

County Highlights

Izard County

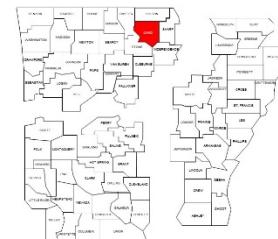
Ouachita District

Izard County is located in the state of Arkansas and one of the first counties (13th) formed in the state which occurred on October 27, 1825. The county name was chosen to honor a general from the War of 1812, George Izard. George Izard was also governor of the Arkansas Territory before Arkansas statehood was established. Izard County covers almost 600 square miles with more than 13,000 residents, according to the 2010 U.S. Census. Melbourne is the county seat.

The first known homestead was established in 1810 by an Irish explorer, John Lafferty. He settled along a stream later named Lafferty Creek. Izard County went through many transitions as Arkansas moved toward becoming a state with much land being divided over time into several other counties that include Van Buren, Carroll, Johnson, Marion, Fulton, Baxter and Stone.

The oak and pine forest have sustained lumber production since early settlement. Small towns are found nestled in valleys throughout the county. Izard County is known as a popular tourist destination for recreational activities on the lakes, streams and throughout the mountainous terrain. The White and Strawberry rivers are known for fishing and paddling. This attracts seasonal traffic into the county, but the Horseshoe Bend community retains a strong retirement allure.

The population has slightly increased over the last few decades. Timber, recreation and retirees drive the local economy. Izard County could benefit from the services that APAC can provide to local businesses.



Izard County Extension Office

<http://www.uaex.edu/counties/izard/>

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County Extension Agents

Michael Paskewitz, Staff Chair

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County Statistics

Population (2011 estimate):	13,445
Land area (square miles):	581
% of high school graduates:	81.3%
% with bachelor's degree or higher:	12.3%
Mean travel time to work (minutes):	22.4
Median household income:	\$31,219
Persons below poverty level:	22%
Total number of firms:	988
Manufacturer's shipments (\$1000s):	NA
Retail sales per capita:	\$8,070

Source: United States Census Quickfacts

Business Resources for Izard County

- **Izard County, City of Horseshoe Bend –**
<http://www.cityofhorseshoebend.org/>
- **White River Planning and Development District –**
<http://www.wrpdd.org/>