

Kentucky ranks in the top 10 in states with the highest job opening rates

BY DENIS HOUSE
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Currently, the national job opening rate is 4.4%, which equals about 7.4 million available positions.

In Kentucky, that number is 4.8%, tying it with three other states at No. 8 in states with the highest job opening rates, according to a new study released by Podium AI, a customer AI service platform that analyzed the latest data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Kentucky's rate is 9% higher than the national average. "What really stands out is the contrast between smaller



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According to a recent study, Kentucky is tied for No. 8 as the state with the highest job-opening rate.

states like West Virginia and Maine, which are posting the highest rates, and much larger economies like California and Texas, which sit near the bottom," said Eric Rea, CEO

and founder of Podium AI. "It's not that California and Texas don't have jobs – they have hundreds of thousands – but because their workforces are so large, those openings represent a much smaller share overall. It's a reminder that job seekers in a smaller state may actually find more opportunities, proportionally, than in some of the biggest states."

The state with the highest rate of job openings is West Virginia at 6%. The state has 46,000, and its job-opening rate is 36% above the national average. Three states are tied for No. 2 (Maine, North Carolina, and South Carolina) at

5.6%.

Kentucky is tied with Maryland and Wyoming at 4.8%. The Bluegrass State has 105,000 job openings, while Maryland has 142,000 and Wyoming, 15,000.

"High job opening rates often reflect strong demand for workers, but they can also point to challenges for employers in filling roles," Rea said. "States like West Virginia and Maine may be experiencing tight labor markets, where businesses are competing harder to attract staff. That can create opportunities for job seekers, but it also puts pressure on employers to improve pay, benefits, and

workplace flexibility."

The state with the lowest job opening rate is Washington at 3.7% with 142,000 job openings 16% below the national average. Next comes Hawaii and California tied for second (3.8%), and Texas, South Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Indiana tied for third (3.9%).

The study notes that California and Texas both appear near the bottom of the rankings despite their huge number of vacancies. California had the most job openings in the country at 702,000, while Texas had 575,000. The reason, the study noted, comes down to population size—with such large

workforces, even hundreds of thousands of vacancies only make up a small share of total jobs.

"These numbers highlight the importance of looking at both absolute job counts and the rate of openings," Rea said. "A state like New York or California may have the highest number of openings, but competition will still be fierce because of the size of the workforce. In smaller states with high rates, workers may find they have more leverage and choice."

To view the entire report, visit <https://www.podium.com.au>.

SAMANTHA

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Knight pushed her drive on the 14th hole out of bounds, resulting in double-bogey to bring many golfers into contention. Abell rebounded to birdie her 16th hole and once again had the title in her sights.

"I told myself to not mess it up this time," she said, recalling a bad bounce that cost her down the stretch earlier in the season.

However, the added pressure of the moment resulted in a bogey on the next hole and the dramatic three-putt on the final hole, setting up the agonizing wait at the end of her round.

Fortunately, Taylor County's Kenzi England and Kynleigh Young both stumbled down the stretch and finished in second and third place with 81 and 83 respectively.

Abell had finished second in the tournament two years ago, so her added experience and hard work paid off this time around, according to her mother Stephanie, a four-time Heartland Conference champion in her own career.

"She's a lot better golfer now than she was two years ago. She has learned so much playing in tournaments throughout the summer. She's really worked hard for this moment," her mom said.

Abell's perseverance with the weather conditions and bad

breaks impressed her coach once again.

"I am very happy and so proud of her. She had a one-shot lead at the delay, so it's not easy to sleep on that for a couple of nights, but she handled it great. It was some really good golf in some tough conditions, for sure," Knight Coach Buck Robinson added.

Abell advanced to the first round of the KHSAA State Tournament as an individual competitor. Taylor County with three scores in the top four golfers was the runaway champion and will compete in the team portion of the event at Calvert City Country Club.

Those teams and individuals that advance will play at the Bowling Green Country Club the following week

Kentucky in top 20 states for biggest mortgage declines

BY DENIS HOUSE
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Anyone in the market to buy a home knows how difficult it has become, thanks to a combination of high prices and a national housing shortage.

But there could be a light at the end of the tunnel, as the average mortgage interest rate decreased in all states between the first two quarters of 2025.

"It's a difficult time to buy a house, given that home prices have risen astronomically over the past few years and housing shortages make it hard to find the right place even if you have the money," said Chip Lupo, WalletHub analyst. "The

upside is that consumers' home-buying struggles are alleviated by the fact that the average mortgage interest rate decreased in all states between Q1 2025 and Q2 2025. Although interest rates are still down a bit from the highs we saw two years ago, they're a far cry from the historic lows during the

pandemic."

The personal finance company has released its report on states where mortgage interest rates are decreasing the most, with Kentucky coming in at No. 14. Mortgage rates decreased by 14.07%, with the average rate in Q2 at 5.11%. "Alabama had the largest

decrease in the average mortgage interest rate between Q1 2025 and Q2 2025, at around 16.7%," Lupo said. "With this significant decrease, the average mortgage interest rate in Alabama dropped to only 4.8% in Q2 2025, making it the 10th-cheapest state."

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
11TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
MARION CIRCUIT COURT
DIVISION I
CASE NO. 25-CI-00176

VANDERBILT MORTGAGE AND FINANCE, INC.

PLAINTIFF

v. NOTICE OF MASTER COMMISSIONER'S SALE

JAMES WILLIAM WOODRUM, ET AL.

DEFENDANTS

A MASTER COMMISSIONER SALE will be held on Friday, October 10, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at the Marion County Judicial Center, 121 N. Spalding Avenue, Lebanon, Kentucky, 40033 pursuant to a default judgment and order of sale entered on August 28, 2025 in the Marion Circuit Court, Division I, Case No. 25-CI-00176 to sell real property located at 1805 Fogle Road, Loretto, KY 40037, Parcel Number 010-004-01 along with the mobile home situated on the real property, described as a 2020 Clayton Mobile Home, Serial No. CLM106930TN, according to the following terms and conditions to raise \$68,862.25 for the plaintiff plus interest, charges, costs and attorney fees.

At the time of the sale the successful bidder shall either pay full cash or make a deposit of 10% of the purchase price with the balance on credit for 30 days. If the purchase price is not paid in full, the successful bidder shall execute a bond at the time of sale with sufficient surety approved by the master commissioner prior to the sale to secure the unpaid balance of the purchase price. The bond shall bear interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date of sale until paid, and shall have the force and effect of a judgment. The purchaser shall be required to purchase fire and extended coverage insurance on any improvements to the real property and mobile home, from the date of sale until the purchase price is paid in full. The successful bidder is responsible for all real property and unpaid ad valorem taxes assessed for the current year and all subsequent years. In the event the successful bidder is the plaintiff, then in lieu of the deposit the plaintiff shall be allowed to bid on credit up to the judgment amount. This property sales "as is" "where is" with no warranty of title.

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