

## Total Housing Units in North Dakota: 1950 to 2000 Census and 2001 to 2005 Estimates

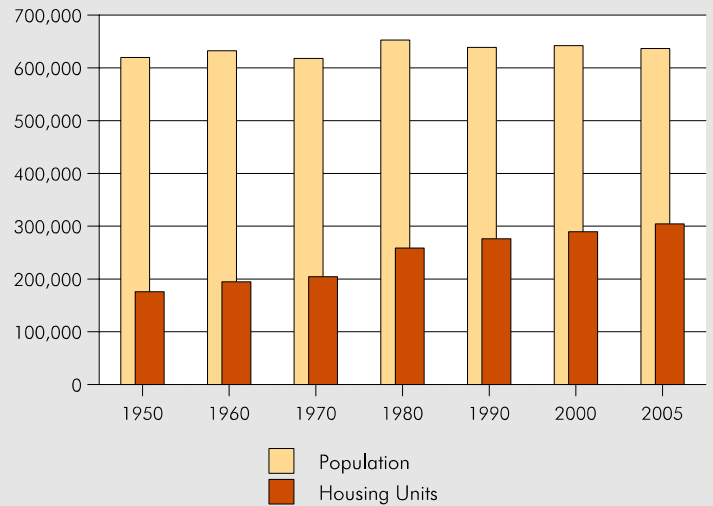
North Dakota's population has remained relatively stable since 1950. During the same time, housing units have grown substantially (Figure 1). In 1950, housing units totaled 175,769 statewide, compared to 289,677 in 2000. This represents a 64.8 percent increase during this 5-decade period. Current estimates suggest another 5.1 percent growth between 2000 and 2005, reaching 304,458 housing units (Table 1).

Larger metropolitan areas are the largest contributors to growth in housing throughout the state. Between 2000 and 2005, 71.1 percent of all growth statewide was attributed to Cass and Burleigh counties.

Nationally, housing grew 7.4 percent between 2000 and 2005, with states in the southwest and southeast having the largest percentage gains (Figure 2).

A housing unit, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, may be a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room that is occupied (or, if vacant, is intended for occupancy) as separate living quarters.

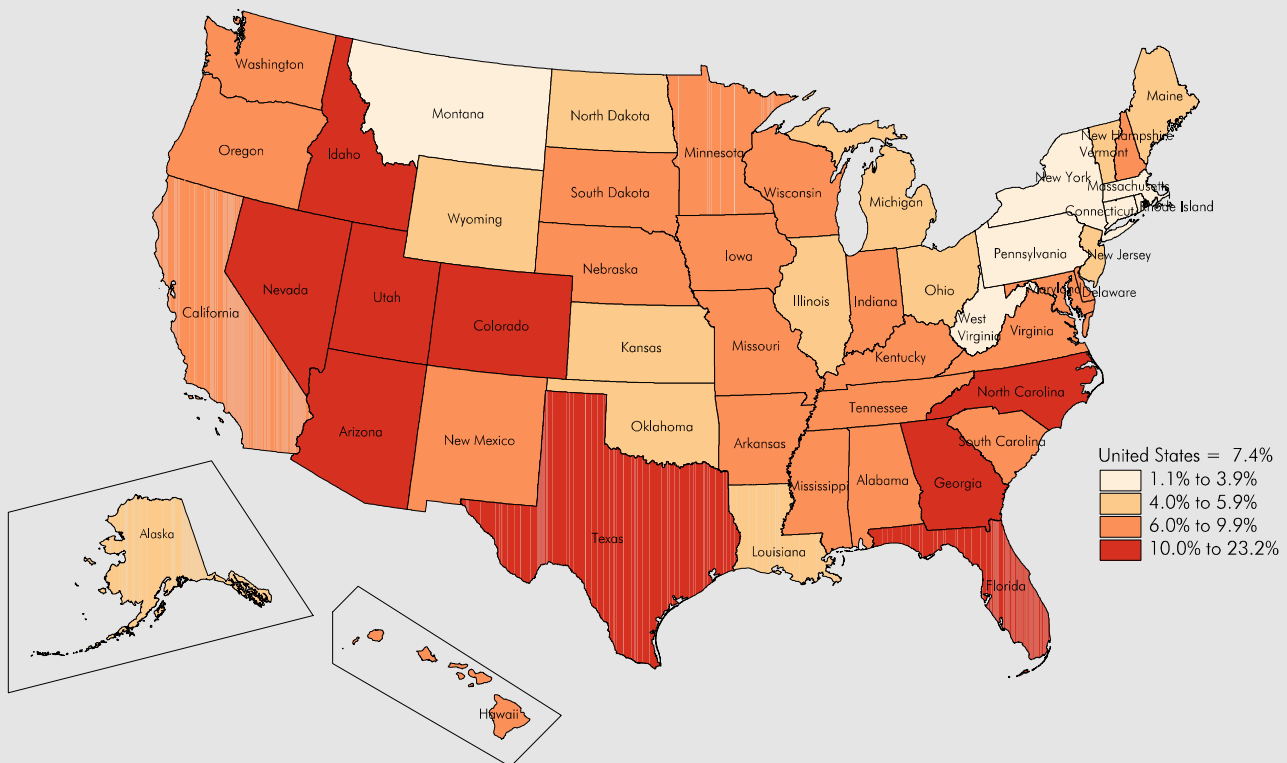
**Figure 1. Population and Housing Units in North Dakota**  
Census 1950 to 2000 and July 1, 2005 Estimate



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Censuses; Population Division, <<http://www.census.gov/popest/estimates.php>>

**Figure 2. Percent Change in Housing Units by State: Census 2000 to July 1, 2005 Estimate**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Censuses; Population Division, Table HU-EST2005-38-County Housing Unit Estimates, [www.census.gov/popest/housing](http://www.census.gov/popest/housing)



**Table 1. Housing Units in North Dakota by County: 1950 to 2000 Census and 2001 to 2005 Estimates**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Censuses; Population Division, Table HU-EST2005-38-County Housing Unit Estimates, www.census.gov/popest/housing

Area	Census						July 1 Estimate					Change: 2000 to 2005	
	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Numeric	Percent
North Dakota	175,769	194,597	204,235	258,772	276,340	289,677	292,241	294,570	297,523	300,816	304,458	14,781	5.1
Adams	1,454	1,418	1,317	1,563	1,504	1,416	1,426	1,424	1,423	1,420	1,420	4	0.3
Barnes	4,939	5,151	5,302	5,976	5,801	5,599	5,602	5,615	5,618	5,657	5,694	95	1.7
Benson	3,086	3,003	2,718	3,084	3,163	2,932	2,949	2,960	2,975	2,989	2,999	67	2.3
Billings	487	429	392	517	533	529	529	530	528	529	528	-1	-0.2
Bottineau	3,878	4,219	4,009	4,679	4,661	4,409	4,434	4,461	4,485	4,505	4,526	117	2.7
Bowman	1,272	1,371	1,365	1,722	1,691	1,596	1,598	1,598	1,597	1,593	1,594	-2	-0.1
Burke	2,241	2,202	1,813	1,816	1,691	1,412	1,418	1,421	1,425	1,427	1,428	16	1.1
Burleigh	7,185	10,311	12,983	20,848	23,803	29,003	29,484	30,088	30,680	31,367	31,951	2,948	10.2
Cass	16,506	20,679	24,278	35,215	42,407	53,790	55,057	56,245	57,796	59,407	61,356	7,566	14.1
Cavalier	3,332	3,213	2,932	3,123	3,038	2,725	2,733	2,742	2,753	2,748	2,751	26	1.0
Dickey	2,665	2,605	2,471	2,838	2,763	2,656	2,663	2,665	2,670	2,677	2,678	22	0.8
Divide	2,022	2,008	1,667	1,783	1,667	1,469	1,474	1,477	1,477	1,475	1,472	3	0.2
Dunn	1,869	1,851	1,605	1,849	2,057	1,965	1,967	1,966	1,964	1,961	1,960	-5	-0.3
Eddy	1,509	1,518	1,477	1,541	1,470	1,418	1,425	1,430	1,433	1,435	1,436	18	1.3
Emmons	2,478	2,317	2,167	2,322	2,200	2,168	2,180	2,184	2,185	2,180	2,177	9	0.4
Foster	1,551	1,635	1,649	1,827	1,876	1,793	1,795	1,796	1,795	1,794	1,795	2	0.1
Golden Valley	1,034	995	915	1,033	1,035	973	971	971	972	970	968	-5	-0.5
Grand Forks	10,788	14,185	18,192	24,563	27,085	27,373	27,411	27,474	27,679	28,129	28,538	1,165	4.3
Grant	1,875	1,886	1,649	1,969	2,011	1,722	1,731	1,737	1,744	1,749	1,755	33	1.9
Griggs	1,640	1,684	1,658	1,739	1,660	1,521	1,525	1,527	1,531	1,535	1,542	21	1.4
Hettinger	1,845	1,810	1,579	1,668	1,637	1,419	1,421	1,424	1,428	1,430	1,434	15	1.1
Kidder	1,685	1,615	1,505	1,740	1,672	1,610	1,625	1,636	1,648	1,660	1,669	59	3.7
LaMoure	2,647	2,639	2,550	2,527	2,434	2,271	2,285	2,293	2,313	2,320	2,327	56	2.5
Logan	1,616	1,586	1,384	1,422	1,335	1,193	1,196	1,198	1,202	1,204	1,209	16	1.3
McHenry	3,615	3,505	3,223	3,437	3,320	2,983	3,002	3,014	3,024	3,023	3,030	47	1.6
McIntosh	2,150	2,153	1,982	2,197	2,031	1,853	1,862	1,865	1,864	1,863	1,866	13	0.7
McKenzie	2,183	2,451	2,227	2,944	3,178	2,719	2,737	2,747	2,761	2,776	2,785	66	2.4
McLean	5,356	4,723	4,282	5,754	5,515	5,264	5,272	5,283	5,300	5,317	5,340	76	1.4
Mercer	2,375	2,336	2,253	3,978	4,496	4,402	4,421	4,438	4,449	4,456	4,462	60	1.4
Morton	5,204	6,091	6,317	9,382	9,467	10,587	10,696	10,771	10,954	11,114	11,280	693	6.5
Mountrail	3,060	3,254	3,176	3,201	3,675	3,438	3,443	3,444	3,445	3,455	3,495	57	1.7
Nelson	2,449	2,416	2,214	2,442	2,261	2,014	2,016	2,029	2,029	2,028	2,027	13	0.6
Oliver	813	749	753	960	968	903	903	902	901	900	898	-5	-0.6
Pembina	3,979	4,001	3,894	4,438	4,294	4,115	4,116	4,111	4,105	4,100	4,111	-4	-0.1
Pierce	2,271	2,185	2,076	2,376	2,355	2,269	2,279	2,282	2,290	2,286	2,280	11	0.5
Ramsey	4,049	4,121	4,387	5,259	5,616	5,729	5,755	5,762	5,769	5,785	5,799	70	1.2
Ransom	2,608	2,633	2,602	2,712	2,569	2,604	2,654	2,692	2,722	2,740	2,745	141	5.4
Renville	1,711	1,628	1,395	1,530	1,558	1,413	1,423	1,426	1,430	1,437	1,440	27	1.9
Richland	5,535	5,719	5,749	7,182	7,394	7,575	7,591	7,619	7,625	7,638	7,652	77	1.0
Rolette	2,702	2,675	3,015	3,923	4,742	5,027	5,032	5,023	5,015	5,005	5,025	-2	0.0
Sargent	2,141	2,032	2,025	2,210	2,057	2,016	2,024	2,030	2,042	2,049	2,057	41	2.0
Sheridan	1,486	1,386	1,202	1,180	1,061	924	927	929	932	929	930	6	0.6
Sioux	862	851	943	1,062	1,175	1,216	1,227	1,235	1,244	1,253	1,260	44	3.6
Slope	702	622	477	513	481	451	454	456	458	460	462	11	2.4
Stark	4,194	5,103	5,748	8,487	9,585	9,722	9,767	9,820	9,873	9,948	10,023	301	3.1
Steele	1,528	1,549	1,394	1,447	1,311	1,231	1,234	1,236	1,238	1,240	1,246	15	1.2
Stutsman	6,285	7,037	7,741	9,663	9,770	9,817	9,864	9,862	9,870	9,876	9,901	84	0.9
Towner	1,938	1,855	1,684	1,692	1,770	1,558	1,562	1,564	1,568	1,571	1,578	20	1.3
Traill	3,342	3,412	3,529	3,926	3,770	3,708	3,716	3,720	3,728	3,731	3,740	32	0.9
Walsh	5,199	5,508	5,307	6,153	6,093	5,757	5,760	5,756	5,754	5,747	5,739	-18	-0.3
Ward	10,130	14,098	17,402	21,521	23,585	25,097	25,254	25,333	25,435	25,533	25,668	571	2.3
Wells	3,017	3,025	2,881	2,886	2,869	2,643	2,650	2,653	2,659	2,665	2,668	25	0.9
Williams	5,281	7,149	6,780	8,953	10,180	9,680	9,701	9,706	9,718	9,730	9,744	64	0.7

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## North Dakota Housing Units Continue to Rise Despite Little Change in Population

North Dakota's population has seen relatively little change over the past 55 years. Housing units, however, have grown by nearly three-fourths since 1950 throughout the state.

This month's "Population Bulletin," a monthly publication from the North Dakota State Data Center at North Dakota State University presents the July 1, 2005 housing unit estimates released from the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. These current estimates reveal a continuing rise in North Dakota's established housing trend. In 1950, housing units totaled 175,769 statewide, compared to 289,677 in 2000. This represents a 64.8 percent increase during this 5-decade period. Current estimates suggest another 5.1 percent growth between 2000 and 2005, reaching 304,458 housing units. Population, on the other hand, grew 3.6 percent between 1950 and 2000 and dropped 0.8 percent between 2000 and 2005.

Changes in household composition help explain the apparent contradiction between a stable population and a substantial increase in housing. In 1950, the average household size was 3.7 relative to 2.4 persons today. "Although a drop from 3.7 to 2.4 persons per household does not sound so impressive, it is substantial when you realize there were 270,437 households (occupied housing units) in the state in 2005. This means that if we had the same persons per household in 2005 as we did in 1950 (i.e., 3.7), we would have 1,000,616 people in the state rather than the 636,677 persons reported by the Census Bureau," said Richard Rathge, Director of the State Data Center. In addition, in 1950, 9.1 percent of households had only one person compared to 29.3 percent today. This, in part, reflects a growing proportion of elderly in the state. In 2000, nearly 40 percent of persons living alone were ages 65 and older.

Larger metropolitan areas are the largest contributors to growth in housing throughout the state. Between 2000 and 2005, 71.1 percent of all growth statewide was attributed to Cass and Burleigh counties.

Nationally, housing grew 7.4 percent between 2000 and 2005, with states in the southwest and southeast having the largest percentage gains.

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