

# Data for Decision Makers

## Taylor County

### Population

Taylor County is a nonmetropolitan county in southwest Iowa. Taylor County is composed of nine incorporated communities and their surrounding rural areas. From 1990 to 2000, Taylor County's population decreased 2.2 percent. The state's population increased by 5.4 percent over that period.

#### 1. Population of Taylor County

City	1980	1990	2000
Athelstan	45	31	18
Bedford	1,692	1,528	1,620
Blockton	280	213	192
Clearfield (part) *	418	407	364
Conway	93	57	63
Gravity	245	218	218
Lenox (part) *	1,336	1,303	1,401
New Market	554	454	456
Sharpsburg	114	116	98
Balance of County	3,576	2,787	2,528
<b>County Total</b>	<b>8,353</b>	<b>7,114</b>	<b>6,958</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, Taylor 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 Taylor County in 2000 was 5.0 years older than the median age of the state.

#### 2. Percent of population by age

	Taylor County			State		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
19 or younger	28.5	27.9	26.8	32.3	29.0	28.3
20 to 44	27.8	28.0	28.1	35.1	26.7	34.6
45 to 64	22.4	19.9	22.8	19.2	18.9	22.2
65 or older	21.3	24.1	22.4	13.3	15.3	14.9
Median age	37.9	40.0	41.6	30.0	34.0	36.6

#### For more information contact

##### The Taylor County Extension Office

Kim Brantner, County Extension Education Director  
312 Main Street  
Bedford, Iowa 50833-1320

Phone: (712) 523-2137  
Fax: (712) 523-2139  
E-mail: xtaylor@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, Taylor County is predominantly white, with little noticeable change since 1980.

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

	Taylor County			State		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
One Race Only *	100.0	100.0	99.3	100.0	100.0	98.9
White	99.6	99.4	97.7	97.4	96.6	93.9
Black	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	1.7	2.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.9	1.3
American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3
Other	0.1	0.2	1.1	0.6	0.5	1.3
Two or more races *	n.a.	n.a.	0.7	n.a.	n.a.	1.1
Hispanic origin **	0.3	0.6	3.8	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, Taylor County had a lower percentage of college graduates than the state overall.

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

	Taylor County		State	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
<b>Percent with:</b>				
Less than 12 years	25.0	16.7	19.9	13.9
High school graduate	47.0	46.6	38.5	36.1
Less than 4 years college	19.3	24.7	24.7	28.8
4 or more years college	8.7	12.0	16.9	21.2

## Income and Poverty

Since 1979, median household income in Taylor County increased \$5,064 (adjusted dollars). In 1999, Taylor had a median income \$8,172 lower than the state.

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

	1979	1989	1999
Taylor County	\$26,233	\$24,818	\$31,297
State	\$37,515	\$34,921	\$39,469

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

### 6. Percent of population in poverty

	1979	1989	1999
Taylor County	17.8	18.3	12.1
State	10.1	11.5	9.1

## Housing

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

### 7. Housing characteristics, 1990-2000

	Taylor County		State	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
<b>Total units</b>	3,307	3,199	1,143,669	1,232,511
<b>Percent of units:</b>				
Owner-occupied	65.3	67.4	64.0	67.5
Renter-occupied	21.1	20.9	26.2	25.8
Vacant/seasonal	13.5	11.7	9.8	6.8
10 or fewer years old	5.7	5.8	10.0	12.3
40 or more years old	59.1	68.2	42.9	51.1
Single detached homes	88.2	87.2	74.6	74.0
Mobile homes	4.8	6.0	5.0	5.3
Median value	\$23,000	\$37,900	\$45,900	\$82,500
Median gross rent	\$235	\$352	\$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>			
Taylor County	3,090	3,350	3,260
State	1,448,000	1,572,800	1,563,100
<b>Employment rate (%):</b>			
Taylor County	96.4	96.7	96.3
State	95.7	97.5	97.4

## Occupation

Among the 3,257 employed persons age 16 or older in Taylor 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>Taylor County</u>	<u>State</u>
Total employed	3,257	1,489,816
<b>Percentage in:</b>		
Management, professional or related occupations	25.3	31.3
Service occupations	17.0	14.8
Sales and office occupations	18.5	25.9
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	2.9	1.1
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	9.0	8.9
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	27.4	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 Taylor County to work are not counted, but non-county residents who commute into Taylor 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>	Taylor County		Taylor County		State	
		<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>
All Industries	35,861	59,447	70,564	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farm	5,955	10,568	19,115	16.6	27.1	6.0	4.2
Manufacturing	2,774	11,517	12,385	7.7	17.6	22.6	19.8
Retail	3,427	3,639	3,865	9.6	5.5	9.6	9.2
Finance *	1,535	2,237	2,149	4.3	3.0	6.1	7.9
Services	4,987	7,789	8,066	13.9	11.4	19.6	22.9
Government	9,614	12,991	13,803	26.8	19.6	16.8	15.9
Other **	7,569	10,706	11,181	21.1	15.8	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.

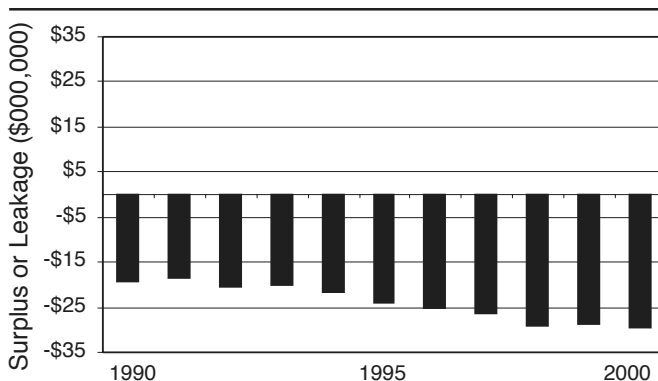
### 11. Taylor County retail sales

	Number of Retail Firms	Total sales (millions)	Per capita sales	Pull factor
1996	263	\$18.27	\$2,553	0.31
1997	272	\$18.79	\$2,615	0.30
1998	270	\$19.71	\$2,765	0.31
1999	274	\$20.59	\$2,878	0.31
2000	269	\$21.40	\$3,075	0.33

## 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, Taylor County



### 12. Retail sales by merchandise category, Taylor 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	\$0.93	\$0.82	9	6	6	6.3	4.5	3.8	-\$2.80
General Merchandise	\$2.22	\$3.00	\$3.17	7	7	7	12.2	14.6	14.8	-\$4.55
Food	*	\$4.00	\$4.04	*	7	7	*	19.4	18.9	-\$3.55
Apparel	\$0.56	\$0.36	\$0.30	7	5	5	3.1	1.7	1.4	-\$0.92
Home Furnishings	\$0.08	*	\$0.46	6	*	6	0.4	*	2.1	-\$1.74
Eating and drinking	\$1.70	\$1.71	\$1.64	19	21	20	9.3	8.3	7.7	-\$2.77
Specialty Stores	\$1.34	\$1.98	\$1.63	59	56	56	7.3	9.6	7.6	-\$2.26
Services	\$2.16	\$2.17	\$2.30	76	83	79	11.8	10.5	10.7	-\$4.44
Wholesale	\$1.44	\$1.18	\$1.10	17	17	15	7.9	5.7	5.1	-\$3.64
Other	\$7.61	\$5.27	\$5.94	64	72	68	41.7	25.6	27.8	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18.27</b>	<b>\$20.59</b>	<b>\$21.40</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-\$29.63</b>

... 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/>