



Where We Stand: 8th Edition

Update 9: Population Estimates

May 2021

On May 4th, the U.S. Census Bureau released estimates of the populations of all counties as of July 1, 2020. According to these estimates, St. Louis remains the 20th most populous Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) in the country, with 2.8 million residents in 2020. The Baltimore MSA continues to trail closely with about 5,000 fewer residents. The 50 most populous MSAs, referred to as the peer regions, maintained the same rank order for population in 2020 as was the case in 2019 with two exceptions. Las Vegas pulled ahead of Pittsburgh, taking over the rank of 27th, and Jacksonville pulled ahead of Milwaukee, taking over the rank of 39th.

Based on population estimates, this update ranks the peer regions on population, change in population, and components of population change along with further detail about population change for the counties that make up the St. Louis region. See Page 2 for how data differ from decennial census counts.

Population estimates for the past decade show the continued trend of the Midwest and Rustbelt regions experiencing minimal population gains and, for some regions, losses. Over the decade, regions in the Sunbelt region were the big population gainers.

Estimates for the second half of the decade reveal that some of the most populous and expensive regions experienced annual declines in population. Most of these regions still had population gains over the entire decade, but the recent decreases may indicate a new trend.

Data are not yet available to understand the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, but it appears the pandemic may have accelerated this movement away from some of the U.S. population centers, at least for now. Further, the increased number of deaths due to COVID-19 are apparent in the 2020 population estimates, which consider deaths that occurred prior to July 1, 2020.

Table 1
Population

2020	
United States	329,484,123
1 New York	19,124,359
2 Los Angeles	13,109,903
3 Chicago	9,406,638
4 Dallas	7,694,138
5 Houston	7,154,478
6 Washington, D.C.	6,324,629
7 Miami	6,173,008
8 Philadelphia	6,107,906
9 Atlanta	6,087,762
10 Phoenix	5,059,909
11 Boston	4,878,211
12 San Francisco	4,696,902
13 Riverside	4,678,371
14 Detroit	4,304,136
15 Seattle	4,018,598
16 Minneapolis	3,657,477
17 San Diego	3,332,427
18 Tampa	3,243,963
19 Denver	2,991,231
20 St. Louis	2,805,473
21 Baltimore	2,800,189
22 Charlotte	2,684,276
23 Orlando	2,639,374
24 San Antonio	2,590,732
25 Portland	2,510,259
26 Sacramento	2,374,749
27 Las Vegas	2,315,963
28 Pittsburgh	2,309,246
29 Austin	2,295,303
30 Cincinnati	2,232,907
31 Kansas City	2,173,212
32 Columbus	2,138,946
33 Indianapolis	2,091,019
34 Cleveland	2,043,807
35 San Jose	1,971,160
36 Nashville	1,961,232
37 Virginia Beach	1,779,824
38 Providence	1,623,890
39 Jacksonville	1,587,892
40 Milwaukee	1,577,676
41 Oklahoma City	1,425,375
42 Raleigh	1,420,376
43 Memphis	1,348,678
44 Richmond	1,303,469
45 New Orleans	1,272,258
46 Louisville	1,268,993
47 Salt Lake City	1,240,029
48 Hartford	1,201,483
49 Buffalo	1,125,637
50 Birmingham	1,091,921

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."

Decennial Census vs. Population Estimates

The estimates discussed in this report do not reflect the 2020 residential decennial census. A decennial census is an actual count of the population; the United States Constitution mandates that such a census must occur every 10 years.

In addition to the decennial census, the Census Bureau releases annual population estimates. These estimates are based on population counts from the previous decennial census, with adjustments made for estimated natural change (births and deaths), as well as in-migration and out-migration. While these annual estimates are the best available estimates of population for years between decennial censuses, they are not considered to be as authoritative as the actual census.

Currently, the 2020 decennial census counts have only been released for states. While the state-level counts are generally close to state-level population estimates, there are some differences. Table 2 displays the differences in 2020 decennial census counts of residential population and 2020 population estimates for the United States and select states. On average, the decennial count for the states is 0.6 percent higher than the population estimates. The largest difference among the states is for New Jersey where the census count was 4.5 percent higher than the population estimates for 2020.

For the state of Missouri, the 2020 decennial census count was one-tenth of 1 percent larger than the 2020 population estimate. In Illinois, the census count was 1.6 percent higher than the population estimate.

The census counts at the county and block levels, which are to be used for redistricting, are expected to be released on September 30th. The annual population estimates are still useful for understanding change in population between the decennial censuses. The remainder of this report uses data from the U.S. Census Bureau population estimates vintage 2020.

Table 2: Differences between 2020 Decennial Census Counts and 2020 Population Estimates				
United States and Select States, 2020				
	2020 Decennial Census Count	2020 Population Estimate	Absolute Difference	Percent Difference
United States	331,449,281	329,398,742	2,050,539	0.6
Illinois	12,812,508	12,615,162	197,346	1.6
Missouri	6,154,913	6,151,737	3,176	0.1
New Jersey (state with largest percent difference)	9,288,994	8,890,883	398,111	4.5
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, accessed on 21 May 2021 at https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/working-papers/2021/demo/pop-twps0104.pdf				

Population Change

2019 to 2020

St. Louis ranks lower than many of the peer regions and the United States as a whole on population change from 2019 to 2020. The St. Louis MSA experienced a net loss of 144 people, less than one-hundredth of 1 percent, ranking 38th among the peer regions on population change for the year.

Regions in the southern and the western parts of the United States experienced the greatest increases in population over the last year. The 10 peer regions at the top of the change table are all in the Sunbelt. Some of the most populous regions, and several Midwest peer regions, lost population between 2019 and 2020.

The largest percentage declines were in San Jose, San Francisco, New York, and Los Angeles, which each saw a decline of a little more than half of 1 percent. While some of the population loss in these large metropolitan areas may be due to people moving in the first few months of the pandemic, each of these five regions also lost population over the previous few years.

2010 to 2020

From 2010 to 2020, the St. Louis MSA gained population. The growth, however, was smaller than most of the peer regions and the United States. From 2010 to 2020, the region ranks 44th among the peer regions, growing by just over half of 1 percent, or 15,369 people.

Most of the population increase in the St. Louis MSA occurred from 2010 to 2015, when the region gained close to 19,000 residents. Over the last five years, the region only had one year of positive growth, 2016 to 2017, but experienced a total loss of more than 3,000 people in the five-year period.

Table 3
Population Change

Percent change, 2019-2020		
1	Austin	3.0
2	Phoenix	2.1
3	Raleigh	2.0
4	Las Vegas	1.8
5	Charlotte	1.7
6	Jacksonville	1.7
7	San Antonio	1.6
8	Dallas	1.6
9	Nashville	1.4
10	Tampa	1.4
11	Houston	1.3
12	Orlando	1.2
13	Oklahoma City	1.1
14	Seattle	1.0
15	Atlanta	1.0
16	Denver	0.9
17	Indianapolis	0.9
18	Riverside	0.8
19	Salt Lake City	0.8
20	Richmond	0.7
21	Portland	0.7
22	Columbus	0.6
23	Kansas City	0.5
24	Minneapolis	0.5
25	Sacramento	0.5
26	Washington, D.C.	0.4
	United States	0.4
27	Virginia Beach	0.3
28	Cincinnati	0.3
29	Louisville	0.2
30	Memphis	0.2
31	Miami	0.1
32	Birmingham	0.1
33	San Diego	0.1
34	Philadelphia	0.1
35	Boston	0.0
36	Providence	0.0
37	Milwaukee	0.0
38	St. Louis	0.0
39	Baltimore	-0.1
40	New Orleans	-0.1
41	Buffalo	-0.2
42	Cleveland	-0.3
43	Hartford	-0.3
44	Detroit	-0.4
45	Pittsburgh	-0.4
46	Chicago	-0.5
47	Los Angeles	-0.6
48	New York	-0.6
49	San Francisco	-0.6
50	San Jose	-0.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

Table 4
Population Change

Percent change, 2010-2020		
1	Austin	32.9
2	Raleigh	24.9
3	Orlando	23.4
4	Dallas	20.4
5	Phoenix	20.4
6	San Antonio	20.3
7	Houston	20.3
8	Charlotte	19.3
9	Nashville	18.8
10	Las Vegas	18.6
11	Jacksonville	17.7
12	Denver	17.1
13	Seattle	16.5
14	Tampa	16.3
15	Atlanta	14.8
16	Salt Lake City	13.6
17	Oklahoma City	13.3
18	Portland	12.5
19	Columbus	12.2
20	Washington, D.C.	11.4
21	Miami	10.6
22	Indianapolis	10.5
23	Riverside	10.3
24	Sacramento	10.3
25	Richmond	9.7
26	Minneapolis	9.5
27	San Francisco	8.1
28	Kansas City	7.9
29	San Diego	7.4
30	San Jose	7.0
31	Boston	6.8
	United States	6.5
32	New Orleans	6.4
33	Louisville	5.3
34	Cincinnati	4.3
35	Virginia Beach	3.7
36	Baltimore	3.1
37	Birmingham	2.8
38	Memphis	2.4
39	Philadelphia	2.3
40	Los Angeles	2.1
41	Milwaukee	1.3
42	Providence	1.3
43	New York	1.1
44	St. Louis	0.6
45	Detroit	0.3
46	Chicago	-0.7
47	Buffalo	-0.9
48	Hartford	-1.0
49	Cleveland	-1.5
50	Pittsburgh	-2.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

Population Change of Select Peer Regions

Figure 1 shows the annual percent change in population for St. Louis and the five MSAs with the largest percent decrease in population from 2019 to 2020. These regions are also some of the most populous and expensive U.S. metro regions. All five of the large metro regions experienced population gains at the beginning of the decade and declines in at least the last two years.

The population in the St. Louis region also increased at the beginning of the decade and saw annual decreases at the end of the decade. However, relative to the other metro regions, the annual percent changes in population were small in St. Louis. And, unlike these other regions, St. Louis did not see a larger decline in population for the 2019 to 2020 period than for the previous few years.

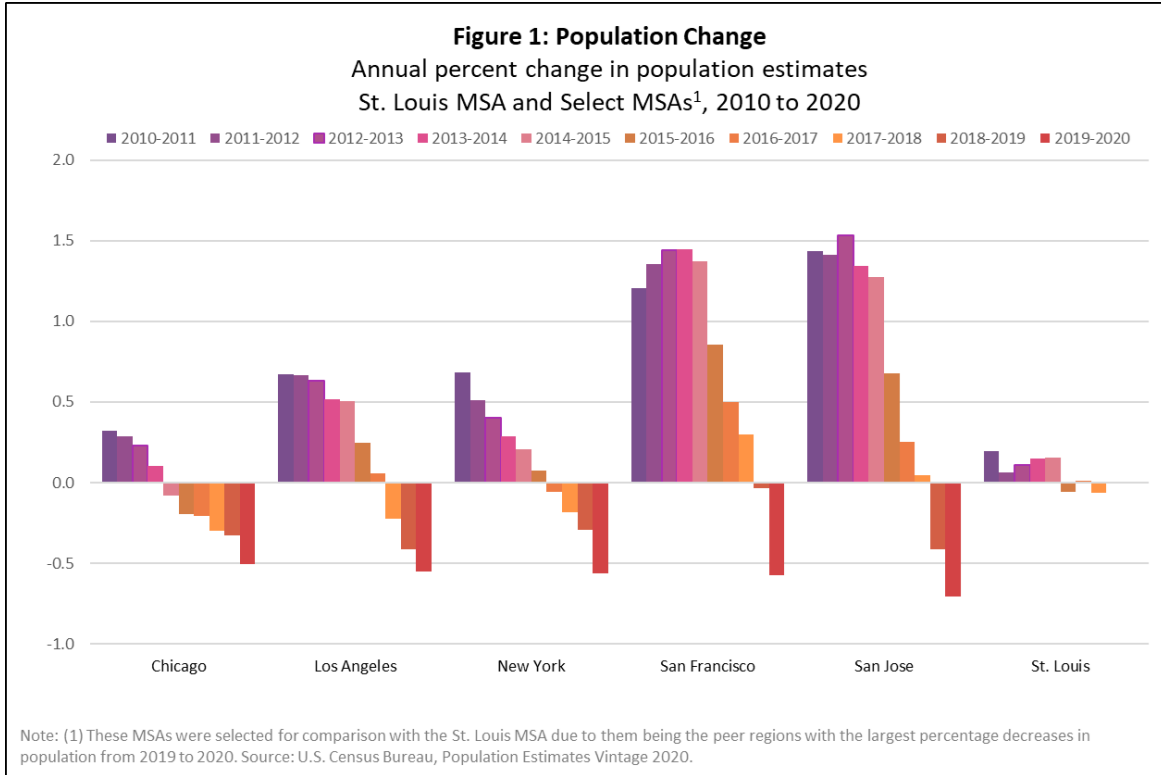
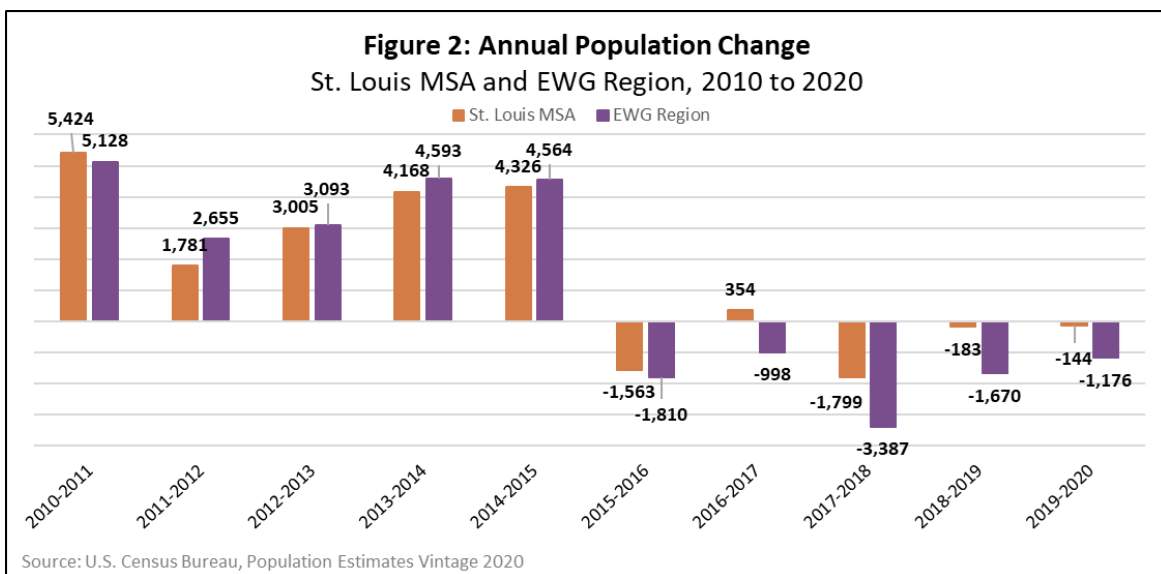


Figure 2 displays the annual population change for the St. Louis MSA and the EWG region from 2010 to 2020, showing that the St. Louis area experienced population growth in the first half of the decade and declines in the second half.



Population Change, St. Louis MSA

Over the past decade, the St. Louis MSA has seen a continuation of the long-term trend of population gains in the outlying counties and declines in the inner counties of the region.

Map 1 shows the 14 counties and the city of St. Louis that make up the St. Louis MSA. The city of St. Louis and the surrounding seven counties in purple make up the East-West Gateway (EWG) region. Table 5 displays the population for each of these counties for 2010, 2019, and 2020.

From 2019 to 2020, the population declined by 1,176 in the EWG region. Together, the five Missouri counties in the region grew by 1,640 people and the three Illinois counties together saw a decline of 2,816 residents, according to the population estimates.

Among the counties in the region, St. Charles had the largest increase in population with a gain of more than 4,000 residents. The city of St. Louis had the largest decline in population, losing just over 3,000 residents.

Map 1: St. Louis 15-County Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

East-West Gateway 8-County Region

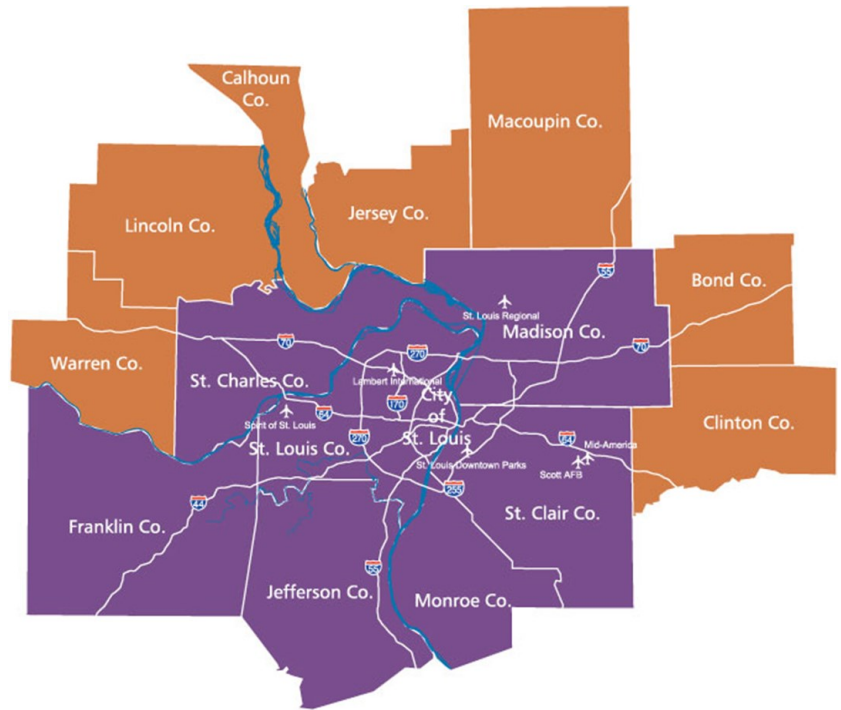


Table 5: Population Change
St. Louis MSA by County, 2010, 2019, and 2020

County	2010	2019	2020	Change		Percent Change	
				2019-2020	2010-2020	2019-2020	2010-2020
Bond	17,789	16,458	16,262	-196	-1,527	-1.2	-8.6
Calhoun	5,093	4,740	4,616	-124	-477	-2.6	-9.4
Clinton	37,833	37,440	37,398	-42	-435	-0.1	-1.1
Jersey	22,997	21,667	21,616	-51	-1,381	-0.2	-6.0
Macoupin	47,798	45,079	44,567	-512	-3,231	-1.1	-6.8
Madison	269,315	263,609	262,635	-974	-6,680	-0.4	-2.5
Monroe	33,051	34,738	34,739	1	1,688	0.0	5.1
St. Clair	270,368	259,889	258,046	-1,843	-12,322	-0.7	-4.6
Franklin	101,424	103,860	104,469	609	3,045	0.6	3.0
Jefferson	219,130	225,402	226,543	1,141	7,413	0.5	3.4
Lincoln	52,673	59,040	60,119	1,079	7,446	1.8	14.1
St. Charles	361,808	401,625	406,204	4,579	44,396	1.1	12.3
St. Louis	998,846	995,467	994,020	-1,447	-4,826	-0.1	-0.5
Warren	32,612	35,716	36,594	878	3,982	2.5	12.2
City of St. Louis	319,367	300,887	297,645	-3,242	-21,722	-1.1	-6.8
St. Louis MSA	2,790,104	2,805,617	2,805,473	-144	15,369	0.0	0.6
St. Louis 8-County Region	2,573,309	2,585,477	2,584,301	-1,176	10,992	0.0	0.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Vintage 2020

Components of Population Change

There are two basic components of population change: natural (births minus deaths) and migration (domestic and international). The change over the last decade from population growth to population decline in the St. Louis MSA results from a combination of a rising number of deaths, a declining number of births, a net loss of people migrating to other parts of the United States, and a small net in-migration of people from other countries.

Natural Change

Among the peer regions, St. Louis saw one of the smallest rates of growth due to natural change. Table 6 shows that from 2010 to 2020, the difference between the number of births and deaths in the MSA resulted in a 2.4 percent increase in population, ranking 43rd among the peer regions.

Figure 3 shows that from 2010 to 2020, the annual number of births in the St. Louis MSA steadily declined while the number of deaths increased. The average annual number of births in the first half of the decade was 34,172 compared to an annual average of 32,691 for 2016 to 2020. The lowest number of births over the 10-year period was for the last year, from July 2019 to June 2020, with 31,780 births in the St. Louis MSA. The rate of births per 1,000 residents steadily declined from 12.5 in 2010 to 11.3 in 2020.

The number of St. Louis residents dying trended upward from 24,825 in 2010 to 29,617 in 2020 (July 2019 through June 2020). The increase in deaths due to COVID-19 appears to have exacerbated an existing trend. In the 10-year period, the number of deaths in 2020 was 4.4 percent more than the year with the second largest number of deaths, which was 28,381 people in 2018. The rate of deaths

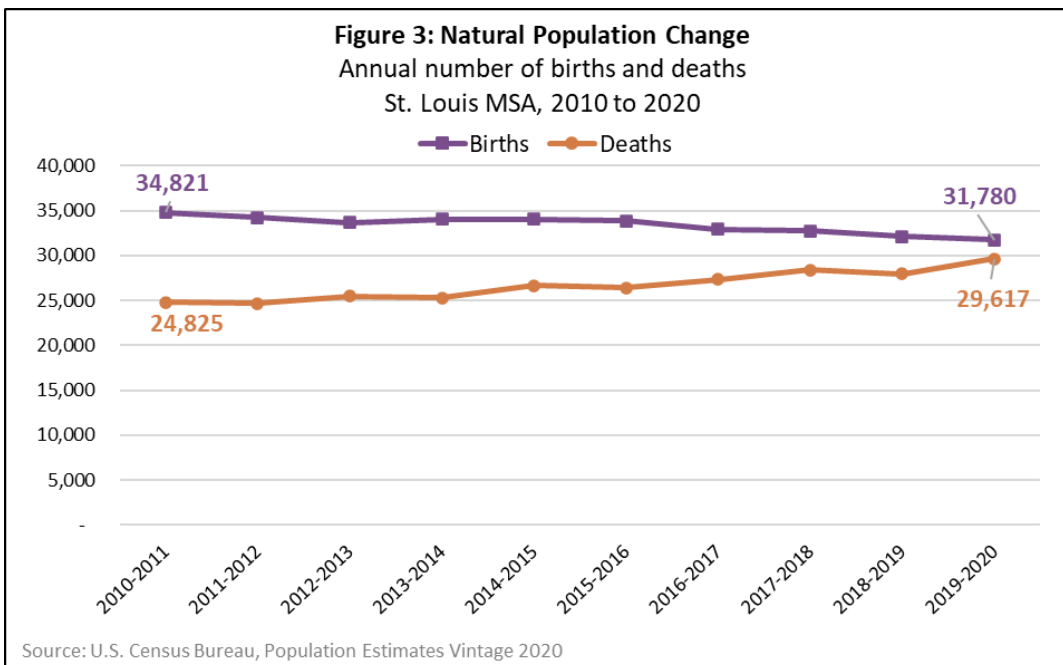
Table 6

Natural Change

Births minus deaths as a percent of 2010 population, 2010-2020

1	Salt Lake City	10.5
2	Houston	9.6
3	Austin	9.2
4	Dallas	8.6
5	Washington, D.C.	7.9
6	Raleigh	7.3
7	San Antonio	7.2
8	San Jose	7.2
9	Riverside	7.1
10	San Diego	6.8
11	Atlanta	6.8
12	Denver	6.6
13	Minneapolis	6.5
14	Seattle	6.1
15	Phoenix	6.1
16	Los Angeles	6.0
17	Columbus	5.9
18	Nashville	5.7
19	Las Vegas	5.6
20	Oklahoma City	5.4
21	Indianapolis	5.3
22	Charlotte	5.2
23	New York	5.2
24	Orlando	5.1
25	Kansas City	5.1
26	Memphis	5.1
27	San Francisco	4.8
28	Virginia Beach	4.7
29	Chicago	4.7
30	Sacramento	4.6
31	Portland	4.4
32	Jacksonville	4.0
33	Milwaukee	3.9
United States		3.8
34	New Orleans	3.7
35	Cincinnati	3.5
36	Richmond	3.4
37	Miami	3.3
38	Baltimore	3.2
39	Boston	3.1
40	Louisville	2.6
41	Philadelphia	2.6
42	Birmingham	2.5
43	St. Louis	2.4
44	Detroit	2.0
45	Hartford	1.0
46	Providence	0.7
47	Cleveland	0.6
48	Tampa	0.3
49	Buffalo	-0.1
50	Pittsburgh	-1.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates



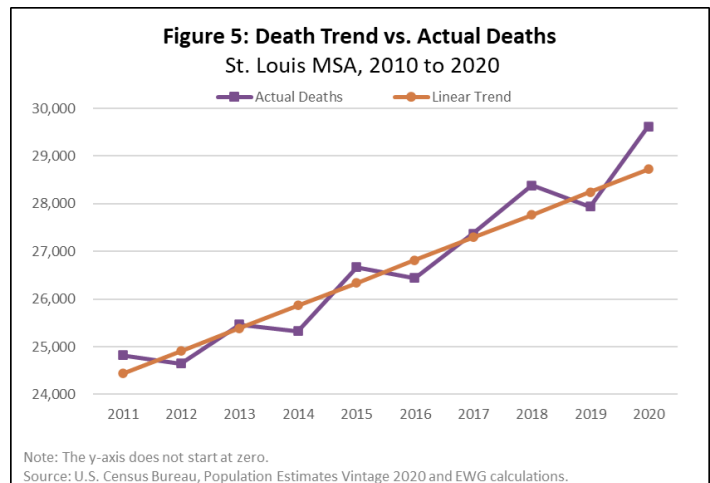
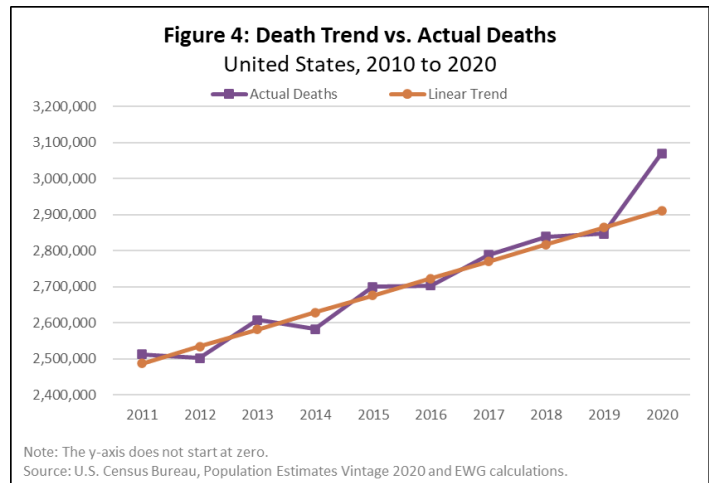
For both the St. Louis MSA and the United States, the number of deaths rose fairly steadily from 2010 through 2020. However, the increases in deaths for both geographies from 2019 to 2020 were greater than would have been expected, given the linear trend.

Figure 4 shows the number of deaths in the United States from 2010 through 2020, with the purple line showing the actual number of deaths, and the orange line showing the linear trend. The difference between these lines shows that the rate of increase in deaths accelerated sharply from 2019 to 2020.

Similarly, Figure 5 shows that the number of deaths in St. Louis was higher in 2020 than would have been expected from the trend over the previous nine years. In St. Louis, 1,680 more people died between 2019 and 2020 than died between 2018 and 2019. Based on the linear trend, the expected increase would have been less than 500.

The ratios of births to deaths is another way of looking at how the natural population change in 2020 differed from previous years. In 2010, there were 140 births for every 100 deaths in the St. Louis MSA. The ratio declined by 25 over the next nine years to 115 births per 100 deaths in 2019. In 2020, there were only 107 births for every 100 deaths.

The United States as a whole also saw a declining trend in births and an increase in deaths with a dramatic increase in deaths in the last year (July 2019 to June 2020). For the United States, there were 158 births per 100 deaths in 2010. Over the next nine years, the ratio decreased by 26, to 132 births per 100 deaths in 2019 and then declined another 10 births in one year to 122 births per 100 deaths in 2020.



Migration

The St. Louis region ranks 43rd among the peer regions on net migration from 2010 to 2020. Over the decade, St. Louis experienced a 1.9 percent decline in population due to more people moving out of the region than into the region. St. Louis is one of 15 of the peer regions that experienced net out-migration. All regions experienced positive net international migration. Therefore, the net out-migration of regions is due to people moving around the country.

Table 8 shows net domestic migration for the peer regions from 2010 to 2020. Austin experienced a 19.5 percent increase in population due to the substantially larger number of people moving into the region than out of the region. Some of the most populous U.S. regions are at the bottom of this table, with the largest rates of net out-migration. New York, San Jose, Chicago, and Los Angeles all experienced more than a 6 percent decline in population from 2010 to 2020 due to net domestic out-migration.

Table 7

Net Migration

Percent of 2010 population,
2010-2020

1	Austin	23.4
2	Orlando	18.2
3	Raleigh	17.5
4	Tampa	16.0
5	Phoenix	14.2
6	Charlotte	14.0
7	Jacksonville	13.6
8	Nashville	13.0
9	San Antonio	13.0
10	Las Vegas	12.9
11	Dallas	11.8
12	Houston	10.6
13	Seattle	10.3
14	Denver	10.3
15	Portland	8.0
16	Atlanta	8.0
17	Oklahoma City	7.9
18	Miami	7.2
19	Richmond	6.3
20	Columbus	6.3
21	Sacramento	5.8
22	Indianapolis	5.2
23	Boston	3.8
24	Washington, D.C.	3.4
25	San Francisco	3.3
26	Riverside	3.2
27	Salt Lake City	3.2
28	Minneapolis	3.0
29	Kansas City	2.9
30	Louisville	2.8
	United States	2.7
31	New Orleans	2.6
32	Cincinnati	0.8
33	San Diego	0.6
34	Providence	0.6
35	Birmingham	0.4
36	Baltimore	-0.1
37	San Jose	-0.1
38	Pittsburgh	-0.2
39	Philadelphia	-0.3
40	Buffalo	-0.7
41	Virginia Beach	-1.1
42	Detroit	-1.7
43	St. Louis	-1.9
44	Cleveland	-2.0
45	Hartford	-2.1
46	Milwaukee	-2.5
47	Memphis	-2.7
48	Los Angeles	-3.9
49	New York	-4.1
50	Chicago	-5.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau,
Population Estimates

Table 8

Net Domestic Migration

Percent of 2010 population,
2010-2020

1	Austin	19.5
2	Raleigh	14.2
3	Tampa	11.9
4	Charlotte	11.5
5	Phoenix	11.5
6	Las Vegas	11.1
7	San Antonio	10.9
8	Jacksonville	10.8
9	Nashville	10.6
10	Orlando	9.1
11	Denver	8.0
12	Dallas	7.8
13	Oklahoma City	5.9
14	Portland	5.8
15	Atlanta	5.0
16	Houston	4.7
17	Seattle	4.3
18	Richmond	3.6
19	Sacramento	3.3
20	Columbus	2.8
21	Riverside	2.8
22	Indianapolis	2.7
23	Kansas City	1.3
24	Louisville	0.9
25	New Orleans	0.5
26	Salt Lake City	0.3
27	Minneapolis	0.2
	Peer Average	-0.3
28	Birmingham	-0.4
29	Cincinnati	-0.9
30	Pittsburgh	-1.5
31	San Francisco	-2.0
32	Providence	-2.4
33	Baltimore	-2.5
34	San Diego	-2.6
35	Boston	-2.9
36	Washington, D.C.	-2.9
37	Buffalo	-2.9
38	Philadelphia	-3.0
39	St. Louis	-3.2
40	Virginia Beach	-3.5
41	Memphis	-3.8
42	Cleveland	-3.9
43	Miami	-4.3
44	Detroit	-4.3
45	Milwaukee	-4.4
46	Hartford	-6.1
47	Los Angeles	-6.6
48	Chicago	-7.5
49	San Jose	-8.3
50	New York	-8.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau,
Population Estimates

For the St. Louis MSA, Figure 6 shows that domestic migration results in net losses for the St. Louis region and these losses are partially offset by net international in-migration. Over the 10-year period there was a net domestic out-migration of 88,968 people, and a net international in-migration of 37,282, for a total net out-migration of 51,686 residents.

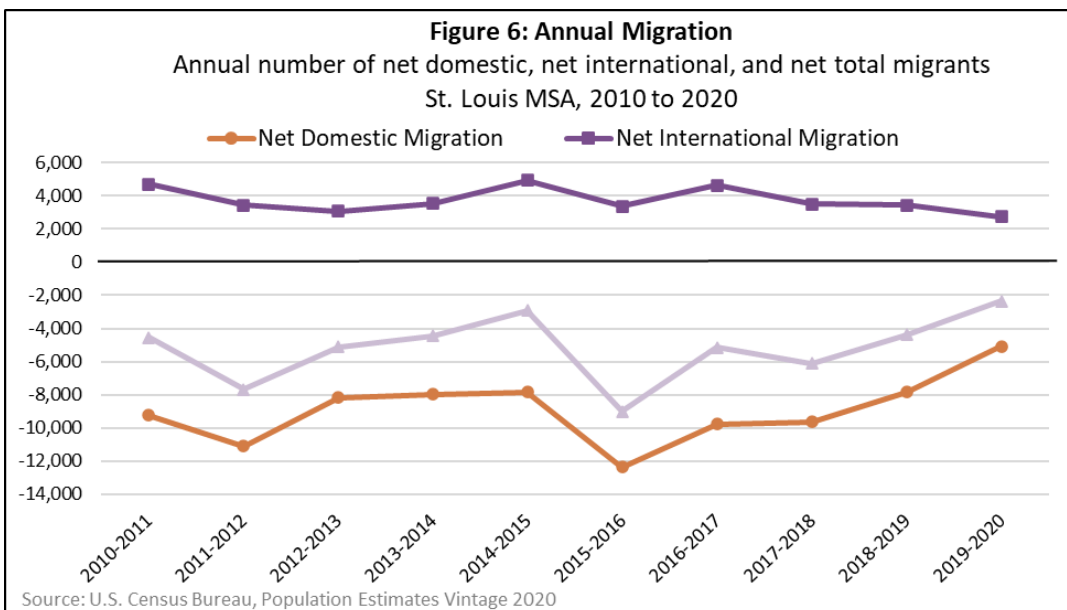
The last year in the series had the smallest net out-migration for the St. Louis MSA, with a net loss of 2,339 people. This compares to an average annual loss of 5,169 people over the decade. Domestic out-migration has declined each year since 2016, when there was a net loss of more than 12,000 residents. The net domestic out-migration for July 2019 to June 2020 includes the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. This last year continued the trend of slowing domestic net out-migration. It is too soon to know the effect of the pandemic on migration in the region.

Table 9
Net International Migration

Percent of 2010 population,
2010-2020

1	Miami	11.5
2	Orlando	9.1
3	San Jose	8.2
4	Boston	6.6
5	Washington, D.C.	6.3
6	Seattle	6.1
7	Houston	5.9
8	San Francisco	5.3
9	New York	4.6
10	Tampa	4.1
11	Hartford	4.0
12	Dallas	3.9
13	Austin	3.9
14	Columbus	3.5
15	Raleigh	3.3
16	San Diego	3.2
17	Providence	3.0
18	Atlanta	3.0
19	Salt Lake City	2.9
20	Jacksonville	2.8
21	Minneapolis	2.8
22	Phoenix	2.8
23	Philadelphia	2.8
24	Los Angeles	2.7
25	Richmond	2.7
	United States	2.7
26	Detroit	2.6
27	Charlotte	2.5
28	Indianapolis	2.5
29	Baltimore	2.5
30	Virginia Beach	2.5
31	Sacramento	2.4
32	Nashville	2.4
33	Denver	2.3
34	Portland	2.3
35	Buffalo	2.2
36	New Orleans	2.1
37	San Antonio	2.1
38	Chicago	2.1
39	Oklahoma City	2.0
40	Cleveland	1.9
41	Louisville	1.9
42	Milwaukee	1.8
43	Las Vegas	1.8
44	Cincinnati	1.7
45	Kansas City	1.6
46	Pittsburgh	1.3
47	St. Louis	1.3
48	Memphis	1.1
49	Birmingham	0.9
50	Riverside	0.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau,
Population Estimates



Sources

United States Census Bureau, Annual Resident Population Estimates and Estimated Components of Resident Population Change for Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas and Their Geographic Components: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2020 (CBSA-EST2020-alldata), accessed 12 May 2021 at <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/research/evaluation-estimates/2020-evaluation-estimates/2010s-totals-metro-and-micro-statistical-areas.html>.

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