Data for Decision Makers



Decorah, Iowa City Profile

report created: 12/17/2024

Population profile

The 2020 population for Decorah is 7,587. Between 2010 and 2020 the population decreased by 6.6%. The City of Decorah is in Winneshiek County. Winneshiek County saw a 4.7% population decrease between 2010 and 2020.

Winneshiek County Cities - Total Population¹

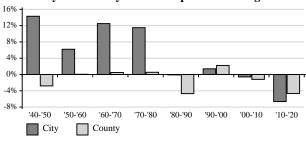
Winneshiek Co	Winneshiek County Cities - Total Population							
City	2000	2010	2020					
Decorah	8,172	8,127	7,587					
Male Total	3,673	3,745	3,515					
Female Total	4,499	4,382	4,072					
Calmar	1,058	978	1,125					
Castalia	175	173	145					
Fort Atkinson	389	349	312					
Jackson Junction	60	58	37					
Ossian	853	845	802					
Ridgeway	293	315	275					
Spillville	386	367	385					
Winneshiek County Total	21,310	21,056	20,070					
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
Calmar	3.1%	-7.6%	15.0%
Fort Atkinson	6.0%	-10.3%	-10.6%
Ossian	5.3%	-0.9%	-5.1%
Ridgeway	-0.7%	7.5%	-12.7%
Spillville	-0.3%	-4.9%	4.9%
Decorah	1.4%	-0.6%	-6.6%
Winneshiek County	2.2%	1.2%	-4.7%
State of Iowa	5.4%	4.1%	4.7%

City and County Percent Population Change¹



Regional Director

563-382-2949

Bruce Arendt 2316 Sweet Parkway Rd. Decorah, IA 52101 bparendt@iastate.edu

County Office Allie McIntyre

2316 Sweet Parkway Rd. Decorah, IA 52101 alliemc@iastate.edu 563-382-2949

https://indicators.extension.iastate.edu

Decorah's population is predominantly White. The City of Decorah, compared to Winneshiek County, had a lower 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

	City		Co	ounty	
Race Groups	2010	2020	2010	2020	
One race only	99.0%	96.9%	99.2%	97.2%	
White	94.6%	91.7%	96.6%	93.9%	
White alone, not Hispanic	93.4%	90.4%	95.7%	93.2%	
Black or African American	1.5%	1.4%	0.6%	0.7%	
Asian	2.2%	1.8%	1.1%	0.9%	
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.0%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	
Other	0.6%	1.5%	0.8%	1.5%	
Two or more races	1.0%	3.1%	0.8%	2.8%	
Hispanic origin ^a	2.0%	3.6%	2.0%	2.9%	

^a Hispanics can be of any race.

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

			• •	
		City	C	ounty
	2010	2020	2010	2020
Total households	2,855	2,927	7,997	8,170
Family households ^{a,b}	53.5%	53.1%	64.9%	63.1%
Married couple family ^b	44.4%	36.3%	55.9%	53.2%
With own children	14.6%	14.9%	20.8%	17.6%
Other family ^c	9.1%	10.2%	9.0%	9.9%
Male householder ^c	2.3%	2.5%	3.4%	3.9%
With own children	1.4%	1.5%	2.0%	2.2%
Female householder ^c	6.8%	7.8%	5.6%	5.9%
With own children	4.5%	4.1%	3.3%	3.2%
Nonfamily households ^d	46.5%	46.9%	35.1%	36.9%
Male living alone	14.0%	15.3%	13.6%	14.8%
Female living alone	24.4%	25.0%	15.2%	15.8%

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

		City		ounty
	2010	2020	2010	2020
Total households	2,855	2,927	7,997	8,170
Married couple ^b	44.4%	36.3%	55.9%	53.2%
Cohabiting couple ^{b,f}	NA ^e	4.8%	NA ^e	5.9%
Male householder g	NA^e	18.7%	NA^e	19.0%
Female householder g	NA ^e	32.7%	NA ^e	21.8%

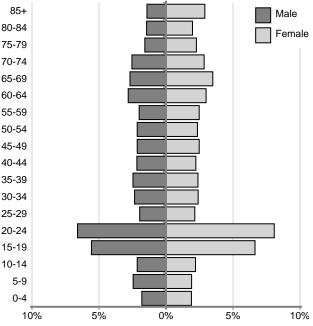
^aHouseholder and at least one other person related to the householder. ^bFor 2020 includes same-sex couples. ^cNo spouse present, but at least one relative present. ^dIn 2010 included same-sex couples whether married or not (if no relatives present). ^e2010 not comparable with 2020. ^fFor 2020 householder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

	(City	Co	ounty
Age Groups	2010	2020	2010	2020
17 or younger	14.3%	15.4%	20.4%	19.3%
0 - 4	3.8%	3.7%	5.1%	4.6%
5 - 9	4.1%	4.4%	5.5%	5.1%
10 - 14	3.9%	4.3%	5.8%	5.9%
15 - 17	2.5%	3%	4.0%	3.7%
18 - 24	32%	23.9%	16.7%	13.1%
25 - 44	15.4%	18.1%	19.0%	19.6%
45 - 64	19.5%	19.4%	27.0%	26.1%
65 or older	18.7%	23.2%	16.8%	21.7%
65 - 84	14.2%	18.8%	13.8%	18.7%
85 or older	4.5%	4.3%	3.0%	3.0%
Median ⁴ Age (years)	29.6	36.8	39.4	42.6
Age Dependency ^{a, 5}	49.3	62.9	59.3	69.7
Old-Age	27.9	37.8	26.8	36.9
Child	21.3	25.1	32.5	32.8

^aAge Dependency Ratio

Decorah, Iowa Population Pyramid, a 20201



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

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

Median Household and Per Capita Income, 2018-2022²

	City		Co	ounty
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Households	2,827	+/- 150	8,218	+/- 178
Less than \$34,999	26.2%	+/- 3.2%	22.2%	+/- 2.5%
\$35,000 To \$49,999	15.6%	+/- 4.0%	12.6%	+/- 1.9%
\$50,000 To \$99,999	33.8%	+/- 2.9%	34.9%	+/- 2.1%
\$100,000 Or More	24.4%	+/- 2.9%	30.3%	+/- 2.2%
Median ⁴ Household Income	\$57,939	+/- \$4,103	\$67,770	+/- \$6,161
Median Family Income	\$79,300	+/- \$16,172	\$88,023	+/- \$7,405
Per Capita Income	\$31,226	+/- \$4,323	\$37,561	+/- \$2,528

Educational Attainment, 2018-2022²

	(City	County		
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*	
Population 25 and older	4,500	+/-138	13,436	+/-94	
High School Graduate or Higher	95.8%	+/-1.9%	95.2%	+/-1%	
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	45.0%	+/-5.8%	30.5%	+/-2.6%	

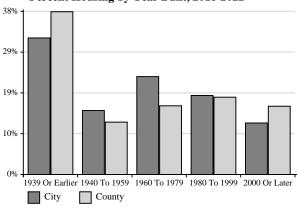
^{*}MOE = the margin of error for American Community Survey estimates² which is a numerical value that when added to or subtracted from the point estimate value gives the range of a 90% confidence interval around the estimate.

Housing Characteristics, 2018-2022²

	(City	Co	ounty
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Units	3,134	+/- 138	8,958	+/- 28
Vacant	9.8%	+/- 4.7%	8.3%	+/- 2.0%
Occupied	90.2%	+/- 4.7%	91.7%	+/- 2.0%
Occupied ^a	2,827	+/- 150	8,218	+/- 178
Owner	63.1%	+/- 5.1%	76.4%	+/- 2.6%
Renter	36.9%	+/- 5.1%	23.6%	+/- 2.6%
Rent ^b	\$746	+/- \$58	\$763	+/- \$61
Value ^c	\$228,800	+/-\$9,471	\$225,400	+/-\$8,695

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

Percent Housing by Year Built, 2018-2022²



In Decorah 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 11.3% of occupations of the civilian employed population in the city.

Occupation of the Civilian Employed Population, ${\bf 2018\text{-}2022}^2$

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	4,037	+/- 231	10,955	+/- 306
Management, business, science, and arts	38.8%	+/- 4.8%	37.6%	+/- 3.0%
Service	26.4%	+/- 4.1%	18.3%	+/- 2.1%
Sales and office	17.2%	+/- 3.4%	15.9%	+/- 1.8%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance	6.3%	+/- 2.2%	12.0%	+/- 1.4%
Production, transportation, and material moving	11.3%	+/- 2.9%	16.2%	+/- 1.9%

^{**}MOE is high, use county estimate.

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

Median Employment Earnings, 2018-2022²

	(City		ounty
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 16+ ^a	4,837	+/- 188	12,361	+/- 265
Median Earnings	\$18,476	+/- \$18	\$34,497	+/- \$1,823
Female	\$14,054	+/- \$3,630	\$28,978	+/- \$3,160
Female, full time ^b	\$50,179	+/- \$3,096	\$45,598	+/- \$2,512
Male	\$24,205	+/- \$4,758	\$40,563	+/- \$5,536
Male, full time ^b	\$51,479	+/- \$4,458	\$51,983	+/- \$3,410

^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		Со	ounty
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population ^a	7,474	+/-68	19,817	+/-13
With a disability ^b	10.1%	+/-2.8%	11.6%	+/-1.6%
With Health Insurance	98.1%	+/-1.0%	97.5%	+/-0.8%
With Private ^c Coverage	81.3%	+/-3.1%	79.8%	+/-2.1%
With Public ^d Coverage	35.2%	+/-3.3%	35.4%	+/-2.3%
No Health Insurance	**%	+/-**%	2.5%	+/-0.8%

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

Employment Status, 2018-2022²

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 16+	6,678	+/- 123	16,861	+/- 84
in labor force	62.5%	+/- 3.2%	66.3%	+/- 1.8%
not in labor force	37.5%	+/- 3.2%	33.7%	+/- 1.8%
Civilian labor force	4,175	+/- 221	11,185	+/- 307
Unemployed	3.3%	+/- 1.7%	2.1%	+/- 0.7%

^{**}MOE is high, use county estimate.

Individuals and Families Below Poverty Level, 2018-2022²

•	С	ity	County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Population ^a	5,579	+/-92	17,920	+/-59
Below poverty	9.8%	+/-3.2%	8.9%	+/-1.9%
17 and under	**%	+/-**%	11.2%	+/-5%
18 - 64	9.3%	+/-4.1%	8.0%	+/-2.0%
65+	**%	+/-**%	9.3%	+/-3.6%
All Families	**%	+/-**%	6.3%	+/-2.0%
with children	**%	+/-**%	9.2%	+/-3.4%
Married Couple	**%	+/-**%	5.0%	+/-2.1%
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:

- ¹U.S. Census Bureau; Decennial Censuses 1940 2020
- ²U.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.
- ⁴Median is the middle value of a distribution.
- ⁵The 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.

^{*}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.