

2009

# MISSOURI ECONOMIC REPORT

M I S S O U R I

Department of Economic Development

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## Introduction

### ***The United States, including Missouri, is facing economic challenges not seen for decades.***

The United States has been in the midst of an economic recession since December 2007. Struggles began in housing-related sectors, particularly financial services and construction, and progressed to nearly every industry. Missouri was a bit slower to feel the effects of the recession initially, but is now facing similar circumstances.

Although the word “recession” has dominated economic analysis in the past two years, there are two other words that should be considered in a more comprehensive overview. One is “restructuring.” Although the negative economic conditions are usually described as being due to the recession, causes of economic weakness are very complicated and interrelated. In particular, there is a lot of restructuring going on in the economy. In some cases, such as the motor vehicles industry, this restructuring was accelerated or pushed over the brink by recessionary conditions. In other cases, businesses and individuals are reacting, sometimes proactively, to deleverage their economic affairs, to strengthen their balance sheets and their operations, and to position themselves to be able to respond to current and future economic stresses and realities.

The third word is “recovery.” Although it seems difficult to talk of recovery as the news still seems to be dominated by further, and wider-spread, economic weakness, recovery will come, perhaps later this year. Understanding recovery will help shape economic analysis and policy decisions.

This report begins with a summary of U.S. and Missouri economic conditions. Overall, these indicators show a difficult 2008 and first half of 2009 for Missouri. However, despite the fairly dismal picture painted by many of these economic indicators, there are some signs, particularly at the national level, that are showing some stabilization in the economy. New home sales have stopped falling in the last few months and existing home sales have improved slightly. In addition, jobless claims have been leveling off and consumer confidence has been improving.

Stabilization in the economy is certainly an improvement, but the real question is when the economy will begin to grow again. The question of recovery will be covered in the conclusion.

### **Highlights**

- The state’s unemployment rate was 9.0 percent in May 2009, seasonally adjusted, up 3.2 points since May 2008 and the highest monthly rate since 1983.
- Missouri’s total nonfarm payroll employment has declined by 74,300, or 2.7 percent since the same month last year. Employment is at its lowest monthly level since March 2005.
- Manufacturing in Missouri has declined by 34,000, or 11.6 percent over the year. Losses have been spread across manufacturing sectors, but the greatest drop has been in transportation equipment, which includes motor vehicle manufacturing.
- The education and health services sector has been an exception during the recession, increasing in employment by 8,500 over the year. Most of that growth was in the health care and social assistance subsector.
- Personal income has declined in four of the last five quarters in both Missouri and the U.S. as a whole.
- Consumer spending has leveled following several months of decline.

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# Gross Domestic Product

**Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the broadest measure of economic conditions.**

## National

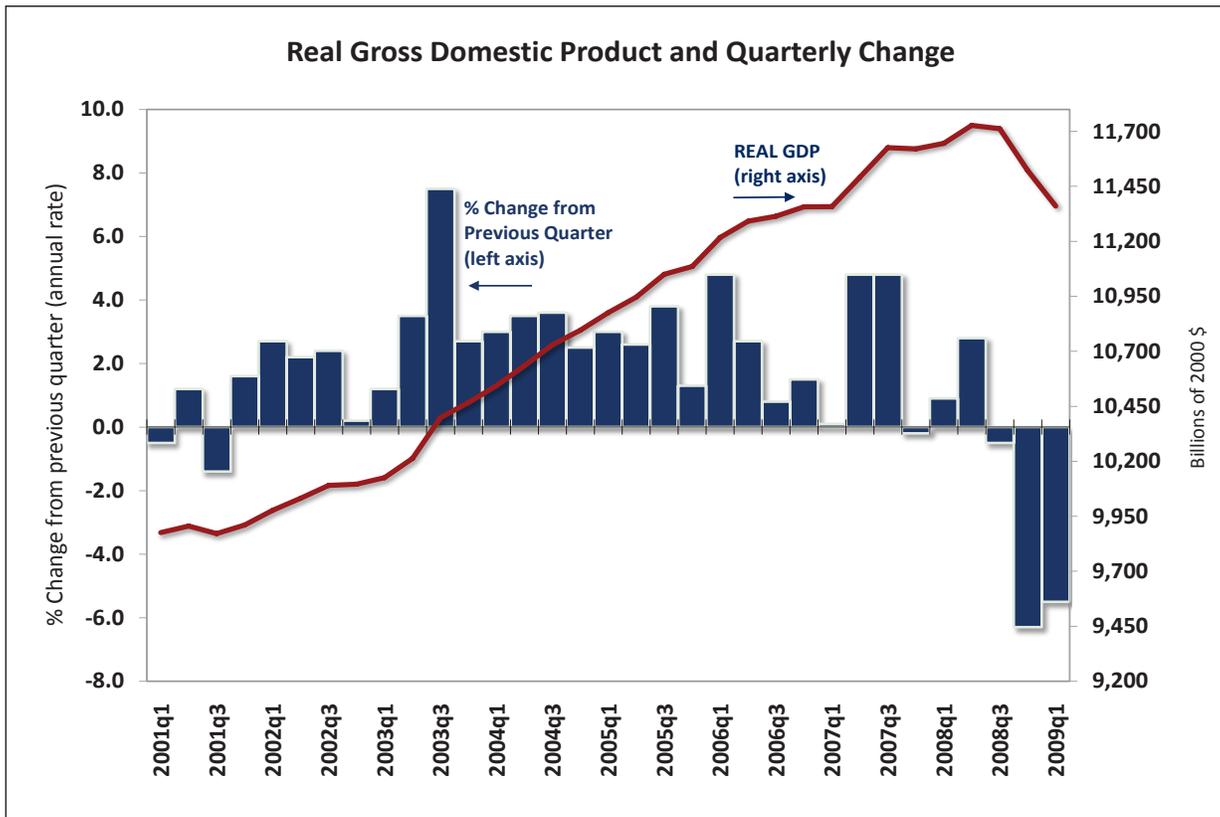
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the broadest measure of economic activity. It is also the measure that is most indicative of whether the economy is in recession. In the post-World War II period, there has been no recession in which GDP did not decrease in at least two quarters. (There were recessions, however, in which these quarters were not consecutive: 1960-61 and 2001.)

Economic output in the United States had been expanding each quarter since the 4th quarter of 2001. Beginning in the 2nd quarter of 2003, the national economy grew fairly consistently at an annual rate of around 3 to 4 percent, in real terms, with occasional quarters of slower growth through late 2006 and early 2007. The middle of 2007 found revived growth of nearly five percent, but

GDP declined for the first time in two years in the 4th quarter of 2007. The first half of 2008 had slow to moderate growth in GDP, but has been followed by three consecutive quarterly declines.

According to 1st quarter 2009 estimates, GDP contracted at a 5.5 percent annual rate to start the year, after a 6.3 percent rate of decline in the 4th quarter of 2008. The declines in these quarters were the largest since the early 1980s. The economy has contracted by 3.1 percent since its peak in the 2nd quarter of 2008.

Overall for 2008, real national GDP grew by 1.1 percent from 2007. Going forward, GDP is forecasted to contract again in the 2nd quarter of 2009 albeit at a slower rate.



# Gross Domestic Product

## Missouri

Missouri's economy typically follows a similar trend to that of the U.S. State GDP data lags behind national data and is only available annually. As a result, it is not a good indicator of current economic conditions and does not fully reflect the recent changes in Missouri's economic climate. However, it is still valuable to understand the state's growth trend compared to the nation and what industries are the largest contributors to Missouri's economy.

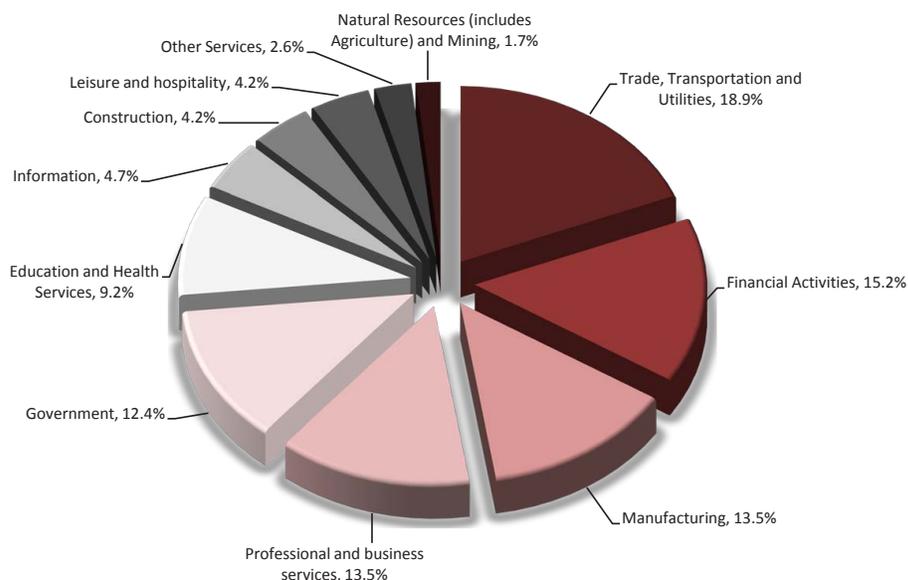
Missouri's GDP totaled over \$238 billion in 2008 according to advance estimates, an increase in real dollars of 1.3 percent from 2007. The U.S. growth rate for the same period was 1.1 percent. The increase in Missouri's GDP came from agriculture, government, utilities, and a number of service-providing industries. Decreases

in mining, construction, manufacturing, transportation and finance offset some of the GDP growth contributed by the growing industries.

The trade, transportation and utilities sector makes up the largest portion of Missouri's economic output, followed by financial activities, manufacturing, and professional and business services.

Since 2003, professional and business services, government, and educational and health services have had the largest gain in share of the state's economic makeup, while manufacturing and financial activities have had the largest declines in share. With the continued decreases during the current recession, manufacturing will likely become an even smaller portion of Missouri's GDP in 2009.

**Industry Share of Missouri's Economy**  
(by percentage of Gross Domestic Product)

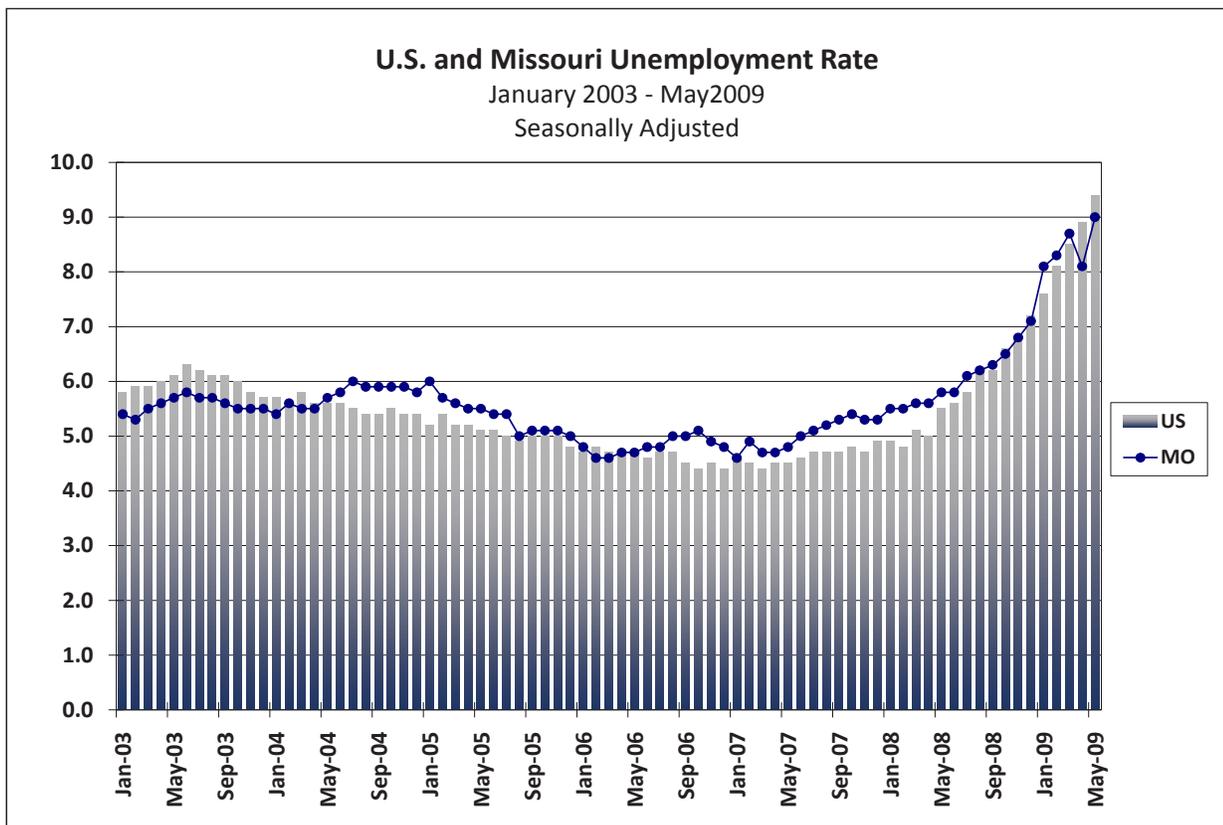


# Unemployment Rate

**The unemployment rate measures the percentage of people in the state who are without work.**

Unemployment rates in Missouri began to rise around the middle of 2008 and have continued upward since, with rapid increases during the first half of 2009. Missouri's rise in unemployment has followed the national trend, with the U.S. rate reaching 9.4 percent in May 2009, nearly doubling the 5.5 percent rate in May 2008. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May 2009 in the state was 9.0 percent, up from 5.8 percent a year ago. Missouri's unemployment rate has not reached these levels since 1983.

The current rate is still well below the 10.5 percent rate reached in 1983, and there were 18 consecutive months in 1982 and 1983 in which the rate was higher than now. Still, unemployment tends to lag economic recovery and could remain high even after recovery begins.



## Understanding Unemployment Rates

The unemployment rate is calculated by dividing the estimated number of unemployed people in the state by the civilian labor force. The result expresses unemployment as a percentage of the labor force. Labor force and unemployment estimates for states come from a cooperative statistical program between the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the various states. (MERIC is the BLS affiliate in Missouri.) State data are developed using statistical models. The inputs to these models include monthly state-specific data from the Current Population Survey (CPS – a nationwide survey of households), Current Employment Statistics program (CES – survey of employers), and claims data from the unemployment insurance system.

## Employment

**Employment measures the number of jobs in the state. The number of jobs and the industries that create those jobs are indicators of a state's economic health.**

Nonfarm payroll employment measures the number of jobs in the state. The number of jobs and the industries that create those jobs are important indicators of a state's economic health. Payroll employment is one of the most current and reliable indicators of economic conditions and recessionary trends.

Missouri nonfarm payroll employment growth began slowing in mid-2007, peaked in January 2008, and has been steadily declining since August 2008.

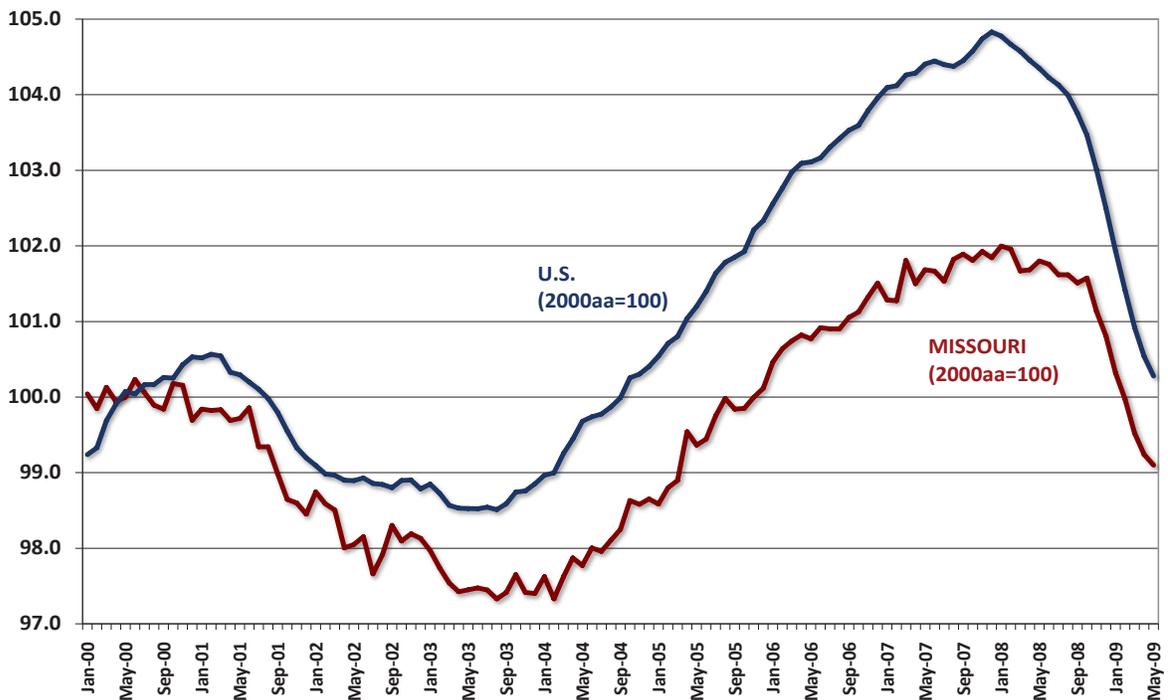
U.S. payroll employment began to decrease a bit sooner. Since peaking in December 2007, U.S. employment has averaged

decreases of about 350,000 jobs a month, while Missouri's average decline has been about 5,000 a month. By comparison, during the 2001 recession U.S. employment losses averaged 200,000 a month, while Missouri employment decreased by 4,200 a month.

As of May 2009, Missouri employment over the year declined by 74,300, seasonally adjusted – a decrease of 2.7 percent over the year. By comparison, employment in the U.S. as a whole decreased 3.9 percent over the period.

**U.S. and Missouri Payroll Employment**

Index: 2000 annual average = 100



## Employment Change by Industry

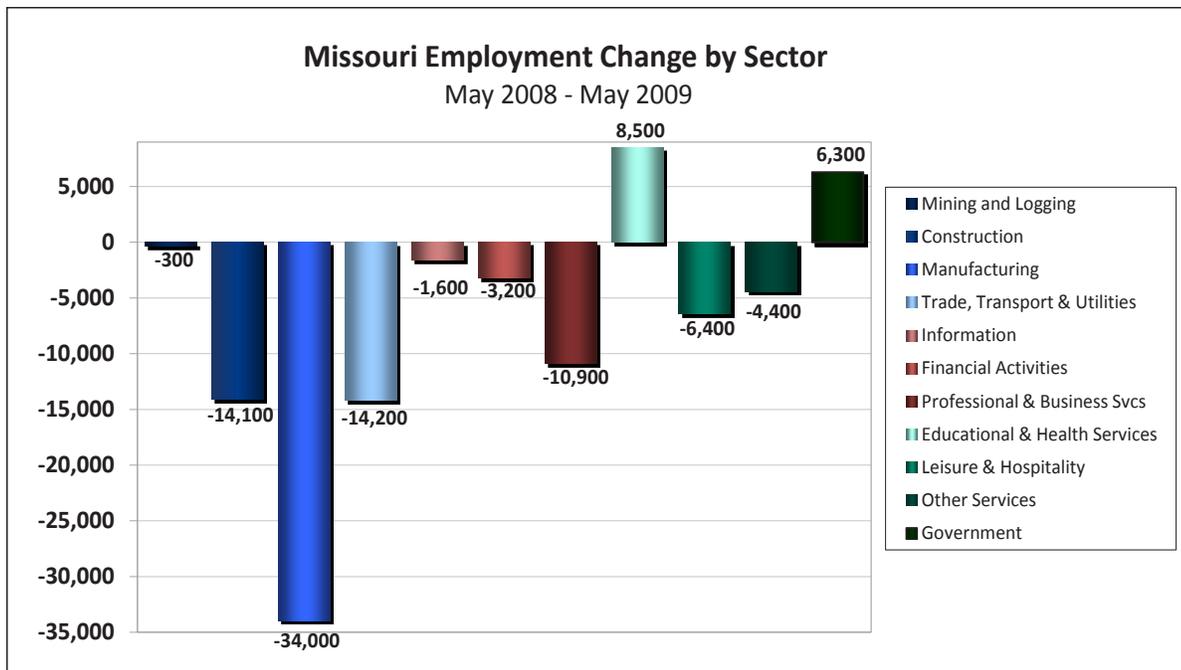
Employment growth by industry identifies the types of jobs being created in the state. On the other side of the ledger, industries with decreasing trend employment indicate those which are becoming less important in the state's economy. There may also be industries which behave more cyclically, growing during expansion and decreasing in times of economic slowdown or contraction. These changes are crucial in that they help identify the types of jobs being lost by individuals. Anticipating what will happen in recovery helps identify whether those jobs will return or what types of new jobs will be created. Thus key information for planning re-employment, retraining, and other workforce and economic development programs is contained within these data.

Employment declines during this recession have spared few industries in Missouri, as the effects of the recession that were originally concentrated in a few industries

spread through the economy like falling dominoes.

Comparing May 2009 to May 2008, only education and health services and government have had employment increases in Missouri. Nearly all of the gains in government have been at the federal and local level. Manufacturing employment declined by 34,000 from May 2008 to May 2009. Trade, transportation and utilities, construction, and professional and business services all declined by more than 10,000 over the year.

The education and health services industry had the largest growth over the year with employment increasing by 8,500. The health care and social assistance subsector makes up more than 80 percent of this industry and over two-thirds of the increase during the year.

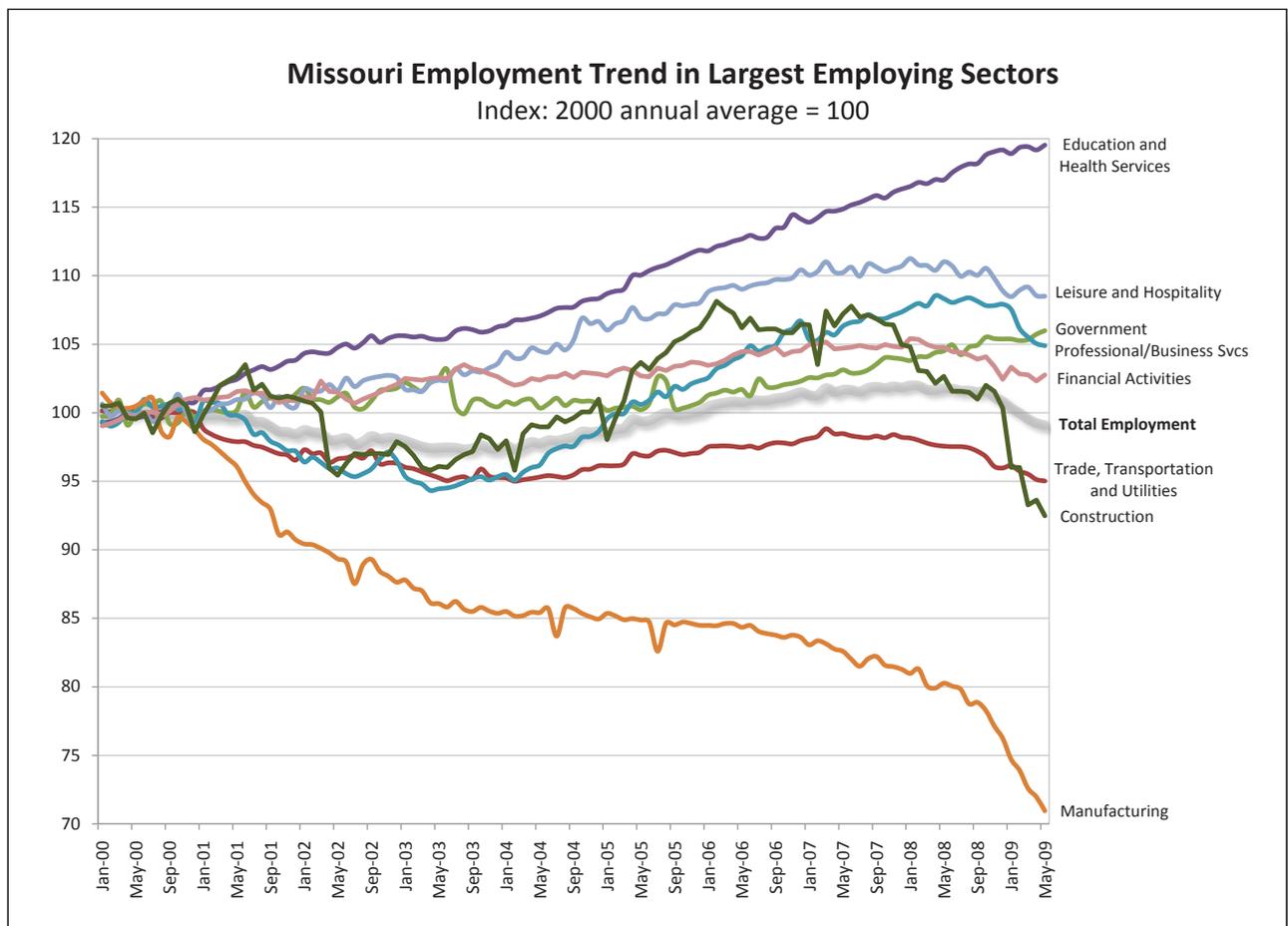


## Industry Employment Trend

These employment changes reflect what has been going on in the economy. Manufacturing employment has been trending downward for a long time, but growth in the service-producing sectors had been sufficient to lead to good overall job growth. As the subprime mortgage situation began to spread, housing-related industries such as construction and financial activities started to lose jobs. As the slowdown started to spread further through the economy, growth started to slow in other industries, eventually turning negative in some.

resulted in construction losses first, followed by trade, transportation and utilities and financial activities. The professional and business services and leisure and hospitality sector have had steeper declines only in the last 6 to 8 months.

Industries have been affected by the recession at different times. The housing bubble and start of the national recession



## Personal Income

**Beyond employment and unemployment, income is another important measure of economic success.**

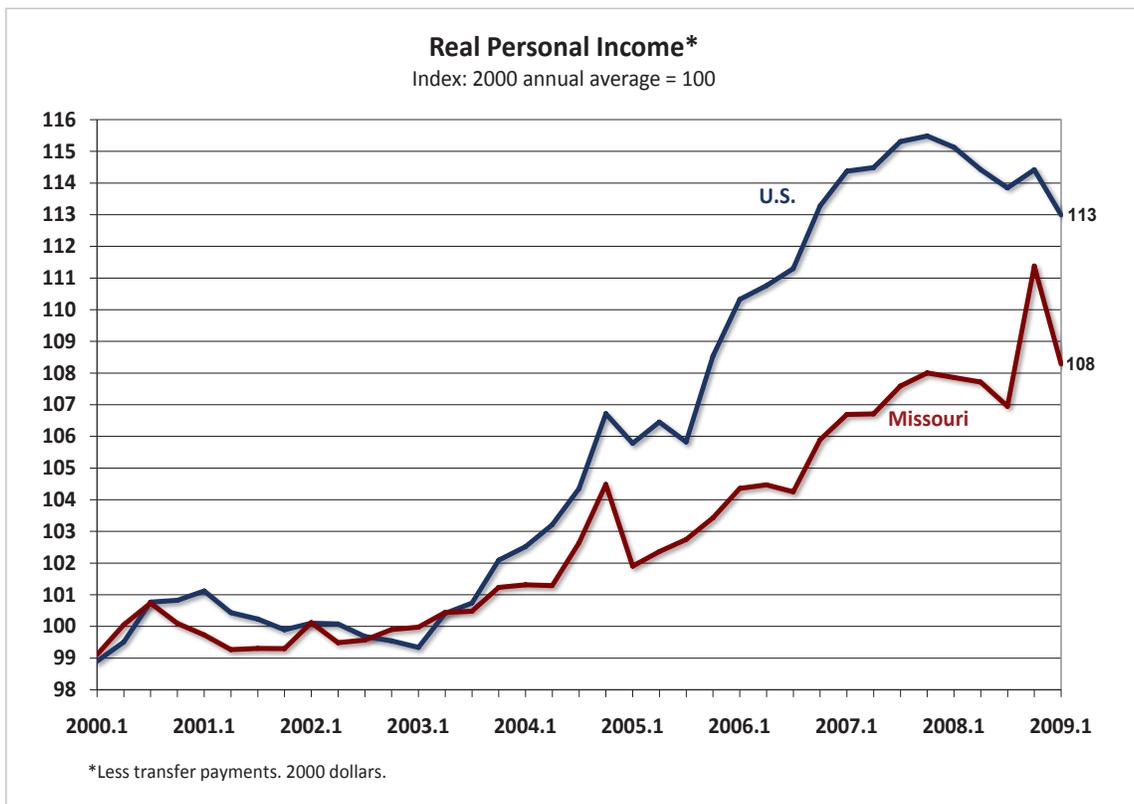
Beyond employment and unemployment, income is another important measure of the state of the economy.

Personal income is a broad measure of economic activity and one for which relatively current data are available. Personal income includes earnings; property income such as dividends, interest, and rent; and transfer payments, such as retirement, unemployment insurance, and various other benefit payments. It is a measure of income that is available for spending and is seen as an indicator of the economic well-being of the residents of a state. Earnings and wages make up the largest portion of personal income. Transfer payments are removed in this analysis to show only earnings and income changes.

To show the vastly different levels of total personal income for the U.S. and Missouri

on the same chart, these data have been converted to index numbers. This chart shows a comparison of Missouri and U.S. growth in real personal income, excluding transfer payments, with the year 2000 as the base year.

Both nationally and in Missouri, personal income declined for the first three quarters of 2008, followed by a spike in the 4th quarter of 2008, and subsequent drop in the 1st quarter of 2009. The spike apparently includes the effects of one-time payments such as severance packages associated with corporate restructuring and similar changes rather than an underlying improvement in the state's economic picture. In the first quarter of 2009 in Missouri, both net earnings and dividends, interest and rent declined at a similar rate while nationally, dividends, interest and earnings was the cause of the bulk of the decline in income.



## Manufacturing and Industrial Vitality

**Manufacturing and production are still important parts of both the U.S. and Missouri economies.**

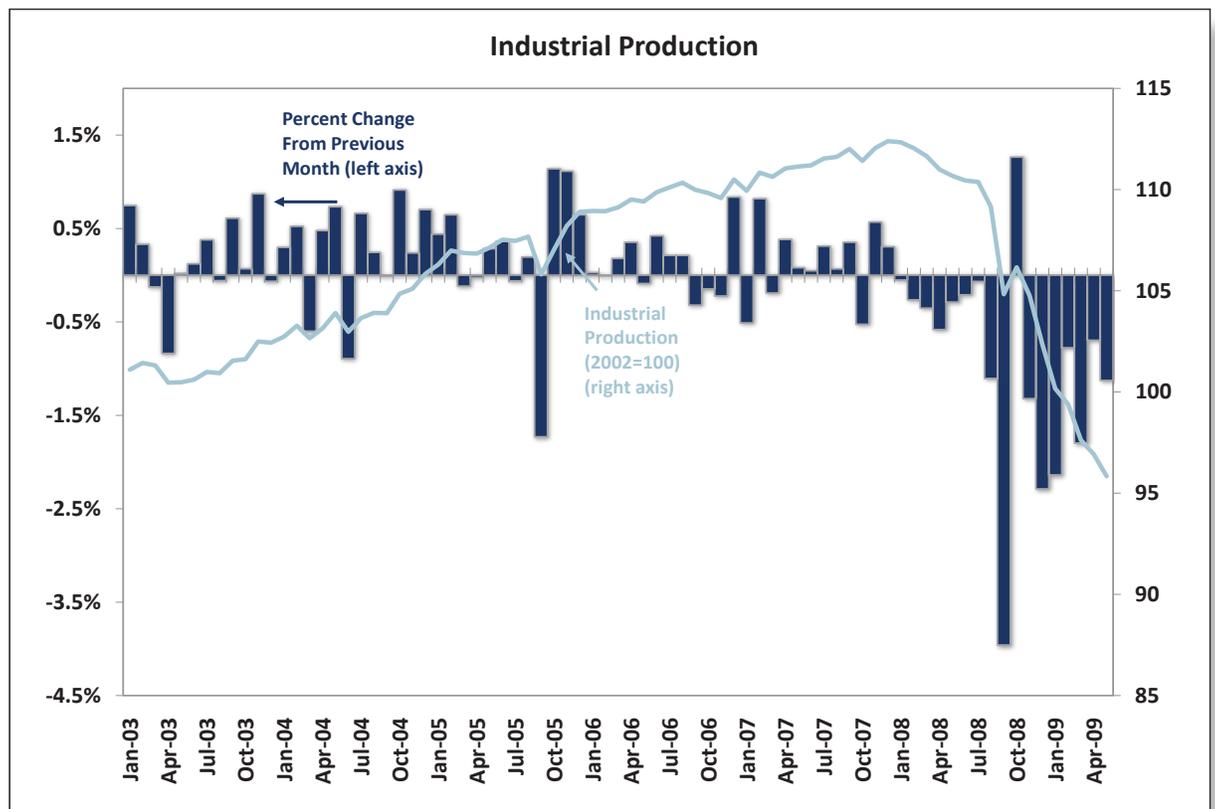
Manufacturing and production are still important parts of both the U.S. and Missouri economies and have been seriously adversely affected by the recession.

At one time, manufacturing made up 38 percent of the nation's employment. However, manufacturing employment in the United States has been declining since 1979, as productivity, technology gains, and the transfer of manufacturing to locations outside the United States have reduced the demand for traditional manufacturing employment.

Industrial production in the U.S. is a measure closely linked to the strength of the manufacturing sector. As a whole, industrial production was growing from April 2003 to

mid-2007. Industrial production was flat through the end of 2007, and has declined in all but one month since January 2008.

Manufacturing employment should move somewhat consistently with industrial production, but there are some inconsistencies between increased production and rising employment. In particular, productivity gains have made it possible for manufacturers to increase output while holding employment constant or even shedding jobs.



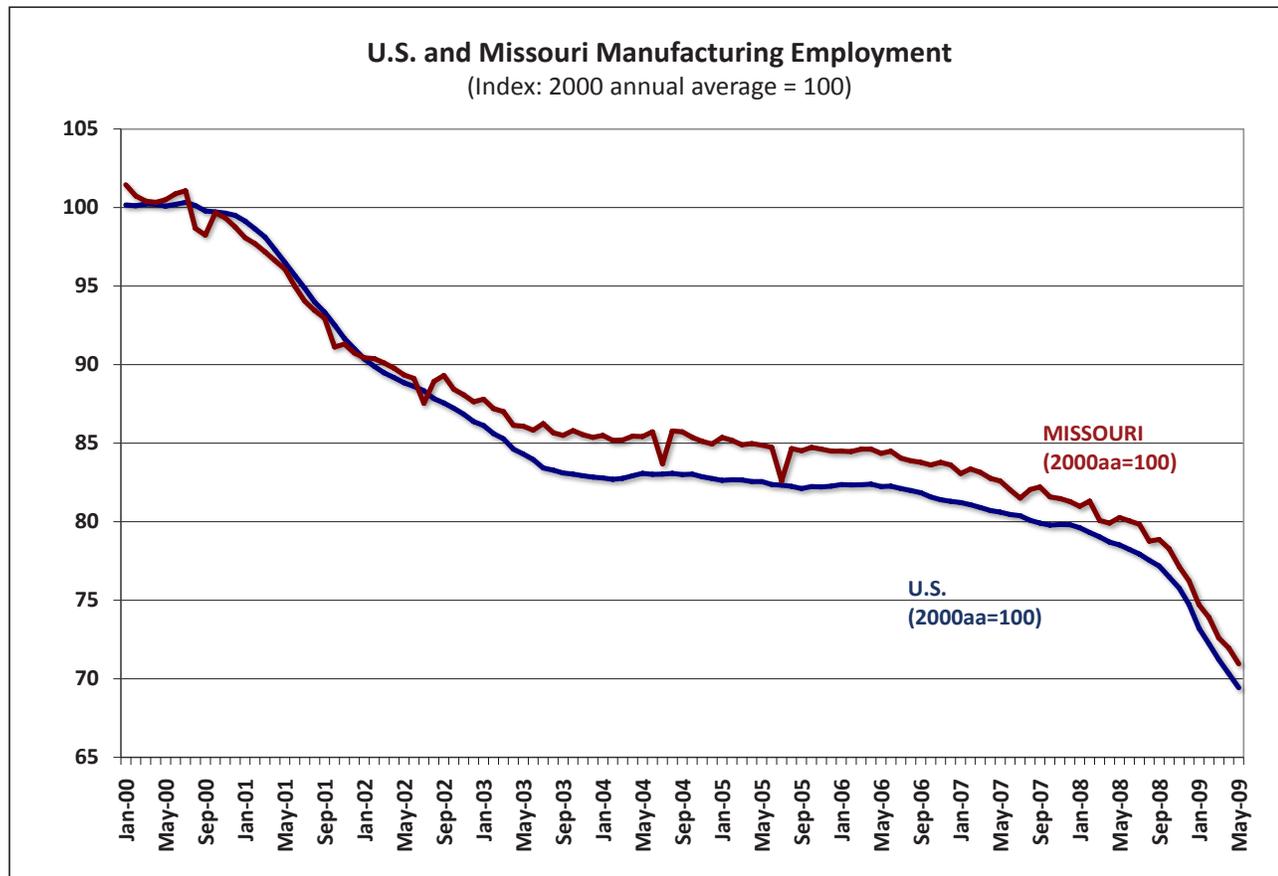
## Manufacturing Employment

Manufacturing employment fell rapidly before and through the 2001 recession. In mid-2003, the manufacturing sector began to stabilize. Employment decreases began to slow at the national level, with some growth resuming in early 2004. This was relatively short-lived as manufacturing employment in the U.S. began to edge back down, declining again in mid-2005. From there, manufacturing employment was fairly flat through mid-2006, but then began to decline. Since late 2008, manufacturing employment has dropped rapidly.

Missouri manufacturing has faced similar declines. The rate of decrease in manufacturing employment in the state also eased in early 2003. Since then the industry has declined at a growing rate. In May 2009, there were 258,900 manufacturing jobs in the state, a decrease of 34,000, or 11.6 percent from a year ago, matching the national rate of decline. Declines have been spread across manufacturing sectors, but the greatest numeric drop has been in transportation equipment manufacturing, which includes motor vehicles.

U.S. manufacturing employment has declined by nearly 1.6 million jobs in the last year, a decrease of 11.6 percent.

A key point in the analysis of job losses in manufacturing and the future of manufacturing industries is that these losses



## *Manufacturing Employment*

are not all cyclical, and that not all the lost jobs will return when the economy recovers from this recession. The downward trend in manufacturing employment will likely continue for the reasons noted above. On top of this is the restructuring that is currently going on in the economy and in the manufacturing sectors especially.

The most notable example of restructuring in Missouri is the automobile industry. This restructuring has been a long time coming and has, in fact, been going on for some time. Automobile assembly plants have left the state, most visibly when GM Corvette production moved to Kentucky in 1981, or have closed, such as the GM Leeds plant in Kansas City in 1983 and the Ford Hazelwood plant in 2005. (A GM plant in St. Louis also closed in 1987 but it was in effect replaced with the Wentzville plant.) Some of this represented a shift in production to other parts of the country; others represented the decreasing importance of the “Detroit Three” in global automobile manufacturing.

On top of this long-run restructuring of the automobile industry has come the almost-shocking developments of the past year, as the drastic effects of \$4 a gallon gasoline, quickly followed by plummeting demand not just for “gas guzzlers” but throughout the motor vehicle industry, have accelerated the trends already in motion. With two of the Detroit Three declaring bankruptcy, whole lines of cars being dropped and others sold, and plants and dealerships being shuttered across the country, the automobile industry is drastically restructuring in a way that has profound effects on Missouri. Chrysler’s two plants in the St. Louis area have closed, leaving only two assembly plants left in

Missouri, both of which are generally operating on reduced schedules.

Missouri’s motor vehicle manufacturing employment in May was 5,400, down from nearly 19,000 as recently as late 2000. This does not include job losses at companies located around the state that are suppliers to the auto industry, building seats and mechanical and other parts that go into the vehicles. When demand for automobiles recovers (and there must be pent-up demand following a prolonged period of very low sales) the existing operational assembly plants might resume fuller schedules, and parts suppliers may find markets for their products, either for Missouri plants or others. But it will be very difficult to replace the permanently lost jobs at the state’s shuttered plants.

## Purchasing Managers' Index

Economists consider the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), which measures such factors as new orders, production, supplier delivery times, backlogs, inventories, prices, employment, import orders and exports, a key economic indicator. Typically, a score greater than 50 indicates an expansionary economy, while a score below 50 forecasts a sluggish economy for the next three to six months.

While still showing contraction in the manufacturing sector, the PMI has been improving at the national, regional and state level since bottoming out in late-2008 and early 2009.

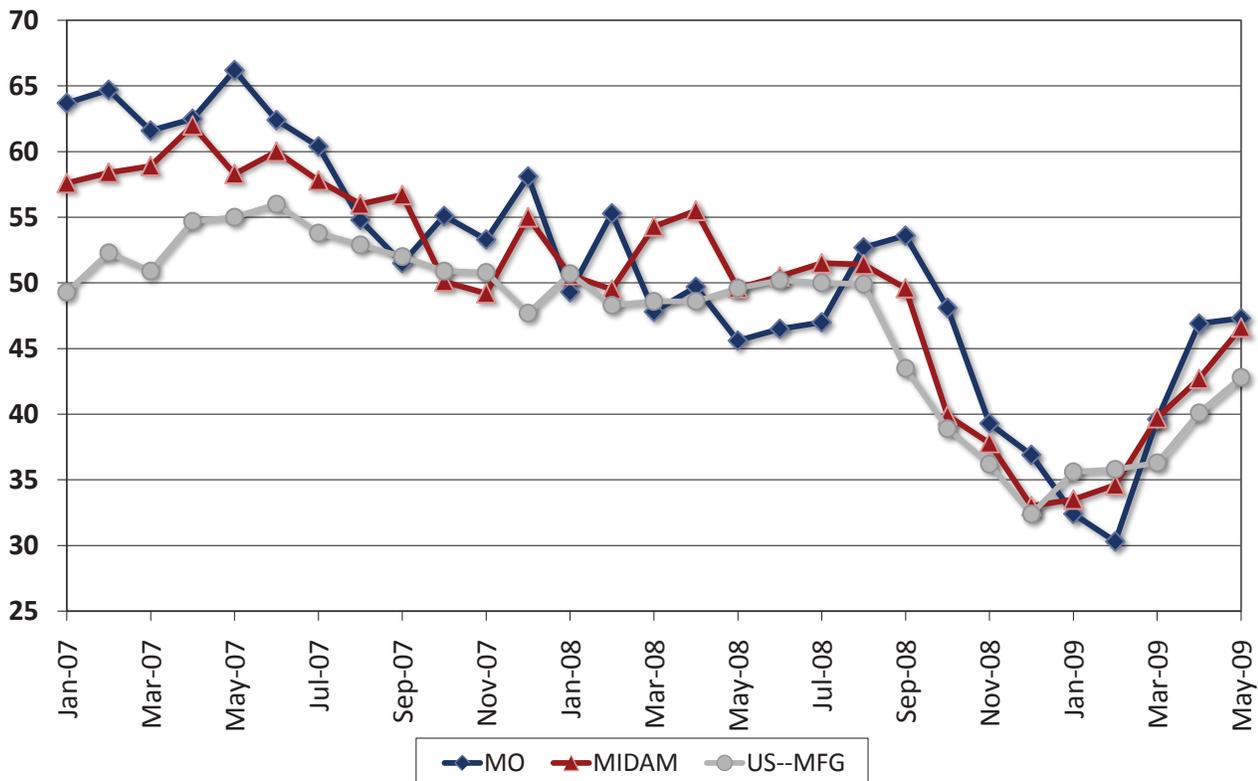
The national PMI for manufacturing

industries increased 2.7 points in May to 42.8. New orders were above the expansionary threshold of 50 for the first time since November 2007.

Missouri's PMI increased by 0.4 points in May, according to the monthly Mid-American Business Conditions Survey, conducted by Creighton University, Omaha, NE. The state's PMI score increased to 47.3 from 46.9 in April, with higher scores in new orders (53.0), production (51.3), and employment (40.3).

Overall, the average for the Mid-America Region increased in May to 46.6 from 42.7 in April.

Purchasing Managers' Indices (Manufacturing)



## Retail Trade and Taxable Sales

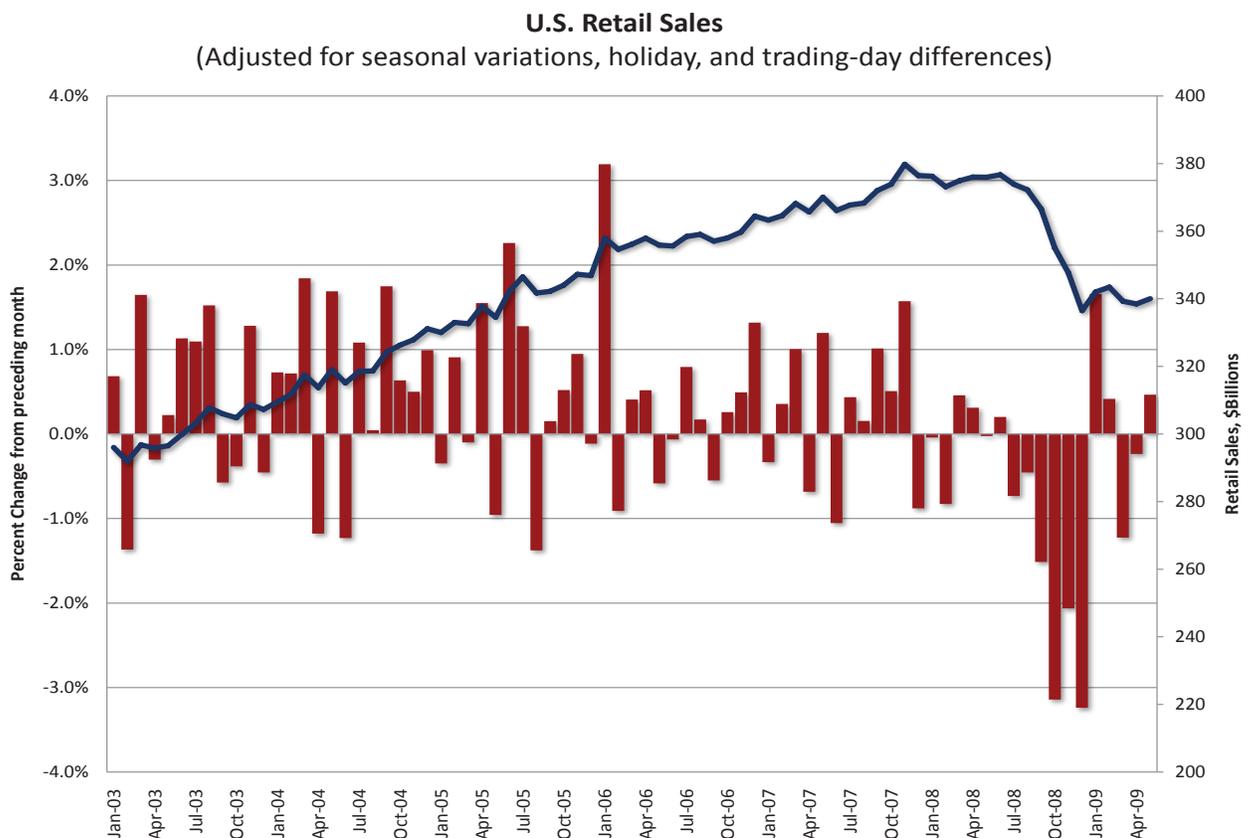
**Consumer spending accounts for two-thirds of the U.S. economy, and is likewise, essential to Missouri's economy.**

Consumer spending accounts for two-thirds of the U.S. economy, and is likewise, essential to Missouri's economy. Retail sales account for around one-half of consumer spending.

National retail sales data are prone to fluctuations, but provide an important view on changes in consumer spending. There have been considerable swings in retail trade since the end of 2001, but retail sales have generally been increasing since 2003. Retail sales turned flat around the end of 2007 and began to fall from the middle of 2008 through the end of the year. So far in 2009, retail sales have been fluctuating, but generally flat.

Changing gasoline prices contribute to fluctuations in retail sales. Falling prices result in lower retail sales, while rising prices result in higher sales. From a consumer perspective, lower prices represent a good thing, freeing money for savings or other expenditures. A major contributor to low retail sales has been the sharply lower demand for motor vehicles.

Consumers have been cautious with spending, as great concern over the economy and their own individual economic situations contributed to generally negative consumer sentiment, but supplemental income, such as unemployment insurance and tax refunds, have kept retail sales from declining as rapidly.



## Missouri Taxable Sales

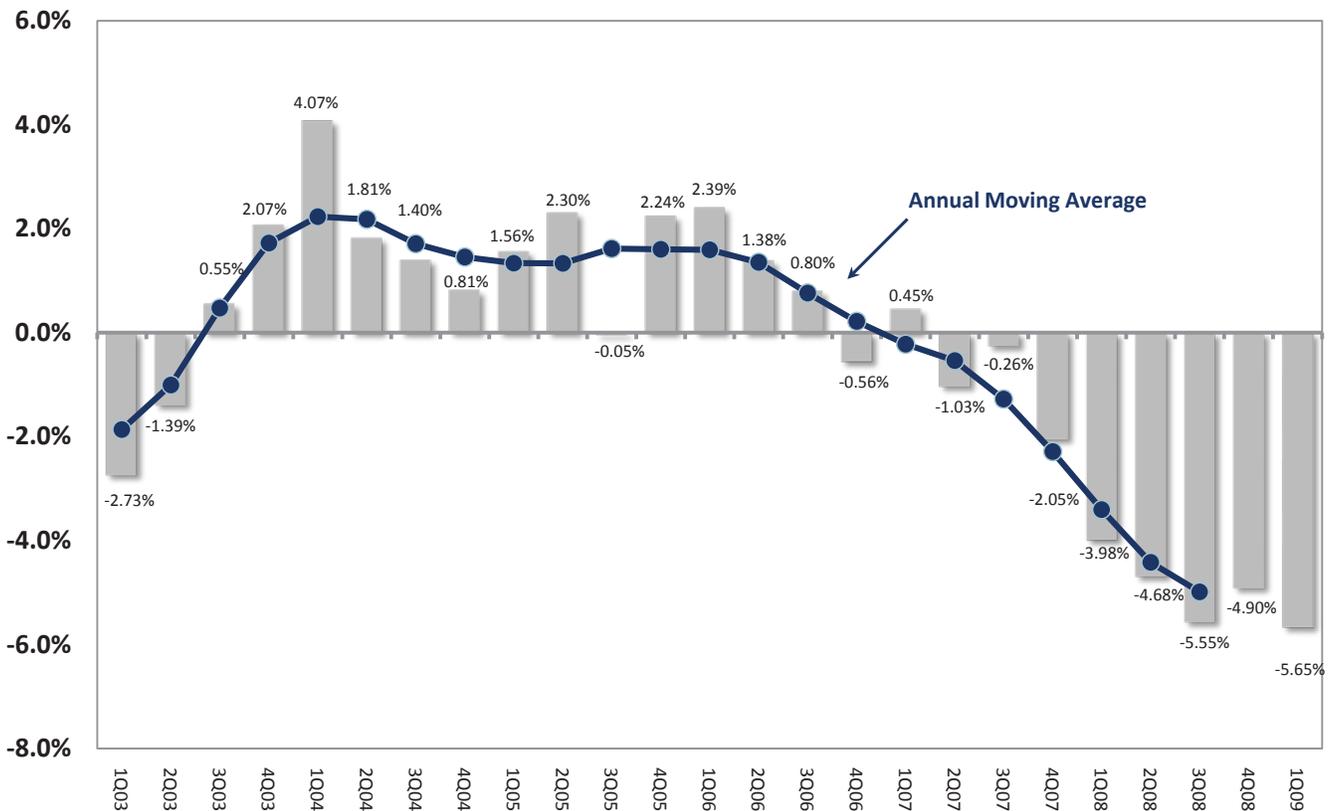
Although no specific retail sales data are readily available for Missouri, total taxable sales as measured by the Missouri Department of Revenue (DOR) can serve as a proxy measure. Retail sales account for approximately 65 percent of taxable sales in Missouri, with an additional 10 percent from wholesale trade, 10 percent from service industries such as hotels and amusement parks, 10 percent from communications industries, and 5 percent from other industries.

DOR recently released preliminary taxable sales estimates for the 1st quarter of 2009.

Over this period, \$17.1 billion in taxable sales occurred in the state, a decrease of 5.69 percent in actual dollars from the same quarter of 2008.

Analysis shows that if seasonal and inflationary effects are removed from the data, real year-to-year taxable sales declined by 5.65 percent during the 1st quarter of 2009. The decline in the 1st quarter marks eight consecutive quarters of decline in Missouri taxable sales.

**Year-to-Year Percentage Change in Taxable Sales**  
(Inflation and Seasonally Adjusted)



# Regional Economies

**Missouri's economy is complicated and diverse. The state itself is home to many er smaller and distinct economies.**

Missouri can be divided into 12 multi-county regions. It is useful to analyze these regional economies to determine the different strengths and advantages each bring to the state.

Missouri's metropolitan areas make up the largest portions of the state's economy. St. Louis County and Jackson County alone combine for nearly one-third of the state's economy in terms of employment, personal income and population.

Despite their size, all of the regions have a role in the state's economic make-up. For example, some of Missouri's rural areas are especially important to tourism and agriculture in the state.

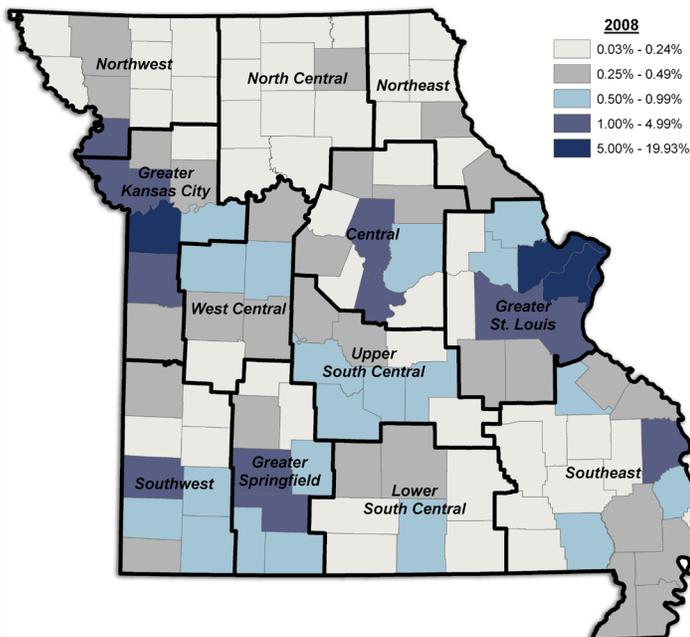
In addition, the economic share has been gradually shifting around the state. From 1998 to 2008, areas around the St. Louis and Kansas City metros have been gaining in



share as well as counties in the Southwest, Greater Springfield and Upper South Central regions, largely along the U.S. Interstate 44 corridor.

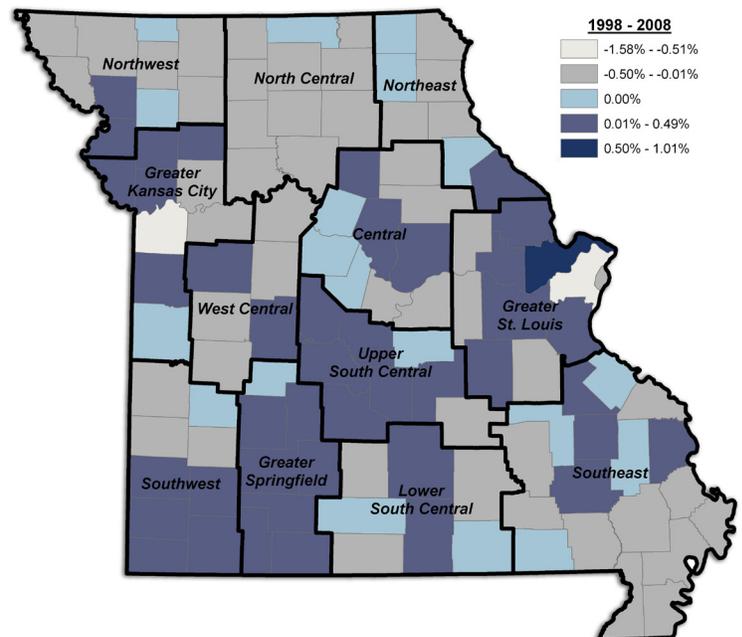
**Economic Share**

Economic Regions



**Economic Share Percent Change**

Economic Regions

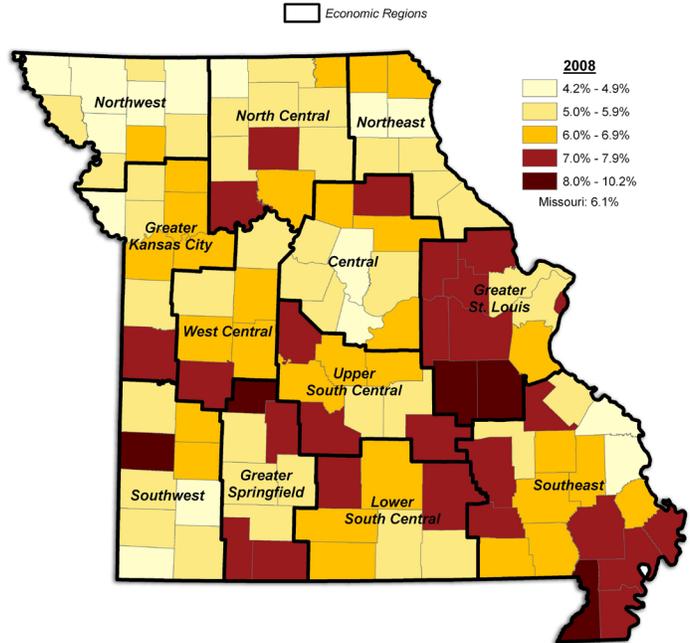


# Regional Unemployment Rate

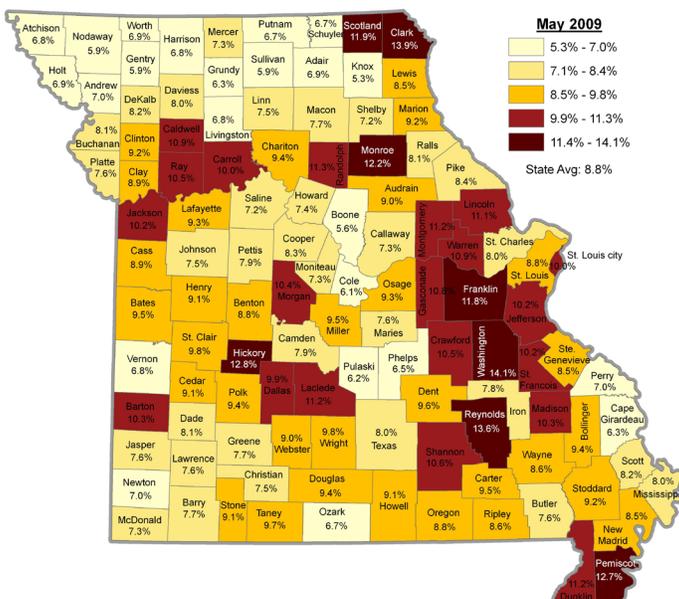
All areas of Missouri have been adversely affected by the recession. The average annual unemployment rate in Missouri counties ranged from 4.2 to 10.2 percent in 2008, up by as much as 2.3 points from the average in 2007. The highest unemployment rates for 2008 were in the Greater St. Louis region and in far southeastern Missouri counties.

As of May 2009, not seasonally adjusted data show the highest unemployment rates in many of the same areas. Large layoffs in the St. Louis area have especially adversely affected the Greater St. Louis region.

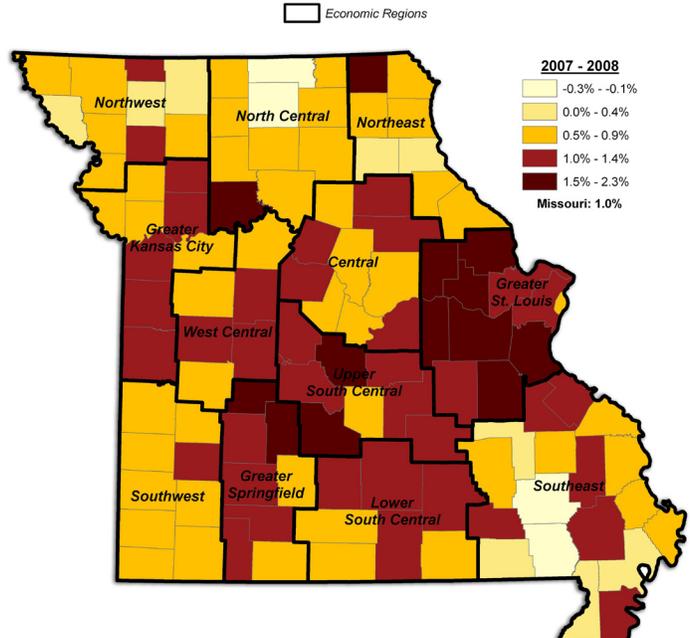
**Average Unemployment Rate**



**Unemployment Rates Not Seasonally Adjusted**



**Unemployment Rate Percent Change**



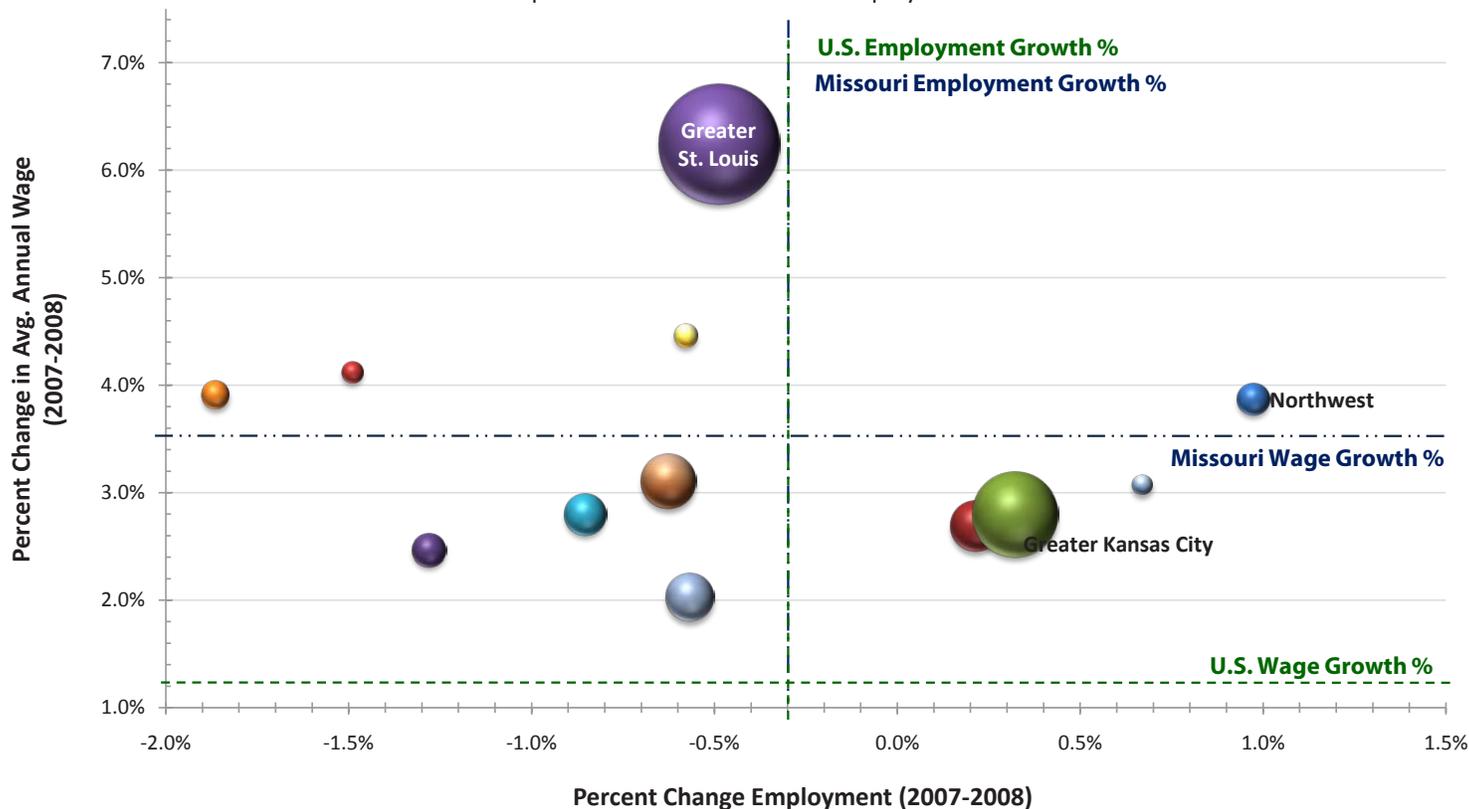
## Regional Employment Change

Regions of the state have been affected differently. Data from 2007 through 2008 show that regions performed at different levels during the beginning of the recession. For example, the Greater St. Louis region, which is the largest employing region of the state had high wage increases, but a drop in employment. More current data indicate that the decline will be even more severe in 2009.

Four regions had employment growth faster than the state and national average: Central, Greater Kansas City, Northeast, and Northwest. The West Central region had the largest percentage decline in employment, but above average wage growth.

### Comparative Performance of Economic Areas in Missouri

Sphere size indicates relative employment levels



## ***Conclusion: Recession, Restructuring, Recovery***

The U.S. and Missouri economies have been battered by a truly unusual set of circumstances.

Although the recession is now a year and a half old, the economy was weakening before the recession began, as if often the case. In particular the housing sector was in poor shape, due to the subprime meltdown and a general boom/bust cycle. Consumer sentiment was, and has continued to be, unusually low, which may in itself have contributed to the length and depth of the recession.

On the other hand, most measures of economic conditions were deteriorating only mildly during the early months of the recession. The run-up in oil and gasoline prices in mid-2008 was a major shock to the economy, in particular sending motor vehicle demand “off the cliff.” The financial crisis that followed (around September) was perhaps the final blow that sent the economy spiraling downward. The rapid deterioration of the labor market began in September 2008 and accelerated in November, with the economy shedding more than half a million jobs a month and the unemployment rate climbing to levels not seen in a quarter of a century.

Economic conditions have caused or accelerated restructuring in the economy as businesses have sharply cut back on production and employment and are attempting to improve productivity and regain profitability while repairing their balance sheets. Individuals, even those whose incomes have remained solid, seem to have cut back on spending and, like businesses, are working to repair their financial health. Some analysts believe a

“deleveraging” of the economy is in process, as businesses and individuals seek to avoid the negative effects that came from excessive reliance on credit. Bankruptcies, mergers and acquisitions, and closing businesses seem the order of the day, each contributing further to lower employment and rising joblessness.

The restructuring of the economy that is going on should have some benefits; businesses, at least those that survive, will become more efficient and more able to compete successfully in the global economy. But there will be substantial costs as well, particularly on employment. Some of the jobs that have been lost in this period are due to restructuring and other longer run changes and will not return when the economy improves. Those that come from the purely cyclical aspects of the recession will return when demand improves.

Employment growth will not necessarily resume, or resume strongly, even when the economy turns around. Businesses want to be certain that growth will continue and that they can ramp up production with the expectation of being able to sell their products and services profitably. Even when this process begins, employers typically move cautiously, adding hours before adding workers, using temporary help and other means that allow easy adjustment should that become necessary. Unemployment is even more of a lagging measure, often reaching its peak some months after the economy has turned around. This time, these effects may be magnified by the amount of restructuring and closing that has taken place, as some of the jobs lost will simply not be returning.

## ***Conclusion: Recession, Restructuring, Recovery***

In particular, the automobile industry, long a mainstay of the state's economy, is going to be a smaller part at least for the foreseeable future. When demand for motor vehicles resumes, Missouri's remaining plants will increase production to meet the demand for the vehicles they make, which will be beneficial, but in effect production at the closed plants will have moved elsewhere.

So, improvement in the Missouri economy and labor market is in the offing, but considerable challenges will still remain.

When will improvement begin? There have been positive signs in the economy, but just as these begin to take hold, additional negative news often appears. The U.S. economy may begin to turn around in the 2nd half of 2009, with stronger growth not expected before next year. Analysts believe the industrial Midwest will lag behind, as auto industry restructuring continues to take a toll. That is the situation that will likely prevail in Missouri. Service-providing industries will probably be the first to recover, and construction will improve with an improving housing situation and continued government infrastructure spending. Manufacturing outside the motor vehicle and related industries may stabilize.

## ***Data Sources (Analysis by MERIC)***

### ***Gross Domestic Product (pages 1 and 2)***

Real Gross Domestic Product and Quarterly Change – U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis  
Industry Share of Missouri's Economy – U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

### ***Unemployment Rate (page 3)***

U.S. and Missouri Unemployment Rate – MERIC in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

### ***Employment (pages 4 through 6)***

U.S. and Missouri Payroll Employment – MERIC in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Missouri Employment Change by Sector – MERIC in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
U.S. Diffusion Index of Employment Change – U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

### ***Personal Income (page 7)***

Real Personal Income – U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

### ***Manufacturing and Industrial Vitality (pages 8 through 11)***

Industrial Production – Federal Reserve Board  
U.S. and Missouri Manufacturing Employment – MERIC in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Purchasing Managers' Indices (MFG) – Institute for Supply Management and Creighton University

### ***Retail Trade and Taxable Sales (pages 12 and 13)***

U.S. Retail Sales – U.S. Census Bureau  
Year-to-Year Percentage Change in Taxable Sales – Missouri Department of Revenue

### ***Missouri's Regional Economies (pages 14 through 16)***

Share of Missouri's Economy by Region – MERIC  
County Unemployment Rate – MERIC in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Comparative Performance of Economic Areas in Missouri – MERIC in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Department of Economic Development, Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) to fulfill program plan requirements from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration.

All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision.

### **About the Missouri Department of Economic Development**

The Department of Economic Development (DED) administers a wide array of services designed to enhance Missouri's economic growth in the 21st Century. These services focus on workers, businesses, and communities. DED is composed of agencies that administer statutory requirements and develop policy in the areas of community, economic, and workforce development, as well as the regulation of utility companies. The Missouri Division of Tourism is also housed within the agency.

DED offers direct assistance to businesses and industries; communities and regions; and individuals and organizations to promote economic development and job creation throughout the state. DED has two development divisions-Business and Community Services and Workforce Development.

For more information, visit the DED website at [www.ded.mo.gov](http://www.ded.mo.gov).



### **About the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center**

The Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) provides comprehensive analysis of Missouri's socioeconomic environment at the local, regional and state levels. To achieve this, MERIC employs a wide array of tools, which include econometric models, geographic information systems and advanced statistical methods. On-going projects at MERIC include targeted development, economic and social impact assessments, industry and occupational analyses, business intelligence, career seeker products and information on Missouri's demographic and economic trends.

Coupled with its analysis capability, MERIC maintains a comprehensive labor market database produced in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor. Data on employment/unemployment, wages, layoffs, labor availability and a variety of other information designed to help understand the state's labor market conditions are regularly reported.

Ultimately, MERIC's mission is to provide accurate, relevant and timely information to decision makers and the public in order to facilitate a better understanding of Missouri's socioeconomic environment.

For more information, visit the MERIC website at [www.MissouriEconomy.org](http://www.MissouriEconomy.org).



