

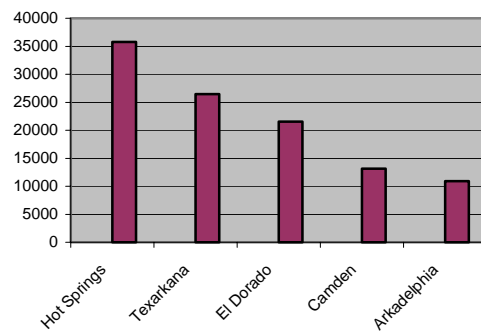
# Southwest Arkansas Region Profile

The southwest Arkansas region consists of Calhoun, Clark, Columbia, Dallas, Garland, Grant, Hempstead, Hot Spring, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Montgomery, Nevada, Ouachita, Pike, Polk, Sevier and Union counties. The West Gulf Coastal Plain makes up the southern portion of this region. This plain is found south of the Ouachita Mountains and extends southward to the Gulf and eastward to the Mississippi Alluvial Plain. The northern portion of the region consists of the Ouachita Mountains. The mountains are long ridges that run east-west and are separated by wide valleys each containing a stream or river.

## Population Trends

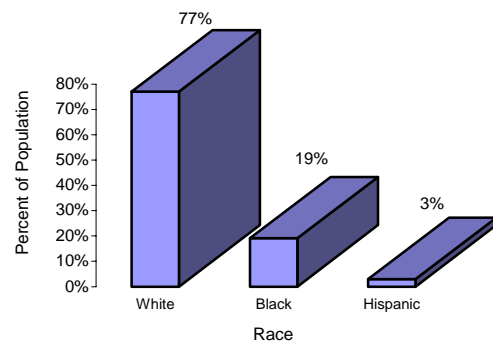
While several southwest Arkansas counties lost population in the last decade, the region as a whole grew by 7.5 percent. Based on 2000 census figures, the population of the southwest region is 440,443. Among the five largest cities in the region, Texarkana experienced the greatest growth of 16.9 percent. At 24.4 percent, De Queen has experienced the greatest growth in the southwest region over the 1990-2000 period.

Major Cities

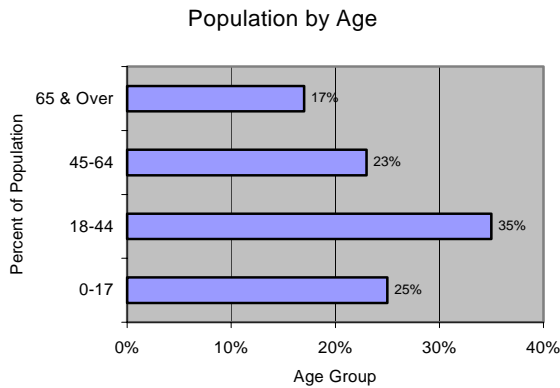


Source: 2000 Census of Population & Housing

Population by Race



Source: 2000 Census of Population & Housing



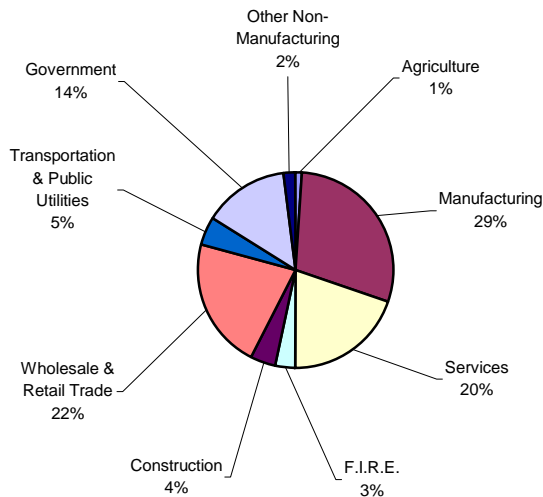
Source: 2000 Census of Population & Housing

### ***Labor Force Statistics***

The southwest region has a civilian labor force of 190,625. The unemployment rate for the region as a whole was 4.9 percent in 2000.

Source: 2000 Annual Average Labor Force Statistics, Employment Security Department.

### ***Covered Employment by Sector***



Source: 1999 Covered Employment & Earnings, Employment Security Department

### ***Agriculture Sector***

While the southwest region is not the state's primary agricultural region, the region does

produce significant amounts of cattle, poultry, forestry, and hogs and pigs.

According to the 1997 Census of Agriculture, the average size farm in the southwest region of Arkansas has slightly decreased from 218 acres in 1992 to 207 acres in 1997. The market value of the region's agricultural products was \$947,485,000 in 1997.

### ***Manufacturing Sector***

Manufacturing accounts for 29 percent of employment in the southwest region. Manufacturing employment is higher in this region than any other region of the state. This region is home to a diverse group of manufacturers ranging from poultry processing, tires, wood products, paper, hand-held yard tools, and steel and aluminum products.

### ***Service Sector***

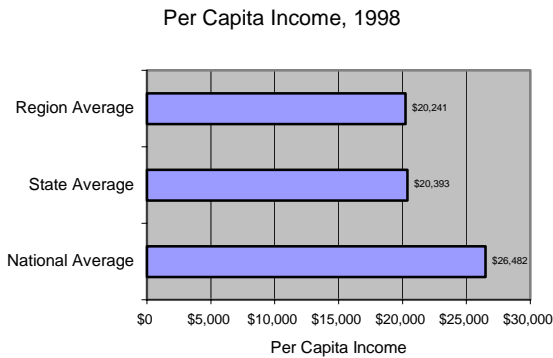
The service sector accounts for 20 percent of employment in southwest Arkansas. Following statewide trends, the service sector experienced significant growth over the past decade, with the most growth in business and health services. Health care service providers account for three of the top 15 employers in this region.

### ***Income Statistics***

Southwest Arkansas' per capita income was \$20,241 in 1998. Based on estimates by Woods & Poole Economics, Inc., the region's per capita income was \$21,559 in 2000.

The median household income in southwest Arkansas was \$22,781 in 1993 and \$27,478 in 1997, representing a 20.6 percent increase.

Based on *Covered Employment and Earnings* data, the average hourly wage in the region increased 14.8 percent from \$9.60 to \$11.02 per hour between 1995 and 1999.



**Fifteen Largest Region Employers**

(Except government and schools)

- Tyson Foods, Inc.
- Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
- Frigidaire Home Products
- Cooper Tire & Rubber Company
- Georgia Pacific Corporation
- ConAgra Frozen Foods
- St. Joseph’s Regional Medical Center
- Weyerhaeuser Company
- Pilgrims Pride Corporation
- Alcoa Extrusions, Inc.
- Great Lakes Chemical Corporation
- National Park Medical Center
- Medical Center of South Arkansas
- International Paper Company
- SMI Joist

**Recreation**

The southwest region is home to 16 state parks, one national park and several museums. Some museums in the region include the Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources in Smackover, Dallas County

**Airports**

Airport Name	City	Runway Length (ft.)	Service Type
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Museum in Fordyce and the Texarkana Historical Museum. The southwest region has several lakes suitable for fishing, boating, and swimming. Lake Ouachita, in the southwest region, is Arkansas’ largest man-made lake.

**Transportation**

*Navigable Waterways & River Ports*

The Ouachita and Red Rivers provide navigable water transportation for southwest Arkansas. Southwest Arkansas has one public port on the Ouachita River at Camden. The Red River provides transportation from Texas through the southwest corner of Arkansas and into Louisiana.

*Rail Facilities*

Two Class I railroads, Union Pacific and Kansas City Southern, serve southwest Arkansas. The region is also served by multiple Class III railroads.

*Interstates*

One interstate highway and several U.S. numbered state highways serve southwest Arkansas. Interstate 30 provides transportation from Little Rock to various locations in Texas. Southwest Arkansas also has several national highways including 67, 70, 71, 79, 82, 167, 270, 278 and 371.

*Foreign Trade Zones*

A foreign trade sub-zone is located in southwest Arkansas at El Dorado.

Bearce	Mount Ida	4,000	Public Use
Dexter B. Florence Memorial Field	Arkadelphia	5,000	Public Use
J. Lynn Helms Sevier County	De Queen	5,000	Public Use
Magnolia Municipal	Magnolia	4,610	Public Use
Memorial Field	Hot Springs	6,595	Public Use
Mena Intermountain Municipal	Mena	6,000	Public Use
South Arkansas Regional	El Dorado	6,599	Commercial
Texarkana Regional-Webb Field	Texarkana	6,601	Commercial

***Southwest Region Educational Institutions***

	<b>County</b>	<b>Institution</b>
<b>Four-Year Institutions</b>	Clark	Henderson State University
	Clark	Ouachita Baptist University
	Columbia	Southern Arkansas University
<b>Two-Year Institutions</b>	Calhoun	Southern Arkansas University Tech
	Garland	Garland County Community College
	Hempstead	University of Arkansas Community College at Hope
	Hot Spring	Ouachita Technical College
	Polk	Rich Mountain Community College
	Sevier	Cossatot Technical College
	Union	South Arkansas Community College
<b>Technical Institutes</b>	Garland	Quapaw Technical Institute

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