

Missouri earns a B+ for its civil forfeiture laws:

- Higher bar to forfeit: Strong conviction provision requires conviction of the owner, even if forfeiture is uncontested. Once there is a conviction, property must be linked to the crime by preponderance of the evidence.
- Poor protections for the innocent: Third-party owners must prove their own innocence to recover seized property.
- No profit incentive: All forfeiture proceeds go to fund schools.

Recent Reforms

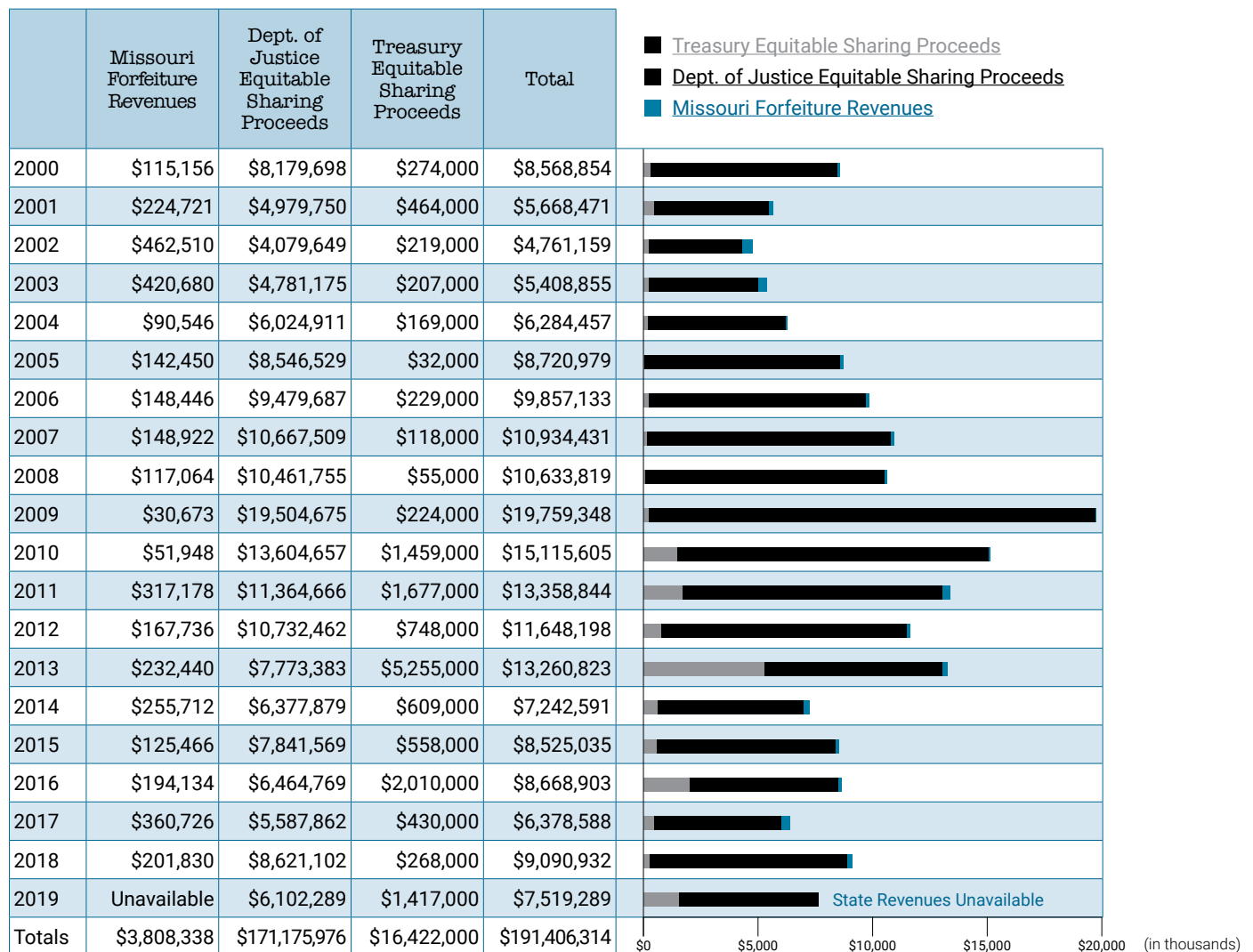
- None.

State and Federal Forfeiture Revenues, 2000–2019

Between 2000 and 2018, Missouri law enforcement agencies forfeited nearly \$4 million under state law. Between 2000 and 2019, they generated an additional \$187 million from federal equitable sharing, for a total of at least \$191 million in forfeiture revenue. Missouri ranks 34th for its participation in the Department of Justice’s equitable sharing program. The state does not prevent state and local agencies from using equitable sharing to circumvent state forfeiture law.

**At least \$191 million
in state and federal
forfeiture revenue**

2000–2019



All revenue figures include both civil and criminal forfeitures. Revenues are not adjusted for inflation.

Missouri's Forfeiture Transparency and Accountability Report Card

Tracking Seized Property	C	Accessibility of Forfeiture Records	A
Accounting for Forfeiture Fund Spending	N/A[†]	Penalties for Failure to File a Report	C
Statewide Forfeiture Reports	A	Financial Audits of Forfeiture Accounts	N/A[†]

[†] These grades are not applicable as Missouri does not permit law enforcement agencies to spend state forfeiture revenue.

For full transparency and accountability grades, visit www.ij.org/TransparencyReportCards.

Forfeitures Under Missouri Law: Key Facts

Median Value



Missouri does not report property-level data necessary to calculate median forfeiture value.

Property Types

UNKNOWN

Missouri does not report the types of property forfeited.

Civil vs. Criminal

UNKNOWN

Missouri does not report whether forfeitures are processed under civil or criminal forfeiture law.

Expenditures

N/A

Missouri does not permit law enforcement agencies to spend state forfeiture revenue.

Data Notes

Reports of prosecuting attorney and Missouri Attorney General seizures are from the State Auditor's website. Figures represent forfeiture proceeds of cash and properties seized and then transferred to the state within the same calendar year. Millions of dollars from cases still pending at the end of each year are not accounted for in the figures. Equitable sharing data are from DOJ's and Treasury's annual forfeiture reports. Due to differences in reporting and accounting practices, state figures may not match aggregate numbers produced by the state or cover the same 12-month period as the federal data.