



Mercer County

Community and Economic Development Data

Data provided in this issue of Kentucky: By The Numbers were **compiled to correspond to the issues** covered in the **Community and Economic Development** section of the University of Kentucky

Cooperative Extension Statewide Community Needs Assessment

<https://extension.ca.uky.edu/community-assessment-0>

The statewide needs assessment was conducted to identify and prioritize community needs, issues, and/or opportunities that Extension could address through targeted educational programming and engagement efforts. The survey was divided into 4 areas: 1) Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2) Youth Development, 3) Family and Individual Development, and 4) **Community and Economic Development**.

These data have been compiled to assist in using the survey results for local planning. Data from nearly 40 different sources were selected and links to each data source are provided at the end. Secondary data for the other survey sections are available at <https://kybtn.ca.uky.edu/>. To learn more about Cooperative Extension at the University of Kentucky go to: <http://extension.ca.uky.edu/>.

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Community and Economic Development Survey Section

State Results, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Statewide Community Needs Assessment

In your opinion, to what extent is practical education/assistance in each of the following topics a need in your community?
1 = Not a need, 2 = Low need, 3 = Moderate need, 4 = Very high need, 5 = Very high need



Diverse Populations

Population ¹ (2022)	
	County
Total Population	22,902
Race	
Black or African American	779
American Indian or Alaska Native	44
Asian	149
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	24
White	20,622
Two or more Races	499
Ethnicity	
Hispanic	785

English Language ² and Disability ³ (2018-2022)	
	County
Percent of Population 5 years and over who Speak a Language other than English at Home	3.9% (+/- 1.5%)
Percent of Population with a Disability	15.3% (+/- 1.9%)

Poverty ⁴ (2022)	
	County
Population below Poverty	2,865 (2,169 - 3,561)
Total Poverty Rate	12.7% (9.6% - 15.8%)

Housing

Housing Tenure ⁵ (2020)	
	County
Number of Occupied Housing Units	9,213
Owners	
Owner Occupied Housing Units	6,676
Owner Occupied with Own Children under 18	1,503
Renters	
Renter Occupied Housing Units	2,537
Renter Occupied with Own Children under 18	817

Vacant Housing ⁶ (2020)	
	County
Number of Vacant Housing Units	1,125
For Rent	162
For Sale	154
Rented or Sold, not occupied	96
Seasonal/Recreational/Occasional use	384
For Migrant Workers	3
Other Uses	326

Housing Cost Burden⁷ (2018-2022)

	County
Renters	
Percent of Occupied Housing Units paying 35.0% of more of Household Income for Rent	22.3% (+/- 8.5%)
Homeowners	
Percent of Occupied Housing Units with a Mortgage Paying 35.0% of more of Household Income for Housing Costs	15.3% (+/- 5.3%)
Percent of Occupied Housing Units without a Mortgage Paying 35.0% of more of Household Income for Housing Costs	7.6% (+/- 3.3%)

Workforce Development

High School Graduates⁸

	County
Percent of 2021-2022 High School graduates who...	
... Earned an Industry Certificate	16.7%
... Enrolled in at least One Advanced Placement (AP) Course	30.0%
... Earned College Credit Prior to Graduation	36.1%
... Went to College	42.7%

Educational Attainment Ages 18-24⁹ (2018-2022)

	County
Percent of Population Ages 18-24 with...	
... Less than High School Graduate	16.3% (+/- 6.5%)
... High School Graduate (includes equivalency)	40.5% (+/- 8.6%)
... Some College or Associate Degree	36.3% (+/- 8.9%)
... Bachelor's Degree or Higher	6.9% (+/- 4.4%)

Educational Attainment Ages 25 and over⁹ (2018-2022)

	County
Percent of Population Ages 25 and over...	
... High School Graduate or Higher	90.1% (+/- 1.9%)
... Bachelor's Degree or Higher	21.7% (+/- 2.9%)
... Less than 9th Grade	4.5% (+/- 1.4%)
... 9th to 12th Grade, no diploma	5.4% (+/- 1.4%)
... High School Graduate (includes equivalency)	35.2% (+/- 3.2%)
... Some College, no degree	22.2% (+/- 3.3%)
... Associate degree	11.1% (+/- 2.0%)
... Bachelor's Degree	13.1% (+/- 2.1%)
... Graduate or Professional Degree	8.6% (+/- 1.8%)

Small Businesses and Organizations

Small Businesses¹⁰ (2021)

	County
Total Number of Establishments	344
Establishments with less than 5 Employees	211
Establishments with 5-9 Employees	71
Establishments with 10-19 Employees	33

Local Organizations¹⁰ (2021)

	County
Total Number of Establishments	344
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation Establishments	7
Accommodation and Food Services Establishments	34
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, and Similar Organizations	27

Businesses with No Paid Employees¹¹ (2020)

	County
Total Number of Nonemployer Establishments (with no paid employees)	1,676

Climate and Disasters

Emergency and Disaster Declarations¹²
Since 2012 (2012-2022)

	County
Total Number of Emergency and Major Disaster Declarations in last 10 years	1
Most Common Emergency and Major Disaster Incident in last 10 years	Severe Ice Storm

Expected Annual Loss¹³ (2021-2022)

	County
Total Expected Annual Loss in Anticipated Economic Damage Resulting from Natural Hazards	\$3,775,235
Building Value	\$1,558,017
Agriculture Value	\$103,320
Percent of Total Expected Annual Loss (not including population)	
Building Value	41.3%
Agriculture Value	2.7%

Data Sources

- 2022 Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau.
<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-counties-detail.html>
- Table S1601. 2022 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau.
[https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2022.S1601?t=Language%20Spoken%20at%20Home&g=040XX00US21,21\\$0500000&d=ACS%205-Year%20Estimates%20Subject%20Tables](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2022.S1601?t=Language%20Spoken%20at%20Home&g=040XX00US21,21$0500000&d=ACS%205-Year%20Estimates%20Subject%20Tables)
- Table S1810. 2022 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau.
[https://data.census.gov/table?t=Disability&g=040XX00US21,21\\$0500000&d=ACS%205-Year%20Estimates%20Subject%20Tables](https://data.census.gov/table?t=Disability&g=040XX00US21,21$0500000&d=ACS%205-Year%20Estimates%20Subject%20Tables)
- Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau.
<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe.html>
- Table HCT2. 2020 Census, U.S. Census Bureau.
[https://data.census.gov/table/DECENNIALDHC2020.HCT2?g=040XX00US21,21\\$0500000_050XX00US21013&d=DEC%20Demographic%20and%20Housing%20Characteristics](https://data.census.gov/table/DECENNIALDHC2020.HCT2?g=040XX00US21,21$0500000_050XX00US21013&d=DEC%20Demographic%20and%20Housing%20Characteristics)
- Table H5. 2020 Census, U.S. Census Bureau.
[https://data.census.gov/table/DECENNIALDHC2020.H5?g=040XX00US21,21\\$0500000_050XX00US21013&d=DEC%20Demographic%20and%20Housing%20Characteristics](https://data.census.gov/table/DECENNIALDHC2020.H5?g=040XX00US21,21$0500000_050XX00US21013&d=DEC%20Demographic%20and%20Housing%20Characteristics)
- Table DP04. 2022 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau.
[https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2022.DP04?t=Housing&g=040XX00US21,21\\$0500000&y=2022&d=ACS%205-Year%20Estimates%20Data%20Profiles](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2022.DP04?t=Housing&g=040XX00US21,21$0500000&y=2022&d=ACS%205-Year%20Estimates%20Data%20Profiles)
- High School Feedback Report, August 2023. Kentucky Center for Statistics (KY Stats).
<https://kystats.ky.gov/Latest/HSFRStatic>
- Table S1501. 2022 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau.
[https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2022.S1501?t=Educational%20Attainment&g=040XX00US21,21\\$0500000&d=ACS%205-Year%20Estimates%20Subject%20Tables](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2022.S1501?t=Educational%20Attainment&g=040XX00US21,21$0500000&d=ACS%205-Year%20Estimates%20Subject%20Tables)
- 2021 County Business Patterns, U.S. Census Bureau.
[https://data.census.gov/all?g=040XX00US21,21\\$0500000&y=2021&d=ECNSVY%20Business%20Patterns%20County%20Business%20Patterns](https://data.census.gov/all?g=040XX00US21,21$0500000&y=2021&d=ECNSVY%20Business%20Patterns%20County%20Business%20Patterns)
- Nonemployer Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau.
[https://data.census.gov/table/NONEMP2020.NS2000NONEMP?g=040XX00US21,21\\$0500000_050XX00US21013&y=2020&d=ECNSVY%20Nonemployer%20Statistics&n=00](https://data.census.gov/table/NONEMP2020.NS2000NONEMP?g=040XX00US21,21$0500000_050XX00US21013&y=2020&d=ECNSVY%20Nonemployer%20Statistics&n=00)
- FEMA Disaster Declarations for States and Counties, Federal Emergency Management Agency.
<https://www.fema.gov/data-visualization/disaster-declarations-states-and-counties>
- FEMA National Risk Index, Federal Emergency Management Agency. Dataset Version 1.19.0. March 23, 2023.
<https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/>

Margins of Error

For counties with small populations and small population groups, the **margins of error** (indicated by a +/- ___) or confidence intervals (indicated by a range) can be quite large.

The margin of error or confidence interval tells us how precise the estimate is by indicating the **range within which the estimate most likely falls**.

For help in understanding the margin of error, see the brief Kentucky: By The Numbers publication

“And Now for the Grain of Salt.”

Additional data are available at:
Kentucky: By The Numbers
(<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/snarl/Index.htm>)

