Update 5: Covid-19 **April 2020**

This WWS Update focuses on some of the population groups and industries that are already experiencing disproportional effects of COVID-19, stay-at-home orders, and other social distancing measures in the beginning of the pandemic, including:

- Higher-Risk Populations: Groups of people that have been identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as having a higher risk of severe illness from the coronavirus.
- Economy and Employment: A historical perspective of the unemployment rate and a discussion of employment sectors that are already highly affected by the pandemic.
- Increased Burden: Population groups that lack access to resources and/ or have circumstances that may cause additional burdens during this time.

This report includes a fraction of the data provided through the Where We Stand (WWS) publication series. Many of the 200+ metrics recorded on the WWS webpage are potentially useful in understanding the effects of this pandemic.

Access more tables, data, and reports in the Where We Stand series at www.ewgateway.org/wws.

To receive future updates, subscribe to the Where We Stand newsletter by emailing us at wws@ewgateway.org.

Box 1: Groups at Higher Risk for Severe Illness
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

"COVID-19 is a new disease and there is limited information regarding risk factors for severe disease. Based on currently available information and clinical expertise, older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Based on what we know now, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:

- People 65 years and older
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility

People of all ages with underlying medical conditions are at higher risk for severe illness, particularly if the underlying medical conditions are not well controlled. This includes people with:

- Chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- Serious heart conditions
- Conditions that can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications.
- Severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
- Diabetes
- Chronic kidney disease and who are undergoing dialysis
- Liver disease"

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, page last reviewed 2 April 2020, accessed on 3 April 2020 at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html

Higher-Risk Populations

While people of all ages and health levels can be infected by the new coronavirus (COVID-19), those with underlying medical conditions and those aged 65 and older appear to be at higher risk for experiencing more severe effects from the virus.

Seniors

The St. Louis region has the 8th largest percentage of seniors among the peer regions with 16.5 percent of the population in this age group. St. Louis residents aged 65 years and older are less likely to be in poverty than their counterparts in most peer regions, ranking 42nd. An estimated 7.5 percent of seniors in St. Louis have income levels that place them below the poverty threshold, compared to 9.4 nationwide. St. Louis seniors are also less likely to be working than their peers in other major metropolitan regions with a lower rate than 36 of the peer regions (see Table 4, page 3). Older St. Louis residents are more likely to live alone than those in 37 of the peer regions.

Among the 463,000 seniors in the St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)[1], as of 2018:

- About 33,000 (7.5 percent of seniors) had incomes below the poverty level.
- An estimated 260,000 seniors lived alone, comprising 11.4 percent of all households in the MSA.
- More than 80,000 seniors continued to be in the workforce, about 17.3 percent of the population aged 65 and older. Some of these individuals have likely been affected by layoffs and furloughs due to the pandemic while others may still be working and be at higher risk for severe illness.

Recent data are not available on the number of seniors in nursing homes, which is the second category of individuals identified by the CDC as higher risk. Data from the U.S. 2010 Census counted almost 20,000 residents of the St. Louis MSA as living in nursing facilities. Not all of these residents are seniors, although this number has likely grown in the last nine years as the senior population has grown in the region.

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." The 50 MSAs are also referred to as the "peer regions."

Table 1

Seniors

Population aged 65 and older as a percent of total population, 2018

1	**Pittsburgh**	**20.0**
2	Tampa	19.8
3	Cleveland	18.5
4	Miami	18.2
5	Buffalo	18.1
6	Hartford	17.4
7	Providence	17.1
8	**St. Louis**	**16.5**
9	Detroit	16.4
10	Birmingham	16.2
11	Louisville	16.0
United States		**16.0**
12	Philadelphia	16.0
13	New Orleans	15.8
14	Jacksonville	15.8
15	New York	15.7
16	Boston	15.7
17	Phoenix	15.6
18	Milwaukee	15.6
19	Richmond	15.6
20	Baltimore	15.5
21	San Francisco	15.5
22	Sacramento	15.4
23	Cincinnati	15.1
24	Portland	14.9
25	Kansas City	14.9
26	Orlando	14.8
27	Las Vegas	14.7
28	Virginia Beach	14.6
29	Chicago	14.6
30	San Diego	14.1
31	Minneapolis	14.0
32	Memphis	14.0
33	Los Angeles	13.9
34	Oklahoma City	13.9
35	Indianapolis	13.7
36	Charlotte	13.5
37	San Jose	13.5
38	Seattle	13.4
39	Nashville	13.3
40	Columbus	13.2
41	Riverside	13.1
42	San Antonio	13.1
43	Washington, D.C.	13.0
44	Denver	12.9
45	Atlanta	12.3
46	Raleigh	12.2
47	Dallas	11.3
48	Houston	11.2
49	Austin	10.8
50	**Salt Lake City**	**10.8**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (B01001)

Table 2

Persons Aged 65 and Older Living Alone

Percent of all households, 2018

1	**Pittsburgh**	**14.3**
2	Tampa	13.7
3	Buffalo	13.7
4	Cleveland	13.3
5	Providence	13.1
6	Hartford	12.7
7	Miami	12.4
8	Detroit	12.4
9	Philadelphia	11.6
10	Richmond	11.6
11	Milwaukee	11.5
12	**St. Louis**	**11.4**
13	New York	11.3
14	Boston	11.3
15	New Orleans	11.3
16	Baltimore	11.1
17	Birmingham	11.1
United States		**11.0**
18	Chicago	10.8
19	Cincinnati	10.8
20	Jacksonville	10.7
21	Louisville	10.7
22	Memphis	10.7
23	Sacramento	10.6
24	Portland	10.6
25	Oklahoma City	10.5
26	Virginia Beach	10.4
27	San Francisco	10.4
28	Minneapolis	10.0
29	Phoenix	10.0
30	Kansas City	9.6
31	Indianapolis	9.5
32	Las Vegas	9.3
33	Denver	9.3
34	San Diego	9.1
35	Los Angeles	9.1
36	Seattle	9.1
37	Columbus	8.9
38	Washington, D.C.	8.8
39	Riverside	8.7
40	Nashville	8.7
41	Orlando	8.7
42	Charlotte	8.6
43	San Antonio	8.4
44	Atlanta	7.9
45	Raleigh	7.8
46	Salt Lake City	7.5
47	San Jose	7.3
48	Dallas	7.2
49	Houston	7.1
50	**Austin**	**6.4**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (B11010, B11001)

Table 3

Seniors in Poverty

Percent of adults aged 65 and older, 2018

1	**Miami**	**15.4**
2	Los Angeles	12.6
3	New Orleans	12.5
4	New York	11.8
5	Memphis	11.4
6	Houston	11.0
7	Riverside	11.0
8	San Antonio	10.8
9	Providence	10.8
10	Tampa	10.6
11	Detroit	10.5
12	Las Vegas	10.2
13	Cleveland	9.8
14	Sacramento	9.7
15	Richmond	9.6
16	Orlando	9.5
United States		**9.4**
17	Birmingham	9.3
18	San Diego	9.3
19	Chicago	9.2
20	Boston	9.0
21	Buffalo	9.0
22	Dallas	8.9
23	Milwaukee	8.9
24	San Francisco	8.8
25	Jacksonville	8.7
26	Philadelphia	8.4
27	Atlanta	8.3
28	San Jose	8.2
29	Virginia Beach	8.1
30	Pittsburgh	8.0
31	Cincinnati	8.0
32	Nashville	7.9
33	Louisville	7.9
34	Indianapolis	7.9
35	Portland	7.8
36	Charlotte	7.7
37	Hartford	7.7
38	Columbus	7.7
39	Baltimore	7.6
40	Phoenix	7.6
41	Oklahoma City	7.5
42	**St. Louis**	**7.5**
43	Washington, D.C.	7.4
44	Seattle	7.1
45	Austin	7.0
46	Minneapolis	6.9
47	Denver	6.6
48	Kansas City	6.1
49	Raleigh	6.1
50	**Salt Lake City**	**5.9**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (B17001)

Underlying Conditions

According to the CDC, people with underlying conditions, even those younger than age 65, are also at higher risk of experiencing severe illness from COVID-19 (see Box 1, page 1).

Tables 5 through 10 (pages 3 and 4) provide data on some of these underlying conditions. The St. Louis region ranks above the national average on all six prevalence rates, and ranks 3rd on cancer prevalence.

In the St. Louis MSA, as of 2017, an estimated 220,600 adults were diagnosed with asthma, 72,500 with heart diseases, 297,000 with cancer, 240,0000 with diabetes, and/or an estimated 636,600 people are considered obese. Smoking is one of several additional factors that the CDC identifies as potentially compromising one's immune system, leading those who smoke to be in the higher-risk category. As of 2017, 408,800 adults smoked in St. Louis. These categories are not mutually exclusive; one person could have multiple conditions.

Table 4

Senior Workers

Percent of population aged 65 and older employed, 2018

1	**Washington D.C.**	**24.4**
2	Boston	22.9
3	Austin	22.4
4	Denver	22.0
5	Dallas	21.9
6	Oklahoma City	21.3
7	San Francisco	21.1
8	Salt Lake City	21.0
8	Nashville	21.0
10	Houston	20.9
11	Memphis	20.2
12	Raleigh	20.0
13	Philadelphia	19.9
14	New Orleans	19.7
15	Baltimore	19.6
15	New York	19.6
15	Hartford	19.6
18	Cincinnati	19.5
19	Kansas City	19.4
20	Minneapolis	19.3
21	San Jose	19.1
22	Seattle	19.0
23	Los Angeles	18.8
24	Chicago	18.7
24	Louisville	18.7
26	Atlanta	18.6
26	Richmond	18.6
28	Cleveland	18.4
29	Indianapolis	18.3
30	Columbus	18.1
30	Virginia Beach	18.1
32	San Antonio	18.0
33	Miami	17.5
33	Pittsburgh	17.5
33	Providence	17.5
33	San Diego	17.5
United States		**17.5**
37	**St. Louis**	**17.3**
38	Portland	17.1
39	Orlando	16.8
40	Birmingham	16.4
41	Charlotte	16.3
42	Jacksonville	16.0
42	Las Vegas	16.0
44	Milwaukee	15.9
45	Phoenix	15.8
46	Detroit	15.2
47	Buffalo	15.1
47	Sacramento	15.1
49	Riverside	14.2
50	**Tampa**	**14.1**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates (S0103)

Table 5

Prevalence of Asthma

Adults who currently have asthma as a percent of all adults, 2017

1	**Jacksonville**	**12.7**
2	Providence	12.5
3	Hartford	11.3
4	Sacramento	11.2
5	Louisville	11.1
6	Cleveland	10.7
7	Virginia Beach	10.7
8	Buffalo	10.6
9	Birmingham	10.3
10	Baltimore	10.3
11	Philadelphia	10.3
12	**St. Louis**	**10.1**
13	Portland	10.0
14	Indianapolis	10.0
15	Detroit	9.9
16	Phoenix	9.9
17	Charlotte	9.8
18	Salt Lake City	9.3
19	Columbus	9.1
20	New Orleans	9.1
United States		**9.1**
21	San Francisco	9.1
22	Denver	9.1
23	Dallas	9.1
24	Milwaukee	9.0
25	Oklahoma City	8.8
26	Tampa	8.7
27	Seattle	8.6
28	Nashville	8.5
29	Kansas City	8.5
30	Cincinnati	8.2
31	Memphis	8.1
32	New York	8.0
33	Orlando	7.8
34	Chicago	7.8
35	Atlanta	7.7
36	Washington, D.C.	7.6
37	Pittsburgh	7.5
38	Austin	7.5
39	Los Angeles	7.5
40	Minneapolis	7.2
41	Richmond	7.2
42	San Antonio	6.5
43	Houston	5.9
44	Miami	5.8
45	**Riverside**	**5.5**

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Table 6

Prevalence of Coronary Heart Disease

Adults who have ever been diagnosed as a percent of all adults, 2017

1	**San Antonio**	**8.9**
2	Tampa	8.5
3	Buffalo	8.4
4	Louisville	8.4
5	Detroit	8.4
6	Cincinnati	8.0
7	Pittsburgh	7.8
8	Jacksonville	7.7
9	Oklahoma City	7.6
10	Nashville	7.3
11	Birmingham	7.3
12	Providence	7.1
13	Richmond	7.0
14	Cleveland	7.0
15	Philadelphia	6.8
16	**St. Louis**	**6.7**
17	Orlando	6.6
United States		**6.4**
18	New Orleans	6.4
19	Indianapolis	6.3
20	Virginia Beach	6.2
21	Hartford	5.9
22	Charlotte	5.8
23	Kansas City	5.7
24	Columbus	5.6
25	Miami	5.6
26	New York	5.5
27	Riverside	5.5
28	Baltimore	5.5
29	Houston	5.3
30	Chicago	5.3
31	Phoenix	5.3
32	Portland	5.1
33	Memphis	5.0
34	Milwaukee	4.9
35	Los Angeles	4.8
36	Atlanta	4.5
37	Minneapolis	4.5
38	Dallas	4.4
39	Washington, D.C.	4.3
40	Seattle	4.3
41	Salt Lake City	4.2
42	San Francisco	4.0
43	Denver	4.0
44	Sacramento	3.7
45	**Austin**	**3.5**

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Black individuals are more likely to have many of these underlying health conditions than their white counterparts, putting them at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Data released so far on COVID-19-related deaths supports this disparity. The Kaiser Family Foundation found that early data reveals that black individuals comprise a larger percentage of COVID-19 deaths than they do of the total population in Washington, D.C.; Illinois; and Michigan (Artiga, 2020). In addition, Dr. Fredrick Echols, the director of the City of St. Louis Department of Health, reported that as of April 8th, all 12 COVID-19-related deaths in the city of St. Louis were black individuals (2020).

Table 7

Prevalence of Smoking

Percent of adults, 2017

1	**Cincinnati**	**23.5**
2	Louisville	22.7
3	Cleveland	21.9
4	New Orleans	21.7
5	Pittsburgh	21.3
6	Buffalo	20.4
7	Columbus	20.3
8	Memphis	20.1
9	Birmingham	19.7
10	Indianapolis	19.4
11	**St. Louis**	**19.3**
12	Jacksonville	18.4
13	Tampa	18.4
14	San Antonio	17.9
15	Richmond	17.3
16	Oklahoma City	17.1
17	Kansas City	17.0
18	Detroit	16.6
United States		**16.3**
19	Virginia Beach	16.2
20	Nashville	15.9
21	Philadelphia	15.6
22	Baltimore	15.4
23	Providence	15.3
24	Houston	15.1
25	Atlanta	14.9
26	Phoenix	14.8
27	Portland	14.6
28	Charlotte	14.6
29	Milwaukee	14.5
30	Dallas	14.0
31	Denver	13.8
32	Chicago	13.6
33	Miami	13.6
34	Minneapolis	13.2
35	Orlando	12.9
36	Austin	12.5
37	New York	12.0
38	Los Angeles	11.7
39	Riverside	11.1
40	Hartford	11.0
41	Washington, D.C.	10.6
42	Salt Lake City	10.4
43	Seattle	10.3
44	Sacramento	9.5
45	**San Francisco**	**8.8**

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Table 8

Prevalence of Cancer

Adults who have ever been diagnosed as a percent of all adults, 2017

1	**Tampa**	**16.8**
2	Jacksonville	14.2
3	**St. Louis**	**13.8**
4	Birmingham	13.3
5	Providence	12.9
6	Louisville	12.9
7	Phoenix	12.8
8	Detroit	12.8
9	Pittsburgh	12.7
10	Portland	12.6
11	Charlotte	12.6
12	Indianapolis	12.1
13	Oklahoma City	12.0
14	Philadelphia	12.0
15	San Antonio	11.9
16	Kansas City	11.9
17	Orlando	11.8
18	Cleveland	11.6
United States		**11.5**
19	Salt Lake City	11.4
20	Baltimore	11.4
21	Hartford	11.4
22	Columbus	11.3
23	Nashville	11.2
24	Seattle	11.2
25	Sacramento	11.1
26	San Francisco	11.0
27	Virginia Beach	11.0
28	Minneapolis	10.9
29	Denver	10.8
30	Miami	10.7
31	New Orleans	10.6
32	Cincinnati	10.5
33	Buffalo	10.4
34	Richmond	10.3
35	Milwaukee	10.0
36	Austin	9.7
37	Washington, D.C.	9.6
38	Los Angeles	9.5
39	Memphis	9.3
40	Atlanta	9.3
41	Riverside	9.3
42	Dallas	9.2
43	New York	8.7
44	Chicago	8.7
45	**Houston**	**8.0**

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Table 9

Prevalence of Diabetes

Adults who have ever been diagnosed as a percent of all adults, 2017

1	**New Orleans**	**15.3**
2	Birmingham	13.9
3	Riverside	13.7
4	San Antonio	13.0
5	Jacksonville	12.7
6	Louisville	12.4
7	Buffalo	12.2
8	Oklahoma City	12.1
9	Virginia Beach	12.1
10	Indianapolis	11.8
11	Nashville	11.8
12	Memphis	11.6
13	Cleveland	11.3
14	**St. Louis**	**11.0**
15	Charlotte	11.0
United States		**10.9**
16	Richmond	10.9
17	Dallas	10.5
18	Philadelphia	10.4
19	Atlanta	10.3
20	Milwaukee	10.3
21	Baltimore	10.3
22	Pittsburgh	10.3
23	Chicago	10.2
24	Orlando	10.2
25	Sacramento	10.2
26	Phoenix	10.2
27	New York	10.2
28	Los Angeles	10.1
29	Detroit	10.1
30	Houston	10.0
31	Providence	9.9
32	Hartford	9.7
33	Kansas City	9.6
34	Austin	9.6
35	Columbus	9.3
36	Cincinnati	9.3
37	Tampa	9.2
38	Portland	8.9
39	Miami	8.5
40	Washington, D.C.	7.8
41	Seattle	7.5
42	Denver	7.5
43	Salt Lake City	7.3
44	San Francisco	6.9
45	**Minneapolis**	**6.7**

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Table 10

Prevalence of Obesity

Percent of adults, 2017

1	**Birmingham**	**37.7**
2	Memphis	37.2
3	New Orleans	36.1
4	Oklahoma City	34.6
5	Charlotte	33.8
6	Jacksonville	33.2
7	Cleveland	32.7
8	Columbus	32.4
9	Virginia Beach	32.4
10	Indianapolis	31.9
11	Riverside	31.8
12	Richmond	31.6
13	Providence	31.6
14	**St. Louis**	**31.3**
15	Dallas	31.2
16	Kansas City	31.2
17	Pittsburgh	31.1
18	Baltimore	31.1
19	Houston	31.0
20	San Antonio	30.7
21	Chicago	30.1
United States		**30.1**
22	Louisville	30.1
23	Cincinnati	30.0
24	Atlanta	29.8
25	Philadelphia	29.7
26	Buffalo	29.7
27	Phoenix	29.4
28	Austin	29.2
29	Milwaukee	29.1
30	Detroit	28.3
31	Nashville	28.2
32	Sacramento	27.9
33	Portland	27.2
34	Miami	27.0
35	Hartford	27.0
36	Orlando	26.4
37	Washington, D.C.	26.3
38	Tampa	26.0
39	Minneapolis	26.0
40	Salt Lake City	24.9
41	New York	24.2
42	Los Angeles	24.0
43	Seattle	23.2
44	Denver	22.1
45	**San Francisco**	**20.9**

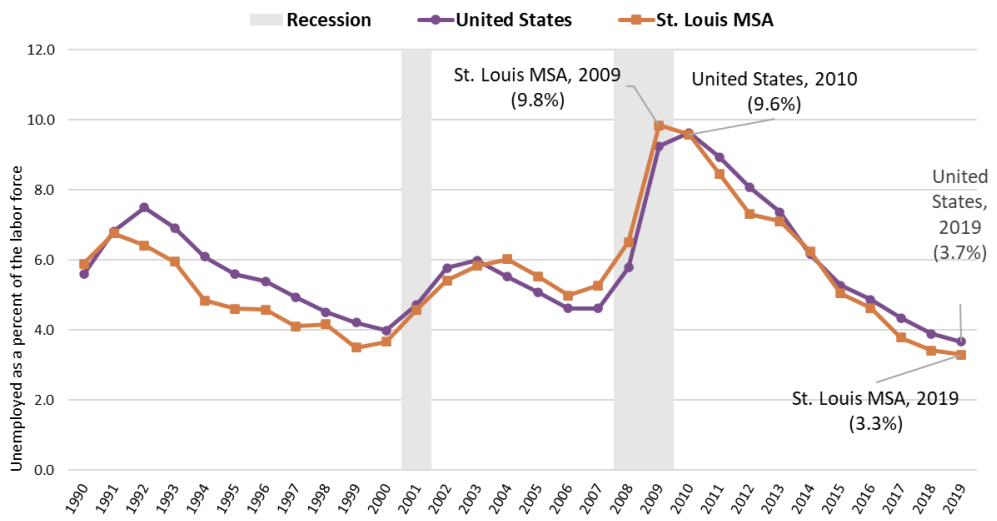
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Economy and Employment

As St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank President James Bullard points out, the economy is intentionally being slowed as the nation focuses on public health and people are being asked to stay home—reducing or eliminating the activities that fuel the economy (2020). How the economy will respond to the pandemic and to the subsequent actions of government, businesses, and individuals is largely unknown. This section provides the historical unemployment rate for context as the unemployment rate climbs during this crisis and looks at some of the employment sectors that are already impacted or are expected to be vulnerable to the effects of the pandemic.

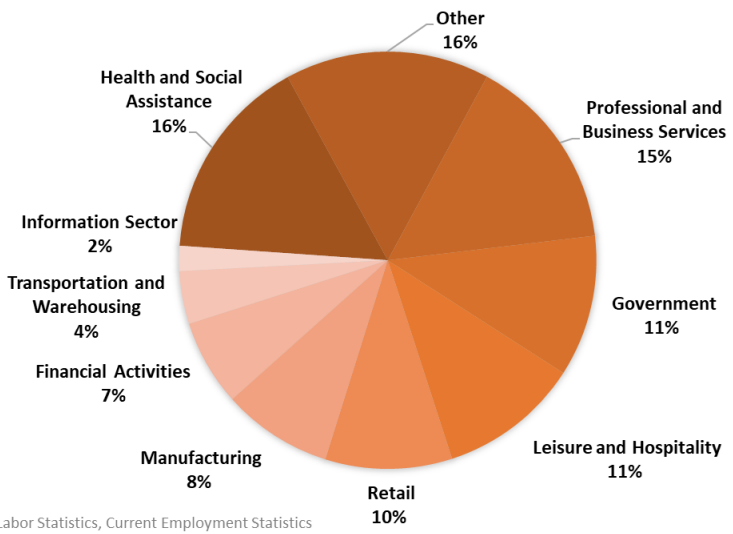
Figure 1 displays the unemployment rate for the St. Louis MSA and the United States for 1990 through 2019. Over this time period, the highest rate of unemployment for both geographies was during the Great Recession. For St. Louis, the highest rate was 9.8 percent in 2009. Nationally, it was 9.6 percent in 2010. The lowest annual rates for both were the most recently recorded, 3.7 percent of the United States and 3.3 percent for St. Louis in 2019.[2] The Federal Reserve Bank projects that the United States could see an unemployment rate of between 10 and 40 percent due to the COVID-19 pandemic (2020).

Figure 1: Unemployment Rate
St. Louis MSA and United States, 1990 to 2018



Note: The 2019 rate for the St. Louis MSA is a monthly average based on preliminary December estimates.
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

Figure 2: Employment by Industry
St. Louis MSA, 2019



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

Figure 2 displays the percent of employment by industry for the St. Louis MSA for 2019. Many industries are or will be affected by activities that have been reduced due to the coronavirus. However, some industries are more vulnerable to layoffs and reduced demand than others. The Federal Reserve Bank estimates that 46 percent of jobs in the St. Louis MSA are at high risk of layoff (Gascon, 2020). Two of the largest sectors in this category are the leisure and hospitality sector and the retail sector. Together, these sectors employ 21 percent of workers in the region.

Not all of the workers in these industries are at high risk of layoff. Some are categorized as low risk of job loss because they are deemed to be essential, including grocery store workers and some restaurant workers. Other essential workers include health care workers, police, and utility workers. An estimated 18 percent of the 1.4 million jobs in St. Louis are considered essential (Tomer, 2020).

One-third of workers in the region are not considered essential but are at low risk of layoff because they can complete their work remotely. These jobs include computer programmers, engineers, and a variety of office-oriented jobs. The remaining 5 percent of workers considered at low risk of layoff. They are likely to continue to be paid a salary although they are not categorized as essential and may or may not be working from home (e.g. teachers) (Tomer, 2020).

2 The 2019 rate for the St. Louis MSA is a monthly average based on preliminary December estimates.

Leisure and Hospitality Industry and Retail Industry

Significant layoffs have already been documented in two industries: leisure and hospitality, and retail. Leisure and hospitality includes restaurants, hotels, and entertainment such as movies and amusement parks. Table 11 presents employment in this industry as a percentage of total wage and salary employment. Most regions cluster fairly closely together with between 9 and 13 percent of the workforce employed in leisure and hospitality. Outliers include regions that are heavily dependent upon tourism, including Las Vegas, Orlando, and New Orleans. St. Louis stands at about the national average with 11 percent employed in leisure and hospitality. Table 12 shows employment in the retail sector as a percentage of total wage and salary employment. Again, most regions cluster fairly closely, with between 9 and 12 percent employed in retail. In St. Louis, 9.8 percent of the workforce was employed in retail in 2019, a little lower than the national average.

The retail and leisure and hospitality industries have a disproportionate number of workers considered "working poor," defined as individuals who work full-time and full-year and who are part of households with income levels that are less than 200 percent of the poverty threshold (PolicyLink, 2020). Nationally, about 13.5 million workers meet this definition of the working poor. Workers in retail and leisure and hospitality account for more than a quarter of those workers. More than one in five full-time workers in lodging industries, and more than one in four full-time restaurant employees, are working poor (Ruggles, 2020). Thus, it is reasonable to anticipate that widespread layoffs in these industries could potentially affect basic needs, including housing stability and food security, for a significant number of people.

Figure 3 provides the estimated employment in the St. Louis MSA in retail and in leisure and hospitality, with additional information for the sub-industries for which data are available. About 137,000 St. Louisans worked in retail in 2019. Of these, about 20,000 worked in grocery stores, and another 10,000 worked in pharmacies and other outlets that fall under the category of "health and personal care." About 150,000 St. Louis residents worked in the leisure and hospitality industry. Of these, most (115,000) worked in restaurants.

Figure 3: Wage and Salary Employment by Industry

St. Louis MSA, 2019

Industry	Number of Jobs
Retail	**137,000**
Food and Beverage	20,800
Health and Personal Care	10,100
Clothing	9,600
General Merchandise	28,600
Leisure and Hospitality	**152,300**
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	22,000
Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation	15,500
Accommodation and Food Services	130,300
Food Services and Drinking Places	115,400

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

Table 11

Leisure and Hospitality Employment

Percent of total employment, 2019

1	**Las Vegas**	**28.4**
2	Orlando	20.8
3	New Orleans	15.7
4	San Diego	13.5
5	San Antonio	12.9
6	Los Angeles	12.4
7	Austin	12.2
7	Miami	12.2
9	Jacksonville	12.0
10	Tampa	11.8
11	Charlotte	11.7
11	Providence	11.7
13	Nashville	11.6
13	Virginia Beach	11.6
15	Raleigh	11.4
15	Riverside	11.4
15	San Francisco	11.4
18	Cincinnati	11.3
18	Oklahoma City	11.3
20	Denver	11.2
United States		**11.0**
21	**St. Louis**	**10.9**
22	Atlanta	10.7
22	Phoenix	10.7
22	Sacramento	10.7
25	Buffalo	10.6
25	Houston	10.6
27	Dallas	10.5
27	Memphis	10.5
29	Louisville	10.4
29	Portland	10.4
31	Chicago	10.3
32	Indianapolis	10.2
32	Kansas City	10.2
34	Pittsburgh	10.1
34	Washington	10.1
36	Boston	10.0
36	Seattle	10.0
38	Baltimore	9.8
38	Birmingham	9.8
38	Cleveland	9.8
38	Detroit	9.8
38	Richmond	9.8
43	Columbus	9.7
44	New York	9.5
45	Minneapolis	9.4
46	Milwaukee	9.3
46	Philadelphia	9.3
46	San Jose	9.3
49	Salt Lake City	8.6
50	**Hartford**	**8.2**

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

Table 12

Retail Employment

Percent of total employment, 2019

1	**Miami**	**12.4**
2	Riverside	11.8
3	Tampa	11.4
4	Jacksonville	11.3
4	Orlando	11.3
6	Seattle	11.2
7	Phoenix	10.8
7	Raleigh	10.8
9	Providence	10.7
9	Virginia Beach	10.7
11	Las Vegas	10.6
12	Birmingham	10.5
12	Buffalo	10.5
12	San Antonio	10.5
15	Charlotte	10.4
15	New Orleans	10.4
United States		**10.4**
17	Detroit	10.3
18	Atlanta	10.2
19	Salt Lake City	10.1
20	Kansas City	10.0
21	Dallas	9.9
21	Memphis	9.9
21	Oklahoma City	9.9
21	Pittsburgh	9.9
21	Sacramento	9.9
26	Austin	9.8
26	Philadelphia	9.8
26	**St. Louis**	**9.8**
29	Nashville	9.7
29	Portland	9.7
29	San Diego	9.7
32	Cincinnati	9.6
32	Houston	9.6
32	Richmond	9.6
35	Chicago	9.4
35	Indianapolis	9.4
35	Louisville	9.4
35	New York	9.4
39	Baltimore	9.3
40	Minneapolis	9.2
41	Cleveland	9.1
41	Columbus	9.1
41	Hartford	9.1
41	Los Angeles	9.1
45	Denver	9.0
46	Milwaukee	8.9
47	San Francisco	8.3
48	Washington	8.1
49	**San Jose**	**7.3**

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

Increased Burden

This section focuses on population groups that lack access to resources and/or have circumstances that may cause additional burdens during this time. These groups include people who earn relatively low incomes, who lack health insurance, those who depend on public transit as a means of transportation, and those who have children who are not in school during the pandemic. The burdens that may be heightened by these circumstances include increased exposure to the coronavirus itself, difficultly sustaining and recovering financially, and challenging decisions on how to handle day-to-day activities, (including child care, schooling, or working from home) during the course of the pandemic.

Increased Burden: Poverty and Low-Income

As discussed in the previous section (see page 6), people with incomes at 200 percent or less of the national poverty threshold make up a large proportion of the employees in industries that are experiencing the greatest layoffs. Additionally, some of those who continue to work, providing essential services, are also more likely to have relatively low wages. For example, food preparation workers ($23,733), stock clerks ($25,709), and physical therapist aids ($26,250) all earn wages that are about at the poverty level for a family of four (Tomer, 2020).

In 2018, the poverty threshold for a family of four was $25,701.[3] In 2018, the St. Louis MSA ranked 28th among the 50 peer regions with a lower poverty rate than many of the peer regions and a rate 1.5 percentage points lower than the United States.

Black individuals in the St. Louis MSA are more than three times as likely to be in poverty as white individuals. In 2018, 26.7 percent of black individuals in St. Louis were in poverty compared to 7.4 percent of white individuals. In 2018, the region ranked as having the 6th highest racial disparity in poverty rates among the 50 most populous regions for which there is data.

About a quarter of the population in St. Louis is low-income, defined as 200 percent of the poverty level or below. For a family of four, this is an income of $51,402 or less in 2018. St. Louis ranks 37th with a smaller percentage of households in the low-income category than for the United States (30.5 percent). St. Louis also ranks lower than most of the peer regions.

3"The Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If a family's total income is less than the family's threshold, then that family and every individual in it is considered in poverty. The official poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated for inflation using Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). The official poverty definition uses money income before taxes and does not include capital gains or noncash benefits (such as public housing, Medicaid, and food stamps)." http://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html

Table 13

Poverty Rate

Individuals living in poverty as a percent of total population, 2018

1	**Memphis**	**18.8**
2	New Orleans	17.5
3	San Antonio	15.4
4	Cleveland	14.5
5	Birmingham	14.4
6	Detroit	14.3
7	Houston	14.3
8	Oklahoma City	14.1
9	Miami	14.0
10	Orlando	13.9
11	Las Vegas	13.9
12	Riverside	13.7
13	Buffalo	13.7
14	Louisville	13.6
15	Tampa	13.4
16	Sacramento	13.3
17	Los Angeles	13.3
18	Milwaukee	13.2
United States		**13.1**
19	Columbus	12.9
20	Philadelphia	12.3
21	New York	12.3
22	Phoenix	12.2
23	Jacksonville	12.2
24	Indianapolis	12.1
25	Providence	12.1
26	Cincinnati	11.8
27	Nashville	11.6
28	**St. Louis**	**11.6**
29	San Diego	11.4
30	Richmond	11.3
31	Dallas	11.2
32	Chicago	11.2
33	Charlotte	11.2
34	Austin	11.2
35	Virginia Beach	11.2
36	Atlanta	11.1
37	Pittsburgh	10.8
38	Hartford	10.2
39	Baltimore	10.1
40	Portland	9.8
41	Kansas City	9.7
42	Boston	9.2
43	Raleigh	8.9
44	Salt Lake City	8.8
45	Seattle	8.7
46	Minneapolis	8.5
47	San Francisco	8.3
48	Denver	8.0
49	Washington, D.C.	7.6
50	**San Jose**	**7.2**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (B17001)

Table 14

Racial Disparity in Poverty Rate

Ratio of black to white poverty rate, 2018

1	**Milwaukee**	**5.27**
2	Minneapolis	4.75
3	Chicago	3.65
4	Philadelphia	3.62
5	Cleveland	3.62
6	**St. Louis**	**3.61**
7	Hartford	3.53
8	Pittsburgh	3.38
9	Seattle	3.24
10	Kansas City	3.23
11	Denver	3.22
12	Baltimore	3.18
13	Buffalo	3.13
14	Memphis	3.11
15	Indianapolis	3.10
16	Louisville	3.04
17	Oklahoma City	3.02
18	Austin	2.97
19	San Francisco	2.93
20	Raleigh	2.90
21	New Orleans	2.90
22	Columbus	2.89
23	Washington, D.C.	2.73
24	Richmond	2.72
25	Cincinnati	2.70
26	Detroit	2.65
27	Virginia Beach	2.65
28	Houston	2.62
29	Dallas	2.58
30	Jacksonville	2.53
31	Boston	2.50
32	Las Vegas	2.42
33	Nashville	2.41
34	New York	2.41
35	Phoenix	2.39
36	Charlotte	2.39
United States		**2.36**
37	Los Angeles	2.27
38	Atlanta	2.25
39	Miami	2.24
40	Providence	2.24
41	Birmingham	2.23
42	Orlando	2.22
43	Portland	2.15
44	Tampa	2.12
45	San Diego	2.08
46	Riverside	1.90
47	Sacramento	1.82
48	**San Antonio**	**1.78**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (S0201)

Table 15

Low-Income Population

Population with income at 200% of poverty level or below as a percent of total population, 2018

1	**Memphis**	**38.2**
2	New Orleans	38.1
3	Miami	34.9
4	San Antonio	34.4
5	Orlando	34.0
6	Riverside	33.6
7	Las Vegas	33.6
8	Oklahoma City	33.1
9	Houston	32.7
10	Tampa	31.9
11	Los Angeles	31.6
12	Birmingham	31.1
13	Jacksonville	31.0
14	Phoenix	30.5
United States		**30.5**
15	Louisville	30.3
16	Detroit	30.0
17	Buffalo	29.9
18	Cleveland	29.6
19	Sacramento	29.0
20	Dallas	28.8
21	Milwaukee	28.6
22	Indianapolis	28.5
23	Charlotte	28.2
24	Columbus	28.2
25	Nashville	28.2
26	Atlanta	27.9
27	San Diego	27.3
28	Cincinnati	27.1
29	Providence	26.9
30	New York	26.7
31	Chicago	26.6
32	Virginia Beach	26.2
33	Philadelphia	26.1
34	Pittsburgh	25.7
35	Austin	25.7
36	Richmond	25.5
37	**St. Louis**	**25.4**
38	Kansas City	25.0
39	Salt Lake City	24.2
40	Portland	23.7
41	Raleigh	23.5
42	Hartford	23.4
43	Denver	22.1
44	Baltimore	21.8
45	Minneapolis	20.3
46	Boston	20.0
47	Seattle	19.5
48	San Francisco	18.5
49	Washington, D.C.	18.4
50	**San Jose**	**16.9**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (B17002)

Access to Health Care

Nationally, an estimated 28.6 million individuals did not have health insurance coverage in 2018. About 183,000 of these individuals live in the St. Louis MSA. Individuals who work in industries that are at high risk of layoff due to the COVID-19 pandemic are less likely to have health insurance than workers in industries at low risk of layoff, 85 percent compared to 90 percent, respectively. About 57 percent of those in the high-risk industries receive their health insurance through their employer (Berube, 2020).

St. Louis ranks as the 32nd among the peer regions for the percent of people who do not have health insurance. The region has the 7th largest gap in coverage between white and black residents. St. Louis black residents are more than twice as likely to lack health care coverage as white residents, 10.8 percent and 5.2 percent, respectively.

Figure 4 provides the percent of persons lacking coverage by county for those counties for which data are available for the St. Louis region. The range is from 4.4 percent in St. Charles County to 10.5 percent in the city of St. Louis.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed by the U.S. Congress extends some health care benefits to some additional groups, including those who test positive for the coronavirus and have an income that is less than 85 percent of the federal poverty line (an income of $1,538 per month for a family of three). Individuals who are laid off from jobs may lose employer-provided health insurance. Some will become eligible for this Medicaid coverage. However, those who continue to work for low wages will not be eligible for the expanded health care coverage (MBP, 2020).

Figure 4: Health Insurance Coverage
St. Louis Region by County, 2018

County	Persons lacking coverage as a percent of total population
City of St. Louis	10.5
Franklin	8.9
Jefferson	8.3
Madison	6.0
St. Charles	4.4
St. Clair	5.9
St. Louis	6.3

Note: Due to small population numbers, data are not available for all counties in the St. Louis region.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Table 16

Health Insurance Coverage

Persons lacking coverage as a percent of total population, 2018

1	**Houston**	**18.6**
2	Dallas	17.1
3	San Antonio	15.5
4	Miami	15.2
5	Atlanta	13.2
6	Oklahoma City	13.1
7	Austin	12.6
8	Orlando	12.2
9	Tampa	12.2
10	Memphis	12.0
11	Las Vegas	11.7
12	Jacksonville	11.6
13	Salt Lake City	11.2
14	Phoenix	10.7
15	Charlotte	10.4
16	Birmingham	9.8
17	Nashville	9.7
18	Kansas City	9.2
19	Raleigh	9.1
20	New Orleans	9.0
United States		**8.9**
21	Virginia Beach	8.7
22	Richmond	8.6
23	Los Angeles	8.5
24	San Diego	8.4
25	Indianapolis	8.4
26	Riverside	8.4
27	Chicago	7.6
28	Washington, D.C.	7.5
29	Denver	7.1
30	Columbus	7.1
31	New York	6.7
32	**St. Louis**	**6.6**
33	Portland	6.3
34	Seattle	5.6
35	Cleveland	5.5
36	Louisville	5.5
37	Milwaukee	5.4
38	Detroit	5.4
39	Philadelphia	5.3
40	Cincinnati	5.1
41	Sacramento	4.9
42	Baltimore	4.8
43	Minneapolis	4.3
44	San Jose	4.2
45	San Francisco	3.9
46	Providence	3.7
47	Hartford	3.7
48	Pittsburgh	3.5
49	Buffalo	3.1
50	**Boston**	**2.9**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (B27001)

Table 17

Racial Disparity in Health Insurance Coverage

Ratio of black to white, persons lacking coverage as a percent of total population, 2018

1	**Milwaukee**	**2.60**
2	Minneapolis	2.46
3	Columbus	2.21
4	Baltimore	2.19
5	Seattle	2.17
6	Miami	2.10
7	**St. Louis**	**2.08**
8	New York	2.03
8	Washington, D.C.	2.03
10	Chicago	2.00
10	Providence	2.00
12	Pittsburgh	1.97
13	Boston	1.95
14	Denver	1.93
15	Hartford	1.92
16	San Francisco	1.92
17	Philadelphia	1.91
18	Portland	1.91
19	Kansas City	1.90
20	Richmond	1.89
21	Raleigh	1.86
22	Memphis	1.85
23	Indianapolis	1.83
24	Phoenix	1.81
25	Buffalo	1.78
26	Houston	1.73
27	Virginia Beach	1.69
United States		**1.68**
28	San Diego	1.62
29	Oklahoma City	1.62
30	Austin	1.59
31	Dallas	1.55
32	Birmingham	1.54
33	San Antonio	1.53
34	Atlanta	1.53
35	Cincinnati	1.52
35	Los Angeles	1.52
37	Charlotte	1.51
37	Las Vegas	1.51
39	Orlando	1.49
40	Detroit	1.42
41	Nashville	1.40
42	Cleveland	1.34
43	Louisville	1.33
44	Riverside	1.28
45	Sacramento	1.24
46	Tampa	1.20
47	New Orleans	1.18
48	**Jacksonville**	**1.11**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (S0201)

Access to Transportation

Public transit is being affected by increased cleaning expenses, operator absenteeism, lower ridership, reduced fare collection, and decreased revenue from sales taxes. Congress is providing some assistance to transit agencies across the country with $25 billion in funding through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The funding will be allocated to transit agencies to help offset some of these effects as these agencies continue to provide service (Cella, 2020).

The St. Louis area transit agency, Metro is asking residents to only use transit for essential trips (2020). Fewer residents in St. Louis rely on transit compared to residents in many of the peer regions, yet 28,500 workers (2.1 percent of workers) typically use transit as their main mode of transportation to get to work.

St. Louis ranks 22nd among the peer regions with 7.3 percent of households lacking access to a vehicle. This is far less than the 30 percent of the New York region, which ranks 1st with the largest percentage. The percentage of black households that do not have access to a vehicle is over five times higher than that of white households in the St. Louis region, 21.3 percent and 3.9 percent, respectively.

Table 18

Workers Who Commute by Public Transportation

Percent of workers, 2018

1	**New York**	**30.9**
2	San Francisco	17.3
3	Boston	13.2
4	Washington, D.C.	13.0
5	Chicago	12.1
6	Seattle	10.7
7	Philadelphia	9.8
8	Portland	6.1
9	Baltimore	6.0
10	Pittsburgh	5.6
United States		**4.9**
11	Los Angeles	4.8
12	Minneapolis	4.5
13	San Jose	4.0
14	Denver	3.8
15	Las Vegas	3.3
16	Salt Lake City	3.2
17	Miami	3.1
18	Buffalo	3.1
19	Atlanta	3.0
20	Cleveland	2.7
21	San Diego	2.6
22	Hartford	2.6
23	Milwaukee	2.6
24	New Orleans	2.6
25	Providence	2.4
26	Sacramento	2.2
27	**St. Louis**	**2.1**
28	Houston	2.0
29	Austin	1.9
30	Phoenix	1.8
31	San Antonio	1.8
32	Louisville	1.7
33	Richmond	1.7
34	Cincinnati	1.7
35	Columbus	1.7
36	Charlotte	1.5
37	Virginia Beach	1.4
38	Orlando	1.3
39	Tampa	1.3
40	Detroit	1.3
41	Dallas	1.3
42	Riverside	1.2
43	Jacksonville	0.9
44	Indianapolis	0.9
45	Raleigh	0.9
46	Kansas City	0.9
47	Nashville	0.8
48	Memphis	0.7
49	Oklahoma City	0.6
50	**Birmingham**	**0.6**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (B08006)

Table 19

No-Vehicle Households

Households without access to a vehicle as a percent of all households, 2018

1	**New York**	**30.2**
2	Boston	13.3
3	Philadelphia	13.1
4	Buffalo	12.4
5	Chicago	11.9
6	San Francisco	11.7
7	Pittsburgh	10.6
8	Cleveland	10.4
9	Baltimore	10.4
10	New Orleans	10.2
11	Providence	9.9
12	Washington, D.C.	9.6
13	Milwaukee	9.1
14	Detroit	8.8
United States		**8.5**
15	Hartford	8.5
16	Las Vegas	8.3
17	Seattle	8.2
18	Miami	7.9
19	Los Angeles	7.7
20	Portland	7.6
21	Memphis	7.6
22	**St. Louis**	**7.3**
23	Cincinnati	7.2
24	Louisville	7.2
25	Minneapolis	7.2
26	Virginia Beach	6.9
27	Richmond	6.9
28	Tampa	6.6
29	San Antonio	6.4
30	Columbus	6.3
31	Birmingham	6.1
32	Sacramento	6.1
33	Jacksonville	5.8
34	Atlanta	5.7
35	Phoenix	5.6
36	San Diego	5.6
37	Indianapolis	5.6
38	Kansas City	5.4
39	Denver	5.4
40	Houston	5.2
41	Salt Lake City	5.2
42	Oklahoma City	5.1
43	San Jose	5.0
44	Orlando	4.9
45	Charlotte	4.6
46	Dallas	4.6
47	Nashville	4.3
48	Raleigh	4.1
49	Austin	4.0
50	**Riverside**	**3.9**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (B25045)

Table 20

Racial Disparity in No-Vehicle Households

Ratio of black to white, percent of households without access to a vehicle, 2018

1	**St. Louis**	**5.46**
2	Pittsburgh	4.76
3	Minneapolis	4.04
4	Baltimore	4.02
5	Milwaukee	4.02
6	Philadelphia	3.92
7	Cleveland	3.87
8	Kansas City	3.84
9	Louisville	3.84
10	Cincinnati	3.77
11	Raleigh	3.72
12	Buffalo	3.69
13	New Orleans	3.67
14	Detroit	3.64
15	Indianapolis	3.56
16	Memphis	3.56
17	Las Vegas	3.49
18	Birmingham	3.47
19	Virginia Beach	3.44
20	Columbus	3.43
21	Dallas	3.42
22	Jacksonville	3.35
23	Austin	3.33
24	Richmond	3.32
25	Atlanta	3.31
26	Houston	3.30
27	Chicago	3.08
28	Charlotte	3.07
29	Denver	3.05
30	Hartford	3.00
31	Portland	2.97
United States		**2.93**
32	Los Angeles	2.73
33	Oklahoma City	2.51
34	Phoenix	2.51
35	Nashville	2.50
35	Tampa	2.50
37	San Diego	2.47
38	Washington, D.C.	2.35
39	Boston	2.32
40	Seattle	2.24
41	San Francisco	2.19
42	Sacramento	2.13
43	New York	2.03
44	San Antonio	1.98
45	Providence	1.90
46	Riverside	1.80
47	Miami	1.70
48	**Orlando**	**1.65**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (S0201)

Household Composition

While all households face new challenges, households with children face additional unique burdens as they navigate online learning. For many adults, this may mean new demands in assisting their children with schoolwork or finding ways to ensure childcare during work hours. The significant proportion of adults transitioning to working from home, working increased hours, or in some cases, facing unemployment enhances these new challenges.

As of 2018, the St. Louis region ranked 39th among peer regions, with 25.8 percent of all households having at least one child. This amounts to 293,661 households with children in the metro area, 103,482 of them being within St. Louis County. The proportion of households with children in the St. Louis region is 1.2 percentage points below the United States as a whole. Among counties in the region, with data available, there is significant variation (see Figure 5, page 11).[4] St. Charles County has the greatest percentage of households with children, at 30 percent (44,932 households), while the city of St. Louis has the lowest proportion, at 18.4 percent (26,546 households).

Among the peer regions, St. Louis ranks 19th, with 33.9 percent of the households in the region headed by single parents. The region has a higher rate than the United States as a whole by 1.8 percentage points. Among the counties within the region for which there are data, the county with the greatest proportion of single-parent households is the city of St. Louis, at 54 percent (14,434 households), just over 20 percentage points higher than the MSA as a whole.

As shown in Table 23, in 2018, an estimated 3.6 percent of households in the St. Louis region were headed by individuals who bear the primary responsibility of caring for grandchildren. These grandparents face additional challenges caused by school closures and increased parenting time. Since many of these grandparents are over the age of 65, these individuals also face the heightened risk of severe illness from the coronavirus. The St. Louis region ranks 32nd among the peer regions, and below the United States as a whole, with respect to the percentage of households with children with grandparents as a primary caregiver. As of 2018, there are an estimated 23,662 households headed by grandparents. In Franklin County, 8 percent of households with children (858 households) had grandparents as the primary caregivers, the largest proportion and smallest total number of households observed among regional counties for which data are available.

4 Due to small population numbers, data are not available for all counties in the St. Louis region.

Table 21

Families with Children

Percent of all households, 2018

1	**Salt Lake City**	**33.7**
2	Houston	33.6
3	Dallas	33.1
4	San Jose	32.7
5	Raleigh	32.4
6	Riverside	32.2
7	Oklahoma City	30.5
8	Atlanta	30.3
9	Charlotte	30.2
10	Washington, D.C.	30.2
11	Austin	30.0
12	Nashville	29.3
13	Minneapolis	29.2
14	San Diego	28.9
15	Sacramento	28.9
16	Phoenix	28.9
17	Indianapolis	28.8
18	San Antonio	28.7
19	Columbus	28.6
20	Kansas City	28.6
21	Denver	28.1
22	Jacksonville	28.1
23	Los Angeles	28.0
24	Chicago	27.9
25	Seattle	27.6
26	Cincinnati	27.4
27	San Francisco	27.4
28	Orlando	27.3
29	New York	27.3
30	Memphis	27.0
United States		**27.0**
31	Hartford	26.9
32	Portland	26.9
33	Philadelphia	26.7
34	Virginia Beach	26.7
35	Milwaukee	26.7
36	Baltimore	26.4
37	Boston	26.4
38	Richmond	26.0
39	**St. Louis**	**25.8**
40	Las Vegas	25.8
41	Louisville	25.8
42	Detroit	25.6
43	Providence	25.2
44	Birmingham	24.6
45	Miami	24.6
46	New Orleans	24.0
47	Cleveland	23.8
48	Buffalo	22.7
49	Tampa	22.5
50	**Pittsburgh**	**21.9**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (B11003)

Table 22

Single Parent Families

Percent of family households with children, 2018

1	**Memphis**	**43.9**
2	New Orleans	41.6
3	Las Vegas	39.6
4	Cleveland	39.3
5	Jacksonville	37.0
6	Virginia Beach	36.9
7	Providence	36.7
8	Tampa	36.6
9	Milwaukee	36.5
10	Miami	35.9
11	Buffalo	35.6
12	Louisville	35.0
13	Oklahoma City	34.9
14	Hartford	34.8
15	Detroit	34.4
16	Philadelphia	34.2
17	Cincinnati	34.1
18	Richmond	33.9
19	**St. Louis**	**33.9**
20	Orlando	33.8
21	Columbus	33.8
22	Phoenix	33.1
23	San Antonio	33.0
24	Indianapolis	32.8
United States		**32.1**
25	Atlanta	31.7
26	Baltimore	31.4
27	Kansas City	31.3
28	Houston	30.5
29	Riverside	30.1
30	Chicago	30.0
31	Los Angeles	30.0
32	Nashville	29.7
33	Pittsburgh	29.7
34	Charlotte	29.6
35	Birmingham	29.2
36	Dallas	29.0
37	New York	28.9
38	Sacramento	28.5
39	San Diego	27.3
40	Minneapolis	27.0
41	Boston	26.7
42	Washington, D.C.	26.2
43	Austin	26.0
44	Raleigh	25.5
45	Denver	25.5
46	Seattle	25.3
47	Portland	24.8
48	Salt Lake City	22.3
49	San Francisco	21.8
50	**San Jose**	**18.0**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (B11003)

Table 23

Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren

Households where a grandparent is responsible for own grandchildren as a percent of households with children, 2018

1	**Memphis**	**7.5**
2	Birmingham	7.1
3	Las Vegas	5.9
4	Richmond	5.9
5	New Orleans	5.9
6	San Antonio	5.8
7	Tampa	5.8
8	Indianapolis	5.6
9	Nashville	5.4
10	Cincinnati	5.2
11	Louisville	5.1
12	Virginia Beach	4.9
13	Columbus	4.8
United States		**4.7**
14	Cleveland	4.6
15	Dallas	4.6
16	Riverside	4.5
17	Oklahoma City	4.5
18	Phoenix	4.5
19	Atlanta	4.5
20	Buffalo	4.5
21	Orlando	4.4
22	Charlotte	4.4
23	Houston	4.4
24	Philadelphia	4.4
25	Miami	4.3
26	Baltimore	4.3
27	Jacksonville	4.1
28	Providence	4.0
29	Los Angeles	3.9
30	Pittsburgh	3.8
31	New York	3.7
32	**St. Louis**	**3.6**
33	Milwaukee	3.6
34	Chicago	3.6
35	Austin	3.6
36	Detroit	3.5
37	Kansas City	3.4
38	Denver	3.4
39	Portland	3.3
40	Washington, D.C.	3.2
41	Sacramento	3.2
42	San Diego	3.1
43	San Jose	2.9
44	Seattle	2.8
45	Boston	2.8
46	San Francisco	2.8
47	Hartford	2.8
48	Raleigh	2.7
49	Salt Lake City	2.7
50	**Minneapolis**	**2.3**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (B10063, B11003)

Access to Technology

Many students have transitioned to online learning, and a large proportion of the workforce has begun telecommuting. These changes generate challenges for a significant segment of the population that lacks access to a computer and/or the Internet.

In St. Louis, 8 percent of all households are without a computer at home, ranking 12th among peer regions in 2018. Among counties in the region for which data are available, the city of St. Louis and St. Louis County have the greatest number of households without computers, 18,610 and 29,150, respectively. The city of St. Louis has the greatest proportion of households without Internet access, 12.9 percent. The county with the lowest number of households without a computer is Franklin County, where 3,675 households, or 9 percent, are without a computer. Regionally, the county with the lowest percentage of households without a computer is St. Charles County, 4.6 percent.

Among the peer regions in 2018, St. Louis ranks 17th for the percent of households without Internet, with 11.5 percent of households lacking access. The rate is lower than the United States as a whole, as 12 percent of households nationally lack Internet access.

Within the St. Louis region and among the counties for which data are available, St. Louis County and the city of St. Louis have the highest number of households without Internet access, 36,212 and 28,083, respectively. As a percent of households, the city of St. Louis has the largest share of residents without Internet, 19.5 percent. Franklin County has the fewest number of households without Internet access, 4,997, and St. Charles County has the lowest proportion of residents without Internet, 6.2 percent.

Local Response

The St. Louis Metropolitan Pandemic Task Force is coordinating the local response to COVID-19. Led by Dr. Alexander Garza, chief medical officer for SSM Health, the task force is a partnership among the four major health centers in St. Louis--BJC HealthCare, Mercy, SSM Health, and St. Luke's Hospital, which is coordinating with local, state, and federal governments. The task force holds daily press briefings at 3 p.m., which can be viewed on the St. Louis Metropolitan Pandemic Facebook page.

Figure 5: Household Composition
St. Louis Region by County, 2018

County	Families with Children	Single-Parent Families	Grandparent(s) Caring for Grandchildren	Households with no Computer	Households with no Internet
City of St. Louis	26,546	14,434	727	18,610	28,083
Franklin	10,995	3,765	858	3,675	4,997
Jefferson	24,126	7,445	887	4,551	7,570
Madison	30,988	9,334	1,735	9,753	11,872
St. Charles	44,932	10,307	834	6,863	9,319
St. Clair	24,809	9,402	780	9,310	18,720
St. Louis	103,482	36,085	4,480	29,150	36,212

Note: Due to small population numbers, data are not available for all counties in the St. Louis region.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Table 24

Households with No Computer

Percent of all households, 2018

1	**Memphis**	**13.4**
2	Birmingham	10.9
3	New Orleans	10.6
4	Buffalo	10.6
5	Providence	10.6
6	Pittsburgh	10.4
7	Milwaukee	10.0
8	Louisville	9.4
9	Cleveland	9.2
10	Detroit	8.4
United States		**8.2**
11	Indianapolis	8.0
12	**St. Louis**	**8.0**
13	Richmond	7.9
14	New York	7.9
15	Philadelphia	7.8
16	Cincinnati	7.7
17	Oklahoma City	7.7
18	Hartford	7.6
19	Chicago	7.6
20	Baltimore	7.3
21	Tampa	6.9
22	San Antonio	6.9
23	Virginia Beach	6.7
24	Las Vegas	6.5
25	Nashville	6.4
26	Columbus	6.4
27	Boston	6.3
28	Charlotte	6.2
29	Kansas City	6.2
30	Houston	6.1
31	Miami	5.9
32	Los Angeles	5.9
33	Jacksonville	5.8
34	Minneapolis	5.7
35	Riverside	5.4
36	Phoenix	5.3
37	Dallas	5.3
38	Atlanta	5.2
39	Orlando	4.9
40	Denver	4.6
41	Sacramento	4.6
42	Portland	4.6
43	San Francisco	4.6
44	Washington, D.C.	4.3
45	Raleigh	4.2
46	Seattle	4.1
47	San Diego	3.9
48	Salt Lake City	3.8
49	Austin	3.5
50	**San Jose**	**3.4**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (B28003)

Table 25

Households with No Internet

Percent of all households, 2018

1	**Memphis**	**18.7**
2	New Orleans	16.7
3	Birmingham	13.9
4	Cleveland	13.6
5	Louisville	13.6
6	Milwaukee	13.2
7	Buffalo	12.9
8	Pittsburgh	12.7
9	Providence	12.6
10	Las Vegas	12.2
11	Detroit	12.2
United States		**12.0**
12	San Antonio	12.0
13	Miami	11.9
14	Oklahoma City	11.8
15	Indianapolis	11.8
16	Richmond	11.5
17	**St. Louis**	**11.5**
18	New York	11.0
19	Chicago	10.9
20	Philadelphia	10.5
21	Hartford	10.5
22	Houston	10.5
23	Tampa	10.4
24	Virginia Beach	10.4
25	Cincinnati	10.3
26	Baltimore	9.6
27	Charlotte	9.5
28	Los Angeles	9.4
29	Dallas	9.4
30	Kansas City	9.3
31	Columbus	9.2
32	Riverside	9.2
33	Atlanta	9.0
34	Jacksonville	9.0
35	Nashville	9.0
36	Phoenix	8.9
37	Orlando	8.8
38	Boston	8.4
39	Minneapolis	7.7
40	Sacramento	7.6
41	Raleigh	7.4
42	Denver	7.1
43	Austin	6.6
44	Portland	6.5
45	Washington, D.C.	6.5
46	San Francisco	6.4
47	Seattle	6.1
48	San Diego	6.1
49	Salt Lake City	5.9
50	**San Jose**	**4.6**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (B28002)

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