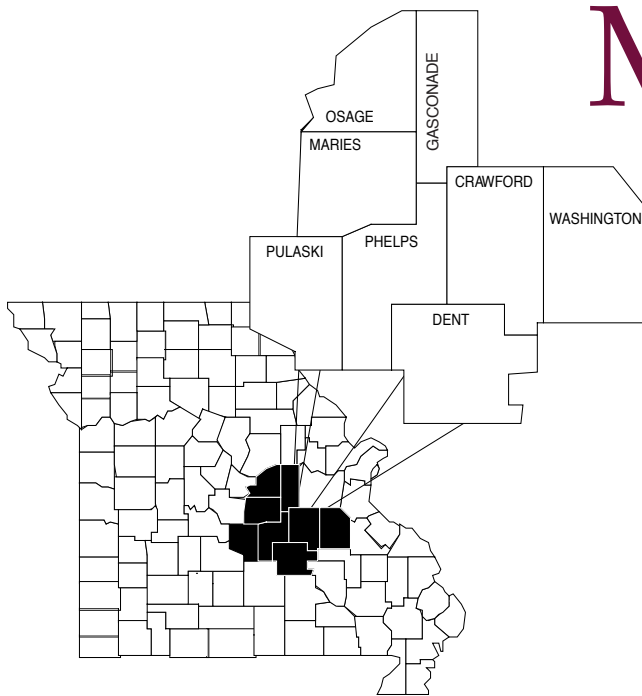


State Priorities in the Meramec Region



**An Issues Report
for the Region's Legislative Delegation**

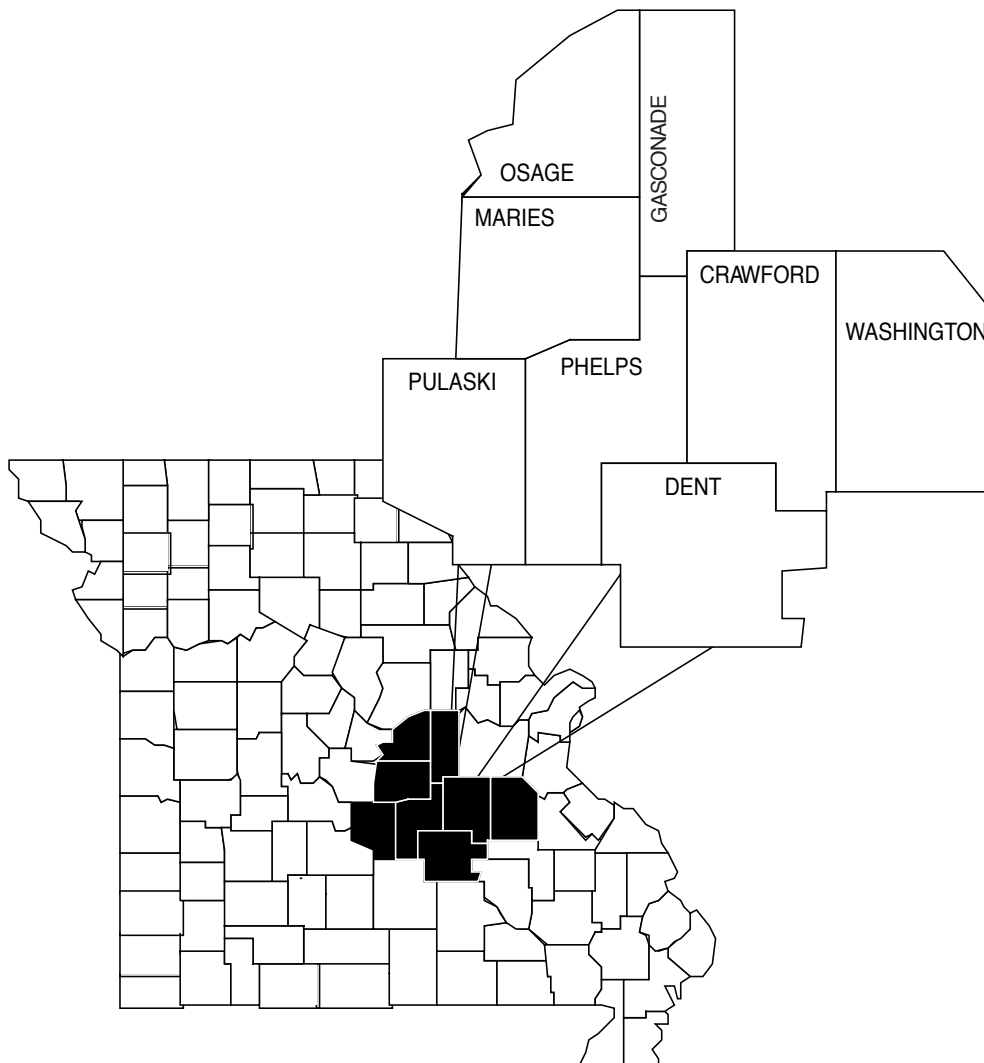
2008

Prepared by:
Meramec Regional Planning Commission
4 Industrial Drive
St. James, MO 65559

The Meramec Regional Planning Commission's Mission

The mission of MRPC is to enhance the quality of life for residents of the Meramec Region. In pursuit of this mission, MRPC will bring about results in these areas:

- Cleaner, healthier and safer communities,*
- Greater socio-economic and cultural wealth through community and economic development, and*
- A stronger, unified voice in the legislative process.*



The Meramec Regional Planning Commission is a voluntary council of local governments serving the Meramec area. The MRPC area includes the eight counties of Crawford, Dent, Gasconade, Maries, Osage, Phelps, Pulaski and Washington and their respective cities. Those cities are Bourbon, Cuba, Leasburg, Steelville, Sullivan, West Sullivan, Salem, Bland, Gasconade, Hermann, Morrison, Owensville, Rosebud, Belle, Vienna, Argyle, Chamois, Freeburg, Linn, Meta, Westphalia, Doolittle, Edgar Springs, Newburg, Rolla, St. James, Crocker, Dixon, Richland, St. Robert, Waynesville, Caledonia, Irondale, Mineral Point and Potosi.



2008 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES IN THE MERAMEC REGION

As you, our legislative representatives, begin the 2008 legislative session, the board of the Meramec Regional Planning Commission wishes to share some issues with you that are of interest to our organization as a whole and to our individual cities and counties. They are listed below with a brief explanation, in order of priority, as ranked by the MRPC board.

MRPC's Top State Priorities

TRANSPORTATION

- MRPC supports and encourages the four-laning of Highway 63 from Arkansas to Iowa, especially the section in Phelps, Maries and Osage counties.
- MRPC supports and encourages the four-laning of Highway 50 from Sedalia to Union, a section at a time.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- MRPC encourages better incentives to attract business from other states, including tax credits for a certain number of years and assistance with infrastructure in new industrial parks.
- MRPC supports more employer friendly tax and regulatory environment to attract new business to Missouri.

HEALTH CARE/SOCIAL SERVICE

- MRPC supports efforts to control health care and long-term care costs and provide more affordable health care to all. MRPC recommends that tort reform be considered as a means to control health care costs.
- MRPC encourages better access to quality health care for the uninsured, under insured and the under served population in the region via Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs); MRPC supports the promotion of satellite facilities/clinics from existing community health centers such as Great Mines Health Center in Potosi. MRPC also encourages the availability of medical transportation from rural areas to larger areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL

- MRPC supports and encourages state legislators to expand and continue state loan and grant programs to improve sewage and treatment facilities. MRPC also recommends that the Department of Natural Resources make available additional funding mechanisms for small rural communities.
- MRPC encourages the development of alternative fuels using wood, hydrogen, wind and grasses.

EDUCATION

- MRPC supports efforts to ensure that rural areas receive their fair share of education dollars.
- MRPC encourages legislative efforts to support and expand technical training opportunities. This would include (1) the continued development of Linn State Technical College and encouraging the state legislators to continue funding for the college. (2) Technical training for health care services. Education opportunities should be available in small communities. Example: Houston nursing program (3) Technical education that supports economic development for the region

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (CITY/COUNTY)

- MRPC supports full funding of state mandates on local governments. For example—Jails, wastewater treatment facilities, judicial expenses, i.e., per diem for prisoners in county jails. Right now, the state pays \$21.50 per day to incarcerate a state prisoner. The statutory level is \$37.50, and actual costs run as much as \$45 per day in some Meramec counties. On a similar note, if an update of the county's Local Emergency Operations Plan is required, the state should provide funding.
- MRPC requests that legislators support full funding of regional planning commissions in the state. (Full funding for all 19 RPCs in the state is \$560,000.)

Highlights of 2007 Accomplishments

- **MRPC's Impact**

The Meramec Regional Planning Commission had a strong year in 2006-07. For every administrative dollar MRPC spent in Fiscal Year 2006-07, it brought \$7.92 into the region for the benefit of its communities and residents. MRPC's 2006-07 budget was \$1,454,717 while the agency generated over \$11.3 million in pass-through dollars. Pass-through dollars are those funds that go through MRPC directly into the region as grants to cities and counties, loans to businesses and housing assistance to landlords and tenants. The impact doesn't end there. Using a conservative multiplier of 2.5, MRPC had an economic impact valued at nearly \$28.28 million in the Meramec Region.

- **Transportation**

The partnership between Missouri regional planning commissions and the Missouri Department of Transportation continued to grow during 2007. Past and current federal transportation legislation called for increased local input into the state's planning programs and specifically mentions the regional development organizations as one of the means to involve local officials. MoDOT's efforts to increase local input in transportation planning resulted in the development and implementation of the Framework for Transportation Planning and Decision Making. This planning framework outlines the process for decision making and how local input, facilitated by regional planning organizations, affects transportation priorities.

MRPC's Transportation Advisory Committee held six meetings in 2007. The TAC and MRPC began providing input into a statewide process that would identify and prioritize projects statewide, should additional funding become available. The group continued to stress the importance of the region's top two transportation priorities—Highways 63 and 50. Design work continued on Highway 50 in Osage County, and an environmental improvement study progressed on Highway 63 in Phelps, Maries and Osage counties. The TAC prioritized MoDOT Enhancements grant projects for the region, and continued working on Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the Regional Transportation Plan. The TAC continued to make traffic counters available to perform traffic studies. MRPC staff prepared and distributed press releases and conducted radio interviews on transportation issues. MRPC staff also worked with District 9 on the Blueprint for Safety and the Arrive Alive campaigns.

- **Community and Economic Development**

MRPC is a designated Economic Development District (EDD), and through its planning grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, continues to work with its counties and cities to improve the infrastructure and economy of the region. With EDA planning funds, staff prepared funding applications for community and economic devel-

opment projects. During FY 2006-07, some \$3.5 million in federal and state grant monies flowed through the planning and development department for community and economic development projects.

In FY 2006-07, staff assisted member communities with the following funding opportunities:

- Missouri Department of Economic Development Community Development Block Grants for industrial infrastructure projects in St. James and Hermann; a downtown revitalization for Hermann and community facility grant for Osage County Community Living Ability Center.
- Missouri Department of Economic Development Neighborhood Assistance Projects (NAP) for St. James Caring Center, Dixon Area Caring Center and Crawford County Caring Foundation.
- Missouri Department of Transportation Enhancement grants for Crocker, Hermann, Pulaski County, Waynesville, Potosi and St. Robert.
- Missouri Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School grants for Crocker, Hermann, Waynesville and Sullivan.
- Missouri Housing Development Commission funding for a regionwide home repair program.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency Assistance to Firefighter Grants for Freeburg fire department
- Delta Regional Authority funds for Cuba industrial infrastructure improvements and Great Mines Health Center in Potosi.

Staff continued to disseminate funding information to member communities through grant alerts, workshops and seminars. Additionally, staff improved methods of resource research by placing more emphasis on searches via the Internet and expanded their knowledge on new funding opportunities.

MRPC, working in cooperation with the Meramec Community Enhancement Corporation, MRPC's 501(c)3 arm, continued efforts to assist communities in meeting the need for affordable housing for low-to-moderate income families.

Staff continued to host meetings of economic developers in the region, sharing information that benefits the entire region. Additionally, MRPC revamped the regional action plan, a part of the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, an economic development plan for the region, first submitted to the U.S. Department of Commerce in April 2002.

• **Business Loan Programs**

MRPC assists in developing the region's local economies by partnering to promote and assist the growth and development of businesses through innovative financing. MRPC continues to manage a U.S. Small Business Administration Certified Development Corporation

providing SBA 504 loan programs and operates the region's revolving loan fund, which was created with an EDA grant and local matching funds. In 2006-07, MRPC staff began marketing its new intermediary relending program, secured through a loan from USDA Rural Development.

These three programs are important to rural Missouri as they provide much needed gap financing. Many rural banks are unwilling to make higher-risk commercial loans, however, the subordinated financing available through the SBA 504, the IRP and the Meramec RLF reduce the banks' exposure. All loans are made in partnership with local private financial institutions. Eligibility for financing in these programs is dependent on saving and/or creating jobs in the region. The Meramec Region has used the SBA 504 program since 1982 to assist in financing business start-ups and expansions.

Through the SBA 504, some 859 jobs have been created or retained in the Meramec Region for an average investment of \$12,913 per job. SBA's requirement is one job for every \$50,000 in investment. Using the RLF program, the local development board has created or retained 794 jobs at a cost of \$3,517 per job. EDA's requirement is one job for every \$20,000 in investment. The initial \$400,000 grant, plus 25 percent matching funds provided by member communities, has fully revolved. Some 48 loans worth \$2,792,731 have been made through the RLF to date. Staff have already made four loans under the new IRP program. Nearly 40 jobs have been created or retained for a total loan amount of \$353,334.

- **Homeownership**

One of the major barriers to economic development in Missouri is the availability of affordable housing. This is a problem across the state as well as the Meramec Region. For some time now, MRPC has been involved with programs that help families move off the welfare roles and into self-sufficiency. This natural progression typically includes homeownership, however, with the lack of affordable housing, many families are having a difficult time achieving the American dream. Meramec Community Enhancement Corporation and MRPC worked together this year to continue providing homeownership opportunities to the region's low-income families.

With the program, homes are purchased and renovated to meet federal housing-quality standards and equipped with a new range and refrigerator. Grant funds are available to cover closing costs and can subsidize the down payment. Homebuyers must complete 25 hours of homeownership training and contribute 75 hours of sweat equity as well as obtain their own financing for the home. Some 30 homes have been rehabilitated and sold since 1994, and one home in Cuba is currently in the rehabilitation process.

The MRPC homeownership program originated with \$793,000 in state and federal funding. Since then, over \$333,800 has been donated in cash, material, labor and a house. Sales proceeds, in the amount of \$1.5 million, have been reinvested in the program. The program

continues to benefit from contributions of community volunteers, who actually help with the renovation work, as well as skilled professionals and businesses who donate their services and supplies.

- **Solid Waste Management**

The MRPC contracts with the Ozark Rivers Solid Waste Management District, a seven-county area that includes seven of the region's counties. The solid waste district is one of only two districts in the state with an approved solid waste plan, which outlines how the district will reduce by 40 percent the amount of solid waste being landfilled. MRPC has been assisting the district in implementing its plan. Over the past 15 years, the region's solid waste situation has changed drastically. When the district's plan was being prepared, seven landfills served the area; these have all closed, and the region now has three transfer stations and two landfills, so solid waste management is even more crucial. With funding assistance from USDA Rural Development, MRPC worked with the district to update its solid waste plan. This was completed in 2004.

So far, according to estimates provided by the state of Missouri, the state has reduced the amount of waste being landfilled by 40 percent, and the district has played a role in that effort. The district has focused heavily on education and providing technical assistance. Taking a hands-on approach, the district, through MRPC, has conducted seven household hazardous waste collections for paint, and through collaboration with local businesses and USDA, has hosted or assisted with four full-scale household hazardous waste collections since 2002. The district has held seven electronics waste collections since April 2003, and five collections for appliances and tires since 2005. The district has also conducted, for the past few years, local government tire collections and sponsored poster and trash art contests to illuminate the solid waste problem locally. Staff works with the Missouri University of Science and Technology-Rolla on planning and coordinating a campus-wide Earth Day event. Staff provided an informational booth and displayed winning art from the poster and trash art contest. In 2006, staff assisted with the first annual Earth Day celebration at Fort Leonard Wood.

A few years ago, a region-wide survey was completed of illegal dumps in the region. As a follow-up to that survey, MRPC secured funds from USDA Rural Development to implement a dump cleanup program. This project takes a watershed approach by educating the public on how illegal dumping can endanger water resources. In 2004 and 2005, some 17 dump sites were cleaned up, "adopted" by local landowners and elected officials, and monitored for reoccurrences of dumping. MRPC fostered partnerships with local governments, landowners, local, state and federal agencies to get the sites cleaned up. Since 2006, eight more cleanups were finished with three more currently in progress. An estimated 590 tons of trash and has been removed and properly disposed; 50 tons of metal have been recycled and 1,680 tires have been collected for recycling. The district also assists member counties with the disposal of illegally dumped tires picked up by county road crews. To date, over

400 tons—or 40,000 passenger tires—have been picked up along county roads in the district and recycled.

MRPC also works under contract with the Meramec Regional Emergency Planning Committee, which is responsible for maintaining and updating the region's hazardous materials response plan and Community Right-to Know records. The MREPC also provides training and educational opportunities for emergency responders and local elected officials in the region. This year, MREPC coordinated trainings relating to National Incident Management System (NIMS) and earthquake planning at the state level and CERT train-the-trainer.

- **Homeland Security Program**

In 2006, MRPC entered into a contract with the State Emergency Management Agency to provide administrative and fiscal agent support to the Region I Homeland Security Oversight Committee. This local committee of volunteers is tasked with awarding homeland security grant funds in the six-county region, which includes Crawford, Dent, Maries, Phelps, Pulaski and Laclede counties, and serving as a conduit between local emergency responders, local governments and schools and the state-level Homeland Security Advisory Committee.

Region I HSOC awarded \$577,934 in grant funds in 2007. As fiscal agent, MRPC is responsible for all procurement and payment of all vendors. From that grant program, MRPC was awarded funds to develop a regional interoperability communications plan, to establish advisory committees for interoperable communications and volunteers and shelters, to assist in establishing a network of shelters in the region and to train and establish CERT teams in each of the six counties.

- **HUD Section 8 Housing**

In 1976, MRPC began operating the HUD Section 8 Housing Program. The program provides very-low income families with greater access to decent, safe and sanitary housing in the six original counties. (Osage County is served through the Boone County housing agency. Pulaski County is served by Missouri Ozarks Community Action, Inc.) Through the housing choice voucher program, MRPC assisted, on average 725 families by providing \$2.4 million in rental assistance. PHA staff also performed 1,806 tenant inspections.

A new component of the rental subsidy program is homeownership. HUD clients can now use their subsidies to pay mortgages. Two families in the region have accessed the HUD mortgage assistance since 2006 and purchased homes.

- **Family Self-Sufficiency**

The HUD Family Self-Sufficiency program, administered by MRPC, empowers participants to become free of welfare assistance. All 84 mandated program slots are filled. Once a participant signs up, a housing/FSS coordinator aids that participant in assessing current

and future needs, then assists in the development of an action plan. This plan will enable the family to reach the ultimate goal of self-sufficiency. A database is established to ensure that a participant is contacted frequently and progresses toward goals that can be assessed. Enrollment in vocational training or post secondary education, which leads to higher paying professional positions, is encouraged for participants and hopefully will launch them into more proactive lifestyles.

The FSS program also offers an incentive program that establishes an escrow account in the participant's name. As a participant pays more of his or her rent, HUD makes a contribution equal to the increase in the portion of the rent paid by the participant. This savings account has the potential to grow into thousands of dollars. Upon successful completion of the contract, this money is paid to the participant. MRPC is assisting 28 families with \$50,446 in total escrow.

Meramec Facts

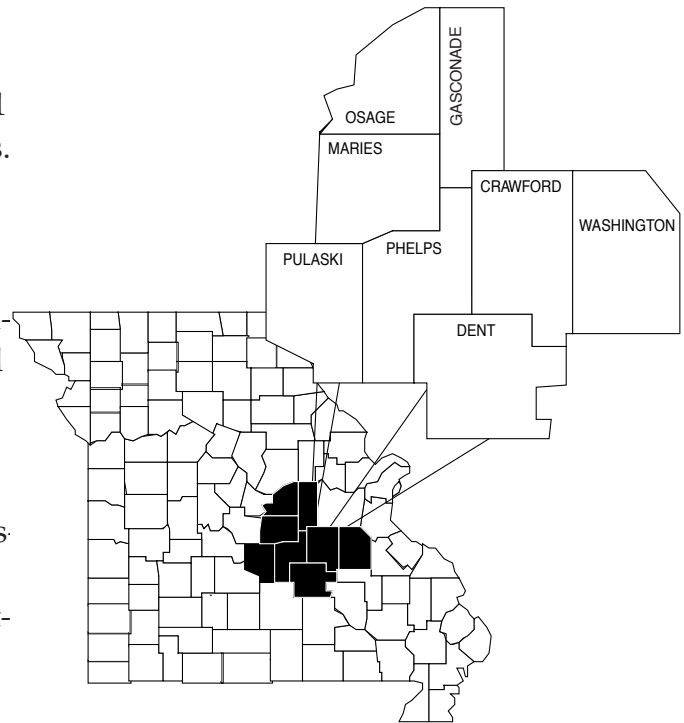
The Meramec Region is an eight-county area located in the southeast-central portion of Missouri. The area covers over 5,131 square miles and includes 35 municipalities. The region is marked with gently rolling hills, deep valleys and plateaus. Numerous rivers and streams transverse the region, creating a natural draw for outdoor enthusiasts. Many of the small towns are industrial havens, yet the small farmer is still prevalent. Many wineries dot the countryside, making it a popular draw for tourists.

The Meramec Regional Planning Commission took on a new look in 2005, when Gov. Matt Blunt issued an executive order adjusting the boundaries of MRPC to include Pulaski County, which borders the southwest portion of the region. Pulaski County had requested inclusion in MRPC, and the board agreed and, together, requested the boundary change.

General Demographics

In 2000, the eight-county Meramec Region was home to 179,372 people, an increase of 9.5 percent since 1990. This was three times the growth rate of the 1980s. The region grew at a faster pace in the 1990s than the state, which posted a 9.3 percent increase in population from 1990 to 2000.

Demographics 2000	
Population.....	179,372
Male.....	50.8%
Female.....	49.2%
White	93.6%
Black.....	3.9%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.7%
American Indian.....	1.4%
Source: 2000 U.S. Census	



Individual 2000 county populations range from a low of 8,903 in Maries County to 41,165 in Pulaski County. All counties demonstrated individual growth from 1980 to 1990, ranging from a high of 18.9 percent in Crawford County to 8.7 percent in Osage County. The largest city in the region continues to be Rolla, the county seat of Phelps County. It has 16,367 people. The smallest city is Morrison in Gasconade County with 123 residents.

The population center of the United States remains in the Meramec Region and moved westward from the 1990 center near Steelville in Crawford County to near Edgar Springs in Phelps County.

The region's population in 2000 was fairly evenly divided between male and female. The region's median age in 2000 was 36.4 years, which is slightly older than the median age in the state and nation.

The region is predominantly white with a

6.4 percent minority population. This is up from 2 percent in 1990. Pulaski County is the region's most racially diverse county. It is home to the Department of Defense's Fort Leonard Wood.

Income, Poverty and Unemployment

Incomes in the Meramec Region continue to be lower than the state or region. The region's median income, based on 2000 Census information, was \$31,916. The state median income was \$37,934 while the U.S. median income was \$41,994.

The region's median income is 84 percent of the state's rate and only 76 percent of the nation's rate.

While the majority of families in Missouri and those families in the nation make \$35,000 or more a year, the majority of the

Population by Age	
Under 5.....	6.6%
5-19	25.8%
20-64	60.9%
65+	13.4%
Median Age.....	36.4 years
Source: 2000 U.S. Census	

families in the Meramec Region make between \$15,000 and \$34,999, according to 2000 Census data.

The region's poverty rate also runs higher than the state and nation's. Some 20,558 Meramec residents were living in poverty in 2000, which represents 14.9 percent of the population. Some 11.7 percent of all Missouri residents live in poverty while 12.4 percent of all U.S. residents were living in poverty in 2000. Washington County had the highest poverty rate in the region with 20.8 percent. The lowest was Osage County with 8.3 percent.

The region, in the past, has been plagued with high unemployment rates. Washington and Dent counties experienced mine closings while other counties lost shoe and textile manufacturers. At one time, Washington County's unemployment approached 20 percent. The 2005 unemployment rate for the region was 5.6 percent. The state average was 5.4 percent.

Median Household Incomes	
Meramec Region	\$31,916
Missouri	\$37,934
U.S.....	\$41,994
Region as % of State.....	84%
Region as % of Nation.....	76%
Source: 2000 U.S. Census and MRPC Analysis	

Family Income	
Families in the region	47,774
Under \$10,000.....	7.0%
\$10,000-14,999	5.7%
\$15,000-24,999	15.8%
\$25,000-34,999	16.9%
\$35,000 & over	54.6%
Source: 2000 U.S. Census and MRPC Analysis	

Persons in Poverty	
Meramec Region	13.5%
Missouri	11.7%
U.S.....	12.4%
Source: 2000 U.S. Census and MRPC Analysis	

Unemployment	
Employed (2005 Average)	82,924
Unemployed (2005 Average)	4,919
Total Labor Force (2005 Average) ...	87,839
Region's 2005 unemployment rate...	5.6%
State's 2005 unemployment rate.....	5.4%
Source: Missouri Department of Economic Development, MRPC Compilation	

Housing

The Meramec Region has 78,513 total housing units with 66,974 occupied, according to the 2000 Census. The average population per unit in the region is 2.51 people, which almost mirrors the state average of 2.48 people.

Of the 66,974 occupied units, 47,949 are owner occupied while 19,025 are renter occupied, according to the 2000 Census. In 2000, the average value of a home in the region was \$69,263, compared to a state average of \$89,900. The average monthly rent for a home in the region in 2000 was \$374 while the state average was \$484.

Over half of the housing stock in the region—nearly 51 percent—was built between 1960 and 1989. Some 20 percent of the homes have been built since 1990, the 2000 Census indicates.

Education Levels

Some 73 percent of the region's population aged 25 and older have at least a high

Education Levels

2000 percent of adults 25 years and older with at least a high school diploma.

Meramec Region	73.0%
Missouri	74.1%
U.S.....	84.0%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

school diploma, according to the 2000 Census. This percentage is considerably less than state and U.S. percentages. When compared to the 1990 percentage of 60.7 percent, the region improved in the percentage of adults 25 years and older who had at least a high school diploma.

The region's most educated county in 2000 was Pulaski, which would be expected given the presence of a U.S. military base with several branches of state universities on post. Slightly more than 85 percent of Pulaski County's adults have at least a high school diploma.

Housing at a Glance

Number of housing units in region.	78,513
Number occupied	66,974
Number owner occupied.....	47,949
Number renter occupied	19,025
Vacant units	11,539
Persons per unit in region.....	2.53
Persons per unit in state.....	2.59
Median value in region	\$69,263
Median value in state.....	\$89,900
Median monthly rent in region	\$374
Median monthly rent in state	\$484
Housing units in region built before 1939 ...	9,847
Housing units in region built 1940-59	12,927
Housing units in region built 1960-1979 ...	25,164
Housing units in region built '80 & after...	28,485

Source: 2000 U.S. Census and MRPC analysis

The Economy

Over the years, the region has diversified its economy—after taking hard hits in the mining and textile industries. In the region, services was the largest employment sector, followed by manufacturing and retail trade. Over half of those employed in the service sector were in health care or education. The number of manufacturing firms in the region has continued to increase.

Based on U.S. Census reports, in 1997, the region had 220 manufacturing firms, compared to 226 in 1992. The *2008 Missouri Directory of Manufacturers* listed 302 manufacturing firms in the region.

The major public employer in the region is Fort Leonard Wood with 2,300 civilian employees followed by the Phelps County

Regional Medical Center with 1,575 employees and the Missouri University of Science and Technology—Rolla with 1,500 employees. The region’s top major private manufacturing employers are the Wal-Mart Distribution Center with 1,175 employees. It is located in Phelps County,

While the number of jobs in the region increases, many residents still travel outside their home county to work and the region as well.

Transportation

Only three federal highways pass through the region: Interstate 44, U.S. 63 and U.S. 50. Interstate 44 bisects the region in a north-east to southwest direction and serves as the major highway between St. Louis and Springfield with Rolla being about the half way point.

U.S. 63 connects Vienna and Rolla with Jefferson City, and U.S. 50 runs east and west through Gasconade and Osage counties. Most highways in the region are state highways, and most are narrow, winding and curvy.

Several Meramec communities have airports. The Waynesville Regional Airport at Forney Field in Pulaski County is located on the Fort Leonard Wood military base, yet is accessible to the public. Flights from American Connections bring passengers to and from St. Louis three times each day. The airport is the only one in the region featuring an air traffic control tower.

The Rolla National Airport, located at Vichy and operated by the city of Rolla and the Sullivan Airport, operated by the city of Sullivan, are defined as B-2 airports and are used primarily by airplanes with approach speeds up to 120 knots and wingspans up to 79 feet. Other airports in the region—Wash-

Regional Industrial Employment

Employed Persons 16 and over	89,263
Natural resources & mining	232
Construction	1,899
Manufacturing.....	7,480
Trade, Transportation/warehousing & utilities	11,228
Information.....	549
Finance, insurance, real estate & rental/leasing	1,954
Professional, scientific, mgmt., admin. & waste mgmt. ser.	2,545
Educational, health & social ser.....	4,876
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation & food ser.	5,823
Other services	2,157
Public Administration	4,325

Source: 2000 U.S. Census and MRPC analysis

ington County, Salem, Cuba, Owensville, Hermann and Linn State Technical College— are classified as B-1s, which means they serve airplanes with approach speeds up to 120 knots and wingspans up to 49 feet.

Three railways serve the region. Burlington Northern operates the most miles of track in the region. That rail line follows the general route of I-44 through Crawford, Phelps, and Pulaski counties.

Rail service in the region is not as prevalent as it once was. Several miles of the former Rock Island rail have been abandoned for many years, however a new company has purchased this line of track in hopes of providing rail service to the Meramec Region and central Missouri. Amtrak also crosses the Meramec Region and stops at its very northeast point at Hermann.

Navigable water transportation is provided at three locations in the region, all on the Missouri River. Those sites are Hermann, Gasconade and Chamois.

Meramec Regional Planning Commission's Board of Commissioners

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Leonard Armstrong, mayor of Bourbon
Michelle Hatton, chairperson of Leasburg
Peter Herrington, representing labor
Mary Heywood, representing the unemployed
Kathy McCann, representing the mayor of Steelville
Les Murdock, representing the mayor of Cuba
James Schatz, mayor of Sullivan
Franky Todd, representing aging
Ed Worley, presiding commissioner

DENT COUNTY

Gary Brown, mayor of Salem
Earl Brown, representing the disabled
Marcus Maggard, representing tourism
Darrell Skiles, presiding commissioner
Donald Dodd, representing transportation

GASCONADE COUNTY

James Decker, representing industry
Linda Gast, representing the mayor of Owensville
Shannon Grus, mayor of Rosebud
Ron Jost, presiding commissioner
J.D. Lister, representing mayor of Hermann
Bruce Sassmann, mayor of Bland

MARIES COUNTY

Leslie Darr Jr., mayor of Vienna
Richard Huse, representing mayor of Belle
Ray Schwartz, presiding commissioner

OSAGE COUNTY

Chris Dickneite, mayor of Westphalia
Darryl Haller, chairman of Freeburg
Tom Klebba, representing lending institutions
Terry Libbert, mayor of Meta
Carolyn Rackers, mayor of Linn
Gary Reynolds, mayor of Chamois
Joe Schmidt, chairman of Argyle
Russell Schuelen, presiding commissioner

PHELPS COUNTY

Laura Antolak, representing small business
Jerry Hudson, mayor of Edgar Springs
Andrew Mattison, mayor of Newburg
Dennis Wilson, mayor of St. James
John Petersen, representing the mayor of Rolla
Paul Smith, mayor of Doolittle
Randy Verkamp, presiding commissioner
Janet Walker, representing minorities

PULASKI COUNTY

Theresa Cook, representing mayor of St. Robert
Darrell French, mayor of Dixon
Cliff Hammock, mayor of Waynesville
Dennis Thornsberry, associate commissioner

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Kraig Bone, representing emergency management
Leo Dickey, representing farming
T.R. Dudley, mayor of Potosi
Jesse Jarvis, representing education
Ron Kennon, mayor of Irondale
Tina Patterson, chairman of Mineral Point
Robert Reed, presiding commissioner
Robert Vinyard, chairman of Caledonia

2007 Associate Members

Ace Manufacturing
A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc.
Ameren UE
Bank of Crocker
Boys & Girls Town of Missouri
BPJ Insurance
Brewer Science
C.M. Archer Group
Century Tel
Community Bank of Owensville
Community Foundation of the Ozarks
Cuba Chamber of Commerce
Elgin Surveying & Engineering, Inc.
First Community National Bank

Hermann Area District Hospital
Hermann Area Chamber of Commerce
Hermann Industrial Development
Authority
INDEECO
Integrity Engineering
Intercounty Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Kallmeyer Bros. Enterprises
Legends Bank
Linn State Technical College
Missouri Enterprise
Owensville Chamber of Commerce
Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co.
Phelps County Bank

Rolla Area Chamber of Commerce
Salem Area Chamber of Commerce
Sassmann's Funeral Service, Inc.
Scott Consulting Engineers, P.C.
SKW, Inc.
Steelville Telephone Exchange
Sullivan Area Chamber of Commerce
Three Rivers Electric Cooperative
Town & Country Bank
University of Missouri-Rolla
Verkamp & Malone
Wal-Mart Store #101 Rolla
Wallstreet Insurance Group
Waynesville & St. Robert Chamber of
Commerce



For more information, contact

MRPC

Meramec Regional Planning Commission
4 Industrial Drive • St. James, MO 65559
(573) 265-2993 • FAX (573) 265-3550
<http://missourimeramecregion.org>
<http://meramecregion.org>