Harlan, Iowa.

Current market data.

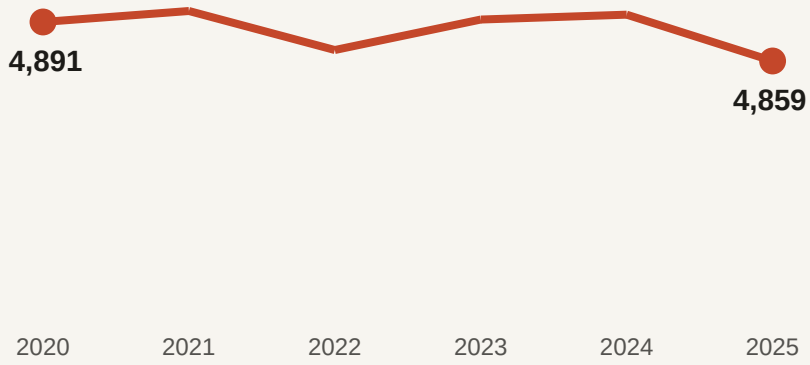
10 cards. Every number sourced and dated. Data as of Oct 30, 2026.

POPULATION

Steady. Within 1% of 2020, every year since.

4,859

people, the 88th-largest of Iowa's cities and towns.



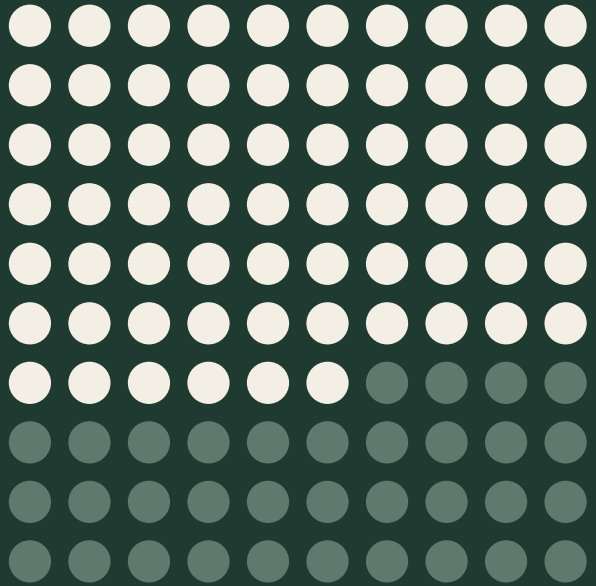
Source: Census Population Estimates, 2025

THE WORKDAY

7 in 10 jobs here go to people who live somewhere else.

66.1%

of 3,139 jobs located in Harlan are filled by in-commuters.



Each dot is 1% of jobs. Filled: held by in-commuters.

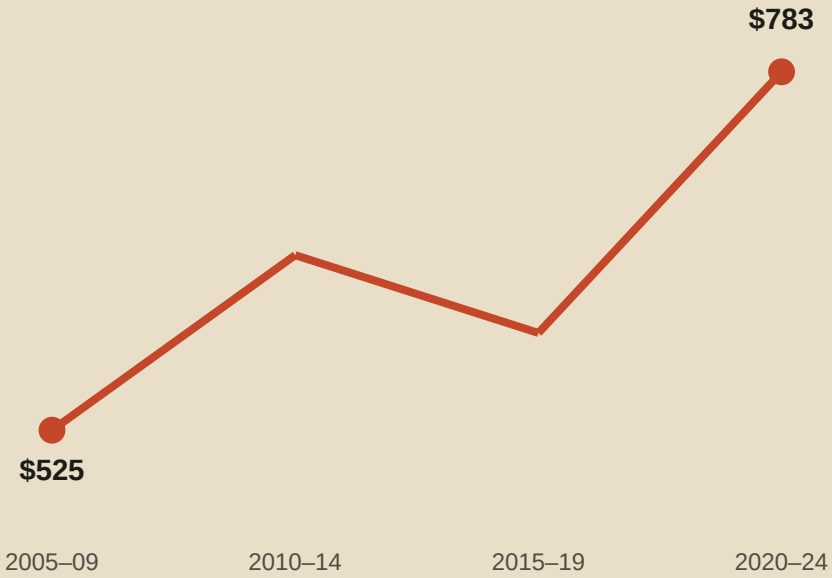
Source: Census LEHD LODES, 2023

RENT

Median rent is up 49% since the 2005–2009 survey, before inflation.

$783

a month. Iowa's median is $972.

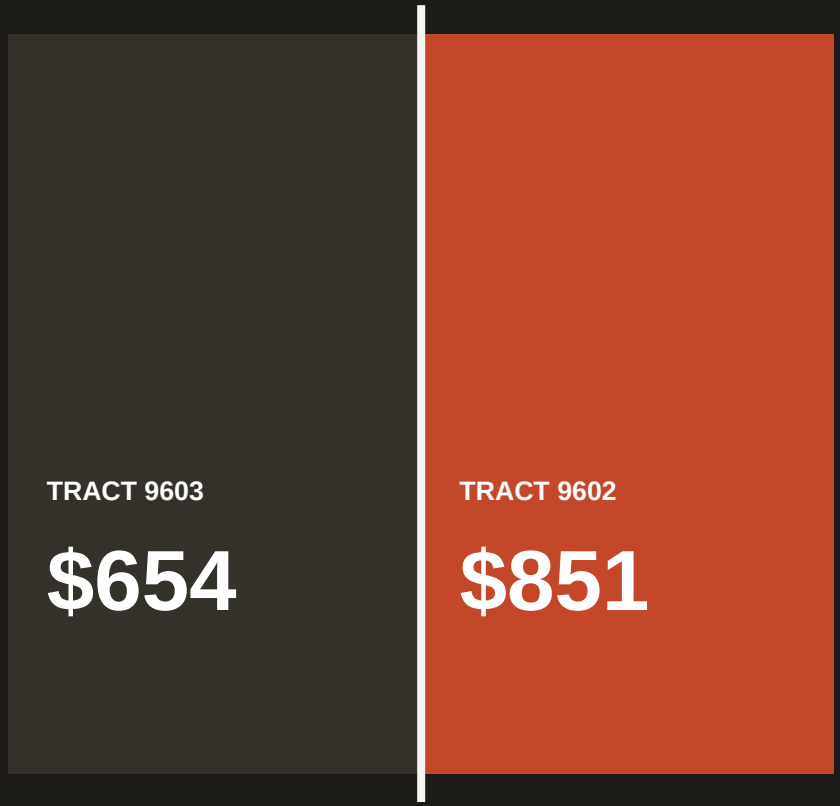


Source: Census ACS 5-year, 2020-2024

THE SEAM

Cross one tract line and median rent jumps $197.

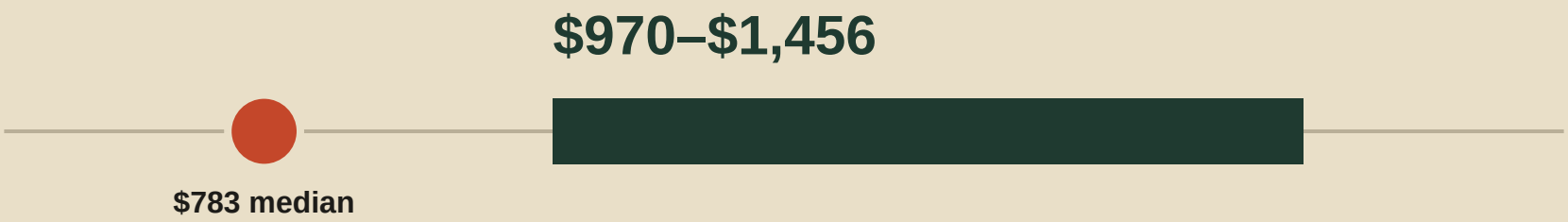
A $197 gap between neighbors, the sharpest rent edge between adjacent tracts in Shelby County.



Source: Census ACS 5-year, 2020-2024

ROOM TO BUILD

Local wages can carry more rent than the median charged today.



is the monthly rent range local workforce wages support.

Source: Computed by the Almanac, 2023; Census ACS 5-year, 2020-2024

BUILDING

Most of the housing here is older than 2000.

6

homes permitted, 2022–2025

0%

of those were in multifamily buildings

93%

of all homes were built before 2000

Source: Census Building Permits Survey, 2022-2025; Census ACS 5-year, 2020-2024

UNITS NEEDED

Closing the gap would add 0.2–1.4% to the 2,229 homes here.

4–31

is the estimated number of missing housing units, from the lowest to the highest of three estimates.

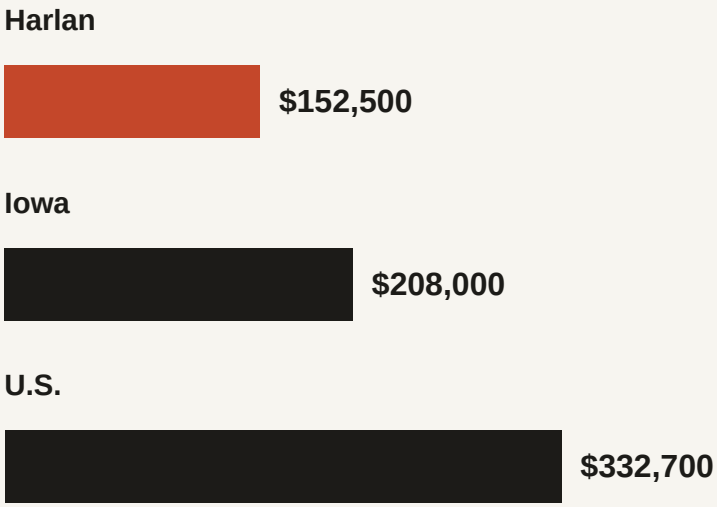
Source: Computed by the Almanac, 2023

HOME VALUE

A median home costs 27% less than Iowa's.

$152,500

median home value in Harlan.



Source: Census ACS 5-year, 2020-2024

THAT WAS HARLAN'S 2026

Every number came from a public source, with its date.

New Census data usually lands in December. The next Edition follows it.

See this Edition at **almanacdata.ai/e/ia/harlan/**