

## Components of Population Change in North Dakota: July 1, 2006 to July 1, 2007

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, current population estimates indicate that North Dakota's population grew to 639,715 in 2007, an increase of 2,255 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.

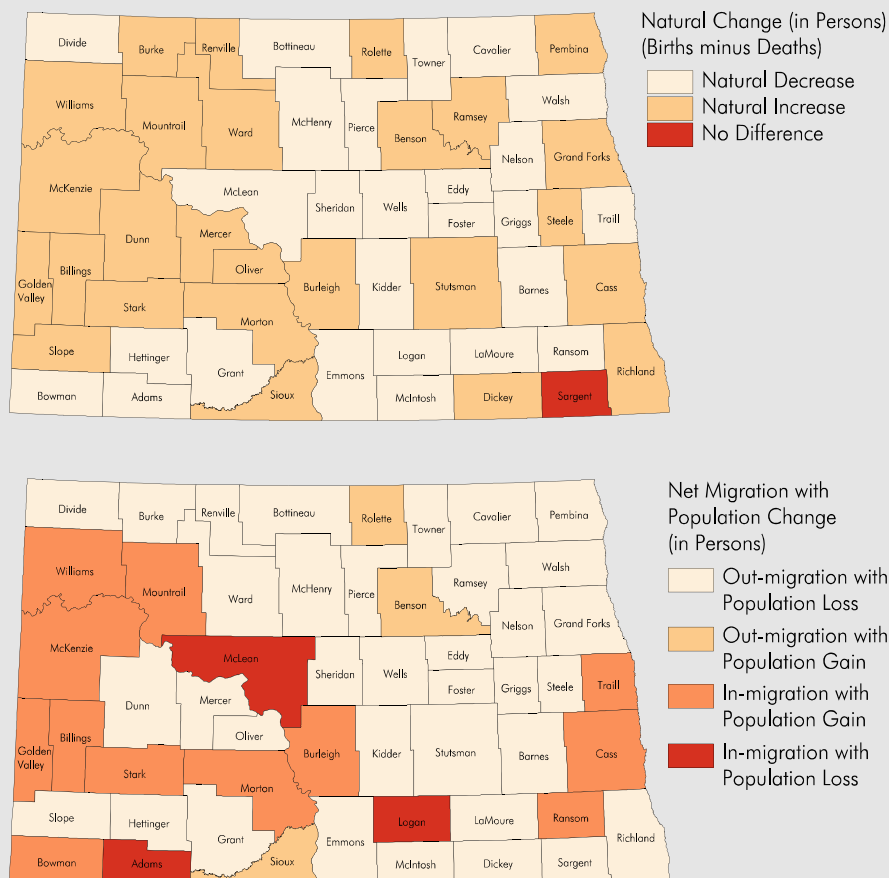
Population change is comprised of three components: births, deaths, and migration. The total number of births for a time period minus the number of deaths equals natural change. Net migration, which includes international and domestic movement, is the difference between people moving into an area and those moving away from an area. Between 2006 and 2007, North Dakota experienced 2,998 more births than deaths, or a natural increase. During this same period of time, 696 more residents moved away from North Dakota than moved into the state, thus resulting in net out-migration (Table 1). When net migration (-696) and

natural change (+2,998) are combined, the result is an overall population gain of 2,302 people. The reason this number is slightly lower than the 2,255 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, 2006 to July 1, 2007

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

Source: Table 5 - CO-EST2007-05-38 - Annual Estimates of the Components of Population Change for Counties of North Dakota: July 1, 2006 to July 1, 2007; Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau. Release Date: March 20, 2008, [www.census.gov/popest/counties/tables/CO-EST2007-05-38.xls](http://www.census.gov/popest/counties/tables/CO-EST2007-05-38.xls)



North Dakota's net out-migration largely was the result of domestic movement. Between 2006 and 2007, the state experienced net domestic out-migration of 1,136 people. At the same time, the state reported net international in-migration of 440 people. Overall, net in-migration was experienced in 15 of North Dakota's 53 counties (Table 1).

Natural increase was experienced in 26 North Dakota counties between 2006 and 2007. Of these 26 natural increase counties, 14 had net out-migration that exceeded the growth from natural increase. In addition, three counties with natural decrease had net in-migration that exceeded the loss from natural decrease. As a result, 15 counties grew in total population between 2006 and 2007 (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, 2006 to July 1, 2007**

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Area	July 1, 2007 Total Population	July 1, 2006 to July 1, 2007							
		Total Population Change	Natural Change			Migration			Residual *
			Net (Births - Deaths)	Births	Deaths	Net (International + Domestic)	International	Domestic	
North Dakota	639,715	2,255	2,998	8,572	5,574	-696	440	-1,136	-47
Adams	2,279	-13	-12	18	30	2	-1	3	-3
Barnes	10,783	-91	-26	109	135	-61	5	-66	-4
Benson	6,971	36	112	163	51	-78	-	-78	2
Billings	798	21	5	7	2	17	2	15	-1
Bottineau	6,409	-90	-24	64	88	-70	2	-72	4
Bowman	2,944	9	-7	27	34	15	-	15	1
Burke	1,862	-50	1	19	18	-48	1	-49	-3
Burleigh	77,316	1,633	483	1,053	570	1,158	26	1,132	-8
Cass	137,582	2,424	1,210	2,006	796	1,200	294	906	14
Cavalier	3,911	-149	-18	31	49	-128	5	-133	-3
Dickey	5,356	-31	3	72	69	-36	2	-38	2
Divide	2,004	-41	-7	18	25	-32	1	-33	-2
Dunn	3,308	-16	8	33	25	-21	1	-22	-3
Eddy	2,430	-33	-3	25	28	-28	1	-29	-2
Emmons	3,470	-138	-18	27	45	-109	-	-109	-11
Foster	3,490	-38	-5	48	53	-30	3	-33	-3
Golden Valley	1,670	8	7	14	7	6	1	5	-5
Grand Forks	66,983	-151	492	904	412	-655	70	-725	12
Grant	2,467	-43	-16	20	36	-29	1	-30	2
Griggs	2,397	-28	-23	21	44	-4	-	-4	-1
Hettinger	2,427	-54	-18	19	37	-37	-	-37	1
Kidder	2,349	-59	-1	25	26	-55	-	-55	-3
LaMoure	4,110	-72	-14	41	55	-53	-	-53	-5
Logan	1,956	-4	-6	15	21	3	1	2	-1
McHenry	5,224	-151	-2	54	56	-140	-1	-139	-9
McIntosh	2,752	-125	-38	24	62	-86	1	-87	-1
McKenzie	5,617	75	13	70	57	64	5	59	-2
McLean	8,349	-6	-36	78	114	29	-1	30	1
Mercer	7,972	-29	11	82	71	-38	4	-42	-2
Morton	25,926	355	134	362	228	212	8	204	9
Mountrail	6,481	65	33	109	76	35	-	35	-3
Nelson	3,217	-48	-44	25	69	-4	-1	-3	0
Oliver	1,725	-31	3	10	7	-32	1	-33	-2
Pembina	7,531	-228	2	76	74	-223	-	-223	-7
Pierce	4,103	-61	-28	37	65	-33	2	-35	0
Ramsey	11,189	-12	4	147	143	-19	5	-24	3
Ransom	5,682	8	-17	61	78	23	2	21	2
Renville	2,314	-66	1	21	20	-67	-1	-66	0
Richland	16,498	-262	43	190	147	-301	4	-305	-4
Rolette	13,665	61	213	319	106	-149	5	-154	-3
Sargent	4,110	-28	-	39	39	-29	-	-29	1
Sheridan	1,320	-50	-8	6	14	-40	1	-41	-2
Sioux	4,223	24	99	116	17	-74	-	-74	-1
Slope	659	-30	6	6	-	-35	1	-36	-1
Stark	22,458	318	65	281	216	246	11	235	7
Steele	1,840	-68	9	14	5	-72	-	-72	-5
Stutsman	20,480	-286	1	218	217	-288	6	-294	1
Towner	2,292	-92	-21	18	39	-73	-	-73	2
Traill	8,069	72	-5	89	94	99	-1	100	-22
Walsh	11,011	-207	-24	137	161	-184	3	-187	1
Ward	55,927	-179	438	917	479	-628	-34	-594	11
Wells	4,269	-77	-28	33	61	-48	1	-49	-1
Williams	19,540	283	51	254	203	232	4	228	0

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 Grows Due to More Births and Less Out-migration

North Dakota experienced 2,998 more births than deaths (a natural increase) between 2006 and 2007, the largest annual natural increase since 2000. During the same time, the state experienced an overall net out-migration of 696 people, one-fourth the out-migration from two years ago. Because North Dakota's natural increase was larger than net out-migration, the overall population for the state increased by 2,255 people between 2006 and 2007. "Much of this population growth we are experiencing is due to North Dakota's robust economy, especially in agriculture and energy development. This is reflected in the increasing number of western counties that are net importers of people," said Richard Rathge, Director of the State Data Center.

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, 2006 and July 1, 2007 as released from the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Division.

As of July 1, 2007, the state's population totaled 639,715, an increase of 2,255 people since July 1, 2006 (637,460 people). Migration statistics are comprised of domestic and international movement. North Dakota's net out-migration of 696 people between 2006 and 2007 largely was the result of domestic movement. During this period, the state experienced net domestic out-migration of 1,136 people leaving North Dakota for another state. At the same time, the state experienced a net international in-migration of 440 people. The difference between domestic and foreign movement resulted in a net loss of 696 North Dakota residents due to migration alone.

Population change also is affected by natural change (births minus deaths). Between 2006 and 2007, North Dakota reported 8,572 births and 5,574 deaths. The difference between births and deaths resulted in a natural population increase of 2,998 residents. When net migration (minus 696) and natural change (plus 2,998) are combined, the result is an overall population gain of 2,302 people. The reason this number (2,302) is slightly higher than the 2,255 total gain reported by the Census Bureau is because a national population control must be applied to state and county population estimates to align them to the national estimate.

A natural population increase was experienced in 26 North Dakota counties between 2006 and 2007. Of these 26 natural-increase counties, 14 had net out-migration that exceeded the growth from natural increase resulting in an overall population loss for these 14 counties. The remaining 12 natural-increase counties had an overall population growth. In addition, three counties with natural decline had net in-migration that exceeded the loss from natural decline, resulting in a net population gain. As a result, 15 counties grew in total population between 2006 and 2007.

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