

Kentucky Unemployment Rate Steady At 4.7% In July

Kentucky’s seasonally adjusted preliminary July 2026 unemployment rate was 4.7%, according to the Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS), an agency within the Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet.

The preliminary July 2026 jobless rate was unchanged from June and up 0.1 percentage points from one year ago.

The U.S. seasonally adjusted jobless rate for July 2026 was 4.1%, which was down from the 4.2% recorded for June and down from the 4.3% recorded in July 2025, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Labor force statistics, including the unemployment rate, are based upon estimates from the Current Population Survey of households. The survey is designed to measure trends in the number of people working and includes jobs in agriculture and individuals who are self-employed.

Kentucky’s civilian labor force was 2,103,837 in July 2026, an increase of 6,183 individuals from June. The number of people employed in July was 2,004,231, an increase of 4,760 from June. The number of unemployed was 99,606, an increase of 1,423 from June.

“Kentucky’s unemployment rate held steady at 4.7% for July,” said University of Kentucky’s Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER) Director Mike Clark, Ph.D. “Kentucky saw both more people reporting that they had a job and more people searching for employment. July represents the first month of 2026 with an increase in the number of people employed.

In a separate federal survey of business establishments that excludes jobs in agriculture and people who are self-employed, Kentucky’s seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 2,300 jobs to 2,033,300 in July compared to June. Kentucky’s nonfarm employment was down 2,600 jobs or 0.1% compared to July 2025.

“Businesses also reported an uptick in employment for July,” said Clark. “The job gains were concentrated in the manufacturing, and education and health services sectors.”

Nonfarm data is provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Current Employment Statistics program. According to the survey, employment increased

from June to July for five of Kentucky’s major nonfarm North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) job sectors and decreased for six.

Employment in Kentucky’s manufacturing sector jumped 1,700 jobs from June to July. Employment was up 1,500 positions among durable goods manufacturers and increased by 200 jobs among non-durable goods manufacturers. Kentucky’s manufacturing employment was down by 3,000 positions compared to July 2025.

“Throughout most of 2026, durable goods manufacturing employment has declined in Kentucky but increased nationally,” said Clark. “In July, however, Kentucky saw sizable job gains in this sector. It is unclear whether this represents a one-time increase or a change in the general trend.”

The number of educational and health services sector jobs in Kentucky was up 1,300 positions in July. Employment was up 1,600 jobs in the health care and social assistance subsector and down 300 jobs in the educational services subsector. Since last July, this sector has grown by 4,100 jobs or 1.3%.

Kentucky’s trade, transportation and utilities sector increased by 1,200 positions from June to July. Employment was down 300 jobs in the wholesale trade subsector; up 600 jobs in retail trade; and up 900 jobs in transportation, warehousing and utilities. The sector had 1,600 fewer jobs compared to a year ago.

The financial activities sector gained 200 jobs from June to July. All of the job gains occurred in the finance and insurance subsector. Employment in the real estate, rental and leasing subsector was unchanged in July. This sector had 200 fewer positions compared to July 2025.

Employment in the state’s mining and logging sector was up 200 jobs in July. The number of jobs in this sector was unchanged compared to a year ago.

Kentucky’s professional and business services sector fell by 100 jobs in July 2026. Employment was up 400 jobs in the professional, scientific and technical services subsector; down 400 jobs in management of companies; and down 100 jobs in the administrative, support and waste management subsector. The sector had 2,600 fewer positions compared to July 2025.

Employment in Kentucky’s information services sector fell by 100 positions from June to July. The industries in this sector include traditional publishing as well as software publishing; motion pictures and broadcasting; and telecommunications. The sector was down 600 jobs in July 2026 compared to one year ago.

The other services sector lost 200 jobs from June to July but was up 500 jobs compared to one year ago. This sector includes repairs and maintenance, personal care services and religious organizations.

The government sector declined by 500 jobs from June to July. Employment was down 100 jobs in federal government; down 100 jobs in state government; and down 300 jobs in local government. The total number of government jobs fell by 2,000 positions or 0.6% compared to July 2025.

Employment in the construction sector fell by 500 jobs in July compared to June. Construction was up 100 jobs or 0.1% from one year ago.

Kentucky’s leisure and hospitality sector declined by 900 jobs from June to July. The arts, entertainment and recreation subsector was down 1,100 jobs while the accommodations and food services subsector added 200 jobs. Employment in this sector was up 2,700 positions from one year ago.

“Employment in Kentucky’s leisure and hospitality businesses fell by 900 jobs in July but this was after adding 2,000 jobs in June,” said Clark. “Generally, employment in this sector has increased over the past few months.”

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

Kentucky’s statewide unemployment rate and employment levels are seasonally adjusted. Employment statistics undergo sharp fluctuations due to seasonal events, such as weather changes, harvests, holidays, and school openings and closings. Seasonal adjustments eliminate these influences and make it easier to observe statistical trends. However, due to the small sample size, county unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted.

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Anthony L. Catlett, Editor

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617 N. Adams Street
P.O. Box 218
Sturgis, KY 42459

Phone
(270) 635-2041
Fax (270) 318-0539

How Seniors Can Travel Safely

Travel is often cited as something to look forward to when retirement rolls around. With work no longer demanding retirees’ time, they have an opportunity to dust off their passports, take their suitcases out of the attic and book whirlwind trips.

It’s important for senior travelers to keep their personal safety in mind when away from home. That’s because seniors are considered a high risk group for travel-related dangers, including vulnerability to crimes like pickpocketing, says the National Institutes of Health. Seniors also may be more vulnerable to accidents or health-related incidents. Seniors can follow these guidelines for safe travel the next time they head off for parts unknown.

Check travel documents

Some countries will not allow travelers to enter if their passports expire within six months of their arrival. Ensure that your travel documents will be valid at least six months after you will return home, says the U.S. Department of State. You don’t want to risk any hiccups that will put you in a precarious situation or prevent or delay your trip.

Research your destination

It’s important to have an idea of the atmosphere of any locale you plan to visit. The U.S. Department of State issues travel advisories that can inform travelers about potential destinations.

In addition to travel advisories, use resources like Trip Advisor to read reviews of hotels, tours and other travel components to find out if your safety may be in jeopardy.

Don’t publicize your trip

It’s natural to want to share news of an upcoming trip with others, but reconsider posting about it on social media, both before leaving and while you’re away. There are cases of thieves using social media to target the homes of those who have advertised they’re going on long trips.

Pack prescriptions correctly

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says nearly nine in 10 older adults take at least one medication. Always store medication in a carry-on bag where you can access it easily and it can’t be lost. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will allow you to carry liquid medication, syringes, pumps, freezer packs, or IV bags on the plane.

Just check the TSA’s rules so you know how to pack them properly.

Streamline airport procedures

Americans can apply for TSA Precheck or Global Entry programs to cut down on time spent in security lines. These travel certifications can help you avoid removing your shoes or separating a laptop or liquids from your carry-on.

- PUBLIC NOTICE -

SECTION 00 11 13

ADVERTISEMENT TO BID

CITY OF STURGIS
STURGIS, KENTUCKY
STURGIS WWTP IMPROVEMENTS
CONTRACT 1-2025

The City of Sturgis (OWNER) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:
**Sturgis WWTP Improvements
Contract 1-2025**

Electronic Bids for the construction of the Project will be received by OWNER until September 21, 2026, at 11 A.M., local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly downloaded and read aloud via teleconference. The login information for the teleconference is as follows: (309) 205-3325, Conference ID 923 9843 8530.

The Project includes the following Work: Installation of a mechanical bar screen at the Main Pump Station, replacement of influent and effluent samplers, replacement of the Facultative and Overflow Lagoons liners, installation of valves and actuators for the Main Pump Station force main, replacement of the Facultative Lagoon, Overflow Lagoon and Plant Pump Stations pumps, new laboratory equipment, control panels for the WWTP Administration Building, and telemetry for each of the City's pumping stations.

Complete digital Project Bidding Documents are available at www.strand.com or at www.questcdn.com. Download the digital Bidding Documents for \$75 by inputting Quest project number 10334390 on the website's project search page. Please contact QuestCDN.com at (952) 233 1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance with free membership registration, downloading, and working with this digital Project information.

For this Project, Bids will ONLY be received and accepted via the online electronic Bid service through QuestCDN.com. To access the electronic Bid Form, download the Project Documents and click the Online Bidding.

The Bid must be accompanied by Bid security made payable to OWNER in an amount of 5% of the Bidder's maximum Bid price.

Bidders shall comply with all provisions of Federal Davis Bacon Wage Rates.

OWNER reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, to waive any technicality, and to accept any Bid which it deems advantageous. All Bids shall remain subject to acceptance for 85 days after the time set for receiving Bids.

Contract award shall be made based on the lowest responsive and responsible Bidder.

This Bid is subject to Kentucky Revised Statutes Section 45A.490 through 45A.494, which in general provides that a "resident bidder" of Kentucky is to be given a bidding preference over a "nonresident bidder" who is registered in a state that gives preference to its in state resident bidders over a Kentucky resident bidder. The bidding preference is to be the same as that stipulated for the state of the "non-resident bidder." If the state of a "nonresident bidder" provides no specific preference, then "resident" and "nonresident bidders" are to be treated the same when evaluating Bids.

All Bidders must comply with all Federal, State, and City Equal Employment Opportunity laws and regulations which prohibit discrimination in employment regarding race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.

All taxes are the responsibility of the successful Bidder unless specifically exempted in the Bidding Documents.

All iron and steel products used on the Project shall be produced in the United States and comply with the American Iron and Steel requirements. All iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials shall also be produced in the United States and comply with the Build America, Buy America Act requirements.

Bidder's attention is called to the fact that any Contract awarded under this Advertisement to Bid is expected to be funded in part by a loan from the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA) State Revolving Fund (SRF). The Bidder shall comply with the Supplemental General Conditions of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (Water and Wastewater).

Bidders shall comply with 40 CFR 31.36 which includes but is not limited to the following: (1) the President's Executive Order 11246 (Equal Employment Opportunity) as amended, which prohibits discrimination in employment regarding race, creed, color, sex, or national origin, (2) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, (3) the Anti Kickback Act, and (4) the Contract Work Hours Standards Act.

CONTRACTOR and its Subcontractors shall comply with 41 CFR 60 4, in regard to affirmative action, to ensure equal opportunity to females and minorities and will apply the timetables and goals set forth in 41 CFR 60 4, if applicable to the area of the Project. Bidder shall make positive efforts to use small, minority, women owned, and disadvantaged businesses.

A pre-bid conference will be held at 10 A.M., local time, on September 9, 2026, at City of Sturgis, City Hall, 106 6th Street, Sturgis, KY 42459. Bidders are encouraged to attend and participate in the conference.

The Strand Associates, Inc.® project manager is Joseph K. Okyere, P.E. and can be contacted at Strand Associates, Inc.®, 325 West Main Street, Suite 710, Louisville, KY 40202, (502) 583 7020 regarding the Project.

For all further requirements regarding Bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and Contract Award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.

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Most Homebuyers Want Office Space

Professionals might be returning to work in offices after years of pandemic-related remote work, but that doesn’t mean home buyers aren’t still prioritizing home office space when shopping for a new place to call their own.

According to a recent survey of home buyers conducted by the National Association of Home Builders, 66 percent would prefer to buy a home

with exactly one home office space and 13 percent want at least two offices. Just one in five buyers indicated they do not want any home office space.

The majority of buyers who want home office space prefer a medium-sized space, which the NAHB defined as between 100 and 150 square feet. Just 22 percent of buyers prefer a home office space larger than

150 square feet, while only 19 percent want a small space (less than 100 square feet). The NAHB survey indicates the enduring popularity of home office spaces, recognition of which can be particularly useful for current homeowners preparing to put their homes on the market as well as those looking to add office space.