



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 1<sup>st</sup> in regional competition and 4<sup>th</sup> in the state
- High School Mock Trial Team finished 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1,105. The construction of a new Student Center in 2004 and renovations of Walton Hall's Library show the college commitment to continuous improvement. A new Transportation Technology 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 *.0512*20%= \$10.24)	51.2 mills (20% of market value) (example: \$1000)
Personal property tax	51.2 mills (charged on vehicles, business equipment, and inventory)
City privilege license	\$10
Building permits	based on value of structure

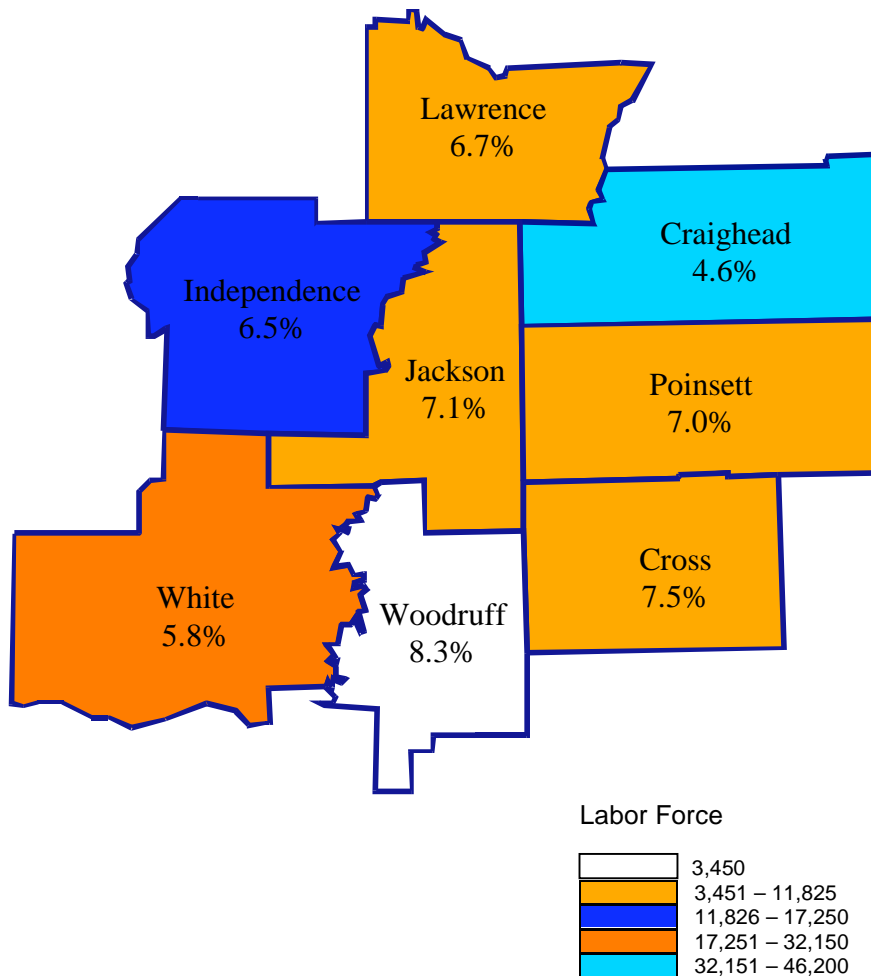
## ***For More Information, Please Contact***

Jon Chadwell, CEcD Executive Director  
Newport Economic Development Commission  
P.O. Box 766  
Newport, AR 72112  
Phone: (870) 523-1009  
Fax: (870) 523-1055  
Email: [director@newportaredc.org](mailto:director@newportaredc.org)  
[www.newportaredc.org](http://www.newportaredc.org)

### ***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.”

## JACKSON COUNTY LABOR MARKET AREA SUMMARY



### Area Counties Unemployment Rates for November 2007

November 2007  
 Civilian Labor Force: 134,350  
 Employment: 126,425  
 Unemployment: 7,925  
 Unemployment Rate: 5.9%

	<b>Labor Force</b>	<b>Employment</b>	<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>Rate (%)</b>
Craighead County, AR	46,200	44,050	2,150	4.6
Cross County, AR	8,225	7,600	625	7.5
Independence County, AR	17,250	16,125	1,125	6.5
Jackson County, AR	7,650	7,100	550	7.1
Lawrence County, AR	7,600	7,100	550	6.7
Poinsett County, AR	11,825	11,000	825	7.0
White County, AR	32,150	30,275	1,875	5.8
Woodruff County, AR	3,450	3,175	275	8.3
<b>AREA TOTALS</b>	<b>134,350</b>	<b>126,425</b>	<b>7,925</b>	<b>5.9</b>

Source: *Discoverarkansas.net*  
 Updated: 1/10/08