

Garrard County Unemployment Rate Rises to 4.6% in May

By Ted Cox

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Garrard County's unemployment rate increased to 4.6% in May 2026, up from 3.9% in April and 4.2% in May 2025, according to preliminary figures released by the Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS).

The county's civilian labor force totaled 8,225 people in May, with 7,847 employed and 378 unemployed.

Statewide, unemployment rates increased in 95 Kentucky counties compared to May 2025, declined in 17 counties and remained unchanged in eight counties.

Within the Bluegrass Area Development District, Garrard County's 4.6% unemployment rate was near the middle of the region. Woodford County posted Kentucky's lowest unemployment rate at 3.7%, while Fayette and Scott counties each recorded rates of 4.0%. Nearby Boyle County stood at 4.7%, Mercer County at 4.9%, Lincoln County at 5.2% and Madison County at 5.3%.

Across Kentucky, Woodford County had the state's lowest unemployment rate at 3.7%, followed by Fayette, Scott and Todd counties at 4.0%, and Boone, Campbell, Cumberland,

Franklin, Kenton and Oldham counties at 4.1%.

Martin County recorded the state's highest unemployment rate at 9.8%, followed by Wolfe County at 8.5%, Lewis County at 8.1%, Magoffin County at 7.9%, Elliott County at 7.8%, Jackson County at 7.6%, Lawrence and Pike counties at 6.9%, and Carter and Wayne counties at 6.8%.

Kentucky's county unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted because the smaller sample sizes can produce significant monthly fluctuations caused by seasonal factors such as weather, holidays, harvests and school schedules. State officials advise comparing county data to the same month in previous years rather than to the previous month.

Kentucky's seasonally adjusted statewide unemployment rate for May 2026 was 4.8%, compared with 4.4% in May 2025. KYSTATS noted that unemployment statistics are estimates designed to measure labor market trends rather than count every person who is employed or unemployed. The figures include unemployed residents actively seeking work but exclude those who have stopped looking for employment during the previous four weeks.

Back to School Menstrual Drive: Helping Kentucky Students With Essential Free Hygiene Products

PRESS RELEASE

news@garrardcentralrecord.com

As school districts across Central and Eastern Kentucky prepare to reopen their doors this August, a local community initiative is stepping up to eliminate a major, yet invisible, barrier to education: period poverty.

Period Provisions campaign has officially launched a multi-county donation drive to collect menstrual products and monetary donations for middle and high school students. The supplies will directly stock the shelves of school Family Resource and Youth Services Centers (FRYSCs) and school nurse offices across Fayette, Madison, Lee, Garrard, Jackson, Rockcastle, Breathitt, and Estill counties for the beginning of the school year.

According to national studies, roughly 1 in 5 teens have struggled to afford period products or have missed school entirely because of a lack of access. In rural and financially strained pocket communities across Eastern Kentucky, local resource coordinators report that the need is a constant barrier, with them often having to purchase products with their own personal resources.

"Our goal is to ensure that no student in our region has to compromise their education, health, or dignity simply because they don't have access to basic hygiene items," said Chanté Perryman, organizer of the campaign. "By stocking these school resource closets, we can ensure help is available completely free of charge and free of embarrassment the second students walk through the doors."

The initiative is currently seeking partnerships with local businesses, civic groups and community members to donate towards the campaign either monetarily or with physical products.

How the Community Can Help:

Members of the public can support the drive by donating unopened boxes of pads, tampons, and liners, or by making financial contributions to purchase bulk supplies. Local businesses interested in sponsoring specific counties are encouraged to reach out immediately.

For more information on drop-off locations, how to donate, or how to get your business involved, please contact Chanté Perryman at chante@babydreamsmc.com or by visiting babydreamsmc.com/periods.

be great if all his kin folk could be there, but the house just couldn't hold them all. I don't suppose.

I read the following in a Sun-

Harmon's Lick News

Delayed

Romans 10: 15 How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things!

I dedicate that verse to pastor Micheal Leger. Mikie we missed you and everyone else who was not able to attend church on Sunday. We send our love and best wishes that everyone will be feeling better soon.

The rain has paid us several visits in the past few days. It is such a great blessing to see the creeks flowing and the waters filling up the ponds and rivers. Rain is such a soothing balm to the soul, especially when it has been a long while without rain. Then when the Sun comes out, it is a welcome sight. I just want to say I thank God for the different weather, the seasons and all His wondrous, creative blessings.

Our River Cade Gibson had a splendid birthday party at his grandparents, Ang and Danny's house, last Friday night. He was so anxious for everyone to get there. It was fun to have Auntie Carolyn and a big let down to hear that Sissy Janeffer and Uncle Todd and cousin, Abigail, couldn't make it, because of illness. The kids had so much fun playing in the water in the pool, and other games that Kylee had picked out at Tractor Supply, where there was a 25% off sale. We had a wonderful time and the food was so good. It is always great to have Lilly and Olivia, cousins also. It would

OBITUARIES

Shelia Schulte

Shelia Schulte, 63, of Garrard County, passed away Sunday, July 19, 2026 at UK Bluegrass Hospice Care Center in Lexington.

Shelia was born on September 9, 1962 in Garrard County to the late Raymond and Joyce Broughton Jordan.

Shelia worked for the Garrard County School System in the cafeteria for over 22 years. She was a member of the Paint Lick Church of God.

She loved the Lord and her church family. Family was a very important aspect of her life. Shelia loved to sing and make people laugh. She loved animals, especially her dog, Bella.

Surviving are four sons, Orville Eden of Garrard County, Tyler Jordan of Garrard County, Steven Schulte of Georgetown, and Mark Schulte of Lincoln County; three daughters, Rebecca Allen, Kimberly Naylor and Nicole Jordan all of Garrard County; four sisters, Vanessa Abbee (David) of Garrard County, Kathy Middleton (Tony) of Lincoln County, Hazel Talley (Marcus) of Garrard County, and Evelyn Tudor (Mark Houk) of Garrard County; nine grandchildren, Loreale Burton (Darrell) of Richmond, Brittany Brown (Bryan) of Richmond, Jordan Naylor (Haley) of Richmond, Sarah Naylor of Lancaster, Hannah Schulte of Garrard County, Audriana Ramirez of Garrard County, Olivia Ramirez (Chamarae) of Lancaster, Shelia Johnson (Zack) of Garrard County and Lyn-nix Gomez of Garrard County; twelve great grandchildren; and a host of cousins, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m. Friday, July 24, 2026 at Spurlin Funeral Home Chapel with Ray McCollum and Pastor Andy Saylor officiating. Visitation will be 11:00 a.m. until service time.

Burial will follow the funeral service at Jordan Family Cemetery.

Active pallbearers are Hannah Schulte, Shelia Johnson, Zack Johnson, Ray McCollum, Pato Gomez, and Darrell Burton.

Honorary pallbearers are Steve Schulte, David Abbee, Orville Eden, Mark Houk, and Tonya Causey.

Spurlin Funeral Home of Lancaster is entrusted with the arrangements. www.spurlinfuneralhomelancaster.com

shine magazine from 1969. I don't always agree with everything that I write.

Whether a man winds up with a nest egg or a goose egg depends on the chick he marries.

Gossip is like mud on the wall ---- you can wipe it off but it leaves a bad spot.

The other day our grandson, Brandon (Bub) noticed a baby purple Martin that had fallen out of the nest. Bub took it to the house and fixed it a box to recuperate in. He read up and found that the bird would eat scrambled eggs. It is so cute to see Bub feeding little Marten with a small pair of tweezers. Bub and Kylee were teaching the little bird to fly and it is doing just fine.

Effort is a commitment to seeing a task through to the end,

not just until you get tired of it. Howard Cate

Most of us spend too much time running from something that isn't even after us.

It was so good to hear that a road is being named after Lonnie Napier. He was such a fine gentleman. I know his family and close friends are so proud of this.

David Crockett, famous frontiersman and hunter, was the

Jennifer Black Grubbs

Jennifer Black Grubbs, 64, of Lancaster, passed away Monday, July 20, 2026 at her home.

Jennifer was born November 17, 1961 in Garrard County, to the late Paul R. and Oneida Whittaker Black.

A lifelong Garrard countian, Jennifer served for 19 years as the Garrard County Circuit Court Clerk and had been a member of Antioch Christian Church.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a son, Jared Grubbs, and a brother, Jefferey Lee Black.

Her survivors include her husband, Randy, of Lancaster; a daughter, Brandy Poynter of Lancaster; and a sister, Janilyn (Mark) Henderson of Stanford. She also leaves behind three grandchildren, Trayce Poynter, Jaghyr Wood and Pearce Molen, as well as a great grandchild, Kace Poynter.

Visitation was held from 5-8 p.m. Wednesday, July 22, 2026 at Ramsey-Young Funeral Home.

Funeral services for Jennifer will be 1:00 p.m. Thursday, July 23, 2026 at Ramsey-Young Funeral Home with Rev. Wendell Johnson officiating.

Burial will follow in Lancaster Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Trayce Poynter, Jaghyr Wood, Pearce Molen, Levi, Gage & Mark Henderson, and Garrett Wesley.

Honorary pallbearers will be Tre Grubbs, Alex, Josh and Derek Middleton, Raegan and Riley Henderson, Tiffany Whitley and Jamie Black.

You may leave special condolences or special memories on her tribute page at www.ramsey-young.com

Ramsey-Young Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Benita Custard

Benita Custard, 63, of Mercer County, passed away July 18, 2026 at Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center in Danville.

Funeral services will be 1:00 p.m. Saturday, July 25, 2026 at St. James AME Church in Danville, KY.

Visitation will be 11:00 a.m. until service time at the church.

Graveside burial will be 11:00 a.m. Monday, July 27, 2026 at Danville Memorial Gardens in Danville.

Spurlin Funeral Home of Lancaster is entrusted with the arrangements. www.spurlinfuneralhomelancaster.com

MASTER COMMISSIONER'S SALE FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2026 AT 10 A.M. GARRARD COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER 54 STANFORD STREET

In order to comply with judgments and orders of the Garrard Circuit Court, the Master Commissioner of the Garrard Circuit Court will sell the properties identified below in the Garrard County Justice Center, District Courtroom, 54 Stanford Street, Lancaster, Kentucky. The properties will be sold to raise funds to satisfy the amounts of judgments set forth below plus interest and other costs. The sale of said properties are subject to the following terms and conditions:

The winning bidder must pay a minimum of ten (10%) percent of the purchase price by check drawn on a recognizable bank (preferably local) at the time of sale. The balance of the purchase price is due in 30 days. **If the purchaser elects to pay less than the full purchase price, then the purchaser will be required to post bond and furnish acceptable surety thereon.** Said bond shall be for the unpaid balance of the purchase price and bear interest at the rate set forth in the judgment from the date of sale until paid.

The purchaser is responsible for all taxes levied against said property for the current tax year and all subsequent years. The sale of the real estate is subject to all zoning and building regulations, restrictions, ordinances, easements, covenants, and rights-of-way, of record, or otherwise. All properties are sold "as is", and possession shall pass to the purchaser upon delivery of deed. Risk of loss passes to the purchaser upon execution of bond of sale or payment of the purchase price whichever should occur first.

A right of redemption may exist in favor of any party. Possession of the real property will be given to the purchaser upon confirmation of the report of sale by the Garrard Circuit Court, delivery of a Commissioner's Deed to the purchaser and full payment of the purchase price plus interest as herein before described.

IF WINNING BIDDER IS NOT ABLE TO DELIVER DEPOSIT AND SIGN BOND WITH SURETY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SALE, PROPERTY WILL BE IMMEDIATELY RE-SOLD.

PROPERTIES ARE IDENTIFIED HEREIN BY PARCEL/MAP ID AND ADDRESS ONLY. COMPLETE LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS ARE FOUND IN THE COURT FILE. IF THE MAP/ID ADDRESS IS DIFFERENT IN ANY WAY FROM THE LEGAL DESCRIPTION, THE LEGAL DESCRIPTION CONTROLS.

Johnny O. Bolton, Master Commissioner
Garrard Circuit Court
(859) 792-8844

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD:

SALE NO. 1:

Case No: **25-CI-00269: PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC vs RUSSELL W. KIDDER, ET AL.**; Judgment Date: **March 6, 2026**; Judgment Amount: **\$121,548.46**; Property Address/Description: **310 RICHMOND STREET**; Parcel ID: **L4-11-019**

SALE NO. 2:

Case No: **26-CI-00046: WHITAKER BANK, INC. vs BARRY L. BALLINGER, ET AL.**; Judgment Date: **May 1, 2026**; Judgment Amount: **\$13,191.30**; Property Address/Description: **1975 CALICO ROAD (BEREA)**; Parcel ID: **70-007**

SALE NO. 3:

Case No: **25-CI-00333: KY LIEN HOLDINGS, LLC vs MIKE LONG, ET AL.**; Judgment Date: **July 2, 2026**; Judgment Amount: **\$8,338.05**; Property Address/Description: **194 TOTTEN AVE.**; Parcel ID: **L4-15-048**

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Garrard County High School Athletes of the Year Multi-Sport




Justin Parsons
Football/Baseball

Abigail Bailey
Soccer/Softball

Justin Parsons played leading roles in football and baseball, making a significant impact. As Garrard County's quarterback, he completed 64 of 129 passes for 871 yards and 12 touchdowns while throwing only three interceptions. He also rushed for 246 yards Parsons remained a key contributor during baseball season. He appeared in 32 of the team's 33 games, recording 20 hits, eight doubles, 17 RBIs and 14 runs while drawing 17 walks. On the mound, he made 12 appearances and eight starts, pitching 40 1/3 innings and striking out a team-high 44 batters.

Abigail Bailey appeared in all 20 soccer matches and helped Garrard County finish with a 13-5-2 record. Bailey recorded one goal and one assist, accounting for three points during the season.

In softball, Bailey played in seven games and batted .250. She scored six runs, drove in two, drew one walk and stole one base.

Ted Cox
Editor/Publisher

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