



CABINET FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Andy Beshear
Governor

Old Capitol Annex
300 West Broadway
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Jeff Noel
Secretary

October 31, 2025

The Honorable Andy Beshear, Governor
Office of the Governor
700 Capital Avenue, Suite 100
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

RE: 2024 Kentucky County Population Ranking

Dear Governor Beshear:

Pursuant to KRS 154.14-050 and KRS 154.21-017, the Cabinet for Economic Development is required to submit the Kentucky County Population Ranking Calculation for the Government Resources Accelerating Needed Transformation (GRANT) Program and the Kentucky Product Development Initiative (KPDII) Program of 2024, respectively, to the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue and the Governor. Please note the calculation is the same for both programs, and enclosed is the calculation from 2024. KRS requires on or before June 1, 2024, and no later than June 1 every two (2) years, the Cabinet shall determine a county population ranking. This will be updated again in 2026.

Please contact me at (502) 782-1922 if there are any questions regarding this calculation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kylee Palmer".

Kylee Palmer,
Deputy Commissioner
Department for Financial Services

cc: Matthew Wingate

Enclosure



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Senator Christian McDaniel, Co-Chair
Representative Jason Petrie, Co-Chair
Interim Joint Committee Appropriations & Revenue
Legislative Research Commission
Capitol Annex Building
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

RE: 2024 Kentucky County Population Ranking

Dear Senator McDaniel and Representative Petrie:

Pursuant to KRS 154.14-050 and KRS 154.21-017, the Cabinet for Economic Development is required to submit the Kentucky County Population Ranking Calculation for the Government Resources Accelerating Needed Transformation (GRANT) Program and the Kentucky Product Development Initiative (KPD) Program of 2024, respectively, to the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue and the Governor. Please note the calculation is the same for both programs, and enclosed is the calculation for 2024. KRS requires on or before June 1, 2024, and no later than June 1 every two (2) years, the Cabinet shall determine a county population ranking. This will be updated again in 2026.

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Sincerely,

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Kylee Palmer,
Deputy Commissioner
Department for Financial Services

cc: Jennifer Hays, LRC
Matthew Wingate

Enclosure

Kentucky County Population Ranking Calculation

Calculated in April 2024

The Government Resources Accelerating Needed Transformation (GRANT) Program of 2024 and the Kentucky Product Development Initiative (KPDII) Program of 2024 require the below calculation of the county population ranking as required by KRS 154.14-050 and KRS 154.21-017, respectively.

County	10-Year Growth Rate Rank	Population Density Rank	County Population Ranking
Owsley	119	118	237
Cumberland	118	119	237
Hickman	107	120	227
Wolfe	111	109	220
Leslie	106	114	220
Carlisle	100	115	215
Lewis	101	113	214
Ballard	103	107	210
Livingston	97	111	208
Magoffin	115	92	207
Crittenden	91	116	207
Lee	102	100	202
Elliott	95	105	200
Knott	117	82	199
Union	112	87	199
Fulton	93	106	199
Butler	83	110	193
Robertson	75	117	192
McCreary	105	86	191
Breathitt	79	112	191
Menifee	80	108	188
Martin	116	71	187
McLean	92	95	187
Webster	94	91	185
Clinton	109	73	182
Clay	104	78	182
Jackson	88	93	181
Wayne	99	79	178
Caldwell	81	94	175
Todd	73	102	175
Bell	120	54	174
Letcher	114	58	172
Harlan	108	62	170
Trigg	66	103	169
Rockcastle	98	69	167
Pike	113	48	161
Casey	62	98	160
Morgan	63	96	159

Rank Tier	Counties
≤193	17
192-145	29
144-97	33
96-49	19
<49	22

County	10-Year Growth Rate Rank	Population Density Rank	County Population Ranking
Green	68	88	156
Trimble	90	64	154
Estill	87	65	152
Ohio	65	83	148
Metcalfe	49	99	148
Floyd	110	37	147
Breckinridge	50	97	147
Owen	41	104	145
Bracken	64	80	144
Edmonson	59	85	144
Carter	86	57	143
Knox	96	46	142
Lawrence	51	89	140
Monroe	36	101	137
Pendleton	67	68	135
Hopkins	89	44	133
Muhlenberg	76	56	132
Marion	69	61	130
Adair	55	75	130
Mason	78	51	129
Washington	43	84	127
Graves	71	55	126
Johnson	84	40	124
Lincoln	72	50	122
Perry	74	45	119
Harrison	60	59	119
Henry	52	66	118
Logan	45	70	115
Henderson	85	28	113
Lyon	32	81	113
Grayson	44	67	111
Greenup	82	27	109
Bourbon	56	53	109
Fleming	31	77	108
Nicholas	17	90	107
Carroll	61	41	102
Garrard	53	47	100
Christian	70	29	99
Russell	46	52	98
Hancock	26	72	98
Hart	24	74	98
Allen	34	60	94
Calloway	58	34	92
Larue	29	63	92
Whitley	47	42	89
Bath	12	76	88

County	10-Year Growth Rate Rank	Population Density Rank	County Population Ranking
Grant	54	33	87
Gallatin	48	38	86
Powell	37	49	86
Boyd	77	8	85
Marshall	57	25	82
Pulaski	40	30	70
Meade	38	31	69
Rowan	28	39	67
Barren	27	35	62
Mercer	18	36	54
Clark	35	18	53
Taylor	21	32	53
McCracken	42	10	52
Simpson	6	43	49
Franklin	33	12	45
Campbell	39	4	43
Laurel	23	19	42
Montgomery	20	20	40
Nelson	16	24	40
Hardin	22	16	38
Woodford	14	21	35
Daviess	19	13	32
Boyle	15	17	32
Anderson	9	23	32
Jefferson	30	1	31
Spencer	3	26	29
Kenton	25	3	28
Shelby	5	22	27
Madison	8	14	22
Bullitt	10	9	19
Jessamine	11	7	18
Scott	1	15	16
Fayette	13	2	15
Oldham	7	6	13
Warren	2	11	13
Boone	4	5	9

Data Sourcing: ACSST5Y2022.S0101
ACSST5Y2012.S0101
Census 2020 Table P1