

# Data for Decision Makers

## Fremont County

### Population

Fremont County is a nonmetropolitan county in southwest Iowa. Fremont County is composed of nine incorporated communities and their surrounding rural areas. From 1990 to 2000, Fremont County's population decreased 2.6 percent. The state's population increased by 5.4 percent over that period.

#### 1. Population of Fremont County

City	1980	1990	2000
Farragut	603	498	509
Hamburg	1,597	1,248	1,240
Imogene	188	88	66
Randolph	223	243	209
Riverton	342	333	304
Shenandoah (part) *		0	0
Sidney	1,308	1,253	1,300
Tabor (part) *	967	901	933
Thurman	221	239	236
Balance of County	3,952	3,423	3,213
<b>County Total</b>	<b>9,401</b>	<b>8,226</b>	<b>8,010</b>
<b>State Total</b>	<b>2,913,808</b>	<b>2,776,755</b>	<b>2,926,324</b>

\* Indicates municipality crosses county border; figure is the portion of population in this county only.

### Population Profile

#### Age distribution

Compared to the state, Fremont County had a lower percentage of young people (19 or younger) and a higher percentage of older people (age 65+) in 2000. The median age in Fremont County in 2000 was 4.6 years older than the median age of the state.

#### 2. Percent of population by age

	Fremont County			State		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
19 or younger	30.0	28.5	27.3	32.3	29.0	28.3
20 to 44	29.3	29.8	28.1	35.1	26.7	34.6
45 to 64	22.3	20.2	24.7	19.2	18.9	22.2
65 or older	18.5	21.6	19.8	13.3	15.3	14.9
Median age	35.3	38.7	41.2	30.0	34.0	36.6

#### For more information contact

##### The Fremont County Extension Office

Douglas Doty, County Extension Education Director  
610 Clay Street, P.O. Box 420  
Sidney, Iowa 51652-0420

Phone: (712) 374-2351  
Fax: (712) 374-3286  
E-mail: xfremont@iastate.edu

##### Your Southwest Iowa Extension Community Development Specialists

Steve Adams 103 East 5th Street P.O. Box 430 Malvern, Iowa 51551	Alan D. Jensen 105 W. Adams Street Suite B Creston, Iowa 50801
---	---

Phone: (712) 423-0844 Fax: (712) 423-2642 E-mail: stadams@iastate.edu	Phone: (641) 782-8426 Fax: (641) 782-7213 E-mail: adjensen@iastate.edu
---	--

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
University Extension

# Community Profile

## Race/Ethnicity

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

### 3. Percentage of population by race/Hispanic origin

	Fremont County			State		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
One Race Only *	100.0	100.0	99.5	100.0	100.0	98.9
White	99.3	99.4	98.0	97.4	96.6	93.9
Black	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.4	1.7	2.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.9	1.3
American Indian	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
Other	0.2	0.3	1.0	0.6	0.5	1.3
Two or more races *	n.a.	n.a.	0.5	n.a.	n.a.	1.1
Hispanic origin **	0.5	0.6	2.2	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, Fremont County had a lower percentage of college graduates than the state overall.

### 4. Educational levels of adults 25 or older

	Fremont County		State	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
<b>Percent with:</b>				
Less than 12 years	22.3	15.0	19.9	13.9
High school graduate	41.8	42.4	38.5	36.1
Less than 4 years college	24.7	28.7	24.7	28.8
4 or more years college	11.3	14.0	16.9	21.2

## Income and Poverty

Since 1979, median household income in Fremont County increased \$8,865 (adjusted dollars). In 1999, Fremont had a median income \$1,124 lower than the state.

### 5. Median Household income (in 1999 \$)

	1979	1989	1999
Fremont County	\$29,480	\$30,553	\$38,345
State	\$37,515	\$34,921	\$39,469

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

### 6. Percent of population in poverty

	1979	1989	1999
Fremont County	16.6	12.2	9.5
State	10.1	11.5	9.1

## Housing

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

### 7. Housing characteristics, 1990-2000

	Fremont County		State	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
<b>Total units</b>	3,607	3,514	1,143,669	1,232,511
<b>Percent of units:</b>				
Owner-occupied	64.5	67.8	64.0	67.5
Renter-occupied	24.7	23.2	26.2	25.8
Vacant/seasonal	10.8	9.0	9.8	6.8
10 or fewer years old	7.0	6.1	10.0	12.3
40 or more years old	51.9	62.0	42.9	51.1
Single detached homes	83.9	83.6	74.6	74.0
Mobile homes	7.7	7.9	5.0	5.3
Median value	\$32,000	\$64,400	\$45,900	\$82,500
Median gross rent	\$262	\$391	\$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>
<b>Total labor force:</b>			
Fremont County	3,730	3,820	3,740
State	1,448,000	1,572,800	1,563,100
<b>Employment rate (%):</b>			
Fremont County	96.5	98.2	97.9
State	95.7	97.5	97.4

## Occupation

Among the 3,887 employed persons age 16 or older in Fremont 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>Fremont County</u>	<u>State</u>
Total employed	3,887	1,489,816
<b>Percentage in:</b>		
Management, professional or related occupations	29.6	31.3
Service occupations	14.9	14.8
Sales and office occupations	21.5	25.9
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	1.6	1.1
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	10.4	8.9
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	22.0	18.1

## 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 Fremont County to work are not counted, but non-county residents who commute into Fremont 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 (%)			
	Fremont County			Fremont County		State	
	<u>1990</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>
All Industries	70,153	106,192	112,075	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farm	9,432	7,768	12,942	13.4	11.5	6.0	4.2
Manufacturing	21,669	44,874	44,140	30.9	39.4	22.6	19.8
Retail	5,237	6,602	6,738	7.5	6.0	9.6	9.2
Finance *	2,431	4,088	4,118	3.5	3.7	6.1	7.9
Services	8,573	14,341	15,204	12.2	13.6	19.6	22.9
Government	10,314	14,127	14,611	14.7	13.0	16.8	15.9
Other **	12,497	14,392	14,322	17.8	12.8	19.2	20.1

\* Finance, insurance, and real estate

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

# 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.

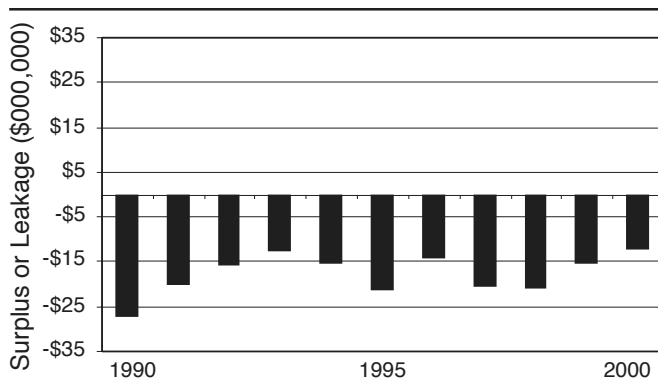
### 11. Fremont County retail sales

	Number of Retail Firms	Total sales (millions)	Per capita sales	Pull factor
1996	291	\$41.01	\$5,097	0.62
1997	288	\$40.71	\$5,142	0.60
1998	286	\$40.66	\$5,214	0.59
1999	282	\$44.95	\$5,803	0.63
2000	275	\$49.64	\$6,198	0.66

## 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, Fremont County



### 12. Retail sales by merchandise category, Fremont County

	Sales (millions)			Number of Firms			Percent of Total			Surplus or leakage (millions)
	1996	1999	2000	1996	1999	2000	1996	1999	2000	2000
Building Materials	\$1.14	\$2.60	\$2.40	10	10	9	2.8	5.8	4.8	-\$1.98
General Merchandise	\$17.90	\$17.99	\$19.25	10	*	6	43.7	40.0	38.8	\$9.94
Food	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Apparel	\$1.32	*	*	6	*	*	3.2	*	*	*
Home Furnishings	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Eating and drinking	\$3.56	\$2.63	\$3.53	23	21	21	8.7	5.8	7.1	-\$1.80
Specialty Stores	\$1.20	\$1.95	\$2.06	50	46	41	2.9	4.3	4.1	-\$2.64
Services	\$4.82	\$4.74	\$4.72	98	92	92	11.7	10.6	9.5	-\$3.42
Wholesale	\$1.22	\$1.64	\$1.47	20	24	23	3.0	3.6	3.0	-\$4.25
Other	\$9.86	\$13.40	\$16.22	76	90	83	24.0	29.8	32.7	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$41.01</b>	<b>\$44.95</b>	<b>\$49.64</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-\$11.99</b>

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

... and justice for all

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964.

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)

### This series was prepared by:

Margie Hanson, Census Services, with assistance from Georgeanne Artz, Extension Retail Analysis Program, and Mark Imerman, Rural Data Project, at Iowa State University.

For more information on these and other topics, please call the extension specialists listed on the cover page or visit the extension internet site at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/communities/>