Data for Decision Makers



Fort Dodge, Iowa City Profile

report created: 12/17/2024

Population profile

The 2020 population for Fort Dodge is 24,871. Between 2010 and 2020 the population decreased by 1.3%. The City of Fort Dodge is in Webster County. Webster County saw a 2.7% population decrease between 2010 and 2020.

Webster County Cities - Total Population¹

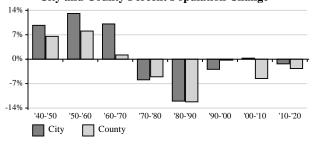
Webster C	Webster County Cities - Total Population							
City	2000	2010	2020					
Fort Dodge	25,136	25,206	24,871					
Male Total	11,943	12,932	12,893					
Female Total	13,193	12,274	11,978					
Badger	610	561	522					
Barnum	195	191	175					
Callender	424	376	368					
Clare	190	146	136					
Dayton	884	837	772					
Duncombe	474	410	381					
Farnhamville [†]	430	371	383					
Gowrie	1,038	1,037	952					
Harcourt	340	303	264					
Lehigh	497	416	395					
Moorland	197	169	168					
Otho	571	542	429					
Stratford [†]	746	743	707					
Vincent	158	174	130					
Webster County Total	40,235	38,013	36,999					
State of Iowa Total	2,926,324	3,046,355	3,190,369					

 $^\dagger C$ ity is located in multiple counties, total population is provided.

Neighboring Cities - Percent Population Change

	'90-'00	'00-'10	'10-'20
Badger	7.2%	-8.0%	-7.0%
Barnum	12.1%	-2.1%	-8.4%
Duncombe	-2.9%	-13.5%	-7.1%
Moorland	-5.7%	-14.2%	-0.6%
Otho	7.9%	-5.1%	-20.8%
Fort Dodge	-2.9%	0.3%	-1.3%
Webster County	-0.3%	5.5%	-2.7%
State of Iowa	5.4%	4.1%	4.7%

City and County Percent Population Change¹



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Fort Dodge's population is predominantly White. The City of Fort Dodge, compared to Webster County, had a lower 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

	C	City	Co	unty
Race Groups	2010	2020	2010	2020
One race only	97.8%	94.2%	98.2%	94.9%
White	89.7%	83.3%	92.3%	86.8%
White alone, not Hispanic	86.6%	80.7%	90.0%	84.8%
Black or African American	5.5%	7.0%	3.8%	4.9%
Asian	0.8%	1.0%	0.6%	0.8%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.4%	0.6%	0.3%	0.5%
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Other	1.4%	2.2%	1.1%	1.8%
Two or more races	2.2%	5.8%	1.8%	5.1%
Hispanic origin ^a	5.0%	6.8%	3.8%	5.6%

^a Hispanics can be of any race.

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

•	•			
	(City	Co	unty
	2010	2020	2010	2020
Total households	10,275	9,946	15,580	15,046
Family households ^{a,b}	56.9%	58.4%	61.5%	58.9%
Married couple family ^b	39.5%	45.2%	46.2%	42.7%
With own children	13.9%	12.2%	16.0%	14.1%
Other family ^c	17.4%	18.5%	15.3%	16.3%
Male householder ^c	4.4%	5.5%	4.6%	5.4%
With own children	2.7%	3.0%	2.8%	3.0%
Female householder ^c	13.0%	13.0%	10.8%	10.9%
With own children	8.6%	8.1%	7.0%	6.5%
Nonfamily households ^d	43.1%	41.6%	38.5%	41.1%
Male living alone	15.5%	18.1%	14.8%	17.1%
Female living alone	21.3%	21.3%	18.1%	18.0%

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

		City		ounty
	2010	2020	2010	2020
Total households	10,275	9,946	15,580	15,046
Married couple ^b	39.5%	45.2%	46.2%	42.7%
Cohabiting couple ^{b,f}	NA ^e	8.0%	NA ^e	7.6%
Male householder g	NA ^e	23.1%	NA^e	21.9%
Female householder g	NA ^e	32.9%	NA ^e	27.8%

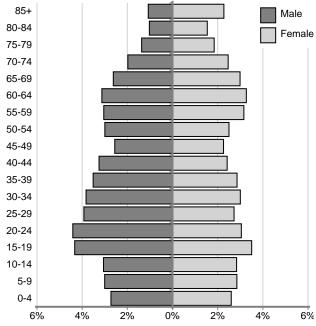
^aHouseholder and at least one other person related to the householder. ^bFor 2020 includes same-sex couples. ^cNo spouse present, but at least one relative present. ^dIn 2010 included same-sex couples whether married or not (if no relatives present). ^e2010 not comparable with 2020. ^fFor 2020 householder 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	21.8%	20.5%	22.1%	21.1%
0 - 4	6.1%	5.3%	5.9%	5.4%
5 - 9	5.9%	5.9%	6.0%	5.9%
10 - 14	6%	5.9%	6.2%	6.1%
15 - 17	3.8%	3.4%	4.0%	3.7%
18 - 24	13.3%	11.9%	11.1%	10%
25 - 44	23.4%	25.6%	22.3%	24.2%
45 - 64	25.3%	22.9%	27.7%	25%
65 or older	16.2%	19.2%	16.7%	19.8%
65 - 84	13.2%	15.8%	14%	16.6%
85 or older	3%	3.3%	2.7%	3.1%
Median ⁴ Age (years)	36.8	38.3	40.0	40.2
Age Dependency ^{a, 5}	61.3	65.7	63.4	69.1
Old-Age	26.1	31.8	27.3	33.4
Child	35.2	33.9	36.1	35.6

^aAge Dependency Ratio

Fort Dodge, Iowa Population Pyramid, 2020¹



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

Socioeconomic Profile

Fort Dodge, Iowa

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

Median Household and Per Capita Income, 2018-2022²

	City		Co	County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*	
Total Households	10,402	+/- 250	15,582	+/- 285	
Less than \$34,999	31.0%	+/- 2.8%	28.1%	+/- 2.4%	
\$35,000 To \$49,999	13.2%	+/- 2.2%	11.6%	+/- 1.5%	
\$50,000 To \$99,999	32.8%	+/- 2.4%	34.4%	+/- 2.1%	
\$100,000 Or More	22.9%	+/- 2.4%	25.9%	+/- 2.0%	
Median ⁴ Household Income	\$59,452	+/- \$5,671	\$65,335	+/- \$3,112	
Median Family Income	\$79,344	+/- \$3,419	\$82,733	+/- \$3,264	
Per Capita Income	\$31,714	+/- \$2,301	\$33,836	+/- \$1,691	

Educational Attainment, 2018-2022²

	(City	County		
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*	
Population 25 and older	16,342	+/-312	25,086	+/-172	
High School Graduate or Higher	90.2%	+/-2.0%	91.8%	+/-1.4%	
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	20.8%	+/-2.3%	20.7%	+/-1.7%	

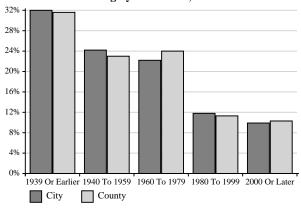
^{*}MOE = the margin of error for American Community Survey estimates² which is a numerical value that when added to or subtracted from the point estimate value gives the range of a 90% confidence interval around the estimate.

Housing Characteristics, 2018-2022²

		City	Co	ounty
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Units	11,297	+/- 188	16,981	+/- 72
Vacant	7.9%	+/- 1.9%	8.2%	+/- 1.5%
Occupied	92.1%	+/- 1.9%	91.8%	+/- 1.5%
Occupied ^a	10,402	+/- 250	15,582	+/- 285
Owner	63.3%	+/- 3.3%	69.7%	+/- 2.4%
Renter	36.7%	+/- 3.3%	30.3%	+/- 2.4%
Rent ^b	\$749	+/- \$31	\$747	+/- \$29
Value ^c	\$123,600	+/-\$11,989	\$130,400	+/-\$7,666

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

Percent Housing by Year Built, 2018-2022²



In Fort Dodge 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 17.9% 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	11,570	+/- 497	17,742	+/- 521
Management, business, science, and arts	27.3%	+/- 2.8%	30.1%	+/- 2.0%
Service	20.2%	+/- 2.5%	18.3%	+/- 1.8%
Sales and office	22.4%	+/- 3.0%	20.3%	+/- 2.0%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance	12.1%	+/- 2.3%	12.9%	+/- 1.8%
Production, transportation, and material moving	17.9%	+/- 2.8%	18.4%	+/- 2.0%

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

Socioeconomic Profile

Fort Dodge, Iowa

Fort Dodge has a lower proportion of the population age 16 or older in the labor force than Webster 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 Fort Dodge tend to be lower than the median earnings for Webster 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	13,573	+/- 560	20,471	+/- 572	
Median Earnings	\$33,662	+/- \$33	\$36,676	+/- \$2,301	
Female	\$28,558	+/- \$1,287	\$29,646	+/- \$1,329	
Female, full time ^b	\$42,274	+/- \$4,375	\$45,085	+/- \$2,798	
Male	\$43,146	+/- \$4,113	\$46,691	+/- \$2,993	
Male, full time ^b	\$60,159	+/- \$6,405	\$59,311	+/- \$4,071	

^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

	C	City		unty
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Population ^a	23,106	+/-121	35,158	+/-114
With a disability ^b	15.6%	+/-2.1%	14.2%	+/-1.4%
With Health Insurance	92.9%	+/-2.0%	93.9%	+/-1.4%
With Private ^c Coverage	64.1%	+/-3.7%	67.9%	+/-2.7%
With Public ^d Coverage	43.5%	+/-3.0%	41.3%	+/-2.1%
No Health Insurance	7.1%	+/-2.0%	6.1%	+/-1.4%

^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+	20,512	+/- 245	30,344	+/- 138
in labor force	58.4%	+/- 2.5%	60.5%	+/- 1.7%
not in labor force	41.6%	+/- 2.5%	39.5%	+/- 1.7%
Civilian labor force	11,954	+/- 496	18,333	+/- 528
Unemployed	3.2%	+/- 1.0%	3.2%	+/- 0.7%

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

Individuals and Families Below Poverty Level, 2018-2022²

	City		County	
	Estimate	MOE*	Estimate	MOE*
Total Population ^a	22,175	+/-190	34,159	+/-185
Below poverty	15.1%	+/-2.6%	12.2%	+/-1.8%
17 and under	21.4%	+/-5.6%	15.7%	+/-3.9%
18 - 64	14.0%	+/-2.8%	11.9%	+/-2.1%
65+	11.0%	+/-3.4%	9.1%	+/-2.3%
All Families	8.0%	+/-2.6%	6.8%	+/-2.1%
with children	12.1%	+/-4.7%	9.1%	+/-3.1%
Married Couple	**%	+/-**%	**%	+/-**%
with children	**%	+/-**%	**%	+/-**%
Female HH ^b	22.2%	+/-9.9%	20.7%	+/-8.0%
with children	33.0%	+/-15.4%	30.4%	+/-12.2%

^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.

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