



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 30, 2017

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UNEMPLOYMENT FALLS TO 2.9 PERCENT IN ST. CHARLES COUNTY MARKING 16-YEAR LOW

ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MO – The April 2017 unemployment rate in St. Charles County fell to 2.9 percent, a 16-year low, according to the latest, not-seasonally-adjusted figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of the U.S. Department of Labor. The last time it was this low was in May 2001.

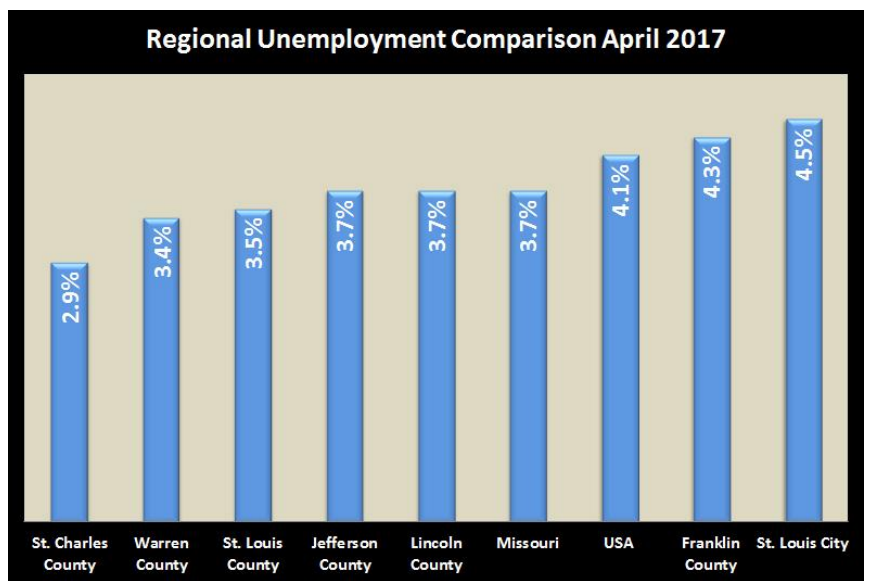
The unemployment rate for that same period was 2.7 percent in Wentzville, 2.8 percent in O’Fallon, 3.1 percent in St. Peters, and 3.2 percent in St. Charles City. These are the largest municipalities in the county.

“The local labor market hasn’t been this tight in a very long time,” says Scott J. Drachnik, Director of the St. Charles County Department of Workforce & Business Development. “This is a perfect storm between Baby Boomers retiring, companies creating a lot of new jobs, and this period of full employment that is resulting in fewer job applicants.”

Based on historic trends, Drachnik said a slight uptick in unemployment is expected this summer when high school and college graduates without jobs are included in the monthly figures.

“Because of the fierce competition to find and retain qualified labor, we are starting to see some employers increase their wage and benefits packages. Others also are re-vamping their work culture as our economy shifts from a Baby Boomer-driven workforce to one more focused on Millennial needs and desires,” Drachnik says. “It’s basic supply and demand.”

For more information about the local economy, workforce and business growth assistance, contact the St. Charles County Department of Workforce & Business Development at 636-255-6060, or visit www.sccmo.org/Workforce.



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Founded in 1812, St. Charles County is one of the fastest growing counties in Missouri, and the state’s third largest county in both population and economic share. St. Charles County consistently ranks one of the healthiest places to live in Missouri in the County Health Rankings report published by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. It is home to 12 scenic county parks encompassing more than 2,800 acres with additional land under development and more in reserve for future development.

With a population of 385,840, St Charles County is home to large employers including General Motors, Citi, MasterCard Worldwide and Boeing. It is ranked among the top 25 counties in the nation in high-tech job growth by the Progressive Policy Institute and consistently has the lowest unemployment rate in the Metropolitan St. Louis area.

St. Charles County Government employs nearly 1,100 in more than 30 departments and offices, who work to make the county an excellent place to live, work and shop. For more information, please visit www.sccmo.org.