



Growing ND by the Numbers

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North Dakota's Nonfarm Workers Who Work at Home

When farm-related workers are eliminated from the group of those who work at home, the characteristics change. About 60 percent of this non-farm group consists of females. While the group appears older, it reports working a few hours less per week than those who do not work at home. It also reports an income only two-thirds of its commuting peers. For some, working at home appears to be part of a transition from working out of home home to retiring.

Sources: Census ACS 2016 5-Yrs PUMS Data.

North Dakotans' Work From Home

In 2016, just under 5 percent of American workers reported home as their work location, meaning they do not commute to another location to work. North Dakota workers reported a very similar percentage as that found nationally, but lower than any of our neighboring states.

Data from the most recent five-year estimate shows states with a higher percentage of workers who work from home tend to be more rural. However, a number of higher population state are listed among those with the highest percentage of these workers. Colorado, Vermont, Oregon, Montana and New Hampshire were all estimated to have more than 6 percent of their workforce working from home.

North Dakota's percentage of workers working from home appears to be slowly declining over time. This is likely due to fewer workers involved in farm-related employment. Data on commuting to work was first recorded in the 1970 Census. In that year, 18

percent of North Dakota workers reported "working at home." By the 1980 Census, that figure had dropped to 10 percent. In Census 1990, it had dropped to 8 percent. Census 2000 was the first time North Dakota, now at 6 percent, did not have the second-highest percentage of individuals working at home; Montana (6.4%) having surpassed North Dakota (6%) at that time.

While North Dakota's percentage of individuals working from home has decreased, nationally the percentage has increased over time. In 1980, only 2.3 percent of workers nationally worked at home. In the most recent five-year American Community Survey (ACS), data collected from 2012 to 2016 shows that the percentage has grown to nearly 5 percent.

When you compare data from Census 2000 to the most recent five-year estimate (2012 – 2016), only the states of North and South Dakota have seen a decrease in the percentage

of workers working at home.

A number of southern states saw a significant increase in the percentage of these workers. South Carolina's percentage of non-commuting workers grew from 2.1 percent to 3.7 percent. There were similar changes in Georgia, North Carolina and Florida. Comparing data from Census 2000 to the most recent American Community Survey five-year data, 37 counties saw a decrease in the percentage of worker working from home while 16 counties saw an increase.

Rural counties tend to have both the highest percentage of workers who work from home as well as the largest decrease in the percentage of those workers who do not commute. For example, in Census 2000, an estimated 33 percent of Slope County workers worked from home. In the most recent data that percentage has dropped to 23 percent. Nine North Dakota counties have a percentage of workers

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Employment Characteristics of Individuals Who Work at Home

Just over 60 percent of workers who work at home report being self-employed, including farmers. Another 25 percent work for for-profit employers. A smaller number report working for not-for-profit or government employers. A number of occupations report a high percentage of work at home. These individuals include travel agents, animal trainers, web developers, medical transcriptionists, telemarketers, bookkeepers, real estate agents, dress makers, photographers and claims adjusters.

Sources: Census ACS 2016 5-Yrs PUMS Data.

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Workers Who Work at Home By Sex and Age

Data shows that men in North Dakota are more likely to work at home than women. About 55 percent of these workers are male. This is likely due to married couples where one spouse farms, most often male, and the other spouse, more often female, travels elsewhere to work.

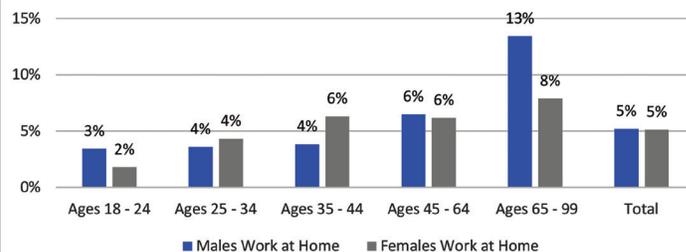
Grant, Benson, Griggs and Towner counties all had more than a 9 percent difference between the percentage of men and women working at home. Conversely, in the state's larger counties where a lower percentage of workers work at home, the percentage of females not commuting tends to exceed the number of male workers not commuting. In Ward County for instance, an estimated 2 percent of males work at home while nearly 5 percent of females report working at home.

Individuals who work at home tend to be older

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working at home that fell below the national average. In Cass and Ward counties, only 3 percent of workers

North Dakota Individuals Working From Home by Age Group and Sex



The percentage of individuals who work at home is small, around 5 percent of the state's total workforce. Older age groups tend to have a higher percentage of individuals which work at home than younger age groups.

Sources: Census ACS 2016 5-Yrs PUMS Data.Estimates Program, July 2017

(46 compared to 40 years of age) than those who commute elsewhere to work. They also are more likely to be married and own their homes.

Stay-at-home workers appear to be equally educated to those who commute to work. When individuals working in farm occupations is eliminated from the list of respondents, the

percentage of females goes up to nearly 60 percent of the total. Educational attainment also goes up substantially with 35 percent of these workers holding bachelor's degrees or above. Of this group, females tend to be more educated, but work fewer hours and earn less than their male counter parts.

Sources: Census Bureau ACS 2016 5-Yrs Tables S0801

Sources: Census 1990 Table T106, Census 2000 Table PCT055, ACS 2011 and 2016 5-Yrs Tables S0801

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