

Missouri Economy Indicators

Gross Domestic Product Trends

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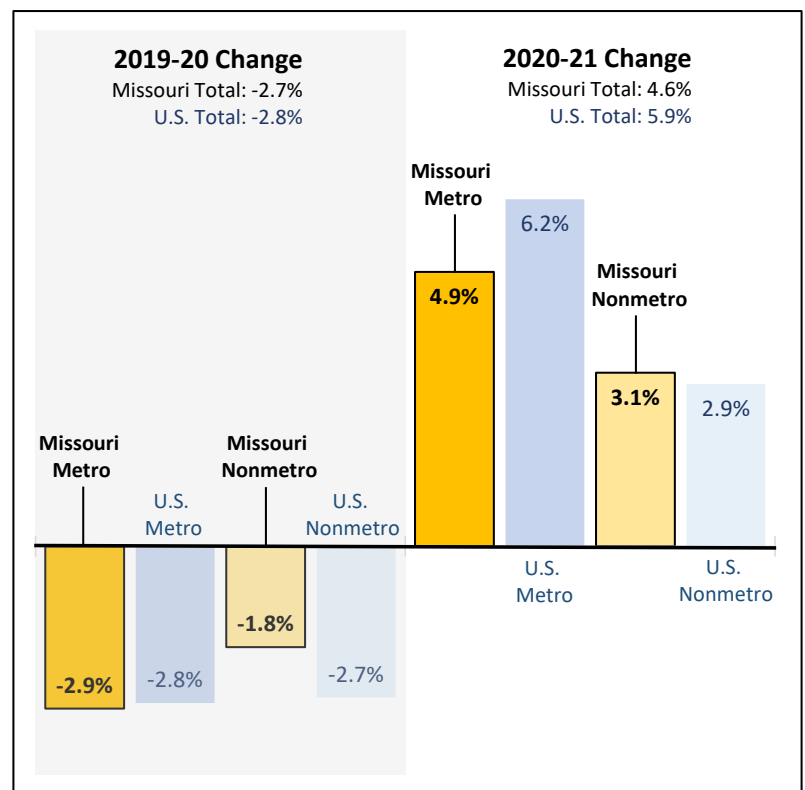
Gross domestic product (GDP) measures the total value of goods and services produced in an area. Developed by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, these data quantify the extent to which state, metropolitan and local economies grow or shrink during a given time. As a result, these insights gauge the health of an area's economy, how an area compares to its peers and which industries have grown or declined over time.

Real GDP Growth

In 2021, Missouri stood 22nd in the nation with a \$359 billion economy. Following a 2.7% decline in 2020, Missouri's real GDP increased 4.6% between 2020 and 2021. During that time, the U.S. economy grew 5.9%. Statewide and nationally, economies in metro areas grew faster between 2020 and 2021.

Between 2020 and 2021, two Missouri sectors—arts & entertainment and accommodation & food services—grew 33% and 23%, respectively. These gains were the inverse of 2020 when they shrank 33% and 20%. GDP gains were also significant for the information sector (11%) in 2021. After a 14.6% increase in 2020, agriculture declined by 7.5% in 2021.

Real GDP Change by Area Type



Source: MU Extension graphic using Bureau of Economic Analysis data

Economies in Missouri's Metro Counties Fared Better than Those in Nonmetro Counties

Missouri's GDP gains in metro areas, while strong at 4.9%, lagged the national average of 6.2% between 2020 and 2021. Conversely, the state's nonmetro counties had real GDP gains that were more modest at 3.1%, but slightly higher than the national average of 2.9%. However, Missouri's nonmetro counties account for just 16% of the state's total economy at roughly \$57 billion. Therefore, the economic performance of the state's metro areas greatly influences the state's overall economic performance.

Real GDP increased in Missouri counties within the state's two largest metro areas—St. Louis (4.8%) and Kansas City (5.3%)—at a rate that lagged all U.S. metro areas (6.2%). These regions are critical to the state's economy. Combined, they account for 66.4% of the state's economy, yet contribute just 55.6% of its

population. Following an economic contraction in 2020, other Missouri counties that lie in metro areas experienced economic gains between 2020 and 2021: Columbia (5.3%), Joplin (3.8%), Cape Girardeau (2.6%) and St. Joseph (2.0%). Springfield (6.5%) was the only Missouri metropolitan area with GDP gains exceeding the national average. Jefferson City (0.9%) achieved a modest gain over its 2020 growth of 0.7%.

Economic Growth Remained Uneven Within the State

Between 2020 and 2021, 84 (73%) of the state's 115 counties grew their economies, including St. Louis City. By contrast, only 47 (41%) of the state's 115 counties grew their economies between 2019 and 2020. Metro counties with the largest real GDP gains were Jackson (5.4%) and St. Louis (4.6%) counties. Metro counties with the most growth were Webster (7.1%), Greene (6.7%) and St. Charles (6.6%). Metro counties with the greatest relative losses were Callaway (-6.9%), DeKalb (-5.1%), Bates (-3.4%) and Cooper (-2.3%).

Among nonmetro counties, four of the five experiencing significant growth were on the state's border — Schuyler (31.9%), Atchison (15.2%), Stoddard (12.4%), Taney (11.7%) and Ralls (11.4%). However, because many of these are smaller counties, modest gains to GDP can create relatively large percent changes in growth.

Nonmetro counties with the most notable real GDP losses were north of I-70, particularly in agriculture-dependent counties. In the northwest part of the state, Daviess County experienced the state's largest GDP loss (-15.0%) between 2020 and 2021; nearby Worth (-11.3%) and Holt (-9.7%) counties also saw a substantial real GDP decline.

Additional Resources

- **The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis** tracks measures of GDP at the national, state, metro and county levels. Data are updated annually in December. Summary tables and interactive data are available on the bureau's website: <https://www.bea.gov/data/gdp/gdp-county-metro-and-other-areas>

All briefs in this indicators series and future updates will be available at <http://muext.us/MissouriEconomyIndicators>

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