

Kent, Ohio



The Northeast Ohio Community of Kent was founded in 1805 as part of the

Connecticut Western Reserve.

Located approximately 12 miles northeast of Akron and 31 miles southeast of Cleveland, it has a population of 27,906. Within 15 miles the total population is 500,000.



Kent State University, founded in 1910, has an enrollment of more than 25,000 graduate and undergraduate students and is a major factor in the economy of the community. The University presently has approximately 3,150 full and part-time employees.

The community also has developed a substantial manufacturing sector, whose products include fractional horsepower motors, fasteners, machining-molds and floral foam products. The combination of a diverse industrial base and university-related employment has formed a stable economy.

Interstate 76, located 3 miles south of the city, and I-80 (Ohio Turnpike) 7 miles north, provide access to eastern and western markets. They also provide convenient access to commercial, passenger and freight air service at Akron-Canton Airport (25 miles) or Cleveland Hopkins Airport (45 miles). Private and corporate aircraft can use Kent State University Airport's 4,000 foot, hard-surfaced runway, 3 miles west of the city. Rail service is available from Norfolk Southern, CSX Transportation, and Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad.

Kent offers its citizens downtown shopping facilities and three "community" plazas, which are supplemented by malls in the area. Because of its close proximity to Akron and Cleveland, the city's residents enjoy many diverse recreational and cultural opportunities both locally and in neighboring cities.

The local school system offers a sound educational program from kindergarten through high school, including vocational education. Kent State University and numerous other colleges and universities within driving distance offer a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs to round out the educational opportunities.

A progressive city government working closely with the business community and the chamber of commerce has cultivated Kent's favorable business climate. Their combined efforts have resulted in a good mix of residential, commercial and industrial land for future sites and growth.

CITY OF KENT

Population

City of Kent 27,906
Portage County 152,061

Governmental Services

Form of Government - Charter-Council-City Manager
Police - Kent Police Dept. - 57 personnel
Fire - Kent Fire Dept. - 32 full-time

Education

Public Schools: Elementary: 5; Middle School: 1
High Schools: 1; Non-Public Schools: 1
Higher Education: Kent State University

Health Services

Robinson Memorial Hospital- Beds: 280
All Akron hospitals within 30 minutes

Transportation

Highways and/or Interstates: SR 43, 59, 261, I-76 3 mi. south, I-80 (Ohio Turnpike) 7 mi. north.
Trucking: 45 companies franchised; 4 terminals
Rail: CSX, Norfolk Southern and Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway
Air: Akron-Canton Regional Airport - 25 miles Cleveland Hopkins International Airport - 45 miles Kent State University Airport (private planes) 3 miles

Utilities

Water:	City of Kent
Sanitary System	City of Kent
Electricity:	Ohio Edison Company
Gas:	East Ohio Gas Company
Telephone:	SBC/Ameritech
Cable:	Time Warner Cable

Newspapers:

Local: Record Courier
Regional: Akron Beacon Journal - Cleveland Plain Dealer

Principal Industries -- Top 6 Manufacturing Companies (by employment)

Davey Tree Expert Company	350
Ametek-Lamb Electric	200
Land O'Lakes	158
Smithers-Oasis USA	150
Euclid Garment Mfg. Company	113
Schneller Inc.	112

Kent City Government

City Manager: David Ruller 330/676-7500

City Economic Development:

Dan Smith 330/676-7582
Michael Weddle 330/678-8108
Web site: www.kentohio.org

Kent Economic Development Incentive Programs

Enterprise Zone— Real & Personal Property Tax Abatement

Community Reinvestment Area—Real Estate Tax Abatement

Revolving Loan Fund— Low Interest Loans
Job Creation Tax Credits

Labor Force: Portage County Avg. as of 2/2008 90,700

Unemployment Rate Average as of 2/2008 6.1%

Local Taxes (Kent City)

Local Real Property assessed at 35% of market value.
Net effective millage per \$1000 tax valuation in 2007:

Residential & Agriculture	61.230093
All other classes	74.435370

Local Tangible Personal Property assessed at 6.25%.
New manufacturing equipment assessed at 0%.
Total millage per \$1000 tax valuation 2007: 125.62

Local Income Tax:	2%
Local Sales/ Use Tax:	1.25%

State Taxes

Sales/Use Tax:	5.5%
Personal Income Tax:	.7% - 7%
Corporate Income Tax:	5.1%
Unemployment Tax:	1% - 8%

Major Attractions:

Kent State University, Kent State University Fashion Museum, Pufferbelly LTD Restaurant, Kent Riveredge Park & Falls, Kent State University May 4 Memorial, Kent Historical Society, Masonic Temple (Marvin Kent Home), Kent City Parks (six parks in the original tree city).

Nearby Attractions:

Wildwater Kingdom; Portage County Fair in Randolph; Aurora Premium Outlets; Portage County Historical Society Museum; Hiram College; Northeast Ohio Universities College of Medicine (NEOUCOM); West Branch, Nelson Kennedy Ledges and Tinkers Creek State Parks; and Eagle Creek State Nature Preserve.

For more information, contact:

Kent Area Chamber of Commerce: 330/673-9855
www.kentbiz.com e-mail: bhoover@kentbiz.com

First Energy Corp., Economic Development Department:
330/384-4517 Web Address: www.firstenergycorp.com/ed

Portage County Dept. of Economic Development

William Ulik, Director- 330/297-3470
E-mail: wulik@portageco.com or pcoed@neo.rr.com
Web address: www.portageworkforce.org/pcoed

Revised: 4/2008