

Profile of the Community

Springfield, Missouri, located in southwest Missouri, represents a culture that is both urban and rural. The Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area includes Greene, Christian, Webster, Polk, and Dallas counties, and the Economic Area encompasses 27 counties in southwest Missouri.

During the past several years, Springfield has garnered the following recognitions:

- Top 10 Best Metros for Business Expansion (*Expansion Management Magazine*)
- Top 10 Places to Live and Work (*Employment Review*)
- Top 15 Cities for Doing Business (mid-sized metros) (*Inc. Magazine*)
- Top 12 Midwest Cities for High-Tech Jobs (*CorpTech, Technology Industry Growth Forecaster*)
- Top 25 Best Places in the U.S. (*Forbes Magazine*)
- Gold Medal School System (*Expansion Management Magazine*)
- 5-Star Quality of Life (*Expansion Management Magazine*)

The city of Springfield boasts over 41,000 college and university students⁵, most of whom attend Missouri State University, Ozarks Technical Community College, Drury University, and Evangel University. Likewise, the two largest Springfield employers—CoxHealth and St. John’s Health System—have each been recognized nationally as top integrated health care networks. Nearly all of these health care and higher education institutions are undergoing vast capital improvements and investing significant dollars to enhance their campuses. Large-scale shopping destinations such as Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World and Battlefield Mall help to contribute to the over \$3 billion of annual retail sales in the city.⁶

Data Sources:

- 1) Bureau of the Census, 2002 estimate
- 2) Bureau of the Census, 2003 estimate
- 3) Bureau of the Census, 2000-2003
- 4) Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2004
- 5) Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, Fall 2004
- 6) City of Springfield, 2004

QUICK POPULATION FACTS

Springfield City Limits	150,867 ¹
Five-County MSA	390,986 ²
Economic Area	936,502 ²

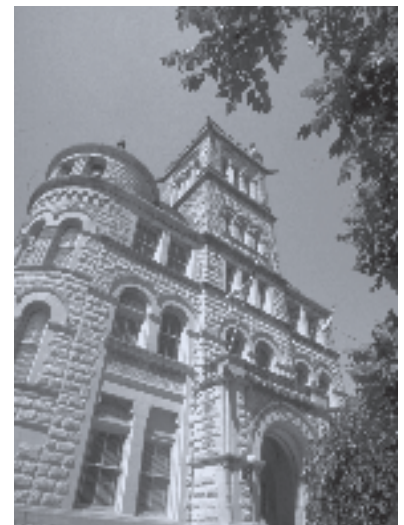
Population Growth

The population in the five-county area is growing at a rate of 1.6% annually.³ The workforce within the metropolitan area is 202,785 and has grown 4% since 2000,⁴ despite the national recession.

Employment and Education

Some of the area’s largest employers include CoxHealth, St. John’s Health System, Wal-Mart, Springfield Public Schools, Missouri State University, and Bass Pro Shops.

Springfield serves as a regional hub for health care, higher education, and retail which all have a significant impact on the local economy. Millions of dollars are infused into the economy on a daily basis by those who attend school, seek medical services, or shop within Springfield’s city limits.



Springfield City Hall