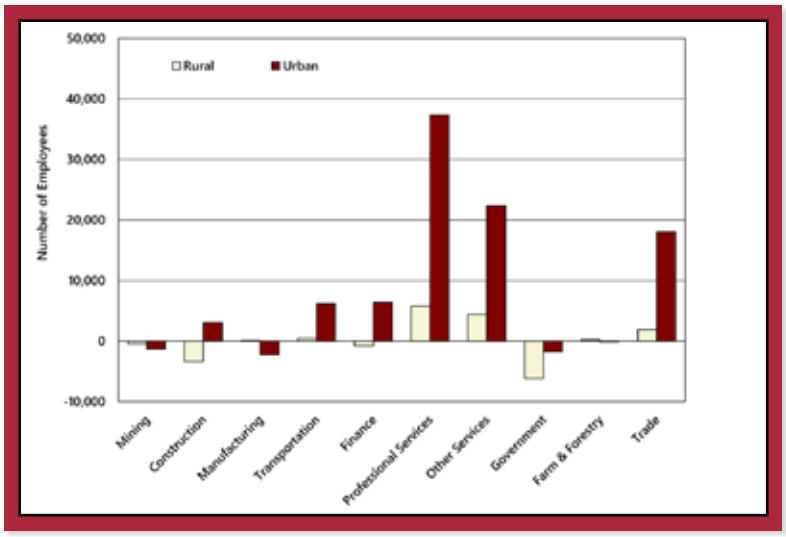
Source: Computed from Employment by Sector, 2018 Woods & Poole database

also experienced employment growth in the Finance, Insurance & Real Estate and Construction sectors. Government and Mining sector employment declined in both the Rural and Urban regions. While there was a slight increase in total employment in the Rural region during this recent six-year period, there was a net loss of jobs in the combined basic industries of Farm and Forestry, Mining and Manufacturing.

Again, the rural and urban averages mask differences among Rural regions (Figure E10). While Manufacturing and Farm & Forestry employment declined in the Highlands and Coastal Plains from 2010 to 2016, the Delta experienced an increase in employment in these basic industries during this six-year period. The Highlands lost many jobs in the Construction, Mining and Manufacturing sectors, but added more jobs in Professional and Other Services and Trade sectors than the Delta and Coastal Plains. The Delta region added over 1,000 manufacturing jobs from 2010 to 2016.

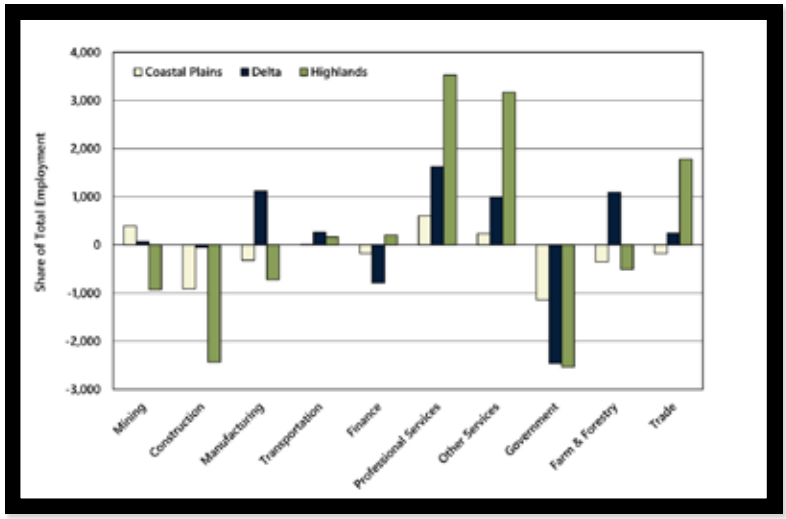
The changing structure of the Arkansas economy, especially in the rural areas, suggests a need to diversify and invest in economic enterprises that utilize and add value to local resources. The increasing need for skilled technicians in many industries suggests that those regions with a skilled and dependable workforce will be in a better position to grow their regional economies.

FIGURE E9. EMPLOYMENT CHANGE BY SECTOR IN RURAL AND URBAN REGIONS OF ARKANSAS, 2010 TO 2016



Source: Computed from Employment by Sector, 2018 Woods & Poole database

FIGURE E10. EMPLOYMENT CHANGE BY SECTOR IN RURAL REGIONS OF ARKANSAS, 2010-2016



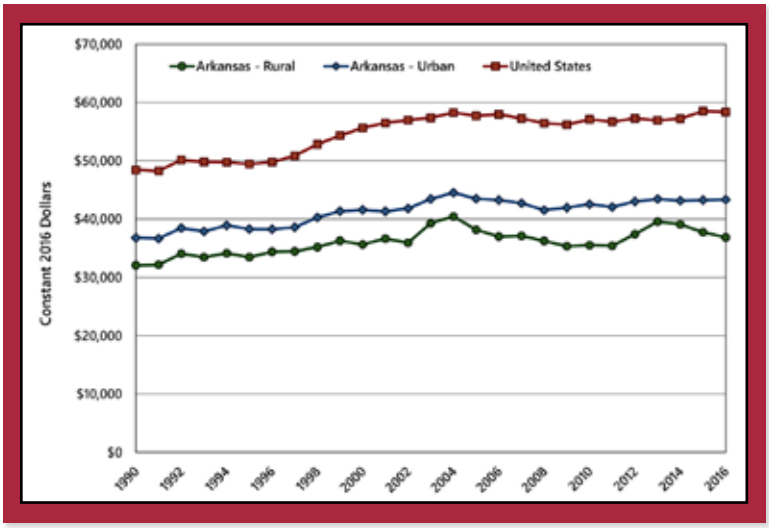
Source: Computed from Employment by Sector, 2018 Woods & Poole database

AVERAGE EARNINGS PER JOB INCREASING

The average earnings per job in Arkansas in 2016 was approximately 78% of the national average, $45,217 in Arkansas compared $58,372 nationwide. The average earnings per job in Arkansas increased 3.6% from 2010 to 2016, while the national average earnings per job increased 2.2%. However, the increase in the average earnings per job from pre-recession levels in Arkansas was less than two percent (1.9%) due to a decline in average earnings per job from 2007 to 2010 (Figure E11).

Although average earnings per job increased at a faster rate in the Rural region of Arkansas from 2010 to 2016, it remains below the pre-recession highs and there remains a persistent gap between rural and urban earnings per job. Average earnings per job in the Rural region increased 3.7% from 2010 to 2016 compared to an increase of 1.9% in the Urban region. This resulted in average earnings per job in the Rural region growing from 83.5% to 85% of that in the Urban region during this six-year period, but remained below the pre-recession level of approximately 87%.

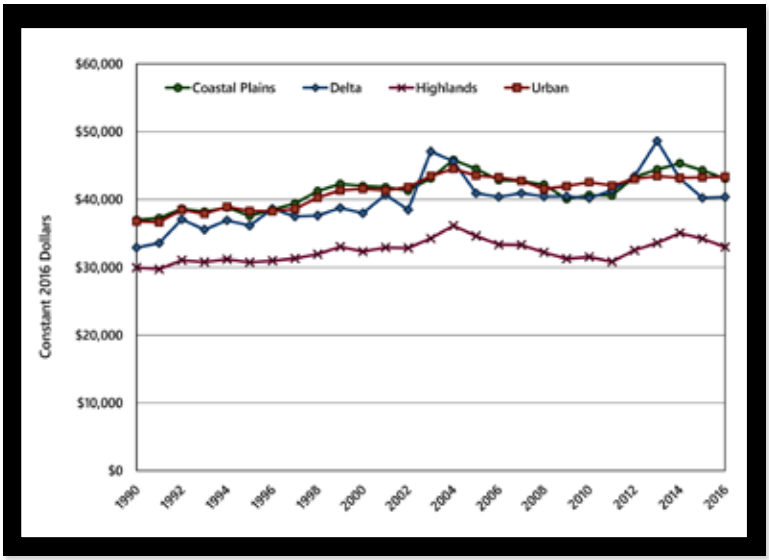
FIGURE E11. AVERAGE EARNINGS PER JOB IN THE U.S. AND THE URBAN AND RURAL REGIONS OF ARKANSAS, 1990-2016



Sources: Regional Economic Accounts, Economic Profile, 1990-2016, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce; South Urban Consumer Price Index, 1990-2016, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor

Regional changes in average earnings per job suggest a positive trend, although there were yearly fluctuations. Average earnings per job in the Coastal Plains and Highlands increased 6% and 4.6%, respectively, between 2010 and 2016. However, average earnings per job in the Highlands remained considerably below the urban average in 2016 (Figure E12). Average earnings per job of counties in the Coastal Plains and Delta were approximately the same as the average in urban counties in 2016.

FIGURE E12. AVERAGE EARNINGS PER JOB IN THE URBAN AND RURAL REGIONS OF ARKANSAS, 1990-2016



Sources: Regional Economic Accounts, Economic Profile, 1990-2016, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce; South Urban Consumer Price Index, 1990-2016, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor

Although there was an increase in average earnings per job in all three Rural regions, substantial variation existed among counties from 2007 to 2016. Average earnings per job declined in 36 counties during this period including four urban counties (Figure E13). The remaining 39 counties experienced an increase in average earnings per job ranging from only slight increases to 22% in Jackson County. Many of the counties experiencing a decline in average earnings per job were in the Highlands, although Lee County, in the Delta, had the greatest decrease of 24%.

While there were some differences in average earnings per job among regions, there were large differences in average earnings per job among counties within regions of the state in 2016. The difference between the lowest and highest average earnings per job in counties varied from approximately $17,000 in the Delta to over $21,000 in the Coastal Plains, Highlands and Urban regions. For example, in the Highlands region, average earnings per job was $19,605 in Newton County and $42,461 in Pope County, a $22,856 difference.

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME DECLINES

The median household income in Arkansas was $42,336 in 2016, which was approximately 77% of the median household income in the nation. Five-year estimates from 2006-2010 to 2012-2016 indicated that median household income in Arkansas declined 2% during this six-year period[2].

The average median household income of counties in the Rural region of the state was only 78% of the average median household income of counties in the Urban region and 65% of U.S. median household income. In 2016, the average

[2] *We use five-year averages (2006-2010 & 2012-2016) of median household income to compare over time since the yearly estimates vary greatly due to the small sample size in sparsely populated counties.*

median household income of counties in the Rural region was approximately $36,000 compared to $46,000 in the Urban region. There were moderate differences in the average median household income of counties among Rural regions of the state, and vast differences within regions of the state.

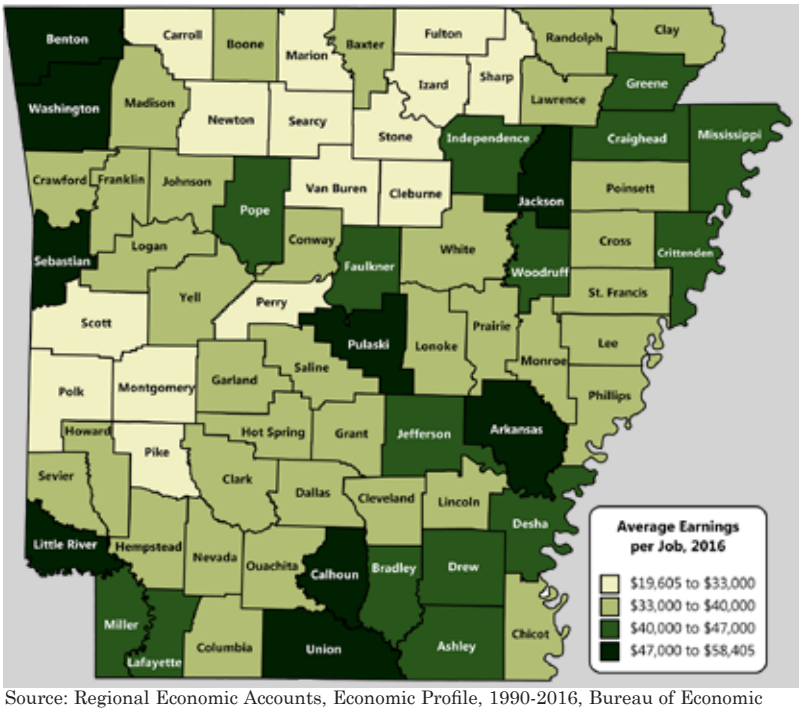
Median household income varied greatly among counties ranging from a low of $25,724 in Lee County to a high of $59,016 in Benton County using the five-year average from 2012 to 2016. There was a $16,000 difference in median household income between the low of $29,982 in Searcy County and a high of $46,074 in Grant County in the Highlands region. Similarly, there was nearly a $23,000 difference between the lowest and highest median household income among the urban counties, ranging from $36,377 in Jefferson County to $59,016 in Benton County.

Although the regional average earnings per job increased from 2010 to 2016, median household income declined for the same period. Median household income declined in both the Rural and Urban regions of the state during this period, 2.9% and 1.5% respectively. The Delta experienced the greatest decline at 5.8%.

Of all Arkansas counties, Nevada County experienced the largest decline in median household income (27%), followed by Lee County with a decline of nearly 19%. Twenty-nine counties experienced an increase in median household income during this six-year period, and of these, Chicot, Franklin, St. Francis and Searcy had increases over 10% (Figure E14). However, even with the large increase in median household income, all these counties still had median household incomes below the statewide median.

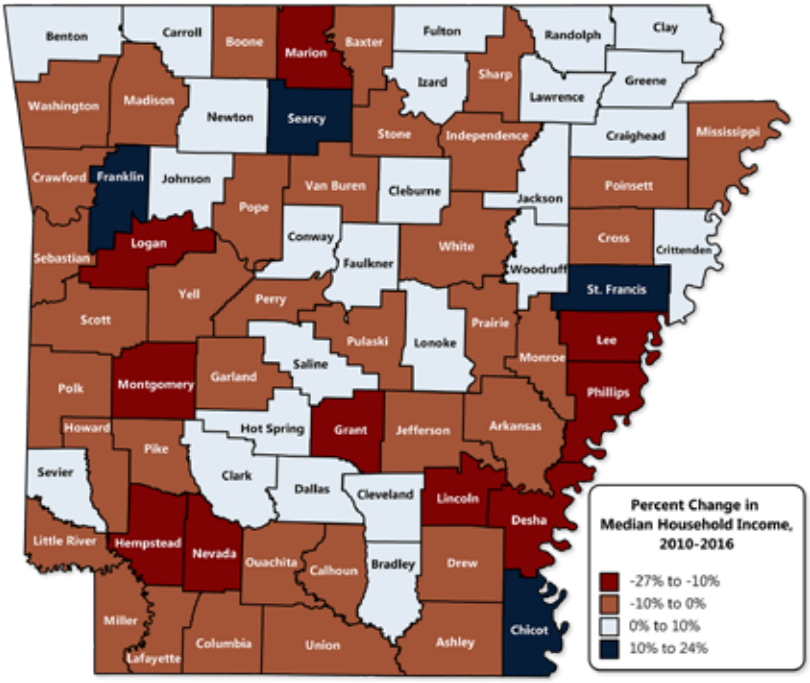
Although average earnings per job increased between 2010 and 2016, there were fewer jobs in rural areas of the state and many rural households had low and declining household incomes.

FIGURE E13. AVERAGE EARNINGS PER JOB, 2016



Source: Regional Economic Accounts, Economic Profile, 1990-2016, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce

FIGURE E14. PERCENT CHANGE IN MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME, 2010-2016



Sources: Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months, 2006-2010 to 2012-2016 5-Year Estimates, Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce; South Urban CPI, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor

Infrastructure is the backbone of Arkansas' economy. Access to modern infrastructure connects people and businesses to world markets and information, and improves the overall quality of life. In contrast, limited access to infrastructure—due to low quality or quantity—may prolong poverty and slow economic development.

As businesses leave and the population of rural Arkansas declines, the ability of local governments to generate revenue also decreases. In turn, providing and improving critical infrastructure becomes difficult for many rural communities.

BRIDGE CONDITION IMPROVING IN RURAL AND URBAN REGIONS

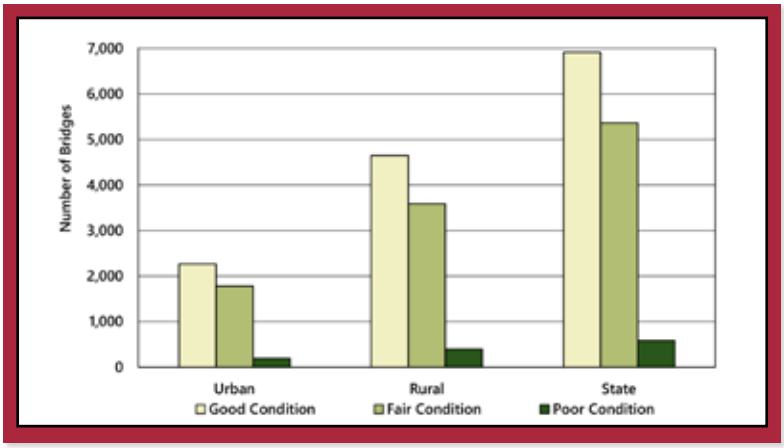
In 2017, about 95 percent of Arkansas' 12,669 state, county and city bridges were in good or fair condition while 5 percent were in poor condition as rated by the Federal Highway Administration (Figure I1)[1]. The share of bridges in urban and rural counties rated as good, fair or poor were about the same. Of the 12,669 bridges, 749 (6%) were rated as structurally deficient in 2017. This is significantly less than the high of 1,614 in 2001.

Of bridges rated as structurally deficient, 517 were in rural counties and 232 were in urban counties. Among the Rural regions, the Highlands had the highest number of structurally deficient bridges at 286. The Delta had fewer structurally deficient bridges (164), but the highest average number per county at 10. The Coastal Plains had the fewest number of structurally deficient bridges (67) and the lowest average number per county (6). Although the Urban region had fewer structurally deficient bridges than the Rural region, it had an average of nearly 18 per county. This was substantially higher than the average of 10 per county in the Delta, the highest of the Rural regions.

Many of the structurally deficient bridges were concentrated in a few counties. Two counties—Grant and Conway—had no structurally deficient bridges, while Pulaski County had 34 structurally deficient bridges (Figure I2). Fifteen counties in western, central and northeast Arkansas had nearly one-half (49%) of the structurally deficient bridges in the state. Six of these counties had nearly one-fourth (24%) of the structurally deficient bridges in 2017.

Although the Urban region had only less than one-third (31%) of the structurally deficient bridges in the state, the urban counties accounted for nearly 58% of structurally deficient bridge surface area. As bridge replacement cost is in part determined by surface area, this difference is reflected in replacement cost estimates. Replacing all structurally deficient state, county and city bridges in rural counties was estimated to cost $249 million compared to $342 million in urban counties[2].

FIGURE I1. CONDITION OF ARKANSAS BRIDGES IN THE STATE AND RURAL AND URBAN COUNTIES, 2017



Source: Bridge Condition by County 2017, Federal Highway Administration

Among the Rural regions of the state, replacement cost for structurally deficient bridges is greatest in the Highlands at $116 million, followed by the Delta at $97 million and the Coastal Plains at $36 million. Pulaski County had 34 structurally deficient bridges and estimated replacement costs totaling $136 million. It should be noted that repairing structurally deficient bridges often costs less than replacing bridges. The Federal Highway Administration estimates repairing structurally deficient bridges costs about two-thirds (68%) of the replacement cost.

ACCESS TO HIGH SPEED INTERNET REMAINS LOW

The internet has the power to connect people and businesses in rural communities to information and global markets that might otherwise be unavailable or difficult to access. However,

[1] *Bridge condition is evaluated based on four criteria: 1) materials, 2) deck or driving surface, 3) superstructure or supports directly below the deck and 4) substructure or foundation and supports. Each bridge receives a score for general bridge condition from zero (failed) to nine (excellent). A bridge is classified as structurally deficient if it receives a score of four (poor) or lower on any of the four evaluation criteria, so a bridge may receive a general score of fair or good and still be classified as structurally deficient. Classification as structurally deficient does not imply bridge failure is imminent.*

[2] *These cost estimates are based on the Federal Highway Administration's non-national highway system bridge replacement cost estimates for Arkansas at $130.33 per square foot of bridge surface area.*

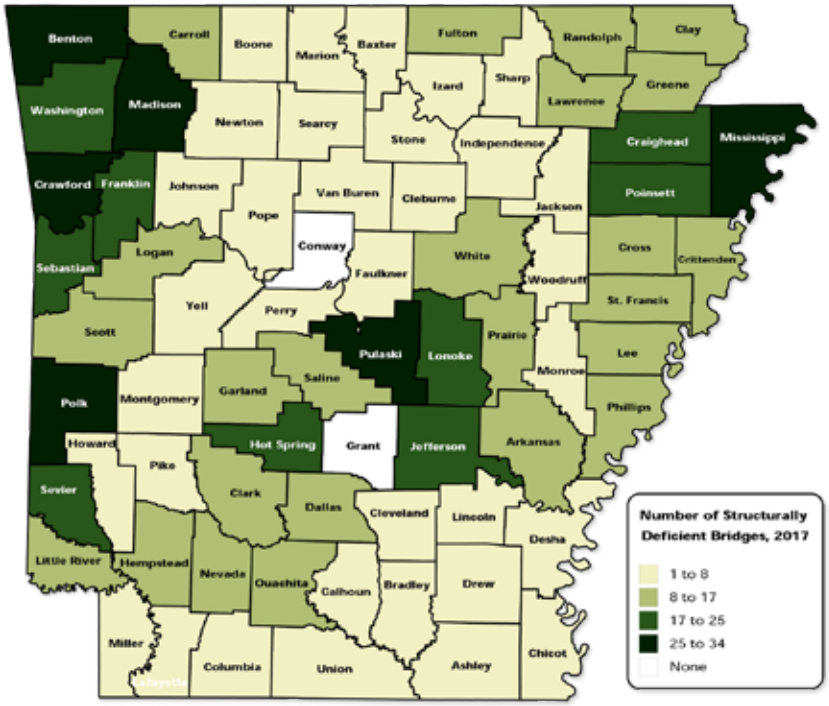
despite the importance of high speed broadband in a globalized economy, Arkansans' access to it remains low. It was estimated that only between 400 to 600 households of every 1,000 in Arkansas had access to an internet speed of 0.2 megabits per second (Mbps) in 2015. This speed is far below the 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload benchmark used by the FCC to define broadband internet.

In fact, it was estimated that only 200 to 400 of every 1,000 households in Arkansas had access to internet with download speeds of at least 10 Mbps in 2015. While internet with below standard speeds appears to be the norm in Arkansas, rural counties are disproportionately impacted by substandard internet (Figure I3). Of Arkansas' 75 counties, 31 had less than 200 households per 1,000 with 10 Mbps or faster download speeds and only one of these (Jefferson County) was urban. An additional 29 rural and 3 urban counties had between 200 to 400 households per 1,000 with download speeds of 10 Mbps or more. Most urban counties (8) had between 400 to 600 households per 1,000 with internet download speeds of at least 10 Mbps compared to only 3 rural counties. Benton County was the only county in the state to have between 600 and 800 households per 1,000 with internet speeds of 10 Mbps or greater.

IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

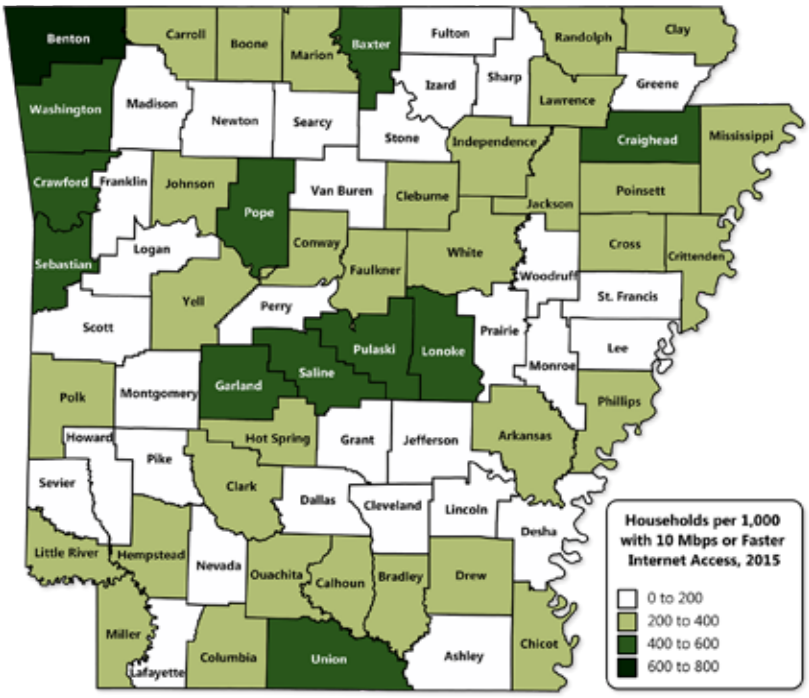
Sixty-eight of 75 counties in Arkansas (91%) had wastewater treatment facilities requiring upgrades to meet environmental health and safety standards in 2012. While rural counties had more than double the number of facilities with repair and replacement needs (151) than urban counties (63), the total estimated cost to address needs in the urban

FIGURE I2. STATE, COUNTY AND CITY STRUCTURALLY DEFICIENT BRIDGES, 2017



Source: Bridge Condition by County 2017, Federal Highway Administration

FIGURE I3. HOUSEHOLDS PER 1,000 WITH 10 MBPS OR FASTER INTERNET ACCESS, 2015



Source: Form 477 County Data on Internet Access Services, Federal Communications Commission

counties was considerably higher. The total cost to implement necessary improvements in urban counties was $402.5 million compared to $312 million in rural counties.

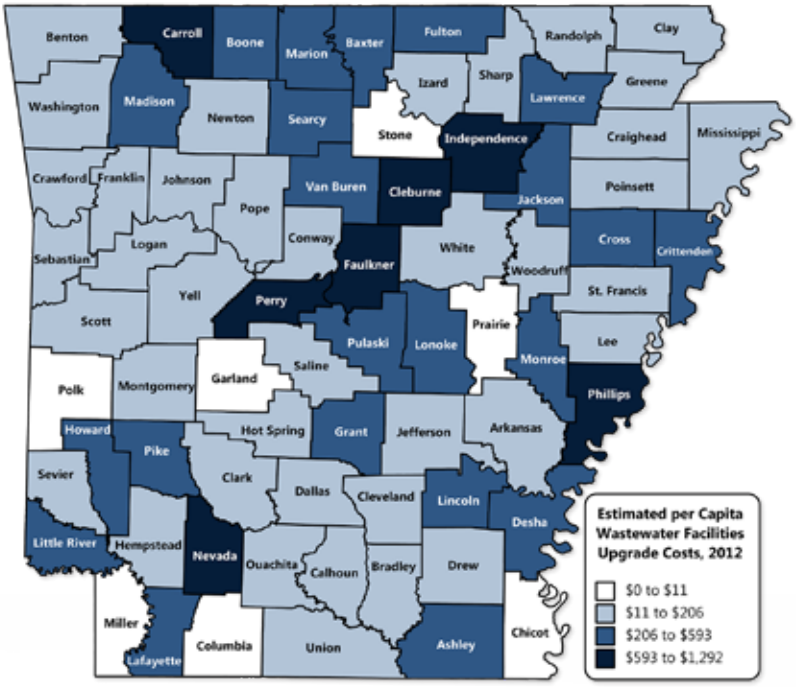
There is significant variability in the estimated cost to upgrade wastewater treatment facilities among Rural regions, with the Coastal Plains and Delta having upgrade costs of $40.3 million and $49.5 million, respectively, compared to $222.2 million in the Highlands in 2012.

There was also significant variability among counties. Of the eight counties with upgrade costs of less than $100,000, five rural and two urban counties had no needed upgrades. Sixty percent of Arkansas counties, 42 rural and 3 urban, had wastewater infrastructure needs costing from $1 million to $10 million. An additional six rural and eight urban counties had needed wastewater treatment facility improvements costing more than $10 million. Among rural counties, Independence County had the greatest upgrade needs, costing $43.6 million. Of the urban counties, Pulaski County had the highest estimated costs to upgrade wastewater facilities at $141 million.

Although urban counties had higher total estimated costs for wastewater facility improvements, rural counties had slightly higher per capita upgrade costs at $247 compared to $238 for urban counties. Among Rural regions, the Highlands per capita upgrade cost of $296 was substantially higher than in the Coastal Plains ($194) and Delta ($163) regions.

Differences in per capita needs are also apparent among individual counties. Seven counties had no needed wastewater facility improvements in 2012 (Figure I4). Another 39 counties had estimated per person upgrade costs of less than $206. Six of the seven counties with estimated per capita upgrade costs of more than $593 were rural. The only two counties with per capita wastewater facility upgrade costs greater than $1,000 were Nevada and Independence counties at $1,292 and $1,181, respectively.

FIGURE I4. ESTIMATED PER CAPITA WASTEWATER FACILITIES UPGRADE COSTS, 2012



Source: 2012 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey, Environmental Protection Agency

Several indicators suggest that people living in rural areas of Arkansas were more likely to face social and economic stress than those living in urban areas. These indicators also suggest that social and economic stress grew in both rural and urban areas of the state from 2010 to 2016. This was in spite of the growth in employment and income during this period. We use several indicators to provide a snapshot and show trends of social and economic stress of households and individuals in rural and urban areas of the state, including:

- Incidence and patterns of poverty,
- Participation in the SNAP program, and
- Individuals with food insecurity

POVERTY REMAINS HIGH

The statewide poverty rate[1], although higher than the national average, did not change greatly from 2010 to 2016. However, the Delta and Coastal Plains Rural regions had substantially higher shares of their people living in poverty than other regions of the state, and the poverty rate in the Coastal Plains increased substantially during this six-year period. Child poverty rates grew slowly during this period and remained substantially above the national average. On a positive note, the share of the elderly population in poverty declined during this six-year period.

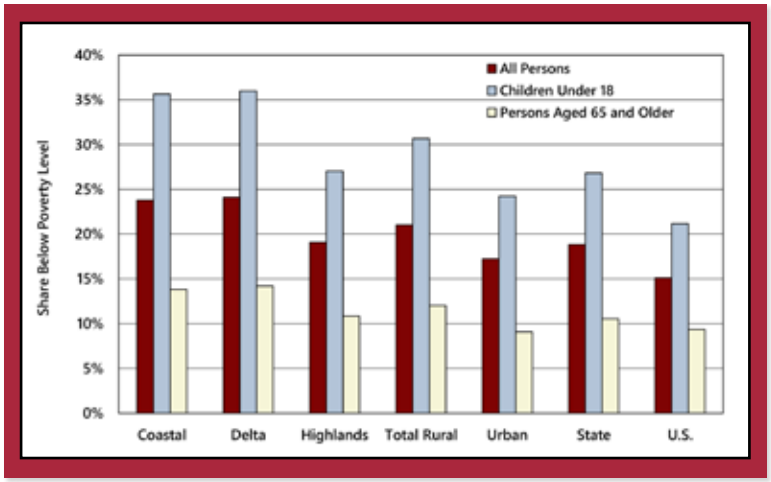
The statewide poverty rate increased only slightly from 18% in 2010 to 19% in 2016 and remained approximately four percentage points above the national average of 15% (Figure SES1). Arkansas continued to rank in the five states with the highest poverty rates in the country for both the total population and child poverty.

Rural Poverty Rates Higher Than Urban Areas

Rural areas of Arkansas had a substantially higher poverty rate than urban areas in 2016, 21% and 17% respectively. However, the growth in the poverty rate was similar between urban and rural areas of the state from 2010 to 2016, approximately 1%.

The rural and urban poverty rates mask differences among Rural regions and among counties within regions. For example, nearly one-fourth of the population (24%) in the Coastal Plains and Delta were living below the poverty level in 2016 compared to 19% in the Highlands. Likewise, the poverty rate varied greatly among counties within regions. Poverty rates varied greatly within the Urban and Delta regions in 2016. In the Urban region, poverty rates ranged from a low 8.5% in Saline County to a high of 25.5% in Jefferson County. In the Delta region, poverty rates ranged from a low of 17.7% in Greene County to 33.5% in Phillips County.

FIGURE SES1. PERCENT PERSONS IN POVERTY BY AGE, 2016



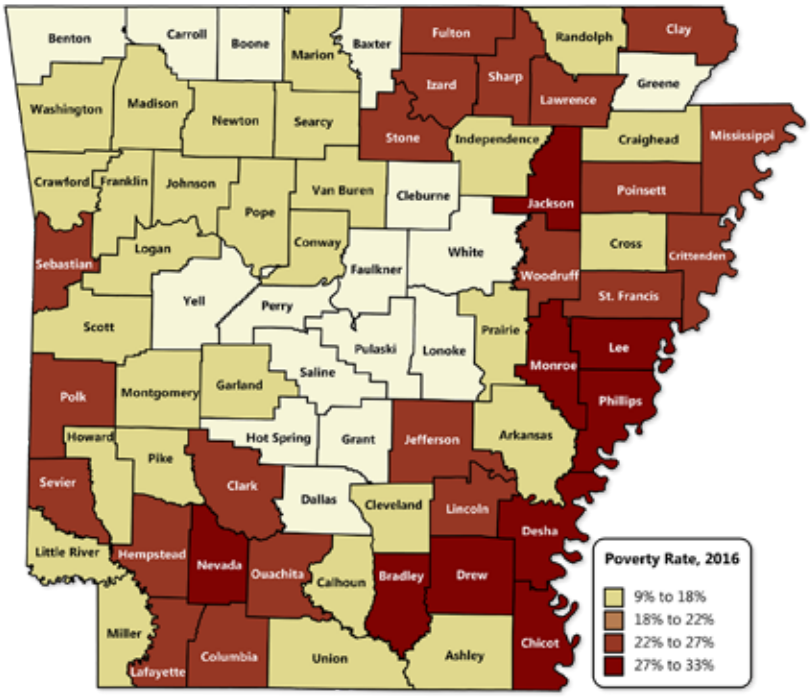
Source: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2012-2016, U.S. Census Bureau

A glance at the map of poverty rates shown in Figure SES2 illustrates this diversity within regions and pockets of more extreme poverty. Nine counties had a poverty rate of 27% or greater. All of these counties were in the Delta or Coastal Plains. Two of these counties had a poverty rate exceeding 30%. Only Saline County had a poverty rate below 10%.

Rural Child Poverty High and Growing

Arkansas' child poverty rate in 2016 was 27%, which was much higher than the adult rate of 16%, and growing in Rural regions of the state. In addition, the number of Arkansas children living below the poverty line was substantially higher than the national average of 21%, a national rate among the highest of the industrialized countries in the world. With more than one-in-four children in the state living below the poverty line, Arkansas' child poverty rate ranked fourth highest nationally in 2016.

FIGURE SES2. POVERTY RATE, 2016



Source: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2012-2016, U.S. Census Bureau

Child poverty rates were even higher in rural areas, 31% versus 24% in urban areas. This means that nearly one-in-three children living in rural areas of the state were living below the poverty line, compared to about one-in-four children in urban areas.

Although there were fewer children in rural areas living in poverty in 2016 than in 2010, the child poverty rate increased from 29% to 31% during this period. This was in contrast to urban areas of the state where the total number of children living in poverty increased, while the poverty rate remained about the same.

While all Rural regions had higher child poverty rates than the Urban region, the Coastal Plains and Delta had extremely high child poverty rates of 36% in 2016. While the child poverty rate in the Delta changed little from 2010 to 2016, the rate in the Coastal Plains increased greatly, from 31% to 36% during this six-year period.

Child poverty rates also varied greatly among counties with the lowest at 11% in Saline County and the highest at 53% in Phillips County. Eight counties had child poverty rates greater than 40%, where four of every ten children were living in poverty.

Persistent Child Poverty

Of particular concern to policymakers are counties with a long history of high child poverty rates as this has implications for their health, learning abilities and contribution to society[2]. Over one-half (39) of Arkansas' counties were classified as having "persistent child poverty" by USDA's Economic Research Services. Persistent child poverty counties are defined as having child poverty rates above 20% in the 1980, 1990 and 2000 census and again in the American Community Survey 2007-2011.

All regions contained counties with persistent child poverty. Thirty-six, or approximately 60%, of all rural counties were defined as having persistent child poverty compared to 23%, or three urban counties (Figure SES3). Nearly 90% of the Delta counties were defined as having persistent child poverty compared to two-thirds of Coastal Plains counties and approximately 40% of counties in the Highlands. For more than 30 years, these 39 counties have experienced extreme child poverty.

Elderly Poverty Rate Declined

Although the number of Arkansans that were 65 years of age and above and living in poverty increased slightly from 2010 to 2016, the poverty rate for this age group declined slightly during this six-year period. National poverty rates for persons in this age group have fallen since the 1960s. In Arkansas, the poverty rate for people 65 and older has fallen slightly since 1999, from 14% to 11% in 2016. However, Arkansas' poverty rate for those 65 and above remains about two percentage points above the national average of 9%.

Urban areas had a lower elderly poverty rate (9%) than rural areas (12%). Not surprisingly, the Coastal Plains and Delta had the highest elderly poverty rates at 14% with the Highlands having an 11% rate. The overall rate for rural counties, however, hides great variation. Nevada County had the highest elderly poverty rate at 24%, nearly

[1] *The poverty rate is the ratio of the number of people (in a given age group) whose income falls below the poverty threshold. The Census Bureau determines poverty status by using an official poverty measure (OPM) that compares pre-tax cash income against a threshold, or minimum amount needed to cover basic needs.*

[2] *Effects of Poverty, Hunger and Homelessness on Children and Youth (2018), American Psychological Association. Accessed from* ***https://www.apa.org/pi/families/poverty.aspx***.

one in four people, whereas Saline County had the lowest at 5%. Three counties had an elderly poverty rate of 20% or greater. All of these were rural counties in the Delta and Coastal Plains. It is noteworthy that the counties with the largest net in-migration of people 60 years of age and above were counties with some of the lowest elderly poverty rates.

The elderly poverty rate was substantially less than Arkansas' total population poverty rate and continued to decline.

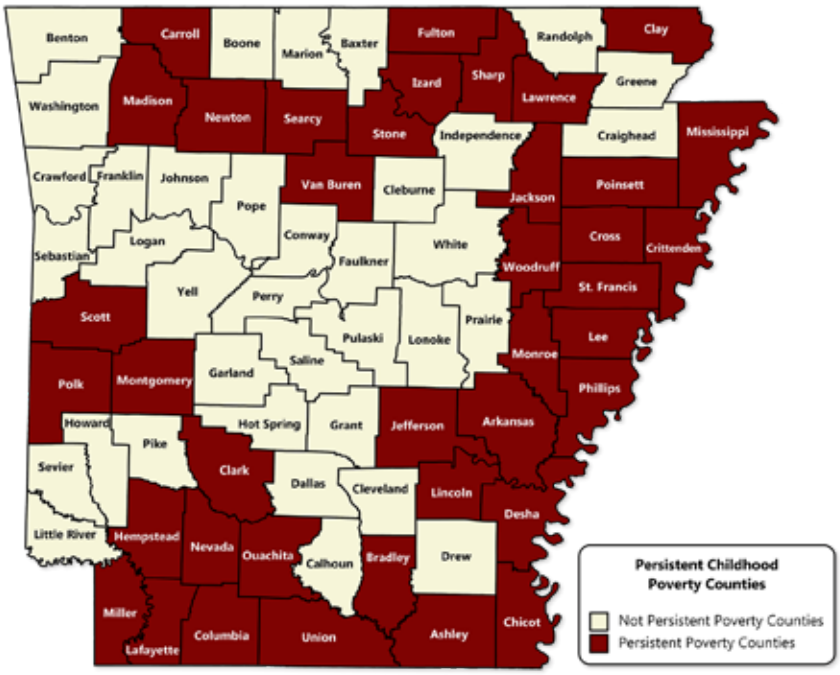
RURAL RESIDENTS MORE LIKELY TO RECEIVE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

Statewide, more than 500,000 people or nearly one in five (18%) Arkansans received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits in 2017, formerly known as food stamps. Although many Arkansans receive SNAP assistance, the number has been declining since the peak in 2013, due in part to an improving economy. Rural areas and children were more likely to receive SNAP benefits than urban areas and other age groups. One in five rural residents (21%) compared to 16% of urban residents received SNAP benefits in 2017. Of the Rural regions, the Delta had the highest rate of 26%, followed by the Coastal Plains with 23%.

Thirty-nine counties in the state had more than one-fifth of their residents receiving SNAP (Figure SES4). More than one-fourth of the population in 12 counties received supplemental nutrition assistance. Nine of these counties were in the rural Delta, plus Crittenden and Jefferson counties, which are considered part of the urban Delta. Bradley County in the Coastal Plains was the other county in which more than one-fourth of the population received SNAP in 2017.

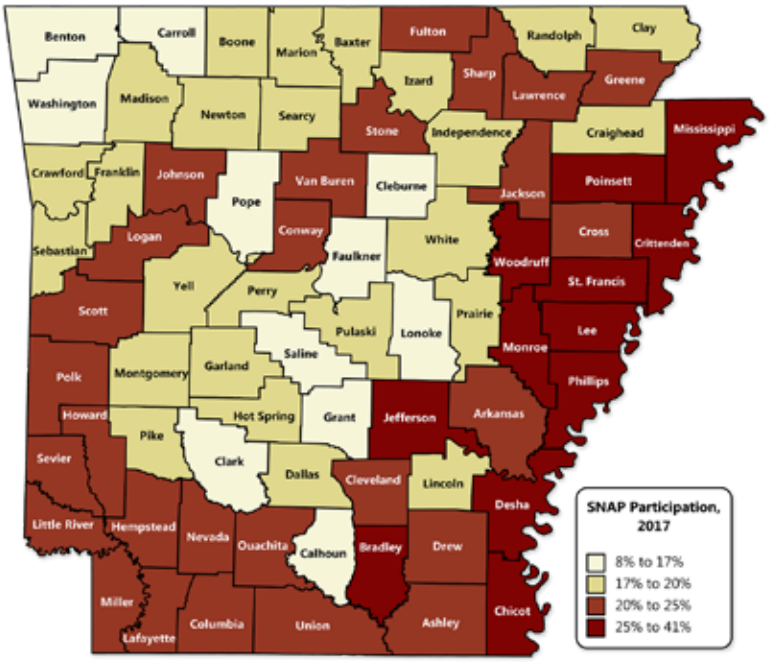
Children were more likely to receive SNAP benefits (34%) than adults aged 19 to 64 (15%) and the elderly (5%).

FIGURE SES3. PERSISTENT CHILDHOOD POVERTY COUNTIES



Sources: Poverty Status, Decennial Census 1980-2000, U.S. Census Bureau; Poverty Status, 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

FIGURE SES4. SNAP PARTICIPATION, 2017



Sources: SNAP Program Recipients by Age, Arkansas Department of Health FY2017 Statistical Report; Population Estimates 1999-2017, U.S. Census Bureau; Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2017, U.S. Census Bureau

Nearly half (47%) of the children in the Delta received SNAP benefits compared to 31% in the Urban region. The Delta also had the highest percentage of working-age adults receiving SNAP benefits with a rate of 22% compared to 13% in the Urban region.

Approximately 5% of elderly adults, those 65 years of age and above, received SNAP benefits in 2017. A larger share of the rural elderly received SNAP benefits in 2017, although a greater number of urban elderly received these benefits in 2017. Nearly 4% of those living in the Urban region received SNAP benefits in 2017 compared to a little over 7% of those living in the Rural region. Five of the six counties with the highest share of elderly receiving SNAP benefits were in the Delta. The counties with the highest net in-migration of elderly were among the counties with the lowest share of elderly receiving SNAP benefits.

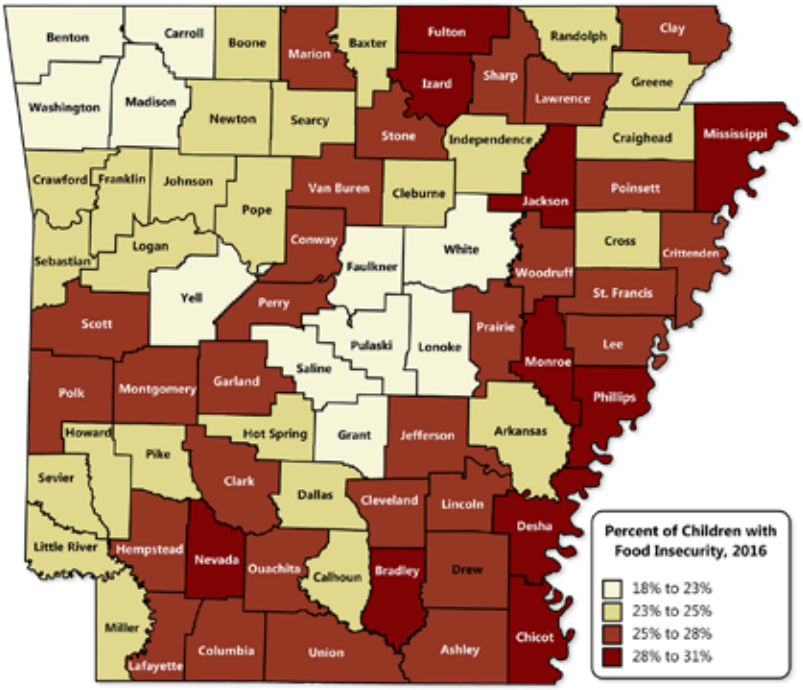
FOOD INSECURITY SOMEWHAT HIGHER IN RURAL AREAS

Another measure of vulnerability for households is food insecurity. Food insecurity as defined by the USDA means that persons at times do not have enough food for an active and healthy life for all members in the household and limited or unreliable availability of foods providing adequate nutrition. Households that are food insecure are not always food insecure. Food insecurity indicates that the household is struggling and may at times have to make choices between adequate food and other basic needs such as housing or medicines.

Nationally, approximately 40 million people or about 12% of the population was food insecure in 2017[3]. Arkansas had the second highest rate of food insecurity in the country averaged over the years 2015-2017 according to the latest figures released by the USDA. Statewide, over 500,000 Arkansans or 17.2% of the population faced food insecurity in 2016[4]. Rural areas experienced slightly more food insecurity nationally and in Arkansas where the rate was 17.9% or nearly one-of-five people. The Delta had the highest regional rate at nearly 22%.

Rates of food insecurity were higher for children than adults. Arkansas was ranked among the five states with the highest child food insecurity. The rate in Arkansas was estimated at slightly less than one-in-four children (23.2%). urban areas had a slightly lower rate at 21.8%. Rural children, however, fared worse where 25.3% were food insecure. The rate rose to 26.9% in the Delta. Thirty-nine counties, over one-half of the state's 75 counties, had a child food insecurity rate of 25% or higher. Thirty-six were rural counties, including over 80% of counties in the Delta and Coastal Plains. Of the five counties with the lowest rates of child food insecurity, and having rates below 21%, all were urban counties. Figure SES5 shows the geographic distribution of food insecurity rates for children.

FIGURE SES5. PERCENT OF CHILDREN WITH FOOD INSECURITY, 2016



Source: Map the Meal Gap 2017: Child Food Insecurity in Arkansas by County in 2016, Feeding America

[3] *Food Security Status of U.S. Households in 2017, Economic Research Service, USDA.*
[4] *Map the Meal Gap 2018: A Report on County and Congressional District Food Insecurity and County Food Cost in the United States in 2016, FeedingAmerica.org.*

Infant mortality rates and obesity levels are broad measures of the health of Arkansans. Although sometimes questioned, the infant mortality rate remains a reliable measure of the general health of a population because structural factors affecting the health of entire populations have an impact on the mortality rate of infants[1]. Obesity puts people at a higher risk for serious diseases, such as type 2 diabetes, heart disease and cancer and as such is an indicator of the general health of the population[2].

We also provide County Health Rankings calculated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). These rankings include a number of indicators in Health Outcomes and health risk factors that, if improved, can result in healthier individuals, communities, and counties in the state.

INFANT MORTALITY RATES STEADY BUT HIGH

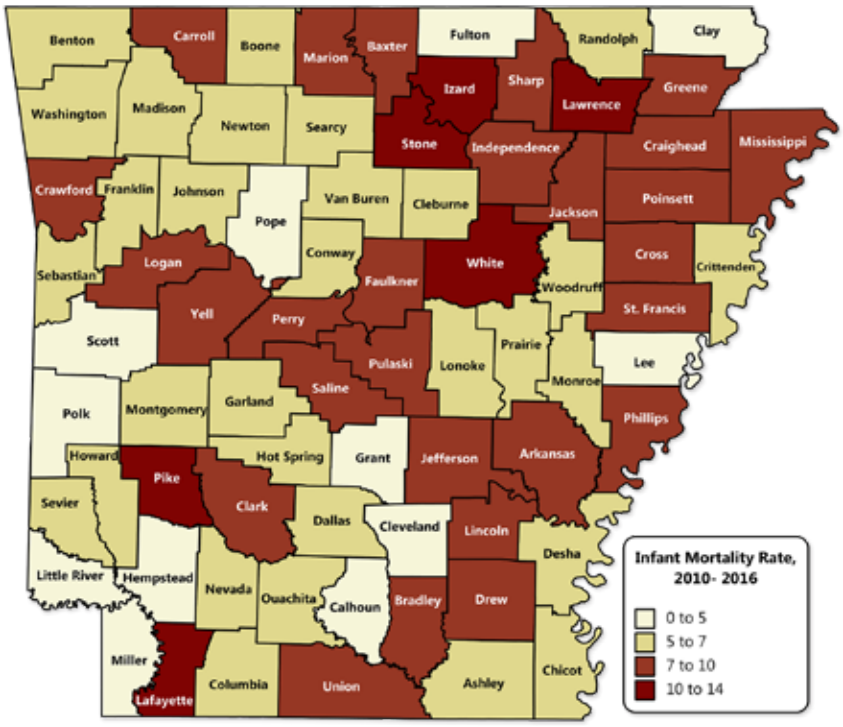
Arkansas' seven-year infant mortality rate[3] (IMR) for the combined years from 2010 to 2016 was 7.05 deaths per 1,000 live births. The U.S. rate in 2016 was 5.6 deaths per 1,000 live births. Nationally, in 2016, Arkansas ranked third highest among all the states. Not only was the IMR high in Arkansas, but the rate has not been declining as it has nationally and in most states. Nationally, the IMR declined from 6.8 in 2005 to 5.6 in 2016, whereas Arkansas' IMR remained substantially unchanged during this period. Arkansas was one of only six states that did not have declining infant mortality rates during this period.

Although Arkansas' infant mortality rate has not changed greatly over the past ten years, it remains high compared to the United States and globally. Fifty-five countries had lower infant mortality rates than the U.S. in 2017[4]. Since Arkansas' IMR was higher than the U.S., there were 68 countries with a lower IMR than Arkansas.

The state's urban and rural infant mortality rates were not substantially different. However, there was some variation in IMRs between Rural regions and larger variations among counties within regions. The Rural regions had a range of IMRs from a low of 6.6 in the Coastal Plains to a high of 7.5 in the Delta.

Counties displayed even more variation in the seven-year average, ranging from a low of zero infant deaths per 1,000 live births in Cleveland County, to a high of 13.9 in Lafayette County (Figure H1). Six counties had IMRs of 10.0 or above, all of which were rural counties. Of the 20 counties with the highest IMRs, 19 of them were rural.

FIGURE H1. INFANT MORTALITY RATE, 2010-2016



Source: Infant Mortality Rate 2010-2016, Arkansas Department of Health

OBESITY

Obesity continues to be an epidemic in the United States, and Arkansas is no exception – Rural and Urban regions alike. An individual is considered overweight with a body mass index (BMI) of 25 to 30. Obesity is defined as a BMI of 30 or more. In 2016, more than one-third (36%) of the adult population in Arkansas was categorized as obese. In a 2017 report by the Robert

[1] *Infant Mortality Rates as an Indicator or Population Health, by D.D. Reidpath and P. Allotey, Journal of Epidemial Community Health 2003; 57:344-346.*
[2] *Obesity, Healthline, July 16, 2018.*
[3] *Infant Mortality Rates tend to be somewhat "unstable," meaning they will sometimes have large changes between time periods. Because the number of births in some counties is relatively small in number and the infant deaths even smaller, a change of one or two deaths can sometimes result in a large change in the IMR. Therefore, we provide infant mortality rates for counties over a seven-year period to mitigate large year-to-year fluctuations.*
[4] *The World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency.*

Wood Johnson Foundation, Arkansas ranked seventh nationally in the percentage of adults who were obese.

Adult Obesity Remains High

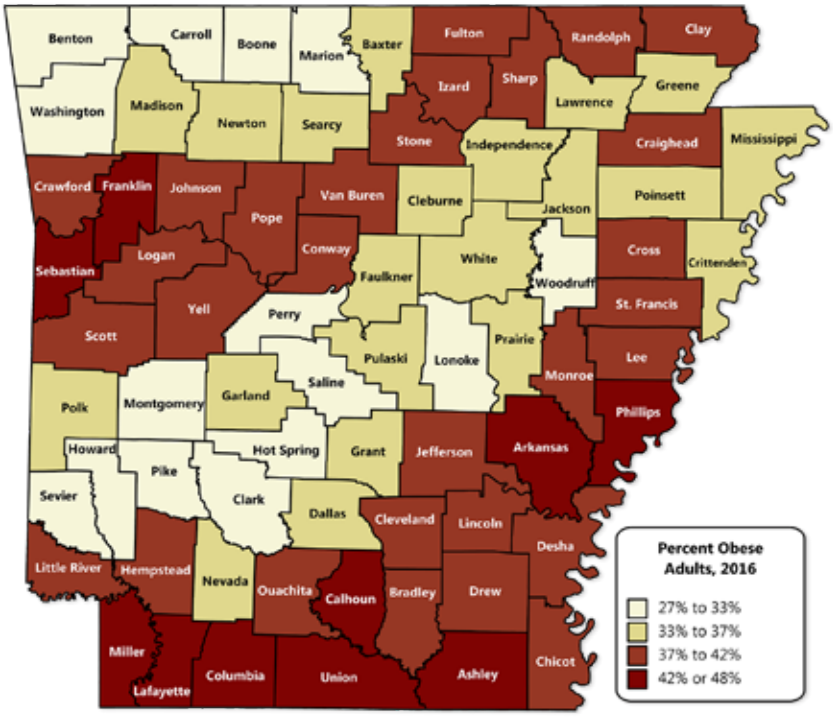
Every county in the state, except one, had 30% or more of the adult population classified as obese. The highest rates were in Phillips and Union counties with nearly half of all adults (48%) having a BMI of 30 or more (Figure H2). The lowest rate of 27% was in Pike County. Rural counties had a somewhat higher percentage of their population classified as obese (37%) compared to 35% in urban counties. Regionally, the Coastal Plains had the highest percentage of obese adults at approximately 41%, meaning slightly more than four of ten adults were obese. The Delta and Highlands had 38% and 36% of their populations classified as obese, respectively.

The number of adults with greater health risks increases substantially if those overweight, with a BMI of 25 to 30, are added to the number of obese individuals. Nearly seven of ten adult Arkansans (69%) were either obese or overweight in 2016. This figure was even higher in the Delta and Coastal Plains, where three of four adults were in this category.

Childhood and Adolescent Obesity Also Remains High

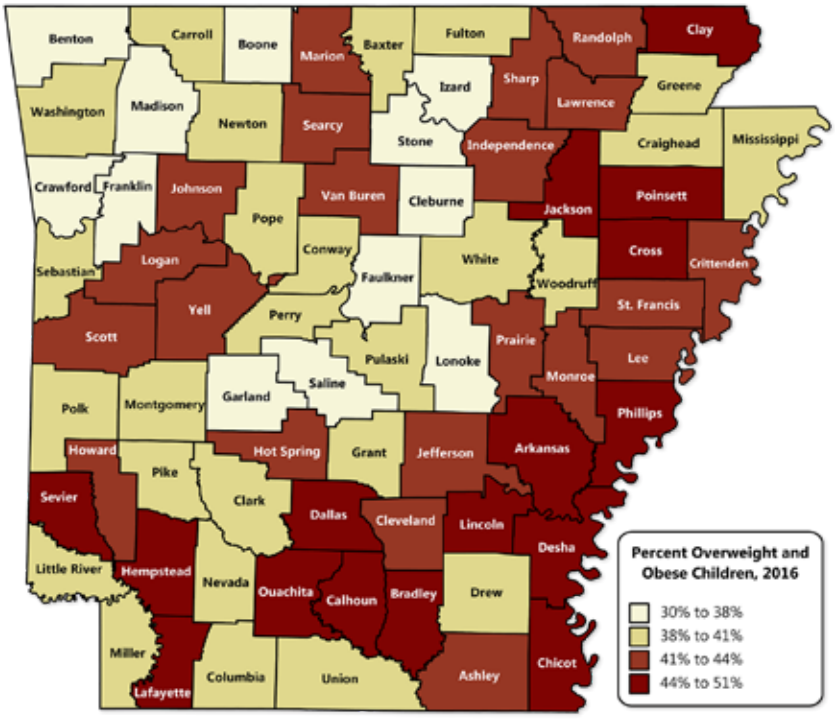
Children who are classified as overweight or obese are discussed here in part because these children face both increased risks as children and later as adults. When children between the ages of 2 and 19 are considered, 41% were either overweight or obese (having a BMI of 25 or higher). The urban counties had a somewhat lower combined overweight and obesity rate than rural counties, 38% and 42%, respectively. Among the Rural regions, the Highlands had the lowest rates of overweight or obese

FIGURE H2. PERCENT OBESE ADULTS, 2016



Source: County Health Fact Sheets, Arkansas Department of Health

FIGURE H3. PERCENT OVERWEIGHT AND OBESE CHILDREN, 2016



Source: County Health Fact Sheets, Arkansas Department of Health

children at 40% while the Delta has the highest at 44%. Stone County had the lowest rate of overweight or obese children at 30%, while Chicot County had the highest at 51% or one of every two children (Figure H3).

Even more serious is that nearly one of four children (24%) were classified as obese in 2016. This was an increase from about 22% in 2015. Obesity puts these children at higher risk for other health issues.

Obesity remains a major health and economic issue for Arkansas and especially for rural areas of the state.

HEALTH RANKINGS

Figures H4 and H5 show the County Health Rankings for Health Factors and Health Outcomes for each county in the state. The County Health Rankings were developed using an index[5] to summarize many indicators into a single number.

Health Factors Low in Rural Areas

Health Factors include measures of health behaviors (such as smoking, diet, physical activity), clinical care (access and quality of health care services and providers), social and economic factors (such as educational attainment, unemployment, poverty, crime rates), and physical environment (air and water quality, housing and transit systems). Health Outcomes include measures of length and quality of life such as premature death, days of poor physical or mental health, and low birthweight of babies.

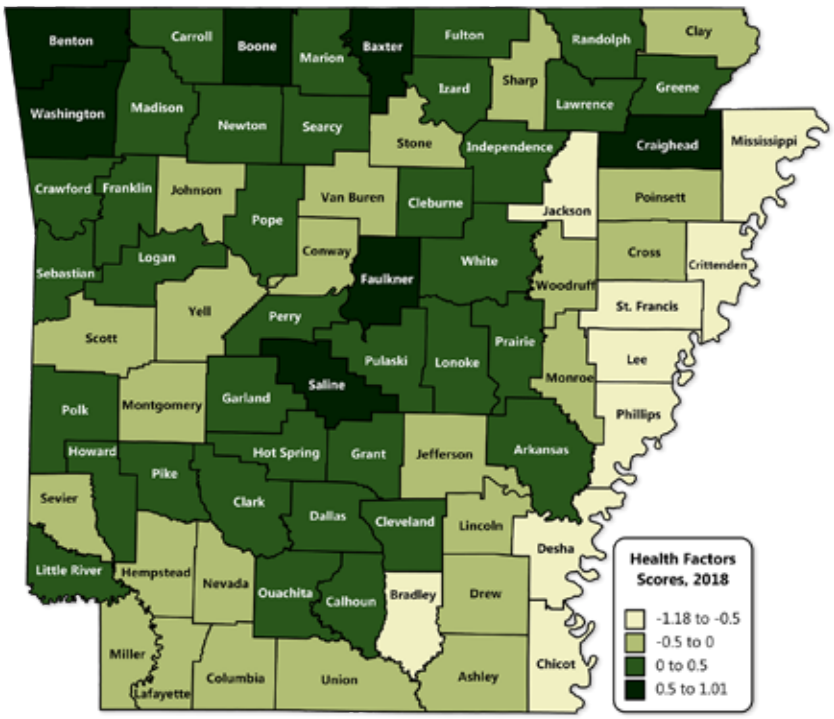
Figure H4 displays the Health Factor scores representing behavior that affect how long and well we live. The higher the number, the better the behavioral factors that affect the health of the population. In general, the population in the Urban region of the state had more healthy behaviors than in the Rural region. However, there is considerable variation among counties within regions of the state. The average index value in urban counties was 0.35 and -0.07 in rural counties. The negative numbers indicate that these counties ranked below the statewide average, whereas positive numbers indicate values above the average. Health Factor scores ranged from a low of -1.18 in Phillips County to a high of 1.01 in Benton County.

The Delta counties had some of the lowest Health Factor scores with nearly one-half of the Delta counties (7) having Heath Factor scores of -0.5 or below. Crittenden, an Urban region county located in the Delta, also had a Health Factor score of less than -0.5. Five of the seven counties with Health Factor scores of 0.5 or higher were urban counties. Boone and Baxter counties in the Highlands were the only two rural counties with scores above 0.5.

Health Outcomes Closely Associated With Health Factors

Figure H5, which shows the Health Outcome Scores, makes clear that the Delta and many of the Coastal Plains counties had low Health Outcomes compared to other areas of the state. Both the Highlands and urban counties had higher Health Outcomes. However, both Crittenden and Jefferson counties had low

FIGURE H4. HEALTH FACTOR SCORES, 2018



Source: County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

[5]*The index is created using z-scores, which is a method of standardizing different numeric scales to generate an index from different measures.*

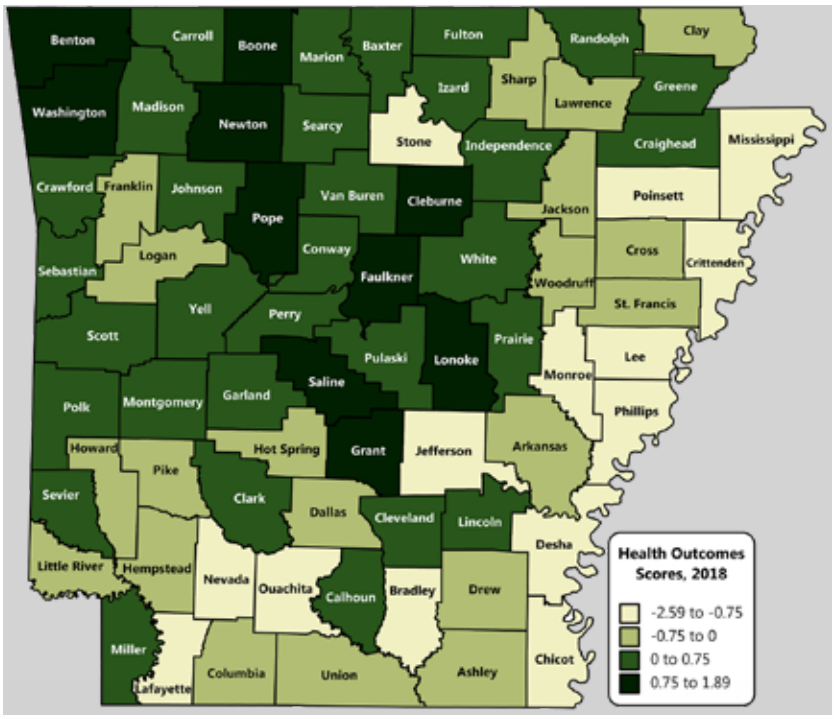
Health Outcomes and were exceptions to this generalization.

Thirteen of the 16 Delta counties and 10 of 12 Coastal Plains counties had Health Outcome scores below zero, suggesting poorer Health Outcomes than other areas of the state. This contrasts with the Highlands where nearly 74% of the counties had Health Outcome scores above zero.

The maps demonstrate the close relationship between positive Health Factors and Outcomes for residents. This shows the importance of both individual behaviors such as not smoking and community-level measures like access to and availability of health care to obtain good Health Outcomes.

Arkansas depends on a skilled and healthy workforce to grow its economy. Supporting programs to improve health factors can make a big contribution to the physical and economic well-being of Arkansas citizens.

FIGURE H5. HEALTH OUTCOME SCORES, 2018



Source: County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

People are Arkansas' greatest resource, and the social and economic value of a well-educated population cannot be overstated. Investing in education provides a more skilled work force, lowers poverty rates and creates the ability to participate in civil society, which benefits the individual, communities and the state. To maintain and improve the state's human capital, improving access to high-quality education from pre-kindergarten to community college and beyond is critical.

PRE-K ENROLLMENT DECLINES

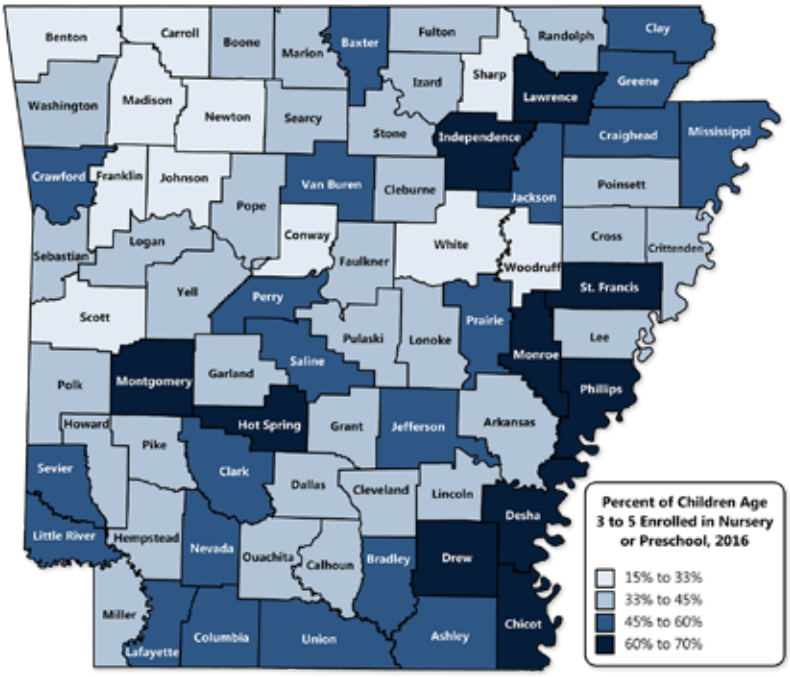
Pre-K education is vital to the cognitive development of children as well as a critical component for ensuring child preparedness for kindergarten and elementary education. Providing good pre-k opportunities also creates long-term benefits to the individual and society, including higher lifetime earnings, avoidance of criminal behavior, better health and less dependence on government assistance.

The number of children ages three to five enrolled in pre-k programs declined from 2014 to 2016 as did the total number of children in this age category. Although there was a decline in pre-K enrollment, the share of children attending pre-K programs in 2016 remained about the same as in 2014, approximately 42%. Therefore, only a little more than two-in-five children between the ages of three to five were attending pre-K programs in Arkansas. Within the state, there were differences in pre-K enrollment between rural and urban areas, Rural regions of the state, and counties within the same region. Rural areas had a somewhat higher percentage of children enrolled in pre-K programs (45%) compared to urban areas (41%) in 2016. Approximately one in two children were enrolled in pre-K programs in the Delta (52%) and Coastal Plains (49%) compared to only 41% in the Highlands in 2016.

While the percentages of children attending pre-K programs remained about the same in rural and urban areas of the state in 2014 and 2016, the number enrolled declined in both Rural and Urban regions. The rural and urban populations of children in this age category declined by about the same, 7.3% and 6.8% respectively. This is in contrast to Rural regions of the state, where population of three to five year olds declined by nearly 10% in the Coastal Plains and 8% in the Highlands to only 4.5% in the Delta.

Despite leading the state in pre-K enrollment in 2016, the Rural region included counties with the highest and lowest rates of enrollment in the state (Figure ED1). Johnson County had the lowest rate of enrollment at 15% and nine rural counties had fewer than one-in-three children ages three to five attending pre-K programs. In contrast, ten rural counties had three-in-five or more children enrolled in pre-K programs, with the highest in Monroe County (70%). Urban counties had less of a range between low and high enrollment, with 10 of 13 counties having pre-K enrollment between 40% and 50%.

FIGURE ED1. PERCENT OF CHILDREN 3 TO 5 YEARS OLD ENROLLED IN NURSERY OR PRESCHOOL, 2016



Source: School Enrollment by Level of School for the Population 3 Years and Over, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (B14001), U.S. Census Bureau; Population Under 18 Years by Age, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (B09001), U.S. Census Bureau

Pre-K enrollment remains low, with only about two-in-five children accessing these services, and varies widely among counties in the state. The potential for increasing enrollment remains great.

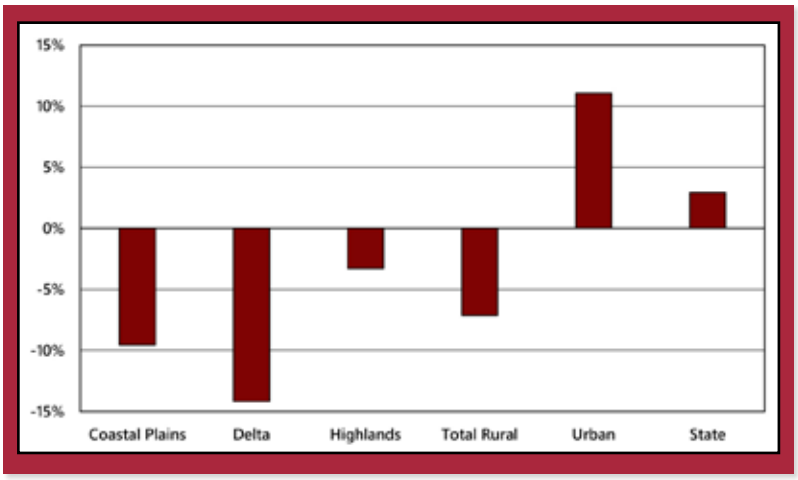
PUBLIC SCHOOL (K-12) ENROLLMENT INCREASES IN URBAN AND DECLINES IN RURAL AREAS

Arkansas' public school K-12 enrollment increased 3% between the 2007-2008 and 2017-2018 school years. Public school enrollment increased 11% in urban counties and declined 7% in rural counties during this period (Figure ED2). All three Rural regions experienced enrollment declines in their public schools during this period, from a loss of 14% of students in the Delta to nearly 10% in the Coastal Plains to slightly over 3% in the Highlands.

Fifty-two of the 62 rural counties and four urban counties had declining K-12 enrollment from 2007-08 to 2017-18. All counties in the Delta and Coastal Plains, except for Greene and Columbia, had declining school enrollments during this period. Six rural counties lost 20% or more of their public school enrollment.

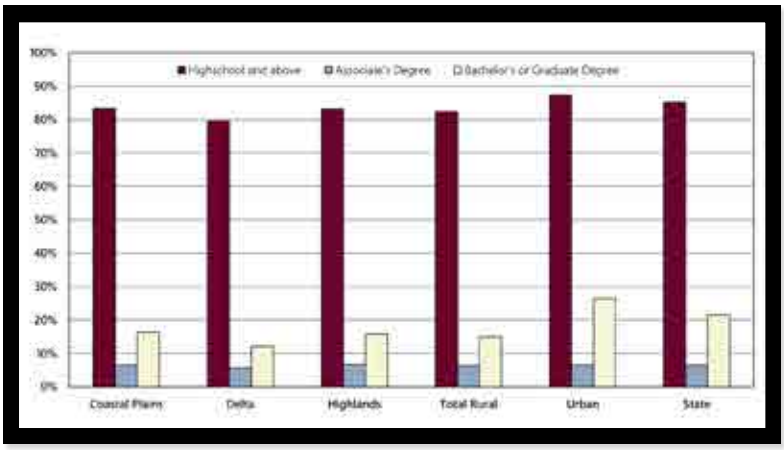
To overcome shrinking population, decreased funding, and rising costs, public school districts are often forced to consolidate into large school districts. While there may be efficiency gains and more educational opportunities for students, there are also costs in school consolidation. Such decisions often burden students who must be bused long distances to attend school and strain rural communities due to job loss. School consoldation may also result in the loss of identity for small communities as, historically, the local school often serves as a gathering place and site of social interactions for the entire community.

FIGURE ED2. PERCENT CHANGE IN K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENTS, 2007-2008 TO 2017-2018



Source: Enrollment Count by County, Arkansas Department of Education

FIGURE ED3. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT BY PERCENT OF POPULATION 25 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER, 2016



Educational attainment data are from the 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT LOWER IN RURAL AREAS

Educational attainment levels in Arkansas continued to grow slowly, but remained well below the national average in 2016. There also remains a wide divide in educational attainment between the rural and urban areas of the state.

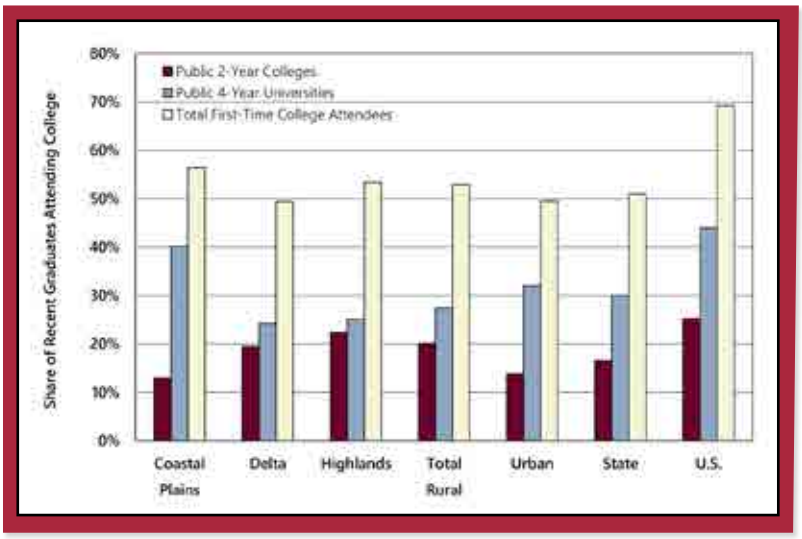
In 2015, Arkansas ranked 43rd nationally in percentage of adults age 25 and over with high school diplomas and 48th in percentage of people with college degrees. In 2016, 6.4% of Arkansans ages 25 and older had an associate's degree and 21.5% had a bachelor's degree or higher compared to 8.2% with an associate's degree and 30.3% with a bachelor's degree or higher in the United States.

While more than 87% of urban residents had a high school diploma, only about 82% of rural residents had a high school diploma in 2016 (Figure ED3). However, the share of the population with an associate's degrees was similar in the Urban and Rural regions of the state, 6.5% and 6.4%, respectively. A major difference between Rural and Urban regions of the state was the percentage with bachelor's degrees or higher. A little over 26% of people 25 years of age and older had bachelor's degrees compared to just 15% in rural areas in urban areas.

Not only was the population in the Rural regions less likely to have

bachelor's degrees or higher, but the Delta region had a smaller share of its population holding these degrees than the other two regions.

FIGURE ED4. COLLEGE-GOING RATES OF ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY COLLEGE TYPE AND REGION, 2015



Note: Total first-time college attendees includes attendees of 2-year, 4-year, and private, independent and nursing institutions. Sources: 2016 Comprehensive Arkansas Higher Education Annual Report: Report on College-Going Rate of Public School Graduates, Arkansas Department of Higher Technology; Enrollment Rates, Digest of Educational Statistics, National Center for Education Statistics

In the Delta, only 11.5% of the population 25 years and older had a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 15.7% in the Coastal Plains and 15.2% in the Highlands.

Low rates of growth in educational attainment, from associate's degrees to bachelor's degrees and higher, have left all regions of Arkansas, but especially the Rural regions, far behind national levels, where more than 30% of Americans 25 or older had graduated with a four-year degree or higher.

COLLEGE-GOING RATES SLIGHTLY HIGHER IN RURAL AREAS

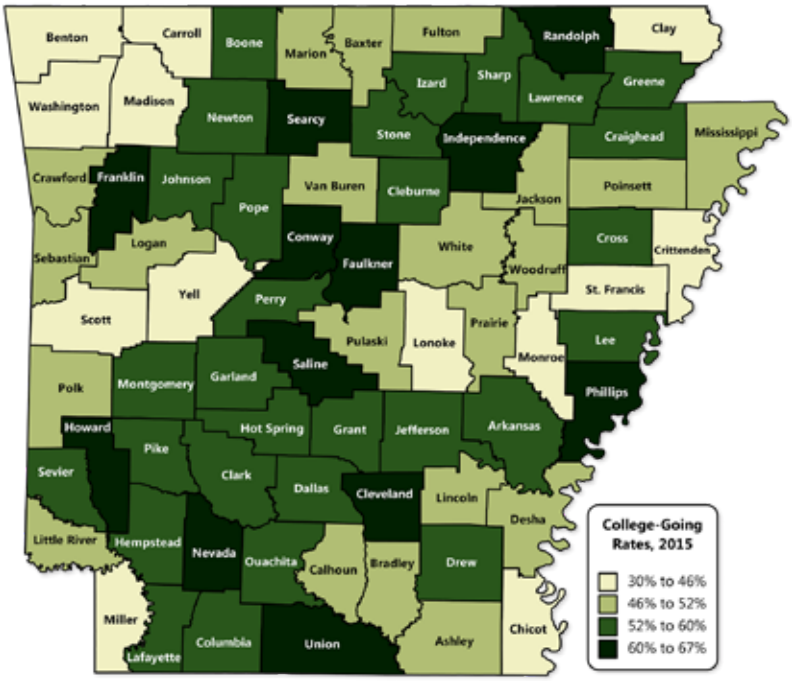
In 2005, 69% of high school graduates in the United States entered either two- or four-year colleges as first-time students, compared to only 46% of Arkansas high school graduates. From 2005 to 2016, the college-going rate in Arkansas grew 5 percentage points to 51%. Despite this growth, 2015 college-going rates in Arkansas remained lower than the U.S. average, which remained the same during this period, at 69%.

The college-going rate was slightly higher in the Rural regions of Arkansas (53%) than the Urban region (50%) in 2016 (Figure ED4). While the college-going rates did not differ substantially between regions of the state, there were substantial differences among counties (Figure ED5). Sixty-seven percent of high school graduates from Nevada County went to two or four-year colleges in 2016 and 11 other counties had college-going rates above 60%. In contrast, five counties had college-going rates below 40%.

OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH IN STEM EDUCATION

Between 2010 and 2016, the number of STEM-related degrees (science, engineering and technology) per 1,000 population ages 18 to 24 awarded by Arkansas colleges increased 39%. However, a large portion of this growth was attributable to an increase in the number of programs classified under the

FIGURE ED5. COLLEGE-GOING RATES OF ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL GRADUATES, 2015



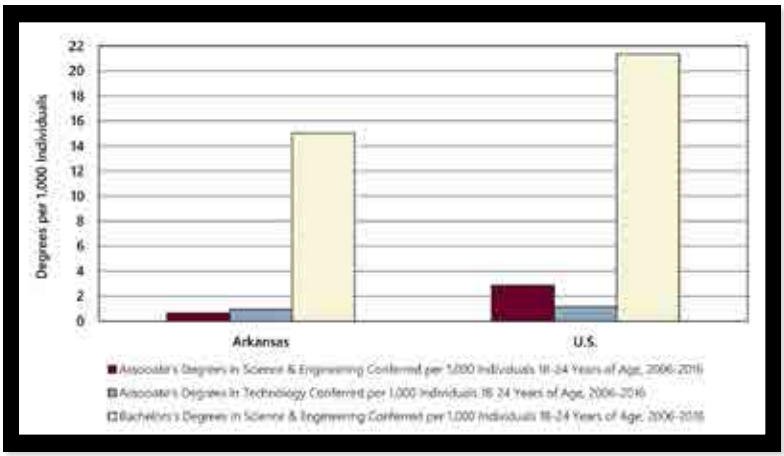
Sources: 2016 Comprehensive Arkansas Higher Education Annual Report: Report on College-Going Rate of Public School Graduates, Arkansas Department of Higher Technology; Enrollment Rates, Digest of Educational Statistics, National Center for Education Statistics

STEM system, rather than an increase in the number of students enrolling in and graduating from STEM programs. Even with this large growth in STEM-related degrees, Arkansas remained considerably below the national average in 2016 and ranked 49th among states, at 16.6 per 1,000 population ages 18-24 compared to the national average of 25.4.

There remained clear divisions between STEM graduates in four-year institutions and two-year institutions in Arkansas (Figure ED6). Between 2010 and 2016, STEM credentials awarded per 1,000 population ages 18-24 increased 48% at four-year colleges. In contrast, the STEM associates degrees per 1,000 population ages 18-24 declined 10% at two-year colleges.

Another measure of STEM education is the percent of Science and Engineering degrees awarded at educational institutions.

FIGURE ED6. DEGREES CONFERRED PER 1,000 INDIVIDUALS BY TYPE, 2016



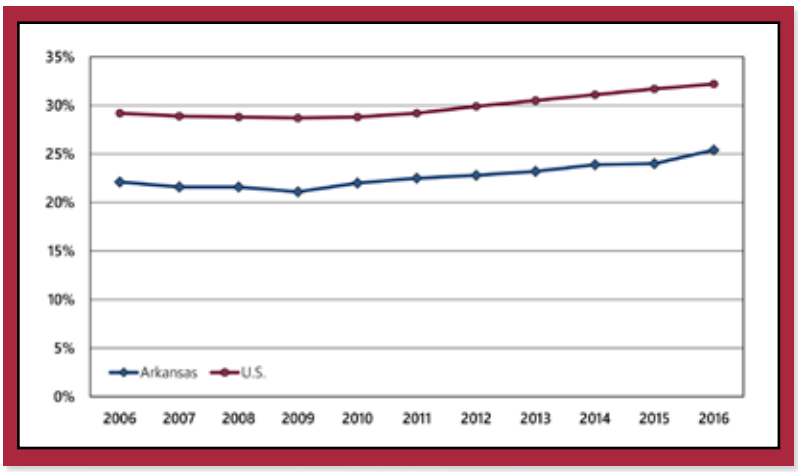
Sources: Science & Engineering Indicators 2018, National Science Board, National Science Foundation

In Arkansas, one-in-four degrees awarded were STEM related compared with the national average of nearly one-in-three in 2016 (Figure ED7).

While most agree that high quality education is critical for individual well-being and for the state to remain competitive in a global economy, rural communities struggle to provide STEM educational services at their two-year colleges for local residents.

Even though rural areas had higher college-going and higher early childhood education enrollment rates, such differences had not translated into higher rates of educational attainment for rural citizens. The ability of state and local leaders to improve educational services in rural communities will be critical for Arkansas' continued growth.

FIGURE ED7. SCIENCE & ENGINEERING DEGREES AS A PERCENT OF ALL DEGREES CONFERRED, 2006-2016



Sources: Science & Engineering Indicators 2018, National Science Board, National Science Foundation

Many local governments in rural Arkansas have been affected by the structural changes in their economies and the lingering effects of the Great Recession, which affect their tax base and ability to generate revenue. The structural changes in rural economies, accelerated by the Great Recession, triggered business loss and population decline in rural areas of the state. These losses make it difficult to provide the infrastructure and services demanded by the remaining citizens and businesses. The lost businesses and population resulted in a declining local tax base and local tax revenue for some rural counties. Other counties have increased their property tax millage and/or the county sales tax rate to try to maintain their revenue and ability to provide the infrastructure and services needed to support economic development.

Despite rural population loss, approximately 44% of Arkansans (1.3 million) still resided in unincorporated areas or towns of less than 2,500 people in 2010. Similarly, more than 1.2 million people, or 41%, of Arkansans lived in counties classified as rural in 2017. This places an unusually heavy burden on rural county and town governments.

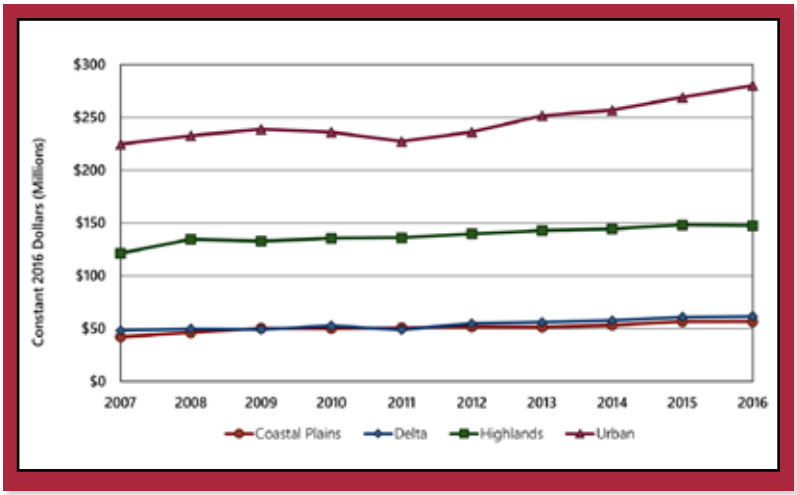
LOCAL TAX REVENUE

The largest share of county government revenue from local sources comes from the revenue generated from the property and sales taxes. Statewide, combined revenue from these two sources of local revenue grew 25%[1] from 2007 to 2016 (Figure LG1). The Rural and Urban regions of the state had similar growth in these two combined sources of local revenue, approximately 25%. All Rural regions also experienced growth in these combined sources of revenue during this period, ranging from 22% in the Highlands to 27% in the Delta and 34% in the Coastal Plains.

However, this overall growth masks major differences among counties. Revenue from county property and sales taxes declined in 13 counties from 2007 to 2016, 10 rural and three urban. Of the 10 rural counties generating less revenue from these two sources, there were six in the Highlands, three in Delta and one in the Coastal Plains.

Post-recession growth in local tax revenue from 2011 to 2016 was substantial, although it also varied greatly among counties. Statewide, county tax revenue grew 18% during this five-year period. Urban counties had a growth of 23% compared to only 13% growth in the Rural region during this period. Sixty-one counties increased their combined revenue from the property and sales taxes between 2011 and 2016, ranging from less than 1% growth in Arkansas County to an increase of 129% in Greene County. Fourteen counties had a decline in revenue from these combined sources, ranging from a loss of less than 1% in Montgomery County to a loss of 24% in Izard County.

FIGURE LG1. COUNTY GOVERNMENT TAX REVENUE FROM COUNTY SALES AND PROPERTY TAXES, 2007-2016



Sources: Legislative Audit Reports, Arkansas Legislative Audit; South Urban Consumer Price Index, Bureau of Labor Statistics

In addition to the 14 counties with a decline in combined property and sales tax revenue during this post-recession period, another 12 counties experienced slow growth of less than 5% over this five-year period. This means that more than one-third of Arkansas counties had either a decline or slow growth in local tax revenue at a time when the state and national economies were growing. Twenty-four of these 26 counties were in Rural region's, implying that nearly 40% of Arkansas' rural county governments were not benefiting greatly from the economic growth occurring in the state.

Between 2007 and 2016, rural counties received a larger share of their local tax revenue from the sales tax, whereas urban counties

[1] *Revenue growth is reported in inflation-adjusted dollars as are all dollar values reported in this and previous chapters of this publication. See note on page 3.*

received a larger share from the property tax. For example, in 2016 rural counties received a total of 18% of their revenue from the property tax and 27% from the sales tax. In contrast, urban counties received 30% of their revenue from the property tax and only 22% from the sales tax. Since sales tax revenue is more volatile than property tax revenue, rural counties may find it more difficult to budget for the next year and to finance long-term infrastructure projects.

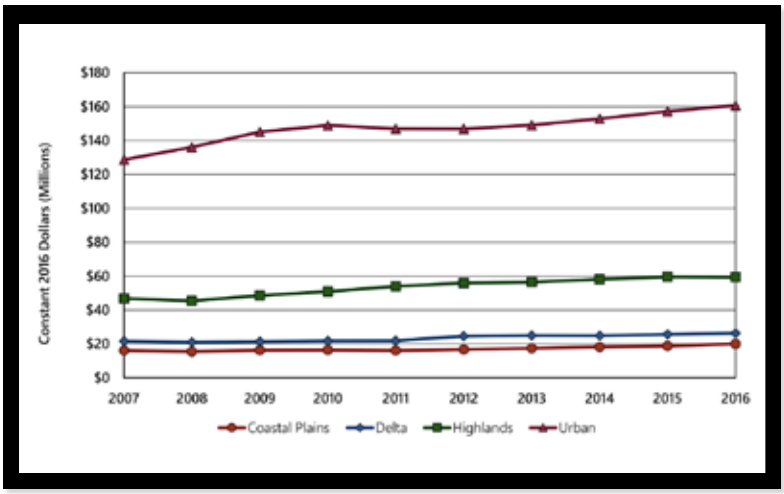
Property Tax Revenue Growing Statewide

Statewide, property tax revenue generated by county governments grew 25% from 2007 to 2016 and grew equally in Rural and Urban regions of the state (Figure LG2). There was only a slight variation in the growth in property tax revenue among regions, ranging from 22% in the Delta to 24% in the Coastal Plains and 27% in the Highlands. The Highlands experienced the greatest growth of property tax revenue from 2008 to 2012, primarily due to an increase in natural gas assessments in a few counties. Growth of property tax revenues in the Delta was largely the result of strong growth from 2011 to 2012. The Coastal Plains experienced slow growth in property tax revenue from 2011 to 2016.

Despite this substantial growth in property tax revenue received by county governments, 13 counties (17%) saw their property tax revenue decline during this period. Twelve of the counties with declining property tax revenue were rural, seven in the Highlands, four in the Delta and one in the Coastal Plains. The decline in property tax revenue ranged from less than 1% in Calhoun County to 55% in Scott County from 2007 to 2016.

While the potential to raise property tax revenue varied greatly among counties, Arkansas raised less revenue per capita from property tax than most states. In fiscal year 2015, Arkansas ranked 48th in total property tax revenue collected per capita ($699)[2]. For the same fiscal year, the national average was $1,518.

FIGURE LG2. COUNTY GOVERNMENT PROPERTY TAX REVENUE, 2007-2016

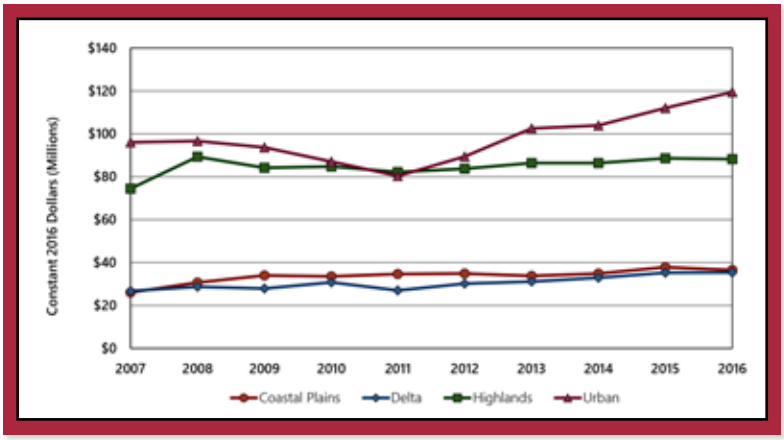


Sources: Legislative Audit Reports 2007-2016, Arkansas Legislative Audit; Urban Consumer Price Index, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Sales Tax Revenue Growth Primarily in Urban Counties

Counties in Arkansas received 25% more sales tax revenue in 2016 than 2007 (Figure LG3). This was in spite of a decline in sales tax revenue from 2008 to 2011, largely due to the Great Recession. Since 2011, the sales tax revenue received by counties increased 25%. Although there was a slight increase in sales tax revenue in rural counties from 2011 to 2016, most of the growth during this period was

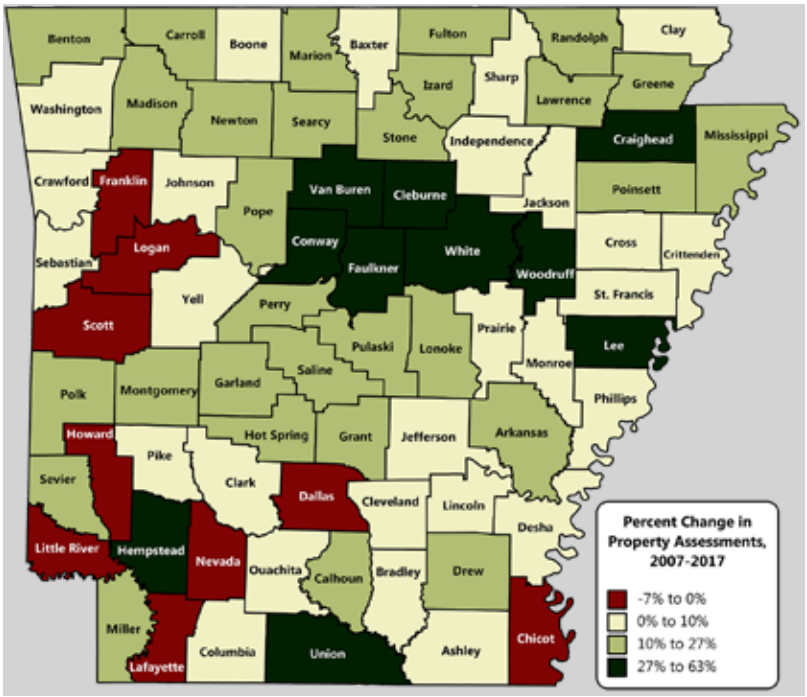
FIGURE LG3. COUNTY GOVERNMENT SALES TAX REVENUE, 2007-2016



Sources: Legislative Audit Reports 2007-2016, Arkansas Legislative Audit; Urban Consumer Price Index, Bureau of Labor Statistics

[2] *Average Per Capita Property Taxes: How Does Your State Compare?, Tax Foundation.*

FIGURE LG4. PERCENT CHANGE IN PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS, 2007-2017



Sources: Assessed Values (2007-2017), Arkansas Assessment Coordination Department; South Urban Consumer Price Index, Bureau of Labor Statistics

in urban counties. Sales tax revenue increased 49% in the Urban region compared to only 11% in the Rural region from 2011 to 2016.

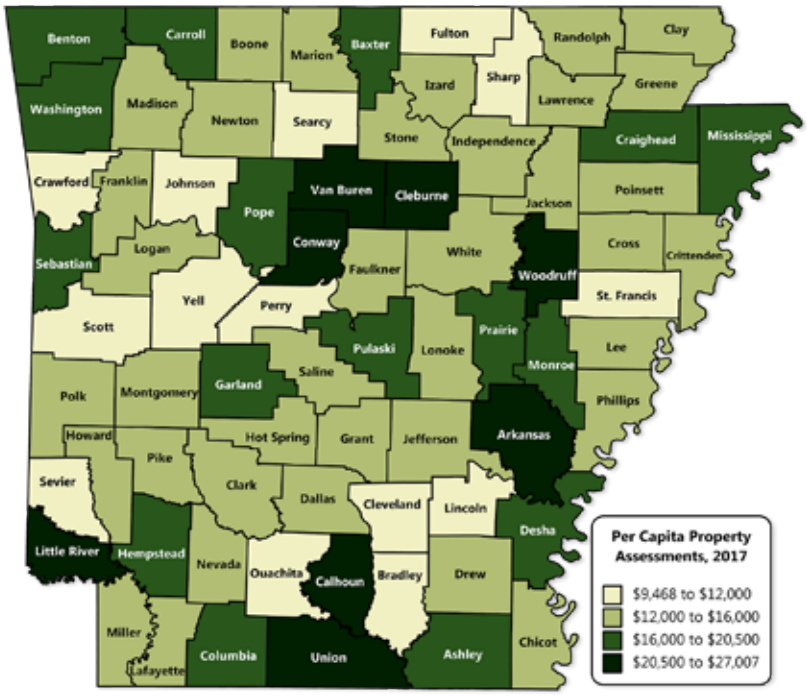
All Rural regions of the state saw an increase in sales tax revenue from 2007 to 2016 ranging from 18% growth in the Highlands to 32% in the Delta and 40% in the Coastal Plains. However, these regional totals hide the fact that over one-fourth of county governments (21), 15 rural and six urban, saw their sales tax revenue decline during this period. Of the 15 rural counties losing sales tax revenue during this nine-year period, nine were in the Highlands, and three each were in the Coastal Plains and Delta.

From 2011 to 2016, rural counties did not see growth in their sales tax revenue, as did many urban counties. Although in total, Rural regions received an 11% increase in sales tax revenue from 2011 to 2016, 25 of 61 rural counties with a sales tax, or 41%, experienced a decline in their sales tax revenue during this period. In comparison, only one urban county (Miller) received less sales tax revenue in 2016 than 2011. Of the Rural regions, only the Delta had substantial growth in sales tax revenue from 2011 to 2016. This was largely due to four counties in the northeast part of the state (Clay, Greene, Jackson and Mississippi) that saw increases in their sales tax revenue from 35% to nearly 300% during this period.

LOCAL TAX BASE

The tax base on which county governments generate their local property and sales tax revenue is changing. This affects the ability of county governments to generate revenue. The sales tax base, taxable retail sales and services, is considerably more volatile than the property tax base. This is because consumer spending can vary greatly from year to year depending on household income, which is affected by the state of the economy. Property assessments vary less year to year and provide a more stable tax base.

FIGURE LG5. PER CAPITA PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS, 2017



Sources: Assessed Values (2007-2017), Arkansas Assessment Coordination Department; Population Estimates 2007-2017, U.S. Census Bureau

Property Tax Base Growing in Most Counties

Statewide property assessments increased 14.5% from 2007 to 2017. Although the value of property assessments increased in all four regions of the state between 2007 and 2017, the magnitude of the change in property assessments varied greatly among counties within regions. While the value of property assessments increased in all urban and most rural counties (53) during this period, nine rural counties saw their property tax base decline (Figure LG4). Five of these counties were in the Highlands, three were in the Coastal Plains and one was in the Delta.

In total, the value of assessed property in the Rural region increased nearly 16% between 2007 and 2017, with growth of 17% in the Highlands, 15% in the Coastal Plains and 13% in the Delta. The largest share of this increase occurred in counties experiencing growth of the natural gas and petroleum industries. The Urban region experienced growth of about 14% in the value of assessed properties.

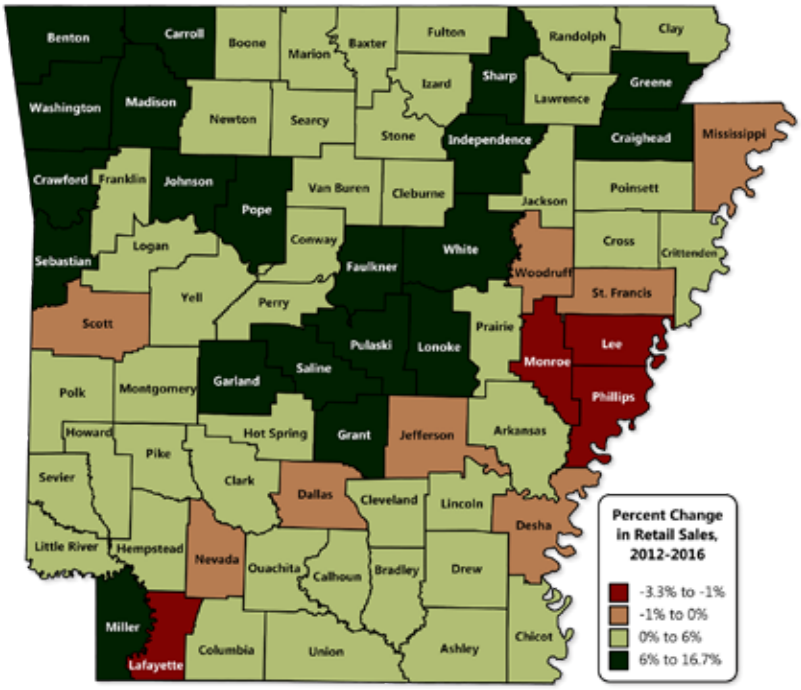
Using per capita assessed value of property as an indicator of the capacity of counties to raise revenue, we found some differences between regions, but greater variation between counties within regions in 2017. The per capita value of assessed property was somewhat greater in urban compared to rural areas, $16,971 and $15,306, respectively. The major difference among regions was that the per capita property assessments in the Delta region ($14,464) were somewhat lower than for the Urban and other Rural regions of the state.

The Highlands counties exhibited the greatest variation in per capita property assessments in 2017, ranging from a low of $10,078 in Scott County, to a high of $27,007 in Cleburne County. Van Buren and Conway counties, like Cleburne County had high per capita property assessments largely due to natural gas assessments and small populations (Figure LG5).

In the Coastal Plains, per capita assessments also varied widely. One-half of the counties (6) had per capita assessed property values greater than $16,000 in 2017, while three counties had per capita assessments of $12,000 or below.

In the Delta, Lincoln County had the lowest per capita value of property assessments in the state, at $9,468. In contrast, Woodruff County's per capita property assessment was $22,721, the highest in the Delta. Only six of 16 Delta counties had per capita property assessments greater than $16,000.

FIGURE LG6. PERCENT CHANGE IN RETAIL SALES, 2012-2016



Sources: Retail Sales, Woods & Poole; Personal Consumption Expenditure Price Index, Woods & Poole

Sales Tax Base[3] Growing after Great Recession

The Great Recession greatly affected Arkansas' sales tax base. Between 2007 and 2012, the total number of retail businesses operating in Arkansas decreased by 983, or 8.3%. More than 60% of businesses lost occurred in rural counties. The decrease in the number of businesses corresponded to stagnant retail sales growth statewide, increasing only 0.2% between 2007 and 2012. Only the Urban region exhibited growth (2.3%) during this time span, whereas in the Rural region retail sales decreased 3.6% during this five-year period. The greatest loss of retail sales occurred in the Highlands, which saw a decline of

[3] *Data for 2007 and 2012 are from the Census of Retail Trade, U.S. Census Bureau. Data for 2016 are from the 2018 Arkansas State Profile, Woods & Poole Inc.*

4.3%. Despite losing the greatest percent of businesses between 2007 and 2012, Delta counties saw the smallest decrease (2.3%) in retail sales among all Rural regions. Retail sales in the Coastal Plains decreased 2.7% during this five-year period.

However, from 2012 to 2016, retail sales statewide increased nearly 8%. urban counties experienced over 9% growth in retail sales during this period compared to growth of 4% in rural counties. Retail sales also increased in all three Rural regions during this period, from growth of 2% in the Delta to 2.7% in the Coastal Plains and 5.5% in the Highlands.

Not all counties benefited from this growth in retail sales. Twelve counties experienced a decline in retail sales during this four-year period, including 11 rural counties, seven of which were in the Delta (Figure LG6).

TAX RATES

The ability to generate local tax revenue is dependent on the tax base as described above and the property and sales tax rates.

Property Tax Millage Increased Slightly

Thirty-three governments increased their property tax millage between 2007 and 2018 and only 11 counties decreased their millage during this period. Eight of 13 urban counties (62%) increased their county millage during this eleven-year period, as did seven of 12 Coastal Plains counties (58%). During this same period, only 35% of Highlands counties and 38% of Delta counties raised their county millage. The 11 counties decreasing their county millage during this period were scattered evenly among all Rural and Urban regions of the state.

During this eleven-year period, the statewide average county millage increased only 0.40 mills. Urban counties raised their average millage 0.28 mills compared to an average millage increase in the Rural region of 0.42 mills.

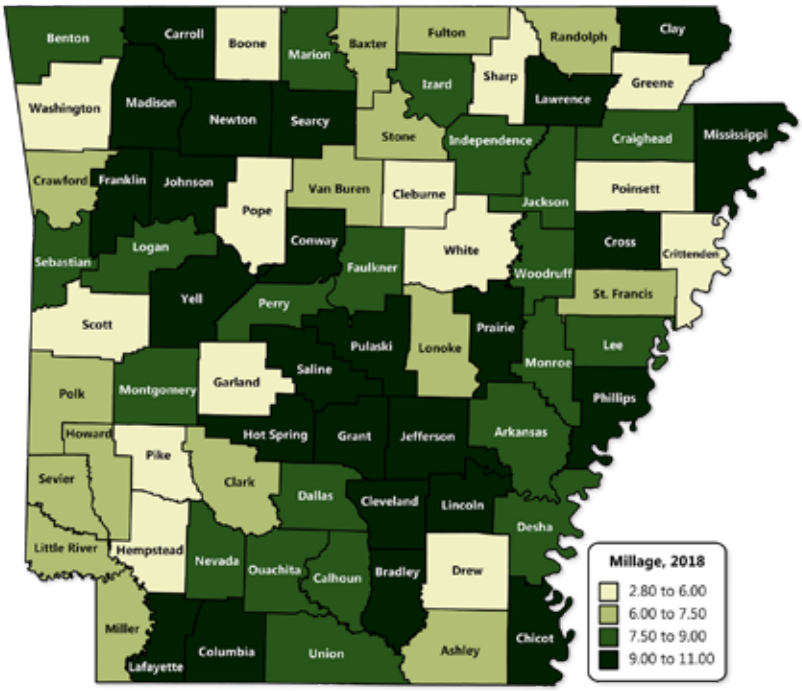
In 2018, the average millage rates were slightly lower in the Urban region, 7.36 versus 7.82 in the Rural region. The average county millage rates did not vary greatly among the Rural regions of the state, from a low of 7.49 in the Highlands to 7.83 and 8.52 in the Coastal Plains and Delta, respectively. However, the county millage varied greatly among counties from 2.8 in Scott County to 11.0 in Searcy County in 2018 (Figure LG7).

County Sales Tax Rates Increasing

Nearly one-half of Arkansas counties (37) increased their sales tax rates between December 2006 and December 2017. Thirty-four were rural and three were urban counties. During this same period, eight counties decreased their sales tax rates, four rural and four urban. Statewide, the average county sales tax rate was 1.67% in 2018.

Urban counties had a lower average county sales tax rate than rural counties in 2018, 1.19% and 1.77%, respectively. All three Rural regions had higher average county sales tax rates than the Urban region, ranging from 1.6% in the Delta to 1.7% in the Highlands and 2.2% in the Coastal Plains. These rates were slightly higher in all three Rural regions in 2018 compared to 2006.

FIGURE LG7. COUNTY GOVERNMENT MILLAGE, 2018



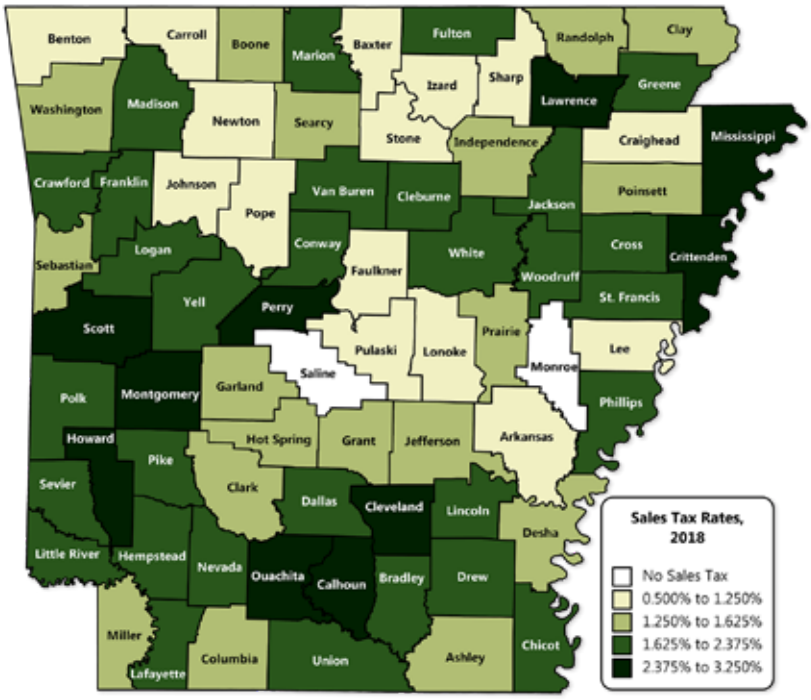
Sources: State of Arkansas 2017 Millage Report (2018 Collections), Arkansas Assessment Coordination Department

The county sales tax rates in December 2018 ranged from no sales tax in Monroe and Saline counties to 3.25% in Cleveland County (Figure LG8).

SUMMARY

Post-recession growth in the local tax base and revenue has been slow or declining in many rural counties. While the state has experienced moderate growth in property and sales tax revenue, many counties, especially rural counties, face a declining local tax base and need to increase tax rates to generate local revenue to pay for infrastructure and services. The disparity of revenue generating capacity between wealthy and poor counties continues to widen.

FIGURE LG8. COUNTY SALES TAX RATES, 2018



Sources: City & County Tax Rates, Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration

APPENDIX TABLE 1. POPULATION

COUNTY NAME	POPULATION		PERCENT POPULATION CHANGE, 2010-2017	NATURAL INCREASE/ DECREASE PER 1,000 POPULATION, 2016-2017	NET MIGRATION PER 1,000 POPULATION, 2016-2017	MEDIAN AGE, 2017	SHARE OF POPULATION AGED 65 AND OVER, 2017	NON-WHITE SHARE OF POPULATION, 2017	PERCENT CHANGE IN NON WHITE SHARE OF POPULATION, 2010-2017
	2010	2017							
Arkansas	19,016	17,967	-5.5%	0.6	-14.4	41.7	19.0%	28.1%	4.9%
Ashley	21,833	20,283	-7.1%	-1.8	-8.8	42.5	19.8%	27.5%	-1.1%
Baxter	41,511	41,355	-0.4%	-7.4	12.5	52.3	30.8%	3.2%	19.9%
Benton	222,558	266,300	19.7%	7.5	21.0	35.4	13.2%	11.1%	20.6%
Boone	36,882	37,381	1.4%	-0.2	5.3	42.1	20.4%	4.0%	23.0%
Bradley	11,472	10,864	-5.3%	0.1	-10.8	40.5	18.9%	31.5%	1.8%
Calhoun	5,362	5,247	-2.1%	-0.6	17.0	45.7	21.1%	24.5%	1.8%
Carroll	27,546	27,944	1.4%	1.0	6.8	44.8	22.7%	6.4%	34.7%
Chicot	11,799	10,636	-9.9%	-3.9	-22.2	43.0	19.6%	56.4%	0.6%
Clark	22,927	22,293	-2.8%	-1.3	-10.2	33.1	16.1%	27.3%	3.9%
Clay	16,049	14,920	-7.0%	-2.3	-6.8	43.7	21.5%	2.8%	31.4%
Cleburne	26,003	25,048	-3.7%	-6.2	1.8	48.8	26.5%	3.3%	24.0%
Cleveland	8,678	8,202	-5.5%	-1.5	-5.6	43.4	20.5%	13.5%	1.6%
Columbia	24,722	23,627	-4.4%	-0.3	-14.9	35.9	17.2%	38.9%	-0.8%
Conway	21,217	20,916	-1.4%	1.3	-0.3	42.4	19.5%	15.1%	5.3%
Craighead	96,737	107,115	10.7%	5.5	7.0	34.2	13.6%	19.2%	14.0%
Crawford	61,969	62,996	1.7%	2.3	9.4	39.1	16.2%	8.9%	12.4%
Crittenden	50,960	48,750	-4.3%	6.3	-18.0	35.4	13.6%	56.2%	5.0%
Cross	17,850	16,863	-5.5%	0.7	-11.0	40.6	18.4%	25.7%	7.3%
Dallas	8,064	7,393	-8.3%	-0.8	-4.1	45.1	22.1%	44.4%	1.6%
Desha	12,952	11,764	-9.2%	-1.4	-12.0	39.6	18.4%	49.7%	-0.6%
Drew	18,666	18,547	-0.6%	2.3	-6.7	36.9	17.0%	30.6%	2.1%
Faulkner	114,028	123,654	8.4%	5.4	7.3	32.8	12.1%	16.2%	13.5%
Franklin	18,128	17,890	-1.3%	0.3	12.0	41.0	19.0%	5.3%	18.9%
Fulton	12,215	12,055	-1.3%	-6.4	7.7	48.6	26.0%	3.5%	18.1%
Garland	96,077	98,658	2.7%	-1.8	6.1	45.3	23.7%	12.8%	9.5%
Grant	17,885	18,165	1.6%	0.8	3.1	41.3	17.6%	5.3%	22.8%
Greene	42,200	45,053	6.8%	2.6	4.9	38.1	15.8%	4.4%	41.3%
Hempstead	22,599	21,861	-3.3%	3.0	-10.5	39.5	17.6%	33.5%	3.1%
Hot Spring	33,227	33,574	1.0%	-1.0	4.9	42.0	18.6%	14.2%	5.5%
Howard	13,808	13,478	-2.4%	3.0	0.1	38.5	17.4%	24.5%	3.5%
Independence	36,804	37,504	1.9%	1.9	9.0	39.3	17.3%	5.7%	12.9%
Izard	13,723	13,686	-0.3%	-6.1	20.5	47.6	25.3%	4.7%	24.6%
Jackson	18,056	17,135	-5.1%	-0.2	-10.0	40.7	17.6%	20.7%	7.7%
Jefferson	77,326	69,115	-10.6%	0.1	-18.0	38.8	16.8%	59.7%	3.7%
Johnson	25,551	26,552	3.9%	4.4	8.0	37.5	16.3%	8.0%	34.6%
Lafayette	7,647	6,862	-10.3%	-3.4	-6.1	47.5	23.1%	39.0%	0.4%
Lawrence	17,517	16,525	-5.7%	-5.1	-1.7	41.4	19.6%	3.3%	25.7%
Lee	10,393	9,176	-11.7%	-1.5	-18.6	41.5	19.2%	57.0%	-0.6%
Lincoln	14,089	13,646	-3.1%	0.1	-12.2	38.6	15.0%	32.7%	4.1%
Little River	13,131	12,359	-5.9%	-4.1	-1.6	43.2	20.7%	24.2%	4.2%
Logan	22,298	21,722	-2.6%	-1.0	1.5	43.0	19.3%	7.1%	17.6%

COUNTY NAME	POPULATION 2010	POPULATION 2017	PERCENT POPULATION CHANGE, 2010-2017	NATURAL INCREASE/ DECREASE PER 1,000 POPULATION, 2016-2017	NET MIGRATION PER 1,000 POPULATION, 2016-2017	MEDIAN AGE, 2017	SHARE OF POPULATION AGED 65 AND OVER, 2017	NON-WHITE SHARE OF POPULATION, 2017	PERCENT CHANGE IN NON WHITE SHARE OF POPULATION, 2010-2017
Lonoke	68,711	72,898	6.1%	4.3	11.4	36.1	13.1%	10.0%	9.5%
Madison	15,684	16,339	4.2%	4.0	10.3	41.5	18.8%	5.7%	34.1%
Marion	16,667	16,428	-1.4%	-6.1	9.7	52.5	28.2%	4.0%	32.1%
Miller	43,558	43,984	1.0%	3.6	-1.1	38.5	16.5%	28.6%	3.9%
Mississippi	46,391	42,159	-9.1%	3.0	-20.3	36.4	14.5%	38.3%	5.0%
Monroe	8,138	7,085	-12.9%	-2.4	-18.9	46.4	23.1%	43.8%	1.9%
Montgomery	9,506	8,919	-6.2%	-6.6	3.3	50.8	27.1%	5.8%	30.4%
Nevada	8,995	8,327	-7.4%	-1.2	-4.4	43.7	20.4%	33.7%	3.3%
Newton	8,316	7,828	-5.9%	-2.4	-2.7	49.0	25.8%	4.4%	16.8%
Ouachita	26,040	23,868	-8.3%	-2.6	-3.7	43.3	19.8%	43.0%	1.3%
Perry	10,441	10,348	-0.9%	-0.1	7.5	43.5	19.7%	5.2%	18.6%
Phillips	21,675	18,572	-14.3%	1.3	-27.2	38.9	18.3%	64.5%	-0.3%
Pike	11,262	10,726	-4.8%	-0.7	-7.8	43.2	19.7%	7.2%	16.1%
Poinsett	24,518	24,154	-1.5%	0.2	5.9	39.6	17.6%	10.7%	15.6%
Polk	20,669	20,118	-2.7%	-3.1	2.0	44.2	22.5%	6.0%	20.0%
Pope	62,105	63,835	2.8%	3.9	-4.2	35.6	15.4%	7.7%	9.5%
Prairie	8,724	8,248	-5.5%	-4.5	1.7	46.4	22.9%	13.8%	2.5%
Pulaski	383,536	393,956	2.7%	4.4	-3.6	37.1	15.0%	42.2%	5.6%
Randolph	17,954	17,557	-2.2%	-3.5	12.1	41.3	20.2%	3.7%	26.7%
St. Francis	28,195	25,930	-8.0%	1.2	-15.7	38.6	15.6%	55.7%	2.2%
Saline	107,644	119,323	10.8%	2.3	12.3	39.6	17.1%	11.2%	32.1%
Scott	11,251	10,445	-7.2%	1.1	7.0	42.9	20.4%	8.7%	6.4%
Searcy	8,177	7,938	-2.9%	-3.9	0.6	47.8	24.8%	4.9%	24.5%
Sebastian	125,755	128,107	1.9%	3.8	0.5	37.7	15.5%	17.8%	8.3%
Sevier	17,143	17,115	-0.2%	5.1	4.3	35.1	14.2%	11.7%	11.3%
Sharp	17,251	17,393	0.8%	1.2	13.5	47.4	25.7%	4.5%	23.3%
Stone	12,390	12,537	1.2%	-3.1	6.2	49.8	26.9%	3.6%	25.5%
Union	41,571	39,449	-5.1%	0.8	-11.4	40.0	17.4%	35.8%	1.5%
Van Buren	17,298	16,506	-4.6%	-5.6	-1.3	48.8	26.1%	3.7%	9.4%
Washington	203,970	231,996	13.7%	7.4	11.5	31.9	11.5%	13.0%	12.3%
White	77,336	79,016	2.2%	1.2	1.1	37.0	15.9%	8.0%	12.3%
Woodruff	7,249	6,571	-9.4%	-6.4	-1.5	45.5	22.9%	28.8%	-2.7%
Yell	22,142	21,523	-2.8%	1.3	0.5	40.1	17.5%	5.8%	12.0%
RURAL									
Coastal Plains	210,716	199,496	-5.3%	-0.3	-8.0	41.8	18.7%	33.3%	1.2%
Delta	307,294	289,879	-5.7%	0.4	-10.2	41.2	17.5%	30.4%	0.6%
Highlands	750,898	748,052	-0.4%	-0.6	3.9	43.5	20.3%	7.8%	12.8%
Total Rural	1,268,908	1,237,427	-2.5%	-0.3	-1.3	42.6	19.4%	17.2%	2.3%
Total Urban	1,652,829	1,766,852	6.9%	4.6	5.6	37.1	14.7%	23.2%	5.5%
State	2,921,737	3,004,279	2.8%	2.6	2.7	38.1	16.6%	20.7%	4.9%

Annual Estimates of Resident Population (2010-2017), U.S. Census Bureau. Annual Estimates of Components of Resident Population Change (2016-2017), U.S. Census Bureau. Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Selected Age Groups by Sex for the United States, States, Counties, and Puerto Rico Commonwealth and Municipios: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2017, U.S. Census Bureau. Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2017, U.S. Census Bureau

APPENDIX TABLE 2. TOTAL EMPLOYMENT AND EMPLOYMENT CHANGE

COUNTY NAME	TOTAL EMPLOYMENT			EMPLOYMENT CHANGE			EMPLOYMENT CHANGE %		
	2007	2010	2016	2007-2010	2010-2016	2007-2016	2007-2010	2010-2016	2007-2016
Arkansas	13,506	13,009	13,428	-497	419	-78	-3.7%	3.2%	-0.6%
Ashley	10,783	10,608	9,413	-175	-1,195	-1,370	-1.6%	-11.3%	-14.6%
Baxter	22,203	20,785	21,391	-1,418	606	-812	-6.4%	2.9%	-3.8%
Benton	125,309	121,874	153,119	-3,435	31,245	27,810	-2.7%	25.6%	18.2%
Boone	21,158	20,379	20,658	-779	279	-500	-3.7%	1.4%	-2.4%
Bradley	5,560	4,840	5,062	-720	222	-498	-12.9%	4.6%	-9.8%
Calhoun	3,545	3,478	3,004	-67	-474	-541	-1.9%	-13.6%	-18.0%
Carroll	15,073	14,558	16,317	-515	1,759	1,244	-3.4%	12.1%	7.6%
Chicot	5,143	4,980	4,950	-163	-30	-193	-3.2%	-0.6%	-3.9%
Clark	13,530	12,847	12,619	-683	-228	-911	-5.0%	-1.8%	-7.2%
Clay	6,508	6,222	5,637	-286	-585	-871	-4.4%	-9.4%	-15.5%
Cleburne	11,944	11,774	11,475	-170	-299	-469	-1.4%	-2.5%	-4.1%
Cleveland	1,955	2,026	1,821	71	-205	-134	3.6%	-10.1%	-7.4%
Columbia	12,843	12,043	11,692	-800	-351	-1,151	-6.2%	-2.9%	-9.8%
Conway	10,475	10,431	10,305	-44	-126	-170	-0.4%	-1.2%	-1.6%
Craighead	55,925	57,008	66,172	1,083	9,164	10,247	1.9%	16.1%	15.5%
Crawford	27,708	27,314	27,340	-394	26	-368	-1.4%	0.1%	-1.3%
Crittenden	22,902	22,460	23,908	-442	1,448	1,006	-1.9%	6.4%	4.2%
Cross	7,772	7,777	8,123	5	346	351	0.1%	4.4%	4.3%
Dallas	4,014	3,921	3,621	-93	-300	-393	-2.3%	-7.7%	-10.9%
Desha	6,679	6,631	6,515	-48	-116	-164	-0.7%	-1.7%	-2.5%
Drew	9,256	9,127	9,277	-129	150	21	-1.4%	1.6%	0.2%
Faulkner	55,655	56,068	58,662	413	2,594	3,007	0.7%	4.6%	5.1%
Franklin	7,039	6,961	7,086	-78	125	47	-1.1%	1.8%	0.7%
Fulton	3,955	4,078	3,665	123	-413	-290	3.1%	-10.1%	-7.9%
Garland	53,077	50,947	52,634	-2,130	1,687	-443	-4.0%	3.3%	-0.8%
Grant	6,000	5,676	6,063	-324	387	63	-5.4%	6.8%	1.0%
Greene	19,722	18,559	21,022	-1,163	2,463	1,300	-5.9%	13.3%	6.2%
Hempstead	11,226	10,909	10,560	-317	-349	-666	-2.8%	-3.2%	-6.3%
Hot Spring	12,055	11,608	12,456	-447	848	401	-3.7%	7.3%	3.2%
Howard	9,732	8,701	9,073	-1,031	372	-659	-10.6%	4.3%	-7.3%
Independence	21,568	21,178	20,941	-390	-237	-627	-1.8%	-1.1%	-3.0%
Izard	5,743	5,355	5,606	-388	251	-137	-6.8%	4.7%	-2.4%
Jackson	7,843	7,418	7,552	-425	134	-291	-5.4%	1.8%	-3.9%
Jefferson	41,789	40,722	37,627	-1,067	-3,095	-4,162	-2.6%	-7.6%	-11.1%
Johnson	11,739	11,421	11,473	-318	52	-266	-2.7%	0.5%	-2.3%
Lafayette	2,419	2,326	2,217	-93	-109	-202	-3.8%	-4.7%	-9.1%
Lawrence	7,181	6,903	6,768	-278	-135	-413	-3.9%	-2.0%	-6.1%
Lee	3,355	3,449	3,487	94	38	132	2.8%	1.1%	3.8%
Lincoln	4,693	4,499	4,572	-194	73	-121	-4.1%	1.6%	-2.6%
Little River	5,776	5,702	5,059	-74	-643	-717	-1.3%	-11.3%	-14.2%
Logan	9,367	8,617	8,775	-750	158	-592	-8.0%	1.8%	-6.7%

APPENDIX TABLE 2. TOTAL EMPLOYMENT AND EMPLOYMENT CHANGE

COUNTY NAME	TOTAL EMPLOYMENT			EMPLOYMENT CHANGE			EMPLOYMENT CHANGE %		
	2007	2010	2016	2007-2010	2010-2016	2007-2016	2007-2010	2010-2016	2007-2016
Lonoke	21,513	21,420	22,976	-93	1,556	1,463	-0.4%	7.3%	6.4%
Madison	6,562	6,180	6,474	-382	294	-88	-5.8%	4.8%	-1.4%
Marion	6,792	5,977	6,235	-815	258	-557	-12.0%	4.3%	-8.9%
Miller	18,320	18,157	18,413	-163	256	93	-0.9%	1.4%	0.5%
Mississippi	24,266	23,317	23,180	-949	-137	-1,086	-3.9%	-0.6%	-4.7%
Monroe	3,665	3,484	3,493	-181	9	-172	-4.9%	0.3%	-4.9%
Montgomery	3,261	3,153	2,892	-108	-261	-369	-3.3%	-8.3%	-12.8%
Nevada	3,961	3,390	3,760	-571	370	-201	-14.4%	10.9%	-5.3%
Newton	2,968	2,832	2,770	-136	-62	-198	-4.6%	-2.2%	-7.1%
Ouachita	10,367	10,310	10,064	-57	-246	-303	-0.5%	-2.4%	-3.0%
Perry	3,166	3,024	2,911	-142	-113	-255	-4.5%	-3.7%	-8.8%
Phillips	8,956	9,192	8,451	236	-741	-505	2.6%	-8.1%	-6.0%
Pike	4,705	4,330	4,200	-375	-130	-505	-8.0%	-3.0%	-12.0%
Poinsett	8,947	8,253	8,534	-694	281	-413	-7.8%	3.4%	-4.8%
Polk	10,067	9,685	9,553	-382	-132	-514	-3.8%	-1.4%	-5.4%
Pope	36,299	35,565	35,624	-734	59	-675	-2.0%	0.2%	-1.9%
Prairie	2,934	2,800	2,915	-134	115	-19	-4.6%	4.1%	-0.7%
Pulaski	313,977	308,577	324,567	-5,400	15,990	10,590	-1.7%	5.2%	3.3%
Randolph	7,939	7,779	7,758	-160	-21	-181	-2.0%	-0.3%	-2.3%
St. Francis	11,635	11,602	11,587	-33	-15	-48	-0.3%	-0.1%	-0.4%
Saline	33,133	32,818	37,779	-315	4,961	4,646	-1.0%	15.1%	12.3%
Scott	4,577	4,546	4,746	-31	200	169	-0.7%	4.4%	3.6%
Searcy	3,886	3,636	3,548	-250	-88	-338	-6.4%	-2.4%	-9.5%
Sebastian	91,870	85,862	86,285	-6,008	423	-5,585	-6.5%	0.5%	-6.5%
Sevier	7,734	7,515	7,090	-219	-425	-644	-2.8%	-5.7%	-9.1%
Sharp	7,268	6,750	6,694	-518	-56	-574	-7.1%	-0.8%	-8.6%
Stone	5,415	5,104	4,896	-311	-208	-519	-5.7%	-4.1%	-10.6%
Union	25,772	24,009	24,995	-1,763	986	-777	-6.8%	4.1%	-3.1%
Van Buren	6,333	6,100	6,235	-233	135	-98	-3.7%	2.2%	-1.6%
Washington	126,147	122,144	143,915	-4,003	21,771	17,768	-3.2%	17.8%	12.3%
White	36,109	37,549	36,380	1,440	-1,169	271	4.0%	-3.1%	0.7%
Woodruff	3,139	3,069	2,919	-70	-150	-220	-2.2%	-4.9%	-7.5%
Yell	10,173	9,283	9,625	-890	342	-548	-8.7%	3.7%	-5.7%
RURAL									
Coastal Plains	103,463	98,768	96,924	-4,695	-1,844	-6,539	-4.5%	-1.9%	-6.7%
Delta	138,763	134,261	136,365	-4,502	2,104	-2,398	-3.2%	1.6%	-1.8%
Highlands	356,030	344,201	345,923	-11,829	1,722	-10,107	-3.3%	0.5%	-2.9%
Total Rural	598,256	577,230	579,212	-21,026	1,982	-19,044	-3.5%	0.3%	-3.3%
Total Urban	987,325	965,371	1,053,397	-21,954	88,026	66,072	-2.2%	9.1%	6.3%
State	1,585,581	1,542,601	1,632,609	-42,980	90,008	47,028	-2.7%	5.8%	2.9%

Source: Regional Economic Accounts, Personal Income and Employment by Major Component (2007-2016), Bureau of Economic Analysis

APPENDIX TABLE 3. MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND AVERAGE EARNINGS PER JOB

COUNTY NAME	MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME (2016 $)			AVERAGE EARNINGS PER JOB (2016 $)				
	2006-2010	2012-2016	% CHANGE 2006-10 TO 2012-16	2007	2010	2016	% CHANGE 2010-2016	% CHANGE 2007-2016
Arkansas	$40,992	$37,330	-8.9%	$42,315	$44,335	$49,141	10.8%	16.1%
Ashley	$38,464	$36,352	-5.5%	$47,422	$45,675	$45,170	-1.1%	-4.7%
Baxter	$39,204	$38,115	-2.8%	$35,620	$34,148	$35,076	2.7%	-1.5%
Benton	$55,530	$59,016	6.3%	$50,070	$52,164	$57,533	10.3%	14.9%
Boone	$40,713	$38,664	-5.0%	$37,698	$36,019	$37,015	2.8%	-1.8%
Bradley	$32,930	$34,665	5.3%	$39,095	$39,470	$40,429	2.4%	3.4%
Calhoun	$35,729	$35,446	-0.8%	$52,517	$54,080	$58,405	8.0%	11.2%
Carroll	$37,694	$38,145	1.2%	$32,809	$28,258	$29,855	5.7%	-9.0%
Chicot	$23,866	$29,628	24.1%	$42,241	$39,942	$37,927	-5.0%	-10.2%
Clark	$35,198	$35,595	1.1%	$36,989	$36,721	$37,174	1.2%	0.5%
Clay	$32,003	$32,404	1.3%	$38,073	$37,478	$36,066	-3.8%	-5.3%
Cleburne	$39,366	$41,717	6.0%	$31,224	$31,144	$30,178	-3.1%	-3.4%
Cleveland	$40,691	$42,429	4.3%	$41,147	$28,091	$38,758	38.0%	-5.8%
Columbia	$38,699	$36,507	-5.7%	$43,515	$39,640	$39,943	0.8%	-8.2%
Conway	$36,004	$38,266	6.3%	$37,106	$37,339	$37,795	1.2%	1.9%
Craighead	$43,197	$43,892	1.6%	$41,378	$43,295	$43,386	0.2%	4.9%
Crawford	$44,259	$41,792	-5.6%	$36,612	$36,987	$36,683	-0.8%	0.2%
Crittenden	$37,123	$39,407	6.2%	$42,961	$40,196	$40,292	0.2%	-6.2%
Cross	$40,762	$39,306	-3.6%	$34,598	$35,981	$34,861	-3.1%	0.8%
Dallas	$32,593	$35,745	9.7%	$36,843	$35,186	$34,324	-2.4%	-6.8%
Desha	$31,986	$26,519	-17.1%	$44,163	$45,102	$45,131	0.1%	2.2%
Drew	$35,848	$33,092	-7.7%	$36,965	$37,877	$42,076	11.1%	13.8%
Faulkner	$49,863	$50,872	2.0%	$40,375	$42,199	$40,381	-4.3%	0.0%
Franklin	$35,304	$39,482	11.8%	$40,031	$36,040	$35,533	-1.4%	-11.2%
Fulton	$33,690	$35,593	5.6%	$27,222	$26,551	$27,633	4.1%	1.5%
Garland	$40,567	$40,011	-1.4%	$35,785	$35,872	$37,518	4.6%	4.8%
Grant	$56,802	$49,195	-13.4%	$33,050	$32,927	$37,974	15.3%	14.9%
Greene	$42,070	$42,755	1.6%	$40,057	$42,298	$42,723	1.0%	6.7%
Hempstead	$39,316	$34,072	-13.3%	$36,871	$40,016	$38,195	-4.6%	3.6%
Hot Spring	$40,904	$42,589	4.1%	$37,707	$36,370	$37,254	2.4%	-1.2%
Howard	$38,045	$34,672	-8.9%	$41,624	$35,259	$38,745	9.9%	-6.9%
Independence	$38,124	$37,592	-1.4%	$39,539	$39,663	$41,039	3.5%	3.8%
Izard	$34,873	$35,188	0.9%	$27,740	$27,180	$29,947	10.2%	8.0%
Jackson	$30,405	$31,245	2.8%	$43,740	$44,870	$53,468	19.2%	22.2%
Jefferson	$39,635	$36,377	-8.2%	$46,846	$47,645	$45,370	-4.8%	-3.2%
Johnson	$33,683	$34,031	1.0%	$36,981	$34,439	$36,485	5.9%	-1.3%
Lafayette	$30,295	$29,882	-1.4%	$42,079	$29,869	$40,255	34.8%	-4.3%
Lawrence	$33,348	$33,381	0.1%	$32,698	$33,690	$37,630	11.7%	15.1%
Lee	$33,575	$25,724	-23.4%	$49,162	$42,058	$37,347	-11.2%	-24.0%
Lincoln	$39,348	$32,369	-17.7%	$40,180	$35,783	$38,849	8.6%	-3.3%
Little River	$36,792	$35,396	-3.8%	$48,924	$49,930	$49,864	-0.1%	1.9%
Logan	$41,345	$36,463	-11.8%	$35,854	$33,122	$35,408	6.9%	-1.2%

APPENDIX TABLE 3. MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND AVERAGE EARNINGS PER JOB

COUNTY NAME	MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME (2016 $)			AVERAGE EARNINGS PER JOB (2016 $)				
	2006-2010	2012-2016	% CHANGE 2006-10 TO 2012-16	2007	2010	2016	% CHANGE 2010-2016	% CHANGE 2007-2016
Lonoke	$55,886	$56,156	0.5%	$33,158	$32,900	$34,217	4.0%	3.2%
Madison	$40,190	$39,839	-0.9%	$31,055	$25,921	$33,311	28.5%	7.3%
Marion	$37,555	$33,726	-10.2%	$29,046	$26,784	$28,588	6.7%	-1.6%
Miller	$44,380	$39,955	-10.0%	$43,684	$41,811	$41,264	-1.3%	-5.5%
Mississippi	$36,783	$35,003	-4.8%	$48,922	$50,467	$45,659	-9.5%	-6.7%
Monroe	$32,992	$31,541	-4.4%	$33,840	$33,638	$36,023	7.1%	6.5%
Montgomery	$39,313	$35,103	-10.7%	$30,425	$27,114	$27,823	2.6%	-8.6%
Nevada	$42,252	$30,750	-27.2%	$35,815	$32,635	$37,198	14.0%	3.9%
Newton	$30,214	$33,176	9.8%	$23,155	$19,423	$19,605	0.9%	-15.3%
Ouachita	$34,417	$31,233	-9.3%	$37,196	$39,356	$36,544	-7.1%	-1.8%
Perry	$48,044	$45,819	-4.6%	$28,872	$28,237	$27,146	-3.9%	-6.0%
Phillips	$30,126	$26,829	-10.9%	$42,875	$35,863	$33,921	-5.4%	-20.9%
Pike	$36,121	$34,519	-4.4%	$38,197	$33,188	$30,137	-9.2%	-21.1%
Poinsett	$35,527	$35,163	-1.0%	$42,826	$43,147	$38,580	-10.6%	-9.9%
Polk	$35,811	$33,202	-7.3%	$30,441	$29,481	$31,272	6.1%	2.7%
Pope	$43,867	$40,534	-7.6%	$39,367	$40,227	$42,461	5.6%	7.9%
Prairie	$38,917	$37,500	-3.6%	$38,205	$38,277	$36,813	-3.8%	-3.6%
Pulaski	$49,680	$47,101	-5.2%	$58,620	$54,502	$55,594	2.0%	-5.2%
Randolph	$33,276	$36,318	9.1%	$32,022	$30,521	$33,135	8.6%	3.5%
St. Francis	$29,749	$35,066	17.9%	$38,266	$38,992	$38,710	-0.7%	1.2%
Saline	$56,706	$57,632	1.6%	$35,396	$35,430	$35,398	-0.1%	0.0%
Scott	$40,097	$37,861	-5.6%	$31,565	$28,358	$32,035	13.0%	1.5%
Searcy	$31,722	$35,542	12.0%	$23,751	$23,525	$21,215	-9.8%	-10.7%
Sebastian	$43,471	$40,023	-7.9%	$47,105	$46,593	$48,044	3.1%	2.0%
Sevier	$37,857	$38,956	2.9%	$39,141	$33,909	$37,861	11.7%	-3.3%
Sharp	$34,281	$31,068	-9.4%	$26,998	$24,979	$29,332	17.4%	8.6%
Stone	$33,450	$30,486	-8.9%	$27,826	$26,524	$26,272	-1.0%	-5.6%
Union	$40,148	$39,836	-0.8%	$51,407	$51,208	$50,244	-1.9%	-2.3%
Van Buren	$35,189	$34,576	-1.7%	$31,378	$30,759	$32,476	5.6%	3.5%
Washington	$46,577	$45,442	-2.4%	$43,585	$43,539	$47,836	9.9%	9.8%
White	$43,137	$42,197	-2.2%	$35,318	$38,466	$36,307	-5.6%	2.8%
Woodruff	$29,933	$30,383	1.5%	$35,476	$34,933	$40,601	16.2%	14.4%
Yell	$40,305	$39,323	-2.4%	$33,203	$30,770	$33,820	9.9%	1.9%
RURAL								
Coastal Plains	$37,132	$34,972	-5.8%	$42,746	$40,654	$43,090	6.0%	0.8%
Delta	$34,315	$33,048	-3.7%	$40,934	$40,198	$40,364	0.4%	-1.4%
Highlands	$37,862	$37,255	-1.6%	$33,309	$31,536	$32,996	4.6%	-0.9%
Total Rural	$36,805	$35,727	-2.9%	$37,103	$35,536	$36,851	3.7%	-0.7%
Total Urban	$46,683	$45,975	-1.5%	$42,736	$42,549	$43,347	1.9%	1.4%
State	$43,235	$42,336	-2.1%	$44,447	$43,629	$45,217	3.6%	1.7%

Sources: Median Household Income In The Past 12 Months (In 2010 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars), 2006-2010 to 2012-2016 5-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau Regional Economic Accounts, Economic Profile Average Earnings per Job (2007-2016), Bureau of Economic Analysis. South Urban Consumer Price Index, Bureau of Labor Statistics

APPENDIX TABLE 4. INFRASTRUCTURE

COUNTY NAME	BROADBAND CONNECTIONS PER 1,000 HOUSEHOLDS BY SPEED, 2015		WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS, 2012			STRUCTURALLY DEFICIENT BRIDGES, 2017		
	MORE THAN 200 KBPS	AT LEAST 10 MBPS	FACILITIES WITH NEEDS	TOTAL COST OF NEEDS	TOTAL COST OF NEEDS PER CAPITA	NUMBER	REPLACEMENT COST	REHABILATION COST
Arkansas	400 to 600	200 to 400	2	$1,440,414	$76	15	$3,195,957	$2,173,251
Ashley	400 to 600	0 to 200	3	$9,275,351	$431	1	$134,626	$91,545
Baxter	600 to 800	400 to 600	3	$22,208,592	$541	1	$123,407	$83,917
Benton	more than 800	600 to 800	6	$24,180,717	$103	25	$14,967,290	$10,177,757
Boone	600 to 800	200 to 400	5	$8,552,268	$229	3	$3,978,469	$2,705,359
Bradley	400 to 600	200 to 400	1	$2,311,486	$205	2	$155,661	$105,849
Calhoun	400 to 600	200 to 400	3	$827,788	$157	6	$1,084,017	$737,132
Carroll	400 to 600	200 to 400	4	$26,148,323	$948	13	$2,438,688	$1,658,308
Chicot	400 to 600	200 to 400	0	$0	$0	1	$175,294	$119,200
Clark	400 to 600	200 to 400	2	$2,216,718	$97	13	$4,624,953	$3,144,968
Clay	400 to 600	200 to 400	6	$2,494,416	$159	11	$2,434,481	$1,655,447
Cleburne	600 to 800	200 to 400	3	$16,107,854	$625	1	$185,110	$125,875
Cleveland	400 to 600	0 to 200	1	$295,003	$34	4	$847,020	$575,974
Columbia	400 to 600	200 to 400	0	$0	$0	2	$295,896	$201,209
Conway	400 to 600	200 to 400	2	$1,774,462	$84	0	$0	$0
Craighead	600 to 800	400 to 600	3	$3,891,406	$39	24	$7,342,709	$4,993,042
Crawford	400 to 600	400 to 600	2	$5,321,033	$86	30	$19,112,639	$12,996,595
Crittenden	400 to 600	200 to 400	10	$22,169,500	$443	13	$113,064,533	$76,883,883
Cross	400 to 600	200 to 400	4	$6,039,154	$341	12	$3,127,242	$2,126,525
Dallas	200 to 400	0 to 200	1	$84,144	$11	10	$2,996,824	$2,037,840
Desha	400 to 600	0 to 200	3	$2,943,524	$234	2	$5,012,002	$3,408,161
Drew	400 to 600	200 to 400	1	$824,795	$44	1	$1,177,975	$801,023
Faulkner	600 to 800	200 to 400	5	$111,846,790	$944	4	$1,175,170	$799,116
Franklin	400 to 600	0 to 200	2	$3,018,806	$168	21	$4,134,130	$2,811,209
Fulton	400 to 600	0 to 200	2	$4,329,241	$356	8	$2,015,178	$1,370,321
Garland	600 to 800	400 to 600	0	$0	$0	10	$4,622,148	$3,143,061
Grant	400 to 600	0 to 200	1	$4,815,374	$267	0	$0	$0
Greene	600 to 800	0 to 200	3	$1,439,061	$33	16	$4,826,891	$3,282,286
Hempstead	400 to 600	200 to 400	3	$2,410,459	$108	9	$1,594,473	$1,084,242
Hot Spring	400 to 600	200 to 400	2	$4,960,521	$148	23	$21,742,047	$14,784,592
Howard	400 to 600	0 to 200	3	$6,591,240	$482	6	$5,655,681	$3,845,863
Independence	400 to 600	200 to 400	3	$43,599,243	$1,181	3	$284,677	$193,581
Izard	400 to 600	0 to 200	1	$955,156	$71	6	$703,980	$478,706
Jackson	400 to 600	200 to 400	4	$6,764,099	$383	3	$12,782,428	$8,692,051
Jefferson	400 to 600	0 to 200	4	$2,631,659	$35	21	$3,134,254	$2,131,293
Johnson	400 to 600	200 to 400	2	$2,156,779	$83	3	$466,983	$317,548
Lafayette	400 to 600	0 to 200	2	$2,983,604	$401	6	$2,639,224	$1,794,672
Lawrence	400 to 600	200 to 400	7	$4,878,596	$286	9	$3,942,008	$2,680,566
Lee	200 to 400	0 to 200	1	$267,395	$26	10	$5,469,168	$3,719,034
Lincoln	400 to 600	0 to 200	2	$5,659,129	$399	2	$308,517	$209,792
Little River	400 to 600	200 to 400	2	$3,617,705	$280	11	$12,876,385	$8,755,942
Logan	400 to 600	0 to 200	3	$3,593,419	$164	13	$6,760,733	$4,597,299

COUNTY NAME	BROADBAND CONNECTIONS PER 1,000 HOUSEHOLDS BY SPEED, 2015		WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS, 2012			STRUCTURALLY DEFICIENT BRIDGES, 2017		
	MORE THAN 200 KBPS	AT LEAST 10 MBPS	FACILITIES WITH NEEDS	TOTAL COST OF NEEDS	TOTAL COST OF NEEDS PER CAPITA	NUMBER	REPLACEMENT COST	REHABILATION COST
Lonoke	600 to 800	400 to 600	7	$24,567,370	$351	19	$10,806,515	$7,348,430
Madison	400 to 600	0 to 200	1	$9,237,976	$593	31	$10,534,459	$7,163,432
Marion	600 to 800	200 to 400	4	$6,549,788	$394	2	$238,400	$162,112
Miller	400 to 600	200 to 400	0	$0	$0	2	$2,106,331	$1,432,305
Mississippi	400 to 600	200 to 400	5	$1,644,887	$36	30	$19,128,065	$13,007,084
Monroe	200 to 400	0 to 200	3	$2,935,407	$374	3	$595,999	$405,279
Montgomery	400 to 600	0 to 200	2	$1,648,880	$177	4	$960,610	$653,215
Nevada	400 to 600	0 to 200	2	$11,506,149	$1,292	9	$11,448,792	$7,785,179
Newton	400 to 600	0 to 200	1	$125,890	$16	2	$1,922,623	$1,307,384
Ouachita	400 to 600	200 to 400	1	$1,038,147	$41	12	$2,344,731	$1,594,417
Perry	400 to 600	0 to 200	4	$8,848,794	$857	3	$649,288	$441,516
Phillips	400 to 600	200 to 400	6	$12,593,785	$607	12	$4,184,615	$2,845,538
Pike	400 to 600	0 to 200	3	$6,368,933	$566	5	$5,735,615	$3,900,218
Poinsett	400 to 600	200 to 400	2	$2,831,733	$117	23	$15,247,760	$10,368,477
Polk	400 to 600	200 to 400	0	$0	$0	31	$5,560,321	$3,781,018
Pope	600 to 800	400 to 600	2	$6,722,978	$107	5	$687,152	$467,263
Prairie	200 to 400	0 to 200	0	$0	$0	10	$15,988,201	$10,871,977
Pulaski	600 to 800	400 to 600	7	$141,030,480	$363	34	$136,350,568	$92,718,386
Randolph	400 to 600	200 to 400	2	$444,242	$25	8	$10,497,998	$7,138,639
St. Francis	200 to 400	0 to 200	4	$2,149,459	$77	12	$4,394,967	$2,988,578
Saline	600 to 800	400 to 600	6	$19,703,516	$177	12	$16,110,206	$10,954,940
Scott	400 to 600	0 to 200	1	$1,891,528	$172	13	$3,461,002	$2,353,481
Searcy	400 to 600	0 to 200	1	$2,984,379	$373	5	$1,507,527	$1,025,118
Sebastian	600 to 800	400 to 600	7	$16,598,079	$130	18	$7,387,584	$5,023,557
Sevier	400 to 600	0 to 200	3	$2,817,524	$164	17	$7,927,489	$5,390,693
Sharp	600 to 800	0 to 200	2	$2,242,686	$132	7	$1,330,831	$904,965
Stone	400 to 600	0 to 200	0	$0	$0	1	$316,931	$215,513
Union	400 to 600	400 to 600	2	$5,219,412	$128	4	$1,218,643	$828,677
Van Buren	400 to 600	0 to 200	3	$5,839,516	$341	4	$1,681,419	$1,143,365
Washington	600 to 800	400 to 600	6	$30,593,908	$145	20	$5,615,013	$3,818,209
White	400 to 600	200 to 400	5	$6,675,535	$85	8	$1,660,383	$1,129,061
Woodruff	200 to 400	0 to 200	1	$296,926	$42	2	$283,275	$192,627
Yell	400 to 600	200 to 400	4	$3,778,731	$173	7	$921,344	$626,514
RURAL								
Coastal Plains	400 to 600	200 to 400	21	$40,309,899	$194	67	$35,817,442	$24,355,860
Delta	400 to 600	200 to 400	46	$49,499,389	$163	164	$97,154,863	$66,065,307
Highlands	400 to 600	200 to 400	84	$222,168,116	$296	286	$115,646,261	$78,639,458
Total Rural	400 to 600	200 to 400	151	$311,977,404	$247	517	$248,618,566	$169,060,625
Total Urban	400 to 600	200 to 400	63	$402,534,458	$238	232	$341,794,960	$232,420,573
State	400 to 600	200 to 400	214	$714,511,862	$242	749	$590,413,527	$401,481,198

Sources: Form 477 County Data on Internet Access Services (2015), Federal Communication Commission. 2012 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey, Environmental Protection Agency. Bridge Condition by County 2017, Federal Highway Administration. Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

APPENDIX TABLE 5. MEASURES OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STRESS

COUNTY NAME	PERCENT PERSONS BELOW POVERTY, 2016			PERSISTENT CHILDHOOD POVERTY	PERCENT OF CHILDREN WITH FOOD INSECURITY, 2016	PERCENT PERSONS RECEIVING SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE (SNAP), 2017				PERCENT FREE AND REDUCED PRICED LUNCH, 2017-18
	ALL PERSONS	CHILDREN UNDER 18	PERSONS AGED 65 AND OVER			UNDER 19 YEARS OF AGE	20-64 YEARS OF AGE	65 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER	TOTAL	
Arkansas	19.6%	29.0%	10.4%	1	23.7%	40.3%	19.1%	7.6%	22.4%	85.4%
Ashley	19.9%	30.4%	12.5%	1	25.9%	41.3%	19.4%	8.0%	23.0%	63.0%
Baxter	13.8%	22.2%	6.4%	0	23.2%	26.0%	15.5%	6.6%	16.6%	59.5%
Benton	11.4%	16.1%	7.6%	0	18.8%	17.8%	6.2%	2.2%	8.4%	42.5%
Boone	17.5%	25.1%	9.4%	0	23.8%	32.2%	16.6%	6.5%	18.8%	56.8%
Bradley	28.8%	46.1%	11.6%	1	28.1%	49.6%	22.9%	8.6%	27.1%	38.9%
Calhoun	19.2%	30.5%	13.8%	0	24.4%	24.3%	13.1%	6.1%	14.7%	73.6%
Carroll	17.5%	24.6%	11.7%	1	21.9%	28.6%	11.2%	5.3%	14.5%	72.4%
Chicot	30.9%	43.7%	21.0%	1	28.8%	60.9%	25.6%	15.4%	32.7%	100.0%
Clark	24.0%	32.3%	13.0%	1	25.2%	26.5%	13.1%	5.5%	15.2%	58.6%
Clay	22.2%	31.2%	15.8%	1	27.3%	30.0%	15.0%	8.5%	17.6%	66.4%
Cleburne	15.5%	23.8%	8.3%	0	24.9%	22.0%	12.4%	5.3%	13.6%	61.8%
Cleveland	20.0%	30.6%	12.0%	0	25.4%	36.3%	17.7%	6.6%	20.5%	52.5%
Columbia	24.9%	36.5%	15.7%	1	26.9%	38.8%	19.5%	7.7%	22.3%	66.8%
Conway	21.5%	33.6%	12.5%	0	27.1%	37.4%	19.3%	6.4%	21.7%	89.6%
Craighead	18.9%	27.6%	7.5%	0	23.2%	34.5%	13.3%	3.5%	16.9%	65.8%
Crawford	18.8%	27.3%	11.7%	0	23.8%	34.1%	14.9%	4.5%	18.0%	64.6%
Crittenden	24.6%	37.0%	15.2%	1	25.8%	66.4%	26.6%	7.9%	33.4%	88.6%
Cross	19.8%	27.4%	12.7%	1	24.1%	40.5%	18.2%	7.3%	21.9%	61.6%
Dallas	14.7%	25.6%	10.3%	0	23.0%	34.7%	16.7%	7.3%	19.6%	37.7%
Desha	32.0%	49.2%	16.6%	1	30.0%	56.5%	25.3%	11.6%	30.8%	85.2%
Drew	27.7%	38.0%	12.8%	0	27.5%	37.1%	18.7%	6.1%	21.2%	72.3%
Faulkner	16.1%	16.9%	8.0%	0	20.4%	25.4%	12.1%	2.5%	13.8%	47.9%
Franklin	21.1%	28.7%	14.0%	0	24.7%	33.5%	16.2%	6.7%	18.9%	56.5%
Fulton	23.2%	45.9%	12.7%	1	30.0%	34.4%	19.6%	10.8%	21.8%	66.3%
Garland	20.6%	32.6%	8.2%	0	25.5%	34.6%	17.6%	5.4%	19.8%	66.8%
Grant	13.0%	17.5%	7.6%	0	21.1%	23.3%	11.8%	3.3%	13.2%	48.0%
Greene	17.7%	25.8%	9.1%	0	23.9%	36.9%	17.7%	5.5%	20.4%	59.3%
Hempstead	26.7%	38.5%	16.5%	1	25.6%	41.1%	16.6%	7.1%	21.1%	88.5%
Hot Spring	17.0%	24.0%	9.7%	0	23.2%	32.6%	16.8%	5.0%	18.8%	62.4%
Howard	19.6%	34.7%	10.5%	0	24.5%	45.5%	16.6%	6.3%	22.1%	76.1%
Independence	19.2%	28.0%	13.1%	0	24.9%	32.1%	14.4%	5.4%	17.3%	65.7%
Izard	22.0%	36.5%	9.0%	1	28.3%	29.7%	16.3%	8.3%	18.3%	63.3%
Jackson	27.1%	43.9%	14.5%	1	30.3%	38.9%	21.0%	9.0%	23.4%	83.9%
Jefferson	25.5%	38.6%	12.7%	1	26.7%	50.9%	23.4%	6.9%	27.5%	78.0%
Johnson	21.4%	30.6%	10.6%	0	24.8%	40.7%	18.4%	6.0%	21.8%	74.9%
Lafayette	26.4%	37.2%	18.2%	1	27.2%	40.7%	21.2%	13.1%	24.7%	93.1%
Lawrence	23.6%	29.6%	16.0%	1	25.5%	36.8%	18.4%	10.0%	21.6%	75.1%
Lee	30.1%	38.7%	22.8%	1	26.6%	47.0%	25.5%	16.8%	29.4%	99.7%
Lincoln	23.3%	31.2%	17.3%	1	25.2%	30.9%	15.5%	7.4%	18.0%	67.5%
Little River	19.4%	28.2%	7.6%	0	24.4%	36.0%	17.6%	8.4%	20.6%	67.5%
Logan	19.0%	25.2%	11.4%	0	24.4%	37.6%	18.3%	8.6%	21.5%	90.3%

APPENDIX TABLE 5. MEASURES OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STRESS

COUNTY NAME	PERCENT PERSONS BELOW POVERTY, 2016			PERSISTENT CHILDHOOD POVERTY	PERCENT OF CHILDREN WITH FOOD INSECURITY, 2016	PERCENT PERSONS RECEIVING SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE (SNAP), 2017				PERCENT FREE AND REDUCED PRICED LUNCH, 2017-18
	ALL PERSONS	CHILDREN UNDER 18	PERSONS AGED 65 AND OVER			UNDER 19 YEARS OF AGE	20-64 YEARS OF AGE	65 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER	TOTAL	
Lonoke	12.1%	16.5%	11.0%	0	20.4%	24.8%	11.1%	3.3%	13.2%	45.0%
Madison	18.1%	22.5%	9.2%	1	22.3%	32.4%	14.1%	5.8%	17.3%	65.2%
Marion	19.9%	30.6%	9.2%	0	25.6%	31.4%	17.5%	7.6%	19.3%	72.0%
Miller	20.6%	30.2%	12.9%	1	24.3%	43.6%	19.6%	5.7%	23.2%	65.1%
Mississippi	25.5%	37.6%	14.3%	1	28.3%	57.4%	24.0%	8.5%	29.7%	82.5%
Monroe	28.6%	43.9%	19.3%	1	28.4%	49.9%	24.6%	16.2%	29.5%	100.0%
Montgomery	18.8%	28.3%	9.2%	1	25.3%	30.4%	15.5%	7.2%	17.8%	76.5%
Nevada	30.8%	47.9%	23.5%	1	29.0%	43.9%	19.2%	9.2%	23.7%	100.0%
Newton	21.6%	28.9%	14.0%	1	24.8%	27.3%	15.7%	10.7%	17.7%	73.4%
Ouachita	24.5%	37.1%	15.4%	1	26.7%	43.5%	20.8%	6.8%	24.1%	70.5%
Perry	17.8%	29.7%	9.5%	0	25.4%	30.6%	16.3%	4.4%	17.8%	57.8%
Phillips	33.5%	52.7%	16.5%	1	31.0%	76.9%	33.0%	16.6%	41.2%	100.0%
Pike	18.5%	26.6%	9.6%	0	23.9%	34.9%	14.1%	6.8%	18.1%	71.5%
Poinsett	22.1%	34.7%	11.2%	1	26.7%	47.4%	23.1%	10.4%	27.0%	83.2%
Polk	25.2%	36.7%	12.5%	1	27.4%	40.0%	19.7%	8.3%	22.9%	78.6%
Pope	19.6%	25.0%	11.0%	0	23.5%	27.2%	13.1%	3.7%	15.0%	58.7%
Prairie	19.8%	30.5%	14.1%	0	25.0%	28.8%	14.5%	8.6%	17.0%	69.1%
Pulaski	18.0%	27.6%	8.3%	0	22.3%	36.4%	15.3%	3.7%	18.6%	66.6%
Randolph	19.6%	26.2%	8.9%	0	24.7%	31.6%	16.6%	8.9%	19.1%	66.3%
St. Francis	24.6%	37.8%	14.0%	1	26.4%	51.9%	23.7%	9.0%	28.2%	91.4%
Saline	8.5%	10.7%	5.2%	0	18.2%	19.4%	8.8%	2.1%	10.4%	39.5%
Scott	20.9%	33.4%	8.5%	1	25.6%	41.0%	18.8%	8.1%	22.5%	75.6%
Searcy	20.7%	24.2%	13.1%	1	24.3%	24.5%	15.7%	10.8%	17.0%	74.9%
Sebastian	22.2%	33.5%	12.4%	0	24.6%	36.2%	16.2%	4.8%	19.3%	64.6%
Sevier	22.4%	33.6%	11.0%	0	23.8%	46.8%	15.3%	5.8%	21.5%	74.1%
Sharp	22.2%	29.0%	13.1%	1	26.5%	39.6%	22.2%	9.9%	24.5%	74.9%
Stone	23.6%	32.3%	19.1%	1	26.7%	34.0%	18.6%	10.6%	21.1%	63.1%
Union	20.7%	32.3%	11.3%	1	25.3%	42.2%	19.8%	6.1%	23.1%	62.6%
Van Buren	18.5%	26.8%	12.8%	1	26.6%	33.6%	19.3%	7.8%	20.9%	100.0%
Washington	19.0%	22.3%	9.7%	0	20.5%	24.7%	7.7%	2.6%	11.1%	56.8%
White	17.7%	20.5%	11.5%	0	22.9%	32.5%	16.7%	4.8%	18.6%	58.2%
Woodruff	24.1%	30.1%	16.3%	1	26.2%	43.1%	22.9%	15.3%	26.7%	75.4%
Yell	17.5%	25.6%	11.7%	0	22.8%	35.4%	12.7%	5.7%	17.2%	79.0%
RURAL										
Coastal Plains	23.8%	35.6%	13.8%	8	26.2%	40.6%	19.2%	7.3%	22.5%	68.3%
Delta	24.1%	36.0%	14.2%	14	26.9%	46.8%	21.7%	9.6%	25.9%	79.0%
Highlands	19.1%	27.0%	10.9%	14	24.3%	32.4%	15.9%	6.4%	18.4%	66.8%
Total Rural	21.0%	30.7%	12.0%	36	25.3%	37.1%	17.8%	7.3%	20.8%	69.9%
Total Urban	17.2%	24.2%	9.1%	3	21.8%	30.9%	12.9%	3.6%	15.8%	58.4%
State	18.8%	26.8%	10.5%	39	23.2%	33.5%	14.9%	5.1%	17.9%	63.0%

Sources: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2006-2010 and 2012-2016), U.S. Census Bureau Poverty Status, Decennial Census (1980-2000), U.S. Census Bureau. Map the Meal Gap 2017: Child Food Insecurity in Arkansas by County in 2016, Feeding America. SNAP Program Recipients by Age, FY2017 Statistical Report, Arkansas Department of Health. Free and Reduced Meal Status SY2017-18, Arkansas Department of Education. Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

APPENDIX TABLE 6. HEALTH INDICATORS

COUNTY NAME	INFANT MORTALITY RATE, 2010-2016	PERCENT OF ADULT POPULATION OBESE (BMI ≥ 30), 2016	CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS, 2016					COUNTY HEALTH SCORES, 2018	
			UNDERWEIGHT	HEALTHY WEIGHT	OVERWEIGHT	OBESE	OVERWEIGHT OR OBESE	HEALTH OUTCOMES SCORES	HEALTH FACTORS SCORES
Arkansas	8.68	43.4%	1.6%	53.5%	18.7%	26.1%	44.8%	-0.48	0.19
Ashley	6.37	42.1%	1.7%	56.0%	18.4%	24.0%	42.4%	-0.18	-0.32
Baxter	8.92	33.9%	2.0%	60.0%	17.6%	20.4%	38.0%	0.43	0.84
Benton	5.71	30.8%	2.7%	63.2%	16.1%	18.1%	34.2%	1.89	1.01
Boone	5.73	31.1%	2.2%	61.1%	16.2%	20.5%	36.7%	1.03	0.57
Bradley	8.63	39.5%	1.3%	50.3%	19.2%	29.2%	48.4%	-1.45	-0.68
Calhoun	3.52	42.9%	49.8%		21.0%	28.4%	49.4%	0.30	0.03
Carroll	8.42	31.7%	1.6%	58.5%	17.1%	22.8%	39.9%	0.70	0.33
Chicot	5.99	40.1%	1.1%	47.7%	18.4%	32.8%	51.2%	-1.06	-0.70
Clark	8.34	30.0%	1.3%	58.3%	17.3%	23.2%	40.5%	0.30	0.12
Clay	2.93	41.9%	2.2%	53.9%	18.6%	25.4%	44.0%	-0.16	-0.16
Cleburne	5.65	34.8%	2.5%	59.7%	17.1%	20.7%	37.8%	0.76	0.30
Cleveland	0.00	38.9%	1.5%	55.1%	18.4%	25.1%	43.5%	0.20	0.32
Columbia	6.23	46.2%	1.9%	58.6%	18.5%	21.1%	39.6%	-0.41	-0.19
Conway	5.96	40.4%	1.4%	57.8%	18.4%	22.5%	40.9%	0.33	-0.03
Craighead	7.63	38.2%	2.7%	59.0%	16.5%	21.9%	38.4%	0.69	0.55
Crawford	8.21	39.2%	3.0%	61.9%	16.1%	19.1%	35.2%	0.63	0.31
Crittenden	5.87	36.2%	1.7%	56.5%	16.1%	25.7%	41.8%	-0.97	-0.51
Cross	8.12	39.4%	1.2%	53.9%	16.3%	28.6%	44.9%	-0.39	-0.30
Dallas	6.36	36.9%	55%		15.1%	28.9%	44.0%	-0.51	0.11
Desha	5.99	39.3%	1.5%	53.8%	17.0%	27.7%	44.7%	-2.01	-0.82
Drew	9.03	37.0%	2.3%	58.9%	15.0%	23.8%	38.8%	-0.38	-0.19
Faulkner	7.46	33.7%	2.7%	62.6%	15.9%	18.8%	34.7%	1.36	0.78
Franklin	6.77	43.7%	2.8%	61.2%	14.9%	21.0%	35.9%	-0.07	0.24
Fulton	4.43	40.3%	1.5%	60.3%	19.2%	19.0%	38.2%	0.38	0.28
Garland	6.06	33.1%	2.9%	60.4%	15.6%	21.2%	36.8%	0.01	0.20
Grant	3.44	34.0%	1.7%	58.5%	17.7%	22.0%	39.7%	0.98	0.41
Greene	8.48	35.5%	1.9%	58.6%	17.0%	22.5%	39.5%	0.19	0.23
Hempstead	3.06	37.0%	1.7%	52.8%	17.7%	27.8%	45.5%	-0.47	-0.43
Hot Spring	5.69	32.4%	1.4%	57.3%	18.3%	23.0%	41.3%	-0.17	0.20
Howard	5.42	30.5%	2.3%	56.8%	16.9%	24.1%	41.0%	-0.05	0.08
Independence	7.16	33.4%	1.9%	54.8%	18.3%	25.0%	43.3%	0.35	0.24
Izard	11.78	39.2%	1.5%	64.6%	14.6%	19.3%	33.9%	0.44	0.04
Jackson	9.19	33.2%	2.1%	51.2%	18.7%	28.0%	46.7%	-0.41	-0.63
Jefferson	8.98	39.1%	2.0%	55.4%	17.8%	24.7%	42.5%	-0.79	-0.49
Johnson	5.61	40.7%	2.4%	55.9%	16.8%	25.0%	41.8%	0.72	0.00
Lafayette	13.89	43.2%	50%		22.3%	26.1%	48.4%	-1.23	-0.47
Lawrence	11.39	34.3%	0.9%	57.5%	17.5%	24.1%	41.6%	-0.30	0.00
Lee	3.19	38.0%	2.2%	56.6%	14.6%	26.5%	41.1%	-0.94	-0.90
Lincoln	8.53	40.9%	1.2%	53.2%	19.2%	26.5%	45.7%	0.51	-0.23
Little River	1.21	38.7%	2.0%	58.3%	15.1%	24.6%	39.7%	-0.07	0.11
Logan	9.43	40.8%	19.0%	25.2%	17.9%	23.2%	41.1%	-0.45	0.08

COUNTY NAME	INFANT MORTALITY RATE, 2010-2016	PERCENT OF ADULT POPULATION OBESE (BMI ≥ 30), 2016	CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS, 2016					COUNTY HEALTH SCORES, 2018	
			UNDERWEIGHT	HEALTHY WEIGHT	OVERWEIGHT	OBESE	OVERWEIGHT OR OBESE	HEALTH OUTCOMES SCORES	HEALTH FACTORS SCORES
Lonoke	6.39	32.6%	2.2%	60.8%	17.3%	19.7%	37.0%	1.00	0.42
Madison	5.70	35.1%	2.3%	61.2%	20.6%	16.0%	36.6%	0.25	0.01
Marion	7.53	32.0%	2.3%	55.1%	18.9%	23.8%	42.7%	0.12	0.30
Miller	4.41	46.7%	2.3%	58.9%	17.5%	21.3%	38.8%	0.31	-0.06
Mississippi	7.95	35.0%	2.1%	57.1%	16.4%	24.5%	40.9%	-1.25	-0.90
Monroe	5.39	41.5%	1.4%	55.3%	16.5%	26.8%	43.3%	-0.81	-0.45
Montgomery	5.92	32.4%	1.3%	60.8%	14.8%	23.3%	38.1%	0.52	-0.10
Nevada	6.25	33.5%	58.5%		20.1%	20.7%	40.8%	-1.10	-0.20
Newton	6.77	33.5%	2.4%	59.0%	14.0%	24.7%	38.7%	0.93	0.31
Ouachita	6.30	37.8%	1.2%	54.6%	17.5%	26.8%	44.3%	-0.95	0.07
Perry	7.69	32.8%	1.9%	58.6%	17.4%	22.1%	39.5%	0.15	0.19
Phillips	8.22	47.8%	1.6%	50.6%	17.8%	30.1%	47.9%	-2.59	-1.18
Pike	10.22	26.6%	1.6%	58.5%	18.5%	21.6%	40.1%	-0.08	0.11
Poinsett	8.46	35.0%	1.8%	53.5%	17.5%	27.3%	44.8%	-0.99	-0.43
Polk	2.06	33.1%	1.8%	58.5%	17.9%	21.9%	39.8%	0.28	0.11
Pope	4.81	40.8%	2.0%	58.5%	17.6%	21.9%	39.5%	0.99	0.37
Prairie	5.87	34.4%	56.9%		18.6%	23.7%	42.3%	0.55	0.15
Pulaski	7.96	35.9%	2.4%	59.4%	17.2%	21.0%	38.2%	0.46	0.37
Randolph	5.64	37.7%	1.3%	55.3%	18.5%	24.9%	43.4%	0.11	0.23
St. Francis	7.16	38.8%	2.2%	56.9%	16.9%	25.2%	42.1%	-0.52	-0.73
Saline	7.68	40.2%	2.2%	62.2%	15.0%	26.0%	41.0%	1.55	0.95
Scott	4.08	32.5%	2.2%	55.9%	16.6%	18.9%	35.5%	0.27	-0.01
Searcy	6.16	40.3%	2.8%	55.9%	17.0%	24.9%	41.9%	0.29	0.20
Sebastian	6.18	33.0%	2.2%	59.2%	17.9%	23.4%	41.3%	0.74	0.31
Sevier	5.55	42.3%	1.1%	53.0%	17.2%	21.4%	38.6%	0.50	-0.26
Sharp	9.41	32.8%	2.5%	55.5%	16.6%	29.4%	46.0%	-0.40	-0.04
Stone	13.46	38.1%	4.0%	66.0%	12.4%	17.7%	30.1%	-1.02	-0.03
Union	9.56	47.6%	2.3%	59.4%	16.9%	21.4%	38.3%	-0.54	-0.04
Van Buren	5.00	38.1%	3.3%	54.5%	18.9%	23.3%	42.2%	0.62	-0.12
Washington	6.61	32.6%	2.2%	59.5%	16.7%	21.6%	38.3%	1.79	0.65
White	10.84	33.8%	2.3%	57.0%	17.2%	23.5%	40.7%	0.44	0.04
Woodruff	6.49	32.8%	2.7%	58.7%	17.1%	21.5%	38.6%	-0.58	-0.33
Yell	9.54	38.8%	1.6%	55.8%	17.7%	24.9%	42.6%	0.23	-0.33
RURAL								No. in Top 25 Percent of Outcomes	No. in Top 25 Percent of Factors
Coastal Plains	6.61	41.4%	1.8%	55.2%	18.3%	24.9%	43.3%	0	1
Delta	7.51	38.1%	1.8%	54.4%	17.3%	26.5%	43.8%	1	0
Highlands	7.18	35.5%	2.0%	58.0%	17.2%	22.9%	40.0%	9	8
Total Rural	7.17	37.1%	1.9%	56.6%	17.4%	24.2%	41.6%	10	9
Total Urban	6.98	35.0%	2.4%	59.9%	16.7%	21.0%	37.7%	8	9
State	7.05	35.9%	2.0%	57.1%	17.3%	23.6%	41.0%	18	18

Sources: Infant Mortality Rate by Death Cohort 2010-2016, Arkansas Department of Health County Health Fact Sheets, Arkansas Department of Health Assessment of Childhood and Adolescent Obesity in Arkansas, Arkansas Center for Health Improvement

APPENDIX TABLE 7. EDUCATION

COUNTY NAME	PRE-K ENROLLMENT		K 12 PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT		COLLEGE GOING STUDENTS, 2016				PERCENT PERSONS AGED 25+ IN 2016 WITH		
	2016	PERCENT 3-5 YEAR OLDS	2017-2018	CHANGE, 2007-08 TO 2017-18	TOTAL ATTENDING COLLEGE	PERCENT AT 2-YEAR COLLEGES	PERCENT AT 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES	PERCENT AT ALL INSTITUTIONS	H.S. DIPLOMA OR HIGHER	ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE	BACHELOR'S DEGREE
Arkansas	360	42.0%	2,804	-15.0%	119	23.7%	33.3%	57.5%	82.5%	5.7%	14.4%
Ashley	439	49.4%	3,463	-13.2%	109	0.0%	51.5%	46.4%	83.9%	5.3%	13.6%
Baxter	578	54.6%	5,014	-0.5%	160	38.5%	14.5%	50.5%	87.2%	8.3%	17.7%
Benton	3,445	28.9%	45,332	29.3%	1,141	17.7%	22.1%	43.9%	87.2%	5.4%	30.7%
Boone	460	38.8%	5,850	-6.5%	239	31.3%	12.6%	55.8%	85.0%	7.6%	15.0%
Bradley	214	50.6%	2,059	-0.8%	72	0.0%	44.4%	50.7%	79.9%	5.8%	14.2%
Calhoun	94	40.9%	584	-13.2%	16	0.0%	38.7%	51.6%	83.2%	7.1%	12.0%
Carroll	312	33.3%	3,855	2.6%	106	15.3%	16.9%	42.7%	83.8%	6.0%	17.7%
Chicot	307	61.9%	1,350	-22.4%	34	0.0%	40.0%	37.8%	80.1%	4.0%	13.1%
Clark	308	51.4%	2,487	-13.7%	91	0.0%	42.1%	57.2%	86.5%	8.6%	24.7%
Clay	256	58.2%	2,298	-15.8%	57	0.0%	24.1%	39.3%	79.1%	5.2%	11.3%
Cleburne	330	39.3%	3,255	-5.4%	135	33.7%	19.1%	54.9%	83.3%	6.2%	15.4%
Cleveland	106	39.1%	1,412	-2.1%	57	17.4%	51.2%	66.3%	86.1%	6.8%	15.7%
Columbia	454	48.1%	3,737	2.8%	149	6.4%	48.8%	59.6%	85.2%	5.1%	21.9%
Conway	246	28.7%	3,144	-4.5%	143	27.6%	25.0%	62.7%	85.0%	6.4%	16.9%
Craighead	2,184	45.5%	18,652	20.6%	590	16.5%	33.9%	54.2%	88.0%	6.0%	25.4%
Crawford	1,083	45.7%	10,809	-5.5%	371	0.0%	48.1%	51.1%	85.3%	8.1%	13.5%
Crittenden	978	41.2%	9,837	-11.5%	290	19.9%	21.5%	44.5%	81.8%	6.5%	17.4%
Cross	324	43.1%	3,289	-7.7%	113	23.7%	24.6%	53.6%	80.7%	4.0%	14.7%
Dallas	81	38.8%	764	-27.4%	34	18.0%	37.7%	55.7%	83.4%	4.5%	12.7%
Desha	253	60.5%	2,421	-13.6%	78	0.0%	51.2%	47.6%	76.1%	4.1%	13.2%
Drew	406	60.1%	2,957	-5.4%	113	0.0%	61.4%	53.8%	81.7%	4.9%	19.8%
Faulkner	2,026	43.6%	18,675	11.4%	730	22.5%	32.3%	61.9%	91.1%	7.4%	29.1%
Franklin	150	32.1%	3,202	-5.0%	148	0.0%	59.7%	63.5%	81.1%	6.8%	13.0%
Fulton	171	39.9%	1,641	0.6%	61	39.8%	0.0%	49.6%	83.9%	6.0%	11.0%
Garland	1,381	39.9%	14,941	8.7%	498	23.1%	26.8%	55.1%	88.4%	8.2%	20.6%
Grant	243	39.1%	4,659	-3.1%	178	20.5%	32.1%	57.8%	90.0%	7.2%	19.8%
Greene	926	57.8%	7,488	10.4%	230	14.4%	36.0%	54.1%	85.3%	5.0%	16.4%
Hempstead	286	40.2%	3,332	-11.5%	103	33.2%	20.5%	54.2%	78.7%	7.8%	12.6%
Hot Spring	677	61.0%	5,208	-2.7%	201	10.0%	34.7%	55.8%	85.9%	8.5%	13.5%
Howard	208	41.2%	2,906	0.4%	126	34.0%	16.3%	60.3%	79.4%	6.0%	15.7%
Independence	898	65.2%	6,231	9.2%	230	38.7%	14.0%	61.8%	84.5%	7.2%	17.6%
Izard	137	35.2%	1,740	-2.7%	62	31.3%	9.6%	53.9%	83.9%	8.9%	12.4%
Jackson	358	59.8%	1,996	-15.9%	65	29.0%	16.7%	47.1%	76.6%	6.1%	8.6%
Jefferson	1,308	50.0%	10,537	-20.6%	431	13.4%	41.2%	55.6%	84.3%	5.7%	17.0%
Johnson	164	15.0%	4,583	5.6%	170	0.0%	48.3%	58.2%	79.0%	3.6%	15.9%
Lafayette	121	51.3%	583	-53.5%	25	0.0%	37.2%	58.1%	80.2%	7.0%	13.7%
Lawrence	268	61.5%	2,953	-7.5%	111	29.7%	12.7%	52.4%	81.7%	6.1%	13.4%
Lee	118	44.4%	718	-43.4%	28	0.0%	34.0%	56.0%	69.3%	4.6%	8.2%
Lincoln	213	44.9%	1,537	-10.7%	54	16.5%	36.7%	49.5%	79.1%	4.5%	7.8%
Little River	202	57.5%	1,916	-8.3%	67	9.7%	28.4%	50.0%	86.0%	7.0%	9.7%
Logan	251	34.7%	3,184	-11.3%	121	0.0%	43.8%	48.2%	82.8%	5.8%	13.0%

COUNTY NAME	PRE-K ENROLLMENT		K 12 PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT		COLLEGE GOING STUDENTS, 2016				PERCENT PERSONS AGED 25+ IN 2016 WITH		
	2016	PERCENT 3-5 YEAR OLDS	2017-2018	CHANGE, 2007-08 TO 2017-18	TOTAL ATTENDING COLLEGE	PERCENT AT 2-YEAR COLLEGES	PERCENT AT 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES	PERCENT AT ALL INSTITUTIONS	H.S. DIPLOMA OR HIGHER	ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE	BACHELOR'S DEGREE
Lonoke	1,247	42.2%	13,597	7.5%	402	21.9%	27.7%	45.8%	88.1%	8.6%	19.5%
Madison	139	25.6%	2,258	-9.5%	45	12.1%	18.1%	30.2%	80.4%	4.8%	11.3%
Marion	150	38.3%	1,580	-12.4%	57	31.1%	13.4%	47.9%	86.0%	6.2%	15.3%
Miller	654	43.4%	6,294	0.0%	125	7.3%	23.6%	32.5%	85.5%	5.1%	14.5%
Mississippi	861	47.2%	7,168	-17.6%	250	29.0%	11.0%	46.7%	80.4%	7.4%	12.6%
Monroe	175	70.3%	954	-33.9%	34	0.0%	19.8%	42.0%	78.2%	4.0%	9.1%
Montgomery	128	60.7%	1,038	-7.3%	34	39.1%	0.0%	53.1%	79.8%	7.9%	12.5%
Nevada	155	51.3%	1,374	-7.8%	56	31.0%	19.0%	66.7%	83.1%	4.9%	15.1%
Newton	74	29.2%	1,208	-3.2%	52	38.7%	12.9%	55.9%	80.4%	4.3%	14.8%
Ouachita	285	37.2%	3,937	-15.9%	145	21.2%	33.5%	55.8%	86.2%	7.4%	16.6%
Perry	166	58.2%	1,538	-11.8%	63	26.9%	22.7%	52.9%	82.2%	7.1%	10.6%
Phillips	527	60.2%	3,759	-16.3%	159	33.2%	24.6%	65.2%	76.4%	7.9%	11.7%
Pike	154	43.5%	2,000	-14.6%	87	23.8%	25.6%	53.0%	81.4%	6.8%	14.8%
Poinsett	305	35.5%	4,001	-10.7%	121	15.6%	21.4%	47.1%	78.7%	5.6%	9.6%
Polk	330	43.2%	3,467	-9.5%	139	28.6%	16.7%	50.4%	84.3%	8.7%	12.3%
Pope	1,008	44.3%	9,933	2.7%	348	2.0%	44.0%	54.7%	83.5%	5.1%	21.3%
Prairie	141	48.6%	1,131	-13.5%	46	31.3%	12.1%	46.5%	82.4%	5.4%	13.0%
Pulaski	7,404	42.9%	57,928	7.6%	1,535	12.0%	33.6%	50.4%	90.1%	6.2%	32.9%
Randolph	251	43.4%	2,502	5.9%	91	26.4%	23.6%	61.5%	83.3%	8.6%	13.7%
St. Francis	665	62.1%	3,142	-32.5%	103	21.5%	13.8%	39.6%	78.0%	6.8%	10.4%
Saline	2,206	47.2%	17,387	25.3%	685	15.6%	40.9%	60.5%	89.3%	7.3%	24.5%
Scott	88	24.4%	1,445	-16.2%	46	13.5%	31.7%	44.2%	76.4%	6.3%	10.6%
Searcy	117	38.5%	1,437	-15.8%	70	43.0%	15.8%	61.4%	84.6%	7.9%	14.4%
Sebastian	2,070	39.5%	20,570	1.9%	685	0.0%	46.6%	49.0%	82.5%	8.0%	18.8%
Sevier	402	47.1%	3,280	-1.1%	112	30.1%	18.9%	54.4%	69.6%	5.0%	9.4%
Sharp	115	21.2%	2,810	-14.4%	110	37.0%	17.5%	58.2%	83.2%	8.0%	10.1%
Stone	102	37.9%	1,617	-2.6%	54	41.5%	26.6%	57.4%	76.5%	7.3%	14.4%
Union	949	54.3%	7,240	-7.3%	306	18.7%	36.5%	62.1%	83.7%	7.2%	19.2%
Van Buren	200	48.4%	2,190	-5.9%	79	32.5%	14.6%	50.3%	84.3%	5.5%	13.6%
Washington	3,992	40.6%	41,372	22.6%	1,052	11.5%	27.4%	42.1%	84.2%	4.9%	31.2%
White	967	32.2%	12,529	1.8%	369	29.3%	17.4%	46.2%	84.0%	6.9%	19.3%
Woodruff	70	24.9%	1,039	-12.1%	31	28.6%	0.0%	49.2%	75.5%	5.4%	10.2%
Yell	375	39.1%	4,130	-2.4%	132	3.8%	38.3%	46.0%	77.9%	3.3%	14.4%
RURAL											
Coastal Plains	3,711	49.2%	32,594	-9.5%	1,218	13.0%	40.2%	56.4%	83.4%	6.4%	16.3%
Delta	5,859	51.6%	45,095	-14.2%	1,522	19.5%	24.3%	49.4%	79.6%	5.7%	12.1%
Highlands	10,248	40.7%	115,638	-3.3%	4,204	22.4%	25.1%	53.4%	83.2%	6.6%	15.8%
Total Rural	19,818	44.9%	193,327	-7.1%	6,944	20.1%	27.4%	52.9%	82.4%	6.4%	15.0%
Total Urban	29,978	40.7%	285,931	11.0%	8,535	13.9%	32.0%	49.5%	87.3%	6.5%	26.4%
State	49,796	42.3%	479,258	2.9%	15,479	16.6%	30.0%	51.0%	85.2%	6.4%	21.5%

Sources: School Enrollment by Level Of School for the Population 3 Years and Over, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (B14001), U.S. Census Bureau. Public School Enrollment Count by County, Arkansas Department of Education. 2016 Comprehensive Arkansas Higher Education Annual Report: Report on College-Going Rate of Public School Graduates, Arkansas Department of Higher Education. Enrollment Rates, Digest of Educational Statistics, National Center for Education Statistics. Educational Attainment, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (S1501), U.S. Census Bureau

APPENDIX TABLE 8. PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS AND RETAIL SALES

COUNTY NAME	ASSESSMENTS			RETAIL SALES			COUNTY TAX RATES		CHANGE 2007 TO 2016	
	TOTAL ASSESSMENTS, 2017 ($M)	PER CAPITA ASSESSMENTS, 2017	CHANGE IN ASSESSMENTS, 2007-2017	RETAIL SALES, 2016 ($M)	PER CAPITA RETAIL SALES, 2016	CHANGE IN RETAIL SALES, 2012-2016	SALES TAX RATE, 2018	MILLAGE, 2018	PROPERTY TAX REVENUE	SALES TAX REVENUE
Arkansas	$368.9	$20,532	15.1%	$352.5	$19,350	0.5%	1.000%	8.46	14.3%	3.9%
Ashley	$375.5	$18,514	4.4%	$192.3	$9,383	-0.5%	1.500%	7.21	1.2%	-28.5%
Baxter	$747.4	$18,072	8.2%	$520.3	$12,645	4.6%	1.000%	6.50	17.8%	-5.6%
Benton	$5,322.7	$19,988	13.5%	$3,498.1	$13,521	15.3%	1.000%	8.29	34.9%	-17.1%
Boone	$534.1	$14,287	3.7%	$538.8	$14,486	4.6%	1.250%	5.60	-0.6%	6.5%
Bradley	$126.6	$11,651	0.4%	$104.5	$9,523	1.3%	2.000%	9.40	24.0%	18.7%
Calhoun	$111.5	$21,249	20.8%	$18.9	$3,652	1.3%	2.500%	8.30	0.0%	80.0%
Carroll	$482.2	$17,257	12.6%	$250.5	$9,035	4.2%	0.500%	10.00	23.4%	1.1%
Chicot	$150.0	$14,102	-0.9%	$78.6	$7,202	-0.8%	2.000%	10.00	-6.9%	11.9%
Clark	$293.9	$13,181	0.8%	$295.8	$13,119	3.5%	1.500%	6.60	32.6%	59.8%
Clay	$216.7	$14,527	7.1%	$189.1	$12,560	1.0%	1.500%	10.00	-2.8%	42.4%
Cleburne	$676.5	$27,007	41.1%	$335.5	$13,336	2.6%	1.625%	5.10	69.2%	-15.6%
Cleveland	$96.9	$11,816	7.1%	$14.0	$1,699	0.5%	3.250%	9.00	21.0%	211.6%
Columbia	$395.6	$16,745	9.3%	$208.3	$8,687	1.3%	1.500%	9.00	36.3%	-2.4%
Conway	$447.2	$21,379	61.4%	$311.0	$14,885	3.6%	1.750%	9.80	106.1%	52.2%
Craighead	$1,793.8	$16,746	27.6%	$1,946.6	$18,402	10.9%	1.000%	7.62	43.8%	-24.4%
Crawford	$741.6	$11,771	4.4%	$572.7	$9,199	4.4%	1.750%	7.30	36.0%	140.9%
Crittenden	$736.6	$15,110	6.0%	$859.8	$17,432	1.3%	2.750%	5.36	7.8%	60.6%
Cross	$252.7	$14,988	8.9%	$190.3	$11,172	0.9%	2.000%	9.50	11.4%	253.4%
Dallas	$89.8	$12,144	-3.3%	$73.4	$9,884	-2.0%	2.000%	8.30	-5.9%	-1.8%
Desha	$217.9	$18,525	5.2%	$155.9	$13,080	-2.8%	1.500%	8.40	15.7%	2.9%
Drew	$246.0	$13,265	15.2%	$281.3	$15,103	3.4%	2.250%	5.70	16.1%	39.4%
Faulkner	$1,899.1	$15,359	31.9%	$1,616.9	$13,244	7.9%	0.500%	8.30	65.1%	8.6%
Franklin	$272.8	$15,251	-0.5%	$174.6	$9,881	2.6%	2.000%	9.40	-5.5%	1.1%
Fulton	$143.3	$11,885	14.2%	$63.9	$5,312	3.3%	2.000%	6.00	13.2%	20.0%
Garland	$1,898.4	$19,242	13.6%	$1,720.3	$17,513	5.4%	1.500%	3.60	51.0%	181.7%
Grant	$234.3	$12,899	17.9%	$140.8	$7,781	4.6%	1.250%	9.00	14.2%	35.1%
Greene	$597.4	$13,259	19.9%	$568.8	$12,721	8.2%	1.750%	4.60	17.5%	44.2%
Hempstead	$416.7	$19,060	53.8%	$211.3	$9,594	2.4%	2.000%	5.70	162.4%	60.2%
Hot Spring	$428.2	$12,755	14.1%	$276.2	$8,257	4.1%	1.500%	9.00	25.1%	62.4%
Howard	$200.8	$14,895	-1.1%	$173.6	$12,916	2.3%	2.750%	6.60	8.6%	64.0%
Independence	$575.2	$15,337	7.6%	$483.1	$13,024	4.9%	1.500%	8.60	9.8%	76.9%
Izard	$177.3	$12,955	18.5%	$118.3	$8,770	4.2%	0.500%	7.70	-11.4%	-42.4%
Jackson	$231.9	$13,532	7.2%	$189.5	$10,948	2.1%	2.250%	8.00	25.9%	271.2%
Jefferson	$933.7	$13,509	3.2%	$865.3	$12,301	-1.8%	1.250%	9.03	0.5%	5.7%
Johnson	$299.7	$11,288	3.3%	$261.8	$9,984	5.7%	1.000%	10.30	49.2%	3.5%
Lafayette	$96.4	$14,054	-2.3%	$30.2	$4,354	-5.2%	2.250%	9.00	13.7%	36.0%
Lawrence	$207.9	$12,582	11.0%	$210.8	$12,669	2.9%	2.500%	9.00	12.7%	81.8%
Lee	$139.5	$15,202	44.0%	$44.2	$4,722	-3.4%	1.000%	8.40	37.7%	5.9%
Lincoln	$129.2	$9,468	6.6%	$60.0	$4,344	-0.1%	2.000%	9.00	2.5%	11.0%
Little River	$292.8	$23,692	-7.0%	$109.9	$8,839	1.0%	2.250%	6.20	14.3%	60.3%
Logan	$285.0	$13,118	-3.7%	$163.7	$7,540	2.7%	2.000%	7.90	-9.0%	1.1%

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COUNTY NAME	ASSESSMENTS			RETAIL SALES			COUNTY TAX RATES		CHANGE 2007 TO 2016	
	TOTAL ASSESSMENTS, 2017 ($M)	PER CAPITA ASSESSMENTS, 2017	CHANGE IN ASSESSMENTS, 2007-2017	RETAIL SALES, 2016 ($M)	PER CAPITA RETAIL SALES, 2016	CHANGE IN RETAIL SALES, 2012-2016	SALES TAX RATE, 2018	MILLAGE, 2018	PROPERTY TAX REVENUE	SALES TAX REVENUE
Lonoke	$997.0	$13,677	20.4%	$688.3	$9,592	7.5%	1.000%	6.40	39.6%	6.4%
Madison	$198.1	$12,127	17.7%	$146.8	$9,118	8.0%	2.000%	9.00	43.2%	9.9%
Marion	$232.2	$14,133	13.2%	$101.7	$6,212	2.8%	1.750%	8.90	9.2%	20.2%
Miller	$547.4	$12,446	21.2%	$467.1	$10,646	2.7%	1.250%	6.30	-8.2%	-6.3%
Mississippi	$678.8	$16,102	18.5%	$448.5	$10,458	-1.9%	2.500%	9.70	115.3%	32.7%
Monroe	$122.9	$17,345	9.2%	$89.9	$12,421	-5.0%	--	8.40	6.8%	--
Montgomery	$126.5	$14,179	14.8%	$30.1	$3,360	-0.1%	3.000%	8.30	5.4%	-3.1%
Nevada	$100.0	$12,005	-5.8%	$163.9	$19,578	-1.3%	2.000%	8.30	69.1%	-33.6%
Newton	$95.1	$12,146	12.6%	$18.2	$2,316	2.7%	1.000%	9.00	109.8%	78.6%
Ouachita	$261.5	$10,957	8.0%	$230.2	$9,585	-0.7%	3.000%	8.36	10.6%	498.5%
Perry	$107.0	$10,337	13.2%	$31.8	$3,097	0.0%	2.500%	8.60	42.6%	36.8%
Phillips	$239.6	$12,902	9.5%	$222.7	$11,691	-4.4%	2.000%	10.70	10.6%	-29.9%
Pike	$140.5	$13,095	5.2%	$73.5	$6,792	0.5%	2.000%	3.30	16.8%	6.9%
Poinsett	$297.2	$12,302	10.4%	$189.6	$7,898	2.0%	1.250%	5.81	-3.6%	-0.4%
Polk	$242.5	$12,053	10.3%	$208.5	$10,353	3.2%	2.000%	6.90	30.5%	48.7%
Pope	$1,228.0	$19,237	15.5%	$961.4	$15,057	5.9%	1.000%	4.50	15.4%	-13.6%
Prairie	$133.4	$16,174	3.9%	$57.6	$6,961	1.5%	1.500%	10.00	24.5%	151.5%
Pulaski	$7,421.3	$18,838	10.9%	$7,997.1	$20,314	5.9%	1.000%	9.50	19.2%	-19.2%
Randolph	$236.1	$13,445	24.5%	$182.4	$10,479	2.3%	1.250%	6.00	69.8%	23.5%
St. Francis	$267.5	$10,315	3.6%	$322.2	$12,248	-2.4%	2.000%	7.20	-6.0%	-13.4%
Saline	$1,839.0	$15,412	24.4%	$1,634.3	$13,900	11.4%	--	9.70	32.5%	-100%
Scott	$105.3	$10,078	-4.1%	$51.6	$4,978	-1.9%	2.625%	2.80	-54.6%	85.4%
Searcy	$90.3	$11,371	10.2%	$53.9	$6,765	3.7%	1.500%	11.00	-8.7%	-3.9%
Sebastian	$2,100.7	$16,398	8.6%	$2,123.1	$16,643	4.6%	1.250%	8.45	21.6%	157.3%
Sevier	$176.2	$10,292	14.9%	$205.4	$12,117	3.3%	2.125%	7.30	32.2%	27.0%
Sharp	$206.4	$11,868	7.0%	$167.6	$9,780	5.2%	1.000%	5.85	0.5%	7.8%
Stone	$160.9	$12,835	19.2%	$117.0	$9,364	4.3%	1.000%	7.30	70.9%	1.0%
Union	$913.8	$23,165	29.4%	$545.5	$13,682	2.2%	2.000%	7.80	8.2%	6.2%
Van Buren	$405.2	$24,551	63.0%	$177.5	$10,677	1.0%	2.000%	7.30	135.6%	-15.6%
Washington	$3,754.1	$16,182	8.1%	$3,439.7	$15,113	12.6%	1.250%	5.87	3.0%	-3.6%
White	$1,225.9	$15,514	45.7%	$1,000.2	$12,686	5.1%	1.750%	4.10	71.4%	-0.1%
Woodruff	$149.3	$22,721	54.8%	$76.7	$11,585	-1.0%	2.000%	8.10	29.6%	11.4%
Yell	$242.4	$11,264	5.8%	$130.4	$6,071	2.9%	1.875%	9.00	3.1%	169.4%
RURAL										
Coastal Plains	$3,433.4	$17,211	15.1%	$2,110.4	$10,491	1.2%	2.208%	7.83	24.4%	40.2%
Delta	$4,192.9	$14,464	13.2%	$3,236.1	$11,056	0.6%	1.641%	8.52	21.5%	32.2%
Highlands	$11,313.8	$15,124	17.0%	$8,050.3	$10,797	4.1%	1.677%	7.49	27.0%	18.5%
Total Rural	$18,940.2	$15,306	15.8%	$13,396.8	$10,809	2.8%	1.770%	7.82	25.1%	25.8%
Total Urban	$29,985.5	$16,971	13.7%	$27,429.2	$15,685	8.0%	1.192%	7.36	24.9%	24.4%
State	$48,925.6	$16,285	14.5%	$40,825.9	$13,662	8.5%	1.670%	7.74	25.0%	25.2%

Sources: Assessed Values (2007-2017), Arkansas Assessment Coordination Department. Retail Sales (2007-2012), Economic Census, U.S. Census Bureau. Legislative Audit Reports 2007-2016, Arkansas Legislative Audit. Population Estimates 1999-2017, U.S. Census Bureau

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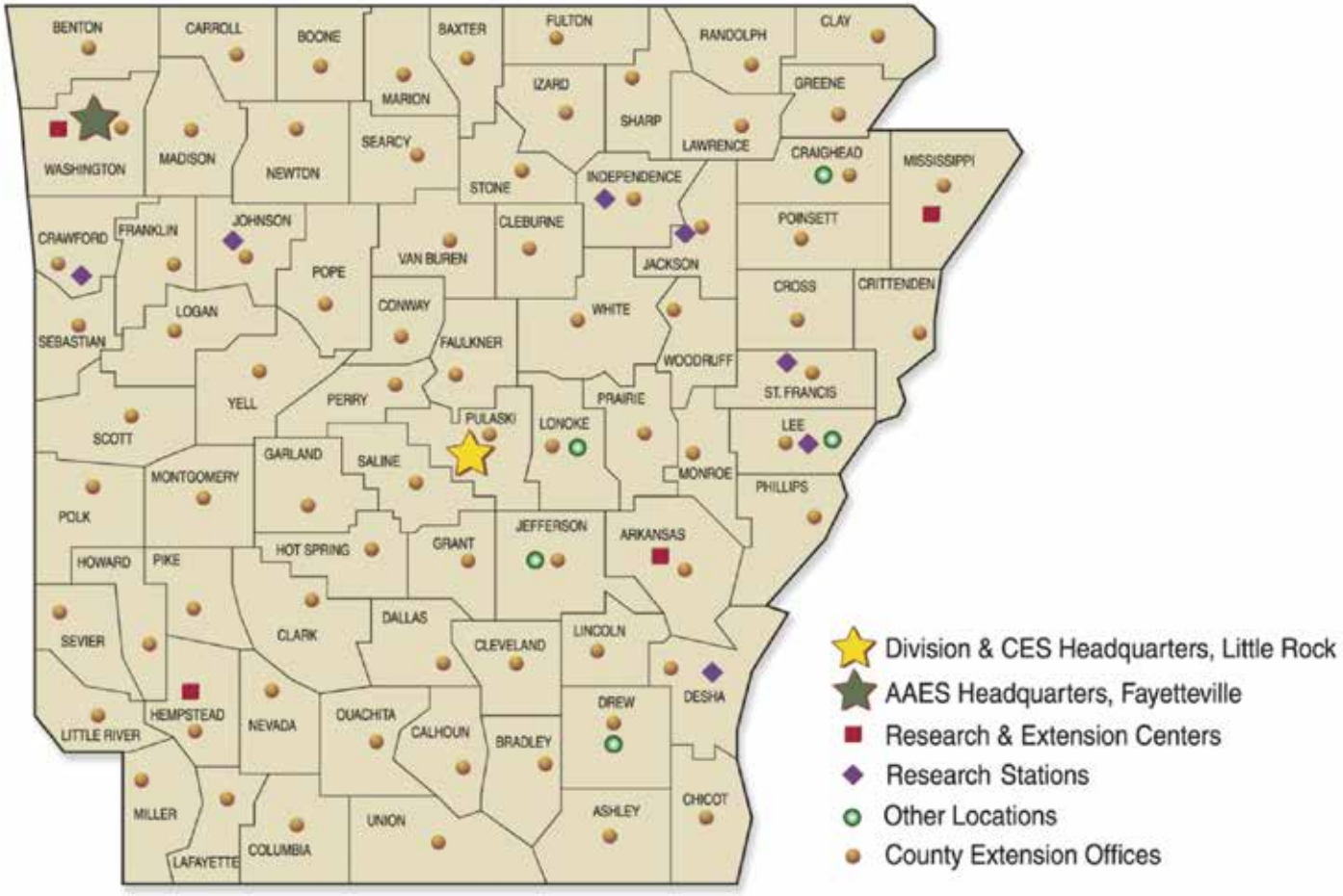

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