



*Ward County experienced the largest percentage increase in the age range 20 – 34 of the state four largest counties, gaining an estimated 27 percent from 2010 to 2013. Ward is estimated to have gained almost twice as many male residents as female residents during this timeframe.*

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Data from the Census Bureau indicates an increase in employment of workers in the age range 25 – 34 by more than 35 percent between 2009 and 2013. In 2009 there were about 14,000 individuals age 19 through 34 that were employed in the mining, transportation and construction industries in the state. By 2013 that number had more than doubled. The majority of this increase appears to be among male workers.

This changed a long-term trend in employment in the state where traditionally there had been more females employed than males prior to 2010. The overall number of male employees appears to have surpassed the number of female employees in 2013 by about 50,000 in North Dakota.

When we compare North Dakota to other states, it appears we are second only to Alaska in the highest percentage of individuals age 20 – 34 years of age in 2013. Individuals in this age range represent just under a quarter of North Dakota's total population as of the summer of 2013.

When we look at the smaller 5-year age ranges North Dakota has nearly 70,000 individuals in the age range 20 – 24, this is the highest percentage of any state at nearly 10 percent of the state total population. The state does not have as high a percentage of individuals in the age ranges 25 – 30 and 30 – 34. However, the available census data indicates are that individuals throughout the ages 19 to 34 are moving into the state and tending to stay, establishing residence as North Dakotans.

## Eastern Urban Counties Have More Young Adults

Not surprisingly the county with the highest density of young adults (age 20 – 34) is Cass County, the state's most densely inhabited county with an estimated 48,000 residents in age range of 20 – 34. Grand Forks

was second with 22,000; and Ward County was third with nearly 20,000 individuals in this age range. Ward County also holds the distinction of having the highest number of male residents over female residents in

this age range. Burleigh County, even though it is the state's second largest in overall population, comes in fourth behind Ward County with less than 20,000 residents in the age range 20 – 34.

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