



# Laurel County Data Profile

**Laurel County's Data Profile** is provided by the **Kentucky: By The Numbers** program in the Department of Community and Leadership Development for the Community Assessments conducted by the University of Kentucky's Cooperative Extension Service. These secondary data profiles supplement the survey, focus groups, and key informant interviews conducted in each county across the state through the County Extension Offices and coordinated by Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky (CEDIK).

The overall goals for the Community Assessments are:

- To gain a better understanding of the county's pressing issues;
- To enhance Extension's place-based approach by providing information on locally relevant issues in counties;
- To gain a better understanding of how Extension can support important community change to improve Kentucky;
- To provide a statewide view of how top issues are distributed across the state.

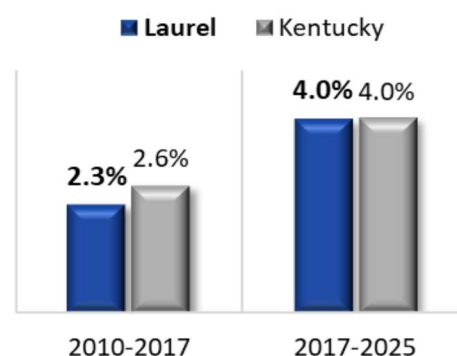
For more information on the Community Assessment process, visit <https://extension.ca.uky.edu/communityassessment>

For additional data or other data-related assistance, contact: Dr. Julie N. Zimmerman ([jjimm@uky.edu](mailto:jjimm@uky.edu))

## County Demographics

Population	2010 <sup>1</sup>	2017 <sup>2</sup>	2025 <sup>3</sup>
Total	58,849	60,174	62,592
Ages 65 and over	7,577		12,287
	<b>2010-2017<sup>4</sup></b>		
Net Migration (in/out)	320		
Race/Ethnicity	2010 <sup>1</sup>	2016 <sup>5</sup>	
White	56,753	57,767	
Black or African American	412	420	
Asian	298	352	
Other and 2 or more races	669	816	
Hispanic	717	895	

**Percent Change Total Population<sup>6</sup>**  
2010-2017 and 2017-2025



- From 2010 to 2017, the total population in Laurel County **increased** by **1,325** people.<sup>2</sup>
- Between April 2010 and June 2017, there was an estimated **net in migration** of **320** people.<sup>4</sup>
- In 2016, the composition of Laurel County's population is estimated to be **95.9%** White, **0.7%** Black/African American, **0.6%** Asian, **1.4%** other and 2 or more races, and **1.5%** Hispanic.<sup>5</sup>
- From 2017 to 2025, the total population in Laurel County is **projected** to **increase** by **2,418** people.<sup>3</sup>
- As baby boomers are entering retirement, between 2010 and 2025 the population ages 65 and over in Laurel County are **projected** to **increase** by **62.2%** compared to 51.9% for the state as a whole.<sup>3</sup>



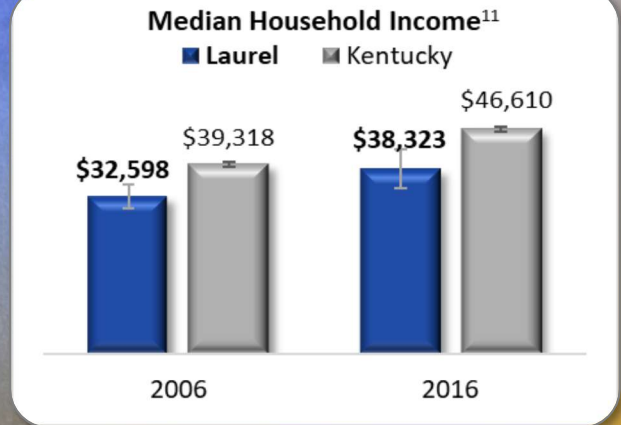
**University of Kentucky**  
College of Agriculture,  
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## Laurel County Data Profile

### Families and Households

Families	2010 <sup>1</sup>	2012-2016 <sup>7</sup>
Married couple		
... with own children	4,724	4,333 (+/- 369)
Female householder		
... with own children	1,618	1,678 (+/- 301)
Male householder		
... with own children	600	459 (+/- 183)
Nonfamily households (live alone/unrelated)	6,572	7,198 (+/- 496)
<b>Poverty</b>		<b>2012-2016<sup>7</sup></b>
Percent of families with related children who are below poverty		29.3% (+/- 4.3%)
Percent 65 and over below poverty		11.7% (+/- 2.8%)

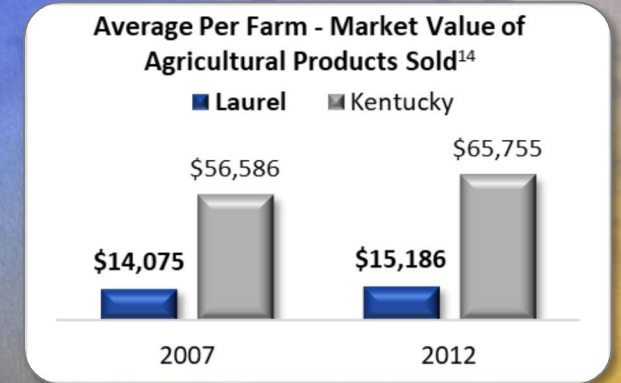


Grandparents living with and raising grandchildren <sup>3</sup>	<b>2012-2016<sup>7</sup></b> 950 (+/- 318)
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- In 2016, Laurel County's official poverty rate was **23.2%** (19.8% - 26.6%), compared to 18.2% (17.9% - 18.6%) for the state as a whole.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2017, there were **10** child care centers in Laurel County. Of these **7** were STARS certified.<sup>9</sup>
- Between 2012-2016, **1.3%** (+/- 0.4%) of people ages 5 and over spoke a language other than English at home.<sup>7</sup>
- The Urban Institute estimates that **15%** people in Laurel County with a credit bureau record in 2016 had student loan debt compared to 16% for the state.<sup>10</sup>

### Agriculture (Data from the 2017 Ag Census will be available in 2019)

Farms*	2007 <sup>12</sup>	2012 <sup>13</sup>
Total number of farms	1,012	1,006
Percent of land in farms	36.9%	34.6%
Average farm size (acres)	101	95
		<b>2012<sup>13</sup></b>
Income from agri-tourism and recreational services		\$135,000
Number of farms marketing products directly to retail outlets		33
Average value per farm of agricultural products sold directly to individuals for human consumption		\$6,838



<b>Percent of Principal Operators</b>	<b>2012<sup>13</sup></b>
... who are female	7.8%
... under age 35	3.7%
... farming as primary occupation	37.0%

- In 2012, the total market value of agricultural products sold in Laurel County was **\$15,278,000**.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the total market value of agricultural products sold, **41.5%** was the value of crops and **58.5%** was the value of livestock, poultry, and their products.<sup>13</sup>
- The total farm production expenses (average per farm) was **\$18,949** compared to \$62,002 for the state.<sup>13</sup>
- In Laurel County, there were **628** hired farm labor workers on **223** farms.<sup>13</sup>
- **93.2%** of farms were operated by a family or an individual compared to 91.0% for the state.<sup>13</sup>

\* A farm must sell at least \$5,000 to be defined as a farm operation.

## Laurel County Data Profile

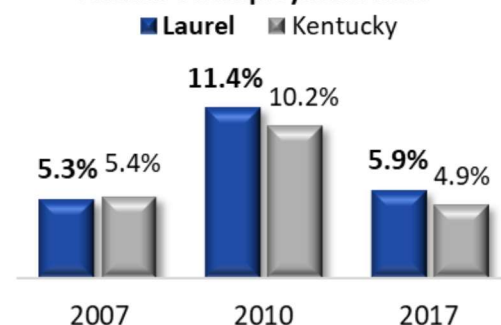
### Jobs, Economy, and Labor Force

<b>Jobs and Businesses</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2016</b>
Total Employment (# of jobs) <sup>15</sup>	29,759	33,826
Total Establishments (w/ employees) <sup>16</sup>	1,185	1,155
... % with 1-9 employees	68.4%	69.4%
... % with 10-20 employees	16.0%	15.4%
Total NonEmployer Establishments (w/o employees) <sup>17</sup>	4,052	3,935

#### Education

Percent of population 25 and over	<b>2012-2016<sup>7</sup></b>	
... with HS or higher	77.8% (+/- 1.5%)	
... with bachelors or higher	12.5% (+/- 1.3%)	
	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>
Median Earnings (2012-16) <sup>7</sup>	\$30,802 (+/- \$1,953)	\$21,269 (+/- \$1,232)

#### Annual Unemployment Rate<sup>20</sup>



#### Avg Weekly Wage<sup>18</sup>

	<b>2017</b>
... All Industries (Private & Govt)	\$682
... Goods-producing (Private)	\$865
... Service-providing (Private)	\$626

- In 2017, the number of private establishments covered by unemployment insurance in Laurel County was **173** for goods-producing, **1,255** for service-providing, and **108** for hospitality & leisure.<sup>18</sup>
- Between 2012 and 2016, of the **21,908** (+/- 884) workers ages 16 and over, **75.7%** (+/- 2.5%) worked inside the county, **23.4%** (+/- 0.6%) worked outside the county and **1.0%** (+/- 0.6%) worked outside Kentucky.<sup>7</sup>
- Between 2012 and 2016, **4.4%** (+/- 1.2%) of workers ages 16 and over who worked full-time year round were below poverty compared to 3.5% (+/- 0.1%) for the state as a whole.<sup>7</sup>
- 5.7%** of 2016 HS graduates in the county earned an industry certificate compared to 19.2% for the state.<sup>19</sup>

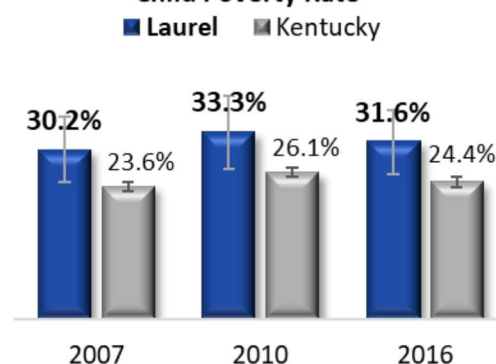
### Youth

<b>Population by Age</b>	<b>2010<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2017<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2025<sup>3</sup></b>
Under 5 years old	3,824	3,633	3,702
5-9 years old	4,058	3,853	3,874
10-14 years old	4,041	3,975	3,795
15-19 years old	3,846	3,736	3,621

#### Children by Relationship to Householder

	<b>2012-2016<sup>7</sup></b>
... Own Children (Biological, Adopted, Stepchild)	11,756 (+/- 433)
... Grandchild	1,610 (+/- 357)
... Other Relative	391 (+/- 195)
... Foster/Unrelated	417 (+/- 214)

#### Child Poverty Rate<sup>23</sup>



**22.3%** of students entered KY public postsecondary institutions underprepared in one or more subjects (2015).<sup>21</sup>

- Between 2012-2016, there were an estimated **836** (+/- 311) youth ages 5-17 who had a disability.<sup>7</sup>
- 60.5%** of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students in Laurel County scored proficient or distinguished on math in the 2015-16 school year compared to 47.7% for the state.<sup>22</sup>
- 6,099** (+/- 753) youth under age 18 lived in households that received supplemental security income (SSI), cash public assistance, or food stamps/SNAP in the past 12 months (2012-2016).<sup>7</sup>



# Laurel County Data Profile

## Health and Wellness

### Percent of Adults

... reporting poor or fair health (2016) <sup>24</sup>	22.2% (21.4%-23.0%)
... with hypertension (2013-15) <sup>25</sup>	39.4% (31.6%-47.9%)
... with obesity (2014-16) <sup>25</sup>	44% (36.9%-51.6%)
... with diabetes (2014-16) <sup>25</sup>	16.8% (12.6%-22.0%)

### Number of Individuals

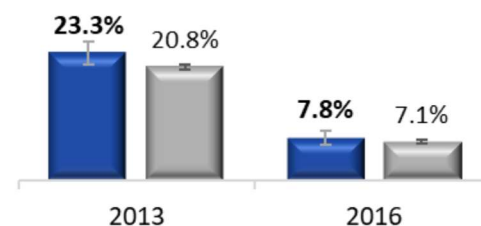
... receiving SNAP (food stamps) (2017) <sup>26</sup>	12,881
... who are food insecure (2016 estimate) <sup>27</sup>	9,520

### Number of Overdoses<sup>28</sup>

	<u>2008-2010</u>	<u>2015-2017</u>
... fatal overdoses	30	33
... nonfatal overdoses	370	482

### Percent of Population Ages 18-64 who are Uninsured<sup>29</sup>

■ Laurel ■ Kentucky



### Number of Care Providers<sup>24</sup>

... Primary Care Physicians (2015)	27
... Dentists (2016)	24
... Mental Health Providers (2017)	25

- The estimated food insecurity rate for Laurel County is **15.9%**, compared to 15.5% for the state.<sup>27</sup>
- From 2010 to 2016, the number of grocery stores **decreased** by **35.3%**, from **17** to **11** stores.<sup>16</sup>
- In 2013-2015, **31.6%** (27.7%-35.9%) of adults ages 20 and over reported no leisure time physical activity.<sup>24</sup>
- The Urban Institute estimates that **35%** of people in Laurel County with a credit bureau record in 2016 had medical debt in collections compared to 27% for the state as a whole.<sup>10</sup>
- **15.0%** (9.6%-22.7%) of adults reported that there was a time in past year when they needed to see a doctor but could not because of the cost.<sup>25</sup>

### Sources

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- 2017 Early Childhood Profile. Kentucky Center for Statistics (Formerly KCEWS).
- Debt in America: An Interactive Map. Urban Institute.
- Chart: 2006 and 2016 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE). U.S. Census Bureau.
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- 2018 County Health Rankings. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
- Kentucky Health Facts. Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.
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Kentucky State Data Center. <https://factfinder.census.gov>

Kids Count Data Center. <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

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Map the Meal Gap. <http://map.feedingamerica.org/>

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<https://www.bls.gov/cew/>

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<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sahie.html>

Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE).

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saie.html>

Additional data are also available at:

Kentucky: By The Numbers (<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/snarl/index.htm>), the FCS Building Strong Families profiles (<http://hes.uky.edu/StrongFamilies>), and the CEDIK county profiles (<https://cedik.ca.uky.edu/CountyDataProfiles>).