GREATER LEX

Kentucky's Bluegrass Region

From the farm to the Factory.

FOOD & BEVERAGE PROCESSING HIGHLIGHTS

The Greater Lexington Region is a **Top Metro** in the nation for food manufacturing.*

The University of Kentucky has the **No. 1 rated** Agriculture Education program in the country.

Kentucky ranks **seventh in the nation** for number of farms, which account for more than half the total acres in the state.

*Global Location Strategies, 2025

In Good Company

More than 30 global and national food & beverage companies call Greater Lexington home.

Wilde Brands is an innovative producer of high-protein, keto-diet-friendly snack chips. The company owns and operates a 50,000 sq. ft. facility in Winchester—the only USDA chip manufacturing facility in the world.

Jif Peanut Butter, owned by J.M. Smucker Co., started in Lexington in 1964. The factory near downtown is the largest peanut butter producing facility in the world.

Bespoken Spirits creates craft spirits using an advanced accelerated maturation process to age whiskey and other spirits. Relocated from San Francisco, they recognized the economic benefits of the region's distilling ecosystem.

For a full list of Food & Beverage Processing companies in the Greater Lexington Region, scan the QR code.

From research and development to high-capacity production, the Greater Lexington region is a hub for Food & Beverage Processing, featuring:

Programs at Eastern Kentucky University that provide students with hands-on experience in livestock management and crops

A range of aquaculture research opportunities at Kentucky State University

Lexington ranked one of top 25 most educated cities in the U.S*

*WalletHub, 2026

From logistics to the cost of doing business, the state of Kentucky features:

Global shipping hubs for three logistic giants, making the state No. 2 in the nation for air cargo weight

A top ten ranking from CNBC for the lowest cost of doing business in the U.S.

Labor costs that are 18% below the U.S. average

Industrial electricity prices that are the lowest east of the Mississippi, and some of the lowest in the country

SUCCESS STORY

At Jif, we are grateful for our longstanding partnership with Lexington and look forward to continued innovation and excellence in the years to come. As the Plant Manager of the J.M. Smucker Company and our Jif manufacturing facility in Lexington, KY, I can attest to the business' success in this city since the 1950s. Lexington's rich agricultural heritage, skilled workforce, and business-friendly environment have been pivotal to our success. The community's unwavering support, coupled with the city's strategic location and robust infrastructure, have enabled us to grow and thrive over the years.

Sanjay Chitnis
Plant Manager
J.M. Smucker Co.

HERE'S OUR PROOF

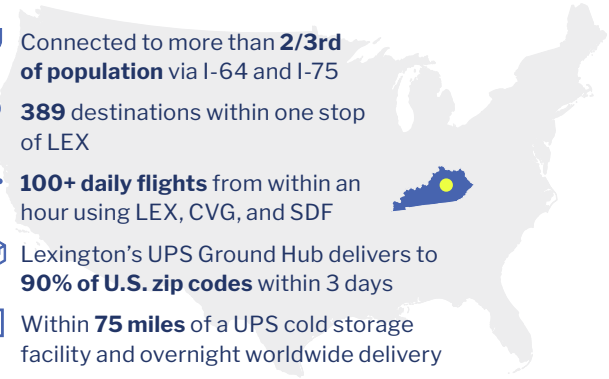
Kentucky produces >95% of the world's supply of bourbon.
—Kentucky Distillers' Association

Learn more at **locateinlex.com**

GREATER LEX

From the Farm to the Factory.

Logistics



- Connected to more than **2/3rd of population** via I-64 and I-75
- **389** destinations within one stop of LEX
- **100+ daily flights** from within an hour using LEX, CVG, and SDF
- Lexington's UPS Ground Hub delivers to **90% of U.S. zip codes** within 3 days
- Within **75 miles** of a UPS cold storage facility and overnight worldwide delivery

Scan the QR Code to view available sites and buildings at the **Greater Lex Property Database**.

UK James B. Beam Institute for Kentucky Spirits brings together more than 60 researchers from across the University of Kentucky campus, and the country, to work on R&D related to distillation, wine and brewing.

Employment and Average Annual Wage

FOOD MANUFACTURING

2,078 Employment

$59,136 Average Annual Wage

BEVERAGE MANUFACTURING

2,642 Employment

$72,801 Average Annual Wage

Source: JobsEQ, Data as of 2026Q2

Did you know?

Throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky there are more than 350 food and beverage facilities and 60 food and beverage distributors supporting 50,000 employees.

Source: Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development

Cost of Living

MSA	COLI	Average Annual Salary	Purchasing Power
Lexington	93.9	$65,710	$69,991
Raleigh-Durham	93.7	$78,032	$83,320
Philadelphia	110.1	$81,211	$73,753
Chicago	113.3	$83,689	$73,852
Seattle	128.2	$118,030	$92,063
Boston	142.0	$109,168	$76,899
NYC	148.2	$106,901	$72,110
Washington, D.C.	134.9	$100,656	$74,638
Los Angeles	155.8	$85,285	$54,757
San Francisco	144.8	$144,698	$99,927

Source: JobsEQ 2026Q2

Major Occupations

SUPPORTING FOOD & BEVERAGE

Occupation	Mean Annual Wages	Employment
Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders	$47,000	499
Food Batchmakers	$56,100	309
Separating, Filtering, Clarifying, Precipitating, and Still Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	$56,100	263
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	$44,600	171
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	$75,000	147
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	$68,700	134
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	$69,200	131
	Total:	**1,654**

EDUCATED WORKFORCE

More than 66,000 students enrolled across 10 colleges & universities.

—U.S. Census

Learn more at **locateinlex.com**



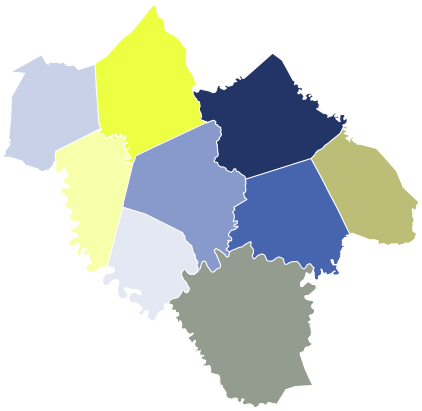
GREATER LEX

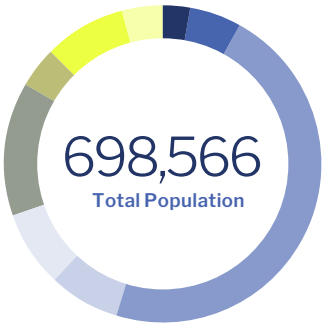
Kentucky's Bluegrass Region

Greater Lexington Snapshot

GREATER LEXINGTON REGION POPULATION

County	
Bourbon	20,240
Clark	37,192
Fayette	323,725
Franklin	51,842
Jessamine	54,588
Madison	95,769
Montgomery	28,395
Scott	59,536
Woodford	27,279
Region	**698,566**





EDUCATED WORKFORCE

36.9 Median Age

84.2% Prime Age Labor Force

40.8% Education (Bachelors +)

EMPLOYMENT NUMBERS

398,566 Total Employment

$63,693 Average Annual Wage

$69,486 Median Household Income

HOUSING MARKET

$264,157 Median House Value

INDUSTRY SECTORS

15.4% Health Care & Social Assistance

10.7% Manufacturing

10.1% Educational Services

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

$56 billion Total Gross Domestic Product

$8.4B Manufacturing

$6.7B Health Care & Social Assistance

$7.5B Real Estate

Source: JobsEQ 2026Q2, American Community Survey 2024

commerce lexington

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