



Data for Decision Makers

Mitchell County

Population

Mitchell County is a nonmetropolitan county in northeast Iowa. Mitchell County is composed of eight incorporated communities and their surrounding rural areas. From 1990 to 2000, Mitchell County's population decreased 0.5 percent. The state's population increased by 5.4 percent over that period.

1. Population of Mitchell County

City	1980	1990	2000
Carpenter	109	102	130
Mcintire	197	147	173
Mitchell	193	170	155
Orchard	95	93	88
Osage	3,718	3,439	3,451
Riceville (part) *	563	493	524
St. Ansgar	1,100	1,063	1,031
Stacyville	538	481	469
Balance of County	5,816	4,940	4,853
County Total	12,329	10,928	10,874
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, Mitchell 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 Mitchell County in 2000 was 4.0 years older than the median age of the state.

2. Percent of population by age

	Mitchell County			State		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
19 or younger	32.2	28.3	29.0	32.3	29.0	28.3
20 to 44	28.1	29.4	27.8	35.1	26.7	34.6
45 to 64	21.0	20.5	21.7	19.2	18.9	22.2
65 or older	18.7	21.8	21.6	13.3	15.3	14.9
Median age	33.9	38.2	40.6	30.0	34.0	36.6

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Community Profile

Race/Ethnicity

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

3. Percentage of population by race/Hispanic origin

	Mitchell County			State		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
One Race Only *	100.0	100.0	99.8	100.0	100.0	98.9
White	99.9	99.7	99.3	97.4	96.6	93.9
Black	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.4	1.7	2.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.9	1.3
American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3
Other	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.5	1.3
Two or more races *	n.a.	n.a.	0.2	n.a.	n.a.	1.1
Hispanic origin **	0.3	0.4	0.6	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, Mitchell County had a lower percentage of college graduates than the state overall.

4. Educational levels of adults 25 or older

	Mitchell County		State	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Percent with:				
Less than 12 years	24.0	15.6	19.9	13.9
High school graduate	43.0	44.5	38.5	36.1
Less than 4 years college	21.9	27.1	24.7	28.8
4 or more years college	11.1	12.8	16.9	21.2

Income and Poverty

Since 1979, median household income in Mitchell County increased \$2,574 (adjusted dollars). In 1999, Mitchell had a median income \$4,626 lower than the state.

5. Median Household income (in 1999 \$)

	1979	1989	1999
Mitchell County	\$32,269	\$32,644	\$34,843
State	\$37,515	\$34,921	\$39,469

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

6. Percent of population in poverty

	1979	1989	1999
Mitchell County	12.8	10.3	10.7
State	10.1	11.5	9.1

Housing

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

7. Housing characteristics, 1990-2000

	Mitchell County		State	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Total units	4,514	4,594	1,143,669	1,232,511
Percent of units:				
Owner-occupied	73.7	76.3	64.0	67.5
Renter-occupied	20.5	17.2	26.2	25.8
Vacant/seasonal	5.8	6.5	9.8	6.8
10 or fewer years old	7.9	9.8	10.0	12.3
40 or more years old	52.6	64.7	42.9	51.1
Single detached homes	86.9	86.9	74.6	74.0
Mobile homes	3.7	3.5	5.0	5.3
Median value	\$34,700	\$66,500	\$45,900	\$82,500
Median gross rent	\$232	\$334	\$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:			
Mitchell County	5,150	5,450	5,320
State	1,448,000	1,572,800	1,563,100
Employment rate (%):			
Mitchell County	96.1	97.1	97.4
State	95.7	97.5	97.4

Occupation

Among the 5,104 employed persons age 16 or older in Mitchell 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>Mitchell County</u>	<u>State</u>
Total employed	5,104	1,489,816
Percentage in:		
Management, professional or related occupations	31.9	31.3
Service occupations	14.2	14.8
Sales and office occupations	19.5	25.9
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	2.6	1.1
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	11.1	8.9
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	20.7	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 Mitchell County to work are not counted, but non-county residents who commute into Mitchell 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>	Mitchell County		Mitchell County		State	
		<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>
All Industries	108,664	129,804	149,218	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farm	31,805	21,575	35,960	29.3	24.1	6.0	4.2
Manufacturing	15,162	28,039	29,974	14.0	20.1	22.6	19.8
Retail	6,931	9,386	9,811	6.4	6.6	9.6	9.2
Finance *	3,507	5,738	5,713	3.2	3.8	6.1	7.9
Services	12,208	20,465	21,578	11.2	14.5	19.6	22.9
Government	13,641	20,057	20,601	12.6	13.8	16.8	15.9
Other **	25,410	24,544	25,581	23.4	17.1	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.

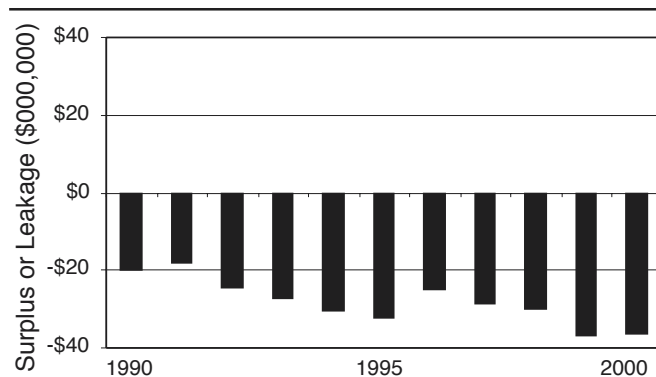
11. Mitchell County retail sales

	Number of Retail Firms	Total sales (millions)	Per capita sales	Pull factor
1996	459	\$52.05	\$4,689	0.57
1997	457	\$54.64	\$4,909	0.57
1998	450	\$54.76	\$4,943	0.56
1999	447	\$51.71	\$4,696	0.51
2000	450	\$52.89	\$4,864	0.52

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, Mitchell County



12. Retail sales by merchandise category, Mitchell 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	\$4.47	\$4.20	\$4.09	17	18	15	8.6	8.1	7.7	-\$2.25
General Merchandise	\$1.62	*	\$2.41	5	*	6	3.1	*	4.6	-\$11.11
Food	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Apparel	\$0.41	\$0.42	\$0.42	7	6	6	0.8	0.8	0.8	-\$1.70
Home Furnishings	\$1.02	\$1.01	\$1.07	6	7	8	2.0	2.0	2.0	-\$2.78
Eating and drinking	\$4.09	\$4.24	\$4.58	31	32	33	7.9	8.2	8.7	-\$3.14
Specialty Stores	\$4.27	\$4.65	\$4.66	84	88	89	8.2	9.0	8.8	-\$2.16
Services	\$5.84	\$6.40	\$6.38	147	134	131	11.2	12.4	12.1	-\$5.42
Wholesale	\$2.75	\$3.05	\$3.12	44	40	40	5.3	5.9	5.9	-\$5.18
Other	\$27.58	\$27.73	\$26.16	119	123	122	53.0	53.6	49.5	
Total	\$52.05	\$51.71	\$52.89	459	447	450	100.0	100.0	100.0	-\$36.49

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

... and justice for all

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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/>