

COVID-19 Missouri Economy Indicators

Online Job Postings

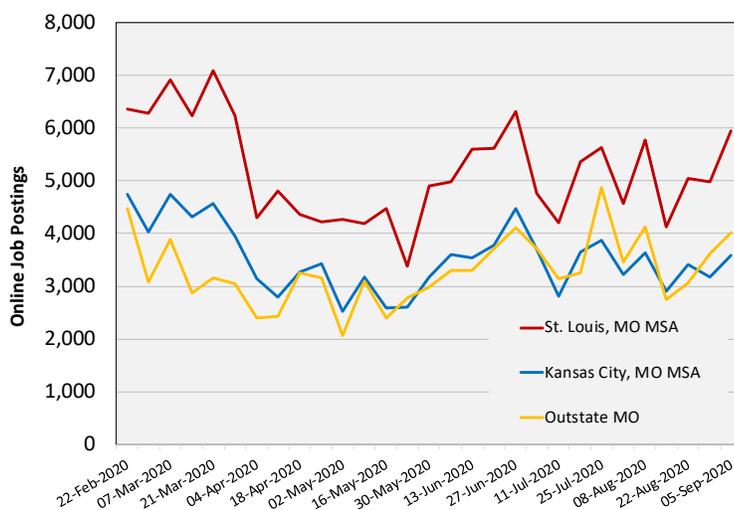
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Since the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19, pandemic emerged as a global health concern, many efforts have focused on containing and treating the disease. As states and municipalities lift their stay-at-home orders, they now must manage how to reopen their economies. This Missouri Economy Indicators series will highlight data and resources that businesses and policymakers can use to navigate this evolving situation.

Counting Online Job Posts

Vendors, such as Burning Glass Technologies, aggregate data from job advertisements posted on the internet. These data help identify positions for which employers are currently hiring, and jobs they want to fill. These data can provide information about the short-term workforce needs of many Missouri employers. As a result, this information can indicate how the state's job market has fluctuated throughout the pandemic and how the volume of job postings varies among industries.

New Weekly Online Job Postings



Source: Burning Glass Technologies, Labor Insight, 09/08/20

New Weekly Job Postings are Rising but Have Not Returned to Pre-pandemic Levels

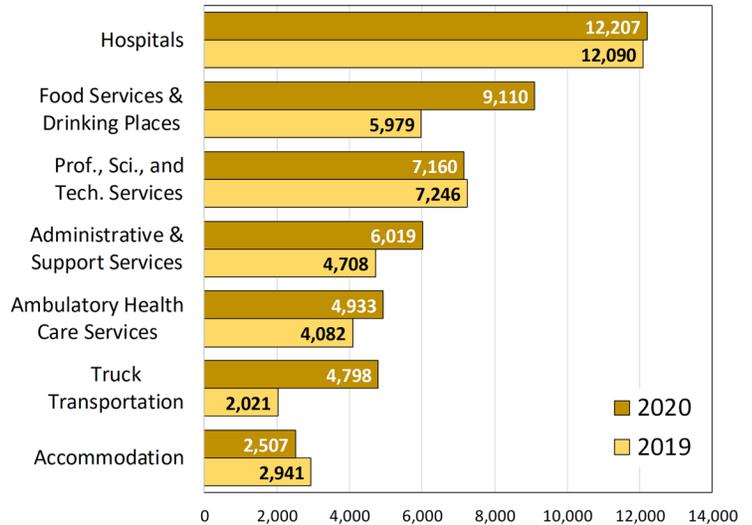
Missouri continues its economic recovery, but the recession is far from over. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the state had almost 140,000 fewer jobs and 38,000 fewer people in the labor force in July 2020 than in February 2020 before the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the economy. Online job postings provide a different, and more current, way to examine the pandemic's impact on the state's labor market.

Online job posting trends show new weekly postings declined sharply in late March. In late May and June, the number of new weekly job postings subsequently grew as the economy reopened. Since the end of June, weekly new job postings have been inconsistent and still have not reached pre-pandemic levels. For instance, in the week ending Sept. 5, 2020, Missouri had 13,350 new job postings—down roughly 13% from mid-February. These trends are consistent throughout the state, as the job postings data exhibited similar trends in the St. Louis and Kansas City metro areas and the balance of the state (outstate Missouri).

Comparing job postings trends from summer 2019 and 2020 can show how the pandemic has affected different industries. Between June and August 2020, *hospitals* and *professional, scientific and technical services* employers continued to post jobs at a similar level as they did during the same period in 2019. This indicates that—relative to other sectors—their hiring has been less affected by the recession. Job postings in truck transportation grew significantly between summer 2019 and 2020, perhaps due to the increase in online purchases.

Industries such as *food services*, *administrative and support services* (e.g., temporary services), and *ambulatory health care services* (e.g., doctor and dentist offices) lost substantial employment in March and April. This summer’s increase in job postings relative to 2019 for these industries likely reflects efforts to hire back some lost jobs. By contrast, *accommodation* (e.g., hotels) also experienced significant job losses earlier this year, but its level of new job postings in summer 2020 continued to lag behind that of 2019.

New Job Postings in Select Missouri Industries (June to August 2020)



Source: Burning Glass Technologies

Online Job Postings Provide Another Useful Lens for Examining Missouri’s Labor Market

- **Hiring occurs throughout the economy.** Some industries (e.g., *hospitals*) consistently need workers, but economic recovery and employee turnover drive hiring in some of the industries hurt most by the recession (e.g., *restaurants*).
- **Job postings fluctuate more in industries that require more face-to-face interaction.** The recession has touched all industries, but the number of job postings remained steady in those industries that offer jobs with greater potential for [remote work](#) (e.g., *professional, scientific, and technical services*).
- **Online job postings do not capture all hiring.** Industries such as agriculture and more unionized industries such as construction and manufacturing are less likely to use online job advertisements to find workers.

Additional Resources

- **Missouri Small Business Development Center COVID-19 Resource Page** has a small business guide to the CARES Act, video guides and other resources at sbdc.missouri.edu/sbdc-covid-19-resources
- **Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC)** provides periodic real-time labor market summaries using Burning Glass Technologies Labor Insight: <https://meric.mo.gov/media/pdf/real-time-labor-market-summary>

This brief is the 13th in a series to explore economic indicators associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Future updates will be available at tinyurl.com/ExceedEconomyIndicators

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