County Facts: Decatur County, IA
Population 8,000

The Local Economy

Unemployment rate: 2.6% (Decatur County), 3.1% (IA), 2.4% (United States)

Poverty rate: 13.2% (Decatur County), 12.4% (IA), 15.1% (United States)

Median family income (000s): $52 (Decatur County), $56 (IA), $57 (United States)

Population growth 2000-2017: -9% (Decatur County), 7% (IA), 16% (United States)

Manufacturing share of workforce: 17% (Decatur County), 15% (IA), 10% (United States)

Farming share of workforce: 8.9% (Decatur County), 4.3% (IA), 1.7% (United States)

Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): 4.7% (Decatur County), 2.8% (IA), 2.7% (United States)

How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

Percent graduating any college: 48% (Decatur County), 46% (IA), 46% (United States)

Percent reaching upper-middle class: 17% (Decatur County), 17% (IA), 15% (United States)

Percent achieving American Dream: 10% (Decatur County), 10% (IA), 10% (United States)

Percent giving birth as a teen: 2.7% (Decatur County), 2.7% (IA), 2.7% (United States)

Percent landing in jail: 0.4% (Decatur County), 0.7% (IA), 0.7% (United States)

Local school expenditure per student (000s): $7.5 (Decatur County), $6.1 (IA), $6.4 (United States)
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges

- Graceland Univ.
- Iowa 4-year-college average
- U.S. 4-year-college average

2-Year Colleges

- Southwestern CC of Creston, IA (public)†
- Iowa 2-year-college average
- U.S. 2-year-college average

*: Data refers to the full college system, not just this campus. †: In nearby county

Local Demographics

- Percent Black
- Percent Hispanic
- Percent over age 65
- Percent college grad
- Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents)

- Decatur County
- IA
- United States
The Local Economy

- Unemployment rate (August 2018, BLS)
- Poverty rate (2012-2016 ACS)
- Median family income (2016 ACS)
- Manufacturing share of workforce (2012-2016 ACS)
- Farming share of workforce (2012-2016 ACS)
- Great Recession unemployment spike (BLS LAUS)

How Local Kids’ Lives Turn Out

- Percent graduating any college (2-yr or 4-yr, Tax Data 2, N/A for some counties)
- Percent reaching upper middle-class (top 20% of the U.S. income distribution, Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent achieving American Dream (share of local low-income kids—i.e. those with 25th-income-percentile parents—who reach the top 20% of the U.S. income distribution as adults, Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent (of local female kids) giving birth as a teen (Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent landing in jail (percent of local kids in jail on 1 April 2010, Tax Data 1 and 2010 Census, N/A for some counties)
- Local school expenditure per student (in public schools, NCES, N/A for some counties)

Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

- Low-income share of students (share of age-18-22 students with bottom-20% parents, Tax Data 2)
- Low-income student success rate (share of low-income age-18-22 students who reach the top 40% of the U.S. income distribution as adults, Tax Data 2)

Local Demographics

- Percent Black (2012-2016 ACS)
- Percent Hispanic (2012-2016 ACS)
- Percent over age 65 (2010 Census)
- Percent college grad (4-yr college, 2012-2016 ACS)
- Crime rate (serious violent and property arrests per 10,000 residents, FBI Uniform Crime Reports, N/A for some counties)
- Life expectancy (at age 40, Tax Data 3, N/A for some counties)
- Opioid deaths (per 10,000 residents in 2017, CDC, N/A for some counties and some counties report population weighted commuting zone average)

Sources Legend

- ACS: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Surveys, 2012-2016
- CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2017 on CDC WONDER Online Database.
- Census: U.S. Census Bureau