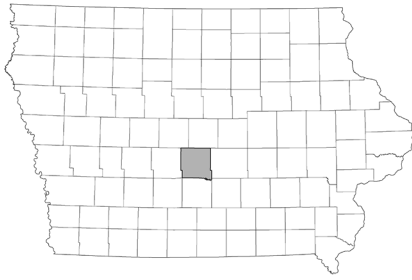


Data for Decision Makers



Polk County County Profile

report created: 12/13/2024

Population profile

Polk County is a metropolitan county in central Iowa. It is composed of eighteen incorporated communities and their surrounding rural areas. From 2010 to 2020, Polk County's population increased by 14.34% while the state's population increased by 4.73%.

Total Population¹

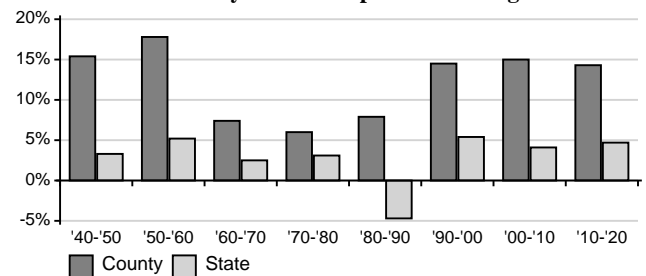
Totals	2000	2010	2020
Polk County	374,601	430,640	492,401
Male Total	181,739	211,171	241,976
Female Total	192,862	219,469	250,425
City			
Alleman	439	432	423
Altoona	10,345	14,541	19,565
Ankeny	27,117	45,582	67,887
Bondurant	1,846	3,860	7,365
Carlisle [†]	3,497	3,876	4,160
Clive [†]	12,855	15,447	18,601
Des Moines	198,682	203,433	214,133
Elkhart	362	683	882
Grimes [†]	5,098	8,246	15,392
Johnston	8,649	17,278	24,064
Mitchellville [†]	1,715	2,254	2,485
Pleasant Hill	5,070	8,785	10,147
Polk City	2,344	3,418	5,543
Runnells	352	507	457
Sheldahl [†]	336	319	297
Urbandale [†]	29,072	39,463	45,580
West Des Moines [†]	46,403	56,609	68,723
Windsor Heights	4,805	4,860	5,252
State Total	2,926,324	3,046,355	3,190,369

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

Neighboring Counties - Percent Population Change¹

County	'90-'00	'00-'10	'10-'20
Boone, IA	4.12%	0.31%	1.55%
Dallas, IA	36.95%	62.29%	50.72%
Jasper, IA	6.95%	-1.00%	2.64%
Madison, IA	12.30%	11.84%	5.54%
Marion, IA	6.84%	3.92%	0.32%
Polk, IA	14.51%	14.96%	14.34%
Story, IA	7.72%	11.95%	10.05%
Warren, IA	12.87%	13.66%	13.37%
State of Iowa	5.39%	4.10%	4.73%

Polk County Percent Population Change¹



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Demographic Profile

Polk County

As with the other 98 counties in the state, Polk County's population is predominantly white. The percentage of the population of Hispanic origin increased between 2010 and 2020. In 2020, Polk County had a higher percentage of those 17 or younger than the state. New household relationship categories were reported for 2020 that are not comparable with 2010³.

Percentage of Population by Race/Hispanic Origin¹

Race Groups	County		State	
	2010	2020	2010	2020
One race only	97.6%	92.5%	98.2%	94.4%
White	84.7%	75.9%	91.3%	84.5%
White alone, not Hispanic	80.7%	73.6%	88.7%	82.7%
Black or African American	6.0%	7.2%	2.9%	4.1%
Asian	3.5%	5.0%	1.7%	2.4%
American Indian	0.3%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%
Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
Other	2.9%	3.9%	1.8%	2.8%
Two or more races	2.4%	7.5%	1.8%	5.6%
Hispanic origin ^a	7.6%	9.8%	5.0%	6.8%

^aHispanics can be of any race.

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

	County		State	
	2010	2020	2010	2020
Total households	170,197	196,891	1,221,576	1,288,560
Family households ^{a,b}	63.6%	62.0%	64.7%	63.0%
Married couple family ^b	48.3%	45.9%	51.2%	48.5%
With own children	21.9%	19.8%	20.0%	18.2%
Other family ^c	15.4%	16.0%	13.5%	14.4%
Male householder ^c	4.4%	5.1%	4.2%	4.9%
With own children	2.4%	2.7%	2.5%	2.7%
Female householder ^c	11.0%	10.9%	9.3%	9.6%
With own children	6.9%	6.4%	5.9%	5.7%
Nonfamily households ^d	36.4%	38.0%	35.3%	37.0%
Male living alone	12.3%	14.0%	12.8%	14.2%
Female living alone	16.0%	16.1%	15.7%	15.8%

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

	County		State	
	2010	2020	2010	2020
Total households	170,197	196,891	1,221,576	1,288,560
Married couple ^b	48.3%	45.9%	51.2%	48.5%
Cohabiting couple ^{b,f}	NA ^e	7.7%	NA ^e	7.1%
Male householder ^g	NA ^e	19.7%	NA ^e	19.5%
Female householder ^g	NA ^e	26.7%	NA ^e	24.9%

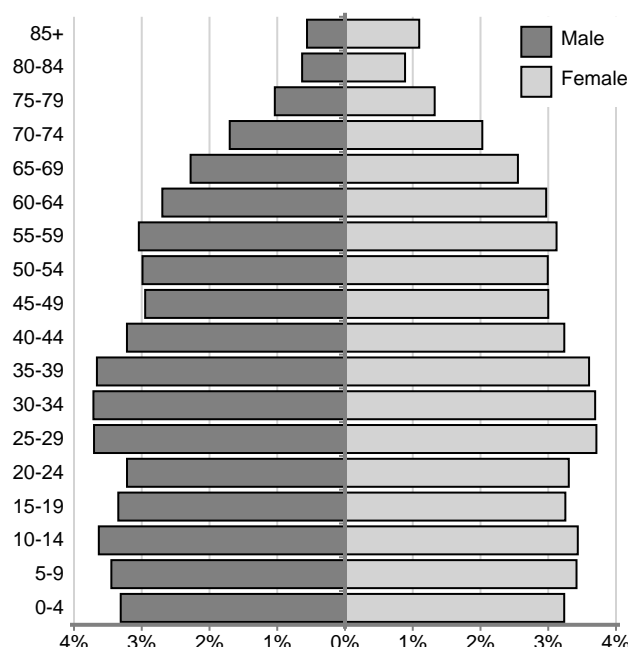
^aHouseholder and at least one other person related to the householder. ^bFor 2020 includes same-sex couples. ^cNo spouse present, but at least one relative present. ^dIn 2010 included same-sex couples whether married or not (if no relatives present). ^e2010 not comparable with 2020. ^fFor 2020 householder 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	County		State	
	2010	2020	2010	2020
17 or younger	25.5%	24.5%	23.9%	23.2%
0 - 4	7.6%	6.5%	6.6%	6.0%
5 - 9	7.2%	6.9%	6.6%	6.5%
10 - 14	6.8%	7.1%	6.6%	6.8%
15 - 17	3.9%	4.0%	4.1%	3.9%
18 - 24	9.3%	9.1%	10.0%	9.8%
25 - 44	29.5%	28.6%	24.5%	24.6%
45 - 64	24.9%	23.8%	26.7%	24.5%
65 or older	10.8%	14.1%	14.9%	18.0%
65 - 84	9.2%	12.4%	12.4%	15.6%
85 or older	1.6%	1.7%	2.5%	2.4%
Median ⁴ age (years)	34.7	36.0	38.1	38.6
Age dependency ^{a,5}	57.0	62.8	63.4	69.9
Old-Age	17.0	22.9	24.3	30.6
Child	40.0	39.8	39.1	39.4

^aAge Dependency Ratio.

Polk County Population Pyramid^a, 2020¹



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

Socioeconomic Profile

Polk County

The median household income in Polk County is greater than the median household income of the state. Both Polk County and the state have more households in the \$100,000 or more household income group. The median value of owner-occupied housing can vary among counties. The median value of owner-occupied housing units is higher in Polk County than for the state. There is a lower percentage of vacant housing units in Polk County than there is for the state. Many housing units in Polk County were built in 2000 or later. Polk County has a higher percentage of college graduates than does the state.

Median⁴ Household and Per Capita Income, 2018-2022²

	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total households	199,013	+/- 905	1,290,139	+/- 4,032
Less than \$14,999	6.4%	+/- 0.8%	7.8%	+/- 0.4%
\$15,000 to \$34,999	12.5%	+/- 0.9%	15.2%	+/- 0.6%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	11.5%	+/- 0.6%	11.9%	+/- 0.2%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	31.7%	+/- 1.2%	32.2%	+/- 0.6%
\$100,000 Or More	37.9%	+/- 1.4%	32.9%	+/- 0.8%
Median ⁴ household income	\$78,827	+/- \$1,322	\$70,571	+/- \$395
Median ⁴ family income	\$99,161	+/- \$2,398	\$90,921	+/- \$579
Per capita income	\$41,894	+/- \$616	\$37,949	+/- \$241

Educational Attainment, 2018-2022²

	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 25 and older	328,511	+/-71	2,131,202	+/-967
High school graduate or higher	92.7%	+/-0.4%	93.0%	+/-0.1%
Bachelor's degree or higher	38.9%	+/-0.9%	30.3%	+/-0.3%

*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.

In Polk County there is a higher percentage of workers in management, business, science, and arts occupations than any other occupation category while the production, transportation, and material moving occupation category makes up 12.5% of occupations of the civilian employed population in the county.

Occupation of the Civilian Employed Population, 2018-2022²

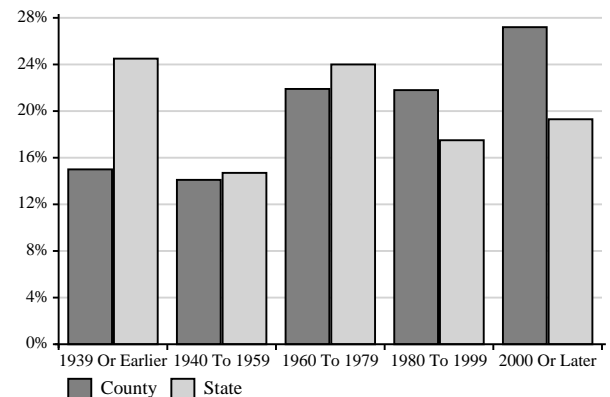
	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	261,682	+/- 2,273	1,627,434	+/- 5,740
Management, business, science, and arts	44.0%	+/- 0.8%	38.1%	+/- 0.3%
Service	14.9%	+/- 0.6%	15.5%	+/- 0.2%
Sales and office	21.3%	+/- 0.7%	19.7%	+/- 0.2%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance	7.3%	+/- 0.5%	9.5%	+/- 0.2%
Production, transportation, and material moving	12.5%	+/- 0.5%	17.2%	+/- 0.2%

Housing Characteristics, 2018-2022²

	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total units	211,392	+/- 128	1,417,064	+/- 977
Vacant	5.9%	+/- 0.4%	9.0%	+/- 0.3%
Occupied	94.1%	+/- 0.4%	91.0%	+/- 0.3%
Occupied ^a	199,013	+/- 905	1,290,139	+/- 4,032
Owner	67.1%	+/- 0.7%	71.5%	+/- 0.3%
Renter	32.9%	+/- 0.7%	28.5%	+/- 0.3%
Median ⁴ rent ^b	\$1,060	+/- \$14	\$914	+/- \$6
Median value ^c	\$232,000	+/- \$2,726	\$181,600	+/- \$1,035

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

Percent Housing by Year Built, 2018-2022²



Polk County has a higher proportion of the population age 16 or older in the labor force than the state. A portion of those who are not in the labor force are people who are retired. The percent unemployed in Polk County is higher than that for the state overall. Earnings data are provided for the population 16 and over who have earnings. Median⁴ earnings in Polk County tend to be higher than the median earnings for the state. There is a higher percentage of families in Polk County below poverty level than for the state. Families with children tend to have a higher rate of poverty than families without children.

Employment Status, 2018-2022²

	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 16+	386,736	+/- 543	2,544,719	+/- 1,266
In labor force	71.1%	+/- 0.5%	66.6%	+/- 0.2%
Not in labor force	28.9%	+/- 0.5%	33.4%	+/- 0.2%
Civilian labor force	274,014	+/- 2,073	1,692,129	+/- 5,407
Unemployed	4.5%	+/- 0.4%	3.8%	+/- 0.1%

Individuals Below Poverty Level by Race, 2018-2022²

	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total population ^a	484,508	+/-378	3,088,999	+/-950
Percent below	10.3%	+/-0.2%	11.1%	+/-0.2%
White alone	7.6%	+/-0.6%	9.7%	+/-0.2%
Black/African American alone	32.7%	+/-4.4%	30.5%	+/-1.9%
Asian/Pacific Islander alone	13.2%	+/-3.5%	13.6%	+/-1.4%
American Indian alone	***	+/-***	27.6%	+/-4%
Hawaiian alone	***	+/-***	33.1%	+/-8.5%
Other race alone	17.2%	+/-4.9%	16.6%	+/-2.3%
Two or more races	14.8%	+/-3.6%	17.6%	+/-1.3%
Hispanic origin ^b	15.6%	+/-2.5%	17.4%	+/-1.1%

^afor whom poverty status is determined, ^bHispanics can be of any race. **MOE is high, use state 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.

Median⁴ Employment Earnings, 2018-2022²

	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 16+ ^a	287,324	+/- 1,921	1,799,851	+/- 5,338
Median earnings	\$46,326	+/- \$558	\$40,905	+/- \$219
Female	\$39,603	+/- \$1,017	\$33,724	+/- \$250
Male	\$53,161	+/- \$1,342	\$48,115	+/- \$407
Female, full time ^b	\$53,223	+/- \$1,388	\$47,128	+/- \$238
Male, full time ^b	\$65,506	+/- \$1,554	\$59,875	+/- \$356

^awith earnings. ^byear round.

Individuals and Families Below Poverty Level, 2018-2022²

	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total population ^a	484,508	+/-378	3,088,999	+/-950
Below poverty	10.3%	+/-0.2%	11.1%	+/-0.2%
17 and under	13.7%	+/-1.4%	13%	+/-0.4%
18 - 64	9.8%	+/-0.6%	11.4%	+/-0.2%
65+	6.5%	+/-1%	7.7%	+/-0.2%
All families	7.3%	+/-0.6%	7%	+/-0.2%
With children	11.3%	+/-1%	11.5%	+/-0.4%
Married couple	3.4%	+/-0.5%	3.2%	+/-0.1%
With children	4.8%	+/-1%	4.1%	+/-0.3%
Female HH ^b	20.8%	+/-2.4%	25.4%	+/-1%
With children	26.8%	+/-3.4%	32.4%	+/-1.4%

^afor whom poverty status is determined, ^bfemale householder, no spouse present, **MOE is high. Use state 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. In this profile, the 2020 data are reported, but items for 2010 are omitted.

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.

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