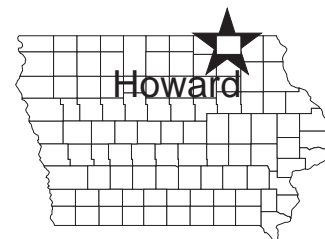


Employment and Earnings Data for Decision Makers

Howard County



Working Age Population

Howard County is a non-metropolitan county in northeast Iowa. The working age population (ages 16 to 64) in Howard County declined 12.4 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, Howard County, 1980-1998.

| Year | Total Population | Population 16 to 64 Years of Age | Percent of Total | |
|------|---------------------|--|------------------|-------|
| | | | Howard County | State |
| 1980 | 11,114 | 6,264 | 56.4 | 62.1 |
| 1990 | 9,809 | 5,322 | 54.3 | 61.4 |
| 1998 | 9,689 | 5,487 | 56.6 | 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, Howard County, 1980-1998

| Year | Labor force | Number employed | Employment Rate | |
|------|-------------|--------------------|------------------|-------|
| | | | Howard County | State |
| 1980 | 5,610 | 5,257 | 93.7 | 94.2 |
| 1990 | 4,600 | 4,421 | 96.1 | 95.7 |
| 1998 | 5,520 | 5,350 | 96.9 | 97.2 |

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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 | |
|-----------------|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| | Howard County | State | Howard County | State | Howard County | State |
| Farm | 26.9 | 10.5 | 21.6 | 7.9 | 15.8 | 6.0 |
| Construction | 4.8 | 4.8 | 3.7 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 5.2 |
| Manufacturing | 6.1 | 16.2 | 13.6 | 14.7 | 26.0 | 14.1 |
| Transportation | 3.6 | 4.5 | 3.6 | 4.2 | 3.2 | 4.4 |
| Wholesale Trade | 6.6 | 5.4 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 4.6 | 4.8 |
| Retail Trade | 13.5 | 16.5 | 13.5 | 17.0 | 12.1 | 17.4 |
| FIRE * | 5.2 | 7.1 | 4.6 | 6.6 | 4.0 | 6.8 |
| Service | 18.8 | 19.8 | 19.0 | 24.5 | 15.7 | 26.8 |
| Government | 13.2 | 14.3 | 13.7 | 14.2 | 12.9 | 13.0 |
| Other | 1.3 | 0.9 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.5 |

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

| Industry | 1980 | | 1990 | | 1998 | |
|------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| | Howard County | State | Howard County | State | Howard County | State |
| Total earnings (\$000) | 44,674 | 19,547,180 | 82,998 | 32,466,920 | 138,662 | 49,141,500 |
| <i>Percent from</i> | | | | | | |
| Farm | 7.4 | 3.2 | 23.0 | 6.2 | 12.6 | 3.4 |
| Construction | 7.5 | 6.6 | 3.2 | 5.3 | 4.1 | 6.3 |
| Manufacturing | 12.5 | 27.5 | 19.8 | 22.9 | 36.5 | 21.1 |
| Transportation | 7.5 | 7.2 | 4.6 | 6.2 | 3.4 | 6.2 |
| Wholesale Trade | 11.9 | 8.0 | 7.4 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 7.0 |
| Retail Trade | 13.3 | 10.6 | 9.5 | 9.7 | 8.1 | 9.2 |
| FIRE * | 4.2 | 5.4 | 3.6 | 6.2 | 3.4 | 7.7 |
| Service | 17.7 | 16.4 | 11.7 | 19.9 | 9.8 | 22.3 |
| Government | 16.7 | 14.0 | 15.5 | 15.7 | 14.4 | 15.8 |

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

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