



Missouri Economy Indicators

Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes

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After completing post-secondary education at Missouri institutions, graduates’ choices can significantly affect the state’s workforce. Not all graduates find work in industries directly related to their fields of study or stay in the state post-graduation. The experimental Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO) dataset draws on data provided by public universities, state departments of education, state labor market information agencies and the U.S. Census Bureau. It shows the industries where public college and university graduates find work upon completing their degrees, as well as how many find work in the state.

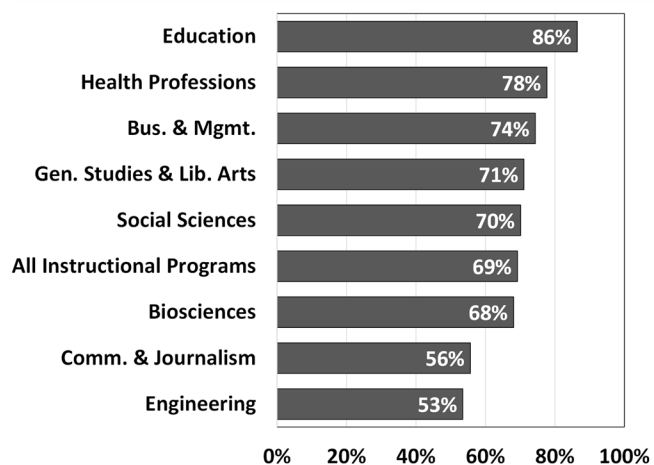
Retaining Degree-Completers

Based on three-year cohorts from 2001-18, 69% of four-year degree-completers at Missouri’s public colleges and universities worked in the state one year after graduating. Five years after graduation, this share fell to 63%. After 10 years, it was 62%.

Retention rates vary by the degree program that graduates complete. Four-year degree-completers in education, health care or business were most likely to work in Missouri one year after graduation. By contrast, just more than half of students completing four-year degrees in engineering or communication and journalism were working in Missouri a year post-graduation.

Share of 4-Year Degree-Completers—by Degree Program Type—that Remain in Missouri One Year After Graduation

2001-18



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes

Graduate Retention in Missouri Varies by Institutions and Programs

Students completing two-year degrees at Missouri’s public institutions have been more apt (85%) to remain in the state a year after graduation than those who complete four-year degrees (69%). However, retention rates vary by institution. For instance, 74% of students completing two-year degrees at Crowder College remained in Missouri a year after graduation. Note, Crowder College’s service area includes Missouri and three other states. Conversely, more than 90% of two-year degree-completers from St. Louis-area institutions—those include St. Louis Community College, St. Charles Community College, and Jefferson College—and Ozark Technical Community College in southwest Missouri were working in the state one year after graduation.

Similar differences exist among four-year institutions. For instance, of four-year degree graduates from the University of Missouri-St. Louis—a more regionally serving institution—88% worked in Missouri one year after graduation. Missouri S&T, which heavily focuses on training engineers, had just more than 50% of its graduates remain in the state one year after graduating.

In many instances, graduates who leave the state are not Missouri residents, so unsurprisingly, they may seek work elsewhere or closer to home. Regardless, out-of-state students provide tangible benefits while studying in Missouri. They pay higher out-of-state tuition, and spending money earned in other states benefits Missouri communities' economies. Moreover, out-of-state students represent new potential residents if they can connect with Missouri-based employers as they make post-graduation plans.

Not All Graduates Enter Careers in Their Chosen Fields of Study

Workforce planners often look at degree-completers as a workforce supply measure, assuming that graduates work in fields where they have had training. This measure works well in fields such as health care and education where more than 75% of four-year degree-completers at Missouri's public institutions found work in industries directly related to the fields they studied in school. Somewhat similarly, engineering graduates often work in manufacturing or professional and technical services.

However, PSEO data clearly show that not all degree-completers enter careers in industries directly related to their majors. For instance, graduates with social science degrees not only find work in public administration but also in industries such as health care, retail, and professional and technical services. Similarly, individuals who have communication and journalism degrees may work in the information (which includes publishing and broadcasting), professional and technical services, or retail sectors.

Employing Industries for 4-Year Degree-Completers at Missouri's Public Colleges and Universities
2001-18

Program Area	Employing Industry, 1 Year Post-Graduation
Bus. & Mgmt.	Fin. & Insurance (17%), Prof. & Tech. Services (17%), Retail (10%)
Comm. & Journalism	Prof. & Tech. Services (19%), Information (19%), Retail (9%)
Education	Education (77%)
Engineering	Manufacturing (34%), Prof. & Tech. Services (29%)
Health Professions	Health Care (77%)
Social Sciences	Health Care (12%), Public Administration (12%), Retail (11%), Prof. & Tech. Services (10%)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, LED QWI Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes

Additional Resources and Notes

- Missouri is one of 23 states with PSEO data available. More information about the experimental PSEO dataset is available through the U.S. Census Bureau's [Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics website](#).
- In addition to finding information on the flow of graduates to different industries or states, users can see graduate earnings by field of study by using the [PSEO Explorer](#). Through the PSEO Explorer, you can access data by public institution and degree level.
- Given that the PSEO is an experimental dataset meant to track long-term outcomes, the data are not yet able to answer more contemporary questions (e.g., How have things changed since the pandemic?). Data related to university degrees (i.e., BA+) are available for three-year cohorts that run from 2001-04 to 2016-18. Data for two-year degree programs were available for two five-year cohorts (2006-10 and 2011-15). As a result, PSEO data are not necessarily the most current, but PSEO does provide a large sample of data.

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

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