



March 2021

KENTUCKY

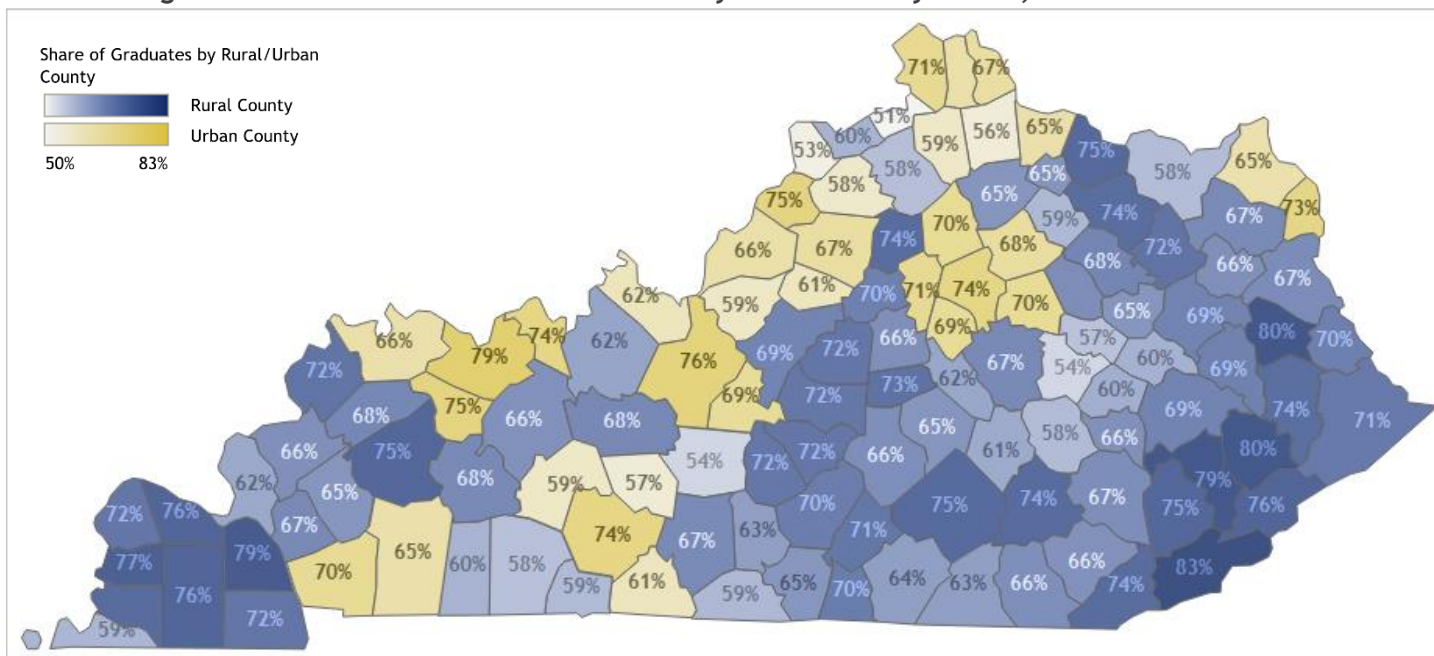
LABOR FORCE UPDATE

Migration of Rural and Urban High School Graduates in Kentucky

In this month's *Labor Force Update*, KYSTATS used data from the Kentucky Longitudinal Data System (KLDS)¹ to examine outcomes of high school graduates from 2009 to 2012 to determine 1) the share who enrolled in a postsecondary institution; 2) the share who obtained a bachelor's degree or higher within six years of high school completion; 3) the share who were employed in the state of Kentucky; and 4) the geographic distribution (rural versus urban) where these cohorts resided seven years after high school graduation. Comparisons are made between urban and rural counties.²

In total, there were 163,407 high school graduates in Kentucky between 2009 and 2012. Of those, 47 percent graduated from high schools in rural counties. The share of graduates who enrolled at an in-state postsecondary school was slightly higher for graduates from rural high schools (69 percent) than urban (68 percent) and ranged from a low of 51 percent in Gallatin County (an urban county) to a high of 83 percent in Harlan County (a rural county). Both public (two- and four-year) and private (four-year) postsecondary institutions are included in this analysis. Information on high school graduates attending a postsecondary proprietary school in Kentucky or a postsecondary school outside of Kentucky is not included in the KLDS for these cohorts.

Share of High School Graduates Enrolled in a Kentucky Postsecondary School, 2009 to 2012



Source: KYSTATS, KLDS

¹ The KLDS includes data from the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA), the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, among other state agencies.

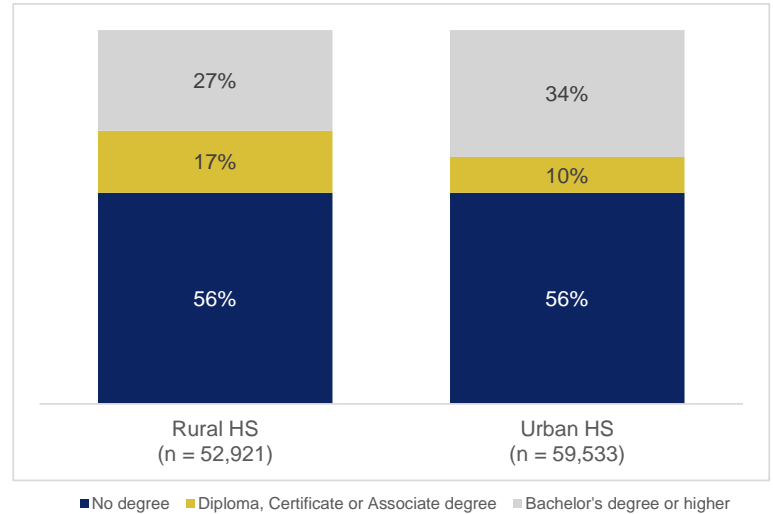
² Counties were designated as urban or rural using the 2013 Rural-Urban Continuum Codes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service.



Migration of Rural and Urban High School Graduates in Kentucky

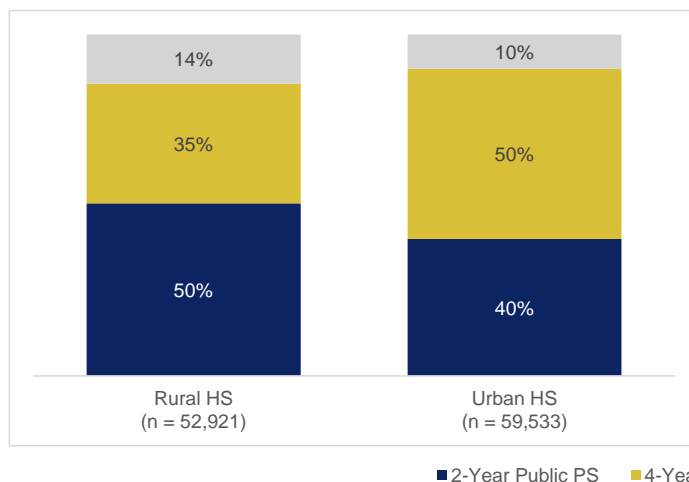
Of the 163,407 high school graduates, nearly 53,000 from rural high schools and nearly 60,000 from urban high schools enrolled in a postsecondary school in Kentucky. The adjacent chart shows that 44 percent of all high school graduates who enrolled in a postsecondary school earned a credential within six years of graduation. This includes a diploma, certificate, associate degree, bachelor's degree, and beyond. A higher share of graduates from rural high schools earned a diploma, certificate or associate degree (17 percent compared to 10 percent for urban high school graduates). More than one-quarter of rural high school graduates who enrolled in a postsecondary school earned at least a bachelor's degree (27 percent compared to 34 percent of urban high school graduates).

Postsecondary Outcomes for High School Graduates that Enrolled in a Postsecondary School in Kentucky

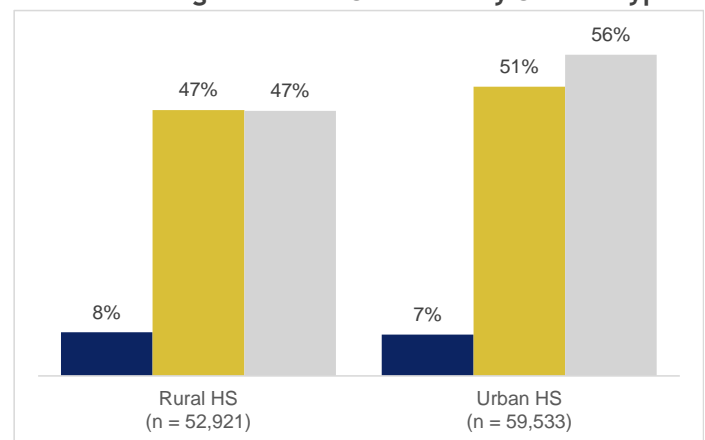


In part, this reflects the type of school in which the high school graduates enrolled. Half of rural high school graduates first enrolled in a two-year public school (i.e., a community college). Of those, 8 percent earned a bachelor's degree or higher within six years of their high school graduation. Among those who entered a four-year school, either public or private, the completion rates for a bachelor's degree were much higher, 47 percent for rural high school graduates and more than 51 percent for graduates of urban high schools.

High School Graduates who Enrolled in a Kentucky Postsecondary School by School Type



High School Graduates who Enrolled in a Kentucky Postsecondary School and Earned at Least a Bachelor's Degree within Six Years by School Type

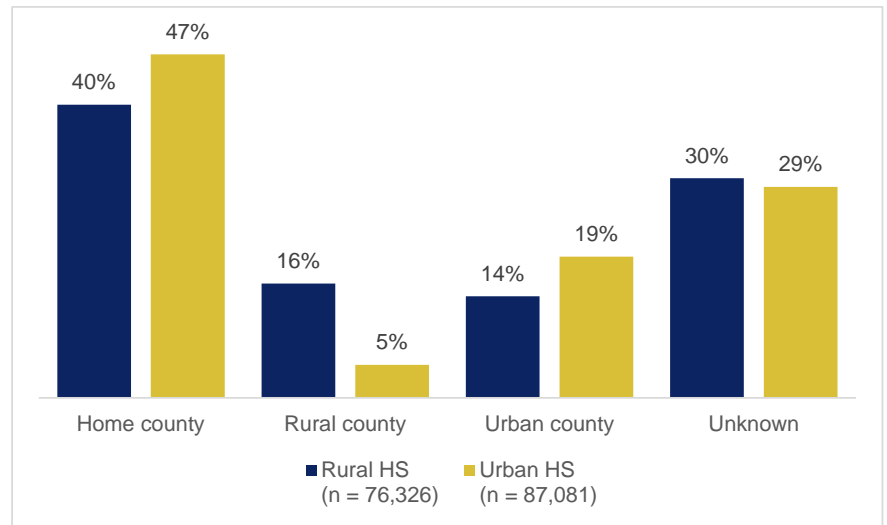




Migration of Rural and Urban High School Graduates in Kentucky

Where were high school graduates living seven years after their high school graduation? The KLDS only contains information on those who are living or working in Kentucky. Therefore, location and employment outcomes are not known for all graduates. Among those who graduated from a rural high school, 40 percent were living in their home county seven years after their graduation. This compares to 47 percent for their urban counterparts. Sixteen percent of rural high school graduates lived in another rural county and 14 percent lived in an urban county. Among urban high school graduates, 5 percent had moved to a rural county and 19 percent were living in another urban county seven years after high school graduation. There were 48,206 high school graduates, 30 percent of rural high school graduates and 29 percent of urban graduates, with an unknown location in the KLDS.

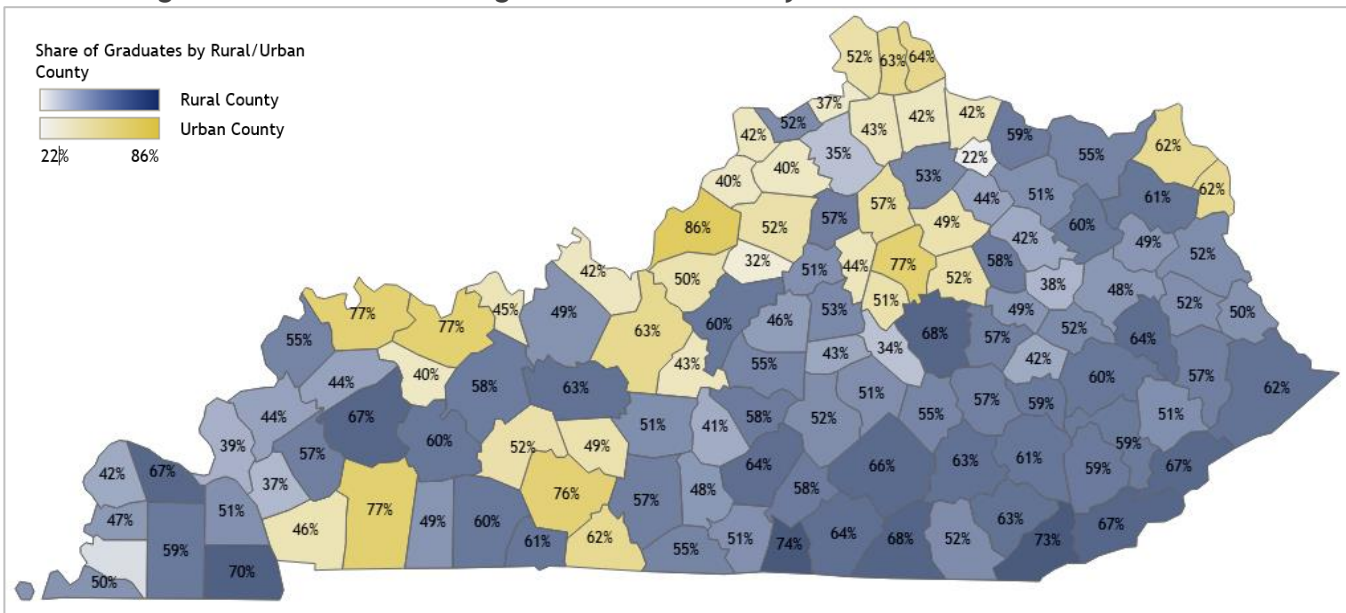
Where High School Graduates were Living Seven Years After Graduation



Source: KYSTATS, KLDS

The map below shows the share of high school students who were living in their home county seven years after graduation ranges from a low of 22 percent in Robertson County (a rural county) to a high of 86 percent in Jefferson County (an urban county).

Share of High School Graduates Living in their Home County Seven Years after Graduation



Source: KYSTATS, KLDS



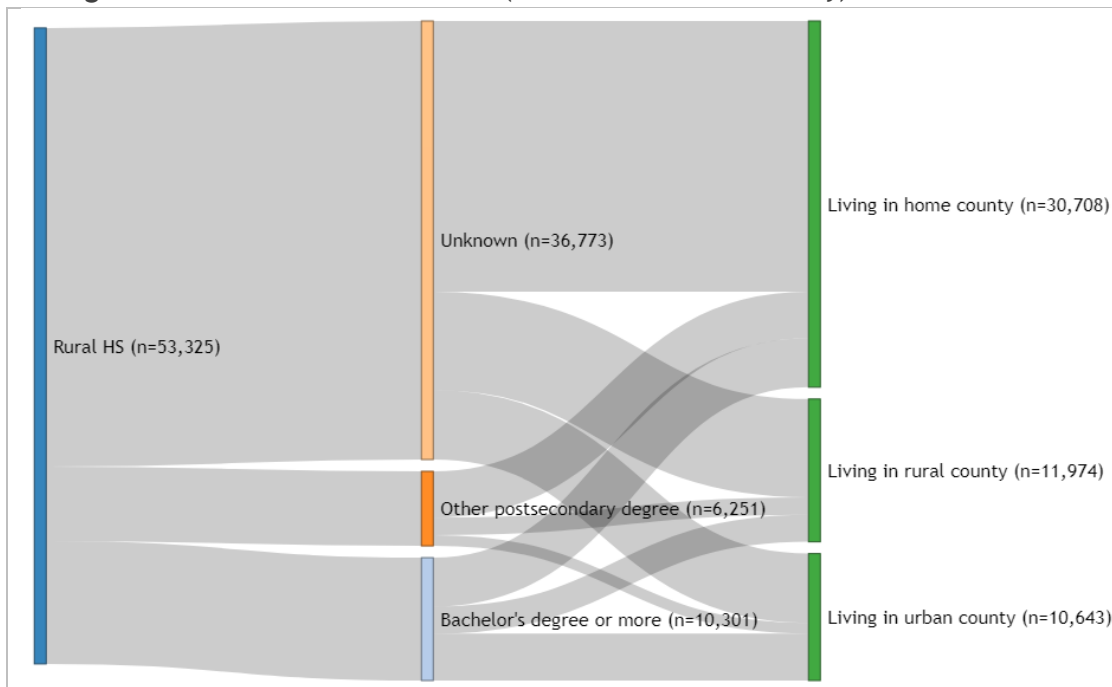
Migration of Rural and Urban High School Graduates in Kentucky

As shown above, some graduates from rural high schools moved to urban counties and vice versa. To better understand the net flow, the 48,206 high school graduates with an unknown location seven years after their graduation were removed from the following analysis. Of the remaining 115,201 graduates, 53,325 (46 percent) were from rural high schools and 61,876 (54 percent) were from urban high schools.

Overall, the majority of graduates were living in the same county seven years after graduation (71,751 or 62 percent). Nearly 31,000 students who graduated from rural high schools were living in the same county seven years later (58 percent), a lower share than students from urban high schools (66 percent). Nearly 4,000 graduates from an urban high school were living in a rural county seven years later whereas 10,643 graduates from a rural high school were living in an urban county resulting in nearly 6,700 fewer high school graduates living in rural counties seven years after their graduation.

Seven years after high school graduation, there were nearly 6,700 fewer graduates living in Kentucky's rural counties.

Where Rural High School Graduates with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher were Living Seven Years After Graduation (includes known location only)



Source: KYSTATS, KLDS

Among high school graduates from a rural county with a known location seven years after graduation, 19 percent (10,301 students) had earned at least a bachelor's degree in six years. Of those, 40 percent were living in their home county, 22 percent were living in another rural county and 38 percent were living in an urban county.

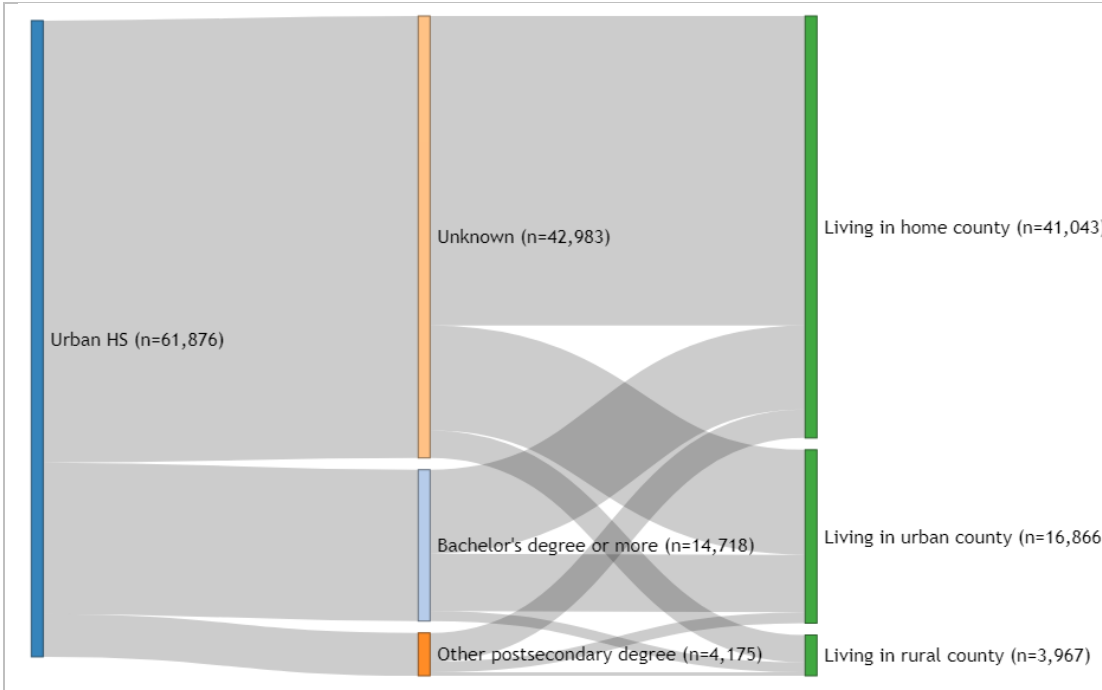
Of the 30,708 rural high school graduates living in the same county seven years later, 13 percent had at least a bachelor's

degree. The postsecondary outcome of 22,706 graduates living in the same county as their high school was not known.



Migration of Rural and Urban High School Graduates in Kentucky

Where Urban High School Graduates with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher were Living Seven Years After Graduation (includes known location only)



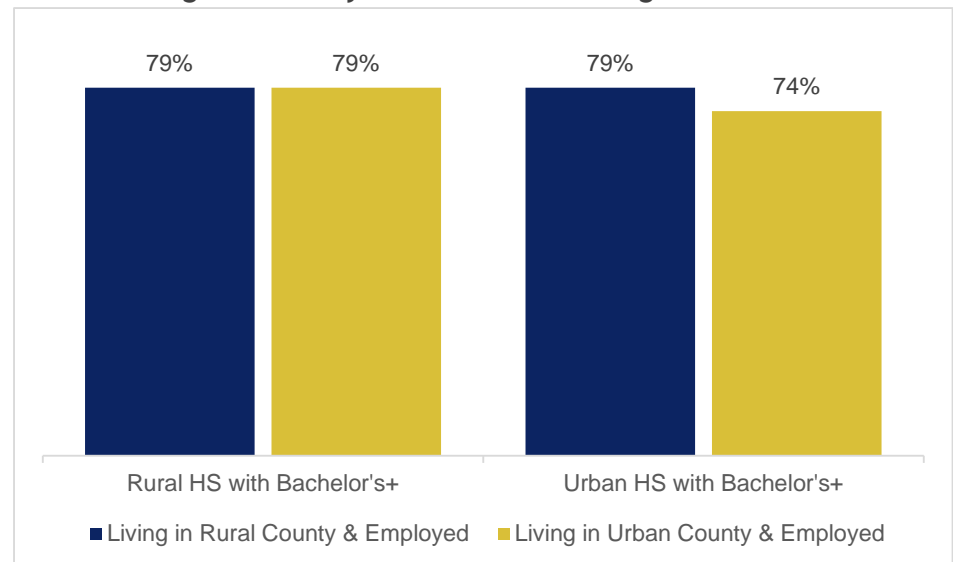
Source: KYSTATS, KLDS

Of the 61,876 graduates from urban high schools, 24 percent had received at least a bachelor's degree within six years of graduation. Of those, the majority, 55 percent, were living in the same county as their high school seven years after graduation.

As noted earlier, there was an influx into rural areas of students who graduated from urban high schools (3,967). Of those, 961 had earned at least a bachelor's degree (24 percent of those living in rural areas).

There was little differentiation in employment status among high school graduates who earned at least a bachelor's degree within six years of their high school graduation. Nearly 80 percent of rural high school graduates with at least a bachelor's degree who were living in Kentucky were employed, for those living in both rural and urban counties. This was true also for graduates from urban high schools living in a rural county. The one exception was graduates from urban high schools who were living in an urban county a year after they received a bachelor's degree, 74 percent were employed.

Share of High School Graduates with at Least a Bachelor's Degree who Were Working in Kentucky Seven Years After High School Graduation

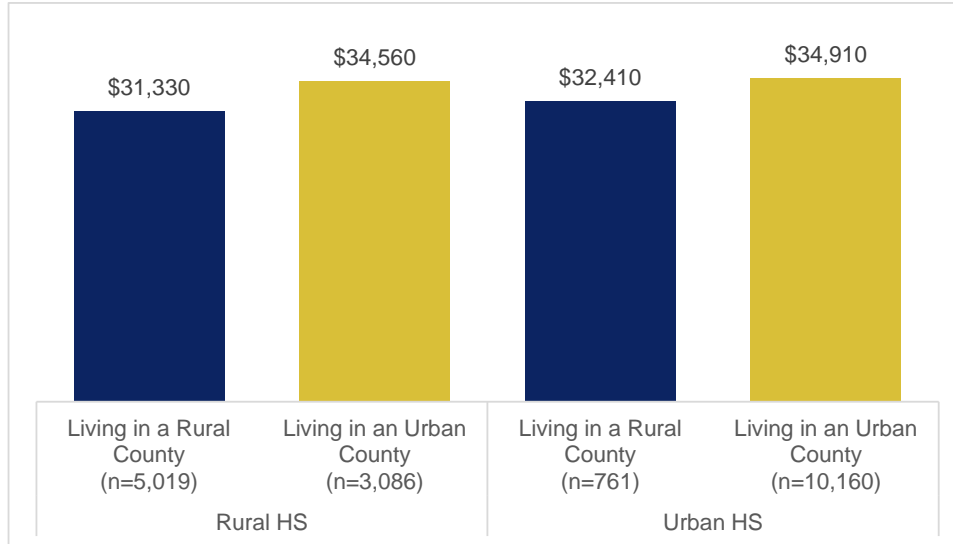


Source: KYSTATS, KLDS



Migration of Rural and Urban High School Graduates in Kentucky

Median Wages for High School Graduates with a College Degree Seven Years After High School Graduation and Working in Kentucky



Source: KYSTATS, KLDS

Among high school graduates who earned a bachelor's degree within six years of graduation and were employed a year later, median wages were higher for those living in urban counties. There was little difference in wages for those living in urban counties for rural high school graduates (\$34,560) and urban graduates (\$34,910). However, bachelor's degree earners from urban high schools had a higher median wage in rural counties (\$32,410) than rural high school (\$31,330) graduates but there were only 761 such graduates with wages. When adjusting for differences in cost of living

between urban and rural counties, there was little difference in median wages.

Initial findings indicate there was no difference among rural and urban high school graduates that earned at least a bachelor's degree in the rate of employment or median wage once adjusting for cost of living regardless of where they were living. Rural counties retained their high school graduates at a rate 11 percent lower than urban counties. Slightly more than half (56 percent) of graduates from rural high schools are living in a rural county seven years after graduation compared to 67 percent for urban graduates living in urban counties. Rural high school graduates enrolled in a Kentucky postsecondary school at a slightly higher rate than their urban counterparts. However, completion of a four-year degree is lower, in part because more rural high school graduates first enroll in a two-year school. For rural high school graduates who complete a four-year degree within six years of a high school graduation, 45 percent are living in a rural county. Of those, 79 percent were employed in Kentucky.

KYSTATS will continue to explore future research in this area, including migration out-of-state. Please let us know if there is anything that interests you in regard to this line of research.



IN THE NEWS

NEW!

Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) Report

There is a new way to view and download local and national civilian labor force estimates, including labor force, employment, unemployment, and unemployment rates; and you can tailor the report to your specific needs. Current and historical monthly and annual data are available for the U.S., Kentucky, Area Development District (ADD), Local Workforce Area (LWA), Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and county.

https://kystats.ky.gov/Ssrs/Index/Master_LAUS_Report

Select desired year(s), month(s) and area(s). Once all selections are made, click **View Report**.

The data will appear below the search box. For every search, estimates for Kentucky and the U.S. will be returned for the selected time period(s). You can save the file and print in multiple formats.

Local Area Unemployment Statistics Report

Clear Parameters

All fields with an asterisk (*) are required.

Select desired year(s), month(s) and area(s). Click on the next criteria box after each selection to proceed. Once all selections are made, click View Report. Estimates for Kentucky and the U.S. will automatically be returned for the selected time period(s). Use the Clear Parameters button to begin a new search.

Note: "None Selected" is the default value for all geographies. To view estimates for a specific area (or areas), deselect this value and check the desired area boxes.

*Year:	<input type="text"/>	Area Development District (ADD):	<input type="text"/>	County:	<input type="text"/>	View Report
*Month:	<input type="text"/>	Local Workforce Area (LWA):	<input type="text"/>			
		Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA):	<input type="text"/>			



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Kentucky Labor Force Update

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