

NORTHEAST ARKANSAS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Second Quarter 2025

Thank you to the City of Jonesboro and Craighead County for your ongoing support. The second quarter of 2025 has provided new opportunities, business expansions, and community investments to keep our region moving forward. This report shares some of the highlights driving growth in our region.

Sincerely,

Al M. Heringer III, Chairman

INFRASTRUCTURE & QUALITY OF LIFE



Craighead Technology Park South

Water capacity, sewer lines, substations, and gas lines may not cross our minds every day, but they are crucial to creating “shovel-ready” sites in our industrial parks. On May 28, 2025, the Jonesboro Economic Development Corporation broke ground on a major water line extension to Craighead Technology Park South. This project is supported in part by a \$2 million grant from the Arkansas Site Development Program

The Jonesboro Mobile Sign is Ready for your Event!

The Jonesboro Mobile Sign is designed to promote Jonesboro throughout the city. It was designed by the City of Jonesboro's Connectivity Committee and sponsored by Jonesboro Unlimited. The sign was recently used at The Skirmish, Jonesboro's first competitive gravel-cycling event. It's great for photo opportunities and to promote Jonesboro!



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & TALENT ATTRACTION

Putting Jonesboro on the Map

Workforce development and talent attraction go hand-in-hand. In the second quarter, our economic development partners executed several programs that highlighted Jonesboro, revealed the opportunity for successful careers, and showed newcomers they are always welcome here.

Natives & Newbies Slow Roll

Held at Native Brew Works, Always Jonesboro recently welcomed newcomers to our city, providing a casual setting for recent arrivals to connect and network with locals and Jonesboro Unlimited's Talent Ambassadors. Many participated in a Slow Roll through the city, helping give a sense of community and belonging to our new friends!



Intern Edition 2025



Each summer, Jonesboro companies welcome interns from across the country to work for the summer. As part of Jonesboro Unlimited's Workforce Development and Talent Attraction strategy, a "Get to Know Jonesboro" day is planned for interns each summer. This summer, a great group of interns came together for a day to connect with peers and to experience what makes Jonesboro unique. The day offered food, fun, and volunteerism to illustrate why Jonesboro is a great place to launch a career and why they might choose to return after graduation!



SPONSORS:



This year's TekStarz Summer Manufacturing Camp introduced 20, 7th and 8th grade students from Nettleton, Brookland, Westside, Marion, and local homeschool programs to the world of manufacturing and technology. This camp is designed to open students' eyes to the career opportunities that are available to them, and they spend the week actively engaged with hands-on activities and on-site tours at host facilities. The camp ended with a Parents' Reception held at Hytrol Conveyor Company.



Arkansas Scholars and Student Recognition

The Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce honors achievement at every level through the Arkansas Scholars and Student Recognition programs. The Arkansas Scholars program honors high school students who excel in academics, attendance, and citizenship. The Student Recognition Program celebrates elementary students who have overcome challenges throughout the school year. They are celebrated at the school year's end with a medal, certificate, and a backpack full of goodies.

BUSINESS ATTRACTION & DEVELOPMENT

Hytrol is celebrating 75 years
in Jonesboro this year!



Loberg
Day



Each July 1st, Hytrol Conveyor Company marks **Loberg Day**—the birthday of founder Tom Loberg. It's a time to honor his legacy, reflect on the company's past, celebrate the present, and look ahead to the future.

During the week of Loberg Day, Hytrol leadership shared tokens of appreciation with community leaders and businesses, hosted tours for employees' families and retirees, and worked alongside team members on the plant floor. The week also featured the presentation of the **Loberg Award**, given annually to an employee who exemplifies Mr. Loberg's values.

We are proud to have Hytrol in Jonesboro and Craighead County. On Loberg Day, and every day, Hytrol continues to set the standard for a first-class operation and is a true cornerstone of our community.



A-State Economic Impact Report

We all know that A-State is an invaluable asset to Jonesboro, Craighead County, and the state of Arkansas. A newly released Economic Impact Report shows just how significant that impact is. In FY23, A-State generated \$2.5 billion in economic impact. Of that, \$479.7 million was generated by operations, students, and visitors while \$2.0 billion was generated by A-State alumni. The University also supported and sustained 16,332 jobs in FY23. The numbers make it clear, A-State is a great driver of growth, jobs, and opportunity!

On the Ground in Economic Development

Jonesboro Unlimited hosted a **Plant Managers' Roundtable** this quarter, giving our plant managers the opportunity to network and talk about items of interest in manufacturing.

The Arkansas Economic Development Commission hosted a trip to meet with economic development consultants this quarter. Jonesboro Unlimited's VP of Economic Development participated, talking to and building relationships with consultants in Greenville, South Carolina.

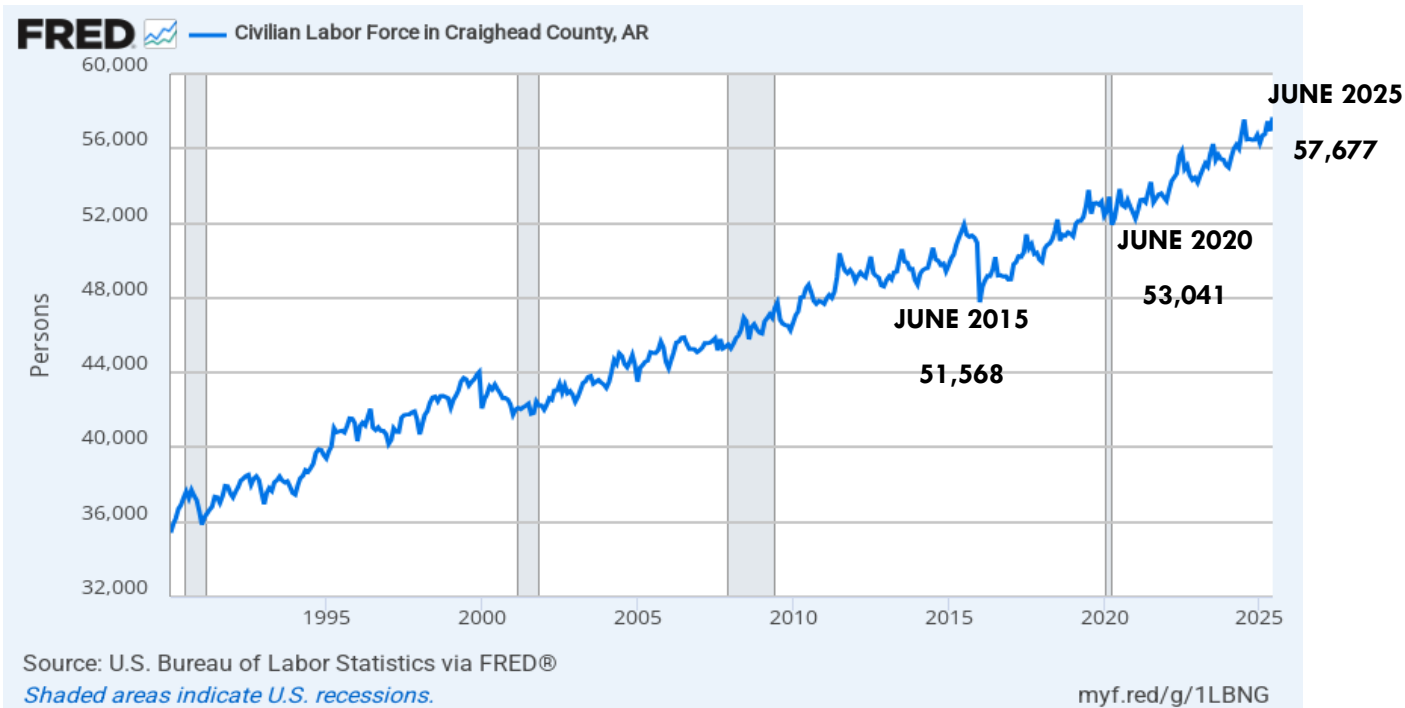
Childcare affordability and reliability are a nationally recognized growing concern for the workforce. Shelle Randall, Jonesboro Unlimited's Director of Workforce Development, recently participated in the U.S. Chamber of

Commerce's Business Leads Fellowship Master Class on Community Child Care in May. One of only 33 selected nationwide to participate, Ms. Randall participated in conversations designed to equip leaders with research, resources, and best practices to launch community-based childcare solutions.

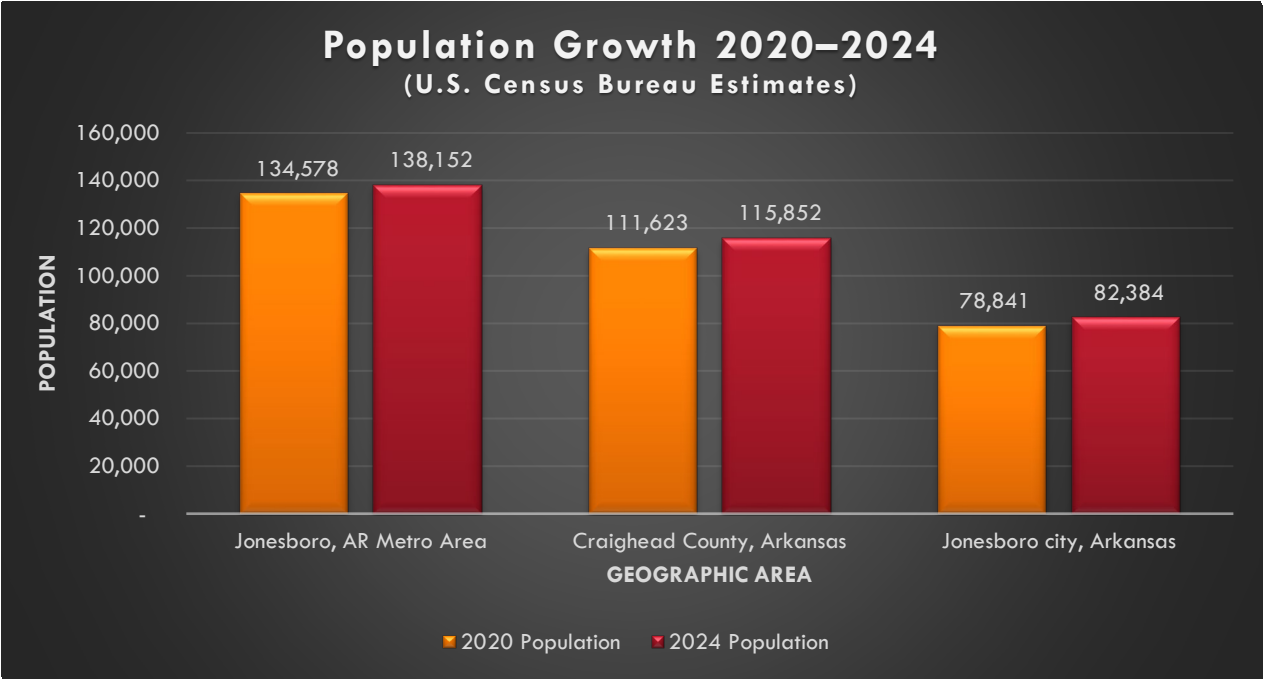
Jonesboro's Existing Industries Association hosted its annual golf outing in May, bringing together 52 manufacturing representatives for a day of networking and friendly competition on the course.

BY THE NUMBERS

Civilian Labor Force Growth in Craighead County



Craighead County's civilian labor force has grown steadily, increasing from 51,568 in June 2015 to 53,041 in June 2020 by percentage a gain of 12%. This reflects our consistent and steady growth, along with Craighead County's ongoing ec



Annual Estimates of the Resident Population April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2024); Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

Jonesboro and the surrounding region continue to grow steadily. According to the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2024 population estimates, **Jonesboro city has grown 4.5% since 2020**, reaching a count of 82,384 residents. Craighead County increased nearly 3.8% over the same period, while the Jonesboro MSA grew 2.7%. Arkansas overall grew 2.4% to 3,088,354 and the United States 2.6% to 340,110,988 during the same time period.