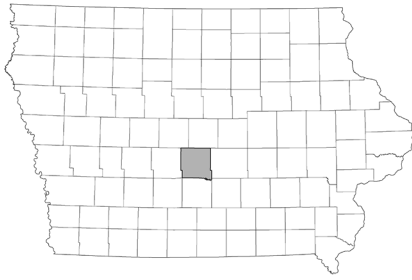# Data for Decision Makers

West Des Moines, Iowa
City Profile

report created: 12/17/2024

Population profile

The 2020 population for West Des Moines is 68,723. Between 2010 and 2020 the population increased by 21.4%. The City of West Des Moines is in Polk County. Polk County saw a 14.3% population increase between 2010 and 2020.
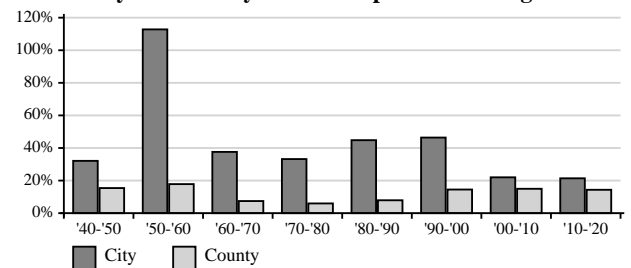
Polk County Cities - Total Population[1]

City	2000	2010	2020
West Des Moines[†]	**46,403**	**56,609**	**68,723**
Male Total	22,239	27,356	33,373
Female Total	24,164	29,253	35,350
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
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
Clive	72.3%	20.2%	20.4%
Cumming	22.7%	116.7%	24.2%
Norwalk	20.2%	29.9%	43.1%
Urbandale	23.7%	35.7%	15.5%
Windsor Heights	-7.4%	1.1%	8.1%
West Des Moines	46.4%	22.0%	21.4%
Polk County	14.5%	15.0%	14.3%
State of Iowa	5.4%	4.1%	4.7%

City and County Percent Population Change[1]

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West Des Moines's population is predominantly White. The City of West Des Moines, compared to Polk 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 Origin[1]

Race Groups	City 2010	City 2020	County 2010	County 2020
One race only	98.1%	93.3%	97.6%	92.5%
White	88.4%	78.1%	84.7%	75.9%
White alone, not Hispanic	85.0%	76.5%	80.7%	73.6%
Black or African American	3.3%	5.4%	6.0%	7.2%
Asian	4.8%	7.0%	3.5%	5.0%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Other	1.5%	2.3%	2.9%	3.9%
Two or more races	1.9%	6.7%	2.4%	7.5%
Hispanic origin[a]	5.2%	6.6%	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	24,311	30,094	170,197	196,891
Family households[a,b]	58.4%	79.7%	63.6%	62.0%
Married couple family[b]	46.4%	35.6%	48.3%	45.9%
With own children	21.7%	19.3%	21.9%	19.8%
Other family[c]	12.0%	12.9%	15.4%	16.0%
Male householder[c]	3.4%	4.1%	4.4%	5.1%
With own children	1.9%	2.3%	2.4%	2.7%
Female householder[c]	8.6%	8.8%	11.0%	10.9%
With own children	5.7%	5.3%	6.9%	6.4%
Nonfamily households[d]	41.6%	20.3%	36.4%	38.0%
Male living alone	12.7%	14.8%	12.3%	14.0%
Female living alone	18.4%	19.1%	16.0%	16.1%

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

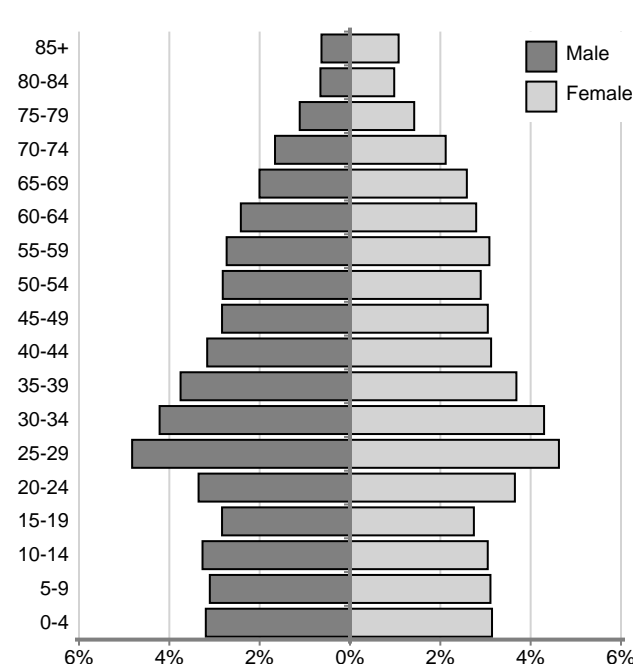|	City 2010	City 2020	County 2010	County 2020
Total households	24,311	30,094	170,197	196,891
Married couple[b]	46.4%	35.6%	48.3%	45.9%
Cohabiting couple[b,f]	NA[e]	7.6%	NA[e]	7.7%
Male householder[g]	NA[e]	20.2%	NA[e]	19.7%
Female householder[g]	NA[e]	28.4%	NA[e]	26.7%

[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	24.1%	22.5%	25.5%	24.5%
0 - 4	7.1%	6.3%	7.6%	6.5%
5 - 9	6.8%	6.2%	7.2%	6.9%
10 - 14	6.6%	6.3%	6.8%	7.1%
15 - 17	3.6%	3.7%	3.9%	4%
18 - 24	9.2%	8.9%	9.3%	9.1%
25 - 44	32.6%	31.6%	29.5%	28.6%
45 - 64	23.4%	22.6%	24.9%	23.8%
65 or older	10.6%	14.2%	10.8%	14.1%
65 - 84	9.2%	12.5%	9.2%	12.4%
85 or older	1.4%	1.7%	1.6%	1.7%
Median[4] Age (years)	33.5	35.3	34.7	36.0
Age Dependency[a,5]	53.2	58.2	57.0	62.8
Old-Age	16.3	22.5	17.0	22.9
Child	37.0	35.7	40.0	39.8

[a]Age Dependency Ratio

West 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 West Des Moines is greater than the median household income of Polk County. The median value of owner-occupied housing units is higher in West Des Moines than for Polk County. There is a lower percentage of vacant housing units in West Des Moines than there is for Polk County. Many housing units in West Des Moines were built in 2000 or later. There is a higher percentage of individuals 25 and older with a Bachelor's degree or higher in West Des Moines compared to Polk County.

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

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Households	31,307	+/- 795	199,013	+/- 905
Less than $34,999	17.6%	+/- 2.0%	18.9%	+/- 1.3%
$35,000 To $49,999	10.9%	+/- 1.5%	11.5%	+/- 0.6%
$50,000 To $99,999	30.7%	+/- 2.0%	31.7%	+/- 1.2%
$100,000 Or More	40.7%	+/- 2.2%	37.9%	+/- 1.4%
Median[4] Household Income	$82,345	+/- $3,192	$78,827	+/- $1,322
Median Family Income	$114,800	+/- $4,801	$99,161	+/- $2,398
Per Capita Income	$53,803	+/- $2,386	$41,894	+/- $616

Housing Characteristics, 2018-2022[2]

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Units	33,263	+/- 769	211,392	+/- 128
Vacant	5.9%	+/- 1.1%	5.9%	+/- 0.4%
Occupied	94.1%	+/- 1.1%	94.1%	+/- 0.4%
Occupied[a]	31,307	+/- 795	199,013	+/- 905
Owner	58.1%	+/- 2.2%	67.1%	+/- 0.7%
Renter	41.9%	+/- 2.2%	32.9%	+/- 0.7%
Rent[b]	$1153	+/- $23	$1,060	+/- $14
Value[c]	$266,700	+/-$8,326	$232,000	+/-$2,726

[a]Occupied Units, [b]Median gross rent of renter-occupied units, [c]Median value of owner-occupied units
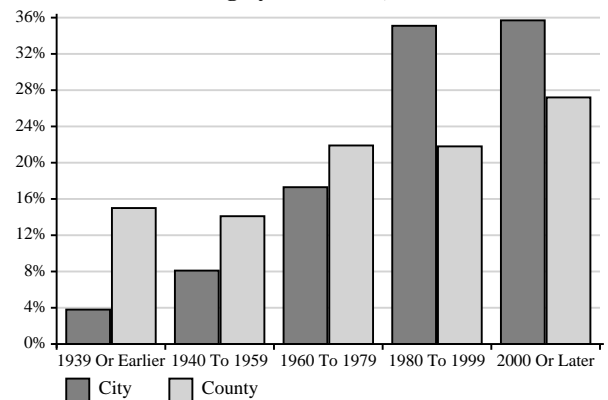
Educational Attainment, 2018-2022[2]

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 25 and older	48,132	+/-871	328,511	+/-71
High School Graduate or Higher	96.6%	+/-0.8%	92.7%	+/-0.4%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	53.8%	+/-2.1%	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]

Percent Housing by Year Built, 2018-2022[2] (bar chart: City vs County for 1939 Or Earlier, 1940 To 1959, 1960 To 1979, 1980 To 1999, 2000 Or Later)

In West 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 8.8% 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	40,223	+/- 1,077	261,682	+/- 2,273
Management, business, science, and arts	54.5%	+/- 2.3%	44.0%	+/- 0.8%
Service	12.3%	+/- 1.3%	14.9%	+/- 0.6%
Sales and office	20.7%	+/- 1.8%	21.3%	+/- 0.7%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance	3.6%	+/- 0.8%	7.3%	+/- 0.5%
Production, transportation, and material moving	8.8%	+/- 1.2%	12.5%	+/- 0.5%

West Des Moines has a higher 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 West Des Moines tend to be higher 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]	43,170	+/- 1,083	287,324	+/- 1,921
Median Earnings	$50,557	+/- $50	$46,326	+/- $558
Female	$42,354	+/- $2,357	$39,603	+/- $1,017
Female, full time[b]	$55,317	+/- $4,664	$53,223	+/- $1,388
Male	$59,509	+/- $4,167	$53,161	+/- $1,342
Male, full time[b]	$72,117	+/- $4,725	$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+	55,881	+/- 823	386,736	+/- 543
in labor force	74.1%	+/- 1.5%	71.1%	+/- 0.5%
not in labor force	25.9%	+/- 1.5%	28.9%	+/- 0.5%
Civilian labor force	41,383	+/- 1,135	274,014	+/- 2,073
Unemployed	2.8%	+/- 0.8%	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]	68,384	+/-137	487,798	+/-397
With a disability[b]	9.2%	+/-0.9%	11.1%	+/-0.4%
With Health Insurance	96.2%	+/-0.9%	95.2%	+/-0.4%
With Private[c] Coverage	81.6%	+/-1.7%	73.3%	+/-0.8%
With Public[d] Coverage	26.4%	+/-1.5%	33.9%	+/-0.7%
No Health Insurance	3.8%	+/-0.9%	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]	68,325	+/-150	484,508	+/-378
Below poverty	7.5%	+/-1.3%	10.3%	+/-0.6%
17 and under	8.0%	+/-2.9%	13.7%	+/-1.4%
18 - 64	7.9%	+/-1.3%	9.8%	+/-0.6%
65+	5.1%	+/-1.9%	6.5%	+/-1.0%
All Families	6.2%	+/-1.7%	7.3%	+/-0.6%
with children	9.1%	+/-3.2%	11.3%	+/-1.0%
Married Couple	4.7%	+/-1.9%	3.4%	+/-0.5%
with children	**%	+/-**%	4.8%	+/-1.0%
Female HH[b]	14.6%	+/-7.0%	20.8%	+/-2.4%
with children	20.7%	+/-9.4%	26.8%	+/-3.4%

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

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