The U.S. Census Bureau's 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimate collects demographics on commuter-adjusted daytime populations. This data includes resident populations, daytime populations, daytime population change due to commuting, and means of transportation. As an economic indicator, this data helps determine employment trends for counties across the state.

Resident Population

A county's resident population gives an estimated number of individuals living in the area. The counties with the most resident population from 2012 to 2016 included St. Louis County, Jackson, St. Charles, St. Louis City, Greene, Clay, Jefferson, Boone, Jasper, and Franklin. Collectively, these counties accounted for 58 percent of the state’s total population of 6.06 million.
Daytime Population

According to the ACS estimates, Missouri’s daytime population was 6.10 million people, an increase of nearly one percent from its residential population of 6.06 million people. The majority of Missouri’s daytime population was located in the St. Louis, Kansas City, and Springfield metro areas, which accounted for 52.8 percent of the state’s daytime population.

Collectively, the top ten counties accounted for 89 percent of the daytime population. Commuter changes in county populations were concentrated around counties with larger cities and metropolitan areas including St. Louis, Kansas City, Springfield, Columbia, Jefferson City, Osage Beach, Joplin, Branson, Cape Girardeau, West Plains and Poplar Bluff. Conversely, approximately 5.7 percent of Missouri residents commuted to another state for work, namely Illinois and Kansas which share in the St. Louis and Kansas City metro areas, respectively.
Daytime Population Change

The daytime population change provides data on the in-flow and out-flow of commuters across the state during business daytime hours. The population change was calculated by subtracting the total number of employed in an area from the total number of employed who also lived within that area.

The top ten counties with the greatest increase in population during day hours included St. Louis City, St. Louis County, Jackson, Greene, Cole, Buchanan, Boone, Cape Girardeau, Jasper, and Taney. The bottom ten counties with the greatest decrease in daytime population included St. Charles, Jefferson, Clay, Cass, Christian, Lincoln, Franklin, Warren, Webster, and Andrew. Overall, the counties that had both the greatest increases and decreases in population tended to be neighboring counties and connected to one of the metropolitan locations within the state.
Percent Population Change

The percent population change tracts the percentage of a county’s daytime population relative to the resident population. The baseline percentage for all counties starts at 100 percent, which represents the county resident population. Any county that increased in population during the daytime had over 100 percent and any county that decreased in population had below 100 percent.

Thirty-one counties had an increased percentage with the top percentage increases in St. Louis City, Buchanan, Cole, and Greene counties. Eighty-four counties had a percentage below 100 with the greatest decreases in Lincoln, Jefferson, Clinton, Ray, Cass, Andrew, Christian, Bollinger, and Maries counties.
Means of Transportation

At 90.7 percent, the primary means of transportation for Missouri commuters was car, truck, or van. Of those who used a car, truck, or van 81.6 percent of commuters drove alone and 9.10 percent carpooled.

Public Transportation accounted for 1.5 percent. Commuters who used a bus or trolley-bus accounted for 1.35 percent; streetcar or trolley-car (0.02 percent); subway (0.10 percent); railroad (0.02 percent); and ferryboat (0.01 percent).

Other means of transportation accounted for 3.2 percent of commuters including the use of taxis (0.07 percent), motorcycle (0.15 percent), bicycle (0.25 percent), walked (1.91 percent), and other (0.80 percent).

Lastly, though it is not a means of transportation, it is important to note that 128,232 Missouri residents worked from home—accounting for 4.6 percent of residents employed in the state.