WHERE WE STAND

An Update from

EAST-WEST GATEWAY
Council of Governments

Creating Solutions Across Jurisdictional Boundaries

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WHERE WE STAND UPDATE: TWENTY YEARS LATER

Since its first publication in 1990,* Where We Stand *has come to be recognized as an authoritative source of information about the competitive position of the St. Louis region in the national marketplace. We track over 100 variables that together tell a story about the health of our region compared to 34 peer MSAs.[1] These regions are our domestic competition and provide a consistent yardstick to gauge "Where We Stand". Now in its sixth edition, Where We Stand ***is issued about every three years with periodic updates in between each publication. These briefings provide an opportunity to update St. Louis' standing with new data or provide further insight on a specific topic. This issue takes a look at the trends and themes seen throughout the six editions of the publication and how St. Louis' rankings among its peers have changed from 1990 to 2011.***

Introduction

What makes a community attractive? What makes a region thrive? Is the St. Louis region making the strategic decisions necessary to elevate our standing in the national marketplace? What is required to broaden and strengthen our approach to problem solving? These are just some of the questions *Where We Stand*: *the Strategic Assessment of the St. Louis Region* has prompted for 20 years.

This update takes a look back at the six editions published in 1992, 1996, 1999, 2002, 2006 and 2011, finding that the St. Louis region on most aspects has not made great strides but also has not fallen behind our peers dramatically. The region is holding steady. The general themes are those that are very familiar to those of us in the region—we are slow growing, our economy has been hurt by the loss of manufacturing jobs, the region is relatively affordable, our population aging faster, and we have a fragmented government structure.

Although these themes are well known it remains important that we, as the residents and leaders of the region, continue to take an objective look at the facts. Not only so we can understand how we compare with those we compete with for jobs and people but also so we can make fact-based decisions to improve the quality of life for the people who work and live in the region, and potentially attract more people.

1 The U.S. Census Bureau defines a MSA, or metropolitan statistical area, as "that of a large population nucleus, together with adjacent communities having a high degree of social and economic integration with that core. MSAs comprise one or more counties…the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines metropolitan areas for purposes of collecting, tabulating, and publishing federal data. Metropolitan area definitions result from applying published standards to Census Bureau data."

St. Louis and Our Peer Regions

For the first edition of *Where We Stand* (*WWS*) in 1990, 29 regions were chosen as St. Louis' peers. These regions were seen as the major metropolitan regions that St. Louis competes with for population and jobs. For the second edition in 1996, five regions were added to the list based on the same criteria used in the first edition—regions with a population of 950,000 or more and within 500 miles of St. Louis or areas that had an economic function similar to the St. Louis region's. The publication continued with the same regions through the sixth edition, recognizing these are the areas that continue to be the region's main competition as well as to allow for analysis over time. The *Where We Stand* Peer Regions map depicts the 35 peer regions used in the publication.

Demographics

Who are the residents of the St. Louis region? How do the demographics of our population differ from those of other regions? How have these differences changed? Compared to other major metropolitan areas in the country, the themes seen in the demographic data for the St. Louis region are a slow but positive population growth, negative net migration, not as ethnically diverse, a more dispersed population and a population that is aging faster than the rest of the country.

A Peer Region...

- **Has a population of 950,000 or more AND**
- **Is within 500 miles of St. Louis OR**
- **Has an economic function similar to that of the St. Louis region.**

Slow Steady Population Growth

The Metro Area Population 2010 table shows St. Louis is currently the 17th most populated region among the 35 peers. The region has maintained this close to the middle of the pack standing with a steady population growth of over four percent for each of the last two decades. The region did not experience the substantial population increases as seen in several regions in the South and West but the region has not lost population, as is the case in several of the peer Midwest regions. St. Louis' population has grown slowly, ranking 31st for population change from 1990 to 2000 and 27th from 2000 to 2010. Across the board the 35 metropolitan regions saw less population growth in the last decade than in the 1990s, indicating an overall trend of fewer population shifts and less movement.

METRO AREA POPULATION
1990

1	Los Angeles	8,863,164
2	New York City	8,546,846
3	Chicago	6,069,974
4	Philadelphia	4,856,881
5	Detroit	4,382,299
6	Washington DC	3,923,674
7	Boston	3,783,817
8	Houston	3,301,937
9	Atlanta	2,833,611
Average		2,724,967
10	Dallas	2,553,362
11	Minneapolis	2,464,124
12	**St. Louis**	**2,444,099**
13	Baltimore	2,382,172
14	Phoenix	2,122,101
15	Pittsburgh	2,056,705
16	Seattle	1,972,961
17	Miami	1,937,094
18	Cleveland	1,831,122
19	Denver	1,622,960
20	San Francisco	1,603,678
21	Kansas City	1,566,280
22	Cincinnati	1,452,645
23	Milwaukee	1,432,149
24	Columbus	1,377,419
25	Indianapolis	1,249,822
26	Portland	1,239,842
27	Nashville	985,026
28	Memphis	981,747
29	Oklahoma City	958,839
30	Louisville	952,662

Source: 1990 Census

METRO AREA POPULATION
2010

1	New York	18,897,109
2	Los Angeles	12,828,837
3	Chicago	9,461,105
4	Dallas	6,371,773
5	Philadelphia	5,965,343
6	Houston	5,946,800
7	Washington D.C.	5,582,170
8	Miami	5,564,635
9	Atlanta	5,268,860
10	Boston	4,552,402
11	San Francisco	4,335,391
12	Detroit	4,296,250
13	Phoenix	4,192,887
Average		3,980,077
14	Seattle	3,439,809
15	Minneapolis	3,279,833
16	San Diego	3,095,313
17	**St. Louis**	**2,812,896**
18	Baltimore	2,710,489
19	Denver	2,543,482
20	Pittsburgh	2,356,285
21	Portland	2,226,009
22	San Antonio	2,142,508
23	Cincinnati	2,130,151
24	Cleveland	2,077,240
25	Kansas City	2,035,334
26	Columbus	1,836,536
27	Charlotte	1,758,038
28	Indianapolis	1,756,241
29	Austin	1,716,289
30	Nashville	1,589,934
31	Milwaukee	1,555,908
32	Memphis	1,316,100
33	Louisville	1,283,566
34	Oklahoma City	1,252,987
35	Salt Lake City	1,124,197

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

POPULATION CHANGE
By percent, 1990-2000

1	Austin	47.7
2	Phoenix	45.3
3	Atlanta	38.9
4	Dallas	31.5
5	Denver	30.0
6	Charlotte	29.0
7	Portland	26.6
8	Houston	25.8
9	Nashville	25.0
10	Salt Lake City	24.4
11	San Antonio	20.2
12	Seattle	18.8
13	Minneapolis	16.9
14	Washington DC	16.6
Average		16.5
15	Indianapolis	16.4
16	Miami	16.3
17	Columbus	14.5
18	Oklahoma City	13.0
19	Memphis	12.7
20	San Diego	12.6
21	Kansas City	12.2
22	Chicago	11.6
23	New York	9.0
24	Louisville	8.1
25	San Francisco	8.0
26	Cincinnati	7.9
27	Los Angeles	7.4
28	Baltimore	7.2
29	Boston	5.5
30	Milwaukee	4.8
31	**St. Louis**	**4.5**
32	Detroit	4.1
33	Philadelphia	3.6
34	Cleveland	2.2
35	Pittsburgh	-1.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

POPULATION CHANGE
Percent change, 2000-2010

1	Austin	35.6
2	Charlotte	31.2
3	Phoenix	27.9
4	Houston	25.5
5	San Antonio	24.6
6	Atlanta	23.0
7	Dallas	22.6
8	Nashville	20.7
9	Denver	15.9
10	Washington D.C.	15.8
11	Salt Lake City	15.6
12	Portland	15.0
13	Indianapolis	14.7
14	Oklahoma City	14.1
15	Columbus	13.4
16	Seattle	12.7
Average		12.0
17	Miami	10.7
18	Kansas City	10.4
19	Louisville	10.2
20	Minneapolis	10.0
21	San Diego	9.6
22	Memphis	8.9
23	Baltimore	6.0
24	Cincinnati	5.7
25	San Francisco	4.8
26	Philadelphia	4.8
27	**St. Louis**	**4.1**
28	Chicago	3.8
29	Milwaukee	3.6
30	Los Angeles	3.5
31	Boston	3.4
32	New York	3.0
33	Pittsburgh	-3.0
34	Cleveland	-3.3
35	Detroit	-3.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Negative Net Migration

The regions that have experienced the highest population gains have also seen the largest gains in net migration, particularly domestic migration. The regions with the largest populations have experienced some of the highest levels of international migration but were less likely to experience the highest levels of domestic migration, often resulting in low or negative net migration.

As a midsized region among its peers with a relatively small population increase, St. Louis follows this pattern. The region ranked below average on net migration in five of the six editions of *WWS*. The 2006 edition is the only one in which the region recorded a positive net migration rate with 22,000 more people moving into the region than moving out between 2000 and 2005.

By the end of the decade, the recorded net migration was again negative. Similar to other slow growing regions with a large population, St. Louis has a higher rate of international migration compared to domestic migration. Yet, the region's international migration is still not enough to make up for the loss in population due to domestic migration.

Net Migration
St. Louis

1990: 24th
1996: 27th
1999: 27th
2002: 27th
2006: 21st
2011: 25th

NET INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION
Percent of 2000 population, 2000-2009

1	Miami	10.1
2	Phoenix	6.5
3	Los Angeles	6.5
4	Washington D.C.	6.4
5	Dallas	6.2
6	San Francisco	6.2
7	Houston	6.1
8	New York	5.9
9	Austin	5.2
10	Atlanta	4.8
11	Boston	4.3
12	Denver	4.3
13	Salt Lake City	4.2
14	Seattle	4.2
15	Chicago	4.0
16	Portland	3.7
Average		3.6
17	Charlotte	3.6
18	San Diego	3.5
19	Minneapolis	2.8
20	Nashville	2.8
21	Columbus	2.5
22	Oklahoma City	2.2
23	Philadelphia	2.2
24	Detroit	2.1
25	Kansas City	1.9
26	San Antonio	1.8
27	Indianapolis	1.8
28	Milwaukee	1.8
29	Baltimore	1.7
30	Memphis	1.6
31	Louisville	1.4
32	Cleveland	1.3
33	Cincinnati	1.1
34	**St. Louis**	**1.1**
35	Pittsburgh	0.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

NET DOMESTIC MIGRATION
Percent of 2000 population, 2000-2009

1	Charlotte	18.2
2	Austin	17.7
3	Phoenix	16.2
4	San Antonio	10.2
5	Atlanta	9.6
6	Nashville	9.2
7	Portland	6.2
8	Dallas	5.9
9	Houston	5.1
10	Indianapolis	4.6
11	Oklahoma City	3.8
12	Louisville	2.9
13	Denver	2.8
14	Columbus	2.0
15	Kansas City	1.6
16	Seattle	1.4
Average		0.9
17	Memphis	-0.7
18	Minneapolis	-0.8
19	Cincinnati	-0.9
20	Baltimore	-1.4
21	**St. Louis**	**-1.6**
22	Philadelphia	-2.0
23	Pittsburgh	-2.0
24	Washington D.C.	-2.3
25	Salt Lake City	-3.4
26	San Diego	-4.5
27	Milwaukee	-4.8
28	Boston	-5.3
29	Miami	-5.7
30	Chicago	-6.0
31	Cleveland	-6.2
32	Detroit	-8.1
33	San Francisco	-8.3
34	New York	-10.5
35	Los Angeles	-10.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

NET MIGRATION
Percent of 2000 population, 2000-2009

1	Austin	22.9
2	Phoenix	22.7
3	Charlotte	21.8
4	Atlanta	14.5
5	Dallas	12.2
6	San Antonio	12.0
7	Nashville	11.9
8	Houston	11.2
9	Portland	9.9
10	Denver	7.1
11	Indianapolis	6.4
12	Oklahoma City	5.9
13	Seattle	5.5
Average		4.5
14	Columbus	4.4
15	Miami	4.4
16	Louisville	4.3
17	Washington D.C.	4.1
18	Kansas City	3.5
19	Minneapolis	2.1
20	Memphis	0.9
21	Salt Lake City	0.9
22	Baltimore	0.3
23	Cincinnati	0.2
24	Philadelphia	0.2
25	**St. Louis**	**-0.5**
26	Boston	-1.0
27	San Diego	-1.0
28	Pittsburgh	-1.2
29	Chicago	-2.0
30	San Francisco	-2.1
31	Milwaukee	-3.1
32	Los Angeles	-4.3
33	New York	-4.6
34	Cleveland	-4.9
35	Detroit	-6.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Not as Diverse

Another theme that is apparent in the *WWS* publications is that the St. Louis region is not as diverse as many of its peer regions. The region is primarily white and African American with very small portions of the population being of other races and ethnicities. The region has seen an increase in the Asian and Hispanic populations yet they continue to comprise a very small portion of the population, 2.1 and 2.6 percent, respectively.

These indicators are closely related to the international immigration variable with larger regions having larger Asian and Hispanic populations; being more diverse. Most of the regions that have seen the largest population gains over the last 20 years—Austin, Phoenix, Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, and Denver—also have large Hispanic and Latino populations. Washington D.C. is the only one of the regions in the top 10 for population increase to also have a large portion of its population be Asian as well. Not all of the regions with large population gains are as diverse. Charlotte, Atlanta, and Nashville are three regions that have seen large population gains but have below average Asian and Hispanic population proportions.

2010 St. Louis	Peer Average
75% White	62% White
18% Black	14% Black
2% Asian	5% Asian
3% Hispanic	16% Hispanic

POPULATION BY RACE
Asians as a percent of total population, 1996

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 D.C.	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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

POPULATION BY ETHNICITY
Hispanics as a percent of total population, 1994

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 D.C.	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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

ASIAN POPULATION
(Not Hispanic or Latino)
Percent of total, 2010

1	San Francisco	22.9
2	Los Angeles	14.5
3	Seattle	11.3
4	San Diego	10.6
5	New York	9.8
6	Washington D.C.	9.2
7	Houston	6.5
8	Boston	6.4
9	Minneapolis	5.7
10	Portland	5.6
11	Chicago	5.6
12	Dallas	5.3
Average		5.1
13	Philadelphia	4.9
14	Atlanta	4.8
15	Austin	4.7
16	Baltimore	4.5
17	Denver	3.6
18	Detroit	3.3
19	Phoenix	3.2
20	Charlotte	3.1
21	Columbus	3.1
22	Salt Lake City	3.0
23	Milwaukee	2.9
24	Oklahoma City	2.8
25	Nashville	2.3
26	Kansas City	2.2
27	Indianapolis	2.2
28	Miami	2.2
29	**St. Louis**	**2.1**
30	San Antonio	2.0
31	Cleveland	1.9
32	Cincinnati	1.9
33	Memphis	1.8
34	Pittsburgh	1.7
35	Louisville	1.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

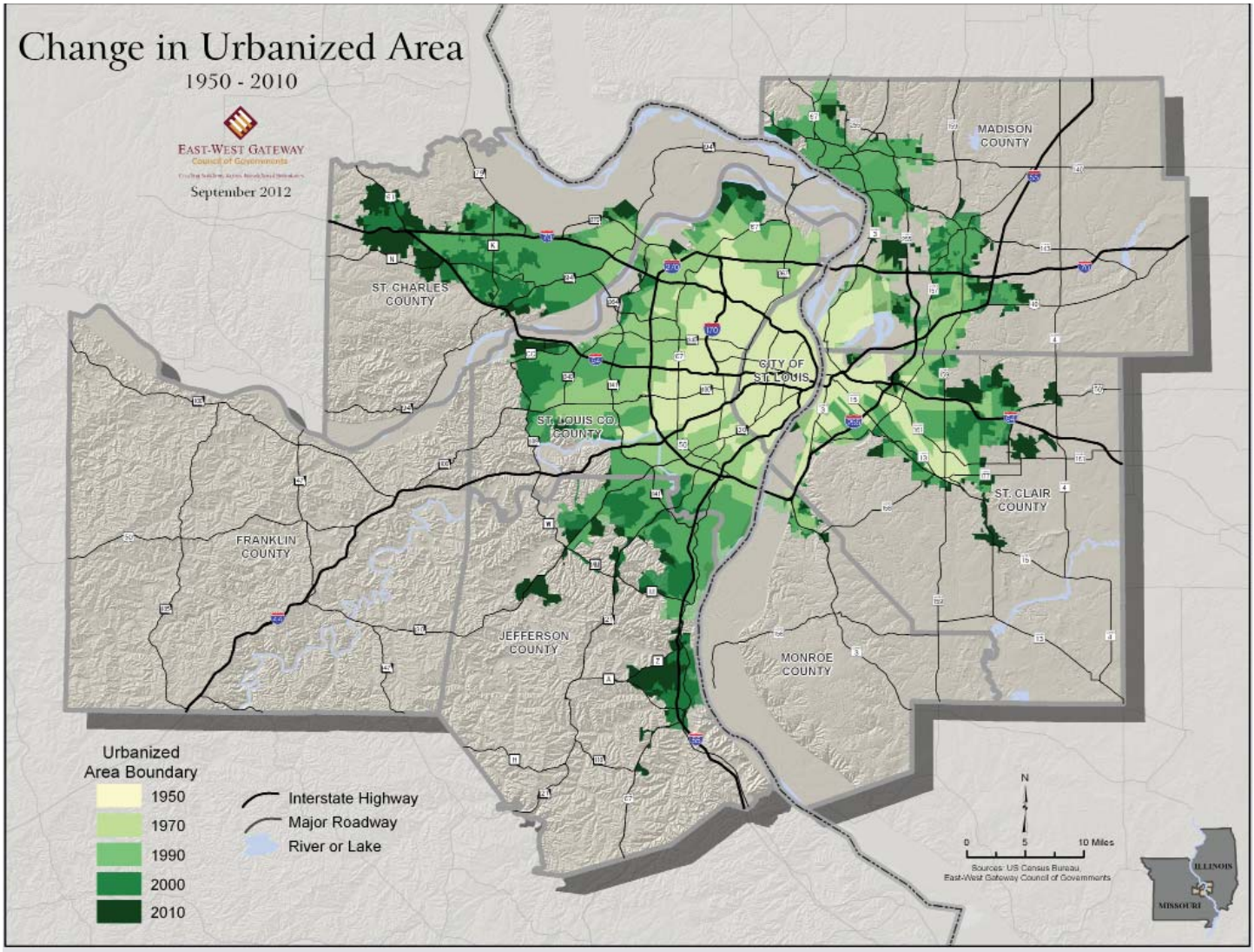
HISPANIC AND LATINO POPULATION
Percent of total, 2010

1	San Antonio	54.1
2	Los Angeles	44.4
3	Miami	41.6
4	Houston	35.3
5	San Diego	32.0
6	Austin	31.4
7	Phoenix	29.5
8	Dallas	27.5
9	New York	22.9
10	Denver	22.5
11	San Francisco	21.7
12	Chicago	20.7
13	Salt Lake City	16.6
Average		15.7
14	Washington D.C.	13.8
15	Oklahoma City	11.3
16	Portland	10.9
17	Atlanta	10.4
18	Charlotte	9.8
19	Milwaukee	9.5
20	Boston	9.0
21	Seattle	9.0
22	Kansas City	8.2
23	Philadelphia	7.8
24	Nashville	6.6
25	Indianapolis	6.2
26	Minneapolis	5.4
27	Memphis	5.0
28	Cleveland	4.7
29	Baltimore	4.6
30	Louisville	3.9
31	Detroit	3.9
32	Columbus	3.6
33	Cincinnati	2.6
34	**St. Louis**	**2.6**
35	Pittsburgh	1.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Population is More Dispersed

While the St. Louis region's population is not the largest and the population growth is relatively low, the region's geographic footprint is one of the largest among its peers. The St. Louis region's urbanized area from 1950 to 2010 is depicted in the map below. In 2010, St. Louis had the 5th largest land area at 8,649 square miles. This equates to a more dispersed population than many of our peer regions. St. Louis ranks 32nd for "largest city share of metro population" with 11.4 percent of the region's population living in the city of St. Louis. Most of the region's population growth has been in the outer counties with population loss in the core counties—city of St. Louis, St. Louis and St. Clair counties. Most of the regions that have seen large population gains over the last decade have also seen large increases in the population of their largest city, or urban core.



LAND AREA

In square miles, 2003 MSA boundaries

1	Phoenix	14,573
2	Salt Lake City	9,539
3	Dallas	8,990
4	Houston	8,928
5	**St. Louis**	**8,649**
6	Denver	8,385
7	Atlanta	8,376
8	Kansas City	7,858
9	San Antonio	7,341
10	Chicago	7,212
11	New York	6,726
12	Portland	6,684
13	Minneapolis	6,063
14	Seattle	5,894
Average		5,725
15	Nashville	5,687
16	Washington D.C.	5,626
17	Oklahoma City	5,518
18	Pittsburgh	5,280
19	Miami	5,126
20	Los Angeles	4,851
21	Philadelphia	4,630
22	Memphis	4,572
23	Cincinnati	4,398
24	Austin	4,224
25	San Diego	4,200
26	Louisville	4,135
27	Columbus	3,984
28	Detroit	3,914
29	Indianapolis	3,864
30	Boston	3,507
31	Charlotte	3,099
32	Baltimore	2,609
33	San Francisco	2,473
34	Cleveland	2,004
35	Milwaukee	1,460

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000; OMB, 2003

LARGEST CITY SHARE OF METRO POPULATION

Percent of total, 2010*

1	San Antonio	62.0
2	Memphis	49.2
3	Indianapolis	46.7
4	Louisville	46.5
5	Oklahoma City	46.3
6	Austin	46.1
7	New York	43.3
8	Columbus	42.9
9	San Diego	42.2
10	Charlotte	41.6
11	Milwaukee	38.2
12	Nashville	37.8
13	Houston	35.3
14	Phoenix	34.5
15	Kansas City	29.8
16	Los Angeles	29.6
Average		28.7
17	Chicago	28.5
18	Portland	26.2
19	Philadelphia	25.6
20	Denver	23.6
21	Baltimore	22.9
22	Minneapolis	20.4
23	Cleveland	19.1
24	Dallas	18.8
25	San Francisco	18.6
26	Seattle	17.7
27	Detroit	16.6
28	Salt Lake City	16.6
29	Cincinnati	13.9
30	Boston	13.6
31	Pittsburgh	13.0
32	**St. Louis**	**11.4**
33	Washington D.C.	10.8
34	Atlanta	8.0
35	Miami	7.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

* Kansas City includes Kansas City, MO and Kansas City, KS; Minneapolis also includes St. Paul

CHANGE IN LARGEST CITY POPULATION

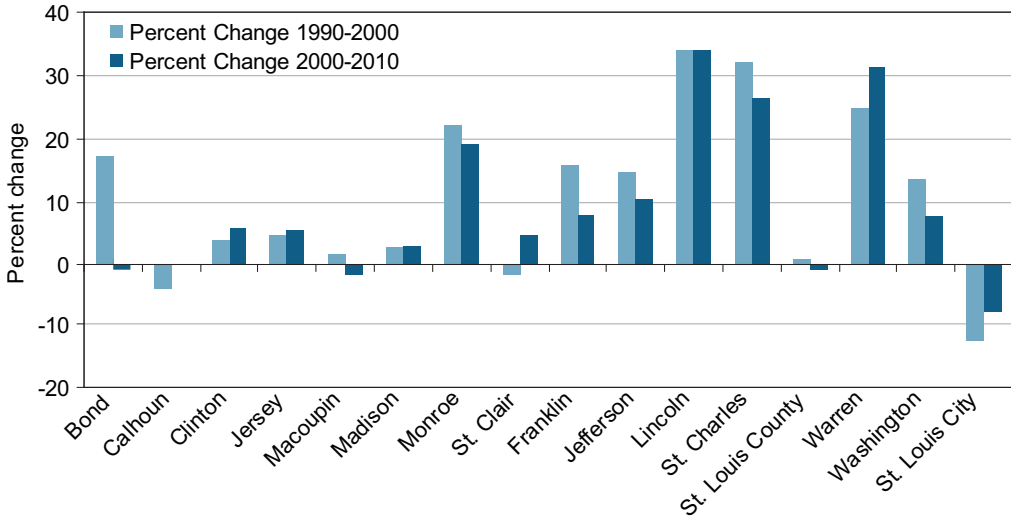
Percent change, 2000-2010*

1	Charlotte	35.2
2	Austin	20.4
3	San Antonio	16.0
4	Oklahoma City	14.6
5	Columbus	10.6
6	Portland	10.3
7	Nashville	10.2
8	Miami	10.2
9	Phoenix	9.4
10	Denver	8.2
11	Seattle	8.0
12	Louisville	7.8
13	Houston	7.5
14	San Diego	6.9
15	Washington D.C.	5.2
16	Indianapolis	4.9
17	Boston	4.8
18	San Francisco	3.7
Average		3.6
19	Kansas City	2.9
20	Los Angeles	2.6
21	Salt Lake City	2.6
22	New York	2.1
23	Atlanta	0.8
24	Dallas	0.8
25	Philadelphia	0.6
26	Minneapolis	-0.3
27	Milwaukee	-0.4
28	Memphis	-0.5
29	Baltimore	-4.6
30	Chicago	-6.9
31	**St. Louis**	**-8.3**
32	Pittsburgh	-8.6
33	Cincinnati	-10.4
34	Cleveland	-17.1
35	Detroit	-25.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

* Kansas City includes Kansas City, MO and Kansas City, KS; Minneapolis also includes St. Paul

Population Change by County
St. Louis MSA, 1990 to 2010



Aging Faster

The median age for the nation and the St. Louis region have steadily increased with the St. Louis region aging faster. In 1990, St. Louis ranked 14th with a median age of 34.4. In 2010, the median age for the region had increased to 37.9 and the ranking had moved up to 8th. From 1990 to 2010, the average median age for the peer regions increased less (2.3 years) than for the nation as a whole (4.3 years) and less than half that of the St. Louis region (5.0 years).

Most of the regions with the largest increases in employment over the last decade also have the lowest median ages—Austin, San Antonio, Houston, Salt Lake City, Phoenix, Oklahoma City and Dallas. The flip of this is also true with many of the regions with the oldest median ages having some of the largest decreases in employment—Detroit, Cleveland, San Francisco, Louisville, Boston and St. Louis. Is the younger median age attracting businesses or are jobs attracting a labor force?

Median Age, 2010

US:	**37.2**
St. Louis:	**38.2**

U.S. Expected Growth 2010 to 2040

Working Age Population:	**16.8%**
65+ Population:	**75%**

MEDIAN AGE
1990

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 D.C.	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

Source: 1990 Census

MEDIAN AGE
2000

1	Pittsburgh	40.0
2	Cleveland	37.3
2	San Francisco	37.3
4	Louisville	36.5
5	Philadelphia	36.4
6	Boston	36.3
6	Baltimore	36.3
8	**St. Louis**	**36.0**
9	Miami	35.6
10	Seattle	35.5
10	Detroit	35.5
12	Milwaukee	35.4
13	Kansas City	35.2
14	Cincinnati	35.1
15	Washington D.C.	34.9
16	Portland	34.8
17	Indianapolis	34.6
17	New York	34.6
19	Nashville	34.5
Average		34.5
20	Charlotte	34.3
21	Minneapolis	34.2
22	Oklahoma City	34.1
22	Denver	34.1
24	Chicago	33.7
25	Columbus	33.6
26	Memphis	33.2
26	San Diego	33.2
26	Phoenix	33.2
29	Atlanta	32.9
30	San Antonio	32.7
31	Los Angeles	32.0
32	Dallas	31.8
33	Houston	31.6
34	Austin	30.9
35	Salt Lake City	28.6

Source: 2000 Census

MEDIAN AGE
2005

1	Pittsburgh	41.7
2	Cleveland	39.0
3	Miami	38.6
4	San Francisco	38.0
5	Boston	37.9
5	Philadelphia	37.9
7	Louisville	37.7
8	Baltimore	37.5
9	**St. Louis**	**37.3**
10	New York	37.2
11	Milwaukee	37.1
12	Detroit	36.9
13	Seattle	36.8
14	Cincinnati	36.4
15	Nashville	36.2
16	Kansas City	36.1
17	Washington DC	36.0
Average		35.8
18	Minneapolis	35.8
19	Portland	35.7
20	Oklahoma City	35.1
21	Chicago	35.0
21	Indianapolis	35.0
23	Charlotte	34.9
23	Columbus	34.9
25	Memphis	34.7
26	Denver	34.6
27	San Diego	34.4
28	Atlanta	34.1
29	Los Angeles	34.0
30	San Antonio	33.8
31	Phoenix	33.5
32	Dallas	32.9
32	Houston	32.9
34	Austin	32.5
35	Salt Lake City	30.2

Source: American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

MEDIAN AGE
2009

1	Pittsburgh	42.3
2	Cleveland	40.2
3	Miami	39.2
4	Detroit	38.7
5	Boston	38.4
6	San Francisco	38.2
7	Philadelphia	38.0
8	**St. Louis**	**37.9**
9	Baltimore	37.8
10	Louisville	37.8
11	New York	37.8
12	Milwaukee	37.0
13	Cincinnati	36.9
14	Seattle	36.5
15	Portland	36.4
16	Kansas City	36.2
17	Washington D.C.	36.1
Average		36.1
18	Minneapolis	36.0
19	Nashville	35.5
20	Chicago	35.4
21	Denver	35.4
22	Indianapolis	35.4
23	Charlotte	35.1
24	Memphis	34.8
25	Columbus	34.7
26	San Diego	34.7
27	Los Angeles	34.6
28	Atlanta	34.4
29	Oklahoma City	34.2
30	Phoenix	33.7
31	San Antonio	33.7
32	Dallas	33.0
33	Houston	32.9
34	Austin	32.5
35	Salt Lake City	30.9

Source: American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

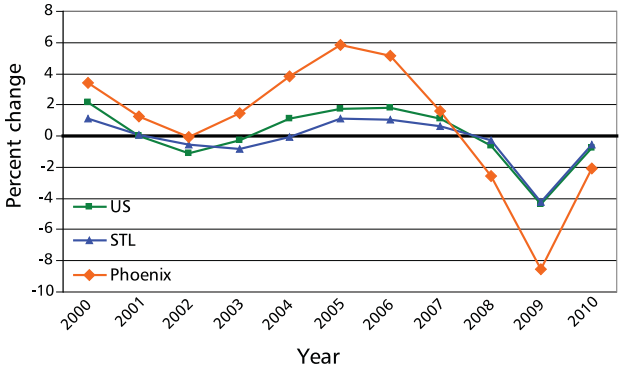
Economic Vitality

Despite its steep loss in manufacturing jobs, the St. Louis region has maintained a large number of jobs in the manufacturing sector, has seen increases in the health care and financial industries and did not feel the effects of the recession as much as many of our peer regions. Positive aspects of the region's economy also include the region's low cost of living and the region is largely considered affordable.

Decreasing Employment

Whether jobs follow people or people follow jobs, the regions that have seen the largest increases in population have also seen the largest increases in employment. These high growth areas are mostly in the Sunbelt region with the three largest employment gainers in Texas. Like most of the peer regions, the St. Louis region saw employment gains in the 1980's and 1990's but saw a decrease in the last decade. St. Louis ranked 19th (of 30) in employment growth from 1980 to 1989, 24th from 1990 to 1996, 34th from 1996 to 2000 and 26th from 2000 to 2010. The Change in Employment graph uses Phoenix as an example of a boom and bust region and compares the St. Louis region's change in employment to that of Phoenix and the nation. While St. Louis and the U.S. as a whole saw growth in mid-decade and a drop in employment when the recession hit, neither was as dramatic as was seen in Phoenix.

Change in Employment, 2000-2010



PERCENT GROWTH IN JOBS
1980-1989

1	Phoenix	56.0
2	Atlanta	51.6
3	Washington DC	38.6
4	Nashville	38.0
5	Seattle	38.0
6	Dallas	36.1
7	Columbus	27.8
8	Indianapolis	25.9
9	Baltimore	24.9
10	Minneapolis	24.3
11	Memphis	23.2
Average		23.2
12	Boston	22.6
13	Miami	22.4
14	Kansas City	22.2
15	Cincinnati	22.1
16	Los Angeles	21.5
17	Portland	21.3
18	Denver	20.9
19	**St. Louis**	**19.9**
20	Philadelphia	18.3
21	Louisville	17.3
22	San Francisco	16.4
23	Detroit	15.7
24	Milwaukee	14.1
25	Chicago	13.9
26	Houston	12.5
27	New York	11.4
28	Oklahoma City	10.3
29	Cleveland	6.5
30	Pittsburgh	3.0

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

JOB GROWTH
Percent increase in jobs, 1996-2000

1	Austin	22.8
2	Phoenix	19.2
3	Dallas	17.7
4	Denver	17.0
5	Atlanta	16.3
6	San Diego	16.1
7	Houston	15.4
8	Charlotte	14.6
9	Seattle	14.3
10	San Francisco	13.1
11	Nashville	12.9
12	Salt Lake City	12.5
13	San Antonio	12.4
13	Washington D.C.	12.4
Average		11.5
15	Columbus	11.4
16	Portland	11.1
17	Indianapolis	10.7
18	New York	10.6
19	Kansas City	10.2
19	Boston	10.2
21	Minneapolis	10.1
22	Miami	9.9
22	Oklahoma City	9.9
22	Memphis	9.6
25	Baltimore	9.0
26	Louisville	8.9
27	Philadelphia	8.4
28	Cincinnati	8.3
29	Chicago	7.9
29	Los Angeles	7.9
31	Detroit	7.8
32	Milwaukee	7.0
33	Pittsburgh	6.0
34	**St. Louis**	**5.9**
35	Cleveland	5.8

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT
Percent change, 2000-2010

1	Austin	13.9
2	San Antonio	12.9
3	Houston	12.4
4	Washington D.C.	10.7
5	Salt Lake City	7.4
6	Phoenix	6.9
7	Nashville	5.0
8	Charlotte	4.4
9	Oklahoma City	3.8
10	Dallas	3.7
11	San Diego	2.2
12	Indianapolis	1.9
13	Baltimore	1.7
14	Miami	1.3
Average		-0.4
15	Seattle	-0.6
16	Portland	-0.8
17	New York	-1.2
18	Columbus	-1.2
19	Atlanta	-1.3
20	Denver	-1.7
21	Kansas City	-1.7
22	Philadelphia	-1.7
23	Pittsburgh	-2.0
24	Minneapolis	-3.4
25	Cincinnati	-3.5
26	**St. Louis**	**-3.6**
27	Boston	-4.4
28	Louisville	-4.8
29	Memphis	-5.9
30	Los Angeles	-6.2
31	Milwaukee	-6.9
32	Chicago	-7.1
33	San Francisco	-11.4
34	Cleveland	-12.7
35	Detroit	-21.4

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current

CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT
Percent change, 2007-2010

1	Austin	1.2
2	San Antonio	0.8
3	Houston	-0.7
4	Washington D.C.	-0.9
5	Pittsburgh	-2.0
6	Oklahoma City	-2.2
7	Boston	-2.4
8	Dallas	-2.6
9	New York	-3.2
10	Baltimore	-3.5
11	Nashville	-3.9
12	Denver	-4.0
13	Philadelphia	-4.0
14	Columbus	-4.1
15	Salt Lake City	-4.8
16	Kansas City	-4.9
17	**St. Louis**	**-5.0**
18	Indianapolis	-5.1
Average		-5.2
19	Louisville	-5.4
20	Milwaukee	-5.8
21	Minneapolis	-5.9
22	Seattle	-6.0
23	Cincinnati	-6.3
24	Portland	-6.7
25	San Diego	-6.8
26	Chicago	-6.8
27	Charlotte	-6.9
28	San Francisco	-7.5
29	Cleveland	-7.6
30	Atlanta	-7.9
31	Memphis	-8.3
32	Los Angeles	-9.2
33	Miami	-9.6
34	Detroit	-11.7
35	Phoenix	-12.0

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

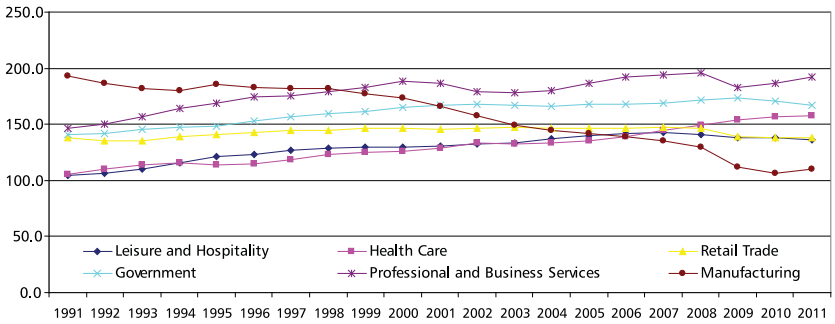
Decline in Manufacturing Employment

The main reason the St. Louis region ranks poorly on the employment variables is due to the large portion of the region's employment that was, and continues to be, manufacturing. Manufacturing was the largest employment sector in the early 1990's before it started steadily declining. From 1990 to 2010, manufacturing employment declined 50 percent in the St. Louis region but remains one of the region's top employment sectors. All of the peer regions have seen a decline in manufacturing employment but this decrease has not had as dramatic of an impact on those regions that were not as reliant on the manufacturing sector as St. Louis was.

The decline in manufacturing jobs is not only problematic because of the size of the industry in the region but also because of the types of jobs the sector provides. Historically, manufacturing jobs have provided a wage that would support a family along with health care and retirement benefits while the same is not true of many of the service sector jobs that have replaced them.

On the Six Largest Industries chart the growth of a variety of service sector jobs can be seen—waste management, accommodation and food services, and leisure and hospitality. There has also been growth in some typically good paying sectors such as health care and education services.

Six Largest Industries, St. Louis MSA
Employees, in thousands



CHANGE IN MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT
1996--2000

1	Austin	24.0
2	San Diego	9.8
3	San Antonio	6.6
3	Phoenix	6.6
5	Dallas	5.4
5	Houston	5.4
7	Portland	3.9
8	Oklahoma City	3.2
9	Detroit	3.1
10	Atlanta	3.0
11	Columbus	2.6
12	Indianapolis	2.4
13	Pittsburgh	2.1
13	Seattle	2.1
15	Salt Lake City	1.3
16	Minneapolis	0.8
Average		0.5
17	Denver	0.3
18	Cincinnati	0.0
19	Nashville	-0.5
20	Louisville	-0.7
21	Milwaukee	-1.1
22	Memphis	-1.2
23	Boston	-1.8
24	Cleveland	-2.2
25	Philadelphia	-2.3
26	Kansas City	-2.5
27	Los Angeles	-2.8
28	Baltimore	-3.7
28	Chicago	-3.7
30	San Francisco	-5.9
31	**St. Louis**	**-8.1**
32	Charlotte	-8.8
33	New York	-9.0
34	Miami	-10.9

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

CHANGE IN MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT
Percent increase in jobs, 2001-2004

1	Kansas City	-3.5
2	Nashville	-4.4
3	Salt Lake City	-5.7
4	Indianapolis	-6.8
5	Denver	-7.2
6	Philadelphia	-8.2
7	Memphis	-9.3
8	Minneapolis	-9.9
9	Cincinnati	-10.3
9	Houston	-10.3
11	Atlanta	-10.4
12	Dallas	-11.1
13	Milwaukee	-11.3
14	**St. Louis**	**-11.4**
15	Louisville	-11.9
16	San Diego	-12.1
17	Portland	-12.3
18	Phoenix	-12.9
Average		-13.6
19	Columbus	-14.5
20	San Antonio	-14.6
20	San Francisco	-14.6
22	Los Angeles	-14.8
23	Chicago	-14.9
24	New York	-15.4
25	Baltimore	-16.3
26	Pittsburgh	-16.4
27	Miami	-16.5
28	Charlotte	-17.9
29	Detroit	-18.1
30	Seattle	-18.9
31	Oklahoma City	-20.1
32	Boston	-20.3
33	Austin	-23.9
34	Cleveland	-37.3

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT
Percent change, 2001-2009

1	Houston	-1.6
2	Salt Lake City	-4.5
3	Kansas City	-14.4
4	Seattle	-15.1
5	Denver	-17.5
6	San Antonio	-18.3
7	San Diego	-19.5
8	Portland	-19.9
9	Dallas	-20.3
10	Minneapolis	-20.5
11	Memphis	-20.5
12	Indianapolis	-21.7
13	Cincinnati	-23.9
14	Phoenix	-24.5
15	Milwaukee	-24.6
16	Atlanta	-25.1
Average		-25.2
17	San Francisco	-26.9
18	Nashville	-27.2
19	Pittsburgh	-27.5
20	Louisville	-28.1
21	Chicago	-29.0
22	Columbus	-29.2
23	Baltimore	-29.3
24	**St. Louis**	**-29.8**
25	Los Angeles	-29.9
26	Boston	-30.7
27	Miami	-31.0
28	Oklahoma City	-32.3
29	Cleveland	-32.9
30	Philadelphia	-33.3
31	Austin	-33.4
32	Charlotte	-33.5
33	New York	-34.2
34	Detroit	-47.9

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

St. Louis Manufacturing

7% of Total Employment

6th Largest Sector

$80,3888 Average Pay

50% Decrease in Employment from 1990 to 2010

Lower Earnings but also Low Cost of Living

The earnings per job in the St. Louis region was below the peer region average in 1989 (ranking 15th of 30) and has slipped since to 23rd (of 35) in 2009. In real dollars, the average earnings per job in the St. Louis region has increased from $42,486 in 1989 (in 2009 dollars) to $45,553 in 2009, a seven percent increase. The average earnings per job for the peer regions increased 12 percent over the same time period, indicating the St. Louis region is not keeping up with its peers.

The St. Louis region ranks better when income is adjusted for cost of living. In 1994, the St. Louis region ranked 3rd with an adjusted median household income of $24,227 (or $35,071 in 2009 dollars). In 2009, the region's ranking fell to 6th, although in absolute numbers, the region's adjusted median household income increased 65 percent to $57,755.

The regions that saw an increase in employment over the past decade are dispersed in their rankings on both earnings per job and purchasing power with more of the top employment gainers ranking toward the top on purchasing power than on earnings per job. Six of the regions with the highest employment gains rank in the top 10 on purchasing power while only two of the top 10 employment gainers rank that well on the earnings per job variable.

AVERAGE EARNINGS PER JOB
1989

1	New York	34,061
2	San Francisco	30,748
3	Washington D.C.	28,960
4	Detroit	28,755
5	Los Angeles	28,523
6	Chicago	28,452
7	Boston	27,767
8	Philadelphia	26,872
9	Houston	26,588
10	Dallas	26,499
11	Cleveland	25,549
12	Seattle	25,473
Average		25,194
13	Minneapolis	25,159
14	Atlanta	24,871
15	**St. Louis**	**24,557**
16	Pittsburgh	24,296
17	Denver	24,286
18	Baltimore	23,815
19	Cincinnati	23,413
20	Kansas City	23,360
21	Indianapolis	23,327
22	Milwaukee	23,206
23	Portland	22,772
24	Miami	22,761
25	Columbus	22,315
26	Nashville	22,310
27	Memphis	22,310
28	Phoenix	22,128
29	Louisville	21,688
30	Oklahoma City	21,023

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

EARNINGS PER JOB
In dollars, 2009

1	San Francisco	66,683
2	Washington D.C.	64,601
3	New York	63,043
4	Boston	59,763
5	Seattle	54,864
6	Houston	54,282
7	Los Angeles	52,915
8	Denver	52,634
9	Chicago	52,318
10	Philadelphia	51,808
11	Baltimore	51,528
12	San Diego	50,719
13	Dallas	49,856
14	Minneapolis	49,773
15	Atlanta	49,649
Average		48,984
16	Detroit	48,546
17	Charlotte	47,513
18	Austin	47,054
19	Portland	46,164
20	Miami	46,016
21	Phoenix	45,959
22	Kansas City	45,641
23	**St. Louis**	**45,553**
24	Milwaukee	45,246
25	Cincinnati	44,537
26	Columbus	44,160
27	Cleveland	44,103
28	Pittsburgh	43,986
29	Indianapolis	43,968
30	Nashville	43,737
31	Memphis	43,204
32	Salt Lake City	43,073
33	Louisville	40,928
34	Oklahoma City	40,334
35	San Antonio	40,297

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

INCOME ADJUSTED FOR COST OF LIVING,
1994

1	Nashville	25,306
2	Minneapolis	24,289
3	**St. Louis**	**24,227**
4	Indianapolis	24,161
5	Louisville	24,154
6	Atlanta	24,034
7	Dallas	23,796
8	Houston	23,704
9	Washington D.C.	23,317
10	Denver	23,265
11	Kansas City	23,250
12	Baltimore	23,041
13	Charlotte	22,851
14	Cincinnati	22,790
15	Seattle	22,570
16	Milwaukee	22,369
17	Cleveland	22,346
18	Memphis	22,096
19	San Francisco	21,758
Average		21,487
20	Detroit	21,309
21	Chicago	21,264
22	Portland	21,250
23	Columbus	21,224
24	Austin	20,598
25	Phoenix	20,502
26	Oklahoma City	20,470
27	Pittsburgh	20,077
28	Philadelphia	19,556
29	San Antonio	19,149
30	Boston	19,071
31	Miami	18,624
32	Salt Lake City	18,270
33	Los Angeles	17,483
34	San Diego	17,246
35	New York	12,634

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis and American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association

PURCHASING POWER
Median household income, 2009
Adjusted for cost of living

1	Washington D.C.	62,375
2	Houston	60,503
3	Dallas	59,077
4	Atlanta	58,920
5	Austin	58,834
6	**St. Louis**	**57,755**
7	Nashville	57,564
8	Denver	57,344
9	Salt Lake City	57,138
10	Cincinnati	57,046
11	Kansas City	56,971
12	Minneapolis	56,832
13	Indianapolis	56,768
14	Charlotte	54,949
15	Columbus	54,129
16	Seattle	53,885
17	Baltimore	53,821
18	Phoenix	53,654
19	Boston	52,967
20	Chicago	52,950
Average		52,626
21	Louisville	52,217
22	Milwaukee	51,407
23	San Antonio	50,479
24	Pittsburgh	50,434
25	Oklahoma City	49,906
26	Portland	49,797
27	Memphis	49,639
28	Philadelphia	48,798
29	Detroit	47,959
30	San Francisco	47,935
31	Cleveland	45,577
32	San Diego	45,117
33	Miami	41,655
34	Los Angeles	40,807
35	New York	36,692

Source: American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau; ACCRA Cost of Living Index

The St. Louis region is typically promoted as affordable. This is in part due to the low cost of living discussed previously but also because of the cost of housing. As seen in the Housing Affordability 1991 and Housing Opportunity 2010 tables, a large percent of the homes in the region were and continue to be affordable to a median income earning household. In 1991, 66.7 percent (ranking 13th of 30) of homes were affordable to such a household and in 2010 the percent rose to 84.3 (ranking 7th of 33).

Another way to look at housing affordability is to look at what percent of households are paying more than 35 percent[2] of their income on housing. In 1989, 16.6 percent of households in the St. Louis region were paying more than what was considered affordable. In recent years, the Center for Neighborhood Technology's (CNT) alternate definition of affordability has become commonly used. This definition sets the threshold at 45 percent of household income and factors in housing as well as transportation costs. CNT recognized that as metropolitan regions expand and become more dispersed, people can often find less expensive housing further from job centers but their transportation costs increase. Therefore, to discuss affordability, both costs should be factored. Using this definition, the St. Louis region's ranking comes in below average among its peers with the average housing plus transportation costs for the region comprising 48 percent of the median household income.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY INDEX
1991

1	Kansas City	88.7
2	Milwaukee	84.9
3	Oklahoma City	83.3
4	Detroit	82.4
5	Minneapolis	81.3
6	Louisville	74.4
7	Cincinnati	74.2
8	Denver	72.6
9	Columbus	72.3
10	Cleveland	69.5
11	Portland	67.4
12	Nashville	67.2
13	**St. Louis**	**66.7**
14	Phoenix	66.5
14	Dallas	66.5
16	Atlanta	65.9
17	Indianapolis	65.8
18	Houston	63.5
19	Miami	62.2
Average		66.7
20	Pittsburgh	61.6
21	Chicago	61.0
22	Baltimore	60.6
23	Memphis	58.6
24	Washington D.C.	56.5
25	Philadelphia	55.4
26	Boston	43.8
27	Seattle	40.9
28	New York	21.9
29	Los Angeles	12.9
30	San Francisco	9.2

Source: National Association of Home Builders

HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
Percent of homes affordable for family earning median income, 2010

1	Indianapolis	93.9
2	Detroit	91.5
3	Cleveland	87.0
4	Cincinnati	86.6
5	Minneapolis	85.2
6	Columbus	84.9
7	**St. Louis**	**84.3**
8	Pittsburgh	84.1
9	Oklahoma City	83.5
10	Louisville	82.3
11	Phoenix	82.3
12	Milwaukee	81.4
13	Atlanta	80.2
14	Memphis	79.2
15	Dallas	78.4
16	Austin	77.8
17	Houston	76.7
18	Salt Lake City	75.1
19	Charlotte	75.1
20	San Antonio	74.7
Average		74.4
21	Washington D.C.	74.1
22	Baltimore	74.0
23	Denver	73.5
24	Philadelphia	72.4
25	Miami	72.1
26	Chicago	69.8
27	Portland	68.1
28	Boston	66.1
29	Seattle	64.1
30	San Francisco	52.8
31	San Diego	48.1
32	New York	39.1
33	Los Angeles	38.0

Source: National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo

PERCENT OF HOUSHOLDS PAYING MORE THAN 35% OF INCOME FOR HOUSING,
1989

1	Indianapolis	15.3
2	Louisville	15.7
3	Kansas City	16.2
4	**St. Louis**	**16.6**
5	Cincinnati	16.9
6	Columbus	17.4
7	Pittsburgh	17.6
8	Minneapolis	17.7
9	Baltimore	17.9
10	Nashville	18.4
11	Houston	18.7
12	Oklahoma City	18.8
13	Cleveland	18.9
14	Seattle	18.9
15	Portland	19.0
16	Detroit	19.3
17	Dallas	19.4
18	Milwaukee	19.8
19	Washington D.C.	20.1
20	Atlanta	20.2
21	Denver	20.5
Average		20.5
22	Philadelphia	20.8
23	Memphis	21.5
24	Chicago	21.9
25	Phoenix	23.2
26	Boston	24.0
27	San Francisco	28.9
28	New York	29.6
29	Los Angeles	31.2
30	Miami	31.3

Source: US Census Bureau

HOUSING PLUS TRANSPORTATION AFFORDABILITY
Transportation and housing costs as a percent of median household income, 2008

1	Miami	59.6
2	Memphis	55.4
3	San Diego	54.7
4	Los Angeles	54.2
5	Nashville	51.2
6	Phoenix	51.0
7	Detroit	50.7
8	Cleveland	49.9
9	Seattle	49.7
10	Charlotte	49.6
11	Chicago	49.5
12	Portland	49.3
13	Atlanta	49.2
14	San Francisco	49.2
15	Dallas	49.1
16	Milwaukee	49.0
Average		49.0
17	San Antonio	48.9
18	Oklahoma City	48.7
19	Indianapolis	48.7
20	**St. Louis**	**48.1**
21	Austin	48.1
22	Louisville	48.0
23	Cincinnati	48.0
24	Pittsburgh	47.9
25	Columbus	47.5
26	Denver	47.4
27	New York	46.9
28	Kansas City	46.8
29	Philadelphia	46.7
30	Houston	46.3
31	Salt Lake City	45.6
32	Baltimore	45.6
33	Boston	45.5
34	Minneapolis	45.5
35	Washington D.C.	43.1

Source: Center for Neighborhood Technology; American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

2 Thirty percent is also commonly used.

The regions with the largest increases in population and employment as well as the most populated regions vary in their ranking on the H+T index with no apparent correlation between this affordability variable and growth. The top 10 population and employment gainers rank in the middle of the peer regions on the Housing Opportunity index with 73 to 84 percent of homes affordable to a family earning the median income in their regions. The most populated regions tend to be less affordable with more of the regions ranking higher and 38 to 80 percent of homes affordable to a family earning the median income.

ADULTS WITH ADVANCED DEGREES

Percent persons age 25 and older with master's, professional, or doctorate degrees, 2009

1	Washington D.C.	22.6
2	Boston	18.3
3	San Francisco	16.9
4	Baltimore	14.8
5	New York	14.7
6	Austin	13.1
7	Seattle	13.0
8	Chicago	13.0
9	Denver	12.9
10	Phoenix	12.9
11	San Diego	12.6
12	Minneapolis	12.4
13	Portland	12.0
14	Atlanta	11.9
Average		11.8
15	**St. Louis**	**11.6**
16	Kansas City	11.5
17	Columbus	11.0
18	Milwaukee	10.6
19	Philadelphia	10.6
20	Cincinnati	10.5
21	Cleveland	10.3
22	Indianapolis	10.3
23	Los Angeles	10.3
24	Detroit	10.3
25	Miami	10.1
26	Nashville	10.1
27	Charlotte	10.1
28	Dallas	9.8
29	Salt Lake City	9.7
30	Pittsburgh	9.7
31	Louisville	9.6
32	Houston	9.5
33	San Antonio	9.1
34	Oklahoma City	9.0
35	Memphis	8.7

Source: American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

CHANGE IN PERCENT OF ADULTS WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER

In percentage points, adults age 25 years or older, 2000-2009

1	Baltimore	5.5
2	Nashville	5.3
3	New York	5.3
4	Boston	5.2
5	Portland	5.1
6	San Diego	5.0
7	Columbus	5.0
8	Washington D.C.	4.8
9	Kansas City	4.7
10	Seattle	4.7
11	San Francisco	4.7
12	Philadelphia	4.6
13	Indianapolis	4.6
14	Chicago	4.6
15	**St. Louis**	**4.6**
16	Pittsburgh	4.4
17	Charlotte	4.4
18	Minneapolis	4.3
19	Los Angeles	3.9
20	Milwaukee	3.9
Average		3.9
21	Miami	3.7
22	Cincinnati	3.7
23	Louisville	3.7
24	Denver	3.5
25	Oklahoma City	3.1
26	Detroit	3.1
27	Cleveland	3.0
28	Atlanta	2.7
29	San Antonio	2.7
30	Memphis	2.2
31	Phoenix	2.2
32	Salt Lake City	2.1
33	Austin	2.0
34	Houston	1.5
35	Dallas	1.5

Source: American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

Education & Youth

On education there is an overall trend of a larger portion of the U.S. population being more educated with more high school graduates and more college degrees. St. Louis has maintained a fairly average ranking on many of the education variables and has seen some improvement on several of the others over the past two decades.

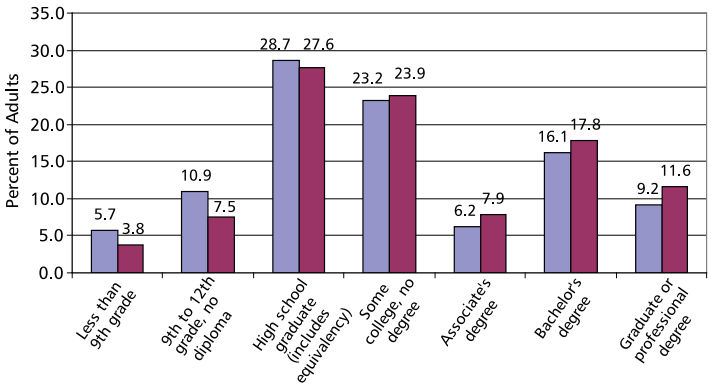
Increasing Education Levels

St. Louis ranks 15th on both the Adults with Advanced Degrees variable and the Change in Percent of Adults with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher. For adults with advanced degrees, the region is just below average with 11.6 percent of adults having a master's, professional or doctorate degree. Washington D.C., Boston and San Francisco rank the highest on this variable with over 15 percent of adults having an advanced degree. Seven of the 10 regions with the largest employment gains over the past decade rank in the bottom 10 on this variable, with some of the lowest percent of adults with advanced degrees.

On the change in percent of adults with a bachelor's degree or higher, St. Louis is above average with 4.6 percent growth over the last decade. Many of the regions with the fastest growing populations and the largest increases in employment are experiencing some of the slowest growth in adults with bachelor's degrees. They rank toward the bottom with less than half the growth rate of the St. Louis region.

The Highest Level of Education Attainment graph below shows the percent of adults in St. Louis with varying levels of education for 2000 and 2009. All four levels of college education increased while the percent of adults with either no high school diploma or high school as the highest level of education both decreased.

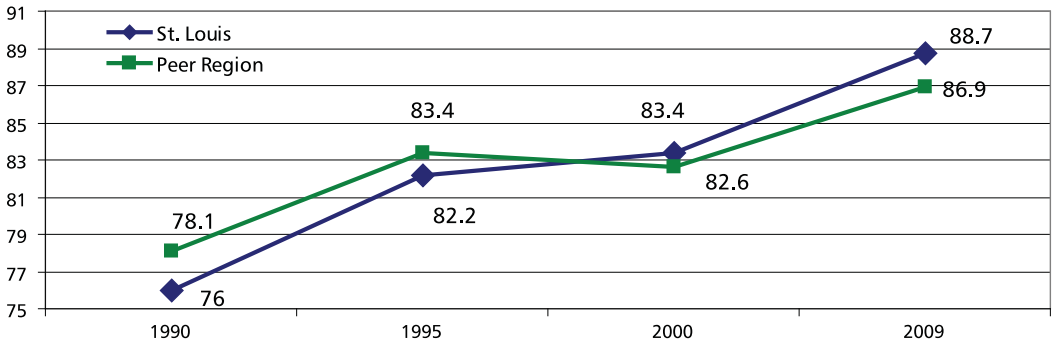
Highest Level of Education Attainment, St. Louis Region



On the Adults with a High School Diploma or Equivalent graph, St. Louis is the blue line and the peer region average is the green line. St. Louis has increased the percent of high school graduates from 76 percent in 1990 to 89 percent in 2009; also improving the region's ranking from 17th to 12th. Between 1995 and 2000 the percent of adults with a high school diploma in St. Louis rose above the peer average. In 2009, the region stood just above the average with 88.7 percent of adults having a high school diploma and the peer average just below that at 86.9 percent.

The Adults without a High School Diploma table shows the flip of this—the percent of adults without a high school diploma. St. Louis ranks below average with 11.3 percent of adults having no high school diploma. The region is doing much better than Los Angeles, Houston, Dallas and Memphis, regions that all have over 15 percent of adults with no high school diploma. Regions with the largest employment gains rank both low and high on this variable.

Percent of Adults with a High School Diploma or Equivalent
St. Louis Region and Peer Average, 1990 to 2009



ADULTS WITHOUT A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR EQUIVALENT

Percent of persons age 25 and older, 2009

1	Los Angeles	22.4
2	Houston	20.0
3	San Antonio	18.5
4	Dallas	18.1
5	Miami	17.5
6	Memphis	16.2
7	New York	15.7
8	Pittsburgh	15.4
9	San Diego	14.6
10	Chicago	14.1
11	Austin	13.4
12	Charlotte	13.3
13	Louisville	13.2
14	San Francisco	13.1
15	Atlanta	13.1
16	Nashville	13.1
Average		13.1
17	Detroit	13.1
18	Oklahoma City	12.8
19	Indianapolis	12.4
20	Cincinnati	12.4
21	Cleveland	12.3
22	Baltimore	11.9
23	Phoenix	11.8
24	**St. Louis**	**11.3**
25	Denver	11.2
26	Milwaukee	11.2
27	Salt Lake City	11.1
28	Columbus	10.2
29	Kansas City	10.0
30	Washington D.C.	10.0
31	Portland	9.9
32	Boston	9.4
33	Philadelphia	9.0
34	Seattle	8.7
35	Minneapolis	7.5

Source: American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

The St. Louis region has maintained a high ranking on percent of children enrolled in pre-primary education. The rank of 5th in the percent of children enrolled in early childhood education is one of the region's highest rankings of all the variables recorded in *WWS*, but it has slipped. While other regions, such as Boston who has maintained the number one spot, has seen an increase, St. Louis' percent has decreased from 31 percent of youth to 28 percent of youth being enrolled in early childhood education.

For spending on education the region is slightly above average, ranking 13th and spending $9,600 per student on curriculum. In 1987, the St. Louis region was below average, ranking 19th. When looking at overall increased spending on education, the region has not increased spending as much as the peer regions. St. Louis has increased spending by 22 percent while, on average, peers have increased spending by 25 percent.

1987 to 2008
Increase in Education Spending

St. Louis:	**22%**
Peer Average:	**25%**

CHILDREN ENROLLED IN PRESCHOOL
Percent persons younger than age 5, 2000

1	Boston	31.9
2	**St. Louis**	**31.5**
3	Philadelphia	31.4
4	Atlanta	31.3
5	Pittsburgh	30.0
6	Kansas City	29.7
7	Cleveland	29.2
8	Chicago	28.7
8	San Francisco	28.7
10	Charlotte	28.2
11	Seattle	28.1
12	Washington D.C.	28.0
13	Minneapolis	27.8
14	Baltimore	27.7
14	Cincinnati	27.7
16	Memphis	27.5
17	Miami	27.1
18	Detroit	27.0
19	Columbus	26.9
20	Louisville	26.8
Average		26.7
21	Denver	26.4
22	Indianapolis	26.2
23	Austin	25.6
24	Oklahoma City	25.3
25	New York	25.2
26	Dallas	24.8
26	Nashville	24.8
28	Houston	24.1
29	San Antonio	23.5
30	San Diego	23.2
31	Portland	23.0
31	Milwaukee	23.0
33	Salt Lake City	22.8
34	Los Angeles	21.6
35	Phoenix	21.2

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CHILDREN ENROLLED IN PRESCHOOL
Percent of persons younger than age 5, 2009

1	Boston	32.1
2	Philadelphia	30.5
3	Pittsburgh	29.9
4	San Francisco	28.1
5	**St. Louis**	**28.0**
6	Atlanta	27.7
7	New York	27.7
8	Chicago	27.3
9	Detroit	27.2
10	Cleveland	27.1
11	Charlotte	26.9
12	Minneapolis	26.6
13	Kansas City	26.5
14	Baltimore	26.4
15	Columbus	25.8
16	Austin	25.7
17	Denver	25.5
18	Miami	25.2
Average		25.0
19	San Antonio	24.9
20	Washington D.C.	24.9
21	Nashville	24.4
22	Cincinnati	24.4
23	Indianapolis	24.2
24	Louisville	23.9
25	Los Angeles	23.6
26	Portland	23.4
27	Houston	23.4
28	San Diego	22.5
29	Seattle	22.4
30	Dallas	22.1
31	Oklahoma City	21.6
32	Salt Lake City	21.3
33	Milwaukee	20.1
34	Memphis	17.4
35	Phoenix	16.7

Source: American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

EDUCATIONAL EXPENDITURES PER PUPIL
1987

1	New York	5,946
2	Philadelphia	5,570
3	Milwaukee	5,360
4	Pittsburgh	5,355
5	Portland	5,147
6	Washington D.C.	5,108
7	Miami	5,097
8	Cleveland	5,053
9	San Francisco	5,003
10	Minneapolis	4,846
11	Detroit	4,747
12	Denver	4,656
13	Boston	4,631
14	Phoenix	4,420
15	Los Angeles	4,414
16	Baltimore	4,363
Average		4,337
17	Seattle	4,199
18	**St. Louis**	**4,183**
19	Kansas City	4,051
20	Dallas	4,002
21	Atlanta	3,825
22	Columbus	3,782
23	Cincinnati	3,760
24	Indianapolis	3,573
25	Houston	3,291
26	Louisville	3,055
27	Oklahoma City	2,990
28	Nashville	2,686
29	Memphis	2,651

Source: US Census Bureau

Note: Original document did not have a #12 and only included 29 regions as shown here.

EDUCATION CURRICULUM SPENDING
Dollars per pupil, 2007/2008

1	New York	17,923
2	Boston	13,578
3	Philadelphia	13,256
4	Washington D.C.	12,814
5	Baltimore	12,124
6	Pittsburgh	11,528
7	Cleveland	11,162
8	Milwaukee	10,577
9	Chicago	10,309
10	Columbus	10,307
11	Detroit	10,073
12	Los Angeles	9,699
13	**St. Louis**	**9,668**
14	Minneapolis	9,608
Average		9,602
15	Cincinnati	9,597
16	San Francisco	9,582
17	Atlanta	9,430
18	San Diego	9,384
19	Denver	9,379
20	Kansas City	9,216
21	Miami	9,129
22	Portland	9,027
23	Seattle	8,600
24	Louisville	8,548
25	Indianapolis	8,524
26	Austin	8,086
27	San Antonio	7,833
28	Dallas	7,702
29	Memphis	7,636
30	Houston	7,599
31	Charlotte	7,529
32	Nashville	7,504
33	Phoenix	6,917
34	Oklahoma City	6,804
35	Salt Lake City	5,418

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

Worse than Average on Health of Youth

Where We Stand tracks several other variables that look at youth, particularly their health. The St. Louis region ranks well on some and poorly on others.

Asthma risk is one of the only variables where the St. Louis region ranks number one. Unfortunately, it is not a number one the region can brag about. The asthma risk index is developed by the Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America and considers 12 variables the foundation has found associated with increased risk for asthma. This variable was only included in the two most recent editions of WWS. From 2006 to 2010, 30 of the 35 peer regions improved their score, some substantially. St. Louis was one of the five regions that saw an increase in asthma risk, from 94.6 in 2006 to 97.4 in 2010.

Lead is a common environmental contaminant that exists in all areas of the U.S. In 2008, a reported 46,000 children in St. Louis were tested for elevated levels of lead poisoning, 542 of these children tested positive for high levels. To compare to other regions, the number of children that tested positive for high levels per 1,000 tested was calculated. The St. Louis region ranks just above average with 11.6 children per 1,000 tested testing positive for elevated levels.

Infant mortality is one of the variables the St. Louis region's ranking has worsened on although the region has improved overall. In 1988, St. Louis ranked 18th with 9.6 deaths per 1,000 live births and in 2007, ranked 9th with 7.9 deaths. All regions have improved on this variable with the peer average decreasing from 10.3 deaths to 6.7 deaths per 1,000 live births. The peer Midwest regions, such as Memphis, Cleveland, and Detroit, continue to have some of the highest infant mortality rates while others such as New York and Louisville have decreased their rate from 12 to 5 deaths per 1,000 live births.

On percent of children living in poverty, St. Louis ranked just below average with 18.6 percent of those under 18 living in poverty in 2009. The region's ranking, as well as the rate, has been fairly steady over the last 20 years but has increased some. In 1989, the region ranked 16th with nearly 16 percent of youth living in poverty.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Deaths of infants less than one year old per 1,000 births, 2007

1	Memphis	12.5
2	Cleveland	8.8
3	Baltimore	8.5
4	Detroit	8.3
5	Philadelphia	8.1
6	Columbus	8.1
7	Cincinnati	8.0
8	Indianapolis	8.0
9	**St. Louis**	**7.9**
10	Oklahoma City	7.7
11	Milwaukee	7.4
12	Kansas City	7.3
13	Atlanta	7.1
14	Washington D.C.	7.1
15	Dallas	6.9
16	Pittsburgh	6.9
17	Chicago	6.8
18	Charlotte	6.7
Average		6.7
19	Phoenix	6.4
20	Nashville	6.3
21	Miami	6.3
22	San Antonio	6.1
23	Houston	6.0
24	Denver	6.0
25	Minneapolis	5.9
26	Louisville	5.3
27	San Diego	5.2
28	Los Angeles	5.2
29	Seattle	5.2
30	Portland	5.1
31	Salt Lake City	5.0
32	New York	5.0
33	Austin	4.7
34	Boston	4.6
35	San Francisco	4.6

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

ASTHMA RISK
Index of 12 indicators of risk, 2010

1	**St. Louis**	**97.4**
2	Milwaukee	95.5
3	Memphis	95.3
4	Philadelphia	94.0
5	Atlanta	92.1
6	Detroit	88.9
7	Pittsburgh	88.8
8	Nashville	88.7
9	San Antonio	88.5
10	Indianapolis	87.6
11	Louisville	86.7
12	Oklahoma City	86.1
13	New York	85.1
14	Columbus	84.9
15	Washington D.C.	83.3
16	Cincinnati	83.2
17	Cleveland	82.9
18	Charlotte	82.5
19	Baltimore	82.1
20	Chicago	81.4
Average		81.3
21	Boston	81.0
22	Los Angeles	79.6
23	Houston	79.5
24	Phoenix	79.2
25	San Diego	78.3
26	Denver	77.8
27	Salt Lake City	76.9
28	Dallas	74.0
29	Miami	71.5
30	Kansas City	68.7
31	Portland	68.3
32	Seattle	67.6
33	Austin	65.6
34	San Francisco	62.1
35	Minneapolis	61.3

Source: Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America
Note: Higher scores indicate increased risk

CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING
Percent of children under age 6 with elevated lead levels per 1,000 children tested, 2008

1	San Diego	45.4
2	Cleveland	39.2
3	Chicago	32.1
4	Philadelphia	27.2
5	Pittsburgh	25.6
6	Milwaukee	24.1
7	Detroit	16.4
8	Cincinnati	12.2
9	Indianapolis	11.8
10	**St. Louis**	**11.6**
Average		11.1
11	San Antonio	10.2
12	New York	7.2
13	Dallas	7.2
14	Oklahoma City	6.8
15	Austin	6.4
16	Houston	6.3
17	San Francisco	6.1
18	Boston	5.2
19	Minneapolis	5.0
20	Columbus	4.8
21	Los Angeles	4.7
22	Louisville	4.6
23	Portland	4.2
24	Kansas City	3.9
25	Baltimore	3.2
26	Miami	3.2
27	Washington D.C.	2.7
28	Phoenix	2.7
29	Atlanta	1.8
30	Memphis	1.5
31	Charlotte	0.6

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY
Percent of persons under age 18, 2009

1	Memphis	29.5
2	Detroit	23.3
3	San Antonio	23.3
4	Cleveland	22.3
5	Houston	22.2
6	Columbus	22.1
7	Phoenix	21.7
8	Milwaukee	21.1
9	Los Angeles	21.1
10	Miami	20.8
11	Dallas	20.7
12	Oklahoma City	20.5
13	Indianapolis	19.7
14	Louisville	19.5
15	Charlotte	19.2
16	Nashville	18.8
17	Austin	18.7
18	**St. Louis**	**18.6**
Average		18.2
19	Atlanta	18.2
20	New York	18.1
21	Chicago	17.8
22	Cincinnati	17.7
23	Pittsburgh	17.1
24	Denver	17.1
25	San Diego	16.8
26	Kansas City	16.6
27	Portland	16.0
28	Philadelphia	15.9
29	Baltimore	13.5
30	Minneapolis	13.5
31	Seattle	12.7
32	San Francisco	12.4
33	Salt Lake City	11.9
34	Boston	11.0
35	Washington D.C.	9.5

Source: American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

Crime & Safety

Lower Crime but Still High

Reporting crime data is tricky for several reasons. The first difficulty comes when reporting crime data over time. If a police department makes a concerted effort to encourage residents to report crimes the crime rate could go up. This rise would not necessarily be due to more crime but due to more reported crime. When comparing crime data from different areas, additional problems arise including, simply, that police departments have different ways of reporting crimes. Further, crime rates will change depending on where you draw the line for the "community." This is the issue that arises from a highly publicized crime report that casts St. Louis as one of the most dangerous cities in the U.S. Since the city of St. Louis is independent of St. Louis County, unlike most central cities in the U.S., the data for St. Louis reflects a more dense urban area than it does for most of the other cities. Despite the challenges of analyzing crime data, it is worth examining to give people an idea of what is occurring with crime. Often the perception is that there is more crime than there really is.

Overall crime rates have gone done in all of the peer regions, in most cases substantially. This is true for St. Louis as well. St. Louis' ranking in total crimes has

changed from 19th with 6,305 crimes per 100,000 persons in 1991 to 21st with 3,641 crimes per 100,000 persons in 2009. The two graphs in this section show the property crimes and violent crimes per 100,000 for St. Louis and the average for the peer regions, as recorded in each of the six editions of WWS. The crime rates have decreased with St. Louis maintaining a rate below the average on property crimes and only one year—1995—recording an above average number of violent crimes.

The region's murder rate has decreased in murders per 100,000 from 12.4 in 1995 to 7.4 in 2009 but its ranking has fluctuated from 9th, up to 14th, and most recently at the 6th highest murder rate.

Total Crime St. Louis Rank

1991:	19th
1995:	17th
1997:	25th
2000:	17th
2004:	23rd
2009:	21st

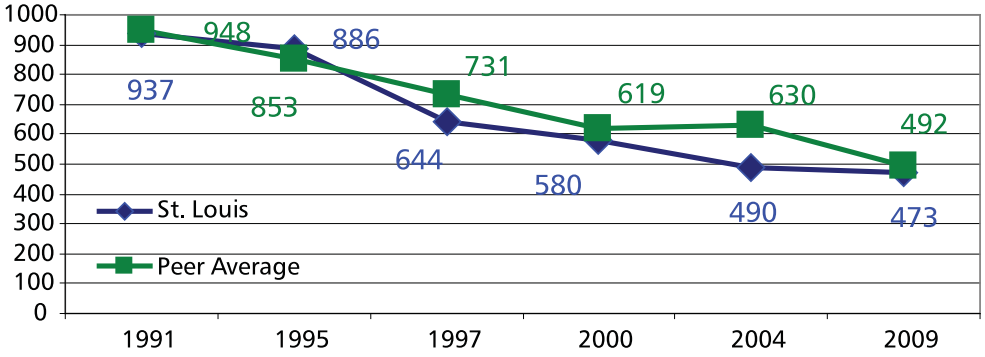
TOTAL CRIME RATE
Per 100,000 population, 2009

1	Memphis	6,219
2	San Antonio	5,954
3	Miami	5,122
4	Salt Lake City	5,090
5	Houston	4,828
6	Columbus	4,661
7	Indianapolis	4,455
8	Charlotte	4,430
9	Seattle	4,415
10	Austin	4,381
11	Dallas	4,323
12	Milwaukee	4,122
13	Baltimore	4,018
14	Nashville	4,013
15	Phoenix	3,996
16	Atlanta	3,980
17	San Francisco	3,931
Average		3,911
18	Detroit	3,728
19	Louisville	3,698
20	Cincinnati	3,647
21	**St. Louis***	**3,641**
22	Cleveland	3,267
23	Philadelphia	3,213
24	Portland	3,197
25	Denver	3,144
26	Washington D.C.	3,127
27	Los Angeles	2,832
28	San Diego	2,741
29	Boston	2,550
30	Pittsburgh	2,386
31	New York	2,132

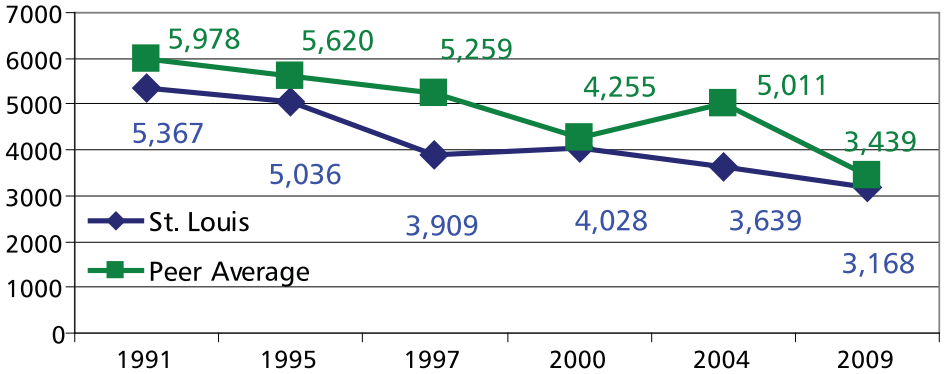
Source: FBI Crime Statistics

*St. Louis forcible rape statistics from 2008

Violent Crimes per 100,000 Population St. Louis Region and Peer Average, 1991 to 2009



Property Crimes per 100,000 St. Louis Region and Peer Region Average, 1991 to 2009



Racial Disparity

Not Closing the Gap

Racial disparity is one of the issues St. Louis has consistently ranked poorly on. In the first four editions, the publication used a racial disparity index that considered 12 to 15 variables together. Recognizing this as a key challenge in the St. Louis region, in more recent editions the variables have been separated to better gauge where the region stands.

These six tables show the ratio of blacks to whites for a variety of variables on social and economic well-being. Racial disparities exist in all regions with black people experiencing hardship to a greater extent. On average for the 35 peer regions, blacks are over 3.2 times as likely to be in poverty, 2.2 times as likely to die during infancy, twice as likely to be unemployed and the median household income is about half that of whites.

The disparity in St. Louis is equal to or worse than the peer average on all six of these variables.

DISPARITY IN EDUCATION

Ratio of black to white, age 25 years or older, with less than a high school diploma, 2009

1	Minneapolis	4.8
2	Salt Lake City	4.0
3	Austin	3.9
4	Milwaukee	3.3
5	San Francisco	3.3
6	Miami	3.0
7	Boston	2.8
8	Washington D.C.	2.7
9	Denver	2.5
10	Seattle	2.5
11	Chicago	2.5
12	Memphis	2.4
13	Kansas City	2.3
14	New York	2.3
Average		2.3
15	Cleveland	2.1
16	Houston	2.1
17	Philadelphia	2.1
18	Portland	2.0
19	Los Angeles	2.0
20	San Antonio	1.9
21	Baltimore	1.9
22	**St. Louis**	**1.9**
23	Dallas	1.9
24	Charlotte	1.8
25	Columbus	1.8
26	Indianapolis	1.8
27	Pittsburgh	1.7
28	Detroit	1.7
29	Cincinnati	1.7
30	San Diego	1.6
31	Oklahoma City	1.5
32	Phoenix	1.5
33	Nashville	1.5
34	Atlanta	1.4
35	Louisville	1.3

Source: American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

DISPARITY IN POVERTY RATES

Ratio of black to white poverty rates, 2009

1	Minneapolis	5.4
2	Salt Lake City	5.1
3	Milwaukee	4.9
4	Chicago	4.4
5	Denver	4.1
6	Cleveland	3.9
7	Pittsburgh	3.8
8	Philadelphia	3.7
9	San Francisco	3.5
10	Washington D.C.	3.5
11	**St. Louis**	**3.4**
12	Detroit	3.3
13	Memphis	3.3
14	Dallas	3.3
Average		3.2
15	Boston	3.1
16	Baltimore	3.1
17	Seattle	3.1
18	Houston	3.0
19	Indianapolis	3.0
20	Cincinnati	3.0
21	Louisville	2.9
22	Kansas City	2.9
23	New York	2.9
24	Miami	2.8
25	Oklahoma City	2.7
26	Atlanta	2.7
27	San Antonio	2.7
28	Phoenix	2.6
29	Columbus	2.5
30	Los Angeles	2.4
31	Charlotte	2.4
32	Nashville	2.3
33	Austin	2.2
34	Portland	2.1
35	San Diego	2.0

Source: American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

DISPARITY IN INFANT MORTALITY

Ratio of black to white infant deaths (less than one year old) per 1,000 live births, 2007

1	Pittsburgh	3.8
2	**St. Louis**	**3.6**
3	Milwaukee	3.6
4	Miami	2.8
5	Philadelphia	2.8
6	Baltimore	2.8
7	Chicago	2.6
8	Memphis	2.6
9	Cincinnati	2.6
10	Kansas City	2.6
11	Detroit	2.5
12	Cleveland	2.5
13	San Francisco	2.5
14	Minneapolis	2.4
15	Seattle	2.3
Average		2.2
16	Los Angeles	2.2
17	Atlanta	2.2
18	Columbus	2.2
19	Austin	2.0
20	Washington D.C.	2.0
21	Oklahoma City	2.0
22	Indianapolis	2.0
23	Dallas	2.0
24	San Diego	1.9
25	Charlotte	1.9
26	Denver	1.9
27	Nashville	1.9
28	Houston	1.8
29	Phoenix	1.7
30	Louisville	1.7
31	Boston	1.7
32	New York	1.7
33	San Antonio	1.4
34	Portland*	1.4
35	Salt Lake City**	1.1

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

* Combined data for 2006 and 2007 due to low African American sample size
** Combined data for 2001 - 2007 due to low African American sample size

DISPARITY IN UNEMPLOYMENT

Ratio of black to white unemployment rates, 2009

1	Milwaukee	3.2
2	Minneapolis	2.9
3	Phoenix	2.5
4	Memphis	2.5
5	Indianapolis	2.4
6	Louisville	2.3
7	Austin	2.2
8	**St. Louis**	**2.0**
9	Boston	2.0
10	Columbus	2.0
11	Kansas City	2.0
12	Cleveland	1.9
13	Baltimore	1.9
14	Portland	1.9
Average		1.9
15	New York	1.9
16	Nashville	1.9
17	Denver	1.9
18	Houston	1.9
19	Atlanta	1.8
20	Oklahoma City	1.8
21	San Diego	1.8
22	Pittsburgh	1.7
23	Cincinnati	1.7
24	Miami	1.7
25	Philadelphia	1.7
26	Chicago	1.7
27	Washington D.C.	1.7
28	Detroit	1.5
29	Dallas	1.5
30	Charlotte	1.5
31	Los Angeles	1.3
32	San Francisco	1.3
33	San Antonio	1.3
34	Seattle	1.2

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Geographic Profile of the United States

DISPARITY IN INCOME

Ratio of white to black median household income, 2009

1	Minneapolis	2.5
2	Milwaukee	2.3
3	Pittsburgh	2.2
4	Salt Lake City	2.2
5	Cleveland	2.2
6	Denver	2.1
7	San Francisco	2.1
8	**St. Louis**	**2.0**
9	Chicago	2.0
10	Kansas City	2.0
11	Philadelphia	1.9
12	Memphis	1.9
13	Cincinnati	1.9
14	Dallas	1.9
15	Houston	1.9
16	Detroit	1.9
Average		1.8
17	Baltimore	1.8
18	New York	1.8
19	Indianapolis	1.8
20	Seattle	1.8
21	Oklahoma City	1.8
22	Louisville	1.8
23	Boston	1.8
24	Austin	1.8
25	Portland	1.7
26	Columbus	1.7
27	Los Angeles	1.7
28	Washington D.C.	1.7
29	Charlotte	1.7
30	Atlanta	1.7
31	Miami	1.6
32	Nashville	1.6
33	San Antonio	1.5
34	San Diego	1.4
35	Phoenix	1.4

Source: American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

DISPARITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Ratio of white to black, age 25 years or older, with a bachelor's degree or higher, 2009

1	Milwaukee	2.8
2	Austin	2.5
3	San Francisco	2.4
4	Cleveland	2.3
5	Memphis	2.3
6	Philadelphia	2.2
7	Chicago	2.2
8	Miami	2.2
9	Indianapolis	2.1
10	Pittsburgh	2.1
11	Minneapolis	2.1
12	Denver	2.1
13	Boston	2.1
14	Washington D.C.	2.0
15	New York	2.0
16	Kansas City	2.0
17	Baltimore	2.0
18	**St. Louis**	**2.0**
19	Seattle	2.0
Average		2.0
20	Detroit	2.0
21	Los Angeles	1.9
22	Houston	1.9
23	Cincinnati	1.8
24	Dallas	1.8
25	San Diego	1.8
26	Louisville	1.8
27	Columbus	1.8
28	Salt Lake City	1.7
29	San Antonio	1.7
30	Charlotte	1.6
31	Atlanta	1.6
32	Portland	1.5
33	Oklahoma City	1.5
34	Phoenix	1.4
35	Nashville	1.3

Source: American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

Governance & Public Finance

Another much discussed issue in the St. Louis region is governance and the fragmented nature of the region's government structure.

The St. Louis region has consistently ranked toward the top on number of local governments in total and per capita. In 1987, the region ranked 2nd with 28.4 government units per 100,000 population and in 2007 the region had 31.5 units per 100,000, ranking 3rd.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS

Per 100,000 population, 1987

1	Pittsburgh	29.8
2	**St. Louis**	**28.4**
3	Louisville	28.3
4	Indianapolis	26.0
5	Kansas City	24.8
6	Houston	21.7
7	Columbus	21.7
8	Portland	20.5
9	Minneapolis	19.6
10	Cincinnati	19.5
11	Philadelphia	17.5
12	Oklahoma City	17.2
Average		14.2
13	Seattle	13.8
14	Denver	13.5
15	Chicago	12.7
16	Milwaukee	12.3
17	Cleveland	11.7
18	San Francisco	11.1
19	Dallas	10.5
20	Nashville	10.3
21	Boston	9.3
22	Detroit	8.9
23	Atlanta	8.4
24	Memphis	7.8
25	Phoenix	7.3
26	Los Angeles	3.8
27	Washington D.C.	3.2
28	Baltimore	2.5
29	New York	2.3
30	Miami	1.9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Low Tax or Low Service?

Despite a high number of governments, the region has consistently had some of the lowest per capita government revenues and expenditures. On local government expenditures the region ranked toward the lower end, ranking 28th (of 30) in 1987 and 33rd in 2006. While this can be seen as a positive since it means low taxes, it could also mean lower services.

The Reliance on Sales Tax and Reliance on Property Tax tables show that the St. Louis region's governments are more reliant on sales tax and less reliant on property tax than most of the peer regions.

Does our government structure make us competitive?

200 Municipalities
9.8 per 100,000 People

135 School Districts
4.8 per 100,000 People

111 Fire Districts +
60 Municipal Fire Departments

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
Per 100,000 population, 2007

1	Pittsburgh	32.9
2	Denver	32.1
3	**St. Louis**	**31.5**
4	Kansas City	30.5
5	Louisville	26.4
6	Indianapolis	23.6
7	Cincinnati	18.1
8	Columbus	16.8
9	Houston	15.4
10	Chicago	14.3
11	Minneapolis	14.2
Average		12.1
12	Austin	11.5
13	Oklahoma City	11.2
14	Philadelphia	11.2
15	Portland	10.9
16	Cleveland	10.1
17	Milwaukee	10.0
18	Boston	9.0
19	Salt Lake City	9.0
20	Memphis	8.6
21	Nashville	8.6
22	Seattle	8.2
23	San Francisco	6.8
24	Atlanta	6.5
25	Detroit	6.3
26	Dallas	6.0
27	San Antonio	5.8
28	New York	5.2
29	Miami	5.2
30	Charlotte	4.8
31	San Diego	3.9
32	Phoenix	3.3
33	Washington D.C.	2.8
34	Los Angeles	2.6
35	Baltimore	1.5

Source: 2007 Census of Governments, U.S. Census Bureau

RELIANCE ON SALES TAX
As a percent of total tax revenue, 2006

1	Oklahoma City	41.1
2	Denver	36.7
3	Seattle	31.9
4	Phoenix	29.8
5	Nashville	29.5
6	Atlanta	29.4
7	Los Angeles	28.6
8	Kansas City	27.7
9	Salt Lake City	27.7
10	Memphis	25.6
11	**St. Louis**	**22.4**
12	San Diego	20.3
13	San Francisco	18.3
14	Charlotte	18.3
Average		16.0
15	Washington D.C.	15.6
16	Chicago	15.5
17	Houston	13.7
18	Dallas	13.7
19	New York	13.7
20	Miami	13.5
21	San Antonio	13.3
22	Cleveland	11.4
23	Columbus	8.2
24	Portland	7.3
25	Austin	6.9
26	Louisville	6.2
27	Pittsburgh	5.0
28	Minneapolis	4.8
29	Cincinnati	4.7
30	Detroit	4.5
31	Milwaukee	4.0
32	Baltimore	3.6
33	Philadelphia	2.6
34	Indianapolis	1.6
35	Boston	1.2

Source: State and Local Government Finance, U.S. Census Bureau

RELIANCE ON PROPERTY TAX
As a percent of total tax revenue, 2006

1	Boston	96.6
2	Milwaukee	92.9
3	Austin	91.8
4	Indianapolis	91.4
5	Minneapolis	90.5
6	Detroit	86.9
7	Houston	85.0
8	San Antonio	84.8
9	Dallas	83.8
10	Miami	81.8
11	Chicago	81.4
12	Pittsburgh	78.1
13	Charlotte	76.6
14	San Diego	72.4
15	Cincinnati	72.3
Average		72.1
16	Philadelphia	71.9
17	Portland	70.6
18	Cleveland	69.6
19	Memphis	68.8
20	**St. Louis**	**68.1**
21	Columbus	67.6
22	Salt Lake City	67.5
23	Atlanta	66.7
24	San Francisco	66.7
25	Phoenix	64.3
26	Nashville	63.9
27	Kansas City	62.9
28	Los Angeles	62.6
29	New York	59.7
30	Denver	58.2
31	Seattle	57.9
32	Louisville	56.3
33	Oklahoma City	53.8
34	Washington D.C.	51.4
35	Baltimore	48.7

Source: State and Local Government Finance, U.S. Census Bureau

LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES
Dollars per capita, 2006

1	San Francisco	7,570
2	New York	7,333
3	Los Angeles	6,789
4	Charlotte	6,419
5	Washington D.C.	6,333
6	Miami	6,176
7	San Diego	6,139
8	Seattle	5,966
9	Cleveland	5,347
10	Indianapolis	5,281
11	Denver	5,234
12	San Antonio	5,075
13	Memphis	5,003
14	Milwaukee	4,934
15	Phoenix	4,902
16	Chicago	4,894
Average		4,893
17	Philadelphia	4,825
18	Kansas City	4,781
19	Portland	4,721
20	Minneapolis	4,684
21	Columbus	4,598
22	Boston	4,526
23	Detroit	4,390
24	Atlanta	4,345
25	Salt Lake City	4,247
26	Dallas	4,228
27	Houston	4,151
28	Baltimore	4,127
29	Pittsburgh	3,835
30	Nashville	3,774
31	Austin	3,523
32	Cincinnati	3,406
33	**St. Louis**	**3,327**
34	Louisville	3,275
35	Oklahoma City	3,102

Source: State and Local Government Finance, U.S. Census Bureau

Conclusion

What do these rankings tell us? The regions with the largest growth in population and employment tend to be more diverse, have larger increases in their central city population, and have lower median ages but they also do not have the highest earnings per job, are not as affordable as St. Louis, do not have as many adults with advanced degrees, and have higher crime rates. What makes a region competitive? What makes a community a good place to live?

Where does the St. Louis region want to stand in these rankings? Are we content with ranking above average on indicators of racial disparity and being number one for asthma risk? How can we improve our standing on economic variables? Where do we want to concentrate our resources? Can we learn from other regions that have improved on their rankings?

These are just some of the questions that *Where We Stand* asks of the people that live and work in the St. Louis area. The sixth edition provides data on 129 variables that can be used to assess the region. Many of these variables were used in earlier editions of the publication, providing an opportunity to examine St. Louis and its peers over a 20 year period. We present these facts for you to make your own assessment and challenge you to use the data to drive decisions and set priorities.

EAST-WEST GATEWAY
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