



Data for Decision Makers

Hamilton County

Population

Hamilton County is a nonmetropolitan county in central Iowa. Hamilton County is composed of nine incorporated communities and their surrounding rural areas. From 1990 to 2000, Hamilton County's population increased 2.3 percent. The state's population increased by 5.4 percent over that period.

1. Population of Hamilton County

City	1980	1990	2000
Blairsburg	288	269	235
Ellsworth	480	451	531
Jewell	1,145	1,106	1,239
Kamrar	225	203	229
Randall	171	161	148
Stanhope	492	447	488
Stratford (part) *	775	679	720
Webster City	8,572	7,894	8,176
Williams	410	368	427
Balance of County	5,304	4,493	4,245
County Total	17,862	16,071	16,438
State Total	2,913,808	2,776,755	2,926,324

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

Population Profile

Age distribution

Compared to the state, Hamilton 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 Hamilton County in 2000 was 2.5 years older than the median age of the state.

2. Percent of population by age

	Hamilton County			State		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
19 or younger	30.8	27.7	27.7	32.3	29.0	28.3
20 to 44	31.6	33.1	31.9	35.1	26.7	34.6
45 to 64	22.3	20.8	22.4	19.2	18.9	22.2
65 or older	15.4	18.5	18.0	13.3	15.3	14.9
Median age	33.3	37.2	39.1	30.0	34.0	36.6

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Community Profile

Race/Ethnicity

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

3. Percentage of population by race/Hispanic origin

	Hamilton County			State		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
One Race Only *	100.0	100.0	99.2	100.0	100.0	98.9
White	99.4	98.9	96.7	97.4	96.6	93.9
Black	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.4	1.7	2.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	0.6	1.5	0.4	0.9	1.3
American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
Other	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.5	1.3
Two or more races *	n.a.	n.a.	0.8	n.a.	n.a.	1.1
Hispanic origin **	0.5	0.7	1.4	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, Hamilton County had a lower percentage of college graduates than the state overall.

4. Educational levels of adults 25 or older

	Hamilton County		State	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Percent with:				
Less than 12 years	20.5	12.7	19.9	13.9
High school graduate	40.3	40.4	38.5	36.1
Less than 4 years college	26.5	29.4	24.7	28.8
4 or more years college	12.8	17.5	16.9	21.2

Income and Poverty

Since 1979, median household income in Hamilton County increased \$2,249 (adjusted dollars). In 1999, Hamilton had a median income \$811 lower than the state.

5. Median Household income (in 1999 \$)

	1979	1989	1999
Hamilton County	\$36,409	\$34,412	\$38,658
State	\$37,515	\$34,921	\$39,469

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

6. Percent of population in poverty

	1979	1989	1999
Hamilton County	9.4	8.2	6.3
State	10.1	11.5	9.1

Housing

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

7. Housing characteristics, 1990-2000

	Hamilton County		State	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Total units	6,879	7,082	1,143,669	1,232,511
Percent of units:				
Owner-occupied	65.6	68.8	64.0	67.5
Renter-occupied	26.8	25.7	26.2	25.8
Vacant/seasonal	7.6	5.5	9.8	6.8
10 or fewer years old	7.8	6.9	10.0	12.3
40 or more years old	50.1	62.6	42.9	51.1
Single detached homes	83.9	83.0	74.6	74.0
Mobile homes	2.7	3.3	5.0	5.3
Median value	\$39,900	\$70,500	\$45,900	\$82,500
Median gross rent	\$295	\$422	\$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:			
Hamilton County	8,350	8,630	8,350
State	1,448,000	1,572,800	1,563,100
Employment rate (%):			
Hamilton County	95.3	97.9	97.6
State	95.7	97.5	97.4

Occupation

Among the 8,485 employed persons age 16 or older in Hamilton 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>Hamilton County</u>	<u>State</u>
Total employed	8,485	1,489,816
Percentage in:		
Management, professional or related occupations	30.2	31.3
Service occupations	13.8	14.8
Sales and office occupations	21.0	25.9
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	2.3	1.1
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	9.4	8.9
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	23.2	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 Hamilton County to work are not counted, but non-county residents who commute into Hamilton 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 (%)			
	Hamilton County			Hamilton 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	176,829	269,377	298,839	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farm	18,457	17,977	43,091	10.4	14.4	6.0	4.2
Manufacturing	57,354	105,234	105,173	32.4	35.2	22.6	19.8
Retail	14,845	15,787	15,457	8.4	5.2	9.6	9.2
Finance *	6,164	10,000	***	3.5	***	6.1	7.9
Services	19,483	28,754	29,423	11.0	9.8	19.6	22.9
Government	25,416	37,078	38,305	14.4	12.8	16.8	15.9
Other **	35,110	54,547	***	19.9	***	19.2	20.1

* Finance, insurance, and real estate

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

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

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.

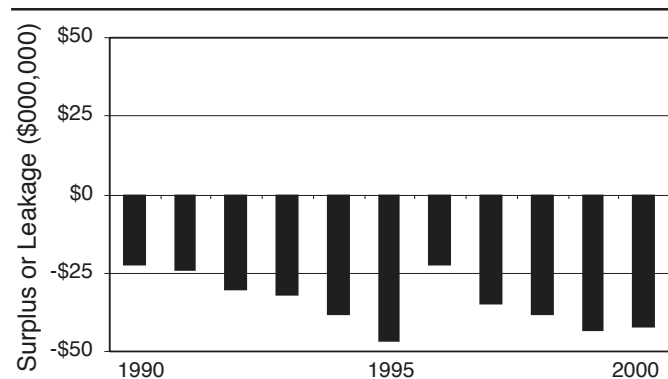
11. Hamilton County retail sales

	Number of Retail Firms	Total sales (millions)	Per capita sales	Pull factor
1996	590	\$88.12	\$5,425	0.66
1997	581	\$85.29	\$5,297	0.62
1998	579	\$85.86	\$5,355	0.60
1999	559	\$88.16	\$5,506	0.60
2000	548	\$89.66	\$5,455	0.58

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, Hamilton County



12. Retail sales by merchandise category, Hamilton 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	\$6.18	\$6.49	\$6.53	17	15	15	7.0	7.4	7.3	-\$2.84
General Merchandise	\$9.42	\$10.29	\$10.26	16	19	18	10.7	11.7	11.4	-\$9.70
Food	\$2.16	\$22.08	\$14.87	5	*	5	2.5	25.0	16.6	-\$4.78
Apparel	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Home Furnishings	\$1.57	\$1.19	\$1.11	8	7	6	1.8	1.3	1.2	-\$4.58
Eating and drinking	\$7.37	\$7.98	\$9.24	36	31	31	8.4	9.0	10.3	-\$2.17
Specialty Stores	\$6.75	\$5.75	\$5.89	116	108	109	7.7	6.5	6.6	-\$4.18
Services	\$12.44	\$11.03	\$11.73	191	177	170	14.1	12.5	13.1	-\$5.70
Wholesale	\$7.84	\$7.60	\$7.13	57	50	47	8.9	8.6	7.9	-\$5.13
Other	\$34.39	\$15.76	\$22.91	146	152	147	39.0	17.9	25.6	
Total	\$88.12	\$88.16	\$89.66	590	559	548	100.0	100.0	100.0	-\$42.36

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

... and justice for all

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Information in this county profile was derived from data from:

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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/>