Hispanics in North Dakota, a Rapid Growth Population

During the 2000 Census, the number of Hispanics counted in North Dakota was 7,786. Ten years later, in the 2010 Census, there were 13,467 Hispanics in the state, a growth of 58 percent.

After the 2010 Census, the growth in the number of Hispanics has increased rapidly. By the middle of 2013, an estimated 22,036 Hispanics were residents of the state, more than the number of residents in Williston, North Dakota’s 6th largest city. The growth in the state’s Hispanic population between April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2013 was 53 percent, an annual rate of about 14 percent per year. The rate of growth appears to be increasing with time, especially as North Dakota’s economy has flourished.

North Dakota’s Hispanic population tends to be young with an estimated median age in 2013 of 22.4 years of age, compared to 35.3 for the overall population and 39.1 for those who are non-Hispanic Whites.

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Every County in North Dakota sees Growth in Hispanics

Every county in North Dakota now has a Hispanic population. Cass County had the most Hispanics in 2013 with an estimated 3,796. The county with the largest gain was Ward County with an estimated 1,366 Hispanics between April 1st 2010 and July 1st 2013. After Cass and Ward counties, those with the highest number of Hispanics are: Grand Forks, Burleigh, Williams, Walsh, Stark and Morton. More than half the counties in the state are estimated to have at least 100 Hispanics. Walsh County actually has the highest percentage of Hispanics at around 9 percent of the county’s population.
Sixty-four percent of Hispanic residents in ND indicate they speak only English. Only a small fraction indicates they do not speak English well or not at all.

This is more pronounced in the age range of 20 – 24 where there were an estimated 1,003 males to only 780 females in the state of Hispanic ethnicity. Only 23 percent of Hispanic residents of that state in 2013 indicate they were born in the state. Sixty one percent indicate they were born in a different state, with the remaining 16 percent indicating they were born outside the country.

Hispanics in North Dakota’s Labor Force

There were an estimated 8,456 Hispanic residents over age 18 in North Dakota in 2013. However, there were an estimated 16,123 Hispanics employed in North Dakota during the same time frame. The majority of Hispanics employed in the state are likely residents of other states or countries.

The average monthly wages paid to Hispanic workers has generally been lower than that of non-Hispanics through the year 2012. However, most recent data indicate Hispanics, on average, are earning more than non-Hispanics employed in the state. The reason is likely that Hispanics are well represented in industries associated with North Dakota’s Bakken oilfield, mining, transportation and construction. In the year 2000, there were only an estimated 40 Hispanics employed in mining industry in North Dakota. That number grew to 470 by 2010 and 2,027 by 2013. In Construction, the number of Hispanics grew from just over 1,000 in 2010 to 2,700 in 2013. The number of Hispanics in transportation related fields has more than doubled during the same time to nearly 800.

Similar to the number we find in key Bakken related industries, the growth in Hispanic employment has been most dramatic in the areas most impacted by oil developments. In 2000 an estimated 106 Hispanics employed in Williams County. By 2010 that number had grown by about five times to 522 Hispanics and again by 2013 to 2,702, a growth rate of more than 500 percent in three years.

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