

Biographical Information

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Paul Coomes is Emeritus Professor of Economics at the College of Business, University of Louisville. He is a graduate of Brescia College (BA), Indiana University (MS), and the University of Texas (Ph.D.). Professor Coomes came to the University of Louisville from Texas in 1985. He has taught courses in urban economics, forecasting, microeconomics and macroeconomics. He conducts research for both academic and commercial outlets. Most of his research concerns regional and urban economics, economic development, and measurement problems.



His scholarly research has appeared in many journals, including the *Journal of Labor Economics*, *Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice*, *Real Estate Economics*, *Journal of Urban Economics*, *Journal of Regional Science*, *Environment and Planning A*, *Urban Studies*, *Economic Development Quarterly*, and the *Journal of Economic and Social Measurement*.

He has had university-based contract research arrangements with most of the large organizations in the region, including UPS, General Electric, Amazon, Churchill Downs, E.ON, Louisville Water Company, Brown-Forman, Humana, Kentucky Distillers Association, Kentucky Fair Board, Kentucky Hospital Association, Jewish Hospital, several state government cabinets, and many others. He has also consulted for several major aluminum companies, including RioTinto, Alcan, Ormet, and Noranda. Coomes is past president of the Kentucky Economic Association, and past chair of the Economics department at Louisville.

Professor Coomes has completed several major projects that impact local economic development policy, including the macro performance measuring system that became the analytical basis behind the Boyle Report and the organization of Greater Louisville, Inc, Louisville's Chamber of Commerce. He also developed several monitoring tools for KentuckianWorks, Louisville's workforce agency. These include an annual Human Capital Scorecard and an Occupational Outlook, both customized to the regional economy.

Paul lives with his wife in eastern Jefferson County. He is descended from William and Jane Coomes, who arrived in 1774 at Fort Harrod, Kentucky - where Jane became the first school teacher in the state. His hobbies include hiking, camping, cycling, and carpentry. His favorite quote is by Nobel Laureate Ronald Coase (paraphrased): "If you torture the data long enough, Nature confesses".