Data for Decision Makers



Ottumwa, Iowa City Profile

report created: 12/17/2024

Population profile

The 2020 population for Ottumwa is 25,529. Between 2010 and 2020 the population increased by 2.0%. The City of Ottumwa is in Wapello County. Wapello County saw a 0.5% population decrease between 2010 and 2020.

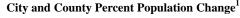
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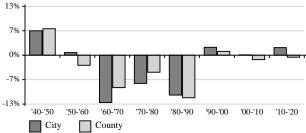
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City	200	2010	2020
Ottumwa	24,99	3 25,023	25,529
Male Total	12,02	9 12,107	12,626
Female Total	12,96	9 12,916	12,903
Agency	62	2 638	620
Blakesburg	37-	4 296	274
Chillicothe	9	97	76
Eddyville [†]	1,06	1,024	970
Eldon	99	927	783
Kirkville	21	4 167	157
Wapello County	Total 36,05	1 35,625	35,437
State of Iowa To	otal 2,926,32	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
Agency	1.0%	2.6%	-2.8%
Chillicothe	-24.4%	7.8%	-21.6%
Floris	-11.0%	-9.8%	-15.9%
Hedrick	3.3%	-8.7%	-4.7%
Kirkville	20.9%	-22.0%	-6.0%
Ottumwa	2.1%	0.1%	2.0%
Wapello County	1.0%	1.2%	-0.5%
State of Iowa	5.4%	4.1%	4.7%





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Ottumwa's population is predominantly White. The City of Ottumwa, compared to Wapello County, had a higher percentage of young people (17 or younger) and a lower 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	unty
Race Groups	2010	2020	2010	2020
One race only	98.2%	93.3%	98.5%	94.3%
White	90.2%	74.3%	92.1%	79.5%
White alone, not Hispanic	84.3%	71.1%	87.5%	77.0%
Black or African American	1.9%	5.4%	1.4%	4.1%
Asian	0.9%	2.3%	0.7%	1.8%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.6%	0.8%	0.5%	0.7%
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.2%	2.0%	0.1%	1.5%
Other	4.5%	8.6%	3.7%	6.7%
Two or more races	1.8%	6.7%	1.5%	5.7%
Hispanic origin ^a	11.3%	15.7%	9.1%	12.2%

^a Hispanics can be of any race.

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

			• •	
		City	Co	unty
	2010	2020	2010	2020
Total households	10,251	10,098	14,552	14,167
Family households ^{a,b}	60.6%	57.1%	64.1%	62.7%
Married couple family ^b	42.1%	43.4%	47.8%	44.8%
With own children	15.8%	15.6%	16.9%	15.8%
Other family ^c	18.5%	20.3%	16.3%	18.0%
Male householder ^c	5.6%	6.4%	5.1%	5.9%
With own children	3.2%	3.6%	3.0%	3.3%
Female householder ^c	12.9%	13.9%	11.2%	12.1%
With own children	7.8%	8.3%	6.6%	7.0%
Nonfamily households ^d	39.4%	42.9%	35.9%	37.3%
Male living alone	13.7%	15.0%	13.0%	14.3%
Female living alone	19.2%	18.1%	16.9%	16.6%

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

		City		ounty
	2010	2020	2010	2020
Total households	10,251	10,098	14,552	14,167
Married couple ^b	42.1%	43.4%	47.8%	44.8%
Cohabiting couple ^{b,f}	NA ^e	8.5%	NA ^e	7.8%
Male householder g	NA^e	21.4%	NA^e	20.0%
Female householder g	NA ^e	30.6%	NA ^e	27.4%

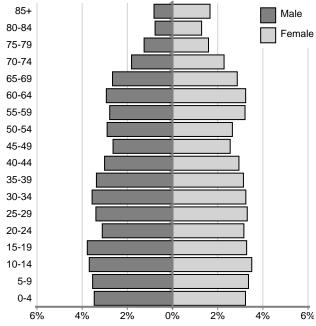
^aHouseholder and at least one other person related to the householder. ^bFor 2020 includes same-sex couples. ^cNo spouse present, but at least one relative present. ^dIn 2010 included same-sex couples whether married or not (if no relatives present). ^e2010 not comparable with 2020. ^fFor 2020 householder 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	23.3%	24.7%	22.8%	24%
0 - 4	7.2%	6.7%	6.6%	6.3%
5 - 9	6.4%	6.9%	6.3%	6.4%
10 - 14	5.9%	7.2%	6.0%	7.0%
15 - 17	3.8%	3.9%	3.9%	4.3%
18 - 24	10.8%	9.5%	9.6%	8.6%
25 - 44	24.9%	26%	23.8%	24.4%
45 - 64	25%	22.9%	27.3%	24.5%
65 or older	16%	17.0%	16.4%	18.7%
65 - 84	12.9%	14.6%	13.7%	16.3%
85 or older	3.1%	2.5%	2.7%	2.4%
Median ⁴ Age (years)	37.4	36.7	39.8	39.1
Age Dependency ^{a, 5}	64.7	71.4	64.5	74.3
Old-Age	26.4	29.1	27.0	32.5
Child	38.4	42.3	37.5	41.7

^aAge Dependency Ratio

Ottumwa, 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 Ottumwa is less than the median household income of Wapello County. The median value of owneroccupied housing units is lower in Ottumwa than for Wapello County. There is a higher percentage of vacant housing units in Ottumwa than there is for Wapello County. Many housing units in Ottumwa were built prior to 1940. There is a higher percentage of individuals 25 and older with a Bachelor's degree or higher in Ottumwa compared to Wapello County.

Median Household and Per Capita Income, 2018-2022²

	(City	Co	ounty
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Households	10,201	+/- 312	14,193	+/- 246
Less than \$34,999	32.6%	+/- 2.9%	29.9%	+/- 2.5%
\$35,000 To \$49,999	14.2%	+/- 2.6%	13.6%	+/- 1.9%
\$50,000 To \$99,999	30.8%	+/- 2.3%	32.2%	+/- 2.1%
\$100,000 Or More	22.4%	+/- 2.3%	24.3%	+/- 2.0%
Median ⁴ Household Income	\$53,085	+/- \$3,205	\$56,209	+/- \$2,477
Median Family Income	\$61,429	+/- \$4,683	\$67,016	+/- \$4,390
Per Capita Income	\$29,395	+/- \$2,065	\$30,025	+/- \$1,400

Educational Attainment, 2018-2022²

	(City		unty
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population 25 and older	16,970	+/-290	24,087	+/-116
High School Graduate or Higher	86.6%	+/-2.1%	87.9%	+/-1.6%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	19.3%	+/-3.0%	18.5%	+/-2.2%

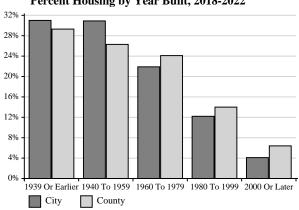
^{*}MOE = the margin of error for American Community Survey estimates² which is a numerical value that when added to or subtracted from the point estimate value gives the range of a 90% confidence interval around the estimate.

Housing Characteristics, 2018-2022²

	(City	Co	ounty
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Units	11,370	+/- 214	15,754	+/- 42
Vacant	10.3%	+/- 1.9%	9.9%	+/- 1.5%
Occupied	89.7%	+/- 1.9%	90.1%	+/- 1.5%
Occupied ^a	10,201	+/- 312	14,193	+/- 246
Owner	58.9%	+/- 3.1%	66.3%	+/- 2.5%
Renter	41.1%	+/- 3.1%	33.7%	+/- 2.5%
Rent ^b	\$915	+/- \$54	\$909	+/- \$49
Value ^c	\$88,800	+/-\$4,282	\$105,800	+/-\$7,964

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

Percent Housing by Year Built, 2018-2022²



In Ottumwa there is a higher percentage of workers in production, transportation, and material moving occupations than any other occupation category. The production, transportation, and material moving occupation category makes up 28.7% of occupations of the civilian employed population in the city.

Occupation of the Civilian Employed Population, 2018-2022²

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	12,129	+/- 442	16,468	+/- 502
Management, business, science, and arts	27.5%	+/- 3.4%	27.7%	+/- 2.5%
Service	16.0%	+/- 2.5%	15.0%	+/- 1.8%
Sales and office	18.3%	+/- 2.3%	19.2%	+/- 2.1%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance	9.5%	+/- 2.1%	9.9%	+/- 1.7%
Production, transportation, and material moving	28.7%	+/- 3.5%	28.1%	+/- 3.0%

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

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

Median Employment Earnings, 2018-2022²

	(City	County		
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*	
Population 16+ ^a	13,344	+/- 463	18,207	+/- 529	
Median Earnings	\$36,487	+/- \$36	\$37,329	+/- \$2,100	
Female	\$32,863	+/- \$3,276	\$33,123	+/- \$2,278	
Female, full time ^b	\$43,024	+/- \$3,500	\$43,080	+/- \$2,181	
Male	\$41,436	+/- \$2,564	\$42,555	+/- \$1,811	
Male, full time ^b	\$52,868	+/- \$3,964	\$52,358	+/- \$3,294	

^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		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population ^a	25,005	+/-40	34,895	+/-35
With a disability ^b	15.3%	+/-1.7%	15.5%	+/-1.3%
With Health Insurance	93.1%	+/-1.5%	93.2%	+/-1.5%
With Private ^c Coverage	63.1%	+/-3.3%	65.1%	+/-2.5%
With Public ^d Coverage	44.6%	+/-2.9%	44.4%	+/-2.3%
No Health Insurance	6.9%	+/-1.5%	6.8%	+/-1.5%

^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+	20,063	+/- 299	27,992	+/- 131
in labor force	63.3%	+/- 2.4%	61.6%	+/- 2.0%
not in labor force	36.7%	+/- 2.4%	38.4%	+/- 2.0%
Civilian labor force	12,704	+/- 498	17,223	+/- 539
Unemployed	4.5%	+/- 1.4%	4.4%	+/- 1.0%

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

Individuals and Families Below Poverty Level, 2018-2022²

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Population ^a	24,570	+/-75	34,402	+/-103
Below poverty	19.0%	+/-3.1%	17.4%	+/-2.5%
17 and under	25.2%	+/-6.6%	24.4%	+/-5.3%
18 - 64	18.0%	+/-2.8%	16.1%	+/-2.2%
65+	13.1%	+/-3.9%	12.6%	+/-3.2%
All Families	15.5%	+/-3.6%	14.1%	+/-2.6%
with children	24.9%	+/-6.4%	23.5%	+/-4.8%
Married Couple	**%	+/-**%	5.6%	+/-2.4%
with children	**%	+/-**%	**%	+/-**%
Female HH ^b	33.5%	+/-9.9%	35.5%	+/-8.8%
with children	36.1%	+/-11.3%	39.9%	+/-10.3%

^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
- ² U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey 2018-2022
- ³For 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.

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^{*}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.