

BLUEGRASS Rankings



#**2** **MOST EDUCATED WORKFORCE**
This ranking is based on the percentages of Lexington's workforce that are high school graduates or that have attained a bachelor's or more advanced degree. We are thrilled with our jump to #2 from our #11 ranking in 2007.

Business Facilities, 2008

#**5** **BEST PLACE FOR BUSINESS AND CAREERS**
Lexington greatly improved on its #21 ranking in 2007. Our #5 ranking takes into consideration solid job growth, the education of our labor force, and low business costs.

Forbes, 2008

#**6** **BEST MID-SIZE PLACE TO START A SMALL BUSINESS**
The top cities in this list have excelled in growing their economies, having a pool of affordable workers, offering stable housing markets, and keeping crime rates low, among other characteristics.

CNNMoney, 2009

#**7** **BEST CITY IN TERMS OF BUSINESS COSTS**
Competitive Alternatives is KPMG's comprehensive guide for comparing business costs. Among US cities, Lexington is the seventh most economical city to do business in 2008.

KPMG Competitive Alternatives, 2008

#**13** **BEST CITY FOR RIDING OUT A RECESSION**
Lexington's strengths in times of recession include its diversified economy and a highly educated workforce. Lexington has a successful mix of agriculture, government, health care, and education.

BusinessWeek, 2008

A 5-Star Business Opportunity and Quality of Life Metro

Expansion Management Magazine, 2007

Lexington ranks in the top 20% for both the Business Opportunity and Quality of Life rankings released annually by *Expansion Management* magazine.

A Top 5 Best Buy for Recent College Grads and Young Professionals

Who's Your City by Richard Florida

Choosing a spouse and choosing a career are important life decisions - but perhaps even more predictive of our all-around personal happiness is our choice of living location, argues Florida. As globalization makes the world effectively smaller, economic growth concentrates in certain mega-regions of large superstar cities, leaving other regions in the proverbial dust. The areas where we live are also affected by our increasingly mobile culture, housing priorities that change as we age and the global economy.

GOOD FOR BUSINESS

2 **BEST CITY FOR RELOCATING FAMILIES**
Population growth, availability of top-rated colleges and universities, and a new green-living index, along with various other factors, allowed Lexington to be rated the #2 small metro for relocating a family.

Worldwide ERC & Primacy Relocation, 2008

6 **BEST PLACE TO RAISE A FAMILY**
Cities were ranked using a statistical analysis of more than 30 factors that parents deem vitally important, including crime and safety, education, economics, housing, cultural attractions, and health. The top cities were the ones that best complemented family life.

Children's Health, 2008

8 **BEST CITY FOR QUALITY OF LIFE**
The women's half of this ranking comes in a bit better than the men. Lexington's grades were researched using current data from sources such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Census Bureau, the FBI, the U.S. Department of Labor, Nielsen-Claritas, and Simmons-Experian.

Women's Health, 2009

10 **BEST CITY FOR QUALITY OF LIFE**
The men have some catching up to do next year with the women, but we are happy with the #10 ranking all the same. The men's grades were also from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Census Bureau, the FBI, the U.S. Department of Labor, Nielsen-Claritas, and Simmons-Experian.

Men's Health, 2009

Top Ten Best Places To Live *Relocate America, 2009*

Nominations, along with key data regarding education, employment, economy, crime, parks, recreation, and housing are reviewed, rated, and judged by an editorial team to produce the annual Best Places to Live rankings.

48 **BEST CITY TO LIVE IN WORLDWIDE**
As recently as 2006, Lexington was rated as one of the top 50 cities to live in worldwide. The rating was based on an evaluation of 39 criteria, including political, social, economic, and environmental factors, personal safety and health, education, transport, and other public services.

Mercer Consulting, 2006

Best Places To Live The Simple Life *AARP Magazine, 2009*

"...this is one of those rare southern towns that offers four distinct seasons, and the relaxed graciousness of the Old South...Lexington also boasts rich African American roots, an impressive history, and distilleries that produce some of the world's best bourbon."

100 Best Communities For Young People *America's Promise Alliance, 2008*

"Lexington offers a host of programs and collaborations established to assure that its youth have an adult support system, are physically and mentally healthy, and have positive experiences during non-school hour programming."

10 PERCENT OF POPULATION
WITH AN ADVANCED
DEGREE
Among cities of 250,000 people or more, Lexington holds the #10 position with 16.7% of its population over age 25 attaining a masters, professional, or doctorate degree.

US Census Bureau, 2008 ACS

13 PERCENT OF POPULATION
WITH A BACHELOR'S
DEGREE
Among cities of 250,000 people or more, Lexington holds the #13 position with 39.1% of its population over age 25 attaining a bachelor's degree or higher.

US Census Bureau, 2008 ACS

5 COLLEGE SPORTS TOWN
College sports in Lexington are certainly first-rate, but it is the low crime, solid housing market, and especially the quality of its public schools that truly makes it one of the best college sports towns in America.

Forbes, 2009

13 TOP HOTSPOT FOR YOUNG,
TALENTED WORKERS
Rebecca Ryan and Next Generation Consulting named Lexington as a top hotspot among their "Midsize Magnets" in the 2009 NextCities Report.

NextCities, 2009

10 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
Within 40 miles of Lexington, ten colleges and universities call the Bluegrass home. Three public universities, including the state's flagship, the University of Kentucky, join the region's largest community and technical college and six liberal arts colleges to maintain Lexington's reputation in early America as the "Athens of the West."

66,000

STUDENTS ENROLLED WITHIN 40 MILES OF
LEXINGTON

14,000

ANNUAL GRADUATES IN THE BLUEGRASS

Blue Ribbon Schools
Expansion Management, 2007

Fayette County Public Schools received this distinction for the second year in a row as one of the top third of schools nationwide.

9 **BEST AFFORDABLE PLACE TO RETIRE**
Lexington was noted as having “low property taxes and cost of living” as well as “dozens of major companies, the University of Kentucky, and horse farms. It enjoys a diverse economy with a mix of agriculture, government, health care, and education.”

Women’s Health, 2009

10 **TOP METRO**
Based on the number of new and expanding projects in 2007, Lexington tied for 10th among mid-size metros. Site Selection magazine is a magazine of corporate real estate strategy and area economic development.

Site Selection, 2007

12 **TOP GREEN CITY**
The Green Guide surveyed mayor’s offices in 251 metropolitan areas with populations over 100,000 people. They ranked the cities based on such criteria as: air quality, environmental policy, green space, public health, and recycling.

National Geographic Green Guide, 2006

14 **CITY FOR SALARY VALUE**
The experts at Salary.com uncovered the top US cities for building personal net worth, taking into account local salaries, cost of living, and unemployment relative to the national average.

Salary.com, 2008

25 **GREENEST CITY**
Lexington placed 25th in Popular Science’s 50 Greenest Cities for 2008. The rankings were based off of four categories: electricity, transportation, green living, and recycling/green perspective.

Popular Science, 2008

Best Metros to Test New Products

Places Rated, 2008

Lexington is, “one of the fifteen best metros to test new products, according to market researcher Acxiom, based on how closely residents resemble consumers nationwide.”

A Place of A Lifetime

50 Places of a Lifetime, America; National Geographic Traveler, 2001

“Bordered by sharp hills and steep, dark ravines and giving way to lowlands, floodplains, and corn fields to the west, the Bluegrass is Kentucky’s beating heart. Its geographical and spiritual center is Lexington, home of the University of Kentucky, a city encircled by burley, bourbon, and thoroughbreds, but grown nearly independent of them.”

For a full list of all the great things people have said about Lexington and the Bluegrass, please visit us at <http://bgrankings.commercelexington.com>. To find out how to make the Bluegrass your new home, please contact us at (859) 225-5005 or ggreathouse@commercelexington.com.