

**AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF
SEARCY COUNTY IN
NORTHWEST ARKANSAS**



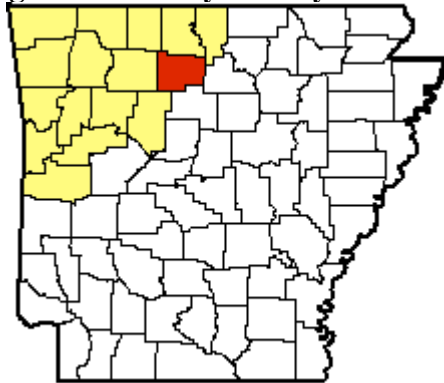
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I. Geographic Description

Searcy County is comprised of 667 square miles and is located in north-central Arkansas in the physiographic regions of the Springfield Plateau in the northern portion of the county and the Boston Mountains in the southern portion of the county. Figure 1 highlights the counties that comprise the Northwest Arkansas region, as defined by the Arkansas Department of Economic Development. Searcy County is shown in red; all other counties in the region are shown in yellow.

Figure 1 – Searcy County’s Location



The Ozark National Forest is located in the extreme southwest portion of the county. The Buffalo National River Area is located in the northern portion of the county; the river runs northeast into Marion County, where it merges with the White River on the border of Marion and Baxter County. The middle fork of the Little Red River flows northeast through the county until the City of Leslie, where the river turns and flows southeast on into Greers Ferry Lake in Cleburne County.

Sources:

United States Census Bureau. State and County QuickFacts.

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/05/05129.html>

Chart 2-5: Physiographic Regions. Arkansas Statistical Abstract – 2000. April 2000.

Census State Data Center, University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Page 72.

The Rand McNally Road Atlas, 2002 Edition. Page 10.

II. Demographic Characteristics

Population

In 1980, the population of Searcy County was 8,847 persons. The county ranked 70th in terms of population among Arkansas’ 75 counties and 15th among the 16 counties in Northwest Arkansas. By 1990, the population of the county had decreased 11.4 percent to 7,841 to rank 71st among Arkansas’ counties and 15th among the counties in Northwest Arkansas. From 1980 to 1990, the population of the state of Arkansas increased 2.8

percent from 2,286,435 to 2,350,725; from 1990 to 2000, the state's population increased 13.7 percent to 2,673,400 persons. In 2000, the population of Searcy County stood at 8,261, an increase of 5.4 percent from 1990. The county was the second least populous county in Arkansas and the least populous county in Northwest Arkansas in 2000. The five most populous cities in Searcy County in 2000 were Marshall (1,313), Leslie (482), Pindall (95), St. Joe (85), and Gilbert (33). Marshall is the county seat for Searcy County.

DRI-WEFA, an economic analysis consulting firm, projects the population of Searcy County will decrease by 4.4 percent to 7,900 people in the year 2010. If the projections are realized, Searcy County will be the third least populous county in Arkansas and the least populous county in Northwest Arkansas.

The gender makeup of Searcy County is similar to that of the state on the whole. In the year 2000, the proportions of males and females in the county were 49.5 percent and 50.5 percent, respectively, compared to 48.8 percent and 51.2 percent, respectively, for the state.

In the year 2000, Searcy County had the tenth oldest median age, the 12th lowest proportion of residents under age 18, and the 10th highest proportion of residents age 65 and older among all Arkansas counties. In the year 2000, the median age of residents in Searcy County was 42.3 years, compared to 36.0 years for the state. From 1990 to 2000, the proportion of the county's population that was under 18 years of age decreased from 24.3 percent to 22.7 percent; for the same period, the proportion of Arkansans under 18 years of age decreased from 26.4 percent to 25.4 percent. From 1990 to 2000, the proportion of the county's population that was 65 years of age or older decreased from 19.8 percent to 19.2 percent; for the same period, the proportion of Arkansans age 65 or older decreased from 14.9 percent in 1990 to 14.0 percent in 2000.

The racial composition of Searcy County is decidedly more Caucasian than the population for the state on the whole. In 2000, the proportions of Searcy County's population comprised of Caucasians, African Americans, American Indians and Native Alaskans, and Asians were 97.3 percent, 0.04 percent, 0.8 percent, and 0.1 percent, respectively. For the state, in 2000, the proportions of Caucasians, African Americans, American Indians and Native Alaskans, and Asians were 80.0 percent, 15.7 percent, 0.7 percent, and 0.8 percent, respectively. In 2000, the proportion of residents in Searcy County who were Hispanic was 1.0 percent, compared to the state's proportion of 3.2 percent.

Sources:

United States Census Bureau, Population of Counties by Decennial Census: 1900 to 1990. <http://www.census.gov/population/cencounts/ar190090.txt>

United States Census Bureau, Census 2000, Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File.

http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsTable?_lang=en&_vt_name=DEC_2000_PL_U_GCTPL_ST7&_geo_id=04000US05

The Rand McNally Road Atlas, 2002 Edition. Page 10.

DRI-WEFA, U.S. Regional Analysis. Data supplied by the Institute for Economic Advancement, University of Arkansas-Little Rock.

United States Census Bureau, Census 2000, Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000. <http://censtats.census.gov/data/AR/04005.pdf>

United States Census Bureau, 1990 Census, Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 1990. http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsTable?_lang=en&_vt_name=DEC_1990_STF1_DP1&_geo_id=04000US05

United States Census Bureau, Census 2000, Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000. <http://censtats.census.gov/data/AR/05005129.pdf>

United States Census Bureau, 1990 Census, Table DP-1. General Population and Housing Characteristics: 1990. http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsTable?_lang=en&_vt_name=DEC_1990_STF1_DP1&_geo_id=05000US05129

Income

Table 1 presents median household income and median family income for the year 1999 and per capita personal income for the year 2000 for Searcy County. The table also ranks Searcy County in terms of these income statistics among the 75 counties in Arkansas and the 16 counties in Northwest Arkansas.

Table 1 – Searcy County Income Statistics

Income Statistic	Searcy County	Percent of State	Arkansas			Northwest Arkansas		
			Rank	Range		Rank	Range	
				Low	High		Low	High
1999 Median Household Income	\$21,397	66.5%	74	\$20,510	\$42,569	16	\$21,397	\$40,281
1999 Median Family Income	\$27,580	71.3%	73	\$25,846	\$48,717	16	\$27,580	\$45,235
2000 Per Capita Personal Income	\$15,898	72.3%	70	\$14,303	\$30,447	15	\$14,303	\$25,358

Table 2 presents poverty statistics for different resident groups in Searcy County and for the State of Arkansas in 1999. The table ranks the county among the 75 counties in Arkansas and among the 16 counties in Northwest Arkansas in terms of the three poverty rates presented. For example, the county ranked tenth among the counties in Arkansas and first among the counties in Northwest Arkansas in terms of the poverty rate for individuals in 1999.¹

¹ Note: Rankings are from highest poverty rate to lowest. Hence, a ranking of one indicates relatively high levels of poverty, and a ranking of 75 indicates relatively low levels of poverty.

Table 2 – Searcy County Poverty Rates, 1999

Poverty Statistic	County Rate	Arkansas Rate	Arkansas			Northwest Arkansas		
			Rank	Range		Rank	Range	
				Low	High		Low	High
Individuals	23.8%	15.8%	10	7.2%	32.7%	1	10.1%	23.8%
Families with Related Children	26.4%	18.1%	12	7.8%	40.8%	1	11.2%	26.4%
Individuals 65 and Older	26.6%	13.8%	4	7.3%	27.6%	1	8.6%	26.6%

Table 3 presents average weekly earnings for covered employment in Searcy County in the year 2001. The table also displays average weekly earnings as a proportion of the state's figure and ranks Searcy County in terms of average weekly earnings relative to the counties in Arkansas and Northwest Arkansas for which data were available. For example, in terms of average weekly earnings in the manufacturing sector, Searcy County ranked 67th among the 71 counties in Arkansas for which data were available and last among the 15 counties in Northwest Arkansas for which data were available.

Table 3 – Searcy County Average Weekly Earnings, by Sector, Calendar Year 2001

Sector	Average Weekly Earnings	Percent of State	Arkansas			Northwest Arkansas		
			Rank	Range		Rank	Range	
				Low	High		Low	High
Manufacturing	\$312.98	54.5%	67 / 71	\$260.75	\$894.22	15 / 15	\$312.98	\$587.60
Wholesale Trade	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$214.77	\$995.14	N/A	\$214.77	\$995.14
Retail Trade	\$244.32	71.9%	71 / 73	\$215.61	\$439.32	15 / 15	\$244.32	\$358.05
Information	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$306.77	\$869.54	N/A	\$348.10	\$832.62
Financial Activities	\$282.76	44.7%	73 / 73	\$282.76	\$829.55	14 / 14	\$282.76	\$622.20
Professional and Business Services	\$460.12	73.6%	28 / 68	\$218.14	\$955.05	6 / 15	\$256.91	\$955.05
Education and Health Services	\$289.21	53.4%	71 / 74	\$231.49	\$668.35	15 / 16	\$231.49	\$649.85
All Sectors	\$327.40	63.2%	74 / 75	\$316.63	\$681.93	15 / 16	\$316.63	\$631.34

Table 4 presents the share of personal income in Searcy County in 2000 attributable to different sectors of the economy. The table displays how this share compares to the proportion for the state in aggregate and ranks Searcy County in terms of the share of personal income attributed to the sectors relative to the counties in Arkansas and Northwest Arkansas for which data were available. For example, in terms of the share of personal income attributed to the manufacturing sector, Searcy County ranked 65th among the 73 counties in Arkansas for which data were available and 14th among the 15 counties in Northwest Arkansas for which data were available.

Table 4 – Disposition of Personal Income in Searcy County, by Sector, Year 2000

Sector	Share of Personal Income	Greater or Less than State	Arkansas			Northwest Arkansas		
			Rank	Range		Rank	Range	
				Low	High		Low	High
Farm Earnings	2.8%	0.2%	49 / 75	0.1%	15.9%	10 / 16	0.4%	15.9%
Manufacturing	5.2%	-9.1%	65 / 73	1.3%	77.9%	14 / 15	3.4%	27.1%
Transportation and Utilities	2.9%	-2.8%	52 / 71	1.3%	14.5%	10 / 15	1.8%	14.5%
Wholesale Trade	1.0%	-2.5%	53 / 67	0.2%	11.4%	8 / 15	0.4%	5.9%
Retail Trade	4.6%	-3.2%	49 / 75	1.4%	24.4%	10 / 16	2.4%	24.4%
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	1.7%	-1.7%	53 / 71	0.8%	8.0%	12 / 15	1.1%	3.5%
Services	6.5%	-8.4%	54 / 75	3.3%	29.0%	11 / 16	4.8%	29.0%
Business Services	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.1%	10.5%	N/A	0.2%	5.5%
Health Services	2.0%	-4.2%	58 / 72	0.5%	14.4%	13 / 16	0.5%	14.4%
Hotel and Lodging	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.04%	1.9%	N/A	0.05%	1.9%
Amusement and Recreation Services	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.03%	1.0%	N/A	0.03%	1.0%

The sale of livestock accounted for 97.0 percent of Searcy County’s cash receipts from farm marketings in the year 2000. Livestock cash receipts and total cash receipts for Searcy County in the year 2000 were \$11.3 million and \$11.7 million, respectively; the county ranked 50th in terms of the former and 68th in terms of the latter among Arkansas’ counties. Cash receipts for crops and government payments for Searcy County in the year 2000 totaled \$354,000 and \$725,000, respectively; the county ranked 66th in terms of the former and 44th in terms of the latter among Arkansas’ counties. The county ranked 67th among Arkansas’ counties in terms of total production expenses in the year 2000, \$14.8 million. As of January 1, 2002, Searcy County had a total of 39,000 cattle and calves and 20,000 beef cows; the county ranked 14th in terms of the former and 15th in terms of the latter among the counties in Arkansas.

Sources:

- United States Census Bureau, Census 2000, Table DP-3. Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics: 2000. <http://censtats.census.gov/data/AR/04005.pdf>
- United States Census Bureau, Census 2000, Table DP-3. Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics: 2000. <http://censtats.census.gov/data/AR/05005129.pdf>
- U.S. Commerce Department, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Accounts Data, Local Area Personal Income, Table CA1-3: Personal Income Summary Estimates. <http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/reis/>
- Arkansas Employment Security Department, Covered Employment and Earnings, Annual 2001. Table 6: County Summary Employment and Earnings, by Industry, Calendar Year 2001. <http://www.accessarkansas.org/esd/01antb6.htm>
- Arkansas Employment Security Department, Covered Employment and Earnings, Annual 2001. Table 1: Average Covered Employment and Average Weekly Earnings, by Industry, 2001. <http://www.accessarkansas.org/esd/01antb1.htm>

U.S. Commerce Department, Bureau of Economic Analysis. Regional Accounts Data, Local Area Personal Income. Table CA05 – Personal Income by Major Source and Earnings by Industry. <http://www.bea.gov/region/reis/>
 Arkansas Agricultural Statistics Service, National Agricultural Statistics Service, United States Department of Agriculture, 2001 County Profiles. <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ar/searcy.PDF>

Education

Searcy County contains the following four school districts, with October 1, 2000 enrollment found in parentheses: Leslie (266), Marshall (727), St. Joe (255), and Witts Springs (70). Table 5 displays the average ACT composite score for high school seniors (which ranges from 1 to 36, with 36 being the best), the attendance rate, the dropout rate (percentage of students dropping out of school in Grades 7-12 from October of one school year to October of the next school year), the graduation rate (percentage of students enrolled in Grade 9 and completing Grade 12), and the college remediation rate (percentage of freshmen entering an *Arkansas* college or university who are required to take at least one remedial class) for the above school districts and for the state in aggregate.

Table 5 – Educational Statistics for Searcy County Schools, 2000-2001 School Year

School District	ACT Composite Score	Attendance Rate	Dropout Rate	Graduation Rate	College Remediation Rate
Leslie	22.5	92.0%	1.4%	88.0%	45.0%
Marshall	20.0	91.4%	1.6%	89.7%	52.0%
Saint Joe	18.2	90.5%	2.7%	72.2%	60.0%
Witts Springs	20.6	92.7%	0.0%	83.3%	50.0%
State Average	20.1	93.2%	3.0%	84.3%	41.0%

Among the 301 school districts in Arkansas for which data were available, the ACT composite scores for the school districts in Searcy County ranked as follows: Leslie (6th), Marshall (tied for 119th), St. Joe (tied for 237th), and Witts Springs (tied for 79th); because of ties, the rankings ranged from 1 through 299. Among the 72 school districts in Northwest Arkansas, the ACT composite scores for the school districts in Searcy County ranked as follows: Leslie (5th), Marshall (47th), St. Joe (67th), and Witts Springs (tied for 30th). District-wide average ACT composite scores for the 301 school districts in Arkansas for which data were available ranged from 24.0 to 14.0; for the school districts in Northwest Arkansas, the district-wide average ACT composite scores ranged from 24.0 to 15.8.

Among the 307 school districts in Arkansas for which data were available, the dropout rates for the school districts in Searcy County ranked as follows: Leslie (tied for 201st), Marshall (tied for 187th), St. Joe (tied for 103rd), and Witts Springs (tied for 285th); because of 27 districts' being tied for last place with a 0.0 percent dropout rate, the

rankings ranged from 1 through 285.² Among the 72 school districts in Northwest Arkansas, the dropout rates for the school districts in Searcy County ranked as follows: Leslie (tied for 48th), Marshall (tied for 42nd), St. Joe (tied for 20th), and Witts Springs (tied for 69th); because of four districts' being tied for 0.0 place with a zero percent dropout rate, the rankings ranged from 1 through 69. For the state, dropout rates ranged from 15.4 percent to 0.0 percent; for the districts in Northwest Arkansas, dropout rates ranged from 12.5 percent to 0.0 percent.

Among the 307 school districts in Arkansas for which data were available, the graduation rates for the school districts in Searcy County ranked as follows: Leslie (tied for 135th), Marshall (tied for 104th), St. Joe (278th), and Witts Springs (tied for 196th). Among the 72 school districts in Northwest Arkansas, the graduation rates for the school districts in Searcy County ranked as follows: Leslie (41st), Marshall (28th), St. Joe (66th), and Witts Springs (53rd). For the state, graduation rates ranged from 100.0 percent to 23.6 percent; for the districts in Northwest Arkansas, graduation rates ranged from 100.0 percent to 63.2 percent.

Among the 307 school districts in Arkansas for which there were data available, the college remediation rates for the school districts in Searcy County ranked as follows: Leslie (tied for 162nd), Marshall (tied for 119th), St. Joe (tied for 75th), and Witts Springs (tied for 124th); because of 31 districts' being tied for last place with a 0.0 percent college remediation rate, the rankings ranged from 1 through 281.³ Among the 72 school districts in Northwest Arkansas, the college remediation rate for the school districts in Searcy County ranked as follows: Leslie (tied for 31st), Marshall (19th), St. Joe (11th), and Witts Springs (tied for 20th); because of three districts' being tied for last place with a 0.0 percent college remediation rate, the rankings ranged from 1 through 70. For the state, college remediation rates ranged from 100.0 percent to 0.0 percent; for the districts in Northwest Arkansas, college remediation rates ranged from 80.0 percent to 0.0 percent.

In the Leslie School District, neither of the district's schools is accredited by the North Central Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges (NCASSC). In the Marshall School District, neither of the district's schools is accredited by the NCASSC. In the St. Joe School District, neither of the district's schools is accredited by the NCASSC. In the Witts Springs School District, neither of the district's schools is accredited by the NCASSC.

Table 6 displays the proportion of persons 25 years of age or older in Searcy County with various levels of education in the year 2000. The table also presents the proportions for the state in aggregate and ranks the county among the 75 counties in Arkansas and among the 16 counties in Northwest Arkansas in terms of the four levels of education presented. For example, Searcy County ranked 68th among Arkansas' counties and last among the

² Note: Rankings are from highest dropout rate to lowest. Hence, a ranking of one indicates a relatively high dropout rate, and a ranking of 285 indicates a relatively low dropout rate.

³ Note: Rankings are from highest remediation rate to lowest. Hence, a ranking of one indicates a relatively high dropout rate, and a ranking of 281 indicates a relatively low remediation rate.

counties in Northwest Arkansas in terms of the proportion of the persons 25 years of age or older with a bachelor's degree in 2000.

Table 6 – Educational Attainment in Searcy County, 2000

Level of Education	County	Arkansas	Arkansas			Northwest Arkansas		
			Rank	Range		Rank	Range	
				Low	High		Low	High
Bachelor's Degree	5.4%	11.0%	68	4.2%	18.0%	16	5.4%	14.8%
Graduate or Professional Degree	3.0%	5.7%	57	1.8%	10.1%	14	2.8%	9.8%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	8.4%	16.7%	68	6.3%	28.1%	16	8.4%	24.5%
High School Diploma or Higher	68.0%	75.3%	53	56.2%	84.4%	13	65.4%	80.4%

There are 20 Arkansas colleges and universities within 100 miles of Mashall, Arkansas. The institutions, the number and type of degree programs offered at the institutions, and their enrollment statistics are presented below.

Arkansas Baptist College (ABC), located in Little Rock, Arkansas in Pulaski County, is an historically black, four-year, private liberal arts college associated with the Arkansas Baptist Consolidated Convention and offers baccalaureate degrees in six program areas. Opening fall enrollment at ABC was 235 persons in 2001.

Arkansas State University – Beebe (ASUB) is a two-year public college in White County; the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education has approved the dissemination of the following academic degrees and certificate programs at ASUB: technical certificates in 14 program areas and associate degrees in 25 program areas. Opening fall enrollment at ASUB was 2,852 in 2001, 2.9 percent greater than fall 2000. Opening fall enrollment for the two-year public institutions in Arkansas stood at 43,387 in 2001, 6.3 percent greater than fall 2000. The school ranked fourth among the 23 two-year public institutions in Arkansas in terms of fall enrollment in 2001. Since 1997, fall enrollment at ASUB has increased 17.5 percent, compared to a 16.6 percent increase for two-year public institutions in Arkansas.

Arkansas State University – Mountain Home (ASUMH) is a two-year public college; the AHECB has approved the dissemination of the following academic degrees and certificate programs at ASUMH: certificates of proficiency in 5 program areas, technical certificates in 9 program areas, and associate degrees in 14 program areas. Opening fall enrollment for ASUMH was 1,238 persons in 2001, 8.5 percent greater than fall 2000. The school ranked 13th among the 23 two-year public institutions in Arkansas in terms of fall enrollment in 2001. Since 1997, fall enrollment at ASUMH has increased 45.3 percent.

Arkansas State University – Newport (ASUN), located in Jackson County, is a two-year public college. The AHECB has approved the dissemination of the following academic degrees and certificate programs at ASUN: a certificate of proficiency in truck driving,

technical certificates in ten program areas, and associate degrees in nine program areas. Opening fall enrollment at ASUN was 598 persons, 8.3 percent greater than fall 2000. The school ranked last among the 23 two-year public institutions in Arkansas in terms of fall enrollment in 2001. Since 1997, fall enrollment at ASUN has increased 39.4 percent.

Arkansas Tech University (ATU), located in Russellville, Arkansas in Pope County, is a four-year public university. The AHECB has approved the dissemination of the following academic degrees and certificate programs at ATU: technical certificates in 3 program areas, associate degrees in 10 program areas, baccalaureate degrees in 54 program areas, master's degrees in 20 program areas, and a specialist degree in educational leadership. Opening fall enrollment for ATU was 5,576 in 2001, 7.8 percent greater than fall 2000. Opening fall enrollment for the four-year public universities in Arkansas stood at 65,704 in 2001, 2.4 percent greater than fall 2000. The school ranked fifth among the ten four-year public universities in terms of fall enrollment in 2001. Since 1997, fall enrollment at ATU has increased 31.6 percent, compared to a 4.8 percent increase for four-year public universities in Arkansas.

Central Baptist College (CBC), located in Conway, Arkansas in Faulkner County, is a four-year private college and offers associate degrees in three program areas and baccalaureate degrees in nine program areas. Opening fall enrollment for CBC was 358 persons in 2001, 8.5 percent greater than fall 2000. Since 1997, fall enrollment at CBC has increased 7.5 percent.

Harding University, located in Searcy, Arkansas in White County, is a four-year, private, liberal arts college associated with the Church of Christ and offers baccalaureate degrees in 77 program areas and 10 master's degrees. Opening fall enrollment for Harding University was 5,001 persons in 2001, 12.2 percent greater than fall 2000. Since 1997, fall enrollment at Harding University has increased 28.0 percent.

Hendrix College, located in Conway, Arkansas in Faulkner County, is a four-year private liberal arts college associated with the United Methodist Church and offers baccalaureate degrees in 27 program areas and a master's degree in accounting. Opening fall enrollment for Hendrix College was 1,085 persons in 2001, 4.6 percent less than fall 2000. Since 1997, fall enrollment at Hendrix College has increased 4.9 percent.

Lyon College, located in Batesville, Arkansas in Independence County, is a four-year private liberal arts college associated with the Presbyterian Church (USA) and offers baccalaureate degrees in 19 program areas. Opening fall enrollment for Lyon College was 526 persons in 2001, 11.0 percent greater than fall 2000. Since 1997, fall enrollment at Lyon College has increased 1.0 percent.

North Arkansas College (NAC), located in Harrison, Arkansas in Boone County, is a two-year public college; the AHECB has approved the dissemination of the following academic degrees and certificate programs at the NAC: certificates of proficiency in 5 program areas, technical certificates in 25 program areas, an advanced certificate in electronics, and associate degrees in 26 program areas. Opening fall enrollment for NAC

was 1,889 persons in 2001, 4.0 percent greater than fall 2000. The school ranked eighth among the 23 two-year public institutions in Arkansas in terms of fall enrollment in 2001. Since 1997, fall enrollment at NAC has decreased 14.6 percent.

Ozarka College, located in Melbourne, Arkansas in Izard County, is a two-year public college. The AHECB has approved the dissemination of the following academic degrees and certificate programs at Ozarka College: certificates of proficiency in five program areas, technical certificates in six program areas, and associate degrees in nine program areas. Opening fall enrollment for Ozarka College was 878 persons in 2001, 10.2 percent greater than fall 2000. The school ranked 22nd among the 23 two-year public institutions in Arkansas in terms of fall enrollment in 2001. Since 1997, fall enrollment at Ozarka College has increased 22.3 percent.

Philander Smith College (PSC), located in Little Rock, Arkansas in Pulaski County, is an historically black, four-year, private liberal arts college associated with the United Methodist Church and offers baccalaureate degrees in 27 program areas and certification for secondary teachers in 4 program areas. Opening fall enrollment at PSC was 859 persons in 2001, 1.7 percent greater/less than in 2000. Since 1997, fall enrollment has increased 0.9 percent.

Pulaski Technical College (PTC), located in North Little Rock, Arkansas in Pulaski County, is a two-year public college. The AHECB has approved the dissemination of the following academic degrees and certificate programs at the PTC: certificates of proficiency in 3 program areas, technical certificates in 30 program areas, associate degrees in 24 program areas, and an advanced certificate in automotive service technology. Opening fall enrollment at PTC was 4,965 persons in 2001, 15.3 percent greater than fall 2000. The school ranked second behind Westark College among the 23 two-year public institutions in Arkansas in terms of fall enrollment in 2001 (Westark became the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith in January 2002). Since 1997, fall enrollment at PTC has increased 101.1 percent.

Shorter College, located in North Little Rock, Arkansas in Pulaski County, is a two-year private college associated with the African-Methodist Episcopal Church and offers associate degrees in six program areas.

The University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR), located in Pulaski County, is a four-year public institution in the University of Arkansas system. The AHECB has approved the dissemination of the following academic degrees and certificate programs at the UALR: a technical certificate in engineering technology (for health care facilities), associate degrees in 15 program areas, baccalaureate degrees in 61 program areas, post-baccalaureate certificates in 4 program areas, master's degrees in 39 program areas, specialist degrees in 4 program areas, doctoral degrees in 3 program areas, and a professional degree in law. Opening fall enrollment for at UALR was 11,318, 3.2 percent greater than fall 2000. UALR ranked second behind the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville among public four-year universities in Arkansas in terms of fall enrollment in 2001. Since 1997, fall enrollment at UALR has increased 3.8 percent.

The University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville (UACCB), located in Independence County, is a two-year public college in the University of Arkansas system. The AHECB has approved the dissemination of the following academic degrees and certificate programs at UACCB: certificates of proficiency in 6 program areas, technical certificates in 13 program areas, and associate degrees in 12 program areas. Opening fall enrollment for UACCB was 1,236 persons in 2001, 20.7 percent greater than fall 2000. The school ranked 14th among the 23 two-year public institutions in Arkansas in terms of fall enrollment in 2001. Since 1997, fall enrollment at UACCB has increased 113.5 percent.

The University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton (UACCM), located in Morrilton, Arkansas in Conway County, is a two-year public college in the University of Arkansas system. The AHECB has approved the dissemination of the following academic degrees and certificate programs at the UACCM: certificates of proficiency in 3 program areas, technical certificates in 17 program areas, and associate degrees in 17 program areas. Opening fall enrollment for UACCM was 1,290 in 2001, 10.1 percent greater than fall 2000. The school ranked 12th among the 23 two-year public colleges in Arkansas in terms of fall enrollment in 2001. Since 1997, fall enrollment at UACCM has increased 43.8 percent.

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), located in Little Rock, Arkansas in Pulaski County, is the medical school for the University of Arkansas system. The AHECB has approved the dissemination of the following academic degrees and certificate programs at UAMS: technical certificates in 3 program areas, associate degrees in 11 program areas, baccalaureate degrees in 10 program areas, post-baccalaureate certificates in 3 program areas, master's degrees in 17 program areas, doctoral degrees in 7 program areas, professional degrees in medicine (M.D.) and pharmacy (Pharm. D.), and a post-M.D. certificate in house officer training. Opening fall enrollment at UAMS was 1,936 in 2001, 4.4 percent greater than fall 2000. The school ranked last among the ten four-year public institutions in Arkansas in terms of fall enrollment in 2001. Since 1997, fall enrollment at UAMS has increased 4.3 percent.

The University of Central Arkansas (UCA), located in Conway, Arkansas in Faulkner County, is a four-year public university. The AHECB has approved the dissemination of the following academic degrees and certificate programs at UCA: associate degrees in 6 program areas, baccalaureate degrees in 105 program areas, post-baccalaureate certificates in 2 program areas, master's degrees in 50 program areas, specialist degrees in 2 program areas, and doctoral degrees in 3 program areas. Opening fall enrollment for UCA was 8,486 in 2001, 0.1 percent greater than fall 2000. The school ranked fourth among the ten four-year public institutions in Arkansas in terms of fall enrollment in 2001. Since 1997, fall enrollment at UCA has decreased 6.0 percent.

The University of the Ozarks, located in Clarksville, Arkansas in Johnson County, is a four-year private liberal arts university and offers baccalaureate degrees in 25 program areas. Opening fall enrollment for the University of the Ozarks was 654 persons in 2001,

5.1 percent greater than fall 2000. Since 1997, fall enrollment at the University of the Ozarks has increased 22.5 percent.

Sources:

Arkansas Department of Education, Arkansas School Information Site, Performance Report, 2001. <http://www.as-is.org/reportcard/rc2001/>

North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement. <http://www.ncacasi.org/>

United States Census Bureau, Census 2000, Table DP-2. Profile of Selected Social Characteristics: 2000. <http://censtats.census.gov/data/AR/05005129.pdf>

United States Census Bureau, Census 2000, Table DP-2. Profile of Selected Social Characteristics: 2000. <http://censtats.census.gov/data/AR/04005.pdf>

Arkansas Department of Higher Education, Arkansas State Colleges and Universities. <http://www.arkansashighered.com/colleges.html>

Arkansas Department of Higher Education, Approved Academic Degree and Certificate Programs. http://www.arkansashighered.com/pdfs/RP/degrees_2003.pdf

Arkansas Department of Higher Education, Opening Fall Enrollment at Public Colleges and Universities. October 29, 2001.

<http://www.arkansashighered.com/Research/Enrollment/Actual%20Enroll%20Fall%202001.xls>

Arkansas Baptist College, Registrar's Office

Central Baptist College, 2001-2003 Catalog of Studies. <http://www.cbc.edu/Catalog01-03V.htm#General%20Admission%20Requirements>

Harding University, Public Relations Office.

Harding University, Registrar's Office.

Hendrix College. <http://www.hendrix.edu/abouthendrix/glance.htm>

Hendrix College Registrar's Office.

Philander Smith College. <http://www.philander.edu/academics/majors.asp>

Philander Smith College, Registrar's Office.

Development Information Network of Arkansas.

<http://hotsprings.dina.org/education/sc.html>

Shorter College, Registrar's Office.

University of the Ozarks. <http://www.ozarks.edu/academics/programs.html>

III. Infrastructure

Ports

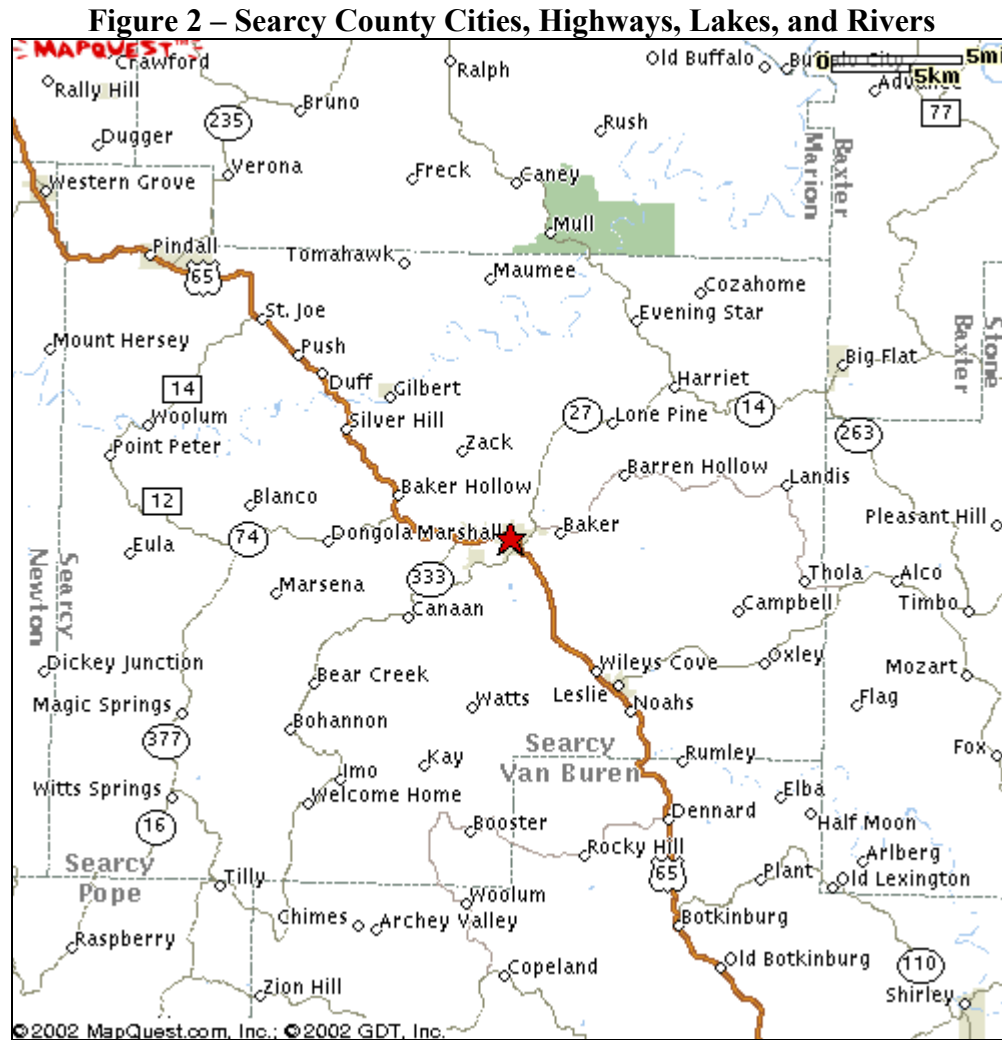
There are no navigable waterways in Searcy County.

Source:

Arkansas Waterways Commission. <http://www.waterways.dina.org/waterways.html>

Highways

Figure 2 displays the major cities, highways, lakes, and rivers found in Searcy County. In 2003, 3.43 miles of passing lanes are to be added to U.S. Highway 65 at the border of Searcy County and Van Buren County.



Sources:

Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department. Statewide Transportation Improvement Program 2003-2005 Preliminary.

<http://www.ahtd.state.ar.us/contract/progcon/stip/stip%20by%20ffy%202003%2D2005%20prelim.xls>

MapQuest.com, Inc. <http://www.mapquest.com>

Utilities

Table 7 displays the surplus water capacity, the surplus wastewater capacity, the electricity provider, and the natural gas provider for the City of Marshall and the City of Leslie in Searcy County.

Table 7 – Utilities for Marshall, Arkansas and Leslie, Arkansas

City	Water Surplus Capacity	Waste Water Surplus Capacity	Electricity Provider	Natural Gas Provider
Marshall	N/A	N/A	Entergy	N/A
Leslie	N/A	N/A	Entergy / Petit Jean Electric Cooperative	N/A

Sources:

City of Marshall, Arkansas Water Plant.

City of Leslie, Arkansas.

Railroads

The Missouri and Northern Arkansas Railroad passes through Yellville in Marion County north of Searcy County in its 527-mile route from Kansas City, Missouri to Newport, Arkansas. The railroad has interchanges with the Union Pacific Railroad in Kansas City, Missouri and Newport, Arkansas; with the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad in Lamar, Aurora, and Springfield, Missouri; and with the Kansas City Southern Railroad in Joplin, Missouri.

The Union Pacific Railroad has a line running from its hub in Little Rock along the Arkansas River south of Searcy County through Russellville, Clarksville, Ozark, Van Buren, and Fort Smith to a mainline junction in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

The Dardanelle & Russellville Railroad, located in Russellville in Pope County south of Newton County, is a five-mile short-line providing direct access to the Port of Dardanelle, local industry, and the Union-Pacific Railroad Railroad's main line. The D&R Railroad also owns available industrial sites with rail access.

Sources:

RailAmerica, Inc., North American Rail Group.

http://www.railamerica.com/html/missouri_northern_arkansas_r.html

RailAmerica, Inc. North American Rail Group.

<http://www.railamerica.com/railmaps/MNA.htm>

Union Pacific Railroad. <http://www.uprr.com/aboutup/usguide/usa-ar.shtml>

Russellville Economic Development Partnership, Inc.

<http://www.russellville.org/enter/transportation.htm>

Airports

The Searcy County Airport is the only airport serving Searcy County. The airport, located one mile southwest of Marshall, has two asphalt runways, each 4,508 feet in length, that can accommodate a 12,500-pound single-wheel aircraft. There is no control tower at this airport.

The four major airports closest to Searcy County are Adams Field Airport in Little Rock, Arkansas (roughly 100 miles southeast of Marshall), Springfield-Branson Regional Airport in Springfield, Missouri (roughly 120 miles northwest of Marshall), the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport in Bentonville, Arkansas (roughly 130 miles northwest of Marshall), and Tulsa International Airport in Tulsa, Oklahoma or Memphis International Airport in Memphis, Tennessee (both roughly 220 miles from Marshall).

Source:

AirNav, LLC. Searcy County Airport: Marshall, Arkansas.

<http://www.airnav.com/airport/4A5>

IV. Labor Force

A breakdown of covered employment for Searcy County in 2001 is provided in Table 8 below.

Table 8 – Covered Employment for Searcy County, 2001 Annual Averages

North American Industry Classification System Industry Group	Average Employing Units	Average Covered Employment
Construction	5	9
Manufacturing	15	232
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	45	309
Retail Trade	34	221
Other Trade, Transportation & Utilities	11	88
Financial Activities	16	71
Professional & Business Services	13	30
Education & Health Services	16	247
Leisure & Hospitality	11	108
Local Government	12	304
State Government	10	169
Other	16	68
Searcy County - Total	159	1,547

The manufacturing sector accounted for 15.0 percent of total covered employment in Searcy County in 2001, compared to the state's figure of 20.5 percent. In terms of the

proportion of covered employment attributed to the manufacturing sector, the county ranked 57th among the 71 counties in Arkansas for which data were available and 14th ahead of Newton County among the 15 counties in Northwest Arkansas for which data were available. For the state, the proportions ranged from 62.4 percent (Calhoun County) to 5.1 percent (Perry County); for Northwest Arkansas, the proportions ranged from Marion County's 48.2 percent to Newton County's 8.3 percent.

Data for the wholesale trade sector in Searcy County were not available. For the state, the wholesale trade sector accounted for 4.1 percent of total covered employment in 2001. Among the 68 counties in Arkansas for which data were available, the proportion of covered employment attributed to the wholesale trade sector ranged from 23.0 percent (Woodruff County) to 0.3 percent (Marion County). Among the 14 counties in Northwest Arkansas for which data were available, the proportions ranged from Boone County's 7.5 percent to Marion County's 0.3 percent.

The retail trade sector accounted for 14.3 percent of total covered employment in Searcy County in 2001, compared to the state's figures of 11.9 percent. In terms of the proportion of covered employment attributed to the retail trade sector, the county ranked 14th among the 74 counties in Arkansas for which data were available and 2nd behind Baxter County among the 15 counties in Northwest Arkansas for which data were available. For the state, the proportions ranged from 18.9 percent (Saline County) to 2.7 percent (Calhoun County); for Northwest Arkansas, the proportions ranged from Baxter County's 14.5 percent to Benton County's 8.6 percent.

Data for the transportation, warehousing, and utilities sectors in Searcy County were not available. For the state, the transportation, warehousing, and utilities sectors accounted for 5.5 percent of total covered employment in 2001. Among the 69 counties in Arkansas for which data were available, the proportion of covered employment attributed to the transportation, warehousing, and utilities sectors ranged from 18.4 percent (Little River County) to 0.8 percent (Marion County). Among the 14 counties in Northwest Arkansas for which data were available, the proportions ranged from Crawford County's 17.7 percent to Marion County's 0.8 percent.

Data for the information sector in Searcy County were not available. For the state, the information sector accounted for 1.9 percent of total covered employment in 2001. Among the 56 counties in Arkansas for which data were available, the proportion of covered employment attributed to the information sector ranged from 3.6 percent (Pulaski County) to 0.3 percent (Little River County). Among the 12 counties in Northwest Arkansas for which data were available, the proportions ranged from Boone County's 3.2 percent to Johnson County's 0.4 percent.

The financial activities sector accounted for 4.6 percent of total covered employment in Searcy County in 2001, compared to the state's figure of 4.3 percent. In terms of the proportion of covered employment attributed to the financial activities sector, the county ranked 13th among the 73 counties in Arkansas for which data were available and 2nd behind Marion County among the 14 counties in Northwest Arkansas for which data

were available. For the state, the proportions ranged from 7.5 percent (Pike County) to 1.9 percent (Nevada County); for Northwest Arkansas, the proportions ranged from Marion County’s 5.0 percent to Scott County’s 2.3 percent.

The professional and business services sector accounted for 1.9 percent of total covered employment in Searcy County in 2001, compared to the state’s figure of 9.2 percent. In terms of the proportion of covered employment attributed to the professional and business services sector, the county ranked 47th among the 68 counties in Arkansas for which data were available and 9th among the 15 counties in Northwest Arkansas for which data were available. For the state, the proportions ranged from 23.3 percent (Benton County) to 0.5 percent (Woodruff County); for Northwest Arkansas, the proportions ranged from Benton County’s 23.3 percent to Scott County’s 0.6 percent.

The education and health services sector accounted for 16.0 percent of total covered employment in Searcy County in 2001, compared to the state’s figure of 11.3 percent. In terms of the proportion of covered employment attributed to the education and health services sector, the county ranked 8th among the 74 counties in Arkansas for which data were available and 2nd behind Baxter County among the 16 counties in Northwest Arkansas. For the state, the proportions ranged from 19.9 percent (Baxter County) to 2.2 percent (Little River County); for Northwest Arkansas, the proportions ranged from Baxter County’s 19.9 percent to Crawford County’s 6.6 percent.

The leisure and hospitality sector accounted for 7.0 percent of total covered employment in Searcy County in 2001, compared to the state’s figure of 7.8 percent. In terms of the proportion of covered employment attributed to the leisure and hospitality sector, the county ranked 34th among the 73 counties in Arkansas for which data were available and 9th among the 16 counties in Northwest Arkansas. For the state, the proportions ranged from 16.7 percent (Carroll County) to 1.9 percent (Woodruff County); for Northwest Arkansas, the proportions ranged from Carroll County’s 16.7 percent to Madison County’s 4.3 percent.

A summary of Searcy County’s largest employers is presented in Table 9 below.

Table 9 – Searcy County’s Largest Employers

Company Name	City	Product	Employees
White River Medical Center	Marshall	Medical Clinic	A
Harp's Foods	Marshall	Grocery Store	A
Treat Wood Products	Marshall	Sawmill and Hardwood Flooring	A

Employee Codes – A: Less than 100

Figure 3 displays the annual unemployment rates for Searcy County, the State of Arkansas, and the United States for the period 1995 through 2001. From 1995 to 2000, Searcy County experienced unemployment rates above the state average and, from 1996 to 2000, above the state and national average; the annual unemployment rate in Searcy County was between 0.1 percent above and 3.9 percent above the annual unemployment rate for the state and between 0.6 percent below and 4.3 percent above the annual unemployment rate for the U.S. for the 1995-2000 period. In 2001, the unemployment

rate in Searcy County was 5.0 percent, compared to the state and national figures of 5.1 percent and 4.8 percent, respectively. Searcy County had the 29th lowest unemployment rate among Arkansas' 75 counties in 2001 and the 6th highest unemployment rate among the 16 counties in Northwest Arkansas. Unemployment rates in Arkansas ranged from 2.2 percent in Benton County to 13.9 percent in Mississippi County; unemployment rates in Northwest Arkansas ranged from Benton County's 2.2 percent to Newton County's 6.7 percent.

Figure 3 – Historical Unemployment Rate Comparisons: 1995-2001

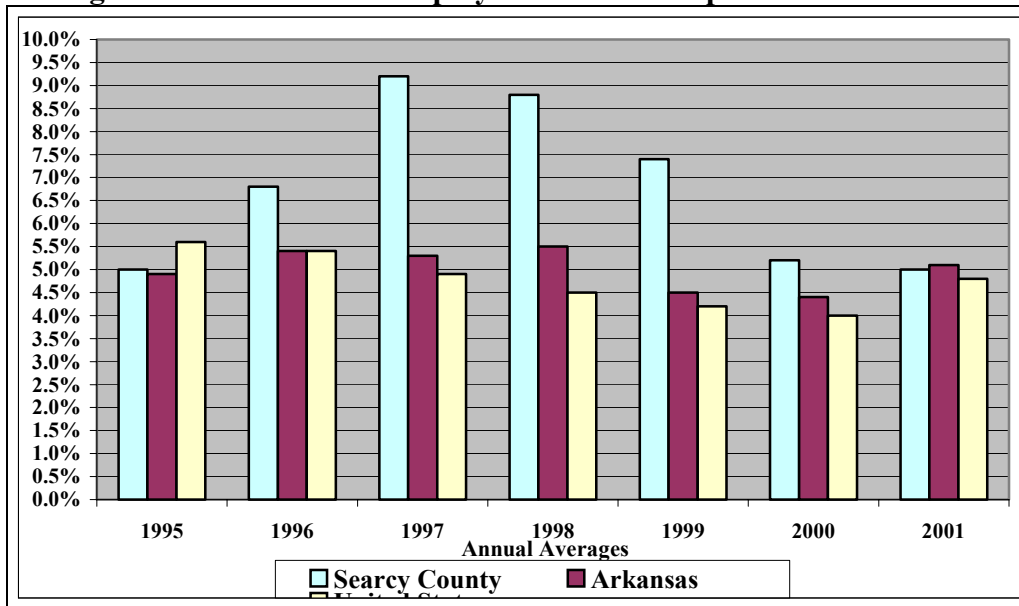
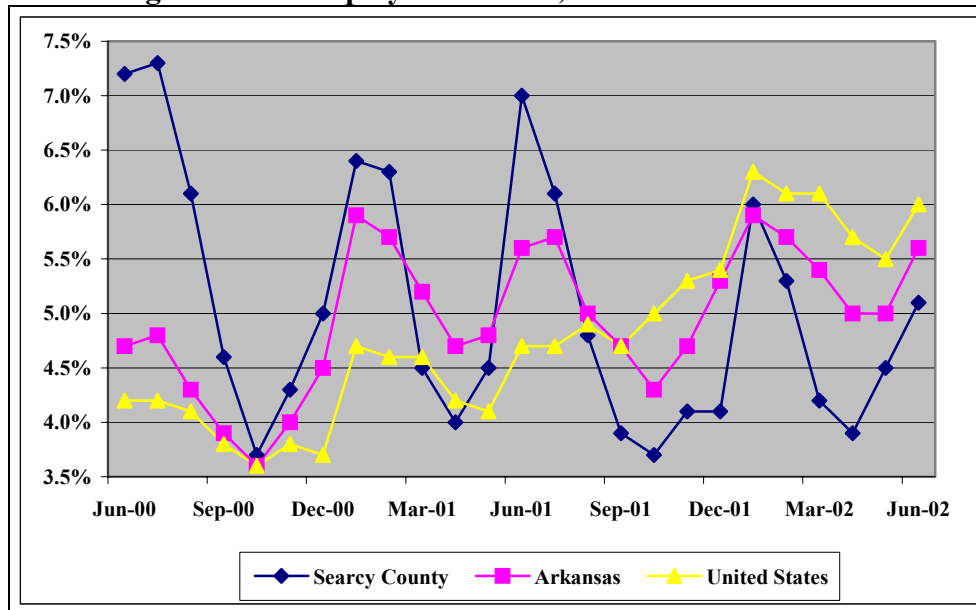


Figure 4 displays the monthly unemployment rates for Searcy County, the State of Arkansas, and the United States from June 2000 to June 2002.⁴

Figure 4 – Unemployment Rates, June 2000 – June 2002



Sources:

Arkansas Employment Security Department, Covered Employment and Earnings, Annual 2001. Table 6: County Summary Employment and Earnings, by Industry, Calendar Year 2001. <http://www.accessarkansas.org/esd/01antb6.htm>

Arkansas Employment Security Department, Covered Employment and Earnings, Annual 2001. Table 1: Average Covered Employment and Weekly Earnings, by Industry, 2001. <http://www.accessarkansas.org/esd/01antb1.htm>

Largest Employers by County data from Arkansas Department of Economic Development.

Arkansas Economic Security Department, Arkansas Revised Labor Force Statistics, Annual Average, 2001. <http://www.accessarkansas.org/esd/lmiaa01.htm>

Arkansas Employment Security Department, Arkansas Labor Force Statistics. <http://www.accessarkansas.org/esd/lmilaborforcestats.htm>

V. Available Industrial Sites and Buildings

There is currently one available industrial site in Searcy County. The property is located outside the city limits of Marshall and is owned by the Searcy County Industrial Development Corporation. There are 93 acres of available land within the property priced between \$2,500 and \$10,000 per acre, price negotiable. The site is 80 percent cleared and has a slope between 3 to 8 percent. There are no major structures in the area. Arkansas Highway 27 directly services the property to the south, and Interstate 40 is 65 miles south of the site. The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad has a line 37 miles

⁴ Note: Data are not seasonally adjusted.

north of the site. Port facilities, warehouse facilities, and Foreign Trade Zone #14 are available in Little Rock 110 miles south of the site. The City of Marshall provides water service through a 6-inch main with a normal line pressure of 120 pounds per square inch (psi). The City of Marshall has an 8-inch sewer main 3,700 feet north of the site; an extension will be required. The Petit-Jean Electric Cooperative provides electricity to the site with a voltage of 7.6 kilovolts.

Source:

Available Building and Site Database for Arkansas Communities, Arkansas Department of Economic Development.

http://www.1800arkansas.com/Buildings_Sites/Site.asp?SiteNumber=MARS001

VI. Economic Goals

Searcy County faces several obstacles to overcome in the quest for high quality economic development. A small population with relatively low education levels and high levels of poverty must make changes in order to attract top quality jobs. Additionally, the absence of major thoroughfares makes it unlikely that companies perceive the area as a convenient place to invest. Nevertheless, there are steps that Searcy County can take to improve low per capita personal income and high unemployment levels.

Searcy County must invest in high quality education for its young people. Average ACT scores and attendance rates are lower than the state average, while college remediation rates are higher. In order to have a reasonable chance of improving low per capita income numbers, the population of Searcy County must acquire the skills that employers demand of their employees. There are 20 institutes of higher education within a 100 mile radius of Searcy County. Citizens must take advantage of the programs that these colleges and universities offer in order to improve their skill base.

Since Searcy County has such a small population, economic development should focus on niche businesses that do not require access to a large workforce base. Supporting small, homegrown businesses will allow Searcy County to make the most of its available resources, rather than exporting them to other more prosperous areas.

VII. Opportunities for Future Business Development

Hospitals

One of the persistent trends in the hospital industry is the steady decline in the number of hospitals in the United States. According to data published by the American Hospital Association (AHA), the number of U.S. hospitals declined 1.4 percent to 5,810, and the number of licensed beds declined 1.0 percent to 984,000 in 2000. Although the number of hospitals fell, admissions are rising. According to the same AHA survey, admissions rose 2.1 percent to 34.9 million in 2000. These statistics indicate that as the total number of hospitals has declined, capacity utilization — the percentage of occupied beds to total beds — has risen.

While inpatient admissions moderated, the number of patients treated in outpatient settings, whether hospital-based or freestanding outpatient clinics, surgery centers, or physicians' offices, has grown dramatically due to the cost advantages of outpatient treatment. According to the most recent data available from the AHA, industry-wide outpatient visits reached 593 million in 2000, up more than 3.0 percent from 1999.

The growing role of information technology has become part of the marketing strategy utilized by hospitals. In general, hospitals are viewed as being in the early stages of general Internet use, with most of the sites currently providing basic information about a hospital and its services. It is less common for hospitals to utilize the Internet to provide information about disease management or doctor referrals, communicate with patients, or publish an online newsletter. Hospitals have also been increasing their use of information technology for administration and the storage of patient records, including images, such as those from x-rays, ultrasound, computed tomography (CAT), and positron emission tomography (PET). An area of increasing importance is the use of computer systems to make hospitals safer, particularly regarding medication errors.

With the restrictive pricing environment imposed by the realities of managed care organizations, hospitals' cost-cutting measures are expected to focus on reducing staffing levels and re-engineering to improve worker efficiency. The equipment categories that are likely to suffer the most include automated laboratory testing, cardiac catheterization, computed tomography, critical care, magnetic resonance imaging, nuclear medicine, radiation therapy, ultrasound, and x-rays. There are, however, some areas in which hospitals are expected to invest growing amounts in coming years. These include data processing equipment, telecommunications, energy-saving equipment (such as ventilation systems), and construction of new medical office buildings.

Retail

Retailing is a mature business, and growth opportunities are limited, given the large number of retail outlets spread across the country. Demographic trends primarily affect retail sales. As demographic trends influence consumers' preferences and shopping patterns, they are important to retailers' understanding of target markets. For example, the Baby Boom Generation, comprising individuals born between 1946 and 1964, constitutes some 78 million Americans - about 30 percent of the U.S. population. As the Baby Boomers entered adulthood and formed households, they fueled much of the boom in retail sales in the 1970s and 1980s. Today, having swollen the ranks of Americans in their 40s and 50s, their priorities have shifted from youthful spending to tuition payments for children and to saving for retirement.

Shopping trends also affect all aspects of retailing, from store layout to merchandise assortment. Current shopping trends in the U.S retail market can be summarized as Price + Quality = Value, "cross shopping," "precision shopping," and "going casual."

Although the American retail landscape is saturated with stores, sales can be increased by developing new markets overseas. Discount stores, like Wal-Mart, are expanding overseas more rapidly than other types of retailers, such as department stores. This is

because discount stores offer low prices to attract customers; merchandising and cultural differences have made it unattractive for department stores, whose mainstay is apparel, to allocate the capital for overseas expansion.

Wood Products

As the wood industry faced a diminishing supply of old-growth timber, makers of lumber and plywood searched for alternative timber sources and manufacturing innovations. Because the southern United States offered less expensive labor and extensive private timberlands, the plywood industry moved rapidly to the South. Since 1964, more than 110 of the 140 panel-producing plants formerly located in the states of Oregon, California, and Washington have been closed.

The need for replacement wood sources has spurred the growth of engineered wood products, which include laminated veneer lumber, parallel strand lumber, I-beams, glued laminated timber, and oriented strand board (OSB). These engineered products are made from wood residue or small-diameter logs, which are readily available from forests not subject to severe environmental restrictions. On the demand side, engineered lumber has been gaining in popularity because of its ease of use.

OSB captured a growing proportion of the structural panel market over the past decade and is likely to gain more market share in upcoming years. By year-end 2001, it had captured close to 60 percent of the structural panel market. According to Resource Information Systems Inc., a private forecasting firm for the forest products industry, it should capture 65 percent of the structural panel market by 2006. Its popularity is further boosted by attractive pricing, as OSB is typically less expensive than plywood. The industry's growing concentration on OSB prompted the addition of a net total of 9.2 billion square feet of OSB capacity from 1996 through 2000, with just under 1.0 billion square feet of OSB capacity added in 2001. With OSB production costs typically falling well below those of plywood, which is more labor intensive, the industry has planned further major OSB increases in 2002 through 2004. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, five new plants had been slated to come on line from 2002 to 2004. The plants would add about 4.0 billion square feet of annual OSB capacity.

Other engineered wood products are gaining in market share and capturing new end uses. I-joists are typically used for roof truss applications, but are now capturing the flooring systems. At present, I-joists have captured 35 percent of the wood floor systems in the U.S. single-family housing market, and it is estimated that they can capture approximately 65 percent of the market in 10 years.

Source: Standard and Poor's NetAdvantage.

<http://0-www.netadvantage.standardpoor.com.library.uark.edu/>