GATEWAY TRENDS

THE REGION'S POPULATION

Introduction

Since the Census Bureau first began to define metropolitan areas in 1949, St. Louis' geographic boundaries have expanded remarkably. In 1950, the St. Louis metropolitan area consisted of five counties: the City of St. Louis, St. Louis, and St. Charles in the Missouri portion of the region; and Madison and St. Clair in the Illinois portion of the region. In the ensuing decades, this definition has changed as population has increased and the urbanized area has stretched outward from the historic central core.[1] The most recent metropolitan area definition for St. Louis consists of 12 counties including the City of St. Louis; St. Louis, St. Charles, Jefferson, Franklin, Lincoln and Warren counties in the Missouri portion of the region; and Madison, Monroe, St. Clair, Clinton, Jersey counties; and a portion of the City of Sullivan in Crawford County in the Illinois portion of the region.

According to the 1950 Census, the St. Louis metropolitan area had 1,681,281 residents, with a core urbanized area equaling 240 square miles. By 1970, the urbanized area had nearly doubled to 478 square miles, and the metropolitan population had grown 40 percent to a total of 2,354,460 persons. More recent trends show a decreased rate of population growth, yet a continued expansion of the urbanized area from 1970 to the present. As of 1990, the urbanized area had expanded an additional 68 percent to 803 square miles, while the metropolitan area population grew six percent to a total of 2,492,525 people.

[1] *Urbanized area—continuously built up area with a population of 50,000 or more. It comprises one or more places and the adjacent densely settled surrounding area consisting of other places and non place territory.*

Where We Stand

Since 1992, East-West Gateway has tracked and compared population trends for more than 30 metropolitan areas in the publication *Where We Stand: A Strategic Assessment of the St. Louis Region*. The most recent edition was released in 1999. The charts below, displayed in the trademark *Where We Stand* format, have been updated to reflect the most recent data available.

As the charts illustrate, the St. Louis metropolitan area ranked 14th largest in population

Continued...

POPULATION

1	**Los Angeles**	**9,329,989**
2	New York	8,712,600
3	Chicago	8,008,507
4	Boston	5,901,589
5	Philadelphia	4,949,867
6	Washington DC	4,739,999
7	Detroit	4,474,614
8	Houston	4,010,969
9	Atlanta	3,857,097
10	Dallas	3,280,310
11	Phoenix	3,013,696
	Average	2,948,864
12	Minneapolis	2,872,109
13	San Diego	2,820,844
14	**St. Louis**	**2,569,029**
15	Baltimore	2,491,254
16	Seattle	2,334,934
17	Pittsburgh	2,331,336
18	Cleveland	2,221,181
19	Miami	2,175,634
20	Denver	1,978,991
21	Portland	1,845,840
22	Kansas City	1,755,899
23	San Francisco	1,685,647
24	Cincinnati	1,627,509
25	San Antonio	1,564,949
26	Indianapolis	1,536,665
27	Columbus	1,489,487
28	Milwaukee	1,462,422
29	Charlotte	1,417,217
30	Salt Lake City	1,275,076
31	Nashville	1,171,755
32	Austin	1,146,050
33	Memphis	1,105,058
34	Oklahoma City	1,046,283
35	**Louisville**	**1,005,849**

MSA total population 1999

POPULATION CHANGE

1	**Austin**	**35.4**
2	Phoenix	34.6
3	Atlanta	30.3
4	Dallas	22.6
5	Charlotte	21.9
6	Denver	21.9
7	Portland	21.8
8	Houston	20.7
9	Nashville	19.0
10	Salt Lake City	18.9
11	San Antonio	18.1
12	Seattle	14.8
13	Minneapolis	13.1
14	San Diego	12.9
	Average	12.4
15	Miami	12.3
16	Washington DC	12.2
17	Indianapolis	11.3
18	Kansas City	10.9
19	Columbus	10.7
20	Memphis	9.7
21	Oklahoma City	9.1
22	Chicago	8.1
23	Cincinnati	6.6
24	Louisville	6.0
25	Los Angeles	5.3
26	San Francisco	5.1
27	Detroit	4.9
28	Baltimore	4.6
29	Boston	3.8
30	**St. Louis**	**3.1**
31	Milwaukee	2.1
32	New York	1.9
33	Cleveland	0.9
34	Philadelphia	0.6
35	**Pittsburgh**	**-2.7**

Percent change in MSA population, 1990-1999

HIGHER

AVERAGE

LOWER

May 2000

among 35 metropolitan peers in 1999, with an estimated population of 2,569,029 persons.[2] The MSA has grown by only 3.1 percent between 1990 and 1999, ranking the region 30th in rate of growth out of the 35 metropolitan areas included in the comparison.

This growth rate is sluggish compared to that of metropolitan areas in the sun-belt region that continue to lead the nation with increases in population exceeding 30 percent. Of greater immediate significance to St. Louis, however, is the fact that most of our midwestern neighbors are growing at more impressive rates than what we have been able to maintain. In 1999, the St. Louis metropolitan area ranked fourth from the top among 13 midwestern regions in the size of its population (as it had in 1990), but its rate of growth was third from the bottom, trailing Minneapolis, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Columbus, Memphis, Oklahoma City, Chicago, Cincinnati, Louisville, and Detroit. And, as illustrated in the chart at right, St. Louis did not strengthen its rate of growth during the last decade, as did seven of our midwestern counterparts—three of which were able to pull out of negative trends.

CHANGE IN POPULATION GROWTH RATES AMONG MIDWESTERN REGIONS

Region	Percentage Change, 1980 - 1990	Percentage Change, 1990 - 1999	Percentage Change in Growth Rate Gain or (Loss)
Improving *growth rate gains more than two percentage points*			
Chicago	.2 %	8.1 %	7.9
Detroit	- 2.4 %	4.9 %	7.3
Louisville	- 0.4 %	6.0 %	6.4
Cleveland	- 3.6 %	0.9 %	4.5
Indianapolis	7.1 %	11.3 %	4.2
Cincinnati	3.7 %	6.6 %	2.9
Memphis	7.5 %	9.7 %	2.2
No change *variation of less than two percentage points*			
Kansas City	9.3 %	10.9 %	1.6
St. Louis	2.8 %	3.1 %	.3
Columbus	10.7 %	10.7 %	--
Milwaukee	2.5 %	2.1 %	(.4)
Declining *growth rate loses more than two percentage points*			
Minneapolis	15.3 %	13.1 %	(2.2)
Oklahoma City	11.4 %	9.1 %	(2.3)

A Century of Change

The map on page 3 includes nearly a century of population trends for the region, clearly illustrating the rural to urban migration during the early industrial period and the more recent population shift from urban to suburban areas within the region.

In 1900, the City of St. Louis was the region's most heavily-populated jurisdiction, with 575,200 residents. Its population peaked in 1950 with 858,800 residents. Since that time, the City's population has steadily decreased to an estimated 1999 population of 333,900 residents —a 61 percent drop since 1950.

During the first half of the century, counties then defined as rural—such as Warren, Lincoln and Jersey—experienced a significant decrease in their population as the number of farmers sharply fell and rural populations began migrating toward the amenities of the urban areas. These counties hit their lowest point in 1950, yet, by 1970 all three had begun to experience a turnaround in population trends. More recent population figures show that all three counties have experienced healthy population growth during the past decade. Both Warren and Lincoln counties are estimated to have grown by 30 percent between 1990 and 1999, while Jersey County's population is estimated to have increased by 5 percent.

Beginning around 1950, suburban areas surrounding the City of St. Louis were enjoying a large influx of population as residents left the City for more spacious living area. St. Louis

[2] *Metropolitan areas were selected as our "peers" if they met one of 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.*

County's population grew by 73 percent between 1950 and 1960, and an additional 35 percent between 1960 and 1970, bringing the total population to 951,400 residents. The county has experienced only moderate population growth since that time. The 1999 population estimate for St. Louis County is 996,200, representing less than a one percent increase since 1990.

Jefferson and St. Charles counties also began to see a large amount of population growth during that time period. Between 1950 and 1970, Jefferson County added approximately 67,200 residents to their total population, while St. Charles County added 63,200 residents, nearly tripling the size of both counties. St. Charles County currently leads the region in population growth. The 1999 population estimate for St. Charles County indicates a net gain of 67,400 residents, representing a 32 percent increase between 1990 and 1999.

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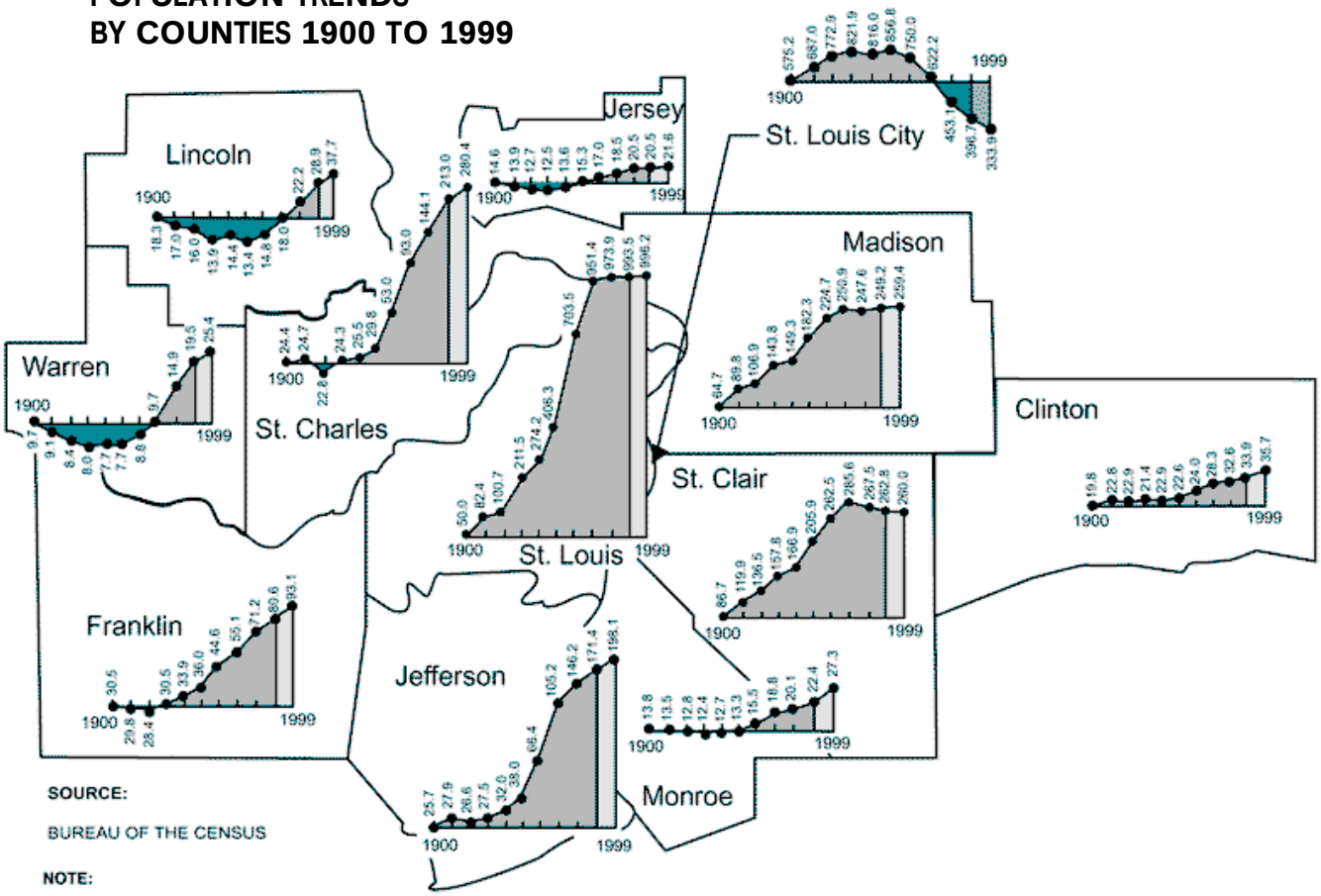
POPULATION CHANGE BY COUNTIES 1990-1999

	1990	1999	% Change
Franklin County	80,603	93,128	15.5
Jefferson County	171,380	198,116	15.6
Lincoln County	28,892	37,733	30.6
St. Charles County	212,751	280,448	31.8
St. Louis City	396,685	333,960	-15.8
St. Louis County	993,508	996,171	0.3
Warren County	19,534	25,435	30.2
Clinton County	33,944	35,682	5.1
Jersey County	20,539	21,573	5.0
Madison County	249,238	259,434	4.1
Monroe County	22,422	27,289	21.7
St. Clair County	262,852	260,050	-1.1
St. Louis MSA	2,492,348	2,569,019	3.1
Missouri	1,903,353	1,964,991	3.2
Illinois	588,995	604,028	2.6

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

POPULATION TRENDS BY COUNTIES 1900 TO 1999



SOURCE:

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

NOTE:

CURVES FOR EACH COUNTY SHOW POPULATIONS BY DECADES FROM 1900 TO 1990. THE FINAL SEGMENT ILLUSTRATES POPULATION CHANGE BETWEEN 1990 TO 1999. ALL POPULATIONS ARE EXPRESSED IN THOUSANDS OF PERSONS. BLUE PORTIONS SHOW SMALLER POPULATION IN YEAR INDICATED THAN IN 1900.

The counties in the Illinois portion of the region experienced a parallel pattern of growth over the past 100 years, yet not as dramatic. At the beginning of the century, when steel and mining industries were at their peak, Madison and St. Clair counties had a larger resident population than St. Louis County. In 1900, St. Clair County had 86,700 residents and Madison County had 64,700 residents, while St. Louis County only had 50,000 residents. Although the Illinois counties did not experience the population boom that St. Louis, Jefferson, and St. Charles experienced after 1950, the population within these counties continued to grow at a steady pace, peaking in 1970. Madison County experienced a small decline in population between 1970 and 1990, yet, recent population estimates indicate a four percent population increase between 1990 and 1999. St. Clair County, however, continues to experience slight declines.

For More Information

The Census Bureau expects to begin releasing results from the April 2000 count beginning January 2001. East-West Gateway will share information with Gateway Trends readers as it is available.

Periodic updates and links will be available on our website www.ewgateway.org. Readers may also want to consult the official web sites for population count estimates and projections maintained by the Federal and state governments.

U.S. Bureau of the Census
http://www.census.gov/

Missouri State Office of Administration
http://www.oa.state.mo.us/bp/plngrsr2.htm

Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
http://www.oseda.missouri.edu/

Marble Geographic-correlation site
http://www.oseda.missouri.edu/plue/geocorr/

Illinois Business and Industry Data Center
http://www.niu.edu/bidc/

Illinois Dept. of Health
http://www.idph.state.il.us/about/abouthome.htm

The Census is a longstanding tradition

Every ten years, during the first April of the decade, America takes an official count of all its residents. The public information campaign surrounding the 2000 Census has made most of us aware of the importance of this decennial event. But few of us may realize just how longstanding the tradition has been.

The first Census Day was recognized around the nation 210 years ago, on the first Monday in August 1790. Since that historic day, the nation has enumerated its population every decennial year. In 1830, the Census Day was changed to June 1—after the planting season and before harvesting, when nearly half the population who lived on farms returned from the fields. In 1930, April 1st was designated by law as the official Census Day, which remains the case today.

In 1900, it was reported that about 53,000 census takers went door-to-door for up to eight weeks to count an average of 1,400 residents each. They tallied 76 million people living throughout the United States. Each census-taker carried an 80-page book of instructions and a "general schedule" of 22 questions. One hundred years later, about 860,000 census-takers are conducting the 22nd national census in what will be the largest peacetime mobilization in the United States since the Great Depression of the 1930s. The Census Bureau projects the nation's population on April 1, 2000 will be about 274 million people—a 261 percent increase during the century.

United States Census 2000
www.2000.census.gov