

TEAM
KENTUCKY®

New
Kentucky
Home

MERCER COUNTY
KENTUCKY



SITE SELECTORS GUILD

**REDI
SITES**

GOLD

POPULATION
802,616

LABOR FORCE POPULATION
411,094

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
3.2%

POPULATION GROWTH RATE
0.7%

JobsEQ, 45-Mile Radius, Q2 2025



MERCER COUNTY

COMMUNITY ADVANTAGES

COMMUNITY POSITIONED FOR STRATEGIC GROWTH

Residential development is accelerating at a historic pace, with more than 200 permits approved in 2024-2025, including new family development. Long-term planning supports continued expansion, with designated areas reserved for large-scale housing tied to future growth. Recent and ongoing city-led upgrades, including water line modernization, sewer improvements, and planned water plant enhancements, ensure utility capacity will keep pace with future business and population growth.

9.4%

LOWER COST OF LIVING

\$253K

MEDIAN HOME VALUE

COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP TO STRENGTHEN BUSINESS

The community maintains a strong, collaborative, and pro-business environment led by the Harrodsburg-Mercer County Industrial Development Authority (HMCIDA), which actively supports ongoing retention and expansion efforts. Local leaders, industry partners, and public agencies work closely to solve challenges, demonstrated through customized financing for a drone manufacturer, coordinated support during a utility disruption, and a unified emergency response during a flooding event. This coordinated approach consistently aligns resources and delivers tailored solutions that help businesses remain resilient and competitive.

\$2.5B+

ANNOUNCED IN 2025

30%

EMPLOYED AT
MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS

EDUCATION PIPELINE & WORKFORCE READINESS

The region is actively building a strong workforce pipeline through hands-on training initiatives such as the Trailblazer Academy, developed in partnership with Bluegrass Community and Technical College. These efforts align education with industry needs in key fields, including manufacturing and technical trades. To strengthen workforce participation, leaders are introducing an innovative childcare model in partnership with Campbellsville University, designed to reduce barriers for working families alongside long-term plans for expanded higher education facilities.

1,377

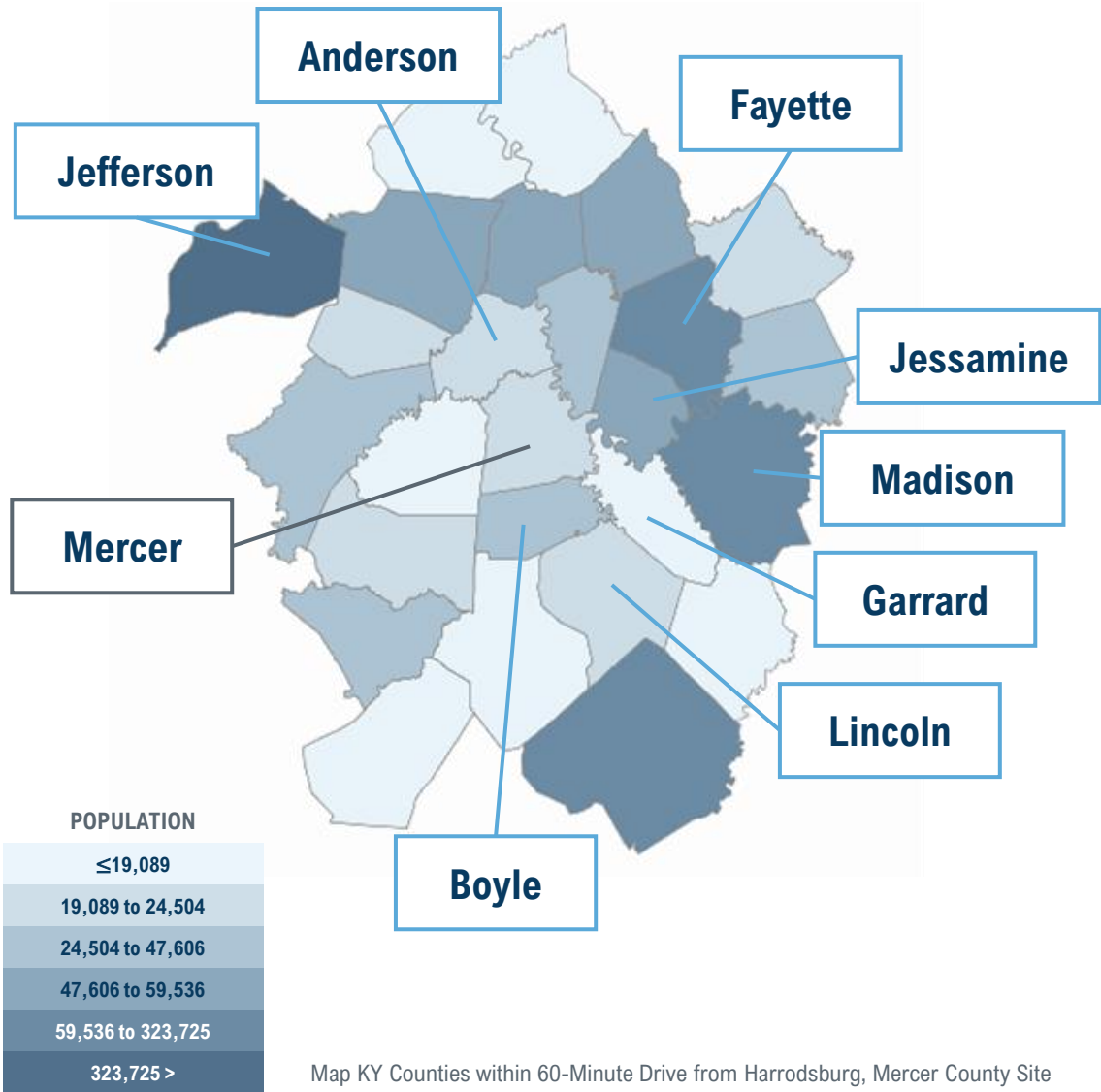
STUDENTS ENROLLED IN
LOCAL CTE PROGRAMS
FROM 3 COUNTIES

10+

CTE PATHWAYS OFFERED
ACROSS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

LABOR AVAILABILITY

COMMUTING PATTERNS



WHERE MERCER COUNTY WORKERS LIVE

Mercer	Boyle	Madison	Fayette	Lincoln
2,500	746	296	241	234

Jefferson	Garrard	Anderson	Jessamine	Other
158	152	134	123	1,844

In Goods Producing Industry Sectors

150 More Workers Commuting In

976	1,575	1,425
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In All Other Services & Industry Sectors

2,702 More Workers Commuting Out

1,236	1,334	4,036
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Living & Working Commuting In Commuting Out

LABOR AVAILABILITY

COMMUTING PATTERNS

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT
Manufacturing NAICS: 31	40,744
Construction NAICS: 23	25,188
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services NAICS: 54	21,677
Transportation & Warehousing NAICS: 48	15,155

WORKING POPULATION

63.5%

Labor Force
Participation
Rate

82.6%

Prime-Age
Participation Rate
(25 to 54)

189K

Associate's
Degree or
Higher

LABOR SHED

47.4%

Jobs Filled By Mercer
County Residents

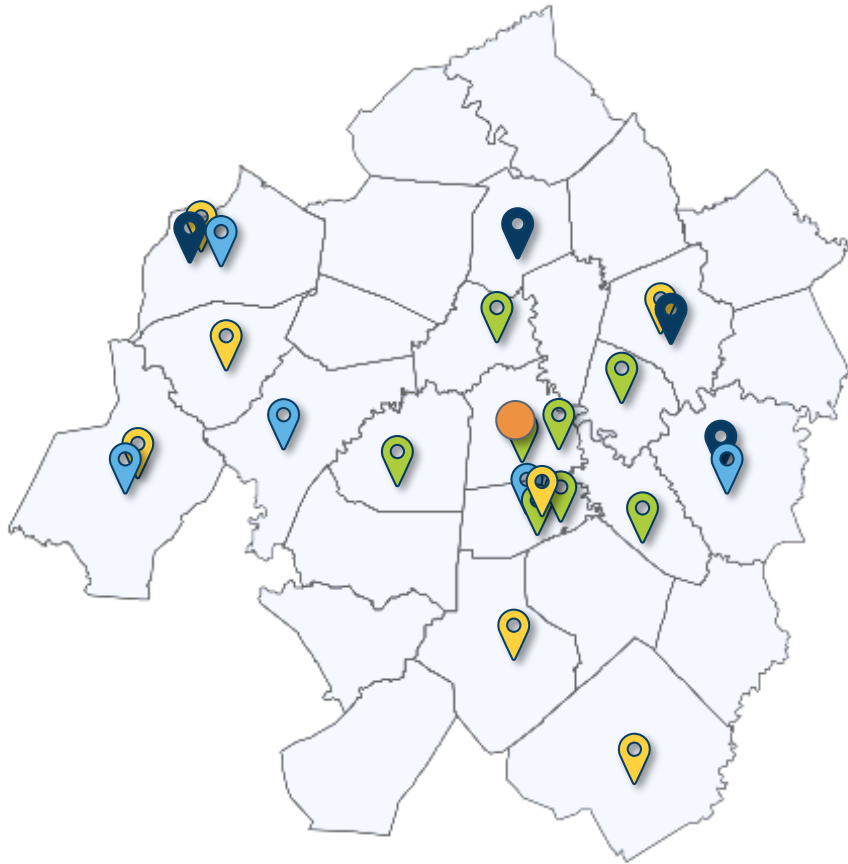
52.6%

Jobs Filled By Commuters
to Mercer County

OCCUPATION	EMPLOYMENT	ANNUAL WAGES
General & Operations Managers	10,774	\$100,500
Chemical Engineers	36	\$122,300
Electrical & Electronics Engineers	444	\$106,900
Industrial Engineers, Including Health and Safety	1,012	\$104,400
Mechanical Engineers	663	\$109,300
Engineering Technologists & Technicians, Except Drafters	1,180	\$65,200
Industrial Machinery Installation, Repair & Maintenance Workers	1,830	\$67,500
Logisticians & Project Management Specialists	2,494	\$90,900
First-Line Supervisors of Production & Operating Workers	2,275	\$76,500
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers & Weighers	1,961	\$49,300
Laborers & Material Movers	16,875	\$40,900

TALENT DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE PARTNERS



Site Location

KCTCS Campuses

- **Bluegrass Community & Technical College** | Lexington & Danville
- **Jefferson Community & Technical College** | Louisville, Shelbyville & Shepherdsville
- **Elizabethtown Community & Technical College** | Elizabethtown & Springfield
- **Somerset Community College** | Liberty & Somerset

Kentucky Career Centers (KCC)

- Bardstown, KY
- Elizabethtown, KY
- Louisville, KY

Area Technology Centers

- Anderson County High School
- Burgin Independent School
- Boyle County High School
- Danville High School
- Garrard County Area Technological Center
- Jessamine Career & Technical Center
- Mercer County Senior High School
- Trailblazer Academy (Mercer County)
- Washington County High School

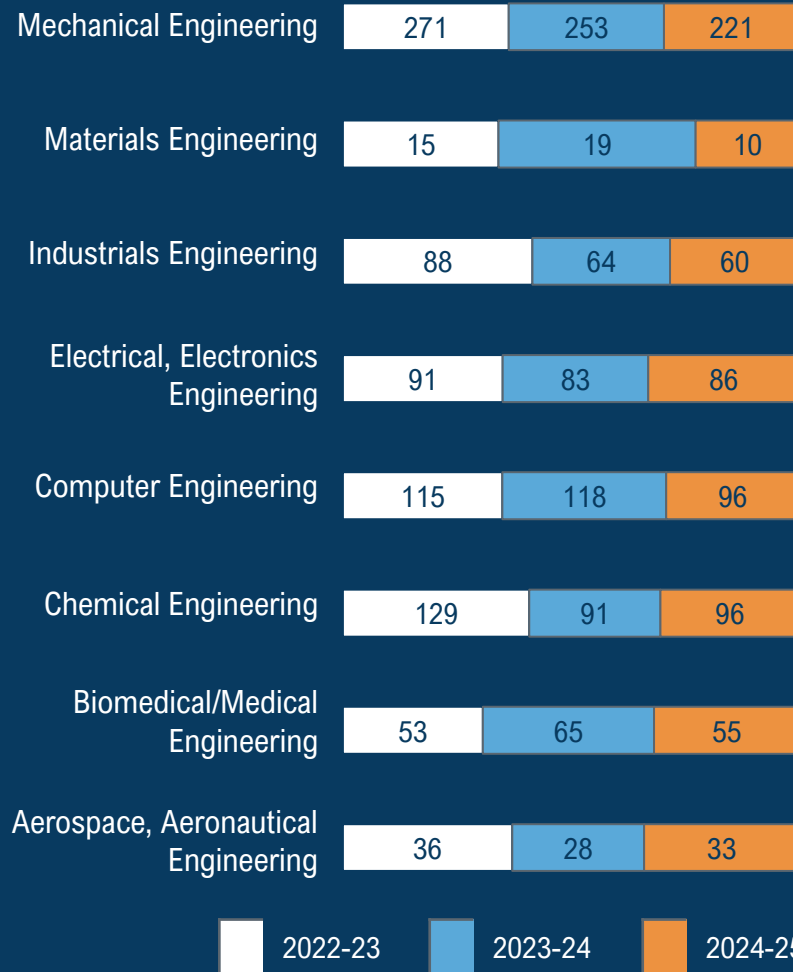
4-Year Public Universities

- **Eastern Kentucky University** | Madison County
- **Kentucky State University** | Franklin County
- **University of Kentucky** | Fayette County
- **University of Louisville** | Jefferson County

TALENT DEVELOPMENT

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, ENGINEERING

STATEWIDE DEGREES AWARDED



Site 31.5 Miles from
Main Campus



44.7 Miles from
Main Campus



74.6 Miles from
Main Campus

PIGMAN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

- 600+ Engineering (B.S.) Degrees Awarded Annually
- 175+ Engineering (M.S./Ph.D.) Degrees Awarded Annually
- \$107 Million in Active Research Awards
- 17 Research Centers, Institutes & Consortia
- 230+ Employers Participate In On-campus Events

COLLEGE OF S.T.E.M.

- 50+ Engineering & Industrial Mgmt (B.S.) Degrees Awarded (2021-2024) + 50+ Engineering & Industrial Mgmt (M.S.) Degrees Awarded (2021-2024)
- Only Manufacturing Engineering Bachelor's program in Kentucky; launched Fall 2023
- Manufacturing Advisory Council Employer Partners (Lockheed Martin, Valvoline)

JAMES BRECKINRIDGE SPEED SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

- 330+ Engineering (B.S.) Degrees Awarded Annually
- 180+ Engineering (M.S./Ph.D.) Degrees Awards Annually (2019-2024)
- Host institution for Kentucky's Manufacturing Extension Partnership supported by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
- 200+ Employers Participate In On-Campus Events

TALENT DEVELOPMENT

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

2-YEAR CREDENTIAL PROGRAMS



Bluegrass Community & Technical College

Site 18.7 Miles from Danville Campus

PROGRAMS

- Additive Technology
- Automation, Industrial & Robotics
- Automotive Technology
- Computer Aided Design & Drafting
- Computerized Manufacturing & Machining
- CNC Machining/Operation
- Electrical Technology
- Engineering & Electronics Technology
- Industrial Maintenance
- Logistics & Operations Management
- Manufacturing Engineering
- Welding



Jefferson Community & Technical College

Site 37.4 Miles from Shelbyville Campus

PROGRAMS

- Applied Process Technologies
- Aviation Maintenance
- Computer Aided Design & Drafting
- Computerized Manufacturing & Machining
- Engineering & Electronics Technology
- Industrial Maintenance
- Manufacturing Engineering Technology
- Unmanned Systems Technology
- Welding



Elizabethtown Community College

Site 41.2 Miles from Springfield Campus

PROGRAMS

- Automation, Industrial & Robotics
- Computer Aided Drafting & Design
- Computerized Manufacturing & Machining
- Electrical Technology
- Engineering & Electronics Technology
- Industrial Maintenance Technology
- Manufacturing Engineering Technology
- Welding



Somerset Community College

Site 42.7 Miles from Liberty Campus

PROGRAMS

- Aviation Maintenance
- Computerized Manufacturing & Machining
- Engineering & Electrical Technology
- Industrial Maintenance
- Welding

SWATT

STATEWIDE WORKFORCE & TALENT TEAM

The SWATT team uses data-informed strategy to improve coordination and responsiveness among Kentucky's workforce partners.

Strengthen alignment across state, regional, and local partners.

Building on SWATT's unified approach to workforce solutions, Kentucky's Workforce Talent Project Managers (WTPMs) transform strategic vision into tangible results.

Streamline communication and delivery for employers and partners.

Dedicated Workforce Talent Project Managers bring this vision to life as the mechanism that streamlines service delivery to Kentucky's companies.

Increase employer engagement and trust in workforce programs.

WTPMs ensure that regional partners have a collaborative ally, and employers have a single, trusted point of contact for all state workforce resources.



INDUSTRIAL & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

Harrodsburg-Mercer County Industrial Development Authority

The Harrodsburg-Mercer County Industrial Development Authority (HMCIDA) was created by local government to support existing industry in the community and to promote the area for new business investment.

Kentucky Community & Technical College System (KCTCS)

Serving more than 5,300 companies annually for all sectors, KCTCS Workforce Solutions is the largest provider of customized, business-first workforce training in the state. It offers flexible, innovative solutions that build businesses and increase productivity across Kentucky.

Kentucky Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (KY FAME)

KY FAME is an apprenticeship-style workforce development program created through a partnership of regional manufacturers. It delivers a structured career pathway that blends technical classroom instruction with paid, hands-on training, building a steady pipeline of highly skilled advanced manufacturing talent.

Industrial Registered Apprenticeship Program (IRAP)

An IRAP is an employee training program that combines on-the-job training and classroom instruction. Apprentices work under the supervision of experienced industry professionals who mentor and guide them, ensuring that they gain both technical expertise and real-world experience. IRAP helps employers develop a highly skilled workforce, reduce recruitment challenges, and improve employee retention, all while building a pipeline of qualified talent for the future.

Kentucky Manufacturing Extension Partnership (KY-MEP)

KY-MEP is part of the MEP National Network, a nationwide system of experts and resources dedicated to advancing U.S. manufacturing. The network is administered by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), which operates under the U.S. Department of Commerce.

APEX Accelerator

APEX Accelerator is an organization focused on helping businesses navigate and succeed in government contracting by providing comprehensive procurement assistance, including guidance on federal, state, and local contracting requirements. Their services offer tailored support in registrations, compliance, market research, and bid preparation, empowering Kentucky companies to compete effectively, expand into government and defense markets, and reduce risk through informed decision-making.