

## CHAPTER 4 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### INTRODUCTION

A community's economy is its lifeblood. The vitality of Barren County's economy determines if it will grow and if the community can provide the necessary services. Without the availability of jobs and wages the community will not be attractive for the location or retention of families and continued growth. It is also understandable that the attraction, retention and expansion of business and industry and the retention of an agricultural community are needed as the basis for a strong service delivery system in Barren County. Residential development costs more to service than other uses. The cost to provide education, offer parks and recreation programs, extend and maintain roads and other utilities, ensure a safe environment through adequate public safety agencies, and provide other needed services exceeds the amount of tax revenue generated from residential usage. Commercial and industrial uses, which generate higher tax revenues, do not require the many services needed by residences. Farms, which may not generate high tax revenues, also do not require as intensive services as other uses. Some of the employment opportunities for the residents of Barren County are outside the community, while some are commuting into the County for employment. If Barren County becomes a bedroom community for employers outside its boundaries the ability to provide services to those families is diminished, therefore it is important to build a strong and vibrant economy by attracting business and industry and supporting existing industrial, commercial, and agricultural sectors.

The economy of Barren County is well positioned to grow. The County is located midway between Louisville and Nashville, and through its access to I-65 via the Louie B. Nunn Parkway. The close proximity to Bowling Green and the Warren County Transpark provides opportunities for employment as well as for the attraction of new employers for the County. Future developments such as the planned I-66 corridor through the County, and more distant projects such as I-69 from Indianapolis to Mexico and the I-840 northern bypass around Nashville have the potential of impacting the economy of Barren County. In this section, Barren County's economy will be explored in terms of the available workforce,

employment levels, educational levels of the workforce, wages and incomes, economic sectors, and the industrial infrastructure.

### LABOR FORCE

The civilian labor force is defined as the sum of both employed and unemployed persons 16 years and older, excluding armed forces personnel and persons in penal and mental institutions, sanitariums, and homes for the aged, infirm and needy. Persons "not in the labor force" are those not classified as employed or unemployed and include persons retired, those engaged in their own housework, those not working while attending school, those unable to work because of long-term illness, those discouraged from seeking work because of personal or job market factors and those who are voluntarily idle. As seen in Table 4.1, the labor force status of Barren County increased from 18,556 persons in 2000 to 19,306 person in 2013.

**Table 4.1:**  
***Barren County Labor Force Status 2000 - 2018***

Employment Status	2000	2008	2013	2018
Persons 16 years and over	29,918	33,154	33,167	34,665
In labor force	18,556	19,788	19,306	19,141
% in labor force	62.0	59.7	52.8	55.2
Civilian labor force	18,556	19,788	19,306	19,141
Employed	17,552	18,259	17,731	18,293
Unemployed	1,004	1,529	1,575	848
% unemployed	5.4	8.4	8.2	4.4
Not in labor force	11,362	13,366	13,848	15,524

Source: thinkkentucky.com

The availability of a skilled workforce is a major determinate in the attraction of business and industry, especially those paying higher wages and those that compete in an increasing global market. The

workforce must be well educated which should take place at all levels: primary, high school, vocational, college, and adult workers. It is predicted that 14% of the future jobs in the United States will require a baccalaureate degree, while 81% will require at least two years of technical training beyond high school. Barren County can also draw upon a larger labor force from the surrounding area. Barren County's labor market area is defined as consisting of its own area and the six adjacent counties of Allen, Edmonson, Hart, Metcalfe, Monroe, and Warren. In 2018, the total civilian labor force in this area was 144,759 with employment of 138,919 and unemployment of 4%.

In 2018 Barren County had 18,293 employed civilians in the labor force, a decrease of 165 people from 2013. Table 4.2 indicates the civilian employment status by industry for the County in 2017. Public and Other Employment, ranging from government to private, is clearly the leading industry type with 4,336 employed workers. As indicated in Table 4.3, the unemployment rate for Barren County has decreased from 8.2 % in 2013 to 4.4% in 2018.

**Table 4.2:**  
**Barren County Resident Labor Force**  
**Status by Industry for 2017**

Industry	Number of Workers	% of County
Natural Resources and Mining	63	0.3
Construction	564	3.0
Manufacturing	3,088	16.4
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	3,646	19.3
Information	289	1.5
Financial Activities	538	2.9
Professional and Business Services	1,580	8.4
Educational and Health Services	2,301	12.2
Leisure and Hospitality	2,122	11.3
Other Services and Unclassified	337	1.8
Public and Other Employment	4,336	22.9
Total All Industries	18,862	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**Table 4.3:**  
**Civilian Labor Force Unemployment Rates**

Year	Barren County Unemployment Rate %	Kentucky Unemployment Rate %	U.S. Unemployment Rate %
1990	7.0	5.9	6.3
2000	5.4	4.1	5.8
2008	7.7	7.8	7.1
2013	8.2	8.3	7.4
2018	4.4	4.3	3.9

Source: thinkykentucky.com

## COMMUTING

Table 4.4 presents a summary of Barren County commuting patterns for 2015. Of the total workforce residing in the County, 51.4% lived and worked in the County, while 48.6% of the residing workforce commuted outside the County for employment.

**Table 4.4:**  
**Barren County Commuting Patterns for 2015**

Total Number of Resident Workers	Lived and Worked in Barren County		Lived and Worked Outside Barren County		Workers Commuting into Barren County
	Number	%	Number	%	
16,609	8,529	51.4	8,080	48.6	7,685

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2015

Warren County is the most predominant destination for Barren County commuters, and to a much lesser extent, other destinations are Hart, Jefferson, Hardin and Allen Counties. In 2015 over 7,000 workers commuted into Barren County for employment. The most prevalent residences for those commuting into Barren County were Metcalfe, Hart, and Warren Counties. A vital factor in commuting is the economy and the necessary demand for jobs within a certain location. As that demand grows, so do commuters and the economy. Increased commuting can be expected to occur in the future by current residents and those that will be relocating in Barren County from other communities and states.

## EMPLOYMENT

Full and part-time employment by economic sector and by type of employment is provided in Table 4.5 for the period of 1990 - 2017. The Services sector employs the greatest number of workers in the County at 26.9%, with the Retail and Manufacturing sectors following at 12.9% and 12.8% respectively in 2017. As displayed in Table 4.9 these sectors are on the opposite ends of the spectrum in terms of wages paid. The Education & Health sector has the highest average weekly wage in the County at \$908.00, while the Leisure & Hospitality sector has the lowest weekly wage levels at \$264.00.

During the 27-year period, as a percentage of total employment, the Service sector has grown most rapidly (+10.5%), while Farming employment has suffered the largest decrease (-10.6%). Manufacturing has also taken a significant loss in this timeframe, losing a total of 712 jobs representing a negative 18.2% decrease. Not only is this significant in terms of total jobs, but also as a percentage of our workforce, dropping from 27.3% of all workers to 17.7%. Farm employment decreased by the most jobs during the period, losing 1,101 total jobs or a 35.7% decrease overall. The majority of the County's employment is in wage and salary type jobs, making up 72.4% of the total. Employments from proprietorship operations comprise the remaining 27.6%. Since 2012 there has been a slight shift toward more proprietary type employment.

Barren County has always enjoyed a solid manufacturing base. However, since 2000 that base has been steadily decreasing both in terms of total jobs and percentage of all jobs within the county. Further, the average manufacturing weekly wage has fallen to roughly 79% of the average manufacturing wage within Kentucky. Table 4.6 shows the net gain of manufacturing jobs in Barren County since 2012. While there have been more businesses locating or expanding in Barren County than have left, the total jobs gained have only been twenty five. Table 4.7 presents the County's major manufactures (employing more than 100 people), their product and year established. Those manufacturers employing more than 300 persons in Barren County are Akebono Brake Glasgow, Nema, LSC Communications and the Sitel Operating Corporation.

Between 2012 and 2018 within Barren County, some of the existing manufacture's facilities have

expanded (Amneal Pharmaceutical and Federal Mogul) and two new facilities were constructed; JNM and Lynx Labeling

**Table 4.5:**  
**Barren County Total Employment by**  
**Economic Sector 1990 - 2017**

Employment	Full and Part Time Employment			
	1990	2000	2012	2017
Total Employment	19,378	26,015	24,560	24,906
Wage & Salary	14,285	19,393	18,103	18,020
Proprietor	5,093	6,622	6,457	6,886
Farm	3,083	2,689	1,983	1,982
Mining/Quarrying	106	51	155	82
Contract Construction	1,519	1,588	1,357	1,400
Manufacturing	3,902	6,208	3,637	3,190
Wholesale	602	769	715	955
Retail Trade	3,015	4,161	2,954	3,231
Finance & Insurance	626	944	662	820
Services	3,809	6,151	6,496	6,700
State/Local Government	1,746	2,285	2,319	2,199

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis 2017

**Table 4.6:**  
**Barren County Manufacturing and Industrial**  
**Employment Net Gain Since 2012**

Business	Employee Net Gain
Rural King	110
Federal Mogul	50
JNM Kentucky	80
Amneal Pharmaceutical	30
Lynx Labeling	15
D&B Trucking	35
Dana Corporation	-200
K-Mart	-75
Square Deal Lumber	-20
	<b>+25</b>

Source: Glasgow Barren County Chamber of Commerce, 2018

**Table 4.7:**  
**Barren County Major Manufactures**

Firm	Products	Employee #	Year Est.
Akebono Brake Corporation	Vehicle brake systems	905	1995
Bluegrass Dairy & Food Inc.	Dehydrated dairy and non-dairy ingredients	130	1995
Federal Mogul Friction Products	Heavy duty truck brake friction blocks	190	1996
Nemak	Aluminum die cast automotive parts	350	1994
Sitel Opeation Corporation	Inbound call center	520	2010
LSC Communications	Offset printing, computer typesetting, saddle stitch & perfect binding	650	1970

Source: KY Cabinet for Economic Development Authority, 6/2/2019

## INCOME AND WAGES

As part of the total economic picture, it can be useful to review comparative income figures over time. One measure is per capita personal income, which is the total personal income of a given area equally divided amongst all of that area's citizens. Table 4.8 shows the per capita income for Barren County, the BRADD region, Kentucky, and the United States from 1980 to 2016. Table 4.8 also shows the percentage of the U.S. per capita income for each area. In 2016, Barren County's per capita income was 68% of the national income average and trailed the state of Kentucky income average by 10.5%. Barren County has generally had a higher average income level than the total ten county BRADD region since 1995.

**Table 4.8:**  
**Per Capita Income 1980 - 2017**

	Barren County		BRADD		Kentucky		U.S.
		% U.S.		% U.S.		% U.S.	
1980	\$6,829	67.1	\$6,556	69	\$8,152	80.1	\$10,177
1985	\$10,467	70.9	\$9,087	65	\$11,588	78.5	\$14,761
1990	\$13,514	68.9	\$13,226	71	\$15,613	79.6	\$19,614
1995	\$17,907	75.9	\$17,231	73	\$19,307	81.8	\$23,602
2000	\$22,358	72.9	\$21,158	72	\$24,918	81.3	\$30,649
2008	\$28,358	69.3	\$21,158	72	\$32,745	80.1	\$40,880
2012	\$31,718	71.1	\$18,870	67	\$35,703	80.1	\$44,573
2016	\$35,184	68.1			\$40,597	78.6	\$51,650

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis

Table 4.9 presents the average weekly wages for Barren County in comparison to Kentucky by industrial divisions for 2012. Overall Barren County weekly wages are just 77.5% of Kentucky's. The highest weekly wage producing industry in Barren County is Education & Health Services followed by manufacturing. However, Barren County's average weekly wagers are lower than Kentucky's in every industry division except in Education & Health services.

**Table 4.9:**  
**Average Weekly Wages**  
**By Industry Division for 2017**

Industry/Division	Kentucky	Barren County	% of Kentucky
All Industries	\$845	\$655	77.5%
Leisure & Hospitality	\$327	\$264	80.7%
Mining	\$1,049	\$744	70.9%
Construction	\$1,011	\$793	78.4%
Manufacturing	\$1,108	\$874	78.9%
Utilities, Trade & Transportation	\$789	\$623	79.0%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	\$1,236	\$778	62.9%
Information	\$1044	\$816	78.2%
Professional & Business Services	\$931	\$551	59.2%
Education & Health Services	\$906	\$908	100.0%
Other Services & Unclassified	\$626	\$403	64.4%

Source: www.thinkkentucky.com

**Table 4.10:**  
***Number of Barren County Families***  
***by Income Levels***

Income Levels	1990	2000	2012	2017
Less than \$10,000	1,965	848	812	788
\$10,000 to \$14,999	1,157	816	841	695
\$15,000 to \$24,999	2,148	1,657	1,522	1321
\$25,000 to \$34,999	1,746	1,848	1,277	1321
\$35,000 to \$49,999	1,574	2,085	1,659	2016
\$50,000 to \$74,999	976	2,260	2,712	2386
\$75,000 to \$99,999	215	944	1,575	1378
\$100,000 to \$149,999	89	331	1,116	1355
\$150,000 to \$199,999	N/A	81	137	208
\$200,000 or more	N/A	189	199	127
Total number of families	9,931	11,059	11,850	11,585
Median family income	\$23,507	\$37,231	\$47,996	\$47,197

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2017

Table 4.10 presents family income numbers for Barren County in 1990, 2000, 2012 and 2017. Since 1990 the median family income increased by \$23,690 or 100%. However, for 2017, the median earnings for full-time year-round work of \$47,197 represents a loss of nearly eight hundred dollars since 2012. The greatest percentage of families, 20.6% or 2,386 families, had an income between \$50,000 and \$74,999 during 2017. This number has decreased by 326 families from 2012, but still represents the largest grouping of family income. The second highest percentage for 2017 was 17.4% (2,016 families) who earned between \$35,000 and \$49,999 showing over 3% growth at this income level from 2012.

## INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The availability of properly developed industrial facilities is important for a community in its efforts to attract industries and jobs. In a competitive market for jobs and private investment, communities must have industrial infrastructure that is attractive to prospective industries. With these facilities Barren County provides an identifiable product that the Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet, Glasgow/Barren County Industrial Development and Economic Authority (IDEA), and other industrial developers can present to prospective industries.

Currently three industrial sites in Barren County are maintained in the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development's Database. The Cabinet lists sites for manufacturing or warehouse/distribution if certain criteria for listing are met. The Cabinet lists industrial buildings, which are heavily constructed, free standing buildings suitable for manufacturing or warehouse/distribution in the primary listing. Certain criteria must be met to be included in the listing. The Cabinet also maintains secondary building lists which are multi-tenant, multi-story, have low ceilings and are strictly warehouse or are otherwise not suitable for inclusion in the primary listing.

Table 4.11 identifies local industries listed by the Glasgow/Barren County IDEA. This table categorizes each industry by the current number of employees and by products produced. In addition, Map 4.1 identifies the industry's site locations.

**Table 4.11:**  
**Barren County Industries**

Firm	Products	Employee #
Chuhatsu	Automobile cable controls	450
3A Composites	Foam Core	65
Akebono Brake Corporation	Vehicle brake systems	1000 +
Amneal Pharmaceuticals	Generic pharmaceutical manufacturing and marketing	70
Atcorr Packaging	Pharmaceutical Packaging	5
B R Retreading Inc.	Tire retreading	96
Barren County Progress	Newspaper / Commercial Printing	30
Bluegrass Dairy and Food LLC	Dairy & non-dairy food ingredients	75
Burkman Feeds LLC	Livestock Feed	50
Dickerson Lumber Company	Lumber/Millwork & pallets	75
Electronic Project Design	Circuit Boards, Control Panels	7
Express One Source	Production fulfillment	27
Federal Mogul Friction Products	Heavy duty truck brake friction blocks	180
Felker Brothers	Stainless Steel Pipe	57
JNM Kentucky	Metal Stamping	47
Gerald Printing	Commercial printing	25
Glasgow Daily Times	Newspaper and commercial printing	27
IMI-Irving Materials Incorporated	Ready Mix Concrete	7
Kelsay Tool & Die Inc.	Tool & die metal stampings	19
Lyons Co. Inc.	Sheet metal fabricating	100
Madison Smith Machine & Tool Co.	Metal Fabrication & Welding	75
McMurtrey Ready Mix Concrete Inc.	Ready mix concrete	n/a
Mid-Mark	Dental cabinetry	40
NCS Healthcare	Pharmaceutical Packaging	100
Nemak	Die cast aluminum auto parts	300
Omni-Care	Pharmaceutical wholesaler	75
Peden Metal Works Inc.	Metal fabrication & machinery	15
Ply-Tech Corp.	Architectural & furniture plywood	150
Precision Machine & Tool Inc.	Tool and die job shop	15
QMS	Metal Machining	n/a
R&S Northeast	Marketing and pharmaceutical supplies	11
Richie Pharmacal Co, Inc.	Pharmaceutical wholesaler	30
LSC Communications	Offset printing, computer typesetting, saddle stitch & perfect binding	600
Sitel Operating Corporation	Inbound call center	520
Southern States Cooperative, Inc.	Livestock feed division	27
Span Tech LLC	Conveyor systems	70
Tekno Inc.	Conveyors and automation devices	20
Walbert Trucking	Trucking	60

Source: Glasgow - Barren County Chamber of Commerce and Barren County / Glasgow IDEA, 2018

## REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVANTAGES

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Studies undertaken by the Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet (KEDC) have identified a number of advantages that Kentucky possesses in its economic development efforts. One such advantage is Kentucky's central location. Kentucky is located in the center of the eastern United States, with two thirds of the U. S. population, personal income, and manufacturing located within 600 miles of the State. This ideal location provides critical access to markets and suppliers.

Another economic development advantage is Kentucky's transportation network. Kentucky has an excellent transportation network with a highway system that ranks in the top ten in the nation according to annual studies by the University of North Carolina-Charlotte. Kentucky ranks forth in the nation in rail freight utilization, sixth overall in transportation logistics, and fifth in lowest state fuel taxes and fees. On the local level, the proximity of Interstate 65, and the Louie B. Nunn Parkway provide the County excellent access to expanding markets.

Major industrial manufacturing concentrations within the State and region are also an economic development advantage to the County. Kentucky has major manufacturing industries that concentrate in the automobile, aluminum, plastics, and machine tooling trade. These concentrations are beneficial to Barren County as new suppliers or component manufactures locate within the region to support the major manufactures end products.

Barren County is located in the north-south corridor of the automotive related industry. According to the KEDC, the State has the third highest auto industry related employment as a percent of total employment in the nation. In 2012 Kentucky ranked fourth in the United States in total light vehicle production and third in car and fourth in light truck production. In addition, over 1,025,000 automobiles were built in Kentucky in 2012. 1 in 10 automobiles in the United States were manufactured in the Bluegrass State.

## AGRICULTURE

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Barren County has a rich history in agriculture. It ranks first in the state in several agricultural production categories. Barren County ranks first in burley tobacco, cattle and calves, beef cows, and milk production. Barren County is also in the top ten in the state in livestock production. Table 4.12 shows the major agricultural products of Barren County in both 2012 & 2017.

Farm earnings for Barren County reached \$127,198,000 in 2017, a 12.5% increase in earnings since 2012. On the state level, Barren County ranked in the top 10 in overall cash receipts. Barren County has experienced a significant decline in burley tobacco production, and the resulting trend will continue to reduce the amount of harvested acres of tobacco within the county.

In 2017, Barren County had 1,899 farm owners. Of those, over half incorporated harvesting crops into their annual farming operation. This is a trend that is likely to continue considering the increase in crop production for Barren County. Table 4.12 demonstrates that the average acres harvested has stayed relatively consistent for corn production, from 22,033 acres in 2012 to 22,662 acres in 2017. Soybean production increased from 20,649 in 2012 to 27,500 in 2017. With the global demand for soybeans showing no sign of lessening this trend is expected to continue.

Between 2012 and 2017 the average size of farms in Barren County has remained the same at 133 acres. As the average acres in size of farms stayed the same, the price average for farm production has risen, which increased from \$113,025,000 in 2012 to \$127,198,000 in 2017, which results in a \$14,173,000 increase over the last five years. The average price of farms per acre also increased during that same period.

**Table 4.12:**  
**Agricultural Production 2017**

Crops	Acres Harvested 2012	Acres Harvested 2017
Corn for Grain	22,033	20,662
Soybeans	20,649	27,500
Wheat for Grain	2,952	1,313
Corn Silage	9,207	7,103
Forage Land	57,335	53,800
Livestock & Milk	Number 2012	Number 2017
Cattle & Calves	85,523	85,544
Broiler Chickens	1,068,319	7,321,378
Laying Chickens	13,234	1,724
Cash Receipts	2012	2017
Crops	\$37,738	\$48,692
Livestock	\$75,257	\$78,506
Total	\$113,025	\$127,198

Source: Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service  
USDA, National Agriculture Statistics Service

According to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, acres in farms and average size of farms have increased, see Table 4.13. Harvested cropland has also increased since 2012.

In addition, as of 2017, farm land comprised nearly 80% of the land area of the County. From 2012 to 2017, both total farmland and harvested cropland have increased, 5,171 acres and 6,383 acres respectively.

**Table 4.13:**  
**Farmland**

Census Year	Farms	Acres in Farms	Harvested Cropland
1982	2,461	249,141	81,978
1987	2,232	252,771	82,328
1992	2,201	248,634	79,911
1997	2,184	252,739	85,598
2002	2,021	240,440	96,144
2007	2,021	264,717	89,208
2012	1,869	248,663	112,176
2017	1,899	253,834	118,559

Source: Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service  
USDA, National Agriculture Statistics Service

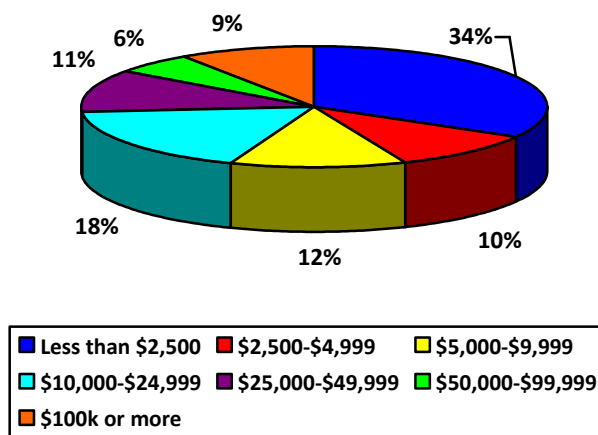
As indicated in Figure 4.1, the majority of farms in Barren County, 34%, were estimated to produce between \$1 to \$2,500 in sales. The second largest group of farms by sales value was 18% producing in the \$10,000 to \$24,999 value group. The vast majority of farms in Barren County produce less than \$25k in annual sales revealing that most farms within the county are farms providing directly to the owner while subsidizing their personal income.

The number of farms has increased by 30 between 2012 and 2017. As previously noted the size of farms has increased slightly in the five year period. It is suspected that the increase in harvest cropland production is behind the decrease in farms but the increase in size per farm. This is also a trend that likely continue.

Figure 4.2 shows that the majority, 55.7% of land classified as “farm land” in Barren County is comprised of cropland. Second in this category is pastureland at 27.9% with woodland making up 12.2% of the land utilized as farm land in the county.

Barren County farmers have access to several trading and livestock markets as well as a local Farmers Market. Greenhouse production is becoming more prevalent in Barren County as other crops and livestock is being sought as well, such as soybeans and hybrid forms of corn.

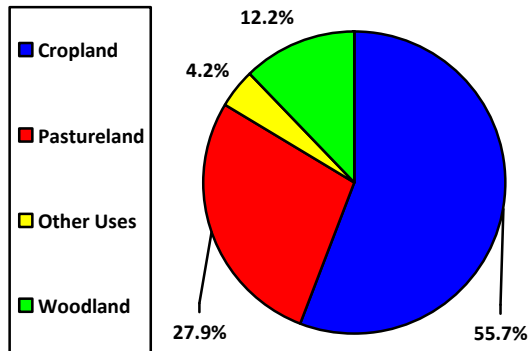
**Figure 4.1:**  
**Number of Farms in Barren County**  
**by Value of Sales**



Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service



**Figure 4.2:**  
**Land in Farms By Use 2017**



Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service

## TOURISM

Barren County has several key attractions for tourism. Like every county in Kentucky, tourism plays an important role in the local economy. Barren County and the three cities within the county have several events that bring in tourists. The first and most prevalent is Mammoth Cave National Park, located just north of Park City and east of Cave City. This attraction is a national wonder in the world and total visits to the park for 2017 were over 600,000 people. Cave City has two theme parks, Funtown Mountain, and Dinosaur World. Both Cave City and Park City have their own privately operated cave attractions. In addition, there are several golf courses within the area. Glasgow offers the annual Scottish Highland Games as well as the concert on the square and other various events. Barren County has various recreation areas associated with the Barren River Lake and the Barren River Lake State Resort Park. A detailed listing of local cultural facilities, performing arts, celebrations and events can be found in Chapter 6 of this Plan.

## CONCLUSION

The key to evolving in our county lies with the fact that we have to be flexible in our organization, opportunities and approach. The ability to adapt to changing processes, social needs and community desires is a must economically, sociologically and agriculturally. The more diverse our population

becomes the more adapt our industries, education facilities and merchandise chains need to become to accommodate the necessary change. Overall, our economy is relatively stagnant but is sustaining a steady level. However, Barren County needs to focus on the development of the cities and county from an economic standpoint in order to assure growth. Glasgow's role as a major retail, service and industrial center for this area continues to persist, however more attention towards its growth and expansion must be paid to ensure this role continues into the future. Rural Barren County must explore ways to protect the agricultural community and develop alternative agricultural cash crops in the future.

Barren County as a whole has enjoyed a steady unemployment rate and jobs total over the last several decades that has kept pace relatively with its population. However, over the last five years we have seen a slight dip in jobs as well as average pay in the county. Fortunately, the general BRADD area has provided both jobs and increased pay to account for our small decrease. For our previous trend to continue, we must focus not only on bringing new jobs into the county, but also place an emphasis on industry diversity and higher paying jobs. Much like a personal financial portfolio, diversification will provide a hedge against any single industry collapse while higher wages will provide employment across a wider range of socioeconomic classes and attract new residents from the surrounding areas.

Barren County is projected to grow in population at a fairly fast pace. With this projected increase, Barren County and the local cities need to be prepared to handle all the necessities such as education, health care, emergency services, housing, commercial service and industry. .

## RECOMMENDATIONS

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- ❖ Analyze current and future economic trends. Evaluate the economic impact on residential, commercial and industrial activity in Barren County.
- ❖ To support the efforts of the Glasgow/Barren County Industrial Development and Economic Authority (IDEA) to maximize the use of federal, state, and local incentives, which promote and create an opportunity that attracts new industry as well as retaining and expanding existing industry.
- ❖ Coordinate with IDEA and the Barren River Area Development District (BRADD) to develop a Community Economic Development Plan.
- ❖ Work with the Glasgow Barren County Chamber of Commerce, local tourism boards, Caveland Community Coalition, Leadership Glasgow, the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office, and the U.K. County Extension Service in implementing plans for small business development, the local agricultural industry, and tourism.
- ❖ Promote Sustainable Development concepts for future industrial and commercial growth.
- ❖ Identify general locations for industrial land uses and establish a strong program of industrial site location which has adequate environmental controls, adequate public facilities, good access, and protection standards against hazardous waste.
- ❖ Encourage IDEA to continue to acquire vacant land and available buildings suitable for commercial and industrial manufacturing development or occupancy.
- ❖ Encourage adaptive use of older industrial structures including conversion to more suitable uses with consideration of surrounding land uses.
- ❖ Actively attract new industry and expand current industries. Initiate a new industry program aimed at growth industry types by targeting industry that is sustainable. Actively attract industries that would be able to capitalize on the community's broadband network.
- ❖ Continually develop a relationship with existing industries to identify needs and potentially available resources and financing opportunities.
- ❖ Continue to support and expand the development of tourist attractions within Barren County and work on a regional basis to increase tourism.
- ❖ Encourage the development of support facilities and programs such as hotels and motels, restaurants, meeting and conference facilities, regional marketplaces, and recreational/cultural events and facilities.
- ❖ Economic efforts should be directed in not only attracting industry and jobs, but to undertake the necessary actions to attract higher paying jobs in order to increase the income levels of individuals and families in Barren County. This necessitates the improvement of education/workforce skills in order to be attractive to business and industries that compete in an increasing global market.

