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1997

# Industrial Resources: Owsley County - Booneville

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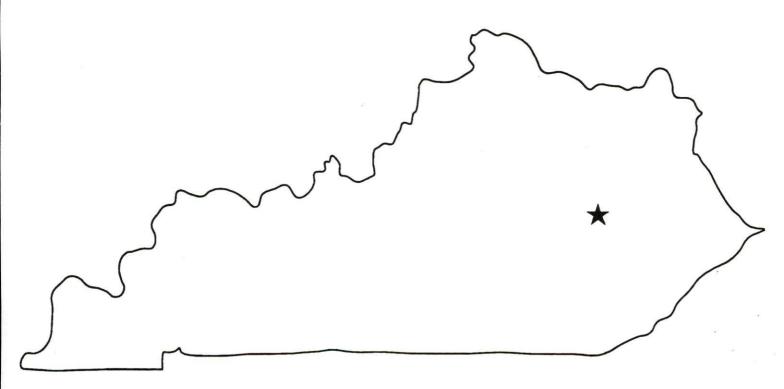
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# Kentucky

# Resources For Economic Development

**Booneville** 



Prepared by
The Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development
Division of Research
in cooperation with
Booneville/Owsley County Industrial Authority
and
The City of Booneville

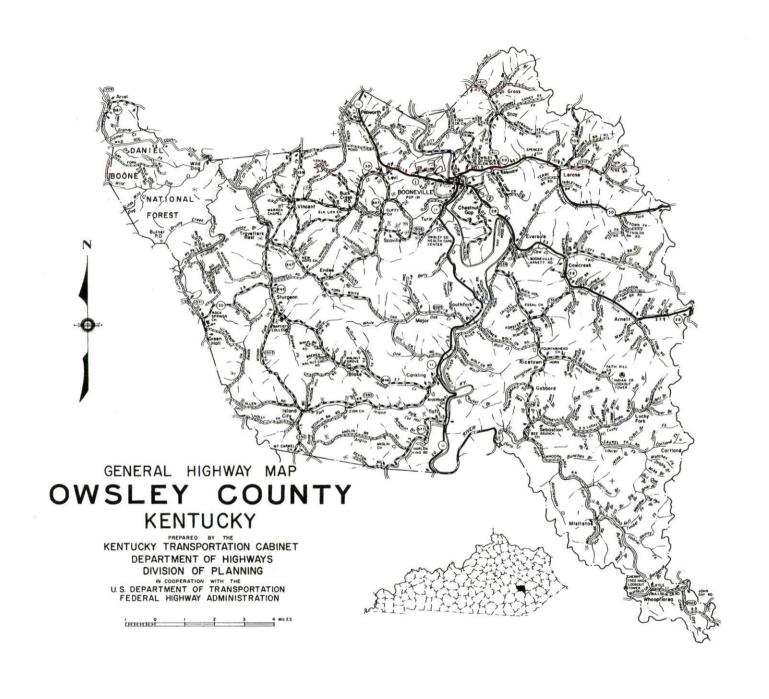
1997

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# **BOONEVILLE, KENTUCKY - A RESOURCE PROFILE**

Booneville, the county seat of Owsley County, is located in the eastern mountain region of Kentucky. Booneville is located 86 miles southeast of Lexington, 158 miles southeast of Louisville, 160 miles south of Cincinnati, and 145 miles southwest of the Ashland-Huntington area. Booneville's location in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky provides it with vast recreational opportunities in the area. Booneville had an estimated 1994 population of 241.

Owsley County, primarily a rural area, covers an area of 198 square miles and had an estimated 1994 population of 5,418.

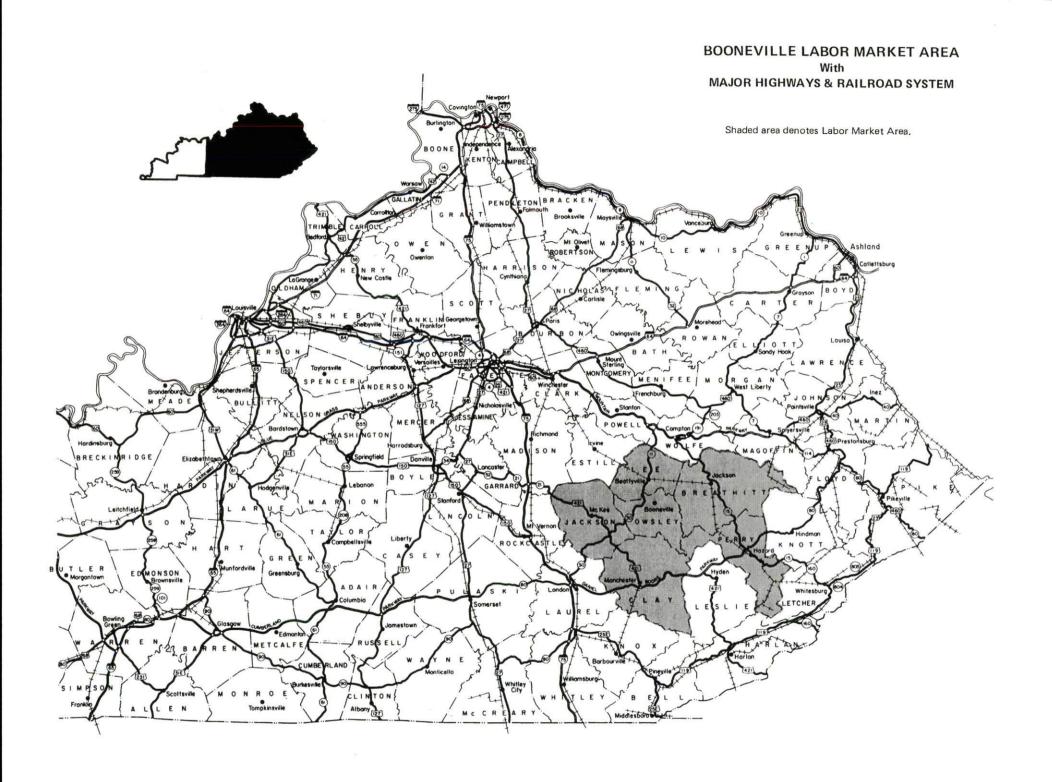
The Economic Framework - The total number of Owsley County residents employed in 1995 averaged 1,473. In 1995, wholesale and retail trade provided 91 jobs and state and local government accounted for 298 employees.

**Labor Supply** - There is a current estimated labor supply of 19,959 persons available for industrial jobs in the labor market area. In addition, from 1998 through 2002, 7,973 young persons in the area will become 18 years of age and potentially available for industrial jobs.

Transportation - Booneville is served by Kentucky Routes 11, 28, and 30. Route 11, north of the city, and Route 28 are AAA-rated (80,000-pound gross load limit) trucking highways. Route 11, south of Booneville, and Route 30, east of the city, are AA-rated (62,000-pound gross load limit) trucking highways. Access to the Daniel Boone Parkway, a multi-lane toll road, is 37 miles south via Route 11 and 43 miles southeast via Routes 28 and 15. The Mountain Parkway, a multi-lane highway, is accessible 31 miles north of Booneville. CSX Transportation provides the nearest rail service at Beattyville, 11 miles north of Booneville. The nearest scheduled commercial airline service is available at Blue Grass Airport near Lexington, 90 miles northwest of Booneville. Small craft air service is available at the Julian Carroll Airport in Jackson, 25 miles northeast, and at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Airport located 42 miles east of Booneville.

**Power and Fuel** - Electric power is provided to Booneville and Owsley County by the Jackson County Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation, which receives its power from East Kentucky Power. Natural gas is presently not available in Booneville.

**Education** - The Owsley County School System provides primary and secondary education to Booneville and Owsley County. Five colleges are located within 60 miles of Booneville. Vocational training is available at the Hazard Regional Technology Center in Hazard, 47 miles southeast of Booneville, and at the Lee County Area Technology Center located in Beattyville, 11 miles north of Booneville.



# LABOR MARKET STATISTICS

The Booneville Labor Market Area includes Owsley County and the adjoining Kentucky counties of Breathitt, Clay, Jackson, Lee, and Perry.

# **POPULATION**

	1994*	<u>1990</u>	1980	<u>1970</u>
Labor Market Area	95,008	92,145	98,978	80,576
Booneville	241	232	191	126
Owsley County	5,418	5,036	5,709	5,023

<sup>\*</sup>Population estimates.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

# POPULATION PROJECTIONS

	2000	<u>2010</u>	<u>2020</u>
Labor Market Area	99,159	103,662	105,569
Owsley County	5,624	5,842	5,958

Note: Population projections are from High Growth Series forecast.

Source: University of Louisville, Urban Studies Center, State Data Center.

# ESTIMATED LABOR SUPPLY

		Current		Future
	<u>Total</u>	Unemployed	Not in Labor Force	Becoming 18 years of age 1998 thru 2002
Labor Market Area*	19,959	3,023	16,936	7,973
Owsley County	1,352	97	1,255	393

<sup>\*</sup> Additional workers may be drawn from other nearby counties.

**Note:** Unemployed - persons unemployed and actively seeking work; Not in Labor Force - represents the number of persons who would enter the labor force if suitable employment were available (based on the assumption that persons in Kentucky would like to participate in the labor force in the same proportion that they do nationally). Underemployed persons (employed only 14 to 26 weeks during the year) are no longer included in labor surplus estimates.

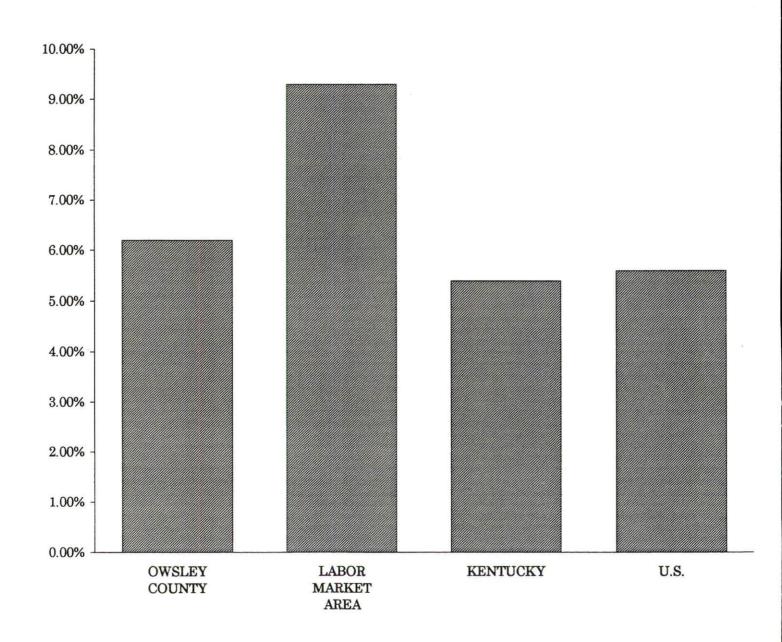
Sources: Kentucky Workforce Development Cabinet, <u>Kentucky Labor Surplus Estimates by County</u>, 1995. Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development, <u>Future Labor Supply Becoming 18 Years of Age</u>, 1998 thru 2002.

LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS OF RESIDENTS, 1995

	Owsley County	Labor Market Area
Civilian Labor Force	1,570	32,473
Employment	1,473	29,450
Unemployment	97	3,023
Rate of Unemployment (%)	6.2	9.3

Source: Kentucky Workforce Development Cabinet, Kentucky Labor Force Estimates, Annual Averages 1995.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES 1995



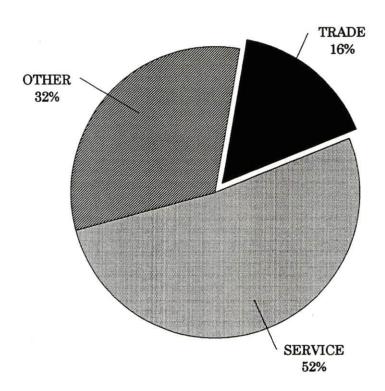
# SELECTED COMPONENTS OF NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK, 1995

	Owsley County	Labor Market Area
All Industries (total)	581	22,762
Manufacturing	N/A	1,810
Wholesale & Retail Trade	91	5,589
Services	N/A	4,945
State/Local Government	298	5,646
Contract Construction	N/A	516

Note: Excludes domestic workers, railway workers, certain nonprofit corporations, majority of federal government workers, and self-employed workers.

Source: Kentucky Workforce Development Cabinet, <u>Average Monthly Workers Covered by Kentucky Unemployment Insurance Law, 1995</u>.

# **OWSLEY COUNTY**

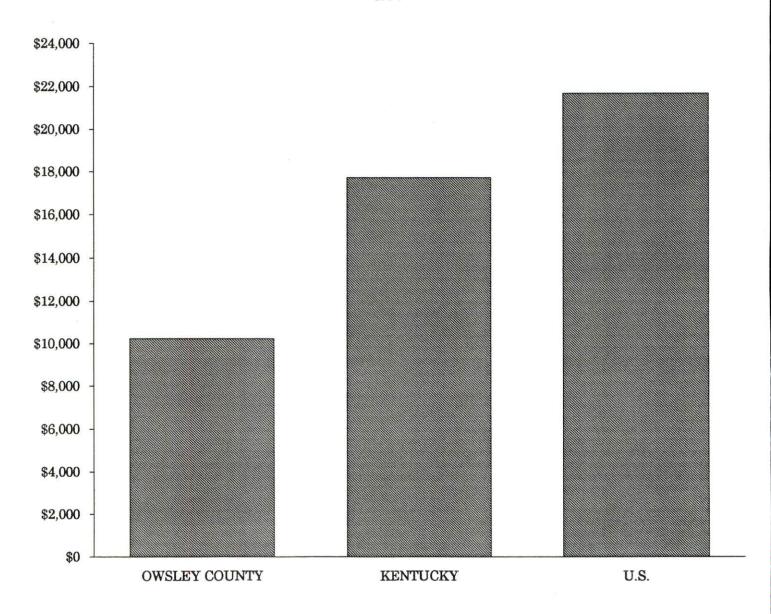


# PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

Area	1990	<u>1994</u>	Percent Change
Owsley County	\$7,875	\$10,232	29.9
Labor Market Area Range	\$7,875 - \$12,168	\$10,232 - \$14,816	
Kentucky	\$14,747	\$17,721	20.2
U.S.	\$18,666	\$21,696	16.2

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME 1994



#### AVERAGE PLACEMENT WAGES

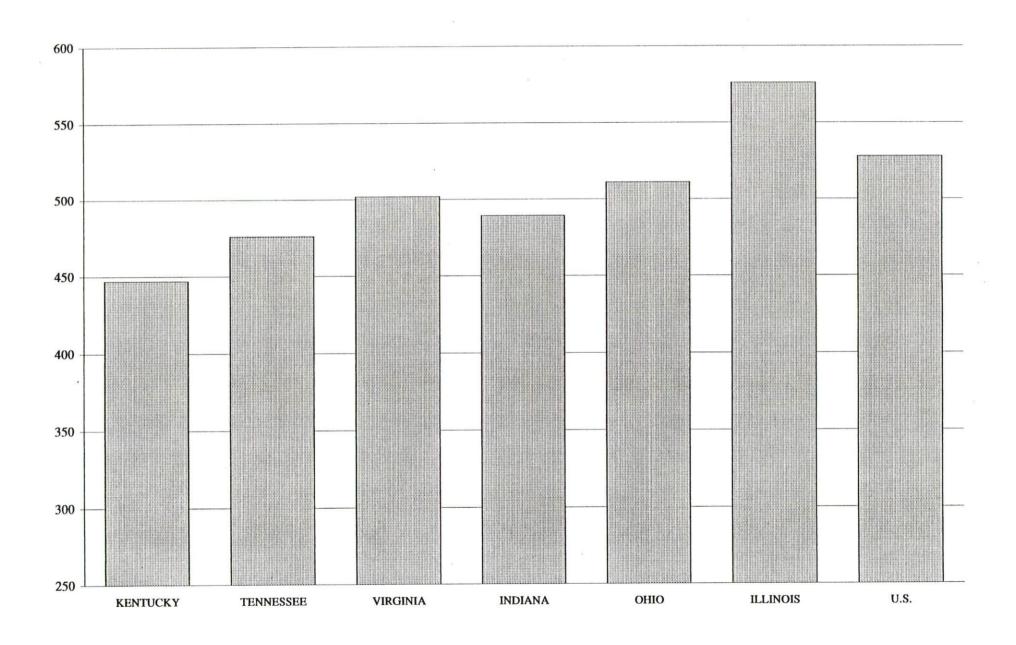
Owsley County is served by the Hazard local office of the Kentucky Department for Employment Services. The focus of the following data is on job placements made by the Hazard local office and may therefore be used as an indicator of the wages which employers in the area pay new employees. During the twelve months which ended on June 30, 1996, the local employment office filled 1,300 job openings in various occupational categories. The average hourly wage for selected occupational categories were:

	NUMBER	
	OF	<b>AVERAGE</b>
OCCUPATIONAL CATEGORY	<b>PLACEMENTS</b>	WAGE(\$)
All Occupations	1,300	5.11
Clerical	290	4.68
Sales	29	4.67
Services (excluding domestic)	484	4.37
Agricultural, Fishery, Forestry, etc.	14	4.23
Processing	32	8.00
Machine Trades	42	7.80
Bench Work	183	4.84
Structural	99	5.75
Motor Freight/ Transportation	27	6.07
Packaging and Materials Handling	24	4.38
Other	25	11.57

The Hazard local office also serves Breathitt, Knott, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Perry, and Wolfe Counties. The above occupational categories are taken from the <u>Dictionary of Occupational Titles</u> published by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Source: Kentucky Workforce Development Cabinet, Department for Employment Services.

# AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES OF WORKERS COVERED BY UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE - 1995



# AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES BY INDUSTRY BY PLACE OF WORK, 1995\*

	Owsley	Kentucky		
	County	(Statewide)	<u>Tennessee</u>	Virginia
All Industries	\$323.00	\$447.03	\$476.00	\$502.00
Mining & Quarrying	N/A	739 22	671.00	736.00
Contract Construction	N/A	466.73	505.00	497.00
Manufacturing	N/A	577.94	559.00	589.00
Transportation,	14/11	377.51	337.00	307.00
Communications &				
Public Utilities	245.60	586.90	612.00	679.00
Wholesale & Retail Trade	177.66	308.87	N/A	N/A
Finance, Insurance &	1201 2 1202			- 11 - 1
Real Estate	N/A	546.83	614.00	643.00
Services	N/A	404.99	459.00	524.00
State/Local Government	386.62	457.63	N/A	N/A
	<u>Indiana</u>	<u>Ohio</u>	<u>Illinois</u>	<u>U. S.</u>
All Industries	\$489.00	\$511.00	\$576.00	\$528.00
Mining & Quarrying	770.00	684.00	828.00	871.00
Contract Construction	558.00	569.00	699.00	562.00
Manufacturing	671.00	716.00	715.00	668.00
Transportation,				
Communications &				
Public Utilities	589.00	623.00	710.00	674.00
Wholesale & Retail Trade	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Finance, Insurance &				
Real Estate	552.00	601.00	815.00	742.00
Services	418.00	449.00	526.00	503.00
State/Local Government	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

<sup>\*</sup> Wages for U.S. and surrounding states rounded to nearest dollar.

**Note:** The average weekly wage for each category includes the salaries and wages of all persons working for that type business. For example, the manufacturing category includes both production workers and administrative personnel. Excludes domestic workers, railway workers, certain nonprofit corporations, majority of federal government workers, and self-employed workers.

**Sources:** Kentucky Workforce Development Cabinet, <u>Average Weekly Wages of Workers Covered by Kentucky Unemployment Insurance Law, 1995</u>. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, <u>Employment and Wages, Annual Averages, 1995</u>, December 1996.

N/A Not Available.

# **EXISTING INDUSTRY**

# BOONEVILLE MANUFACTURING FIRMS, THEIR PRODUCTS AND EMPLOYMENT

Firm		1996
(Establishment date)	Product	Average Employment
Appalachian Environmental Products, Inc. (1994)	Outdoor furniture, recycled plastics	5

**Sources:** Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development, Division of Research; Booneville/Owsley County Industrial Authority.

# RECENT SUPPORTIVE/SERVICE FIRM DEVELOPMENTS

Image Entry, Inc. constructed a 10,000 square-foot building in Lone Oak Industrial Park. The company; which provides imaging and data conversion services, will begin operations in the spring of 1997 creating 150 new jobs.

# LABOR ORGANIZATIONS IN MANUFACTURING FIRMS

There are no labor unions representing workers in Booneville manufacturing firms at the present time.

# SELECTED INDUSTRIAL SERVICES

Types of Services	Location	Mileage from Booneville
Custom Plastics Producers	Annville, Kentucky	30
Electric Motor Repair	Hyden, Kentucky	62
Heat Treating Facilities	Richmond, Kentucky	59
Industrial Waste Removal	Manchester, Kentucky	36
Machine Shops, Tool & Die	Stanton, Kentucky Clay City, Kentucky	42 47
Metal Castings	Middlesboro, Kentucky Cynthiana, Kentucky	92 95
Metal Finishers	Frenchburg, Kentucky Richmond, Kentucky	52 59
Metal Service Centers	Richmond, Kentucky	59
Millwrights & Riggers	Lexington, Kentucky	86

Source: Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development, Division of Research.

# TRANSPORTATION

# Highways

Booneville is served by Kentucky Routes 11, 28, and 30. Route 11, north of the city, and Route 28 are AAA-rated (80,000-pound gross load limit) trucking highways. Route 11, south of Booneville, and Route 30, east of the city, are AA-rated (62,000-pound gross load limit) trucking highways. Access to the Daniel Boone Parkway, a multi-lane toll road, is 37 miles south via Route 11; and 43 miles southeast via Routes 28 and 15. The Mountain Parkway, a multi-lane highway, is accessible 31 miles north of Booneville.

# HIGHWAY MILES FROM BOONEVILLE, KENTUCKY, TO SELECTED MARKET CENTERS

	Highway	Large Control of the	Highway
City	Miles	City	Miles
Atlanta, GA	338	Los Angeles, CA	2,250
Baltimore, MD	554	Louisville, KY	158
Birmingham, AL	383	Nashville, TN	249
Chicago, IL	433	New Orleans, LA	722
Cincinnati, OH	160	New York, NY	737
Cleveland, OH	399	Pittsburgh, PA	412
Detroit, MI	420	St. Louis, MO	419
Knoxville, TN	148	330000 - 5000 0000	

Note: Mileage computations are via the best interstate or primary highways, not necessarily the most direct route of travel.

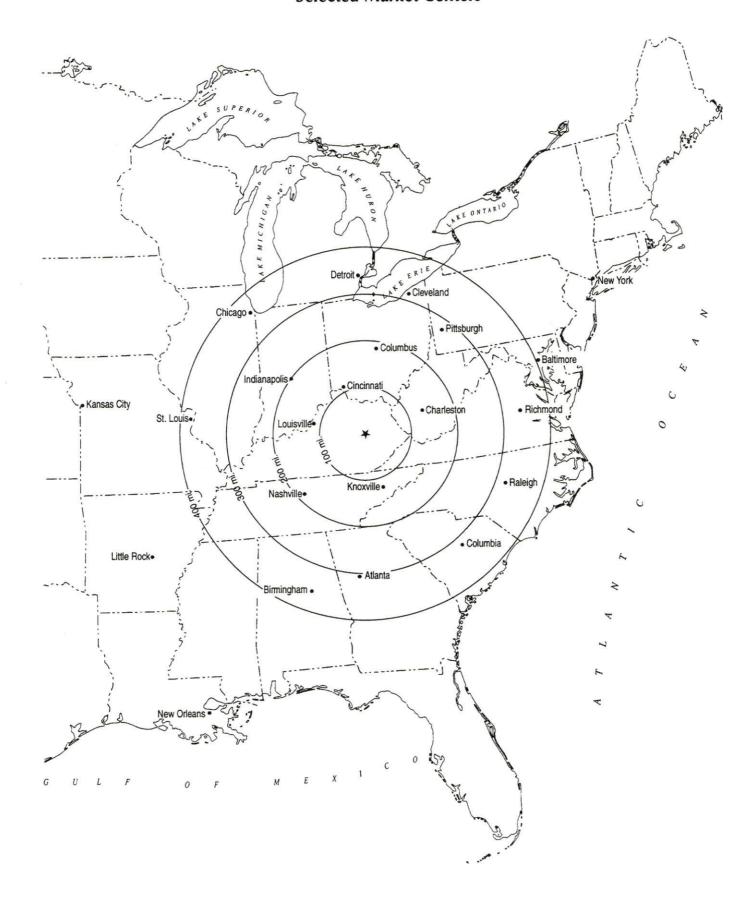
Sources: Rand McNally Standard Highway Mileage Guide, 1993. Official Kentucky Mileage Map, 1988.

# Truck Service

Nine common carrier trucking companies provide interstate and/or intrastate service to Booneville.

Source: American Motor Carrier Directory, Spring 1997.

# **Selected Market Centers**



#### Rail

CSX Transportation provides the nearest rail service at Beattyville, Kentucky, 11 miles north of Booneville. Norfolk Southern Corporation provides the nearest intermodal facilities in Georgetown, Kentucky, 95 miles northwest of Booneville.

For details on routing, schedules, rates, and services contact:

Manager

Industrial Development CSX Transportation 9420 Bunsen Parkway

Suite 212

Louisville, Kentucky 40220

(502) 499-3025

Air

Nearest Small Craft Airports

Julian Carroll Airport

Location: 30 miles east of Booneville

Runways: 1 paved Length: 4,400 feet

Traffic

Control: Wind sock, unicom, VOR-DME

Lighting: REIL, rotating beacon

Services: 100LL fuel, jet-A fuel; NOAA regional

weather center

Wendell H. Ford Regional Airport

Location: 15 miles north of Hazard;

42 miles east of Booneville

Runways: 2 paved

Length: 5,000 and 3,200 feet

Traffic

Control: Wind sock, unicom, 122.7, VOR-DME (AZQ)

Lighting: Runway lights, (sundown to sunrise), rotating

beacon (radio controlled)

Services: 100LL and jet-A fuel, courtesy car, tie-downs,

aircraft maintenance available

The Wendell H. Ford Regional Airport is planning to extend its existing runway to 7,000 feet, upgrade its fuel system and add a non-precision approach. The \$3.0 million project is targeted for completion in 1997.

# Nearest Scheduled Commercial Airline Service

Blue Grass Airport

Location: 4 miles west of Lexington, Kentucky;

90 miles northwest of Booneville

Air Service: American Eagle, ASA, Comair, Delta,

Northwest Airlink, TW Express,

United Express, USAir, USAir Express

Daily Arrivals

& Departures: 110

# UTILITIES

# Electricity

Company serving **Booneville and Owsley County** - Jackson County Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation

Source of power - East Kentucky Power

For industrial rates contact:

Industrial Development Department East Kentucky Power P.O. Box 707 Winchester, Kentucky 40392-0707 (606) 744-4812

and/or

Jackson County Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation P.O. Box 307 McKee, Kentucky 40447 (606) 287-7161

#### **Natural Gas**

Natural gas service is not available in Booneville at the present time.

# **Public Water Supply**

Company serving Booneville - Booneville Water and Sewer District

P.O. Box 218

Booneville, Kentucky 41314

(606) 593-5281 Fax (606) 593-7700

Source - South Fork of the Kentucky River

Treatment plant capacity- 864,000 gallons per day

Average daily consumption - 272,000 gallons

Peak daily consumption - 381,000 gallons Storage capacity - 574,000 gallons

Water pressure - 35 psi to 150 psi

The Booneville Water and Sewer District plans to install 35 miles of water lines in the Wolf Creek area by 1998.

# Sewerage

Company serving Booneville -

Booneville Water and Sewer District

P.O. Box 218

Booneville, Kentucky 41314

(606) 593-5281 Fax (606) 593-7700

Design capacity -

75,000 gallons per day

Average daily flow -

At capacity

Type of treatment -

Primary

Treated effluent discharged into - South Fork of the Kentucky River

The Booneville Water and Sewer District plans construction of a new sewage treatment plant and renovation of the current collection system. The new plant will have a 200,000 gallon-per-day capacity. The project is scheduled for completion in 1998.

# **CLIMATE**

# **Owsley County**

# **Temperature**

Normal (29-year record)	54.90 degrees
Average annual 1995	54.90 degrees
Record highest, July 1988 (51-year record)	103.00 degrees
Record lowest, January 1963 (51-year record)	-21.00 degrees
Normal heating degree days (29-year record)	4,783
(Heating degree day totals are the sums of	
negative departures of average daily	
temperatures from 65 degrees F.)	

# Precipitation

Normal (29-year record)	44.55
inches	
Mean annual snowfall (50-year record)	15.80 inches
Total precipitation 1995	50.08 inches
Mean number days precipitation (.01 inch or more)	
(51-year record)	129.60
Mean number days thunderstorms (51-year record)	44.40
Prevailing Winds (through 1963)	South

# Relative Humidity (31-year record)

1 a.m.	78 percent	(31-year record)
7 a.m.	82 percent	(32-year record)
l p.m.	60 percent	(32-year record)
7 p.m.	64 percent	(32-year record)

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Environmental Science Services Administration, <u>Climatological Data</u>, 1995. Station of record: Lexington, Kentucky.

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### Structure

Booneville is governed by a mayor and four commisson members. The mayor is elected to a four-year term while the commission members each serve two-year terms. Owsley County is governed by a county judge/executive and three magistrates. Each county official serves a four-year term.

# Planning and Zoning

Presently, no planning and zoning agencies operate within Owsley County.

Mandatory state codes enforced - Kentucky Plumbing Code, National Electric Code, Kentucky Boiler Regulations and Standards, Kentucky Building Code (modeled after BOCA code)

# **Local Fees and Licenses**

The City of Booneville levies a business license fee of \$20 annually for businesses located within the city limits. License fees for delivery trucks are \$20 annually.

# PROPERTY TAXES

The Kentucky Constitution requires the state to tax all classes of taxable property, and state statutes allow local jurisdictions to tax only a few classes. All locally taxed property is subject to county taxes and school district taxes (either a county school district or an independent school district). Property located inside of city limits may also be subject to city property taxes.

Special local taxing jurisdictions (fire protection districts, watershed districts, and sanitation districts) levy taxes within their operating areas (usually a small portion of community or county).

Property assessments in Kentucky are at 100% fair cash value. Accounts receivable are taxed at 85% of face value.

# STATE PROPERTY TAX RATES PER \$100 VALUATION

Selected Classes of Property	1996 State Rate	Local Taxation Permitted
Real Estate	\$0.163	YES
Manufacturing Machinery	0.150	NO
Pollution Control Equipment	0.150	NO
Inventories		
Raw Materials	0.050	NO
Goods in Process	0.050	NO
Finished Goods	0.050	YES
Motor Vehicles	0.450	YES
Other Tangible Personal Property	0.450	YES
Intangibles (Accounts Receivable,		
Money on Hand)	0.250	NO

# LOCAL PROPERTY TAX RATES PER \$100 VALUATION, 1996

Taxing Jurisdiction	Real <u>Estate</u>	Finished Goods &  Tangibles	Motor <u>Vehicles</u>
Owsley County School District:	\$0.3989	\$0.3511	\$0.2930
Owsley County City:	0.4780	0.4780	0.5780
Booneville	0.3000	0.3000	0.3000

# **EDUCATION**

# **Public Schools**

	Owsley County
Total Enrollment (Fall, 1996)	920
Pupil-Teacher Ratio (1996-97)	13.5-1
Percent High School Graduates to College (1995-96)	55.3
Expenditures Per Pupil (1995-96)	\$5,149.86

The Owsley County School System will complete an energy-saving project this summer. The school system also plans to complete its local area network by the fall of 1997.

# Area Colleges and Universities

Name	Location (Miles from Booneville)	Enrollment (Fall, 1996)
Lees College Campus of Hazard Community College	Jackson, Kentucky (25)	503
Hazard Community College	Hazard, Kentucky (47)	2,370
Sue Bennett College	London, Kentucky (50)	404
Berea College	Berea, Kentucky (58)	1,526
Eastern Kentucky University	Richmond, Kentucky (59)	15,161

# **VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL TRAINING**

Kentucky Tech schools are operated by the Cabinet for Workforce Development and provide secondary (Sec) and postsecondary (P/S) vocational-technical training.

Kentucky Tech Schools	Location (Mileage from Booneville)	Number of Program Offerings	Cumu Enroll 1995-		Approximate Number Completing Long-Term Programs Annually
Hazard Regional Techology Center	Hazard (47)	15	<u>Sec</u> 90	<u>P/S</u> 260	132
Lee County Area Technology Center	Beattyville (11)	8	<u>Sec</u> 490	<u>P/S</u> 12	300

# **Customized Training**

The Kentucky Tech system, through its Training and Development Coordinators, will provide technical assistance and will identify and develop low-cost customized training programs and services for both established and prospective businesses. Businesses wanting to establish a customized training program should contact a Training and Development Coordinator located at the Hazard Regional Technology Center.

# Assessment Services

Kentucky Tech Career Connections offers to business, education, and government agencies testing packages for evaluating job applicants, selecting employees for promotional consideration, and developing training programs within the organization. A Career Connections Assessment Center is located at the Hazard Regional Technology Center.

# Adult Education Services

Adult education programs are available to adults who want to develop new skills, improve basic skills, or earn a high school equivalency diploma. In Booneville, adult basic education and adult literacy classes are administered through the Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative.

# Bluegrass State Skills Corporation

The Bluegrass State Skills Corporation, an independent public corporation created and funded by the Kentucky General Assembly, provides programs of skills training to meet the needs of business and industry from entry level to advanced training, and from upgrading present employees to retraining experienced workers.

The Bluegrass State Skills Corporation is a major source for skills training assistance for a new or existing company. The Corporation works in partnership with other employment and job training resources and programs, as well as Kentucky's economic development activities, to package a program customized to meet the specific needs of a company.

# OTHER LOCAL FACILITIES

# **Local Medical Personnel**

Physicians - 2 (commute) Dentists - 1

# Hospitals

General Hospitals	Location	<u>Beds</u>
Kentucky River Medical Center	Jackson, 25 miles northeast of Booneville	50
Memorial Hospital	Manchester, 36 miles south of Booneville	63
ARH Regional Medical Center	Hazard, 47 miles southeast of Booneville	308

# Other Medical Facilities and Services

Allen's Ambulance Service Booneville Medical Center Owsley County Health Care Center Owsley County Health Department Owsley County Medical Center Owsley County Rescue Squad

# **Banks and Savings & Loan Associations**

Farmers State Bank, Inc.

# Newspapers

The Booneville Sentinel (weekly)

# **Telephone Service**

Peoples Rural Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc.

#### RECREATION

#### Local

Owsley County Park, a four-acre complex in Booneville, provides an array of recreational opportunities including a T-ball field, two tennis courts, a basketball court, a playground, and a picnic shelter. A drive-in theatre is also available locally.

Northwestern Owsley County falls within the **Daniel Boone National Forest**, which covers 640,000 acres of timberland in eastern Kentucky. It encompasses much of Kentucky's great beauty and provides a vacation paradise. There are scenic hiking trails, rivers and streams stocked with a variety of fish, hunting preserves, camping sites, and numerous other natural and historical attractions.

**Noble's Pioneer Museum** is located four miles from Booneville on Kentucky Highway 30. The museum features seven authentic log houses, primative tools and antiques, rare Indian artifacts, a rock and mineral collection, and other items associated with early mountain life.

Several special events are offered annually in Booneville and Owsley County including Daniel Boone Days, held each Fourth of July weekend. The gala event offers a variety of entertainment, crafts, a 5K run, fireworks, a horseshow sponsored by the Owsley County Saddle Club, a street dance, gospel singing, and food booths. The Owsley County Trail Ride, held each year on the second weekend of October, features a scenic 30-mile trail ride throughout the county. The Owsley County Sportsmen's Club sponsors a horse show each August.

# Area (Within 30 miles)

Natural Bridge State Resort Park near Slade, 29 miles north of Booneville, is located in the Daniel Boone National Forest where cliffs and stone arches fill the landscape. The rugged beauty of the great Natural Bridge is the main attraction. The park offers a 35-room resort lodge with a dining room, a convention center, a gift shop, ten rustic cottages, and 95 camping sites. Other facilities include a lake, a swimming pool, picnic shelters, a playground, mini-golf, hiking trails, a riding stable, a chair lift, and pedal boats.

The Red River Gorge, part of the Daniel Boone National Forest and considered one of eastern Kentucky's most prominent features, is a boulder-strewn area of rugged forest, streams, cliffs, overlooks, arches, rare plants, and animal life. Picnic and campsites are available in the Koomer Ridge Recreation area. The Pioneer Weapons Area features a 7,480-acre preserve where hunters are limited to primitive weapons use only.

The Red River Canoe Race is an annual event ocurring usually in May, which begins near Natural Bridge State Park and ends near Stanton, Kentucky. The attraction draws multitudes of tourists to the area.

**Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park**, approximately 30 miles southeast of Booneville at Buckhorn, is a full-facility resort park with a 36-room lodge. The lodge itself offers a dining room with a lake view, a gift shop, a pool, meeting rooms, and a recreation room. Other park facilities and activities include a beach, a bathhouse, a picnic shelter, a playground, mini-golf, tennis, hiking, a dock with open and covered slips, boat rentals, a 40-foot levee plus a fishing pier, bicycle rentals, and planned recreation.