

2025

Furbearer Program Annual Report



Missouri Department of Conservation

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Welcome Letter

The Missouri Department of Conservation's Furbearer Program works to monitor and manage the state's furbearing species for the enjoyment of all Missourians and travelers to the state.

This is done with the help of the state's hunting and trapping community, volunteers who help run surveys and report sightings, furbearer sighting reports submitted by Missouri residents, financial support received from the one-eighth of one percent Conservation Sales Tax, permits sales, and income generated by the fish and wildlife tourism. Missouri is fortunate to have a wide range of furbearing species, for everyone to enjoy.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped us in our efforts. Last year, hunters recorded furbearer sightings across 43,000+ hours, which assists the Furbearer Program in compiling our Hunter's Index. We received reports of rare furbearer sightings of badgers, least weasels, long tail weasels, and mountain lions. Volunteers helped us with our state-wide Sign Station Surveys and hunters and trappers provided teeth from harvested bobcats and otters to help monitor the populations.

With everyone's cooperation, we can enjoy seeing and harvesting our furbearing species in the state for generations to come.

Thank you!

-Missouri Department of Conservation Furbearer Program

Annual Highlights

- ❧ Over 56 genetic samples were collected from bobcat mandibles that were submitted as part of our age-at-harvest study and were also included in a Midwest bobcat genetic study. The results of this study are aimed at evaluating the genetic variation in Midwest bobcat populations. To date, over 168 bobcat genetic samples have been submitted to this study.
- ❧ The furbearer program, with assistance from wildlife health division, collected tissue samples from 47 muskrats, one river otter, and four beavers as part of a multi-state study evaluating the exposure rates of contaminants such as PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, or forever chemicals) in semi-aquatic mammals.
- ❧ The ongoing mesocarnivore camera trapping study's final field season finished in the spring of 2024. The goal of the study was to continue to detect spotted skunks and gray fox in the Ozark region to help build distribution models for these two species, and to help design a statewide mesocarnivore monitoring plan. Gray foxes were detected at a majority of camera arrays. Spotted skunks were only detected in Stone and Reynolds Counties. Unfortunately, not enough spotted skunks were detected for modeling purposes, but new information about their distribution was gained. Hundreds of thousands of photos are now being analyzed in a collaborative effort with the University of Missouri. Final results from this study are expected by the end of 2026.
- ❧ The pilot project to evaluate river otter survival and harvest concluded in early 2025, and a larger study began in late 2025. See in-depth highlights on page 15 of the report.



Trail camera photo of marked otter at den site 2025.

- ❧ There are now 133 confirmed mountain lion sightings across the state since the end of 2025. Information about mountain lions is no longer included in this annual report but is provided along with general information about mountain lions on the MDC website ([Mountain Lion Reports | Missouri Department of Conservation](#)).
- ❧ There were no new confirmed wolf sightings in 2025.

Introduction

Missouri's wild fur market has been monitored annually since 1940, with some information dating back to 1934. Over time, tremendous fluctuations in the harvest of Missouri's primary furbearing species have been observed as both market and social trends have changed. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) monitors the fur market within the state using mandatory fur dealer transaction records, mandatory pelt registration of bobcats (since 1980) and river otters (since 1996), and information gathered at fur auctions. The information in this report is based on the harvest by both trappers and hunters.



The number of Fur Dealer Permits issued by MDC peaked at 1,192 during the 1945-46 trapping and hunting season. In 2025, MDC issued **25 Resident Commercial Fur Buyer Permits**, 2 fewer than were issued in 2024, and **9 Non-Resident Commercial Fur Buyer Permits**, the same number issued in 2024.



River otter field technician setting a foothold trap, 2025.

Permits to harvest Missouri furbearers by trapping methods were first required in 1953. The number of Resident Trapping Permits issued peaked during 1980-81 at 13,248 and reached an all-time low in 2000-01 at 2,050 permits issued. During the 2024-2025 trapping season, MDC issued 9,241 Resident and 543 Non-Resident Trapping Permits. That is only 25 fewer trapping permits than the previous year, and it is the first year in the past 4 seasons that has not had an increase in trapper permit sales.

The highest peak of total pelts harvested reached 834,935 in 1940-41 (over 70% were opossum and skunk pelts) and reached the second highest peak in 1979-80 at 634,338, when average raccoon pelt values were estimated at \$27.50. The economic value of harvested fur also peaked in 1979-80 when \$9 million worth of pelts were sold. Pelt values declined dramatically during the late 1980s and through the mid-1990s. As a result, the number of participants also fell to all-time lows. Despite a small peak in the fur market in the mid 2010's, the international fur market is at an all-time low due

to declining prices, the disruption of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the resulting world-wide recession. Even with recent downward trends in trapping, the 2024-2025 trapping season saw 45,153 animals harvested which was a 44.2% increase compared to the 2023-2024 trapping season (31,308) and a 52% increase from the 2022-2023 trapping season (29,714).

The first section of this annual report describes the methods used to annually monitor the status of furbearer harvest and population trends, which includes tracking furs harvested and sold, monitoring auction prices for common furbearing species, utilizing annual sign station surveys (which have been conducted in 25 counties every year since 1977) and the Hunter's Index that are compiled from hunter observations (which have been done since 1983). For less common species, public reports of sightings play an important part in tracking frequency and locations of those species across the state.

In Section two, we break down trends in observation of each species based on the results from annual sign stations and hunter indices (also known as archer index). The use of long-term data sets allows for the comparison from year to year and more importantly the long-term trend of each species. In addition, we provide range maps and recent sightings of our rare furbearer species.

For more information about this report or about the furbearer species mentioned, please contact Nate Bowersock at Nathaniel.Bowersock@mdc.mo.gov or visit www.mdc.mo.gov.



SECTION I: Annual Furbearer Monitoring Methods



Fur Harvest and Auction Price Comparisons

Individuals interested in buying or selling fur in Missouri (i.e., fur dealers) must obtain a commercial permit from MDC. Permit requirements include maintaining and submitting records of all fur transactions (e.g., buying, selling, retaining inventory, etc.). Data collected from fur dealers provide MDC with an estimate of furbearer harvest. Additionally, bobcat and river otter harvest numbers are gathered from mandatory pelt registration and tagging, as required by CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) for export outside the United States.

The Missouri Trappers Association (MTA) hosts fur auctions each year in the state of Missouri, providing an opportunity to buy or sell harvested pelts. In the 2024-25 season, MTA hosted just one auction in February. Pelt prices are averaged from all fur sold, including green, finished, and damaged furs. This year's MTA auction prices saw some species increase in price while others decreased in price (Table 1).

Overall, average pelt prices decreased by about 12% from last year (Table 2). All species except mink, gray fox, striped skunk and bobcat showed a decrease in average pelt prices. The largest increase in price from the previous year was mink, that went from \$5.55 in 2024 to \$8.85 in 2025, for an increase of 47%. Fur auction prices are closely monitored because fur harvest closely correlates with fur prices set at auction. Although these increases will be good for trappers, the overall fur market remains down significantly from its peak with no immediate changes in the future.



Coyote pelts on display at the MTA Fur Auction in Montgomery City February 24, 2024.

Table 1. Furbearer harvest and pelt prices in Missouri, 2022-2025.

Species	2024-2025		2023-2024		2022-2023	
	Pelts sold ¹ or registered*	Pelt Prices from MTA Auctions ²	Pelts sold ¹ or registered*	Pelt Prices from MTA Auctions ²	Pelts sold ¹ or registered*	Pelt Prices from MTA Auctions ²
Raccoon	21,287	\$2.96	11,576	\$5.55	11,196	\$1.53
Opossum	1,231	\$1.47	741	\$2.04	884	\$2.05
Muskrat	2,598	\$2.51	4,085	\$4.20	4,908	\$3.35
Coyote	886	\$6.81	1,262	\$9.03	1,997	\$7.52
Beaver	9,647	\$15.45	9,340	\$26.70	6,707	\$12.51
Mink	429	(m) \$10.36 (f) \$7.33	298	(m) \$7.60 (f) \$4.44	985	(m) \$10.67 (f) \$7.00
Red Fox	653	\$15.22	584	\$18.61	572	\$14.72
Gray Fox	354	\$19.52	708	\$15.40	723	\$16.09
Striped Skunk	502	\$16.05	424	\$12.11	306	\$11.34
Badger	21	\$36.25	10	\$47.50	7	\$26.11
Bobcat*	1,655	\$85.55	1,321	\$80.35	793	\$90.53
River Otter*	1,006	\$28.88	1,238	\$43.31	636	\$30.47
Trapping permits issued	9,241		9,307		9,822	

¹ Number of pelts sold is based on reports received from 34 Fur Dealer Permittees.

² Pelt prices are averaged from all fur sold, including green, finished, and damaged furs.

* Bobcat and River Otter harvest numbers are based on CITES registration.

Table 2. Furbearer pelt prices in Missouri from the annual Missouri Trappers Association Fur Auction, February 22, 2025, Montgomery City, Missouri.

Species	2025 Summary		Change from 2023-2024	Change from 2012-2013 (Peak)	5-year average (2019-2024)
	Total Sold	Avg. Price			
Raccoon	2,861	\$2.96	-46.7%	-85.8%	\$3.57
Opossum	505	\$1.47	-27.9%	17.6%	\$2.00
Muskrat	325	\$2.51	-40.2%	-78.7%	\$3.66
Coyote	220	\$6.81	-24.6%	-69.4%	\$10.92
Beaver	736	\$15.45	-42.1%	-28.9%	\$14.32
Mink	28	\$8.85	47%	-63.2%	\$7.67
Red Fox	48	\$15.22	-18.2%	-61.1%	\$14.26
Gray Fox	20	\$19.52	26.8%	-43.8%	\$17.32
Striped Skunk	124	\$16.05	32.5%	393.8%	\$11.67
Badger*	4	\$36.25	-23.7%	9439.5%	\$30.07
Bobcat	142	\$85.55	6.5%	-25.9%	\$69.20
Otter	281	\$28.88	-33.3%	-66.2%	\$29.24

* Change in Badger pelt price is artificially inflated because average pelt price in 2012-2013 was \$0.38 and very few pelts were sold.

Hunter's Index of Furbearer Populations

Missouri Department of Conservation has conducted annual surveys of wildlife populations via the Wildlife Observation Survey, formerly the Bowhunter Observation Survey, for 42 consecutive years (1983-2025). In 2025, the dates of observation were extended to include the November portion of the firearms deer season. Each fall, several thousand hunters keep daily observation records of furbearers, other small game animals, deer, and turkeys. Hunters volunteer through post-season surveys that are advertised in articles in the *Missouri*



Conservationist magazine, through the MDC Website, during sign-ups at hunter club meetings, and at other outdoor events. Hunters are asked to record the number of hours hunted, during both morning and evening hunts, and to use a standardized daily diary to record hours and sightings of wildlife. MDC uses the number of sightings of each species divided by the total number of hours hunted statewide to calculate a sighting index which is expressed as sightings per 1,000 hunter hours, called the Hunter's Index.

Wildlife population indices calculated from hunters' diaries are useful trend indicators for terrestrial wildlife species, such as coyotes, raccoons, foxes, and bobcats. Hunters are well distributed statewide, with volunteers in all counties during most years. Throughout the years hunters ranged from 30,990 hours in 1985 to 98,898 hours in 2017 in the stand (See Appendix A). In 2025, hunters spent **43,239 total hours** hunting.

Line graph representations of Hunter's Indices for several furbearer species are shown in Section II by species. Based on these indices, long-term raccoon, coyote, and opossum observations suggest population increases. Striped skunk and bobcat populations are relatively steady, while observations suggest a downward trend for red and gray fox populations. Wildlife population indices are also depicted by county in Appendix B.

Furbearer Sign Station Survey

Beginning in 1977, annual sign station surveys for furbearers have been conducted each September and October. The purpose of the survey is to collect population trend information for Missouri's furbearing species. Twenty-five routes are distributed throughout the state in 25 different counties. Routes consist of 5 segments with 10 sign stations per segment for a total of 50 stations per route. Each sign station is a 36-inch diameter circle of sifted soil, spaced 0.3 miles along public gravel road shoulders. A fatty acid scent disc is placed in the center of each station as an attractant. Each station is operated for one night and evaluated the following day for visitation.

Each station is described as operable or inoperable by the observer, stations with tire tracks or those destroyed by a road grader were deemed inoperable. All operable stations were included in

calculations of indices, regardless of track presence, but inoperable stations were not used for calculations. Tracks were identified within the 36-inch circle of the station. Occupancy of a station by a species was recorded, but not the number of individuals per species.

A total of 23 routes out of 25 (Figure 1) were completed in 2025 with a total of 1,022 operable stations out of a possible 1,200 stations. Fair weather in September and October allowed many of the surveys to be complete before inclement weather set in November. The most common wildlife species to visit stations were raccoons, opossums, deer and coyotes which is similar to our results from previous years (Figure 2). The least common were bobcat, red fox, mink and weasel. Non-mammalian visitors were primarily birds, such as crows and turkeys. Species-specific population index trends from 1977 to 2025 based on the Furbearer Sign Station Surveys and other monitoring efforts are displayed in Figures 6 through 28. Most furbearers had an overall increasing trend except for red and gray fox populations, which have been in an overall decline since the initiation of the Sign Station Survey (Figures 6, 10, 14, 20, 21, 24, 28). These trends are also reflected in the Hunter Observation Index and harvest records. We have seen a decline in the number of visits by bobcats over the last 10 years; however, the overall trend is still positive. Small mammal populations frequently see changes year by year depending on variables such as food abundance, predator population size, and many other ecological variables. For management purposes, the long-term trends are the main indicator of a population's stability and there are no signs of alarming drops in these species.



An example of a sign survey station, September 2024.



Striped skunk tracks found in a sign station, September 2023.

Volunteers greatly assisted MDC staff to complete the surveys again this year, and we want to say thank you to all of our volunteers. Missouri Master Naturalists assisted with completing surveys in Howard County as well as university student groups and several collegiate chapters of The Wildlife Society (TWS) in various counties: Missouri Western State University TWS – Andrew and Clinton Counties, College of the Ozarks – Ozark County, University of Central Missouri TWS – Johnson County and University of Missouri TWS – Boone County.

Online training as well as in-person training was provided to give specific instructions and provide wildlife track identification training. Volunteers were able to observe bobcat and fox prints along with more common species like raccoon and opossum. After volunteers first assisted in surveys in 2019, the expansion to use more volunteer help has greatly reduced the pressure on MDC staff to complete this large-scale survey. Their help has been greatly appreciated, and we expect to continue to use volunteer help in future surveys.

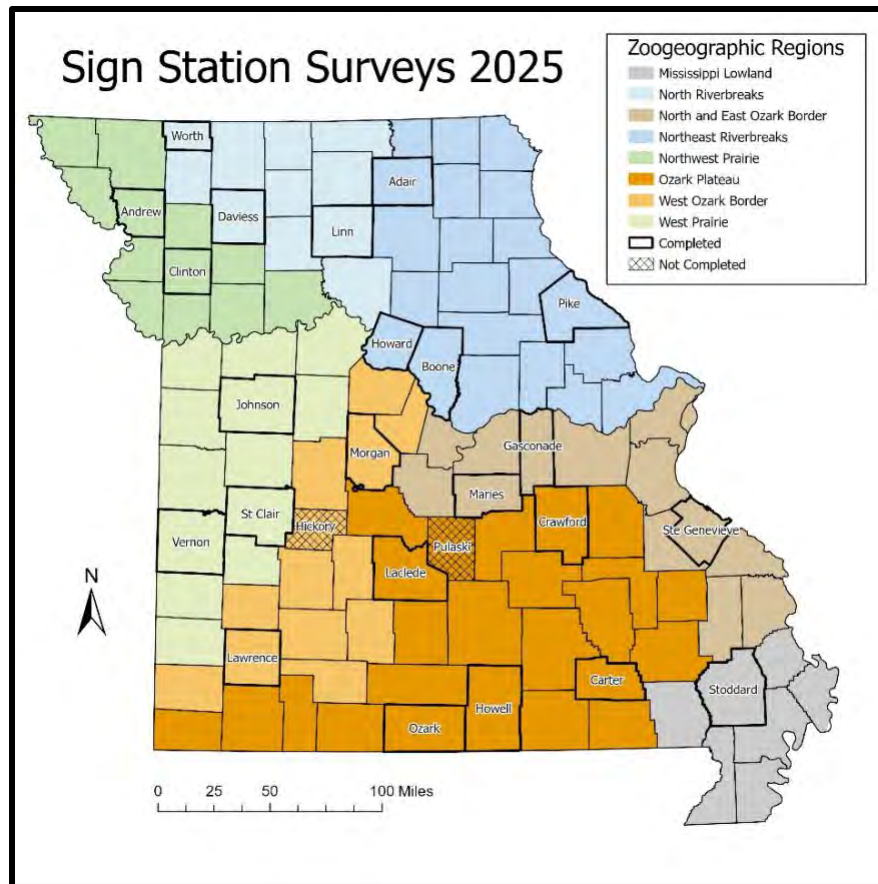


Figure 1. Missouri's 8 zoological regions and counties where data were collected (bolded); all counties with permanent transects were surveyed in 2025 except Hickory and Pulaski.

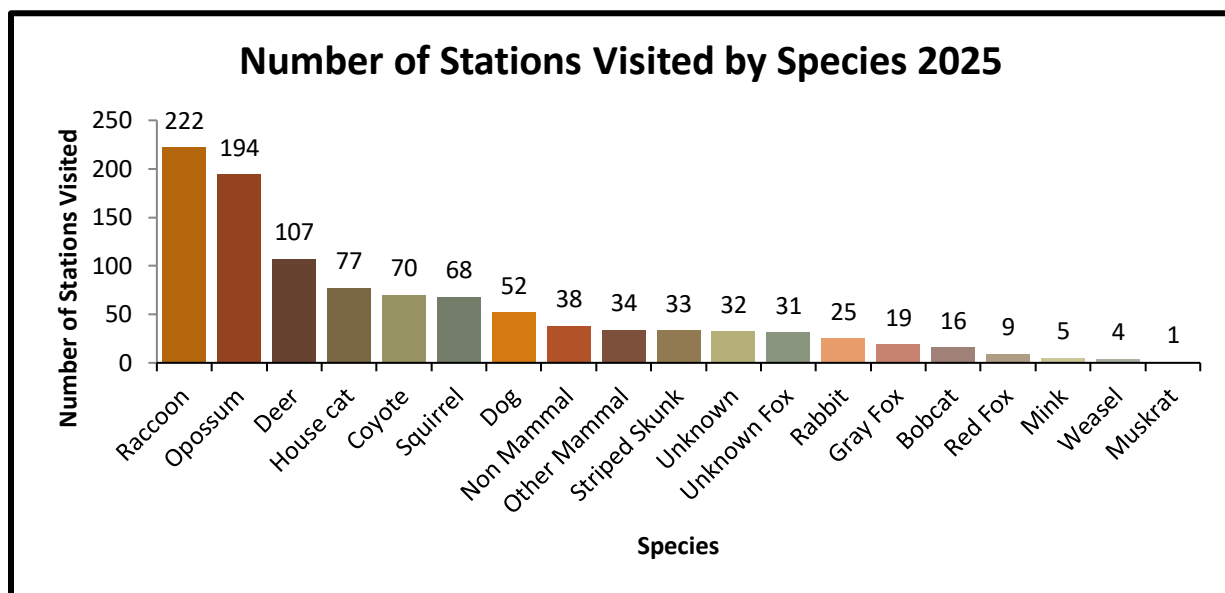


Figure 2. The number of stations visited by each mammal species, including non-furbearer species, out of 1,022 operable stations in the 2025 Missouri Furbearer Sign Station Survey.

Monitoring and Demographic Assessment of River Otters and Bobcats in Missouri



River otter and bobcat are commonly sought-after furbearers in Missouri, and there are no harvest level restrictions on either species. Various population indices suggest these species are not in danger of being overharvested. However, both bobcats and otters are CITES listed species, as their furs resemble other exotic endangered species, which has resulted in challenges to their harvest regulation in several states. The MDC began a research project to document the sex and age of harvested animals and

measure harvest effort by trappers for these species. These and other data will enable MDC to utilize Statistical Population Reconstruction (SPR) to generate abundance estimates and measure the impact of harvest and regulations on river otter and bobcat populations. Through SPR, the MDC will have a better understanding of the relationship between harvest rates and demographics of each species and will be able to better support current harvest regulations if challenged in the future.

To utilize SPR, MDC collects information on harvested river otters and bobcats through mandatory registration and voluntary tooth submission. Trappers are asked to remove one of the lower canine teeth from each river otter or bobcat they harvest so that age-at-harvest can be determined. Sex, date of harvest, method, and effort are collected when river otter or bobcat are tagged or registered with the Department.

A total of 56 bobcat and 99 river otter jaws were submitted to MDC by hunters and trappers throughout the 2024-2025 season. Staff then boiled and extracted the lower canine teeth from these jaws to be analyzed and sent for aging analysis among an additional 135 bobcat and 128 river otter lower canines from previous trapping seasons (figs. 31-32 & 35-36).



River Otter Survival and Harvest Research Project

From October of 2023 through March 2025 the Furbearer program implemented a pilot project to test the effectiveness of a hybrid internally implanted transmitter that utilized VHF radio tracking and GSM (Global System for Mobile Communication) transmitters, that utilized cell towers, to triangulate otter locations. This pilot project was conducted to evaluate how well the VHF/GSM transmitters were at track otters to determine what type of tracking transmitters should be used in a large river otter survival and harvest rate study. Due to the lower-than-expected performance of the GSM transmitters, standard VHF transmitters, which were found to have stronger reception, were determined to be a better tool to use for the expanded survival study that was initiated in the fall of 2025.

The results from the expanded survival and harvest rate study will be used within the state's SPR model to help better track trends in the river otter population and will be used to evaluate current and future management and harvest regulations for river otters. Between September and December 2025, the furbearer program scouted and set traps to capture river otters at multiple wetlands and private properties in both Boone and Callaway counties. Three female river otters in Callaway County were captured, and VHF internal transmitters were placed. They have been successfully tracked from both the air (in a helicopter) and the ground. One female was able to be tracked to a holt—or den—and trail cameras were placed to further monitor the individual. Trapping and tracking will continue into the coming years.



Furbearer field research crew contains live trapped otter in capture tube, 2025.



River otter study individual with internal radio transmitter seen on trail camera outside of its holt (den), December 2025.

SECTION II: Missouri Furbearer Status 2024 - 2025

Raccoon Harvest and Population Trends

Raccoon harvest records based on fur buyers' records in 2023-2024 totaled 21,287 and included individuals harvested by both trapping and hunting methods (Figure 3). This year's harvest was up by 83.8% from the previous year's harvest of 11,576. This is a larger increase from the 2022-23 raccoon harvest which was the lowest on record (fig. 3). Before that, 1942 was the lowest recorded season for raccoon harvest. This year's pelt prices are down 46.7%. Average raccoon pelt prices are down 85.8% from the last price peak in the



2012-2013 season. Reported raccoon harvest via the biannual small game survey (survey sent out to all small game hunters every other year) shows that raccoon harvest was up again from previous years. There was no small game survey this year. The figures associated with the small game survey data will be updated next year in 2026.

Population trends are derived from the Hunter's Index Survey and the Sign Station Survey. For a detailed description of these surveys, see Section I of this report. During the 2025 season, hunters submitted the number of raccoons observed during hunting hours and the number of hours spent afield. Based on these observations, the number of raccoons sighted per 1,000 hours decreased by 13% to 42.8 in 2025 from 45.4 in 2024 (Figure 5). Presence of raccoon tracks at furbearer sign stations increased to an index of over 200 in 2025 from 117 in 2024 (Figure 6). Indices derived from Wildlife Observation Surveys and Sign Station Surveys indicate an overall increasing trend in raccoon population abundance. Short-term fluctuations are normal and expected due to the dynamic nature of raccoon populations. Based on harvest and pelt prices of previous trapping and hunting seasons, harvest pressure is expected to remain stable for the 2025-26 season.

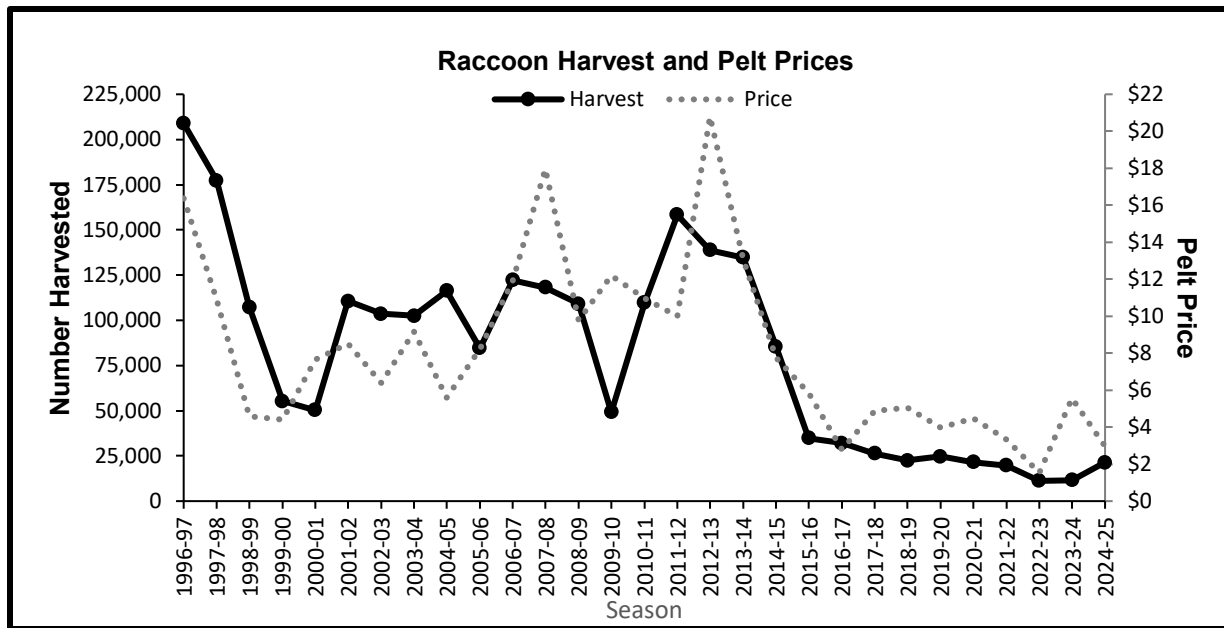


Figure 3. Comparison of Missouri raccoon harvest and pelt prices since 1996. Harvest estimates are derived from fur buyer records. Annual pelt prices are the average price from the Missouri Trappers Association Fur Auction.

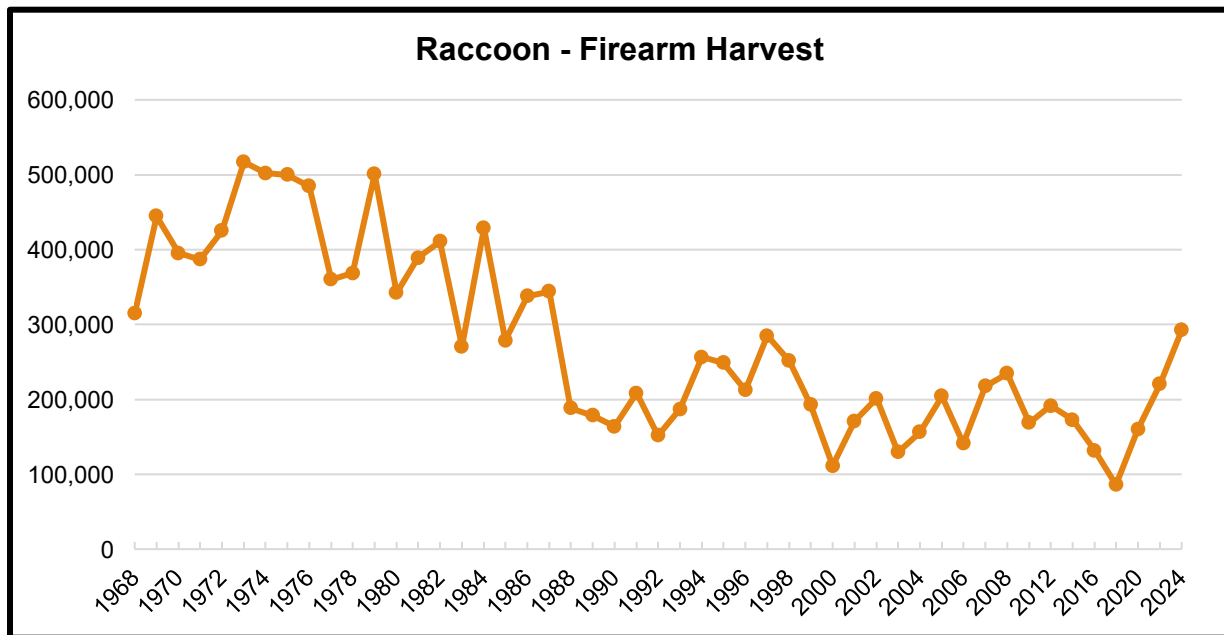


Figure 4. Raccoon harvest via firearm reports through biannual small game survey from 1968-2024.

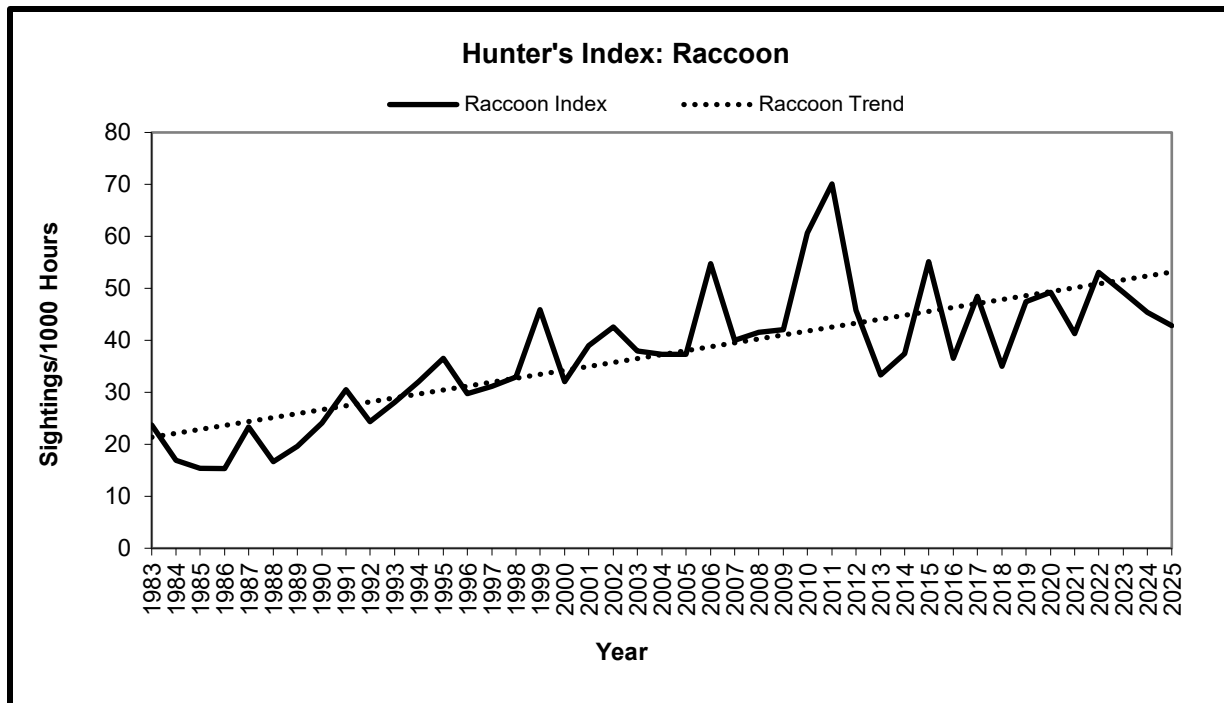


Figure 5. Missouri raccoon population trends based on the Hunter's Index, derived from the MDC Wildlife Observation Survey.

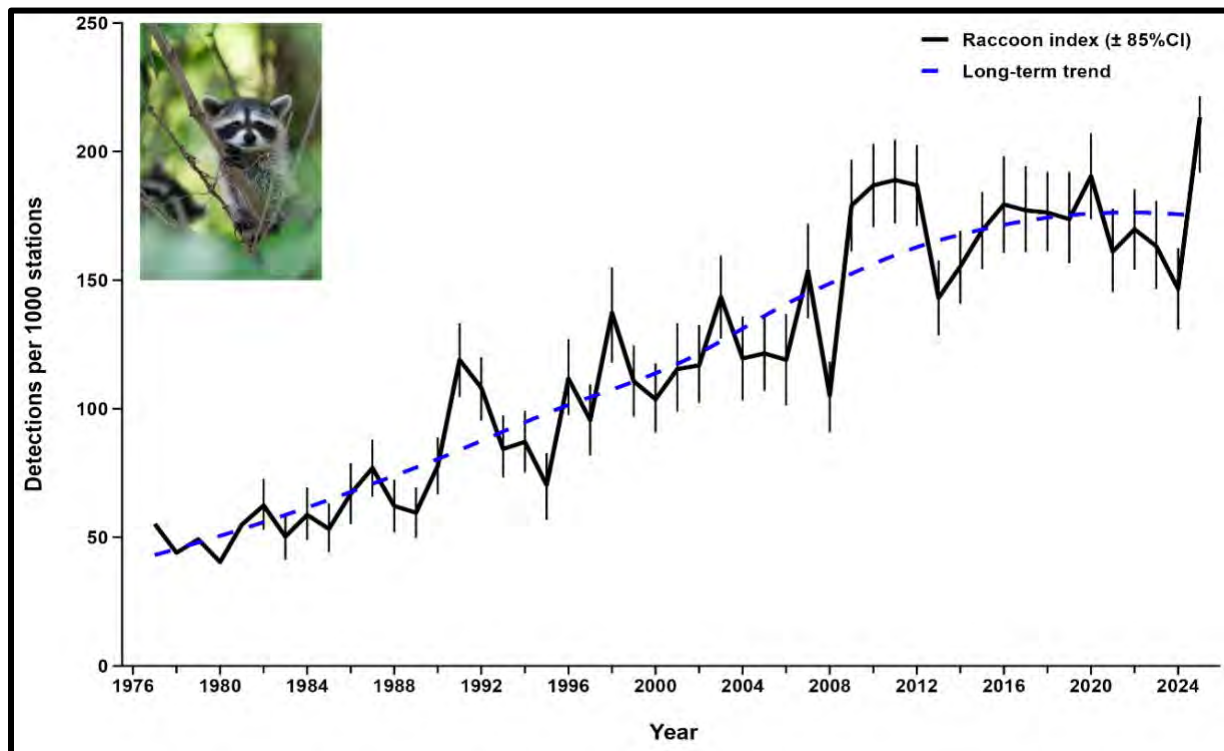


Figure 6. Missouri raccoon population trends based on the Furbearer Sign Station Survey Index 1976-2025.

Virginia Opossum Harvest and Population Trends

The **Virginia opossum harvest** in 2024-2025 totaled 1,231 (Figure 7). This year's harvest was up 66.1% from last year's harvest of 741 individuals (Figure 8). Average Virginia Opossum pelt prices for 2024-2025 decreased 27.9% to \$1.47 from 2024-2025 season's \$2.04 (Figure 7).



Population trends are derived from the Wildlife Observation Survey and Sign Station Survey. Based on hunter observations, the number of Virginia opossums sighted per 1,000 hours increased by 29% to 9.1 in 2025 from 7.0 in 2024 (Figure 9). Similarly, the presence of Virginia opossum tracks at furbearer sign stations increased in 2025 from the previous year (Figure 10). Long-term population trend data from surveys continues to suggest populations are stable and increasing slightly over time.

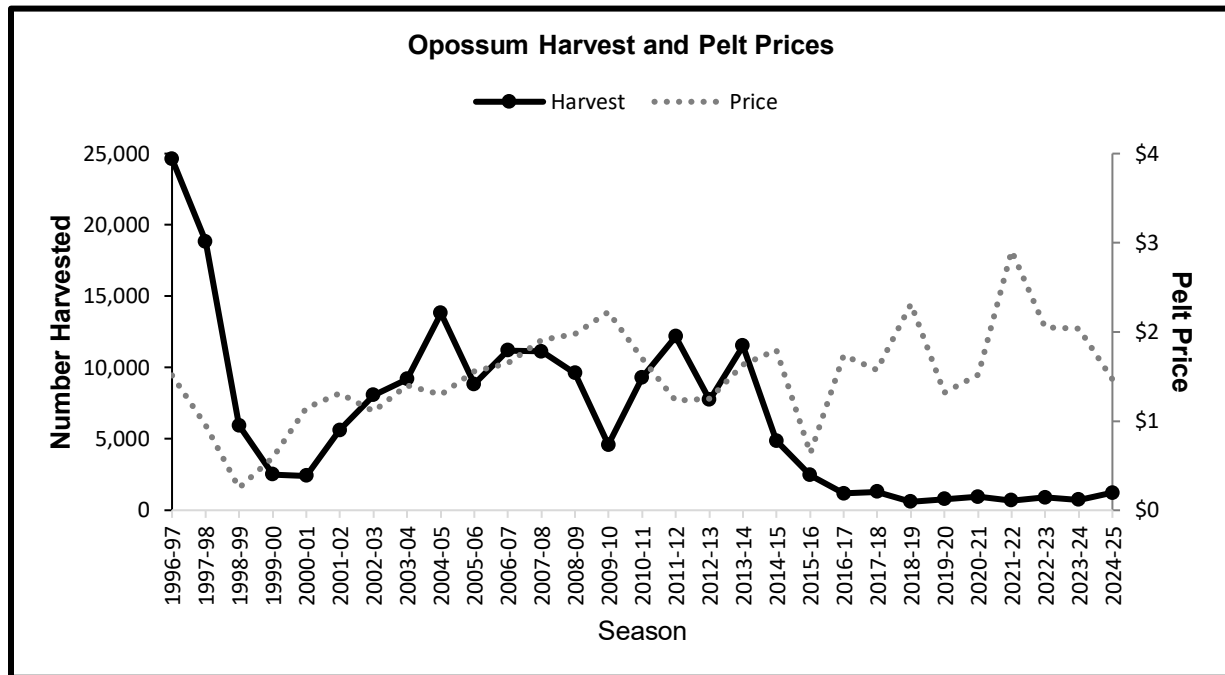


Figure 7. Comparison of Missouri Virginia opossum harvest and pelt since 1996. Harvest estimates are derived from fur buyer records. Annual pelt price estimates are the average price from the Missouri Trappers Association Fur Auction, 1996-2025.

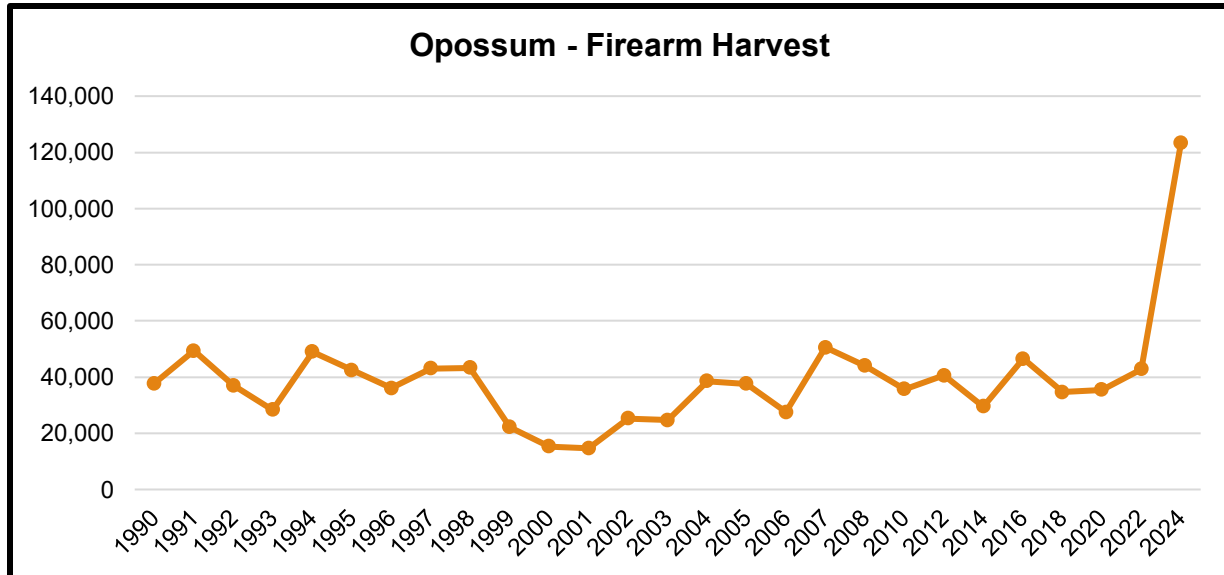


Figure 8. Missouri Virginia opossum harvest via firearm reports through biannual small game survey from 1990-2024.

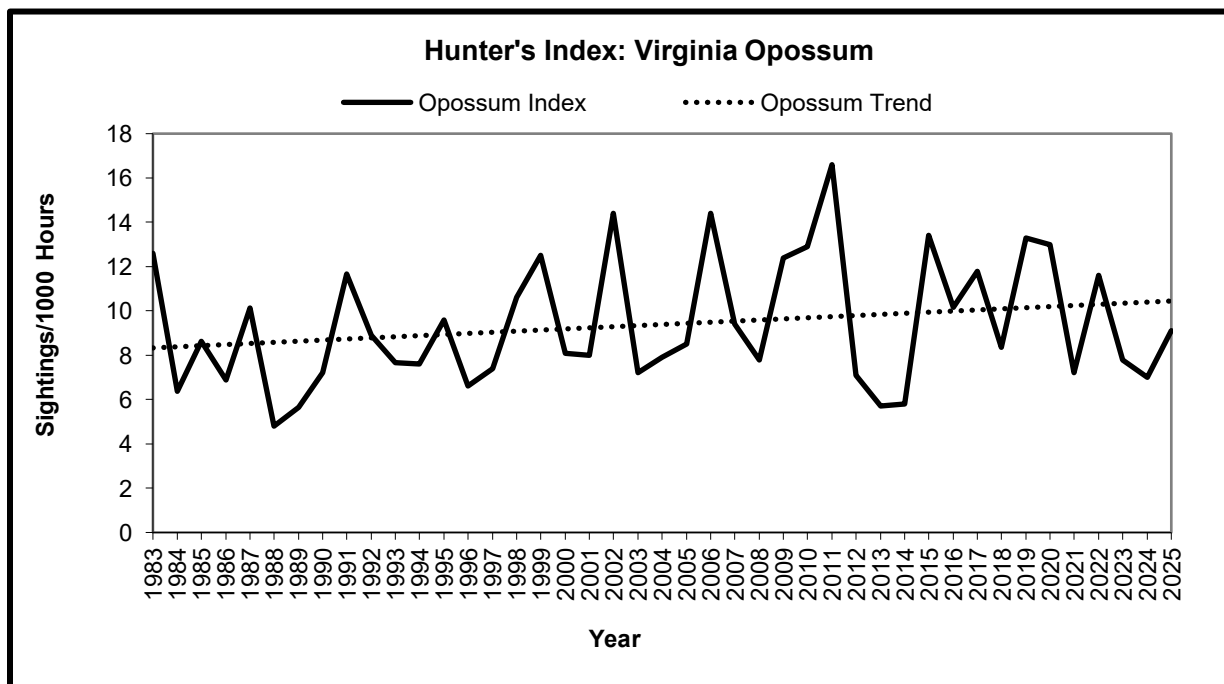


Figure 9. Missouri Virginia opossum population trends based on the Hunter's Index, derived from the MDC Wildlife Observation Survey results for Virginia Opossum, 1983-2025.

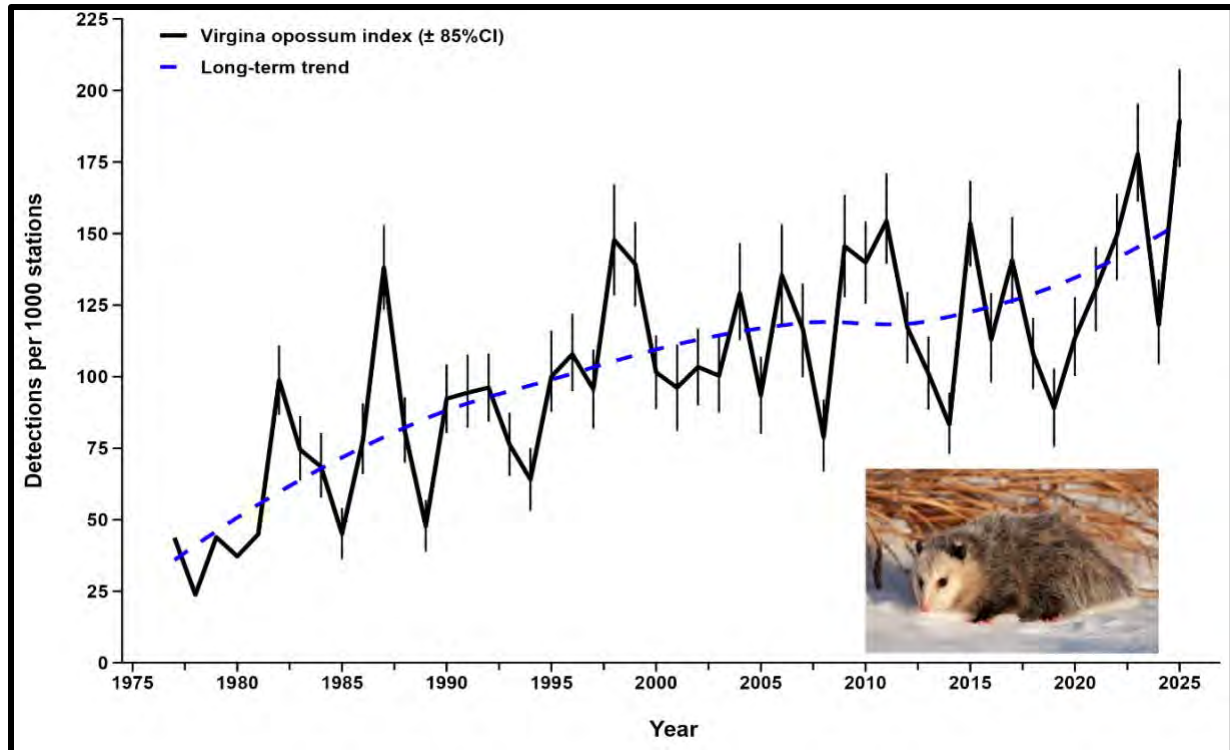


Figure 10. Missouri Virginia opossum population trends based on the Furbearer Sign Station Survey Index, 1976-2025.

Coyote Harvest and Population Trends

Coyote harvest, based on Commercial Fur Buyer reports, during the 2024-2025 furbearer season, 886 coyotes were harvested. This total was down 29.8% from the 2023-2024 season with 1,262 individuals harvested (Figure 11). Predator hunting continues to increase in popularity, and survey data suggest over 25,000 people hunt coyotes annually. Many trappers enjoy the challenge of catching coyotes, and this is reflected in the harvest totals. Coyote pelt prices averaged \$6.81 this year with a decrease of 24.6% from the previous season's \$9.03. Coyote pelts are becoming increasingly popular in the international fur market, which may influence the local market for this species (NAFA, 2019; FHA, 2019).



Population trend data from the Wildlife Observation Survey (Figure 13) and Sign Station Survey (Figure 14) for coyotes suggest populations are currently stable with a slightly increasing trend since the 1970s when the Sign Station Survey began and the early 1980s when the Hunter's Index began. Based on hunter observations, the number of coyotes sighted per 1,000 hours decreased from 22.9 in 2024 to 19.6 in 2025. Presence of coyote tracks at furbearer sign stations remained the same as the previous year.

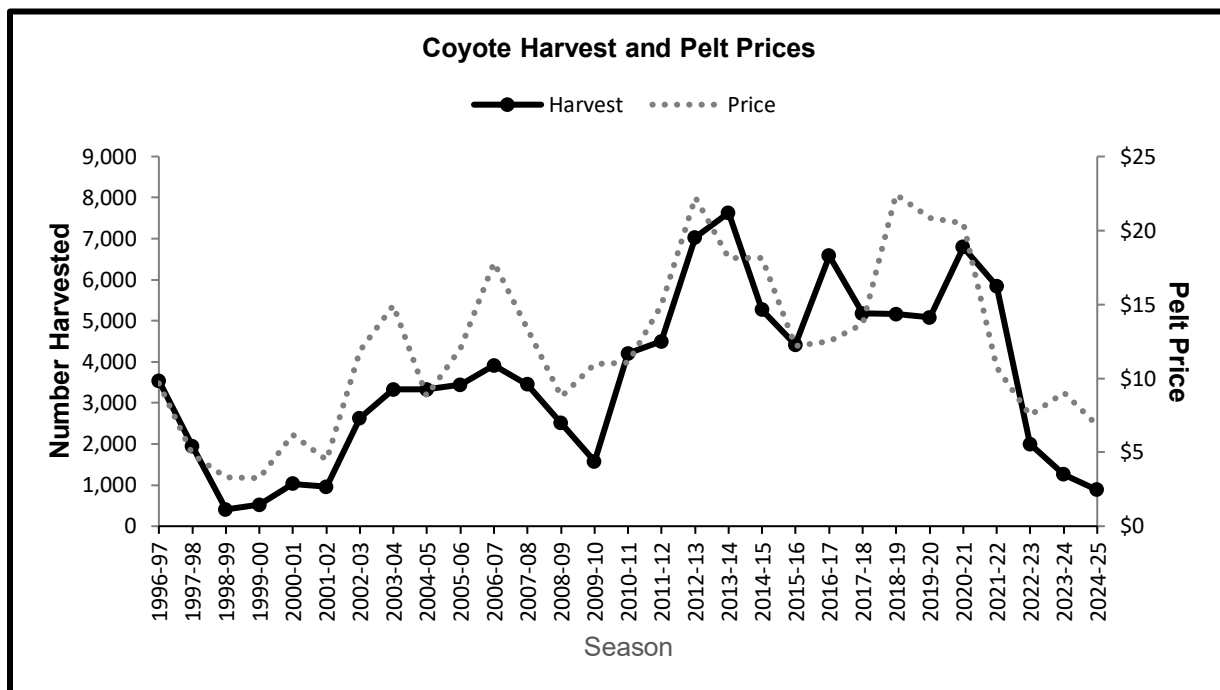


Figure 11. Comparison of Missouri coyote harvest and pelt prices since 1996. Harvest estimates are derived from fur buyer records. Annual pelt price estimates are the average price from the Missouri Trappers Association Fur Auction, 1996-2025.

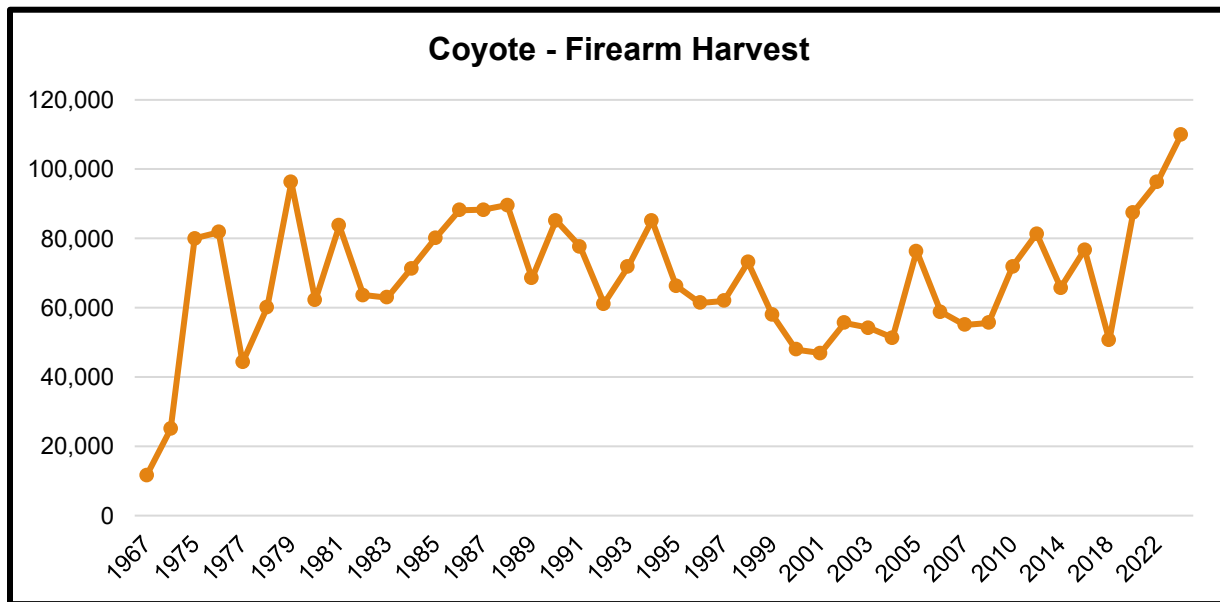


Figure 12. Missouri coyote harvest via firearm reports through biannual small game survey, 1967-2024.

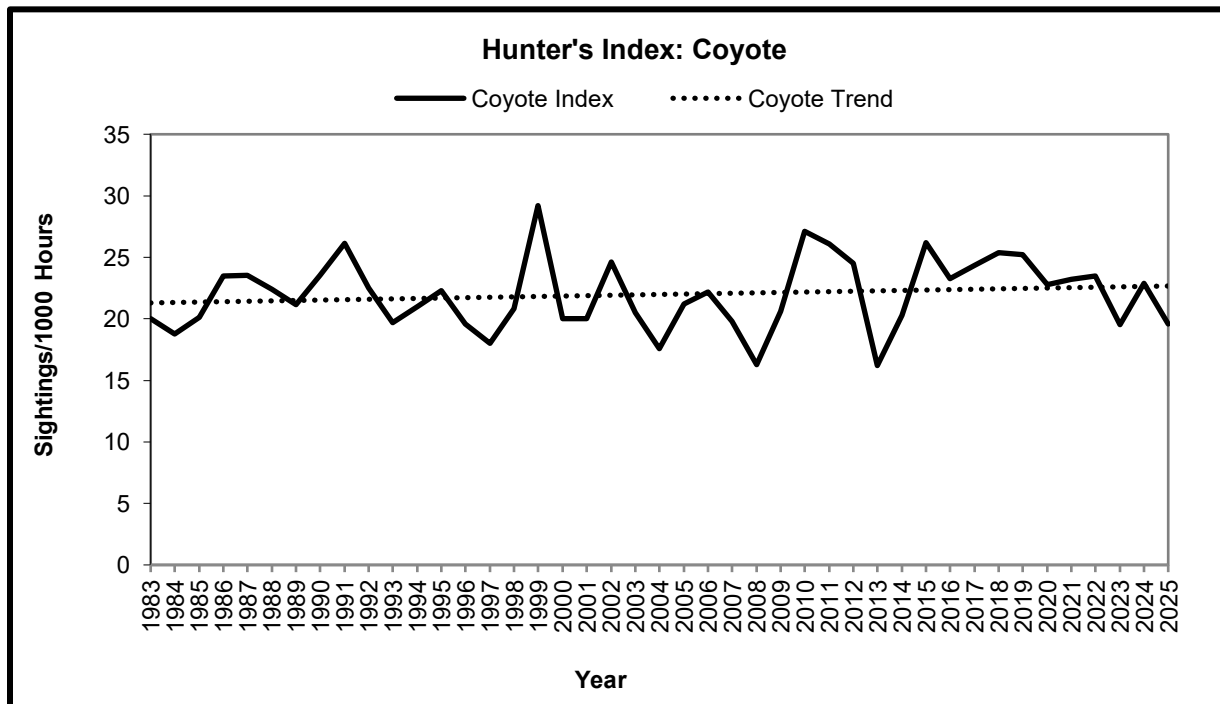


Figure 13. Missouri, coyote population trends based on the Hunter's Index, derived from the MDC Wildlife Observation Survey, 1983-2025.

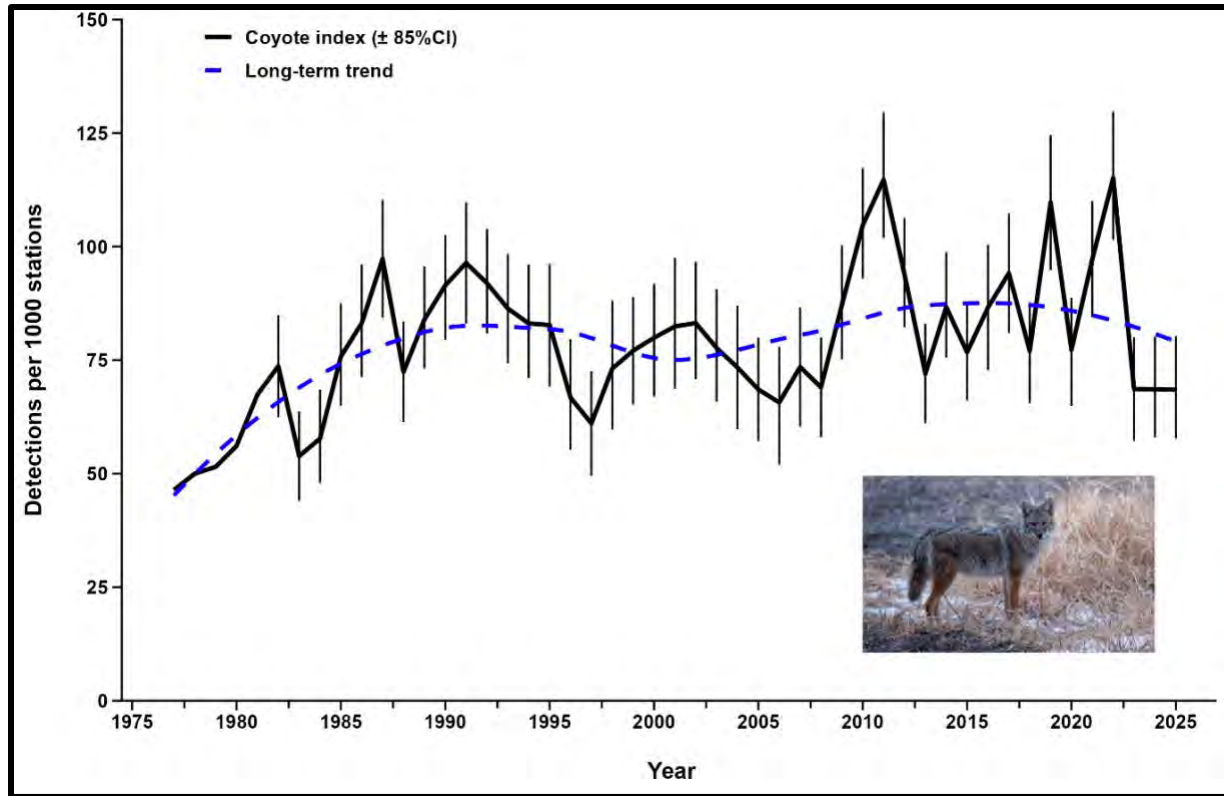


Figure 14. Missouri coyote population trends based on the Furbearer Sign Station Survey Index, 1976-2025.

Fox Harvest and Population Trends



Red fox harvest during the 2024-2025 season increased 11.8% from 584 to 653 individuals harvested (Figure 15). The average price for red fox pelts decreased by 18.2% to \$15.22 from 2023-2024 season's \$18.61.

Gray Fox Harvest decreased in 2024-2025 by 50% to 354 individuals compared with last year's harvest of 708 (Figure 16). The average price for gray fox pelts increased by 26.8% from 2023-2024 season's \$15.40 to \$19.52. For both species of fox there was a small decline in observed firearm harvest in 2024 (Figure 17, 18).

Population trends are derived from the Wildlife Observation Survey and Sign Station Survey. Hunter observations and sign station surveys offer a long-term perspective suggesting declines in both red and gray fox populations (Figures 19 -21). Long-term fox population declines may be the result of interspecific competition with coyotes and bobcats. Another possible strain on gray fox populations is the increasing population of raccoons and the associated distemper virus, for which gray fox may be particularly vulnerable. Regional variability in fox abundance likely occurs, including around suburban areas where foxes may seek refuge from coyotes or respond to increased prey availability, but the overall long-term trend for both fox species indicates a decline in abundance.

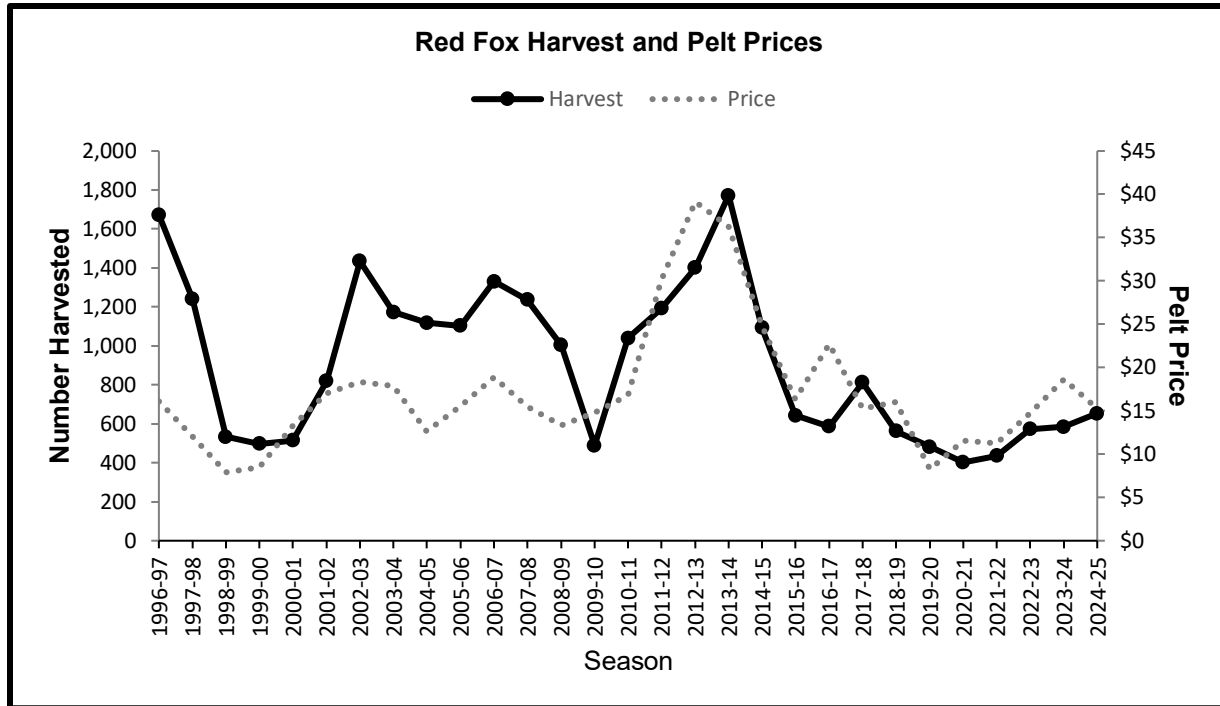


Figure 15. Comparison of Missouri red fox harvest and pelt prices since 1996. Harvest estimates are derived from fur buyer records. Annual pelt price estimates are the average price from the Missouri Trappers Association Fur Auction, 1996-2025.

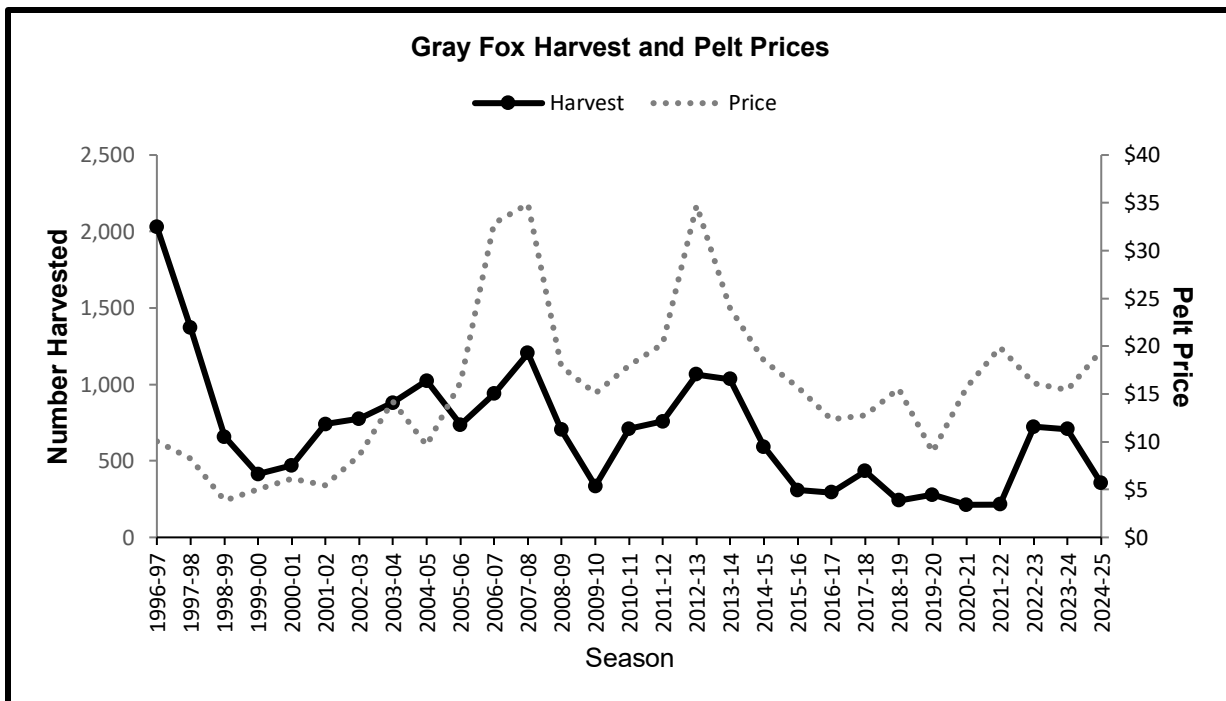


Figure 16. Comparison of Missouri gray fox harvest and pelt prices since 1996. Harvest estimates are derived from fur buyer records. Annual pelt price estimates are the average price from the Missouri Trappers Association Fur Auction, 1996-2025.

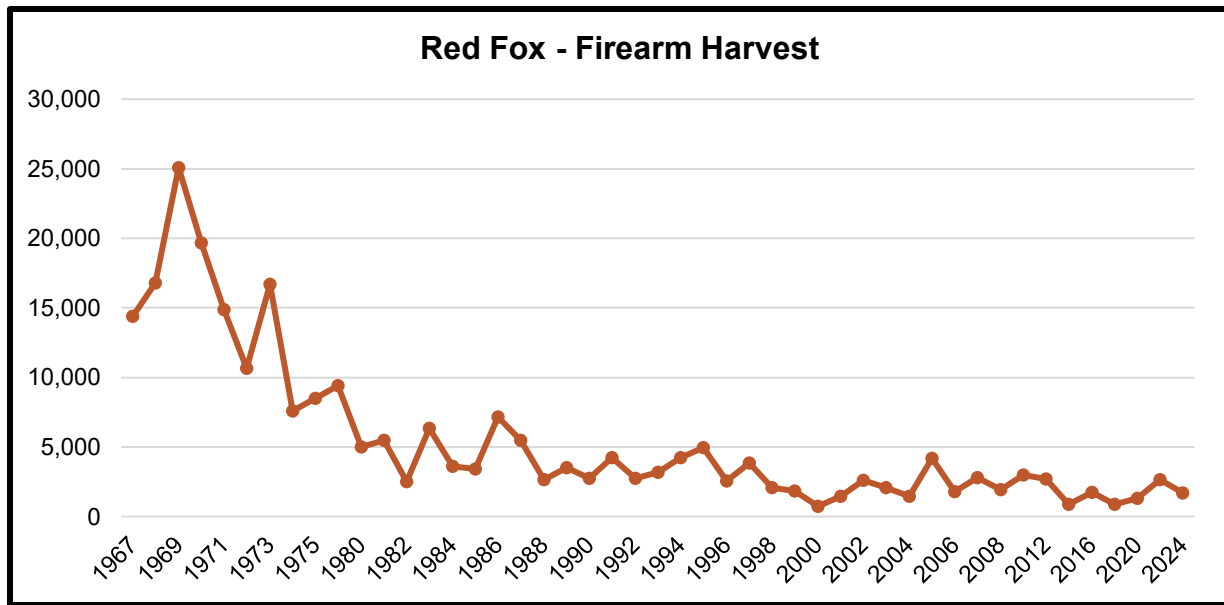


Figure 17. Missouri red fox harvest via firearm reports through biannual small game survey, 1967-2024.

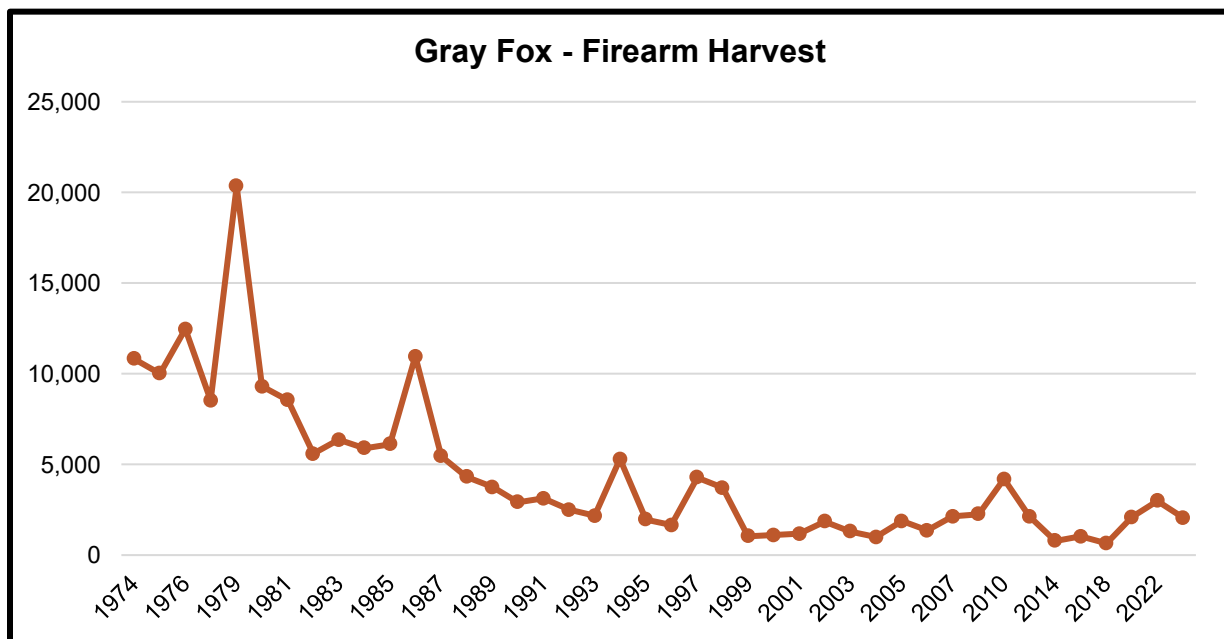


Figure 18. Missouri gray fox harvest via firearm reports through biannual small game survey, 1974-2024.

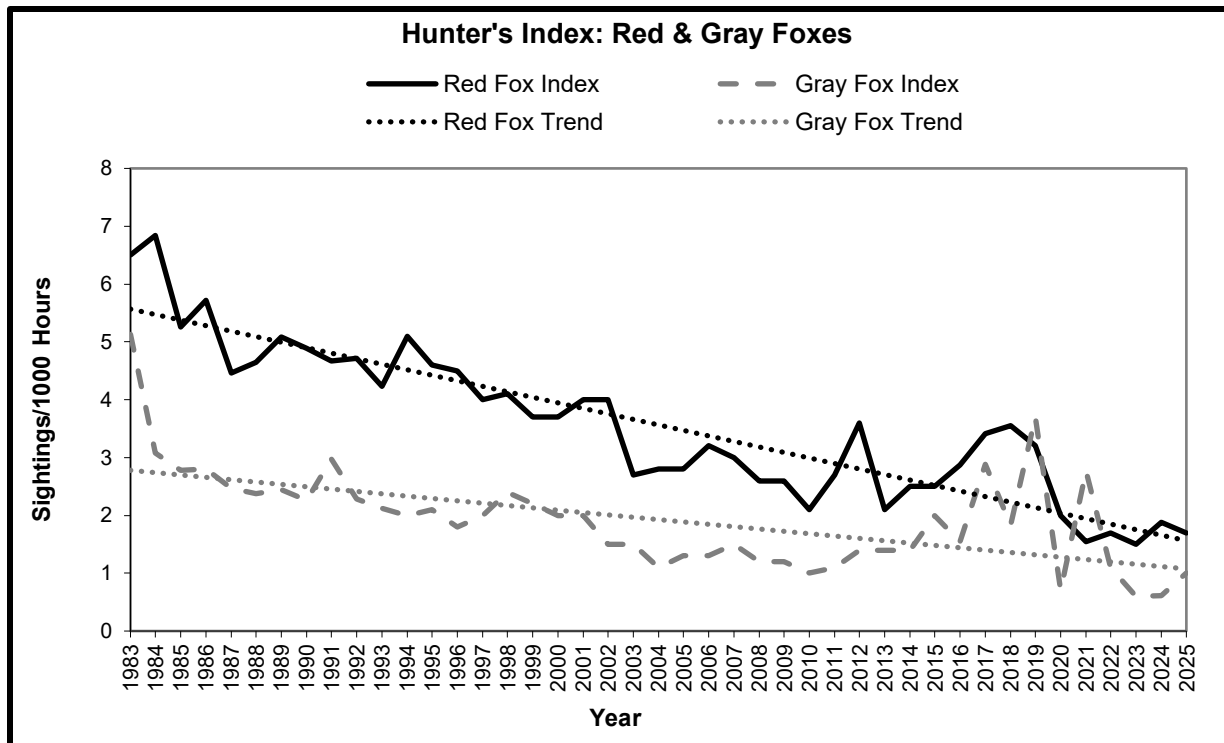


Figure 19. Missouri fox population trends based on the Hunter's Index, derived from the MDC Wildlife Observation Survey, 1983-2025.

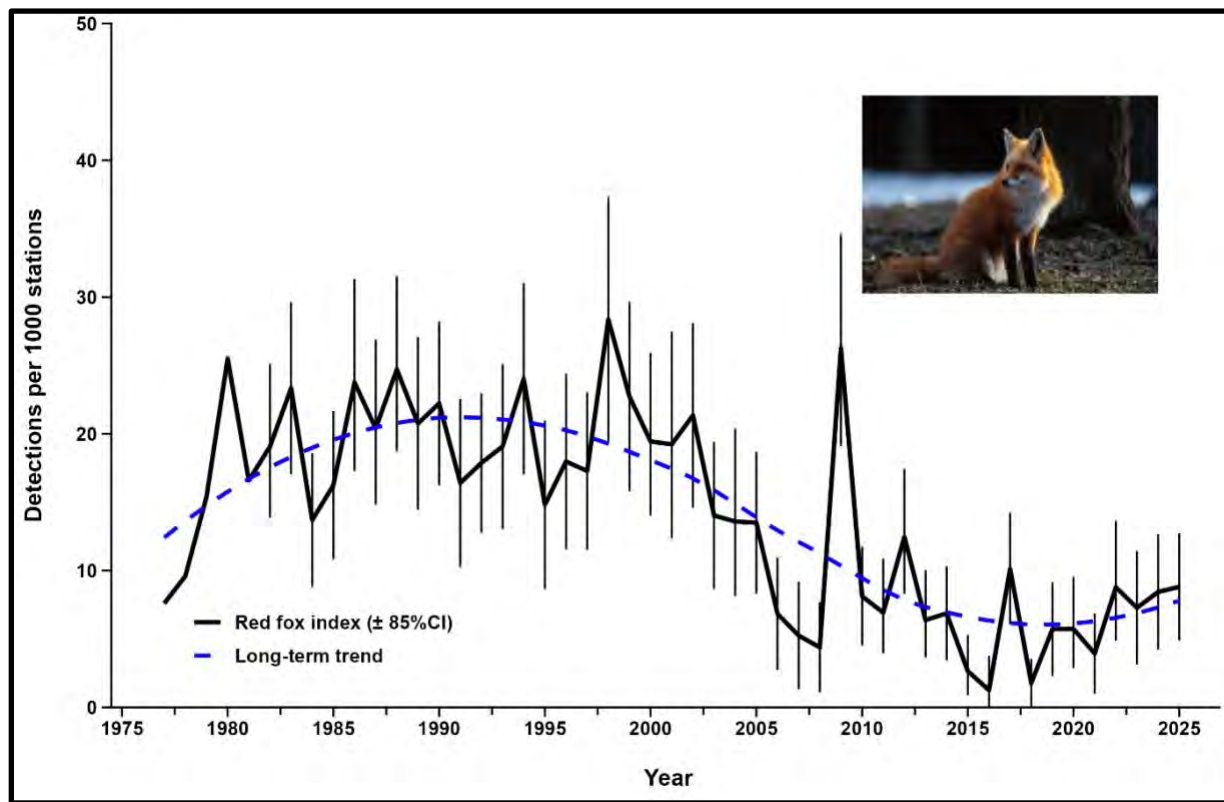


Figure 20. Missouri red fox population index trends, 1978 to 2025.

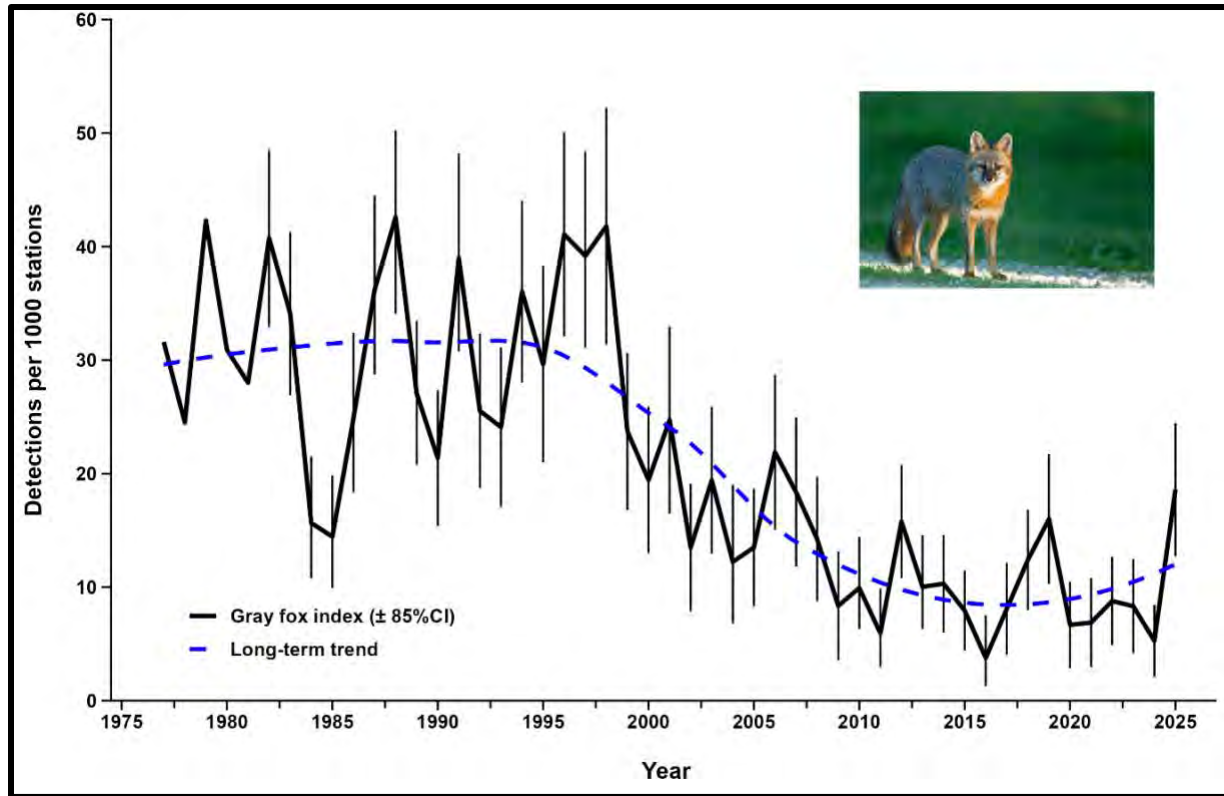


Figure 21. Missouri gray fox population index trends from 1978 to 2025.

Striped Skunk Harvest and Population Trends

Striped skunk harvest in 2024-2025 totaled 502 (Figure 22). This year's harvest was up 18.4% from last year's harvest of 424 individuals. Average striped skunk pelt prices for 2024-2025 increased 32.5% from \$12.11 in 2023-2024 to \$16.05. The last five seasons have resulted in the highest ever pelt prices for striped skunk, each subsequent year was higher than the last with this year being a larger jump in price than the previous 2 years.



Population trends are derived from the Wildlife Observation Survey and Furbearer Sign Station Survey. Long-term populations trends derived from the Hunter's Index (Figure 23) show a slight decline in skunk numbers compared to the Sign Station Survey (Figure 24) which suggests a fluctuation in the population over time. Despite the difference between these two surveys, we believe the striped skunk population is stable given the increase in harvest.

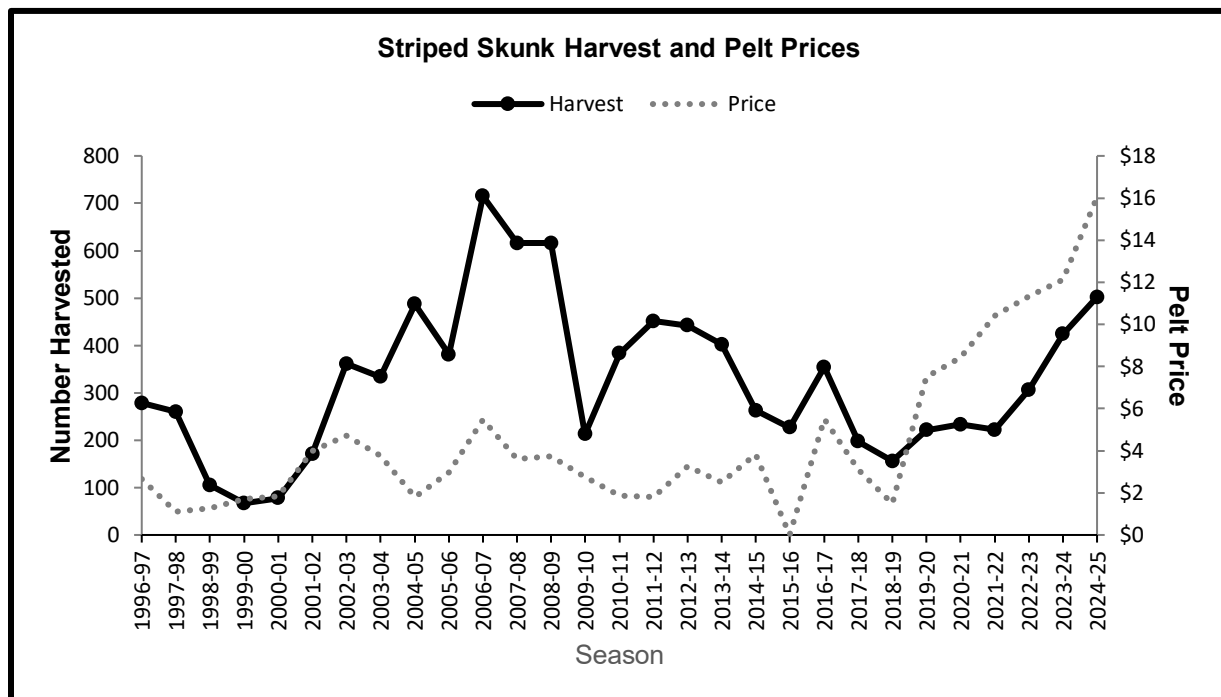


Figure 22. Comparison of Missouri striped skunk harvest and pelt prices since 1996. Harvest estimates derived from fur buyer records. Annual pelt price estimates are the average price from the MTA Fur Auction, 1996-2025.

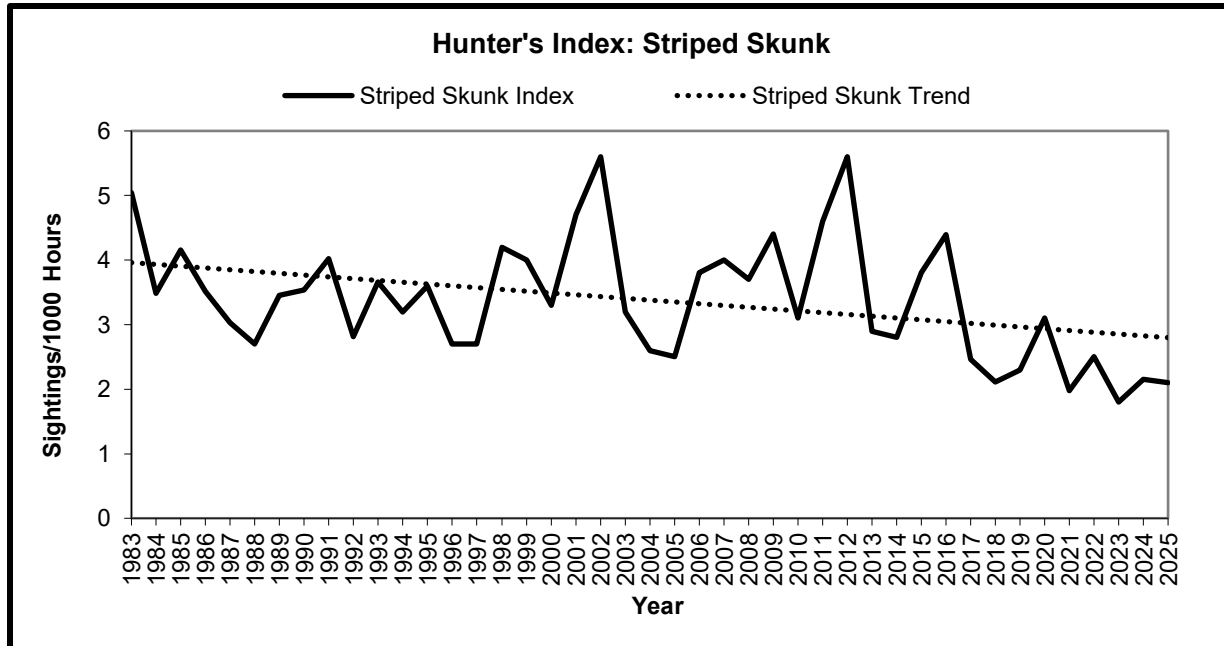


Figure 23. Missouri striped skunk population trends based on the Hunter's Index, derived from the MDC Wildlife Observation Survey, 1983-2025.

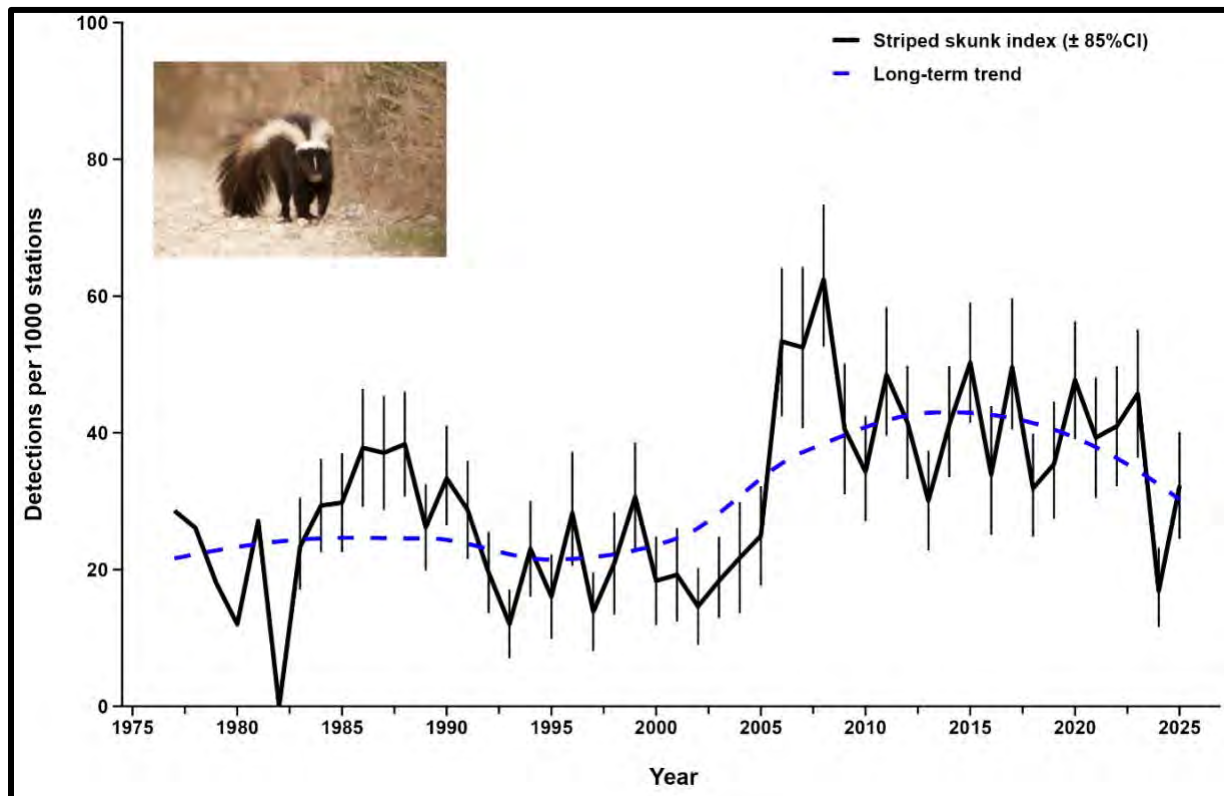
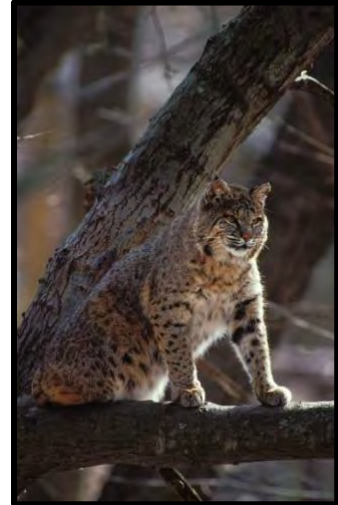


Figure 24. Missouri striped skunk population trends based on the Furbearer Sign Station Survey Index, 1976-2025.

Bobcat Harvest and Population Trends

Bobcat harvest during the 2024-2025 season was up 25.3% from 1,321 in 2023-2024 to **1,655 bobcats** harvested (Figure 25), with an increase in the number of bobcats harvested both with firearms and trapping methods (Figure 26). Prices during the 2024-2025 season increased by 6.5% from the previous year's average price of \$80.35 to \$85.55. Trappers and hunters are required to register bobcat carcasses or green pelts at MDC offices or with Conservation Agents. The number of bobcat pelts purchased by fur dealers (2,272) was higher than those registered by trappers and hunters (1,655). Instead of selling to fur buyers, trappers usually make more money selling carcasses to taxidermists or selling mounted bobcats or may retain bobcat pelts for personal use. Trappers may have taken advantage of the recovered price for bobcat pelts to reduce large inventories from previous years.



Population trends are derived from the Wildlife Observation Survey and Furbearer Sign Station Survey. Both Sign Station Survey and Hunter's Index data suggest bobcat populations appear to be stable (Figures 27 and 28).

Geographic distribution of harvest varies by county and method. Trappers harvested 977 bobcats, while hunters harvested 640 bobcats. Vernon County had the highest combined harvest at 56, Scotland County had the highest trapper harvest with 47 individuals, and Lewis County had the highest hunting harvest at 25. (Figure 29 and 30).

Age analysis of teeth submitted to the department shows a majority of individuals harvested were in the age classes three years of age or below (Figure 31 and 32). This analysis along with other data will enable MDC to utilize Statistical Population Reconstruction (SPR) to monitor the bobcat population.

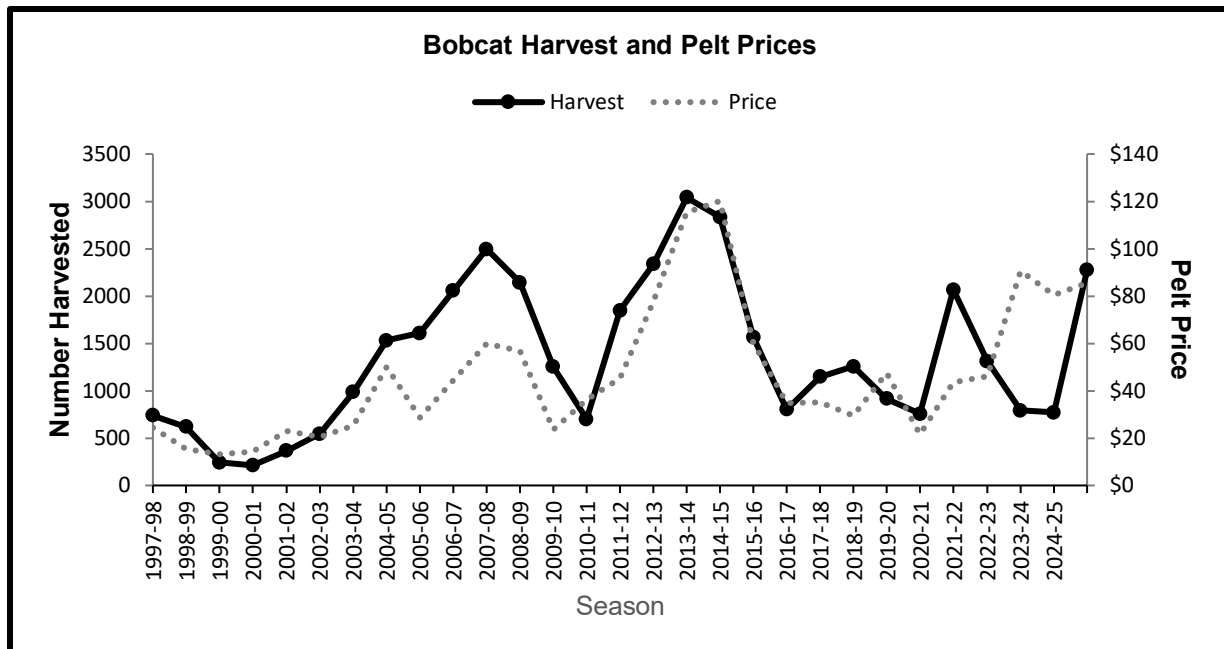


Figure 25. Missouri bobcat harvest trends since 1996 compared to average pelt prices, 1996-2025.

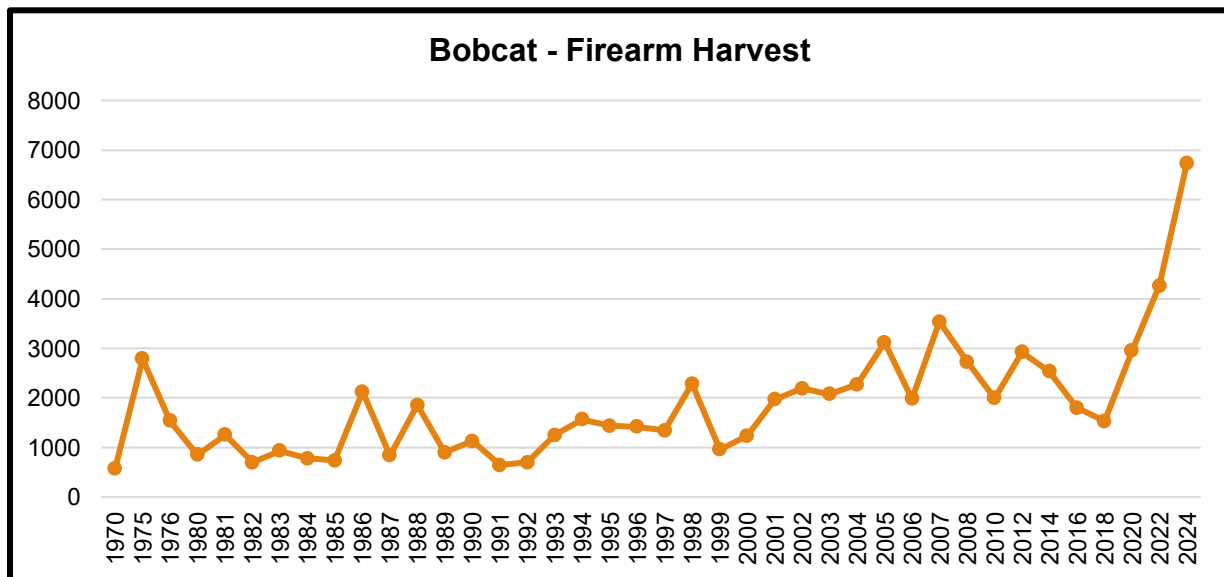


Figure 26. Missouri bobcat harvest via firearm reports through biannual small game survey, 1970-2024.

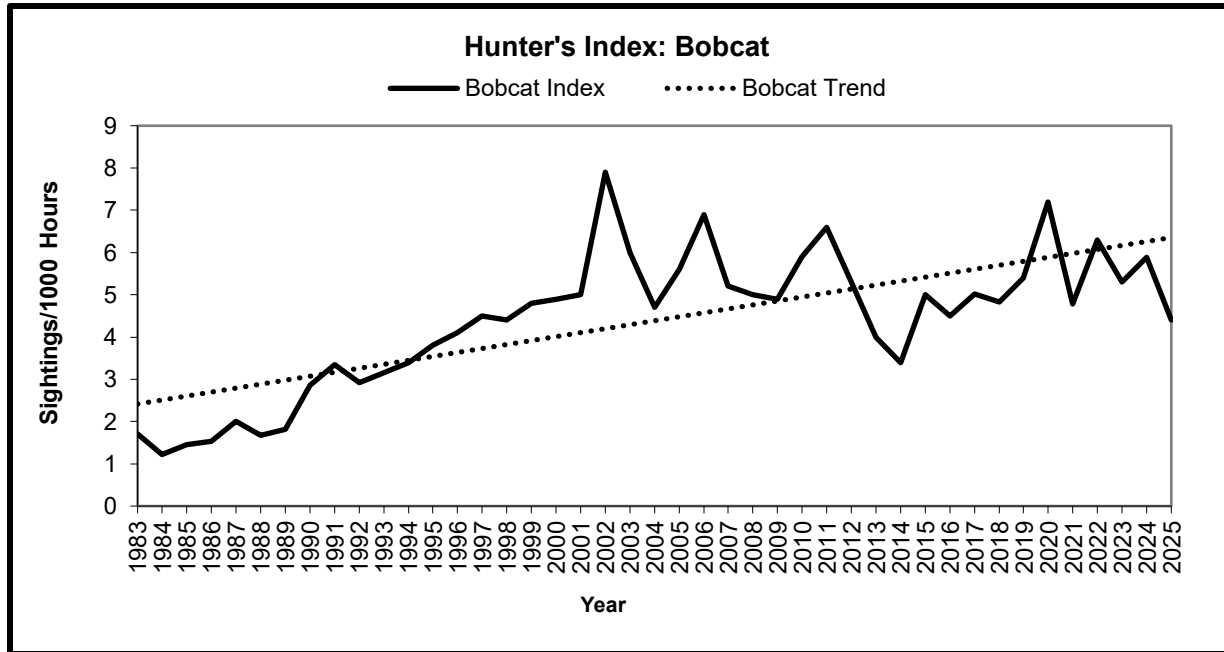


Figure 27. Missouri bobcat population trends based on the Hunter's Index, derived from the MDC Wildlife Observation Survey, 1983-2025.

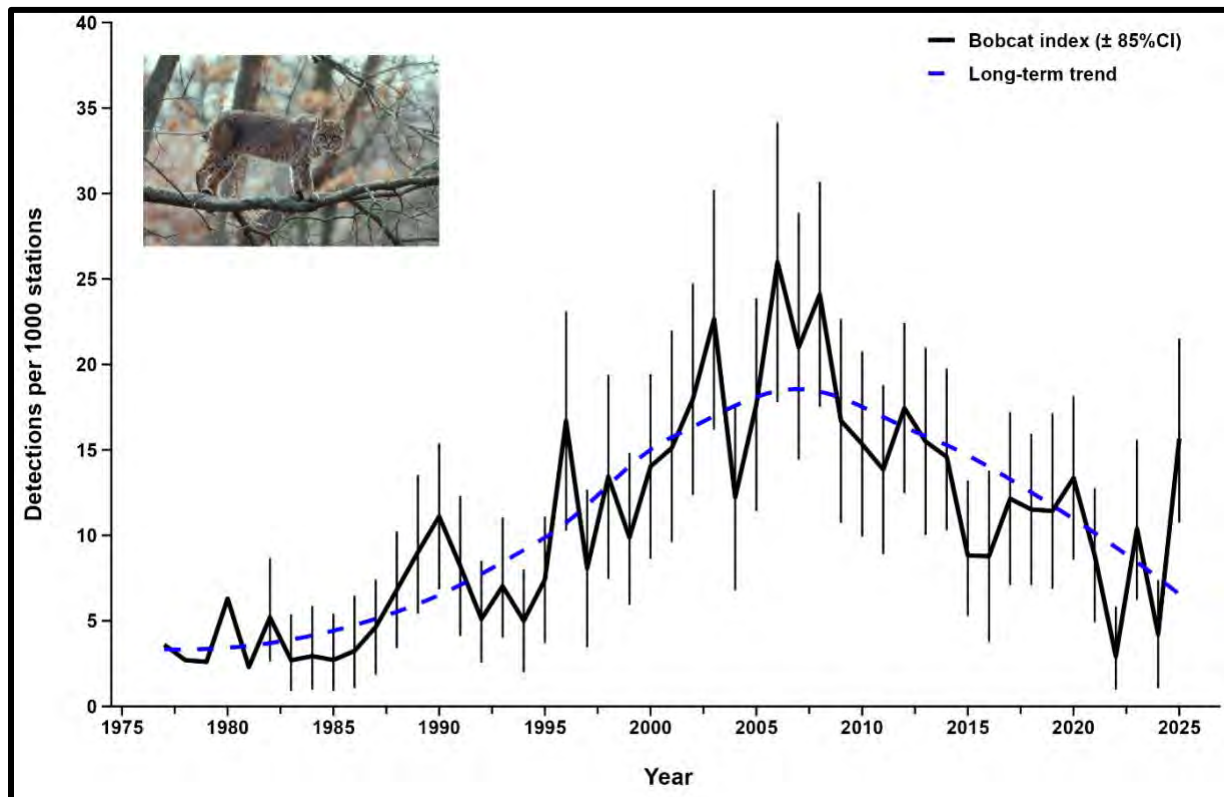
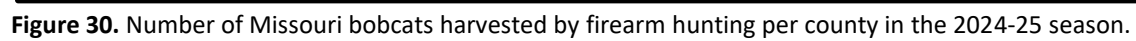


Figure 28. Missouri bobcat population trends based on the Furbearer Sign Station Survey Index, 1976-2025.





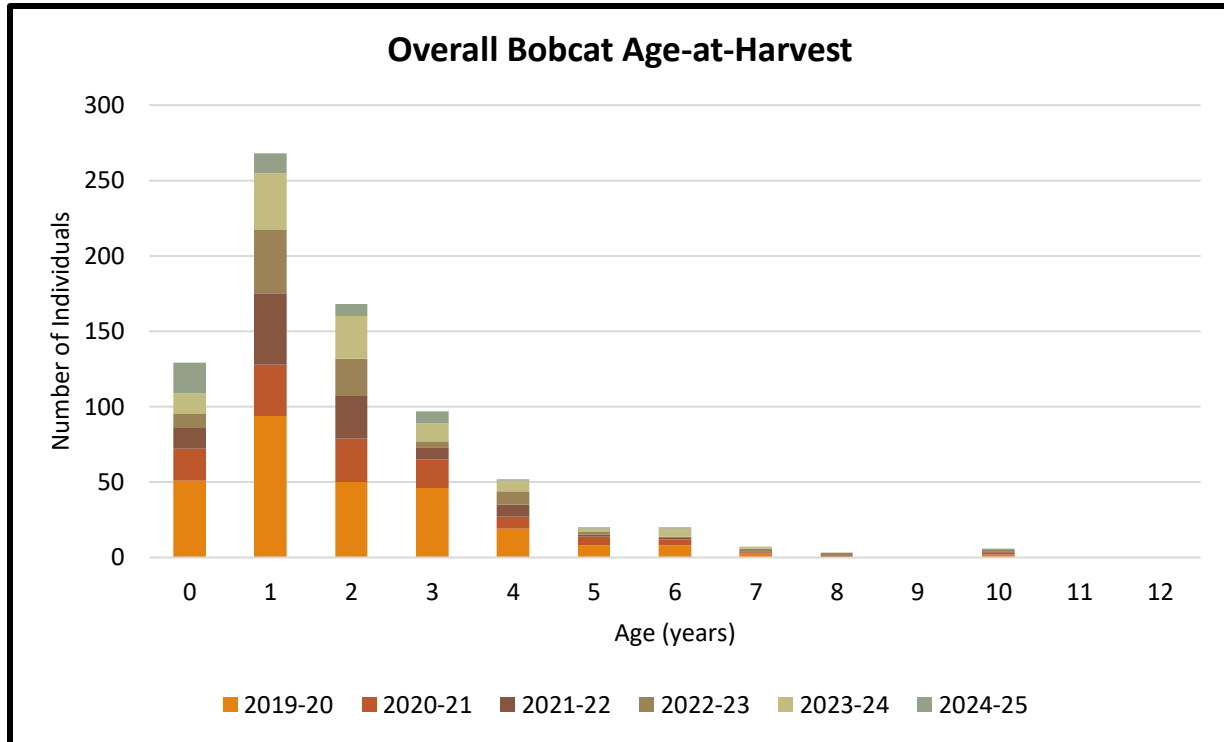


Figure 31. Ages of bobcats harvested in Missouri from 2019 to 2025 stacked by age. Age is determined by analysis of teeth submitted voluntarily by trappers and hunters.

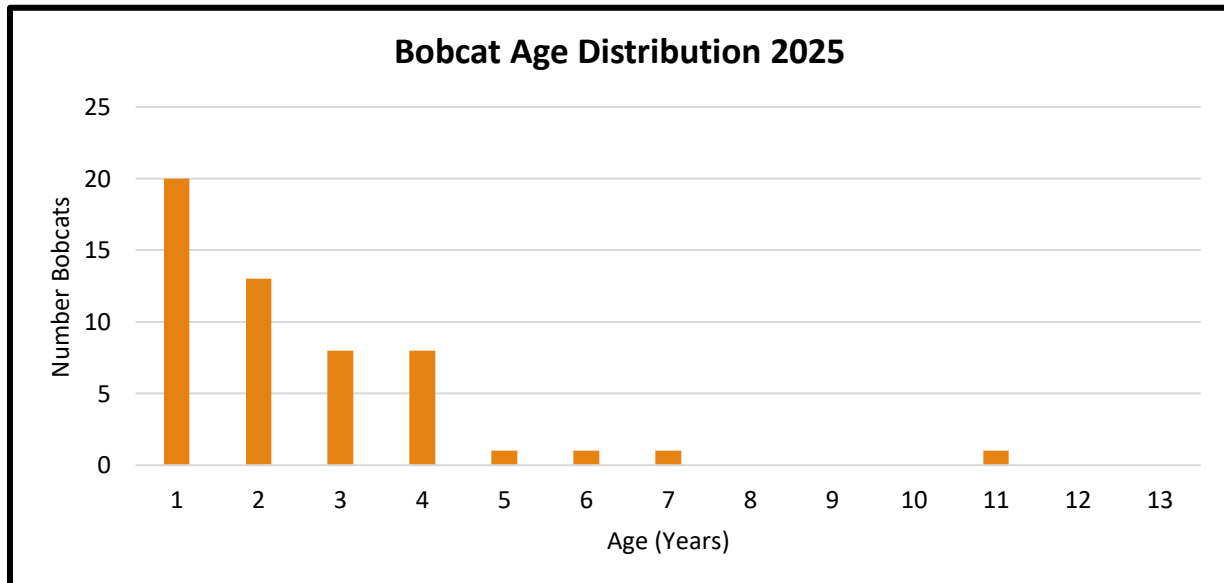


Figure 32. Ages of bobcats harvested in Missouri from 2025 stacked by age. Age is determined by analysis of teeth submitted voluntarily by trappers and hunters.

River Otter Harvest and Population Trends

River otter harvest of the 2024-2025 season was 1,006 river otters. River otter pelt prices decreased 33.3% from last year at \$43.31 to \$28.88 and were 66.2% lower than the peak prices in 2012-2013 season. The relatively low harvest of the last five seasons can be attributed to the steady decline in pelt prices with minor fluctuations (Figure 33). Trappers are required to register river otter carcasses or green hides at MDC offices or with Conservation Agents in accordance with requirements by CITES for exportation outside of the United States.



River otter harvest was highest in Bates County with 52 individuals harvested (Figure 34). River otter harvest during the 2024-2025 season was highest in the Missouri River watershed with 69 harvested (Figure 35). There were an additional 435 otters harvested on private ponds or unknown locations throughout the state (Table 3).

Age analysis of teeth submitted to the department indicates that individuals in the one-year age class represent the highest proportion of the harvest compared to other age classes to date, while in the 2024-2025 season, the 2-year age class was most harvested (Figure 36 and 37, Table 3). This analysis along with other data will enable MDC to utilize Statistical Population Reconstruction (SPR) to monitor the otter population.

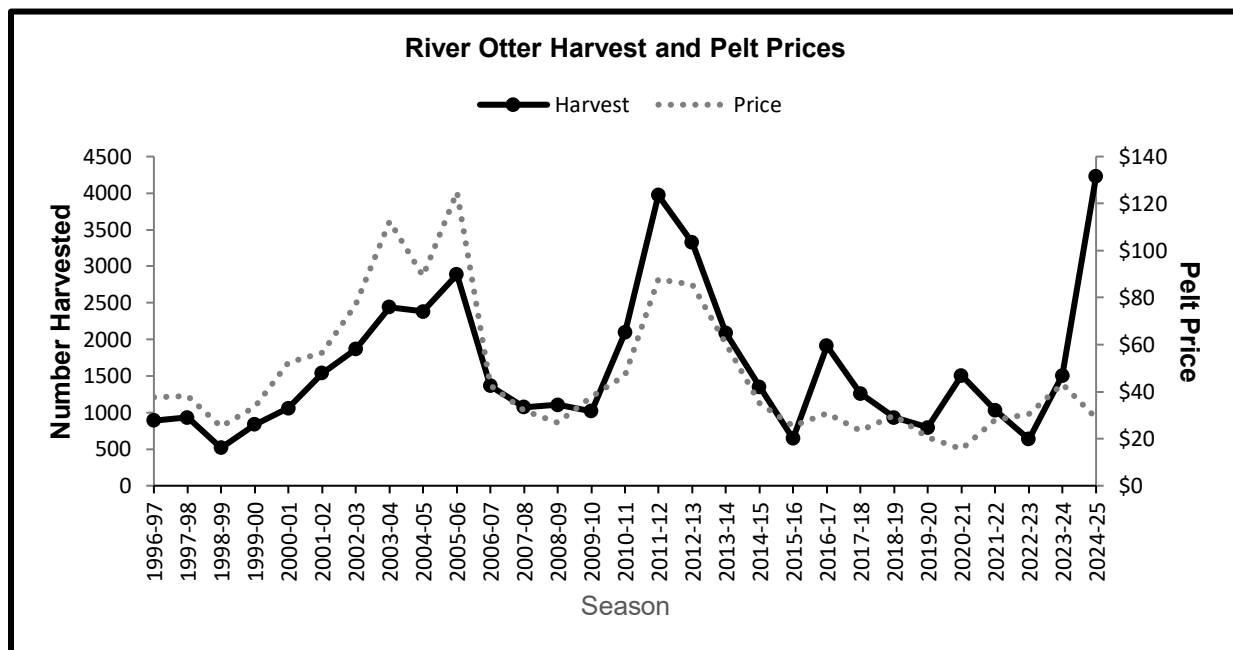


Figure 33. Missouri river otter harvest and average pelt prices from 1996 to 2025. Season did not open until 1996.



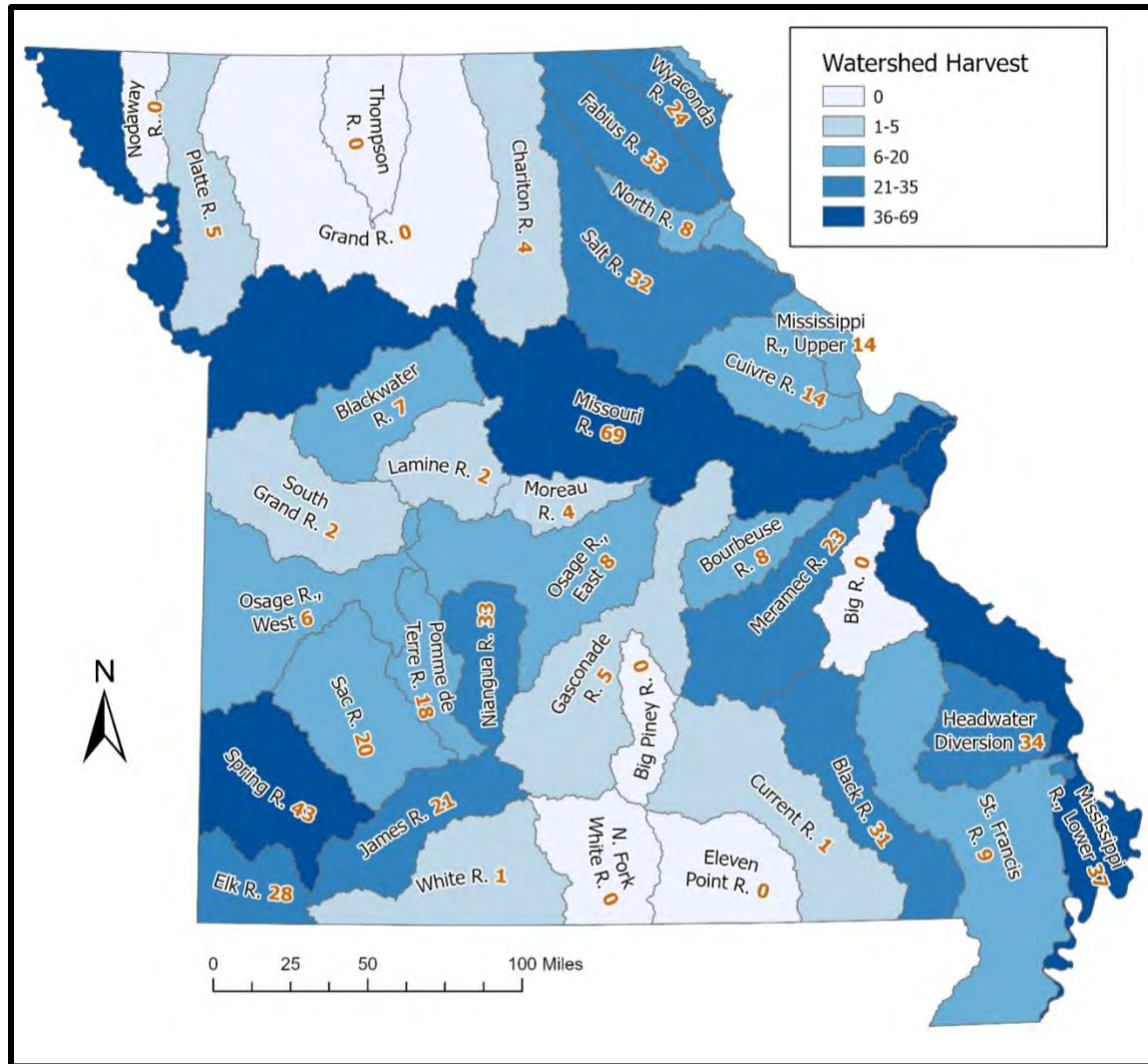


Figure 35. Missouri river otter harvest distribution among watersheds during the 2024-25 trapping season. There were an additional 435 otters taken on private ponds outside of watersheds during the 2024-25 season.

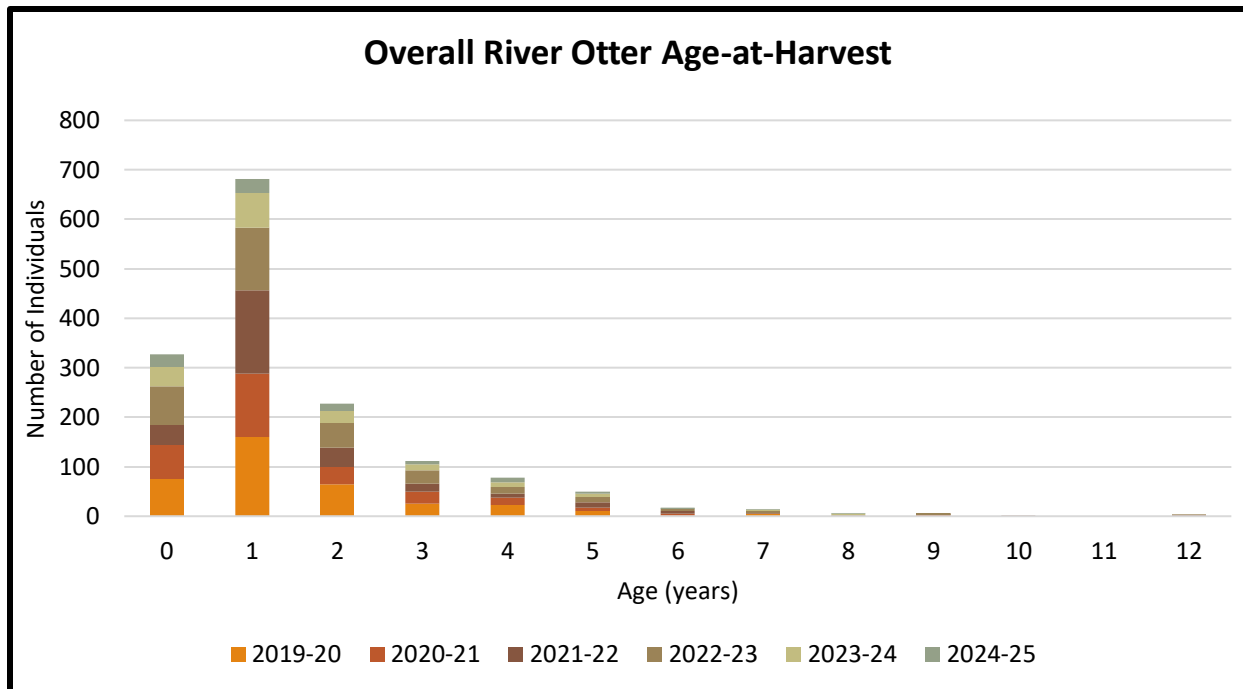


Figure 36. Ages of otter harvested in Missouri from 2019 to 2025 stacked by age. Age is determined by analysis of teeth submitted voluntarily by trappers.

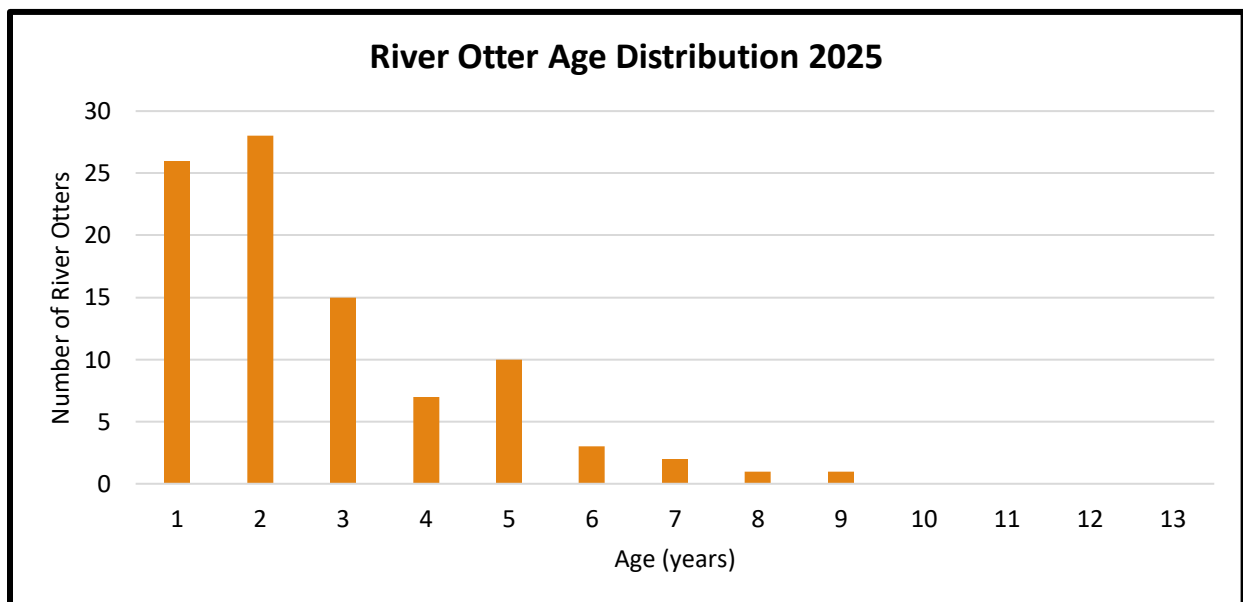


Figure 37. Ages of otter harvested in Missouri from 2025 stacked by age. Age is determined by analysis of teeth submitted voluntarily by trappers.

Table 3. Missouri river otter harvest distribution among watersheds during the 2024-2025 trapping season

Watershed	Number Harvested	Percent of Harvest	Watershed	Number Harvested	Percent of Harvest
Big Piney River	0	0.00%	Mississippi R. (upper)	14	1.39%
Big River	0	0.00%	Missouri River	69	6.86%
Black River	31	3.08%	Moreau River	4	0.40%
Blackwater River	7	0.70%	N. Fork White River	0	0.00%
Bourbeuse River	8	0.80%	Niangua River	33	3.28%
Chariton River	4	0.40%	Nodaway River	0	0.00%
Cuivre River	14	1.39%	North River	8	0.80%
Current River	1	0.10%	Osage River East	8	0.80%
Eleven Point River	0	0.00%	Osage River West	6	0.60%
Elk River	28	2.78%	Platte River	5	0.50%
Fabius River	33	3.28%	Pomme de Terre River	18	1.79%
Fox River	15	1.49%	S. Grand River	2	0.20%
Gasconade River	5	0.50%	Sac River	20	1.99%
Grand River	0	0.00%	Salt River	32	3.18%
Headwater Diversion	34	3.38%	Spring River	43	4.27%
Jacks Fork River	0	0.00%	St. Francis River	9	0.89%
James River	21	2.09%	Thompson River	0	0.00%
Lamine River	2	0.20%	White River	1	0.10%
Locust Creek	12	1.19%	Wyaconda River	24	2.39%
Meramec River	23	2.29%	Unknown	435	43.24%
Mississippi R. (lower)	37	3.68%	Total Harvest	1,006	100%

Harvest and Population Trends of Mink, Muskrat, and Beaver

Mink, muskrat, and beaver harvest continue to fluctuate in somewhat predictable ranges. Since 1990, mink harvests have varied from about 150 – 1,500 (Figure 38), muskrat harvests from 5,000 – 20,000 (Figure 39), and beaver harvests from 2,000 – 10,000 (Figure 40). Historically, mink and muskrat numbers have fluctuated widely; however, habitat degradation has limited populations and subsequently reduced harvest. Beavers are a longer-lived species and less vulnerable to depredation; harvest rates are more likely related to pelt values. Trappers harvested 429 mink (Figure 38), 2,598 muskrats (Figure 39), and 9,647 beavers (Figure 40) during the 2024-2025 season. Mink prices increased to \$8.85; Muskrat prices dropped to \$2.51, and beaver prices decreased to \$15.45.



Population trends for these species are derived from the Wildlife Observation Survey. Population trend data are low (Figure 41), in part, because these animals are associated with water bodies and may not be a common sighting for archers and are rarely present in Sign Station Surveys. Given that, trends of mink, muskrat, and beaver suggest populations are stable with slight declines for beaver.

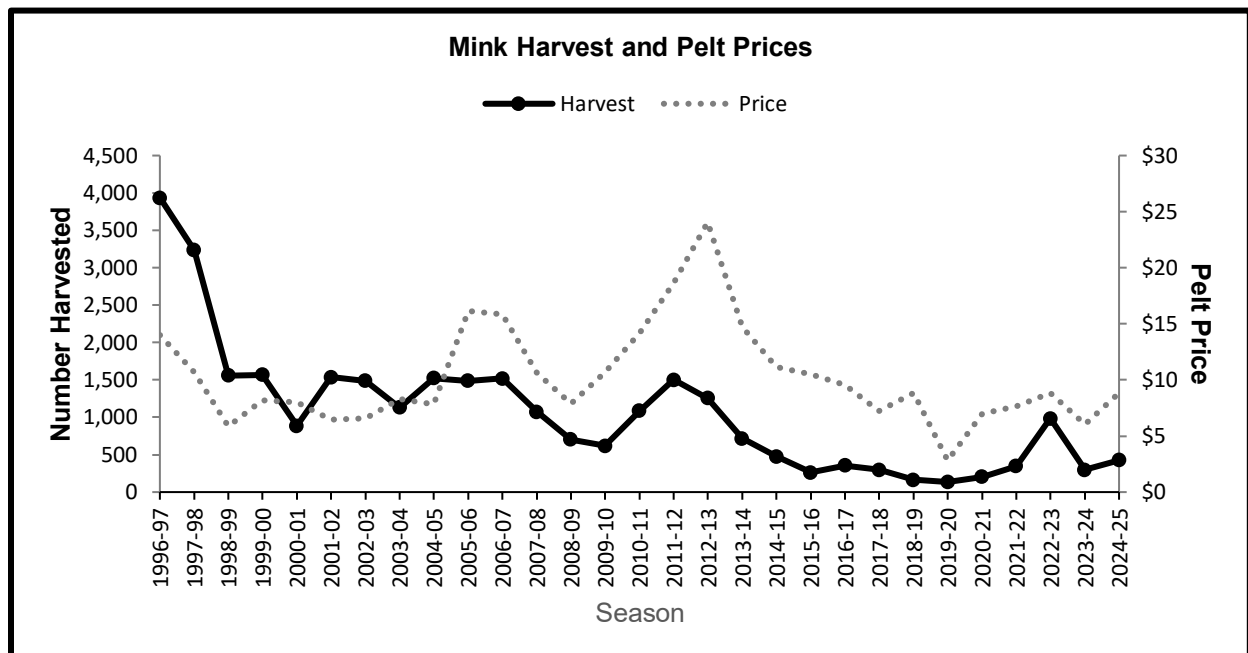


Figure 38. Missouri mink harvest trends since 1996 compared to average pelt prices. Harvest estimates are derived from fur buyer records. Annual pelt prices are the average price from the Missouri Trappers Association Fur Auction, 1996-2025.

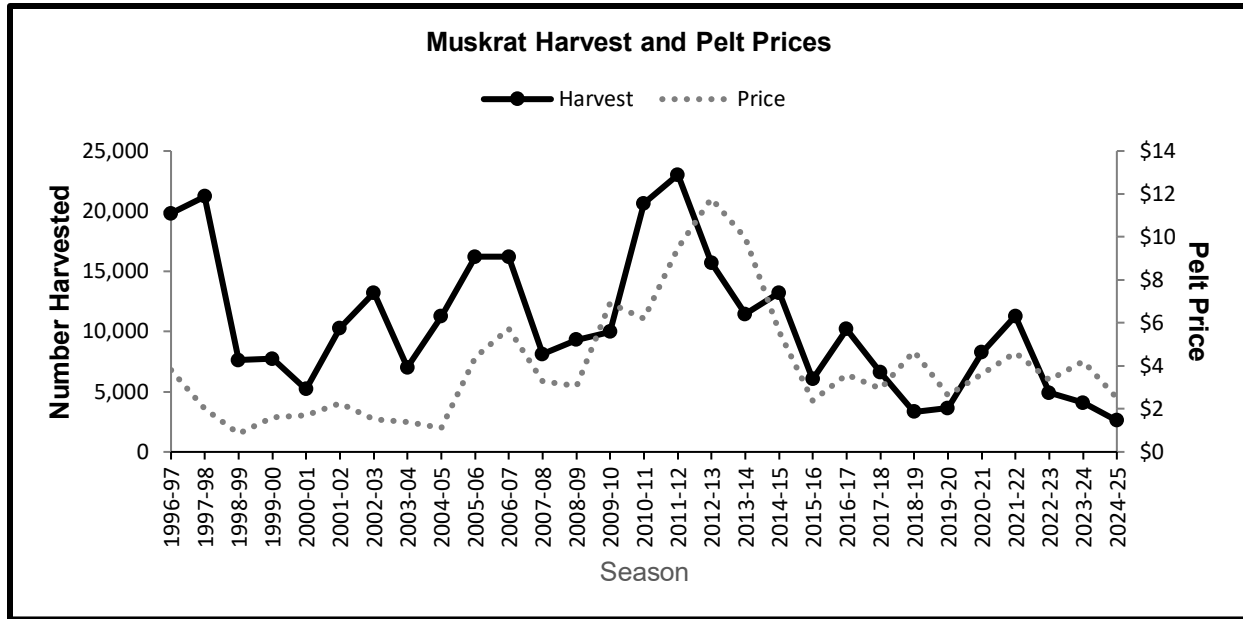


Figure 39. Comparison of Missouri muskrat harvest and pelt prices over the last 50 years. Harvest estimates are derived from fur buyer records. Annual pelt prices are the average price from the Missouri Trappers Association Fur Auction, 1996-2025.

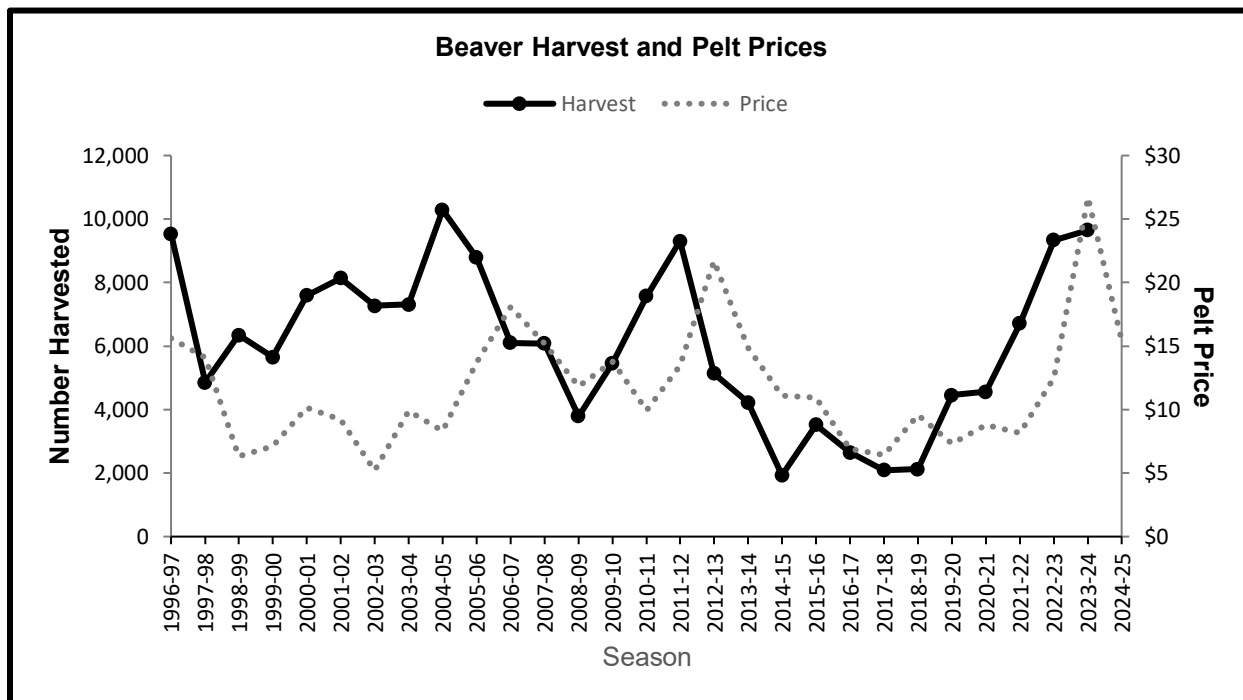


Figure 40. Comparison of Missouri beaver harvest and pelt prices over the last 50 years. Harvest estimates are derived from fur buyer records. Annual pelt prices are the average price from the Missouri Trappers Association Fur Auction, 1996-2025.

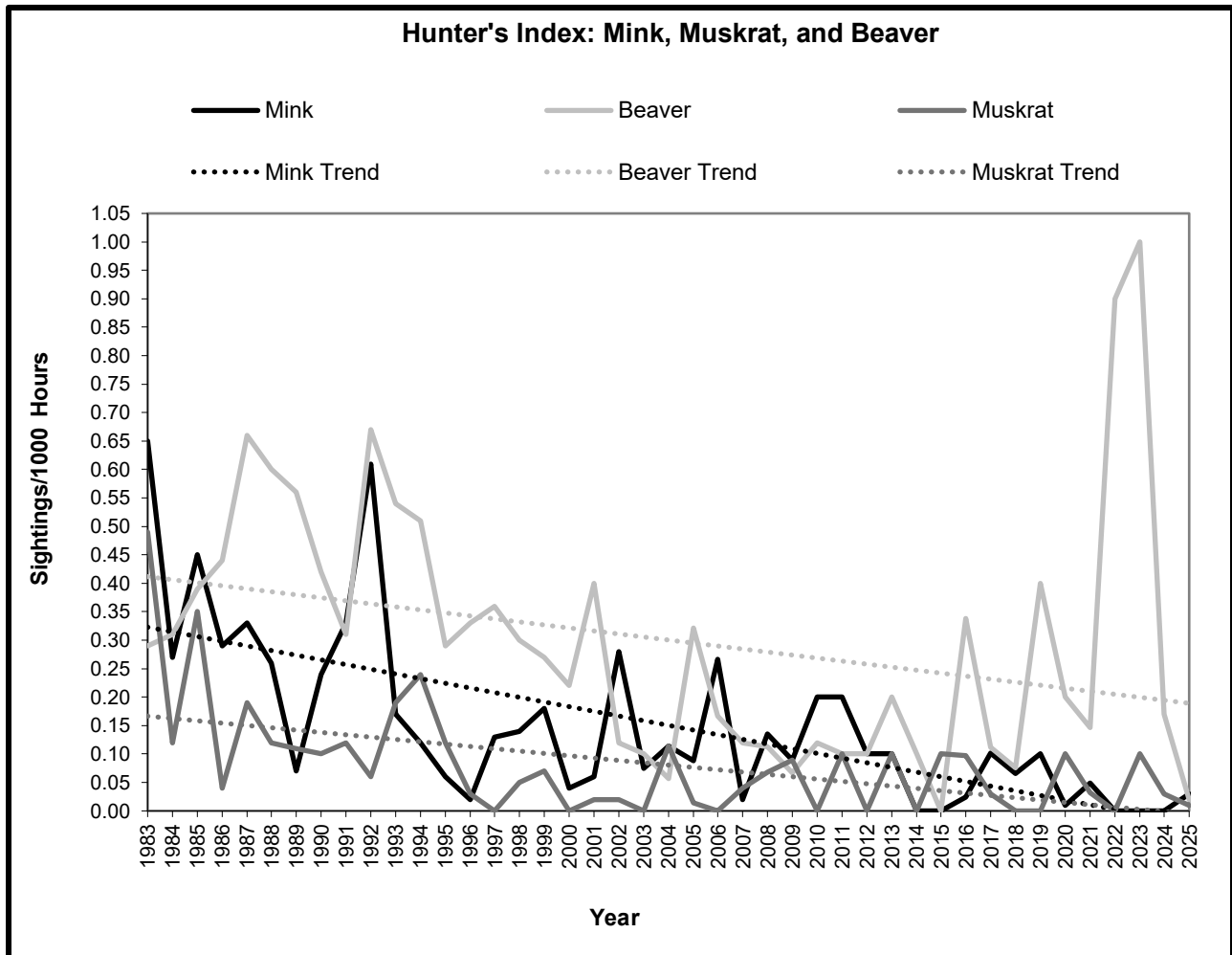


Figure 41. Mink, muskrat, and beaver population trends in Missouri based on the Hunter's Index, derived from the MDC Wildlife Observation Survey, 1983-2025.

Rare Furbearers of Missouri

Missouri residents are fortunate to reside in a state with abundant natural resources, including wildlife, and an exceptional diversity of furbearing species. As a result, opportunities for observing wildlife are plentiful while recreating or driving through the state. Of the many furbearer species that reside in Missouri, there are four species (American badgers, spotted skunks, least weasels, and long-tailed weasels) that have become less common to see over the year. In the case of the spotted skunk, least weasel, and long-tailed weasel, they have recently (within the last 3 decades) exhibited declines in population trends and harvest. Therefore, MDC decided to close trapping for those species due to this significant decline. Badgers may still be harvested, but annual pelts sold have declined over the years. Due to these four species being less common to see, MDC put out a call to all Missouri residents and people passing through the state to report observations of these rare furbearers (Figure 42) to help MDC track distribution trends in these species. More information about these rare furbearers can be found below.



Have you seen a rare Missouri furbearer?

The Missouri Department of Conservation is taking reports for the following species...

American Badger		Flattened body with short, stocky legs. Face is distinctive with black patches, whitish chin and throat, and a prominent white stripe down the head. Weigh 8 to 20 pounds.
Spotted Skunk		Distinct white spot in the center of the forehead and in front of each ear. Broken stripes down the body give a "spotted appearance." Weigh 0.5 to 2 pounds.
Least Weasel		Long, tubular shape with a tail that is 25% of the head-body length. May turn white in the winter, in summer have brown pelts with white feet and underside. Found in northern Missouri and weigh 1 to 3.5 ounces.
Long- tailed Weasel		Tail is 50% or more of the head-body length. May turn white in the winter, but have brown pelts in the summer with cream-yellow undersides. Found statewide and weigh 3 to 16 ounces.

HOW TO REPORT

MDC needs the following information with report submissions:

- ♦ Date and Time of observation
- ♦ Number of individuals observed and number of young in group
- ♦ Location (county and estimated GPS coordinates)
- ♦ Sex, if known
- ♦ Status (alive, trapped, road-killed, etc.)
- ♦ Name, address, phone number, and/or email

Report Sightings to:

Nathaniel Bowersock
Furbearer Biologist
Missouri Department of Conservation
Central Regional Office
3500 East Gans Road
Columbia, MO 65201
(573) 815-7900 ext. 2903
Nathaniel.Bowersock@mdc.mo.gov

Additional Information:

Badger can be legally harvested in Missouri during the established season. Please report any badger sightings, captures or road-kill animals

There is **NO** trapping or hunting season for weasels or spotted skunks. Please report any sightings, photos, or road-kill animals to the Department.

If you accidentally trap a weasel or spotted skunk and the animal is alive, it must be immediately released. Please report the incidental capture. If you accidentally trap a weasel or spotted skunk and the animal is dead, the entire carcass must be turned over to your local conservation agent.

Figure 42. Rare furbearer sightings request flier distributed by Missouri Department of Conservation.

American Badger

The **American badger** is a native, but uncommon, furbearing species in Missouri and is state ranked as a **Vulnerable Species of Conservation Concern** by MDC. American badgers are a fossorial (burrowing animal) species and require habitat where suitable soil is available for digging burrows for both them and for hunting prey. American badgers can be found throughout the state in any of the **8 zoological regions** (Figure 43), but the sandier soils they prefer occurs primarily in four regions: Western Prairie, Northwest Prairie, Northern Riverbreaks, and Northeast Riverbreaks. Consequently, the bulk of the recorded observations in the Missouri Natural Heritage database occur in these four regions.



Considered a furbearing species in Missouri, American badgers are harvested annually during the trapping season. However, harvest has historically been low compared to other furbearers because American badger pelts are not as desirable compared to other, more valuable pelts (Figure 44). Furthermore, most American badger harvest occurs because of human-wildlife conflict. The decline in harvest in recent decades is likely due to a variety of factors. First, grasslands and prairies, where the soil substrate is suitable for burrowing, have been

converted to intensive agriculture, which has greatly reduced the habitat and prey species badgers prefer. Second, interest in trapping also has declined leading to lower participation rates. Despite changes in trapping effort, results from the Wildlife Observation survey suggest a positive long term population trend (Figure 45).

To offset the reduced number of observations and low harvest, MDC made a concerted effort to collect and record American badger observations and specimens from citizens (e.g., trappers) and MDC personnel from 2009 through 2011 to better understand the demographics and distribution of American badgers in Missouri. As a result, there are more than 400 records within the Missouri Natural Heritage database, allowing the Department to determine where the species is most prevalent in the state. In 2017, MDC once again made a call for American badger observations with the distribution of a flyer to the Missouri Trappers Association, MDC Regional Offices and Nature Centers, and Missouri DNR State Parks (Figure 42). This renewed effort produced 101 new sightings of American badgers across the state, but primarily in the four suitable zoological regions mentioned previously (Figure 43). MDC will continue to collect information about American badgers from citizens and MDC personnel.

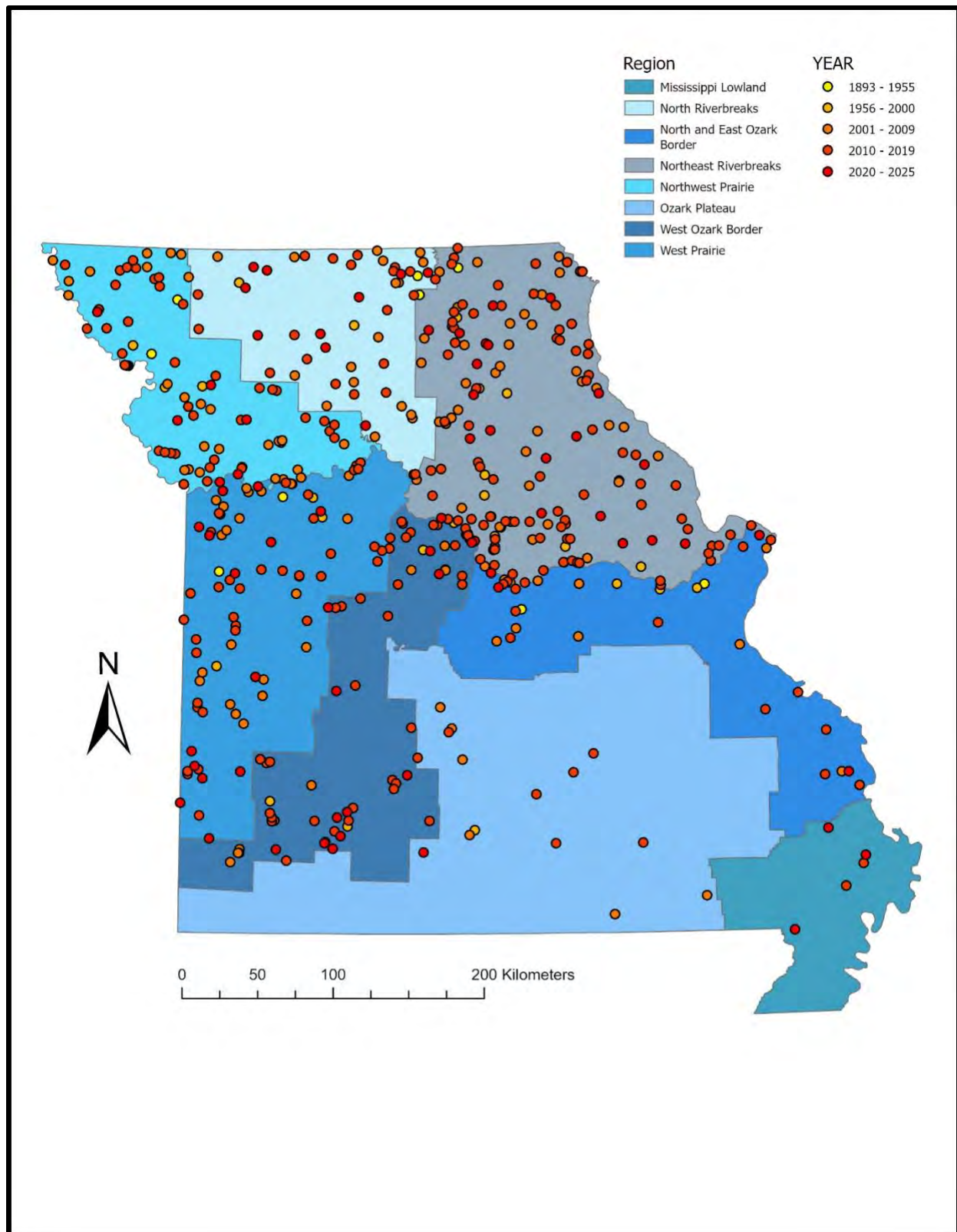


Figure 43. American badger sightings from the Missouri Natural Heritage database ranging from the 1940s to 2025 and occur in all 8 zoological regions.

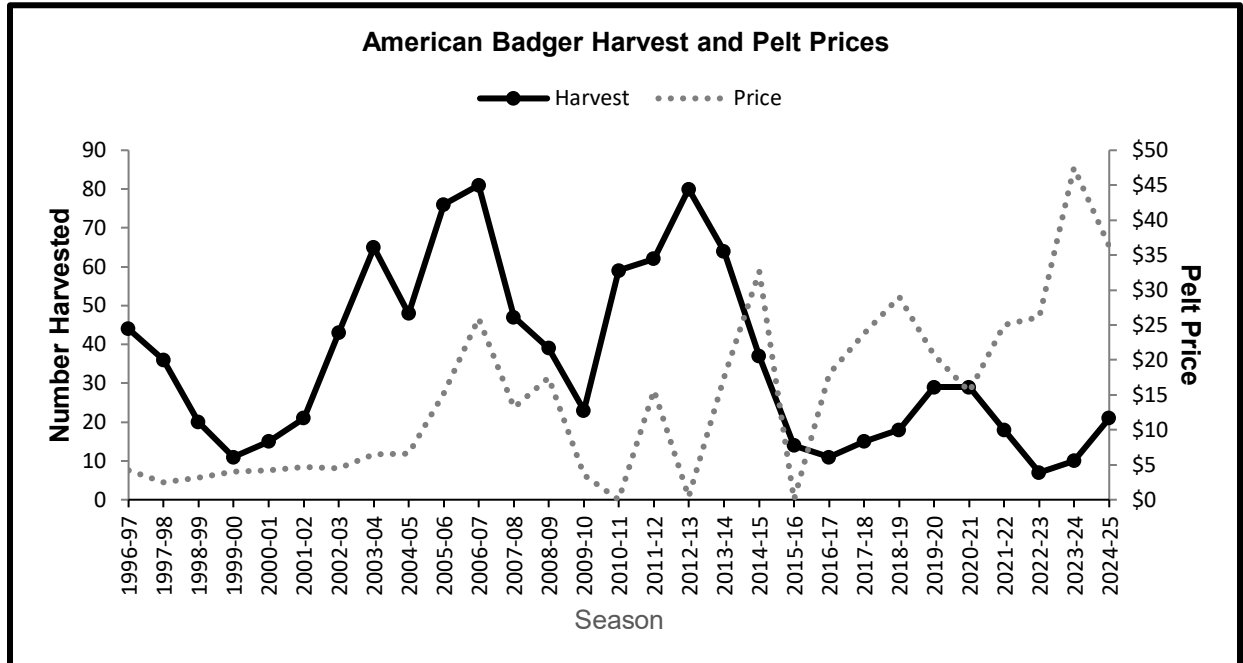


Figure 44. American badger harvest and pelt prices in Missouri since 1996. No sales occurred in 2010-11, 2012-13, and 2015-16.

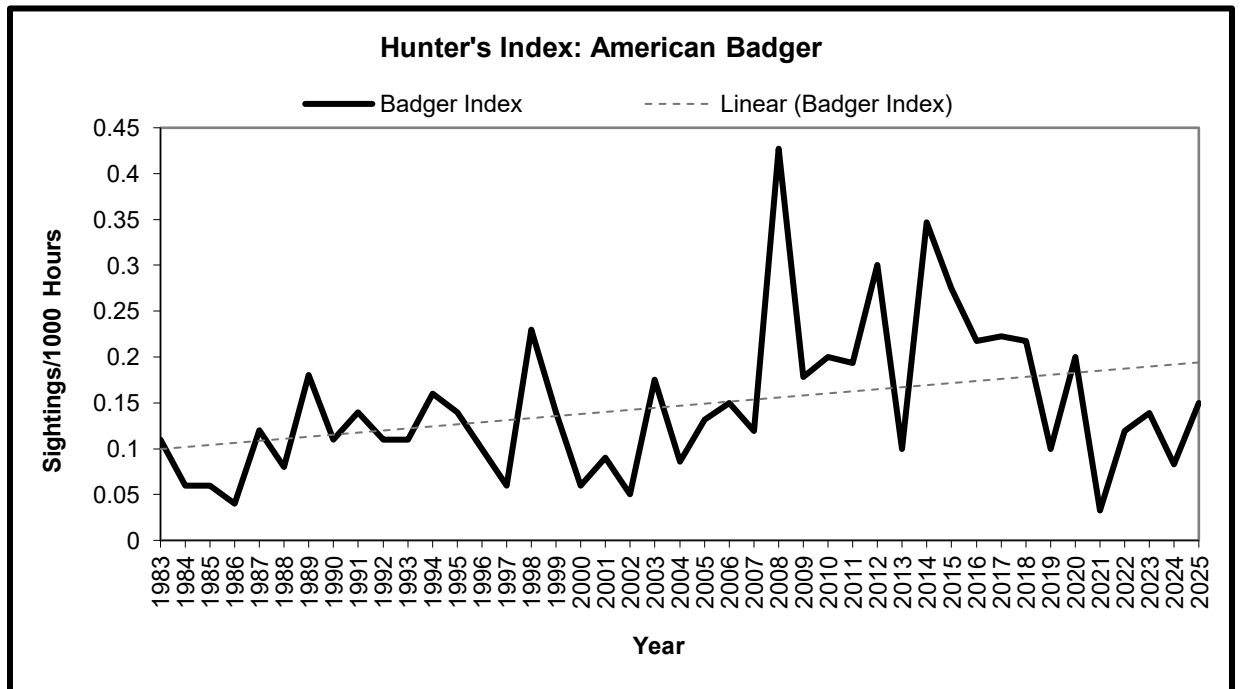


Figure 45. American badger population trends in Missouri based on the Hunter's Index, derived from the MDC Wildlife Observation Survey, 1983-2025.

Spotted Skunk

The subspecies of **eastern spotted skunk** native to Missouri is the plains spotted skunk. This species was once abundant, albeit not as abundant as their striped cousins, and harvest of 30,000 or more individuals each year was common in Missouri. Declines in annual harvest began in the late 1940s, as total harvest dropped precipitously from a high point of more than 55,000 to less than 10,000 individuals over a period of 7 years. After another 5 years, annual harvest dipped to less than 1,000 individuals until harvest dropped to less than 10 each year and MDC closed the season for spotted skunks in 1991-92 (Figure 46). Currently, the plains spotted skunk is listed as **state Endangered** and state ranked as a **critically imperiled Species of Conservation Concern** in Missouri. Records of spotted skunk sightings are maintained in the Missouri Natural Heritage database, which tracks locations of all Missouri species of conservation concern (Figure 47).

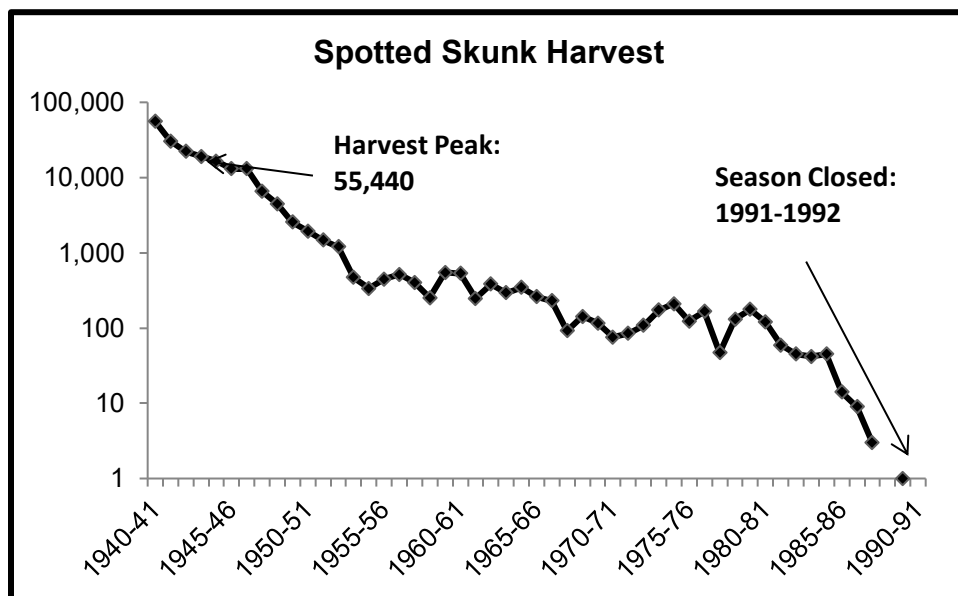


Figure 46. Historic spotted skunk harvest in Missouri from the peak harvest in 1940-1941 to the close of the spotted skunk trapping season in 1991-92.

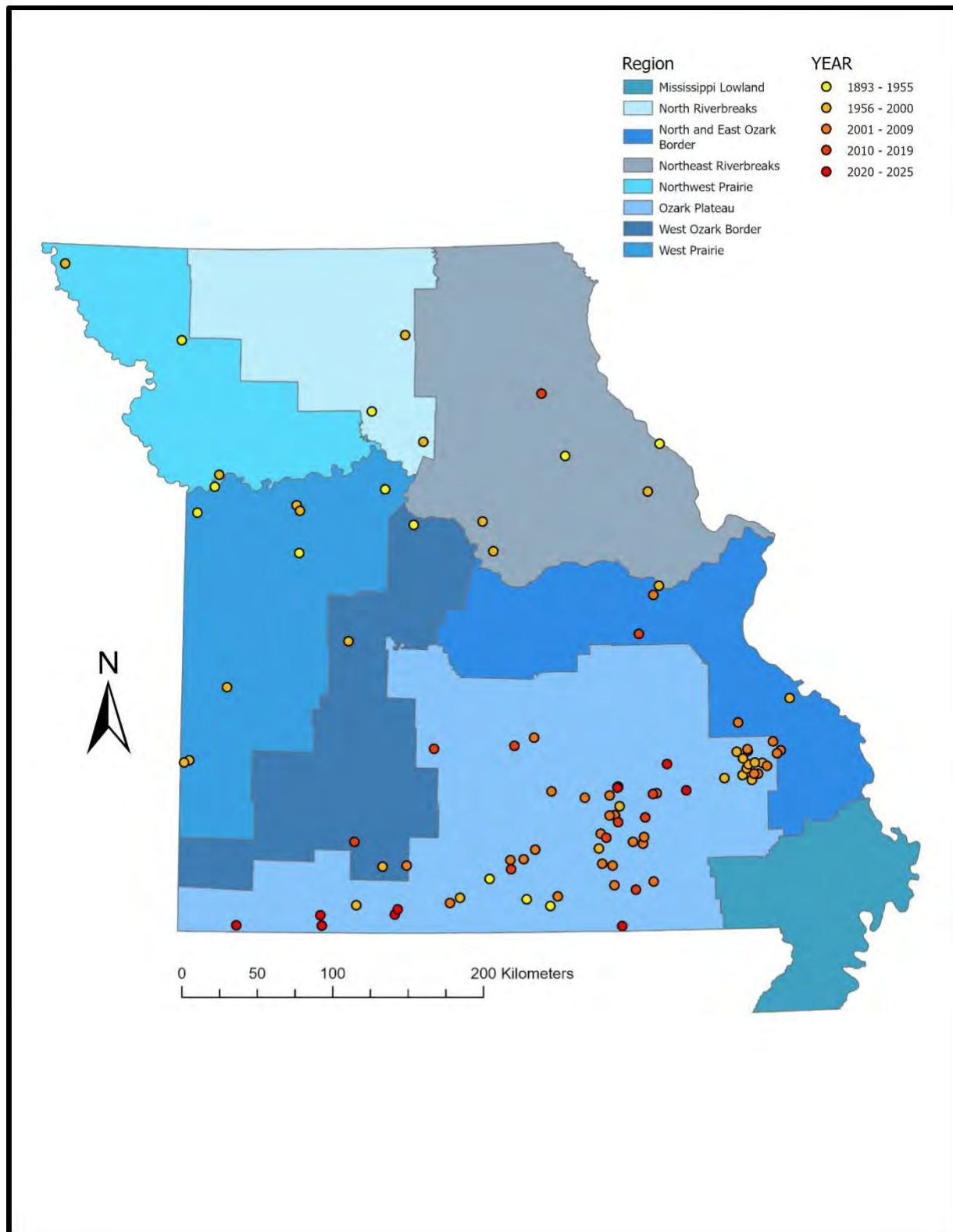


Figure 47. Plains spotted skunk sightings from the Missouri Natural Heritage database ranging from the 1940s to 2025 and occur in all 8 zoological regions.

Least and Long-tailed Weasel

Northern Missouri is the southern extent of the **least weasel's** range; therefore, the species was never widespread in the state. Although traditionally considered a furbearer, Missouri's *Wildlife Code* does not define least weasels as a furbearing or game species. Conversely, **long-tailed weasels** can be found from central Canada into portions of South America and thus, can be found throughout the state of Missouri. Long-tailed weasels are the primary target of weasel trapping efforts in Missouri, but harvest records indicate an overall 'weasel' category, suggesting take of both species occurred. Weasels were never a large proportion of the fur harvest in Missouri, but harvest peaked in the mid-1930s before steadily declining until the season was closed in 2000-01 (Figure 48).

Currently, both weasel species are classified as **Species of Conservation Concern** and state ranked as **Vulnerable**. Like spotted skunks, sightings of both weasel species are maintained in the Missouri Natural Heritage database providing an indication of their distributions in Missouri (Figures 49 and 50).

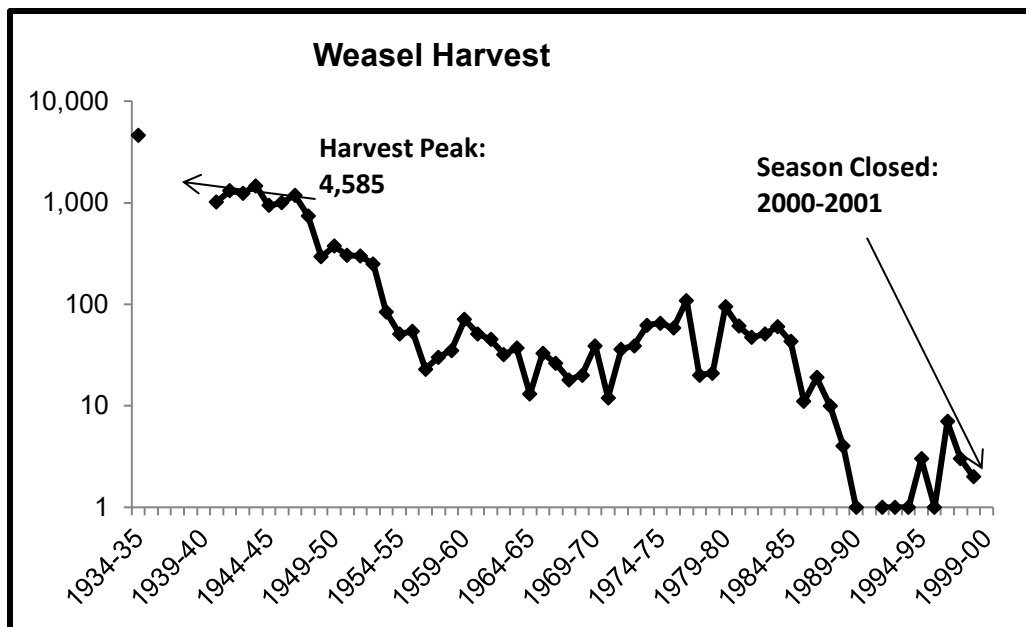


Figure 48. Historic weasel harvest in Missouri from the harvest peak in 1934-35 to the close of the weasel trapping season in 2000-01 with a gap in harvest data from 1935-36 through 1939-40.

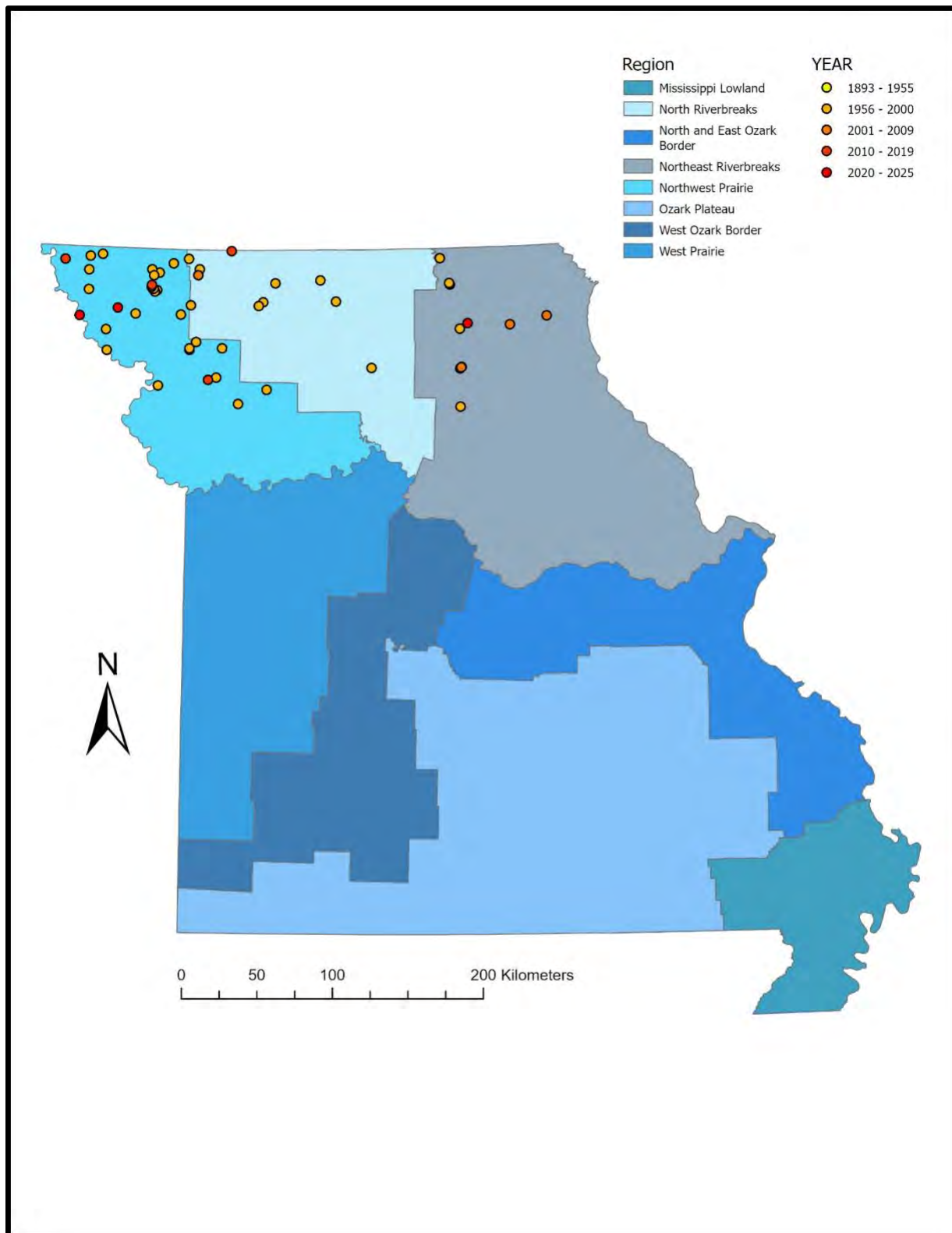


Figure 49. Least weasel sightings from the Missouri Natural Heritage database ranging from the 1940s to 2025, mostly found in the north half of Missouri.

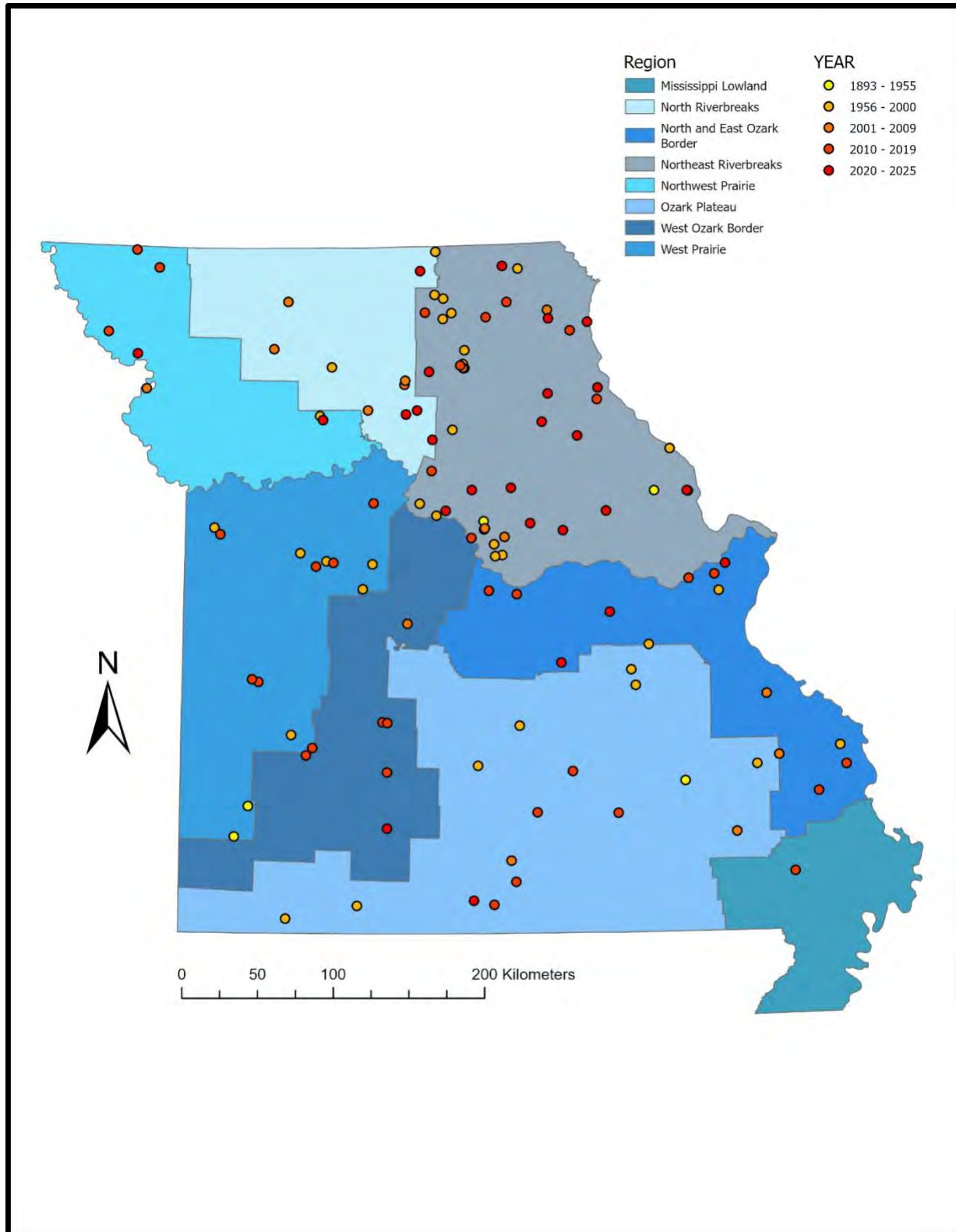


Figure 50. Long-tailed weasel sightings from the Missouri Natural Heritage database ranging from the 1940s to 2025 and occur in all 8 zoological regions.

State Furbearer Records

Official furbearer weight records began in 2011. Candidate furbearers must be weighed at MDC's Central Regional Office in Columbia or verified by MDC staff on a certified scale. There were no new record furbearers in 2025. Please note that some larger weights may have occurred prior to official record keeping in 2011 but cannot be considered record weights at present.



Table 4. Current record-holders and weights of record furbearing species. * Indicates new record.

Current Record Furbearers						
Species	Sex	Date Taken	County Taken	Weight (lbs.)	Ounces (oz.)	Hunter/Trapper
Badger	M	12/17/2014	Perry	28	14.4	Corey Robinson
Badger	M	11/21/2017	Randolph	28	14.4	Glen and Kyle Fessler
Beaver	F	3/8/2020	Chariton	81	0	Clay Creech
Bobcat	M	12/22/2019	Worth	50	0	Harold Owens
Coyote	M	1/13/2020	Maries	51.5	0	Bradley Deeken
Gray Fox	M	1/2/2016	Marion	12	11	Lance Hudson & Bobby Gruenloh
Mink	M	1/19/2013	Ralls	5	3.2	Jeff Thompson
Muskrat	M	1/29/2020	Cass	4	5.3	Dennis Hull
Nutria	M	2/10/2024	New Madrid	19	11	Justin McKinney
Opossum	M	12/18/2016	Lincoln	16	2.6	Jacob Doll
Raccoon	M	12/11/2022	Worth	35	0	Couper and Hunter Simmons
Red Fox	F	12/29/2018	Cape Girardeau	13	5.7	Jake Partridge
River Otter	M	2/4/2019	Ozark	32	11.2	Sam Day
Striped Skunk	M	12/4/2018	Moniteau	9	14	Ethan Starr

Appendix A

Missouri hunter hours and furbearer population indices based on hunter's diaries, 1983 to 2025.

YEAR	Hunter Hours	Coyote	Red Fox	Gray Fox	Bobcat	Raccoon	Virginia Opossum	Striped Skunk	Mink	Beaver	Muskrat	Weasel	Badger	River Otter	Black Bear
1983	55,374	20.0	6.5	5.1	1.7	23.8	12.6	5.0	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
1984	32,746	18.8	6.8	3.1	1.2	16.9	6.4	3.5	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
1985	30,990	20.1	5.3	2.8	1.5	15.4	8.6	4.2	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
1986	51,727	23.5	5.7	2.8	1.5	15.3	6.9	3.5	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1987	57,457	23.5	4.5	2.5	2.0	23.3	10.1	3.0	0.3	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
1988	84,497	22.4	4.7	2.4	1.7	16.7	4.8	2.7	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
1989	72,992	21.1	5.1	2.4	1.8	19.6	5.6	3.5	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0
1990	72,227	23.6	4.9	2.3	2.9	24.0	7.2	3.5	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
1991	64,434	26.1	4.7	3.0	3.3	30.5	11.7	4.0	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
1992	64,452	22.5	4.7	2.3	2.9	24.3	8.9	2.8	0.6	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0
1993	53,857	19.7	4.2	2.1	3.2	28.1	7.7	3.7	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0
1994	49,102	21.0	5.1	2.0	3.4	32.0	7.6	3.2	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0
1995	66,106	22.3	4.6	2.1	3.8	36.5	9.6	3.6	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.1
1996	60,077	19.6	4.5	1.8	4.1	29.7	6.6	2.7	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.0
1997	47,816	18.0	4.0	2.0	4.5	31.2	7.4	2.7	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.6	0.0
1998	43,152	20.8	4.1	2.4	4.4	33.0	10.6	4.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.1
1999	44,012	29.2	3.7	2.2	4.8	45.9	12.5	4.0	0.2	0.3	0.1	-	0.1	0.5	-
2000	50,795	20.0	3.7	2.0	4.9	32.1	8.1	3.3	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0
2001	47,023	19.5	3.6	2.1	5.2	38.7	8.2	4.7	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0
2002	42,826	24.6	3.8	1.5	7.9	42.6	14.4	5.6	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.8	0.1
2003	39,964	20.5	2.7	1.5	6.0	37.9	7.2	3.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.6	0.0
2004	35,071	17.6	2.8	1.1	4.7	37.3	7.9	2.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	1.2	0.0
2005	68,440	21.2	2.8	1.3	5.6	37.3	8.5	2.5	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.0
2006	60,040	22.2	3.2	1.3	6.9	54.4	14.4	3.8	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.0
2007	50,390	19.8	3.0	1.5	5.2	40.0	9.4	4.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.0
2008	44,471	16.3	2.6	1.2	5.0	41.5	7.8	3.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.0
2009	44,919	20.6	2.6	1.2	4.9	42.0	12.4	4.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	1.2	0.1

YEAR	Hunter Hours	Coyote	Red Fox	Gray Fox	Bobcat	Raccoon	Virginia Opossum	Striped Skunk	Mink	Beaver	Muskrat	Weasel	Badger	River Otter	Black Bear
2010	42,907	27.1	2.1	1.0	5.9	60.6	12.9	3.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.7	0.0
2011	41,370	26.1	2.7	1.1	6.6	70.1	16.6	4.6	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.9	0.0
2012	63,621	24.4	3.6	1.4	5.3	45.8	7.1	5.6	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.1	0.0
2013	68,674	16.2	2.1	1.4	4.0	33.3	5.7	2.9	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.6	0.1
2014	60,560	20.3	2.5	1.3	3.4	37.5	5.8	2.8	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.1
2015	58,203	26.2	2.5	2.0	5.0	55.2	13.4	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.6	0.1
2016	41,409	23.3	2.9	1.5	4.5	36.6	10.2	4.4	0.0	0.3	0.1	-	0.2	0.2	0.2
2017	98,898	24.3	3.4	2.9	5.0	48.5	11.8	2.5	0.1	0.1	0.0	-	0.2	0.6	0.1
2018	91,936	25.4	3.6	1.8	4.8	35.0	8.4	2.1	0.1	0.1	-	0.0	0.2	0.8	0.2
2019	87,821	25.2	3.3	3.9	5.4	47.6	13.3	2.3	0.1	0.4	0.0	-	0.1	0.6	0.1
2020	80,657	22.8	2	.07	7.2	49.3	13.0	3.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0	0.1	1.1	0.3
2021	61,315	23.2	1.5	2.8	4.8	41.3	7.2	2.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.4
2022	45,088	23.5	1.7	1.1	6.3	53.1	11.6	2.5	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.1	0.1
2023	36,204	22.0	1.5	0.6	5.3	49.3	7.8	1.8	0.0	1.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	1.0	0.2
2024	33,896	22.9	1.9	0.6	5.9	45.4	7.0	2.2	0.0	0.17	0.03	0.0	0.1	0.8	0.1
2025	43,239	19.8	1.7	1.0	4.4	42.8	9.1	2.1	0.03	0.02	0.01	-	0.15	0.3	0.1

Appendix B.

Missouri furbearer species population indices (sightings/1,000 hours) by county derived from the MDC Wildlife Observation Survey in 2025.

County	Coyote	Red Fox	Gray Fox	Bobcat	Raccoon	Virginia Opossum	Striped Skunk	Mink	Beaver	Muskrat	Weasel	Badger	River Otter	Black Bear
Adair	19	0	1	9	44	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Andrew	0	0	0	6	40	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Atchison	57	0	0	0	80	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Audrain	9	0	0	0	51	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barry	21	0	0	5	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barton	38	0	0	13	14	25	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bates	18	0	6	14	116	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Benton	20	3	0	4	40	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bollinger	2	0	0	7	4	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boone	17	0	0	0	22	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Buchanan	83	0	0	0	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Butler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caldwell	4	0	0	0	96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Callaway	32	0	0	4	58	19	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Camden	1	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cape Girardeau	13	0	0	0	19	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carroll	48	10	0	4	122	35	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carter	19	0	10	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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County	Coyote	Red Fox	Gray Fox	Bobcat	Raccoon	Virginia Opossum	Striped Skunk	Mink	Beaver	Muskrat	Weasel	Badger	River Otter	Black Bear
Cass	8	7	0	4	171	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cedar	13	0	0	32	52	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chariton	93	0	0	3	104	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Christian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clark	17	0	0	6	59	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Clay	34	0	6	1	46	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Clinton	35	0	0	0	3	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cole	31	0	0	11	3	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cooper	16	0	0	8	97	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0
Crawford	5	2	0	5	26	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dade	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dallas	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Daviess	12	0	0	3	30	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dekalb	0	0	0	11	147	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dent	11	0	0	2	11	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Douglas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37
Dunklin	0	0	0	0	0	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Franklin	23	0	0	5	49	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gasconade	17	1	1	4	39	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gentry	6	0	0	0	8	41	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greene	0	0	0	0	60	53	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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County	Coyote	Red Fox	Gray Fox	Bobcat	Raccoon	Virginia Opossum	Striped Skunk	Mink	Beaver	Muskrat	Weasel	Badger	River Otter	Black Bear
Grundy	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harrison	68	0	0	10	127	21	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Henry	68	0	0	5	64	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hickory	53	7	0	6	25	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holt	77	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Howard	6	0	0	3	71	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Howell	7	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iron	8	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jackson	23	0	0	2	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jasper	4	3	0	7	44	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jefferson	23	2	2	1	11	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Johnson	11	3	0	1	54	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Knox	12	0	0	2	127	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Laclede	8	0	0	2	42	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lafayette	18	18	0	27	69	17	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Lawrence	23	0	0	0	5	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lewis	17	0	0	0	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln	20	2	0	0	51	11	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Linn	29	8	0	0	27	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Livingston	0	42	0	16	124	31	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	0
McDonald	6	0	1	7	60	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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County	Coyote	Red Fox	Gray Fox	Bobcat	Raccoon	Virginia Opossum	Striped Skunk	Mink	Beaver	Muskrat	Weasel	Badger	River Otter	Black Bear
Macon	0	0	0	11	23	14	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Madison	14	4	0	0	29	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maries	39	0	0	10	14	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marion	265	0	10	67	33	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mercer	37	0	0	7	37	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miller	75	0	0	11	17	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mississippi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moniteau	32	14	0	0	91	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monroe	32	0	5	0	59	19	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montgomery	9	0	10	8	39	30	10	0	0	0	0	7	0	0
Morgan	12	0	0	4	62	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Madrid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newton	26	0	4	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nodaway	63	0	4	8	80	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oregon	2	0	0	0	16	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Osage	24	5	1	3	27	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ozark	0	0	0	9	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pemiscot	0	0	0	0	59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Perry	14	5	0	0	53	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pettis	5	6	0	1	25	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phelps	5	0	0	4	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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County	Coyote	Red Fox	Gray Fox	Bobcat	Raccoon	Virginia Opossum	Striped Skunk	Mink	Beaver	Muskrat	Weasel	Badger	River Otter	Black Bear
Pike	19	2	0	1	43	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Platte	21	4	0	4	21	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Polk	62	0	4	13	135	3	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pulaski	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Putnam	26	3	0	0	37	22	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ralls	22	5	0	2	36	15	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Randolph	19	23	0	7	19	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ray	50	0	0	8	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reynolds	7	0	0	5	48	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ripley	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Charles	20	0	0	3	47	16	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Clair	23	0	0	7	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Francois	31	0	5	5	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ste. Genevieve	4	0	0	9	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis	17	2	0	0	40	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saline	60	0	0	11	299	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Schuyler	24	2	0	3	68	18	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
Scotland	17	2	1	2	92	19	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scott	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shannon	3	3	4	2	15	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shelby	14	8	0	1	80	9	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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County	Coyote	Red Fox	Gray Fox	Bobcat	Raccoon	Virginia Opossum	Striped Skunk	Mink	Beaver	Muskrat	Weasel	Badger	River Otter	Black Bear
Stoddard	4	0	0	28	44	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stone	0	17	0	0	11	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sullivan	7	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taney	82	4	4	0	17	4	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Texas	8	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vernon	31	0	0	18	145	9	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warren	7	5	0	4	11	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington	22	4	11	10	1	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wayne	4	2	1	1	39	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Webster	35	0	6	6	42	21	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Worth	17	0	0	0	95	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wright	3	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statewide Index	19.8	1.7	1.0	4.4	42.8	9.1	2.1	0.03	0.02	0.01	-	0.2	0.3	0.1