



## Growing ND by the Numbers

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**About a Fifth of Recent Arrivals Appear to be Returning North Dakotans**

About one in five of new arrivals appear to be "returning North Dakotans," having indicated North Dakota as their place of birth. From the data, it is impossible to tell when they left the state. But these individuals appear to have returned from at least 34 other states and 10 foreign countries. About 35 percent of these individuals moved from Minnesota. Former North Dakotans also appear to have returned in greater numbers from South Dakota, Montana, Washington and Arizona.

Sources: Census Bureau's 5-Year ACS 2012-2016 PUMS Data.

## Where Do New North Dakotans Come From?

Since Census 2010, the state of North Dakota has grown by nearly 83,000 individuals. Nearly 50,000 of that growth has been as a result of net migration (more individuals moving into the state than leaving). Census Bureau's average of annual estimates shows that since 2010, about 36,000 individuals have moved into the state from other states, while about 29,000 annually have moved out of state.

The result is an average annual net growth for the state of about 7,000 additional residents per year.

Each year, the Census Bureau creates an estimate of the number of individuals that migrate from a given state to another. The data shows there is a lot of movement between states. In fact, for most years from 2010 to 2016, North Dakota has both gained and lost residents with all 49 other states in at least one of these years.

Although some years the data shows North Dakota has experienced a net gain from a particular state, in other years, it had a net loss of residence to that state.

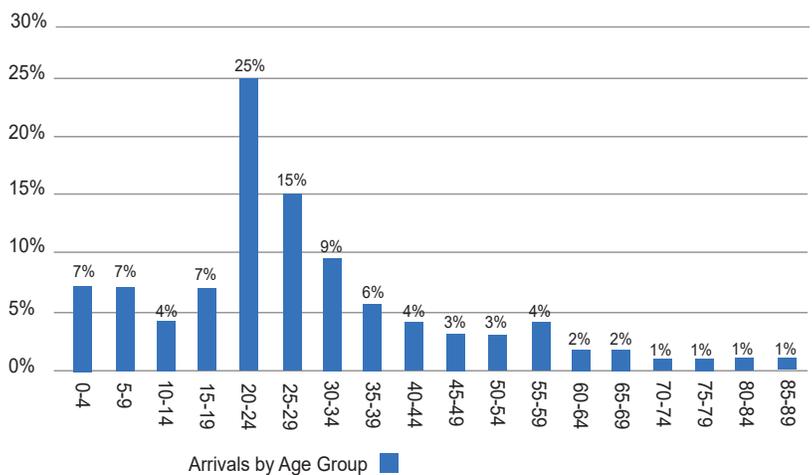
For example, in three of the last seven years for which an estimate is available, North Dakota lost residents to South Dakota. It gained in the other four years with an overall loss of just over 100 residents, well within

the margin of error to know for sure if we are gaining or losing to our sister state.

The only state that appears to be an exception to this ebb and flow appears to be North Dakota's neighbor to the east, Minnesota. Minnesota is the state with which North Dakota exchanges the most

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### Individuals in Their Late Teens through Mid-30s are the Largest Group of New Arrivals to North Dakota



Approximately 51 percent of new arrivals to the state are from 18 to 34 years of age with 20-year-olds being the most common. This age range also matches the age at which many individuals move out of their parents' home. This age group also closely matches the primary child-bearing ages of individuals, as about 85 percent of children are born to women in this age range.

Sources: Census Bureau's 5-Year ACS 2012-2016 PUMS Data.

## **Puerto Ricans Moving to North Dakota**

Data from state-to-state migration in most years shows no migration between Puerto Rico and North Dakota. However, data from 2016 shows an estimated 1,049 Puerto Ricans moved to North Dakota. This is one of only two years from 2010 that shows any migration between the two areas. Significant economic hardship on the Island appears to have led to an out-migration of about 62,000 individuals to other areas, including North Dakota in 2016.

Sources: Census Bureau's Population Estimate files PEPTCOMP 2016 and 2017, and State-to-State Migration Flows 2010 through 2016.

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## Characteristics of North Dakota's New Migrants

Recent arrivals to North Dakota tend to be younger and more racially and ethnically diverse than the state of North Dakota's resident population. Of the arriving population, approximately 78 percent is composed of Non-Hispanic Whites, which comprise 88 percent of the state's population. This group also has a slightly higher number of males than females.

A large percentage of individuals who migrate to North Dakota come to attend school in the state. Approximately 30 percent of individuals of all ages indicate they are attending school. In the age range of 18-24, 43 percent of individuals who migrated from another state and 68 percent of those who migrated from another

country indicate they are now in school.

The occupations of those who work and move to North Dakota are wide ranging and include everything from nurses to plumbers to truck drivers. Sorting industries in which these individuals work makes the picture a bit clearer. Employees of construction-related firms constituted about one in eight employed new arrivals to the state. Other industries highly represented among new arrivals include health care, educational services, agriculture and mining.

About a quarter of individuals migrating into the state indicated they were below the poverty line the prior year. As migration into the

state appears to often be motivated by employment opportunities, this does not necessarily indicate they remain in poverty. About 10 percent of individuals who migrate into the state are in households receiving SNAP (or food stamps), the same as the rate for individuals who migrate from one area of the state to another. Individuals who migrate directly from overseas appear to have a low rate for SNAP enrollment. However, for those born overseas that first moved to another state prior to North Dakota, the rate appears to be about 30 percent. Likely most of these individuals are migrating into the state for the employment opportunity that North Dakota's economy provides.

Sources: Census Bureau's 5-Year ACS 2012-2016 table S2201 and PUMS Data.

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residents. An estimated 27 percent of all individuals migrating from other states into North Dakota come from Minnesota, while an estimated 23 percent of all North Dakota residents migrating to other states move there.

In all seven years from 2010 to 2016, the net flow consistently favors North Dakota. The estimates

show that on average 13,500 Minnesota residents moved annually to North Dakota from 2010 to 2016, while 8,400 residents of North Dakota moved to Minnesota. This means in a typical year, between 2010 and 2016, North Dakota gained approximately 5,100 more residents from Minnesota than it lost to its neighbor.

After Minnesota, the number

of residents from a given state declines sharply.

Texas appears to have been the second-largest source for North Dakota's new residents.

Source: Census Bureau's State-to-State Migration Flow Tables 2010 through 2016.

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