

Economy

Arkansas' economy during the 19th century was based on agriculture, extraction and severance. During the early decades of the 20th century, progressive governors, legislators and businessmen worked to diversify the Arkansas economy, making it less vulnerable to commodity price fluctuations and crop failures. Today's economic profile reflects progress toward that goal.

What we do: occupations, by sectors

	1990	2000
Total civilian labor force (thousands)	1,126.1	1,238.1
total employed	1,047.8	1,183.2
unemployment rate	7%	4.4%
Non-farm payroll jobs, total (thousands)	923.5	1,161.6
Mining	4.3	3.4
construction	37.6	53.5
Manufacturing	232.8	251.4
Transportation & Utilities	56.0	70.3
Trade	205.6	267.0
Finance and Insurance	38.3	46.2

Service sector	189.6	278.6
Government	159.3	191.3

1999
figures reveal
average annual
employment in the
agricultural, forestry
and fisheries sector
of 16,163.

Selected 1999 average weekly wages, with national figures provided for comparison purposes		
Industry	Average week's wage, Arkansas, dollars	National
all	488	641
all private	482	639
agriculture	396	373
mining	671	1,051
construction	508	669
manufactures	544	806
trade, retail	327	338
finance	624	978
services	448	606
federal gov	772	851
state gov	560	667

Manufacturing

Number of Establishments: 3294 (1999)

Five largest categories by numbers of establishments (1999)	
Fabricated metal products	497
Wood Products	404
Food Manufacturing	295
Printing and related	269
Machinery manufacturing	255

Number of workers 229, 628 (1999)

Five largest categories by numbers employed (1999)	
Food manufacturing	51,136
Fabricated metal products	22,732
Machinery manufacturing	17,579
Wood products	15,779
Elect. equip, appliances	15,614

Total value, shipments \$45,185,963 (1997)