

# US in the WORLD

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES TO ENSURE A HEALTHY PLANET



## Iowa



Comparison at same scale

**Iowa**  
Area: 56,276 sq. miles  
Population: 2.9 million

**Côte d'Ivoire**  
Area: 124,504 sq. miles  
Population: 16.0 million



## Côte d'Ivoire

**Largest urban area by population (2000):** Abidjan (3,305,000)

**Largest metropolitan areas by population (1998):** Des Moines (436,922), Davenport-Moline-Rock Island (Iowa, Ill.) (357,813), Cedar Rapids (182,651)

The natural riches of Iowa and Côte d'Ivoire (formerly known as the Ivory Coast) attracted French settlers eager to exploit the fertile lowlands in both places. By the time the French relinquished their claim on Iowa to the United States in 1803, they had barely started exploring the interior of Côte d'Ivoire. Both places presented great challenges to development because indigenous populations violently opposed invaders and natural habitats of wetlands and forests had to be cleared to make room for farmland.

Most of the wetlands in Iowa have disappeared since 1780, and only 1 percent of the land is currently under federal protection, the smallest amount of any U.S. state. Likewise, most of the forests in Côte d'Ivoire have been felled since independence in 1960. Iowa and Côte d'Ivoire now face the challenges of ensuring the economic prosperity of

their populations while preserving remaining natural habitats.

Both Iowa and Côte d'Ivoire are relatively flat. Iowa is a large fertile watershed, and Côte d'Ivoire is covered with undulating plains giving way to mountains in the northwest. Although agriculture employs a relatively small portion of Iowa's labor force—not quite one person out of 10—the state is the top U.S. producer of beef, pork, corn, soybeans, and grain. An average family farm produces enough to feed 250 people year round.

While less than 1 percent of the state's rivers and lakes are of poor quality, 14 percent of its wetlands suffer from serious pollution problems. Wastes from the expansion of the animal feeding industry have been deemed the most serious threat to water quality, although the level of pollution from this source is considerably

less severe than pollution from untreated sewage was during the 1960s.

The revenues generated by agriculture, combined with the development of a service sector that now employs almost three-quarters of workers, have ensured a high standard of living for Iowans. The state has one of the highest life expectancies in the nation and has been ranked first on most educational standards for the past 20 years. Iowa's low population density and growth rate offer its government opportunities to reverse environmental degradation and ensure the preservation of remaining natural habitats.

Côte d'Ivoire similarly relies heavily on its agricultural sector as an income earner. Most of the workforce is employed in agriculture, fishing, and forestry, which collectively generate two-thirds of exports. The country is the leading world producer of cocoa—

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## Demographic and Health Trends

Iowa's annual population growth rate of 0.3 percent—one-third the rate for the nation as a whole—makes it one of the slowest growing states in the country. However, slow growth in the 1990s represents something of a comeback for the "Hawkeye State," which lost 137,000 people during the 1980s.

Although most of Iowa's growth during the 1990s resulted from an

excess of births over deaths, the state has also gained residents through net migration. Approximately 21,000 people moved to the state from other countries, more than offsetting the 16,000 people Iowa lost as a result of out-migration to other states.

A child born in Iowa has a higher life expectancy (just over 77 years) than the U.S. average of about 75 years.

## Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

Iowa's eight endangered and threatened animals include the Indiana bat, the Iowa Pleistocene snail, and the least tern. The prairie bush-clover and Mead's milkweed are among the state's five endangered and threatened plants.

Iowa has lost 89 percent of its original wetland area over the past two centuries. Only California and Ohio have had greater wetlands losses.

During the 1996-1997 biennial period, 77 percent of the surface water in Iowa's rivers, 64 percent of the water in its lakes, and 43 percent of the water in its wetland areas were deemed to be of good quality. However, some of these waters might be threatened in the future because of pollution from agricultural runoff.

## Socioeconomic Factors

Fewer than one in 10 Iowans work in agriculture, but farm exports totaled \$3.5 billion in fiscal year 1998, second only to California.

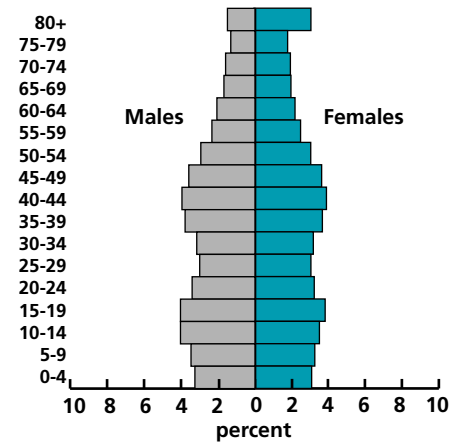
Despite having a median household income slightly below the national average in 1996, Iowa has one of the country's lowest poverty rates—9 percent.

During the 1996-1997 academic year, only 3 percent of Iowa's secondary school students (in grades 9

through 12) dropped out of school—among the lowest rates in the country.

The migration of Iowa's young people to other states has led to the rapid aging of the population and to a dwindling labor pool (the 1999 work force of 1.6 million is projected to decline 3 percent by 2005). In 2000, the governor proposed designating Iowa as an immigration enterprise zone to attract foreign workers.

## POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX

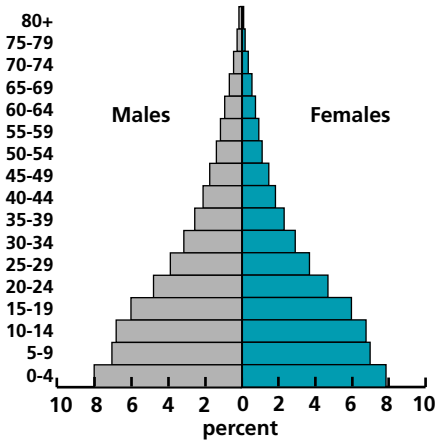


## IOWA FACTS

<b>Population, 1999:</b> 2.9 million
<b>Projected population, 2025:</b> 3.0 million
<b>Annual growth rate:</b> 0.3%
<b>Doubling time (at current rate):</b> 233 years
<b>Average number of children per woman:</b> 1.9
<b>Infant deaths per 1,000 live births:</b> 6.2
<b>Life expectancy:</b> 74 (male), 81 (female)
<b>Persons per square mile:</b> 51
<b>Percent urban:</b> 61
<b>Endangered/threatened animals:</b> 8 species
<b>Endangered/threatened plants:</b> 5 species
<b>Percent of land protected:</b> 1
<b>Wetlands loss, 1780-1980:</b> 89%
<b>Daily water use per capita:</b> 1,068 gallons
<b>Water use for domestic purposes:</b> 15%
<b>Water use for agriculture:</b> 5%
<b>Water use for industry:</b> 10%
<b>Water use for energy production:</b> 70%
<b>Cropland per capita:</b> 11.1 acres
<b>Energy use per capita:</b> 68.6 barrels of oil equiv.
<b>Persons per motor vehicle:</b> 0.9
<b>Adults who are high school graduates:</b> 90%
<b>Elected officials who are women:</b> 20%
<b>Labor force in agriculture:</b> 8%
<b>Labor force in industry:</b> 19%
<b>Labor force in services:</b> 72%
<b>Gross State Product, 1997:</b> \$28,214 per capita

# CÔTE D'IVOIRE

## POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX



## CÔTE D'IVOIRE FACTS

Population, 2000:	16 million
Projected population, 2025:	23.3 million
Annual growth rate:	2.4%
Doubling time (at current rate):	29 years
Average number of children per woman:	5.2
Infant deaths per 1,000 live births:	112
Life expectancy:	45 (male), 48 (female)
Persons per square mile:	128
Percent urban:	46
Threatened animals:	34 species
Threatened plants:	66 species
Percent of land protected:	6.5
Wetlands loss, through 1980s:	n.a.
Percent with access to safe water:	42
Percent with adequate sanitation:	39
Daily water use per capita:	48 gallons
Water use for domestic purposes:	22%
Water use for agriculture:	67%
Water use for industry:	11%
Cropland per capita:	1.3 acres
Energy use per capita:	1.2 barrels of oil equiv.
Persons per motor vehicle:	36
Percent of girls in secondary school:	16
Percent of boys in secondary school:	33
Women as % of national legislature:	n.a.
Labor force in agriculture:	60%
Labor force in industry:	10%
Labor force in services:	30%
GDP per capita, 1998:	US\$773

## Demographic and Health Trends

- The population of Côte d'Ivoire has nearly tripled since 1970. Although the growth rate has slowed from 4 percent annually in the early 1970s to around 2 percent today, the population is projected to increase almost 50 percent by 2025, reaching 23 million.
- The graph of the country's population at left reflects the sustained high birth rates of the past. Women in Côte d'Ivoire averaged six or more children from the early 1950s

through the late 1980s. More recently, in the 1990s, women averaged between five and six children.

- Côte d'Ivoire's infant mortality rate—112 deaths per 1,000 live births—is 20 percent higher than the average for sub-Saharan Africa. At least 60 percent of 1-year-old children are immunized against polio, measles, diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus; 84 percent are immunized against tuberculosis.

## Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

- Côte d'Ivoire has 3,517 known species of higher plants, 535 known breeding species of birds, and 230 known species of mammals. Among the country's endangered species are the Roloway monkey, Liberian mon-goose, western forest hog, zebra ante-lope, Rufous fishing-owl, and the black-capped Rufous warbler.
- Côte d'Ivoire has experienced one of the world's most rapid deforesta-

tion rates. The primary causes have been shifting cultivation and logging.

- Annual internally renewable water resources per capita in Côte d'Ivoire are about 60 percent of those in the United States. Per capita, people in Côte d'Ivoire use 4 percent as much water as their U.S. counterparts.

## Socioeconomic Factors

- Official development assistance from other countries provides 4.7 percent of the country's gross national product (GNP) and equals US\$31 per person; the average for countries in sub-Saharan Africa is 5 percent of GNP or US\$26 per person.
- About half of men and one-third of women in Côte d'Ivoire are literate.

- Côte d'Ivoire's public expenditures on health total 1.4 percent of gross domestic product compared with 1.7 percent for sub-Saharan Africa overall and with 6.6 percent for the United States.

- GNP per capita in Côte d'Ivoire is \$700—twice the average for Western Africa. GNP per capita in the less developed countries overall, however, is \$1,260.

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which accounts for 40 percent of export earnings—and of cola nuts; is one of the largest exporters of coffee and palm oil; and fells over 200 species of trees for timber. The agricultural sector is threatened by cyclical droughts, soil erosion, fluctuating demand and prices for cash crops, and a decrease in the production of timber due to deforestation. The country is seeking to reduce dependence on a few cash crops by diversifying its economy and by developing local processing facilities for cocoa and coffee to add value to these goods.

The country has several other assets that could provide opportunities for further growth and diversification. Off-shore oil and gas deposits could soon not only meet domestic needs, but also provide export revenues; deposits of minerals such as diamonds, manganese, iron, bauxite, and copper also play a significant part in the economy.

Unlike Iowa, Côte d'Ivoire faces severe population challenges that could curtail its opportunities to benefit from nature reserves. With its current density already more than twice as high as Iowa's, a high birth rate and an influx of immigrants from neighboring countries, especially from war-torn Liberia, are sure to exert increased pressure on natural resources.

## Responding to Challenges

In Iowa, the Resources Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Project unites five state agencies with private organizations to maintain the state's environment. The Soil and Water Enhancement Program, which receives one-fifth of the REAP budget, is aimed at encouraging landowners to conserve soil and water and to initiate enhancement projects and practices. Project money is directed toward protecting the state's surface and ground water resources from contamination, as well as toward reforestation, woodland protection, and natural habitat preservation.

In the 1990s, to recover some of the country's lost forest acreage, Côte d'Ivoire's government linked the granting of timber concessions to replanting trees and banned the export of unprocessed wood. These actions were meant to encourage the planting of cash crops like cocoa and coffee, which used to grow wild in tree

shade; increase the value added to exports; and ensure that at least one-fifth of the national forest remains untouched. The U.S. government's Food for Progress Program provided US\$4.5 million in food assistance to Côte d'Ivoire in 1999, assistance coordinated

**P**eople in Iowa and Côte d'Ivoire, along with all other living creatures, need clean and healthy air, water, and land, and a stable climate. But as people strive to meet these fundamental needs and improve their lives, they make demands on Earth's resources—and leave footprints. No species demands as much and leaves as many footprints as humans do. The number of people on the planet has a direct impact on the environment and how resources are used. But the level of consumption and the ways in which natural resources are used also directly affect the health of the planet—locally, regionally, globally.

No matter where one lives, the activities of *all* humans will ultimately determine the well-being of *all* humans.

in-country by the nongovernmental organization Winrock International. In 2000, the U.S. Peace Corps had 104 volunteers working on health, environment, and water and sanitation projects in the country. ■

**DEFINITIONS:** **Doubling Time:** The number of years it will take for a population to double, assuming a *constant* rate of natural increase. **Average Number of Children Per Woman:** Known as the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) or the average number of children a woman would have in her lifetime, assuming that birth rates remained constant throughout her childbearing years. **Endangered Species:** Any species in danger of extinction throughout all, or a significant portion, of its habitat. **Threatened Species:** Any species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all, or a significant portion, of its habitat. **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** The value of all goods and services produced within a nation in a given year. **Gross State Product (GSP):** The value of all goods and services produced within a state. It is the state counterpart of the nation's GDP. **Commercial energy** includes energy from solid, liquid, and gaseous fuels, plus primary electricity. **Traditional energy** includes fuelwood, charcoal, bagasse, and animal and vegetal wastes.

**SOURCES:** Major sources are International Labour Organization; National Center for Health Statistics; UNICEF; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; U.S. Department of Agriculture; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Geological Survey; The World Conservation Union (IUCN); and World Resources Institute. For a complete list of sources, contact PRB.

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