

Population Estimates for North Dakota: July 1, 2001 to July 1, 2003

According to the population estimates recently released from the U.S. Census Bureau, North Dakota's population remained relatively unchanged between 2002 and 2003. As of July 1, 2003, the state's population totaled 633,837, a decrease of 74 people since 2002. Between 2000 and 2001, North Dakota's population declined by 5,915 persons to 636,285. The state's population dropped another 2,374 persons between 2001 and 2002.

Within North Dakota, only six counties showed an increase in population over the past year. Divide County had the largest percentage increase in population between 2002 and 2003 (1.8 percent). Cass, Burleigh and Richland counties followed (approximately 1.0 percent growth each). Foster County had the largest percentage decline during this period of time (2.4 percent), followed by Billings, Wells, Sheridan and Emmons (approximately 2.0 percent loss each). Population within North Dakota continues to be centralized. The five most populated counties in the state, including Cass, Burleigh, Grand Forks, Ward, and Morton, represent approximately 54 percent of the total population in North Dakota.

Among all the states in the nation in 2003, North Dakota ranked 47th in total population. North Dakota was the only state to experience a loss in population between 2002 and 2003. The fastest growing states were Nevada and Arizona (3.4 and 2.6 percent, respectively).

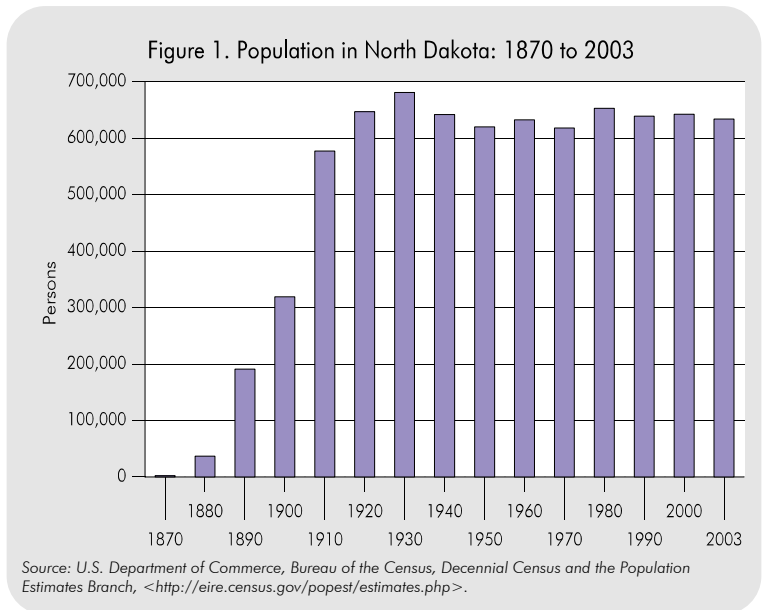


Figure 2. Change in Population for North Dakota Counties: July 1, 2002 to July 1, 2003

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Branch, <http://eire.census.gov/popest/estimates.php>

