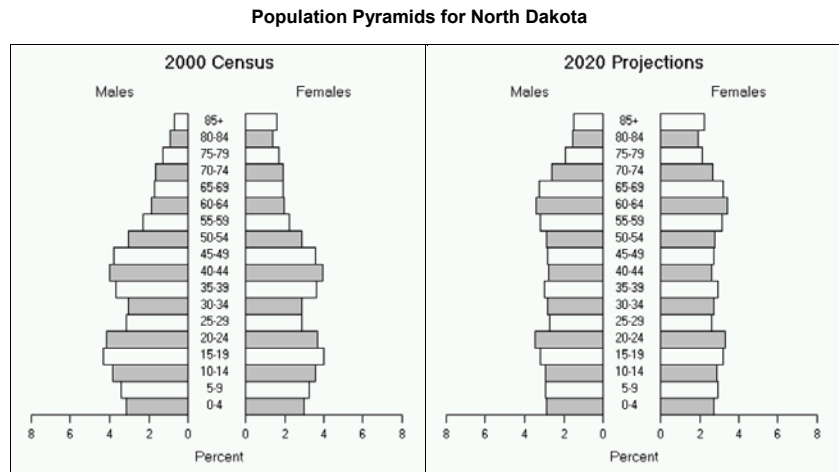


Population Projections in North Dakota: 2005-2020

The North Dakota State Data Center has recently released a new report which provides county population projections by age and gender through 2020 - *North Dakota Population Projections: 2005 to 2020*. Baseline census figures for North Dakota are presented in this report by age and gender for 1980, 1990, and 2000 along with projections for the years 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2020. This report updates the projections released in January 1999 by the Center. The new projections were developed using a standard cohort-survival model. These new figures were based on census trends that reflect downward movement among most rural counties and upward growth among the counties with larger urban centers. Assumptions used in the projections reflect a weakening of the flow of North Dakota's population from the farmsteads and small rural communities into the metropolitan centers which will have a moderating effect on the state's population. In addition, the state's largest populated counties will continue to grow thus resulting in a modest growth pattern for North Dakota over the next two decades.



Population projections are mathematical calculations that illustrate what the population will be in the future if specific assumptions persist throughout the projection period. Although information depicting North Dakota's resident population is relatively accurate, the ability to forecast substantial changes in any socio-economic or demographic process which may alter current population trends is tenuous at best. Therefore, it is wise to utilize these projections with caution. They should not be viewed as the sole element in planning or decision-making, rather as only one tool in the process.

For more information on methodology or to obtain an electronic copy of this new report, visit the State Data Center Website at <http://www.ndsu.edu/sdc>, or contact the office by phone at (701) 231-8621.

Population Trends in North Dakota by Age Cohort: 1980 - 2020

Age Cohort	Census Population Counts			Population Projections			
	1980	1990	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
0 to 4	54,752	47,845	39,400	38,254	37,359	37,868	36,579
5 to 9	49,016	52,032	42,982	39,915	38,739	37,668	38,301
10 to 14	51,043	48,820	47,464	43,015	39,968	38,795	37,679
15 to 19	63,977	46,668	53,618	50,411	45,877	42,755	41,547
20 to 24	69,393	47,873	50,503	53,389	49,614	46,251	44,295
25 to 29	58,470	50,154	38,792	37,923	40,487	37,576	34,771
30 to 34	45,687	53,861	38,095	37,316	36,576	38,898	36,153
35 to 39	34,248	50,133	46,991	38,228	36,988	36,074	38,503
40 to 44	29,398	39,887	51,013	46,420	37,925	36,309	35,237
45 to 49	28,631	30,635	47,436	50,267	45,837	37,528	35,876
50 to 54	30,497	26,449	37,995	46,562	49,481	45,220	37,101
55 to 59	29,218	26,268	28,926	34,457	42,337	45,052	41,247
60 to 64	27,942	27,120	24,507	26,272	33,908	41,715	44,436
65 to 69	25,930	24,950	23,142	22,780	26,433	34,106	42,015
70 to 74	21,217	22,591	22,759	21,451	22,942	26,579	34,293
75 to 79	15,301	18,990	19,085	20,938	21,380	22,876	26,493
80 to 84	9,857	13,284	14,766	17,313	20,647	21,042	22,507
85 plus	8,140	11,240	14,726	15,289	18,827	22,660	24,258
Total	652,717	638,800	642,200	640,200	645,325	648,972	651,291

Population Trends in North Dakota by County: 1980 - 2020

County	Census Population Counts			Population Projections			
	1980	1990	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
Adams	3,584	3,174	2,593	2,365	2,208	2,075	1,963
Barnes	13,960	12,545	11,775	11,574	11,564	11,629	11,675
Benson	7,944	7,198	6,964	7,101	7,329	7,571	7,835
Billings	1,138	1,108	888	815	775	727	679
Bottineau	9,239	8,011	7,149	6,839	6,661	6,420	6,202
Bowman	4,229	3,596	3,242	3,177	3,181	3,108	3,038
Burke	3,822	3,002	2,242	2,024	1,908	1,780	1,686
Burleigh	54,811	60,131	69,416	70,524	72,531	73,881	74,727
Cass	88,247	102,874	123,138	131,097	137,724	144,880	151,651
Cavalier	7,636	6,064	4,831	4,391	4,070	3,830	3,614
Dickey	7,207	6,107	5,757	5,536	5,426	5,365	5,283
Divide	3,494	2,899	2,283	2,006	1,796	1,600	1,420
Dunn	4,627	4,005	3,600	3,435	3,283	3,110	2,927
Eddy	3,554	2,951	2,757	2,669	2,633	2,550	2,470
Emmons	5,877	4,830	4,331	4,187	4,105	3,925	3,710
Foster	4,611	3,983	3,759	3,637	3,557	3,395	3,216
Golden	2,391	2,108	1,924	1,856	1,800	1,723	1,658
Grand Forks	66,100	70,683	66,109	66,545	67,551	67,988	68,238
Grant	4,274	3,549	2,841	2,531	2,318	2,104	1,890
Griggs	3,714	3,303	2,754	2,557	2,418	2,271	2,099
Hettinger	4,275	3,445	2,715	2,432	2,228	2,046	1,877
Kidder	3,833	3,332	2,753	2,548	2,385	2,194	1,995
LaMoure	6,473	5,383	4,701	4,466	4,310	4,104	3,898
Logan	3,493	2,847	2,308	2,202	2,115	2,032	1,919
McHenry	7,858	6,528	5,987	5,787	5,760	5,736	5,701
McIntosh	4,800	4,021	3,390	3,142	3,041	2,917	2,769
McKenzie	7,132	6,383	5,737	5,391	5,197	5,033	4,924
McLean	12,383	10,457	9,311	8,973	8,820	8,627	8,423
Mercer	9,404	9,808	8,644	8,151	7,751	7,431	7,267
Morton	25,177	23,700	25,303	26,272	27,481	28,550	29,521
Mountrail	7,679	7,021	6,631	6,492	6,518	6,516	6,503
Nelson	5,233	4,410	3,715	3,603	3,592	3,559	3,542
Oliver	2,495	2,381	2,065	1,995	1,939	1,868	1,799
Pembina	10,399	9,238	8,585	8,254	8,125	7,971	7,810
Pierce	6,166	5,052	4,675	4,575	4,579	4,490	4,360
Ramsey	13,048	12,681	12,066	11,591	11,447	11,212	10,958
Ransom	6,698	5,921	5,890	5,834	5,844	5,860	5,840
Renville	3,608	3,160	2,610	2,425	2,352	2,300	2,266
Richland	19,207	18,148	17,998	17,715	17,570	17,414	17,218
Rolette	12,177	12,772	13,674	13,687	13,965	14,019	14,029
Sargent	5,512	4,549	4,366	4,258	4,230	4,225	4,272
Sheridan	2,819	2,148	1,710	1,562	1,477	1,408	1,364
Sioux	3,620	3,761	4,044	4,096	4,223	4,215	4,208
Slope	1,157	907	767	705	675	639	605
Stark	23,697	22,832	22,636	22,220	22,270	22,301	22,360
Steele	3,106	2,420	2,258	2,190	2,134	2,102	2,074
Stutsman	24,154	22,241	21,908	21,452	21,278	21,037	20,737
Towner	4,052	3,627	2,876	2,666	2,521	2,440	2,382
Traill	9,624	8,752	8,477	8,263	8,141	7,987	7,771
Walsh	15,371	13,840	12,389	11,621	11,239	10,776	10,336
Ward	58,392	57,921	58,795	57,427	56,728	56,349	55,809
Wells	6,979	5,864	5,102	4,783	4,593	4,364	4,094
Williams	22,237	21,129	19,761	18,556	17,959	17,318	16,679
North Dakota	652,717	638,800	642,200	640,200	645,325	648,972	651,291

Source: North Dakota State Data Center, *North Dakota Population Projections: 2005 to 2020*, Issued September 2002.

Population Projections Show Modest Growth And Graying of North Dakota

New population projections released by the North Dakota State Data Center indicate the state's population is expected to grow only modestly over the next twenty years. However, the number of elderly will increase dramatically. According to the latest Population Bulletin, the state's population is expected to reach 645,325 by 2010 and grow to nearly 651,300 by 2020. The last Census revealed North Dakota's population was at 642,200 residents in the year 2000. More recent population estimates indicate the population dipped slightly to 634,448 in 2001. "The modest population increase over then next few decades will result from sustained growth in the state's biggest cities and an offsetting out migration of people from the state's rural counties", said Richard Rathge, Director of the North Dakota State Data Center.

The most pronounced change that will occur in the state's population will be a dramatic increase in elderly. The 2000 Census reported 94,478 residents who were at least 65 years of age or 14.7 percent of the state's total population. If the population projections hold true, by the year 2010 the proportion of elderly will grow to 17 percent and jump to 23 percent by 2020. "The exploding senior population is something for which North Dakota needs to position itself" said Rathge. Nearly two-thirds of the state's 39 rural counties already have an elderly population over 20 percent and that proportion is expected to surpass 30 percent within 20 years. "The significant rise in seniors will require the need for more effective and efficient service delivery systems, elderly appropriate housing, a more integrated informal care system, and a host of other needs. Unfortunately, many of the rural areas are least prepared and equipped to meet these needs, that is why we need to plan ahead" said Rathge.

In contrast, the young adult population is expected to continue its marked decline. Those in the age group from 20 to 34, often referred to as the entry labor pool, has fallen from 27 percent of the state's total population in 1980 to 24 percent in 1990 and now is at 20 percent according to the 2000 Census. The latest population projections indicate this age group is expected to decline another 10 percent over the next two decades. In the state's 39 rural counties, the entry labor pool already represents less than 13 percent of the total population in those counties and it is expected to decline an additional 11 percent by 2020. "The loss of youth and young adults creates numerous problems including a tight labor market, lower births, and the loss of new ideas and vigor for a community. This situation does not have to occur in our state. What we must remember is that population projections are only mathematical calculations that illustrate what the population will be if current trends in births, deaths, and migration continue unaltered. We have the opportunity to change our future if we are bold and visionary enough," said Rathge.