

Kentucky Unemployment Remains Steady At 4.9%

Kentucky’s seasonal-ly adjusted preliminary June 2025 unemploy-ment rate was 4.9%, according to the Ken-tucky Center for Sta-tistics (KYSTATS), an agency within the Ken-tucky Education and Labor Cabinet.

The preliminary June 2025 jobless rate was down 0.1 percent-age points from May 2025 and down 0.1 per-centage points from one year ago.

The U.S. seasonally adjusted jobless rate for June 2025 was 4.1%, which was down 0.1 percentage points from May 2025, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Labor force statis-tics, including the un-employment rate, are based upon estimates from the Current Popu-lation Survey of house-holds. The survey is designed to measure trends in the number of people working and includes jobs in agri-culture and individuals who are self-employed.

Kentucky’s civil-ian labor force was 2,119,009 in June 2025, a decrease of 702 individuals from May 2025. The number of people employed in June increased by 2,567 to 2,015,949 while the number unemployed decreased by 3,269 to 103,060.

“Estimates for the last three months sug-gest that the strong growth in Kentucky’s labor force may be cool-ing,” said University of Kentucky’s Center for Business and Econom-ic Research (CBER) Director Mike Clark, Ph.D. “While the la-

bor force increased in April and May, these gains were smaller than we’ve typically seen overall for the past two years. Adding to this, the estimates for June indicate that there was a slight decrease in the number of people in Kentucky’s labor force. Despite this, Kentucky saw an up-tick in the number of people who reported having a job. This helped push the state’s unemployment rate down for June.”

In a separate fed-eral survey of busi-ness establishments that excludes jobs in agriculture and peo-ple who are self-em-ployed, Kentucky’s seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 1,500 jobs to 2,060,200 in June 2025 compared to May 2025. Kentucky’s non-farm employment was up 22,200 jobs or 1.1% compared to June 2024.

Nonfarm data is pro-vided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Current Employment Statistics program. Ac-cording to the survey, employment increased from May to June for four of Kentucky’s major nonfarm North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) job sectors in June 2025, decreased for five, and was un-changed for two.

Kentucky’s trade, transportation and util-ities sector increased by 1,500 positions from May to June and rose 2,100 jobs compared to a year ago. Employ-ment was up 300 jobs in the wholesale trade subsector; rose by 400 jobs in retail trade;

and increased 800 posi-tions in transportation, warehousing and utili-ties.

The educational and health services sector reported 1,500 more jobs in June 2025. Em-ployment in the edu-cational services sub-sector fell by 100 jobs, while the health care and social assistance subsector increased by 1,600 jobs. Since last June, this sector has grown by 7,700 jobs or 2.5%.

The other services sector added 600 jobs from May to June and was up 1,100 jobs com-pared to one year ago. This sector includes re-pairs and maintenance, personal care services and religious organiza-tions.

The financial activi-ties sector increased by 200 jobs from May 2025 to June 2025. The jobs gains were evenly split between the finance and insurance subsec-tor and the real estate, rental and leasing sub-sector. This sector had 500 more positions compared to June 2024.

Employment in Ken-tucky’s information services sector was un-changed from May to June. The industries in this sector include traditional publish-ing as well as software publishing; motion pic-tures and broadcasting; and telecommunica-tions. The number of jobs in this sector in June 2025 was also the same as one year ago.

“While Kentucky’s information sector saw strong employment growth in 2022, these gains evaporated in 2023 and 2024,” said

Clark. “However, from mid-2024 to mid-2025, there has been little change in employment in the information sec-tor.”

Employment in the leisure and hospitality sector did not change from May to June. The arts, entertainment and recreation subsec-tor added 300 jobs, but these gains were offset by a loss of 300 jobs in the accommodations and food services sub-sector. Employment in this sector was up 500 positions from one year ago.

Employment in the state’s mining and log-ging sector fell by 100 jobs in June. This sec-tor had 700 fewer jobs in June 2025 compared to June 2024.

In the government sector, employment was down 200 jobs from May 2025 to June 2025. Among the subsectors, employment was down by 100 jobs in the fed-eral government; down 100 jobs in the state government; and un-changed local govern-ment. The total number of government jobs rose by 5,100 positions or

1.6% compared to June 2024.

Kentucky’s profes-sional and business ser-vices sector decreased by 300 jobs in June 2025. Among the sub-sectors, employment was up 500 jobs in pro-fessional, scientific and technical services; unchanged in manage-ment of companies; and down 800 jobs in ad-ministrative, support and waste management. The sector had 500 fewer positions compared to June 2024.

Kentucky’s manufac-turing sector declined 800 jobs from May 2025 to June 2025. These losses were evenly dis-tributed across the two major manufacturing subsectors with durable goods manufacturing and nondurable goods manufacturing both losing 400 jobs in June. Kentucky’s manufac-turing employment was up by 900 positions or 0.3% compared to June 2024.

Employment in the con-struction sector was down by 900 jobs in June than in May. Con-struction employment was up 5,500 positions

or 5.9% from one year ago.

“While employment in Kentucky’s con-struction industry has declined over the past three months, it is still well above levels seen in 2024,” said Clark.

Civilian labor force statistics include non-military workers and unemployed Kentuck-ians who are actively seeking work. They do not include unemployed Kentuckians who have not looked for employ-ment within the past four weeks.

Kentucky’s statewide unemployment rate and employment levels are seasonally adjusted. Employment statistics undergo sharp fluctu-ations due to seasonal events, such as weath-er changes, harvests, holidays, and school openings and closings. Seasonal adjustments eliminate these influ-ences and make it eas-ier to observe statistical trends. However, due to the small sample size, county unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted.

Webster County Health Notes

By Pam Hunter, Facilitator

Swimmers Ear... (Protect Those Kids’ Ears)

Swimmer’s ear is an infection in the outer ear canal which runs from your eardrum to the outside of your head. It’s often brought on by water that re-mains in your ear after swimming, creating a moist environment that aids bacterial growth.

Putting fingers, cot-ton swabs or other ob-jects in your ears also can lead to swimmer’s ear by damaging the thin layer of skin lining your ear canal.

Swimmer’s ear is also known as otitis ex-terna. The most com-mon cause of this infec-tion is bacteria invading the skin inside your ear canal. Usually you can treat swimmer’s ear with eardrops. Prompt treatment can help pre-vent complications and more serious infections.

Swimmer’s ear symptoms are usually mild at first, but they may get worse if your infection isn’t treated or spreads. Doctors of-ten classify swimmer’s ear according to mild, moderate and advanced stages of progression.

Mild signs and symptoms

Itching in your year canal

Slight redness in-side your ear

Mild discomfort that’s made worse by

pulling on your outer ear (pinna, or auricle) or pushing on the little bump (tragus) in front of your year

Some drainage of clear, odorless fluid

Swimmer’s ear is an infection that’s usual-ly caused by bacteria commonly found in wa-ter and soil. Infections caused by a fungus or a

virus are less common.

Contact your doctor if you’re experiencing any signs of symptoms of swimmer’s ear, even if they’re mild.

Call your doctor im-mediately or visit the emergency room if you have severe pain or fe-ver.

Cheerful company shortens the miles.

United Way Announces Availability Of Grant Funds

The United Way of the Coalfield is pleased to announce the availability of \$18,118 in grant funding through the Heidi Badgett Fund, aimed at supporting the health and educational needs of children and families in Hopkins, Muhlenberg, and Webster Counties.

This year’s grant cycle will prioritize projects that:

- * Encourage collaboration among nonprofit agencies
- * Offer innovative programming with matching funds
- * Support ongoing programs demonstrating measurable outcomes
- * Assist capital campaigns that include a sus-tainable maintenance plan

To be eligible, applicants must be nonprofit or-ganizations with at least two years of operational history, and programs must specifically serve chil-dren from birth to age 17 and their families.

“By investing in partnerships that improve the lives of children and families in our region, we are creating long-term community impact,” said Ash-ley Alexander, Executive Director of United Way of the Coalfield. “We encourage agencies to come together and submit collaborative proposals that meet real, local needs.”

The application deadline is September 19, 2025. Grants will be awarded by September 26, 2025.

Applications, guidelines, and reporting expec-tations are available by request through United Way of the Coalfield.

Interested organizations may contact:
Ashley Alexander, Executive Director
(270) 821-3170
ashley@unitedwayofthecoalfield.org

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To Be Honor With Retirement Celebration

On Sunday, July 27, Bro. Bill Ander-son, who has served Sebree First Chris-tian Church for 20 years, will be honored with a retirement cel-ebration.

Members of the church invite the community to join them from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Sunday to celebrate Bro. Bill’s faithful and dedicat-ed leadership. The come and go event will be a time of fel-lowship, sharing of stories and a time to thank Bro. Bill for his service.

Everyone is wel-come to attend the celebration at the church, enjoy finger foods and commemo-rate this long serving pastor.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Webster County Board of Health will meet August 5, 2025 at the Webster County Extension Office in Dixon at approximately 6:00 pm. The meeting is open to the public. Board members are asked to arrive at 5:30 pm.

NOTICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE

In compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Civil Rights Ace of 1991, Section 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1976, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, it is the policy of Redbanks to admit, treat, provide services, and assign rooms to a resident without regard to disability, race, color, sex, national origin, religious creed, ancestry, veteran status, or age. The same requirements for admission are applied to all, and residents are assigned to disability, race, color, sex, national origin, religious creed, ancestry, veteran status, or age. All persons and organizations that have occasion either to refer residents for admission or recommend Redbanks are advised to do so without regard to the resident’s disability, race, color, sex, national origin, religious creed, ancestry, veteran status, or age. The same policy is reaffirmed in all employment practices and reappointment in practices. This nursing center provides quality services to all patients regardless of HIV status.

Webster County Farm Bureau

PICNIC and ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, July 31

Doors Open at 6:00 P.M.

Meal at 6:30 P.M.

Webb Memorial United Methodist Church
370 State Route 109-North - Clay, KY

Tickets: **\$10.00** per adult

\$5.00 for children under 10 years of age

Catfish and All The Trimmings

-- Door Prizes --

Please Make Plans To Attend