WHERE WE STAND

The Strategic Assessment of the St. Louis Region, 3rd Edition

East-West Gateway Coordinating Council—1999

Table of Contents

WHERE
WE
STAND

BACKGROUND
- To the Reader 3
- Measuring Where We Stand 5
- Reading the Tables 7

I. DEMOGRAPHICS
- Population and Population Change 10
- Racial Composition 12
- Age Distribution 14
- Household Composition 16

II. REGIONAL ECONOMIC WELL-BEING
- Macroeconomic Indicators 20
- Jobs and Business 22
- Income and Wealth 24

III. LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE & PUBLIC SERVICE
- Government Units 28
- Government Expenditures 30

IV. INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY WELL-BEING
- Poverty and Teenage Births 34
- Health and Mortality 36
- Housing and Mobility 38

V. EDUCATIONAL VITALITY
- Educational Attainment 42
- Educational Enrollments and Expenditures 44

VI. CRIME AND SOCIAL DISORDER
- Metropolitan and City Crime 48
- Components of Crime 50

VII. URBAN FORM & QUALITY OF LIFE
- Urban Form 54
- Quality of Life 56

ST. LOUIS TRENDS: 1992-1996 63

CONCLUSION 73

Background

To the Reader

Welcome to the third edition of *Where We Stand.* In 1992, we began a dialogue with readers about the condition and future of the St. Louis region. Based on an objective, statistical comparison of the St. Louis region to our peer regions, we urged citizens to consider the state of the St. Louis region. In 1996, with the second edition, we continued that exploration by asking:

- From your vantage point—government, business, citizen, clergy, professional, student—where does the region stand in the competitive marketplace?
- What are the most immediate and pressing indicators—if any—that must be strengthened? What assets will we build upon to improve them?
- What is our most significant strength as a metropolitan area? What strategies will we put in place to maximize that advantage?
- Where do you stand in relationship to these issues? What will be your response?

As we stand at the close of a century, we again ask you to take a hard look at our region—and in the process, at ourselves.

We live in an age of rapid technological change. We are competing with regions throughout the United States and around the globe for a bigger slice of the pie. While we may compete globally, the quality of our lives is measured a lot closer to home, in our neighborhoods, communities, schools, and churches.

We are experiencing a period of unprecedented economic vigor. Yet, not all persons in our region are equal beneficiaries of this prosperity. What role do the social, economic and racial disparities play in the future success—or failure—of the St. Louis region?

This report provides a number of indicators that describe the condition of the St. Louis region relative to our peer regions. The report also yields keen insights regarding the trends which are affecting St. Louis and its contemporaries. What are the region's assets and liabilities? What actions will be necessary if St. Louis is to compete more effectively in the global economy? What is the prognosis for the future of St. Louis? These are just a few of the questions we hope you will contemplate as you absorb this report. Once you have finished reading, that's when the real work begins. After all, it is up to you, along with 2.6 million of your neighbors, to keep the St. Louis region safe, vibrant, and successful.

Sincerely,

Les Sterman
Executive Director

WHERE
WE
STAND

National Marketplace

As Defined for the Regional Strategic Assessment

East-West Gateway
Coordinating Council

Measuring Where We Stand

In 1992, the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council undertook the first strategic assessment of the St. Louis region, working in collaboration with a variety of partners. Under the banner of "A Region Responds," 29 individuals from various sectors of the community formed a steering committee to guide this regional self- examination. This committee established a process to compare the region to other major metropolitan areas around the country with which St. Louis competes for population and for jobs. Metropolitan regions were chosen for comparison if they met one of the following two criteria: the area had a population of 950,000 or more and was within 500 miles of St. Louis, or the area had an economic function similar to that of the St. Louis region.

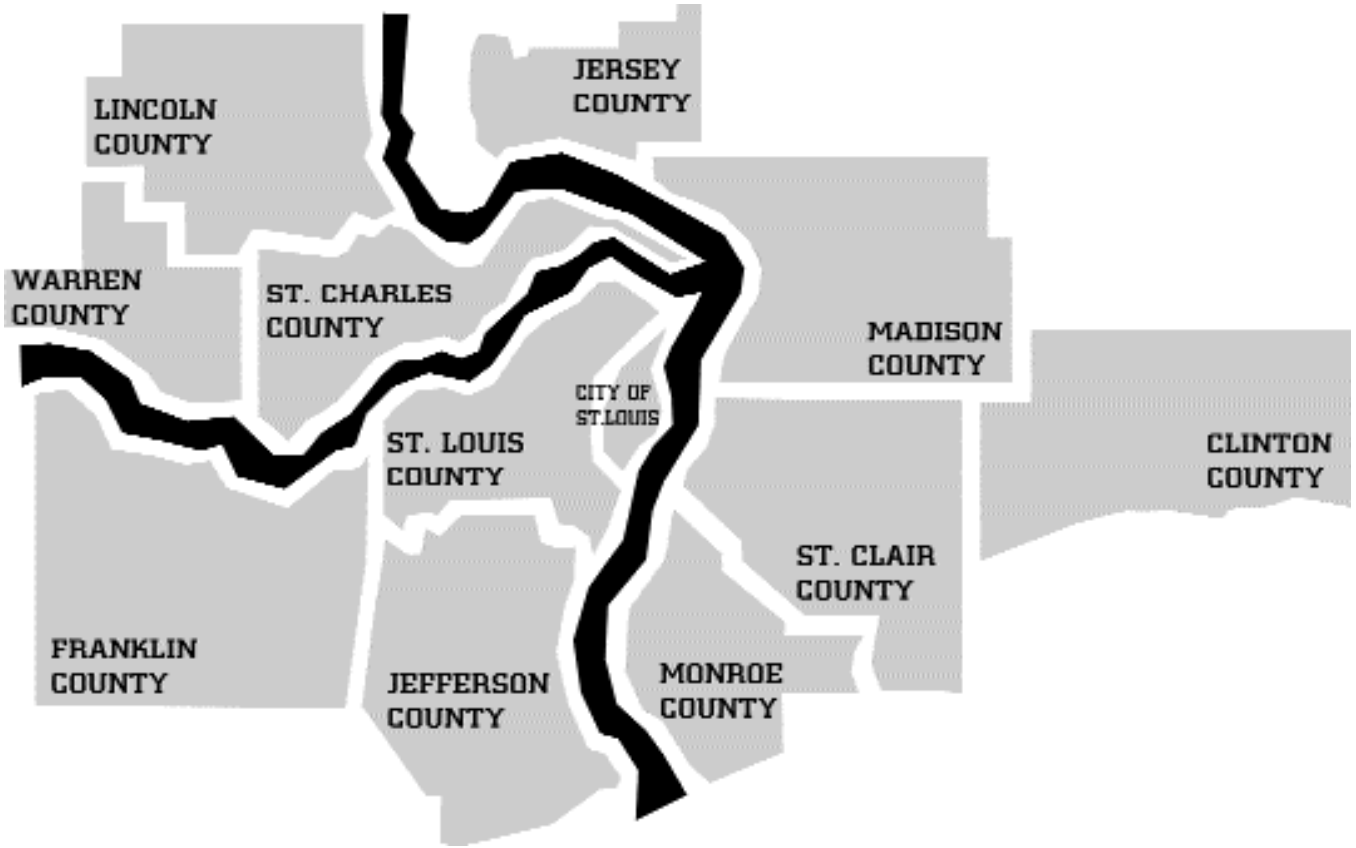
A framework was designed which focused the self-assessment on seven major challenge areas: population dynamics, regional economic vitality, leadership and governance, individual and family well-being, education, crime, and urban form and quality of life. A subcommittee was formed for each of these areas, and they identified relevant indicators and guided the overall process of self- assessment. Indicators were chosen which related to regional prosperity and competitiveness, expressing underlying themes rather than symptoms. Between seven and eleven indicators were selected for each of the challenge areas. This process established the foundation for an insightful and dispassionate assessment of St. Louis.

The second edition of *Where We Stand* was published in 1996. Two important changes were made to the 1996 report. First, five more metropolitan areas were added to the comparison list including: Austin, Charlotte, Salt Lake City, San Antonio, and San Diego. These areas were identified as areas of rapid growth, both demographically and economically, whose importance in the national arena is growing. Additionally, a number of new indicators were added, which brought the total to 85.

As a result of continued public interest, a new edition of *Where We Stand* will be updated every three years. Each new addition will be updated with the most recent data available and be judiciously augmented by new measures or regions, where appropriate. Of the 85 measures in the last edition, 56 have been updated with more current data. This edition of *Where We Stand* compares the St. Louis region to the same 34 metropolitan areas as the previous edition. However, several new indicators have been added to the 1999 report bringing the total number of indicators up to 89. These new indicators examine critical aspects of regional vitality such as home ownership, AIDS risk and entrepreneurial climate. With these additions, the resulting report provides an updated assessment of the St. Louis region, presenting an informative and expanded analysis of *where we stand.*

WHERE
WE
STAND

The St. Louis Region



Reading the Tables

The data used in the assessment are portrayed in a series of tables like the one at right. Each table depicts one indicator. The body of the tables are made up of horizontal bars that represent each of the 35 metropolitan areas. They are stacked according to their rank from 1 to 35. In a few cases, data were not available for all areas and the bottom rank will be less than 35. The horizontal bars contain three pieces of information: the metropolitan area name, its rank, and the value on which the rank is based. Thus, the table at right shows that St. Louis, with 2,557,806 people, has the 14th largest population of the 35 metropolitan areas.

The directional scale to the right of the table signifies whether the data are ranked according to highest and lowest values, or better and worse values. This distinction is important because with indicators such as poverty, the highest numeric value is actually the "worst" value, and will appear at the bottom of the table. The directional scale also locates the average value of the 35 metropolitan areas, which is displayed as a horizontal line across the page.

There are seven broad categories of indicators in the assessment. Each category of indicators is divided into two or more sections, with four or five tables in each section. Accompanying each section of tables is an explanatory page to guide the reader. A page of technical and source notes follows each category of indicators.

In developing the indicators, three criteria were established for the use of data: the data must be reliable; the data must be consistently collected among and comparable for all metropolitan areas; and the data must be available at regular intervals to allow for regular updates. In general, these criteria are best met by U.S. Government sources. For most indicators, data sources used in the 1992 and 1996 assessments were used again here, with a few exceptions.

All data contained in the report are for Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). A MSA is a core area containing a large population nucleus, together with adjacent communities which have a high degree of economic and social integration with that core. The St. Louis metropolitan statistical area is a twelve county, bi-state, region. The Missouri portion incorporates the City of St. Louis and Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln, St. Charles, St. Louis and Warren counties. The Illinois portion is comprised of Clinton, Jersey, Madison, Monroe and St. Clair counties.

MSA POPULATION

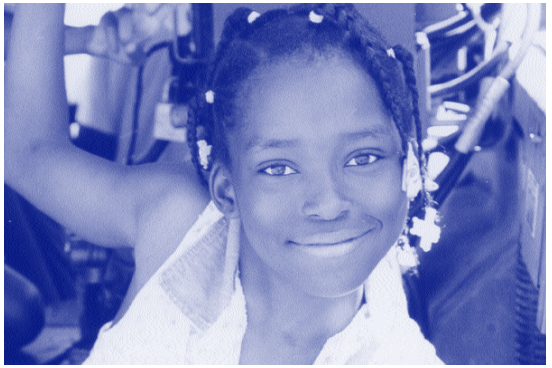
1	**Los Angeles**	**9,145,219**
2	New York	8,611,099
3	Chicago	7,773,896
4	Boston	5,827,654
5	Philadelphia	4,940,653
6	Washington DC	4,603,030
7	Detroit	4,463,948
8	Houston	3,851,656
9	Atlanta	3,627,184
10	Dallas	3,126,613
Average		2,878,920
11	Phoenix	2,839,539
12	Minneapolis	2,792,137
13	San Diego	2,722,650
14	**St. Louis**	**2,557,806**
15	Baltimore	2,475,332
16	Pittsburgh	2,361,019
17	Seattle	2,268,126
18	Cleveland	2,225,997
19	Miami	2,044,600
20	Denver	1,901,156
21	Portland	1,787,549
22	Kansas City	1,709,273
23	San Francisco	1,662,005
24	Cincinnati	1,607,396
25	San Antonio	1,511,386
26	Indianapolis	1,503,468
27	Columbus	1,460,242
28	Milwaukee	1,451,179
29	Charlotte	1,350,243
30	Salt Lake City	1,247,554
31	Nashville	1,134,524
32	Memphis	1,083,186
33	Austin	1,071,023
34	Oklahoma City	1,030,504
35	**Louisville**	**993,369**

HIGHER

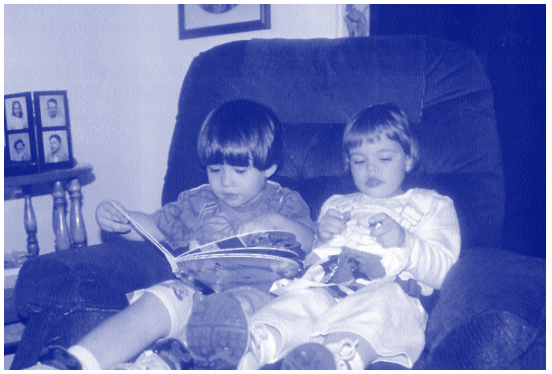
AVERAGE

LOWER

MSA Total population, 1997



Demographics



Demographics *Population and Population Change*

St. Louis, with an estimated 2.56 million residents in 1997, ranks 14th in MSA Population among the 35 metropolitan areas included in the analysis. Between 1990 and 1997 the St. Louis region experienced a net population growth of 2.6 percent. This growth rate falls far behind metropolitan areas such as Phoenix and Austin where both topped 26 percent growth during the same seven year period. However, the population of the St. Louis region has steadily risen since the 1980's after a net loss of over 50,000 people between 1970 and 1980.

There are three components of population change—births, deaths, and migration. The rate of net migration captures the dynamic relationship between all three components and provides insight into migration (people moving into or out of a region) trends. Net migration is calculated as the difference between the population and the natural increase (balance of births and deaths) between two periods in time. If no one moved into or out of an area during that period, the change in population would simply equal the natural increase. The St. Louis region had a high number of births relative to deaths between 1990 and 1997 resulting in a natural increase of approximately 103,000 people. Yet, the metropolitan area grew by only 65,458 people, therefore resulting in a net out-migration of approximately 38,000, ranking St. Louis as having the 9th highest rate of out-migration among the 35 metropolitan areas examined. Nevertheless, this is a significant improvement from the 1980's when the St. Louis region experienced a net out-migration of more than 95,000 people.

It is equally important to look at the vitality of the population within the central cities of a region. For regions such as New York, where more than 85 percent of the metropolitan population lives within the central city and population density (ratio of population to land area) is high, the population residing within the central city has been relatively stable over time. In metropolitan areas with low population density and where land is more plentiful for new development, such as St. Louis, central cities have suffered dramatic losses of population. The City of St. Louis has lost 11.4 percent of its residents between 1990 and 1996 resulting in the greatest loss among the 35 metropolitan areas. In 1996, the city's share of the regional population was 13.8 percent, an historic low for the area.

Demographics *Population and Population Change*

(Tables are ranked from higher to lower values)

MSA POPULATION

1	**Los Angeles**	**9,145,219**
2	New York	8,611,099
3	Chicago	7,773,896
4	Boston	5,827,654
5	Philadelphia	4,940,653
6	Washington DC	4,603,030
7	Detroit	4,463,948
8	Houston	3,851,656
9	Atlanta	3,627,184
10	Dallas	3,126,613
Average		2,878,920
11	Phoenix	2,839,539
12	Minneapolis	2,792,137
13	San Diego	2,722,650
14	**St. Louis**	**2,557,806**
15	Baltimore	2,475,332
16	Pittsburgh	2,361,019
17	Seattle	2,268,126
18	Cleveland	2,225,997
19	Miami	2,044,600
20	Denver	1,901,156
21	Portland	1,787,549
22	Kansas City	1,709,273
23	San Francisco	1,662,005
24	Cincinnati	1,607,396
25	San Antonio	1,511,386
26	Indianapolis	1,503,468
27	Columbus	1,460,242
28	Milwaukee	1,451,179
29	Charlotte	1,350,243
30	Salt Lake City	1,247,554
31	Nashville	1,134,524
32	Memphis	1,083,186
33	Austin	1,071,023
34	Oklahoma City	1,030,504
35	**Louisville**	**993,369**

MSA Total population, 1997

MSA POPULATION CHANGE

1	**Phoenix**	**26.9**
2	Austin	26.6
3	Atlanta	22.6
4	Portland	18.0
5	Denver	17.1
6	Dallas	16.8
7	Salt Lake City	16.4
8	Charlotte	16.2
9	Houston	15.9
10	Nashville	15.2
11	San Antonio	14.1
12	Seattle	11.6
13	Minneapolis	10.0
Average		9.4
14	Washington DC	9.0
15	San Diego	9.0
16	Indianapolis	8.9
17	Columbus	8.5
18	Kansas City	8.0
19	Memphis	7.5
20	Oklahoma City	7.5
21	Miami	5.5
22	Cincinnati	5.3
23	Chicago	4.9
24	Louisville	4.7
25	Detroit	4.6
26	Baltimore	3.9
27	San Francisco	3.6
28	Los Angeles	3.2
29	**St. Louis**	**2.6**
30	Boston	2.5
31	Milwaukee	1.3
32	Cleveland	1.1
33	New York	0.8
34	Philadelphia	0.4
35	**Pittsburgh**	**-1.4**

Percent change in MSA population, 1990-1997

MSA NET MIGRATION

1	**Atlanta**	**434**
2	Phoenix	422
3	Dallas	208
4	Houston	201
5	Portland	189
6	Denver	158
7	Austin	150
8	Charlotte	125
9	Seattle	115
10	Nashville	98
11	San Antonio	80
12	Minneapolis	79
13	Washington DC	73
14	Salt Lake City	55
15	Kansas City	47
16	Indianapolis	44
17	Columbus	35
Average		26
18	Oklahoma City	25
19	Louisville	11
20	Memphis	10
21	Cincinnati	9
22	San Diego	6
23	San Francisco	3
24	Miami	0
25	Detroit	-8
26	Baltimore	-9
27	**St. Louis**	**-38**
28	Pittsburgh	-47
29	Cleveland	-50
30	Milwaukee	-51
31	Boston	-99
32	Chicago	-153
33	Philadelphia	-165
34	New York	-417
35	**Los Angeles**	**-630**

MSA Net migration (thousands), 1990-1997

CENTRAL CITY SHARE OF MSA POPULATION

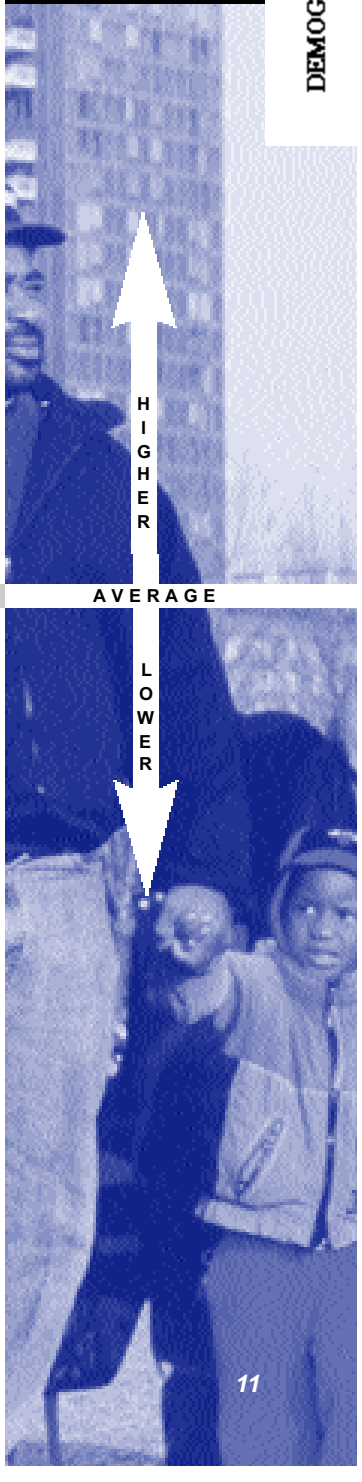
1	**New York**	**85.4**
2	San Antonio	71.7
3	Memphis	55.3
4	Austin	52.0
5	Indianapolis	50.0
6	Houston	46.0
7	Oklahoma City	45.8
8	Nashville	45.8
9	Columbus	45.4
10	San Francisco	44.4
11	San Diego	44.1
12	Phoenix	42.2
13	Milwaukee	40.5
14	Los Angeles	38.9
15	Chicago	35.2
16	Dallas	34.6
Average		33.5
17	Charlotte	33.4
18	Philadelphia	29.8
19	Portland	27.3
20	Baltimore	27.3
21	Denver	26.7
22	Louisville	26.3
23	Kansas City	26.1
24	Seattle	23.5
25	Detroit	23.2
26	Cleveland	22.3
27	Cincinnati	21.6
28	Miami	17.6
29	Pittsburgh	14.7
30	Salt Lake City	14.2
31	**St. Louis**	**13.8**
32	Minneapolis	13.0
33	Washington DC	11.9
34	Atlanta	11.3
35	**Boston**	**9.6**

Central city population as a percent of MSA population, 1996

CENTRAL CITY POPULATION CHANGE

1	**Phoenix**	**17.7**
2	Austin	16.2
3	San Antonio	14.2
4	Charlotte	11.5
5	Portland	9.6
6	Salt Lake City	7.9
7	Houston	6.9
8	Denver	6.5
9	Oklahoma City	5.7
10	San Diego	5.4
11	Nashville	4.7
12	Dallas	4.5
13	Columbus	3.8
14	Indianapolis	2.1
15	Atlanta	2.0
16	Los Angeles	2.0
17	Miami	1.8
18	Seattle	1.6
19	San Francisco	1.6
Average		1.6
20	Kansas City	1.5
21	New York	0.8
22	Cleveland	-1.5
23	Chicago	-2.2
24	Minneapolis	-2.6
25	Detroit	-2.7
26	Boston	-2.8
27	Louisville	-3.3
28	Memphis	-3.5
29	Cincinnati	-5.0
30	Pittsburgh	-5.3
31	Milwaukee	-6.0
32	Philadelphia	-6.8
33	Baltimore	-8.2
34	Washington DC	-10.5
35	**St. Louis**	**-11.4**

Percent change in central city population, 1990-1996



Demographics *Racial Composition*

The racial composition of the St. Louis region has remained fairly constant since 1990, as have most of the other 34 metropolitan regions. Approximately 81 percent of the St. Louis metropolitan area's 1996 population was white, 17.6 percent was black, and 1.2 percent was Asian, ranking 20th, 13th, and 30th respectively among the 35 metropolitan areas. Although, similar in population share to other older metropolitan regions, the St. Louis minority population is disproportionately located within the central city. In 1996, 47.4 percent of the population in the City of St. Louis was African American.

A high level of racial and ethnic diversity can add character and cultural opportunities, enhancing citizens' quality of life within a community. Minority groups are the fastest growing segment of the population, nationally and locally. The St. Louis MSA experienced a 6.6 percent growth in nonwhite population between 1990 and 1996. This represents a significant rate of growth for St. Louis relative to the 2.2 percent growth in MSA population during the same period. Yet, the St. Louis MSA ranked 33rd in Growth in Nonwhite Population out of the 35 metropolitan regions. Metropolitan areas such as Phoenix and Austin, which experienced approximately 26 percent growth in total MSA population between 1990 to 1996, had 36 percent increases in nonwhite population.

It should be noted that "Hispanic" is not a racial category. An Hispanic person can be of either Caucasian or of African descent. Only the black Hispanic population is represented within the measure Non-White Population Growth, while the Hispanic population as a percent of the total population is represented within its own table. Additionally, the first four percentages on the opposite page do not sum to the entire population. There are persons of other races in the region who are not represented in the charts.

(Tables are ranked from higher to lower values)

POPULATION BY RACE: WHITES

1	**Salt Lake City**	**95.0**
2	Portland	91.8
3	Phoenix	91.4
4	San Antonio	91.3
5	Minneapolis	91.2
6	Pittsburgh	90.7
7	Denver	90.1
8	Boston	90.0
9	Austin	86.6
10	Louisville	86.1
11	Seattle	86.0
12	Cincinnati	86.0
13	Indianapolis	85.2
14	Kansas City	84.8
15	Columbus	84.8
16	Nashville	82.6
17	San Diego	82.5
18	Milwaukee	82.5
19	Oklahoma City	82.3
20	**St. Louis**	**81.0**
Average		80.9
21	Cleveland	80.3
22	Dallas	80.1
23	Charlotte	77.7
24	Miami	77.0
25	Philadelphia	76.9
26	Chicago	76.0
27	Houston	75.6
28	Los Angeles	75.2
29	Detroit	75.2
30	Atlanta	71.4
31	Baltimore	70.1
32	Washington DC	68.1
33	San Francisco	67.1
34	New York	62.1
35	**Memphis**	**56.8**

Whites as a percent of total population, 1996

POPULATION BY RACE: BLACKS

1	**Memphis**	**41.9**
2	New York	29.0
3	Baltimore	27.2
4	Atlanta	25.8
5	Washington DC	25.4
6	Detroit	22.6
7	Miami	21.1
8	Charlotte	20.4
9	Philadelphia	20.0
10	Chicago	19.5
11	Houston	18.8
12	Cleveland	18.3
13	**St. Louis**	**17.6**
14	Dallas	15.8
15	Nashville	15.7
16	Milwaukee	15.2
Average		14.6
17	Indianapolis	13.6
18	Kansas City	13.3
19	Columbus	13.1
20	Louisville	13.0
21	Cincinnati	12.9
22	Los Angeles	11.2
23	Oklahoma City	10.8
24	Austin	10.0
25	Pittsburgh	8.3
26	San Francisco	7.5
27	San Antonio	6.6
28	San Diego	6.4
29	Denver	6.2
30	Boston	5.7
31	Seattle	5.0
32	Minneapolis	4.4
33	Phoenix	4.0
34	Portland	3.0
35	**Salt Lake City**	**1.2**

Blacks as a percent of total population, 1996

POPULATION BY RACE: ASIANS

1	**San Francisco**	**24.9**
2	Los Angeles	12.9
3	San Diego	10.2
4	New York	8.4
5	Seattle	7.7
6	Washington DC	6.2
7	Houston	5.2
8	Portland	4.3
9	Chicago	4.3
Average		3.9
10	Minneapolis	3.4
11	Dallas	3.4
12	Boston	3.4
13	Salt Lake City	3.0
14	Austin	3.0
15	Philadelphia	2.9
16	Denver	2.9
17	Atlanta	2.6
18	Baltimore	2.4
19	Phoenix	2.2
20	Oklahoma City	2.2
21	Columbus	1.9
22	Miami	1.8
23	Detroit	1.8
24	Milwaukee	1.7
25	San Antonio	1.6
26	Nashville	1.4
27	Kansas City	1.4
28	Charlotte	1.4
29	Cleveland	1.3
30	**St. Louis**	**1.2**
31	Memphis	1.1
32	Indianapolis	1.0
33	Cincinnati	1.0
34	Pittsburgh	0.9
35	**Louisville**	**0.8**

Asians as a percent of total population, 1996

POPULATION BY ETHNICITY: HISPANICS*

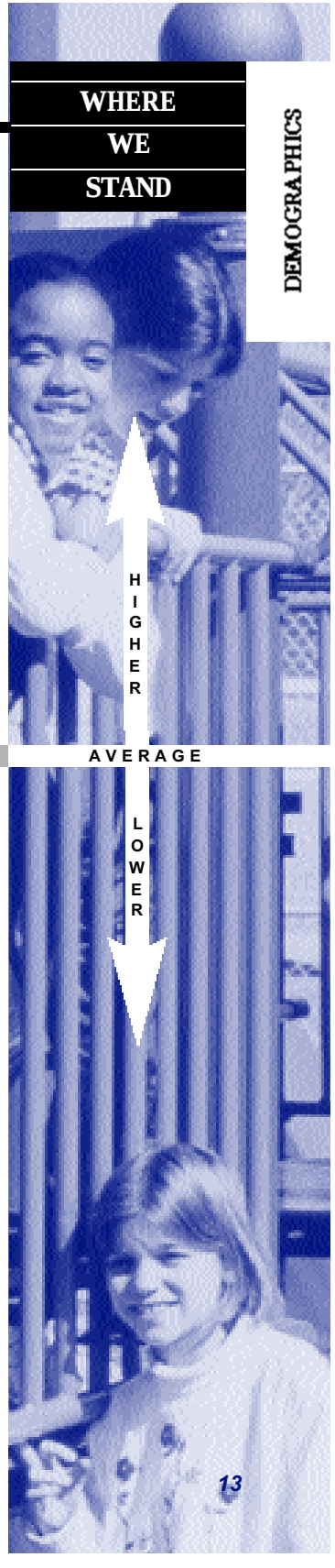
1	**Miami**	**54.4**
2	San Antonio	52.1
3	Los Angeles	43.0
4	San Diego	25.1
5	New York	24.7
6	Austin	24.3
7	Houston	24.2
8	Phoenix	19.5
9	San Francisco	17.2
10	Dallas	15.1
11	Denver	14.2
12	Chicago	13.6
Average		11.2
13	Salt Lake City	7.3
14	Washington DC	6.8
15	Boston	5.1
16	Portland	4.7
17	Oklahoma City	4.6
18	Milwaukee	4.4
19	Philadelphia	4.3
20	Seattle	4.0
21	Kansas City	3.5
22	Atlanta	3.0
23	Cleveland	2.7
24	Detroit	2.3
25	Minneapolis	2.0
26	Baltimore	1.7
27	Charlotte	1.5
28	**St. Louis**	**1.3**
29	Nashville	1.1
30	Memphis	1.1
31	Indianapolis	1.1
32	Columbus	1.0
33	Louisville	0.8
34	Pittsburgh	0.7
35	**Cincinnati**	**0.6**

Hispanics as a percent of total population, 1996

GROWTH IN NONWHITE POPULATION

1	**Phoenix**	**36.6**
2	Austin	36.2
3	Salt Lake City	35.0
4	Minneapolis	32.5
5	Portland	32.1
6	Denver	25.0
7	Atlanta	24.8
8	Seattle	24.1
9	Boston	23.0
10	Houston	22.3
11	Dallas	19.3
12	San Antonio	17.7
13	Charlotte	17.6
14	Nashville	17.2
15	Columbus	16.8
Average		16.4
16	San Francisco	14.4
17	Miami	13.5
18	Kansas City	12.7
19	Indianapolis	12.6
20	Milwaukee	12.5
21	San Diego	12.0
22	Washington DC	11.6
23	Pittsburgh	10.6
24	Memphis	10.3
25	Baltimore	9.6
26	Cincinnati	9.1
27	Chicago	8.7
28	Cleveland	8.3
29	Oklahoma City	8.3
30	New York	7.9
31	Philadelphia	7.2
32	Louisville	6.7
33	**St. Louis**	**6.6**
34	Los Angeles	5.8
35	**Detroit**	**4.8**

Percent increase in nonwhite population, 1990-1996



*Note: Hispanic is an ethnic, not racial, category.

Demographics *Age Distribution*

The age distribution within a population can have a great impact on the economic strength and vitality of a metropolitan region. A strong and healthy working-age population is the backbone of vibrant local economies. In 1996, 60 percent of the St. Louis population was between the ages of 18 and 64—the prime "working years." This ranks St. Louis 31st in Working Age Population among the 35 metropolitan areas. Conversely, St. Louis is at the top of the ranks with a large proportion of the population within the child and elderly age groups. Percentage differences among regions are generally small, however.

St. Louis has had a relatively stable age composition since 1990, although the region's rank has changed among a few of the indicators. In 1993 the region ranked 13th in population under age 18 at 26.7 percent, while in 1996 the St. Louis MSA ranked 8th at 26.8 percent of the total MSA population. Alternatively, the proportion of elderly population has decreased from 12.9 percent in 1993 to 12.5 percent in 1996, moving St. Louis from the 8th to the 9th largest elderly population among the 35 metropolitan regions. Other metropolitan areas such as Phoenix, Cincinnati, and Milwaukee, all of which have moved below St. Louis in the rankings of child population between 1993 and 1996, have had growth within the working age population during the three year period.

Given the proportionately large population of young and elderly within the St. Louis metropolitan area, the region has a more "dependent" population. For this measure, the dependent population is comprised of people under the age of 15 and over the age of 64, as defined by the National Center for Health Statistics. The dependency ratio is calculated as the number of dependent people to the total MSA population. The Change In Dependency Ratio measure attempts to capture changes over time in the ratio of dependent populations between 1980 to 1996. St. Louis ranks 17th among the 35 metropolitan areas in this measure, with only a half-percent change between 1980 and 1996. Approximately 34.8 percent of the population in the St. Louis region was defined as "dependent" in 1996, just above the 33 percent average for the 35 metropolitan peer areas. This ratio is a decrease from 1993 when the dependent population was 35.6 percent of the population.

(Tables are ranked from higher to lower values)

MEDIAN AGE

1	**Pittsburgh**	**38.2**
2	San Francisco	37.0
3	Cleveland	36.0
4	Louisville	35.5
5	Miami	35.2
6	Portland	35.2
7	Philadelphia	35.2
8	Baltimore	34.9
9	Boston	34.9
10	New York	34.8
11	Seattle	34.8
12	Denver	34.8
13	Detroit	34.7
14	**St. Louis**	**34.4**
15	Milwaukee	34.4
16	Kansas City	34.4
17	Charlotte	34.1
18	Indianapolis	34.1
19	Cincinnati	34.0
20	Washington DC	33.9
	Average	33.8
21	Phoenix	33.7
22	Nashville	33.7
23	Chicago	33.5
24	Minneapolis	33.4
25	Oklahoma City	33.2
26	Columbus	33.0
27	Atlanta	32.8
28	Memphis	32.4
29	San Diego	32.3
30	Dallas	32.1
31	San Antonio	32.0
32	Houston	31.8
33	Los Angeles	31.5
34	Austin	30.8
35	**Salt Lake City**	**28.2**

Median age of population (years), 1995

CHILD POPULATION

1	**Salt Lake City**	**33.2**
2	Houston	29.0
3	San Antonio	28.9
4	Memphis	28.0
5	Los Angeles	27.8
6	Dallas	27.5
7	Chicago	27.0
8	**St. Louis**	**26.8**
9	Oklahoma City	26.8
10	San Diego	26.8
11	Minneapolis	26.6
12	Kansas City	26.6
13	Cincinnati	26.5
14	Austin	26.4
15	Denver	26.1
16	Detroit	25.9
17	Atlanta	25.9
	Average	25.9
18	Indianapolis	25.7
19	Phoenix	25.6
20	Portland	25.5
21	Charlotte	25.4
22	Philadelphia	25.4
23	Nashville	25.2
24	Baltimore	25.1
25	Milwaukee	25.0
26	Columbus	24.9
27	Cleveland	24.8
28	Washington DC	24.7
29	Louisville	24.5
30	New York	24.4
31	Seattle	23.9
32	Miami	23.8
33	Boston	23.6
34	Pittsburgh	22.5
35	**San Francisco**	**20.1**

Percent of population under 18 years, 1996

WORKING AGE POPULATION

1	**Washington DC**	**66.4**
2	Atlanta	66.2
3	San Francisco	65.7
4	Seattle	65.6
5	Austin	65.6
6	Columbus	64.7
7	Denver	64.5
8	Dallas	64.5
9	Nashville	64.3
10	Houston	63.8
11	Minneapolis	63.6
12	Charlotte	63.3
13	Boston	63.2
14	Indianapolis	63.1
15	Louisville	63.1
16	Portland	62.8
	Average	62.7
17	San Diego	62.5
18	Baltimore	62.5
19	New York	62.3
20	Oklahoma City	62.2
21	Los Angeles	62.2
22	Memphis	62.0
23	Kansas City	61.9
24	Chicago	61.8
25	Detroit	61.7
26	Phoenix	61.7
27	Milwaukee	61.7
28	Cincinnati	61.2
29	Philadelphia	60.8
30	Miami	60.8
31	**St. Louis**	**60.6**
32	Cleveland	60.6
33	San Antonio	60.4
34	Pittsburgh	59.9
35	**Salt Lake City**	**58.3**

Percent of population aged 18 to 64, 1996

ELDERLY POPULATION

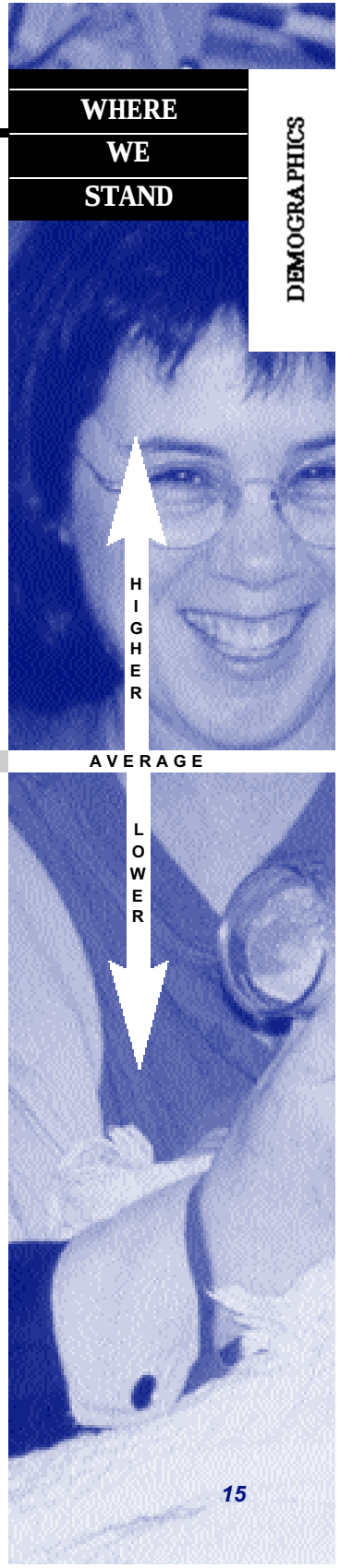
1	**Pittsburgh**	**17.7**
2	Cleveland	14.6
3	San Francisco	14.2
4	Miami	14.2
5	Philadelphia	13.8
6	Boston	13.3
7	New York	13.2
8	Phoenix	12.7
9	**St. Louis**	**12.5**
10	Louisville	12.5
11	Detroit	12.4
12	Cincinnati	12.3
13	Baltimore	12.3
14	Milwaukee	12.2
15	Portland	11.7
16	Kansas City	11.5
17	Indianapolis	11.3
18	Charlotte	11.3
	Average	11.3
19	Chicago	11.2
20	Oklahoma City	11.0
21	San Diego	10.7
22	San Antonio	10.7
23	Seattle	10.6
24	Nashville	10.4
25	Columbus	10.3
26	Memphis	10.0
27	Los Angeles	10.0
28	Minneapolis	9.7
29	Denver	9.3
30	Washington DC	9.1
31	Salt Lake City	8.4
32	Austin	8.0
33	Atlanta	8.0
34	Dallas	7.5
35	**Houston**	**7.2**

Percent of population over 64 years, 1996

CHANGE IN DEPENDENCY RATIO

1	**San Diego**	**12.2**
2	Pittsburgh	9.6
3	San Francisco	8.0
4	Baltimore	7.0
5	Philadelphia	6.0
6	Los Angeles	5.5
7	Cleveland	4.8
8	Chicago	2.7
9	Washington DC	1.9
10	Denver	1.9
11	Detroit	1.8
12	Miami	1.8
13	New York	1.1
	Average	1.1
14	Boston	1.0
15	Houston	0.8
16	Oklahoma City	0.7
17	Milwaukee	0.6
18	Austin	0.6
19	**St. Louis**	**0.5**
20	Seattle	0.2
21	San Antonio	0.2
22	Charlotte	0.2
23	Kansas City	0.0
24	Cincinnati	-0.1
25	Phoenix	-0.7
26	Columbus	-1.4
27	Minneapolis	-1.5
28	Portland	-1.6
29	Memphis	-2.0
30	Nashville	-2.7
31	Louisville	-2.9
32	Indianapolis	-3.0
33	Dallas	-3.0
34	Atlanta	-6.4
35	**Salt Lake City**	**-6.7**

Percent change in the dependent proportion of the population (persons under 15 or older than 64), 1980 to 1996



Demographics *Household Composition*

According to the Census Bureau, a "household" includes all persons occupying a single housing unit, whether they are related or not. In 1990 the St. Louis region had more than 942,000 households, ranking St. Louis 13th among the 35 metropolitan areas. Between 1980 and 1990 the St. Louis region experienced a 9.9 percent growth in the number of households. Although the growth in households between 1980 and 1990 was nearly triple the 3.2 percent gain in population during that same period, the region ranked 25th in household growth, well below the 18.4 percent average for the 35 metropolitan peer areas.

Households are of two basic types: family and non-family. Family households consist of individuals related by birth, marriage or adoption. Non-family households consist of unrelated individuals residing together, or a single person living alone. St. Louis has a high proportion of families, with nearly 660,000 family households throughout the region. That equates to 70 percent of all households being family households within the St. Louis metropolitan area. The high percentage of family households ranks the region 10th, with only 5.4 percent fewer family households than Salt Lake City, which holds the top position among the 35 metropolitan regions.

Of these family households, almost 118,000 (or 17.8 percent) were headed by females in 1990, ranking St. Louis 14th, just about the average of the 35 metropolitan areas. Between 1980 and 1990, there was a 16.2 percent increase in the number of female-headed families within the St. Louis region. St. Louis ranked 22nd, just above the 15.7 percent average for the 35 metropolitan peer areas in Growth In Female Headed families. Less than 12 percent of all white family households are headed by females, while almost 49 percent of all black family households are headed by females.

(Tables are ranked from higher to lower values)

HOUSEHOLDS

1	**New York**	**3,252,399**
2	Los Angeles	2,989,552
3	Chicago	2,671,540
4	Philadelphia	1,801,159
5	Boston	1,779,971
6	Detroit	1,580,063
7	Washington DC	1,523,420
8	Houston	1,193,305
9	Atlanta	1,102,578
10	Dallas	1,001,750
Average		992,162
11	Minneapolis	960,170
12	Pittsburgh	947,248
13	**St. Louis**	**942,119**
14	San Diego	887,403
15	Baltimore	880,145
16	Phoenix	846,714
17	Cleveland	845,186
18	Seattle	809,292
19	Miami	692,355
20	Denver	649,404
21	San Francisco	642,504
22	Kansas City	608,459
23	Portland	589,441
24	Cincinnati	574,602
25	Milwaukee	537,722
26	Indianapolis	529,814
27	Columbus	513,498
28	San Antonio	458,502
29	Charlotte	440,670
30	Nashville	375,831
31	Oklahoma City	367,775
32	Memphis	365,450
33	Louisville	360,651
34	Salt Lake City	347,531
35	**Austin**	**325,995**

Number of households, 1990

GROWTH IN HOUSEHOLDS

1	**Austin**	**53.8**
2	Phoenix	47.7
3	Atlanta	39.6
4	Dallas	34.0
5	San Diego	32.4
6	Portland	30.5
7	San Antonio	29.2
8	Charlotte	28.7
9	Seattle	27.7
10	Washington DC	25.1
11	Nashville	24.5
12	Houston	21.8
13	Minneapolis	21.7
14	Denver	20.4
15	Salt Lake City	20.1
Average		18.4
16	Columbus	16.9
17	Baltimore	14.9
18	Memphis	14.4
19	Oklahoma City	14.4
20	Kansas City	13.8
21	Miami	13.5
22	Indianapolis	13.1
23	Boston	12.3
24	Cincinnati	10.3
25	**St. Louis**	**9.9**
26	Los Angeles	9.5
27	Philadelphia	8.4
28	Louisville	8.0
29	Milwaukee	7.4
30	Chicago	5.4
31	San Francisco	4.8
32	Detroit	3.9
33	Cleveland	2.9
34	New York	1.7
35	**Pittsburgh**	**1.4**

Percent increase in the number of households, 1980 to 1990

FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS

1	**Salt Lake City**	**75.4**
2	San Antonio	73.9
3	Charlotte	72.4
4	Memphis	71.6
5	Detroit	70.9
6	Atlanta	70.6
7	Louisville	70.6
8	Baltimore	70.5
9	Nashville	70.4
10	**St. Louis**	**70.0**
11	Houston	70.0
12	Philadelphia	69.9
13	Cincinnati	69.8
14	Indianapolis	69.6
15	Miami	69.5
16	Chicago	69.4
17	Cleveland	69.4
18	Pittsburgh	69.4
19	Kansas City	69.3
20	Oklahoma City	69.2
21	Washington DC	69.0
22	Milwaukee	68.8
Average		68.7
23	Dallas	68.3
24	San Diego	68.2
25	Phoenix	68.2
26	Minneapolis	67.6
27	Boston	67.4
28	Columbus	67.4
29	Los Angeles	67.4
30	Portland	67.0
31	Denver	64.7
32	Seattle	64.2
33	New York	63.1
34	Austin	62.9
35	**San Francisco**	**56.4**

Family households as percent of all households, 1990

FEMALE HEADED FAMILIES

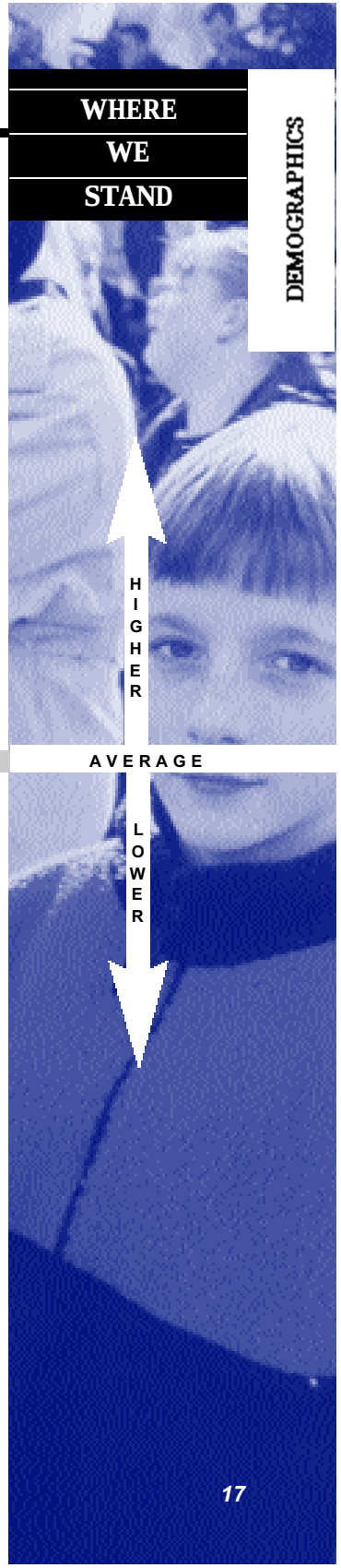
1	**New York**	**27.0**
2	Memphis	25.0
3	Detroit	21.6
4	Miami	21.5
5	Baltimore	20.7
6	Philadelphia	19.6
7	Los Angeles	19.4
8	Louisville	19.4
9	Chicago	19.0
10	Cleveland	19.0
11	Milwaukee	18.9
12	San Antonio	18.4
13	Atlanta	18.2
14	**St. Louis**	**17.8**
15	Cincinnati	17.8
Average		17.8
16	Houston	17.6
17	Columbus	17.3
18	Nashville	17.3
19	San Francisco	17.1
20	Washington DC	17.1
21	Indianapolis	16.9
22	Dallas	16.6
23	Boston	16.6
24	Pittsburgh	16.5
25	Oklahoma City	16.5
26	Charlotte	16.3
27	Kansas City	16.2
28	Denver	16.2
29	Austin	15.6
30	San Diego	15.5
31	Phoenix	15.0
32	Portland	14.4
33	Minneapolis	14.3
34	Seattle	14.0
35	**Salt Lake City**	**12.7**

Female headed families as a percent of all family households, 1990

GROWTH IN FEMALE HEADED FAMILIES

1	**Houston**	**30.4**
2	Portland	26.3
3	Oklahoma City	25.9
4	Phoenix	25.0
5	Milwaukee	24.2
6	Miami	24.2
7	Detroit	21.8
8	Cleveland	21.6
9	Pittsburgh	20.2
10	Cincinnati	19.4
11	Denver	18.9
12	Louisville	18.8
13	Kansas City	18.7
14	Memphis	17.8
15	San Antonio	17.6
16	Nashville	17.4
17	Salt Lake City	17.4
18	Indianapolis	16.4
19	Minneapolis	16.3
20	Columbus	16.3
21	Dallas	16.2
22	**St. Louis**	**16.2**
23	Austin	15.8
Average		15.7
24	Seattle	11.0
25	New York	10.4
26	Baltimore	10.1
27	Chicago	10.1
28	Philadelphia	9.1
29	Charlotte	8.1
30	Atlanta	6.8
31	Los Angeles	6.5
32	Boston	6.1
33	San Diego	5.1
34	San Francisco	2.6
35	**Washington DC**	**0.5**

Percent increase in the proportion of family households which are headed by females, 1980 - 1990



Sources and Notes

MSA Population & Central City Population : Source: 1990 to 1997 Annual Time Series of State and County Population Estimates and Components of Population Change, Population Distribution and Population Estimates Branches, U.S. Bureau of the Census; and Deidre A. Gaquin and Mark S. Littman (eds.), 1998 City and County Extra: Annual Metro, City and County Data Book, 7th ed., Bernan Press, Lanham, MD, 1998.

Net Migration : Net migration is an attempt to reconcile two different components of population change - natural increase (births minus deaths) and migration (people moving into or out of the region). If there was no in or out migration, population change would equal the natural increase. However, when the natural increase is greater than the population change between two periods in time, this indicates out migration from the region. Thus, in the St. Louis region, the natural increase of population from 1990 to 1997 was 38,000 greater than the actual population change over this period, indicating an out- migration of 38,000. Source: 1990 to 1997 Time Series of State and County Population Estimates and Components of Population Change, Population Distribution and Population Estimates Branches, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Population by Race and Ethnicity : Note that Hispanic is an ethnic category, not a racial one. For example, a person can be white (by race) and Hispanic (by ethnic origin). Hispanics are, therefore, also accounted for in one of the racial categories. Source: Deidre A. Gaquin and Mark S. Littman (eds.), 1998 City and County Extra: Annual Metro, City and County Data Book, 7th ed., Bernan Press, Lanham, MD, 1998.

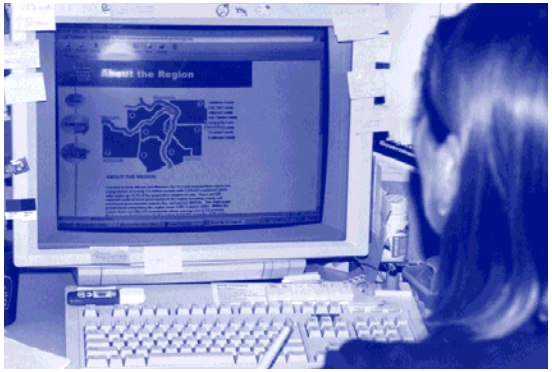
Growth in Nonwhite Population : This is the percent increase (between 1990 and 1996) in the proportion of the total population which is nonwhite. Source: Estimates of the Population of Counties by Age, Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin: 1990 to 1996, Administrative Records and Methodology Research Branch, U.S. Bureau of the Census; and Deidre A. Gaquin and Mark S. Littman (eds.), 1998 City and County Extra: Annual Metro, City and County Data Book, 7th ed., Bernan Press, Lanham, MD, 1998.

Age Distribution : Change in Dependency Ratio is the percent change (between 1980 and 1993) in the proportion of the total population which is considered dependent (persons younger than 15 and older than 64). Thus, as a proportion of the total population, the dependent population has increased by one-half percent between 1980 and 1996. Source of age distribution data: Deidre A. Gaquin and Mark S. Littman (eds.), 1998 City and County Extra: Annual Metro, City and County Data Book, 7th ed., Bernan Press, Lanham, MD, 1998; and State and Metropolitan Area Data Book, 1997-98, U.S. Bureau of the Census. Source for median age: 1998 MSA Profile, Woods & Poole Economics, Inc. (copyright).

Household Composition, 1990 : 1990 Census of Population and Housing: Summary Population and Housing Characteristics, General Population Characteristics, and Selected Population and Housing Characteristics for Metropolitan Areas (Release CB91-229), U.S. Bureau of the Census; and County and City Data Book, 1994, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Household Composition, 1980 : State and Metropolitan Area Data Book, 1986, U.S. Bureau of the Census; and County and City Data Book, 1988, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Regional Economic Vitality



WHERE
WE
STAND

Regional Economic Vitality

Macroeconomic Indicators

In order to gauge how regional economies are performing on a macro level, several indicators are presented. Each of the indicators on the opposite page tells us something different, and, taken together, they provide a broad picture of how well the economy is performing.

The St. Louis economy remains one of the largest and most productive economies in the country. Based on the composite measure of Economic Output, the St. Louis region's economy was the 13th largest in 1992. On a per capita basis, however, with an output of almost $47,000, the region's economic output ranking falls to 16th.

Although manufacturing has declined as the dominant industry over the past several decades, both in St. Louis and throughout the nation, it still plays a large role in the regional economy. The value of shipments from manufacturers accounted for 36 percent of St. Louis's total economic output in 1992. Only Louisville and Milwaukee had a larger share of their economy grounded in manufacturing.

From 1993 to 1997, the average annual rate of unemployment for the St. Louis region was 4.9 percent. That ranks St. Louis in the middle third of the 35 metropolitan regions, in 22nd place. The average annual rate of unemployment in the St. Louis metropolitan area was nearly half the rate of unemployment found in cities such as Los Angeles and New York, both with 8.4 percent average annual unemployment rates. Joblessness is currently at an historic low for the St. Louis region, as unemployment rates have steadily declined since 1993. In 1997, the annual unemployment rate was reported at 4.1 percent, a 2.2 percent decrease from the 6.3 percent annual unemployment rate experienced in 1993.

Capital availability, which is measured by calculating the ratio of loans to deposits of banks in metropolitan areas, suggests the degree to which banks are willing to loan their cash reserves for investment. A high loan-to-deposit ratio reflects aggressive investment practices. St. Louis ranks 20th in Capital Availability, an improvement from its 23rd rank in 1996.

The value of private construction is a more direct measure of investment in a region. From 1990 through 1995, St. Louis ranked 22nd in the per capita value of private construction—approximately 20 percent below the average per capita value for all 35 metropolitan areas. While the value of construction in St. Louis is characteristic of metropolitan areas with slow population growth, the region ranks higher than Houston and San Antonio, which have encountered a much higher rate of population growth within their regions.

The St. Louis region ranked 20th in exports among the 35 metropolitan areas, which ranks the region four positions lower in this measure compared to the ranking for economic output. This suggests that the St. Louis region has the capacity for economic expansion, which would provide an opportunity for the region to compete more aggressively in the global marketplace.

Regional Economic Vitality

Macroeconomic Indicators

WHERE WE STAND

(Tables are ranked from better to worse values)

ECONOMIC OUTPUT

1	**Houston**	**64,733**
2	Charlotte	61,562
3	Dallas	59,448
4	Seattle	59,312
5	Atlanta	58,803
6	Louisville	54,247
7	Cincinnati	54,034
8	Chicago	53,422
9	Detroit	53,375
10	Kansas City	53,025
11	Minneapolis	51,891
12	Memphis	50,053
13	Portland	49,536
14	San Francisco	49,326
15	Denver	47,589
16	**St. Louis**	**46,781**
17	Los Angeles	46,108
18	Nashville	45,674
Average		45,027
19	Milwaukee	44,809
20	New York	43,999
21	Indianapolis	43,775
22	Cleveland	43,170
23	Philadelphia	42,374
24	Columbus	39,038
25	Oklahoma City	37,921
26	Baltimore	36,217
27	Pittsburgh	35,614
28	Miami	35,362
29	Salt Lake City	34,855
30	Austin	33,805
31	Phoenix	33,615
32	Washington DC	32,176
33	Boston	28,569
34	San Diego	26,371
35	**San Antonio**	**25,366**

Per capita economic output ($), 1992

UNEMPLOYMENT

1	**Austin**	**3.16**
2	Minneapolis	3.22
3	Salt Lake City	3.32
4	Nashville	3.48
5	Columbus	3.56
6	Indianapolis	3.64
7	Charlotte	3.66
8	Denver	3.82
9	Milwaukee	3.90
10	Phoenix	3.98
11	Oklahoma City	3.98
12	Washington DC	4.12
13	Atlanta	4.36
14	Louisville	4.38
15	Kansas City	4.40
16	San Antonio	4.56
17	Cincinnati	4.56
18	Portland	4.58
19	Dallas	4.68
20	San Francisco	4.74
21	Memphis	4.86
22	**St. Louis**	**4.88**
Average		4.87
23	Boston	5.03
24	Seattle	5.16
25	Detroit	5.30
26	Chicago	5.50
27	Cleveland	5.58
28	Pittsburgh	5.84
29	Philadelphia	5.86
30	Baltimore	5.92
31	Houston	5.94
32	San Diego	6.12
33	Miami	7.64
34	New York	8.36
35	**Los Angeles**	**8.42**

Average annual unemployment rate (%), 1993-1997

CAPITAL AVAILABILITY

1	**Cleveland**	**131.7**
2	Phoenix	115.9
3	Cincinnati	113.6
4	Pittsburgh	110.1
5	Detroit	107.8
6	Minneapolis	106.1
7	Columbus	105.2
8	Atlanta	104.4
9	Louisville	102.2
10	Salt Lake City	101.9
11	Charlotte	100.8
12	Indianapolis	99.2
13	Milwaukee	98.8
14	Nashville	92.7
15	Memphis	92.1
16	San Francisco	91.0
Average		87.3
17	Seattle	86.6
18	Miami	84.4
19	Baltimore	84.0
20	**St. Louis**	**83.9**
21	Portland	83.9
22	Dallas	80.7
23	Chicago	79.2
24	Washington DC	75.8
25	Philadelphia	72.8
26	Kansas City	71.9
27	Oklahoma city	71.0
28	New York	70.9
29	Los Angeles	68.8
30	Boston	68.8
31	San Diego	68.6
32	Houston	67.1
33	Austin	56.1
34	San Antonio	55.2
35	**Denver**	**53.1**

Bank loan to deposit ratio, 1998

VALUE OF PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

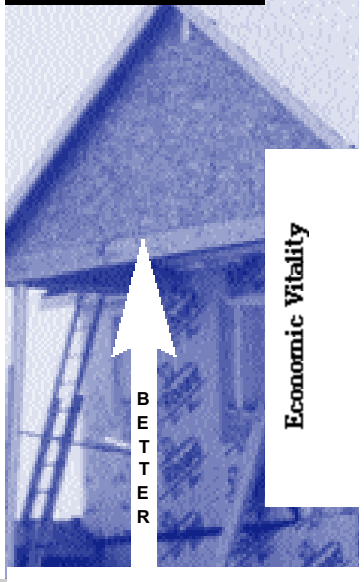
1	**Phoenix**	**7,427**
2	Atlanta	6,879
3	Charlotte	6,367
4	Indianapolis	6,111
5	Portland	5,669
6	Seattle	5,481
7	Nashville	5,477
8	Minneapolis	5,159
9	Dallas	5,150
10	Columbus	5,072
11	Austin	5,036
12	Salt Lake City	4,863
13	Denver	4,799
14	Memphis	4,688
15	Louisville	4,227
16	Kansas City	4,206
17	Washington DC	3,971
Average		3,922
18	Cincinnati	3,849
19	Milwaukee	3,690
20	San Diego	3,444
21	Miami	3,254
22	**St. Louis**	**3,171**
23	Baltimore	3,082
24	Houston	3,050
25	Cleveland	3,033
26	Detroit	2,868
27	Chicago	2,856
28	Oklahoma City	2,740
29	San Antonio	2,123
30	Pittsburgh	2,041
31	Philadelphia	2,026
32	San Francisco	1,905
33	Los Angeles	1,846
34	Boston	1,063
35	**New York**	**643**

Per capita value of private construction ($), 1990 - 1995

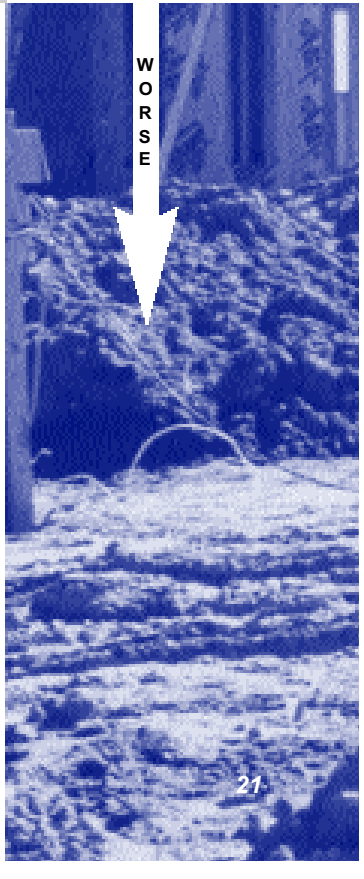
EXPORTS

1	**New York**	**29,083**
2	Seattle	27,006
3	Detroit	25,967
4	Los Angeles	25,816
5	Chicago	23,210
6	Houston	18,596
7	Miami	12,692
8	Minneapolis	12,007
9	Phoenix	11,108
10	San Francisco	9,979
11	Boston	9,571
12	Portland	8,926
13	Dallas	8,646
Average		8,830
14	Philadelphia	8,028
15	Washington DC	7,981
16	San Diego	7,810
17	Atlanta	6,605
18	Cincinnati	5,674
19	Cleveland	5,511
20	**St. Louis**	**4,711**
21	Pittsburgh	4,352
22	Indianapolis	4,302
23	Milwaukee	3,838
24	Kansas City	3,818
25	Memphis	3,637
26	Austin	3,355
27	Salt Lake City	2,594
28	Charlotte	2,589
29	Louisville	2,449
30	Baltimore	2,171
31	Nashville	1,767
32	Denver	1,738
33	Columbus	1,661
34	San Antonio	1,343
35	**Oklahoma City**	**520**

Foreign export of goods ($millions), 1997



AVERAGE



Regional Economic Vitality *Jobs and Business*

Advances in technology are moving forward at a phenomenal pace. Technological development and innovation introduces new market opportunities and provides a basis for businesses and job growth in a region. Patent grants are one way of measuring technological development. The St. Louis region had 666 patent grants in 1997. This ranks the St. Louis region 17th among the 35 metropolitan regions. Not surprisingly, areas with a high concentration of research universities, such as Boston and Chicago, top the ranks with well over 2,000 patent grants awarded for each region.

Furthermore, an open business climate that encourages entrepreneurial innovation is essential in order for technological developments to translate into new businesses and more jobs. One way to measure entrepreneurial activity in a region is to examine the number of business start-ups. The St. Louis region had 2.75 new businesses for every 1,000 people. This was the 4th lowest rate of business start-ups, above only Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, and Boston.

Between 1990 and 1996, the St. Louis region gained over 3,900 new business establishments, representing a 6.3 percent growth rate for the region. At 28th position, business growth rate ranks slightly better than business start-ups, far below the 11.8 percent average for the 35 metropolitan regions. The region also ranked 28th in minority-owned firms in 1992, with 176.8 minority-owned businesses per 100,000 people. These measures together suggest that entrepreneurs and minorities face significant challenges in opening or maintaining businesses in the St. Louis area compared to the 35 metropolitan peer areas.

The number of jobs in the region continues to increase. There were approximately 98,300 more jobs in the St. Louis region in 1996 than there were in 1990. This translates into a 6.4 percent rate of job growth for the region, nearly two times the amount of population growth seen during the same period. However, the St. Louis metro area ranked 24th in this measure among the 35 metropolitan peer areas. Regardless of the moderate job growth, St. Louis has continued to expand its job base while other regions, such as New York and Los Angeles, experienced substantial losses. Areas with high population growth, such as Austin, topped the ranks with a 25.9 percent growth in the number of full and part-time jobs in their region between 1990 and 1996.

The St. Louis region's overall positive rate of job growth disguises the loss of a significant number of jobs in the goods-producing sectors. A large number of those losses were in manufacturing industries, which traditionally have offered high wages to both skilled and unskilled workers. Between 1990 and 1996 the region gained 116,775 service sector jobs, and lost over 22,000 goods-producing jobs. Thus, for each new job created in the region during the six year period, 1.2 service sector jobs were developed. This translates into 118.8 percent of the net job growth within the region, ranking St. Louis 26th. While this rate of service sector job growth moved St. Louis up one position from 27th rank in the 1996 *Where We Stand*, the actual amount of growth in the service sector has slowed considerably. Between 1989 and 1994, the region had a growth of one and a half service sector jobs for every job created in the region, or 149.4 percent of net job growth.

There are continuing concerns about the effect of these employment changes on the financial stability of households. In 1996, the average earnings per job in the region were $30,512. That earnings level ranks St. Louis 22nd among the 35 metropolitan areas examined, down from 18th rank in 1994.

BUSINESS START-UPS

1	**Houston**	**13.03**
2	Denver	12.41
3	Austin	12.04
4	Dallas	11.61
5	San Francisco	9.96
6	Salt Lake City	9.81
7	San Diego	8.68
8	San Antonio	8.48
9	Portland	8.37
10	Seattle	8.35
11	Detroit	7.89
12	Los Angeles	7.47
13	Oklahoma	6.54
14	Charlotte	6.51
	Average	6.28
15	New York City	6.24
16	Nashville	6.13
17	Baltimore	5.70
18	Atlanta	5.62
19	Washington	5.17
20	Phoenix	5.12
21	Minneapolis	5.02
22	Miami	4.82
23	Columbus	4.81
24	Memphis	4.80
25	Kansas City	4.27
26	Cleveland	3.79
27	Philadelphia	3.57
28	Chicago	3.52
29	Indianapolis	3.51
30	Cincinnati	3.46
31	Louisville	3.16
32	**St. Louis**	**2.75**
33	Milwaukee	2.60
34	Pittsburgh	2.32
35	**Boston**	**2.09**

Number of business start-ups per 1,000 population, 1997

PATENT GRANTS

1	**Boston**	**2,747**
2	Chicago	2,316
3	Los Angeles	1,805
4	Minneapolis	1,578
5	Philadelphia	1,509
6	Detroit	1,499
7	San Diego	1,235
8	New York	1,228
9	Houston	1,152
10	Dallas	1,147
11	San Francisco	1,143
12	Seattle	963
13	Washington DC	957
14	Austin	888
	Average	820
15	Phoenix	799
16	Atlanta	744
17	**St. Louis**	**666**
18	Cincinnati	651
19	Portland	641
20	Cleveland	576
21	Pittsburgh	567
22	Indianapolis	538
23	Baltimore	535
24	Denver	435
25	Salt Lake City	431
26	Milwaukee	387
27	Columbus	278
28	Charlotte	234
29	Miami	211
30	Kansas City	176
31	Memphis	157
32	San Antonio	154
33	Oklahoma City	133
34	Louisville	112
35	**Nashville**	**111**

Number of utility patents granted, 1997

Regional Economic Vitality

Jobs and Business

WHERE WE STAND

(Tables are ranked from better to worse values)

JOB GROWTH

1	**Austin**	**25.9**
2	Salt Lake City	22.0
3	Phoenix	21.5
4	Nashville	19.7
5	Atlanta	18.9
6	Portland	17.7
7	San Antonio	16.9
8	Denver	16.8
9	Dallas	14.9
10	Charlotte	13.5
11	Columbus	12.9
12	Houston	12.5
13	Minneapolis	12.4
14	Indianapolis	11.5
15	Oklahoma City	11.1
16	Memphis	11.0
17	Louisville	10.7
18	Kansas City	10.2
19	Cincinnati	10.1
Average		10.1
20	Seattle	9.1
21	Chicago	7.6
22	Milwaukee	7.4
23	Miami	6.5
24	**St. Louis**	**6.4**
25	Detroit	6.4
26	Cleveland	6.0
27	Boston	5.3
28	Pittsburgh	4.6
29	San Diego	4.2
30	Washington DC	3.3
31	San Francisco	2.6
32	Baltimore	0.9
33	Philadelphia	0.4
34	New York	-3.0
35	**Los Angeles**	**-4.7**

Percent increase in jobs, 1990 - 1996

SERVICE SECTOR JOB GROWTH

1	**Austin**	**74.0**
2	Salt Lake City	77.9
3	Portland	79.7
4	Detroit	80.5
5	Houston	82.7
6	Phoenix	83.8
7	San Antonio	84.1
8	Nashville	85.5
9	Oklahoma City	86.4
10	Kansas City	87.8
11	Dallas	88.4
12	Denver	88.8
13	Atlanta	88.9
14	Louisville	90.2
15	Minneapolis	90.5
16	Milwaukee	94.2
17	Columbus	95.2
18	Indianapolis	96.1
19	Memphis	96.8
Average		144.4
20	Cincinnati	101.4
21	Chicago	101.5
22	Seattle	111.4
23	Pittsburgh	112.0
24	Miami	112.1
25	Cleveland	112.7
26	**St. Louis**	**118.8**
27	Boston	124.6
28	Washington DC	131.1
29	San Diego	138.6
30	Charlotte	226.5
31	Baltimore	411.8
32	San Francisco	603.0
33	Philadelphia	708.3
34	Los Angeles	*
35	**New York**	*

Service sector job growth as a percent of net job growth, 1990 - 1996 (* = job loss)

BUSINESS GROWTH

1	**Austin**	**34.96**
2	Salt Lake City	26.45
3	Portland	22.83
4	Atlanta	22.18
5	Denver	21.62
6	Phoenix	20.68
7	Nashville	18.08
8	Minneapolis	16.94
9	Indianapolis	15.10
10	Oklahoma City	15.01
11	Dallas	14.87
12	Charlotte	14.65
13	Houston	14.26
14	Seattle	14.17
15	San Antonio	14.10
16	Louisville	13.58
17	Columbus	11.92
Average		11.86
18	Washington DC	10.78
19	Kansas City	10.54
20	Chicago	9.89
21	Miami	9.53
22	Cincinnati	8.87
23	Cleveland	7.58
24	Baltimore	7.41
25	Detroit	7.26
26	Milwaukee	7.11
27	Memphis	6.56
28	**St Louis**	**6.37**
29	Boston	4.51
30	Pittsburgh	3.11
31	New York	2.40
32	Philadelphia	2.15
33	San Diego	1.49
34	San Francisco	-0.20
35	**Los Angeles**	**-1.84**

Percent change in business establishments, 1990 - 1996

MINORITY FIRMS

1	**Seattle**	**405.1**
2	San Francisco	389.4
3	Portland	359.4
4	Salt Lake City	333.6
5	Denver	322.5
6	Minneapolis	310.9
7	Indianapolis	282.5
8	San Antonio	275.5
9	Phoenix	274.5
10	Los Angeles	273.1
11	Nashville	270.1
12	Atlanta	261.1
13	Columbus	255.7
14	Houston	251.4
15	Austin	247.9
16	Washington DC	243.9
Average		232.5
17	Dallas	227.7
18	Miami	214.0
19	Charlotte	209.5
20	San Diego	206.5
21	Kansas City	204.1
22	Cincinnati	203.0
23	Memphis	191.0
24	Pittsburgh	190.1
25	Oklahoma City	186.6
26	Louisville	184.0
27	Milwaukee	178.0
28	**St. Louis**	**176.8**
29	Cleveland	168.4
30	Baltimore	159.3
31	Chicago	151.6
32	Detroit	151.5
33	Philadelphia	148.5
34	Boston	119.9
35	**New York**	**108.9**

Black-owned firms (with employees) per 100,000 blacks, 1992

EARNINGS

1	**New York**	**48,934**
2	San Francisco	40,704
3	Houston	37,791
4	Detroit	37,746
5	Washington DC	37,061
6	Chicago	36,373
7	Dallas	35,639
8	Seattle	35,523
9	Boston	34,866
10	Philadelphia	34,723
11	Los Angeles	34,643
12	Atlanta	33,311
Average		32,341
13	Denver	32,423
14	Cleveland	32,413
15	Minneapolis	32,407
16	Charlotte	31,471
17	Pittsburgh	30,972
18	Indianapolis	30,771
19	Portland	30,717
20	Baltimore	30,700
21	Milwaukee	30,556
22	**St. Louis**	**30,512**
23	Kansas City	30,344
24	Cincinnati	30,169
25	Memphis	30,127
26	Miami	29,968
27	Nashville	29,539
28	Phoenix	28,940
29	San Diego	28,769
30	Austin	28,675
31	Columbus	28,523
32	Louisville	28,421
33	San Antonio	27,116
34	Salt Lake City	26,107
35	**Oklahoma City**	**24,993**

Average earnings per job ($), 1996

Economic Vitality

BETTER

AVERAGE

WORSE

Regional Economic Vitality

Income and Wealth

Total personal income is one of the most comprehensive measures of the benefit an individual derives from economic activity. Personal income has three main components: earnings (primarily wages and salaries), income-earning assets, (such as dividends, interest, and rent), and transfer payments (such as social security and public assistance income). In 1996, the per capita personal income for the St. Louis region was $26,337. That is the 17th highest income level among the 35 metropolitan areas. However, when the per capita income is adjusted for the cost of living, it improves the St. Louis rank significantly. Due largely to the fact that St. Louis has a very affordable cost of living (especially related to housing), its per capita personal income, when adjusted for the cost of living, rises to $26,792, bringing the region's rank up to 11th.

Between 1990 and 1996, income levels grew 7 percent after adjustment for inflation. Yet, the region's rank relative to the other 34 metropolitan areas has slipped. The 7 percent growth rate ranked St. Louis 25th among the 35 metropolitan areas, down from 17th rank in the 1996 *Where We Stand*, and 5th in the 1992 *Where We Stand*.

The makeup of total personal income in the St. Louis region is unusual. Over 58 percent of the region's total personal income came from wages and salaries in 1996 (ranking St. Louis 29th), while 21 percent of regional income came from assets, ranking St. Louis 2nd only to San Francisco. The importance of assets in St. Louis is related to several factors: the number of business owners in the region with a large accumulation of assets, the affordability of housing (resulting in a high rate of home ownership), and the number of retired people who live off their investments.

Regional Economic Vitality

Income and Wealth

WHERE WE STAND

(Tables are ranked from better to worse values)

PERSONAL INCOME

1	**San Francisco**	**39,746**
2	New York	33,177
3	Washington DC	32,376
4	Seattle	31,372
5	Boston	30,366
6	Chicago	29,948
7	Minneapolis	29,299
8	Denver	29,234
9	Dallas	28,513
10	Philadelphia	28,447
11	Detroit	27,250
12	Atlanta	27,241
13	Milwaukee	27,202
14	Houston	27,195
Average		26,810
15	Baltimore	26,731
16	Cleveland	26,529
17	**St. Louis**	**26,337**
18	Nashville	26,262
19	Portland	26,228
20	Kansas City	25,949
21	Indianapolis	25,898
22	Charlotte	25,446
23	Pittsburgh	25,359
24	Cincinnati	25,359
25	Memphis	24,945
26	Los Angeles	24,945
27	Columbus	24,863
28	Louisville	24,764
29	San Diego	24,282
30	Austin	23,669
31	Phoenix	23,377
32	Miami	22,370
33	Salt Lake City	21,271
34	San Antonio	21,237
35	**Oklahoma City**	**21,148**

Per capita personal income ($), 1996

INCOME GROWTH

1	**Nashville**	**15.4**
2	Salt Lake City	15.3
3	Memphis	13.3
4	Denver	11.7
5	Austin	11.5
6	Detroit	11.2
7	Milwaukee	10.8
8	San Antonio	10.6
9	Portland	10.4
10	Louisville	10.1
11	Seattle	10.1
12	Charlotte	10.1
13	Chicago	10.0
14	Kansas City	9.9
15	Minneapolis	9.7
16	Dallas	9.5
17	Columbus	9.2
18	Indianapolis	9.0
19	Pittsburgh	8.5
20	Atlanta	8.2
Average		8.1
21	New York	7.6
22	Houston	7.6
23	Cincinnati	7.3
24	Boston	7.2
25	**St. Louis**	**7.0**
26	Philadelphia	7.0
27	San Francisco	6.6
28	Phoenix	6.3
29	Cleveland	6.3
30	Oklahoma City	3.8
31	Washington DC	3.3
32	Baltimore	2.8
33	Miami	1.8
34	San Diego	0.0
35	**Los Angeles**	**-4.2**

Percent change in per capita income, 1990 to 1996

INCOME ADJUSTED FOR COST OF LIVING

1	**Minneapolis**	**29,289**
2	Dallas	28,940
3	Houston	28,687
4	Denver	28,245
5	Nashville	27,872
6	Atlanta	27,649
7	Seattle	27,304
8	Indianapolis	27,083
9	Baltimore	26,926
10	Kansas City	26,897
11	**St. Louis**	**26,792**
12	Louisville	26,700
13	Memphis	26,265
14	Milwaukee	25,956
15	Washington DC	25,818
16	Charlotte	25,801
17	Cincinnati	25,719
Average		24,665
18	Cleveland	25,484
19	Chicago	24,628
20	Portland	24,158
21	San Francisco	23,958
22	Detroit	23,851
23	Austin	23,411
24	Columbus	23,362
25	Oklahoma City	23,119
26	San Antonio	23,065
27	Phoenix	22,702
28	Philadelphia	22,483
29	Boston	21,737
30	Salt Lake City	21,600
31	Pittsburgh	21,427
32	Los Angeles	21,248
33	Miami	20,646
34	San Diego	20,080
35	**New York**	**14,387**

Per capita personal income adjusted for cost of living ($), 1996

INCOME SOURCES: WAGES AND SALARIES

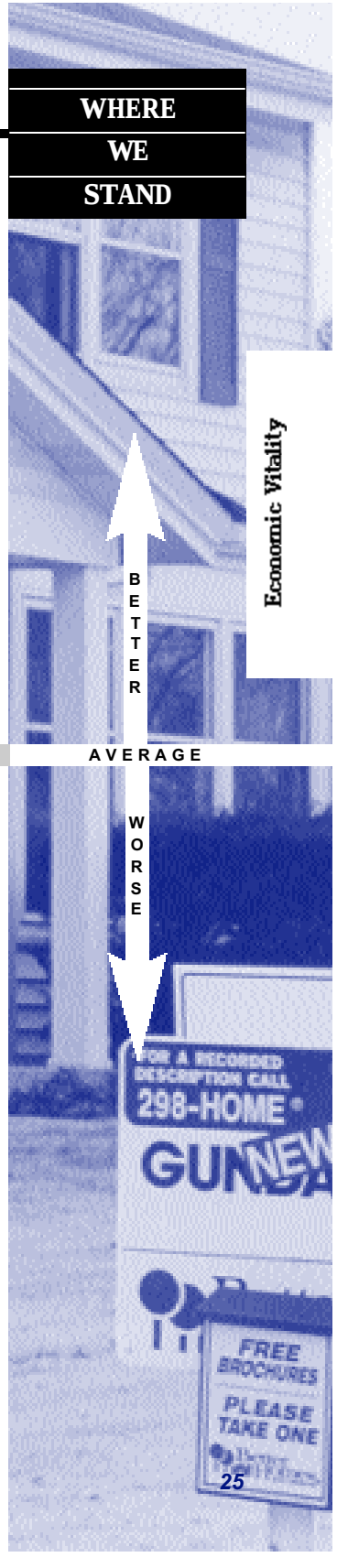
1	**Charlotte**	**66.9**
2	Salt Lake City	66.6
3	Atlanta	65.7
4	Dallas	65.7
5	Washington DC	65.5
6	Austin	65.4
7	Minneapolis	65.0
8	Columbus	64.1
9	New York	63.6
10	Indianapolis	63.4
11	San Francisco	62.8
12	Seattle	62.6
13	Miami	61.8
14	Nashville	61.8
15	Milwaukee	61.8
16	Cincinnati	61.6
17	Denver	61.5
18	Detroit	61.5
Average		60.9
19	Memphis	60.6
20	Kansas City	60.5
21	Los Angeles	60.2
22	Chicago	60.1
23	Houston	59.9
24	Portland	59.8
25	Louisville	59.8
26	Phoenix	59.6
27	Boston	59.6
28	Oklahoma City	59.3
29	**St. Louis**	**58.4**
30	Cleveland	58.3
31	San Antonio	55.3
32	Baltimore	55.2
33	Philadelphia	54.0
34	San Diego	52.9
35	**Pittsburgh**	**52.5**

Percent of total personal income from wages and salaries, 1996

INCOME SOURCES: ASSETS

1	**San Francisco**	**24.9**
2	**St. Louis**	**21.0**
3	San Diego	21.0
4	Miami	19.4
5	Chicago	19.2
6	Cincinnati	19.1
7	Philadelphia	19.0
8	Milwaukee	19.0
9	Seattle	18.8
10	Los Angeles	18.5
11	Louisville	18.5
12	Boston	18.4
13	Pittsburgh	18.2
14	Washington DC	18.1
15	Portland	18.0
16	New York	18.0
17	Denver	18.0
18	Cleveland	17.8
19	Phoenix	17.7
20	Baltimore	17.6
21	Detroit	17.5
22	Kansas City	17.5
Average		17.4
23	Minneapolis	17.1
24	Indianapolis	16.2
25	Atlanta	15.6
26	Oklahoma City	15.3
27	Columbus	15.1
28	San Antonio	14.9
29	Austin	14.9
30	Charlotte	14.8
31	Dallas	14.5
32	Nashville	14.4
33	Salt Lake City	14.3
34	Houston	13.5
35	**Memphis**	**13.2**

Percent of total personal income from dividends, interest and rent, 1996



Sources and Notes

Per Capita Regional Economic Output: Economic Output is the sum of the manufacturing value of shipments, retail and wholesale sales, service receipts (from taxable service industries), and the net value of construction. 1992 Economic Census - Report Series Disk 1H (CD-EC92-1H), released May 1996.

Unemployment: Percent of the labor force which is unemployed. Five year average is based on annual rates. Source: State and Metro Area Employment and Unemployment, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Branch, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Capital Availability: This ratio is calculated by dividing total bank loans by total deposits for insured commercial banks. This gives an indication of the availability of financing capital within a metropolitan area. A low ratio implies "tight" money—a conservative investment climate or lack of optimism about the local economy. Data are from an unpublished table of bank loans and deposits from the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, 1998.

Value of Private Construction: Value of private residential and nonresidential construction authorized through building permits. Building Permits, 1980-1995. Data obtained from the Building Permits Branch, Manufacturing and Construction Division of the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Exports: Exports here refer to the sum of goods exported to foreign countries, from the point of sale. Metro Area Exporters Ranked by 1997 Export Value, Export Assistance Center, U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1998.

Job Growth, Service Sector Job Growth, Earnings, Personal Income, Income Growth and Income Sources: The source of data for these indicators is Regional Economic Information System, 1969 - 1996, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce. Job refers to full and part-time employment positions existing during the calendar year. Service Sector Jobs include all employment categories except mining, construction, and manufacturing. A value over 100 percent on service sector job growth indicates a net job loss in goods producing sector jobs. Earnings refer to the sum of wage and salary income, other labor income, and proprietors' income. It is used as a proxy for income generated from current production. Average earnings per job was calculated by dividing total earnings for all employment categories by the number of jobs in all categories. Total personal income includes wages, salaries and other labor income, proprietor's income, rental income, personal dividend and interest income, and government and business transfer payments less personal contributions for social security.

Business Start-Ups: Refers to the total number of business start-ups for every 100,000 population. Source: The Lead Sheet, County Data Corporation; Population figures from 1990 to 1997 Annual Time Series of State and County Population Estimates and Components of Population Change, Population Distribution and Population Estimates Branches, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Patent Grants: Refers to the total number of utility patent grants (i.e. "patents for invention"). Source: United States Patent Grants by State, County and Metropolitan area (Utility Patents, 1990 - 1997), U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Business Growth: County Business Patterns (1990 & 1996 editions), U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Minority Firms: Refers to the number of African American owned businesses per 100,000 blacks. 1992 Economic Census: Survey of Minority-Owned Businesses, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Cost of Living Index, 1996: Costs of Living Index, American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association (copyright). Index is based on the cost differential for a mid-management standard of living in metropolitan areas, with the national average equal to 100. Some metropolitan area data are for previous years.

Leadership, Governance & Public Service

Leadership, Governance and Public Service

Government Units

In order for the region to thrive, local governments must work together addressing regional issues that transcend traditional political boundaries. The St. Louis region had 771 units of local government in 1992, which was a five percent increase since 1987. This large number of local governments was the 5th highest number of governments among the 35 metropolitan areas, behind only Chicago, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Houston. Yet, when the units of government are adjusted for geographic area, St. Louis ranks 9th with 12 units for every 100 square miles. When adjusted for population, the St. Louis region had almost 31 government units per 100,000 people. This ranks the region second only to Pittsburgh, a region with 36 units for every 100,000 people.

When considering the number of local governments with taxing authority, the St. Louis metropolitan area ranked number one, with 26.8 taxing units per 100,000 people in 1992. This high number of taxing units is reflective of how the St. Louis region has decentralized accountability for public services. A full 40 percent of all government units in the St. Louis region are general county, municipal, or township governments. The remaining 60 percent perform specialized functions, such as housing authorities and ambulance districts. That ranks St. Louis among the top third of all 35 regions in the proportion of its public sector units existing solely to special functions.

School districts are among the multitude of specialized government entities. In 1992, the St. Louis region had 119 independent public school districts. This translates into 4.7 school districts per 100,000 people—double the average for all metropolitan areas—ranking the region 3rd, behind only Oklahoma City and Portland.

A large number of local governments may help ensure that governance is closer and more accountable to its citizens, more sensitive to their needs and concerns. However, a vast and overlapping array of public sector units and taxing authorities may also fragment decision-making processes and inhibit cooperative regional initiatives and resource-sharing in the public sphere.

(Tables are ranked from higher to lower values)

GOVERNMENT UNITS

1	**Chicago**	**1421**
2	Philadelphia	877
3	Pittsburgh	875
4	Houston	802
5	**St. Louis**	**771**
6	Boston	745
7	Minneapolis	516
8	Kansas City	468
9	Denver	405
10	Indianapolis	390
11	Detroit	360
12	Cincinnati	360
	Average	355
13	Cleveland	339
14	Los Angeles	337
15	Dallas	331
16	Portland	300
17	Seattle	281
18	Louisville	275
19	Columbus	272
20	Atlanta	248
21	New York	201
22	Phoenix	199
23	Austin	181
24	San Diego	177
25	Milwaukee	174
26	San Francisco	174
27	Oklahoma City	172
28	Washington DC	159
29	Salt Lake City	131
30	Nashville	104
31	San Antonio	94
32	Memphis	90
33	Charlotte	85
34	Baltimore	68
35	**Miami**	**35**

Units of local government, 1992

GOVERNMENT UNITS PER 100,000 POPULATION

1	**Pittsburgh**	**36.4**
2	**St. Louis**	**30.6**
3	Kansas City	29.0
4	Louisville	28.5
5	Indianapolis	27.4
6	Denver	23.6
7	Cincinnati	23.1
8	Houston	22.8
9	Austin	20.1
10	Minneapolis	19.7
11	Columbus	19.6
12	Chicago	18.8
13	Portland	18.7
14	Philadelphia	17.8
15	Oklahoma City	17.5
16	Cleveland	15.3
	Average	14.9
17	Seattle	13.2
18	Boston	13.1
19	Milwaukee	12.0
20	Dallas	11.8
21	Salt Lake City	11.6
22	San Francisco	10.7
23	Nashville	10.2
24	Memphis	8.7
25	Phoenix	8.5
26	Detroit	8.4
27	Atlanta	7.9
28	Charlotte	7.0
29	San Antonio	6.8
30	San Diego	6.8
31	Los Angeles	3.7
32	Washington DC	3.7
33	Baltimore	2.8
34	New York	2.4
35	**Miami**	**1.7**

Units of local government per 100,000 population, 1992

SCHOOL DISTRICTS PER 100,000 POPULATION

1	**Oklahoma City**	**6.2**
2	Portland	5.2
3	**St. Louis**	**4.7**
4	Cincinnati	4.5
5	Chicago	4.4
6	Pittsburgh	4.4
7	Kansas City	4.3
8	Cleveland	3.8
9	Philadelphia	3.8
10	Columbus	3.6
11	Milwaukee	3.6
12	Indianapolis	3.4
13	Austin	3.3
14	Phoenix	3.2
15	Minneapolis	3.2
16	Dallas	2.9
17	San Francisco	2.8
18	Detroit	2.6
	Average	2.4
19	Boston	2.1
20	San Antonio	1.9
21	San Diego	1.8
22	Seattle	1.7
23	Houston	1.4
24	Louisville	1.3
25	Los Angeles	1.0
26	Denver	1.0
27	Atlanta	0.9
28	New York	0.7
29	Salt Lake City	0.6
30	Memphis	0.6
31	Charlotte	0.3
32	Nashville	0.2
33	Miami	0.1
34	Washington DC	0.0
35	**Baltimore**	**0.0**

Independent public school districts per 100,000 population, 1992

GOVERNMENT UNITS WITH TAXING POWERS PER 100,000 POPULATION

1	**St. Louis**	**26.8**
2	Louisville	23.7
3	Kansas City	21.8
4	Pittsburgh	21.7
5	Cincinnati	20.7
6	Indianapolis	19.2
7	Minneapolis	18.6
8	Columbus	18.1
9	Denver	17.3
10	Chicago	17.2
11	Houston	15.8
12	Portland	15.7
13	Austin	14.9
14	Cleveland	14.5
15	Oklahoma City	13.9
	Average	12.1
16	Philadelphia	12.0
17	Seattle	11.1
18	Milwaukee	11.0
19	Salt Lake City	10.0
20	Dallas	10.0
21	San Francisco	9.3
22	Boston	8.8
23	Phoenix	8.5
24	Detroit	7.8
25	San Diego	5.8
26	San Antonio	5.6
27	Memphis	5.4
28	Charlotte	5.3
29	Atlanta	4.9
30	Nashville	4.9
31	Los Angeles	2.9
32	Washington DC	2.8
33	Baltimore	2.3
34	New York	2.2
35	**Miami**	**1.5**

Local government units with taxing powers per 100,000 population, 1992

HIGHER

AVERAGE

LOWER

Leadership, Governance & Public Service

Government Expenditures

In 1992, local governments in the St. Louis region spent a total of $4.7 billion, or $1,859 for every person in the region. This level of spending ranks the region 33rd, above only Louisville and Oklahoma City. Per capita government spending in St. Louis was $870 lower per person than the overall average and only about a third of that of New York, which spent more than $5,000 per person in 1992. Local outlays were consistently low across expenditure categories, including capital investment in buildings, equipment, and roads. Governments in the St. Louis region spent only $235 per person on capital improvements in 1992. This relatively low level of capital spending ranked the region 29th among all 35 metropolitan areas. Metropolitan areas at the top of the ranks, such as Seattle and Denver, spent over twice as much on capital improvements with a rate $580 per person.

Local governments in the St. Louis region raised $3.2 billion in local revenue from taxes and other charges during 1992. The St. Louis metropolitan area ranked 21st in total revenue, yet 33rd in per capita revenue. The total revenue raised by local governments in the region, accounted for only 5.8 percent of total personal income, ranking the St. Louis region 35th, or last out of the 35 metropolitan areas. The region also has one of the lowest levels of public debt. The St. Louis region ranks 33rd among the 35 metropolitan areas with the level of local government debt equivalent to 86 percent of the total annual revenue raised.

In contrast to local spending, federal spending in the St. Louis region continues to be high. In 1997, federal sources accounted for $6,268 for every person in the St. Louis metropolitan area. This level of federal spending ranks St. Louis 3rd, below only San Diego and Washington. St. Louis has maintained its high ranking despite a decline of $1,249 in defense spending per person between 1990 and 1997.

Leadership, Governance & Public Service

Government Expenditures

WHERE WE STAND

(Tables are ranked from more to less values)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SPENDING

1	**New York**	**5,422**
2	San Francisco	3,781
3	Los Angeles	3,744
4	Washington DC	3,363
5	Austin	3,258
6	Minneapolis	3,238
7	Seattle	3,069
8	Milwaukee	3,021
9	Miami	2,980
10	San Diego	2,955
11	Phoenix	2,924
12	Denver	2,919
13	Philadelphia	2,815
14	Memphis	2,775
Average		2,731
15	Chicago	2,715
16	Cleveland	2,675
17	Portland	2,669
18	Atlanta	2,655
19	Detroit	2,594
20	San Antonio	2,569
21	Charlotte	2,524
22	Nashville	2,510
23	Kansas City	2,507
24	Dallas	2,439
25	Indianapolis	2,412
26	Salt Lake City	2,319
27	Houston	2,295
28	Pittsburgh	2,288
29	Boston	2,281
30	Columbus	2,251
31	Cincinnati	2,145
32	Baltimore	2,028
33	**St. Louis**	**1,859**
34	Louisville	1,830
35	**Oklahoma City**	**1,750**

Per capita local government expenditures ($), 1992

GOVERNMENT REVENUE AS A PERCENT OF TOTAL INCOME

1	**New York**	**15.5**
2	Austin	14.7
3	Miami	12.6
4	Memphis	11.6
5	Phoenix	10.8
6	San Antonio	10.8
7	Los Angeles	10.3
8	Nashville	10.1
9	Salt Lake City	10.1
10	Atlanta	9.8
11	Washington DC	9.3
12	Chicago	9.1
13	Kansas City	9.1
Average		9.0
14	Dallas	8.9
15	Minneapolis	8.8
16	Denver	8.7
17	San Diego	8.7
18	Portland	8.7
19	Cleveland	8.6
20	San Francisco	8.5
21	Detroit	8.4
22	Houston	8.2
23	Milwaukee	8.0
24	Philadelphia	7.9
25	Charlotte	7.8
26	Seattle	7.7
27	Indianapolis	7.7
28	Columbus	7.3
29	Cincinnati	7.0
30	Pittsburgh	6.9
31	Oklahoma City	6.8
32	Boston	6.6
33	Baltimore	6.4
34	Louisville	6.0
35	**St. Louis**	**5.8**

Local government revenue as a percent of total personal income, 1992

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEBT

1	**Salt Lake City**	**3.53**
2	Austin	2.60
3	San Antonio	2.54
4	Phoenix	2.49
5	Denver	2.40
6	Pittsburgh	2.29
7	Minneapolis	2.08
8	Houston	2.04
9	Louisville	1.99
10	Philadelphia	1.85
11	Atlanta	1.78
12	Kansas City	1.75
13	Dallas	1.68
14	Oklahoma City	1.65
Average		1.58
15	Nashville	1.54
16	Miami	1.47
17	Cincinnati	1.42
18	Columbus	1.40
19	Baltimore	1.37
20	Washington DC	1.35
21	Charlotte	1.35
22	Seattle	1.34
23	Los Angeles	1.34
24	New York	1.16
25	Milwaukee	1.15
26	Indianapolis	1.15
27	Memphis	1.10
28	Chicago	1.09
29	San Francisco	0.97
30	Portland	0.96
31	San Diego	0.91
32	Detroit	0.91
33	**St. Louis**	**0.86**
34	Cleveland	0.81
35	**Boston**	**0.81**

Ratio of local government debt to local revenue, 1992

FEDERAL FUNDING

1	**Washington DC**	**13,940**
2	San Diego	6,329
3	**St. Louis**	**6,268**
4	Baltimore	5,887
5	San Antonio	5,787
6	Pittsburgh	5,753
7	Oklahoma City	5,739
8	Boston	5,680
9	New York	5,515
10	Philadelphia	5,454
11	Austin	5,106
12	Denver	5,044
13	San Francisco	5,029
Average		5,014
14	Louisville	4,949
15	Memphis	4,877
16	Seattle	4,771
17	Cincinnati	4,654
18	Columbus	4,632
19	Cleveland	4,596
20	Los Angeles	4,525
21	Nashville	4,506
22	Miami	4,486
23	Indianapolis	4,444
24	Atlanta	4,388
25	Kansas City	4,371
26	Phoenix	4,143
27	Milwaukee	4,132
28	Detroit	4,089
29	Salt Lake City	4,058
30	Minneapolis	4,045
31	Houston	3,950
32	Chicago	3,858
33	Portland	3,705
34	Dallas	3,632
35	**Charlotte**	**3,161**

Federal funding per capita ($), 1997

CHANGE IN DEFENSE FUNDING

1	**Louisville**	**458**
2	Washington DC	262
3	Atlanta	261
4	Nashville	39
5	Columbus	5
6	Charlotte	-4
7	Pittsburgh	-22
8	New York	-45
9	Milwaukee	-46
10	Chicago	-68
11	Detroit	-91
12	Oklahoma City	-95
13	Kansas City	-103
14	Houston	-124
15	Cleveland	-133
16	Miami	-138
17	Portland	-153
18	Seattle	-166
19	San Francisco	-261
Average		-318
20	Austin	-327
21	San Antonio	-330
22	Philadelphia	-343
23	Memphis	-365
24	Dallas	-392
25	Indianapolis	-435
26	Minneapolis	-448
27	San Diego	-529
28	Los Angeles	-554
29	Baltimore	-628
30	Salt Lake City	-723
31	Boston	-951
32	Phoenix	-964
33	Cincinnati	-1092
34	**St. Louis**	**-1,249**
35	**Denver**	**-1,380**

Change in per capita federal defense funding ($), 1990 to 1997

MORE

AVERAGE

LESS

Sources and Notes

Units of Local Government, School Districts, Government Units with Taxing Powers: 1992 Census of Governments: Government Organization, vol. 1, No. 1, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Per Capita Local Government Spending: Refers to total direct expenditures. 1992 Census of Governments: Government Finances, vol. 4, Compendium of Government Finances, no. 5, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Government Revenue as a Percent of Total Income: Revenue refers only to income from local taxes or other local sources. 1992 Census of Governments: Government Finances, vol. 4, Compendium of Government Finances, no. 5, U.S. Bureau of the Census. Personal Income: Regional Economic Information System, 1969 - 1994, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Ratio of Local Government Debt to Local Revenue: Revenue refers only to income from local taxes or other local sources. 1992 Census of Governments: Government Finances, vol. 4, Compendium of Government Finances, no. 5, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Federal Funding: Total federal funding includes grant awards, salaries and wages (defense and non-defense), direct payments to individuals, procurement contracts and loans. Consolidated Federal Funds Report: Fiscal Year 1997, U.S. Bureau of the Census, for the Office of Management and Budget.

Federal Defense Funding: Total federal funding for defense. Consolidated Federal Funds Report (Fiscal Years 1990 and 1997), U.S. Bureau of the Census, for the Office of Management and Budget.

Individual & Family Well-Being

Individual and Family Well-Being

Poverty and Teenage Births

In 1993, more than 331,000 St. Louis residents were living below the poverty level. These individuals accounted for 13.1 percent of the total St. Louis area population, ranking it 16th among the 35 metropolitan areas. In 1993, families were classified as being below the poverty level if their total family household income was less than $14,763 for a family of four.

Poverty rates vary widely among age groups. Typically, the highest rates of poverty are found among children. In 1993, 120,000 children were living in households with income levels below the poverty threshold. While child population for the St. Louis region made up only 26 percent of the total population in 1993, children accounted for 36 percent of all individuals living in poverty. St. Louis had the 13th lowest child poverty rate among the 35 peer metropolitan areas. This is a marked improvement from the region's 16th ranking in 1989. Yet, during that three year period the rate of poverty among children grew 2.2 percent for the St. Louis region. In fact, poverty rates for children increased for all 35 metropolitan areas included in the report. Some of the larger metropolitan areas, such as New York and Los Angeles, experienced over a 10 percent increase in the rate of children living in poverty between 1990 and 1993.

In 1989, the elderly population, age 65 and over, had a much lower rate of poverty compared to both the child poverty rate and the overall poverty rate during that period. Approximately 31,000 individuals over the age of 65 were living in households below the poverty level. This accounted for approximately 10.4 percent of the total elderly population of the St. Louis metropolitan area, ranking the region 16th and below the 11.6 percent average of the 35 metropolitan regions. Of the total MSA population in 1989, 12 percent were age 65 and over. Similarly, the elderly population comprised 12 percent of the total number of individuals living in households with income under the poverty level.

Today, families with children are faced with many social and economic obstacles, especially families headed by a female. According to Healthy People 2000, a report published in 1990 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, "children from families in which the father in absent are nine times as likely to have a family income of less than $10,000 than those living with both parents." The rate of births to unwed parents has been growing rapidly in the St. Louis region. Between 1988 and 1992 the rate of births to unwed parents grew by 6.4 percent. In 1992, 36.5 percent of the total births in the St. Louis metropolitan area were to unwed parents. This ranked the St. Louis region 28th, at a rate well above the 30.5 percent average for the 35 metropolitan areas.

Teenage births are also indicative of individual and family well-being. Quite often, teenage mothers do not receive the necessary prenatal care for their babies, which can result in long-term health and developmental problems. Teenage mothers are much more likely to have an income below the poverty level, further increasing the number of children living in poverty. In 1992, 13.9 percent of the total number of births in the St. Louis region were to teenage mothers. This relatively high rate of teenage births is well above the 12.1 percent average for the 35 regions, ranking St. Louis 25th among the 35 metropolitan areas examined.

Individual and Family Well-Being

Poverty and Teenage Births

(Tables are ranked from better to worse values)

POVERTY RATE

1	**Minneapolis**	**9.5**
2	Seattle	9.6
3	Salt Lake City	9.9
4	Washington DC	9.9
5	San Francisco	10.2
6	Denver	10.5
7	Boston	10.6
8	Portland	11.7
9	Indianapolis	11.8
10	Baltimore	12.0
11	Charlotte	12.1
12	Columbus	12.4
13	Kansas City	12.4
14	Cincinnati	12.8
15	Pittsburgh	13.1
16	**St. Louis**	**13.1**
17	Atlanta	13.4
18	Philadelphia	13.6
19	Chicago	13.7
20	Milwaukee	13.7
21	Austin	14.3
22	Nashville	14.4
Average		14.5
23	Cleveland	15.0
24	Louisville	15.0
25	Dallas	15.6
26	Detroit	16.1
27	Oklahoma City	16.1
28	San Diego	16.3
29	Phoenix	16.5
30	Houston	18.2
31	Memphis	21.7
32	San Antonio	21.9
33	New York	22.1
34	Los Angeles	23.8
35	**Miami**	**25.4**

Percent of all persons in poverty, 1993

CHILD POVERTY RATE

1	**Salt Lake City**	**9.7**
2	Seattle	11.5
3	Minneapolis	11.8
4	Denver	12.9
5	Washington DC	12.9
6	Portland	13.0
7	San Francisco	13.2
8	Charlotte	15.1
9	Boston	15.7
10	Indianapolis	16.2
11	Kansas City	16.3
12	Baltimore	16.6
13	**St. Louis**	**17.8**
14	Columbus	18.0
15	Cincinnati	18.1
16	Atlanta	18.3
17	Austin	18.4
18	Nashville	18.6
19	Pittsburgh	19.0
20	Philadelphia	19.8
Average		19.9
21	Chicago	20.0
22	Louisville	20.5
23	Oklahoma City	20.5
24	Dallas	20.8
25	Milwaukee	20.9
26	Cleveland	22.4
27	Phoenix	22.7
28	San Diego	22.8
29	Detroit	24.2
30	Houston	24.7
31	San Antonio	29.9
32	Memphis	30.0
33	Los Angeles	33.3
34	Miami	34.8
35	**New York**	**37.1**

Percent of persons under 18 in poverty, 1993

ELDERLY POVERTY RATE

1	**San Diego**	**6.3**
2	Milwaukee	7.1
3	Seattle	7.2
4	Salt Lake City	7.7
5	San Francisco	8.0
6	Minneapolis	8.3
7	Washington DC	8.7
8	Phoenix	9.2
9	Los Angeles	9.2
10	Portland	9.4
11	Denver	9.5
12	Cleveland	9.6
13	Boston	9.7
14	Chicago	10.1
15	Indianapolis	10.3
16	**St. Louis**	**10.4**
17	Pittsburgh	10.4
18	Philadelphia	10.4
19	Columbus	10.5
20	Detroit	10.5
21	Kansas City	11.2
22	Cincinnati	11.4
23	Baltimore	11.6
Average		11.6
24	Louisville	12.8
25	Oklahoma City	13.1
26	Dallas	13.5
27	Austin	14.2
28	Atlanta	14.7
29	Charlotte	15.2
30	New York	15.3
31	Houston	16.0
32	Nashville	16.6
33	San Antonio	17.4
34	Miami	20.0
35	**Memphis**	**21.7**

Percent of persons 65 and older in poverty, 1989

TEENAGE BIRTHS

1	**Boston**	**6.4**
2	San Francisco	6.8
3	Seattle	7.2
4	Minneapolis	7.6
5	Washington DC	7.9
6	Pittsburgh	9.4
7	New York	9.7
8	Portland	10.0
9	Philadelphia	10.7
10	San Diego	10.8
11	Salt Lake City	11.1
12	Denver	11.2
13	Baltimore	11.2
14	Miami	11.4
15	Cleveland	11.7
16	Los Angeles	12.1
Average		12.1
17	Austin	12.3
18	Atlanta	12.4
19	Detroit	12.5
20	Columbus	12.6
21	Chicago	12.8
22	Kansas City	12.9
23	Milwaukee	13.1
24	Cincinnati	13.5
25	**St. Louis**	**13.9**
26	Nashville	13.9
27	Dallas	14.0
28	Indianapolis	14.2
29	Phoenix	14.3
30	Houston	14.7
31	Charlotte	14.8
32	Louisville	15.2
33	Oklahoma City	15.3
34	San Antonio	16.3
35	**Memphis**	**17.9**

Births to teenagers as a percent of total births, 1992

BIRTHS TO UNWED PARENTS

1	**Austin**	**12.7**
2	Salt Lake City	17.9
3	San Antonio	18.0
4	Dallas	18.8
5	Houston	20.6
6	Seattle	22.0
7	Minneapolis	23.1
8	Boston	24.7
9	Portland	25.0
10	Denver	25.3
11	San Francisco	27.4
12	Pittsburgh	29.8
13	Columbus	29.9
14	San Diego	30.2
15	Washington DC	30.3
16	Nashville	30.4
Average		30.5
17	Oklahoma City	30.6
18	Kansas City	30.7
19	Charlotte	30.9
20	Cincinnati	31.7
21	Atlanta	31.9
22	Indianapolis	32.2
23	Baltimore	33.2
24	Detroit	33.6
25	Phoenix	34.5
26	Louisville	35.1
27	Philadelphia	36.3
28	**St. Louis**	**36.5**
29	Milwaukee	36.6
30	Cleveland	36.8
31	Chicago	37.3
32	Miami	38.8
33	Los Angeles	42.2
34	New York	42.9
35	**Memphis**	**48.3**

Births to unmarried women as a percent of total births, 1992

Individual and Family Well-Being

Health and Mortality

In order for a community to thrive, it must provide quality health care and access to quality health care insurance coverage. Health care indicators provide insight into how well a metropolitan area's health care services are responding to the needs of its citizens. Estimates of health insurance coverage from the Census Bureau's 1996 Current Population Survey indicate that almost 74 percent of all persons in the St. Louis region are covered by some form of health insurance or public program. St. Louis ranked 23rd, just above the average for the 35 metropolitan regions on health care coverage.

The provision of primary health care plays an essential role in the treatment of illness and disease prevention. In 1997, there were 2,606 primary care physicians in the St. Louis region. This translates to 101.9 physicians for every 100,000 people, ranking the St. Louis metropolitan area 20th among the 35 peer metropolitan regions.

Death rates are widely used indicators of individual health and social well-being. Mortality rates, when measured among different age groups, can be an indicator linked to many facets of social health. For example, infant mortality rates are closely linked to the level of prenatal healthcare, the educational level of the mother, socioeconomic conditions, and whether citizens are leading healthy lives. In 1994, there were 8.4 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in the St. Louis metropolitan area. This rate is just above the 8.0 average for the 35 metropolitan regions. The good news is the St. Louis metropolitan area has significantly improved its performance on this measure since 1991. During this three year period the region experienced a reduction of 2.5 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, improving our rank among the 35 metropolitan areas from 30th to 21st.

The adult mortality rate for the region in 1991 was 287 people per 100,000 population. St. Louis ranked 26th in this measure among the 35 metropolitan areas. This represents a slight improvement over the adult mortality rate of 295 deaths per 100,000 population in 1988. However, the St. Louis region ranked 34th with 35.9 accidental deaths per 100,000 population, the second worst rate among the 35 metropolitan areas. Approximately 40 percent of the total number of accidental deaths were related to motor vehicle accidents.

One additional indicator of individual and family well-being is the reported incidences of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) within a community. A high rate of AIDS within a metropolitan area poses serious risk. Due to significant advancements in medical technologies, public education, and other efforts, the rate of AIDS has been significantly reduced over the past few years. In 1997, the St. Louis region had the 10th lowest rate of AIDS among its 35 peer metropolitan areas, with a rate of 12.3 diagnosed cases per 100,000 population. This rate is a significant improvement from 1996, when the rate of AIDS was 18.7 cases per 100,000 St. Louis residents.

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

1	**Pittsburgh**	**84.2**
2	Detroit	83.3
3	Indianapolis	82.8
4	Salt Lake City	82.7
5	Milwaukee	82.3
6	Minneapolis	82.1
7	Columbus	81.2
8	Kansas City	81.1
9	Portland	80.9
10	Seattle	80.3
11	Boston	78.1
12	Cincinnati	78.0
13	Louisville	78.0
14	Nashville	77.5
15	Charlotte	77.1
16	Chicago	76.6
17	San Francisco	76.0
18	Cleveland	75.8
19	Washington DC	74.8
20	Dallas	74.7
21	Austin	74.6
22	Memphis	74.0
23	**St. Louis**	**73.8**
	Average	73.5
24	San Diego	73.3
25	Philadelphia	73.2
26	Denver	71.5
27	Oklahoma City	71.3
28	Phoenix	70.3
29	Baltimore	69.0
30	Atlanta	65.3
31	New York	58.3
32	Houston	54.0
33	Los Angeles	53.8
34	San Antonio	51.2
35	**Miami**	**49.9**

Percent of population covered by health plans, 1996

Individual and Family Well-Being

Health and Mortality

(Tables are ranked from better to worse values)

PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS

1	**New York**	**172.1**
2	San Francisco	171.0
3	Baltimore	143.2
4	Chicago	127.6
5	Miami	127.5
6	Washington DC	126.2
7	Philadelphia	123.8
8	Cleveland	119.5
9	Seattle	119.3
10	Cincinnati	116.7
11	Milwaukee	115.8
12	Pittsburgh	115.8
13	Indianapolis	115.7
14	Nashville	115.3
15	Denver	109.4
16	Louisville	108.3
	Average	107.8
17	Minneapolis	107.7
18	Boston	105.6
19	Memphis	102.7
20	**St. Louis**	**101.9**
21	Portland	101.9
22	Los Angeles	98.4
23	Columbus	97.7
24	Kansas City	95.2
25	Detroit	94.8
26	Houston	91.2
27	Atlanta	88.4
28	Salt Lake City	87.5
29	San Diego	87.4
30	Oklahoma City	83.8
31	San Antonio	82.4
32	Austin	82.2
33	Charlotte	81.8
34	Dallas	78.1
35	**Phoenix**	**76.9**

Nonfederal primary care physicians per 100,000 population, 1997

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

1	**Austin**	**5.3**
2	San Francisco	5.5
3	Boston	5.7
4	Seattle	5.9
5	Portland	6.0
6	Dallas	6.4
7	Salt Lake City	6.4
8	San Diego	6.6
9	Miami	6.7
10	Los Angeles	6.9
11	Minneapolis	7.0
12	Denver	7.1
13	Oklahoma City	7.3
14	San Antonio	7.5
15	Kansas City	7.6
16	Columbus	7.8
17	Houston	8.0
	Average	8.0
18	Phoenix	8.1
19	Nashville	8.2
20	Pittsburgh	8.4
21	**St. Louis**	**8.4**
22	Atlanta	8.5
23	Indianapolis	8.5
24	New York	8.6
25	Baltimore	9.0
26	Cincinnati	9.1
27	Louisville	9.2
28	Philadelphia	9.2
29	Charlotte	9.3
30	Detroit	9.3
31	Washington DC	9.3
32	Chicago	9.6
33	Milwaukee	9.9
34	Cleveland	10.1
35	**Memphis**	**14.0**

Infant deaths per 1,000 live births, 1994

ADULT DEATH RATE

1	**Boston**	**154**
2	Salt Lake City	179
3	Minneapolis	182
4	Austin	186
5	Portland	186
6	Seattle	201
7	Denver	224
8	San Diego	225
9	Phoenix	232
10	Milwaukee	238
11	Washington DC	243
12	Indianapolis	245
13	Dallas	249
14	San Antonio	252
15	Cleveland	253
16	Pittsburgh	254
17	Cincinnati	256
18	Columbus	258
19	Chicago	260
	Average	260
20	Oklahoma City	262
21	Los Angeles	263
22	Atlanta	264
23	Kansas City	265
24	Nashville	275
25	Houston	281
26	**St. Louis**	**287**
27	Charlotte	296
28	Louisville	301
29	Philadelphia	306
30	Detroit	317
31	Baltimore	322
32	Miami	322
33	Memphis	327
34	San Francisco	352
35	**New York**	**395**

Deaths of persons under 65 per 100,000 population, 1991

ACCIDENT DEATH RATE

1	**Boston**	**14.9**
2	Washington DC	23.0
3	Chicago	25.0
4	Baltimore	25.5
5	Portland	25.6
6	Columbus	26.0
7	Indianapolis	26.2
8	Salt Lake City	26.7
9	Pittsburgh	26.9
10	Seattle	27.2
11	Minneapolis	27.3
12	San Diego	27.5
13	Dallas	27.7
14	Austin	27.9
15	San Antonio	28.0
16	Cincinnati	28.1
17	Detroit	28.5
18	Los Angeles	28.5
	Average	29.4
19	Milwaukee	29.5
20	New York	30.2
21	Denver	30.3
22	Phoenix	31.1
23	Louisville	31.2
24	Cleveland	31.2
25	Atlanta	31.3
26	San Francisco	31.4
27	Kansas City	32.6
28	Philadelphia	32.8
29	Houston	34.1
30	Miami	34.2
31	Nashville	34.6
32	Charlotte	35.6
33	Oklahoma City	35.9
34	**St. Louis**	**35.9**
35	**Memphis**	**38.0**

Accidental deaths per 100,000 population, 1991

AIDS RISK

1	**Pittsburgh**	**5.9**
2	Minneapolis	6.6
3	Columbus	8.4
4	Phoenix	9.6
5	Salt Lake City	9.9
6	Charlotte	10.7
7	Milwaukee	10.7
8	Cincinnati	11.4
9	Cleveland	11.6
10	**St. Louis**	**12.3**
11	Detroit	12.4
12	Kansas City	12.5
13	Boston	13.1
14	Oklahoma City	13.5
15	Portland	13.6
16	Indianapolis	15.0
17	Denver	15.4
18	Seattle	16.3
19	Louisville	18.4
20	San Antonio	20.0
21	Chicago	20.2
22	Austin	23.0
23	Nashville	25.6
24	Memphis	25.7
	Average	25.8
25	Los Angeles	28.7
26	Dallas	28.8
27	San Diego	29.4
28	Philadelphia	30.2
29	Atlanta	32.3
30	Washington D.C.	38.9
31	Houston	46.2
32	Baltimore	51.6
33	San Francisco	78.0
34	Miami	81.8
35	**New York**	**114.9**

Rate of AIDS per 100,000 population, 1997

Individual and Family Well-Being

Housing and Mobility

An adequate supply of affordable, high quality housing allows suitable levels of mobility and access to economic opportunities. By providing these essential elements, a community can build strong and stable neighborhoods, strengthen educational systems, and encourage investment throughout the region.

St. Louis has long been recognized for having one of the most affordable housing markets in the nation. In 1997, the median sales price of an existing one family home in the St. Louis region was approximately $107,800, ranking 12th, down from 6th position in 1994. Also in 1997, 72.7 percent of the homes available in the St. Louis metropolitan area were affordable for families with a median family income of $51,000, down from 77 percent in 1996. Despite the decrease in housing opportunities, however, St. Louis still remained the 6th most affordable housing market among the 35 metropolitan areas, as measured by the relationship of housing prices to median income. Kansas City held its top position, with 83.3 percent of the region's housing affordable for families with a median income of $52,600.

A complementary indicator to the housing opportunity index is housing affordability. The affordability of a region's housing market for both owners and renters can be evaluated by measuring the percentage of households paying over 35 percent of their income for housing, the level of expenditure widely regarded as the upper limit for affordability. The St. Louis region had the 10th most affordable housing market among the 35 metropolitan peer areas. Only 18.3 percent of the region's households were paying over 35 percent of their income on housing, well below the 22.0 percent average for the metropolitan areas examined. The St. Louis region ranked 10th again among its peers in the percent of houses with physical problems. Only 3.8 percent of the St. Louis metropolitan area reported their homes as having physical problems, far below the average of 5.6 percent for the 35 metropolitan regions.

The rate of home ownership is another important indicator of family well-being and community stability. In 1998, 69.9 percent of the total households owned their own homes. This rate of home ownership ranks the St. Louis region 11th, well above the 64.3 percent average of its 35 metropolitan peer areas.

Mobility is another key to linking people to economic and social opportunities throughout a metropolitan region. A well planned public transit system and roadway network will provide opportunities for all citizens to access the vast resources a region has to offer. The mobility index is calculated by dividing the number of hours of annual transit service by the number of households that have no vehicle. This index provides a measure of transit service relative to the potential need for such a service. The St. Louis region continues to rank below average on the Mobility Index when compared to 34 other regions. In 1995, the region supported 17.1 hours of travel on public transit per vehicle-less household. However, the St. Louis region has improved in this measure. In 1994, the region ranked 24th with 16.4 transit hours of travel per households with no vehicle.

HOME PRICES

1	**Oklahoma City**	**79.8**
2	Pittsburgh	85.3
3	San Antonio	88.5
4	Memphis	94.8
5	Kansas City	95.5
6	Louisville	101.5
7	Cleveland	102.5
8	Houston	103.0
9	Miami	103.0
10	Cincinnati	104.8
11	Milwaukee	105.5
12	**St. Louis**	**107.8**
13	Nashville	114.0
14	Phoenix	114.5
15	Minneapolis	115.0
16	Columbus	116.8
17	Detroit	118.8
18	Atlanta	121.0
19	Indianapolis	121.0
20	Dallas	124.0
21	Austin	126.8
	Average	128.8
22	Baltimore	130.3
23	Charlotte	132.3
24	Denver	136.3
25	Philadelphia	138.0
26	Chicago	143.3
27	Boston	149.5
28	Salt Lake City	150.8
29	Portland	151.8
30	New York	160.3
31	Washington DC	162.0
32	Los Angeles	164.3
33	Seattle	167.0
34	San Diego	172.3
35	**San Francisco**	**308.3**

Median Sales price of existing one family homes ($thousands), 1997

Individual and Family Well-Being

Housing and Mobility

(Tables are ranked from better to worse values)

HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

1	**Kansas City**	**83.3**
2	Minneapolis	80.1
3	Oklahoma City	78.3
4	Atlanta	74.6
5	Cincinnati	73.1
6	**St. Louis**	**72.7**
7	Cleveland	72.2
8	Washington DC	72.2
9	Indianapolis	70.8
10	Nashville	70.8
11	Columbus	70.7
12	Baltimore	69.5
13	Memphis	69.5
14	Denver	68.4
15	Boston	68.3
16	Louisville	67.9
17	Milwaukee	67.2
18	Phoenix	67.2
19	Houston	65.6
20	San Antonio	65.0
21	Pittsburgh	64.9
22	Detroit	63.0
23	Chicago	62.9
	Average	62.8
24	Dallas	61.3
25	Miami	59.0
26	Charlotte	58.8
27	Philadelphia	57.3
28	Austin	56.7
29	Seattle	55.6
30	Los Angeles	47.1
31	Salt Lake City	47.0
32	New York	45.8
33	San Diego	43.3
34	Portland	27.8
35	**San Francisco**	**20.7**

Percent of homes affordable for median income, 1997

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

1	**Salt Lake City**	**15.2**
2	Cincinnati	15.8
3	Louisville	16.1
4	Charlotte	16.2
5	Indianapolis	16.5
6	Kansas City	16.6
7	Oklahoma City	16.6
8	Pittsburgh	17.8
9	Columbus	17.8
10	**St. Louis**	**18.3**
11	Minneapolis	18.5
12	Houston	18.8
13	Nashville	18.8
14	Memphis	18.9
15	Denver	19.2
16	Detroit	19.3
17	San Antonio	19.5
18	Baltimore	20.0
19	Cleveland	20.1
20	Dallas	20.2
21	Milwaukee	21.3
	Average	22.0
22	Phoenix	22.2
23	Portland	22.5
24	Washington DC	22.6
25	Atlanta	22.8
26	Austin	24.8
27	Boston	25.0
28	Seattle	25.1
29	Chicago	27.3
30	Philadelphia	29.2
31	Los Angeles	30.8
32	San Francisco	31.1
33	San Diego	31.9
34	Miami	35.2
35	**New York**	**37.2**

Percent of households paying over 35% of income for housing, 1990 to 1996

HOUSES WITH PHYSICAL PROBLEMS

1	**Denver**	**2.5**
2	Minneapolis	2.9
3	Portland	3.0
4	Boston	3.1
5	Seattle	3.3
6	Pittsburgh	3.3
7	Salt Lake City	3.4
8	San Diego	3.5
9	Milwaukee	3.6
10	**St. Louis**	**3.8**
11	Phoenix	4.0
12	Indianapolis	4.1
13	Kansas City	4.4
14	Columbus	4.4
15	Charlotte	4.4
16	Cincinnati	4.4
17	Washington DC	4.5
18	Baltimore	4.7
19	Miami	4.8
20	Chicago	5.4
21	Detroit	5.6
	Average	5.6
22	Oklahoma City	6.0
23	San Francisco	6.7
24	Atlanta	6.7
25	Los Angeles	6.9
26	Cleveland	7.1
27	Memphis	7.6
28	Dallas	7.9
29	Philadelphia	8.8
30	New York	10.4
31	Houston	11.9
32	**San Antonio**	**14.9**

Percent of occupied housing units with physical problems, 1990-1996

HOME OWNERSHIP

1	**Cincinnati**	**75.0**
2	Charlotte	74.7
3	Pittsburgh	73.9
4	Salt Lake City	73.0
5	Cleveland	73.0
6	Detroit	72.8
7	Philadelphia	72.2
8	Minneapolis	72.2
9	Louisville	70.9
10	Nashville	70.4
11	**St. Louis**	**69.9**
12	Oklahoma City	69.2
13	Indianapolis	68.5
14	Denver	68.5
15	Baltimore	68.0
16	Atlanta	67.9
17	Phoenix	66.6
18	Seattle	66.3
19	Kansas City	66.2
20	Chicago	65.4
21	Washington DC	64.5
22	Milwaukee	64.4
	Average	64.3
23	Portland	62.7
24	San Antonio	62.2
25	Columbus	60.0
26	Memphis	59.7
27	Houston	59.6
28	Dallas	58.9
29	Boston	58.3
30	San Diego	55.7
31	Austin	54.8
32	Miami	53.1
33	San Francisco	49.0
34	Los Angeles	48.4
35	**New York**	**34.0**

Homeowner households as a percent of total households, 1997

MOBILITY INDEX

1	**Salt Lake City**	**53.4**
2	San Antonio	51.2
3	Seattle	48.7
4	Portland	46.2
5	San Francisco	41.0
6	Denver	40.4
7	Austin	36.8
8	Dallas	35.0
9	Houston	33.4
10	Chicago	30.9
11	Atlanta	30.7
12	Los Angeles	29.7
13	Washington DC	27.8
	Average	24.9
14	Cleveland	24.6
15	New York	23.6
16	Minneapolis	21.7
17	Milwaukee	21.1
18	Boston	20.9
19	San Diego	20.3
20	Columbus	19.4
21	Philadelphia	19.0
22	Baltimore	18.1
23	**St. Louis**	**17.1**
24	Phoenix	16.1
25	Louisville	15.7
26	Pittsburgh	15.5
27	Cincinnati	15.1
28	Miami	14.7
29	Detroit	14.5
30	Kansas City	13.3
31	Indianapolis	12.0
32	Memphis	11.9
33	Charlotte	11.2
34	Oklahoma City	10.2
35	**Nashville**	**9.6**

Transit hours of travel per households with no vehicle, 1995

BETTER

AVERAGE

WORSE

Sources and Notes

Poverty Rates: The poverty rate in 1993 was based on a threshold of $7,363 for individuals and $14,763 for a family of four. Source: Deidre A. Gaquin and Mark S. Littman (eds.), 1998 City and County Extra: Annual Metro, City and County Data Book, 7th ed., Bernan Press, Lanham, MD, 1998. Source for elderly poverty rate: 1990 Census of Population and Housing: Summary Tape File 3, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Birth Statistics: Data on births to unwed mothers and teenage mothers are based on the percent of live births. Vital Statistics of the United States, 1992: vol 1, Natality, National Center for Health Statistics, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Infant mortality source: State and Metropolitan Area Data Book, 1997- 98, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Health Insurance Coverage: Metropolitan area estimates of the percent of persons currently covered by some type of health plan. Current Population Survey, 1996, March Supplement, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Primary Care Physicians: Primary Care Physicians include family practitioners, general practitioners, internal medicine physicians, obstetricians, gynecologists and pediatricians. Includes only those physicians not employed by the federal government. Physician Characteristics and Distribution Within the U.S., American Medical Association, 1997.

Death Rates: Infant mortality is based on the number of deaths among infants less than one year old per 1,000 live births. Adult death rate for persons under 65 is based on deaths for all causes per 100,000 population. Accidental deaths include both deaths related to motor vehicle accidents and other accidents or adverse effects. Vital Statistics of the United States: Mortality, 1991, National Center for Health Statistics, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Aids Risk: Refers to the total number of people diagnosed with AIDS per 100,000 population. Source: HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report 1998, Vol. 9, No.2 (annual), Center for Disease Control, National Center for Health Statistics.

Home Prices: Based on the median sales price of existing one-family homes in 1997. Source: National Association of Home Builders.

Housing Opportunity: This index estimates the percent of a region's housing stock that a household with the median regional income could afford to buy. Housing Economics, National Association of Home Builders, third quarter 1998. (copyright).

Housing Affordability: The percent of all households paying over 35 percent of their income (the upper acceptable limit) on housing. American Housing Survey for metropolitan areas, 1990-1996, U.S. Bureau of the Census and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Houses with Physical Problems: Percent of all occupied housing units with moderate or severe physical problems. American Housing Survey for metropolitan areas, 1990-1996, U.S. Bureau of the Census and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Home Ownership: Refers to the total home owning households as a percent of total households. Source: Housing Vacancy Survey (Annual), U.S. Bureau of the Census

Mobility Index: Transit hours are revenue, or in-service, hours of vehicle travel. Transit Profiles for Agencies in Urbanized Areas Exceeding 200,000 Population,1995. Federal Transit Administration. Households with no vehicle: American Housing Survey for metropolitan areas, 1990-1996, U.S. Bureau of the Census and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Educational Vitality

Educational Vitality

Educational Attainment

Providing the conditions necessary for excellence in educational achievement is one of the greatest challenges facing metropolitan regions. A high school diploma has long been regarded as essential to success in the workplace, equipping people with the skills necessary to find a job, undertake post-secondary education, and attain financial security. In 1995, 82 percent of the region's adult population had completed high school or obtained qualifications equivalent to high school completion. While this represents a significant improvement over 76 percent in 1990, the 1995 figure ranks the region 22nd among the 35 peer metropolitan areas.

As high school completion rates have risen, the proportion of adults with less than 9th grade education has declined from 10.4 percent in 1990 to 7.6 percent in 1995. Again, this places St. Louis in the middle third of the distribution, with a rank of 23rd. The region's ranking does improve relative to the high school dropout rate. In 1990, the St. Louis region's dropout rate for persons between 16 and 19 years of age was 11.3 percent. This was slightly better than the 11.4 percent average for all 35 metropolitan areas, ranking St. Louis 17th.

The capacity of students to succeed in post-secondary schooling is of greater concern today than in previous decades. Sweeping economic and technological advancements mean that fewer jobs are found in the manufacturing and construction industries, and employment opportunity in high tech service industries is on the rise. As a result of this economic shift, employers are placing a greater emphasis on the completion of post-secondary degrees. In 1995, some 25 percent of the region's adults had obtained a bachelor's degree, compared to only 21 percent in 1990. While this rate is sufficient only for a 20th rank, it is an improvement over the region's 23rd ranking in the previous Where We Stand report.

The completion rate of graduate and professional studies, which produce highly skilled and specialized graduates, also tells us something about a region's capacity to respond to a changing economic environment. St. Louis ranks 31st in the percentage of adults having completed master's, professional or doctorate degrees, above only Los Angeles, Cleveland, San Antonio and Charlotte.

WHERE WE STAND

(Tables are ranked from better to worse values)

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT: HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

1	**Seattle**	**94.6**
2	Denver	93.2
3	Salt Lake City	91.3
4	Columbus	90.0
5	Boston	89.4
6	Minneapolis	89.3
7	San Francisco	88.6
8	Memphis	88.5
9	Washington DC	88.0
10	Portland	87.3
11	Oklahoma City	86.9
12	Kansas City	86.9
13	Milwaukee	86.6
14	Atlanta	86.5
Average		83.4
15	Louisville	83.3
16	Phoenix	82.9
17	Austin	82.8
18	Cleveland	82.7
19	Pittsburgh	82.6
20	Dallas	82.4
21	Philadelphia	82.3
22	**St. Louis**	**82.2**
23	Detroit	82.2
24	Chicago	81.9
25	Cincinnati	81.6
26	San Diego	81.5
27	Nashville	79.6
28	Houston	79.3
29	Baltimore	78.7
30	New York	78.5
31	Charlotte	77.4
32	Indianapolis	77.3
33	Los Angeles	73.0
34	San Antonio	71.0
35	**Miami**	**69.2**

Percent of persons 25 and older with high school degree or higher, 1995

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT: COLLEGE GRADUATES

1	**Washington DC**	**39.7**
2	San Francisco	37.0
3	Seattle	36.4
4	Austin	36.4
5	Denver	34.4
6	Boston	33.7
7	Minneapolis	32.9
8	Atlanta	32.7
9	Kansas City	31.6
10	Dallas	30.8
11	Portland	30.0
12	Houston	29.1
13	Chicago	29.0
14	Milwaukee	28.2
15	Columbus	27.1
Average		27.1
16	Philadelphia	26.9
17	New York	26.8
18	Cincinnati	26.0
19	Memphis	25.7
20	**St. Louis**	**25.0**
21	San Diego	25.0
22	Oklahoma City	24.7
23	Salt Lake City	24.6
24	Indianapolis	24.3
25	Baltimore	23.0
26	Cleveland	22.8
27	Louisville	22.4
28	Charlotte	22.1
29	Los Angeles	22.0
30	Pittsburgh	21.3
31	Nashville	20.7
32	Phoenix	20.5
33	Detroit	20.4
34	Miami	19.4
35	**San Antonio**	**16.7**

Percent of persons 25 and older with college degree or higher, 1995

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT: HIGHER EDUCATION GRADUATES

1	**Washington DC**	**15.5**
2	San Francisco	14.8
3	Seattle	11.9
4	Boston	11.5
5	Denver	11.3
6	New York	10.8
7	Atlanta	10.6
8	Philadelphia	10.6
9	Austin	10.1
10	Chicago	9.9
11	Minneapolis	9.5
12	Indianapolis	9.3
13	Cincinnati	9.1
14	Louisville	9.1
15	Memphis	9.0
Average		9.0
16	Columbus	8.8
17	Portland	8.8
18	Baltimore	8.8
19	Milwaukee	8.7
20	Houston	8.5
21	Salt Lake City	8.5
22	Kansas City	8.5
23	Nashville	8.2
24	Oklahoma City	8.1
25	Pittsburgh	8.1
26	Dallas	8.0
27	San Diego	7.9
28	Miami	7.5
29	Phoenix	7.0
30	Detroit	6.5
31	**St. Louis**	**6.4**
32	Los Angeles	6.4
33	Cleveland	6.4
34	San Antonio	5.7
35	**Charlotte**	**5.6**

Percent of persons 25 and older with master's, professional, or doctorate degrees, 1995

ADULT ILLITERACY

1	**Seattle**	**1.3**
2	Columbus	2.2
3	Salt Lake City	2.2
4	Minneapolis	3.1
5	Denver	3.3
6	Atlanta	3.9
7	Memphis	4.1
8	Cleveland	4.3
9	Boston	4.6
10	Kansas City	4.9
11	Milwaukee	5.0
12	Portland	5.2
13	Washington DC	5.2
14	Philadelphia	5.3
15	Louisville	5.7
16	Oklahoma City	5.9
17	Detroit	6.3
18	Charlotte	6.5
19	San Francisco	6.5
20	Cincinnati	6.9
Average		7.1
21	Nashville	7.4
22	Phoenix	7.5
23	**St. Louis**	**7.6**
24	Pittsburgh	7.8
25	Indianapolis	7.9
26	Austin	8.1
27	Chicago	8.5
28	Dallas	8.7
29	San Diego	9.3
30	Baltimore	9.3
31	New York	10.4
32	Houston	10.5
33	Los Angeles	16.7
34	San Antonio	16.9
35	**Miami**	**18.9**

Percent of persons 25 and older with less than 9th grade education, 1995

HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS

1	**Pittsburgh**	**6.9**
2	Minneapolis	7.1
3	Boston	8.3
4	Milwaukee	9.0
5	Seattle	9.0
6	San Francisco	9.1
7	Washington DC	9.1
8	Cleveland	9.8
9	Philadelphia	10.0
10	Cincinnati	10.3
11	Austin	10.3
12	Columbus	10.4
13	Salt Lake City	10.7
14	Kansas City	10.9
15	Louisville	10.9
16	Denver	10.9
17	**St. Louis**	**11.3**
18	Oklahoma City	11.6
Average		11.4
19	San Antonio	11.6
20	Portland	11.6
21	Chicago	11.7
22	Detroit	11.8
23	San Diego	12.0
24	Memphis	12.0
25	New York	12.5
26	Nashville	12.6
27	Atlanta	13.1
28	Baltimore	13.2
29	Miami	13.2
30	Charlotte	14.0
31	Indianapolis	14.1
32	Houston	14.2
33	Dallas	15.1
34	Phoenix	15.3
35	**Los Angeles**	**17.3**

Percent of persons 16-19 who are high school dropouts, 1990

BETTER

AVERAGE

WORSE

WHERE
WE
STAND

Educational Vitality

Enrollments and Expenditures

In 1995, over 14 percent of adults 18-44 years old in the St. Louis region were enrolled in some form of post-secondary education. This ranks St. Louis 11th among the 35 metropolitan areas, up from 17th in 1990. This enrollment rate is comparable to that of Detroit, Louisville, and Chicago and almost double the rate of Charlotte and Memphis. The St. Louis region also ranks high on child enrollments as well. In 1995, 67.5 percent of all children aged 3-5 in the St. Louis metropolitan area enrolled in some form of full or part-time pre-primary schooling, placing the region 9th, well above the 61.9 percent average for all 35 metropolitan regions.

In 1996, the St. Louis region had 300,519 public elementary and secondary school students, with 19,397 teachers responsible for their education. This translates to a classroom ratio of 15.49 students per teacher, classifying the region as having the 4th lowest pupil to teacher ratio among all 35 metropolitan areas. This is an improvement for the St. Louis region from 1993, when the pupil to teacher ratio was 17.2, ranking the region 10th among the 34 metropolitan regions. Similarly, the St. Louis metropolitan area improved from 19th to 15th in the amount of spending per pupil. In 1995, an average of $6,621 was spent per pupil. After adjustment for inflation, this represents a 10 percent increase since 1992 in expenditures per student.

Relative to the St. Louis region's capacity to pay for education, the region's educational spending as a percentage of total personal income was 3.00 percent in 1995. This places the region 27th, down from 24th in 1992 when the region spent 3.96 percent of total personal income on education.

Educational Vitality Enrollments and Expenditures

(Tables are ranked from better to worse values)

EDUCATIONAL ENROLLMENT: ADULTS

1	**San Antonio**	**18.1**
2	Oklahoma City	18
3	Minneapolis	17.7
4	Austin	17.7
5	Salt Lake City	15.5
6	Pittsburgh	15.4
7	New York	15.1
8	Boston	14.9
9	Phoenix	14.6
10	Detroit	14.5
11	**St. Louis**	**14.2**
12	Louisville	14
13	Chicago	14
14	Dallas	13.9
15	Philadelphia	13.8
16	Kansas City	13.7
17	Washington DC	13.5
18	San Diego	13.1
Average		13.1
19	Columbus	12.7
20	Indianapolis	12.6
21	Miami	12.4
22	Milwaukee	12.3
23	Atlanta	12.1
24	Portland	11.8
25	Nashville	11.8
26	Cleveland	11.8
27	Baltimore	11.4
28	San Francisco	11
29	Houston	10.5
30	Denver	10.5
31	Los Angeles	10.4
32	Cincinnati	10.3
33	Seattle	8.3
34	Memphis	7.6
35	**Charlotte**	**7.6**

Percent of persons 18-44 enrolled in post-secondary education, 1995

EDUCATIONAL ENROLLMENT: PRE-PRIMARY

1	**Baltimore**	**82.9**
2	Cincinnati	77.9
3	Detroit	76.5
4	San Antonio	74.1
5	Portland	73.4
6	Kansas City	71.8
7	Washington DC	71.1
8	Milwaukee	67.7
9	**St. Louis**	**67.5**
10	Dallas	65.6
11	Chicago	65.3
12	Pittsburgh	65.1
13	Charlotte	64.9
14	Phoenix	63.9
15	New York	63.6
16	Boston	63.1
17	Minneapolis	63.0
18	San Francisco	62.8
19	Denver	62.0
Average		61.9
20	Philadelphia	60.6
21	Atlanta	60.2
22	Cleveland	60.0
23	San Diego	60.0
24	Oklahoma City	59.1
25	Houston	59.1
26	Salt Lake City	58.8
27	Columbus	58.5
28	Los Angeles	56.9
29	Seattle	55.3
30	Austin	54.1
31	Miami	48.6
32	Nashville	46.2
33	Louisville	45.4
34	Memphis	42.9
35	**Indianapolis**	**39.8**

Percent of children 3-5 enrolled in pre-primary education, 1995

PUPIL TO TEACHER RATIO

1	**Boston**	**14.66**
2	San Antonio	14.90
3	Austin	15.30
4	**St. Louis**	**15.49**
5	Kansas City	15.79
6	Dallas	16.08
7	Pittsburgh	16.15
8	Nashville	16.46
9	Charlotte	16.57
10	Cleveland	16.62
11	Houston	16.61
12	Milwaukee	16.65
13	Columbus	16.95
14	Baltimore	16.96
15	Indianapolis	17.08
16	Louisville	17.14
17	Cincinnati	17.22
18	Oklahoma City	17.21
19	Philadelphia	17.43
20	Atlanta	17.64
21	New York	17.64
22	Minneapolis	17.72
23	Memphis	17.95
Average		18.2
24	Chicago	19.47
25	San Francisco	19.54
26	Miami	19.79
27	Phoenix	19.83
28	Detroit	20.03
29	Seattle	20.66
30	Portland	20.96
31	San Diego	22.72
32	Los Angeles	23.91
33	Salt Lake City	24.52
34	**Denver**	**24.77**

Elementary and secondary school students per teacher, 1996

EDUCATION SPENDING PER PUPIL

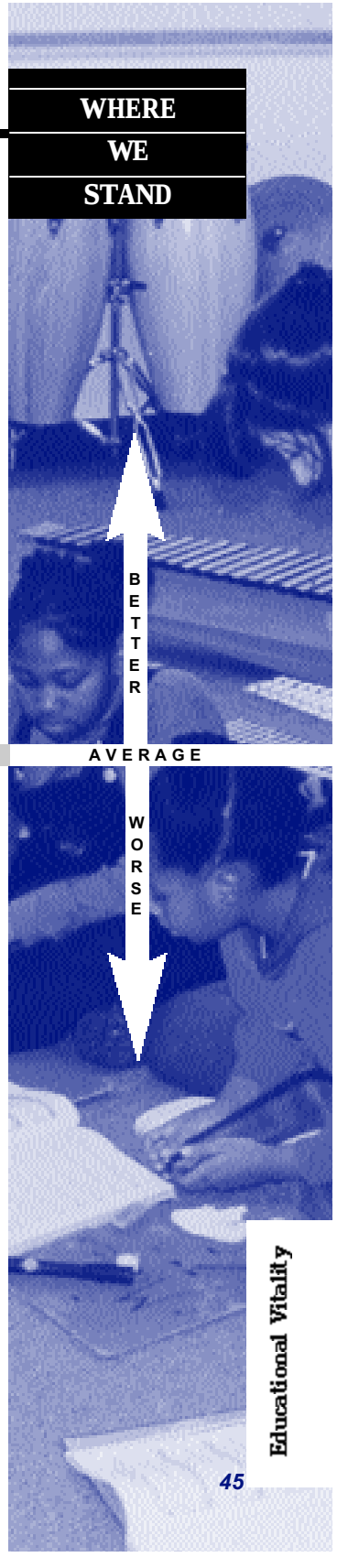
1	**New York**	**9,502**
2	Detroit	8,162
3	Pittsburgh	8,119
4	Philadelphia	8,110
5	Washington DC	7,708
6	Minneapolis	7,581
7	Boston	7,499
8	Cleveland	7,313
9	Miami	7,216
10	Milwaukee	7,180
11	Indianapolis	7,105
12	Chicago	6,836
13	Baltimore	6,716
14	Kansas City	6,685
15	**St. Louis**	**6,621**
16	San Francisco	6,601
17	Seattle	6,516
Average		6,379
18	Columbus	6,176
19	Cincinnati	6,047
20	Atlanta	6,036
21	Portland	6,011
22	Louisville	5,582
23	Los Angeles	5,545
24	Charlotte	5,538
25	Austin	5,515
26	San Diego	5,482
27	Dallas	5,378
28	Houston	5,374
29	Phoenix	5,322
30	San Antonio	5,279
31	Oklahoma City	4,804
32	Nashville	4,693
33	Memphis	4,495
34	**Salt Lake City**	**4,141**

Educational expenditures per student, 1995

EDUCATIONAL SPENDING AS A PERCENT OF TOTAL INCOME

1	**Miami**	**5.4**
2	Detroit	5.1
3	Salt Lake City	4.9
4	Milwaukee	4.6
5	Minneapolis	4.5
6	Columbus	4.3
7	Philadelphia	4.2
8	Indianapolis	4.2
9	Oklahoma City	4.2
10	New York	4.2
11	Baltimore	4.1
12	Houston	3.9
13	Pittsburgh	3.9
14	Austin	3.8
15	San Diego	3.8
16	Atlanta	3.8
17	Phoenix	3.7
18	Los Angeles	3.7
19	Cincinnati	3.7
20	Charlotte	3.6
21	Louisville	3.5
Average		3.5
22	Cleveland	3.5
23	Dallas	3.4
24	Memphis	3.3
25	Seattle	3.3
26	Portland	3.1
27	**St. Louis**	**3.0**
28	Nashville	2.9
29	Chicago	2.9
30	Boston	2.6
31	Kansas City	2.5
32	San Francisco	1.9
33	San Antonio	0.5
34	**Washington DC**	**0.3**

Educational expenditures as a percent of total personal income, 1995



Sources and Notes

High School, College and Higher Education Graduates: These percentages are based on persons 25 and over. Current Population Survey, 1995, March Supplement, obtained through the National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education.

Adult Illiteracy: Percent of persons 25 years and over with less than ninth grade education. Current Population Survey, 1995, March Supplement, obtained through the National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education.

High School Dropouts: High school dropouts in this sense refer to the percent of youth aged 16-19 who are not currently in school and who have not completed high school. 1990 Census of Population and Housing: Summary Tape File 3, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Adult and Pre-primary Enrollments: Current Population Survey, 1995, March Supplement, obtained through the National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education.

Pupil to Teacher Ratio: The number of students divided by the number of teachers, in public elementary and secondary schools. Source: Agency Survey 1996-1997, Common Core Data, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education.

Educational Spending per Pupil: Enrollment: Agency Survey 1994-1995, Common Core Data (CCD), National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education. Source for Expenditures: Expenditures: Agency Survey and State Fiscal Survey 1994-95, Common Core Data (CCD), National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education.

Education Spending as a Percent of Total Income: Expenditures: Agency Survey and State Fiscal Survey 1994-95, Common Core Data (CCD), National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education. Income in this sense refers to total personal income: Regional Economic Information System: 1969-1996, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Crime and Social Disorder

WHERE
WE
STAND

Crime and Social Disorder

Metropolitan and City Crime

Metropolitan communities throughout the country are working hard to improve the quality of life for their citizens. An environment where people have a strong sense of security for themselves and their property greatly improves the quality of life in any community. A low level of crime is not only good for citizens of metropolitan communities, it also encourages investment in the region. Crime is a primary indicator of social disorder, and is often reflective of greater economic and social disparities within a metropolitan region.

Nationally, crime rates have dropped dramatically over the past decade. The FBI's annually-published Crime in the United States reported that the national crime index total was an estimated 13.2 million crimes, down 2 percent from 1996 to 1997 and down 7 percent from 1993 to 1997. This is the lowest number of crimes reported for the nation since 1985. The crime index for the St. Louis region closely mirrors national statistics. In 1997, St. Louis reported the 4th lowest metropolitan crime rate with 4,567 crimes for every 100,000 metropolitan area residents, or one crime for every 21 people. Between 1993 and 1997, the annual average MSA crime rate for the St. Louis metropolitan area decreased 5.71 percent, ranking the region 7th among the 21 regions examined. Only those cities which voluntarily reported crime offenses to the FBI's uniform crime reporting system in 1997 were included in the analysis.

The City of St. Louis had five times as many crimes as surrounding suburban areas in 1997. This ranks St. Louis 28th out of the 28 metropolitan areas with a ratio of 5.1 central city to suburban crimes. Crime rates are dropping in the City of St. Louis. Between 1993 and 1997, the City of St. Louis experienced an average annual decrease in central city crime of 2.56 percent, ranking it 16th among 25 metropolitan areas for change in crime rate. Without the consideration of many factors unique to each metropolitan area, such as differences in population size, density, age distribution, economic and socioeconomic conditions, cultural factors, mobility, and the physical environment, the comparison of crime statistics can be misleading. Further, reporting practices often differ from city to city.

Crime and Social Disorder

Metropolitan and City Crime

(Tables are ranked from better to worse values)

MSA CRIME RATE

1	**Pittsburgh**	**2783**
2	Portland	4102
3	San Diego	4417
4	**St. Louis**	**4568**
5	New York	4607
6	Los Angeles	4745
7	Washington DC	4879
8	San Francisco	4928
9	Milwaukee	4967
10	Denver	5015
11	Indianapolis	5261
12	Minneapolis	5365
13	Houston	5518
14	Austin	5905
15	Detroit	5932
Average		6001
16	Dallas	6188
17	Seattle	6287
18	Baltimore	6609
19	San Antonio	6662
20	Atlanta	6712
21	Columbus	6778
22	Charlotte	6848
23	Salt Lake City	7009
24	Nashville	7510
25	Memphis	7839
26	Phoenix	7907
27	Oklahoma City	7911
28	**Miami**	**10792**

Total MSA crime per 100,000 population, 1997

5 YEAR MSA CRIME TREND

1	**New York**	**-11.50**
2	Portland	-8.57
3	San Diego	-7.93
4	San Francisco	-7.34
5	Los Angeles	-7.15
6	Austin	-5.77
7	**St. Louis**	**-5.71**
8	San Antonio	-5.54
9	Denver	-4.69
10	Dallas	-3.99
Average		-3.15
11	Atlanta	-2.83
12	Washington DC	-2.64
13	Baltimore	-2.31
14	Milwaukee	-1.84
15	Charlotte	-1.47
16	Phoenix	0.69
17	Nashville	0.70
18	Oklahoma City	0.80
19	Memphis	1.52
20	Salt Lake City	3.90
21	**Columbus**	**5.47**

Average annual percent change in total MSA crime rate, 1993 to 1997

CENTRAL CITY TO SUBURBAN CRIME RATIO

1	**Portland**	**0.8**
2	Denver	1.2
3	Miami	1.2
4	San Diego	1.3
5	Los Angeles	1.4
6	Phoenix	1.4
7	New York	1.5
8	Houston	1.8
9	Indianapolis	1.9
10	Salt Lake City	1.9
11	Charlotte	1.9
12	San Francisco	2.1
13	Seattle	2.1
14	Memphis	2.1
15	Dallas	2.1
Average		2.1
16	Austin	2.2
17	Baltimore	2.2
18	San Antonio	2.2
19	Washington DC	2.3
20	Atlanta	2.4
21	Oklahoma City	2.5
22	Milwaukee	2.5
23	Columbus	2.5
24	Pittsburgh	2.6
25	Minneapolis	2.6
26	Nashville	2.6
27	Detroit	2.8
28	**St. Louis**	**5.1**

Ratio of central city to suburban crime rate, 1997

5 YEAR CENTRAL CITY CRIME TREND

1	**New York**	**-12.11**
2	Los Angeles	-10.06
3	San Diego	-9.12
4	Miami	-9.02
5	San Francisco	-7.68
6	Denver	-7.50
7	Pittsburgh	-6.49
8	Austin	-5.84
9	Charlotte	-5.13
10	Atlanta	-4.91
11	San Antonio	-4.80
12	Washington DC	-3.89
Average		-3.60
13	Baltimore	-3.46
14	Seattle	-3.15
15	Dallas	-3.08
16	**St. Louis**	**-2.56**
17	Milwaukee	-1.52
18	Portland	-0.19
19	Memphis	0.25
20	Nashville	0.79
21	Minneapolis	0.92
22	Oklahoma City	1.09
23	Phoenix	1.23
24	Salt Lake City	2.26
25	**Columbus**	**4.07**

Average annual percent change in total central city crime rate, 1993 to 1997

BETTER

AVERAGE

WORSE

Crime and Social Disorder

Components of Crime

The crime index is composed of two major categories, violent and property crimes, which together are an indicator of the overall volume and rate of crime reported. The FBI distinguishes between “violent crimes against people” (e.g., murder, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault) and “crimes against property” (e.g., burglary, larceny-theft and motor vehicle theft). The FBI makes the distinction due to the apparent differences in the nature of the two categories of crime.

In 1997, of the total number of offenses reported to law enforcement nationwide, 12 percent were violent crimes, and 88 percent were property crimes. Of the total crime offenses reported in the St. Louis metropolitan region in 1997, 14 percent were violent crimes, and 86 percent were property crimes. The St. Louis metropolitan area had 16,478 violent crimes reported in 1997, or 644.1 violent crimes per 100,000 people, ranking it 12th among 28 metropolitan regions.

St. Louis ranked 6th best in the MSA property crime rate in 1997 with 99,991 property crimes reported for the region, or a rate of 3,909 property crimes per 100,000 people. Both violent and property crimes are down from previous reporting years. The St. Louis metropolitan area has experienced a 31.2 percent decrease in reported violent crime from 937 violent crimes per 100,000 people in 1991, and a decrease of 30.6 percent from the 1991 rate of 5,637 property crimes per 100,000 people.

In 1997, the St. Louis metropolitan area had a total of 259 murders, 58 percent of which were reported within the City of St. Louis. The St. Louis region ranks 20th among the 28 metropolitan areas included in the analysis with a murder rate of 9.7 per 100,000 people. This is a marked reduction from previous years (down from 16.5 in 1991, and 12.5 in 1995) even though the ranking relative to the other 28 metropolitan areas has not significantly improved.

The rate of suicides provides additional insight into social health and stability. In 1991 St. Louis had a suicide rate of 12.1 deaths per 100,000 population, ranking the region 18th, just above the average of the 35 metropolitan areas.

(Tables are ranked from better to worse values)

MSA PROPERTY CRIME RATE

1	**Pittsburgh**	**2,473**
2	New York	3,477
3	Los Angeles	3,609
4	San Diego	3,751
5	Portland	3,873
6	**St. Louis**	**3,909**
7	San Francisco	4,240
8	Washington DC	4,303
9	Milwaukee	4,446
10	Indianapolis	4,533
11	Denver	4,593
12	Houston	4,700
13	Minneapolis	4,906
14	Detroit	5,147
Average		5,259
15	Austin	5,414
16	Baltimore	5,468
17	Dallas	5,471
18	Charlotte	5,815
19	Seattle	5,848
20	Columbus	5,904
21	Atlanta	5,959
22	San Antonio	6,271
23	Nashville	6,425
24	Memphis	6,533
25	Salt Lake City	6,596
26	Oklahoma City	7,234
27	Phoenix	7,251
28	**Miami**	**9,101**

Property crimes per 100,000 population, 1997

MSA VIOLENT CRIME RATE

1	**Portland**	**229**
2	Pittsburgh	310
3	San Antonio	391
4	Salt Lake City	413
5	Denver	422
6	Seattle	439
7	Minneapolis	458
8	Austin	491
9	Milwaukee	521
10	Columbus	575
11	Washington DC	577
12	**St. Louis**	**644**
13	Phoenix	657
14	San Diego	666
15	Oklahoma City	677
16	San Francisco	688
17	Dallas	718
18	Indianapolis	727
Average		731
19	Atlanta	752
20	Detroit	785
21	Houston	818
22	Charlotte	1033
23	Nashville	1085
24	New York	1130
25	Los Angeles	1136
26	Baltimore	1141
27	Memphis	1306
28	**Miami**	**1692**

Violent crimes per 100,000 population, 1997

MSA MURDER RATE

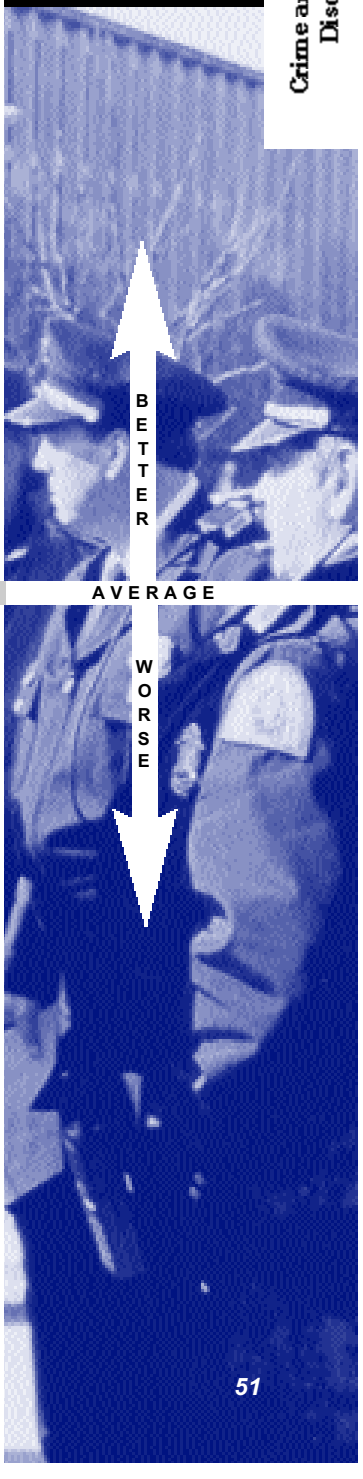
1	**Portland**	**2.5**
2	Salt Lake City	3.2
3	Minneapolis	3.8
4	Pittsburgh	4.0
5	Seattle	4.5
6	San Diego	4.6
7	San Francisco	5.2
8	Denver	5.4
9	Austin	5.8
10	Columbus	7.0
11	San Antonio	7.4
12	Oklahoma City	7.6
Average		8.5
13	Atlanta	8.6
14	Milwaukee	8.8
15	Houston	9.1
16	Dallas	9.2
17	Charlotte	9.3
18	New York	9.3
19	Phoenix	9.7
20	**St. Louis**	**9.7**
21	Washington DC	10.3
22	Indianapolis	11.4
23	Nashville	12.1
24	Detroit	12.5
25	Los Angeles	12.5
26	Baltimore	14.2
27	Miami	14.7
28	**Memphis**	**15.9**

Murders per 100,000 population, 1997

MSA SUICIDE RATE

1	**Boston**	**5.4**
2	Washington DC	6.6
3	Chicago	7.6
4	New York	8.6
5	Baltimore	9.7
6	Philadelphia	9.7
7	Columbus	9.9
8	Cleveland	10.2
9	Pittsburgh	10.8
10	Los Angeles	10.9
11	Austin	11.0
12	Milwaukee	11.1
13	Charlotte	11.2
14	Minneapolis	11.4
15	Memphis	11.5
16	Portland	11.5
17	Detroit	12.0
18	**St. Louis**	**12.1**
Average		12.2
19	Houston	12.2
20	Cincinnati	12.6
21	Seattle	12.7
22	Atlanta	13.0
23	Dallas	13.5
24	Louisville	13.7
25	San Diego	13.7
26	Oklahoma	14.0
27	Indianapolis	14.0
28	San Antonio	14.1
29	Kansas City	15.0
30	Phoenix	15.1
31	San Francisco	15.4
32	Miami	15.7
33	Nashville	15.8
34	Denver	17.0
35	**Salt Lake City**	**17.1**

Suicide deaths per 100,000 population, 1991



Sources and Notes

Crime Rates: Crime rates are based on the number of crimes per 100,000 population. The central city to suburban crime ratio is the product of the central city's total crime rate divided by the crime rate in the balance of the metropolitan region. Crime data were obtained from Crime in the United States (Annual), Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice. This publication contained crime data for the St. Louis metropolitan region for 1991 and 1992 only. Metropolitan crime data for St. Louis for 1993 through 1995 was obtained from: "Crime by County," unpublished tables from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (for the Missouri portion) and Crime in Illinois (Annual), Illinois State Police (for the Illinois portion).

Suicide Rate: Based on the number of suicides per 100,000 population. Vital Statistics of the United States, 1991: vol 2, Mortality, National Center for Health Statistics, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Urban Form & Quality of Life

Urban Form and Quality of Life

Shifts in economic development and mobility patterns are having a significant impact on the shape and structure of metropolitan communities around the nation. These shifts have transformed the urban environment and challenged communities to address increasing demands, while preserving a high quality of life. Changes in population density, land use, and in the natural environment affect everything from lifestyle patterns to the nature of business growth—although outcomes are often hard to measure. The indices in this section attempt to measure changes within the structure of urban environments.

The Urban Growth Index measures the extent to which population and business growth have expanded beyond the primary urban core over time in relation to the overall regional growth in population and jobs. Recent trends reflect a dramatic increase in the proportion of population and businesses migrating towards the suburban fringe of metropolitan regions around the country. This shift in urban form has resulted in expanding costs for infrastructure and transportation, and has shifted social and economic opportunities away from the center of the region. The St. Louis metropolitan area ranks 26th among the 35 metropolitan peer areas in the Urban Growth Index.

Preserving the quality of the natural environment benefits the health of the region's citizens, as well as providing an economic asset. The St. Louis region ranked 30th in the Environmental Index. The low ranking is largely due to problems related to air quality and toxic chemical sites. In 1996, the St. Louis region had four days in which air quality reached levels that were considered unhealthy. This is an improvement from 1994 when the St. Louis region had 13 unhealthy air quality days. However, as a result of stricter regulations, air quality is improving in metropolitan areas across the country and, therefore, the rank of St. Louis relative to the other metropolitan areas did not reflect the region's substantial improvement in air quality.

Quality housing stock within a metropolitan community reflects the region's commitment to maintain and develop strong, stable neighborhoods where citizens are actively engaged in preserving a high quality of life. The St. Louis region ranks 6th in the Housing Quality Index, together with Indianapolis, Pittsburgh, and Salt Lake City. Compared to the other 34 metropolitan areas, the St. Louis region's high rank is largely due to a relatively low level of neighborhood problems, in addition to physically sound housing structures.

Infrastructure has enormous influence on the form of metropolitan regions. With population growth, increased mobility and low density development, many local governments on the urban fringe are challenged to continue providing the necessary infrastructure to support their growing customer base. Highway congestion has been recognized as a major problem in many metropolitan areas as commuters continue to move further and further away from the urban core. Between 1990 and 1997, the amount of vehicle miles traveled grew by 28%, while the total population only grew 2.6 percent. However, relative to the 34 other metropolitan areas, the St. Louis region ranked 15th on the highway congestion index, with an index score of 1.13. The St. Louis region ranked 24th in the Infrastructure Index, a slight drop from 21st position in 1996.

(Tables are ranked from better to worse values)

URBAN GROWTH INDEX

1	**Philadelphia**	**2.60**
2	New York	2.80
3	Cleveland	3.20
4	Pittsburgh	3.40
4	San Francisco	3.40
4	Salt Lake City	3.40
7	Kansas City	3.60
7	Phoenix	3.60
9	Boston	4.00
9	Detroit	4.00
11	Charlotte	4.20
12	Atlanta	4.40
12	Miami	4.40
12	Portland	4.40
12	San Diego	4.40
16	Denver	4.60
16	Oklahoma City	4.60
Average		4.83
18	Minneapolis	4.80
19	Baltimore	5.00
19	Washington DC	5.00
21	Chicago	5.20
21	Louisville	5.20
23	Dallas	5.40
23	Milwaukee	5.40
23	Seattle	5.40
26	Cincinnati	5.60
26	Memphis	5.60
26	**St Louis**	**5.60**
29	Columbus	6.00
29	Houston	6.00
29	Nashville	6.00
32	Los Angeles	6.40
32	San Antonio	6.40
34	Indianapolis	6.60
35	**Austin**	**8.40**

ENVIRONMENTAL INDEX

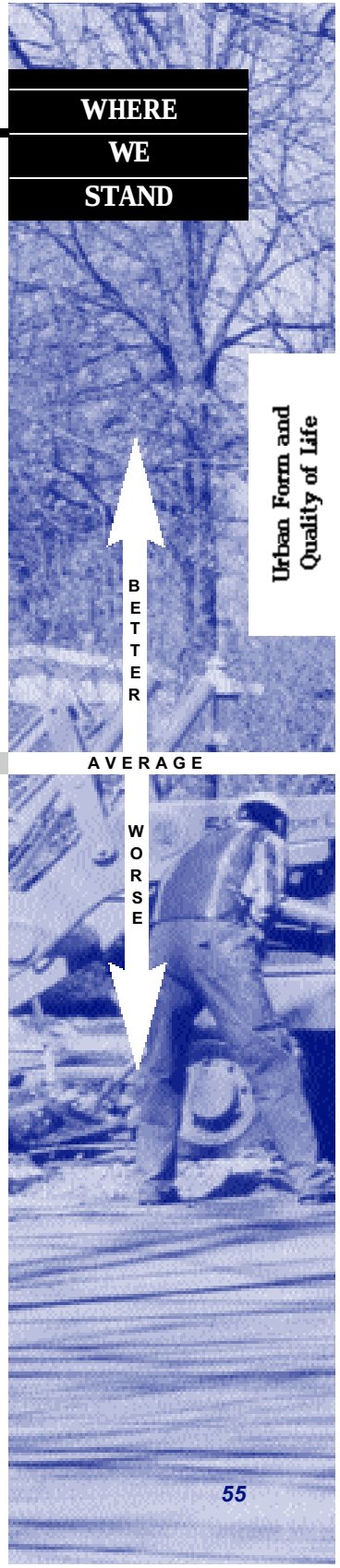
1	**Austin**	**3.50**
2	San Antonio	5.25
3	Columbus	6.75
4	Boston	9.25
5	Dallas	10.50
6	Cleveland	10.75
7	Cincinnati	11.50
8	Pittsburgh	12.00
9	Atlanta	12.25
10	Kansas City	12.75
11	Indianapolis	13.25
11	Oklahoma City	13.25
13	Denver	13.75
14	Charlotte	14.25
14	Minneapolis	14.25
16	San Diego	14.50
17	Salt Lake City	15.25
18	Portland	15.50
19	Washington DC	15.75
19	Miami	15.75
19	Seattle	15.75
22	San Francisco	16.00
Average		16.28
23	Nashville	16.75
24	Detroit	17.00
24	Baltimore	17.00
26	Louisville	17.75
27	Milwaukee	19.00
28	Memphis	20.50
29	Phoenix	22.25
30	**St. Louis**	**23.75**
31	New York	24.75
32	Los Angeles	27.50
33	Chicago	28.75
34	Houston	31.00
35	**Philadelphia**	**32.00**

HOUSING QUALITY INDEX

1	**Charlotte**	**1.67**
2	Denver	2.17
3	Atlanta	2.33
3	Miami	2.33
5	Phoenix	2.50
6	Indianapolis	2.83
6	Pittsburgh	2.83
6	Salt Lake City	2.83
6	**St.Louis**	**2.83**
10	Dallas	3.00
10	Kansas City	3.00
10	Louisville	3.00
10	Minneapolis	3.00
10	Nashville	3.00
10	Oklahoma City	3.00
10	Seattle	3.00
10	Washington DC	3.00
18	San Diego	3.17
19	Baltimore	3.33
19	Columbus	3.33
21	Austin	3.50
21	Boston	3.50
21	Cincinnati	3.50
21	Milwaukee	3.50
21	Portland	3.50
Average		3.55
26	Philadelphia	3.67
27	Memphis	3.83
28	Chicago	4.17
28	Detroit	4.17
30	Cleveland	4.67
31	Houston	4.83
32	San Antonio	5.00
33	Los Angeles	6.00
34	San Francisco	7.00
35	**New York**	**7.17**

INFRASTRUCTURE INDEX

1	**New York**	**2.86**
2	Denver	3.57
3	San Antonio	4.14
4	Salt Lake City	4.29
5	San Francisco	4.43
6	Austin	4.57
6	Phoenix	4.57
8	Dallas	4.71
9	Kansas City	5.00
9	Miami	5.00
11	Chicago	5.14
11	Houston	5.14
11	Milwaukee	5.14
14	Los Angeles	5.29
14	Seattle	5.29
16	Minneapolis	5.43
16	Washington DC	5.43
18	Philadelphia	5.57
18	Pittsburgh	5.57
Average		**5.58**
20	Memphis	5.71
20	Portland	5.71
22	San Diego	5.86
23	Detroit	6.14
24	Cincinnati	6.29
24	Louisville	6.29
24	**St. Louis**	**6.29**
27	Atlanta	6.43
27	Baltimore	6.43
27	Cleveland	6.43
30	Columbus	6.57
31	Boston	7.00
32	Indianapolis	7.14
32	Nashville	7.14
34	Oklahoma City	7.29
35	**Charlotte**	**7.57**



Refer to Notes overleaf for composition of indicators.

Urban Form and Quality of Life

Quality of life is a vague concept, which can be measured in many different ways. For instance, the level of civic participation, the choices of recreational and leisure pursuits, and access to a range of opportunities are considered critical indicators of the health and vitality of a metropolitan region. The following four indicators, like the four on the previous page, are indices which include a variety of variables in an attempt to fully measure several multifaceted aspects of quality of life within a metropolitan region.

In the Sense of Community Index, St. Louis ranks 5th together with Cincinnati and Kansas City. This is largely related to high voter turnouts in the 1996 general election, and significant levels of owner occupied housing in the St. Louis region. Other factors contributing to the high index score were philanthropic giving, municipal government representation and residential stability measures.

The region ranks 23rd on the Culture and Recreation Index. This comparatively low rank is surprising to many, considering the high number of fine arts and recreational opportunities available to citizens throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area. The index also takes into account the level of local spending on natural resources and recreation. The St. Louis metropolitan area has a low level of spending across all expenditure categories, as outlined earlier, including consistently low spending on natural resources and recreation, which contributes to the relatively low rank among the 35 metropolitan peer areas.

The final two indices are closely related. On the Racial Disparity Index (which compares the region's African American population to the region's white population on a number of indicators of well-being), St. Louis ranks 30th, tied with Chicago, above only Memphis, Minneapolis, Detroit and Milwaukee. On the Economic Disparity Index (between the central city and suburban residents) the St. Louis region ranks slightly better at 27th, equal to Atlanta.

St. Louis has a disproportionate concentration of African Americans within the central city, with 42 percent of the region's black population compared to nine percent of the region's total white population. When compared to whites, African Americans experience infant mortality rates three times as high, births to unmarried mothers four times as high, and two and a half times the rate of unemployment. Further, St. Louis has the 10th highest degree of racial isolation, as measured by the segregation index, among the 35 metropolitan regions.

Urban Form and Quality of Life

WHERE WE STAND

Urban Form and Quality of Life

(Tables are ranked from better to worse values)

SENSE OF COMMUNITY INDEX

1	**Pittsburgh**	**2.00**
2	Louisville	2.25
3	Minneapolis	2.60
4	Cleveland	3.20
5	Cincinnati	3.40
5	Kansas City	3.40
5	**St. Louis**	**3.40**
8	Milwaukee	3.60
9	Columbus	4.20
9	Seattle	4.20
11	Indianapolis	4.40
12	Detroit	5.00
13	Atlanta	5.20
13	Charlotte	5.20
13	Chicago	5.20
13	Oklahoma City	5.20
13	Portland	5.20
	Average	5.36
18	Philadelphia	5.40
19	Salt Lake City	5.50
20	Memphis	5.60
21	Baltimore	5.80
21	Denver	5.80
21	Nashville	5.80
21	San Francisco	5.80
25	Dallas	6.20
25	Washington DC	6.20
27	Houston	6.4
28	New York	7.20
29	Boston	7.40
29	San Diego	7.40
31	San Antonio	7.60
32	Miami	7.80
32	Phoenix	7.80
34	Austin	8.00
35	**Los Angeles**	**8.40**

CULTURE AND RECREATION INDEX

1	**San Francisco**	**3.62**
2	Seattle	4.32
3	Minneapolis	5.04
4	Denver	5.06
5	Portland	5.24
6	Washington DC	5.42
7	Phoenix	5.46
8	Chicago	5.56
9	Los Angeles	5.68
10	Miami	5.74
11	Charlotte	5.75
12	Milwaukee	5.81
13	Columbus	6.20
14	San Diego	6.35
15	Salt Lake City	6.53
16	Cincinnati	6.59
	Average	6.75
17	Kansas City	6.76
18	Memphis	7.03
19	Oklahoma City	7.06
20	Baltimore	7.12
21	Austin	7.20
22	Indianapolis	7.28
23	**St. Louis**	**7.39**
24	New York	7.56
25	Cleveland	7.70
26	San Antonio	7.75
27	Houston	7.92
28	Philadelphia	7.92
29	Louisville	8.14
30	Detroit	8.22
31	Atlanta	8.23
32	Nashville	8.36
33	Dallas	8.66
34	Pittsburgh	8.67
35	**Boston**	**8.78**

RACIAL DISPARITY INDEX*

1	**San Antonio**	**2.75**
2	Salt Lake City	3.18
3	Phoenix	3.20
4	Los Angeles	3.60
5	Denver	3.62
6	San Diego	3.67
7	Oklahoma City	4.13
8	Seattle	4.15
9	Nashville	4.57
10	Houston	4.67
11	Columbus	4.73
11	Miami	4.73
13	Portland	4.80
14	Dallas	5.13
15	New York	5.20
15	San Francisco	5.20
	Average	5.23
17	Boston	5.27
18	Indianapolis	5.40
19	Kansas City	5.47
20	Austin	5.57
21	Louisville	5.60
22	Cincinnati	5.67
22	Pittsburgh	5.67
24	Charlotte	5.73
25	Washington DC	6.00
26	Atlanta	6.07
27	Philadelphia	6.20
28	Baltimore	6.33
28	Cleveland	6.33
30	Chicago	6.47
30	**St. Louis**	**6.47**
32	Memphis	6.53
33	Minneapolis	6.75
34	Detroit	6.93
35	**Milwaukee**	**7.20**

*** Black vs. white disparity**

ECONOMIC DISPARITY INDEX*

1	**San Diego**	**2.20**
2	Charlotte	2.40
3	Nashville	3.00
3	Oklahoma City	3.00
5	Austin	3.40
5	Los Angeles	3.40
5	Phoenix	3.40
8	Portland	3.80
9	Seattle	4.00
10	Indianapolis	4.20
11	Dallas	4.40
11	Denver	4.40
11	Pittsburgh	4.40
11	Salt Lake City	4.40
11	San Antonio	4.40
16	Kansas City	4.60
16	San Francisco	4.60
18	Columbus	5.00
18	Houston	5.00
	Average	5.18
20	Miami	5.20
21	Boston	5.40
21	Louisville	5.40
23	Memphis	5.60
23	Minneapolis	5.60
23	New York	5.60
26	Washington DC	6.00
27	Atlanta	6.20
27	**St. Louis**	**6.20**
29	Cincinnati	6.40
30	Chicago	7.00
30	Philadelphia	7.00
32	Cleveland	8.40
33	Baltimore	8.60
34	Detroit	9.20
35	**Milwaukee**	**9.60**

***Central city vs. suburban disparity**

BETTER

AVERAGE

WORSE

Refer to Notes overleaf for composition of indicators.

Sources and Notes

The preceding indexes were formed using multiple variables. In compiling all but the Environmental Index, each variable within an index was assigned a decile score. To obtain the decile score, the range of values (highest to lowest) for each individual variable among the 35 metropolitan areas was divided into ten percent increments. The highest or best ten percent increment was given a value of one, the lowest or worst was given a value of ten. Each metropolitan region was then assigned a decile score of 1 to 10 for each variable, depending on the increment into which an area's value fell. The decile scores for all variables within an index were then summed for each region, and divided by the number of variables to obtain an index value. That index value was used for ranking the 35 regions from best to worst on each index.

The use of composite indexes such as these may be controversial. There may be questions concerning the way they were constructed, the selection of variables, the lack of weighting, or the sources of data. However, they remain useful indications of the region's standing, relative to other metropolitan areas.

Urban Growth Index: Based on five variables. 1-2. Percent change in the distribution of population and employment outside the principal urban county, 1990-1996. Population figures from 1990 to 1996 Time Series of State and County Population Estimates and Components of Population Change, Population Distribution and Population Estimates Branches, U.S. Bureau of the Census. Employment figures from County Business Patterns, U.S. Bureau of the Census. 3. Ratio of jobs per person inside and outside of the principal urban county, 1996. County Business Patterns, U.S. Bureau of the Census. 4. Vehicle miles of travel per square mile, 1997: Highway Statistics, 1997, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation. 5. Percent change in travel time to work, 1980-1990: 1990 Census of Population and Housing: Summary Tape File 3, U.S. Bureau of the Census. The principal urban county is defined as the largest county in each metropolitan area that contains all or part of the central city. In cases where an independent central city is not part of a county (St. Louis and Baltimore), or a central city is not part of or does not constitute the largest county in an area (Washington DC), the population and employment of the central city is combined with that of the largest bordering county. Where applicable, CMSA data was used for items based on the principal urban county.

Environmental Index: Four variables were used. The first three are environmental quality variables from the "Green Metro Areas Index" that measures and ranks the environmental quality and performance of 74 metro areas: Water quality violations: the number of violations reported for the presence of contaminants in drinking water; Toxic releases: the amount of toxic chemicals reported released into the environment or transferred to other sites for treatment and disposal; Superfund sites: the number of identified sites contaminated by past releases of toxic chemicals. Source: The 1994 Information Please Environmental Almanac, compiled by World Resources Institute, Houghton Mifflin (1995) (copyright). The fourth variable is acute air pollution: the number of days the pollutant standards index (PSI) reached levels considered unhealthy. Source: National Air Quality and Emissions Trends Report 1996, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The index score is the sum of a region's ranking (from 1 to 35) for all variables, divided by the number of variables.

Housing Quality Index: Based on six variables. 1-6. Percent of housing units built prior to 1940; percent lacking complete plumbing facilities; percent lacking complete kitchen facilities; percent with 1.01 or more persons per room; percent with physical problems; percent with neighborhood problems. American Housing Survey for metropolitan areas, 1990-1996, U.S. Bureau of the Census and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Infrastructure Index: Based on seven variables. 1-2. Local government debt per capita and local government capital outlays per capita: 1992 Census of Governments: Government Finances, vol. 4, Compendium of Government Finances, no. 5, U.S. Bureau of the Census. 3-4. Percent of housing units attached to public or private water systems and percent attached to public sewer systems: American Housing Survey for metropolitan areas, 1990-1996, U.S. Bureau of the Census and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. 5-6. Highway congestion index and miles of roadway per square mile: Data from Highway Statistics, 1997, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation. Congestion index methodology from Roadway Congestion in Major Urban Areas, 1982-87, Texas Transportation Institute, October, 1989. 7. Transit revenue hours of travel per capita. Transit Profiles for Agencies in Urbanized Areas Exceeding 200,000 Population, 1995, Federal Transit Administration.

Sense of Community Index: Based on five variables.1. Municipal governments per 100,000 persons: 1992 Census of Governments: Government Organization, vol. 1, No. 1, U.S. Bureau of the Census. 2. Percent of eligible population voting in the 1996 general election: Richard M. Scammon and Alice V. McGillvray, America Votes, 1998, Elections Research Center. 3. Percent owner-occupied housing units: American Housing Survey for metropolitan areas, 1990-1996, U.S. Bureau of the Census and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. 4. Percent of persons living in same house or same county in 1990 as in 1985: 1990 Census of Population and Housing: Summary Tape File 3, U.S. Bureau of the Census. 5. Ranking of philanthropic giving per capita: Elizabeth Greene, Bruce Miller & Jennifer Moore, The Chronicle of Philanthropy vol 7, no. 9 (February 22, 1994)

Culture and Recreation Index: Based on three variables. 1-2. An Arts index including measures for fine arts broadcasting, public library holdings and circulation, museums and galleries, and cultural events; and a Recreation index including measures for recreational facilities, events, and opportunities: Indexes are derived from Richard Boyer and David Savageau, Places Rated Almanac, Prentice Hall, New York (1998). (copyright). 3. Per capita local government expenditures for natural resources, parks and recreation: 1992 Census of Governments: Government Finances, vol. 4, Compendium of Government Finances, no. 5, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Racial Disparity Index: Based on 15 variables. Except for the segregation index, all variables are based on the ratio between values for blacks and whites. Where possible, whites of Hispanic origin have been removed from the white data to improve the comparability of data in St. Louis to those metropolitan regions with large Hispanic populations. 1. Segregation Index, which measures the potential interaction of minority group members with members of the majority population, 1990: D. Massey & N. Denton, "The Dimensions of Residential Segregation," Social Forces, 67: 281-315. 2-3. Percent of regional population by race living in central city and percent of housing units with incomes below the poverty level: 1990 Census of Population and Housing: Summary Population and Housing Characteristics, U.S. Bureau of the Census. 4-7. Percent housing units with physical problems, with neighborhood problems, with housing costs exceeding 35 percent of income, and occupied by owners: American Housing Survey for metropolitan areas, 1990-1996, U.S. Bureau of the Census and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. 8-9. Percent labor force by race employed as executives, administrators, managers and in professional specialty occupations, and percent employed as operators, fabricators, laborers and in service occupations: Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment, 1996, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. 10-11. Infant death rate and percent births to unwed mothers: Vital Statistics of the United States, Natality (1992) and Mortality (1991), National Center for Health Statistics, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. 12. Percent unemployed: Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment, 1996, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. 13-15. Percent high school graduates, percent college graduates, and per capita income: 1990 Census of Population and Housing: Summary Tape File 3, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Economic Disparity Index: Based on five variables, all based on the ratio between values for the central city and for the balance of the metropolitan area. 1. Percent housing units with costs exceeding 35 percent of income: American Housing Survey for metropolitan areas, 1990-1996, U.S. Bureau of the Census and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. 2-5. Percent unemployed, percent persons below the poverty level, percent growth in 1979-1989 per capita income, percent of households receiving public assistance income: 1990 Census of Population and Housing: Summary Tape File 3, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Trends

St. Louis Trends: 1996 - 1999

Where We Stand was first published in 1992, followed by a second edition in 1996 and this, the third edition, in 1999. The rankings contained in these reports provide some critical benchmarks against which the current and future performance of the St. Louis region can be measured. The purpose of this section is to describe changes in St. Louis's performance, focusing primarily on the changes taking place between 1996 and 1999.

There are differences between the three editions of Where We Stand, mostly related to the timing and availability of data used in the creation of individual indicators. To begin with, the 1992 report covered only 30 metropolitan areas. The number of areas was expanded to 35 metropolitan areas for the 1996 report. Also, the number of indicators was expanded from 77 to 85 indicators for the 1996 report. Of the 85 indicators contained in the 1996 report, 56 have been updated in the 1999 report. Note that the four new indicators added in the 1999 report are not covered by this section since they have no comparable rankings. Future editions of Where We Stand will include trends for these new indicators.

In the following section, the 1999 Where We Stand rank for St. Louis is compared with those from the previous two reports. The five regions which were added to the report in 1996 are: Austin, Charlotte, Salt Lake City, San Antonio and San Diego. As a result, the 1992 ranks are not directly comparable to the 1996 or 1999 ranks.

It is important to note that what is being compared here is the relative improvement or decline in the performance of the St. Louis region to 34 other regions, not the absolute change. For instance, although the percent change in MSA population for the St. Louis region increased during the period 1990-1997, the rank relative to the other 34 regions declined from 28th to 29th, as Detroit exhibited higher rate of population increase and overtook St. Louis during this period.

How can the performance of the St. Louis region since the previous report be summarized? As illustrated in the table below, the five areas ranked on better-to-worse scales have had improvements in 18 indicators and declines in 14. Improvements have outweighed declines most noticeably in Crime and in Urban Form/Quality of Life. Conversely, declines have outweighed improvements in the critical areas of demographics, economics, and well-being. A full understanding of the changes in the St. Louis region relative to other regions requires closer analysis of each section.

Change in Ranks 1996 to 1999	No. of Indicators	No. of Updated Indicators	No. of Changed Ranks	Type of Change Observed
Demographics*	20	15	7	increase in 1; decline in 6
Economics	15	12	9	improvement in 4; decline in 5
Governance*	9	2	1	increase in 0; decline in 1
Well-Being	15	9	8	improvement in 3; decline in 5
Education	10	3	3	improvement in 2; decline in 1
Crime	8	7	6	improvement in 5; decline in 0
Urban Form/ Quality of Life	8	8	6	improvement in 4; decline in 2
Total	85	56	39	improvement in 19; decline in 20

* = values were ranked from highest to lowest, rather than from better to worse.

When reading the following pages:

- Notice the scoring system of each section. Most sections are ranked from better (= 1) to worse (= 35), although some sections are ranked from higher values (= 1) to lower values (= 35). These latter sections are those in which the determination of better or worse may be open to some interpretation or debate. For a few indicators in which there was missing information for some regions (most noticeably in Crime and Social Disorder), the comparison regions have not been ranked out of 35. Instead, the ranking will appear in the following format: 17/29 (meaning: 17th out of 29 regions).
- All 1992 ranks are based on a 1 to 30 scale, unless denoted as above.
- Several indicators were not present in the 1992 report. However, they have been included in the current report because of their significance as measures of regional well-being. These indicators are marked “na” in the 1992 column.
- Due to limitations of available data, 1990 figures were used for a few indicators in both the 1992 and 1996 reports and occasionally in the 1999 report (which are denoted with an “nc” - see below). These indicators are marked with an asterisk (*). The differences in ranks between the 1992 report and the two later reports are due to the additional five areas added in 1996.
- In the 1999 report, 29 of the 85 indicators were not updated due to the unavailability of new data. These indicators are marked no-change or “nc” in the 1999 column, indicating there was no change in rank.
- Finally, ranks may represent data that are one or more years old and may not reflect most recent trends.

Demographics

In general, the rankings in St. Louis with respect to population and demographic change have remained fairly constant across all three Where We Stand reports. While the position of St. Louis in the distribution remains essentially the same, general demographic trends seem to be pointed downward relative to our peer regions. There have been slight changes in seven of the 20 indicators since the 1996 report. In all cases except one these changes represent a lower ranking.

- St. Louis continues to rank 14th in Total Population and 27th in Net Migration out of the 35 comparison regions.
- St. Louis slipped from 28th to 29th in rank in Population Change as Detroit moved from 31st to 25th in the rankings.
- St. Louis exchanged ranks with Charlotte, moving from 27th to 28th with regard to Hispanics as a percentage of total population.
- St. Louis moved from 13th to 8th with an increase of 0.1% in the proportion of the population which is under 18; moved from 8th to 9th with a decrease of 0.4% in the proportion of the population which is 64 years or older; and moved from 30th to 31st, but had an increase of 0.2% in the proportion of population of working age (18-64).
- While St. Louis showed a slight increase in the rate of change in the dependent age population, the rank moved downward from 16th to 19th.

Demographics	1992 Report Rank[a]	1996 Report Rank	1999 Report Rank
MSA Population	12	14	14
MSA Population Change	24	28	29
MSA Net Migration	24	27	27
Central City Share of MSA Population	na	31	31
Central City Population Change	28	35	35
Population by Race: White	15	20	20
Population by Race: Blacks	12	13	13
Population by Race: Asians	na	30	30
Population by Ethnicity: Hispanics	23	27	28
Growth in Nonwhite Population	na	33	33
Median Age	12	12	14
Child Population	10	13	8
Working Age Population	28	30	31
Elderly Population	8	8	9
Change in Dependency Ratio	na	16	19
Households	13*	13*	nc
Growth in Households	20*	25*	nc
Family Households	7*	10*	nc
Female Headed Families	13*	14*	nc
Growth in Female Headed Families	20*	22*	nc

1 = best score; 35 = worst score unless otherwise denoted.
a = scale is 1 to 30, unless otherwise denoted.
na = not applicable, indicator was not used in previous report
nc = no change, indicator was not updated due to data limitations

Regional Economic Vitality

The period since the completion of the 1996 Where We Stand has been one of the most vibrant periods in the economic history of the United States. The level of prosperity is clearly not shared equally among all the regions, however. With regard to St. Louis's performance, there have been improvements in four indicators, with declines in five. Improvements in rank for Capital Availability, Job Growth, Service Sector Job Growth, and Wage and Salaries are off-set by decreases in Business Growth, Earnings, Personal Income, Income Growth, and Income Adjusted for Cost of Living.

The most striking changes are those in the income and wealth category. While the St. Louis region posted real increases in personal income, it was surpassed by Atlanta, Houston and Cleveland in the rankings. With regard to income growth, as measured by percent change in per capita income, St. Louis slid from 17th to 25th and was passed by Denver (which moved from 18th to 4th), Seattle, Charlotte, Chicago, Minneapolis, Atlanta, New York, Houston and Boston. Perhaps most notable is St. Louis's change in rank with regard to per capita income adjusted for the cost of living. Being an "affordable" region has long been one of St. Louis's major assets; however, the 1999 Where We Stand finds St. Louis dropping from its prior 3rd place rank to 11th place. Interestingly, declines in affordability could reflect increasing demand for housing and other goods and services in a more healthy regional economy.

- A bright spot was the increase in the rank of Capital Availability. Based on 1998 bank loan to deposit ratios, St. Louis moved from 23rd to 20th, surpassing Portland, Philadelphia, and New York along the way.
- With respect to Job Growth, the percent increase in jobs is one and a half times what it was in the 1996 report. St. Louis ranks 24th, up from 25th, passing Pittsburgh in the process.
- Regarding Service Sector Job Growth, St. Louis surpassed Charlotte (which fell from 19th to 30th) and moved from 27th to 26th. However, since service sector jobs tend to offer lower levels of wages, this may result in the reduced income levels discussed earlier.
- Despite a significant increase in the percentage change in business establishments, St. Louis lost ground with regard to its regional peers, moving from 26th to 28th and being passed by Detroit and Memphis in the process.
- While average earnings per job increased by about $557/year (from $29,398 in 1994 to 30,512 in 1996), the region's rank declined from 18th to 22nd, being passed by Charlotte, Indianapolis, Portland and Milwaukee.

Regional Economic Vitality	1992 Report Rank[a]	1996 Report Rank	1999 Report Rank
Economic Output	17	16	nc
Unemployment	22/29	22	22
Capital Availability	24	23	20
Value of Private Construction	17/29	22	nc
Exports	na	20	20
Job Growth	19	25	24
Service Sector Job Growth	12	27	26
Business Growth	21	26	28
Minority Firms	19	28	nc
Earnings	15	18	22
Personal Income	16	14	17
Income Growth	5	17	25
Income Adjusted for Cost of Living	na	3	11
Income Sources: Wages and Salaries	23	30	29
Income Sources: Assets	5	2	2

1 = best score; 35 = worst score unless otherwise denoted
a = scale is 1 to 30, unless otherwise denoted
na = not applicable, indicator was not used in previous report
nc = no change, indicator was not updated due to data limitations

Leadership, Governance and Public Service

No significant changes have been observed since the 1992 Where We Stand with respect to governance and public service in the St. Louis region. The region continues to be home to an unusually large number of local government entities, even though local spending is low relative to other regions.

There were two changes observed since the 1996 report.

- Federal Funding decreased from $6,569 to $6,268 per person, but St. Louis retained its 3rd place rank.
- St. Louis moved from 30th to 34th place while being surpassed by Salt Lake City, Boston, Phoenix and Cincinnati.

Leadership, Governance and Public Service	1992 Report Rank[a]	1996 Report Rank	1999 Report Rank
Government Units	4	5	nc
Government Units per 100,000 Pop	2	2	nc
School Districts per 100,000 Pop	4	3	nc
Taxing Units per 100,000 Pop	na	1	nc
Local Government Spending	28	33	nc
Revenue as a % of Income	29	35	nc
Local Government Debt	28	33	nc
Federal Funding	3	3	3
Change in Defense Funding	na	30	34

1 = best score; 35 = worst score unless otherwise denoted
a = scale is 1 to 30, unless otherwise denoted
na = not applicable, indicator was not used in previous report
nc = no change, indicator was not updated due to data limitations

Individual and Family Well-Being

St. Louis experienced changes in eight of the nine indicators updated in this report. Improvements were observed in three indicators and declines in five. Two principal trends are notable. First, is the improving situation for children as signified by the improvement in the Infant Mortality ranking (from 30th to 21st, passing Atlanta, Indianapolis, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Louisville, Philadelphia, Charlotte, Washington DC, and Milwaukee) and the Child Poverty rate (from 16th to 13th, passing Atlanta, Nashville and Philadelphia). Second, is the decline in rank relative to Home Prices, Housing Affordability, and Houses with Physical Problems.

- The increase in the percent of all persons in poverty increased from 10.8% in 1989 to 13.1% in 1993. St. Louis's rank moved from 15th to 16th, surpassing Atlanta and Philadelphia, but being passed by Columbus, Cincinnati and Pittsburgh.
- The relative number of primary care physicians grew slightly, but the St. Louis rank dropped from 19th to 20th, being passed by Boston and Memphis in the process.
- Relative to other regions, there is some indication that the region's housing stock is changing with regard to quality and affordability. The median sales price of existing one family homes increased from $85,000 in 1994 to $107,800 in 1997, changing the rank from 6th to 12th, while being passed by Memphis, Kansas City, Cleveland, Miami, Cincinnati and Milwaukee. The percent of households paying over 35% of their income for housing changed from 18% in 1994 to 18.3% in 1997, moving St. Louis from 9th to 10th place. Finally, the percent of occupied housing units with physical problems increased from 3.5% in 1994 to 3.8% in 1997, causing a change in rank from 6th to 10th, while being surpassed by Portland, Seattle, Pittsburgh and Milwaukee.
- There was a slight improvement in the mobility index of St. Louis, from 24th to 23rd, passing Louisville.

Individual and Family Well-Being	1992 Report Rank[a]	1996 Report Rank	1999 Report Rank
Poverty Rate	13*	15*	16
Child Poverty Rate	14*	16*	13
Elderly Poverty Rate	14*	16*	nc
Teenage Births	22	25	nc
Births to Unwed Parents	20	28	nc
Health Insurance Coverage	na	23	nc
Primary Care Physicians	20	19	20
Infant Mortality	13	30	21
Adult Death Rate	19	26	nc
Accident Death Rate	26	34	nc
Home Prices	11	6	12
Housing Opportunity	13	6	6
Housing Affordability	4	9	10
Houses with Physical Problems	7/26	6/31	10/32
Mobility Index	21	24	23

1 = best score; 35 = worst score unless otherwise denoted
a = scale is 1 to 30, unless otherwise denoted
na = not applicable, indicator was not used in previous report
nc = no change, indicator was not updated due to data limitations
* = 1990 figures were used for reports

Educational Vitality

Due to limitations on available data, only three of ten indicators have been updated since the 1996 report. Of the updated indicators, two represent trends of improvement, while the third indicates a slight decline relative to the other metro areas.

- The pupil-to-teacher ratio in elementary and secondary schools in the St. Louis region continues to show improvement. Moving from 10th to 4th, St. Louis improved from 17.29 to 15.59 students per teacher, passing Kansas City, Dallas, Charlotte, Houston, Cincinnati, Oklahoma City and Atlanta. Note that St. Louis would have ranked 3rd except for the addition of Boston, which ranked first at 14.66 students per teacher in this year's data.
- Spending on education per student also indicates continuation of a trend toward improvement. The St. Louis region increased spending per student from $5,530 in 1992 to $6,621 in 1995. This improved St. Louis's rank from 19th to 15th, passing San Francisco, Portland, Los Angeles and San Diego and Columbus, the prior report's top ranking region.
- Despite prior gains, St. Louis showed a decline in educational expenditures as a percent of total personal income. In the 1996 report, St. Louis ranked 24th with 3.96% of total personal income going to education. The 1999 report finds St. Louis ranked 27th with 3.00% of total personal income going towards education. While the region surpassed Chicago, Kansas City and San Antonio, it was passed by Baltimore, Atlanta, Louisville, Dallas, Memphis and Seattle.

Educational Vitality	1992 Report Rank[a]	1996 Report Rank	1999 Report Rank
High School Graduates	17	22	nc
College Graduates	23	20	nc
Higher Education Graduates	22	31	nc
Adult Illiteracy	26	23	nc
High School Dropouts	15*	17*	nc
Post-secondary Enrollments	17	11	nc
Pre-primary Enrollments	6	9	nc
Pupil to Teacher Ratio	12/29	10/32	4/34
Education Spending per Pupil	19	19/34	15/34
Spending as a % of Income	23	24	27/34

1 = best score; 35 = worst score unless otherwise denoted
a = scale is 1 to 30, unless otherwise denoted
na = not applicable, indicator was not used in previous report
nc = no change, indicator was not updated due to data limitations
* = 1990 figures were used for reports

Crime and Social Disorder

The evaluation and comparison of crime indicators is a complicated task. Crime statistics, which are voluntarily reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, are affected by a wide range of sociological factors. For example, upward and downward trends may clearly be affected by reporting rates, which are in turn affected by such factors as the public's perception of whether or not the crimes will be solved, general economic conditions, or even the role of the media. Three regions which reported data in 1995 to the FBI's uniform crime reporting system (the source for the 1996 Where We Stand) did not report data in 1997—Boston, Cincinnati, and Louisville. In some cases, missing data prevented regions or cities from being included in the five year trend indicators—Miami, Cleveland, Kansas City, Philadelphia and the three cities referenced previously. Additionally, three new regions reported data in 1997—Indianapolis, Seattle, and Pittsburgh. In spite of these shortcomings, it is useful to compare St. Louis against it's peer regions.

Seven of ten indicators were updated for the 1999 report. Of these, five showed improvement while two were unchanged from 1996.

- The 1997 MSA Crime Rate, measured in crimes per 100,000 population, has shown significant improvement from 1995. St. Louis's rank moves from 12th with 5,922 crimes to 4th with 4,568 crimes per 100,000 persons. While the achievement of this rank is quite an improvement for the region, it was affected by the fact that the previous top three regions in the 1996 report did not report data in 1997. St. Louis surpassed seven other regions while being passed only by Portland. This progress is repeated in the 5 Year MSA Crime Rate indicator where St. Louis moved to 7th from 15th, the MSA Property Crime Rate (6th from 12th) and the MSA Violent Crime Rate (12th from 21st).

- The rank in the MSA Murder Rate indicator, measured in murders per 100,000, remained at 20th; however, the actual rate for 1997 (9.7 per/100,000) represented a significant improvement over the 1995 rate (12.4/100,000).

- Two indicators relate specifically to central city crime statistics. St. Louis's rank for the 5 Year Central City Crime Trend improved from 21st to 16th as the level and rate of crime during the period 1993 to 1997 decreased, especially with regard to Milwaukee, Memphis, Nashville, Minneapolis, Oklahoma City, and Phoenix. However, St. Louis continues to have the worst ranking, 28th of 28, on the Central City to Suburban Crime Ratio. This, in part, reflects the compact geography of the central city in our region compared to most metropolitan areas. Despite this ranking, there was significant improvement as the ratio of crimes in the central city to suburban areas improved from 5.1 in 1995 to 3.9 in 1997.

Crime and Social Disorder	1992 Report Rank[a]	1996 Report Rank	1999 Report Rank
MSA Crime Rate	11/29	12/28	4/28
5 Year MSA Crime Trend	24/28	15/25	7/21
Central City:Suburban Crime Ratio	29/29	28/28	28/28
5 Year Central City Crime Trend	26/28	21/31	16/25
MSA Property Crime Rate	10/30	12/28	6/28
MSA Violent Crime Rate	17/29	21/28	12/28
MSA Murder Rate	21	20/28	20/28
MSA Suicide Rate	17	18	nc

1 = best score; 35 = worst score unless otherwise denoted
a = scale is 1 to 30, unless otherwise denoted
na = not applicable, indicator was not used in previous report
nc = no change, indicator was not updated due to data limitations

Urban Form and Quality of Life

Indices are complex composites of individual indicators grouped in ways thought to represent individual facets of a larger whole. Due to limitations on data availability, not all of the indicators used in these indices have been updated; however, all eight indices were updated. St. Louis's rank improved in four indices, declined in two, and remained the same in two. For the most part, these changes represent a slight reversal of downward trends observed between the 1992 and 1996 reports.

The most impressive improvement was with regard to the Housing Quality Index, where St. Louis moved from 15th to 6th, passing ten of its peer regions while being passed by just three. St. Louis also showed improvement in the Urban Growth Index, where it improved from 31st to 26th. This indicator, which relies heavily on the 1990-1996 percent change in the distribution of population and employment outside the principal urban county and 1997 estimates of vehicles miles of travel per square mile, portrays St. Louis as becoming less dispersed relative to Columbus, Houston, Nashville, and San Antonio. Changes to other indices were relatively minor with no movement greater than two places in the ranks.

- Comparable improvements were observed in St. Louis's rank for three of the four urban form indexes: Urban Growth (31st to 26th position); Environment (remained at the 30th position, although the score improved); Housing Quality (15th to 6th position); while Infrastructure marked a slight decline (21st to 24th) due to being passed by Portland, San Diego, and Detroit.

- A slight decline was observed in the rank for the Sense of Community Index. While St. Louis maintained its same score as in the 1996 report, it moved from 4th to 5th position in a three-way tie with Cincinnati and Kansas City (up from their 6th place rank). Cleveland moved up from its 1996 tie with St. Louis to sole possession of the 3rd place rank, causing the St. Louis region to slip slightly in its rank.

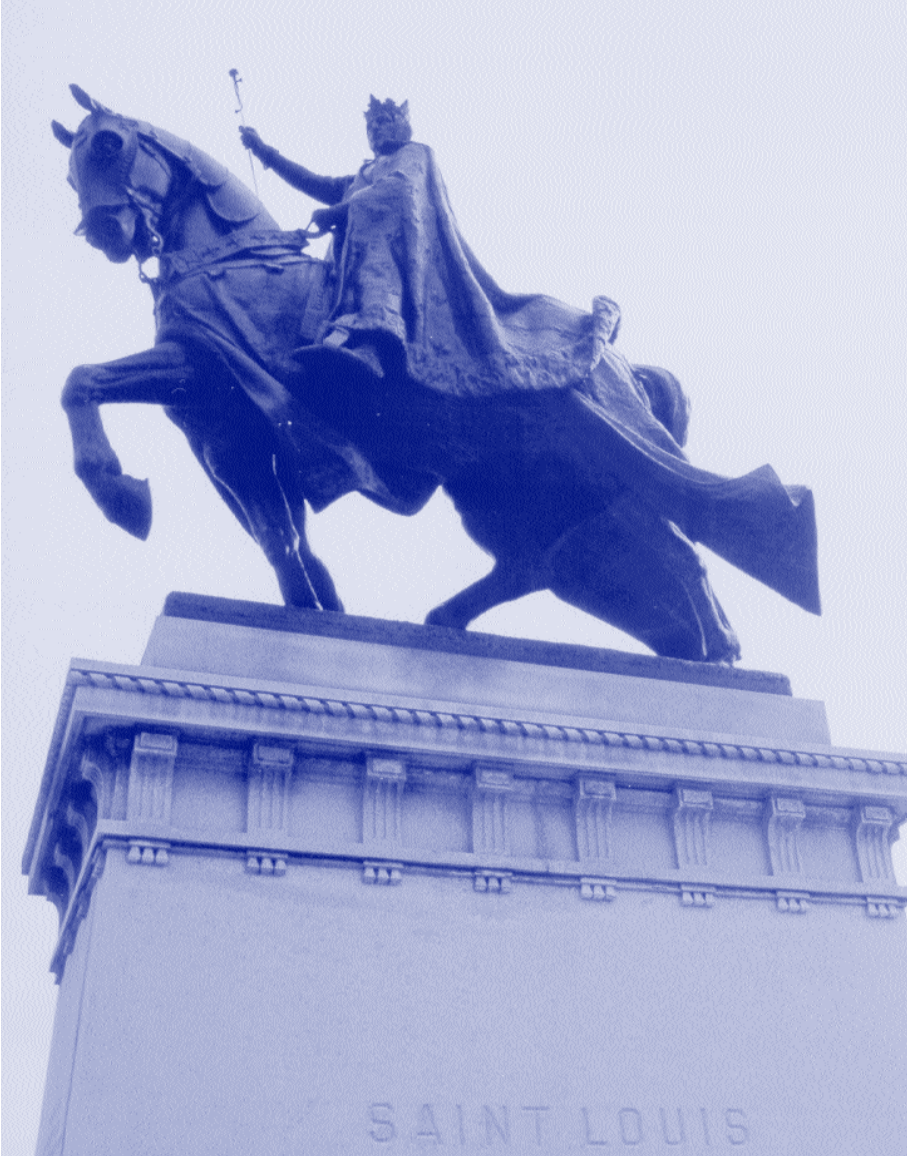
- St. Louis improved from the 32nd rank to the 30th position, tied with Chicago (down from 27th) in the Racial Disparity Index. St. Louis showed a slight improvement in the numeric score which surpassed Minneapolis (31st last report), Detroit, Memphis and Milwaukee (33, 34, 35 in the 1996 report).

- While showing a slight decline in the numeric score (6.00 in the 1996 report), St. Louis retained the 27th position in the Economic Disparity Index, tied with Atlanta. Cincinnati joined Chicago, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Baltimore, Detroit, and Milwaukee as the only regions to score lower than St. Louis.

Urban Form and Quality of Life	1992 Report Rank[a]	1996 Report Rank	1999 Report Rank
Urban Growth	22	31	26
Environment	20	30	30
Housing Quality	8	15	6
Infrastructure	15	21	24
Sense of Community	3	4	5
Culture and Recreation	24	25	23
Racial Disparity	26	32	30
Economic Disparity	24	27	27

1 = best score; 35 = worst score unless otherwise denoted
a = scale is 1 to 30, unless otherwise denoted
na = not applicable, indicator was not used in previous report

In closing, we return the conversation to the reader.

- As a region, are we building and retaining the resources necessary to compete in the national, or more importantly, the global marketplace?
- How has our region adapted to changes in the economy over the past decade? Is economic prosperity translating into a higher quality of life for citizens of the region?
- Which focus areas present opportunities for further development? How can our region work to strengthen itself?
- What do current trends suggest for the future of the region? Are we moving in a positive direction?
- Where do you stand in relationship to these issues? What will be your response?

Please let us hear from you.