The Center for Business and Economic Research at the Sam M. Walton College of Business provides excellence in applied economic and business research to federal, state, and local government, as well as to businesses currently operating or those that desire to operate in the state of Arkansas. The Center further works to improve the economic opportunities of all Arkansans by conducting policy research in the public interest.

The Center was originally established as the Bureau of Business and Economic Research in 1943 to explore and report on economic, business, and social conditions in Arkansas. In addition to supporting research within the College, the Center supports economic development by providing economic and demographic data and analysis to business, government, and individuals. Over the years, the Center has grown to become a well-known point for communications and exchange of ideas, research, publications and data for universities, businesses, government, and individuals. In addition, the Center serves as a focal point in providing assistance to faculty and students in experimentation with their ideas and techniques in both theoretical and applied research.