North Dakota’s Non-U.S. Born Population

In 2014 the Census Bureau estimated that there were nearly 30,000 residents in North Dakota who were born outside of the United States. This includes those born in Puerto Rico or the U.S. Island areas, those born to American parents abroad, U.S. naturalized citizens, and those individuals who are not U.S. citizens.

In total, this group of residents is close in size to the population of the city of West Fargo, North Dakota’s fifth largest city. The largest category of those not born in the U.S. that reside in the state are those in the non-citizen category, that number is nearly 15,000, comparable to the city of Jamestown, the state’s ninth largest city.

Of the 50 states, North Dakota has the highest percentage of non-U.S. born residents that have recently arrived. 21 percent of the state’s non-U.S. born residents have arrived since 2010, three times the national rate.

Likewise, North Dakota is notable for having the youngest average non-U.S. born population of the 50 states. The non-U.S. born population in North Dakota has a median age of 33.9, compared to 42.6 for all non-U.S. born residents in the U.S.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate, Table B05004

Race, Ethnicity, Sex and Place of Birth

North Dakota’s non-U.S. born population is 39 percent white, 21 percent black and 31 percent Asian. The balance is made of those who report “some other race” at 6 percent.

Twelve percent of respondents to the American Community Survey (ACS) in the state report being Hispanic or Latino, far less than the national average of 46 percent. Of those who entered the country prior to the year 2000, Asians make up nearly half the total at 49 percent and whites constitute the second largest group at 29 percent. The percentage of Asians is much higher than the nationwide percentage at 25 percent.

The percentage of male and female non-U.S. born residents is almost balanced at nearly 50 percent each. However, of those who entered the country prior to the year 2000, females make up 57 percent of this population compared to those who entered after 2010 where females make up only 46 percent.

Non-U.S. born residents reporting their location of birth listed 48 different countries in the 2014 ACS Survey. These included, in order of highest first, Mexico, Canada, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany, Ethiopia along with others.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate, Tables B05010, DP03 and S0502, ACS 2014 1-Year PUMS

Only nine counties in North Dakota are estimated to have more than 2 percent of their population made up of non-U.S. residents. These include: Adams, Billings, Burke, Cass, Divide, Grand Forks, Stark, Pembina and Ward. Cass has the highest estimated number at 10,100 and Pembina has the highest percentage of its resident population at seven percent.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate, Table B0502
Data from the American Community Survey indicates that Ward County has the highest number of residents born to US Citizens but born outside the country at 964. Ward was followed by Cass at 735, Grand Forks at 668, Burleigh at 319 and Williams at 254 for the timeframe 2010 – 2014.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate, Table B0502

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Employment, Earnings and Education

An estimated 68 percent of the state’s non-U.S. born residents are in the labor force comparable to the state’s entire resident population. As a group, they appear to be over represented in those industries of educational services, health care and food service. They are employed in a wide variety of occupation including sales positions, janitors, maids, post-secondary educators, public finance administrators, cooks, agricultural and health care workers.

Earnings of non-U.S. born residents are much lower than that of the state’s labor force as a whole from 2010 to 2014. Male full-time workers, regardless of place of birth, had a mean wage of $47,940 compared to non-U.S. born males who were paid $40,603. Earnings for non-U.S. born females tended to be closer to that for female full-time workers regardless of place of birth at $32,404, compared to $34,738 for all full-time female workers.

For those non-U.S. born residents who entered the U.S. from 2000 to 2009, an estimated 25 percent are attending school. The percentage attending school climbs to nearly 50 percent for those who entered in 2010 or after.

Undergraduate and graduate attendees constitute over half of these individuals attending school. Nearly a third of those individuals that entered the U.S. in 2010 or later have a college degree.

Less than seven percent indicated they have no schooling at all. The education level of naturalized citizens in the state is particularly noteworthy. Seventy-six percent of naturalized citizens who arrived in the U.S. in 2010 or later indicate they have a doctorate level degree.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate, Tables B0502 and DP03, ACS 2014 1-Year PUMS

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The Census Bureau estimates that nearly 6,000 international migrants have moved into ND since the Decennial Census in 2010. Individuals who immigrate to other states and later to ND are treated as domestic migrates.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau’s Population Estimate Program, file NST-EST2015