

# Greater Dubuque 2022 Progress Report

## REMINDER: STATE OF IOWA COLLECTING DATA ON COVID-19 IMPACT



On March 3, Greater Dubuque Development partnered with the Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce, Dyersville Area Chamber of Commerce, Dyersville Economic Development Corporation, and East Central Intergovernmental Association to share a request from the state of Iowa. The Iowa Economic Development Authority is again collecting survey data to further understand the impact COVID-19 has had on our area businesses and their recovery.

If your business has not already done so, [please complete the quick survey](#) by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 17, 2021. Your participation in the two previous statewide surveys in March and May 2020 was critically important and provided Iowa with useful information and data. We hope you will once again complete this survey.

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY BY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17:**  
[https://uni.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_enUa5RoLI5IDR52](https://uni.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_enUa5RoLI5IDR52)

## FUTURE LEADERSHIP TEAM REVIEWS WORKFORCE AND THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY OF THE GREATER DUBUQUE AREA

On March 3, Greater Dubuque Development convened a virtual meeting of its 2020-2021 Future Leadership Team. This 30-person advisory team meets quarterly to discuss relevant economic development topics and how Greater Dubuque Development and the community can be most effective at meeting existing challenges and opportunities. Rick Dickinson, President and CEO, provided an update on the COVID-19 vaccination efforts in Iowa and Dubuque County as well as Greater Dubuque Development's participation in employer outreach. Anna Roling, Director of Workforce Solutions, provided an update on the latest impacts of COVID-19 on the area economy and employment.

The focus of the meeting was the change in labor force during the pandemic. While the Dubuque MSA unemployment rate in December 2020 was 3.5%, approximately 5,000 individuals have left the labor force since the beginning of the pandemic, without work but not seeking employment. This is largely attributed to people who have left the workforce to care for children during remote learning, those who may have left work out of fear of the virus, and those unable to collect unemployment.

The Future Leadership Team members were split into breakout rooms to discuss a series of questions regarding how to best engage the unemployed and underemployed populations, reconnecting them to the area labor force through the recovery phase.

The Future Leadership Team shared feedback on supporting parents with expanded childcare benefits or delayed start dates for new hires working around the school year. They also recommended expanded efforts to reach job seekers through technology or one-on-one, personal assistance.

**TO SEE A LIST OF FUTURE LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS:** [Visit our website](#)  
**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FUTURE LEADERSHIP TEAM:**  
Contact Anna Roling, Director of Workforce Solutions at [annar@greaterdubuque.org](mailto:annar@greaterdubuque.org).

## VIRTUAL CITY LIFE PROGRAM NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS

City Life is Dubuque's free "citizen academy" program designed to provide a hands-on connection with local government. The program offers residents the opportunity to interact with City staff, learn more about City services and programs, and learn about different opportunities to be involved in city government. This session will be held virtually on Tuesdays and Thursdays April 1 through 29 with each session running from 6-8 p.m. Sign up on the City of Dubuque website: [www.cityofdubuque.org/1759/City-Life](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/1759/City-Life)



**RICK DICKINSON**  
*President & CEO*



**DAN McDONALD**  
*VP of Existing Business*



**KAREN KLUESNER**  
*VP of Operations*



**ANNA ROLING**  
*Director of Workforce Solutions*



**EMILY GRAVES**  
*Director of Communications*



**DAVE LYONS**  
*Sustainable Innovations Consultant\**



**JAYNE ERVOLINO**  
*Administrative Assistant*



**BILL BAUM**  
*Existing Business Specialist\**



**ROB APEL**  
*Existing Business Specialist\**



**NELSON KLAVITTER**  
*Community Tour Guide\**



**CHRIS APEL**  
*Community Tour Guide\**



**RENEE MEYER**  
*Community Tour Guide\**

\* Contractor or Part-time Staff

# business development

## SIMMONS FOODS RECOGNIZED AS TOP RANKED FOOD COMPANY ON FORBES' LIST OF AMERICA'S BEST MIDSIZED EMPLOYERS

Simmons Foods recently ranked number one among food companies on Forbes 2021 list of America's Best Midsize Employers. Forbes partnered with the market research group, Statista, to compile the list of America's 500 Best Midsize Employers.



This year the group focused on companies that went above and beyond for their employees during the COVID-19 pandemic. Highlighting how midsize employers like Simmons have risen to the occasion, adapting in new ways to benefit their customers and their team members.

To develop the list, a survey was conducted of 50,000 Americans working for businesses with at least 1,000 employees. Anonymous participants were asked to rank their willingness to recommend their own employers to friends and family, and to nominate organizations other than their own. [See the full list.](#)

# workforce solutions

## FEEDBACK REQUESTED TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO ACCESSDUBUQUEJOBS.COM

For over 20 years, AccessDubuqueJobs.com has connected Greater Dubuque area employers with talent. It has evolved from a simple website into an entire suite of recruitment and retention resources—newcomer services including Big Life Small City, outreach to regional students including the College Career and Professional Development Fair, intern engagement programming, and one-on-one assistance.

We continue to make vital enhancements to AccessDubuqueJobs.com, to provide the best experience for our employers and job seekers as well as stay competitive against national job sites. As we prepare to make further improvements, we would like your input to ensure we're meeting your needs.

**[Please complete this short survey](#) to provide your insight on how we are, are not, or could be better meeting your needs. It will take approximately 3-5 minutes and all employers, investors and non-investors alike, are encouraged to complete it.**

Thank you for your feedback. We look forward to working with you to make AccessDubuqueJobs.com an even more effective tool in your recruitment efforts.

## VIRTUAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PANEL TO BE HELD FOR AREA STUDENTS



AccessDubuqueJobs.com is sponsoring the Dubuque Area Student Information Technology Panel to connect local students with career opportunities in their field in the Greater Dubuque area. The event will be held Wednesday, March 24th, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. This event is FREE for students to attend.

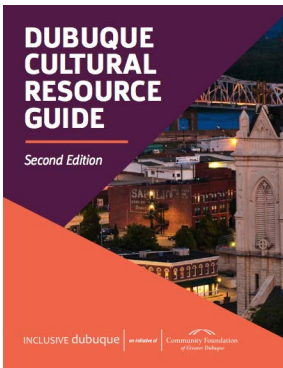
The panel is planned in partnership with the local IT Sector Partnership, a group of local industry, workforce, education, economic development, and community organizations engaged in developing solutions to skills and talent shortages in the IT sector in the region. This virtual event is being held in lieu of the IT Career Fair, which has been held the past two years.

Panelists include Chris Biderman, Grand River Medical Group; Chris Bleile, RSM US LLP; Colleen Callahan, PBS Systems; Bob Fink, Honkamp Krueger & Co., P.C.; Heather Fransen, RSM US LLP; Alex Goerd, Northeast Iowa Community College; and Jeremy Wulfekuhle, Medical Associates Clinic, P.C.

Students who attend the panel will learn about career and internship opportunities with Dubuque-area companies and learn how IT is a critical component of local businesses in a wide variety of industries. While the event is recommended for 1st and 2nd year IT students, it will be open to any college students interested in IT or computer science careers and a select number of high school students interested in pursuing an IT field after high school.

**LEARN MORE:** [View and download the event flyer](#)

# INCLUSIVE DUBUQUE RELEASES GUIDE TO HELP NEWCOMERS CONNECT TO RESOURCES



When newcomers move to the area, the search for housing, employment, and schools is followed quickly by a search for goods and services. For newcomers with unique cultural or ethnic needs, the search in Dubuque can be frustrating. Inclusive Dubuque, in partnership with Greater Dubuque Development and with financial support from the John Deere Foundation, has developed the Dubuque Cultural Resource Guide to make the search easier. Listings in the guide range from salons where workers specialize in Black hair to grocery stores that carry dietary staples of Dubuque’s Latino community.

While the guide was created for both newcomers and longtime residents, it can be particularly helpful to people who have recently moved to Dubuque and have few social and family connections. The guide comes in English and Spanish language versions to help bridge language barriers that can separate residents from the goods and services they are seeking. Anyone can browse the guide online and also download both the English and Spanish language versions for easy printing. The print edition of the guide will be updated quarterly, and the online version will be updated as needed.

**VIEW OR DOWNLOAD THE GUIDE:** [Visit the Inclusive Dubuque website.](#)

## ACCESSDUBUQUEJOBS.COM UPDATE

### New Investors

- Dubuque Janitorial, Inc.
- Hotel Julien Dubuque
- Simmons Pet Food
- Unified Therapy Services

### Renewed Investors

- Alliant Energy
- Conlon Construction Co.
- Decker Precision Machining
- Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce

### Renewed Investors, cont.

- East Central Intergovernmental Association
- Fahrner Asphalt Sealers
- Grant Regional Health Center
- GRONEN
- Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc.

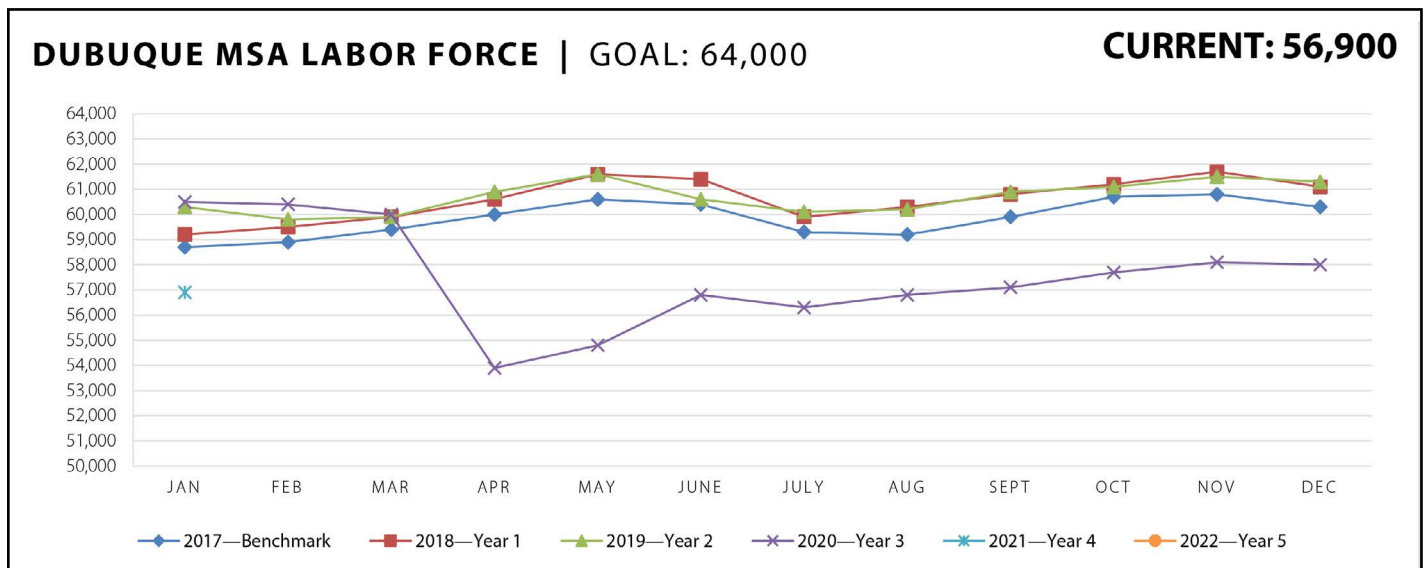
### Declined Investors

- RIE Coatings
- U.S. Bank

# goals & progress

## JOB CREATION UPDATE

The resident unemployment rate for January 2021 was reported as 5.0% and non-farm employment was 56,900. Annual benchmarking was completed in March 2021 by Iowa Workforce Development.

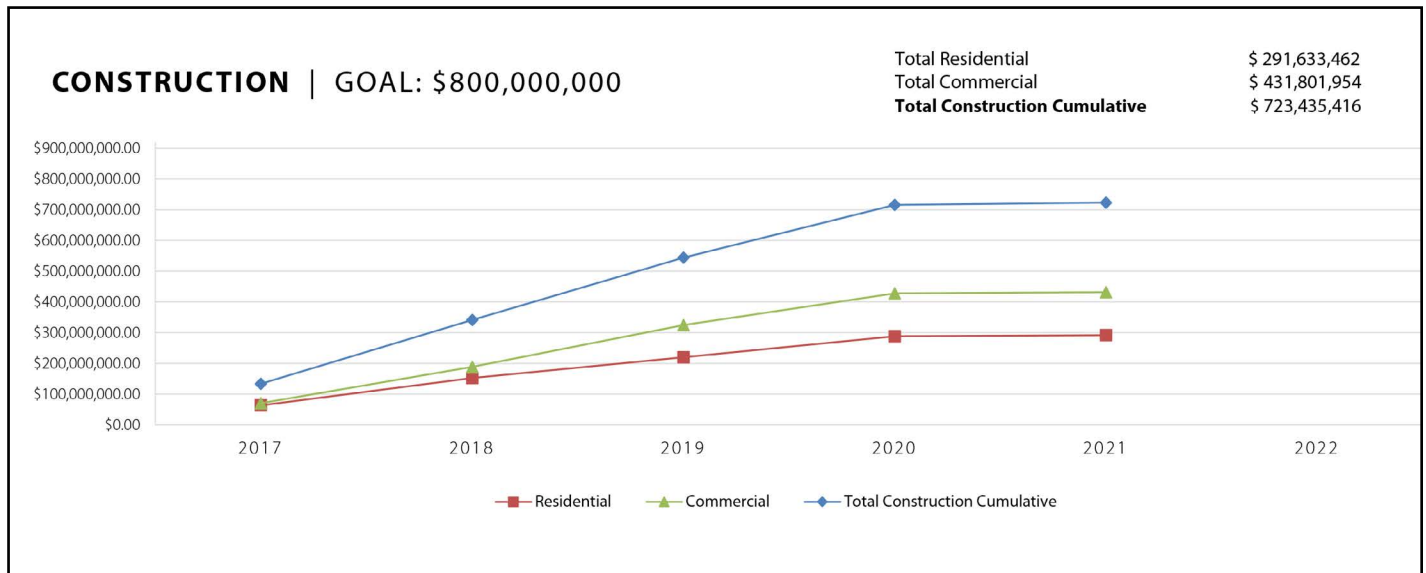


SOURCE: Iowa Workforce Development

# goals & progress

## NEW CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

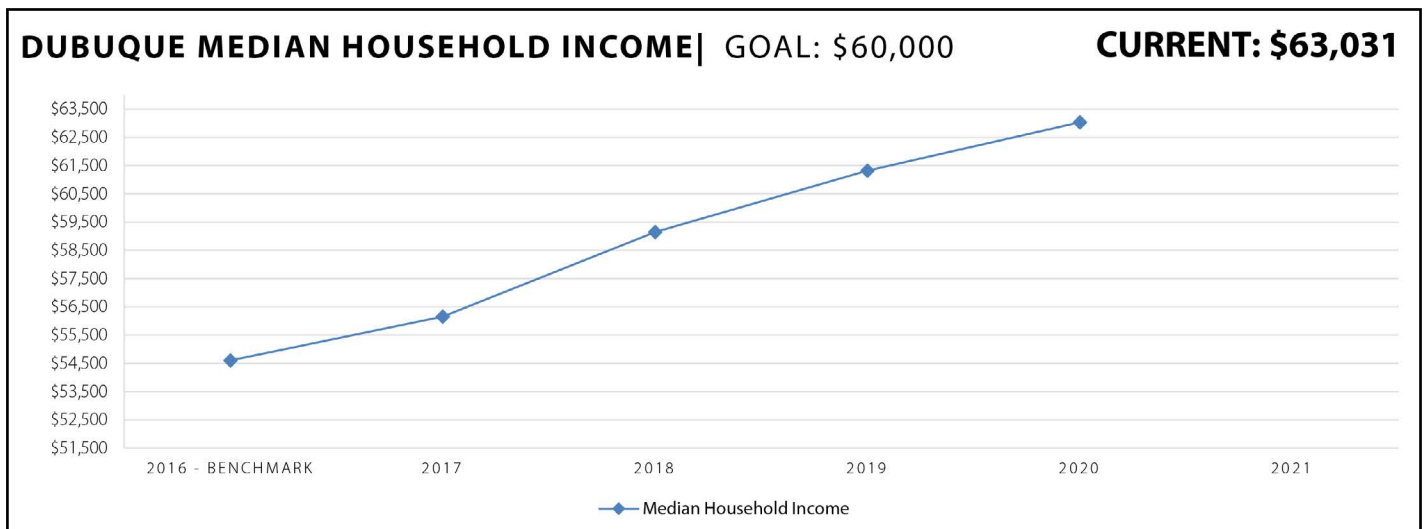
Since the beginning of the Greater Dubuque 2022 Campaign (7/1/17 through 2/28/21), Residential construction totals \$291,633,462. Commercial construction totals \$432,801,954. Total construction totals \$723,435,416.



SOURCE: City of Dubuque and Dubuque County, incorporated and unincorporated.

## MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME UPDATE

As of December 2020, the median household income for Dubuque County was reported as \$63,031.

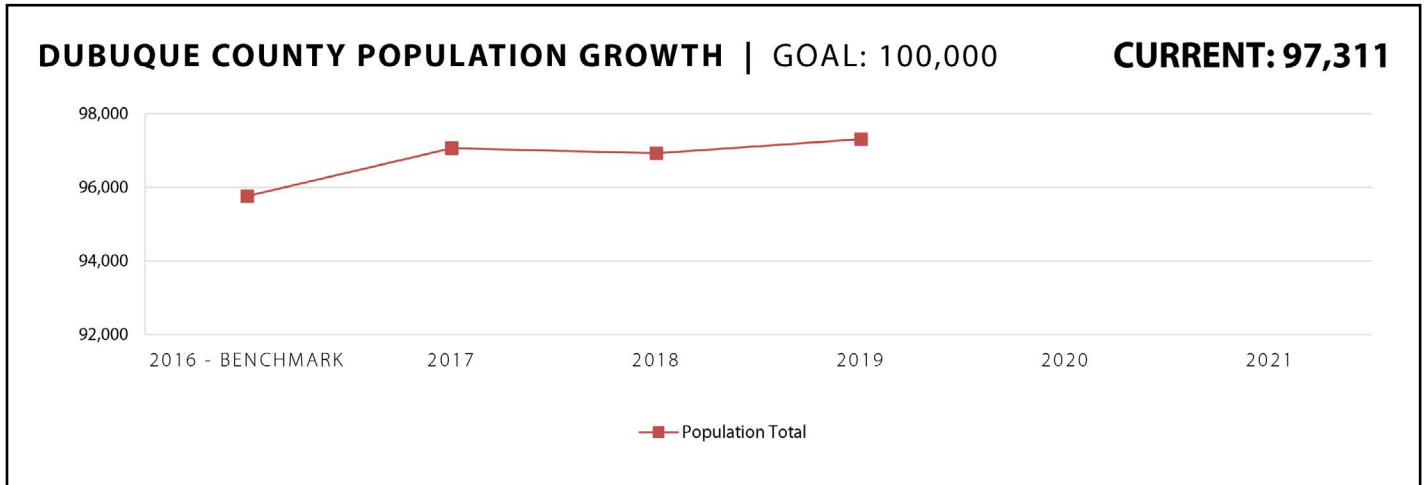


SOURCE: American Community Survey 5-year Estimates (2014-2018), updated annually

# goals & progress

## POPULATION GROWTH UPDATE

As of April 2019, the population was 97,311



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, updated annually

## upcoming religious celebrations & cultural events

**EVENING OF MAR 27TH - EVENING OF APR 4TH** Passover (Jewish)

**MAR 28TH - MAR 29TH** Holi (Hindu)

**APR 4TH** Easter (Christian)

**EVENING OF APR 12TH - EVENING OF MAY 12TH** Ramadan (Muslim)

**APR 13TH - APR 15TH** Songkran (Thai)