

WHERE WE STAND

Where We Stand tracks the health of the St. Louis region among the 50 most populous MSAs.¹ These metro areas, known as the peer regions, are our domestic competition and provide a consistent yardstick to gauge “Where We Stand.”

This update provides the population estimates for July 2017 with the components of change over the last year and since 2010 for the peer regions as well as for the counties of the St. Louis MSA.

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April 2018

Population Change, 2016 to 2017

According to the Population Estimates released March 22, 2018 by the U.S. Census Bureau, the St. Louis MSA saw an increase in total population of an estimated 556 people (0.02 percent change) from July 2016 to July 2017. The Baltimore MSA experienced slightly higher growth (0.26 percent), adding 7,147 residents and bumping St. Louis from a ranking of 20th most populous MSA in 2016 to 21st in 2017.

From 2016 to 2017, half of the 50 most populous regions (the peer regions) had less than 1 percent growth in population. The region with the largest growth rate was Austin, with an increase of 2.7 percent. Austin is now the 31st most populous region, moving from a ranking of 32nd in 2016 and 35th in 2010.

Of the 10 regions with the largest growth rates, eight are less populous than St. Louis. Among those regions are Charlotte, Orlando, and San Antonio, which also rank right behind St. Louis as the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th most populous regions in 2017. If St. Louis continues its slow population growth and these regions continue their high rates of growth, they will surpass St. Louis by 2025.

In 2017, St. Louis remains one of the largest Midwest regions with over 2.8 million residents. Two of the Midwest peer regions (Chicago and Cleveland) along with Pittsburgh had small population losses last year.

This report provides additional data on the components of the population change for the peer regions over the past year along with population change tables for a slightly longer time period, 2010 to 2017. The last page homes in more specifically on what is happening within the St. Louis region by providing data on population change by county for the St. Louis MSA.

The St. Louis MSA continues to see slow and steady population change. While slow population gain does not result in substantial economic gains, it does not come with the costs and uncertainty of planning for a rapidly changing population. The data in this report provide a snapshot in time of population change for St. Louis and the peer regions over the last year and since 2010. They should be considered along with other data compiled as part of the Where We Stand series, available at www.ewgateway.org/research-center/where-we-stand/.

1 MSAs (Metropolitan Statistical Areas) are geographic entities delineated by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). MSAs are areas with “at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more population, plus adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration with the core as measured by commuting ties.”

Population

2017

1	New York	20,320,876
2	Los Angeles	13,353,907
3	Chicago	9,533,040
4	Dallas	7,399,662
5	Houston	6,892,427
6	Washington, D.C.	6,216,589
7	Miami	6,158,824
8	Philadelphia	6,096,120
9	Atlanta	5,884,736
10	Boston	4,836,531
11	Phoenix	4,737,270
12	San Francisco	4,727,357
13	Riverside	4,580,670
14	Detroit	4,313,002
15	Seattle	3,867,046
16	Minneapolis	3,600,618
Peer Average		3,596,525
17	San Diego	3,337,685
18	Tampa	3,091,399
19	Denver	2,888,227
20	Baltimore	2,808,175
21	St. Louis	2,807,338
22	Charlotte	2,525,305
23	Orlando	2,509,831
24	San Antonio	2,473,974
25	Portland	2,453,168
26	Pittsburgh	2,333,367
27	Sacramento	2,324,884
28	Las Vegas	2,204,079
29	Cincinnati	2,179,082
30	Kansas City	2,128,912
31	Austin	2,115,827
32	Columbus	2,078,725
33	Cleveland	2,058,844
34	Indianapolis	2,028,614
35	San Jose	1,998,463
36	Nashville	1,903,045
37	Virginia Beach	1,725,246
38	Providence	1,621,122
39	Milwaukee	1,576,236
40	Jacksonville	1,504,980
41	Oklahoma City	1,383,737
42	Memphis	1,348,260
43	Raleigh	1,335,079
44	Richmond	1,294,204
45	Louisville	1,293,953
46	New Orleans	1,275,762
47	Hartford	1,210,259
48	Salt Lake City	1,203,105
49	Birmingham	1,149,807
50	Buffalo	1,136,856

Source: U.S. Census Bureau,
Population Estimates

Population Change

Percent change, 2016-2017

1	Austin	2.7
2	Raleigh	2.3
3	Orlando	2.3
4	Las Vegas	2.2
5	Dallas	2.0
6	Charlotte	2.0
7	San Antonio	2.0
8	Jacksonville	1.9
9	Phoenix	1.9
10	Nashville	1.8
11	Tampa	1.8
12	Seattle	1.7
13	Columbus	1.6
14	Atlanta	1.5
15	Salt Lake City	1.4
16	Houston	1.4
17	Sacramento	1.3
18	Denver	1.3
19	Riverside	1.3
20	Portland	1.2
21	Minneapolis	1.2
22	Indianapolis	1.1
23	Washington, D.C.	1.1
24	Kansas City	1.1
25	Richmond	0.9
26	Miami	0.8
27	Oklahoma City	0.8
United States		0.7
28	Louisville	0.7
29	Boston	0.6
30	San Diego	0.6
31	Cincinnati	0.6
32	San Francisco	0.6
33	San Jose	0.4
34	New Orleans	0.4
35	Providence	0.3
36	Philadelphia	0.3
37	Baltimore	0.3
38	Birmingham	0.3
39	Memphis	0.2
40	New York	0.2
41	Los Angeles	0.2
42	Buffalo	0.2
43	Detroit	0.2
44	Virginia Beach	0.1
45	St. Louis	0.0
46	Hartford	0.0
47	Milwaukee	0.0
48	Cleveland	-0.1
49	Chicago	-0.1
50	Pittsburgh	-0.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau,
Population Estimates

Components of Change, 2016 -2017

Relative to the peer regions, St. Louis is an older region with a median age of 39.2, compared to 37.9 for the nation. Similar to other regions with older populations, such as Pittsburgh, Tampa, and Cleveland, St. Louis can expect to see more deaths than births (natural change) than younger regions.

Net migration is the combination of people moving into and out of the region, both from other countries and within the United States. Overall, the region experienced a small loss in population due to net out-migration.

International migration was positive for St. Louis, adding a net of about 4,000 people to the region. Domestic migration was negative, leading to a net population decline of about 9,800.

Although Baltimore swapped rankings with St. Louis, the Baltimore MSA did not experience substantial population growth itself. Baltimore ranked 37th in 2017 with a one-year population increase of 0.3 percent. The region saw a slight increase due to natural change. The region's net migration was essentially zero with net international in-migration of about 9,000 being cancelled out by a net out-migration of about the same number of domestic migrants.

Natural Change	
Births minus deaths as a percent of 2016 population, 2016-2017	
1 Salt Lake City	1.0
2 Houston	0.9
3 Austin	0.8
4 Dallas	0.8
5 Washington, D.C.	0.7
6 San Antonio	0.7
7 Riverside	0.6
8 Raleigh	0.6
9 San Diego	0.6
10 Minneapolis	0.6
11 San Jose	0.6
12 Atlanta	0.6
13 Denver	0.6
14 Columbus	0.6
15 Seattle	0.6
16 Oklahoma City	0.5
17 Phoenix	0.5
18 Los Angeles	0.5
19 Nashville	0.5
20 Indianapolis	0.5
21 Charlotte	0.5
22 Kansas City	0.5
23 Las Vegas	0.5
24 Memphis	0.5
25 New York	0.5
26 Chicago	0.5
27 Virginia Beach	0.5
28 Orlando	0.4
29 Portland	0.4
30 San Francisco	0.4
31 Sacramento	0.4
32 Milwaukee	0.4
United States	0.4
33 Jacksonville	0.4
34 New Orleans	0.4
35 Richmond	0.3
36 Cincinnati	0.3
37 Louisville	0.3
38 Baltimore	0.3
39 Boston	0.3
40 Miami	0.3
41 Philadelphia	0.2
42 St. Louis	0.2
43 Detroit	0.2
44 Birmingham	0.2
45 Providence	0.1
46 Cleveland	0.1
47 Hartford	0.1
48 Buffalo	0.0
49 Tampa	0.0
50 Pittsburgh	-0.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

Net Migration	
Percent of 2016 population, 2016-2017	
1 Austin	1.9
2 Orlando	1.9
3 Tampa	1.8
4 Las Vegas	1.7
5 Raleigh	1.7
6 Jacksonville	1.6
7 Charlotte	1.5
8 Phoenix	1.4
9 Nashville	1.3
10 San Antonio	1.3
11 Dallas	1.2
12 Seattle	1.1
13 Columbus	1.0
14 Atlanta	0.9
15 Sacramento	0.9
16 Portland	0.8
17 Denver	0.7
18 Riverside	0.6
19 Indianapolis	0.6
20 Minneapolis	0.6
21 Richmond	0.6
22 Kansas City	0.6
23 Miami	0.6
24 Houston	0.5
25 Salt Lake City	0.5
26 Louisville	0.4
27 Washington, D.C.	0.4
28 Boston	0.4
United States	0.3
29 Oklahoma City	0.3
30 Cincinnati	0.3
31 Providence	0.2
32 San Francisco	0.2
33 Buffalo	0.2
34 Philadelphia	0.1
35 Birmingham	0.1
36 New Orleans	0.0
37 San Diego	0.0
38 Baltimore	0.0
39 Detroit	0.0
40 Hartford	-0.1
41 Cleveland	-0.1
42 Pittsburgh	-0.2
43 St. Louis	-0.2
44 New York	-0.2
45 Memphis	-0.2
46 San Jose	-0.3
47 Virginia Beach	-0.3
48 Los Angeles	-0.3
49 Milwaukee	-0.4
50 Chicago	-0.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

Net Domestic Migration	
Percent of 2016 population, 2016-2017	
1 Austin	1.5
2 Las Vegas	1.4
3 Tampa	1.3
4 Raleigh	1.3
5 Jacksonville	1.3
6 Charlotte	1.3
7 Phoenix	1.1
8 San Antonio	1.0
9 Nashville	1.0
10 Orlando	1.0
11 Dallas	0.8
12 Columbus	0.6
13 Atlanta	0.6
14 Sacramento	0.6
15 Seattle	0.6
16 Portland	0.6
17 Riverside	0.5
18 Denver	0.4
19 Kansas City	0.4
20 Indianapolis	0.4
21 Richmond	0.3
22 Minneapolis	0.2
23 Louisville	0.2
24 Salt Lake City	0.2
25 Cincinnati	0.1
26 Oklahoma City	0.0
27 Birmingham	0.0
Peer Average	-0.1
28 Houston	-0.2
29 Providence	-0.2
30 Buffalo	-0.2
31 New Orleans	-0.3
32 Philadelphia	-0.3
33 Detroit	-0.3
34 St. Louis	-0.4
35 Washington, D.C.	-0.4
36 Baltimore	-0.4
37 Memphis	-0.4
38 Pittsburgh	-0.4
39 Boston	-0.4
40 Cleveland	-0.4
41 San Diego	-0.5
42 Virginia Beach	-0.5
43 San Francisco	-0.5
44 Hartford	-0.6
45 Milwaukee	-0.6
46 Miami	-0.8
47 Los Angeles	-0.8
48 Chicago	-0.9
49 New York	-1.0
50 San Jose	-1.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

Net International Migration	
Percent of 2016 population, 2016-2017	
1 Miami	1.3
2 San Jose	1.0
3 Orlando	0.9
4 New York	0.8
5 Boston	0.7
6 Washington, D.C.	0.7
7 San Francisco	0.7
8 Houston	0.6
9 Seattle	0.6
10 Hartford	0.5
11 Los Angeles	0.5
12 San Diego	0.5
13 Tampa	0.5
14 Dallas	0.4
15 Austin	0.4
16 Providence	0.4
17 Philadelphia	0.4
18 Minneapolis	0.4
19 Columbus	0.4
20 Atlanta	0.4
21 Buffalo	0.3
United States	0.3
22 Raleigh	0.3
23 Sacramento	0.3
24 Las Vegas	0.3
25 Baltimore	0.3
26 Detroit	0.3
27 Chicago	0.3
28 Nashville	0.3
29 Salt Lake City	0.3
30 New Orleans	0.3
31 Richmond	0.3
32 Jacksonville	0.3
33 Oklahoma City	0.3
34 Portland	0.3
35 Phoenix	0.3
36 San Antonio	0.3
37 Charlotte	0.3
38 Denver	0.2
39 Cleveland	0.2
40 Milwaukee	0.2
41 Louisville	0.2
42 Indianapolis	0.2
43 Virginia Beach	0.2
44 Cincinnati	0.2
45 Pittsburgh	0.2
46 Kansas City	0.2
47 Riverside	0.2
48 St. Louis	0.1
49 Memphis	0.1
50 Birmingham	0.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

Population Change, 2010 to 2017

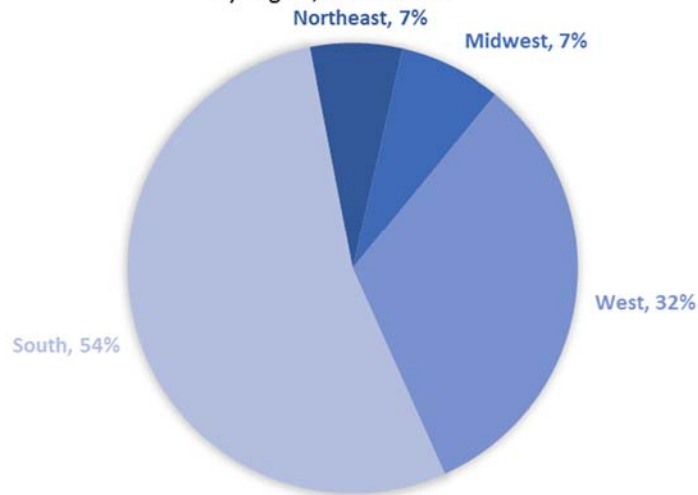
Not much change is expected over a one-year time period. Therefore, looking over a longer period of time can provide a better indication of what is happening. The tables on this page provide the change in population for the peer regions from 2010 to 2017. For St. Louis, the ranking in population change over this time period is the same among the peers as it was for 2016 to 2017, 45th.

The region had a small increase in population from 2010 to 2017, 0.7 percent. Despite the region's growth, Baltimore, Denver, and Tampa surpassed St. Louis in total population over this seven-year period.

In total, the U.S. population grew by 5 percent from 2010 to 2017. Most of the growth in the national population occurred in the South and the West portions of the country. As shown on Figure 1, population growth in the Midwest and Northeast only accounted for about 14 percent of the growth between 2010 and 2017.

Among the peer regions, the nine regions with the largest population growth rates are in the South, followed by four regions in the West.

Figure 1: Percent of U.S. Population Growth
By Region, 2010 to 2017



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Population

2010

1	New York	19,566,480
2	Los Angeles	12,828,961
3	Chicago	9,461,541
4	Dallas	6,426,231
5	Philadelphia	5,965,693
6	Houston	5,920,486
7	Washington, D.C.	5,636,361
8	Miami	5,566,299
9	Atlanta	5,286,743
10	Boston	4,552,596
11	San Francisco	4,335,573
12	Detroit	4,296,317
13	Riverside	4,224,965
14	Phoenix	4,193,129
15	Seattle	3,439,806
Peer Average		3,348,967
16	Minneapolis	3,348,858
17	San Diego	3,095,342
18	St. Louis	2,787,763
19	Tampa	2,783,469
20	Baltimore	2,710,603
21	Denver	2,543,592
22	Pittsburgh	2,356,291
23	Portland	2,226,001
24	Charlotte	2,216,992
25	Sacramento	2,149,144
26	San Antonio	2,142,516
27	Orlando	2,134,399
28	Cincinnati	2,114,686
29	Cleveland	2,077,271
30	Kansas City	2,009,338
31	Las Vegas	1,951,269
32	Columbus	1,902,001
33	Indianapolis	1,888,090
34	San Jose	1,836,940
35	Austin	1,716,320
36	Virginia Beach	1,676,817
37	Nashville	1,670,883
38	Providence	1,601,210
39	Milwaukee	1,555,954
40	Jacksonville	1,345,598
41	Memphis	1,324,827
42	Oklahoma City	1,252,991
43	Louisville	1,235,706
44	Hartford	1,212,398
45	Richmond	1,208,087
46	New Orleans	1,189,859
47	Buffalo	1,135,617
48	Raleigh	1,130,489
49	Birmingham	1,128,056
50	Salt Lake City	1,087,808

Source: U.S. Census Bureau,
Population Estimates

Population Change

Percent change, 2010-2017

1	Austin	23.3
2	Raleigh	18.1
3	Orlando	17.6
4	Houston	16.4
5	San Antonio	15.5
6	Dallas	15.1
7	Charlotte	13.9
8	Nashville	13.9
9	Denver	13.5
10	Phoenix	13.0
11	Las Vegas	13.0
12	Seattle	12.4
13	Jacksonville	11.8
14	Atlanta	11.3
15	Tampa	11.1
16	Miami	10.6
17	Salt Lake City	10.6
18	Oklahoma City	10.4
19	Washington, D.C.	10.3
20	Portland	10.2
21	Columbus	9.3
22	San Francisco	9.0
23	San Jose	8.8
24	Riverside	8.4
25	Sacramento	8.2
26	San Diego	7.8
27	Minneapolis	7.5
28	Indianapolis	7.4
29	New Orleans	7.2
30	Richmond	7.1
31	Boston	6.2
32	Kansas City	6.0
United States		5.5
33	Louisville	4.7
34	Los Angeles	4.1
35	New York	3.9
36	Baltimore	3.6
37	Cincinnati	3.0
38	Virginia Beach	2.9
39	Philadelphia	2.2
40	Birmingham	1.9
41	Memphis	1.8
42	Milwaukee	1.3
43	Providence	1.2
44	Chicago	0.8
45	St. Louis	0.7
46	Detroit	0.4
47	Buffalo	0.1
48	Hartford	-0.2
49	Cleveland	-0.9
50	Pittsburgh	-1.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau,
Population Estimates

Components of Population Change, 2010 to 2017

The tables on this page display the components of change for the peer regions from 2010 to 2017. The 0.7 percent growth for the St. Louis region was due to net positive gains in natural change and international migration.

Over the seven-year period, there were about 60,200 more births than deaths in the region, or about 2.2 percent of the region's 2010 population.

Net international migration was also positive with more people moving into the region from other countries than moving out to other countries. The region experienced a net increase of 27,700 people due to international migration.

This net gain was offset by a net out-migration of domestic residents. About 67,600 more people moved out of the St. Louis MSA to other parts of the United States than moved into the region from other parts of the country.

Migration therefore accounted for a net decline of about 39,900 from the region's total population. This is about 1.4 percent of the region's 2010 population.

Natural Change	
Births minus deaths as a percent of 2010 population, 2010-2017	
1 Salt Lake City	8.2
2 Houston	7.4
3 Austin	7.1
4 Dallas	6.5
5 Washington, D.C.	6.1
6 Raleigh	5.6
7 San Jose	5.6
8 Riverside	5.6
9 San Antonio	5.6
10 San Diego	5.4
11 Atlanta	5.3
12 Denver	5.2
13 Minneapolis	5.1
14 Phoenix	4.9
15 Los Angeles	4.9
16 Seattle	4.7
17 Columbus	4.7
18 Oklahoma City	4.4
19 Las Vegas	4.4
20 Nashville	4.3
21 Indianapolis	4.2
22 Charlotte	4.1
23 Memphis	4.0
24 Kansas City	4.0
25 New York	4.0
26 Virginia Beach	3.9
27 Orlando	3.9
28 Chicago	3.9
29 San Francisco	3.7
30 Portland	3.7
31 Sacramento	3.6
32 Jacksonville	3.2
United States	3.2
33 Milwaukee	3.1
34 New Orleans	3.1
35 Cincinnati	2.8
36 Richmond	2.8
37 Baltimore	2.7
38 Miami	2.6
39 Boston	2.5
40 Louisville	2.3
41 Philadelphia	2.2
42 St. Louis	2.2
43 Birmingham	1.9
44 Detroit	1.7
45 Hartford	0.9
46 Providence	0.8
47 Cleveland	0.7
48 Tampa	0.5
49 Buffalo	0.1
50 Pittsburgh	-1.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

Net Migration	
Percent of 2010 population, 2010-2017	
1 Austin	15.9
2 Orlando	13.7
3 Raleigh	12.3
4 Tampa	10.5
5 San Antonio	9.8
6 Charlotte	9.8
7 Nashville	9.5
8 Houston	9.0
9 Dallas	8.6
10 Jacksonville	8.6
11 Las Vegas	8.5
12 Denver	8.2
13 Miami	8.1
14 Phoenix	8.0
15 Seattle	7.7
16 Portland	6.5
17 Atlanta	6.0
18 Oklahoma City	6.0
19 San Francisco	5.3
20 Columbus	4.7
21 Sacramento	4.6
22 Richmond	4.3
23 Washington, D.C.	4.2
24 New Orleans	4.0
25 Boston	3.8
26 San Jose	3.3
27 Indianapolis	3.2
28 Riverside	2.9
29 Minneapolis	2.5
30 Salt Lake City	2.5
31 Louisville	2.5
32 San Diego	2.5
United States	2.3
33 Kansas City	2.0
34 Baltimore	1.0
35 Providence	0.5
36 Cincinnati	0.2
37 Pittsburgh	0.1
38 Birmingham	0.1
39 Buffalo	0.1
40 Philadelphia	0.0
41 New York	-0.1
42 Los Angeles	-0.7
43 Virginia Beach	-1.0
44 Hartford	-1.1
45 Detroit	-1.3
46 St. Louis	-1.4
47 Cleveland	-1.6
48 Milwaukee	-1.8
49 Memphis	-2.3
50 Chicago	-3.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

Net Domestic Migration	
Percent of 2010 population, 2010-2017	
1 Austin	13.1
2 Raleigh	9.8
3 Charlotte	8.0
4 San Antonio	7.9
5 Nashville	7.5
6 Tampa	7.4
7 Orlando	7.3
8 Denver	6.5
9 Jacksonville	6.5
10 Phoenix	6.3
11 Las Vegas	6.1
12 Dallas	5.8
13 Portland	4.8
14 Houston	4.6
15 Oklahoma City	4.2
16 Seattle	3.6
17 Atlanta	3.6
18 Sacramento	2.3
19 Richmond	2.3
20 Columbus	2.3
21 New Orleans	2.1
22 Riverside	1.9
23 Indianapolis	1.6
24 Louisville	1.0
25 Kansas City	0.8
26 Salt Lake City	0.5
27 San Francisco	0.5
Peer Average	0.1
28 Minneapolis	0.0
29 Birmingham	-0.6
30 Cincinnati	-1.0
31 Pittsburgh	-1.0
32 Miami	-1.1
33 San Diego	-1.2
34 Washington, D.C.	-1.2
35 Boston	-1.2
36 Baltimore	-1.4
37 Providence	-2.1
38 Buffalo	-2.2
39 St. Louis	-2.4
40 Philadelphia	-2.5
41 Memphis	-3.1
42 Virginia Beach	-3.1
43 Cleveland	-3.1
44 Milwaukee	-3.3
45 Detroit	-3.3
46 Los Angeles	-3.9
47 San Jose	-4.0
48 Hartford	-4.4
49 Chicago	-5.1
50 New York	-5.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

Net International Migration	
Percent of 2010 population, 2010-2017	
1 Miami	9.2
2 San Jose	7.2
3 Orlando	6.4
4 New York	5.5
5 Washington, D.C.	5.4
6 Boston	5.0
7 San Francisco	4.9
8 Houston	4.4
9 Seattle	4.1
10 San Diego	3.6
11 Hartford	3.2
12 Los Angeles	3.2
13 Tampa	3.1
14 Dallas	2.9
15 Austin	2.9
16 Providence	2.6
17 Raleigh	2.5
18 Philadelphia	2.5
19 Minneapolis	2.5
20 Atlanta	2.5
21 Columbus	2.4
22 Las Vegas	2.4
23 Baltimore	2.4
United States	2.3
24 Sacramento	2.3
25 Buffalo	2.3
26 Jacksonville	2.1
27 Virginia Beach	2.1
28 Richmond	2.1
29 Salt Lake City	2.0
30 Detroit	2.0
31 Nashville	2.0
32 New Orleans	1.9
33 Chicago	1.9
34 San Antonio	1.9
35 Oklahoma City	1.8
36 Charlotte	1.8
37 Denver	1.8
38 Phoenix	1.7
39 Portland	1.7
40 Indianapolis	1.6
41 Louisville	1.5
42 Cleveland	1.5
43 Milwaukee	1.5
44 Cincinnati	1.3
45 Pittsburgh	1.2
46 Kansas City	1.1
47 Riverside	1.0
48 St. Louis	1.0
49 Memphis	0.8
50 Birmingham	0.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

St. Louis MSA by County

Since 2010, the population increase in the St. Louis MSA was mostly due to the following: International migration to St. Louis County, followed by city of St. Louis, St. Charles County, and St. Clair County. Larger natural increases in St. Charles and St. Louis counties, as well as in the city of St. Louis.

St. Charles County is the only county in the region that saw a substantial increase in net domestic migration. However, people moving from St. Louis County account for a large majority of the net in-migration seen in St. Charles County.²

These increases were mostly countered by net out-migration, predominantly from St. Louis County, the city of St. Louis, St. Clair County, and Madison County. Population decline in the state of Illinois as a whole is a factor that affects population trends in the St. Louis region. Since 2010, Illinois has had the largest absolute decline in population of the 50 states. It is one of three states, along with West Virginia and Vermont, that have seen declines in population over this period. All of the Illinois counties in the EWG region, with the exception of Monroe County, have experienced population loss since 2010. The statewide trend appears to be affecting counties in the St. Louis region.

East-West Gateway (EWG) Region

The last line on both tables shows the totals for the EWG region, which includes the seven counties and the city of St. Louis highlighted in light green.

From 2010 to 2017, the population of the region increased by about 18,600. Natural increases resulted in a net increase of about 57,600, accounting for 68 percent of the growth in population. This was offset by a net out-migration of about 38,000 residents.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that the EWG region saw an average population increase of about 3,700 people per year from 2010 to 2015 and small population decreases of about 800 people each year for the past two years.

Conclusion

Since 2010, the St. Louis MSA has experienced slow and steady population gains. A few of the peer regions have experienced greater gains, leading to St. Louis moving from the 18th most populous U.S. region in 2010 to the 21st in 2017.

Population Change St. Louis MSA by County, 2016 to 2017						
County	2016 Population	Population Change (percent change)	Natural Change (births minus deaths)	Net International Migration	Net Domestic Migration	2017 Population
Bond	16,841	0.6	-21	10	118	16,948
Calhoun	4,859	-0.5	-20	3	-8	4,833
Clinton	37,565	0.1	67	-1	-17	37,614
Jersey	21,945	0.0	-15	18	-5	21,941
Macoupin	45,653	-0.5	-142	3	-65	45,446
Madison	265,598	-0.1	217	109	-488	265,428
Monroe	33,878	0.6	43	-5	183	34,097
St. Clair	263,120	-0.2	668	50	-1,360	262,479
Franklin	102,754	0.6	209	16	357	103,330
Jefferson	223,413	0.2	459	73	-126	223,810
Lincoln	55,186	1.8	297	17	680	56,183
St. Charles	390,795	1.2	1,742	582	2,397	395,504
St. Louis	998,216	-0.1	1,487	2,207	-5,188	996,726
Warren	33,815	1.7	124	-1	435	34,373
City of St. Louis	313,144	-1.4	1,273	951	-6,741	308,626
St. Louis MSA	2,806,782	0.0	6,388	4,032	-9,828	2,807,338
EWG Region	2,590,918	0.0	6,098	3,983	-10,966	2,590,000

Population Change St. Louis MSA by County, 2010 to 2017						
County	2010 Population	Population Change (percent change)	Natural Change (births minus deaths)	Net International Migration	Net Domestic Migration	2017 Population
Bond	17,768	-4.6	-76	78	-830	16,948
Calhoun	5,089	-5.0	-37	16	-237	4,833
Clinton	37,762	-0.4	582	-1	-716	37,614
Jersey	22,985	-4.5	-222	118	-948	21,941
Macoupin	47,765	-4.9	-760	24	-1,584	45,446
Madison	269,328	-1.4	2,561	723	-7,114	265,428
Monroe	32,957	3.5	356	-47	852	34,097
St. Clair	270,063	-2.8	6,488	1,067	-15,235	262,479
Franklin	101,492	1.8	1,822	83	1	103,330
Jefferson	218,728	2.3	5,146	442	-342	223,810
Lincoln	52,560	6.9	2,088	109	1,462	56,183
St. Charles	360,495	9.7	14,504	3,708	16,918	395,504
St. Louis	998,882	-0.2	14,686	14,675	-31,276	996,726
Warren	32,518	5.7	981	-31	924	34,373
City of St. Louis	319,371	-3.4	12,050	6,702	-29,435	308,626
St. Louis MSA	2,787,763	0.7	60,169	27,666	-67,560	2,807,338
EWG Region	2,571,316	0.0	57,613	27,353	-65,631	2,590,000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

2 Source: IRS, U.S. Population Migration Data



One Memorial Drive, Suite 1600
St. Louis, MO 63102

314-421-4220/618-274-2750

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