

BLUEGRASS Rankings



#1 MID-SIZE COMMUNITY

The Fourth Economy Community Index ranked Lexington the top Mid-sized community because it is ideally positioned to attract modern investment and manage economic growth. The index measured investment, talent, sustainability, place, and diversity.

Fourth Economy, 2011

#10 HIGH-TECH STARTUP DENSITY

The Kauffman Foundation ranks Lexington No. 10 in the country in the small to mid-metropolitan category for high-tech startup density. The city ranked No. 4 for the largest increase in startup density since 1990.

Kauffman Foundation, 2013

#2 RAPID RECOVERY LEADER

Business Facilities evaluated U.S. metros that had the most impressive surge in job creation, wages, and salaries between 2013 and 2014, ranking Lexington No. 2. The analysis noted Lexington's high-tech economy and local partnerships between the city, university, and Commerce Lexington as key contributing factors.

Business Facilities, 2014

#17 AMERICA'S TOP HIGH-TECH HOTSPOTS

Lexington is a leading location for high-tech information jobs, including a large number of tech jobs in traditional industries like film, news, publishing, and telecommunications. Lexington had a growth of 14.2% in high-tech information jobs from 2007-2012.

The Atlantic CityLab, 2013

#7 BEST CITY IN TERMS OF BUSINESS COSTS

Competitive Alternatives is KPMG's comprehensive guide for comparing business costs. Internationally, Lexington is the seventh most economical city to do business in the Northeast US.

KPMG Competitive Alternatives, 2014

#6 LOW COST MANUFACTURING CENTER

Business Facilities Magazine deemed Lexington as the No. 6 metro for Low Cost Manufacturing in its annual metro ranking.

Business Facilities, 2010

Editor's Location Pick *Business Facilities, 2010*

"Lexington is no horse-and-buggy town. In fact, it is rapidly emerging as Kentucky's high-tech hub. Hardly a week goes by without another ribbon-slicing at a cutting edge facility. "

A Top 5 Best Buy for Recent College Grads and Young Professionals *Who's Your City by Richard Florida*

Choosing a spouse and choosing a career are important life decisions - but perhaps even more predictive of our all-around personal happiness is our choice of living location, argues Florida. As globalization makes the world effectively smaller, economic growth concentrates in certain mega-regions of large superstar cities, leaving other regions in the proverbial dust. The areas where we live are also affected by our increasingly mobile culture, housing priorities that change as we age and the global economy.

GOOD FOR BUSINESS

#2 BEST CITY FOR RELOCATING FAMILIES

Population growth, availability of top-rated colleges and universities, and a new green-living index, along with various other factors, allowed Lexington to be rated the No. 2 small metro for relocating a family.

Worldwide ERC & Primacy Relocation, 2008

#2 BEST CITIES FOR EDUCATION

These cities were ranked the best education options, based on graduation rates, test scores and more. Parenting magazine states: "With its an excellent pupil/teacher ratio (13.8:1) and high reading scores, Lexington, is a city with education as a top priority. "

Parenting, 2010

#5 BEST CITIES FOR FAMILIES

Parenting magazine combed American cities for the best combination of health, safety, education, economy, and recreation. Adding to its #2 ranking for education, Lexington proves that it is a great place for families.

Parenting, 2010

#8 BEST CITY FOR WORKING PARENTS

According to NerdWallet.com, Lexington, KY is one of the best cities in the nation for working parents, coming in at No. 8 on the Top 25 list. NerdWallet said, "In Lexington, working parents enjoy the lowest child care costs in our top 10 as well as quality schools."

NerdWallet, 2014

#7 QUALITY OF LIFE METRO

Business Facilities magazine, a highly respected economic development trade publication, deemed Lexington as the #7 metro for Quality of Life in its annual metro rankings.

Business Facilities, 2010

#48 BEST CITY TO LIVE IN WORLDWIDE

In 2006, Lexington was rated as one of the top 50 cities to live in worldwide. The rating was based on an evaluation of 39 criteria, including political, social, economic, and environmental factors, personal safety and health, education, transport, and other public services.

Mercer Consulting, 2006

100 Best Communities For Young People *America's Promise Alliance, 2012*

"Lexington/Fayette County provides local youth with opportunities for non-school hour programming and places to play and learn to increase social and teambuilding skills. Lexington continues to strive to be a better place for its youth by keeping them engaged in school and preventing them from dropping out. Lexington is only one of 19 cities in the country that has received this award six times."

Top Ten City of the Future *FDi Intelligence, 2011*

The 'American Cities of the Future 2011/12' focuses on a mixture of hard data and expert opinion to rank cities which have the best prospects for inward investment, economic development and business expansion.

10 PERCENT OF POPULATION WITH AN ADVANCED DEGREE
Among cities of 250,000 people or more, Lexington holds the No. 10 position with 17.3% of its population over age 25 attaining a masters, professional, or doctorate degree.

US Census Bureau, 2012 ACS

14 PERCENT OF POPULATION WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE
Among cities of 250,000 people or more, Lexington holds the No. 14 position with 41.5% of its population over age 25 attaining a bachelor's degree or higher.

US Census Bureau, 2012 ACS

5 BEST COLLEGE TOWN
In addition to providing top-ranked sports teams, educational opportunities, and a population with disposable income, the University of Kentucky plays a large role in helping the community. College students spent a combined 96,000 hours helping off-campus agencies in 2012.

Livability, 2013

7 TOP METRO FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY
For Lexington, the last few years have been among the city's best in terms of economic development activity even in the face of the national economic challenges. The recent success is a testament to the effectiveness of the Bluegrass Business Development Partnership which includes the City of Lexington, Commerce Lexington Inc. and the University of Kentucky

Site Selection Magazine, 2012

7 BEST MIDSIZE CITY FOR JOBS
Forbes ranked 398 metro areas based on employment data from November 2001 through January 2013. Rankings are based on recent growth trends, long-term growth and the region's momentum.

Forbes, 2013

10 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
Within 40 miles of Lexington, ten colleges and universities call the Bluegrass home. Three public universities, including the state's flagship, the University of Kentucky, join the region's largest community and technical college and six liberal arts colleges to maintain Lexington's reputation in early America as the "Athens of the West."

70,000

STUDENTS ENROLLED WITHIN 40 MILES OF LEXINGTON

15,000

ANNUAL GRADUATES IN THE BLUEGRASS

No. 4 in State Entrepreneurship Index

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2014

Kentucky was the BIGGEST GAINER in 2013, rising 45 spots to No. 4 in the annual State of Entrepreneurship Index, which tracks core trends and reflects states' entrepreneurship environments, growth in business formation, and technological innovation.

#7 BEST PLACES TO RETIRE
 “Downtown Lexington boasts plenty of entertainment options for retirees, including the circa-1922 Kentucky Theatre - which shows independent and classic films - the Lexington Farmers Market, dozens of restaurants, and the Rupp Arena, home to the university's storied basketball program.”
 Forbes, 2013

#13 TOP HOTSPOT FOR YOUNG, TALENTED WORKERS
 Rebecca Ryan and Next Generation Consulting named Lexington as a top hotspot among their “Midsize Magnets” in the 2010 NextCities Report. Next Cities are places with the assets and amenities that attract and keep a young, educated workforce.
 NextCities, 2010

#44 BEST PERFORMING CITIES
 The Milken Institute Best-Performing Cities Index ranks U.S. metropolitan areas by how well they are creating and sustaining jobs and economic growth. Lexington ranked No. 44 overall, and ranked No. 9 in terms of job growth.
 The Milken Institute, 2013

#12 BEST POST-RECESSION RECOVERY
 WalletHub evaluated the 150 largest U.S. cities to identify those that have experienced the most and least improvement since the recession, ranking Lexington No. 12 overall, and No. 17 in the category of part-time to full-time jobs decrease.
 WalletHub, 2014

#24 WORLD'S SMART CITIES
 National Geographic says, “Smart cities are well connected locally and internationally, have a sustainable lifestyle, and are places where people come first.”
 National Geographic, 2014

#25 GREENEST CITY
 Lexington placed 25th in Popular Science's 50 Greenest Cities for 2008. The rankings were based off of four categories: electricity, transportation, green living, and recycling/green perspective.
 Popular Science, 2008

Google eCity Award
 Google, 2013

Google recognized Lexington as the strongest online business community in the state of Kentucky: “The businesses in Lexington are digitally savvy and represent the community across the web to locals, students, and racehorse fans alike. This Thoroughbred city sets the pace for the state.”

A Place of A Lifetime
 50 Places of a Lifetime, America; National Geographic Traveler, 2001

“Bordered by sharp hills and steep, dark ravines and giving way to lowlands, floodplains, and corn fields to the west, the Bluegrass is Kentucky's beating heart. Its geographical and spiritual center is Lexington, home of the University of Kentucky, a city encircled by burley, bourbon, and thoroughbreds, but grown nearly independent of them.”

For a full list of all the great things people have said about Lexington and the Bluegrass, please visit us at <http://bgrankings.locateinlexington.com>. To find out how to make the Bluegrass your new home, please contact us at (859) 225-5005 or ggreathouse@commercelexington.com.