

2025 ECONOMIC REPORT

SOUTHEAST REGION



The Southeast Region is comprised of 13 counties in the southeast portion of Missouri. The region is home to several cities including Cape Girardeau, Sikeston, Caruthersville, and Park Hills.

The Southeast Region workforce had more than 158,100 employees in 2024, making up 5.2 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2024, 51.7 percent of the workforce was female and 48.3 percent was male, while the Missouri average was 50.1 percent female and 49.9 percent male workers in the workforce. The regional average unemployment rate in 2024 was 4.1 percent, compared to 3.7 percent for Missouri and 4.0 percent for the nation.

The workforce is getting older in the Southeast Region, a trend continuing throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2023, 23.9 percent of the workforce was age 55 or older, up from 20 percent a decade earlier. It was 23.5 percent for Missouri and 24.1 percent for the nation.

For the region, 11.8 percent of the workforce was non-white and 2.9 percent was Hispanic or Latino. This compares to the state averages of 18.1 percent non-white and 5.1 percent Hispanic or Latino.

In the Southeast Region, 3.2 percent of the region's population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7.4 percent and the U.S. was at 23.8 percent.

The Southeast Region has a higher percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state and the nation. For the Southeast Region, 17.0 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12.6 percent in Missouri and 10.7 percent in the U.S.



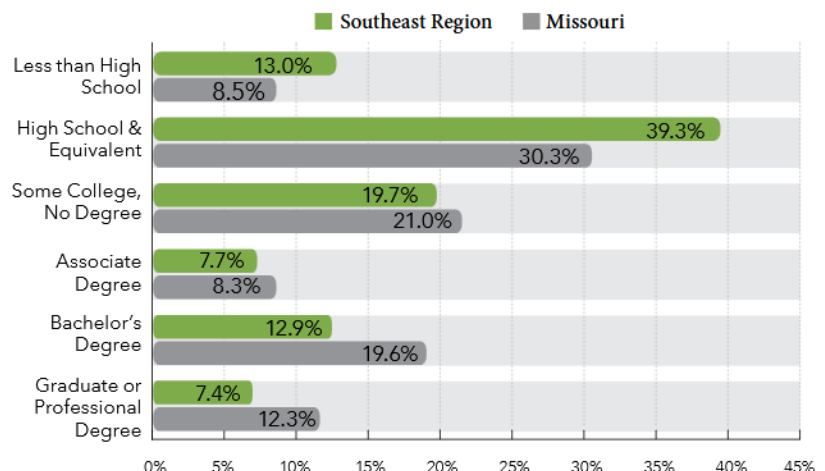
Workforce Demographics

	Southeast Region	Missouri	United States
Average Monthly Employment in 2024	158,150	3,016,886	161,346,000
Average Unemployment Rate in 2024	4.1%	3.7%	4.0%
Male	48.3%	49.9%	51.2%
Female	51.7%	50.1%	48.8%
Non-White	11.8%	18.1%	24.9%
Hispanic or Latino	2.9%	5.1%	18.3%
Ages 55 and Older	23.9%	23.5%	24.1%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	17.0%	12.6%	10.7%
Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)	16.2%	12.1%	11.6%
Language other than English (Ages 18-64)	3.2%	7.4%	23.8%
Education of Associate Degree or Higher (25 years & Older)	28.0%	40.2%	43.8%
Veterans (Age 18-64)	4.2%	4.7%	4.2%

SOURCE: QWI 2024 Q1; PRIVATE OWNERSHIP. CENSUS 2023 ACS 5 YEARS DATA, LAUS 2024 DATA

Educational attainment rates for the Southeast Region are lower than those of the state for bachelor's or advanced degrees. Twenty-eight percent of the region's population age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 40.2 percent for the state, and 43.8 percent for the nation. About 13.0 percent of the region's population age 25 and older has less than high school education.

Educational Attainment



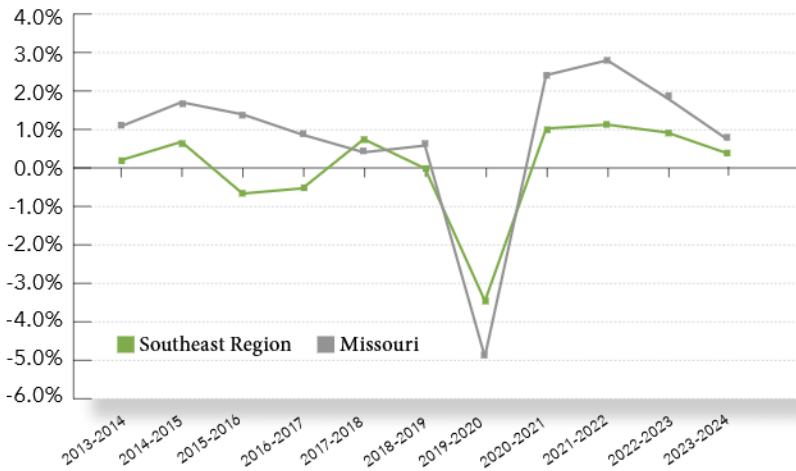
SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, ACS 2023 5 YEAR ESTIMATES

SOUTHEAST REGION

INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The Southeast Region averaged over 139,600 jobs in 2024. The region gained 514 jobs in 2024, an increase of 0.4 percent. Missouri employment increased by 0.8 percent in 2024. From 2020 to 2024, the Southeast Region averaged a growth of 0.7 percent compounded annually for an overall gain of 3.7 percent. During that same period (2020-2024) Missouri's compound annual employment gain was 1.6 percent for an overall gain of 8.3 percent.

Southeast Region Employment Annual Growth Rate



SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

Health Care and Social Assistance was the largest employing industry in the region in 2024 with employment totaling nearly 32,000. Employment in the industry increased by 1,635 when compared to 2020. *Retail Trade* was the second largest industry, followed by *Manufacturing* and *Educational Services*.

The *Manufacturing*; *Public Administration*; *Information*; *Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction*; and *Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services* industry sectors decreased in employment between 2020 and 2024 in the Southeast Region.

Southeast Region Top Employing Industries

	Employment 2020	Employment 2024	Net Change	2020- 2024 CAGR	2023 Annual Wages
Health Care and Social Assistance	30,244	31,879	1,635	1.1%	\$45,012
Retail Trade	14,881	17,279	2,398	3.0%	\$36,540
Manufacturing	18,530	16,503	-2,027	-2.3%	\$63,516
Educational Services	11,677	12,045	368	0.6%	\$38,652
Accommodation and Food Services	9,283	11,023	1,740	3.5%	\$21,816
Construction	6,060	6,555	495	1.6%	\$60,792
Public Administration	6,335	5,883	-452	-1.5%	\$44,304
Wholesale Trade	5,527	5,721	194	0.7%	\$74,340
Transportation and Warehousing	4,930	5,004	74	0.3%	\$58,248
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	4,446	4,424	-22	-0.1%	\$45,708
Finance and Insurance	3,830	4,033	203	1.0%	\$65,340
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	3,347	3,498	151	0.9%	\$68,688
Other Services (except Public Administration)	2,862	3,151	289	1.9%	\$40,176
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	2,057	2,137	80	0.8%	\$48,132
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1,504	1,629	125	1.6%	\$34,128
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,287	1,329	42	0.6%	\$45,264
Information	1,584	1,318	-266	-3.6%	\$64,488
Utilities	1,119	1,178	59	1.0%	\$87,264
Management of Companies and Enterprises	1,028	1,086	58	1.1%	\$63,120
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	1,005	971	-34	-0.7%	\$77,112

SOURCE: LEHD QWI, 2020-2024 QUARTER 2 DATA, LEHD QWI 2023 ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR WAGES.
ALL OWNERSHIP

LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries with higher than 1.0 LQ indicate a concentration.

The Southeast Region had higher concentrations in *Mining (except Oil and Gas)*; *Gasoline Stations and Fuel Dealers*; *Crop Production*; *Social Assistance*; *Wood Product Manufacturing*; *Nursing and Residential Care Facilities*; and *Truck Transportation*.



MINING (EXCEPT OIL AND GAS)

2024 Southeast Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Mining (except Oil and Gas)	555	3.2
Gasoline Stations and Fuel Dealers	2,899	3.1
Crop Production	1,313	2.7
Social Assistance	9,025	2.1
Wood Product Manufacturing	741	2.0
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	5,929	2.0
Truck Transportation	2,675	2.0
General Merchandise Retailers	4,578	1.6
Support Activities for Agriculture and Forestry	532	1.5
Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers	1,699	1.4
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	2,477	1.3
Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	462	1.2
Sporting Goods, Hobby, Musical Instrument, Book, and Miscellaneous Retailers	1,666	1.2
Health and Personal Care Retailers	1,198	1.2

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QUARTERLY CENSUS OF
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES 2024

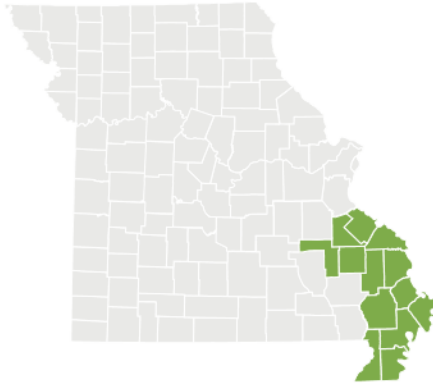
SOUTHEAST REGION

Projected growth in industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest industry growth in the Southeast Region from 2022-2032 will be in the *Hospitals; Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing; Management of Companies and Enterprises; General Merchandise Retailers; and Construction of Buildings*.

Southeast Region Largest Growth Industries 2022-2032

	Employment 2022	Employment 2032	Change 2022-2032 Numeric	Change 2022-2032 Percent
Hospitals	8,412	9,270	858	10.2%
Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	1,529	2,106	577	37.7%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	1,014	1,386	372	36.7%
General Merchandise Retailers	4,490	4,854	364	8.1%
Construction of Buildings	1,529	1,843	314	20.5%
Real Estate	1,021	1,304	283	27.7%
Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation Industries	1,040	1,320	280	26.9%
Repair and Maintenance	1,289	1,566	277	21.5%
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	5,613	5,832	219	3.9%
Machinery Manufacturing	730	893	163	22.3%

SOURCE: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS, 2022-2032



PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

MERIC produces occupational projections that estimates labor demand over a 10-year period. The current projections cycle projected industry and occupation employment from 2022-2032. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations.

NOW jobs typically require short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. Now occupations with the most projected openings are *Home Health and Personal Care Aides; Cashiers; and Stockers and Order Fillers*. *Amusement and Recreation Attendants; Home Health and Personal Care Aides; and Receptionists and Information Clerks* are projected to be the fastest growing Now occupations over the next decade.

NEXT jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training. *Nursing Assistants; Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers; and Cooks, Restaurant* are projected to have the most openings for the Next category of occupations. *Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters; Cutting, Punching, and Press Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic; and Medical Assistants* are the fastest growing Next occupations.

LATER jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For Later occupations, *General and Operations Managers; Registered Nurses; and Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education* are projected to have the most openings. *Registered Nurses; Human Resources Specialists; and Accountants and Auditors* are the fastest growing Later occupations.

Southeast Region Fastest Growing Occupations



SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2022-2032

NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH ANNUAL TOTAL OPENINGS OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS IN THE TOP TEN ONLINE JOB ADS FOR MAY 2023- APRIL 2024 IN THE REGION AND WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATION

SOUTHEAST REGION

SOUTHEAST REGION LONG-TERM OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS BY TOP OPENINGS

OCCUPATION TITLE		2022 Estimated Employment	2032 Projected Employment	Annual Growth Openings	Annual Exits	Annual Transfers	Annual Total Openings	Median Wages
NOW OCCUPATIONS								
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	★	8,901	9,927	103	753	628	1,484	\$29,067
Cashiers	★	5,061	4,880	-18	478	482	942	\$27,161
Stockers and Order Fillers		3,367	3,497	13	214	336	563	\$33,547
Retail Salespersons	★	3,040	3,008	-3	198	239	434	\$30,419
Waiters and Waitresses		2,041	2,003	-4	174	244	414	\$29,673
NEXT OCCUPATIONS								
Nursing Assistants	★	2,519	2,685	17	165	204	386	\$34,569
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	★	3,692	3,622	-7	166	214	373	\$48,279
Cooks, Restaurant		1,663	1,608	-6	112	133	239	\$29,494
Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators		1,648	1,674	3	70	105	178	\$36,581
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	★	1,824	1,914	9	82	85	176	\$41,866
LATER OCCUPATIONS								
General and Operations Managers	★	4,269	4,342	7	107	231	345	\$63,344
Registered Nurses	★	4,137	4,493	36	143	89	268	\$75,253
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education		1,673	1,626	-5	55	54	104	\$46,577
Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education		1,701	1,652	-5	49	54	98	\$58,269
Substitute Teachers, Short-Term		718	696	-2	44	40	82	\$32,442

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2022-2032

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS IN THE TOP TEN ONLINE JOB ADS FOR MAY 2023- APRIL 2024 IN THE REGION AND WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATION

ONLINE JOB POSTINGS

Job postings are an indicator of demand and opportunities in an area and can assist individuals seeking job opportunities in current in-demand occupations. According to information based on online job posting data collected and aggregated from May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025 by Lightcast™ for the Southeast Region, jobs like *Registered Nurses*; *Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers*; *Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses*; and *Retail Salespersons* had a high number of job postings in the region.

OCCUPATION TITLE	ONLINE JOB POSTINGS
NOW OCCUPATIONS	
Retail Salespersons	440
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	280
Merchandise Displayers and Window Trimmers	260
Cashiers	190
Customer Service Representatives	180
NEXT OCCUPATIONS	
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	570
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	460
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	440
Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other	290
Food Service Managers	220
LATER OCCUPATIONS	
Registered Nurses	1,470
Physical Therapists	200
Pharmacists	150
General and Operations Managers	130
Speech-Language Pathologists	120

SOURCE: LIGHTCAST™, ONLINE JOB ADS FROM MAY 1, 2024 - APRIL 30, 2025