

ALICE IN POLK COUNTY

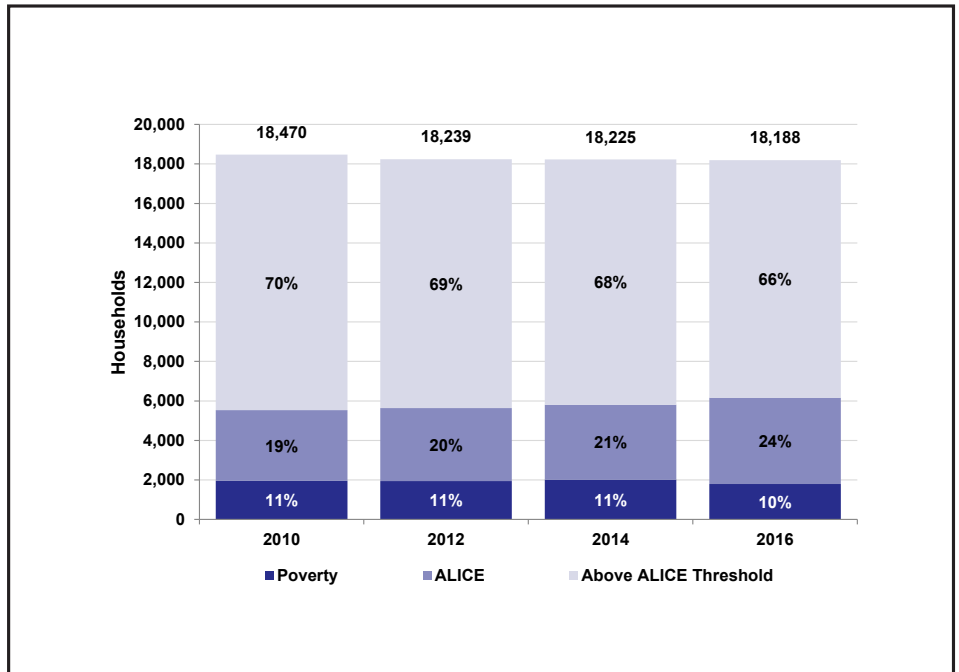
2016 Point-in-Time Data

Population: 43,483 • **Number of Households:** 18,188
Median Household Income: \$52,039 (state average: \$56,811)
Unemployment Rate: 6% (state average: 4.1%)
ALICE Households: 24% (state average: 25.8%) • **Households in Poverty:** 10% (state average: 11.7%)

How has the number of ALICE households changed over time?

ALICE is an acronym for **A**sset Limited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mloyed – households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county (the ALICE Threshold). Combined, the number of ALICE and poverty-level households equals the total population struggling to afford basic needs. The number of households below the ALICE Threshold changes over time; households move in and out of poverty and ALICE status as their circumstances improve or worsen. The recovery, which started in 2010, has been uneven across the state. Conditions have improved for some families, but with rising costs, many still find themselves struggling.

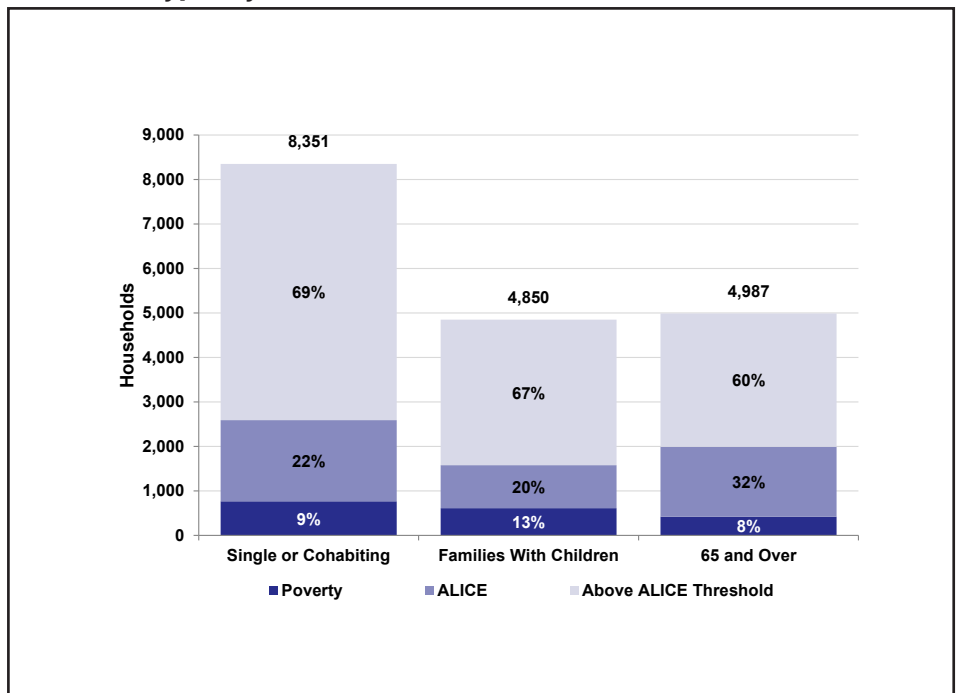
Households by Income, 2010 to 2016



What types of households are struggling?

The way Americans live is changing. There are more different family and living combinations than ever before, including more adults living alone, with roommates, or with their parents. Families with children are changing: There are more non-married cohabiting parents, same-sex parents, and blended families with remarried parents. The number of senior households is also increasing. Yet all types of households continue to struggle: ALICE and poverty-level households exist across all of these living arrangements.

Household Types by Income, 2016



Why do so many households struggle?

The cost of living continues to increase...

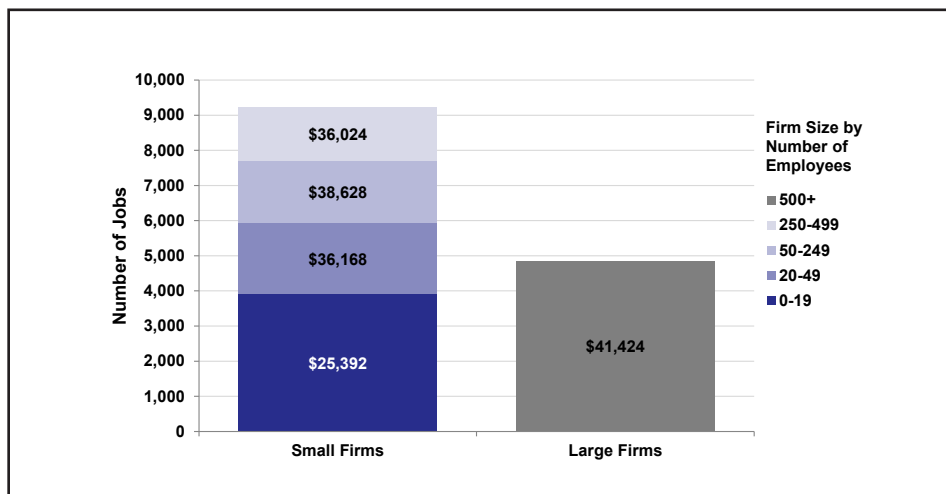
The Household Survival Budget reflects the bare minimum that a household needs to live and work today. It does not include savings for emergencies or future goals like college. In 2016, costs were well above the Federal Poverty Level of \$11,880 for a single adult and \$24,300 for a family of four. Family costs increased by 18 percent statewide from 2010 to 2016, compared to 9 percent inflation nationally.

Household Survival Budget, Polk County		
	SINGLE ADULT	2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER
Monthly Costs		
Housing	\$478	\$775
Child Care	\$-	\$1,060
Food	\$158	\$525
Transportation	\$349	\$697
Health Care	\$214	\$800
Technology	\$55	\$75
Miscellaneous	\$148	\$448
Taxes	\$229	\$548
Monthly Total	\$1,631	\$4,928
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$19,572	\$59,136
Hourly Wage	\$9.79	\$29.57

...and wages lag behind

Employment and wages vary by location; firms generally pay higher wages in areas with a higher cost of living, although those wages still do not always cover basic needs. Employment and wages also vary by firm size: Large firms tend to offer higher wages and more job stability; smaller businesses can account for more jobs overall, especially in rural areas, but may pay less and offer less stability. Medium-size firms pay more but typically employ the fewest workers.

Private-Sector Employment by Firm Size With Average Annual Wages, 2016



Sources: 2016 Point-in-Time Data: American Community Survey. ALICE Demographics: American Community Survey; the ALICE Threshold. Budget: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; U.S. Department of Agriculture; Bureau of Labor Statistics; Internal Revenue Service; Tax Foundation; and Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, 2016.

Polk County, 2016		
Town	Total HH	% ALICE & Poverty
Alden	1,082	21%
Amery city	1,300	48%
Apple River	458	31%
Balsam Lake	582	24%
Balsam Lake village	347	45%
Beaver	291	37%
Black Brook	555	31%
Bone Lake	277	27%
Centuria village	397	63%
Ciam Falls	231	53%
Clayton	471	26%
Clayton village	219	46%
Clear Lake	294	24%
Clear Lake village	453	46%
Dresser village	391	41%
Eureka	643	25%
Farmington	653	17%
Frederic village	448	51%
Garfield	654	19%
Georgetown	496	32%
Johnstown	202	32%
Laketown	360	27%
Lincoln	887	26%
Lorain	130	45%
Luck	384	31%
Luck village	494	44%
McKinley	130	42%
Milltown	511	32%
Milltown village	515	51%
Osceola	1,063	19%
Osceola village	1,070	39%
St. Croix Falls	502	23%
St. Croix Falls city	1,027	43%
Sterling	313	43%
West Sweden	336	33%

Note: Municipal-level data on this page is 5-year averages for Census Places and County Subdivisions. Totals will not always match county-level numbers because some county-level data is 1-year estimates.