

2020 Census Urban Area Populations

Numbers and observations for Iowa

MPO/RPA Quarterly
March 22, 2023

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Urbanized Area (MPOs)

UACE	NAME	STATE	PART	2020 POP	2010 POP	NUMBER CHANGE	NC RANK	PERCENT CHANGE	% RANK	2010 POP RANK	2020 POP RANK	CHANGE
02062	Ames, IA	19		66,342	60,438	5,904	5	9.77%	3	9	9	-
14752	Cedar Rapids, IA	19		192,844	177,844	15,000	3	8.43%	4	2	2	-
22366	Davenport, IA--IL	19	P	151,477	142,901	8,576	4	6.00%	5	3	3	-
23743	Des Moines, IA	19		542,486	450,070	92,416	1	20.53%	1	1	1	-
24823	Dubuque, IA--IL	19	P	67,774	64,767	3,007	7	4.64%	7	8	8	-
41590	Iowa City, IA	19		126,810	106,621	20,189	2	18.94%	2	5	4	1
65269	Omaha, NE--IA	19	P	68,447	68,546	(99)	9	-0.14%	9	7	7	-
82225	Sioux City, IA--NE--SD	19	P	88,855	84,359	4,496	6	5.33%	6	6	6	-
92593	Waterloo, IA	19		114,139	113,418	721	8	0.64%	8	4	5	-1
				1,419,174	1,268,964	150,210		11.84%				

Non-urbanized Area (RPAs)

RPA	2020 POPULATION	2010 POPULATION	NUMBER CHANGE	NC RANK	PERCENT CHANGE	PC RANK	2020 POP RANK	2010 POP RANK	CHANGE
1	80,152	83,961	(3,809)	16	-4.54%	16	11	11	-
2	123,083	127,258	(4,175)	18	-3.28%	13	4	4	-
3	141,474	139,462	2,012	3	1.44%	4	3	3	-
4	70,198	71,203	(1,005)	7	-1.41%	8	13	13	-
5	91,583	93,710	(2,127)	12	-2.27%	11	9	9	-
6	92,780	94,863	(2,083)	11	-2.20%	10	8	8	-
7	101,233	102,665	(1,432)	9	-1.39%	7	7	7	-
8	114,925	115,614	(689)	5	-0.60%	5	5	5	-
9	66,427	65,068	1,359	4	2.09%	3	14	15	1
10	167,452	160,915	6,537	2	4.06%	2	2	2	-
11	248,681	234,170	14,511	1	6.20%	1	1	1	-
12	72,167	74,671	(2,504)	14	-3.35%	14	12	12	-
13	45,273	48,069	(2,796)	15	-5.82%	18	17	17	-
14	33,897	35,693	(1,796)	10	-5.03%	17	18	18	-
15	90,526	92,930	(2,404)	13	-2.59%	12	10	10	-
16	103,784	107,719	(3,935)	17	-3.65%	15	6	6	-
17	61,528	62,654	(1,126)	8	-1.80%	9	16	16	-
18	66,032	66,766	(734)	6	-1.10%	6	15	14	- 1
Total	1,771,195	1,777,391	(6,196)		-0.35%				

Urban-Rural Classification

- For the 2010 Census, to qualify as an urban area, the territory identified according to criteria must
 - encompass at least 2,500 people, at least 1,500 of which reside outside institutional group quarters.
 - The Census Bureau identified two types of urban areas:
 - Urbanized Areas (UAs) of 50,000 or more people;
 - Urban Clusters (UCs) of at least 2,500 and less than 50,000 people.
- For the 2020 Census, to qualify as an urban area, the territory identified according to criteria must
 - encompass at least 2,000 housing units or
 - have a population of at least 5,000.

2020 Census Urban Areas by the Numbers

	United States	Iowa	MPO	RPA
Total number of 2020 Census Urban Areas	2,613	71	9	62
Total urban population	265,149,027	2,014,831	1,419,174	595,657
Percent population living within urban areas	80.00%	63.15%	100.00%	33.63%
Total rural population	66,300,254	1,175,538	0	1,175,538
Percent population living within rural areas	20.00%	36.85%	0.00%	66.37%

Urban Area – Population Change over Time

	United States	Iowa	MPO	RPA
Total urban population change between 2010 and 2020	6.38%	3.31%	11.84%	-12.57%
Difference	15,895,756	64,575	150,210	-85,635
Total 2020 urban population	265,149,027	2,014,831	1,419,174	595,657
Total 2010 urban population	249,253,271	1,950,256	1,268,964	681,292

Rural Area – Population Change over Time

	United States	Iowa	MPO	RPA
Total rural population change between 2010 and 2020	11.43%	7.25%	-	7.25%
Difference	6,798,987	79,439	0	79,439
Total 2020 rural population	66,300,254	1,175,538	0	1,175,538
Total 2010 rural population	59,501,267	1,096,099	0	1,096,099

Total Area – Population Change over Time

	United States	Iowa	MPO	RPA
Total population change between 2010 and 2020	7.35%	4.73%	11.84%	-0.35%
Difference	22,694,743	144,014	150,210	-6,196
Total population - 2020	331,449,281	3,190,369	1,419,174	1,771,195
Total population - 2010	308,754,538	3,046,355	1,268,964	1,777,391



2010 Urban Areas Classified as Rural in 2020

- See handout.
- 27 Total
- Note that none of the cities listed would have met the 2020 urban area classification with their 2010 population or housing units.
- Total 2010 population of these towns is 90,541



2020 Urban Areas by Planning Agency

- See handout.
- Most urban areas listed met the Census definition of urban area for both population and housing units.
Exceptions were:
 - Cherokee, IA (RPA 4) – Housing Unit
 - Manchester, IA (RPA 8) – Housing Unit
 - Vinton, IA (RPA 10) – Housing Unit
 - Polk City, IA (RPA 11/DMAMPO) – Population
 - Shenandoah, IA (RPA 13) – Housing Unit
 - Harlan, IA (RPA 18) – Housing Unit

Quick Observations

- Iowa's total population increased by 144,014 (4.73%)
- Iowa's MPOs (Iowa side) population increased by 150,210 (11.84%)
- Iowa's non-urbanized population (non-MPO) population decreased by 6,196 (0.35%)
- RPAs 3, 9, 10, 11 saw their non-urbanized area population increase.
 - If you include MPOs in total RPA population, add RPA 4 and RPA 8 for increase
- Largest growth
 - MPO – Des Moines MPO (92,416)
 - RPA (non-urbanized) – RPA 11 (14,511)

Quick Observations

- RPA 2 lost the most people (-4,175)
- RPA 13 saw the largest population percentage loss (-5.82%)
- 14 RPAs saw their non-urbanized population decrease
 - RPA 1, 2, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15 saw a population decrease in every county

Quick Observations

- Total RPA Population (including UZAs)
 - RPA 7 went from 3rd largest population to 4th
 - RPA 9 went from 4th largest population to 3rd
- Total Non-urbanized Population
 - RPA 9 went from 15th largest population to 14th
 - RPA 18 went from 14th largest population to 15th
- Iowa City passed Waterloo, moving from 5th largest MPO to 4th largest.
- RPA 5, 11, 17, 18 saw instances where counties (total population) flipped ranking.

Thoughts/Observations?