# **EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW**





IN THE U.S. FOR RELATIVE VALUE OF \$100



BALANCED BUDGET SINCE 1945

(ARKANSAS)



INCOME TAX CUTS SIGNED IN 2015, 2017, 2019



LOWEST COST OF DOING BUSINESS

# ARKANSAS' HOME-GROWN FORTUNE 500s









# Dillard's



# TOP STATE FOR SMALL BUSINESS FRIENDLINESS

Source: Thumbtack, 2019



## LOWEST IN UNION MEMBERSHIP RATES IN THE U.S.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics



#### LOWEST INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICITY RATES

Source: Business Facilities Magazine 2020, 16th Annual State Ranking Report



# ON THE COST OF LIVING INDEX (FIRST QTR 2020, SOURCE: C2ER)

Source: U.S. News and World Report, Best States Rankings Report 2019



# TOP MANUFACTURING STATE BY PERCENTAGE OF WORKFORCE, THIRD IN THE SOUTH

Source: BLS Employment & Earnings, Annual 2019



FOREIGN OWNED OPERATIONS IN THE STATE

#### **FOOD & BEVERAGE**

Arkansas is home to Tyson Foods, one of the largest food companies in the world, and numerous other food manufacturers, including Cargill, ConAgra Brands, Frito-Lay, Gerber, Kraft/Heinz, Land O'Frost, Nestlé, Pilgrim's Pride, Pinnacle Foods, Riceland Foods, and Simmons Foods. Arkansas is the nation's:

- #1 producer of rice
- #2 producer of poultry (broilers)
- #4 producer of catfish (food size)
- #5 producer of sweet potatoes
- #11 producer of soybeans



















#### **AEROSPACE & DEFENSE**

Home to 220 aerospace & defense operations, Arkansas offers a very competitive environment for companies such as the ones below to be successful. Aerospace/aviation is Arkansas's leading export while defense is ranked third.

COMPANIES:















#### **DISTRIBUTION & LOGISTICS**

With its central location and comprehensive transportation infrastructure, it's not surprising that Arkansas has a large and growing distribution and logistics services sector.

Arkansas is home to two transportation/trucking companies on Fortune magazine's list of the largest 1,000 companies in the United States, based on annual revenue - J.B. Hunt Transport Services, Inc. and ArcBest International, Inc.

COMPANIES:

J.B. HUNT

















TIMBER & FOREST PRODUCTS

The second leading lumber producing state in the South and fourth in the nation, Arkansas has 18.5 million acres of productive timberland. The state's forests include oak-hickory (41 %), pine (31 %), bottomland hardwoods (16 %), oak-pine (10 %) and cedar (2 %).

COMPANIES:

















#### **CORPORATE & SHARED SERVICES**

Arkansas is home to the world's largest retailer - Walmart - and seven other companies on Fortune magazine's list of the largest 1,000 companies in the United States. Home to corporate leaders in retail, transportation, food processing and oil, our economy is as diverse as our workforce. Arkansas offers great assets to companies looking to establish or relocate a corporate operation.

COMPANIES:

















#### FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION

Arkansas keeps the firearms and ammunition industry in its sights. From manufacturers to businesses involved in sales and distribution, the Arkansas firearms and ammunition industry is diverse. As a pro-second amendment state, Arkansas welcomes firearms and ammunition companies looking to start-up, expand, or relocate.

**COMPANIES:** 









#### **TECHNOLOGY**

Arkansas is home to accelerator programs in financial technology, life sciences, supply chain and cyber security.

Acxiom, in Conway, is the developer of some of the largest and most sophisticated business analytics and marketing databases in the world employing more than 2,000 Arkansans.

Fidelity Information Services, one of the world's topranked technology providers to the banking industry, also has significant operations in Little Rock, delivering a comprehensive assortment of solutions for a broad range of financial markets.

COMPANIES:



















The metals industry employs over 23,000 Arkansans with increases projected in the coming years. In fact, job growth in this high-demand industry has increased in Arkansas by 38% since 2009. Mississippi County is one of the largest steel producing counties in the nation.

COMPANIES:













#### TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT

Many internationally-known transportation equipment manufacturing companies have located in Arkansas due to the availability of workforce, competitive costs and proximity to several major American markets. In fact, IHS Markit predicts that by 2021, Arkansas will be the center of North American automotive industry production.





#### ADVANTAGE ARKANSAS

- · Income tax credit
- 1-4% of new payroll
- 5 year accrual; 9 year carry forward

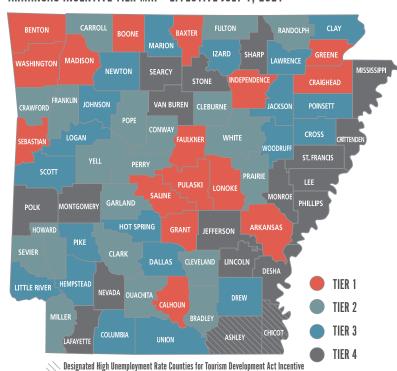
#### **ARKPLUS**

- Income tax credit
- 10% of initial investment
- 9 year carry forward

# **CREATE REBATE**

- · Cash payment
- 3.9-5% of new payroll
- 1-10 year accrual

# ARKANSAS INCENTIVE TIER MAP - EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021



ADVANTAGE ARKANSAS		TAX BACK	CREATE REBATE		ARKPLUS	
PAYROLL Threshold	BENEFIT* (% of payroll)	INVESTMENT Threshold	PAYROLL Threshold	BENEFIT (% OF PAYROLL)	INVESTMENT THRESHOLD (BENEFIT = 10%	PAYROLL Threshold Of Investment)
TIER 1 \$125,000	1%	\$500,000	\$2,000,000	3.9%	\$5,000,000	\$2,000,000
TIER 2 \$100,000	2%	\$400,000	\$1,750,000	4.25%	\$3,750,000	\$1,500,000
TIER 3 \$75,000	3%	\$300,000	\$1,500,000	4.5%	\$3,000,000	\$1,200,000
TIER 4 \$50,000	4%	\$200,000	\$1,250,000	5%	\$2,000,000	\$800,000

Minimum average hourly wage to qualify for an incentive program is \$14.11.

\*Qualified businesses shall receive an additional tax credit of 1% of payroll if the new employees average hourly wage exceeds 125% of the lesser of the state or county average wage

# INFRASTRUCTURE ASSISTANCE

- · Offset infrastructure costs
- · State and Federal funds
- Based on need and due diligence

#### TAX BACK

- · Sales and use tax refund
- Full refund less 1% on eligible expenditures
- 4 year accrual

#### **CUSTOMIZED TRAINING**

- · Reimbursement of eligible costs
- · On and Off-site training
- · Customized based on need

#### **EQUITY INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT**

- Transferable income tax credit given to investor
- 33% of amount invested
- Used to attract investment in new, tech-based, high-wage businesses

# RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDITS

- In-house R&D = 20% of eligible costs
- University-based R&D = 33% of eligible costs
- Must qualify for federal R&D tax credit

# PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT

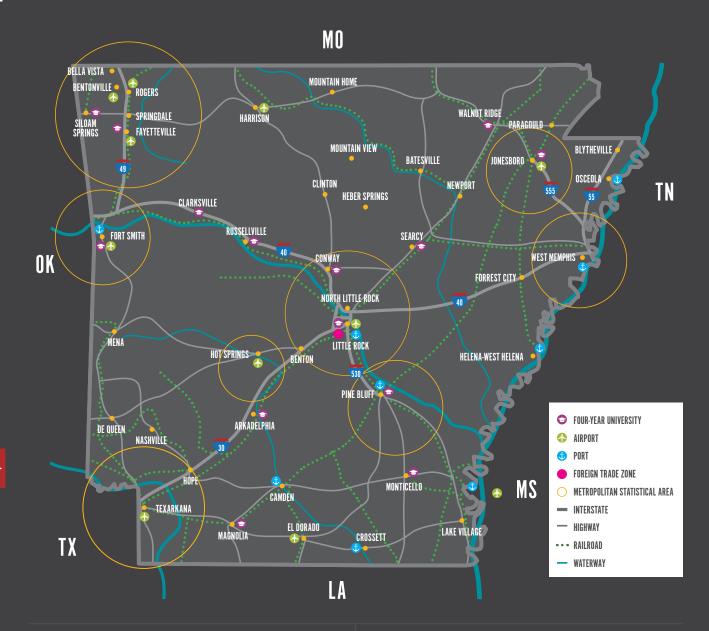
- · Authorized and offered by city or county
- Up to 65% abatement
- Length of abatement = length of bond issuance

## OTHER INCENTIVES:

- Recycling Tax Credit
- Tourism Tax Credit
- Early Stage-Knowledge Based Programs
- Tuition Reimbursement Tax Credits



# 6 | INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION

















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