

# Chapter 2. Jackson County Snapshot

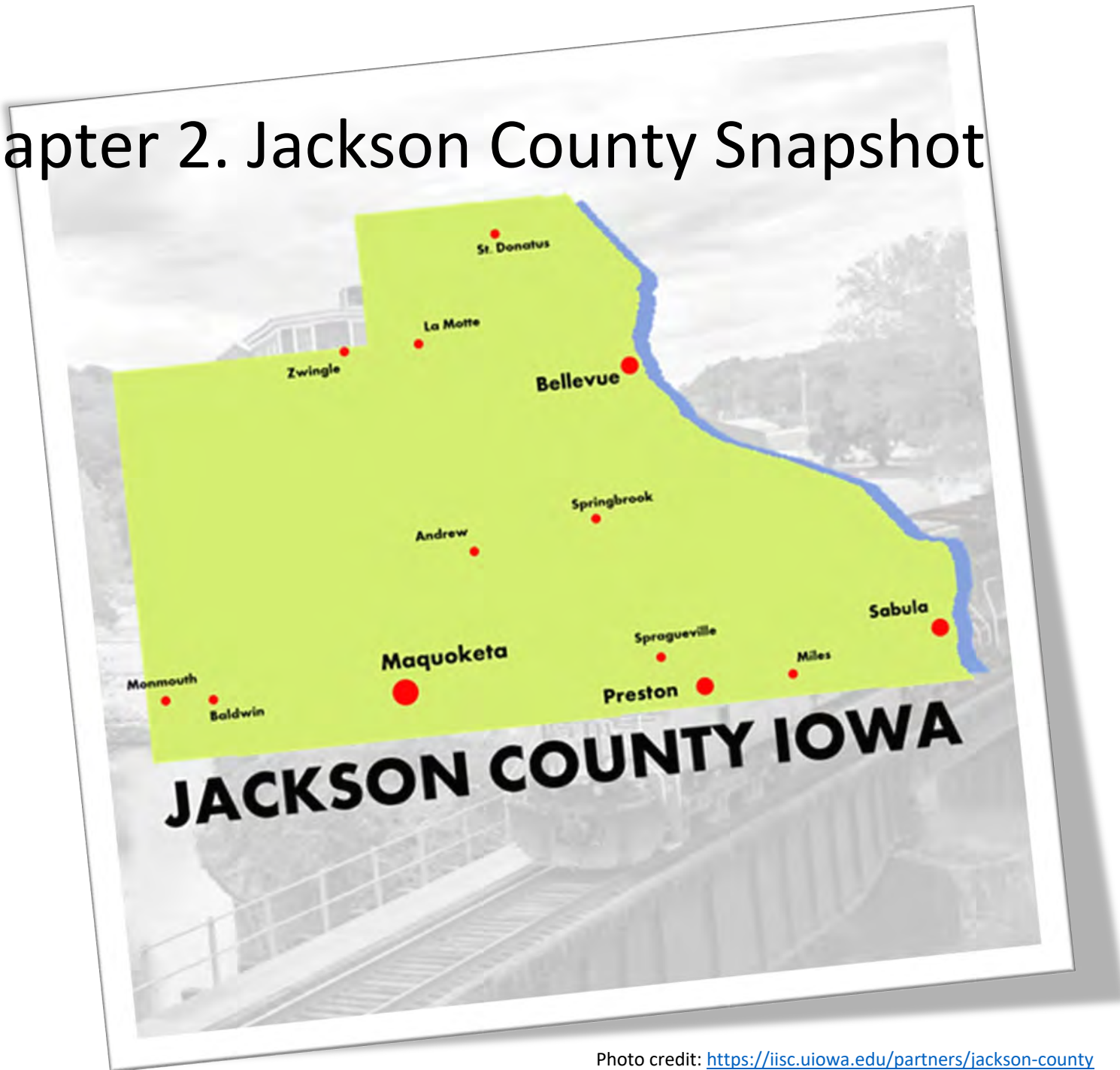


Photo credit: <https://iisc.uiowa.edu/partners/jackson-county>

**GOVERNMENT SNAPSHOT**

The main forms of government in Jackson County are county, city, and township.

*Jackson County Government*

County governments are required to provide a number of functions which are mandated by the State of Iowa: election administration, social/human services, recording of documents and vital statistics, prosecution of state laws and county ordinances, licensing, jail administration, law enforcement, and road maintenance.<sup>1</sup>

Jackson County government operates under the Board of Supervisor form of government. The Board of Supervisors is the chief administrative body of county government. Full-time elected officials are the county Board of Supervisors, Sheriff, Recorder, Treasurer, Attorney, and Auditor. Other county offices include: Conservation, Community Service, Emergency Management, Engineer/Secondary Roads, Environmental Health, General

Assistance, Geographic Information System (GIS), Human Resources, Information Technology, Mental Health, Planning and Zoning, Veteran Affairs, and Waste Authority. For more information, see Chapter 4. Community Facilities and Services.

*City Governments*

An incorporated city is able to have its own elected officials, usually a mayor and city council. It also can make its own rules, with some exceptions under state law. An incorporated city often provides public services and amenities for its residents and businesses.

Population changes for incorporated cities based on the 2010 and 2020 U.S. Census data are shown in Table 2.1. The 13 incorporated cities in Jackson County comprised nearly 60% of the county’s population in 2020, a slight increase from 2010.

Unincorporated communities are governed by the Board of Supervisors.

**Table 2.1 Cities ranked by 2020 population**

City	2020	2010	Percent Change
Maquoketa	6,128	6,141	-0.2%
Bellevue	2,363	2,191	+7.9%
Preston	949	1,012	-6.2%
Sabula	506	576	-12.2%
Miles	408	445	-8.3%
Andrew	380	434	-12.4%
La Motte	237	260	-8.8%
Springbrook	143	144	-0.7%
Monmouth	129	153	-15.7%
St. Donatus	120	135	-11.1%
Baldwin	99	109	-9.2%
Spragueville	92	81	+13.6%
Zwingle*	84	91	-7.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,638</b>	<b>11,772</b>	<b>--1.1%</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>59.7%</b>	<b>59.3%</b>	<b>+0.7</b>

*\*partially in Dubuque County*  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 2.1 is a map of incorporated cities and unincorporated communities in Jackson County.

<sup>1</sup> <http://publications.iowa.gov/135/1/local/6-1.html>

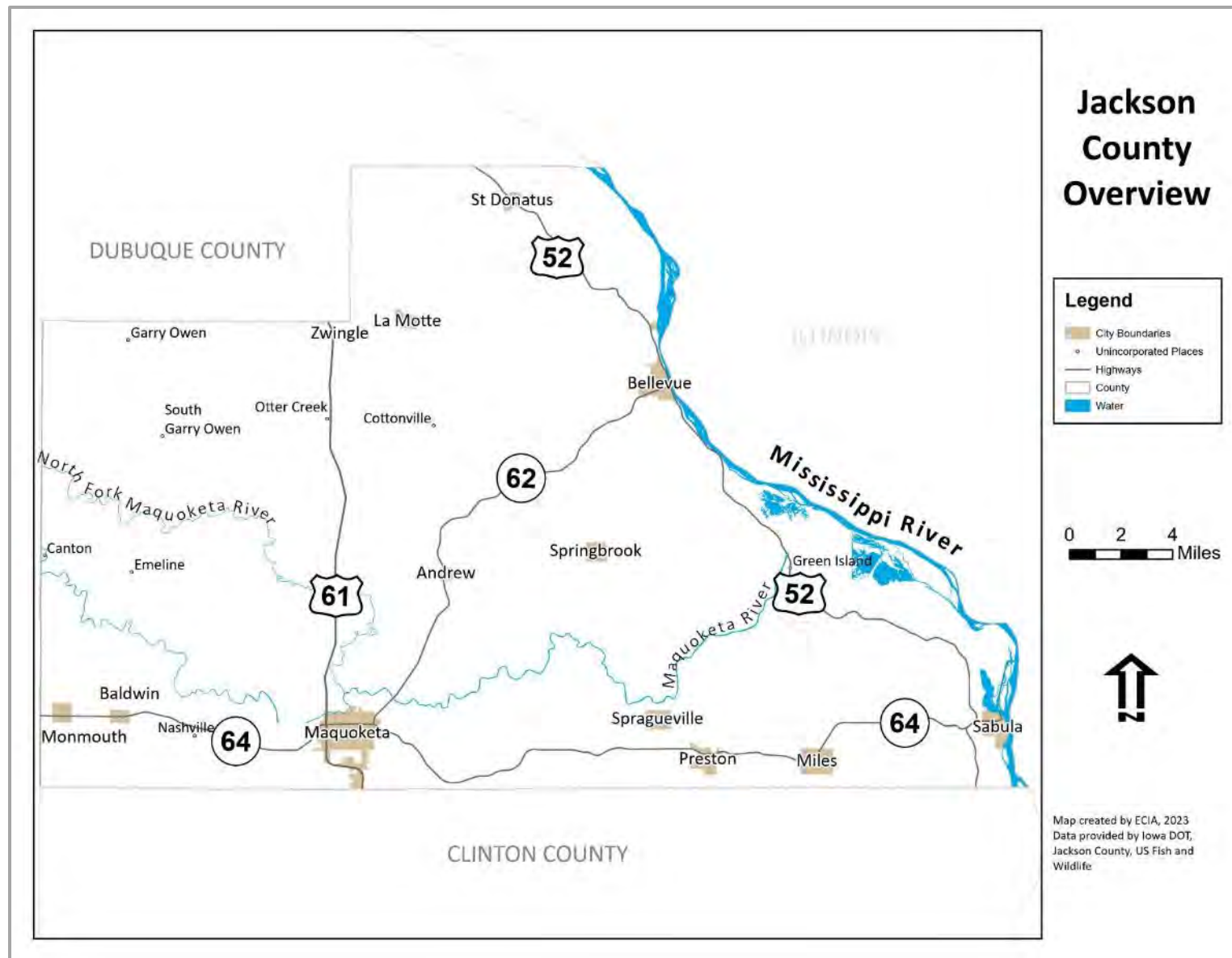


Figure 2.1 Map of Jackson County – Incorporated Cities and Unincorporated Communities

Source: ECIA, 2023

*Township Governments*

The 18 township governments within Jackson County are listed in Table 2.2. Their boundaries are shown in Figure 2.2. The primary duties of the township governments are to maintain cemeteries, provide fire protection, and mediate fence disputes. Each township government is composed of a clerk and three elected trustees.

<b>Bellevue</b>	<b>Otter Creek</b>
<b>Brandon</b>	<b>Perry</b>
<b>Butler</b>	<b>Prairie Springs</b>
<b>Fairfield</b>	<b>Richland</b>
<b>Farmers Creek</b>	<b>South Fork</b>
<b>Iowa</b>	<b>Tetes des Mort</b>
<b>Jackson</b>	<b>Union</b>
<b>Maquoketa</b>	<b>Van Buren</b>
<b>Monmouth</b>	<b>Washington</b>



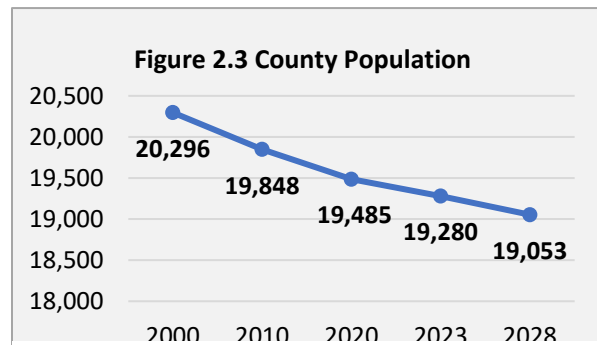
**Figure 2.2 Map of Township Governments in Jackson County**

Source: Jackson County Beacon GIS, 2023



**POPULATION SNAPSHOT**

The population of Jackson County has been slowly declining since 2000 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In 2023, the **estimated population** of Jackson County was 19,280. Estimated population for 2028 is 19,0053 (see Figure 2.3) according to the Jackson County Economic Alliance (JCEA) Community Profile.

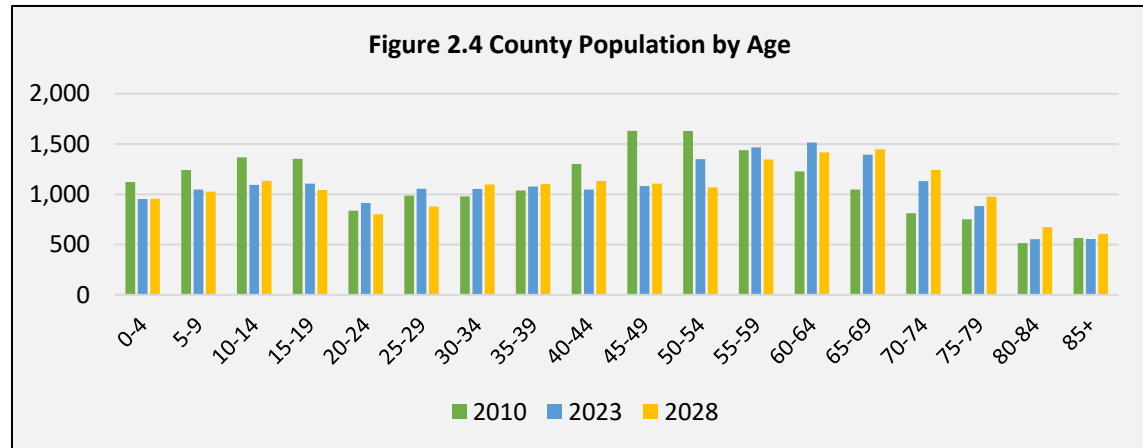


Source: JCEA, Feb. 2024

The **median age** is estimated to increase and the **population age 18+** is expected to decline by 2028 (see Table 2.3).

Year	Median Age	Population Age 18+
2010	44	15,243
2023	46	15,488
2028	47	15,276

Source: JCEA, Feb. 2024

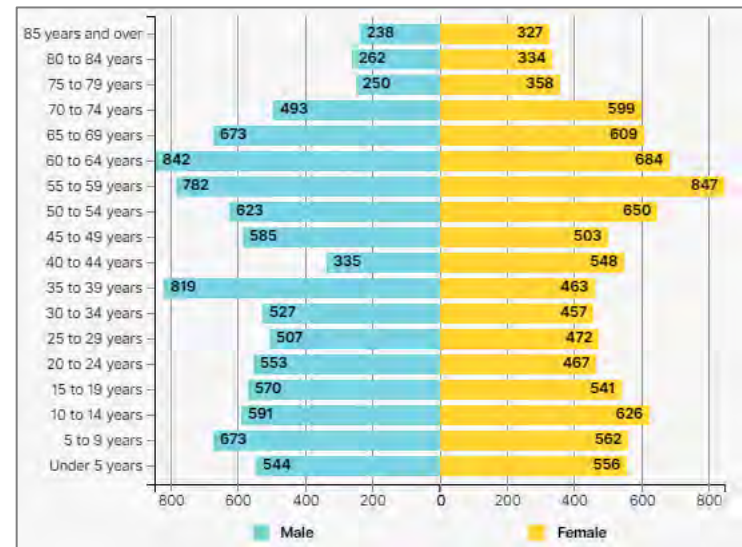


Source: JCEA, Feb. 2024

**Population age** in Jackson County is trending toward more people ages 30-39 and over the age of 60 by 2028 (see Figure 2.4).

Figure 2.5 is the county’s **population pyramid by age and gender**, based on the 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates. In 2022, the county was 49.3% female and 50.7% male. The ACS is an ongoing survey by the U.S. Census Bureau of various characteristics of the U.S. population.

Figure 2.5 County Population Pyramid by Age and Gender



Source: 2022 ACS 5-Year Estimates

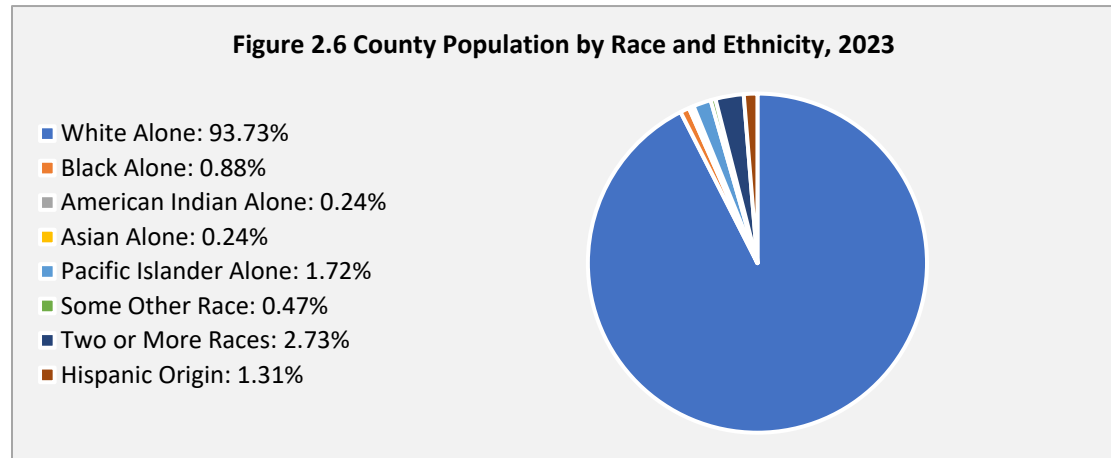
The **population race and ethnicity** in Jackson County in 2023 was 93.78% white race alone, 2.73% two or more races, and 1.31% Hispanic origin (see Figure 2.6). The Esri Diversity Index for Jackson County increased from 12.7 in 2022 to 14.3 in 2023.

Table 2.4 shows estimated **growth rates** for selected community characteristics of Jackson County from 2023 to 2028.

Population and the number of households and families are expected to decline slightly. Median household income and per capita income both are expected to increase by 3%. *Median household income* is the exact middle point in a list of incomes. *Per capita income* is the income earned by one person in a year.

Characteristic	Percent Change
Population	-0.24%
Households	-0.05%
Families	-0.15%
Median Household Income	3%
Per Capita Income	3%

Source: JCEA, Feb. 2024



Source: JCEA, Feb. 2024

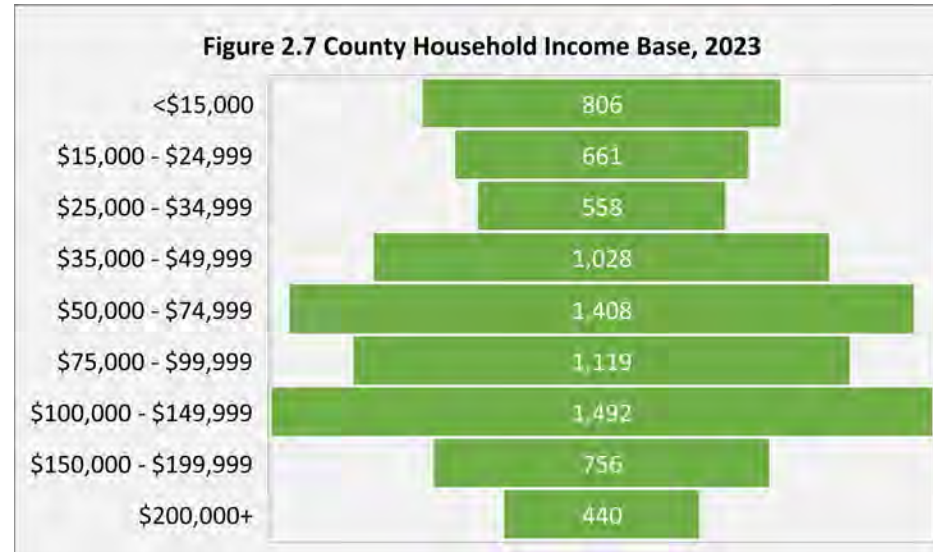
“Esri’s definition of diversity is two-dimensional and combines racial diversity with ethnic diversity. This measure shows the likelihood that two persons, chosen at random from the same area, belong to different races or ethnic groups. If an area’s entire population belongs to one race group and one ethnic group, then an area has zero diversity. The Diversity Index is a continuum that ranges from 0 (no diversity) to 100 (complete diversity), where an area’s index tends toward 100 when the population is more evenly divided across race and ethnic groups. The 2012 US Diversity Index is 65.4.”

From **2021/2026 Esri Diversity Index**: Esri Methodology Statement, by Esri Data Development, June 2021.

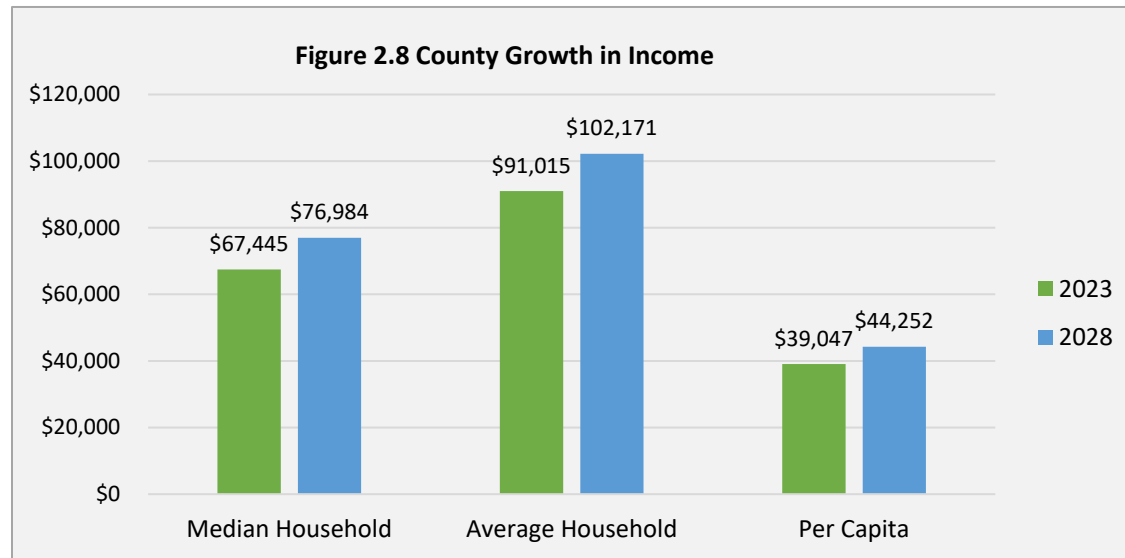
**INCOME SNAPSHOT**

For 2023, the estimated distribution of the county’s **household income base** is concentrated in the households with a base income between \$35,000 and \$149,999 (see Figure 2.7). These ranges represent 61% of households. Nearly 10% of households have a base income of less than \$15,000.

From 2023 to 2028, **growth in income** is expected for median household income, average household income, and per capita income in Jackson County (see Figure 2.8).



Source: JCEA, Feb. 2024



Source: JCEA, Feb. 2024

*Median household income* is the exact middle point in a list of incomes.

*Average household income* is the sum of all values in a list of incomes divided by the number of values.

*Per capita income* is the income earned by one person in a year.

**HOUSING SNAPSHOT**

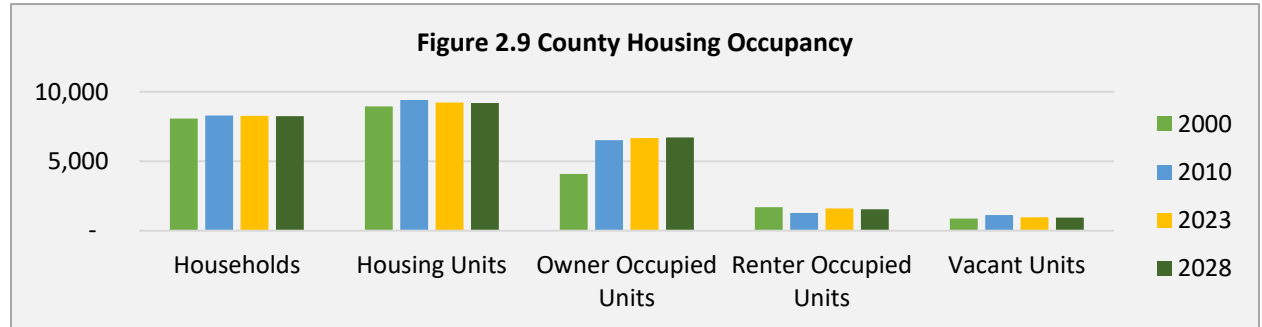
Figure 2.9 shows Jackson County **housing occupancy**. The 2023 housing estimates are 8,268 households and 9,230 housing units, with a slight decline to 8,249 households and 9,193 units by 2028. The 6,673 owner-occupied units in 2023 are estimated to increase to 6,711 in 2028. Renter occupied units are estimated to drop from 1,595 in 2023 to 1,538 in 2028. Vacant units are estimated to decrease from 962 in 2023 to 944 in 2028.

**Home values** in Jackson County are estimated to increase from 2023 to 2028 (see Table 2.5), with the median home value up by \$17,393 and average home value up by \$15,639.

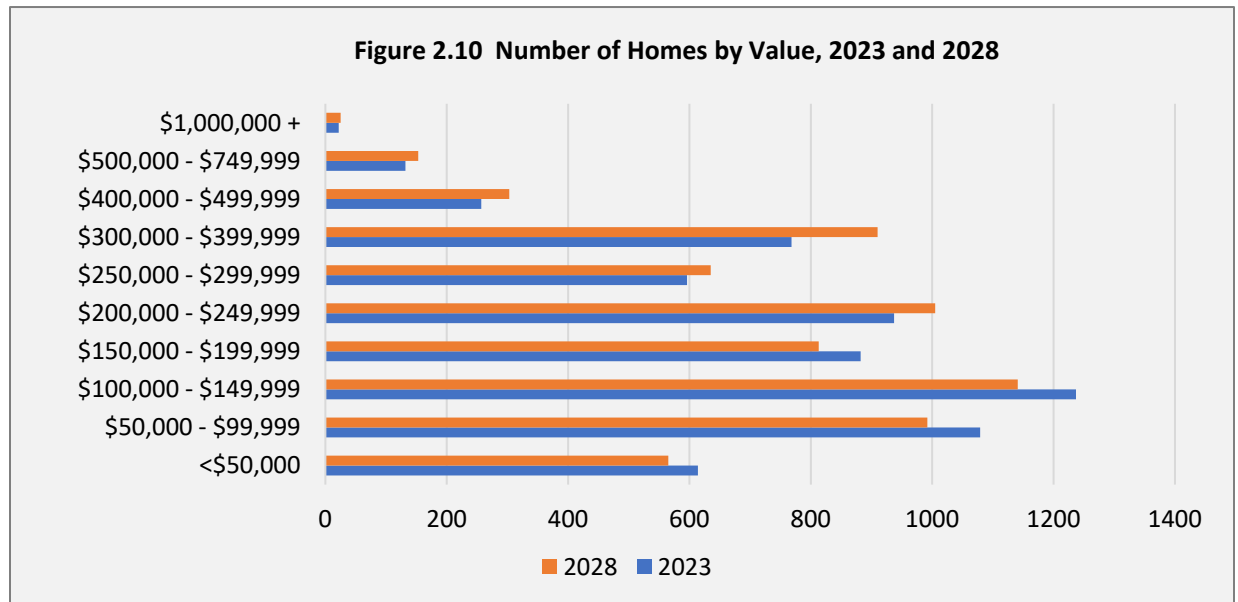
Home Value	2023	2028
Median	\$173,044	\$190,437
Average	\$227,641	\$243,280

Source: JCEA, Feb. 2024

Figure 2.10 shows homes with values of \$200,000 or more are estimated to increase in number from 2023 to 2028 in Jackson County. Homes valued under \$200,000 are estimated to decrease in number from 2023 to 2028.



Source: U.S. Census and JCEA, Feb. 2024

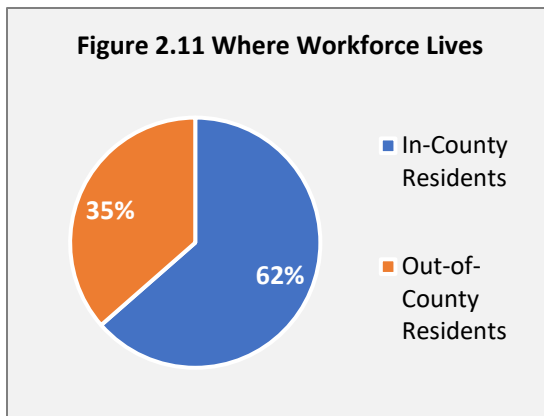


Source: JCEA, Feb. 2024



**WORKFORCE SNAPSHOT**

The 2023 Jackson County workforce age 16 and older was estimated to be 9,255 people. **Where the workforce lives:** 62% are in-county residents and 35% are out-of-county residents (see Figure 2.11).



Source: JCEA, Feb. 2024

The **commute to work** is driving alone for most of the workforce (see Table 2.6).

Commute Mode	Number	Percent
Drive Alone	7,756	85.6%
Carpooled	561	6.2%
Public Transport	26	0.3%
Work at Home	719	7.9%

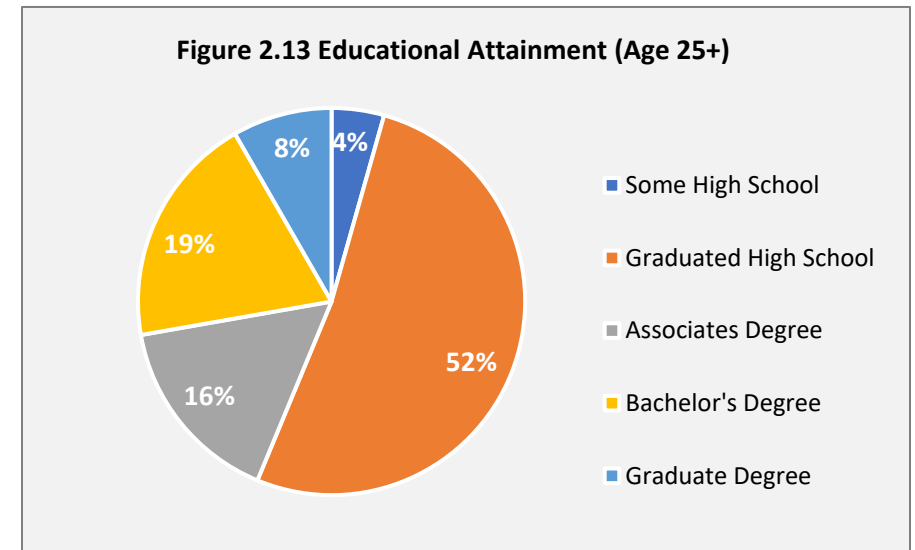
Source: JCEA, Feb. 2023

Figure 2.12 shows 54% of the workforce has a **commute time** that is under 25 minutes, and 75% commute in under 35 minutes. The average travel time is 25 minutes.

The **educational level attained** for 52% of people age 25 and older in Jackson County is graduation from high school (see Figure 2.13). Another 44% age 25+ have attained an advanced degree. Only 4% have not graduated high school.



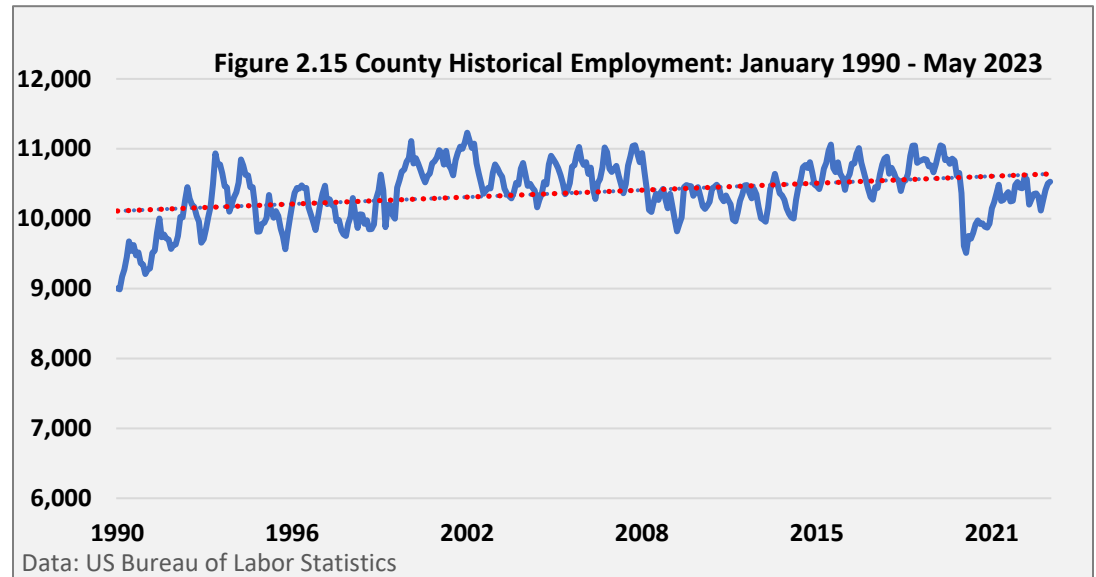
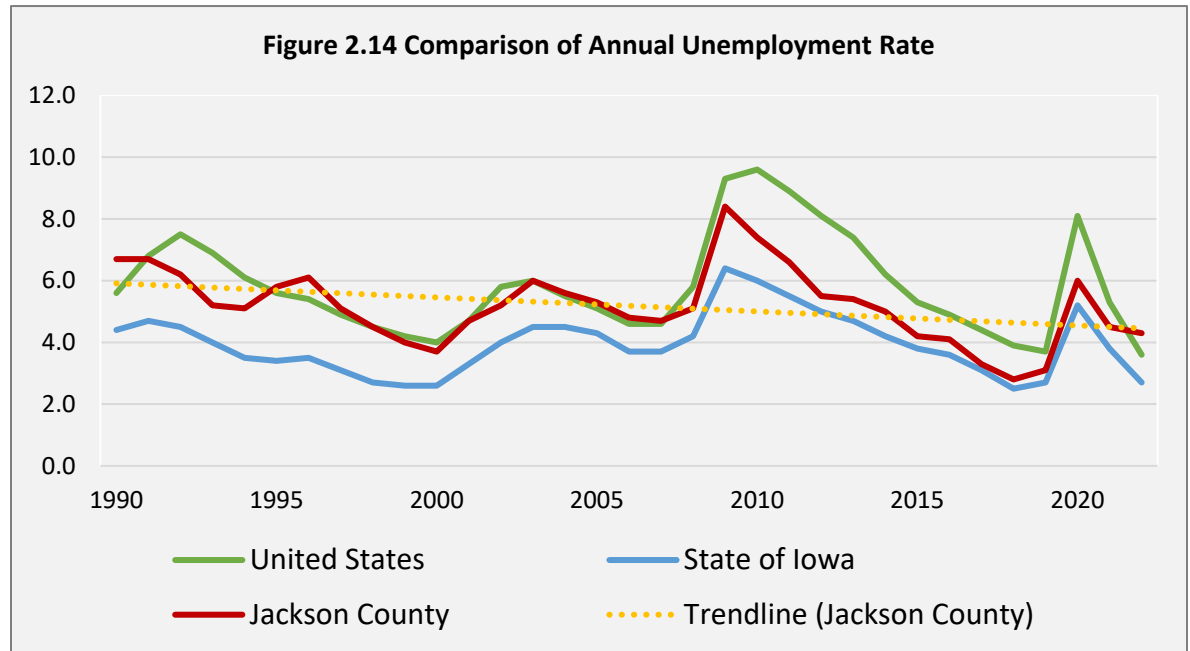
Source: JCEA, Feb. 2024



Source: JCEA, Feb. 2024

The **annual unemployment rate** of Jackson County, the State of Iowa, and the United States from 1990 to 2020 is shown in Figure 2.14 using data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Jackson County’s rate usually was above the state rate but below the national rate. The trendline for Jackson County reflects a slight decline in the unemployment rate. The county’s average was 5.2% for this time frame.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, **historical employment** for Jackson County has remained fairly steady from January 1990 to May 2023 as shown in Figure 2.15. (Note: this data was not seasonally adjusted.) The trendline shows a slight increase in employment. The county’s average was 10,375 workers for this time frame.



“Seasonal adjustment is a statistical technique that attempts to measure and remove the influences of predictable seasonal patterns to reveal how employment and unemployment change from month to month. Seasonally adjusted data are useful when comparing several months of data. Annual average estimates are calculated from the not seasonally adjusted data series.” Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) at <https://www.bls.gov/cps/seasfaq.htm>

**BUSINESS ECONOMY SNAPSHOT**

According to the US Census Bureau, the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS, pronounced Nakes) is the standard used by Federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments for the purpose of collecting, analyzing, and publishing statistical data related to the U.S. business economy.

Table 2.7 shows **County businesses and employment** in Jackson County in 2023.

Of the 879 businesses, the top three by number were: 1. Other Services, 2. Retail Trade, and 3. Public Administration. Together, these 320 businesses made up 36% of the total.

Of the 7,032 total employees, the top three categories by employment were: 1. Retail Trade, 2. Health Care and Social Assistance, and 3. Education Services. These three categories are 41% of the total with 2,905 employees.

For more information about NAICS, visit <https://www.census.gov/naics/>

<b>NAICS Business Category</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Employees</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	36	69
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	1	1
Utilities	4	42
Construction	64	211
Manufacturing	30	581
Wholesale Trade	40	489
Retail Trade	109	1,041
Transportation and Warehousing	27	138
Information	19	113
Finance and Insurance	46	393
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	25	173
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	51	164
Legal Services	13	34
Management of Companies and Enterprises	1	30
Administrative, Support, Waste Management, Remediation	13	29
Educational Services	23	882
Health Care and Social Assistance	65	982
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	17	130
Accommodation and Food Services	56	475
Other Services (except Public Administration)	137	410
Auto Repair and Maintenance	28	73
Public Administration	74	572
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>879</b>	<b>7,032</b>
Source: JCEA, Feb. 2024		

**AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY SNAPSHOT**

The USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service, Upper Midwest Regional Office in Des Moines, Iowa collaborated with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and the Iowa Farm Bureau to produce the 2023 Iowa Agricultural Statistics in October 2023. It provides a statistical profile of Iowa agriculture at the state and county levels. Learn more at [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics by State/index.php](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/index.php)

This 2023 USDA report provides recent updates to some data in the 2017 Census of Agriculture for Jackson County.

Table 2.8 shows the 2022 crops acreage, yield, and production of corn, soybeans, and oats in Jackson County. Also shown are the rankings for Jackson County and Iowa.

	Area planted (acres)	Area harvested (acres)	Yield per acre (bushels/acre)	Production (bushels)	County Rank in Iowa	Iowa’s Rank in USA
<b>Corn for grain</b>	114,500	111,300	219.2	24,397,000	56	1
<b>Soybeans</b>	59,000	58,600	66.3	3,887,000	81	2
<b>Oats</b>	2,700	460	64.8	29,800	17	7

Source: USDA 2023 Iowa Agricultural Statistics

Table 2.9 shows the number of head of cattle in Jackson County as of Jan. 1, 2023. Also shown are the rankings for Jackson County and Iowa.

	Number of head	County Rank in Iowa	Iowa’s Rank in USA
<b>All cattle and calves</b>	90,000	6	7
<b>Beef cows</b>	22,000	2	12
<b>Milk cows</b>	4,900	11	12

Source: USDA 2023 Iowa Agricultural Statistics

Table 2.10 shows cash rents per rented acre for non-irrigated cropland and pasture in 2022 and 2023 in Jackson County and Iowa.

	Non-irrigated cropland		Pasture	
	2022	2023	2022	2023
<b>Jackson County</b>	242.00	256.00	-	45.50
<b>Iowa</b>	256.00	269.00	59.50	60.50

Source: USDA 2023 Iowa Agricultural Statistics

Table 2.11 shows average dollar value per acre for farmland in Iowa and Jackson County based on U.S. Census of Agriculture estimates and 2022 and 2023 Iowa Land Value Surveys conducted by the Center for Agriculture and Rural Development, Iowa State University (ISU), and ISU Extension and Outreach.

	2022	2023	% Change
<b>Jackson County</b>	\$11,100	\$11,158	0.5%
<b>Iowa</b>	\$11,411	\$11,835	3.7%

Source: 2023 Iowa State Land Value Survey  
<https://www.card.iastate.edu/farmland/isu-survey/2023/>