



## Growing ND by the Numbers

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#### **Bismarck Metro Gain**

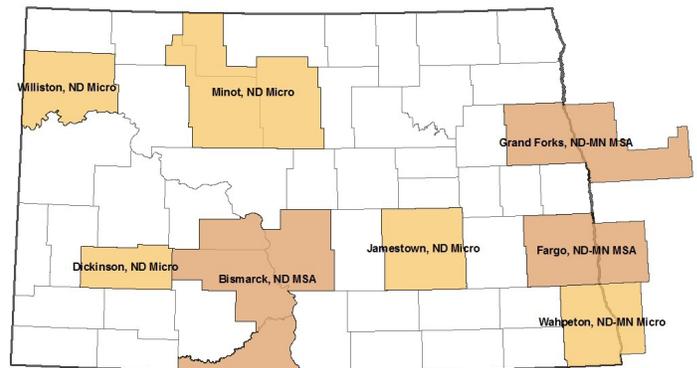
*The Bismarck Metro had a surprise gain with the 2013 population estimates. As a result of the 2009 review, the delineation of the Bismarck Metro was expanded to include Oliver and Sioux counties. The expansion added more than 6,000 in population, on top of the growth of Burleigh and Morton counties.*

### Location. Location. It Is All About Location

Census data is all tied to a geography. We have blocks, tracts, designated places, incorporated communities, counties and even household geographies we associate with the U.S. Census Bureau. There are however some unique geographies on the economic side, areas that are defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

The core based statistical areas (CBSAs) include Combined Statistical Areas (CSA), Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA or Metros), and Micropolitan Statistical Areas (MiSA or Micros). The general concept of CBSAs is that

**Metropolitan and Micropolitan Areas in North Dakota**



*North Dakota has three metropolitan areas and five micropolitan areas, three of which cross over into Minnesota. Source: North Dakota Census Office 2014 File Map*

communities adjacent to an area containing a large population have a high degree of integration with that population. In other words, a core community

and nearby communities/ counties that have an economic dependency on the core community

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### Metropolitans in North Dakota Continue to Grow

Currently, North Dakota has three metropolitans (metro) with two sharing space with Minnesota. The Bismarck Metro is the only one fully within the boundaries of North Dakota. It includes the counties of Burleigh, Morton, Oliver and Sioux. It had a population of 114,778 in 2010 and 126,597 in 2014, a percent gain of ten

percent. North Dakota's largest metropolitan, the Fargo Metro includes Cass and Clay County of Minnesota. It had a nine percent population growth from 208,777 to 228,291 from 2010 to 2014 as per estimates. The smallest of North Dakota's three metropolitans is the Grand Forks Metro which includes

Grand Forks and Polk County of Minnesota. Its population growth was three percent with 98,461 in 2010 and 101,842 in 2014.

Source: Census 2010 and Population Estimates Program File PEP\_2014\_PEPANNRES

**Minot Metropolitan the Next North Dakota Metro**

*The Minot metropolitan has not been growing as fast as the other western micros, but if Minot continues its current growth rate (more than 3% from 2013 to 2014), it should reach the 50,000 population mark with the next population estimate (July 1, 2015 numbers). The requirement of two years where the primary city is 50,000 or more would likely make the Minot Micro the Minot Metro as early as 2017, thus making the Minot area the fourth metropolitan in North Dakota.*

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make up CBSAs such as a metropolitan.

North Dakota has seen its share of population increases. A Story Map developed by the U.S. Census Bureau illustrates the change in growth of North Dakota’s metros and micros. The change from 2002 to 2003 showed little growth, ten years later, the same map displays

dramatic change. See Comparing Metro and Micro Change Between 2002-2003 and 2012-2013 Story Map online for more details.

North Dakota has one Combined Statistical Area. The Fargo-Wahpeton CSA includes the counties of Cass and Richland in North Dakota and Clay and Wilkin counties in Minnesota. The metropolitans and

micropolitans comprise nearly 75% of the 2014 population estimate total for North Dakota.

The boundaries of these geographies, as well the standards to create the boundaries, are reviewed periodically to ensure their usefulness and relevancy.

Source: Federal Register / Vol. 75, No. 123 / Monday, June 28, 2010

**Micropolitans Growth More Mixed**

North Dakota has five micropolitans with one sharing space with Minnesota. Micropolitans are distinguished by a center city of at least 10,000 but less than 50,000.

The Dickinson Micropolitan (Micro) includes Stark County. The Jamestown Micro includes Stutsman County. The Minot Micro includes the counties of McHenry, Renville and Ward. The Wahpeton Micro includes Richland County in North Dakota and Wilkin County in Minnesota. And finally, the Williston Micro includes Williams County.

**Growth Since the 2010 Census**

Metro/Micro	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2013-2014	2010-2014
Bismarck Metro	114,778	117,393	120,293	123,993	126,597	2,604	11,819
Dickinson Micro	24,199	25,168	26,921	28,377	30,372	1,995	6,173
Fargo Metro	208,777	212,835	217,052	223,853	228,291	4,438	19,514
Grand Forks Metro	98,461	98,195	99,214	101,014	101,842	828	3,381
Jamestown Micro	21,100	20,989	20,958	21,090	21,129	39	29
Minot Micro	69,540	72,296	73,818	76,518	77,959	1,441	8,419
Wahpeton Micro	22,897	22,834	22,818	22,871	22,927	56	30
Williston Micro	22,398	24,379	26,686	29,563	32,130	2,567	9,732

All the micropolitans have managed population gains since the 2010 Census, though Jamestown and Wahpeton Micros have been somewhat flat. The three western micropolitans

have all had double digit gains with Williston topping them all with a 43 percent gain since the decennial census.

Source: Population Estimates Program File PEP\_2014\_PEPANNRES

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