

Missouri KIDS COUNT 2023

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 fewer than 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
Adair	1	5
Pulaski	2	7
Lewis	3	17
Johnson	4	22
Ralls	5	26
Schuyler	6	29
Saline	7	34
Nodaway	8	43
Phelps	9	46
Clark	10	55
Audrain	11	59
Marion	12	61
Pettis	13	69
St. Francois	14	72
Taney	15	73
Laclede	16	78
Stone	17	82
Howell	18	88
Scott	19	96
Randolph	20	101
Dunklin	21	102
Butler	22	106

Metropolitan		
County	Rank in Metro Category	Rank in State
St. Charles	1	2
Platte	2	3
Christian	3	4
Jefferson	4	6
Clinton*	5	8
Andrew*	6	9
Osage*	7	12
Cass	8	13
DeKalb*	9	16
Franklin	10	19
Boone	11	20
Polk	12	21
Greene	13	23
Clay	14	24
St. Louis	15	28
Ray*	16	30
Moniteau*	17	31
Cole	18	33
Lincoln	19	35
Cape Girardeau	20	36
Warren	21	38
Jasper	22	39
Newton	23	40
Lafayette*	24	44
Callaway	25	49
Webster	26	50
Caldwell*	27	58
Buchanan	28	65
Dallas*	29	67
Jackson	30	74
McDonald*	31	77
Bollinger*	32	84
Bates*	33	97
St. Louis city	34	114

Missouri County Composite Ranks

By Population Category

Rural		
County	Rank in Rural Category	Rank in State
Perry	1	1
Ste. Genevieve	2	10
Howard	3	11
Atchison	4	14
Gasconade	5	15
Worth	6	18
Chariton	7	25
Mercer	8	27
Maries	9	32
Shelby	10	37
Camden	11	41
Cooper	12	42
Madison	13	45
Barton	14	47
Lawrence	15	48
Harrison	16	51
Macon	17	52
Monroe	18	53
Pike	19	54
Linn	20	56
Putnam	21	57
Hickory	22	60
Cedar	23	62
Sullivan	24	63
Carroll	25	64
Grundy	26	66
Montgomery	27	68
Livingston	28	70
Miller	29	71
St. Clair	30	75

Rural		
County	Rank in Rural Category	Rank in State
Benton	31	76
Daviess	32	79
Knox	33	80
Vernon	34	81
Douglas	35	83
Gentry	36	85
Crawford	37	86
Dent	38	87
Scotland	39	89
Morgan	40	90
Stoddard	41	91
Barry	42	92
Reynolds	43	93
Wright	44	94
Henry	45	95
Iron	46	98
Dade	47	99
Texas	48	100
Ozark	49	103
New Madrid	50	104
Ripley	51	105
Washington	52	107
Carter	53	108
Holt	54	109
Mississippi	55	110
Oregon	56	111
Pemiscot	57	112
Shannon	58	113
Wayne	59	115