



NE ND: The Regional Perspective

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Brief Overview

- Primer on Red River Regional Council
- Socioeconomic highs and lows
- Economic development initiatives
- Linking City of Grand Forks to the Region
- Leadership partners needed on all levels...local, state, and federal

Assisting the Region for 40 Years

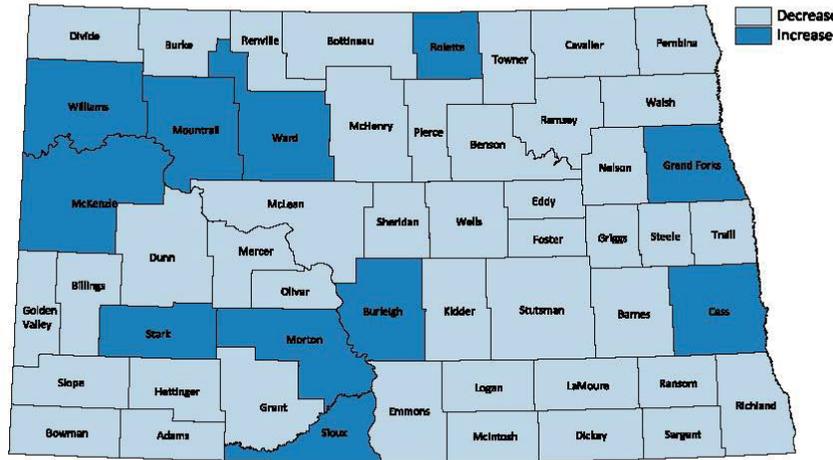
"...establish a consistent, comprehensive statewide policy for planning, economic development, program operations, coordination, and related cooperative activities of state and local governmental units and to enhance the ability of and opportunity for local governmental units to resolve issues and problems transcending their individual boundaries."

Who we are...what we do



42 Counties Lost Population 2000 to 2010

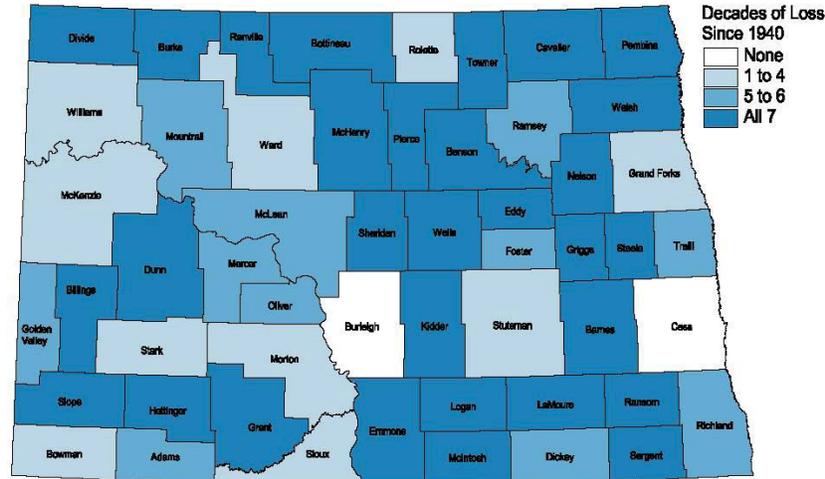
Figure 4. Percent Change in Population for North Dakota by County, 2000 to 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

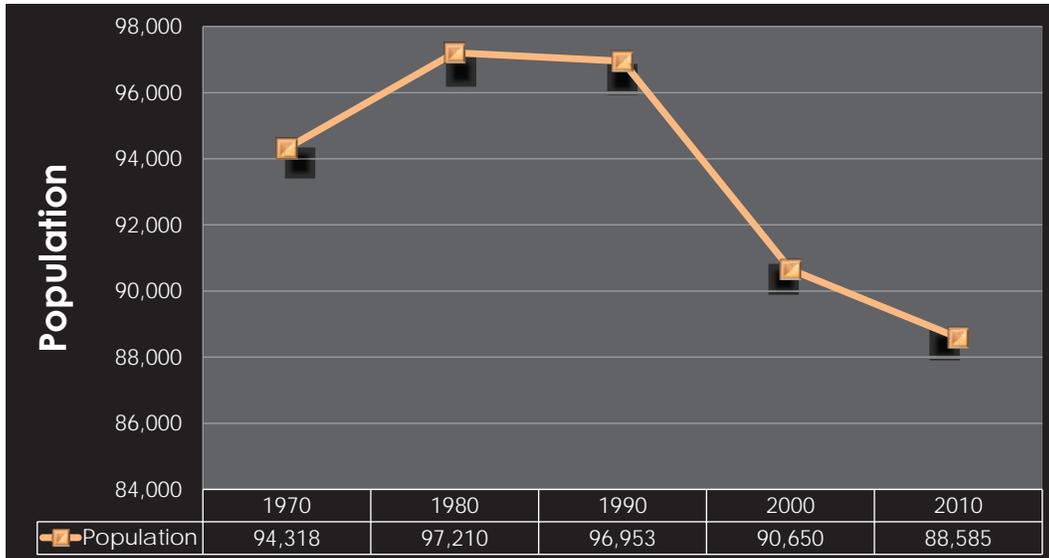
30 Counties had Seven Decades of Decline

Figure 2. Decades of Population Decline for North Dakota by County Since 1940

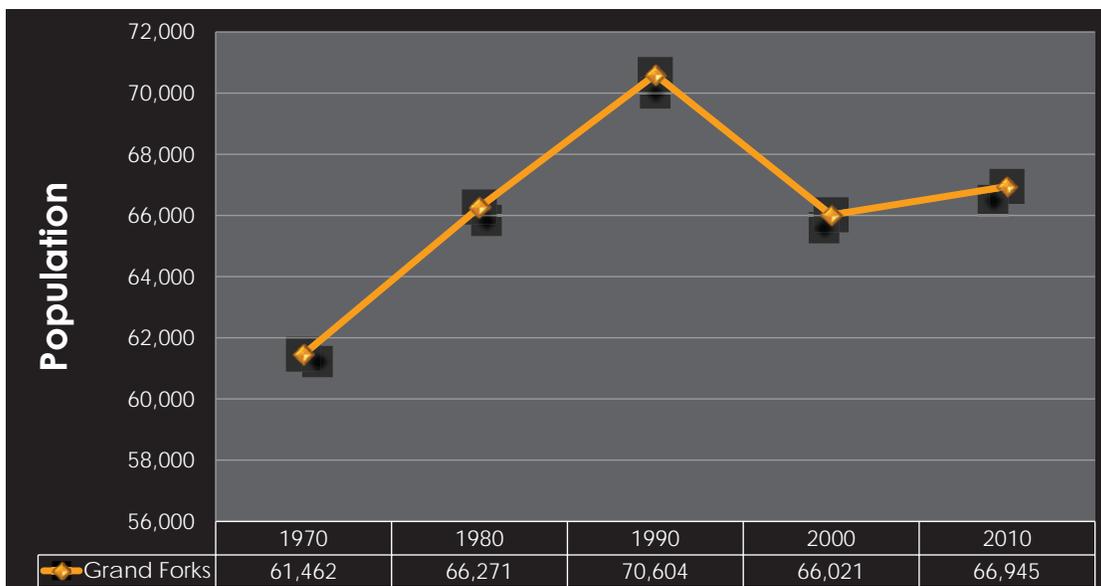


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

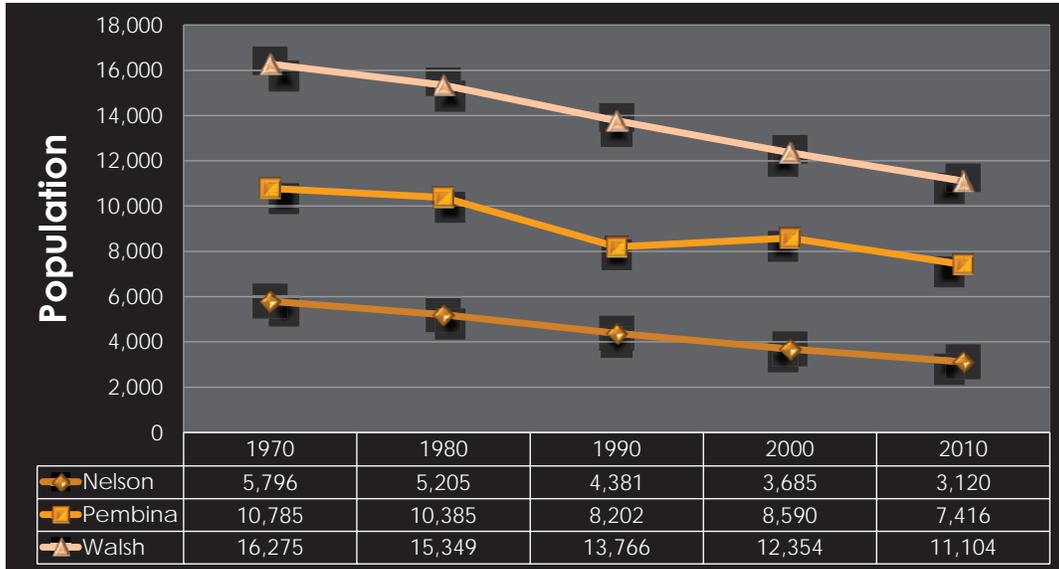
Region IV Population 1970-2010



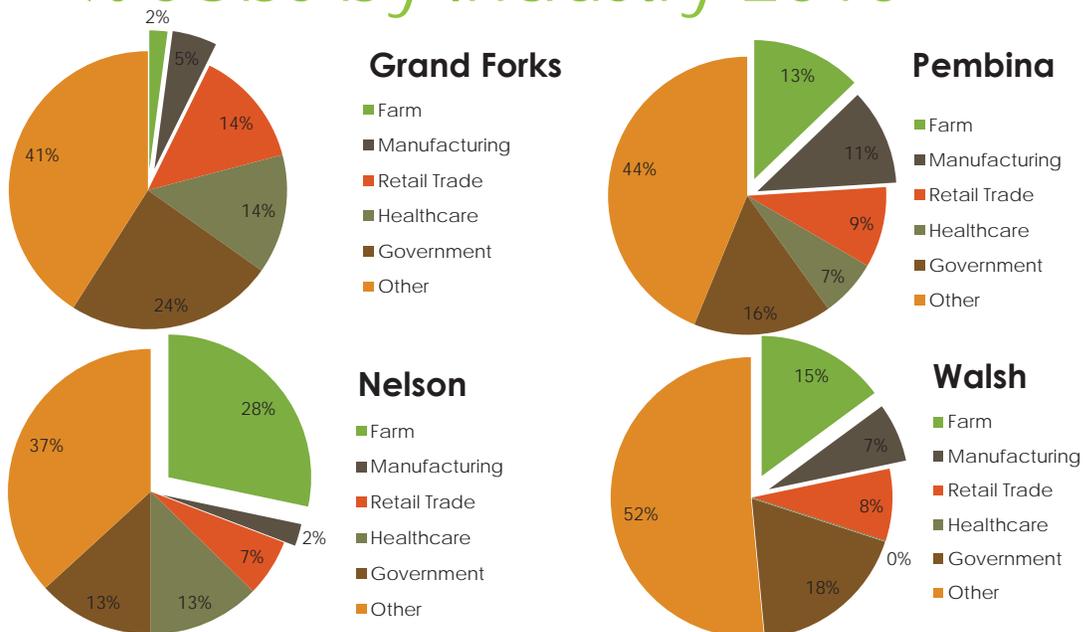
Grand Forks County Population: 5,483 increase



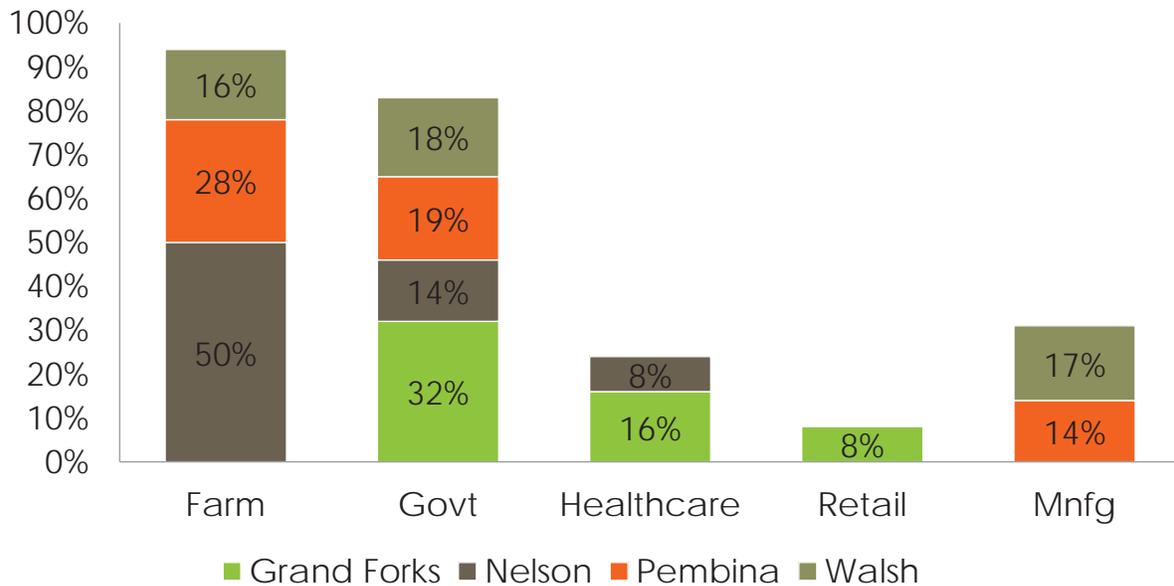
Rural County Population Loss: 11,216 decrease



% Jobs by Industry 2010



Personal Income by Industry Top Three Per County 2010



Repetitive Flooding Plagues Region

More than a seasonal distraction - 11 Federal emergency and disaster declarations impacting our region in the past 10 years

- 2013: DR 4128
- 2013: DR 4118
- 2013: EM 3364
- 2011: DR 1981
- 2011: EM 3318
- 2010: DR 1907
- 2010: EM 3309
- 2009: DR 1829
- 2006: DR 1645
- 2005: DR 1597
- 2004: DR 1515

Three Floods in 2013



Massive Rains: City of Cavalier Evacuated Late May 2013

- Flood risks have become routine in northeastern ND
- Taking its toll – financial and productivity hits
- 20% of ND farm acres were prevented plant in 2013 with a \$626.9 million estimated loss – after a record setting year in 2011



Dealing with the Aftermath



Our Focus on Infrastructure

- Aging infrastructure has become a key issue in our region
- 70 year old municipal infrastructure is crumbling under the streets –well beyond repair and maintenance
- Rural water now serves many rural communities but without distribution systems, people can't get water
- Rural water systems also rely on users within the Cities they serve

Infrastructure Needs Large and Small

- City of Tolna (pop. 163)
 - Stump Lake = opportunity 20,000 annual visitors
 - New homes being built
 - Main Street needs to be repaved (4 miles)
 - Water and sewer trunk lines are 70 years old
 - Estimated \$1 million debt
 - \$57/month/household for debt service
 - Water and sewer rates are already 1.9% MHI
 - New rate would equate to 4.3% MHI
 - "Affordable" is generally defined as 2% MHI
 - \$ 28,556 median household income (vs. \$51,704 for ND in 2011)
 - Not financially feasible without financial aid



Our Focus on Economic Development

- Economic development strategic plans underway in each county this spring – municipal infrastructure survey will be included
 - Grow our economy
 - Slow population loss
 - Serve the people we have
 - Connect our businesses to opportunities in ND and beyond
 - Provide technical expertise to move ideas to actions

Grand Forks and the Rest of the Region

- Developing enhanced partnership between the City and the rest of the Region
- How can the Region support Grand Sky and Northern Plains Nitrogen?
- How can the City support the Region?
 - Expertise
 - Money
 - Moral support
- We recognize the value of a regional approach and each have a vested interest

Building Upon Our Base

- Economic development efforts focused on expanding the “new wealth” sectors
 - 3,279 Manufacturing jobs
 - 3,475 Farm jobs
- Economic development needs to also link to strong community development

We Need All Hands on Deck

- Region striving to end population loss and have thriving communities
- Help us help ourselves
 - Some of our issues are more than local issues
 - Keeping and expanding our primary sector businesses
 - Stability for our staff to continue providing quality assistance
- Investment in infrastructure (the projects that are too big for us to do alone) is foundational to our community's economic development efforts

We Need Your Help



- Our economics are much more than a local issue
- Major municipal infrastructure improvements in small, rural communities require State and Federal assistance
- Base policies on affordability
- Not a handout – a shared investment in the next 50 years
- We will leverage funding