Iowa Historic Population Trends

Year of Peak Population — Decennial Census Years 1850-2018

With Decline in Population Since Peak

Iowa Population by Census — 1900-2019

With Annual Percent Change

Iowa Mean Population Center — 1860-2010

* Marshalltown, IA

The mean center of population is determined as the place where an imaginary, flat, weightless map of the U.S. would balance perfectly if all residents were of identical weight.

Iowa’s mean center has trended to the northwest until 1930 when it turned eastward from Story County into Marshall County. In 1980 the center began to trend more southerly. The closest city is Marshalltown.

Nationally, the mean population center has trended westward, with a more southwesterly pattern in recent decades. The national mean population center is near Plato in south central Missouri.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 Population Estimate; LSA calculations

LSA Staff Contact: Michael Guanci (515.725.1286) michael.guanci@legis.iowa.gov