

# 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	162
Smithers-Oasis USA	150
Euclid Garment Mfg. Company	113
Schneller Inc.	112

### Kent City Government

City Manager: David Ruller 330/676-7500

### Economic Development Coordinator:

Michael Weddle 330/678-8108  
Web site: [www.kentohio.org](http://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 2/2007 90,500

**Unemployment Rate** Average as of 2/2007 5.5%

### Local Taxes (Kent City)

Local Real Property assessed at 35% of market value.

Net effective millage per \$1000 tax valuation in 2006:

Residential & Agriculture	61.117235
All other classes	73.965734

Local Tangible Personal Property assessed at 12.50%.

New manufacturing equipment assessed at 0%.

Total millage per \$1000 tax valuation 2006: 125.58

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:

Geauga Lake/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](http://www.kentbiz.com) e-mail: [dsmith@kentbiz.com](mailto:dsmith@kentbiz.com)

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

### **Revised: 4/2007 by:**

Portage County Economic Development - 330/297-3470

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Web address: [www.portageworkforce.org/pcoed](http://www.portageworkforce.org/pcoed)