



## An Introduction to St. Louis County

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St. Louis County covers an area of 524 square miles and had a 2000 population of 1,016,315. The County is an integral part of the St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which comprises seven counties in Missouri and five counties in Illinois. St. Louis County's 2000 population comprised 39 percent of the bi-state metropolitan area's 2000 population of 2,603,607.

St. Louis County is also the largest county in Missouri and contains nearly a fifth (18 percent) of the state's population. The County's employment contribution is even greater: fully half of the metropolitan area's jobs are in St. Louis County, as are nearly a quarter (24 percent) of the jobs in Missouri.

St. Louis County's 91 municipalities have primary responsibility within their jurisdictions for such services as public safety, planning and zoning, road maintenance and code enforcement. The unincorporated area, which contains a third of the County's population and a third of its area, comes under the direct jurisdiction of County government.

The County's 24 school districts are independent governmental entities as are the 23 fire protection districts, which share fire protection responsibilities with the 20 municipal fire departments. Special service districts provide sewer, library, junior college and cultural facilities within the County, and privately owned utilities provide electrical, natural gas, water and telephone service.