



FRANKLIN COUNTY MANUFACTURING AND LOGISTICS INDUSTRY OVERVIEW



FRANKLIN COUNTY OVERVIEW

As of 2022, Franklin County's population reached an estimated 105,879, marking a 5.51% increase within the past decade and surpassing the growth rate of many other counties in the St. Louis region. While offering a variety of urban living opportunities, the county also is home to many family farms.

Manufacturing remains the backbone of Franklin County's economy, maintaining a strong and stable presence over the years. As of 2021, Franklin County accounted for 9.4% of all manufacturing jobs in the St. Louis metropolitan area. This reinforces its role as a key hub within the region. Manufacturing accounts for 19.6% of local employment, with major employers such as Parker Hannifin Corporation, WEG Transformers, Tops Products LLC, and Rawlings Sporting Goods shaping the county's industrial base.

While manufacturing remains a powerhouse industry, the fastest growing sector in the county is actually the health care industry. Strong health care services support the exceptional quality of life Franklin County offers. In Washington, Mercy Hospital provides top-tier care, with 187 beds, 144 physicians, and over 1,700 staff members. It is the only Level III Trauma Center between St. Louis and Jefferson City. Farther south, Missouri Baptist Sullivan Hospital serves the region as a critical-access facility and is part of the BJC HealthCare system, ensuring consistent, high-quality care across its network.

FRANKLIN COUNTY FACTS:

- One of the largest counties in Missouri: 931 square miles
- Located in the "heart" of Missouri wine country
- Home to Missouri Meerschaum Company, the world's oldest and largest manufacturer of corn cob pipes
- Premier career and technical institution for high school students: (Four Rivers Career Center)
- Cutting-edge in-house training programs for local industries: (East Central College)
- A dedicated workforce with a strong work ethic shaped by the region's agricultural heritage.



FRANKLIN COUNTY

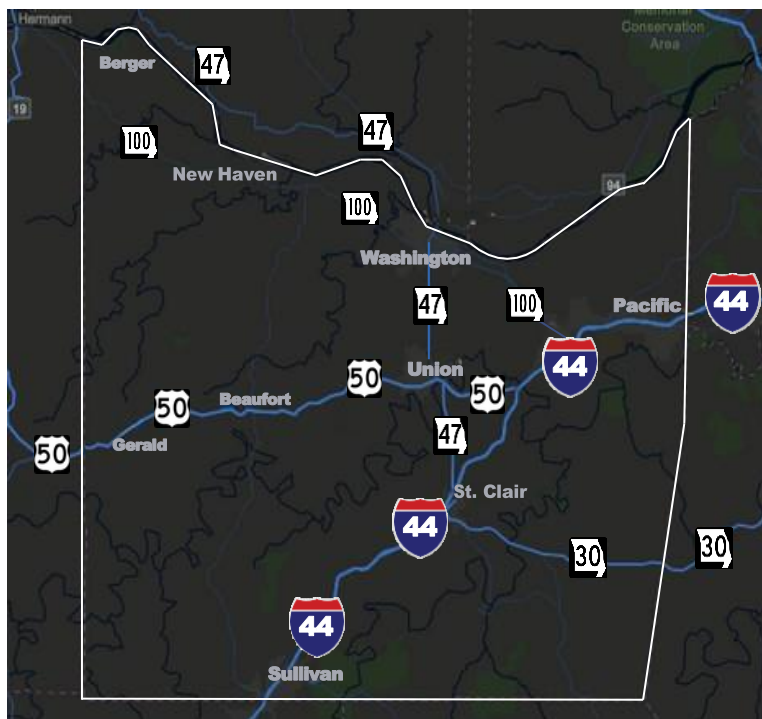
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LOCATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS DRIVE GROWTH

Thanks to its strategic location just outside the St. Louis metro area, Franklin County offers access to major highways, rail, and air transportation while maintaining a lower cost of doing business. Plus, the county has a number of infrastructure advantages that help position businesses for success.

Access to major interstates makes us a strategic hub for distribution, logistics, and regional businesses. Cities like Chicago, Memphis, Kansas City, and Indianapolis are all within a five-hour drive, offering exceptional market reach. Interstate 44 runs directly through the county, serving as a vital east-west corridor connecting us to St. Louis, Springfield, and points beyond. Adding to the connectivity, Franklin County is home to one of the few Missouri River bridges, providing a crucial link to Interstate 70 and enhancing access across the region.

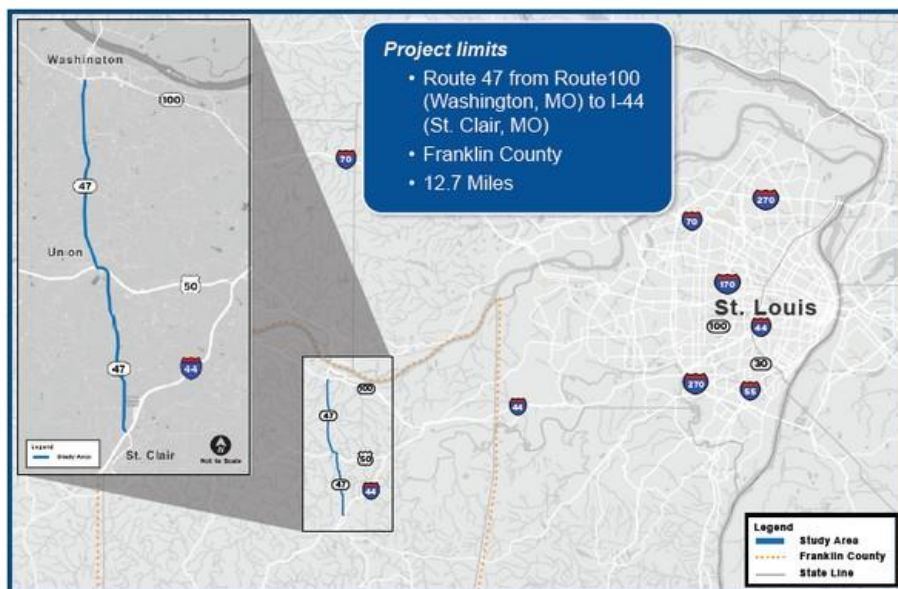


Franklin County also offers reliable and modern utility infrastructure to support its major manufacturers. Electric service is provided by Ameren Missouri, which supplies the grid with a capacity of 2,372 megawatts from its local power plant in Labadie.

INVESTMENT ENHANCES THE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK AND SUPPORTS DEVELOPMENT

Planning is underway for a significant upgrade to one of Franklin County's major routes. Highway 47 is set to be widened to four lanes to address ongoing congestion concerns along the corridor. The safety and capacity improvements will span 12.7 miles, from the intersection of Highway 47 and Highway 100 in Washington to Interstate 44 in St. Clair.

An environmental impact study for the corridor is already underway, which will take several years to complete. Once the study has been reviewed, bid documents will be finalized and issued for bidding. Construction is expected to begin by 2028.



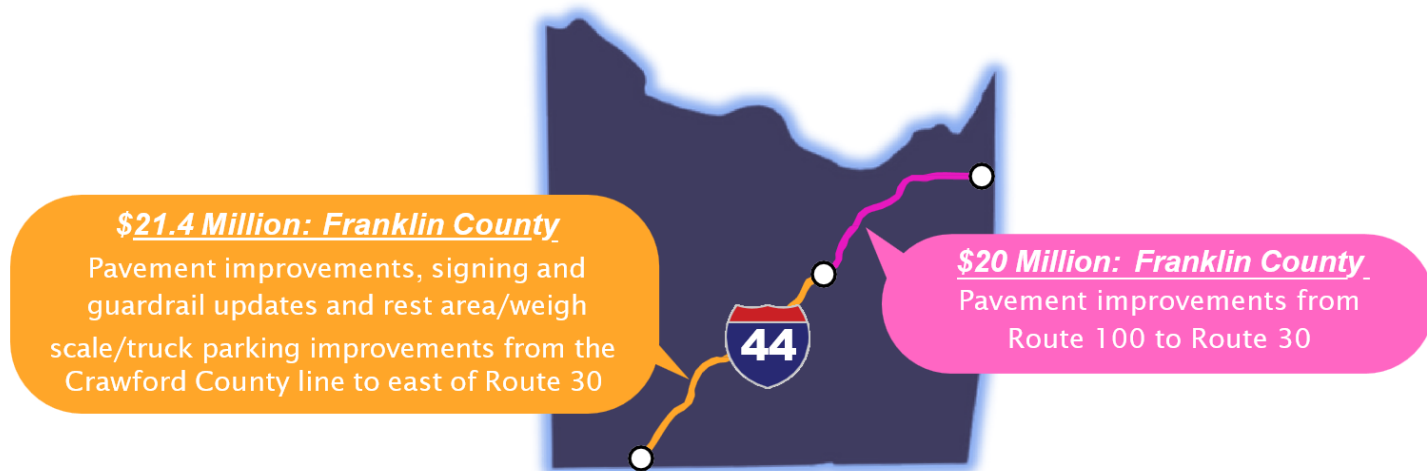


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OTHER PRIORITY TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

In addition to the Highway 47 project, a major improvement on the horizon is the widening of Interstate 44. In May 2025, MoDOT announced that the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) allocates over \$120 million for pavement and bridge improvements along I-44 in Franklin County as well as in St. Louis City and County. Specifically, more than \$40 million is dedicated to Franklin County in 2027 for pavement upgrades, new signage, and guardrail improvements.



Route 100 Bridge Rehabilitation

This project will enhance a 15-mile corridor from east of Fifth Street in Washington to just west of Route OO, as well as Spur 100 over Interstate 44. Drivers can look forward to fresh pavement, upgraded guardrails, new signage, and modernized traffic signals. Plus, bridge rehabilitation will take place over the Missouri Eastern Railway on both Route 100 and Spur 100. This project was completed in the fall of 2025!

Route PP and Missouri Route 30 Pavement Resurfacing

This \$3 million project will enhance safety and durability along Route PP. It includes pavement resurfacing, pipe replacements, upgraded guardrails, and new signage. The project will also include a culvert replacement over the Meramec River and a culvert extension over Hoosier Creek. Construction will begin in early 2026!

Route KK Corridor Upgrades

This 10-mile project spans from Route C to Route 185 and continues from Route 185 to Route 100, divided into two sections: the western portion and the eastern portion. This \$3.18 million project will bring key improvements including pavement resurfacing, upgraded guardrails, erosion repairs on four box culverts, and new signage.

Construction should begin in 2026.

Route T Pavement Resurfacing

A major roadway upgrade is coming to a 14-mile stretch between Route 100 in Franklin County and Route 100 in St. Louis County! This \$5.5 million project will include pavement resurfacing and repairs, slide repairs, upgraded guardrails, and new signage to enhance safety and longevity. Additionally, the bridge over Labadie Creek will receive deck sealing to strengthen its structure. This project was completed in the fall of 2025!



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INDUSTRIAL SITES OF NOTE

If your business is looking to grow, Franklin County offers prime “Missouri Certified Sites” with public road and highway access, reliable utility infrastructure, proximity to rail service, and numerous other amenities.



Oldenburg Industrial Park

The Oldenburg Industrial Park is a Missouri Certified Site, offering over 75 acres of development-ready land across four separate lots. Designed with flexibility in mind, the park accommodates both large and small-scale projects with customizable lot layouts and access to industrial-grade utilities and infrastructure. Highway 100, which provides direct access to the industrial park, was widened to improve traffic flow and enhance safety for vehicles entering and exiting the park.

Union Corporate Center

This premier 244-acre industrial park sits near the I-44 corridor. Lot sizes range from 1 acre up to a potential 37-acre site. Progress Parkway provides direct access to Highway 50, and all utilities are available on-site.

Pacific Logistics Park

In 2023, the City of Pacific approved a new industrial park offering 2 to 12-acre sites near I-44. Situated north of Industrial Drive and adjacent to established industrial operations, the park is ideally positioned for growth—while remaining just south of the West Lake residential community. All available properties are pre-graded and zoned M-Light Industrial, with all utilities available at the site.

REGIONAL AIRPORTS

Another advantage for Franklin County is its access to two regional airports. The Washington Regional Airport, located just 2.5 miles from the City of Washington, features a 5,000-foot runway currently being extended another 389 feet. This expansion will allow the airport to accommodate most light and mid-size jets, boosting efficiency and capacity. The Sullivan Regional Airport offers a 4,500-foot runway along with private aircraft storage, maintenance services, and fuel, making it a valuable asset for business and personal aviation needs.

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS

St. Louis Lambert International Airport, just 30 minutes away, provides convenient access to both domestic and international destinations. Served by more than 10 major airlines, the airport offers modern amenities including dining, shopping, and accessible travel services. Plans are moving forward for a \$3 billion redevelopment that will transform Lambert’s two existing terminals into a single, state-of-the-art facility with 62 gates, in preparation for future growth.



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RAIL SERVICE

Franklin County is also the new home of a state-of-the-art rail transfer station in Union, just east of Highway 47. Led by Missouri Eastern Railroad, a subsidiary of Jaguar Transport Holdings, this major infrastructure project is transforming a key site on Rock Road into a regional freight hub. The facility is nearing completion, with one rail spur nearly ready and double-track access being laid to meet rising demand.

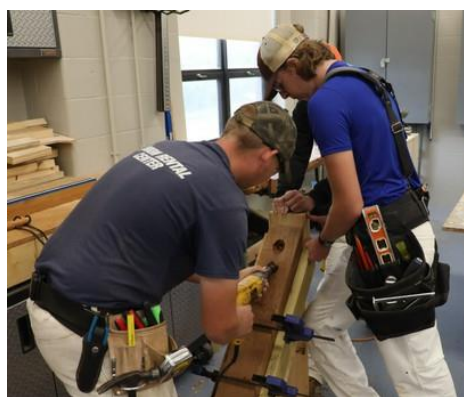


Additionally, the City of Washington owns and operates its own rail spur offering public access for shipping and receiving goods via the Union Pacific Railroad. For passenger travel, Amtrak's Missouri River Runner offers two daily trips between St. Louis and Kansas City, with a convenient stop in Washington.

OTHER ASSETS

Franklin County is proud to be home to the Four Rivers Career Center, an 82,000-square-foot technical and trade school serving students from 10 area high schools. The center provides state-of-the-art training that aligns with the workforce needs of the region.

This forward-thinking program is designed with two primary goals: to engage students in meaningful career exploration, and to build a stronger, more prepared local workforce for our business and community partners.



For more information about economic development opportunities in Franklin County, contact:

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