

# Missouri Business Taxes

## Missouri Taxes

During the last three decades, one key factor in keeping the cost of doing business in Missouri low has been our ability to ensure that our state and local tax burden is as small as possible. With a rate estimated at 7.83% of income today—below the national average of 8.74%—Missouri's low tax burden continues to be a key factor in helping Missouri businesses grow.

## Corporate Income Tax

Missouri ranked 5th in the nation for Corporate Tax Climate in 2026 according to Business Facilities.

As of January 1, 2020, Missouri lowered the corporate income tax rate from 6.25 percent to 4 percent, ranking us second among states that levy such a tax.

In addition, it is important to note that Missouri has not adopted worldwide or nationwide unitary tax assessment in computing multinational corporate income tax liability.

### Apportionment Formula

As of January 1, 2020, Missouri moved to a single factor, market-based apportionment corporate income tax model based only on sales.

For example, a Missouri company with apportionable business income of \$3,763,625 (after deducting federal income taxes) that has only .5% of sales in Missouri would have \$18,818 of Missouri taxable income. 4% of this amount would result in a Missouri tax bill of only \$752.72.

## Personal Income Tax

Missouri applies an income tax of \$256 plus 4.70% of excess over \$9,191. Taxable income may be reduced by a portion of federal income tax liability. Additional deductions include an allowance for each dependent, personal exemption, and federal standard or itemized deductions (which includes a deduction for FICA taxes paid through withholding).

### Business Example:

\$70,000 gross income - \$30,000 deductions = \$40,000 taxable income

\$40,000 - \$9,191 = \$30,809 X 4.8% = \$1,448 + \$256 = \$1,704 tax



## Workers' Compensation Rates

Missouri enacted tough new laws curbing abuse, increasing employee responsibility for injury, and limiting employer liability and payment in August 2005. All businesses with five or more employees in Missouri (except agricultural or domestic labor) must provide workers' compensation insurance to protect their workers in case of job-related injury, illness or death. Companies can offer this protection through a private insurance carrier, or they can become self-insurers. Premium rates vary, depending on the risks associated with special occupations. As in most states, the premium rates apply to an employee's total annual salary. The maximum weekly benefit for temporary total disability, temporary partial disability, permanent total disability and death is currently computed as 105% of the average weekly wage, determined annually on July 1.

Missouri's workers' compensation rates compare very favorably with those in other states. Though benefits for claimants in other states usually increase automatically from year to year, in Missouri benefits cannot be increased without the review and approval of the state legislature.

The State Average Weekly Wage (SAWW) used to determine maximum workers' compensation benefits for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 is \$1,219.85. This SAWW produces the maximum weekly benefit rates for injury and illness occurring on or after July 1, 2024, as follows:

<b>Temporary Total Disability</b>	\$1,280.84
<b>Permanent Total Disability</b>	\$1,280.84
<b>Permanent Partial Disability</b>	\$670.92
<b>Death</b>	\$1,220.84

The actual weekly wage rate necessary to attain the maximum benefit rate is \$1,921.26 for Death, Temporary Total Disability and Permanent Total Disability and \$1006.38 for Permanent Partial Disability.

*(Source: Missouri Dept. of Labor and Industrial Relations)*

## Unemployment Insurance

Missouri's unemployment insurance tax index was ranked 5<sup>th</sup> best in the nation by the Tax Foundation (2026).

Most companies doing business in Missouri are required to pay unemployment insurance to protect their workers during unemployment. This applies to most businesses having one or



more workers on the payroll for 20 weeks during the calendar year and to businesses paying \$1,500 in total wages in a given quarter. All employers, except those making reimbursable payments, have an assigned tax rate. An employer's rate may change each year.

For its first two or three years, an employer receives the new employer rate. This is a rate assigned to all new employers of the same industrial classification. Eventually an employer becomes eligible for an experience rate. This is a rate calculated based on the ratio between an employer's average annual taxable payroll, unemployment claims against its account, and taxes paid in previously by the employer.

Each employer that becomes liable to report workers' wages and pay unemployment taxes is assigned to an industrial classification division. Until eligible for an experience rate regular employers (not including governmental entities and certain nonprofit organizations) are assigned an annual tax rate, which is the average tax rate computed during the preceding year of all employers within the industrial classification division to which assigned, or 2.376%, whichever is the highest. Depending on the cash balance of the Unemployment Trust Fund, there may be an increase or decrease to these annual rates.

An employer generally becomes eligible for an experience rate after two full years of liability under the law. An experience rate is based on a ratio arrived at by dividing an employer's account balance by its average annual taxable payroll. Rates could range from 0.0% to 6.0%, not including surcharge and/or a percentage increase/decrease. Rates for employers participating in the shared work program could range from 0.0% to 9.0%, not including surcharge and/or a percentage increase/decrease.

There is a limit on the amount of wages paid to an individual worker in a calendar year on which each employer must pay a tax. For 2026, the taxable wage base limit is \$9,000.

## Property Taxes

Property taxes are assessed and collected at the local level and vary by taxing jurisdiction. In Missouri, companies typically pay both real property tax and business personal property tax, unless the local jurisdiction is offering to abate some or all property taxes.

### **Business Personal Property Tax**

This tax is collected on existing machinery and equipment, furniture and fixtures. Inventory is not taxable.

The tax is determined by applying the local tax rate to the taxable value of the asset (machinery, equipment, furniture and fixtures, etc.); taxable value is equal to 33-1/3 percent of the asset's true value (book value minus depreciation). Local tax rates vary by taxing jurisdiction.



*Business Example:*

<u>True value</u>	<u>\$1,000,000</u>
Taxable value	\$333,333 (equal to 33-1/3 percent of true value)
x	
Local tax rate	5.00 percent
=	
Annual Tax	\$16,667 (before abatements)

## Real Property Tax

This tax is collected on the value of land, buildings, and building improvements.

The tax is determined by applying the local tax rate by the taxable value of the asset (land, building, etc.); for non-residential real estate (e.g. industrial, commercial, etc.), taxable value is equal to 32 percent of the asset's assessed value. Local tax rates vary by taxing jurisdiction.

*Business Example:*

<u>Assessed value</u>	<u>\$1,000,000</u>
Taxable value	\$320,000 (32 percent of assessed value)
x	
Local tax rate	5.00 percent
=	
Annual Tax	\$16,000 (before abatements)

## Other Taxes

### Sales & Use Tax

A sales tax is imposed at the state and local level for the purchase of tangible property or taxable services. The state sales tax rate is 4.225 percent, while local tax jurisdictions can impose an additional local sales tax.

Certain transactions are automatically exempt from sales tax, including:

- Purchases of machinery and equipment used in the manufacturing process



- Consumption of energy used in the manufacturing process

Missouri recently signed into law an incentive that could provide exemptions from various state and local sales and use taxes for some new, expanding, and replacement data center facilities. This incentive became effective August 28, 2015.

### **Franchise Tax**

Beginning January 1, 2012, the corporate franchise tax rate was gradually reduced over a five year period. Effective January 1, 2016, no corporate franchise tax will be imposed.

### **Incorporation Fee & Annual Registration Fee**

A new corporation must pay an incorporation fee of \$50 for the first \$30,000 or less of shares and \$5 for each additional \$10,000 or portion thereof. A foreign corporation pays \$150 for certification. Annual corporate registration fees must also be paid by domestic and foreign corporations doing business in Missouri. The rate is \$40 annually for registration with the Secretary of State's Office.