



## Population: Iowa's Counties 1990 - 2010

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Iowa gained 120,031 residents (4.1%) between the decennial censuses of 2000 and 2010 surpassing three million in population at a census for the first time (Table 1, Figures 1-2). The increases for the decade were somewhat lower in both number and percent than the gains between 1990 and 2000 (+149,569; +5.4%). The changes among the 99 counties were variable with 33 counties experiencing an increase in population while 66 counties registered declines between 2000 and 2010 (Table 1, Figure 1).

Many of the counties that increased were located in a band from central Iowa eastward to the Quad Cities area (Figure 1). Polk County's gain of 56,000 residents was the most of any county, giving it a population exceeding 400,000 for the first time (Table 1). Dallas County's percentage increase (62.3%) was triple that of the next highest county (Johnson, 17.9%) and Dallas had substantial numerical gain (+25,300) as well. Polk, Linn, Scott, Black Hawk, and Johnson were the state's five largest counties having a combined population of nearly 1,070,000 and 35 percent of the state's total residents. Adams County was the smallest (4,029).

Counties with population loss could be found across the state, but were more likely in northern, western, and southern areas of Iowa. For a few of these counties, the loss was small in both numerical and percentage terms. Franklin County declined by 24 residents (-0.2%) and Monroe County by 46 (-0.6%) (Table 1). For many counties, however, the declines were substantial. Four (Cerro Gordo, Des Moines, Lee, Webster) lost 2,000 or more residents while 13 others declined by at least 1,000. Nine counties (Adams, Audubon, Calhoun, Greene, Ida, Kossuth, Pocahontas, Sac, Taylor) registered losses of nine percent or more and another 25 experienced at least a five percent loss. The 15 percent decrease for Pocahontas County was the largest percentage decline for any county in the state.

In recent decades, significant numbers of counties have registered a population decline at a census. Between 1990 and 2000, 45 counties experienced a population loss while 54 showed a gain. The decade of 1980 to 1990 was especially hard on Iowa's population. During that time, Iowa lost 4.7 percent of its residents (-137,000) with 92 counties showing population loss (Figure 2).

**Figure 1. Population Change 2000 - 2010**



**Internet population resources:**

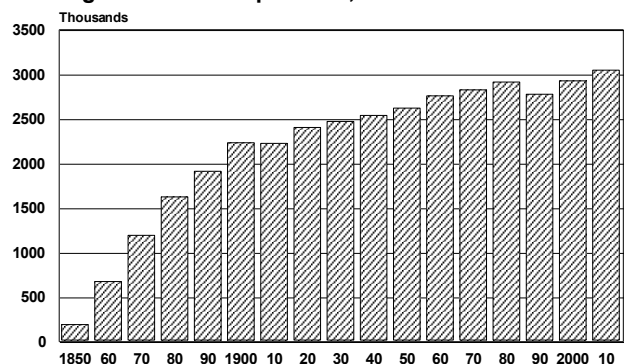
- [www.iowadatacenter.org](http://www.iowadatacenter.org)
- [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)
- [www.ers.usda.gov/data/ruralatlas](http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/ruralatlas)
- [www.cvcia.org](http://www.cvcia.org)
- [www.recap.iastate.edu](http://www.recap.iastate.edu)

Table 1. Population in Iowa's Counties, 1990 – 2010.

County	Population Change 2000 - 2010		Population		County	Population Change 2000 - 2010		Population			
	2010	Number	Percent	2000		1990	2010	Number	Percent	2000	1990
Adair	7682	-561	-6.8	8243	8409	Lyon	11581	-182	-1.5	11763	11952
Adams	4029	-453	-10.1	4482	4866	Madison	15679	1660	11.8	14019	12483
Allamakee	14330	-345	-2.4	14675	13855	Mahaska	22381	46	0.2	22335	21532
Appanoose	12887	-834	-6.1	13721	13743	Marion	33309	1257	3.9	32052	30001
Audubon	6119	-711	-10.4	6830	7334	Marshall	40648	1337	3.4	39311	38276
Benton	26076	768	3.0	25308	22429	Mills	15059	512	3.5	14547	13202
Black Hawk	131090	3078	2.4	128012	123798	Mitchell	10776	-98	-0.9	10874	10928
Boone	26306	82	0.3	26224	25186	Monona	9243	-777	-7.8	10020	10034
Bremer	24276	951	4.1	23325	22813	Monroe	7970	-46	-0.6	8016	8114
Buchanan	20958	-135	-0.6	21093	20844	Montgomery	10740	-1031	-8.8	11771	12076
Buena Vista	20260	-151	-0.7	20411	19965	Muscatine	42745	1023	2.5	41722	39907
Butler	14867	-438	-2.9	15305	15731	O'Brien	14398	-704	-4.7	15102	15444
Calhoun	9670	-1445	-13.0	11115	11508	Osceola	6462	-541	-7.7	7003	7267
Carroll	20816	-605	-2.8	21421	21423	Page	15932	-1044	-6.1	16976	16870
Cass	13956	-728	-5.0	14684	15128	Palo Alto	9421	-726	-7.2	10147	10669
Cedar	18499	312	1.7	18187	17444	Plymouth	24986	137	0.6	24849	23388
Cerro Gordo	44151	-2296	-4.9	46447	46733	Pocahontas	7310	-1352	-15.6	8662	9525
Cherokee	12072	-963	-7.4	13035	14098	Polk	430640	56039	15.0	374601	327140
Chickasaw	12439	-656	-5.0	13095	13295	Pottawattamie	93158	5454	6.2	87704	82628
Clarke	9286	153	1.7	9133	8287	Poweshiek	18914	99	0.5	18815	19033
Clay	16667	-705	-4.1	17372	17585	Ringgold	5131	-338	-6.2	5469	5420
Clayton	18129	-549	-2.9	18678	19054	Sac	10350	-1179	-10.2	11529	12324
Clinton	49116	-1033	-2.1	50149	51040	Scott	165224	6556	4.1	158668	150973
Crawford	17096	154	0.9	16942	16775	Shelby	12167	-1006	-7.6	13173	13230
Dallas	66135	25385	62.3	40750	29755	Sioux	33704	2115	6.7	31589	29903
Davis	8753	212	2.5	8541	8312	Story	89542	9561	12.0	79981	74252
Decatur	8457	-232	-2.7	8689	8338	Tama	17767	-336	-1.9	18103	17419
Delaware	17764	-640	-3.5	18404	18035	Taylor	6317	-641	-9.2	6958	7114
Des Moines	40325	-2026	-4.8	42351	42614	Union	12534	225	1.8	12309	12750
Dickinson	16667	243	1.5	16424	14909	Van Buren	7570	-239	-3.1	7809	7676
Dubuque	93653	4510	5.1	89143	86403	Wapello	35625	-426	-1.2	36051	35696
Emmet	10302	-725	-6.6	11027	11569	Warren	46225	5554	13.7	40671	36033
Fayette	20880	-1128	-5.1	22008	21843	Washington	21704	1034	5.0	20670	19612
Floyd	16303	-597	-3.5	16900	17058	Wayne	6403	-327	-4.9	6730	7067
Franklin	10680	-24	-0.2	10704	11364	Webster	38013	-2222	-5.5	40235	40342
Fremont	7441	-569	-7.1	8010	8226	Winnebago	10866	-857	-7.3	11723	12122
Greene	9336	-1030	-9.9	10366	10045	Winneshiek	21056	-254	-1.2	21310	20847
Grundy	12453	84	0.7	12369	12029	Woodbury	102172	-1705	-1.6	103877	98276
Guthrie	10954	-399	-3.5	11353	10935	Worth	7598	-311	-3.9	7909	7991
Hamilton	15673	-765	-4.7	16438	16071	Wright	13229	-1105	-7.7	14334	14269
Hancock	11341	-759	-6.3	12100	12638	<b>State of Iowa</b>	<b>3046355</b>	<b>120031</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>2926324</b>	<b>2776831</b>
Hardin	17534	-1278	-6.8	18812	19094						
Harrison	14928	-738	-4.7	15666	14730						
Henry	20145	-191	-0.9	20336	19226						
Howard	9566	-366	-3.7	9932	9809						
Humboldt	9815	-566	-5.5	10381	10756						
Ida	7089	-748	-9.5	7837	8365						
Iowa	16355	684	4.4	15671	14630						
Jackson	19848	-448	-2.2	20296	19950						
Jasper	36842	-371	-1.0	37213	34795						
Jefferson	16843	662	4.1	16181	16310						
Johnson	130882	19876	17.9	111006	96119						
Jones	20638	417	2.1	20221	19444						
Keokuk	10511	-889	-7.8	11400	11624						
Kossuth	15543	-1620	-9.4	17163	18591						
Lee	35862	-2190	-5.8	38052	38687						
Linn	211226	19525	10.2	191701	168767						
Louisa	11387	-796	-6.5	12183	11592						
Lucas	8898	-524	-5.6	9422	9070						

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Decennial Census 1990, 2000, 2010

Figure 2. Iowa Population, 1850 - 2010



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