



NORTH DAKOTA Population Changes

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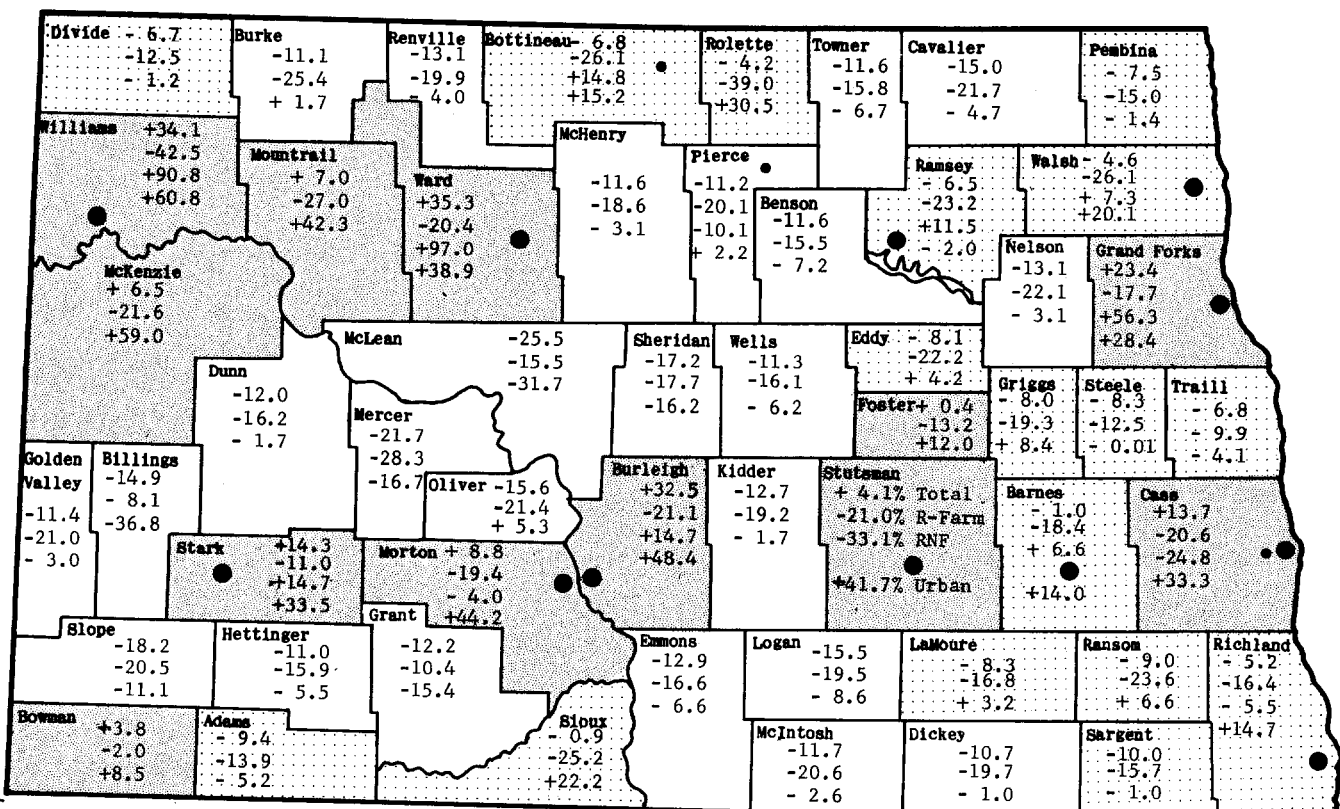
Forty-one North Dakota counties decreased in population from 1950 to 1960. The total population of North Dakota increased 2.1 per cent in the same period. This was considerably less than the United States increase of 18.5 per cent. Percentage increases for bordering states were Minnesota 14.5, Montana 14.2 and South Dakota 4.3.

While population growth has been slight, marked changes occurred in population characteristics such as composition by age and where people live. These changes are discussed in this circular.

POPULATION CHANGES

Three basic forces affect changes in population numbers. These are birth rates, death rates and the migration or movement of people. During the past 10 years, the birth rate has been higher and the death rate slightly lower in North Dakota compared with the national average. Therefore, North Dakota's population growth, except for outmigration, would have been more than the national average.

PERCENTAGE POPULATION CHANGE BY LOCATION FROM 1950 TO 1960 FOR NORTH DAKOTA COUNTIES



Source: Census of Population, 1950 & 1960

Code	No. Dak.
Change in total population	+ 2.1%
Change in rural farm population	-19.7%
Change in rural nonfarm population	+ 2.5%
Change in urban population	+35.1%

The movement of people has a greater influence on population changes than any other factor. The most important reason migration occurs is income opportunities. People move to secure better jobs, further their education, enter the military services, seek a better climate and, in general, to look for greater economic and social opportunities. Migration is a complex pattern that needs further study.

The rural farm segment of the state's population has continued to decline, the rural nonfarm numbers have remained relatively constant and urban residents have increased considerably. Employment in farming has declined due to farm consolidation, increased mechanization and improved technology. Part of this decline has been offset by increases in most of the other industry groups in the state. In predominantly rural farm counties, nonfarm employment has not offset this decrease in farm employment.

The larger sized cities in North Dakota had considerable growth during the 1950's whereas towns with 1,000 to 3,000 people generally remained relatively constant and those below 1,000 decreased in size. The more sparsely populated counties tended to have the larger percentage decreases in population. The more densely populated counties, generally containing the larger cities, had the greatest population growth. Counties with higher median family incomes had population increases or smaller population decreases. (Median is the mid-point with half larger and half smaller.) Family income includes all wages, salaries, self-employment net income and other income received (such as interest, net rent, dividends, transfer payments including welfare and retirement programs, and periodic payments from insurance policies or annuities) by the combined members of the family.

POPULATION CHANGE BY COUNTY

The accompanying map shows the population changes in each county between 1950 and 1960. The rural farm population is persons living on farms. The rural nonfarm population includes people in towns of less than 2,500 and people living in the open country but not classified as a farm. The urban population includes people in cities of more than 2,500.

Five factors were examined to help indicate characteristics related to past population changes by county:

- (1) Predominant location by residence in 1950.

- (2) Per cent of labor force employed in non-farm jobs in 1950.
- (3) The size of the largest town or city within the county in 1950.
- (4) People per square mile in 1950.
- (5) Median family income.

The population decreased more than 10 per cent in 24 counties between 1950 and 1960. These counties had the following characteristics that may help explain their higher population decreases compared with the rest of the state (table 1). A majority of the people resided on farms. Their labor force was primarily farm employed. None had a town of over 3,000 people. They were the most sparsely populated in terms of density per square mile. Median family income was the lowest.

Table 1. FACTORS RELATED TO POPULATION CHANGE 1950-1960

Factor	No. of Counties with		
	over 10% decrease (24)	0-10% decrease (17)	increase (12)
Predominant location by residence in 1950			
Over 50% rural farm	20	6	2
Over 50% rural nonfarm	4	7	2
Over 50% urban	0	0	4
No predominance*	0	4	4
Percent of labor force in nonfarm jobs in 1950			
Under 37%	11	1	1
37 - 50%	12	14	2
Over 50%	1	2	9
Size of largest town or city in 1950			
Below 1,000 people	9	2	0
1,000 to 3,000 people	15	11	4
Over 3,000 people	0	4	8
People per square mile in 1950			
Less than 8.8	24	8	5
8.8 - 13.2	0	7	3
More than 13.2	0	2	4
Median family income in 1959			
Below \$4,000	19	6	1
\$4,000 - 4,500	3	10	4
Above \$4,500	2	1	7

*No predominance are counties with less than 50 per cent residents of one type.

Seventeen counties had a population decrease from 1950 to 1960, ranging from 0.9 per cent for Sioux to 10 per cent for Sargent. The characteristics did not show as distinct a pattern as the previous group. The location of residence was predominantly rural, either farm or nonfarm. The labor force was primarily farm employed. The largest town generally was in the 1,000 to 3,000 size range. The population density varied but approached the state average of 8.8 persons per square mile. Median family income was higher than the previous group.

Twelve counties had a population increase from 1950 to 1960 ranging from 0.4 per cent in Foster to 35.3 per cent in Ward. A majority of the people lived in urban centers. The labor force was primarily employed in nonfarm jobs. The largest city was usually over 3,000 in size. The population density was generally greater than the state average. They had the highest median family income.

POPULATION BY LOCATION

North Dakota is the most rural of all states. The location by residence of the population is changing as shown in table 2.

Table 2 North Dakota Population by Location 1940-1960

	1940		1950		1960	
Location	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Total	641,935		619,636		632,446	
Rural farm	327,498	51.0	254,487	41.1	204,398	32.3
Rural nonfarm	182,514	28.4	200,332	32.3	205,340	32.5
Urban	131,923	20.6	164,817	26.6	222,708	35.2

All counties decreased in rural farm population from 1950 to 1960, from a 2.0 per cent decrease in Bowman to a 42.5 per cent decrease in Williams. The statewide decrease in the rural farm population was 19.7 per cent.

Statewide there was an increase of 2.5 per cent in the rural nonfarm population from 1950 to 1960. There were 32 counties with a decrease and 21 counties with an increase.

Table 3 indicates that the larger the size of the town, the greater was the probability for growth. Much of the increase in the rural nonfarm population occurred in the larger small towns.

Table 3. Population Changes 1950-1960 for Towns of Less Than 3,000 Inhabitants

Size of town, 1950 (No. of people)	Number in group	Number of towns with		
		Population decrease of 10% or more	Less than + - 10% Change	Population increase of 10% or more
2,000-2,999	6	0	4	2
1,000-1,999	42	3	29	10
500 - 999	44	10	23	11
100 - 499	215	119	80	16
Under 100	26	19	7	0
TOTAL	333	151	143	39

The urban population increased 35.1 per cent in North Dakota between 1950 and 1960. Table 4 shows the change in the 15 cities with over 2,500 people in 1960. Generally, the larger sized cities had the greater increases in population.

Table 4. Population Change for Urban Centers in North Dakota

City	1950 Population	1960 Population	Total Change 1950-1960	
			Number	Per Cent
Bottineau	2,268	2,613	345	15.2
Bismarck	18,640	27,670	9,030	48.4
Devils Lake	6,427	6,299	-128	-2.0
Dickinson	7,469	9,971	2,502	33.5
Fargo	38,256	46,662	8,406	22.0
Grafton	4,901	5,885	984	20.1
Grand Forks	26,836	34,451	7,615	28.4
Jamestown	10,697	15,163	4,466	41.8
Mandan	7,298	10,525	3,227	44.2
Minot	22,032	30,604	8,572	38.9
Rugby	2,907	2,972	65	2.2
Southwest Fargo	1,032	3,328	2,296	222.5
Valley City	6,851	7,809	958	14.0
Wahpeton	5,125	5,876	751	14.7
Williston	7,378	11,866	4,488	60.8
TOTAL	168,117	221,694	53,577	31.9*

*Not comparable with the total state urban change because Bottineau and Southwest Fargo not classed as urban in 1950.

Table 5. North Dakota Net Migration by Age, 1950-1960 /1

1960 Age	Net migration /2		Migration rate /3 1950-1960 (Per cent)
	Number	Per cent of total	
0- 4 years	- 518	0.5	- 0.6
5- 9 years	- 8,514	8.1	-10.4
10-14 years	-12,382	11.8	-16.1
15-19 years	-10,171	9.7	-16.4
20-24 years	-14,729	14.0	-27.9
25-29 years	-15,280	14.5	-29.8
30-34 years	-10,976	10.4	-22.7
35-39 years	- 8,330	7.9	-18.7
40-44 years	- 5,568	5.3	-13.2
45-49 years	- 4,379	4.2	-10.9
50-54 years	- 3,358	3.2	- 9.4
55-59 years	- 2,832	2.7	- 9.2
60-64 years	- 1,981	1.9	- 7.7
65-69 years	- 2,659	2.5	-11.3
70-74 years	- 1,766	1.7	- 9.4
75 and over	- 1,644	1.6	- 7.3
All ages	-105,006	100.0	-14.2

(footnotes on page 4)

1 Source: "Net Migration of the Population, 1950-60 by Age, Sex and Color" Volume 1, Part 2, Population - Migration Report, ERS, USDA, May, 1965.

2 Net migration is the difference between the 1960 actual population compared with the number that would have been there in 1960 based upon the 1950 actual population with allowances for births and deaths during the 10-year period.

3 Migration rate is the net migration numbers divided by the expected 1960 population.

NET MIGRATION

The migration or movement of people influences population changes more than any other factor in North Dakota. Table 5 shows the net migration by age group for the period 1950 to 1960. The younger adults are more mobile and are seeking greater opportunities.

An indication of where migrants go is provided by table 6. This shows the 1960 residence of the 921,572 persons that had been born in North Dakota, living in the United States.

Table 6. Residence in 1960 of Persons Born in North Dakota

Location	Number		
Total ever born in North Dakota	921,572		
Living in North Dakota	470,826		
Living in other states	450,746		

State	Number	State	Number
California	90,690	Illinois	13,301
Minnesota	77,687	Michigan	9,021
Washington	74,048	Idaho	7,491
Montana	36,947	Iowa	7,226
Oregon	32,770	Colorado	6,553
South Dakota	15,648	Texas	6,095
Wisconsin	13,740	Other States	59,529

The persons born in North Dakota residing in other states are primarily located in the Pacific Coast states and the neighboring states.

AGE CHARACTERISTICS

North Dakota has a larger proportion of its population in the young and elderly age groups compared with the United States. There is a smaller proportion in the mature age category. The mature age group has been squeezed into a smaller proportion by the expanding young and old categories (table 7).

Table 7. Percentage of North Dakota's population in broad age categories by residence, 1950 and 1960

		Young (Under 18)	Mature (18-64)	Old (65 and over)
N. DAKOTA	1950	36.1	56.1	7.8
	1960	39.8	50.9	9.3
RURAL	1950	37.9	54.3	7.8
	1960	41.1	49.4	9.5
URBAN	1950	31.0	61.3	7.7
	1960	37.3	53.8	8.9
U. S.	1950	31.2	60.6	8.2
	1960	36.3	55.0	8.7

SUMMARY

Forty-one counties decreased and 12 counties increased in population between 1950 and 1960.

Counties with population increases generally had a majority of the people living in urban centers, a city of over 3,000 in size, the labor force mainly employed in nonfarm jobs, more densely populated and had the highest median family income.

The farm population is decreasing, the rural nonfarm segment is relatively stable and the urban population is increasing.

Although out-migration was considerable, North Dakota had a slight gain of 2.1 per cent in total population between 1950 and 1960. The increase was in the younger and older age groups.

North Dakota has a larger proportion of young people, a smaller proportion in the mature ages and a larger proportion of elderly people than the nation. Migration is continuing to reduce populations in the younger mature age groups.