

2018

# Red Rock Area

Marion County, Iowa

## Annual Fact Report

POPULATION-INDUSTRIES-JOBS-EARNINGS-EDUCATION-HOUSEHOLDS-COMMUNITIES-POVERTY-WORKFORCE



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**Marion County**  
DEVELOPMENT

[marioncountyiowa.com](http://marioncountyiowa.com)

We know that in rural areas such as ours, over 85% of all new jobs will be created by the companies who are already located here. Each year, the Marion County Development Commission staff visit prime employers within Marion County, Iowa to learn about the obstacles they are facing and the opportunities which exist for economic growth. The program is called BEST OF IOWA. This program provides a snapshot of the state of the economy which is compiled into an Annual Existing Industry Report.

The BEST OF IOWA existing business call program is done in coordination with other economic development groups across Iowa and area utility companies. This program provides intelligence and a comprehensive approach to economic development.

In addition, the MCDC each year pulls together data from various sources to produce a Annual Fact Report which is included in this document. Today's model of effective economic development includes strong emphasis on existing industry development, entrepreneurship, workforce strategies, quality of life enhancements, leadership training, partnerships and promotions.

We know that together, we can accomplish great things!

*Carla Eysink*  
Carla Eysink, Executive Director  
Marion County Development Commission

## WHO ARE WE?

**OUR MISSION:** The mission of the Marion County Development Commission (MCDC), a department of county government, is to position Marion County as a premier destination to live, work and visit.

### OUR GOALS:

1. To be a catalyst for addressing the needs of prime existing employers
2. To assist in attracting & retaining workforce
3. To grow traveler expenditures to Marion County
4. To promote Marion County as a vibrant location for business growth and living
5. To connect Marion County with external resources for economic growth
6. To connect entities within Marion County to encourage collaboration to further economic growth

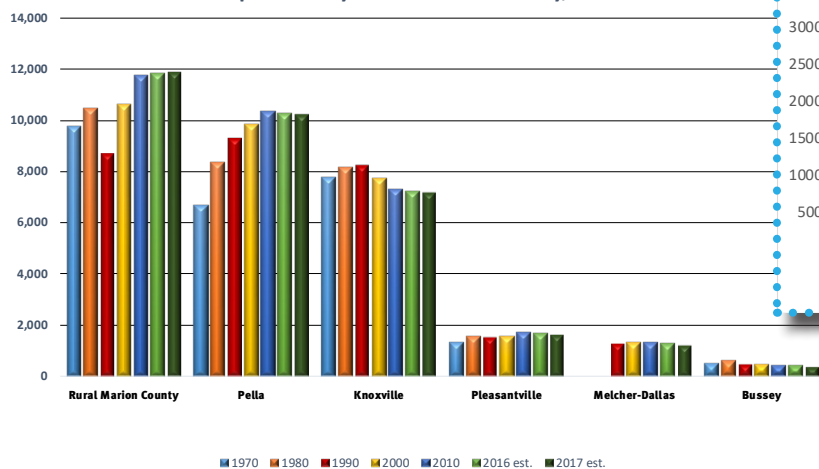
**OUR PROGRAMS:** The MCDC is a department of county government. The MCDC relies on fees, grants and sponsorships to help fund programs, in addition to operational support from Marion County. The MCDC

- Coordinates Leadership Red Rock
- Completes prime employer visits annually
- Participates in the Greater Des Moines Partnership, Central Iowa Tourism Region and Opportunity2 Economic Region on behalf of Marion County
- Produces an annual travel guide
- Promotes the county through 2 websites, tradeshow, public relations and digital media
- Partners with the Marion County Employers Council, A to Z Foodie Trail, Teaching for the Workforce program and leads various county wide studies such as the childcare study and housing study
- Provides resources and technical assistance to local businesses, non profit groups and communities.

**OUR PEOPLE:** The MCDC consists of 11 individuals who guide programs and provide vision for economic development efforts within Marion County. The commissioners are appointed by the Marion County Board of Supervisors. The MCDC employs a full-time director and a 10-hour per week communications assistant to implement all programs.

**CONNECT WITH US:** Follow the MCDC for travel information at [redrockarea.com](http://redrockarea.com) and for economic development information at [marioncountyiowa.com](http://marioncountyiowa.com). Our mailing address is 214 East Main Street, Knoxville, IA 50138 and our office is located at 3014 East Main Street, Knoxville, IA 50138. You can contact us by email at [carla@redrockarea.com](mailto:carla@redrockarea.com).

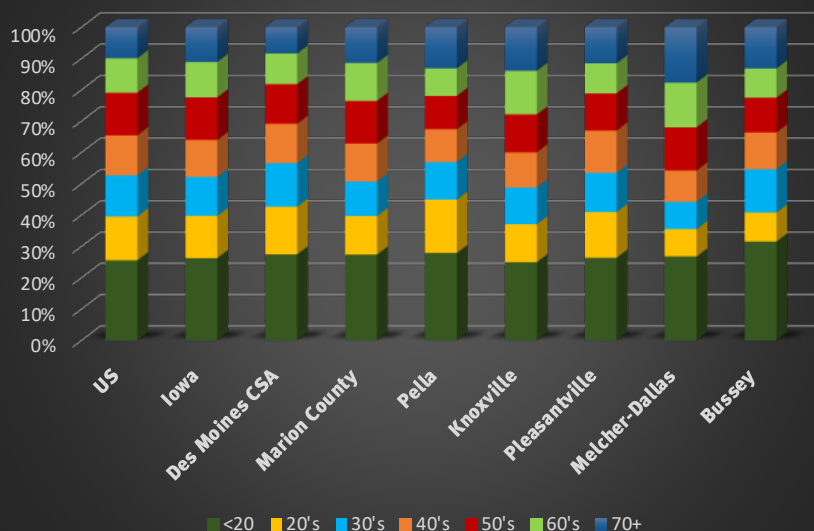
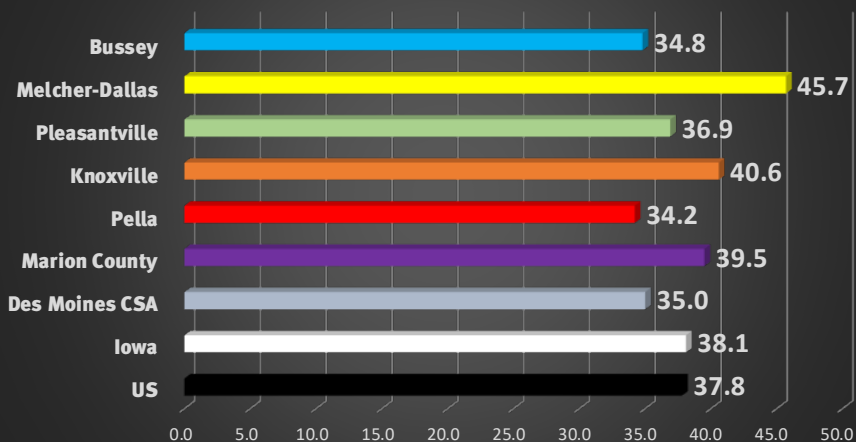
**SOURCES:** The majority of data included in this report is from the US Census. In addition, data has been collected from Iowa Workforce Development, Marion County Childcare Study, EMSI-Mid-American Energy, Marion County Housing Study, Iowa Business Council, TownCharts.com, Stats.Indiana.edu, Marion County Resource Directory 2018, Best Places.net and Pella/Knoxville Laborshed Reports. For specific sources for each chart, contact the MCDC.



Year	Population (millions)
1860	16.5
1880	25.0
1900	24.5
1920	25.0
1940	27.0
1960	26.0
1980	29.5
1990	30.0
2000	32.0
2010	33.0
2017 est.	33.5

**33,105**

**POVERTY:** Only 214 counties out of 3,141 counties in the US have a lower poverty rate than Marion County, which is at 7.9 percent. However, the poverty rate in Knoxville is 16.3 percent, in contrast to the poverty rate in Pel-  
la which is 7.2 percent. The poverty rate for children under age 18 within Marion County is 8.6 percent.

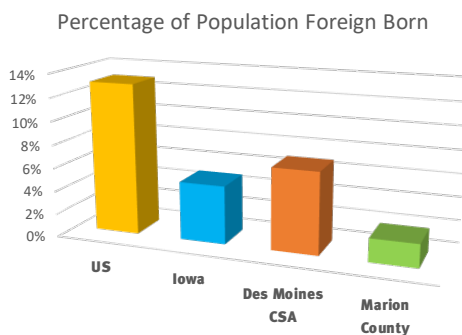


## OUR PEOPLE

**NET POPULATION CHANGE:** Over the past six years, birth and death rates within Marion County have remained fairly constant. International migration remains a small positive added benefit to population growth. Migration domestically has varied from a high of 92 additional people in 2014 to a low of minus 125 in 2013. Over the six year period, there was a net 345 total increase in population.

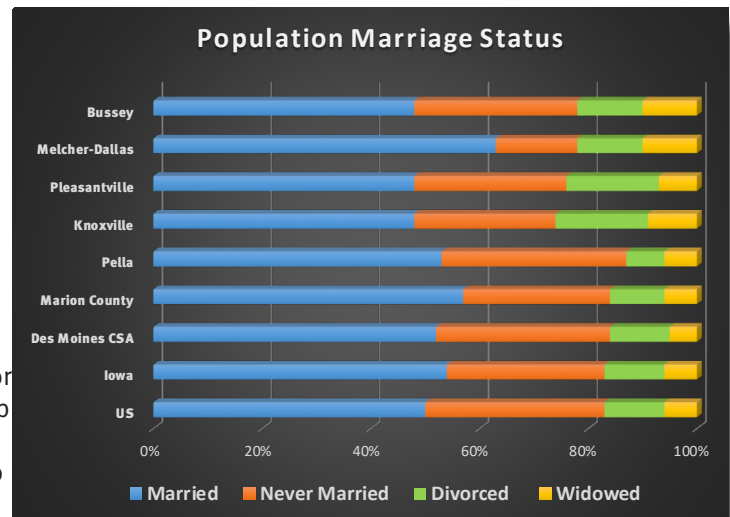
**HOUSEHOLDS:** There are 13,098 households in Marion County during 2017 according to the US Census. Of those, the City of Knoxville has 3,153 households and City of Pella has 3,825 households. Below is households by submarket which includes rural townships. Within Marion County, 65.9 percent of households are family households this compares to 64 percent in Iowa and 66 percent in the US. The average household size is 2.4 persons.

**DIVERSITY:** The racial makeup of the county is 95.7 percent white as compared to 73 percent in Iowa. People of Asian race make up 1.1 percent of Marion County's population, while people of Hispanic or Latino origin make up 1.9 percent. People of Hispanic or Latino origin in Iowa make up 17.6 percent of the population.



## Net Population Change in Marion County, Iowa

Year	Births	Deaths	International Migration	Domestic Migration	Net Change
2011	385	329	21	0	74
2012	381	337	38	50	131
2013	356	314	15	-125	-70
2014	373	318	44	92	169
2015	391	322	14	-51	37
2016	359	332	17	7	48
2017	371	318	15	-111	-44



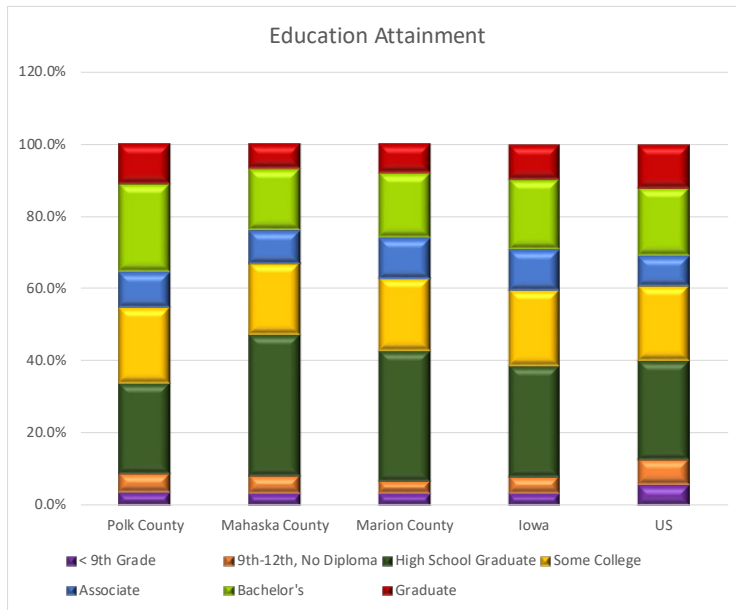
## Households and Families, 2017

	Bussey Submarket	Knoxville Submarket	Melcher-Dallas Submarket	Pella Submarket	Pleasantville Submarket	Marion County
<b>TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS</b>	749	4,916	773	5,210	1,450	13,098
<b>Median Household Income</b>	\$49,742	\$55,165	\$60,804	\$77,757	\$62,814	\$57,917
<b>Labor Force Participation</b>	65%	63%	62%	73%	68%	68%
<b>FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS</b>	472	3,133	519	3,409	856	8,636
<b>Median Family Income</b>	\$63,353	\$67,624	\$71,931	\$81,499	\$79,397	\$71,988
<b>HH w/children ages 0-5 and all parents working</b>	67%	79%	76%	77%	72%	77%
<b>HH w/children ages 6-17 and all parents working</b>	71%	77%	76%	83%	92%	81%

Source: Data from US Census Bureau & First Children's Finance Marion Co. Childcare Study (2017)

## OUR WORKFORCE

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**UNEMPLOYMENT:** The December 2018 unemployment rate in Marion County was 1.9% which compares to 2.2% in December 2017. Unemployment in Iowa during December 2018 was 2.4% and in the US was 3.7%. Record low unemployment is challenging since the area has growing industries which plan to add additional jobs.

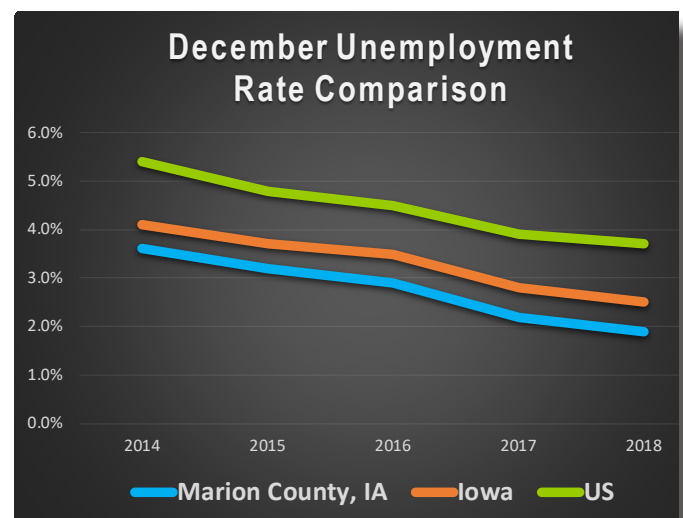
**COMMUTING:** According to the most recent Laborshed studies in 2017, Pella has 1,562 residents that work in other communities while Knoxville has 2,408 people work in other communities. The average one-way commute in Marion County is 19 minutes. This is shorter than the US average of 26 minutes. Over 77 percent of residents in Marion County commute using an auto traveling alone which is similar to US averages. However, Marion County (5.69%) has double the amount of people who walk to work as compared to the US (2.73%).



**EDUCATION ATTAINMENT:** The percent of residents with graduate level education is slightly smaller in Marion County as compared to Iowa or the US. In addition, the percent of residents with less than a 9th grade education or no high school diploma is less in Marion County than compared to Iowa or the US.

**EMPLOYMENT:** Marion County employment by company location in second quarter 2018 was 18,288 with an average weekly wage of \$874. This ranks Marion County 17th out of 99 counties for employment. This compares to Mahaska County employment at 8,202 with an average weekly wage of \$780, Jasper County employment at 11,814 with an average weekly wage of \$747, Monroe County employment at 3,547 with an average weekly wage of \$918 and Poweshiek County employment at 10,291 with an average weekly wage of \$800.

**LABOR FORCE:** The total labor force for Marion County residents in 2017 was 17,337. This represents a 1.6% growth over the past five years. Of the total workforce, 16,877 are employed.



(By Place of Work)	TOTAL COVERED EMPLOYMENT	POPULATION	JOBS/1,000 POPULATION	AVERAGE WAGE PER JOB	ESTABLISHMENTS	JOBS/ ESTABLISHMENT
Marion County	17,080	33,105	516	\$47,345	976	17.5
Monroe County	3,408	7,845	434	\$46,496	246	13.9
Poweshiek County	10,211	18,314	558	\$42,351	644	15.9
Mahaska County	7,894	22,235	355	\$40,249	630	12.5
Jasper County	11,484	36,966	311	\$37,692	916	12.5
Warren County	11,333	50,163	226	\$38,061	1,051	10.8
Dallas County	43,835	87,235	502	\$52,694	2,466	17.8
Polk County	298,553	481,830	620	\$55,747	17,308	17.2

## OUR INCOME

**WAGES IN IOWA:** Three of the four largest counties in Iowa reported employment growth from June 2017 to June 2018. Polk had the largest increase at .9%. Nationally, employment increased by 1.5 percent. The average weekly wage in Polk County was \$1,050. Of the 94 smaller counties in Iowa, Dallas County had the highest weekly wage at \$994 and Decatur County had the lowest at \$625. Marion County's average weekly wage was \$874. Nationally, the average weekly wage was \$1,055.

**PER CAPITA PERSONAL**

**INCOME:** The per capita personal income in Marion County for 2017 was \$45,340. The ten year percentage change from 2007 to 2017 is a 33.8 percent growth which ranks first amongst all Iowa counties for growth rate.

**WAGE GAP:** When comparing salaries within the counties of Marion, Warren, Jasper, western Dallas and Madison, males earn \$61,086 and females earn \$47,165. Statewide the average fulltime male makes \$50,295 while fulltime female makes \$39,658. The gap is greatest for women age 45+.

**WAGE PER JOB:** The average annual wage per job in Marion County, Iowa for 2017 is \$47,345. This ranks the county in the top 15% of all US counties and 7th in Iowa for average wage per job.



Within the **Manufacturing Sector** in Marion County, the average wage per job is \$66,243, this ranks the county in the top 10% of all US counties for average wage per job in manufacturing and 5th in Iowa out of 99 counties.

**LABORSHED:** Iowa Workforce Development will be conducting Laborshed studies during 2020 for Pella and Knoxville. Contact either the Marion County Development Commission, PACE Alliance or the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce to receive a copy of the 2017 Laborshed Analysis. A laborshed is the area or region from which an employment center draws its workers. A Laborshed analysis, in part, estimates the availability of labor for an area, in addition to identifying benefits and wage levels which would encourage workers to change positions or re-enter the workforce.

According to the most recent laborshed analysis the median wage in the Pella Laborshed is \$17 per hour and the median salary is \$63,000 per year. The Knoxville Laborshed has a median wage of \$17.52 per hour and a median salary of \$61,500.

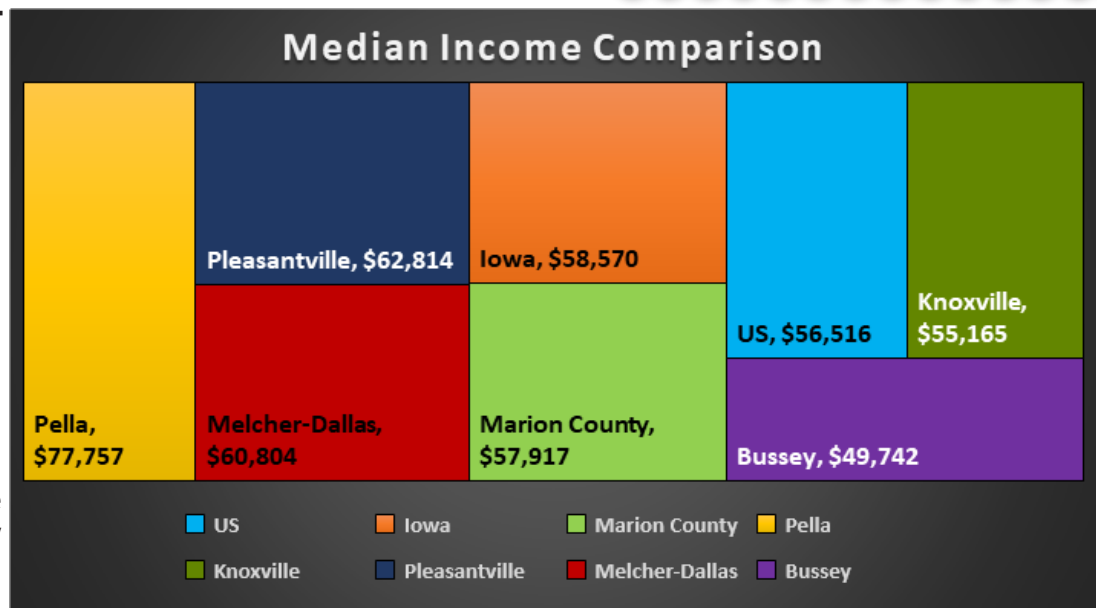
The next largest sector in Marion County is **Health Care** which has an average wage per job of \$41,394. This ranks the county in the top 30% of US counties for average wage per job in health care.

*NOTE: MCDC each year requests a wage report from Iowa Workforce Development which shows wages per occupation in Marion County for entry to experienced levels. To receive this report, contact the MCDC office.*

**MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD IN-**

**COME:** The median household income in Marion County ranks the county in the top 20% of US counties. Median household income in Marion County has experienced a 35.9% increase from 2000 to 2017.

According to the US Bureau of Labor, from 2014 to 2017 the annual average income in Iowa increased by 2%, in contrast over the same time period the annual average income in Marion County increased by 3.46%.



## OUR COMPANIES

The state of Iowa is experiencing economic growth. The Gross State Product (GSP) increased by \$11 billion from 2017 to 2018. The manufacturing sector accounts for 18.1% of the statewide GSP which ranks Iowa 8th nationwide. The high concentration of manufacturing within Marion County make that sector the key driver in the local economy.

According to the Iowa Business Council matrix, Iowa still ranks 48th for corporate tax rate. While improvements were made to Iowa's tax code in 2018, these changes are phased in over time so the benefits to companies are not yet quantifiable. Many of our prime companies indicated uncertainty in regards to tariffs and global business.

**TOP INDUSTRIES:** Many Iowa counties have their primary employer sectors in either agriculture or insurance, but this is not true of Marion County. Marion County is dominated by manufacturing with over 6,000 manufacturing jobs which corresponds to nearly 40% of the workforce employed within manufacturing. The concentration of manufacturing well outpaces Iowa at nearly 11% and the US with nearly 7%. In addition to manufacturing, Marion County has a strong health care & social services sector, as well as education.

**STRENGTHENING THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY:** The MCDC continues work to strengthen Marion County's business climate. Leadership Red Rock is a 7-session program geared to create a core of individuals with an understanding of current issues shaping the area as well as enhancing their leadership skills. Many employers pay for key employees to attend the program as part of their human relations training strategies. Teaching for the Workforce is a 4-day professional development course for educators. The program focuses on raising their understanding of STEM occupations at local employers and involves tours with expert panels and hands-on experiences. This program is done through a partnership with DMACC. The BEST OF RED ROCK is a contest held each year to honor businesses in 55 categories and four (4) different TOP 10 LISTS. This program is geared toward businesses that serve travelers but also includes community focused categories. The TOP 10

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BEA Major Sectors in 2017 (by place of work)	Percent within US	Percent within Iowa	Percent within Marion County	2017 Entities	2017 Jobs	2017 Average Wage/ Job
Manufacturing	6.8%	10.8%	37.9%	44	6,480	\$66,243
Health Care & Social Services	11.3%	10.6%	12.8%	93	2,181	\$41,394
Educational Services	2.4%	2.4%	10.3%	36	1,753	\$35,970
Retail	9.8%	10.8%	8.9%	115	1,521	\$25,412
Accommodation & Food Service	7.5%	6.4%	7.0%	73	1,202	\$11,053
Construction	5.4%	5.7%	3.8%	104	657	\$51,152
Public Administration & Gov.	12.4%	13.0%	3.3%	24	560	\$36,561
Professional, Scientific, Technical	7.0%	3.9%	2.4%	85	409	\$51,090
Wholesale Trade	3.3%	3.4%	2.2%	75	379	\$62,704
Other Services	5.7%	5.2%	2.0%	97	335	\$30,102
Finance & Insurance	5.4%	6.5%	1.9%	53	325	\$65,067
Administrative & Waste Services	6.2%	4.2%	1.9%	42	318	\$28,936
Transportation & Warehousing	3.9%	3.8%	1.6%	34	273	\$41,914
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	2.3%	1.7%	1.2%	18	197	\$12,314
Information	1.7%	1.3%	.6%	15	98	\$45,474
Real Estate & Leasing	4.6%	3.5%	.4%	35	63	\$24,225
Utilities	.3%	.4%	.2%	6	39	\$82,234
Management of Companies	1.4%	1.0%	.2%	7	39	\$66,407

## OUR COMPANIES

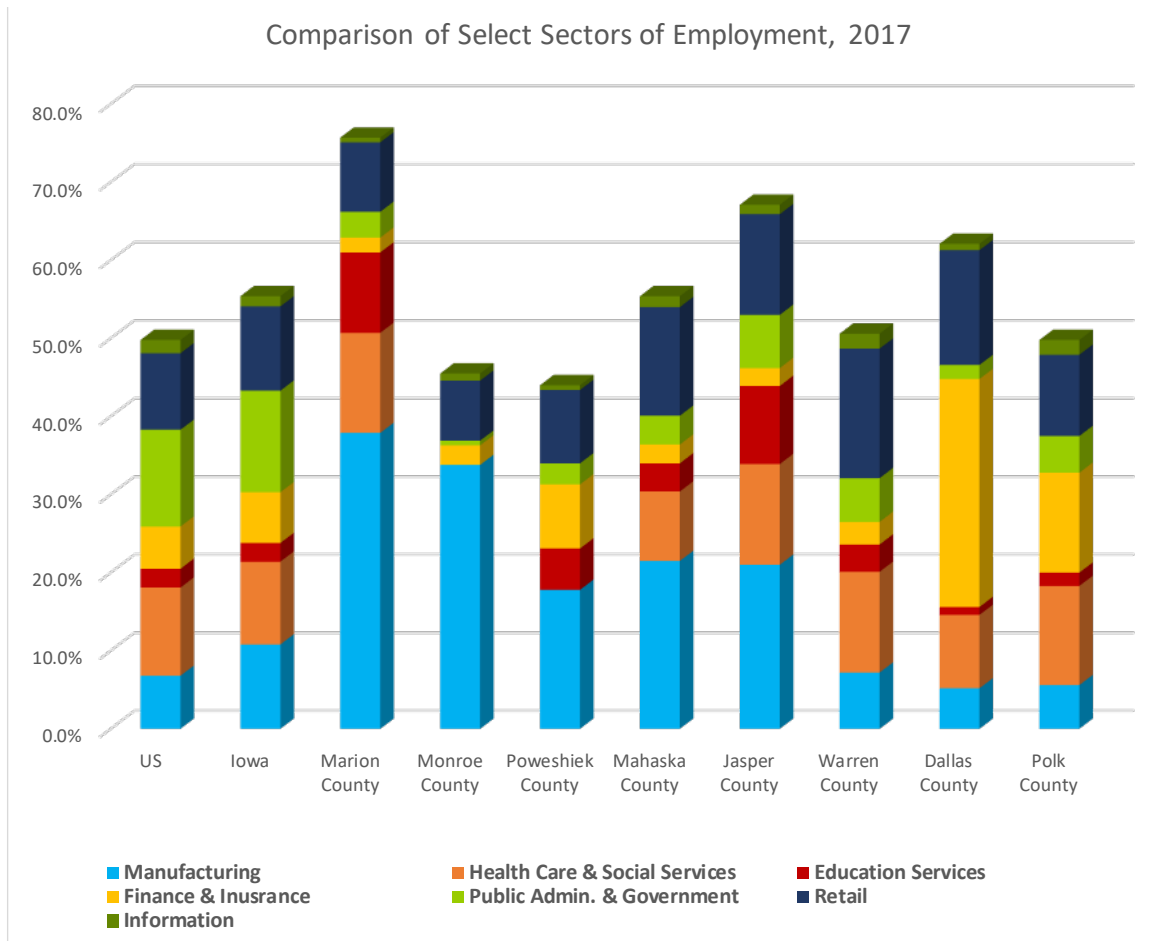
UNDER 40 program selects by nomination, ten individuals who are under 40 years old to honor for their excellence at work and volunteering. Their stories are shared through digital media. The MCDC over the years has also contracted for a county housing study and county child care study to address concerns raised by employers.

**JOB GROWTH:** The current job growth rate in Marion County is 1.58% which is equal to the average job growth rate across the US. Data from visits with current prime employers indicate this job growth rate will remain strong in the next 24 months. Occupations with an estimated growth in Marion County of greater than 15% from 2018 to 2023 include:

- Education Administrators Preschool
- Architectural and Engineering Managers
- Management Analysts
- Market Research Analysts
- Software Developers, Applications
- Civil Engineers
- Electrical Engineers
- Industrial Engineers
- Mechanical Engineers
- Other Engineers
- Architectural and Civil Drafters
- Mechanical Drafters
- Civil Engineering Technicians
- Electrical Engineering Technicians
- Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder and Mental Health Counselors
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers
- Social and Human Service Assistants
- Clergy
- Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers
- Personal Care Aides
- Painters, Construction and Maintenance
- Industrial Machinery Mechanics
- Bakers
- Slaughterers and Meat Packers
- Food Processing Workers
- Computer Numerically Controlled Machine Tool Programmers
- Machinists

Occupations with more than 80 openings from 2018 to 2023 include: general and operations managers, elementary school teachers, secondary school teachers, registered nurses, nursing assistants, restaurant cooks, bartenders, combined food preparation/serving, waiters/waitresses, janitors, childcare workers, personal care aides, bookkeeping/accounting/audit clerks, customer service representatives, stock clerks/order filers, maintenance/repair workers, first-line supervisors of production, machinists, welders, coating/painting machine operators, production workers and freight/stock material handlers.

Occupations with a loss greater than 10% from 2018-2023 include: photographers, advertising sales agents, cement masons and concrete finishers, cabinetmakers and bench carpenters, chemical plant and system operators and conveyor operators/tenders. Currently, the highest paying occupations include: architectural and engineering managers, pharmacists, physicians/surgeons and nurse practitioners.



## OUR COMMUNITIES

**CITIZENS:** Of Marion County residents, 98% are US born. Of those, 80 percent are born within Iowa and 10.5% born within the Midwest. Of those foreign born, 41 percent are from Asia, 33 percent from Europe and 14 percent from the Americas.

Politically, in Marion County 30.8 percent of people voted Democrat in the last presidential election, 61.5 percent voted Republican and 7.7 percent voted Independent. This compares in Iowa to 41.7 percent Democrat, 51.1 percent Republican and 7.1 percent Independent. In the US, the breakdown is 48 percent Democrat, 45.9 percent Republican and 6 percent Independent.

**FAMILIES:** In Marion County, 84% of households are married, 6% are a male alone head of household and 10% female alone head of household. The teenager birth rate in Marion County is 8% as compared to 4% in both Iowa and the US. Unwed mothers make up 31% of all births in Marion County. Within Marion County, 44% are single. Of those, 61 percent are never married, 23 percent are divorced and 16 percent are widowed.

**HEALTH:** The US average for air quality index is 58, while in Marion County it is 78 (higher is better). The US average for water quality index is 55 while in Marion County it is 60 (higher is better). There are 135 physicians per 100,000 population in Marion County as compared to 210 in the US (higher is better).

**EDUCATION:** Marion County schools spend an average of \$11,758 per student. The average student-teacher ration is 15:1, this compares to 17:1 nationwide.

Marion County completed a Childcare Needs Analysis in March 2018. The report indicates a need for additional childcare spaces. For a copy of the complete report, contact the MCDC

**RELIGION:** In Marion County, 60.1 percent of people indicate they are religious. This compares to 54.5 percent of people in Iowa and 49.4 percent of people in the US. The largest groups in Marion County are 30.3 percent Presbyterian/Reformed, 8.7% Methodist, 7.2% Catholic, 4.1 percent Lutheran and 2.8 percent Baptist.

**TAXES:** The sales tax rate for Marion County is 7%, while the US average is 7.3%. The state income tax rates range from .36% to 8.98%.

**CRIME & SAFETY:** Violent crime in Marion County is 13.2 while the US average is 22.7 and the Iowa average is 18.2. Marion County property crime is 21.3, as compared to 35.4 in the US and 32.2 in Iowa.

**CLIMATE:** Marion County gets, on average per year, 37 inches of rain and 27 inches of snow. On average, Marion County get some kind of precipitation on 89 days per year as compared to the US average of 102.

On average, there are 202 sunny days per year which is close to the national average of 205 sunny days per year. The average summer high is 85 degrees in July and the average winter low is 13 degrees in January. Sperling's comfort index for Marion County is 33 out of 100, while the US average is 54 (higher is better).

### ENTERTAINMENT:

Museums	9
Libraries	6
Performing Arts Venues	5
Cinemas	2
Breweries	1
Wineries	2
Restaurants	57

### RECREATION:

Acres of Public Land	35,000+
Public Parks	32
Campsites	1,113
Golf Courses	3
Miles of Trails	65
Public Boat Launches	10
Race Tracks & Go-kart	3
Beaches	2
Public Pools/Aquatics Ctr.	3
Indoor Recreation Ctrs.	7
Sports Parks/Complexes	2

### HEALTH CARE:

Hospitals	2
Dental Offices	12
Medical Clinics including Chiropractic & Specialty	23
Senior Independent Living & Assisted Facilities and Skilled Nursing Facilities	13

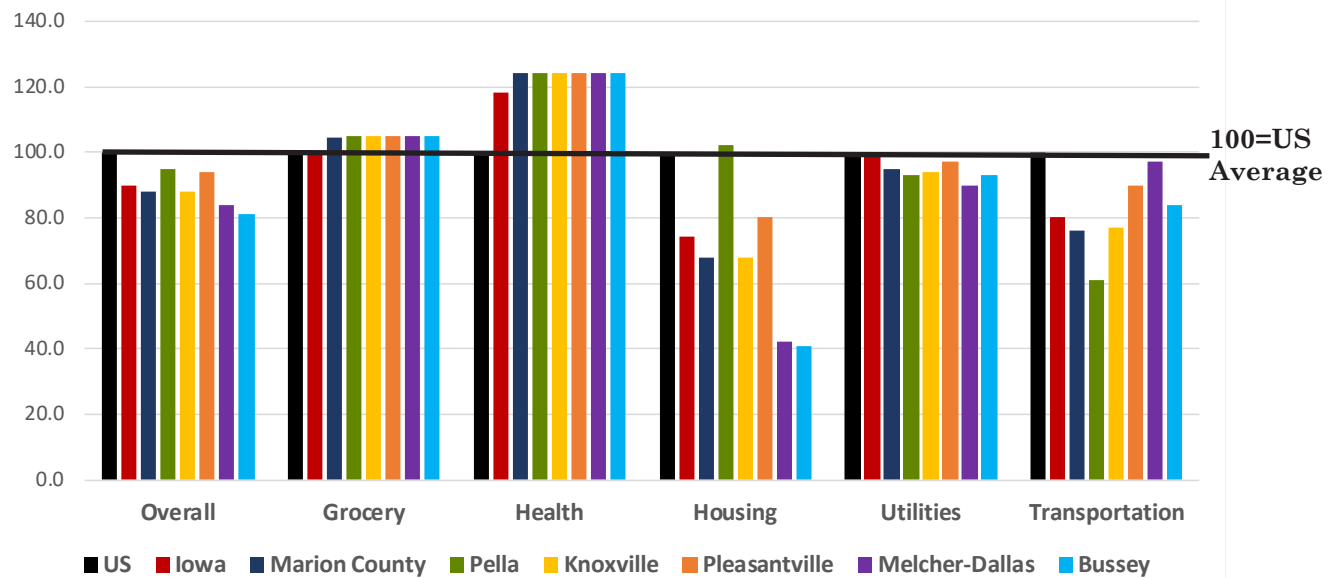
### EDUCATION:

Licensed Childcare Centers & Preschools	9
K-12 Public School Districts	5
K-12 Private Schools	1
Four Year Higher Education Institutions	1

## OUR COMMUNITIES

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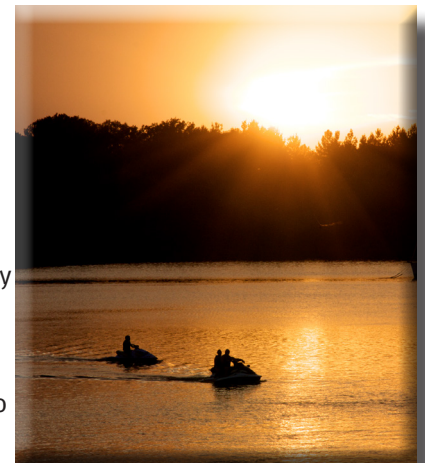
### Cost of Living Comparison



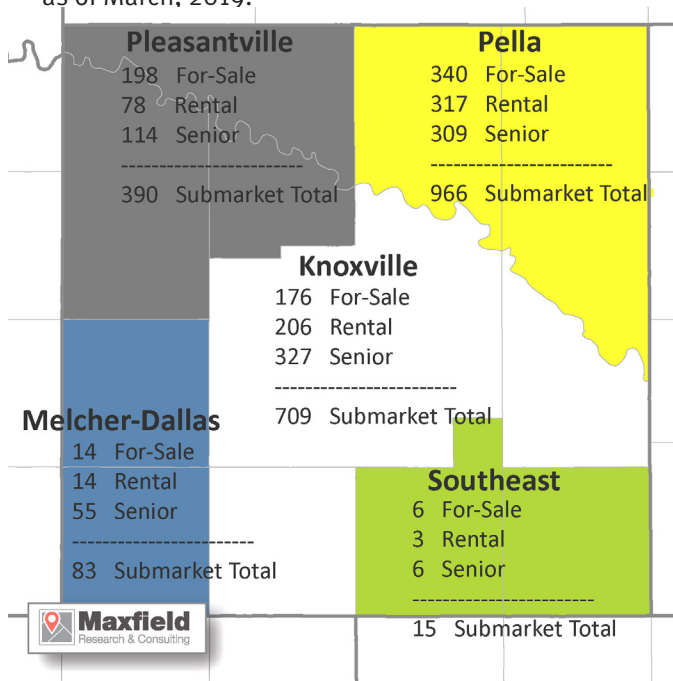
**HOUSING:** There are approximately 14,110 housing units in Marion County. Of those units, 26.8% are rental units. The median home cost in Marion County is \$126,318. Homes within the county have appreciated during the last 10 years by 19.6%, on average. The average age of a home is 42 years within Marion County. Renters make up 22.4 percent of the population.

Although the property tax rate paid in Marion County is higher than the US average, the amount of dollars paid is less, \$2,072 Marion County and \$2,279 in US. Ten percent more people in Marion County own homes as compared to the US average. The average monthly rent in Marion County (\$1,180) is slightly less than the US average (\$1,391).

There is a wide range for cost of housing between Marion County communities. Pella has the highest cost of housing at 102 placing it above the national average index of 100. Also above the county average is Pleasantville with a cost of housing at 80. Knoxville comes in at 68 which is equal to the county average while Bussey (41) and Melcher-Dallas (42) are below the county average. See the index ratings in the above chart.

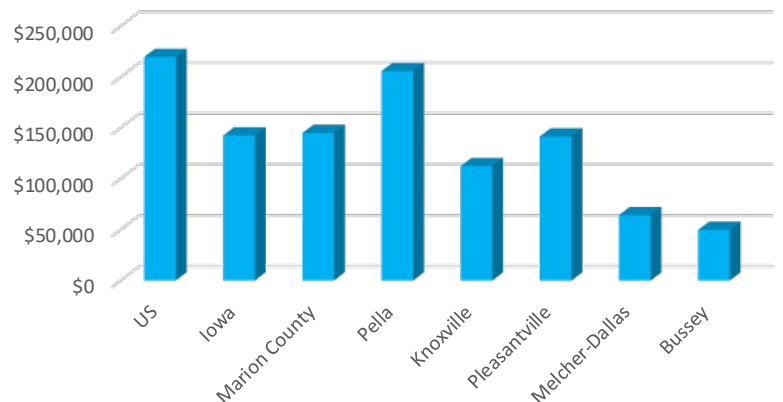


The median home price for current listings on Zillow is \$239,500 in Pella, \$139,850 in Knoxville and \$145,100 in Pleasantville as of March, 2019.



**BUILDING PERMITS:** During 2017, there were 98 building permits filed within Marion County.

### Average Home Price

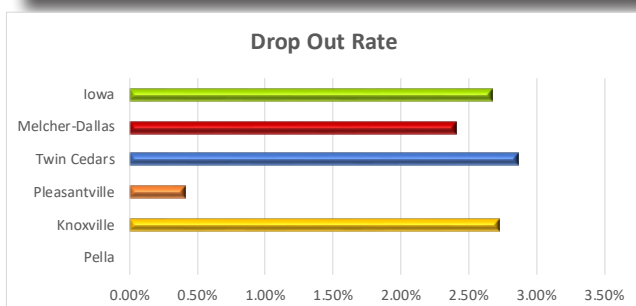
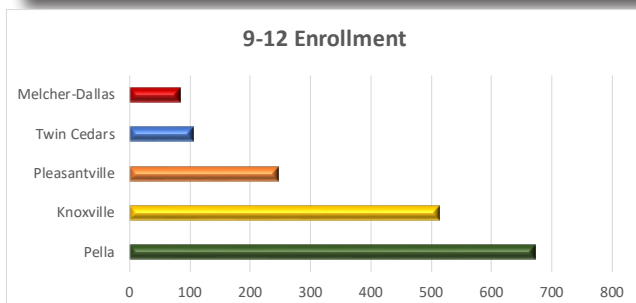
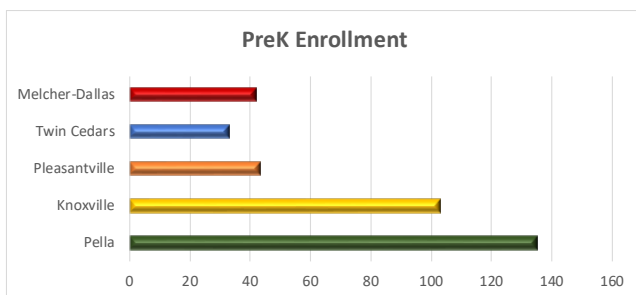
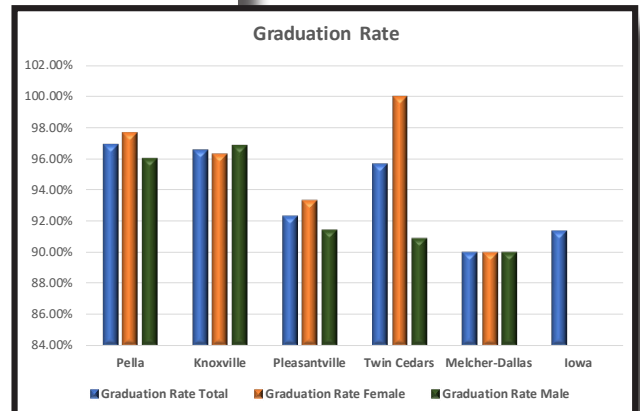
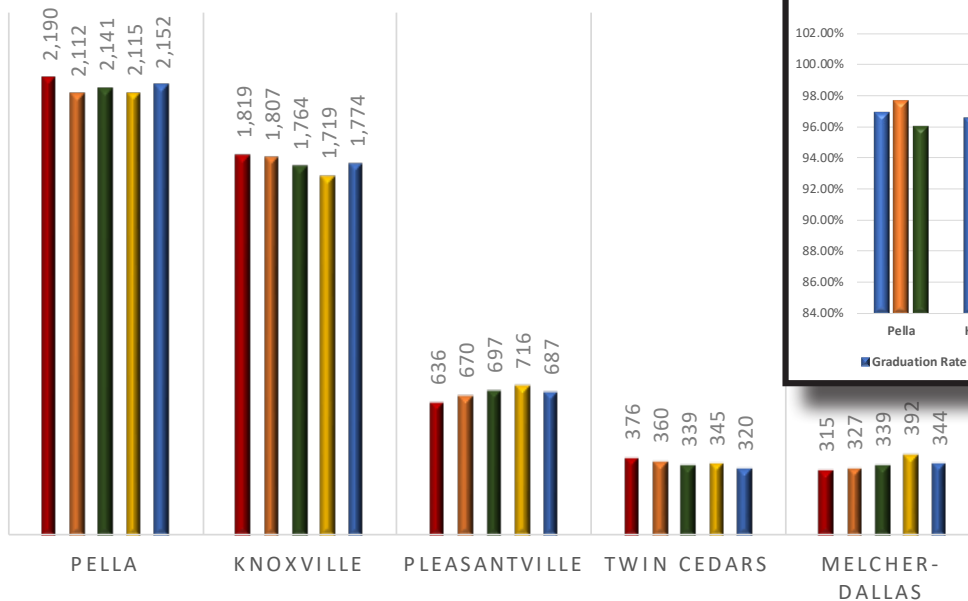


# OUR FUTURE WORKFORCE

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## SCHOOL CERTIFIED ENROLLMENT & PROJECTIONS--MARION CO., IOWA

■ 2012-13 ■ 2014-15 ■ 2017-18 ■ 2020-21 ■ 2022-23



Current graduation rates within Marion County trend to be higher than the state average, while drop out rates are below or at the state average. This means the conversion of high school aged students into either higher education settings or work is promising. Efforts with Future Ready Iowa seek to focus on upskilling workers and building better connections between students and the training needed to fulfill their workplace goals.

Recent investments in workplace readiness programs, apprenticeships and career academies have had positive impact on preparing students. In addition, work by the Opportunity2 Region and MCDC to provide professional development for area educators on STEM career opportunities, have enhanced connections and built understanding about the opportunities which exist within Marion County.

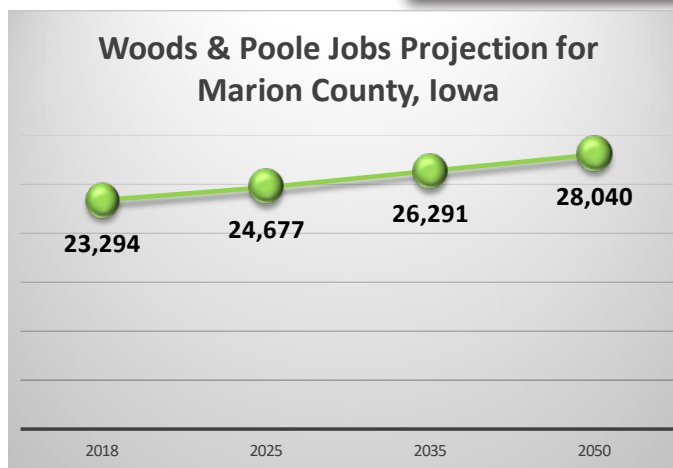
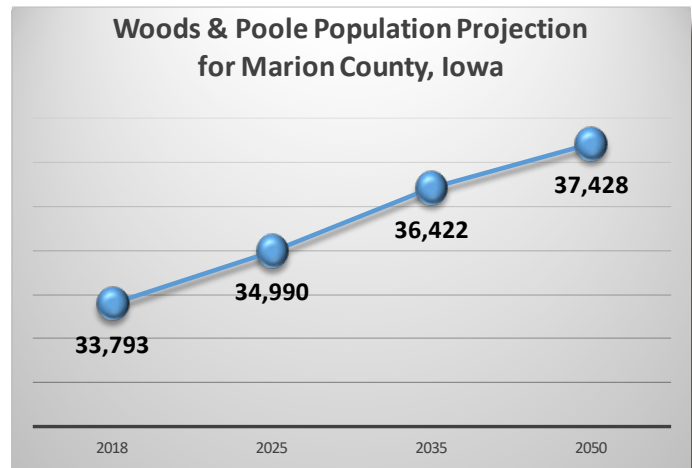
However, with current birth/death rates and immigration rates, both foreign and domestic, the area's population has only seen modest growth. Without emphasis on workforce recruitment, it will be difficult for Marion County to help existing industry meet workforce needs. Marion County is fortunate to have such a strong existing employer base and educational system. Work is being done during the 2019 existing employer calls to identify both what employers are doing to solve this issue, as well as what the main obstacles are for candidates to accept positions within the Marion County area. Likewise, MCDC is supporting efforts by the Iowa Economic Development Authority to promote Iowa workforce opportunities. This opportunity will require counties, communities, companies and statewide entities to work together. Only then, will we be able to fully share our story.

## OUR FUTURE

Marion County, Iowa has the potential for a strong economic future, but much work is needed to focus on meeting the needs of growing existing industries. Woods & Poole projects growth for both population and jobs as well as personal income.

In taking a closer look at the projections, the difference between 2018 and 2050 projections for population is a 3,635 growth. Likewise, projections from 2018 to 2050 for jobs is a 4,746 growth. This leaves a gap of 1,111 new jobs that would need to be filled by workers from other counties, assuming we were able to employ each new resident. This also does not account for the retirement of the baby boomer generation and generationX retirees.

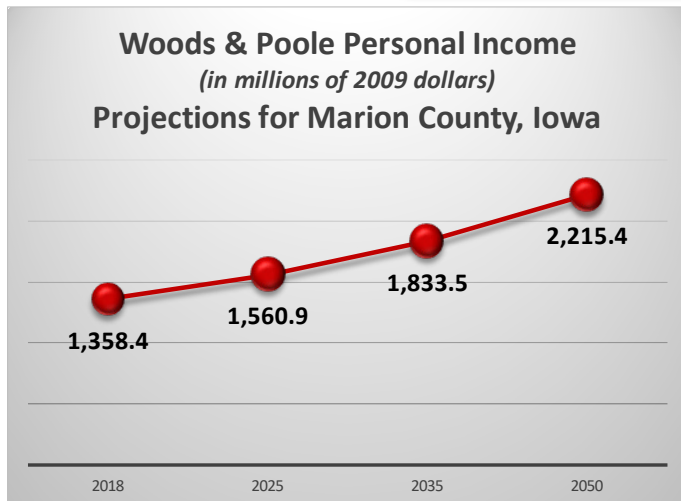
Competition for workers will only increase and communities need to focus on making downtowns meet the needs of tomorrow's workforce. The quality of place will become more important as advances in technology allow people to work remotely. Encouraging businesses that enhance quality of life will be key in rural community vitality.



### JOB OPPORTUNITY

**RESOURCES:** Check out these local websites to find career opportunities or to assist with current vacancies within your business:

[marioncountyiowa.com](http://marioncountyiowa.com)  
[careersdsmusa.com](http://careersdsmusa.com)  
[pella.org](http://pella.org)  
[knoxvilleiachamber.com](http://knoxvilleiachamber.com)  
[pleasantvillechamber.org](http://pleasantvillechamber.org)



Together, we can address issues and capitalize on opportunities which will position Marion County, Iowa for growth. Critical to this efforts will be organization working together locally and regionally. Likewise, elected officials need to truly understand the importance of investing in economic development strategies as the catalyst for economic growth. In addition, building resources such as community foundations and strong social services resources will allow community initiatives to benefit all residents in this goal of economic growth and prosperity.

For More Information:  
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