



Growing ND by the Numbers

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IRS Migration Tables

IRS tables show migration for all taxpayers who filed in two consecutive years. These taxpayers are broken into four groups: non-migrants, outflow to another state, inflow from another state and migrants within the state. They are then broken into groups by age range and income levels.

Source: IRS Statistics of Income Tax Stats – Migration Data

Migration Between North Dakota and Other States

Since 1991, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), has released data on individual tax returns that provide considerable information regarding migration of taxpayers from state to state, or out of the country. IRS Tables show the number of returns that are made by the same taxpayer year to year.

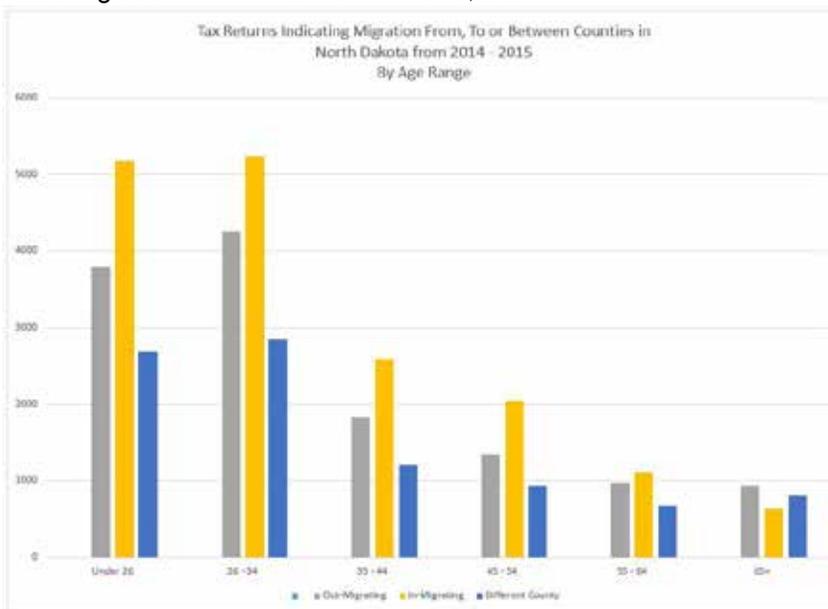
The data shows that starting in 1992, North Dakota experienced a greater outflow of tax payers than migrated into the state. This pattern of out-migration

reverses in 2008 when the number of taxpayers moving into the state exceeds the number departing, and continues through the most recent data. What the data does suggest, is that roughly seven percent of North Dakota's taxpayers move each year, either out of state or to another county within the state. Those that move out of state have been replaced by a larger number that move into the state from elsewhere for the past several years.

For 2014 – 2015, the

IRS data shows that of all returns, 92.5 percent (302,355) of North Dakota taxpayers who filed taxes both in 2014 and 2015, remain in the same place from the first year to the next, while 3.9 percent (11,745) moved out of state, and 2.5 percent (14,998) moved to another county within the state. Replacing those 11,745 taxpayers who moved out of state were 14,998 that moved from elsewhere.

Source: IRS Statistics of Income Tax Stats – Migration Data, 2014 to 2015 file



Younger tax filers make up the majority of both those migrating out of, as well as into the state.
Source: IRS Statistics of Income Tax Stats – Migration Data

Income Increases with Migration
 IRS migration data shows that new residents of 49 of the 50 states reported increases in their income the year after they moved, with California being the exception. North Dakota was the destination state with the highest increase with a 26 percent increase in income from 2014 to 2015. Taxpayers under 26 years of age reported a 46 percent change in their earning after moving to the state.

Source: IRS Statistics of Income Tax Stats – Migration Data

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The Role of Income Level in Migration

North Dakota's recent population growth goes a long way in explaining the role income potential has played in the growth of young adults in the state during the past few years.

All four groups saw an increase in adjusted gross income (AGI) from 2014 to 2015, with the overall change in AGI of 10

percent. The group with the lowest AGI in both years were those who migrated from a different state into North Dakota with an average AGI of \$39,310 in 2014, and \$49,708 in 2015.

Primary taxpayers under age 26 had the highest percent change of any group. Overall, this group saw a 29 percent increase

from \$27,862 in 2014, to \$35,985 in 2015.

Source: IRS Statistics of Income Tax Stats – Migration Data

Migration Characteristics of Ages 65 and Over

Factors outside of income potential appear to be a greater influence for those individuals age 65 plus. Retirement location, access to health care and proximity to family members are likely factors that are more influential than income potential.

The IRS file from 2014 to 2015 shows there were 689 filers who moved out of the state, 450 who moved into the state, and 598 who moved from one county in the state to another. All tax filers in these three migration groups in this age range appear to be slowly declining since 2011 when 2,645 filers migrated into, out of, or between counties.

Those 65 and plus tax filers who were not migrating had the highest average income from 2011 through 2015 at \$83,225. The lowest AGI was for those tax filers who migrated into the state from elsewhere with an average income of \$71,546 during this same period. The non-migrating group saw an average increase in AGI of 7 percent. Those who left the state saw an average annual change of 3.5 percent while those who moved into the state saw their incomes rise an average of 5 percent per year.

The difference in change of AGI between the non-

migrating group and those migrating to, from, or between counties, while still present, appears to be smaller at age 65 plus than is found in younger age groups. Another observation is the change the role of income plays in the pattern of migration appears to occur gradually from the younger age groups to the older and does not suddenly occur at age 65.

Source: IRS Statistics of Income Tax Stats – Migration Data

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