

Aviation & Aerospace

Arkansas's single largest export.



Industry Overview

Dassault Falcon Jet's Little Rock facility consists of two strategic Falcon operations: the main completion center for all Falcon jets worldwide, and the company-owned service center, which is dedicated solely to Falcon customers. Expansion plans in Little Rock are currently underway, for both the Completion and Service Center areas. With construction set to continue into 2009, Dassault Falcon Jet in Little Rock will expand to occupy nearly 827,000 total square feet. In addition, Hawker Beechcraft also has a completion center in Little Rock where they design, build and install custom interiors for their Hawker aircrafts.

Not only is Arkansas satisfying the most demanding customized jet requirements of corporate and government leaders worldwide, it is also building some of the most sophisticated defense systems used by the military. These plants are not only producing superior products, they are winning industry awards as well. In 2006, Lockheed Martin's Camden Operations were selected as one of Industry Week magazine's "Top Ten Best Plants." The Camden plant was selected from more than 200 potential candidate facilities across North America. Lockheed's Camden Operations is also a 10-time winner of the Employee Involvement Association's (EIA) Performance Excellence Award. The facility produces the battle-proven Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) launcher and a family of munitions.

Why Arkansas

As demonstrated in the above examples, Arkansas has an established track record in producing world-class, mission critical aviation and aerospace products.

Beyond the three companies previously mentioned, there are over 10,000 Arkansans employed in the industry.

The industry is located in several different regions of the state, with each region having a slightly different area of strength and focus. This diversity enables the state to provide alternatives to prospects, each with a different set of advantages.

The regional view of the industry is:

Employer	Location	Est. Employment
Central Arkansas		
Dassault Falcon Jet	Little Rock	1746
Hawker Beechcraft	Little Rock	657
Triumph Fabrications	Hot Springs	364
Air Transport International	Little Rock	352
Central Flying Service	Little Rock	247
AAR Aircraft Services	Hot Springs	182
BEI	Little Rock	161
Airborne Nacelle	Hot Springs	113
Vertex Aerospace	Little Rock	125
Audio International	North Little Rock	124
South Arkansas		
Atlantic Research Group	Camden	561
Lockheed Martin	Camden	440
Raytheon	East Camden	116
American Fuel Cell and Coated Fabrics	Magnolia	347
Northwest Arkansas		
LaBarge Electronics	Berryville/Huntsville	204
Pratt & Whitney	Springdale	177
American Eagle	Bentonville	119
Maynard, Inc.	Fayetteville	74
West Arkansas		
Rose Aircraft Interiors	Mena	132
Goodner-Crider Aircraft	Mena	29
Mena Aircraft Interiors	Mena	5