

Data for Decision Makers

Decatur County

Population

Decatur County is a nonmetropolitan county in southwest Iowa. Decatur County is composed of 10 incorporated communities and their surrounding rural areas. From 1990 to 2000, Decatur County's population increased 4.2 percent. The state's population increased by 5.4 percent over that period.

1. Population of Decatur County

City	1980	1990	2000
Davis City	327	257	275
Decatur City	199	177	199
Garden Grove	297	229	250
Grand River	188	171	225
Lamoni	2,705	2,319	2,444
Leon	2,094	2,047	13
Le Roy	31	34	1,983
Pleasanton	75	58	37
Van Wert	245	249	231
Weldon	187	151	145
Balance of County	3,446	2,646	2,887
County Total	9,794	8,338	8,689
State Total	2,913,808	2,776,755	2,926,324

Population Profile

Age distribution

Compared to the state, Decatur County had a higher percentage of young people (19 or younger) and a higher percentage of older people (age 65+) in 2000. The median age in Decatur County in 2000 was 0.2 years younger than the median age of the state.

2. Percent of population by age

	Decatur County			State		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
19 or younger	31.2	28.9	28.8	32.3	29.0	28.3
20 to 44	31.9	31.9	32.1	35.1	26.7	34.6
45 to 64	18.6	18.8	21.5	19.2	18.9	22.2
65 or older	18.3	20.5	17.7	13.3	15.3	14.9
Median age	31.3	35.5	36.4	30.0	34.0	36.6

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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
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Community Profile

Race/Ethnicity

As with the other 98 counties in the state, Decatur County is predominantly white, with little noticeable change since 1980.

3. Percentage of population by race/Hispanic origin

	Decatur County			State		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
One Race Only *	100.0	100.0	98.9	100.0	100.0	98.9
White	98.6	98.3	96.5	97.4	96.6	93.9
Black	0.3	0.4	1.0	1.4	1.7	2.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.9	1.3
American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
Other	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.5	1.3
Two or more races *	n.a.	n.a.	1.1	n.a.	n.a.	1.1
Hispanic origin **	0.8	0.5	1.7	0.9	1.2	2.8

* 2000 was the first census that allowed respondents to identify themselves in two or more racial categories.

** Hispanics can be of any race.

Education

Educational levels of an adult population are measured by the educational attainment of residents after their education is largely complete (25 years of age or older). In 2000, Decatur County had a lower percentage of college graduates than the state overall.

4. Educational levels of adults 25 or older

	Decatur County		State	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Percent with:				
Less than 12 years	28.2	18.3	19.9	13.9
High school graduate	41.1	41.5	38.5	36.1
Less than 4 years college	18.5	25.1	24.7	28.8
4 or more years college	12.3	15.1	16.9	21.2

Income and Poverty

Since 1979, median household income in Decatur County increased \$2,613 (adjusted dollars). In 1999, Decatur had a median income \$12,126 lower than the state.

5. Median Household income (in 1999 \$)

	1979	1989	1999
Decatur County	\$24,730	\$24,105	\$27,343
State	\$37,515	\$34,921	\$39,469

Poverty rates in Decatur County declined between 1979 and 1999; state levels also declined.

6. Percent of population in poverty

	1979	1989	1999
Decatur County	19.5	21.0	15.5
State	10.1	11.5	9.1

Housing

Decatur County had a lower percentage of owner-occupied housing, lower median housing value, and lower median rent than the state in 2000. Decatur County also had a smaller percentage of newer housing units than the state.

7. Housing characteristics, 1990-2000

	Decatur County		State	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Total units	3,692	3,833	1,143,669	1,232,511
Percent of units:				
Owner-occupied	61.5	61.9	64.0	67.5
Renter-occupied	25.3	25.2	26.2	25.8
Vacant/seasonal	13.1	12.9	9.8	6.8
10 or fewer years old	12.9	11.7	10.0	12.3
40 or more years old	47.5	53.2	42.9	51.1
Single detached homes	76.7	76.7	74.6	74.0
Mobile homes	8.5	9.5	5.0	5.3
Median value	\$22,700	\$45,400	\$45,900	\$82,500
Median gross rent	\$220	\$340	\$336	\$470

Employment and Earnings Profile

Employment

The labor force in any area consists of all persons aged 16 or older who either are currently employed or actively seeking work. The number employed is simply the number of labor force participants who currently have jobs. Labor force participants who are not employed and, to a lesser extent, non-participants in the labor force form a pool of available labor. The size of this pool and its skill level are often important factors in economic development efforts.

8. Labor force and employment rates

	<u>1990</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
Total labor force:			
Decatur County	3,790	3,630	3,520
State	1,448,000	1,572,800	1,563,100
Employment rate (%):			
Decatur County	93.7	95.6	95.5
State	95.7	97.5	97.4

Employment earnings

The earnings in Table 10 represent earnings by place of work. This is an enumeration of jobs located within the county, whether or not those jobs are filled by county residents. As a result, county residents who commute out of Decatur County to work are not counted, but non-county residents who commute into Decatur County to work are included.

10. Earnings of employed persons 16 years of age or older, by place of work

Industry	Total Earnings (\$000)			Share of Total (%)			
	<u>1990</u>	Decatur County		Decatur County		State	
		<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>
All Industries	54,043	70,356	80,209	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farm	5,356	4,286	11,587	9.9	14.4	6.0	4.2
Manufacturing	6,766	6,430	5,472	12.5	6.8	22.6	19.8
Retail	4,395	5,353	5,844	8.1	7.3	9.6	9.2
Finance *	1,111	1,564	1,672	2.1	2.1	6.1	7.9
Services	11,546	20,084	21,284	21.4	26.5	19.6	22.9
Government	12,578	18,137	19,670	23.3	24.5	16.8	15.9
Other **	12,291	14,502	14,680	22.7	18.3	19.2	20.1

* Finance, insurance, and real estate

** Agricultural services, mining, construction, transportation, public utilities, and wholesale trade

Occupation

Among the 4,092 employed persons age 16 or older in Decatur County in 2000, the largest segment was employed in management, professional, or related occupations.

9. Occupations of employed persons 16 years of age or older

	<u>Decatur County</u>	<u>State</u>
Total employed	4,092	1,489,816
Percentage in:		
Management, professional or related occupations	29.3	31.3
Service occupations	17.4	14.8
Sales and office occupations	23.5	25.9
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	2.6	1.1
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	10.5	8.9
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	16.7	18.1

Retail Trade Profile

Retail Sales

The relative strength of the retail sector in a county is measured by the pull factor. The pull factor is derived by dividing the county per capita retail sales by state per capita retail sales. Pull factors greater than 1 represent retail sector strength, while pull factors less than 1 show sector weakness.

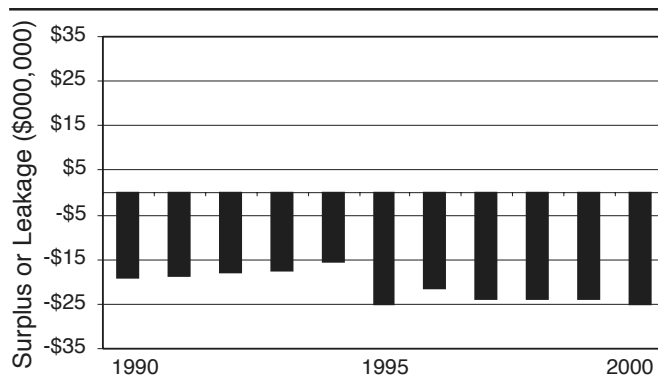
11. Decatur County retail sales

	Number of Retail Firms	Total sales (millions)	Per capita sales	Pull factor
1996	303	\$22.51	\$2,715	0.33
1997	298	\$23.21	\$2,820	0.33
1998	283	\$25.17	\$3,076	0.35
1999	279	\$26.45	\$3,218	0.35
2000	270	\$27.58	\$3,174	0.34

Retail Trade Analysis

Potential sales is an estimate of the amount of money that could be spent on retail goods and services by residents of the county based on the county's income and population. Potential sales is calculated by multiplying the county population by the per capita sales for the state and adjusting for the county's income level. A "surplus" indicates that trade is being pulled from beyond the county, while a "leakage" indicates that the county is losing shopping dollars to other counties.

Figure 1. Retail trade analysis, Decatur County



12. Retail sales by merchandise category, Decatur County

	Sales (millions)			Number of Firms			Percent of Total			Surplus or leakage (millions) 2000
	1996	1999	2000	1996	1999	2000	1996	1999	2000	
Building Materials	\$1.08	\$1.36	*	5	6	*	4.8	5.1	*	*
General Merchandise	\$2.09	*	*	6	*	*	9.3	*	*	*
Food	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Apparel	\$0.27	*	*	6	*	*	1.2	*	*	*
Home Furnishings	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Eating and drinking	\$3.20	\$3.06	\$2.92	28	24	22	14.2	11.6	10.6	-\$1.64
Specialty Stores	\$1.33	\$1.70	\$1.87	72	64	64	5.9	6.4	6.8	-\$2.14
Services	\$2.90	\$2.85	\$3.02	81	76	77	12.9	10.8	11.0	-\$3.93
Wholesale	\$1.19	\$1.80	\$1.78	17	15	13	5.3	6.8	6.4	-\$3.11
Other	\$10.45	\$15.69	\$17.99	89	95	94	46.4	59.3	65.2	
Total	\$22.51	\$26.45	\$27.58	303	279	270	100.0	100.0	100.0	-\$25.08

* Data suppressed to protect the confidentiality of reports from individual businesses.

... and justice for all

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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Stanley R. Johnson, director, Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa.

Information in this county profile was derived from data from:

Iowa Workforce Development (Table 8), the United States Bureau of Economic Analysis (Table 10), the ISU Extension Retail Trade Analysis Program (Tables 11 and 12 and Figure 1), and the United States Bureau of the Census (all other tables)

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