

## Components of Population Change in North Dakota: July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2006

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, current population estimates indicate that North Dakota's population grew to 635,867 in 2006, an increase of 1,262 people from the year before (Table 1). While Burleigh and Cass Counties contributed significantly to overall growth statewide, 13 other counties in the state experienced an increase in population as well. Notably, 10 of these 15 growth counties were either on or west of the Missouri River.

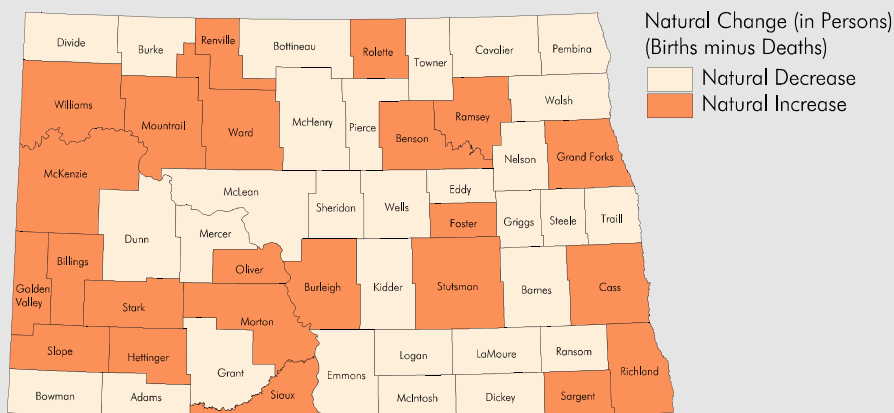
Population change is comprised of three components: births, deaths, and migration. The total number of births for a time period minus the number of deaths equals natural change. Net migration, which includes international and domestic movement, is the difference between people moving into an area and those moving away from an area. Between 2005 and 2006, North Dakota experienced 2,494 more births than deaths, or a natural increase. During this same period of time, 1,277 more residents moved away from North Dakota than moved into the state, thus resulting in net outmigration (Table 1). When net migration (-1,277) and

natural change (+2,494) are combined, the result is an overall population gain of 1,217 people. The reason this number is slightly lower than the 1,262 total gain reported by the Census Bureau is because a national population control must be applied to state and county population estimates in order to align them to the national estimate.

Figure 1. Components of Population Change in North Dakota by County: July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2006

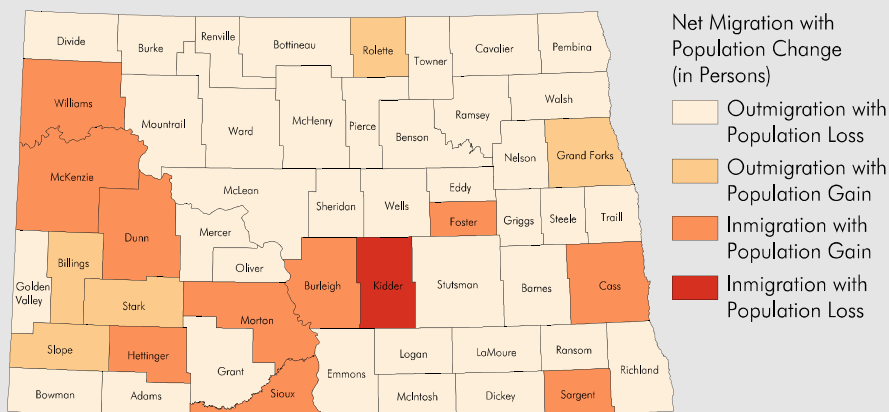
Note: Population change is comprised of three components: births, deaths, and migration.

Source: Table 5 - CO-EST2006-05-38 - Annual Estimates of the Components of Population Change for Counties of North Dakota: July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2006; Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau. Release Date: March 20, 2007, [www.census.gov/popest/counties/tables/CO-EST2006-05-38.xls](http://www.census.gov/popest/counties/tables/CO-EST2006-05-38.xls)



North Dakota's net outmigration was largely the result of domestic movement. Between 2005 and 2006, the state experienced net domestic outmigration of 2,113 people. At the same time, the state reported net international immigration of 836 people. Overall, net immigration was experienced in 11 of North Dakota's 53 counties (Table 1).

Natural increase was experienced in 23 North Dakota counties between 2005 and 2006. Of these 23 natural increase counties, nine had net outmigration that exceeded the growth from natural increase. In addition, one county with natural decrease had net immigration that exceeded the loss from natural decrease. As a result, 15 counties grew in total population between 2005 and 2006 (Figure 1).



For population estimates or components of change data for other states and counties and for more information on terms, definitions, and methodology, visit the Population Division of the U.S. Census Bureau at:

[www.census.gov/popest/estimates.php](http://www.census.gov/popest/estimates.php)

**Table 1. Components of Population Change in North Dakota by County: July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2006**

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Area	Total Population Change	Natural Change			Migration			Residual *
		Net (Births - Deaths)	Births	Deaths	Net (International + Domestic)	International	Domestic	
North Dakota	1,262	2,494	8,380	5,886	-1,277	836	-2,113	45
Adams	-62	-21	22	43	-40	0	-40	-1
Barnes	-51	-45	129	174	-8	8	-16	2
Benson	-26	76	129	53	-101	0	-101	-1
Billings	5	8	10	2	-3	1	-4	0
Bottineau	-90	-4	69	73	-86	7	-93	0
Bowman	-38	-17	24	41	-21	0	-21	0
Burke	-75	-20	14	34	-55	0	-55	0
Burleigh	1,484	551	990	439	935	40	895	-2
Cass	2,070	1,026	1,789	763	1,025	346	679	19
Cavalier	-175	-34	28	62	-140	4	-144	-1
Dickey	-60	-6	87	93	-55	1	-56	1
Divide	-54	-21	16	37	-34	0	-34	1
Dunn	10	-5	38	43	14	0	14	1
Eddy	-77	-21	20	41	-56	0	-56	0
Emmons	-114	-32	28	60	-83	0	-83	1
Foster	35	12	46	34	22	2	20	1
Golden Valley	-33	3	16	13	-37	0	-37	1
Grand Forks	225	430	903	473	-213	194	-407	8
Grant	-49	-21	22	43	-28	0	-28	0
Griggs	-36	-18	20	38	-19	0	-19	1
Hettinger	15	4	28	24	12	0	12	-1
Kidder	-5	-28	16	44	23	0	23	0
LaMoure	-91	-26	49	75	-65	0	-65	0
Logan	-53	-10	14	24	-44	0	-44	1
McHenry	-54	-16	59	75	-41	0	-41	3
McIntosh	-49	-33	42	75	-17	0	-17	1
McKenzie	89	32	87	55	57	4	53	0
McLean	-56	-44	87	131	-13	0	-13	1
Mercer	-89	-8	61	69	-82	4	-86	1
Morton	256	36	277	241	218	11	207	2
Mountrail	-88	4	103	99	-92	0	-92	0
Nelson	-123	-34	28	62	-88	0	-88	-1
Oliver	-12	15	26	11	-27	0	-27	0
Pembina	-75	-29	68	97	-48	2	-50	2
Pierce	-40	-18	38	56	-23	1	-24	1
Ramsey	-87	18	152	134	-105	8	-113	0
Ransom	-81	-20	65	85	-61	1	-62	0
Renville	-25	2	26	24	-27	1	-28	0
Richland	-399	50	214	164	-445	6	-451	-4
Rolette	47	166	323	157	-120	5	-125	1
Sargent	42	15	42	27	26	0	26	1
Sheridan	-36	-6	3	9	-31	0	-31	1
Sioux	86	71	97	26	13	0	13	2
Slope	3	3	3	0	-2	0	-2	2
Stark	48	96	288	192	-51	13	-64	3
Steele	-73	-18	12	30	-55	0	-55	0
Stutsman	-6	27	280	253	-36	12	-48	3
Towner	-95	-20	14	34	-74	0	-74	-1
Traill	-124	-33	91	124	-90	2	-92	-1
Walsh	-179	-76	103	179	-104	2	-106	1
Ward	-436	533	1,005	472	-964	153	-1,117	-5
Wells	-123	-39	32	71	-84	0	-84	0
Williams	186	39	247	208	146	8	138	1

Note: \*The estimated components of population change, when added together, will not equal the total population change because of a small residual. The residual results from the application of a national population control to state and county population estimates. The residual is the difference in state and county population before and after the application of the control. The residual is not a demographic component of population change.

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## North Dakota's Population Sees Slight Growth Despite Net Outmigration

North Dakota experienced an overall net outmigration of 1,277 people between 2005 and 2006. During the same time, the state experienced 2,494 more births than deaths (a natural increase). Because North Dakota's natural increase was larger than net outmigration, the overall population for the state increased by 1,262 people between 2005 and 2006.

This month's "Population Bulletin," a monthly publication from the North Dakota State Data Center at North Dakota State University, focuses on components of North Dakota's population change (births, deaths, and migration) between July 1, 2005 and July 1, 2006 as released from the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Division. As of July 1, 2006, the state's population totaled 635,867, an increase of 1,262 people since July 1, 2005 (634,605 people).

Migration statistics are comprised of domestic and international (foreign) movement. North Dakota's net outmigration of 1,277 people between 2005 and 2006 was largely the result of domestic movement. During this time, the state experienced net domestic *outmigration* of 2,113 people leaving North Dakota for another state. At the same time, the state experienced a net international *immigration* of 836 people. The difference between domestic and foreign movement resulted in a net loss of 1,277 North Dakota residents due to migration alone.

Population change is also affected by natural change (births minus deaths). Between 2005 and 2006, North Dakota reported 8,380 births and 5,886 deaths. The difference between births and deaths resulted in a natural increase of 2,494 residents. When net migration (-1,277) and natural change (+2,494) are combined, the result is an overall population gain of 1,217 people. The reason this number (1,217) is slightly lower than the 1,262 total gain reported by the Census Bureau is because a national population control must be applied to state and county population estimates in order to align them to the national estimate.

Natural increase was experienced in 23 North Dakota counties between 2005 and 2006. Of these 23 natural increase counties, nine had net outmigration that exceeded the growth from natural increase, resulting in an overall net population loss for these nine counties. The remaining 14 natural increase counties had an overall population growth. In addition, one county with natural decline had net immigration that exceeded the loss from natural decline, resulting in a net population gain for that county. As a result, 15 counties had an increase in total population between 2005 and 2006. "I think the most promising aspect from these latest data is the fact that the majority of net immigration counties in our state are western counties. This is very encouraging news and hopefully we can expand these numbers in the future," said Richard Rathge, Director of the State Data Center.

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