

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 residents. 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, the Warren County Transpark, and the Ford factory in Glendale provides opportunities for employment as well as for the attraction of new employers for the County. Current developments such as the planned I-65 spur corridor through the County, and more distant projects such as I-69 from Indianapolis to Mexico 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 decreased from 19,141 persons in 2018 to 18,702 person in 2022.

Table 4.1:
Barren County Labor Force Status 2000 - 2022

Employment Status	2000	2008	2013	2018	2022
Persons 16 years and over	29,918	33,154	33,167	34,665	35,457
In labor force	18,556	19,788	19,306	19,141	19,678
% in labor force	62.0	59.7	52.8	55.2	55.5
Civilian labor force	18,556	19,788	19,306	19,141	19,667
Employed	17,552	18,259	17,731	18,293	18,702
Unemployed	1,004	1,529	1,575	848	965
% unemployed	5.4	8.4	8.2	4.4	4.9
Not in labor force	11,362	13,366	13,848	15,524	15,779

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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 2024, the total civilian labor force in this area was 116,404 with employment of 112,213 and unemployment of 4.4%.

In 2022 Barren County had 18,702 employed civilians in the labor force, a decrease of 439 people from 2018. Table 4.2 indicates the civilian employment status by industry for the County in 2022. Manufacturing is clearly the leading industry type with 4,077 employed workers. As indicated in Table 4.3, the unemployment rate for Barren County has remained the same since 2018.

Table 4.2:
Barren County Resident Labor Force Status by Industry for 2022

Industry	Number of Workers	% of County
Agriculture, forestry and Mining	610	3.3
Construction	1,106	5.9
Manufacturing	4,085	21.8
Retail trade	2,026	10.8
Wholesale Trade	551	2.9
Transportation, warehousing & Utilities	1,053	5.6
Information	267	1.4
Financial Activities	864	4.6
Professional and Business Services	1,270	6.8
Educational and Health Services	3,945	21.1
Leisure and Hospitality	1,563	8.4
Other Services and Unclassified	932	5.0
Public and Other Employment	430	2.3
Total All Industries	18,702	

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
2022	4.4	4.6	4.0

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

COMMUTING

Table 4.4 presents a summary of Barren County commuting patterns for 2024. Of the total workforce residing in the County, 41.6% lived and worked in the County, while 58.4% of the residing workforce commuted outside the County for employment.

Table 4.4:
Barren County Commuting Patterns for 2024

Total Number of Resident Workers	Lived and Worked in Barren County		Lived and Worked Outside Barren County		Workers Commuting into Barren County
	Number	%	Number	%	
16,676	6,929	41.6	9,747	58.4	6,935

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2024

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 2024 almost 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

The average personal earnings per sector is provided in Table 4.5 for 2022. The highest paying sectors include Manufacturing and Wholesale with Manufacturing being the highest average paying with \$139,419. As displayed in Table 4.9 legal occupations as well as management top the weekly salaries paid. The Management sector has the highest average weekly wage in the County at \$1,750.00, while the Food Prep & Service sector has the lowest weekly wage levels at \$493.00.

During 2022, as a percentage of total employment, the Manufacturing sector is the largest employer with the 21.8% of total jobs with the Information sector being the smallest at 267 total jobs. The majority of the County’s employment is in manufacturing, making up 21.8% of the total. Employment from Education and Health Services comprise the second largest employment industry with 21.5%.

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. However, the average manufacturing earnings wage is 14% higher than the State average salary. Table 4.8 presents the County’s major manufactures (employing more than 100 people), their product and year established. Those manufacturers employing more than 200 persons in Barren County are Akebono Brake Corporation, Nematik, and Amneal.

Between 2019 and 2024 within Barren County, some of the existing manufacture’s facilities have expanded (Bluegrass Dairy & Food Inc. and Span Tech LLC) and new facilities were constructed; SharpCarts as well as three speculative buildings.

Table 4.5:
AVERAGE PERSONAL EARNINGS
BY INDUSTRY 2022

Industry	2022 Earnings
Farm	\$36,210
Mining/Quarrying	\$54,268
Contract Construction	\$51,310
Manufacturing	\$139,419
Wholesale	\$70,195
Healthcare / Social	\$40,912
Educational Services	\$44,228
Retail Trade	\$41,610
Finance & Insurance	\$42,001
Food Services	\$45,128
State/Local Government	\$48,230
Per Capita Personal Income	\$55,773

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis 2022

Table 4.6:
Barren County Manufacturing and Industrial
Employment Net Gain Since 2017

Business	Employee Net Gain
3A Composites	40
Amneal Pharmaceuticals	35
Dickerson Lumber	10
Nematik	193
SharpCarts	97
SOKY Pack & Pallet	16
Tenneco	15
Welch Packaging	106
Worldwide Technologies	16
	528

Source: Barren Inc, 2022

Table 4.7:
Barren County Major Manufactures

Firm	Products	Employee #	Year Est.
Akebono Brake Corporation	Vehicle brake systems	795	1995
Amneal Pharmaceuticals	Generic pharmaceutical manufacturing and marketing	146	2004
Bluegrass Dairy & Food Inc.	Dehydrated dairy and non-dairy ingredients	130	1995
CHUHATSU North America Inc.	Automotive control cables	275	1989
Tenneco	Heavy duty truck brake friction blocks	180	1996
Nemak USA	Aluminum die cast automotive parts	294	1994

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 4.7 shows the per capita income for Barren County, the BRADD region, Kentucky, and the United States from 1980 to 2022. Table 4.7 also shows the percentage of the U.S. per capita income for each area. In 2022, Barren County's per capita income was 73.6% of the national income average and trailed the state of Kentucky income average by 6.1%. Barren County has a lower average income level than the total ten county BRADD region for the first time since 1995.

Table 4.8 presents the average weekly wages for Barren County in comparison to Kentucky by industrial divisions for 2022. Overall Barren County weekly wages are 6.5% higher than Kentucky's. The highest weekly wage producing industry in Barren County is Management Occupations followed by Legal Occupations. Barren County's average weekly wagers are higher than Kentucky's in eighteen of the twenty-two occupations.

Per Capita Income 1980 - 2022
Table 4.8:

	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
2017	\$35,184	68.1			\$40,597	78.6	\$51,650
2022	\$48,141	73.6	\$52,351	80	\$51,191	78.2	\$65,423

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

Table 4.9:
Average Weekly Wages
By Industry Division for 2022

Industry/Division	Kentucky	Barren County	% of Kentucky
All Industries	\$914	\$974	106.5%
Management Occupations	\$1,614	\$1,750	108.4%
Business & Financial	\$1,226	\$1,205	98.2%
Computer / Mathematical	\$1,444	\$1,278	88.5%
Architecture / Engineering	\$1,400	\$1,379	98.5%
Life / Social Occupations	\$1,157	\$1,287	111.2%
Community & Social Services	\$861	\$918	106.6%
Legal Occupations	\$1,212	\$1,601	132.1%
Educational / Instructional	\$966	\$976	101.0%
Arts / Entertainment	\$840	\$782	93.0%
Healthcare Practitioners & Tech	\$1,241	\$1,593	128.4%
Healthcare Support	\$626	\$667	106.5%
Protective Service	\$670	\$748	111.6%
Food Prep & Serving	\$467	\$493	105.6%
Building Maintenance	\$561	\$571	101.8%
Personal Care / Service	\$527	\$547	103.8%
Sales	\$573	\$716	125.0%
Office / Admin.	\$720	\$728	101.1%
Farm / Fishing / Forestry	\$638	\$736	115.4%
Construction	\$916	\$940	102.6%
Install / Maintenance & Repair	\$947	\$955	100.8%
Production	\$770	\$795	103.2%
Transportation / Moving	\$737	\$765	103.8%

Source: www.thinkkentucky.com

Table 4.10:
Number of Barren County Families
by Income Levels

Income Levels	1990	2000	2012	2022
Less than \$10,000	1,965	848	812	572
\$10,000 to \$14,999	1,157	816	841	607
\$15,000 to \$24,999	2,148	1,657	1,522	747
\$25,000 to \$34,999	1,746	1,848	1,277	1,191
\$35,000 to \$49,999	1,574	2,085	1,659	1,810
\$50,000 to \$74,999	976	2,260	2,712	2,289
\$75,000 to \$99,999	215	944	1,575	1,495
\$100,000 to \$149,999	89	331	1,116	1,740
\$150,000 to \$199,999	N/A	81	137	560
\$200,000 or more	N/A	189	199	677
Total number of families	9,931	11,059	11,850	11,680
Median family income	\$23,507	\$37,231	\$47,996	\$48,141

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2022

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, Barren

Inc., and other industrial developers can present to prospective industries.

Currently five 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 4.10 identifies local industries listed by Barren Inc.. 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 #
3A Composites USA Inc.	Paper faced foam panels, thick foam panels & graphic arts boards	159
Akebono Brake	Disc brake calipers and pads	540
Alliant Technologies LLC	Software and controls engineering and panel fabrications services	10
Amneal Pharmaceuticals	Generic pharmaceutical manufacturing and marketing	156
AtCorr Packaging Products	Corrugated packaging products	11
Bluegrass Dairy and Food Inc	Dehydrated dairy and non-dairy ingredients, cheese manufacturing	140
Bluegrass Supply Chain	Third party logistics, light manufacturing	10
Brokering Solutions	Wholesale distribution – flooring, cabinets, household goods	50
Bryant & Sons DBA Best Buds Botanicals	Industrial hemp products	n/a
Burkman Feeds LLC	Livestock feed	73
Cargill Inc.	Animal & poultry feed	23
CHUHATSU North America Inc.	Automotive control cables	132
CVS Health / Vanguard Labs	Pharmaceuticals	85
D&B Trucks and Equipment	Custom built refurbished diesel trucks / equipment dealer	69
Dickerson Lumber Co.	Hardwood lumber and pallets	75
Express Logistics Inc.	Sales and delivery of packaging supplies	40
Felker Brothers Corp	Stainless steel pipe and tube	71
Froedge Machine and Supply Co., Inc.	Specialty machine shop – CNC, welding, drilling, tool & die	6
Green Mechanical Construction Inc.	Mechanical engineering, HVAC, mechanical installations	38
Harvest Consumer Products LLC	Material handling equipment, control and automated systems	35
Innovative Manufacturing Services Inc.	Electrical control systems, conveyor systems	14
JNM KY	Metal stamping	126
Lynx Labeling, Inc.	Custom label design and business analytics	n/a
Lyons Co Inc.	Sheet metal fabricating, piping, welding, contracting and engineering	70
Madison-Smith Machine & Tool	General machining, metal fabrication, and plant maintenance service	75
Midmark Corporation	Dental office furniture	37
NCS Healthcare of KY	Pharmaceutical repackaging center	98
Nemak USA	Die cast aluminum	287
Ply-Tech Corp	High end furniture / hardwood flooring	40
Span Tech LLC	Conveyor systems	96
Tekno Inc.	Assembly lines, material handling, automatic guided	35
Tenneco (Formerly Federal Mogul)	Commercial vehicle heavy duty brakes	194
TransAir Shipping	Logistics services	10
TWB LLC	Tailor-welded steel blanks	14

Walbert Trucking Inc.	Trucking / logistics	50
Welch Packaging	Corrugated cardboard	48
Yahagi America Molding Inc.	Injection molding and assembly	75

Source: KY Cabinet for Economic Development Authority

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVANTAGES

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 fourth 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 with 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 2022 Kentucky ranked third in the United States in total light vehicle production fourth in automotive parts production. In addition, over 1,000,000 automobiles were built in Kentucky in 2022. 1 in 10 automobiles in the United States were manufactured in the Bluegrass State.

AGRICULTURE

Barren County has a rich history in agriculture. It ranks first in the state in several agricultural production categories. Barren County ranks first in cattle and calves, beef cows, and milk cows. 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 \$181,333,000 in 2022, a 29.9% increase in earnings since 2017. On the state level, Barren County ranked fourteenth 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 2022, Barren County had 2,742 farm producers. 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 22,662 acres in 2017 to 22,891 acres in 2022. Soybean production decreased from 27,500 in 2017 to 20,246 in 2022. With the global demand for corn and soybeans showing no sign of lessening this trend is expected to continue.

Between 2017 and 2022 the average size of farms in Barren County increased to 142 acres. As the average acres in size of farms stayed the same, the price average for farm production has risen, which increased from \$127,198,000 in 2017 to \$152,658,000 in 2022, which results in a \$25,460,000 increase over the last five years. The average price of farms per acre also increased during that same period.

Table 4.12:
Agricultural Production 2022

Crops	Acres Harvested 2012	Acres Harvested 2017	Acres Harvested 2022
Corn for Grain	22,033	20,662	19,900
Soybeans	20,649	27,500	20,246
Wheat for Grain	2,952	1,313	4,150
Corn Silage	9,207	7,103	6,021
Forage Land	57,335	53,800	61,821
Livestock & Milk	Number 2012	Number 2017	Number 2022
Cattle & Calves	85,523	85,544	80,293
Broiler Chickens	1,068,319	7,321,378	1,752,461
Laying Chickens	13,234	1,724	2,881
Cash Receipts	2012	2017	2022
Crops	\$37,738	\$48,692	\$54,232
Livestock	\$75,257	\$78,506	\$127,098
Total	\$113,025	\$127,198	\$181,330

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 decreased, see Table 4.13. Harvested cropland has increased since 2017.

In addition, as of 2022, farmland comprised nearly 72% of the land area of the County. In 2022 Cropland comprised 125,500 acres of farmland, while 61,821 acres was used for pastureland.

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
2022	1,621	230,539	125,500

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

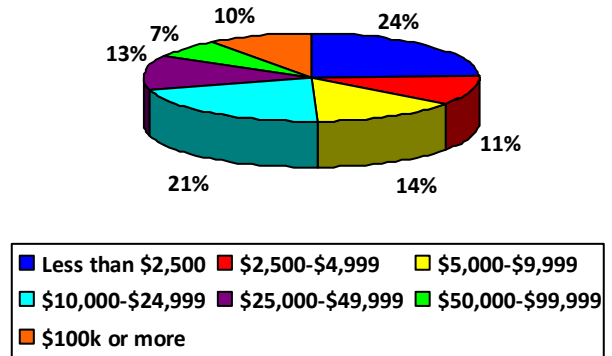
As indicated in Figure 4.1, the majority of farms in Barren County, 24%, were estimated to produce between \$1 to \$2,500 in sales. The second largest group of farms by sales value was 21% producing in the \$10,000 to \$24,999 value group. The vast majority of farms in Barren County produce less than \$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 decreased by 278 between 2017 and 2022. 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. It's also apparent that more farmland is being divided into smaller parcels to support residential growth. This is also a trend that likely continue.

Figure 4.2 shows that the majority, 54% of land classified as "farmland" in Barren County is comprised of cropland. Second in this category is pastureland at 26% with woodland making up 7% of the land utilized as farmland in the county.

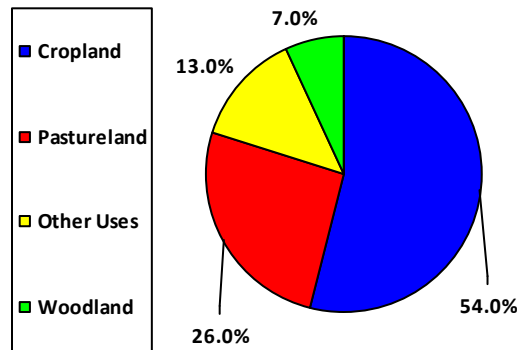
Barren County farmers have access to several trading and livestock markets as well as a local Farmers Market. Greenhouse production is becoming more prevalent in Barren County as other crops and livestock is being sought as well, such as soybeans and hybrid forms of corn.

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



Source: 2022 Census of Agriculture

Figure 4.2:
Land in Farms By Use 2022



Source: 2022 Census of Agriculture

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.

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 2023 were over 600,000 people. Cave City has several theme parks including Jellystone Park, 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.

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. .

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ Analyze current and future economic trends. Evaluate the economic impact on residential, commercial and industrial activity in Barren County.
- ❖ To support the efforts of Barren Inc. 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 Barren Inc. 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 Barren Inc. to continue to acquire suitable vacant land and available buildings that are 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.