





Arkansas offers a pro-business environment operating leaner, faster, and more focused through a streamlined state government designed to act quickly and decisively on corporate interests. Led by a governor who operates like a CEO, the state delivers the quick action and nimble solutions that companies need to efficiently expand and thrive in a competitive global economy. Solutions are built on the successes of six Fortune 500 companies and other business success stories. Come join this amazing venture we call "Arkansas Inc" and see how doing business in Arkansas can put you in some pretty good company.













BUSINESS CLIMATE IN ARKANSAS

TOP STATE FOR SMALL BUSINESS FRIENDLINESS
Source: Thumbtack, 2019

3RD LOWEST COST OF DOING BUSINESS

Source: CNBC, Cost of Doing Business State Rankings 2019

ON THE COST OF LIVING INDEX (THIRD QTR 2019, 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: Business Facilities Magazine 2019, 15th Annual

State Ranking Report

10th best business climate

Source: Business Facilities Magazine 2019, 15th Annual State Ranking Report

THE INDUSTRY AT A GLANCE

UNIQUE ATTRIBUTES

2nd most Gun-Friendly state - Forbes (2015)

Ducks Unlimited ranked eastern Arkansas Seventh Greatest Place to Hunt Waterfowl

for every 1,000 residents, there are 27 registered firearms in the state

pro-gun bills passed into pro-gun bills passed into law during the last three legislative sessions

3,274

people employed in the arms and ammunitions industry

WORKFORCE

7th

highest percentage of manufacturing employment -NAM

1.3M skilled and trained workforce

12.7%

of Arkansas' workforce is employed in manufacturing

EDUCATION

45

colleges, universities & 2-year colleges throughout Arkansas

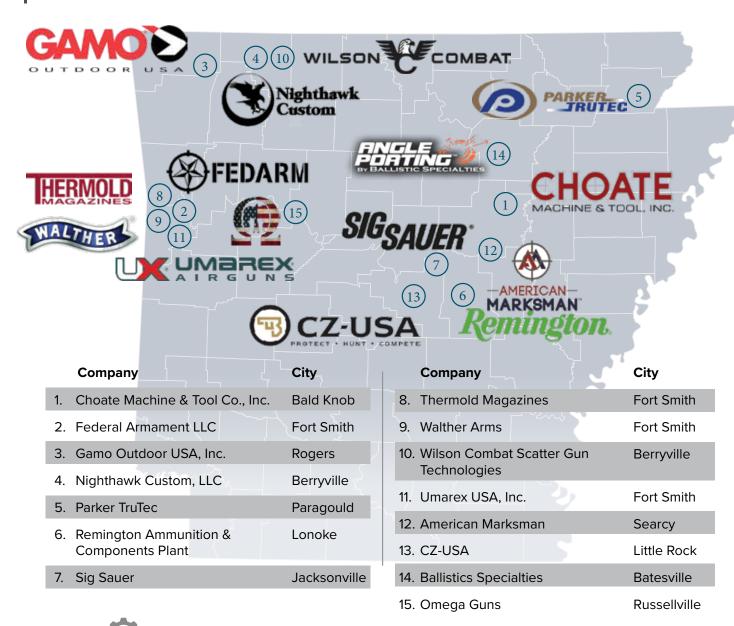
900+

Engineering degrees awarded each year

students enrolled at an 160k+ Arkansas institution of higher learning



4 | FIREARM INDUSTRY





RECENT MOVES



- **2019, CZ USA**: CZ-USA firearms manufacturer to move headquarters, production to Little Rock and create 565 jobs with \$90M capital investment over six-year period
- 2018, Sig Sauer, Inc.: Manufactoring facility relocation to Jacksonville resulting in the creation of 77 jobs and \$22 million capital investment
- **2017, American Marksman LLC:** New Manufacturing facility in Searcy creating 71 new jobs and \$600,000 capital investment
- 2017, GAMO Outdoor USA, Inc.: 88 Jobs and \$8.1 million capital investment at new manufacturing facility in Rogers.

ADVANTAGE ARKANSAS PROGRAM

The Advantage Arkansas Program is an income tax credit program for qualifying new and expanding companies. The credits earned will be equal to the appropriate percentage (based on tier map) of the net, new payroll for a period of five years.

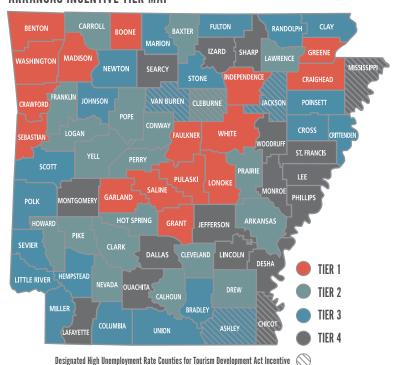
ARKPLUS PROGRAM

The ArkPlus Program is offered at the discretion of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC) Executive Director. The incentive offers an income tax credit for qualifying new and expanding companies. The program provides a 10% income tax credit based on the total investment in a new location or expansion project.

CREATE REBATE PROGRAM

The Create Rebate Program is an incentive the State of Arkansas reserves for projects that bring quality jobs to communities. The program is offered at the discretion of the AEDC Executive Director. This program offers a cash rebate based on the eligible net new payroll of a qualifying company.

ARKANSAS INCENTIVE TIER MAP



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

Minimum average hourly wage to qualify for incentive program is \$12.50

"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

TAX BACK PROGRAM

The Tax Back Program grants a majority refund of state and local sales and use taxes paid on the purchases of materials used in the construction of a building or buildings or any addition, modernization or improvement to a new or expanding eligible business. A sales and use tax refund is also allowed for the purchases of taxable machinery or equipment associated with the building or project.

INFRASTRUCTURE ASSISTANCE

The AEDC often partners with companies and communities to share the cost of project infrastructure needs. The infrastructure needs can include, but are not limited to, site preparation, industrial access roads, sewer and water improvements, moving of existing equipment, rail spurs, parking lots and necessary improvements to the facility that have been approved by the Commission. Two programs available:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Governor's Quick Action Closing Fund (GQACF)

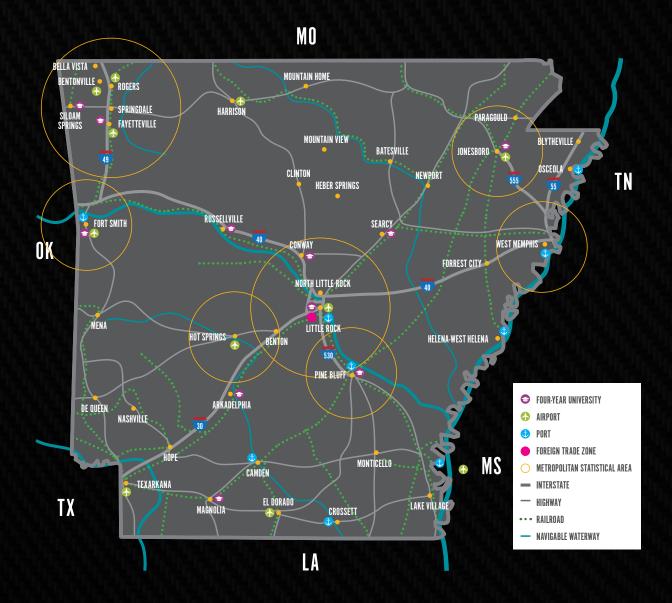
CUSTOMIZED TRAINING INCENTIVES

AEDC is committed to meeting the training needs of new and expanding businesses in the state. The AEDC's Customized Training Grants are flexible and highly customizable, providing reimbursement for both on- and off-site training for newly created positions related to an expansion or new location. Pre-employment training, new employee orientation, on-thejob training, and/or skills upgrades for new positions qualify under this program. These funds are offered at the discretion of the Executive Director of the AEDC.

OTHER INCENTIVES:

- Property Tax Abatement
- Equity Investment Tax Credits
- · Recycling Tax Credit
- Research and Development Tax Credits
- Early Stage-Knowledge Based Programs
- Tuition Reimbursement Tax Credits

6 | INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION





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

In fact, 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.

Arkansas offers access to a market of 100 million people within a 550-mile radius of the state. That represents 40% of the total U.S. population.



MIKE PRESTON Secretary of Commerce, **Executive Director** 501-682-7351 mpreston@arkansasedc.com



CLINT O'NEAL **Executive Vice President, Global Business** 501-682-7350 coneal@arkansasedc.com



BENTLEY STORY Director, Business Development 501-682-7384 bstory@arkansasedc.com

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TEAM

KATHERINE HOLMSTROM Senior Project Manager 501-682-7376 kholmstrom@arkansasedc.com

KATHERINE ANDREWS **Project Manager** 501-682-6098 kandrews@arkansasedc.com

DUTCH KING Project Manager 501-682-7353 dking@arkansasedc.com

JACK THOMAS Project Manager 501-682-5355 jthomas@arkansasedc.com

STEVE JONES Building & Sites Coordinator 501-682-7311 sjones@arkansasedc.com

BRITTANY BOHANNON Business Development Coordinator 501-682-1152 bbohannon@arkansasedc.com

BEN WALTERS

International Business Development Manager 501-682-7334 bwalters@arkansasedc.com

NEAL JANSEN Director, Japan & Southeast Asia Office njansen@arkansasedc.com

LINDSAY LIU Director, China Office lliu@arkansasedc.com

DR. CORNELIUS SCHNITZLER Director, Europe Office cschnitzler@arkansasedc.com