



Data for Decision Makers

Washington County

Population

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

1. Population of Washington County

City	1980	1990	2000
Ainsworth	547	506	524
Brighton	804	684	687
Coppock (part) *	8	12	15
Crawfordsville	290	265	295
Kalona	1,862	1,942	2,293
Riverside	826	824	928
Washington	6,584	7,074	7,047
Wellman	1,125	1,085	1,393
West Center	191	178	159
Balance of County	7,904	7,042	7,329
County Total	20,141	19,612	20,670
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, Washington 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 Washington County in 2000 was 2.2 years older than the median age of the state.

2. Percent of population by age

	Washington County			State		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
19 or younger	32.0	28.9	28.4	32.3	29.0	28.3
20 to 44	32.1	33.8	31.5	35.1	26.7	34.6
45 to 64	19.7	18.7	22.3	19.2	18.9	22.2
65 or older	16.3	18.6	17.9	13.3	15.3	14.9
Median age	32.0	35.6	38.8	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, Washington County is predominantly white, with little noticeable change since 1980.

3. Percentage of population by race/Hispanic origin

	Washington County			State		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
One Race Only *	100.0	100.0	99.3	100.0	100.0	98.9
White	99.4	98.9	97.0	97.4	96.6	93.9
Black	0.1	0.5	0.3	1.4	1.7	2.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.9	1.3
American Indian	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
Other	0.3	0.2	1.5	0.6	0.5	1.3
Two or more races *	n.a.	n.a.	0.7	n.a.	n.a.	1.1
Hispanic origin **	0.5	1.0	2.7	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, Washington County had a lower percentage of college graduates than the state overall.

4. Educational levels of adults 25 or older

	Washington County		State	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Percent with:				
Less than 12 years	23.1	17.5	19.9	13.9
High school graduate	43.3	39.1	38.5	36.1
Less than 4 years college	22.0	27.0	24.7	28.8
4 or more years college	11.7	16.4	16.9	21.2

Income and Poverty

Since 1979, median household income in Washington County increased \$5,510 (adjusted dollars). In 1999, Washington had a median income \$366 lower than the state.

5. Median Household income (in 1999 \$)

	1979	1989	1999
Washington County	\$33,593	\$34,379	\$39,103
State	\$37,515	\$34,921	\$39,469

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

6. Percent of population in poverty

	1979	1989	1999
Washington County	13.0	9.5	7.6
State	10.1	11.5	9.1

Housing

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

7. Housing characteristics, 1990-2000

	Washington County		State	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Total units	7,866	8,543	1,143,669	1,232,511
Percent of units:				
Owner-occupied	68.0	71.0	64.0	67.5
Renter-occupied	26.8	23.3	26.2	25.8
Vacant/seasonal	5.2	5.7	9.8	6.8
10 or fewer years old	7.6	13.5	10.0	12.3
40 or more years old	54.4	56.5	42.9	51.1
Single detached homes	78.5	77.9	74.6	74.0
Mobile homes	7.1	6.9	5.0	5.3
Median value	\$43,000	\$83,600	\$45,900	\$82,500
Median gross rent	\$297	\$424	\$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:			
Washington County	10,390	11,140	11,040
State	1,448,000	1,572,800	1,563,100
Employment rate (%):			
Washington County	97.3	97.6	97.9
State	95.7	97.5	97.4

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 Washington County to work are not counted, but non-county residents who commute into Washington 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 (%)			
	Washington County			Washington 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	166,138	234,719	257,630	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farm	26,364	16,363	27,555	15.9	10.7	6.0	4.2
Manufacturing	30,712	39,284	43,070	18.5	16.7	22.6	19.8
Retail	18,855	25,308	26,223	11.3	10.2	9.6	9.2
Finance *	5,691	9,133	9,594	3.4	3.7	6.1	7.9
Services	24,760	40,536	44,700	14.9	17.4	19.6	22.9
Government	25,547	37,689	39,042	15.4	15.2	16.8	15.9
Other **	34,209	66,406	67,446	20.6	26.2	19.2	20.1

* Finance, insurance, and real estate

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

Occupation

Among the 10,766 employed persons age 16 or older in Washington 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>Washington County</u>	<u>State</u>
Total employed	10,766	1,489,816
Percentage in:		
Management, professional or related occupations	31.5	31.3
Service occupations	14.0	14.8
Sales and office occupations	24.0	25.9
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	1.7	1.1
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	10.8	8.9
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	18.1	18.1

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.

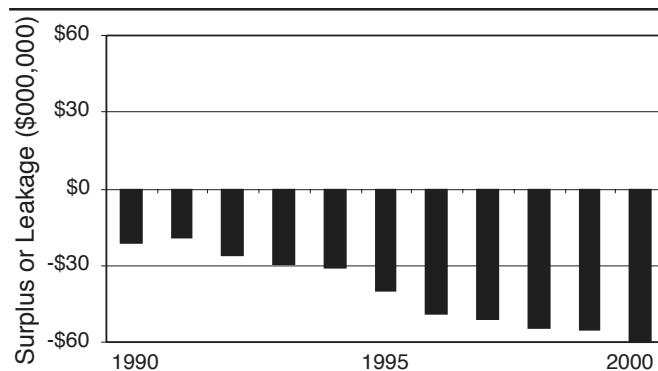
11. Washington County retail sales

	Number of Retail Firms	Total sales (millions)	Per capita sales	Pull factor
1996	844	\$105.90	\$5,151	0.62
1997	860	\$111.77	\$5,398	0.63
1998	865	\$111.30	\$5,326	0.60
1999	860	\$120.10	\$5,728	0.62
2000	840	\$122.66	\$5,934	0.63

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, Washington County



12. Retail sales by merchandise category, Washington 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	\$6.43	\$8.38	\$9.21	16	17	18	6.1	7.0	7.5	-\$3.74
General Merchandise	\$16.25	\$17.26	\$19.30	21	21	21	15.3	14.4	15.7	-\$8.31
Food	\$20.48	\$28.49	\$28.81	6	16	16	19.3	23.7	23.5	\$1.63
Apparel	\$2.05	*	*	7	*	*	1.9	*	*	*
Home Furnishings	\$4.35	\$5.53	\$6.07	25	27	27	4.1	4.6	5.0	-\$1.80
Eating and drinking	\$9.29	\$11.21	\$10.87	56	52	48	8.8	9.3	8.9	-\$4.92
Specialty Stores	\$10.57	\$10.07	\$10.82	175	173	160	10.0	8.4	8.8	-\$3.10
Services	\$12.06	\$14.40	\$14.53	273	270	267	11.4	12.0	11.8	-\$9.57
Wholesale	\$16.07	\$21.00	\$20.43	75	78	76	15.2	17.5	16.7	\$3.47
Other	\$8.36	\$3.74	\$2.62	192	207	207	7.9	3.1	2.1	
Total	\$105.90	\$120.10	\$122.66	844	860	840	100.0	100.0	100.0	-\$59.92

* 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/>