



ARKANSAS
Newport

Proud Past. Bright Future.

Newport Community Profile

Newport and Jackson County, Arkansas lies alongside U.S. Highway 67, a 4-lane controlled access highway to the state's economic, governmental and cultural center in Little Rock, located 90 miles to the southwest. Newport has been designated as an Arkansas Community of Excellence (ACE) and a TeamCity Partner.

Overview

Demographics

City population (2000 Census)	7,811
Median age (2000 Census)	36.8
County population (2000 Census)	18,418
50 mile radius (2000 Census)	273,619

Community Services

Government	Mayor and eight City Councilmen.
Planning and Zoning	Coordinated by city planning commission under city zoning ordinance guidelines.
Police protection	16 certified, full-time officers on the Newport Police Department.
Fire protection	20 full-time firefighters and 18 volunteer firefighters. All firefighters are fully certified through the Arkansas Fire Academy; all emergency medical personnel are certified through the Arkansas Department of Health.
Fire insurance rating	Class 3
Medical	One hospital that serves the Newport area with a total of 33 physicians and 133 beds offering rehabilitation, obstetrical, critical care, and cardiac care. The hospital emergency room is physician staffed 24 hours a day. Two medical clinics spanning several specialties and five dentists in private practice serve the Newport area.

Education

Public Schools

The Newport School District is an excellent selling point in our efforts to retain and attract business and industry. The public school system's four schools are fully accredited by the Arkansas Department of Education and the North Central Accreditation Association.

In the 2007 school year, the student population of the Newport Public School System was 1,326, of which 426 were enrolled in the secondary schools. The current school year also witnessed continued excellent achievement by Newport students:

- Junior High Quiz Bowl team finished 1st in regional competition and 4th in the state
- High School Mock Trial Team finished 1st in regional competition
- Odyssey of the Mind teams won regional and state competition advancing to World competition
- Five regional winners in Science Fair
- Newport was the top achiever at the Math Contest Regional — 8 students advanced to State Contest

Through the spring of 2008 Arkansas State University-Newport has continued its rapid growth with an enrollment of 1,253. The construction of a new Student Center in 2004 and renovations of Walton Hall's Library show that the college commitment to continuous improvement. A new Technology Transportation Center is to be constructed in 2008. Degrees and certificates conferred for the school year 2006-2007:

Certificates

- Commercial Truck Driving 828
- Diesel Mechanics 5
- Practical Nursing 24
- Certified Nursing Assistant 37
- High Voltage Technology 11

Associates Degrees

Associate of Art 61

An adult education program offers courses in literacy, GED preparation, adult education, workplace literacy classes, and English as a Secondary Language (ESL). Upper-level college classes are taught through a cooperative arrangement with Arkansas State University's main campus in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

In addition, ASU-Newport works closely with the local businesses and industry to evaluate needs and offer workforce development and customized training through the Office of Continuing Education and Business Outreach.

Other Nearby Colleges and Universities

Arkansas State University, Jonesboro (46 miles)
Harding University, Searcy (37 miles)
Lyon College, Batesville (30 miles)
University of Arkansas Community College-Batesville (30 miles)
Williams Baptist College, Walnut Ridge (45 Miles)
Foothills Technical Institute, Searcy (37 miles)

Quality of Life

Recreational Opportunities

- **Recreational facilities:** The city maintains one swimming pool and seven public parks with picnic areas, boating, fishing, sightseeing, and playground equipment. ASU-Newport's Center for the Arts, Iron Mountain Depot, Silver Moon Banquet Hall and American Legion Hut are available for private events.
- **Organized sports:** Newport has a full track field, tennis courts and volleyball courts. The community also has tours and special events for senior citizens, adult softball leagues, summer drag racing, boys/girls basketball, flag football, baseball/softball programs, church softball leagues and American Legion baseball.
- **Golf course:** Newport Country Club and Village Creek Golf and Athletic Club are open by membership and have eighteen hole courses. In addition, each has a swimming pool and tennis courts.
- **Hunting, Fishing, Boating, and Camping:** Newport Lake provides numerous recreational opportunities. Located within minutes of downtown Newport is Jacksonport State Park. Other lakes and rivers that serve the Newport area for outdoor activities are: Black River, White River, Crowley Ridge State Park, Earl Buss/Bayou deView Wildlife Management Area, Henry Grey/Hurricane Lake Wildlife Management Area, Lake Hogue, and Lake Poinsett State Park.
- **Social and Cultural Opportunities**
 - ASU-Newport Brown Bag Concert/Lecture Series
 - Depot Days Festival
 - Iron Mountain Regional Arts Council
 - Jackson County Historical Society
 - ASU-Newport patron Series
 - Numerous churches, civic and social clubs
- **PortFest:** This annual event celebrates the long standing connection between the citizens of Jackson County and the scenic White River. PortFest activities include premier musical entertainment and a variety of events for all age groups. PortFest is organized and administered entirely by volunteers. Portfest has received many awards from the Arkansas Festival Association and was named as one of the Top 100 events in North America by the American Business Association.

Climate Data

Mean daily maximum temperature	72 degrees
Mean daily minimum temperature	47 degrees
Normal humidity (mean daily noon)	57%
Normal humidity (mean daily midnight)	79%

Taxes & Permitting

Sales tax	9.00% (state, county and city)
Hotel/motel/restaurant tax	2% (city)
State income tax	1-7%, graduated
Property tax	51.2 mills times 20% of market value (example: $\$1000.00 * 20\% = \$200.00 * .0512 = \$10.24$)
Personal property tax	51.2 mills (charged on vehicles, business equipment, and inventory)
City privilege license	\$10
Building permits	based on value of structure

For More Information, Please Contact

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NEDC MISSION STATEMENT

“The mission of the Newport Economic Development Commission is to facilitate an environment that will be conducive to economic growth and stability. The commission will work to enhance, promote, and create increased opportunities for economic well being by developing and implementing strategies that will improve quality of life, community aesthetics, and encourage new investment in Newport and Jackson County.”



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

JACKSON COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Total Population	18,418	100.0
<i>Sex and Age</i>		
Male	8,787	47.7
Female	9,631	52.3
<i>Race</i>		
One race	18,243	99.0
White	14,840	80.6
Black or African American	3,235	17.6
American Indian	60	0.3
Asian	33	0.2
Asian Indian	1	0.0
<i>Subject</i>		
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Chinese	2	0.0
Filipino	6	0.0
Japanese	12	0.1
Korean	3	0.0
Vietnamese	4	0.0
Other Asian	5	0.0
Native Hawaiian & other Pacific Islander	1	0.0
Native Hawaiian	0	0.0
Other Pacific Islander	1	0.0
Some other race	74	0.4
Two or more races	175	1.0
<i>Race alone or in combination with one or more other races</i>		
White	15,004	81.5
Black or African American	3,268	17.7
American Indian and Alaska Native	141	0.8
Asian	55	0.3
Native Hawaiian & other Pacific Islander	6	0.0
Some other race	134	0.7
<i>Total population</i>		
	<i>18,481</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Hispanic or Latino (of any race) 234		1.3
Mexican	135	0.7
Puerto Rican	12	0.1
Cuban	3	0.0
Other Hispanic or Latino	84	0.5
Not Hispanic or Latino	18,184	98.7
White alone	14,725	79.9

Relationship

Total Population	18,418	100.0
In households	16,752	91.0
Householder	6,971	37.8
Spouse	3,641	19.8
Child	4,649	25.2
Own child under 18 years	3,493	19.0
Other relatives	966	5.2
Under 18 years	459	2.5

Subject	Number	Percent
Nonrelatives	525	2.9
Unmarried partner	247	1.
In group quarters	1,666	9.0
Institutionalized population	1,622	8.8
Noninstitutionalized population	44	0.2

Household by type

Total households	6,971	100.0
Family households (families)	4,830	69.3
With own children under 18	1,933	27.7
Married couple family	3,641	52.2
With own children under 18	1,321	18.9
Female household, no husband	914	13.1
With own children under 18	492	7.1
Nonfamily households	2,141	30.7
Householder living alone	1,947	27.9
Householder 65 years and over	1,002	14.4
Households with individuals		
Under 18 years	2,252	32.3
Households with individuals 65 years and over	2,142	30.7
Average household size	2.40	(x)
Average family size	2.92	(x)

Housing Occupancy

Total housing units	7,956	100.0
Occupied housing units	6,971	87.6
Vacant housing units	985	12.4
For seasonal, recreational or occasional use	30	0.4
Homeowner vacancy rate (percent)	3.2	(x)
Rental vacancy rate (percent)	15.1	(x)

Housing Tenure

Occupied housing units	6,971	100.0
Owner-occupied housing units	4,851	69.6
Renter-occupied housing units	2,120	30.4
Average household size of owner-occupied units	2.39	(x)
Average household size of renter-occupied units	2.43	(x)



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

NEWPORT DEMOGRAPHICS

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Total Population	7,811	100.0
<i>Sex and Age</i>		
Male	3,587	45.9
Female	4,224	54.1
<i>Race</i>		
One race	7,751	99.2
White	5,200	66.6
Black or African American	2,481	31.8
American Indian & Alaska Native	21	0.3
Asian	26	0.3
Asian Indian	1	0.0
<i>Subject</i>		
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Chinese	2	0.0
Filipino	2	0.0
Japanese	11	0.1
Korean	1	0.0
Vietnamese	4	0.1
Other Asian	5	0.1
Native Hawaiian & other Pacific		
Native Hawaiian	0	0.0
Other Pacific Islander	1	0.0
Some other race	22	0.3
Two or more races	60	0.8
<i>Race alone or in combination with one or more other races</i>		
White	5,256	67.3
Black or African American	2,499	32.0
American Indian and Alaska Native	37	0.5
Asian	37	0.5
Native Hawaiian & other Pacific		
Islander	6	0.1
Some other race	47	0.6
<i>Total population</i>		
	<i>7,811</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<i>Hispanic or Latino (of any race)</i>		
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	88	1.1
Mexican	50	0.6
Puerto Rican	7	0.1
Cuban	3	0.0
Other Hispanic or Latino	28	0.4
Not Hispanic or Latino	7,723	98.9
White alone	5,152	66.0

Relationship

Total Population	7,811	100.0
In households	6,165	78.9
Householder	2,690	34.4
Spouse	1,143	14.6
Child	1,708	21.9
Own child under 18 years	1,293	16.6
Other relatives	378	4.8
Under 18 years	178	2.3

Subject	Number	Percent
Nonrelatives	246	3.1
Unmarried partner	99	1.3
In group quarters	1,646	21.1
Institutionalized population	1,610	20.6
Noninstitutionalized population	36	0.5

Household by type

Total households	2,690	100.0
Family households (families)	1,703	63.3
With own children under 18	705	26.2
Married couple family	1,143	42.5
With own children under 18	388	14.4
Female household, no husband	472	17.5
With own children under 18	279	10.4
Nonfamily households	987	36.7
Householder living alone	894	33.2
Householder 65 years and over	481	17.9
Households with individuals		
Under 18 years	826	30.7
Households with individuals		
65 years and over	918	34.1
Average household size	2.29	(x)
Average family size	2.90	(x)

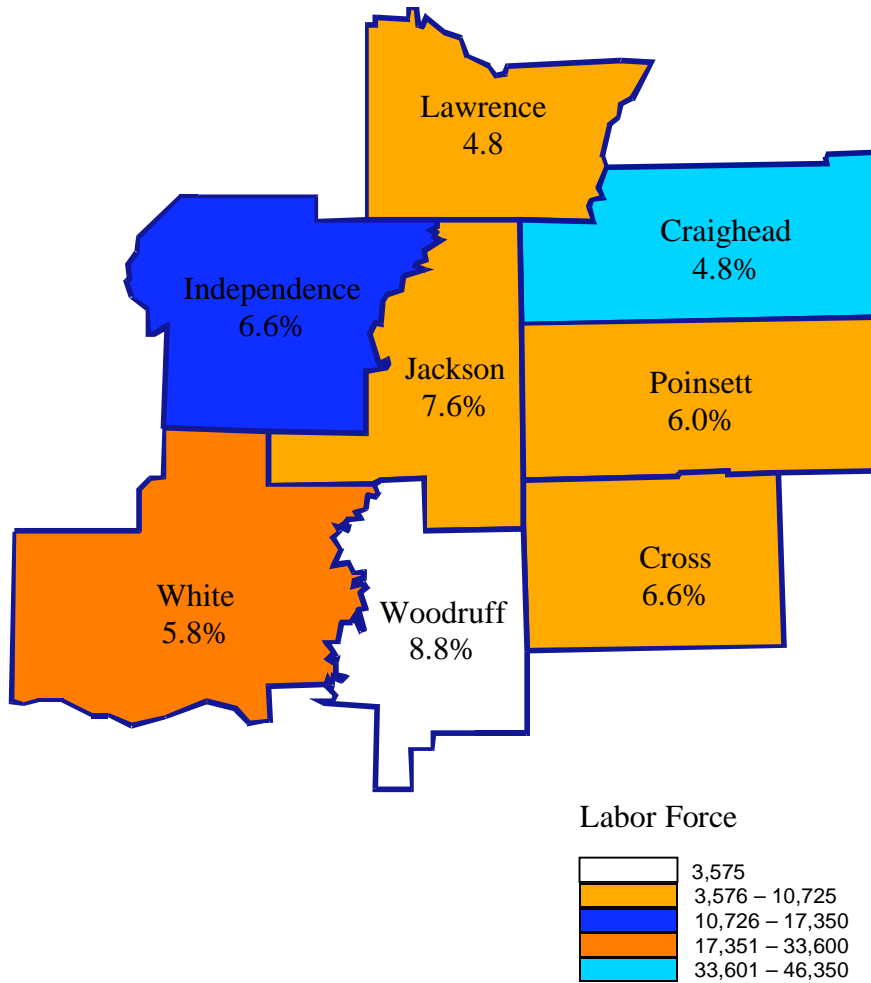
Housing Occupancy

Total housing units	3,118	100.0
Occupied housing units	2,690	86.3
Vacant housing units	428	13.7
For seasonal, recreational		
or occasional use	4	0.1
Homeowner vacancy rate (percent)	4.3	(x)
Rental vacancy rate (percent)	17.2	(x)

Housing Tenure

Occupied housing units	2,690	100.0
Owner-occupied housing units	1,537	57.1
Renter-occupied housing units	1,153	42.9
Average household size of		
owner-occupied units	2.28	(x)
Average household size of		
renter-occupied units	2.31	(x)

JACKSON COUNTY LABOR MARKET AREA SUMMARY



Area Counties Unemployment Rates for June 2008

June 2008
 Civilian Labor Force: 154,975
 Employment: 145,800
 Unemployment: 9,175
 Unemployment Rate: 5.9%

	<i>Labor Force</i>	<i>Employment</i>	<i>Unemployment</i>	<i>Rate (%)</i>
Craighead County, AR	46,125	44,125	2,225	4.8
Cross County, AR	8,350	7,800	550	6.6
Independence County, AR	17,350	16,200	1,150	6.6
Jackson County, AR	7,950	7,350	600	7.6
Lawrence County, AR	7,425	6,925	500	6.9
Poinsett County, AR	11,400	10,725	675	6.0
White County, AR	33,600	31,625	1,975	5.8
Woodruff County, AR	3,575	3,250	325	8.8
AREA TOTALS	154,975	145,800	9,175	5.9

Source: *Discoverarkansas.net*

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