

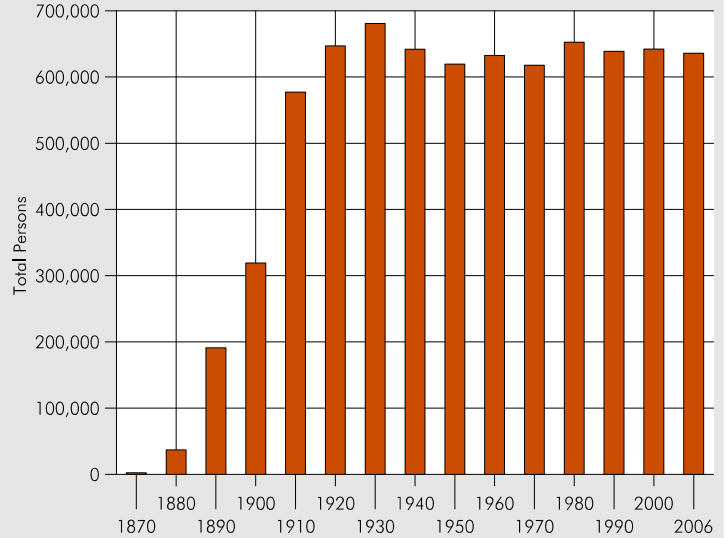
## Annual Population for North Dakota: April 1, Census 2000 to the July 1, 2006 Estimate

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, current population estimates indicate that North Dakota's population was 635,867 in 2006, up 0.2 percent from 634,605 in 2005 (Table 1). Readers may notice that the 2005 estimate of 634,605 differs from the 2005 estimate released one year ago. It is important to recognize that most administrative record data sources used in calculating these estimates lag the current estimate year by up to two years. As updated data become available, the past years' estimates are revised so that the current year is always based on the most recent data available. For more information on methodology, visit the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Division at [www.census.gov/popest/estimates.php](http://www.census.gov/popest/estimates.php).

Within North Dakota, population grew in 15 counties between 2005 and 2006 (Figure 2). Sioux and Burleigh counties had the largest percentage growth (2.1 percent and 2.0 percent, respectively) followed by Cass and McKenzie counties (1.6 percent each). Cavalier County showed the largest percentage decline during this period (-4.1 percent), followed by Towner County (-3.8 percent). Population within North Dakota continues to be centralized. The majority of people living in North Dakota (55.7 percent) reside in the top five populated counties (Cass, Burleigh, Grand Forks, Ward, and Morton); this proportion is up from 53.4 percent in 2000.

Among all the states in the nation in 2006, North Dakota ranked 48<sup>th</sup> in total population and had the 9<sup>th</sup> lowest population growth rate between 2005 and 2006. Three states lost population during this time: Louisiana (-4.9 percent), Rhode Island (-0.6 percent), and Michigan (-0.1 percent). The fastest growing states were Nevada and Arizona (3.5 percent and 3.6 percent, respectively).

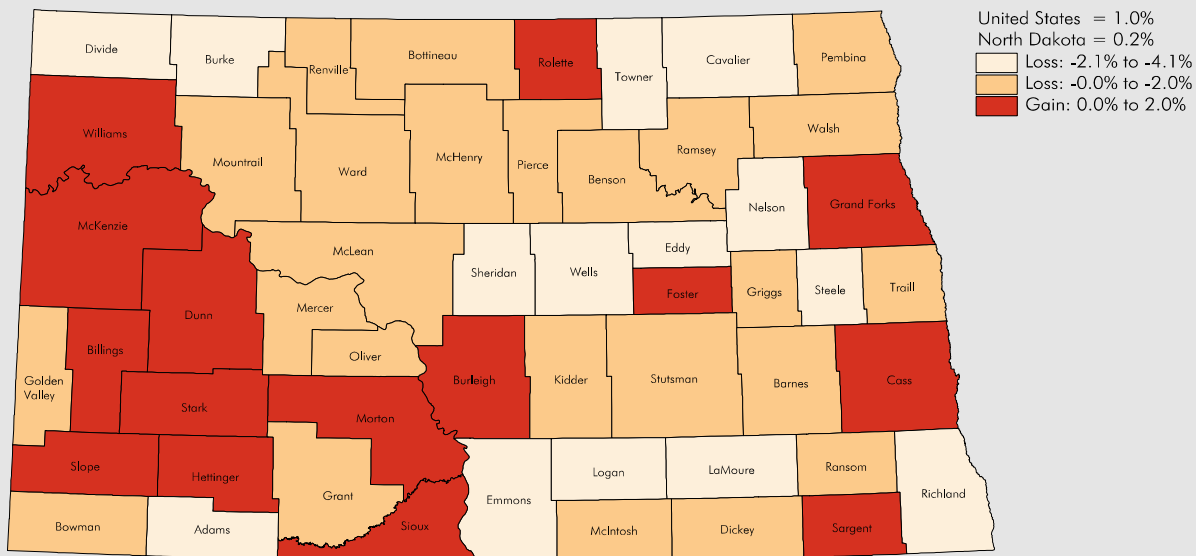
Figure 1. Total Population in North Dakota: 1870 to 2006



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

Figure 2. Percent Change in Total Population Estimates for North Dakota by County: July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2006

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Table 1. Annual Estimates of the Population for Counties: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2006 (CO-EST2006-01-38), [www.census.gov/popest/estimates.php](http://www.census.gov/popest/estimates.php).



**Table 1. Annual Population for North Dakota by County: April 1, Census 2000 to the July 1, 2006 Estimate**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Table 1. Annual Estimates of the Population for Counties: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2006 (CO-EST2006-01-38), www.census.gov/popest/estimates.php.

| Area          | April 1, Census 2000 | July 1, Population Estimates |         |         |         |         |         |         | Change: July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2006 |         |
|---------------|----------------------|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------------------------|---------|
|               |                      | 2000                         | 2001    | 2002    | 2003    | 2004    | 2005    | 2006    | Numeric                              | Percent |
| North Dakota  | 642,200              | 641,193                      | 636,349 | 633,649 | 632,620 | 635,848 | 634,605 | 635,867 | 1,262                                | 0.2     |
| Adams         | 2,593                | 2,578                        | 2,544   | 2,506   | 2,457   | 2,440   | 2,394   | 2,332   | -62                                  | -2.6    |
| Barnes        | 11,775               | 11,717                       | 11,442  | 11,248  | 11,114  | 11,103  | 11,006  | 10,955  | -51                                  | -0.5    |
| Benson        | 6,964                | 6,961                        | 6,985   | 6,862   | 6,893   | 6,994   | 7,023   | 6,997   | -26                                  | -0.4    |
| Billings      | 888                  | 874                          | 885     | 873     | 846     | 820     | 824     | 829     | 5                                    | 0.6     |
| Bottineau     | 7,149                | 7,118                        | 7,011   | 6,884   | 6,852   | 6,771   | 6,740   | 6,650   | -90                                  | -1.3    |
| Bowman        | 3,242                | 3,230                        | 3,123   | 3,088   | 3,069   | 3,094   | 3,029   | 2,991   | -38                                  | -1.3    |
| Burke         | 2,242                | 2,232                        | 2,175   | 2,116   | 2,095   | 2,072   | 2,022   | 1,947   | -75                                  | -3.7    |
| Burleigh      | 69,416               | 69,523                       | 70,087  | 70,922  | 71,712  | 72,504  | 73,900  | 75,384  | 1,484                                | 2.0     |
| Cass          | 123,138              | 123,392                      | 124,382 | 125,234 | 126,548 | 129,500 | 130,455 | 132,525 | 2,070                                | 1.6     |
| Cavalier      | 4,831                | 4,809                        | 4,674   | 4,578   | 4,494   | 4,376   | 4,274   | 4,099   | -175                                 | -4.1    |
| Dickey        | 5,757                | 5,751                        | 5,670   | 5,558   | 5,465   | 5,565   | 5,458   | 5,398   | -60                                  | -1.1    |
| Divide        | 2,283                | 2,265                        | 2,181   | 2,198   | 2,206   | 2,198   | 2,146   | 2,092   | -54                                  | -2.5    |
| Dunn          | 3,600                | 3,601                        | 3,564   | 3,536   | 3,535   | 3,448   | 3,433   | 3,443   | 10                                   | 0.3     |
| Eddy          | 2,757                | 2,740                        | 2,676   | 2,629   | 2,614   | 2,609   | 2,579   | 2,502   | -77                                  | -3.0    |
| Emmons        | 4,331                | 4,306                        | 4,198   | 4,088   | 4,010   | 3,918   | 3,759   | 3,645   | -114                                 | -3.0    |
| Foster        | 3,759                | 3,741                        | 3,642   | 3,576   | 3,510   | 3,515   | 3,548   | 3,583   | 35                                   | 1.0     |
| Golden Valley | 1,924                | 1,918                        | 1,858   | 1,829   | 1,821   | 1,761   | 1,724   | 1,691   | -33                                  | -1.9    |
| Grand Forks   | 66,109               | 65,871                       | 65,214  | 64,829  | 64,659  | 65,947  | 65,210  | 65,435  | 225                                  | 0.3     |
| Grant         | 2,841                | 2,836                        | 2,818   | 2,726   | 2,690   | 2,646   | 2,637   | 2,588   | -49                                  | -1.9    |
| Griggs        | 2,754                | 2,731                        | 2,641   | 2,598   | 2,568   | 2,519   | 2,492   | 2,456   | -36                                  | -1.4    |
| Hettinger     | 2,715                | 2,693                        | 2,633   | 2,591   | 2,539   | 2,569   | 2,549   | 2,564   | 15                                   | 0.6     |
| Kidder        | 2,753                | 2,736                        | 2,668   | 2,591   | 2,592   | 2,548   | 2,458   | 2,453   | -5                                   | -0.2    |
| LaMoure       | 4,701                | 4,680                        | 4,622   | 4,567   | 4,518   | 4,485   | 4,353   | 4,262   | -91                                  | -2.1    |
| Logan         | 2,308                | 2,296                        | 2,218   | 2,191   | 2,123   | 2,092   | 2,052   | 1,999   | -53                                  | -2.6    |
| McHenry       | 5,987                | 5,952                        | 5,812   | 5,722   | 5,698   | 5,603   | 5,483   | 5,429   | -54                                  | -1.0    |
| McIntosh      | 3,390                | 3,378                        | 3,311   | 3,228   | 3,197   | 3,080   | 3,005   | 2,956   | -49                                  | -1.6    |
| McKenzie      | 5,737                | 5,712                        | 5,663   | 5,673   | 5,574   | 5,508   | 5,611   | 5,700   | 89                                   | 1.6     |
| McLean        | 9,311                | 9,265                        | 9,164   | 9,035   | 8,946   | 8,809   | 8,599   | 8,543   | -56                                  | -0.7    |
| Mercer        | 8,644                | 8,606                        | 8,556   | 8,521   | 8,477   | 8,406   | 8,323   | 8,234   | -89                                  | -1.1    |
| Morton        | 25,303               | 25,335                       | 25,147  | 25,216  | 25,167  | 25,322  | 25,498  | 25,754  | 256                                  | 1.0     |
| Mountrail     | 6,631                | 6,603                        | 6,557   | 6,493   | 6,473   | 6,534   | 6,530   | 6,442   | -88                                  | -1.3    |
| Nelson        | 3,715                | 3,698                        | 3,603   | 3,458   | 3,422   | 3,436   | 3,412   | 3,289   | -123                                 | -3.6    |
| Oliver        | 2,065                | 2,056                        | 1,987   | 1,950   | 1,898   | 1,867   | 1,820   | 1,808   | -12                                  | -0.7    |
| Pembina       | 8,585                | 8,554                        | 8,369   | 8,262   | 8,220   | 8,150   | 7,981   | 7,906   | -75                                  | -0.9    |
| Pierce        | 4,675                | 4,663                        | 4,597   | 4,531   | 4,442   | 4,353   | 4,261   | 4,221   | -40                                  | -0.9    |
| Ramsey        | 12,066               | 12,026                       | 11,812  | 11,751  | 11,565  | 11,442  | 11,354  | 11,267  | -87                                  | -0.8    |
| Ransom        | 5,890                | 5,895                        | 5,862   | 5,836   | 5,845   | 5,808   | 5,776   | 5,695   | -81                                  | -1.4    |
| Renville      | 2,610                | 2,594                        | 2,528   | 2,530   | 2,487   | 2,455   | 2,450   | 2,425   | -25                                  | -1.0    |
| Richland      | 17,998               | 17,953                       | 17,628  | 17,440  | 17,599  | 17,435  | 17,287  | 16,888  | -399                                 | -2.3    |
| Rolette       | 13,674               | 13,685                       | 13,793  | 13,766  | 13,715  | 13,838  | 13,856  | 13,903  | 47                                   | 0.3     |
| Sargent       | 4,366                | 4,358                        | 4,344   | 4,282   | 4,211   | 4,118   | 4,156   | 4,198   | 42                                   | 1.0     |
| Sheridan      | 1,710                | 1,698                        | 1,632   | 1,572   | 1,527   | 1,461   | 1,444   | 1,408   | -36                                  | -2.5    |
| Sioux         | 4,044                | 4,065                        | 4,027   | 4,115   | 4,128   | 4,147   | 4,196   | 4,282   | 86                                   | 2.1     |
| Slope         | 767                  | 758                          | 754     | 744     | 746     | 720     | 710     | 713     | 3                                    | 0.4     |
| Stark         | 22,636               | 22,547                       | 22,308  | 22,173  | 22,104  | 22,122  | 22,119  | 22,167  | 48                                   | 0.2     |
| Steele        | 2,258                | 2,241                        | 2,181   | 2,113   | 2,073   | 2,059   | 2,016   | 1,943   | -73                                  | -3.6    |
| Stutsman      | 21,908               | 21,854                       | 21,567  | 21,367  | 21,142  | 20,872  | 20,767  | 20,761  | -6                                   | 0.0     |
| Towner        | 2,876                | 2,856                        | 2,777   | 2,711   | 2,643   | 2,576   | 2,512   | 2,417   | -95                                  | -3.8    |
| Traill        | 8,477                | 8,470                        | 8,359   | 8,307   | 8,259   | 8,326   | 8,302   | 8,178   | -124                                 | -1.5    |
| Walsh         | 12,389               | 12,362                       | 12,130  | 11,873  | 11,744  | 11,608  | 11,541  | 11,362  | -179                                 | -1.6    |
| Ward          | 58,795               | 58,666                       | 57,607  | 56,858  | 56,355  | 56,442  | 55,706  | 55,270  | -436                                 | -0.8    |
| Wells         | 5,102                | 5,082                        | 4,891   | 4,808   | 4,703   | 4,630   | 4,555   | 4,432   | -123                                 | -2.7    |
| Williams      | 19,761               | 19,662                       | 19,472  | 19,496  | 19,330  | 19,227  | 19,270  | 19,456  | 186                                  | 1.0     |

Date of Release: May 3, 2007

## North Dakota's Population Reflects Modest Growth in 2006

North Dakota's population grew to 635,867 in 2006, a slight increase of 0.2 percent from 634,605 in 2005.

This month's "Population Bulletin," a monthly publication from the North Dakota State Data Center at North Dakota State University, focuses on county population estimates recently released from the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Division. Readers may notice that the 2005 estimate of 634,605 differs from the 2005 estimate released one year ago. It is important to recognize that most administrative record data sources used in calculating these population estimates lag the current estimate year by up to two years. As updated data become available, the past years' estimates are revised so that the current year is always based on the most recent data available. "This lag effect can be the source of both confusion and frustration for those monitoring population change. However, it is important that we use the most accurate and updated data, especially in trend lines. Thus, we need to deal with systematic corrections," said Richard Rathge, Director of the State Data Center.

Within North Dakota, population grew in 15 counties between 2005 and 2006. Sioux and Burleigh counties had the largest percentage growth (2.1 percent and 2.0 percent, respectively) followed by Cass and McKenzie counties (1.6 percent each). Cavalier County showed the largest percentage decline during this period (-4.1 percent), followed by Towner County (-3.8 percent). Population within North Dakota continues to be centralized. The majority of people living in North Dakota (55.7 percent) reside in the top five populated counties (Cass, Burleigh, Grand Forks, Ward, and Morton); this proportion is up from 53.4 percent in 2000.

Among all the states in the nation in 2006, North Dakota ranked 48<sup>th</sup> in total population and had the 9<sup>th</sup> lowest population growth rate between 2005 and 2006. Three states lost population during this time: Louisiana (-4.9 percent), Rhode Island (-0.6 percent), and Michigan (-0.1 percent). The fastest growing states were Nevada and Arizona (3.5 percent and 3.6 percent, respectively).

\*\*\*

|                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                 |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <p><b>North Dakota State Data Center</b><br/>North Dakota State University<br/>IACC Building, Room 424 or PO Box 5636<br/>Fargo, North Dakota 58105-5636<br/>Ph: (701) 231-7980 Fax: (701) 231-9730</p> | <p>For more information, contact:</p>                                              |                                                                                                                                 |  |
| <p>Dr. Richard Rathge, Director<br/>(701) 231-8621<br/>richard.rathge@ndsu.edu</p>                                                                                                                      | <p>Karen Olson, Information Specialist<br/>(701) 231-1060<br/>k.olson@ndsu.edu</p> | <p>View publication online at:<br/><a href="http://www.ndsu.edu/sdc/publications.htm">www.ndsu.edu/sdc/publications.htm</a></p> |  |