

## The 2008 Age Distribution of North Dakota Residents

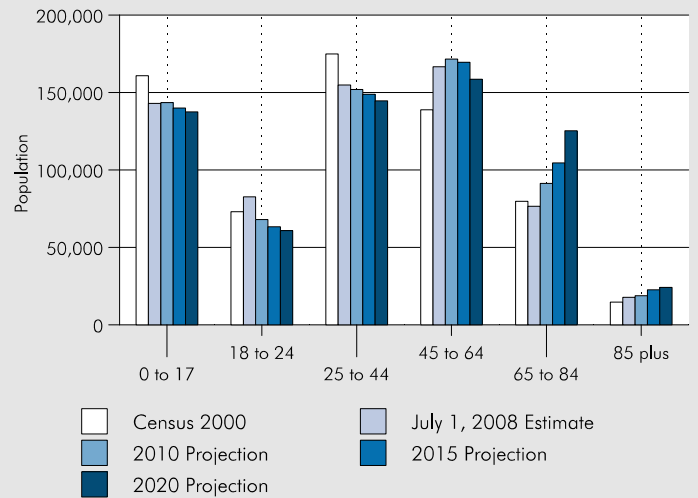
Changes in North Dakota's age distribution from 2000 to 2008 indicate losses in the number of children ages 0 to 17 (11.1 percent) and the workforce-age population (i.e., ages 25 to 44) (11.4 percent). Population projections through 2020 suggest continued losses in both age groups (Figure 1).

In contrast, North Dakota's young adults (i.e., ages 18 to 24) grew 13.0 percent from 2000 to 2008, pre-retirees (i.e., ages 45 to 64) grew 20.0 percent, and the oldest residents (i.e., ages 85 and older) grew 20.7 percent (Table 1).

While the number of young adults grew over the past eight years, projections indicate that with fewer children aging into this age group, the numbers will begin to fall. Likewise, as baby boomers (i.e., the large age cohort born during the 20-year period after WWII) enter retirement, the 45 to 64 age cohort will decline as well.

However, as the baby boom generation ages, the 65 to 84 age cohort will grow considerably.

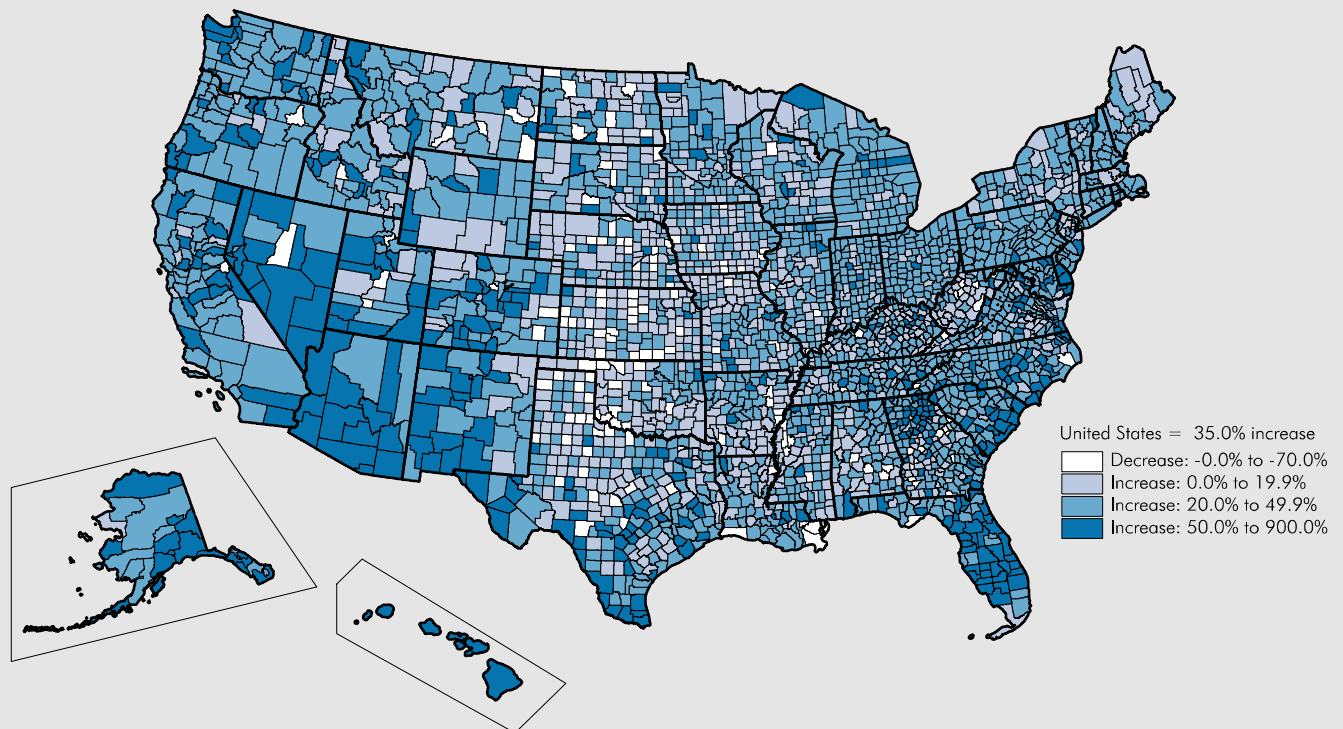
**Figure 1. Population by Age Group in North Dakota**  
Census 2000; July 1, 2008 Estimate; 2010, 2015, and 2020 Projections



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Branch, [www.census.gov/popest/national/asrh/](http://www.census.gov/popest/national/asrh/); and the North Dakota State Data Center, *North Dakota Population Projections: 2005 to 2020*.

**Figure 2. Percent Change in the Number of Residents Ages 85 and Older by County: 2000 to 2008**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Branch, 7/1/2008 County Characteristics Resident Population Estimates File, [www.census.gov/popest/counties/asrh/](http://www.census.gov/popest/counties/asrh/).



**Table 1. Population by Age Group in North Dakota by County: Census 2000 and the July 1, 2008 Estimate**

Note: "% Chg" represents the percent change in population between Census 2000 and the July 1, 2008 population estimate.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Branch, Table CC-EST2008-AGESEX-38: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Selected Age Groups and Sex for Counties in North Dakota: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2008, [www.census.gov/popest/counties/asrh/](http://www.census.gov/popest/counties/asrh/).

Area	Ages 0 to 17			Ages 18 to 24			Ages 25 to 44			Ages 45 to 64			Ages 65 to 84			Ages 85 and older		
	2000	2008	% Chg	2000	2008	% Chg	2000	2008	% Chg	2000	2008	% Chg	2000	2008	% Chg	2000	2008	% Chg
North Dakota	160,849	143,048	-11.1	73,118	82,629	13.0	174,891	154,913	-11.4	138,864	166,615	20.0	79,752	76,504	-4.1	14,726	17,772	20.7
Adams	601	390	-35.1	107	186	73.8	562	368	-34.5	699	711	1.7	511	440	-13.9	113	149	31.9
Barnes	2,624	2,047	-22.0	1,325	1,390	4.9	2,711	2,137	-21.2	2,783	3,018	8.4	1,917	1,637	-14.6	415	453	9.2
Benson	2,513	2,313	-8.0	541	771	42.5	1,621	1,416	-12.6	1,348	1,533	13.7	792	760	-4.0	149	160	7.4
Billings	221	147	-33.5	40	81	102.5	236	154	-34.7	249	290	16.5	127	112	-11.8	15	27	80.0
Bottineau	1,587	1,127	-29.0	573	669	16.8	1,597	1,059	-33.7	1,870	2,103	12.5	1,248	1,093	-12.4	274	287	4.7
Bowman	780	576	-26.2	171	276	61.4	798	589	-26.2	786	934	18.8	581	517	-11.0	126	127	0.8
Burke	467	335	-28.3	78	113	44.9	500	264	-47.2	635	671	5.7	497	354	-28.8	65	83	27.7
Burleigh	17,175	17,111	-0.4	7,640	9,589	25.5	20,322	21,613	6.4	15,639	19,766	26.4	7,442	8,824	18.6	1,198	1,786	49.1
Cass	28,848	31,914	10.6	19,667	20,780	5.7	38,568	42,612	10.5	24,154	30,972	28.2	10,172	11,362	11.7	1,729	2,278	31.8
Cavalier	1,188	670	-43.6	180	305	69.4	1,028	458	-55.4	1,328	1,384	4.2	926	816	-11.9	181	208	14.9
Dickey	1,369	1,154	-15.7	589	669	13.6	1,293	923	-28.6	1,277	1,379	8.0	989	849	-14.2	240	263	9.6
Divide	462	300	-35.1	82	148	80.5	458	319	-30.3	607	705	16.1	544	389	-28.5	130	125	-3.8
Dunn	986	699	-29.1	207	336	62.3	848	633	-25.4	934	1,075	15.1	536	470	-12.3	89	105	18.0
Eddy	651	466	-28.4	168	139	-17.3	619	449	-27.5	637	728	14.3	562	466	-17.1	120	140	16.7
Emmons	1,075	666	-38.0	161	234	45.3	965	488	-49.4	1,023	1,089	6.5	933	734	-21.3	174	166	-4.6
Foster	985	717	-27.2	207	243	17.4	973	713	-26.7	791	981	24.0	688	670	-2.6	115	123	7.0
Golden Valley	545	392	-28.1	99	131	32.3	427	273	-36.1	443	494	11.5	333	251	-24.6	77	99	28.6
Grand Forks	15,735	14,308	-9.1	12,985	14,542	12.0	19,020	16,247	-14.6	12,001	14,606	21.7	5,435	5,734	5.5	933	1,148	23.0
Grant	666	417	-37.4	121	195	61.2	581	401	-31.0	770	752	(2.3)	568	520	-8.5	135	130	-3.7
Griggs	621	405	-34.8	135	165	22.2	580	390	-32.8	710	792	11.5	577	475	-17.7	131	132	0.8
Hettinger	634	364	-42.6	105	200	90.5	561	386	-31.2	732	762	4.1	585	533	-8.9	98	133	35.7
Kidder	638	416	-34.8	137	174	27.0	630	375	-40.5	686	784	14.3	567	448	-21.0	95	93	-2.1
LaMoure	1,138	755	-33.7	254	321	26.4	1,081	673	-37.7	1,128	1,267	12.3	933	796	-14.7	167	174	4.2
Logan	522	349	-33.1	84	143	70.2	502	293	-41.6	577	585	1.4	532	465	-12.6	91	108	18.7
McHenry	1,434	1,008	-29.7	355	469	32.1	1,393	1,012	-27.4	1,500	1,639	9.3	1,074	803	-25.2	231	237	2.6
McIntosh	656	408	-37.8	155	149	-3.9	659	381	-42.2	760	746	(1.8)	935	726	-22.4	225	229	1.8
McKenzie	1,756	1,303	-25.8	317	628	98.1	1,338	1,085	-18.9	1,426	1,755	23.1	772	749	-3.0	128	154	20.3
McLean	2,212	1,519	-31.3	479	774	61.6	2,118	1,469	-30.6	2,602	2,836	9.0	1,608	1,395	-13.2	292	344	17.8
Mercer	2,513	1,548	-38.4	367	801	118.3	2,381	1,363	-42.8	2,150	2,931	36.3	1,052	1,005	-4.5	181	206	13.8
Morton	6,823	6,164	-9.7	1,981	2,418	22.1	7,135	6,615	-7.3	5,671	7,256	27.9	3,175	3,161	-0.4	518	641	23.7
Mountrail	1,860	1,705	-8.3	452	707	56.4	1,537	1,335	-13.1	1,608	1,766	9.8	961	790	-17.8	213	208	-2.3
Nelson	820	488	-40.5	148	259	75.0	755	532	-29.5	973	975	0.2	843	703	-16.6	176	209	18.8
Oliver	566	307	-45.8	98	157	60.2	486	246	-49.4	622	694	11.6	265	244	-7.9	28	47	67.9
Pembina	2,140	1,414	-33.9	533	674	26.5	2,113	1,389	-34.3	2,125	2,473	16.4	1,406	1,165	-17.1	268	304	13.4
Pierce	1,115	803	-28.0	256	329	28.5	1,117	741	-33.7	1,060	1,196	12.8	912	800	-12.3	215	222	3.3
Ramsey	3,019	2,575	-14.7	969	1,150	18.7	3,123	2,300	-26.4	2,689	3,250	20.9	1,842	1,536	-16.6	424	423	-0.2
Ransom	1,471	1,223	-16.9	349	391	12.0	1,498	1,404	-6.3	1,322	1,551	17.3	1,022	849	-16.9	228	210	-7.9
Renville	609	396	-35.0	127	160	26.0	638	425	-33.4	661	737	11.5	465	416	-10.5	110	111	0.9
Richland	4,437	3,604	-18.8	2,604	2,382	-8.5	4,613	3,379	-26.8	3,598	4,571	27.0	2,258	1,819	-19.4	488	579	18.6
Rolette	4,985	4,584	-8.0	1,305	1,662	27.4	3,529	3,060	-13.3	2,530	3,040	20.2	1,159	1,111	-4.1	166	200	20.5
Sargent	1,155	861	-25.5	230	313	36.1	1,121	810	-27.7	1,120	1,240	10.7	657	682	3.8	83	142	71.1
Sheridan	366	170	-53.6	65	76	16.9	340	148	-56.5	484	466	(3.7)	404	329	-18.6	51	77	51.0
Sioux	1,630	1,499	-8.0	447	590	32.0	1,087	1,037	-4.6	654	763	16.7	220	306	39.1	6	37	516.7
Slope	194	118	-39.2	32	70	118.8	192	114	-40.6	212	251	18.4	127	107	-15.7	10	15	50.0
Stark	5,781	4,864	-15.9	2,625	2,927	11.5	5,879	5,242	-10.8	4,841	5,871	21.3	2,989	2,982	-0.2	521	689	32.2
Steele	624	344	-44.9	107	163	52.3	521	323	-38.0	564	609	8.0	401	296	-26.2	41	60	46.3
Stutsman	5,005	3,885	-22.4	2,308	2,390	3.6	5,639	4,525	-19.8	5,094	5,929	16.4	3,268	2,932	-10.3	594	733	23.4
Towner	708	351	-50.4	103	178	72.8	690	308	-55.4	705	826	17.2	537	406	-24.4	133	133	0.0
Traill	2,104	1,676	-20.3	820	893	8.9	2,101	1,631	-22.4	1,829	2,169	18.6	1,339	1,107	-17.3	284	344	21.1
Walsh	3,091	2,343	-24.2	807	885	9.7	3,100	2,186	-29.5	3,001	3,332	11.0	2,014	1,700	-15.6	376	434	15.4
Ward	15,423	14,802	-4.0	7,645	6,841	-10.5	17,105	13,589	-20.6	11,281	13,235	17.3	6,197	6,094	-1.7	1,144	1,425	24.6
Wells	1,149	715	-37.8	233	298	27.9	1,157	613	-47.0	1,237	1,372	10.9	1,078	933	-13.5	248	260	4.8
Williams	5,172	4,333	-16.2	1,545	2,095	35.6	5,045	4,418	-12.4	4,738	5,755	21.5	2,777	2,643	-4.8	484	602	24.4

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## Changes in North Dakota's Age Distribution

Changes in North Dakota's age distribution from 2000 to 2008 indicate losses in the number of children ages 0 to 17 (11.1 percent) and the workforce-age population (i.e., ages 25 to 44) (11.4 percent). Population projections through 2020 suggest continued losses in both age groups.

This month's "Population Bulletin," a monthly publication from the North Dakota State Data Center at North Dakota State University, presents the July 1, 2008 population estimates by selected age cohorts as released by the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Branch.

From 2000 to 2008, only one North Dakota county experienced a growth in the number of children ages 0 to 17 (Cass County at 10.6 percent). The majority of counties (38 of 53) had losses of at least 20 percent. Two counties, Sheridan and Towner, lost half of the child residents during this time.

"Recent estimates also indicate an increase in births since 2000. Unfortunately, the slight upswing in births does not offset the overall downward trend in the child population for our state," said Richard Rathge, Director of the State Data Center.

While there were losses in the child and working-age populations, North Dakota's young adults (i.e., ages 18 to 24) grew 13.0 percent from 2000 to 2008, pre-retirees (i.e., ages 45 to 64) grew 20.0 percent, and the state's oldest residents (i.e., ages 85 and older) grew 20.7 percent.

While the number of young adults grew over the past eight years, projections indicate that with fewer children aging into this age group, the numbers will begin to fall. Likewise, as baby boomers (i.e., the large age cohort born during the 20-year period after WWII) enter retirement, the 45 to 64 age cohort will decline as well. However, as the baby boom generation ages, the 65 to 84 age cohort will grow considerably.

Despite shifts in the age composition throughout the state, the overall population in North Dakota dropped .1 percent from 2000 to 2008, a decline of 719 people.

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