

Welcome To Bowling Green
"Central For Business, Southern For Living"



Bowling Green is the third-most populous **city** in the **U.S. state of Kentucky** after **Louisville** and **Lexington** with an estimated population in 2012 of 60,600. It is the **county seat** of **Warren County** and the principal city of and is included in the Bowling Green, Kentucky **Metropolitan Statistical Area** with an estimated population of 162,231 (2012); and the **combined statistical area** it shares with **Glasgow** has an estimated population of 215,000. Bowling Green was founded in 1798 after **Robert** and **George Moore** donated 30-40 **acres** to the Warren County **trustees**. The land surrounded the 2-acre plot they had previously donated for the construction of public buildings. In 2003, Bowling Green and its surrounding communities were designated as a **metropolitan area**.

General Motors has an assembly plant in Bowling Green in which all **Chevrolet Corvettes** and **Cadillac XLRs** have been constructed since 1981 and 2003 respectively. Other significant businesses in Bowling Green include **Fruit of the Loom** and **Holley Performance Products**. The **Bowling Green Assembly Plant** has been the source of all **Chevrolet Corvettes** built since 1981. Bowling Green is also home to the state's second-largest public university, **Western Kentucky University**. In 2014, Forbes Magazine listed Bowling Green as one of the Top 25 Best Places to Retire in the United States. **Western Kentucky University**, is situated upon a hill in central Bowling Green, thus its athletes are called Hilltoppers.



Geography

Bowling Green is located at **36°58'54"N, 86°26'40"W** (36.981657, -86.444423)^{GR1} at 547 feet above **sea level** at the airport.

According to the [United States Census Bureau](#), the city has a total area of 92.1 [km²](#) (35.6 [mi²](#)). 91.7 [km²](#) (35.4 [mi²](#)) of it is land and 0.4 [km²](#) (0.2 [mi²](#)) of it (0.45%) is water.

Economy

Bowling Green is shifting to a more knowledge-based, technology-driven economy. With one major [public university](#) and a [technical college](#), Bowling Green serves as an education hub for the South Central Kentucky region. In addition, the city plays an integral part as the leading medical and commercial center.

[General Motors](#) Manufacturing Plant, [Holley Performance Products](#), [Houchens Industries](#), SCA, [Camping World](#), [Fruit of the Loom](#), [Russell Brands](#), and other major industries call Bowling Green home. It has also attracted new industries, such as Bowling Green Metalforming, a division of [Magna International](#), Inc.; and Halton Company, which chose to expand their worldwide companies into Bowling Green.

[Commonwealth Health Corporation](#), [Western Kentucky University](#) and Warren County Board of Education are the biggest employers for Bowling Green and the surrounding region. Other companies based in Bowling Green include Eagle Industries and Trace Die Cast. The third largest home shopping network [ShopHQ](#) has its warehouse fulfillment center located off Nashville Road. ShopHQ also recently moved a large amount of its Customer Service Call Center Operations to its Bowling Green location. ShopHQ is owned by [ValueVision Media](#) with its corporate headquarters in [Eden Prairie, Minnesota](#) although the largest part of its day-to-day operations are in Bowling Green.

Compared with [Elizabethtown](#) and Owensboro MSAs, Bowling Green has experienced the largest post-recession employment gain. From November 2001 to April 2006, total payroll employment increased by 13%. Bowling Green has experienced a 5% increase in [manufacturing](#) employment, a 5% increase in professional and business services, and a 6% increase in leisure and hospitality since April 2005.

Bowling Green's high income and job growth combined with a low cost of doing business led the city to be named to [Forbes Magazine's](#) 2009 list of the "Best Small Places for Business". In an evaluation of 179 cities across the nation, Forbes ranked Bowling Green 19th in which to do business, finishing ahead of Elizabethtown and Owensboro. The list ranked Bowling Green 34th nationwide for the lowest cost-of-living and 22nd for highest job growth.

In March 2009, the Bowling Green [metropolitan area](#) was recognized by [Site Selection Magazine](#) as a top economic development community in the [United States](#) for communities with populations between 50,000 and 200,000 people. The Bowling Green metro also received the same recognition by [Site Selection magazine](#) in 2008.

The [Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce](#) received the 2009 Chamber of the Year by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives and a 5-Star Chamber by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.