

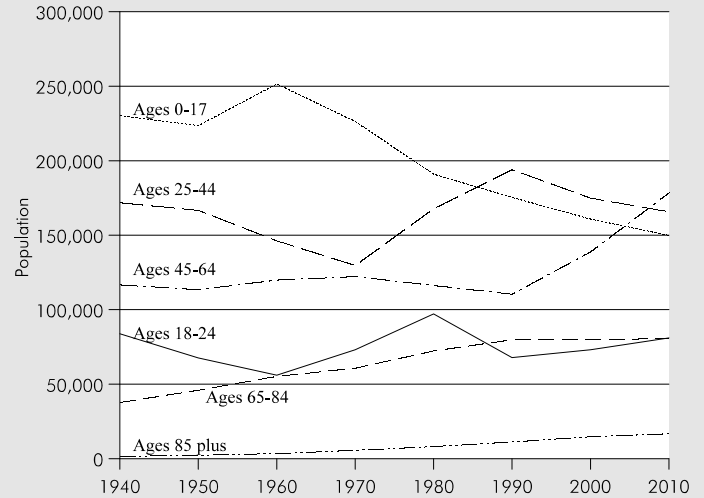
## Population by Age in North Dakota: Census 2010

The age distribution of North Dakota's population has changed considerably over the last several decades. The result of these changes is reflected in the median age, which rose from 25.7 years in 1940 to 36.2 in 2000 to 37.0 years in 2010 (Figure 2).

In 1940, children ages 0 to 17 comprised 36 percent of North Dakota's total population. This proportion decreased to 22 percent in 2010. In contrast, seniors ages 65 and older comprised 6 percent of the state's total population in 1940 and increased to 15 percent in 2010. Population changes in age cohorts from 2000 to 2010 are reflected in Table 1.

The year 1946 marked the beginning of the baby boom, i.e., the large cohort born during the 20-year period after WWII. Figure 1 shows this bump in population as it moves through childhood, early adulthood, and the prime labor force. Baby boomers are currently reflected in the 45 to 64 pre-retirement age group. As baby boomers enter retirement (beginning in 2011), the 65 to 84 age cohort will increase.

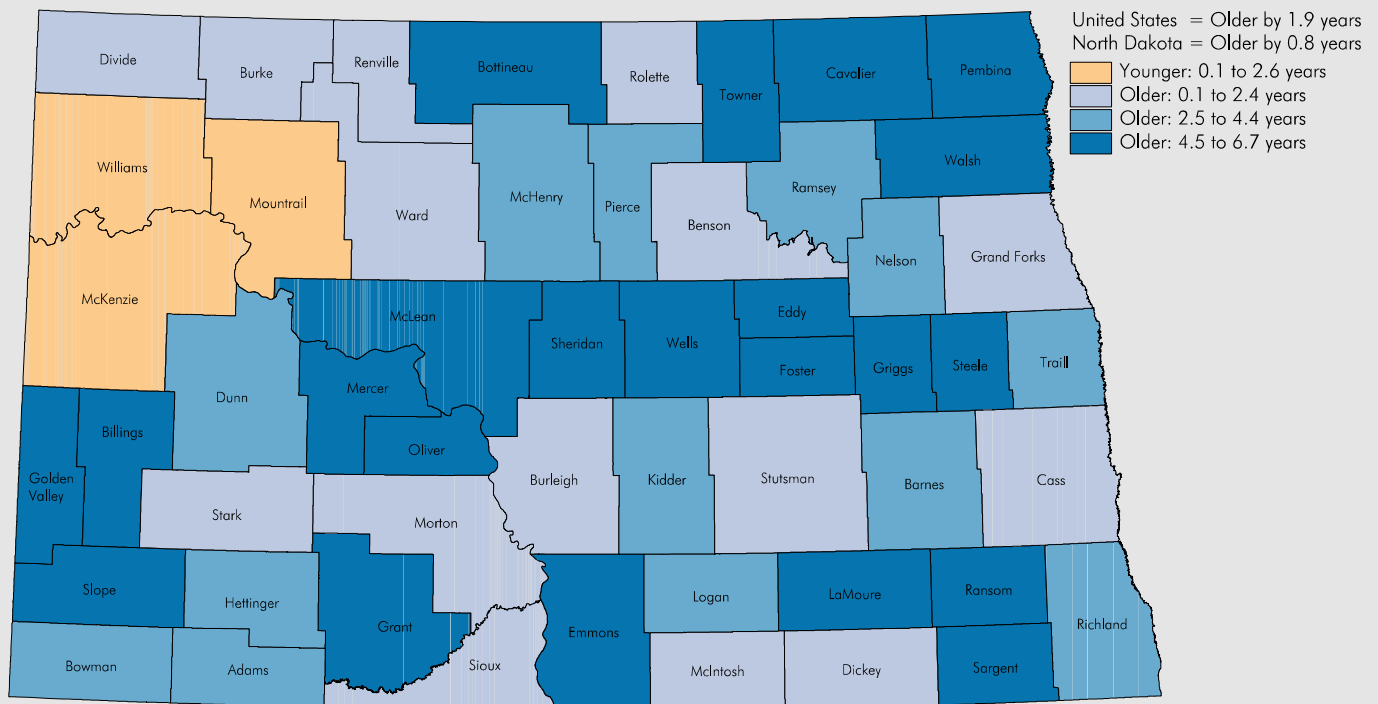
Figure 1. Population by Age Group in North Dakota: 1940-2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census 1940 to 2010

Figure 2. Change in Median Age (in years) for North Dakota Counties: 2000 to 2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 and Census 2010 Demographic Profile



**North Dakota State Data Center**

North Dakota State University - IACC Building, Room 424  
PO Box 6050, Dept. 8000  
Fargo, North Dakota 58108-6050  
Ph: (701) 231-7980 Fax: (701) 231-9730

For more information, contact:

Dr. Richard Rathge, Director  
(701) 231-8621  
richard.rathge@ndsu.edu

Karen Olson, Information Specialist  
(701) 231-1060  
k.olson@ndsu.edu

View our website at:  
<http://www.ndsu.edu/sdc>

**Table 1. Population by Age Group in North Dakota by County: Census 2000 to Census 2010**

Note: "% Chg" represents the percent change in population from Census 2000 to Census 2010.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 and Census 2010 Demographic Profile

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	2010	% Chg	2000	2010	% Chg	2000	2010	%Chg	2000	2010	%Chg	2000	2010	% Chg	2000	2010	% Chg
North Dakota	160,849	149,871	-6.8%	73,118	81,020	10.8%	174,891	165,747	-5.2%	138,864	178,476	28.5%	79,752	80,789	1.3%	14,726	16,688	13.3%
Adams	601	446	-25.8%	107	132	23.4%	562	427	-24.0%	699	770	10.2%	511	463	-9.4%	113	105	-7.1%
Barnes	2,624	2,280	-13.1%	1,325	1,083	-18.3%	2,711	2,252	-16.9%	2,783	3,281	17.9%	1,917	1,763	-8.0%	415	407	-1.9%
Benson	2,513	2,239	-10.9%	541	582	7.6%	1,621	1,423	-12.2%	1,348	1,563	15.9%	792	753	-4.9%	149	100	-32.9%
Billings	221	138	-37.6%	40	55	37.5%	236	143	-39.4%	249	296	18.9%	127	135	6.3%	15	16	6.7%
Boftineau	1,587	1,222	-23.0%	573	539	-5.9%	1,597	1,182	-26.0%	1,870	2,104	12.5%	1,248	1,157	-7.3%	274	225	-17.9%
Bowman	780	676	-13.3%	171	184	7.6%	798	642	-19.5%	786	957	21.8%	581	553	-4.8%	126	139	10.3%
Burke	467	409	-12.4%	78	107	37.2%	500	372	-25.6%	635	668	5.2%	497	364	-26.8%	65	48	-26.2%
Burleigh	17,175	18,343	6.8%	7,640	8,532	11.7%	20,322	21,439	5.5%	15,639	22,081	41.2%	7,442	9,223	23.9%	1,198	1,690	41.1%
Cass	28,848	32,660	13.2%	19,667	24,222	23.2%	38,568	43,914	13.9%	24,154	34,432	42.6%	10,172	12,148	19.4%	1,729	2,402	38.9%
Cavalier	1,188	786	-33.8%	180	205	13.9%	1,028	688	-33.1%	1,328	1,292	-2.7%	926	847	-8.5%	181	175	-3.3%
Dickey	1,369	1,215	-11.2%	589	458	-22.2%	1,293	1,082	-16.3%	1,277	1,364	6.8%	989	911	-7.9%	240	259	7.9%
Divide	462	354	-23.4%	82	109	32.9%	458	363	-20.7%	607	694	14.3%	544	417	-23.3%	130	134	3.1%
Dunn	986	777	-21.2%	207	247	19.3%	848	768	-9.4%	934	1,128	20.8%	536	525	-2.1%	89	91	2.2%
Eddy	651	498	-23.5%	168	124	-26.2%	619	425	-31.3%	637	752	18.1%	562	462	-17.8%	120	124	3.3%
Emmons	1,075	759	-29.4%	161	153	-5.0%	965	556	-42.4%	1,023	1,111	8.6%	933	807	-13.5%	174	164	-5.7%
Foster	985	728	-26.1%	207	202	-2.4%	973	667	-31.4%	791	988	24.9%	688	609	-11.5%	115	149	29.6%
Golden Valley	545	404	-25.9%	99	84	-15.2%	427	327	-23.4%	443	507	14.4%	333	279	-16.2%	77	79	2.6%
Grand Forks	15,735	13,421	-14.7%	12,985	14,425	11.1%	19,020	16,746	-12.0%	12,001	15,366	28.0%	5,435	5,774	6.2%	933	1,129	21.0%
Grant	666	450	-32.4%	121	101	-16.5%	581	397	-31.7%	770	801	4.0%	568	545	-4.0%	135	100	-25.9%
Griggs	621	459	-26.1%	135	97	-28.1%	580	418	-27.9%	710	809	13.9%	577	497	-13.9%	131	140	6.9%
Hettinger	634	468	-26.2%	105	138	31.4%	561	475	-15.3%	732	758	3.6%	585	529	-9.6%	98	109	11.2%
Kidder	638	523	-18.0%	137	156	13.9%	630	476	-24.4%	686	769	12.1%	567	449	-20.8%	95	62	-34.7%
LaMoure	1,138	873	-23.3%	254	192	-24.4%	1,081	752	-30.4%	1,128	1,300	15.2%	933	850	-8.9%	167	172	3.0%
Logan	522	420	-19.5%	84	89	6.0%	502	337	-32.9%	577	587	1.7%	532	473	-11.1%	91	84	-7.7%
McHenry	1,434	1,179	-17.8%	355	277	-22.0%	1,393	1,143	-17.9%	1,500	1,678	11.9%	1,074	953	-11.3%	231	165	-28.6%
McIntosh	656	513	-21.8%	155	101	-34.8%	659	470	-28.7%	760	771	1.4%	935	743	-20.5%	225	211	-6.2%
McKenzie	1,756	1,691	-3.7%	317	521	64.4%	1,338	1,455	8.7%	1,426	1,791	25.6%	772	780	1.0%	128	122	-4.7%
McLean	2,212	1,767	-20.1%	479	453	-5.4%	2,118	1,737	-18.0%	2,602	3,064	17.8%	1,608	1,611	0.2%	292	330	13.0%
Mercer	2,513	1,799	-28.4%	367	483	31.6%	2,381	1,743	-26.8%	2,150	3,071	42.8%	1,052	1,129	7.3%	181	199	9.9%
Morton	6,823	6,561	-3.8%	1,981	2,008	1.4%	7,135	7,058	-1.1%	5,671	7,831	38.1%	3,175	3,390	6.8%	518	623	20.3%
Mountrail	1,860	1,830	-1.6%	452	781	72.8%	1,537	1,910	24.3%	1,608	2,102	30.7%	961	881	-8.3%	213	169	-20.7%
Nelson	820	560	-31.7%	148	161	8.8%	755	513	-32.1%	973	1,034	6.3%	843	701	-16.8%	176	157	-10.8%
Oliver	566	410	-27.6%	98	92	-6.1%	486	340	-30.0%	622	696	11.9%	265	261	-1.5%	28	47	67.9%
Pembina	2,140	1,600	-25.2%	533	448	-15.9%	2,113	1,491	-29.4%	2,125	2,385	12.2%	1,406	1,209	-14.0%	268	280	4.5%
Pierce	1,115	938	-15.9%	256	248	-3.1%	1,117	865	-22.6%	1,060	1,277	20.5%	912	798	-12.5%	215	231	7.4%
Ramsey	3,019	2,515	-16.7%	969	1,020	5.3%	3,123	2,460	-21.2%	2,689	3,384	25.8%	1,842	1,683	-8.6%	424	389	-8.3%
Ransom	1,471	1,281	-12.9%	349	275	-21.2%	1,498	1,155	-22.9%	1,322	1,662	25.7%	1,022	846	-17.2%	228	238	4.4%
Renville	609	534	-12.3%	127	147	15.7%	638	538	-15.7%	661	749	13.3%	465	414	-11.0%	110	88	-20.0%
Richland	4,437	3,662	-17.5%	2,604	2,150	-17.4%	4,613	3,370	-26.9%	3,598	4,715	31.0%	2,258	1,987	-12.0%	488	437	-10.5%
Rolette	4,985	4,660	-6.5%	1,305	1,354	3.8%	3,529	3,186	-9.7%	2,530	3,339	32.0%	1,159	1,268	9.4%	166	130	-21.7%
Sargent	1,155	872	-24.5%	230	193	-16.1%	1,121	804	-28.3%	1,120	1,233	10.1%	657	631	-4.0%	83	96	15.7%
Sheridan	366	211	-42.3%	65	65	0.0%	340	210	-38.2%	484	439	-9.3%	404	338	-16.3%	51	58	13.7%
Sioux	1,630	1,516	-7.0%	447	485	8.5%	1,087	1,059	-2.6%	654	799	22.2%	220	278	26.4%	6	16	166.7%
Slope	194	146	-24.7%	32	35	9.4%	192	139	-27.6%	212	272	28.3%	127	122	-3.9%	10	13	30.0%
Stark	5,781	5,186	-10.3%	2,625	2,961	12.8%	5,879	5,696	-3.1%	4,841	6,481	33.9%	2,989	3,077	2.9%	521	798	53.2%
Steele	624	421	-32.5%	107	91	-15.0%	521	389	-25.3%	564	633	12.2%	401	380	-5.2%	41	61	48.8%
Stutsman	5,005	4,331	-13.5%	2,308	2,127	-7.8%	5,639	4,816	-14.6%	5,094	6,208	21.9%	3,268	2,956	-9.5%	594	662	11.4%
Towner	708	432	-39.0%	103	114	10.7%	690	373	-45.9%	705	775	9.9%	537	440	-18.1%	133	112	-15.8%
Traill	2,104	1,810	-14.0%	820	801	-2.3%	2,101	1,696	-19.3%	1,829	2,293	25.4%	1,339	1,201	-10.3%	284	320	12.7%
Walsh	3,091	2,467	-20.2%	807	725	-10.2%	3,100	2,246	-27.5%	3,001	3,444	14.8%	2,014	1,827	-9.3%	376	410	9.0%
Ward	15,423	14,502	-6.0%	7,645	8,524	11.5%	17,105	16,366	-4.3%	11,281	14,257	26.4%	6,197	6,645	7.2%	1,144	1,381	20.7%
Wells	1,149	764	-33.5%	233	185	-20.6%	1,157	709	-38.7%	1,237	1,328	7.4%	1,078	985	-8.6%	248	236	-4.8%
Williams	5,172	5,165	-0.1%	1,545	1,979	28.1%	5,045	5,539	9.8%	4,738	6,387	34.8%	2,777	2,722	-2.0%	484	606	25.2%

Date of Release: July 5, 2011

## North Dakota's Median Age Continues to Increase

The age distribution of North Dakota's population has changed considerably over the last several decades. The result of these changes is reflected in the median age, which rose from 25.7 years in 1940 to 37.0 years in 2010, an increase of 11.3 years. Since 2000, North Dakota's median age rose 0.8 years.

Nationally, the median age rose from 25.7 years in 1940, to 35.3 years in 2000, and to 37.2 years in 2010.

This month's "Population Bulletin," a monthly publication from the North Dakota State Data Center at North Dakota State University, presents the Census 2010 data for population by selected age cohorts.

In 1940, children ages 0 to 17 comprised 36 percent of North Dakota's total population. This proportion decreased to 22 percent in 2010. In contrast, seniors ages 65 and older comprised 6 percent of the state's total population in 1940 and increased to 15 percent in 2010.

Current energy development activities in western North Dakota are impacting the age distribution in a way that counters the overall state trend. From 2000 to 2010, the median age decreased in only three of North Dakota's 53 counties, all in the west - Mountrail, McKenzie, and Williams counties.

"This reflects the significant influx of younger workers to the area. For example, in 2007, there were an estimated 2,000 workers in the oil patch. By 2010, the number of workers ballooned to 12,750. Recent survey estimates suggest this number is now closer to 19,000 workers," said Richard Rathge, director of the State Data Center.

\*\*\*

### North Dakota State Data Center

North Dakota State University - IACC Building, Room 424  
PO Box 6050, Dept. 8000  
Fargo, North Dakota 58108-6050  
Ph: (701) 231-7980 Fax: (701) 231-9730

For more information, contact:

Dr. Richard Rathge, Director  
(701) 231-8621  
richard.rathge@ndsu.edu

Karen Olson, Information Specialist  
(701) 231-1060  
k.olson@ndsu.edu

View publication online at:  
<http://www.ndsu.edu/sdc/publications.htm>