

## Housing Units in North Dakota: 1950 to 2000 Census and July 1, 2001 to July 1, 2006 Estimates

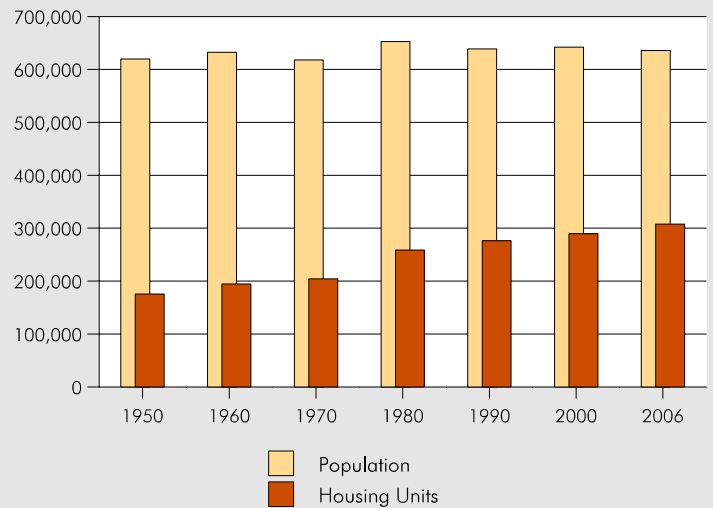
North Dakota's population has remained relatively stable since 1950. During the same time, housing units have grown substantially (Figure 1). In 1950, housing units totaled 175,769 statewide, compared with 289,677 in 2000. This represents a 65 percent increase during this 50-year period. Current estimates suggest another 6 percent growth from 2000 to 2006, reaching 307,802 housing units (Table 1).

Larger metropolitan areas are the largest contributors to growth in housing throughout the state. From 2000 to 2006, 71 percent of all growth statewide was attributed to Cass and Burleigh counties.

Nationally, housing grew 9 percent from 2000 to 2006, with states in the southwest and southeast having the largest percentage gains (Figure 2).

A housing unit, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, may be a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room that is occupied (or, if vacant, is intended for occupancy) as separate living quarters.

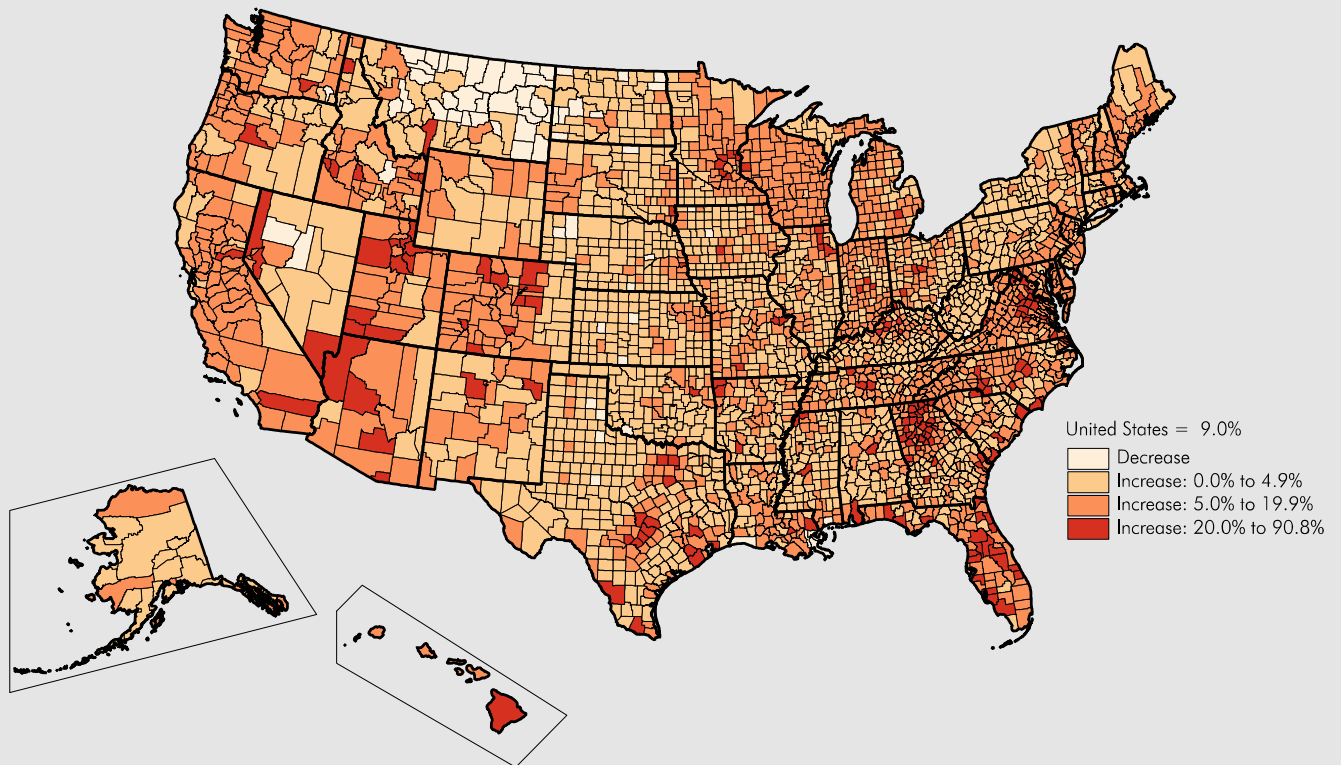
**Figure 1. Population and Housing Units in North Dakota  
1950 to 2000 Census and July 1, 2006 Estimate**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Censuses; Population Division, [www.census.gov/popest/estimates.php](http://www.census.gov/popest/estimates.php)

**Figure 2. Percent Change in Housing Units by County: 2000 to 2006**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Table HU-EST2006-38-County Housing Unit Estimates, [www.census.gov/popest/housing](http://www.census.gov/popest/housing)



**Table 1. Housing Units in North Dakota by County: 1950 to 2000 Census and July 1, 2001 to July 1, 2006 Estimates**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Censuses; Population Division, Table HU-EST2006-38-County Housing Unit Estimates,  
www.census.gov/popest/housing

Area	Census						July1 Estimate						Change: 2000 to 2006	
	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Numeric	Percent
North Dakota	175,769	194,597	204,235	258,772	276,340	289,677	292,243	294,573	297,530	300,826	304,477	307,802	18,125	6.3
Adams	1,454	1,418	1,317	1,563	1,504	1,416	1,425	1,423	1,422	1,419	1,419	1,419	3	0.2
Barnes	4,939	5,151	5,302	5,976	5,801	5,599	5,602	5,615	5,618	5,657	5,694	5,729	130	2.3
Benson	3,086	3,003	2,718	3,084	3,163	2,932	2,950	2,961	2,975	2,989	3,000	2,995	63	2.1
Billings	487	429	392	517	533	529	529	530	528	529	528	527	-2	-0.4
Bottineau	3,878	4,219	4,009	4,679	4,661	4,409	4,434	4,462	4,485	4,506	4,527	4,525	116	2.6
Bowman	1,272	1,371	1,365	1,722	1,691	1,596	1,598	1,598	1,597	1,593	1,594	1,591	-5	-0.3
Burke	2,241	2,202	1,813	1,816	1,691	1,412	1,418	1,421	1,425	1,427	1,428	1,428	16	1.1
Burleigh	7,185	10,311	12,983	20,848	23,803	29,003	29,484	30,088	30,680	31,366	31,951	32,438	3,435	11.8
Cass	16,506	20,679	24,278	35,215	42,407	53,790	55,056	56,244	57,795	59,406	61,355	63,258	9,468	17.6
Cavalier	3,332	3,213	2,932	3,123	3,038	2,725	2,733	2,742	2,753	2,748	2,752	2,748	23	0.8
Dickey	2,665	2,605	2,471	2,838	2,763	2,656	2,663	2,665	2,670	2,677	2,679	2,675	19	0.7
Divide	2,022	2,008	1,667	1,783	1,667	1,469	1,474	1,477	1,477	1,475	1,473	1,469	0	0.0
Dunn	1,869	1,851	1,605	1,849	2,057	1,965	1,967	1,966	1,964	1,961	1,960	1,956	-9	-0.5
Eddy	1,509	1,518	1,477	1,541	1,470	1,418	1,425	1,430	1,433	1,436	1,437	1,434	16	1.1
Emmons	2,478	2,317	2,167	2,322	2,200	2,168	2,180	2,184	2,185	2,180	2,177	2,172	4	0.2
Foster	1,551	1,635	1,649	1,827	1,876	1,793	1,795	1,796	1,795	1,794	1,795	1,795	2	0.1
Golden Valley	1,034	995	915	1,033	1,035	973	971	971	972	970	968	967	-6	-0.6
Grand Forks	10,788	14,185	18,192	24,563	27,085	27,373	27,411	27,474	27,679	28,129	28,538	28,974	1,601	5.8
Grant	1,875	1,886	1,649	1,969	2,011	1,722	1,731	1,737	1,744	1,749	1,755	1,751	29	1.7
Griggs	1,640	1,684	1,658	1,739	1,660	1,521	1,525	1,527	1,531	1,535	1,542	1,539	18	1.2
Hettinger	1,845	1,810	1,579	1,668	1,637	1,419	1,421	1,424	1,428	1,431	1,435	1,433	14	1.0
Kidder	1,685	1,615	1,505	1,740	1,672	1,610	1,625	1,636	1,649	1,660	1,669	1,666	56	3.5
LaMoure	2,647	2,639	2,550	2,527	2,434	2,271	2,285	2,293	2,313	2,321	2,328	2,325	54	2.4
Logan	1,616	1,586	1,384	1,422	1,335	1,193	1,196	1,198	1,202	1,205	1,210	1,207	14	1.2
McHenry	3,615	3,505	3,223	3,437	3,320	2,983	3,002	3,014	3,025	3,023	3,031	3,028	45	1.5
McIntosh	2,150	2,153	1,982	2,197	2,031	1,853	1,862	1,865	1,864	1,863	1,867	1,871	18	1.0
McKenzie	2,183	2,451	2,227	2,944	3,178	2,719	2,737	2,748	2,762	2,777	2,786	2,781	62	2.3
McLean	5,356	4,723	4,282	5,754	5,515	5,264	5,273	5,283	5,300	5,317	5,340	5,348	84	1.6
Mercer	2,375	2,336	2,253	3,978	4,496	4,402	4,421	4,438	4,449	4,456	4,462	4,462	60	1.4
Morton	5,204	6,091	6,317	9,382	9,467	10,587	10,696	10,771	10,954	11,114	11,280	11,434	847	8.0
Mountrail	3,060	3,254	3,176	3,201	3,675	3,438	3,443	3,444	3,445	3,455	3,495	3,505	67	1.9
Nelson	2,449	2,416	2,214	2,442	2,261	2,014	2,016	2,029	2,029	2,029	2,028	2,024	10	0.5
Oliver	813	749	753	960	968	903	904	903	902	901	899	898	-5	-0.6
Pembina	3,979	4,001	3,894	4,438	4,294	4,115	4,116	4,111	4,105	4,100	4,111	4,104	-11	-0.3
Pierce	2,271	2,185	2,076	2,376	2,355	2,269	2,279	2,282	2,291	2,286	2,280	2,277	8	0.4
Ramsey	4,049	4,121	4,387	5,259	5,616	5,729	5,755	5,762	5,770	5,786	5,800	5,800	71	1.2
Ransom	2,608	2,633	2,602	2,712	2,569	2,604	2,654	2,692	2,722	2,740	2,745	2,743	139	5.3
Renville	1,711	1,628	1,395	1,530	1,558	1,413	1,423	1,426	1,431	1,437	1,440	1,438	25	1.8
Richland	5,535	5,719	5,749	7,182	7,394	7,575	7,591	7,619	7,625	7,639	7,653	7,671	96	1.3
Rolette	2,702	2,675	3,015	3,923	4,742	5,027	5,032	5,023	5,015	5,005	5,026	5,019	-8	-0.2
Sargent	2,141	2,032	2,025	2,210	2,057	2,016	2,024	2,030	2,043	2,049	2,057	2,078	62	3.1
Sheridan	1,486	1,386	1,202	1,180	1,061	924	927	929	932	929	930	929	5	0.5
Sioux	862	851	943	1,062	1,175	1,216	1,227	1,235	1,244	1,254	1,260	1,259	43	3.5
Slope	702	622	477	513	481	451	454	456	458	460	463	462	11	2.4
Stark	4,194	5,103	5,748	8,487	9,585	9,722	9,768	9,820	9,873	9,948	10,024	10,147	425	4.4
Steele	1,528	1,549	1,394	1,447	1,311	1,231	1,234	1,236	1,238	1,241	1,246	1,254	23	1.9
Stutsman	6,285	7,037	7,741	9,663	9,770	9,817	9,864	9,862	9,870	9,876	9,901	9,915	98	1.0
Towner	1,938	1,855	1,684	1,692	1,770	1,558	1,562	1,565	1,568	1,571	1,578	1,576	18	1.2
Traill	3,342	3,412	3,529	3,926	3,770	3,708	3,716	3,720	3,728	3,731	3,741	3,747	39	1.1
Walsh	5,199	5,508	5,307	6,153	6,093	5,757	5,760	5,756	5,754	5,747	5,739	5,731	-26	-0.5
Ward	10,130	14,098	17,402	21,521	23,585	25,097	25,254	25,333	25,435	25,533	25,668	25,839	742	3.0
Wells	3,017	3,025	2,881	2,886	2,869	2,643	2,650	2,653	2,660	2,666	2,669	2,664	21	0.8
Williams	5,281	7,149	6,780	8,953	10,180	9,680	9,701	9,706	9,718	9,730	9,744	9,777	97	1.0

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## North Dakota Housing Units Continue to Rise Despite Little Change in Population

North Dakota's population has seen relatively little change over the past 56 years. However, housing units in North Dakota have grown by three-fourths since 1950.

This month's "Population Bulletin," a monthly publication from the North Dakota State Data Center at North Dakota State University, presents the July 1, 2006 housing unit estimates released from the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division.

These current estimates reveal a continuing rise in North Dakota's established housing trend. In 1950, housing units totaled 175,769 statewide, compared with 289,677 in 2000. This represents a 65 percent increase during this 50-year period. Current estimates suggest another 6 percent growth from 2000 to 2006, reaching 307,802 housing units. In contrast, the state's population grew 4 percent from 1950 to 2000 and dropped 1 percent from 2000 to 2006.

Changes in household composition help explain the apparent contradiction between a stable population and a substantial increase in housing. In 1950, people living alone comprised 9 percent of all households. By 2006, that percentage more than tripled to 31 percent. In part, this reflects a growing proportion of elderly in the state. In 2006, half of persons living alone were ages 55 and older. "This is why elderly housing is such an important concern in North Dakota, especially when one realizes that, in 26 of the state's 53 counties, those ages 65 and older already account for more than 20 percent of the county's total population," said Richard Rathge, Director of the State Data Center.

As a result of more people living by themselves, North Dakota's average household size has declined. In 1950, North Dakota's average household size was 3.7 people, compared with 2.2 people in 2006 (the lowest among all 50 states). Although a drop from 3.7 to 2.2 persons per household may not sound impressive, it is substantial when you realize there were 272,352 households (occupied housing units) in the state in 2006. This means that if North Dakota had the same household size in 2006 as it did in 1950 (i.e., 3.7 persons per household), the state's population would be at 1,007,702 people rather than the 635,867 people reported by the Census Bureau.

Larger metropolitan areas are the largest contributors to growth in housing throughout the state. From 2000 to 2006, 71 percent of all growth statewide was attributed to Cass and Burleigh counties.

Nationally, housing grew 9 percent from 2000 through 2006, with states in the southwest and southeast having the largest percentage gains.

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