



Where We Stand: 8th Edition

Update 1: Population

April 2019

Latest U.S. Census data places St. Louis as the 20th most populous region in the country: On Thursday, April 18, 2019, the U.S. Census Bureau released its 2018 population estimates for U.S. Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)¹ and counties. These estimates show that in 2018 the St. Louis MSA had a population of 2.8 million and was the 20th most populous MSA in the country.

With each release of its population estimates, the U.S. Census Bureau revises and updates its estimates from previous years. In the 2017 vintage, the Census Bureau estimated that the St. Louis population had slipped from the 20th to 21st most populous MSA in the country. However, according to the latest estimates and revisions, St. Louis ranked 20th in both 2017 and 2018. According to the Census, “the release of a new vintage of estimates supersedes any previous series” (U.S. Census Bureau, 2018).

Based on this latest data release, the St. Louis region saw a slight decrease in population between 2017 and 2018, losing 385 people (-0.01 percent). Among the 50 most populous MSAs in the country (the peer regions), this rate of change ranks 44th.

Many of the peer regions with the highest rates of population growth are located in the southern or western portions of the country, a tendency that corresponds with national trends as well. Between 2017 and 2018, 90.5 percent of U.S. population growth occurred in the South and the West.

Between 2017 and 2018, Austin had the highest rate of growth with a population increase of 2.5 percent. Pittsburgh ranked 50th on this measure and experienced a loss in population of 0.2 percent. Pittsburgh is one of eight peer regions that experienced population loss over the last year. The others are Chicago, New York, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Hartford, St. Louis, and New Orleans.

**Table 1
Population**

2018		
1	New York	19,979,477
2	Los Angeles	13,291,486
3	Chicago	9,498,716
4	Dallas	7,539,711
5	Houston	6,997,384
6	Washington, D.C.	6,249,950
7	Miami	6,198,782
8	Philadelphia	6,096,372
9	Atlanta	5,949,951
10	Boston	4,875,390
11	Phoenix	4,857,962
12	San Francisco	4,729,484
13	Riverside	4,622,361
14	Detroit	4,326,442
15	Seattle	3,939,363
16	Minneapolis	3,629,190
Peer Average		3,612,980
17	San Diego	3,343,364
18	Tampa	3,142,663
19	Denver	2,932,415
20	St. Louis	2,805,465
21	Baltimore	2,802,789
22	Orlando	2,572,962
23	Charlotte	2,569,213
24	San Antonio	2,518,036
25	Portland	2,478,810
26	Sacramento	2,345,210
27	Pittsburgh	2,324,743
28	Las Vegas	2,231,647
29	Cincinnati	2,190,209
30	Austin	2,168,316
31	Kansas City	2,143,651
32	Columbus	2,106,541
33	Cleveland	2,057,009
34	Indianapolis	2,048,703
35	San Jose	1,999,107
36	Nashville	1,930,961
37	Virginia Beach	1,728,733
38	Providence	1,621,337
39	Milwaukee	1,576,113
40	Jacksonville	1,534,701
41	Oklahoma City	1,396,445
42	Raleigh	1,362,540
43	Memphis	1,350,620
44	Richmond	1,306,172
45	Louisville	1,297,301
46	New Orleans	1,270,399
47	Salt Lake City	1,222,540
48	Hartford	1,206,300
49	Birmingham	1,151,801
50	Buffalo	1,130,152

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

**Table 2
Population Change**

Percent change, 2017-2018	
1	Austin 2.5
2	Orlando 2.4
3	Las Vegas 2.2
4	Raleigh 2.1
5	Phoenix 2.0
6	Jacksonville 2.0
7	Dallas 1.8
8	San Antonio 1.8
9	Charlotte 1.8
10	Tampa 1.7
11	Nashville 1.6
12	Salt Lake City 1.4
13	Seattle 1.4
14	Denver 1.4
15	Houston 1.3
16	Atlanta 1.3
17	Columbus 1.2
18	Riverside 1.1
19	Indianapolis 1.1
20	Sacramento 1.1
21	Richmond 1.0
22	Minneapolis 1.0
23	Oklahoma City 1.0
24	Portland 0.9
25	Washington, D.C. 0.8
26	Miami 0.8
27	Kansas City 0.8
28	Boston 0.6
United States 0.6	
29	San Diego 0.5
30	Cincinnati 0.5
31	San Francisco 0.4
32	Louisville 0.3
33	Philadelphia 0.3
34	San Jose 0.3
35	Providence 0.3
36	Memphis 0.2
37	Virginia Beach 0.2
38	Birmingham 0.2
39	Baltimore 0.2
40	Detroit 0.1
41	Milwaukee 0.1
42	Buffalo 0.0
43	New Orleans 0.0
44	St. Louis 0.0
45	Hartford 0.0
46	Los Angeles -0.1
47	Cleveland -0.1
48	New York -0.1
49	Chicago -0.2
50	Pittsburgh -0.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

¹ *Where We Stand* tracks the St. Louis region among the 50 most populous Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), which 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.”

Between 2010 and 2018, the St. Louis region saw an increase of around 17,000 people, or 0.6 percent. This rate of growth is relatively low compared to the peer regions as well as that of the United States as a whole. Between 2010 and 2018, the U.S. population grew by 6.0 percent, although, as mentioned previously, most of the growth is taking place in the southern and western regions of the country. Between 2010 and 2018, 88.2 percent of U.S. population growth took place in the South and the West.

Compared to the peer regions, the rate of population growth in St. Louis between 2010 and 2018 ranked 45th. Again, Austin had the largest increase in population, growing by 26.3 percent. Pittsburgh again ranked 50th with a 1.3 percent decrease in population during this period.

In St. Louis, much of the population growth took place in St. Charles County, which saw an increase of around 38,000 people over the last eight years, or 10.7 percent. Among the 15 counties in the St. Louis MSA, six experienced an increase in population. These are Franklin, Jefferson, Monroe, Warren, Lincoln, and St. Charles counties.

The city of St. Louis and St. Clair County experienced the greatest population losses of the counties in the St. Louis area, with decreases of around 16,000 and 9,000 individuals, respectively.

Roughly 92 percent of the St. Louis MSA population resides within the East-West Gateway footprint. Between 2010 and 2018, the eight counties in this area collectively grew in population by 15,532 people, or 0.6 percent.

**Table 3
Population Change**

Percent change, 2010-2018

1	Austin	26.3
2	Orlando	20.5
3	Raleigh	20.5
4	Houston	18.2
5	San Antonio	17.5
6	Dallas	17.3
7	Charlotte	15.9
8	Phoenix	15.9
9	Nashville	15.6
10	Denver	15.3
11	Seattle	14.5
12	Las Vegas	14.4
13	Jacksonville	14.1
14	Tampa	12.9
15	Atlanta	12.5
16	Salt Lake City	12.4
17	Oklahoma City	11.4
18	Miami	11.4
19	Portland	11.4
20	Washington, D.C.	10.9
21	Columbus	10.8
22	Riverside	9.4
23	Sacramento	9.1
24	San Francisco	9.1
25	San Jose	8.8
26	Indianapolis	8.5
27	Minneapolis	8.4
28	Richmond	8.1
29	San Diego	8.0
30	Boston	7.1
31	New Orleans	6.8
32	Kansas City	6.7
	United States	6.0
33	Louisville	5.0
34	Los Angeles	3.6
35	Cincinnati	3.6
36	Baltimore	3.4
37	Virginia Beach	3.1
38	Philadelphia	2.2
39	New York	2.1
40	Birmingham	2.1
41	Memphis	1.9
42	Milwaukee	1.3
43	Providence	1.3
44	Detroit	0.7
45	St. Louis	0.6
46	Chicago	0.4
47	Buffalo	-0.5
48	Hartford	-0.5
49	Cleveland	-1.0
50	Pittsburgh	-1.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

Table 4: Population Change				
St. Louis MSA by County, 2010 to 2018				
County	2010	2018	Change	Percent Change
Bond	17,768	16,630	-1,138	-6.4
Calhoun	5,089	4,802	-287	-5.6
Clinton	37,762	37,639	-123	-0.3
Franklin	101,495	103,670	2,175	2.1
Jefferson	218,708	224,347	5,639	2.6
Jersey	22,986	21,847	-1,139	-5.0
Lincoln	52,565	57,686	5,121	9.7
Macoupin	47,765	45,313	-2,452	-5.1
Madison	269,334	264,461	-4,873	-1.8
Monroe	32,951	34,335	1,384	4.2
St. Charles	360,494	399,182	38,688	10.7
St. Clair	270,062	261,059	-9,003	-3.3
St. Louis	998,986	996,945	-2,041	-0.2
Warren	32,512	34,711	2,199	6.8
City of St. Louis	319,275	302,838	-16,437	-5.1
St. Louis MSA	2,787,752	2,805,465	17,713	0.6
East-West Gateway Region	2,571,305	2,586,837	15,532	0.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 Population Estimates

Components of Change²

The U.S. Census Bureau provides data on the components of population change, including births and deaths (natural change), residents moving to or from other parts of the United States (domestic migration), and residents moving to or from other countries (international migration). According to most population estimates, the St. Louis region usually sees population growth due to international migration and positive natural change (more births than deaths), and experiences population losses due to net domestic out-migration. The trend of previous years continued in 2018.

Between 2017 and 2018, St. Louis saw a greater number of births (32,255) than deaths (27,368), an increase of 4,242 people moving in from other countries, and a net loss of 9,471 people moving to other parts of the country. Collectively, these changes resulted in a loss of 342 people in the region.³

Within the region, St. Louis County experienced the greatest number of births and deaths, resulting in an

increase of 1,284 people due to natural changes. St. Charles had the greatest increase due to natural change, with an increase of 1,541 people. The greatest net in-migration in the region occurred in St. Charles County, with 2,405 people moving into the county over the last year. The city of St. Louis experienced the greatest loss in population due to net out-migration, with a decrease of 5,853 people. The city of St. Louis did see a net increase in population due to international migration (848 people), but this was offset by the loss of 6,701 residents who moved to other parts of the country, including areas within the St. Louis region.

The East-West Gateway region experienced an overall decrease of 2,015 people between 2017 and 2018, which was largely due to net domestic out-migration. Between 2017 and 2018, the East-West Gateway region lost over 10,000 people due to net domestic out-migration. However, this decrease was partially offset by international migration. Between 2017 and 2018, the region saw a net increase of 4,194 residents moving in from other countries.

County	Natural Change	Births	Deaths	Net Migration	Net Domestic Migration	Net International Migration	Population Change
Bond	-25	145	170	21	15	6	-5
Calhoun	-18	45	63	-21	-21	0	-39
Clinton	10	393	383	23	20	3	32
Franklin	165	1,207	1,042	220	208	12	382
Jefferson	349	2,522	2,173	263	201	62	598
Jersey	1	208	207	-55	-71	16	-54
Lincoln	283	737	454	1,264	1,252	12	1,552
Macoupin	-108	462	570	-91	-96	5	-202
Madison	88	2,930	2,842	-1,095	-1,151	56	-1,010
Monroe	19	336	317	160	159	1	176
St. Charles	1,541	4,404	2,863	2,405	1,795	610	3,937
St. Clair	370	3,092	2,722	-1,741	-1,755	14	-1,367
St. Louis	1,284	11,309	10,025	-971	-3,562	2,591	297
Warren	103	418	315	242	236	6	346
City of St. Louis	825	4,047	3,222	-5,853	-6,701	848	-5,028
St. Louis MSA	4,887	32,255	27,368	-5,229	-9,471	4,242	-385
East-West Gateway Region	4,641	29,847	25,206	-6,612	-10,806	4,194	-2,015

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 Population Estimates

² For Where We Stand tables on components of population change, go to www.ewgateway.org/wws.

³ An additional 43 residents could not be accounted for by these specified components of change. The U.S. Census Bureau refers to this remainder as a residual (U.S. Census, 2018).

Bibliography

U.S. Census Bureau. 2018. Methodology for the United States Population Estimates: Vintage 2018.

<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/methodology/2010-2018/2018-natstcopr-meth.pdf>



EAST-WEST GATEWAY Council of Governments

Creating Solutions Across Jurisdictional Boundaries

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

314-421-4220/618-274-2750

To receive future WWS Updates,
contact wws@ewgateway.org

To view past editions of WWS and WWS Updates,
visit <https://www.ewgateway.org/wws>

East-West Gateway Council of Governments (EWG) hereby gives public notice that it is the policy of the agency to assure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. Title VI requires that no person in the United States of America, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, shall be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which EWG receives federal financial assistance. Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by an unlawful discriminatory practice under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint with EWG. Any such complaint must be in writing and filed with EWG's Title VI Coordinator within one hundred eighty (180) calendar days following the date of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Nondiscrimination Complaint Form, please see EWG's website at www.ewgateway.org/titlevi or call (314) 421-4220 or (618) 274-2750.

Grant Funding Sources: The work that provided the basis of this publication was supported, in part, by a grant provided from the U.S. Department of Transportation through the Missouri Department of Transportation and the Illinois Department of Transportation. The opinions, findings, and conclusions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, or the Federal Transit Administration.