

Missouri's Advantages for Financial Services



Missouri is a top destination for companies in the financial sector, seeing new growth in the areas of investment and finance. The nation's most competitive banks, insurance companies, and tax preparation firms turn to Missouri for its capable workforce and business-friendly environment. A strong history in financial services positions Missouri as one of the best U.S. locations for talent in the industry.

“Missouri has long been a leader in the financial services sector, and three banks on Forbes’ list of the nation’s top banks are headquartered right here in the Show Me State. The financial and professional services community know that a trained and motivated workforce, outstanding connectivity, low taxes and affordable energy costs make Missouri a very sound investment.”

— Governor Jay Nixon



Top five reasons to locate in Missouri:

1 Missouri is more pro-business than other Midwestern states.

- Missouri has remained in Pollina Corporate Real Estate’s top 10 pro-business states for four years.
- Missouri’s diverse economy makes it a far less volatile environment for business.
- Missouri is extremely tax-friendly. The state has the 7th lowest property taxes in the U.S. (*Tax Foundation*), and property tax abatements are available for qualifying companies. Missouri’s franchise tax will be phased out by 2016.
- Missouri is one of only seven states to have received the highest bond rating by all three rating agencies—Fitch Ratings, Standard & Poors, and Moody’s Investor Service—in 2013. Its track record with S&P alone is even more distinctive, having earned the AAA rating for over 46 years.
- In both 2009 and 2013, Missouri’s captive insurance laws were enhanced to support the state’s \$6.5 billion captive insurance industry and further help lower the overhead costs for mid-sized businesses in the state.
- Missouri ranks in the top 10 states in the U.S. for regulatory environment (*Forbes*).

2 Missouri “gets” financial services companies. Look who’s here!

- Missouri is home to the regional headquarters of several large banks, including Bank of America, Regions Bank, and U.S. Bancorp, as well as the headquarters for Commerce Bank, Central Bank, and UMB Bank—three of the top banks in the nation according to Forbes.
- According to *Inc. Magazine*, the top job creator in Missouri in 2012 was a financial services company—Veterans United Home Loans in Columbia.
- Other major financial companies with headquarters or operations here include American Century Investments, Centene, CitiGroup, DST Systems, Inc., Edward Jones, H&R Block, Jack Henry & Associates, JPMorgan Chase, MasterCard, Scottrade, Shelter Insurance, and State Street.
- Financial services companies that have recently expanded facilities in Missouri include North American Savings Bank, Reinsurance Group of America, Stifel Financial, U.S. Bank, and Wells Fargo Advisors.
- Missouri is home to over 16 venture capital firms and five angel networks, as well as several business accelerators for the financial industry.
- Missouri is the only state with two federal reserve banks, located in Kansas City and St. Louis.

3 Missouri's got talent!

- Missouri ranks in the top 10 states for financial sector employment growth over the past decade (*American City Business Journals*).
- 233,012, or nearly 11 percent, of workers in Missouri are employed in core occupations relevant to the financial services industry.
- A well-educated population provides an easily trainable labor pool. Missouri has a higher high school graduation rate than 42 other states.
- Over 40 Missouri colleges and universities offer bachelor's degrees or higher in finance or accounting.
- *Bloomberg Businessweek* ranked Washington University's undergraduate business degree 4th in the U.S. in 2013.

4 Missouri's central location and stable natural environment provide an ideal home for your customer's data.

- Missouri's central location provides quick connections to both coasts.
- Missouri is within 600 miles of 50 percent of U.S. households including those in seven of the nation's fastest growing metro populations: Dallas, Houston, Atlanta, Austin, Denver, San Antonio, and Minneapolis.
- Located in the center of the country, Missouri is a low-risk state for acts of terrorism and has experienced no such events (*FEMA*).
- Missouri has a stable environment for keeping data secure. The state has experienced no major disasters related to hurricanes or earthquakes since record keeping began in 1957 (*FEMA*).

5 Missouri has a dependable, redundant and diverse internet network infrastructure.

- Numerous Tier 1 providers have a strong presence throughout Missouri with over 2,000 miles of fiber combined. Providers include AT&T, CenturyLink, Cogent, Level 3, Savvis, Sprint, Time Warner, Verizon, and XO.
- In 2011, Kansas City was selected from over 1,100 communities to be the first to receive Google Fiber, an experimental broadband internet network infrastructure using fiber-optic communication. Google Fiber will provide symmetrical connectivity at 1 gigabit per second, about 100 times faster than average.
- Missouri benefits from the presence of the National LambdaRail (NLR) and Internet2, high-speed national networks connecting research institutions to one another for faster exchange of data.

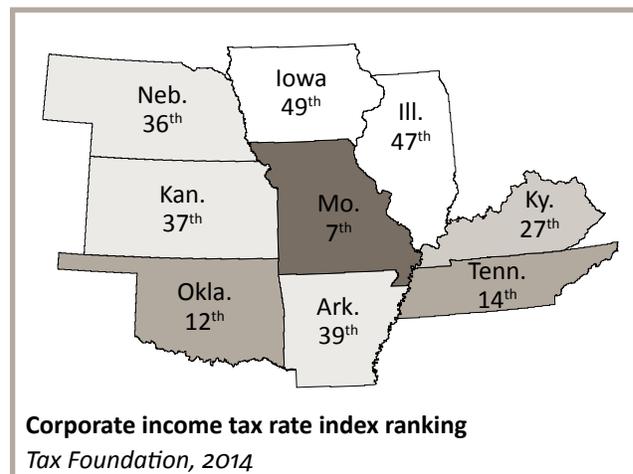
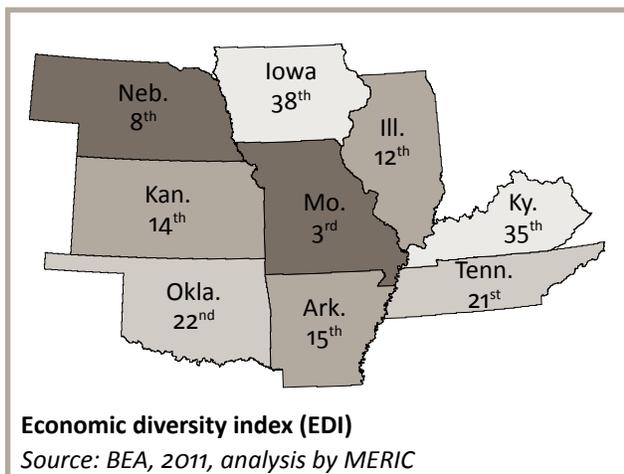
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Business climate

- Missouri has remained in Pollina Corporate Real Estate's top 10 pro-business states for four years.
- Missouri is extremely tax-friendly. The state ranks 7th lowest in the U.S. for both corporate income tax and property tax (*Tax Foundation*). Property tax abatements are available for qualifying companies. Missouri's franchise tax will be phased out by 2016.
- Missouri is one of only seven states to have received the highest bond rating by all three rating agencies—Fitch Ratings, Standard & Poors, and Moody's Investor Service—in 2013. Its track record with S&P alone is even more distinctive, having earned the AAA rating for over 46 years.
- Missouri's diverse economy makes it a far less volatile environment for business. The state has the 3rd-most diversified economy in the U.S. with a GDP over \$258 billion (*BEA, 2012*) and exports totaling over \$13.9 billion (*International Trade Administration*).

Regulatory environment

- Missouri ranks in the top ten states for regulatory environment (*Forbes, 2013*).
- A new law recently enacted in Missouri adopts an elective single-sales factor apportionment. This option states that a sale of tangible personal property is only in Missouri if the purchaser's destination point is in Missouri. Missouri is one of only a few states that allows taxpayers to choose their own income allocation formula (three-factor or single-factor), whichever results in the lesser corporate income tax liability.
- In 2007, Missouri enacted robust legislation to help businesses manage mainstream and non-traditional insurance risks. Companies benefit from a simplified initial application and redomestication review process, deductible licensing and renewal fees, and limits on actuarial review fees. In both 2009 and 2013, Missouri's captive insurance laws were enhanced to support the state's \$6.5 billion captive insurance industry and further help lower the overhead costs for mid-sized businesses in the state.



2 Missouri is an established leader in financial services. Look who's here!

Click on *orange* text for a link to more information.

- Missouri is home to the regional headquarters of several large banks, including Bank of America, Regions Bank, and U.S. Bancorp, as well as the headquarters for Commerce Bank, Central Bank, and UMB Bank—three of the top banks in the nation (*Forbes*).
- According to *Inc. Magazine*, the top job creator in Missouri in 2012 was a financial services company—Veterans United Home Loans in Columbia. The company was also the 29th best job creator in the U.S. and the top job creator among U.S. financial services companies.
- Missouri is the only state with two Federal Reserve Banks, located in Kansas City and St. Louis.
- The IRS has a significant operation in Kansas City, employing more than 6,000 employees during peak season.
- In 2012, three Missouri banks ranked in the U.S. top 10 percent among 303 publicly traded community bank companies (Raymond James & Associates): Enterprise Financial Services Corp. in St. Louis, which operates Enterprise Bank & Trust; Cass Information Systems Inc. in St. Louis, which operates Cass Commercial Bank; Southern Missouri Bancorp in Poplar Bluff, which operates Southern Bank.

Recent projects

Missouri has added more than 6,000 new jobs in the financial sector in just two years (*BLS, Aug 2011–2013, preliminary, not seasonally adjusted*).

2013

- **Aegis Communications Group** (Joplin) announced plans to hire 300 people for its Joplin call center. Aegis, a subsidiary of India's Essar Group, manages customer interaction, back office and other routine business processes for several Fortune 500 clients, including financial services companies.
- **Central Bank** (HQ Jefferson City) announced the addition of 25 new employees in Jefferson City in 2013. Central Bank has more than 2,800 employees and operates in Missouri, Illinois, Kansas, and Oklahoma.
- **Expedia** (Springfield) the largest online travel company announced plans to bring up to 100 more jobs to Springfield. Most of the new positions will be Global Financial Operations support services roles, supporting the company's online travel brands including Expedia.com® and Hotels.com®. Since establishing a presence in Springfield in 2001, Expedia, Inc. has grown its local workforce to include more than 850 employees.
- **North America Savings Bank** (HQ Grandview) added nearly 250 employees to its mortgage operations center in Kansas City in 2012 and announced plans to add 75 more workers by the end of 2014. The company is a national mortgage lender providing home loans in all 50 states, including the District of Columbia.

- **Reinsurance Group of America (RGA)** (HQ St. Louis) announced plans to build a new headquarters in St. Louis. The 405,000 square-foot facility will serve as the company's global headquarters, with a capital investment of \$140 million and the creation of 300 new jobs. The Fortune 500 company is a leader in the global life reinsurance industry with assets of \$40.2 billion and operations in 26 countries.
- **Serco** (Wentzville) announced plans to hire 600 people to handle applications for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act.
- **Spring Venture Group** (HQ Kansas City), a firm offering online comparison quotes for insurance, announced plans to move its headquarters from Kansas to Missouri, adding roughly 400 employees in the next three years.
- **U.S. Bank** (Kansas City and St. Louis) announced an expansion of its operations in St. Louis which is expected to create up to 260 new jobs. The largest bank in St. Louis, U.S. Bank is also one of the region's top employers with more than 4,000 employees—nearly 600 of whom work at the bank's two existing St. Louis-area mortgage campuses. The new center in St. Louis will house mortgage customer service representatives and technology operations staff. U.S. Bank also has a Regional banking services headquarters and operations center in Kansas City, Missouri.

2012

- **National Asset Recovery Services** (HQ St. Charles and Cape Girardeau) is a provider of business process outsourcing and collections services. The company announced plans to hire more than 420 employees for its new call center and headquarters in St. Charles. The company also announced 100 new jobs at a call center in Cape Girardeau.
- **Nationstar Mortgage** (St. Louis) announced it would be creating 300 jobs focused on loan origination fulfillment.
- **NCO Group** (Joplin, Springfield, St. Joseph) a leading provider of business process outsourcing services, announced plans to add 300 jobs at its Customer Contact Center in St. Joseph, coinciding with expansions of two Fortune 500 Clients. Just one year prior, the company announced plans to hire 500 at its Joplin call center.
- **Stifel Financial Corp** (HQ St. Louis) announced plans to add over 200 new jobs to its St. Louis headquarters. Stifel Financial is the parent company of brokerage firm Stifel Nicolaus.
- **Wells Fargo Advisors** (HQ St. Louis) announced plans to invest \$33 million to expand its downtown St. Louis offices. The expansion will include the renovation of 180,000 square feet of office space and will add 400 new jobs. Wells Fargo Advisors has added 1,000 new St. Louis jobs in less than five years.

Other major Missouri financial services companies

- **American Century Investments** (HQ Kansas City) provides investment advisory, management, and administrative services for mutual funds.
- **CitiGroup** (Kansas City and St. Louis) has several major operations in the state, including a bank processing and collections center in Kansas City. CitiMortgage, the company's mortgage lending subsidiary, employs 4,000 at its St. Louis headquarters.
- **Commerce Bancshares** (HQ Kansas City) is a \$17.5 billion regional bank holding company currently operating in approximately 350 locations in Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, Oklahoma, and Colorado.

- **DST Systems, Inc.** (HQ Kansas City) was founded in 1969 as a division of Kansas City Southern Industries. DST was established to develop an automated recordkeeping system for the mutual fund industry. DST is the largest provider of third-party shareholder recordkeeping services in the United States today.
- **Edward Jones** (HQ St. Louis) is a Fortune 500 investment brokerage network serving some 7 million clients, with offices in all 50 states, plus Canada.
- **H&R Block** (HQ Kansas City) is the world's largest tax preparation business, with 100,000 employees and more than 400 million clients.
- **Jack Henry & Associates** (HQ Monett) processes transactions, automates business processes and manages mission-critical information for more than 8,700 financial institutions and corporate entities.
- **JPMorgan Chase & Co.** (Springfield) has a card services office in Missouri with over 1,000 employees.
- **Mastercard Worldwide** (O'Fallon) processes every Mastercard transaction in the world—as many as 20 million per day—at their global technology operations center in suburban St. Louis.
- **Scottrade** (HQ St. Louis) is one of the largest online brokerages in the U.S. The company also maintains a network of brokers at more than 425 branch offices in nearly all 50 states, with concentrations on both coasts.
- **Thompson Reuters** (St. Louis) is a multinational media and information firm for the financial, legal and tax sectors. The company operates call center and data center support from St. Louis, as well as account administration.
- **UMB Financial Corp.** (HQ Kansas City) provides banking and related financial services in seven states—Missouri, Illinois, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Arizona.
- **Veterans United** (HQ Columbia) is the nation's leading dedicated provider of VA home loans. The company was co-founded by two University of Missouri alumni.

Other major Missouri insurance-related companies

- **Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City** is the largest provider of health plans in a 32-county area serving greater Kansas City and northwest Missouri. The company also offers a number of benefit programs that can be included in many group health plans for area employers. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.
- **Centene** (HQ St. Louis) is a multi-line health care enterprise operating primarily in two segments: Medicaid managed care and specialty services. The Fortune 500 firm operates health plans in 19 states.
- **Columbia Mutual Insurance Company** (HQ Columbia) is the parent company of a group of five property and casualty insurance companies operating as the Columbia Insurance Group. The company is licensed in 30 states, with policyholders in 19 states, and has branch offices in Austin, Texas; Atlanta, Georgia; Omaha, Nebraska; and Salina, Kansas.
- **Lockton** (HQ Kansas City) is the world's largest privately owned, independent insurance brokerage firm. The company offers risk management services, commercial property/casualty insurance, surety bonds, merger and acquisition support, and employee benefit planning services.

- **The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC)** (Kansas City) is the U.S. standard-setting and regulatory support organization created and governed by insurance regulators from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories. This organization's central office is in Kansas City, MO and has nearly 500 employees.
- **Shelter Insurance** (HQ Columbia) employs 2,000 people and serves customers in 14 states. It also operates Shelter Reinsurance Company, which provides reinsurance coverage for property around the world.
- **State Farm Insurance** (Columbia) has an operations center in the state that employs over 1,000 people.
- **State Street** (Kansas City) offers benchmarking, investment management, and securities administration. Kansas City serves as the hub of the company's insurance servicing operation, providing investment administration for insurance portfolios.

Major Missouri accounting firms

- **Anders** (HQ St. Louis)
- **BKD** (HQ Springfield)
- **Brown Smith Wallace** (HQ St. Louis)
- **Deloitte** (Kansas City and St. Louis)
- **EY** (Kansas City and St. Louis)
- **Grant Thornton** (Kansas City and St. Louis)
- **KPMG** (Kansas City and St. Louis)
- **McGladrey** (Kansas City and St. Louis)
- **PricewaterhouseCoopers** (Kansas City and St. Louis)
- **RubinBrown** (Kansas City and St. Louis)
- **UHY Advisors** (St. Louis)

Venture capital firms

- **Advantage Capital Partners** (St. Louis)
- **Ascension Health Ventures** (St. Louis)
- **BioGenerator** (St. Louis)
- **Bush O'Donnell Capital Partners** (St. Louis)
- **Capital for Business, Inc.** (St. Louis)
- **CC Capital Advisors** (Kansas City)
- **Cultivation Capital** (St. Louis)
- **Helix Fund** (St. Louis)
- **Nidus Partners** (St. Louis)
- **Oakwood Medical Investors** (St. Louis)
- **Prolog Ventures** (St. Louis)
- **RiverVest Venture Partners** (St. Louis)
- **Stifel, Nicolaus & Company** (St. Louis)
- **Thompson Street Capital Partners** (St. Louis)

- **Tradebot Ventures** (Kansas City)
- **Triathalon Medical Ventures** (St. Louis)

Angel networks

- **Arch Angels** (St. Louis)
- **Billiken Angels** (St. Louis)
- **Centennial Investors** (Columbia)
- **Show-Me Angels** (Lee's Summit)
- **Springfield Angel Network** (Springfield)

Federal reserve banks

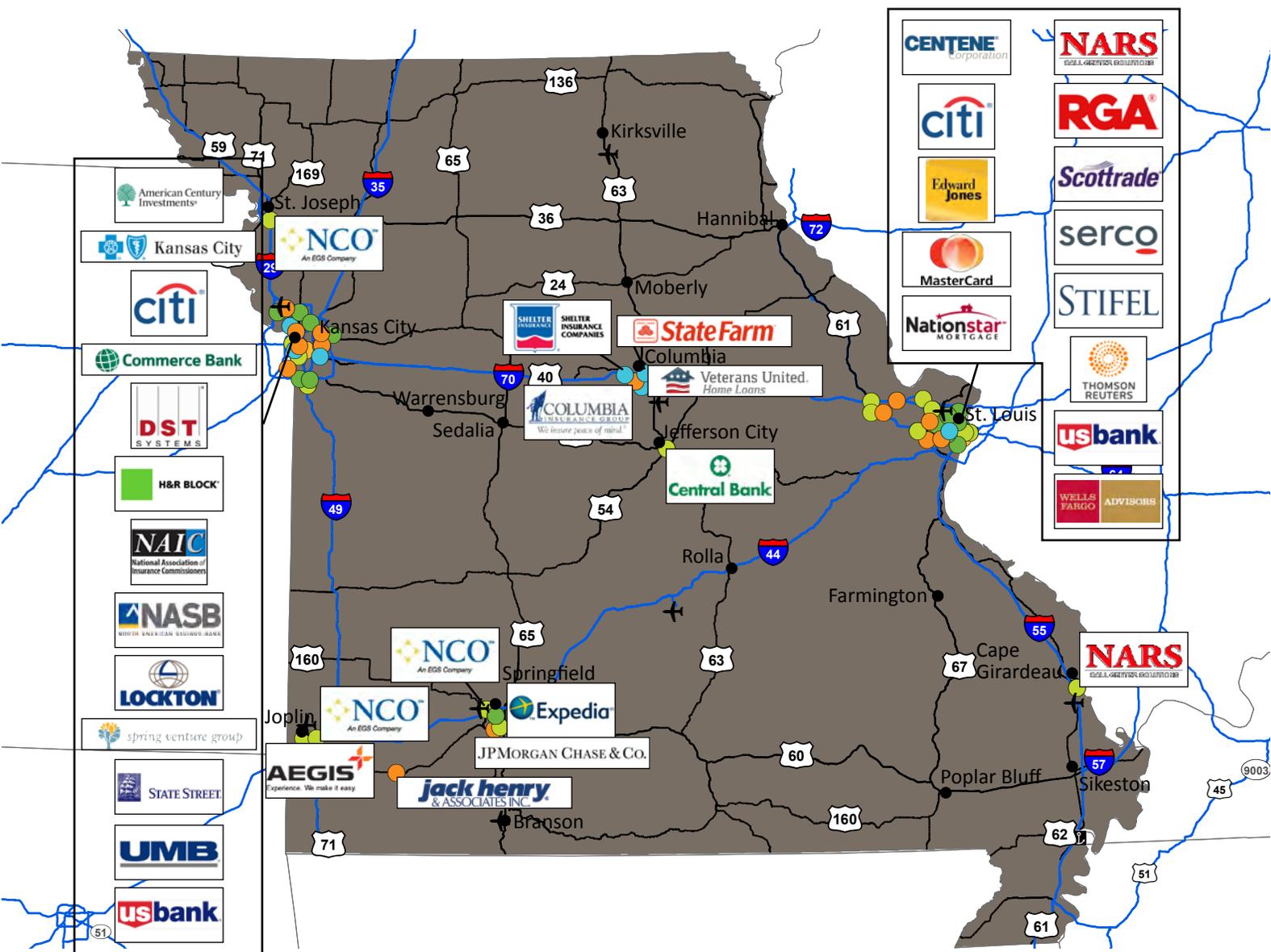
- **The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City** covers the 10th District of the Federal Reserve, which includes Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Wyoming, and portions of western Missouri and northern New Mexico. The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City processes more than 1 million checks a day.
- **The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis** serves as a center for local, national, and global economic research. From its recently expanded offices, the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis oversees activity in the Federal Reserve's 8th District, which includes all of Arkansas, and parts of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee.

Other resources

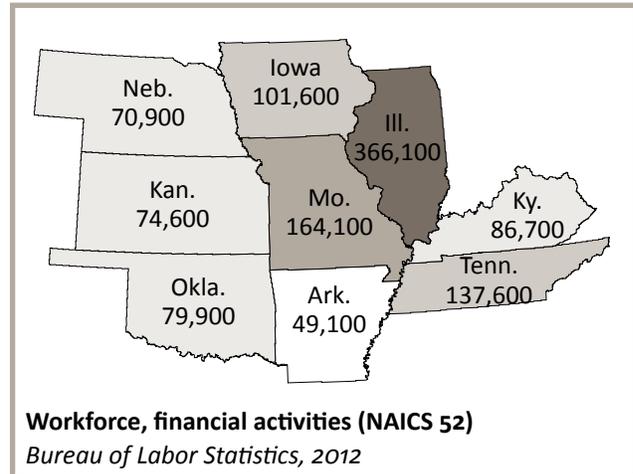
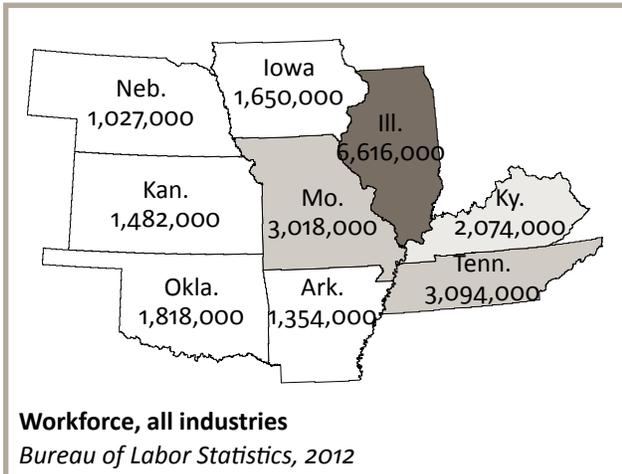
- **Accelerate St. Louis** is a one-stop-shop connecting entrepreneurs to resources and investors for launching and growing business in the St. Louis region.
- **Launch KC** is a strategic initiative designed to attract and develop IT entrepreneurs and professionals to the thriving information technology community in the Crossroads Arts District and throughout greater Downtown Kansas City, Missouri.
- **SixThirty** (St. Louis) provides financial technology startups with funding, mentoring, and networking opportunities with the top financial services companies in the country. Backed by the St. Louis Regional Chamber and venture capital firm Cultivation Capital, SixThirty selects eight financial-based technology startup companies each year to take part in four-month accelerator programs.

Missouri's financial services companies

- Recent projects
- Financial services companies
- Insurance companies
- Major accounting firms
- ✈ Major airport



3 Missouri's got talent!



"Missouri's got the Midwest work ethic, which means we've got a terrific pool of people to draw from. We also have great schools: Washington University in St. Louis, Webster University, Saint Louis University and UMSL (the University of Missouri-St. Louis). We hire hundreds of graduates from those fine institutions. They're sharp, they've been challenged to think critically, and they've got excellent communications skills."

—Jim Weddle, Edward Jones

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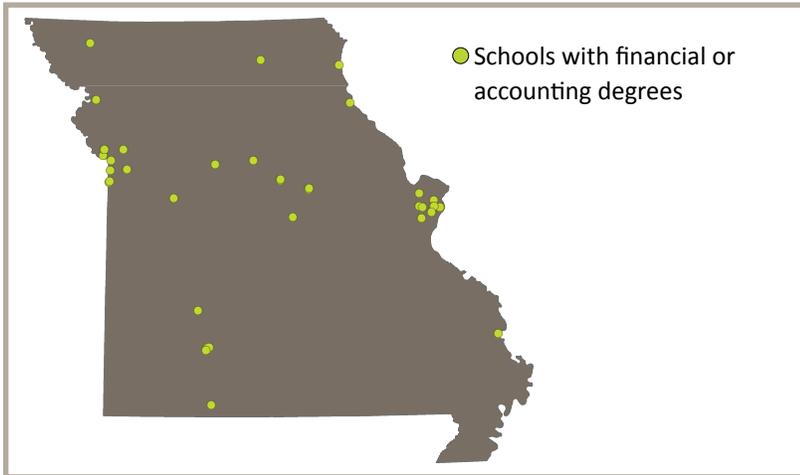
- Missouri is a top 10 state for growth in the financial sector over the past decade ([American City Business Journals](#)).
- According to the [Wall Street Journal](#), employment in St. Louis's financial sector grew 84.7 percent between 2007–2012, more than any other major metro.
- 233,012, or nearly 11 percent, of workers in Missouri are employed in core occupations relevant to the financial services industry.
- Missouri has over 10,000 licensed CPAs. More than 900 Missourians are registered members of the CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst) Institute.
- Missouri had over 2,300 graduates with bachelor's degrees or higher in Finance and Accounting in 2012.
- Over 40 Missouri colleges and universities offer bachelor's degrees or higher in Finance or Accounting.
- *Bloomberg Businessweek* ranked Washington University's undergraduate business degree 4th in the nation in 2013. Washington University in St. Louis also has a part-time MBA program ranked 21st best by *U.S. News and World Report*.

Occupation information for financial services

Occupation code	Occupation title	Missouri employment	Missouri median hourly wage	Massachusetts median hourly wage	New York median hourly wage	North Carolina median hourly wage
00-0000	All Occupations	2,605,910	\$15.21	\$20.88	\$19.19	\$15.31
11-3031	Financial Managers	7,330	\$48.04	\$55.13	\$76.05	\$53.53
13-1031	Claims Adjusters, Examiners, and Investigators	6,110	\$28.52	\$29.48	\$30.81	\$28.40
13-2011	Accountants and Auditors	24,390	\$26.56	\$33.57	\$36.34	\$29.30
13-2053	Insurance Underwriters	2,210	\$25.95	\$33.20	\$35.18	\$30.82
13-2061	Financial Examiners	740	\$36.59	\$39.93	\$45.10	\$38.01
13-2071	Credit Counselors	280	\$16.76	\$21.38	\$22.68	\$17.27
13-2072	Loan Officers	6,890	\$28.03	\$33.08	\$48.10	\$29.92
13-2081	Tax Examiners and Collectors, and Revenue Agents	2,020	\$19.27	\$28.59	\$27.72	\$22.26
13-2082	Tax Preparers	1,130	\$14.86	\$24.30	\$24.60	\$14.93
13-2099	Financial Specialists, All Other	1,990	\$24.40	\$32.46	\$34.20	\$28.56
15-1151	Computer User Support Specialists	13,850	\$20.74	\$27.20	\$24.10	\$22.93
41-3021	Insurance Sales Agents	9,680	\$18.62	\$31.50	\$29.03	\$20.27
41-9041	Telemarketers	7,260	\$10.04	\$14.79	\$11.28	\$12.12
43-2011	Switchboard Operators, Including Answering Service	2,980	\$11.57	\$13.27	\$13.47	\$12.10
43-3031	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	30,120	\$15.50	\$19.61	\$18.63	\$16.35
43-4051	Customer Service Representatives	48,450	\$13.87	\$17.65	\$16.39	\$14.37
43-4171	Receptionists and Information Clerks	13,320	\$11.95	\$13.91	\$13.60	\$12.22
43-9041	Insurance Claims and Policy Processing Clerks	3,920	\$17.87	\$19.93	\$18.36	\$17.42

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates, May 2013

Schools offering financial or accounting degree programs



- **Avila University:** BS in Finance, BS in Accounting
- **Central Methodist University:** BS in Finance, BS in Accounting
- **College of the Ozarks:** BS in Accounting
- **Colorado Technical University-Kansas City:** BS in Accounting
- **Columbia College:** BS in Finance, BS in Accounting
- **Culver-Stockton College:** BS in Finance, BS in Accounting
- **DeVry University's Keller Graduate School of Management-Missouri:** MS in Accounting
- **Drury University:** BS in Finance, BS in Accounting
- **Evangel University:** BS in Finance, BS in Accounting
- **Everest College-Springfield:** BS in Accounting
- **Fontbonne University:** BS and MS in Accounting
- **Grantham University:** BS in Accounting
- **Hannibal-LaGrange University:** BS in Accounting
- **Harris-Stowe State University:** BS in Accounting
- **Lincoln University:** BS in Accounting
- **Lindenwood University:** BS and MS in Finance, BS and MS in Accounting
- **Maryville University of Saint Louis:** BS in Accounting
- **Missouri Baptist University:** BS in Accounting
- **Missouri State University-Springfield:** BS in Finance, BS and MS in Accounting, BS in Risk Management and Insurance
- **Missouri Valley College:** BS in Finance, BS in Accounting
- **Missouri Western State University:** BS in Finance, BS in Accounting
- **National American University-Independence:** BS in Finance, BS in Accounting
- **National American University-Lee's Summit:** BS in Finance, BS in Accounting

- **Northwest Missouri State University:** BS in Finance, BS in Accounting
- **Park University:** BS in Finance, BS in Accounting
- **Saint Louis University:** MS in Accounting
- **Sanford-Brown College-Fenton:** BS in Accounting
- **Southeast Missouri State University:** BS in Finance, BS and MS in Accounting
- **Southwest Baptist University:** BS in Finance, BS in Accounting
- **Truman State University:** BS and MS in Accounting
- **University of Central Missouri:** BS in Finance, BS and MS in Accounting
- **University of Missouri:** BS in Business Administration with Finance or Accounting Concentration, MS in Accounting
- **University of Missouri-Kansas City:** MS in Finance, BS and MS in Accounting
- **University of Missouri-St Louis:** BS and MS in Accounting
- **Washington University in St Louis:** BS and MS in Finance, BS and MS in Accounting
- **Webster University:** BS and MS in Finance, BS in Accounting
- **Westminster College:** BS in Accounting
- **William Jewell College:** BS in Accounting
- **William Woods University:** BS in Accounting

4 Missouri's central location and stable natural environment provide an ideal home for your customer's data.



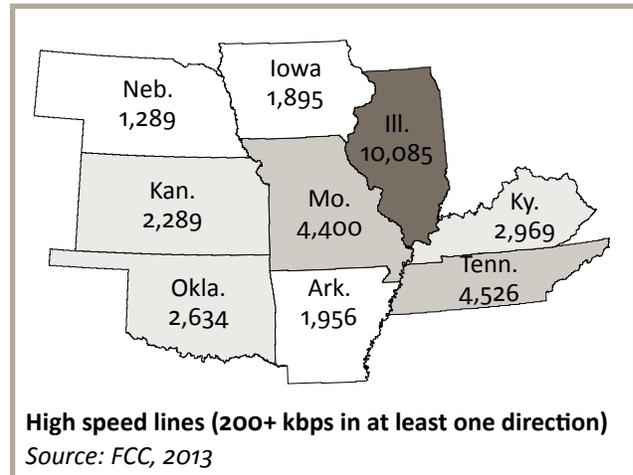
Location

- Missouri's central location allows companies to stretch their work days to service customers on both coasts.
- Missouri is within 600 miles of 50 percent of U.S. households including those in seven of the nation's fastest growing metros: Dallas, Houston, Atlanta, Austin, Denver, San Antonio, and Minneapolis.
- Missouri is bordered by eight states, tied with Tennessee for the most of any U.S. state.

Safe environment

- Located in the center of the country, Missouri is a low-risk state for acts of terrorism and has experienced no such events (*FEMA*).
- Missouri has a stable environment for keeping data secure. The state has experienced no major disasters related to hurricanes or earthquakes since record keeping began in 1957 (*FEMA*).

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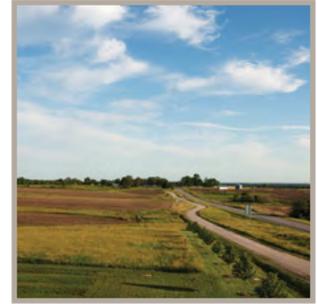
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- In 2011, Kansas City was selected from over 1,100 communities to be the first to receive Google Fiber, an experimental broadband internet network infrastructure using fiber-optic communication. Google Fiber provides symmetrical connectivity at around 1 gigabit per second, about 100 times faster access than average ([more](#)).
- In 2009, Governor Jay Nixon created the MoBroadbandNow initiative to develop a public-private partnership of multiple cooperative parties for the purpose of building broadband access to all areas of the state. The Governor's goal is to increase broadband accessibility from its current level to 95 percent by the end of 2014 ([more](#)).
- Missouri benefits from the presence of the National LambdaRail (NLR) and Internet2, high-speed national networks connecting research institutions to one another for faster exchange of data. The National LambdaRail is a 12,000 mile, high-speed national network infrastructure that runs over fiber-optic lines. Internet2 is an advanced network consortium connecting more than 60,000 educational, research, government, and community institutions over an advanced fiber-optic network.
- Missouri has more high speed connections than most Midwestern states. High speed connections include fiber, ADSL, SDSL, Cable Modem, Satellite, and Fixed and Mobile Wireless.

Quality of life

- Missourians enjoy endless recreational and cultural opportunities, including world-class fishing and hiking, nationally-ranked parks, and abundant music and theatre options.
- With 1,000 miles of managed trails and more than 500 miles of nationally designated recreation trails, Missouri has been named the “Best Trails State” by American Trails (2013).
- Forest Park in St. Louis was named one of the World’s Most Beautiful City Parks by *Travel + Leisure* in 2013.
- Missouri is a low-cost state, ranking 11th for lowest cost of living in the U.S. (*CNBC*, 2013) and 13th for lowest state and local property taxes per capita (*Tax Foundation*, 2013).
- Missouri is home to top ranked health institutions, such as Barnes Jewish Children’s Hospital (BJC) in St. Louis and A.T. Still University, the birthplace of osteopathic medicine.
- Missouri has above average rankings for K-12 education. The state ranks among the U.S. top ten for Blue Ribbon schools (*U.S. Department of Education*) and consistently produces above average scores on college entrance exams.

“Because there’s a financial services base here, there’s a labor force for the kind of work we do. It’s a quality work force, motivated. And commute times are short. No one has to drive more than 30 minutes to or from work. In that way, Missouri is more oriented toward leading a balanced life.”

—Paul Bland, Thomson Reuters



The Missouri Partnership is a public-private, non-profit focused on recruiting new business to the state. To find out how the Missouri Partnership can assist at any stage of your project, contact us by:

mail: 120 South Central Avenue, Suite 1535
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

12200 NW Ambassador Drive, Suite 234
Kansas City, Missouri 64163

phone: 314.725.0949

e-mail: info@missouripartnership.com

website: www.missouripartnership.com

social media:

