MP531

RURAL PROFILE OF ARKANSAS

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

2015

Dear Fellow Arkansans,

The Rural Profile of Arkansas - 2015 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.

As with earlier Rural Profiles, the 2015 version takes a careful look at important trends in Arkansas' social, demographic and economic structure. In this version, special attention is given to understanding the effect of the Great Recession on the different regions of the state.

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 – are 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. Should you have any questions on how to interpret and use the informa¬tion in this profile, please contact the Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service agents in your county. 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 2015

Social & Economic Trends Affecting Rural Arkansas

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Summary Highlights

Population

- Arkansas' population grew only 1.5 percent from 2010 to 2013. Nearly all of the growth occurred in urban areas.
- The Delta and Coastal Plains continue to lose population, losing 2.5 percent and 2.1 percent of their people, respectively.
- For the first time in over a decade, the Highlands as a region experienced a population loss, although it was small at 0.1 percent.
- Although migration drove population increases in the early 2000s, the migration rates have continued to drop off even faster after 2007. Rural counties experienced net outmigration, resulting in population loss, while urban counties are growing primarily from natural increase.
- Arkansas' population continues to be older on average than the nation's. The median age in the U.S. is 37.5, while the state median age is 39.8. Rural areas have a median age of 41.5.
- Rural areas continue to have older populations than urban areas and, consequently, higher dependency ratios. The dependency ratio in rural areas was 69.1 per 100 persons compared to 61.9 per 100 for urban areas in 2010.
- Elderly people 75 years and over made up 7.7 percent of the rural population and 5.6 percent of the state's total population, presenting unique challenges for rural areas where health services are already strained in some counties.
- Arkansas' Hispanic population increased from over 186,000 in 2010 to over 200,000 in 2013.
- The Hispanic population grew to 7 percent of the state's total population and 5 percent of total population in rural counties, primarily in the western half of the state. Seven rural counties had a Hispanic population of 10 percent or more in 2013.

Economy

- At the end of 2012 Arkansas' economy, rural areas in particular, had not fully recovered from the Great Recession. Employment in 2012 was less than in 2007. Employment in Arkansas declined by 2.6 percent from 2007 to 2010 and increased by 2.1 percent from 2010 to 2012. This was slower than the 3.8 percent employment growth in the U.S. economy during this period.
- Urban counties fared better than rural counties. Urban areas had a net gain of 2,600 jobs during this five-year period, while rural areas had a net loss of nearly 12,000 jobs.
- All three rural areas had a net loss of jobs during this five-year period. The Delta lost only 1.3 percent of their jobs compared to 2.6 percent in the Coastal Plains and 2.1 percent in the Highlands.
- Arkansas lost approximately 30,000 manufacturing jobs from 2007 to 2012, which has greatly affected the economic base of rural areas in particular. The state lost 16 percent of its manufacturing employment over this time period.
- All three rural regions had a net loss of manufacturing jobs during this eight-year period. Jobs in other sectors were not created in sufficient quantity to replace the lost manufacturing jobs in the rural areas.
- Although earnings per job increased by a larger percentage in rural versus urban areas of the state, rural areas had lower earnings per job. Rural areas as a whole had average earnings per job of only 84 percent of the average urban earnings in 2012, compared to 83 percent in 2000.

- With the historically dominant industries of manufacturing and agriculture in rural areas in decline, the structure and economic base of rural Arkansas is changing. In 2012, 23 percent of the jobs in rural areas were either in farming, forestry or manufacturing as compared to about one-tenth in urban areas. Approximately 40 percent of the jobs in urban areas are in professional and other service industries as compared to 30 percent in rural areas.

Social and Economic Stress

- Arkansas continues to rank among the ten states with the highest poverty rates (19.6 percent in 2012) in the country. Poverty in the rural Delta and Coastal Plains remained substantially higher than poverty in urban counties. Pockets of extreme poverty remain throughout the state with 19 counties having a rate of 25 percent or greater.
- The state poverty rate for children under 18 was 28.1 percent, fifth in the nation. The Delta had a child poverty rate approaching 40 percent (37.2) while the Coastal Plains' rate is one in three children (33.6).
- Eleven rural counties had a child poverty rate higher than 40 percent. Thirty-six counties in the state, or almost half of the state's 75 counties, have more than one in three children living in poverty; 33 of these counties are rural counties.
- Although the state poverty rate for persons 65 and older has fallen slightly since 1999, rural counties have higher rates of elder poverty than urban areas. Nine rural counties have an elder poverty rate of 20 percent or greater.
- Statewide, nearly one in four Arkansans received supplemental nutrition assistance in 2013. Rural areas exceeded the statewide rate, with the Coastal Plains and Delta having a rate of 26.4 percent and 29.5 percent respectively. Urban areas had 21.0 percent of the population receiving supplemental nutrition assistance.
- Close to 40 percent of the children statewide received supplemental nutrition assistance. In the rural Delta, more than half of the children (51.6 percent) received supplemental nutrition assistance compared to 36.1 percent in urban areas.
- In rural areas, nearly one in three persons was eligible for Medicaid (31.3 percent), and that number rises to over 36 percent for the Delta. Seventy-one of 75 counties had over one-half of their child population eligible to receive ARKids First.
- Access to food is a serious problem for low-income residents. For urban areas, 8.1 percent of low income persons are more than one mile from a store. For rural areas, 8.8 percent of low income persons are more than 10 miles from a store.

Health

- Arkansas' infant mortality and child obesity were higher than the national average, important indicators of the overall health of the population. Child obesity rates have improved slightly in the state.
- In Arkansas, there were 7.2 deaths per 1,000 live births compared to the national average of 6.8 deaths, placing Arkansas' infant mortality rate (IMR) third highest in the nation. The rural regions have a range of IMRs from a low of 6.9 in the Highlands to a high of 8.1 in the Delta.
- National Center for Health Statistics data for 2010-2012 showed that nationally 69 percent of adults aged 20 and over were overweight or obese. About the same percentage of Arkansas adults (67 percent) were overweight or obese.
- Slightly over 39 percent of Arkansas children are overweight or obese. The Delta had the highest rate at 42.9 percent.
- Rural Arkansas averaged just 64.5 primary care physicians per 100,000 people compared to 139 physicians per 100,000 people in urban Arkansas.

Summary Highlights

- Statewide, 6.3 percent of adults were approved to be eligible for the Private Option (Health Care Independence Act). Reflecting greater poverty in rural areas, 7.3 percent of rural adults were approved eligible with that rising to 8.6 percent in the Delta.

Education

- While public school enrollment in Arkansas increased by approximately 2 percent from 2007-08 to 2013-14, it varied greatly among regions of the state.
- Public school enrollment declined by 5 percent in rural areas compared to an increase of 7 percent in urban areas. Growing and shrinking school districts face major, but different challenges.
- In 2010, Arkansas ranked 44th nationally in the percentage of adults with high school diplomas and 49th in the percentage of people with college degrees. An associate's degree was the highest level of educational attainment for only 6 percent of Arkansans compared to 9 percent nationally.
- Just 80 percent of rural Arkansans had high school diplomas compared to nearly 86 percent of urban Arkansans. Only 14 percent of rural adults had college degrees compared to 25 percent of urban Arkansans and 31 percent nationally.
- The college-going rate in Arkansas increased from 48 percent in 2007 to 53 percent in 2012 with little difference between rural and urban areas. However, Arkansas's college-going rate remains substantially lower than the national rate of 68 percent.
- STEM-related enrollment and degrees given increased in four-year higher education institutions but declined in two-year institutions.

Social and Economic Vulnerability

- Within the state, there was disparity in the level of social vulnerability between rural and urban counties. Rural counties had a SoVI score of 1.17 compared with a SoVI score of -1.45 for urban counties, meaning on average rural counties are more vulnerable than urban ones (lower score is less vulnerable).
- Because of geographic isolation and limited resources, rural areas tend to be more vulnerable to the negative outcomes of natural disasters.
- Rural residents are more vulnerable to changes in the global economy with limited access to high-speed internet service.

Local Government

- A high percentage of Arkansans reside in unincorporated areas and small towns (44 percent), placing an unusually heavy burden on local governments in rural areas with declining local tax bases.
- Rural areas were hit harder by the recession, and many county governments received less revenue from their sales and/or property tax in 2012 compared to 2007.
- Twenty-two counties received less revenue from the property tax in 2012 compared to 2007. Thirty-one counties lost revenue from the sales tax between 2007 and 2012. This was in spite of 22 counties increasing their sales tax rate between December 2006 and 2012.
- The ability to generate local revenue from the property tax varied greatly. Per capita property assessments ranged from $8,253 to $37,863 in 2013. Exacerbating this situation was a declining property tax base in 17 counties, while property assessments increased substantially in the five counties in central Arkansas with natural gas production.
- While the sales tax provides another option to generate local government revenue, the ability to generate revenue from the sales tax also varied greatly among counties. Per capita retail sales were substantially lower in rural areas and ranged from $1,688 to $20,475 in 2013.

What Is Rural?

Arkansas is diverse and becoming more diverse every year. This diversity includes the landscape from the Delta region to the Coastal Plains and the Highlands, as well as the state's people. The demographic makeup of the state varies between regions with different age structures and mixes of Whites, African Americans, Latinos and a host of other ethnicities ranging from the Karen to the Marshall Islanders to Turkish and any number of other subpopulations.

The *Rural Profile of Arkansas* presents a data-driven portrait of social, demographic and economic characteristics of regions of the state. The goal is straightforward: to provide information and data that allow insight into the differences and similarities within the state. To accomplish this, we use a classification scheme to delineate rural versus urban areas and different rural regions of the state.

The idea of "rural" is not one that is easily expressed. Researchers, policymakers and government agencies often use different definitions (c.f. Farmer 2008). While acknowledging the difficulty of capturing the gradations and nuances of the concept of "rural," the U.S. Census Bureau provides measurement guidelines that allow a standardized use of data and information about people and places outside of urban and metropolitan areas. Those guidelines are provided in Appendix A (see also Moon and Farmer, 2008). In this profile we use the words "rural" and "nonmetropolitan" and "urban" and "metropolitan" interchangeably. Populations residing in counties with large cities are classified as metropolitan, and those counties are grouped into a category termed "urban." Additionally, we use the 1999 Census designation of nonmetropolitan and metropolitan rather than the 2003 or 2013 Core-Based Statistical Areas. Statistical analysis of current data indicates that the regions we use in this profile have greater similarities within regions and greater differences between regions compared to the Core-Based Statistical Areas. Because our concern is primarily with differences and similarities across regions in the state, we believe this approach provides a clearer picture as to the rural and urban character of the regions.

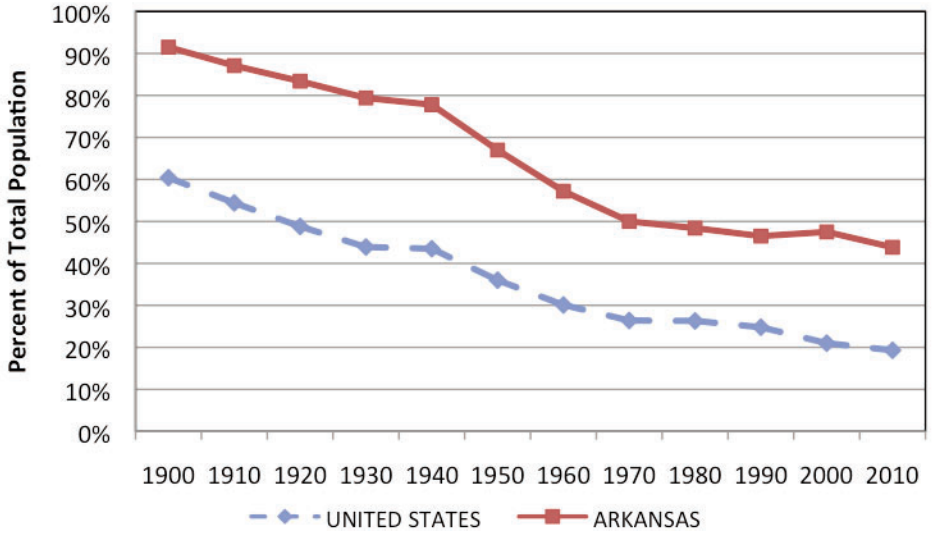
The *Rural Profile of Arkansas* presents a data-driven portrait of social, demographic and economic characteristics of regions of the state.

The Concept of "Rural" and How to Measure It

No matter how you measure it, Arkansas is a very rural state. When using the county-based metropolitan/nonmetropolitan definitions, 42 percent of Arkansans live in a nonmetropolitan county, according to 2013 population estimates. This compares with nearly 15 percent in the country as a whole living in nonmetropolitan counties.

As can be seen in the graph (Figure 1R), Arkansas has historically had a greater percentage of rural people than the nation since

Figure 1R. Rural Population, 1900-2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

1900. In the 2010 national census, only 19 percent of the country's population was identified as rural compared with 44 percent for Arkansans. Here the rural population is defined as people living in nonurbanized areas, irrespective of county boundaries. In 1900, nearly 91 percent of Arkansans lived in rural areas compared to about 60 percent of the United States population. For both the United States and Arkansas, the percentage of rural people has declined dramatically between 1900 and 2010.

American Community Survey Data

Population estimate data used in this publication are the most current available data and are the official population counts available from the Census Bureau. The American Community Survey (ACS) is an ongoing data collection project run by the U.S. Census Bureau. This data provides details on demographic, social, economic and housing characteristics of the U.S. population. ACS data replaces the so-called "long form" data used by the Census Bureau in earlier years.

The ACS data are generated from a sample of the population rather than from the entire population. The ACS collects and releases data in three ways. Each year, ACS data comes out for cities with a population of 65,000 or more and for states and the country as a whole. The ACS releases information about cities and towns with at least 20,000 people on a rolling three-year basis. The ACS data become available on a rolling five-year basis for the entire country, including places with less than 20,000 populations. The ACS data is provided with margins of error, similar to polling data often seen on TV news programs. The margin of error information enables statisticians to calculate if actual change has taken place over time or if differences in data are due to random differences in sampling.

In the 2010 national census, only 19 percent of the country's population was identified as rural compared with 44 percent for Arkansans.

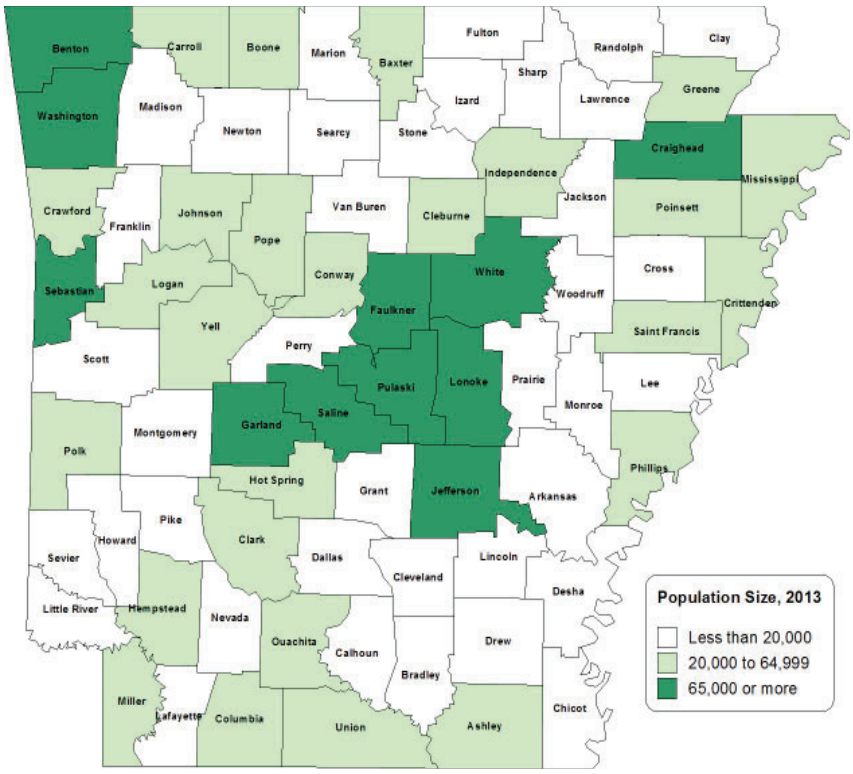
Measures of Urban and Rural

In the current *Profile*, we continue use of long-established categorization of counties as metropolitan and nonmetropolitan. However, other classifications exist and are variously used. One such classification scheme assigns counties to three groups using categories based on population cutoffs for the ACS. In the map in Figure 2R, the darkest category shows counties with populations of 65,000 or greater. The Census Bureau produced annual data for all states and cities or counties with a population of 65,000 or more. These are considered "urban" areas with sufficient population size for annual sampling.

The next category is for counties with a population of at least 20,000 persons but less than 65,000. These counties fall into the three-year cycle for the ACS and are generally counties adjacent to the largest cities in the state or are micropolitan areas (large towns but not big cities).

The last category could be considered "rural" or small communities. This is the category of

Figure 2R. Population Size, 2013



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

counties with less than 20,000 persons. Just over half the state of Arkansas (38 counties) falls into this smallest population category. The map (Figure 2R) helps demonstrate just how "rural" Arkansas remains. Because Arkansas has many communities (and half its counties) that fall below 20,000 in population, the detailed data from the Census Bureau will be available for all counties and communities only in these five-year estimates. Much of the detailed data in this *Profile* comes from the 2008-2012 American Community Survey estimate data.

Regions of Arkansas

This publication focuses on issues facing rural Arkansas and on the differences between rural and urban areas and among rural regions of the state. Therefore, a classification scheme is used to delineate rural versus urban areas and different rural regions of the state. The three rural regions of Arkansas are the Coastal Plains, the Delta and the Highlands. This approach combines non-metropolitan counties that have similar economic activity, history, physical setting, settlement patterns and culture and facilitates comparison with the metropolitan counties. A map with all the county names and the regions can be found on the back cover.

Farmer, F. L 2008. "The Definition of Rural" in G. Goreham (ed.). *The Encyclopedia of Rural America. The Land and the People* (2nd Edition). Millerton, New York: Grey House Publishing.

Moon, Z., and Frank L. Farmer. 2008. "The Measurement of Rural" in G. Goreham (ed.). *The Encyclopedia of Rural America. The Land and the People* (2nd Edition). Millerton, New York: Grey House Publishing.

Population Change

Between 2010 and 2013, the state population grew 1.5 percent, less than the 2.4 percent national growth rate. This increase, however, represents over 43,000 people being added to the state. Comparing rural and urban areas reveals a continued trend from the 2000s – the loss of population from rural regions to urban regions. During the 2000s, rural areas showed a very slight positive 0.3 percent growth, but since 2010, rural population as a whole has shrunk by 1 percent. Urban areas, on the other hand, have grown twice as fast as the state, recording a 3.4 percent increase. For the first time in over a decade, the Highlands experienced a slight loss of 0.1 percent, whereas the Delta and Coastal Plains continued to record larger losses at 2.5 and 2.1 percent, respectively.

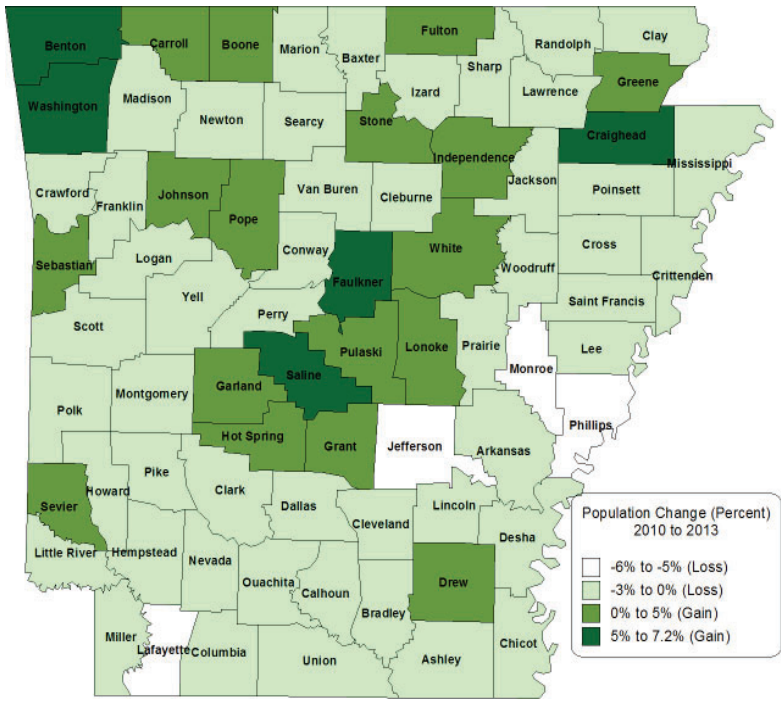
Looking back to 2000 demonstrates the effects of longer-term trends. Since 2000, the Highlands alone of the rural regions gained nearly 33,000 people, but the growth curve for this rural area has tapered off since 2010. The Coastal Plains has lost over 19,000 people, or 8.5 percent, while the loss in the Delta is much larger at nearly 37,000 people, or 11 percent of its population. Urban areas, in contrast, gained over 276,000 people in the same time frame, or a 19.5 percent gain. The state as a whole grew 9.5 percent over this time frame, a growth rate slightly under the national growth rate of 12.3 percent between 2000 and 2013.

Comparing rural and urban areas reveals a continued trend from the 2000s – loss of population from rural regions to urban regions.

The map in Figure P1 shows the variation in population growth since the last census in 2010. Five counties had population growth rates exceeding 5 percent, and all of these are urban counties. Benton County experienced the greatest percentage increase of 7.2 percent. Counties from the Highlands continue to dominate the list of rural counties with population gains. Among the 13 rural counties with positive population growth, only Greene County (Delta) and Drew County (Coastal Plains) are not from the Highlands.

Fifty-three counties show a negative population growth for 2010-2013, and of these all but four (Miller, Crawford, Crittenden and Jefferson) are rural counties. Four counties experienced more than a 5 percent loss between 2010 and 2013. Phillips and Monroe counties in the Delta experienced the greatest losses at 6.2 and 5.7 percent, respectively. Jefferson County, an urban county, lost 5.5 percent of its population, and Lafayette County in the Coastal Plains lost 5.1 percent. In both the Delta and the Coastal Plains, all but one county lost population. Of the 34 counties in the Highlands, 23 lost population. This is a change for the Highlands, which until 2010 had consistently shown population gains.

Figure P1. Population Change (Percent), 2010 to 2013

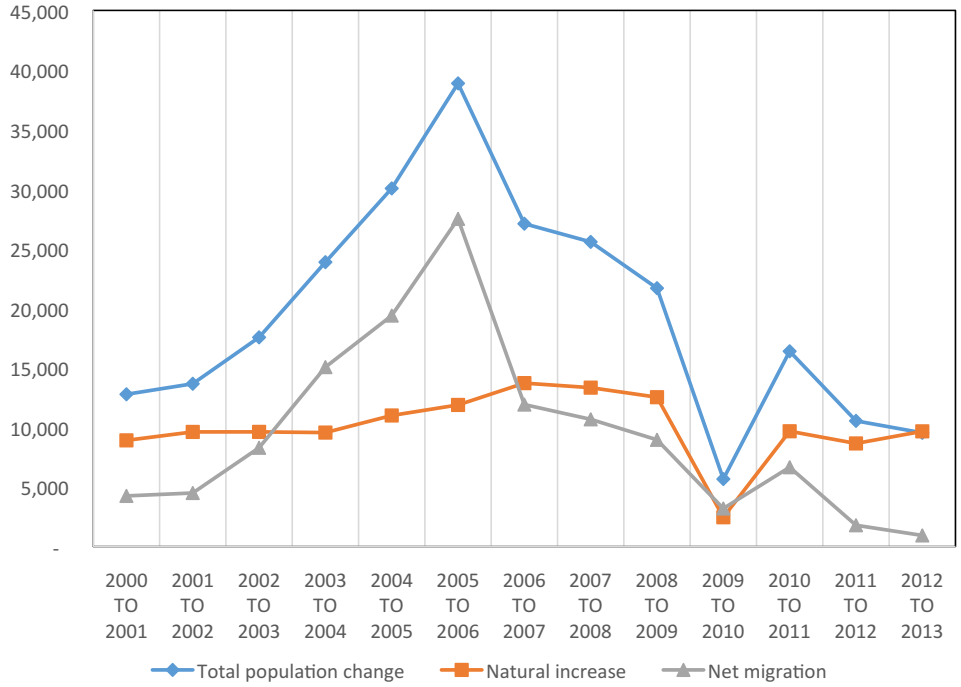


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Components of Population Change

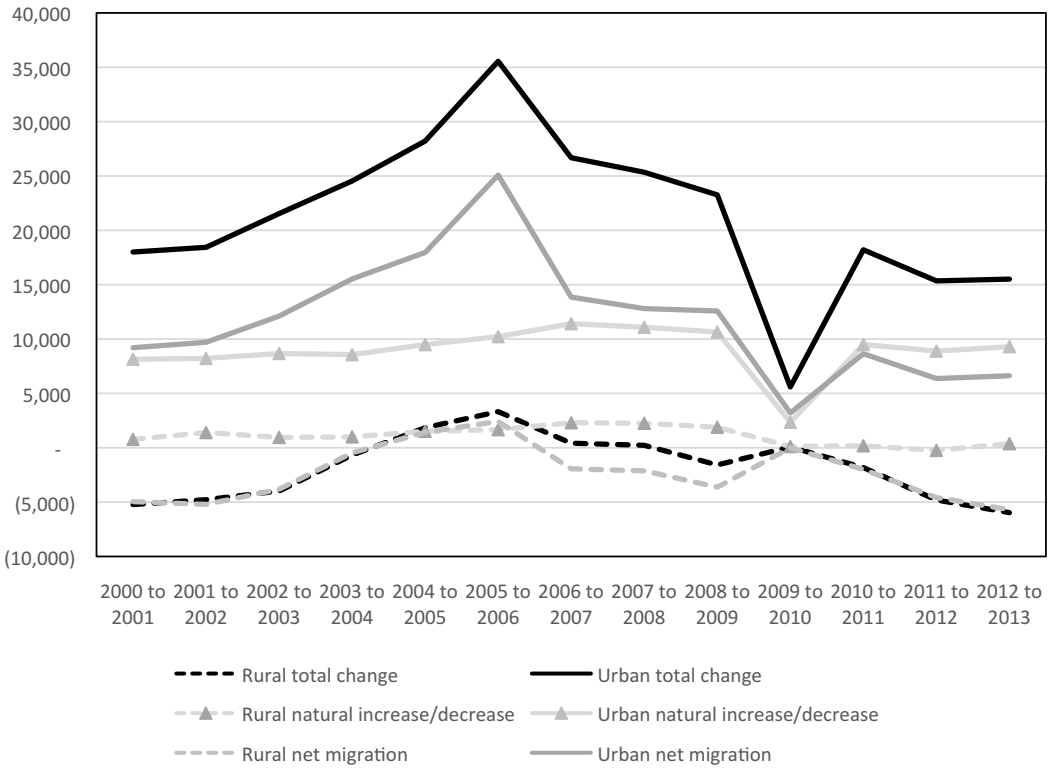
Populations grow and decline in two ways: from natural increase or decrease (the difference of births over deaths) and from migration. Figures P2 and P3 show the separate effects of each of these components for the state and for rural and urban counties.

Figure P2. State Total Population Components of Change, 2000 to 2013



Source: Annual Estimates of the Components of Resident Population Change: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2013, Census Bureau

Figure P3. Urban and Rural Populations Components of Change, 2000 to 2013



Source: Annual Estimates of the Components of Resident Population Change: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2013, Census Bureau

Population

These graphs clearly illustrate that the nature of population change has altered since the first half of the 2000s.

For the state as a whole, the rate of population growth slowed considerably since the first half of the 2000s, largely as a result of the drop off of migration into the state. The state's population is continuing to grow, but the growth rate appears to be flattening.

Even more notable is the difference between rural and urban counties. Urban counties are growing now primarily from natural increase with a rate of 5.5 per 1,000 population for 2012-2013. The net migration rate for 2012-2013 for urban counties is 3.9 per 1,000 population, down from peaks in 2005-2006. Following the economic downturn in 2007, migration into the state began to slow down, even in urban areas.

For rural areas, natural increase has flattened out after a decline in the mid-2000s and is 0.3 per 1,000 population for 2012-2013. Net migration in rural areas also dropped off following the economic downturn and, despite a small increase at the end of the decade, has resumed a downward trend and is now -4.5 per 1,000 population in 2012-2013.

Differences between the rural regions suggest an important shift is occurring in the counties of the Highlands. For the first time in at least twenty years, the Highlands show population loss between 2010 and 2013, although it is small at 1 percent, or about 12,400 persons. While it is too early to tell if this trend will continue, the population loss is primarily a result of outmigration, making the Highlands more similar to the other rural regions in this respect. Reduction in the flow of people migrating into the Highlands began in the mid-2000s and is particularly notable following the economic downturn in 2007.

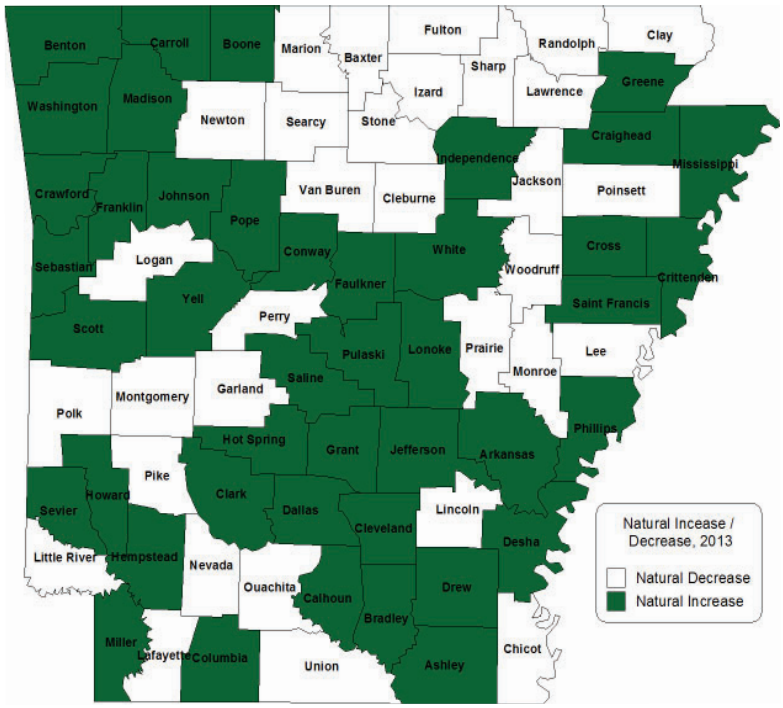
The map in Figure P4 shows variations across the state in natural increase/decrease. Of the ten counties with the highest natural increase, all are urban counties but two (Sevier County in the Highlands and Hempstead in the Coastal Plains). All of the counties with a natural decrease (more deaths than births) are rural counties except for Garland County. Baxter, Fulton and Marion counties in the Highlands have the greatest natural decrease rates, over 6 per 1,000 population.

Migration rates also vary across the state, as can be seen in the map in Figure P5. The inflow of persons into urban counties is evident, as is the outflow of persons from rural counties. Fifty-one counties experienced net out-migration (a negative migration rate) between 2010 and 2013. Of these 51 counties, five (Sebastian, Crawford, Miller, Crittenden and Jefferson) are metropolitan counties; the other 46 counties are rural. Counties in the Delta predominate among the counties experiencing the highest outmigration rates.

Dependency Ratio and Median Age

The dependency ratio used by the U.S. Census calculates how many dependent-age people (17 years old and younger or 65 years old and older) there are per 100 working-age people (ages 18 through 64). The entire state of Arkansas has 64.9 dependent-age people per 100 working-age people in 2013 compared to 58.9 per 100 nationally in 2010. The counties range from a low dependency ratio of 45.5 per 100 in Lincoln County to a high of 91.0 per 100 in Baxter

Figure P4. Natural Increase/Decrease of Population, 2013



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

County. As seen in Figure P6, the dependency ratios vary between rural and urban areas with rural counties being substantially higher (69.1 per 100 vs. 61.9 respectively). Of the rural regions, the Highlands have the highest dependency ratio of 70.7 per 100. Forty-one counties have a dependency ratio that exceeds 70 persons per 100 population, and only one of those is not a rural county (Garland). Six counties exceed 80 persons per 100 population; all of those are rural and in the Highlands.

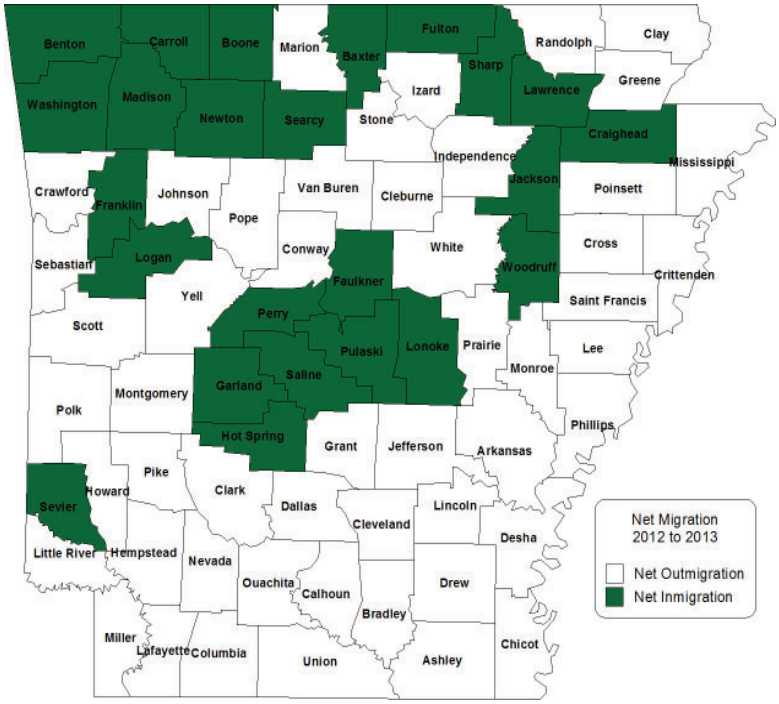
The median age in the U.S. is 37.5. Arkansas has an older population, with a state median age of 39.8.

Median age is the age that divides a population into two equal groups in which one-half are younger and one-half are older. It summarizes the age distribution of a population. The median age in the U.S. is 37.5. Arkansas has an older population, with a state median age of 39.8. Older still are the rural populations with a median age of 41.5. Urban areas in the state are younger at 36.4. The Highlands, home to a number of retirement communities and aging-in-place communities, has the highest median age at 42.9. Marion and Baxter counties, both in the Highlands, have a median age that exceeds 50 (51.7 and 51.5).

Age and Gender

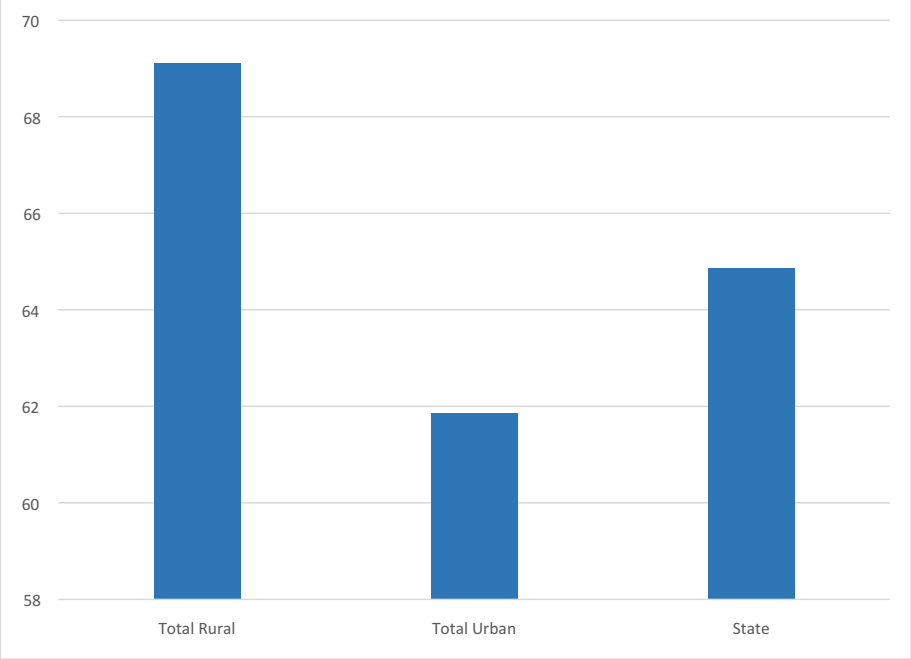
The population pyramids in Figures P7 to P13 show the distribution of males and females by age in Arkansas. The left side of the pyramid shows the percentage of males in each of the five-year age brackets and the right side shows females. The pyramid

Figure P5. Net Migration of Population, 2013



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Figure P6. Dependency Ratio



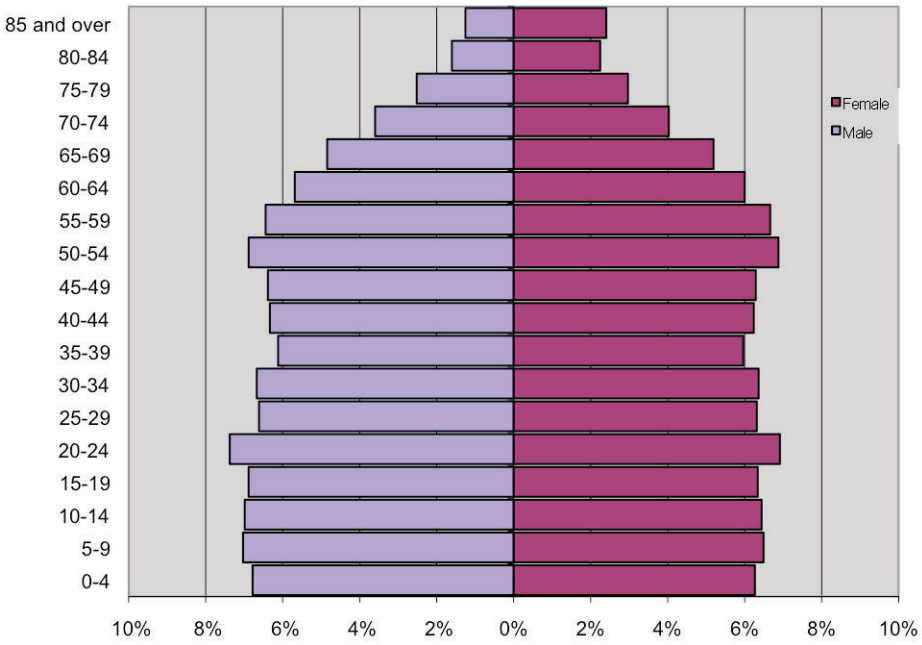
Source: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Selected Age Groups by Sex for the United States, States, Counties, and Puerto Rico Commonwealth and Municipios: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013, Census Bureau

shows the familiar "bulge" created by the "baby boom" population, as well as the greater life expectancy of women, a pattern that mirrors the national data. The juxtaposition of different race and ethnic subpopulations demonstrates some of the important underlying population dynamics (see Figures P7 to P13). The White population is slightly older, a result of both aging in place and the growth of retirement communities. The Black population also shows aging in place but has a greater percentage of young adults of child-bearing age and more children. The population pyramids for Other Races population (largely comprised of Asian and Native American persons) and the Hispanic population provide insight into how age and gender structure of these populations differ. Specifically, the larger "base" of the pyramids indicates a very much younger population and a surplus of younger males in the 20-30 year age range. This is typical of trends seen in migrant populations.

Significant differences between the rural and urban populations are underscored in the population pyramids. The older population found in rural areas is clearly evident in the "bulge" from the mid-40s to the sixties, while the narrower "waist" reflects outmigration of working-age adults, and the smaller base represents a smaller proportion of children. In contrast, urban populations are younger with a larger percentage of working-age adults and children.

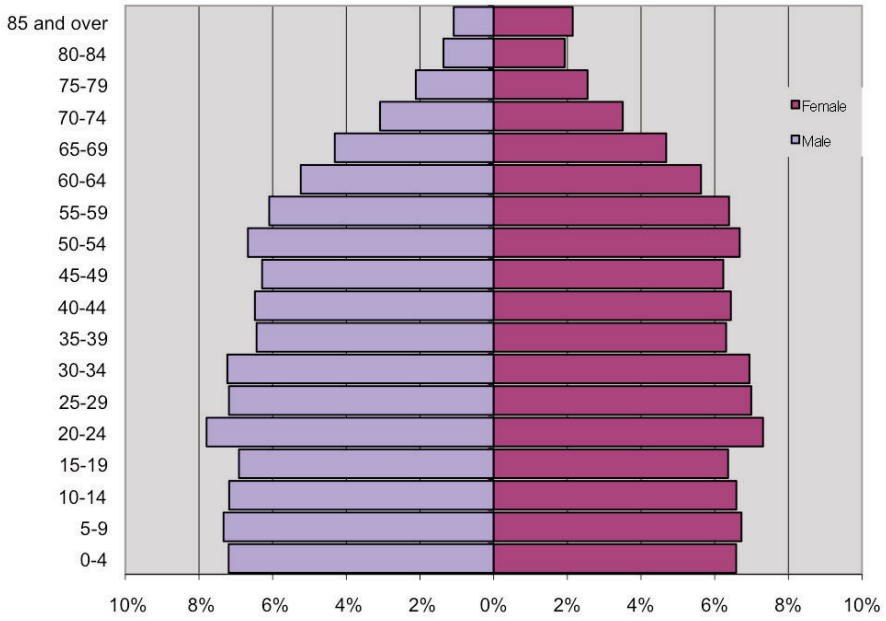
All the pyramids reflect the greater life expectancy of women, particularly in the very old age brackets (75 and older).

Figure P7. Arkansas State Population Pyramid, 2013



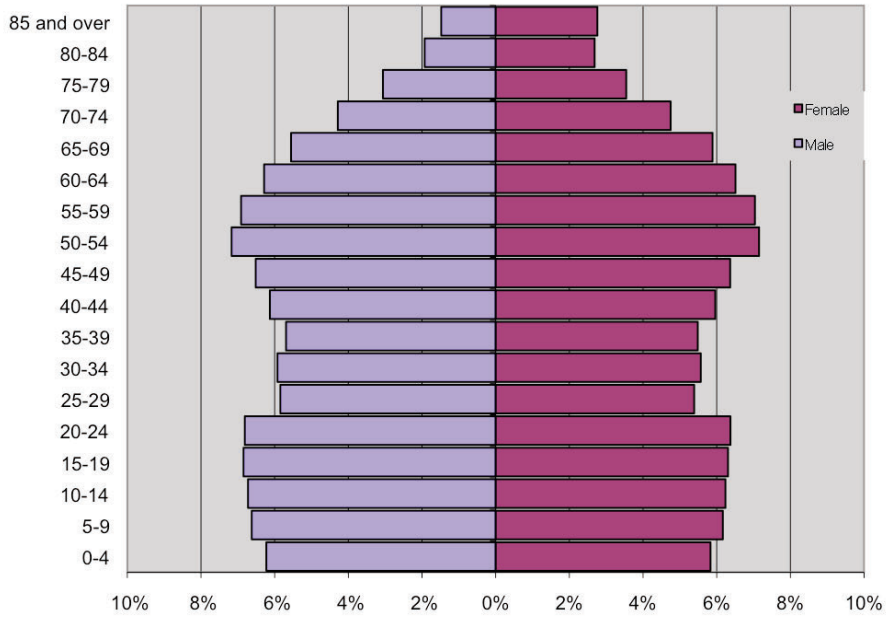
Source: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Selected Age Groups by Sex for the United States, States, Counties, and Puerto Rico Commonwealth and Municipios: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013, Census Bureau.

Figure P8. Arkansas Urban Population Pyramid, 2013



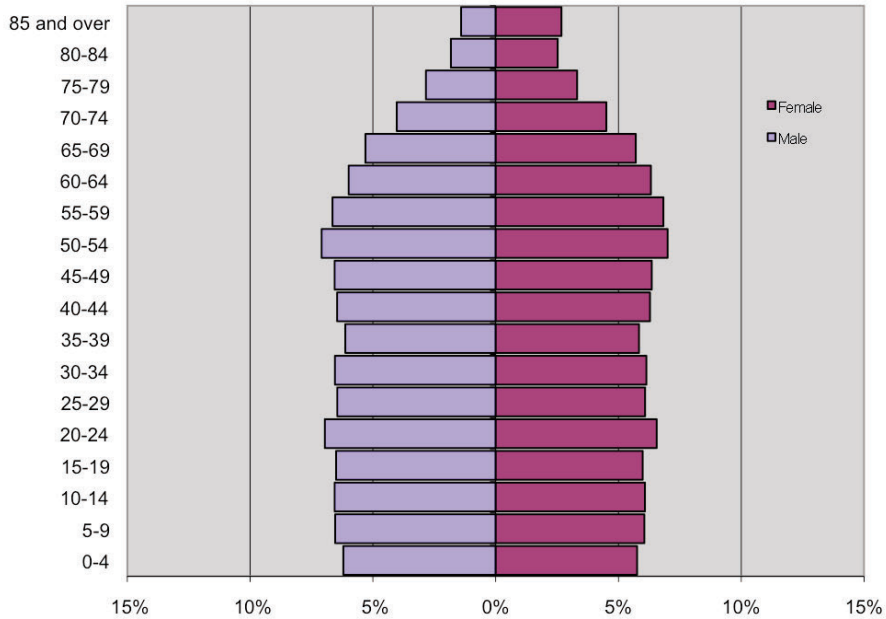
Source: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Selected Age Groups by Sex for the United States, States, Counties, and Puerto Rico Commonwealth and Municipios: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013, Census Bureau

Figure P9. Arkansas Rural Population Pyramid, 2013



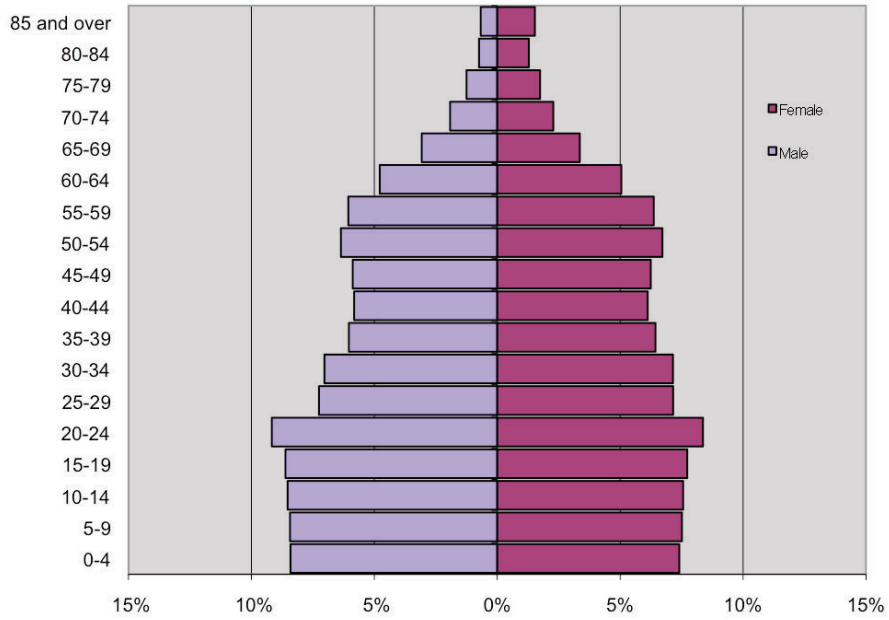
Source: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Selected Age Groups by Sex for the United States, States, Counties, and Puerto Rico Commonwealth and Municipios: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013, Census Bureau.

Figure P10. Arkansas White Population Pyramid, 2013



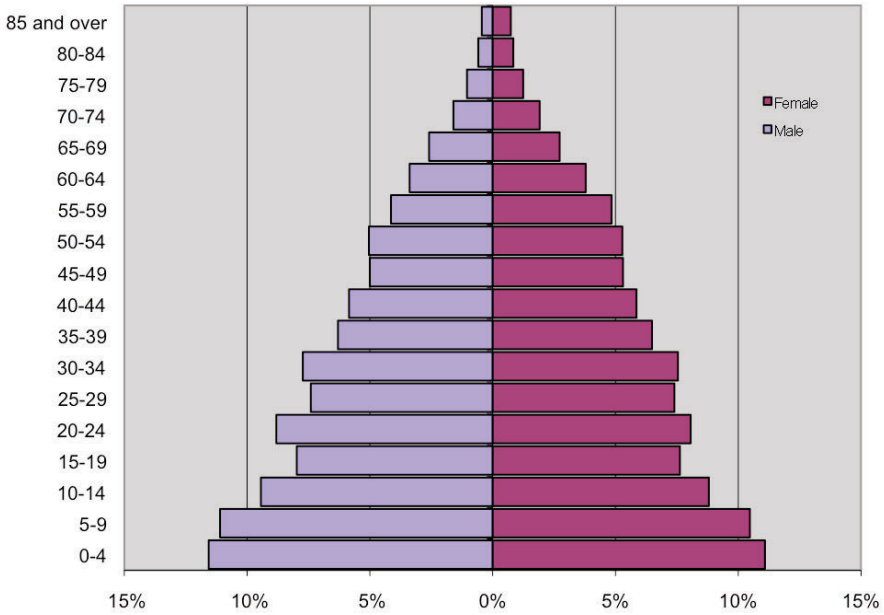
Source: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for the United States, States, and Counties: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013, Census Bureau.

Figure P11. Arkansas Black Population Pyramid, 2013



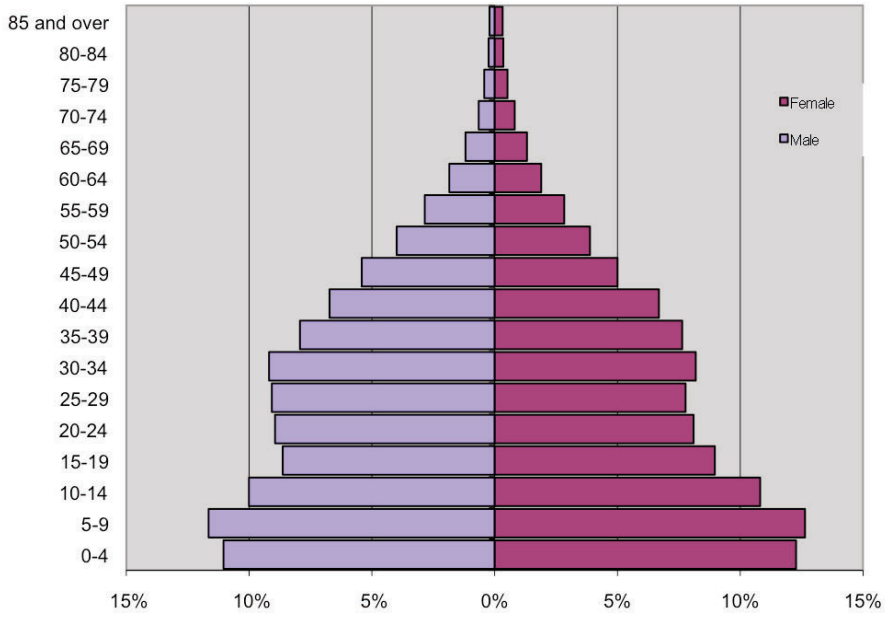
Source: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for the United States, States, and Counties: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013, Census Bureau.

Figure P12. Arkansas Other Races Population Pyramid, 2013



Source: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for the United States, States, and Counties: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013, Census Bureau.

Figure P13. Arkansas Hispanic Population Pyramid, 2013



Source: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for the United States, States, and Counties: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013, Census Bureau.

Population Age 65 and Older

The map in Figure P14 shows the distribution of the elderly population in Arkansas in 2013. Baxter County has the highest percentage of population aged 65 or older at nearly 30 percent (29.6), while Washington County has the lowest at 10.5 percent. The five counties with the lowest percentage of elderly are all urban counties: Craighead (12.8), Lonoke (12.1), Crittenden (11.8), Faulkner (10.9) and Washington (10.5). The elderly population makes up 13.4 percent of the urban counties compared to 18 percent for the rural counties. The Highlands have the highest percentage of persons aged 65 or older at 19 percent, whereas the Delta has only 16 percent. A similar pattern is seen when examining the percentage of the very elderly, defined as persons 75 and older. Nine counties have a very elderly population (75 and older) greater than 10 percent and all of these are in the Highlands (Baxter, Montgomery, Izard, Sharp, Cleburne, Van Buren, Fulton, Stone and Marion).

Race and Ethnic Diversity

Using four categories of race/ethnicity including White, Black, Hispanic and Other Races, the maps in Figures P15 to P18 show the proportion of each category within individual counties. Some very clear patterns emerge from these maps. Only seven counties in Arkansas do not have a majority White population. Five of those seven counties are located in the rural Delta region and the other two are urban counties (Jefferson and Crittenden), also located in the Delta. The majority of the Highlands counties each have a White population exceeding 90 percent.

> Only seven counties in Arkansas do not have a majority White population.

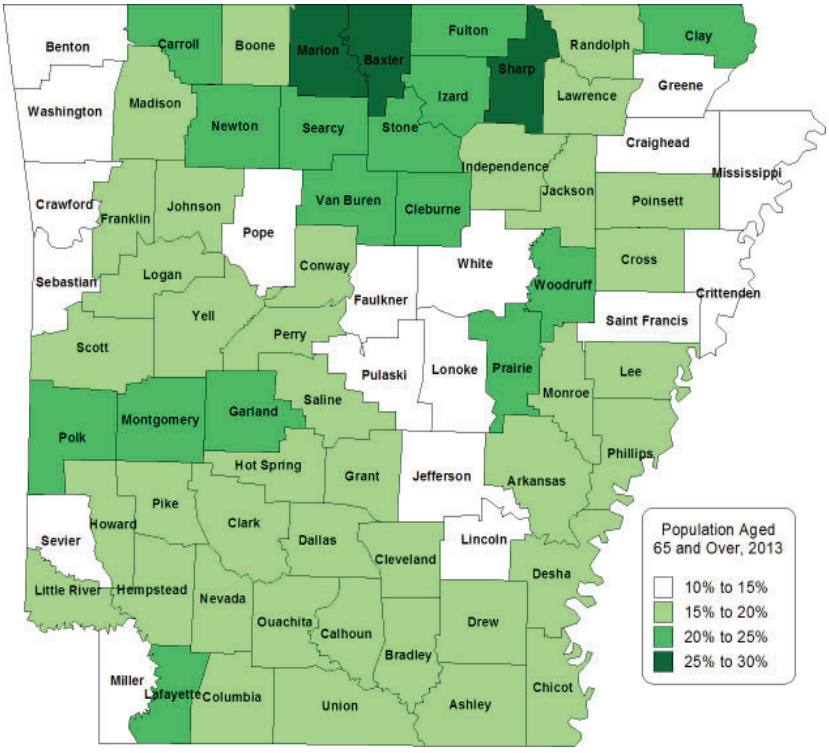
Hispanic population is largely concentrated in the northwest counties of the state and along the western edge of the state. That said, the Hispanic population has grown in the Delta and Coastal Plains as well. Statewide, the Hispanic population has grown to nearly 7 percent of the total. Urban counties reflect a 8.4 percent Hispanic population compared to 4.9 percent in rural counties.

Amongst the rural regions, the Highlands have the greatest concentration of Hispanics at 6 percent while the Delta has only slightly less than 3 percent. Counties show a greater variation, however. Nearly one-third of Sevier County's population is Hispanic (32.6 percent) compared

to Fulton and Prairie counties with barely 1 percent. Nine counties in the state report more than 10 percent of their populations are now Hispanic. Three of these are urban (Benton, Sebastian and Washington counties) and among the remaining seven rural counties, all but one (Bradley) are located in the western half of the state. Almost one in five residents in Yell County (19.4 percent) is Hispanic.

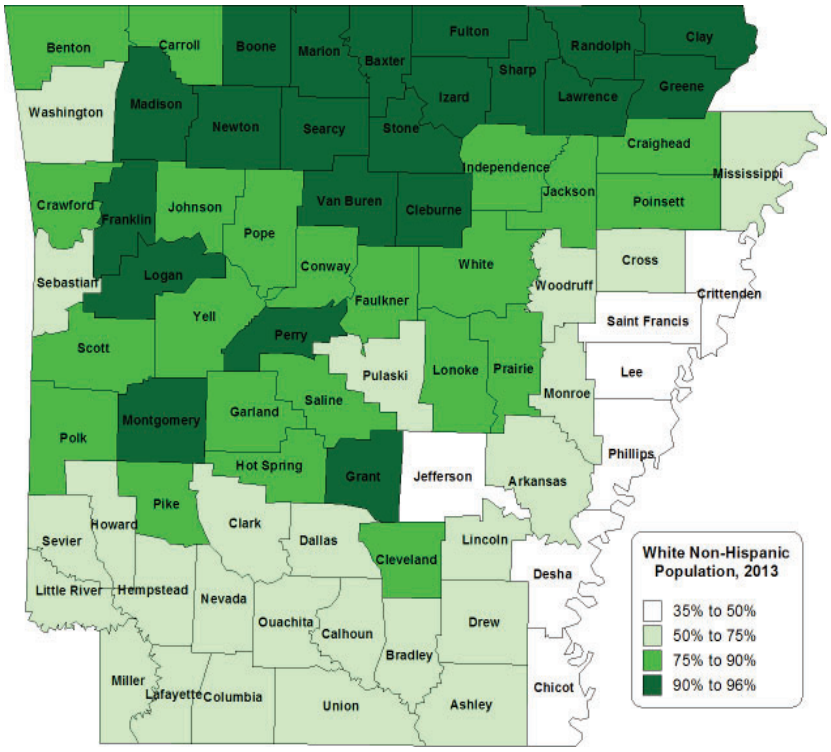
The category "other races" presented here captures a wide range of individuals that identify themselves in the Census as not identifying as White, Black or African American. It may include such peoples as Hmong, Turkish, Vietnamese, Indian, Burmese, Marshallese, Native American, etc. For this category, the largest percentages are seen in the western urban counties, with Benton, Crawford, Sebastian and Washington counties all having the highest proportion of "other races" population. Scott County is the only rural county with more than 5 percent in the Other Races category. The Delta and Coastal Plains counties each have 2 percent or slightly more population in this category.

Figure P14. Population Aged 65 and Over, 2013



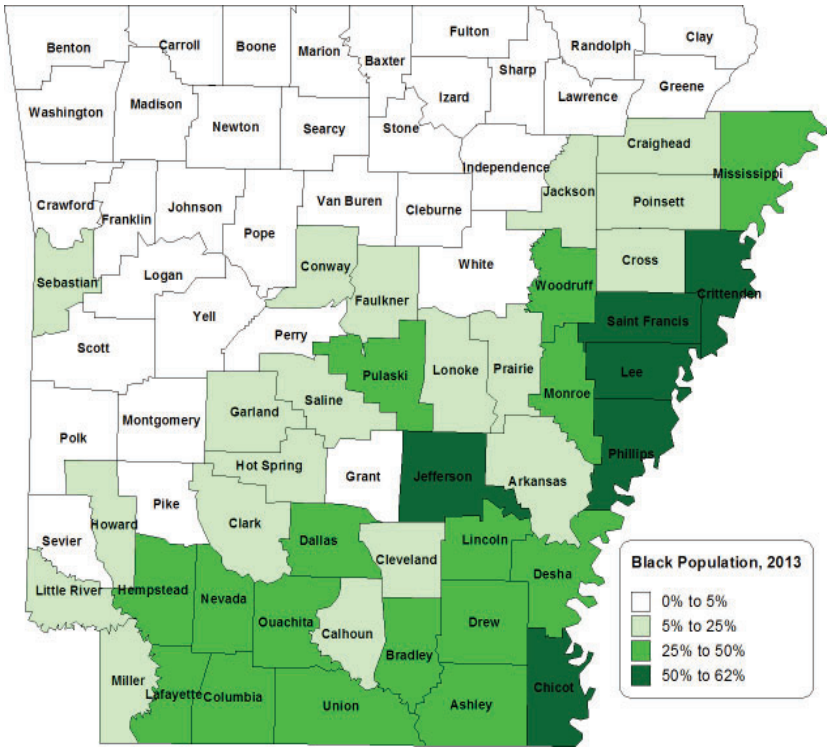
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Figure P15. White Non-Hispanic Population, 2013



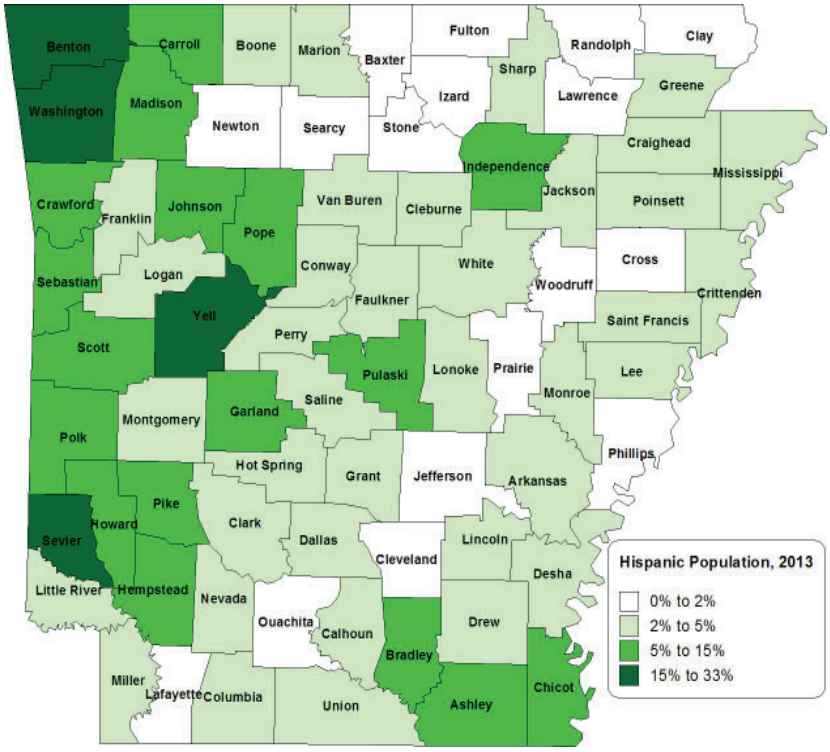
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Figure P16. Black Non-Hispanic Population, 2013



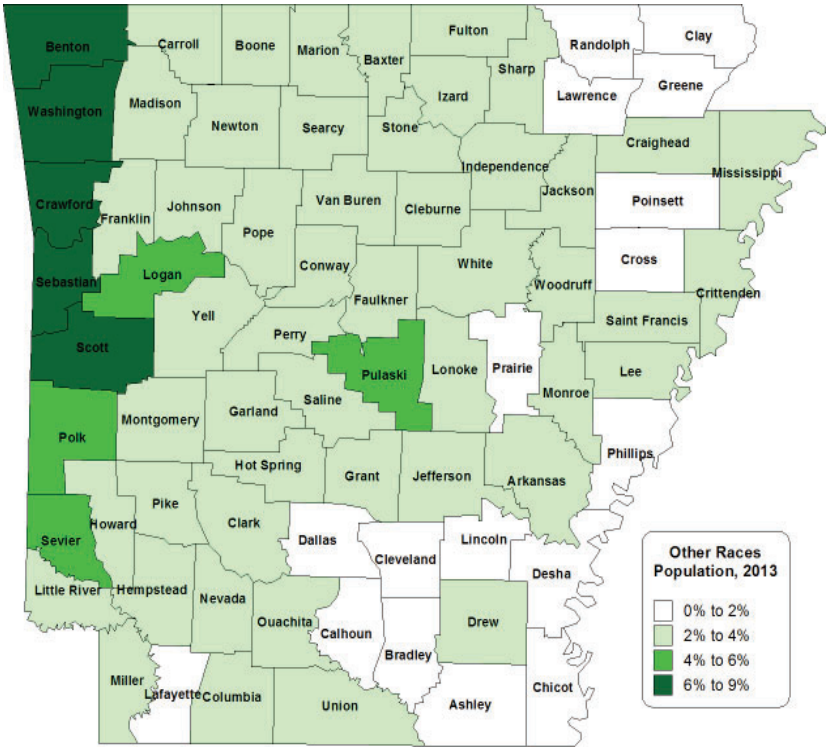
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Figure P17. Hispanic Population, 20133



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

FigureP18. Other Races Non-Hispanic Population, 2013



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Employment

Like other states, Arkansas was affected by the 2007-2009 recession and slow recovery. While Arkansas' economy did not decline as much as the U.S. economy from the Great Recession, it also has not grown as rapidly since. Between 2007 and 2010, employment in Arkansas declined by 2.6 percent compared to a decline of 3.8 percent in the U.S. From 2010 to 2012, employment in Arkansas increased by 2.1 percent compared to an increase of 3.8 percent in the U.S. By the end of 2012, the Arkansas economy had not reached the employment level of 2007. However, there continues to be a big difference in the growth/decline between the urban and rural economies in the state.

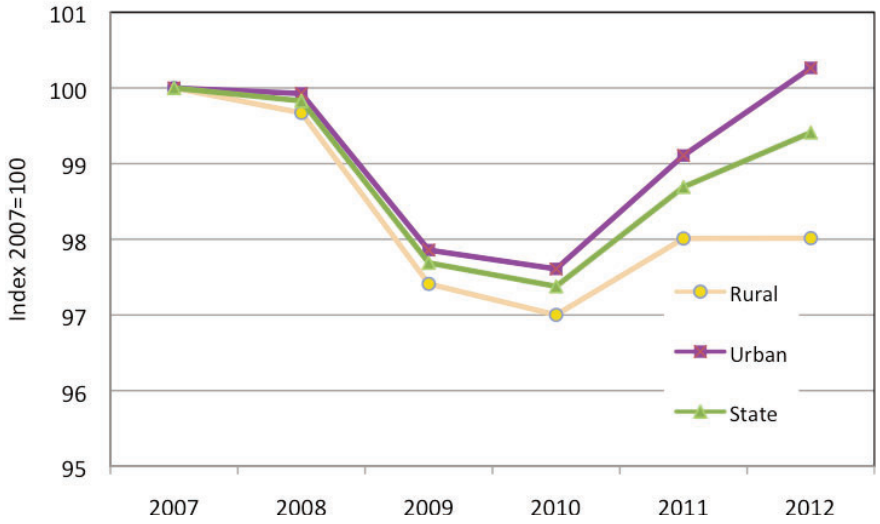
The urban areas of the state experienced a smaller decline and a larger increase in employment during the recession and post-recession recovery, respectively. Employment declined by 2.4 percent in urban areas from 2007 to 2010 compared to 3 percent in rural areas (Figure E1). During the post-recession recovery from 2010 to 2012, employment in urban areas increased 2.7 percent versus 1 percent for rural areas of the state.

While the urban areas of the state saw a slight increase in overall employment (0.3 percent) from 2007 to 2012, the rural regions have not fully recovered from the recession and have yet to reach pre-recession employment levels.

Among all rural areas, the Coastal Plains had the largest percent decline in employment, 2.6 percent from 2007 to 2012 (Figure E2). The Highlands and Delta regions saw declines of 2.1 percent and 1.3 percent, respectively, during this period. All rural regions experienced a decline in employment from 2007 to 2010 from 2.7 percent to 3.1 percent and a net increase in employment of 0.6 percent to 1.5 percent from 2010 to 2012. Although overall employment increased in all three rural regions from 2010 to 2012,

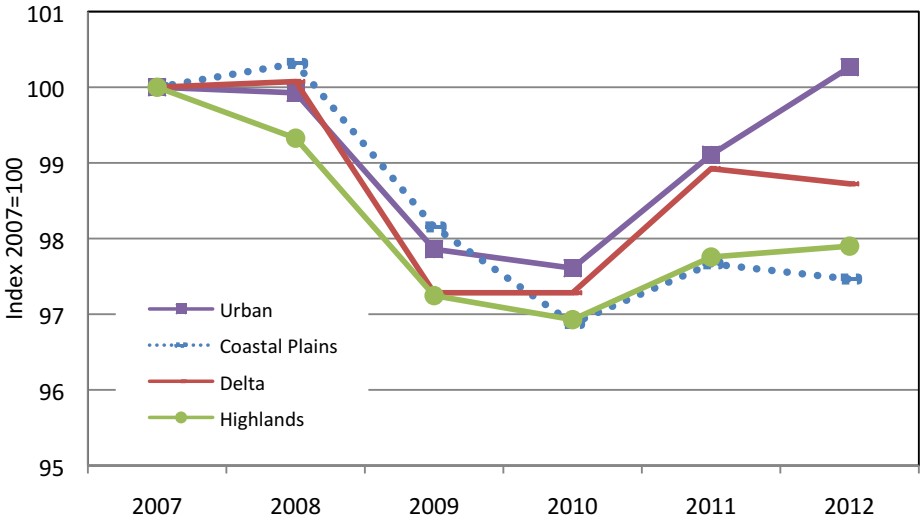
While the urban areas of the state saw a slight increase in overall employment, the rural regions have not fully recovered from the recession and have yet to reach pre-recession employment levels.

Figure E1. State, Rural and Urban Employment Trends



Source: REIS database, Bureau of Economic Analysis

Figure E2. Urban and Rural Region Employment Trends



Source: REIS database, Bureau of Economic Analysis

the rural areas of the state are struggling to provide the jobs to keep and attract residents.

These regional averages mask large variations in employment gains and losses within both rural and urban regions from 2007 to 2012 (Figure E3). Although there was only a slight decline in overall employment of 0.6 percent from 2007 to 2012, 46 of the 75 counties in Arkansas had a net loss of jobs during this period. The lost jobs were scattered across rural and urban regions alike. Five of the 13 urban counties saw a decline in the number of jobs. These included Sebastian and Crawford counties in western Arkansas and Jefferson, Garland and Pulaski counties in central Arkansas. However, eight urban counties had an increase in employment during this period, ranging from 1.2 percent in Lonoke County to 6.4 percent in Craighead County.

In the Coastal Plains, a region greatly affected by the recession, eight of the 12 counties had a net loss of jobs during this five-year period. The Highlands region was also hit hard by the recession where 23 of the 34 counties had a net loss of jobs between 2007 and 2012. Likewise, 10 of the 16 counties in the Delta region had a net loss of jobs during this same period. Although most of the rural counties lost less than 5 percent of their jobs, 14 counties lost more than 5 percent. Three counties were especially hard hit by lost employment opportunities, Clay, Pike and Bradley. All three counties lost more than 10 percent of their jobs between 2007 and 2012. Clay and Pike counties, like one-third of all rural counties in Arkansas, continued to lose jobs in the post-recession recovery period from 2010 to 2012.

While all regions and most counties had a net loss of jobs from 2007 to 2010, 17 counties experienced a net gain in employment during this period. Seven of the counties experiencing employment growth were in the Delta region, and the other 10 counties were scattered throughout the state in different regions with the east central part of the state experiencing the most growth.

Although the recession took a toll on jobs across the state, 51 of the 75 counties had net employment gains following the recession, from 2010 to 2012. The highest rate of job growth occurred in two urban counties, Benton and Craighead, five counties in the Highlands, two in the Coastal Plains and Greene County in the Delta. The counties that did not

experience job growth during this period were scattered throughout the state, including urban and rural counties.

Four counties, one urban and three rural, had more than 5 percent growth in employment from 2007 to 2012. Craighead County, an urban county, recorded employment growth of 6.4 percent during this period. The three rural counties, Lee, Cross and Cleveland, had employment growth between 5.1 percent and 7.6 percent during this five-year period.

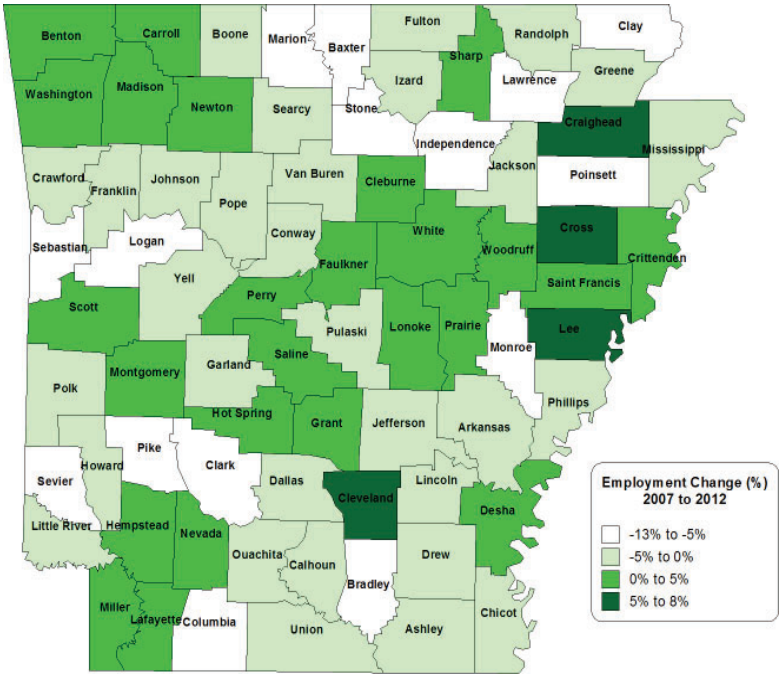
Employment by Major Industry Sector

Diversity in type of industry and sources of income is vital to the success of Arkansas' economy. While the natural resources (agriculture, 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.

The major structural difference between rural and urban economies is that the manufacturing and natural resource sectors provided a larger share of employment in rural regions, whereas the service sector employed a larger share of workers in urban areas (Figure E4).

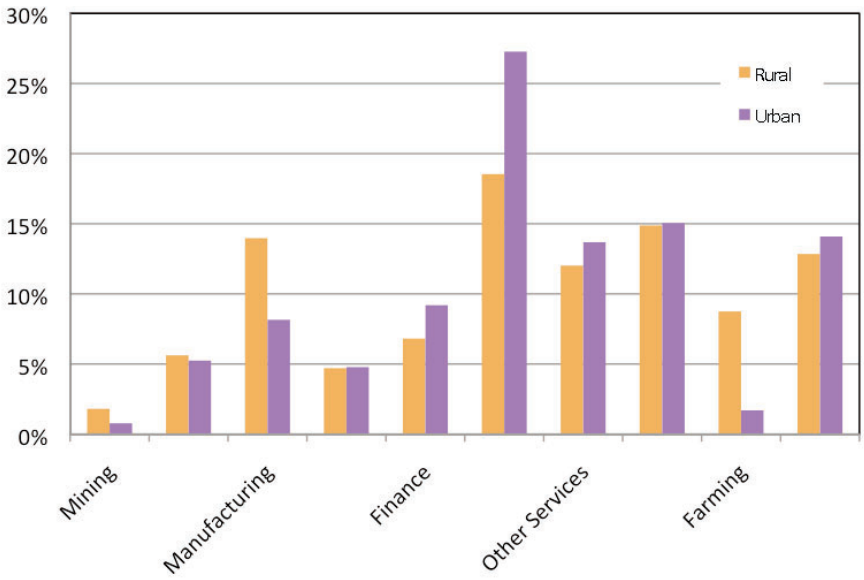
In 2012, nearly 25 percent of jobs in rural areas were in farming, forestry, mining and manufacturing compared to approximately 11 percent in urban areas. Conversely, 41 percent of jobs in urban areas were in the service sector compared to 30.5 percent in rural areas. Many jobs in manufacturing are related to agriculture and forestry products, so while farming and manufacturing are critical to Arkansas' rural economy, employing

Figure E3. Employment Change 2007 to 2012



Source: REIS database, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Figure E4. Rural and Urban Employment by Industry: 2012



Source: Woods and Poole Economics.

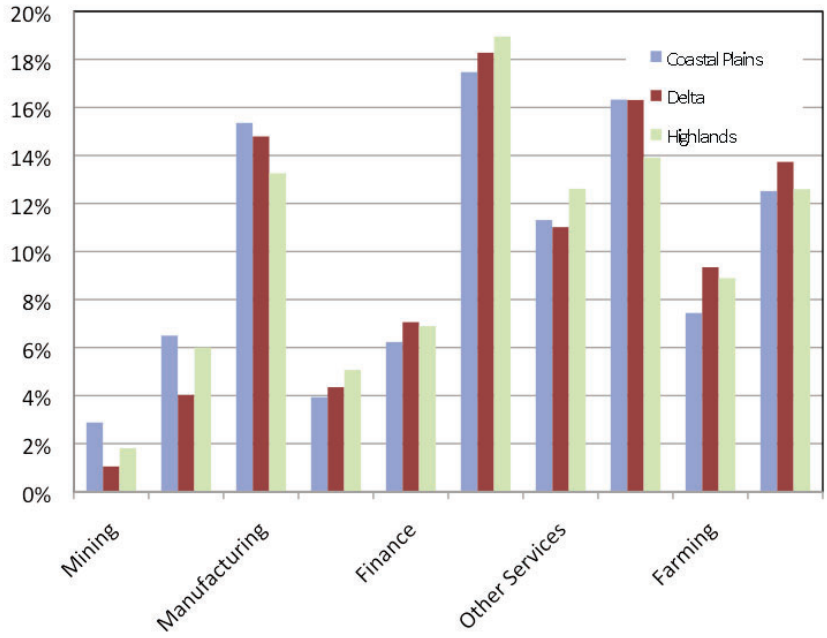
9 percent and 14 percent, respectively, the service sector remains the largest employer. Importantly, many of the service sector jobs in rural areas are also agriculture- and forestry-related, which suggests that a strong agriculture and forestry industry remains central to the rural regions of the state. Natural gas extraction has also become an important component of the

The manufacturing and natural resource sectors provided a larger share of employment in rural regions, whereas the service sector employed a larger share of workers in urban areas.

economies of four rural counties (Cleburne, Conway, Van Buren and White) and one urban (Faulkner) county, accounting for between 2 percent and 4 percent of total employment in these counties.

While the type of agriculture, forestry and manufacturing differs among the rural regions of the state, Figure E5 depicts the importance of these industries to all three rural regions.

Figure E5. Rural Regions Employment by Industry: 2012



Source: Woods and Poole Economics.

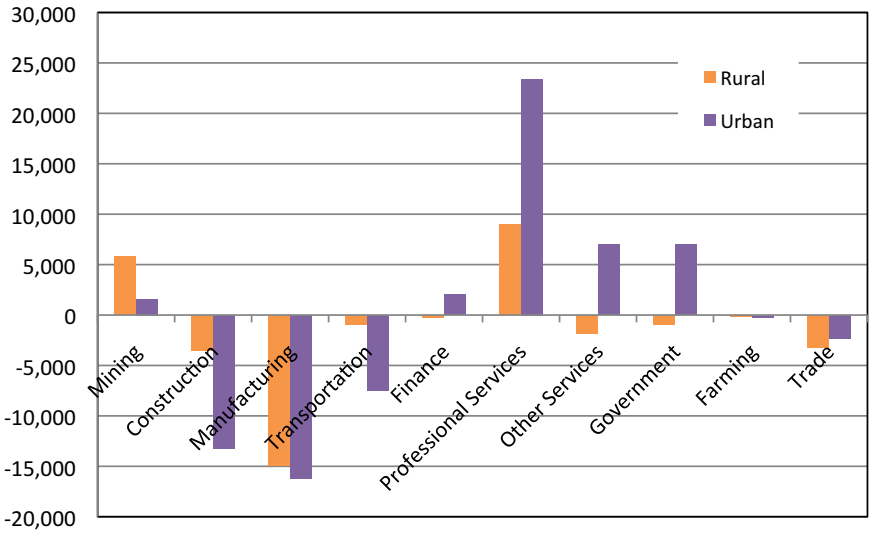
Employment Changes by Industry

From 2007 to 2012, there was a continuing shift from manufacturing to service sector jobs. This trend disproportionately affected rural areas. Rural areas lost about the same number of manufacturing jobs but did not gain as many service sector jobs as the urban areas (Figure E6). Not only were manufacturing jobs lost, but construction, transportation and trade jobs were also lost in both the urban and rural areas during this five-year period. The industries in Arkansas that lost the most jobs between 2007 and 2012 were manufacturing, construction and transportation.

In addition to adding service industry jobs, additional employment opportunities were also generated in the government, finance and mining industries from 2007 to 2012. The urban areas added most of their new jobs in the service sector, although the government, finance and mining sectors also added jobs during this period. The rural areas added jobs only in the professional services and mining industries during this same period.

Although both rural and urban areas experienced employment growth in professional services and mining industries

Figure E6. Employment Change in Rural and Urban Regions by Industry: 2007 to 2012



Source: Woods and Poole Economics.

during this six-year period, rural areas benefited more from the increase in mining activities, while urban areas benefitted more from an increase in professional service jobs. The urban areas added 30,000 professional service jobs, almost three times more than rural areas. Rural areas also lost jobs in the trade, other services and government sectors, whereas the urban areas gained jobs in these sectors.

> 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.

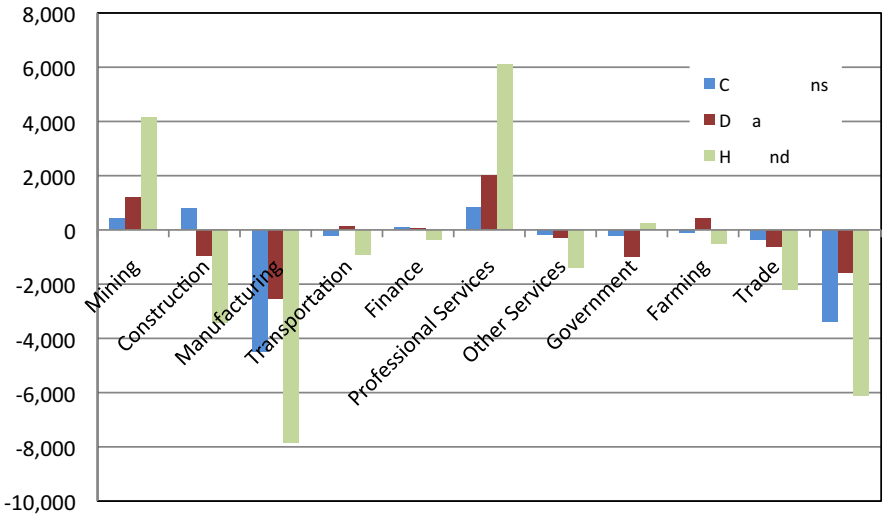
Beginning in 2010, the growing state economy saw an employment increase in most all sectors for both urban and rural regions of the state. However, from 2010 to 2012 manufacturing and construction employment declined slightly in urban areas. The rural regions saw slight declines in government and farming jobs during this same period. The service and trade sectors gained the most jobs in both urban and rural regions during this period.

Again, the rural and urban averages mask differences within regions (Figure E7). Although manufacturing and construction employment declined in the urban areas throughout the five-year period, several urban counties had slight increases from 2010 to 2012.

Both the Delta and Highlands regions added manufacturing jobs from 2010 to 2012, while the Coastal Plains continued to lose employment in this sector. The Highlands regions also gained considerably more jobs in the service, transportation, mining and trade sectors than the Coastal Plains and Delta regions.

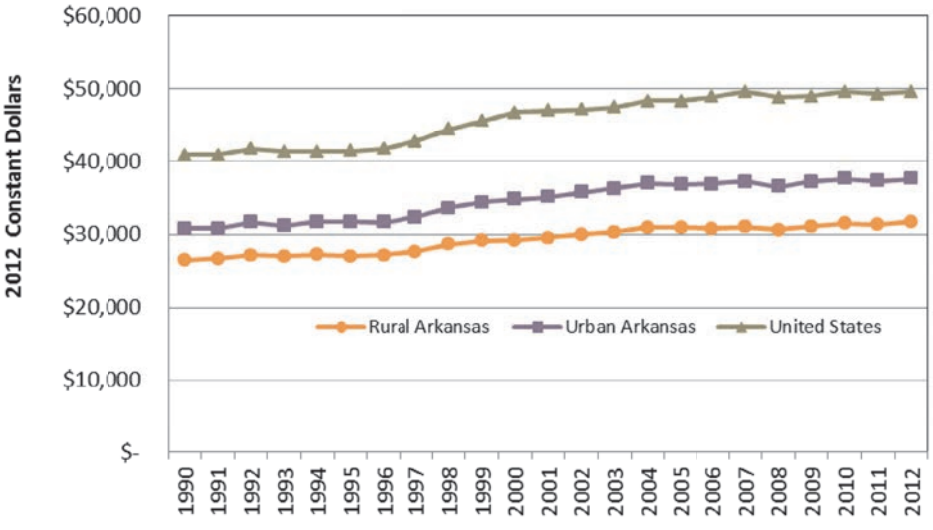
The changing structure of the Arkansas economy, especially in the rural areas, suggests a need to diversify and invest in economic enterprises that utilize and add value to local resources. The increasing need for skilled technicians in almost all industries suggests that those regions with a skilled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

Figure E7. Employment Change in Rural Regions by Industry: 2007 to 2012



Source: Woods and Poole Economics.

Figure E8. Average Earnings Per Job: 1990-2012



Source: C34 Wage and Salary Summary, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Average Earnings Per Job

The average earnings per job in Arkansas in 2012 were approximately 78 percent of the national average, $38,897 in Arkansas compared to a national average of $49,612. However, the real average earnings per job in Arkansas increased about 1.2 percent from 2007 and 2012, while the national earnings per job were stagnant.

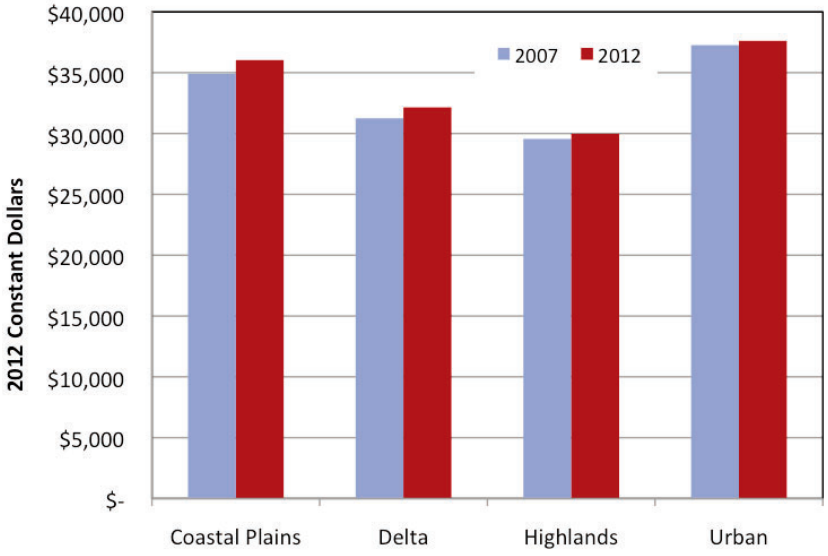
Although the earnings per job increased at a faster rate in rural areas of Arkansas, there remains a persistent gap between rural and urban earnings per job (Figure E8). The rural earnings per job increased by 2.1 percent from 2007 to 2012 compared to the urban increase of only 0.7 percent. However, the rural earnings per job remained between 78 percent and 79 percent of that in urban areas during this five-year period.

Regional changes in average earnings per job suggest a positive trend. The average earnings per job in the Coastal Plains increased by nearly 4 percent and was approximately 90 percent of the average urban earnings per job in 2012 (Figure E9). Likewise the average earnings per job increased by 2.6 percent and 1.4 percent in the Delta and Highlands regions, respectively. However, the earnings per job remained considerably lower for these regions compared to the urban areas, approximately 81 percent of urban earnings per job in the Delta and 75.5 percent in the Highlands.

Although there was an increase in earnings per job in all four regions, substantial variation existed among counties. Earnings per job declined in 23 counties from 2007 to 2012, including five urban counties (Figure E10). The remaining 52 counties experienced an increase, with earnings per job increasing approximately 17 percent in Hempstead and Van Buren counties. Many of the counties experiencing a decline in earnings per job were in the Highlands region, with Sevier County having the greatest decrease of 7 percent.

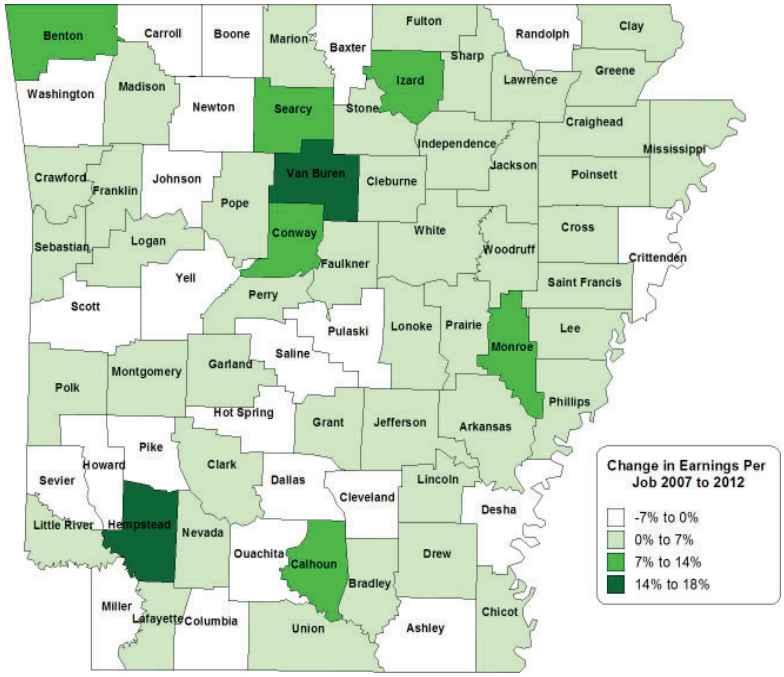
While there are definite differences in the earnings per job among regions, there are also

Figure E9. Regional Average Earnings Per Job: 2007 and 2012



Source: C34 Wage and Salary Summary, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Figure E10. Change in Average Earnings Per Job, 2007 to 2012



Source: C34 Wage and Salary Summary, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

differences among counties within regions. Statewide, earnings per job ranged from a low of $24,880 in Newton County to a high of $50,800 in Benton County. The largest differences among counties within regions were in the Coastal Plains and urban regions. In the Coastal Plains, earnings per job in 2012 ranged from a low of $29,100 in Cleveland County to a high of $47,390 in Calhoun County. Of the counties in urban areas, Lonoke County had the lowest earnings per job of $31,460 compared to a high of $50,800 in Benton County.

Although earnings per job increased on average in rural regions, the difference between urban and rural areas remains great.

Median Household Income

The median household income in Arkansas was $40,531 in 2012, which was approximately 76 percent of the median household income in the nation. Unlike average earnings per job, median household income did not vary greatly between regions but varied greatly within regions of the state. We use five-year averages (2003-2007 and 2008-2012) 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 varied greatly among counties ranging from a low of $25,760 in Lee County to a high of $53,670 in Saline County using the five-year average from 2008 to 2012. Although average regional median household incomes did not vary greatly, there was considerable variation among counties within regions. For example, there was nearly a $20,000 difference in median household income between the low of $26,430 in Searcy County and a high of $46,620 in Grant County in the Highlands region. Similarly, there was nearly a $20,000 difference between the lowest and highest median household income among the urban counties, ranging from $34,930 in Crittenden County to $53,670 in Saline County.

Although average earnings per job have increased between 2007 and 2012, there are fewer jobs in rural areas of the state, and many rural households have low and declining household incomes.

Although the regional average earnings per job increased from 2007 to 2012, median household income declined for the same period. Both rural and urban areas saw median household income decline, by 1.7 percent in rural areas and 1.4 percent in urban areas. Among rural regions, the Coastal Plains experienced the greatest decline of 1.8 percent, whereas the median household income in the Delta declined by only 0.7 percent.

Among all Arkansas counties, Washington experienced the largest decline of 8 percent in median household income, followed by Sebastian County with a decline of 6.5 percent. Only 16 counties had an increased median household income, and of these, only Van Buren County (6.3 percent) had an increase over 2.5 percent.

Although average earnings per job have increased between 2007 and 2012, there are fewer jobs in rural areas of the state, and many rural households have low and declining household incomes.

Indicators of social and economic stress are found in looking at the incidence and patterns of poverty and social service supports provided by state agencies. Information from the Department of Human Services on the number of people receiving supplemental nutrition assistance, participation in the free and reduced price lunch program and eligibility for Medicaid or ARKids First sheds light on financial stress. Food accessibility provides additional information on levels of social and economic stress.

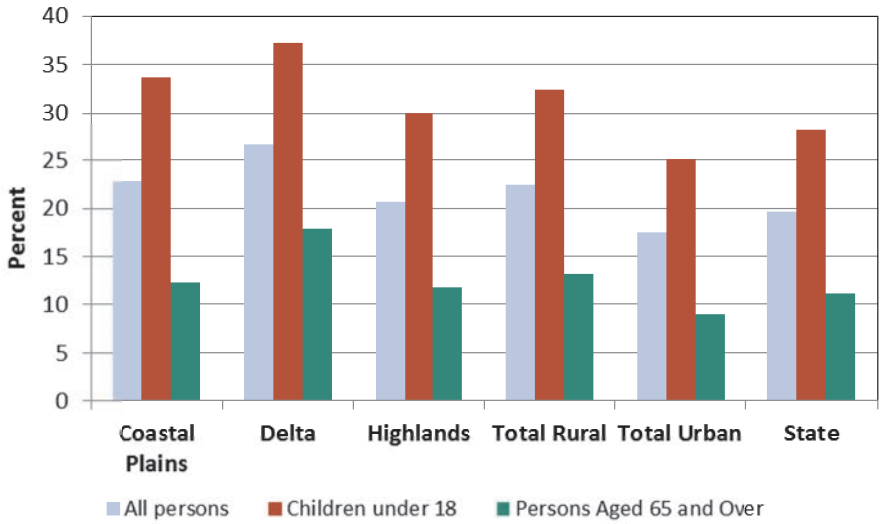
Poverty

With an overall poverty rate estimated at 19.6 percent for 2012, Arkansas continues to rank in the ten states with the highest poverty rates in the country. The national rate in 2012 was just under 16 percent. While the state as a whole ranks high, many rural areas of Arkansas have even higher rates of poverty. The rural regions of the state overall have a poverty rate over 22 percent, but more than one in four persons in the Delta is poor (26.6 percent) (Figure SES1). Even in the Highlands, which has the lowest poverty rate of any of the rural regions, one in five persons is in poverty (20.6 percent). These rates are substantially higher than the urban counties of the state. Urban areas have a poverty rate of 17.5 percent, which still exceeds the national rate.

> The rural regions of the state overall have a poverty rate of 22 percent, but more than one in four persons in the Delta is poor.

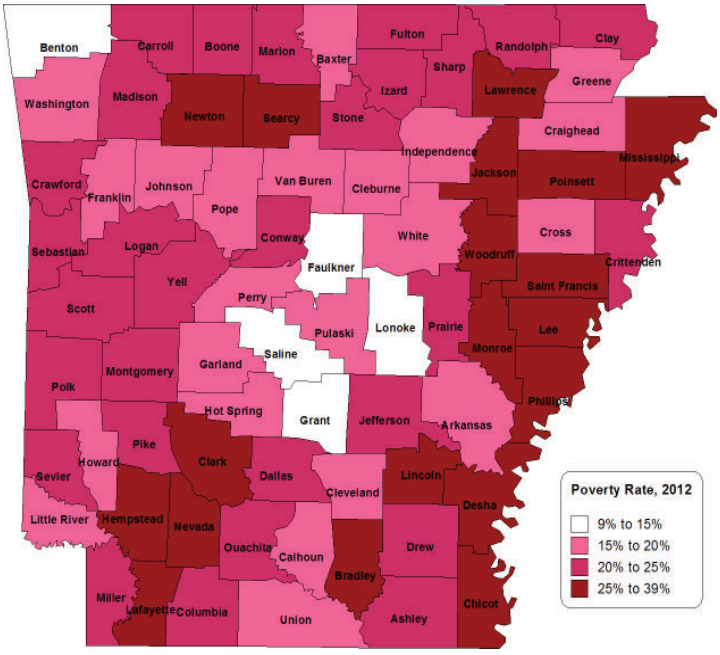
A glance at the map of poverty rates shown in Figure SES2 illustrates pockets of more extreme poverty. Nineteen counties had a poverty rate of 25 percent or greater. None of these counties are urban. Eleven of the 19 counties with 25 percent poverty or more are in the Delta, four in the Coastal Plains and four in the Highlands. Five of these counties – all of them in the Delta – have a poverty rate exceeding 30 percent. More than one-third of the counties (29) have a poverty rate between 20 percent and 25 percent, and all but five are rural counties, with eighteen of them in the Highlands. The only county with a poverty rate below 10 percent is Saline County, which is an urban county.

Figure SES1. Percent Persons by Age in Poverty



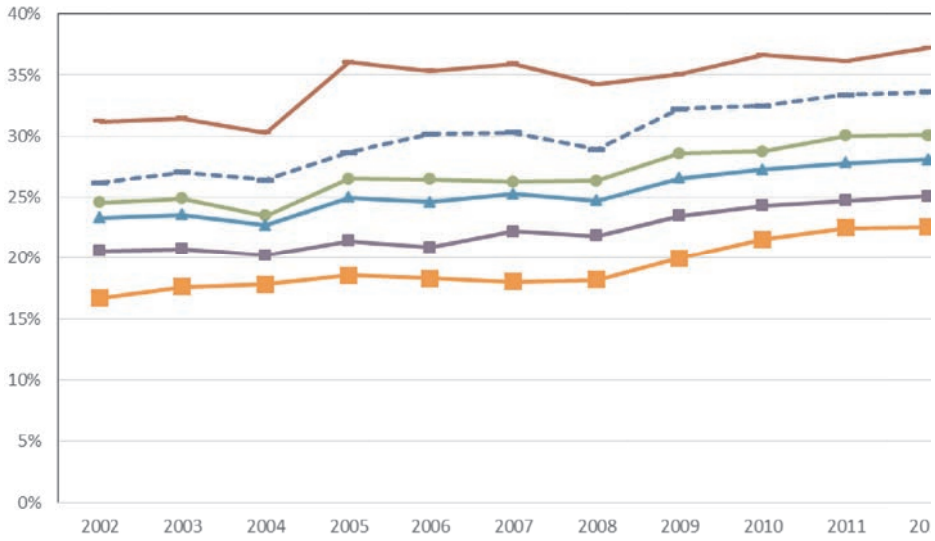
Source: Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, Census Bureau, 2012

Figure SES2. Poverty, 2010



Source: Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program, U.S. Census Bureau

Figure SES3. Children in Poverty, 2002-2012



Source: Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, Census Bureau, 2002-2012

Even more striking are the figures for poverty rates of children under 18 (Figure SES1). According to UNICEF, the United States ranks second in the world in child poverty. Romania has a higher child poverty rate. Among the states, Arkansas ranked fifth highest in 2012 at 28.1 percent compared to the U.S. rate of 22.6 percent. Rural regions again had child poverty rates considerably higher than those in urban areas. The Delta has a child poverty rate approaching 40 percent (37.2), while one in three children in the Coastal Plains (33.6 percent) live in poverty. The Highlands has the lowest rate, but even that is 30.1 percent.

Among counties in the Delta, over half (54.3 percent) of the children under 18 in Phillips County live in poverty. Eleven counties, all of them rural and most of them in the Delta, have a child poverty rate that exceeds 40 percent. Thirty-six counties in all, or almost half of the state's 75 counties, have more than one in three children under 18 living in poverty. Only three of these counties are urban. Of these 36 counties with one-third or more of children in poverty, seven are in the Coastal Plains, 11 are in the Delta and 15 are in the Highlands. This means that nearly three-fourths (73 percent) of the Delta counties have a child poverty rate 30 percent or greater compared to slightly more than half (58 percent) of the Coastal Plains and less than half (44 percent) of the Highlands counties with a comparable rate.

> Of particular note is the steady increase in child poverty rates since 2007, reflecting the economic stresses of the Great Recession.

Figure SES3 shows a 10-year timeline of poverty rates for children under 18 in poverty, comparing the U.S., the state, and rural and urban regions. Of particular note is the steady increase in hild poverty rates since 2007, reflecting the economic stresses of the Great Recession. For the nation as a whole, child poverty rates increased nearly 6 percent (5.9 percent) between 2002 and 2012. For the state as a whole and for urban areas, the change was just under 5 percent (4.8 percent and 4.5 percent, respectively). However, for the Delta, the increase is 7.4 percent, reflecting the particular difficulties of this rural region.

Arkansas has an older population compared with the U.S. average, as many rural areas in the state experience both aging in place and in-migration of retirees (see the discussions under Population). Poverty rates for persons over 65 years of age have fallen since the 1960s. In Arkansas the poverty rate for people 65 and older has fallen slightly since 1999 (13.8 percent) to the current rate of 11.1 percent. Urban areas have an elderly poverty rate of 9 percent. However, rural counties have a higher elderly poverty rate of 13.2 percent, with the Delta region approaching one in five persons over 65 living in poverty (17.9 percent). The overall rate for rural counties, however, hides great variation. Lee County has the highest rate of older persons in

poverty at 32.9 percent. Nine counties have an elder poverty rate of 20 percent or greater. All of these are rural counties, and seven of them are in the Delta.

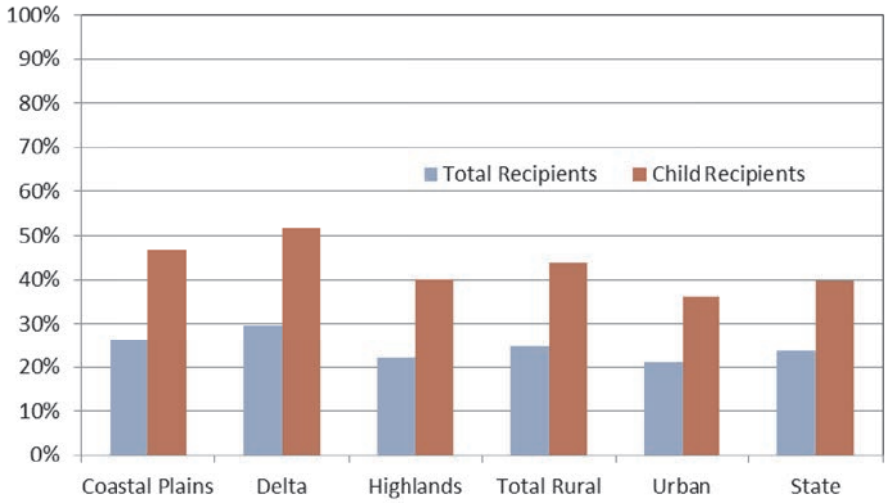
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance

Statewide, nearly one in four (23.7 percent) Arkansans received supplemental nutrition assistance (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps, in 2013, which is an increase from 18.5 percent in 2010. The concentration of SNAP recipients in rural areas is higher and is found especially among children (Figure SES4). Rural areas exceeded the urban rate, with the Delta having the highest rate of 29.5 percent, and the Coastal Plains follows with 26.4 percent. Urban areas had 21.0 percent of the population receiving SNAP benefits, a rate about 30 percent less than in the rural Delta.

Thirty counties in the state had more than one-fourth of their residents receiving supplemental nutrition assistance (Figure SES5). More than one-third of the population in four counties received supplemental nutrition assistance, three of which are in the Delta, plus Crittenden County.

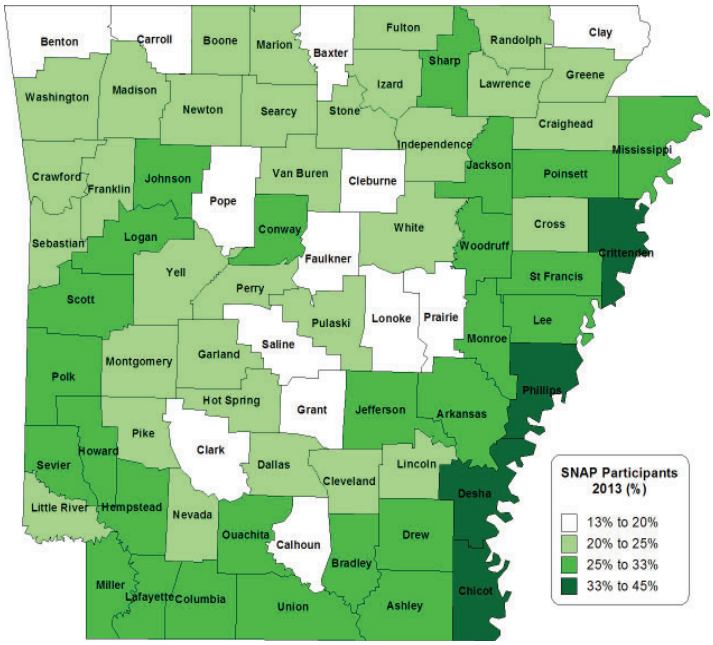
When considered by age grouping, more than half of the children in the Delta received SNAP benefits (51.6 percent) compared to 36.1 percent in urban areas and 39.7 percent statewide. The Delta led again in the highest percentage of working-age adults receiving supplemental nutrition assistance with a rate of one in four (25.3 percent) compared to one in six (16.6 percent) for urban working-age adults. Elderly adults, those over 65, receiving food stamps are also concentrated in the Delta and rural areas compared to urban areas. In Phillips County, a rural Delta county, nearly one in three (31.6 percent) adults over 65 and 44.7 percent of the total population received supplemental nutrition assistance.

Figure SES4. Percent of Population Receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)



Source: Arkansas Department of Human Services

Figure SES5. Percent of Population Receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance



Source: Arkansas Department of Human Services

Free and Reduced Price Lunch

To ensure that every child enrolled in public school has lunch, the National School Lunch Program provides meals for eligible

children for free or at a reduced cost. Almost 61 percent of public school children in Arkansas participated in the school lunch program during the 2013-2014 year. This was a substantial increase from the 55.5 percent participation rate in the 2007-2008 school year.

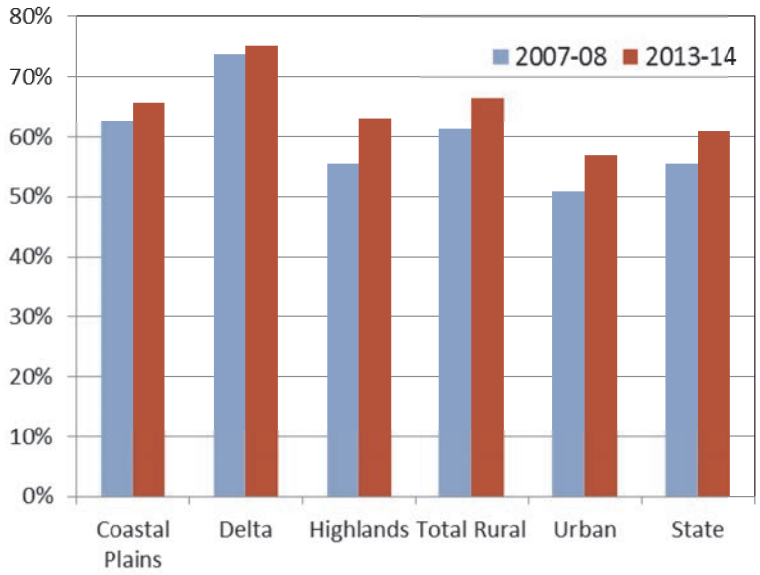
There was disparity between rural and urban enrollment rates in the free or reduced-price lunch program, with 66 percent participating in rural areas compared to 57 percent in urban areas (Figure SES6). Among the rural regions, the Delta had an enrollment rate of 75 percent, whereas the Coastal Plains and Highlands had rates of 66 percent and 63 percent, respectively. The percentage of students participating in the free or reduced-price lunch program increased by five percentage points in the rural areas and six percentage points in urban areas. However, the change in the participation rate varied greatly among rural regions, increasing by only one percentage point in the Delta Region and by nearly eight percentage points in the Highlands.

Statewide, the percentage of students receiving free or reduced-price lunches increased from 55.5 percent in 2007-08 to 61 percent in 2013-14.

Within regions, there was also great variation among counties. In the Delta, Greene County had the lowest participation rate of 58 percent, while Chicot, Lee and St. Francis counties had 100 percent participation. The Coastal Plains ranged from 53 percent in Cleveland County to 83 percent in Lafayette County. The Highlands ranged from 51 percent in Grant County to 76 percent in Johnson County (Figure SES7).

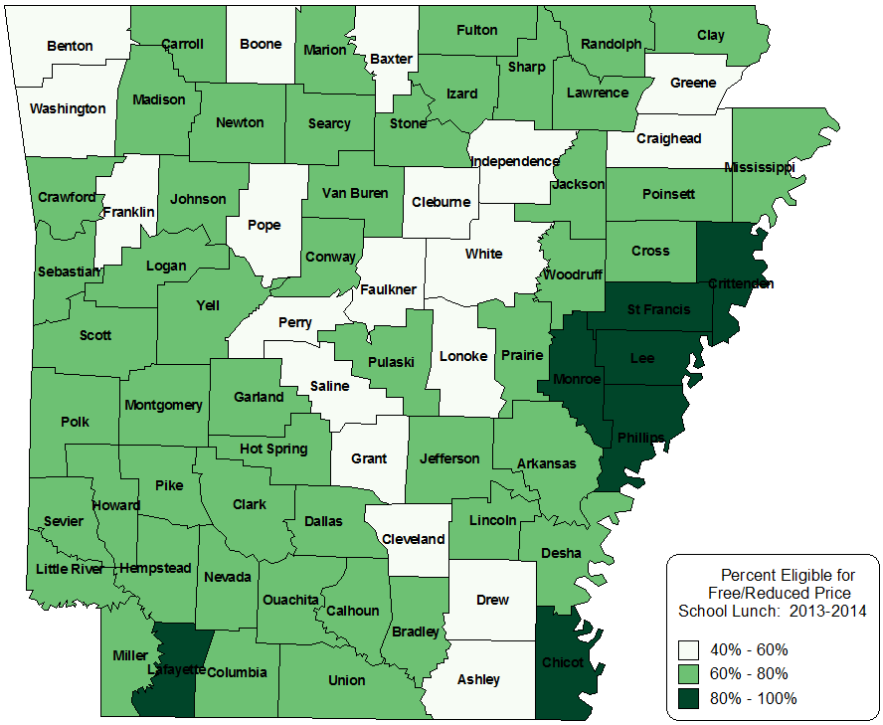
Overall, there has been a substantial increase in the number and percentage of students participating in the free and reduced-price lunch program from 2007-08 to 2013-14. In the 2013-14 school year, 30,399 more students received free or reduced-price lunch compared to 2007-08, nearly a 12 percent increase. Urban areas

Figure SES6. Percent of Enrolled Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch Programs



Source: Arkansas Department of Education

Figure SES7. Enrollment in Free or Reduced Price Lunch Program



Source: Arkansas Department of Education

experienced an increase of over 26,000 students receiving free or reduced-price lunches, a 20 percent increase. The number of students participating in the program declined somewhat in the Delta and Coastal Plains due to declining school enrollment in these regions. However, the participation rate in these two regions remains higher than in other regions of the state. The increase in the number and percentage of students receiving free or reduced price lunches in all regions of the state suggests a growing population with limited resources.

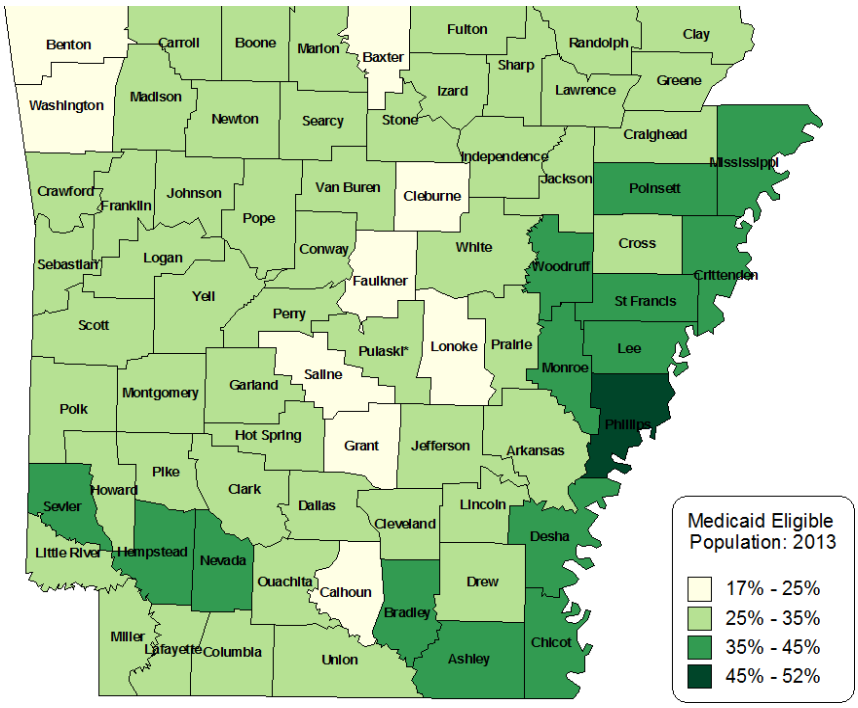
Medicaid Eligibility

Overall, 27.8 percent of Arkansas' population was eligible for Medicaid in 2012. In rural areas, nearly one-third of the population is eligible for Medicaid (31.3 percent), and that number rises to nearly 37 percent for the Delta. In Phillips County in the Delta, more than half the population qualifies for Medicaid. Twenty-eight counties, more than one-third of the state, have a rate of Medicaid eligibility that exceeds one in three. Of those 28 counties, all but two (Crittenden and Jefferson counties) are located in rural regions. People living in urban areas are eligible for Medicaid at a rate of slightly more than one in four (25.2 percent). Figure SES8 shows the concentration of Medicaid eligibility in rural areas, especially in the Delta.

ARKIDS Elgibility

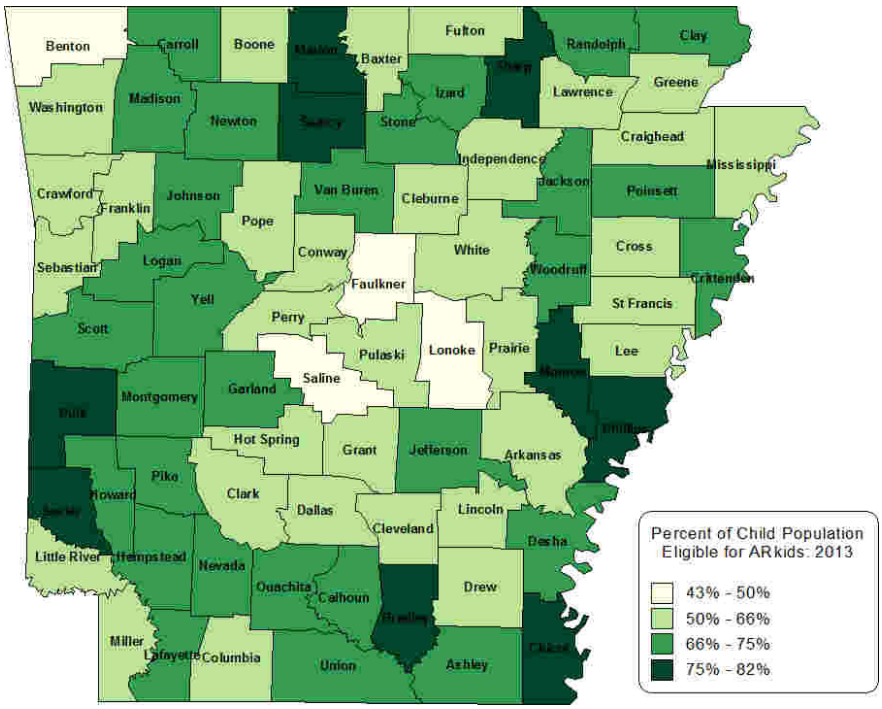
The percentages of children eligible for ARKids First in 2013 are also geographically concentrated. Seventy-one (71) of the seventy-five (75) counties in the state have over half of their child population eligible to receive ARKids First insurance.

Figure SES8. Percent of Population Medicaid Eligible



Source: Arkansas Department of Human Services

Figure SES9. Percent of Child Population Eligible for ARKids, 2012



Source: Arkansas Department of Human Services

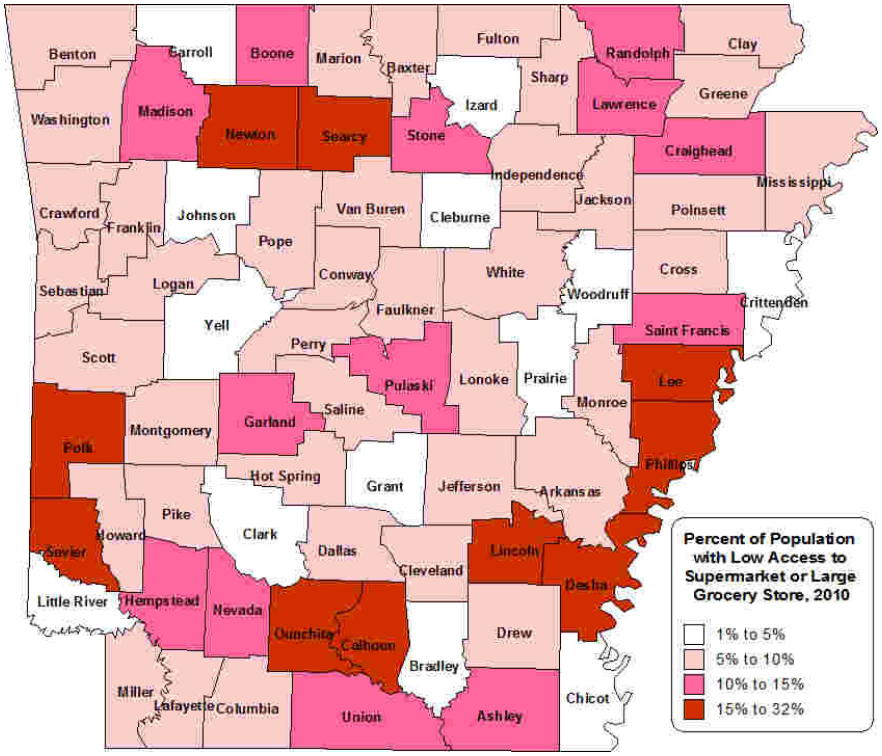
Thirty-eight (38) counties have an eligibility rate of at least two-thirds (66 percent or greater); three of the counties are urban. Bradley County in the Coastal Plains has the state's highest rate, with slightly more than eight out of ten (81.9 percent) children eligible for ARKids. Figure SES9 shows the distribution across the state of children eligible for ARKids. All of the rural regions exceed 65 percent of children eligible for ARKids, but the Delta has the highest rate with 67.9 percent compared to 54.3 percent for urban areas. Overall, the state has nearly six out of ten children (59.1 percent) eligible for ARKids First.

Food Accessibililty

Another measure of vulnerability for communities is food accessibility. Rural communities in particular may have few or no supermarkets or large grocery stores. These communities may be served only by fast food restaurants or convenience stores with limited foodstuffs. Distance to grocery stores, particularly larger stores or discount chains, may be a substantial hurdle for rural residents and especially those rural populations with limited transportation options.

The data presented in Table 5[1] (Appendix B) as well as the map (Figure SES10) of the counties provide the percentage of a county's population which is low income and more than 1 mile from a store for urban residents and the percentage that is low income and more than 10 miles from a store for rural residents. The state has an overall rate of 8.4 percent,

Figure SES10. Percent of Low-Income Population With Low Access to a Supermarket or Large Grocery Store, 2010



Source: Arkansas Department of Human Services; Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates* U.S. Census Bureau *, U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates*.
* - child population used ages 0-17.

which compares to a national rate of about 6 percent. Rural counties have about the same percentage of low-income with low access to food as do urban counties (8.8 compared to 8.1 percent). The Coastal Plains has the highest rate among the rural regions with 10.4 percent. County variation is much greater, however, ranging from a high in Calhoun County of 31.9 percent to a low of 1.6 percent in Prairie County. Three counties, all rural, have a rate greater than 20 percent.

About 5 percent of the state's total population is children who live in low-income households with low access to food, which is about the same as the national rate. This rate is actually slightly lower for rural areas at 4.3 percent. Urban areas are higher at 5.8 percent. Persons 65 and older nationally are less than 1 percent of the total population, but in Arkansas that figure is 3.0 percent. Little variation exists for access to food for low-income elders between rural and urban areas. However, in Calhoun County in the Coastal Plains, nearly one out of eight (12.2 percent) persons 65 or older are low-income with low access to food.

[1] *Low access to food* is measured by both income and distance to a large supermarket or grocery store. *Low income* is defined as having a poverty rate of at least 20 percent or the median family income is 80 percent or less of the state median family income; *distance* is defined as being more than 1 mile from a supermarket or large grocery store for urban areas and more than 10 miles distance for rural areas.

Health

Infant mortality rates (IMRs) and obesity levels are used as broad measures of the health of Arkansans. Availability of health care is measured by physicians per 100,000 people. In addition to availability of care, two other factors related to poor health outcomes are considered: increased access to health insurance and lack of a regular doctor.

Infant Mortality

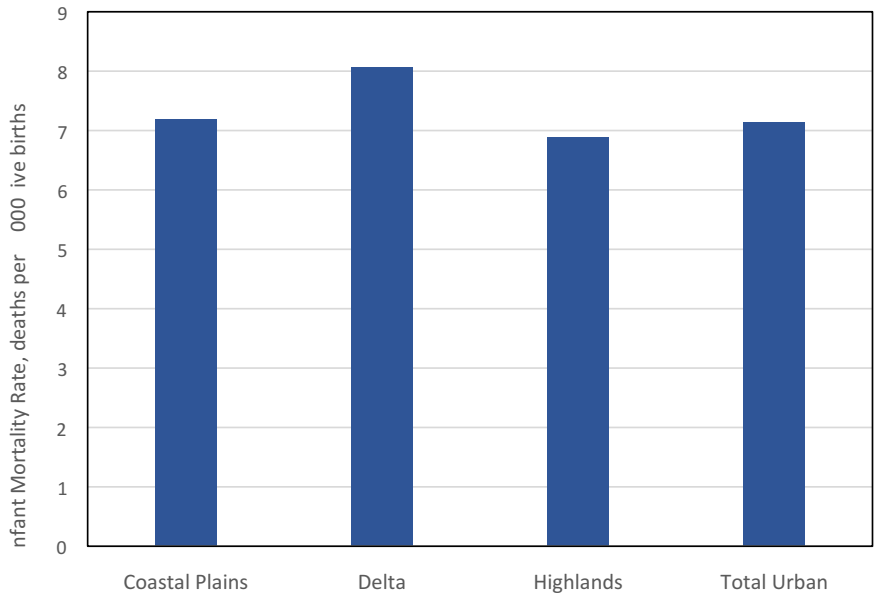
The five-year infant mortality rate[1] for Arkansas for the combined years between 2008 and 2012 was 7.2 deaths per 1,000 live births. The U.S. rate in 2008 was 6.8 deaths per 1,000 live births. Nationally, in 2010, Arkansas ranked third highest among all the states.

Eleven counties, nine of which are rural, had infant mortality rates of greater than 10 deaths per 1,000 live births.

While the state's urban and rural infant mortality rates were not substantially different, there is very notable variation between rural regions and among counties. The rural regions have a range of IMRs from a low of 6.9 in the Highlands to a high of 8.1 in the Delta (Figure H1).

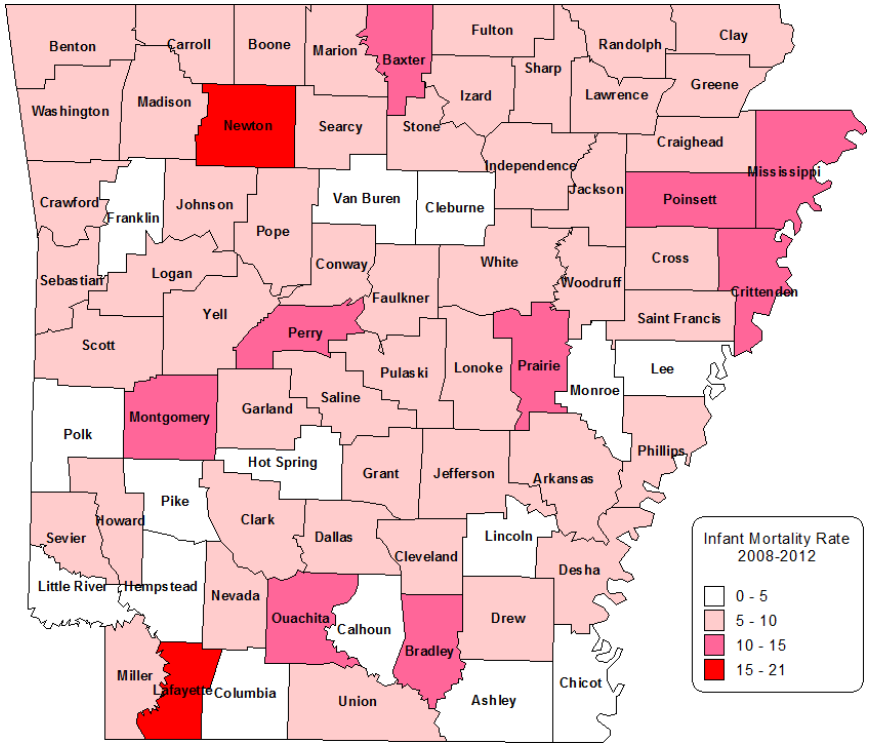
Counties display even more variation in the five-year average, ranging from a low of 0 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in Calhoun and Little River counties, to a high of 21.2 in Newton County (Figure H2). Eleven counties had IMRs of greater than 10.0, nine of which are rural counties.

Figure H1. Infant Mortality Rate, 2008-2012



Source: Arkansas Department of Health.

Figure H2. Infant Mortality Rate, 2008-2012



Source: Arkansas Department of Health.

[1]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.

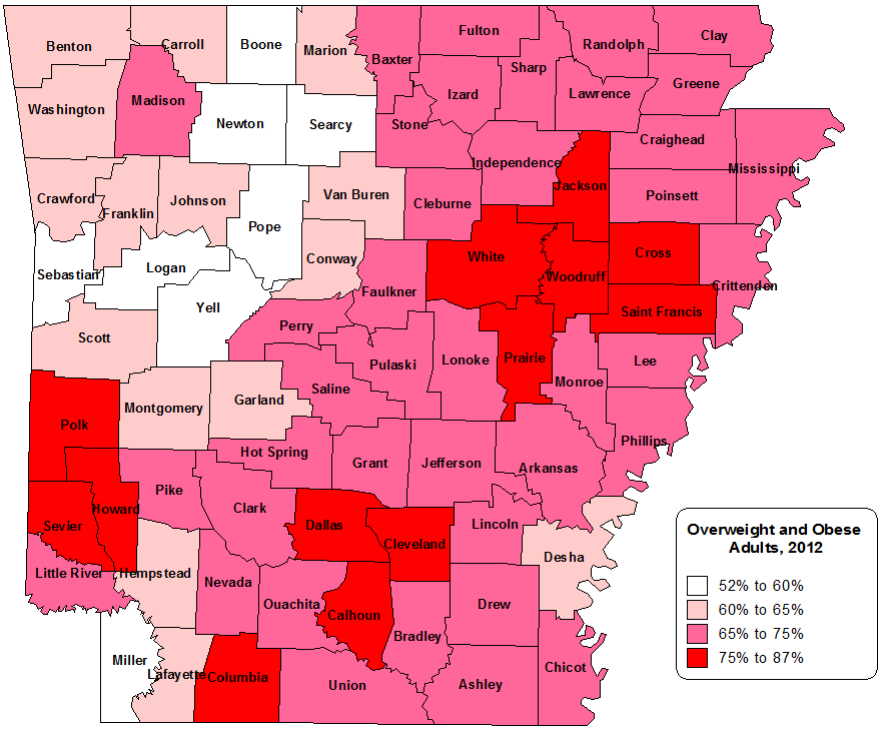
Obesity

Obesity can also be used as a measure of population health status. 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. Sixty-seven percent of the adult population in Arkansas was either overweight or obese. According to data from the National Center for Health Statistics for 2010-2012, this percentage is on par with the nation (69 percent). Every county in the state had over 50 percent of their adult population classified as overweight or obese (Figure H3). The highest rate was in Sevier County with nearly 9 out of 10 adults (86.6 percent) having a BMI of 25 or more. The lowest rate of 52.9 percent was in Pope County. Regionally, the Coastal Plains and Delta had higher percentages of overweight and obese adults at approximately 71 percent.

> Every county in the state had over 50 percent of their adult population classified as overweight or obese.

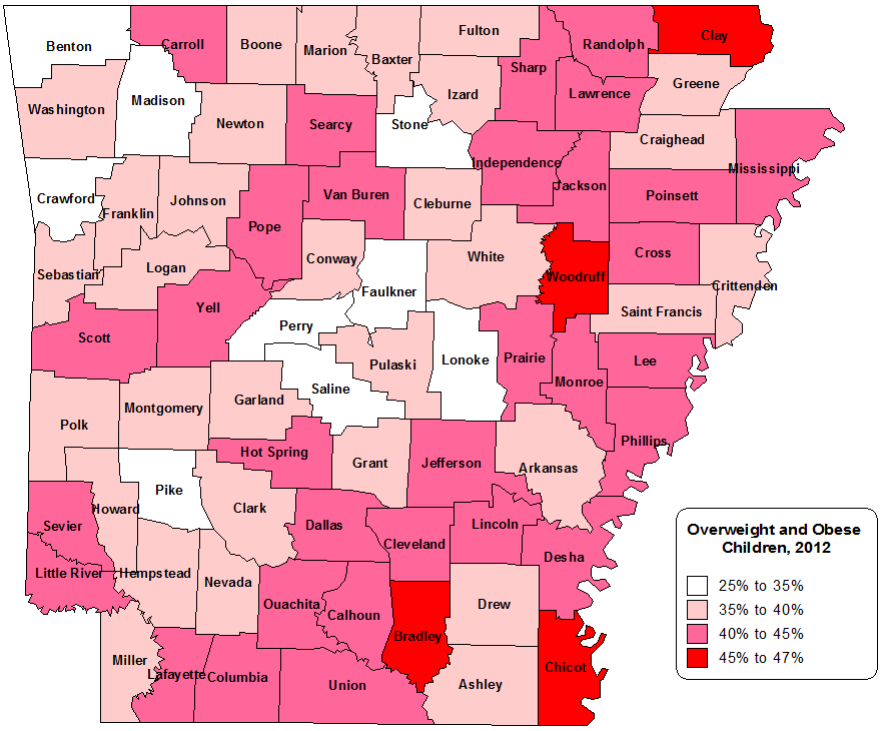
When children between the ages of 2 and 19 are considered, slightly over 39 percent were either overweight or obese. The urban counties have a slightly lower rate than the rural counties. Among the rural regions, the Highlands have the lowest rates of overweight or obese children at 38.3 percent while the Delta has the highest at 42.9 percent. These are both slightly higher than the urban rate of 36 percent. Madison County had the lowest rate of overweight or obese children at 24.7 percent, while Woodruff County had the highest at just over 46.8 percent (Figure H4).

Figure H3. Overweight and Obese Adults (Percent), 2012



Source: Arkansas Department of Health.

Figure H4. Overweight and Obese Children (Percent), 2012



Source: Arkansas Department of Health.

Health Care Availability and Access

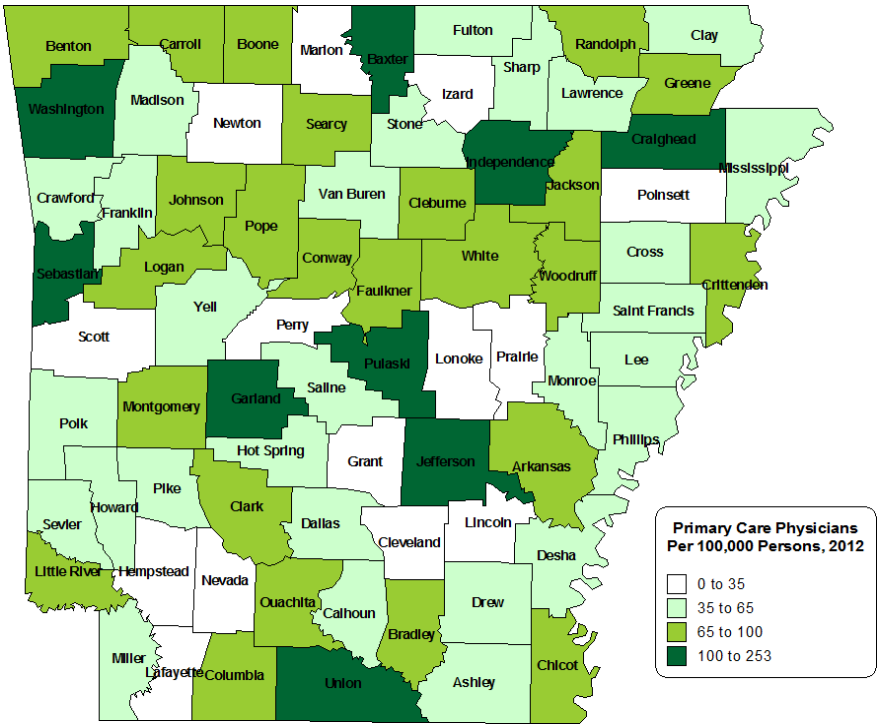
Rural residents face more challenges accessing health care services than do urban residents. This is due in part to rural areas having less availability of health care services. Overall, in 2012, the state had 107.2 primary care physicians per 100,000 people. However, this number masked substantial variations in rural and urban availability. The rural areas had 64.5 primary care physicians per 100,000 as compared to 139 per 100,000 for urban areas, a rate more than double that of the rural areas (Figure H6). These numbers also mask the regional variation in rural areas.

> In 2012, rural areas had 64.5 primary care physicians per 100,000 compared to 139 per 100,000 for urban areas.

When comparing rural regions, the Delta had the lowest number of primary care physicians per 100,000 at 52.4. The Coastal Plains had 71.2 per 100,000, and the Highlands had 67.5 per 100,000. Again, these numbers mask even greater variability between rural counties (Figure H6). Four rural counties had less than 20 primary care physicians per 100,000 including Cleveland County, which had no primary care physicians in 2012. Only three rural counties had more than 100 primary care physicians per 100,000 with Independence County having the highest number at 132.3 per 100,000.

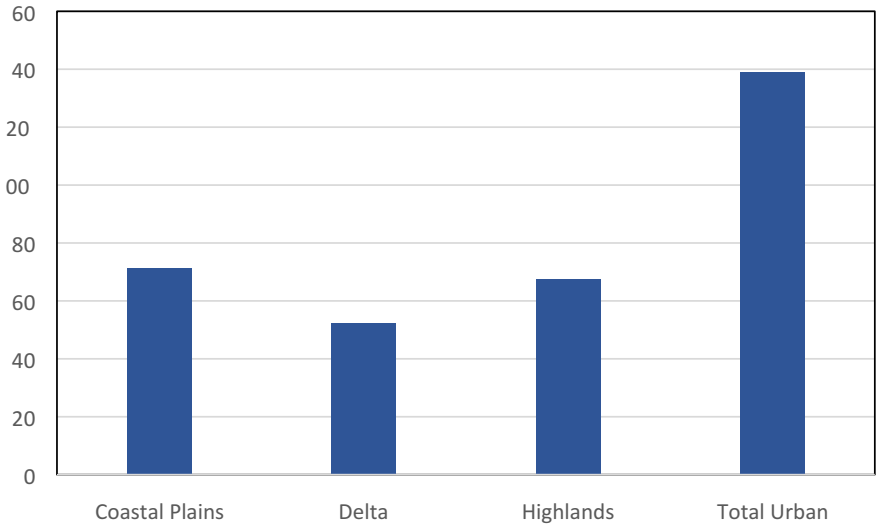
In April of 2014, Arkansas became the first state in the country to offer the "private option" under the Affordable Care Act. As it is now called, the Private Option (Health Care Independence Act) extends health care coverage to lower-income persons with the goal being to improve access to health care without expanding Medicaid. Under the current Private Option plan, subsidized insurance is available for persons with an income up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level. Statewide, as of May 31, 2014,

Figure H5. Primary Care Physicians Per 1,000 Persons, 2012



Source: Arkansas Department of Health.

Figure H6. Primary Care Physicians Per 1,000 Population, 2012



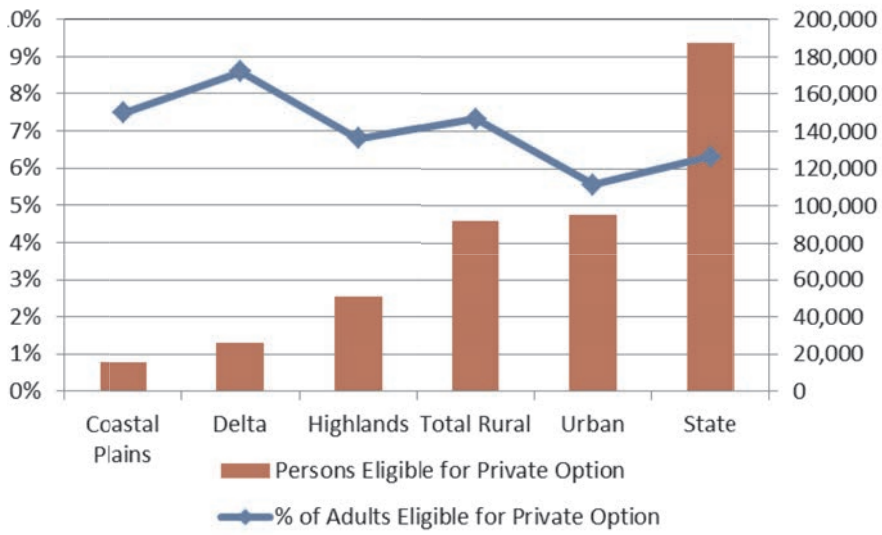
Source: Arkansas Department of Health.

6.3 percent of adults were approved to be eligible for the Private Option (Figure H7). Reflecting greater poverty of rural areas, a higher percentage of adults in rural communities, 7.3 percent, compared to urban areas, 5.6 percent, were approved eligible. In the Delta, this rate rises to 8.6 percent or about 1 in 12 adults. Five counties in the state have rates that exceed 10 percent and all of these are in the Delta. Benton County, an urban county, has the lowest rate at 3.5 percent.

Another indicator of health care access is having a regular doctor. Persons without a regular doctor often have inconsistent medical attention and might receive conflicting treatment or prescriptions because the practitioner may not have complete or accurate patient information.

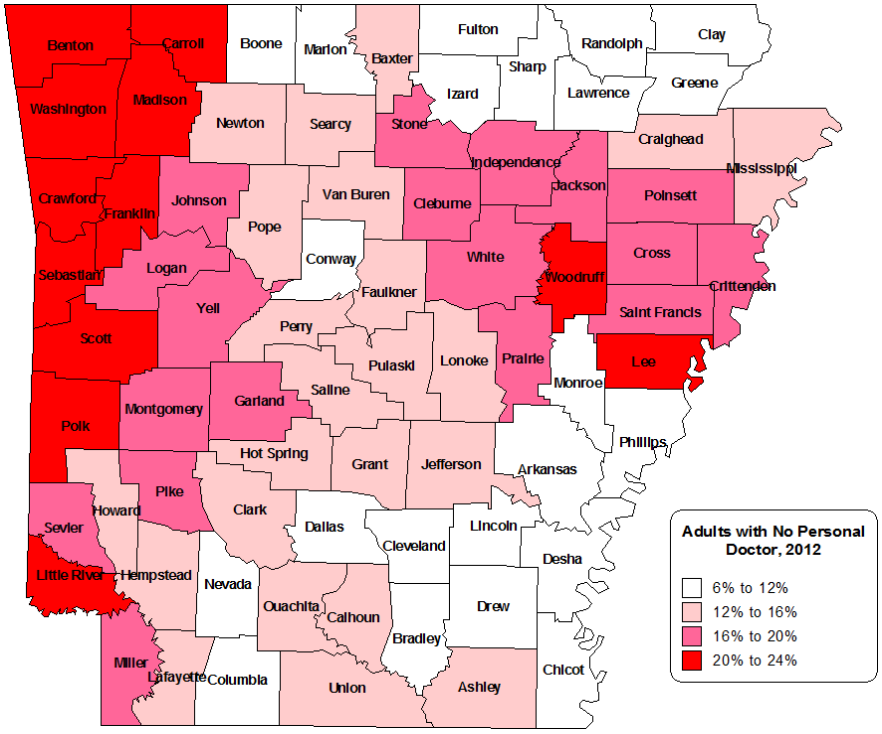
Approximately 16 percent of adults in Arkansas had no personal doctor in 2012. In this measure of health care availability, rural counties fared slightly better than urban counties. The percent of adults with no personal doctor in rural areas was 14.6 percent, whereas in urban areas it was almost 18 percent (Figure H8). Among the rural regions, the Coastal Plains had the lowest rate at 12.9 percent and the Highlands had the highest rate at 15.6 percent. Counties ranged from a low of just over 6 percent in Drew County to a high of just over 23 percent in Crawford County. Twelve counties, eight of which are rural and five in the Highlands, reported 20 percent or more of adults do not have a personal doctor.

Figure H7. Total Persons Eligible for Private Option Health Insurance: June 1, 2014



Source: Arkansas Department of Human Services.

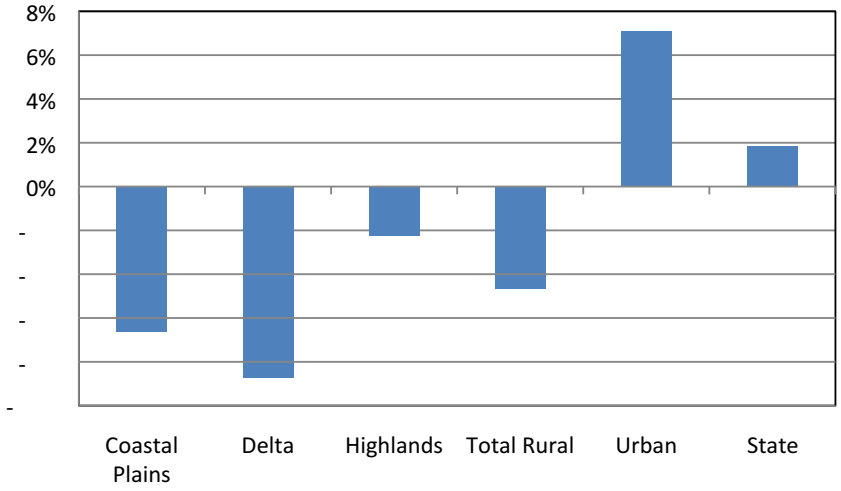
Figure H8. Adults With No Personal Doctor (Percent), 2012



Source: Arkansas Department of Health.

People are the state's greatest resource, and the social and economic value of a well-educated population cannot be overstated. Investment in education provides benefits for individuals, communities and the state. Some of these benefits include a more skilled, versatile and employable workforce, lower poverty rates and the ability to participate in civil society. Therefore, it is vital that both children and adults in Arkansas have access to a high-quality education from pre-K to community and four-year colleges.

Figure ED1. Percent Change in Public School Enrollment, 2007-2008 to 2013-2014



Source: Arkansas Department of Education.

Public School Enrollment, K-12

The continuing migration of people from rural to urban areas of the state makes it more difficult for many rural communities to support and maintain schools that provide comparable opportunities for their students as ones found in urban school districts. While enrollment in Arkansas public schools increased by 1.8 percent between the 2007-08 and 2013-14 school years, change in enrollment varied greatly between rural and urban areas. This pattern reflects both outmigration from rural areas as well as the aging population in rural areas (Figure ED1).

Enrollment declined in all rural regions, with the Delta seeing an 8.7 percent decline, followed by the Coastal Plains with a 6.7 percent decline and the Highlands with only a slight decline of 2.3 percent. Although enrollment increased on average in urban areas, it decreased in Jefferson, Crittenden and Crawford counties. Of the urban counties where public school enrollment increased, four grew over 10 percent: Saline, Benton, Washington and Craighead.

As rural school districts continue to shrink, some are being consolidated into larger districts. Sometimes this results in rural children being bused long distances to attend school. Consolidation of smaller, rural schools can cause further strain on rural communities as the jobs associated with the schools are either lost or transferred to larger districts. School consolidation can also result in the loss of a sense of identity for smaller communities as, historically, the local school often served as a gathering place and site of social interactions for the entire community.

Educational Attainment

It is well known and often reported that Arkansans are less likely to have completed college compared to the rest of the U.S. population. It is less often reported that Arkansans are also less likely to have completed high school and two-year degrees. While there has been a general trend upward in educational attainment in Arkansas, the state still ranked 44th nationally in 2010 in the percentage of adults age 25 and older with high school diplomas and 49th in the percentage of people with college degrees.

Rural Arkansans were less likely to have either a high school diploma or college degree than urban Arkansans, although a similar percent of rural and urban residents have an associate's degree. Nearly 86 percent of urban residents in the state had a high school diploma compared to 80 percent of rural residents (Figure ED2). Only 14 percent of rural residents had college degrees compared to 25 percent of urban residents. An associate's degree was the highest level of education for slightly under 6 percent of rural residents 25 and older compared to slightly over 6 percent of urban residents.

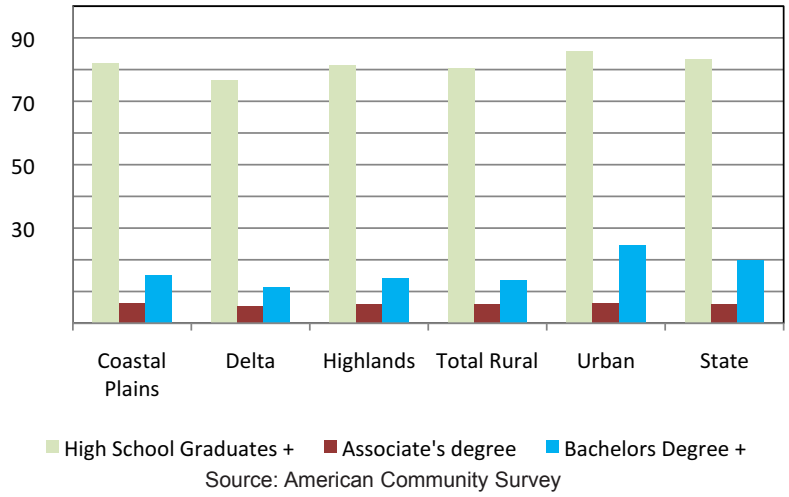
Rural Arkansas is even further behind when compared to the nation. Nationwide, nearly 31 percent of adults in 2010 had a college degree compared with only 14 percent in rural Arkansas. Likewise, an associate's degree was the highest educational attainment for 6 percent of adults in rural Arkansas compared to over 9 percent nationally.

College-Going Rates

The college-going rate in Arkansas increased from about 48 percent in 2007 to 53 percent

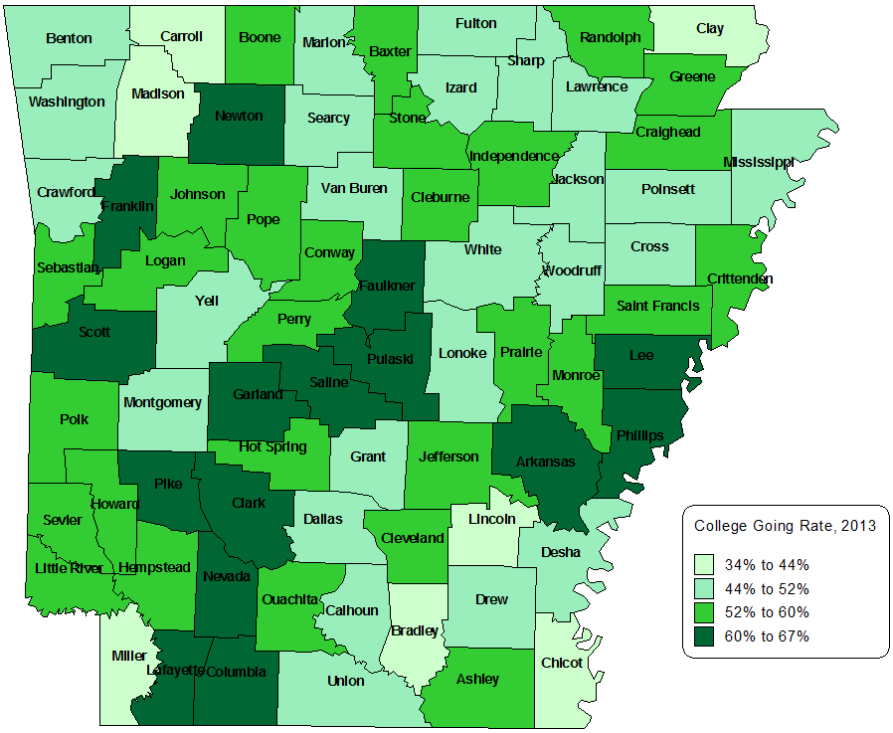
in 2012. Despite increasing college-going rates, Arkansas was still below the national rate of approximately 68 percent in 2012. There was little difference in college-going rates between rural and urban regions or among rural regions of the state. However, there were differences among counties (Figure ED3). Clay County experienced the lowest college-going rate of 34 percent, while Phillips County had the highest rate of 67 percent. Two-thirds of Arkansas counties had college-going rates at 50 percent and above.

Figure ED2. Educational Attainment of Population 25 Years of Age and Older



Source: American Community Survey

Figure ED3. College-Going Rate of 2012-2013 High School Graduates



Source: Arkansas Department of Higher Education

In 2012, 33 percent of high school graduates enrolled in four-year universities, 18 percent went to two-year colleges and about 2 percent to private/independent schools. While the college-going rate to four-year universities in Arkansas in only slightly below the national average, the percent of students going to two-year colleges is substantially below the national average of nearly 30 percent.

STEM Education

It is noteworthy that the number of STEM-related enrollment and degrees given increased from 2009 to 2013 at Arkansas higher education institutions. However, the increase in enrollment occurred at four-year institutions, not community colleges in rural Arkansas. At four-year universities STEM enrollment increased 41 percent during this four-year period compared to a slight decline at community colleges. The community colleges had 15 percent of the higher education students enrolled in STEM programs in 2009 compared to only 11 percent in 2013. Within rural regions, the Highlands had the largest number of students in STEM, whereas the Delta had the smallest. Also, enrollment in Highlands' institutions had been increasing since 2009, while declining in the Delta region.

Despite increasing college-going rates, Arkansas was still below the national rate of approximately 68 percent in 2012.

While most agree that a good education is key to individual well-being and for the state to be competitive in a global economy, it remains a challenge to continue to upgrade skills and access to a good quality education in rural areas of Arkansas.

Social and Economic Vulnerability

Arkansas' unique and varied ecology makes the state vulnerable to many natural disasters including floods and tornados as well as ice, hail and windstorms. The impacts of these natural disasters are far-reaching and place stress on the social, economic, environmental and governmental fabric of the state.

While natural disasters can and do affect everyone, the impacts are often most strongly felt by low-income, elderly and other disadvantaged populations. Awareness of vulnerability to disasters at the local level is crucial in preparing for and responding to natural disasters.

It is recognized that the underlying dimensions that dictate social vulnerability of a local area are (1) poverty, (2) a disproportionately high number of children and elderly, (3) a dense-built environment and poorly built homes, (4) single-sector economic dependence, (5) ethnically and racially marginalized populations, (6) a high percentage of lower wage service jobs and (7) a high dependence on infrastructure. Researchers have combined these measures into a Social Vulnerability Index (SoVI™)[1].

Because of geographic isolation and limited resources, rural areas tend to be more vulnerable to the negative outcomes of disasters. Some of these negative outcomes include the lack of capital to evacuate, a lack of economic resources for preparing response and recovery activities, and challenges in seeking assistance after a disaster due to limited language skills or a lack of education.

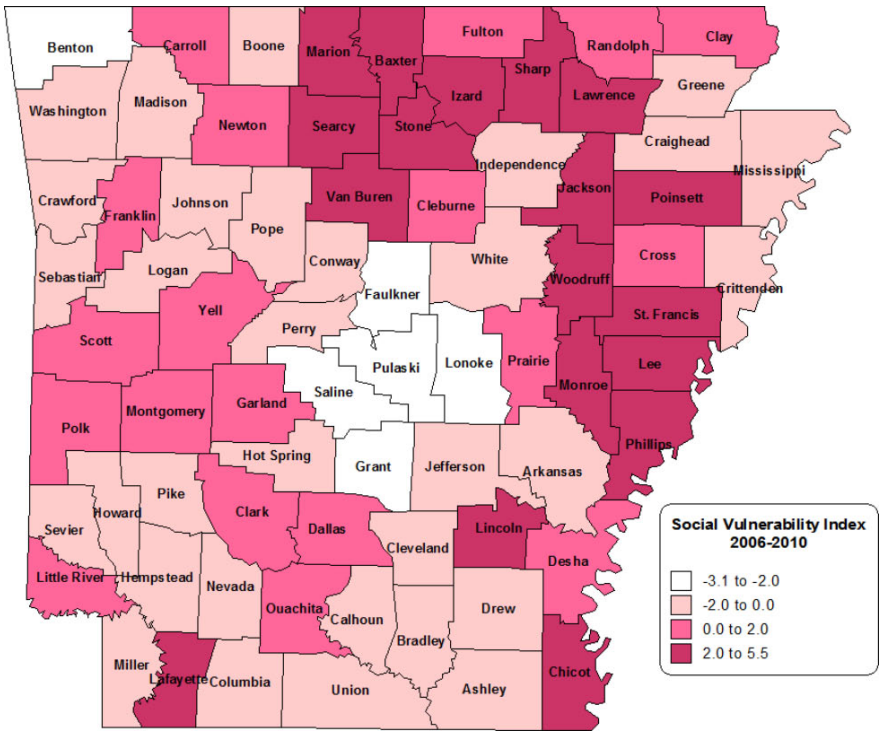
In the United States, the SoVI county scores ranged from a low of -10.7 (very low social vulnerability) to a high of 12.8 (very high social vulnerability) with a median score of -0.03[2] as computed for the five-year period 2006-2010. As a state, Arkansas had a mean SoVI score of 0.72, which indicates the state was slightly more vulnerable than most of the country.

While natural disasters can and do affect everyone, the impacts are often most strongly felt by low-income, elderly and other disadvantaged populations.

Within the state, there was disparity in the level of social vulnerability between rural and urban counties. Rural counties had a SoVI score of 1.17 compared with a SoVI score of -1.45 for urban counties, meaning on average, rural counties were more vulnerable than urban ones.

Between rural regions, the scores varied from a high of 2.22 in the Delta to a low of 0.37 in the Coastal Plains and 0.96 in the Highlands. Among rural counties, the SoVI scores ranged from a low of -2.79 (Grant) to a high of 5.49 (Chicot) (Figure SEV1). Seven counties, six of them urban, ranked in the bottom 20 percent of the nation, indicating low social vulnerability. Eighteen counties, all rural and half in the Delta, ranked in the top

Figure SEV1. Social Vulnerability Index, 2006-2010



Source: Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute, University of South Carolina.

[1]Cutter, Susan L. 1996. Vulnerability to environmental hazards. *Progress in Human Geography* 20(4):529-39.

[2]The SoVI index is scored so that lower numbers are less vulnerable and higher numbers indicate greater social vulnerability. Negative numbers, then, indicate less vulnerability than positive numbers.

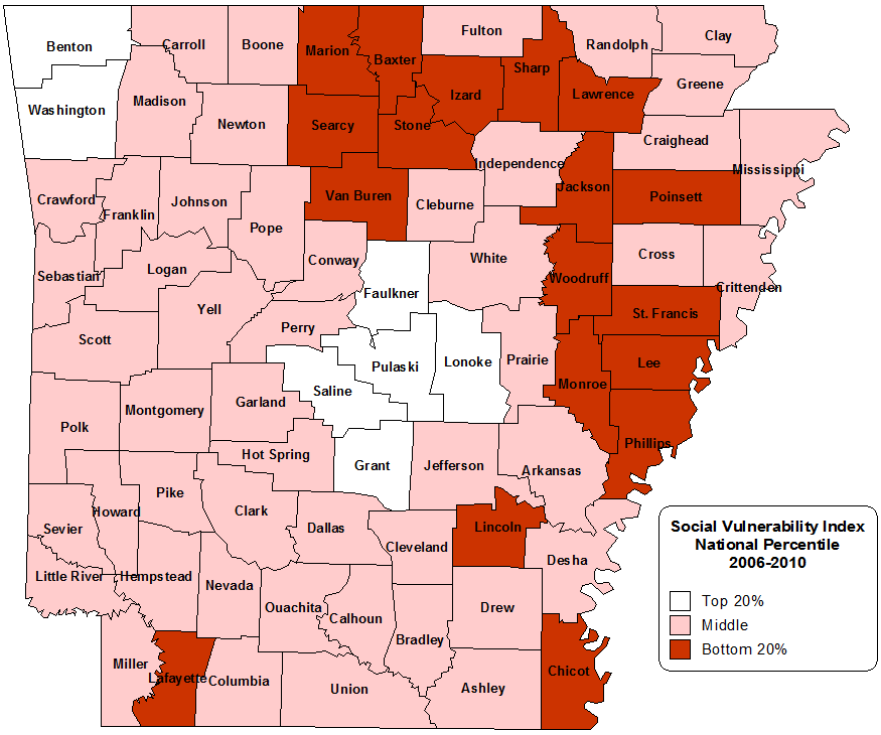
Social and Economic Vulnerability

20 percent nationally of socially vulnerable counties (Figure SEV2).

These measures of vulnerability are important when assessing the risk for Arkansans in the face of natural disasters and global economic change. One critical factor affecting the economic vulnerability of populations is access to high-speed internet service. In 2010, Arkansas ranked 11th among states in proportion of the rural population without access to fixed broadband with speeds equal to or greater than 768 kbps/200 kbps. In Arkansas, 21.1 percent of the rural population did not have access to fixed broadband at these slow download and upload speeds compared to a national average of 17.8 percent. Nearly 45 percent of Arkansas's rural population did not have access to fixed broadband at faster speeds of 6 mbps/1.5 mbps (Figure SEV3).

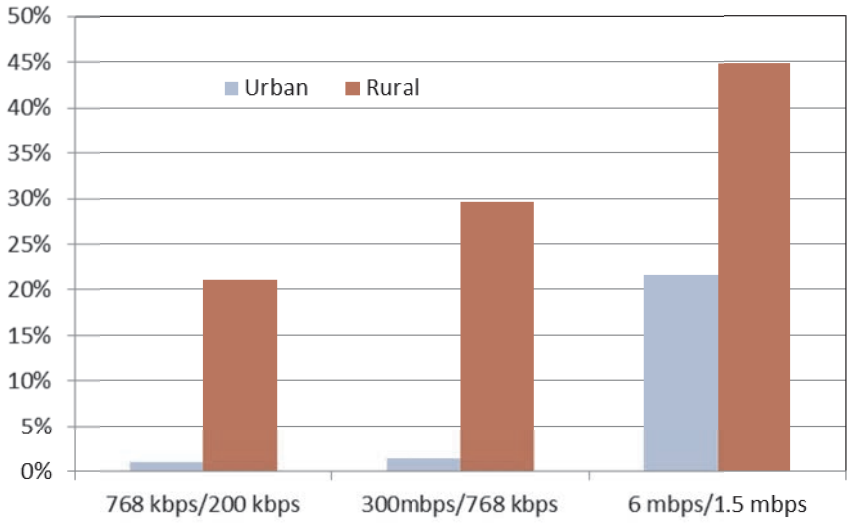
Access to fixed broadband varies greatly between urban and rural areas in Arkansas. Twenty-one percent of the rural population compared to only 1.1 percent of urban residents did not have access to even slow fixed broadband speeds (Figure SEV3). Likewise, only 21.6 percent of urban residents did not have access to fixed broadband speeds of 6 mbps/1.5 mbps compared to 44.8 percent of rural residents.

Figure SEV2. Social Vulnerability Index, National Percentile, 2006-2010



Source: Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute, University of South Carolina.

Figure SEV3. Proportion of Rural and Urban Populations in Arkansas Without Access to Fixed Broadband, 2010



Source: Federal Communications Commission.

Local Government

Many local governments in rural Arkansas are finding it more difficult to provide the infrastructure and services demanded by local citizens and businesses. Continuing outmigration of people and businesses from rural areas is making it more difficult to raise the revenue needed to maintain, let alone enhance, the infrastructure and services needed to encourage growth in the local economy.

Although there has been a large outmigration of people from rural to urban areas, approximately 44 percent of people living in Arkansas still reside in unincorporated areas or towns of less than 2,500. Nearly 750,000 people or 25 percent of Arkansas' population lived in rural counties in 2013. This places an unusually heavy burden on rural county and town governments.

The rural areas of the state were hit harder by the recession and are recovering slower than most urban areas. Therefore, it is not surprising that many rural counties received less revenue from their sales and/or property tax in 2012 than in 2007. Many of the changes in rural areas, although accelerated by the recession, are due to long-term structural changes which have resulted in a decline of the local tax base. Therefore, the ability to generate revenue from local sources, primarily the property and sales tax, has declined in many rural counties. However, the ability to raise revenue from these sources varied greatly among the regions and counties in the state.

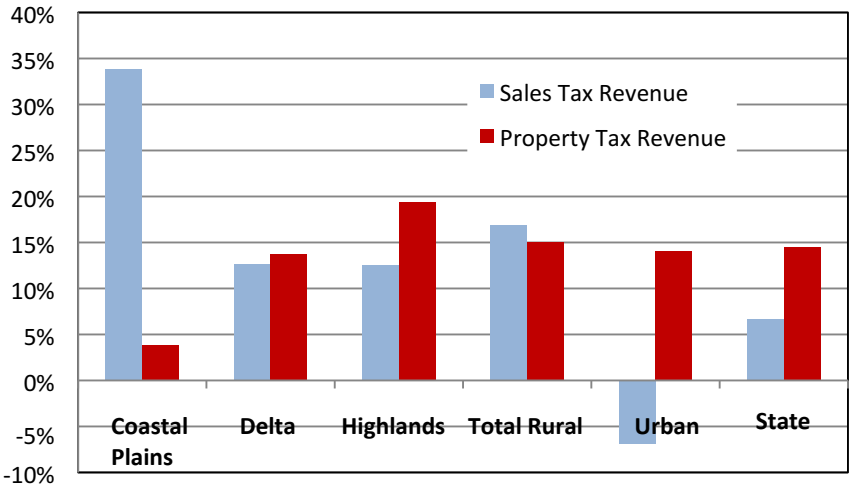
Revenue generated by county governments from the property and sales taxes increased 14.5 percent and 6.7 percent, respectively, statewide from 2007 to 2012. All four regions of the state had increased revenue from the property tax, ranging from 4 percent in the Delta to 19 percent in the Highlands. The rural regions had an average increase of 15 percent compared to 14 percent in urban counties. The major difference among regions was the small increase in property tax revenue in the Delta compared to the large increase in the Highlands, due largely to the increase in revenue from natural gas assessments. However, these regional increases mask the reality that many rural and some urban counties received less revenue from these local revenue sources (Figure LG1).

While all regions saw increases in property tax revenue, 22 counties, 20 of which are rural, received less revenue from this source in 2012 than in 2007. Approximately one-third of rural counties in each of the three regions received less revenue from the property tax in 2012 compared to 2007.

Not surprisingly, due to the recession and a reduction in consumer spending, more counties lost revenue from the sales tax between 2007 and 2012 than from the property tax. Statewide revenue from the sales tax going to county governments increased 6.7 percent, although this varied greatly among regions and counties in the state. All three rural regions had an increase in sales tax revenue ranging from about 12.5 percent in the Delta and Highlands to nearly 34 percent in the Coastal Plains compared to an average decline of nearly 7 percent in the urban counties. Much of this increase in sales tax revenue was due to increases in the county sales tax rates as 22 counties increased their rates between the December 2006 and 2012. Despite these regional increases, 23 rural and 8 urban counties had less revenue from the sales tax in 2012 compared to 2007.

The tax base on which county governments generate their local property and sales tax revenue is also changing. Although property

Figure LG1. Change in County Government Revenue from the Property and Sales Taxes, 2007 to 2012



Source: Computed from Legislative Audit Reports, Bureau of Legislative Audit.

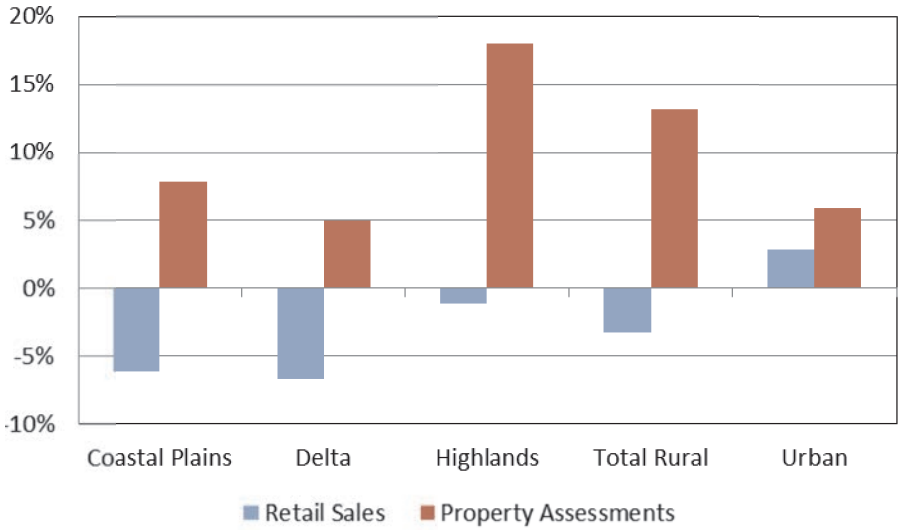
assessments on which property tax revenue is generated increased in all regions from 2007 to 2013, it decreased in 17 counties (Figure LG2). Fourteen of these counties are in the Coastal Plains and Delta regions (Figure LG3). The sales tax base, as estimated by retail sales, decreased in all rural regions of the state between 2007 and 2013 and declined in 66 of the 75 Arkansas counties.

Statewide property assessments increased nearly 9 percent from 2007 to 2013. Although property assessments increased a higher percentage in the rural regions (13 percent) compared to urban areas (6 percent), only a few rural counties benefitted from the increased assessments due primarily from the extraction of natural gas. Property assessments in the Highlands grew by 18 percent during this period compared with growth of nearly 8 percent in the Coastal Plains and slightly less than 5 percent in the Delta. The Highlands region includes four counties with significant natural gas extraction: Cleburne, Conway, Van Buren and White. These four counties accounted for 35 percent of the total gross statewide increase in property assessments, nearly 60 percent of the increase in the rural counties and 76 percent of the increase in the Highlands.

The difference among counties was even greater, ranging from a decline of 17 percent in Little River County to an increase of 261 percent in Van Buren County. Seventeen counties, most of which are in the Delta and Coastal Plains, experienced a decline in their property assessments, reducing their ability to generate local revenue from the property tax.

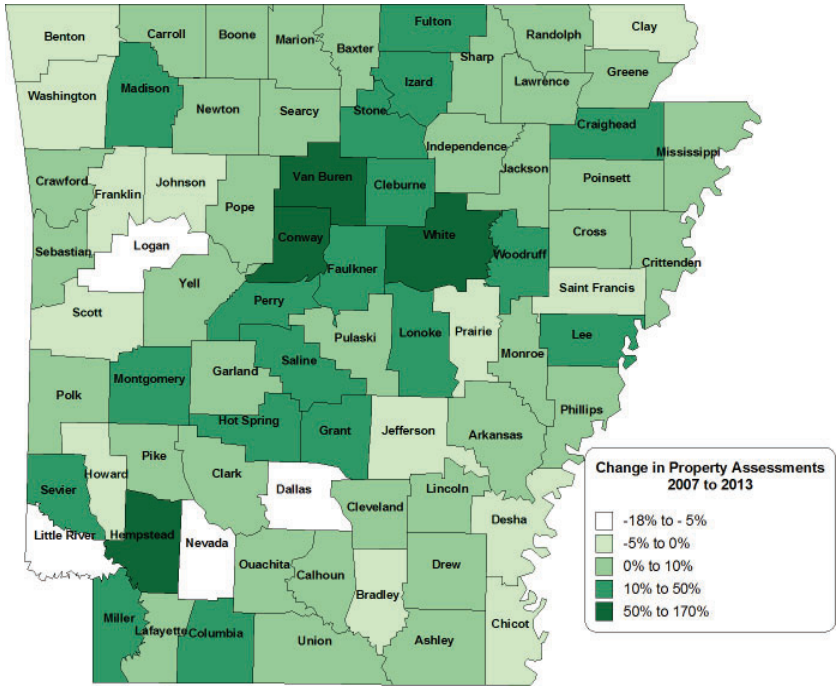
Using per capita assessed value of property as an indicator of the capacity to raise property tax revenue, we find differences among and within regions in 2013 (Figure LG4). Urban areas ($15,642) had somewhat greater capacity than rural areas ($14,073) to generate revenue from the property tax. Of the rural regions, the Coastal

Figure LG2. Changes in Retail Sales and Property Assessments, 2007 to 2013



Source: Woods and Poole Economics; Arkansas Assessment Coordination Department; Population Estimates,U.S.Census Bureau.

Figure LG3. Change in Assessed Value of Property, 2007-2013



Source: Computed from Total Property Assessments, Arkansas Assessment Coordination Department.

Plains ($14,888) and the Highlands ($14,533) had the highest assessed value per capita while the Delta ($12,363) had the lowest.

However, the greatest variation in 2013 per capita assessed value was among counties, ranging from $8,253 in Lincoln County to $37,863 in Van Buren County (Figure LG5). Per capita property assessments increased dramatically in counties with natural gas extraction. Three rural counties which benefited from natural gas extraction are Conway, Cleburne and Van Buren. These three counties had the highest per capita property assessments in the state in 2013.

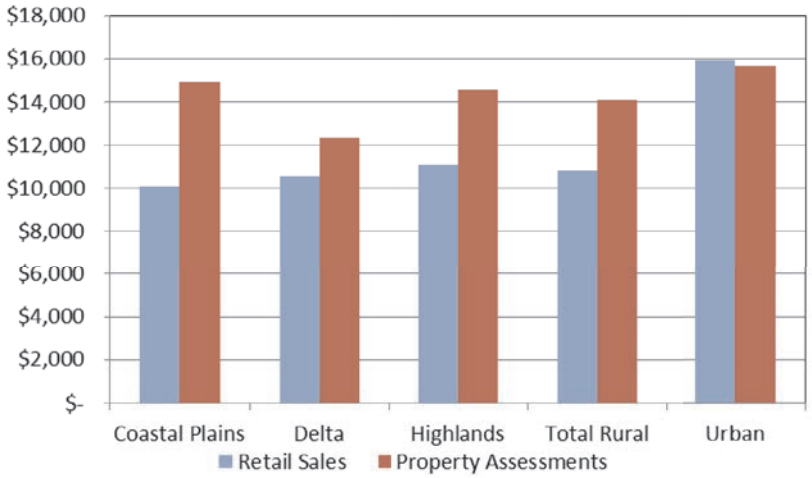
The property tax effort as measured by county government millage varied only slightly among regions but varied substantially among counties. There was no major difference in average county millage between the rural and urban areas of the state. However, the Delta region had the highest average county millage (8.51) followed by the Coastal Plains (7.55). The Highlands had the lowest average county government millage of the four regions (7.27). What is most striking is that the Delta had the lowest capacity but the highest effort (millage) to generate revenue from the property tax.

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 2010, Arkansas ranked 49th in total property tax revenue collected per capita ($598). For the same fiscal year, the nation's average was $1,434. The trend in Arkansas is to raise more revenue from the sales tax.

Sales Tax Base

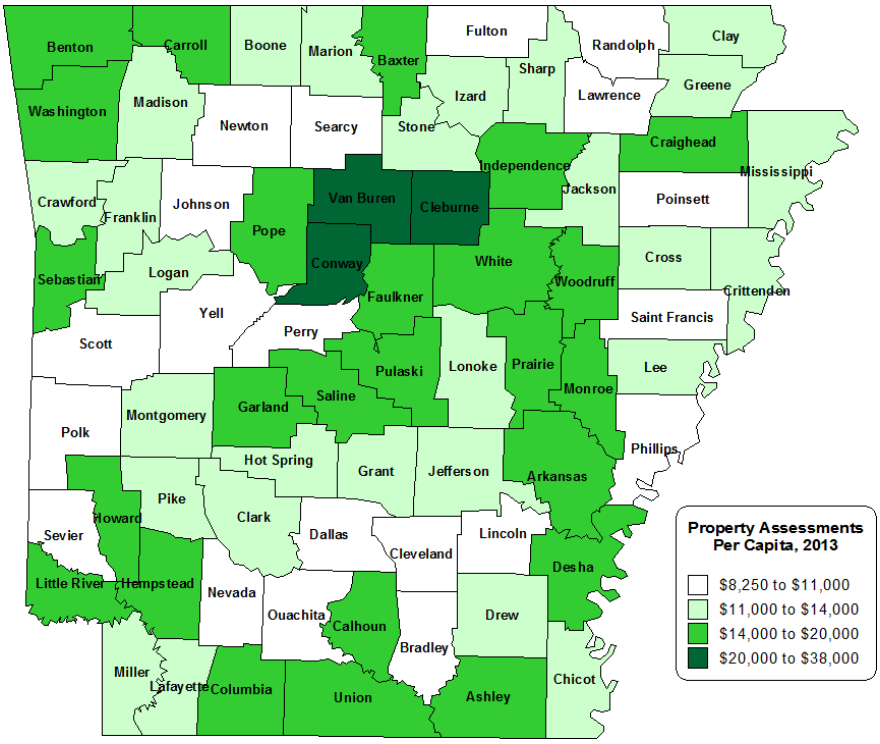
Many of the same counties that are experiencing a decline in their property tax base are also experiencing a decline in their sales tax base. The rural counties in particular had declining sales tax base on which to generate local revenue. While the state had a slight increase in retail sales (0.7 percent) from 2007 to 2013, all

Figure LG4. Per Capita Retail Sales and Per Capita Property Assessments, 2013



Source: Woods and Poole Economics; Arkansas Assessment Coordination Department; Population Estimates,U.S.Census Bureau.

Figure LG5. Property Assessments Per Capita, 2013



Source: 2012 Arkansas Assessment Coordination Department and 2013 Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau.

three rural regions had declining sales ranging from 1.1 percent in the Highlands to 6.7 percent in the Delta (Figure LG2). Urban counties saw an average increase of approximately 2.8 percent during this period.

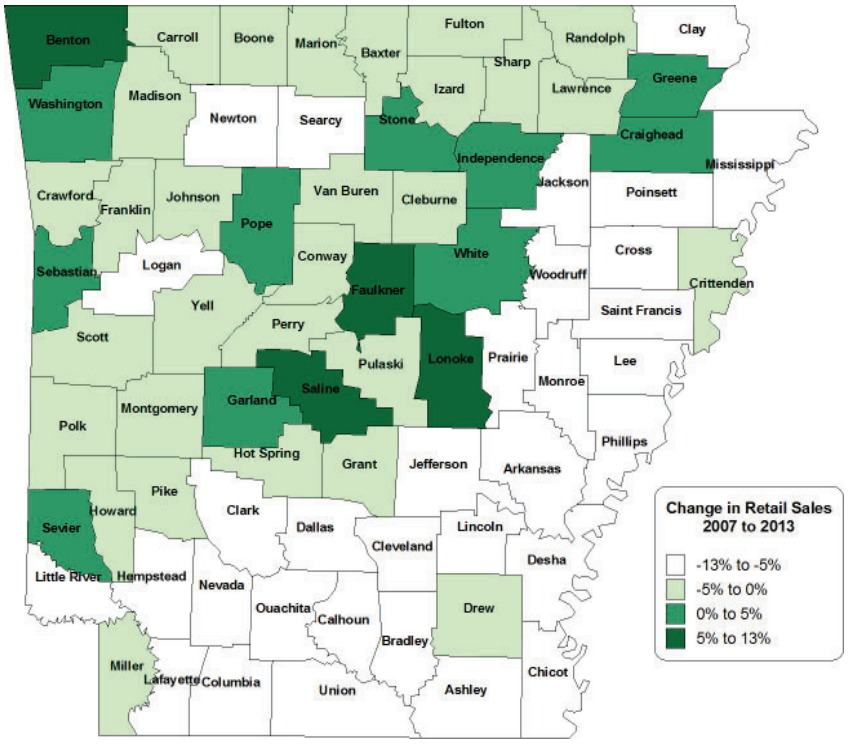
Fifty-six of the 61 counties experiencing a decline in their sales tax base from 2007 to 2013 were rural counties. Only five rural counties experienced an increase in their sales tax base during this period (Figure LG6).

The sales tax revenue-generating capacity, as measured by per capita retail sales, varied greatly between rural and urban regions of the state (Figure LG4). The rural regions of the state had considerably lower per capita retail sales ($10,802) than urban areas ($15,892). The three rural regions did not vary greatly in their average per capita retail sales. However, there was great variation in per capita retail sales among counties, ranging from $1,642 in Cleveland County to $19,534 in Pulaski County.

Not only was there a large difference in per capita retail sales between rural and urban regions of the state, but the difference was getting larger between rural and urban regions. Per capita retail sales declined by an average 2.5 percent in rural counties compared to an increase of 4.5 percent in urban counties from 2007 to 2013.

Because of the growing disparity in the local tax base, there is a widening gap in the ability of local governments to generate revenue to pay for local infrastructure and services. While the recent economic recession may have exacerbated the decline in the local tax base for many rural counties, structural changes in the rural economies require counties to identify new ways to provide for the infrastructure and service needs of businesses and residents their communities.

Figure LG6. Change in Retail Sales, 2007-2013



Source: Estimated Retail Sales from Woods and Poole Economics and CPI--South Urban from Bureau of Labor Statistics

Appendix A. The Measurement of Metropolitan, Micropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Areas

In 2000, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) revised and replaced the 1990 Metropolitan Area (MA) standards with the Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA) standards, effective in 2003.

Most of the criteria for the central counties of metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) were retained with the new standards, plus urban clusters can now be used for identifying MSAs. Most of the previous criteria for outlying counties – population density, total county population, percent urban and urban growth rates – were dropped with the new CBSA standards. Outlying counties are now added to a metropolitan statistical area if 25 percent or more of their workers commute to a neighboring central county, or if 25 percent or more of the workforce in an outlying county commutes from a central county.

The OMB also added a new area classification called the "micropolitan statistical area" that subdivides the nonmetropolitan category. Nonmetropolitan counties are classified as "micropolitan" if they have an urban cluster of 10,000 to 49,999 persons. As with metropolitan areas, adjacent counties are added to the micropolitan area on the basis of 25 percent commuting ties.

In 2003, the OMB released a list of the newly defined metropolitan and micropolitan counties based on the 2000 CBSA standards. In applying the OMB's new standards in Arkansas, eight counties changed from nonmetropolitan status to metropolitan status. Eighteen new micropolitan counties were also defined.

The definition of urban and rural counties in this publication is based on the long-standing metropolitan and nonmetropolitan definitions, with ongoing review of changes in population, population density and commuting patterns. We also use a more broad definition of "rural" to include similar history, physical setting, settlement patterns, culture and economic activity as well.

We provide the CBSA definitions here for those who may encounter them in other research or publications.

Appendix B. Table 1. Population

County Name	Population 2010	Population 2013	% Population Change 2010-2013	Natural Increase/ Decrease Per 1,000 Population 2012-2013	Net Migration Rate Per 1,000 Population 2012-2013	Aged 19 and Under 2013	Aged 65 and Over 2013	Aged 75 and Over 2013	Median Age 2013	Dependency Rate Per 100 Population 2013
Arkansas	19,019	18,777	-1.3%	1.5	-10.1	25.4%	17.0%	7.7%	40.7	67.0
Ashley	21,853	21,283	-2.6%	1.2	-12.0	25.9%	17.7%	7.2%	41.3	70.5
Baxter	41,513	40,957	-1.3%	-7.9	4.5	19.7%	29.6%	13.2%	51.5	91.0
Benton	221,339	237,297	7.2%	7.6	11.4	29.5%	12.8%	5.5%	35.1	66.8
Boone	36,903	37,396	1.3%	1.0	0.4	24.8%	19.3%	8.5%	42.1	72.2
Bradley	11,508	11,249	-2.3%	0.3	-8.4	25.4%	18.1%	8.2%	41	71.0
Calhoun	5,368	5,241	-2.4%	0.6	-11.4	20.1%	19.4%	8.7%	45.6	59.2
Carroll	27,446	27,808	1.3%	1.5	6.1	24.4%	20.3%	8.1%	44.1	74.8
Chicot	11,800	11,335	-3.9%	-1.2	-8.7	25.3%	18.8%	9.1%	42.2	72.5
Clark	22,995	22,743	-1.1%	0.2	-3.8	26.4%	15.6%	7.1%	33.3	54.1
Clay	16,083	15,402	-4.2%	-4.0	-7.6	23.3%	21.0%	9.2%	44.1	73.1
Cleburne	25,970	25,686	-1.1%	-4.3	-0.9	21.5%	24.9%	10.9%	47.9	80.3
Cleveland	8,689	8,593	-1.1%	2.7	-8.6	25.9%	18.4%	7.9%	41.9	72.7
Columbia	24,552	24,164	-1.6%	0.0	-7.7	27.2%	16.4%	7.8%	36.1	61.7
Conway	21,273	21,245	-0.1%	2.4	-2.4	25.4%	18.0%	8.0%	41.4	70.4
Craighead	96,443	101,488	5.2%	5.4	9.6	28.1%	12.8%	5.4%	33.7	60.5
Crawford	61,948	61,640	-0.5%	2.8	-7.6	27.6%	14.8%	5.9%	38.6	67.0
Crittenden	50,902	49,746	-2.3%	6.3	-12.1	30.7%	11.8%	4.7%	34.7	66.5
Cross	17,870	17,548	-1.8%	1.5	-9.7	27.0%	16.9%	6.9%	39.9	70.7
Dallas	8,116	7,933	-2.3%	1.1	-4.5	24.7%	19.7%	9.1%	43.3	74.0
Desha	13,008	12,505	-3.9%	0.4	-5.1	28.3%	16.5%	6.8%	39.1	73.6
Drew	18,509	18,785	1.5%	2.7	-0.9	26.9%	15.7%	7.4%	36.4	63.0
Faulkner	113,237	119,580	5.6%	6.4	0.5	27.6%	10.9%	4.4%	31.9	54.1
Franklin	18,125	18,034	-0.5%	0.6	0.3	26.5%	17.7%	7.8%	40.4	71.2
Fulton	12,245	12,304	0.5%	-6.2	7.4	22.5%	24.6%	10.2%	48	82.0
Garland	96,024	97,173	1.2%	-1.4	7.6	23.0%	21.3%	9.4%	44.1	72.6
Grant	17,853	18,019	0.9%	2.5	-2.8	26.0%	15.8%	6.1%	40.1	65.6
Greene	42,090	43,097	2.4%	2.6	-4.0	27.2%	14.8%	6.1%	38.1	66.0
Hempstead	22,609	22,474	-0.6%	4.7	-0.9	28.5%	15.8%	6.7%	38.4	72.7
Hot Spring	32,923	33,500	1.8%	0.4	2.4	24.2%	16.7%	6.8%	40.9	63.2
Howard	13,789	13,581	-1.5%	2.8	-13.0	28.6%	16.3%	7.2%	38.6	74.3
Independence	36,647	36,997	1.0%	1.9	-1.6	26.7%	16.6%	7.4%	39.2	68.3
Izard	13,696	13,368	-2.4%	-4.8	-2.4	20.2%	24.9%	11.0%	48.3	76.4
Jackson	17,997	17,615	-2.1%	-0.6	1.5	22.3%	16.4%	6.8%	40.6	58.5
Jefferson	77,435	73,191	-5.5%	1.3	-18.6	26.4%	14.7%	6.3%	38	61.8
Johnson	25,540	25,846	1.2%	4.3	-4.0	27.6%	15.3%	6.6%	37.4	66.8
Lafayette	7,645	7,252	-5.1%	-4.3	-15.4	22.9%	20.9%	8.7%	45.3	71.9
Lawrence	17,415	17,011	-2.3%	-4.5	2.5	25.4%	19.3%	8.7%	41.4	71.7
Lee	10,424	10,015	-3.9%	-1.5	-14.4	22.1%	16.4%	7.5%	40	57.7
Lincoln	14,134	14,031	-0.7%	-0.6	-5.1	20.4%	13.1%	6.0%	38.3	45.5
Little River	13,171	12,730	-3.3%	-2.4	-13.4	25.2%	18.6%	7.3%	41.9	70.6
Logan	22,353	22,082	-1.2%	-0.5	4.4	25.6%	18.8%	8.0%	42.4	71.8
Lonoke	68,356	70,753	3.5%	5.5	4.8	29.1%	12.1%	4.7%	35.6	63.8
Madison	15,717	15,701	-0.1%	3.9	2.4	26.0%	16.9%	6.8%	42	68.0
Marion	16,653	16,430	-1.3%	-6.1	-2.6	18.9%	26.4%	10.0%	51.7	76.9
Miller	43,462	43,402	-0.1%	3.9	-7.6	26.3%	14.7%	6.1%	37.8	63.7
Mississippi	46,480	44,765	-3.7%	3.4	-20.0	29.6%	13.1%	5.6%	35.5	67.3
Monroe	8,149	7,682	-5.7%	-4.4	-14.1	23.8%	19.9%	9.5%	45.1	71.1

Appendix B. Table 1. Population

County Name	Population 2010	Population 2013	% Population Change 2010	Natural Increase/ Decrease Per 1,000 Population 2012-2013	Net Migration Rate Per 1,000 Population 2012-2013	Aged 19 and Under 2013	Aged 65 and Over 2013	Aged 75 and Over 2013	Median Age 2013	Dependency Rate Per 100 Population 2013
Montgomery	9,487	9,226	-2.8%	-4.8	-8.9	21.7%	24.8%	11.0%	48.8	80.3
Nevada	8,997	8,799	-2.2%	-0.8	-13.6	24.9%	18.9%	8.4%	42.5	71.7
Newton	8,330	8,064	-3.2%	-3.2	2.4	21.9%	23.1%	9.0%	47.5	75.8
Ouachita	26,120	25,002	-4.3%	-1.4	-13.8	25.1%	17.8%	8.2%	42.6	68.6
Perry	10,445	10,345	-0.9%	-0.9	4.3	24.2%	18.4%	7.8%	43	67.6
Phillips	21,757	20,399	-6.2%	0.6	-17.2	29.8%	15.8%	6.8%	37.4	75.4
Pike	11,291	11,177	-1.0%	-1.0	-7.3	26.4%	17.8%	7.6%	41.1	70.9
Poinsett	24,583	24,145	-1.8%	-0.4	-3.4	26.1%	16.7%	6.9%	40.1	68.3
Polk	20,662	20,406	-1.2%	-0.9	-1.4	25.5%	21.0%	8.6%	43.7	79.9
Pope	61,754	62,547	1.3%	3.8	-4.6	27.3%	14.0%	5.9%	35.2	58.3
Prairie	8,715	8,374	-3.9%	-3.1	-7.8	22.9%	21.8%	9.4%	45.8	74.0
Pulaski	382,748	391,284	2.2%	5.7	0.3	26.0%	13.0%	5.5%	36.3	58.5
Randolph	17,969	17,692	-1.5%	-2.7	-7.2	24.5%	19.6%	8.7%	42.2	72.4
Saint Francis	28,258	27,260	-3.5%	2.8	-22.9	24.9%	13.4%	5.3%	37.5	56.8
Saline	107,118	114,404	6.8%	3.6	20.8	25.9%	16.7%	6.6%	39.4	68.7
Scott	11,233	10,950	-2.5%	0.6	-5.2	26.9%	18.1%	7.2%	41.2	74.4
Searcy	8,195	8,023	-2.1%	-2.4	3.1	22.0%	23.1%	9.7%	47.6	76.3
Sebastian	125,744	127,342	1.3%	4.6	-5.5	27.2%	14.1%	6.0%	37.1	63.4
Sevier	17,058	17,366	1.8%	7.5	3.9	31.8%	13.1%	5.8%	34.2	73.1
Sharp	17,264	17,049	-1.3%	-3.6	4.9	23.1%	25.2%	10.9%	47.5	86.0
Stone	12,394	12,581	1.5%	-1.0	-5.8	22.5%	24.7%	10.1%	48.8	82.7
Union	41,639	40,694	-2.3%	-0.8	-4.4	25.9%	16.3%	7.4%	40.6	66.9
Van Buren	17,295	16,932	-2.1%	-3.2	-3.3	21.8%	24.2%	10.8%	47.7	78.9
Washington	203,065	216,410	6.6%	9.1	12.9	29.4%	10.5%	4.4%	31.3	56.0
White	77,076	78,483	1.8%	2.8	-5.2	27.4%	14.8%	6.2%	36.2	62.9
Woodruff	7,260	7,072	-2.6%	-1.4	1.0	24.4%	20.1%	8.7%	44.2	73.2
Yell	22,185	21,893	-1.3%	2.7	-1.8	27.7%	16.2%	7.1%	39	71.0
Rural:										
Coastal Plains	210,660	206,266	-2.1%	0.4	-7.9	26.0%	17.2%	7.6%	41.1	67.9
Delta	307,627	300,022	-2.5%	0.7	-10.4	26.0%	16.0%	6.8%	40.5	66.0
Highlands	749,810	749,375	-0.1%	0.1	-1.2	25.1%	19.0%	8.1%	42.9	70.7
Total Rural:	**1,268,097**	**1,255,663**	**-1.0%**	**0.3**	**-4.5**	**25.5%**	**18.0%**	**7.7%**	**41.5**	**69.1**
Total Urban:	**1,647,821**	**1,703,710**	**3.4%**	**5.5**	**3.9**	**27.4%**	**13.4%**	**5.6%**	**36.4**	**61.9**
State:	**2,915,918**	**2,959,373**	**1.5%**	**3.3**	**0.3**	**26.6%**	**15.4%**	**6.5%**	**39.8**	**64.9**

Source: Annual Estimates of the Components of Resident Population Change: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013, 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, 2013, Census Bureau
Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013, Census Bureau

Appendix B. Table 2. Population by Race and Ethnic Origin, 2013

County	White Alone, Not Hispanic		Black Alone, Not Hispanic		Other Races, Not Hispanic		Hispanic, All Races	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Arkansas	13,180	70.2%	4,583	24.4%	480	2.6%	534	2.8%
Ashley	14,435	67.8%	5,415	25.4%	329	1.5%	1,104	5.2%
Baxter	39,021	95.3%	114	0.3%	1,010	2.5%	812	2.0%
Benton	178,653	75.3%	3,854	1.6%	16,857	7.1%	37,933	16.0%
Boone	35,321	94.5%	135	0.4%	1,077	2.9%	863	2.3%
Bradley	6,391	56.8%	3,041	27.0%	201	1.8%	1,616	14.4%
Calhoun	3,827	73.0%	1,123	21.4%	97	1.9%	194	3.7%
Carroll	22,633	81.4%	129	0.5%	1,009	3.6%	4,037	14.5%
Chicot	4,456	39.3%	6,097	53.8%	179	1.6%	603	5.3%
Clark	15,834	69.6%	5,360	23.6%	539	2.4%	1,010	4.4%
Clay	14,795	96.1%	85	0.6%	255	1.7%	267	1.7%
Cleburne	24,442	95.2%	103	0.4%	540	2.1%	601	2.3%
Cleveland	7,285	84.8%	1,014	11.8%	127	1.5%	167	1.9%
Columbia	14,365	59.4%	8,619	35.7%	542	2.2%	638	2.6%
Conway	17,361	81.7%	2,397	11.3%	666	3.1%	821	3.9%
Craighead	79,831	78.7%	14,080	13.9%	2,910	2.9%	4,667	4.6%
Crawford	52,870	85.8%	814	1.3%	3,821	6.2%	4,135	6.7%
Crittenden	22,170	44.6%	25,439	51.1%	1,026	2.1%	1,111	2.2%
Cross	12,909	73.6%	3,979	22.7%	349	2.0%	311	1.8%
Dallas	4,243	53.5%	3,331	42.0%	143	1.8%	216	2.7%
Desha	5,842	46.7%	5,897	47.2%	187	1.5%	579	4.6%
Drew	12,606	67.1%	5,260	28.0%	385	2.0%	534	2.8%
Faulkner	97,388	81.4%	13,143	11.0%	4,219	3.5%	4,830	4.0%
Franklin	16,705	92.6%	146	0.8%	678	3.8%	505	2.8%
Fulton	11,811	96.0%	53	0.4%	300	2.4%	140	1.1%
Garland	80,699	83.0%	8,034	8.3%	3,345	3.4%	5,095	5.2%
Grant	16,763	93.0%	471	2.6%	367	2.0%	418	2.3%
Greene	40,820	94.7%	311	0.7%	838	1.9%	1,128	2.6%
Hempstead	12,547	55.8%	6,578	29.3%	542	2.4%	2,807	12.5%
Hot Spring	27,778	82.9%	3,802	11.3%	842	2.5%	1,078	3.2%
Howard	8,958	66.0%	2,815	20.7%	368	2.7%	1,440	10.6%
Independence	32,922	89.0%	766	2.1%	1,060	2.9%	2,249	6.1%
Izard	12,610	94.3%	193	1.4%	339	2.5%	226	1.7%
Jackson	13,686	77.7%	3,028	17.2%	433	2.5%	468	2.7%
Jefferson	29,611	40.5%	40,443	55.3%	1,796	2.5%	1,341	1.8%
Johnson	21,063	81.5%	417	1.6%	936	3.6%	3,430	13.3%
Lafayette	4,339	59.8%	2,672	36.8%	99	1.4%	142	2.0%
Lawrence	16,369	96.2%	144	0.8%	293	1.7%	205	1.2%
Lee	4,122	41.2%	5,417	54.1%	225	2.2%	251	2.5%
Lincoln	9,111	64.9%	4,192	29.9%	225	1.6%	503	3.6%
Little River	9,351	73.5%	2,496	19.6%	484	3.8%	399	3.1%
Logan	20,205	91.5%	316	1.4%	980	4.4%	581	2.6%
Lonoke	61,692	87.2%	4,217	6.0%	2,099	3.0%	2,745	3.9%
Madison	14,259	90.8%	51	0.3%	554	3.5%	837	5.3%
Marion	15,605	95.0%	60	0.4%	403	2.5%	362	2.2%

Appendix B. Table 2. Population by Race and Ethnic Origin, 2013

County	White Alone, Not Hispanic		Black Alone, Not Hispanic		Other Races, Not Hispanic		Hispanic, All Races	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percen	Number	Percent
Miller	30,333	69.9%	10,507	24.2%	1,255	2.9%	1,307	3.0%
Mississippi	26,741	59.7%	15,338	34.3%	950	2.1%	1,736	3.9%
Monroe	4,281	55.7%	3,055	39.8%	191	2.5%	155	2.0%
Montgomery	8,514	92.3%	29	0.3%	344	3.7%	339	3.7%
Nevada	5,650	64.2%	2,678	30.4%	186	2.1%	285	3.2%
Newton	7,618	94.5%	12	0.1%	310	3.8%	124	1.5%
Ouachita	13,973	55.9%	9,957	39.8%	598	2.4%	474	1.9%
Perry	9,553	92.3%	236	2.3%	261	2.5%	295	2.9%
Phillips	7,197	35.3%	12,539	61.5%	338	1.7%	325	1.6%
Pike	9,815	87.8%	349	3.1%	280	2.5%	733	6.6%
Poinsett	21,196	87.8%	1,852	7.7%	450	1.9%	647	2.7%
Polk	18,150	88.9%	82	0.4%	905	4.4%	1,269	6.2%
Pope	53,324	85.3%	1,898	3.0%	2,299	3.7%	5,026	8.0%
Prairie	7,148	85.4%	1,017	12.1%	124	1.5%	85	1.0%
Pulaski	212,713	54.4%	138,409	35.4%	17,074	4.4%	23,088	5.9%
Randolph	16,862	95.3%	169	1.0%	342	1.9%	319	1.8%
Saint Francis	11,234	41.2%	14,199	52.1%	634	2.3%	1,193	4.4%
Saline	99,644	87.1%	6,825	6.0%	3,150	2.8%	4,785	4.2%
Scott	9,217	84.2%	80	0.7%	847	7.7%	806	7.4%
Searcy	7,529	93.8%	16	0.2%	318	4.0%	160	2.0%
Sebastian	90,961	71.4%	8,131	6.4%	11,505	9.0%	16,745	13.1%
Sevier	10,238	59.0%	713	4.1%	759	4.4%	5,656	32.6%
Sharp	16,035	94.1%	129	0.8%	542	3.2%	343	2.0%
Stone	11,995	95.3%	33	0.3%	350	2.8%	203	1.6%
Union	25,067	61.6%	13,187	32.4%	967	2.4%	1,473	3.6%
Van Buren	15,854	93.6%	108	0.6%	495	2.9%	475	2.8%
Washington	157,134	72.6%	6,809	3.1%	17,635	8.1%	34,832	16.1%
White	69,609	88.7%	3,374	4.3%	2,262	2.9%	3,238	4.1%
Woodruff	4,914	69.5%	1,896	26.8%	150	2.1%	112	1.6%
Yell	16,595	75.8%	331	1.5%	726	3.3%	4,241	19.4%
Rural:								
Coastal Plains	129,836	62.9%	62,040	30.1%	4,557	2.2%	9,833	4.8%
Delta	201,632	67.2%	83,485	27.8%	6,008	2.0%	8,897	3.0%
Highlands	654,811	87.4%	28,362	3.8%	23,144	3.1%	43,058	5.7%
Total Rural:	**986,279**	**78.5%**	**173,887**	**13.8%**	**33,709**	**2.7%**	**61,788**	**4.9%**
Total Urban:	**1,193,699**	**70.1%**	**280,705**	**16.5%**	**86,692**	**5.1%**	**142,614**	**8.4%**
State:	**2,179,978**	**73.7%**	**454,592**	**15.4%**	**120,401**	**4.1%**	**204,402**	**6.9%**

Source: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for the United States, States, and Counties: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013, Census Bureau

Appendix B. Table 3. Percent Employed by Major Industry Sector

County	Total Employment Estimates, 2012	Mining	Construction	Manufacturing	Transportation and Public Utilities	Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Information	Professional Services	Other Services	Government and Government Enterprises	Farm and Farm Services	Trade
Arkansas	13,325	0.9%	4.1%	27.0%	6.1%	5.8%	15.1%	9.5%	10.0%	8.4%	13.2%
Ashley	10,996	1.1%	7.9%	24.1%	3.7%	5.4%	14.4%	11.0%	12.3%	8.8%	11.4%
Baxter	21,434	1.8%	6.8%	10.4%	1.7%	10.4%	26.4%	15.5%	9.1%	3.6%	14.2%
Benton	130,226	0.3%	5.0%	8.9%	7.1%	8.5%	33.0%	13.1%	7.9%	2.1%	14.1%
Boone	20,808	0.1%	5.8%	9.1%	8.6%	8.7%	17.3%	12.1%	16.7%	7.0%	14.7%
Bradley	5,015	0.2%	5.0%	10.6%	2.4%	6.6%	16.9%	12.1%	19.3%	14.9%	11.9%
Calhoun	3,681	3.2%	2.9%	53.0%	5.4%	5.2%	8.0%	3.9%	8.4%	5.9%	4.0%
Carroll	15,152	0.5%	5.5%	24.2%	3.0%	7.4%	11.7%	17.2%	9.0%	9.1%	12.4%
Chicot	5,139	0.5%	5.5%	6.3%	2.6%	6.9%	19.8%	10.5%	21.2%	16.2%	10.4%
Clark	12,805	0.9%	2.6%	13.0%	2.5%	5.5%	21.7%	14.1%	21.8%	5.7%	12.1%
Clay	6,111	0.1%	5.3%	9.3%	4.4%	6.1%	12.9%	13.6%	16.8%	16.5%	15.1%
Cleburne	13,092	2.9%	8.6%	9.7%	4.9%	9.7%	17.2%	16.4%	8.5%	7.9%	14.2%
Cleveland	2,074	0.4%	5.1%	5.7%	7.1%	7.2%	16.6%	8.6%	20.7%	21.4%	7.1%
Columbia	12,052	6.4%	4.6%	16.6%	3.1%	6.7%	16.4%	12.3%	17.0%	4.2%	12.7%
Conway	11,287	2.1%	9.8%	8.3%	7.5%	5.9%	19.1%	11.2%	14.0%	9.8%	12.3%
Craighead	59,472	0.3%	5.2%	10.6%	2.9%	7.6%	28.5%	13.6%	13.9%	2.2%	15.1%
Crawford	27,456	1.4%	7.2%	16.4%	14.9%	6.1%	16.0%	12.2%	9.5%	4.2%	12.2%
Crittenden	22,510	0.8%	3.7%	7.4%	10.3%	7.1%	23.1%	17.2%	13.8%	2.6%	14.0%
Cross	8,358	1.4%	4.1%	9.0%	5.3%	9.0%	19.4%	12.6%	14.4%	8.9%	15.7%
Dallas	4,086	0.2%	3.1%	15.4%	5.3%	5.1%	24.3%	13.8%	11.0%	9.8%	12.2%
Desha	6,812	1.7%	3.4%	12.7%	4.6%	6.8%	19.5%	11.4%	15.4%	11.5%	13.0%
Drew	9,175	0.3%	3.2%	9.0%	1.6%	6.4%	18.3%	11.9%	24.6%	10.0%	14.7%
Faulkner	57,329	3.0%	7.7%	6.1%	2.3%	7.6%	28.9%	13.9%	14.4%	2.9%	13.2%
Franklin	7,070	5.0%	4.5%	12.8%	5.2%	8.0%	13.9%	11.2%	15.7%	12.4%	11.2%
Fulton	4,994	0.7%	4.7%	3.5%	4.4%	9.6%	19.3%	18.2%	15.0%	14.7%	9.9%
Garland	52,357	0.8%	6.9%	4.4%	1.7%	9.9%	28.2%	20.8%	10.3%	1.3%	15.8%
Grant	6,265	1.5%	8.1%	14.2%	2.6%	7.1%	18.5%	11.7%	16.0%	7.8%	12.5%
Greene	19,126	0.4%	3.9%	25.0%	2.4%	6.0%	20.4%	11.0%	11.9%	5.2%	13.7%
Hempstead	11,824	0.1%	13.8%	14.5%	3.2%	4.2%	15.1%	11.2%	16.3%	9.6%	12.0%
Hot Spring	12,421	1.8%	7.5%	11.0%	4.5%	5.9%	23.9%	11.4%	17.1%	6.8%	9.9%
Howard	9,388	0.3%	3.0%	41.3%	3.5%	3.5%	13.2%	6.8%	9.8%	9.2%	9.4%
Independence	21,170	1.3%	4.8%	16.6%	4.9%	6.7%	22.1%	12.5%	12.6%	6.1%	12.4%
Izard	5,535	2.2%	5.5%	4.5%	4.5%	8.6%	18.8%	10.5%	22.2%	12.2%	10.9%
Jackson	7,942	2.1%	3.7%	11.7%	3.2%	6.5%	17.9%	11.4%	20.3%	8.3%	14.9%
Jefferson	40,105	0.0%	4.9%	13.6%	3.9%	5.5%	22.5%	10.5%	23.8%	2.5%	12.7%
Johnson	11,966	1.0%	3.6%	27.1%	9.1%	5.0%	15.4%	9.6%	10.7%	6.1%	12.3%
Lafayette	2,419	4.7%	5.3%	2.0%	4.5%	8.3%	18.8%	11.9%	16.8%	18.8%	8.9%
Lawrence	7,006	1.5%	5.9%	7.1%	5.4%	5.8%	15.3%	12.9%	20.3%	11.7%	14.1%
Lee	3,837	3.0%	4.5%	4.7%	5.8%	5.9%	18.9%	8.1%	23.5%	15.4%	10.2%
Lincoln	4,681	1.7%	4.2%	8.0%	4.5%	4.1%	14.4%	9.7%	30.3%	16.1%	7.0%
Little River	5,683	2.4%	7.0%	23.8%	5.0%	4.3%	10.6%	9.6%	17.6%	9.8%	10.0%
Logan	8,499	2.0%	6.7%	14.2%	3.0%	6.2%	15.0%	10.4%	19.2%	11.9%	11.2%
Lonoke	21,773	1.1%	8.5%	6.8%	2.7%	9.2%	18.5%	15.1%	15.2%	6.4%	16.5%
Madison	6,657	1.7%	6.4%	17.4%	3.1%	6.5%	13.9%	10.7%	11.0%	19.9%	9.4%
Marion	6,520	1.8%	5.9%	23.0%	2.9%	11.8%	11.7%	11.5%	11.2%	8.6%	11.5%

Appendix B. Table 3. Percent Employed by Major Industry Sector

County	Total Employment Estimates, 2012	Mining	Construction	Manufacturing	Transportation and Public Utilities	Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Information	Professional Services	Other Services	Government and Government Enterprises	Farm and Farm Services	Trade
Miller	20,973	0.8%	9.1%	11.6%	9.2%	7.0%	20.4%	15.3%	11.7%	3.9%	11.1%
Mississippi	24,280	0.3%	4.3%	23.3%	4.4%	10.1%	16.5%	10.2%	13.8%	5.7%	11.5%
Monroe	3,491	0.3%	3.7%	3.5%	7.0%	8.8%	14.7%	14.5%	16.2%	13.2%	18.1%
Montgomery	3,879	2.3%	8.7%	3.8%	3.5%	7.2%	10.6%	17.4%	16.2%	19.9%	10.6%
Nevada	3,625	3.2%	3.2%	12.1%	8.7%	4.4%	18.2%	11.1%	14.9%	12.9%	11.2%
Newton	3,094	3.8%	5.7%	2.7%	4.9%	7.2%	14.2%	12.1%	18.0%	23.4%	7.9%
Ouachita	9,829	1.9%	4.0%	9.1%	4.3%	5.8%	21.5%	11.7%	22.6%	3.9%	15.2%
Perry	3,180	2.7%	9.7%	2.6%	5.8%	7.2%	20.1%	10.4%	16.5%	15.5%	9.4%
Phillips	9,031	1.3%	2.3%	4.4%	4.8%	5.7%	26.4%	10.9%	19.8%	9.5%	15.0%
Pike	3,875	4.5%	3.2%	5.7%	3.6%	8.3%	7.7%	13.4%	18.8%	19.2%	15.6%
Poinsett	8,186	2.6%	5.0%	8.1%	4.8%	7.8%	16.7%	11.9%	17.0%	8.9%	17.2%
Polk	9,792	2.3%	5.8%	12.1%	4.5%	6.4%	19.0%	12.6%	13.7%	11.0%	12.6%
Pope	34,574	0.6%	6.6%	13.4%	5.8%	5.4%	22.4%	12.7%	13.8%	5.2%	14.1%
Prairie	3,066	2.3%	4.9%	3.2%	5.6%	6.6%	14.3%	12.1%	14.3%	25.6%	11.1%
Pulaski	315,398	0.4%	4.0%	4.2%	4.1%	11.9%	28.8%	12.6%	19.8%	0.2%	14.0%
Randolph	7,715	0.1%	5.1%	9.8%	3.1%	5.5%	26.8%	9.8%	15.8%	11.3%	12.8%
Saint Francis	11,202	1.0%	3.3%	6.5%	3.9%	5.9%	22.5%	11.6%	21.5%	5.4%	18.2%
Saline	30,413	0.4%	9.6%	4.5%	1.9%	8.5%	22.1%	17.8%	17.1%	1.3%	16.9%
Scott	4,775	0.8%	4.1%	26.9%	3.1%	4.5%	11.5%	9.7%	13.0%	16.1%	10.2%
Searcy	3,664	0.4%	11.4%	5.6%	4.1%	6.3%	15.5%	9.9%	15.0%	20.4%	11.3%
Sebastian	83,840	3.0%	4.4%	16.0%	3.2%	7.8%	27.1%	12.3%	10.4%	1.2%	14.6%
Sevier	7,054	2.7%	3.6%	21.7%	3.4%	4.5%	12.1%	10.5%	19.3%	10.0%	12.0%
Sharp	5,706	2.2%	3.1%	4.9%	5.8%	6.6%	17.2%	14.1%	17.0%	13.5%	15.7%
Stone	5,300	0.7%	7.9%	4.9%	2.2%	9.4%	16.5%	16.5%	13.1%	12.0%	16.6%
Union	23,967	5.3%	7.0%	12.0%	4.4%	8.0%	21.7%	12.3%	12.2%	2.8%	14.4%
Van Buren	6,244	4.1%	8.0%	1.4%	10.2%	8.5%	18.7%	12.9%	13.8%	9.3%	13.2%
Washington	121,577	0.2%	5.2%	10.7%	6.0%	8.0%	24.6%	14.0%	15.0%	2.7%	13.6%
White	37,364	4.3%	6.7%	6.9%	7.9%	6.4%	23.5%	13.3%	11.4%	6.4%	13.3%
Woodruff	3,108	0.5%	3.2%	10.5%	4.0%	5.4%	14.5%	10.1%	20.0%	17.9%	13.9%
Yell	9,550	2.1%	4.8%	26.0%	3.1%	5.6%	14.1%	8.2%	15.8%	11.5%	8.9%
Rural:											
Coastal Plains	100,340	2.9%	6.5%	15.4%	3.9%	6.2%	17.5%	11.3%	16.3%	7.4%	12.5%
Delta	137,695	1.1%	4.0%	14.8%	4.4%	7.1%	18.3%	11.0%	16.3%	9.3%	13.7%
Highlands	351,921	1.8%	6.0%	13.3%	5.1%	6.9%	19.0%	12.6%	13.9%	8.9%	12.6%
Total Rural:	**589,956**	**1.8%**	**5.6%**	**14.0%**	**4.7%**	**6.8%**	**18.5%**	**12.0%**	**14.9%**	**8.8%**	**12.8%**
Total Urban:	**983,429**	**0.8%**	**5.3%**	**8.2%**	**4.8%**	**9.2%**	**27.3%**	**13.7%**	**15.1%**	**1.7%**	**14.1%**
State:	**1,573,385**	**1.2%**	**5.4%**	**10.3%**	**4.8%**	**8.3%**	**24.0%**	**13.1%**	**15.0%**	**4.3%**	**13.6%**

Source: Employment Estimates, Woods & Poole

Appendix B. Table 4. Total Employment and Percent Employed by Major Industry Sector

	Total Employment			Employment Change (%)			Earnings Per Job		Median Household Income	
County	2007	2010	2012	2007 to 2010	2010 to 2012	2007 to 2012	2012	Change 2007 to 2012 (%)	2008-2012 Average	Change 2003-07 to 2008-12 (%)
Arkansas	13,671	13,097	13,201	-5.5%	-6.3%	-12.9%	35,512	-3.6%	37,789	-1.6%
Ashley	10,773	10,746	10,533	-4.2%	-7.0%	-12.3%	39,239	-2.3%	37,068	-0.5%
Baxter	22,741	21,157	21,334	-10.2%	0.2%	-11.1%	32,499	-6.6%	34,318	-5.2%
Benton	127,616	124,964	132,490	-8.0%	-1.8%	-10.7%	50,799	3.7%	51,680	-1.9%
Boone	21,223	20,453	20,663	-1.4%	-7.4%	-9.6%	34,482	-2.7%	36,505	-4.0%
Bradley	5,630	5,056	5,068	-3.3%	-5.4%	-9.3%	30,361	-11.1%	30,789	-1.6%
Calhoun	3,617	3,769	3,474	-9.2%	1.8%	-8.2%	47,391	-4.1%	35,599	-0.5%
Carroll	15,160	14,539	15,381	-8.4%	1.1%	-8.0%	27,555	1.4%	34,013	1.2%
Chicot	5,172	5,090	5,053	-7.0%	0.8%	-6.6%	29,907	-2.4%	26,439	1.9%
Clark	13,491	12,909	12,774	-4.9%	-1.2%	-6.4%	31,050	-5.6%	34,115	-3.4%
Clay	6,718	6,349	5,949	-2.5%	-3.5%	-6.3%	29,466	-12.9%	31,932	1.9%
Cleburne	13,027	12,753	13,084	-4.3%	-1.0%	-5.6%	31,468	0.4%	38,673	0.1%
Cleveland	2,034	2,117	2,144	-4.3%	-0.9%	-5.5%	29,115	5.1%	40,329	-2.4%
Columbia	13,000	12,436	12,321	-6.6%	1.5%	-5.5%	35,456	-5.5%	34,175	-2.6%
Conway	11,387	11,176	11,029	-7.5%	2.5%	-5.4%	34,666	-3.2%	36,704	-3.7%
Craighead	56,153	56,906	60,010	-4.4%	-0.3%	-4.9%	35,322	6.4%	39,828	-2.0%
Crawford	28,280	27,805	27,194	-10.0%	6.0%	-4.9%	33,831	-4.0%	39,664	-2.4%
Crittenden	23,234	22,773	23,563	4.2%	-7.8%	-4.1%	33,104	1.4%	34,928	-3.6%
Cross	8,008	8,096	8,478	-6.2%	2.5%	-4.1%	31,793	5.5%	35,280	-0.1%
Dallas	4,294	4,232	4,179	-1.7%	-2.2%	-4.0%	29,446	-2.8%	31,025	-4.0%
Desha	6,689	6,765	6,827	0.1%	-3.9%	-3.9%	31,813	2.0%	29,272	-0.5%
Drew	9,216	9,025	9,052	-2.4%	-1.3%	-3.8%	29,635	-1.8%	34,171	-2.9%
Faulkner	54,715	55,097	57,252	-5.0%	1.5%	-3.7%	38,498	4.4%	47,460	0.2%
Franklin	7,342	7,020	6,998	-4.2%	0.8%	-3.6%	34,329	-4.9%	37,276	-1.0%
Fulton	5,019	5,137	4,946	-1.2%	-2.0%	-3.3%	27,115	-1.5%	31,414	-0.5%
Garland	53,682	51,156	52,260	-1.9%	-1.3%	-3.2%	32,690	-2.7%	37,481	0.0%
Grant	6,547	6,254	6,808	-1.4%	-1.3%	-2.8%	32,505	3.8%	46,616	-3.1%
Greene	19,795	18,617	19,744	-4.7%	2.2%	-2.7%	33,808	-0.3%	37,614	-3.2%
Hempstead	11,484	11,246	11,828	-3.6%	1.0%	-2.7%	36,180	2.9%	31,991	-4.6%
Hot Spring	12,257	11,703	12,449	-3.4%	1.0%	-2.5%	32,852	1.5%	38,217	-1.1%
Howard	9,833	8,850	9,377	-1.6%	-0.7%	-2.4%	29,169	-4.9%	32,617	-4.1%
Independence	21,936	21,389	20,638	-1.7%	-0.6%	-2.3%	33,709	-6.3%	35,780	-6.1%
Izard	5,616	5,201	5,497	-0.3%	-2.0%	-2.3%	29,427	-2.2%	30,375	-4.5%
Jackson	8,338	7,818	8,011	-7.4%	5.7%	-2.2%	33,768	-4.1%	30,647	0.5%
Jefferson	41,630	40,627	40,103	-4.4%	2.3%	-2.2%	38,759	-3.8%	36,310	-1.7%
Johnson	12,034	11,672	11,819	-2.2%	0.3%	-2.0%	29,766	-1.8%	33,469	-0.6%
Lafayette	2,465	2,434	2,474	-3.0%	1.3%	-1.8%	30,220	0.4%	28,843	-2.6%
Lawrence	7,345	6,987	6,900	-2.1%	0.3%	-1.8%	29,218	-6.4%	31,396	-3.5%
Lee	3,604	3,814	3,899	-6.3%	4.8%	-1.8%	31,285	7.6%	25,756	2.4%
Lincoln	4,615	4,575	4,578	2.4%	-3.7%	-1.5%	31,111	-0.8%	35,182	1.4%
Little River	5,893	5,821	5,703	-4.1%	2.9%	-1.3%	46,966	-3.3%	36,275	1.5%
Logan	9,337	8,552	8,643	-0.9%	0.1%	-0.8%	31,041	-8.0%	34,745	-1.7%
Lonoke	21,481	21,619	21,751	3.7%	-4.1%	-0.6%	31,462	1.2%	50,193	-1.7%
Madison	6,820	6,581	6,870	-3.7%	3.4%	-0.4%	30,094	0.7%	33,721	-6.1%

Appendix B. Table 4. Total Employment and Percent Employed by Major Industry Sector

	Total Employment			Employment Change (%)			Earnings Per Job		Median Household Income	
County	2007	2010	2012	2007 to 2010	2010 to 2012	2007 to 2012	2012	Change 2007 to 2012 (%)	2008-2012 Average	Change 2003-07 to 2008-12 (%)
Marion	7,032	6,384	6,497	-6.0%	6.1%	-0.3%	28,089	-8.2%	32,381	-1.0%
Miller	20,564	20,332	21,110	-2.2%	2.1%	-0.2%	36,221	2.6%	38,161	-1.4%
Mississippi	24,381	23,393	24,066	1.0%	-0.9%	0.1%	40,208	-1.3%	33,505	1.7%
Monroe	3,776	3,494	3,582	0.5%	-0.2%	0.3%	28,852	-5.4%	27,705	-3.5%
Montgomery	3,725	3,788	3,820	-1.3%	1.6%	0.4%	26,554	2.5%	32,599	-4.9%
Nevada	3,800	3,494	3,849	-2.1%	2.6%	0.4%	33,599	1.3%	31,877	-3.3%
Newton	3,008	3,004	3,065	-1.8%	2.4%	0.6%	24,878	1.9%	30,036	-1.8%
Ouachita	10,106	9,931	9,874	-3.5%	4.4%	0.7%	30,909	-2.3%	34,116	-2.4%
Perry	3,062	3,118	3,144	0.6%	0.6%	1.2%	29,258	2.6%	38,615	-2.0%
Phillips	8,873	9,204	8,823	-8.1%	10.2%	1.3%	29,786	-0.6%	26,140	-2.5%
Pike	4,243	4,063	3,777	-2.0%	3.5%	1.4%	27,863	-12.3%	33,128	-4.6%
Poinsett	8,652	8,084	8,203	-4.1%	5.8%	1.4%	32,346	-5.5%	31,626	-2.8%
Polk	10,194	9,749	9,978	-2.0%	3.6%	1.5%	28,131	-2.2%	30,717	-3.1%
Pope	35,143	34,357	34,443	-4.5%	6.4%	1.5%	34,389	-2.0%	39,259	-0.2%
Prairie	3,034	3,059	3,095	-0.1%	2.0%	1.9%	30,754	2.0%	35,763	-0.7%
Pulaski	314,811	307,910	314,245	0.8%	1.2%	2.0%	46,226	-0.2%	44,154	-5.1%
Randolph	7,766	7,776	7,472	1.1%	0.9%	2.0%	27,604	-3.9%	32,567	-2.4%
St. Francis	10,995	11,046	11,028	-2.5%	4.8%	2.1%	32,758	0.3%	29,709	-3.5%
Saline	29,979	29,732	30,998	1.7%	0.8%	2.5%	32,809	3.3%	53,670	1.0%
Scott	4,701	4,609	4,773	-1.1%	3.8%	2.6%	27,192	1.5%	30,961	-4.3%
Searcy	3,785	3,656	3,693	1.8%	0.8%	2.6%	25,353	-2.5%	26,432	1.3%
Sebastian	91,542	84,217	82,686	-2.1%	5.2%	2.9%	39,448	-10.7%	38,904	-6.5%
Sevier	7,751	7,642	7,073	-0.8%	4.3%	3.3%	28,747	-9.6%	33,430	-4.0%
Sharp	5,792	5,688	5,826	-2.1%	6.0%	3.7%	26,897	0.6%	29,704	-0.3%
Stone	5,567	5,385	5,095	-4.5%	8.9%	3.8%	26,101	-9.3%	28,698	1.8%
Union	25,928	24,626	24,991	0.7%	3.9%	4.4%	43,418	-3.7%	37,555	-0.3%
Van Buren	6,123	5,897	6,099	3.4%	1.6%	4.8%	34,182	-0.4%	34,395	6.3%
Washington	120,600	117,609	123,232	4.1%	1.3%	5.1%	39,936	2.1%	40,913	-8.0%
White	35,489	36,711	37,285	1.1%	4.7%	5.5%	35,530	4.8%	40,392	0.6%
Woodruff	3,114	3,146	3,118	1.3%	5.5%	6.4%	31,326	0.1%	27,297	-2.4%
Yell	9,882	9,262	9,710	5.8%	2.2%	7.6%	28,087	-1.8%	35,150	0.7%
Rural:										
Coastal Plains	41,630	40,627	40,103	-4.4%	2.3%	-2.2%	38,759	-3.8%	36,310	-1.7%
Delta	139,435	135,647	137,655	-2.7%	1.5%	-1.3%	32,156	-1.3%	31,353	-0.7%
Highlands	358,672	347,654	351,139	-3.1%	1.0%	-2.1%	29,978	-2.1%	35,797	2.9%
Total Rural:	**602,053**	**584,002**	**590,105**	**-3.0%**	**1.0%**	**-2.0%**	**31,713**	**-2.0%**	**33,450**	**-1.7%**
Urban:	**984,287**	**960,747**	**986,894**	**-2.4%**	**2.7%**	**0.3%**	**37,623**	**0.3%**	**33,859**	**-1.3%**
State:	**1,586,340**	**1,544,749**	**1,576,999**	**-2.6%**	**2.1%**	**-0.6%**	**38,897**	**-0.6%**	**33,852**	**-0.2%**

Source: Regional Economic Information System (REIS), Bureau of Economic Analysis and American Community Survey, Census Bureau.

Appendix B. Table 5. Measures of Social and Economic Stress

County Name	Percent Persons Below Poverty, 2012			Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Recipients, 2013							2010, Low Access to Store*		
	All Persons	Children under 18	Persons Aged 65 and Over	% Under 19	% 20-65	% Over 65	% Total	Percent Free-Reduced Price Lunch	% of Population Eligible for Medicaid	% of Population under 19 Eligible for ARKids First	% of Low Income Population	% of Children	% of Seniors (65 and older)
Arkansas	18.4	28.6	12.6	45.3%	21.8%	13.2%	25.1%	65.0%	31.8%	65.7%	7.9	4.4	4.1
Ashley	20.3	32.3	11.1	48.4%	24.7%	17.0%	27.8%	57.8%	35.3%	72.5%	11.3	4.8	3.2
Baxter	17.7	28.9	9.5	39.9%	20.0%	6.1%	19.0%	57.5%	23.2%	63.8%	5.4	2.3	3.6
Benton	13.5	19.0	6.2	22.9%	10.2%	9.5%	13.9%	46.5%	18.5%	43.8%	6.3	5.6	2.5
Boone	21.2	28.7	10.6	38.2%	19.8%	11.1%	22.1%	55.6%	27.4%	59.4%	10.8	6.6	5.9
Bradley	25.7	37.0	16.6	53.7%	27.0%	18.3%	30.5%	76.3%	37.4%	81.9%	4.7	2.5	2.0
Calhoun	19.2	26.2	10.5	39.8%	14.1%	9.9%	17.4%	72.6%	24.8%	68.3%	31.9	13.8	12.2
Carroll	20.0	30.6	11.7	37.7%	15.8%	9.9%	19.5%	68.5%	25.4%	68.6%	4.1	2.2	1.4
Chicot	37.0	49.5	20.4	65.6%	30.7%	23.7%	35.8%	100.0%	44.2%	77.5%	2.9	1.3	0.9
Clark	26.6	32.0	13.6	39.9%	16.8%	11.7%	19.1%	61.3%	27.0%	63.8%	3.9	1.8	1.7
Clay	22.4	31.9	15.0	36.4%	16.7%	10.0%	18.6%	63.3%	30.2%	68.4%	5.0	2.1	2.6
Cleburne	16.9	27.6	10.2	33.6%	16.2%	7.1%	16.9%	56.8%	24.4%	63.1%	4.8	3.1	2.8
Cleveland	17.2	25.7	12.0	39.2%	19.4%	12.2%	22.2%	53.4%	26.4%	55.6%	8.8	5.8	4.3
Columbia	24.5	34.3	10.3	45.9%	23.6%	14.9%	25.3%	64.7%	31.4%	59.1%	7.4	2.7	2.7
Conway	22.9	33.2	15.9	43.0%	23.1%	14.4%	25.7%	63.6%	30.6%	61.6%	9.4	5.2	3.6
Craighead	17.6	24.8	9.6	39.3%	16.3%	14.0%	21.9%	57.5%	28.5%	52.9%	10.3	6.3	2.5
Crawford	21.7	33.1	10.8	39.6%	18.4%	15.0%	22.7%	64.1%	27.8%	60.3%	9.6	5.7	2.6
Crittenden	24.0	35.2	13.0	58.9%	30.1%	30.5%	36.9%	84.7%	41.2%	68.9%	4.4	3.4	1.2
Cross	19.9	30.1	20.0	41.3%	20.9%	13.6%	23.9%	63.4%	34.5%	64.1%	7.9	4.1	2.7
Dallas	23.0	36.7	18.7	40.7%	22.5%	12.5%	23.9%	73.5%	32.7%	61.6%	9.8	4.1	3.3
Desha	27.4	42.4	20.7	57.5%	30.6%	23.6%	35.1%	78.3%	41.3%	72.6%	15.9	7.8	4.9
Drew	24.7	33.0	10.0	45.9%	23.6%	15.8%	26.7%	59.9%	30.9%	62.6%	7.4	4.0	2.7
Faulkner	14.4	16.8	7.6	28.4%	13.3%	13.5%	16.9%	47.2%	19.8%	45.0%	9.1	5.5	2.1
Franklin	18.6	27.2	11.9	39.1%	20.1%	14.0%	23.1%	53.7%	27.4%	56.6%	5.6	2.4	1.4
Fulton	23.5	36.3	16.7	41.1%	20.8%	9.4%	21.8%	62.9%	30.5%	63.1%	9.3	4.4	4.0
Garland	19.8	32.2	8.5	43.5%	19.8%	9.3%	22.2%	60.6%	28.0%	71.8%	11.5	6.8	7.1
Grant	12.5	18.7	9.4	30.3%	14.5%	9.6%	17.2%	51.0%	22.2%	51.1%	4.0	3.0	1.7
Greene	19.4	26.1	9.5	39.6%	20.4%	15.5%	24.2%	57.9%	31.1%	62.9%	8.3	6.0	3.0
Hempstead	29.0	43.1	9.4	46.8%	22.8%	18.6%	27.9%	76.4%	36.1%	69.2%	10.6	6.2	4.3
Hot Spring	18.6	29.4	8.9	39.3%	18.6%	12.0%	22.0%	61.9%	27.3%	64.3%	8.6	4.3	3.2
Howard	19.9	28.8	14.8	45.7%	22.7%	17.3%	26.8%	68.5%	35.0%	70.6%	7.3	3.5	3.0
Independence	19.5	26.6	12.0	39.0%	18.6%	13.0%	22.1%	58.3%	30.2%	63.0%	7.8	4.5	2.8
Izard	24.6	35.8	11.3	45.6%	20.2%	9.2%	21.4%	63.6%	28.7%	70.0%	2.7	1.4	1.1
Jackson	26.7	39.0	16.7	52.7%	22.9%	17.1%	27.3%	72.7%	32.3%	68.8%	8.6	3.5	1.9
Jefferson	23.9	34.6	13.7	58.1%	28.0%	20.2%	31.9%	73.9%	34.2%	68.3%	6.9	3.3	2.7
Johnson	18.0	27.1	9.3	44.1%	21.9%	16.2%	26.1%	75.8%	33.1%	70.8%	4.4	2.0	1.6
Lafayette	28.5	40.3	19.4	51.3%	27.2%	15.8%	28.1%	82.9%	34.2%	69.1%	8.9	5.5	3.7
Lawrence	25.0	34.3	10.4	43.4%	20.8%	13.4%	23.5%	67.6%	33.4%	65.2%	13.1	6.0	4.4
Lee	38.6	46.7	32.9	58.0%	29.4%	25.8%	33.1%	100.0%	38.9%	65.0%	15.8	7.0	5.2
Lincoln	32.9	32.6	19.5	47.3%	16.7%	17.9%	21.6%	62.6%	25.6%	62.8%	20.6	2.7	1.8
Little River	18.8	27.7	10.9	42.4%	20.8%	12.0%	23.2%	64.6%	29.6%	63.0%	3.6	1.7	0.9
Logan	20.9	31.4	8.7	48.2%	24.5%	14.9%	27.3%	69.3%	33.7%	68.0%	6.8	3.3	2.4
Lonoke	12.4	18.1	11.4	26.3%	13.3%	14.4%	16.9%	46.3%	21.5%	44.3%	6.3	5.4	2.2
Madison	21.2	32.2	20.5	37.3%	17.6%	12.9%	21.1%	60.4%	27.8%	67.5%	12.0	5.6	4.5

Appendix B. Table 5. Measures of Social and Economic Stress

County Name	Percent Persons Below Poverty, 2012			Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Recipients, 2013							2010, Low Access to Store*		
	All Persons	Children under 18	Persons Aged 65 and Over	% Under 19	% 20-65	% Over 65	% Total	Percent Free-Reduced Price Lunch	% of Population Eligible for Medicaid	% of Population under 19 Eligible for ARKids First	% of Low Income Population	% of Children	% of Seniors (65 and older)
Marion	21.4	37.1	9.4	50.3%	21.8%	9.4%	22.7%	70.2%	27.3%	78.3%	5.5	2.2	3.3
Miller	20.9	31.9	12.4	46.9%	21.7%	17.2%	26.4%	65.3%	32.4%	61.7%	9.9	6.1	3.5
Mississippi	25.6	35.1	20.5	53.4%	27.3%	25.1%	32.5%	73.9%	39.8%	64.7%	6.9	3.8	1.4
Monroe	27.3	42.8	21.9	57.1%	29.1%	20.8%	31.3%	95.9%	40.5%	78.7%	6.2	2.7	2.5
Montgomery	24.0	36.7	15.8	43.9%	21.0%	10.0%	22.0%	72.9%	27.5%	74.0%	9.9	4.9	5.1
Nevada	25.7	35.8	16.1	45.6%	21.8%	14.8%	24.9%	73.3%	36.0%	71.7%	10.9	5.9	5.6
Newton	27.1	41.0	21.4	41.0%	20.0%	11.8%	21.4%	72.7%	30.2%	69.9%	15.2	7.3	6.8
Ouachita	21.9	33.7	14.0	51.7%	25.7%	15.7%	28.5%	71.3%	34.3%	67.8%	15.4	6.4	4.7
Perry	16.8	26.9	13.0	38.2%	20.2%	11.0%	22.0%	55.0%	26.4%	59.7%	5.2	2.3	1.9
Phillips	39.0	54.3	16.5	71.3%	41.4%	31.6%	44.7%	89.6%	51.0%	79.3%	24.1	10.2	5.9
Pike	22.7	34.2	8.6	41.2%	20.1%	14.9%	23.4%	68.8%	30.9%	73.8%	9.1	4.2	3.9
Poinsett	27.9	41.3	20.9	53.5%	27.6%	19.4%	31.4%	77.5%	38.9%	72.7%	5.5	2.8	1.7
Polk	23.0	36.5	8.1	45.7%	25.3%	13.5%	26.9%	69.1%	32.6%	77.7%	18.8	9.2	6.3
Pope	17.9	25.4	8.1	33.3%	16.0%	12.7%	18.8%	57.9%	25.9%	60.0%	5.9	3.0	1.6
Prairie	21.6	34.0	19.1	36.4%	18.5%	11.6%	19.9%	69.6%	28.8%	65.3%	1.6	1.5	1.0
Pulaski	18.6	27.9	9.2	39.8%	18.4%	15.5%	23.0%	60.5%	27.4%	55.2%	10.1	7.5	3.6
Randolph	21.6	31.7	16.5	41.1%	22.5%	12.5%	23.8%	68.1%	33.6%	70.9%	14.2	7.1	6.0
St Francis	32.3	43.3	19.0	61.5%	26.4%	25.5%	32.9%	100.0%	38.1%	65.1%	14.7	6.3	3.1
Saline	9.7	15.1	5.0	23.8%	11.3%	7.4%	14.0%	40.1%	17.7%	42.9%	6.2	5.7	3.4
Scott	24.4	38.1	15.6	47.9%	24.8%	14.8%	27.4%	73.0%	33.6%	71.3%	7.4	4.1	3.7
Searcy	28.4	45.1	17.6	41.5%	21.0%	10.3%	22.2%	73.6%	33.5%	78.8%	19.1	6.7	6.5
Sebastian	20.0	30.2	10.5	41.1%	19.0%	15.5%	23.6%	63.5%	28.8%	61.7%	5.3	3.4	1.8
Sevier	24.8	35.3	10.9	45.9%	24.2%	20.5%	29.7%	75.5%	35.2%	77.6%	19.9	10.3	4.4
Sharp	24.4	33.1	13.0	48.8%	26.6%	11.1%	26.4%	68.1%	34.1%	75.0%	8.8	3.7	6.4
Stone	24.3	38.6	14.6	40.8%	21.5%	11.2%	22.5%	65.5%	31.5%	73.0%	12.4	5.5	4.6
Union	19.9	30.2	12.3	44.6%	22.6%	16.5%	25.8%	60.1%	33.6%	66.1%	11.2	5.3	3.7
Van Buren	19.8	30.0	13.8	42.8%	21.8%	8.8%	22.2%	68.2%	26.8%	68.2%	6.5	2.7	2.5
Washington	19.3	24.4	9.4	36.1%	15.0%	16.4%	20.8%	56.8%	23.1%	57.8%	7.3	5.2	1.7
White	19.4	25.2	11.6	35.2%	17.2%	13.3%	20.4%	57.3%	26.4%	58.0%	5.8	3.6	2.0
Woodruff	28.1	39.6	17.9	52.3%	30.3%	19.8%	31.8%	77.5%	40.6%	72.4%	2.5	1.0	1.1
Yell	21.6	32.5	14.2	40.4%	18.9%	14.3%	23.1%	74.8%	32.4%	73.5%	3.5	1.5	1.5
Rural:													
Coastal Plains	22.8	33.6	12.3	46.7%	23.3%	15.7%	26.4%	65.7%	33.2%	66.9%	10.4	5.0	3.7
Delta	26.6	37.2	17.9	51.6%	25.3%	19.6%	29.5%	75.0%	36.6%	67.9%	9.9	4.6	2.7
Highlands	20.6	30.1	11.8	39.9%	19.6%	11.7%	22.1%	63.1%	28.7%	65.4%	7.9	4.0	3.1
Total Rural:	**22.4**	**32.5**	**13.2**	**43.9%**	**21.6%**	**14.0%**	**24.6%**	**66.4%**	**31.3%**	**66.3%**	**8.8**	**4.3**	**3.1**
Total Urban:	**17.5**	**25.1**	**9.0**	**36.1%**	**16.6%**	**13.9%**	**21.0%**	**56.9%**	**25.2%**	**54.3%**	**8.1**	**5.8**	**2.9**
State:	**19.6**	**28.1**	**11.1**	**39.7%**	**19.8%**	**16.5%**	**23.7%**	**60.9%**	**27.8%**	**59.1%**	**8.4**	**5.1**	**3.0**

Source: Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, Census Bureau, 2002-2012; American Community Survey, 5-year data 2008-2012, Census Bureau.

* Low access is defined as living more than 1 mile from a supermarket or large grocery store if in an urban area or more than 10 miles from a supermarket or large grocery store if in a rural area.

* Low income is defined as as having a poverty rate of at least 20% or the median family income is 80% or less of the state median family income.

Appendix B. Table 6. Health Indicators

County	Infant Mortality Rate, 2008-2012, Deaths Per 1,000 Live Births	Primary Care Physician Per 100,000 Population, 2012	% of Adults Eligible for Private Option Insurance, 2014	% of Adult Population With No Personal Doctor	% of Adult Population Overweight or Obese (BMI >= 25)	Children and Adolescents Who Are				
						Underweight	Healthy Weight	Overweight	Obese	Overweight or Obese
Arkansas	7.9	74.1	8.0%	10.2%	71.2%	1.9	58.3	17.9	21.9	39.8
Ashley	4.2	55.8	8.7%	13.9%	71.9%	2.4	57.9	17.4	22.4	39.8
Baxter	10.0	119.4	6.1%	12.3%	66.3%	2.2	61.7	17.2	18.9	36.0
Benton	6.2	87.4	3.5%	22.0%	62.4%	2.8	64.7	15.9	16.6	32.5
Boone	6.1	91.1	7.1%	10.8%	59.7%	2.7	61.9	16.4	19.0	35.4
Bradley	13.0	87.7	8.1%	10.5%	72.4%	1.7	52.1	18.2	28.0	46.2
Calhoun	0.0	56.5	6.5%	13.7%	75.2%	No data	57.2	18.4	24.4	42.8
Carroll	5.9	65.2	7.1%	20.1%	61.4%	2.2	57.2	17.6	23.1	40.6
Chicot	3.5	70.0	10.9%	10.1%	66.4%	1.9	51.5	16.5	30.2	46.6
Clark	5.6	65.4	7.1%	14.5%	69.2%	1.3	60.7	15.9	22.1	38.0
Clay	6.4	44.6	7.4%	9.8%	66.2%	2.0	52.1	20.4	25.5	45.9
Cleburne	4.5	69.7	6.4%	19.5%	75.0%	3.2	61.7	18.1	17.1	35.2
Cleveland	6.2	0.0	6.1%	8.0%	77.4%	3.9	52.9	16.3	26.9	43.2
Columbia	3.2	77.6	7.6%	10.9%	75.5%	1.4	57.8	17.8	23.0	40.8
Conway	8.5	70.5	7.4%	11.2%	62.5%	2.1	60.1	15.6	22.2	37.8
Craighead	7.8	177.5	6.2%	12.8%	67.8%	2.5	60.7	15.5	21.3	36.8
Crawford	7.4	56.5	6.0%	23.3%	64.0%	2.8	63.2	16.0	18.0	34.0
Crittenden	12.0	66.0	9.9%	19.7%	73.8%	1.7	58.7	17.2	22.5	39.6
Cross	9.5	50.9	7.9%	17.3%	81.0%	1.5	55.8	17.1	25.6	42.7
Dallas	6.4	50.1	8.1%	9.6%	75.2%	2.0	54.0	17.9	26.0	43.9
Desha	7.5	47.8	12.3%	7.2%	60.7%	2.4	56.5	17.1	24.0	41.1
Drew	8.7	53.4	8.1%	6.2%	67.6%	2.6	59.0	16.4	22.1	38.5
Faulkner	7.5	76.7	5.1%	14.8%	69.8%	2.9	63.0	16.3	17.8	34.1
Franklin	3.7	38.8	6.7%	21.4%	63.0%	3.2	61.6	15.8	19.5	35.2
Fulton	5.3	56.8	7.9%	9.9%	69.3%	0.8	60.2	18.1	20.8	38.9
Garland	7.1	137.3	7.8%	17.5%	64.8%	2.5	61.8	16.0	19.7	35.7
Grant	8.0	33.4	5.6%	14.0%	71.8%	2.0	61.0	18.0	19.0	37.0
Greene	7.5	67.2	6.5%	9.6%	66.9%	2.0	58.7	17.1	22.1	39.2
Hempstead	4.8	31.3	7.4%	15.1%	63.7%	2.5	57.9	15.6	24.1	39.7
Hot Spring	3.9	35.9	6.2%	15.3%	69.9%	1.6	55.1	17.2	26.2	43.4
Howard	8.0	58.2	8.1%	13.9%	78.1%	2.8	58.9	17.4	20.9	38.4
Independence	7.5	132.3	5.9%	19.9%	74.5%	1.7	57.3	17.8	23.3	41.0
Izard	9.8	7.4	7.1%	11.7%	68.3%	2.2	62.6	14.0	21.2	35.2
Jackson	9.1	96.6	8.8%	17.0%	75.5%	1.9	53.4	17.2	27.5	44.7
Jefferson	6.0	113.8	8.4%	13.9%	68.9%	1.7	57.1	17.6	23.7	41.3
Johnson	7.8	73.4	6.6%	16.6%	60.2%	2.2	58.0	16.7	23.1	39.8
Lafayette	16.3	26.9	8.6%	13.5%	61.6%	2.7	57.2	21.7	18.3	40.1
Lawrence	6.4	58.8	8.5%	11.5%	70.3%	2.2	56.8	18.0	23.0	41.0
Lee	3.7	48.9	10.9%	20.9%	70.9%	2.0	54.5	16.0	27.5	43.5
Lincoln	3.3	7.1	6.5%	8.3%	69.8%	2.5	53.9	18.2	25.4	43.5
Little River	0.0	85.1	5.5%	20.3%	65.7%	1.6	56.3	19.5	22.6	42.1
Logan	6.8	68.2	6.0%	16.1%	53.1%	2.3	59.7	16.4	21.7	38.0
Lonoke	6.0	25.8	4.7%	14.8%	69.3%	2.2	62.8	16.1	18.9	35.0
Madison	6.4	38.4	6.4%	22.4%	65.5%	3.0	72.3	11.4	13.3	24.7

Appendix B. Table 6. Health Indicators

County	Infant Mortality Rate, 2008-2012, Deaths Per 1,000 Live Births	Primary Care Physician Per 100,000 Population, 2012	% of Adults Eligible for Private Option Insurance, 2014	% of Adult Population With No Personal Doctor	% of Adult Population Overweight or Obese (BMI >= 25)	Children and Adolescents Who Are				
						Underweight	Healthy Weight	Overweight	Obese	Overweight or Obese
Marion	9.4	24.1	7.0%	10.0%	62.2%	2.3	60.3	17.2	20.3	37.4
Miller	7.3	45.8	6.6%	19.5%	54.0%	1.4	60.7	17.0	21.0	38.0
Mississippi	10.9	48.3	7.8%	15.4%	67.4%	1.8	56.8	18.3	23.1	41.4
Monroe	1.9	51.1	10.1%	8.9%	73.6%	1.7	56.5	13.7	28.0	41.7
Montgomery	11.4	74.9	8.8%	19.8%	64.2%	1.3	60.4	16.9	21.3	38.2
Nevada	6.9	33.6	7.8%	9.5%	70.7%	6.4	57.9	13.1	22.6	35.7
Newton	21.2	24.7	9.0%	15.5%	58.1%	1.8	61.6	16.7	19.9	36.6
Ouachita	10.2	74.8	8.2%	13.1%	72.5%	1.3	57.6	16.7	24.4	41.1
Perry	12.5	29.0	7.0%	14.6%	67.7%	2.7	62.3	18.2	16.8	35.0
Phillips	5.4	62.5	12.5%	8.1%	65.9%	1.5	54.7	16.9	27.0	43.8
Pike	4.8	44.5	8.7%	16.6%	66.9%	2.7	63.6	14.9	18.8	33.7
Poinsett	11.1	16.5	8.5%	16.6%	71.6%	1.5	54.6	16.1	27.8	43.9
Polk	3.3	63.5	7.3%	22.0%	82.3%	2.5	59.7	16.9	21.0	37.9
Pope	5.7	84.4	5.7%	12.6%	52.9%	1.8	58.1	18.1	22.1	40.2
Prairie	11.1	23.6	7.0%	17.2%	75.9%	1.6	55.5	20.0	22.9	42.9
Pulaski	7.8	252.7	6.3%	14.4%	68.8%	2.4	61.4	16.7	19.6	36.3
Randolph	6.9	66.9	9.3%	10.1%	71.7%	1.8	57.0	16.0	25.3	41.2
St. Francis	9.2	46.7	9.0%	16.5%	78.6%	2.3	59.4	14.9	23.4	38.3
Saline	7.9	57.2	3.8%	15.1%	69.6%	2.3	63.4	16.2	18.1	34.3
Scott	5.9	27.2	8.1%	21.2%	61.1%	2.1	57.5	19.5	21.0	40.5
Searcy	8.0	74.9	9.7%	12.5%	56.8%	1.4	57.7	15.5	25.4	40.9
Sebastian	5.9	171.2	5.2%	20.5%	57.3%	3.2	61.7	16.5	18.6	35.1
Sevier	6.9	46.6	5.4%	19.0%	86.6%	1.4	54.1	18.9	25.7	44.6
Sharp	7.9	46.9	8.8%	8.2%	72.9%	1.9	57.8	18.9	21.4	40.3
Stone	9.3	63.2	8.8%	17.0%	67.9%	2.8	64.7	15.9	16.7	32.6
Union	9.9	127.2	6.7%	15.0%	73.5%	1.6	56.5	17.1	24.8	42.0
Van Buren	3.6	47.0	6.8%	14.3%	62.9%	2.0	56.6	17.8	23.6	41.4
Washington	6.2	135.3	4.6%	22.3%	64.2%	1.9	62.1	17.0	19.0	36.0
White	7.1	77.7	6.0%	19.7%	76.7%	3.0	58.3	17.2	21.6	38.7
Woodruff	7.0	70.4	9.7%	20.0%	81.2%	1.9	51.3	21.8	25.0	46.8
Yell	7.5	59.3	5.4%	18.2%	55.0%	1.9	55.3	18.2	24.6	42.8
Rural:										
Coastal Plains	7.2	71.2	7.5%	12.9%	71.0%	2.5	56.7	17.3	23.6	41.0
Delta	8.1	52.4	8.6%	13.2%	70.7%	1.9	55.2	17.4	25.4	42.9
Highlands	6.9	67.5	6.8%	15.6%	66.9%	2.1	59.6	16.9	21.3	38.3
Total Rural:	**7.2**	**64.5**	**7.3%**	**14.6%**	**68.5%**	**2.2**	**57.2**	**17.2**	**23.5**	**40.7**
Total Urban:	**7.1**	**139.0**	**5.6%**	**17.6%**	**65.9%**	**2.3**	**61.6**	**16.5**	**19.6**	**36.0**
State:	**7.2**	**107.2**	**6.3%**	**16.3%**	**67.1%**	**2.2**	**58.5**	**17.0**	**22.3**	**39.3**

Sources: Arkansas Department of Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System; Arkansas Department of Health, Health Professions 2012; Arkansas Center for Health Statistics Query System; Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of County Operations.

Appendix B. Table 7. Educational Attainment and Enrollment in Public Schools

	% Persons Age 25+ With			Public School Enrollment		College-Going Students	
County Name	H.S. Degree & Higher, 2012	Associate's Degree, 2012	Bachelor's Degree & Higher, 2012	2013-14	Enrollment Change, 2007-08 to 2013-14	2013	Percent
Arkansas	82.4%	5.8%	13.0%	2,968	-10.3%	135	61.1%
Ashley	82.8%	4.6%	13.1%	3,702	-7.2%	111	51.2%
Baxter	86.8%	7.1%	15.5%	5,113	0.7%	180	52.9%
Benton	85.7%	5.9%	28.1%	40,673	16.0%	1,139	48.7%
Boone	85.4%	7.0%	15.4%	6,101	-2.6%	259	57.2%
Bradley	74.5%	3.9%	11.3%	2,031	-2.1%	39	35.1%
Calhoun	78.9%	7.5%	6.8%	514	-23.6%	25	51.0%
Carroll	81.2%	5.3%	16.5%	3,882	3.3%	92	43.0%
Chicot	72.5%	2.5%	14.2%	1,524	-12.4%	39	33.1%
Clark	85.2%	7.2%	21.6%	2,735	-5.1%	122	65.2%
Clay	76.6%	4.4%	9.9%	2,434	-10.9%	51	29.1%
Cleburne	83.5%	6.3%	16.9%	3,353	-2.6%	140	55.8%
Cleveland	85.1%	8.2%	14.3%	1,422	-1.4%	59	61.5%
Columbia	84.5%	6.9%	19.1%	3,716	2.3%	151	65.7%
Conway	83.0%	4.5%	14.4%	3,081	-6.6%	126	58.1%
Craighead	84.7%	5.1%	23.7%	17,369	12.3%	550	54.7%
Crawford	81.2%	7.9%	13.3%	11,050	-3.4%	383	50.6%
Crittenden	78.7%	5.4%	14.6%	10,326	-7.2%	363	59.0%
Cross	80.0%	4.8%	11.9%	3,397	-5.2%	130	47.3%
Dallas	80.8%	6.6%	10.2%	846	-19.7%	37	48.7%
Desha	75.7%	4.0%	12.8%	2,603	-7.2%	92	55.4%
Drew	82.7%	4.5%	20.8%	2,994	-4.7%	94	47.5%
Faulkner	88.8%	6.2%	26.2%	18,298	9.1%	684	62.8%
Franklin	83.2%	6.5%	12.5%	3,157	-6.4%	136	63.0%
Fulton	83.0%	6.3%	10.3%	1,663	2.0%	65	50.0%
Garland	86.0%	7.5%	20.4%	14,716	7.0%	546	62.1%
Grant	84.2%	5.6%	17.0%	4,760	-1.0%	155	48.9%
Greene	82.2%	4.9%	12.5%	7,184	5.3%	241	55.9%
Hempstead	79.2%	4.5%	14.9%	3,573	-5.2%	117	56.3%
Hot Spring	82.9%	9.3%	12.8%	5,274	-1.4%	179	54.2%
Howard	76.0%	3.7%	11.3%	2,922	0.9%	125	58.7%
Independence	81.6%	4.9%	13.3%	5,949	4.2%	231	64.0%
Izard	80.4%	5.0%	11.4%	1,770	-1.1%	51	45.5%
Jackson	75.3%	5.2%	9.5%	2,125	-10.5%	56	40.0%
Jefferson	82.8%	5.0%	17.6%	11,847	-11.9%	469	61.1%
Johnson	77.4%	3.1%	15.7%	4,486	3.3%	139	55.6%
Lafayette	76.0%	3.4%	12.0%	689	-45.1%	50	65.8%
Lawrence	76.4%	6.1%	9.1%	3,039	-4.9%	108	48.0%
Lee	70.8%	5.2%	6.4%	881	-30.7%	50	90.9%
Lincoln	71.8%	4.6%	9.2%	1,592	-7.6%	44	44.9%
Little River	84.1%	8.7%	10.9%	1,993	-4.6%	73	58.4%
Logan	80.1%	6.0%	11.7%	3,347	-6.8%	163	60.4%
Lonoke	86.2%	8.1%	17.9%	13,439	6.3%	445	49.3%
Madison	74.8%	2.5%	10.8%	2,256	-10.1%	60	41.7%

Appendix B. Table 7. Educational Attainment and Enrollment in Public Schools

County Name	% Persons Age 25+ With			Public School Enrollment		College-Going Students	
	H.S. Degree & Higher, 2012	Associate's Degree, 2012	Bachelor's Degree & Higher, 2012	2013-14	Enrollment Change, 2007-08 to 2013-14	2013	Percent
Marion	83.8%	5.4%	13.2%	1,565	-13.2%	62	48.4%
Miller	84.0%	5.7%	12.9%	6,350	-0.5%	133	34.3%
Mississippi	76.6%	6.3%	12.0%	7,914	-10.0%	236	45.4%
Monroe	73.4%	7.2%	12.9%	1,119	-22.5%	44	56.4%
Montgomery	81.1%	8.6%	11.0%	1,104	-1.7%	34	51.5%
Nevada	81.2%	8.0%	11.1%	1,400	-6.1%	60	60.0%
Newton	80.6%	4.7%	12.5%	1,257	0.6%	57	58.2%
Ouachita	85.1%	7.1%	15.2%	4,286	-8.4%	179	55.9%
Perry	82.0%	4.8%	9.7%	1,615	-7.4%	75	56.8%
Phillips	73.0%	9.4%	13.2%	4,061	-9.6%	180	72.0%
Pike	78.3%	5.2%	12.4%	2,036	-13.1%	91	68.4%
Poinsett	72.9%	4.1%	8.9%	4,158	-7.2%	147	50.2%
Polk	82.7%	6.9%	11.7%	3,620	-5.7%	133	52.2%
Pope	82.0%	5.0%	20.0%	9,715	-0.2%	360	55.6%
Prairie	76.6%	3.3%	10.1%	1,176	-10.2%	41	50.0%
Pulaski	89.1%	6.4%	31.6%	56,223	4.4%	1,892	61.3%
Randolph	80.1%	7.3%	11.0%	2,297	-3.0%	81	54.7%
St. Francis	76.4%	6.2%	11.2%	3,948	-15.9%	588	60.7%
Saline	88.9%	6.8%	23.1%	16,511	19.0%	59	64.1%
Scott	75.0%	6.0%	10.3%	1,493	-13.4%	66	66.0%
Searcy	74.4%	5.5%	11.0%	1,521	-10.8%	648	49.3%
Sebastian	82.4%	7.5%	18.7%	20,560	1.8%	128	62.7%
Sevier	66.3%	5.7%	8.6%	3,273	-1.4%	101	52.6%
Sharp	84.4%	5.8%	11.2%	2,874	-12.6%	121	47.5%
Stone	80.4%	6.5%	13.0%	1,685	1.5%	61	58.7%
Union	82.0%	7.9%	16.1%	7,379	-6.1%	214	41.6%
Van Buren	82.0%	7.1%	13.6%	2,222	-4.5%	68	45.0%
Washington	82.4%	4.6%	28.0%	38,759	14.8%	1,076	47.1%
White	82.6%	6.0%	17.9%	12,855	4.2%	440	54.5%
Woodruff	74.5%	3.9%	10.7%	1,062	-10.2%	33	50.0%
Yell	72.2%	3.1%	9.7%	4,163	-1.6%	138	48.3%
Rural:							
Coastal Plains	82.0%	6.4%	15.0%	33,699	-6.7%	1,172	52.2%
Delta	76.5%	5.4%	11.3%	48,146	-8.7%	2,107	53.5%
Highlands	81.3%	5.9%	14.2%	117,029	-2.3%	4,904	53.8%
Total Rural:	**80.3%**	**5.8%**	**13.7%**	**198,874**	**-4.7%**	**8,183**	**53.5%**
Total Urban:	**85.7%**	**6.2%**	**24.7%**	**276,121**	**7.1%**	**7,867**	**54.6%**
State:	**83.3%**	**6.1%**	**19.8%**	**474,995**	**1.8%**	**16,050**	**54.0%**

Source: Arkansas Department of Education, Arkansas Department of Higher Education, U.S. Census Bureau.

Appendix B. Table 8. Social Vulnerability and Access to High-Speed Internet

	SOVI, 2006-2010	National Percentile of SOVI (1% being least vulnerable, 99% most vulnerable)	State Ranking, SOVI (1 being least vulnerable and 75 being most vulnerable)	768 kbps/ 200 kbps	300 mbps/ 768 kbps	6 mbps/ 1.5 mbps
Arkansas	-0.683	37.42%	14			
Ashley	-0.559	39.83%	17			
Baxter	2.293	83.04%	61			
Benton	-3.115	10.28%	1			
Boone	0.043	51.67%	27			
Bradley	0.230	55.33%	31			
Calhoun	-0.847	34.49%	9			
Carroll	1.434	74.23%	53			
Chicot	5.492	97.36%	75			
Clark	1.435	74.26%	54			
Clay	1.241	71.65%	50			
Cleburne	0.770	64.94%	40			
Cleveland	-0.484	40.88%	19			
Columbia	0.633	62.90%	36			
Conway	0.179	54.22%	29			
Craighead	-0.806	35.16%	11			
Crawford	-1.261	28.16%	8			
Crittenden	-0.702	37.13%	13			
Cross	1.113	70.06%	48			
Dallas	0.640	63.12%	39			
Desha	0.845	66.18%	44			
Drew	0.638	62.97%	37			
Faulkner	-3.038	10.75%	3			
Franklin	1.265	71.87%	51			
Fulton	1.655	76.87%	57			
Garland	1.086	69.77%	47			
Grant	-2.794	12.54%	5			
Greene	-0.500	40.63%	18			
Hempstead	0.039	51.51%	25			
Hot Spring	0.187	54.50%	30			
Howard	0.158	53.77%	28			
Independence	-0.311	44.19%	21			
Izard	3.662	92.78%	72			
Jackson	2.806	87.24%	65			
Jefferson	0.323	57.21%	32			
Johnson	-0.569	39.48%	16			
Lafayette	2.211	82.21%	60			
Lawrence	2.622	85.75%	64			
Lee	5.333	97.17%	74			
Lincoln	3.612	92.43%	71			
Little River	1.161	70.70%	49			
Logan	0.573	61.85%	35			
Lonoke	-2.826	12.06%	4			
Madison	0.043	51.64%	26			

Appendix B. Table 8. Social Vulnerability and Access to High Speed Internet

	SOVI, 2006-2010	National Percentile of SOVI (1% being least vulnerable, 99% most vulnerable)	State Ranking, SOVI (1 being least vulnerable and 75 being most vulnerable)	768 kbps/ 200 kbps	300 mbps/ 768 kbps	6 mbps/ 1.5 mbps
Marion	2.329	83.39%	62			
Miller	-0.337	43.46%	20			
Mississippi	0.421	58.73%	33			
Monroe	2.473	84.51%	63			
Montgomery	1.323	72.41%	52			
Nevada	0.639	63.06%	38			
Newton	1.560	75.85%	56			
Ouachita	0.834	66.05%	43			
Perry	-0.162	47.31%	22			
Phillips	3.063	88.96%	67			
Pike	0.490	60.29%	34			
Poinsett	1.962	80.21%	58			
Polk	0.772	65.00%	41			
Pope	-0.621	38.50%	15			
Prairie	1.539	75.63%	55			
Pulaski	-2.426	15.88%	6			
Randolph	0.966	67.96%	45			
St. Francis	3.155	89.82%	68			
Saline	-3.044	10.66%	2			
Scott	1.061	69.20%	46			
Searcy	2.992	88.32%	66			
Sebastian	-0.707	36.91%	12			
Sevier	-0.162	47.34%	23			
Sharp	2.165	81.61%	59			
Stone	3.533	91.92%	70			
Union	-0.062	49.35%	24			
Van Buren	3.173	90.01%	69			
Washington	-1.980	20.20%	7			
White	-0.811	35.09%	10			
Woodruff	3.717	93.00%	73			
Yell	0.805	65.61%	42			
Rural:	Average value	Average value	Average value			
Coastal Plains	0.369	56.6%	32.3			
Delta	2.224	76.9%	54.8			
Highlands	0.962	64.4%	41.8			
Total Rural:	**1.173**	**66.1%**	**43.3**	**21.1%**	**29.6%**	**44.8%**
Total Urban:	**-1.449**	**29.8%**	**12.8**	**1.1%**	**1.4%**	**21.6%**
State:	**0.718**	**59.8%**	**38.0**			

*SOVI = Social Vulnerability Index. Social vulnerability is represented as the social, economic, demographic, and housing characteristics that influence a community's ability to respond to, cope with, recover from, and adapt to environmental hazards.

Sources: http://webra.cas.sc.edu/hvri/products/sovi2010_data.aspx
Rural Broadband Report, 2010, Federal Communications Commission

Appendix B. Table 9. Property Tax Assessments and Retail Sales

County	Assessments			Retail Sales			Change 2007 to 2012 (%)	
	Total Assessments, 2013 (M$)	Assessments Per Capita 2013	Change in Assessments 2007 to 2013	Retail Sales, 2013 (M$)	Per Capita Retail Sales, 2013	Change in Retail Sales 2007 to 2013	Property Tax Revenue	Sales Tax Revenue
Arkansas	329.1	17,529	7.6%	311.0	$16,563	-7.8%	4.2%	8.6%
Ashley	374.7	17,607	9.2%	191.7	$9,005	-7.3%	0.3%	-19.6%
Baxter	683.9	16,697	3.7%	585.6	$14,299	-2.3%	21.0%	-14.9%
Benton	4470.9	18,841	-0.2%	3329.4	$14,030	12.6%	17.3%	-30.8%
Boone	496.3	13,273	0.9%	556.5	$14,882	-1.5%	-17.6%	2.0%
Bradley	118.9	10,573	-1.2%	82.8	$7,358	-7.0%	17.5%	14.1%
Calhoun	92.6	17,677	5.2%	18.2	$3,477	-13.1%	-4.5%	14.7%
Carroll	432.6	15,555	5.8%	327.3	$11,770	-0.6%	20.6%	-12.2%
Chicot	137.9	12,169	-4.5%	72.7	$6,415	-10.2%	-11.2%	76.4%
Clark	281.6	12,384	1.2%	292.5	$12,860	-5.6%	2.0%	52.9%
Clay	188.1	12,215	-2.6%	143.4	$9,314	-8.1%	-11.7%	-19.3%
Cleburne	659.3	25,668	44.1%	338.0	$13,161	-0.8%	49.9%	0.6%
Cleveland	89.1	10,371	3.2%	14.1	$1,642	-6.0%	11.4%	12.3%
Columbia	404.2	16,727	17.0%	227.4	$9,411	-6.5%	14.1%	3.6%
Conway	499.7	23,520	88.9%	311.9	$14,680	-2.3%	124.6%	90.3%
Craighead	1483.1	14,614	10.5%	1842.1	$18,151	4.1%	29.2%	-30.8%
Crawford	696.5	11,300	2.7%	558.9	$9,067	-0.6%	8.4%	-13.3%
Crittenden	695.6	13,984	4.9%	864.3	$17,374	-4.1%	17.0%	-11.9%
Cross	224.4	12,789	1.3%	206.5	$11,767	-6.8%	1.4%	258.7%
Dallas	83.2	10,484	-6.2%	86.1	$10,850	-8.5%	-8.8%	0.6%
Desha	191.2	15,289	-3.3%	127.5	$10,199	-10.9%	-7.8%	6.8%
Drew	211.2	11,244	3.6%	232.5	$12,379	-4.2%	5.9%	41.6%
Faulkner	1789.0	14,961	30.1%	1673.0	$13,990	10.1%	52.5%	9.6%
Franklin	249.2	13,816	-4.9%	160.5	$8,901	-4.7%	-20.5%	4.8%
Fulton	132.7	10,788	10.9%	49.6	$4,030	-4.1%	-9.3%	12.6%
Garland	1740.4	17,911	9.1%	1790.0	$18,421	0.1%	31.9%	73.1%
Grant	215.1	11,935	13.4%	131.3	$7,288	-0.1%	0.3%	31.8%
Greene	518.6	12,034	9.0%	460.2	$10,678	0.2%	19.3%	6.1%
Hempstead	399.2	17,762	54.4%	233.1	$10,373	-5.6%	57.4%	123.0%
Hot Spring	403.1	12,033	12.5%	244.1	$7,286	-2.2%	25.3%	58.1%
Howard	192.9	14,202	-0.4%	184.5	$13,585	-2.9%	-9.9%	32.9%
Independence	552.5	14,935	8.2%	468.1	$12,653	0.2%	0.9%	40.4%
Izard	163.9	12,262	14.8%	116.7	$8,732	-2.9%	5.4%	-39.6%
Jackson	206.6	11,730	0.0%	214.4	$12,174	-6.2%	14.5%	-4.5%
Jefferson	850.4	11,619	-1.6%	966.1	$13,200	-7.6%	1.5%	5.0%
Johnson	264.0	10,215	-4.7%	237.9	$9,206	-1.0%	23.9%	-7.6%
Lafayette	95.1	13,113	0.9%	35.0	$4,830	-9.3%	2.9%	55.9%
Lawrence	179.9	10,578	0.6%	185.0	$10,878	-4.8%	-8.5%	1.7%
Lee	118.9	11,875	28.7%	38.9	$3,888	-10.2%	13.9%	13.2%
Lincoln	115.8	8,253	0.1%	68.4	$4,873	-5.9%	1.6%	12.2%
Little River	251.1	19,723	-16.5%	101.7	$7,989	-5.1%	-21.4%	6.1%
Logan	264.4	11,974	-6.4%	203.0	$9,194	-5.8%	-5.3%	-7.6%
Lonoke	891.3	12,597	12.8%	642.8	$9,086	5.9%	32.1%	2.9%
Madison	181.8	11,578	13.1%	135.3	$8,617	-0.7%	23.7%	-9.6%

Appendix B. Table 9. Property Tax Assessments and Retail Sales

County	Assessments			Retail Sales			Change 2007 to 2012 (%)	
	Total Assessments, 2013 (M$)	Assessments Per Capita 2013	Change in Assessments 2007 to 2013	Retail Sales, 2013 (M$)	Per Capita Retail Sales, 2013	Change in Retail Sales 2007 to 2013	Property Tax Revenue	Sales Tax Revenue
Marion	212.1	12,909	8.3%	99.9	$6,083	-5.0%	1.6%	-0.9%
Miller	480.7	11,075	11.5%	493.9	$11,380	-1.0%	-20.5%	25.3%
Mississippi	599.6	13,394	9.6%	477.5	$10,667	-6.9%	89.4%	-1.3%
Monroe	109.8	14,292	2.2%	88.3	$11,492	-11.3%	1.7%	0.0%
Montgomery	116.2	12,593	10.5%	39.2	$4,246	-3.7%	3.1%	-5.1%
Nevada	94.2	10,711	-6.9%	147.5	$16,766	-7.0%	-28.6%	-2.3%
Newton	85.0	10,537	5.5%	15.0	$1,863	-5.2%	40.4%	57.5%
Ouachita	243.6	9,743	5.3%	207.9	$8,314	-6.3%	-2.9%	253.8%
Perry	100.5	9,710	11.4%	37.4	$3,612	-3.3%	19.0%	26.5%
Phillips	215.5	10,566	3.2%	240.9	$11,807	-11.4%	27.9%	-22.9%
Pike	128.4	11,489	0.8%	61.0	$5,456	-4.9%	25.4%	10.4%
Poinsett	259.9	10,763	1.2%	216.1	$8,950	-5.7%	-11.3%	-1.6%
Polk	223.5	10,950	6.5%	207.1	$10,151	-2.3%	-15.7%	46.1%
Pope	1085.5	17,355	7.0%	1115.8	$17,839	1.9%	6.6%	-20.3%
Prairie	118.7	14,177	-3.1%	43.6	$5,211	-8.6%	10.3%	41.2%
Pulaski	6691.5	17,101	4.7%	7643.3	$19,534	0.0%	11.0%	-19.7%
Randolph	182.9	10,341	1.1%	160.0	$9,041	-4.1%	3.5%	-2.4%
St. Francis	238.5	8,748	-3.2%	395.4	$14,503	-6.2%	-1.7%	-12.5%
Saline	1615.9	14,125	14.5%	1500.4	$13,115	8.4%	21.0%	-100.0%
Scott	102.5	9,365	-2.2%	60.8	$5,551	-4.0%	-31.6%	81.7%
Searcy	83.8	10,450	7.2%	66.7	$8,316	-7.3%	-13.8%	-2.3%
Sebastian	1976.8	15,523	7.0%	2269.3	$17,820	0.5%	10.2%	-6.4%
Sevier	163.2	9,397	11.5%	190.7	$10,980	1.5%	20.6%	28.3%
Sharp	189.8	11,135	3.1%	180.2	$10,567	-4.4%	3.1%	-3.0%
Stone	152.8	12,145	18.6%	131.2	$10,427	0.2%	17.1%	-0.3%
Union	696.8	17,124	3.4%	589.6	$14,489	-6.1%	3.7%	17.0%
Van Buren	641.1	37,863	170.1%	175.9	$10,387	-3.9%	176.4%	-5.1%
Washington	3266.8	15,096	-1.5%	3501.1	$16,178	3.2%	-3.6%	-16.2%
White	1266.0	16,131	57.6%	1021.7	$13,018	3.9%	76.4%	9.6%
Woodruff	136.5	19,306	48.3%	68.1	$9,627	-10.9%	24.6%	11.4%
Yell	221.4	10,113	1.3%	133.1	$6,081	-1.9%	-5.0%	0.7%
Rural:								
Coastal Plains	3070.9	14,888	7.8%	2081.6	$10,092	-6.2%	3.9%	33.8%
Delta	3709.3	12,363	4.9%	3173.0	$10,576	-6.7%	13.8%	12.7%
Highlands	10890.8	14,533	18.0%	8309.7	$11,089	-1.1%	19.4%	12.5%
Total Rural:	**17671.0**	**14,073**	**13.2%**	**13564.3**	**$10,802**	**-3.3%**	**15.0%**	**16.9%**
Total Urban:	**26649.0**	**15,642**	**5.8%**	**27074.6**	**$15,892**	**2.8%**	**14.1%**	**-6.9%**
State:	**44319.9**	**14,976**	**8.7%**	**40638.8**	**$13,732**	**0.7%**	**14.5%**	**6.7%**

Source: Assessment Data from Arkansas Assessment Coordination Department and Retail Sales from Woods & Poole.

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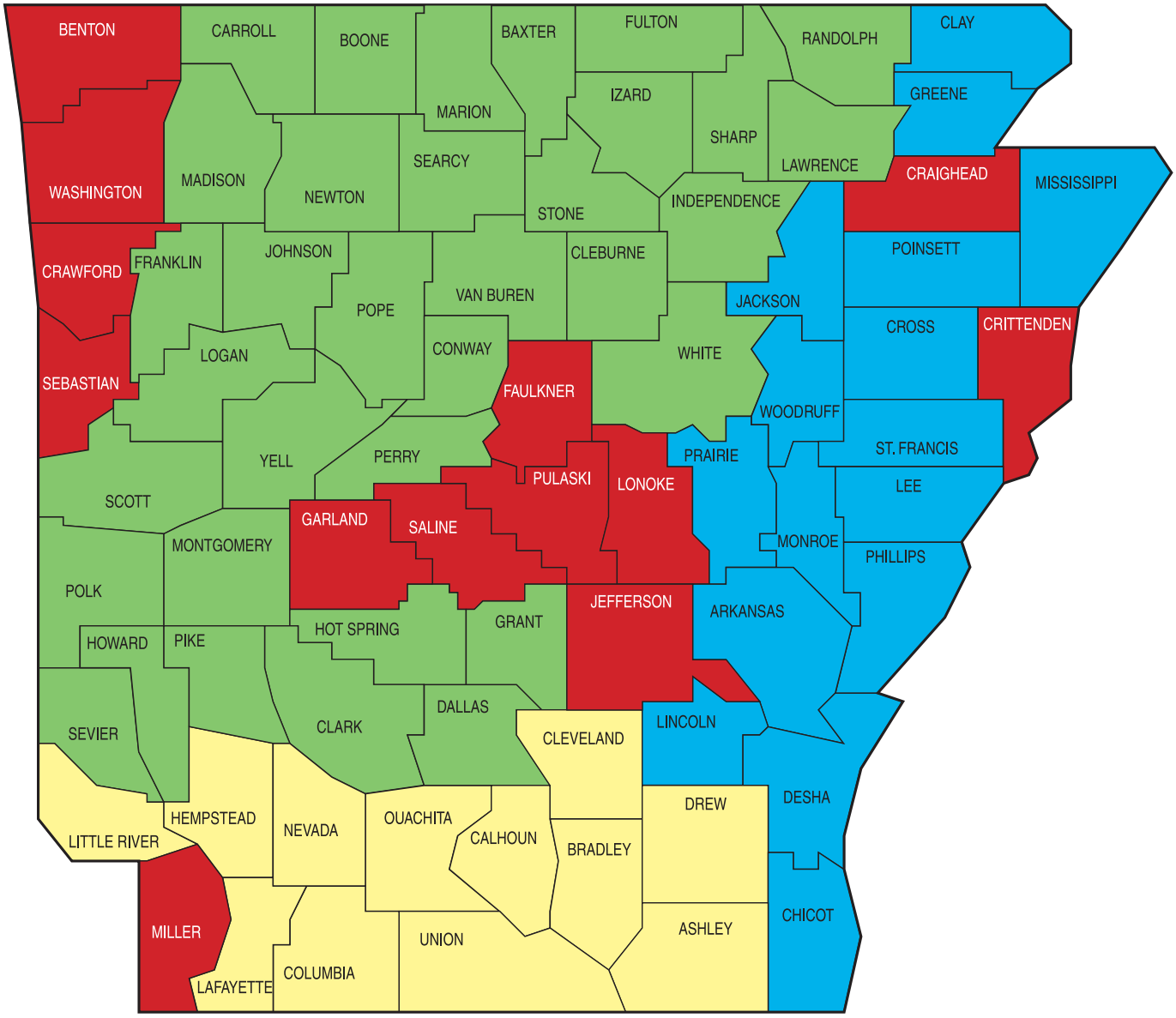
Additional reports, maps, tables, graphs and presentations that pertain to rural Arkansas can be found at:
http://ruralsoc.uark.edu AND
http://uaex.uada.edu/business-communities/default.aspx

Arkansas Regions and Counties



Coastal Plains **Delta**

Highlands **Urban**

United States Department of Agriculture, University of Arkansas, and County Governments Cooperating

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