

BLUEGRASS Rankings



#1 **BEST CITIES FOR FINDING A JOB**
After surveying more than 18,000 employers in 100 metropolitan areas to find out who's hiring, who's firing and who plans to maintain their current staff levels in the second quarter of 2011, results showed that Lexington-Fayette, KY, is the metropolitan area with the most optimistic forecast of all for hiring this spring.

Forbes, 2011

#2 **MOST EDUCATED WORKFORCE**
This ranking is based on the percentages of Lexington's workforce that are high school graduates or that have attained a bachelor's or more advanced degree. We are thrilled with our jump to #2 from our #11 ranking in 2007.

Business Facilities, 2008

#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

#6 **LOW COST MANUFACTURING CENTER**
Business Facilities magazine, a highly respected economic development trade publication, deemed Lexington as the #6 metro for Low Cost Manufacturing in its annual metro rankings.

Business Facilities, 2010

#4 **BEST CITY IN TERMS OF BUSINESS COSTS**
Competitive Alternatives is KPMG's comprehensive guide for comparing business costs. Internationally, Lexington is the fourth most economical city to do business in 2011.

KPMG Competitive Alternatives, 2011

#4 **BEST PLACE FOR BUSINESS AND CAREERS**
Lexington has been ranked as high as #5 in recent years and we are thrilled to be back in the top ten at #9 in 2010. The ranking takes into consideration solid job growth, the education of our labor force, and low business costs.

Forbes, 2011

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

Updated: April 30, 2012

#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 #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

#7 BEST CITY TO RAISE A FAMILY
 Cities were ranked using a statistical analysis of more than 30 factors that parents deem vitally important, including crime and safety, education, economics, housing, cultural attractions, and health. The top cities were the ones that best complemented family life.

Children's Health, 2008

#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
 As recently as 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, 2010

"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 and ensure success in high school and beyond. A three-time 100 Best winner, Lexington continues to strive to be a better place for its youth by keeping them engaged in school and preventing them from dropping out."

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.

13 PERCENT OF POPULATION WITH AN ADVANCED DEGREE
Among cities of 250,000 people or more, Lexington holds the #13 position with 16.2% of its population over age 25 attaining a masters, professional, or doctorate degree.

US Census Bureau, 2010 ACS

13 PERCENT OF POPULATION WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE
Among cities of 250,000 people or more, Lexington holds the #13 position with 38.7% of its population over age 25 attaining a bachelor's degree or higher.

US Census Bureau, 2010 ACS

6 BEST VALUE CITY
With a cost-of-living index of 89.1, Lexington is one of the most affordable cities in the country. Lexington's diversified economy has largely protected it from the recession affecting the rest of the nation.

Kiplinger, 2011

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 2009 NextCities Report.

NextCities, 2009

5 COLLEGE SPORTS TOWN
College sports in Lexington are certainly first-rate, but it is the low crime, solid housing market, and especially the quality of its public schools that truly makes it one of the best college sports towns in America.

Forbes, 2009

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."

75,000

STUDENTS ENROLLED WITHIN 40 MILES OF LEXINGTON

13,000

ANNUAL GRADUATES IN THE BLUEGRASS

Blue Ribbon Schools
Expansion Management, 2007

Fayette County Public Schools received this distinction for the second year in a row as one of the top third of schools nationwide.

3 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.”

CNNMoney, 2010

9 BEST AFFORDABLE PLACE TO RETIRE
 Lexington was noted as having “low property taxes and cost of living” as well as “dozens of major companies, the University of Kentucky, and horse farms. It enjoys a diverse economy with a mix of agriculture, government, health care, and education.”

Women's Health, 2009

6 BEST MID-SIZE PLACE TO START A SMALL BUSINESS
 The top cities in this list have excelled in growing their economies, having a pool of affordable workers, offering stable housing markets, and keeping crime rates low, among other characteristics.

CNNMoney, 2009

25 AMERICA'S 50 BEST CITIES
 Lexington has great schools, parks, and a high percentage of college-educated residents. It has below average unemployment and a low foreclosure rate.

BusinessWeek, 2011

14 CITY FOR SALARY VALUE
 The experts at Salary.com uncovered the top US cities for building personal net worth, taking into account local salaries, cost of living, and unemployment relative to the national average.

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

Best Places To Live The Simple Life

AARP Magazine, 2009

“...this is one of those rare southern towns that offers four distinct seasons, and the relaxed graciousness of the Old South...Lexington also boasts rich African American roots, an impressive history, and distilleries that produce some

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.