NWA Ranks 4th in Nation for 2013 Job Growth

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Northwest Arkansas - Employment numbers released Tuesday show the Northwest Arkansas is one of the fastest growing job markets in the country.

Preliminary information released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows Northwest Arkansas ranks 4th in the nation for nonfarm job growth in 2013.

"We saw Northwest Arkansas continue to show spectacular numbers while the state muddles along," says Kathy Deck, Director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Arkansas. "When you see us add nine or ten thousand jobs in a year that's pretty exciting."

The top five ranking equals the region's best in the past 25 years. Northwest Arkansas also placed fourth back in 2001. Deck says the 9,500 jobs added in 2013 are spread across a broad range of industry.

"We see jobs being created in housing, construction, that means we need timber, that means we need trucking, it means we need sales people and so all of the jobs right now are adding in a positive cycle to each other," she says. "There's going to be more demand for more jobs as we go forward."

In 2011 Movista moved into a home near the Bentonville square with just two employees, and since then the tech company has filled up the space..

"We've actually doubled our team in 2013, so we've added 12 jobs," says co-founder and VP of Operations April Seggebruch. "We just put up the wall behind me 2 weekends ago as we added, again, more roles."

Seggebruch says the area is the perfect spot for a start up to thrive.

"The state of Arkansas has done tremendous things to drive entrepreneurship," she says. "They have tax credit programs, they have matching fund programs and they have just outright capital programs to help these companies get off the ground, and then additionally, you have large companies that are great customers for us. We have everything, and it's all located in a place that has a great cost of living and a great environment."

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