

1938

Industrial Resources: Warren County - Bowling Green

Kentucky Library Research Collections
Western Kentucky University, spcol@wku.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/warren_cty

 Part of the [Business Administration, Management, and Operations Commons](#), [Growth and Development Commons](#), and the [Infrastructure Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Kentucky Library Research Collections, "Industrial Resources: Warren County - Bowling Green" (1938). *Warren County*. Paper 10. https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/warren_cty/10

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in Warren County by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.

LR

Bowling Green and Warren County - Industry + Bus.

01

INDUSTRIAL SURVEY

OF

BOWLING GREEN and
WARREN COUNTY, KY.



1938 (?)

PREPARED BY

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

In preparing the following information, the Chamber of Commerce has endeavored to present an adequate review of the industrial possibilities of this community in the most compact form possible. More detailed information will be gladly furnished on any subject, if it is available. All of the facts contained were gathered from sources considered to be accurate and reliable.

I N D E X

* * *

* *

*

Agriculture	3	Labor	1
Airport Facilities	12	Light and Power	12
Analysis	13 & 14	Limestone	6
Area	3	Mean Temperature	6
Asphalt	5	Natural Resources	3
Average Yearly Rainfall	6	Newspapers and Publications	8
Banks	8	Oil	5
Building & Loan Associations	8	Population (1930 Census)	1
Bus Lines	11	Population (City & County)	1
Churches	7	Rail Distances	10 & 11
Climate	6	Railroads	10 & 11
Civic & Commercial Organizations	6	Recommendations	13 & 14
County Agricultural Production	4	Retail Stores & Sales Data	7 & 8
County Seat	1	Recreational Facilities	7
Elevation	4	Schools	9 & 10
Estimated Available Supply of Wage Earners	1	Sewerage System	2
Fuel	5, 12 & 13	Shipping Facilities	10, 11 & 12
Gas	13	State Highways	12
Government	2	Telephone & Telegraph	12
Historical Data	1	Tobacco	4
Hospitals	6	Topography	4
Hotels	7	Trading Population	1
Industrial Opportunities	13 & 14	Truck Lines	11
		Water	2
		Water Transportation	12

* * *

* *

*

The City of Bowling Green was founded in 1798. Its name was supposedly gotten from the "ball alley of Robert Moore". It was located on the old Cumberland Trace Road which was the principal road of travel at that time. It was the center of activity for the early settlers of Kentucky who depended upon it for supplies which were transported either by boat or wagon. During the Civil War it was one of the most important points for both armies of the North and South. The city is built on conservative lines and its growth has been steady and continuous.

Bowling Green, Kentucky, is the county seat of Warren County. It is located in the southwestern part of the state 114 miles south of Louisville and 67 miles north of Nashville on Highway #31 W and on the main line of the L & N Railway. Being one of the richest agricultural and livestock sections of the South and situated on Barren River which is navigable the year 'round, it seems an ideal site for the location of an industrial or manufacturing plant in almost any line.

The data presented in condensed form in the enclosed survey show that practically every facility required for the successful operation of industrial plants can be had in Bowling Green and Warren County.

The population of the city, as shown by the 1930 census, is 12,348. The 1930 census gives Warren County 33,676. Population of Warren County increased approximately 10% from 1920 to 1930. Conservative estimates show another 10% increase from 1930 to date. This increase is greater than any of the other counties in southwestern Kentucky.

In addition to the stable population of Bowling Green there are approximately 5,000 students (non-resident) in the city the year 'round. Population is 99.6% native-born. Population of the county for 1930 shows 28,613 white and 5,057 colored. Population is of a stable, settled nature, easily adapted to labor in industrial and manufacturing plants. There is an abundance of both male and female labor in the county in addition to plenty of available help in the trade area which represents approximately 150,000 people. This potential labor is of a high type with wage scales that would meet the requirements of any industry.

CITY GOVERNMENT AND SERVICE FACILITIES

Bowling Green has a mayor-councilmanic form of government supplemented by a Board of Public Works. This consists of the mayor and twelve city councilmen, four from each of the three wards of the city. The Board of Public Works consists of three members. In addition there is a City Clerk, City Treasurer and a City Tax Collector.

The City Police Department consists of a Chief, Assistant Chief and sixteen patrolmen. They operate from a central station house. The department is equipped with a patrol car as well as a cruising car. It has an excellent record and ranks as one of the best for cities of this class.

The efficiency of the Fire Department is one of the contributing causes of the low insurance rates. Fire losses have been low, as the department gets them under control within a very short time. The Fire Department operates from a station centrally located within easy access of all sections. It operates three engine companies and one hook-and-ladder truck company. The personnel of the department consists of one Chief, two Assistant Chiefs and thirteen firemen. All the pumping and hydrant equipment is the latest type. Pressure at the hydrant is a minimum of 54 pounds with the capability of extra pressure up to 90 pounds when necessary.

City Court is presided over by the City Judge, the legal staff being composed of the City Attorney and the City Prosecutor.

* * * * *

Bowling Green has 52 miles of streets within its corporate limits all of which are surfaced with asphalt. Bowling Green has approximately 121 miles of water mains with a supply that is pure and inexhaustible. The City pumps from the Barren River and has one of the most up-to-date pumping and filtration systems to be found in the country. Storage capacity of the main reservoir is two million gallons with auxiliary storage of one hundred fifty thousand gallons. The distribution in the city consists of one and one-half million gallons. At present there are four thousand water connections in the city. The unlimited supply of water makes it possible to furnish three million five hundred thousand gallons daily in addition to any supply needed for living purposes.

The City sewerage system is modern, being only a few years old. It has 53 miles of sewer level with 3,063 connections. The sewage disposal plant is modern in every respect.

RESOURCES

The principal resources of Bowling Green and the surrounding territory are tobacco and general agriculture - fruit growing - stock raising and dairying - asphalt - oil and limestone.

AGRICULTURE

Bowling Green is located in one of the richest agricultural and livestock sections of the state of Kentucky and lends itself to practically every known agricultural crop grown in this section. It is slightly out of the cotton belt but cotton's place is taken by tobacco, one of the leading crops of this section. Bowling Green is the tobacco center of Western Kentucky and raises both burley and dark crop. The 1938 Soil Conservation allows Warren County a normal acreage of 4,920 acres of burley and 782 acres of dark tobacco.

Warren County has a total area of 339,200 acres of which 306,297 acres, or 90.5 per cent, are in farm lands. Of the total farm lands in this county, 132,769 acres are crop producing lands; 129,842 acres in pasture lands; 24,419 in wood lands; and only 19,223 acres are idle. A total of 3,683 farms are to be found in this county, and located thereon are 21,328 persons. Of the 3,683 farms in Warren County 1,889 of them are operated by their full owners; 419 by their part owners; and 1,364 acres operated by tenants. The total value of the farm lands and buildings in Warren County is \$15,534,080. The value of the farming land exclusive of buildings is \$10,829,475, and the value of the buildings thereon is \$4,704,605, of which \$2,951,843. represents the dwellings on the land, and \$1,754,552. is for other buildings.

Warren County is recognized as one of the leading livestock counties of Kentucky and is the outstanding dairy county, having more dairy cows than any other county in the state. On the farms of this county will be found 3,050 head of horses and 5,019 head of mules. In the past few years dairying has become one of the leading farm activities of this section. One of the biggest contributing factors to this section was the establishment in Bowling Green of a condensed milk plant by the Pet Milk Company. At the present time there is a total of 12,262 head of dairying cattle in Warren County and 11,708 head of beef cattle. There are 26,546 head of hogs, and 150,499 chickens producing 910,239 dozen eggs.

The total number of acres of land in Warren County under cultivation as shown by the 1930 census figures was 132,769 acres of which the following table gives the number of acres and the production as shown by the Census figures:

<u>GRAIN</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>YIELD</u>
Corn	60,981	1,314,912 bu.
Corn cut for silage	507	2,988 tons
Corn cut for fodder	9,159	
Corn hogged	1,026	
Wheat	3,056	37,651 bu.
Oats, thrashed	1,189	16,923 bu.
Oats cut for feed	4,719	
Rye, thrashed	34	392 bu.
Hay crop	27,833	32,225 tons
Timothy & Clover	4,384	4,763 tons
Clover	2,320	2,828 tons
Alfalfa	4,821	10,116 tons
Other Hays	12,050	10,222 tons
Sorghum (Syrup)	115	6,108 gals.
Tobacco	7,118	6,551,203 lbs.
Irish Potatoes	246	20,560 bu.
Sweet Potatoes	149	13,951 bu.

Tobacco having become the leading cash crop of this section, the acreage thereon has steadily been increasing for the past three years. One of the reasons for this is the advent of burley into Warren County. Prior to that time this section grew only dark tobacco. As the demand for this grade of tobacco has slowly fallen off, the farmers have begun to turn to burley, and for the last eight years there has been an increase therein, burley having succeeded the dark tobacco as a leader in this section. Commercially, Bowling Green has become a tobacco center. During the tobacco season of 1937-1938, the local market sold 7,828,176 pounds and about 10,000,000 pounds were rehandled and redried here.

The soil of Warren County lends itself to practically any crop grown in this area. The southern and middle portion of the county is generally level or gently rolling, while the northern part is hilly and much broken. The county lies almost entirely in the so-called "White Limestone Region", and the northern part of the county contains quarries from which is mined the famous Bowling Green Oolitic White Limestone, one of the country's greatest building stones, and in addition to this a large quantity of marl, oil and a considerable acreage of rock asphalt is found.

The hill section of the county is splendid for orchards and during the past few years this industry has been slowly growing.

The topography is imposed upon a northwestern dipping plateau which has an elevation in the southeastern part of about 600 feet and in the northwestern part of the county an elevation of about 450 feet. The only exceedingly rough portions are those along the Barren and Green Rivers. The relief varies from 50 to 350 feet.

Evidence of Warren County's being outstanding as a livestock County is shown by the progress made on the Bowling Green Livestock Auction Market in the last few years. Reports show that they sold 51,684 head in 1937. Most of the livestock is grown in the county, but the efficient work of the operators has caused livestock from adjoining counties to be brought in. Not all the livestock is sold locally, a great deal of the heavier beef cattle and hogs being shipped to Louisville and Nashville. The Field Packing Company is open every day to the farmers who care to sell direct to the packer. The livestock interests give every promise of growing as the farmers of the county are taking much interest therein, especially in improving the standards by the use of registered sires. This applies especially to the dairying interest and to some extent to the beef cattle interest. In addition, the county is the third largest hog producing county in the state. Standard and fine saddle stock is to be found in abundance in the county.

There is a Rural Electrification project under way whereby farmers in the county may have electric current at a nominal cost. The present project calls for one hundred miles of line, which is the opening wedge for electricity to be available to every section of Warren County.

OIL

Approximately twelve and one-half million barrels of oil have been taken from the Bowling Green-Warren County fields. There have been approximately eighteen hundred producing wells. Production was obtained at two different levels - 500 and 1200 feet. The industry at present employs 200 men. New methods of recovering oil from old wells, as well as geological surveys showing oil formations at deeper levels, point to an increased activity in oil. A 200-mile network of pipe lines throughout Warren County makes a sure outlet for all oil produced. The holdings in the Bowling Green field are distributed among a large number of operators in many parts of the country.

ASPHALT

Kyrock is the trade name for the famous Kentucky Rock Asphalt Company product. It is quarried and ground in Edmonson County and barged to Bowling Green for shipment by rail. The company employs 500 men and has a capacity of 250,000 tons. This asphalt is being used in 33 states and 10 foreign countries for surfacing highways, airport runways, warehouse floors and tennis courts. Kyrock is laid cold and no expensive equipment is required. Kyrock roads are non-skid. The City of Bowling Green is paved 100% with asphalt. It has more paved streets in comparison with population than any other city in the world.

LIMESTONE

The famous Bowling Green Oolitic White Limestone rock has long been noted for its building purposes. It is quarried in the northern part of Warren County and shipped from the Bowling Green section to all parts of the country. Geological surveys show that all kinds of stone needed in the manufacture of cement are to be found in Warren County.

CLIMATIC DATA

The altitude of Bowling Green is 550 feet above sea level. Climatic conditions are ideal, there being no extremes of heat or cold. Winters are mild and summers pleasant.

The annual rainfall is 57.54 inches; annual snowfall is 12 inches; average temperature 58 degrees; prevailing winds are southerly; humidity from 55% to 80%; average number of sunshiny days per year 250.

CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

<u>Name</u>	<u>No. of Members</u>
American Legion	194
Boy and Girl Scouts	
Business and Professional Women	50
Bowling Green Retail Credit Bureau	65
Chamber of Commerce	276
Kiwanis Club	57
Lions Club	41
Players' Guild	250
Rotary Club	60
Tobacco Board of Trade	20

The Red Cross has an active distributing office in Bowling Green. The Community Chest has been in existence for several years and is serving its purpose admirably. Civic Clubs cooperate in industrial development - in fact, much of the information contained herein was gathered from their files.

CITY HOSPITAL

No. of Rooms - 20

No. of Beds - 43

HOTELS

No. of Rooms - 200

Rates, Single - \$1.50 & up

Rates, Double - \$2.00 & up

CHURCHES

Church membership in Warren County is approximately 16,000, 9,000 of whom attend the 22 (white) churches in the City of Bowling Green.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Mammoth Cave National Park, owned and operated by the Government, is only a short distance away. The main entrance to Mammoth Cave is but 38 miles from Bowling Green with splendid roads. Thousands of visitors from all parts of the world are attracted annually to this greatest of world wonders.

The city has two nine-hole golf courses and two public tennis courts.

It has a splendid armory which can be used for entertainments, such as dances, plays, etc.

In and around the community there are several excellent picnic grounds which furnish opportunity for bathing and swimming.

Western Teachers College has an excellent swimming pool which is open to the public.

RETAIL STATISTICS - BOWLING GREEN AND WARREN COUNTY

The following data are taken from the Bureau of Census of the United States Department of Commerce - 1935. This is the latest authoritative data available:

Bowling Green is the eighth ranking city in the State of Kentucky as far as retail sales and payroll connected therewith are concerned.

Warren County is ninth among the counties of Kentucky under the same conditions.

Warren County has 423 retail stores whose total sales approximate \$6,058,000. per year. Of this number the City of Bowling Green has 236 stores with a total sales of \$5,487,000.

Warren County Statistics

Effective Buying Income - 1936	\$8,862,000.
Effective Buying Income - 1936 (per family)	\$ 1,049.
Passenger Car Sales - 1936	5,394
Homes with Radios - 1936	4,500
Wholesale Establishments- 1935	42
Wholesale Sales - 1935	\$4,351,000.
Manufacturers - 1935	23
Manufacturers Value - 1935	\$2,597,916.
Employees in Industry and Business - 1935	2,572
Payroll of Industry and Business - 1935	\$1,424,000.

BANKS

12/31/37	<u>Total Resources</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Capital and Surplus</u>
Citizens National Bank	\$2,265,751.78	\$1,945,998.77	\$318,253.01
American National Bank	2,076,651.77	1,863,985.48	211,405.69
Bowling Green Trust Co.	1,085,939.70	592,012.48	111,135.35
Potter-Matlock Trust Co.	853,386.12		69,626.58

BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS

	<u>Total Resources</u>
Bowling Green Savings & Building Association 12/31/37	\$2,663,571.56
First Federal Savings & Loan Association	173,788.26

NEWSPAPERS

The Park City Daily News has a paid circulation of 5,304.

The Times Journal has a paid circulation of 1,500.

SCHOOLS

Below is a tabulation showing the number of schools and their 1938 enrollment:

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>Enroll- ment</u>
Grade Schools	3	1 - 6	1101
Combination Grade & High (Col.)	1		517
Junior High School	1	7 - 9	440
Senior High School	1	10 - 12	327
Estimated Valuation of Property of Above - \$700,000.			
St. Joseph's Parochial)			
Training School)			317

Western Ky. State Teachers College	1	Average Yearly Enrollment since 1928	3828
Bowling Green Business University	1	1938 Enrollment	1500
			8030

Western Kentucky State Teachers College

A survey made three years ago showed Western Kentucky State Teachers College to be the largest state-maintained teachers college in America with more than 4,200 different students enrolled for the year. Approximately 80,000 students have registered at Western since its creation in 1907.

The college and its predecessors, the Southern Normal School and Bowling Green Business University and the Western Kentucky State Normal School, have enjoyed an unbroken record of distinguished service to education for 45 years.

The college was created and exists for the purpose of training teachers and administrators for the schools of the Commonwealth. The college recognizes as its duty and accepts as its function the training of its students to become teachers and administrators in every type of school at present supported by the State.

All of Kentucky is proud of the outstanding physical growth and academic achievements of Western Kentucky Teachers College.

Bowling Green Business University

The Bowling Green Business University, located in this city, is one of the oldest and largest schools of its kind in America. It has now more than one thousand students in daily attendance. They come from approximately thirty-five states. As a result of its long years of service in the field of business education, successful graduates of this unusual school are found all over America and many of them are outstanding in business and professional activities.

The school offers practical business courses of non-college grade and, at the same time, two and four-year standard college courses in the field of Commercial Teacher Training, Accounting, Business Administration, Secretarial Science, etc. The entire staff of the school numbers from sixty to seventy-five people.

Bowling Green has a private nursery school, the only one in the state outside of Lexington.

One of the largest and highest rated schools of beauty culture is located here. Its graduates, numbering 125 pupils yearly, are in demand, as the complete six months' course, thoroughly taught, has become well-known in this territory.

TRANSPORTATION

Rail - Water - Passenger

Bowling Green is on the main line of the L & N Railroad located 114 miles south of Louisville and 73 miles north of Nashville. It is also the division point of the Memphis division of the L & N, being 263 miles from Memphis. This gives connections at Louisville for the North, East, Mid-west and Northwest. At Nashville connections are made for the South, Southeast and the Atlantic seaboard points. At Memphis connections for the West and Southwest are made, thus giving rail outlet into all directions with fast freight service into different territories.

Distances from Bowling Green to:

Memphis	263 Miles
Nashville	73 "
Atlanta	362 "
Cincinnati	224 "
Evansville	139 "
Indianapolis	225 "
St. Louis	303 "

Chicago	426 Miles
Cleveland	486 "

The Industrial Development Department of the L & N Railroad will be glad to assist any manufacturer in gathering more specific data regarding Bowling Green and Warren County.

Passenger train service between Bowling Green and the principal points in the North, South, East and West surpasses that of any other city in this section. Bowling Green is served by five trains between this city and the North with Louisville as the division point; five trains South with Nashville as the division point; three trains for the Southwest with Memphis as a division point; and with connections at Guthrie for the West and for the other northern points not having direct service and three from that section every day.

Detailed information on passenger and freight service will be gladly furnished by the local agents.

BUS SERVICE

Bowling Green became a focal point for the operation of busses to all nearby communities early in bus transportation development. Steady progress was made until Bowling Green is now on one of the main North-South routes of the nation-wide Greyhound System and is served by eight busses daily between this city and the North with Louisville as a division point and eight busses daily to the South with Nashville as the division point. In addition to their other passenger motor carriers they operate numerous schedules daily to the surrounding communities. This frequent and flexible motor transportation has helped increase the desirability of Bowling Green as a shopping and trading center.

Bowling Green has a more modern and complete bus depot than will be found in any city of its size in the South. 24-hour depot service is given and the agent is always glad to explain and arrange the details of any kind of a trip, including the many special excursions.

TRUCKS

Truck service in and out of Bowling Green is the most complete to be found in any section. There are several lines with headquarters in this city who maintain fleets of large trucks prepared to handle any class of service. Practically all of the trucks operating out of town are of the van type handled by bonded drivers, full cargo insurance being carried on all merchandise handled. Each of the companies is prepared to make special arrangements for handling merchandise for manufacturers or to furnish special trucks for full cargo shipments to any point.

1 Basinal zone

2 Transition zone

3 Restricted, upper middle class

4 Lower, middle class zone

A Negro section

C - upper class members of this class

C - Blacks

5. Cominatus zone