

# Indicators Program

## Census 2020: Urban and Rural Population in Iowa's Counties, 1940 - 2020

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Figure 1. Percent of Persons Urban and Rural, 1850 - 2020, Iowa

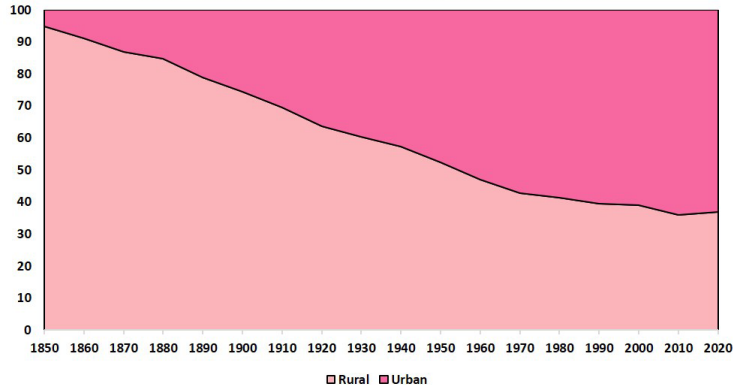


Figure 2. Percentage Urban Population, 2020, Iowa.

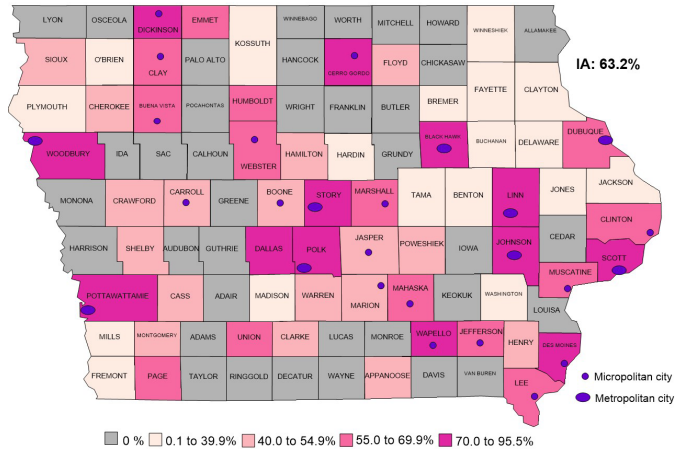
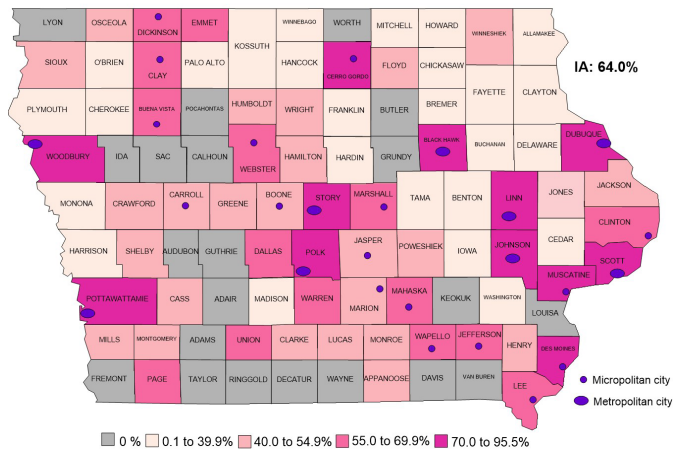


Figure 3. Percentage Urban Population, 2010, Iowa.



The Decennial Censuses<sup>1</sup> report the population that is urban or rural. In 2020, Iowa's urban population was 2,014,831 (63.2%) with the rural portion at 1,175,538 (36.8%). The U.S. as a whole was 80.0% urban and 20.0% rural.

In Iowa, the number of people in both urban and rural areas increased between 2010 and 2020 although the percent in the urban portion decreased slightly. At about the time of the 1950 and 1960 Decennial Censuses, Iowa was about half urban and half rural. Since that time Iowa has become significantly more urban (Figure 1, Table 1).

Until this last decade, Iowa's urban portion, both percentage and number, had steadily increased. The slight decrease in the percentage urban (and slight increase in the rural percentage) between 2010 and 2020 was due largely to definitional changes for designating urban communities. The Census Bureau designates a population size that an incorporated place must meet in order to be classified as urban.

Table 1. Population Urban and Rural, 1850 - 2020, Iowa<sup>1</sup>

Year	Total Population	Urban		Rural	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2020	3,190,369	2,014,831	63.2	1,175,538	36.8
2010	3,046,355	1,950,256	64.0	1,096,099	36.0
2000	2,926,382	1,787,432	61.1	1,138,892	38.9
1990	2,776,831	1,708,232	60.6	1,093,690	39.4
1980	2,913,808	1,683,065	58.6	1,205,576	41.4
1970	2,825,368	1,616,405	57.2	1,207,971	42.8
1960	2,757,537	1,462,512	53.0	1,295,025	47.0
1950	2,621,073	1,250,938	47.7	1,370,135	52.3
1940	2,538,268	1,084,231	42.7	1,454,037	57.3
1930	2,470,939	979,292	39.6	1,491,647	60.4
1920	2,404,021	875,495	36.4	1,528,526	63.6
1910	2,224,771	680,054	30.6	1,544,717	69.4
1900	2,231,853	572,386	25.6	1,659,467	74.4
1890	1,912,297	405,764	21.2	1,506,533	78.8
1880	1,624,615	247,427	15.2	1,377,188	84.8
1870	1,194,020	156,327	13.1	1,037,693	86.9
1860	674,913	60,028	8.9	614,885	91.1
1850	192,214	9,730	5.1	182,484	94.9

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Censuses, 1850 - 2020

Communities smaller than that designated size along with all other open or unincorporated areas are classified as rural.

For 2020, the population size for an incorporated place to be considered urban was having at least 5,000 people or 2,000 or more housing units. Although there were other detailed criteria, such as population density or separation distance, the main criterion was the base size of 5,000. Previously, a community was classified as urban if the population was 2,500 or more. Nor were housing units part of the definition. The base size of 2,500 for an urban town was a criterion that had been in place since the 1910 Census.<sup>2</sup>

As a result of this new, larger definition of urban size, twenty-eight Iowa towns lost their previous urban classification and now are considered rural. Even though half of these actually increased population during the decade, none of the gains were large enough to push the community population up to 5,000. Among the half of these twenty-eight communities that lost population during the decade, only one (Marengo) fell below the previous criterion population of 2,500. The others would have still been considered urban under the old definition. In addition to the twenty communities listed in Table 2, eight others also changed classification from urban to rural (Bellevue, Carlisle, Dyersville, Huxley, Monticello, Rock Valley, Story City, West Liberty) (Figures 2, 3; Table 2).

Another result of the definition change of urban and rural is the reclassification of the urban and rural portions of Iowa's counties. Because many of these

towns that changed from urban to rural were the only community or area in a county that was classified as urban, the new definition has also resulted in seventeen additional counties in Iowa now being classified as completely rural. In 2010, twenty-one counties were considered completely rural. For 2020 that number increased to thirty-seven which is more than one-third of the state's 99 counties. For the eight other towns noted in the previous paragraph, their change from urban to rural did not affect the overall classification of those counties as other towns in those counties continued in the urban classification (Figures 2, 3; Tables 2-4).

Across the eight decades shown in this report, Iowa's urban population increased by more than 900,000. A majority (59) of Iowa's counties have maintained some amount of urban population throughout this time as well. Another fourteen counties had some urban population for all the decades until the definition change implemented in 2020 (Figures 2, 3; Tables 1, 3 - 4)

Not surprisingly, many of the counties with the state's metropolitan cities recorded the highest percentages of urban population in 2020. Six counties (Johnson, Woodbury, Linn, Scott, Black Hawk, Polk) exceeded 80% urban. Polk was highest at 95.5%. Another seven counties (Cerro Gordo, Dallas, Dickinson, Des Moines, Pottawattamie, Story, Wapello) had at least 70% urban population (Figure 2, Table 3).

As Iowa's population grew, so did the metropolitan counties. Eleven counties more than doubled their urban

population between 1940 and 2020. Warren County's urban portion grew more than six times, Johnson's grew more than seven times, and the urban portion of Dallas County increased more than 13 times between 1940 and 2020. Johnson and Linn Counties each added more than 100,000 urban residents and Polk's urban count gained more than 300,000 (Table 4).

In contrast to these highly urbanized counties, ten counties (Adair, Adams, Butler, Guthrie, Keokuk, Louisa, Ringgold, Taylor, Van Buren, Wayne) had no urban communities, thus no urban population at all nine censuses reported here. Eight others (Calhoun, Decatur, Grundy, Fremont, Ida, Iowa, Pocahontas, Worth) had only one or two decades with an urban population count. Clearly, all of these eighteen have had a rural character throughout recent decades and all were completely rural in 2020 (Figures 2, 3; Tables 3, 4).

Between 1940 and 2020, Iowa's overall rural population declined by more than 278,000. Most counties (82) also had less rural population across that time period. Fifteen counties had less than half the rural population in 2020 than they had in 1940. Adams County had around one-third the rural count at the second time period compared to the first (Table 4). These findings should not come as a surprise in light of the population changes noted in the 2020 Decennial Census which found that sixty-nine of Iowa's ninety-nine counties recorded population declines between 2010 and 2020. The rural areas of Iowa have been hit with population losses across several decades.<sup>3</sup>

## Census 2020: Urban and Rural Population in Iowa's Counties, 1940-2020

Table 2. Counties with No Urban Population, 2020 and Communities that Changed Classification, Iowa, 2010 - 2020.<sup>1</sup>

County	Percent Urban 2020	Percent Urban 2010	County Total Population 2020 <sup>2</sup>	Population of Towns in 2020 that Changed Classification from Urban to Rural, 2010 - 2020
Adair	0.0	0.0	7496	
Adams	0.0	0.0	3704	
Allamakee	0.0	26.0	14061	Waukon (3,827)
Audubon	0.0	0.0	5674	
Butler	0.0	0.0	14334	
Calhoun	0.0	0.0	9927	
Cedar	0.0	16.6	18505	Tipton (3,149), Wilton (2,924)
Chickasaw	0.0	26.5	12012	New Hampton (3,494)
Davis	0.0	0.0	9110	
Decatur	0.0	0.0	7645	
Franklin	0.0	39.8	10019	Hampton (4,337)
Greene	0.0	41.8	8771	Jefferson (4,182)
Grundy	0.0	0.0	12329	
Guthrie	0.0	0.0	10623	
Hancock	0.0	30.0	10795	Garner (3,065)
Harrison	0.0	18.9	14582	Missouri Valley (2,678)
Howard	0.0	37.0	9469	Cresco (3,888)
Ida	0.0	0.0	7005	
Iowa	0.0	17.8	16662	Marengo (2,435), Williamsburg (3,346)
Keokuk	0.0	0.0	10033	
Louisa	0.0	0.0	10837	
Lucas	0.0	43.8	8634	Chariton (4,193)
Lyon	0.0	0.0	11934	
Mitchell	0.0	32.8	10565	Osage (3,627)
Monona	0.0	28.8	8751	Onawa (2,906)
Monroe	0.0	44.8	7577	Albia (3,721)
Osceola	0.0	41.6	6192	Sibley (2,860)
Palo Alto	0.0	38.5	8996	Emmetsburg (3,706)
Pocahontas	0.0	0.0	7078	
Ringgold	0.0	0.0	4663	
Sac	0.0	0.0	9814	
Taylor	0.0	0.0	5896	
Van Buren	0.0	0.0	7203	
Wayne	0.0	0.0	6497	
Winnebago	0.0	33.9	10679	Forest City (4,285)
Worth	0.0	0.0	7443	
Wright	0.0	43.2	12943	Eagle Grove (3,601), Clarion (2,810)

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Census Bureau; <sup>2</sup>total population is classified as rural in 2020

# Census 2020: Urban and Rural Population in Iowa's Counties, 1940 - 2020

Table 3. Percentage of Population Urban or Rural, Iowa, 1940 – 2020.<sup>1</sup>

County	2020		2010		2000		1990		1980		1970		1960		1950		1940	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Adair	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Adams	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Allamakee	0.0	100.0	26.0	74.0	27.6	72.4	29.0	71.0	26.4	73.6	25.9	74.1	22.8	77.2	19.3	80.7	17.3	82.7
Appanoose	42.8	57.2	41.7	58.3	41.3	58.7	43.2	56.8	42.3	57.7	43.5	56.5	41.4	58.6	38.7	61.3	34.7	65.3
Audubon	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	34.4	65.6	33.2	66.8	30.3	69.7	26.8	73.2	24.3	75.7	0.0	100.0
Benton	18.7	81.3	19.3	80.7	29.6	70.4	35.4	64.6	33.6	66.4	33.4	66.6	32.9	67.1	32.5	67.5	32.2	67.8
Black Hawk	87.0	13.0	86.5	13.5	84.6	15.4	87.4	12.6	87.2	12.8	84.9	15.1	84.0	16.0	84.0	16.0	76.4	23.6
Boone	46.8	53.2	49.4	50.6	48.2	51.8	49.2	50.8	48.1	51.9	47.1	52.9	44.5	55.5	43.2	56.8	41.5	58.5
Bremer	36.7	63.3	35.5	64.5	32.8	67.2	37.4	62.6	34.0	66.0	31.7	68.3	30.1	69.9	27.1	72.9	23.2	76.8
Buchanan	32.9	67.1	31.5	68.5	28.4	71.6	28.7	71.3	27.9	72.1	27.2	72.8	24.7	75.3	22.2	77.8	20.7	79.3
Buena Vista	57.0	43.0	56.1	43.9	52.1	47.9	43.9	56.1	42.4	57.6	41.5	58.5	36.5	63.5	32.9	67.1	26.6	73.4
Butler	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Calhoun	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Carroll	48.9	51.1	48.0	52.0	46.4	53.6	44.7	55.3	42.3	57.7	38.0	62.0	32.8	67.2	27.0	73.0	23.7	76.3
Cass	50.3	49.7	46.4	53.6	46.3	53.7	49.1	50.9	46.0	54.0	43.0	57.0	38.5	61.5	35.0	65.0	31.1	68.9
Cedar	0.0	100.0	16.6	83.4	17.1	82.9	17.3	82.7	16.4	83.6	16.3	83.7	16.1	83.9	15.6	84.4	14.9	85.1
Cerro Gordo	79.7	20.3	79.4	20.6	79.1	20.9	79.5	20.5	77.6	22.4	74.8	25.2	73.8	26.2	71.6	28.4	70.3	29.7
Cherokee	40.4	59.6	38.6	61.4	37.0	63.0	42.7	57.3	43.1	56.9	42.1	57.9	41.5	58.5	40.4	59.6	38.8	61.2
Chickasaw	0.0	100.0	26.5	73.5	25.0	75.0	27.5	72.5	25.5	74.5	24.2	75.8	23.0	77.0	21.8	78.2	19.3	80.7
Clarke	54.2	45.8	51.9	48.1	46.7	53.3	50.2	49.8	43.5	56.5	41.2	58.8	40.7	59.3	36.5	63.5	32.1	67.9
Clay	66.9	33.1	65.7	34.3	62.9	37.1	62.9	37.1	59.9	40.1	55.7	44.3	47.9	52.1	41.1	58.9	37.2	62.8
Clayton	0.9	99.1	3.4	96.6	5.0	95.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Clinton	69.9	30.1	67.8	32.2	68.1	31.9	73.8	26.2	73.6	26.4	73.7	26.3	66.9	33.1	66.5	33.5	58.7	41.3
Crawford	49.3	50.7	48.2	51.8	42.0	58.0	39.4	60.6	35.3	64.7	32.5	67.5	26.5	73.5	23.1	76.9	21.2	78.8
Dallas	78.7	21.3	69.4	30.6	52.7	47.3	41.9	58.1	33.5	66.5	26.5	73.5	26.7	73.3	26.1	73.9	24.2	75.8
Davis	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	31.0	69.0	31.3	68.7	33.1	66.9	30.1	69.9	27.0	73.0	24.5	75.5
Decatur	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	27.6	72.4	26.1	73.9	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Delaware	28.1	71.9	28.5	71.5	29.0	71.0	28.7	71.3	26.3	73.7	25.1	74.9	24.2	75.8	22.5	77.5	20.3	79.7
Des Moines	73.0	27.0	73.3	26.7	71.7	28.3	71.1	28.9	71.2	28.8	75.6	24.4	78.4	21.6	72.8	27.2	70.2	29.8
Dickinson	73.2	26.8	65.0	35.0	69.6	30.4	26.0	74.0	25.4	74.6	24.0	76.0	21.4	78.6	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Dubuque	68.3	31.7	73.0	27.0	74.2	25.8	74.9	25.1	74.4	25.6	73.4	26.6	75.1	24.9	69.6	30.4	68.8	31.2
Emmet	61.5	38.5	60.1	39.9	59.4	40.6	58.1	41.9	56.4	43.6	57.9	42.1	53.3	46.7	47.6	52.4	42.2	57.8
Fayette	30.1	69.9	29.4	70.6	29.1	70.9	29.7	70.3	40.6	59.4	38.5	61.5	37.9	62.1	27.8	72.2	26.8	73.2
Floyd	46.4	53.6	47.3	52.7	44.2	55.8	46.2	53.8	44.8	55.2	46.7	53.3	47.2	52.8	47.9	52.1	43.0	57.0
Franklin	0.0	100.0	39.8	60.2	35.1	64.9	36.4	63.6	35.5	64.5	33.0	67.0	29.1	70.9	27.2	72.8	24.5	75.5
Fremont	0.1	99.9	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Greene	0.0	100.0	41.8	58.2	42.5	57.5	42.7	57.3	40.1	59.9	37.2	62.8	31.8	68.2	27.8	72.2	24.6	75.4
Grundy	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	20.0	80.0	19.2	80.8	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Guthrie	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Hamilton	50.6	49.4	49.5	50.5	47.7	52.3	49.1	50.9	48.0	52.0	46.2	53.8	42.5	57.5	38.7	61.3	33.8	66.2
Hancock	0.0	100.0	30.0	70.0	26.0	74.0	25.9	74.1	23.6	76.4	2.9	97.1	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Hardin	30.0	70.0	28.9	71.1	26.1	73.9	44.3	55.7	42.4	57.6	43.5	56.5	39.0	61.0	36.0	64.0	35.4	64.6
Harrison	0.0	100.0	18.9	81.1	20.1	79.9	19.6	80.4	19.0	81.0	21.7	78.3	20.3	79.7	18.1	81.9	17.5	82.5
Henry	45.3	54.7	42.9	57.1	41.3	58.7	41.8	58.2	38.8	61.2	38.7	61.3	40.4	59.6	31.2	68.8	25.6	74.4
Howard	0.0	100.0	37.0	63.0	37.5	62.5	37.4	62.6	34.7	65.3	34.3	65.7	29.9	70.1	27.8	72.2	26.1	73.9
Humboldt	55.6	44.4	53.4	46.6	50.2	49.8	41.3	58.7	39.1	60.9	37.3	62.7	30.6	69.4	24.5	75.5	20.9	79.1
Ida	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	1.0	99.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Iowa	0.0	100.0	17.8	82.2	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Jackson	31.3	68.7	46.7	53.3	47.0	53.0	30.6	69.4	28.1	71.9	27.2	72.8	28.5	71.5	23.1	76.9	21.3	78.7
Jasper	42.2	57.8	42.5	57.5	43.7	56.3	42.5	57.5	42.0	58.0	44.1	55.9	43.6	56.4	36.3	63.7	33.2	66.8

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Table 3. Percentage of Population Urban or Rural, Iowa, 1940 – 2020. (continued)<sup>1</sup>

County	2020		2010		2000		1990		1980		1970		1960		1950		1940	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Jefferson	58.8	41.2	61.3	38.7	57.3	42.7	59.9	40.1	57.8	42.2	55.2	44.8	50.9	49.1	46.5	53.5	43.0	57.0
Johnson	83.3	16.7	81.5	18.5	76.8	23.2	77.3	22.7	72.6	27.4	73.5	26.5	62.3	37.7	59.5	40.5	51.8	48.2
Jones	26.2	73.8	42.0	58.0	43.8	56.2	44.3	55.7	42.1	57.9	39.8	60.2	37.7	62.3	35.0	65.0	33.2	66.8
Keokuk	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Kossuth	36.7	63.3	34.4	65.6	34.5	65.5	32.4	67.6	28.7	71.3	26.3	73.7	22.5	77.5	20.6	79.4	18.6	81.4
Lee	59.1	40.9	59.4	40.6	59.3	40.7	62.2	37.8	62.8	37.2	66.6	33.4	71.4	28.6	72.1	27.9	70.9	29.1
Linn	86.3	13.7	87.3	12.7	83.6	16.4	82.9	17.1	81.9	18.1	82.7	17.3	78.7	21.3	75.0	25.0	75.0	25.0
Louisa	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Lucas	0.0	100.0	43.8	56.2	47.1	52.9	50.9	49.1	48.4	51.6	49.3	50.7	46.2	53.8	44.1	55.9	39.5	60.5
Lyon	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	21.8	78.2	20.9	79.1	19.7	80.3	19.2	80.8	18.0	82.0	16.6	83.4
Madison	30.7	69.3	32.2	67.8	34.6	65.4	33.6	66.4	31.9	68.1	31.6	68.4	29.6	70.4	27.2	72.8	25.0	75.0
Mahaska	56.5	43.5	56.1	43.9	54.3	45.7	49.4	50.6	48.1	51.9	50.6	49.4	46.8	53.2	45.1	54.9	41.6	58.4
Marion	53.0	47.0	51.3	48.7	53.2	46.8	58.3	41.7	55.6	44.4	54.7	45.3	50.3	49.7	46.5	53.5	39.1	60.9
Marshall	68.3	31.7	66.1	33.9	66.5	33.5	65.8	34.2	64.7	35.3	63.8	36.2	59.3	40.7	55.7	44.3	54.3	45.7
Mills	34.6	65.4	40.4	59.6	39.2	60.8	37.6	62.4	39.4	60.6	37.4	62.6	36.7	63.3	33.2	66.8	29.9	70.1
Mitchell	0.0	100.0	32.8	67.2	30.9	69.1	31.5	68.5	30.2	69.8	29.1	70.9	26.7	73.3	24.6	75.4	22.6	77.4
Monona	0.0	100.0	28.8	71.2	27.2	72.8	29.3	70.7	28.1	71.9	26.1	73.9	22.8	77.2	21.5	78.5	18.9	81.1
Monroe	0.0	100.0	44.8	55.2	44.7	55.3	47.7	52.3	45.4	54.6	44.4	55.6	43.8	56.2	41.0	59.0	35.4	64.6
Montgomery	53.4	46.6	52.1	47.9	52.5	47.5	51.9	48.1	50.8	49.2	48.6	51.4	44.4	55.6	41.6	58.4	36.7	63.3
Muscatine	58.2	41.8	74.4	25.6	70.9	29.1	71.1	28.9	70.9	29.1	60.3	39.7	62.0	38.0	59.2	40.8	58.4	41.6
O'Brien	36.2	63.8	33.7	66.3	30.3	69.7	31.5	68.5	29.4	70.6	25.9	74.1	22.6	77.4	21.1	78.9	19.5	80.5
Osceola	0.0	100.0	41.6	58.4	39.0	61.0	38.7	61.3	36.4	63.6	32.1	67.9	28.3	71.7	25.1	74.9	0.0	100.0
Page	66.2	33.8	66.6	33.4	65.4	34.6	63.3	36.7	61.5	38.5	61.6	38.4	54.6	45.4	50.3	49.7	47.2	52.8
Palo Alto	0.0	100.0	38.5	61.5	36.4	63.6	36.9	63.1	36.3	63.7	31.2	68.8	26.4	73.6	23.7	76.3	20.9	79.1
Plymouth	39.5	60.5	37.1	62.9	36.4	63.6	36.1	63.9	33.4	66.6	33.6	66.4	28.3	71.7	25.1	74.9	22.8	77.2
Pocahontas	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.5	99.5	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Polk	95.5	4.5	95.1	4.9	94.1	5.9	94.1	5.9	92.1	7.9	92.9	7.1	91.7	8.3	88.5	11.5	83.8	16.2
Pottawattamie	73.1	26.9	73.6	26.4	72.9	27.1	72.5	27.5	71.8	28.2	74.5	25.5	72.9	27.1	67.7	32.3	62.1	37.9
Poweshiek	50.8	49.2	48.0	52.0	48.2	51.8	46.8	53.2	45.9	54.1	44.7	55.3	38.2	61.8	35.3	64.7	27.8	72.2
Ringgold	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Sac	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	20.4	79.6	21.2	78.8	21.0	79.0	19.7	80.3	18.1	81.9	17.9	82.1
Scott	86.7	13.3	86.5	13.5	85.1	14.9	87.6	12.4	87.5	12.5	88.5	11.5	84.8	15.2	81.3	18.7	81.6	18.4
Shelby	40.1	59.9	40.6	59.4	38.6	61.4	38.9	61.1	35.6	64.4	32.5	67.5	27.5	72.5	24.6	75.4	22.3	77.7
Sioux	43.4	56.6	49.2	50.8	45.7	54.3	42.2	57.8	47.4	52.6	35.0	65.0	19.9	80.1	10.0	90.0	9.9	90.1
Story	74.2	25.8	83.1	16.9	74.8	25.2	75.6	24.4	75.3	24.7	70.8	29.2	63.3	36.7	60.2	39.8	47.6	52.4
Tama	30.7	69.3	27.6	72.4	27.8	72.2	15.5	84.5	15.2	84.8	14.9	85.1	27.0	73.0	13.5	86.5	12.6	87.4
Taylor	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Union	61.8	38.2	60.8	39.2	60.0	40.0	62.0	38.0	60.8	39.2	60.7	39.3	55.9	44.1	53.1	46.9	49.3	50.7
Van Buren	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Wapello	70.6	29.4	69.5	30.5	70.0	30.0	68.6	31.4	68.0	32.0	70.3	29.7	73.4	26.6	71.0	29.0	71.3	28.7
Warren	52.9	47.1	58.0	42.0	58.4	41.6	60.0	40.0	57.1	42.9	39.8	60.2	33.9	66.1	29.0	71.0	23.3	76.7
Washington	30.3	69.7	30.5	69.5	32.9	67.1	36.1	63.9	32.7	67.3	33.3	66.7	31.1	68.9	30.2	69.8	26.1	73.9
Wayne	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Webster	66.8	33.2	66.1	33.9	64.0	36.0	64.2	35.8	64.0	36.0	64.6	35.4	59.4	40.6	56.8	43.2	55.2	44.8
Winnebago	0.0	100.0	33.9	66.1	33.6	66.4	33.6	66.4	30.1	69.9	28.7	71.3	22.4	77.6	20.6	79.4	18.2	81.8
Winneshiek	39.8	60.2	41.0	59.0	35.6	64.4	38.7	61.3	36.5	63.5	34.3	65.7	29.7	70.3	28.0	72.0	23.8	76.2
Woodbury	83.9	16.1	82.5	17.5	83.5	16.5	84.7	15.3	83.7	16.3	84.6	15.4	83.4	16.6	80.8	19.2	79.5	20.5
Worth	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.2	99.8	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Wright	0.0	100.0	43.2	56.8	42.1	57.9	62.2	37.8	60.6	39.4	43.1	56.9	52.0	48.0	37.3	62.7	34.9	65.1
State of Iowa	63.2	36.8	64.0	36.0	61.1	38.9	60.7	39.3	58.6	41.4	57.2	42.8	53.0	47.0	47.7	52.3	42.7	57.3

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Census Bureau

# Census 2020: Urban and Rural Population in Iowa's Counties, 1940 - 2020

Table 4. Population Urban or Rural, Iowa, 1940 – 2020.<sup>1</sup>

County	2020		2010		2000		1990		1980		1970		1960	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Adair	0	7496	0	7682	0	8243	0	8409	0	9509	0	9487	0	10893
Adams	0	3704	0	4029	0	4482	0	4866	0	5731	0	6322	0	7468
Allamakee	0	14061	3731	10599	4047	10628	4019	9836	3983	11125	3883	11085	3639	12343
Appanoose	5269	7048	5380	7507	5667	8054	5936	7807	6558	8953	6531	8476	6629	9386
Audubon	0	5674	0	6119	0	6830	2524	4810	2841	5718	2907	6688	2928	7991
Benton	4780	20795	5044	21032	7487	17821	7937	14492	7943	15706	7655	15230	7704	15718
Black Hawk	114139	17005	113418	17672	108298	19714	108260	15538	120290	17671	112881	20035	102827	19655
Boone	12511	14204	12986	13320	12645	13579	12392	12794	12602	13582	12468	14002	12468	15569
Bremer	9159	15829	8621	15655	7657	15668	8539	14274	8444	16376	7205	15532	6357	14751
Buchanan	6771	13794	6594	14364	5988	15105	5972	14872	6392	16508	5926	15836	5498	16795
Buena Vista	11860	8963	11364	8896	10635	9776	8769	11196	8814	11960	8591	12102	7728	13461
Butler	0	14334	0	14867	0	15305	0	15731	0	17668	0	16953	0	17467
Calhoun	0	9927	0	9670	0	11115	0	11508	0	13542	5	14287	0	15923
Carroll	10150	10610	9984	10832	9942	11479	9579	11844	9705	13246	8716	14196	7682	15749
Cass	6608	6519	6471	7485	6804	7880	7432	7696	7789	9143	7306	9701	6890	11029
Cedar	0	18505	3067	15432	3104	15083	3002	14379	3064	15571	2877	14778	2862	14929
Cerro Gordo	34360	8767	35059	9092	36731	9716	37151	9582	37602	10856	36809	12414	36800	13094
Cherokee	4705	6953	4662	7410	4828	8207	6026	8072	7004	9234	7272	9997	7724	10874
Chickasaw	0	12012	3292	9147	3278	9817	3660	9635	3940	11497	3621	11348	3456	11578
Clarke	5283	4465	4819	4467	4264	4869	4164	4123	3750	4862	3124	4457	3350	4872
Clay	10967	5417	10952	5715	10927	6445	11066	6519	11726	7850	10278	8186	8864	9640
Clayton	158	16885	617	17512	925	17753	0	19054	0	21098	0	20606	0	21962
Clinton	32453	14007	33284	15832	34174	15975	37664	13376	42065	15057	41836	14913	36813	18247
Crawford	8142	8383	8240	8856	7108	9834	6604	10171	6675	12260	6218	12898	4930	13639
Dallas	78398	21280	45907	20228	21481	19269	12475	17280	9899	19614	6906	19179	6442	17681
Davis	0	9110	0	8753	0	8541	2580	5732	2849	6255	2718	5489	2771	6428
Decatur	0	7645	0	8457	0	8689	0	8338	2705	7089	2540	7197	0	10539
Delaware	4913	12575	5068	12696	5333	13071	5174	12861	4987	13946	4714	14056	4482	14001
Des Moines	28413	10497	29544	10781	30379	11972	30291	12323	32900	13303	35505	11477	34990	9615
Dickinson	12956	4747	10826	5841	11434	4990	3871	11038	3976	11653	3014	9551	2685	9889
Dubuque	67774	31492	68351	25302	66159	22984	64714	21689	69727	24018	66506	24103	60103	19945
Emmet	5774	3614	6192	4110	6554	4473	6720	4849	7518	5818	8108	5901	7927	6944
Fayette	5871	13638	6143	14737	6412	15596	6493	15350	10347	15141	10359	16539	10833	17748
Floyd	7255	8372	7706	8597	7471	9429	7878	9180	8778	10819	9268	10592	9964	11138
Franklin	0	10019	4246	6434	3760	6944	4133	7231	4630	8406	4376	8879	4501	10971
Fremont	9	6596	0	7441	0	8010	0	8226	0	9401	0	9282	0	10282
Greene	0	8771	3906	5430	4405	5961	4292	5753	4854	7265	4735	7981	4570	9809
Grundy	0	12329	0	12453	0	12369	0	12029	2880	11486	2712	11407	0	14132
Guthrie	0	10623	0	10954	0	11353	0	10935	0	11983	0	12243	0	13607
Hamilton	7606	7433	7761	7912	7849	8589	7894	8177	8572	9290	8488	9895	8520	11512
Hancock	0	10795	3400	7941	3149	8951	3271	9367	3258	10575	394	13112	0	14604
Hardin	5058	11820	5070	12464	4908	13904	8462	10632	9237	12539	9677	12571	8790	13743
Harrison	0	14582	2819	12109	3153	12513	2888	11842	3107	13241	3519	12721	3567	14033
Henry	9284	11198	8636	11509	8404	11932	8027	11199	7322	11568	7007	11107	7339	10848
Howard	0	9469	3540	6026	3720	6212	3669	6140	3860	7254	3927	7515	3809	8925
Humboldt	5339	4258	5243	4572	5210	5171	4438	6318	4794	7452	4665	7854	4031	9125
Ida	0	7005	0	7089	0	7837	0	8365	0	8908	93	9190	0	10269
Iowa	0	16662	2914	13441	0	15671	0	14630	0	15429	0	15419	0	16396
Jackson	6098	13387	9275	10573	9541	10755	6111	13839	6313	16190	5677	15162	5909	14845
Jasper	15943	21870	15655	21187	16252	20961	14789	20006	15292	21133	15619	19806	15381	19901

# Census 2020: Urban and Rural Population in Iowa's Counties, 1940-2020

Table 4. Population Urban or Rural, Iowa, 1940 – 2020. (continued)<sup>1</sup>

County	2020		2010		2000		1990		1980		1970		1960	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Jefferson	9211	6452	10320	6523	9279	6902	9768	6542	9428	6888	8715	7059	8054	7764
Johnson	127396	25458	106621	24261	85247	25759	74298	21821	59295	22422	52980	19147	33443	20220
Jones	5411	15235	8677	11961	8854	11367	8622	10822	8599	11802	7898	11970	7806	12887
Keokuk	0	10033	0	10511	0	11400	0	11624	0	12921	0	13943	0	15492
Kossuth	5443	9385	5340	10203	5918	11245	6015	12576	6289	15602	6032	16905	5702	19612
Lee	19815	13740	21296	14566	22554	15498	24069	14618	27056	16050	28627	14369	31563	12644
Linn	198767	31532	184299	26927	160340	31361	139847	28920	139123	30652	135026	28187	107711	29188
Louisa	0	10837	0	11387	0	12183	0	11592	0	12055	0	10682	0	10290
Lucas	0	8634	3893	5005	4440	4982	4616	4454	4987	5326	5009	5154	5042	5881
Lyon	0	11934	0	11581	0	11763	2601	9351	2693	10203	2632	10708	2780	11688
Madison	5077	11471	5043	10636	4851	9168	4196	8287	4021	8576	3654	7904	3639	8656
Mahaska	12541	9649	12545	9836	12122	10213	10632	10890	10989	11878	11224	10953	11053	12549
Marion	17721	15693	17091	16218	17065	14987	17502	12499	16492	13177	14423	11929	13015	12871
Marshall	27381	12724	26858	13790	26123	13188	25178	13098	26938	14714	26219	14857	22521	15463
Mills	5009	9475	6088	8971	5704	8843	4960	8242	5280	8126	4421	7411	4783	8267
Mitchell	0	10565	3535	7241	3365	7509	3439	7489	3718	8611	3815	9293	3753	10290
Monona	0	8751	2662	6581	2723	7297	2936	7098	3283	8409	3154	8915	3176	10740
Monroe	0	7577	3573	4397	3581	4435	3870	4244	4184	5025	4151	5206	4582	5881
Montgomery	5516	4814	5597	5143	6180	5591	6264	5812	6810	6603	6210	6571	6421	8046
Muscatine	25144	18091	31823	10922	29591	12131	28389	11518	28683	11753	22405	14776	20997	12843
O'Brien	5131	9051	4856	9542	4583	10519	4866	10578	4988	11984	4535	12987	4251	14589
Osceola	0	6192	2690	3772	2732	4271	2815	4452	3051	5320	2749	5806	2852	7212
Page	10076	5135	10618	5314	11110	5866	10676	6194	11732	7331	11418	7119	11470	9553
Palo Alto	0	8996	3628	5793	3691	6456	3940	6729	4621	8100	4150	9139	3887	10849
Plymouth	10138	15560	9260	15726	9052	15797	8454	14934	8276	16467	8169	16153	6767	17139
Pocahontas	0	7078	0	7310	0	8662	0	9525	0	11369	64	12729	0	14234
Polk	470374	22027	409501	21139	352640	21961	307698	19442	279296	23874	265793	20337	244079	22236
Pottawattamie	68447	25220	68546	24612	63922	23782	59890	22738	62173	24388	64847	22144	60547	22555
Poweshiek	9486	9176	9080	9834	9069	9746	8902	10131	8868	10438	8402	10401	7367	11933
Ringgold	0	4663	0	5131	0	5469	0	5420	0	6112	0	6373	0	7910
Sac	0	9814	0	10350	0	11529	2516	9808	3000	11118	3268	12305	3354	13653
Scott	151477	23192	142901	22323	135021	23647	132226	18753	140021	20001	126295	16392	101018	18049
Shelby	4713	7033	4934	7233	5091	8082	5148	8082	5357	9686	5049	10479	4350	11475
Sioux	15565	20307	16574	17130	14434	17155	12625	17278	14619	16194	9811	18185	5251	21124
Story	73069	25468	74378	15164	59836	20145	56166	18086	54449	17877	44457	18326	31230	18097
Tama	5263	11872	4904	12863	5024	13079	2697	14722	2968	16565	3000	17147	5775	15638
Taylor	0	5896	0	6317	0	6958	0	7114	0	8353	0	8790	0	10288
Union	7507	4631	7617	4917	7391	4918	7911	4839	8429	5429	8234	5323	7667	6045
Van Buren	0	7203	0	7570	0	7809	0	7676	0	8626	0	8643	0	9778
Wapello	25019	10418	24771	10854	25218	10833	24488	11199	27381	12860	29610	12539	33871	12255
Warren	27735	24668	26831	19394	23748	16923	21627	14406	19917	14961	10917	16515	7062	13767
Washington	6846	15719	6628	15076	6807	13863	7074	12538	6584	13557	6317	12650	6037	13369
Wayne	0	6497	0	6403	0	6730	0	7067	0	8199	0	8405	0	9800
Webster	24699	12300	25122	12891	25756	14479	25894	14448	29423	16530	31263	17128	28399	19411
Winnebago	0	10679	3681	7185	3935	7788	4075	8047	3920	9090	3726	9264	2930	10169
Winneshiek	7993	12077	8637	12419	7577	13733	8063	12784	7991	13885	7458	14300	6435	15216
Woodbury	88855	17086	84336	17836	86735	17142	83277	14999	84419	16465	87157	15895	89990	17859
Worth	0	7443	0	7598	0	7909	0	7991	0	9075	16	8968	0	10259
Wright	0	12943	5715	7514	6040	8294	8874	5395	9889	6430	7461	9833	10119	9328
State of Iowa	2014831	1175538	1950256	1096099	1787432	1138892	1685970	1090785	1708232	1205576	1617397	1207971	1462512	1295025

# Census 2020: Urban and Rural Population in Iowa's Counties, 1940 - 2020

Table 4. Population Urban or Rural, Iowa, 1940 – 2020. (continued)<sup>1</sup>

County	1950		1940		County	1950		1940	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural		Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Adair	0	12292	0	13196	Jefferson	7299	8397	6773	8989
Adams	0	8753	0	10156	Johnson	27212	18544	17182	16009
Allamakee	3158	13193	2972	14212	Jones	6798	12603	6615	13335
Appanoose	7625	12058	8413	15832	Keokuk	0	16797	0	18406
Audubon	2808	8771	0	11790	Kossuth	5415	20826	4954	21676
Benton	7363	15293	7365	15514	Lee	31098	12004	29139	11935
Black Hawk	84386	16062	61092	18854	Linn	78212	26062	66841	22301
Boone	12164	15975	12373	17409	Louisa	0	11101	0	11384
Bremer	5124	13760	4156	13776	Lucas	5320	6749	5754	8817
Buchanan	4865	17062	4342	16649	Lyon	2640	12057	2556	12818
Buena Vista	6954	14159	5274	14564	Madison	3570	9561	3631	10894
Butler	0	17394	0	17986	Mahaska	11124	13548	11024	15461
Calhoun	0	16925	0	17584	Marion	12052	13878	10574	16445
Carroll	6231	16834	5389	17381	Marshall	19821	15790	19240	16166
Cass	6480	12052	5802	12845	Mills	4664	9400	4501	10563
Cedar	2633	14277	2518	14366	Mitchell	3436	10509	3196	10925
Cerro Gordo	32957	13096	30844	13001	Monona	3498	12805	3438	14800
Cherokee	7705	11347	7469	11789	Monroe	4838	6976	5157	9396
Chickasaw	3323	11905	2933	12294	Montgomery	6526	9159	5763	9934
Clarke	3422	5947	3281	6952	Muscatine	19041	13107	18286	13010
Clay	7446	10657	6599	11163	O'Brien	4001	14969	3768	15525
Clayton	0	22522	0	24334	Osceola	2559	7622	0	10607
Clinton	33023	16641	26270	18452	Page	12024	11897	11751	13136
Crawford	4554	15187	4361	16177	Palo Alto	3760	12131	3374	12796
Dallas	6174	17487	5977	18672	Plymouth	5844	17408	5353	18149
Davis	2688	7271	2732	8404	Pocahontas	0	15496	0	16266
Decatur	0	12601	0	14012	Polk	199934	26076	164071	31764
Delaware	3987	13747	3762	14725	Pottawattamie	47141	22541	41439	25317
Des Moines	30613	11443	25832	10972	Poweshiek	6828	12516	5210	13548
Dickinson	0	12756	0	12185	Ringgold	0	9528	0	11137
Dubuque	49671	21666	43892	19876	Sac	3170	14348	3165	14474
Emmet	6719	7383	5651	7755	Scott	81837	18861	69182	15566
Fayette	7858	20436	7801	21350	Shelby	3915	12027	3727	12993
Floyd	10309	11196	8681	11488	Sioux	2625	23756	2681	24528
Franklin	4432	11836	4006	12373	Story	26661	17633	15908	17526
Fremont	0	12323	0	14645	Tama	2930	18758	2832	19596
Greene	4326	11218	4088	12511	Taylor	0	12420	0	14258
Grundy	0	13722	0	13518	Union	8317	7334	8033	8247
Guthrie	0	15197	0	17210	Van Buren	0	11007	0	12053
Hamilton	7611	12049	6738	13184	Wapello	33631	13766	31570	12710
Hancock	0	15077	0	15402	Warren	5145	12613	4123	13572
Hardin	8007	14211	7978	14552	Washington	5902	13655	5227	14828
Harrison	3546	16014	3994	18773	Wayne	0	11737	0	13308
Henry	5843	12865	4610	13384	Webster	25115	19126	22904	18617
Howard	3638	9467	3530	10001	Winnebago	2766	10684	2545	11427
Humboldt	3219	9898	2819	10640	Winneshiek	6060	15579	5303	16960
Ida	0	10697	0	11047	Woodbury	83991	19926	82364	21263
Iowa	0	15835	0	17016	Worth	0	11068	0	11449
Jackson	4307	14315	4076	15105	Wright	7326	12326	6995	13043
Jasper	11723	20582	10462	21034	State of Iowa	1250938	1370135	1084231	1454037

This report and others in the series are available at: <https://indicators.extension.iastate.edu/Indicators/Census/>

**Notes**

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Censuses; <https://www.census.gov/> and <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/2020-census.html>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/urban-rural.htm>

<sup>3</sup>see report: Sandra Charvat Burke, 2021, *Census 2020: Population in Iowa's Counties, 2000-2020*, <https://indicators.extension.iastate.edu/Indicators/Census/>

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Census Bureau

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**July 31, 2023**