



Greater Des Moines At-A-Glance

Greater Des Moines is home to over 500,000 residents. For a reason to move here, start with the reasons we stay: unequalled schools, great public services, friendly communities, four glorious seasons. In other words, quality of living.

History

The name Des Moines came from the river that early French explorers called “Le Riviere de Moingona,” most likely derived from the French words “de Moyen,” meaning the middle. The river area was surveyed in 1841.

Two years later Fort Des Moines was established, and in 1846 the town became the county seat of Polk County. Iowa was admitted to statehood on December 28, 1846. A proclamation was issued declaring the establishment of the state capital in Des Moines, and “Fort” was dropped from the name in 1857.

The State Capitol was completed in 1886. Construction on the Des Moines riverfront began in 1933 and the skywalk system was started in 1972.

Economic Base

Trade Area:
Approximately 700,000 people (24 percent of the state’s population) live within a one-hour drive of Des Moines.

Major Industries:
Major industries include finance and insurance, government, manufacturing, trade and service.

Export/Import:
Des Moines is a Port of Entry for U.S. Customs and has a Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) in operation. For questions: 515-286-4917

Climate

The area’s climate is described by meteorologists as “continental,” meaning there are marked seasonal contrasts in temperatures and precipitation. Average temperatures: spring (47 F), summer (75 F), fall (50 F), and winter (23 F). Average annual rainfall: 33 inches; snowfall: 33 inches.

County Populations

Boone County	26,715
Dallas County	59,051
Jasper County	37,487
Madison County	16,062
Marion County	33,298
Marshall County	39,659
Polk County	420,354
Story County	82,607
Warren County	44,998

Central Iowa Total: 760,231
2008, DecisionData Resources





Greater Des Moines At-A-Glance

Demographics

Population (metro area)	551,819
Estimate by Single Classification Race	
White	88.2%
Hispanic Ethnicity	6.0%
Black	3.7%
Some Other Race	2.9%
Asian or Pacific Islander	2.6%
Two or more races	2.4%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.2%
Average Household Size	2.41
Income Per Capita	\$28,377
Average Household Income	\$68,195
Median Household Income	\$58,853
Land Area	2,912 square miles





Greater Des Moines At-A-Glance Continued

Property Tax Rates

CITY	CONSOLIDATED TAX RATE For FY 2008 PER \$1,000 VALUE
Altoona	\$41.55
Ankeny	\$39.07
Bondurant	\$42.50
Carlisle	\$41.88
Clive	\$34.08
Des Moines	\$45.89
Grimes	\$41.25
Indianola	\$39.88
Johnston	\$39.48
Norwalk	\$43.93
Pleasant Hill	\$40.24
Polk City	\$36.24
Urbandale	\$36.24
Waukee	\$38.84
West Des Moines	\$36.85
Windsor Heights	\$41.77

CNBC, July 2009

CNBC ranks Iowa fourth among the 50 states in their annual "Top States for Business" survey. Iowa was ranked ninth in the same survey in 2008, moving up five spots in just one year.

Taxes and Fees

State Sales Tax: Five percent on personal property except food, prescription drugs and medical devices; additional 1 percent is collected in the Des Moines MSA, for a total of 6 percent sales tax.

State Corporate Income Tax: Single Factor (only taxed on in-state sales)

Federal Taxes Deductible: Corporate - 50 percent; Individual - 100 percent

Homestead Tax Credit

If you are a first time home buyer you may qualify for the Homestead Tax Credit. Contact your local county treasurer to learn more.



Look who's talking about... Greater Des Moines

U.S. News & World Report, January 2009

The magazine's "Money & Business" section picked up a 2008 *Entrepreneur* magazine article that discussed how easily people in Central Iowa can start their own businesses with minimal overhead.

Business Week, February 2009

West Des Moines was ranked eighth in *Business Week's* "Best Affordable Suburbs" in the U.S., citing its low unemployment rate (3%), and violent crime index (21). The article also boasted of West Des Moines' highly-educated population and 16-minute average commutes.

BizJournals, March 2009

The Des Moines area is number 10 in a new quality-of-life ranking of the nation's 124 mid-sized metropolitan areas by *BizJournals*. The ranking cited the region's low average work commute of 19.7 minutes, as well as a solid core of young workers, strong rate of home ownership, inventory of large houses and numbers of adults with high school diplomas.

Site Selection, March 2009

Greater Des Moines was ranked 5th in *Site Selection* magazine's list of "Top Metros" for populations of 200,000 - 1 million.

Forbes.com, April 2009

Forbes ranked Greater Des Moines third among "America's Most Livable Cities", using five key quality of life metrics including income growth (4.2%), cost of living index (90.2), culture index (68), crime per 100,000 (3,854) and unemployment (5.0).

Policom, April 2009

The Des Moines metro area is ranked 13th in the nation on *Policom's* list of economic strength rankings. The highest ranked areas have had rapid, consistent growth in both size and quality for an extended period of time.

Forbes, April 2009

Forbes ranked Greater Des Moines as the 7th best place for Business and Careers. This is the third year the region has been in Forbes top 10.

Moneywatch.com/CBS News, April 2009

Greater Des Moines was identified as a "Job Haven" where bigger isn't always better. Des Moines was one of three small to midsized markets identified as well positioned to weather the economic crisis and provide professional employment.

Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council, April 2009

Iowa ranked 8th on the Council's Energy Cost Index. The index factors electricity cost and gas prices.

The Brookings Institute, June 2009

Greater Des Moines was included among the 20 strongest performing metro areas in its tracking of the recession and recovery in America's cities. The report said Des Moines experienced very modest job losses and has performed relatively well on most other economic indicators. Des Moines's metro also had the smallest change in unemployment between March of 2008 and March of 2009.



Working Here

“Career” and “life” aren’t mutually exclusive terms in Greater Des Moines. We live a balanced life here, one that values both home and office.

The Greater Des Moines Partnership web site offers tools for job-seekers. To peruse information about available jobs, or to post your resume to our database, visit us online at:

www.desmoinesmetro.com/employment

Major Industries

Major industries include:

- Finance and Insurance
- Government
- Manufacturing
- Trade and Service

Largest Private Employers in Greater Des Moines

1. Allied Insurance - A Nationwide Company (Insurance/Financial Services)
2. Central Iowa Hospital Corp. (Health Care)
3. Hy-Vee Food Stores, Inc. (Retail/Grocery)
4. Mercy Hospital Medical Center (Health Care)
5. Pioneer Hi-Bred, a DuPont Company (Plant Genetics and Agricultural Sciences)
6. The Principal Life Insurance Co. (Insurance/Financial Services)
7. United Parcel Service (Shipping Services)
8. Walmart (Retail)
9. Wells Fargo Home Mortgage (Financial Services/Mortgage)
10. Wells Fargo Financial (Financial Services)

Relocation Packet

If you’re reading this online, contact us at 800-376-9059 to request a hard copy of our relocation packet that includes copies of real estate and neighborhood guides, the “See Des Moines” magazine, information on downtown’s nightlife and more. We also have a “Welcome to Des Moines” DVD you don’t want to miss.

Employment

Major Industries, CBSA:

Services	38.80%
Retail Trade	20.70%
Finance, Insurance,	
Real Estate	13.10%
Public Admin.	7.40%
Manufacturing	5.50%
Wholesale Trade	4.60%
Construction	4.5%
Transportation &	
Communications	3.70%

Occupations, CBSA:

Admin. Support	21.30%
Professional Specialty	
Occupations	15.20%
Other Services,	
Site-based	13.6%
Exec. Managers &	
Administrators	12.10%



Transportation

The Greater Des Moines area is located at the crossroads of Interstates 80 and 35, making it one of the few metro areas that sit at the intersection of major interstates running from coast-to-coast and border-to-border. The area enjoys one of the shortest commute times in the nation with a 19.3 minute average commute. In addition, the area is served by the Des Moines International Airport (DSM), four general aviation airports, 58 motor freight carriers, local and regional bus service, several railroads and an extensive trails system.

Airlines

Local Airport:
Des Moines International Airport, 515-256-5100

Average travel time from the airport to downtown:
17 minutes

Number of Airlines: 10 (including commuter airlines)

18 Non-Stop Destinations

- Atlanta (ATL)
- Chicago (ORD)
- Cincinnati (CVG)
- Dallas (DFW)
- Denver (DEN)
- Detroit (DTW)
- Houston (IAH)
- Las Vegas (LAS)
- Los Angeles (LAX)
- Memphis (MEM)
- Milwaukee (MKE)
- Minneapolis (MSP)
- New York (LGA)
- Orlando (MCO)
- Phoenix (PHX)
- St. Louis (STL)
- Tampa Bay/St. Petersburg(PIE)
- Washington D.C. (DCA)

Central Location

Major Highways:
East/West: Interstate 80, U.S. 6
North/South: Interstate 35, U.S. 69

Miles from:

Chicago	334
Kansas City	194
Milwaukee	375
Minneapolis/St. Paul	244
Omaha	135
St. Louis	432

Local Bus Service:

The Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority, or DART, provides bus service throughout the metro area. Learn more about route, fare and schedule information online at www.dmmta.com or by calling 515-283-8100.

Over the Road Service:

Greater Des Moines is served by Greyhound, Jefferson Bus Lines and Burlington Trailways for travel within the state or throughout the country.



Housing Index

Downtown loft ...Elegant suburban showplace ...A family-friendly three-bedroom near an amazing school ...Quaint, bungalow in an arty, historic neighborhood ...An acreage with plenty of room for horses ...

Name your housing preference — Greater Des Moines has it.

Real Estate & Housing

The median sales price for a single-family home is \$153,200. Nearly 69.5% of homes in the Des Moines CBSA are owner occupied.

For more information contact:

Des Moines Area Association of Realtors
1370 N.W. 114th St., Suite 100
Clive, IA 50325
515-453-8491
www.dmaar.com

Home Builders Association of Greater Des Moines
6751 Corporate Dr.
Johnston, IA 50131
515-270-8500
www.desmoineshomebuilders.com

Cost of Living Comparison

URBAN AREA	COMPOSITE INDEX U.S. 100.0
New York/Manhattan, NY	219.8
San Francisco, CA	170.5
Honolulu, HI	163.3
Los Angeles/Long Beach, CA	146.5
Philadelphia, PA	123.6
Seattle, WA	123.5
Portland, OR	116.3
Miami-Dade County, FL	115.2
Denver, CO	104.3
Phoenix, AZ	101.1
Tampa, FL	96.8
Atlanta, GA	96.6
Austin, TX	90.3
Des Moines, IA	91.1

ACCRA cost of living index website, 2007

Compare the cost of living in Greater Des Moines to other places in the United States at www.desmoinesmetro.com/employment.

Energy & Utilities

Once you find a place that fits your style, visit our online Member Directory to find utilities and household services such as electric, gas, telephone, cable/satellite, internet and newspaper at:

www.desmoinesmetro.com/directory/directory.asp

We have many businesses to serve you.

Contact your local city hall for information about water, garbage collection and other services. A full list of city halls is located on the Area City Halls and County Offices page.



Housing Information

Apartment Rental Rate Comparison

AREA	EFFICIENCY	1-BEDROOM	2-BEDROOM	3-BEDROOM
East Side	\$418	\$482	\$601	\$750
South Side	\$467	\$565	\$618	\$784
West Side	\$461	\$555	\$641	\$804
West Close-In	\$488	\$551	\$670	*
West Suburbs	\$525	\$673	\$739	\$951
Average Greater Des Moines	\$480	\$599	\$686	\$905
High-Rise	\$724	\$732	\$933	\$1067
Altoona	\$438	\$512	\$622	\$788
Ankeny	\$434	\$537	\$645	\$700
Indianola	*	\$418	\$608	\$629
Average of all units surveyed	\$496	\$598	\$685	\$908

*Insufficient data available

SOURCE: CB Richard Ellis/Hubbell Commercial Apartment Survey by Carlson, McClure & Assoc.

Downtown Living

In contrast to the suburbanization of America, there is an exciting trend taking place in Des Moines. The synergies created by new downtown developments and revitalization efforts are luring many residents back to the area's commercial center. Young professionals, senior executives, couples with children, retirees and people of all ages are discovering that downtown offers everything they want in a community. Lofts, condos and brownstones are among the more than 1,500 housing units either completed or under construction in downtown Des Moines. For complete information, see the Downtown Development guide online at:

www.downtowndesmoines.com

DES MOINES.
**DO
MORE.**

You'll find an impressive array of world-class educational opportunities in Greater Des Moines — public, private, pre-school, K-12, colleges, universities, community colleges, trade schools and more.

Colleges & Universities

Institution	Students
AIB College of Business	985
Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC)	18,695
Des Moines University-Osteopathic Medical Center	1,700
Drake University	5,665
Faith Baptist College/Seminary	323
Graceland University College	2,444
Grand View University	1,937
Kaplan University	787
Mercy College of Health Sciences	676
Simpson College	2,055
University of Phoenix	n/a
Upper Iowa University	5,937
Vatterott College	241

Expansion Management 2007 Education Quotient

Des Moines metro public schools rank in the top 20% of school districts nationwide and third best among schools in midsize metro areas.

State Universities

The following state schools are only a few hours from Greater Des Moines.

Iowa State University	26,856 students
University of Iowa	30,561 students
University of Northern Iowa	12,908 students

2008 School Year



Primary/Secondary Education

This list shows the three largest districts in the metro area, but all of our schools are world-class. See a full list of districts online at:

www.desmoinesmetro.com/living

	Students	Faculty	Teachers
Des Moines Public Schools 901 Walnut St. Des Moines, IA 50309 515-242-7911	30,683	4,875	2,845
West Des Moines Community Schools 3550 Mills Civic Pkwy. West Des Moines, IA 50266 515-633-5000	8,848	523	653
Ankeny Community Schools 306 S.W. School St. Ankeny, IA 50021 515-965-9600	8,200	1069	573
Total Central Iowa Public School Enrollment:			125,728
Total Central Iowa Private School Enrollment:			6,963
Total Central Iowa Public/Private School Enrollment:			132,691



Area City Halls and County Offices

Contact your local city hall for information about turning your water on, as well as contacts for other utility companies including phone, gas, garbage, etc. The county can help you with voter registration, car registration and related services.

Dallas County – Dallas County Courthouse
801 Court St.
P.O. Box 38
Adel, IA 50003
515-993-5804
www.co.dallas.ia.us

Polk County -- Polk County Administration Building
111 Court Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
515-286-3000
www.polkcountyiowa.gov

Warren County -- Warren County Courthouse
301 N. Buxton St.
Indianola, IA 50125
515-961-1020
www.co.warren.ia.us

Area City Halls

Altoona City Hall
407 Eighth St. S.E.
Altoona, IA 50009
515-967-5136

Johnston City Hall
6221 Merle Hay Rd.
Johnston, IA 50131
515-278-2344

Ankeny City Hall
410 W. First St.
Ankeny, IA 50023
515-965-6400

Norwalk City Hall
705 North Ave.
Norwalk, IA 50211
515-981-0228

Bondurant City Hall
200 Second St. N.E.
Bondurant, IA 50035
515-967-2418

Polk City City Hall
112 Third St.
Polk City, IA 50226
515-984-6233

Carlisle City Hall
195 N. First St.
Carlisle, IA 50047
515-989-3224

Pleasant Hill City Hall
5160 Maple Dr., Suite A
Pleasant Hill, IA 50327
515-262-9368

Clive City Hall
1900 N.W. 114th St.
Clive, IA 50325
515-223-6220

Urbandale City Hall
3600 86th St.
Urbandale, IA 50322
515-278-3900

Des Moines City Hall
400 Robert D. Ray Dr.
Des Moines, IA 50309
515-283-4500

Waukee City Hall
230 Highway 6
Waukee, IA 50266
515-987-4522

Grimes City Hall
101 N. Harvey St.
Grimes, IA 50111
515-986-3036

West Des Moines City Hall
4200 Mills Civic Pkwy.
West Des Moines, IA 50265
515-222-3600

Indianola City Hall
110 N. First St.
Indianola, IA 50125
515-961-9410

Windsor Heights City Hall
1133 66th St.
Des Moines, IA 50311
515-279-3662



Area Chambers and Organizations

African-American Business Association (AABA)
515-286-4950
www.aabaofdesmoines.org

ALIANZA (Latino Business Association)
515-286-4982
www.alianza-lba.org

Altoona Area Chamber of Commerce
515-967-3366
www.altoonachamber.org

Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce
515-964-0685
www.ankeny.org

Bondurant Chamber of Commerce
515-967-2418 (city hall)
www.bondurantchamber.com

Carlisle Chamber of Commerce
515-402-1008
www.carlisleiachamber.org

Clive Chamber of Commerce
515-222-5295
www.clivechamber.org

Des Moines Downtown Chamber
515-286-4999
www.desmoinesdowntownchamber.com

East Des Moines Chamber of Commerce
515-283-9312
www.edmchamber.org

Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute
515-286-4980
www.gdmli.com

Grimes Chamber & Economic Development
515-986-5770
www.grimesiowa.com

Indianola Chamber of Commerce
515-961-6269
www.indianolachamber.com

Johnston Chamber of Commerce
515-276-9064
www.growjohnston.com

Norwalk Area Chamber of Commerce
515-981-0619
www.norwalkchamber.org

Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce
515-261-0466
www.phchamber.com

Polk City Chamber of Commerce
515-402-5427
www.polkcitchamber.com

South Des Moines Chamber of Commerce
515-333-9779
www.southdesmoineschamber.com

Urbandale Area Chamber of Commerce
515-331-6855
www.uniquelyurbandale.com

Waukee Area Chamber of Commerce
515-978-7115
www.waukeechamber.com

West Des Moines Chamber of Commerce
515-225-6009
www.wdmchamber.org

West Side Chamber
515-286-4950
www.desmoineswestsidechamber.org

Windsor Heights Chamber of Commerce
515-279-3662 (city hall)
www.windsorheightschamber.com

Young Professionals Connection
515-286-4924
www.ypcdsm.com



Resources

Below are a list of community resources to help you get started living in Greater Des Moines. If there's something you don't see here, please feel free to contact us at 800-376-9059. We'll be glad to help.

Senior Resources

Aging Resources of Central Iowa
5835 Grand Ave., Suite 106
Des Moines, IA 50312
515-255-1310

Senior Citizen Information Service
1914 Carpenter Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50314
515-286-3434

Cultural Organizations

Deaf Services Commission of Iowa
www.state.ia.us/government/dhr/ds

Iowa Department of the Blind
www.blind.state.ia.us

Division of Persons with Disabilities
www.state.ia.us/government/dhr/pd

Iowa Asian Alliance
www.iowaasianalliance.com

Latinos Unidos
www.latinosunidosofiowa.com

Capital City Pride
www.capitalcitypride.org

Other organizations such as the African-American Business Association, ALIANZA and Young Professionals Connection are listed on the Area Chambers and Organizations page.

Religious Affiliations

People in Greater Des Moines choose from a variety of religions. We have too many places of worship to list, so have provided some resources to find a place of worship that is right for you.

Des Moines Area Religious Council
3816 36th St.
Des Moines, IA 50309
515-277-6969

Islamic Center of Des Moines
6201 Franklin Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50322
515-255-0212

Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines
910 Polk Blvd.
Des Moines, IA 50312
515-277-6321

Muslim Center
1172 42nd St.
Des Moines, IA 50311

Roman Catholic Diocese of Des Moines
601 Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
515-243-7653

Hospitals

Broadlawns Medical Center
1801 Hickman Rd.
Des Moines, IA 50314
515-282-2200
www.broadlawns.org

Iowa Health – Des Moines
Methodist, Lutheran, Blank Children's Hospitals
1200 Pleasant St.
Des Moines, IA 50309
515-241-6212
www.iowahealth.org

Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines
1111 Sixth Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50314
515-247-3121
www.mercydesmoines.org

V.A. Central Iowa Health Care System
3600 30th St.
Des Moines, IA 50310
515-699-5999
www.centraliowa.va.gov

Voter Registration

Voters must be U.S. citizens, 18 years of age or older, and registered to vote at least 10 days prior to a primary or general election. Re-registration is required if a voter fails to vote in elections for four years. You may register to vote in Polk, Dallas and Warren Counties or any local city hall. (Contact information is listed elsewhere in this packet)

Driver's License

The full-service driver's license station is located at the Iowa Motor Vehicle Division Bldg.
6310 S.E. Convenience Blvd., Ankeny, IA 50021.
515-244-9124

Renewal only, go to Polk County River Place
2339 Euclid Ave., Des Moines, IA 50310

Car Registration

For car registration contact your local county Treasurer's Office in Polk, Dallas or Warren counties. (Contact information is listed elsewhere in this packet)

More Information

Feel free to write or call us, or visit our web site, for more information about moving here and living here. You can reach us at:

Greater Des Moines Partnership
700 Locust St., Suite 100
Des Moines, IA 50309
1-800-376-9059

www.desmoinesmetro.com

