

Recent trends in state, regional and local gross domestic product

In December 2019, the [US Bureau of Economic Analysis](#) released county-level measures of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the first time. GDP measures the total value of goods and services produced, less the value of those goods and services used in production. Places where GDP is growing have expanding economies, those with shrinking GDP are contracting. By producing these data for geographies as detailed as the county-level, BEA has provided an important barometer to gauge the health of our state, metropolitan and local economies. This brief highlights some of the key GDP trends for Missouri and its regions.

In 2018, the State of Missouri had a \$319 Billion economy.¹

- Missouri is the nation's 22nd largest economy by GDP, and 18th largest state by population.²
- Finance, Insurance and Real Estate accounted for \$61.7 billion—19.3 percent—of the state's economy, making it the state's leading economic sector.
 - Other leading sectors include professional and business services (13.3 percent); manufacturing (12.2 percent); and educational services, healthcare and social assistance (10.5 percent).
 - Government (which includes public schools) was responsible for \$37.2 billion, or 11.7 percent, of the state's economy.
- Missouri's 36 metropolitan counties (including St. Louis City) produced almost 84 percent of the state's GDP.

The St. Louis region is Missouri's economic engine.

- In 2018, the Missouri counties of the St. Louis, MO-IL Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) generated \$141.3 billion, representing 44.3 percent of the state's total GDP.
 - Almost 80 percent of that activity occurred in St. Louis City and County.
 - 1 out of every 4 dollars produced in the State of Missouri was produced in St. Louis County.
- The Missouri counties of the St. Louis, MO-IL MSA account for 75.8 percent of the metro's total population, but 83 percent of total metro GDP.

Other Missouri metro areas make significant economic contributions.

- The Missouri counties of the Kansas City, MO-KS MSA produced \$70.6 billion, or 22.1 percent of Missouri's GDP in 2018.
 - Over two-thirds of this economic activity occurred in Jackson County.
 - Jackson County was responsible for almost 15 percent of the state's total GDP.
 - The Missouri counties of the Kansas City, MO-KS MSA account for 57.9 percent of the metro's total population, but only 52.8 percent of total metro GDP.

¹ GDP statistics for 2018 are *current dollar* statistics, in that values are shown in 2018 dollars. GDP measures that show change over time were calculated using *real dollars*, meaning that they are inflation-adjusted statistics.

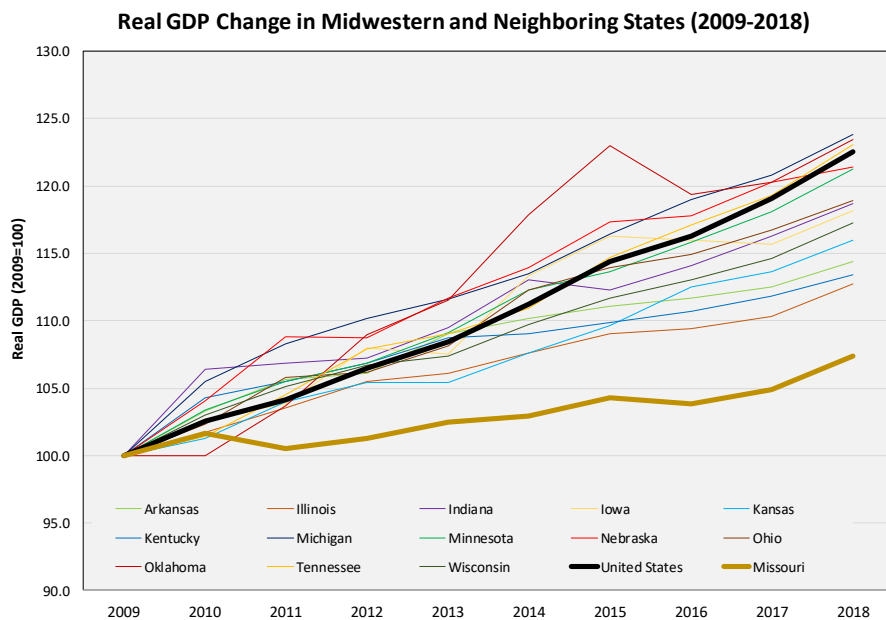
² Population statistics are drawn from the US Census Bureau's [Population and Housing Unit Estimates](#) (V2018).

Gross Domestic Product Trends in Missouri

- The Springfield, MO MSA generated \$20.3 billion in GDP, or 6.4 percent of the state’s total economy in 2018; it was also home to 7.6 percent of the state’s population.
 - Greene County produced 83.1 percent of the Springfield MSA’s GDP in 2018.
- Other metro contributions to Missouri’s state GDP include Columbia (3.0 percent), Joplin (2.4 percent), Jefferson City (2.4 percent), St. Joseph (1.7%), and Cape Girardeau-Jackson (1.3 percent).

Since the recession, Missouri has not kept pace with other Midwestern and neighboring states.

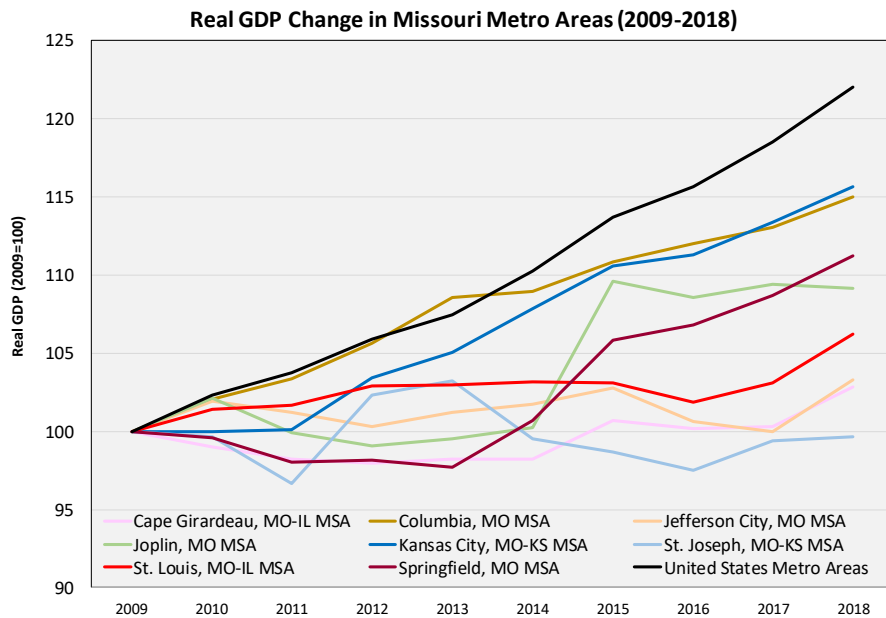
- Since 2009, Missouri’s state GDP has grown just 7.4 percent—the lowest figure among neighboring and Midwestern states.
 - The next closest state is Illinois, whose GDP grew 12.7 percent since 2009.
 - Between 2009 and 2018, Missouri’s compound annual GDP growth rate was 0.8 percent—almost a third of the US annual growth rate (2.3 percent) during the same period.
- Missouri’s GDP growth increased since 2016, as the state has grown 1.7 percent annually between 2016 and 2018.
 - Missouri’s annual growth rate during this period still lags behind Tennessee (2.5 percent), Minnesota (2.3 percent), Michigan (2.0 percent), Indiana (2.0 percent), Wisconsin (1.9 percent), and Oklahoma (1.7 percent), but is also ahead of neighboring states such as Kansas (1.5 percent), Illinois (1.5 percent), Arkansas (1.2 percent) and Iowa (0.9 percent).
 - US GDP grew 2.6 percent annually during this period.



Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis, Chained 2012 Dollars

GDP growth in Missouri's metro area continue to lag behind US metro region's overall

- Since 2009, no Missouri MSA³ grew faster than the overall growth rate of all US Metros (2.2 percent annually).
 - Kansas City, MO-KS (1.6 percent), Columbia (1.6 percent), and Springfield (1.2 percent) are the only Missouri metros to exceed 1.0 percent annual growth since the recession.
- Over the past three years (2016-2018), the pace of GDP growth has picked up in the state's larger metros including St. Louis, MO-IL MSA (2.1 percent), Springfield MSA (2.0 percent), and Kansas City, MO-KS MSA (1.9 percent).
- Given the scale of its economic contributions, the change in the St. Louis, MO-IL MSA is perhaps most important for the state's economic trajectory.
 - Between 2009 and 2016 the St. Louis, MO-IL MSA grew only 0.3 percent annually, but its GDP grew 2.1 percent annually between 2016 and 2018.
- Joplin and Columbia were the two Missouri metros that experienced slower GDP growth between 2016 and 2018, than they did between 2009 and 2016.
- St. Joseph has not grown since the recession.



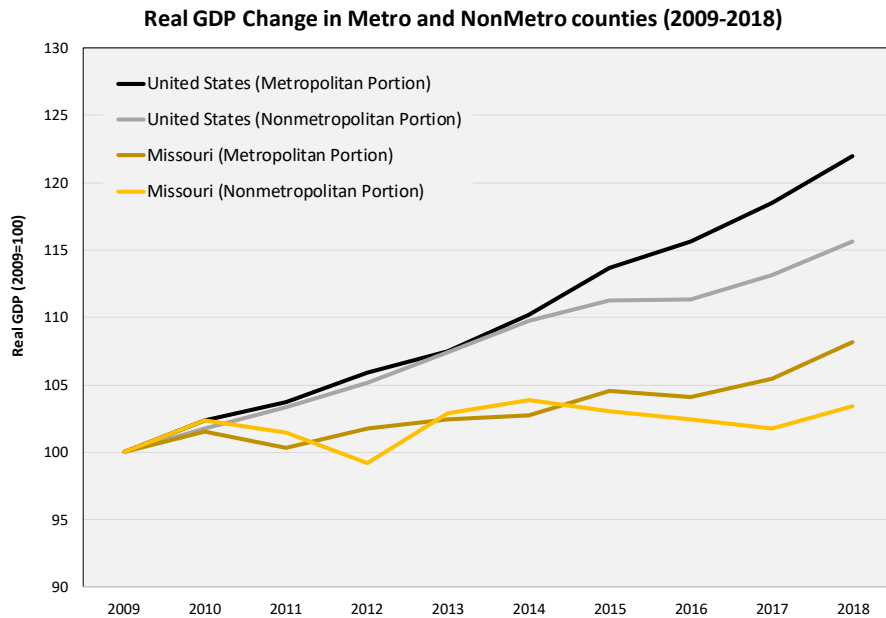
Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis, Chained 2012 Dollars

Missouri's rural counties have not recovered from the recession.

- Since the recession the gap between Non-Metro counties in Missouri and Non-Metro counties nationwide has widened significantly.
 - Real GDP in Non-Metro counties nationwide has increased 15.6 percent since 2009, but Real GDP in Missouri's Non-Metro counties has only increased 3.4 percent during the same period.

Gross Domestic Product Trends in Missouri

- Both Missouri’s Metro and Non-Metro counties are not keeping pace with their respective national counterparts, but the gap between the state’s Metro and Non-Metro counties has begun to widen.
 - Between 2016 and 2018 GDP grew 1.9 percent annually in Missouri’s Metro counties, but in Missouri’s Non-Metro counties GDP grew only 0.5 percent during the same period.

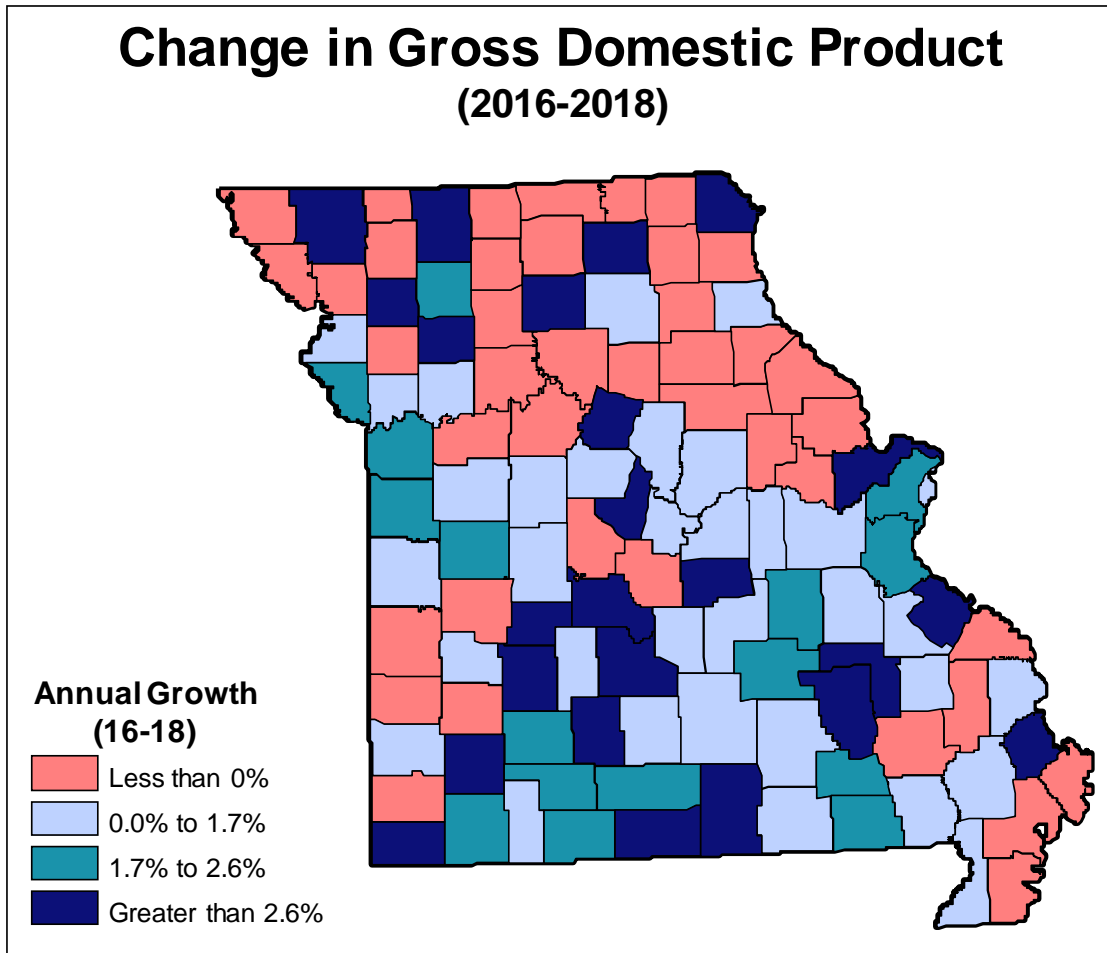


Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis, Chained 2012 Dollars

GDP grew in almost two-thirds of Missouri counties between 2016 and 2018.

- Seventy-four of Missouri’s 115 counties (incl. St. Louis City) experienced positive GDP growth between 2016 and 2018.
 - This growth occurred primarily in Missouri’s urban counties and in the southern half of the state.
 - Among the 36 Missouri counties within an MSA, 29 experienced GDP growth between 2016 and 2018.
 - GDP declined in many parts of Northern Missouri and the Missouri Bootheel during this period.
- Among the 74 Missouri counties that grew between 2016 and 2018, 38 of those counties had lost GDP between 2009 and 2016.
 - These counties include St. Louis City, Cole County (Jefferson City), and Buchanan County (St. Joseph).

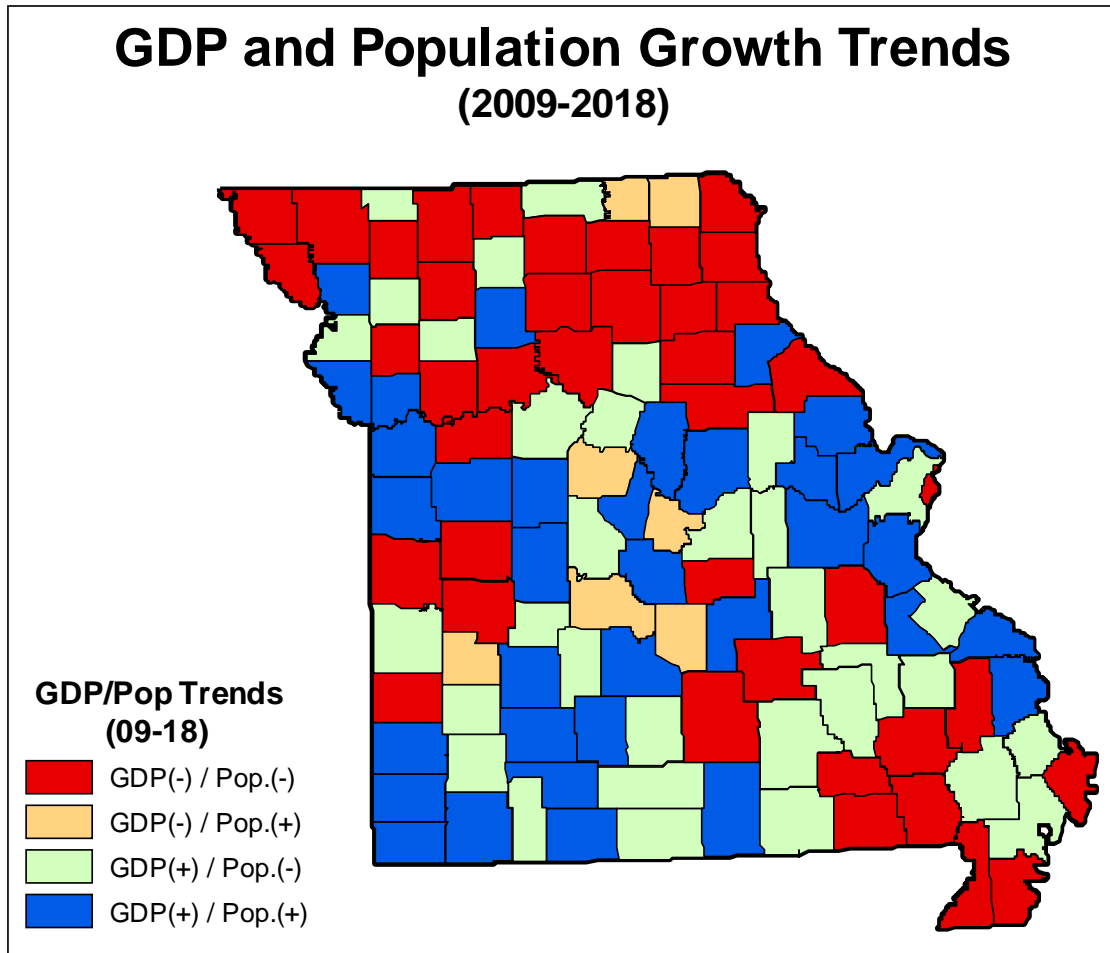
³ We have not included the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO MSA, since the only Missouri County in that MSA is McDonald County which represents just 2.4 percent of the MSA’s 2018 Total GDP.



Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis

Since the recession, 34 Missouri counties experienced both population and GDP growth.

- Almost 30 percent of Missouri’s counties are growth counties (population and GDP growth since 2009).
 - These counties include Platte, St. Charles, Warren, Cass, Christian, Greene, Taney and Boone, among others.
- Almost 29 percent (33 counties) of Missouri counties had GDP growth, but population declines between 2009 and 2018.
 - This group includes the state’s largest county—St. Louis County, as well as counties such as Buchanan and St. Genevieve.
- Nationwide, just over 6 percent of counties grew in population but lost GDP during this period; this pattern was consistent in Missouri.
 - Among the 7 counties to gain population but lose GDP are Cole, Camden and Pulaski counties.



Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis; US Census Bureau

- 41 counties (36 percent of Missouri counties) lost both GDP and population since 2009.
 - These counties are concentrated primarily in the northern and southeastern parts of the state.
 - Other areas around the country where there is a concentration of similar counties include Central Appalachia (West Virginia, Eastern Kentucky, Southwest Virginia), the Mississippi Delta region, and Northern New Mexico among others.

More information about Local Area Gross Domestic Product statistics are available on the US Bureau of Economic Analysis website: <https://www.bea.gov/news/2019/local-area-gross-domestic-product-2018>

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