Missouri KIDS COUNT 2022
County Composite Ranks by Population Category

Missouri's counties are quite diverse, especially with respect to population. Our largest county, St. Louis, has just about 1 million residents, whereas the smallest county, Worth, has about 2,000 residents. To assist people with using the composite county rank, we divide Missouri's 115 counties into three categories based on population category: metropolitan, micropolitan, and rural. Missouri KIDS COUNT users have found it useful to look at ranks within these categories to make more meaningful comparisons about how counties ranked within a year.

The population categories are based on the Census Bureau's Core Based Statistical Areas (CBSAs), which consist of counties that are part of an urbanized area. A metropolitan area contains a core urban area of at least 50,000 in population, whereas a micropolitan area has an urban area of 10,000-49,999. Both metropolitan and micropolitan areas consist of the county that contains the core urban area, as well as any adjacent counties that have a high degree of economic and social integration with the core urban area, as measured by commuting-to-work patterns. In some cases, relatively smaller counties are classified as part of a metropolitan area, even though their own population is not especially large. Counties that are not part of a metropolitan or micropolitan area are considered rural for this purpose.

Note that the 2020 decennial census results will redefine CBSAs in future KIDS COUNT releases.

* Counties with less than 30,000 population that are still considered part of metropolitan area by the Census Bureau.

Micropolitan		
County	Rank in Micro Category	Rank in State
Ralls	1	1
Lewis	2	7
Clark	3	9
Pulaski	4	16
Adair	5	33
Saline	6	34
Phelps	7	35
Johnson	8	36
Marion	9	37
Nodaway	10	39
Schuyler	11	43
Pettis	12	71
Audrain	13	77
Taney	14	80
Laclede	15	83
Stone	16	85
St. Francois	17	90
Randolph	18	91
Scott	19	99
Dunklin	20	108
Howell	21	109
Butler	22	112

Metropolitan		
County	Rank in Metro Category	Rank in State
St. Charles	1	3
Platte	2	4
Christian	3	5
Cass	4	6
DeKalb*	5	11
Andrew*	6	12
Jefferson	7	14
Newton	8	15
Boone	9	17
Cole	10	18
Polk	11	19
Greene	12	20
Cape Girardeau	13	22
Franklin	14	23
Warren	15	24
Clay	16	26
Moniteau*	17	27
Osage*	18	29
Clinton*	19	32
Callaway	20	40
St. Louis	21	42
Jasper	22	47
Caldwell*	23	48
Lafayette*	24	52
Lincoln	25	54
Bates*	26	58
McDonald*	27	64
Ray*	28	65
Dallas*	29	67
Webster	30	73
Buchanan	31	74
Jackson	32	87
Bollinger*	33	95
St. Louis city	34	113

Missouri County Composite Ranks

By Population Category

Rural		
County	Rank in Rural Category	Rank in State
Perry	1	2
Atchison	2	8
Ste. Genevieve	3	10
Scotland	4	13
Chariton	5	21
St. Clair	6	25
Holt	7	28
Harrison	8	30
Gasconade	9	31
Macon	10	38
Howard	11	41
Lawrence	12	44
Montgomery	13	45
Dade	14	46
Cedar	15	49
Carroll	16	50
Camden	17	51
Sullivan	18	53
Livingston	19	55
Shelby	20	56
Maries	21	57
Mercer	22	59
Cooper	23	60
Miller	24	61
Grundy	25	62
Barton	26	63
Barry	27	66
Linn	28	68
Pike	29	69
Vernon	30	70

Rural		
County	Rank in Rural Category	Rank in State
Douglas	31	72
Carter	32	75
Gentry	33	76
Madison	34	78
Knox	35	79
Hickory	36	81
Putnam	37	82
Daviess	38	84
Crawford	39	86
Monroe	40	88
Iron	41	89
Wright	42	92
Mississippi	43	93
Stoddard	44	94
Benton	45	96
Morgan	46	97
Ozark	47	98
Dent	48	100
New Madrid	49	101
Oregon	50	102
Shannon	51	103
Wayne	52	104
Washington	53	105
Worth	54	106
Henry	55	107
Ripley	56	110
Texas	57	111
Pemiscot	58	114
Reynolds	59	115