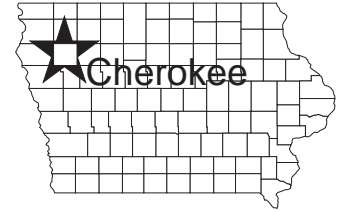


Employment and Earnings Data for Decision Makers

Cherokee County



Working Age Population

Cherokee County is a non-metropolitan county in northwest Iowa. The working age population (ages 16 to 64) in Cherokee County declined 22.4 percent between 1980 and 1998. Statewide, the working age population decreased 0.5 percent over that period.

1. Total population and the working age population, Cherokee County, 1980-1998.

Year	Total Population	Population 16 to 64 Years of Age	Percent of Total	
			Cherokee County	State
1980	16,238	9,814	60.4	62.1
1990	14,098	8,085	57.3	61.4
1998	13,191	7,614	57.7	62.9

Labor Force

The labor force in an area consists of all persons aged 16 or older who either are currently employed or actively seeking work. The number employed reflects the number of labor force participants in the county who currently have jobs (whether or not it is the job of their choice). The employment rate is the percent of labor force participants who are employed.

2. Labor force and employment rates, Cherokee County, 1980-1998

Year	Labor force	Number employed	Employment Rate	
			Cherokee County	State
1980	7,710	7,425	96.3	94.2
1990	6,710	6,529	97.3	95.7
1998	6,730	6,550	97.3	97.2

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University Extension

For more information contact:

The Cherokee County Extension Office

Donald Avis, County Extension Education Director
209 Centennial Drive, Suite A
Cherokee, Iowa 51012-2203

Phone: (712) 225-6196
Fax: (712) 225-3173
E-mail: xcherokee@iastate.edu

Your Extension community development specialist

Alan Vandehaar
4301 Sergeant Road, Suite 213
Sioux City, Iowa 51106-4710

Phone: (712) 276-2157
Fax: (712) 276-6211
E-mail: alanv@iastate.edu

Prepared by

Margaret Hanson
Census Services
Iowa State University
and

Mark Imerman
Rural Data Project
Iowa State University

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Employment and Earnings by Industry

The employment data in Tables 3 and 4 represent employment by place of work rather than place of residence. This means that the information is based on the jobs located within the county, whether or not county residents fill those jobs. As a result, county residents who commute to jobs outside their county of residence are not counted in these figures, but non-county residents who commute into the county for work are counted.

3. Percent of total employment by industry, 1980-1998

Industry	1980		1990		1998	
	Cherokee County	State	Cherokee County	State	Cherokee County	State
Farm	19.1	10.5	16.7	7.9	13.4	6.0
Construction	5.8	4.8	4.9	4.3	6.8	5.2
Manufacturing	12.9	16.2	15.2	14.7	14.3	14.1
Transportation	3.3	4.5	2.2	4.2	**	4.4
Wholesale Trade	3.5	5.4	3.2	5.0	3.2	4.8
Retail Trade	17.3	16.5	16.6	17.0	19.4	17.4
FIRE *	3.9	7.1	4.6	6.6	4.2	6.8
Service	17.3	19.8	19.0	24.5	20.8	26.8
Government	15.9	14.3	16.1	14.2	13.7	13.0
Other	0.9	0.9	1.5	1.4	4.2	1.5

4. Earnings of employed persons by industry, 1980-1998

Industry	1980		1990		1998	
	Cherokee County	State	Cherokee County	State	Cherokee County	State
Total earnings (\$000)	92,466	19,547,180	149,896	32,466,920	181,050	49,141,500
<i>Percent from</i>						
Farm	4.5	3.2	20.5	6.2	11.7	3.4
Construction	7.5	6.6	6.6	5.3	8.5	6.3
Manufacturing	25.7	27.5	18.5	22.9	20.3	21.1
Transportation	5.1	7.2	3.2	6.2	**	6.2
Wholesale Trade	5.6	8.0	3.5	6.8	4.0	7.0
Retail Trade	12.7	10.6	11.6	9.7	13.5	9.2
FIRE *	4.2	5.4	2.8	6.2	3.6	7.7
Service	14.9	16.4	12.7	19.9	15.6	22.3
Government	18.2	14.0	19.2	15.7	18.2	15.8

* FIRE refers to the Finance, Investment and Real Estate industry

** Data withheld to protect confidentiality when a limited number of businesses report.

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