

# Bowling Green – Warren County

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**The Lane Report**



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# Bowling Green – Warren County

Central for Business. Southern for Living.



**SouthCentralKentucky**

Central For Business. Southern For Living.

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## Fast Facts

### Bowling Green/Warren County

**3rd** in the nation for Job Creation & Projects  
(*Site Selection* magazine, 2011)

**5th** in nation for Business & Careers (*Forbes* magazine, 2011)

**Top 7 percent** of 394 MSAs for lowest overall business costs

**92 percent** Cost of living in comparison to the national COL index

**No. 1** The only manufacturing facility for the Chevrolet Corvette

**No. 1** Fastest growing university in Kentucky:  
Western Kentucky University (WKU)

**No. 1** Top educational institution in Kentucky for workforce training: Bowling Green Technical College

**Top 5** One of the top five high schools in America:  
The Gatton Academy for Math & Science at WKU

**Top 10** One of the top 10 universities in America for Fulbright scholarship recipients: WKU (2010)

**40+** Languages spoken in public schools

**Net Zero** Richardsville Elementary School (Warren County) is the first Net Zero school in the nation and produces more clean energy via solar panels than it consumes.

**16.4 million** Gallons of excess capacity of water per day

**Zero** SCA Personal Care is a zero landfill facility

**4** Consecutive years BlueCotton.com sportswear appears on the Inc. 5000 list of fastest growing companies

**Under 30** Chris and Clinton Mills, owners of Hitcents.com, were named to the Inc. 5000 CEOs Under 30 list (2007)



### South Central Kentucky

**\$226 million** announced capital investment in 2011

**1,597** planned new jobs announced in 2011

**No. 1** Home to the longest cave system worldwide:  
Mammoth Cave

**45 percent** Percentage production of all aluminum sheets used in aluminum beverage can production in North America.

### Kentucky

**1st** in Cost of Living

**4th** in Export Intensity

**8th** in Job Placement Efficiency

**19th** in Academic R&D Intensity

**2.25x** More than double the national concentration for transportation equipment manufacturing cluster

(Source: U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Chamber Foundation Data)



National Corvette Museum Expansion



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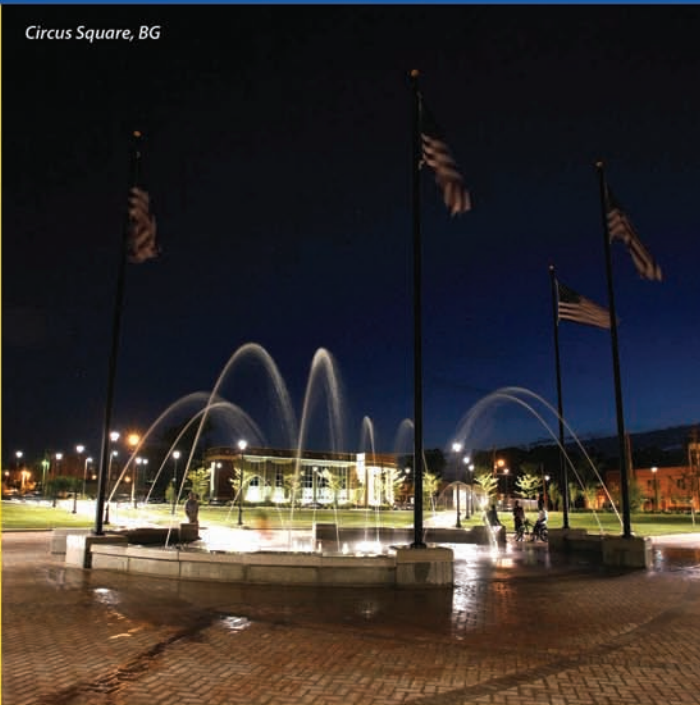


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# Building on the Region's Assets

**M**ANUFACTURERS, distributors, R&D facilities, and corporate headquarters all call South Central Kentucky home because of the assets, amenities and benefits available here. A variety of sectors have been identified as targets for the region, based on outside research and analysis, which highlighted the key business sectors that already exist in the region as well as those that present high potential attraction opportunities.

## Advanced Manufacturing

With existing businesses such as Bowling Green Metalforming (MAGNA), Kobe Aluminum Automotive Products, Logan Aluminum and Trace Die Cast, South Central Kentucky is an ideal region for advanced manufacturers because it has a specially skilled workforce and access to training and education providers.

Bowling Green Metalforming, part of Magna International Inc., has undertaken five expansions since its 900,000-sq.ft. plant began production in the Kentucky Transpark in mid-2005. The vehicle frame manufacturer has 900 full- and part-time employees. Its customers include BMW, Mercedes, Nissan, Toyota and Volkswagen.

Logan Aluminum's only facility has been located in Russellville, Ky., since 1985. A joint venture between Indian and Japanese companies, the facility produces 45 percent of all aluminum sheets used in the production of aluminum beverage cans in North America.



Corvette ZR1

## Automotive Parts & Suppliers

Home to the only manufacturing site of America's king of sports cars – the Chevrolet Corvette – Bowling Green, Warren County and the surrounding counties are a popular location for the automotive parts and suppliers sector. The strong assets of the region help position Kentucky in the nation's top three states for automotive manufacturing.

Average wage rates are far lower than Northern U.S. automotive locations and compare favorably with other Southern locations. The number of recent expansion and attraction projects in the region attest to the quality of business for this sector. Some of the region's projects (2010-2012) include:

- General Motors Bowling Green Assembly Plant
- Sequa Automotive Group
- Holley Performance Products
- Akebono Brake
- BANDO USA
- NHK of America Suspension Components (NASCO)
- PurePOWER Technologies

The General Motors Bowling Green Assembly Plant has been home to the iconic Chevy Corvette since 1981 and currently employs approximately 590 full- and part-time employees. In 2011, GM officials began a major refurbishment to the 1 million-sq.ft. plant to add a new vehicle product program – the next-generation Chevy Corvette –

creating 250 new jobs and a capital investment of more than \$131 million. This announcement is the third largest announced investment in Kentucky by companies within the manufacturing and supportive/service firm industries in 2011.

Ground Effects, Kentucky Chrome Works, Magna Car Top Systems and Trace Die Cast, among many others, are local suppliers to the GM plant and can attest to the local assets that benefit the automotive industry.

## Distribution and Logistics

South Central Kentucky is within a day's drive of 60 percent of the U.S. population and is located centrally on I-65 with immediate access to the major northern and southern manufacturing facilities. The region is within two-and-a-half hours of multiple international airports and freight shipment hubs, making it an ideal location for distribution and logistics businesses, including Dollar General Corp., the Fruit of the Loom Distribution Center, Shop NBC, Sun Products Corp. and the Tractor Supply Co. Distribution Center.

## Fabricated Metals, Industrial Machinery, Plastics

Companies such as Berry Plastics, Casco Products/Sequa Automotive Group, Halton Company, Logan Aluminum, Trace Die Cast and Ventra Plastics are growing in South Central Kentucky because of the competitive assets in the fabricated metals, industrial machinery and plastics sectors. Training and education options are readily available, with Bowling Green Technical College providing skills programs such as CNC machining, mechatronics and injection molding, and a

## Targeting Business for Success

In 2011, the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce team – along with elected officials, community leaders and business executives – supported economic development endeavors that produced 16 project announcements totaling potential capital investment of more than \$226 million with 1,597 planned new jobs. These announcements come after another year's success in 2010, when the Chamber set a record-breaking year of 21 projects, announcing 1,653 new and retained jobs, and a capital investment of more than \$241 million for the South Central Kentucky Region. These projects landed Bowling Green as a No. 3 in the nation for communities under 200,000 population for projects and job creation by *Site Selection* magazine.

machinist academy. Classes for full-time and part-time students – and individualized company training – are affordable, accessible and quality-driven.

Ventra Plastics in Russellville produces diverse interior and exterior parts for the automotive sector. The company announced an expansion in 2011 to add 25 employees to an existing employment base of 250 and invest nearly \$3.4 million.

As a first- and second-tier supplier of aluminum die cast components and assemblies to the automotive industry, Trace Die Cast Inc. has expanded its facilities in South Central Kentucky seven times. With three manufacturing facilities, this local company has 468 full-time employees – having expanded with 57 jobs and a \$4.85 million capital investment in 2011.

## Food Processing

Food-related businesses Country Oven Bakery, Dart, Hill's Pet Nutrition (part of Colgate-Palmolive Company), J.M. Smucker Company, Sister Schubert's, Southern Foods and T. Marzetti Company are located here. Such businesses thrive because of regional assets such as market access to a significant portion of the United States that enables freshly processed food products to be delivered in a timely fashion.

A part of The Kroger Company, Country Oven Bakery employs nearly 540 South Central Kentucky residents. The Bowling Green plant making frozen dough products, breads and iced cakes for Kroger has been in operation for 40 years and has announced three expansions. The most recent expansion was in 2010 and announced the addition of 33 new jobs and 50,000 sq.ft. to the company's existing 177,000-sq.ft. facility to accommodate a second cake production line.

Dart Container Corp. opened in Hart County in 1980 and has grown from 25 employees in a 230,000-sq.ft. facility to 1,090 employees and 2.93 million sq.ft., occupying 10 buildings on 67 acres. Dart manufactures

foam cups and bowls, printed foam cups, lids, plates, hinged foam trays, portion containers, food containers and plastic plates and cups for restaurants, the food packaging industry and retail sales. The company has expanded nine times in its 32-year history in Hart County.

## Motorsports

The General Motors Bowling Green Assembly Plant is an important attraction for motorsports. Other motorsports sector leaders will find existing companies such as Holley Performance Products, Quick Fuel Technology and RC Components to be beneficial for their businesses.

The Beech Bend Dragstrip, the National Corvette Museum and the planned NCM Motorsports Park on the museum's property are also appealing assets. To be built on 184 acres adjacent to the museum, Motorsports Park will have a 2.94-mile road course, an autocross/skid pad area, a paddock and a control tower/administration building.

Holley Performance Products is a leading fuel systems manufacturer among racers and auto enthusiasts. The company moved its carburetor manufacturing facility to Bowling Green in 1953 and relocated its corporate office from Michigan in 1992.

In early 2012, Holley announced a capital investment of more than \$7 million to build a new distribution center and add up to 136 jobs the next several years to its workforce of more than 250 employees.

## Niche and Emerging Industries

Because of education and research capacity at Bowling Green Technical College and Western Kentucky University, there are several niche market opportunities within South Central Kentucky: cyber defense, cellulosic bio-fuel and medical devices markets.

EWA Government Systems Inc., one of the premier cyber security and cyber defense companies in the U.S., has an operations office at the Central Region Innovation and Commercialization Center at the WKU Center for Research and Development.

Along with EWA, the Center for R&D houses WKU's Applied Research Centers, the WKU Small Business Development Center and the WKU Small Business Accelerator. The facility provides state-of-the-art research facilities in a 27-acre campus with more than 275,000 sq.ft. of space.

Also part of the Center for R&D, the WKU Nondestructive Analysis Center (NOVA Center)

**"We're proud to have industry leaders in South Central Kentucky, and we greatly appreciate their decision to expand the local facilities and invest in new projects."**

— Warren County Judge Executive  
Michael Buchanon

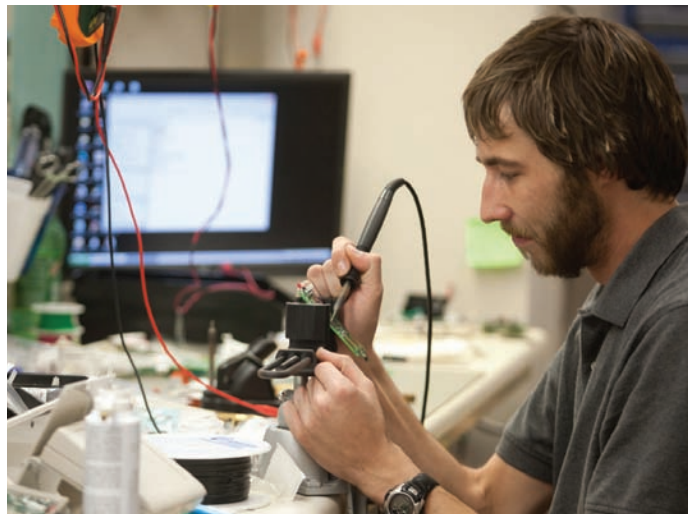
is the only facility of its kind at a North American university and is home to one of the largest Large Chamber Scanning Electron Microscopes (LC-SEM) in the world. The LC-SEM makes it possible for non-destructive nano-analysis of samples up to 1,500 mm in diameter and 650 pounds – items such as an engine block and hubcaps can remain intact while analyzed in the LC-SEM.

The medical devices manufacturing sector will also benefit from a large-scale hospital, The Medical Center, located in Bowling Green. And the healthcare infrastructure is strongly supported by WKU's nursing program, which offers RN to DNP degrees and is one of the university's largest majors. As a component of the Bowling Green Downtown TIF District, a new medical complex is being built to house WKU's nursing baccalaureate and doctorate degree programs and a doctorate of physical therapy degree program. This facility will become the largest medical complex in the South Central Kentucky region.

## Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade

The Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade (SHOT) business sector has access to a variety of research and training benefits in South Central Kentucky, such as the WKU Center for Research and Development, metallurgy courses at WKU, and other training opportunities at Bowling Green Technical College.

SHOT industry experts and enthusiasts frequently use the Rockcastle Shooting Center, a world-class shooting facility near Mammoth Cave, for product testing, training and recreation. ●





# Access and Logistics Help Businesses Succeed

**S**OUTH Central Kentucky's central location – and easy access to major markets – positions the region's businesses for success. Being within a day's drive of more than 60 percent of the total U.S. population, the region's logistics and distribution activities thrive.

## Road

Bowling Green is located on I-65, which runs directly through the South Central Kentucky region to the northern and southern U.S. populations. The region also is served by five Kentucky parkways, with direct access to I-75 to the east and I-24 to the west.

The 14 local and 15 long-distance freight trucking establishments as well as FedEx, UPS and DHL Express service centers in Warren County make distribution easy, as does the FedEx Ground hub in nearby Nashville, Tenn.

## Air

This centralized location for automotive transportation simplifies shipping needs in Bowling Green-Warren County. With UPS's international air hub located at the Louisville International Airport and DHL Express's United States global "super hub" at the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport, shipping and distribution are easy for area companies. Bowling Green also is home to facilities for FedEx, UPS and DHL Express.

Business leaders have multiple options for their travel needs. The Bowling Green Warren County Regional Airport features a 6,500-ft. runway and an FFA Flight service station.

## Rail

South Central Kentucky is served by the main line of the CSX railroad that connects

## Distances to Major U.S. Cities from Bowling Green

CITY	DISTANCE (MILES)
Atlanta, GA	309
Birmingham, AL	256
Chicago, IL	408
Cincinnati, OH	215
Detroit, MI	477
Nashville, TN	66

Louisville in the north and Nashville in the south. A CSX rail spur also serves the Kentucky Transpark in Warren County – leading the Transpark to be one of only five sites in the 23-state CSX network to be certified as a CSX Select Site. The Transpark is the only site in Kentucky to hold this certification and one of only two sites in the southeastern United States.

The R.J. Corman Railroad provides service in Logan and Warren counties, giving businesses another transportation option.

## Water

The Owensboro Riverport is less than 80 miles from Bowling Green and handles more than 850,000 tons of cargo annually. ●

## Major Airports Accessible from Bowling Green

AIRPORT	DRIVING TIME FROM BOWLING GREEN	NUMBER OF NONSTOP SERVICE MARKETS	PASSENGERS IN 2011
Nashville International Airport	One hour	50 (national and international)	9.5 million
Louisville International Airport	Less than two hours	28 markets (national)	3.4 million
Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport	Three hours	53 markets (national and international)	7 million

## BGMU is Connecting Bowling Green



BGMU is a municipally-owned public utility offering four utility services through three operating divisions: Electric, Water, Wastewater and Commercial Fiber Optics. Our Fiber Division offers state-of-the-art fiber optic high-speed data and voice services for businesses throughout the Bowling Green region. The Water and Wastewater Division has 18,000 metered customers, and the Electric Division has 28,000 metered customers. We are Bowling Green Municipal Utilities, and we are "Connecting Bowling Green!"

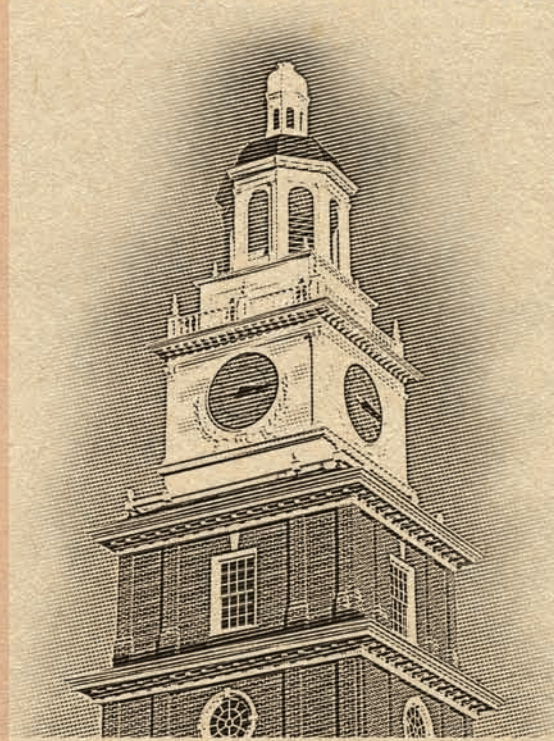
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# South Central Kentucky Makes Good Business Dollars and Sense



**B**OWLING Green, Warren County and South Central Kentucky foster a superb environment for doing business, in large part because of the region's low business costs. Bowling Green – the metropolitan hub of South Central Kentucky – was ranked in the top 7 percent of 384 metropolitan areas for lowest overall business cost, according to Economy.com's June 2010 edition of North American Business Cost Review.

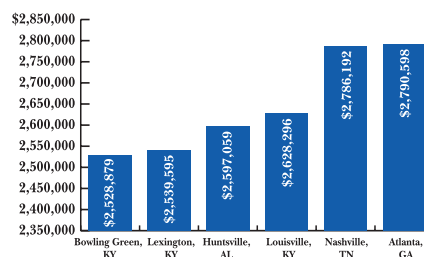
In 2012, Warren County was ranked in the Top 10 small-sized counties in the nation by the Fourth Economy Index based on investment, talent, sustainability, place and diversity. In 2011, CNBC ranked Kentucky as having the fourth-lowest business costs in the United States.

## Operating costs

Based on the annual cost of labor, utilities and facilities, Bowling Green is a less expensive environment for doing business than other metropolitan areas in the Midwest and southeast. For example, an advanced manufacturing business with 50 employees in a 10,000-sq.-ft. building will pay nearly \$263,000 less in annual operating costs in Bowling Green than if

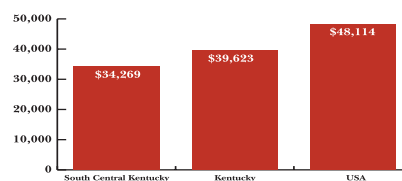
the same company was located in Atlanta (MetroComp, 2012).

## 50-employee advanced manufacturer annual cost



## Wages

It's cost effective to do business here for many reasons, including the lower wage rates and a lower cost of living, which combine to create an environment that is less expensive for employers and employees. The cost of living is 92 percent of the national average in Bowling Green and 90 percent in the immediate region. Wage rates continue to be lower in the region than at the state and national levels.



**"Warren County Water goes above and beyond to provide sufficient, high quality water and wastewater services to all of our customers, including commercial and industrial companies."**

— Alan Vilines, P.E., general manager of Warren County Water District

## Utility costs

Electricity, water and other utilities are abundant and reliable in South Central Kentucky, yet costs remain low to benefit businesses and residents alike. Electricity rates in Kentucky for the industrial sector are the lowest amongst states east of the Mississippi River, with costs that are 25 percent less than the national average. South Central Kentucky is no different.

Bowling Green Municipal Utilities and the Warren Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation (WRECC) provide electricity in Bowling Green and Warren County. Each utility company receives its electricity from the Tennessee Valley Authority, which offers industrial electricity rates that are 19 percent lower and commercial rates that are 10 percent lower than the national average. WRECC reported a reliability rate of 99.96 percent in 2011 for Warren County, and individual business parks have a reported 99.98 percent reliability rate over the past five years.

Water rates are low as well, and the available excess capacity provides assurance of reliable access to water. With a system capacity of 28 million gallons of water per day and 16.4 million gallons per day of excess capacity, water is abundant in Bowling Green-Warren County, yet costs remain low.

Atmos Energy is the natural gas provider in Bowling Green and Warren County. Rates are an average of 48 percent lower than

**"We are focused on being the best at what we do. Our efficiency, conservation efforts and quality of customer service help us deliver the highest quality, lowest cost products."**

— Bill Greer, ATMOS Energy operations VP

other natural gas providers throughout the nation. Bowling Green is home to one of the company's regional headquarters.

Bowling Green Municipal Utilities, which also offers water and wastewater services to residential, commercial and industrial customers, provides the only "all fiber" network in Bowling Green and offers commercial-grade telephone services, co-location facilities, V-LAN and Internet connections, and dark fiber leasing to commercial and governmental



customers. Its fiber to the premise (FTTP) connectivity delivers 99.99 percent uptime to customers.

### Incentives

Bowling Green and Warren County offer local incentive programs complementary to those offered by the state. As a partner with the city, county and state, the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce staff can compile competitive incentive packages for expansion and attraction projects, as has been done for more than 30 projects since 2010.

Bowling Green City Manager Kevin DeFebbo explains, "The City and County pledge to make the community one that is business friendly, and we aim to offer existing and new businesses incentives for expansion and location projects." ●

**"We have 161 miles of fiber-optic cable and 10 network nodes which form a redundant, looped configuration for rock-solid network stability," said. "Our top-of-the-line network and local service puts our community on par with larger cities in terms of connectivity and data transport services."**

— Mark Iverson, Bowling Green  
Municipal Utilities General Manager

### 10 Largest Employers

- **Houchens Industries**  
2,900 – Warren County  
houchensindustries.com
- **Commonwealth Health Corporation/  
The Medical Center**  
2,500 – Warren County  
chc.net
- **Western Kentucky University**  
2,260 – South Central Kentucky  
wku.edu
- **Warren County Public Schools**  
1,812 – Warren County  
warrencountyschools.org
- **Fruit of the Loom**  
1,400 – Warren County  
fruit.com
- **R R Donnelley**  
1,111 – Barren County  
rddonnelley.com
- **Dart Container Corp.**  
1,090 – Hart County  
dart.biz
- **Logan Aluminum, Inc.**  
1,050 – Logan County  
logan-aluminum.com
- **Bowling Green Metalforming (MAGNA)**  
900 – Warren County  
magna.com
- **Sun Products**  
881 – Warren County  
sunproductscorp.com

### 10 Largest Manufacturers

- **Dart Container Corp.**  
1,090 employees – Hart County  
dart.biz
- **Logan Aluminum, Inc.**  
1,050 employees – Logan County  
logan-aluminum.com
- **Bowling Green  
Metalforming, LLC (MAGNA)**  
900 employees – Warren County
- **Sun Products**  
881 employees – Warren County  
sunproductscorp.com
- **J L French Automotive  
Castings Corp.**  
550 employees – Barren County  
jlfrench.com
- **Akebono Brake**  
540 employees – Barren County  
akebonobrake.com
- **Berry Plastics**  
520 employees – Simpson County  
berryplastics.com
- **Franklin Precision Industries**  
510 employees – Simpson County  
fpik.com
- **Trace Die Cast**  
452 employees – Warren County  
tracediecast.com
- **Dana Corp.**  
450 employees – Barren County  
dana.com

(Source: Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce, 2012)

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# Quality Workforce Is Available, Educated, Skilled and Still Growing

**W**ITHIN a 100-mile radius the South Central Kentucky region offers access to a labor force of nearly 750,000 and is expected to grow by an additional 45,000 by 2018. Extending past Louisville, Ky., Evansville, Ind., and Nashville, Tenn., this labor force is part of a larger population of more than 1.47 million residents.

South Central Kentucky's population is nearly 284,000, with a labor force of more than 113,000. As the radius expands around the county, it naturally follows that the population and labor force increase.

## Quality of Labor Force

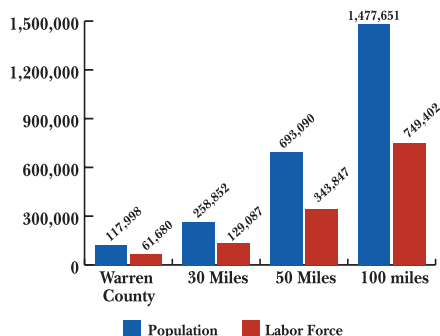
As part of the larger labor force within its 100-mile radius, Warren County (population 118,000) has its own labor force of more than 61,000 and is currently showing a job growth rate of 18.31 percent (Applied Geographic Solutions, 2012). Additionally, nearly 10,000 people from 51 Kentucky counties commute to Bowling Green every day.

The quality of the workforce in Warren County is a valuable factor that complements the availability of labor. Warren County has been recognized as



part of the first group of Kentucky counties designated as Work Ready Communities. With only three out of 120 counties receiving this honor in spring 2012, the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board certified Warren County as a community in

## Population and Labor Force



which employers benefit from the quality of the labor force. This designation certifies that Warren County has the workforce capacity to staff existing jobs and to master the innovative technologies that new jobs will require in the future. Kentucky is one of only four states in the nation to be actively participating in the ACT Certified Work Ready Communities program.

Work Ready Communities must meet established criteria in six specific areas:

- National Career Readiness Certificate Holders
- High school graduation rate
- Educational attainment
- Soft skills development
- Digital literacy
- Demonstrated community commitment

The number of Warren County residents with secondary and post-secondary degrees continue to meet or exceed the state and national averages. According to the 2010 American Community Survey, 90 percent of Warren County's workforce (persons ages 18 to 64) has at least a high school diploma or GED, compared to 86.8 percent of the U.S. workforce and 85.2 percent of the Commonwealth's workforce.

With Bowling Green Technical College, Daymar College and Western Kentucky University campuses located in the Bowling Green-Warren County community, the

**"Being a Work Ready Community is yet another accolade that attests to the quality of our labor force and the strength of our educational institutions. I'm always proud to tell people about our exceptional community, the assets of which are heightened by this designation."**

— City of Bowling Green Mayor Bruce Wilkerson

post-secondary educational attainment rate in the community is significantly higher than that of the larger workforce in Kentucky. Of Warren County persons ages 18 to 64, 25.1 percent have at least a bachelor's degree, compared to 19.9 percent in the Commonwealth and 26.6 percent in the United States.

More than 50 colleges and universities are within easy access – 60 miles or less – of Warren County, including:

- **Vanderbilt University:** No. 14 – "Best National Universities" by *U.S. News and World Report* (2012)

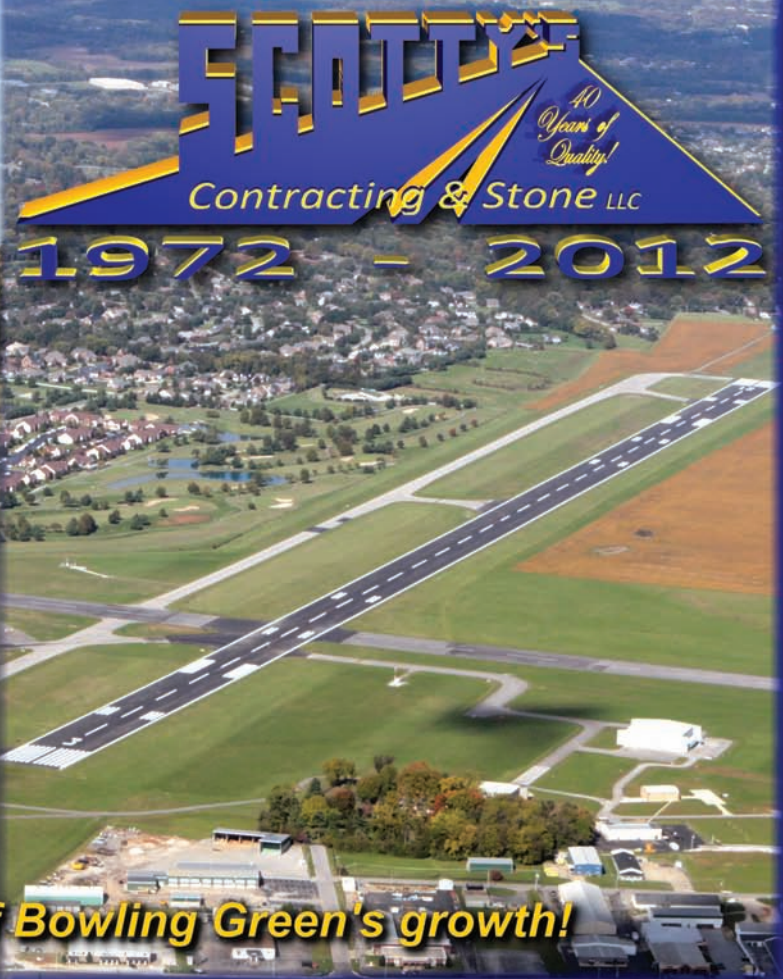
- **Belmont University:** No. 7 – "Best Regional University South Rankings" by *U.S. News and World Report* (2012)

- **Lipscomb University:** No. 19 – "Best Regional University South Rankings" by *U.S. News and World Report* (2012)



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# Educating the Present and Future Workforce

BOWLING Green, Warren County and the surrounding South Central Kentucky counties maintain a strong talent pipeline because of the region's highly educated workforce and the educational opportunities that exist here.

Education shines as one of the premier assets that make the area world class for business and industry, with attainment rates surpassing those of the state and nation.

- 90 percent of Warren County's workforce (ages 18 to 64) holds at least a high school diploma or GED
- 60.9 percent of the county's workforce has had at least some college experience
- 9 percent hold graduate or professional degrees

## Elementary and Secondary Education

The Bowling Green area actively challenges its students in elementary and secondary education to exceed national standards. Their levels of excellence attest to the quality of the future workforce, as well as bring national attention to the community. From accomplishing all goals set by the No Child Left Behind Act to being recognized in publications and indices amongst the top schools in the nation, the school systems here are focused on educating future leaders of the community. The schools focus on not only the hard skills needed to attain degrees, but also those 21st Century Skills needed for personal and career success:

- Global Awareness
- Innovation

## The Leader in Me™

The Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce, business and community leaders and both the Bowling Green Independent School District and the Warren County Public School District are collaborating to implement The Leader in Me™, which is based on Dr. Stephen Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People.

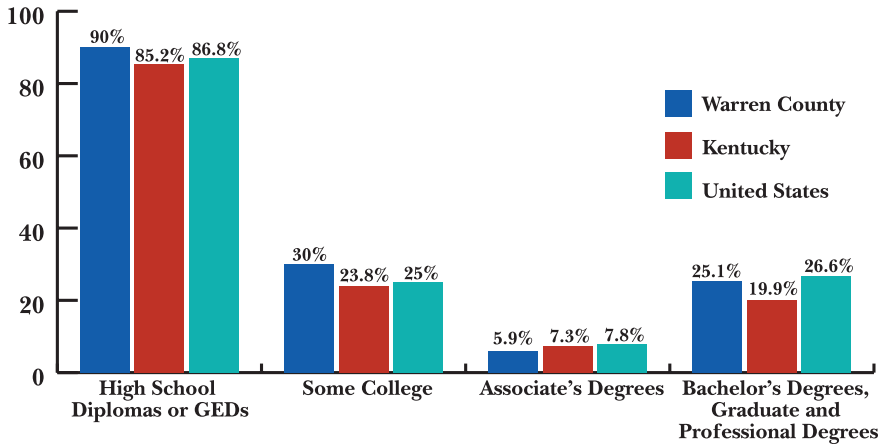
A process rather than a program, The Leader in Me is a fully integrated approach to teaching students lifelong skills such as proactivity, vision planning, teamwork, problem solving and analytical skills – all of which are highly desirable for business.

With a comprehensive funding and implementation campaign, the Chamber, business and community leaders and the school districts plan to become the first community in the nation in which all schools practice The Leader in Me in Grades K-12.

Visit [www.bgchamber.com](http://www.bgchamber.com) for more information.



## An Educated Workforce



- Critical Thinking Skills
- Communication Skills
- Collaboration Skills
- Technology Skills

More than 40 languages are spoken in the City and County schools, adding the benefit of international diversity to the many other educational assets here.

### Post-Secondary Education

The Bowling Green area also offers a solid infrastructure for higher education that is producing a talented labor force through its three local higher education institutions: Bowling Green Technical College (BGTC), Daymar College and Western Kentucky University (WKU). Additionally, Bowling Green is within 60 miles of more than 50 other universities, colleges and technical

schools, including Vanderbilt University, Belmont University and Lipscomb University.

### Bowling Green Technical College

BGTC is a critical component to the education infrastructure of Bowling Green and offers competitive training for the workforce. In 2012, BGTC was ranked the top educational institution in workforce training in the state of Kentucky. In 2010-2011, BGTC served 699 businesses and 5,056 members of the workforce.

BGTC offers a range of associate's degrees in various disciplines, including automotive technology, engineering technology, industrial maintenance, information technology, nursing and welding technology. With such strong programs across the many disciplines it offers, BGTC was ranked one of the top five colleges in Kentucky for required-licensure pass rates in 2010. BGTC frequently welcomes existing businesses into its classrooms – and at the workplace – for employee training, making it an ideal workforce asset to the Bowling Green area.

### Daymar College

With campuses also in Scottsville (Allen County) and Russellville (Logan County), Daymar College provides easily accessible education and career training for South Central Kentucky residents. The college offers associate's and bachelor's of science degrees, as well as certificates and diplomas opportunities for career training in the medical, business, computer and legal fields.

### Western Kentucky University

With its primary location in Bowling Green and satellite campuses in Glasgow, Elizabethtown and Owensboro, WKU is the second largest university in undergraduate enrollment – and the fastest growing – in Kentucky. Educating a student body of more than 20,000, WKU offers a rigorous educational environment with more than 80

## By the Numbers

The Gatton Academy of Math and Science at WKU is one of Newsweek's **Top Five** High Schools in America. (2011)

Bowling Green High School is in the **top 10 percent** of high schools in Kentucky. (2010)

Bowling Green Junior High School met **all 22** goals set by the No Child Left Behind Act in 2011, a feat accomplished by no other school in Kentucky.

Bowling Green and Warren County schools are home to **more than 40** spoken languages. (2012)

BGTC is **the top** educational institution in workforce training in the state of Kentucky. (2011)

BGTC is one of the **top five** colleges in Kentucky for required-licensure pass rates. (2010)

WKU is the **fastest growing university** in Kentucky. (2012)

WKU is the **second largest** university in Kentucky in undergraduate enrollment. (2010)

WKU is one of the **top** producers of Fulbright Award winners. (2010).

WKU is **one of nine** universities in the nation to host a Chinese language flagship program.

WKU was the **first** university in Kentucky to be awarded a Confucius Institute by the Chinese Ministry of Education.

WKU is ranked as having one of the **top 25** online MBA programs in the nation. (2009)

degree programs ranging from associate to doctoral degrees. The university consistently demonstrates its commitment to educating the future workforce.

In addition to the Ogden College of Science & Engineering, which offers degree programs in mechanical, electrical and civil engineering, WKU is also home to the





## Work Ethic

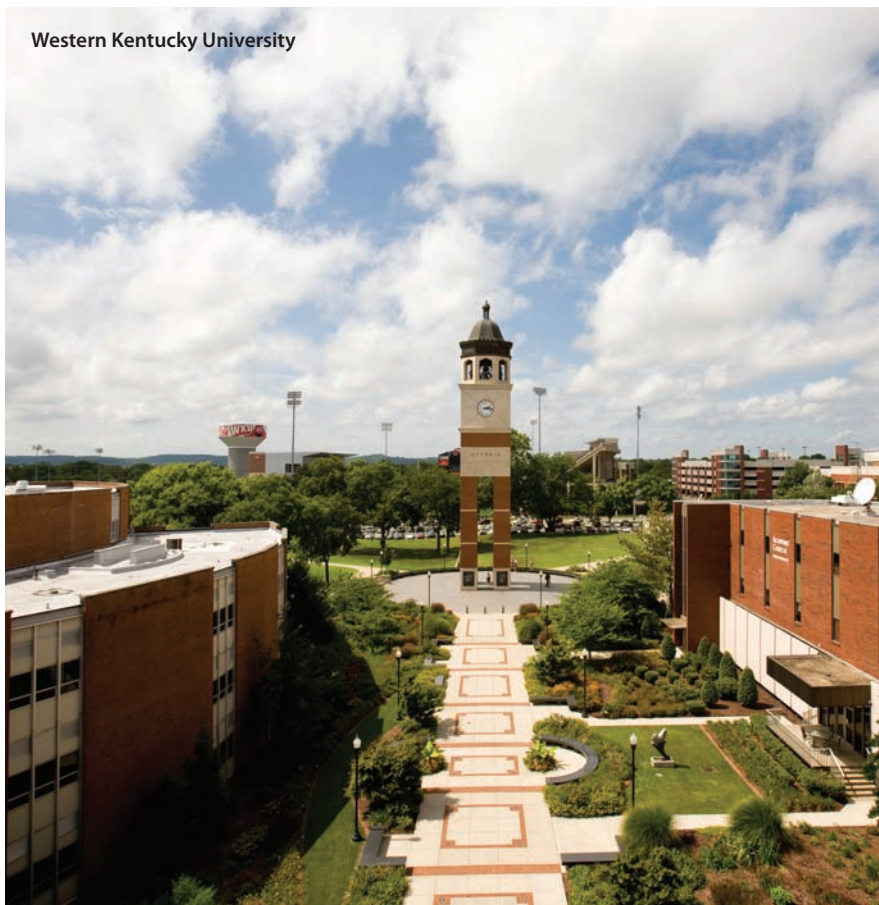
To connect education and business, the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce ensures continued development of the new labor force through its Work Ethic Seal Program, which began in 2004 and distinguishes students who have achieved the highest standards of soft skills, including punctuality, strong communication skills and leadership. This program represents a strong partnership between the chamber, the schools and Junior Achievement of South Central Kentucky.

Gordon Ford College of Business and its master of business administration degree, the online option of which is ranked in the Top 25 online MBA programs in the nation by GetEducated.com.

Other outstanding features of WKU include the Center for Research and Development, a first-class research innovation facility and small business accelerator, and the university's extended international programs. With the vision of becoming "A Leading American University with International Reach," WKU emphasizes global diversity for students and faculty, and this focus expands into the community.

Combined, these education resources supply a skilled talent pipeline necessary for prosperity in any industry. ●

Western Kentucky University



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# BOWLING GREEN TECHNICAL COLLEGE

## *Transforming education and training in South-Central Kentucky*

Bowling Green Technical College (BGTC) is a public comprehensive community college accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The College is a critical component to the educational and economic infrastructure of the area, offering Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees designed for transfer to a university as well as certificate, diploma and associate degrees in various disciplines. The six locations that comprise BGTC operate with an open admission policy across a ten county service area that is considered one of the fastest growing regions in the state, with a combined total population of 284,195.

### **COMMUNITY SUCCESS**

The institution has a rich history of providing education and training to south central Kentucky for almost 75 years. In the past five years, Bowling Green Technical College has been recognized as one of the fastest growing two-year colleges in the nation, now serving more than 12,000 citizens per year. Our mission to improve the employability and quality of life of south central Kentucky citizens is a source of pride. Hence, we consider

the College's tremendous growth a success as well as a testament to the solid educational experience offered at this institution. In addition to an emphasis on academic programs, BGTC is committed to supporting our business and industry partners. In 2010-2011, BGTC served 699 businesses and 5,056 members of the workforce, ranking it the top educational institution in workforce training in the state of Kentucky.

### **STUDENT SUCCESS**

For many years BGTC has taken pride in several important student learning outcomes resulting in national recognition for setting "High Expectations." The College has been ranked first in the state and is in the top 6 percent nationally for community college degree completion, as well as being ranked one of the top five colleges in Kentucky for required licensure pass rates. Also, as a state leader in minority persistence and among the top 20 percent nationally for two-year colleges in freshman persistence, BGTC is recognized as an institution placing student learning first and foremost.

### **INSTITUTIONAL SUCCESS**

In addition to preparing students to be leaders in industry, it is also important for BGTC to be a role model for effective organizational operations. Investing in employees, processes, and positive work environments has led Bowling Green Technical College to be recognized as one of the best places to work in Kentucky. Collectively, Bowling Green Technical College's commitment to student, organizational, and community success promotes south central Kentucky as a great place to live, work, and raise a family.



[www.bowlinggreen.kctcs.edu](http://www.bowlinggreen.kctcs.edu)

## KENTUCKY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM



Main Campus  
Bowling Green



KATI Campus  
Bowling Green



Transpark Center  
Bowling Green



Glasgow Tech Campus  
Glasgow



Glasgow Health Campus  
Glasgow



Franklin-Simpson Center  
Franklin

*Serving South Central Kentucky at Six Convenient Locations*



# Business Spoken in Many Languages

**M**ORE than 40 languages are spoken in the Bowling Green and Warren County School Districts. This diversity provides strong support for international business activities, and more than 12 countries are represented by South Central Kentucky businesses.

The corporate headquarters for the Halton Group Americas Inc. — a Finnish company — is located at the Western Kentucky University Center for Research and Development facility in Bowling Green, and its manufacturing facility, Halton Company, specializing in commercial kitchen ventilation and air distribution systems, is located just 20 minutes away in Scottsville (Allen County).

Japanese companies in Bowling Green include:

- American Howa Kentucky, Inc.
- Bando USA, Inc.
- Kobe Aluminum Automotive Products, LLC
- Kiriu USA Corporation
- NASCO
- Sumitomo Electric Wiring Systems, Inc.
- Topura America Fastener, Inc.

Bowling Green Metalforming, a division of Canadian-based Magna Corporation, opened its plant in the Kentucky Transpark in mid-2005. A vehicle frame manufacturer, the plant currently has 900 employees, and its diversified customer base includes BMW, Mercedes, Nissan, Toyota and Volkswagen.

In addition to the countries represented in Bowling Green and Warren County, companies from Australia, Brazil, France, India, Switzerland and the United Kingdom are located throughout the South Central Kentucky region.

3A Composites USA, located in Barren County, is owned by Swiss-based Schweiter Technologies and produces paper-faced foam panels and graphic arts boards.

MHM Metals Corporation, based in Australia, announced its location in Logan County in late 2011. Under the name Alreco, the facility will process by-products from aluminum recycling that previously had to be disposed of in landfills.

These international companies succeed



because of a diverse workforce, low business costs and a welcoming atmosphere for an international population that is often a part of larger metropolitan areas. In Warren County, 7.5 percent of the population is foreign-born, compared to 3.1 percent of all Kentucky residents. Home to the Western Kentucky Refugee Mutual Assistance Association International Center, Bowling Green maintains a steady influx of internationals working within local companies at all career levels, from machinists to translators to researchers.

## International Partnerships

In addition to celebrating more than 20 years of a sister-city relationship with Kawanishi, Japan, the community honors and values its international relationships. Local leaders and stakeholders understand the necessity of strong public-private partnerships to sustain and build more international opportunities for the business community.

In 2011, Warren County Judge/Executive Michael Buchanon and Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Ron Bunch, CEcD, traveled with Western Kentucky University President Dr. Gary Ransdell and WKU representatives to China in support of the Confucius Institute at WKU. The group celebrated the university's growing partnership with the Hanban/Confucius Institute Headquarters and the Chinese Ministry of Education. Through this partnership, WKU is providing Bowling Green and South Central Kentucky with access to Chinese professionals and opportunities to foster Chinese language and cultural learning, which supports the

With companies from Canada, Finland, Germany, Japan and Sweden, Bowling Green is an environment in which international companies thrive. These companies are within a variety of sectors, including:

- Advanced manufacturing
- Automotive parts and suppliers
- Fabricated metals
- Paper and allied products manufacturing

local business community's growth into international markets.

In spring 2012, leaders of the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Commercial Service, along with U.S. Congressman Brett Guthrie and Dr. Jeffrey Katz, dean of Western Kentucky University's Gordon Ford College of Business, announced a pledge between the chamber and the U.S. Commercial Service to provide educational and one-on-one services to local existing businesses regarding export opportunities. ●

**"The partnership with the U.S. Commercial Service will heighten businesses' opportunities for growth through exports. Opening more doors on a global level will help our companies increase their sales and their business activities, which will create a demand for more employees, which means more jobs and more wealth for our residents."**

— D. Gaines Penn, 2012 Chamber Board of Directors Chairman.



The Kentucky Transpark is 900 acres zoned for light and heavy industrial business.

## Logistics, Location, Technology

THE Kentucky Transpark is one of the nation's most outstanding business parks, located in the heart of South Central Kentucky on the north side of Bowling Green on U.S. 31-W and U.S. 68/80.

With a campus-style setting on 900 acres zoned for light and heavy industrial business, the Kentucky Transpark's assets include quality infrastructure, easy transportation access and on-site training centers.

### Transportation

- Less than five miles from Interstate 65 and one mile away using the planned interstate connector road that will directly connect the Transpark to I-65
- On-site CSX rail mainline and industrial rail spur
- River transportation within one hour
- Less than 100 miles from the Louisville and Nashville International Airports

### Companies

- American Howa Kentucky, Inc.
- Bowling Green Metalforming (Magna)
- Cannon Automotive Solutions
- Shiloh Industries, Inc.

### Training

- Bowling Green Technical College Transpark Center, part of the Kentucky Community & Technical College System

- Green River Regional Educational Cooperative
- Warren County Public Schools Area Technology Center

### Environmentally Friendly

- Bike and walking trails
- Abundant green space
- Water features



### CSX Select Site – Lot 6

- One of five best manufacturing properties on CSX's 23-state network
- Only Select Site in Kentucky
- Land area: 100 acres
- Zoning: Heavy Industrial District (HI)
- Road access: U.S. Highway 31W (1 mi)
- Highway access: Interstate 65 (5 mi)/ I-65 Connector Road (1 mi)
- Rail provider: CSX

### Speculative Building III

- Pre-engineered steel structure with steel-insulated panels on 16 acres of land
- **Floor area:** 108,000 sq.ft., with a potential expansion area of 108,000 sq.ft. and an additional 18,000 sq.ft of office space
- **Dimensions:** 300 feet by 360 feet

## Real Estate in South Central Kentucky

With a 23 percent population growth from 2000-2010, demand for real estate in both the residential and commercial real estate sectors has remained healthy in Bowling Green and Warren County. The South Central Kentucky region offers ideal sites and buildings for businesses looking to expand current operations or locate new facilities. With low real estate costs and state-of-the-art infrastructure, the region makes business decisions easy because of its available properties.

Alex Nottmeier, CCIM, SIOR of Neal Turner Realty explains, "While no market is recession proof, the Bowling Green/Warren County real estate market has weathered the recent financial storms with amazing resilience and has defied national trends by having no significant price erosion in any market sector. With continued smart development in both the private sector and public infrastructure projects, South Central Kentucky is well positioned to provide real estate solutions for national and regional economic recovery trends."

- **Building waves:** 38 feet
- **Roof:** 24-gauge steel-standing, seam insulated panels
- **Walls:** 24-gauge insulated sandwich panels and eight-foot block wainscot
- **Floor:** Four-inch dense grade aggregate; eight-inch concrete floor capable
- **Foundation:** Reinforced concrete
- **Columns:** Two rows with 40 feet by 100 feet spacing
- **Docks:** One drive-in door and two docks installed; expandable by tenant to specifications



# Living Is Better – and Less Expensive – in the South Central Kentucky Region

**W**HILE low business costs and top-quality assets make sense for doing business in Bowling Green-Warren County, the many amenities make it a great place to live.

## Low cost of living

A low cost of living makes doing business, excelling in a career and raising a family easier in Bowling Green, without the sacrifice of essentials such as education and infrastructure. The city's low cost of living is 92.9 percent of the national average (ACCRA COLI, Q1 2011). There are exceptional savings in several areas:

- 21 percent less for housing
- Nearly 7 percent less for food
- 4 percent less for health care
- 3 percent less for transportation

## Health care

Five hospitals are within a 40-mile radius of Bowling Green: The Medical Center, Greenview Regional Hospital, TJ Sampson Hospital, Caverna Memorial Hospital and Logan Memorial Hospital. Additionally, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, one of the top patient referral centers in the United States, is just one hour south of Bowling Green in Nashville.

Within the Bowling Green city limits, The Medical Center and Greenview Regional Hospital offer a combined total of 548 beds. The city is home to specialty centers, such as The Heart Institute, the Cancer Treatment Institute, and the Commonwealth Regional Specialty Hospital.



The health care infrastructure of Bowling Green is strongly supported by Western Kentucky University's nursing program, which offers RN to NP degrees and is the university's largest major. A component of the Bowling Green Downtown TIF District, a medical complex will house WKU's nursing baccalaureate and doctorate degree programs and the doctorate of physical therapy degree program.

## Attractions and Recreation

With a low living costs, residents have more opportunities to enjoy the variety of attractions and recreational opportunities available in Bowling Green and South Central Kentucky. The region offers family fun and world-class entertainment, which is why Bowling Green is one of the 50 Best Adventure Towns in the country.

Bowling Green's National Corvette Museum is a state-of-the-art showcase facility that features more than 70 Corvettes including classics and one-of-a-kind prototypes that didn't make it to production, in addition to today's most recent designs. The future Motorsports Park will be located on the Museum's campus, featuring a 2.94-mile road course built to professional design standards.

The Bowling Green Ballpark – home to the Bowling Green Hot Rods, the Class A affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays – opened in 2009 and has been a major draw for Bowling Green residents and visitors alike. The 4,500-seat baseball stadium includes grass lawn seating areas, a kids' play area, VIP suites and several refreshment areas and eateries.

The Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center celebrated its grand opening in March 2012 with country music star Vince Gill and a performance by Orchestra Kentucky of Bowling Green. SKyPAC is an 80,000-square-foot facility with 1,800 seats and features Broadway productions, local and worldwide music acts, comedy shows and kid-friendly performances.



Lost River Cave is a popular attraction for South Central Kentucky residents and tourists alike. The park includes Kentucky's only underground boat tour on the river that Ripley's Believe It or Not claims is the shortest, deepest river in the world.

Less than 30 minutes away lies the world's longest-known cave system, aptly named Mammoth Cave. This national park offers visitors the opportunity to tour the cave, hike a trail, canoe the Green River, ride a horse or set up camp for the night.

Professional and recreational golfers have access to four public golf courses, as well as three private country clubs, including The Club at Olde Stone, recognized by Golfweek magazine as one of the top 100 Best Modern Courses in the U.S. ●





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# THE SPIRIT OF DISCOVERY

***"Working in research with Dr. Strolger, I'm getting to play a part in discovering, measuring and quantifying data in the study of dark energy and supernovae. This is real science. This science hasn't been done before."***

Andrew came to WKU as a high school senior in the Gatton Academy of Mathematics & Science. During his time at WKU, Andrew's passion for science has grown as he has gained hands-on experience alongside Dr. Louis-Gregory Strolger, a professor whose research colleagues won the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics.

Hands-on learning. World-class research. Just a few more examples of how WKU is becoming A Leading American University with International Reach. Schedule your personal tour today.

Andrew Gott  
Elizabethtown, KY  
Physics Major  
Class of 2011



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