



## Fort Smith factories survive recession

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

- [E-MAIL STORY](#)
- [PRINT STORY](#)
- [IPOD FRIENDLY](#)

FORT SMITH — Manufacturers in Fort Smith have cut thousands of jobs over

the past few years, but companies are surviving the recession, which experts say is the first step to eventually restoring some jobs.

Whirlpool dropped from employing 4,600 to about 1,000. But Whirlpool has moved a refrigerator line to Mexico. Other factories have cut jobs strictly because of the recession.

Kathy Deck, director for the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Arkansas, says the economy has changed, and the manufacturing sector is adapting.

One bright spot for the area is that work is continuing on an \$80 million Mars Petcare pet food plant near Fort Smith. The facility is to employ 200 people and the company has been hiring in advance of a startup this fall.

### Today's Most Popular Stories

1. Hogs air it out to counter plan
2. Obituaries
3. Maligned LR fountain begins transformation
4. Eager to PLEASE
5. TOP 25 COLLEGE FOOTBALL: Miami thwarts FSU's last shots

ADVERTISEMENT

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Ends 9/1/09. See rules for details.

This article was published September 7, 2009 at 4:29 p.m.

### Comments

To report abuse or misuse of this area please hit the "Suggest Removal" link in the comment to alert our online managers. [Click here to post a comment.](#) Read our [Terms of Use policy](#).

#### POST A COMMENT

[Change your screen name](#)

Screen name: **cber\_walton.uark.edu** (Log out)

Comment:

[Preview comment](#)

[More stories --](#)

**topJobs**  
[www.jobsarkansas.com](http://www.jobsarkansas.com)  
**CFO**  
 Howard Memorial Hospital Howard Memorial Hospital ...  
 AR  
 [19671866]

**Chapter Rel.Asst.**  
 CHAPTER RELATIONS ASSISTANT ACMA seeks professio ...  
 Little Rock, AR  
 [19673450]

**Case Manager**  
 CASE MANAGER Immediate opening for experienced pe ...  
 Little Rock, AR  
 [19673427]

**COMMERCIAL LOAN OFFICER**  
 COMMERCIAL LOAN OFFICER Arkansas financial institu ...  
 AR  
 [19671867]

**Dry Cleaner Worker**  
 SHIRT PRESSER needed immediately. Apply in person ...  
 North Little Rock, AR  
 [19643653]

**Asst Managers**  
 MANAGERS-MOE'S Southwest Grill now hiring Asst. Mg ...  
 North Little Rock, AR  
 [19673442]

**Assistant to Chief C**  
 Assistant to Chief Court Clerk-Temporary Maumel ...  
 Maumelle, AR  
 [19673426]

**Property Manager**  
 PROPERTY MANAGER (Rogers, AR): Seeking experienc ...  
 Rogers, AR  
 [19669892]

**CAREER OPPORTUNITY**  
 CAREER OPPORTUNITY I am looking for a particular t ...  
 AR  
 [19671862]

**Clinical Social Worker**  
 Columbus Air Force Base, MS Licensed Clinical Soci ...  
 AR  
 [19671879]

**AUTO**arkansas

**HOMES**arkansas

**JOBS**arkansas

**FOCUS**photos

**Arkansas**life

**sync**weekly

**GAS**check prices

**Events Calendar**  
**September**

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

[Search Events](#)



SITE INDEX

**NEWS**

- Arkansas
- Today's Newspaper
- Extras
- Obituaries
- Opinion / Letters
- Religion
- National
- Politics
- World
- Offbeat
- Living Green
- Archives
- Sister Papers
- E-mail Updates
- Weather

**BUSINESS**

- Business
- Today's Newspaper
- Business wire
- Tech wire

**SPORTS**

- Arkansas Sports
- Today's Newspaper
- Razorbacks
- LR Marathon
- High School News
- High School Football
- Recruiting Guy Blog

- Submit a Hole in One
- AP Sports
- College Basketball
- College Football
- Pro Baseball
- Pro Football
- Pro Golf
- Pro Tennis
- NASCAR

**ENTERTAINMENT**

- Entertainment
- Weekend
- Events Calendar
- Movies
- Movie Finder
- Music
- Dining Out
- Restaurant Finder
- Today's Newspaper
- Travel
- Book Bytes
- Entertainment wire
- Comics
- Online games
- Sudoku
- TV listings

**WEB EXTRAS**

- Video
- Photos for purchase
- Staff Galleries

- Community Photos
- Databases
- Blogs
- Polls
- Support Groups & Clubs
- Arkansas Links
- AP Photos
- AP Videos

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

- Tri-Lakes Edition
- River Valley & Ozark Edition
- Three Rivers Edition

**SUBMISSIONS**

- Honors & Achievements
- Bridal, engagements & anniversaries
- Calendar Events
- Support & Club meetings
- Letters to the Editor
- Submit a Hole in One
- News Tips

**SPECIAL FEATURES**

- Features list
- Inauguration
- Previous News Features
- A Soldier's Wife
- War Casualties
- Central High: A Look Back
- Democrat-Gazette History

**CONTACT**

- Forgotten Password?
- Advertising
- Corporate
- Newspaper Staff
- Website Staff
- Newspaper Delivery
- FAQ

**TARGETED PUBLICATIONS**

- Sync
- Capture Arkansas
- Arkansas Life
- HerStyle
- Special Sections
- Taking New Patients
- Where We Live
- Downtown Little Rock
- Spelling Bee

**PROMOTIONS**

- Bridal Show
- Contests
- Democrat-Gazette Store

**CLASSIFIEDS**

- Classifieds
- Jobs
- Real Estate
- Auto

**ADVERTISING**

- Advertise with us



**How Does She Look So Young?**

Doctor reports on "Resveratrol", the new miracle anti-aging...

[Get details...](#)



**Acai Berry Side Effects?**

In Our Shocking Special Report We Investigate Acai Berry

[See the results...](#)



**Fayetteville Moms! Lose 47lbs, Follow 1 Rule!**

I Cut Down 47 lbs of Stomach Fat In A Month By Obeying This 1 Old Rule

[Explore now...](#)

Copyright © 2009, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Inc. All rights reserved.

This document may not be reprinted without the express written permission of Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Inc.

Material from the Associated Press is Copyright © 2009, Associated Press and may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed. Associated Press text, photo, graphic, audio and/or video material shall not be published, broadcast, rewritten for broadcast or publication or redistributed directly or indirectly in any medium. Neither these AP materials nor any portion thereof may be stored in a computer except for personal and noncommercial use. The AP will not be held liable for any delays, inaccuracies, errors or omissions therefrom or in the transmission or delivery of all or any part thereof or for any damages arising from any of the foregoing. All rights reserved.



**How Does She Look So Young?**

Doctor reports on "Resveratrol", the new miracle anti-aging... [Get details...](#)



**Acai Berry Side Effects?**

In Our Shocking Special Report We Investigate Acai Berry [See the results...](#)