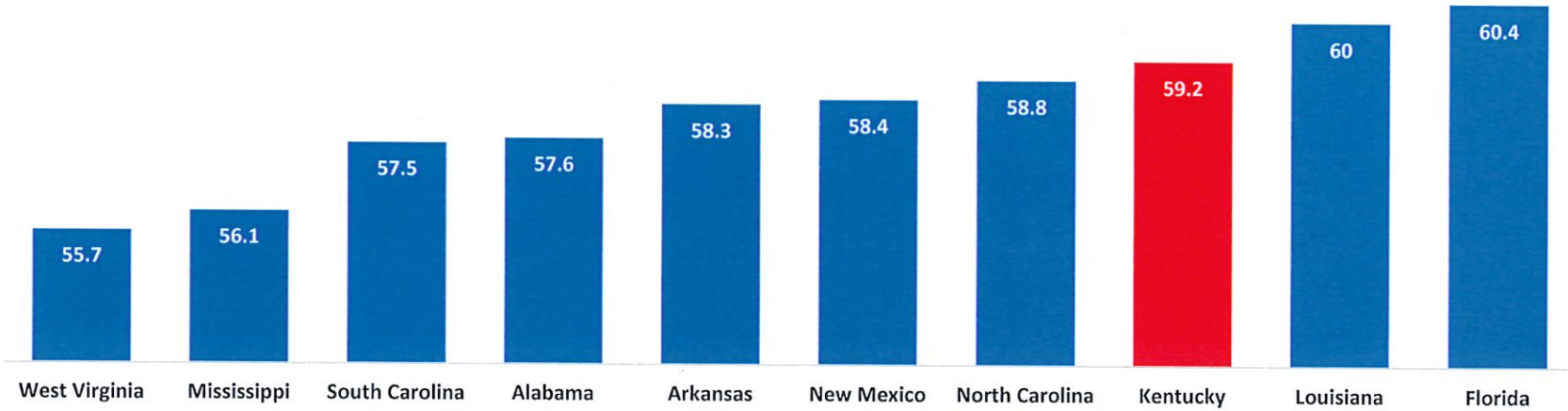
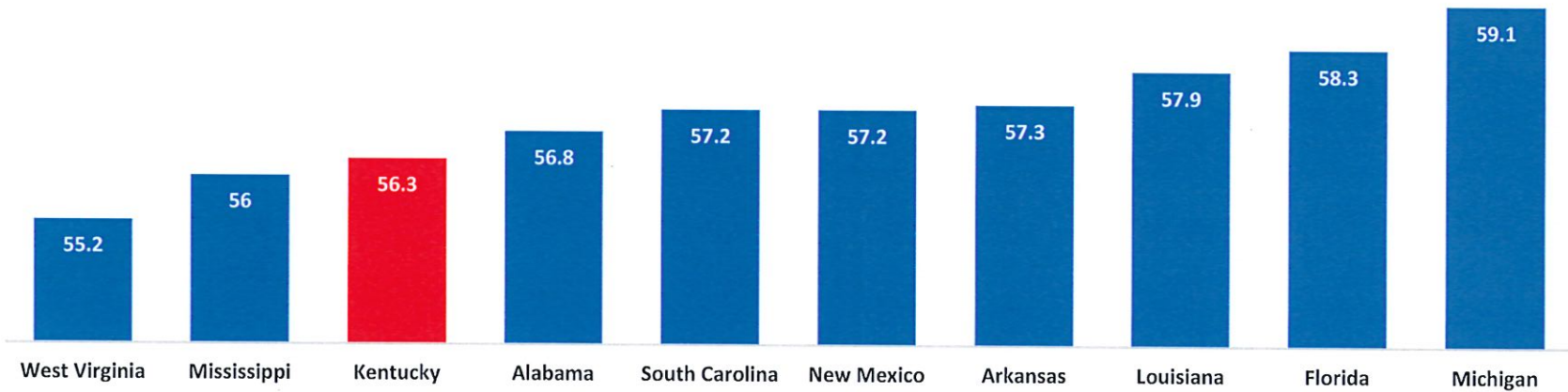


In March 2020, Kentucky had the 8th lowest labor force participation rate



In June 2021, Kentucky had the 3rd lowest labor force participation rate



Source:
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

The labor force participation rate is a measure of an economy's active workforce that indicates the percentage of all people of working age who are employed or actively seeking employment. Labor force participation is calculated as the sum of all employed workers or those actively seeking employment divided by the total non-institutionalized, working-age population. This means that it omits people in prisons, nursing homes, mental hospitals, and the military and includes all other people of work age (16 or older).

The following pages show the change in the labor force participation rate for Kentucky and our neighbors from 1976 through 2021.

Things to note:

- Kentucky's participation rate peaked in the late 90's and early 2000's, but since then it has trended downward.
- The labor force participation rate has never risen over 64% since the government began tracking in 1976.
- The only one of our neighboring states that has consistently done worse is West Virginia who have never topped 57%.
- Prior to the pandemic, many of the neighboring states routinely saw their participation rate stay in the mid to upper 60's and even lower 70's.

Area Development Magazine Top States for Doing Business in 2020:

1. GEORGIA
2. TENNESSEE
3. SOUTH CAROLINA
4. TEXAS
5. NORTH CAROLINA
6. ALABAMA
7. INDIANA
8. VIRGINIA
9. OHIO
10. FLORIDA
11. MISSISSIPPI
12. LOUISIANA
13. UTAH
14. ARIZONA
15. KENTUCKY

2020 Top States Commentary from SSG:

“The survey results yield few surprises for us at Site Selection Group, and we view the top five states as largely interchangeable. As expected, the Southeastern States ranked very highly — most of them finishing in the top 12.

Prior to the pandemic, labor markets were extremely tight across the nation, so states such as Ohio, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Texas — with a diverse set of large and mid-size metro areas — scored well. For some time, we have seen projects skewing to the periphery of these larger markets to mid-size communities.

States with responsive workforce training programs also tend to distinguish themselves from the competition. Georgia, Tennessee, and South Carolina (the top three states in the survey) have workforce training programs that are particularly noteworthy. SSG also gives high marks to the state of Louisiana in this regard.”

BUSINESS FACILITIES’ ANNUAL RANKINGS:

Ranking	Workforce Development/Talent Attraction			
	2017	2018	2019	2020
1	Louisiana	Louisiana	Louisiana	Louisiana
2	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
3	Georgia	Georgia	Tennessee	Virginia
4	Tennessee	Tennessee	Georgia	Georgia
5	New Mexico	New Mexico	Virginia	Tennessee
6	Florida	Florida	Florida	Texas
7	Virginia	Virginia	New Mexico	Florida
8	North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina
9	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	New Mexico
10	Texas	Texas	Texas	Colorado