

Missouri Economy Indicators

Gross Domestic Product Trends

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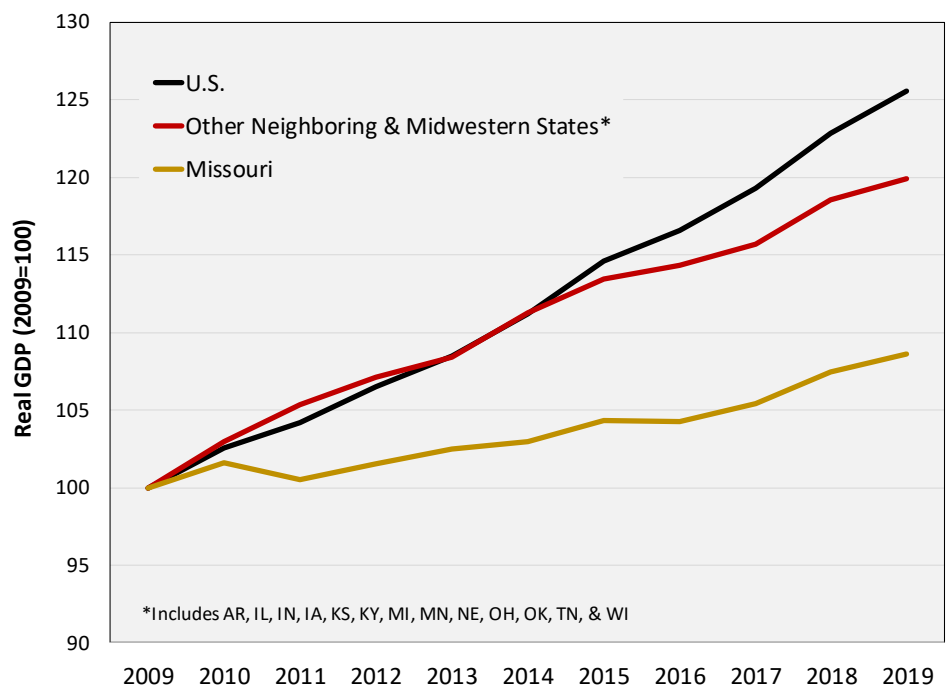
Gross domestic product (GDP) measures the total value of goods and services produced in an area. The data, provided by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, serve as an important tool for gauging the health of state, metropolitan and local economies. Places with growing GDPs have expanding economies, and those with shrinking GDPs have contracting economies. GDP data also allow states and counties to compare their economies to those of their peers.

GDP Growth

In 2019, Missouri had a \$328.4 billion economy — the nation's 22nd largest. Between 2018 and 2019, the Missouri's real GDP growth was 1%, which was less than half the U.S. growth rate (2.2%).

Although the pace of Missouri's economic growth has increased in recent years, the state has experienced less growth — 8.6% over 10 years — than other Midwestern states and the U.S. since the Great Recession.

Real GDP Change in Select States (2009-2019)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Chained 2012 Dollars

Missouri's Largest Metro Areas Drive Its Economy

By county, St. Louis County has contributed most to the state's economy; its 2019 GDP totaled \$81.8 billion. As a result, it was responsible for \$1 of every \$4 produced in Missouri. Other counties contributing significantly to state GDP included Jackson (\$48.8 billion, 14.9% of total), St. Louis City (\$31.7 billion, 9.4%), Greene (\$17.2 billion, 5.2%) and St. Charles (\$17.2 billion, 5.2%). Combined, these five counties accounted for 60% of the Missouri economy.

The economic contributions of the state's two largest metro areas outweigh their contributions to the state's overall population. For instance, in 2019:

- St. Louis metro area counties located in Missouri accounted for 43.6% of the state's GDP but only 35% of the state's population.

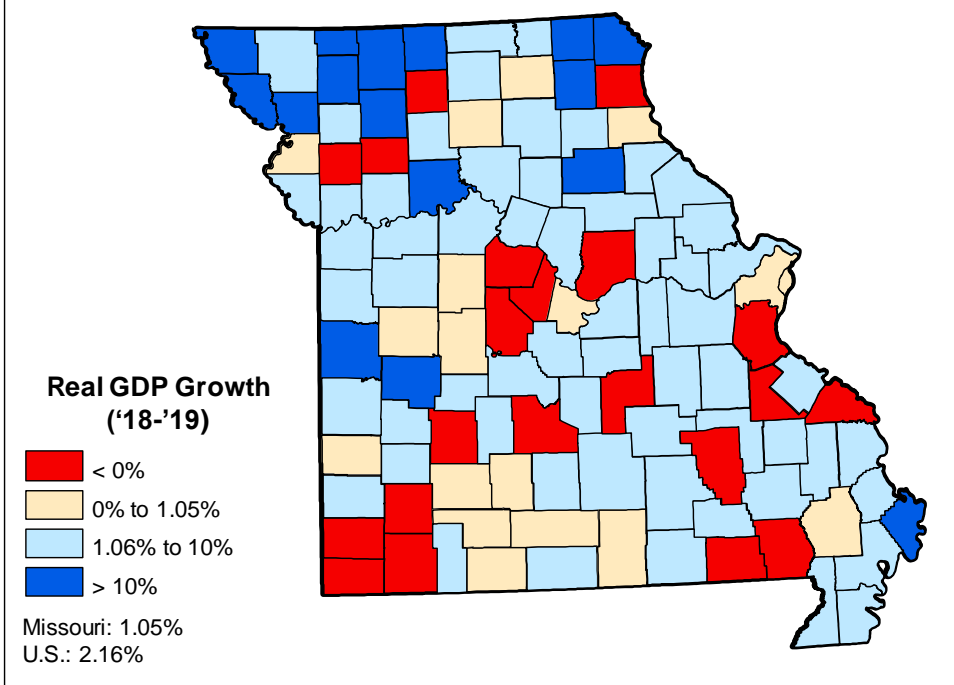
- Kansas City metro area counties located in Missouri represented 22.4% of the state's total GDP and 20.6% of the state's population.

Collectively, the state's 36 metropolitan counties produced 83.7% of the state's economic activity, but they represented only 75.5% of its population.

Economic Growth Uneven Within the State

Between 2018 and 2019, the GDP in 94 of Missouri's 115 counties grew. Counties with the largest percentage increases in GDP between 2018 and 2019 were Holt, Knox, Carroll and Davies, and the greatest relative GDP declines occurred in Lawrence, Barry and McDonald counties.

Change in Real Gross Domestic Product (2018-2019)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Between 2018 and 2019, the aggregate real GDP growth in Missouri's nonmetro counties (2.0%) outpaced that in metro counties (0.9%). In spite of the pace of growth, the 79 nonmetro counties accounted for 16.3% of Missouri's total GDP in 2019. Longer-term GDP trends more clearly assess a place's economic trajectory. In 2019, 40 Missouri counties had smaller real GDPs than they had in 2009. Of those, 32 were nonmetro counties.

Additional Resources

- **The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis** tracks measures of GDP at the national, state, metro and county levels. Summary tables and interactive data are available on the bureau's website: <https://www.bea.gov/data/gdp/gdp-county-metro-and-other-areas>
- **MU Extension** summarized Missouri GDP trends in January 2020. This brief included more detailed information and looked at trends from the past decade. Access the publication from the MU Extension website: <https://extension.missouri.edu/publications/dm3000>

All briefs in the economy indicators series and future updates will be available at tinyurl.com/ExceedEconomyIndicators

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