Data for Decision Makers
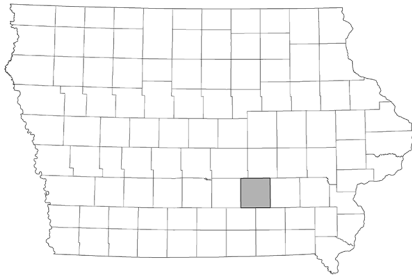
Mahaska County
County Profile

Population profile

Mahaska County is a micropolitan county in southeast Iowa. It is composed of ten incorporated communities and their surrounding rural areas. From 2010 to 2020, Mahaska County's population decreased by 0.85% while the state's population increased by 4.73%.
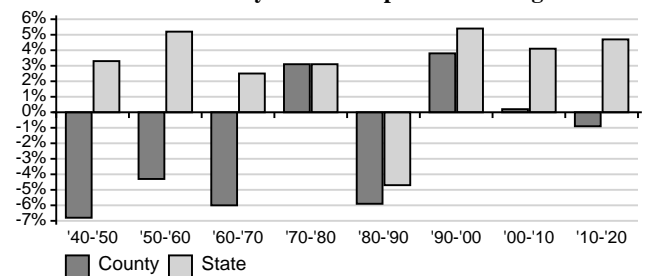
Total Population[1]

Totals	2000	2010	2020
Mahaska County	**22,335**	**22,381**	**22,190**
Male Total	11,116	11,252	11,050
Female Total	11,219	11,129	11,140
City			
Barnes City[†]	201	176	156
Beacon	518	494	445
Eddyville[†]	1,064	1,024	970
Fremont	704	743	708
Keomah Village	97	84	110
Leighton	153	162	158
New Sharon	1,301	1,293	1,262
Oskaloosa	10,938	11,463	11,558
Rose Hill	205	168	157
University Park	536	487	487
State Total	2,926,324	3,046,355	3,190,369

[†]*City is located in multiple counties, total population is provided.*

Neighboring Counties - Percent Population Change[1]

County	'90-'00	'00-'10	'10-'20
Jasper, IA	6.95%	-1.00%	2.64%
Keokuk, IA	-1.93%	-7.80%	-4.55%
Mahaska, IA	**3.78%**	**0.21%**	**-0.85%**
Marion, IA	6.84%	3.92%	0.32%
Monroe, IA	-1.21%	-0.57%	-4.93%
Poweshiek, IA	-1.15%	0.53%	-1.33%
Wapello, IA	1.02%	-1.18%	-0.53%
State of Iowa	5.39%	4.10%	4.73%

Mahaska County Percent Population Change[1]

Regional Director
Tanya Michener
550 N. 2nd Ave. W
Newton, IA 50208
michener@iastate.edu
641-792-6433

County Office
Laura Ayala
212 N I St.
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
lkayala@iastate.edu
641-673-5841

https://indicators.extension.iastate.edu

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach
Community and Economic Development

As with the other 98 counties in the state, Mahaska County's population is predominantly white. The percentage of the population of Hispanic origin increased between 2010 and 2020. In 2020, Mahaska County had a higher percentage of those 17 or younger than the state. 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	County 2010	County 2020	State 2010	State 2020
One race only	98.9%	96.0%	98.2%	94.4%
White	95.7%	92.2%	91.3%	84.5%
White alone, not Hispanic	94.9%	91.3%	88.7%	82.7%
Black or African American	1.1%	1.8%	2.9%	4.1%
Asian	1.1%	1.1%	1.7%	2.4%
American Indian	0.3%	0.2%	0.4%	0.5%
Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
Other	0.6%	0.7%	1.8%	2.8%
Two or more races	1.1%	4.0%	1.8%	5.6%
Hispanic origin[a]	1.6%	2.2%	5.0%	6.8%

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

Households by Family or Nonfamily Type[1,3]

	County 2010	County 2020	State 2010	State 2020
Total households	8,975	8,799	1,221,576	1,288,560
Family households[a,b]	67.3%	65.6%	64.7%	63.0%
Married couple family[b]	54.4%	51.7%	51.2%	48.5%
With own children	20.4%	19.0%	20.0%	18.2%
Other family[c]	12.9%	14.0%	13.5%	14.4%
Male householder[c]	3.9%	5.4%	4.2%	4.9%
With own children	2.5%	3.0%	2.5%	2.7%
Female householder[c]	9.0%	8.6%	9.3%	9.6%
With own children	6.0%	5.2%	5.9%	5.7%
Nonfamily households[d]	32.7%	34.4%	35.3%	37.0%
Male living alone	12.6%	13.3%	12.8%	14.2%
Female living alone	14.8%	14.9%	15.7%	15.8%

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

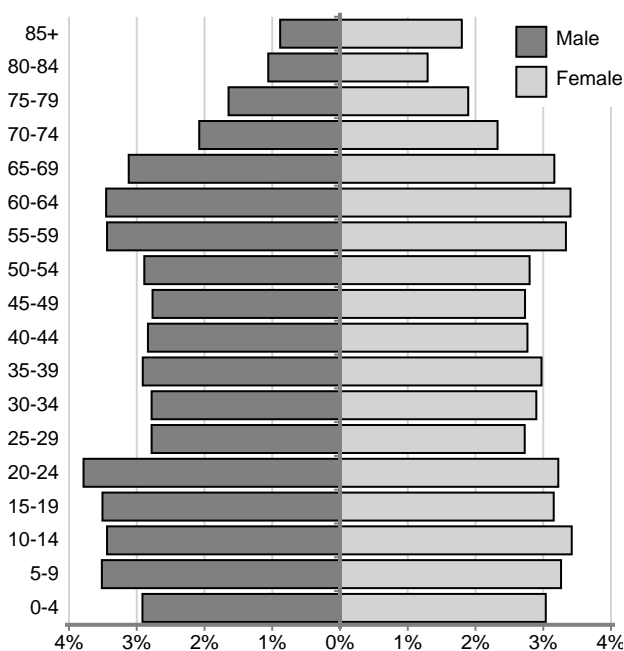|	County 2010	County 2020	State 2010	State 2020
Total households	8,975	8,799	1,221,576	1,288,560
Married couple[b]	54.4%	51.7%	51.2%	48.5%
Cohabiting couple[b,f]	NA[e]	7.1%	NA[e]	7.1%
Male householder[g]	NA[e]	18.3%	NA[e]	19.5%
Female householder[g]	NA[e]	22.9%	NA[e]	24.9%

[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	County 2010	County 2020	State 2010	State 2020
17 or younger	24.3%	23.7%	23.9%	23.2%
0 - 4	6.8%	6.0%	6.6%	6.0%
5 - 9	6.7%	6.8%	6.6%	6.5%
10 - 14	6.8%	6.9%	6.6%	6.8%
15 -17	4.0%	4.0%	4.1%	3.9%
18 - 24	9.7%	9.7%	10.0%	9.8%
25 - 44	23.2%	22.7%	24.5%	24.6%
45 - 64	26.7%	24.9%	26.7%	24.5%
65 or older	16.1%	19.3%	14.9%	18.0%
65 - 84	13.1%	16.6%	12.4%	15.6%
85 or older	3.0%	2.7%	2.5%	2.4%
Median[4] age (years)	38.9	39.7	38.1	38.6
Age dependency[a,5]	67.8	75.0	63.4	69.9
Old-Age	27.0	33.7	24.3	30.6
Child	40.8	41.4	39.1	39.4

[a]*Age Dependency Ratio.*

Mahaska County Population Pyramid[a], 2020[1]

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

The median household income in Mahaska County is less than the median household income of the state. More households in Mahaska County are in the $50,000 to $99,999 household income group while more of Iowa households are in the $100,000 or more household income group. The median value of owner-occupied housing can vary among counties. The median value of owner-occupied housing units is lower in Mahaska County than for the state. There is a lower percentage of vacant housing units in Mahaska County than there is for the state. Many housing units in Mahaska County were built prior to 1940. Mahaska County has a lower percentage of college graduates than does the state.

Median[4] Household and Per Capita Income, 2018-2022[2]

	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total households	8,873	+/- 199	1,290,139	+/- 4,032
Less than $14,999	7.8%	+/- 1.6%	7.8%	+/- 0.4%
$15,000 to $34,999	17.0%	+/- 1.9%	15.2%	+/- 0.6%
$35,000 to $49,999	13.0%	+/- 1.7%	11.9%	+/- 0.2%
$50,000 to $99,999	35.6%	+/- 2.0%	32.2%	+/- 0.6%
$100,000 Or More	26.5%	+/- 2.1%	32.9%	+/- 0.8%
Median[4] household income	$65,200	+/- $3,944	$70,571	+/- $395
Median[4] family income	$81,257	+/- $2,883	$90,921	+/- $579
Per capita income	$33,812	+/- $2,202	$37,949	+/- $241

Housing Characteristics, 2018-2022[2]

	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total units	9,700	+/- 35	1,417,064	+/- 977
Vacant	8.5%	+/- 2.1%	9.0%	+/- 0.3%
Occupied	91.5%	+/- 2.1%	91.0%	+/- 0.3%
Occupied[a]	8,873	+/- 199	1,290,139	+/- 4,032
Owner	67.7%	+/- 2.8%	71.5%	+/- 0.3%
Renter	32.3%	+/- 2.8%	28.5%	+/- 0.3%
Median[4] rent[b]	$773	+/- $41	$914	+/- $6
Median value[c]	$135,100	+/- $12,063	$181,600	+/- $1,035

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

Educational Attainment, 2018-2022[2]

	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 25 and older	14,716	+/-70	2,131,202	+/-967
High school graduate or higher	93.2%	+/-1.3%	93.0%	+/-0.1%
Bachelor's degree or higher	22.4%	+/-2.1%	30.3%	+/-0.3%

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.

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

Legend: County, State

In Mahaska County there is a higher percentage of workers in management, business, science, and arts occupations than any other occupation category while the production, transportation, and material moving occupation category makes up 21.7% of occupations of the civilian employed population in the county.

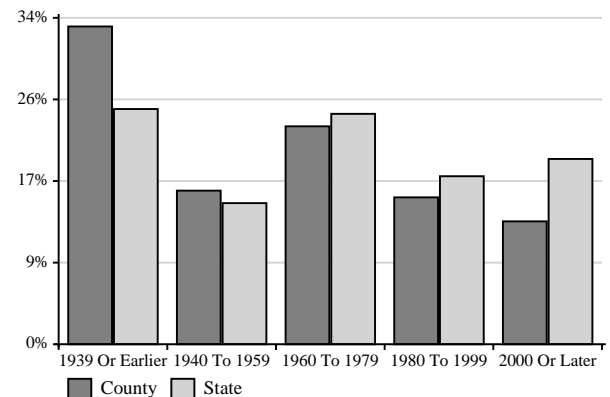### Occupation of the Civilian Employed Population, 2018-2022[2]

	County		State	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	11,101	+/- 283	1,627,434	+/- 5,740
Management, business, science, and arts	35.1%	+/- 3.2%	38.1%	+/- 0.3%
Service	15.3%	+/- 1.9%	15.5%	+/- 0.2%
Sales and office	16.4%	+/- 1.7%	19.7%	+/- 0.2%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance	11.6%	+/- 1.8%	9.5%	+/- 0.2%
Production, transportation, and material moving	21.7%	+/- 2.7%	17.2%	+/- 0.2%

Mahaska County has a lower proportion of the population age 16 or older in the labor force than the state. A portion of those who are not in the labor force are people who are retired. The percent unemployed in Mahaska County is lower than that for the state overall. Earnings data are provided for the population 16 and over who have earnings. Median[4] earnings in Mahaska County tend to be lower than the median earnings for the state. There is a higher percentage of families in Mahaska County below poverty level than for the state. Families with children tend to have a higher rate of poverty than families without children.

Employment Status, 2018-2022[2]

| | County | | State | |
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 16+	17,448	+/- 52	2,544,719	+/- 1,266
In labor force	65.8%	+/- 1.5%	66.6%	+/- 0.2%
Not in labor force	34.2%	+/- 1.5%	33.4%	+/- 0.2%
Civilian labor force	11,485	+/- 271	1,692,129	+/- 5,407
Unemployed	3.3%	+/- 1.1%	3.8%	+/- 0.1%

Median[4] Employment Earnings, 2018-2022[2]

| | County | | State | |
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 16+ [a]	12,252	+/- 249	1,799,851	+/- 5,338
Median earnings	$37,431	+/- $2,833	$40,905	+/- $219
Female	$28,707	+/- $2,530	$33,724	+/- $250
Male	$45,805	+/- $2,656	$48,115	+/- $407
Female, full time[b]	$42,332	+/- $2,053	$47,128	+/- $238
Male, full time[b]	$57,002	+/- $2,388	$59,875	+/- $356

[a]with earnings. [b]year round.

Individuals Below Poverty Level by Race, 2018-2022[2]

| | County | | State | |
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total population[a]	21,320	+/-103	3,088,999	+/-950
Percent below	12%	+/-0.2%	11.1%	+/-0.2%
White alone	11.6%	+/-2.2%	9.7%	+/-0.2%
Black/African American alone	**%	+/-**%	30.5%	+/-1.9%
Asian/Pacific Islander alone	**%	+/-**%	13.6%	+/-1.4%
American Indian alone	**%	+/-**%	27.6%	+/-4%
Hawaiian alone	**%	+/-**%	33.1%	+/-8.5%
Other race alone	**%	+/-**%	16.6%	+/-2.3%
Two or more races	**%	+/-**%	17.6%	+/-1.3%
Hispanic origin[b]	**%	+/-**%	17.4%	+/-1.1%

[a]for whom poverty status is determined, [b]Hispanics can be of any race. **MOE is high, use state 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]

| | County | | State | |
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total population[a]	21,320	+/-103	3,088,999	+/-950
Below poverty	12%	+/-0.2%	11.1%	+/-0.2%
17 and under	13.1%	+/-4.3%	13%	+/-0.4%
18 - 64	13.5%	+/-2.4%	11.4%	+/-0.2%
65+	5.7%	+/-1.7%	7.7%	+/-0.2%
All families	7.3%	+/-2.1%	7%	+/-0.2%
With children	13%	+/-4.3%	11.5%	+/-0.4%
Married couple	3.2%	+/-1.5%	3.2%	+/-0.1%
With children	**%	+/-**%	4.1%	+/-0.3%
Female HH[b]	24.8%	+/-8.1%	25.4%	+/-1%
With children	32.4%	+/-10%	32.4%	+/-1.4%

[a]for whom poverty status is determined, [b]female householder, no spouse present, **MOE is high. Use state estimate.

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/

Community and Economic Development   Data for Decision Makers