

Data for Decision Makers

Van Buren County

Population

Van Buren County is a nonmetropolitan county in southeast Iowa. Van Buren County is composed of eight incorporated communities and their surrounding rural areas. From 1990 to 2000, Van Buren County's population increased 1.7 percent. The state's population increased by 5.4 percent over that period.

1. Population of Van Buren County

City	1980	1990	2000
Birmingham	410	386	423
Bonaparte	489	465	458
Cantril	299	271	257
Farmington	869	655	756
Keosauqua	1,003	1,020	1,066
Milton	567	506	550
Mounty Sterling	96	53	40
Stockport	272	260	284
Balance of County	4,621	4,060	3,975
County Total	8,626	7,676	7,809
State Total	2,913,808	2,776,755	2,926,324

Population Profile

Age distribution

Compared to the state, Van Buren 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 Van Buren County in 2000 was 4.2 years older than the median age of the state.

2. Percent of population by age

	Van Buren County			State		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
19 or younger	31.5	28.1	27.2	32.3	29.0	28.3
20 to 44	29.7	30.8	29.0	35.1	26.7	34.6
45 to 64	20.1	20.6	24.8	19.2	18.9	22.2
65 or older	18.7	20.4	19.1	13.3	15.3	14.9
Median age	34.2	37.8	40.8	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, Van Buren County is predominantly white, with little noticeable change since 1980.

3. Percentage of population by race/Hispanic origin

	Van Buren County			State		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
One Race Only *	100.0	100.0	99.4	100.0	100.0	98.9
White	99.4	99.5	98.6	97.4	96.6	93.9
Black	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.4	1.7	2.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.9	1.3
American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
Other	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.5	1.3
Two or more races *	n.a.	n.a.	0.6	n.a.	n.a.	1.1
Hispanic origin **	0.3	0.4	0.8	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, Van Buren County had a lower percentage of college graduates than the state overall.

4. Educational levels of adults 25 or older

	Van Buren County		State	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Percent with:				
Less than 12 years	25.3	17.3	19.9	13.9
High school graduate	47.2	46.3	38.5	36.1
Less than 4 years college	17.9	24.6	24.7	28.8
4 or more years college	9.6	11.8	16.9	21.2

Income and Poverty

Since 1979, median household income in Van Buren County increased \$5,259 (adjusted dollars). In 1999, Van Buren had a median income \$8,375 lower than the state.

5. Median Household income (in 1999 \$)

	1979	1989	1999
Van Buren County	\$25,835	\$25,621	\$31,094
State	\$37,515	\$34,921	\$39,469

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

6. Percent of population in poverty

	1979	1989	1999
Van Buren County	19.6	16.8	12.7
State	10.1	11.5	9.1

Housing

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

7. Housing characteristics, 1990-2000

	Van Buren County		State	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Total units	3,529	3,581	1,143,669	1,232,511
Percent of units:				
Owner-occupied	67.3	70.8	64.0	67.5
Renter-occupied	19.3	18.0	26.2	25.8
Vacant/seasonal	13.4	11.2	9.8	6.8
10 or fewer years old	10.2	12.2	10.0	12.3
40 or more years old	55.6	56.5	42.9	51.1
Single detached homes	80.1	78.9	74.6	74.0
Mobile homes	11.3	12.6	5.0	5.3
Median value	\$21,300	\$43,100	\$45,900	\$82,500
Median gross rent	\$240	\$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:			
Van Buren County	3,610	4,110	4,030
State	1,448,000	1,572,800	1,563,100
Employment rate (%):			
Van Buren County	96.7	97.1	96.8
State	95.7	97.5	97.4

Occupation

Among the 3,760 employed persons age 16 or older in Van Buren 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>Van Buren County</u>	<u>State</u>
Total employed	3,760	1,489,816
Percentage in:		
Management, professional or related occupations	27.2	31.3
Service occupations	14.3	14.8
Sales and office occupations	18.1	25.9
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	1.7	1.1
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	10.2	8.9
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	28.5	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 Van Buren County to work are not counted, but non-county residents who commute into Van Buren 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 (%)			
	Van Buren County			Van Buren 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	48,327	67,210	72,851	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farm	9,121	2,357	8,176	18.9	11.2	6.0	4.2
Manufacturing	8,624	20,990	20,015	17.8	27.5	22.6	19.8
Retail	3,467	4,004	4,094	7.2	5.6	9.6	9.2
Finance *	1,469	2,688	2,489	3.0	3.4	6.1	7.9
Services	5,231	6,717	7,096	10.8	9.7	19.6	22.9
Government	11,077	17,520	18,540	22.9	25.4	16.8	15.9
Other **	9,338	12,934	12,441	19.3	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.

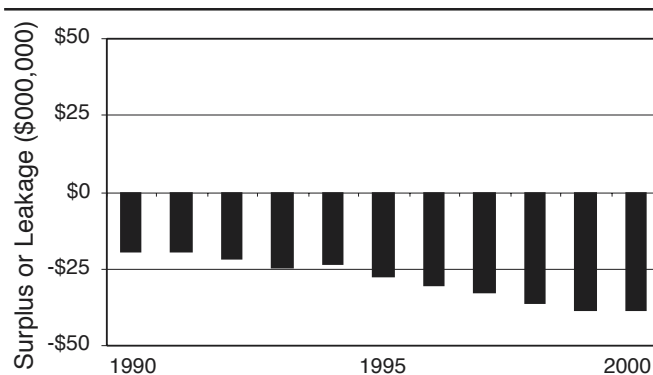
11. Van Buren County retail sales

	Number of Retail Firms	Total sales (millions)	Per capita sales	Pull factor
1996	326	\$20.28	\$2,604	0.31
1997	312	\$21.89	\$2,804	0.33
1998	315	\$21.46	\$2,739	0.31
1999	299	\$22.76	\$2,886	0.31
2000	313	\$25.08	\$3,212	0.34

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, Van Buren County



12. Retail sales by merchandise category, Van Buren 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	\$3.14	\$3.03	\$3.90	10	9	10	15.5	13.3	15.5	-\$0.61
General Merchandise	\$1.87	\$1.11	\$1.77	7	6	6	9.2	4.9	7.1	-\$7.84
Food	\$5.25	\$5.52	\$5.99	10	8	9	25.9	24.3	23.9	-\$3.47
Apparel	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Home Furnishings	\$0.60	\$0.42	\$0.32	11	7	6	2.9	1.8	1.3	-\$2.42
Eating and drinking	\$2.43	\$2.68	\$2.39	25	18	19	12.0	11.8	9.5	-\$3.11
Specialty Stores	\$0.96	\$1.16	\$1.18	60	65	71	4.7	5.1	4.7	-\$3.67
Services	\$2.86	\$2.61	\$3.02	99	90	96	14.1	11.5	12.0	-\$5.37
Wholesale	\$0.66	\$1.14	\$1.27	23	21	18	3.2	5.0	5.1	-\$4.64
Other	\$2.51	\$5.09	\$5.24	83	75	78	12.4	22.4	20.9	
Total	\$20.28	\$22.76	\$25.08	326	299	313	100.0	100.0	100.0	-\$38.52

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

... and justice for all

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