

Gallatin  
Agricultural Development Council

Update of  
**COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

July 2025

**Submitted by:**

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# Gallatin

## Comprehensive Plan Update

County Agricultural Development Councils have the responsibility to evaluate the needs of the local agricultural economy. The updated County Comprehensive Plan should identify programs and projects best suited for agricultural development fund investments in the County.

The Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy staff may provide guidance to county councils throughout this evaluation.

### 1. Overview of County

With a land area of only 99 square miles, Gallatin is arguably the smallest county in the commonwealth. In 2024, the estimated population of the county was approximately 8,763 residents. This represents an increase of nearly 100 since the 2000 census. The county seat is Warsaw with Glencoe and Sparta comprising the other major towns within county boundaries.

Gallatin County is situated on the Ohio River in Northern Kentucky. The county is located only 75 miles from either Louisville or Lexington, and less than 40 miles from Cincinnati, OH. Gallatin County is poised within what many call the “Golden Triangle” formed by Interstates 71, 75, and 64. This locale has figured heavily into the county’s recent industrial and residential expansion.

#### a. Agricultural statistics, trends, & projections (i.e. Census Data)

##### ▪ Traditional agricultural production

Traditional crop production in Gallatin County has remained fairly steady with the notable exception of tobacco production steadily decreasing and in the hands of larger farmers only. Cattle production numbers have increased. More importantly, because of CAIP, both cattle and forage quality has seen a marked increase.

##### ▪ Non-traditional agricultural production

The jump in Gallatin County's "Net Cash Farm Income" is all due to the adoption of non-traditional agricultural enterprises. Industrial hemp is being grown in the county, but it's the commercial vegetable production that has really increased the net farm income of those particular producers. There has also been a steady increase in the number of producers utilizing direct to consumer sales approaches.

- New & emerging agricultural production

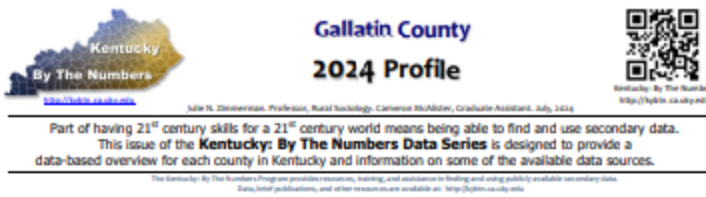
As stated above, vegetable and hemp production are the main players in this category. Aside from those, there has also been an increase in the number of producers who are selling farm products direct to the consumer. The sales of frozen beef, fresh vegetables, maple syrup, and honey are all increasing.

- Tobacco dependency

The few producers who still grow tobacco are still quite dependent on it. As of 2025, there are fewer than ten tobacco producers in Gallatin County.

## b. Demographic Data

- Social data



**Kentucky By The Numbers**  
<http://kbn.bythe-numbers.org>

**Gallatin County 2024 Profile**

Julie N. Zimmerman, Professor, Rural Sociology, Cameron McWhorter, Graduate Assistant, July, 2024

Part of having 21<sup>st</sup> century skills for a 21<sup>st</sup> century world means being able to find and use secondary data. This issue of the **Kentucky: By The Numbers Data Series** is designed to provide a data-based overview for each county in Kentucky and information on some of the available data sources.

The Kentucky: By The Numbers Program provides resources, training, and assistance in finding and using publicly available secondary data. Data, tool publications, and other resources are available at: <http://kbn.bythe-numbers.org>

Total Population	
<b>2022 Population Estimate</b>	<b>8,763</b>
2020 Census	8,690
2010 Census	8,589
2000 Census	7,870
Population Composition (2022 Population Estimates)	
<b>Ethnicity</b>	
Hispanic	525
Not Hispanic	8,238
<b>Race</b>	
American Indian or Alaska Native	32
Asian	33
Black or African American	147
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	15
White	7,780
Two or More Races	236
<b>Age Groups</b>	
Under 18 Years	2,049
Ages 18-44 Years	2,983
Ages 45-64 years	2,471
Ages 65 and over	1,260

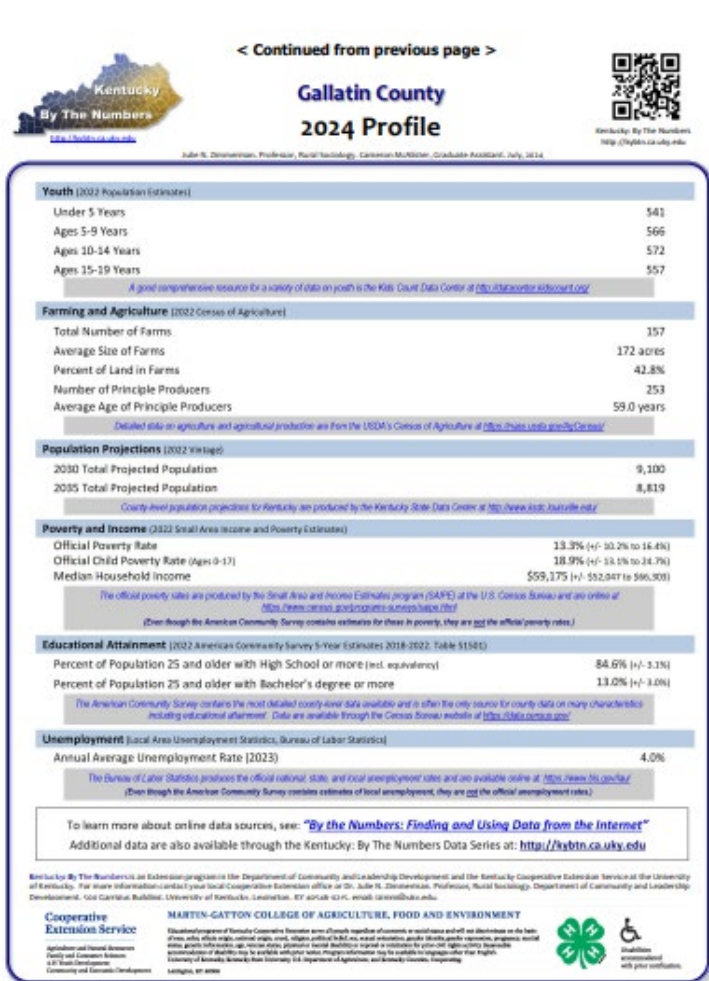
The official population counts and estimates are available through the Census Bureau's Annual Population Estimates or the 2020 Census and are online through the Census Bureau website (<http://census.gov>) or the Kentucky State Data Center at (<http://kbn.bythe-numbers.org>). (Even though the American Community Survey contains estimates of the population, they are not the official counts.)

Households and Families (2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2018-2022, Table DP02)	
<b>Total Number of Households</b>	<b>3,108 (+/- 136)</b>
Households with one or more people under 18 years	1,021 (+/- 246)
Households with one or more people 65 years and over	848 (+/- 75)
<b>Married Couple Households</b>	
With children of the householder under 18 years	1,606 (+/- 180)
With children of the householder under 18 years	523 (+/- 212)
<b>Cohabiting Couple Household</b>	
With children of the householder under 18 years	233 (+/- 61)
With children of the householder under 18 years	58 (+/- 45)
<b>Female Householder (no spouse/partner present)</b>	
With children of the householder under 18 years	715 (+/- 88)
With children of the householder under 18 years	52 (+/- 55)
<b>Male Householder (no spouse/partner present)</b>	
With children of the householder under 18 years	554 (+/- 125)
With children of the householder under 18 years	60 (+/- 49)

Detailed estimates on family and household characteristics are available through the American Community Survey and are online through the Census Bureau website at (<http://census.gov>).

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Youth (2022 Population Estimates)	
Under 5 Years	541
Ages 5-9 Years	566
Ages 10-14 Years	572
Ages 15-19 Years	557

A good comprehensive resource for a variety of data on youth is the Kids Count Data Center at (<http://www.kidcount.org>).

Farming and Agriculture (2022 Census of Agriculture)	
Total Number of Farms	157
Average Size of Farms	172 acres
Percent of Land in Farms	42.8%
Number of Principle Producers	253
Average Age of Principle Producers	59.0 years

Detailed data on agriculture and agricultural production are from the USDA's Census of Agriculture at (<http://census.usda.gov/Census/>).

Population Projections (2022 Vintage)	
2030 Total Projected Population	9,100
2035 Total Projected Population	8,819

County-level population projections for Kentucky are produced by the Kentucky State Data Center at (<http://www.kscdc.state.ky.us/>).

Poverty and Income (2022 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates)	
Official Poverty Rate	13.3% (+/- 10.2% to 16.4%)
Official Child Poverty Rate (Ages 0-17)	18.9% (+/- 13.1% to 24.7%)
Median Household Income	\$59,175 (+/- \$52,047 to \$66,303)

The official poverty rates are produced by the Small Area and Income Estimates program (SAIPE) of the U.S. Census Bureau and are online at (<http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/saipe/>). (Even though the American Community Survey contains estimates of these in poverty, they are not the official poverty rates.)

Educational Attainment (2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2018-2022, Table S1502)	
Percent of Population 25 and older with High School or more (not equivalent)	84.6% (+/- 3.1%)
Percent of Population 25 and older with Bachelor's degree or more	13.0% (+/- 1.0%)

The American Community Survey contains the most detailed county-level data available and is often the only source for county data on many characteristics including educational attainment. Data are available through the Census Bureau website at (<http://census.gov>).

Unemployment (Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics)	
Annual Average Unemployment Rate (2023)	4.0%

The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes the official national, state, and local unemployment rates and are available online at (<http://www.bls.gov/>). (Even though the American Community Survey contains estimates of local unemployment, they are not the official unemployment rates.)

To learn more about online data sources, see: **"By the Numbers: Finding and Using Data from the Internet"**  
 Additional data are also available through the Kentucky: By The Numbers Data Series at: <http://kbn.bythe-numbers.org>

Kentucky By The Numbers is an Extension program of the Department of Community and Leadership Development and the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service at the University of Kentucky. For more information contact your local Cooperative Extension office or Dr. Julie N. Zimmerman, Professor, Rural Sociology, Department of Community and Leadership Development, 500 Campbell Hall, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40548-0217, email: [zimmernj@pop.uky.edu](mailto:zimmernj@pop.uky.edu).

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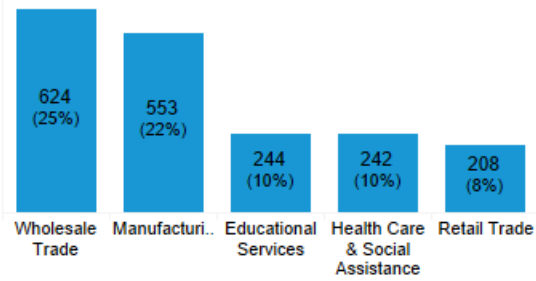
## County Economic Profile

### Location

Gallatin County

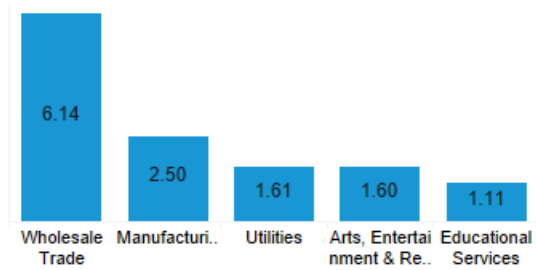
### 2022 Employment\*

Top 5 industries (# jobs)



### 2022 Location Quotient\*

Top 5 industries (LQ)



If LQ > 1, then the industry is more concentrated in the county as compared to the national average and vice-versa.

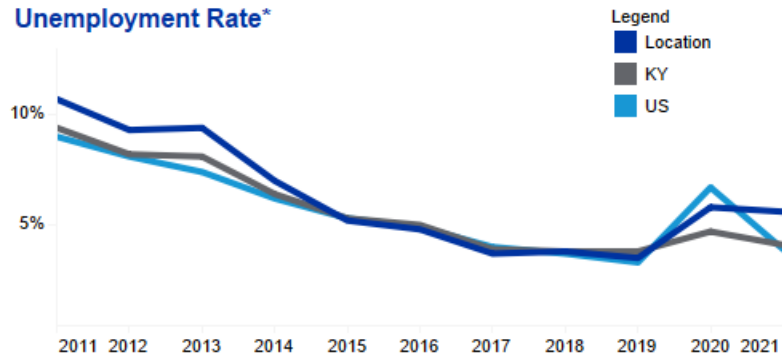
### Demographic Indicators\*

Indicator Name	County	KY	US
2021 Labor Force	4,133	2,048,726	162,410,000
2021 Labor Force (%)	60	59	63
2021 Mean Commute Time (min..)	28	24	27
2021 Median Household Income	55,113	55,454	69,021
2021 Population	8,760	4,506,589	332,031,554
2021 Population in Poverty (%)	16	17	12

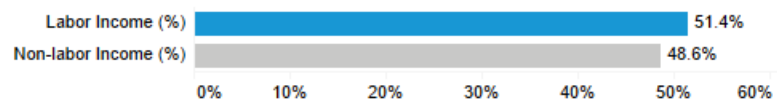
### Jobs Overview\*

Indicator Name	County	KY	US
2017 Total Jobs	2,806	2,010,600	154,920,540
2017-2022 Change (%)	0	2	4
2022 Total Jobs	2,694	2,055,374	161,639,191
2022-2027 Change (%)	0	1	3
2027 Total Jobs	2,717	2,076,430	166,018,385

### Unemployment Rate\*



### 2021 Personal Income\*\*



# Farm Data

## 2022 Census of Agriculture County Profile



In **Gallatin County**, between 2017 and 2022:

The number of farms changed by **-33.2%**.

The value of farm land & buildings changed by **10.2%**.

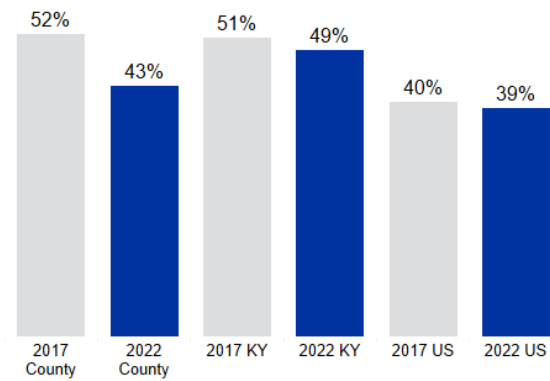
### Select County

Gallatin

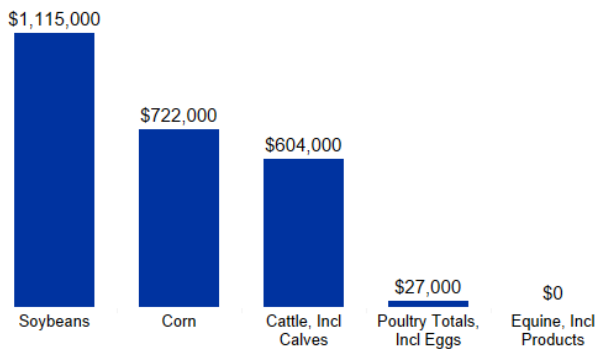
### Farm Economics

	2017 County (\$1,000s)	2022 County (\$1,000s)	2022 Kentucky (\$1,000s)
Total Value of Farm Land & Buildings	\$92,488	\$101,943	\$61,275,840
Net Cash Farm Income	\$1,828	\$4,592	\$2,456,642
Total Value of Crop Sales	\$6,634	\$10,608	\$3,791,358
Total Value of Animal Sales	\$1,106	\$713	\$4,214,388
Value of Products Sold Directly to Consumers	\$71	\$12	\$24,124
Income From Agritourism & Rec. Serv.	n/a	n/a	\$14,372

### Total Land in Farms (%)



### Sales by Agricultural Commodity, 2022



### Distribution of Farms by Acreage, Sales & Producers\*\*

	2017 Value	2022 Value	2022 Percent of Total
Farms with < 50 acres	103	60	38%
Farms with 50-500 acres	120	85	54%
Farms with >500 acres	12	12	8%
Farms with < \$10K in sales	179	112	71%
Farms with \$10K - \$50K in sales	36	25	16%
Farms with > \$50K in sales	20	20	13%
Farms with 1 producer	88	73	47%
Farms with 2 producers	136	77	49%
Farms with 3 or more producers	11	7	5%

\* Totals might differ due to rounding.

\*\* Producer is defined as "a person who is involved in making decisions for the farm operation." It can be the owner of the farm, a member of the household, a manager, a tenant or a renter.

### Farm Operations & Workforce

	2017 County	2022 County	2022 Kentucky
Total Farm Operations	235	157	69,425
Farms Fully Owned <sup>a</sup>	209	124	55,671
Farms with Internet Access	165	116	52,449
Total Number of Producers	396	253	121,007
Female Producers	135	84	42,908
Veterans or Active Duty Producers	50	35	10,785
Black/African American Producers	2	1	493
Number of Hired Workers	191	131	40,464
Number of Unpaid Workers	259	100	55,521

<sup>a</sup> does not include Partly Owned or Tenant

For questions please contact: Simona Balazs, Research Director  
email: simona.balazs@uky.edu/ phone: 859 218 5764

Data Source: USDA/ NASS Census of Agriculture, 2022. <https://www.nass.usda.gov/AqCensus/>  
Data are not adjusted for inflation.



## 2. Assessments of the County

### a. Strengths

Once again, our geographic location must be listed among our greatest assets. With our close proximity to three metropolitan areas and the transportation infrastructure already in place (i.e., Interstates 71 & 75, the railway system, and the Ohio River) the potential is incredible for marketing most any agricultural commodity.

However, our greatest strength lies in our people. We have well-established family farms operated by highly competent farm families. As the county has changed, our farmers have been forced to change with it. They have learned to be flexible in many ways while still holding steadfast to their belief in the farming way of life.

### b. Weaknesses

Many of our weaknesses as they pertain to agricultural development are common among Kentucky counties. There is a tremendous shortage of agricultural labor; without migrant help, it would be next to impossible for our medium and large farms to plant and harvest.

The average age of farmers in Gallatin County is over 56. Few young men or women have entered into farming as their vocation. Human nature being such as it is, these older farmers are less likely to experiment with new alternative crops.

### c. Opportunities

Because of our proximity to larger population centers, our greatest opportunity revolves around horticultural crop production, alternative livestock production, and direct to consumer sales. We also have the land, labor and management to increase beef cattle production.

### d. Challenges

Probably our greatest challenge is dealing with our aging farmer population and the few young farmers who want to take their place.

Another serious challenge is the state government's seemingly laissez-faire attitude towards major infrastructure funding needed for the hemp and horticultural crop industries to make a major impact on Kentucky agriculture.

And, while there is still much farmable land in Gallatin County, we are seeing a loss of farm land due to residential expansion from other Northern Kentucky counties.

### 3. County Council Objectives

#### a. Mission/Vision Statement

The Gallatin County Agriculture Development Council seeks to promote and encourage projects that will expand the overall agricultural base of our county. We feel farm families can do this by preserving and expanding existing farm enterprises and/or exploring new enterprises. The Council hopes to encourage profitable examples that may be used as models for other farm families. Our vision of agriculture in Gallatin County is one that is diversified and prosperous while being economically and environmentally sustainable.

#### b. Short term goals

Since the CAIP has done more to benefit the quality, quantity, and safety to those involved in local agriculture, we plan to continue working with our CAIP administrator in providing cost-share funding to Gallatin County farmers.

#### c. Long term goals

Working with KADF, we hope to fund projects besides CAIP that can benefit Gallatin County farm families. A permanent farmers' market venue and shared equipment have been discussed.

#### d. Tactics for leveraging funds

- Regional partnerships
- State Agricultural Development Board resources
- Other local/state/federal resources

### 4. Evaluation & Review

#### a. How are proposals evaluated and does this process need modified?

Any and all proposals are considered by the Ag Council and voted upon. No changes are needed.

#### b. How is success and failure measured?

If the funding provided creates a positive outcome for producers in terms of farm safety, efficiency, or net farm income, then it's judged successful.

#### c. How will the county comprehensive plan be revised?

The county plan will be revised as required and/or as needed.