

Arkansas

Arkansas borders over 300 miles of the Lower Mississippi River, a vital length in our nation's inland waterway system. The state also borders or contains over 600 miles of other commercially navigable waterways, including the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System as well as the Red, White, Ouachita and Black Rivers. The state contains 14 locks and dams which make navigation possible.

| Arkansas 2008 Commodities Moved | | | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| From, to and within the State | | | | | |
| <i>(values in millions of dollars)</i> | | | | | |
| Commodity | Shipped | Received | Within | Total | Value |
| Coal | ** | 273,587 | 0 | 287,807 | \$18 |
| Petroleum | 1,243,857 | 954,395 | 0 | 2,198,252 | \$300 |
| Aggregates | 1,571,650 | 556,136 | 3,082,369 | 5,210,155 | \$326 |
| Grain | 4,649,712 | 54,002 | ** | 4,703,714 | \$893 |
| Chemicals | 27,818 | 602,050 | 0 | 629,868 | \$150 |
| Ores/Minerals | 70,230 | 102,913 | 0 | 173,143 | \$101 |
| Iron/Steel | 484,538 | 1,993,503 | 112,533 | 2,530,001 | \$2,049 |
| Other | 99,435 | 245,813 | 1,989 | 350,073 | \$533 |
| TOTAL | 8,147,240 | 4,990,763 | 3,196,891 | 16,083,013 | \$4,370 |
| <i>** Insufficient barge operators to release this tonnage – included in "Other Commodities"</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterborne Commerce Statistics</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Shipments on Mississippi River Basin Waterways Only</i> | | | | | |



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An analysis of the waterborne commerce data for the State of Arkansas shows that more than 8.1 million tons of commodities were shipped on the river system out of the state. A sizeable portion of this tonnage (4.6 million tons) consisted of grain. Docks in the state received about 4.7 million tons, with iron/steel being the largest commodity. Over 3.1 million tons moved within the state. In 2008, the 16 million tons shipped to, from and within Arkansas were worth almost \$4.4 billion. The vast majority of this tonnage was shallow draft traffic. The docks in Arkansas received 13,614 tons of goods and shipped 196,056, 97% of this being grain to Louisiana.

| Arkansas 2008 Commodities | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Shipped by Barge to and from Other States | | | | | | | |
| <i>(tonnage in thousands of tons; values in millions of dollars)</i> | | | | | | | |
| Shipments | Tons | Value | Top | Shipments | Tons | Value | Top |
| To | | | Commodity | From | | | Commodity |
| Louisiana | 5,780 | \$1054 | Grain | Louisiana | 2,264 | \$667 | Iron/Steel |
| Tennessee | 1049 | \$261 | Petroleum | Texas | 435 | \$162 | Petroleum |
| Mississippi | 445 | \$55 | Aggregates | Illinois | 426 | \$342 | Iron/Steel |
| Illinois | 213 | \$84 | Petroleum | Tennessee | 414 | \$140 | Petroleum |
| Oklahoma | 196 | \$89 | Aggregates | Kentucky | 338 | \$271 | Iron/Steel |
| <i>Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterborne Commerce Statistics</i> | | | | | | | |
| <i>Shipments on Mississippi River Basin Waterways Only</i> | | | | | | | |

Arkansas docks shipped commodities by barge to 16 states, and received commodities from 17 states ([see map](#)). The leading state shipped to was Louisiana, with over 5.7 million tons and a value of over \$1,054 million. The leading state shipping by barge to Arkansas was also Louisiana, which shipped over 2,200 million tons with a value of \$667 million, with iron/steel being the primary commodity.

There are approximately 88 manufacturing facilities, terminals, and docks on the waterways of Arkansas that shipped and received tonnage in 2008.

Twelve of the locks and dams in Arkansas are located on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System ([see map](#)). In 1970, 25 years of construction ended with the opening of the system at a cost of 1.3 billion. The entire system is 445 miles long and has 17 locks and dams. The locks on the system allow for the movement of a multitude of different commodities. In 1971 the system was named in honor of the late U.S. Senators John L. McClellan of Arkansas and Robert S. Kerr of Oklahoma.

Locking operations began in 2005 at on the White River. There currently are no dams on the lower White River. When Mississippi River levels drop, the White River stage drops correspondingly and has at times fallen lower than the designers of the system ever thought it would. This has caused repeated navigation restrictions, and has prompted the need for extensive dredging. The lock and dam will eliminate the restrictions and will reduce dredging needs by over 90 percent. The dam will have gates that normally remain on the channel bottom. During low levels, the gates will be raised to form a navigable pool and traffic will use the lock.

The other two locks in Arkansas are on the Ouachita/Black River system, whose main commodities are gasoline, fuel oils, wheat and limestone. This system flows from Camden, Arkansas to a junction with the Red River in Louisiana and is navigable for 338 miles.

The state of Arkansas has no locks on the Mississippi River.



