



Growing ND by the Numbers

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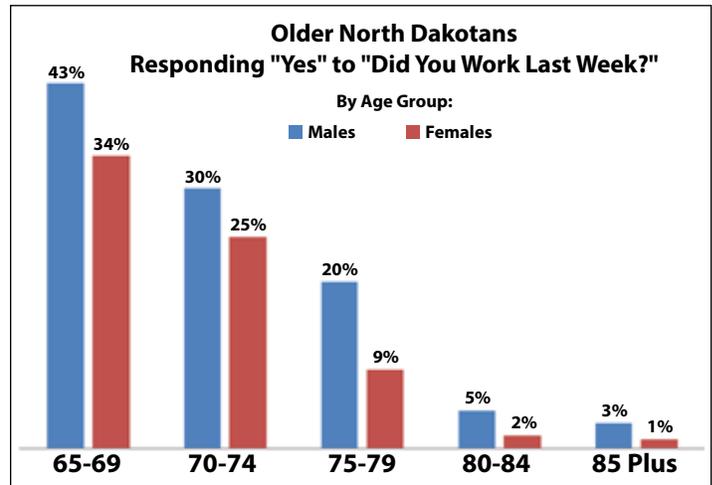
Older workers in the mining industry in 2013 earned the most in any industry, with an average of over \$7,000 monthly in North Dakota.

ND Census Office

Working Past 65 in North Dakota

Retirement age in North Dakota doesn't necessarily mean 65. According to data from the 2012 American Community Survey, just over a third of North Dakotans age 65 and older indicated they worked in the past year. For those in the age range of 65 – 69, the rate was nearly 50 percent. Males tend to work longer than women with 53 percent of men age 65 – 69, and 46 percent of women of the same age group indicating they worked the previous year in response to a Census Bureau survey in 2012.

Not only are men more likely to work than women in this age group, they typically



Responses by age and sex to the 2012 American Community Survey.

work more hours and their overall net wages are nearly double that of women. Men 65 and older who work indicated they averaged 38 hours per week compared to women,

who averaged 27 hours per week. Men reported earning an average of \$3,900 per month, compared to \$1,700 per month for women.

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65 and Older Workers Important in Future Labor Force

North Dakota has a large number of Baby Boomers - those born between 1946 and 1964. As of 2013 there were an estimated 52,000 individuals in the state that were age

65 or older. By 2020, that number is likely to grow to somewhere in the range of 70,000 - 75,000. Assuming that older residents continue to participate in the labor

force at the current rate, and the state's labor force remains constrained, the number of 65 plus workers will likely grow an additional 35 to 45 percent by 2020.

Of North Dakota's industries, transit and ground passenger transportation, which includes chartered bus, school bus, and taxis, employed the highest percentage of workers over age 65. Over 20 percent of this industry's workers were age 65 or older in the mid - 2013.

ND Census Office

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Nursing homes, hospitals, professional service companies and food service establishments are the most common types of firms to employ 65 plus workers. Male workers are more often found at retail or

wholesale trade companies, while female workers are more likely to be found in medical or social service related industries.

The percentage of individuals who work, and the number of hours individuals work, typically

declines with age. Workers in both sexes age 65 – 69 worked an average of 36 hours, dropping to 34 hours for workers age 70 – 74, and to 23 hours for workers age 75 – 79.

Workers Often Self-Employed Over 65

Data from the Census American Community Survey indicates an estimated 21 percent of individuals age 65 – 69 that work are self-employed and that percentage increases with time. For example, an estimated 28 percent of individuals age 70 – 74 who work are self-employed. However, both the number of self-employed and the overall number of workers declines dramatically in the later age groups.

The typical worker age 65 or older reported an average of 33 hours a week. The self-employed worker in the same age

group reported an average of 46 hours per week.

Individuals 65 and over who identified themselves as “self-employed” typically had other sources of income, such as retirement or social security, as well as wages from other jobs. On average, self-employment income appears to make up about 60 percent of family income.

The typical self-employed person age 65 and older in North Dakota is white and male. Few report disabilities, with the exception of hearing which tends to be common. The most common forms of

self-employment for older workers are agricultural-related, followed by construction, motor vehicle and parts dealerships, and food and beverage retailers.

Self-employed workers in this age group tend to work far more hours than those employed by someone else. While the typical employee (excluding self-employed individuals) reported working an average of 30.2 hours per week, those that were self-employed reported working an average of nearly 45 hours per week.

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