

**Table 9
Emerging Urban Areas in Arkansas**

Central Arkansas	MidNorth Arkansas	Northeast Arkansas
Cleveland	Boone	Craighead
Faulkner	Newton	Crittenden
Grant	Pope	Greene
Jefferson	Yell	Mississippi
Lincoln		Poinsett
Lonoke		Phillips
Perry		St. Francis
Pulaski		
Saline		
White		
Northwest Arkansas	Southwest Arkansas	White River
Benton	Calhoun	Baxter
Crawford	Clark	Independence
Franklin	Columbia	
Madison	Hempstead	
Sebastian	Miller	
Washington	Neveda	
	Ouachita	
	Union	

In 2000, the population in the emerging urban areas ranged from a high of 382,495 in Central Arkansas to a low of 35,218 in the White River area. The fastest growing area is Northwest Arkansas, which had the second largest population in 2000 (253,059), and is projected to grow more than 70% by 2020, to a population of 431,178. Projected annualized population growth rates in the areas range from 2.70% in Northwest Arkansas to 0.65% in Southwest Arkansas. Four out of the six regions are expected to experience growth rates exceeding the state's average rate of 1.47%.