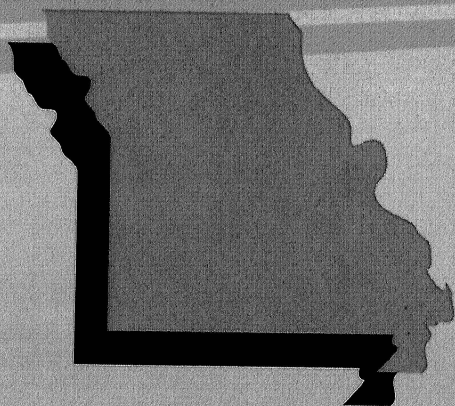


The State of Rural Missouri



**Perspectives on
Agriculture, Food and
Natural Resources**

Perspectives on Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources

This special report is one of a series (listed below) prepared for a project of the Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station (AES).

The project, called "Perspectives on Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources," was designed to identify and describe trends in Missouri Agriculture and Rural Missouri and to assess the implications of changes that are occurring. A purpose was to assist the AES in establishing priorities and planning programs.

These reports provide background information on the future economic, social, political and technical environment for agriculture. A second series of reports, now being developed, examines the challenges and opportunities facing selected industries and identifies some of the research needed to help Missouri agriculture achieve its potential.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS:

- SR486 The Social and Economic Organization of Missouri Agriculture, 1964–1992
- SR487 The State of Rural Missouri
- SR488 The Status and Potential of Missouri Agriculture
- SR489 Selected Characteristics of the Missouri Horticulture Industry
- SR490 The Status of Selected Natural Resources in Missouri
- SR491 Missouri's Food Processing Industry
- SR492 10-Year Agricultural Outlook
- SR493 Comparative Funding of the Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station

The State of Rural Missouri

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Introduction

The focus of this report is the “state” of rural Missouri. Few states can match the diversity of Missouri, where the four major cultural and geographic regions of the United States come together. The terms “back East,” “out West,” “Up North,” and “down South” have greater meaning if you are standing in Missouri than in almost any other state. Each of the major regions either begins or ends here, depending on your point of view. The Corn Belt, with its commercial farms and small towns, dips down to the Missouri River; the South, with its hills, timber, farms, and the recent Sun Belt growth of industry, retirement and population, comes as far north as the Missouri River. The West (or, to some, the East) begins either at St. Louis, St. Joseph, or Kansas City, depending on which period of history you choose and which direction you are heading.

Being so many different things, Missouri experiences in some way most of the changes and trends occurring in the nation. Diversity also means that no two parts of the state are exactly the same or confused with exactly the same problems and challenges. The patterns and changes described in this report show up in different ways in the Bootheel, the Ozarks, northwest Missouri, and Little Dixie. So while it is important for Missourians to know what has been happening in their part of the state specifically. One of the reasons why this report contains many maps is to show differences between counties and regions and, in many cases, to show how patterns have changed over the past 20 years.

Important changes have occurred in our state and nation during the past two decades. Many of these changes have been technological, either altering or promising to alter the jobs, careers, lifestyles and educational opportunities of many Missourians regardless of their occupations or place of residence. Some changes have been economic, influencing where and how people live. Other changes have been social, affecting the size and number of families, the lifestyles of older people and youth, and the quality of life in our communities. Most important, these changes have affected each other.

The information, data and graphics presented here portray a state at a crossroads, a state in transition. Very little in the state has remained stagnant through the 1980s and first half of the 1990s. By the same token, no part of the state has escaped the impacts of the trends included in the following pages—although in some regions growth has been a strong economic trend while in others there continues to be a decline in population numbers and the economy.

This report focuses on key patterns characterizing the state in terms of its population (including minority population), family, children, labor and employment, economy, income, poverty, housing, education, and health. This list is not compre-

hensive of all of the issues facing our citizens, but we do believe it covers those salient aspects of life that are of concern to most Missourians. We present information on key trends in each issue along with some maps and analysis of present and recent trends.

Individual readers may have their own ideas as to what is important about each issue and trend presented. We hope this report serves as a stimulus for discussion as much as it satisfies curiosity about the state's social, economic and demographic patterns. We cannot predict the future, but trust that an understanding of the present and recent past will help Missourians plan for what lies ahead. Whether a particular trend continues in the same direction as outlined in this report will depend in part on the decisions people make and the actions they take.

Preparation of this report required the cooperation and participation of many individuals. We would especially like to cite the contributions of Bruce Bullock, Daryl Hobbs, Leigh Ann Grant, and Mike Seipel. In addition, the efforts of the staff of the Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED) at the University of Missouri-Columbia were instrumental in the preparation of this document and the many figures and maps included. OSED is the premier institution in the state for information related to the trends identified in this report.

Population

In terms of social, cultural and physical landscapes, Missouri is one the nation's most diverse states. The midwestern north of the state, the Missouri delta area of the southeast, the Ozarks, and the inner cities and suburbs of St. Louis and Kansas City combine to create a state geographically centered in the middle of the nation and, in many ways, representative of the country's diversity. The state also serves as something of a microcosm of the nation in that it reflects such larger trends as rural depopulation and the growth of Sun Belt communities.

As of June 1, 1995, the population of Missouri was 5,305,803 residents, an increase of 188,730 over the 5.12 million counted in the 1990 census. While the state growth was a modest 4.4 percent during the 1980s (compared with a 9.8% increase for the United States as a whole), the rate of growth has been 3.7 percent over the past five years. According to 1995 population figures, St. Louis City with 973,895 people, has the highest county population, while Worth County, with a population of 2,440, has the smallest number of residents.

During the 1980s, the primary demographic trends in Missouri were out-migration

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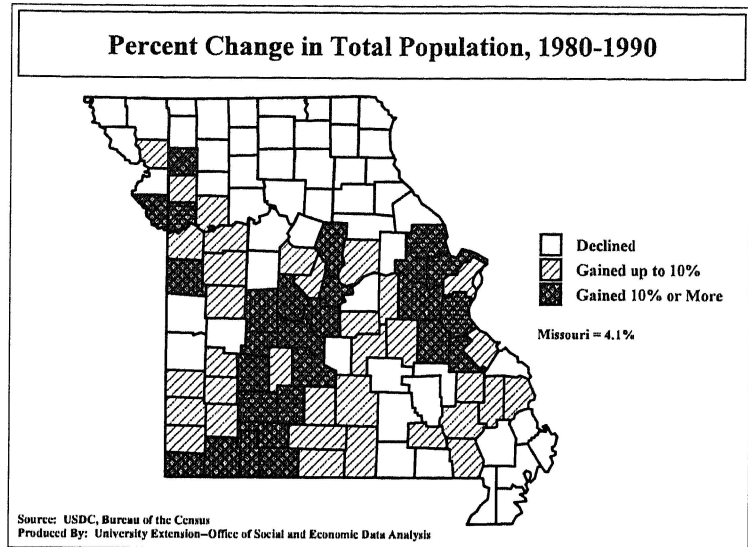
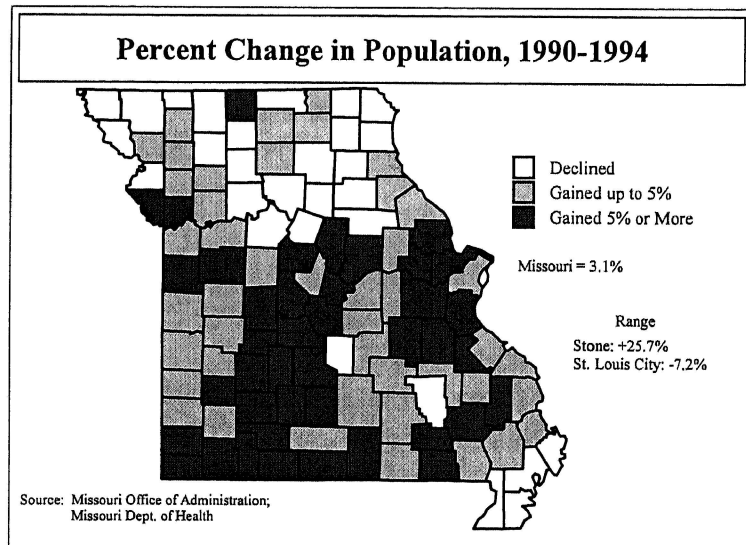


Figure 2:



from rural areas of the north and rapid growth in both urban/metropolitan counties and southern counties associated with recreation/retirement. Missouri's 22 metro counties, comprising more than two-thirds of Missouri's total population, grew at a rate of 5.4 percent during the 1980s, compared with a growth rate of 1.3 percent for non-metro areas. Twelve counties had population growth of 10 percent or more. St. Charles County, engulfed by suburban sprawl from St. Louis was the fastest growing county during the 1980s with a dramatic 47.7 percent increase. Population growth of 10 percent or more was also experienced by a band of counties stretching from Boone County down to the southwest corner. Camden County, the hub of the Lake of the Ozarks, and Taney County, home of Branson, experienced population increases of 37.3 percent and 24.8 percent, respectively.

The most striking pattern of population decrease during the 1980s occurred in the northern part of the state, where almost all of the non-metro counties lost population. Counties in the Bootheel and the southeast Ozarks region of the state also experienced declines during this period.

Growth in the state has also not been evenly distributed over the past five years. Stone County, for example, because of its proximity to Springfield, Branson and the Lakes area, grew by 31.08 percent while St. Louis City experienced a decline of 8.67 percent. Significantly, several counties in the

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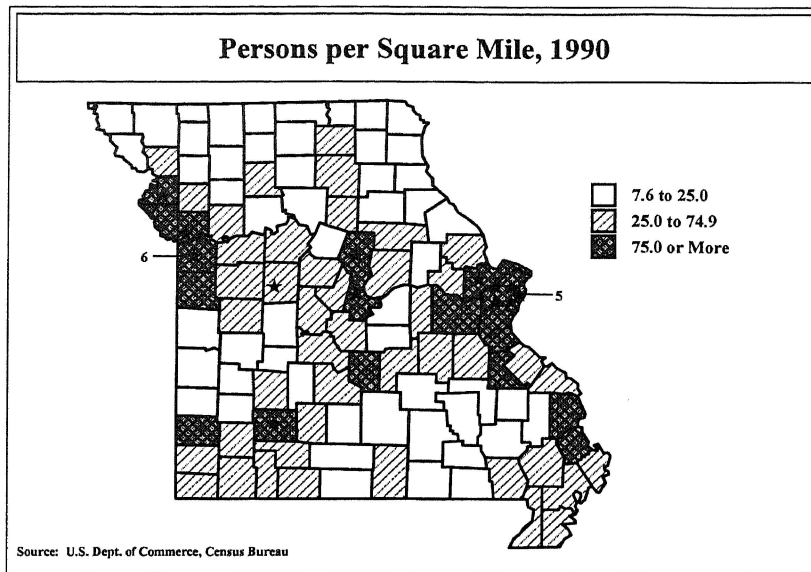
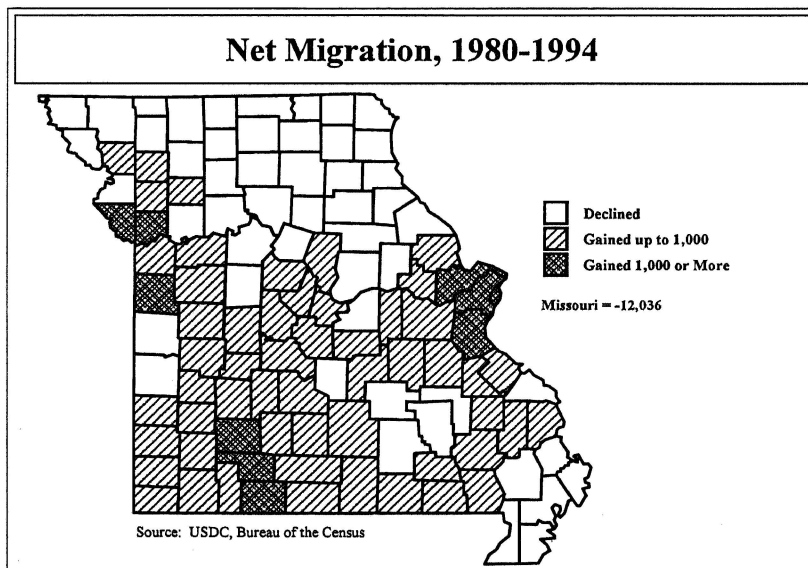


Figure 4:



economically depressed northern portion of the state reversed their downward trends of the 1980s and showed slight growth. With a population increase of 8.25 percent, Mercer County, in particular, experienced relatively strong growth. This reversal is most likely associated with a large hog production and processing operation that began in the region in 1989.

One way to understand the implications of population growth in terms of daily life is to consider population density. Missouri had an overall density of about 74 persons per square mile in 1990. However, 83 percent of Missouri counties had a density less than this average.

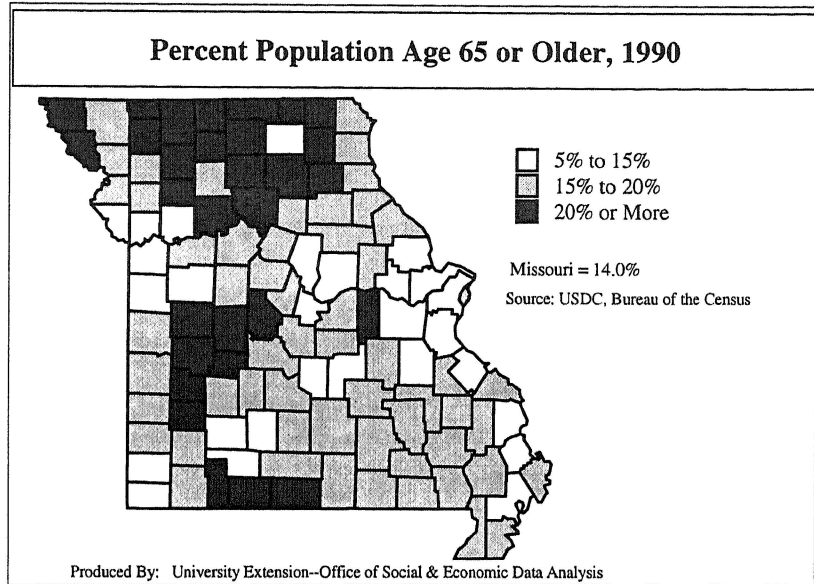
The 18 counties with a density of 75 persons or more per square mile are clustered around cities with populations of more than 20,000. In essence, while the urban areas continue growing, Missouri continues to maintain a large degree of its rural demographic character.

In addition to natural increases (births relative to deaths), migration is playing a significant role in the changing demography of the state. From 1980 to 1994, 12,036 persons migrated (net) out of Missouri. Ten counties, however, reported a net gain of 1,000 or more residents. Again, these counties are primarily in the rural southwest region of the state and adjacent to the large metro areas of Kansas City, St. Louis, and Springfield. At the same time, many counties in the rural northwest and southeast reported a net out-migration.

While the farm population represents only 3.5 percent of Missouri's total population, over 15 percent of the population in 26 counties lives on farms. Three counties have percentages over 25 percent: Knox (28.2%), Scotland (25.3%), and Chariton (25.2%). Throughout the farm crisis of the 1980s, many counties experienced tremendous decreases in their farming populations. Reynolds County, for example, had a decrease of 60 percent during the period between 1980 and 1990. Loss of economic viability, reduced school enrollments, and a larger proportion of elderly are some of the consequences of out-migration from rural areas.

The population of Missourians aged 65-85 increased by 8.4 percent during the 1980s, or double the rate of gain for the state as a whole. In 1990 this group comprised 14 percent of the total population. The elderly population has increased significantly in the recreation/retirement areas of the Lake of the Ozarks and Branson. This increase is due primarily to the in-migration of retirees from out of state rather than the out-migration of younger populations as has occurred in north Missouri.

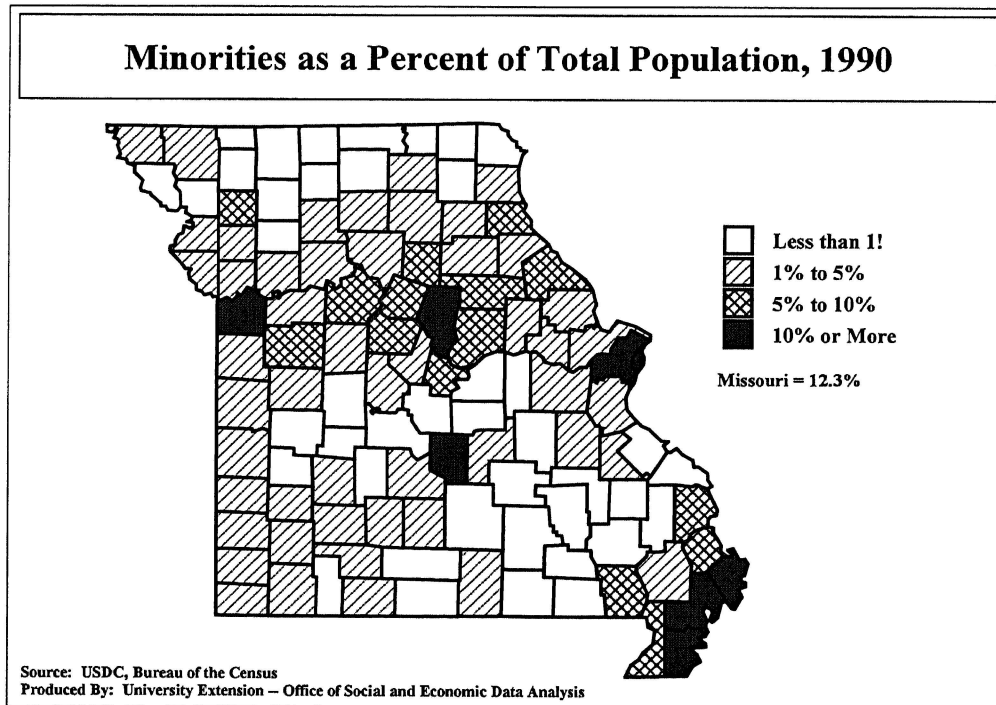
Figure 5:



The minority population in Missouri in 1990 represented 12.3 percent of the state's total population, compared with 11.6 percent in 1980. Nationally, minorities comprise 15.7 percent of the population. In Missouri, African-Americans comprise 86.7 percent of the total minority population. People of Asian (6.2%), American Indian (3.5%), and other races (3.4%) account for the largest percentages of the remaining minority population. People of Hispanic origin comprise 1.1 percent of the total Missouri population, although these individuals are not classified as minorities in terms of a differentiated race type in official census counts.

Because of the high concentration of African-Americans among the state's minority population, a few patterns of this group should be noted. Missouri's African-American population is, for the most part, centered around urban areas. In 1990, 85 percent of all African-Americans in Missouri were located in the metro St. Louis and Kansas City regions. Exceptions to this pattern, however, are found in the non-metro counties of the Bootheel where African-Americans make up between 10 percent (Dunklin) and 26 percent (Pemiscot) of county populations. The proportion of minorities is also higher in Pulaski County (20%), site of the military installation Fort Leonard Wood. In addition to the three non-metro counties in which minorities comprise at least 20 percent or more of the population, there are 15 counties, mostly in mid-Missouri, in which minorities represent 5 to 10 percent of the population. Thirty-six Missouri counties have minority populations of less than 1 percent. These counties are concentrated in the southeastern Ozarks and the northernmost regions of the state.

Figure 6:



During the 1980s Missouri counties lost African-Americans, three counties had no change and 85 counties gained. The largest loss of African-Americans occurred in St. Louis City, with a decline of 15,496 persons during the 1980s. Due in part to out-migration from St. Louis City, adjoining St. Louis County had the largest gain of any county, with an increase of 41,935. Among rural counties, the counties of the Bootheel experienced some of the largest losses in the 1980s, including New Madrid (loss of 304, or 8.3 percent), Pemiscot (loss of 933, or 14.3 percent), and Stoddard (loss of 151, or 36.4 percent).

Figure 7:

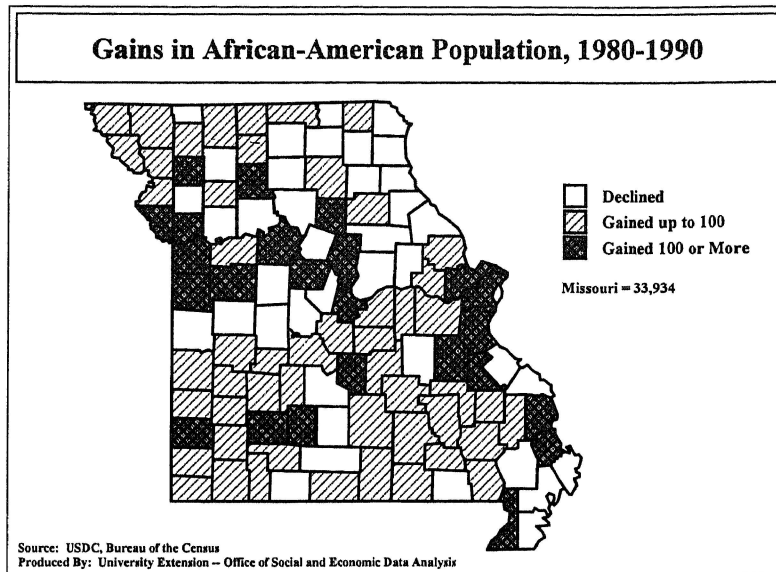
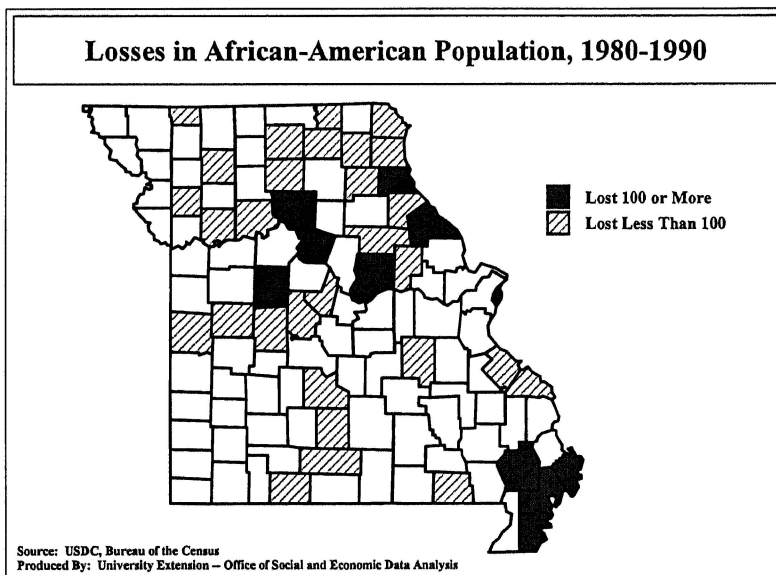


Figure 8:



Family

The family remains the primary social unit of communities, with over 84 percent of all Missourians living in family units. At the same time, the nature of these units continues to change, and these transformations pose new challenges to family members, communities, social agencies, and local and state institutions.

Between 1980 and 1990 the percentages of Missourians living in families declined from 86 percent to 84 percent while the total number of families increased roughly 0.5 percent to 1,378,020 and the number of total households increased by 11 percent. The latter figure reflects especially an increase in older single-person households and young people living on their own. New households, more so than population increases, add to the demand for goods and services.

Missouri family size continues to decline, the number of single-parent families continues to rise, and marriage is occurring later in life for more residents. The average number of persons per household has been dropping for the past 40 years. Between 1980 and 1990 the average decreased from 2.67 to 2.19 persons, the largest decade decline ever recorded. This decrease is

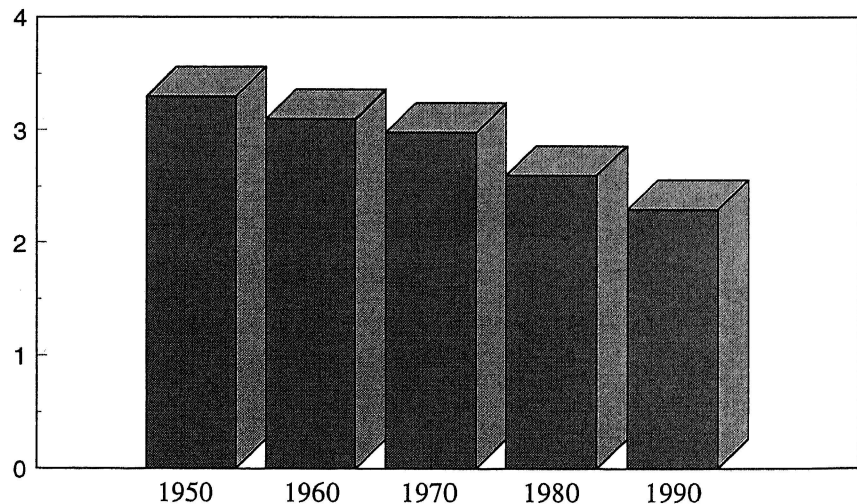
Table 1: Missouri Household Types

	1980	1990
Total population	4,916,686	5,117,073
Percent in families	86%	84%
Total families	1,315,955	1,378,020
Proportion of households by type:		
Married couples		
with kids	30.6%	26.4%
without kids	31.6%	30.9%
Single head of household		
with kids	6.2%	7.3%
without kids	5.0%	5.7%
Nonfamily households	26.7%	29.7%
Total households	1,794,872	1,961,364

Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census

Figure 9:

Number of Persons per Household 1950-1990



Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census

due to a number of factors, including a continuing high divorce rate, households maintained by older persons, and smaller families.

Missouri households now include fewer families with children (33.7%) than without children (36.6%). Further, the number of single-parent households has increased by almost one-third between 1980 and 1990. In 1990, 75.8 percent of all children lived with married couples; of the remaining children, about 84 percent lived with a female householder and the remainder with a male householder. There are now 17 counties in which single-parent families are at least 22 percent of all households with children. These include the state's most urban counties as well as eight counties in south-east Missouri.

Of the 79,135 births in Missouri in 1990, more than 26,000 (28.6%) were to unmarried mothers and almost 6,000 (7.3%) were to mothers under the age of eighteen. Counties in which at least 25 percent of all births are to unmarried mothers are interspersed through the central portion of the state and concentrated in the southeast Ozarks and the Bootheel. In 1993 almost 8,000 children (11 percent of all births) were to single teens, including almost one-quarter of

Figure 10:

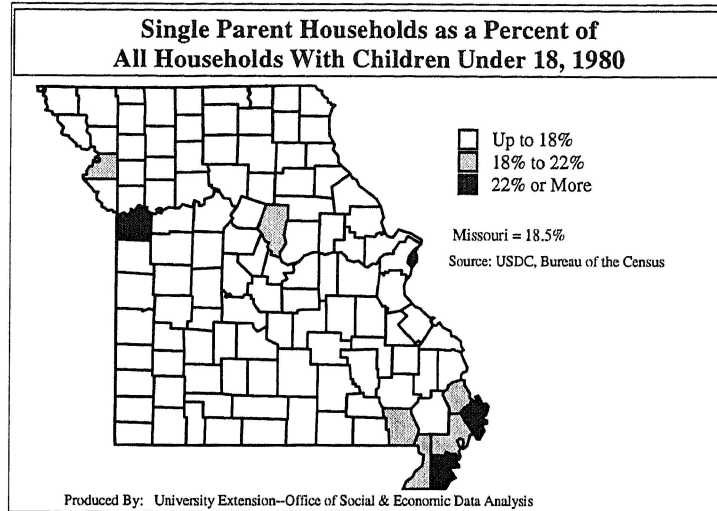
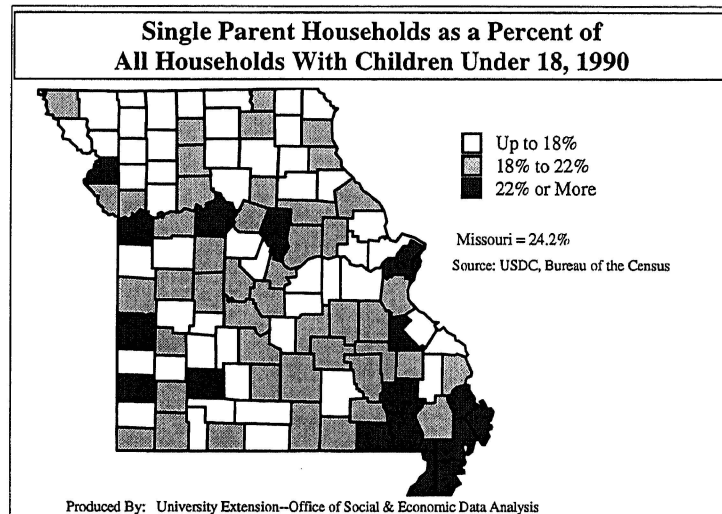


Figure 11:



minority births. These figures represent increasing risk for mothers and children who, because of lack of social support, education, and income, are less likely to receive adequate medical care and more to have financial and other problems related to early childhood care.

Finally, while marriage remains the most common family unit, Missourians are getting married later. In 1992, 49 percent of men and 33 percent of women were age 25 or older when they first married. For both genders, these numbers represent a 50 percent increase from 1983. Later marriages typically contribute to lower birth and divorce rates. Missouri divorce rates have been fairly stable over the past 10 years at around 5 per 1,000 population per year.

Figure 12:

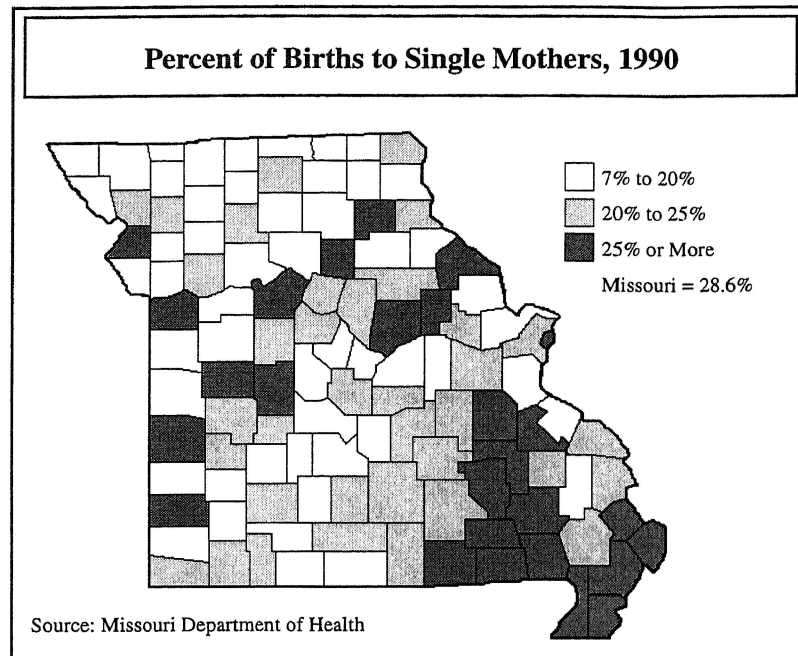
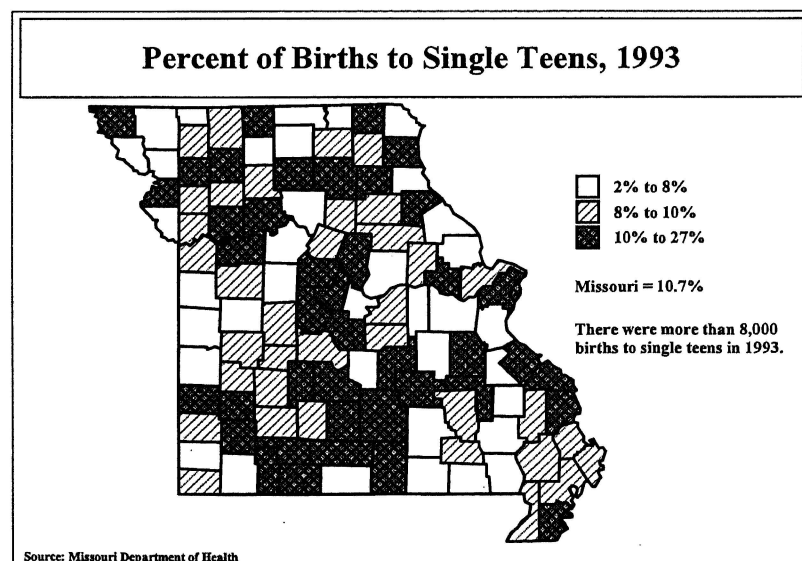


Figure 13:

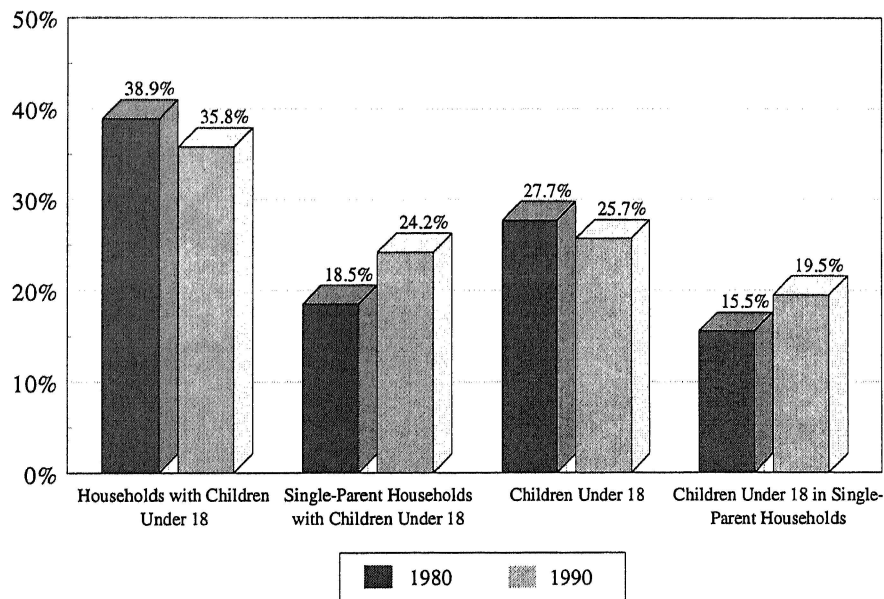


Children

In 1990 Missouri's 1,314,826 children (under age 18) comprised approximately 26 percent of the state's total population. This is a slight decrease from 1980, when children accounted for roughly 28 percent of the population. In 1990 children resided in 701,526 households (36% of all households), whereas, 10 years earlier 39 percent of Missouri households had children under 18. Thus, there are fewer children living in fewer households. Future projections forecast a trend toward slightly fewer children in the state even as the state's overall population continues to increase. Overall, the number is expected to decline to 1,300,000 by the year 2020. Only in developing urban counties (e.g., Boone, Christian, St. Charles) is the number of children under age 18 expected to increase significantly.

Figure 14:

Total Number of Children and Percent of Total in Single-Parent Households



Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census

One of the key factors related to child welfare is the issue of poverty. In 1980, 195,837 (14.6%) children lived below the poverty line. By 1990 this figure had risen to 224,532 (17.4%) despite a 3.5 percent decline in the total number of children. The number of counties in which 20 percent or more of the children live below the poverty level has grown from 41 in 1979 to 65 a decade later. Although distributed around the state, much of the increase in the number of low-income children occurred in non-metro counties located in the north and southeastern portions of the state. During the 1980s, the rate of poverty among rural children increased by 3.8 percent, compared with a 2.3 percent increase for urban children. Geographically, the incidence of poverty in low-income children continues to be concentrated in southeast Missouri. With approximately half of its under-18 population living below the poverty level, Pemiscott County in the Bootheel region has the highest poverty rate for children.

Although the issue of children in poverty is related to a variety of interrelated causes and phenomena, some issues seem particularly relevant. First is the relationship between poverty and family structure. While 24 percent of the state's families are

Figure 15:

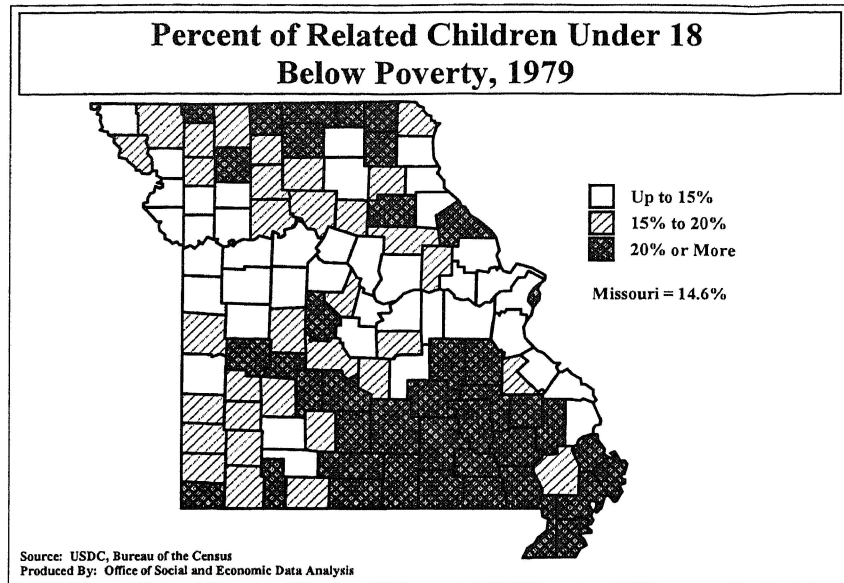
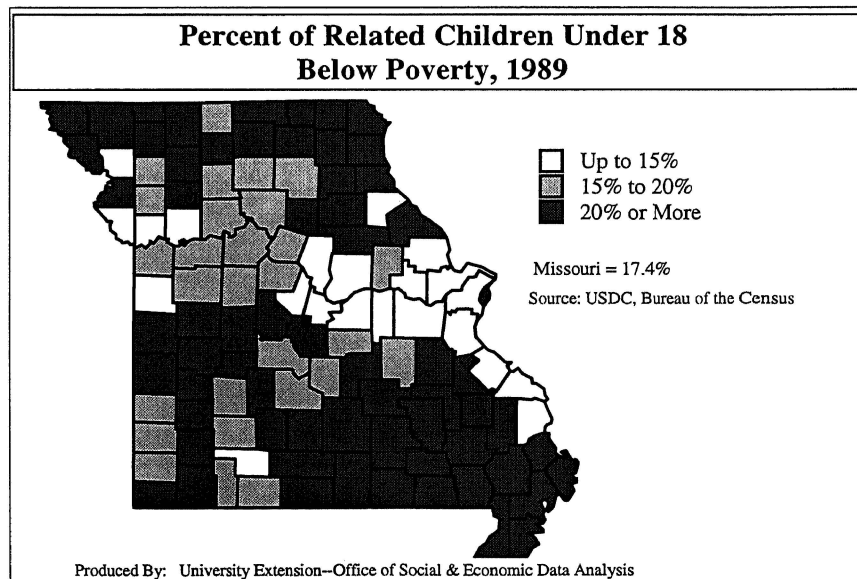


Figure 16:



single-parent units, these households include 58 percent of the children living below the poverty line. In contrast, 41 percent of children living below the government's poverty level reside in married couple households. This means that, proportionally, children in single-parent homes have a greater likelihood of experiencing the hardships of poverty.

Over time, this risk has increased with the overall rise in the number of single-parent households. Since 1970 there has been a 71 percent increase in the number of children living in single-parent households. From 1980 to 1990 all Missouri's counties experienced an increase in the rate of single-parent households. In 1990 single-parent households made up 22 percent or more of all households in 18 Missouri counties, up from four counties a decade earlier.

Labor and Employment

In 1990, 2,541,352 Missourians were employed in full-time occupations, an addition of 526,870 jobs from 1980. The greatest growth in total employment occurred around the population and trade centers of St. Louis and Kansas City.

The southwestern and south-central portions, especially around Springfield, Branson and the Lake of the Ozark counties, also experienced an upsurge in employment over the decade. For the most part, increases in these latter regions can be attributed to growing tourism and recreation industries, as well as success in attracting retirees and industries that provide services to the elderly. Conversely, several counties dependent on natural resources experienced a decline in employment during the 1980s. Thirteen of the 16 counties losing jobs are located in the northern, agricultural half of the state.

Between 1980 and 1991, the overall unemployment rate in Missouri declined slightly from 7.2 percent to 6.6 percent. Areas of the southeast region of the state experienced higher rates of both unemployment and underemployment, in part due to the decline of mining, textile and shoe industries in the area. Some

Figure 17:

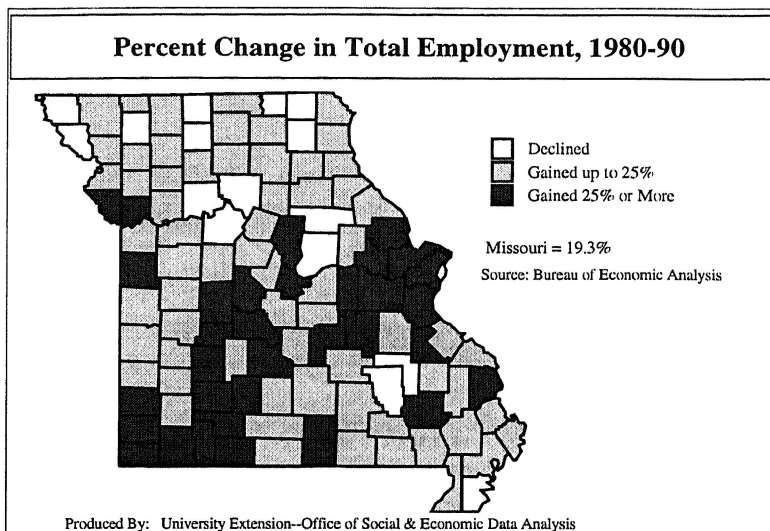
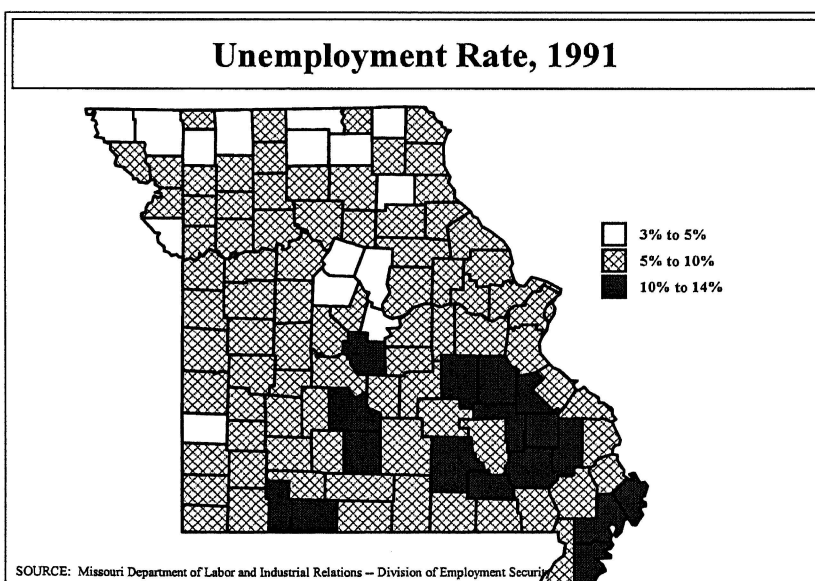


Figure 18:



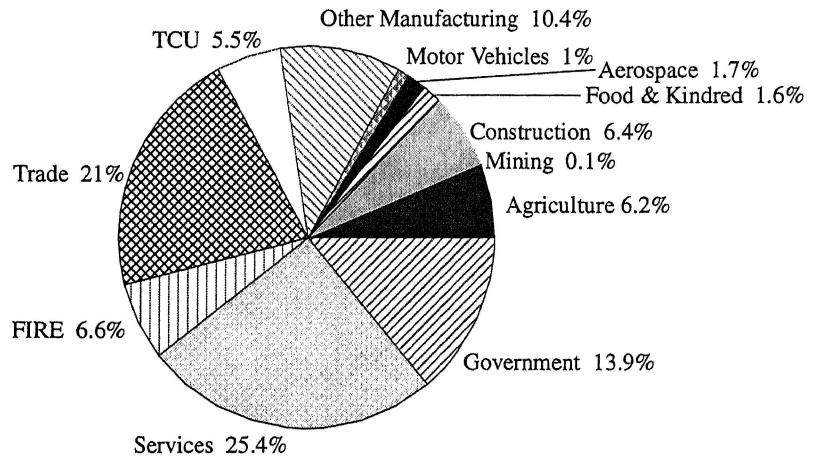
of the lowest unemployment rates in the state are found in the economically depressed farming counties of northern Missouri. This reflects the decrease of population in these regions and an out-migration of people in search of work rather than an increase in employment opportunities during the 1980s. The higher unemployment areas of the southeastern part of the state suggest a population less inclined to relocate.

The incomes and lifestyles of Missourians are varied and greatly associated with the sector of the economy in which they work. In 1990 the service sector provided employment for 772,659 Missouri workers, a figure representing more than a quarter of the state's total work force. Wholesale and retail trade accounted for 21 percent of Missouri employment, while manufacturing employed another 13.4 percent. Various levels of government employed 14 percent of Missouri workers. Production agriculture employed 189,596 people, 6.2 percent of total employment. Agricultural processing accounted for a smaller 1.6 percent of the employment total.

The 1980s witnessed a continuing change in the types of full-time employment held by Missourians. Mirroring national trends toward growth in service-related industries, the service sector increased by (18%) from

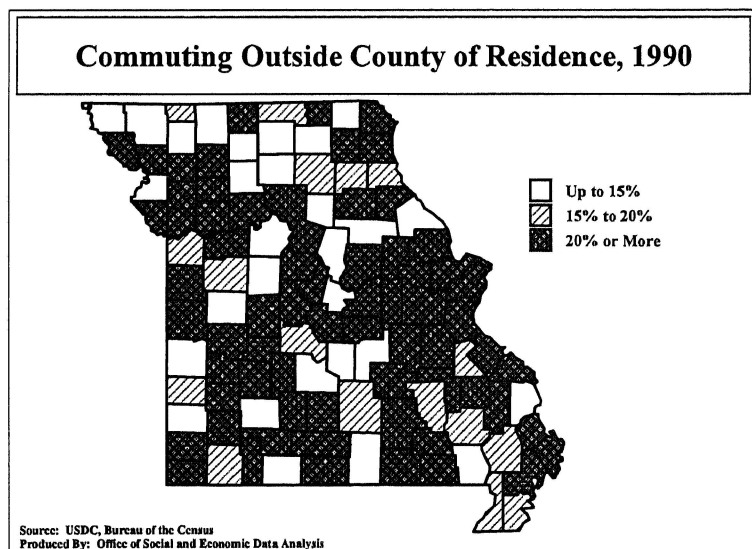
Figure 19:

Industrial Employment in Missouri in 1990
(values in millions of dollars)



Source: Curt Braschler & Bureau of Economic Analysis

Figure 20:



1980 to 1990. While the percent of people employed by trade remained constant over the decade, the percent of people employed by manufacturing declined by 13 percent. Those employed in agriculture, mostly farmers, declined by 29 percent during the 1980s.

Missouri's small and medium-sized businesses are distributed relatively evenly across the state with slightly higher representation near the large population centers of St. Louis, Kansas City and Springfield. As might be expected, a majority (70%) of the state's larger businesses are centered in the five counties surrounding these three cities.

The concentration of large employers in and near metro areas has in turn greatly affected the trend of workers commuting to jobs from other counties. The number of counties in which more than a quarter of the workers held jobs in another county rose by 61 percent between 1980 and 1990. The highest commuting counties in the state are now Jefferson, Cass and Andrew, with 60 percent of the workers in each county commuting to employment outside their respective counties of residence. Regions adjoining the recreational and retirement regions of the southeastern portion of the state have also experienced significant increases in external

Figure 21:

Missouri Civilian Labor Force, 1980-1990

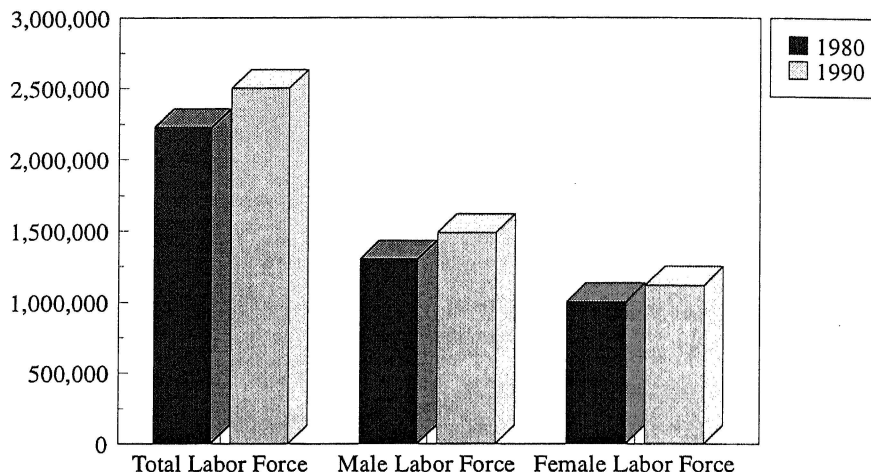
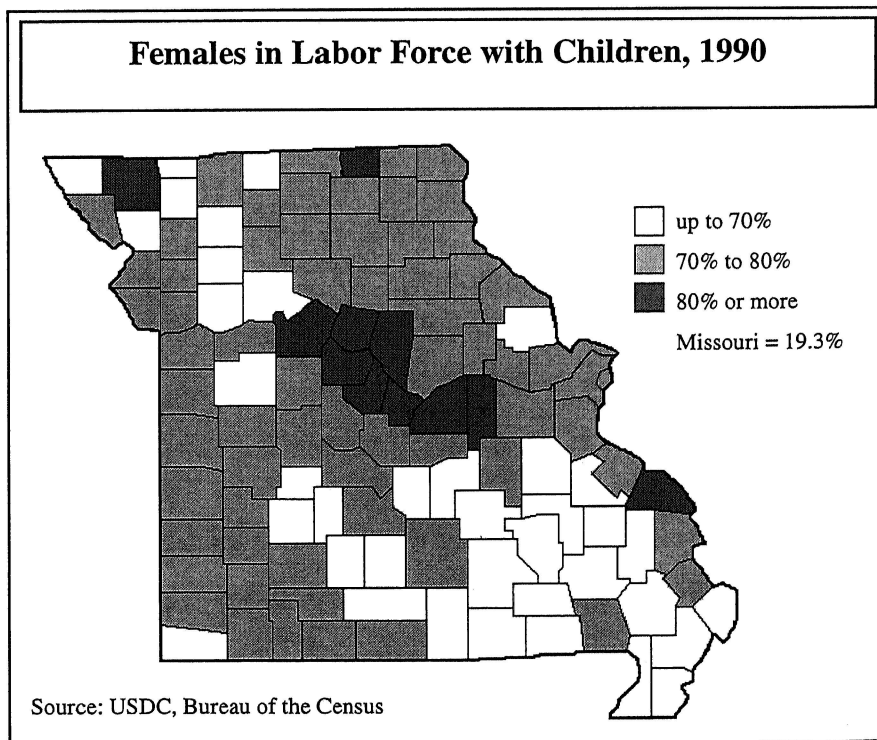


Figure 22:

Females in Labor Force with Children, 1990



work. These patterns may have a variety of impacts on local communities, including the concentration of retail shopping and health services in metro areas.

The changing patterns of employment for women in Missouri are particularly significant. Between 1980 and 1990 Missouri's population rose at a relatively steady rate of 4 percent and total employment increased by 19 percent. This latter increase is largely attributable to the introduction of more women into the labor force. From 1980 to 1990 the number of employed women in the work force increased by 197,462, compared with an increase of 61,831 for men. Overall, women now compose 46 percent of all employees in the state.

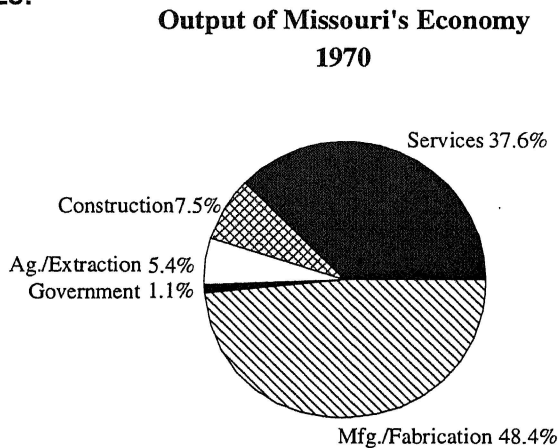
One result of this trend is that there are more working mothers. In 1990, 75 percent of all women with children in Missouri were in the work force (compared with 60% in 1980). This pattern is especially prevalent in mid-Missouri where, for example, the percentage of women in the labor force with children in Osage County increased from 61 percent in 1980 to 84 percent in 1990. The increase in working mothers not only indicates the changing role of women in society, but creates new challenges (e.g., for daycare) for families and communities.

Economy

The overall Missouri economy has grown significantly since 1970 when total sales totaled \$82 billion. From 1970 to 1980 total sales increased 16 percent. In spite of recession years during the 1980s, total sales in Missouri's economy increased 22 percent, from \$95 billion to \$116 billion. The composition of the state economy's output, as measured in total sales, has changed considerably over the past two decades. During the 1970s, and in part reflective of national trends, the manufacturing economy declined by 53 percent while the service sector grew by approximately the same rate (55%). The government sector, the other major growth industry, increased from 1.1 percent of total economic output in 1970 to 10.5 percent in 1980. Construction and agriculture/extraction also experienced significant declines during the 1970s. The contribution from agriculture and extraction industries declined by one-third, from 5.4 percent in 1970 to 3.8 percent in 1980.

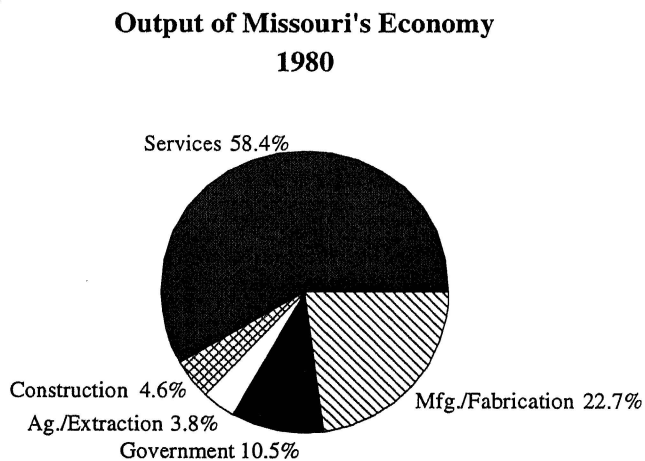
During the 1980s the composition of Missouri's industries and their relative contributions to the state's output have been more stable, although trends away from manufacturing, construction and agriculture are still

Figure 23:



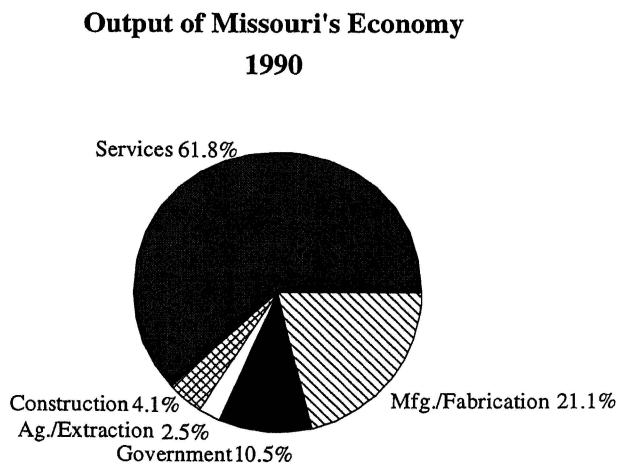
Source: Curt Braschler UMC, Department of Agricultural Economics

Figure 24:



Source: Curt Braschler UMC, Department of Agricultural Economics

Figure 25:



Source: Curt Braschler UMC, Department of Agricultural Economics

present, as is the movement toward greater reliance on the service economy. Despite a slight reduction in its contribution to the state's overall output, manufacturing continues to provide a vital function with its contributions to the overall export base (70%) and to value-added economic production (24%). Declining contributions from agriculture/extraction reached 2.5 percent in 1990, down from 5.4 percent 20 years earlier.

In 1990 aerospace and motor vehicle industries generated \$15 billion in total sales. Agricultural processing accounted another \$6.5 billion. Although, these goods-producing industries produced almost one-third of the state's export base, they employed only 4.3 percent of the state's labor force. As these economic sectors become increasingly efficient, they require fewer workers; and other sectors of the economy such as the services industry are becoming more important as sources of employment.

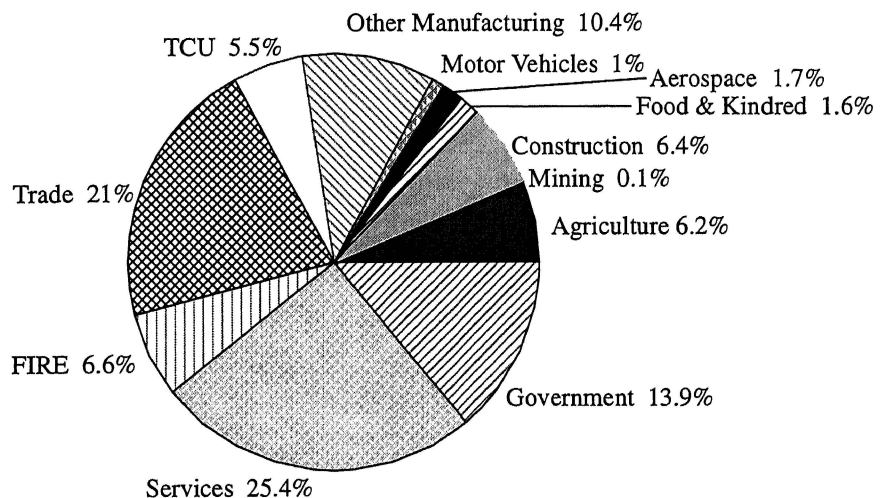
Value-added sales are those transactions concerned with the total value gained from transforming a product into a more finished state. Equivalent, in a sense, to the contribution of a specific industry to a region's gross product, value-added sales are an especially important component of the Missouri economy.

Manufacturing accounted for almost a quarter of Missouri's \$105 total value-added economic output in 1990. Other significant industries contributing to the state's value-added receipts include services (17.2%), trade (14.9%), and finance, insurance, and real estate (14.6%). Agriculture and agricultural processing provided a 5.5 percent contribution. For many struggling non-metro communities, value-added processing/manufacturing and accompanying higher wages are viewed as an important first step toward creating economic vitality and maintaining a more viable community.

Figure 26:

Industrial Employment in Missouri in 1990

(values in millions of dollars)



Source: Curt Braschler & Bureau of Economic Analysis

The assessed per capita value of Missouri's counties ranged from \$2,940 in Pulaski County to \$18,058 in Camden County. Large metro counties oriented toward industry (St. Charles, Platte), recreational counties (Camden, Taney), and counties with prime farming/resource extraction and declining populations (Pemiscot, Reynolds) have the highest valued regions. Low assessed values congregate in the south-central Ozark counties and seven counties north of the Missouri River that have fewer economic opportunities and low or declining populations.

Per capita retail sales reflect the distribution of the state's population, the growth of regional retail centers, and the decline of many businesses in small towns. Counties with cities larger than 50,000 residents, counties with smaller regional retail centers (e.g., Poplar Bluff, Kirksville and Hannibal), and a group of counties clustered around the Lake of the Ozarks tend to have a stronger retail sales market. Counties averaging less than \$5,000 sales per capita are clustered throughout the state. In these areas, county government budgets are smallest because of lower tax revenues and less income from various charges, fees and other services.

Figure 27:

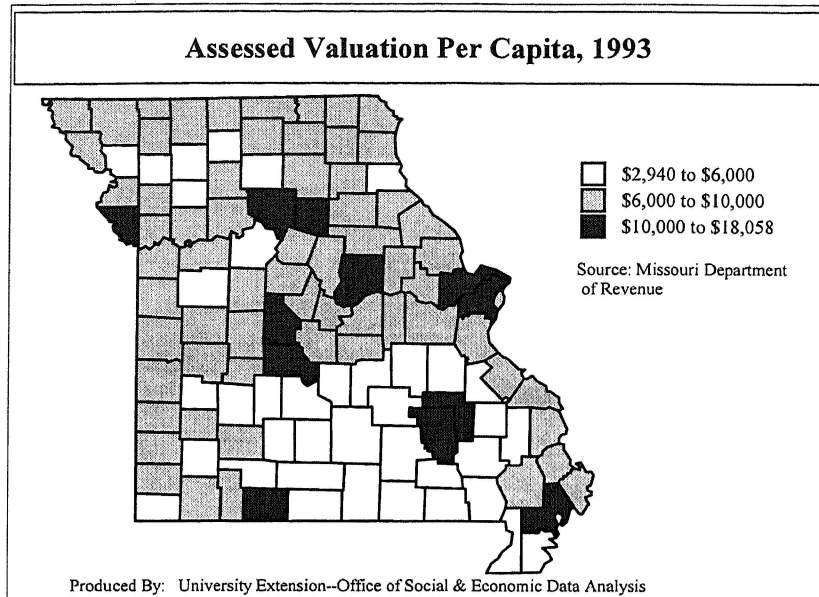
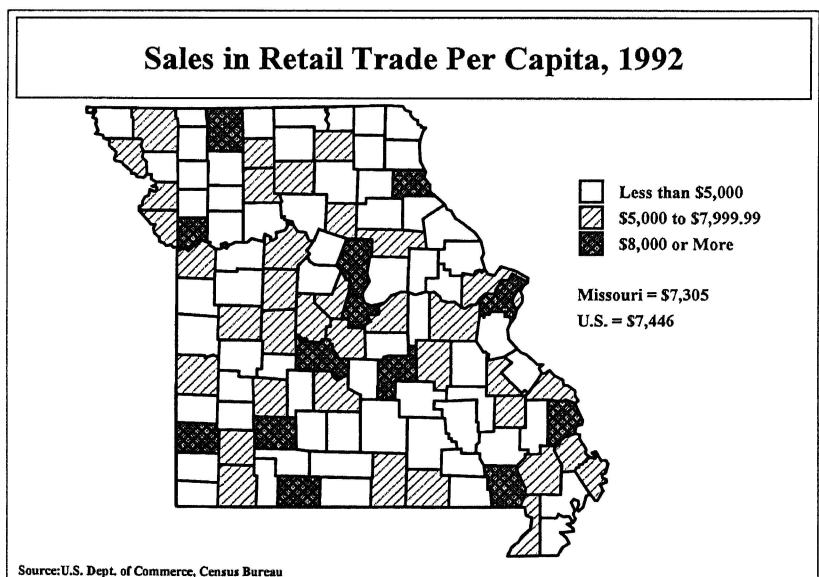


Figure 28:



Income

Per capita income in Missouri, adjusted for income, increased from \$15,796 (inflation adjusted) in 1982 to \$18,970 in 1992. This 19 percent increase compares favorably with a national increase of 18 percent over the same period. A wide income disparity exists among the state's counties, however, with St. Louis County having a per capita income of \$27,211, compared with \$10,653 for Shannon County. The populous metro counties of St. Louis, Platte, Jackson, St. Louis City and Clay have the highest per capita incomes in the state and are the only counties with per capita income levels above the state average. In general the counties with lowest per capita incomes are located in the Ozarks region of south-central and southeastern Missouri.

In 1989 the median household income for the state was \$26,362. Thus, half the households in the state made more than this amount while half made less. St. Charles had the highest median income at \$40,307. Oregon County, on the other hand, had the lowest median at \$13,705. Median household incomes on a county level tend to follow economic and population trends in different regions of the state. The 18 counties with medians of

Figure 29:

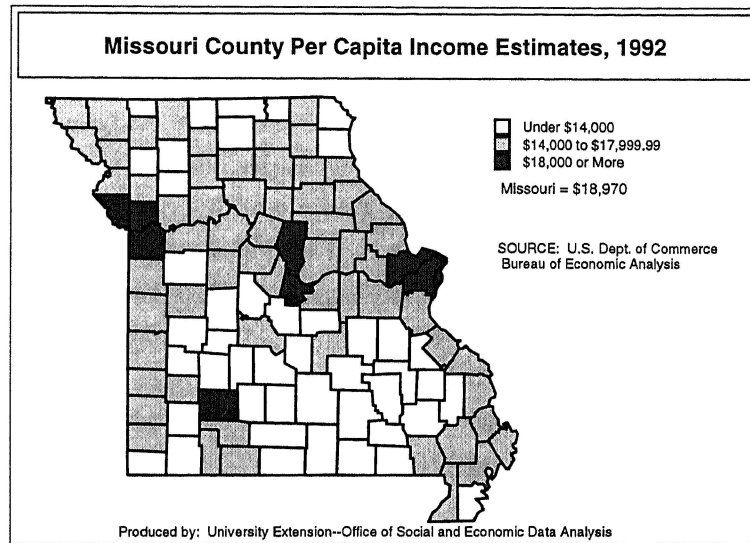
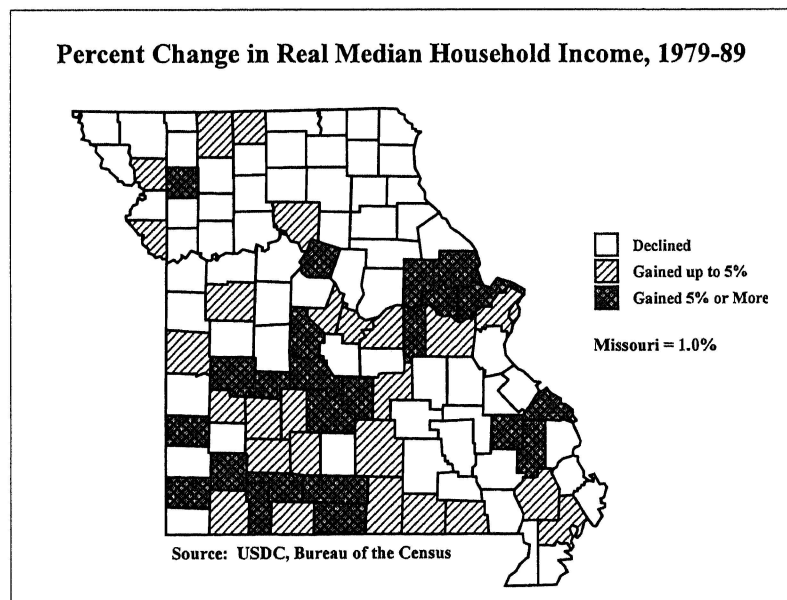


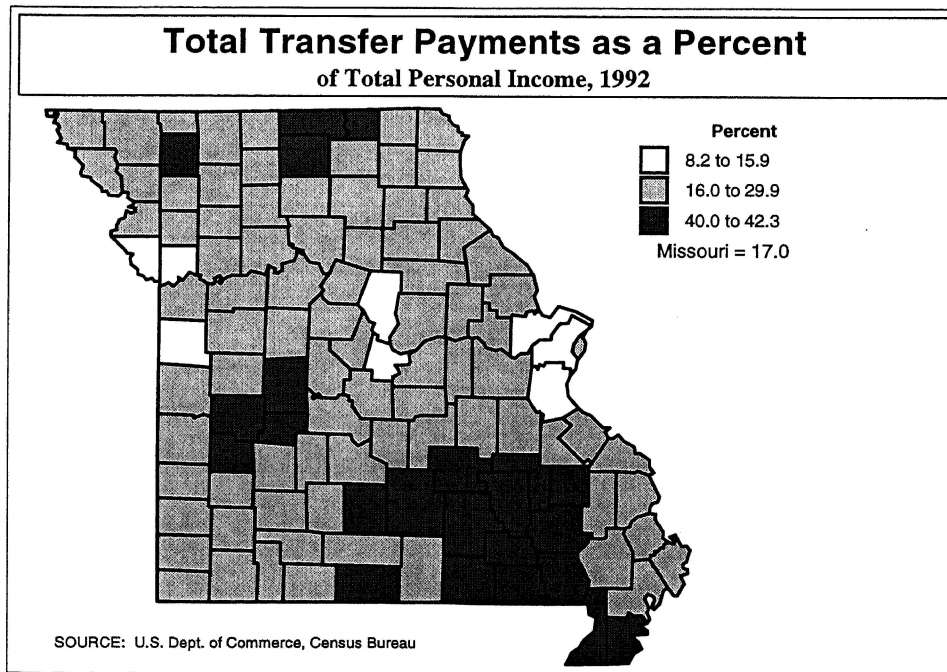
Figure 30:



\$25,000 or higher include the metro counties surrounding Kansas City and St. Louis, three mid-Missouri counties (Boone, Cole and Callaway), and Christian County near Springfield and Branson. The counties with the highest proportion of households earning at least \$50,000 are St. Charles County (35%), St. Louis County (34.6%) and Platte County (33%). Of the Missouri counties with medians less than \$20,000, the vast majority are located in agricultural counties in the north and the Ozark and Bootheel counties of the southeast. In three of these counties—Pemiscot, Wayne and Ripley—38 percent of households earn \$10,000 or less.

Median household income, adjusted for inflation, changed only slightly during the 1980s, increasing from \$26,114 in 1979 to \$26,362 in 1989. Although real median household income changed little over this period, the labor force increased by 19 percent, mostly because of the introduction of more women into the workforce. This would suggest that the proportion of two-income families in Missouri is rising out of necessity to maintain desired standards of living. Forty-eight Missouri counties had increases in real median household income during this period. The 25 counties with the greatest increase (5% or more) were located primarily around St. Louis and in the recreational lakes area in the southwestern portion of the state. Declines in real median household income were experienced by 67 counties, especially those in the north and southeast. Five counties (Adair, Ralls, Iron, Washington and Lewis) suffered declines of 10 percent or more.

Figure 31:



Transfer payments and investment income are becoming increasingly important sources of income for Missourians, especially in rural areas. Transfer payments are cash or goods received from government sources. Social Security, Medicare, unemployment insurance, and food stamps are the most common forms of this type of unearned income. In 1992 per capita transfer payments in Missouri ranged from 41.0 percent of total income in Hickory County to 8.4 percent in Platte County, with 17 percent being the state average. Six counties had comparatively low (15% or less of total income) per capita transfer payments. Located primarily in areas near Kansas City (Platte and Clay Counties) and St. Louis (St. Louis, St. Charles and Jefferson), these metro counties' investment income (dividends, interest, rent) was larger than their transfer income. The majority of the state's counties have per capita transfer payments of between 16 percent and 19 percent. There are 22 counties in which transfer payments constitute 30 percent or more of personal income. These counties are all non-metro counties and are concentrated in the south and southeastern part of the state, and to a lesser degree in the north and the Lake of the Ozarks region. The particular composition of per capita transfer payments varies across the state. For example, it is likely that transfer payments in the southeast have a larger income-maintenance component, while the proportion of government retirement payments may be higher in the Lake of the Ozarks counties.

Just as the dynamics of income for individuals changed during the course of the 1970s, so too have the sources of revenue for state and local governments within the state. To pay for public services, state and local governments have had to alter the way in which they finance and provide services. During the 1980s federal contributions to local governments declined by 53 percent, while state revenue-sharing dollars increased by 9 percent. Local government dependence on state transfers, property taxes, and user fees increased from 77 percent of local government funds in 1981-82 to 81 percent in 1990-91. During this same period, federal revenue-sharing dollars as a percentage of state government revenues declined 6 percent, while contributions from income and sales tax increased from 36.3 percent in 1981-82 to 39.1 percent in 1990-91.

Table 2:

Sources of Revenue for State and Local Government

Source	State		Local	
	1981-82	1990-91	1981-82	1990-91
Federal	23.7%	22.3%	8.5%	4.0%
State	-	-	22.6%	24.6%
Taxes: Property	-	-	22.6%	22.6%
General sales	17.7%	18.6%	6.1%	7.9%
Income	18.6%	20.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Other	12.4%	10.7%	5.7%	4.8%
Charges, fees & other	27.6%	27.8%	31.9%	33.6%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%

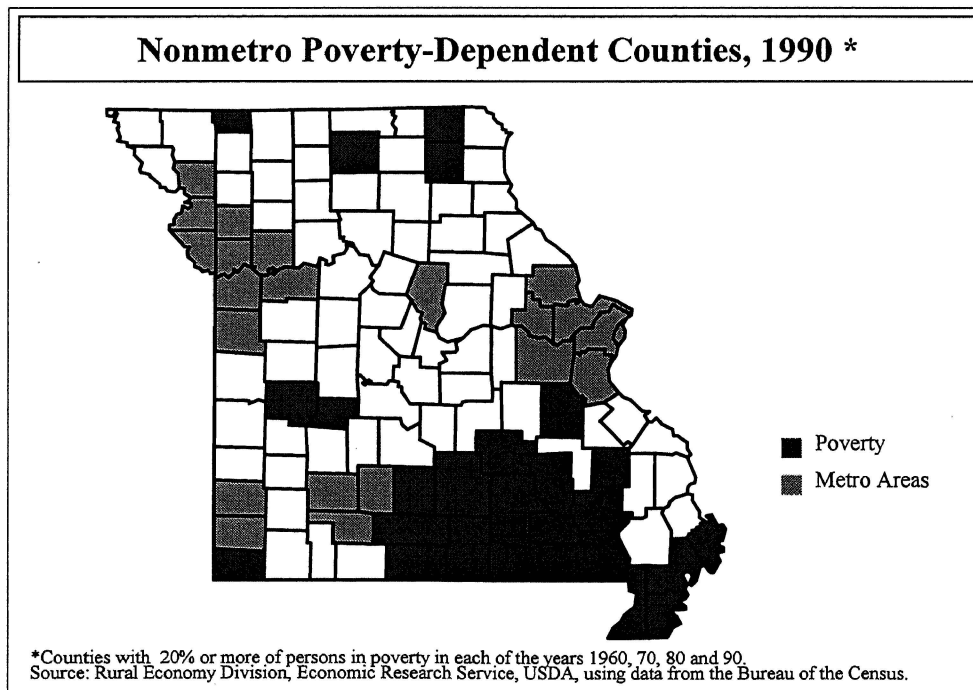
Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census, Government Finance Report

Poverty

In an attempt to understand the prevalence of poverty in the United States, the Bureau of the Census calculates an income cutoff to determine poverty status. Variables such as family size, number of children, and age of family head affect the level of this income cutoff figure. For example, the poverty threshold for a family of four in 1989 was \$12,674. In 1989, 663,075 Missourians, or 13 percent of the state's population, lived below federal poverty guidelines. This figure represents an increase of 80,823 people from 1979, when 11.8 percent of the population lived below the poverty level.

Although poverty is often associated in the popular imagination with urban areas, the highest percentages of population living below the poverty level are found almost exclusively in Missouri's non-metro or rural areas. Missouri's 22 metro counties contain a majority (56.8%) of the state's people living below the poverty level. However, the prevailing state pattern is for metro counties to have lower poverty rates. St. Charles, at 4.6 percent, has the lowest percentage in the state. With the exception of St. Louis City, all of the state's 26 counties in which at least 20 percent of the population lives in poverty are in less populated, non-metro areas. Most of these counties are located in the south-central and southeastern portions of the state. With an average of 31 percent of their populations living below the poverty level, the five counties with the highest poverty proportions in the state are Pemiscot, Dunklin, and Mississippi Counties in the Bootheel and Ripley and Wayne Counties in the southeastern Ozarks region.

Figure 32:



Poverty levels in urban and suburban areas increased during the 1980s when four of the five counties experiencing the highest increases in percentage of populations in poverty were metro counties. Boone and Andrew Counties, for example, experienced a greater than 50 percent increase in the number of residents living below the poverty level. It is difficult to know whether such increases represent a deterioration among stable population groups or an increase in the in-migration of individuals and families below the poverty level.

The population age category with the highest rate of poverty (17.4%) in the state in 1990 was children (ages 18 and younger). The root causes of poverty consist of a myriad of interrelated social, economic and cultural factors. There are some factors, however, such as parents' educational level that seem to be associated with high levels of poverty among children. For example, counties (e.g., in the southeast) in which 25 percent or more of mothers have less than a high school education have a high degree of overlap with the high poverty areas. This possible relationship between parents' education and the economic well-being of children is further suggested by figures that show that 46 percent of rural children in poverty belong to

Figure 33:

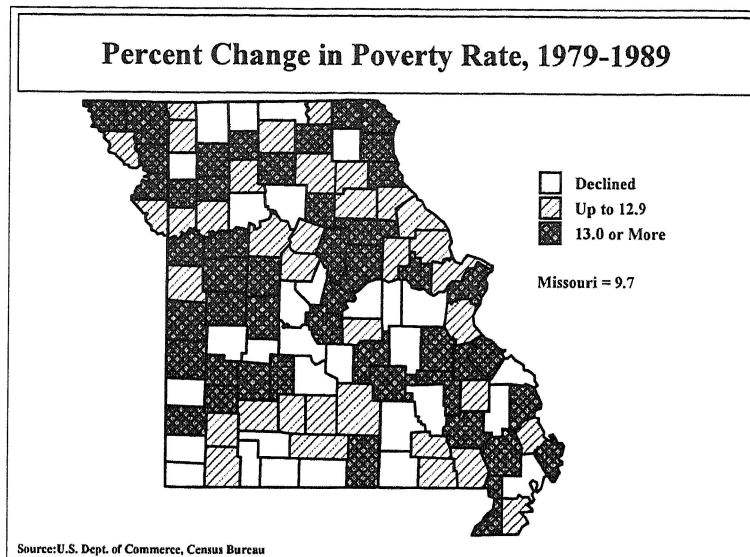
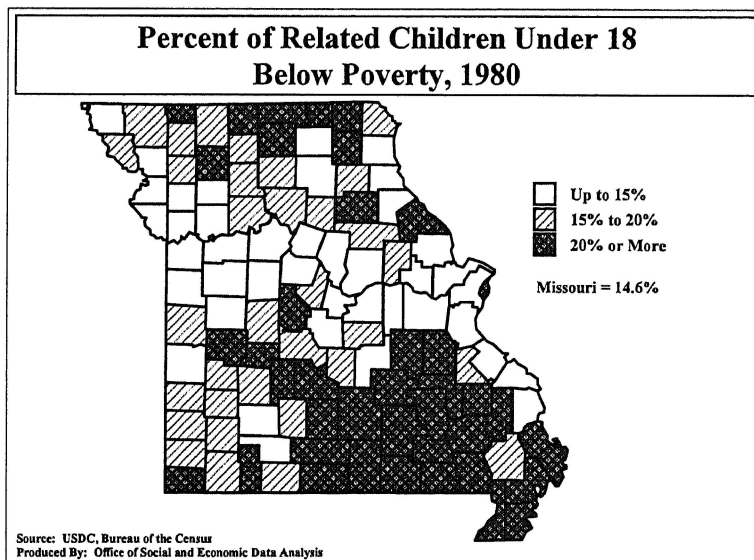


Figure 34:



families in which parents have less than a high school education. This compares with 22 percent of children in poverty that have parents with high school educations and only a 4 percent poverty rate for children with parents that have two or more years of college.

Although the rate of poverty for Missouri's elderly population (65 and older) declined during the 1980s, from 16.4 percent in 1979 to 13.8 percent in 1989, the elderly continue to be among the poorest groups of people in the state. Forty-one counties have an elderly poverty rate of 20 percent or more. These counties are located in a strip along the northernmost part of the state and in a wide swath running from the Lake of the Ozarks region through the southeastern corner of the state. This pattern suggests that the elderly poor are largely concentrated among long-time Missouri residents rather than in regions attracting in-migration of older populations.

Figure 35:

The Effect of Parents Education on the Economic Well-Being of Rural Children

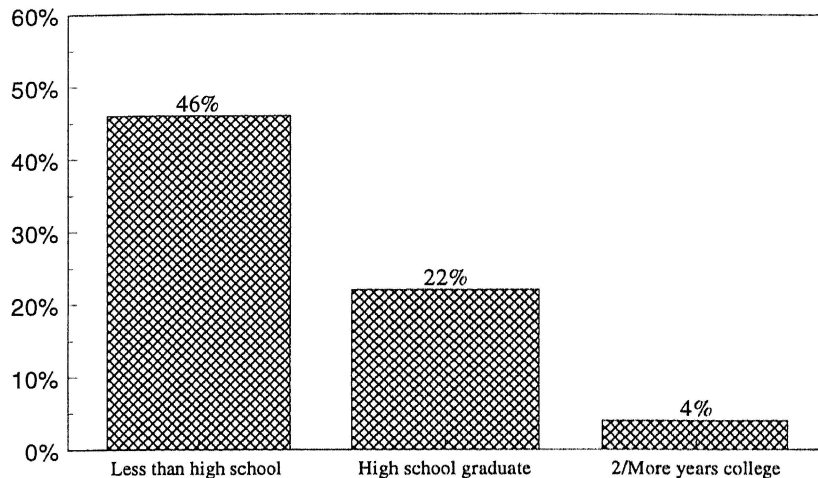
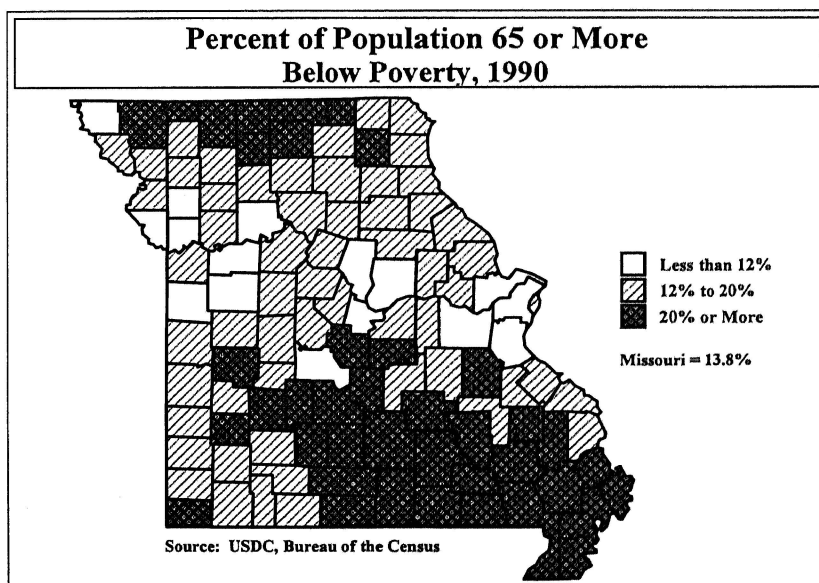


Figure 36:



Housing

Housing units in Missouri are normally characterized as either owner-occupied, rentals, vacant or seasonal. In 1990, 1,348,733 residences, or 61.3 percent of all housing units in the state, were owner-occupied houses.

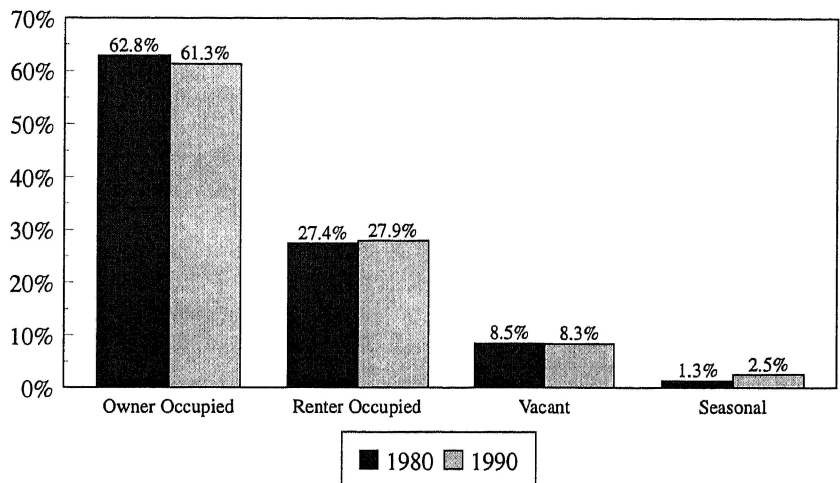
This figure represents, on the one hand, an increase of almost 100,000 owner-occupied units since 1980 and, on the other hand, a slight percentage decrease from 62.8 percent 10 years earlier. The percentage of people occupying rental housing units and the percentage of houses left vacant remained stable over this decade. Seasonal housing, or residences used only on an occasional basis, nearly doubled from 27,671 units in 1980 to 54,978 units in 1990.

The distribution of housing types in Missouri reflects the changing economic and social landscapes. In 1990 Jefferson County had the highest rate of owner-occupied housing (75%). Camden County, by contrast, has a home ownership rate of only 35.5 percent. With the exception of St. Louis City, Camden County and the surrounding Lake of the Ozarks counties of Morgan, Benton and Hickory have the lowest rate of home ownership in the state and also have the lowest rate of renter-occupied housing. The seven counties with the highest rates of renter-occupied housing, on the other hand, have rental rates more than three times as high. These counties are not concentrated in any one region. Rather, they are situated close to the urban areas of Kansas City (Johnson and Jackson) and St. Louis (St. Louis City), located in the Bootheel (Pemiscot), or contain some type of university (Boone and Adair) or military installation (Pulaski). The counties with the highest rate of seasonal housing are located near the Lake of the Ozarks area. In Camden County, for example, nearly half of the houses are occupied only part of the year. These nontraditional housing trends reveal regions increasingly reliant on retirees and vacationers.

Six of the seven counties with the highest rate of vacant housing are located in the northernmost part of the state. With an average vacancy rate (15.18%) nearly double the state average (8.3%), these counties reflect the out-migration, population decline, and other demographic factors that affected many parts of rural north Missouri during the 1980s.

Figure 37:

Housing Units, 1980-1990



In 1990, 335,730 Missourians, or 7 percent of the population, lived in mobile homes. Washington County, located southwest of St. Louis, and Hickory County, located in the Lake of the Ozarks region, have the highest number (31%) of mobile homes as a percentage of total housing. Geographically, these two counties represent the trend in mobile home concentrations in Missouri—on the fringe of major metropolitan areas and near southern lake communities experiencing rapid growth. More than three-quarters of mobile homes are owner-occupied, compared with 61 percent for regular housing. This increase in ownership is due primarily to the increased affordability and availability of manufactured housing.

From 1980 to 1990 mobile homes as a percentage of total housing in Missouri increased by 55 percent. Manufactured housing grew moderately in northern Missouri during this period, while occupied mobile homes increased dramatically in the central and southern parts of the state. Eleven counties, most located near St. Louis or in the southwestern or south-central portions of the state, experienced increases in occupied mobile homes greater than 100 percent.

Table 3:

Top Seven Counties by Percent of Housing Typing, 1990

	Owner Occupied	Renter Occupied	Seasonal	Vacant
1	Jefferson / 75.8%	St. Louis City / 46.5%	Camden / 48.2%	Mercer / 18.7%
2	Christian / 74.1%	Boone / 42.2%	Morgan / 43.3%	Knox / 15.8%
3	Ray / 73.6%	Pemiscot / 40.2%	Benton / 36.5%	St. Louis City / 15.3%
4	Andrew / 73.1%	Pulaski / 39.8%	Hickory / 32.3%	Harrison / 15.0%
5	Clinton / 72.3%	Johnson / 37.7%	Stone / 22.0%	Daviess / 14.3%
6	Perry / 72.2%	Adair / 36.4%	Wayne / 20.6%	Scotland / 13.7%
7	Webster / 72.0%	Jackson / 34.8%	Reynolds / 15.7%	Sullivan / 13.6%

Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census

Table 4:

Lowest Seven Counties by Percent of Housing Typing, 1990

	Owner Occupied	Renter Occupied	Seasonal	Vacant
1	Boone / 51.6%	Ozark / 14.1%	Clay / 0.2%	Mississippi / 5.9%
2	Pulaski / 49.8%	Osage / 13.4%	Jasper / 0.2%	Boone / 5.8%
3	Hickory / 48.9%	Stone / 12.8%	St. Louis / 0.2%	Cass / 5.4%
4	Benton / 45.7%	Benton / 10.4%	Jackson / 0.2%	Andrew / 5.3%
5	Morgan / 40.0%	Morgan / 9.6%	Greene / 0.2%	St. Louis / 5.2%
6	St. Louis City / 38.1%	Hickory / 9.2%	Mississippi / 0.2%	Jefferson / 5.2%
7	Camden / 35.5%	Camden / 8.5%	St. Louis City / 0.1%	St. Charles / 5.2%

Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census

Relative to growth in total housing units, occupied mobile home units grew at a significantly faster rate in most parts of the state. During the 1980s, 30 Missouri counties experienced growth of mobile home living exceeding that of total occupied housing by 65 to 107 percent. These counties are located primarily outside of St. Louis and in clusters throughout the southern portion of the state. In general, these higher mobile home occupancy rates are associated with varying degrees of inability to afford new traditional housing, population growth, and lack of conventional housing stock or lack of contractors to build such housing.

For many Missourians, the most troublesome of these variables is affordability. In 1990, 25 Missouri counties had between 22 percent and 30.6 percent of their households classified as cost-burdened regarding housing. Cost-burdened in this context signifies the proportion of home owners and renters in the county who had annual household incomes less than \$20,000 and paid 30 percent or more of this income in housing costs. These 25 counties are located primarily in high-poverty areas of the Bootheel and south-east Ozarks. Three of these counties (Boone, Adair and Nodaway) are located north of

Figure 38:

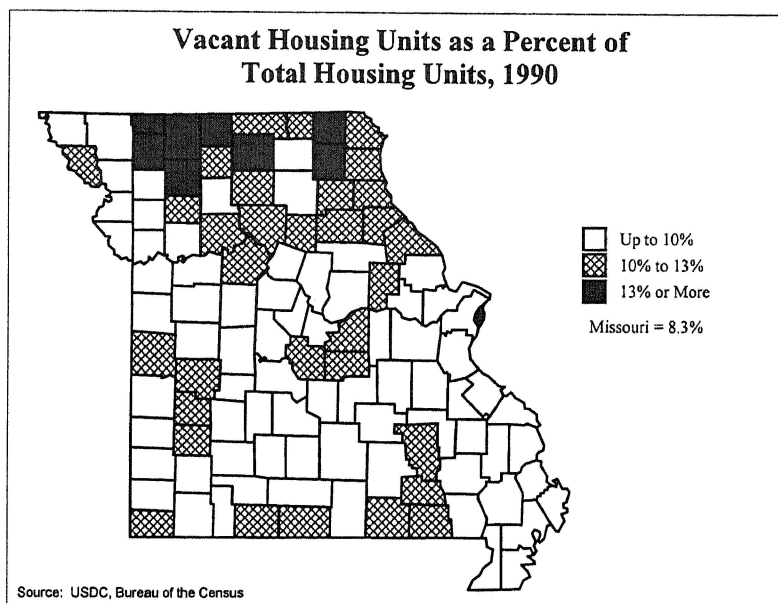
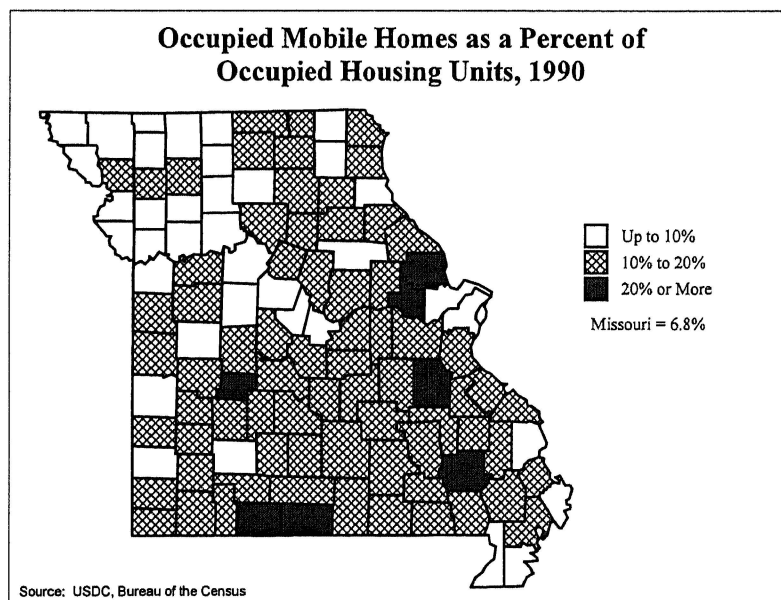


Figure 39:



the Missouri River and represent a large proportion of college students from the universities located in these counties. The interlinked issues of low income and lack of affordable housing can also be seen in the African-American community, where less than half of African-Americans own houses, compared with 72 percent for the white population.

Figure 40:

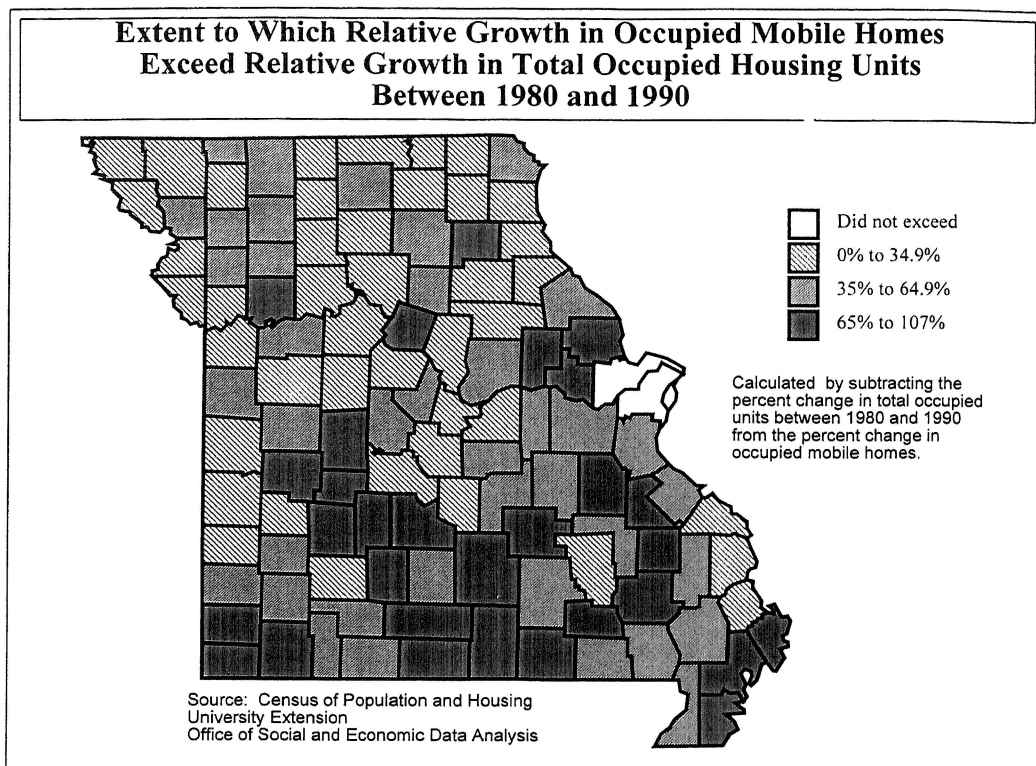
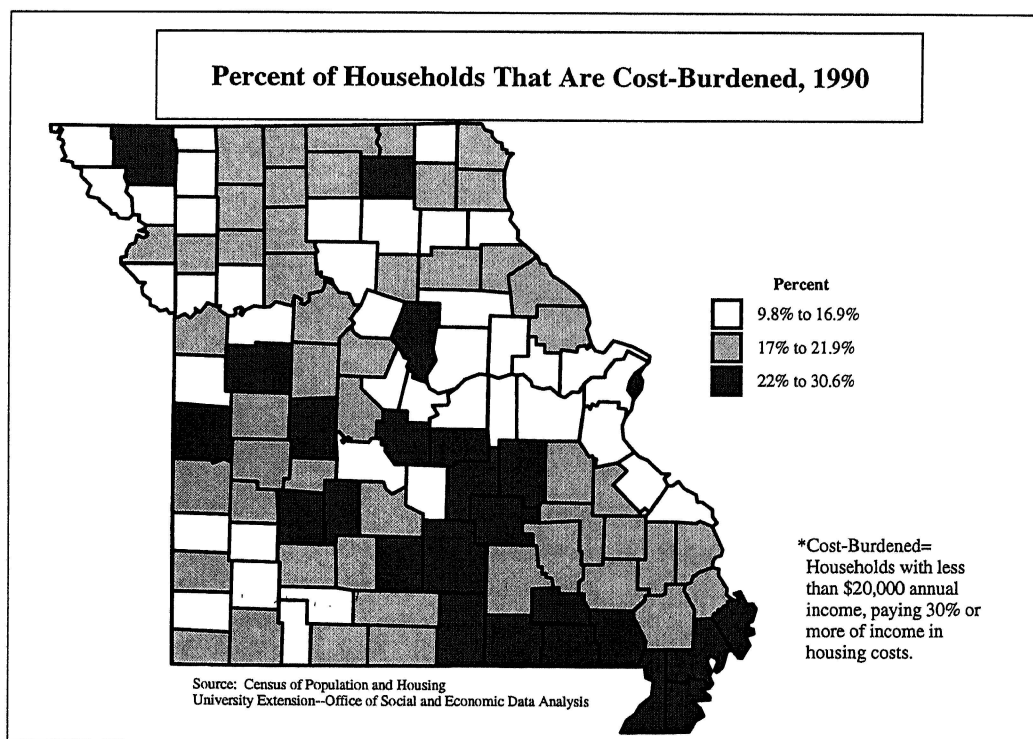


Figure 41:



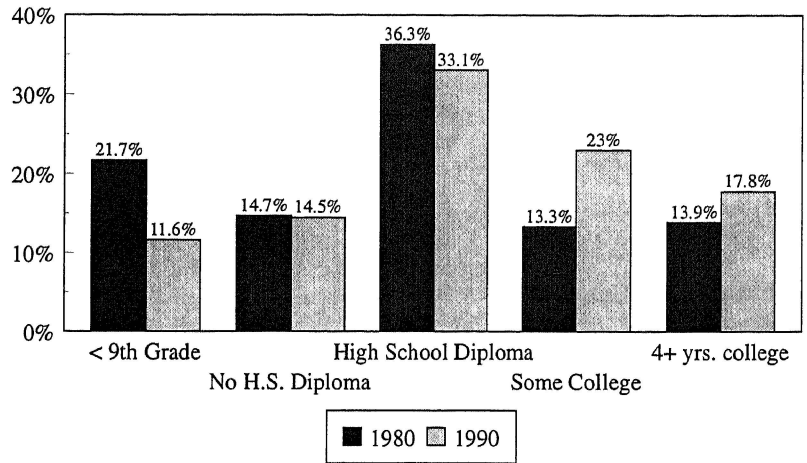
Education

Increasing resources have been devoted to Missouri's educational system over the past 30 years, in part as a result of public recognition of positive correlations between educational achievement, income and quality of life. As a consequence of greater public support, general levels of educational achievement have increased in most regions of the state. Over the decade of 1980-1990, for example, the percentage of people with less than a ninth-grade education declined by 87 percent. The proportion of adults who attended high school but did not graduate remained steady at around 15 percent. Overall, the number of Missourians attending college rose from 27.2 percent in 1980 to 40.8 percent in 1990.

In the 1991-92 school year, the high school completion rate in the state was 78 percent. This rate ranged from a low of 65 percent in Washington County to 100 percent graduation rates in Worth and Chariton Counties. Twelve of the 14 counties graduating less than three-quarters of their high school students are located south of the Missouri River, but are not particularly concentrated in any one region. Interestingly, three of the counties (Boone, Cole and Jackson)

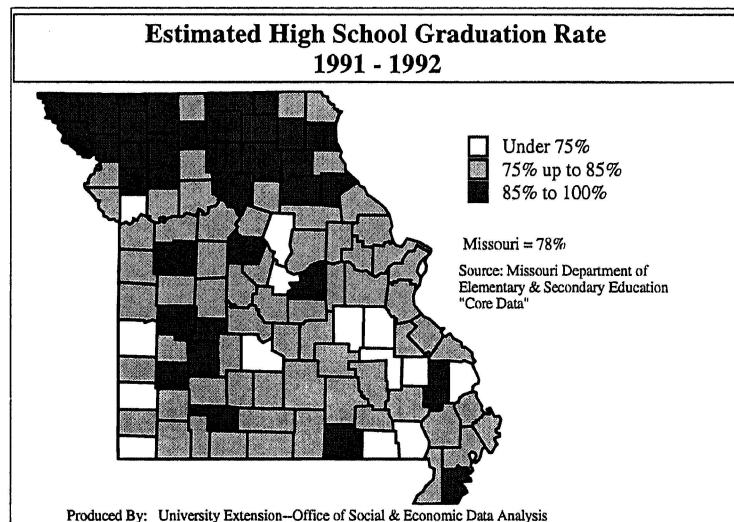
Figure 42:

Educational Attainment for Persons Age 25 Years of Older



Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census

Figure 43:



with estimated high school graduation rates less than 75 percent also include active economies as well as government and educational centers. The proximity of construction, service and other labor opportunities in these areas may adversely affect graduation rates by providing labor positions not requiring a high school diploma. Over half of counties in the state graduate between 75 and 85 percent of their high school seniors. While these counties are fairly evenly distributed around the state, 11 of the 17 counties graduating more than 90 percent of high school students are located in rural north Missouri. Education in general, and high school graduation rates in particular, are also areas in which significant differences remain between white and black Missourians. For example, African-American high school students are twice as likely to drop out of school as are their white counterparts.

During the 1980s the proportion of Missouri adults 25 years or older having less than a high school education declined from 36 percent of the population to around 26 percent. In 1980 at least 40 percent of the adult population in 70 Missouri counties had not graduated from high school. By 1990 this number had dropped to 21 counties, with most of these located in the southeastern quarter of the state.

Figure 44:

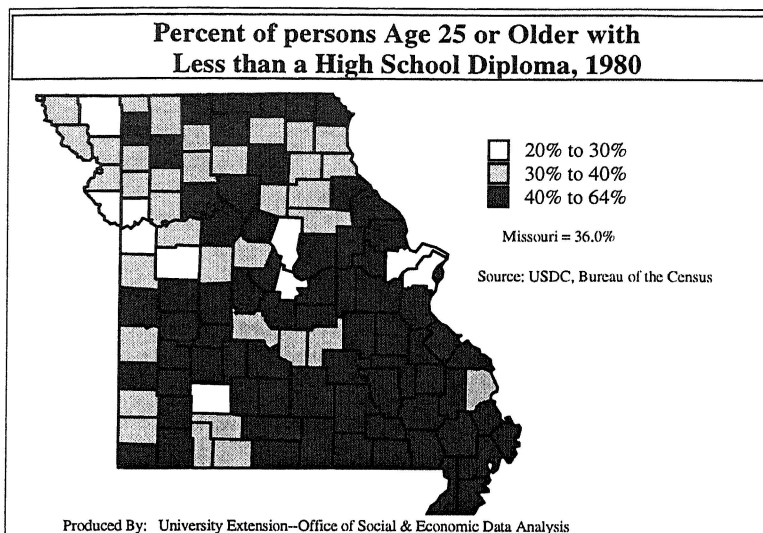
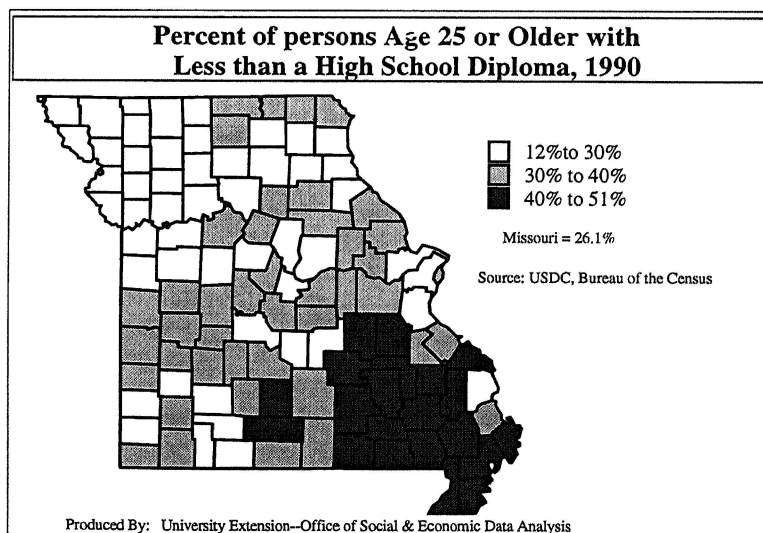


Figure 45:



Due to declining birthrates in the late 1960s and early 1970s, elementary and secondary school enrollments in Missouri dropped by 7 percent statewide during the 1980s. Enrollment at colleges and universities, on the other hand, increased during this same period. In 1980 people with four years of college or more accounted for at least 20 percent of the population in only three counties. By 1990 this number had risen to eight counties. Most of this growth occurred near the St. Louis and Kansas City metro areas and in counties hosting a major university. These counties include Boone (University of Missouri), Adair (Northeast Missouri State—recently renamed Truman State University) and Johnson (Central Missouri State) Counties.

Figure 46:

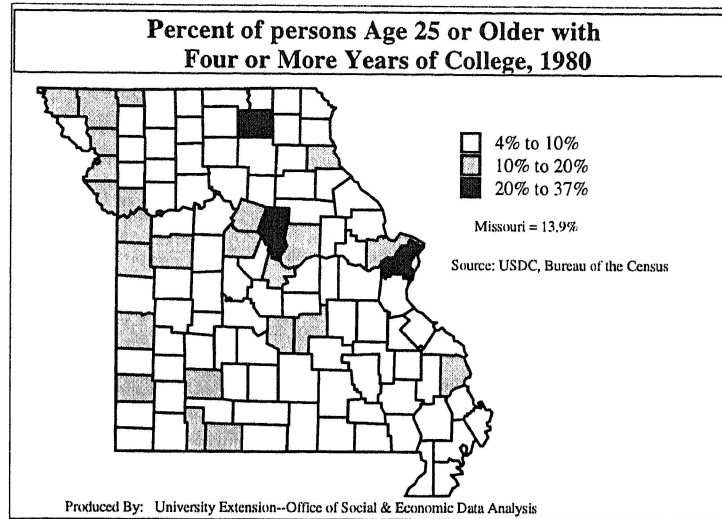
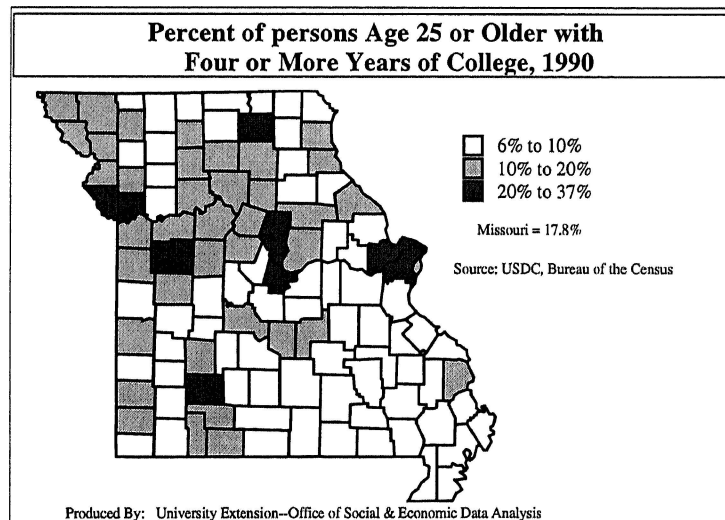


Figure 47:



Health

Health care is of concern to all Missourians, particularly issues related to the availability and access to qualified care-givers, the ability to pay for necessary services, and the health care needs of children. While Missouri has many excellent health care professionals and institutions, the state is faced with challenges related to the increasing costs of services, the availability of services in rural areas, and the consolidation of service providers. The average life expectancy in Missouri continues to lengthen. It now stands at 75.2 years, but there exists a more than seven-year difference between the life expectancy for men (71.6 years) and for women (78.7)

There were 10,600 physicians in Missouri in 1993, including approximately 4,410 primary care doctors. This latter figure includes an increase of roughly 15 percent between 1983 and 1993. The geographic distribution of physicians and patterns of increase, however, are not equal throughout the state. The largest gains in physician populations continue to occur in metro counties around St. Louis, Springfield, Kansas City and Columbia. Of the 663 doctors added between 1983 and 1993, 98 percent were added in

Figure 48:

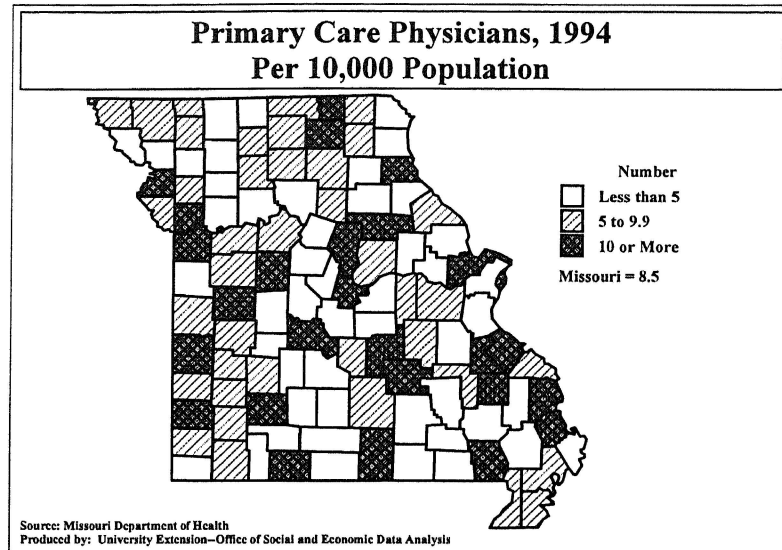
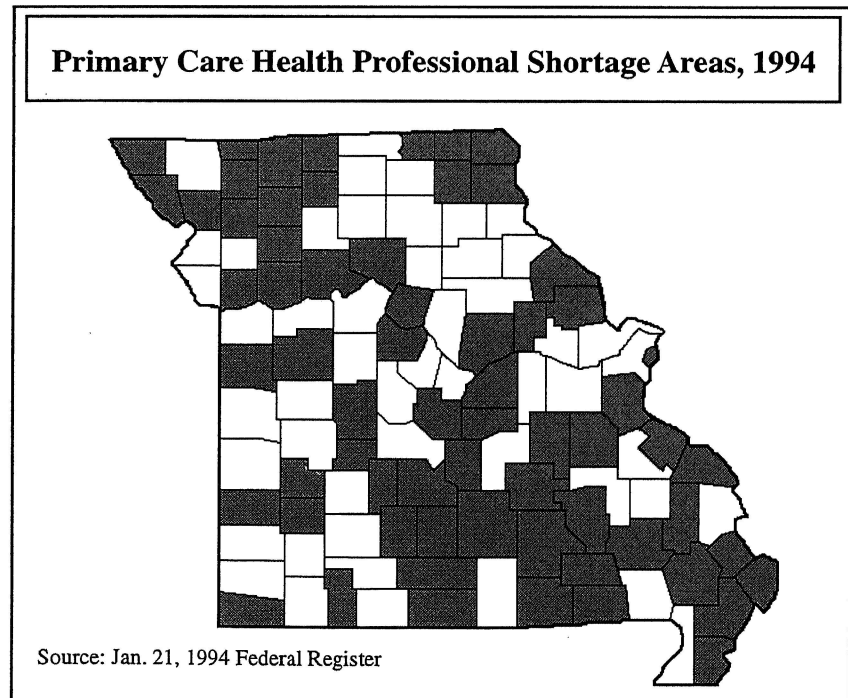


Figure 49:



the state's 22 metro counties, while rural counties experienced only a 2 percent net increase. In fact, 50 of Missouri's 93 rural counties lost physicians over those 10 years.

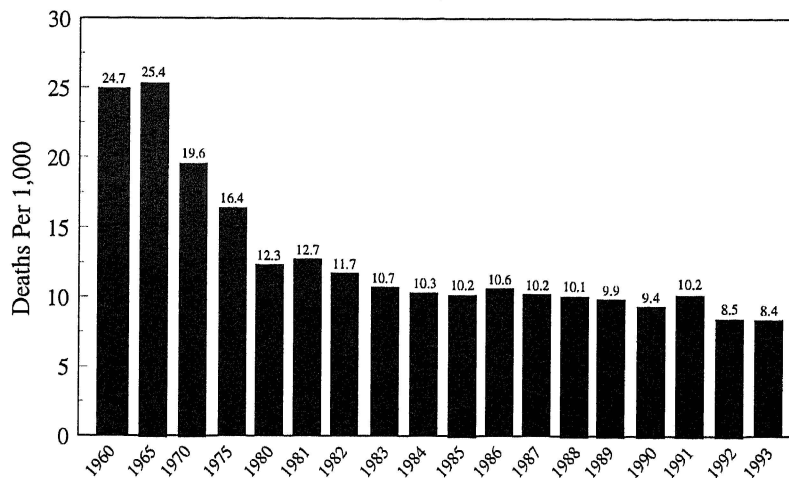
Fifty-five Missouri counties are now classified as Primary Care Shortage Areas, meaning they have more than 3,000 residents per physician. All regions of the state contain some shortage counties; the greatest concentrations occur in the northwest, south-central, and southeastern areas. Although some of these regions have experienced population declines, many have also suffered a net loss in the number of physicians.

Child health patterns in the state are improving but remain of concern in certain areas. Resident infant deaths per 1,000 live births continue to decline, from 25.4 in 1965 to 12.3 in 1980 and 8.4 in 1993. With the exception of St. Louis City, however, all counties with the highest infant mortality rates are rural counties. Further, close to 18.7 percent of mothers in Missouri give birth with inadequate prenatal care, which increases the risk of low infant birth weight and other health problems. Counties where at least one-quarter of the women fall into this group are distributed throughout the state.

Fourteen percent of children in Missouri's public schools do not have health insurance,

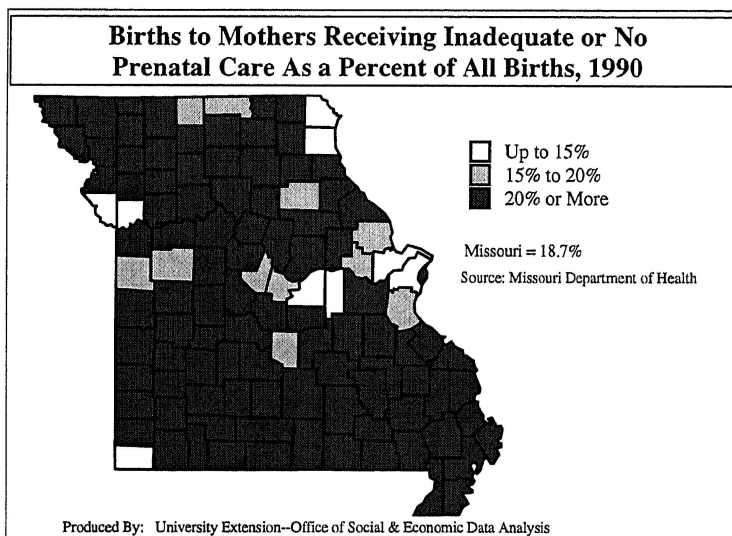
Figure 50:

Resident Infant Death Rates per 1,000 Live Births, 1960-1993



Source: Missouri Department of Health

Figure 51:

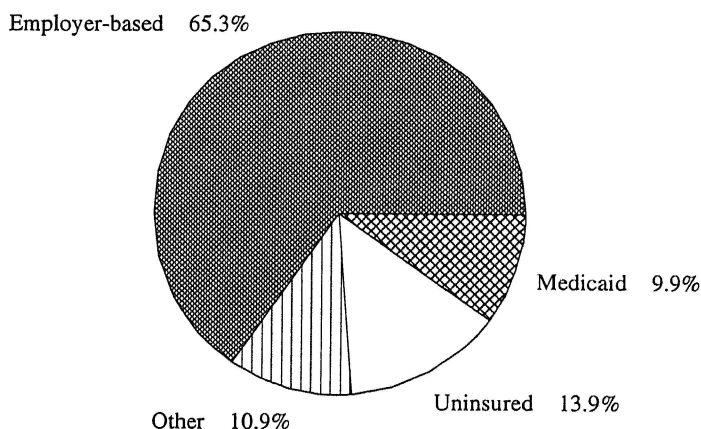


slightly more than the national average of 12 percent. The strongest correlate with non-insurance is a low level of parental education. Children of parents without a high school degree are five times less likely to have insurance than those of parents with college degrees. As higher educational levels are positively correlated with family income, it is not surprising that children of parents less than 30 years of age or with incomes less than \$20,000 per year are also less likely to have insurance. Geographic location also is related to whether children are insured. Students from rural areas were, in 1992, twice as likely to be uninsured as were students from metropolitan areas.

A few important patterns characterize health insurance coverage among various Missouri population groups in general. For example, while about 15 percent of the state's population lacks insurance, the percentages among people of Hispanic origin (33 percent) are significantly higher than those for whites (13 percent), while lack of insurance among the state's black population is around 20 percent. Lack of insurance is also heaviest among the population group of 18 to 44 years (21 percent) and lowest for those more than 65 (2 percent) as many in the latter group are covered by government programs.

Figure 52:

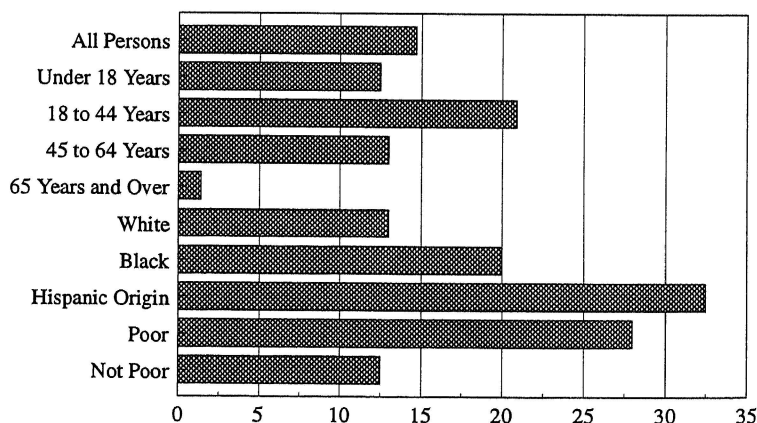
Percent of Health Insurance Type Reported by Missouri Parents



SOURCE: Poverty in the U.S. 1992. Series P 60-185

Figure 53:

Persons Lacking Health Insurance in 1992



NOTE: Persons of Hispanic origin may be any race.
SOURCE: Poverty in the U.S. 1992. Series P 60-185.

Employer-based insurance is the primary form of insurance coverage in the state, but almost 44 percent of the uninsured population in Missouri in 1993 was employed and almost 32 percent of the uninsured were estimated to be dependents of uninsured workers. In most cases, uninsured working parents are part of the “working poor” for whom health insurance is neither provided by employers nor feasible within income budgets. As incomes tend to be less in low population areas, this problem may be especially acute in Missouri’s rural regions.



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