Data for Decision Makers



Buena Vista County Housing Profile

report created: 12/13/2024

Housing Access

In 2022, there were 8,197 housing units in Buena Vista County. Of this total, 5,280 were owner-occupied, 2,258 were renter-occupied, and 659 were vacant. Fewer housing units were counted in Buena Vista County in the 1940 Decennial Census than in the most recent American Community Survey estimate. The median year for which housing was built in Buena Vista County is 1963. In Buena Vista County, a majority of owner-occupied housing is of 1-unit structures. For renter-occupied housing, there is more housing of 1-unit structures than any other type. Seasonally vacant housing units were 15.0% of all vacant units.

Housing Characteristics, 2018-2022¹

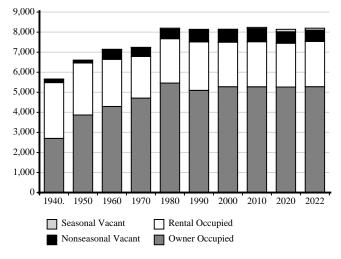
	Estimate	MOE
Total Housing Units	8,197	+/- 64
Vacant Units	659 (8.0%)	+/- 161 (2.0%)
Occupied Units	7,538 (92.0%)	+/- 171 (2.0%)
Owner-Occupied Units	5,280 (70.0%)	+/- 241 (3.5%)
Renter-Occupied Units	2,258 (30.0%)	+/- 289 (3.5%)
Median ^a Value ^b	\$138,100	+/- \$11,004
Median ^a Rent ^c	\$781	+/- \$41
Avg Household Size - Owner ^d	2.86	+/-0.11
Avg Household Size - Renter ^e	2.02	+/-0.2

^aMedian is the middle value of a distribution ^bMedian value of owner-occupied units, ^cMedian gross rent of renter-occupied units, ^dOwner-occupied units, ^eRenter-occupied units

Median^a Year Built by Tenure, 2018-2022¹

	Estimate	MOE
Median Year Built	1963	+/-3
Owner Occupied	1956	+/-3
Renter Occupied	1980	+/-4

Number of Housing Units, 1940-2022^{1,2}



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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY Extension and Outreach Community and Economic Development

Housing Characteristics

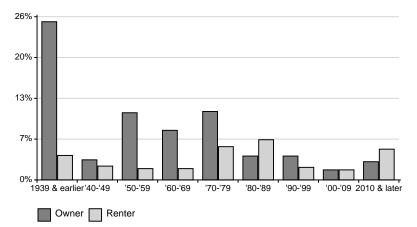
Buena Vista County

Occupied Housing Units By Structure Type, 2018-2022¹

	Numl	ber	Percent	(%)
	Estimate	MOE	Estimate	MOE
Occupied Units	7,538	+/-171	NA	NA
Owner Occupied	5,280	+/-241	100.0	NA
1-Unit ^a	4,930	+/-241	93.4	+/-1.6
2 to 4 Unit	204	+/-127	3.9	+/-2.4
5 or More Units	53	+/-50	1.0	+/-0.9
Mobile Home	93	+/-71	1.8	+/-1.3
Boat, RV, Van etc.	0	+/-19	0.0	+/-0.4
Renter Occupied	2,258	+/-289	100.0	NA
1-Unit ^a	898	+/-180	39.8	+/-6.1
2 to 4 Unit	342	+/-149	15.1	+/-6.3
5 or More Units	934	+/-283	41.4	+/-11.4
Mobile Home	84	+/-69	3.7	+/-3.0
Boat, RV, Van etc.	0	+/-19	0.0	+/-0.8

^aIncludes Unattached and Attached Units

Percent of Housing Units by Year Built and by Tenure, 2018-2022¹



Housing Units by Number of Bedrooms and Tenure, 2018-2022¹

	Numl	Number		(%)
	Estimate	MOE	Estimate	MOE
Occupied Units	7,538	+/-171	NA	NA
Owner Occupied	5,280	+/-241	100.0	NA
1 Bedroom ^a	131	+/-49	2.5	+/-0.9
2 Bedrooms	1,356	+/-242	25.7	+/-4.4
3 Bedrooms	2,325	+/-258	44.0	+/-4.5
4 or More	1,468	+/-172	27.8	+/-3.0
Renter Occupied	2,258	+/-289	100.0	NA
No Bedroom	206	+/-168	9.1	+/-7.3
1 Bedroom	733	+/-224	32.5	+/-9.0
2 Bedrooms	851	+/-209	37.7	+/-7.9
3 Bedrooms	311	+/-86	13.8	+/-3.4
4 or More	157	+/-61	7.0	+/-2.6

^aIncludes No Bedroom Units (e.g. studio apartments)

Status of Vacant Housing Units, 2018-2022¹

	Number		Percen	ıt (%)
	Est	MOE	Est	MOE
Total Vacant Units	659	+/-161	NA	NA
For Rent	276	+/-145	41.9	+/-19.5
Rented, Not Occupied	0	+/-19	0.0	+/-2.9
For Sale	104	+/-67	15.8	+/-9.4
Sold, Not Occupied	0	+/-19	0.0	+/-2.9
Seasonal ^a	99	+/-56	15.0	+/-7.7
For Migrant Workers	0	+/-19	0.0	+/-2.9
Other	180	+/-65	27.3	+/-7.3

^aFor Seasonal, Recreational, or Occasional Use

Authorized Housing Construction Permits in Buena Vista County, 1995-2021³

	Single Family	Duplex	Tri/Four-plex	Multi-Family		Per Unit V	aluation ⁺
Permit Year	Units	Units	Units	Units	Total Units	Single Family	Multi-Family
1995-1999	66	1	0	12	79	\$128,537	\$727,424
2000-2004	48	3	0	2	53	\$116,982	\$2,129,546
2005-2009	71	0	1	2	74	\$121,228	\$5,135,129
2010-2014	100	4	0	2	106	\$159,824	\$1,978,094
2015-2019	57	0	0	0	57	\$187,536	\$0
2020	22	2	0	0	24	\$196,136	\$0
2021	19	49	0	0	68	\$199,079	\$0

Housing Affordability

Buena Vista County

The median value of owner-occupied housing in Buena Vista County was \$138,100 in 2018-2022. Median rent was \$781. In 2022, 68 permits for housing construction were authorized in Buena Vista County. In 2018-2022, the median household income for owner-occupied housing was higher than the median household income for renter-occupied units. It was estimated that 12.5% of owners and 25.3% of renters spent more than 30% of their household income on monthly owner or renter costs. Among owner-occupied units, more householders were age 45 to 64 than any other age group. For renter-occupied units, the most common age was under 35.

HUD Income Limits, 2022⁴

	2 Person Family	4 Person Family
Extemely Low Income	\$18,950	\$27,750
Very Low Income	\$31,600	\$39,450
Low Income	\$50,500	\$63,100

Percent of Households Spending 30% or More of Household Income on Monthly Owner or Renter Costs, 2018-2022¹

	Estimate	MOE
Owner Occupied Units	12.5%	NA
Renter Occupied Units	25.3%	NA

Median^a Household Income by Tenure 2018-2022¹

	Estimate	MOE
Median Household Income	\$62,662	+/-\$5,799
Owner Occupied	\$76,801	+/-\$9,119
Renter Occupied	\$48,918	+/-\$6,115
Median Family Income	\$87,475	+/-\$4,720

^aMedian is the middle value of a distribution

Housing Values for Owner Occupied Housing Units with Mortgage and without Mortgage, 2018-2022¹

	Number		Percent (%)	
Owner Occupied Units	Estimate	MOE	Estimate	MOE
With Mortgage	2,668	+/-289	100.0	NA
Less than \$50,000	73	+/-32	2.7	+/-1.1
\$50,000 to \$99,999	476	+/-95	17.8	+/-3.4
\$100,000 to \$299,999	1,689	+/-260	63.3	+/-5
\$300,000 to \$499,999	310	+/-93	11.6	+/-3.6
\$500,000 and above	120	+/-57	4.5	+/-2.1
Without Mortgage	2,612	+/-268	100.0	NA
Less than \$50,000	338	+/-106	12.9	+/-3.6
\$50,000 to \$99,999	617	+/-146	23.6	+/-5
\$100,000 to \$299,999	1,411	+/-320	54	+/-11.4
\$300,000 to \$499,999	121	+/-42	4.6	+/-1.6
\$500,000 and above	125	+/-70	4.8	+/-2.6

Monthly Housing Costs of Owner Occupied Units with Mortgage, without Mortgage and Renters, 2018-2022¹

	Num	ber	Percen	ıt (%)
Occupied Units	Estimate	MOE	Estimate	MOE
Owner with Mortgage	2,668	+/-289	100.0	NA
Less than \$399	0	+/-27	0	+/-1.0
Between \$400 to \$599	5	+/-7	0.2	+/-0.3
Between \$600 to \$799	51	+/-26	1.9	+/-1
Between \$800 to \$999	236	+/-92	8.8	+/-3.2
Between \$1,000 to \$1,499	670	+/-180	25.1	+/-5.4
Between \$1,500 to \$1,999	830	+/-157	31.1	+/-5.5
Between \$2,000 to \$2,499	433	+/-137	16.2	+/-5
\$2,500 and above	377	+/-105	14.1	+/-3.6
Owner without Mortgage	2,612	+/-268	100.0	NA
Less than \$200	58	+/-45	2.2	+/-1.7
Between \$200 and \$399	634	+/-148	24.3	+/-4.9
Between \$400 and \$599	1,016	+/-174	38.9	+/-5.8
Between \$600 and \$999	758	+/-168	29	+/-5.5
\$1,000 and above	146	+/-44	5.6	+/-1.6
Renter	2,258	+/-289	100.0	NA
Less than \$300	67	+/-74	3	+/-3.3
Between \$300 and \$499	226	+/-107	10	+/-4.7
Between \$500 and \$799	843	+/-225	37.3	+/-7.6
Between \$800 and \$999	549	+/-178	24.3	+/-7.1
Between \$1,000 and \$1,499	329	+/-107	14.6	+/-4.9
\$1,500 and above	95	+/-78	4.2	+/-3.4

Households and Families by Type by Tenure, 2018-2022¹

	Number P		Percen	t (%)
	Estimate	MOE 1	Estimate	MOE
Total Households	7,538	+/-171	100.0	NA
Living Alone	2,345	+/-320	31.1	+/-4.2
Owner Occuppied	5,280	+/-241	100.0	NA
Family Households	3,764	+/-263	71.3	+/-3.8
Married-couple	3,114	+/-241	59.0	+/-3.7
Married-couple w/ Children ^a	1,259	+/-158	23.8	+/-2.8
Female Householder ^b	526	+/-169	10.0	+/-3.2
Female HH w/ Children a,b	329	+/-143	6.2	+/-2.7
Male Householder ^b	124	+/-60	2.3	+/-1.1
Male HH w/ Children a,b	45	+/-27	0.9	+/-0.5
Nonfamily Households ^c	1,516	+/-246	28.7	+/- 4.5
Renter Occuppied	2,258	+/-289	100.0	NA
Family Households	724	+/-152	32.1	+/-5.3
Married-couple	488	+/-112	21.6	+/-4.1
Married-couple w/ Children ^a	313	+/-100	13.9	+/-4.1
Female Householder ^b	141	+/-80	6.2	+/-3.5
Female HH w/ Children ^{a,b}	93	+/-68	4.1	+/-3.0
Male Householder ^b	95	+/-57	4.2	+/-2.5
Male HH w/ Children ^{a,b}	46	+/-36	2.0	+/-1.6
Nonfamily Households ^c	1,534	+/-286	67.9	+/- 9.2

^a with Own Children, ^b No Spouse Present,

Opportunity Zones & New Market Tax Credit Eligible Areas in Buena Vista County^{5,6}

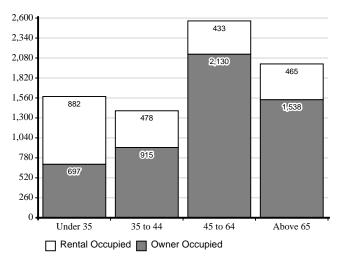
Opportunity Zones	1
New Market Tax Credit Areas	0

Place of Work and Travel Time to Work, 2018-2022¹

	Number		Percent (%)	
	Estimate	MOE	Est	MOE
Workers 16 years & over	10,171	+/-341	NA	NA
Worked in state ^a	10,126	+/-345	99.6	+/-0.4
Worked in county ^a	8,987	+/-368	88.4	+/-1.8
Worked outside county ^a	1,139	+/-188	11.2	+/-1.8
Worked outside state ^a	45	+/-37	0.4	+/-0.4
Travel Time to Work				
Less than 14 minutes	6,652	+/-533	65.4	+/-4.8
15 to 29 minutes	2,156	+/-243	21.2	+/-2.3
30 to 44 minutes	875	+/-181	8.6	+/-1.8
More than 45 minutes	509	+/-161	5	+/-1.6

^aof residence

Householder Age by Tenure, 2018-2022¹



Information in this document was derived from:

- ¹ U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 5-year Estimates (2018-2022)
- ² U.S. Census Bureau; Decennial Census (1940-2020)
- ³ U.S. Census Bureau; Building Permits Survey
- ⁴ Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); Income Limits
- ⁵ Internal Revenue Service (IRS) & U.S. Department of the Treasury, CDFI Fund; Qualified Opportunity Zones (QOZs)
- ⁶ U.S. Department of the Treasury, CDFI Fund; New Market Tax Credit (NMTC) Program
- ⁺ Values not adjusted for inflation

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^c Includes Householders Living Alone