



## Harrison-Boone County, Arkansas *'Taking Care of Business'*

Harrison is the County Seat of Boone County, Arkansas, nestled in the Ozark Mountains in North Central Arkansas, only 72 miles from Northwest Arkansas (Springdale, Fayetteville, Rogers, Bentonville), 77 miles from Springfield, MO, and 139 miles from Little Rock. Harrison has enjoyed the restoration of historic landmarks, the construction of new facilities, schools, churches, and numerous commercial and industrial investments the past twenty-five years. Harrison and Boone County's investment in the future represents a long-term belief in their future. The 2018/2019 estimated census showed Harrison with a population of 13,087 and Boone County with a population of 37,480.

The Harrison community offers a healthy blend of longtime residents as well as newcomers from various parts of the country. The citizens of Harrison and Boone County enjoy an outstanding quality of life, a thriving industrial and manufacturing base and a broad-based retail shopping selection. Harrison and Boone County schools, along with the national award-winning North Arkansas College, are rich in their curriculum and have access to cutting edge technology.

The Harrison Regional Chamber of Commerce serves Harrison and surrounding areas in Boone County. From business and economic development to education, the Harrison Regional Chamber of Commerce is committed to serving not only the businesses, but also the citizens of the region. Business After Hours, information workshops, ribbon cuttings, adult and youth leadership programs, and the Chamber's annual meeting and awards program are among networking opportunities provided to Chamber investors regularly.

Harrison is a thriving small city, marrying a historic manufacturing tradition – with 8 global manufactures among its 14, and 7 of those 8 have their global headquarters locally – and a strong education heritage into an attractive location for growing a business, a community, a lifestyle.

Industry came to Harrison with the railroads in the late 19th century, and it remains one of the strongest business centers in Arkansas today, with more than 5,000 of its workforce employed in one of the city's 30-plus prime business operations. Those operations produce and deliver diversified products and services, everything from automobile engine parts to commercial trailer flooring to folding cartons to plastic injection molding to communications, food service, banking, healthcare and education, all thriving on the strong North Central Arkansas work ethic.

Population: Harrison: 13,181 (June 1, 2020 est.)	Boone County: 37,432 (July 1, 2019 est.)
Median Age: 36	Mean Household Income: \$49,413
Average Home Price: \$129,700 (\$85 sq ft)	Cost of Living Index: 72.6

Race & Origin (July 1, 2019, census.gov)	37,480
White alone	96.0%
Black or African American alone	0.5%
American Indian and Alaskan Native alone	0.9%
Asian, alone	0.6%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander alone	0.1%
Two or More Races	2.0%
Hispanic or Latino	2.6%
Whiter alone, not Hispanic or Latino	93.7%



**Business and Economic Development-friendly**

- Elected and community leadership focused on business expansion and growth
- Nationally-recognized North Arkansas College
- Award-winning public-school programs throughout the area
- Completed Retail Academy program for recruiting that business segment
- National brands locating here in 2020: Planet Fitness, Dunkin', Golden Ticket Cinemas

**Workforce Focus**

- Over 400 full and part-time jobs created in 2019, another 50-plus in 2020, and forecast of 100-plus additional in the coming months
- Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District (NWAEDD); North Arkansas College (NAC); Harrison Public Schools (HPS); O.U.R Educational Services Cooperative
- Workforce Initiative Network (WIN), promoting local industry opportunities to 21 area schools

**Transportation**

- US Hwy 412 Corridor initiative; \$8.8M US Hwy 62/65 improvements; \$7.6M Goblin Drive expansion; Harrison city street 'master-plan'
- Boone County Regional Airport (HRO): 6K' runway/parallel taxiway, full-service FBO, 85K sf ramp

**Infrastructure**

- \$4M-plus connected 100% 10gig fiber for industry, business, education
- \$2M-plus new natural gas line replaced/expanded; another \$2M in progress in 2021
- ISO Fire Code Rating 2 earned in 2019
- North Arkansas Regional Medical Center, Level 3 Trauma Center

**Engagement Partners**

- Arkansas Economic Development Commission; NWAEDD; Boone County Economic Development Corporation; NAC; HPS; Harrison District Board of Realtors; and multiple civic organizations

**Quality of Life**

- Over 35 community civic, charitable organizations where time/treasure/talent can be spent
- Numerous individual, family and group sports programs, including baseball, soccer, tennis, basketball, pickleball; Brandon Burlsworth Youth Center
- Spectacular outdoor venues/destinations: hiking, canoeing, fishing, mountain biking and more
- NEW \*\* Johnny Morris/Bass Pro-developed Ozark Conservation area, 9 miles/13 mins South on AR Hwy 7

**Unemployment:** Federal Reserve Bank, St Louis, 2020

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Boone County	3.9%	3.6%	4.4%	10.8%	8.4%	7.0%	5.9%	5.8%	5.4%	4.5%	4.5%	
Arkansas	3.5%	3.5%	5.0%	10.8%	9.5%	8.0%	7.1%	7.4%	7.2%	6.2%	6.2%	4.2%
United States	3.6%	3.5%	4.4%	14.7%	13.3%	11.1%	10.2%	8.4%	7.9%	6.9%	6.7%	6.7%

**January – December, 2020:**

**Prime Business:** Expansion, **\$5.8M**; New/Prospects, **\$11.3M**

**Main Street:** Expansion, **\$3.3M**; New/Prospects, **\$32.7M**; Forecast, **\$11.5M**

**Highway 62/65/412 Traffic Count: 27K-plus**

**Residential Construction Permits:** City of Harrison

- New Build Homes: 9, totaling **\$1.6M**
- Home Remodels: 11, totaling **\$280K**

**Property Sales/Prices:** Harrison Realtor MLS

- Residential: Current/Farm Total Listing: 1,366; Average List Price: \$201,788
  - o Total Number Sold: 885; Average Sales Price: \$160,648



- Commercial: Current Total Listings: 199; Average List Price: \$356,142
  - o Total Number Sold: 41; Average Sales Price: \$172,107

#### **Agriculture** (2017 Agriculture Census)

- Boone County Farms: **1303** (+2% from 2012)
  - o 98% family owned; 77% have Internet
  - o Total acreage: **305,922** (+19% from 2012)
  - o Average acreage: **233** (+16% from 2012)
- Market value of products sold: **\$164M** (+32% from 2012)
  - o Crop sales: **\$3.1M** (hay/silage: \$2.2M)
  - o Livestock sales: **\$160.9M** (poultry \$106.9M; cattle \$53.7M)

#### **Top Attractions.**

National Register of Historic Places: Courthouse Square; The Historic Lyric Theater; 1929 Hotel Seville; Baker Prairie; Maplewood Cemetery; building wall murals; Mountain Meadows Massacre Memorial; multi-purpose sports complexes; Boone County Regional Airport (BRO); Boone County Historical Museum; Historic Downtown Walking Tour; National Park Service's Buffalo National River Headquarters; Arkansas State Hot Air Balloon Championship; Rusty Wheels Old Engine Club. Recently announced: Johnny Morris/Bass Pro Ozarks Conservation area, 9 miles/13 minutes South on Highway 7.

#### **Awards / Honors.**

Top 100 Small Towns in America; Rotary International award-winning 100-year old Rotary Club; Kevin Cheri, 2019 Arkansas MLK Commission Trailblazer Award winner; home of Ruby Kate Chitsey and her *Three Wishes for Ruby's Residents* national non-profit; home of Brandon Burlsworth Foundation; many other organizational and individual state and national award winners.

#### **Amenities.**

Fourteen major manufacturers; nine global businesses; four headquartered here; Lake Harrison / Crooked Creek; live theater/comedy/concerts; award-winning culinary restaurants; numerous outdoor sports and activities.

#### **Weather.**

Four beautiful seasons; average temperature, 57.85; average annual precipitation: 44.13 inches.

#### **Outdoor Activities.**

Fishing, hiking, biking, canoeing, kayaking, golf, boating, paddle-boarding, archery, hunting, rock climbing, PRCA rodeo, hot-air ballooning, Big Foot hunting.

#### **Famous For...**

*Three Wishes for Ruby's Residents*; Arkansas Hot Air Balloon Championship; home of Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt; home of the Brandon Burlsworth Foundation; award-winning North Arkansas College, North Arkansas Regional Medical Center and Harrison High School programs; and soon-to-be Johnny Morris/Bass Pro Ozarks Conservation area.



### **Civic / Volunteer Activities.**

Lions Club, Rotary International, Kiwanis Club, Master Gardeners, charitable organizations (House of Hope, Sanctuary, Meals on Wheels, Mercy Mall, Share & Care, Ozark Opportunities, Junior Auxiliary, and more).

### **Medical Facilities.**

National and State award-winning North Arkansas Medical Center: Top 100 Rural/Community Hospitals in America, Governors Quality Award, 5-Star Orthopedic department; two urgent care centers; three nursing/assisted living/rehabilitation centers; North Arkansas Partnership for Health Education (NAPHE).

### **Higher Education.**

National and State award-winning North Arkansas College, Harrison (#1 Community College in Arkansas); University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR; Arkansas Tech University, Russellville, AR; College of the Ozarks, Hollister, MO.

### **Housing.**

Lower cost than most; higher quality than most.

### **The community is a no brainer for:**

Businesses: of all shapes and sizes

Golfers: YES

Outdoorsy Types: ABSOLUTELY

Wine lovers/Foodies: YES

Other: YES: Business and industry, retirement, recreation, schools, churches, quality of life, giving back, community spirit, antiques/flea markets.

### **One-word Community Description.**

Awesome...Adventure...Home...