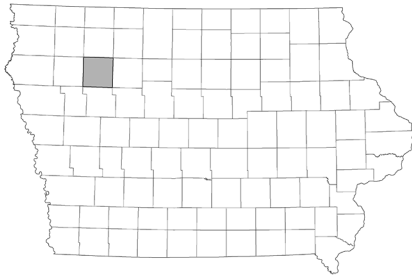


# Data for Decision Makers



## Alta, Iowa City Profile

report created: 12/17/2024

### Population profile

The 2020 population for Alta is 2,087. Between 2010 and 2020 the population increased by 10.8%. The City of Alta is in Buena Vista County. Buena Vista County saw a 2.8% population increase between 2010 and 2020.

**Buena Vista County Cities - Total Population<sup>1</sup>**

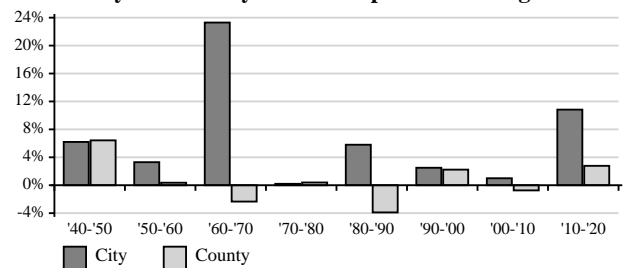
City	2000	2010	2020
<b>Alta</b>	<b>1,865</b>	<b>1,883</b>	<b>2,087</b>
Male Total	918	915	1,039
Female Total	947	968	1,048
Albert City	709	699	677
Lakeside	484	596	700
Linn Grove	211	154	163
Marathon	302	237	230
Newell	887	876	906
Rembrandt	228	203	209
Sioux Rapids	720	775	748
Storm Lake	10,076	10,600	11,269
Truesdale	91	81	69
Buena Vista County Total	20,411	20,260	20,823
State of Iowa Total	2,926,324	3,046,355	3,190,369

<sup>†</sup>City is located in multiple counties, total population is provided.

**Neighboring Cities - Percent Population Change**

	'90-'00	'00-'10	'10-'20
Aurelia	2.7%	-2.4%	-6.6%
Lakeside	-7.3%	23.1%	17.4%
Schaller	1.4%	-0.9%	-5.6%
Storm Lake	14.9%	5.2%	6.3%
Truesdale	-31.1%	-11.0%	-14.8%
Alta	2.5%	1.0%	10.8%
Buena Vista County	2.2%	0.7%	2.8%
State of Iowa	5.4%	4.1%	4.7%

**City and County Percent Population Change<sup>1</sup>**



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# Demographic Profile

# Alta, Iowa

Alta's population is predominantly White. The City of Alta, compared to Buena Vista 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.<sup>3</sup>

**Percentage of Population by Race/Hispanic Origin<sup>1</sup>**

Race Groups	City		County	
	2010	2020	2010	2020
One race only	98.9%	92.1%	98.2%	89.4%
White	91.3%	77.2%	80.7%	60.5%
White alone, not Hispanic	81.5%	69.3%	67.9%	54.6%
Black or African American	1.6%	1.6%	2.7%	2.8%
Asian	1.2%	1.2%	5.6%	9.2%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.2%	1.2%	0.3%	0.6%
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.0%	3.1%	0.5%	3.0%
Other	4.7%	7.8%	8.5%	13.4%
Two or more races	1.1%	7.9%	1.8%	10.6%
Hispanic origin <sup>a</sup>	15.7%	23.2%	22.7%	28.5%

<sup>a</sup> Hispanics can be of any race.

**Households by Family or Nonfamily Type<sup>1,3</sup>**

	City		County	
	2010	2020	2010	2020
Total households	759	776	7,522	7,447
Family households <sup>a,b</sup>	67.1%	69.5%	66.8%	67.9%
Married couple family <sup>b</sup>	52.3%	60.6%	53.8%	52.3%
With own children	21.2%	22.4%	20.9%	21.1%
Other family <sup>c</sup>	14.8%	15.3%	13.0%	15.7%
Male householder <sup>c</sup>	4.3%	4.5%	4.5%	5.6%
With own children	2.6%	2.7%	2.6%	3.1%
Female householder <sup>c</sup>	10.4%	10.8%	8.5%	10.1%
With own children	5.9%	7.6%	5.7%	6.7%
Nonfamily households <sup>d</sup>	32.9%	30.5%	33.2%	32.1%
Male living alone	10.1%	13.7%	12.9%	13.6%
Female living alone	18.3%	14.4%	15.7%	13.4%

**Households by Couple or Non-couple Type<sup>1,3</sup>**

	City		County	
	2010	2020	2010	2020
Total households	759	776	7,522	7,447
Married couple <sup>b</sup>	52.3%	60.6%	53.8%	52.3%
Cohabiting couple <sup>b,f</sup>	NA <sup>e</sup>	8.4%	NA <sup>e</sup>	7.0%
Male householder <sup>g</sup>	NA <sup>e</sup>	17.9%	NA <sup>e</sup>	18.8%
Female householder <sup>g</sup>	NA <sup>e</sup>	22.2%	NA <sup>e</sup>	21.9%

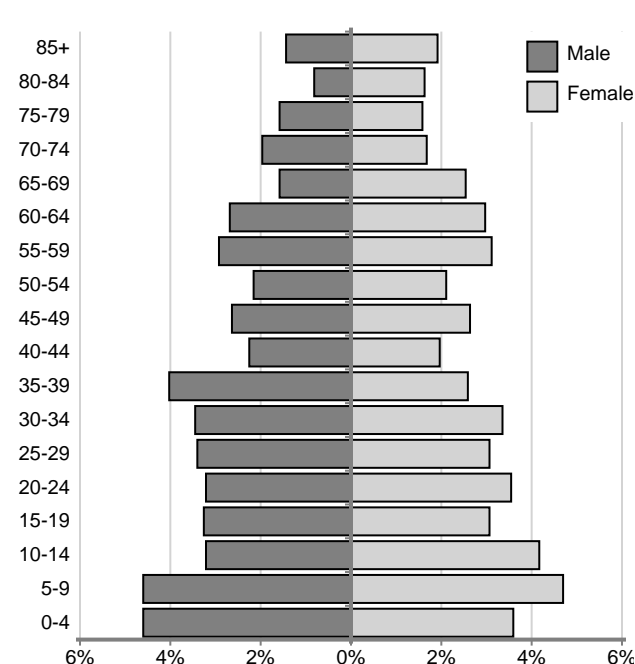
<sup>a</sup>Householder and at least one other person related to the householder. <sup>b</sup>For 2020 includes same-sex couples. <sup>c</sup>No spouse present, but at least one relative present. <sup>d</sup>In 2010 included same-sex couples whether married or not (if no relatives present). <sup>e</sup>2010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

**Percentage of Population by Age<sup>1</sup>**

Age Groups	City		County	
	2010	2020	2010	2020
17 or younger	27.1%	28.9%	25.0%	26.4%
0 - 4	9.5%	8.2%	7.2%	6.7%
5 - 9	6.7%	9.3%	6.6%	7.7%
10 - 14	6.6%	7.4%	6.5%	7.5%
15 - 17	4.3%	4%	4.7%	4.5%
18 - 24	8.5%	9.1%	11.7%	10.1%
25 - 44	23.2%	24.1%	21.9%	24%
45 - 64	24.2%	21.3%	26.3%	23.2%
65 or older	17%	16.7%	15.1%	16.2%
65 - 84	13.8%	13.3%	11.8%	13.5%
85 or older	3.2%	3.4%	3.3%	2.7%
Median <sup>4</sup> Age (years)	36.5	34.4	37.1	35.7
Age Dependency <sup>a, 5</sup>	78.9	83.7	66.8	74.3
Old-Age	30.4	30.6	25.2	28.3
Child	48.5	53.0	41.7	46.1

<sup>a</sup>Age Dependency Ratio

**Alta, Iowa Population Pyramid, <sup>a</sup> 2020<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>a</sup>Each bar represents the percentage that an age-sex group comprises of the total population.

## Socioeconomic Profile

## Alta, Iowa

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

**Median Household and Per Capita Income, 2018-2022<sup>2</sup>**

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Households	723	+/- 108	7,538	+/- 171
Less than \$34,999	16.6%	+/- 3.7%	20.0%	+/- 2.5%
\$35,000 To \$49,999	7.7%	+/- 3.9%	15.7%	+/- 3.2%
\$50,000 To \$99,999	49.4%	+/- 3.6%	36.3%	+/- 2.3%
\$100,000 Or More	26.3%	+/- 3.3%	28.0%	+/- 2.4%
Median <sup>4</sup> Household Income	\$70,094	+/- \$7,707	\$62,662	+/- \$5,799
Median Family Income	\$77,688	+/- \$10,226	\$87,475	+/- \$4,720
Per Capita Income	\$29,608	+/- \$3,317	\$31,985	+/- \$1,764

**Educational Attainment, 2018-2022<sup>2</sup>**

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 25 and older	1,397	+/-183	13,055	+/-145
High School Graduate or Higher	90.3%	+/-4.7%	79.3%	+/-2.2%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	21.3%	+/-4.4%	21.6%	+/-2.4%

\*MOE = the margin of error for American Community Survey estimates<sup>2</sup> 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.

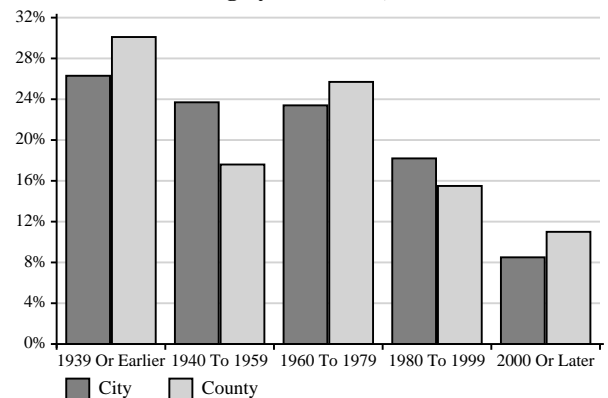
\*\*MOE is high, use county estimate.

**Housing Characteristics, 2018-2022<sup>2</sup>**

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Units	815	+/- 116	8,197	+/- 64
Vacant	11.3%	+/- 5.4%	8.0%	+/- 2.0%
Occupied	88.7%	+/- 5.4%	92.0%	+/- 2.0%
Occupied <sup>a</sup>	723	+/- 108	7,538	+/- 171
Owner	82.8%	+/- 5.1%	70.0%	+/- 3.5%
Renter	17.2%	+/- 5.1%	30.0%	+/- 3.5%
Rent <sup>b</sup>	\$861	+/- \$66	\$781	+/- \$41
Value <sup>c</sup>	\$118,200	+/- \$17,572	\$138,100	+/- \$11,004

<sup>a</sup>Occupied Units, <sup>b</sup>Median gross rent of renter-occupied units, <sup>c</sup>Median value of owner-occupied units

**Percent Housing by Year Built, 2018-2022<sup>2</sup>**



In Alta 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 23.2% of occupations of the civilian employed population in the city.

**Occupation of the Civilian Employed Population, 2018-2022<sup>2</sup>**

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	1,006	+/- 166	10,361	+/- 327
Management, business, science, and arts	34.3%	+/- 6.6%	24.8%	+/- 2.3%
Service	13.3%	+/- 6.2%	12.2%	+/- 2.1%
Sales and office	17.3%	+/- 4.0%	17.4%	+/- 2.1%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance	11.9%	+/- 4.0%	10.1%	+/- 1.5%
Production, transportation, and material moving	23.2%	+/- 6.4%	35.5%	+/- 3.1%

## Socioeconomic Profile

## Alta, Iowa

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

**Median Employment Earnings, 2018-2022<sup>2</sup>**

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 16+ <sup>a</sup>	1,227	+/- 193	11,576	+/- 312
Median Earnings	\$33,931	+/- \$33	\$36,555	+/- \$1,939
Female	\$32,716	+/- \$5,392	\$31,392	+/- \$2,458
Female, full time <sup>b</sup>	\$35,257	+/- \$3,229	\$41,963	+/- \$1,923
Male	\$40,458	+/- \$9,164	\$44,539	+/- \$2,099
Male, full time <sup>b</sup>	\$43,864	+/- \$5,941	\$53,042	+/- \$2,343

<sup>a</sup> with earnings, <sup>b</sup> year round, \*\*MOE is high, use county estimate.

**Disability Status and Health Insurance Coverage of the Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population, 2018-2022<sup>2</sup>**

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population <sup>a</sup>	2,198	+/-322	20,388	+/-16
With a disability <sup>b</sup>	7.9%	+/-2.8%	9.4%	+/-1.3%
With Health Insurance	94.0%	+/-2.9%	94.0%	+/-1.4%
With Private <sup>c</sup> Coverage	66.8%	+/-7.3%	69.8%	+/-2.7%
With Public <sup>d</sup> Coverage	45.3%	+/-7.8%	38.8%	+/-3.6%
No Health Insurance	6.0%	+/-2.9%	6.0%	+/-1.4%

<sup>a</sup>Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population, <sup>b</sup>limitations of activities or inability for full participation, <sup>c</sup>provided by employer, union, bought by individual, and some military plans, <sup>d</sup>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<sup>2</sup> 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, 2018-2022<sup>2</sup>**

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 16+	1,597	+/- 215	15,963	+/- 87
in labor force	74.5%	+/- 5.1%	68.3%	+/- 1.9%
not in labor force	25.5%	+/- 5.1%	31.7%	+/- 1.9%
Civilian labor force	1,189	+/- 190	10,907	+/- 295
Unemployed	15.4%	+/- 6.5%	5.0%	+/- 1.3%

\*\*MOE is high, use county estimate.

**Individuals and Families Below Poverty Level, 2018-2022<sup>2</sup>**

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Population <sup>a</sup>	2,164	+/-317	19,658	+/-47
Below poverty	***	+/-***%	7.1%	+/-1.5%
17 and under	***	+/-***%	6.4%	+/-2.1%
18 - 64	4.7%	+/-2.3%	6.8%	+/-1.5%
65+	***	+/-***%	9.2%	+/-3.4%
All Families	***	+/-***%	4.4%	+/-1.4%
with children	***	+/-***%	5.6%	+/-2.2%
Married Couple	***	+/-***%	2.9%	+/-1.3%
with children	***	+/-***%	***	+/-***%
Female HH <sup>b</sup>	***	+/-***%	***	+/-***%
with children	***	+/-***%	***	+/-***%

<sup>a</sup> for whom poverty status is determined, <sup>b</sup> female householder, no husband present, \*\*MOE is high, use county estimate.

### Notes and Source Information:

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau; Decennial Censuses 1940 - 2020

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey 2018-2022

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Median is the middle value of a distribution.

<sup>5</sup> 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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