



Population Trends in Missouri and its Regions

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Executive summary

The pace at which places gain or lose population can reveal much about their overall economic health. Growing populations often mean a growing economy with more potential customers and workers, while slow growing or declining populations may indicate a struggling economy that leads workers to look for employment opportunities elsewhere. The U.S. Census Bureau recently released its 2020 population estimates which allow us to examine the population that occurred over the past year and decade. These estimates show that between 2019 and 2020, Missouri grew by 0.2%, and added over 11,000 net new residents. The state grew at half the national growth rate (0.4%), but was largely consistent with many Midwestern and neighboring states. This population growth, however, has occurred unevenly throughout the state.

- Springfield (0.8%) and Columbia (0.7%) were Missouri's fastest growing metro areas.
- The Kansas City, MO-KS metropolitan statistical area (MSA) grew slightly faster (0.5%) than the nation, while growth in the St. Louis, MO-IL MSA (0.0%) was flat between 2019 and 2020.
- The Jefferson City (-0.5%) and St. Joseph, MO-KS (-0.6%) MSAs lost population during this time.
- Overall, 62 of Missouri's 115 counties (including St. Louis City) lost population between 2019 and 2020; many of these counties were in Southeastern and Northern Missouri.

Missouri's longer-term growth is below average, but largely consistent with the rest of the Midwest

Examining population trends over the past decade offers stronger insight into the long-term population trends shaping Missouri. Since 2010, many of Missouri's metro and nonmetro areas have not kept pace with many other parts of the country. As a whole, Missouri's metro counties grew at a slower pace than the nation and in aggregate the state's nonmetro counties declined a faster rate than nonmetro counties nationwide. Only 11 of the Missouri's 114 counties and 1 independent city, grew faster than the nation's annual growth rate. 78 of Missouri's 114 counties and 1 independent city (68%) had fewer residents in 2020 than they had in 2010; 64 of those counties were in nonmetro areas. The most substantial losses occurred in St. Louis City and St. Louis County, and in the Missouri Bootheel.

Two primary factors—migration (domestic and international) and natural change (births minus deaths)—drive population growth and decline. Overall, the state's 11,000 net new residents in 2020 marked the smallest annual increase in the past ten years. At the beginning of the decade, Missouri averaged 18,000 to 20,000 more births than deaths, while the state averaged only 10,000 to 12,000 more births than deaths over the second half of the decade. During this latter part of the decade, the diminished rate of natural increase was offset, in part, by positive gains from international migration. Although improving, Missouri experienced net domestic out-migration throughout the decade.

Growth occurs unevenly between and within Missouri's regions

Given the unevenness of Missouri's population growth, it is important to recognize how these growth trends shape different workforce regions, as defined by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center.



- **Central Region:** The Central region's annual growth slowed over the course of the decade due to slower natural change and international in-migration. Most of the region's growth was driven by Boone County (Columbia).
- **Kansas City Region:** Over the past decade the Kansas City region reversed a key demographic trend by attracting more domestic migrants than it loses. Platte and Clay counties were two of the state's fastest growing counties between 2010 and 2020.
- **Northeast Region:** Most of the Northeast counties lost population due to net domestic out-migration. Starting in 2016, the region's overall population grew primarily as a result of the growth of Lincoln and Warren counties.
- **Northwest Region:** The Northwest region lost almost 5% of its population since 2010 due to net domestic out-migration and minimal natural increase. Andrew County was the only gain to gain population between 2010 and 2020, and DeKalb, Holt, Sullivan and Atchison counties lost substantial population during this period.
- **Ozark Region:** The Ozark region represents one of the state's consistent growth regions, and it grew over 8 percent overall between 2010 and 2020. If current trends continue, Greene County will soon become Missouri's 3rd largest jurisdiction surpassing St. Louis City.
- **South Central Region:** The South Central region is Missouri's least populated and all 12 counties lost population between 2010 and 2020 as a result of domestic out-migration and natural decline.
- **Southeast Region:** In spite of population growth around Cape Girardeau, the Southeast region lost 7,800 residents between 2010 and 2020 as a result of net domestic out-migration and natural decrease. Some of Missouri's most significant population loss occurred in the Bootheel.
- **Southwest Region:** Although impacted by Joplin's 2011 tornado, the Southwest region has experienced steady growth since 2013. Most of this growth has occurred in the Joplin metro area.
- **St. Louis Region:** The St. Louis region's suburban counties (e.g., St. Charles) are some of the state's fastest growing, but its core jurisdictions of St. Louis City and St. Louis County have lost population over the past two decades. The suburban gains often occur at the expense of the urban core, but overall the region experienced continued net domestic out-migration.
- **West Central Region:** Throughout the first part of the past decade the West Central region mirrored many other nonmetro areas with shrinking populations. However the region has experienced positive population growth every year since 2016, as smaller cities like Warrensburg and Sedalia grew and Truman Lake attracted retirees and second home buyers.

These population trends have long-term implications for different regions. Growth regions will want to ensure that they continue to attract and retain people of all ages. Regions that attract people but have older populations will need to find ways to grow their working age population in order to support and strengthen their workforce. Areas with chronic out-migration must further address the reasons people leave or find ways to attract former residents.

Demographic trends can shape growth

The pace at which places gain or lose population reveals much about their overall economic health. If a county or region grows faster than the state or the nation, it is likely generating sufficient economic opportunities to attract new residents. Growing populations create more potential customers and workers for area businesses. Growing communities are also more likely to have expanding tax revenues to support public services and local schools. By contrast, slower growing or declining populations may indicate a struggling economy that lead workers to look elsewhere for employment opportunities. Moreover, communities with significant out-migration and aging populations are more likely to face diminished tax bases and consolidated schools.

The U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program annually estimates for states, counties and incorporated places (e.g., cities, towns, boroughs, etc.).¹ These estimates use information related to births, deaths, federal tax returns, Medicare enrollment, and immigration to provide an annual update to the decennial census' base counts. These estimates cover population changes that occur between July 1 and June 30—the recently released 2020 county population estimates the population change between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.² In addition to shedding light on important demographic trends, the estimates also play a key role in many federal funding allocation decisions.

This brief reviews the population trends shaping Missouri over the past year and the past decade. It begins by reviewing the population changes that occurred between 2019 and 2020, between Missouri and other Midwestern and neighboring states, as well as within Missouri. However, this only provides a one-year snapshot. The recently released 2020 population estimates also enables us to better understand the last decade's population trends and how they influence the trajectory of the state and its regions. Specifically, the brief will highlight the extent to which the state and its regions have been shaped by natural change (i.e., births minus deaths) and both domestic and international migration. Finally, the brief will lay out several key implications of these trends.

Missouri grew last year, although at a slower pace than the nation

In 2020, Missouri had an estimated population of 6,151,548 making it the nation's 18th largest state, behind Indiana and ahead of Maryland. Between 2019 and 2020, Missouri added over 11,000 net new residents, thereby growing 0.2%—a growth rate half that of the nation (0.4%). Over the past year, Missouri was neither fast growing like Tennessee nor shrinking like Illinois. Rather, Figure 1 shows that Missouri's relatively slow growth rate was consistent with many Midwestern and neighboring states.

¹Although the estimates are not a head count like the Decennial Census, they are produced annually they allow us to see intercensal trends and the components of population change. These estimates use the Decennial Census as benchmark, so the 2010 and 2020 estimates are very close to the Census population counts.

² With each annual release, the Population Estimates Program revises and updates the entire time series back to the previous Decennial Census.

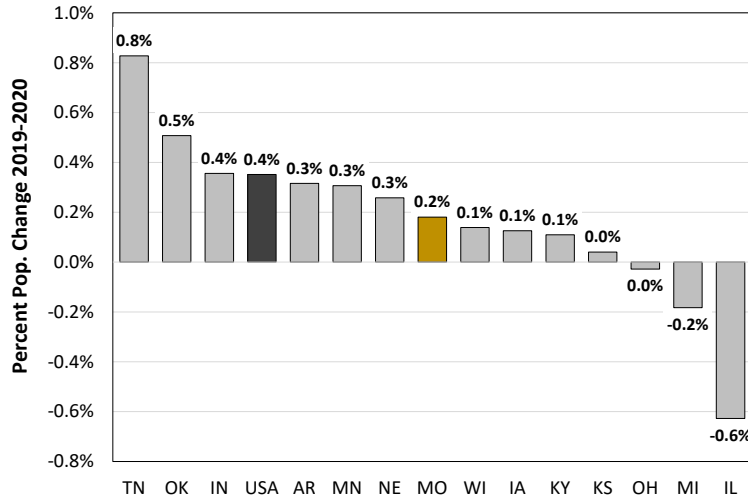
Figure 2 shows that this population growth has been uneven throughout the state.³ Springfield and Columbia—Missouri’s third and fourth largest metro areas—grew almost twice as fast as the nation at 0.8% and 0.7%, respectively. The Kansas City metro area grew 0.5%, but the Missouri side of the metro area (which accounts for 59% of the MSA’s total population) grew faster (0.6%) than the Kansas side (0.4%).

The population of the St. Louis metro area (2.8 million) changed little between 2019 and 2020, but there were divergent trends within the metro area. The Illinois counties of the St. Louis metro area—which account for roughly 25% of the total population—lost population. The Missouri counties grew 0.2%, and as will be discussed in greater detail below, much of this growth occurred in St. Charles County which added more net new residents (4,579) than any other Missouri county. By contrast, St. Louis City and St. Louis County lost an estimated 4,700 residents combined between 2019 and 2020.

Two Missouri metros lost population between 2019 and 2020. The Jefferson City metro area lost 0.5% of its population (775 people) and now has just over 150,000 residents; 75 percent of the net losses were in Cole County. Similarly, the St. Joseph, MO-KS metro has approximately 122,500 people after losing 0.6% of its population (741 people) between 2019 and 2020. Most of those losses occurred in Buchanan County, the area’s largest county.

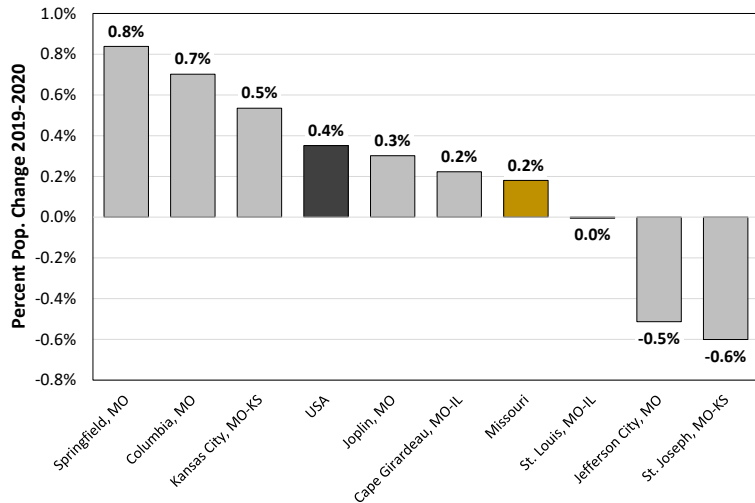
Figure 3 shows the percent population change for all Missouri

Figure 1: Annual population change in select states (2019-2020)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, v2020

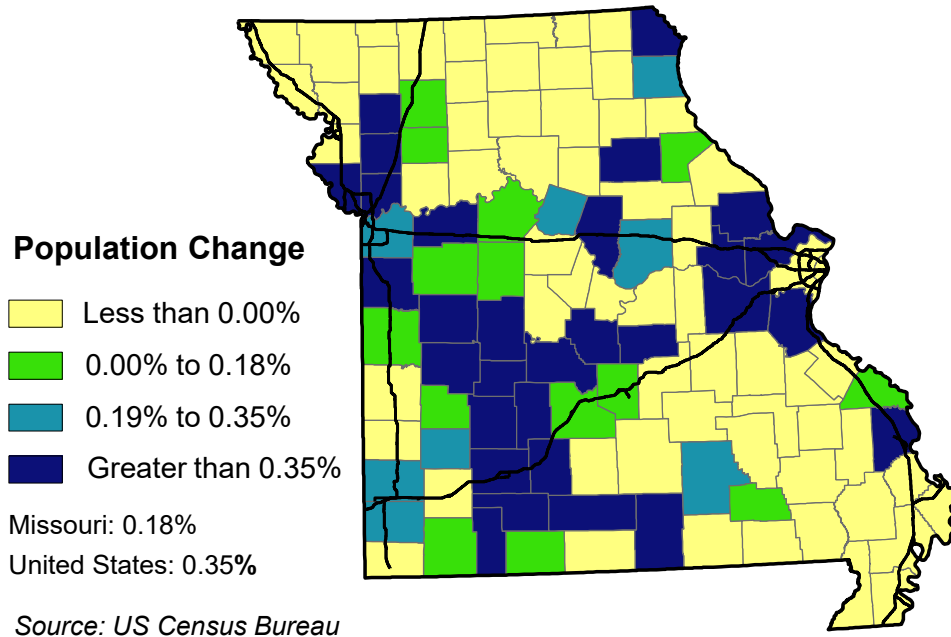
Figure 2: Annual population change in Missouri metro areas (2019-2020)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, v2020

³ Based on OMB’s 2020 metro designations.

Figure 3: Annual population change in Missouri counties (2019-2020)



counties between 2019 and 2020. The primary areas of growth occurred in suburban St. Louis, the Kansas City metro area, most of the I-70 corridor, the area around the Lakes, and the US 65 Corridor among others. In addition to the losses occurring in the Jefferson City and St. Joseph metro areas, many nonmetro counties in Northern and Southeastern Missouri also lost population. Overall, 62 of Missouri 115 counties (including St. Louis City) lost population between 2019 and 2020. During that period, 10 of Missouri’s 35 metro counties and 52 of its 80 nonmetro counties lost population.

Over the past decade, Missouri’s metro and nonmetro areas have not kept pace

The trends described above offer a snapshot of the state’s population trends, but most demographic trends are better understood over longer time periods. Figure 4 shows the population trends in metro and nonmetro counties in Missouri and nationally. In both the state and nation, metro areas drive overall growth. Nationwide, metro counties grew 7.8% since 2010 as compared to the nation’s overall growth of 6.5%. During this same period, Missouri’s metro counties grew 4.1% while the state grew 2.6% overall. Conversely, nonmetro counties have lost population since 2010 and that decline has been greater in Missouri (-1.8%) than nationally (-0.6%).

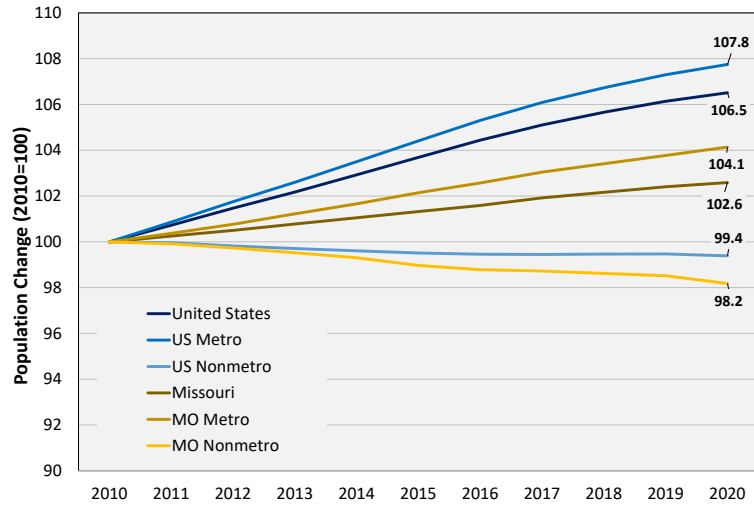
Shrinking populations in nonmetro counties lead to fewer workers and consumers, and a diminished tax base. This presents real challenges for rural communities and businesses. However, sluggish growth in Missouri’s metro areas creates challenges for the state as a whole. The state’s metro areas are its economic engines. For instance, the Missouri counties of the St. Louis metro area represents almost 35% of the state’s population but accounts for almost 44% of the state’s total Gross Domestic Product

(GDP).⁴ Combined, the Missouri counties of the St. Louis and Kansas City metro areas represent almost two-thirds of the state’s economic activity. If those regions see slowing population growth, then the state will be unable to keep up, let alone get ahead.

Figure 5 shows the compound annual growth rates for Missouri counties since 2010. Only 11 of the Missouri’s 114 counties and 1 independent city grew faster than the nation’s annual growth rate. These faster growing counties are located in suburban Kansas City

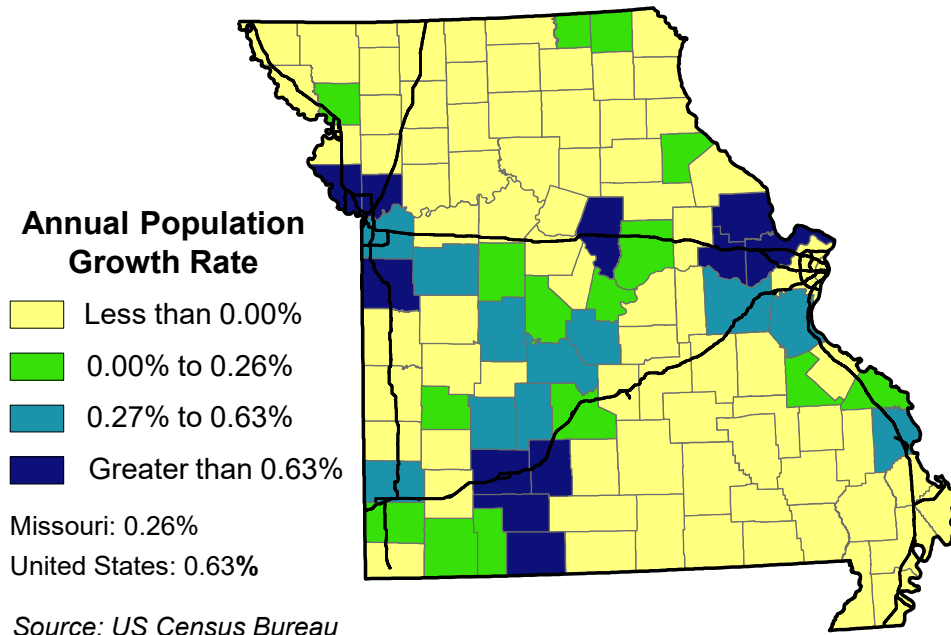
(Cass, Clay, Platte), suburban St. Louis (St. Charles, Lincoln, Warren), Columbia (Boone), and Springfield (Greene, Webster, Christian, Taney). Areas that grew faster than the state average but slower than the national average were found in parts of the Kansas City metro, the southern suburbs of St. Louis, the Joplin and Cape Girardeau areas, and around the Lakes.

Figure 4: Index of population change in metro and nonmetro counties



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, v2020; 2020 MSA Definitions.

Figure 5: Annual growth rates in Missouri counties (2010-2020)



Source: US Census Bureau

⁴ https://extension.missouri.edu/media/wysiwyg/Extensiondata/Pro/ExCEED/Docs/MissouriEconomy_GDP_v2_Issue1_04Jan21.pdf

In total, 78 of Missouri's 114 counties and 1 independent city (68%) had fewer residents in 2020 than they had in 2010; 64 of those counties were in nonmetro areas.⁵ In some cases, these losses were substantial. For instance, St. Louis City (-21,700) and St. Louis County (-4,800) lost a combined 26,500 residents—2 percent of their total population—over the past decade. In other areas, like Missouri's Bootheel, the relative scale of the losses are much more significant. For instance, Pemiscot County has lost almost 15% of its 2010 population over the past decade, while New Madrid County (-12%), Mississippi County (-11%), and Dunklin (-10%) have also lost significant population since 2010. Similar losses have occurred in parts of Northwest Missouri.

Migration and natural change dictate regional population growth trajectories

Overall trends only tell part of the story, as several underlying factors can further explain population growth or decline. At the most basic level, two primary factors—migration and natural change—dictate the trajectory of an area's population.

- **Migration (domestic and international):** Positive migration shows that places can attract new residents by creating attractive employment opportunities and/or offering an appealing quality of life. Net out-migration may result from an insufficient number of high-quality job opportunities to attract new residents or retain existing workers and residents.
- **Natural Change (births minus deaths):** An area's age profile often determines natural change. For instance, places with a relatively greater share of people in their prime child-bearing years will likely experience greater natural increase than places with relatively older populations. Places with negative natural change often have relatively older populations. Other factors that may influence natural change include life expectancy and access to healthcare, amenities for retirees, and region cost of living, among other factors.

The U.S. Census Bureau's annual population estimates show the components of population change at the state and county level. Figure 6 illustrates how natural change and migration shaped the trajectory of Missouri's population since 2010. Overall, the state's 11,000 net new residents in 2020 marked the smallest single year increase in the past ten years. This is due in part to several factors including a slowing rate of natural change. At the beginning of the decade, Missouri averaged 18,000 to 20,000 more births than deaths, while the state averaged only 10,000 to 12,000 more births than deaths over the second half of the decade.⁶

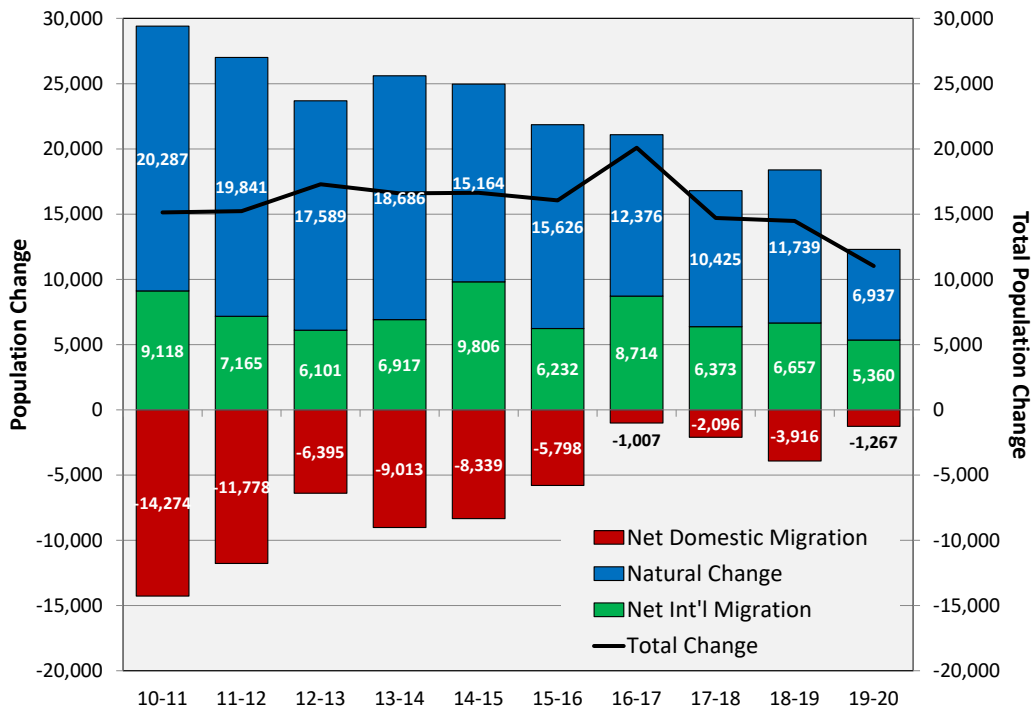
This diminished rate of natural increase has been offset, in part, by positive gains from migration. Since 2014, Missouri has added more residents through migration than it has lost. These gains, however, are

⁵In many instances, population loss has been a much longer-term trend. For instance, 52 of Missouri's 115 counties (including St. Louis City) had fewer people in 2020 than they had in 2000; of those 52 counties, 46 were nonmetro counties. With the exception of St. Louis City and County, the metro counties with smaller populations than they had in 2000 were relatively smaller counties in large metro areas, including Bates and Ray counties in the Kansas City metro, DeKalb in the St. Joseph metro, and Howard in the Columbia metro.

⁶The 2019-2020 estimates include the first several months of the pandemic. The pandemic likely increased deaths and reduced mobility, but the full impact of the pandemic on these population trends is not yet fully understood.

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Figure 6: Components of population change in Missouri (2010-2020)



Source: US Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, V2020

due primarily to a steady influx of international in-migrants. Missouri nevertheless continues to experience net domestic out-migration, although the scale of domestic out-migration has declined significantly in recent years.⁷ In addition, the diminished rate of natural increase has slowed the state’s overall population growth.

Growth occurs unevenly between and within Missouri’s regions

Population growth occurs unevenly, so it is important to recognize how these trends shape different communities throughout the state. In order to understand these differences, this section looks at regional population trends and the components of change. We used Missouri’s [workforce development board regions](#) as they generally represent the state’s economic regions.⁸ The Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) uses the same regions to publish employment data.



⁷ This trend is consistent with the finding of surveys such as [United Van Lines National Movers Study](#) which shows that more people are leaving the state than moving into Missouri. Jobs and family are the primary motivations for people moving into Missouri, whereas jobs, retirement and family were the primary reason for people leaving the state.

⁸ A [reference map](#) of these regions is available on the Missouri Office of Workforce Development Website. MERIC consolidates the two Kansas City and four St. Louis area workforce boards to better describe labor market commuting areas. County data, including their regional designation, are available in the Appendix.

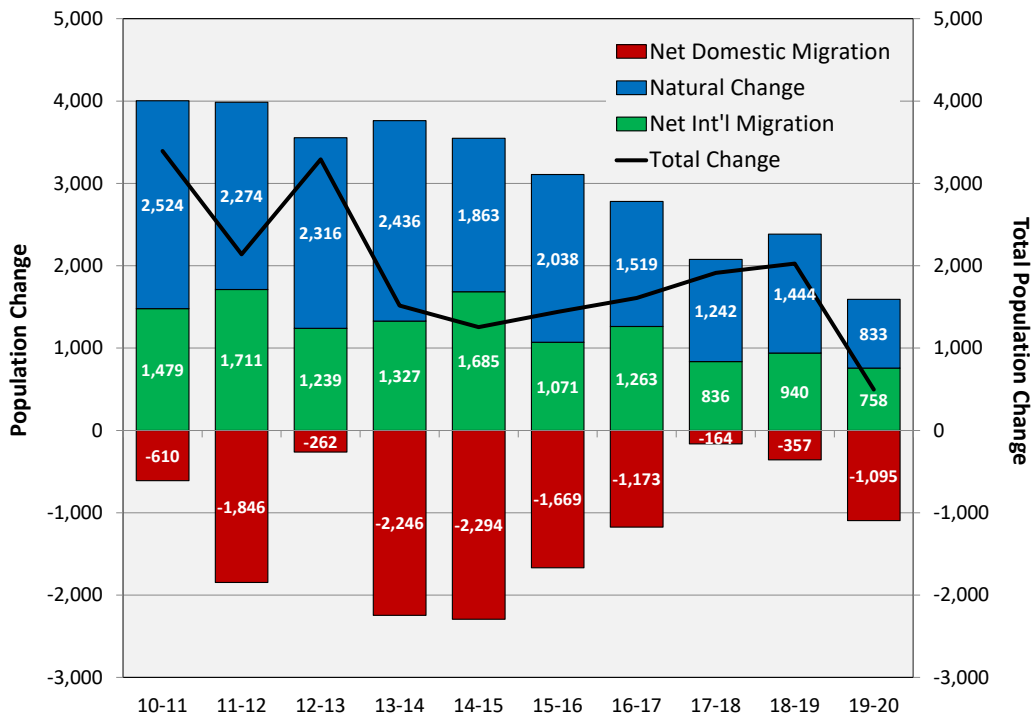
Central Region

The 20 counties of the Central region (Figure 7) are home to almost 12 percent of Missouri’s population, a share that remained constant between 2010 and 2020. As with the state as a whole, the region’s annual growth slowed over the course of the decade due to slower natural change and international in-migration. Within the region, there are divergent trends between the Columbia and Jefferson City metro areas, counties near the Lake of the Ozarks, and the region’s more rural counties.



- Boone County (Columbia, MO) accounts for 25% of the region’s total population (183,000 people). The county’s population grew 12 percent over the past decade, which accounted for the majority of the region’s total population growth. During this period, Boone County’s annual growth rate (1.2%) was the 7th fastest in Missouri. The county’s growth was driven by a combination of natural increase and net in-migration. The University of Missouri attracts in-migrants and over the past decade net international migration contributed more to the county’s overall population growth than domestic migration.
- In the Lake of the Ozarks region, Camden and Miller counties have also experienced growth, primarily through net domestic in-migration. Camden County added over 3,000 net new in-migrants between 2010 and 2020, but lost over 900 net residents through negative natural change. Natural amenities like the lake draw retirees, but these new residents do not necessarily expand the region’s workforce or student population.

Figure 7: Components of population change in the Central Missouri region (2010-2020)



Source: US Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, V2020

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- Jefferson City MSA counties (Cole, Moniteau and Osage) and some counties along the I-44 corridor (Crawford, Phelps, and Pulaski) experienced slow or negative growth over the past decade. Gains through natural change were largely offset by net domestic out-migration.

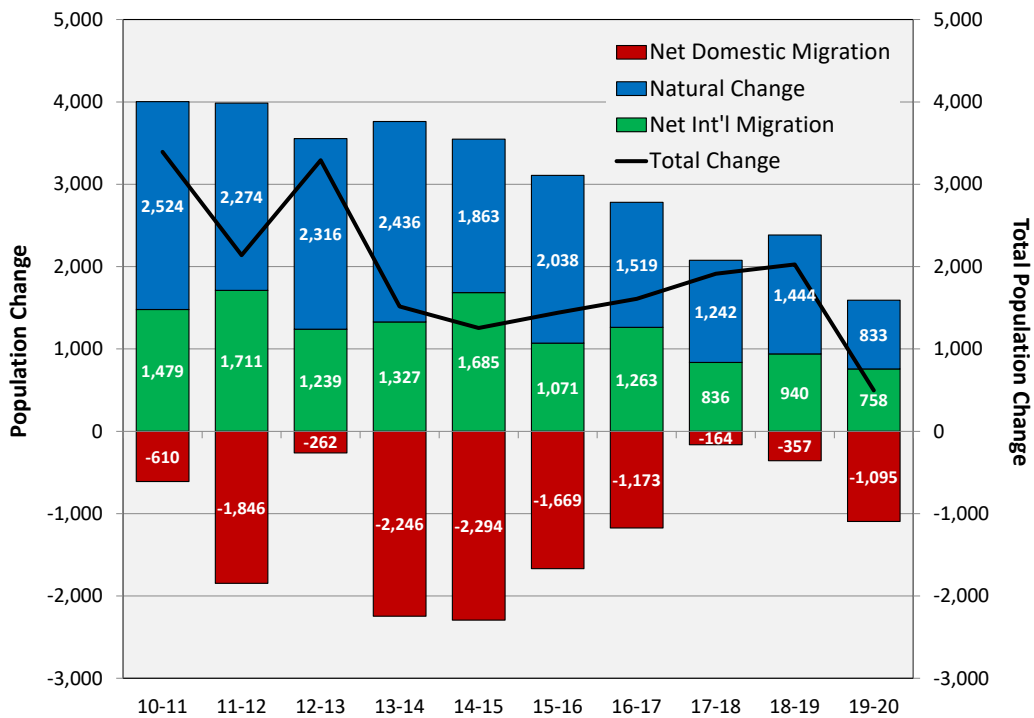
Kansas City Region

Over the past decade, the Kansas City region reversed a key demographic trend by attracting more domestic migrants than it lost (Figure 8). This in-migration was particularly strong during the middle part of the decade, and further offset slowing rates of natural change. Overall, the region’s five counties⁹ account for over 19 percent (1.2 million) of the state’s total population, after adding 85,000 net new residents between 2010 and 2020.



- With almost 706,000 residents, Jackson County accounts for 59 percent of the region’s total population and over 11 percent of the state’s total population. Since 2017, Jackson County has experienced net domestic out-migration, but grew overall. Over the past decade, Jackson County added over 31,000 net new residents.
- Platte and Clay counties had Missouri’s first and fourth fastest annual growth rates, respectively, between 2010 and 2020. Combined, these two counties added approximately 48,000 net new residents through both natural change and in-migration over the past decade.

Figure 8: Components of population change in the Kansas City region (2010-2020)



Source: US Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, V2020

⁹ There are a total of 9 Missouri Counties in Kansas City, MO-KS Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Bates, Caldwell, Clinton, and Lafayette counties are part of the MSA, but not part of the 5 county Kansas City workforce region.

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- Cass County had the state’s 11th fastest annual growth rate between 2010 and 2020. Much of this growth occurred during the latter part of the decade, driven in large part by net domestic in-migration caused by Kansas City’s expanding suburbs.
- Ray County is the region’s smallest county with just under 23,000 residents. Unlike the other counties in the Kansas City region it lost 2.6% of its population (-600 net residents) between 2010 and 2020, largely through net domestic out-migration.

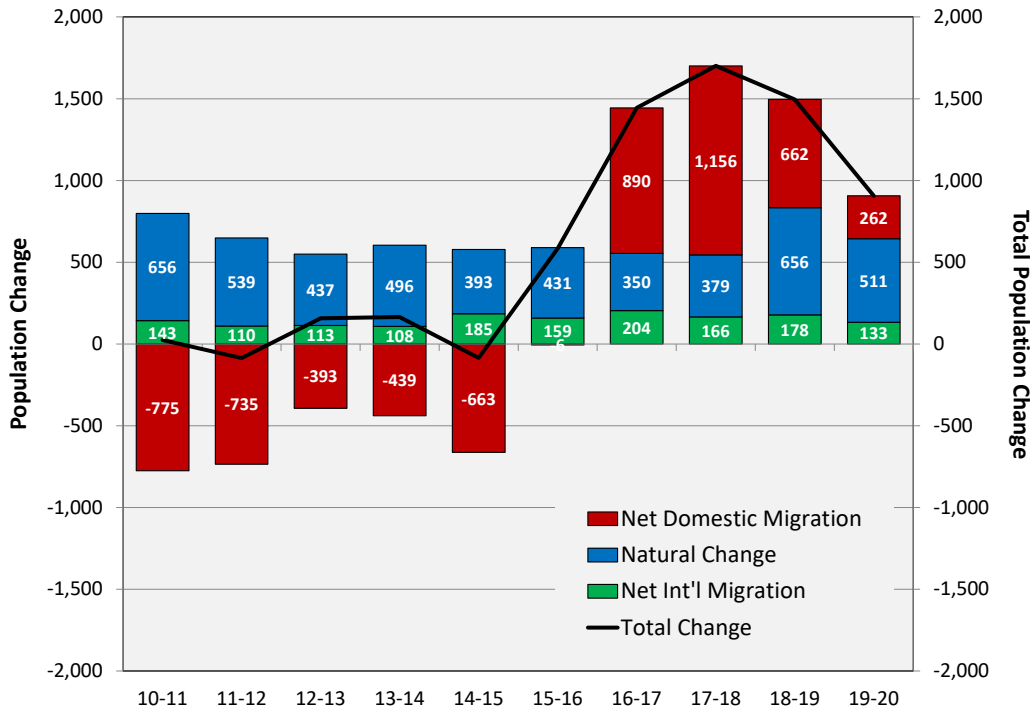
Northeast Region

Throughout most of Northeast Missouri, regional population trends resemble those found in other rural parts of Northern Missouri. As a result, most of the region’s largely rural counties lost population due to net domestic out-migration (Figure 9). Starting in 2016, the region’s overall population grew primarily from the St. Louis suburbs expanding into Lincoln and Warren counties.¹⁰



- Lincoln and Warren counties had Missouri’s third and sixth fastest annual growth rates, respectively, between 2010 and 2020. During this period Lincoln County’s population grew by 14 percent and now has over 60,000 residents. Warren County grew by 12 percent and now has over 36,000 residents.

Figure 9: Components of population change in Northeast Missouri region (2010-2020)



Source: US Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, V2020

¹⁰ Lincoln and Warren counties are included in the St. Louis, MO-IL Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

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- The only other Northeast region counties to grow between 2010 and 2020 were Ralls (+103), Schuyler (+93), and Scotland (+30) counties, and those marginal gains resulted primarily from positive natural change.
- Counties with some of the region’s prominent smaller cities like Hannibal (Marion), Kirksville (Adair), and Moberly (Randolph), lost population due largely to net domestic out-migration.
- Montgomery and Shelby counties experienced the region’s largest relative percent declines, as they lost 7.5% and 7.0% of their population, respectively, between 2010 and 2020.

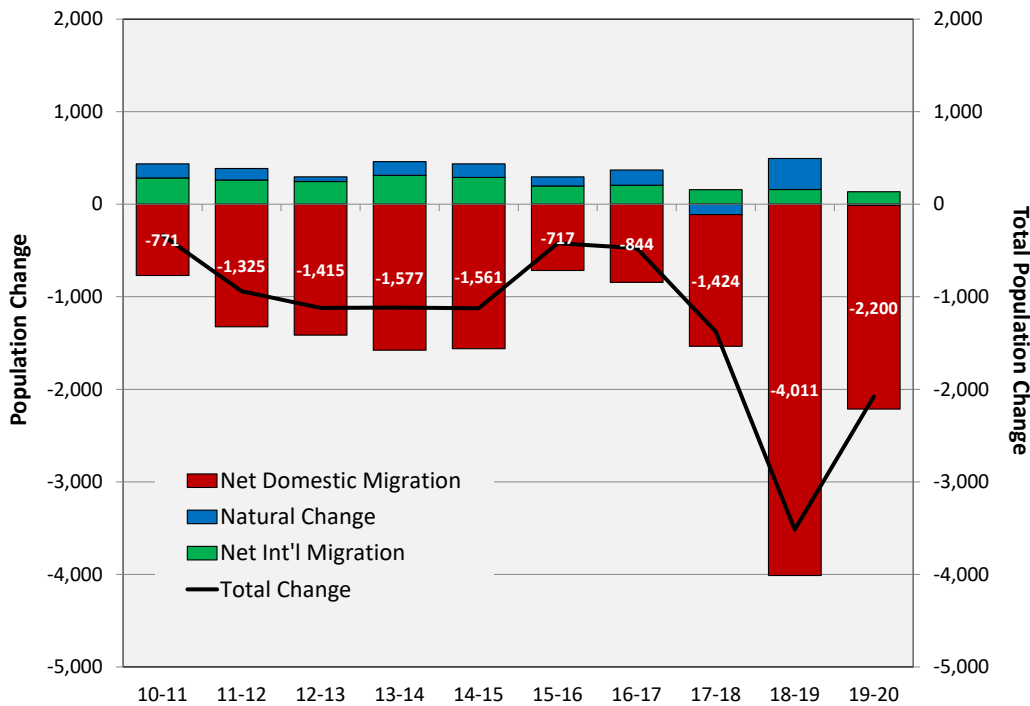
Northwest Region

There are just over 250,000 people in the 18-county Northwest region, which is down almost 5% (-12,500) from its 2010 population. As in many rural areas (both in Missouri and elsewhere), net domestic out-migration combined with minimal natural increase due to the region’s aging population accounts for most of the region’s declining population (Figure 10).



- Buchanan County (St. Joseph, MO) accounts for 35 percent of the region’s population, but the county lost almost 3 percent of its population between 2010 and 2020. These losses resulted from net domestic out-migration, as during this period 6,100 more people moved out of the county to other domestic locations than moved into the county from other U.S. locations.
- Nodaway County (Maryville, MO) also experienced population loss between 2010 and 2020. Although the county experienced marginal gains through natural change and international

Figure 10: Components of population change in Northwest Missouri region (2010-2020)



Source: US Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, V2020

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migration, a net 2,100 domestic movers left the county. Overall the county’s population declined by 7 percent during this period.

- Several other more rural counties experienced significant, relative population declines over the past decade. DeKalb County lost 15 percent of its population—the greatest relative loss of any Missouri County; some of these losses might have resulted from the closure of the Crossroads’ Correctional Center in Cameron, MO. Other counties that lost significant shares of their population between 2010 and 2020 include Holt (-14%), Sullivan (-10%) and Atchison (-10%).
- Andrew County was the only county in Northwest Missouri to grow its population between 2010 and 2020, adding 240 people during this time period. This growth was the result of positive natural change.

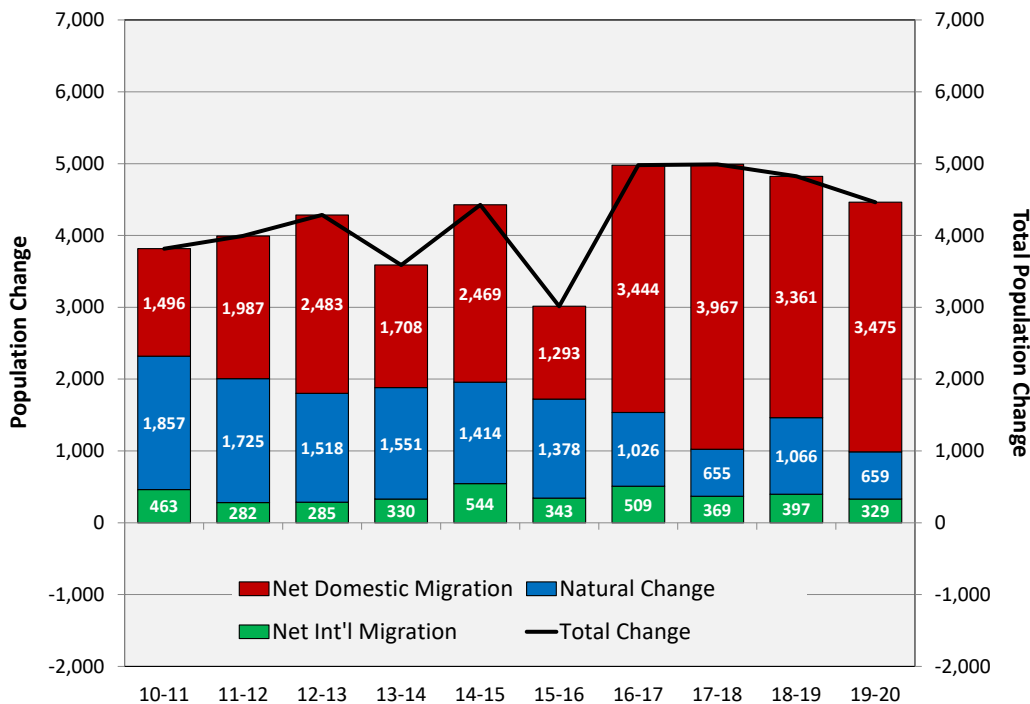
Ozark Region

The Ozark region represent one of the state’s consistent growth regions (Figure 11). The 7-county region currently represents 9 percent of Missouri’s total population and it grew 8.1 percent (+42,300) between 2010 and 2020. Moreover, every county in the region experienced positive population growth during this period due to natural increase and net in-migration.



- With 295,000 people, Greene County (Springfield, MO) is the state’s 5th largest jurisdiction behind St. Louis, Jackson, and St. Charles counties and St. Louis City. The county added almost 20,000 net new residents over the past decade, an increase of 7%. Given that the county has

Figure 11: Components of population change in the Ozark region (2010-2020)



Source: US Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, V2020

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been growing at an above average pace, it will soon have a larger population than St. Louis City (297,600).

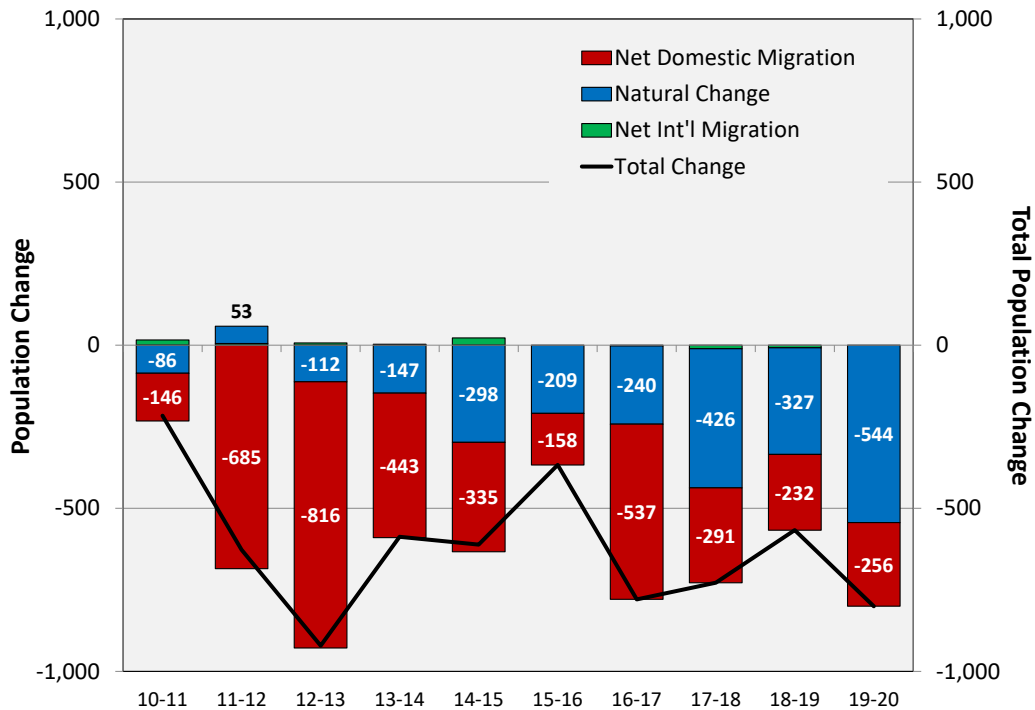
- Springfield’s suburban counties also experienced above average growth. Due to growth in places like Nixa and Ozark, Christian County had the state’s second fastest annual growth rate (1.5%) between 2010 and 2020. During this time, the county added almost 13,000 net new resident—an increase of 16.5% over its 2010 population. Webster County had Missouri’s 8th fastest annual growth rate (0.9%) over the past decade, and grew its population by almost 10 percent.
- In the Branson area, both Taney and Stone counties grew over the past decade. Through both natural increase and migration, Taney County grew 8.1% between 2010 and 2020 and its annual growth rate was Missouri’s 8th fastest. Likely more than many places, Taney County’s population was affected by the pandemic as there was very little change in its population between 2019 and 2020. Net domestic in-migration caused Stone County to grow over the past decade, in spite of negative natural change. While in-migration from retirees has increased the area’s population, there has not been corresponding growth in the area labor force.

South Central Region

With just over 205,000 residents, the South Central region is Missouri’s least populated. Each of the region’s 12 counties lost population between 2010 and 2020, due to a combination of net domestic out-migration and negative natural change brought about by an aging population (Figure 12). Over the past decade, the region lost 3% of its population, or just over 6,000 people.



Figure 12: Components of population change in the South Central Missouri region (2010-2020)



Source: US Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, V2020

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- The region’s two largest counties include Butler County (Poplar Bluff, MO) and Howell County (West Plains, MO) which both have just over 40,000 residents. Between 2010 and 2020, Butler and Howell counties lost 1.4% (-607 people) and 0.7% (-282 people) of their population, respectively.
- Over the past decade, the most relative losses occurred in Reynolds (-7.2%), Ozark (-6.8%), Ripley (-5.7%), and Wayne (-5.5%) counties.
- The greatest net losses occurred in Texas (-931), Ripley (-802), and Wayne (-750) counties.
- Population growth did occur between 2019 and 2020 in Douglas (0.7%), Howell (0.4%), Shannon (0.3%), and Carter (0.2%) counties.

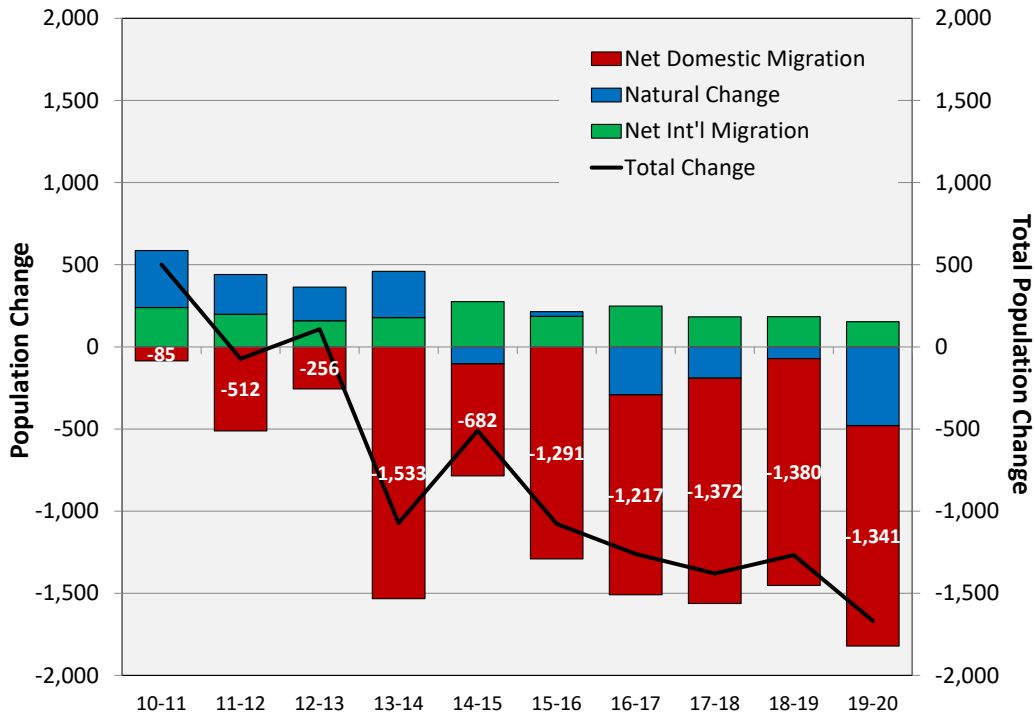
Southeast Region

As a region, Southeastern Missouri lost 7,800 residents (-2.1%) between 2010 and 2020. This aggregate population loss resulted from net domestic out-migration, and especially over the second half of the last decade, negative natural change (Figure 13). These trends, however, were not consistent throughout the region. Most population loss occurred in Missouri’s Bootheel, whereas several counties in the northern part of the region (e.g., Cape Girardeau, St. Francois, Perry) grew between 2010 and 2020.



- The region’s largest county, Cape Girardeau, added an estimated 3,600 net new residents between 2010 and 2020 and its population is now almost 80,000. During this time period it had

Figure 13: Components of population change in the Southeast Missouri region (2010-2020)



Source: US Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, V2020

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an annual growth rate of 0.5%, making it Missouri’s 13th fastest growing county. This growth resulted from international in-migration, natural increase, and domestic in-migration.

- St. Francois County is the region’s second largest county (66,500). It added 950 net new residents over the past decade at a rate of 0.1% annually, in large part due to net domestic in-migration offsetting negative natural change.
- As noted above, the most significant losses occurred in the Bootheel area. Between 2010 and 2020, Pemiscot (-1.6%), New Madrid (-1.2%), Mississippi (-1.2%), and Dunklin (-1.0%) counties had the state’s second, fourth, fifth, and eighth fastest annual rates of decline. Combined these counties lost an estimated 9,600 residents during this period. These losses resulted for net domestic out-migration and, with the exception of Pemiscot County, negative natural change.

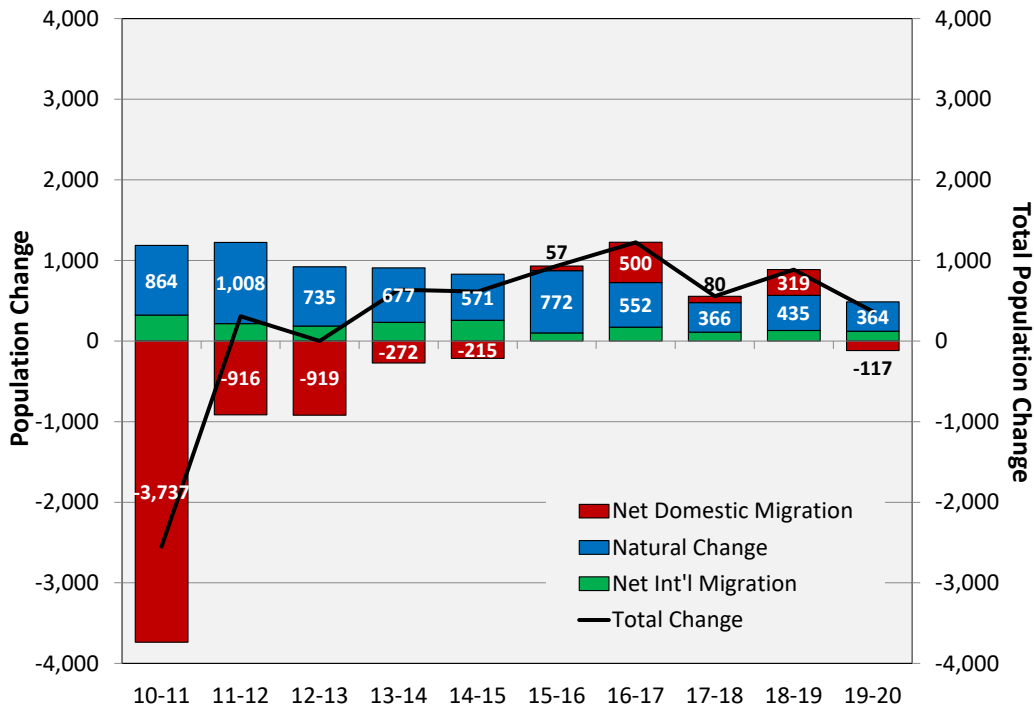
Southwest Region

In 2020, Missouri’s Southwest region had an estimated 296,000 people and, for most of the past decade, this region has experienced relatively steady population growth (Figure 14). The 2011 Joplin tornado created significant disruption and displaced large numbers of people from Jasper County. Since 2013, however, the region has generally added anywhere from 500 to 1,000 people per year. This growth has occurred within the Joplin MSA (Jasper and Newton counties). By contrast, 4 of the region’s 5 nonmetro counties lost population over the past decade.



- With an estimated 121,650 people, Jasper County (Joplin, MO) is the region’s largest county. Between 2010 and 2020, the county added over 4,000 net new residents and grew at a rate of

Figure 14: Components of population change in the Southwest Missouri region (2010-2020)



Source: US Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, V2020

0.3% annually, in large part through natural increase and international migration.

- Newton and Barry counties were the other two jurisdictions to experience marginal population growth between 2010 and 2020, growing 0.5% and 0.7% respectively.
- McDonald County lost a net of 1,600 residents to domestic out-migration, but these losses were somewhat offset by positive natural change and international in-migration.
- As with many other nonmetro counties, Barton and Lawrence counties experienced relatively significant net domestic out-migration.

St. Louis Region

With over 2 million residents, the 5 jurisdictions in the St. Louis workforce region¹¹ account for a third of the state's total population. However, the region's suburban counties and its core jurisdictions of St. Louis City and St. Louis County have diverging growth trajectories. The population gains found in counties such as St. Charles or Jefferson counties often occur at the



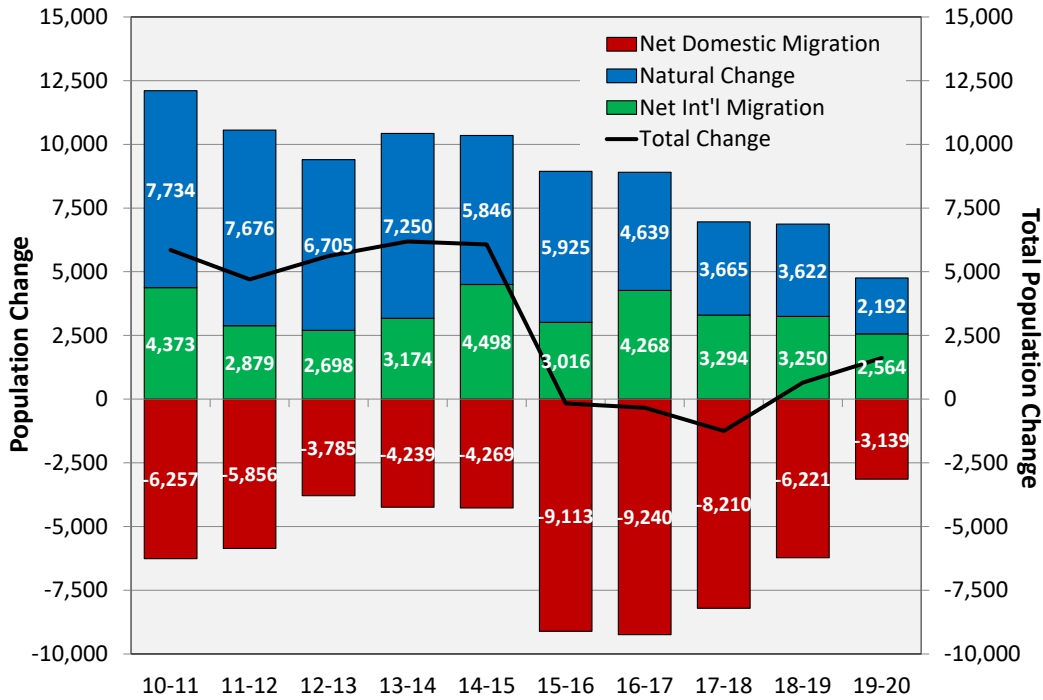
expense of St. Louis City and St. Louis County. That said, the region as a whole experienced minimal growth over the past decade, and even experienced population decline between 2015 and 2018 (Figure 15). During this period, net domestic out-migration—a chronic regional challenge—was at its greatest. A review of IRS migration data show that during this period, the St. Louis MSA on net lost residents to faster growing metros like Dallas and Denver and retirement destinations like Tampa and Phoenix.¹² The declining rate of natural increase, particularly during the second half of the decade, represents another long-term challenge for the St. Louis region (and the state as a whole).

- In 2020, St. Louis County and St. Louis City were Missouri's first and fourth largest jurisdictions. St. Louis County has experienced net population losses each of the past five years, St. Louis City has lost population each of the last eight years. Combined the two jurisdictions lost over 26,500 residents between 2010 and 2020, as well as 45,000 residents between 2000 and 2010.
- St. Charles County is currently Missouri's third largest county (406,000 residents) and it gained more net new residents—over 44,000 people since 2010—than any other county in the state. This represents a 12.3% increase over the past decade and with an annual growth rate of 1.2% it was Missouri's 5th fastest growing county during that time period.
- Combined, Franklin and Jefferson counties added almost 10,500 net new residents between 2010 and 2020. These counties grew slower than other suburban St. Louis counties, but with annual growth rates of 0.3% Franklin and Jefferson counties were the state's 18th and 19th fastest growing counties over the past decade.

¹¹ Whereas most other regions cover the service area or a single workforce board region, the St. Louis region combines 4 different workforce boards including the workforce boards of St. Louis City, St. Louis County, St. Charles County, and the Jefferson-Franklin Workforce Development Board. It should also be noted that based on the U.S. Office of Management and Budget's 2020 MSA definitions, the broader St. Louis, MO-IL MSA also includes 8 counties in Illinois and Lincoln and Warren counties in Missouri.

¹² https://extension.missouri.edu/media/wysiwyg/Extensiondata/Pro/ExCEED/Docs/MissouriEconomy_Migration_v2i4_15Feb21.pdf

Figure 15: Components of population change in the St. Louis region (2010-2020)



Source: US Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, V2020

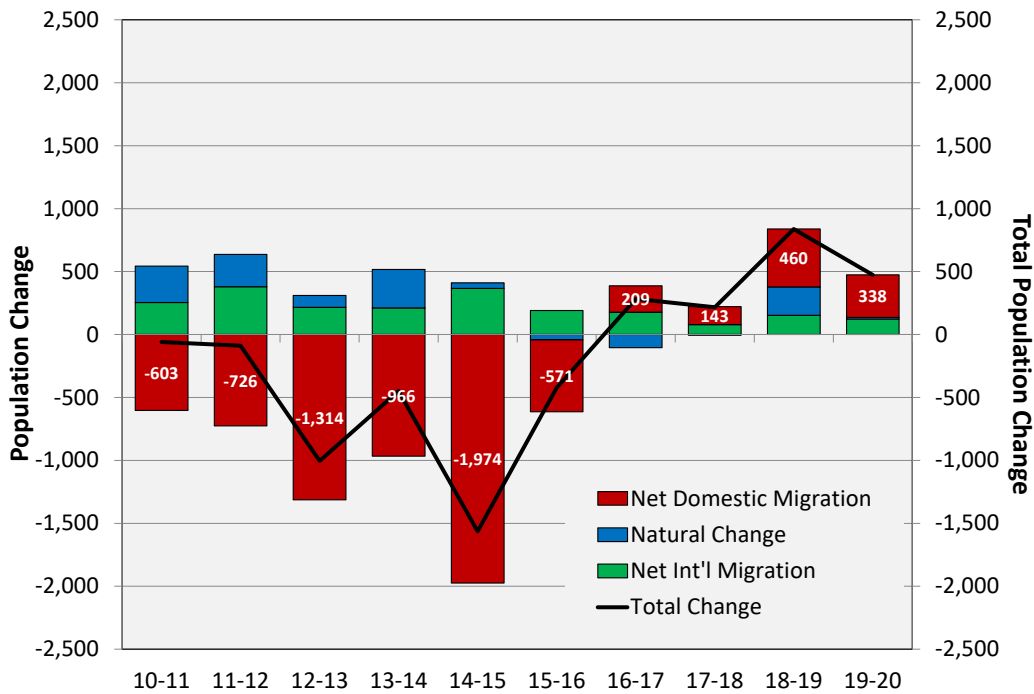
West Central Region

Throughout the first part of the past decade the West Central region mirrored many other nonmetro areas. The region had minimal natural increase and experienced substantial net domestic out-migration (Figure 16). These trends began to reverse during the second half of the decade as the counties around the lakes increasingly became destinations for retirees and second home buyers, and smaller cities like Warrensburg and Sedalia grew. Even though the region lost over 1,800 residents since 2010, it has nevertheless experienced positive population growth every year since 2016.



- Johnson County (Warrensburg, MO) is home to 54,200 residents and is the region’s largest county. Between 2010 and 2020, the county added over 1,500 net new residents due to strong rates of natural increase and international in-migration.
- Pettis County (Sedalia, MO) is the region’s second largest county (42,500), and it experienced more modest growth (0.5%) between 2010 and 2020. This growth came from positive natural growth and international in-migration, which offset losses through net domestic out-migration.
- Benton County (Warsaw, MO) added almost 520 net new residents between 2010 and 2020, an increase of 2.7%, and it now has almost 20,000 residents. This is driven by retirees moving to the Truman Lake area, as net domestic in-migration has offset losses through negative natural change. Similar trends, particularly in the second half of the decade are emerging in other counties around Truman Lake such as Henry (Clinton, MO) and St. Clair (Osceola, MO) counties. In these instances, counties are adding residents but not necessarily growing their workforce.

Figure 16: Components of population change in the West Central Missouri region (2010-2020)



Source: US Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, V2020

- More rural parts of the West Central region, such as Bates, Carroll and Chariton counties have demographic trends more consistent with the state’s other nonmetro counties. As a result, their population losses over the past decade resulted from a combination of negative natural change and net domestic out-migration.

The trends shaping Missouri’s regions are consistent with many national trends

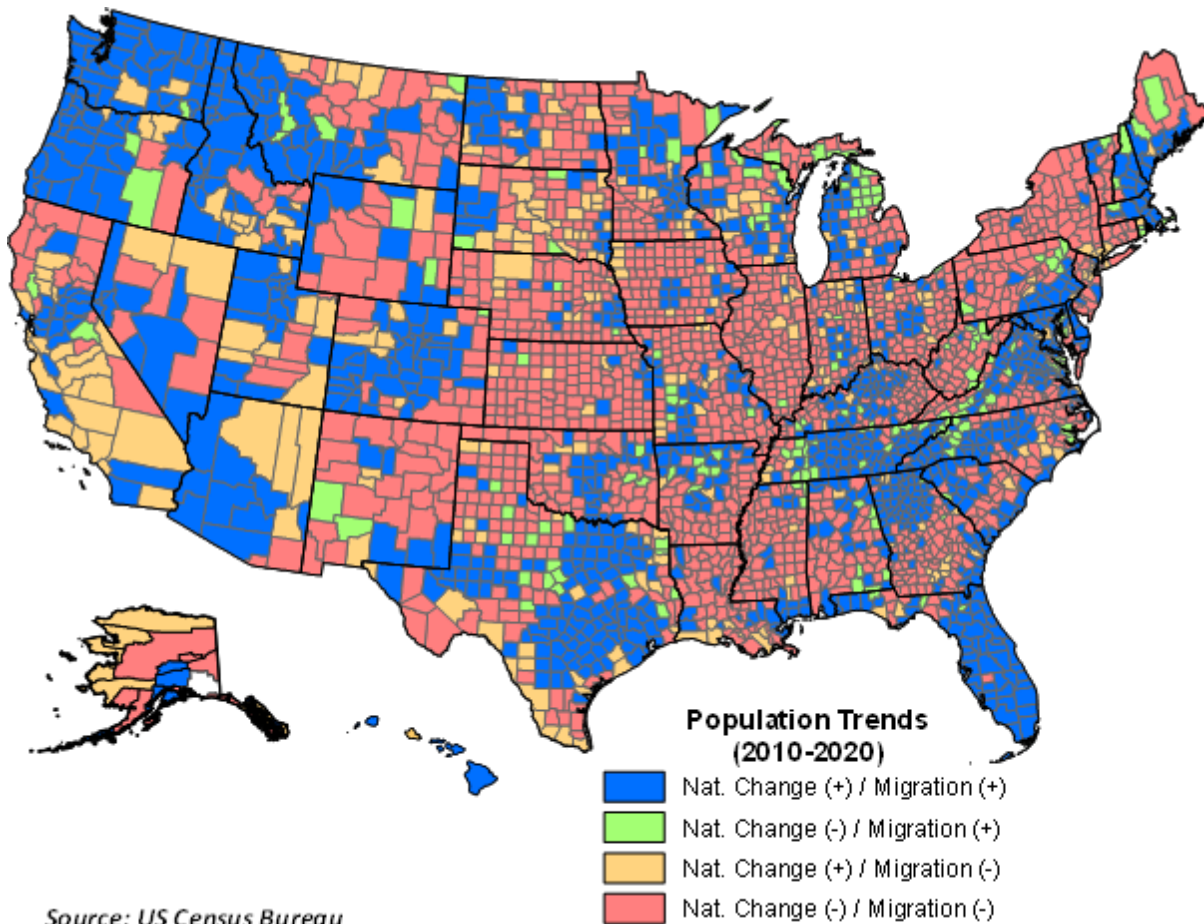
Missouri’s diverse regions lead to different demographic trajectories around the state. However, Missouri is not unique and similar trends are found in regions throughout both the Midwest and the United States. In order to place these trends in geographic context, Figure 17 highlights the dominant demographic changes (e.g., natural increase or decrease, net in-migration or net-out-migration) for all counties over the past decade.

Regions experiencing both natural increase and net in-migration include growing metro areas and the adjacent areas affected by the suburbanization process. In more rural areas, these growth areas often possess some kind of natural amenity (e.g., lakes, mountains, etc.) that makes them attractive to mobile residents or retirees. Declining regions—those that experience both natural decrease and net-outmigration—are found throughout the Northeast, Midwest, Great Plains and parts of the Intermountain West. These areas include older industrial cities or are often rural regions and/or areas of chronic poverty (e.g., Central Appalachia, Mississippi Delta).

In both these instances, there are virtuous and vicious cycles that establish these demographic trajectories. However, there are areas where these trends are not as clear cut. For instance, places with net in-migration but natural decline may represent emerging retirement or recreational areas (e.g., the

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Figure 17: Components of population trends in U.S. Counties (2010-2020)



Source: US Census Bureau

area around Truman Lake in Missouri, the North Carolina Foothills, or Northern Wisconsin). Depending on the scale of growth, these regions—particularly those with a large retirement communities—may be growing their population but not their labor force. In such instances, these regions may be tilting toward becoming growth counties but will need to attract and retain more people of prime working age to perpetuate that growth.

Unlike retirement destinations, higher education institutions can attract younger, often international, immigrants. Outside of Missouri's larger metro counties, the counties where international migration made the greatest positive contributions to population growth were those counties with 4-year institutions including Boone (University of Missouri), Greene (Missouri State University), Phelps (Missouri S&T), Cape Girardeau (Southeast Missouri State University), and Adair (Truman State University) counties. Other counties where international in-migration makes a relatively significant contribution to the county's overall population growth were places with a relatively large meat processing industry, such as Buchanan, McDonald and Sullivan counties. In both these instances, international migration can partially offset the losses that may occur through natural decrease or net domestic out-migration. The challenge facing these places is to trying to find ways connect students or immigrants to the community so they may become more long-term residents and contribute to a more virtuous cycle of population growth.

By contrast several underlying factors may cause some places to grow through natural increase, but still experience net out-migration. For instance, in some of the country's more urbanized regions (e.g., New York City, Philadelphia, the inner suburbs of Washington D.C., and parts of the San Francisco Bay area), the high cost of living and lack of affordable and appropriate housing makes it prohibitive for younger families to live there. In these instances, smaller less expensive metros or more distant suburban areas may prove more attractive to younger families. These counties are sufficiently large to maintain positive natural change, but this may not last forever as the existing population ages in place. In more rural counties, net out-migration may be partially offset if there is a particular population with high fertility rates. However, the out-migration stemming from a relative lack of economic opportunities may lead to overall population decline. Consequently, these places must give people a reason to stay or they will risk losing the population gains made through natural increase. Places that experience both natural increase and net out-migration may be tilting toward becoming areas of decline.

Concluding thoughts

Over the past year and past decade, Missouri's population growth has been about half the national average. Missouri is a relatively slow growth state, but its growth trajectory is largely consistent with its neighbors and other Midwestern states. Nevertheless, this growth is uneven throughout the state. For instance, only 11 Missouri counties grew faster than the nation between 2010 and 2020, but 78 Missouri counties (including St. Louis City) had fewer residents in 2020 than they had in 2010.

Shrinking populations present real challenges for nonmetro counties, as they reduce the number of available workers, consumers, and potential tax revenues. This also applies to metro counties, but since metro areas drive the overall state economy, below average growth in these areas presents a challenge for the entire state. Combined, the Missouri counties of the St. Louis and Kansas City metro areas account for roughly 55 percent of the state's population and almost two-thirds of its economy. If those regions cannot keep pace, the state cannot keep pace with the rest of the United States.

These population trends have implications for different regions. Growth regions need to maintain their capacity to attract and retain people of all ages. Regions that attract people, but have an older populations must find ways to attract and retain younger people that can help strengthen their local workforce. Areas with chronic out-migration must address the reasons people leave, or encourage former residents to return. A 2015 study by the USDA Economic Research Service found that family motivated former residents to return, but adequate job opportunities were necessary for them to make that move.¹³ This study found that other factors attracting return migrants included shorter commutes, lower cost of living, outdoor amenities and a community feel. Among the factors discouraging people to return included financial and career sacrifices, too much familiarity, lack of cultural amenities, or school quality. Other recent studies have noted the importance of critical infrastructure (e.g., broadband) and housing availability and quality as key factors for attract new in-migrants.¹⁴

¹³ Cromartie, J., von Reichert, C. and Arthun, R. (2015). *Factors Affecting Former Residents' Returning to Rural Communities*. USDA Economic Research Service, Economic Research Report No. 185. This study drew upon interviews conducted at high school reunions in order to gather information from people who stayed, left and returned, or never returned.

¹⁴ Stoker, P., Rumore, D., Romaniello, L. and Levine, Z. (2020) 'Planning and Development Challenges in Western Gateway Cities,' *Journal of the American Planning Association*. 87(1): 21-33.

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These population trends reveal a lot about a place's growth trajectory and the challenges and opportunities that they may face. However, they only tell part of the story and more information is required to more fully understand these trends and what they mean for the region's workforce. In June 2021, the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program will release additional 2020 data about age, gender, and race and ethnicity for all U.S. counties. A subsequent brief will utilize those data to help better understand some of the changing demographics in Missouri's workforce, particularly some of the challenges posed by an aging population.

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Appendix: Population Trends in Missouri Counties

Region	MSA	County	2010 Pop.	2019 Pop.	2020 Pop.	Change 19-20	% Change 19-20	Change 10-20	% Change 10-20	Annual Growth Rate 10-20	Natural Increase 10-20	Net Int'l Migration 10-20	Net Domestic Migration 10-20
State		Missouri	5,996,089	6,140,475	6,151,548	11,073	0.2%	155,459	2.6%	0.3%	148,670	72,443	-63,883
Northeast	Nonmetro	Adair	25,638	25,511	25,399	-112	-0.4%	-239	-0.9%	-0.1%	444	1,008	-1,697
Northwest	St. Joseph, MO-KS MSA	Andrew	17,345	17,699	17,586	-113	-0.6%	241	1.4%	0.1%	236	-16	32
Northwest	Nonmetro	Atchison	5,656	5,109	5,096	-13	-0.3%	-560	-9.9%	-1.0%	-262	15	-318
Central	Nonmetro	Audrain	25,453	24,962	24,835	-127	-0.5%	-618	-2.4%	-0.2%	364	27	-999
Southwest	Nonmetro	Barry	35,555	35,789	35,818	29	0.1%	263	0.7%	0.1%	-10	136	161
Southwest	Nonmetro	Barton	12,384	11,681	11,592	-89	-0.8%	-792	-6.4%	-0.7%	-42	11	-768
West Central	Kansas City, MO-KS MSA	Bates	17,026	16,213	16,242	29	0.2%	-784	-4.6%	-0.5%	-234	18	-577
West Central	Nonmetro	Benton	19,109	19,477	19,627	150	0.8%	518	2.7%	0.3%	-1,367	0	1,891
Southeast	Cape Girardeau-Jackson, MO-IL MSA	Bollinger	12,349	12,142	12,111	-31	-0.3%	-238	-1.9%	-0.2%	-24	4	-214
Central	Columbia, MO MSA	Boone	163,208	181,084	182,991	1,907	1.1%	19,783	12.1%	1.2%	10,231	6,410	3,137
Northwest	St. Joseph, MO-KS MSA	Buchanan	89,071	87,212	86,530	-682	-0.8%	-2,541	-2.9%	-0.3%	1,865	1,728	-6,109
South Central	Nonmetro	Butler	42,785	42,574	42,178	-396	-0.9%	-607	-1.4%	-0.1%	-258	27	-337
Northwest	Kansas City, MO-KS MSA	Caldwell	9,428	9,039	9,051	12	0.1%	-377	-4.0%	-0.4%	-91	12	-306
Central	Jefferson City, MO MSA	Callaway	44,312	44,762	44,887	125	0.3%	575	1.3%	0.1%	1,079	233	-716
Central	Nonmetro	Camden	44,096	46,211	46,414	203	0.4%	2,318	5.3%	0.5%	-924	127	3,099
Southeast	Cape Girardeau-Jackson, MO-IL MSA	Cape Girardeau	75,905	78,971	79,512	541	0.7%	3,607	4.8%	0.5%	1,265	1,396	994

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Region	MSA	County	2010 Pop.	2019 Pop.	2020 Pop.	Change 19-20	% Change 19-20	Change 10-20	% Change 10-20	Annual Growth Rate 10-20	Natural Increase 10-20	Net Int'l Migration 10-20	Net Domestic Migration 10-20
West Central	Nonmetro	Carroll	9,282	8,698	8,554	-144	-1.7%	-728	-7.8%	-0.8%	-183	32	-578
South Central	Nonmetro	Carter	6,292	5,981	5,991	10	0.2%	-301	-4.8%	-0.5%	-26	-2	-270
Kansas City	Kansas City, MO-KS MSA	Cass	99,756	105,731	106,806	1,075	1.0%	7,050	7.1%	0.7%	2,329	196	4,595
Central	Nonmetro	Cedar	13,969	14,301	14,322	21	0.1%	353	2.5%	0.2%	-259	5	615
West Central	Nonmetro	Chariton	7,836	7,463	7,360	-103	-1.4%	-476	-6.1%	-0.6%	-86	7	-397
Ozark	Springfield, MO MSA	Christian	77,841	88,913	90,655	1,742	2.0%	12,814	16.5%	1.5%	3,951	344	8,525
Northeast	Nonmetro	Clark	7,139	6,804	6,830	26	0.4%	-309	-4.3%	-0.4%	-56	30	-285
Kansas City	Kansas City, MO-KS MSA	Clay	222,649	250,522	253,463	2,941	1.2%	30,814	13.8%	1.3%	13,314	1,900	15,637
Northwest	Kansas City, MO-KS MSA	Clinton	20,740	20,434	20,553	119	0.6%	-187	-0.9%	-0.1%	-226	-27	61
Central	Jefferson City, MO MSA	Cole	76,145	76,774	76,191	-583	-0.8%	46	0.1%	0.0%	2,494	820	-3,246
Central	Columbia, MO MSA	Cooper	17,601	17,563	17,102	-461	-2.6%	-499	-2.8%	-0.3%	49	56	-588
Central	Nonmetro	Crawford	24,631	23,856	23,739	-117	-0.5%	-892	-3.6%	-0.4%	-229	-26	-629
Southwest	Nonmetro	Dade	7,839	7,547	7,568	21	0.3%	-271	-3.5%	-0.4%	-357	20	63
Ozark	Springfield, MO MSA	Dallas	16,723	16,984	17,219	235	1.4%	496	3.0%	0.3%	162	87	246
Northwest	Nonmetro	Daviess	8,444	8,273	8,283	10	0.1%	-161	-1.9%	-0.2%	286	9	-454
Northwest	St. Joseph, MO-KS MSA	DeKalb	12,899	10,802	10,944	142	1.3%	-1,955	-15.2%	-1.6%	-165	1	-1,792
Central	Nonmetro	Dent	15,739	15,548	15,481	-67	-0.4%	-258	-1.6%	-0.2%	-241	73	-83
South Central	Nonmetro	Douglas	13,652	13,248	13,344	96	0.7%	-308	-2.3%	-0.2%	-231	-28	-46
Southeast	Nonmetro	Dunklin	31,951	29,173	28,878	-295	-1.0%	-3,073	-9.6%	-1.0%	-194	264	-3,161
St. Louis	St. Louis, MO-IL MSA	Franklin	101,424	103,860	104,469	609	0.6%	3,045	3.0%	0.3%	2,096	157	852
Central	Nonmetro	Gasconade	15,207	14,671	14,566	-105	-0.7%	-641	-4.2%	-0.4%	-519	7	-117
Northwest	Nonmetro	Gentry	6,749	6,564	6,484	-80	-1.2%	-265	-3.9%	-0.4%	0	14	-277
Ozark	Springfield, MO MSA	Greene	275,320	293,499	294,997	1,498	0.5%	19,677	7.1%	0.7%	7,003	3,053	9,643

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Region	MSA	County	2010 Pop.	2019 Pop.	2020 Pop.	Change 19-20	% Change 19-20	Change 10-20	% Change 10-20	Annual Growth Rate 10-20	Natural Increase 10-20	Net Int'l Migration 10-20	Net Domestic Migration 10-20
Northwest	Nonmetro	Grundy	10,254	9,780	9,595	-185	-1.9%	-659	-6.4%	-0.7%	149	92	-897
Northwest	Nonmetro	Harrison	8,968	8,346	8,321	-25	-0.3%	-647	-7.2%	-0.7%	-116	-6	-523
West Central	Nonmetro	Henry	22,265	21,971	22,076	105	0.5%	-189	-0.8%	-0.1%	-481	-20	329
West Central	Nonmetro	Hickory	9,646	9,496	9,586	90	0.9%	-60	-0.6%	-0.1%	-748	-3	693
Northwest	Nonmetro	Holt	4,915	4,387	4,232	-155	-3.5%	-683	-13.9%	-1.5%	-135	0	-551
Central	Columbia, MO MSA	Howard	10,141	9,982	10,001	19	0.2%	-140	-1.4%	-0.1%	124	41	-306
South Central	Nonmetro	Howell	40,544	40,084	40,262	178	0.4%	-282	-0.7%	-0.1%	-61	90	-278
Southeast	Nonmetro	Iron	10,591	10,152	10,098	-54	-0.5%	-493	-4.7%	-0.5%	-454	27	-64
Kansas City	Kansas City, MO-KS MSA	Jackson	674,854	704,350	705,925	1,575	0.2%	31,071	4.6%	0.5%	30,383	8,279	-7,133
Southwest	Joplin, MO MSA	Jasper	117,662	121,228	121,648	420	0.3%	3,986	3.4%	0.3%	4,558	1,217	-1,736
St. Louis	St. Louis, MO-IL MSA	Jefferson	219,130	225,402	226,543	1,141	0.5%	7,413	3.4%	0.3%	5,753	649	1,159
West Central	Nonmetro	Johnson	52,689	54,187	54,219	32	0.1%	1,530	2.9%	0.3%	3,038	1,060	-2,596
Northeast	Nonmetro	Knox	4,125	3,957	3,940	-17	-0.4%	-185	-4.5%	-0.5%	49	0	-236
Central	Nonmetro	Laclede	35,697	35,869	35,895	26	0.1%	198	0.6%	0.1%	644	29	-472
West Central	Kansas City, MO-KS MSA	Lafayette	33,380	32,774	33,006	232	0.7%	-374	-1.1%	-0.1%	-29	18	-357
Southwest	Nonmetro	Lawrence	38,590	38,288	38,175	-113	-0.3%	-415	-1.1%	-0.1%	363	-97	-668
Northeast	Nonmetro	Lewis	10,206	9,787	9,810	23	0.2%	-396	-3.9%	-0.4%	28	3	-427
Northeast	St. Louis, MO-IL MSA	Lincoln	52,673	59,040	60,119	1,079	1.8%	7,446	14.1%	1.3%	2,843	60	4,574
Northwest	Nonmetro	Linn	12,774	11,906	11,830	-76	-0.6%	-944	-7.4%	-0.8%	-353	35	-621
Northwest	Nonmetro	Livingston	15,128	14,982	14,413	-569	-3.8%	-715	-4.7%	-0.5%	-290	53	-480
Southwest	Nonmetro	McDonald	23,071	22,912	22,900	-12	-0.1%	-171	-0.7%	-0.1%	997	417	-1,589
Northeast	Nonmetro	Macon	15,580	15,111	15,095	-16	-0.1%	-485	-3.1%	-0.3%	-231	68	-318
Southeast	Nonmetro	Madison	12,197	12,118	12,113	-5	0.0%	-84	-0.7%	-0.1%	-278	37	159
Central	Nonmetro	Maries	9,159	8,751	8,795	44	0.5%	-364	-4.0%	-0.4%	-196	42	-208
Northeast	Nonmetro	Marion	28,785	28,543	28,423	-120	-0.4%	-362	-1.3%	-0.1%	321	148	-808
Northwest	Nonmetro	Mercer	3,770	3,619	3,558	-61	-1.7%	-212	-5.6%	-0.6%	13	20	-243
Central	Nonmetro	Miller	24,701	25,607	25,791	184	0.7%	1,090	4.4%	0.4%	232	-19	900

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Region	MSA	County	2010 Pop.	2019 Pop.	2020 Pop.	Change 19-20	% Change 19-20	Change 10-20	% Change 10-20	Annual Growth Rate 10-20	Natural Increase 10-20	Net Int'l Migration 10-20	Net Domestic Migration 10-20
Southeast	Nonmetro	Mississippi	14,333	13,208	12,691	-517	-3.9%	-1,642	-11.5%	-1.2%	-193	-14	-1,428
Central	Jefferson City, MO MSA	Moniteau	15,630	15,816	15,585	-231	-1.5%	-45	-0.3%	0.0%	542	76	-653
Northeast	Nonmetro	Monroe	8,787	8,627	8,672	45	0.5%	-115	-1.3%	-0.1%	-39	0	-73
Northeast	Nonmetro	Montgomery	12,209	11,472	11,294	-178	-1.6%	-915	-7.5%	-0.8%	-280	35	-676
Central	Nonmetro	Morgan	20,542	20,720	20,716	-4	0.0%	174	0.8%	0.1%	-378	-6	561
Southeast	Nonmetro	New Madrid	18,928	17,052	16,693	-359	-2.1%	-2,235	-11.8%	-1.2%	-192	4	-2,052
Southwest	Joplin, MO MSA	Newton	58,172	58,329	58,451	122	0.2%	279	0.5%	0.0%	835	149	-683
Northwest	Nonmetro	Nodaway	23,402	22,089	21,743	-346	-1.6%	-1,659	-7.1%	-0.7%	249	153	-2,077
South Central	Nonmetro	Oregon	10,934	10,517	10,411	-106	-1.0%	-523	-4.8%	-0.5%	-184	0	-334
Central	Jefferson City, MO MSA	Osage	13,907	13,621	13,535	-86	-0.6%	-372	-2.7%	-0.3%	169	7	-550
South Central	Nonmetro	Ozark	9,746	9,155	9,083	-72	-0.8%	-663	-6.8%	-0.7%	-436	-11	-206
Southeast	Nonmetro	Pemiscot	18,260	15,864	15,600	-264	-1.7%	-2,660	-14.6%	-1.6%	272	-23	-2,919
Southeast	Nonmetro	Perry	18,931	19,164	19,194	30	0.2%	263	1.4%	0.1%	203	91	-14
West Central	Nonmetro	Pettis	42,263	42,417	42,490	73	0.2%	227	0.5%	0.1%	1,440	415	-1,608
Central	Nonmetro	Phelps	45,298	44,593	44,414	-179	-0.4%	-884	-2.0%	-0.2%	491	1,925	-3,330
Northeast	Nonmetro	Pike	18,474	17,678	17,552	-126	-0.7%	-922	-5.0%	-0.5%	171	18	-1,111
Kansas City	Kansas City, MO-KS MSA	Platte	89,714	104,726	106,532	1,806	1.7%	16,818	18.7%	1.7%	5,116	2,094	9,620
Ozark	Springfield, MO MSA	Polk	31,158	32,228	32,490	262	0.8%	1,332	4.3%	0.4%	316	-3	1,034
Central	Nonmetro	Pulaski	52,865	52,634	52,709	75	0.1%	-156	-0.3%	0.0%	4,727	2,480	-7,458
Northwest	Nonmetro	Putnam	4,974	4,688	4,688	0	0.0%	-286	-5.7%	-0.6%	-105	-2	-175
Northeast	Nonmetro	Ralls	10,196	10,292	10,299	7	0.1%	103	1.0%	0.1%	21	0	83
Northeast	Nonmetro	Randolph	25,454	24,839	24,409	-430	-1.7%	-1,045	-4.1%	-0.4%	48	46	-1,141
Kansas City	Kansas City, MO-KS MSA	Ray	23,517	23,024	22,915	-109	-0.5%	-602	-2.6%	-0.3%	-56	12	-562
South Central	Nonmetro	Reynolds	6,676	6,288	6,198	-90	-1.4%	-478	-7.2%	-0.7%	-252	0	-223
South Central	Nonmetro	Ripley	14,102	13,343	13,300	-43	-0.3%	-802	-5.7%	-0.6%	-188	-13	-591
St. Louis	St. Louis, MO-IL MSA	St. Charles	361,808	401,625	406,204	4,579	1.1%	44,396	12.3%	1.2%	17,142	4,604	22,769

Missouri Population Trends

Region	MSA	County	2010 Pop.	2019 Pop.	2020 Pop.	Change 19-20	% Change 19-20	Change 10-20	% Change 10-20	Annual Growth Rate 10-20	Natural Increase 10-20	Net Int'l Migration 10-20	Net Domestic Migration 10-20
West Central	Nonmetro	St. Clair	9,823	9,450	9,689	239	2.5%	-134	-1.4%	-0.1%	-471	3	342
Southeast	Nonmetro	Ste. Genevieve	18,126	17,957	17,924	-33	-0.2%	-202	-1.1%	-0.1%	-74	137	-263
Southeast	Nonmetro	St. Francois	65,534	66,942	66,485	-457	-0.7%	951	1.5%	0.1%	-566	17	1,520
St. Louis	St. Louis, MO-IL MSA	St. Louis	998,846	995,467	994,020	-1,447	-0.1%	-4,826	-0.5%	0.0%	16,114	20,311	-41,041
West Central	Nonmetro	Saline	23,422	22,827	22,858	31	0.1%	-564	-2.4%	-0.2%	199	478	-1,239
Northeast	Nonmetro	Schuyler	4,441	4,632	4,534	-98	-2.1%	93	2.1%	0.2%	136	11	-53
Northeast	Nonmetro	Scotland	4,841	4,936	4,871	-65	-1.3%	30	0.6%	0.1%	250	-2	-217
Southeast	Nonmetro	Scott	39,268	38,416	38,288	-128	-0.3%	-980	-2.5%	-0.3%	615	55	-1,634
South Central	Nonmetro	Shannon	8,445	8,177	8,203	26	0.3%	-242	-2.9%	-0.3%	-47	1	-194
Northeast	Nonmetro	Shelby	6,364	5,923	5,919	-4	-0.1%	-445	-7.0%	-0.7%	-76	10	-377
Southeast	Nonmetro	Stoddard	30,025	29,096	29,001	-95	-0.3%	-1,024	-3.4%	-0.3%	-414	9	-593
Ozark	Nonmetro	Stone	32,241	32,002	32,465	463	1.4%	224	0.7%	0.1%	-1,444	26	1,676
Northwest	Nonmetro	Sullivan	6,737	6,061	6,033	-28	-0.5%	-704	-10.4%	-1.1%	107	168	-986
Ozark	Nonmetro	Taney	51,905	56,057	56,104	47	0.1%	4,199	8.1%	0.8%	656	296	3,261
South Central	Nonmetro	Texas	26,043	25,383	25,112	-271	-1.1%	-931	-3.6%	-0.4%	-151	0	-762
West Central	Nonmetro	Vernon	21,160	20,654	20,388	-266	-1.3%	-772	-3.6%	-0.4%	-1	143	-907
Northeast	St. Louis, MO-IL MSA	Warren	32,612	35,716	36,594	878	2.5%	3,982	12.2%	1.2%	1,219	64	2,721
Central	Nonmetro	Washington	25,198	24,743	24,604	-139	-0.6%	-594	-2.4%	-0.2%	89	2	-673
South Central	Nonmetro	Wayne	13,519	12,904	12,769	-135	-1.0%	-750	-5.5%	-0.6%	-548	-3	-195
Ozark	Springfield, MO MSA	Webster	36,320	39,644	39,859	215	0.5%	3,539	9.7%	0.9%	2,205	48	1,298
Northwest	Nonmetro	Worth	2,152	1,989	1,953	-36	-1.8%	-199	-9.2%	-1.0%	-69	0	-129
South Central	Nonmetro	Wright	18,777	18,329	18,325	-4	0.0%	-452	-2.4%	-0.2%	46	-29	-463

**Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, V2020*

**The sum of the components of population change differs slightly from the 2010 to 2020 change because the Census Bureau does not include the residuals in the published components of change estimates*