



Letcher County Data Profile

Letcher 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.

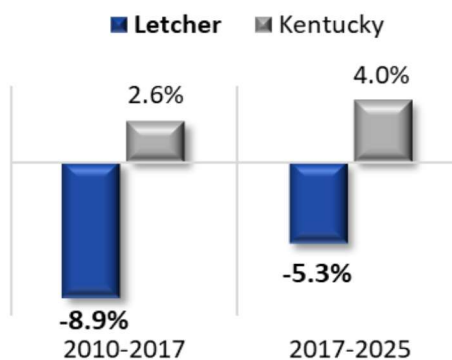
For more information on the Community Assessment process, visit <https://extension.ca.uky.edu/communityassessment>

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

County Demographics

Population	2010 ¹	2017 ²	2025 ³
Total	24,519	22,339	21,147
Ages 65 and over	3,476		4,784
2010-2017⁴			
Net Migration (in/out)		-1,872	
Race/Ethnicity	2010 ¹	2016 ⁵	
White	24,128	22,240	
Black or African American	87	131	
Asian	39	46	
Other and 2 or more races	141	189	
Hispanic	124	167	

Percent Change Total Population⁶
2010-2017 and 2017-2025



- From 2010 to 2017, the total population in Letcher County **decreased** by **-2,180** people.²
- Between April 2010 and June 2017, there was an estimated **net out migration** of **-1,872** people.⁴
- In 2016, the composition of Letcher County's population is estimated to be **97.7%** White, **0.6%** Black/African American, **0.2%** Asian, **0.8%** other and 2 or more races, and **0.7%** Hispanic.⁵
- From 2017 to 2025, the total population in Letcher County is **projected** to **decrease** by **-1,192** people.³
- As baby boomers are entering retirement, between 2010 and 2025 the population ages 65 and over in Letcher County are **projected** to **increase** by **37.6%** compared to 51.9% for the state as a whole.³



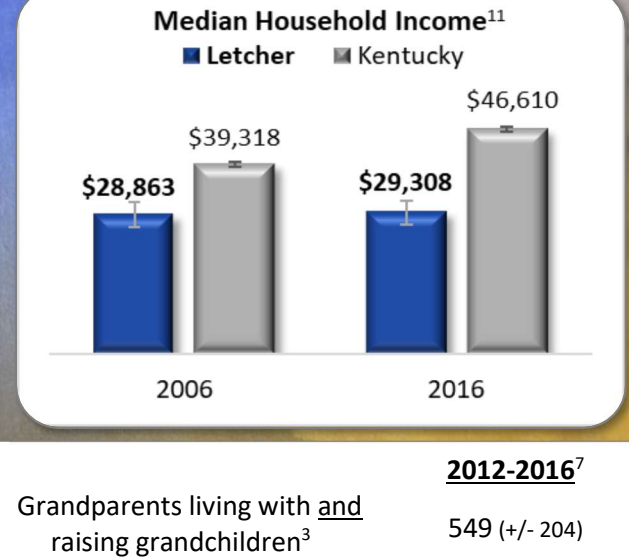
University of Kentucky
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Families and Households

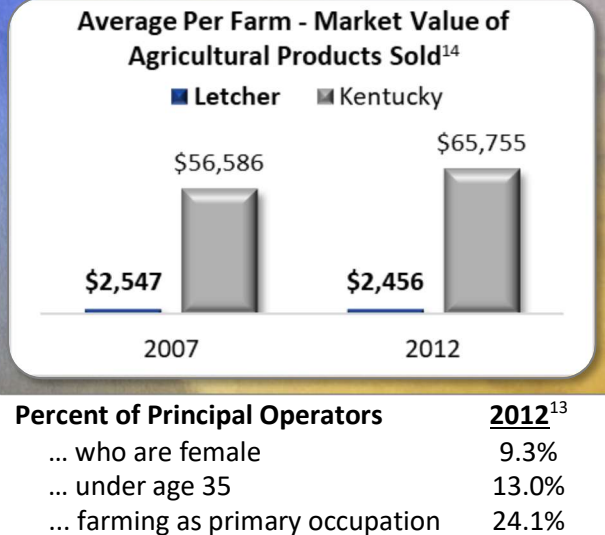
Families	2010 ¹	2012-2016 ⁷
Married couple		
... with own children	1,833	1,534 (+/- 232)
Female householder		
... with own children	573	764 (+/- 151)
Male householder		
... with own children	257	163 (+/- 87)
Nonfamily households (live alone/unrelated)	3,050	2,840 (+/- 366)
Poverty		2012-2016⁷
Percent of families with related children who are below poverty		38.7% (+/- 6.1%)
Percent 65 and over below poverty		13.0% (+/- 3.3%)



- In 2016, Letcher County's official poverty rate was **31.6%** (27.2% - 36.0%), compared to 18.2% (17.9% - 18.6%) for the state as a whole.⁸
- In 2017, there were **6** child care centers in Letcher County. Of these **6** were STARS certified.⁹
- Between 2012-2016, **1.0%** (+/- 0.4%) of people ages 5 and over spoke a language other than English at home.⁷
- The Urban Institute estimates that **10%** people in Letcher County with a credit bureau record in 2016 had student loan debt compared to 16% for the state.¹⁰

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

Farms*	2007 ¹²	2012 ¹³
Total number of farms	66	54
Percent of land in farms	1.7%	1.3%
Average farm size (acres)	55	53
		2012¹³
Income from agri-tourism and recreational services		\$0
Number of farms marketing products directly to retail outlets		1
Average value per farm of agricultural products sold directly to individuals for human consumption		\$559



- In 2012, the total market value of agricultural products sold in Letcher County was **\$133,000**.¹³
- Of the total market value of agricultural products sold, **65.1%** was the value of crops and **34.9%** was the value of livestock, poultry, and their products.¹³
- The total farm production expenses (average per farm) was **\$5,604** compared to \$62,002 for the state.¹³
- In Letcher County, there were **12** hired farm labor workers on **10** farms.¹³
- 98.2%** of farms were operated by a family or an individual compared to 91.0% for the state.¹³

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

Letcher County Data Profile

Jobs, Economy, and Labor Force

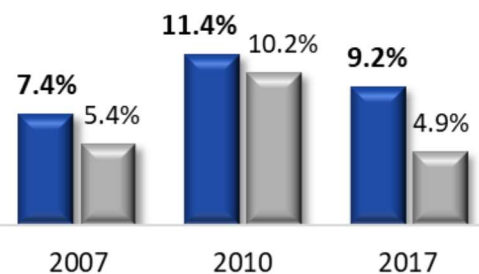
Jobs and Businesses	2010	2016
Total Employment (# of jobs) ¹⁵	7,255	5,947
Total Establishments (w/ employees) ¹⁶	355	323
... % with 1-9 employees	73.8%	78.9%
... % with 10-20 employees	12.1%	9.9%
Total NonEmployer Establishments (w/o employees) ¹⁷	1,182	1,201

Education

Percent of population 25 and over	2012-2016⁷	
... with HS or higher	75.1% (+/- 2.8%)	
... with bachelors or higher	11.2% (+/- 2.0%)	
	Men	Women
Median Earnings (2012-16) ⁷	\$31,576 (+/- \$6,573)	\$19,975 (+/- \$1,813)

Annual Unemployment Rate²⁰

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Avg Weekly Wage¹⁸

	2017
... All Industries (Private & Govt)	\$658
... Goods-producing (Private)	\$734
... Service-providing (Private)	\$651

- In 2017, the number of private establishments covered by unemployment insurance in Letcher County was **38** for goods-producing, **343** for service-providing, and **26** for hospitality & leisure.¹⁸
- Between 2012 and 2016, of the **7,214** (+/- 556) workers ages 16 and over, **72.2%** (+/- 3.8%) worked inside the county, **20.1%** (+/- 2.3%) worked outside the county and **7.7%** (+/- 2.3%) worked outside Kentucky.⁷
- Between 2012 and 2016, **6.6%** (+/- 2.7%) 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.⁷
- **40.3%** of 2016 HS graduates in the county earned an industry certificate compared to 19.2% for the state.¹⁹

Youth

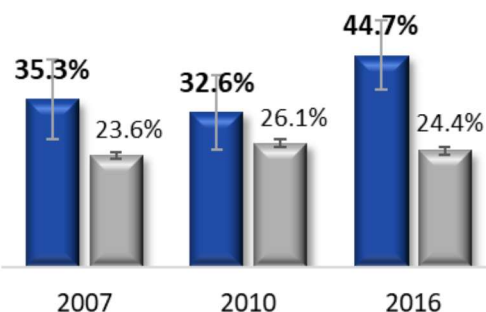
Population by Age	2010¹	2017²	2025³
Under 5 years old	1,523	1,273	1,186
5-9 years old	1,441	1,345	1,308
10-14 years old	1,507	1,428	1,327
15-19 years old	1,538	1,202	1,227

Children by Relationship to Householder

	2012-2016⁷
... Own Children (Biological, Adopted, Stepchild)	3,897 (+/- 395)
... Grandchild	841 (+/- 341)
... Other Relative	200 (+/- 131)
... Foster/Unrelated	109 (+/- 86)

Child Poverty Rate²³

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32.3% of students entered KY public postsecondary institutions underprepared in one or more subjects (2015).²¹

- Between 2012-2016, there were an estimated **329** (+/- 119) youth ages 5-17 who had a disability.⁷
- **42.8%** of 3rd grade students in Letcher County scored proficient or distinguished on math in the 2015-16 school year compared to 47.7% for the state.²²
- **2,516** (+/- 391) 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).⁷

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Health and Wellness

Percent of Adults

... reporting poor or fair health (2016) ²⁴	25.8% (24.8%-26.8%)
... with hypertension (2013-15) ²⁵	54.8% (44.8%-64.4%)
... with obesity (2014-16) ²⁵	38% (30.5%-45.6%)
... with diabetes (2014-16) ²⁵	26.2% (20.2%-33.2%)

Number of Individuals

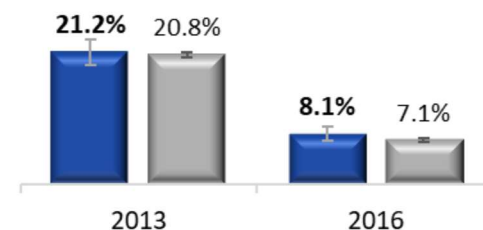
... receiving SNAP (food stamps) (2017) ²⁶	7,107
... who are food insecure (2016 estimate) ²⁷	4,780

Number of Overdoses²⁸

	<u>2008-2010</u>	<u>2015-2017</u>
... fatal overdoses	28	17
... nonfatal overdoses	214	337

Percent of Population Ages 18-64 who are Uninsured²⁹

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Number of Care Providers²⁴

... Primary Care Physicians (2015)	15
... Dentists (2016)	8
... Mental Health Providers (2017)	15

- The estimated food insecurity rate for Letcher County is **20.4%**, compared to 15.5% for the state.²⁷
- From 2010 to 2016, the number of grocery stores **decreased** by **42.9%**, from **7** to **4** stores.¹⁶
- In 2013-2015, **34.7%** (29.7%-40.1%) of adults ages 20 and over reported no leisure time physical activity.²⁴
- The Urban Institute estimates that **32%** of people in Letcher County with a credit bureau record in 2016 had medical debt in collections compared to 27% for the state as a whole.¹⁰
- **16.5%** (11.3%-23.4%) 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.²⁵

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- Chart: 2013 and 2016 Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE). U.S. Census Bureau.

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<https://apps.urban.org/features/debt-interactive-map/>
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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>).