

Mercer County

2015 Kentucky County Profile

The 2015 County Profile is produced by the Kentucky Center for Education & Workforce Statistics utilizing data from the Kentucky Longitudinal Data System (KLDS), which includes data from the Department of Education, Council on Postsecondary Education, Education Professional Standards Board, Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority, and the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet. The report includes the most current data available for Kentucky counties, Area Development Districts (ADDs), and Workforce Investment Areas (WIAs) on demographics, employment, college readiness and educational attainment.

What are some basic facts about Mercer County residents?

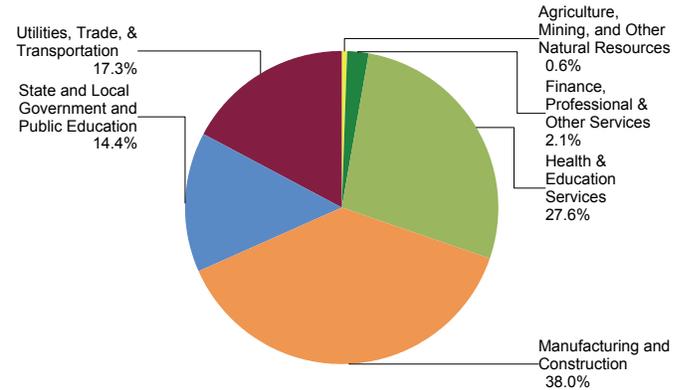
	County	KY	US
Total population	21,349	4,395,295	316,128,839
Median household income	\$45,396	\$43,036	\$53,046
Per capita income	\$24,138	\$23,462	\$28,155
Living in poverty	16.8%	18.8%	15.4%
Eligible for Medicaid	16.9%	18.9%	n/a
Without medical insurance	16.0%	16.2%	17.0%
Registered voters who voted in the 2012 general election	60.6%	59.7%	68.0%
Unemployment rate	7.9%	8.0%	7.4%
Access to Broadband Internet	95.5%	96.8%	98.6%

What is the educational attainment of Mercer County residents?

	County	KY	US
Less than a high school diploma or equivalent	16.1%	17.0%	13.9%
High school diploma or equivalent	37.8%	33.9%	28.1%
Some college but no degree	19.1%	20.5%	21.2%
Associate degree	8.0%	7.1%	7.8%
Bachelor's degree	10.3%	12.8%	18.0%
Graduate or professional degree	8.6%	8.8%	10.8%

What industries provide employment in Mercer County?

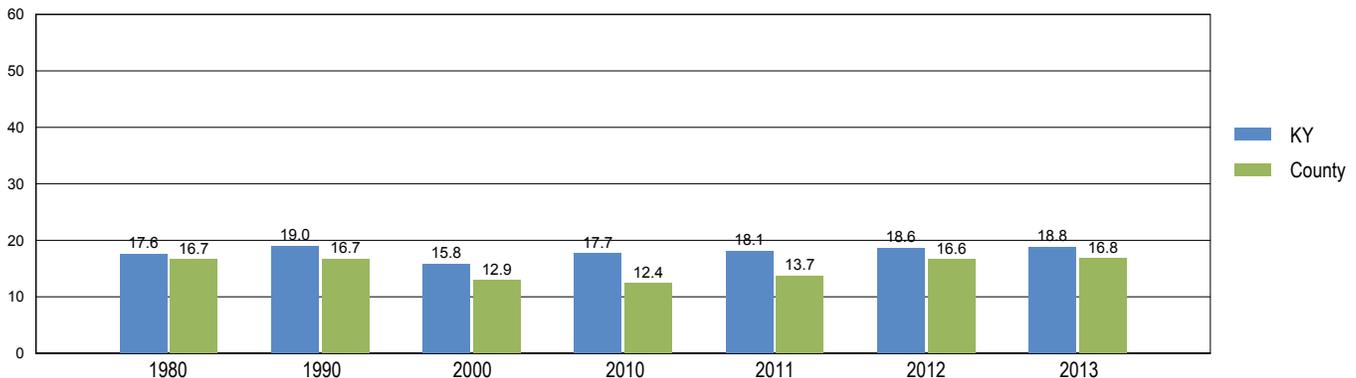
2013 Employment by Sector



Are Mercer County public high school graduates prepared for college and career?

	County	KY
Ready for college and/or career by graduation	62.0%	62.8%
Ready for college by graduation	46.1%	56.2%
Ready for career by graduation	31.4%	17.8%
Average GPA for 2014 graduates	2.93	2.89
Average junior year ACT scores for 2014 graduates		
Composite	19.8	19.5
Mathematics	18.9	19.1
English	19.0	18.7
Reading	20.4	19.7
Science	20.4	19.7

Percentage of Mercer County Population Living in Poverty, 1980-2013



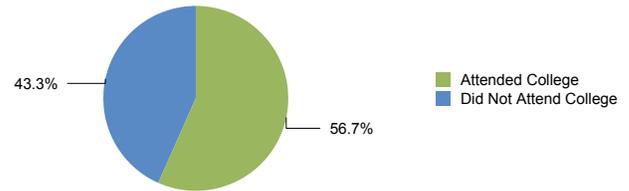


What is the education pipeline for Mercer County?

	County	KY
Public K-12 enrollment in 2013-2014	3,317	654,455
Private K-12 enrollment in 2013-2014	175	69,258
Entering students ready for kindergarten in fall 2014	52.6%	50.0%
Special education population in 2013-2014	14.4%	13.2%
Students qualifying for free and reduced lunch in 2013-2014	52.0%	58.3%
Public high school graduates in 2011-2012	284	43,176
Public high school graduates entering postsecondary education in 2012-2013	161	26,413
In-state college going rate in 2012-2013	53.9%	56.2%
Out-of-state college going rate in 2012-2013	2.8%	5.5%
Kentucky Adult Education enrollments for 2012-2013	174	37,022
GEDs awarded in 2012-2013	58	7,746
Students earning a postsecondary certificate or diploma in 2012-2013	57	8,713
Students earning an associate degree in 2012-2013	52	9,089
Students earning a bachelor's degree in 2012-2013	84	15,947
Students earning a bachelor's degree in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) in 2012-2013	23	5,270
Students earning a graduate or professional degree in 2012-2013	26	7,673
National Career Readiness Certificates (NCRC) awarded in 2013-2014	101	17,613
Bachelor's degree six-year graduation rate for 2007 cohort	42.7%	54.2%
Associate degree three-year graduation rate for 2010 cohort	2.6%	11.0%

What were the top college choices for Mercer County public high school graduates?

Overall College Going Rates for 2012 Public High School Graduates



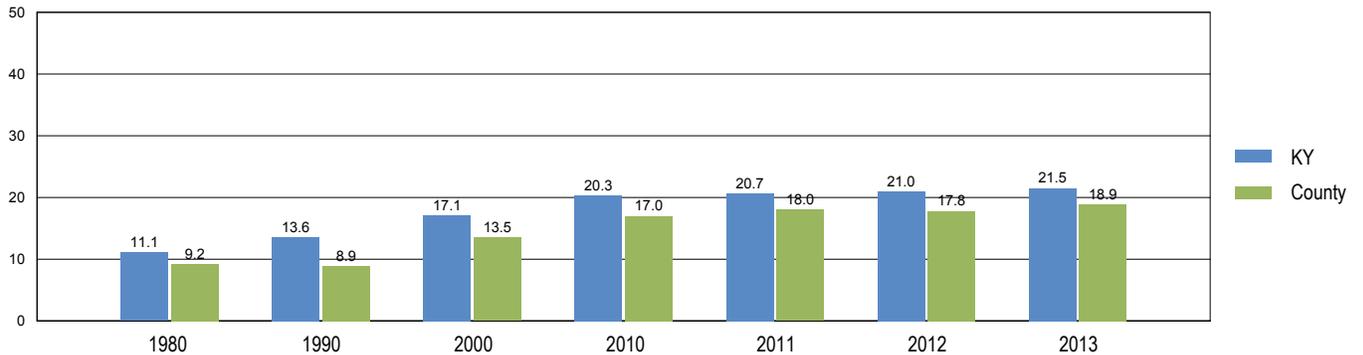
Top 10 Colleges and Universities Attended

College/University	Number of Enrollments
Bluegrass Community & Technical College	61
University of Kentucky	33
Eastern Kentucky University	17
Western Kentucky University	7
University of Louisville	7
Campbellsville University	6
St. Catharine College	4
Morehead State University	4
Bellarmine University	4
Murray State University	2
Other Institutions	17

How much financial aid did 2012 public high school graduates from Mercer County receive in 2013?

	Average	Awards
Kentucky Ed. Excellence Scholarships (KEES)	\$1,131	256
State need-based grants	\$400	32
State non-need-based grants	\$1,362	125
Federal Pell grants	\$1,696	54
Federal need-based loans	\$1,791	54
Federal non-need-based loans	\$1,028	43
Institutional grants	\$1,856	41

Percentage of Adults with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher in Mercer County, 1980-2013



Sources: US Census 2009-2013 American Community Survey, US Department of Education, Kentucky Department of Education, Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority, Kentucky Office of Employment and Training, Kentucky State Board of Elections, US Census Small Area Health Insurance Estimates Program, Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Kentucky Adult Education, and the Council on Postsecondary Education. Complete descriptions of sources and methodologies may be found in the technical notes at the end of the County Profiles or through the Kentucky Center for Education & Workforce Statistics website at the address below:

