

# Missouri Bicycling Facts and Statistics

- **The bicycle is the most popular vehicle in the world today.** There are over 1.4 billion bicycles in service and only 400 million automobiles.
- Since 2005 the **number of bicycles sold in the U.S. each year (19 million) has exceeded the number of cars sold.**
- **There are two million bicyclists in Missouri.**
- Nationally, **bicycling generates more \$133 billion annually** for the economy, \$17.7 billion in state and federal taxes, and supports nearly 1.1 million jobs.
- There are **over 100 local bicycle shops** in Missouri with over 1,000 employees. Bicycle-related sales in Missouri total about \$220 million per year--\$100 million from bicycle shops and \$120 million from large retailers.
- **"Bicycling is the new golf,"** according to the New York Times and Time Magazine -- people meet, network, make decisions on bike rides.
- **Bicycling is the second most popular recreational activity in the U.S.** Only walking is more popular.
- **Cycling is the #1 fitness and health activity among doctors and lawyers over the age of 40.**
- **Bicyclists outnumber skiers, golfers, and tennis players combined.**
- **1.6 million people visit Missouri to hike or bicycle each year** (4.3% of all Missouri tourists). This puts bicycling/hiking on par with other major tourist activities that each attract 4-5% of all tourists: Golf, beach/waterfront, boat/car/home show, adventure sports, boating/sailing, night life, camping, hunting/fishing, and gambling.
- Americans take **3.3 billion bicycling trips and 35.3 billion walking trips** each year
- Missourians take about **20 million bicycle trips** each year.
- The **Katy Trail has half a million visitors each year**, from all 50 states and many foreign countries
- **Katy Trail visitors spend an average of \$260 per trip.**
- **The Katy Trail cost approximately \$6 million to build and generates an estimated \$6 million in economic impact each year.**
- **Missouri spends \$1.6 billion per year on obesity-related expenses--that's 6.1% of total medical expenditures.**

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## Sources

**Bicycles the #1 vehicle in the world:** International Networks Archive, Princeton University. See <http://www.princeton.edu/~ina/infographics/transportation.html>

**Bicycles outsell automobiles:** Tim Blumenthal, Executive Director, Bikes Belong (a national coalition of bicycle suppliers and retailers) quoted in USA Today, 10/5/2005, [http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/2005-10-05-bikes\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/2005-10-05-bikes_x.htm)

**Number of Bicyclists in Missouri:** National Survey of Pedestrian and Bicyclist Attitudes and Behaviors; Household Travel Surveys in St. Louis and Kansas City; U.S. Census Bureau; Safe Kids Worldwide statistics; Missouri Bicycle Federation estimates, see <http://mobikefed.org/2007/10/how-many-bicyclists-in-missouri.php>

**National economic impact of bicycling:** "The Active Outdoor Recreation Economy" report by the Outdoor Industry Foundation. See <http://www.mobikefed.org/2007/03/bicycling-contributes-133-billion.php>

**Missouri bicycle businesses:** MoBikeFed Bicycle Businesses Database; Bicycle Retailer; Missouri Bicycle Federation estimates. See <http://mobikefed.org/resources.php#stats>

**Bicycling is the new golf:** 'Cycling, he explained, plays the same role in his professional circle today as squash did when he started out in business as a lawyer in Boston in the early 1980's: as both a social outlet and a business opportunity for professionals to make contacts, get face time with the boss and even sign off on deals. Networking in a crash helmet, in other words. . . . "Cycling," he added, "is the new golf.'" "Wheels and Deals in Silicon Valley" by Alex Williams, Dec 4, 2005, New York Times, <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/12/04/fashion/sundaystyles/04SILICON.html> "[C]ould cycling become the new golf? A number of things suggest it already is." "Breaking Away" by Dan Kadlec, Time Magazine, Jun. 28, 2007, <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1638451,00.html>

**Bicycling is the 2nd most popular sport; more bicyclists than skiers, golfer, tennis players:** National Association of Sporting Goods Retailers, <http://www.nsga.org>; summarized at <http://www.tourdetoona.com/demographics/main/index.htm>

**Most popular sport among doctors and lawyers:** STLBiking, <http://stlbiking.com/demographics.htm>

**Missouri tourism statistics:** "Economic Impact Report for Fiscal Year 2005," commissioned by the Missouri Division of Tourism, compiled by researchers at the University of Missouri. See <http://mobikefed.org/2006/12/43-of-missouris-tourists-bicycle-or.php>

**Number of walking and bicycling trips in the U.S.:** National Bicycling and Walking Study, Ten Year Status Report, October 2004. See <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bikeped/study/>

**Number of bicycling trips in Missouri:** Bicycling and Walking in the U.S., 2007, <http://thunderheadalliance.org/pdf/benchmarking2007.pdf>. National Household Travel Survey.

**Katy Trail visitors:** Missouri Department of Natural Resources, personal communication with State Trail Coordinator.

**Katy Trail: \$6.2 million economic impact each year.** "The Economic Impacts and Uses of Long-Distance Trails," by Roger L. Moore, Ph.D., and Kelly Barthlow. Prepared for the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. p. 56. See <http://ntl.bts.gov/lib/12000/12200/12275/12275.pdf>

**Obesity cost in Missouri:** Source: RTI International and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; see <http://mobikefed.org/2004/01/missouri-spends-16-billion-year-on.php>