

Components of County Population Change, 2000-2009

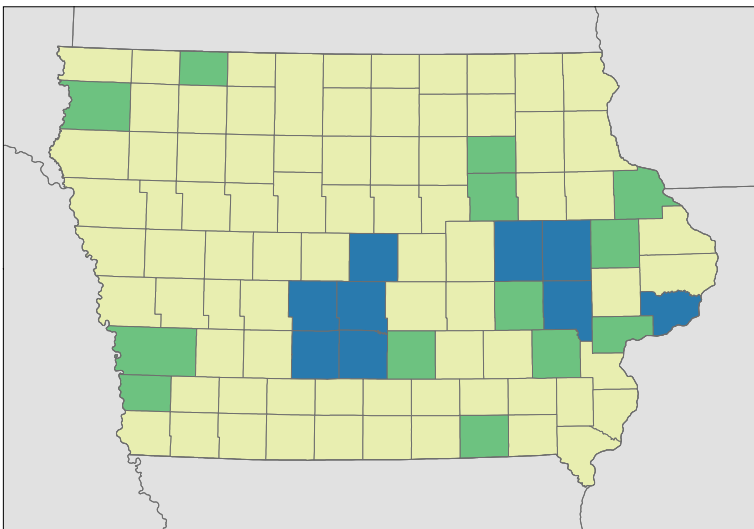
77 of Iowa's 99 Counties Experiencing Population Loss

Iowa's population increased by 2.8 percent between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2009. This growth rate was slow by national standards: the U.S. population increased more than three times faster at a rate of 9.1 percent.

Iowa's slow rate of growth is less surprising when we look at the performance of individual counties. Recent population gains have accrued to a relatively small number of counties. Only 22 of the state's 99 counties posted population growth during the decade, and only nine grew by 5 percent or more. Figure 1 shows Iowa's 2000-2009 population growth rates by county.

This report uses annual population estimates data from the U.S. Census Bureau to evaluate the comparative performance of Iowa's counties in producing, retaining, and attracting new residents during the decade of the 2000s.

Figure 1



**Percentage Change in Total Population,
2000-2009**

Total percentage change

- Loss
- Gain 0-5 percent
- Gain 5 percent or more

Explanation of Terms

Components of Population Change

Two different phenomena influence a county's total population size over time: natural change and net migration. Natural change is the difference between the number of births and deaths in a given time period. Net migration is the difference between the number of people moving into and out of the county. The combined effects of all births, deaths, and migration flows lead to population growth or decline in the county.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates each of the key components of population change using administrative records, including registered births and deaths, Federal income tax returns, Medicare enrollees, and military movement. The Census Bureau supplements its estimates using information from the American Community Survey (ACS), the Decennial Census, and other data sources.

Natural Change

Natural population change is the difference between the number of births and deaths that occur during a given time period. When the number of births exceeds the number of deaths, the county experiences natural population growth. If the number of deaths exceeds the number of births, the county is said to be in natural decline.

Births. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates the total number of live births occurring to residents in a county using reports from its Federal-State Cooperative Program for Population Estimates (FSCPE) and the National Center for Health Statistics.

Deaths. The total number of deaths occurring in the county are estimated using reports from the FSCPE and the National Center for Health Statistics.

Net Migration

Net migration is the difference between the number of people moving into and out of the county during the reference time period. Net migration has two components: net international migration and net domestic migration.

Net international migration. International migration flows describe the movement of individuals across the borders of the United States. It should be noted that international migration is measured regardless of a person's citizenship status and, to the extent possible, includes undocumented migrants. Also captured within international migration flows are the movements of members of the Armed Forces.

International in-migrants are current county residents who lived outside the United States in the year prior to the reference period. For example, an individual who was living in Canada in 1999 and moved directly to Story County, Iowa in 2003 would be counted as an international in-migrant for the 2000-2009 period.

International out-migrants are former U.S. residents who moved to a new residence outside the United States during the reference period.

Net domestic migration. Domestic migration flows describe the movement of individuals from one U.S. state or county to another during a particular time period of interest.

A person is included as a domestic migrant if they were residing in the United States at the beginning of the reference period and moved from one state or county to another during the period of interest. For example, a person who was born in Mexico, moved to the state of Texas in 1999, and then moved to Story County, Iowa in 2005 would be counted as a domestic in-migrant to Story County for the 2000-2008 time period.

Residual

The residual represents change in the population that cannot be attributed to any specific demographic component of population change.

Composition of County Change, 2000-2009

County	Population on April 1, 2000	Natural Change	Net Migration	Residual	Total Change	Population on July 1, 2009	Overall % Change	Rank
State of Iowa	2,926,380	106,396	-15,876	-9,044	81,476	3,007,856	2.8%	
Adair	8,243	-329	-520	-44	-893	7,350	-10.8%	89
Adams	4,482	-84	-452	-16	-552	3,930	-12.3%	94
Allamakee	14,675	291	-479	-80	-268	14,407	-1.8%	35
Appanoose	13,723	-174	-786	-65	-1,025	12,698	-7.5%	71
Audubon	6,830	-297	-472	-29	-798	6,032	-11.7%	92
Benton	25,307	724	705	-2	1,427	26,734	5.6%	8
Black Hawk	128,013	5,133	-3,178	-692	1,263	129,276	1.0%	18
Boone	26,216	254	-237	-161	-144	26,072	-0.5%	25
Bremer	23,325	401	-133	-133	135	23,460	0.6%	21
Buchanan	21,093	1,007	-1,083	-107	-183	20,910	-0.9%	28
Buena Vista	20,411	743	-1,456	-97	-810	19,601	-4.0%	49
Butler	15,305	-225	-647	-92	-964	14,341	-6.3%	62
Calhoun	11,115	-387	-1,009	-48	-1,444	9,671	-13.0%	97
Carroll	21,427	320	-951	-122	-753	20,674	-3.5%	48
Cass	14,684	-236	-602	-88	-926	13,758	-6.3%	63
Cedar	18,187	278	-348	-111	-181	18,006	-1.0%	29
Cerro Gordo	46,447	-142	-2,418	-278	-2,838	43,609	-6.1%	61
Cherokee	13,032	-327	-1,238	-58	-1,623	11,409	-12.5%	95
Chickasaw	13,095	140	-1,172	-46	-1,078	12,017	-8.2%	74
Clarke	9,133	252	-248	-51	-47	9,086	-0.5%	24
Clay	17,372	224	-880	-99	-755	16,617	-4.3%	51
Clayton	18,678	-41	-1,064	-110	-1,215	17,463	-6.5%	64
Clinton	50,149	676	-1,595	-296	-1,215	48,934	-2.4%	40
Crawford	16,942	589	-1,035	-80	-526	16,416	-3.1%	46
Dallas	40,776	4,002	16,772	400	21,174	61,950	51.9%	1
Davis	8,541	387	-324	-42	21	8,562	0.2%	22
Decatur	8,689	55	-472	-41	-458	8,231	-5.3%	57
Delaware	18,404	455	-1,583	-71	-1,199	17,205	-6.5%	65
Des Moines	42,351	855	-1,926	-222	-1,293	41,058	-3.1%	45
Dickinson	16,424	-66	386	-121	199	16,623	1.2%	17
Dubuque	89,156	3,337	625	-46	3,916	93,072	4.4%	10
Emmet	11,028	68	-802	-53	-787	10,241	-7.1%	68
Fayette	22,008	-241	-1,497	-106	-1,844	20,164	-8.4%	77
Floyd	16,900	16	-924	-82	-990	15,910	-5.9%	60
Franklin	10,704	43	-143	-64	-164	10,540	-1.5%	32
Fremont	8,010	-43	-587	-35	-665	7,345	-8.3%	76
Greene	10,366	-176	-894	-45	-1,115	9,251	-10.8%	88
Grundy	12,369	-78	-31	-83	-192	12,177	-1.6%	33
Guthrie	11,353	-113	-355	-52	-520	10,833	-4.6%	53
Hamilton	16,435	101	-1,224	-74	-1,197	15,238	-7.3%	69
Hancock	12,100	17	-1,024	-47	-1,054	11,046	-8.7%	80
Hardin	18,812	-365	-1,206	-97	-1,668	17,144	-8.9%	83
Harrison	15,666	-120	-135	-83	-338	15,328	-2.2%	38
Henry	20,336	267	-561	-113	-407	19,929	-2.0%	37
Howard	9,934	31	-510	-45	-524	9,410	-5.3%	58
Humboldt	10,381	-43	-815	-50	-908	9,473	-8.7%	81
Ida	7,840	-151	-893	-34	-1,078	6,762	-13.8%	98
Iowa	15,671	268	-35	-93	140	15,811	0.9%	19
Jackson	20,296	47	-483	-132	-568	19,728	-2.8%	44

Composition of County Change, 2000-2009

County	Population on April 1, 2000	Natural Change	Net Migration	Residual	Total Change	Population on July 1, 2009	Overall % Change	Rank
Jasper	37,213	775	-1,510	-221	-956	36,257	-2.6%	41
Jefferson	16,181	33	-666	-76	-709	15,472	-4.4%	52
Johnson	111,006	9,275	10,144	580	19,999	131,005	18.0%	2
Jones	20,221	298	-10	-145	143	20,364	0.7%	20
Keokuk	11,400	32	-810	-60	-838	10,562	-7.4%	70
Kossuth	17,163	-116	-1,834	-59	-2,009	15,154	-11.7%	93
Lee	38,052	-207	-2,222	-176	-2,605	35,447	-6.8%	67
Linn	191,702	12,069	5,507	-52	17,524	209,226	9.1%	6
Louisa	12,183	371	-1,260	-49	-938	11,245	-7.7%	72
Lucas	9,422	18	-203	-58	-243	9,179	-2.6%	43
Lyon	11,763	356	-885	-62	-591	11,172	-5.0%	56
Madison	14,019	561	921	-92	1,390	15,409	9.9%	5
Mahaska	22,335	697	-911	-121	-335	22,000	-1.5%	31
Marion	32,054	709	102	-183	628	32,682	2.0%	16
Marshall	39,311	1,111	-971	-192	-52	39,259	-0.1%	23
Mills	14,547	416	131	-92	455	15,002	3.1%	11
Mitchell	10,872	-52	31	-70	-91	10,781	-0.8%	27
Monona	10,020	-576	-503	-59	-1,138	8,882	-11.4%	91
Monroe	8,016	-102	-318	-47	-467	7,549	-5.8%	59
Montgomery	11,771	-205	-730	-40	-975	10,796	-8.3%	75
Muscatine	41,722	2,245	-809	-224	1,212	42,934	2.9%	12
O'Brien	15,102	-177	-924	-73	-1,174	13,928	-7.8%	73
Osceola	7,003	-51	-574	-34	-659	6,344	-9.4%	84
Page	16,976	-419	-1,207	-90	-1,716	15,260	-10.1%	87
Palo Alto	10,147	-127	-702	-39	-868	9,279	-8.6%	79
Plymouth	24,849	651	-1,151	-139	-639	24,210	-2.6%	42
Pocahontas	8,662	-321	-968	-27	-1,316	7,346	-15.2%	99
Polk	374,575	33,814	20,009	1,041	54,864	429,439	14.6%	3
Pottawattamie	87,807	3,475	-470	-588	2,417	90,224	2.8%	14
Poweshiek	18,832	-220	-71	-118	-409	18,423	-2.2%	39
Ringgold	5,469	-173	-328	-24	-525	4,944	-9.6%	86
Sac	11,529	-357	-1,068	-45	-1,470	10,059	-12.8%	96
Scott	158,689	9,211	-754	-496	7,961	166,650	5.0%	9
Shelby	13,074	-222	-829	-66	-1,117	11,957	-8.5%	78
Sioux	31,589	2,154	-1,317	-182	655	32,244	2.1%	15
Story	79,981	4,516	3,142	-425	7,233	87,214	9.0%	7
Tama	18,103	335	-957	-104	-726	17,377	-4.0%	50
Taylor	6,958	-140	-438	-36	-614	6,344	-8.8%	82
Union	12,309	-49	25	-44	-68	12,241	-0.6%	26
Van Buren	7,809	-15	-66	-49	-130	7,679	-1.7%	34
Wapello	36,051	602	-1,092	-227	-717	35,334	-2.0%	36
Warren	40,671	1,630	3,198	-224	4,604	45,275	11.3%	4
Washington	20,670	607	117	-136	588	21,258	2.8%	13
Wayne	6,730	-155	-250	-42	-447	6,283	-6.6%	66
Webster	40,235	243	-1,884	-248	-1,889	38,346	-4.7%	55
Winnebago	11,723	-98	-971	-52	-1,121	10,602	-9.6%	85
Winneshiek	21,310	169	-733	-117	-681	20,629	-3.2%	47
Woodbury	103,877	6,679	-7,201	-524	-1,046	102,831	-1.0%	30
Worth	7,909	-121	-200	-47	-368	7,541	-4.7%	54
Wright	14,334	-96	-1,467	-55	-1,618	12,716	-11.3%	90

2000-2009 Natural Change

Natural population change contributed 106,400 additional residents for Iowa between 2000 and 2009. The state's rate of natural population growth has averaged just under 4/10ths of one percent annually since 2000.

More than one third of Iowa's counties experienced natural population decline from 2000-2009. Monona, Audubon, and Adair Counties had highest rates of natural population decline.

Counties that attract young adults and families typically enjoy higher rates of natural population growth than counties with an older population base. In Iowa, the counties with the highest rates of natural population growth include Dallas, Polk, and Johnson.

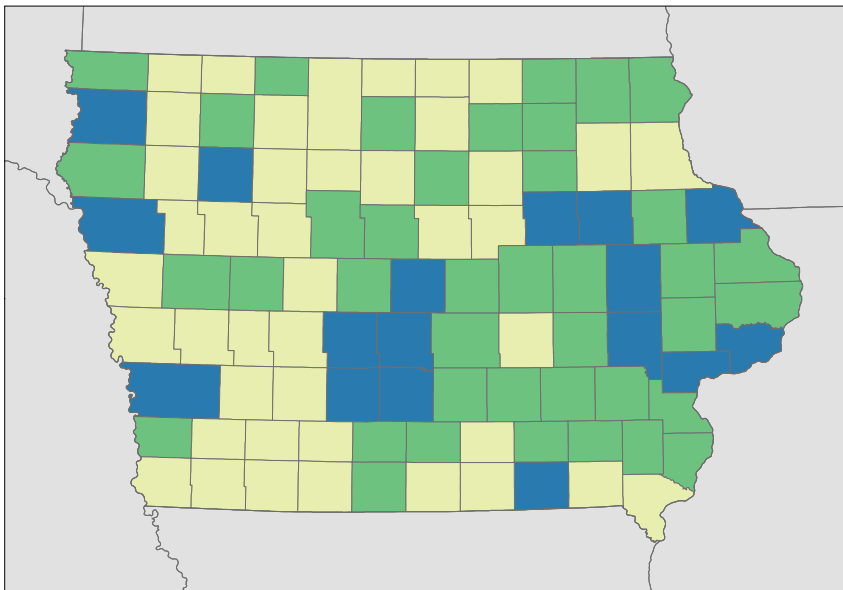
Figure 2 illustrates the average rates of natural population change by individual county from 2000 to 2009. In all, 17 counties had natural growth exceeding the statewide

42 of Iowa's counties experienced natural population declines from 2000-2009.

average rate, 40 counties had below-average rates of natural growth, and 42 counties experienced natural population declines.

Figures 3 and 4 show the separate effects of population change from births and deaths. Dallas, Polk, and Woodbury Counties had the highest rates of growth from births. Pocahontas, Audubon, and Cherokee Counties had the lowest rates of growth from births. Monona, Ringgold, and Wayne Counties posted the highest rates of loss from deaths. Johnson, Story, and Dallas Counties had the lowest rates of loss from deaths.

Figure 2



**Rates of Natural Population Change,
2000-2009**

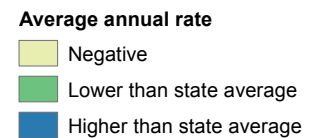
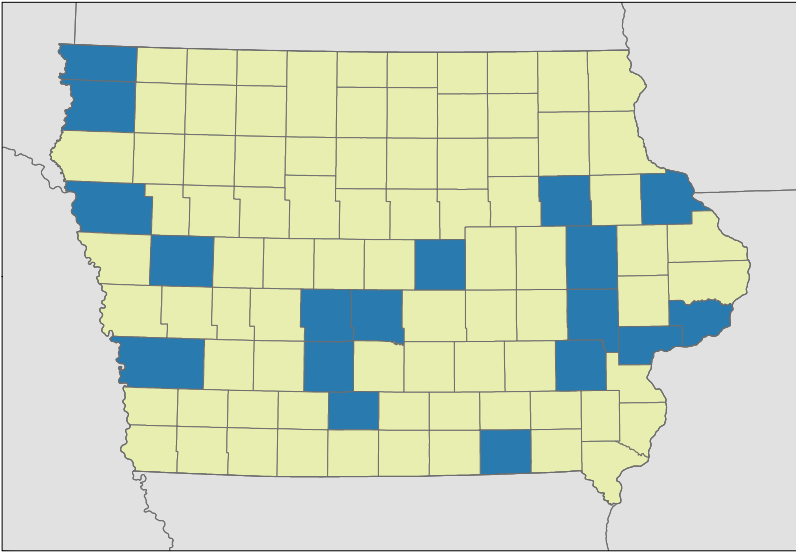


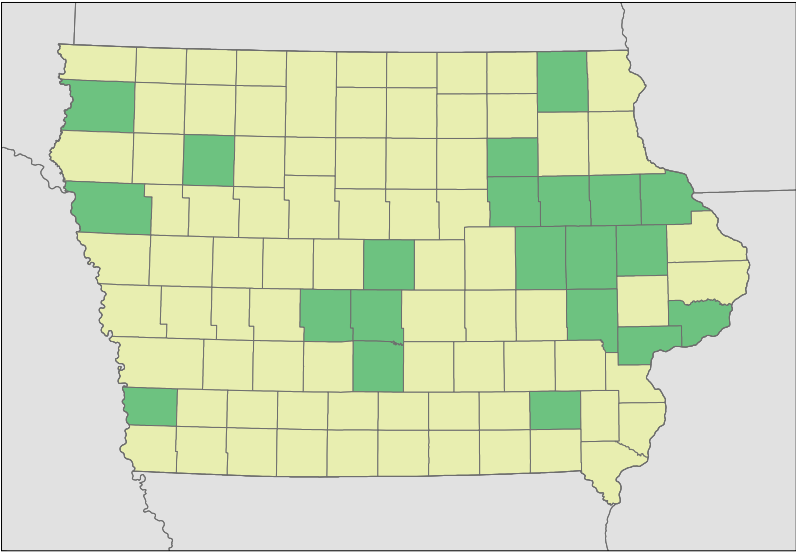
Figure 3



**Rates of Population Change
from Births, 2000-2009**

Average annual rate
Lower than state average
Higher than state average

Figure 4



**Rates of Population Change
from Deaths, 2000-2009**

Average annual rate
Lower than state average
Higher than state average

2000-2009 Net Migration

Iowa's population loss from net out-migration for the decade thus far approaches 16,000 residents. These losses are widespread throughout the state, with only 15 counties gaining more residents from migration than they have lost since 2000. Forty-eight counties are losing the equivalent of 1/2 percent or more of their population per year from net out-migration. Figure 5 illustrates the rates of overall net migration by individual county.

Considering only domestic migration flows, Iowa has lost more than 52,200 residents in its net exchanges with other states this decade. Iowa's domestic migration losses on a percentage rate basis have averaged 1/5th of one percent per year.

Figure 6 shows the rate of domestic migration loss or gain by county. Only 12 counties have experienced a net inflow of domestic residents since 2000. Among the gainers, Dallas, Warren, and Madison Counties experienced the highest rates of growth from domestic in-migration. The counties with the highest domestic loss rates include Buena Vista, Louisa, and Wright Counties.

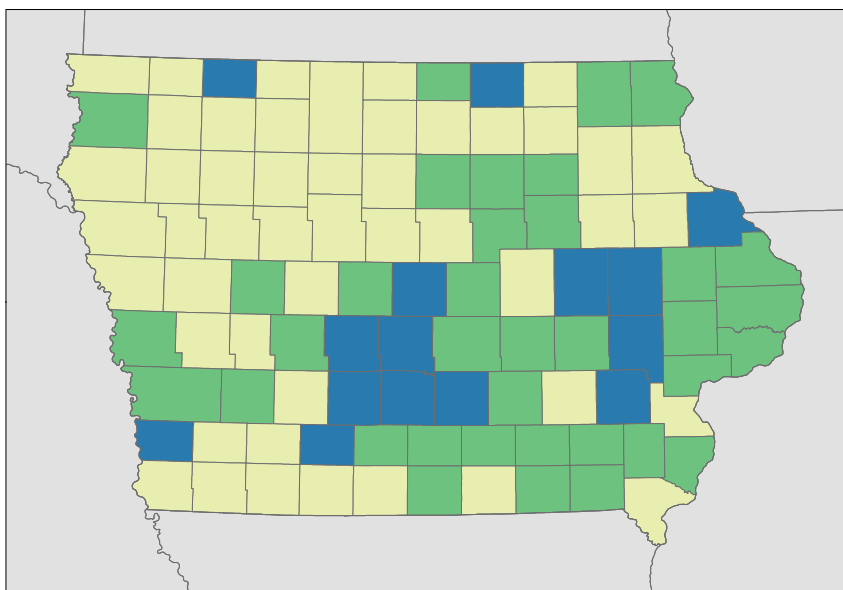
84 of Iowa's counties lost population from net out-migration between 2000-2009.

International in-migration has helped offset some of Iowa's domestic migration losses. Iowa attracted more than 36,000 net, new residents from outside the United States during the current decade. Figure 7 illustrates the average annual rates of net international migration by county.

Although most of Iowa's counties attracted some growth from international migration, the statewide gains were absorbed disproportionately by a handful of counties. Fourteen counties added international migrants more rapidly than average for the state. Those 14 counties accounted for 75 percent of Iowa's net international gain.

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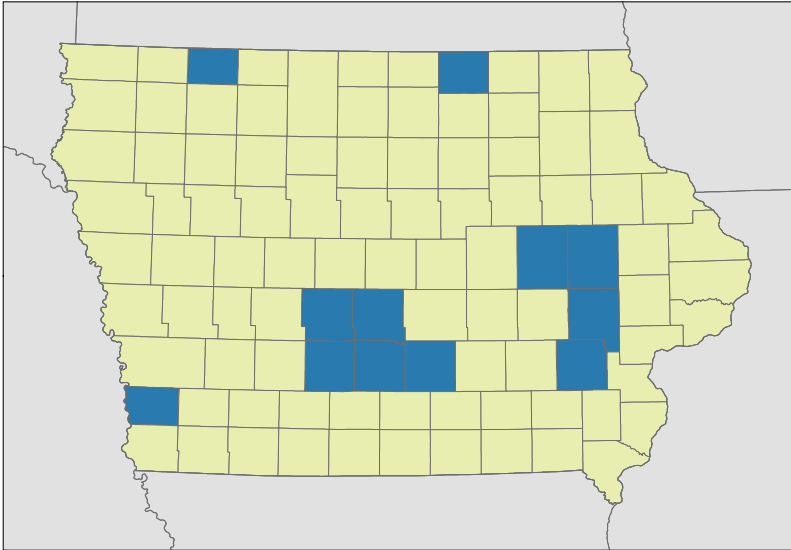
Figure 5



Rates of Population Change from Net Migration, 2000-2009

Average annual rate
 -1/2 percent or more
 -1/2 to 0 percent
 Positive

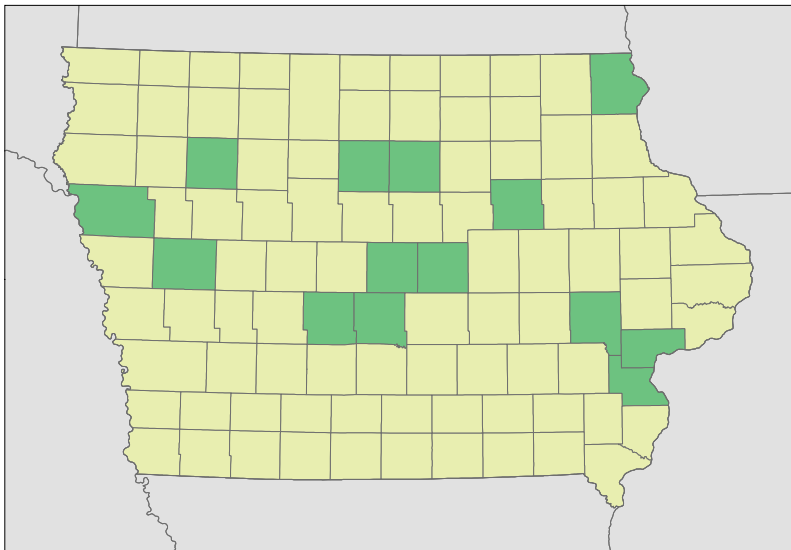
Figure 6



**Rates of Population Change
from Domestic Migration, 2000-2009**

Average annual rate
Negative
Positive

Figure 7



**Rates of Population Change
from International Migration, 2000-2009**

Average annual rate
Lower than state average
Higher than state average

Net Migration, continued

Continued from page 6

Only 13 counties in Iowa experienced population losses from international migration flows. These net losses, which did not exceed 10 residents in any county, are likely explained by military deployments.

The three counties with the highest rates of population growth from international in-migration include Buena Vista, Story, and Franklin Counties.

Summary

Annual population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau help counties to benchmark their performance in producing, retaining, and attracting new residents. This report investigates population growth in Iowa's counties during the period from 2000-2009.

Population gains and losses were distributed unevenly across the state. Only 22 of 99 counties experienced overall population growth for the decade thus far. Natural population declines occurred in 42 counties, and 84 counties experienced net out-migration.

In all, Iowa had only 12 counties with growth from both natural change and net migration. Those 12 counties included Benton and Linn in the Cedar Rapids MSA; Polk, Dallas, Madison, and Warren in the Des Moines MSA; Johnson and Washington in the Iowa City MSA; Mills in the Omaha-Council Bluffs MSA; Story in the Ames MSA; and Dubuque in the Dubuque MSA. Marion was the only county outside an MSA to experience both natural population growth and net in-migration.

Iowa Population Reports

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