Location. Location. It Is All About Location

Census data is all tied to a geography. We have blocks, tracts, designated places, incorporated communities, counties and even household geographies we associate with the U.S. Census Bureau. There are however some unique geographies on the economic side, areas that are defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

The core based statistical areas (CBSAs) include Combined Statistical Areas (CSA), Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA or Metros), and Micropolitan Statistical Areas (MiSA or Micros). The general concept of CBSAs is that communities adjacent to an area containing a large population have a high degree of integration with that population. In other words, a core community and nearby communities/counties that have an economic dependency on the core community.

Metropolitans in North Dakota Continue to Grow

Currently, North Dakota has three metropolitans (metro) with two sharing space with Minnesota. The Bismarck Metro is the only one fully within the boundaries of North Dakota. It includes the counties of Burleigh, Morton, Oliver and Sioux. It had a population of 114,778 in 2010 and 126,597 in 2014, a percent gain of ten percent. North Dakota’s largest metropolitan, the Fargo Metro includes Cass and Clay County of Minnesota. It had a nine percent population growth from 208,777 to 228,291 from 2010 to 2014 as per estimates. The smallest of North Dakota’s three metropolitans is the Grand Forks Metro which includes Grand Forks and Polk County of Minnesota. Its population growth was three percent with 98,461 in 2010 and 101,842 in 2014.

Source: Census 2010 and Population Estimates Program File PEP_2014_PEPANNRES

Bismarck Metro Gain
The Bismarck Metro had a surprise gain with the 2013 population estimates. As a result of the 2009 review, the delineation of the Bismarck Metro was expanded to include Oliver and Sioux counties. The expansion added more than 6,000 in population, on top of the growth of Burleigh and Morton counties.
Minot Micropolitan
the Next North Dakota Metro
The Minot micropolitan has not been growing as fast as the other western micros, but if Minot continues its current growth rate (more than 3% from 2013 to 2014), it should reach the 50,000 population mark with the next population estimate (July 1, 2015 numbers). The requirement of two years where the primary city is 50,000 or more would likely make the Minot Micro the Minot Metro as early as 2017, thus making the Minot area the fourth metropolitan in North Dakota.

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make up CBSAs such as a metropolitan.

North Dakota has one Combined Statistical Area. The Fargo-Wahpeton CSA includes the counties of Cass and Richland in North Dakota and Clay and Wilkin counties in Minnesota. The metropolitans and micropolitans comprise nearly 75% of the 2014 population estimate total for North Dakota.

The boundaries of these geographies, as well as the standards to create the boundaries, are reviewed periodically to ensure their usefulness and relevancy.

Source: Federal Register / Vol. 75, No. 123 / Monday, June 28, 2010

### Micropolitans Growth More Mixed

North Dakota has five micropolitans with one sharing space with Minnesota. Micropolitans are distinguished by a center city of at least 10,000 but less than 50,000.

The Dickinson Micropolitan (Micro) includes Stark County. The Jamestown Micro includes Stutsman County. The Minot Micro includes the counties of McHenry, Renville and Ward. The Wahpeton Micro includes Richland County in North Dakota and Wilkin County in Minnesota. And finally, the Williston Micro includes Williams County.

All the micropolitans have managed population gains since the 2010 Census, though Jamestown and Wahpeton Micros have been somewhat flat. The three western micropolitans have all had double digit gains with Williston topping them all with a 43 percent gain since the decennial census.