

## State Releases County Unemployment Data for January 2019

FRANKFORT, Ky. (March 14, 2019) - Unemployment rates fell in 37 Kentucky counties between January 2018 and January 2019, rose in 72, and stayed the same in 11 counties, according to the Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS), an agency of the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet.

Woodford County recorded the lowest jobless rate in the Commonwealth at 3.1 percent. It was followed by Fayette County, 3.3 percent; Oldham and Shelby counties, 3.4 percent each; Scott County, 3.5 percent; Boone and Spencer counties, 3.6 percent each; Anderson County, 3.7 percent; Campbell, Franklin, Henderson, Jessamine, Kenton and Madison counties, 3.8 percent each.

Magoffin County recorded the state's highest unemployment rate at 14.2 percent. It was followed by Lewis County, 10.1 percent; Carter County, 10 percent; Elliott County, 9.8 percent; Menifee County, 8.9 percent; Fulton County, 8.8 percent; Wolfe County, 8.6 percent; Lawrence County, 8 percent; Breathitt County, 7.8 percent; Bath and Livingston counties, 7.7 percent each.

Kentucky's county unemployment rates and employment levels are not seasonally adjusted because of small sample sizes. Employment statistics undergo sharp fluctuations due to seasonal events such as weather changes, harvests, holidays and school openings and closings. Seasonal adjustments eliminate these influences and make it easier to observe statistical trends. The comparable, unadjusted unemployment rate for the state was 4.5 percent for January 2019, and 4.4 percent for the nation.

Kentucky's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was released last week and can be viewed at <https://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=EducationCabinet&prId=298>

## Kentucky Breaks Export Record in 2018

State sees fourth consecutive year of banner growth

FRANKFORT, Ky. (March 14, 2019) - Gov. Matt Bevin announced today Kentucky exports reached an all-time high for a fourth consecutive year with \$31.76 billion in goods and services shipped abroad from the commonwealth in 2018, a 2.9-percent increase from the previous year.

"Once again, Kentucky's record-setting exports highlight the momentous economic progress we have achieved in recent years," Gov. Bevin said. "Our rapidly expanding trade is the result of steps we have taken to create a robust business climate and to market Kentucky excellence to a global audience. The quality of Kentucky-made products is unmatched, and more and more people around the world discover this fact every year. We have cultivated some outstanding international relationships over the past three years, and we will continue these efforts as we build upon our commonwealth's strong and dynamic reputation."

Consistent with the past several years, aerospace products and parts took top-category honors in 2018, according to data recently released by the U.S. Census Foreign Trade Bureau and WISERTrade. The industry shipped nearly \$12.5 billion in products to other countries last year, a 7.1-percent increase over 2017. Aerospace-related exports skyrocketed more than 60 percent since 2014, when the industry sent about \$7.8 billion in products and parts across borders.

Motor vehicles (more than \$3.1 billion in exports), pharmaceuticals and medicines (nearly \$2.3 billion), motor vehicle parts (about \$1.5 billion) and resin, synthetic rubber and artificial and synthetic fibers and filament (more than \$1 billion) rounded out the top five categories. Notably, pharmaceuticals leapt 22.4 percent over the previous year. The industry nearly doubled its export totals since 2014, when Kentucky shipped out more than \$1.2 billion of pharmaceuticals and medicines.

Canada retained its spot as Kentucky's top export destination, importing more than \$7.7 billion in goods and services. France (more than \$3.3 billion) jumped to second on the list, with Kentucky increasing exports to the country by nearly 13 percent as compared to 2017.

The United Kingdom (nearly \$3 billion), Brazil (nearly \$2.5 billion) and Mexico (about \$2.3 billion) make up the rest of Kentucky's top five 2018 export destinations. China, after making a drastic leap in 2017 to become Kentucky's No. 4 trade partner - its first year ever as a top-five export destination for the state - imported the sixth most Kentucky products by dollar value (nearly \$2.2 billion) in 2018.

Kentucky's exports again held up well nationally, placing 17th among all states and Washington D.C., despite having just the 26th largest population in the US.

Since taking office in 2015, Gov. Bevin and the Cabinet for Economic Development have strongly emphasized the importance of strengthening Kentucky's international ties. Since February 2018 alone, Kentucky delegations went on trade missions and business trips to Germany, Austria, Hungary, Japan, South Korea, China, the United Kingdom and, most recently, a US delegation trade mission to India led by Gov. Bevin.

"One of our primary objectives has been to ensure no other state outhustles Kentucky. That approach has paid dividends, as we have seen yearly growth in international trade and increased interest from foreign countries wanting to invest in Kentucky," said Vivek Sarin, executive officer & co-CEO of the Cabinet. "We fully intend to move forward with this strategy to expand Kentucky's reach even further, build new business relationships abroad and create new opportunities for Kentuckians."

Kentucky now has more than 500 internationally owned facilities, which represent 34 countries and employ nearly 112,000 people in total. Terry Gill, secretary of the Cabinet, said Kentucky has made great strides but will not stop with these accomplishments.

"We have invested a great amount of time and effort on international growth, and these record exports and increased foreign direct investment demonstrate that those efforts, along with the state's outstanding logistics capabilities, have resulted in great progress," Gill said. "While we are proud of these strides Kentucky has made, we have only just begun to realize the potential that is out there. We will continue to show the world Kentucky is a premier location for businesses while promoting the commonwealth's excellent goods and services."

Kentucky businesses can learn more about export opportunities and make connections with export markets through the Kentucky Export Initiative. KEI brings together a coalition of business organizations, trade experts and government entities, including the Cabinet for Economic Development, with a focus on increasing Kentucky exports to create new jobs and diversified markets for the state's products. Learn more about KEI at [www.KYExports.com](http://www.KYExports.com).

## Derby Gala Refashioned as Bourbon, Boots & BBQ



Berea, Ky., 7 March 2019—The Gala on Derby Eve is still a party, but it's now a party by another name.

Hospice Care Plus has announced that the Gala on Derby Eve is being refashioned for 2019 as the Bourbon, Boots and BBQ Derby Benefit.

"We're having a lot of fun organizing this change," said Chasity Coleman, director of development at Hospice Care Plus. "Part of the beauty of this event is that it has changed many times over the years to stay fresh and exciting."

Coleman says the most significant part of the name change is that it signals a more relaxed event in terms of attire, though the perks and party elements are as top-notch as ever.

"You can come in a dress and Derby hat or in country-western attire," said Coleman. "Either way, you still get to enjoy a one-of-a-kind party with all the amenities it has always featured."

In early February, Hospice announced that this year's party will feature Walker Montgomery, country music sensation and son of John Michael Montgomery. Montgomery will perform a 90-minute concert during the event and remain as a guest throughout the evening.

"Walker is there to help us celebrate the new name and new feel of the party," said Coleman. "What better way to transition to a country-western themed Derby party than to invite one of country music's rising stars?"

The 2019 Bourbon, Boots and BBQ will be hosted at the Madison County Fairgrounds Richardson Hall building.

"We chose that location because of excellent parking, and the Hall has a great floor for dancing and setup," said Coleman.

Reservations for the Bourbon, Boots and BBQ Derby Benefit are \$100 per person and are available at [hospicecareplus.org](http://hospicecareplus.org) or by calling 859-986-1500. Reservations include the Walker Montgomery concert, dancing, dinner, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, open bar, and access to live and silent auctions. For a modest, additional fee, guests can purchase tickets for the bourbon-tasting area. Seating is limited, so early reservations are encouraged.

Now in its sixteenth year, all proceeds from the event go to support Hospice Care Plus care, programs, and services. For more information, contact Hospice at 859-986-1500 or [hospice@hospicecp.org](mailto:hospice@hospicecp.org).



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