County Composite Ranks

Missouri KIDS COUNT 2025

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.

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

Metropolitan

County	Rank in Category	Rank in State
St. Charles	1	2
Osage*	2	5
Christian	3	6
Andrew*	4	7
Platte	5	9
Moniteau*	6	10
Clinton*	7	14
Caldwell*	8	15
Clay	9	16
DeKalb*	10	17
Howard*	11	19
Jefferson	12	20
Greene	13	25
Lincoln	14	26
Franklin	15	30
Dallas*	16	37
Cass	17	38
Polk	18	41
Newton	19	43
Cole	20	46
Cape Girardeau	21	47
Warren	22	51
Lafayette	23	58
Bollinger*	24	60
Webster	25	61
Bates*	26	65
Cooper*	27	69
Ray*	28	74
Boone	29	77
Callaway	30	92
St. Louis	31	96
Jasper	32	102
Buchanan	33	106
Jackson	34	109
St. Louis City	35	115

Micropolitan

County	Rank in Category	Rank in State
Ralls	1	8
Lewis	2	11
Johnson	3	21
Nodaway	4	24
Adair	5	27
Marion	6	31
Pulaski	7	34
Schuyler	8	40
Phelps	9	50
Pettis	10	53
Taney	11	54
Howell	12	85
Laclede	13	87
Saline	14	91
Butler	15	95
Scott	16	97
Randolph	17	103
Audrain	18	105
Dunklin	19	107
St. Francois	20	110
Mississippi	21	114

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By Population Category

Rural				Rural		
County	**Rank in Category**	**Rank in State**		**County**	**Rank in Category**	**Rank in State**
Scotland	1	1		Barton	31	68
Clark	2	3		McDonald	32	70
Chariton	3	4		Cedar	33	71
Daviess	4	12		Ozark	34	72
Mercer	5	13		Monroe	35	73
Gasconade	6	18		Vernon	36	75
Douglas	7	22		New Madrid	37	76
Ste. Genevieve	8	23		Iron	38	78
Carroll	9	28		Madison	39	79
Knox	10	29		Benton	40	80
Macon	11	32		Putnam	41	81
Atchison	12	33		Barry	42	82
Dade	13	35		Harrison	43	83
Perry	14	36		Pike	44	84
Morgan	15	39		St. Clair	45	86
Holt	16	42		Dent	46	88
Shelby	17	44		Sullivan	47	89
Camden	18	45		Worth	48	90
Grundy	19	48		Shannon	49	93
Henry	20	49		Stoddard	50	94
Montgomery	21	52		Texas	51	98
Miller	22	55		Wright	52	99
Stone	23	56		Washington	53	100
Linn	24	57		Oregon	54	101
Crawford	25	59		Ripley	55	104
Maries	26	62		Reynolds	56	108
Gentry	27	63		Carter	57	111
Livingston	28	64		Wayne	58	112
Lawrence	29	66		Pemiscot	59	113
Hickory	30	67				