

Data for Decision Makers

Lee County

Population

Lee County is a nonmetropolitan county in southeast Iowa. Lee County is composed of eight incorporated communities and their surrounding rural areas. From 1990 to 2000, Lee County's population decreased 1.6 percent. The state's population increased by 5.4 percent over that period.

1. Population of Lee County

City	1980	1990	2000
Donnellson	972	940	963
Fort Madison	13,520	11,618	10,715
Franklin	142	152	136
Houghton	124	127	130
Keokuk	13,536	12,451	11,427
Montrose	1,038	957	957
St. Paul	141	120	118
West Point	1,133	1,079	980
Balance of County	12,500	11,243	12,626
County Total	43,106	38,687	38,052
State Total	2,913,808	2,776,755	2,926,324

Population Profile

Age distribution

Compared to the state, Lee 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 Lee County in 2000 was 2.9 years older than the median age of the state.

2. Percent of population by age

	Lee County			State		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
19 or younger	31.5	28.1	26.8	32.3	29.0	28.3
20 to 44	34.4	35.2	32.0	35.1	26.7	34.6
45 to 64	20.5	19.9	24.6	19.2	18.9	22.2
65 or older	13.7	16.7	16.5	13.3	15.3	14.9
Median age	31.2	35.8	39.5	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, Lee County is predominantly white, with little noticeable change since 1980.

3. Percentage of population by race/Hispanic origin

	Lee County			State		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
One Race Only *	100.0	100.0	98.8	100.0	100.0	98.9
White	95.9	95.6	94.2	97.4	96.6	93.9
Black	2.6	2.9	2.8	1.4	1.7	2.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.9	1.3
American Indian	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3
Other	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.6	0.5	1.3
Two or more races *	n.a.	n.a.	1.2	n.a.	n.a.	1.1
Hispanic origin **	1.9	1.9	2.4	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, Lee County had a lower percentage of college graduates than the state overall.

4. Educational levels of adults 25 or older

	Lee County		State	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Percent with:				
Less than 12 years	22.5	16.4	19.9	13.9
High school graduate	43.9	42.7	38.5	36.1
Less than 4 years college	22.9	28.3	24.7	28.8
4 or more years college	10.7	12.5	16.9	21.2

Income and Poverty

Since 1979, median household income in Lee County decreased \$855 (adjusted dollars). In 1999, Lee had a median income \$3,276 lower than the state.

5. Median Household income (in 1999 \$)

	1979	1989	1999
Lee County	\$37,048	\$32,846	\$36,193
State	\$37,515	\$34,921	\$39,469

Poverty rates in Lee County increased slightly between 1979 and 1999; state levels declined.

6. Percent of population in poverty

	1979	1989	1999
Lee County	8.9	12.9	9.7
State	10.1	11.5	9.1

Housing

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

7. Housing characteristics, 1990-2000

	Lee County		State	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Total units	16,443	16,612	1,143,669	1,232,511
Percent of units:				
Owner-occupied	67.3	68.9	64.0	67.5
Renter-occupied	23.6	22.4	26.2	25.8
Vacant/seasonal	9.2	8.7	9.8	6.8
10 or fewer years old	7.6	7.0	10.0	12.3
40 or more years old	51.1	59.3	42.9	51.1
Single detached homes	73.9	76.2	74.6	74.0
Mobile homes	6.8	6.9	5.0	5.3
Median value	\$36,300	\$60,300	\$45,900	\$82,500
Median gross rent	\$293	\$398	\$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:			
Lee County	18,870	18,990	18,490
State	1,448,000	1,572,800	1,563,100
Employment rate (%):			
Lee County	93.6	96.1	95.3
State	95.7	97.5	97.4

Occupation

Among the 17,345 employed persons age 16 or older in Lee County in 2000, the largest segment was employed in production, transportation, and material moving occupations.

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

	<u>Lee County</u>	<u>State</u>
Total employed	17,345	1,489,816
Percentage in:		
Management, professional or related occupations	23.2	31.3
Service occupations	16.2	14.8
Sales and office occupations	20.7	25.9
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	1.5	1.1
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	10.5	8.9
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	27.9	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 Lee County to work are not counted, but non-county residents who commute into Lee 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>	Lee County		Lee County		State	
		<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>
All Industries	475,791	639,579	649,005	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farm	10,702	4,968	12,647	2.2	1.9	6.0	4.2
Manufacturing	202,439	241,651	235,119	42.5	36.2	22.6	19.8
Retail	40,408	56,104	56,722	8.5	8.7	9.6	9.2
Finance *	11,346	17,930	18,555	2.4	2.9	6.1	7.9
Services	68,547	116,440	125,414	14.4	19.3	19.6	22.9
Government	56,767	82,957	86,470	11.9	13.3	16.8	15.9
Other **	85,582	119,529	114,078	18.0	17.6	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.

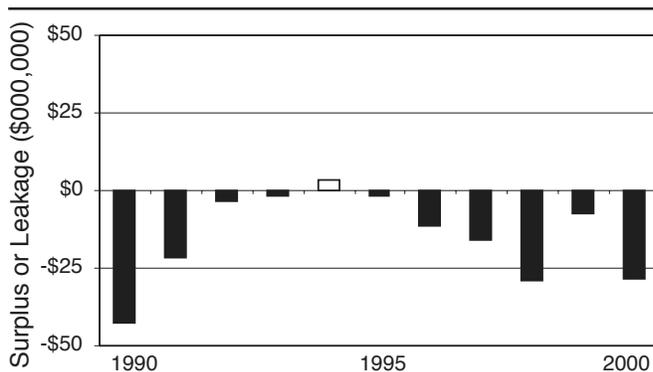
11. Lee County retail sales

	Number of Retail Firms	Total sales (millions)	Per capita sales	Pull factor
1996	1,242	\$274.46	\$7,017	0.85
1997	1,208	\$281.74	\$7,247	0.84
1998	1,161	\$274.54	\$7,098	0.80
1999	1,139	\$297.65	\$7,737	0.84
2000	1,131	\$279.27	\$7,339	0.78

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, Lee County



12. Retail sales by merchandise category, Lee 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	\$10.02	\$9.95	\$5.23	25	22	17	3.7	3.3	1.9	-\$16.58
General Merchandise	\$40.09	\$46.94	\$47.51	27	30	29	14.6	15.8	17.0	\$1.03
Food	\$45.04	\$49.57	\$51.47	19	20	20	16.4	16.7	18.4	\$5.72
Apparel	\$5.69	\$5.22	\$5.11	26	21	22	2.1	1.8	1.8	-\$2.20
Home Furnishings	\$11.02	\$9.40	\$6.94	44	39	29	4.0	3.2	2.5	-\$6.33
Eating and drinking	\$26.62	\$28.39	\$28.01	104	103	101	9.7	9.5	10.0	\$1.43
Specialty Stores	\$33.74	\$31.78	\$29.97	259	218	211	12.3	10.7	10.7	\$6.54
Services	\$30.86	\$32.06	\$32.99	398	366	367	11.2	10.8	11.8	-\$7.58
Wholesale	\$22.30	\$22.76	\$24.49	81	78	77	8.1	7.6	8.8	-\$4.05
Other	\$49.08	\$61.59	\$47.56	260	242	258	17.9	20.7	17.0	
Total	\$274.46	\$297.65	\$279.27	1,242	1,139	1,131	100.0	100.0	100.0	-\$27.99

... 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/>