

# RICHMOND REGISTER

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## Richmond begins 2007 as state's sixth largest city

By **Ronica Shannon**  
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— Richmond is now the state's sixth most-populated city, according to statistics from the Kentucky Data Center at the University of Louisville. There are 30,893 Richmond residents according to the 2005 census.

Richmond's population grew 3,741 from 2001 to 2004, which means the city surpasses the population of Hopkinsville, Henderson and Frankfort, all of which have all been ranked as larger cities in past years, said Ron Crouch, director of the Kentucky Data Center.

Along with the city's population growth came the increase in the amount of working citizens.

According to the Data Center's statistics, the number of employees in the county, including Richmond, increased between 2001 and 2004 going from 37,565 to 39,640 employees.

The number of retail employees increased from 4,509 to 4,748; real estate and rental increased from 858 to 1,015; construction increased from 2,100 to 2,182 and the health care profession increased from 3,283 to 3,588.

However, the number of manufacturing employees dropped from 5,804 to 5,287, Howard said.

"That's happening across the state and across the nation," he said. "Things are being done by machines instead of people. Factories are becoming more technologically driven."

EnerSys is the top manufacturing employer with a staff of about 480, Howard said.

The last manufacturing plant to expand was P-K Tool, located at 300 Duncannon Lane, which was completed last year, he said.

"We do have at least one (manufacturing plant) that is considering an expansion," he said.

Howard said he could not comment as to which plant may be expanding.

Richmond's industrial parks, located on Duncannon Lane and S. Keeneland Drive, employ about 1,000 people, said James Howard, executive director of the Richmond Industrial Development Corporation.

In order to prepare for future growth, the city has bought an extra 198 adjoining acres for an expansion as the city continues to grow.

Richmond has grown from a city of 4,653 in 1900 to 27,152 in 2000, according to the most recent revision of the city's Comprehensive Plan.

The greatest period of absolute growth has been the 1990s when the city added 5,969 people to its population. The rate of population increase for the decade was 28.2 percent, placing Richmond first among the growth rates for Kentucky cities over 10,000.

The city is projected to grow by 13.8 percent by the year 2030, according to the five-year Comprehensive Plan. This means that an the city's population could reach about 42,674.

Howard said he is confident that Richmond's sources and utilities will be able to sustain the growth.

"We have a brand new sewer system that's being underused as we speak," he said. "The water and sewer systems are ready and we have a sufficient number of affordable homes. I think we're ready for it."

The only aspect that could use some work is the traffic congestion in the city, he said.

"It's going to get better when the four-lane highway is built," Howard said. "I think it's going to help a lot."

He is referring to the Duncannon Lane interchange, which will be located at the former rest stop area between Richmond and Berea on I-75 South. A four-lane highway will link I-75 to US 25/421, allowing easier access to the industrial parks.

Richmond happens to be located in the county that ranks 11th among counties with the largest percentage of growth.

"Madison County is in the top 10 percent when it comes to growth," Crouch said.

The county experienced a relatively slow and steady population growth through the first 60 years of this century, with a much more rapid increase taking place in the latter 40 years.

From 1900 to 1960, the county's population gained 7,875 people (30.8 percent), while in the last 40 years, the population numbers increased by 28,142 (65.9 percent).

This means that in one-third less time, the county's population expanded more than three times. The population

increase in the decade of the 1990s was the largest in Madison County's history when a total of 13,364 residents comprised a 30.8 percent growth rate.

The county's current population stands at 77,749 compared to 70,872 in 2000, resulting in a 9.7 percent growth rate. The population rate for Madison County may be growing, but a good majority of those people are leaving the county during the day to work, said Ron Marionneaux at an August public forum. Marionneaux is the author of the Comprehensive Plans for Madison County, Richmond and Berea.

A substantial number of people are relocating to Madison County from Fayette County, and the majority of those are settling in the northern part of the county, he said.

Since job growth in Madison County has not kept pace with population gains, many residents are commuting to jobs in Fayette, Scott, Clark, Franklin and other nearby counties.

Based on estimates included in the county's comprehensive plan, the county's population could reach 104,419 constituting an increase of 8.8 percent.

The city of Berea constitutes the smallest entity in Madison County with a population of 11,300 based on recent annexations.

Using this figure as a basis for future projections, the city's Comprehensive Plan estimates that in 2030, Berea's population should be approximately 16,325, which is an increase of 5,025 (44.5 percent) over the 25-year period.

Berea's population in 1900 was less than 1,000, but the number doubled between 1900 and 1910.

Over the past 30 years, growth has been relatively slow, according to information from Berea's Comprehensive Plan. The increase from 1960 to 1970 was 2,654 (61.7 percent), but between 1970 and 2000, the population only increased by 2,895 (41.6 percent).

Most of Berea's population is concentrated in the central part of the city, extending from U.S. 25 South, eastward along Chestnut Street (KY. 21), through the downtown area and northward along U.S. 25.

Another area of concentration is located in the northeastern section of the city in the northeast quadrant of Glades Rd. and U.S. 25.

For more demographics and statistics for Richmond, Berea and Madison County, visit [www.richmond.ky.us](http://www.richmond.ky.us), [www.madisoncountky.com](http://www.madisoncountky.com), [www.cityofberea.com](http://www.cityofberea.com) or visit the Kentucky Data Center's Web site at [www.ksdc.louisville.edu](http://www.ksdc.louisville.edu).

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