

CHAPTER

2

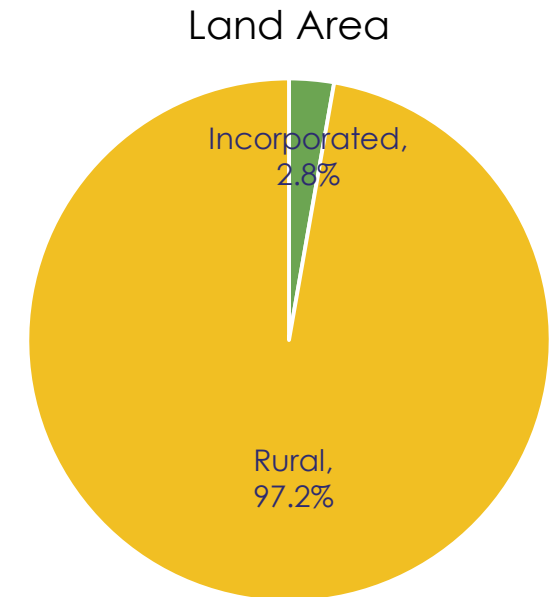
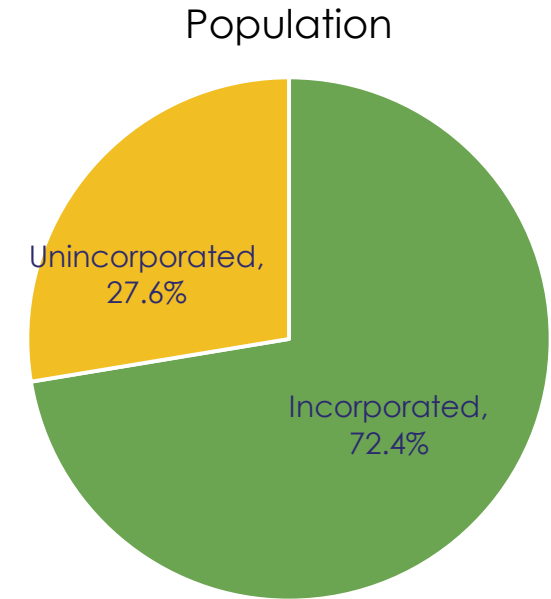
County Profile

Introduction

Understanding the demographics of Jasper County is an essential component to understanding the needs of its residents. Demographic trends can indicate changing needs for specific types of housing, schools, parks, or economic development. The information in this chapter is used to inform the goals and objectives presented in later chapters.

Regional Context

Jasper County is at a crossroads: quiet, unobtrusive, rural landscape to the east and suburban sprawl to the west. Jasper County enables its residents to live a quiet, bucolic life while still having access to the amenities that the Des Moines metro provides. It also has a number of small incorporated cities providing local services.



Unincorporated Jasper County

Jasper County, like many other counties in Iowa, is primarily rural. Of the 732.6 square miles in Jasper County, 712.3 square miles, or 97.2%, is unincorporated. Although nearly all of the land in Jasper County is unincorporated, less than one-third of the population lives in unincorporated areas.

Cities in Jasper County

Jasper County is home to 14 incorporated cities totaling nearly 25,000 in population.

	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2018
Newton	1,983	2,607	2,564	3,682	4,616	6,627	11,560	10,462	11,723	15,381	15,619	15,292	14,799	15,579	15,254	15,209
Colfax		620	957	2,053	2,524	2,504	2,213	2,222	2,279	2,331	2,293	2,234	2,462	2,223	2,093	2,069
Monroe		982	952	917	800	936	936	1,015	1,108	1,366	1,389	1,875	1,739	1,808	1,830	1,874
Prairie City		591	684	808	764	780	793	831	834	943	1,141	1,278	1,366	1,365	1,680	1,729
Baxter				427	527	571	569	623	618	681	788	951	938	1,052	1,101	1,138
Sully					282	393	362	402	452	508	685	828	841	904	821	836
Kellogg		772	700	653	610	603	580	648	670	623	607	654	626	606	599	592
Lynnville		296	261	347	370	461	426	427	406	411	381	406	393	366	379	395
Mingo					246	324	313	290	227	260	260	303	252	269	302	307
Lambs Grove										234	239	228	212	225	172	169
Oakland Acres												139	152	166	156	160
Reasnor						226	229	221	227	224	284	277	191	194	152	155
Valeria						70	57	79	57	76	96	80	69	62	57	59
Mitchellville*		745	704	768	869	752	702	769	906	957	1,341	1,530	1,670	1,715	2,254	2,303
Total Incorporated	1,983	5,868	6,118	8,887	10,739	13,495	18,038	17,220	18,601	23,038	23,782	24,545	24,040	24,819	24,596	24,692
Percent Incorporated	9.0%	22.6%	24.5%	32.9%	39.7%	48.4%	54.8%	54.7%	57.6%	62.3%	67.1%	67.4%	69.1%	66.7%	66.8%	66.5%
Total Unincorporated	20,133	20,095	18,825	18,089	16,295	14,360	14,898	14,276	13,704	12,244	11,643	11,880	10,755	12,394	12,246	12,455
Percent Unincorporated	91.0%	77.4%	75.5%	67.1%	60.3%	51.6%	45.2%	45.3%	42.4%	34.7%	32.9%	32.6%	30.9%	33.3%	33.2%	33.5%
Jasper County	22,116	25,963	24,943	26,976	27,034	27,885	32,936	31,496	32,305	35,282	35,425	36,425	34,795	37,213	36,842	37,147

Demographics

Demographics tell a story about who the community is as a whole and how it has changed over time. When looking to promote further growth in a community, it is important to acknowledge its current demographic profiles. The demographics examined in this section are population, age, education, average household and family size, race and ethnicity, and projected population growth.

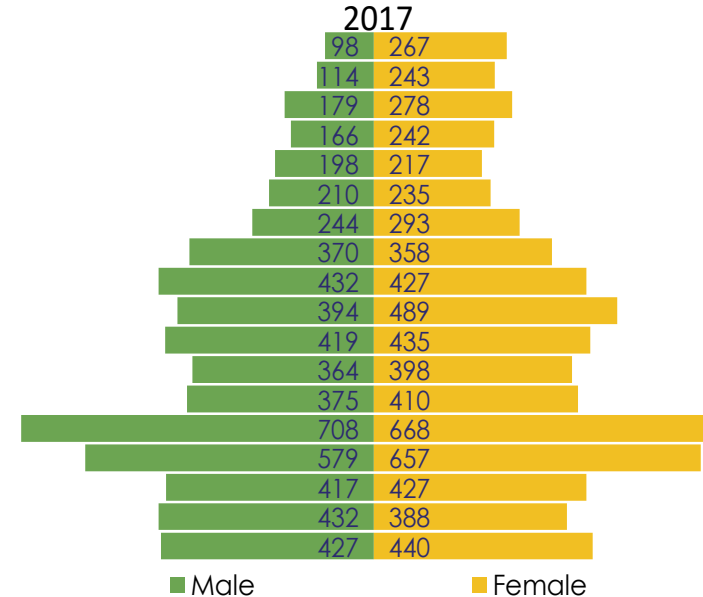
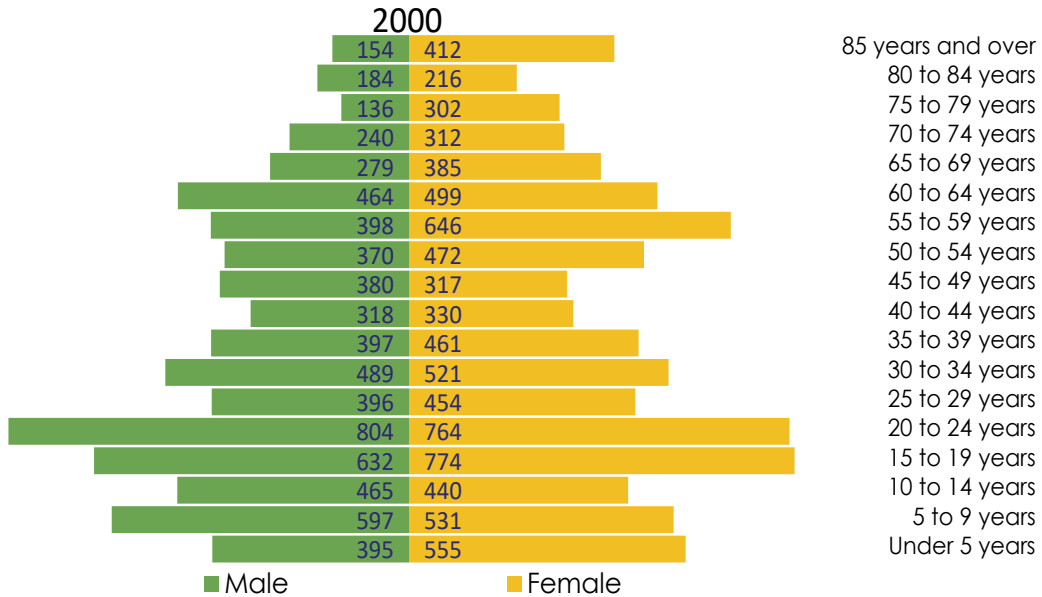
People

Age + Sex

The US Census Bureau shows that 37,213 people lived in Jasper County in 2000. Of those people, 50.4% were male and 49.6% were female. The median age in Jasper County in 2000 was 38.5 compared to 36.6 and 35.3 for Iowa and the United States as a whole, respectively. The median age for males in Jasper County was 37.1 in 2000 and the median age for females was 40.0.

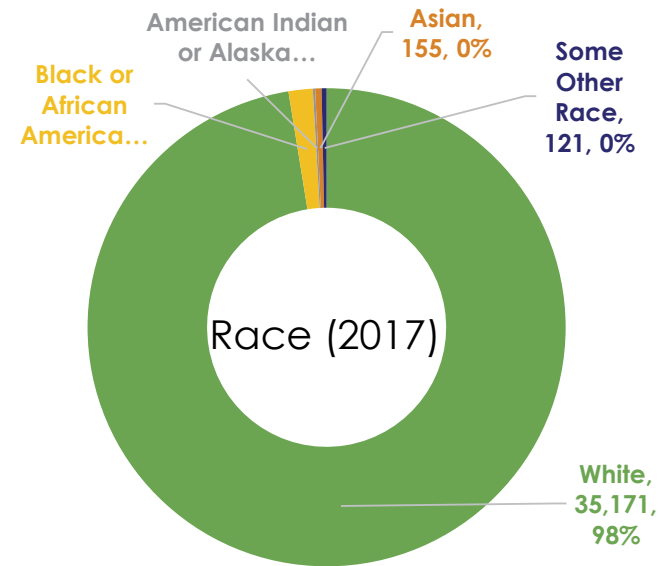
The US Census Bureau Estimates Program shows that 37,147 people lived in Jasper County in 2018. Of those people, 51.1% were male and 48.9% were female. The median age in Jasper County in 2018 was 41.5 compared to 38.2 for both Iowa and the United States as a whole, showing that populations overall have aged since 2000. The median age for males in Jasper County was 40.0 in 2018 and the median age for females was 43.6.

Age Bracket	2000	2010	2017 est.	% change 2000-2010	% change 2010-2017	% change 2000-2017
Under 5 years	2,313	2,162	2,147	-6.5%	-0.7%	-7.2%
5 to 9 years	2,607	2,394	2,048	-8.2%	-14.5%	-21.4%
10 to 14 years	2,607	2,370	2,613	-9.1%	10.3%	0.2%
15 to 19 years	2,442	2,285	2,082	-6.4%	-8.9%	-14.7%
20 to 24 years	1,961	1,788	2,040	-8.8%	14.1%	4.0%
25 to 34 years	4,639	4,367	4,339	-5.9%	-0.6%	-6.5%
35 to 44 years	5,989	4,727	4,298	-21.1%	-9.1%	-28.2%
45 to 54 years	5,127	5,889	5,233	14.9%	-11.1%	2.1%
55 to 59 years	1,880	2,535	2,700	34.8%	6.5%	43.6%
60 to 64 years	1,685	2,236	2,503	32.7%	11.9%	48.5%
65 to 74 years	3,046	3,076	3,634	1.0%	18.1%	19.3%
75 to 84 years	2,114	2,098	2,297	-0.8%	9.5%	8.7%
85 years and over	803	915	855	13.9%	-6.6%	6.5%



Race

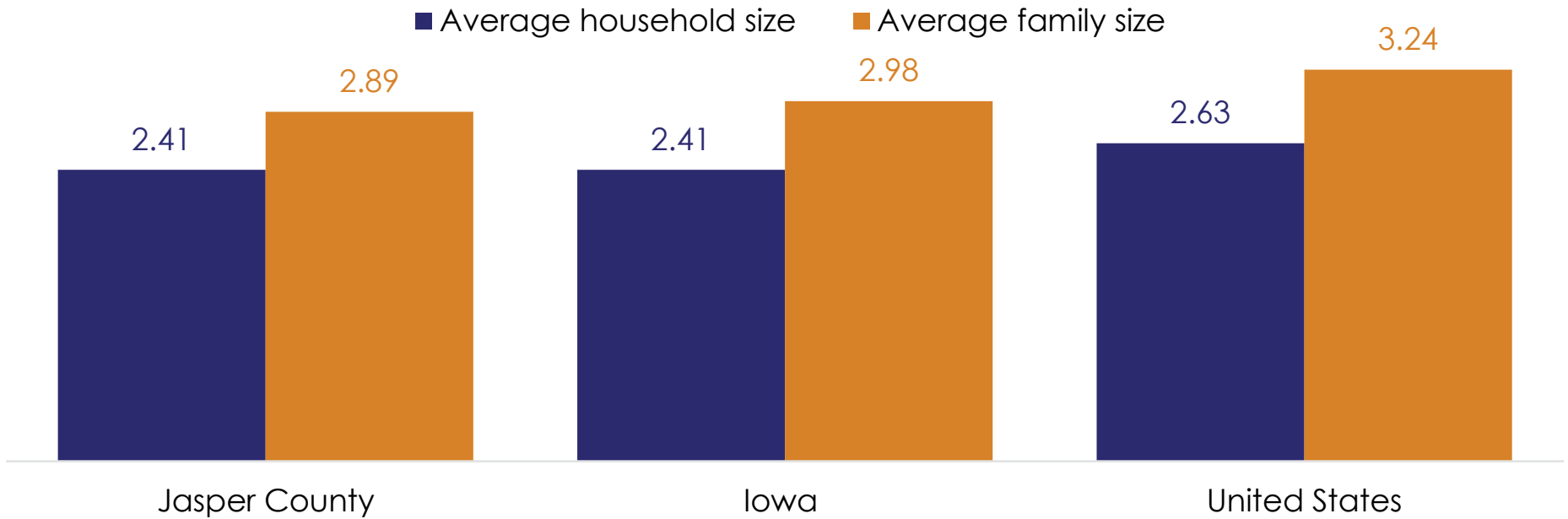
From the same 2017 American Community Survey, the figure on the next page shows that a total of 35,171 (95.6%) of Jasper County’s residents were “White,” 590 (1.6%) were “Black or African American,” and the remaining 958 (2.8%) were some other race including: “American Indian or Alaska Native,” “American Indian,” “Asian,” “Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander,” and “Some Other Race.” Jasper County, much like Iowa as a whole, is a very homogeneous population with more than 90% of residents being white.



Housing

Household + Family Size

The average household size in Jasper County according to the 2017 American Community Survey was 2.41 people and the average family size was 2.89 people. The figure below shows Jasper County's average household and family size as compared to those of Iowa and the United States. Generally, Jasper County's average household and family sizes are characteristic of Iowa and the United States.



Population Trends + Projections

When planning for communities, one of the best ways to understand what the future of the community holds is to look at how it has grown over time and project forward based on that historic growth.

Jasper County population change over time

Since 1850, when the first Decennial Census was taken for an incorporated city in Jasper County, the population has grown from 1,280 to reach 37,147 in 2018 according to US Census Bureau estimates. During that time, growth has happened in the incorporated cities in Jasper County as the rural population has seen a decrease from 20,133 in 1870 to 12,455 in 2018.

The Census estimates the population living within incorporated areas as 24,692 people. Therefore, 12,455 people, or 33.5% of the county population live within rural Jasper County.

Projection Methods

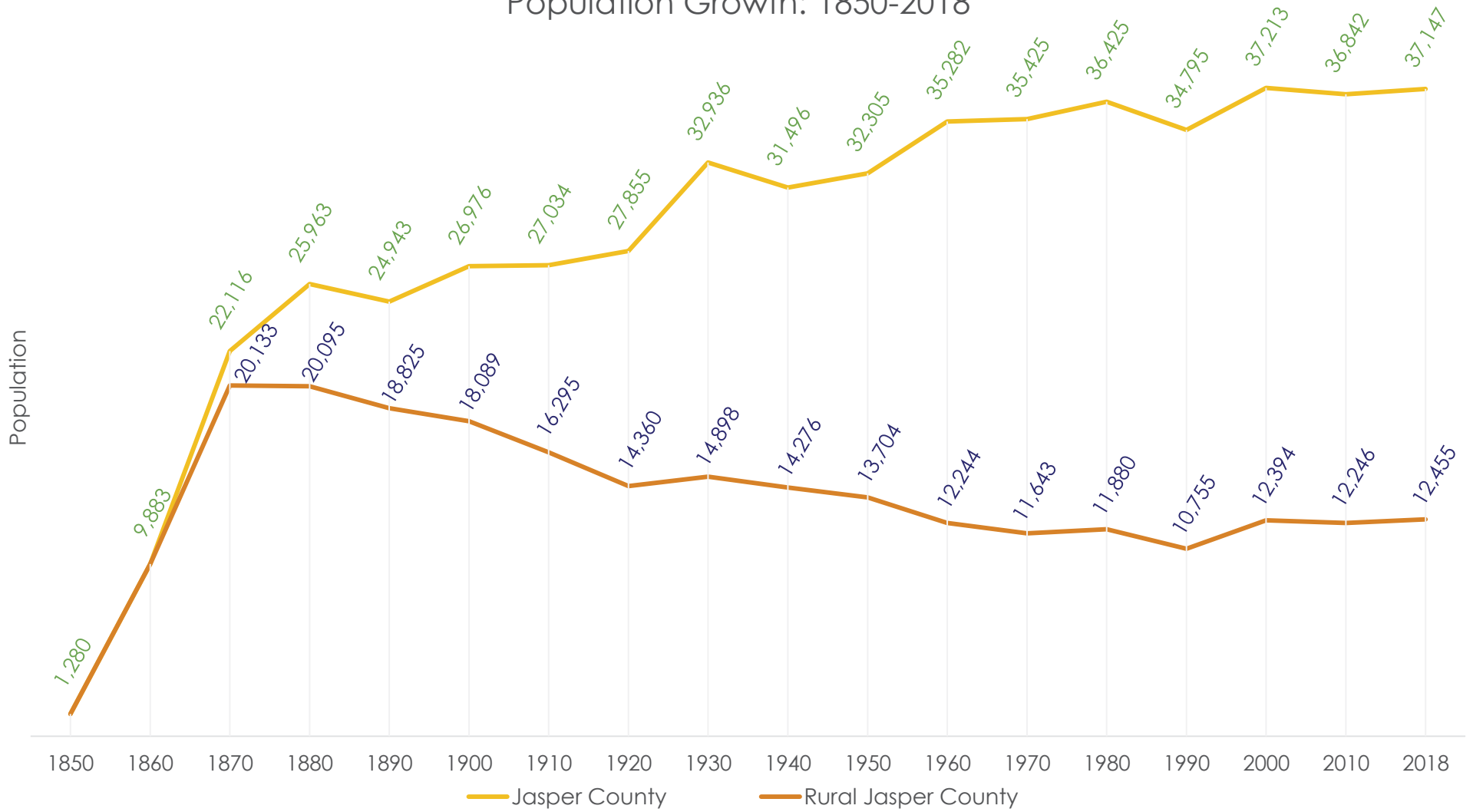
The following projection methods are using population data from 1850-2010 and calculating the population change to 2040. Projections are prepared with an incremental update every five years.

Due to the drastically different growth rates between incorporated and rural Jasper County, projections were done separately and then combined to get ideally more accurate population projection estimates. Both incorporated and rural Jasper County were projected using six methods: Linear Curve Projection, Geometric Curve Projection, Exponential Curve Projection, Constant Share Curve Projection, Share of Growth Curve Projection, and Shift Share Curve Projection. More details about how the projections were calculated can be found in the Appendix.

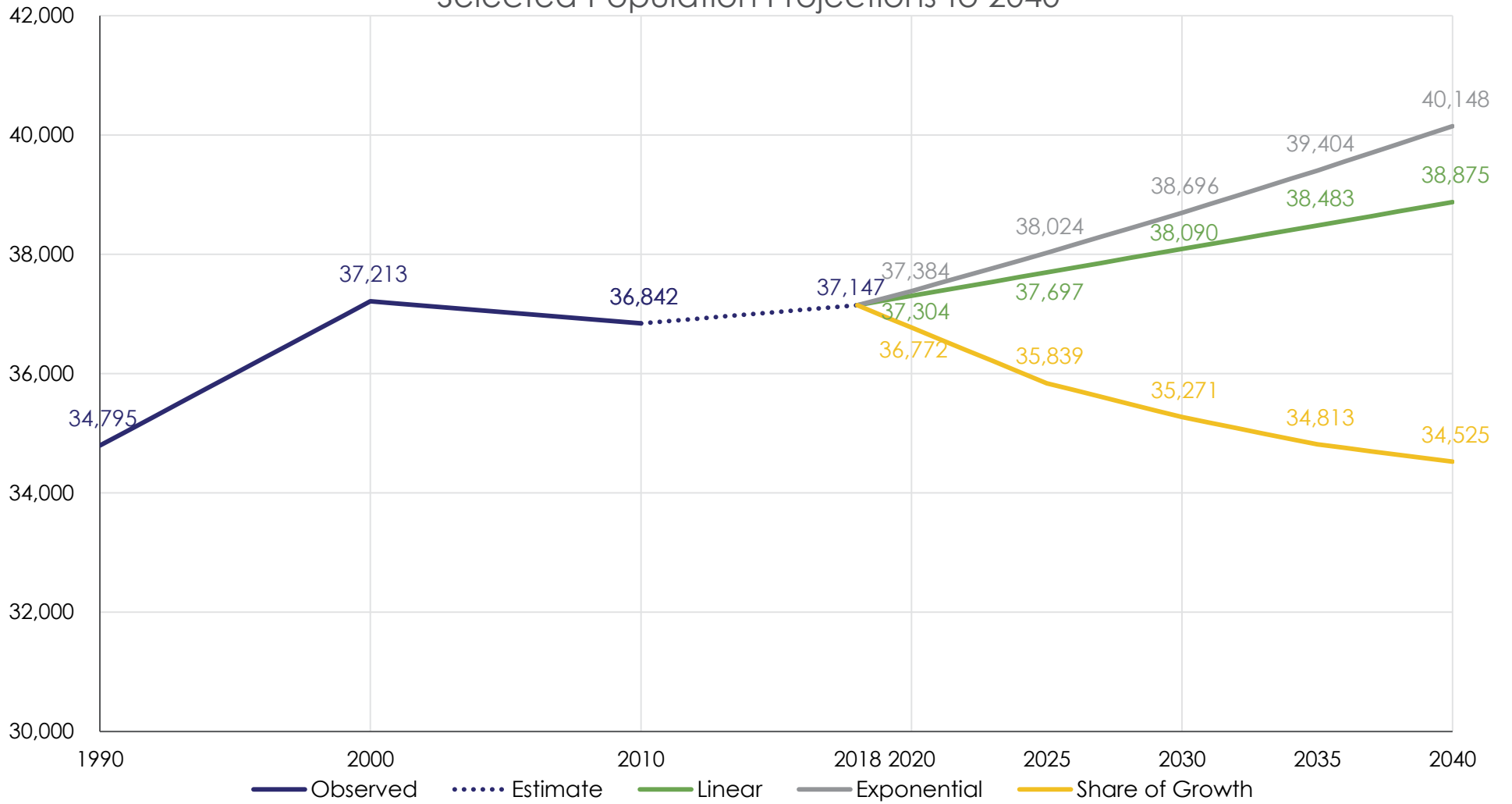
Three methods were selected indicating distinct ranges: low, medium and high projection. Using the alternatives to develop a growth range gives decision-makers and planners tools to use for future development assessments. Choosing an appropriate population projection range is extremely important. Selecting a range that is too high or too low can lead to challenges when developing land, housing, and infrastructure. Underestimating the rate of population growth can lead to shortages of infrastructure and land, while overestimating can result in unnecessary upgrades and money spent. All alternatives were considered and the selected range in population projections is approximately 34,525 to 40,148 people by 2040. Alternative methods were selected as low, medium, and high projections.



Population Growth: 1850-2018



Selected Population Projections to 2040



Low Projection

Alternative 5 (Share of Growth) of 34,525 people was selected as the low alternative due to its actual observed growth trends within the community. This projection shows a slow decrease in rural population over time, as has been observed with historical trends.

Medium Projection

Alternative 1 (Linear) of 38,875 people was selected as the medium projection. This method assumes a linear growth pattern for the two population groups in the county.

High Projection

The high projection was selected from Alternative 3 (Exponential). The population was projected at 40,148. This is not the highest projection, however the higher projections seem unlikely given past trends.

The spread between the three projections varies in terms of the average annual population growth rate after 2018, with the low projection assuming a -0.32% annual average growth rate, the medium projection assuming 0.21%, and the high projection assuming 0.37%.