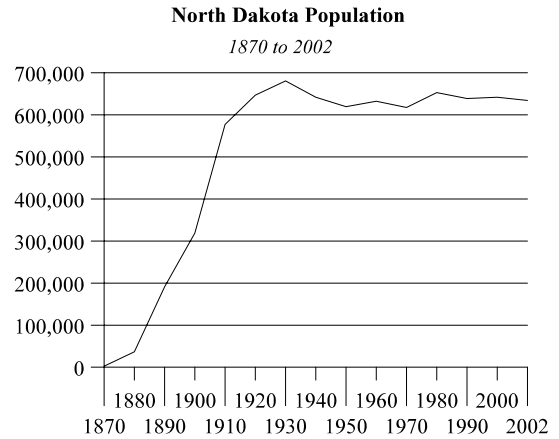


Population Estimates for North Dakota: 2000 to 2002

According to the population estimates recently released from the U.S. Census Bureau, North Dakota's population decreased by 1.3 percent between 2000 and 2002. As of July 1, 2002, the state's population totaled 634,110, a decrease of 8,090 people since the 2000 Census. Between 2000 and 2001, North Dakota's population declined by 5,650 persons to 636,550. The state's population dropped another 2,440 persons between 2001 and 2002.

Within North Dakota, only four counties showed an increase in population over the past two years. Sioux County had the largest percentage increase in population between 2000 and 2002 (2.7 percent). Burleigh, Cass, and Rolette counties followed with 2.4, 1.6, and 0.9 percent, respectively. Sheridan County had the largest percentage decline during this two-year span (8.7 percent), followed by Nelson County (8.5 percent). Population within North Dakota continues to become centralized. The five most populated counties in the state, including Cass, Burleigh, Grand Forks, Ward, and Morton, represent approximately 54 percent of the total population in North Dakota.

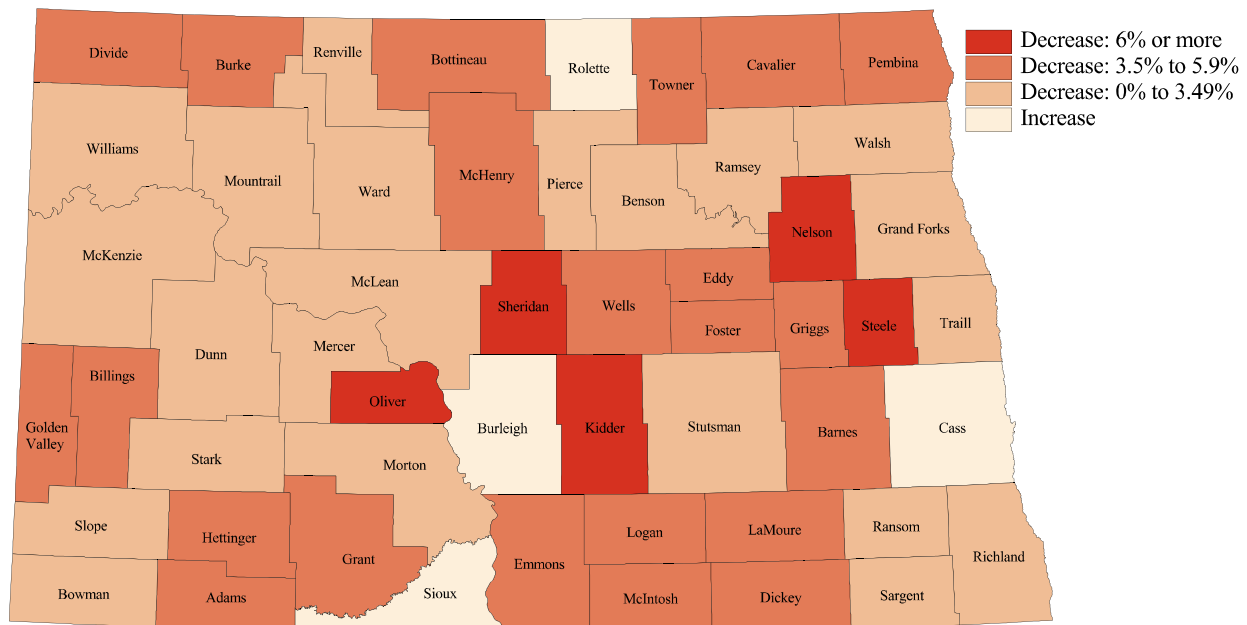


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census; Population Estimates Branch.

Among all the states in the nation in 2002, North Dakota ranked 48th in population, a slight drop from its 47th position two years ago. Only two states experienced a loss in population between 2000 and 2002, West Virginia and North Dakota. The fastest growing states were Nevada, Arizona, and Colorado (8.8, 6.4 and 4.8 percent, respectively).

Percent Change in Population by County for North Dakota: 2000 to 2002

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Branch, <http://eire.census.gov/popest/estimate.php>



Population Estimates in North Dakota by County: 2000 to 2002

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Branch, Released April 2003, <http://ire.census.gov/popest/estimate.php>

County	April 1, 2000 Census	July 1, Estimates			Change: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2002	
		2000	2001	2002	Numeric	Percent
North Dakota	642,200	641,131	636,550	634,110	-8,090	-1.26
Adams	2,593	2,578	2,526	2,476	-117	-4.51
Barnes	11,775	11,718	11,461	11,245	-530	-4.5
Benson	6,964	6,963	6,976	6,899	-65	-0.93
Billings	888	874	869	842	-46	-5.18
Bottineau	7,149	7,118	7,003	6,880	-269	-3.76
Bowman	3,242	3,227	3,144	3,130	-112	-3.45
Burke	2,242	2,232	2,188	2,143	-99	-4.42
Burleigh	69,416	69,512	70,145	71,080	1,664	2.4
Cass	123,138	123,384	124,252	125,117	1,979	1.61
Cavalier	4,831	4,807	4,669	4,559	-272	-5.63
Dickey	5,757	5,752	5,641	5,515	-242	-4.2
Divide	2,283	2,265	2,192	2,183	-100	-4.38
Dunn	3,600	3,599	3,561	3,542	-58	-1.61
Eddy	2,757	2,739	2,671	2,629	-128	-4.64
Emmons	4,331	4,305	4,218	4,105	-226	-5.22
Foster	3,759	3,742	3,648	3,604	-155	-4.12
Golden Valley	1,924	1,918	1,866	1,834	-90	-4.68
Grand Forks	66,109	65,862	65,285	64,920	-1,189	-1.8
Grant	2,841	2,835	2,774	2,695	-146	-5.14
Griggs	2,754	2,731	2,643	2,601	-153	-5.56
Hettinger	2,715	2,691	2,641	2,600	-115	-4.24
Kidder	2,753	2,735	2,662	2,579	-174	-6.32
LaMoure	4,701	4,678	4,598	4,511	-190	-4.04
Logan	2,308	2,296	2,221	2,181	-127	-5.5
McHenry	5,987	5,950	5,792	5,694	-293	-4.89
McIntosh	3,390	3,377	3,320	3,258	-132	-3.89
McKenzie	5,737	5,718	5,677	5,708	-29	-0.51
McLean	9,311	9,266	9,135	9,007	-304	-3.26
Mercer	8,644	8,605	8,536	8,542	-102	-1.18
Morton	25,303	25,327	25,192	25,269	-34	-0.13
Mountrail	6,631	6,607	6,576	6,522	-109	-1.64
Nelson	3,715	3,699	3,584	3,399	-316	-8.51
Oliver	2,065	2,055	1,972	1,911	-154	-7.46
Pembina	8,585	8,557	8,380	8,270	-315	-3.67
Pierce	4,675	4,662	4,597	4,531	-144	-3.08
Ramsey	12,066	12,026	11,816	11,754	-312	-2.59
Ransom	5,890	5,893	5,831	5,794	-96	-1.63
Renville	2,610	2,593	2,539	2,546	-64	-2.45
Richland	17,998	17,953	17,775	17,569	-429	-2.38
Rolette	13,674	13,695	13,810	13,802	128	0.94
Sargent	4,366	4,359	4,316	4,250	-116	-2.66
Sheridan	1,710	1,698	1,621	1,561	-149	-8.71
Sioux	4,044	4,067	4,038	4,152	108	2.67
Slope	767	759	758	747	-20	-2.61
Stark	22,636	22,547	22,334	22,147	-489	-2.16
Steele	2,258	2,240	2,174	2,093	-165	-7.31
Stutsman	21,908	21,849	21,540	21,249	-659	-3.01
Towner	2,876	2,857	2,784	2,728	-148	-5.15
Traill	8,477	8,468	8,345	8,259	-218	-2.57
Walsh	12,389	12,358	12,127	11,979	-410	-3.31
Ward	58,795	58,641	57,751	57,128	-1,667	-2.84
Wells	5,102	5,081	4,902	4,826	-276	-5.41
Williams	19,761	19,663	19,474	19,545	-216	-1.09