

Lewis and Clark Regional Development Council



Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

2024-2028



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I. INTRODUCTION

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lewis and Clark Regional Development Council (LCRDC) was created in 1969 as a five-county, volunteer-based Resource Conservation and Development District, incorporated as 10-county 501(c)(4) nonprofit in 1973, and in 1979 it was institutionalized as a local political subdivision under Century Code law 54-40-08. It was designated an Economic Development District (EDD) on January 24, 1975. The LCRDC is a non-profit corporation and a political subdivision governed by a board of directors comprised of elected local officials and representatives of business, farm and tribal interests. The LCRDC strives to stimulate and promote community and economic development in south-central North Dakota. Its members include the counties of Burleigh, Emmons, Grant, Kidder, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sheridan and Sioux. Within those 10 counties lies 50 incorporated communities.

This 2024 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) update compiled by LCRDC is a continuous effort to provide a service not otherwise provided to each of the counties, cities, and people it serves. Within this document is the most recent social and economic data from the U.S. Census Bureau and from other sources. An assessment of the region's economic condition is also discussed, along with a strategy to lead it into the future.

This CEDS document will be utilized by LCRDC staff to help foster an increase in jobs, expand the tax base, improve the standard of living for its citizens, improve infrastructure and focus on future needs. The planning process involved gathering input via meeting with the county commissions of each county throughout the EDD; the annual CEDS committee meeting held in December; surveying each city and county; looking at conditions and trends; identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats; and establishing goals, objectives and strategies to meet the needs. This CEDS was created to be able to plan for future activities within the EDD.

During the county commission meetings and the annual CEDS meeting, it was stated numerous times how important it is to continue community and economic efforts by diversifying the economy through the creation and retention of jobs, improving the infrastructure, and addressing housing issues. These issues have not changed from the previous CEDS and are still the areas that need the most attention. The three main categories are - **Economy, Housing and Infrastructure.**

We would like to thank all those individuals involved in this process. Without them, this would not have been possible.

B. CEDS PROCESS

What is “CEDS”?

This Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, hereafter referred to as “CEDS” is the culmination of efforts by the ten (10) counties of Burleigh, Emmons, Grant, Kidder, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sheridan and Sioux and fifty (50) cities within those counties to improve the economic conditions of the region.

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) states the following:

A comprehensive economic development strategy (CEDS) is designed to bring together the public and private sectors in the creation of an economic roadmap to diversify and strengthen regional economies. The CEDS should analyze the regional economy and serve as a guide for establishing regional goals and objectives, developing and implementing a regional plan of action, and identifying investment priorities and funding sources. A CEDS integrates a region’s human and physical capital planning in the service of economic development. Integrated economic development planning provides the flexibility to adapt to global economic conditions and fully utilize the region’s unique advantages to maximize economic opportunity for its residents by attracting the private investment that creates jobs for the region’s residents. A CEDS must be the result of a continuing economic development planning process developed with broad-based and diverse public and private sector participation, and must set forth the goals and objectives necessary to solve the economic development problems of the region and clearly define the metrics of success. Finally, a CEDS provides a useful benchmark by which a regional economy can evaluate opportunities with other regions in the national economy.

The CEDS document is mandated by the EDA and is used to define Economic Development Districts (EDD) throughout the nation. Goals and objectives are revised annually, while the entire CEDS document must be updated to reflect regional growth and changes every five (5) years.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

A. BACKGROUND

The Lewis and Clark Regional Development Council (LCRDC) was designated as an Economic Development District (EDD) in 1975. LCRDC serves the counties of Burleigh, Emmons, Grant, Kidder, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sheridan and Sioux. LCRDC is a non-profit corporation and a political subdivision governed by a board of directors comprised of elected officials and representatives of business, farm and tribal interests. Its staff provides administration for numerous lending and grant programs. The staff also review applications and provide consulting to determine the best options and alternatives for the concerned parties.

LCRDC also provides counties with programs, services and consulting to foster economic growth and community development. LCRDC has helped the region to access federal, state and local funding to enhance employment and business opportunities, maintain infrastructure and public facilities and perform strategic planning.

LCRDC has created two other 501(c)(3) statewide nonprofits: CommunityWorks North Dakota (CWND) and Lewis and Clark Certified Development Company (LCCDC). The former is a statewide chartered member of NeighborWorks America and is designated as a CDFI by the Department of Treasury, and the latter is certified by the Small Business Administration as a Certified Development Company and is licensed to administer and facilitate the SBA 504 loan program throughout North Dakota. LCRDC and CWND are co-housed, co-managed and share staff, and LCRDC provides all staffing to LCCDC through a contract agreement.

B. MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE

LCRDC is an organization of counties, cities, local economic development organizations and civic leaders brought together for the purpose of fostering opportunities that enhance connections and communications between public and private entities within the District.

The following are the counties and incorporated cities that make up the EDD:

Burleigh County
City of Bismarck
City of Lincoln
City of Regan
City of Wing

Grant County
City of Carson
City of Elgin
City of Leith
City of New Leipzig

Emmons County
City of Braddock
City of Hague
City of Hazelton
City of Linton
City of Strasburg

Kidder County
City of Dawson
City of Pettibone
City of Robinson

McLean County
City of Benedict
City of Butte
City of Coleharber
City of Garrison
City of Max
City of Mercer
City of Riverdale
City of Ruso
City of Turtle Lake
City of Underwood
City of Washburn
City of Wilton

Oliver County
City of Center

Sheridan County
City of Goodrich
City of McClusky
City of Martin

City of Steele
City of Tappen
City of Tuttle

Mercer County
City of Beulah
City of Golden Valley
City of Hazen
City of Pick City
City of Stanton
City of Zap

Morton County
City of Almont
City of Flasher
City of Glen Ullin
City of Hebron
City of Mandan
City of New Salem

Sioux County
City of Fort Yates
City of Selfridge
City of Solen

C. MANAGEMENT & STAFF

The staff of Lewis and Clark Regional Development Council will be providing staff support to the CEDS committee. The staff is made up of the following individuals:

Brent Ekstrom, Executive Director

Mr. Ekstrom is the executive director for LCRDC and oversees the day-to-day operations of not only the council but also CommunityWorks ND and Lewis and Clark Certified Development Company. He joined the council in May of 2001. His previous experience is commercial and business lending at BNC bank in Bismarck, ND. He holds a bachelor's in accounting from Minot State University and a master's from the University of North Dakota.

Lyle Hogue, Community Development Coordinator

Mr. Hogue has been with the council since 1998 and has experience in the economic and community development area. He was previously employed at the Roosevelt-Custer Regional Council in Dickinson, ND, where he was involved in land use planning, grant writing, financial packaging and loan and grants administration. His duties at LCRDC include grant writing and administration, strategic planning, housing and community development. Mr. Hogue graduated from Minot State University, Minot, ND, with a B.S.

in Finance and a minor in Economics. He has also completed the National Development Council's Economic Development Finance Professional course, the Consortium for Housing and Asset Management's Certified Housing Asset Manager program and NeighborWorks America's Housing program.

Matt Burthold, Commercial Credit Analyst/Loan Officer

Mr. Burthold has been with LCRDC since February 2013 and was previously with USDA Rural Development from 1985 to January 2013, as a Business Programs Specialist in which he performed financial analysis, processing, servicing outreach and administration of Rural Business-Cooperative Service and Rural Utilities Service guarantees, loans and grants covering North Dakota. From November 1985 to October 1994, he worked with farmers and rural communities throughout six counties in rural North Dakota as County Supervisor and Assistant County Supervisor for Farmers Home Administration. As County Supervisor he was directly responsible for the office operations and portfolio of 131 clients totaling approximately \$13 million. His education is from the University of Minnesota-Crookston with a major in Diversified Agriculture and from the North Dakota State University with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics.

Ashley Hruby, Senior Lending Director

Hruby began her career in commercial lending before working in economic development for the state of North Dakota and has circled back to the commercial lending space.

Hruby joined the Lewis & Clark Development Group in April 2021 as their Senior Lending Director overseeing the SBA 504 lending program and several CARES Act grants and EDA grants. She holds an Economic Development Finance Professional Certification from the National Development Council.

Prior to LCD Group, Hruby came directly from the North Dakota Department of Agriculture where she served as the agriculture business development coordinator. She had previously served as vice president of the North Dakota Development Fund with the state commerce department. While in state government, Hruby oversaw millions of dollars in grant funding including, most recently, \$13 million in CARES Act grants.

Hruby offers a unique perspective from having worked in commercial lending, economic development, grant administration, as well as offering technical assistance to small businesses in the State of North Dakota.

D. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LCRDC currently has 32 board members. The board of directors is comprised of 20 elected officials (63%), seven non-government representatives (22%) and five at-large members (15%). Currently 24 (75%) men and 8 (25%) women serve on the board. The official LCRDC board roster follows on page 9.

EDD BOARD MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES (51-65%)

Name	Government	Position
Steve Marquardt	City of Bismarck	City Commissioner
Mark Armstrong	Burleigh County	County Commissioner
Cammie Schock	City of Lincoln	EDC Board Member
Ronald Bartz	City of Elgin	Mayor
Mike Schutt	City of Center	City Commissioner
Darwin Saari	City of Turtle Lake	Auditor, Appointed by Mayor
Steve Lee	McLean County	County Commissioner
Alton Zenker	Grant County	County Commissioner
Steve Frovarp	City of Hazen	City Planner, Appointed by Mayor
Jim Neubauer	City of Mandan	City Administrator, Appointed by Mayor
Jackie Buckley	Morton County	County Commissioner
Lynette Fitterer	City of New Salem	Mayor
Blake Wilkens	Oliver County	County Commissioner
Warren Hawk	City of Fort Yates	Mayor
Kenneth Snider	Sioux County	County Commissioner
Richard Britton	City of Tuttle Lake	City Commissioner
Sharon Jangula	City of Linton	City Administrator, Appointed by Mayor
Travis Frey	Mercer County	County Commissioner
Richard Bauer	Sheridan County	County Commissioner
Norm Fries	City of Steele	City Auditor, Appointed by Mayor

NON-GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES (35-49%)

Private Sector Representatives:

Name	Company / Enterprise	Position
Susan Koch	Koch Farms	Owner/Sole Proprietor
Mark Sand	Choice Financial	Vice President/CFO
Darwin Engel	Banking	Retired Banker
Steve Tomac	Tomac Farms	Owner/Sole Proprietor
Clayton Hoffman	Innovation Energy Alliance	Retired CEO
Alvin Burkhart	Burkhart Farm	Owner/Sole Proprietor

Stakeholder Organization Representatives:

Name	Organization	Position
Dr. Leander McDonald	United Tribes Technical College	President

*Serves the function of the Chamber of Commerce

AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVES (0-14%)

Name	Area of Interest	Background
Brian Ritter	Economic Development	Executive Director, BMDA
Wayne Hoffner	Banking	Bank President
Crystal Jahner	BNC National Bank	Branch Manager
Deb Clarys	Security First Bank	Branch Manager

CALCULATIONS

	Number	Percent
1. Government Representatives (51-65%)	20	<u>63%</u>
2. Non- Government Representatives (35-49%)		
A. Private Sector Representatives (at least 1)	6	
B. Stakeholder Organization Representatives (at least 1)	<u>1</u>	7 22%
3. At-Large Representatives (0-14%)	<u>5</u>	<u>15%</u>
Total Board Membership	32	100

E. CEDS COMMITTEE

Lewis and Clark Regional Development Council (LCRDC) appointed a committee to oversee the preparation of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS committee is comprised of the membership of the LCRDC’s Loan Fund Board and the board of directors from its sister organization CommunityWorks North Dakota (CWND). It represents individuals from the following areas of interest:

Local Government	Community Leaders	Business
Industry	Finance	Agriculture
Professions	Workforce Development	Labor
Utilities	Education	Community Organizations
Public Health	the Elderly	the Disabled
the Unemployed	the Underemployed	Racial or Ethnic Minorities
Women	Natural Resources	Transportation

Appointment to the CEDS committee and the length of the member’s term mirrors the appointment and terms of membership on the Loan Fund Board and CWND. The creation of the CEDS committee was done by the vote of the board of LCRDC membership.

LCRDC professional staff, numbering five full-time employees, is charged with the responsibility of carrying out the policies and directives of the CEDS committee. The staff collects and analyzes pertinent information about the Region, coordinates the visioning and goal setting process, assists in the development of the action plans, prepares the CEDS document and implements the action plans. CEDS committee members are involved in the CEDS process as their individual situations allow.

The current members of the CEDS Committee were selected to provide a vast representation of the varied economic interests that is made up of all ten of the Lewis and Clark Regional Development Council (LCRDC) counties within the District. The committee meets on a semi-annual basis to ensure a good understanding of the various activities and needs within the District. The committee also has access to various boards from which to gain perspective.

In addition to the CEDS committee members, other interested business owners, citizens from all walks of life, and/or organizations representatives are encouraged to provide their perspectives and ideas.

The official LCRDC CEDS Committee roster follows on page 11.

LEWIS AND CLARK EDD STRATEGY COMMITTEE ROSTER

1. PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES (At least 51%)

Any senior management official or executive holding a key decision-making position, with respect to any for-profit enterprise.

Name	Company	Position
Clayton Hoffman	Innovative Energy Alliance	Retired CEO
John Schmid, Jr.	Grant County State Bank	CEO/Chairman/President
Bill Robinson	Choice Financial	Vice President/CFO
Jim Porter	Wilton State Bank	Retired/President
Brian Ritter	Community Organizations/Economic	CEO
Dawn Aanderud	North Star Community Credit Union	Retired Manager
David Rogstad	Starion Bank	Branch Manager
Crystal Jahner	BNC National Bank	Branch Manager
Mike Remboldt	HIT, Inc.	CEO
Deb Clarys	Security First Bank	Branch Manager
Wayne Hoffner	Union Bank	President
Rob Knoll	Knoll Appraisals	Owner/Sole Proprietor
Darvin Engel	Banking	Retired Banker
Chris Baumgartner	Innovative Energy Alliance	Co-Manager
Derick Roller	Petro Hunt	Attorney
Chad Vogel	Prime Real Estate	Owner
Darby Schlichenmayer	MDU Resources	Retired Manager

2. REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER ECONOMIC INTERESTS (No more than 49%)

These are people who provide additional representation of the main economic interests of the region. These may include, but are not limited to: public officials, community leaders, representatives of workforce development boards, institutions of higher education, minority and labor groups and private individuals.

Name	Area of Interest	Position
Dr. Leander McDonald	Education/Minority	President, United Tribes Technical College
Warren Hawk	Economic Development/Minorities	Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Jim Neubauer	Government	City of Mandan
Jennifer Henderson	North Dakota Finance Agency	Multi-Family Housing Program Director
Royce Schulze	Dakota Center for Independent Living	State Director
Brian Ritter	Community Organizations, Econ. Dev.	Local Development Corp. Director/CEO
Darvin Engel	Banking	Retired Banker
Myra Savelkoul	US Bank	Vice President Mortgage Lending
Nicole Schurhamer	Community Organization/Health	Burleigh County Housing
Jessica Thomasson	ND Dept. of Human Services	State Director
Sharon Jangula	Economic Development	Executive Director
Steve Lee	County Government	County Commissioner
Beaver Brinkman	Economic Development	Executive Director
Norm Fries	Government	City of Steele

CALCULATIONS

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Private Sector Representatives (at least 51%)	17	55%
Representatives of Other Economic Interests (no more than 49%)	<u>14</u>	<u>45%</u>
Total Committee Membership	31	100%

III. ANALYSIS OF THE REGION

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A great settlement "boom" in northern Dakota occurred between 1879 and 1886. During those years, over 100,000 people entered the territory. The majority were homesteaders, but some organized large, highly mechanized, well capitalized bonanza farms. Ethnic variety characterized the new settlements. Following the first settlement "boom", a second boom after 1905 increased the population from 190,983 in 1890 to 646,872 by 1920. Many were immigrants of Scandinavian or Germanic origin.

On November 2, 1889, President Benjamin Harrison approved the admission of North Dakota to the Union. An economic Depression, starting with the 1920 collapse of wartime prices for grain, punctured the economic expansion of previous decades. More North Dakota banks closed in 1921 than in any other year; the resulting contraction of credit caused many farm foreclosures. Simultaneously, farm sizes increased, and many farmers mechanized their operations. A dramatic shift to motorized transportation placed greater emphasis on better roads and bridges.

As the times changed, new devices entered the state's homes; radio, especially, became commonplace after the first stations went on the air in North Dakota in 1922. Likewise, motion pictures attracted thousands, and many theaters were built in towns across North Dakota. These economic and social factors had by 1930 made North Dakota a different place than a decade earlier. The fire that destroyed the old state capitol building on December 28, 1930, symbolized the end of an era.

The Great Depression of the 1930s both slowed progress and sped change. Heavy farm debt loads, and low commodity prices caused a crisis of farm foreclosures and bank failures. Those farmers in a better financial position enlarged their holdings. Rural population diminished while cities grew. North Dakota reached its peak population in 1930, but the total thereafter dropped steadily until 1950.

For many, however, the economic hardships of the Depression could not be overcome. Thousands of North Dakotans lost their farms and either moved into the cities and towns or from the state. One historian estimates that over 70% of the state's people required one form or another of public assistance. The toll on broken dreams, physical hunger and hardship, and displacement will never be completely measured. Still, most North Dakotans stubbornly held on, husbanding their resources and spending carefully. Even during the hard times, for example, drought-stricken counties and cities rarely missed bond payments, and indeed the public debt in the state was substantially reduced during the Depression years.

Wartime prosperity continued into the late 1940s. Major Federal projects kept the construction economy booming. Development of natural resources expanded in 1951

when oil was discovered near Tioga. The resulting "oil rush" coincided with expanding use of lignite coal to generate electricity.

The major issues of the 1970s and 1980s have been modern incarnations of longtime debates. One important issue has been economic development, and once again the discussions have centered on the creation of a climate favorable to capital investment in the state. A struggling farm economy has brought many changes to the state and demands for improved state services for people with special needs have forced major reallocation of available tax dollars. The basic issue has been determining the proper uses for limited tax resources and the most productive ways to stimulate economic development.

North Dakota's basic industry, agriculture, underwent major difficulties in the 1970s and 1980s, again emphasizing the state was a participant in a world-wide economy. Perhaps the most striking change, however, is reflected in a 1987 census figure. According to census estimates, more North Dakotans now live in cities and towns than in rural areas, an alteration with dramatic implications for the structure of the state's economy and the composition of its government.

Now fast forward to 2013. An economic "boom" took place in North Dakota. With the development of new oil gathering technology, the energy industry has been both a blessing and a curse to the state. Great paying jobs became available, business owners saw a tremendous jump in sales and tax revenues grew. This "growth" placed a big strain on infrastructure, public safety and housing. Cities grew by leaps and bounds and couldn't meet the needs of their citizens. That "boom" lasted for three years. Oil prices dropped and the production of oil slowed down to the point that numerous oil companies pulled out of ND. Workers were laid off, housing sales slumped, and local businesses felt the impact. This slowdown is good in one sense because infrastructure projects that were lagging-behind were able to be completed. That slowdown lasted a couple of years. Oil prices are now back up and new wells are being drilled. Workers are coming back to the state and housing is becoming short again. A win-win for everyone.

1. DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL ECONOMIC DATA AND LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

Population

The Region's population was in a decline for many of the sixty years since 1940's population of 110,162. In 1980 the population rebounded to 124,693, dropping again in 1990 to 124,097; 2000's population rose to 130,418; 2010's to 141,864; and 2020 to 164,906. showing an increase once again to 16.2 percent. Many factors consider for the decline and rebound farms becoming more efficient with newer and better machinery; large numbers of people moving to the area and then realizing this is not the place for them to live; an energy boom in the mid-1970s through the early 1980s, mostly resulting from coal mines and power plant construction; and the lack of quality jobs to keep people in the region.

Table 1 shows the Region’s loss of population, then the rebound, then the loss again and then another growth spurt. This growth has come in the two largest counties of Burleigh and Morton, the two with the largest cities and major trade centers and growth in Sioux County, one of the three Native American Indian Reservations located in the Region. If you look at the seven other counties, there was a dramatic decrease in population over the years. Those are the counties that are very dependent on agriculture and do not have a retail trade center. Burleigh County, with Bismarck as the regional trade center, is the only one of the ten that has continued to grow year after year and is expected to keep growing.

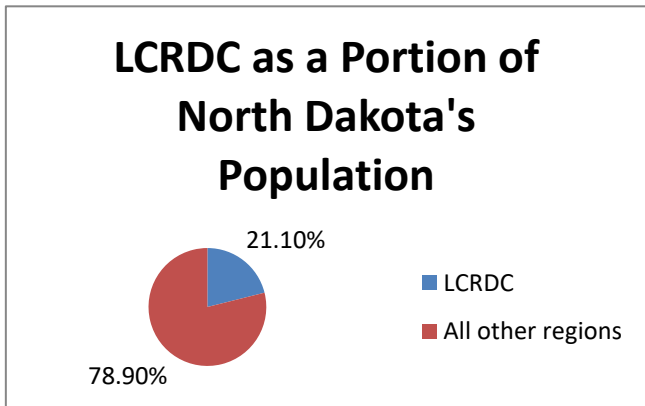
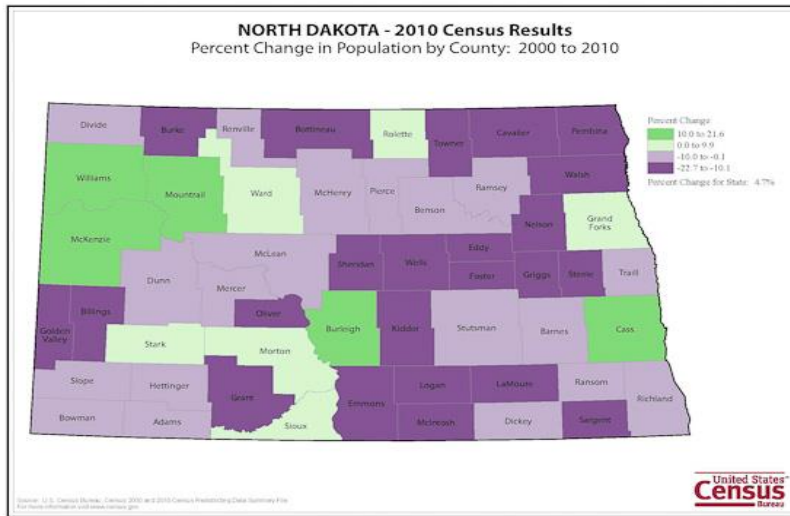
During this period, the loss of population in most Region VII counties is not unique to North Dakota. This is probably the same condition of all the Upper Great Plains states brought on by being far away from the East and West coasts regarding shipping opportunities and lacking population centers that contain large concentrations of consumers. With major energy development in the western part of the state, Burleigh and Morton counties are seeing the spinoff of population growth with many families moving to the area. However, population decline will continue to be the number one concern for the other counties within the Region.

Of the ten counties in the region, eight are considered “frontier” counties, with a population density of six or fewer people per square mile.

Table 1: Population of the LCRDC Region by County

County	Percent of change from 2010-2020	2020	2010	2000
Burleigh	21.1	98,458	81,308	69,416
Emmons	-7.0	3,301	3,550	4,331
Grant	-3.9	2,301	2,394	2,841
Kidder	-1.7	2,394	2,435	2,753
McLean	8.3	9,771	8,962	9,311
Mercer	-1.4	8,350	8,524	8,644
Morton	21.2	33,291	27,471	25,303
Oliver	1.7	1,877	1,846	2,065
Sheridan	-4.2	1,265	1,321	1,710
Sioux	-6.1	3,898	4,153	4,044
Region	16.2	164,906	141,864	130,418
State	15.8	779,094	672,591	642,200

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



North Dakota Population Density

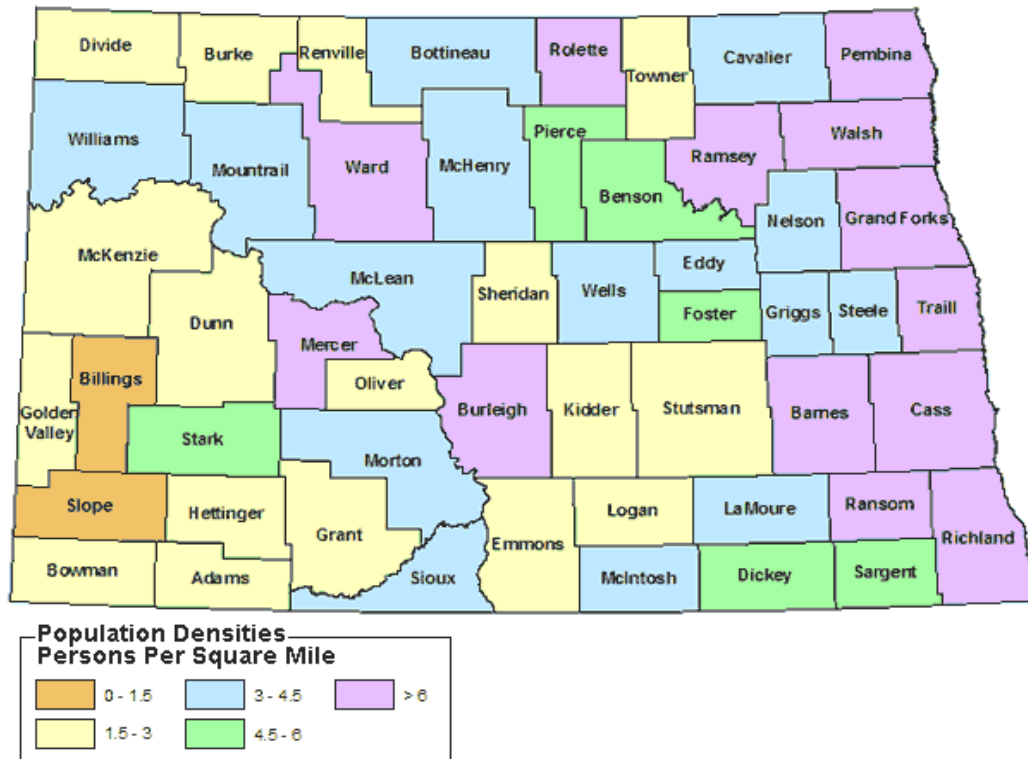


Table 2 shows the number of births and deaths in each county for the years 2010 and 2020. On whole, the District has seen more births than deaths in both 2010 and 2020. The most prevalent causes of death are cancer, heart disease, Alzheimer’s and accidental deaths.

Table 2: Births and Deaths by County

County	20 10		20 20	
	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths
Burleigh	1,211	647	1,168	1,014
Emmons	25	43	28	62
Grant	22	30	22	40
Kidder	29	17	26	27
McLean	128	109	95	136
Mercer	99	82	85	70
Morton	431	242	402	386
Oliver	18	13	18	18
Sheridan	11	9	12	20
Sioux	107	38	66	55
Total	2,081	1,230	1,889	1,828

The LCRDC region has very little racial or ethnic diversity as indicated in Table 3. 85.7 percent of the District’s population is identified as “white” according to the 2020 Census, compared to 82.9 percent for North Dakota. 3.1 percent of the LCRDC population claimed Hispanic/Latino ethnicity.

Table 3: 2020 LCRDC Population by Race

County	White	Hispanic/Latino	Black	American Indian And Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian And Other Pacific	Some Other Race	Two or More Races	Total Population
Burleigh	85,148	3,084	2,283	4,257	0	0	1,114	4,285	98,458
Emmons	3,179	35	0	13	12	0	10	87	3,301
Grant	2,176	26	10	34	11	0	2	0	2,301
Kidder	2,278	52	3	12	2	6	29	64	2,394
McLean	8,405	148	32	808	48	7	36	435	9,771
Mercer	7,622	218	42	200	44	1	75	366	8,350
Morton	29,150	1,312	466	1,323	175	40	508	1,629	33,291
Oliver	1,755	28	3	24	5	0	13	12	1,877
Sheridan	1,191	10	2	11	8	0	5	48	1,265
Sioux	401	63	3	3,332	2	0	5	155	3,898
Region	141,305	4,976	2,844	10,014	307	54	1,797	7,081	164,906
State	645,938	33,412	26,783	38,914	13,213	924	11,382	41,940	779,094

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

While six of the ten LCRDC counties noted a decline in population, 34 out of 50 cities also experienced a decline in population. Table 4 shows the population of all incorporated cities within the Region.

Table 4: Population of Incorporated Cities in the LCRDC Region

	County	Percent of Change from 2020-2010	2010	2000	2020
Bismarck	Burleigh	16.5	61,575	55,825	73,675
Lincoln	Burleigh	43.6	2,418	1,730	4,282
Regan	Burleigh	-19.5	43	43	36
Wing	Burleigh	-15.0	154	124	134
Braddock	Emmons	-40.0	21	43	15
Hague	Emmons	-2.9	71	91	69
Hazelton	Emmons	-5.0	235	237	224
Linton	Emmons	-3.2	1,096	1,321	1,062
Strasburg	Emmons	-10.3	409	549	371
Carson	Grant	-13.6	293	319	258
Elgin	Grant	-23.8	640	659	517
Leith	Grant	42.9	16	28	28
New Leipzig	Grant	-1.0	221	274	219
Dawson	Kidder	17.6	61	75	74
Pettibone	Kidder	-18.7	70	88	59
Robinson	Kidder	-15.7	37	71	32
Steele	Kidder	-8.5	719	761	663
Tappen	Kidder	-7.5	198	210	214
Tuttle	Kidder	-33.4	80	106	60
Benedict	McLean	-1.6	66	53	65

Butte	McLean	0	68	92	68
Coleharber	McLean	-29.5	79	106	61
Garrison	McLean	-2.1	1,458	1,318	1,429
Max	McLean	-1.2	335	278	331
Mercer	McLean	-3.3	94	86	91
Riverdale	McLean	6.8	206	273	221
Ruso	McLean	-33.4	4	8	3
Turtle Lake	McLean	-8.6	584	580	538
Underwood	McLean	1.3	781	812	791
Washburn	McLean	3.7	1,250	1,389	1,298
Wilton	McLean	.6	714	807	718
Beulah	Mercer	-2.6	3,123	3,152	3,044
Golden Valley	Mercer	4.3	182	183	190
Hazen	Mercer	-50.0	3,412	2,457	2,275
Pick City	Mercer	.8	123	166	124
Stanton	Mercer	-.3	366	345	365
Zap	Mercer	-6.3	237	231	223
Almont	Morton	-28.2	123	89	96
Flasher	Morton	-6.9	233	285	218
Glen Ullin	Morton	-10.7	811	865	733
Hebron	Morton	6.1	750	803	798
Mandan	Morton	24.0	18,417	16,808	24,230
New Salem	Morton	3.1	951	938	981
Center	Oliver	2.4	568	678	582
Goodrich	Sheridan	13.4	97	163	112
McClusky	Sheridan	20.4	378	415	314
Martin	Sheridan	-18.5	77	96	65
Fort Yates	Sioux	-1.2	182	228	180
Selfridge	Sioux	-25.0	160	223	128
Solen	Sioux	-15.3	83	86	72

U.S. Census Bureau

Age of the Population

The Region’s population is aging, and it is of great concern among local leaders. Table 5 shows the Region’s median age of its populous being at 44.2 in 2020, 44.9 in 2010 and 40.7 in 2000. This table’s numbers confirm suspicion that the area’s young people are leaving their communities for other opportunities and the parents are staying to run the family farm or family business. With this happening, there is a whole generation that is absent from the communities.

Because a whole generation is skipped, there are no younger people in the communities to take over the leadership roles needed to help a community survive. Those that will be taking over the leadership roles usually have had no opportunity to gain leadership experience before they are thrust into a role as a community leader. Sometimes this can be a detriment to the community and can even create gaps in community priorities. An example of this could be in jobs development. If the older generations are retired and not looking for employment, they may not understand the need for jobs in the community to keep the younger citizens there. It could also be a problem with education. The older the residents, the less they feel the need to keep the educational system strong. Table 6 shows the population ages under 18 and those over 65.

Table 5: Median Age of Population 2000, 2010 and 2020

County	2020	2000	2010	% Change 2010-2020	% Change 2000-2010
Burleigh	37.1	35.9	37.3	-.6	3.9
Emmons	50.7	44.5	50.5	.4	13.5
Grant	48.2	46.5	51.7	-6.8	11.2
Kidder	48.6	44.5	47.2	3.0	6.1
McLean	45.8	44.1	49.1	-6.8	11.4
Mercer	45.1	40.1	46.3	-2.6	15.5
Morton	37.6	37.4	39.3	-4.4	5.1
Oliver	48.0	42.0	47.6	.9	13.4
Sheridan	52.5	48.1	53.4	-1.7	11.1
Sioux	28.6	23.9	26.3	8.8	10.1
Region	44.2	40.7	44.9	-1.6	10.4
State	35.2	36.2	37.0	-4.9	2.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table 6: Age Specific and Sex Demographics 2020

County	Percent Population under 18	Percent Population over 65	Percent of Females	Percent of Males
Burleigh	23.3	16.2	50.1	49.9
Emmons	19.7	29.8	50.1	49.9
Grant	22.0	28.9	49.4	50.6
Kidder	22.5	22.1	45.3	44.7
McLean	21.6	23.4	48.3	51.7
Mercer	22.5	19.3	49.1	50.9
Morton	22.7	16.3	49.0	51.0
Oliver	25.3	24.8	47.9	52.1
Sheridan	15.9	31.7	49.7	50.3
Sioux	34.9	8.6	49.6	50.4
Region	23.1	22.4	48.6	51.4
State	23.4	15.3	48.8	51.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Educational Attainment

Table 7 shows the areas educational attainment statistics. There are 109,670 people over the age of 25 living in the Region according to the 2020 census. Of those, 4.2 percent have less than a 9th grade education; 5.6 percent attended 9th to 12th grades but have no diploma; 31.9 percent are a high school graduate; 23.5 percent have some college with no degree; and 21.0 percent have a bachelor’s degree or higher. This shows the Region’s labor-force is reasonably well educated and trainable for most jobs that may become available.

Table 7: Educational Attainment 2020

County	Population Age 25 & Over	% Less Than a 9 th Grade Education	% 9 th to 12 th Grade, No Diploma	% High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)	% Some College, No Degree	% Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Burleigh	64,456	2.3	3.2	22.4	19.7	36.5
Emmons	2,425	7.0	4.8	34.8	23.0	19.4
Grant	1,688	5.0	2.8	36.5	22.3	19.0
Kidder	1,734	4.4	5.8	36.6	24.5	17.2
McLean	6,926	3.1	4.9	33.5	21.1	21.1
Mercer	5,957	3.3	6.1	26.4	23.2	20.9
Morton	21,748	3.0	4.9	27.9	23.8	27.3
Oliver	1,370	3.2	4.4	28.5	32.0	19.6
Sheridan	1,023	8.1	7.7	38.5	21.7	14.9
Sioux	2,343	2.9	11.4	33.8	24.0	14.5
Region	109,670	4.2	5.6	31.9	23.5	21.0
State	497,525	2.7	4.2	26.1	22.2	30.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Household Overview, Income & Poverty

Table 8 shows 2020 household information. There were 66,078 total households in the LCRDC region; 64.5 percent of those were family households, compared to 60.8 percent family households for the state. Individuals under the age of 18 were at 28.7 percent as compared to the state with 27.9 percent. Individuals over the age of 65 were at 24.5 percent compared to the state at 23.9 percent.

Table 8: 2020 LCRDC Household Statistics

County	Total Households	Average Household Size	Family Households	Non-family Households	Male Alone	Female Alone	Households with Individual under 18	Households with Individual over 65
Burleigh	39,295	2.44	22,355	16,940	2,090	2,503	9,627	11,552
Emmons	1,507	2.16	876	631	41	27	316	643
Grant	1,082	2.10	634	448	39	41	254	552
Kidder	1,123	2.20	707	416	57	46	287	593
McLean	4,372	2.15	2,902	1,432	241	234	1,180	2,011
Mercer	3,663	2.34	2,543	1,120	527	389	945	1,479
Morton	13,502	2.26	8,843	4,659	484	1,008	3,942	4,428
Oliver	743	2.64	615	128	23	36	233	396
Sheridan	684	1.88	361	323	30	37	114	389
Sioux	1,107	3.87	828	279	96	305	535	356
Total	66,078	2.41	40,114	26,376	3,628	4,626	17,433	22,399
State	320,873	2.29	189,465	131,408	9,682	16,557	89,523	110,702

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

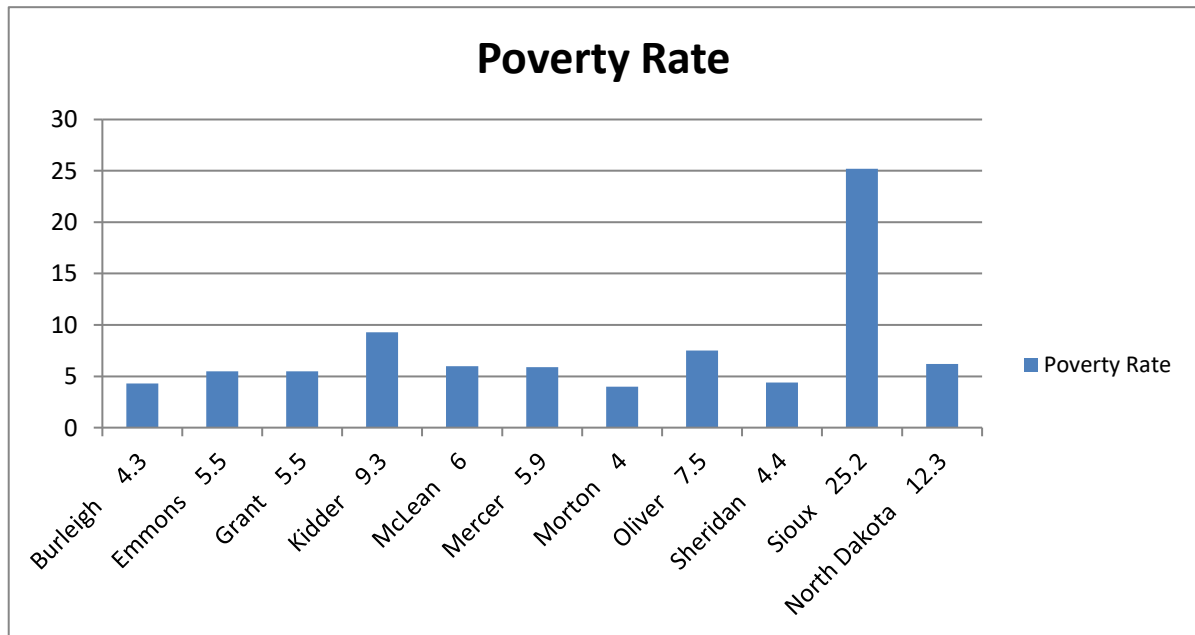
Median household income levels for those people in Region VII are below the state averages. The median household income for Region VII rose 30.1 percent between 2010 and 2020 and is \$61,770 for 2020. The State’s earnings rose 32.2 percent between 2010 and 2020 and are \$65,315 for 2020. Per capita income for the Region in 2020 is \$33,738 compared to \$37,343 for the State. Table 9 shows the earning situation in the Region. The graph on this page also shows the poverty rate of each county.

Table 9: Income Levels 2020

County	Median Household Income			Per-Capita Income		
	2020	2010	% Change 2010-2020	2020	2010	% Change 2010-2020
Burleigh	\$72,974	\$56,231	29.8	\$39,998	\$30,070	3.3
Emmons	\$51,012	\$36,903	38.3	\$33,948	\$22,699	49.6
Grant	\$53,750	\$41,821	28.6	\$37,118	\$28,219	31.6
Kidder	\$52,063	\$37,105	40.4	\$29,505	\$24,765	19.2
McLean	\$70,261	\$52,996	32.6	\$36,728	\$27,945	31.5
Mercer	\$82,087	\$62,578	31.2	\$37,725	\$30,387	24.2
Morton	\$72,778	\$55,196	31.9	\$36,972	\$27,347	35.2
Oliver	\$66,641	\$61,131	9.1	\$32,459	\$29,825	8.9
Sheridan	\$54,250	\$38,235	41.9	\$36,999	\$25,217	46.8
Sioux	\$41,893	\$32,802	27.8	\$15,928	\$13,983	13.9
Region	\$61,770	\$47,499	30.1	\$33,738	\$26,045	29.6
State	\$65,315	\$49,415	32.2	\$37,343	\$27,305	36.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

2020 Average Percent of People of All Ages in Poverty



Labor Force

The Region's civilian labor force in 2010 was at 80,290, compared to 83,946 in 2020, a gain of 4.6 percent. Employment in 2010 was 77,609, with 2020's number at 81,192, a gain of 4.7 percent. The unemployment figures for the Region were 2,681 in 2010, compared to 2,754 in 2020, a gain of 2.8 percent. The Region's unemployment rates are low because of the energy boom in the western part of the state. Table 10 reflects a comparison of labor force, employment and unemployment from 2010 to 2020.

Table 10: Labor Force, Employed and Unemployed 2010-2020

County	Labor Force		Employed		Unemployed		Rate	
	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020
Burleigh	48,056	51,696	46,714	50,080	1,342	1,616	2.9	3.2
Emmons	1,750	1,475	1,686	1,421	64	54	3.7	3.7
Grant	1,399	1,227	1,374	1,200	21	27	1.5	2.2
Kidder	1,206	1,334	1,246	1,251	32	83	2.5	6.3
McLean	4,602	4,698	4,462	4,580	125	118	2.7	2.6
Mercer	4,475	3,670	4,301	3,498	173	172	3.9	4.7
Morton	15,703	17,115	15,109	16,526	590	589	3.8	3.5
Oliver	904	873	881	840	23	33	2.5	3.8
Sheridan	639	661	621	626	18	35	2.8	5.3
Sioux	1,556	1,197	1,215	1,170	338	27	21.8	2.3
Region	80,290	83,946	77,609	81,192	2,681	2,754	3.4	3.3
State	376,826	342,761	358,106	332,615	12,772	10,146	3.4	5.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table 11 shows the covered employment broken down by sector for the Region for the years 2010 to 2020. As can be seen, two sectors lost employment over those years in the Region. The biggest gain in employment in the Region was in the FIRE sector.

Table 11: Annual Average Covered Employment by Major Industry 2010 and 2020

Sector	Region VII 2010	Region VII 2020	Region VII # Change
Ag/Mining	1,482	1,988	506
Const.	4,741	4,289	-456
Mfg.	1,903	1,880	-23
TCU	3,707	4,515	808
Wholesale	3,038	3,356	318
Retail	8,761	9,027	266
FIRE	18,853	20,178	1,325
Services	15,075	15,358	283
Gov't	15,990	16,873	883
Total	73,550	77,464	3,914

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The average annual wage from the years 2000 to 2020 is shown in Table 12. As can be seen, for the year 2000 the region was above the state average. In 2010 and 2020, the region was below the state averages.

Table 12: LCRDC Annual Average Wage

County	2000	2010	2020
Burleigh	\$26,312	\$38,450	\$55,218
Emmons	\$18,149	\$29,183	\$38,784
Grant	\$16,760	\$26,543	\$38,778
Kidder	\$17,660	\$28,526	\$42,304
McLean	\$25,880	\$41,542	\$63,494
Mercer	\$36,122	\$52,196	\$70,364
Morton	\$23,342	\$34,695	\$50,234
Oliver	\$42,407	\$61,424	\$81,136
Sheridan	\$18,693	\$23,950	\$28,977
Sioux	\$24,520	\$35,945	\$49,084
Region	\$24,984	\$37,245	\$51,737
North Dakota	\$24,683	\$38,127	\$55,461

U.S. Census Bureau

2. GEOGRAPHIC, CLIMATIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES PROFILE

Geography

Lewis and Clark Economic Development District encompasses the ten counties of Burleigh, Emmons, Grant, Kidder, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sheridan and Sioux in the south-central part of North Dakota with the southern part bordering South Dakota. The Region covers approximately 14,000 square miles, or 21.1 percent of the State’s land area and has a population of over 141,800 people. It also contains 50 incorporated cities. The area is known for its rolling hills and vast grasslands.

The area is comprised of over nine million acres of land, with over 90 percent of the land used for agricultural production. Five major river systems drain the Region. The Knife, Heart and Cannonball rivers all drain into the Missouri River. The fifth, the Sheyenne River in northern Sheridan County drains into the Red River Basin. The Missouri River, a Class I water source, is the most significant of these water resources, providing for a wide range of agricultural, recreation, energy and consumption needs. Two lakes which result from dams on this river, Lake Sakakawea and Lake Oahe, lie partially in this Region. The water resources and the abundant land resources provide a rich variety of vegetation and wildlife.

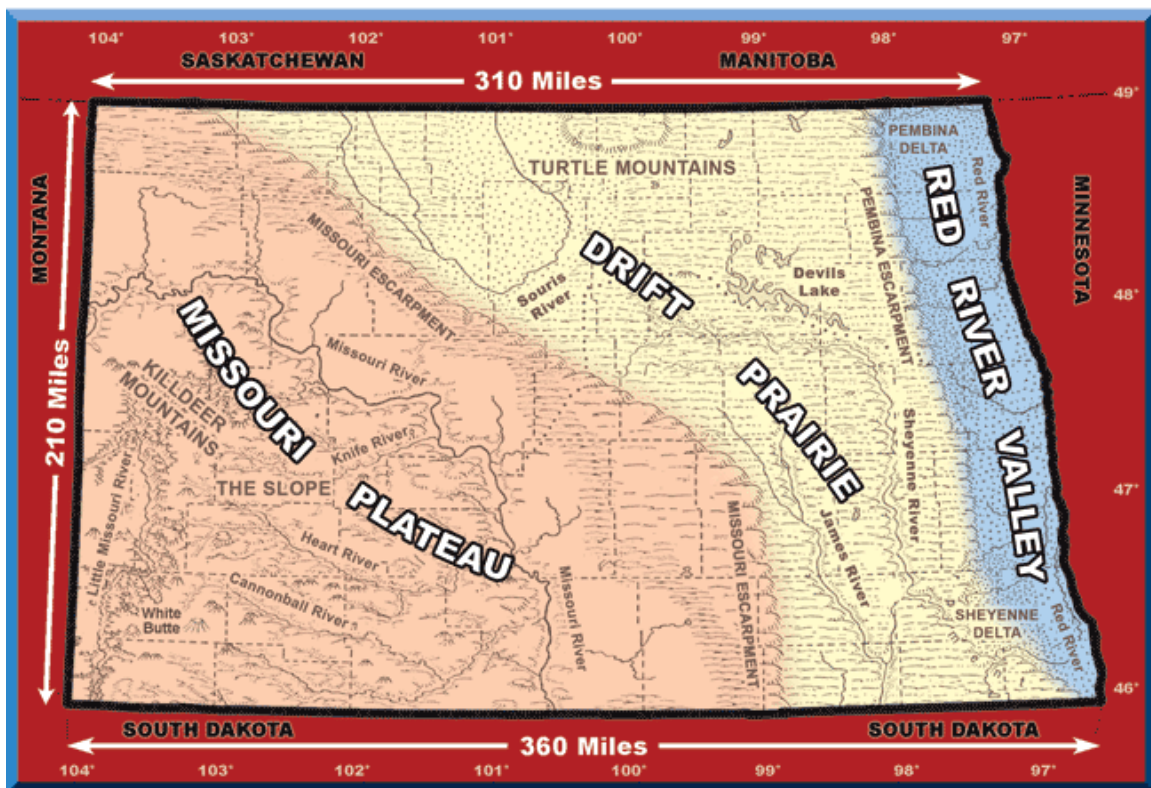
West of the Missouri River, a wide-plain slopes eastward and covers southwestern North Dakota. This area is commonly referred to as the Missouri Slope. This area is characterized by moderate rolling topography with isolated buttes rising above the eastward sloping plain. The mainstream channels are characterized by steep and rugged topography. The areas east of the Missouri River are a glacial drift plain.

All but the southwestern portion of the Region has been glaciated. The receding glaciers left a deposit of glacial till over much of the area. West of the Missouri, these

Pleistocene glacial deposits were probably never very thick except in the valleys. They are present only as small patchy areas apart from northern Mercer and northeastern Oliver Counties. The till is composed predominately of clay and sand. In many areas where the till is scant and absent, the only evidence of glaciation is a ground surface littered with boulders and stones. In contrast, the portion of the Region area east of the Missouri is composed of thick, young glacial till. The topography is very flat and undulating. Runoff systems have not been established in well-drained, integrated networks and as a result, many depressions and sloughs are present. Many of these areas are currently defined as wetlands.

The abundance of water resources and wetlands has resulted in large purchases of land for wildlife habitat. In the area east of the Missouri River the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has leased thousands of acres of wetlands. The ND Game and Fish Department also owns or has leases in Region VII for use as wildlife management acres. Two federal wildlife refuges, Lake Audubon in McLean County and Long Lake in Kidder County are located in Region VII. Water rights and the controversy surrounding the wetlands issue are key points in the economic future of the region. The map below shows the geographic regions of North Dakota and the LCRDC region.

North Dakota's 3 Geographic Regions



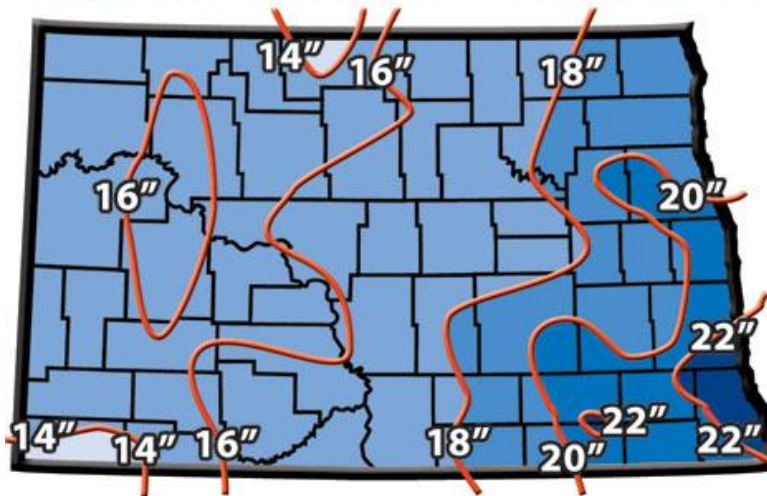
Climate

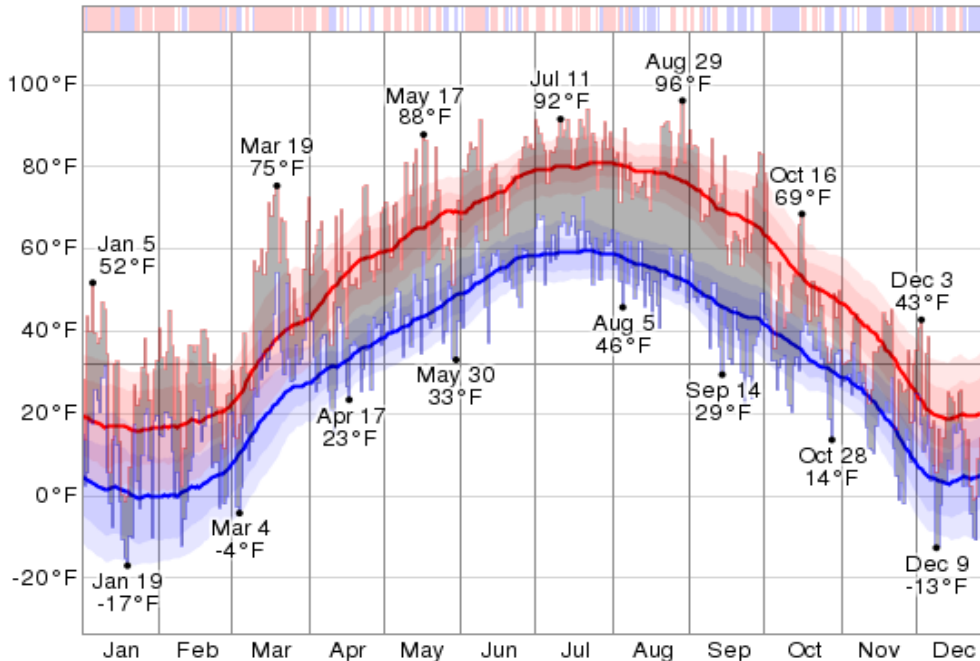
The south-central part of ND has a climate characterized by large, annual and daily day-to-day temperature changes, light to moderate precipitation which tends to be irregular in times and coverage, low relative humidity, plentiful sunshine and almost continuous air movement. The Region receives cold and dry air masses originating from the Polar Regions, warm and moist air masses from tropical regions and mild and dry air from the northern Pacific. These different sources and the rapid progression of the air masses results in rapid weather changes. Day length and the solar angle affect the climate. Day length ranges from less than nine hours in December to sixteen hours in June.

The normal temperature for the year ranges from 37 to 43 degrees F. Winter and spring are separated by the transitional month of March. The most rapid warming occurs in April. The last freezing temperatures of the season generally occur in mid-May. During the summer-fall transition, the temperatures do not fall as rapidly as they rise between winter and spring. Temperatures equaling or exceeding 90 degrees F usually occur on 32 days in south-central ND. Temperatures below 32 degrees F occur for 180 days in south-central ND. Frost penetration in Bismarck averages about 4.5 feet with an extreme of 7.0 feet.

During the winter, precipitation is light and almost always falls in the form of snow. The first substantial spring rains fall in late March or early April. Rainfall hits its highest peak in June. Precipitation averages about 15 to 16 inches with 12 to 13 inches received between April and September. Annual snowfall ranges around 26 inches in this portion of the state. The map below shows annual average precipitation, and the chart below shows temperature ranges throughout the year.

NORTH DAKOTA: AVERAGE ANNUAL PRECIPITATION





Environment

Each project funded by LCRDC's economic development funds usually has to go through an environmental review and clearance before funding may take place. This section identifies environmental issues that may hinder economic development.

Solid Waste Management – because solid waste regulations have been implemented throughout the state, the people of this District must work together to find solutions to this problem. The methods of disposing of solid waste have changed dramatically over the years. Landfills are much more expensive to operate and have caused most landfills in the Region to close. The city of Bismarck has the only landfill in the District. This has caused businesses to pay more to get rid of their waste. Higher disposal costs are making waste reduction activities such as recycling and composting essential. For new businesses starting up or moving into the area, solid waste disposal will be an issue they have to look at very seriously.

Hazardous Waste – this has become a volatile issue in recent years. Abandoned coal mines have been identified as potential disposal sites for hazardous waste. People are very worried about groundwater contamination and the State will become a dumping ground for imported waste. However, the operation of solid waste disposal sites carries with it the potential for increased employment opportunities for the communities involved. With the complexity of the issues, positive and negative, businesses of this nature will be scrutinized by the public.

Sewage Treatment – the incorporated cities in the Region have made use of such programs as CDBG, FEMA, and other federal sources for the installation and/or repair of sewage systems. In most communities, the systems are designed so there is some excess capacity. This way, additional economic development can take place without having to expand the systems. Lewis and Clark Regional Development Council continues to help search for additional funding sources when necessary to upgrade sewage systems in the regions communities.

Endangered Species – endangered species of both plants and animals are protected by federal law. Thousands of acres within the District have been set aside, purchased or leased for use as wildlife management areas by the ND Game and Fish Department. Assessments are done for all projects in the Region to ensure potential siting problems are mitigated.

Historic Areas – the impact on historic sites and landmarks is an important part of the environmental assessment for public works projects and economic development projects. All projects are reviewed by the State Historical Preservation Office. Historic preservation will and has worked side-by-side with economic development and has also shown they may be beneficial to both.

Wetlands – most of the wetland acreage in the District is located east of the Missouri River. This area is a major waterfowl flyway. Projects are not allowed to build on wetlands, nor is draining, burning, filling or leveling of the wetlands.

Floodplains – projects looking at locating in or using existing buildings located in the floodplain have to go through a mitigation process to receive public comments on the proposed project. Once this mitigation process is final and there are no adverse effects to the floodplain or effects by the floodplain, projects can build or do work in the floodplain.

Natural Resources

Soils – the Region has within it a variety of soil types. The different soil types affect the varieties of crops grown in the region and determine which areas are more suitable for grazing. Any soil is the product of vegetation that covered the area while the soil was forming. In native grassland areas, a relatively deep organic sod or turf is produced as the grasses die. Soils in wooded areas and along river bottoms are humus-rich and slightly acidic. Alkaline soils form in areas of poor drainage and where salty groundwater escapes to the surface.

Vegetation – most of the Region is covered with three vegetative types. Floodplain vegetation occurs on the bottom of land and banks of major rivers and in broad floodplain terraces that have alluvial soils, some highly saline that have high water tables. The floodplain type is characterized predominately by hardwood trees and shrub species. The mixed grass prairie vegetation type occurs on loamy soils and contains no dominant short grass. Principal species include needle grasses, wheat grass and bluestem grasses. Most

of the species that comprise this type are hardy plants. Mid tall grass prairie type occurs on gently rolling prairies in the northeast corner of the Region. It is characterized by wheat grasses big and little bluestem grasses and needle grasses on loam soils of glacial till origin.

Glacial Activity and Landforms – as glacial activity occurred, it left many landforms throughout the Region. They include such forms as thrust masses. These forms occur all over the Region. To the average eye they look like little hills dotting the countryside. Escarpments are another form found along the Missouri River. They look like cliffs. Eskers are ridge's that mark routes of streams and rivers. Sand dunes are another form that occurs in six of the ten counties in the Region.

Water – the water resources in the Region can be divided into two categories – surface water and groundwater. Surface water consists of man-made lakes, marshes, rivers and other streams. Groundwater consists of subsurface water contained in aquifers.

Mineral Resources – Oil exploration has taken place in the Region and small amounts of oil are produced in the counties of McLean and Mercer. Of importance to the Region are the lignite-bearing formations underlying the area. The counties of Mercer, McLean and Oliver are the primary coal producing counties. The coal that is found here is a low rank coal, is soft and has a low heat value. It is high in moisture content and low in ash and sulfur content. Another resource found with most lignite outcroppings is leonardite. It is a coal-like material, which is a poor fuel but can be used as a source for chemicals and other non-fuel uses. Sand and gravel are another resource found in abundance in the Region. They have been left as the result of glacial deposits. A by-product of the energy industry is sulfur. It is used in the manufacturing of cellulose products, chemicals, dyes, fertilizers, iron and steel, pharmaceuticals, rubber and for water treatment. Clay is another resource found in the Region. It has been used to produce lightweight aggregate, face brick, building tile and fire brick. Because of the transportation costs, development is hampered. Volcanic ash is present in Emmons County near Linton. Its uses have been as a road base material and as a floor-absorbent. The potential use is as mineral filler, as a soil conditioner, a water purifier, as an abrasive and for other purposes. Stone is another mineral found in the Region. Dimension stone, or sandstone as it is called now, is found near Linton and was used as a building material from 1900-1909. Crushed or broken stone can be found all over the area. It is used for riprap along riverbanks. Another known stone, scoria, is found in quite a few locations and is used for road surfaces.

3. INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE AREA

Housing

This is an issue facing many of the smaller communities located in the Region. The elderly and low income cannot afford to pay for the repairs needed on their homes to make them a safe place to reside. Many communities are using the Community Development Block Grant and USDA-RD programs to receive grant funds to be used to rehabilitate the elderly and low-income residents' homes.

Also, some of the smaller communities are partnering with non-profit corporations to build apartments/condos/town homes for the elderly who do not want to live in a large home anymore. This will free up single- family homes for those first-time homebuyers or those just moving to town. Apartment complexes are also being looked at for the young people that are moving out on their own for the first time; the older generation farmers that have retired and are moving to town; and for employees of city/county government that are having a hard time finding housing.

Another area that has housing concerns is Sioux County, located on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation. Efforts are continuing to alleviate the overcrowding, which contributes to other problems. It is not uncommon to have three generations residing in one living unit. The council staff continues to work with tribal officials and other groups to alleviate the housing shortages.

A Statewide housing needs assessment was conducted in 2020 and the following trends in housing were found:

STATEWIDE CONTEXT – KEY FINDINGS

Trends in Housing for the Region

- Housing units increased 17.8 percent in the region between 2010 and 2020. If building trends continue, projections indicate an increase of more than 4 percent between 2020 and 2025. Burleigh, Kidder, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Oliver and Sioux counties show both actual and projected growth while the other remaining counties show consistent losses.
- In the region, the number of occupied housing units increased 16.7 percent between 2010 and 2020. An increase of 4.2 percent is projected between 2020 and 2025. However, most of the counties witnessed decreases ranging from .3 to 12.2 percent in occupied housing units between 2010 and 2020. Projections indicate, only Emmons, Grant and Sheridan counties can expect a decline of occupied housing units between 2020 and 2025.
- Owner occupied housing made up most of the housing throughout the region in 2020, except for Sioux County where most of the housing was renter occupied.
- The number of renter-occupied housing units in the region is projected to increase by 3.1 percent between 2020 and 2025. Renter-occupied housing units in Burleigh, Mercer, Morton and Kidder counties are projected to increase by at least 11 percent, while Emmons, Grant, McLean, Oliver, Sheridan and Sioux counties show projected losses.

- In the region there were 9,139 vacant housing units, with Burleigh County having the most at 2,765. The largest proportion of vacant units within the region were for seasonal, recreational or occasional use.
- Except for Sioux County, there was little evidence of owner- or renter-occupied housing that was overcrowded or lacked complete plumbing or kitchen facilities.
- The Region on a whole, the owner-occupied housing unit median year built was 1986; the renter-occupied housing units median year built was 1981.

Population Characteristics

- After decades of moderate growth, North Dakota’s population surged to record numbers during the past decade, growing by 16% from 672,591 in 2010 to 779,094 in 2020. Much of the growth took place in the first part of the 2010s, increasing an average of 2% annually from 2010 to 2015. In response to a downturn in the oil and gas industry and workers leaving the state, the annual growth rate slowed to an average of 0.6% annually from 2015 to 2020. Just prior to the release of this study, the Census Bureau released the July 2021 population estimates which show a continued outmigration from western counties impacted by another downturn in the oil and gas industry, and a corresponding loss in the total statewide population of 1% to 774,948 people.
- The rapid growth in population through 2015 was fueled largely by people ages 25 to 44 moving to North Dakota for employment opportunities. This demographic shift resulted in North Dakota being the only state to become younger since 2010, with the median age decreasing from 37.2 years to 35.2 years over the past decade. At the same time as North Dakota was becoming younger, the baby boom generation (a large cohort of people born after World War II, from 1946 through 1964) was getting older and moving into the ‘65 and older’ age cohort – a cohort which grew by 26% from 2010 to 2020. The oldest baby boomers are now 76 years old, and younger boomers will continue aging into this age cohort until 2029.
- Barring another shift in the economy that might alter migration patterns, North Dakota’s population is projected to show moderate growth by 2025, increasing by 1.3% or about 10,000 people. The most significant change in population that is expected to occur by 2025 will be the aging forward of baby boomers into the ‘65 and older’ category. From 2010 to 2020, people 65 and older living in their own home grew four times faster than those living in nursing homes. As more people in this age group can age in place, it is important to consider that 32% of them have a disability; and this increases to 48% for American Indians ages 65 and older.
- As North Dakota’s population grew over the past 10 years, so did the racial and ethnic diversity of the state. Combined, the percentage of the population that was

Black or African American, Asian, American Indian, or Hispanic nearly doubled, growing from 11% in 2010 to 18% in 2020. The Hispanic population, regardless of race, more than doubled, increasing from 13,467 in 2010 to 33,412 in 2020.

- Disposable personal income rose substantially in North Dakota during the past decade. Yet, despite the rise in incomes, there was little overall change in the number of moderate-income households in North Dakota. While there was an increase in the number of households that earn more than \$125,000, most of all North Dakota households earn less than \$75,000 annually (57%); 38% earn less than \$50,000. There was also little change in the state's official poverty rate (12% in 2010 to 11% in 2020). Approximately 77,491 North Dakotans were living in poverty in 2020, meaning they had incomes considered too low to cover basic living expenses. When disaggregated by race and ethnicity, poverty rates continue to be significantly higher for American Indians, Black and African Americans, Asians, and Hispanic populations than for white populations in the state.
- Homelessness continues to be a challenge for many individuals and families in North Dakota. Hispanic populations, Black and African Americans, and American Indians are three, six, and seven times more likely to experience homelessness than white populations in North Dakota. Mental health disorders are becoming more frequent, increasing 46% over the past five years among individuals receiving services for homelessness. In 2021, about 28% of individuals receiving services for homelessness in the state also had a mental health disorder.
- Children and youth are also at risk of experiencing homelessness. During the 2020-2021 school year, 1,788 school aged youth were identified as lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. Youth in foster care who reach the maximum age for services and age out of the program face particularly challenging obstacles. A recent study found that nearly half experience homelessness within two years of 'aging out' of foster care.
- Individuals involved in the justice system face unique challenges regarding housing. Studies suggest that among a myriad of other challenges faced by residents upon release, securing adequate housing can be one of the most significant. The lack of appropriate housing places those recently released from a correctional facility at medium or high risk of homelessness and recidivism. About 5% of the adult population under supervision by the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is in a state of homelessness on any given day.

Housing Characteristics

- While most housing in North Dakota is owner-occupied (62% in 2020), homeownership rates are down from where they were in 2010, regardless of income. The greatest declines in homeownership rates were for households with lower and moderate incomes. From 2010 to 2020, the homeownership rate for

households earning \$50,000 to \$74,999 dropped from 78% to 60%; the rate dropped from 64% to 51% for households earning \$35,000 to \$49,999. The median monthly housing costs for homeowners with a mortgage (including mortgage, insurance, and utilities) rose 27% since 2010, from \$1,146 to \$1,457 in 2020.

- Home sales captured through the Multiple Listing Services of North Dakota (MLS) indicate that the average residential purchase price of North Dakota housing units sold through the services in 2020 was \$246,786. Based on income limits set by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and industry standards regarding mortgage lending practices, more than half of North Dakota households would not be able to afford a home at this value (at least 57%). In addition, MLS data indicate that the average home price in North Dakota rose 8% from 2020 to \$267,404 in 2021.
- As the homeownership rate in North Dakota decreased, the rate of rental occupancy grew from 33% in 2010 to 38% in 2020. However, rental households in North Dakota are also facing a rise in housing costs. Gross rent in North Dakota grew by 49% during the past decade – twice the rate of inflation - from a median of \$555 per month in 2010 to \$828 in 2020. For about one in five households in North Dakota (i.e., those earning less than \$26,070 and defined as extremely low-income by HUD), the most they could afford would be \$652 each month.
- Housing costs in North Dakota are substantially more of a burden for renters than homeowners. In 2020, 39% of renters in the state were cost burdened (spending at least 30% of income toward housing) compared to 14% of homeowners. In addition to households with lower incomes, householders ages 65 and older were more likely than younger age groups to be burdened by housing costs. Overall, 26% of North Dakota householders ages 65 and older were burdened by housing costs – for older adults who rent, 55% were burdened by housing costs.
- COVID-19 added to the challenges faced by families struggling with rising housing costs. During the first few months of the pandemic, housing insecurity among North Dakotans grew an average of 6% every week. Current data suggest that despite the rise in housing insecurity early on, there has been relatively little change in the overall rate since August 2020. Faced with the challenges resulting from the pandemic and rents rising faster than incomes, some householders are not able to pay their rental costs at all – that, without support, can lead to the risk of eviction. On average, about 1.4% of North Dakota families are evicted each year.

Housing Sales Market

- According to the annual Sales Ratio Study conducted by the North Dakota Office of State Tax Commissioner, the average residential homes sale price increased in

all 12 of North Dakota's largest cities from 2010 to 2020 by at least 47%. Growth in sale prices over the 10-year period ranged from a low of 47% and 50% in Minot and Grand Forks respectively, to highs of 99% and 113% growth in Devils Lake and Williston, respectively. For areas impacted by the oil and gas industry, sale price increases were greater in the first half of the decade. For the cities of Fargo, West Fargo, Wahpeton, and Devils Lake, sale price increases were greater in the second half of the decade. The average sale price for residential homes also increased in rural areas of the state from 2010 to 2020 – at rates that were greater than those in the 12 largest cities. Increases ranged from 88% in Region III to 372% in Region I. While the percentage increases were greater in rural areas of the state, the actual prices in rural areas were lower than the corresponding cities in the region. 2022 North Dakota Statewide Housing Needs Assessment 6

- According to MLS in North Dakota, homes sold faster in 2021 than they did in 2017. In the 12 largest cities, the number of days a house was on market before selling decreased from 2017 to 2021 for all home price categories, except for homes priced at \$150,000 or less. For these lower priced homes, the average number of days on the market increased from 75 days in 2017 to 82 days in 2021. The greatest decrease in average days on market was for housing priced at \$500,000 or more, dropping from 149 days in 2017 to 87 days in 2021.
- The average number of days on market in rural North Dakota was considerably longer across all price ranges than in the 12 largest cities in 2021. Even lower priced housing had longer average days on market — roughly 40 days longer for housing priced at up to \$150,000 and 30 days longer for housing priced from \$150,001 to \$250,000. While the average days on market was longer in rural areas than in the 12 largest cities, the average number of days on market declined sharply from 2020 to 2021 except for the highest price housing.
- The average price per square foot in 2021 for new construction and existing sales state-wide reached highs of \$211 and \$151, respectively - both increasing by \$51 per square foot since 2012. The average price per square foot in the state's 12 largest cities increased by \$56 for existing homes and \$45 for new construction since 2012, reaching \$161 and \$207, respectively in 2021. Average price per square foot also increased in rural North Dakota for both existing home and new construction sales since 2012. Cost per square foot for existing homes grew steadily and moderately, increasing by \$37 since 2012 to \$113 per square foot in 2021. The increase was more dramatic for new construction sales in rural areas, increasing by \$90 since 2012 to \$230 per square foot in 2021. x Regardless of location, low and moderately priced housing in the state is much older than more expensive housing. Houses listed at \$150,000 or less in 2021 were more than a decade older on average in rural North Dakota (72 years old) than in the state's largest cities (61 years old). Even homes priced from \$150,001 to \$250,000 were older, averaging 49 years old statewide. In contrast, homes priced over \$350,000 were, on average, less than 18 years old.

- Average sale prices in North Dakota have continually increased over the past 10 years, regardless of geography. While lower in rural North Dakota, average sale prices increased at a higher rate than in the 12 largest cities overall. According to MLS data, the average 2021 sale price was \$267,404 statewide, \$283,020 in the 12 largest cities, and \$207,724 in rural North Dakota.
- With increasing sale prices over the past decade in North Dakota, the sales market is becoming dominated by increasingly more expensive homes. In 2012, 80% of units sold were priced at \$250,000 or less – and this percentage dropped to 53% in 2021. More expensive homes – those sold for more than \$250,000 – compose 20% of all sales in 2012 and rose to capture 47% of all sales in 2021.

Multifamily Housing Affordability Programs

- State and federally funded affordable housing programs are designed to help ensure safe and affordable housing is available for low-income households, the elderly, and individuals with a disability. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban development (HUD), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency administer programs that provide low interest loans, tax credits, and rental assistance payments. Statewide there are currently 12,361 subsidized multifamily housing units at various income restriction limits.
- Of the 12,361 affordable housing units in the state, 4,368 (35%) receive rental assistance. Rental assistance policies vary slightly but generally limit household rental costs to at or below 30% of household income. While there are low-income rental properties in every region of the state, more housing units are in planning regions home to three of the four large metro areas of Fargo-West Fargo, Bismarck-Mandan, and Grand Forks.
- Through the Housing Choice Voucher program, administered by HUD, a total of 7,175 households were approved for housing vouchers as of March 2022 to assist with housing options in North Dakota. Recipients have 60 days upon approval to secure housing and begin to receive the vouchers. However, due to the inability to find rental options that qualify or a provider willing to accept a voucher as rent payment, a growing number of recipients 2022 North Dakota Statewide Housing Needs Assessment 7 have not been able to secure housing during the 60-day period which results in expiration of their applications. The average number of vouchers unredeemed each month from January 2020 is 64% higher than the average prior to 2020. This would suggest that even with vouchers, lower-income households have challenges securing housing.
- Opportunities for lower-income householders to find affordable rents are limited in North Dakota. Estimates indicate that approximately 62,224 extremely and very low-income households in North Dakota rented their homes in 2020 – and two-thirds of them pay at least 30% of their income toward rent. Yet there are

only 2,904 subsidized low-income housing units in the state that would be available to these householders based on program income restrictions.

- Many States and federally funded multi-family housing projects have been in service for many years and may need repair and rehabilitation. Forty-four percent of affordable housing units have been in service since before 2000 – 14% have been in service since before 1980 (meaning 14% have been in service for 43 to 62 years). Properties administered by Public Housing Authorities are also likely in need of repair and rehabilitation with most built in the early 1970s.

Future Housing Needs

- Since 2015, population growth has moderated; however, the state is still expected to experience moderate population growth by 2025.
- North Dakota’s economy is considerably larger than it was just a few years ago. Economic growth is especially strong in the state’s largest urban areas where the economy is more diversified. However, growth and strong economic conditions vary regionally. Higher wages and salaries have resulted in higher household and family incomes across the state. Despite the rise in incomes, there has been little overall change in the number of moderate-income households in North Dakota. Further, despite rapid growth in incomes across North Dakota during the past decade, there was little change in the state’s poverty rate.
- This assessment shows less emphasis on housing needs based on the overall growth in future population, rather, current market conditions and characteristics of the housing inventory, in particular the age of the current housing inventory, were identified as key considerations in future housing need.
- Homeownership rates are decreasing, and rental rates are increasing. These trends may not necessarily indicate a preference to rent, but rather a lack of housing that is affordable and meets homebuyer preferences. Age of housing also is a concern for moderately priced housing, which may likely need renovation and may not be in line 2022 North Dakota Statewide Housing Needs Assessment 8 with consumer preferences. The inventory of income-restricted multifamily housing is also older and likely in need of renovation.
- Housing needs based on historic relationships between population and household characteristics would suggest the state’s housing inventory is reasonably aligned with projected future needs. However, housing market conditions suggest that might not be the case. Preliminary analysis suggests there may be a disconnect between the current inventory, homebuyer preferences, and properties available on the market. Additional market analysis to assess the potential gap between the existing housing inventory and market preferences is needed.

Table 13: Total Housing Units

County	2020	2010	2000
Burleigh	42,692	35,754	29,003
Emmons	2,047	2,085	2,168
Grant	1,649	1,690	1,722
Kidder	1,631	1,674	1,610
McLean	5,728	5,590	5,264
Mercer	4,657	4,450	4,402
Morton	15,107	12,152	10,587
Oliver	912	905	903
Sheridan	808	894	924
Sioux	1,277	1,311	1,216
Total	76,508	66,505	57,799

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census

Table 14: 2020 Occupancy as a %

County	Owned	Rented	Vacant
Burleigh	69.8	30.2	6.5
Emmons	80.5	19.5	27.1
Grant	87.9	12.1	37.7
Kidder	75.3	24.7	36.1
McLean	80.0	20.0	27.9
Mercer	83.4	16.6	25.4
Morton	70.9	29.1	8.5
Oliver	88.8	11.2	16.7
Sheridan	81.1	18.9	27.6
Sioux	48.7	51.3	13.6
Average	76.6	23.4	22.7
North Dakota	62.3	37.7	13.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

As can be seen by Table 15, the region, median home values averaged well above state, but well below the national averages.

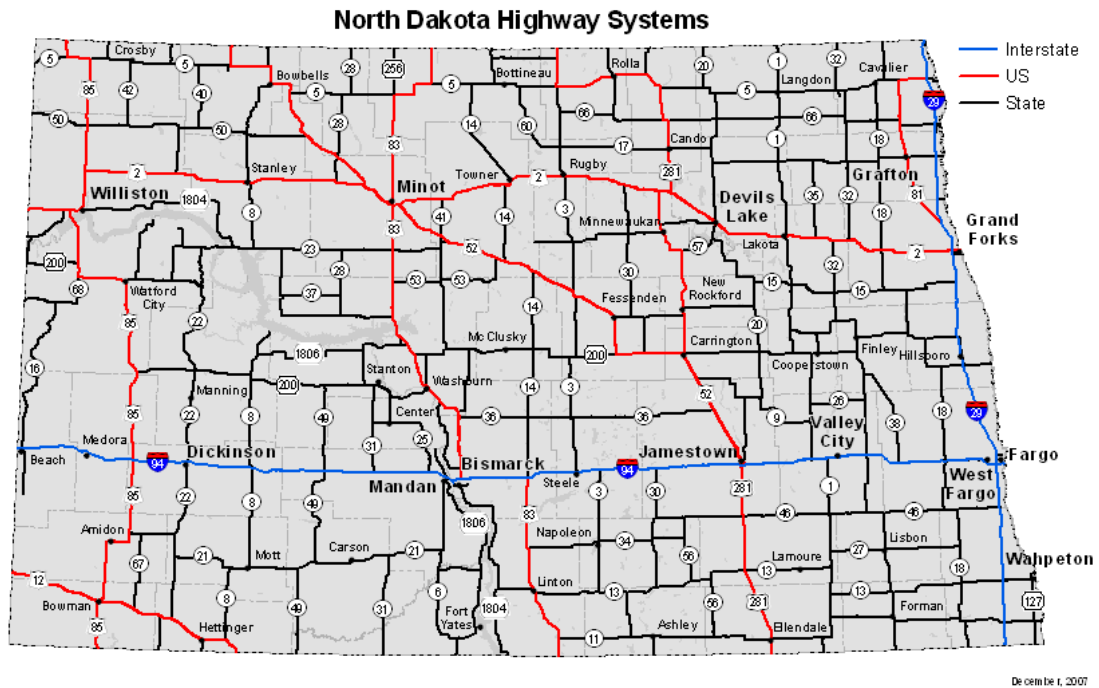
Table 15: Median Home Value by County 2020

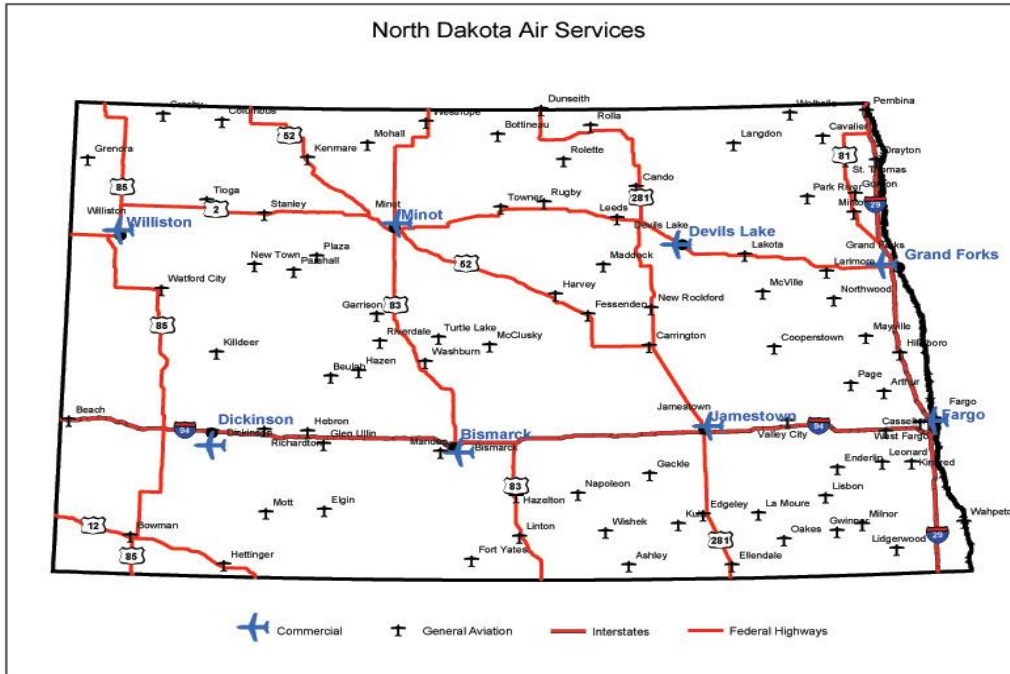
County	
Burleigh	\$266,800
Emmons	\$94,500
Grant	\$75,600
Kidder	\$101,600
McLean	\$184,800
Mercer	\$181,100
Morton	\$220,900
Oliver	\$202,400
Sheridan	\$95,800
Sioux	\$83,300
Region	\$226,575
State	\$199,900
National	\$361,500

U.S. Census Bureau

Transportation

South-central ND is networked together primarily by a system of roads. This network is made up of Interstate 94, which runs east to west across the central part of the Region. Other highways include US Highway 83, Highway's 49, 14, 31, 6, 41, all running north south. East-west highways include Highway's 200, 21, and 36. Most locations within the Region are within a short commute to a major artery. Bus service is primarily restricted to the Interstate system. Passenger rail service is not accessible in the Region. The nearest boarding station is in Minot, some 120 miles away. The Region is served by the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad and the Dakota Missouri Valley and Western Railroad. The Burlington Northern-Santa Fe carry trains loaded with commodities from western states bound for eastern markets. The main commodity shipped from south-central ND is wheat. There are a few elevators throughout the Region that load unit trains bound for either west or east coast markets. Because of the oil boom in the western part of the state, crude oil is also being shipped on the railroad system. Scheduled air service is available in Bismarck only with service to Denver, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Orlando, Salt Lake City, Los Angeles and Minneapolis via Northwest Airlines, Allegiant, Frontier and United Express. There are smaller airports located throughout the Region, offering charter service. Overnight delivery services such as UPS, Federal Express and the US Postal Service are available to all residents of the Region. Package and mail delivery is moved by truck and air into and out of the Region daily. The maps below show the highway system, airports and railroads throughout North Dakota.





NORTH DAKOTA STATE RAIL PLAN



Water and Sewer

Forty-seven of the fifty incorporated communities in the Region have water and sewer systems. Although many of these systems meet reasonable standards and quality, they are over forty years old. Efforts to upgrade them are both continual and long term. In order for these systems to adequately meet special industrial specifications, assistance may be needed from various agencies.

Most communities have their own water wells to draw their water from. However, some are hooked up to rural water systems. The Southwest Water Pipeline Project, an 80-mile pipeline that transports water from Lake Sakakawea to Dickinson where it is treated, provides water to the communities of Elgin, New Leipzig, Carson, Golden Valley, Hebron and Glen Ullin. The Missouri West Water System provides water to the communities of New Salem, Flasher, and Almont. The McLean/Sheridan Rural Water System provides water to the communities of Turtle Lake, Wilton, McClusky and Coleharbor.

Water and sewer systems are not obstacles to development in most communities. The Bismarck/Mandan area has Class I water. Class I water refers to the general quality and quantity of water available from a stream. Missouri River water is Class I water.

Most rural homes in the Region are served by individual septic systems for disposal of wastewater. Public systems are mainly used in communities with populations exceeding 50-100 people. The sewer infrastructure in most communities is aged and in need of repair and modernization. The lagoon capacities in most communities are adequate to cover the existing population. An economic burden will take place in the future if increased population takes place or clean water law requirements.



Public Safety

Police – the larger cities located in the Region can afford their own police forces. Most of the other communities, the smaller ones, cannot afford their own, so they contract with the county sheriff’s office to provide services.

Fire Districts – all the communities in the Region have or are readily accessible by a fire district. Sometimes fire districts cross over into other counties, but every community in region is covered by a fire district. With the smaller communities losing their populations, volunteers are getting harder to find to man these fire districts.

Ambulance – in the past, most, if not all, communities had their own ambulance service. Today that is not the norm. Because of the lack of volunteers, some ambulance districts are crossing over into other communities to provide services.

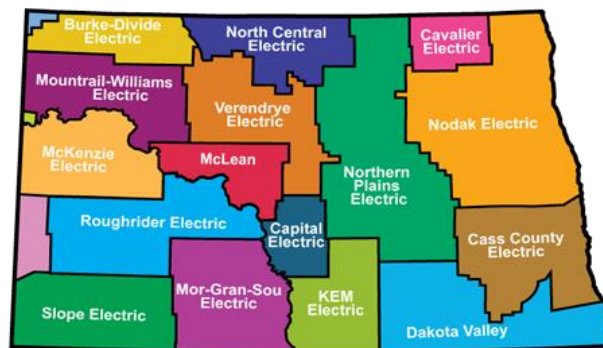
911 Service – all communities in the Region are set up on the 911 system. All roads and highways have been numbered, along with houses, so if a call comes into the central 911 office, it will be known where the call came from, making it easier to locate the home.

Communications

Most communications services across the Region are adequate and are on the cutting edge of technology. All the Regions communities either have cable access or have satellite systems. The major service providers in the Region are BEK Communications, McLeodUSA, West River Telecommunications, Qwest, Midcontinent Communications, Sprint, MCI, and AT&T.

Electrical Distribution

Electrical power and access to electrical power is adequate across the Region. Service is provided by investor-owned and cooperative-owned companies. North Dakota is home to one hydroelectric generating plant which provides the State with competitive electrical rates and home to numerous coal-fired generating power plants. The predominate providers of electricity in the Region are Capital Electric, KEM Electric, McLean Electric, MDU, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, Roughrider Electric, and Otter Tail Power. See the map below.



4. MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS

Agriculture

Agriculture has been the mainstay of the economy since the early days when the railroads were built and brought new people to the area to make their living farming the land. Farming the prairies was not what the early settlers believed it would be. Factors such as drought, low prices, distances from markets, etc. forced many people off the farm. This has created fewer farms, but more acreage for the farms that are left. Table 16 shows the change in the number of farms and the average size per farm by county for the periods of 2002, 2012 and 2017. From 2002 through 2012, 160 farms were lost. From 2012 to 2017, 995 farms were lost. From 2002 through 2012, the size of the farm decreased by 38 acres. From 2012 to 2017, the average size of the farm increased by 238 acres. Compounded by decades of farms losses and farm consolidations prior to the 1980's, communities that formerly served the farms and ranches in the ten south-central counties have lost population and main street businesses in alarming numbers.

Regional totals for income per farm in Region VII decreased from 2012 to 2017 according to the Census of Agriculture 2017 report. Table 17 shows the value of agricultural commodities sold by county and by average farm.

With the sales per farm rising there is also an increase in the cost of production. When combined with sales, the result is farms and ranches having to spend the equity in their operation just to cover operating costs. Table 18 shows the average production expenses by county.

Opportunities to value agricultural products before shipping them out of the Region is being explored. Such areas as a beef feed lot that processes finished cattle and a dairy operation are being pursued.

Table 16: Number of Farms and Average Farm Size (acres)

	Farms 2017	Farms 2012	Farms 2002	Average Size 2017	Average Size 2012	Average Size 2002
Burleigh	785	1,014	946	1,050	857	915
Emmons	516	609	699	1,573	1,256	1,199
Grant	412	508	548	2,329	2,004	1,928
Kidder	476	559	584	1,572	1,277	1,360
McLean	762	868	918	1,372	1,162	1,193
Mercer	317	442	456	1,635	1,120	1,176
Morton	781	889	855	1,570	1,394	1,493
Oliver	234	290	307	1,340	1,384	1,315
Sheridan	260	370	393	2,121	1,282	1,193
Sioux	187	176	179	3,145	3,580	3,925
Region	4,730	5,725	5,885	1,770	1,532	1,570
State	26,364	30,961	30,619	1,268	1,241	1,283

Source: 2017 Census of Agriculture (most recent)

Table 17: Value of Agricultural Products Sold

County	2017 County Total 000's	2012 County Total 000's	2002 County Total 000's	2017 Average Per Farm	2012 Average Per Farm	2002 Average Per Farm
Burleigh	\$134,131	\$179,612	\$45,060	\$170,867	\$177,132	\$47,632
Emmons	\$162,102	\$171,284	\$47,274	\$314,151	\$281,255	\$67,631
Grant	\$83,018	\$157,090	\$42,038	\$201,501	\$309,231	\$76,712
Kidder	\$113,586	\$148,317	\$44,427	\$238,627	\$265,326	\$76,074
McLean	\$176,922	\$293,406	\$84,271	\$232,181	\$338,025	\$91,798
Mercer	\$57,168	\$76,705	\$22,252	\$180,340	\$181,766	\$48,799
Morton	\$145,997	\$225,239	\$69,285	\$186,936	\$253,933	\$81,035
Oliver	\$47,326	\$85,495	\$22,579	\$202,248	\$294,811	\$73,546
Sheridan	\$92,044	\$109,779	\$26,677	\$354,016	\$291,294	\$62,790
Sioux	\$61,906	\$62,730	\$13,187	\$331,046	\$356,419	\$73,670
Region	\$1,074,200	\$1,509,657	\$354,050	\$241,191	\$274,919	\$69,964
State	\$8,234,102	\$10,950,680	\$3,233,366	\$312,324	\$353,693	\$105,600

Source: 2017 Census of Agriculture (most recent)

Table 18: Average Farm Production Expenses

County	Average Per Farm 2017	Average Per Farm 2012	Average Per Farm 2002
Burleigh	\$135,623	\$128,057	\$37,584
Emmons	\$282,949	\$196,414	\$72,631
Grant	\$180,550	\$199,745	\$75,393
Kidder	\$192,500	\$182,394	\$66,412
McLean	\$213,905	\$215,245	\$73,474
Mercer	\$161,188	\$136,711	\$42,448
Morton	\$172,422	\$160,935	\$70,716
Oliver	\$186,553	\$224,698	\$62,042
Sheridan	\$276,000	\$202,655	\$57,632
Sioux	\$284,226	\$223,870	\$87,358
Region	208,291	\$187,072	\$64,569
State	\$267,872	\$235,656	\$88,492

Source: 2017 Census of Agriculture (most recent)

Table 19 shows North Dakota's top five agricultural commodities in the year 2017 with their value of receipts, percent of state total farm receipts.

Table 19: North Dakota's Top 5 Agricultural Commodities 2017

	Value of receipts thousands \$	Percent of state total farm receipts
1. Wheat	1,348,366	16.4
2. Soybeans	2,113,612	25.7
3. Corn	1,409,445	17.1
4. Cattle & Calves	1,295,654	15.7
5. Canola	856,118	21.4
All Commodities	8,234,102	

Source: USDA Ag Statistics (2017 most recent)

Table 20 shows the production by major crops and livestock for the years 2017 and 2012. As can be seen, production of spring wheat, sunflowers, canola, soybeans, beans and hay have gone up. Production in the livestock categories of sheep and hogs/pigs have declined, with cattle and calves increasing.

Table 20: Major Agricultural Crops and Livestock in the LCRDC Region, 2017 and 2012

Commodity	2017 Production	2012 Production
Spring Wheat	33,222,382 bushels	33,041,000 bushels
Winter Wheat	331,583 bushels	5,210,000 bushels
Barley	3,570,812 bushels	4,389,100 bushels
Sunflowers (Oil)	254,464,903 pounds	452,591,000 pounds
Canola	170,099 acres	152,969 acres
Soybeans	16,876,727 bushels	2,955,000 bushels
Corn (Grain)	38,600,550 bushels	45,032,000 bushels
Beans Dry Edible	560,343 hundredweight	470,000 hundredweight
Hay (All)	785,266 tons	703,100 tons
Livestock	2017	2012
Cattle and Calves	574,200 head	540,000 head
Sheep	13,187 head	17,600 head
Hogs and Pigs	*553 head	2,200 head

Source: USDA Ag Statistics (2017 most recent) * 6 of the 10 Counties did not report

Energy Production

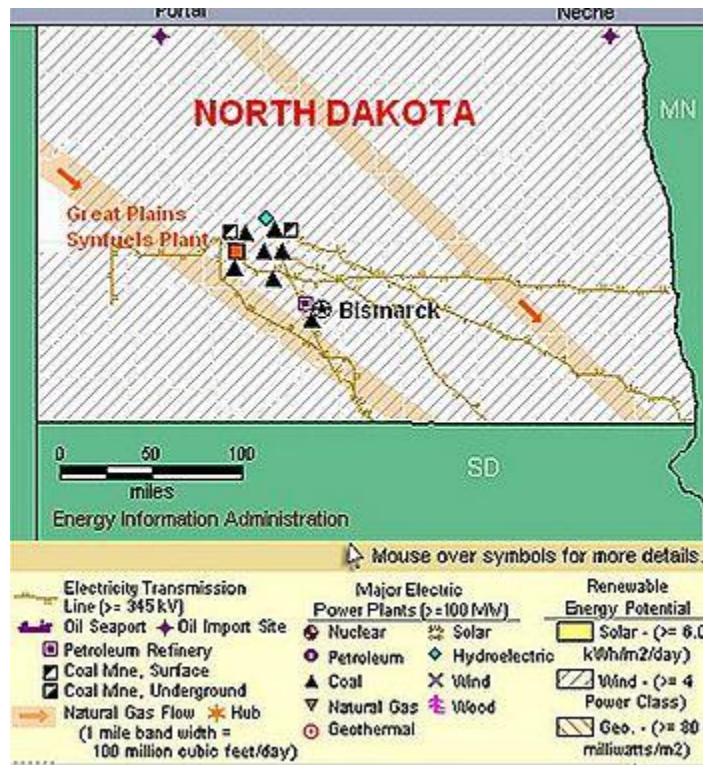
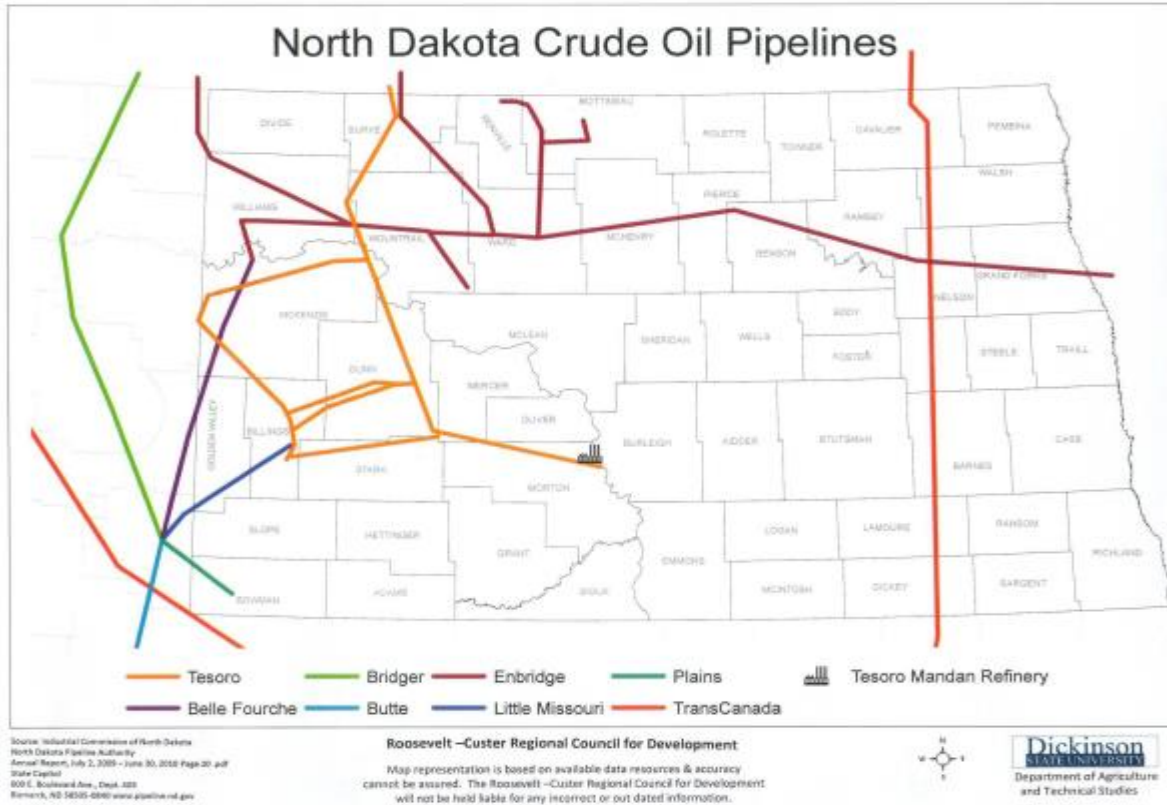
This part of the State has seen oil activity since 1983. McLean County started producing oil in April of 1983 and Mercer County started producing oil in October of 2009. Along with oil production comes natural gas. Table 21 shows oil and natural gas production in McLean and Mercer County throughout the years.

Table 21: Annual Oil and Gas Production by LCRDC County

County	1983-1990		1991-2000		2001-2010		2011-2020	
	Oil	Natural Gas	Oil	Natural Gas	Oil	Natural Gas	Oil	Natural Gas
McLean	45,392	23,519	1,954,593	1,336,472	896,988	538,530	11,631,491	7,925,933
Mercer	0	0	0	0	7,156	2,854	4,865	1,417

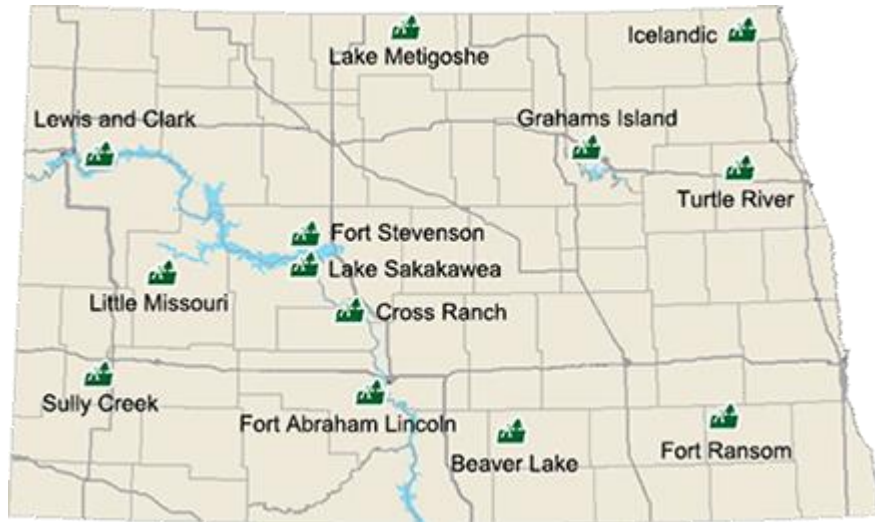
The major resource found in this part of the State is that of coal. Lignite coal underlies much of the western two-thirds of North Dakota. Coal production in the Region is centered in the counties of Mercer, Oliver and McLean. The nearby access to water, coupled with the huge reserves of strippable lignite prompted the construction of coal-fired electrical generation facilities in these three counties along with a coal gasification plant in Mercer County. One new ethanol plant and one new CO2 plant have been built in the Region in the last ten years. The city of Mandan is home to an oil refinery. The Tesoro pipeline brings oil to the refinery in Mandan.

Wind energy is also playing a factor in energy production in North Dakota. There are wind farms located in Burleigh County, Oliver County and Emmons County. The two maps below show crude oil pipelines and coal mines.



Tourism

Tourism is often mentioned as the third largest economic generator for the State, but for the Region, it is last. In this Region, it is a little over two percent of the economic base, with energy being the largest, followed by federal activities, agriculture, and then manufacturing. The major tourist attractions to this Region are the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, located in Washburn, and Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park, located in Mandan. Hunting and fishing also draw people to the area along with a variety of small local recreational and historical sites. The map below shows state parks in the region.



Manufacturing

The manufacturing base in the Region is located primarily in Burleigh County, in and around the cities of Bismarck/Mandan. Companies within the Region include but are not limited to food manufacturers, metal fabrication, data input, furniture manufacturing, software development, energy development, medical devices, and many others. There are a range of companies in various ranges of growth, from recent start-ups to those that have been around for many, many years.

The way to measure success in these companies is to look at their net profits, sales, etc., but they are not available to just anyone. Another way to measure success to manufacturing companies is to look at the employment they provide to the Region. Table 22 shows manufacturing employment over the years by county.

Table 22: Manufacturing Employment

County	2020		2010		2000	
	Employers	Employees	Employers	Employees	Employers	Employees
Burleigh	93	801	80	884	72	1,795
Emmons	1	*	2	*	3	15
Grant	4	29	3	31	5	37
Kidder	3	10	4	7	2	*
McLean	6	*	9	49	5	17

Mercer	6	26	7	21	7	45
Morton	33	938	41	848	37	990
Oliver	3	16	4	20	4	17
Sheridan	1	*	2	*	2	*
Sioux	*	*	*	*	1	*
Region	150	1,820	152	1,860	138	2,916

Source: Job Service ND

* Non-Disclosable data

5. RELATIONSHIP OF THE AREA’S ECONOMY TO THAT OF THE LARGER REGION OR STATE WITH PARTICULAR REGARDS TO LOCATIONAL ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

Region VII is very rural. It is comprised of ten counties, located in the middle and mostly southern part of the State. The southern portion borders South Dakota. The largest community is the Bismarck/Mandan area, with a population of approximately 98,000. Most other communities in the Region are under 2,000 population, except for Hazen and Beulah. Metropolitan communities near Region VII are Fargo and Minneapolis to the east, Pierre and Denver to the south and Billings and Seattle to the west.

The Region, let alone the State, is at no disadvantage because of location. All modes of transportation to transport goods and services in and out of the Region are in place. Access to any place in the world can be accessed from any point in the Region due in part because of the recent technological advancements. We can compete in the worldwide economy.

Traveling distances of up to about 500 miles is often accomplished by motor vehicle. The access to air service and the cost is inefficient and expensive for shorter trips. The Region is well served with excellent roads and an excellent interstate system. Interstate 94 crosses the Region from east to west and connects to major cities in both directions.

Usually travel beyond 500 miles is done by air. However, this is not as easy as it should be. The city of Bismarck is served by the national carrier Northwest Airlines, Delta and Allegiant and by the smaller, regional carrier, United Express. Travel costs from Bismarck to a hub such as Denver and Minneapolis are extremely high.

6. FACTORS THAT DIRECTLY AFFECT ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE IN THE AREA

State and Local Laws

The State of North Dakota has made remarkable strides in addressing the economic development needs of its communities and counties across the state. It is at the point where doing business in ND is not a detriment to the company anymore, in fact, businesses can operate at a profit. The legislature has shown remarkable willingness to address problem areas to the benefit of business development. Local governments have

also made great efforts in establishing programs and tweaking local laws to encourage economic development.

Financial Resources

North Dakota companies have a hard time accessing capital, especially start-up companies. The amount of risk associated with these start-ups restricts access to affordable capital. Those companies must use personal funds or “love money” to start their companies. Companies with proven track records looking to expand can access capital.

The state government has a couple of funding programs businesses may access. The ND Development Fund is a risk capital fund, and the Flex PACE program is used for interest buy-down. LCRDC has four programs it uses for economic development. One is the Revolving Loan Fund from the Economic Development Administration; others are Intermediary Relending Programs from USDA Rural Development, the North Dakota Opportunity Fund from Treasury and the Community Development Block Grant from HUD.

Transportation Costs

Because of the Region’s location to the major markets, transportation costs in and out of the Region are higher than other places. Companies can offset these costs by back-hauling freight, having smaller margins and by increasing efficiency.

Energy Costs

ND has several coal-fired generating plants, and this makes energy costs very competitive as compared to other states nationwide. These energy costs can be very beneficial in negotiations with companies, especially if everything is already in place and the company does not have to incur this cost.

Business, Personal and Property Taxes

When compared to other states, ND’s income tax, sales tax, corporate tax, gasoline tax and property taxes are low and not a burden to businesses looking at starting or locating here.

Land Use Patterns

Land use within the Region generally conforms to the physical characteristics of the area. The most popular and productive uses of the land have traditionally been agriculturally related uses. Cropland and rangeland are by far the most predominant of such land uses. Other uses of the land include recreation, hunting, coal production and other public uses. A lot of these lands are owned, managed or operated by state, federal and local governments. There are approximately 80 municipal and 12 county parks and outdoor recreation sites in the Region. They comprise approximately 5,000 acres. Most recreational facilities and parks are in the communities themselves.

The State Park Service owns and manages a little over 2,000 acres of land. Those acres include the parks at Fort Lincoln, Lake Sakakawea and Fort Stevenson.

The State Game and Fish Department has acquired well over 10,000 acres and leased over 56,000 acres of game management areas throughout the Region, all but a few of which are open to hunting.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manage over 18,000 acres of waterfowl production areas and own or lease over 55,000 acres comprising National Wildlife Refuges.

The National Park Service administers a little over 1,000 acres at the Knife River National Historic Site in Mercer County.

The Bureau of Land Management has jurisdiction over 5,000 acres. These lands are open to hunting, hiking and other recreational endeavors.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers administers several large water impoundments. These areas provide most of the water-based recreation areas in the Region and possess intensely developed facilities for picnicking, camping, boating, water skiing and fishing.

The U.S. Forest Service administers over 6,000 acres in Grant and Sioux Counties.

7. OTHER FACTORS THAT DIRECTLY AFFECT ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE IN THE AREA

Housing

This is an issue facing many of the smaller communities located in the Region. The elderly and low income cannot afford to pay for the repairs needed on their homes to make them a safe place to reside. Some of the smaller communities are partnering with non-profits to build apartments/condos/town homes for the elderly who do not want to live a large home anymore. This will free up single-family homes for those first-time homebuyers or those just moving to town. Apartment complexes are also being looked at for the young people and those that are moving from the farm to town. Another area that has housing concerns is Sioux County, located on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation. Efforts are continuing to alleviate the overcrowding, which contributes to other problems. It is not uncommon to have three generations residing in one living unit. The council staff continues to work with tribal officials and other groups to alleviate the housing shortages.

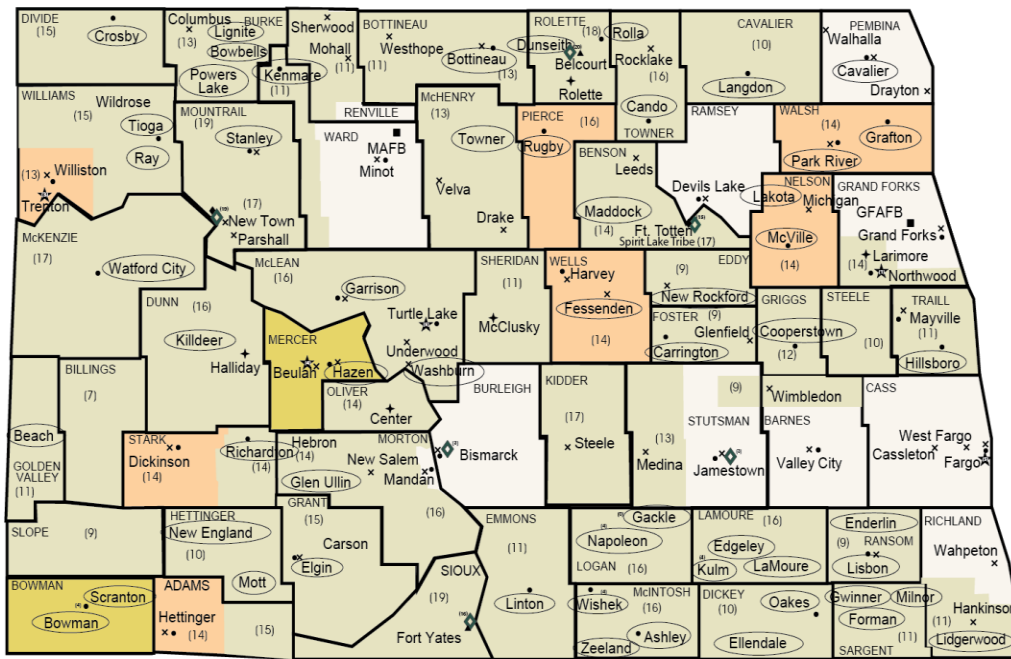
Health Services

The major health care center is in Bismarck/Mandan. All other communities have reduced services or satellite clinics operated by area hospitals. Even though the health care is reduced, it is generally.

The communities of Linton, Garrison, Elgin, Bismarck, Mandan, Hazen, Fort Yates, and Turtle Lake all have hospitals. Referrals are made to one of the two Bismarck hospitals. Patients in south-central ND can receive the same care as people in larger communities, although it is not always easily accessible.

Distance from clinics and hospitals will continue to grow for many areas residents as their local health care facility closes or is turned into a one or two-day a week facility. Ambulance squads will have to make additional efforts for training and recruitment to maintain an adequate staff and response team to meet the needs of its residents.

North Dakota Health Professional Shortage Areas Rural Hospitals, Clinics, CHCs and RHCs



Center for Rural Health
The University of North Dakota
School of Medicine & Health Sciences

- Designated Geographic HPSAs
- Proposed for Withdrawal HPSA
- Low Income HPSA
- ◆ Designated Facility HPSAs
- () HPSA Score Used to Assist in Prioritizing Resources

Key		
●	x	○
★	+	◇
■	▲	◆
Air Force Bases	Indian Health Service Hospital	Indian Health Service Clinic

6/12

For further information on health professional shortage areas, contact Terri Lang at terri.lang@med.und.edu

Public Safety

Many of the smaller communities cannot afford to pay for their own police. They are forced to contract with the local sheriff's office to provide those services. They may get lucky to be the home to that peace officer and have him or her available to them 24 hours a day or not so lucky and only see the officer occasionally. With budgets becoming smaller and smaller, a lot more communities will have to drop their police force and revert to the contracting with the sheriff.

In the early days, most communities had their own fire department. However, today communities have had to go to districts. These districts are larger and have to cover more area. Because communities are losing population, it is making it more difficult to get

volunteers to man these fire districts. It is also difficult to maintain training and keep equipment up to-date because of budget cuts.

Schools and Educational Facilities

The State and the Region have excellent educational facilities. Towns that have schools provide education for either K-6, K-8 or K-12. The Region has one four-year university, University of Mary, and three two-year schools, Bismarck State College (BSC), United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) and Sitting Bull College (SBC).

The post-secondary schools are responding to the Region's needs by providing training programs and degree programs that correspond with the needs of businesses and individuals. They are providing this with interactive video and the internet.

ND students excel in high school and college. They go on to become excellent workers, managers and entrepreneurs. However, local school districts are struggling to survive. Lack of funding is causing budgets to be cut and the consolidation of districts.

Recreational and Cultural Facilities

Because of the open spaces and the vast amounts of outdoor activities, the Region's residents are just minutes away from fishing, hunting, boating, skiing, hiking, etc. Lake Sakakawea is in the northern part of the Region and is one of the largest man-made lakes in the world. It is famous for fishing, camping and other outdoor activities. Smaller lakes located throughout the Region are also excellent fishing and camping spots.

Hunting is one of the largest sports enjoyed by men and women alike. Every fall and winter hunters enjoy such hunts as pheasant, grouse, ducks, geese, turkeys, antelope, deer, fox, and coyotes.

When the weather turns nasty, indoor activities take over. They include swimming, hockey, gymnastics, and basketball.

Cultural activities include those which are associated with schools, libraries, church groups, and fraternal organizations.

8. WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

Lewis and Clark Regional Development Council (LCRDC) interacts with several agencies and groups daily in the pursuit of achieving its development policies and activities of the Region. The list is as follows:

Economic Development Administration

LCRDC is a designated Economic Development District (EDA) and has been a planning grant recipient for the past 38 years. We have been able to access numerous public works and technical assistance grants over the years. LCRDC is also a recipient of two Revolving Loan Fund grants. EDA staff has provided technical assistance to the District on many occasions on different projects and issues. We work very closely with the EDA

representative and attend the District conferences as well as other meetings and training hosted by EDA.

USDA – Rural Development

LCRDC has developed a strong working relationship with Rural Development. Staff attend workshops and any training sponsored by them and include them in any projects that their programs will fit into. LCRDC has received four Intermediary Revolving Program loans from Rural Development to use as gap lending financing for business start-ups and/or expansions.

Division of Community Services

DCS is the state agency that receives HUD funds through the Community Development Block Grant program, which are used for housing projects, public facilities and economic development projects. DCS makes the decisions concerning which city or county will receive a grant and how said grants will be spent. DCS monitors all projects and reviews projects for compliance with federal guidelines.

North Dakota Development Fund

This is a State initiated risk capital loan pool used for leveraging private capital for selected primary sector businesses. The Fund is administered by the Department of Economic Development and Finance but is governed by a board selected by the governor. This type of financing is used as part of a financial package and LCRDC has often submitted projects to them.

Economic Development of North Dakota

EDND is a professional development association made up of the State's economic development professionals. LCRDC attends training and organizational meetings of the organization. This organization is also used by the staff as a valuable networking tool.

One-Stop Capital Center

The Small Business Administration is the primary sponsor of the Capital Center, and it is located within the Bank of North Dakota building. It is designed so a project can be presented to all the federal and state economic development entities in one stop. It also allows all of the development agencies to develop a package of financing that fit the project being considered.

Small Business Development Center

The Small Business Development Center provides counseling services to clients along with business plan development and financial projections.

B. COUNTY PROFILES

The CEDS planning process analyzes local conditions and trends, identifies problems and opportunities, sets goals, objective and strategies and coordinates activities to implement them. This is a continuing process that responds to changing wants and needs.

Below is a summary of the SWOT Analysis results collected from the CEDS committee members as they pertain to the three areas of **Economy, Housing and Infrastructure**.

Strengths and Weaknesses

The following is a list of the strengths and weaknesses as identified by the CEDS committee and derived from the county commission meetings held throughout the District:

Strengths:

- Region VII is a major coal producing area
- University of Mary, Bismarck State College, United Tribes Technical College, Sitting Bull College
- Major bird flyway
- Excellent medical facilities
- Unemployment and workers compensation rates are low
- Educational system is very strong
- Unemployment is very low
- Bismarck is a regional trade center between Fargo and Billings
- Mainline railroad intersects the Region from east to west along the Interstate
- Excellent water source
- Major air travel service by Delta, Allegiant, United Express, Alligiant
- Area is noted for the production of high quality crops
- An abundance of hunting, fishing and other recreational activities
- State has incentives for economic development/primary sector businesses
- Centrally located between the national markets of the East and West coast, which allows for lower transportation costs
- An abundance of manufacturing, telecommunications and other primary sector businesses
- Location of Fort Abraham Lincoln and the Garrison Dam Reservoir

Weaknesses:

- Continued loss of family farms
- Housing values are too high for new homes and are not enough to make it feasible to build in the smaller communities
- Housing is in a decline in smaller communities and also very limited
- The area is very dependent on agriculture
- Aging of the population
- Loss of young people leaving the area
- Cold climate perception

- Out-migration of the area
- Small labor pool
- Per capita income and earnings is lower than State and Nation
- Lack of sites to start industry
- Commodity prices are not rising to keep pace with production
- Limited airline service

Growth Sectors and Clusters

The traditional economy we have known for over the past thirty-five years is changing drastically. It has gone from main street businesses servicing family farms to industries and other sectors emerging. Those emerging include:

- Value-added agriculture projects that include dairies, feedlots, and food processing.
- Manufacturing to include durable and non-durable goods.
- Telecommunications industry that includes data processing, call centers, etc.
- Tourism that includes hunting, fishing, boating and other outdoor activities

Industry clusters are defined as a group of businesses located within proximity to one another and either share a common set of input needs or rely on each other as suppliers or customers. Identifying local industry trends through a cluster analysis provides a framework for local communities to stimulate local business development. This may also help businesses find success through becoming part of a certain cluster or may point out why a cluster is declining.

The Region’s largest industry is that of health care and social assistance as can be seen in Table 23. Second largest is retail trade, followed by accommodation and food services. Please see the individual county data starting on page 57 for their employment sector numbers.

Table 23: Employment Industries in Region VII, 2020

Employment Sectors	Number of Jobs	% of Total
Agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting	494	.82
Mining, quarrying, Oil & Gas extraction	1,494	2.47
Utilities	1,756	2.90
Construction	4,289	7.08
Manufacturing	1,880	3.11
Wholesale trade	3,356	5.54
Retail trade	9,027	14.90
Transportation & warehousing	1,779	2.94
Information	980	1.62
Finance & insurance	2,956	4.88
Real Estate & Rental and Leasing	578	.96
Professional & Technical Services	3,714	6.13
Management of Companies & Enterprises	1,443	2.39
Administrative & Waste Services	2,468	5.73
Educational Services	830	1.37
Health Care & Social Assistance	14,146	23.35

Accommodation & Food Services	5,955	9.83
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	1,055	1.75
Other Services (except Public Administration)	2,391	3.95
Total	60,590	100%

Source: Job Service ND

Primary Driver and Direction of the Economy

Like most of North Dakota, Region VII is driven by agriculture. Even though farms are disappearing across the countryside, the land is bought up by a larger farmer and only makes his farm that much larger. The energy industry is second largest, followed by manufacturing and processing, then tourism, which include hunting, fishing, etc.

Looking to the future, it appears not much will change. Agriculture and energy will continue to remain strong followed by manufacturing and processing and then tourism.

1. EXTERNAL TRENDS AND FORCES

Opportunities and Threats

The following is a list of the opportunities and threats as identified by the CEDS committee derived from the public input meeting held throughout the District:

Opportunities:

- Expansion in the coal industry
- Value-added agriculture
- Irrigation of land
- Specialty crops
- Expansion of recreation and tourism
- Interstate 94
- Bismarck Airport
- Lake Sakakawea
- Major medical centers
- Northern Plains Commerce Center

Threats:

- Continued loss of population
- Small towns dying
- Flooding
- Drought
- Ag economy bottoms out
- Tax base continues to dwindle
- Aging population

2. PARTNERS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The following is a list of partners and organizations that LCRDC have a relationship with when it comes to economic development activities:

- Institute for Business and Industrial Development – UND Grand Forks
- Center for Industry and Business Development – NDSU Fargo
- Division of Community Services
- Linton Industrial Development Corporation
- Hazen Development Corporation
- Beulah Development Corporation
- Steele Area Development Group
- Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce
- Bismarck-Mandan Development Association
- Job Service ND
- United Tribes Technical College
- Bismarck State College
- Mor-Gran-Sou Electric
- KEM Electric
- Capital Electric Cooperative
- Strasburg Development Corporation
- Hebron Development Corporation
- Mercer-Oliver Development Corporation
- Hazelton Development Corporation
- University of Mary
- USDA Rural Development
- Garrison Area Improvement Association
- Underwood Development Corporation

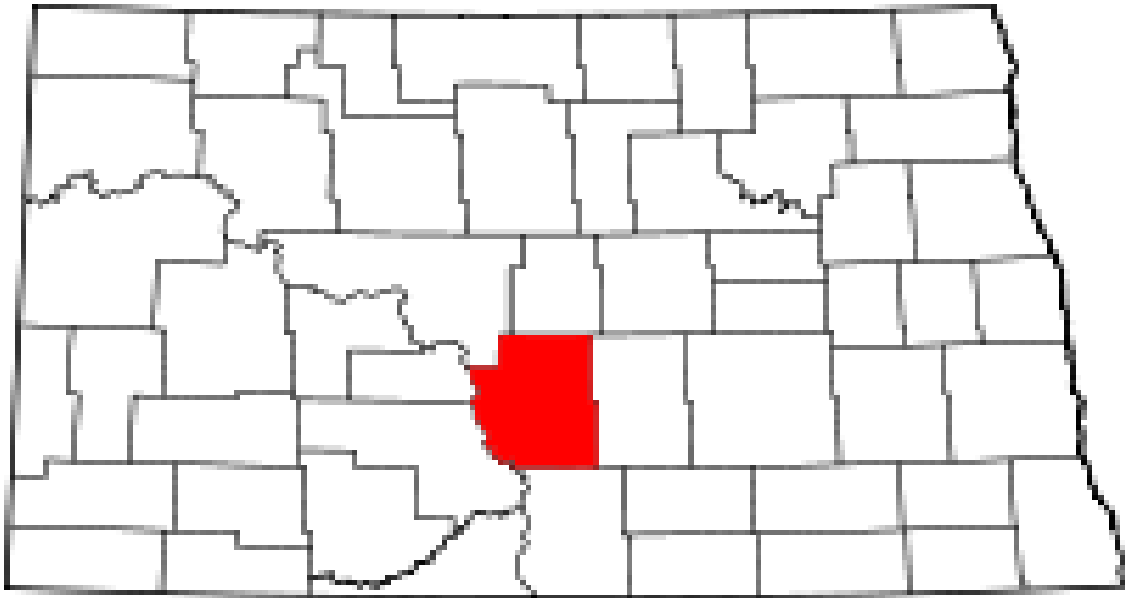
3. RESOURCES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The following organizations can and do provide resources to the economic development process in the Region:

- Bank of ND
- Division of Community Services
- North Dakota Development Fund
- EDA – Denver Regional Office
- USDA Rural Development
- Small Business Administration
- Small Business Development Center
- Lewis and Clark Capital I and II fund and IRP fund
- Lewis and Clark Certified Development Company
- North Dakota Opportunity Fund

The following sections take a comprehensive look at the identity of each county located within the District.

BURLEIGH COUNTY



BURLEIGH COUNTY



Burleigh County was organized in 1873. It was named for Dr. Walter Burleigh. Burleigh was a physician, Indian agent, trader and delegate to the 39th & 40th Congress. Dr. Burleigh was born in Waterville, Maine in 1820. Dr. Burleigh was an ardent Republican and strong supporter of Abe Lincoln's campaign for President in 1861. Through his support of Lincoln and his strong political ties, Burleigh was named Indian Agent of Dakota Territory (Yankton S.D.). His tenure as Indian Agent was noted for graft, corruption, and nepotism. With his election as a delegate to Congress Burleigh was able to control all Federal patronage to the territory.

Burleigh was a transportation hub. Until the railroad reached Montana, Bismarck was a primary port of call for river boats carrying cargo from St. Louis to Fort Benton, Montana. Bismarck became a center of long lines of stagecoaches and supply wagons in all directions.

Burleigh County is predominately agriculturally based and is in the central part of North Dakota. The county is 1,632.65 square miles in size.

The agricultural base consists of over 1,026 farms and ranches, averaging over 857 acres each. Total cropland in acres is 476,888, with harvested acres at 331,302. The average farm's value of agricultural products sold is \$80,153. Agriculture is by far the county's largest economic sector.

Burleigh County has four incorporated cities that include Lincoln, Bismarck, Regan and Wing. The city of Bismarck serves as the county seat with a population of 61,217.

The population of Burleigh County has been on a rise since 1940 from 22,736 persons to 81,308 persons in 2010, which equates to a gain of 58,572 persons. Over the past decade, Burleigh County has experienced a population gain of 11,892 persons, for a 17.1 percent gain.

Municipal Services

Each of the communities within the county has its own municipal services. They operate lagoon systems for the collection and treatment of wastewater. They also have their own municipal water systems. Some communities offer collection sites for recycling. Because of EPA rules, the only community in the county that collects solid waste disposal is the city of Bismarck. Most of the communities haul their solid waste to the city of Bismarck.

Within its boundaries, Burleigh County has four high schools, located in Wing and Bismarck. A new high school is being built in Bismarck and new grade schools in Bismarck and Lincoln. Regan's students attend school in Wilton.

Utilities

Montana Dakota Utilities Company and Capital Electric Co-op, Inc. are the main electricity providers in Burleigh County. Propane is supplied by numerous suppliers throughout the county.

Basic television service is provided by either satellite or Midcontinent Communications cable. Telephone services are provided by Midcontinent Communications.

Transportation

Burleigh County is served by two state-highway and numerous county roads. Regan is accessed by State Highway 36 (east and west) or 14 (north and south); U.S. Interstate 94 runs east and west through Bismarck; and Lincoln is accessed by county roads. The commercial airport is in Bismarck. Burlington-Northern Santé-Fe railroad provides services to Bismarck only.

Health, Medical and Emergency Services

Burleigh County has two hospitals with 504 beds; seven basic care facilities with 215 beds; and six nursing homes with 635 beds, all are in Bismarck. Each of the hospitals has a clinic.

All the cities in Burleigh County have their own ambulance and fire departments. Both Bismarck's ambulance and fire departments are staffed with paid employees. The two rural communities have volunteer staff. The EMT's are all volunteers. 9-1-1 service is dispatched from Bismarck, ND.

Housing Stock and Characteristics

The number of housing units in 2020 was 42,692, compared to 35,754 in 2010. Occupied housing units totaled 39,927, with 27,887 of those owner-occupied.

The median value of owner-occupied housing in Burleigh County in 2020 was \$266,800. Additional data shows .9 percent of the housing units were vacant in 2020 and median year built was 1988. Of the total housing units, 69.8 percent were owner occupied and 30.2 percent were renter occupied.

Natural Resources and Environmental Issues

The agriculture industry is a mainstay of Burleigh County. Wind farms are proposed to be built across the county. They may not represent long-term employment opportunities, but they will enhance the county's taxable valuation. The county also has several small sand and gravel pits.

All of the communities located in Burleigh County have their own municipal water systems. Bismarck receives its water from the Missouri River.

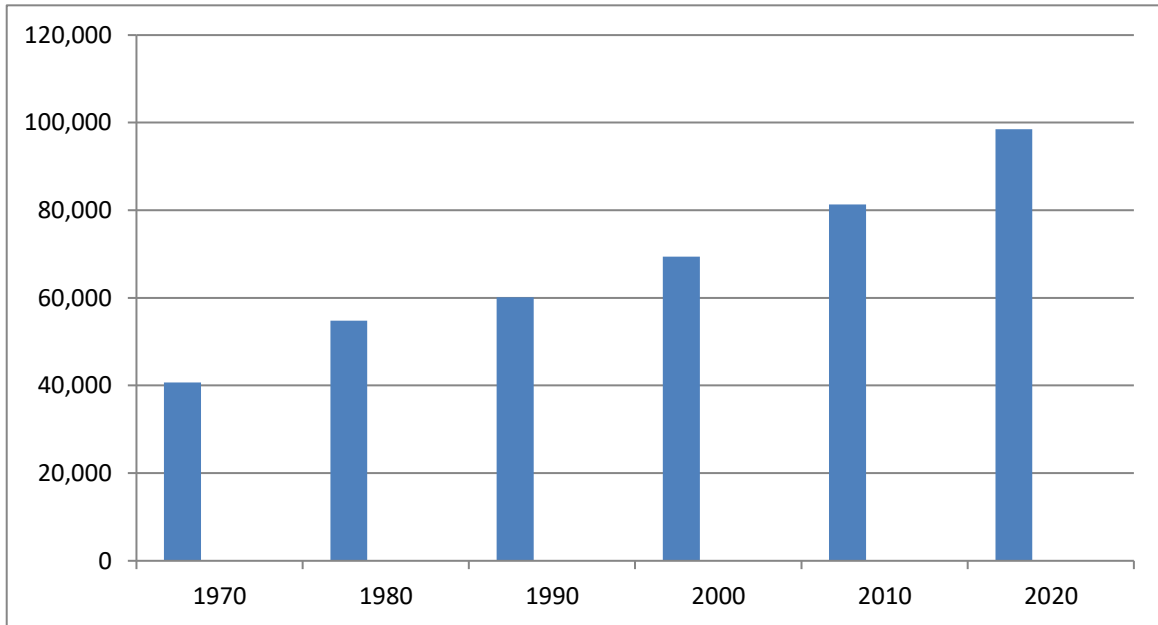
Current Trends

Because agriculture is important to Burleigh County, weather plays a big role in both production of crops and the raising of livestock.

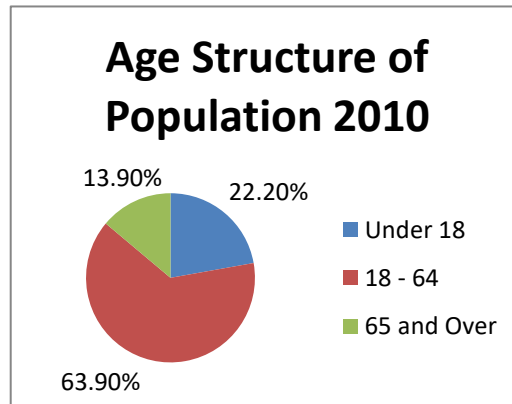
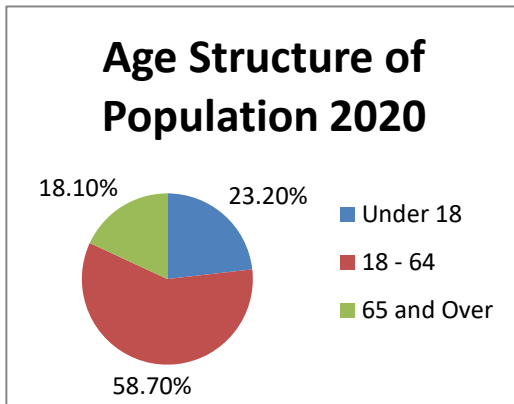
Highlights of Burleigh County:

Total population change (2010-2020)	21.1%
Total population (2020)	98,458
Poverty rate (2020)	4.3%
Civilians in the workforce (2020)	51,696
Per capita income (2020)	\$39,998
Unemployment rate (2020)	3.2%
Median age of population (2020)	37.1%

BURLEIGH COUNTY POPULATION

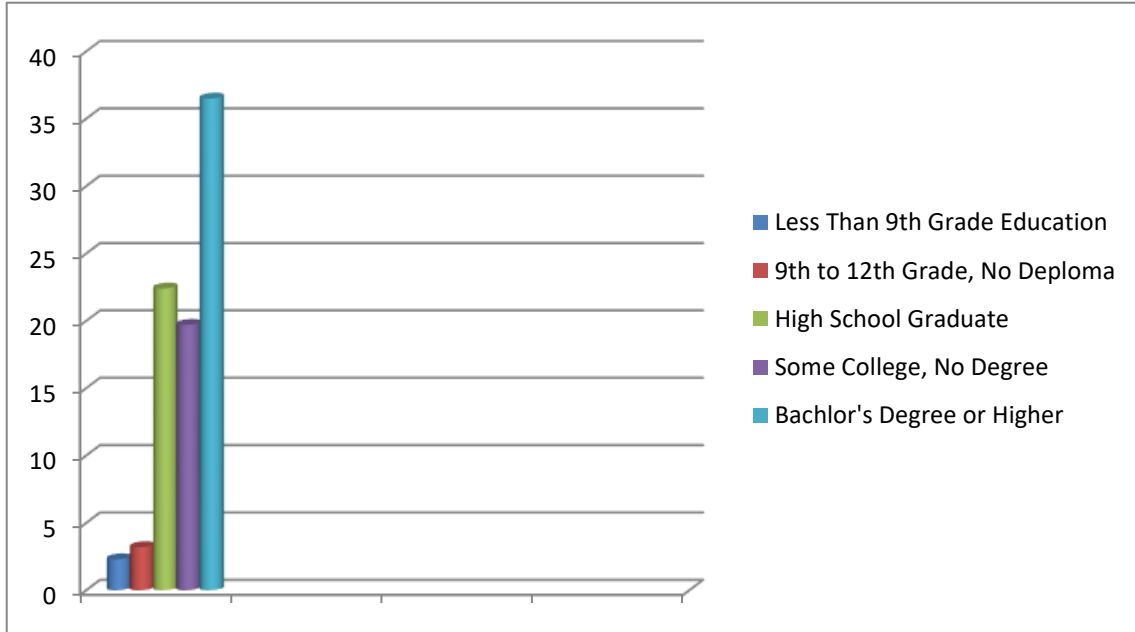


- Gained 28,702 residents from 1970 to 2000
- Gained 40,594 residents from 1970 to 2010
- Gained 17,150 residents from 2010 to 2020



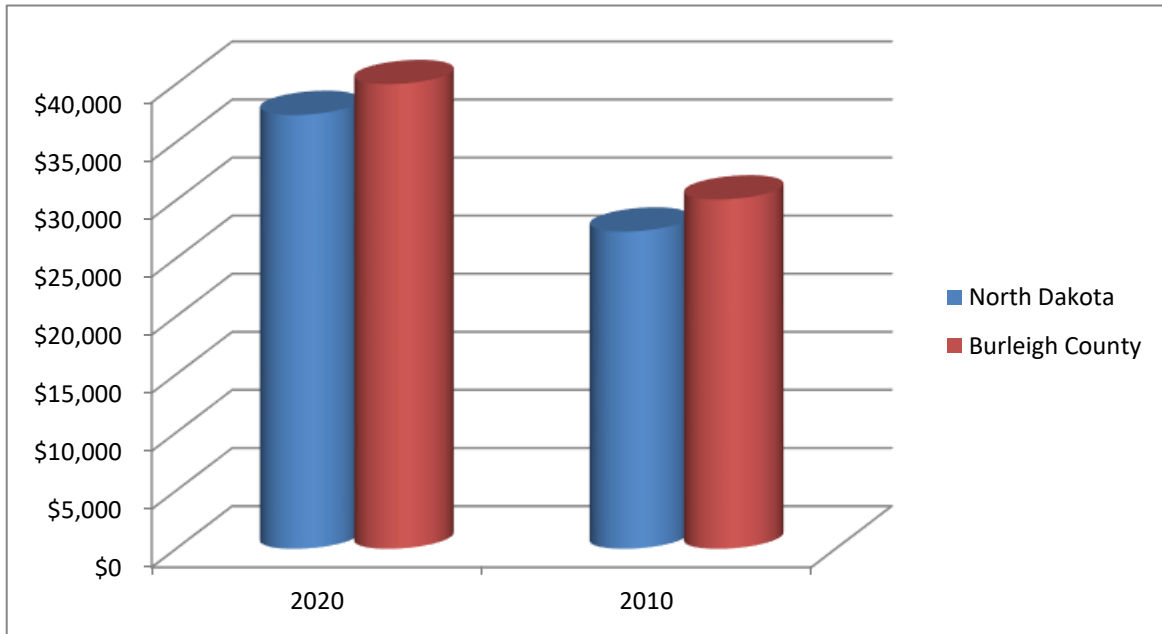
- 18.1 percent of the population was over 65 in 2020, compared to 16.7 percent for North Dakota
- 23.2 percent of the population was under 18 in 2020 compared to 23.5 percent for North Dakota
- 58.7 percent of the population was between 18 to 64 in 2020 compared to 59.8 percent for North Dakota

**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT
PERCENT OF POPULATION OVER AGE 25
2020**



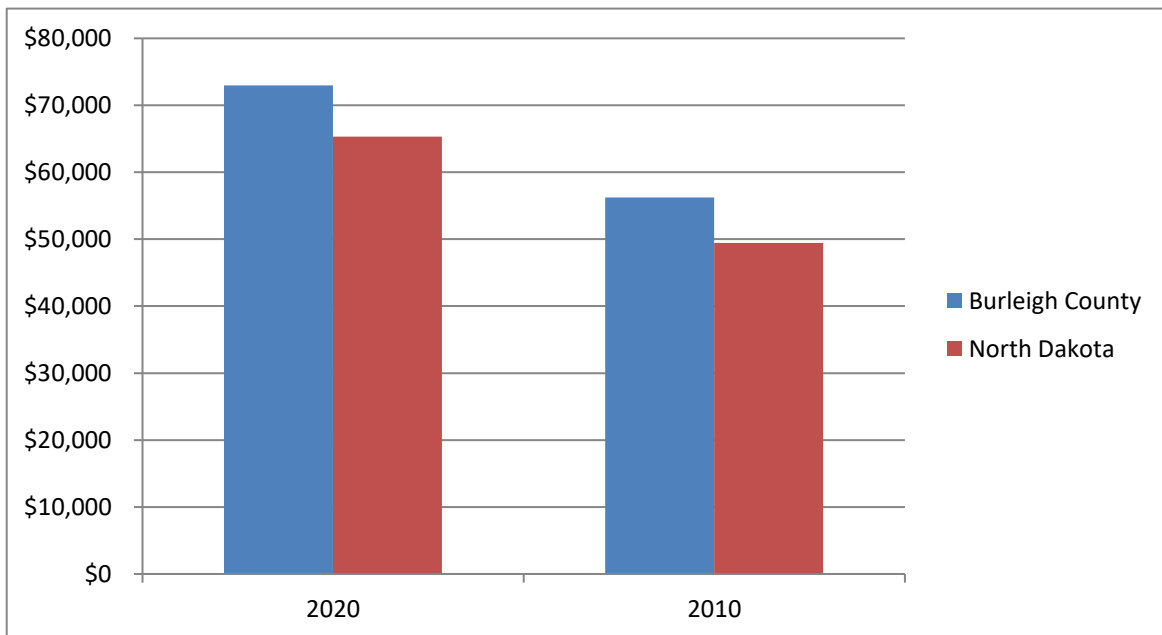
- 2.3 percent of the population 25 years and older had less than a 9th grade education, compared to 2.7 in North Dakota
- 3.2 percent of the population 25 years and older had a 9th to 12th grade education, but no diploma, compared to 4.2 percent in North Dakota
- 22.4 percent of the population 25 years and older are high school graduates, compared to 26.1 percent in North Dakota
- 19.7 percent of the population 25 years and older had some college, but no degree, compared to 22.2 in North Dakota
- 36.5 percent of the population 25 years and older had a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 30.7 in North Dakota

PER CAPITA INCOME



- Burleigh County's per capita income in 2020 was \$39,998 compared to \$37,343 in North Dakota
- Burleigh County's per capita income in 2010 was \$30,070 compared to \$27,305 in North Dakota

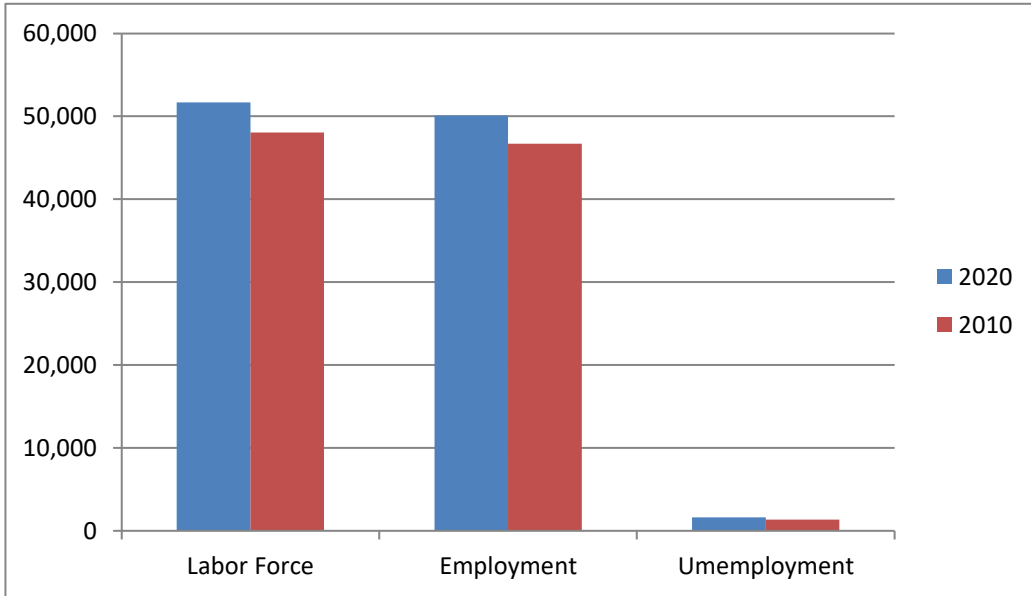
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME



- Median household income in Burleigh County was \$72,974 in 2020, compared to \$65,315 in North Dakota

- Median household income in Burleigh County was \$56,231 in 2010 compared to \$49,415 in North Dakota

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT



- Labor Force was 48,056 in 2010 in Burleigh County compared to 51,696 in 2020
- Employment was 46,714 in 2010 in Burleigh County compared to 50,080 in 2020
- Unemployment was 1,342 in 2010 in Burleigh County compared to 1,616 in 2020

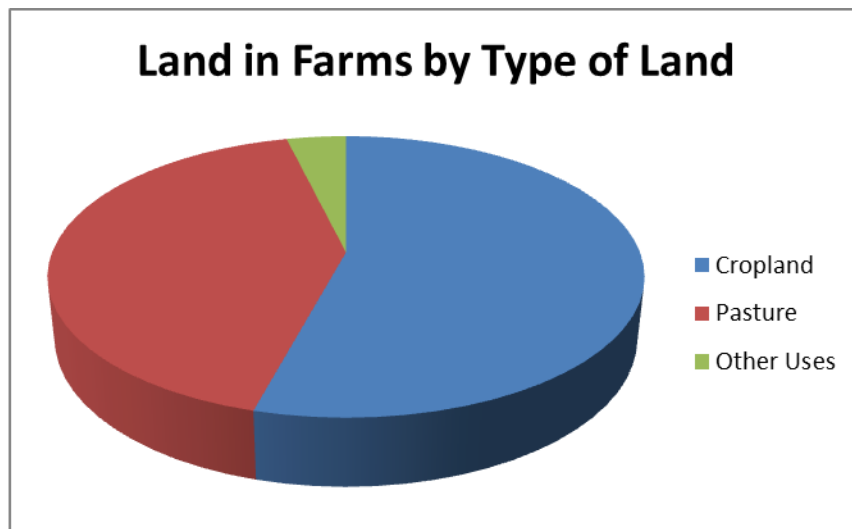
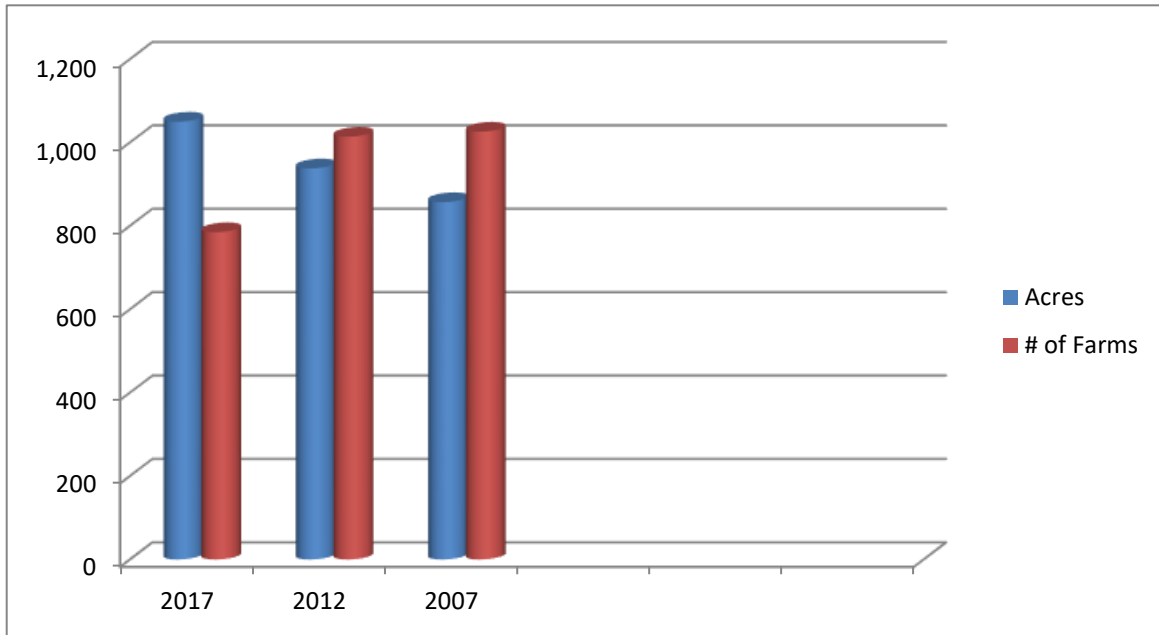
FARM DATA

BURLEIGH COUNTY

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2007</u>
Number of Farms	785	1,014	1,026
Average Size (Acres)	1,050	938	857
Value of Products Sold (000'S)	\$134,131	\$179,612	\$82,236
Average Per Farm	\$170,867	\$177,132	\$80,153
Average Farm Production Costs	\$135,623	\$128,057	\$60,287

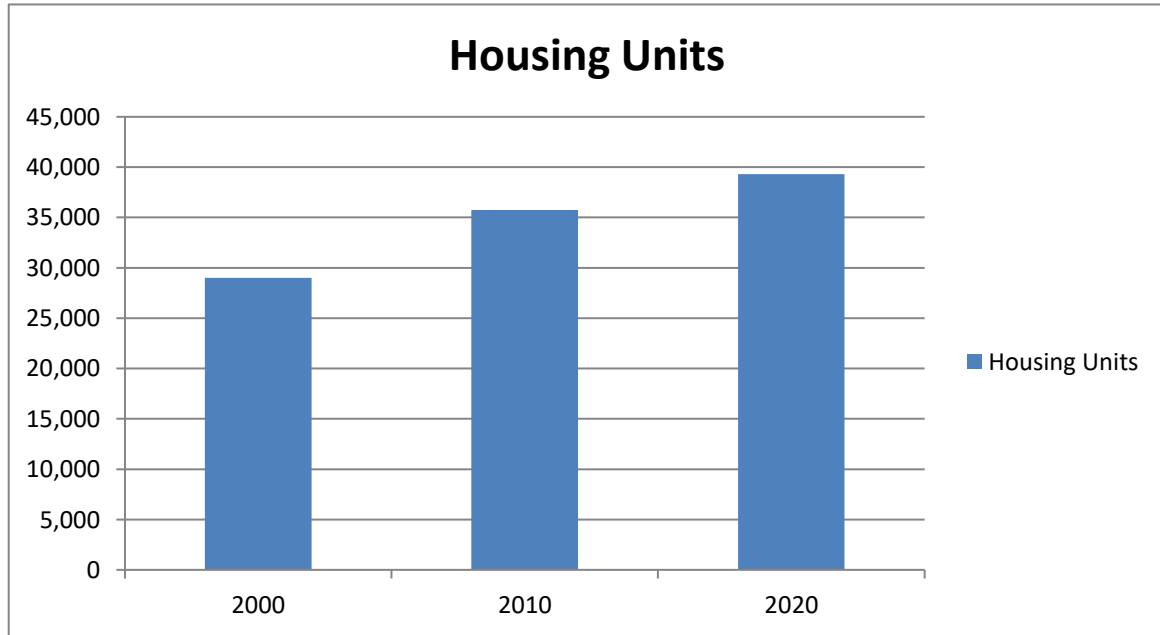
(2017 Most Recent)

FARMS AND SIZE



- 41.98 percent of the farmland was in pasture in 2017
- 54.22 percent of the farmland was in cropland in 2017
- 3.80 percent of the farmland was in other uses in 2017

HOUSING DATA



There were 39,295 housing units in 2020, 35,754 in 2010 and 29,003 in 2000

INDUSTRY CLUSTERS

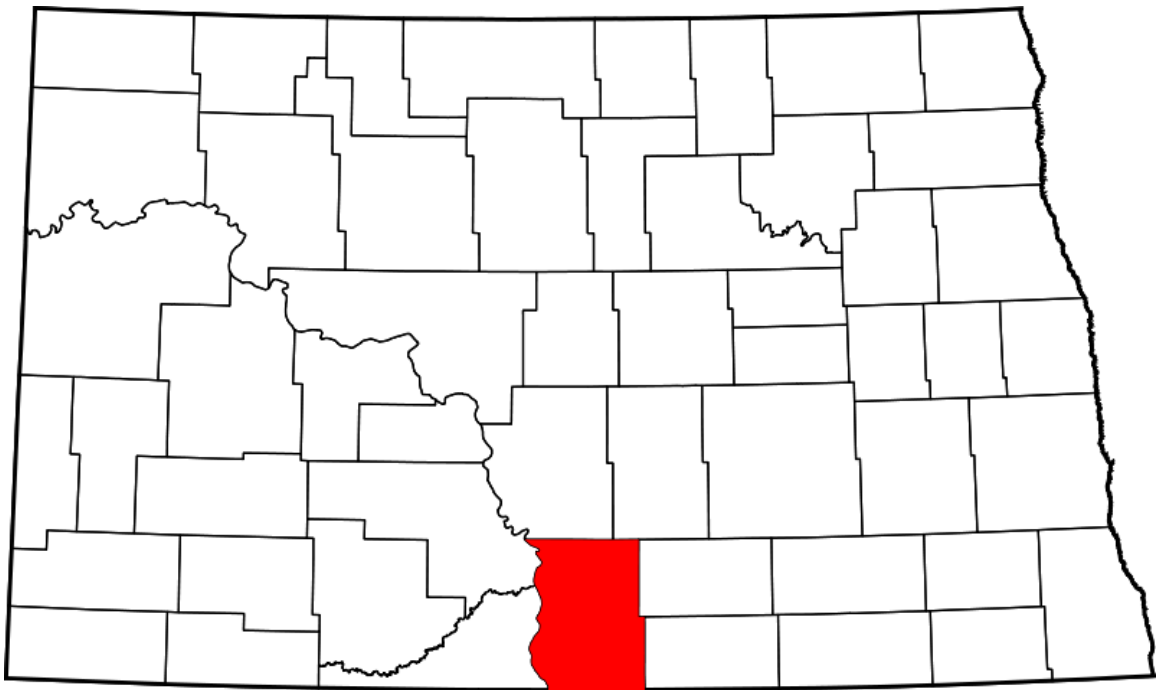
Employment Sectors	2010		2020	
	Number of Jobs	% of Total	Number of Jobs	% of Total
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	1,385	3.3	295	.7
Construction	3,331	8.1	2,804	6.6
Manufacturing	1,991	4.8	801	1.9
Wholesale trade	1,258	3.0	2,070	4.8
Retail trade	5,827	14.1	6,798	15.9
Transportation & warehousing & utilities	2,982	7.2	1,514	3.6
Information	869	2.2	604	1.5
Finance & insurance & real estate & rental & leasing	3,367	8.2	2,568	6.1
Professional, scientific & management & administration & waste management services	3,861	9.3	5,902	13.8
Educational services & health care & social assistance	10,806	26.3	11,988	28.3
Arts, entertainment & recreation & accommodation & food services	3,372	8.2	5,301	12.4
Other services except public administration	2,191	5.3	1,884	4.4
Total	41,240	100%	42,526	100%

The two major clusters are educational services & health care & social assistance and retail trade.

The two growing clusters are construction and professional, scientific & management & administration & waste management services and arts and entertainment.

The two declining clusters are agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining and manufacturing.

EMMONS COUNTY



EMMONS COUNTY



Emmons County was founded in 1883 and has a colorful history. Its early political history had a virtual battle waged between Linton and Williamsport. It eventually ended up in Linton. After moving the county seat to Linton, the Patterson lean-to was used until an official courthouse was built in 1901 and has had three different courthouse buildings. The current building was constructed in 1934.

Today they are still running county government out of the 1934 Courthouse. There are currently 33 officials and staff and five commissioners that manage the county's government issues.

Emmons County is predominately agriculturally based and is in the south-central part of North Dakota. The county is 1,510.44 square miles in size.

The agricultural base consists of over 516 farms and ranches, averaging over 1,573 acres each. Total cropland in acres is at 529,824, with harvested acres at 410,740. The average farm's value of agricultural products sold is \$162,102. Agriculture is by far the county's largest economic sector.

Emmons County has five incorporated cities that include Linton, Strasburg, Hazelton, Hague and Braddock. The city of Linton serves as the county seat with a population of 1,062.

The population of Emmons County has been on a decline since 1940 from 11,699 persons to 3,301 persons in 2020, which equates to a loss of 8,398 persons. Over the past decade, Emmons County has experienced a population loss of 249 persons, for a 7.0 percent loss.

Municipal Services

Each of the communities within the county has its own municipal services. They operate lagoon systems for the collection and treatment of wastewater. They also have a municipal water system and most of them are hooked up to some type of rural water system. Some communities offer collection sites for recycling. Because of EPA rules, no community in the county collects solid waste disposal. Most of the communities haul their solid waste to the city of Bismarck.

Within its boundaries, Emmons County has three high schools, located in Hazelton, Linton and Strasburg. All three also have a grade school. Braddock's high school and grade school students attend school in Hazelton and Hague's high school and grade school students attend school in Strasburg.

Utilities

Montana Dakota Utilities Company and KEM Electric Co-op, Inc. are the main electricity providers in Emmons County. Propane is supplied by numerous suppliers throughout the county.

Basic television service is provided by either satellite or Midcontinent Communications cable. Telephone services are provided by Midcontinent Communications.

Transportation

Emmons County is served by one state highway and numerous county roads. All the cities are accessed by state Highway 83, which runs north and south. A small airport is in Linton and Hazelton for minor aircraft. There are no railroad services to any of these cities.

Health, Medical and Emergency Services

Emmons County has one hospital, located in Linton, and one nursing home, located in Strasburg. The hospital has 14 beds, and the basic care facility has 55 beds. Linton also has a clinic.

All of the cities in Emmons County have their own ambulance service. The EMT's are all volunteers. 9-1-1 service is dispatched from Bismarck, ND. All communities have their own volunteer services.

Housing Stock and Characteristics

The number of housing units in 2020 was at 2,047, compared to 2,085 from 2010. Total occupied housing units was 1,492, with 1,207 of those owner-occupied.

The median value of owner-occupied housing in Emmons County in 2020 was \$94,500. Additional data shows 2.7 percent of the housing units were vacant in 2020 and the median year built was 1961. Of the total housing units, 80.5 percent were owner occupied and 19.5 percent were renter occupied.

Natural Resources and Environmental Issues

The agriculture industry is the main stay of Emmons County. Wind farms are in the works to be built across the county. They may not represent a long-term employment opportunity, but they will enhance the county’s taxable valuation. The county also has several small sand and gravel pits located throughout.

All communities located in Emmons County are served by the State Line Water Cooperative. Their wells are now used for other uses such as fire.

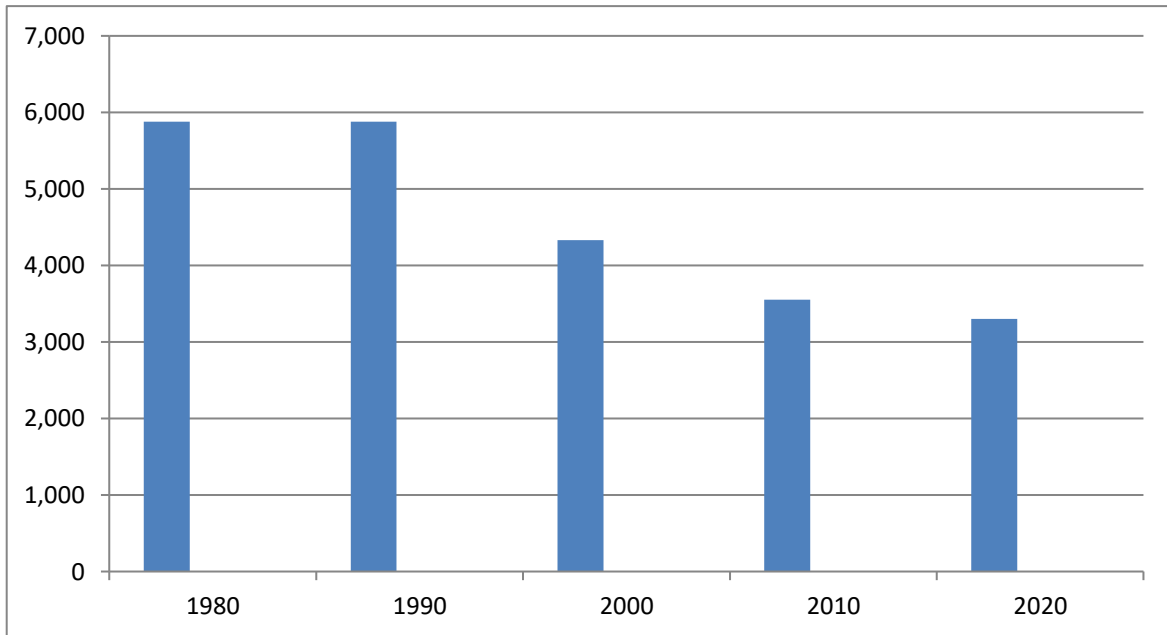
Current Trends

Because agriculture is the mainstay of Emmons County, weather plays a big role in both production of crops and the raising of livestock.

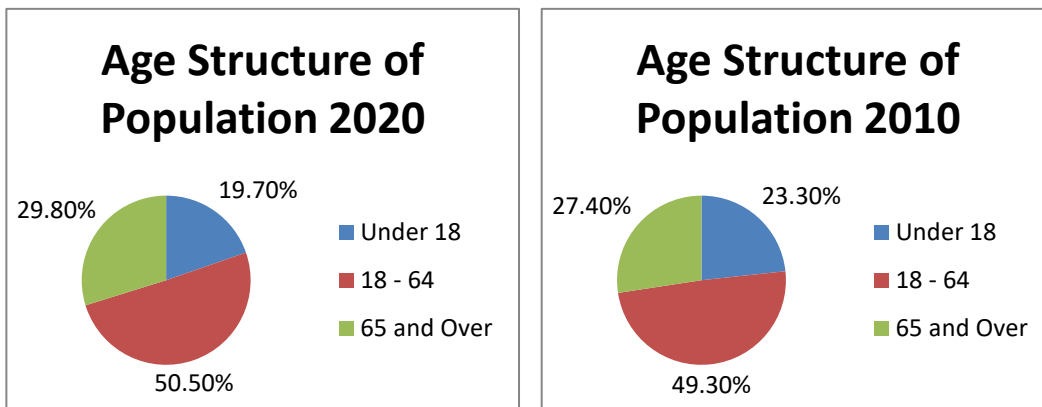
Highlights of Emmons County:

Total population change (2010-2020)	-7.0%
Total population (2020)	3,301
Poverty rate (2020)	5.5%
Civilians in the workforce (2020)	1,750
Per capita income (2020)	\$33,948
Unemployment rate (2020)	3.7%
Median age of population (2020)	44.2

EMMONS COUNTY POPULATION

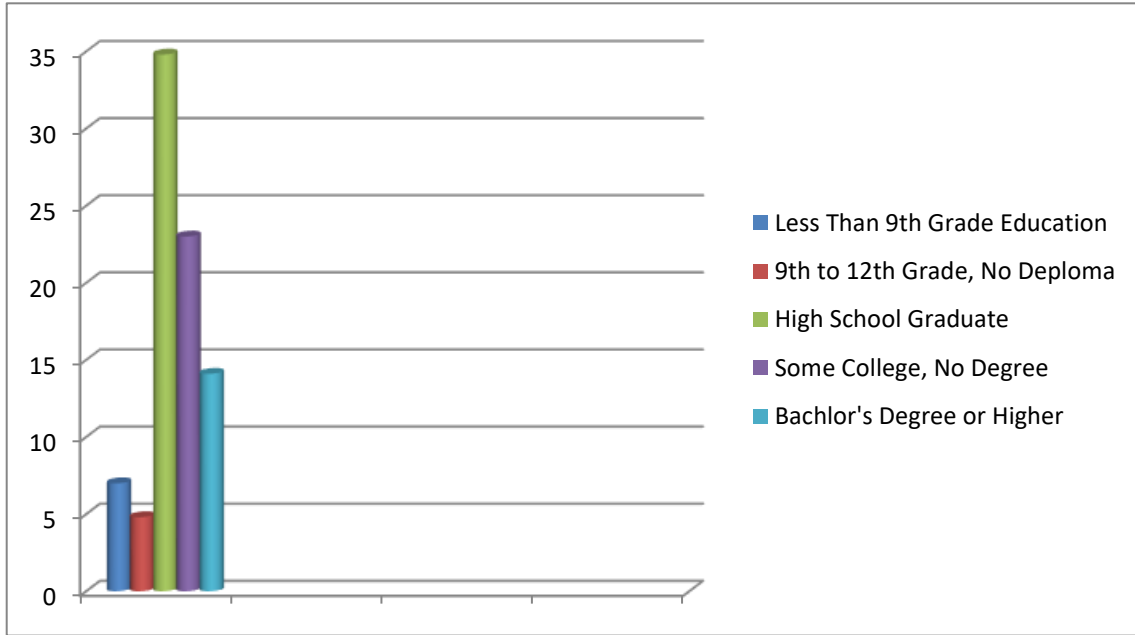


- Lost 1,047 residents from 1980 to 1990
- Lost 781 residents from 2000 to 2010
- Lost 249 residents from 2010 to 2020



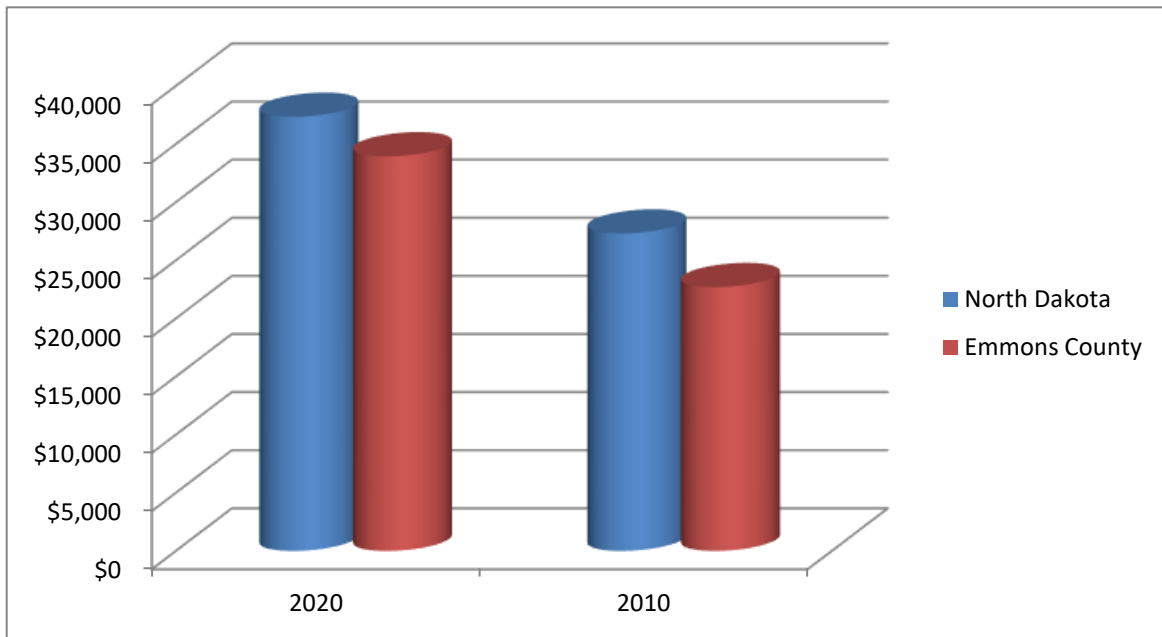
- 29.8 percent of the population was over 65 in 2020, compared to 15.3 percent for North Dakota
- 19.7 percent of the population was under 18 in 2010 compared to 23.4 percent for North Dakota
- 50.5 percent of the population was between 18 to 64 in 2010 compared to 61.3 percent for North Dakota

**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT
PERCENT OF POPULATION OVER AGE 25
2020**



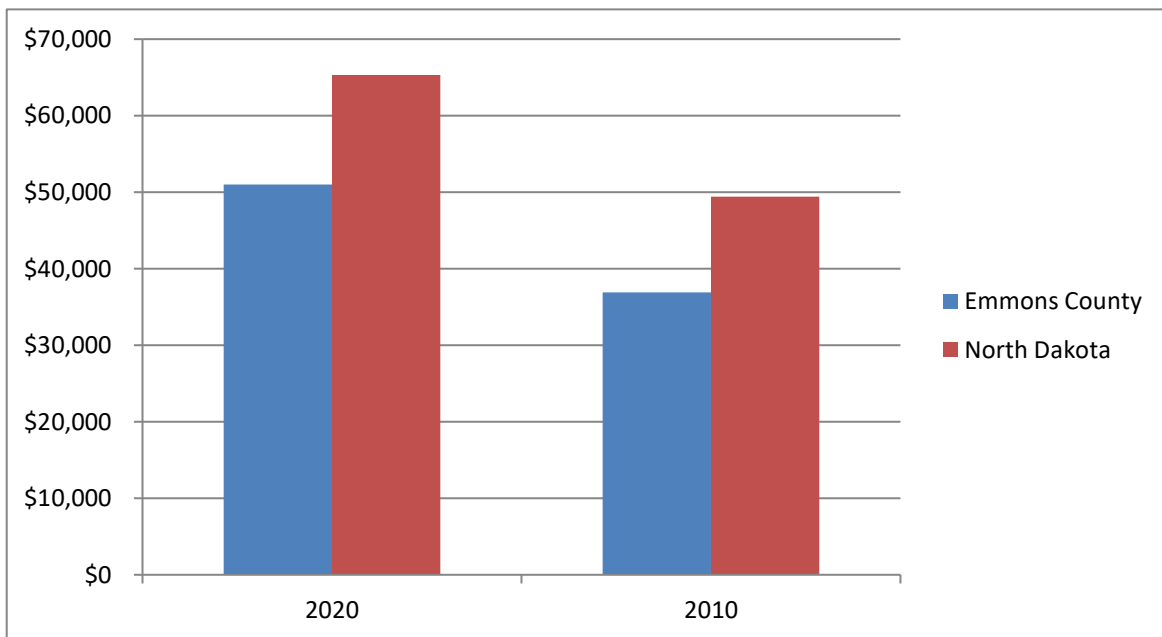
- 7.0 percent of the population 25 years and older had less than a 9th grade education, compared to 2.7 in North Dakota
- 4.8 percent of the population 25 years and older had a 9th to 12th grade education, but no diploma, compared to 4.2 percent in North Dakota
- 34.8 percent of the population 25 years and older are high school graduates, compared to 26.1 percent in North Dakota
- 23.0 percent of the population 25 years and older had some college, but no degree, compared to 23.5 in North Dakota
- 19.4 percent of the population 25 years and older had a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 30.7 in North Dakota

PER CAPITA INCOME



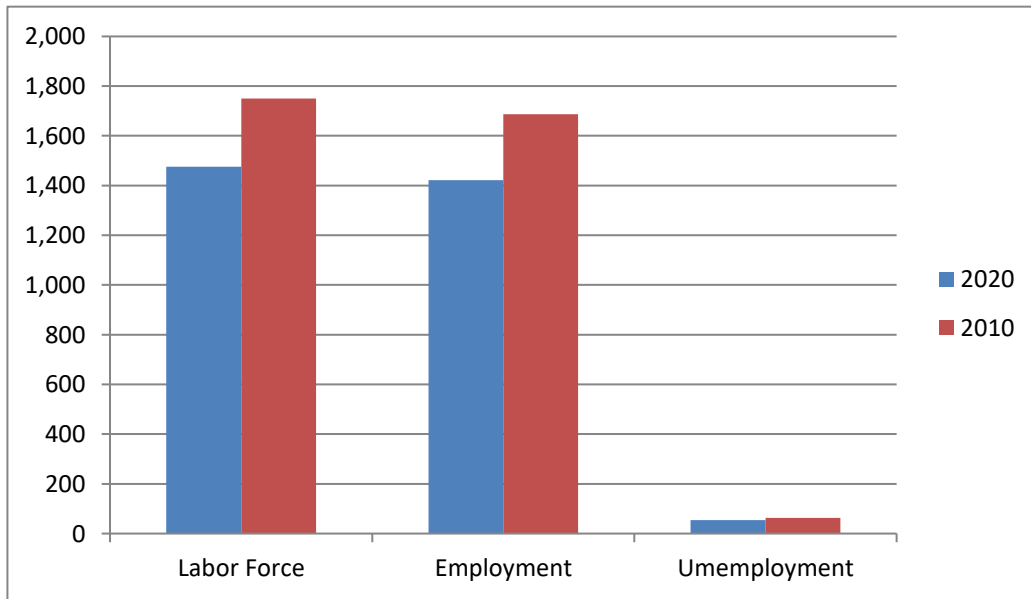
- Emmons County's per capita income in 2020 was \$33,948 compared to \$37,343 in North Dakota
- Emmons County's per capita income in 2010 was \$22,699 compared to \$27,305 in North Dakota

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME



- Median household income in Emmons County was \$51,012 in 2020, compared to \$65,315 in North Dakota
- Median household income in Emmons County was \$36,903 in 2010 compared to \$49,415 in North Dakota

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT



- Labor Force was 1,475 in 2020 in Emmons County compared to 1,750 in 2010
- Employment was 1,421 in 2020 in Emmons County compared to 1,686 in 2010
- Unemployment was 54 in 2020 in Emmons County compared to 64 in 2010

FARM DATA

EMMONS COUNTY

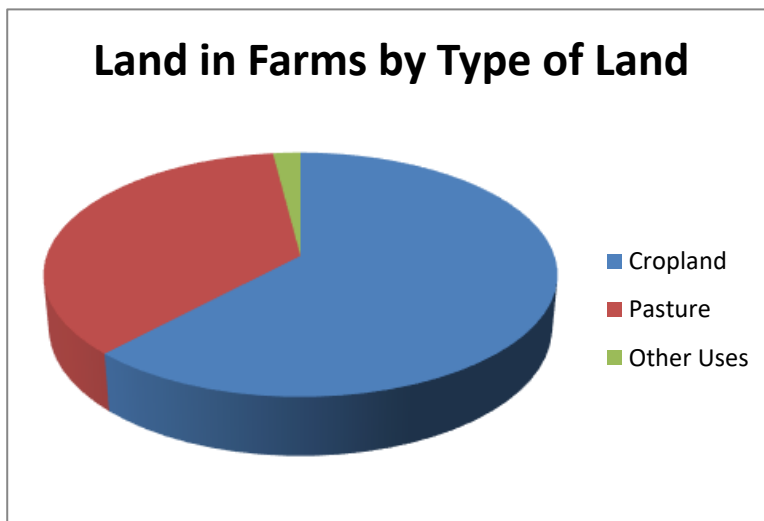
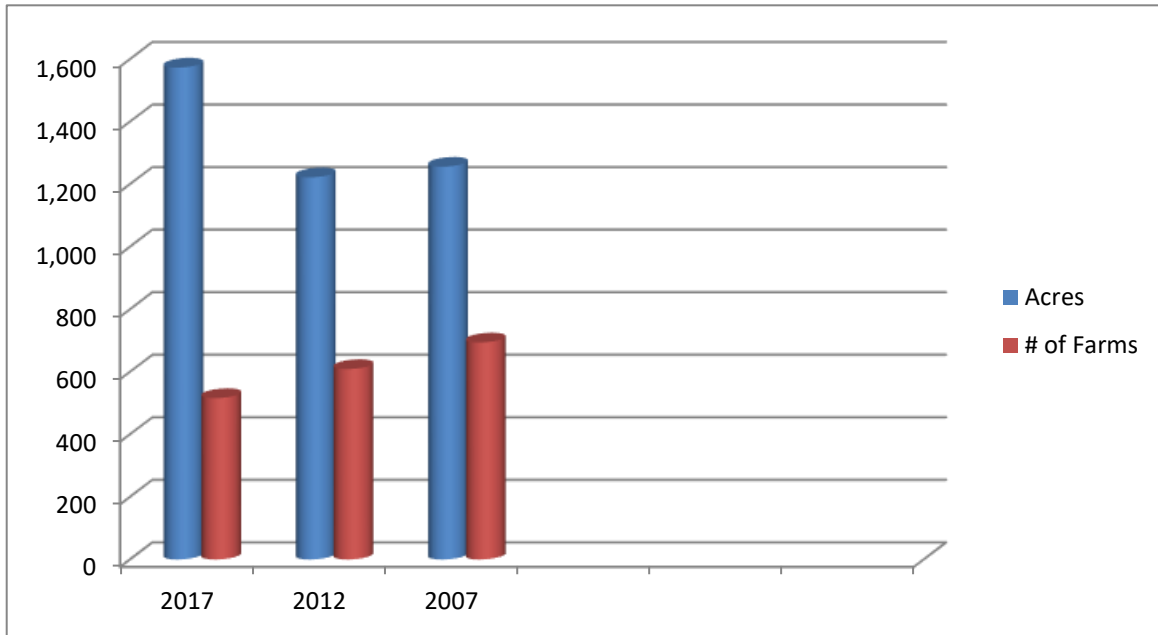
2017

2012

2007

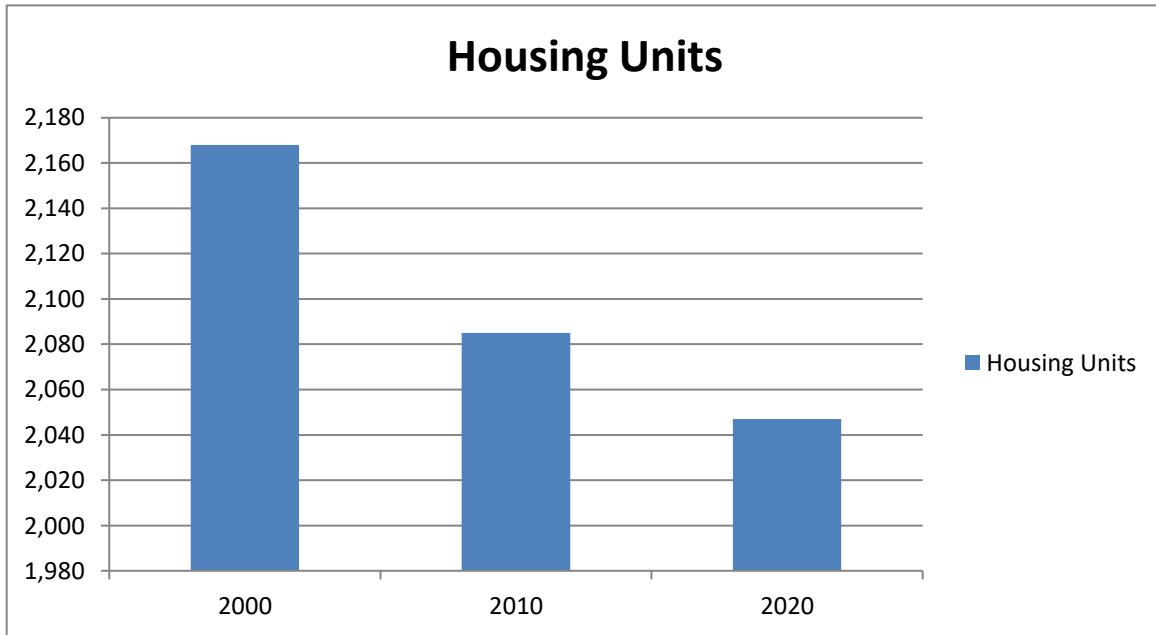
Number of Farms	516	694	694
Average Size (Acres)	1,573	1,256	1,199
Value of Products Sold (000'S)	\$162,102	\$119,616	\$120,954
Average Per Farm	\$314,151	\$281,255	\$174,285
Average Farm Production Costs	\$282,949	\$196,414	\$106,711

FARMS AND SIZE



- 62 percent of the farmland was in pasture in 2017
- 36 percent of the farmland was in cropland in 2017
- 2 percent of the farmland was in other uses in 2017

HOUSING DATA



- There were 2,047 housing units in 2020, 2,085 in 2010 and 2,168 in 2000

INDUSTRY CLUSTERS

Employment Sectors	2010		2020	
	Number of Jobs	% of Total	Number of Jobs	% of Total
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	325	19.3	57	8.3
Construction	171	10.1	43	6.4
Manufacturing	36	2.1	*	
Wholesale trade	39	2.3	96	14.1
Retail trade	183	10.9	117	17.2
Transportation & warehousing & utilities	90	5.3	38	5.6
Information	2	0.1	28	4.3
Finance & insurance & real estate & rental & leasing	66	3.9	49	7.3
Professional, scientific & management & administration & waste management services	99	5.9	17	2.5
Educational services & health care & social assistance	451	26.7	184	26.9
Arts, entertainment & recreation & accommodation & food services	78	4.6	33	4.9
Other services except public administration	85	5.0	14	2.5
Total	1,686	100%	686	100%

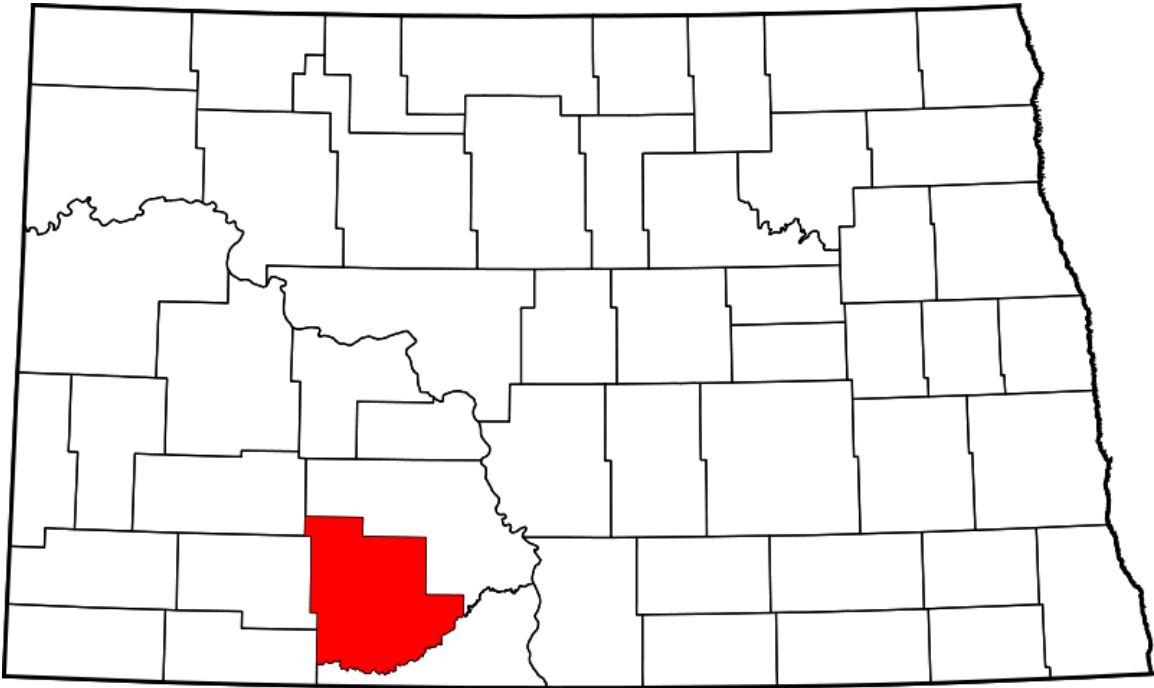
*Data has been suppressed for one reason or another

Major clusters are educational services & health care & social & social assistance and retail trade

Growing clusters are wholesale trade and information

Twelve of the clusters have declined since 2010

GRANT COUNTY



GRANT COUNTY



1918 - 1978



1980 - PRESENT

In 1916 residents of Southwestern Morton County began a drive to split the county and the new division was to be called Grant County, named after President Grant. On November 7, 1916, the issue went to the voters and passed by a large margin with Mandan and most of Morton County voting for the measure.

Grant County is predominately agriculturally based and is in the south-central part of North Dakota. The county is 1,659.14 square miles in size.

The agricultural base consists of over 412 farms and ranches, averaging over 2,329 acres each. Total cropland acres are 429,013, with harvested acres at 292,548. The average farm's value of agricultural products sold is \$83,018. Agriculture is by far the county's largest economic sector.

Grant County has four incorporated cities that include Elgin, Leith, Carson and New Leipzig. The city of Carson serves as the county seat with a population of 258.

The population of Grant County has been on a decline since 1940 from 8,264 persons to 2,301 persons in 2020, which equates to a loss of 5,964 persons. Over the past decade, Grant County has experienced a population loss of 93 persons, for a 3.9 percent loss.

Municipal Services

Each of the communities within the county has its own municipal services. They operate lagoon systems for the collection and treatment of wastewater. They also have a municipal water system and most of them are hooked up to some type of rural water system. Some communities offer collection sites for recycling. Because of EPA rules, the only community in the county that collects solid waste disposal is the city of Mandan. Most of the communities haul their solid waste to the city of Dickinson.

Within its boundaries, Grant County has one high school, located in Elgin. Elgin, along with Carson, has a grade school. New Leipzig's high school and grade school students attend school in Elgin.

Utilities

Montana Dakota Utilities Company and Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Co-op, Inc. are the main electricity providers in Grant County. Propane is supplied by numerous suppliers throughout the county.

Basic television service is provided by either satellite or Midcontinent Communications cable. Telephone services are provided by Midcontinent Communications.

Transportation

Grant County is served by two state highways and numerous county roads. The cities of Carson, Elgin and New Leipzig are all accessed by state Highway 6, which runs east and west; and the city of Elgin is also accessed by state highway 49 which runs north and south. A small airport is located south of Elgin for minor aircraft. There are no railroad services to any of these cities.

Health, Medical and Emergency Services

Grant County has one hospital, located in Elgin and one basic care facility, also located in Elgin. The hospital has 21 beds, and the basic care facility has 34 beds. Elgin also has a clinic.

All of the cities in Grant County have their own ambulance service. The EMT's are all volunteers. 9-1-1 service is dispatched from Bismarck, ND. All communities have their own volunteer services.

Housing Stock and Characteristics

The number of housing units in 2020 was 1,049 compared to 1,690 in 2010. Occupied housing units were at 1,028, with 904 of those owner-occupied.

The median value of owner-occupied housing in Grant County in 2020 was \$75,600. Additional data shows 2.9 percent of the housing units were vacant in 2020 and the median year built was in 1962. Of the total housing units, 87.9 percent were owner occupied and 12.1 percent were renter occupied.

Natural Resources and Environmental Issues

The oil activity in the western part of the state is seeing its impact on some of Grant County's communities. Oil and gas pipelines are in the works to be built across the state and may cross numerous communities within the county. They may not represent a long-term employment opportunity; they will enhance the county's taxable valuation. The county also has several small sand and gravel pits located throughout.

All of the communities located in Grant County are served by the Southwest Rural Water Authority. Their wells are now used for other uses such as fire.

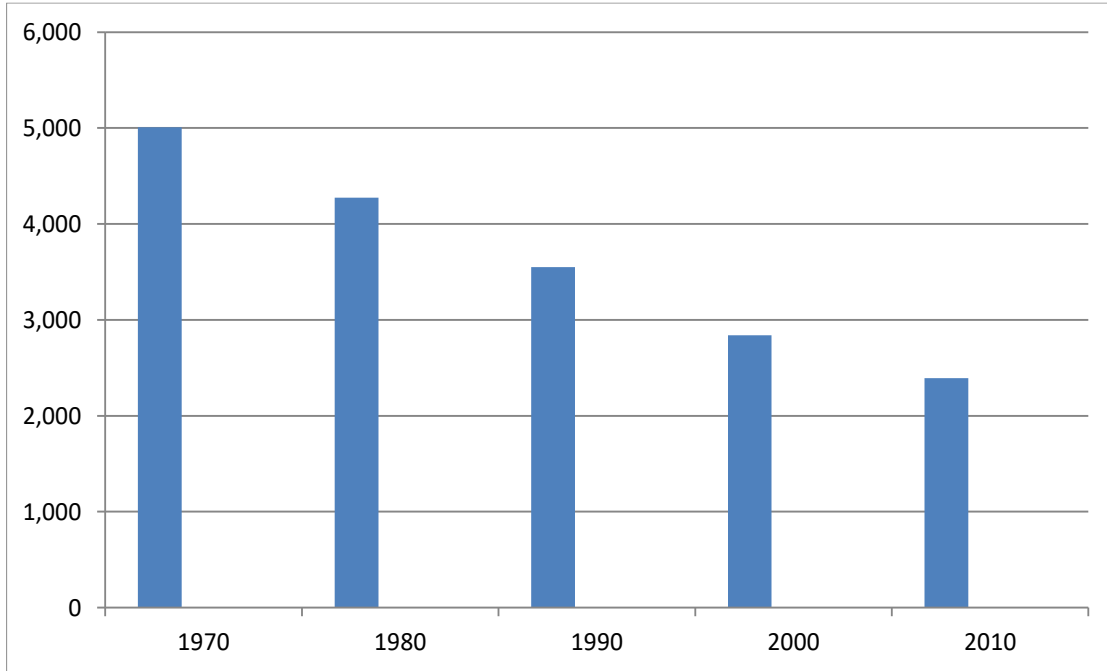
Current Trends

The oil activity in the western part of the state has spurred new life into Grant County. A few new homes are being built; traffic counts are increasing; and some schools are seeing rising student numbers.

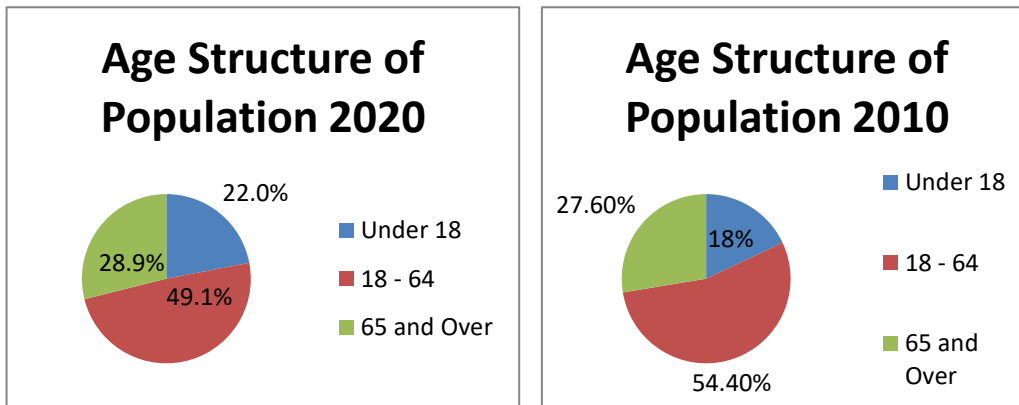
Highlights of Grant County:

Total population change (2020-2010)	-3.9%
Total population (2020)	2,301
Poverty rate (2010)	5.5%
Civilians in the workforce (2010)	1,227
Per capita income (2010)	\$37,118
Unemployment rate (2010)	2.2%
Median age of population (2010)	48.2%

GRANT COUNTY POPULATION

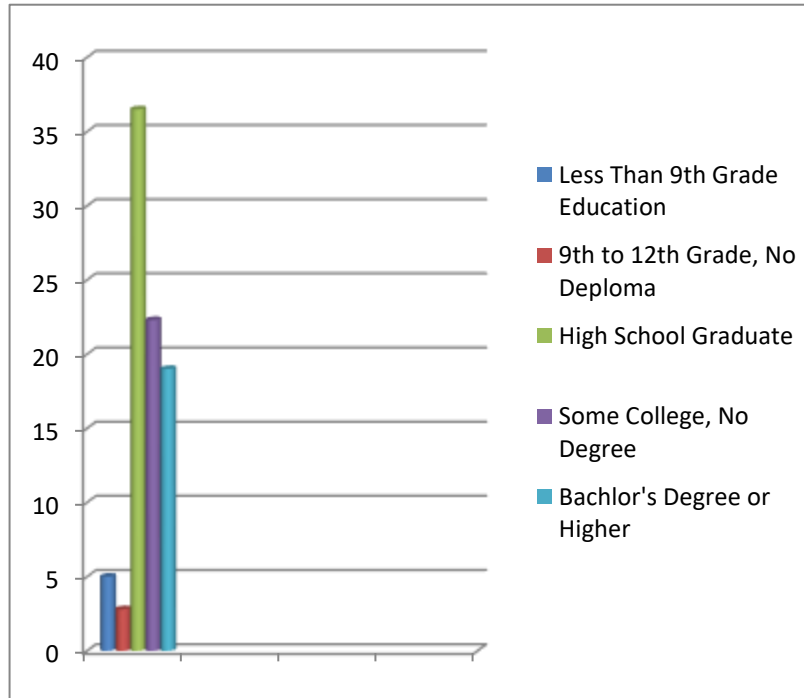


- Lost 447 residents from 2000 to 2010
- Lost 93 residents from 2010 to 2020



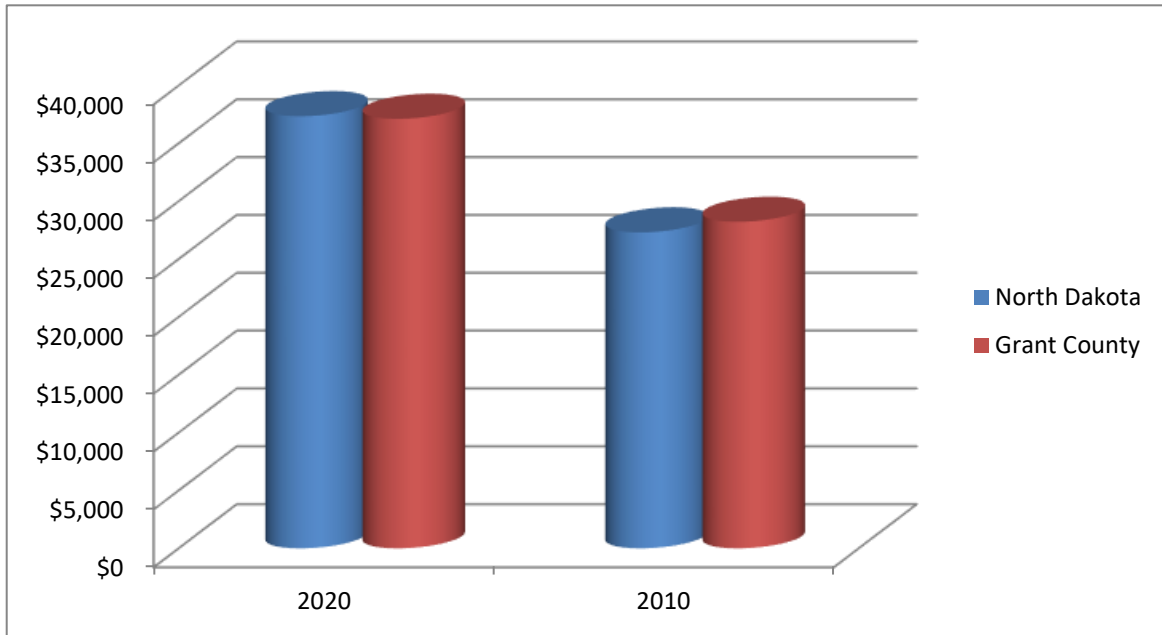
- 28.9 percent of the population was over 65 in 2020, compared to 15.3 percent for North Dakota
- 22 percent of the population was under 18 in 2020 compared to 23.4 percent for North Dakota
- 49.1 percent of the population was between 18 to 64 in 2020 compared to 61.3 percent for North Dakota

**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT
PERCENT OF POPULATION OVER AGE 25
2020**



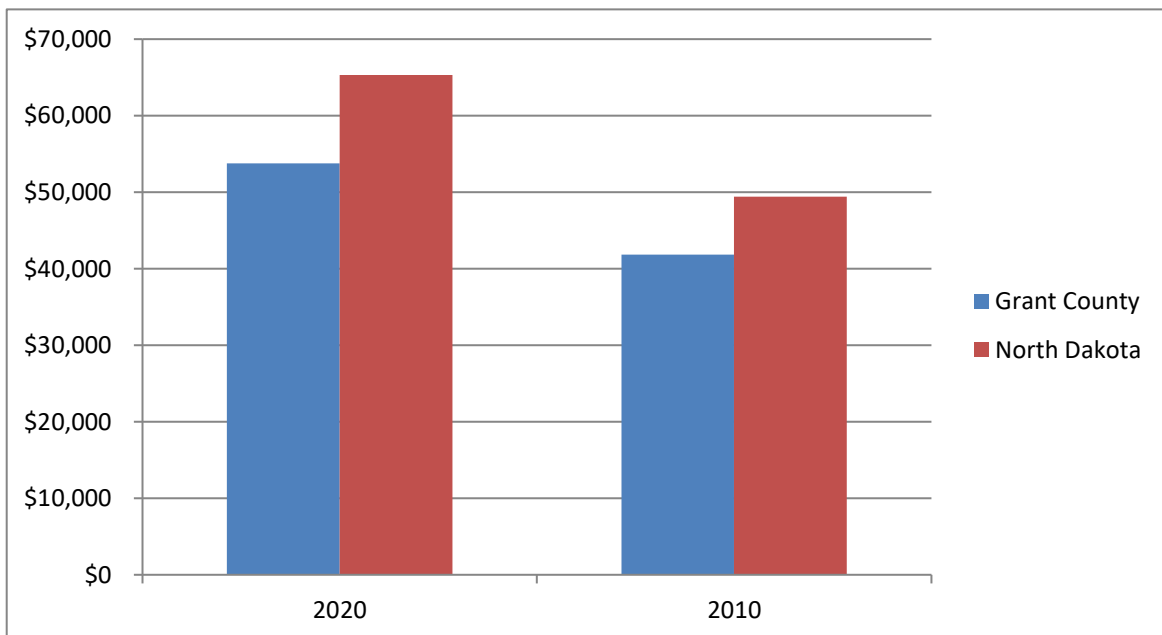
- 5.0 percent of the population 25 years and older had less than a 9th grade education, compared to 2.7 in North Dakota
- 2.8 percent of the population 25 years and older had a 9th to 12th grade education, but no diploma, compared to 4.2 percent in North Dakota
- 36.5 percent of the population 25 years and older are high school graduates, compared to 26.1 percent in North Dakota
- 22.3 percent of the population 25 years and older had some college, but no degree, compared to 22.2 in North Dakota
- 19.0 percent of the population 25 years and older had a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 30.7 in North Dakota

PER CAPITA INCOME



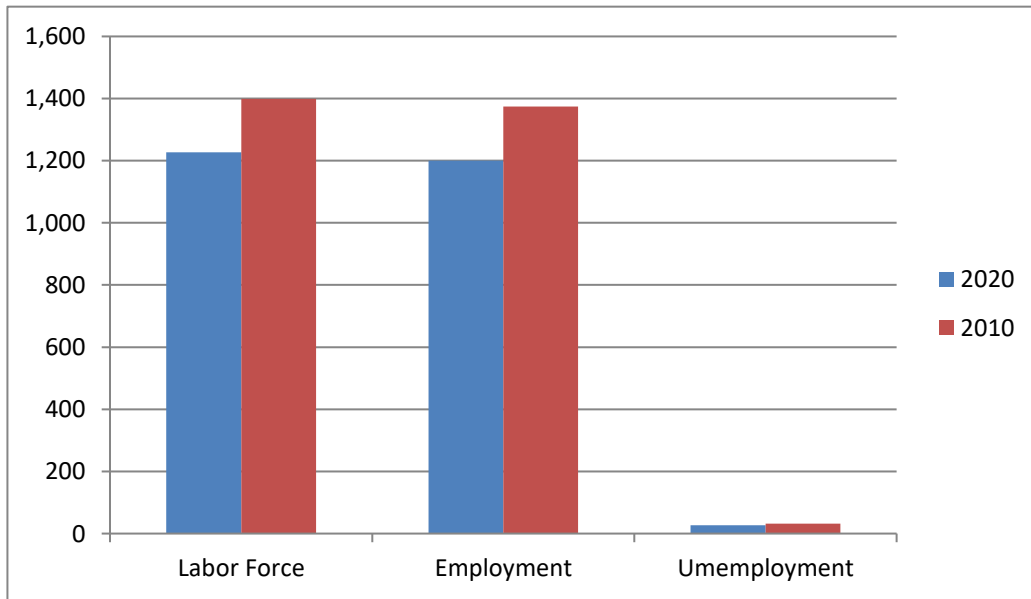
- Grant County's per capita income in 2020 was \$37,118 compared to \$37,343 in North Dakota
- Grant County's per capita income in 2010 was \$28,219 compared to \$27,305 in North Dakota

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME



- Median household income in Grant County was \$53,750 in 2020, compared to \$65,315 in North Dakota
- Median household income in Grant County was \$41,821 in 2010 compared to \$49,415 in North Dakota

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT



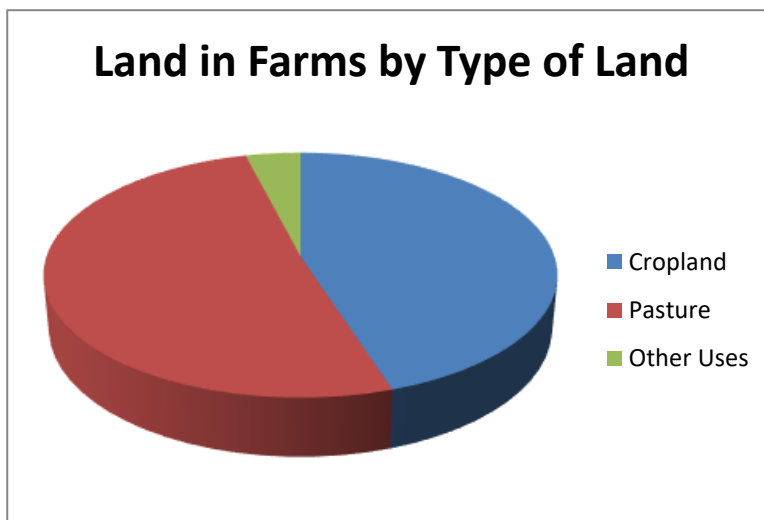
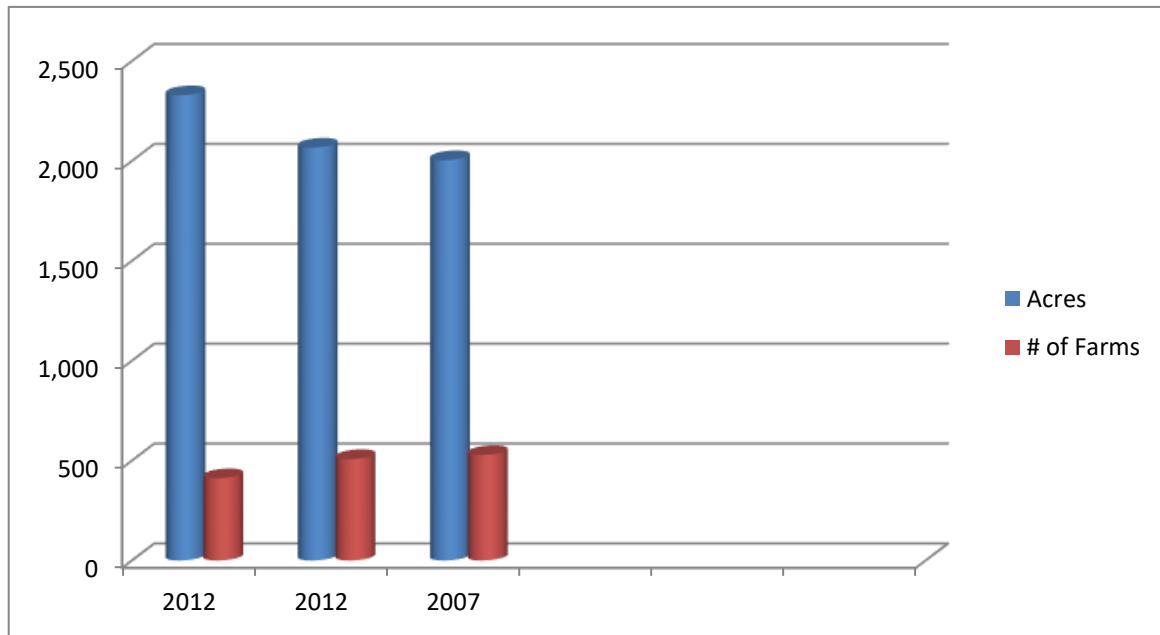
- Labor Force was 1,227 in 2020 in Grant County compared to 1,399 in 2010
- Employment was 1,200 in 2020 in Grant County compared to 1,374 in 2010
- Unemployment was 27 in 2020 in Grant County compared to 21 in 2010

FARM DATA

GRANT COUNTY

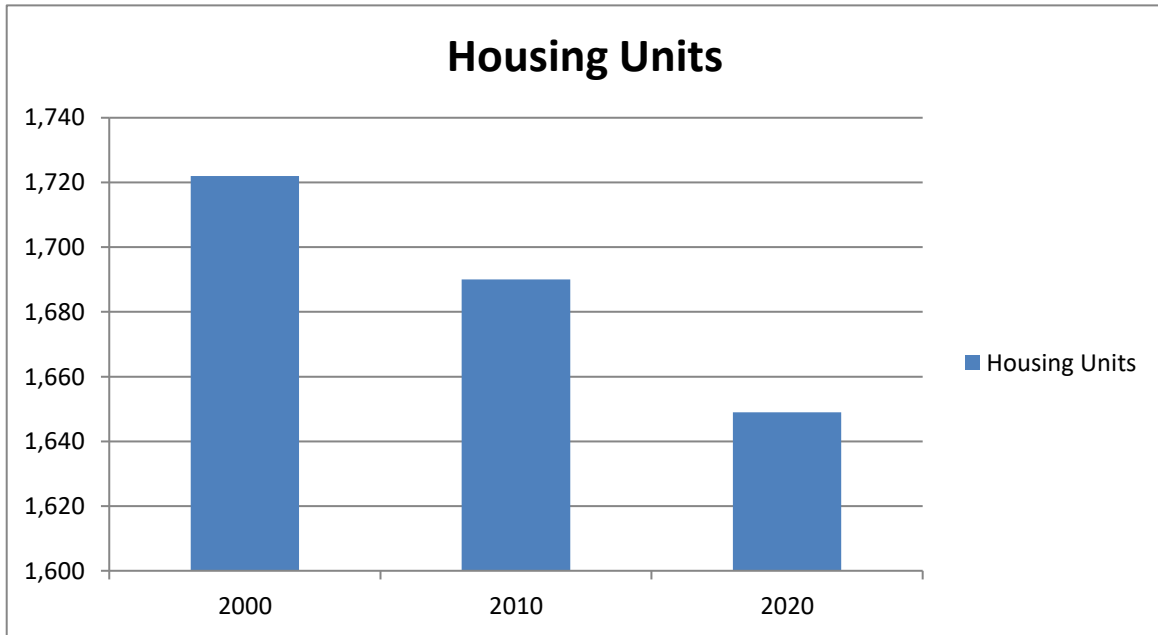
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2007</u>
Number of Farms	417	508	528
Average Size (Acres)	2,329	2,067	2,004
Value of Products Sold (000'S)	\$83,018	\$157,090	\$79,870
Average Per Farm	\$201,501	\$309,231	\$151,270
Average Farm Production Costs	\$180,550	\$199,745	\$105,227

FARMS AND SIZE



- 51 percent of the farmland was in pasture in 2017
- 45 percent of the farmland was in cropland in 2017
- 4 percent of the farmland was in other uses in 2017

HOUSING DATA



- There were 1,649 housing units in 2020, 1,690 in 2010 and 1,722 in 2000

INDUSTRY CLUSTERS

Employment Sectors	2010		2020	
	Number of Jobs	% of Total	Number of Jobs	% of Total
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	410	30.8	20	4.9
Construction	73	5.5	9	2.2
Manufacturing	93	6.9	29	7.1
Wholesale trade	18	1.4	45	10.9
Retail trade	87	6.6	53	12.8
Transportation & warehousing & utilities	98	7.4	7	1.7
Information	20	1.6	*	
Finance & insurance & real estate & rental & leasing	30	2.2	34	8.2
Professional, scientific & management & administration & waste management services	49	3.6	16	3.9
Educational services & health care & social assistance	357	26.7	161	38.9
Arts, entertainment & recreation & accommodation & food services	41	3.1	27	6.5
Other services except public administration	57	4.2	*	
Total	1,333	100%	413	100%

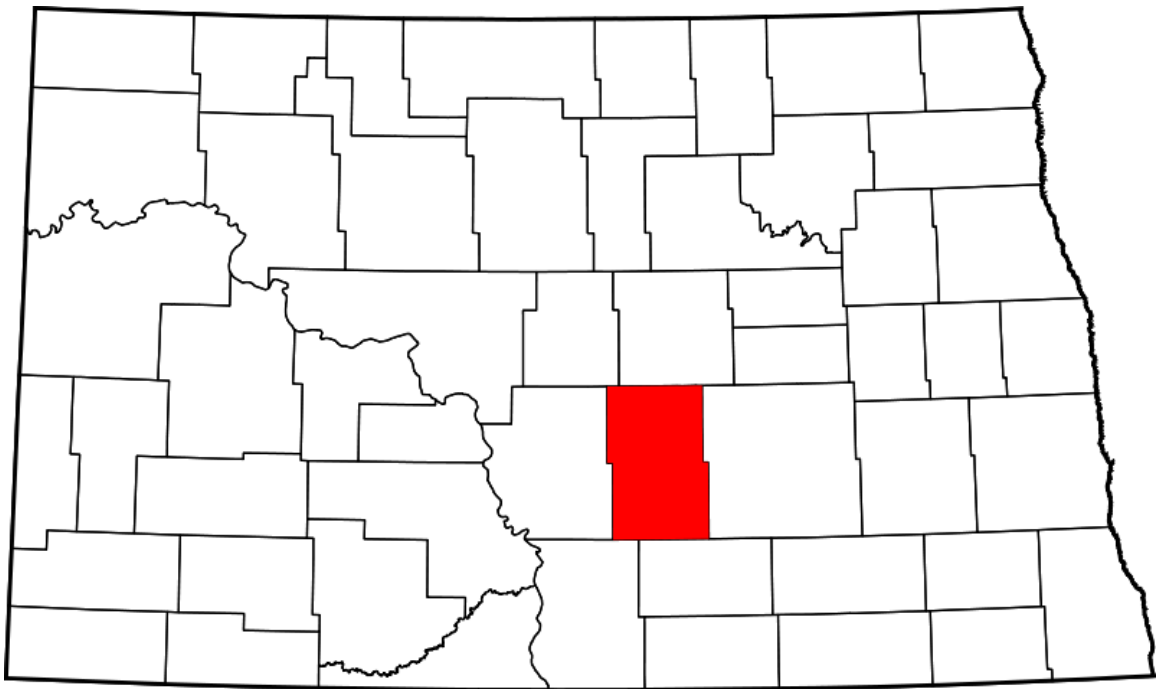
*Data has been suppressed for one reason or another

Major clusters are educational services & health care & social services

Growing cluster is wholesale trade

Nine of the clusters are declining

KIDDER COUNTY



KIDDER COUNTY



The county was created by the 1872-1873 territorial legislature and named for Jefferson Parish Kidder, who served as a delegate to the United States Congress from Dakota Territory between 1875 to 1879 and as an associate justice of the territorial supreme court between 1865-1875 and 1879-1883. The county government was first organized on March 22, 1881 and Steele has always been the county seat.

Kidder County is predominately agriculturally based and is in the south-central part of North Dakota. The county is 1,351.19 square miles in size.

The agricultural base consists of over 476 farms and ranches, averaging over 1,572 acres each. Total cropland in acres is at 420,180, with harvested acres at 367,956. The average farm's value of agricultural products sold is \$113,586. Agriculture is by far the county's largest economic sector.

Kidder County has six incorporated cities that include Dawson, Pettibone, Robinson, Steele, Tappen and Tuttle. The city of Steele serves as the county seat with a population of 663.

The population of Kidder County has been on a decline since 1940 from 6,692 persons to 2,394 persons in 2020, which equates to a loss of 4,298 persons. Over the past decade, Kidder County has experienced a population loss of 410 persons, for a 1.7 percent loss.

Municipal Services

Each of the communities within the county has its own municipal services. They operate lagoon systems for the collection and treatment of wastewater. They also have a municipal water system and most of them are hooked up to some type of rural water system. Some communities offer collection sites for recycling. Because of EPA rules, no community collects solid waste disposal. Most of the communities haul their solid waste to the city of Bismarck.

Within its boundaries, Kidder County has two high schools, one located in Steele and the other in Tappen. Steele, along with Tappen, has a grade school. Tuttle, Pettibone and Robinson's high school and grade school students either attend school in Wing or Steele. Dawson's students either go to Steele or Bismarck.

Utilities

KEM Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the main electricity provider in Kidder County. Propane is supplied by numerous suppliers throughout the county.

Basic television service is provided by either satellite or BEK Communications Cooperative. Telephone services are also provided by BEK Communications Cooperative.

Transportation

Kidder County is served by one federal interstate system, three state highways and numerous county roads. The cities of Steele and Tappen are accessed by Interstate 94, which runs east and west; the cities of Tuttle, Robinson and Pettibone are accessed by state Highway 36, which also runs east and west; and Dawson is accessed by state Highway 3, which runs north and south. Railroad services are provided to Steele and Tappen.

Health, Medical and Emergency Services

There are no hospitals located in Kidder County. There is one basic care facility located in Steele with 25 beds.

All the cities in Kidder County have their own ambulance service. The EMT's are all volunteers. 9-1-1 service is dispatched from Bismarck, ND. All communities have their own volunteer services.

Housing Stock and Characteristics

The number of housing units in 2020 was 1,631, compared to 1,674 from 2010. The number of occupied housing units was at 1,043, with 786 of those owner-occupied.

The median value of owner-occupied housing in Kidder County in 2020 was \$101,600. Additional data shows 36.1 percent of the housing units were vacant in 2020 and the median year built was 1965. Of the total housing units, 75.3 percent were owner occupied and 24.7 percent were renter occupied.

Natural Resources and Environmental Issues

The agriculture industry is the main stay of Kidder County and that will not change soon. The county has several large farmers that produce specialty crops such as potatoes and onions that are used by a food processing plant located south of Dawson. The county also has several small sand and gravel pits located throughout.

All of the communities located in Kidder County have their own water systems.

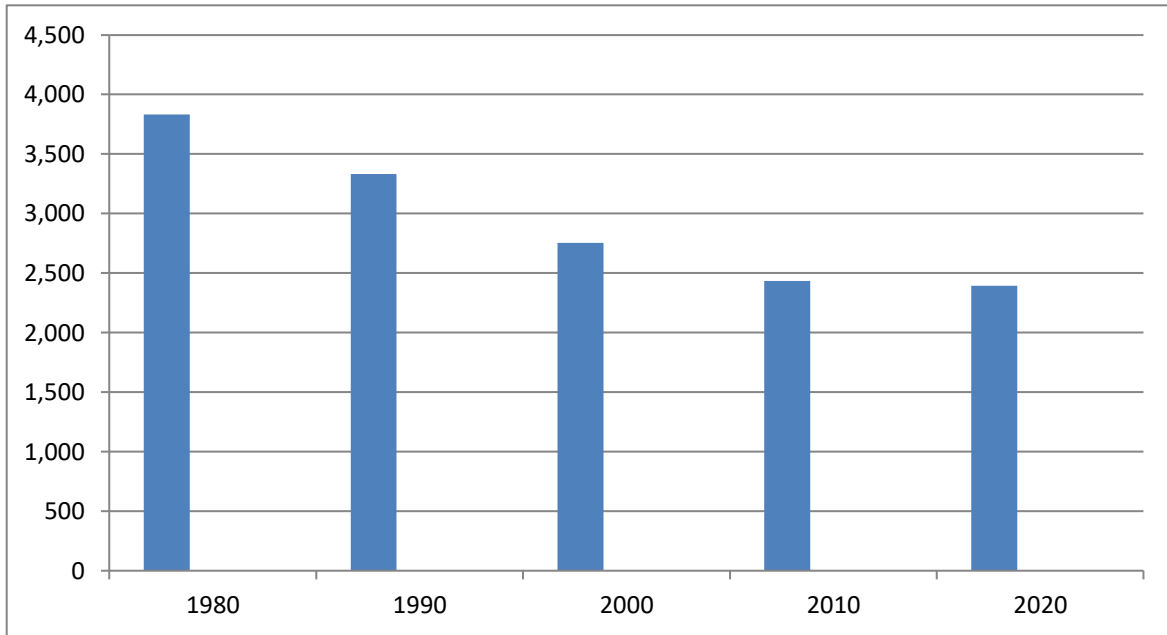
Current Trends

Because agriculture is the mainstay of Kidder County, weather plays a big role in both production of crops and the raising of livestock.

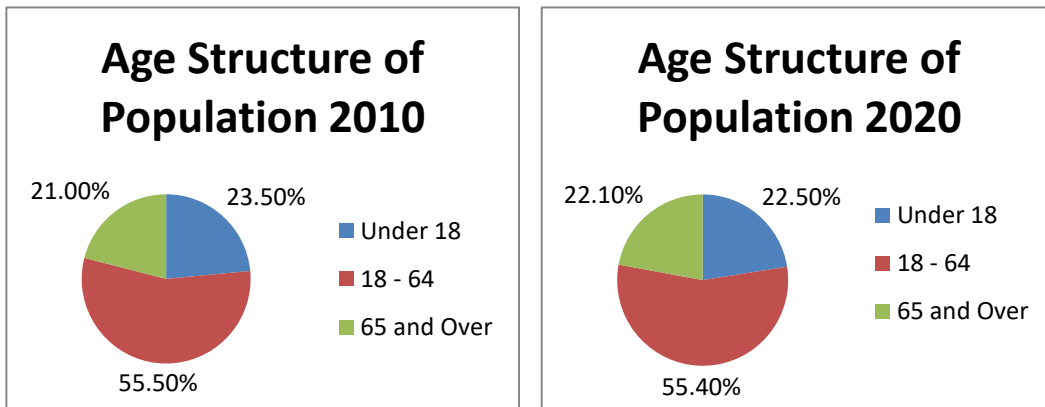
Highlights of Kidder County:

Total population change (2020-2010)	-1.7%
Total population (2020)	2,394
Poverty rate (2020)	9.3%
Civilians in the workforce (2020)	1,278
Per capita income (2020)	\$29,505
Unemployment rate (2020)	6.3%
Median age of population (2020)	48.6%

KIDDER COUNTY POPULATION

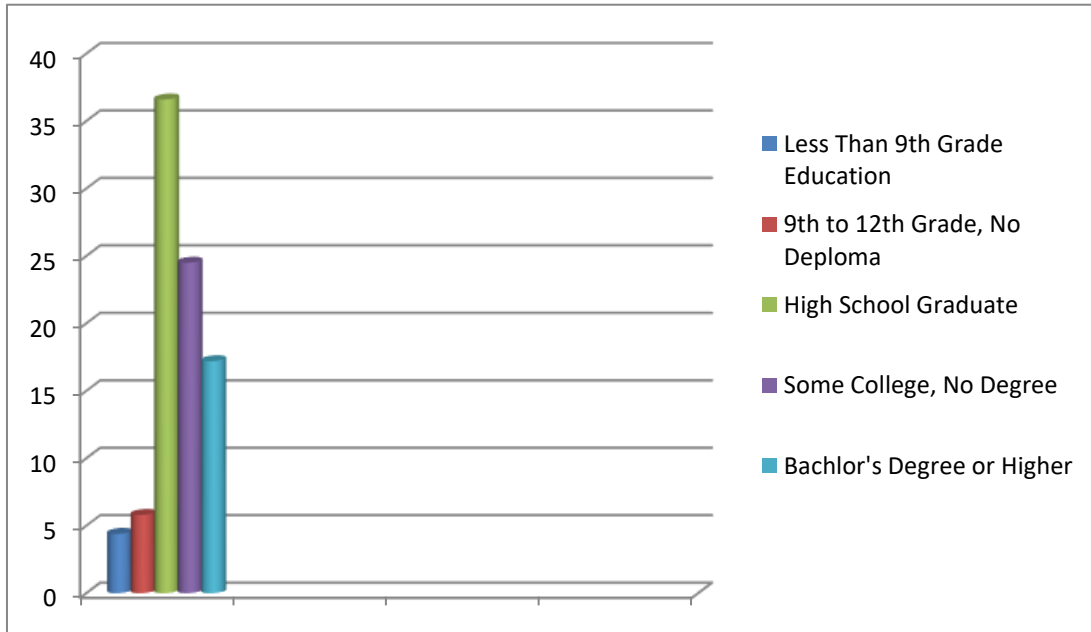


- Lost 318 residents from 2000 to 2010
- Lost 41 residents from 2010 to 2020



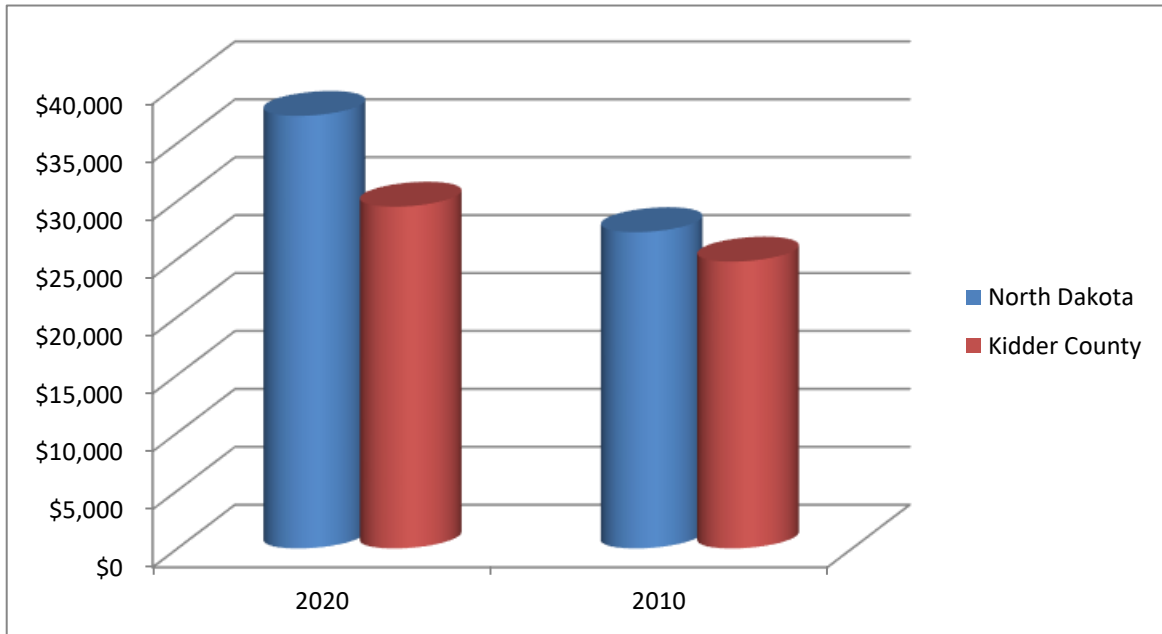
- 22.1 percent of the population was over 65 in 2020, compared to 22.4 percent for North Dakota
- 22.5 percent of the population was under 18 in 2020 compared to 23.4 percent for North Dakota
- 55.4 percent of the population was between 18 to 64 in 2020 compared to 54.2 percent for North Dakota

**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT
PERCENT OF POPULATION OVER AGE 25
2020**



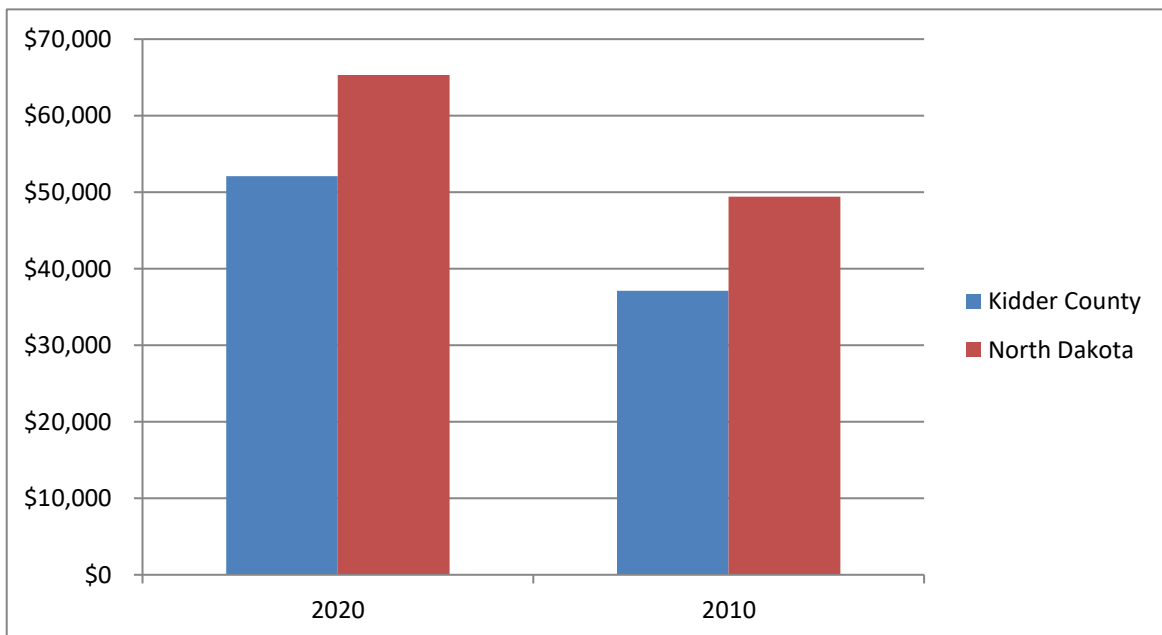
- 4.4 percent of the population 25 years and older had less than a 9th grade education, compared to 2.7 in North Dakota
- 5.8 percent of the population 25 years and older had a 9th to 12th grade education, but no diploma, compared to 4.2 percent in North Dakota
- 36.6 percent of the population 25 years and older are high school graduates, compared to 26.1 percent in North Dakota
- 24.5 percent of the population 25 years and older had some college, but no degree, compared to 22.2 in North Dakota
- 17.2 percent of the population 25 years and older had a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 30.7 in North Dakota

PER CAPITA INCOME



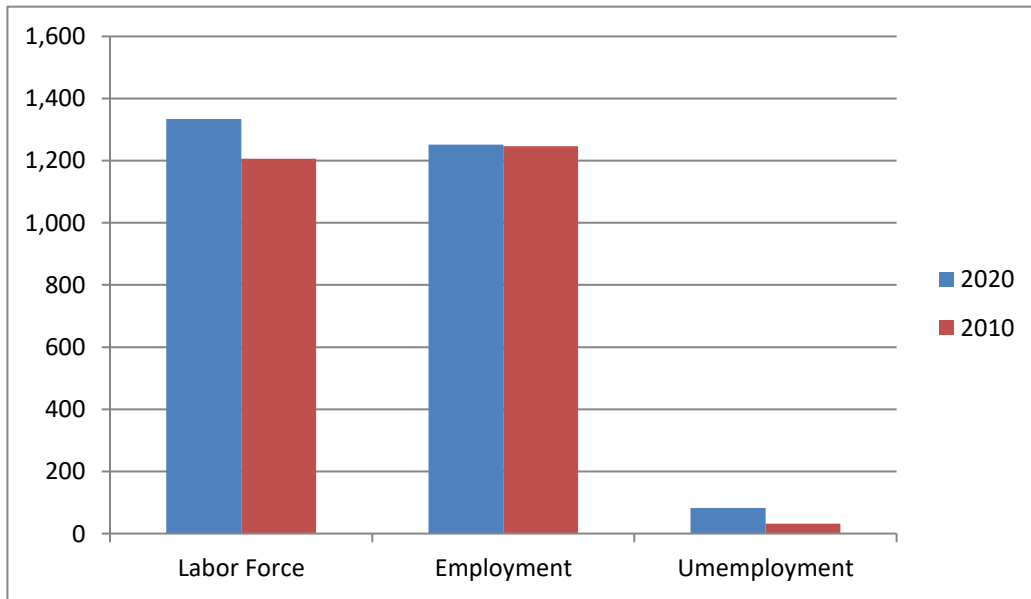
- Kidder County's per capita income in 2020 was \$29,505 compared to \$37,343 in North Dakota
- Kidder County's per capita income in 2010 was \$24,765 compared to \$27,305 in North Dakota

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME



- Median household income in Kidder County was \$52,063 in 2020, compared to \$65,315 in North Dakota
- Median household income in Kidder County was \$37,105 in 2010 compared to \$49,415 in North Dakota

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

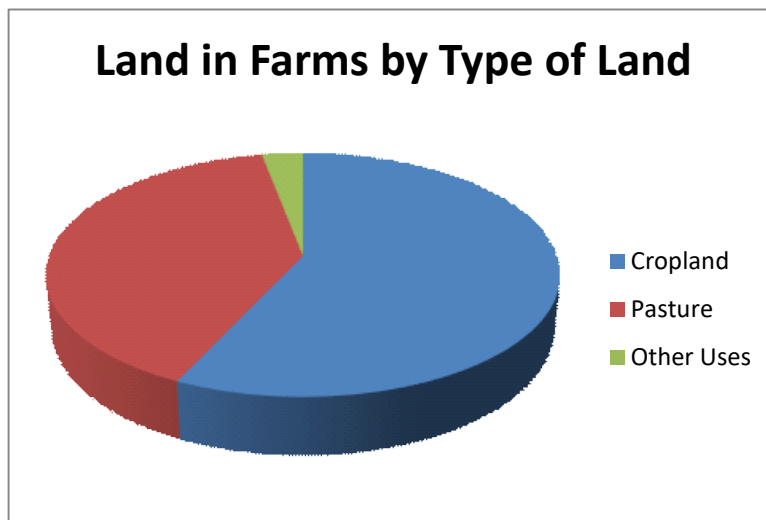
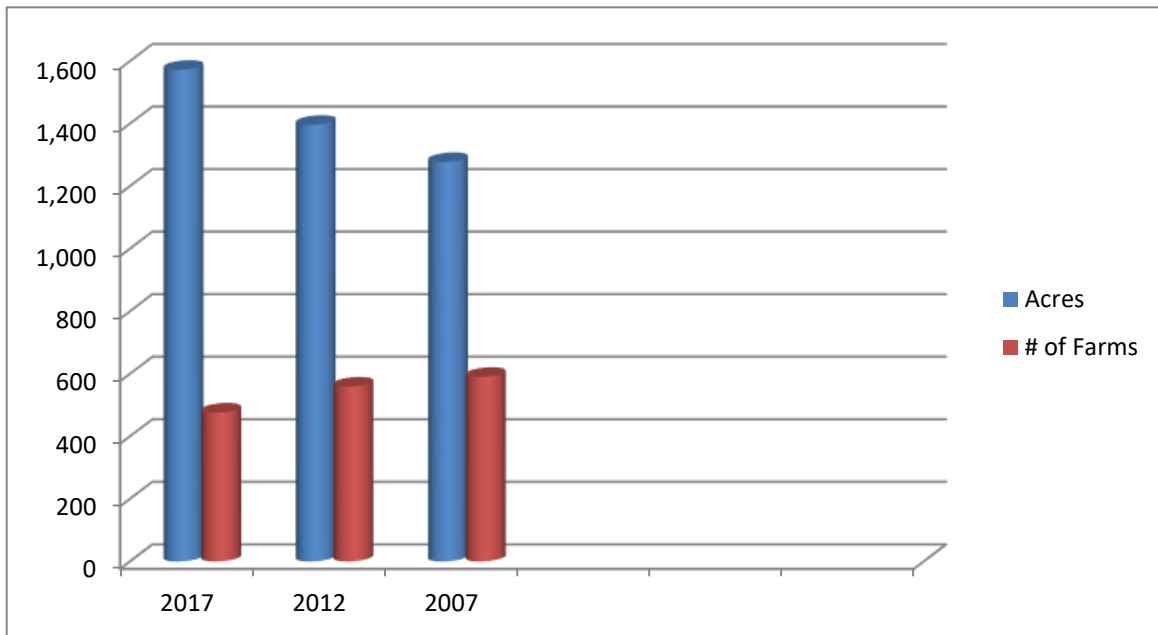


- Labor Force was 1,334 in 2020 in Kidder County compared to 1,206 in 2010
- Employment was 1,251 in 2020 in Kidder County compared to 1,246 in 2010
- Unemployment was 83 in 2020 in Kidder County compared to 32 in 2010

FARM DATA

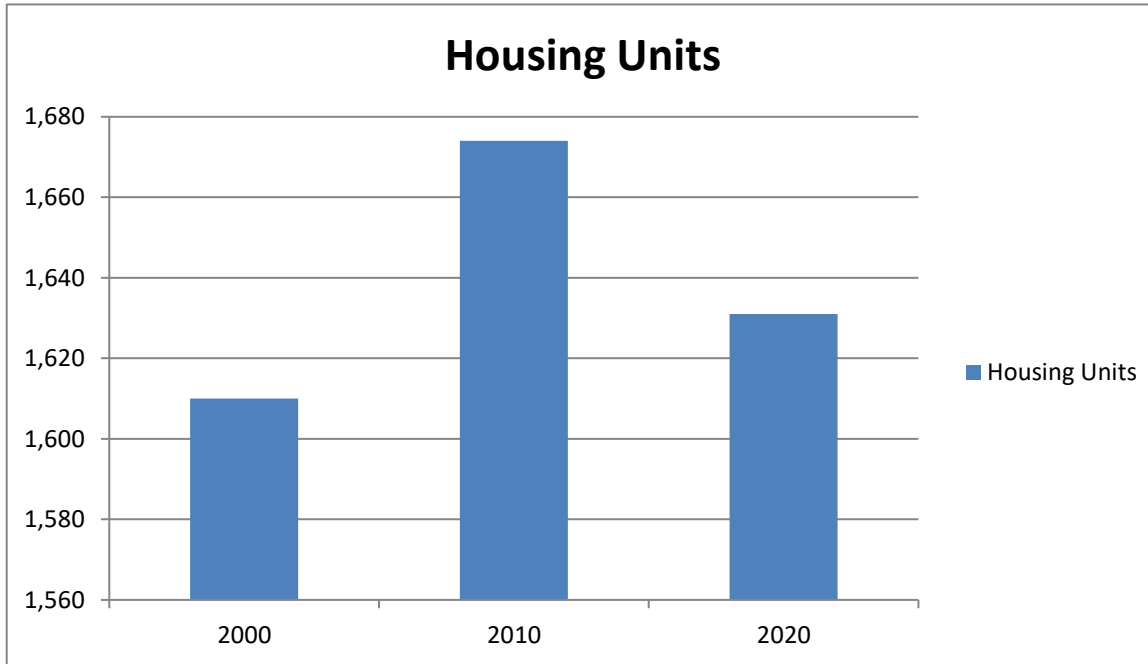
KIDDER COUNTY	<u>2017</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2007</u>
Number of Farms	476	559	590
Average Size (Acres)	1,572	1,396	1,277
Value of Products Sold (000'S)	\$113,586	\$148,317	\$78,457
Average Per Farm	\$238,627	\$265,326	\$132,977
Average Farm Production Costs	\$192,500	\$182,394	\$98,819

FARMS AND SIZE



- 40 percent of the farmland was in pasture in 2017
- 57 percent of the farmland was in cropland in 2017
- 3 percent of the farmland was in other uses in 2017

HOUSING DATA



- There were 1,631 housing units in 2020, 1,674 in 2010 and 1,610 in 2000

INDUSTRY CLUSTERS

Employment Sectors	2010		2020	
	Number of Jobs	% of Total	Number of Jobs	% of Total
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	445	37.0	104	25.4
Construction	58	4.9	18	4.3
Manufacturing	52	4.3	10	2.5
Wholesale trade	25	2.1	31	7.6
Retail trade	99	8.2	77	18.7
Transportation & warehousing & utilities	70	5.8	*	
Information	30	2.5	*	
Finance & insurance & real estate & rental & leasing	45	3.7	29	7.1
Professional, scientific & management & administration & waste management services	58	4.9	35	8.5
Educational services & health care & social assistance	207	17.2	50	12.1
Arts, entertainment & recreation & accommodation & food services	47	3.9	43	10.4
Other services except public administration	64	5.5	14	3.4
Total	1,200	100%	411	100%

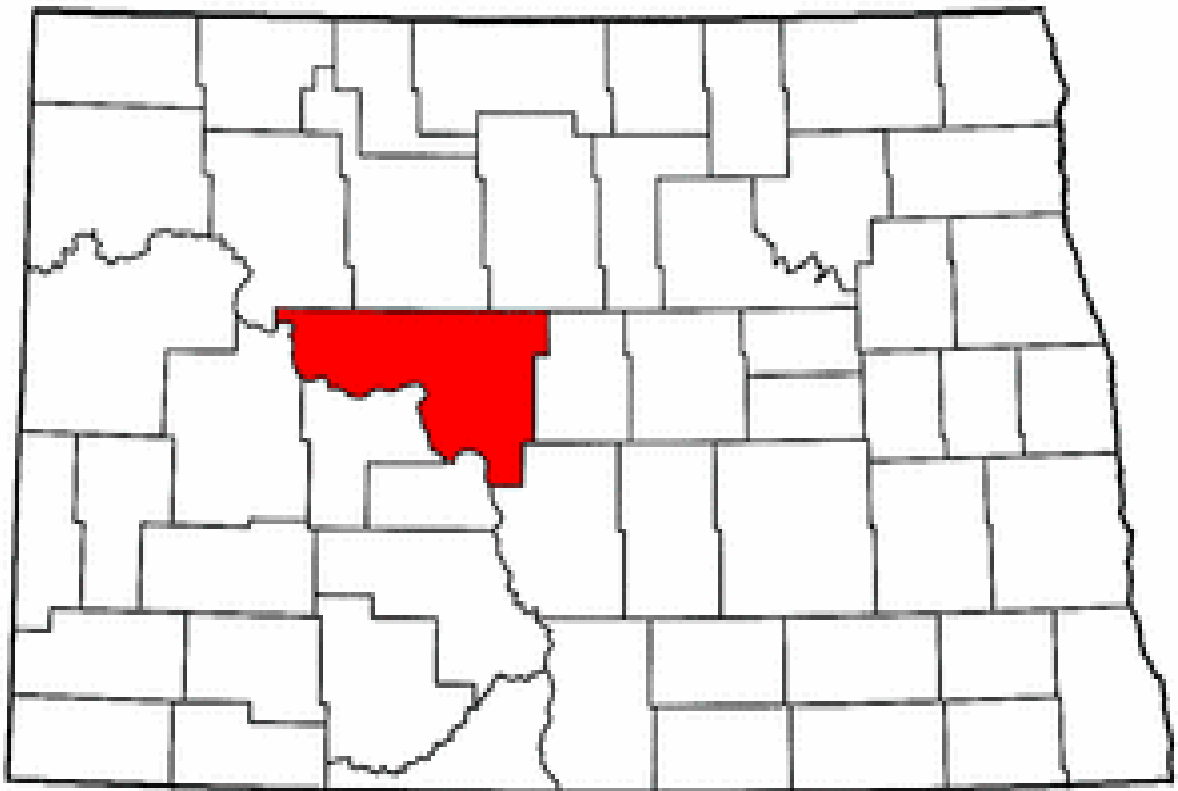
*Data has been suppressed for one reason or another

Major cluster is agricultural, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining

Growing cluster is wholesale trade

Declining cluster is educational services & health care & social assistance

MCLEAN COUNTY



MCLEAN COUNTY



The Lewis and Clark Expedition's winter home was in a portion of present-day McLean County, North Dakota, about 14 miles west of the county seat of Washburn. Their presence marked the first arrival of white men to the area in any numbers. The historical significance of the establishment of Fort Mandan is documented in American history books and is a source of pride to McLean County residents.

Although tourism and energy development play substantial roles in McLean County economy, agriculture continues to be the major role-player. The county annually grows large acreages of wheat, durum, barley and sunflowers and cattlemen supply good numbers of topnotch beef to regional processors.

McLean County is in the central part of North Dakota. The county is 2,110.88 square miles in size.

The agricultural base consists of over 762 farms and ranches, averaging over 1,372 acres each. Total cropland in acres is at 487,666, with harvested acres at 257,023. The average farm's value of agricultural products sold is \$176,922. Agriculture is by far the county's largest economic sector; however, energy is a close second.

McLean County has 12 incorporated cities that include Benedict, Butte, Coleharber, Garrison, Max, Mercer, Riverdale, Ruso, Turtle Lake, Underwood, Washburn and Wilton. The city of Washburn serves as the county seat with a population of 1,298.

The population of McLean County has been on a decline since 1940 from 16,082 persons to 9,771 persons in 2020, which equates to a loss of 6,311 persons. Over the past decade, McLean County has experienced a population gain of 809 persons, for a 8.3 percent gain.

Municipal Services

Each of the communities within the county has its own municipal services. They operate lagoon systems for the collection and treatment of wastewater. They also have a municipal water system and most of them are hooked up to some type of rural water system. Some communities offer collection sites for recycling. Because of EPA rules, no community collects solid waste disposal. Most of the communities haul their solid waste to the city of Bismarck or to the city of Minot.

Within its boundaries, McLean County has seven high schools, located in Garrison, Max, Turtle Lake, Underwood, Washburn, White Shield and Wilton. All of the previously mentioned schools also have grade schools. Benedict, Ruso and Butte students attend school in Max; Coleharber students go to Underwood; Mercer students to Turtle Lake; and Riverdale students to Underwood.

Utilities

McLean Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the main electricity provider in McLean County. Propane is supplied by numerous suppliers throughout the county.

Basic television service is provided by either satellite, Reservation Cooperative or Midco Communications. Telephone services are also provided by Reservation Telephone Cooperative and SRT Communications, Inc.

Transportation

McLean County is served by one US highway, three state highways and numerous county roads. The cities of Wilton, Washburn, Underwood, Coleharber and Max are accessed by

US Highway 83, which runs north and south; the cities of Turtle Lake and Mercer are accessed by State Highway 200, which runs east and west; Riverdale is accessed by State Highway 1806 and Garrison is accessed by State Highway 37. Railroad services are provided to Wilton, Washburn, Underwood, Coleharber, Garrison, Max, Ruso and Butte.

Health, Medical and Emergency Services

There are two hospitals located in McLean County. One is in Garrison, with 22 beds and the other in Turtle Lake, with 25 beds. There is one basic care facility located in Wilton with 16 beds. There are also two nursing homes, and they are located in Garrison with 80 beds total.

All the cities in McLean County have their own ambulance service. The EMT's are all volunteers. 9-1-1 service is dispatched from Bismarck, ND. All communities have their own volunteer services.

Housing Stock and Characteristics

The number of housing units in 2020 was 5,728, compared to 5,590 in 2010. Occupied housing units were at 4,129 with 3,302 of those owner-occupied.

The median value of owner-occupied housing in McLean County in 2020 was \$184,800. Additional data shows 27.9 percent of the housing units were vacant in 2020 and the median year built was 1973. Of the total housing units, 80.0 percent were owner occupied and 20.0 percent were renter occupied.

Natural Resources and Environmental Issues

The agriculture industry is the main stay of McLean County; however, energy and tourism also have a big influence. Energy includes wind farms and coal generated power plants that are constantly dealing with environmental issues.

The city of Wilton receives its water from the South-Central Rural Water Association and Garrison receives its water from the Southwest Water Association. The rest of the communities located in McLean County have their own water systems.

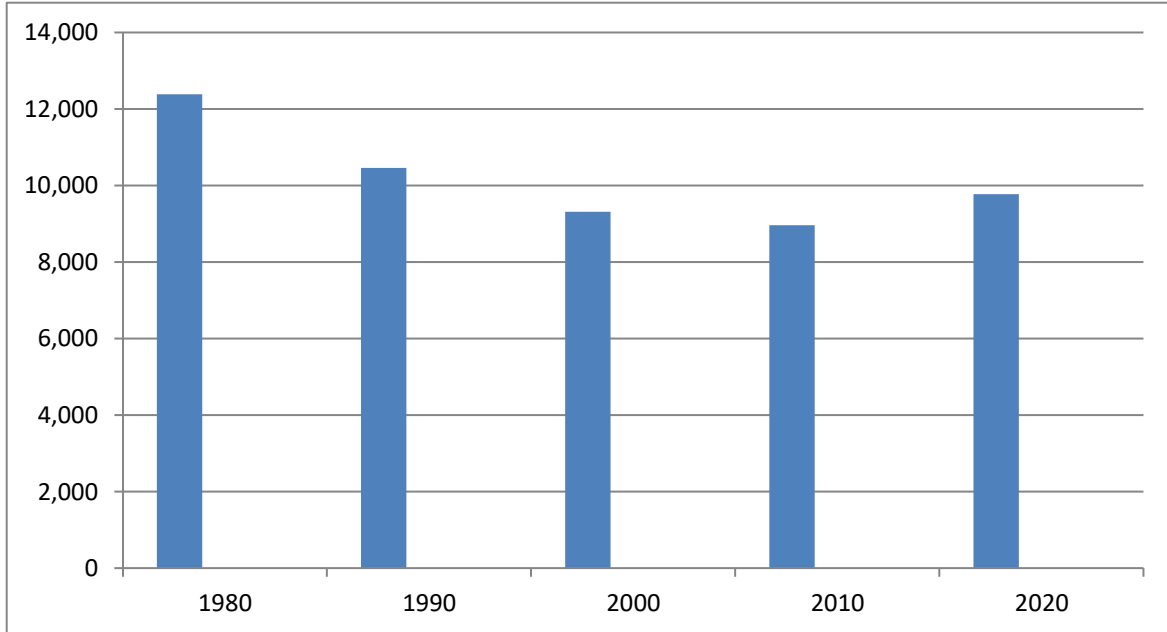
Current Trends

Because agriculture is the mainstay of McLean County, weather plays a big role in both production of crops and the raising of livestock.

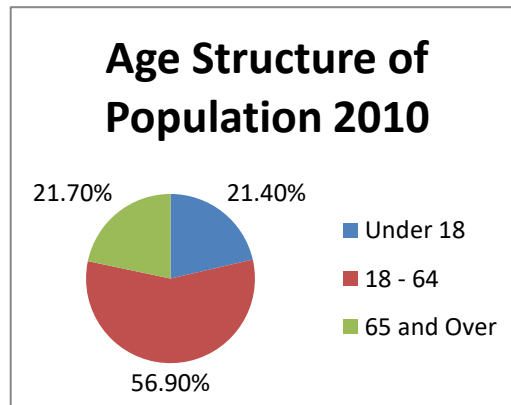
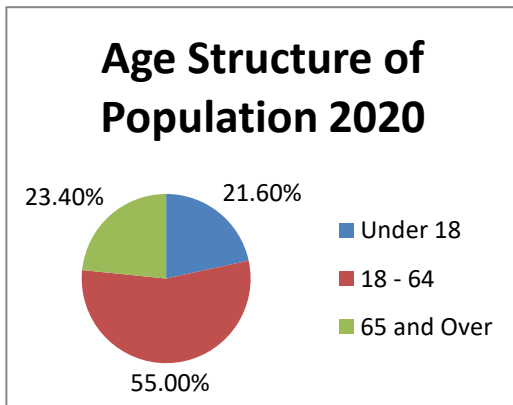
Highlights of McLean County:

Total population change (2020-2010)	8.3%
Total population (2020)	9,771
Poverty rate (2020)	6.0%
Civilians in the workforce (2020)	4,698
Per capita income (2020)	\$36,728
Unemployment rate (2020)	2.6%
Median age of population (2020)	45.8%

MCLEAN COUNTY POPULATION

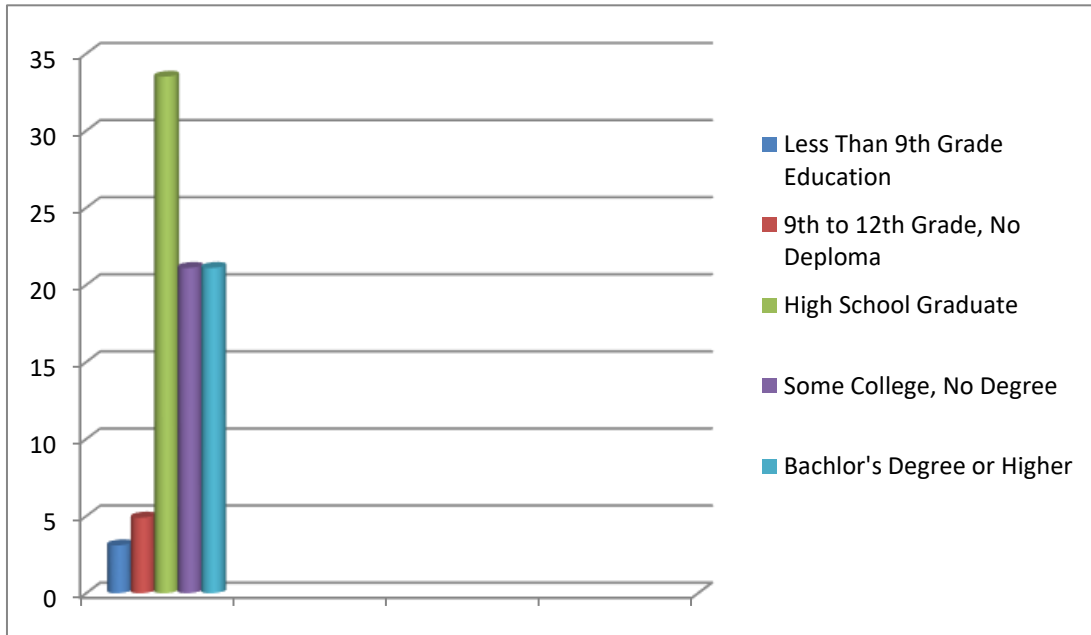


- Lost 349 residents from 2000 to 2010
- Gained 809 residents from 2010 to 2020



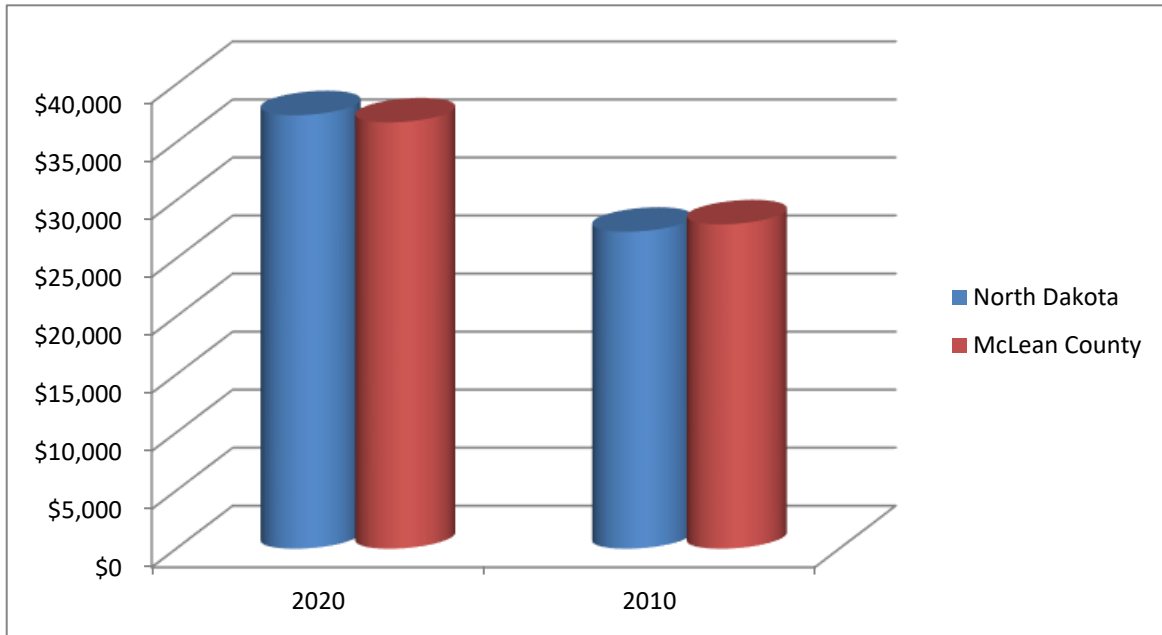
- 23.4 percent of the population was over 65 in 2020, compared to 15.3 percent for North Dakota
- 21.6 percent of the population was under 18 in 2020 compared to 23.4 percent for North Dakota
- 55 percent of the population was between 18 to 64 in 2020 compared to 61.3 percent for North Dakota

**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT
PERCENT OF POPULATION OVER AGE 25
2020**



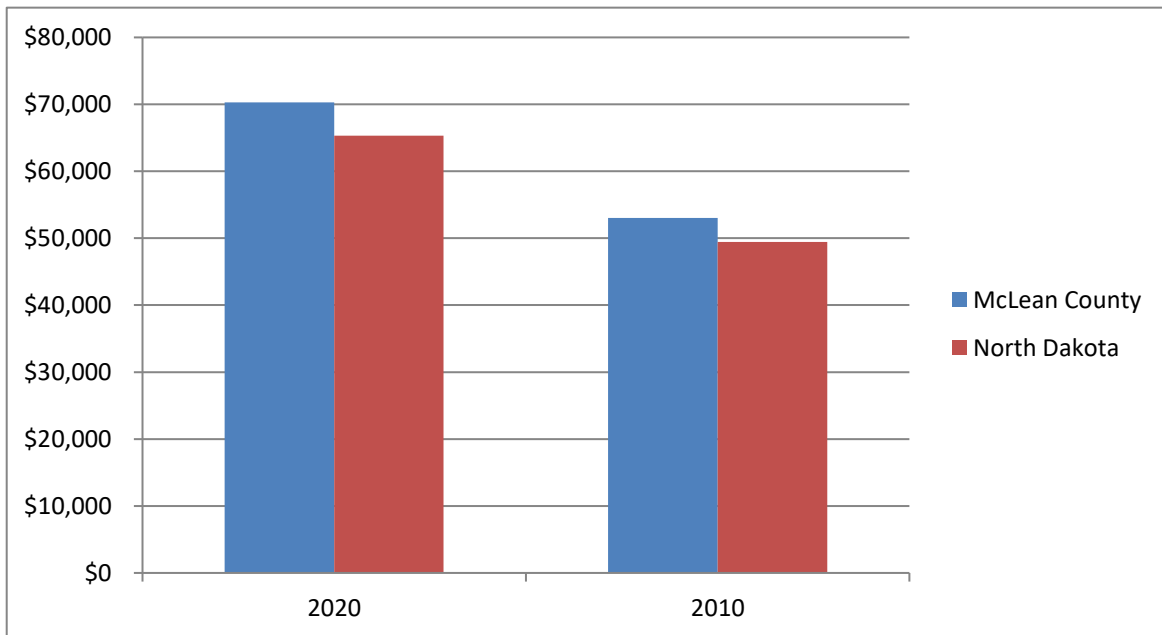
- 3.1 percent of the population 25 years and older had less than a 9th grade education, compared to 2.7 in North Dakota
- 4.9 percent of the population 25 years and older had a 9th to 12th grade education, but no diploma, compared to 4.2 percent in North Dakota
- 33.5 percent of the population 25 years and older are high school graduates, compared to 26.1 percent in North Dakota
- 21.1 percent of the population 25 years and older had some college, but no degree, compared to 22.2 in North Dakota
- 21.1 percent of the population 25 years and older had a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 30.7 in North Dakota

PER CAPITA INCOME



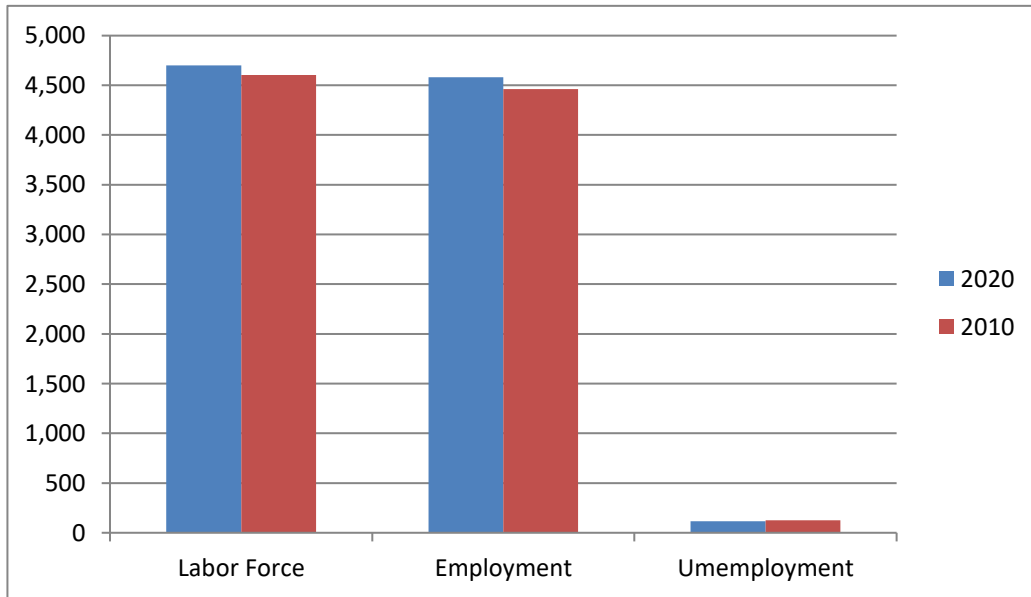
- McLean County's per capita income in 2010 was \$27,945 compared to \$27,305 in North Dakota
- McLean County's per capita income in 2020 was \$36,728 compared to \$37,343 in North Dakota
-

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME



- Median household income in McLean County was \$70,261 in 2020, compared to \$65,315 in North Dakota
- Median household income in McLean County was \$52,996 in 2010 compared to \$49,415 in North Dakota

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT



- Labor Force was 4,698 in 2020 in McLean County compared to 4,623 in 2010
- Employment was 4,580 in 2020 in McLean County compared to 4,462 in 2010
- Unemployment was 118 in 2020 in McLean County compared to 125 in 2010

FARM DATA

MCLEAN COUNTY

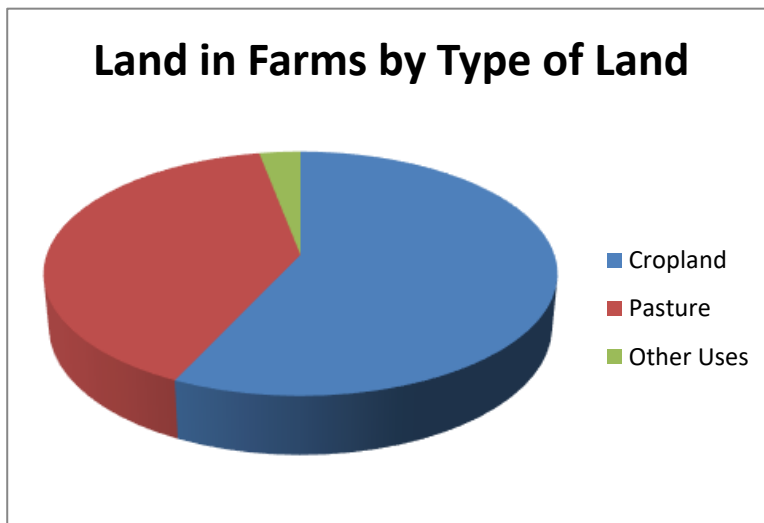
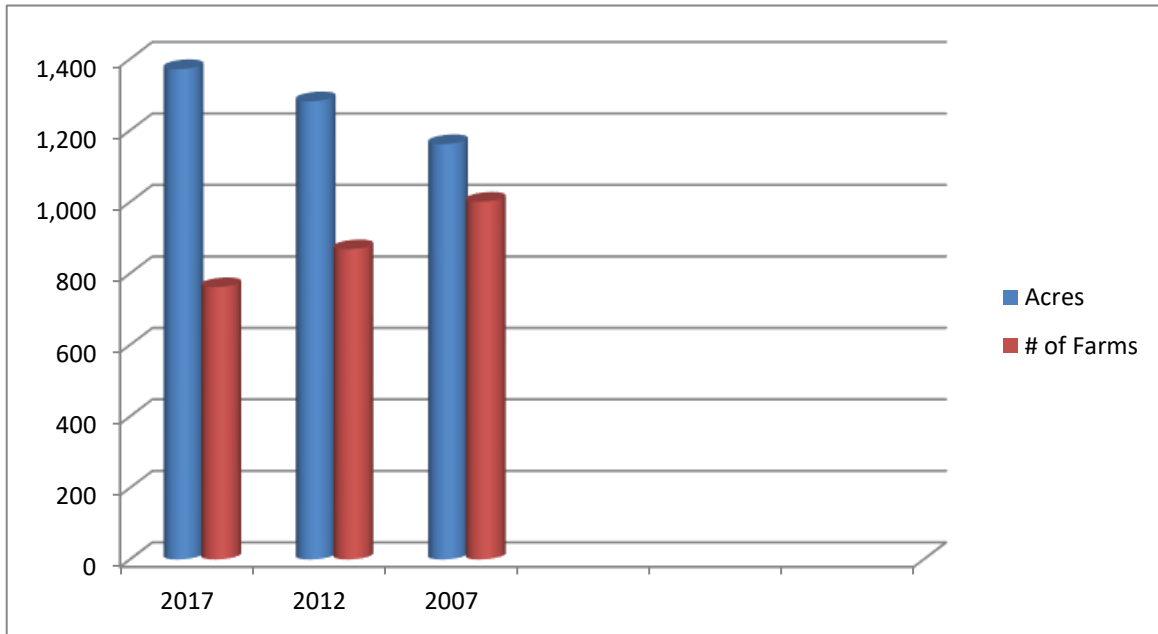
2017

2012

2007

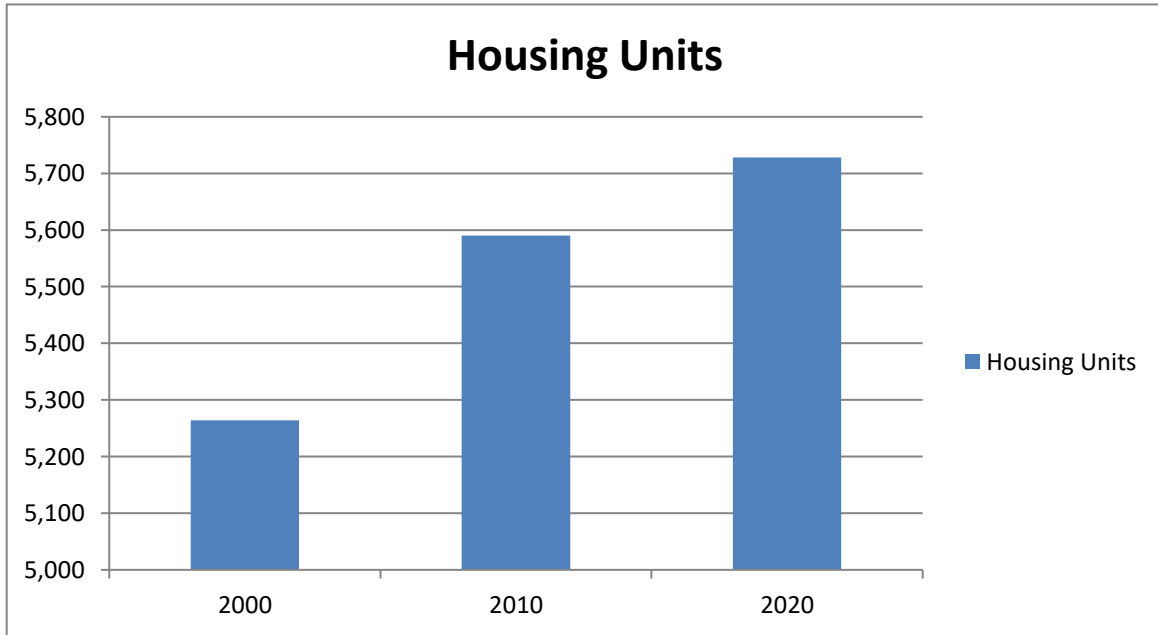
Number of Farms	762	868	1,001
Average Size (Acres)	1,372	1,282	1,162
Value of Products Sold (000'S)	\$176,922	\$293,406	\$162,440
Average Per Farm	\$232,181	\$338,035	\$163,276
Average Farm Production Costs	\$213,905	\$215,245	\$98,819

FARMS AND SIZE



- 40.0 percent of the farmland was in pasture in 2017
- 57.0 percent of the farmland was in cropland in 2017
- 3.0 percent of the farmland was in other uses in 2017

HOUSING DATA



- There were 5,728 housing units in 2020, 5,590 in 2010 and 5,264 in 2000

INDUSTRY CLUSTERS

Employment Sectors	2010		2020	
	Number of Jobs	% of Total	Number of Jobs	% of Total
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	960	22.5	61	3.7
Construction	340	7.9	158	9.4
Manufacturing	120	2.8	*	
Wholesale trade	105	2.5	291	17.3
Retail trade	450	10.6	243	14.5
Transportation & warehousing & utilities	365	8.6	77	4.6
Information	41	0.9	*	
Finance & insurance & real estate & rental & leasing	194	4.6	171	10.1
Professional, scientific & management & administration & waste management services	168	3.9	79	4.6
Educational services & health care & social assistance	1,130	26.4	333	19.7
Arts, entertainment & recreation & accommodation & food services	203	4.7	227	13.4
Other services except public administration	199	4.6	46	2.7
Total	4,275	100%	1,686	100%

*Data has been suppressed for one reason or another

Major cluster is educational services & healthcare & social assistance

Growing cluster is wholesale trade

Declining cluster is agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining

MERCER COUNTY



MERCER COUNTY



Created by the 1874-1875 territorial legislature and named for William Henry Harrison Mercer (1844-1901, an early rancher who settled north of Bismarck in 1869.)

Government organized: August 4, 1884 - County Seat: Stanton 1884-present.

Mercer County is predominately agriculturally based and is in the central part of North Dakota. The energy industry is also a major player with four lignite-fired electric generating stations; one commercial-size coal gasification plant (the only one in the US);

one hydro-electric generating facility; and two coal mines. The county is 1,042.96 square miles in size.

The agricultural base consists of over 317 farms and ranches, averaging over 1,635 acres each. Total cropland in acres is at 232,831, with harvested acres at 180,750. The average farm's value of agricultural products sold is \$57,168. Agriculture is the county's largest economic sector; however, energy is a close second.

Mercer County has six incorporated cities that include Beulah, Golden Valley, Hazen, Pick City, Stanton and Zap. The city of Stanton serves as the county seat with a population of 364.

The population of Mercer County has been on a decline since 1990 from 9,808 persons to 8,350 persons in 2020, which equates to a loss of 1,458 persons. Over the past decade, Mercer County has experienced a population loss of 174 persons, for a 1.4 percent loss.

Municipal Services

Each of the communities within the county has its own municipal services. They operate lagoon systems for the collection and treatment of wastewater. They also have a municipal water system. Some communities offer collection sites for recycling. Because of EPA rules, the only community that collects solid waste disposal is Beulah. Most of the communities haul their solid waste to the city of Dickinson.

Within its boundaries, Mercer County has two high schools, located in Beulah and Hazen. Both Beulah and Hazen also have grade schools. Students from Golden Valley and Zap attend school in Beulah and students from Pick City and Stanton attend school in Hazen.

Utilities

West River Telecommunications Cooperative provides services to all cities in the county. Propane is supplied by numerous suppliers throughout the county.

Basic television service is provided by either satellite or West River Telecommunications Cooperative.

Transportation

Mercer County is served by four state highways and numerous county roads. The cities of Hazen, Beulah, Zap, Stanton and Golden Valley are accessed by State Highway 200, which runs east and west; the city of Beulah is accessed by State Highway 49, which runs north and south; and Pick City is accessed by State Highway 31 and 1806. Railroad services are provided to Stanton, Hazen Beulah, Zap and Golden Valley.

Health, Medical and Emergency Services

There is one hospital located in Mercer County and it is in Hazen with 34 beds. There is one basic care facility located in Hazen with 34 beds. There is also one nursing home and it is in Beulah with 86 beds.

All the cities in Mercer County have their own ambulance service. The EMT's are all volunteers. 9-1-1 service is dispatched from Bismarck, ND. All communities have their own volunteer services.

Housing Stock and Characteristics

The number of housing units in 2020 was at 4,657, compared to 4,450 from 2010. Occupied housing units totaled 3,474, with 2,899 of those owner-occupied.

The median value of owner-occupied housing in Mercer County in 2020 was \$181,100. Additional data shows 25.4 percent of the housing units were vacant in 2020 and the median year built was 1976. Of the total housing units, 83.4 percent were owner occupied and 16.6 percent were renter occupied.

Natural Resources and Environmental Issues

The agriculture industry is the main stay of Mercer County; however, energy and tourism also have a big influence. Energy includes wind farms and coal generated power plants that are constantly dealing with environmental issues.

The cities of Zap and Golden Valley receive their water from the Southwest Rural Water System. The rest of the communities located in Mercer County have their own water systems.

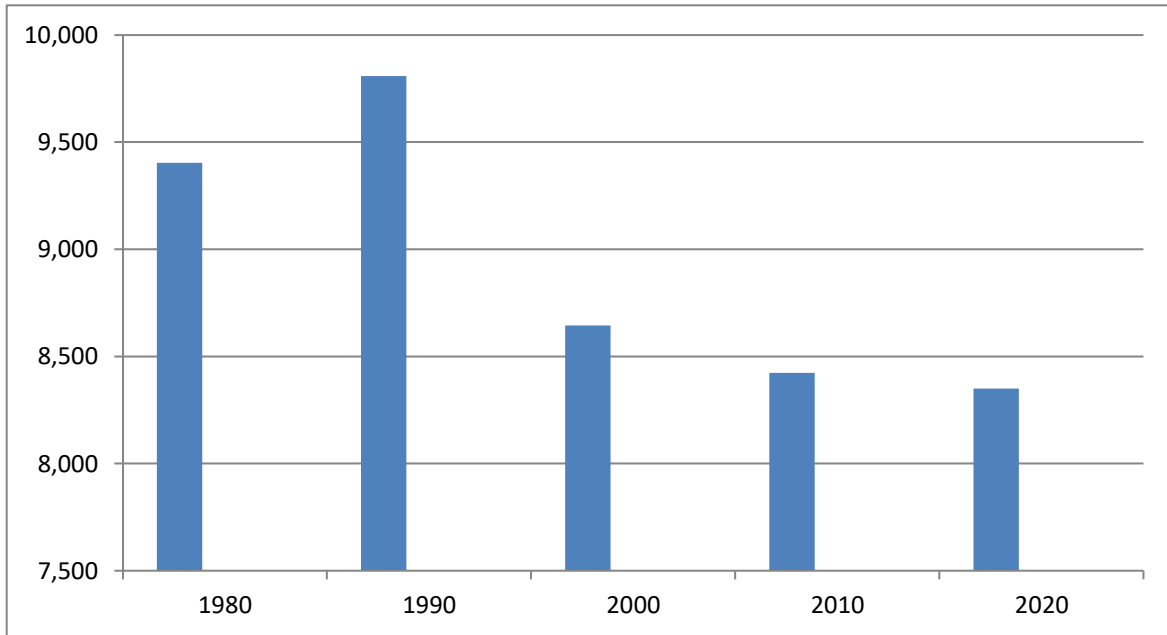
Current Trends

Because agriculture is a mainstay of Mercer County, weather plays a big role in both production of crops and the raising of livestock.

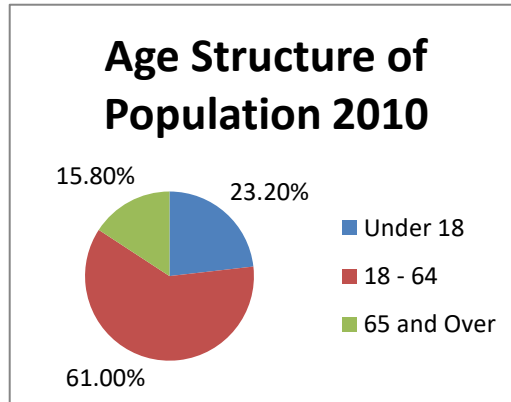
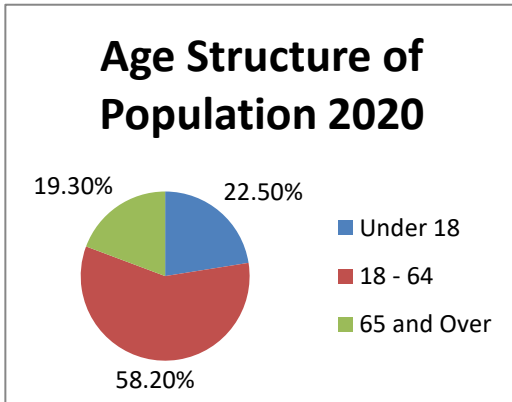
Highlights of Mercer County:

Total population change (2020-2010)	-1.4%
Total population (2020)	8,350
Poverty rate (2020)	5.9%
Civilians in the workforce (2020)	3,670
Per capita income (2020)	\$37,725
Unemployment rate (2020)	4.7%
Median age of population (2020)	46.3%

MERCER COUNTY POPULATION

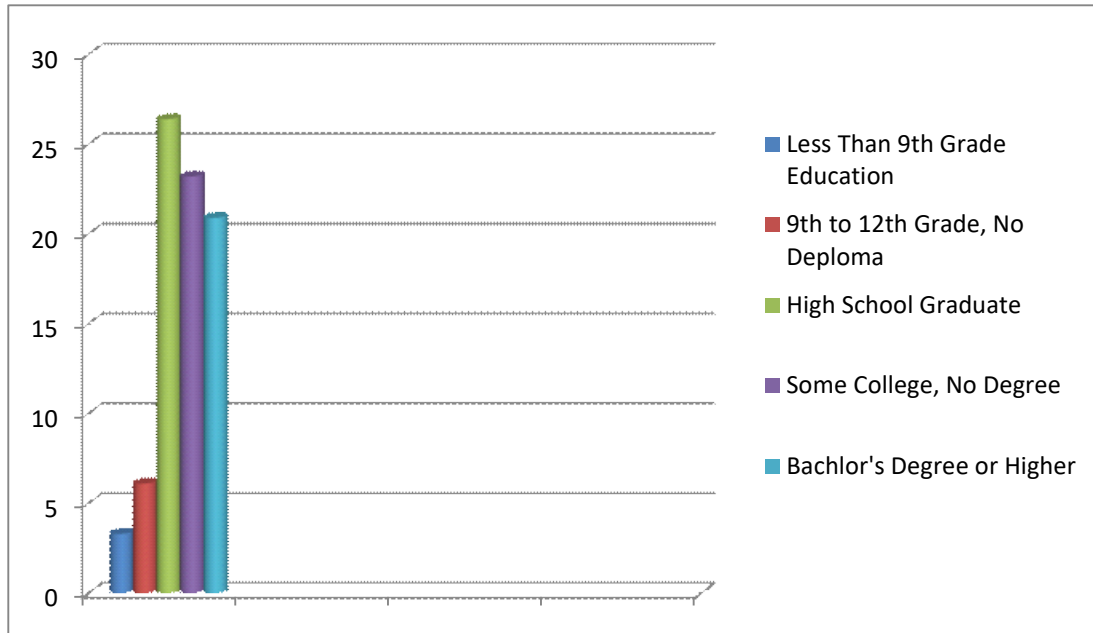


- Lost 1,164 residents from 1990 to 2000
- Lost 220 residents from 2000 to 2010
- Lost 174 residents from 2010 to 2020



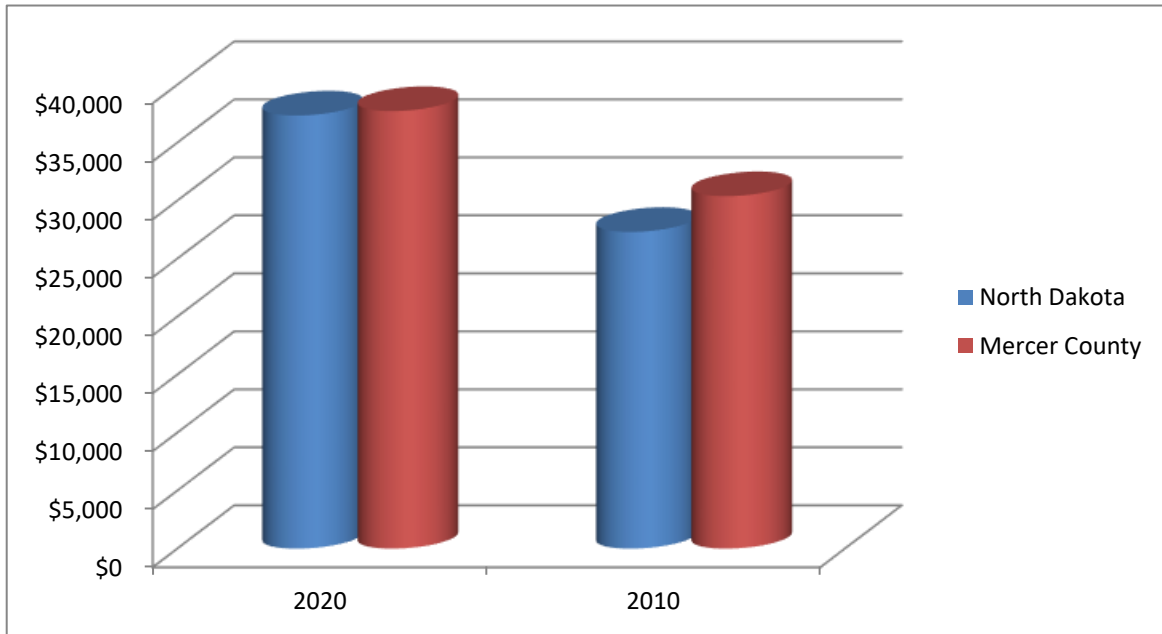
- 19.3 percent of the population was over 65 in 2020, compared to 15.3 percent for North Dakota
- 22.5 percent of the population was under 18 in 2020 compared to 23.4 percent for North Dakota
- 58.2 percent of the population was between 18 to 64 in 2020 compared to 61.3 percent for North Dakota

**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT
PERCENT OF POPULATION OVER AGE 25
2020**



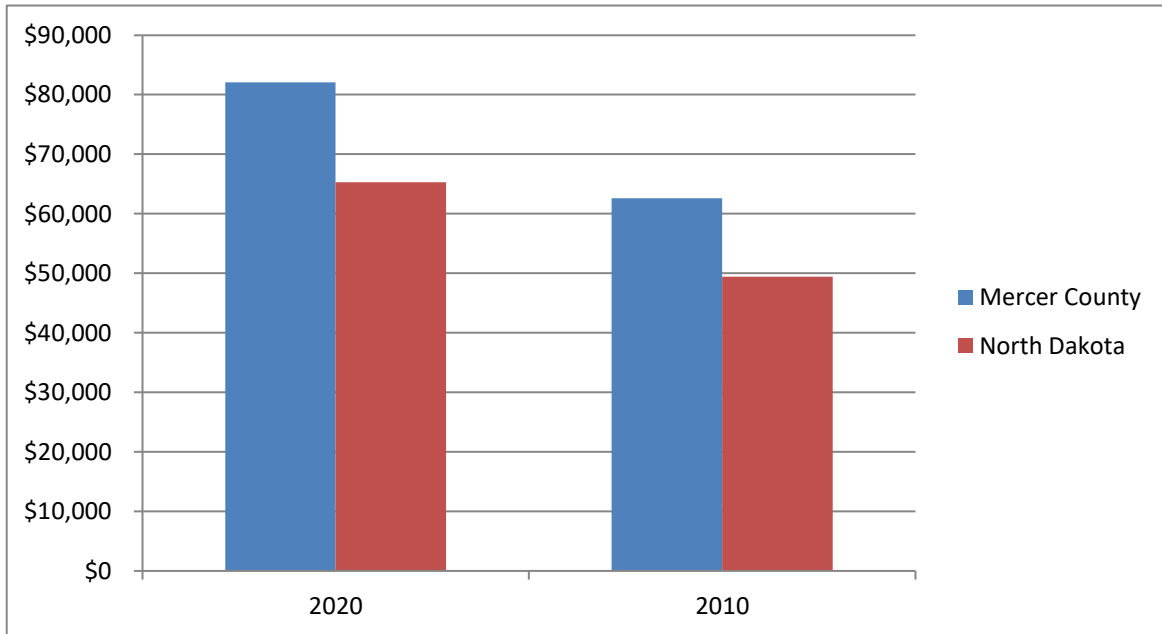
- 3.3 percent of the population 25 years and older had less than a 9th grade education, compared to 2.7 in North Dakota
- 6.1 percent of the population 25 years and older had a 9th to 12th grade education, but no diploma, compared to 4.2 percent in North Dakota
- 26.4 percent of the population 25 years and older are high school graduates, compared to 26.1 percent in North Dakota
- 23.2 percent of the population 25 years and older had some college, but no degree, compared to 22.2 in North Dakota
- 20.9 percent of the population 25 years and older had a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 30.7 in North Dakota

PER CAPITA INCOME



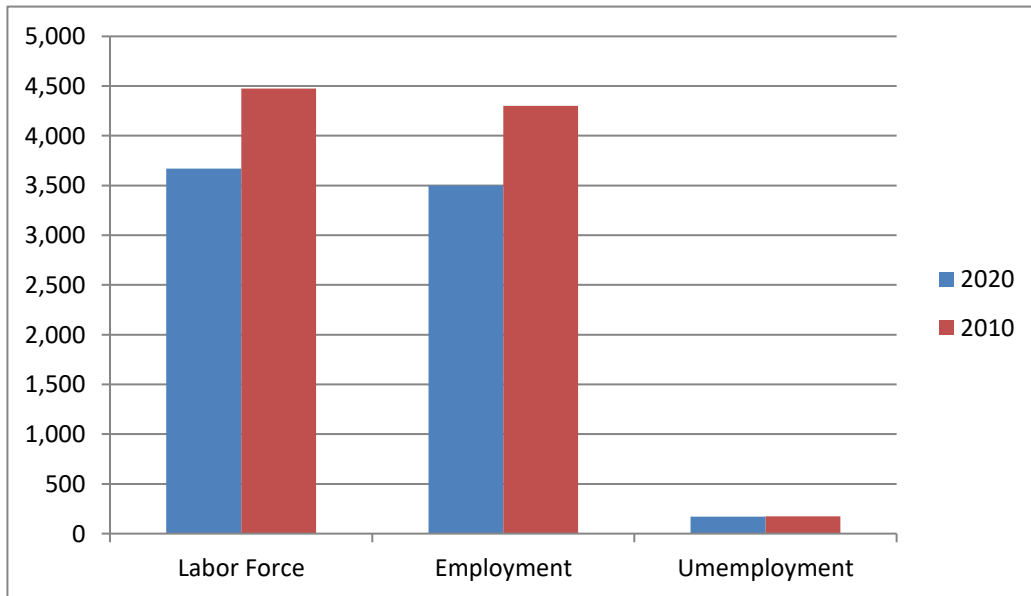
- Mercer County's per capita income in 2020 was \$37,725 compared to \$37,343 in North Dakota
- Mercer County's per capita income in 2010 was \$30,387 compared to \$27,305 in North Dakota

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

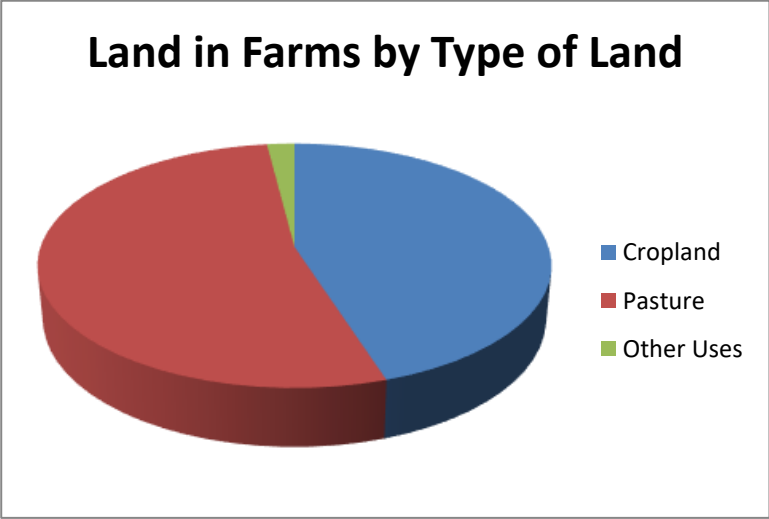


- Median household income in Mercer County was \$82,087 in 2020, compared to \$65,315 in North Dakota
- Median household income in Mercer County was \$62,578 in 2010 compared to \$49,415 in North Dakota

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

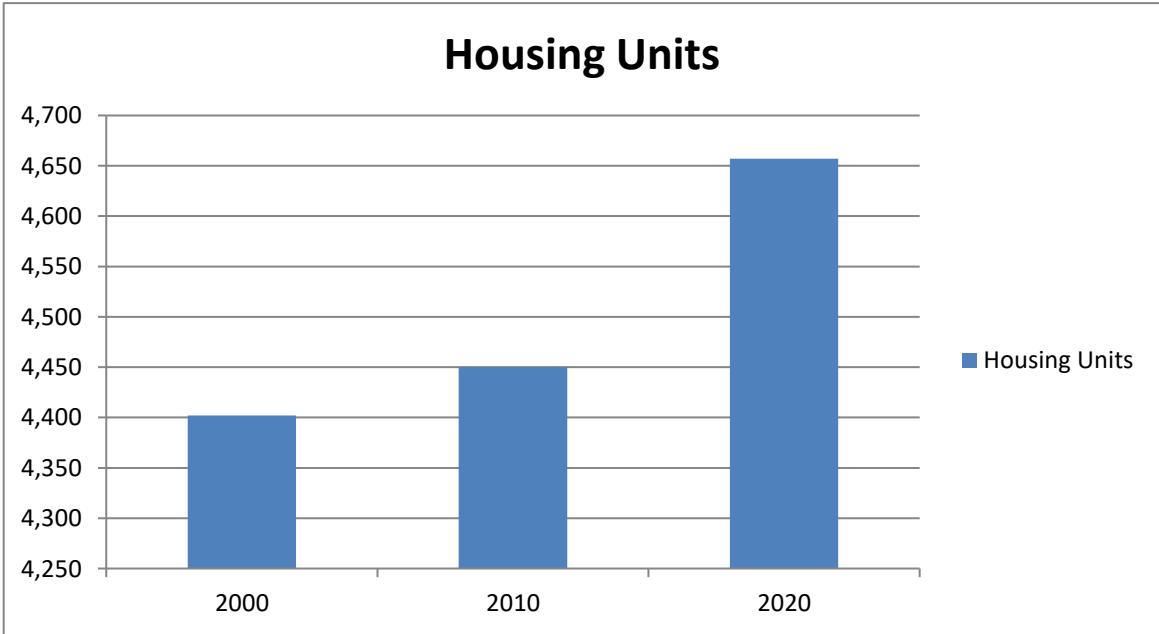


- Labor Force was 3,675 in 2020 in Mercer County compared to 4,475 in 2010
- Employment was 3,498 in 2020 in Mercer County compared to 4,301 in 2010
- Unemployment was 172 in 2020 in Mercer County compared to 173 in 2010



- 53.0 percent of the farmland was in pasture in 2017
- 45 percent of the farmland was in cropland in 2017
- 2 percent of the farmland was in other uses in 2017

HOUSING DATA



- There were 4,657 housing units in 2020, 4,450 in 2010 and 4,402 in 2000

INDUSTRY CLUSTERS

Employment Sectors	2010		2020	
	Number of Jobs	% of Total	Number of Jobs	% of Total
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	878	21.1	615	17.9
Construction	210	5.0	234	6.8
Manufacturing	268	6.4	26	.7
Wholesale trade	64	1.5	82	2.5
Retail trade	530	12.7	371	10.8
Transportation & warehousing & utilities	701	16.8	995	29.2
Information	151	3.6	96	2.8
Finance & insurance & real estate & rental & leasing	126	3.1	119	3.5
Professional, scientific & management & administration & waste management services	180	4.3	95	2.8
Educational services & health care & social assistance	667	15.9	512	14.9
Arts, entertainment & recreation & accommodation & food services	266	6.4	221	6.5
Other services except public administration	133	3.2	53	1.6
Total	4,174	100%	3,419	100%

Major cluster is transportation & warehousing & utilities

Growing cluster is transportation & warehousing & utilities

Declining cluster is manufacturing

MORTON COUNTY



MORTON COUNTY



Morton County is predominately agriculturally based and is in the south-central part of North Dakota. The county is 1,926.27 square miles in size.

The agricultural base consists of over 781 farms and ranches, averaging over 1,570 acres each. Total cropland in acres is at 562,846, with harvested acres at 450,014. The average farm's value of agricultural products sold is \$145,997. Agriculture is by far the county's largest economic sector.

Morton County has six incorporated cities that include Mandan, New Salem, Glen Ullin, Hebron, Flasher and Almont. The city of Mandan serves as the county seat with a population of 24,230.

The population of Morton County has been climbing since 1990 from 23,700 persons to 33,291 persons in 2020, which equates to a gain of 9,591 persons. Over the past decade, Morton County has experienced a population gain of 5,820 persons, for a 21.1 percent gain.

Municipal Services

Each of the communities within the county has its own municipal services. They operate lagoon systems for the collection and treatment of wastewater. They also have a municipal water system and most of them are hooked up to some type of rural water system. Some communities offer collection sites for recycling. Because of EPA rules, the only community in the county that collects solid waste disposal is the city of Mandan. Most of the communities haul their solid waste to Mandan, with some in the western part of the county hauling to the city of Dickinson.

Within its boundaries, Morton County has four high schools, located in Mandan, New Salem, Glen Ullin and Hebron. Each of those four schools along with Flasher has a grade school. Almont's high school and grade school students attend school in New Salem and Flasher's students attend school in Carson, ND.

Utilities

Montana Dakota Utilities Company and Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Co-op, Inc. are the main electricity providers in Morton County. Propane is supplied by numerous suppliers throughout the county.

Basic television service is provided by either satellite or Midcontinent Communications cable. Telephone services are provided by Midcontinent Communications.

Transportation

Morton County is served by one state highway, one interstate system and numerous county roads. The cities of Mandan, New Salem, Almont, Glen Ullin and Hebron are accessed by Interstate 94, which runs east and west; and the city of Flasher is accessed by Highway 6, going southwest. A small airport is located south of Mandan for minor aircraft and smaller, yet airports are located in Glen Ullin and Hebron. The Burlington-

Northern-Santé Fe railroad provides services to the cities of Mandan, New Salem, Glen Ullin and Hebron.

Health, Medical and Emergency Services

Morton County has five licensed nursing homes/critical access facilities. Three are in the city of Mandan and one each in New Salem and Glen Ullin. The three Mandan facilities have 212 beds; with the facility in New Salem at 68 beds; and Glen Ullin at 81 beds. The city of Mandan also has a hospital with 41 beds and a clinic.

All of the cities in Morton County have their own ambulance service. The EMT's are all volunteers. 9-1-1 service is dispatched from Bismarck, ND. All communities have their own volunteer services.

Housing Stock and Characteristics

The number of housing units in 2020 was 15,107, up 2,955 from 2010. Occupied housing units totaled 13,827, with 9,810 of those owner-occupied.

The median value of owner-occupied housing in Morton County in 2020 was \$220,900. Additional data shows 8.5 percent of the housing units were vacant in 2020 and the median year built was 1978. Of the total housing units, 70.9 percent were owner occupied and 29.1 percent were renter occupied.

Natural Resources and Environmental Issues

The oil activity in the western part of the state is seeing its impact on some of Morton County's communities. Oil and gas pipelines are in the works to be built across the state and may cross numerous communities within the county. They may not represent long-term employment opportunities, they will enhance the county's taxable valuation. The county also has several small sand and gravel pits located throughout.

All of the communities located in Morton County are served by the Southwest Rural Water Authority. Their wells are now used for other uses such as fire.

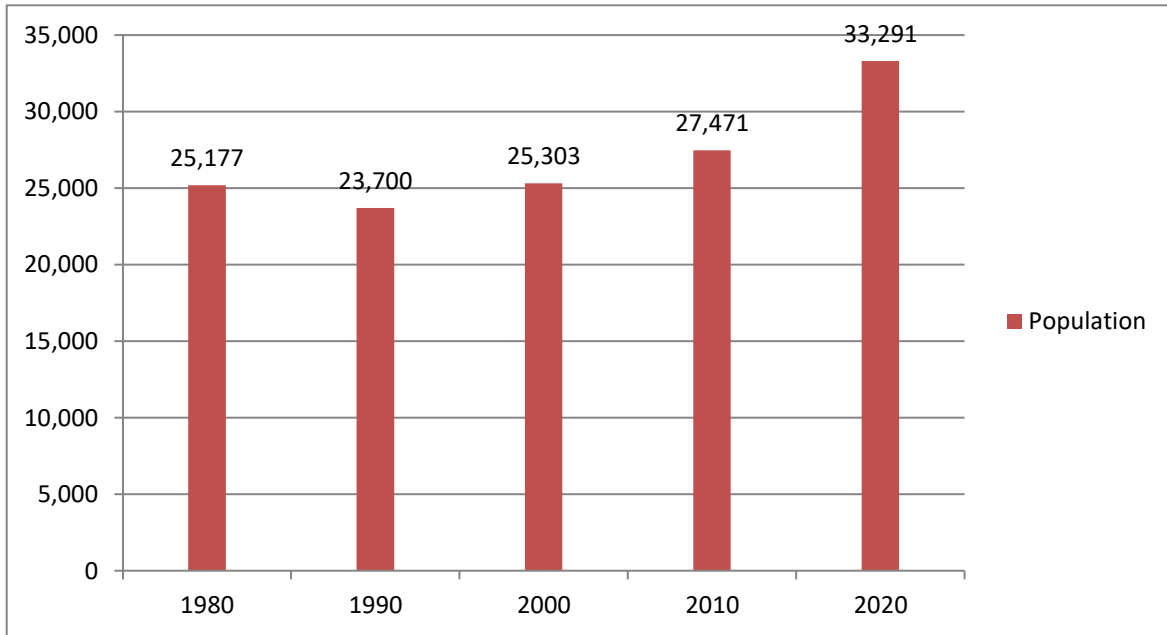
Current Trends

The oil activity in the western part of the state has spurred new life into Morton County. New homes are being built; numerous commercial buildings are going up; traffic counts are increasing; and schools are seeing rising student numbers.

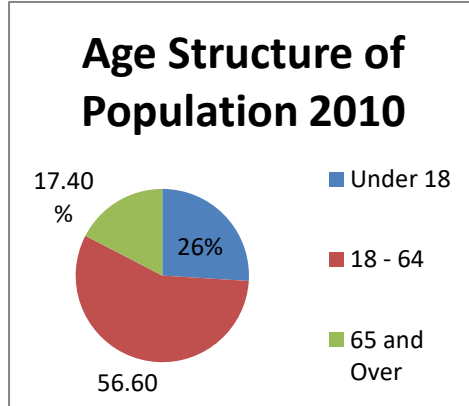
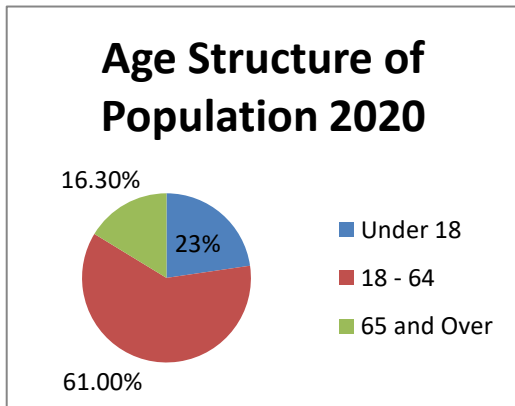
Highlights of Morton County:

Total population change (2020-2010)	21.2%
Total population (2020)	33,291
Poverty rate (2020)	4.0%
Civilians in the workforce (2020)	17,115
Per capita income (2020)	\$36,972
Unemployment rate (2020)	3.5%
Median age of population (2020)	37.6%

MORTON COUNTY POPULATION

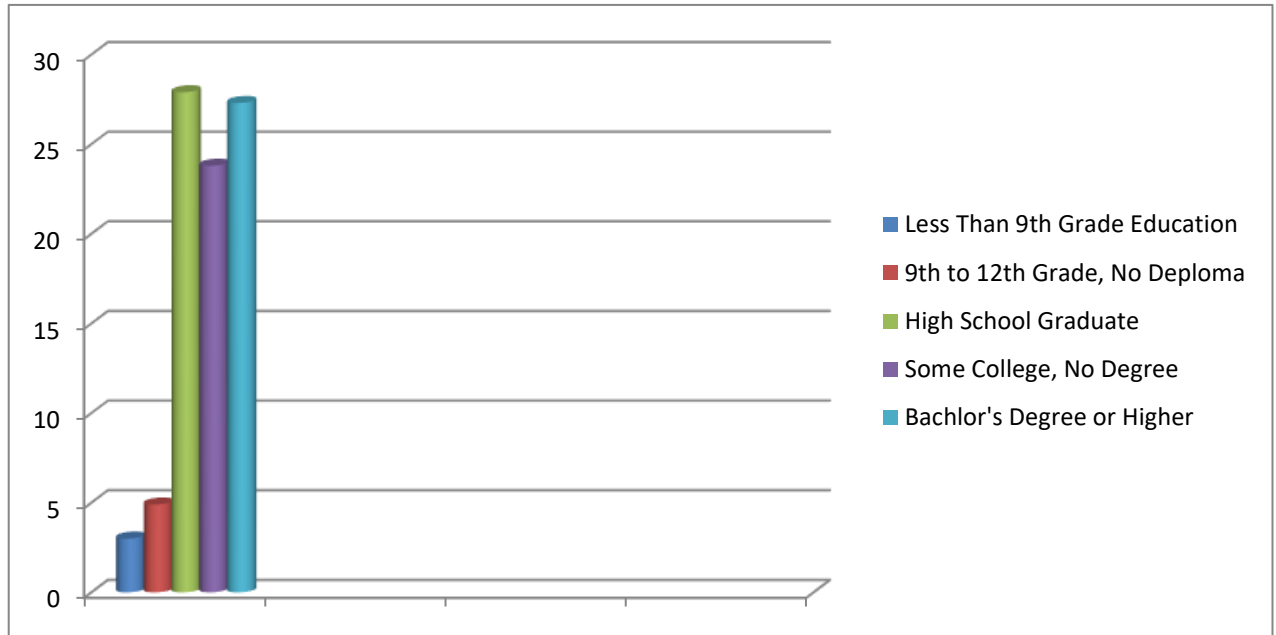


- Gained 2,168 residents from 2000 to 2010
- Gained 5,820 residents from 2010 to 2020



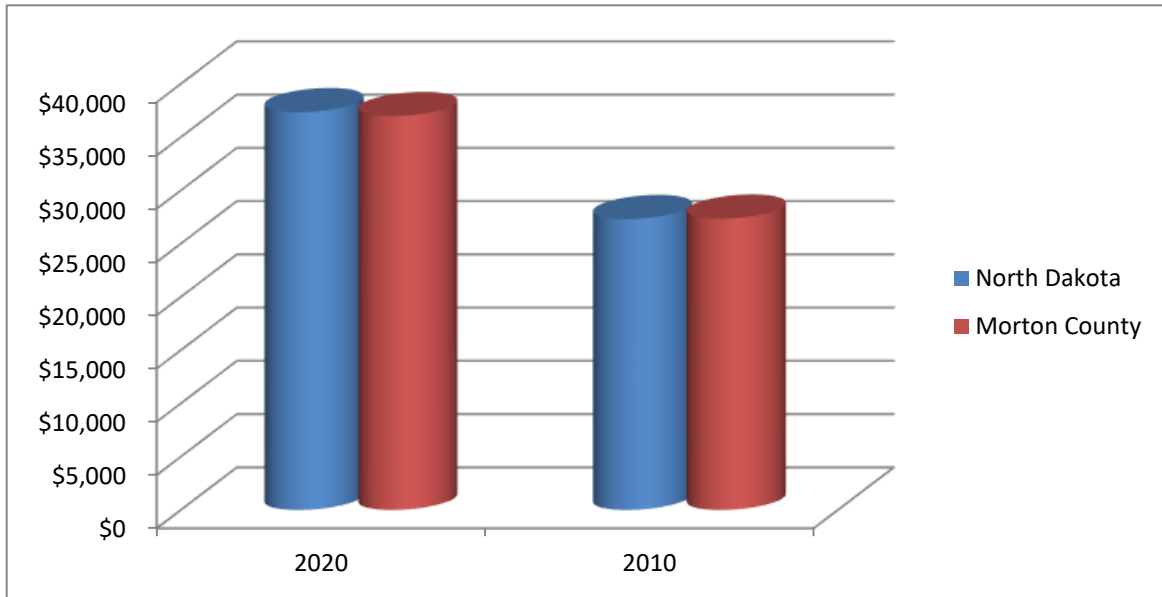
- 16.3 percent of the population was over 65 in 2020, compared to 15.3 percent for North Dakota
- 22.7 percent of the population was under 18 in 2020 compared to 23.4 percent for North Dakota
- 61 percent of the population was between 18 to 64 in 2020 compared to 61.3 percent for North Dakota

**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT
PERCENT OF POPULATION OVER AGE 25
2020**



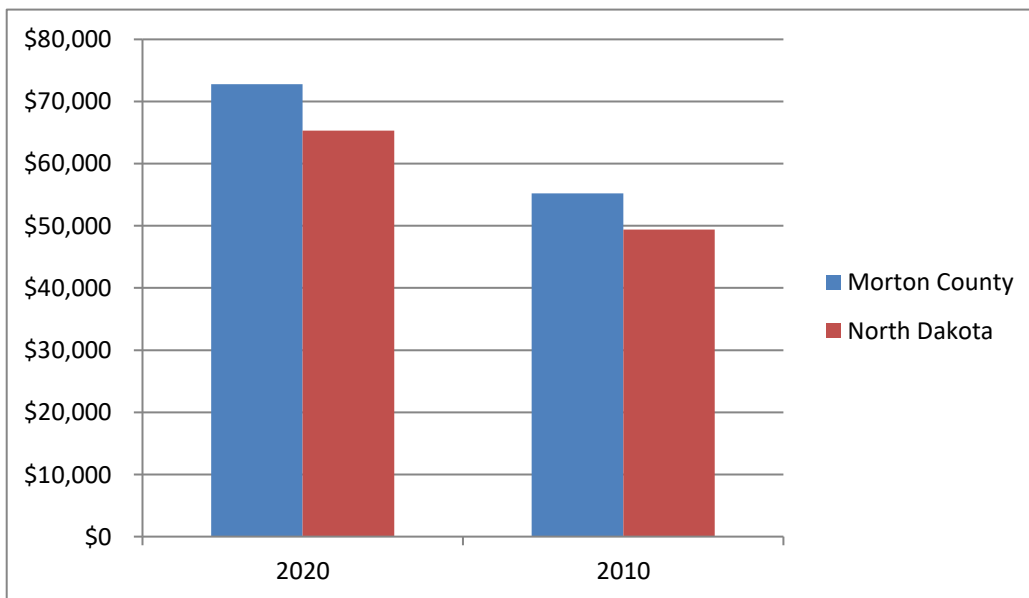
- 3.0 percent of the population 25 years and older had less than a 9th grade education, compared to 2.7 in North Dakota
- 4.9 percent of the population 25 years and older had a 9th to 12th grade education, but no diploma, compared to 4.2 percent in North Dakota
- 27.9 percent of the population 25 years and older are high school graduates, compared to 26.1 percent in North Dakota
- 23.8 percent of the population 25 years and older had some college, but no degree, compared to 22.2 in North Dakota
- 27.3 percent of the population 25 years and older had a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 30.7 in North Dakota

PER CAPITA INCOME



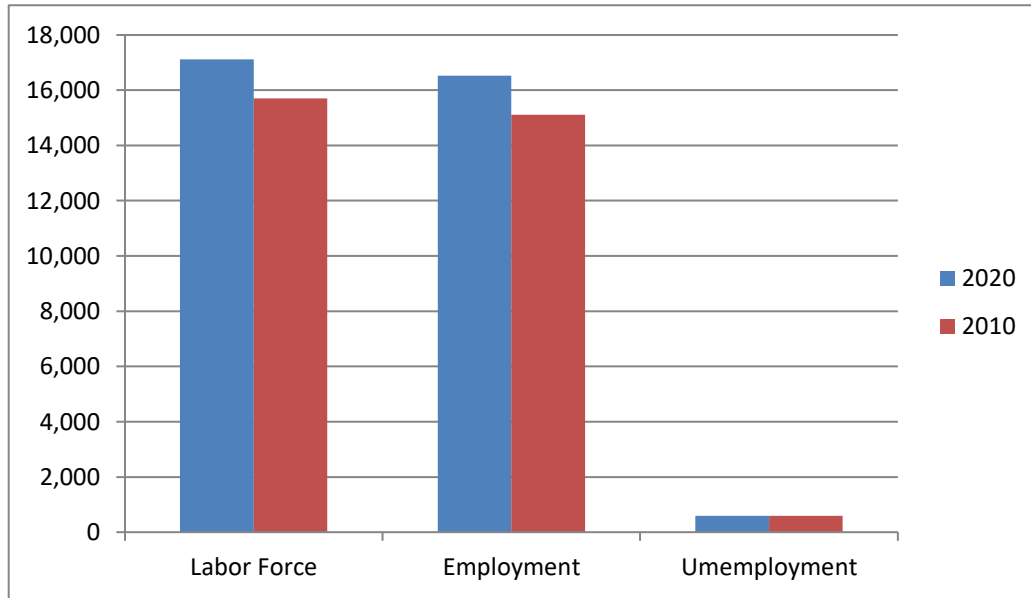
- Morton County's per capita income in 2020 was \$36,972 compared to \$37,343 in North Dakota
- Morton County's per capita income in 2010 was \$27,347 compared to \$27,305 in North Dakota

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME



- Median household income was \$72,778 in 2020, compared to \$65,315 in North Dakota
- Median household income was \$55,196 in 2010 compared to \$49,415 in North Dakota

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT



- Labor Force was 17,115 in 2020 in Morton County compared to 15,703 in 2010
- Employment was 16,526 in 2020 in Morton County compared to 15,109 in 2010
- Unemployment was 589 in 2020 in Morton County compared to 590 in 2010

MORTON COUNTY

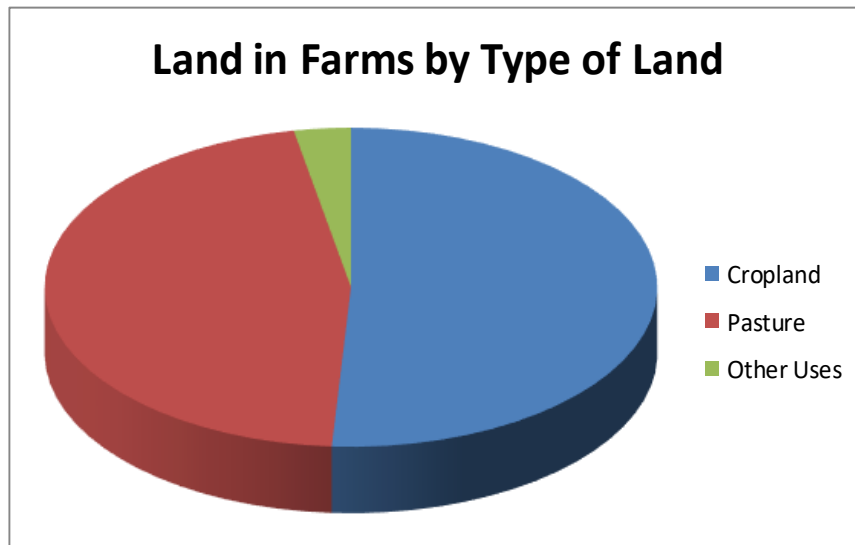
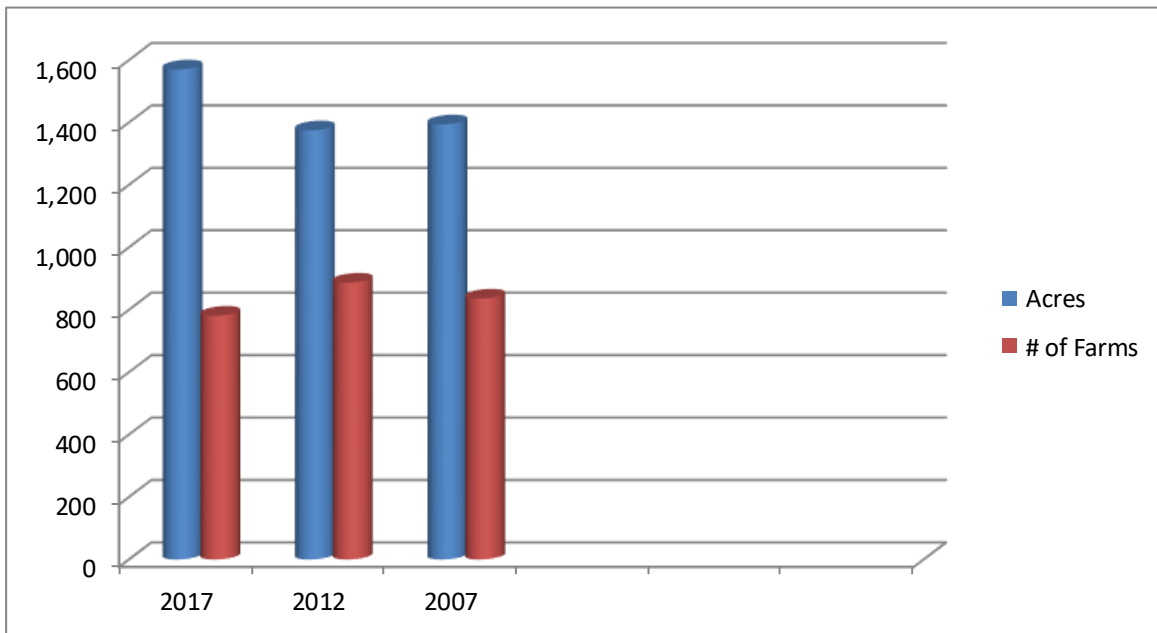
2017

2012

2007

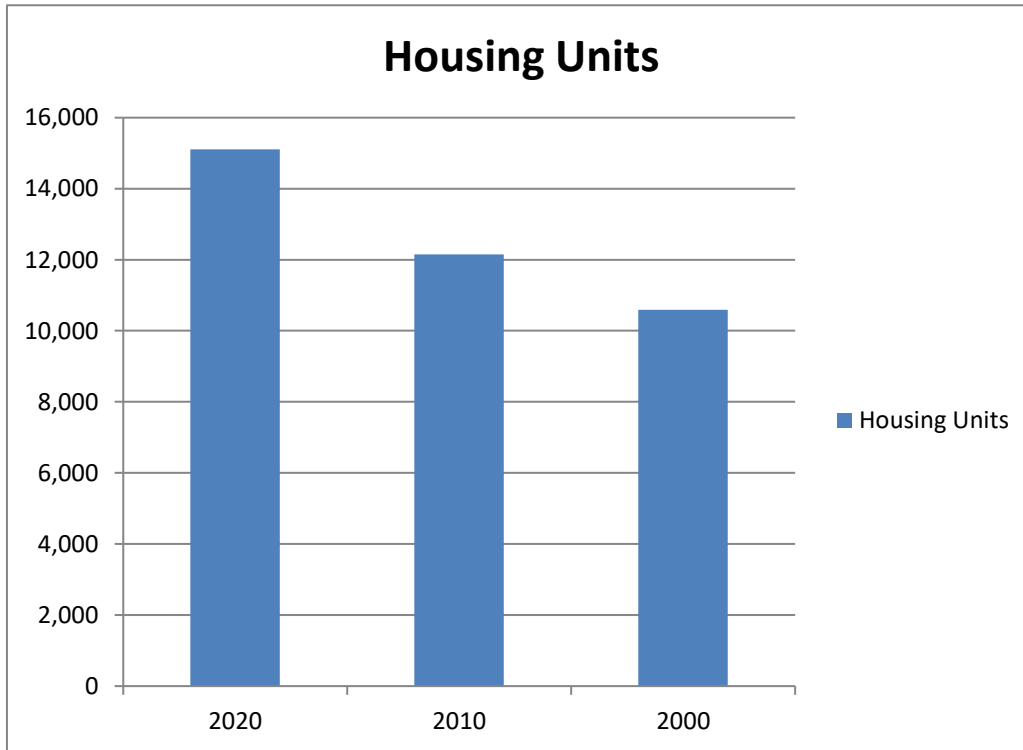
Number of Farms	781	887	836
Average Size (Acres)	1,570	1,375	1,394
Value of Products Sold (000'S)	\$145,997	\$225,239	\$117,251
Average Per Farm	\$186,936	\$253,933	\$140,252
Average Farm Production Costs	\$172,422	\$160,935	\$95,511

FARMS AND SIZE



- 51.0 percent of the farmland was in pasture in 2017
- 46.0 percent of the farmland was in cropland in 2017
- 3.0 percent of the farmland was in other uses in 2017

HOUSING DATA



- There were 15,107 housing units in 2020; 12,152 in 2010 and 10,587 in 2000

INDUSTRY CLUSTERS

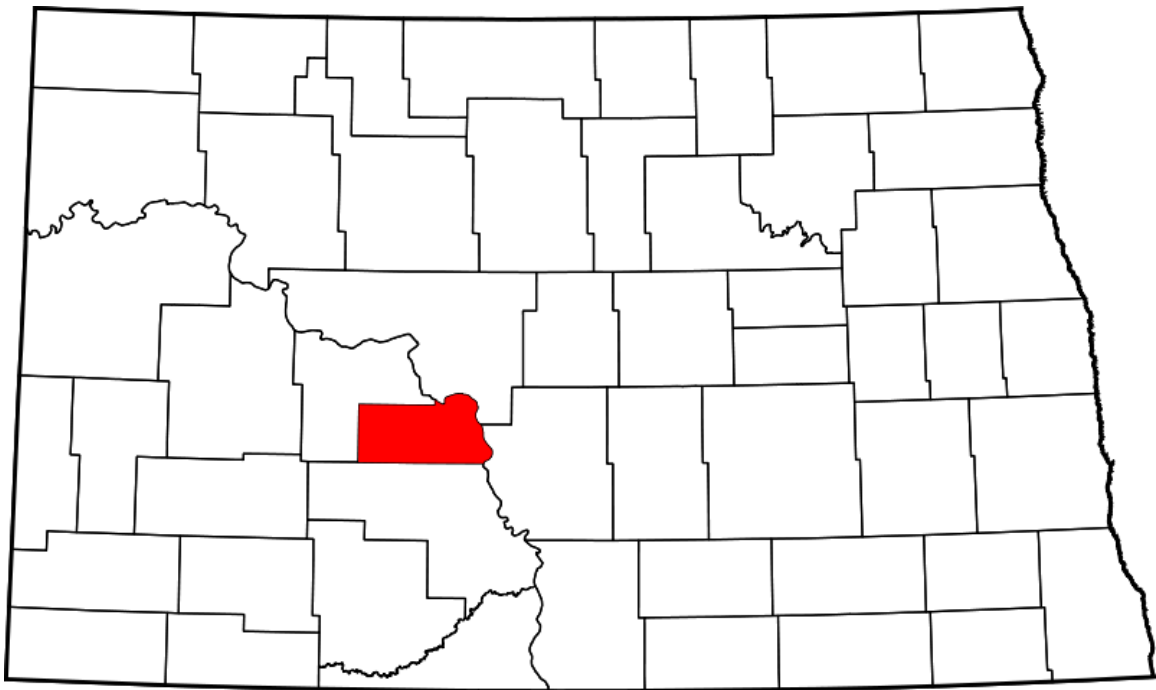
Employment Sectors	2010		2020	
	Number of Jobs	% of Total	Number of Jobs	% of Total
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	894	6.3	80	.8
Construction	1,184	8.3	968	10.2
Manufacturing	968	6.8	938	9.8
Wholesale trade	380	2.6	701	7.4
Retail trade	1,920	13.6	1,314	13.7
Transportation & warehousing & utilities	1,172	8.3	376	3.9
Information	333	2.4	129	1.3
Finance & insurance & real estate & rental & leasing	1,189	8.5	529	5.6
Professional, scientific & management & administration & waste management services	1,032	7.4	1,422	14.9
Educational services & health care & social assistance	3,343	23.7	1,625	17.0
Arts, entertainment & recreation & accommodation & food services	1,013	7.2	1,106	11.6
Other services except public administration	699	4.9	353	3.8
Total	14,127	100%	9,541	100%

Major cluster is professional, scientific & management & administration & waste management services

Growing cluster is the above mentioned

Declining cluster is agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining

OLIVER COUNTY



OLIVER COUNTY



In 1889 North Dakota was admitted into statehood. Center became the county seat in 1902. The population of the county increased slowly at first but with the Northern Pacific railroad extending into this part of the state, a stronger surge of progress developed. The desire of the government and the railroad to populate the region, combined with the great migration of Europeans who had been coming to the U.S. between 1860 and 1890 and who had continued to move westward were the largest factors in the development of this area. Immigrants who arrived were mostly German, Russo-German and Scandinavian. Other immigrants of significant number were Slovakian, English and Celtic. These people were often young and disadvantaged in their native homeland and were seeking new opportunities in this state. Some hoped to acquire free land by homesteading while others purchased land at a low price.

Oliver County is predominately agriculturally based and is in the west-central part of North Dakota. The energy industry is also a major player with one lignite-fired electric generating station and one coal mine. The county is 722.51 square miles in size.

The agricultural base consists of over 234 farms and ranches, averaging over 1,340 acres each. Total cropland in acres is at 148,539, with harvested acres at 136,062. The average farm's value of agricultural products sold is \$202,248. Agriculture is the county's largest economic sector; however, energy is a close second.

Center is the only incorporated city in the county. Center serves as the county seat with a population of 582.

The population of Oliver County has been on a decline since 1980 from 2,495 persons to 1,877 persons in 2020, which equates to a loss of 618 persons. Over the past decade, Oliver County has experienced a population gain of 31 persons, for a 1.7 percent gain.

Municipal Services

Each of the communities within the county has its own municipal services. They operate lagoon systems for the collection and treatment of wastewater. They also have a municipal water system. Some communities offer collection sites for recycling. Because of EPA rules, the city of Center does not collect solid waste. The City of Center's solid waste is picked up by a private entity and hauled to the city of Bismarck.

Within its boundaries, Oliver County has one high school, located in Center. The City of Center also has a grade school.

Utilities

Montana Dakota Utilities provides services all Oliver County. Propane is supplied by numerous suppliers throughout the county.

Basic television service is provided by either satellite or West River Telecommunications Cooperative.

Transportation

Oliver County is served by two state highways and numerous county roads. The city of Center is served by State Highway 25 and 48. Railroad services are not provided to Center.

Health, Medical and Emergency Services

There are no hospitals, clinics, basic care facilities or nursing homes located in Oliver County. The closest would be in Hazen or Mandan. The only city in Oliver County, Center, has its own ambulance service. The EMT's are all volunteers. 9-1-1 service is dispatched from Bismarck, ND. The City of Center has its own volunteer services.

Housing Stock and Characteristics

The number of housing units in 2020 was 912, compared to 905 in 2010. The total occupied-housing units numbered 760, with 675 of those owner-occupied.

The median value of owner-occupied housing in Mercer County in 2020 was \$202,400. Additional data shows 16.7 percent of the housing units were vacant in 2020 and the median year built is 1975. Of the total housing units, 88.8 percent were owner occupied and 11.2 percent were renter occupied.

Natural Resources and Environmental Issues

The agriculture industry is the main stay of Oliver County; however, energy has a big influence. Energy includes wind farms and coal generated power plants that are constantly dealing with environmental issues.

The city of Center has its own water system.

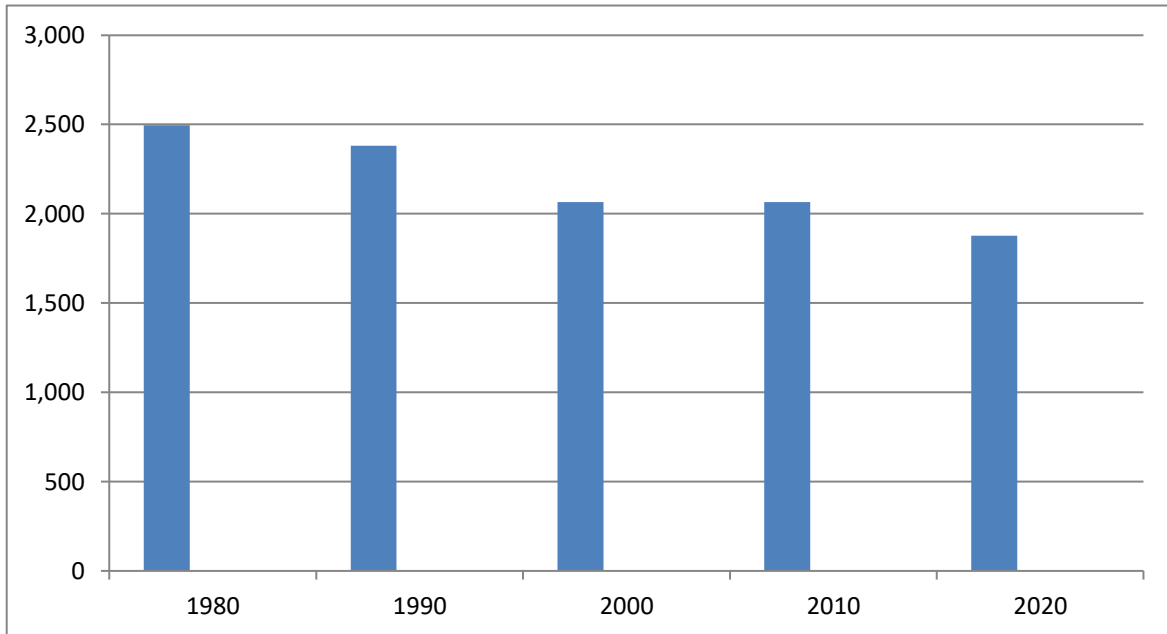
Current Trends

Because agriculture is the mainstay of Oliver County, weather plays a big role in both production of crops and the raising of livestock.

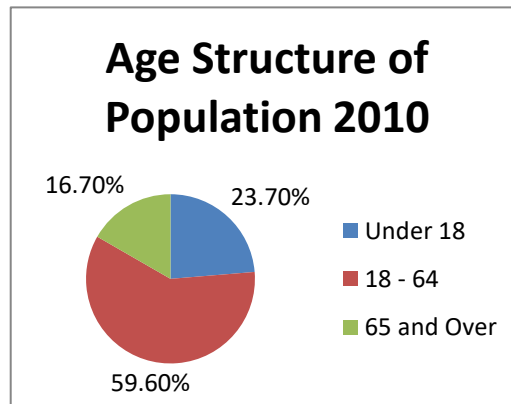
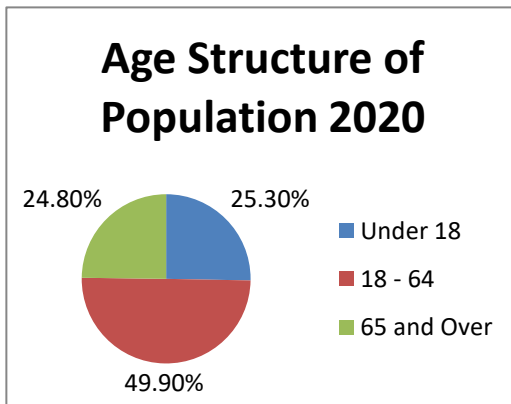
Highlights of Oliver County:

Total population change (2020-2010)	1.7%
Total population (2020)	1,877
Poverty rate (2020)	7.5%
Civilians in the workforce (2020)	873
Per capita income (2020)	\$32,459
Unemployment rate (2020)	2.5%
Median age of population (2020)	48.0%

OLIVER COUNTY POPULATION

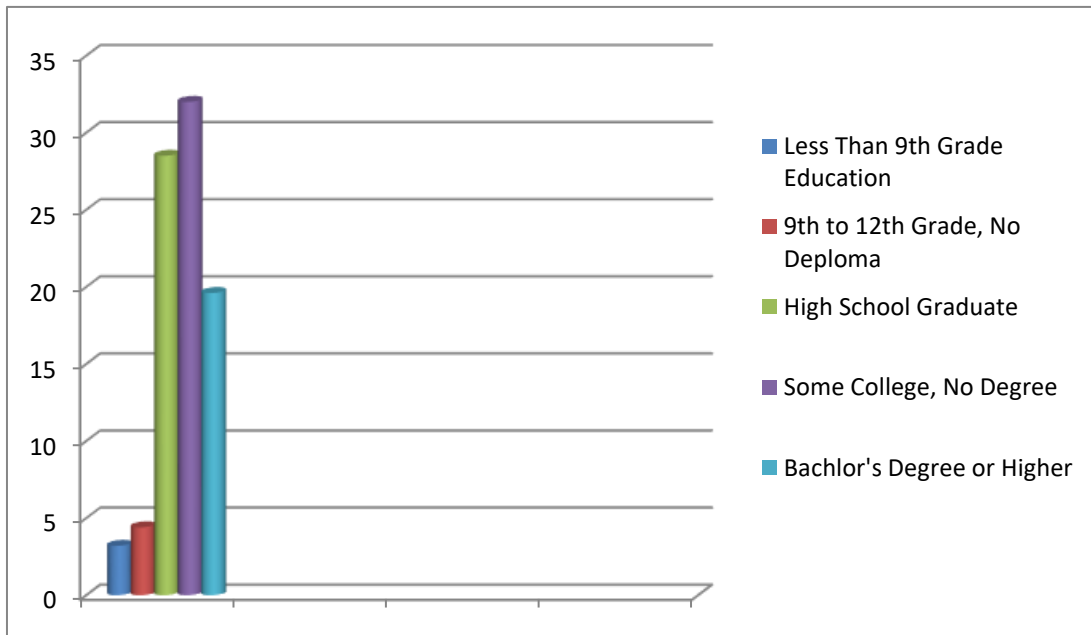


- Lost 114 residents from 1980 to 1990
- Lost 316 residents from 1990 to 2000
- Lost 219 residents from 2000 to 2010
- Gained 31 residents from 2010 to 2020



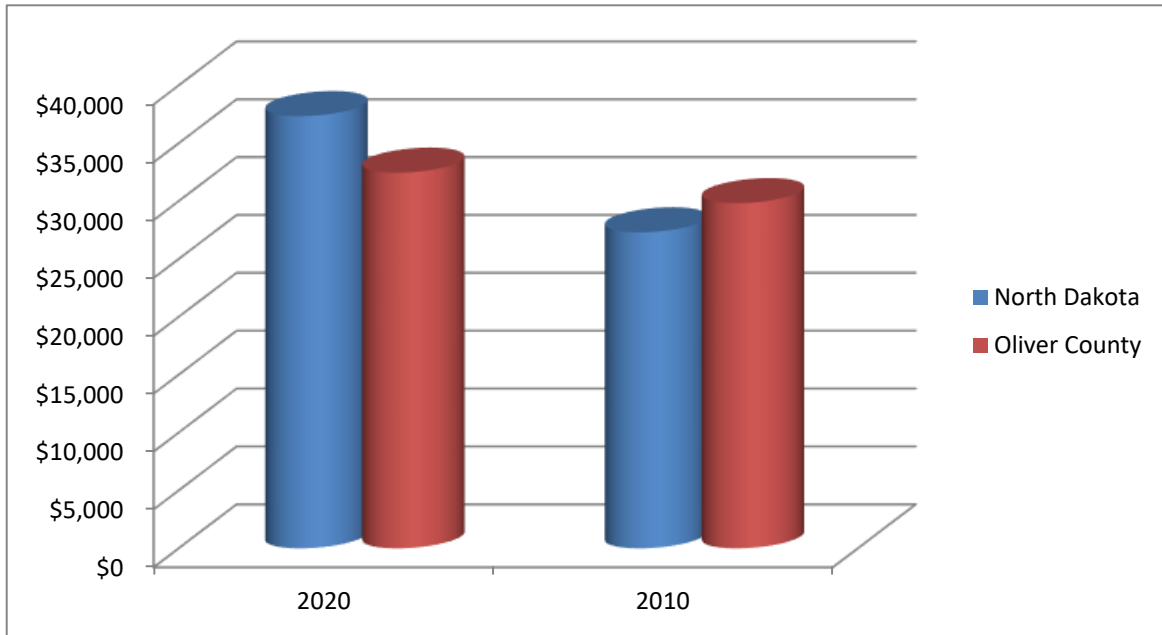
- 24.8 percent of the population was over 65 in 2020, compared to 15.3 percent for North Dakota
- 25.3 percent of the population was under 18 in 2020 compared to 23.4 percent for North Dakota
- 49.9 percent of the population was between 18 to 64 in 2020 compared to 61.3 percent for North Dakota

**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT
PERCENT OF POPULATION OVER AGE 25
2020**



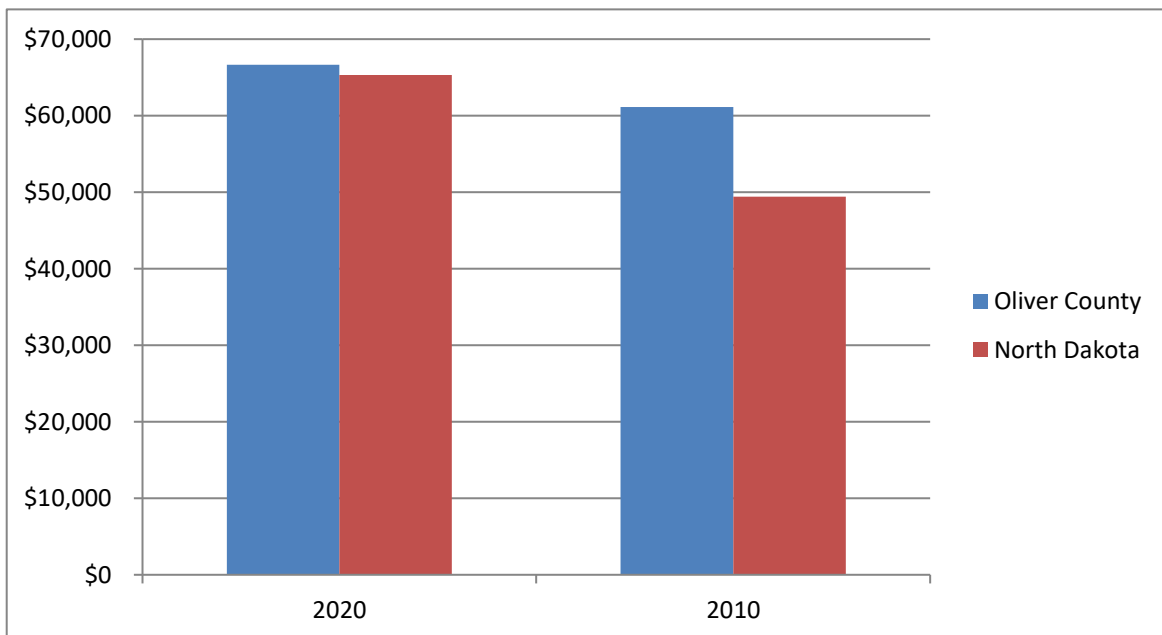
- 3.2 percent of the population 25 years and older had less than a 9th grade education, compared to 2.7 in North Dakota
- 4.4 percent of the population 25 years and older had a 9th to 12th grade education, but no diploma, compared to 4.2 percent in North Dakota
- 28.5 percent of the population 25 years and older are high school graduates, compared to 26.1 percent in North Dakota
- 32.0 percent of the population 25 years and older had some college, but no degree, compared to 22.2 in North Dakota
- 19.6 percent of the population 25 years and older had a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 30.7 in North Dakota

PER CAPITA INCOME



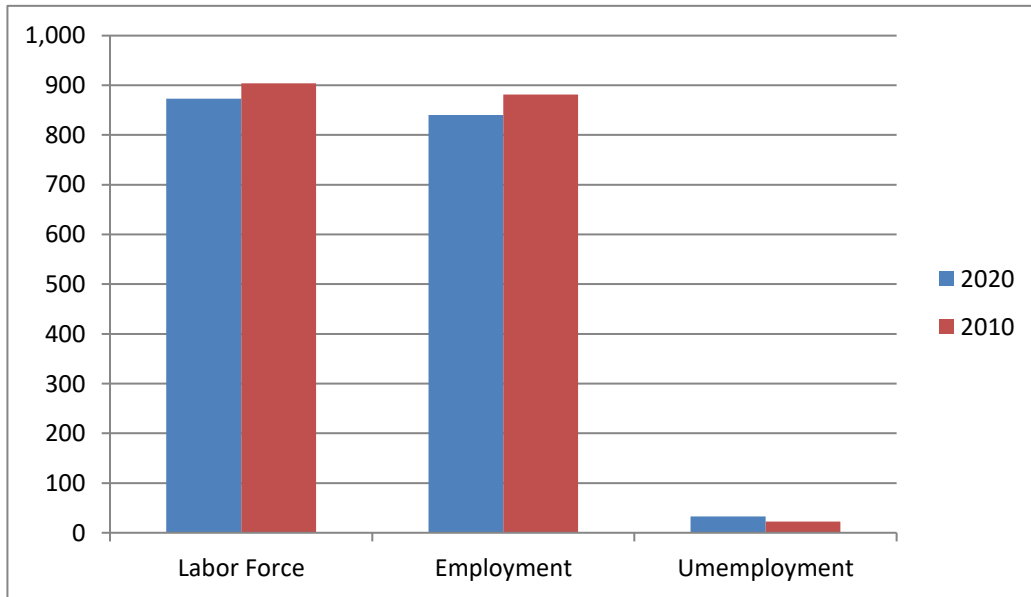
- Oliver County's per capita income in 2020 was \$32,459 compared to \$37,343 in North Dakota
- Oliver County's per capita income in 2010 was \$29,825 compared to \$27,305 in North Dakota

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME



- Median household income in Oliver County was \$66,641 in 2020, compared to \$65,315 in North Dakota
- Median household income in Oliver County was \$61,131 in 2010 compared to \$49,415 in North Dakota

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

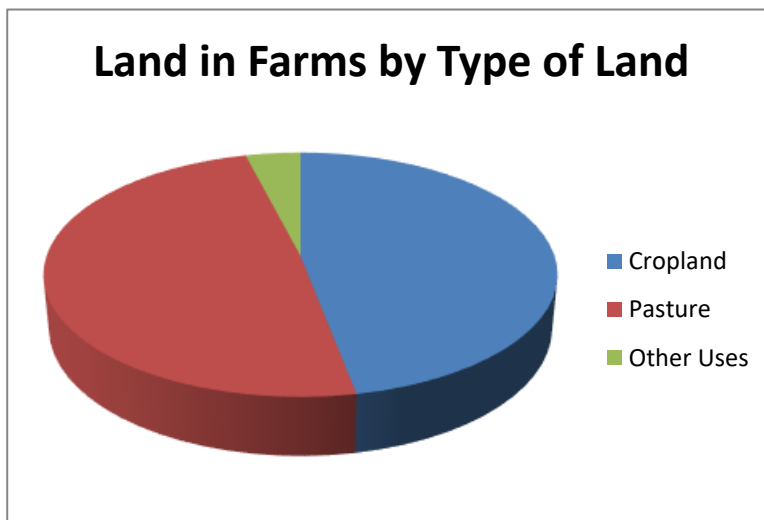
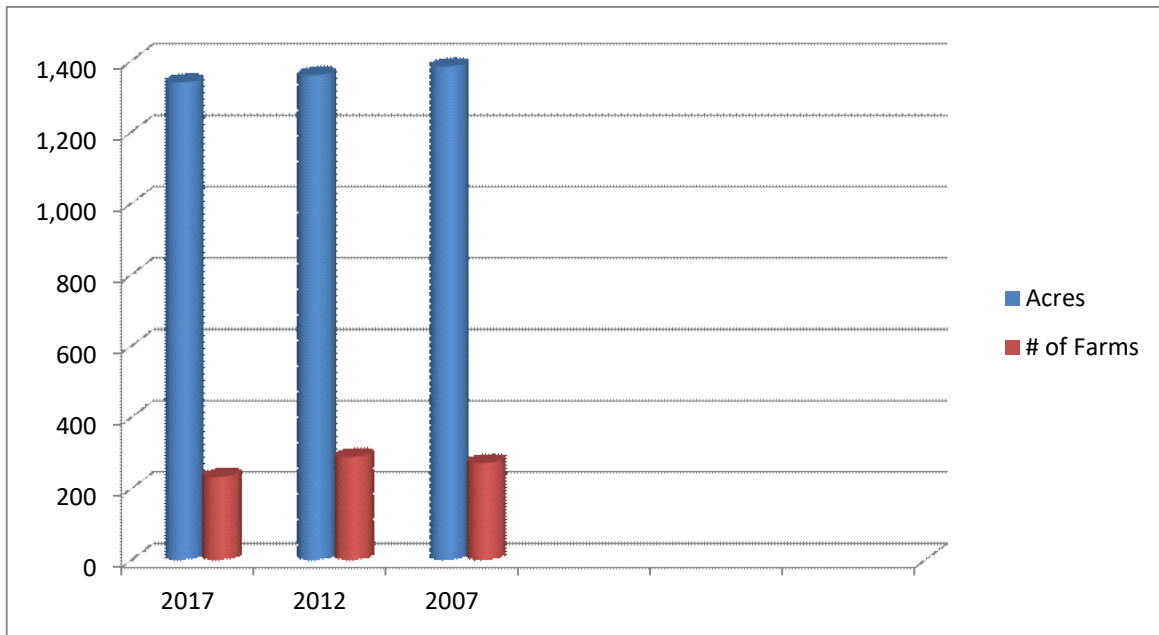


- Labor Force was 873 in 2020 in Oliver County compared to 904 in 2010
- Employment was 840 in 2020 in Oliver County compared to 881 in 2010
- Unemployment was 33 in 2020 in Oliver County compared to 18 in 2010

FARM DATA

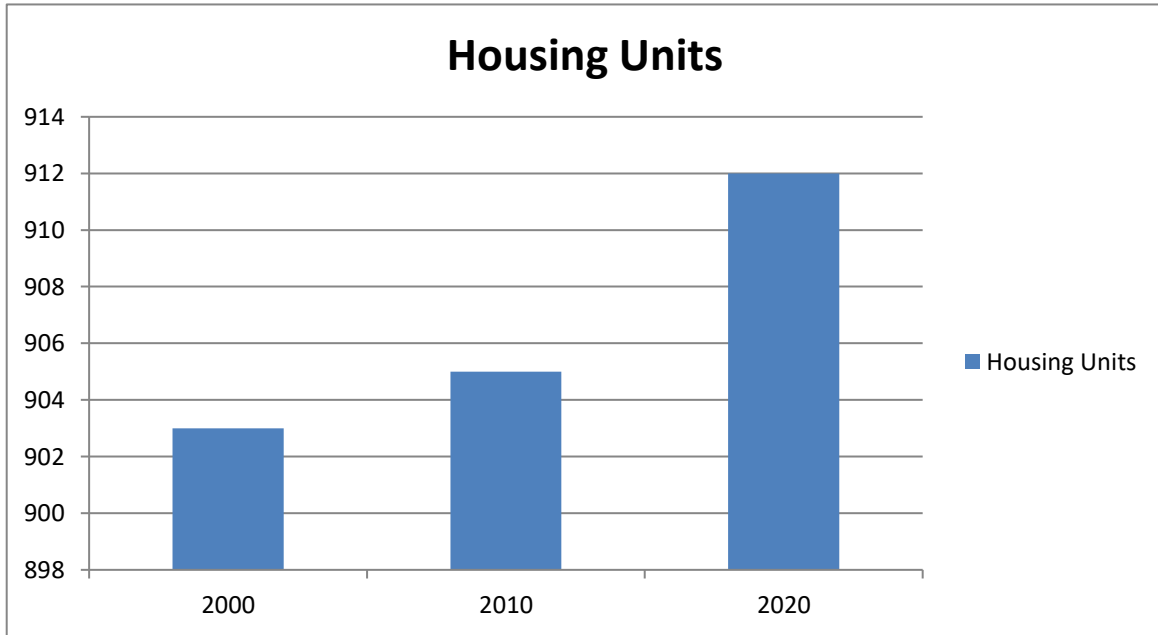
OLIVER COUNTY	<u>2017</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2007</u>
Number of Farms	234	290	273
Average Size (Acres)	1,340	1,360	1,384
Value of Products Sold (000'S)	\$47,326	\$85,495	\$53,389
Average Per Farm	\$202,248	\$294,811	\$195,563
Average Farm Production Costs	\$186,553	\$224,698	\$137,263

FARMS AND SIZE



- 49.0 percent of the farmland was in pasture in 2017
- 47.0 percent of the farmland was in cropland in 2017
- 4.0 percent of the farmland was in other uses in 2017

HOUSING DATA



- There were 912 housing units in 2020, 905 in 2010 and 903 in 2000

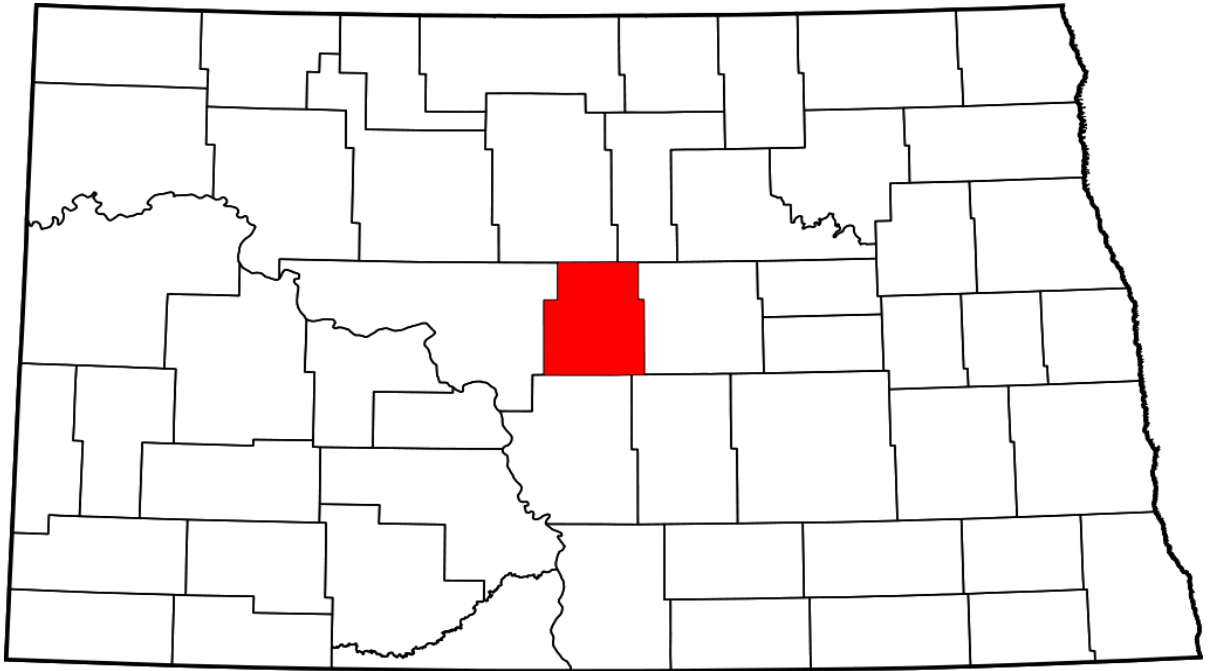
INDUSTRY CLUSTERS

Employment Sectors	2010		2020	
	Number of Jobs	% of Total	Number of Jobs	% of Total
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	224	26.6	15	2.6
Construction	91	10.8	44	7.6
Manufacturing	31	3.6	16	3.3
Wholesale trade	10	1.2	15	2.6
Retail trade	49	5.8	*	
Transportation & warehousing & utilities	97	11.6	*	
Information	3	0.3	*	
Finance & insurance & real estate & rental & leasing	30	3.6	*	
Professional, scientific & management & administration & waste management services	74	8.8	26	4.5
Educational services & health care & social assistance	150	17.9	33	5.7
Arts, entertainment & recreation & accommodation & food services	42	5.1	*	
Other services except public administration	39	4.7	*	
Total	840	100%	581	100%

*Data has been suppressed for one reason or another

- Major cluster is construction
- Growing cluster is wholesale trade
- Declining cluster is educational services & health care & social assistance

SHERIDAN COUNTY



SHERIDAN COUNTY



Sheridan County was named by government officials who prepared the Dakota Territorial map in 1872-1873, after a civil war hero whose name was General Phillip Henry Sheridan.

Although the lines for Sheridan County were drawn in territorial days, Sheridan County was attached to McLean County for judicial purposes. At the general election held on November 3, 1908, in McLean County, the vote was carried by a good majority to divide McLean County and establish Sheridan County effective on January 1, 1909.

As is stated above, Sheridan County was already on the Dakota Territorial Map in 1872-1873, however Sheridan County was formally organized January 1, 1909, after the 1908 general election and has had no boundary changes since.

Sheridan County is predominately agriculturally based and is in the central part of North Dakota. Both cattle and crops are raised. The county is 972.38 square miles in size.

The agricultural base consists of over 260 farms and ranches, averaging over 2.121 acres each. Total cropland in acres is at 397,900, with harvested acres at 347,396. The average farm's value of agricultural products sold is \$92,044. Agriculture is the county's largest economic sector.

Sheridan County has three incorporated cities that include Goodrich, Martin and McClusky. The city of McClusky serves as the county seat with a population of 314.

The population of Sheridan County has been on a decline since 1940 from 6,616 persons to 1,265 persons in 2020, which equates to a loss of 5,351 persons. Over the past decade, Sheridan County has experienced a population loss of 56 persons, for a 4.2 percent loss.

Municipal Services

Each of the communities within the county has its own municipal services. They operate lagoon systems for the collection and treatment of wastewater. They also have a municipal water system. Some communities offer collection sites for recycling. Because of EPA rules, no community collects solid waste. Most of the communities haul their solid waste to the city of Bismarck.

Within its boundaries, Sheridan County has two high schools, located in Goodrich and McClusky. Both Goodrich and McClusky also have grade schools. Students from Martin attend school in Harvey.

Utilities

Electricity is provided by Otter Tail Power Company to all cities in the county. Propane is supplied by numerous suppliers throughout the county.

Basic television service is provided by either satellite or West River Telecommunications Cooperative.

Transportation

Sheridan County is served by four state highways and numerous county roads. The cities of Goodrich and McClusky are accessed by State Highway 200, which runs east and west; and the city of Martin is accessed by State Highway 52, which runs north and south. Railroad services are only provided to the city of Martin.

Health, Medical and Emergency Services

There are no hospitals located in Sheridan County. There is one basic care facility located in McClusky with 16 beds.

All of the cities in Sheridan County have their own ambulance service. The EMT's are all volunteers. 9-1-1 service is dispatched from Bismarck, ND. All communities have their own volunteer services.

Housing Stock and Characteristics

The number of housing units in 2020 was at 808, compared to 894 from 2010. Occupied housing units totaled 585, with 475 of those owner-occupied.

The median value of owner-occupied housing in Sheridan County in 2020 was \$95,800. Additional data shows 27.6 percent of the housing units were vacant in 2020 and the median year built was 1963. Of the total housing units, 81.1 percent were owner occupied and 18.9 percent were renter occupied.

Natural Resources and Environmental Issues

The agriculture industry is the main stay of Sheridan County; however, there is some energy, which includes wind farms. Wind farms are constantly dealing with environmental issues.

All the cities in Sheridan County have their own water systems.

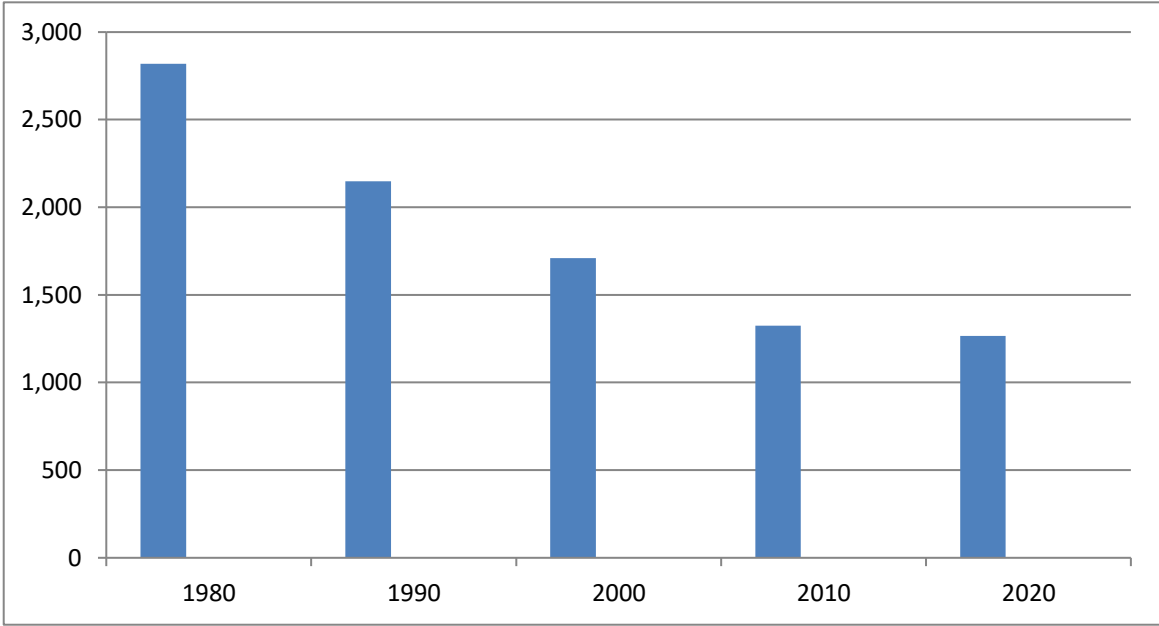
Current Trends

Because agriculture is the mainstay of Sheridan County, weather plays a big role in both production of crops and the raising of livestock.

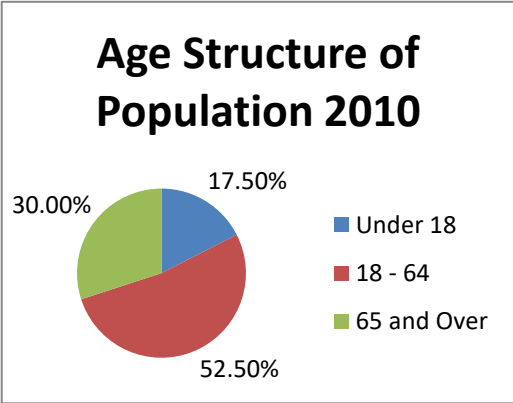
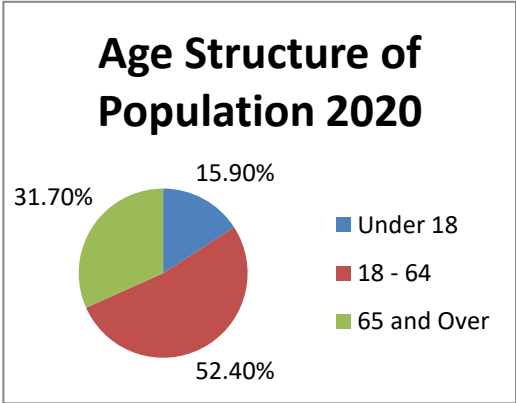
Highlights of Sheridan County:

Total population change (2020-2010)	-4.2%
Total population (2020)	1,265
Poverty rate (2020)	4.4%
Civilians in the workforce (2020)	661
Per capita income (2020)	\$36,999
Unemployment rate (2020)	5.3%
Median age of population (2020)	52.5%

SHERIDAN COUNTY POPULATION

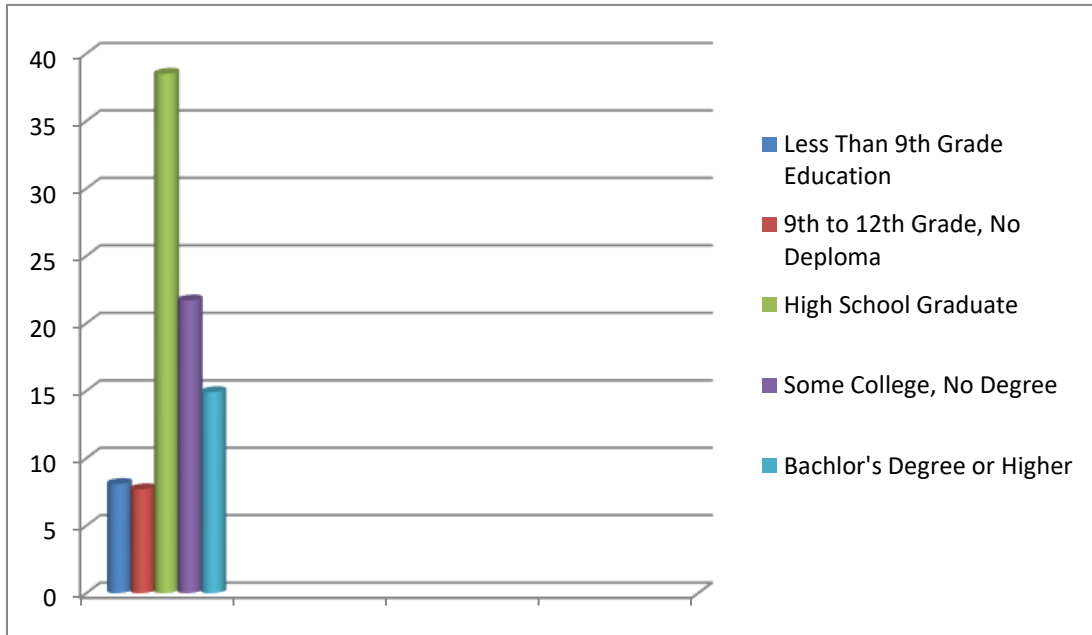


- Lost 671 residents from 1980 to 1990
- Lost 438 residents from 1990 to 2000
- Lost 389 residents from 2000 to 2010
- Lost 56 residents from 2010 to 2020



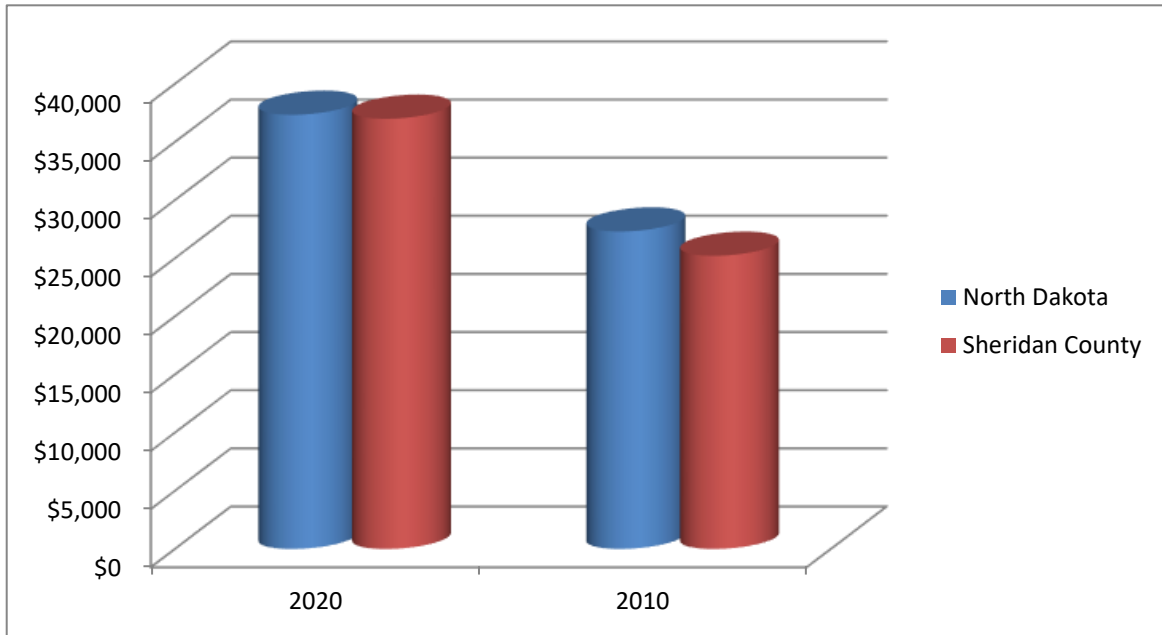
- 31.7 percent of the population was over 65 in 2020, compared to 15.3 percent for North Dakota
- 15.9 percent of the population was under 18 in 2020 compared to 23.4 percent for North Dakota
- 52.4 percent of the population was between 18 to 64 in 2020 compared to 61.3 percent for North Dakota

**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT
PERCENT OF POPULATION OVER AGE 25
2020**



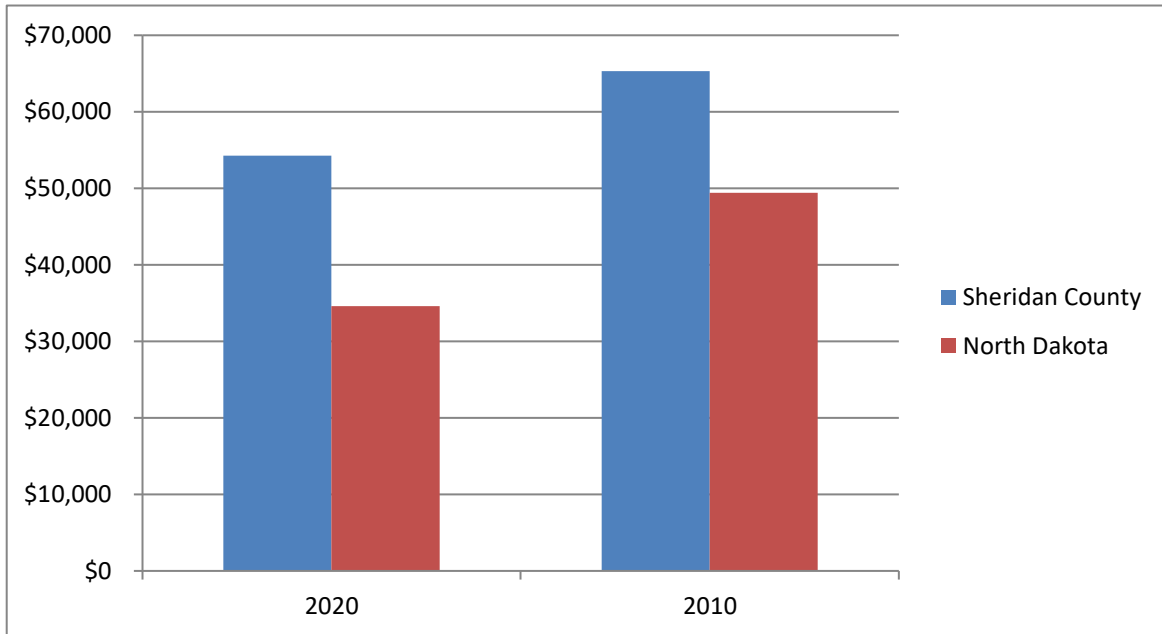
- 8.1 percent of the population 25 years and older had less than a 9th grade education, compared to 2.7 in North Dakota
- 7.7 percent of the population 25 years and older had a 9th to 12th grade education, but no diploma, compared to 4.2 percent in North Dakota
- 38.5 percent of the population 25 years and older are high school graduates, compared to 26.1 percent in North Dakota
- 21.7 percent of the population 25 years and older had some college, but no degree, compared to 22.2 in North Dakota
- 14.9 percent of the population 25 years and older had a bachelor’s degree or higher, compared to 30.7 in North Dakota

PER CAPITA INCOME



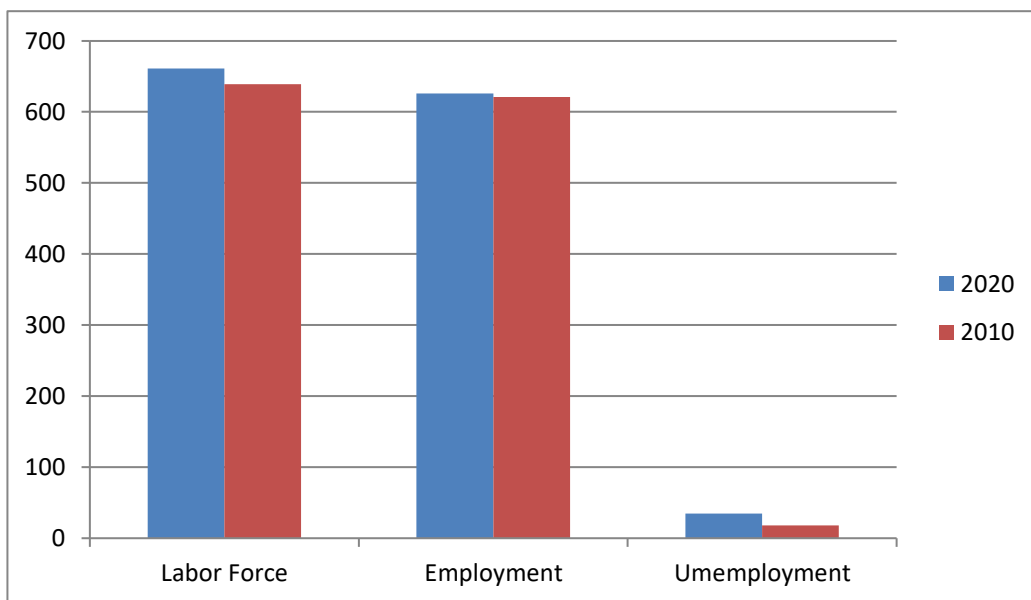
- Sheridan County's per capita income in 2020 was \$36,999 compared to \$17,769 in North Dakota
- Sheridan County's per capita income in 2010 was \$25,217 compared to \$37,343 in North Dakota

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME



- Median household income in Sheridan County was \$54,250 in 2020, compared to \$65,315 in North Dakota
- Median household income in Sheridan County was \$38,235 in 2010 compared to \$49,415 in North Dakota

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT



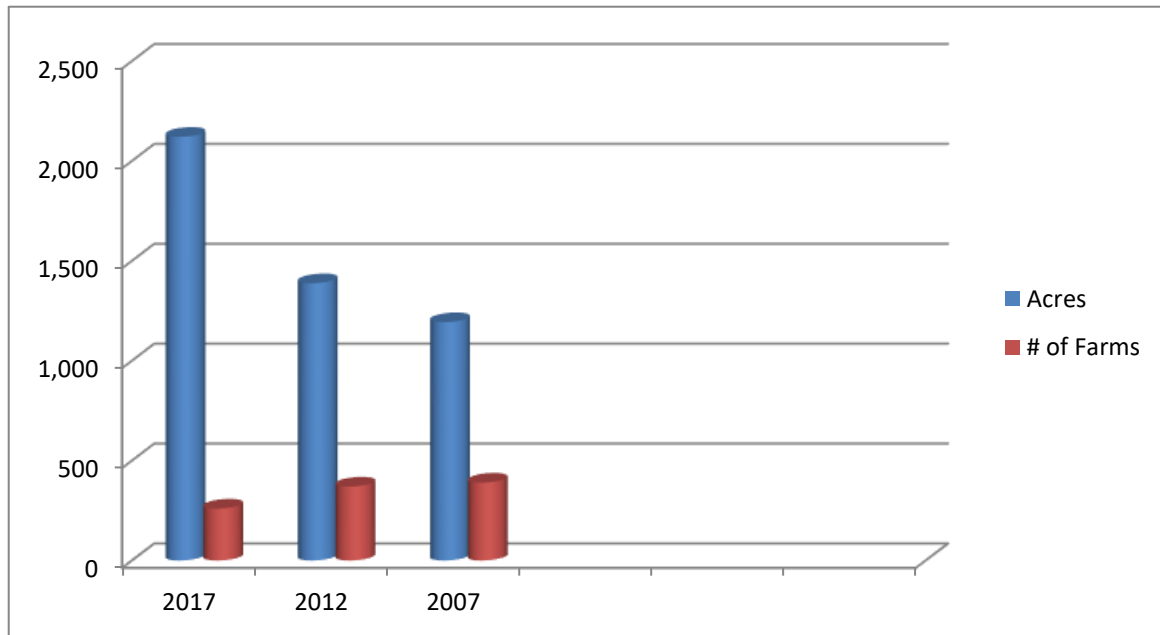
- Labor Force was 661 in 2020 in Sheridan County compared to 639 in 2010
- Employment was 626 in 2020 in Sheridan County compared to 621 in 2010
- Unemployment was 35 in 2020 in Sheridan County compared to 18 in 2010

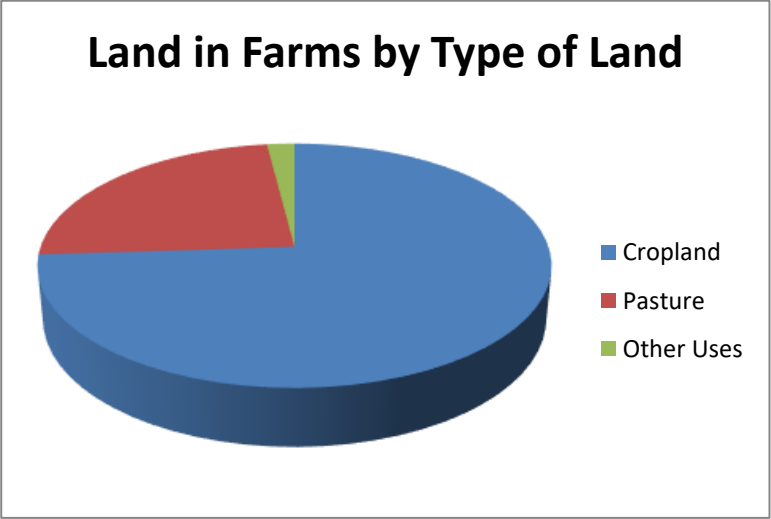
FARM DATA

SHERIDAN COUNTY 2017 2012 2007

Number of Farms	260	370	390
Average Size (Acres)	2,121	1,388	1,193
Value of Products Sold (000'S)	\$92,044	\$107,779	\$26,677
Average Per Farm	\$354,016	\$291,205	\$62,790
Average Farm Production Costs	\$276,000	\$202,655	\$57,632

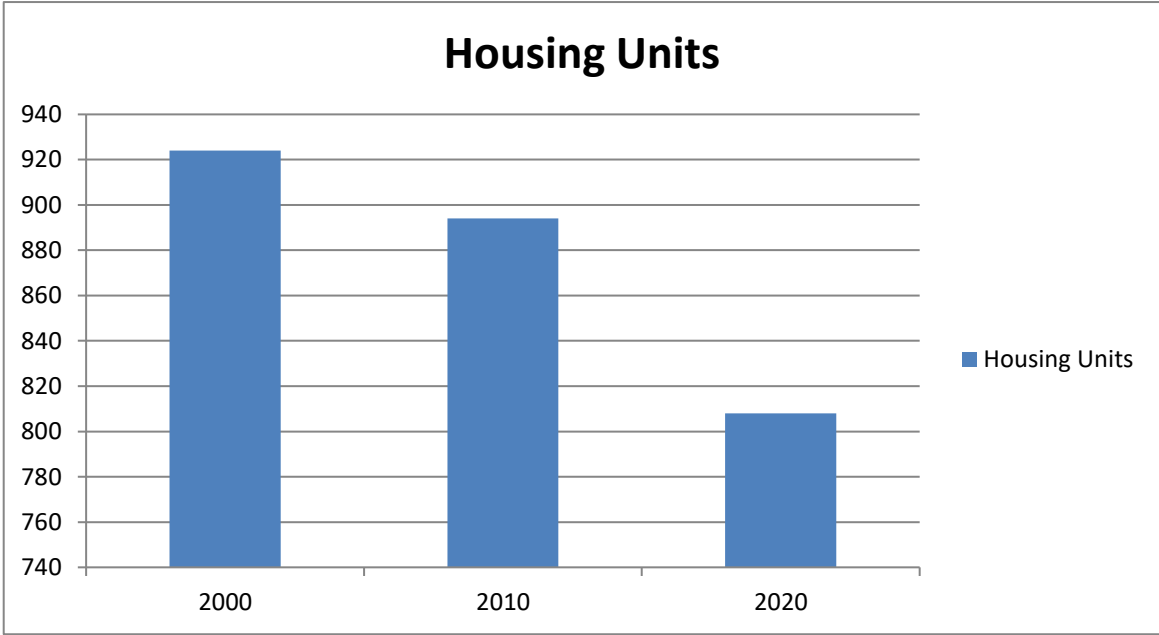
FARMS AND SIZE





- 24.0 percent of the farmland was in pasture in 2017
- 74.0 percent of the farmland was in cropland in 2017
- 2.0 percent of the farmland was in other uses in 2017

HOUSING DATA



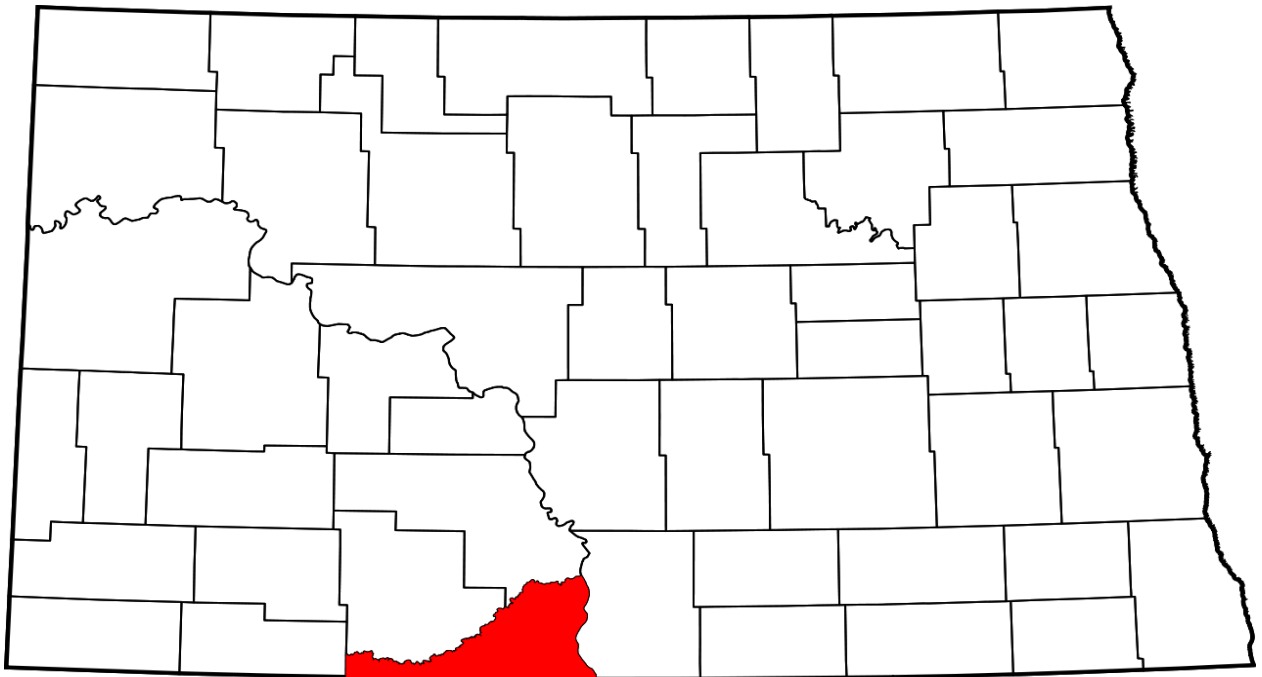
- There were 808 housing units in 2020, 894 in 2010 and 924 in 2000

INDUSTRY CLUSTERS

Employment Sectors	2010		2020	
	Number of Jobs	% of Total	Number of Jobs	% of Total
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	183	29.4	*	
Construction	27	4.3	6	5.3
Manufacturing	42	6.7	*	
Wholesale trade	31	5.1	*	
Retail trade	29	4.6	*	
Transportation & warehousing & utilities	49	7.8	*	
Information	1	0.1	*	
Finance & insurance & real estate & rental & leasing	52	8.4	10	8.8
Professional, scientific & management & administration & waste management services	7	1.1	*	
Educational services & health care & social assistance	95	15.4	*	
Arts, entertainment & recreation & accommodation & food services	41	6.7	*	
Other services except public administration	40	6.5	8	7.1
Public administration	24	3.9	48	42.4
	621	100%	113	100%

*Data has been suppressed for one reason or another

SIoux COUNTY



SIoux COUNTY



The county lies entirely within the Standing Rock Indian Reservation, forming the northernmost 30 percent of the reservation. (The balance of the reservation is in South Dakota). It is the only county in North Dakota that is entirely within an Indian reservation.

The county was created by proclamation of Governor Louis B. Hanna on September 3, 1914, and named after the Native Americans who live on the reservation. The county government was first organized on September 12, 1914; Fort Yates has always been the county seat.

Sioux County is predominately agriculturally based and is in the south-central part of North Dakota. Cattle ranching plays a big role in Sioux County's economy. The county is 1,094.09 square miles in size.

The agricultural base consists of over 187 farms and ranches, averaging over 3,145 acres each. Total cropland in acres is at 226,064, with harvested acres at 145,806. The average farm's value of agricultural products sold is \$61,906. Agriculture is the county's largest economic sector.

Sioux County has three incorporated cities that include Selfridge, Solen and Fort Yates. The city of Fort Yates serves as the county seat with a population of 180.

The population of Sioux County was on a decline from 1940 to 1980; however, the population has increased from 3,761 in 1990, to 4,044 in 2000 and 4,153 in 2010. For the 2020 population, it declined again down to 3,898 for a 6.1 percent loss.

Municipal Services

Each of the communities within the county has its own municipal services. They operate lagoon systems for the collection and treatment of wastewater. They also have a municipal water system. Some communities offer collection sites for recycling. Because of the EPA rules, no community collects solid waste material. Most of the communities have their solid waste hauled to an approved facility.

Within its boundaries, Sioux County has three high schools, located in Fort Yates, Selfridge and Solen. All three also have grade schools.

Utilities

West River Telecommunications Cooperative provides telephone and television services to all cities in the county. Electricity is provided by Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Co-op, Inc. Propane is supplied by numerous suppliers throughout the county.

Transportation

Sioux County is served by three state highways and numerous county roads. The city of Fort Yates is accessed by State Highway 1806, which runs north and south; the city of Solen is accessed by State Highway 24, which runs east and west; and Selfridge is accessed by State Highway 6. Railroad services are provided to Sioux County.

Health, Medical and Emergency Services

There is one hospital located in Sioux County and it is in Fort Yates with 27 beds. There are no basic care or nursing home facilities.

All of the cities in Sioux County have their own ambulance service. The EMT's are all volunteers. 9-1-1 service is dispatched from Bismarck, ND. All communities have their own volunteer services.

Housing Stock and Characteristics

The number of housing units in 2020 was at 1,277, compared to 1,311 from 2010. There were 1,103 occupied housing units with 537 of those owner-occupied.

The median value of owner-occupied housing in Sioux County in 2020 was \$83,300. Additional data shows 13.6 percent of the housing units were vacant in 2020 and the median year built was 1978. Of the total housing units, 48.7 percent were owner occupied and 51.3 percent were renter occupied.

Natural Resources and Environmental Issues

The agriculture industry is the main stay of Sioux County. This includes farming and ranching.

When it comes to water resources, all of the cities in Sioux County have their own water systems and receive their water from the Missouri River.

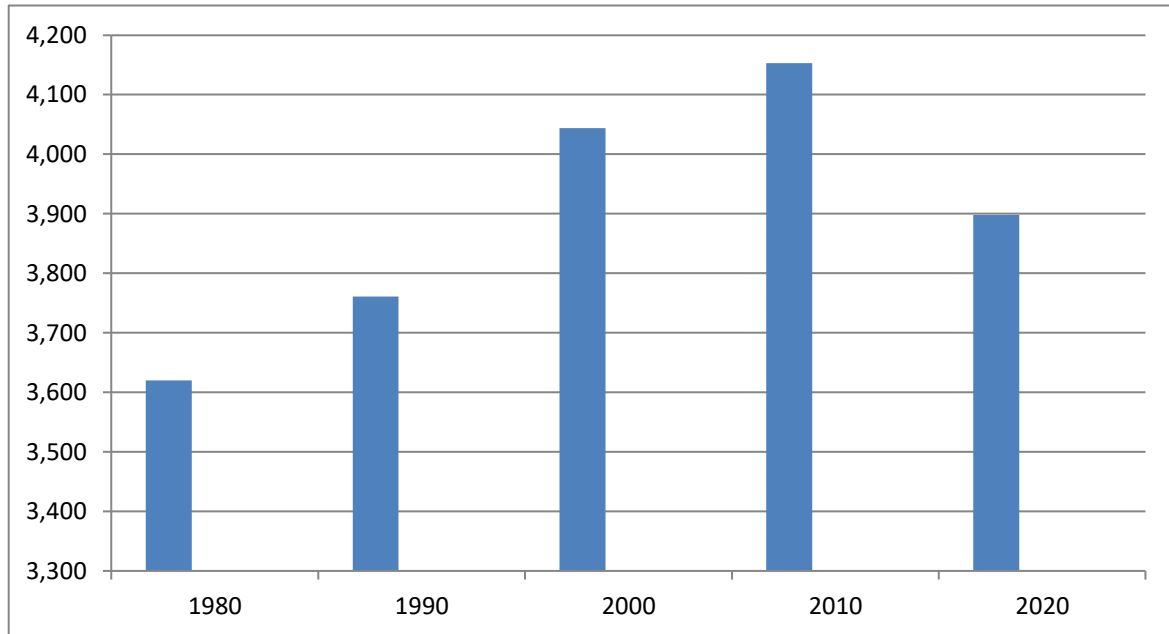
Current Trends

Because agriculture is the mainstay of Sioux County, weather plays a big role in both production of crops and the raising of livestock.

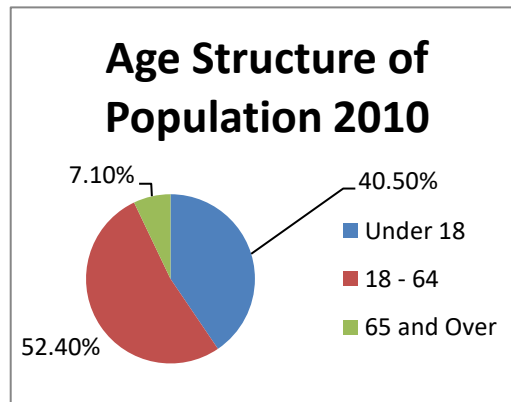
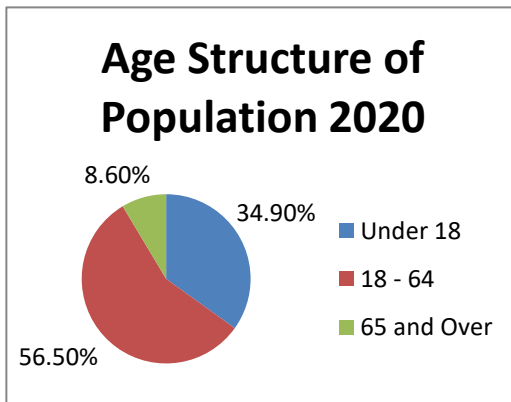
Highlights of Sioux County:

Total population change (2020-2010)	-6.1%
Total population (2020)	3,898
Poverty rate (2020)	25.2%
Civilians in the workforce (2020)	1,197
Per capita income (2020)	\$15,928
Unemployment rate (2020)	2.3%
Median age of population (2020)	28.6%

SIOUX COUNTY POPULATION

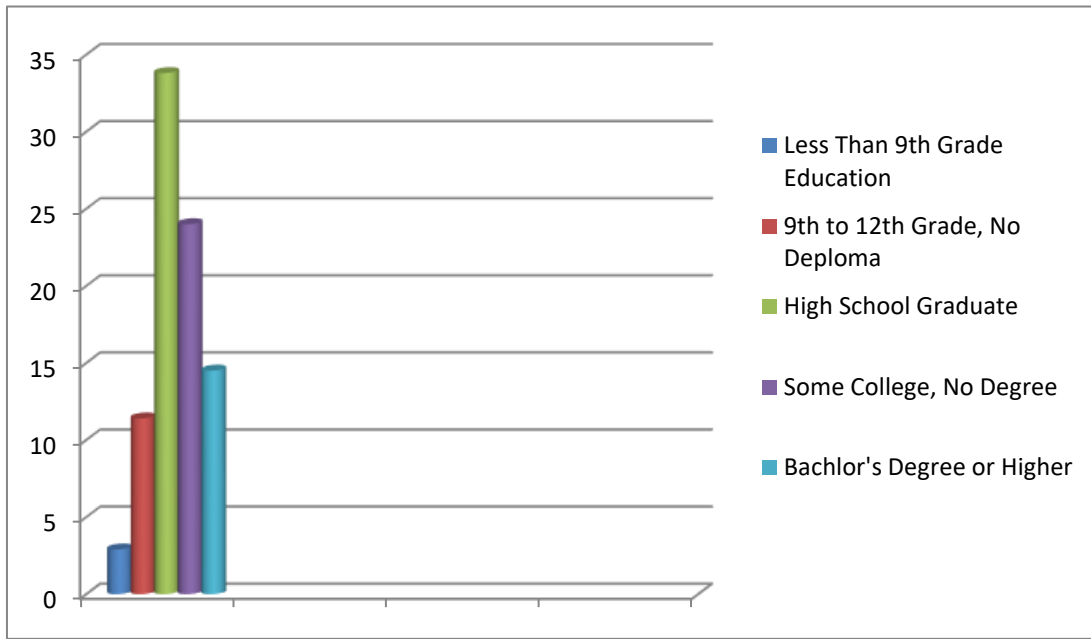


- Gained 141 residents from 1980 to 1990
- Gained 283 residents from 1990 to 2000
- Gained 109 residents from 2000 to 2010
- Lost 255 residents from 2010 to 2020



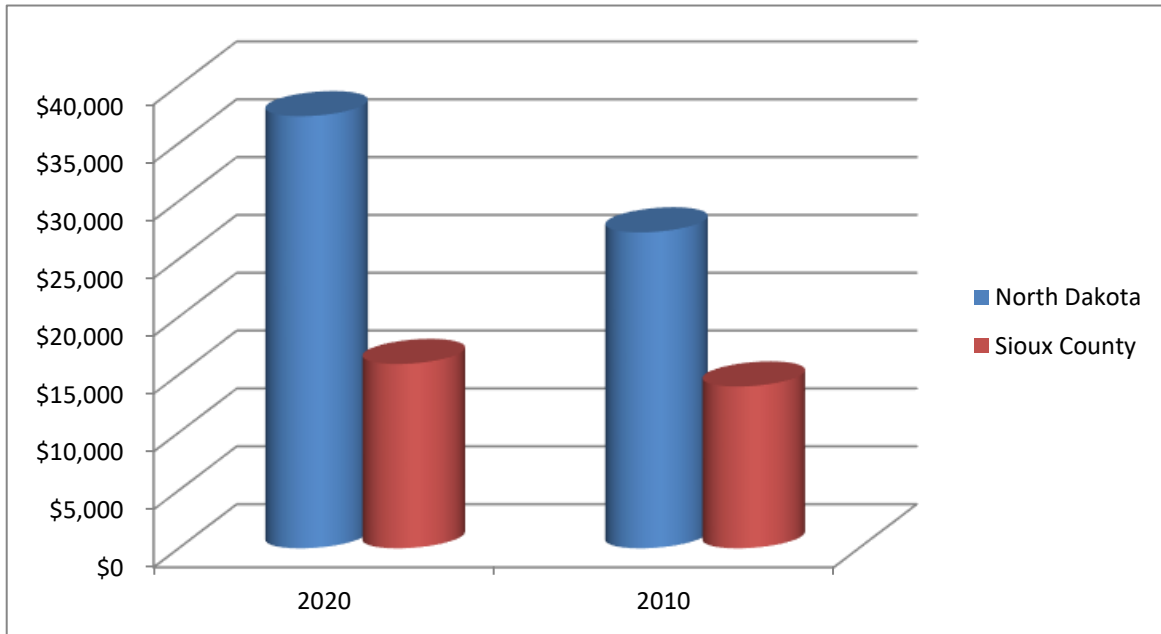
- 8.6 percent of the population was over 65 in 2020, compared to 15.3 percent for North Dakota
- 34.9 percent of the population was under 18 in 2020 compared to 23.4 percent for North Dakota
- 56.5 percent of the population was between 18 to 64 in 2020 compared to 61.3 percent for North Dakota

**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT
PERCENT OF POPULATION OVER AGE 25
2020**



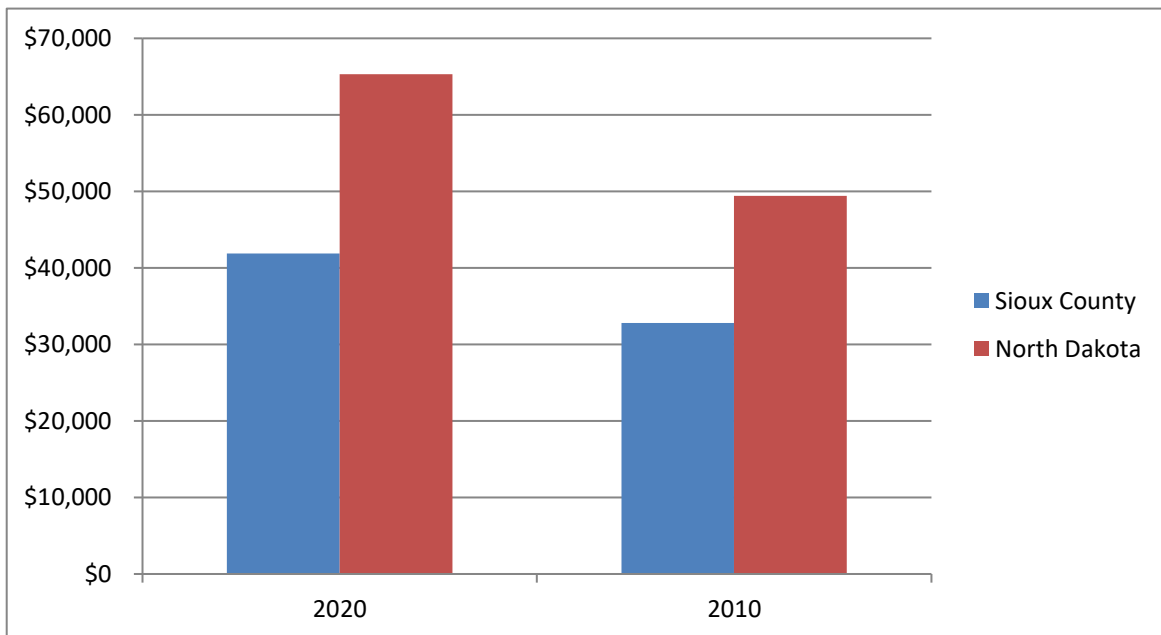
- 2.9 percent of the population 25 years and older had less than a 9th grade education, compared to 2.7 in North Dakota
- 11.4 percent of the population 25 years and older had a 9th to 12th grade education, but no diploma, compared to 4.2 percent in North Dakota
- 33.8 percent of the population 25 years and older are high school graduates, compared to 26.1 percent in North Dakota
- 24.0 percent of the population 25 years and older had some college, but no degree, compared to 22.2 in North Dakota
- 14.5 percent of the population 25 years and older had a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 30.7 in North Dakota

PER CAPITA INCOME

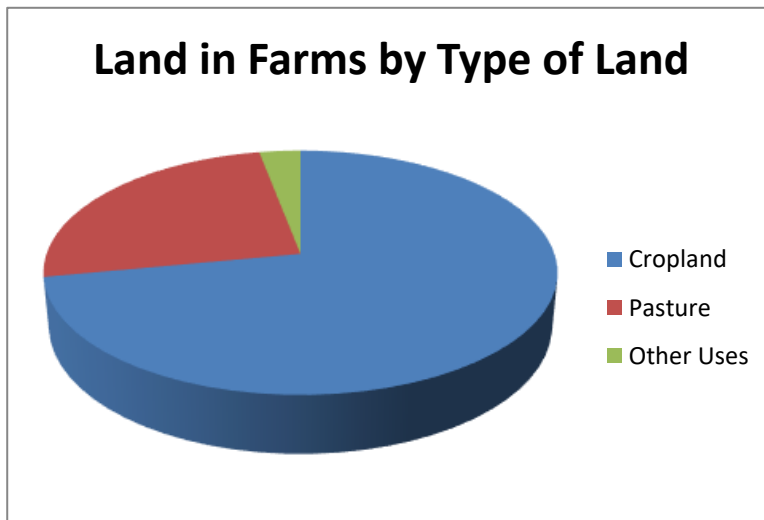
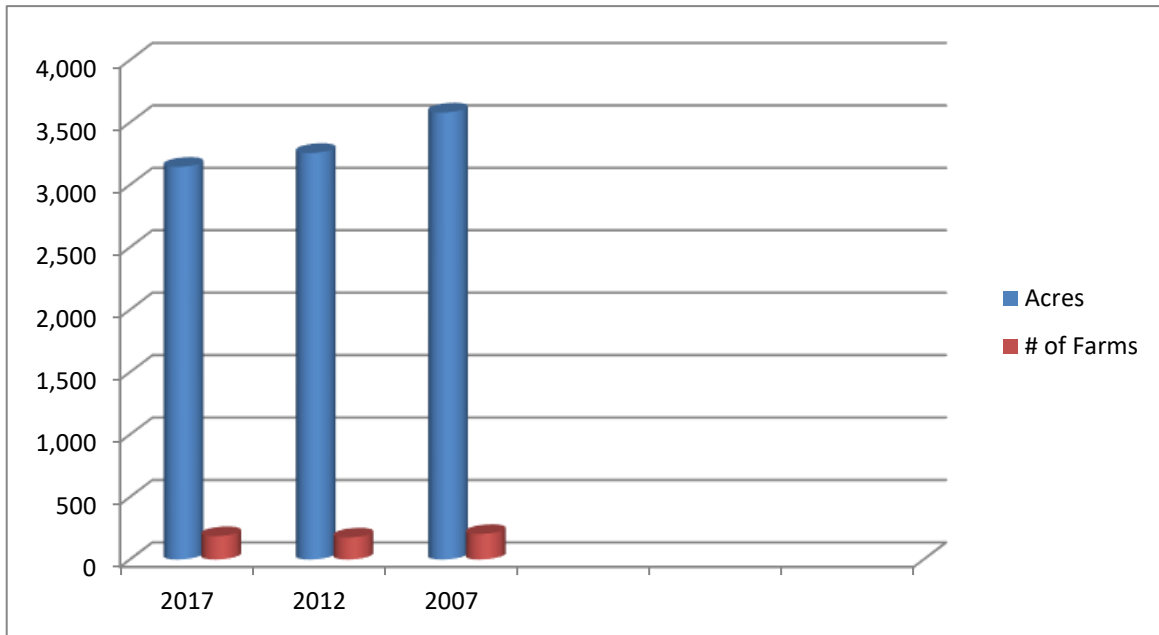


- Sioux County's per capita income in 2020 was \$15,928 compared to \$37,343 in North Dakota
- Sioux County's per capita income in 2010 was \$13,983 compared to \$27,305 in North Dakota

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

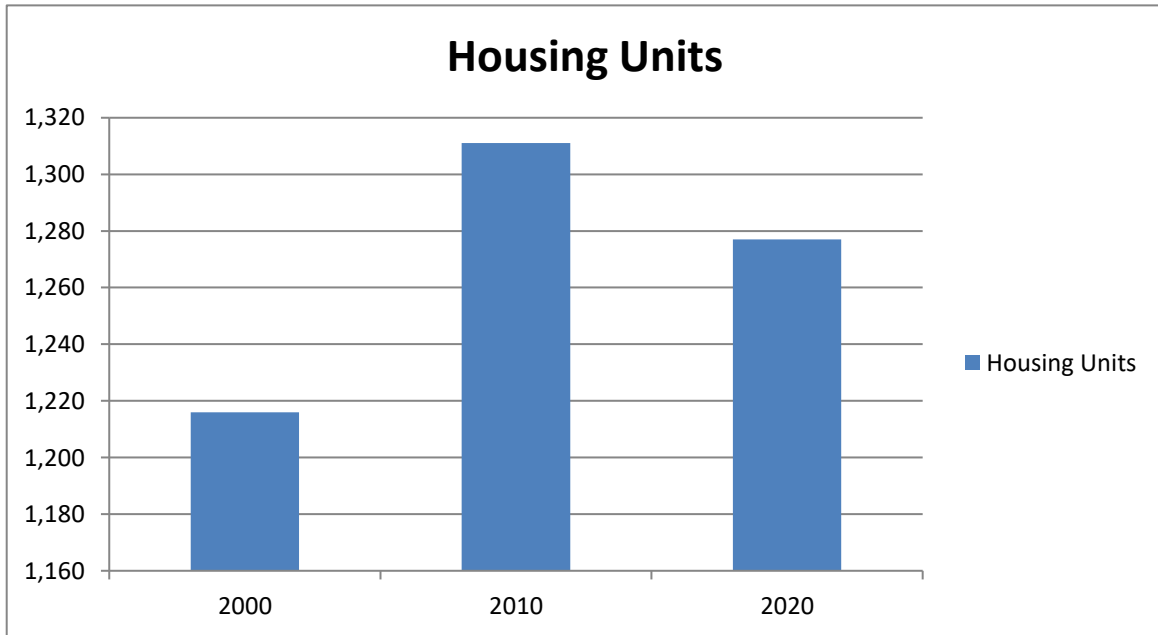


FARMS AND SIZE



- 25.0 percent of the farmland was in pasture in 2017
- 72.0 percent of the farmland was in cropland in 2017
- 3.0 percent of the farmland was in other uses in 2017

HOUSING DATA



- There were 1,277 housing units in 2020, 1,311 in 2010 and 1,216 in 2000

INDUSTRY CLUSTERS

Employment Sectors	2010		2020	
	Number of Jobs	% of Total	Number of Jobs	% of Total
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting & mining	121	9.9	19	12.6
Construction	142	11.6	5	3.3
Manufacturing	14	1.2	*	
Wholesale trade	8	0.7	*	
Retail trade	83	6.8	35	23.2
Transportation & warehousing & utilities	21	1.7	19	12.6
Information	7	0.6	*	
Finance & insurance & real estate & rental & leasing	20	1.6	*	
Professional, scientific & management & administration & waste management services	17	1.5	13	8.6
Educational services & health care & social assistance	386	31.8	37	24.5
Arts, entertainment & recreation & accommodation & food services	179	14.7	21	13.9
Other services except public administration	25	2.1	5	3.3
Total	1,215	100%	151	100%

*Data has been suppressed for one reason or another

Major cluster is educational services & health care & social assistance

Declining cluster is construction

IV. VISION

A. VISION STATEMENT, GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

1. VISION

As was stated at the beginning of this document, during the meetings held with the ten county commissions throughout the District, and the semi-annual and the annual meeting of the CEDS committee, and the Strategic Planning Committee, participants were taken through an exercise designed to ascertain their personal beliefs and values and the values held by their respective counties and identify development issues they feel need to be addressed by the District.

Some of the participants' personal values are religion, family, friends, financial security, morality, respect, being part of the community, healthy, and hard working.

Some of the participants' community values are strong school system, low crime, strong leadership, infrastructure is in good shape, sense of community, and clean.

By taking the participants through this exercise, it got them thinking about what it is of value to themselves and to their community. They were then asked to envision their county in five years and were asked what that community would be like. They were asked to think outside of the box and to see all their hopes and dreams have come true. The following is a listing of what their community would be like in five years. From this listing, a vision statement was crafted by the staff and the CEDS Committee.

- Higher-wage/higher-skilled jobs
- National ranked school systems
- Economic diversity
- Updated technology
- Community volunteers/ strong leadership
- Updated infrastructure
- Abundant recreational activities
- Housing needs are met.

VISION STATEMENT

To be the go-to resource for business lending, affordable housing, and community building in the 10-county District.

Our mission is not only to provide opportunities to develop our District's economy but also that of North Dakota's economy and communities through flexible financing and support for businesses, infrastructure and affordable housing.

Once the development issues were comprised through community input, they were then taken to the CEDS committee, who turned the issues into goal statements and developed objectives and strategies for each of the goals.

The following is list of the three key development issues identified during the input meetings:

Issue 1: Infrastructure that is in deterioration.

Issue 2: Housing choices are lacking.

Issue 3: Strengthen the economy through diversification and workforce attraction and development.

2. GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

From the problem statements created at the input meetings, goals and objectives were created to be flexible enough to be able to change direction, evolve and address opportunities as they are identified. The following goals are categorized under the following categories: **Infrastructure, Housing and Economy**

Goal I: The Region will have adequate private and public sector infrastructure.

Objective A: Assist public sector entities with their infrastructure needs.

Strategies:

1. Assist counties and cities addressing ADA issues.
2. Promote LCRDC's loan and grant programs.
3. Provide or refer clients to technical assistance and lending providers.
4. Assist counties and cities with financing and development and/or referral services of their planning activities.
5. Assist in addressing county and city infrastructure improvements as projects and funding becomes available.
6. Assist counties and cities with projects such as water and sewer improvements, fire hall expansion/new construction, fire truck purchase, ambulance purchase, lagoon repairs, lift station repairs, etc.

Objective B: Assist private sector entities with their infrastructure needs.

Strategies:

1. Promote LCRDC's loan and grant programs.
2. Assist with senior citizens' needs as projects and funding become available.

Goal II: The Region will have adequate housing for various needs and income levels.

Objective A: Assist communities with the development of affordable and the availability of housing opportunities for the region's citizens.

Strategies:

1. Assist with locating and securing funding for housing projects.
2. Assist with single and multi-family housing development.
3. Continue and/or encourage partnerships with organizations that are currently involved in housing issues.
4. Encourage responsible housing development.
5. Promote programs used for enhancing/rehabilitating existing housing.
6. Continue coordinated and cooperative activities with our sister organization CommunityWorks North Dakota.
7. Assist with local entities to determine their housing needs.

Goal III: Opportunities will be created and expanded to diversify the Region's economy through workforce development and training.

Objective A: Diversify, stabilize and strengthen the economy with business development, retention and expansion and workforce development.

Strategies:

1. Promote LCRDC's gap-financing programs.
2. Assist with identifying and securing financing from other sources.
3. Assist with all aspects relating to energy-production, value-added agriculture, manufacturing, retail/service, technology-based and tourism-related development.
4. Assist in improving communication with the various economic development organizations.
5. Participate in efforts involving partnerships with other groups involved in economic development to minimize duplication of time, effort and funding.
6. Continue to administer the SBA 504 program under contract with LCCDC.

7. Continue to administer the North Dakota Opportunity Fund on behalf of the SSBCI.
8. Continue to administer the Meat & Poultry Intermediary Lending Program
9. Continue to administer revolving loan funds for area development groups.
10. Continue to issue the Council newsletter.
11. Continue our relationship with Vision West North Dakota and in the implementation and updating of local and regional plans.
12. In the event, aid counties/cities in their efforts to prepare for business closures/layoffs.
13. Collaborate with local economic development organizations supporting workforce attraction, retention and training.

B. SETTING PRIORITIES

Meetings were held throughout the District to gather information on projects within the District that are vital to the overall economy.

As part of the CEDS Committees responsibilities, priorities were established to provide a basis for decisions on the use of available resources needed to accomplish the goals. To establish these priorities, the following factors were considered:

- The opportunity to capitalize upon the development potential or the severity of the problem the goal is to address.
- The effect that achieving each goal will have on the development potential or problem.
- Whether the goal is directed toward achieving short-, intermediate-, or long-term results.
- Actions related to the goals that are already underway or planned.
- The relationships of this goal to the accomplishments of other goals.
- What is the expected environmental impact resulting from achieving the goal.

Based on the goals and objectives set by the CEDS committee, LCRDC staff organized project priorities identified in the public meeting in the “Action Plan” on the following pages.

V. ACTION PLAN

This part of the CEDS document answers the question “How do we get there?” It looks at the goals the committee has envisioned for the future of the region. It also describes activities designed to achieve goals, identifies responsibility and time frames.

This action plan is the link between the analysis of the District’s economy that was provided in the beginning of the CEDS and the development potentials and the resulting programs, activities and projects that are the product of the CEDS process. The action plan identifies not only long-range projects, but it also identifies projects that can be achieved in a short and an intermediate time frame.

A. Prioritization of Projects

Economy					
Goal III: Opportunities will be created and expanded to diversify the Region’s economy through workforce development and training					
Project	Regional Impact 1 = All Counties 2 = More than one county 3 = One county	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Lead Agency	Partners	Jobs Created/ Timeline S = Set Date O = Ongoing U = Undetermined
Objective: Diversify, stabilize and strengthen the economy with business development, retention and expansion and workforce development					
Gap Financing Programs	1	H	LCRDC	EDA, USDA-RD, NDOF	0/O
New Business Start-ups	1	H	Private Sector	LCRDC, SBDC, NDDF, local development groups	40/O
Industrial Development	1	H	Towns, Cities & Counties	Private sector, LCRDC, local development organizations,	40/O
Business Expansion & Retention	1	H	Private Sector	NDDF, local development groups,	40/O

Housing					
Goal II: The Region will have adequate housing for various needs and income levels.					
Project	Regional Impact 1 = All Counties 2 = More than one county 3 = One county	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Lead Agency	Partners	Jobs Created/ Timeline S = Set Date O = Ongoing U = Undetermined
Objective: Assist communities with the development of affordable and the availability of housing opportunities for the region’s citizens.					

Housing Rehabilitation	1	H	Cities & Counties	Private sector, cities/counties, LCRDC, CAA, USDA-RD	0/O
Emmons County housing shortage	3	H	Cities & Counties	Private sector, city, county, USDA-RD	0/O
Grant County housing shortage	3	H	Cities & Counties	Private sector, city, county, USDA-RD	0/O
Kidder County housing shortage	3	H	Cities & Counties	Private sector, city, county, USDA-RD	0/O
McLean County housing shortage	3	H	Cities & Counties	Private sector, city, county, USDA-RD	0/O
Mercer County housing shortage	3	H	Cities & Counties	Private sector, city, county, USDA-RD	0/O
Oliver County housing shortage	3	H	Cities & Counties	Private sector, city, county, USDA-RD	0/O
Sheridan County housing shortage	3	H	Cities & Counties	Private sector, city, county, USDA-RD	0/O
Sioux County housing shortage	3	H	Cities & Counties	Private sector, city, county, USDA-RD	0/O

Infrastructure					
Goal I: The Region will have adequate private and public sector infrastructure.					
Project	Regional Impact 1 = All Counties 2 = More than one county 3 = One county	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Lead Agency	Partners	Jobs Created/ Timeline S = Set Date O = Ongoing U = Undetermined
Objective: Assist public and private sector entities with their infrastructure needs.					
Garrison School Expansion	3	M	City	ND Higher Ed Assn.	U
Garrison Street Repairs	3	M	City	City	O
Garrison water & sewer line repairs	3	H	City	USDA-RD, CDBG	U
Glen Ullin Street Repairs	3	L	City	City	O
Glen Ullin water line replacement	3	H	City	USDA-RD, CDBG	U
Glen Ullin roads	3	H	City	City	U
New Salem Water Line Repair	3	H	City	USDA-RD, CDBG	2024
New Salem Sewer Line Repair	3	H	City	USDA-RD, CDBG	2024
New Salem Lagoon Repairs	3	H	City	USDA-RD, CDBG	U
New Salem Street Repairs	3	M	City	City	O
New Salem Lift Station				USDA-RD, CDBG	U
Pick City Fire Hall Addition	3	M	City	USDA-RD, CDBG	U
Pick City Street Repairs	3	H	City	City	O
Pick City Sewer Line Replacement	3	M	City	USDA-RD, CDBG	U
Pick City Zoning Issues	3	M	City	City	O

Turtle Lake Sewer Line Repairs	3	H	City	USDA-RD, CDBG	U
Turtle Lake Lagoon Repairs	3	M	City	USDA-RD, CDBG	U
Turtle Lake Street Repairs	3	M	City	City	O
Almont Road Repairs	3	L	City	City	O
Almont Sewer Line Repairs	3	L	City	USDA-RD, CDBG	U
Almont Water Line Repair	3	M	City	USDA-RD, CDBG	U
Carson Water Line Repairs	3	M	City	USDA-RD, CDBG	U
Carson Sewer Line Repairs	3	H	City	USDA-RD, CDBG	U
Carson Curb & Gutter Repairs	3	M	City	USDA-RD, CDBG	U
Carson Drainage	3	M	City	City	U
Carson Street Repairs	3	M	City	City	O
Pettibone Street Repairs	3	L	City	City	U
Pettibone Curb & Gutter	3	L	City	USDA-RD, CDBG	U
Pettibone Ambulance	3	H	City	USDA-RD, CDBG	2024
Hazen Water Meter Replacement	3	H	City	USDA-RD, CDBG	U
Hazen Lagoon Repairs	3	H	City	USDA-RD, CDBG	U
Hazen Lift Station Replacement	3	H	City	USDA-RD, CDBG	U
Hazen Street Repairs	3	M	City	City	O

VI. EVALUATION

Lewis and Clark Regional Development Council is constantly being evaluated by different state and federal agencies concerning proper management of the programs entrusted to us. These evaluations can be anywhere from annual audits, reporting requirements, training sessions and even face-to-face meetings.

The evaluation of the CEDS plan is an on-going process. This evaluation will look at whether Lewis and Clark Regional Development Council is achieving its goals and vision for the future and will be used to improve and strengthen the planning process.

The CEDS committee and the Board of Directors will be meeting on a yearly basis with the intent of reviewing the projects and activities the District has experienced in the past twelve months. The Council staff will report all activities that have taken place, along with the results of reported activities, the timelines of each activity and how each activity fits into the goals established by the CEDS committee. The committee will then determine if the activities attained the goals and objectives set forth in the plan and are meeting the timelines laid out. The staff will then do whatever needs to be done to make sure time and resources are used to meet the goals, objectives and timelines of the CEDS.

Because a CEDS annual report must be submitted to EDA on a yearly basis, the CEDS committee will be brought together on an annual basis approximately one month before the report is due. The staff will update the committee on any current trends and conditions that have changed throughout the Region over the past year. The goals and objectives can then be adjusted to overcome any advantages or disadvantages that have taken place.

Performance measures will be tied directly to the long-term economic development goals previously identified in the document. The following criteria will be used to measure our performance:

- Number of jobs created after implementation of the CEDS.
- Number and types of investments undertaken in the region.
- Number of jobs retained in the region.
- Amount of private sector investment leveraged in the region after the implementation of the CEDS.
- Changes in the economic environment of the region.

VII. DISASTER AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY STRATEGY

The shock and disruption of the economic base of an area or region, such as in our case, are usually manifested in three ways:

1. Downturns or significant events in the national or international economy which impact demand for locally produced goods and consumer spending;
2. Downturns in particular industry that constitute a critical component of the region's economic activity; and/or
3. Other external shocks such as natural or man-made disaster, closure of a military base, exit of a major employer, or the impacts of climate change.

Hazard mitigation and economic development activities are often conducted separately. Because of this separation, it is difficult to ensure businesses and economies are prepared for natural disasters and able to recover quickly. A region needs the ability to anticipate, withstand and bounce back from any shocks to its economy and businesses. This is why hazard mitigation and economic planning need to be interrelated processes.

For us as an EDD, in the past, we have only addressed natural or man-made disasters. Now is the time to address both together.

Below we will look at those different ways to address the above.

DISASTERS

Emergency managers across the country have identified four phases to meet the needs of the public before, during and after a disaster that include preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.

Preparedness

Is defined as “a continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising, evaluation and taking corrective action in an effort to ensure effective coordination during incident response” according to The National Incident Management System.

Response

Response activities take place immediately before, during and in the first few days after a major or catastrophic disaster. Recovery efforts then begin to help the community get back on its feet.

Recovery

A well thought out recovery phase can allow a community to return to a state of normalcy more quickly and effectively. Without being prepared for the complexity of redevelopment in a compressed timeframe, local officials may struggle with recovery decisions and miss opportunities for public participation in reshaping the community’s future. To become more disaster resilient, local governments should plan for what must happen after emergency rescue and recovery operations are complete.

Mitigation

Mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. Mitigation is acting prior to the next disaster to reduce human and financial consequences.

The Lewis and Clark Regional Development Council (LCRDC) region is confronted daily with the possibility of a serious incident of emergency proportions. Whether they are man-made, natural or technological, they pose a threat to the health, welfare and security of our citizens. Attention must turn to mitigating their impacts on life and costs before they occur or re-occur.

The LCRDC region is susceptible to a wide variety of disasters. They may include diseases, dam failure, drought, flood, hazardous materials, homeland security incidents, shortage or outage of critical materials or infrastructure, summer storms, transportation accidents, urban fire or structure collapse, wildfire, nuclear warfare, earthquakes and winter storm.

County and city leaders and other stakeholders have recognized the need to stop the cycle of recurring damage and loss that is taking place. They realize they are responsible for

developing and maintaining a high level of preparedness for all hazards, which include response and recovery plans, training, development, management of resources and the need to mitigate each hazard their county or city may experience.

Each county within the region has developed a multi-hazard mitigation plan. Each plan represents a coordinated effort and ongoing commitment to mitigate potential losses and damage caused by hazards that can be experienced throughout the region. All the plans consist of basic multi-hazard mitigation planning, pre-disaster mitigation planning for each identified hazard and post-disaster mitigation planning. It also spells out different agency specific responsibilities for mitigation planning and implementation.

Each county plan represents a group effort and ongoing commitment to mitigate potential losses and damages caused by the hazards that may be experienced within the region. Hazard mitigation is defined as any cost-effective action (s) that has the effect of reducing, limiting or preventing vulnerability of people, property and the environment to potentially damaging, harmful or costly hazards. Hazard mitigation measures, which can be used to eliminate or minimize the risk to life and property, fall into three categories. First, those which keep the hazard away from life and property; second, those which keep life and property away from the hazard; and third, those which do not address the hazard, but rather reduce the impact of the hazard on victims.

Each of the plans also identifies opportunities and suggests actions which could reduce the impact of future disasters or emergencies. They realize this will only be accomplished and coordinated by dedicated stakeholders, including political entities, responsible for all-hazards preparedness or emergency management.

Each plan also promotes pre-and post-disaster mitigation measures, short-and long-range strategies that minimize suffering, loss of life and damage to property resulting from hazardous or potentially hazardous conditions to which citizens and institutions with the region are exposed; and to eliminate or minimize conditions which would have an undesirable impact on its citizens, the economy, environment and well-being of the region.

Each plan spells out how the local government will review all damages, losses and related impacts to determine the need or requirement for mitigation action and planning whenever seriously affected by a disaster, or when applying for state or federal recovery assistance.

The counties realize the execution of pre- or post-disaster mitigation plans is the responsibility of the various local government leaders and other elected and appointed officials that are in the position to make decisions capable of reducing or eliminating the threat or potential impact on life, property and the environment. Most county plans do not replace existing preparedness and operational plans currently in use by state or local governments. The county plans are used to strengthen or even improve the effectiveness of state and local emergency operations plans.

The counties realize multi-hazard mitigation planning is a continuous process. The stages of planning operate concurrently. At any given time, planning to plan, risk analysis, updating the situation assessment, research, coordinating disaster response or other activity is occurring.

Most, if not all, of the counties update their plans every five years.

Each county plan addresses the following involving pre-disaster preparedness:

- Engage in pre-disaster recovery and mitigation planning.
- Know and regularly assess the counties and cities risks and vulnerabilities.
- Inventory and organize the counties and cities recovery resources.
- Engage in business continuity planning.
- Ensure resources are available for the elderly and those with special needs.
- Identify shelters.
- Identify recovery partners, type of assistance and resources they can provide.
- Develop an interagency action plan.
- Identify what recovery activities will take place immediately, short-term, intermediate and long-term.
- Develop and disseminate a county and community evacuation plan.
- Establish a communication chain.
- Engage the county and cities residents to assist with the planning process.

The following is a list of the contact information regarding disaster and emergency services for each county within the region:

Mary Senger – Burleigh County
4200 Coleman St.
Bismarck, ND 58503
701-222-6727

Mary Senger – Emmons County
4200 Coleman St.
Bismarck, ND 58503
701-222-6727

Patrick Diehl – Grant County
PO Box 261
Carson, ND 58529
701-622-3944

Loren Lang – Kidder County
PO Box 372
Steele, ND 58482
701-475-4523

Noelle Kroll – McLean County
PO Box 1108
Washburn, ND 58577
701-462-8541

Carmen Reed – Mercer County
PO Box 39
Stanton, ND 58571
701-745-3292

Cody Mattson – Morton County
210 2nd Ave. NW
Mandan, ND 58554
701-667-3307

Carmen Reed – Oliver County
PO Box 39
Stanton, ND 58571
701-745-3292

Wayne Houston – Sheridan County
PO Box 545
McClusky, ND 58463
701-363-2368

Michael Crow Feather– Sioux
County PO Box L
Fort Yates, ND 58538
701-854-3481

After a disaster strikes, actions need to be taken. Those actions include disaster assessment, developing/implementing a recovery timeline, implementing a recovery plan and tracking and monitoring the implementation of the plan. During each of the four post-disaster mentioned actions, the following will take place:

- Assess the nature and magnitude of the disaster.
- Assess the impact on the economy.
- Assess the impact on transportation and public infrastructure.
- Assess the impact on housing, schools and health care facilities.
- List and prioritize recovery activities to be performed.
- Identify resources needed for each activity.
- Determine the level and type of assistance needed.
- Identify roles and responsibilities.
- Determine the timeframe for each recovery activity.
- Establish recovery benchmarks.
- Identify business, economic and entrepreneurial rebuild activities.
- Identify workforce initiatives to employ workers and rebuild economy.
- Describe the Federal, state and local funding programs.
- Describe management plans to ensure the most effective use of Federal, state, local and private sector funds.

The objective of all disaster plans is to guide the development decision making process following a disaster in a manner consistent with local plans and strategies. All these plans have policies and procedures in-place that affect post-disaster redevelopment. LCRDC will assist its counties and cities with access to the information and resources necessary for making post-disaster decisions.

In the event a disaster has occurred, LCRDC will assist as follows:

- Provide local officials, business leaders and any other community partners with access to regional demographic, economic and hazard vulnerability data.
- Offer grant writing expertise and technical assistance to regional and local entities.
- Become familiar with economic and community recovery funding sources.
- Provide technical support to those businesses impacted.

RESILIENCY

Resiliency is the ability to adapt and change in response to stresses and strains, and economic resilience is the ability to return to a previous level and/or growth rate of output, employment, or population after experiencing an external shock.

To make LCRDC more resilient and ready to adapt to future economic and environmental changes, leaders and policy makers across the 10-county EDD, must understand the implications of the economic impact of shifting global roles, technological advances and changing demographics. Then building the capacity to adapt to these disruptions and addressing the significant economic and environmental vulnerabilities identified during this and many other planning efforts must become a focus for LCRDC.

The economy of the District has relied heavily on agriculture and energy. Resilience and readiness must form the foundation of a broader mindset, and not simply addressed through isolated projects posing as an operational system. Goals must focus on both fiscal stability and sustainability, as well as disaster preparedness and recovery. This will not only ensure a faster return to previous levels but will disarm the disruption itself.

We need to look at helping create a regional environment that is conducive and supportive of economic mobility; provide access to resources that will facilitate self-reinforcing personal and economic resilience; and foster an environment that provides opportunities for cross-sector interaction resulting in proactive strategies to diversify the economy. The District has developed the following strategies that will address capacity building, economic mobility, access to resources, workforce readiness, diversification and flexibility, and business recovery.

- Establish cooperative network(s) of local institutions and governing bodies to develop strategies based on emerging trends and the anticipated education, transportation, and housing needs of the people we are trying to attract and retain.
- Assist with the creation of new businesses and community amenities' identified as being attractive to millennials through zoning reform and targeted, incentivized investment.
- Prioritize investments aimed at revitalizing facilities and infrastructure as a means of preserving historic character and attracting additional public and private investment.
- Assist in attracting and retaining businesses by building upon existing Clusters/Industry Sectors and reducing barriers to entry; and revisiting local regulations to ensure they equally facilitate the expansion of existing businesses and new entrants and entrepreneurs.

As can be seen in our goals and strategies pages, these objectives are already being addressed.

For additional information on this CEDS document or LCRDC, please visit:

www.lcdgroup.org

VIII. APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

[Master List of Acronyms](#)

AT&T – American Telephone & Telegraph
BLM – Bureau of Land Management
CAA – Community Action Agency
CDBG – Community Development Block Grant
CDC – Certified Development Company
CDLF – Community Development Loan Fund
CEDS – Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
CWND – CommunityWorks North Dakota
EDA –Economic Development Administration
EDD – Economic Development District
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency
F – Fahrenheit
FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency
FmHA – Farmers Home Administration
KEM Electric – Kidder, Emmons, McIntosh Electric
LCRDC – Lewis and Clark Regional Development Council
MDU – Montana Dakota Utilities
Mor-Gran-Sou Electric – Morton, Grant, Sioux Electric
ND – North Dakota
SBDC – Small Business Development Center
SHPO – State Historic Preservation Office
SWOT – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
U.S. - United States
USDA-RD – United States Department of Agriculture - Rural Development