**St. Louis**

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*This article is about the city. For other uses, see* [*Saint Louis*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Louis_(disambiguation))*.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **St. Louis** | |
| — [**Independent city**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independent_city_(United_States)) — | |
| **City of St. Louis** | |
| From top left: [Forest Park Jewel Box](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewel_Box_(St._Louis,_Missouri)), [MetroLink (St. Louis)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MetroLink_(St._Louis)) at [Lambert - St. Louis International Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lambert-St._Louis_International_Airport), [Apotheosis of St. Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apotheosis_of_St._Louis) at the [St. Louis Art Museum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Louis_Art_Museum), [Gateway Arch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gateway_Arch) and the St. Louis skyline, [Busch Stadium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Busch_Stadium), and the [St. Louis Zoo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_Zoo) | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | [**Flag**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_St._Louis) | **Seal** | | |
| Nickname(s): Rome of the West, STL, Gateway to the West, Mound City | |
| Location in the State of [Missouri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Missouri) | |
| Coordinates: [38°37′38″N 90°11′52″W﻿ / ﻿38.62722°N 90.19778°W﻿ / 38.62722; -90.19778](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=St._Louis&params=38_37_38_N_90_11_52_W_type:city(318172)_region:US-MO)[Coordinates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system): [38°37′38″N 90°11′52″W﻿ / ﻿38.62722°N 90.19778°W﻿ / 38.62722; -90.19778](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=St._Louis&params=38_37_38_N_90_11_52_W_type:city(318172)_region:US-MO) | |
| **Country** | [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) |
| [**State**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_divisions_of_the_United_States) | [Missouri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Missouri) |
| [**County**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_counties_in_Missouri) | [Independent city](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independent_city_(United_States)) |
| [**Metro**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Metropolitan_Statistical_Areas) | [Greater St. Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greater_St._Louis) |
| **Founded** | 1764 |
| [**Incorporated**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Municipal_corporation) | 1822 |
| **Government** | |
| **• Type** | [Mayor–council government](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mayor%E2%80%93council_government) |
| **• Mayor** | [Francis G. Slay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_G._Slay) ([D](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States))) |
| **Area** | |
| **•** [**Independent city**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independent_city_(United_States)) | [66.2 sq mi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1_E%2B8_m%C2%B2) (171.3 km2) |
| **• Land** | 61.9 sq mi (160.4 km2) |
| **• Water** | 4.2 sq mi (11.0 km2) |
| **Elevation** | 466 ft (142 m) |
| **Population** (2012) | |
| **•** [**Independent city**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independent_city_(United_States)) | 318,172 |
| **• Rank** | [58th](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_United_States_cities_by_population) |
| **• Density** | 5,140.1/sq mi (1,983.6/km2) |
| **•** [**Metro**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metropolitan_area) | 2,795,794 ([18th](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Metropolitan_Statistical_Areas)) |
| [**Demonym**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demonym) | St. Louisan |
| [**Time zone**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_zone) | [CST](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Time_Zone_(North_America)) ([UTC−6](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UTC%E2%88%926)) |
| **• Summer (**[**DST**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daylight_saving_time)**)** | [CDT](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Time_Zone_(North_America)) ([UTC−5](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UTC%E2%88%925)) |
| [**Area code(s)**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telephone_numbering_plan) | [314](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Area_code_314) |
| **Website** | <http://stlouis-mo.gov> |

**St. Louis** [/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA_for_English)[seɪnt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA_for_English#Key) [ˈluːɪs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA_for_English#Key)[/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA_for_English) (French: *Saint-Louis* or *St-Louis*, [[sɛ̃ lwi]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA_for_French) ( [listen](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/66/Saint-Louis.ogg))) is an [independent city](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independent_city_(United_States)) on the eastern border of [Missouri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Missouri), United States. With a population of 318,172 in July 2012, it was the 58th-largest U.S. city at the [2010 U.S. Census](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_United_States_Census). The metropolitan St. Louis area, known as [Greater St. Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greater_St._Louis), is the [15th-largest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Combined_Statistical_Areas) metropolitan area in the United States with a population of 2,795,794.



The city of St. Louis was founded in 1764 by [Pierre Laclède](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pierre_Lacl%C3%A8de) and [Auguste Chouteau](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auguste_Chouteau), and named for [Saint Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_IX_of_France). After the [Louisiana Purchase](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louisiana_Purchase), it became a major port on the [Mississippi River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mississippi_River). Its population expanded after the [American Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Civil_War), and it became the fourth-largest city in the United States in the late 19th century. It [seceded](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urban_secession) from [St. Louis County](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_County,_Missouri) in March 1877, allowing it to become an independent city and limiting its political boundaries. In 1904, it hosted the [Louisiana Purchase Exposition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louisiana_Purchase_Exposition) and the [1904 Summer Olympics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1904_Summer_Olympics). The city's population peaked in 1950, then began a long decline that continues in the 21st century.

The economy of St. Louis relies on service, manufacturing, trade, transportation of goods, and tourism. The city is home to several corporations including [Peabody Energy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peabody_Energy), [Ameren](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ameren), [Ralcorp](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ralcorp) and [Sigma-Aldrich](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sigma-Aldrich). St. Louis is home to three professional sports teams: the [St. Louis Cardinals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_Cardinals), one of the most successful [Major League Baseball](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Major_League_Baseball) clubs; the [hockey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Hockey_League) [St. Louis Blues](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_Blues), and the [football](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Football_League) [St. Louis Rams](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_Rams). The city is commonly identified with the [Gateway Arch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gateway_Arch), part of the [Jefferson National Expansion Memorial](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jefferson_National_Expansion_Memorial) in [downtown St. Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Downtown_St._Louis).

**History**

Main article: [History of St. Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_St._Louis)

The area that would become St. Louis was a center of Native American [Mississippian culture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mississippian_culture), which built numerous temple and residential [earthwork](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earthwork_(archaeology)) [mounds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mound_builder_(people)) in the region, giving the city its early nickname, the "Mound City". European exploration of the area began in 1673, when French explorers [Louis Jolliet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_Jolliet) and [Jacques Marquette](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacques_Marquette) traveled through the Mississippi River valley. Five years later, [La Salle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ren%C3%A9_Robert_Cavelier,_Sieur_de_La_Salle) claimed the region for France as part of French [Louisiana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louisiana_(New_France)).

The earliest European settlements in the area were built in [Illinois Country](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illinois_Country) (also known as Upper Louisiana) during the 1690s and early 1700s at [Cahokia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cahokia,_Illinois), [Kaskaskia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaskaskia,_Illinois), and [Fort de Chartres](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_de_Chartres). Migrants from the eastern French villages founded [Ste. Genevieve, Missouri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ste._Genevieve,_Missouri), across the Mississippi River from Kaskaskia, and in early 1764, [Pierre Laclède](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pierre_Lacl%C3%A8de) and his stepson [Auguste Chouteau](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auguste_Chouteau) founded the city of St. Louis.

From 1764 to 1803 European control of the area west of the Mississippi to the northernmost part of the Missouri River basin, called [Louisiana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louisiana_(New_Spain)), was assumed by the Spanish as part of the Viceroyalty of [New Spain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Spain). In 1780, [St. Louis was attacked](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_St._Louis) by British forces, mostly Native Americans, during the [American Revolutionary War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War).

**19th century**

St. Louis was transferred back to France in 1800, then sold to the United States in 1803 as part of the [Louisiana Purchase](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louisiana_Purchase), and the city became the territorial capital. Shortly after the purchase, the [Lewis and Clark Expedition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis_and_Clark_Expedition) left St. Louis in May 1804, reaching the Pacific Ocean in summer 1805, and returning on September 23, 1806. Both Lewis and Clark lived in St. Louis after the expedition. Many other explorers, settlers, and trappers (such as [Ashley's Hundred](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ashley%27s_Hundred)) would later take a similar route to the West. The city elected its first municipal legislators (called trustees) in 1808.

[Steamboats](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steamboat) first arrived in St. Louis in 1818, improving connections with [New Orleans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Orleans) and eastern markets. Missouri became a state in 1821, at which point the capital moved from St. Louis. St. Louis was incorporated as a city in 1822, and continued to see growth due to its port connections.

Immigrants from Ireland and Germany arrived in St. Louis in significant numbers starting in the 1840s, and the population of St. Louis grew from less than 20,000 in 1840, to 77,860 in 1850, to more than 160,000 by 1860. By the mid-1800s, St Louis had a greater population than New Orleans. To this day, St Louis is the largest city that had been controlled by the French in French Louisiana.



An illustrated map by F. Graf; *Saint Louis in 1896*.

During the [American Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Civil_War), St. Louis was the site of significant divisions, although no combat took place in the city after the 1861 [Camp Jackson Affair](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camp_Jackson_Affair). The war hurt St. Louis economically, due to the blockade of river traffic to the South, although the [St. Louis Arsenal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_Arsenal) constructed [ironclads](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ironclad) for the [Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_(American_Civil_War)). St. Louis profited via trade with the West after the war, and in 1874, the city completed the [Eads Bridge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eads_Bridge), the first bridge over the Mississippi River in the area.

On August 22, 1876, the city of St. Louis voted to [secede](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urban_secession) from [St. Louis County](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_County,_Missouri) and become an [independent city](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independent_city_(United_States)), and industrial production continued to increase during the late 19th century. The city also produced a number of notable people in the fields of literature, including [Tennessee Williams](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tennessee_Williams) and [T. S. Eliot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T.S._Eliot), and major corporations such as the [Anheuser-Busch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anheuser-Busch) brewery and [Ralston-Purina](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ralston-Purina) company were established. St. Louis also was home to [Desloge Consolidated Lead Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desloge_Consolidated_Lead_Company) and several [brass era](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brass_era) automobile companies, including the [Success Automobile Manufacturing Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Success_Automobile_Manufacturing_Company); St. Louis also is the site of the [Wainwright Building](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wainwright_Building), an early skyscraper built in 1892.

**20th century**

In 1904, the city hosted the [1904 World's Fair](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louisiana_Purchase_Exposition) and the [1904 Summer Olympics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1904_Summer_Olympics), becoming the first non-European city to host the Olympics. Proceeds from the fair provided the city with [Forest Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forest_Park_(St._Louis)), the [St. Louis Art Museum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Louis_Art_Museum), the [St. Louis Zoo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Louis_Zoo) and the [Missouri History Museum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Missouri_History_Museum).

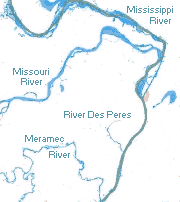
Discrimination in housing and employment were common in St. Louis, and starting in the 1910s, many property deeds included racial or religious [restrictive covenants](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Restrictive_covenants). During [World War II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II), the [NAACP](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NAACP) campaigned to integrate war factories, and restrictive covenants were prohibited in 1948 by the [Shelley v. Kraemer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shelley_v._Kraemer) [U.S. Supreme Court](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Supreme_Court) decision, which originated as a lawsuit in St. Louis. However, de jure educational segregation continued into the 1950s, and de facto segregation continued into the 1970s, leading to a court challenge and interdistrict desegregation agreement.

St. Louis, like many [Midwestern](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midwestern) cities, expanded in the early 20th century due to the formation of many industrial companies and due to wartime housing shortages. It reached its peak population of 856,796 at the 1950 census. Suburbanization from the 1950s through the 1990s dramatically reduced the city's population, and although small increases in population were seen in the early 2000s, the city of St. Louis lost population from 2000 to 2010. Several [urban renewal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urban_renewal) projects commenced in the 1950s, and the city achieved notoriety for its [housing projects](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Housing_projects), particularly [Pruitt-Igoe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pruitt-Igoe). Since the 1980s, revitalization efforts have focused on [downtown St. Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Downtown_St._Louis), and [gentrification](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gentrification) has taken place in the [Washington Avenue Historic District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_Avenue_Historic_District_(St._Louis,_Missouri)). Because of the upturn in urban revitalization, St. Louis received the World Leadership Award for urban renewal in 2006.

**Geography**

Main article: [Geography of St. Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_St._Louis)

**Topography**



Rivers in the St. Louis area.

According to the [United States Census Bureau](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Census_Bureau), St. Louis has a total area of 66.2 square miles (171.3 km²), of which 61.9 square miles (160.4 km²) is land and 4.2 square miles (11.0 km² or 6.39%) is water. The city is built primarily on [bluffs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hill) and terraces that rise 100–200 feet above the western banks of the Mississippi River, in the [Midwestern United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midwestern_United_States) just south of the [Missouri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Missouri_River)-Mississippi confluence. Much of the area is a fertile and gently rolling prairie that features low hills and broad, shallow valleys. Both the Mississippi River and the Missouri River have cut large valleys with wide flood plains.

[Limestone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Limestone) and [dolomite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dolomite) of the [Mississippian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mississippian) [epoch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geologic_time_scale) underlie the area, and parts of the city are [karst](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karst) in nature. This is particularly true of the area south of downtown, which has numerous sinkholes and caves. Most of the caves in the city have been sealed, but many springs are visible along the riverfront. Coal, brick [clay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clay), and [millerite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Millerite) ore were once mined in the city, and the predominant surface rock, the *St. Louis limestone*, is used as dimension stone and rubble for construction.

Near the southern boundary of the city of St. Louis (separating it from [St. Louis County](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_County,_Missouri)) is the [River des Peres](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_des_Peres), practically the only river or stream within the city limits that is not entirely underground. Most of River des Peres was confined to a channel or put underground in the 1920s and early 1930s. The lower section of the river was the site of some of the worst flooding of the [Great Flood of 1993](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Flood_of_1993).

The city's eastern border is the Mississippi River, which also separates Missouri from Illinois. The Missouri River forms the northern border of St. Louis County, except for a few areas where the river has changed its course. The [Meramec River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meramec_River) forms most of its southern border.

**Climate**



The Captains' Return statue inundated by the Mississippi River, 2010.

St. Louis lies in the transitional zone between the [humid continental climate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humid_continental_climate) type and the [humid subtropical climate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humid_subtropical_climate) type ([Köppen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/K%C3%B6ppen_climate_classification) *Dfa* and *Cfa*, respectively), with neither large mountains nor large bodies of water to moderate its temperature. It is subject to both cold Arctic air and hot, humid tropical air from the [Gulf of Mexico](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gulf_of_Mexico). The city has four distinct seasons. Spring is the wettest season and produces severe weather ranging from tornadoes to [winter storms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winter_storm). Summers are hot and humid; temperatures of 90 °F (32 °C) or higher occur 43 days a year.

Fall is mild with lower humidity and can produce intermittent bouts of heavy rainfall with the first [snow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snow_flurry) usually falling before late mid-November. Winters can be cold and snowy with temperatures frequently below freezing. Winter storm systems, such as [Alberta clippers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alberta_clipper) and [Panhandle hooks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panhandle_hook), can bring days of heavy freezing rain, ice pellets, and snowfall.

The average annual temperature recorded at nearby [Lambert–St. Louis International Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lambert%E2%80%93St._Louis_International_Airport), is 57.1 °F (13.9 °C), and average precipitation is about 41.0 inches (1,040 mm). The daily average temperature in July is 80.0 °F (26.7 °C), while in January it is 31.8 °F (−0.1 °C), although this varies from year to year. Both 100 °F (38 °C) and 0 °F (−18 °C) temperatures can be seen on an average 2 or 3 days per year. The official record low is −22 °F (−30 °C) on January 5, 1884, although there were unofficial readings of −23 °F (−31 °C) on January 29, 1873; and the record high is 115 °F (46 °C) on July 14, 1954. July 2012 was the hottest month in the 138-year recorded weather temperatures in St. Louis history starting in 1874, with an average daily temperature of 88.1 °F (31.2 °C).

Winter (December through February) is the driest season, with an average 7.5 in (191 mm) of precipitation. The average seasonal snowfall is 18.2 inches (46 cm). Spring (March through May), is typically the wettest season, with 11.7 in (297 mm) of precipitation. Dry spells lasting one to two weeks are common during the growing seasons.

St. Louis experiences [thunderstorms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thunderstorm) 48 days a year on average. Especially in the spring, these storms can often be severe, with high winds, large [hail](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hail) and tornadoes. Lying within the hotbed of [Tornado Alley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tornado_Alley), St. Louis reigns as one of the most frequently tornadic metropolitan areas, and has an extensive history of [particularly damaging tornadoes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_tornado_history).

Some late autumns feature the warm weather known as [Indian summer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_summer); some years see roses in bloom as late as early December.

**Flora and fauna**



[Tower Grove Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tower_Grove_Park).

Before the founding of the city, the area was prairie and open forest maintained by burning by Native Americans. Trees are mainly [oak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oak), [maple](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maple), and [hickory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hickory), similar to the forests of the nearby [Ozarks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Ozarks); common understory trees include [eastern redbud](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_redbud), [serviceberry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serviceberry), and [flowering dogwood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flowering_dogwood). [Riparian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riparian) areas are forested with mainly [American sycamore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_sycamore).

Most of the residential area of the city is planted with large native shade trees. The largest native forest area is found in Forest Park. In Autumn, the changing color of the trees is notable. Most species here are typical of the eastern woodland, although numerous decorative non-native species are found; the most notable invasive species is [Japanese honeysuckle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_honeysuckle), which is actively removed from some parks.

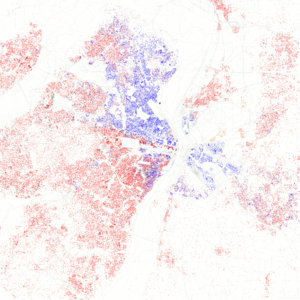
Large mammals found in the city include urbanized [coyotes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coyote) and [white-tailed deer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White-tailed_deer). [eastern gray squirrel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_gray_squirrel), [cottontail rabbit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cottontail_rabbit), and other rodents are abundant, as well as the nocturnal [Virginia opossum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virginia_opossum). Large bird species are abundant in parks and include [Canada goose](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada_goose), [Mallard duck](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mallard_duck), as well as [shorebirds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shorebird), including the [Great Egret](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Egret) and [Great Blue Heron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Blue_Heron). [Gulls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gull) are common along the Mississippi River; these species typically follow [barge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barge) traffic.

Winter populations of [Bald Eagles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bald_Eagle) are found by the Mississippi River around the [Chain of Rocks Bridge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chain_of_Rocks_Bridge). The city is on the [Mississippi Flyway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mississippi_Flyway), used by migrating birds, and has a large variety of small bird species, common to the eastern US. The [Eurasian Tree Sparrow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurasian_Tree_Sparrow), an introduced species, is limited in North America to the counties surrounding St. Louis. [Tower Grove Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tower_Grove_Park) is a well-known birdwatching area in the city.

Frogs are commonly found in the springtime, especially after extensive wet periods. Common species include the [American toad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_toad) and species of chorus frogs commonly called [spring peepers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spring_peeper) that are found in nearly every pond. Some years have outbreaks of [cicadas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cicada) or [ladybugs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ladybug). Mosquitos and houseflies are common insect nuisances; because of this, windows are nearly universally fitted with screens, and screened-in [porches](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Porch) are common in homes of the area. Invasive populations of [honeybees](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_honey_bee) have sharply declined in recent years, and numerous native species of pollinator insects have recovered to fill their ecological niche.

**Demographics**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Historical population** | | |
| **Year** | **Pop.** | **±%** |
| [**1810**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1810_United_States_Census) | 1,600 | — |
| [**1820**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1820_United_States_Census) |  | — |
| [**1830**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1830_United_States_Census) | 4,977 | — |
| [**1840**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1840_United_States_Census) | 16,469 | +230.9% |
| [**1850**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1850_United_States_Census) | 77,860 | +372.8% |
| [**1860**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1860_United_States_Census) | 160,773 | +106.5% |
| [**1870**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1870_United_States_Census) | 310,864 | +93.4% |
| [**1880**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1880_United_States_Census) | 350,518 | +12.8% |
| [**1890**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1890_United_States_Census) | 451,770 | +28.9% |
| [**1900**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1900_United_States_Census) | 575,238 | +27.3% |
| [**1910**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1910_United_States_Census) | 687,029 | +19.4% |
| [**1920**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1920_United_States_Census) | 772,897 | +12.5% |
| [**1930**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1930_United_States_Census) | 821,960 | +6.3% |
| [**1940**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1940_United_States_Census) | 816,048 | −0.7% |
| [**1950**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1950_United_States_Census) | 856,796 | +5.0% |
| [**1960**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1960_United_States_Census) | 750,026 | −12.5% |
| [**1970**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1970_United_States_Census) | 622,236 | −17.0% |
| [**1980**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1980_United_States_Census) | 452,801 | −27.2% |
| [**1990**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1990_United_States_Census) | 396,685 | −12.4% |
| [**2000**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2000_United_States_Census) | 348,189 | −12.2% |
| [**2010**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_United_States_Census) | 319,294 | −8.3% |
| **2012 (est.)** | 318,172 | −0.4% |
| [2012 estimate](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmk) | | |



The racial makeup of St. Louis in 2010. (Each dot represents 25 people: red dots are Caucasian; blue dots, African-American; green, Asian; orange, Hispanic; gray, other.)

St. Louis grew slowly until the American Civil War, when industrialization and immigration sparked a boom, and it reached its peak population in 1950. That year, the Census Bureau reported St. Louis' population as 82% [White](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Race_and_ethnicity_in_the_United_States) and 17.9% [African American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Race_and_ethnicity_in_the_United_States). After World War II, St. Louis began losing population to the suburbs, first because of increased demand for new housing, and later, [white flight](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_flight).

According to the [2010 United States Census](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_United_States_Census), St. Louis had 319,294 people living in 142,057 households, of which 67,488 households were families. The population density was 5,158.2 people per square mile (1,990.6/km²). About 24% of the population was 19 or younger, 9% were 20 to 24, 31% were 25 to 44, 25% were 45 to 64, and 11% were 65 or older. The median age was about 34 years.

The population was about 49.2% [African American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Race_and_ethnicity_in_the_United_States), 43.9% [White](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Race_and_ethnicity_in_the_United_States) (42.2% [Non-Hispanic White)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-Hispanic_Whites), 2.9% [Asian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Race_and_ethnicity_in_the_United_States), 0.3% [Native American/Alaska Native](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Race_and_ethnicity_in_the_United_States), and 2.4% reporting [two or more races](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Race_and_ethnicity_in_the_United_States). [Hispanic or Latino](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Race_and_ethnicity_in_the_United_States) of any race were 3.5% of the population.

The African American population is mostly centered in the north side of the city (the area north of Delmar Boulevard is 94.0% black, compared with 35.0% in the central corridor and 26.0% in the south side of St. Louis). Among the Asian American population, the largest ethnic group is [Vietnamese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnamese_American) (0.9%), followed by [Chinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_American) (0.6%) and [Asian Indians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_American) (0.5%). The Vietnamese community is most prevalent in the [Dutchtown](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dutchtown,_St._Louis) neighborhood; Chinese are concentrated in the [Central West End](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_West_End,_St._Louis). People of [Mexican](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexican_American) descent are the largest Latino group, and make up 2.2% of St. Louis' population. They have the highest concentration in the [Dutchtown](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dutchtown,_St._Louis), [Benton Park West](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benton_Park_West,_St._Louis), and [Gravois Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gravois_Park,_St._Louis) neighborhoods. There are an estimated 70,000 [Bosnians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bosnians) in the metro area and St Louis is home to the only Bosnian-language newspaper in the U.S.

In 2000, the median income for a household in the city was $29,156, and the median income for a family was $32,585. Males had a median income of $31,106; females, $26,987. Per capita income was $18,108.

Some 19% of the city's housing units were vacant, and slightly less than half of these were vacant structures not for sale or rent.

In 2010, St. Louis' per-capita rate of online charitable donations and volunteerism were among the highest among major U.S cities.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **United States Census Population** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Year** | [1860](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1860_United_States_Census) | [1870](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1870_United_States_Census) | [1880](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1880_United_States_Census) | [1890](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1890_United_States_Census) | [1900](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1900_United_States_Census) | [1910](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1910_United_States_Census) | [1920](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1920_United_States_Census) | [1930](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1930_United_States_Census) | [1940](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1940_United_States_Census) | [1950](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1950_United_States_Census) | [1960](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1960_United_States_Census) | [1970](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1970_United_States_Census) | [1980](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1980_United_States_Census) | [1990](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1990_United_States_Census) | [2000](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2000_United_States_Census) | [2010](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_United_States_Census) |
| **Population** | 160,773 | 310,864 | 350,518 | 451,770 | 575,238 | 687,029 | 772,897 | 821,960 | 816,048 | 856,796 | 750,026 | 622,236 | 452,801 | 396,685 | 348,189 | 319,294 |
| **U.S. Rank** | 8 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 18 | 26 | 34 | 51 | 58 |

**Economy**

Main article: [Economy of St. Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_St._Louis)

The 2011 Gross Metropolitan Product (GMP) of St. Louis was $133.1 billion, 21st-highest in the country. According to the 2007 Economic Census, manufacturing in the city conducted nearly $11 billion in business, followed by the health care and social service industry with $3.5 billion, professional or technical services with $3.1 billion, and the retail trade with $2.5 billion. The health care sector was the biggest employer in the area with 34,000 workers, followed by administrative and support jobs, 24,000; manufacturing, 21,000, and food service, 20,000.

The rivers of St. Louis play a large role in moving goods, especially bulk commodities such as grain, coal, salt, and certain chemicals and petroleum products. The Port of St. Louis in 2004 was the third-largest inland port by tonnage in the country, and the 21st-largest of any sort.

**Major companies and institutions**

As of 2011, the St. Louis area is home to nine [Fortune 500](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fortune_500) companies, including [Express Scripts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Express_Scripts), [Emerson Electric](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emerson_Electric), [Monsanto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monsanto), [Reinsurance Group of America](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reinsurance_Group_of_America), [Ameren](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ameren), [Charter Communications](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charter_Communications), [Peabody Energy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peabody_Energy), [Graybar Electric](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graybar_Electric), and [Centene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centene).

Other notable corporations from the area include [MasterCard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MasterCard), [Citigroup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citigroup), [Microsoft](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft), [Bank of America](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bank_of_America), TD Ameritrade, BMO Harris Bank, [Cassidy Turley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cassidy_Turley), [Edward Jones Investments](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Jones_Investments), AT&T Communications, [Scottrade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottrade), [Wells Fargo Advisors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wells_Fargo_Advisors) (formerly A.G. Edwards), [Energizer Holdings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Energizer_Holdings), [Furniture Brands International](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Furniture_Brands_International), [Kerry Group](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kerry_Group), Post Holdings, Inc., [United Van Lines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Van_Lines) and [Mayflower Transit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mayflower_Transit), [Ralcorp](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ralcorp), [Hardee's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hardee%27s), and [Enterprise Holdings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enterprise_Holdings) (parent company of several [car rental](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Car_rental) companies). Health care and biotechnology institutions with operations in St. Louis include [Pfizer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pfizer), the [Donald Danforth Plant Science Center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald_Danforth_Plant_Science_Center), the [Solae Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solae_Company), [Sigma-Aldrich](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sigma-Aldrich), and [Multidata Systems International](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multidata_Systems_International). [General Motors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Motors) makes railroad cars in the area, although [Chrysler](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chrysler) closed its production facility in nearby [Fenton, Missouri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fenton,_Missouri).

Several once-independent pillars of the local economy have been purchased by other corporations. Among them are [Anheuser-Busch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anheuser-Busch), purchased by [Belgium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belgium)-based [InBev](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/InBev); [McDonnell Douglas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McDonnell_Douglas), whose operations are now part of [Boeing Defense, Space & Security](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boeing_Defense,_Space_%26_Security); [Mallinckrodt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mallinckrodt), purchased by [Tyco International](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tyco_International); and [Ralston Purina](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ralston_Purina), now a wholly owned subsidiary of [Nestle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nestle). The [May Department Stores Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/May_Department_Stores_Company) (which owned [Famous-Barr](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Famous-Barr) and [Marshall Field's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marshall_Field%27s) stores) was purchased by [Federated Department Stores](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federated_Department_Stores), which has its regional headquarters in the area.

The [Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Reserve_Bank_of_St._Louis) in downtown is one of two federal reserve banks in Missouri.

**Culture**

Main article: [Culture of St. Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture_of_St._Louis)

With its French past and numerous Catholic immigrants in the 19th and 20th centuries, St. Louis is a major center of [Roman Catholicism in the United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholicism_in_the_United_States). St. Louis also boasts the largest [Ethical Culture Society](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethical_Society) in the United States. Several places of worship in the city also are noteworthy, such as the [Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cathedral_Basilica_of_Saint_Louis), home of the world's largest mosaic installation.

Other locally notable churches include the [Basilica of St. Louis, King of France](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basilica_of_St._Louis,_King_of_France), the oldest Roman Catholic cathedral west of the Mississippi River and the oldest church in St. Louis, the [St. Louis Abbey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Louis_Abbey), whose distinctive architectural style garnered multiple awards at the time of its completion in 1962, and [St. Francis de Sales Oratory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Francis_de_Sales_Church_(St._Louis)), a [neo-Gothic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neo-Gothic) church completed in 1908 and the second largest church in the city.

Many cultural attractions are located in the Greater St. Louis area, such as the [Gateway Arch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gateway_Arch) and the [Delmar Loop](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delmar_Loop). The city is also defined by music and the performing arts, especially its association with [blues](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blues), [jazz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jazz), and [ragtime](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ragtime). St. Louis is home to the [St. Louis Symphony](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Louis_Symphony), the second-oldest [symphony orchestra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphony_orchestra) in the United States, and until 2010, it was also home to [KFUO-FM](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KFUO-FM), one of the oldest classical music FM radio stations west of the Mississippi River.

Unique city and regional cuisine includes [toasted ravioli](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toasted_ravioli), [gooey butter cake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gooey_butter_cake), [Provel cheese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provel_cheese), the [slinger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slinger), the [Gerber sandwich](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerber_sandwich), the [St. Paul sandwich](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Paul_sandwich), and [St. Louis-style pizza](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis-style_pizza).

**Sports**

Main article: [Sports in St. Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sports_in_St._Louis)

St. Louis is home to professional [Major League Baseball](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Major_League_Baseball), [National Football League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Football_League), and [National Hockey League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Hockey_League) teams, notable collegiate-level soccer teams, and has hosted several collegiate sports tournaments.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Professional sports teams in St. Louis | | | |
| **Club** | **Sport** | **League** | **Venue** |
| [St. Louis Cardinals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_Cardinals) | [Baseball](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baseball) | [Major League Baseball](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Major_League_Baseball) | [Busch Stadium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Busch_Stadium) |
| [St. Louis Rams](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_Rams) | [American football](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_football) | [National Football League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Football_League) | [Edward Jones Dome](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Jones_Dome) |
| [St. Louis Blues](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_Blues) | [Ice hockey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ice_hockey) | [National Hockey League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Hockey_League) | [Scottrade Center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottrade_Center) |

**Professional sports**

The [St. Louis Cardinals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_Cardinals), one of the oldest franchises in [Major League Baseball](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Major_League_Baseball), have accumulated 11 [World Series](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Series) titles, with the most recent being in 2011, and two [Frontier League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frontier_League) teams (which is not affiliated with [Major League Baseball](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Major_League_Baseball)) play in the area, the [Gateway Grizzlies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gateway_Grizzlies) and the [River City Rascals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_City_Rascals). The [St. Louis Rams](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_Rams), an [American football](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_football) [NFL](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Football_League) team, play at the [Edward Jones Dome](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Jones_Dome) and have won one [Super Bowl](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Super_Bowl) championship. The [St. Louis Blues](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_Blues), a franchise of the [National Hockey League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Hockey_League), play at the [Scottrade Center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottrade_Center), and the region hosts [NHRA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NHRA) [drag racing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drag_racing) and [NASCAR](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NASCAR) events at the

**Amateur sports**

At the collegiate level, St. Louis has hosted the [Final Four](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Final_Four) of both the women's and men's [college basketball](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/College_basketball) [NCAA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NCAA) [Division I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Division_I_(NCAA)) championship tournaments, and the [Frozen Four](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frozen_Four) collegiate ice hockey tournament. Although the area does not support a [National Basketball Association](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Basketball_Association) team, it hosts an [American Basketball Association](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Basketball_Association_(2000%E2%80%93present)) team called the [St. Louis Phoenix](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_Phoenix). [St. Louis University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Louis_University) has won 10 [NCAA Men's Soccer Championships](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NCAA_Men%27s_Soccer_Championship), and the city has hosted the [College Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/College_Cup) several times. In addition to collegiate soccer, St. Louisans have played for the [United States men's national soccer team](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_men%27s_national_soccer_team), and 20 St. Louisans have been elected into the [National Soccer Hall of Fame](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Soccer_Hall_of_Fame). St. Louis also is the origin of the sport of [cork ball](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corkball), a type of baseball in which there is no base running.

**Parks**



Old footbridge in Forest Park

Main article: [Parks in St. Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parks_in_St._Louis)

*For parks in the region, see* [*Parks in Greater St. Louis*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parks_in_Greater_St._Louis)*.*

The city operates more than 100 parks, with amenities that include sports facilities, playgrounds, concert areas, picnic areas, and lakes. [Forest Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forest_Park_(St._Louis)), located on the western edge of city, is the largest park in the city, although it is not the largest park in the region. Another significant park in the city is the [Jefferson National Expansion Memorial](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jefferson_National_Expansion_Memorial), a [National Memorial](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Memorial) located on the riverfront in downtown St. Louis. The centerpiece of the park is the 630 feet (192 m) tall [Gateway Arch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gateway_Arch), designed by noted architect [Eero Saarinen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eero_Saarinen) and completed on October 28, 1965. Also part of the park is the [Old Courthouse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Courthouse_(St._Louis)), where the first two trials of [*Dred Scott v. Sandford*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dred_Scott_v._Sandford) were held in 1847 and 1850.

Other notable parks in the city include the [Missouri Botanical Garden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Missouri_Botanical_Garden), [Tower Grove Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tower_Grove_Park), and [City garden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citygarden). The Missouri Botanical Garden, a private garden and botanical research facility, includes the [Climatron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climatron), a greenhouse built as a [geodesic dome](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geodesic_dome). Immediately south of the Missouri Botanical Garden is Tower Grove Park, a gift to the City by [Henry Shaw](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Shaw_(philanthropist)). City garden is an urban [sculpture park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sculpture_park) located in downtown St. Louis, with art from [Fernand Léger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fernand_L%C3%A9ger), [Aristide Maillol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristide_Maillol), [Julian Opie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julian_Opie), [Tom Otterness](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom_Otterness), [Niki de Saint Phalle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niki_de_Saint_Phalle), and [Mark di Suvero](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_di_Suvero). The park is also divided into three sections, each of which represent a different theme: river bluffs; flood plains; and urban gardens. The park also has a restaurant – The Terrace View. Another downtown sculpture park is the [Serra Sculpture Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Serra_Sculpture_Park&action=edit&redlink=1), with the 1982 [Richard Serra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Serra) sculpture *Twain*.

**Government**

The city of St. Louis has a [mayor-council government](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mayor-council_government) with legislative authority vested in the [Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Board_of_Aldermen_of_the_City_of_St._Louis) and with executive authority in the [Mayor of St. Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mayor_of_St._Louis) and six other separately elected officials. The Board of Aldermen is made up of 28 members (one elected from each of the city's wards) plus a board president who is elected city-wide. The 2012 city budget is $938 million. It is scheduled to rise to $966 million in 2013. 236,253 registered voters lived in the city in 2012, down from 239,247 in 2010, and 257,442 in 2008.

**Local and regional government**

Municipal elections in St. Louis are held in odd numbered years, with the primary elections in March and the general election in April. The mayor is elected in odd numbered years following the United States Presidential Election, as are the aldermen representing odd-numbered wards. The President of the Board of Aldermen and the aldermen from even-numbered wards are elected in the off-years. The [Democratic Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States)) has dominated St. Louis city politics for decades. The city has not had a [Republican](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States)) mayor since 1949 and the last time a Republican was elected to another city-wide office was in the 1970s. As of 2006, 27 of the city's 28 Aldermen are Democrats.

Although St. Louis separated from St. Louis County in 1876, some mechanisms have been put in place for joint funding management and funding of regional assets. The St. Louis Zoo-Museum district collects property taxes from residents of both St. Louis City and County and the funds are used to support cultural institutions including the [St. Louis Zoo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_Zoo), [St. Louis Art Museum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_Art_Museum) and the [Missouri Botanical Gardens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Missouri_Botanical_Gardens). Similarly, the Metropolitan Sewer District provides sanitary and storm sewer service to the city and much of St. Louis County. The Bi-State Development Agency (now known as Metro) runs the region's [MetroLink](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MetroLink_(St._Louis)) light rail system and bus system.

**State and federal government**

St. Louis is represented by eleven districts in the [Missouri House of Representatives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Missouri_House_of_Representatives): all of the 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, and 84th, and parts of the 66th, 83rd, and 93rd, which are shared with St. Louis County. The 5th [Missouri Senate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Missouri_Senate) district is entirely within the city, while the 4th is shared with St. Louis County. St. Louis shares the 1st U.S. [Congressional district](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congressional_district) with northern St. Louis County. A Republican has not represented a significant portion of St. Louis in the U.S. House since 1949.

The [United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Court_of_Appeals_for_the_Eighth_Circuit) and the [United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_District_Court_for_the_Eastern_District_of_Missouri) are based in the [Thomas F. Eagleton United States Courthouse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_F._Eagleton_United_States_Courthouse) in downtown St. Louis. St. Louis is also home to a [Federal Reserve System](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Reserve_System) branch, the [Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Reserve_Bank_of_St._Louis). The [National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Geospatial-Intelligence_Agency) (NGA) also maintains major facilities in the St. Louis area.

The Military Personnel Records Center (NPRC-MPR) located at 9700 Page Avenue in St. Louis, Missouri, USA, is a branch of the National Personnel Records Center and is the repository of over 56 million military personnel records and medical records pertaining to retired, discharged, and deceased veterans of the U.S. armed forces.

**Crime**

Main article: [Crime in St. Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_in_St._Louis)

Since the mid-1990s, St. Louis [index crime](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Index_crime) rates have declined, although rates of violent crime and property crime in the city of St. Louis remain higher than both the state and [United States national averages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_in_the_United_States). St. Louis also frequently is ranked among the "most dangerous" in the country by [CQ Press](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CQ_Press), although these rankings are controversial and do not reflect the crime rate of Greater St. Louis. In 2012, St. Louis ranked at number 3, of the top 25 most dangerous cities in America, just behind Flint and Detroit.

**Education**

Main article: [Education in St. Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_St._Louis)

*For education in the region, see* [*Education in Greater St. Louis*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Greater_St._Louis)*.*

The 77 public schools in the city proper, the largest district in the region, are attended by more than 25,000 students and operated by [St. Louis Public Schools](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_Public_Schools), which is run by a state-appointed board. The city also has several private high schools, including secular, [Catholic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholic_school) and [Lutheran schools](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lutheran_school).

The city is home to two national research universities, [Washington University in St. Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_University_in_St._Louis) and [Saint Louis University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Louis_University), as classified under the [Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carnegie_Classification_of_Institutions_of_Higher_Education).

St. Louis is home to the Covenant Theological Seminary.

**Media**

[Greater St. Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greater_St._Louis) commands the 21st largest [media market](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Media_market) in the United States, a position it has held with little variation for more than ten years. All of the major U.S. television networks have affiliates in St. Louis, including [KTVI](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KTVI) 2 ([Fox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fox_Broadcasting_Company)), [KMOV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KMOV) 4 ([CBS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CBS)), [KSDK](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KSDK) 5 ([NBC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NBC)), [KETC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KETC) 9 ([PBS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_Broadcasting_Service)), [KPLR-TV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KPLR-TV) 11 ([CW](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_CW_Television_Network)), [KDNL](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KDNL) 30 ([ABC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Broadcasting_Company)), [WRBU](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WRBU) 46 ([MNTV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/My_Network_TV)), and [WPXS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WPXS) 51 [Daystar Television Network](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daystar_Television_Network). Among the most popular radio stations in the St. Louis area are [KMOX](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KMOX) (AM sports and talk), [KLOU](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KLOU) (FM oldies), [WIL-FM](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WIL-FM) (FM country), [WARH](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WARH) (FM adult hits), and [KSLZ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KSLZ) (FM top 40 mainstream). St. Louis also supports [public radio](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_radio) with [KWMU](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KWMU), an [NPR](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Public_Radio) affiliate, and [community radio](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community_radio) with [KDHX](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KDHX). All-sports stations, such as [KFNS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KFNS_(AM)) 590 AM "The Fan", [WXOS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WXOS) "101.1 ESPN", and [KSLG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KXFN) are also popular in St. Louis.

The [*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_Post-Dispatch) is the region's major daily newspaper. Other newspapers in the region include the [*Suburban Journals*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suburban_Journals), serving parts of St. Louis County, while the primary [alternative newspaper](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alternative_newspaper) is the [*Riverfront Times*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riverfront_Times). Three weeklies serve the African-American community: the [*St. Louis Argus*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_Argus), the [*St. Louis American*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_American), and the [*St. Louis Sentinel*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_Sentinel). [*St. Louis Magazine*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_Magazine), a local monthly magazine, covers topics such as local history, cuisine, and lifestyles, while the weekly [*St. Louis Business Journal*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_Business_Journal) provides coverage of regional business news. St. Louis is also home to the nation's last remaining metropolitan journalism review, the [*Gateway Journalism Review*](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Gateway_Journalism_Review&action=edit&redlink=1), based at [Webster University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webster_University) in the suburb of [Webster Groves](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webster_Groves,_Missouri). Furthermore, St. Louis is served by an [online newspaper](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Online_newspaper), the [*St. Louis Beacon*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_Beacon), which operates in partnership and shares facilities with [KETC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KETC) 9 TV.

**Infrastructure**

**Transportation**



A [MetroLink](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MetroLink_(St._Louis)) [light rail](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Light_rail) train in St. Louis

Main article: [Transportation in St. Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transportation_in_St._Louis)

*For transportation in the region, see* [*Transportation in Greater St. Louis*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transportation_in_Greater_St._Louis)*.*

The city of St. Louis is served by four [interstates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interstate_Highway_System) and several [U.S. highways](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._highways) and state roadways. Although there are no airports within the city limits, the city owns and operates [Lambert-St. Louis International Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lambert-St._Louis_International_Airport), located in northwest St. Louis County. [Freight rail](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freight_rail) and [passenger rail](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Passenger_rail) service operate in the city on tracks owned by [BNSF Railway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BNSF_Railway), with passenger service provided by [Amtrak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amtrak) and served at the [Gateway Multimodal Transportation Center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gateway_Multimodal_Transportation_Center) in downtown St. Louis. [Bus service](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bus_service), [light rail](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Light_rail), and [paratransit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paratransit) service in the city is provided by the [Bi-State Development Agency](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bi-State_Development_Agency), also known as Metro. St. Louis also maintains a [port authority](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_authority) for river shipping, and [taxicabs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taxicabs) are regulated within the city.

**Health care**

St. Louis is a center of medicine and [biotechnology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biotechnology). The [Washington University School of Medicine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_University_School_of_Medicine) is affiliated with [Barnes-Jewish Hospital](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barnes-Jewish_Hospital), the fifth largest hospital in the world, and the two institutions operate the [Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alvin_J._Siteman_Cancer_Center). The School of Medicine also is affiliated with [St. Louis Children's Hospital](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_Children%27s_Hospital), one of the country's top pediatric hospitals. Both hospitals are owned by [BJC HealthCare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BJC_HealthCare). The school's Genome Sequencing Center played a major role in the [Human Genome Project](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Genome_Project).

[St. Louis University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Louis_University) Medical School is affiliated with [Tenet Healthcare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tenet_Healthcare)'s [St. Louis University Hospitals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Louis_University_Hospital) and [SSM Health Care](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SSM_Health_Care)'s [Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cardinal_Glennon_Children%27s_Hospital). It also has a cancer center, vaccine research center and a bioethics institute. Several different organizations operate hospitals in the area, including BJC HealthCare, SSM Health Care, Tenet and St. John's Mercy Healthcare.

**Architecture and neighborhoods**

*Further information:* [*Architecture of St. Louis*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Architecture_of_St._Louis)*,* [*List of tallest buildings in St. Louis*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_tallest_buildings_in_St._Louis)*,* [*Landmarks of St. Louis*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landmarks_of_St._Louis)*, and* [*Neighborhoods of St. Louis*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neighborhoods_of_St._Louis)



St. Louis skyline in September 2008 from the air looking west.



St. Louis skyline in 2007 from [East St. Louis, Illinois](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_St._Louis,_Illinois) looking west. The large building on the right side of the arch is [One Metropolitan Square](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_Metropolitan_Square). The tallest building to its left is [One AT&T Center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AT%26T_Center_(St._Louis)). The tallest building on the right is [One US Bank Plaza](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_US_Bank_Plaza). The domed building to the left of the arch is the [Thomas F. Eagleton United States Courthouse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_F._Eagleton_United_States_Courthouse). The domed building beneath the arch is the [Old Courthouse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Courthouse_(St._Louis)). The cylindrical building to the left of the arch is the Millennium Hotel.

St. Louis possesses several significant examples of 19th century architecture, such as the early stone construction [Emmanuel DeHodiamont House](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmanuel_DeHodiamont_House), the [Greek Revival style](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_Revival_style) [Chatillon-DeMenil House](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chatillon-DeMenil_House) in the [Soulard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soulard,_St._Louis) neighborhood, the [Victorian era](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victorian_era) [Campbell House](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Campbell_House_Museum), and the [Wainwright Building](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wainwright_Building), an early [Louis Sullivan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_Sullivan) skyscraper. The city is divided into 79 government-designated neighborhoods. The neighborhood divisions have no legal standing, although some neighborhood associations administer grants or hold veto power over historic-district development.

**Sister cities**

St. Louis has 16 [sister cities](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sister_cities).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * – [Bologna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bologna), Italy  * – [Bogor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bogor), Indonesia  * – [Brčko](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Br%C4%8Dko_(city)), Bosnia and Herzegovina  * – [Donegal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donegal), [Co. Donegal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Co._Donegal), Ireland  * – [Galway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galway), [Co. Galway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Co._Galway), Ireland  * – [Lyon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyon), France  * – [Nanjing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nanjing), China  * – [Saint-Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint-Louis,_Senegal), Senegal | * – [São Luís, Maranhão](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%A3o_Lu%C3%ADs,_Maranh%C3%A3o), Brazil  * – [Samara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samara,_Russia), Russia  * – [San Luis Potosí](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Luis_Potos%C3%AD,_San_Luis_Potos%C3%AD), Mexico  * – [Stuttgart](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stuttgart), Germany  * – [Suwa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suwa,_Nagano), Japan  * – [Szczecin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Szczecin), Poland  * – [Wuhan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wuhan), China  * - [Yokneam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yokneam), Israel |

**See also**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | [***Geography portal***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:Geography) |
|  | [***North America portal***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:North_America) |
|  | [***United States portal***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:United_States) |
|  | [***Missouri portal***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:Missouri) |

* [Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Archdiocese_of_St._Louis)
* [Caves of St. Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caves_of_St._Louis)
* [Great Flood of 1993](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Flood_of_1993)
* [Heat wave of 2006 derecho series](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heat_wave_of_2006_derecho_series)
* [LaClede Town](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LaClede_Town)
* [List of Mayors of St. Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Mayors_of_St._Louis)
* [History of the Jews in St. Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_in_St._Louis)
* [National Register of Historic Places listings in St. Louis (city, A–L), Missouri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Register_of_Historic_Places_listings_in_St._Louis_(city,_A%E2%80%93L),_Missouri)
* [National Register of Historic Places listings in St. Louis (city, M-Z), Missouri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Register_of_Historic_Places_listings_in_St._Louis_(city,_M-Z),_Missouri)
* [St. Louis in the Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_in_the_Civil_War)
* [St. Louis smog episode (1939)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_smog_episode_(1939))
* [Neighborhoods of St. Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neighborhoods_of_St._Louis)

This page was last modified on 25 March 2013 at 09:17.