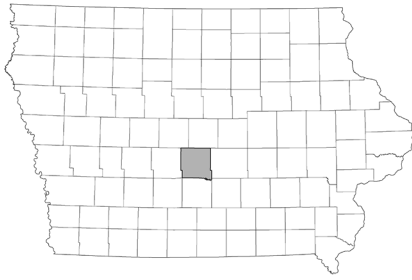# Des Moines, Iowa
City Profile

report created: 12/17/2024

Population profile

The 2020 population for Des Moines is 214,133. Between 2010 and 2020 the population increased by 5.3%. The City of Des Moines is in Polk County. Polk County saw a 14.3% population increase between 2010 and 2020.
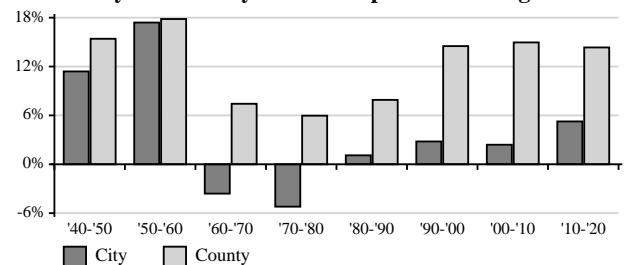
Polk County Cities - Total Population[1]

City	2000	2010	2020
Des Moines	**198,682**	**203,433**	**214,133**
Male Total	96,157	99,535	105,618
Female Total	102,525	103,898	108,515
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
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
Polk County Total	374,601	430,640	492,401
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
Carlisle	7.9%	10.8%	7.3%
Norwalk	20.2%	29.9%	43.1%
Pleasant Hill	38.1%	73.3%	15.5%
West Des Moines	46.4%	22.0%	21.4%
Windsor Heights	-7.4%	1.1%	8.1%
Des Moines	2.8%	2.4%	5.3%
Polk County	14.5%	15.0%	14.3%
State of Iowa	5.4%	4.1%	4.7%

City and County Percent Population Change[1]

Regional Director	County Office
Paul Gibbins	Paul Gibbins
1625 Adventureland Dr., Ste A	1625 Adventureland Dr., Ste A
Altoona, IA 50009	Altoona, IA 50009
pgibbins@iastate.edu	pgibbins@iastate.edu
515-957-5760	515-957-5777

https://indicators.extension.iastate.edu

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach
Community and Economic Development

Des Moines's population is predominantly White. The City of Des Moines, compared to Polk County, had a lower percentage of young people (17 or younger) and a lower 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 Origin[1]

Race Groups	City 2010	City 2020	County 2010	County 2020
One race only	96.6%	90.4%	97.6%	92.5%
White	76.4%	64.5%	84.7%	75.9%
White alone, not Hispanic	70.5%	61.0%	80.7%	73.6%
Black or African American	10.2%	11.7%	6.0%	7.2%
Asian	4.4%	6.8%	3.5%	5.0%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.5%	0.7%	0.3%	0.5%
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Other	5.0%	6.6%	2.9%	3.9%
Two or more races	3.4%	9.6%	2.4%	7.5%
Hispanic origin[a]	12.0%	15.6%	7.6%	9.8%

[a] *Hispanics can be of any race.*

Households by Family or Nonfamily Type[1,3]

	City 2010	City 2020	County 2010	County 2020
Total households	81,369	87,958	170,197	196,891
Family households[a,b]	58.4%	66.7%	63.6%	62.0%
Married couple family[b]	38.9%	38.6%	48.3%	45.9%
With own children	16.7%	14.3%	21.9%	19.8%
Other family[c]	19.5%	19.8%	15.4%	16.0%
Male householder[c]	5.3%	6.1%	4.4%	5.1%
With own children	2.9%	3.1%	2.4%	2.7%
Female householder[c]	14.2%	13.7%	11.0%	10.9%
With own children	8.7%	8.0%	6.9%	6.4%
Nonfamily households[d]	41.6%	33.3%	36.4%	38.0%
Male living alone	14.7%	17.3%	12.3%	14.0%
Female living alone	17.9%	18.0%	16.0%	16.1%

Households by Couple or Non-couple Type[1,3]

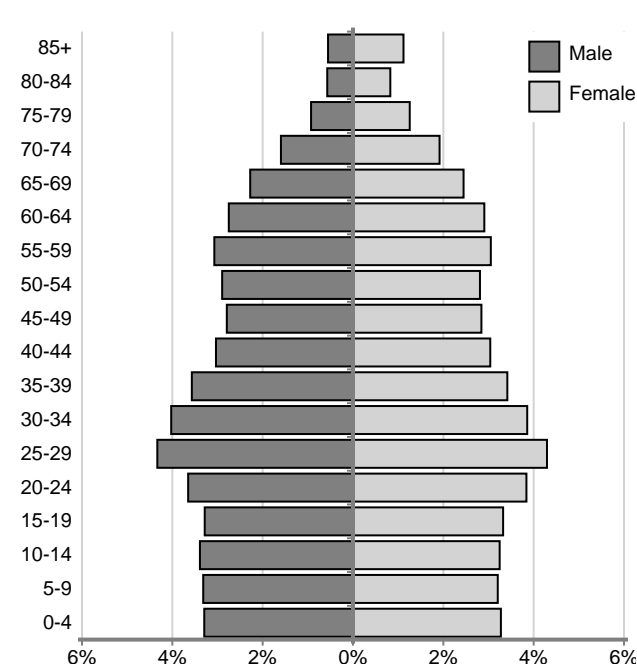|	City 2010	City 2020	County 2010	County 2020
Total households	81,369	87,958	170,197	196,891
Married couple[b]	38.9%	38.6%	48.3%	45.9%
Cohabiting couple[b,f]	NA[e]	9.0%	NA[e]	7.7%
Male householder[g]	NA[e]	24.2%	NA[e]	19.7%
Female householder[g]	NA[e]	31.3%	NA[e]	26.7%

[a]*Householder and at least one other person related to the householder.* [b]*For 2020 includes same-sex couples.* [c]*No spouse present, but at least one relative present.* [d]*In 2010 included same-sex couples whether married or not (if no relatives present).* [e]*2010 not comparable with 2020.* [f]*For 2020 householder has an unmarried partner.* [g]*For 2020 no spouse or partner present, but relatives, nonrelatives may be present or householder may be living alone.*

Percentage of Population by Age[1]

Age Groups	City 2010	City 2020	County 2010	County 2020
17 or younger	24.8%	23.5%	25.5%	24.5%
0 - 4	7.9%	6.6%	7.6%	6.5%
5 - 9	6.8%	6.5%	7.2%	6.9%
10 - 14	6.4%	6.6%	6.8%	7.1%
15 - 17	3.7%	3.8%	3.9%	4%
18 - 24	10.9%	10.3%	9.3%	9.1%
25 - 44	29.3%	29.6%	29.5%	28.6%
45 - 64	24%	23.1%	24.9%	23.8%
65 or older	11%	13.5%	10.8%	14.1%
65 - 84	9.2%	11.8%	9.2%	12.4%
85 or older	1.8%	1.7%	1.6%	1.7%
Median[4] Age (years)	33.5	34.8	34.7	36.0
Age Dependency[a,5]	55.8	58.7	57.0	62.8
Old-Age	17.1	21.4	17.0	22.9
Child	38.6	37.3	40.0	39.8

[a]*Age Dependency Ratio*

Des Moines, Iowa Population Pyramid,[a] 2020[1]

[a]*Each bar represents the percentage that an age-sex group comprises of the total population.*

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

Median Household and Per Capita Income, 2018-2022[2]

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Households	88,894	+/- 1,211	199,013	+/- 905
Less than $34,999	25.8%	+/- 1.6%	18.9%	+/- 1.3%
$35,000 To $49,999	13.7%	+/- 0.9%	11.5%	+/- 0.6%
$50,000 To $99,999	34.6%	+/- 1.4%	31.7%	+/- 1.2%
$100,000 Or More	25.8%	+/- 1.4%	37.9%	+/- 1.4%
Median[4] Household Income	$62,378	+/- $1,554	$78,827	+/- $1,322
Median Family Income	$76,602	+/- $2,374	$99,161	+/- $2,398
Per Capita Income	$34,347	+/- $784	$41,894	+/- $616

Housing Characteristics, 2018-2022[2]

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Units	96,245	+/- 1,171	211,392	+/- 128
Vacant	7.6%	+/- 0.6%	5.9%	+/- 0.4%
Occupied	92.4%	+/- 0.6%	94.1%	+/- 0.4%
Occupied[a]	88,894	+/- 1,211	199,013	+/- 905
Owner	60.3%	+/- 1.0%	67.1%	+/- 0.7%
Renter	39.7%	+/- 1.0%	32.9%	+/- 0.7%
Rent[b]	$995	+/- $17	$1,060	+/- $14
Value[c]	$170,700	+/-$2,112	$232,000	+/-$2,726

[a]Occupied Units, [b]Median gross rent of renter-occupied units, [c]Median value of owner-occupied units

Educational Attainment, 2018-2022[2]

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 25 and older	140,189	+/-1,390	328,511	+/-71
High School Graduate or Higher	87.6%	+/-0.8%	92.7%	+/-0.4%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	28.7%	+/-1.0%	38.9%	+/-0.9%

*MOE = the margin of error for American Community Survey estimates[2] 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.
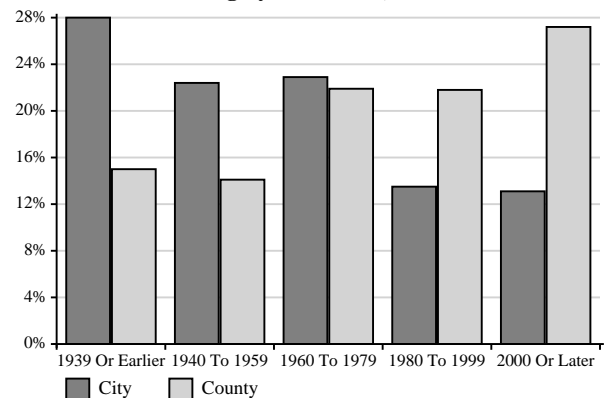**MOE is high, use county estimate.

Percent Housing by Year Built, 2018-2022[2]

Legend: City, County

In Des Moines there is a higher percentage of workers in management, business, science, and arts occupations than any other occupation category. The production, transportation, and material moving occupation category makes up 16.0% of occupations of the civilian employed population in the city.

Occupation of the Civilian Employed Population, 2018-2022[2]

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	111,598	+/- 1,804	261,682	+/- 2,273
Management, business, science, and arts	36.2%	+/- 0.9%	44.0%	+/- 0.8%
Service	18.0%	+/- 0.9%	14.9%	+/- 0.6%
Sales and office	21.2%	+/- 1.0%	21.3%	+/- 0.7%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance	8.5%	+/- 0.5%	7.3%	+/- 0.5%
Production, transportation, and material moving	16.0%	+/- 1.0%	12.5%	+/- 0.5%

Des Moines has a lower proportion of the population age 16 or older in the labor force than Polk 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 Des Moines tend to be lower than the median earnings for Polk County. Families with children tend to have a higher rate of poverty than families without children.

Median Employment Earnings, 2018-2022[2]

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 16+ [a]	124,055	+/- 1,674	287,324	+/- 1,921
Median Earnings	$39,510	+/- $39	$46,326	+/- $558
Female	$34,241	+/- $1,134	$39,603	+/- $1,017
Female, full time[b]	$45,687	+/- $1,140	$53,223	+/- $1,388
Male	$44,851	+/- $1,255	$53,161	+/- $1,342
Male, full time[b]	$54,416	+/- $1,708	$65,506	+/- $1,554

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

Employment Status, 2018-2022[2]

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 16+	169,616	+/- 1,298	386,736	+/- 543
in labor force	70.0%	+/- 0.9%	71.1%	+/- 0.5%
not in labor force	30.0%	+/- 0.9%	28.9%	+/- 0.5%
Civilian labor force	118,641	+/- 1,753	274,014	+/- 2,073
Unemployed	5.9%	+/- 0.5%	4.5%	+/- 0.4%

**MOE is high, use county estimate.

Disability Status and Health Insurance Coverage of the Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population, 2018-2022[2]

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population[a]	211,565	+/-218	487,798	+/-397
With a disability[b]	14.0%	+/-0.7%	11.1%	+/-0.4%
With Health Insurance	93.7%	+/-0.5%	95.2%	+/-0.4%
With Private[c] Coverage	62.8%	+/-1.1%	73.3%	+/-0.8%
With Public[d] Coverage	42.7%	+/-1.0%	33.9%	+/-0.7%
No Health Insurance	6.3%	+/-0.5%	4.8%	+/-0.4%

[a]Civilan Noninstitutionalized Population, [b]limitations of activities or inability for full participation, [c]provided by employer, union, bought by individual, and some miliary plans, [d]includes 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 estimates[2] 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.

Individuals and Families Below Poverty Level, 2018-2022[2]

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Population[a]	208,438	+/-334	484,508	+/-378
Below poverty	15.2%	+/-0.9%	10.3%	+/-0.6%
17 and under	22.1%	+/-2.3%	13.7%	+/-1.4%
18 - 64	13.7%	+/-0.8%	9.8%	+/-0.6%
65+	9.9%	+/-1.7%	6.5%	+/-1.0%
All Families	11.2%	+/-1.0%	7.3%	+/-0.6%
with children	16.7%	+/-1.6%	11.3%	+/-1.0%
Married Couple	5.4%	+/-1.1%	3.4%	+/-0.5%
with children	8.0%	+/-1.8%	4.8%	+/-1.0%
Female HH[b]	23.2%	+/-3.0%	20.8%	+/-2.4%
with children	29.4%	+/-4.2%	26.8%	+/-3.4%

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

Community and Economic Development   **Data for Decision Makers**