



A Report to the Region

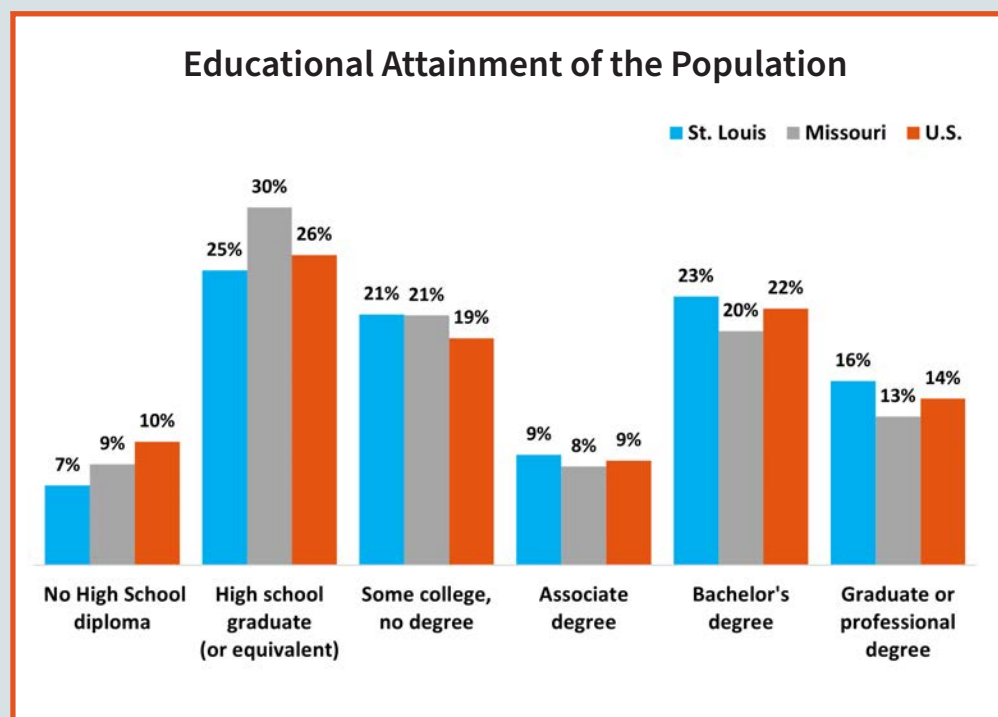
Finding Balance

A Workforce Recovering
and Forging Ahead



State of the St. Louis Workforce

The 2024 State of the St. Louis Workforce annual report provides an overview of workforce data, employer perspectives and industry spotlights. As we publish our 16th report, the St. Louis region has returned to many pre-pandemic data points: unemployment rates, educational attainment and remote work policies are all at 2019 rates. Yet we face a future that is in equal parts still recovering from the last four years and also facing new challenges. It's a difficult balance.



The St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is comprised of 15 counties: eight in Illinois, seven in Missouri. Ninety percent of the region's jobs are concentrated in five counties: St. Louis, St. Louis City, St. Charles, Madison and St. Clair. The workforce is highly diversified with 90% of workers employed across ten major industries.

We must consider the future of our workers that are trying to keep pace with change. There is a great opportunity to grow the skills of our workers. The 2024 State of the St. Louis Workforce employer survey indicates that for most industries, 50% of current job needs require some level of training or education beyond a high school diploma, but less than a four-year degree. Ensuring affordable, accessible options for training and education for workers of all ages will be our biggest opportunity to improve our region.

By the numbers

1,495,203

The largest workforce on record for St. Louis MSA (May 2024)

39%

St. Louis Workforce with a bachelor's degree or more

32%

St. Louis Workforce with a high school diploma or less

10%

Unemployment rate for males age 29 or younger

10%

St. Louis MSA workforce living below the poverty level

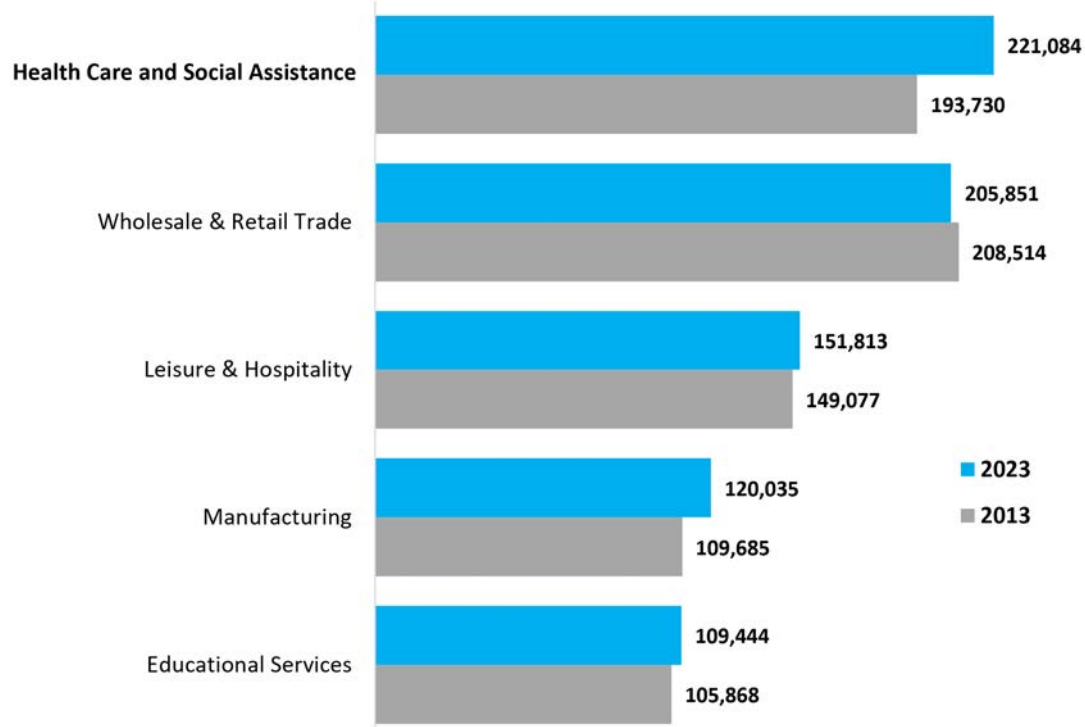
60%

Households that are living paycheck to paycheck

Download the full State of the St. Louis Workforce report at stlcc.edu/STLworkforce

Spotlight on Health Care

Top Five St. Louis Industries by Employment



Source: Quarterly Workforce Indicators, U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Averages

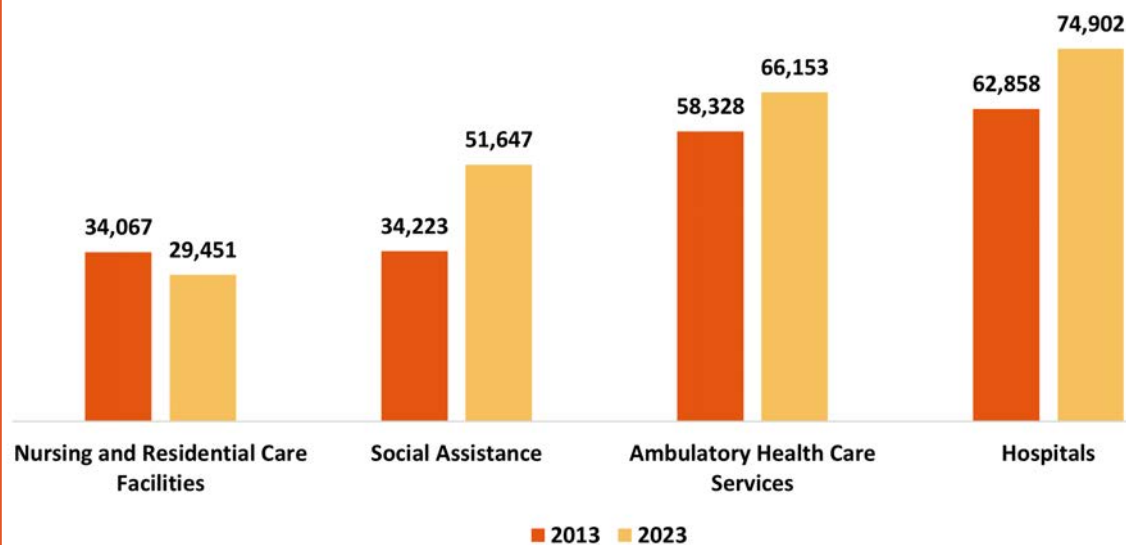
Health care is a key industry for St. Louis. It is the largest industry by employment for the region with 221,084 workers, or 14.8% of the workforce.

One of every seven workers in the St. Louis MSA is part of the health care industry. The last decade has seen an addition of 27,350 workers in the sector, a 14% increase. Health Care and Social Assistance produces \$18.6 billion in economic activity for the St. Louis region, and over \$34.6 billion for Missouri, approximately 9% of GDP.

The region is home to over 161 licensed hospitals and health systems that provide care to millions of people. Leading health systems like BJC HealthCare, SSM Health and Mercy Health operate dozens of hospitals, specialty clinics and surgical centers. They are investing billions in developing new treatment centers and campus expansions, and adopting cutting-edge technologies to meet patient needs.

Additionally, St. Louis is home to Washington University and Saint Louis University, which supply health care expertise and extensive research funding. The partnerships between industry, academia and the startup community help move innovative discoveries from research labs to patient care.

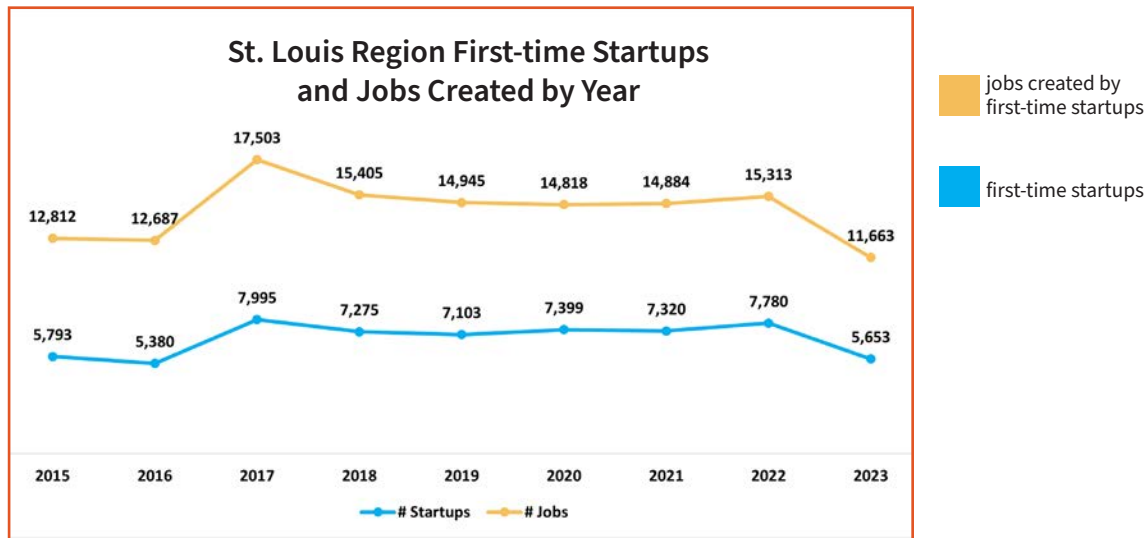
St. Louis MSA Health Care Employment by Subsector



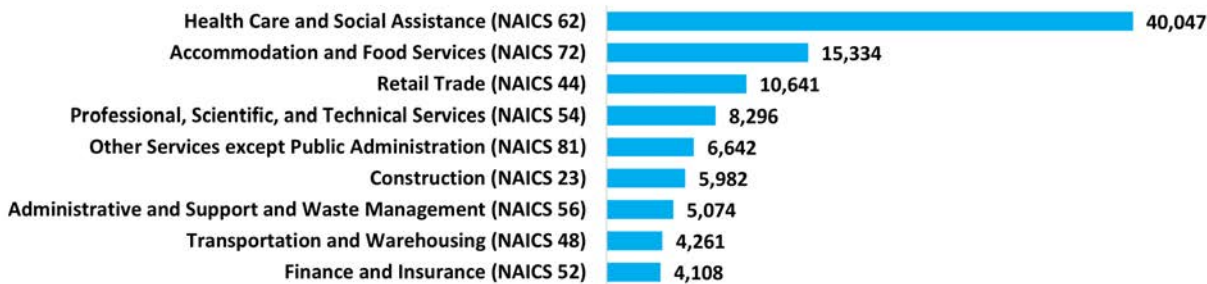
Spotlight on Startups

Startups are the major contributor of new jobs to any community, and St. Louis is no exception. In 2023, first-time startups created 11,663 new jobs for the St. Louis region, down from the 15,313 created in 2022.

The impact of startups is also significant in the St. Louis health care sector. Since 2016, first-time startups created over 40,000 new jobs for health care workers. The collaboration between our universities, corporations and startup community combine to bring new medical devices, care services, pharmaceuticals and therapies to improve the lives of St. Louisans.



St. Louis Region Jobs Created by Startups (2016-2023)



St. Louis Startup and Business Survey

If you are a small business owner or entrepreneur, scan the QR code to access the anonymous survey. Your feedback will give better information on the needs of our startup community and is not available anywhere else.



While the world has been recovering from the pandemic, we have been laying the groundwork for the next version of St. Louis Community College.

Thanks to the passage of a tax levy increase by the people of St. Louis County, that work is evident on our four campuses with six new workforce buildings under construction. In 2025, each building will be filled with the latest technology for educating the workers of St. Louis for jobs in advanced manufacturing, IT, financial services, automotive and health care. Additionally, dozens of existing buildings will be renovated to the same standards. The classrooms, labs and work spaces are designed to adapt to new technologies for decades to come.

At a time when universities struggle with declining enrollment, and students question the value of a bachelor's degree, STLCC has increasing enrollment. We are ready to support the workforce of the St. Louis region with education and training that's needed today: focused skills for in-demand jobs in the key industries of our region.

The workers of St. Louis need skills beyond a high school diploma in order to work in jobs with family-sustaining wages. Our employers have those jobs, many of which require the type of education and training offered by STLCC. The STLCC programs and degrees range from two weeks to two years, offer the most competitive tuition in the region for in-person and online learning, and provide the useful hands-on learning environment in new and updated buildings built for today's job seeker.

Come home to STLCC. Explore the many ways that STLCC can support you in your journey to a new career or grow in your current job. We look forward to seeing you soon.

– Jeff Pittman, PhD
Chancellor, St. Louis Community College



The State of St. Louis Workforce report and event are produced annually by St. Louis Community College's Workforce Solutions Group.

Workforce Solutions Group connects job seekers with employment providers through customized and short-term training and offers opportunities for lifelong learning through continuing education. Visit us at stlcc.edu/workforce.



Download the report at
stlcc.edu/STLworkforce