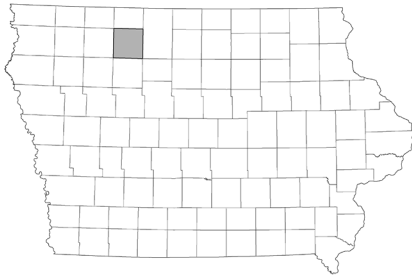


Data for Decision Makers



Ruthven, Iowa City Profile

report created: 12/17/2024

Population profile

The 2020 population for Ruthven is 725. Between 2010 and 2020 the population decreased by 1.6%. The City of Ruthven is in Palo Alto County. Palo Alto County saw a 4.5% population decrease between 2010 and 2020.

Palo Alto County Cities - Total Population¹

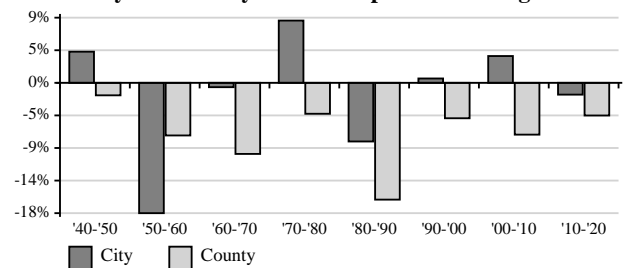
City	2000	2010	2020
Ruthven	711	737	725
Male Total	341	349	363
Female Total	370	388	362
Ayrshire	202	143	133
Curlew	62	58	37
Cylinder	110	88	87
Emmetsburg	3,958	3,904	3,706
Graettinger	900	844	832
Mallard	298	274	257
Rodman	56	45	31
West Bend [†]	834	785	791
Palo Alto County Total	10,147	9,421	8,996
State of Iowa Total	2,926,324	3,046,355	3,190,369

[†]City is located in multiple counties, total population is provided.

Neighboring Cities - Percent Population Change

	'90-'00	'00-'10	'10-'20
Ayrshire	3.6%	-29.2%	-7.0%
Dickens	-5.6%	-8.4%	-21.1%
Emmetsburg	0.5%	-1.4%	-5.1%
Gillett Grove	-17.9%	-10.9%	-38.8%
Graettinger	10.7%	-6.2%	-1.4%
Ruthven	0.6%	3.7%	-1.6%
Palo Alto County	-4.9%	7.2%	-4.5%
State of Iowa	5.4%	4.1%	4.7%

City and County Percent Population Change¹



Regional Director

Melissa Rutat
26 South 17th St.
Estherville, IA 51334
mlutat@iastate.edu
712-362-3434

County Office

Kat Davis
2008 10 St.
Emmetsburg, IA 50536
kathyd@iastate.edu
712-852-2865

<https://indicators.extension.iastate.edu>

Demographic Profile

Ruthven, Iowa

Ruthven's population is predominantly White. The City of Ruthven, compared to Palo Alto County, had a higher percentage of young people (17 or younger) and a higher percentage of older people (65 and older) in 2020. New household relationship categories were reported for 2020 that are not comparable with 2010.³

Percentage of Population by Race/Hispanic Origin¹

Race Groups	City		County	
	2010	2020	2010	2020
One race only	99.6%	97.0%	99.2%	96.6%
White	99.1%	93.5%	97.8%	94.1%
White alone, not Hispanic	98.2%	91.7%	96.7%	93.3%
Black or African American	0.0%	1.1%	0.5%	0.6%
Asian	0.0%	1.5%	0.3%	0.4%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.5%	0.1%	0.2%	0.3%
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Other	0.0%	0.7%	0.3%	1.2%
Two or more races	0.4%	3.0%	0.8%	3.4%
Hispanic origin ^a	0.8%	3.6%	1.6%	3.0%

^a Hispanics can be of any race.

Households by Family or Nonfamily Type^{1,3}

	City		County	
	2010	2020	2010	2020
Total households	320	285	3,994	3,831
Family households ^{a,b}	57.5%	64.1%	62.8%	62.1%
Married couple family ^b	43.1%	53.0%	51.9%	49.7%
With own children	15.9%	19.6%	18.0%	16.9%
Other family ^c	14.4%	13.7%	10.9%	12.4%
Male householder ^c	6.3%	4.2%	3.8%	4.6%
With own children	2.8%	2.5%	2.4%	2.7%
Female householder ^c	8.1%	9.5%	7.1%	7.8%
With own children	5.0%	4.9%	4.6%	4.9%
Nonfamily households ^d	42.5%	35.9%	37.2%	37.9%
Male living alone	13.4%	16.1%	14.1%	16.9%
Female living alone	23.1%	16.5%	17.8%	16.2%

Households by Couple or Non-couple Type^{1,3}

	City		County	
	2010	2020	2010	2020
Total households	320	285	3,994	3,831
Married couple ^b	43.1%	53.0%	51.9%	49.7%
Cohabiting couple ^{b,f}	NA ^e	10.2%	NA ^e	6.5%
Male householder ^g	NA ^e	20.7%	NA ^e	20.8%
Female householder ^g	NA ^e	25.6%	NA ^e	23.0%

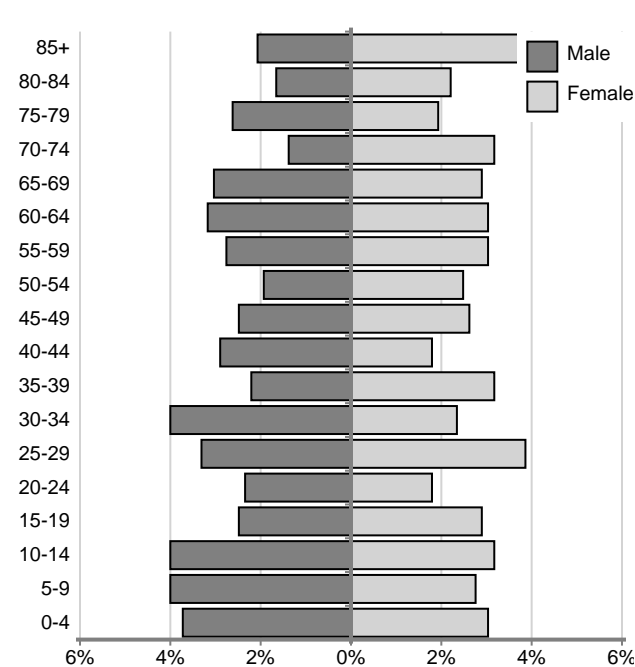
^aHouseholder and at least one other person related to the householder. ^bFor 2020 includes same-sex couples. ^cNo spouse present, but at least one relative present. ^dIn 2010 included same-sex couples whether married or not (if no relatives present). ^e2010 not comparable with 2020. ^fFor 2020 householder has an unmarried partner. ^gFor 2020 no spouse or partner present, but relatives, nonrelatives may be present or householder may be living alone.

Percentage of Population by Age¹

Age Groups	City		County	
	2010	2020	2010	2020
17 or younger	22.3%	23.6%	22.0%	22.5%
0 - 4	6.8%	6.8%	6.2%	6.1%
5 - 9	8.1%	6.8%	6.3%	5.8%
10 - 14	4.6%	7.2%	5.7%	6.5%
15 - 17	2.8%	2.8%	3.8%	4.1%
18 - 24	7.5%	6.7%	9.0%	7.6%
25 - 44	22.7%	23.6%	20.0%	21.2%
45 - 64	21.4%	21.5%	27.7%	25.3%
65 or older	26.2%	24.7%	21.3%	23.3%
65 - 84	18.2%	19%	17.1%	19.1%
85 or older	8%	5.8%	4.2%	4.3%
Median ⁴ Age (years)	42.2	41.1	43.9	43.6
Age Dependency ^{a, 5}	94.0	93.2	76.4	84.7
Old-Age	50.8	47.7	37.6	43.1
Child	43.2	45.6	38.8	41.6

^aAge Dependency Ratio

Ruthven, Iowa Population Pyramid,^a 2020¹



^aEach bar represents the percentage that an age-sex group comprises of the total population.

Socioeconomic Profile

Ruthven, Iowa

The median household income in Ruthven is less than the median household income of Palo Alto County. The median value of owner-occupied housing units is lower in Ruthven than for Palo Alto County. There is a higher percentage of vacant housing units in Ruthven than there is for Palo Alto County. Many housing units in Ruthven were built prior to 1940. There is a lower percentage of individuals 25 and older with a Bachelor's degree or higher in Ruthven compared to Palo Alto County.

Median Household and Per Capita Income, 2018-2022²

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Households	291	+/- 47	3,635	+/- 151
Less than \$34,999	34.1%	+/- 4.4%	26.3%	+/- 2.7%
\$35,000 To \$49,999	9.3%	+/- 5.6%	11.7%	+/- 2.4%
\$50,000 To \$99,999	24.8%	+/- 3.5%	33.0%	+/- 2.5%
\$100,000 Or More	31.9%	+/- 3.8%	29.0%	+/- 2.5%
Median ⁴ Household Income	\$62,250	+/- \$16,554	\$67,306	+/- \$5,588
Median Family Income	\$106,250	+/- \$5,748	\$86,020	+/- \$6,346
Per Capita Income	\$30,846	+/- \$4,701	\$33,517	+/- \$2,063

Educational Attainment, 2018-2022²

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 25 and older	509	+/-66	6,058	+/-71
High School Graduate or Higher	90.4%	+/-4.5%	93%	+/-1.5%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	16.1%	+/-5.6%	20.2%	+/-3%

*MOE = the margin of error for American Community Survey estimates² which is a numerical value that when added to or subtracted from the point estimate value gives the range of a 90% confidence interval around the estimate.

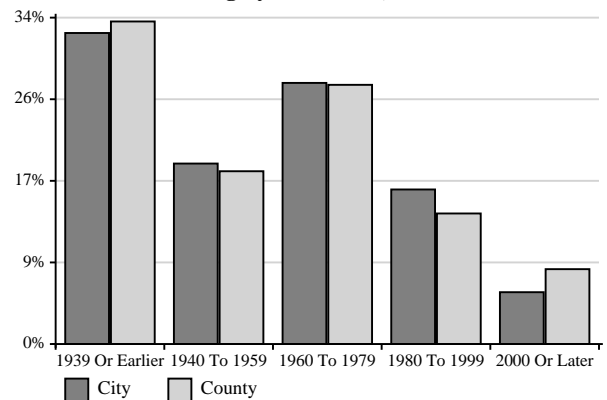
**MOE is high, use county estimate.

Housing Characteristics, 2018-2022²

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Units	367	+/- 56	4,509	+/- 47
Vacant	20.7%	+/- 8.4%	19.4%	+/- 3.0%
Occupied	79.3%	+/- 8.4%	80.6%	+/- 3.0%
Occupied ^a	291	+/- 47	3,635	+/- 151
Owner	82.1%	+/- 7.1%	76.1%	+/- 3.2%
Renter	17.9%	+/- 7.1%	23.9%	+/- 3.2%
Rent ^b	\$581	+/- \$194	\$631	+/- \$74
Value ^c	\$89,600	+/- \$12,656	\$117,000	+/- \$8,558

^aOccupied Units, ^bMedian gross rent of renter-occupied units, ^cMedian value of owner-occupied units

Percent Housing by Year Built, 2018-2022²



In Ruthven there is a higher percentage of workers in sales and office occupations than any other occupation category. The production, transportation, and material moving occupation category makes up 24.8% of occupations of the civilian employed population in the city.

Occupation of the Civilian Employed Population, 2018-2022²

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	331	+/- 64	4,493	+/- 196
Management, business, science, and arts	15.1%	+/- 6.7%	29.9%	+/- 4.0%
Service	16.9%	+/- 8.1%	11.9%	+/- 2.5%
Sales and office	27.8%	+/- 8.7%	22.2%	+/- 3.1%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance	15.4%	+/- 5.7%	14.2%	+/- 2.8%
Production, transportation, and material moving	24.8%	+/- 8.7%	21.8%	+/- 4.1%

Socioeconomic Profile

Ruthven, Iowa

Ruthven has a lower proportion of the population age 16 or older in the labor force than Palo Alto County. A portion of those who are not in the labor force are people who are retired. Earnings data are provided for the population 16 and over who have earnings. Median earnings in Ruthven tend to be higher than the median earnings for Palo Alto County. Families with children tend to have a higher rate of poverty than families without children.

Median Employment Earnings, 2018-2022²

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 16+ ^a	352	+/- 66	4,873	+/- 173
Median Earnings	\$40,556	+/- \$40	\$36,815	+/- \$1,619
Female	\$32,788	+/- \$7,356	\$30,676	+/- \$3,546
Female, full time ^b	\$38,500	+/- \$8,557	\$42,421	+/- \$2,662
Male	\$55,461	+/- \$9,597	\$42,315	+/- \$4,954
Male, full time ^b	\$56,974	+/- \$6,877	\$55,270	+/- \$4,576

^a with earnings, ^b year round, **MOE is high, use county estimate.

Disability Status and Health Insurance Coverage of the Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population, 2018-2022²

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population ^a	713	+/-114	8,743	+/-8
With a disability ^b	16.5%	+/-4.8%	14.3%	+/-1.7%
With Health Insurance	96.6%	+/-2.3%	95.8%	+/-1.5%
With Private ^c Coverage	67.9%	+/-7.6%	69.3%	+/-3.6%
With Public ^d Coverage	49.4%	+/-6.5%	42.4%	+/-3.4%
No Health Insurance	**%	+/-**%	4.2%	+/-1.5%

^aCivilian Noninstitutionalized Population, ^blimitations of activities or inability for full participation, ^cprovided by employer, union, bought by individual, and some military plans, ^dincludes Medicare, Medicaid, VA Health Care, children's CHIP, and some state plans, **MOE is high, use county estimate.

*MOE = the margin of error for American Community Survey estimates² which is a numerical value that when added to or subtracted from the point estimate value gives the range of a 90% confidence interval around the estimate.

Employment Status, 2018-2022²

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 16+	577	+/- 80	7,043	+/- 70
in labor force	59.4%	+/- 5.8%	66.2%	+/- 2.2%
not in labor force	40.6%	+/- 5.8%	33.8%	+/- 2.2%
Civilian labor force	343	+/- 65	4,663	+/- 177
Unemployed	3.5%	+/- 3.7%	3.6%	+/- 1.3%

**MOE is high, use county estimate.

Individuals and Families Below Poverty Level, 2018-2022²

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Population ^a	669	+/-116	8,537	+/-81
Below poverty	8.5%	+/-3.5%	10.7%	+/-3%
17 and under	**%	+/-**%	17.2%	+/-8.1%
18 - 64	11.1%	+/-5.1%	9.1%	+/-2.3%
65+	**%	+/-**%	7.3%	+/-2.9%
All Families	**%	+/-**%	6.8%	+/-2.7%
with children	**%	+/-**%	13.2%	+/-6.1%
Married Couple	**%	+/-**%	5.8%	+/-2.6%
with children	**%	+/-**%	**%	+/-**%
Female HH ^b	**%	+/-**%	**%	+/-**%
with children	**%	+/-**%	**%	+/-**%

^a for whom poverty status is determined, ^b female householder, no husband present, **MOE is high, use county estimate.

Notes and Source Information:

¹ U.S. Census Bureau; Decennial Censuses 1940 - 2020

² U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey 2018-2022

³ For the 2020 Decennial Census, households are divided into subcategories by two different methods. One method (family or nonfamily) is based on the presence or absence of family relationships among the household members and the householder. Using family relationships (birth, marriage, or adoption) has been the usual way to classify households, and the data using this method has good comparability between 2010 and 2020. In 2020, the Census Bureau introduced an additional method to divide households into subcategories. This second method (couple or noncouple) is based on the presence or absence of a couple relationship for the householder. The relationship can be as a married spouse or as an unmarried partner and can be of the opposite or same sex. The 2020 data reported for the second method (except for married couples) does not have good comparability with data from 2010. For smaller towns, the couple or noncouple data are omitted in this profile.

⁴ Median is the middle value of a distribution.

⁵ The age dependency ratio compares, by age, those typically not in the labor force with those who typically are in the labor force. Old Age dependency is persons 65+ per 100 persons age 18-64. Child dependency is persons under age 18 per 100 persons age 18-64. The total age dependency ratio is persons under age 18 plus persons 65 or older per 100 persons age 18-64.

This series was prepared by:

Christopher J. Seeger, Professor & Extension Specialist
Bailey Hanson, Data Analyst III & Extension Specialist
Sandra Burke, Research Scientist III & Extension Specialist
Jay Maxwell, Data Analyst I & Extension Specialist

For more information on these and other topics, please call the Extension and Outreach specialists listed on the cover page or visit the ISU Extension and Outreach Indicators website at <https://indicators.extension.iastate.edu>

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, go to www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/ext.