

CHAPTER THREE

INTRODUCTION

An analysis of the structure and vitality of a community's economy is fundamental to develop a strategic plan for economic development and for future land use planning. Studies of the structure of the existing local economy identify the important economic activities within the community. The extent of economic activity and the population supported by such activity influences future economic development. The health and growth of the local economy is a key determinant of how rapidly land will be converted to various land uses and can be gauged by its stability and balance. Stability is the ability to withstand fluctuations in the regional and national economies. Balance is the degree to which diversification allows the local economy to withstand fluctuations in a particular sector of the economy.

This chapter of the comprehensive plan focuses upon Laurel County and the City of London, but also contains information on the Laurel County Labor Market for comparative purposes. The Laurel County Labor Market includes Clay, Jackson, Knox, Madison, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, and Whitely counties.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

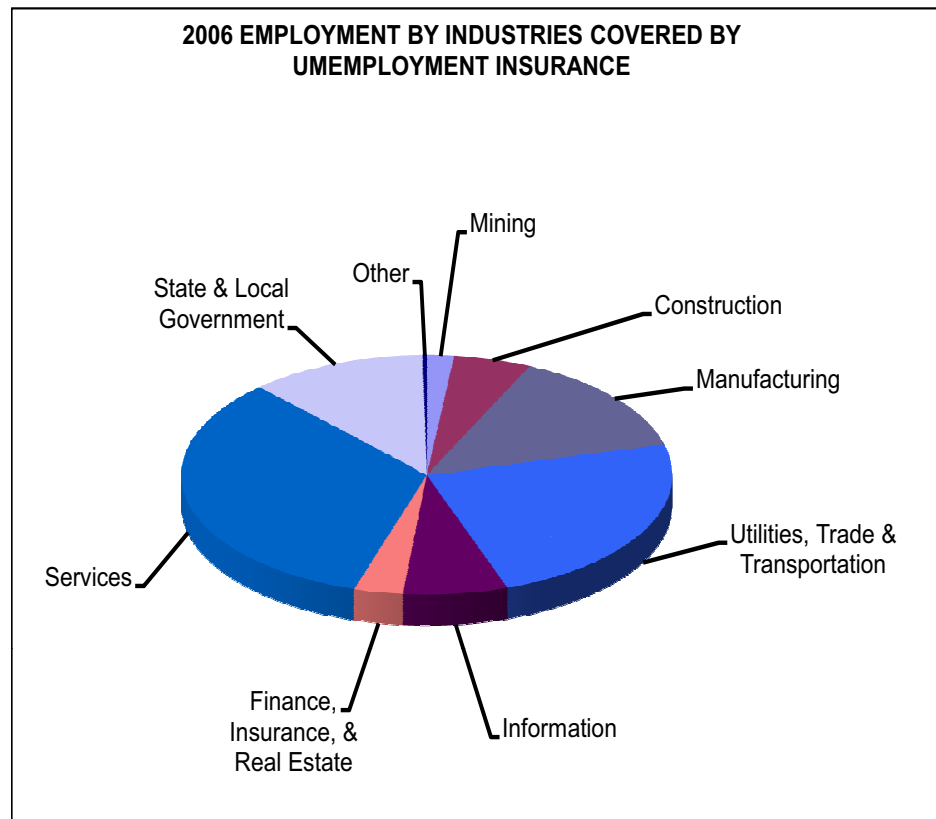
Employment information at the county level is available for industries covered by unemployment insurance. This generally includes all workers except self-employed individuals, unpaid family members, some student workers, agricultural workers, domestic workers, rail workers, employees of certain religious organizations, and certain government employees. A summary of employment in industries covered by unemployment insurance for 2001 and 2006 is shown in Figure 3-1.

Laurel County had a net increase of 466 jobs from 2001 to 2006 (2.1%). As of 2006, the services sector provided the largest number of jobs in Laurel County accounting for 33.3% of the jobs in the county covered by unemploy-

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**FIGURE 3-1
EMPLOYMENT TRENDS IN LAUREL COUNTY 2001-2006**



INDUSTRY			% CHANGE
	2001	2006	2001-2006
Mining	168	409	143.45%
Construction	1,386	1,177	-15.08%
Manufacturing	4,564	3,235	-29.12%
Utilities, Trade & Transportation	5,809	5,473	-5.78%
Information	1,299	1,578	21.48%
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	676	739	9.32%
Services	6,013	7,663	27.44%
State & Local Government	2,606	2,689	3.18%
Other	40	63	57.50%
TOTAL	22,561	23,027	2.07%

Source: 2002 & 2007 Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development

ment insurance. The sector with the largest percentage change from 2001 to 2006 was the mining sector which more than doubled the number of jobs. All though there are relatively few mining jobs in the county, the increase reflects a reverse in the trend of loss of mining jobs.

Figure 3-2 shows the average weekly wages in 2006 for industries in Laurel County covered by unemployment insurance. The mining sector paid the highest wages per week followed by the construction sector. The lowest wages were paid in the services and “other” sectors. The average weekly wages for all industries in Laurel County were only 81.5 % of the average for Kentucky overall.

MANUFACTURING

The Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development published a Kentucky Directory of Manufacturers that list manufacturers by county and community. This document, updated September 7, 2007, provides contact information along with a short summary of each business. Table 3-1 lists the manufacturing firms found throughout Laurel County. According to the directory, there are a total of 33 manufacturing firms in Laurel County with an employment of 3,735. These firms manufacture a variety of products indicating a diverse economic base. The majority of manufacturing firms are located in or near London. Aisin Automotive Casting LLC in London employs the largest number of workers, with 663 employees in 2006.

U. S. ECONOMIC CENSUS

The U.S. Department of Commerce conducts an Economic Census every five years to provide a detailed portrait of the U. S. economy from the national to the local level. The Economic Census covers nearly all of the U.S. economy in its basic collection of establishment statistics. Censuses of agriculture and governments are conducted at the same time.

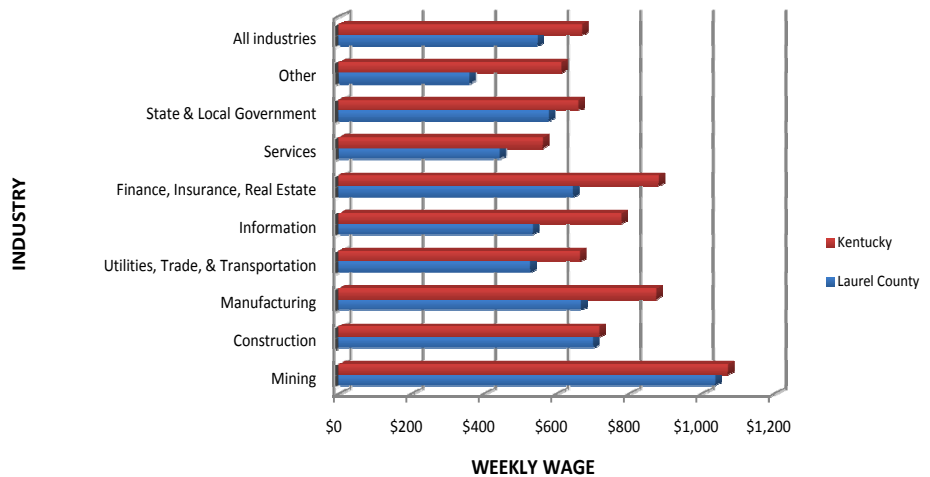
In 1997 the U.S. Census Bureau adopted the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) for reporting and delineating business

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FIGURE 3-2
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES IN LAUREL COUNTY 2006



INDUSTRY	Avg. Weekly Wage 2006	
	Laurel County	Kentucky
Mining	\$1,036	\$1,071
Construction	\$700	\$717
Manufacturing	\$665	\$874
Utilities, Trade, & Transportation	\$528	\$663
Information	\$533	\$778
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	\$645	\$879
Services	\$443	\$560
State & Local Government	\$577	\$660
Other	\$360	\$614
All industries	\$546	\$670

Source: 2007 Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development

**TABLE 3-1
LAUREL COUNTY MANUFACTURING FIRMS 2007**

LOCATION/ FIRM & ADDRESS	PRODUCT	DATE ESTABLISHED	EMPLOYMENT
East Bernstadt			
East Bernstadt Cooperage, Inc 1914 Hwy 3434 East Bernstadt, KY 40729	Wooden wine & bourbon bottles	1993	55
Elmo Greer & Sons 3138 N US Hwy 25 East Bernstadt, KY 40729	Asphalt, stone, & limestone	1983	45
Robinson Export, Inc 1755 Hwy 3434 East Bernstadt, KY 40729	White oak lining, wood chips, and barrels	N/A	17
Robinson Stave Co 1812 Hwy 3434 East Bernstadt, KY 40729	Barrel & barrel staves	1925	45
London			
ABC Automotive Systems Inc. 145 Corporate Drive London, KY 40741	Research, development, design, manufacturing and assembly of automotive parts	2005	109
Accent Marble, Inc. 200 Cookie St London, KY 40741	Cultured marble bathroom fixtures	1979	15
Aisin Automotive Casting LLC 4870 E Hwy 552 London, KY 40744	Automotive aluminum die cast components	1996	663
Begley Lumber Co. Inc 24 Seely Rd London, KY 40741	Sawing & planing mill: hardwood lumber	1982	235
Bluegrass Spring Co LLC 1826 River Rd London, KY 40744	Compression, extension, formed wire & flat springs	1995	9
Chaney Lumber Co Inc S US Hwy 25 London, KY 40741	Custom kiln dried limber & millwork	1951	40
Cumberland Forest Products 78 Levi Rd N London, KY 40744	Custom plywood & veneer kitchen cabinets, furniture & desks	1952	5
Dixie Truss Inc 244 S Laurel Rd London, KY 40744	Roof & floor trusses	1963	16

Source: 2007 Kentucky Directory of Manufacturers - Sept. 2007

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TABLE 3-1 Continued
LAUREL COUNTY MANUFACTURING FIRMS 2007

LOCATION/ FIRM & ADDRESS	PRODUCT	DATE ESTABLISHED	EMPLOYMENT
London			
Duke Publishing Inc 115 C V B Dr London, KY 40741	Web printing, computerized typesetting & saddle stitch	1998	13
Flav-O-Rich 221 Daniel Boone Pkwy London, KY 40741	Milk processing, ice cream mixes, milk & orange juice packaging	1976	275
Flowers Bakery of London 501 E 4th St London, KY 40741	Doughnuts & honey buns	1953	485
Highland Diversified Services 250 Westinghouse Dr London, KY 40741	Subcontract assembly, powder coated parts, welding, metal stamping	1994	232
Independent Concrete Pipe Co 510 Tobacco Rd London, KY 40741	Reinforced concrete pipe	1956	16
J Frank Publishing 490 Moren Rd London, KY 40741	Commercial offset & letterpress printing	1994	17
Jasper Iron & Metal Co Inc US Hwy 25 S London, KY 40743	Scrap metal & iron processing, aluminum smelting	1977	12
Laminated Timbers US Hwy 25 S London, KY 40744	Wooden roofing & decking; laminated & wooden structural members, arches & beams	1960	40
Laurel Cookie Factory 1188 S Laurel Rd London, KY 40744	Cookies, crackers & potato chips	1995	580
Leo Jones & Son Heating 2005 Jones Dr. London, KY 40741	Duct work & sheet metal fabricating	1950	30
London Church Furniture Inc US Hwy 80 W London, KY 40741	Upholstered & wood church furniture	1953	25

Source: 2007 Kentucky Directory of Manufacturers - Sept. 2007

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TABLE 3-1 Continued
LAUREL COUNTY MANUFACTURING FIRMS 2007

LOCATION/ FIRM & ADDRESS	PRODUCT	DATE ESTABLISHED	EMPLOYMENT
London			
London Rotary Forms, Inc. 600 S Laurel Rd London, KY 40743-0947	Computer, business & snap- out forms; computer typesetting	1982	58
Parsley's General Tire Inc 2006 N Main St London, KY 40741	Truck tire recapping	1949	50
Sara Lee Bakery Group 1331 N Main St London, KY 40741	Bread, buns & rolls & sales office	1948	200
Tri-County Ready Mix Inc 277 Ready Mix Rd London, KY 40741	Ready-mixed & precast concrete & concrete specialties	1950	15
Corbin (South Laurel Co.)			
Kentucky Cabinet Corp. 260 American Greeting Drive Corbin, KY 40701	Kitchen cabinets	2004	173
Metal Products Inc. 319 N Hills Rd. Corbin, KY 40701	Hollow metal doors & frames	1980	105
Prestige Marble Products Corp. 10233 S US Highway 25 Corbin, KY 40701	Cultured marble vanity tops & whirlpool tubs	1983	4
Salem Tool Inc. 6109 S US Highway 25 Corbin, KY 40701	Coal recovery & auger mining equipment	1988	17
Southeast Ky Rehab Industries 1205 W Cumberland Gap Pkwy Corbin, KY 40701	Rehabilitative services, military hats and caps	2004	80
Stidham Cabinet Inc. 471 Nursery Rd. Corbin, KY 40701	Custom cabinets, laminated & solid surface counter tops, laminated casework, factory cabinets	1975	54

Source: 2007 Kentucky Directory of Manufacturers - Sept. 2007

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types. As SIC codes were used prior to 1997, data from an earlier economic census cannot be compared to the 1997 or later economic census data. The NAICS was developed jointly by the U.S., Canada and Mexico in order to provide new comparability in statistics about business activity in North America. The latest available Economic Census was conducted in 2002 and published in 2005. Data for economic sectors with few establishments in Laurel County is not available at the county level as publication of the data could reveal the identity or activity of an individual or business. No data is available for the following sectors: Mining, Utilities, Construction, Transportation and Warehousing, Finance and Insurance, and Management of Companies and Enterprises.

Table 3-2 shows data for all sectors of the Laurel County economy for which the 1997 and 2002 U.S. Census information is available at the county level. The number of establishments for each sector reported has increased except in the areas of wholesale trade and real estate & rental & leasing. The only sector that experienced a reduction in the number of paid employees was the accommodation & food services sector where employment declined from 1,698 to 1,552.

The most notable improvements from 1997 to 2002 were in the manufacturing, retail trade and health care & social assistance sectors of Laurel County's economy. While many areas of Kentucky have experienced a loss of manufacturing jobs in recent years, Laurel County had an increase of six manufacturing establishments from 1997 to 2002 and a 75 percent gain in employment. The health care industry experienced the most significant increase in employment with a 514% increase in paid employees for the period. The number of health care establishments increased 85%. The retail trade sector had the greatest increase in the number of establishment from 84 to 247, a 194% increase with a corresponding increase of 514% in the number of paid employees.

**TABLE 3-2
SUMMARY OF U.S. ECONOMIC CENSUS
FOR LAUREL COUNTY 1997 & 2002**

	# of Establishments		Sales, Receipts, Etc. (\$1,000)		Annual Payroll (\$1,000)		Paid Employees	
	1997	2002	1997	2002	1997	2002	1997	2002
Manufacturing	44	50	319,125	657,575	57,434	86,480	1,849	3,236
Wholesale Trade	67	53	520,185	D	28,263	D	1,239	(1000-2499)
Retail Trade	84	247	499,830	711,993	6,271	60,412	525	3,223
Information	N	21	N	N	N	6,324	N	355
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	31	30	10,164	16,968	2,197	3,298	108	165
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	60	89	18,586	D	4,725	D	246	(250-499)
Administrative & Support & Waste Management & Remediation	34	42	26,024	48,569	11,652	20,299	986	1,221
Educational Services (Taxable & Exempt listed together)		3		D		D		(1-19)
Health Care & Social Assistance (Taxable & Exempt listed together)	46	85	22,102	130,792	8,521	57,667	292	1,810
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (Taxable & Exempt listed together)	8	14	2,999	D	751	D	96	(100-249)
Accommodation & Food Services	64	65	50,876	50,389	14,386	13,954	1,698	1,552
Other Services (except public administration)	53	60	19,120	28,531	4,279	7,519	273	396

Sources: 1997 and 2002 U.S. Economic Census

D - Withheld to avoid disclosing data of individual companies; data are included in higher level totals

N - Not available

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AGRICULTURE

Table 3-3 presents agricultural statistics for Laurel County. According to the U.S. Census of Agriculture, there were a total of 1,137 Laurel County farms in 2002, a decrease of 9.2% since 1992. Over this same ten year period, the number of farm acres and the number of acres of harvested cropland actually increased. These numbers can be attributed to the fact that many farm operations are consolidating as farmers sell out to other farmers or developers. Therefore, active agricultural operations are declining in number but harvesting more crops.

The 2002 Census of Agriculture reports that the average size of a farm in Laurel County is 95 acres with the median size 56 acres. In 2002, the average estimated value of all land and building per farm was \$239,290 with an estimated market value of \$2,305 per acre. The estimated average value of all machinery and equipment was \$27,052 per farm. The total market value of agricultural products sold in 2002 was \$15,716,000 with a \$13,822 average per farm. Tables 3-4 shows Laurel County farms by farm size. Table 3-5 shows the number of farms by the value of sales.

According to the 2005-2006 edition of the Kentucky Agricultural Statistics and Annual Report, Laurel County ranked 67th in the state out of 120 counties for production of burley tobacco in 2005. There were only 370 acres of harvested burley tobacco. This compares to 1,230 harvested acres in 2000. This reflects a statewide reduction in burley tobacco production as a result of the burley quota buyout in the fall of 2004. The total harvested acreage of burly tobacco for Kentucky in 2005 was 70,000 acres, the smallest acreage on record since record keeping started in 1919. Overall Laurel County ranked 70th out of 120 counties for crop and livestock cash receipts which totaled \$12,996,000.

According to estimates of the Kentucky Workforce Development Cabinet, Department for Employment Services, there were approximately 329 persons employed in Laurel County's agricultural industry in 2004 and 296 in 2006. This represents approximately one percent of the total civilian workforce in the county.

TABLE 3-3
LAUREL COUNTY AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION

YEAR	# OF FARMS	# OF FARM ACRES	HARVESTED CROPLAND
1987	1305	102078	20829
1992	1252	99527	21637
1997	1083	95610	21976
2002	1,137	107,582	30,858

2005 CROPS	ACRES HARVESTED	YIELD	PRODUCTION	KY RANK
CORN FOR GRAIN (bu)	*	*	*	*
SOYBEANS (bu)	*	*	*	*
WHEAT FOR GRAIN (bu)	*	*	*	*
GRAIN SORGHUM (bu)	*	*	*	*
BURLEY TOBACCO (lbs)	370	1,900	703,000	67
DK FIRED TOBACCO (lbs)	*	*	*	*
DK AIRED TOBACCO (lbs)	*	*	*	*
ALFALFA HAY (tons)	1,200	3.7	4,440	57
ALL OTHER HAY (tons)	27,100	2.0	54,200	34
BARLEY FOR GRAIN (bu)	*	*	*	*

LIVESTOCK & MILK	NUMBER	KY RANK
JANURARY 1, 2006: ALL CATTLE & CALVES	21,700	43
JANURARY 1, 2006: BEEF COWS	11,300	41
2005 MILK PRODUCTION (000) lbs	3,550	45

2005 CASH RECEIPTS	AMOUNT	KY RANK
CROPS	5,171	70
LIVESTOCK	7,825	64
TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS	12,996	70

* None or no estimate

Source: 2005-2006 Kentucky Agricultural Statistics & Annual Report, 2002 Agricultural Census

TABLE 3-4
LAUREL COUNTY FARMS BY SIZE IN 2002

ACREAGE	NUMBER
1-9	85
10-49	469
50-179	408
180-499	156
500-999	14
1,000 +	5

TABLE 3-5
FARMS BY VALUE OF SALES IN 2002

VALUE	NUMBER
< \$2,500	466
\$2,500 - \$4,999	209
\$5,000 - \$9,999	172
\$10,000 - \$24,000	157
\$25,000 - \$49,999	68
\$50,000 - \$99,999	35
\$100,000 <	30

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TOURISM

The Travel Industry Association (TIA) analyzes the economic impact of the tourism and travel industry for states. The State of Kentucky is divided into nine tourism and travel regions. Laurel County is part of the 18 county Eastern Highlands South Region. According to TIA, the tourism and travel expenditures in Laurel County in 2005 were \$107,793,153. This is a 11.9% increase since 2003. The tourism and travel expenditures for the Eastern Highlands South Region were \$366,162,000 in 2005, a 12.1% increase since 2003. Although Laurel County had a slightly lower growth rate for the period, it should be noted that expenditures in Laurel County in 2005 were almost 30% of the expenditures for the 18 county region. This indicates that the tourism industry is an important part of the county's economy.

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

The civilian labor force is defined as the sum of both employed and unemployed persons 16 years of age and older, excluding armed forces personnel and persons in penal and mental institutions, sanitariums and homes for the aged, infirm, and needy. Persons "not in the labor force" include those not classified as employed or unemployed and include:

- retired persons,
- persons engaged in their own housework,
- persons not working while attending school,
- persons unable to work because of a long term illness
- persons discouraged from seeking work because of personal or job market factors, and
- persons who are voluntarily idle

Table 3-6 compares the civilian labor force of Laurel County with the labor market area which includes the adjoining Kentucky counties of Clay, Jackson, Knox, Madison, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, and Whitely. In June of 2007 Laurel County had a civilian labor force of 26,476 with an unemployment rate of 5.7%. This is slightly lower than the labor market area unemployment rate of 6.7%.

TABLE 3-6
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
LAUREL COUNTY LABOR MARKET
June 2007

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
LAUREL	26,476	24,955	1521	5.7%
Labor Market Area Totals	152,832	142,635	10197	6.7%

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

EDUCATION LEVELS

The educational level of an area's population must be considered when analyzing the ability of those in the local workforce to obtain and sustain meaningful and well-paying employment in the future. In today's economy the fastest growing professional occupations require at least a bachelor's degree and are concentrated heavily on professional specialty groups or technology oriented. The following table compares the educational level of the U.S., Kentucky, Laurel County, and the City of London.

At the time of the 2000 Census, 63.9 % of Laurel County's population 25 years and over were high school graduates or higher. This compares to 74.1% for Kentucky and 80.4% for the United States overall. In 2000, 10.6 % of Laurel County's population 25 years and older had a Bachelor's degree or higher. Again, these educational levels are lower than the State of Kentucky (17.1%) and the U. S. (24.4%).

TABLE 2-3
EDUCATION LEVEL

	High School Graduates %	Bachelor's Degree or Above %
London	67.8	15.2
Laurel County	63.9	10.6
Kentucky	74.1	17.1
USA	80.4	24.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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UNEMPLOYMENT

Figure 3-3 shows the annual unemployment rates for the U.S., Kentucky, the Laurel County Labor Market Area, and Laurel County over the past six years. Unemployment rates for Laurel County have typically been slightly higher than the U.S. and the State of Kentucky. However, the unemployment rate for Laurel County has remained lower than the Labor Market Area.

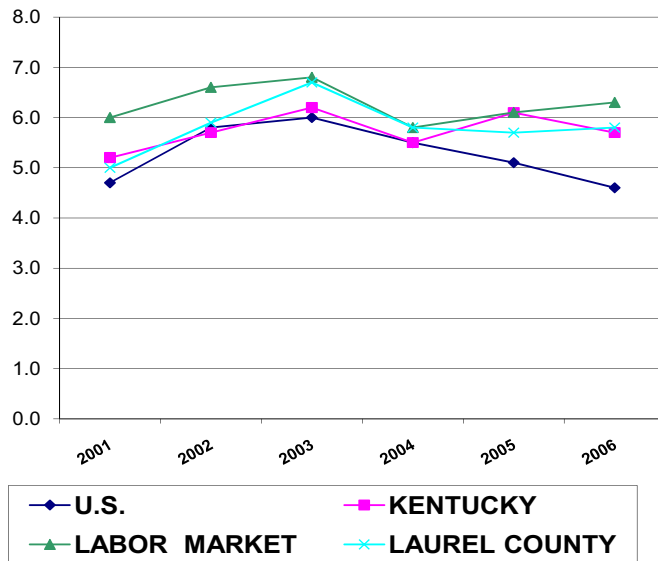
COMMUTING PATTERNS

Table 3-7 details the commuting patterns of Laurel County residents according to the 2000 U.S. Census. As of 2000 there were 21,180 workers who lived in Laurel County. Almost 77% also work in Laurel County with 23.1 % commuting out of the county to work. As shown in Table 3-8, the majority of Laurel County residents who commute travel to Whitley and Knox Counties to work, while 231 residents commute to other state. The Kentucky State Data Center ranked counties by the percentage of workers commuting to work outside of their resident county. Out of 120 Kentucky counties, Spencer County was ranked first with 77.9% of its residents commuting out of the county to work. Jefferson County was ranked 120th with only 7.7% of its residents commuting out the county to work. By comparison Laurel County ranked 100th with 23.1% of its residents commuting elsewhere.

In 2000, there were 5,701 workers who commuted to Laurel County to work. Table 3-9 shows the primary areas that Laurel County workers, not living in the county, commute from. Most workers come from adjacent counties in the Laurel County Labor Market area. Once again, Knox and Whitley County are at the top of the list, claiming half of the commuters. Only 83 workers come from other states. Of those commuting from other states, the majority of workers come from Tennessee.

As reported by the 2000 Census for Laurel County, the preferred method of transportation to work is by car, truck, or van with 81% of residents driving alone and 13% of residents carpooling. A total of 0.3% residents used public transportation, while roughly 2% indicated that they walked to work,

**FIGURE 3-3
ANNUAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES**



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Labor Statistics

YEAR	U.S.	KENTUCKY	LABOR MARKET	LAUREL COUNTY
2001	4.7	5.2	6.0	5
2002	5.8	5.7	6.6	5.9
2003	6	6.2	6.8	6.7
2004	5.5	5.5	5.8	5.8
2005	5.1	6.1	6.1	5.7
2006	4.6	5.7	6.3	5.8

**TABLE 3-7
LAUREL COUNTY COMMUTING PATTERNS**

	2000	Percent
Residents of Laurel County:		
Working and Residing in County	16,286	76.9
Commuting Out of County	4,894	23.1
Total Residents	21,180	100
Employees of Laurel County:		
Working and Residing in County	16,286	74.1
Commuting Into County	5,701	25.9
Total Employees	21,987	100

Source: 2000 US Census

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TABLE 3-8
PRIMARY AREAS THAT LAUREL COUNTY RESIDENTS COMMUTE TO:

KENTUCKY	TOTAL:	4,663	OTHER STATES	TOTAL:	231
Whitley County		1,877	Monongalia, WV		20
Knox County		1,025	Cook, IL		19
Clay County		423	Vigo, IN		15
Pulaski County		204	Claiborne, TN		13
Fayette County		192	Hampden, MA		12
Other		942	Avery, NC		12
			Other		140

TABLE 3-9
PRIMARY AREAS THAT LAUREL COUNTY WORKERS COMMUTE FROM:

KENTUCKY	TOTAL:	5,618	KENTUCKY	TOTAL:	83
Whitley County		1,603	Campbell, TN		17
Knox County		1,388	Orange, CA		12
Clay County		993	Scott, TN		11
Jackson County		410	Vernon Parish, LA		8
Pulaski County		263	Linn, OR		7
Other		961	Claiborne, TN		7
			Other		21

Source: KY State Data Center
County-to-County 2000 Census Commuting Patterns

1% used other means, and 2.5% worked at home. In 2000, the mean travel time to work was for county residents as 22.5 minutes.

Commuting statistics for the residents of the City of London are similar to that of Laurel County. In London the preferred method of transportation to work is by car, truck, or van with 80% of residents driving to work alone and 11% carpooling. Very few residents in the city reported using public transportation (0.5%), but 5% indicated that they walked to work. Nearly 1% claimed that they use other means to commute to work, and 2.5% worked at home. In 2000, the mean travel time to work for residents of London was 15.2 minutes.

MONETARY INCOME

There are two methods of determining per capita income. The first is on the basis of monetary income alone. This is the method used by the U.S. Census Bureau. Total monetary income includes wages and salaries, net farm and non-farm self-employment, interest dividends, net rental income, social security and all other regularly received income such as pensions, unemployment compensation and alimony. Receipts not counted include various "lump

sum” payments such as capital gains and inheritance. The total represents the amount of income received before deductions. Table 3-10 shows the per capita and median household incomes for Kentucky, Laurel County, and the City of London according to the U.S. Census Bureau based on monetary income.

The City of London has a higher per capita income and median household income than Laurel County as a whole. The state, county and city all saw increases in both per capita income and median household income between 1989 and 1999. However, the state has seen the greatest increase in both areas.

PERSONAL INCOME

The second method of calculating per capita income is more inclusive and is termed personal per capita income. Personal per capita income includes income received from all sources such as wages and salaries, other labor income (employer contributions to private pension funds, jury and witness fees, etc.) proprietor’s income, rental income, dividend and interest earnings by individuals and transfer payments not for services rendered (such as food stamps and welfare payments). Personal contributions for social security are deducted. Table 3-11 shows that the personal per capita income for Laurel County has increased at a slower rate than the state overall between 2000 and 2005.

POVERTY RATE

The poverty rate is considered to be the minimum level of monetary income adequate for families of different sizes in consideration of American consumption patterns. These levels are determined by comparing individual or family income with annual income thresholds. The income thresholds are adjusted annually. The poverty rate is the percentage of individuals or families with incomes below the poverty level. Table 3-12 shows the percent of persons, children, and seniors in poverty for the US, Kentucky, Laurel County, and the City of London for all persons, those aged 17 and under, and seniors aged 65 or older. Poverty rates decreased at all levels from 1989 to 1999.

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**TABLE 3-10
CENSUS INCOME DATA 1990-2000**

	PER CAPITA INCOME		
	1989	1999	% Change
London	\$11,463	\$15,046	31.3%
Laurel County	\$8,879	\$14,165	59.5%
Kentucky	\$11,153	\$18,093	62.2%

	MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME		
	1989	1999	% Change
London	\$18,955	\$27,283	43.9%
Laurel County	\$20,977	\$27,015	28.8%
Kentucky	\$22,534	\$33,672	49.4%

Source: 2000 US Census

**TABLE 3-11
PERSONAL PER CAPITA INCOME**

	PER CAPITA INCOME		
	2000	2005	% Change
Laurel County	\$19,925	\$22,013	10.5%
Kentucky	\$24,412	\$28,272	15.8%

Source: KY Cabinet for Economic Development 2007 Deskbook of Economic Statistics

This trend is also seen in the rate of impoverished children. The poverty rates for individuals 65 and older also decreased markedly during this period.

The U.S. Census Bureau issued 2004 poverty estimates for Kentucky and its counties for all persons. It was estimated that Laurel County had 11,434 people below poverty level which is 20.4 % of the population. Of these, 3,985 (28.9%) were under the age of 18. The rate for Kentucky overall was 16.3% and 22.2% for children. According to these estimates, it appears that poverty levels within the state and Laurel County are similar to 1999 levels.

LOCAL COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

A component to the overall economic condition of an area or region is the extent to which the community engages in economic development activi-

**TABLE 3-12
POVERTY RATES FOR PERSONS, CHILDREN & SENIORS**

	PERSONS IN POVERTY			
	1989		1999	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
London	1,313	24.1	1,073	20.7
Laurel County	10,630	24.8	11,028	21.3
Kentucky	681,827	19.0	621,096	15.8
USA	31,742,864	13.1	33,899,812	12.4

	RELATED CHILDREN IN POVERTY			
	1989		1999	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
London	469	36.5	366	31.9
Laurel County	3,519	29.6	3,763	28.8
Kentucky	229,530	24.5	197,794	20.4
USA	11,161,836	17.9	11,386,031	16.1

	SENIORS (65+) IN POVERTY			
	1989		1999	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
London	240	24.9	170	18.4
Laurel County	1,380	29.2	1,147	20.1
Kentucky	91,091	20.6	67,477	14.2
USA	3,780,585	12.8	3,287,774	9.9

Source: 1990 & 2000 US Census

ties in order to promote the area and maintain a diversified economy. The following organizations are dedicated to assisting Laurel County in local economic development activities.

LONDON-LAUREL COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The [London-Laurel County Industrial Authority](#) works towards recruiting new industries to London and Laurel County. While it is better if existing businesses expand to create new jobs, it is still important to attract new businesses and industries. This allows the economy to grow and support expanding populations. The Industrial Authority attempts to accommodate the needs of small industries and distributors and to support new industrial

[London - Laurel County](#)



developments. Currently there are three industrial sites and six industrial buildings available for new industries in Laurel County. A 40-acre site and a speculative building on a 20-acre site are available in the London-Laurel County Industrial Park located 3.3 miles west of London on KY 80. There are also industrial sites available near the London-Corbin Airport in the London Airport Business Park including 35.3 acres and an industrial building on 8.3 acres. There is an additional 14.1-acre industrial site north of the Airport. The remaining industrial buildings are existing buildings on scattered sites. The best industrial sites require large parcels of land that are not too steep or have other environmental restrictions. They are near transportation facilities including major highways, airports and sometimes rail. Utilities are available including public sewer service. The sites must also not have a negative impact on other land uses especially residential areas. As sites meeting all of these are requirements are difficult to locate, it is important to determine the best sites in the community for industrial use first when preparing future land use maps. These sites should be protected from other types of development in order to insure available land for industrial growth. In addition to the need for future industrial sites, the greatest local economic development need is for a skilled work force including engineers and those with technical training.

LONDON-LAUREL COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The [London-Laurel County Chamber of Commerce](#) is located at 409 South Main Street in downtown London. The mission of the organization is *“To promote an active participation of businesses & individuals for the improvement of the business environment and the development of a quality lifestyle in Laurel County.”*

The Chamber of Commerce currently has 15 Board Members that are elected by the members. All policies governing the activities and operation of the Chamber are set by the Board. Each member shares an equal vote and is encouraged to serve on committees. These committees are established to see that the goals and objectives of the Chamber are met. A full-time professional staff manages all Chamber operations.

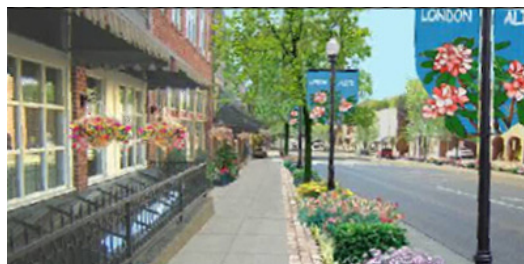
LONDON LAUREL COUNTY TOURIST COMMISSION

The [London Laurel County Tourist Commission](#) operates a tourist information center at I-75 exit 41. They are currently developing the Kentucky Hills Heritage Park on a 100-acre site in London near I-75 at the end of Falls Street. The park will include a historical genealogy center and museum. Two existing buildings will be renovated at the park. The park will have walking trails and facilities for special events. A new planned frontage road that will run along the east side of I-75 between the north and south London interchanges will allow easy access to the park for tourists.

LONDON DOWNTOWN, INC.

[London Downtown, Inc.](#) is a nonprofit association established to enhance downtown London's economic environment as a center of commerce while maintaining the character and integrity of the City's central business district as an attractive place to live, work, and visit. Their office is located at the Community Center at 501 South Main Street. London Downtown is a member of the Kentucky Main Street Program and the National Main Street Center and promotes the above goals by following the Four-Point Approach developed by the National Main Street Center. Activities are focused in the areas of economic development, design, promotion and organization with a committee for each area.

View of Downtown London streetscape.



London - Laurel County



Economic Development

The Promotion Committee aims to create a positive image of downtown London and maintain community pride in the Central Business district. The committee oversees promotional programs such as the annual 4th of July Parade, Christmas Parade and downtown business promotions. The Design Committee works to enhance the visual quality of downtown by addressing all the elements of its environment. This includes buildings, storefronts, signs, public improvements, landscaping, merchandise displays, and promotional materials. The Economic Development Committee works to strengthen downtown's existing assets and fulfill its broadest market potential by improving the competitiveness of downtown merchants, recruiting new businesses, and converting unused space into housing, offices, or cultural facilities. The Organization Committee is responsible for overseeing membership development efforts, membership policy and all organizational procedures. This committee also produces a quarterly newsletter.

London Downtown, Inc. has received grants and local funding for streetscape improvements within the designated Renaissance on Main area (Figure 5-1). These improvements include sidewalks, landscaping and lighting. They also assist building owners with façade improvements. They have developed design guidelines and a recommended color palate to assist building owners in planning improvements. Some of their future goals include improving wireless internet access downtown, increasing the boundaries of the Renaissance area and encouraging renovation of the upper floors of downtown commercial buildings.