

ARKANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MANUFACTURING SOLUTIONS (AEDC-MS)

Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions is the MEP Center for the state of Arkansas and is part of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission. Our mission is maximizing enterprise value for manufacturers through Organizational Excellence, Operational Excellence, Advanced Manufacturing, and Family Business services. Manufacturing Solutions works closely with many public and private organizations to bring world-class resources to Arkansas manufacturers. AEDC-MS has formal partnership agreements with four state universities, the World Trade Center, and other third party providers. In addition, the Center works with community colleges and local economic development organizations to ensure local resources are utilized in delivering assistance to manufactures.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

MEP Center impacts are based on clients surveyed in FY2023



\$244.4 Million

Total Increased/Retained Sales



2,155

Total Increased/Retained Jobs



\$49 Million

New Client Investments



\$10.9 Million

Cost Savings

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 **ARKANSAS**
Economic Development Commission
MANUFACTURING SOLUTIONS

LEAN MANUFACTURING TRAINING FOR LEADERSHIP AND TEAM MEMBERS TRIPLES PRODUCTION WHILE ELIMINATING OVERTIME.

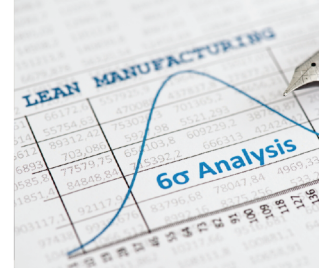
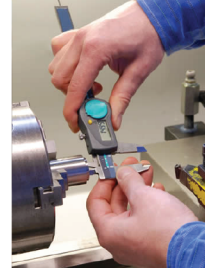
ABOUT WWBEDS CUSTOM FURNITURE. Started in 1985, WWBeds Custom Furniture provides their customers high quality products at affordable prices. Each custom designed piece is constructed with quality and function in mind. Founder Gary Davis began operations under the name of Waterful Wonderbeds and has been in the business for over 40 years. Gary started producing furniture in his garage and has been manufacturing quality furniture since. Prior to that he gained quality experience building aircraft interiors. Nowadays, Chris Davis, 3rd-generation builder and owner, personally does the designing and now just some of the building. He is responsible for every custom designed piece of furniture that is produced at WWBeds. Chris is the oldest son of WWBeds founding owner, Gary Davis, and has been in the family business for almost 30 years. Chris is a graduate of the University of Central Arkansas at Conway and holds a bachelor's degree in business management. He has taken courses in aircraft modification and installation, which have provided beneficial skills that he uses daily in his custom woodwork.

THE CHALLENGE. WWBeds facility in North Little Rock, Arkansas, was struggling to meet their customer demand due to material and work flow issues, process layout, limited space, excessive overtime, and not knowing which issues to work on. Leadership turned to AMS, part of the MEP National Network™, for help.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. WWBeds requested AMS support for their organization with the application of knowledge and skill building routines regarding the principles of lean manufacturing. To help determine the best possible flow for their product to meet their customer's demand, AMS facilitated value stream mapping (VSM) and Lean 101 training. Once the VSM had been created, the team focused on the production area with a 5S event for improvement initiatives. The Toyota Kata Methodology is used to locate and eliminate obstacles preventing them from their main goal.

"Our success has been driven by two main factors: increasing the capacities of our existing personnel and expanding our team through standardization. The most significant change has been in our production capacity. Historically, we were constrained by our output; while we had ample sales, we couldn't produce the product quickly enough. By analyzing our processes through a value stream perspective, we were able to balance production more effectively. Learning to create job instructions enabled us to delegate tasks previously known only to a few, thereby boosting our production capacity even more. Additionally, the skills gained from applying KATA have empowered us to address specific challenges, such as quality control and improving our work environment. We wouldn't have survived the 'COVID months' without the skills and knowledge we gained from our learning. Additionally, the project consultant reached out with weekly calls to offer their assistance, which was invaluable."

-Chris Davis, Owner



RESULTS



Increased Sales from
\$565,000 to **\$1,600,000**.



Improved productivity with cost savings of **\$600,000** from reduction of overtime.

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