



Growing ND by the Numbers

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May 2018

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Growth in the Bakken

Though counties in the Bakken region have had some of the most notable population declines in the last couple of population estimates, they still have some of the largest growth percentage-wise since the 2010 Census. McKenzie, Williams and Mountrail counties all have grown by 30% or more. In fact, McKenzie County had a 100% population change from 2010 to 2017.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau,
Population Estimates Program,
July 2017

County Population Changes Since 2010

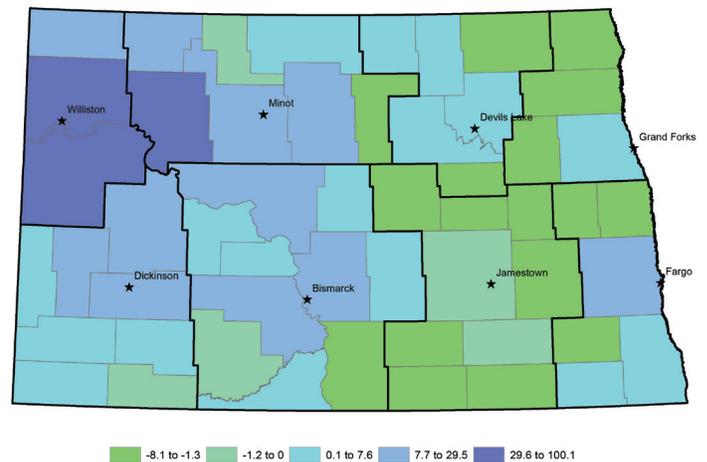
Recently the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program (PEP) released county-level population estimates effective July 1, 2017.

North Dakota saw a loss of 155 in population from 2016 to 2017, though overall state gain since the 2010 Census is still more than 80,000. North Dakota's current population estimate is 755,393, an increase of 82,802 since the 2010 decennial census.

Rapid year-to-year gains have already tapered off and North Dakota has even shown a loss. But the gains, compared to the 2010 decennial census, are still dramatic. Nine counties account for almost all of the gain in population since 2010. A total of 31 counties have expressed a population gain since the decennial census year of 2010, accounting for 86,410 of new population.

The counties leading the way in population gain included Cass at 28,009, Burleigh (13,722) and Williams (10,950). Other

Percent Change in County Population 2010-2017



Percent change in population for counties in North Dakota since the last decennial census. Counties in green lost during period 2010 to 2017 while those in blue gained over the period.

Source: North Dakota Census Office 2017 map using data from U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Program, July 2017

counties in the top ten included Ward (7,271), McKenzie (6,365), Stark (6,010), Grand Forks (3,931), Morton (3,325), Mountrail (2,592) and Dunn (753). Except for Adams, Grant and Renville, all counties that have lost population since 2010 are in the eastern half of the state.

Counties with the larger losses include Pembina with

a loss of 432, Dickey (428), Barnes (332), Walsh (270), Pierce (258), Emmons (249), Cavalier (231) and McIntosh (203). A total of 22 counties lost population during the period 2010 to 2017.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, July 2017

Bakken Slowdown Still Evident in 2017 Population Estimates

The Bakken Region was represented by the top three counties in order of order of population decline from 2016 to 2017. Per the 2017 population estimates, Ward County lost 1,207 people, Williams County lost 846 people and Stark County lost 647 people. Other counties with significant losses were Barnes at 195 and Mercer at 172.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Population Estimates Program,
July 2017

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Annual Change and Components of Change Reflected in Year-to-Year Population Estimates

North Dakota overall lost 155 people from the period of July 1, 2016, to July 1, 2017. Of North Dakota's 53 counties, only 19 gained population since the 2016 population estimates.

County gains were led by Cass with 3,162, followed by Burleigh (601), Grand Forks (199), Morton (181) and McKenzie (108). Morton County regained sixth place in population, overtaking Stark County. The counties with the largest gains included those containing the four major cities, with the notable exception of Ward.

Oliver County led the way percentage-wise with a gain of 2.2 percent, while Cass was next at 1.8 percent. A total of 34 counties lost population from 2016 to 2017. Leading the counties in population decline was

Ward at a loss of 1,207. Other counties with significant loss included Williams (846) Stark (647), Barnes (195) and Mercer (172). Percentage-wise, Burke, Divide and Hettinger all had losses greater than four percent.

When we look at components of change, migration was the primary factor in the state's net loss. Net migration for North Dakota was -5,164. Ward, Williams and Stark counties led the way with negative net migration of -1,899, -1,293, and -935, respectively. Cass County was one of only nine counties with positive net migration with +1,633. Stutsman County followed with net migration of +79.

Most of the population change due to migration was domestic migration.

International migration was a factor in Cass county where it nearly matched the gain from domestic migration.

The other component of change, natural increase, accounted for a population gain statewide of 4,978 people from 2016 to 2017. The population gain attributed to natural increase was focused in eight counties, though 39 counties did reflect some natural increase. The eight counties included Cass (1,524), Ward (684), Burleigh (605), Grand Forks (548), Williams (438), Stark (282), Morton (238) and McKenzie (157). These counties accounted for 90% of the state's natural increase.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population
Estimates Program, July 2017

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