

Retail Sales



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8-screen AMC Theatre; and the newly opened Dick’s Sporting Goods at Wentzville Crossing.

“Elected officials and civic leaders have been very successful in attracting retail development in keeping with all the new housing construction and population growth,” Prestemon said. “Likewise, there has been a strong push to encourage local residents to ‘Shop Local’ in support of jobs, roads, parks, and public safety. The new record of nearly \$5.4 billion in annual retail sales is evidence all of these community efforts are working and having a positive impact on the local quality of life.”

To help promote restaurants, nightlife, fitness events, shops, and the arts to ages 20 to 40, Prestemon said the EDC and its civic group Partners for Progress has gone live with a new mobile website, What’s Up St. Chuck.

“We look forward to doing our part to boost awareness of all that’s going on and available in the community,” he said. For more information about the local economy, visit www.edcsc.com or call 636-441-6880.

Annual Retail Sales in St. Charles County

Year	Total Retail Sales	% Change
2000	\$3,430,205,112	8.87%
2001	\$3,653,301,175	6.50%
2002	\$3,894,894,042	6.61%
2003	\$3,999,150,484	2.68%
2004	\$4,158,846,423	3.99%
2005	\$4,383,238,920	5.40%
2006	\$4,485,158,936	2.33%
2007	\$4,681,254,174	4.37%
2008	\$4,578,396,743	-2.29%
2009	\$4,435,265,696	-3.13%
2010	\$4,517,779,373	1.86%
2011	\$4,654,428,312	3.02%
2012	\$4,912,893,630	5.55%
2013	\$5,014,133,306	2.06%
2014	\$5,385,652,114	7.41%

Old Post Office Restored and Opened as Co-Working Center for Digital Startups

Another dream has come true for resident entrepreneur Randy Schilling, President & CEO of BoardPaq. On Tuesday, May 5, he cut the ribbon at OPO Startups on South Main. After painstakingly rehabbing the former “Old Post Office” at 119 S. Main back to its original glory, the building is now a co-working center for digital startups.

The 10,000-square-foot facility will provide budding entrepreneurs and fledgling companies with affordable workspace and access to mentors, potential investors, programming, educational resources, and a community of local entrepreneurs.

You may not realize it but high-tech is big business in the Historic District. Nestled in between the shops and restaurants on North and South Main Street are some 30 tech companies including Aspect, BoardPaq, 3mbassy, SimpleFlame, Hypersoft, Pavaddo, and Red8 Interactive.

To learn more about OPO Startups, visit www.opostartups.com.



Joined by a large group of dignitaries at the OPO Startups ribbon-cutting were (from l, at the ribbon) Ward 9 Councilmember Ron Stivison; Mayor Sally Faith; Cher Edney-Pharis, U.S. Postal Service (St. Charles); Jim Droste, President of Droste & Sons Construction Co.; Randy Schilling, President & CEO of BoardPaq; Scott Tate, President/CEO of the Greater St. Charles County Chamber of Commerce; and Alan Groh, CTO of BoardPaq.



The Old Post Office located at 119 S. Main was built and opened in 1909. After an addition and slight remodel in 1950, postal operations continued there until 1962 when the organization moved to its current location on Jefferson Street. Since 1962 the building has been home to several different St. Charles businesses. Photo and historical information provided by Darren Stross