

# BLUEGRASS Rankings

## #1 CHAMBER OF THE YEAR

Commerce Lexington was named Chamber of the Year by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives, recognizing the dual role chambers have in leading business and communities, honoring excellence in operations, member services, and community leadership.

*ACCE, 2016*

## #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 LOWEST STARTUP COSTS

Lexington is a great place for entrepreneurs! SmartAsset.com ranked Lexington No. 6 for lowest startup costs, based on utility costs, office space, filling fees, legal and accounting costs, and typical first year payroll.

*Smart Assets, 2015*

### 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.

# #18 BEST PLACES FOR RECENT GRADS TO FIND JOBS

Lexington was rated as the 18th best place for recent grads to find jobs, based on population and education data, median earnings, rent as a percentage of income, and jobs in management, business, science, and arts.

*NerdWallet, 2015*

# #27 MOST LITERATE CITY

Lexington tied for 27th Most Literate City by Dr. Jack Miller, president of Central Connecticut State University. Cities were ranked according to the number of local bookstores, college degrees, libraries, internet access, and newspaper subscriptions.

*Central Connecticut State University, 2015*

# #6 MOST INSPIRING CITIES FOR YOUNG ARTISTS

Lexington's art culture supports local artists. This ranking was based on education data, art dealers, performing arts companies, museums, fine arts schools and creative industries businesses per 100,000 people.

*World Wide Learn, 2015*

# #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 MOST AFFORDABLE BIG CITY IN AMERICA

Lexington's low cost of living, low housing-related costs, and high median household income earned Lexington #7 Most Affordable Big City in America by Kiplinger.

*Kiplinger, 2014*

# #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 For FDI Strategy

*FDi Intelligence, 2015/16*

The 'American Cities of the Future 2015/16' focuses on a mixture of hard data and expert opinion to rank cities which have the best prospects and strategies for attracting foreign direct investment.

#9

PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION WITH AN ADVANCED DEGREE

Among cities of 300,000 people or more, Lexington holds the No. 9 position with 18.9% of its population over age 25 attaining a master's, professional, or doctorate degree.

*US Census Bureau, 2015 ACS*

#11

PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Among cities of 300,000 people or more, Lexington holds the No. 11 position with 41.6% of its population over age 25 attaining a bachelor's degree or higher.

*US Census Bureau, 2015 ACS*

#6

BEST LARGE COLLEGE CITY

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. This ranking was based on criteria such as the quality of higher education, earning potential of college graduates, and job growth rate.

*Wallet Hub, 2015*

#8

TOP U.S. BUSINESS CLIMATE

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, 2015*

#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*

70,000

STUDENTS ENROLLED WITHIN 40 MILES OF LEXINGTON

15,000

ANNUAL GRADUATES IN THE BLUEGRASS

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."

**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

#7 BEST ROI ON POLICE SPENDING  
Tighter police protection budgets in recent years have challenged local city officials to maintain or improve police effectiveness with fewer resources. WalletHub assessed how efficiently the 110 most populated U.S. cities spend taxpayer dollars on police protection. Lexington ranked No. 7 in the nation.  
WalletHub, 2015

#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 [locateinlexington.com/bluegrassrankings](http://locateinlexington.com/bluegrassrankings). To find out how to make the Bluegrass your new home, please contact us at (859) 225-5005 or [ggreathouse@commercelexington.com](mailto:ggreathouse@commercelexington.com).

THE BEST OF THE REST