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# **In-Migrants to North Dakota: A Socioeconomic Profile**

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The authors assume responsibility for any errors of omission, logic, or otherwise.

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## ABSTRACT

This study describes basic socioeconomic characteristics of new residents to North Dakota, the factors motivating their move, and their satisfaction with the North Dakota communities where they live. Data came from a 1997 survey of more than 700 new residents.

New residents who responded to the survey were generally younger than the North Dakota population overall; about two-thirds were between 21 and 40 years old. The educational level of the migrants was also higher than that of the state's population overall; 47 percent of the new residents were college graduates and an additional 35 percent reported some college or post-secondary vocational/trade school attendance. About 48 percent of the new residents had previous ties to North Dakota.

The new residents most often mentioned the following reasons for moving to North Dakota: looking for a safer place to live (59.5%), closer to relatives (50%), quality of the natural environment (49.5%), lower cost of living (48%), outdoor recreational opportunities (38%), and quality of local grade/high schools (35%). New job opportunities or transfers were central to many new residents' decisions to relocate. About 65 percent of the new resident households indicated that a new job or business opportunity, a transfer by a current employer, or a military transfer had been a key factor influencing their decision to move. Following their move to North Dakota, about 67 percent of respondents and 69 percent of their spouses or partners were employed full-time, while 12 percent of respondents and 11 percent of spouses were employed part-time.

About 30 percent of the new residents moved to North Dakota alone, while 70 percent moved with others. About 66 percent moved with a spouse or partner and 40 percent moved with children. About 41 percent owned their current home, 45 percent rented, and 14 percent reported other housing arrangements. Household incomes covered a broad range, with about 30 percent reporting an income of \$20,000 or less the first year after moving while 23 percent had incomes over \$50,000. Most of the new residents had a number of telecommunications and computer-related capabilities available in their homes. Almost 99 percent had touch tone telephones, 96 percent had VCR players, 85 percent had telephone answering machines, 58 percent had personal computers, and 45 percent had computer modems. About 9 percent reported that the telephone service available to their home would limit the use of some telecommunications services or capabilities, and this percentage was more than twice as high in rural communities (15.5%) compared to urban centers (7%).

Key Words: in-migrants, new residents, socioeconomic characteristics, North Dakota



## HIGHLIGHTS

Recent employment growth appears to be stimulating increased in-migration to some of North Dakota's rural communities, as well as to the state's larger cities, and additional in-migration is likely to be critical to sustain the state's momentum in economic development. Understanding the characteristics of the in-migrants, their motivations for moving, and their expectations regarding and satisfaction with their new community is important for state and local decision makers. This study addresses these needs by describing basic socioeconomic characteristics of new residents to North Dakota, the factors motivating their move, and their satisfaction with the North Dakota communities where they live. Data came from a 1997 survey of more than 700 new residents.

Key findings include:

- ! New residents who responded to the survey were generally younger than the North Dakota population overall; about two-thirds were between 21 and 40 years old. The educational level of the migrants was also higher than that of the state's population overall; 47 percent of the new residents were college graduates and an additional 35 percent reported some college or post-secondary vocational/trade school attendance.
- ! About 48 percent of the new residents had previous ties to North Dakota. About 37 percent had lived here previously, while another 11 percent indicated that their parents or grandparents live in the state, or had lived here at one time.
- ! While 42 percent of the new residents came from adjacent states (24 percent from Minnesota alone), the other 58 percent came from a broad cross-section of states, with no single region predominating.
- ! In general, the new residents were happy with their new communities and their reception there. About 90 percent indicated that they felt welcome or very welcome, and about two-thirds said that, if they had it to do over again, they would probably or definitely move to North Dakota.
- ! When asked about their reasons for moving to North Dakota, the new residents most often mentioned the following reasons: looking for a safer place to live (59.5%), closer to relatives (50%), quality of the natural environment (49.5%), lower cost of living (48%), outdoor recreational opportunities (38%), and quality of local grade/high schools (35%).
- ! New job opportunities or transfers were central to many new residents' decisions to relocate. About 65 percent of the new resident households indicated that a new job or business opportunity, a transfer by a current employer, or a military transfer had been a key factor influencing their decision to move.
- ! Following their move to North Dakota, about 67 percent of respondents and 69 percent of

their spouses or partners were employed full-time, while 12 percent of respondents and 11 percent of spouses were employed part-time. About 10 percent of respondents and 11 percent of spouses were self-employed, with the percentages of self-employment being highest in rural communities.

- ! The new residents reported using a variety of telecommunications capabilities at work. The most commonly reported items were computer with keyboard (81% of respondents and 80% of spouses), fax machine or modem (67% of respondents and 64% of spouses), answering machine or voice mail (61% of both), and computer modem (55% of respondents and 60% of spouses).
- ! About 30 percent of the new residents moved to North Dakota alone, while 70 percent moved with others. About 66 percent moved with a spouse or partner and 40 percent moved with children. About 41 percent owned their current home, 45 percent rented, and 14 percent reported other housing arrangements.
- ! Household incomes covered a broad range, with about 30 percent reporting an income of \$20,000 or less the first year after moving while 23 percent had incomes over \$50,000. The percentage of households with incomes less than \$20,000 was slightly higher after moving than before, and the percentage with incomes over \$50,000 was slightly lower.
- ! Most of the new residents had a number of telecommunications and computer-related capabilities available in their homes. Almost 99 percent had touch tone telephones, 96 percent had VCR players, 85 percent had telephone answering machines, 58 percent had personal computers, and 45 percent had computer modems. About 9 percent reported that the telephone service available to their home would limit the use of some telecommunications services or capabilities, and this percentage was more than twice as high in rural communities (15.5%) compared to urban centers (7%).
- ! The new residents were asked to evaluate a variety of public services and community amenities. Some services were unavailable to a substantial number of respondents. For example, public transportation was unavailable to 12.5 percent of respondents overall (32.5% in rural communities), nursing home care was viewed as unavailable by 5.3 percent (15.6% in rural communities), mental health care was unavailable to 5.2 percent overall (14.9% in rural communities), and Head Start programs were unavailable to 5.1 percent (16.6% in rural communities).
- ! Among those to whom services were available, satisfaction with the services varied. Of those who expressed an opinion, more than 96 percent were satisfied with fire protection, and more than 90 percent were satisfied with water, sewer, solid waste disposal, emergency medical services, church or civic activities, senior centers, and nursing home care. On the other hand, the respondents were less satisfied with entertainment (only 59% were very or somewhat satisfied), streets and highways (60%), retail shopping (66%), and public transportation (68%).

## **In-Migrants to North Dakota: A Socioeconomic Profile**

**F. Larry Leistritz and Randall S. Sell\***

### **INTRODUCTION**

Population dynamics is a major issue for decision makers at both state and local levels, as well as a long-term interest for scholars concerned with the future of rural America. Migration is one of the fundamental processes of population change, and net migration is arguably the most difficult component of local population change to predict (Wardwell and Copp 1997, Leistritz and Murdock 1981). The relocation of individuals and families leads to changes in public infrastructure and service needs, labor availability, and housing requirements in both origin and destination communities. During the decade of the 1980s, North Dakota experienced high rates of out-migration with attendant strains on rural communities (Hamm et al. 1992). However, recent employment growth associated with successful economic development efforts has led to in-migration to some rural areas of North Dakota, as well as to the state's larger cities. Understanding the characteristics of these in-migrants, their motivations for moving, and their expectations regarding and satisfaction with their new community is critical to sustain North Dakota's momentum in economic development (Goss 1998).

The purpose of this study was to identify the salient characteristics of North Dakota's new residents and how their attributes compare with those of existing residents and with those of respondents to similar surveys conducted in the states of Nebraska and Washington. Specific objectives addressed include:

1. What is the basic socioeconomic and demographic profile of North Dakota's new residents, and how does this profile compare to existing residents?
2. What factors motivate individuals to move to North Dakota?
3. How satisfied are these new residents once they are living in North Dakota communities?
4. What are the employment and workforce characteristics of the new residents, including the role that new telecommunications technologies may be playing in their work?
5. How do the answers to questions 1 - 4 differ between (a) North Dakota's urban centers, regional trade centers, and rural communities, and (b) North Dakota's new residents and those in Nebraska and Washington State.

---

\*Leistritz is a professor and Sell is a research scientist in the Department of Agricultural Economics, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

## METHODS

Results reported here were generated by an approach that was patterned after similar studies in Nebraska and Washington State (Cordes et al. 1996). A questionnaire was mailed to individuals who had moved to North Dakota from some other state or country, and had subsequently surrendered their previous driver's license for a North Dakota license. In North Dakota, new residents are to obtain a North Dakota driver's license within 90 days of establishing residence.

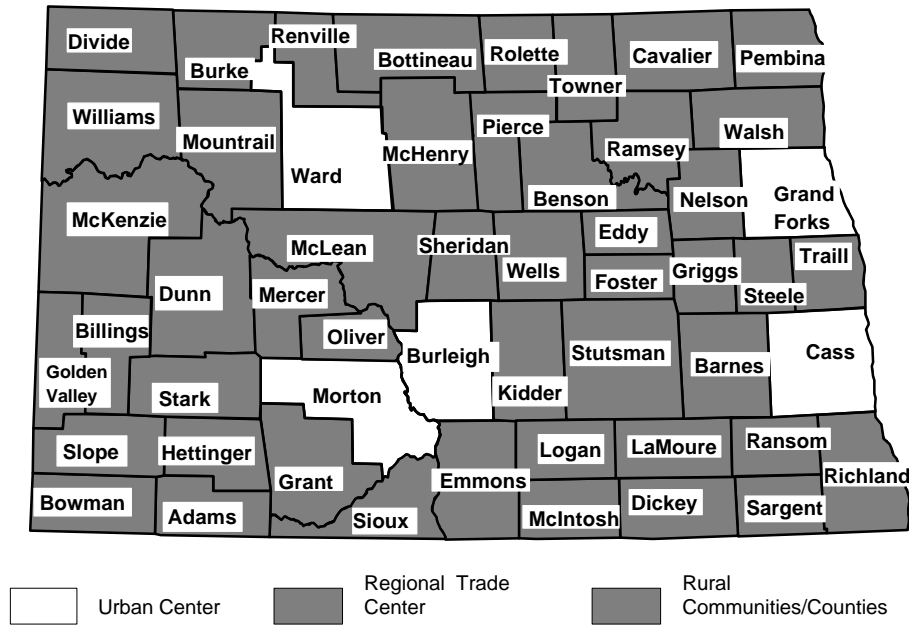
The sample frame for the study included the names and addresses of individuals who had surrendered their out-of-state/country license for a North Dakota license between January 1 and May 15, 1997. A total of 2,640 persons had surrendered their licenses during this period. Questionnaires were mailed to all persons on the list. After two mailings, a total of 726 usable surveys was obtained, a response rate of 27.5 percent. Because of the mail system used, it was not possible to determine how many of the questionnaires that were not returned might have been undeliverable because of incomplete addresses or because the addressee had moved, leaving no forwarding address, as opposed to representing refusals to participate.

The survey analysis included comparisons of many respondent attributes and observations by place of residence. The counties where respondents resided were categorized with two alternative typologies. The first separated North Dakota counties into three categories:

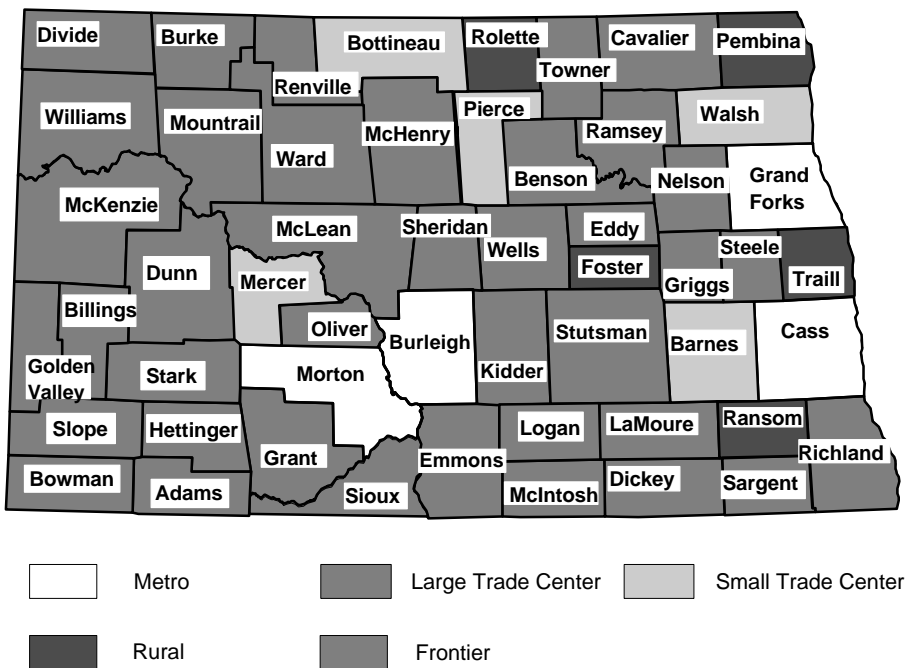
1. Urban centers -- five counties that include the state's four major urban centers (Bismarck-Mandan, Fargo, Grand Forks, and Minot). These communities are all classified as wholesale-retail centers and serve as dominant trade and service centers for extensive trade areas (Bangsund et al. 1991).
2. Regional trade centers -- six counties that contain regional trade centers (Dickinson, Devils Lake, Jamestown, Valley City, Wahpeton, and Williston) with city populations of 7,000 or more (Figure 1). These towns are all classified as complete shopping centers and serve as trade and service centers for multi-county trade areas (Bangsund et al. 1991).
3. Rural communities -- the state's remaining 42 counties. In 1990, none of these counties had a town with a population of 5,000 or greater.

The second typology which was used to categorize North Dakota's counties was a five-category system used in the study of new residents in Nebraska (Cordes et al. 1996):

1. Metro -- four North Dakota counties that are part of the Bismarck-Mandan, Fargo-Moorhead, and Grand Forks-East Grand Forks metropolitan areas (Figure 2)
2. Large trade center -- six counties with a city of at least 7,500 people
3. Small trade center -- five counties with the largest city between 2,500 and 7,500 people



**Figure 1. North Dakota Counties by Urban Center, Regional Trade Center, and Rural Communities/Countries.**



**Figure 2. North Dakota Counties by Metro, Large Trade Center, Small Trade Center, Rural, and Frontier .**

4. Rural -- five counties with no town larger than 2,500 and a population density of at least six persons per square mile
5. Frontier -- 33 counties with no town larger than 2,500 and a population density of less than six persons per square mile

When the North Dakota respondents were tabulated by these categories, however, it was determined that only 4 percent of the respondents lived in rural counties and only 6 percent in small trade center counties. Accordingly, this typology was not used extensively in subsequent analyses. However, the metro-nonmetro (categories 2-5) classification is used extensively, particularly in comparing the survey results from North Dakota with those from Nebraska and Washington State.

## **RESULTS**

### **Demographic Characteristics**

The new residents who responded to the survey were generally younger than North Dakota's population overall. About 36 percent of the respondents were 21 to 30 years old, 30 percent were 30 to 40, and 15 percent were 40 to 50 (Table 1). The racial/ethnic background of the new residents was similar to that of the state's population overall, about 93 percent were White, 2 percent Black, 2 percent Native American, 2 percent Asian or Pacific Islander, and less than 1 percent Hispanic (see Appendix Table 1 for a comparison). About 68 percent of the respondents were married, 18.5 percent had never been married, and 13 percent were divorced, separated, or widowed.

The educational level of the new residents was also higher than that of the state's population overall (Appendix Table 1). About 47 percent of the new residents were college graduates and 35 percent reported some college or vocational/trade school attendance. Only 3 percent had not completed high school. The education of the respondents' spouses or partners was quite similar, with 44.5 percent college graduates, 37 percent having some college or post-secondary vocational training, and only 4 percent not completing high school.

About 61 percent of the new residents lived in the state's four largest urban centers (Bismarck-Mandan, Fargo, Grand Forks, and Minot), about 16 percent lived in or near one of the six regional trade centers, and 23 percent lived in the state's remaining counties (Table 1). Using an alternative classification of residential location, 49 percent of the respondents lived in the state's four metropolitan counties, 27 percent lived in the counties with large trade centers (i.e., Ramsey, Richland, Stark, Stutsman, Ward, and Williams Counties), 6 percent lived in counties with small trade centers (i.e., towns with 2,500 to 5,000 population), 4 percent lived in rural counties, and 13.5 percent lived in the state's 33 frontier counties.

**Table 1. Demographic Characteristics of New Residents Responding to 1997 Survey**

Characteristic	Unit	Value
Respondent Age:		
Mean	Years	36.0
Distribution:		
<21 years	Percent	5.5
21-25	“	17.1
26-30	“	18.9
31-40	“	30.2
41-50	“	15.2
51-60	“	8.4
61-65	“	2.6
Over 65	“	2.2
Gender:		
Male	“	45.0
Female	“	55.0
Race/Ethnicity:		
White	“	92.8
Black	“	1.8
American Indian or Alaskan Native	“	1.7
Asian or Pacific Islander	“	1.7
Hispanic origin	“	0.9
Other	“	1.1
Marital Status:		
Married	“	68.4
Never married	“	18.5
Divorced/separated/widowed	“	13.1
Education--highest level completed by respondent:		
Less than high school	“	3.2
High school graduate	“	14.5
Trade or vocational school	“	9.2
Some college	“	25.9
College graduate	“	31.2
Professional or graduate degree	“	16.1

**Table 1. Continued**

Item	Unit	Value
Education--highest level completed by spouse:		
Less than high school	Percent	4.2
High school graduate	“	14.7
Trade or vocational school	“	10.2
Some college	“	26.7
College graduate	“	26.7
Professional or graduate degree	“	17.8
Current Residence Location:		
Urban center	“	61.1
Regional trade center	“	15.9
Rural community	“	23.0
Metropolitan county	“	48.9
Large trade center county	“	27.2
Small trade center county	“	6.4
Rural county	“	4.1
Frontier county	“	13.5

About 42 percent of the new North Dakota residents came from adjacent states or provinces, 24 percent of whom came from Minnesota. The other 58 percent came from a number of states with no geographic region predominating. States which were the previous residential location of a number of new residents included California (4.6%), Washington (4.5%), Texas (3.4%), Nebraska (3.2%), Wisconsin (3.0%), Colorado (2.9%), Illinois (2.7%), and Arizona (2.6%). The percentage of new residents who came from adjacent states was similar to that found in a similar survey conducted in Nebraska (Appendix Table 2). The percentage of new residents of Washington who came from adjacent states (17%) was lower than in the other two states, but this difference may be largely a function of geography (only two states border Washington).

The age distribution of the new residents was also similar to that found in the Nebraska and Washington surveys, with a majority in each state being less than 40 years old. However, both Nebraska and Washington did have somewhat more survey respondents over age 60 (10 percent in each state compared to 5 percent in North Dakota). In each of the three states, the percentage of new residents under 40 was slightly higher in the metro counties than in the nonmetro counties (Appendix Table 2).

Educational levels of the respondents and spouses were similar in all three states. More than 40 percent of the respondents and spouses in each state were college graduates, and another 34 to 40 percent reported some college or post-secondary trade school or vocational training. In



each state, the educational levels of new residents in the metropolitan counties were somewhat higher than in the nonmetropolitan counties.

### **Past and Planned Moves**

More than 90 percent of the new residents responding to the survey had moved to North Dakota between 1994 and 1997 (Table 2). More than 70 percent had moved in 1996 and 1997. Almost two-thirds of the respondents (63%) were first-time residents of North Dakota, while 37 percent had lived in the state at some time in the past. When asked when they had left North Dakota to live elsewhere, about 45 percent of these return migrants indicated they had left earlier in the 1990s, 38 percent had left during the 1980s, and 17 percent had left prior to 1980. About 29 percent of the new residents indicated that they had parents or grandparents living in North Dakota, and of those whose parents or grandparents do not currently reside in North Dakota, about 22 percent indicated that their parents or grandparents had lived here at some time. Overall, 48 percent of the respondents can be said to have previous ties to North Dakota (i.e., they lived here at some time in the past or their parents or grandparents live here or did at one time).

About one-sixth of the respondents indicated that they definitely plan to move from their community in the next year while about 22 percent were uncertain regarding their plans (Table 3). For those planning to move, almost three-fourths (73%) expected to move out of North Dakota. When the responses to these questions are categorized by the respondent's place of residence, new residents living in the state's rural areas were least likely to move, and if they did move, they were more likely to relocate within North Dakota, compared to their counterparts in the urban centers or regional trade centers.

When asked whether they would move to North Dakota if they had it to do over again, more than two-thirds of the respondents (67%) said definitely or probably yes, while 14 percent were undecided and less than 19 percent replied probably or definitely no. The percentage of respondents who would not move to North Dakota again ranged from almost 22 percent in the urban centers to only 12 percent in the rural communities. These results are similar to those from the Nebraska survey, where 70 percent of respondents would definitely or probably move to the state if they had it to do over. However, the Nebraska results showed less variation between large cities and rural communities (Washington data not available).

The percentage of respondents who would not move to North Dakota again was highest in the under 25 age group (24%) and lowest in the over 60 age group (11%). Likewise, the percentage who would not move if they had it to do again was much higher for nonwhites (33%) than for whites (18%). The percentage who would move to North Dakota again was higher for college graduates (70%) and those with a high school education or less (68%), compared to those with some college or other post-secondary education (63%). The percentage who would move to North Dakota again was higher for the previous residents (75%) than for first-time residents (62%). It was also substantially higher for those who were out of the labor force (75%) and those who were employed full-time (69%) than for those who were employed part-time (59%) or unemployed (45%). Finally, the percentage who would not move to North Dakota again was more than twice as high (37%) among residents of Grand Forks County than for other residents

**Table 2. Year that New Residents had Moved to North Dakota and Year that Return Migrants had left North Dakota, for Respondents to 1997 Survey**

Item	Percent
Year that respondent moved to North Dakota:	
1997	21.8
1996	51.0
1994-95	19.5
1990-93	6.2
Before 1990	1.5
Was respondent a first time North Dakota resident?	
Yes	62.6
No	37.3
Year returning respondent had left North Dakota to live elsewhere:	
1995-96	8.9
1990-94	35.8
1985-89	26.8
1980-84	11.2
1970-79	8.6
Before 1970	8.6
Do parents or grandparents live in North Dakota?	
Yes	28.6
No	71.4
Did parents of grandparents ever live in North Dakota? <sup>1</sup>	
Yes	21.5
No	78.3
Respondent had previous ties to North Dakota	47.8

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<sup>1</sup>Only respondents whose parents or grandparents do not currently live in North Dakota were asked this question.

**Table 3. Plans to Move Again in the Next Year, Likely Destination, and Assessment of Move to North Dakota, by Place of Residence, for Respondents to 1997 Survey**

Item	Place of Residence			Overall
	Urban Centers	Regional Trade Centers	Rural Communities	
	----- Percent -----			
Do You Plan to Move from your Community in the Next Year?				
No	59.8	56.0	70.8	61.7
Uncertain	21.2	27.5	18.6	21.6
Yes	19.1	16.5	10.6	16.7
If Moving, Where do You Plan to Move?				
Fargo or Bismarck Metro areas	11.0	12.5	20.0	12.6
Elsewhere in North Dakota	9.9	16.7	30.0	14.1
Outside North Dakota	79.1	70.8	50.0	73.3
If You Had It To Do Over Again, Would You Move to North Dakota?				
Definitely Yes	31.3	29.5	38.3	32.6
Probably Yes	35.3	35.7	32.1	34.6
Don't Know	11.6	17.9	17.3	13.9
Probably No	11.1	8.9	8.6	10.2
Definitely No	10.7	8.0	3.7	8.7

(17%). (The survey was conducted only a few months after Grand Forks suffered a devastating flood.)

### Views of Present Community

The respondents were asked to rate the North Dakota community where they live based on whether they view it as (a) friendly, (b) trusting, and (c) supportive. The ratings were based on a seven-point scale where 1 was the most favorable rating in each category. The ratings were generally favorable, with the overall scores for the three community attributes falling in the range of 2.5 to 2.8 (Table 4). The ratings by respondents living in the state's smaller communities and rural areas were the most favorable for each attribute, followed by those for residents of the larger metropolitan centers, with residents of the regional trade centers having the least favorable ratings. The respondents' ratings also were compared for the first-time residents versus the return

migrants. The previous residents returning to North Dakota gave a slightly more favorable rating for each attribute.

**Table 4. Respondents' Rating of their North Dakota Community as Friendly, Trusting, and Supportive, by Place of Residence, Respondents to 1997 Survey**

Community is:	Mean Scores <sup>1</sup>		
	Friendly	Trusting	Supportive
Overall	2.51	2.70	2.81
Urban centers	2.47	2.62	2.74
Regional trade centers	2.92	3.25	3.27
Rural communities	2.38	2.55	2.66
Metropolitan counties	2.44	2.58	2.68
Large trade center counties	2.70	3.02	3.08
Small trade center counties	2.76	2.80	2.95
Rural counties	2.55	2.69	2.76
Frontier counties	2.33	2.53	2.73
First-time residents	2.60	2.74	2.91
Return migrants	2.39	2.67	2.68

<sup>1</sup>Based on a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 is the most favorable.

The responses about the community in Nebraska were similar to those in North Dakota, with the overall scores for the three community attributes falling in the range of 2.7 to 3.1 (Appendix Table 3). As in North Dakota, the ratings by respondents living in the state's smaller communities and rural areas were the most favorable, followed by those for residents of the metropolitan centers (Washington data not available).

The new residents also were asked whether existing local residents had generally made them feel welcome in their new North Dakota community. Overall, about 90 percent indicated that they felt somewhat or very welcome. The respondents who lived in the state's rural communities were the most likely to report that they felt very or somewhat welcome (92%) while those residing in or near the regional trade centers were somewhat less positive (87% felt somewhat or very welcome). The responses to this question were also compared for first-time residents versus return migrants; there was essentially no difference in the responses of these two groups, as 90 percent of each felt somewhat or very welcome. These responses are similar to those by new residents to Nebraska; overall, 90 percent of the Nebraska respondents reported that they felt very or somewhat welcome (Washington data not available).

## Reasons for Moving to North Dakota

When asked about reasons for moving to North Dakota, the new residents most often indicated that they were looking for a safer place to live (59.5%), that they wished to be closer to relatives (50%), that they were attracted by the quality of the natural environment (49%), and that they were seeking a lower cost of living (48%) (Table 5). When responses are compared by the respondents' place of residence, these reasons were all mentioned more frequently by residents of rural communities than by those living in larger communities. Other reasons identified as important by at least one-third of the new residents were outdoor recreational opportunities (38%) and quality of local grade/high schools (35%).

**Table 5. Reasons for Moving to North Dakota, by Place of Residence, for Respondents to 1997 Survey**

Item	Place of Residence			Overall
	Urban Centers	Regional Trade Centers	Rural Communities	
	--Percent who said reason was <i>very</i> or <i>somewhat</i> important --			
Looking for a safer place to live	57.5	60.0	64.3	59.5
To be closer to relatives	47.0	53.2	56.5	50.1
Quality of the natural environment	45.2	51.4	59.2	49.4
To lower cost of living	43.5	57.7	53.5	48.0
Outdoor recreational opportunities	35.9	42.6	39.2	37.7
Quality of local grade/high schools	34.7	34.0	34.6	34.6
To obtain training/education	26.6	18.7	17.1	23.2
Desirable climate	15.7	21.3	18.6	17.2
More cultural opportunities	16.7	13.2	16.5	16.1
To get more affordable health care	15.5	13.2	15.4	15.1
To lower cost of operating a business	3.8	4.7	10.8	5.5

When the reasons for moving were compared for first-time residents versus return migrants, most of the reasons were viewed as more important by the return migrants (Table 6). For example, safer place to live was cited by 68 percent of return migrants compared to 53 percent of first-time residents. Similarly, quality of the natural environment and outdoor recreational opportunities were cited substantially more often by previous residents returning to the state than by first-time residents, whose moves were more frequently linked to employment.

**Table 6. Reasons for Moving to North Dakota, by First-Time Residents and Return Migrants, for Respondents to 1997 Survey**

Item	Return Migrants	First-Time Residents	Overall
--Percent who said reason was <i>very</i> or <i>somewhat</i> important --			
Looking for a safer place to live	68.4	53.3	58.9
Quality of the natural environment	62.7	41.3	49.1
To be closer to relatives	77.9	31.2	48.8
To lower cost of living	51.8	45.7	48.0
Outdoor recreational opportunities	45.6	32.5	37.5
Quality of local grade/high schools	39.8	30.8	34.2
To obtain training/education	21.7	23.8	23.0
Desirable climate	24.3	13.4	17.4
More cultural opportunities	17.9	15.2	16.3
To get more affordable health care	16.4	13.6	14.6
To lower cost of operating a business	5.5	5.2	5.3

The reasons for moving that were most often considered important by new residents of North Dakota were also the ones most frequently cited by new residents of Nebraska (Appendix Table 4). The four reasons most frequently identified were the same in each state, although their order differed slightly, with *closer to relatives* being most frequently identified as important by

new residents of Nebraska. The responses of new residents of Washington contrast substantially with those of the Nebraska and North Dakota surveys; Washington respondents most often mentioned quality of the natural environment, outdoor recreation opportunities, and desirable climate as important reasons for choosing Washington as their new home.

### Reasons for Leaving Previous Place of Residence

The new residents were also asked about their reasons for leaving their previous place of residence. The reasons cited most frequently were fear of crime (44%), high cost of living (38%), unsafe place to live (36%), urban congestion (33%), and high state and/or local taxes (33%) (Table 7). All of these reasons were cited more frequently by persons who had moved to North Dakota's rural communities than by those who moved to the urban centers.

**Table 7. Reasons for Leaving Previous Place of Residence, by Place of Residence in North Dakota, for Respondents to 1997 Survey**

Item	Place of Residence			Overall
	Urban Centers	Regional Trade Centers	Rural Communities	
--Percent who said reason was <i>very</i> or <i>somewhat</i> important --				
Fear of crime	41.1	44.5	51.9	44.1
High cost of living	32.0	48.2	49.0	38.4
Unsafe place to live	33.2	34.9	42.4	35.6
Urban congestion	30.0	32.7	41.1	33.0
High state and/or local taxes	30.6	28.4	41.4	32.7
Poor schools	19.1	25.9	19.4	20.2
Long commute	20.7	20.6	14.0	19.1
Quality of the natural environment	17.1	14.8	17.8	16.9
Undesirable climate	16.4	15.9	16.7	16.4
Lack of outdoor recreational opportunities	13.4	14.0	7.1	12.1
Too close to relatives	9.4	15.7	12.7	11.1
Few cultural amenities	9.9	7.4	12.1	10.0
High cost of operating a business	4.9	4.7	12.2	6.5

When the reasons for leaving their former place of residence are compared for first-time residents versus return migrants, both groups indicated fear of crime, high cost of living, and unsafe place to live as their top three reasons (Table 8).

**Table 8. Reasons for Leaving Previous Place of Residence, by First-Time Residents and Return Migrants, for Respondents to 1997 Survey**

Item	Return Migrants	First-Time Residents	Overall
	--Percent who said reason was <i>very</i> or <i>somewhat</i> important --		
Fear of crime	52.0	39.4	44.0
High cost of living	44.4	35.1	38.6
Unsafe place to live	42.2	31.6	35.5
High state and/or local taxes	38.2	29.8	33.0
Urban congestion	40.1	28.4	32.6
Poor schools	24.5	17.9	20.3
Long commute	25.9	15.0	19.0
Quality of the natural environment	22.4	13.9	17.0
Undesirable climate	20.4	14.1	16.4
Lack of outdoor recreational opportunities	13.7	11.5	12.3
Too close to relatives	8.7	13.1	11.4
Few cultural amenities	12.9	8.7	10.2
High cost of operating a business	9.2	4.7	6.4

When the responses of new residents to Nebraska and Washington are compared to the North Dakota responses, substantial similarities are evident. Fear of crime was the most frequently cited reason for leaving by new residents in all three states (Appendix Table 5). The high cost of living was the reason indicated with the second highest frequency by new residents of



Nebraska, like those in North Dakota, whereas new residents of Washington mentioned undesirable climate and urban congestion. In general, the responses by new residents in North Dakota and Nebraska were quite similar.

### Employment of New Residents

For some households, job-related considerations are central to the decision to relocate. Among the new North Dakota residents responding to the survey, 12 percent indicated that they had been transferred by their current employer, almost 10 percent had experienced a military transfer, 26 percent had accepted employment by a new employer, and 6 percent had moved in order to start or take over a business (Table 9). In addition, among those who moved with a spouse or partner, almost 11 percent indicated that their spouse/partner had been transferred by their current employer, 17 percent had received a military transfer, 23 percent had accepted employment by a new employer, and 7 percent moved to start/take over a business. Taking these job-related motivations together, about 65 percent of the households reported one or more of these job-related considerations as influencing their move. The percentage was slightly higher for first-time residents -- 69 percent of these households reported one or more job-related considerations. In particular, the percentages of military transfers were higher for this group (13.6% of respondents and 23.6% for spouses).

**Table 9. Job-Related Considerations for Moving to North Dakota, by First-Time Residents and Return Migrants, for Respondents to 1997 Survey**

Item	Return Migrants	First-Time Residents	Overall
	-----Percent -----		
Respondent:			
Transferred by current employer	13.6	11.4	12.1
Accepted employment by new employer	25.0	27.1	26.4
Start/take over a business	7.2	5.0	5.8
Military transfer	3.0	13.6	9.7
Spouse:			
Transferred by current employer	12.3	9.7	10.6
Accepted employment by new employer	26.4	21.5	23.2
Start/take over a business	7.3	6.6	6.9
Military transfer	3.7	23.6	17.0
One or more job-related considerations (respondent or spouse)	57.2	69.2	64.6

Responses concerning job-related reasons for moving are generally similar when compared with those of the new residents of Nebraska and Washington State (Appendix Table 6). The largest difference was in the smaller number of Washington respondents who had either been transferred by their current employer or had moved to take a job with a new employer. In Washington, 29 percent of respondents reported one of these reasons, compared to 43 percent in Nebraska and 38 percent in North Dakota. Among spouses, the comparable figures were 27 percent in Washington and 34 percent in both North Dakota and Nebraska. Military transfers were less common among both respondents and spouses in Nebraska than was the case in either North Dakota or Washington.

Job-related factors also influenced some households in their decision to leave their previous location. About 4.5 percent of respondents reported that they left in part because they had been laid off from their job, and 5 percent indicated that their spouse had been laid off (Table 10). About 4.8 percent of the respondents indicated that a decision to retire had been important in deciding to leave their previous residence, while 5.2 percent indicated their spouse's retirement had been a factor. About 4.5 percent of the respondents indicated that a consideration in leaving was that they could continue to work "long-distance" for the same employer or clients, while 3.1 percent of the spouses were able to continue working long-distance. The percent of employees who reported that they could continue to work long-distance was similar to those found in the survey of new residents of Nebraska (3% of respondents and 5% of spouses); however, Washington respondents more frequently reported the ability to work long-distance (9% of respondents and 8% of spouses).

**Table 10. Job-Related Factors Affecting Decisions to Leave Previous Location, by First-Time Residents and Return Migrants to North Dakota, for Respondents to 1997 Survey**

Item	Return Migrants	First-time Residents	Total
	-----percent-----		
Respondent:			
Laid off from job	5.8	3.6	4.5
Decided to retire	7.7	3.1	4.8
Could continue to work "long-distance" for same employer or clients	4.9	4.3	4.5
Spouse:			
Laid off from job	9.4	2.8	5.0
Decided to retire	8.6	3.5	5.2
Could continue to work "long-distance" for same employer or clients	3.7	2.8	3.1

About 67 percent of the survey respondents were employed full-time (35 hours or more per week) after moving to North Dakota (i.e., at the time of the survey), while another 12 percent were employed part-time, 6 percent were not employed but were looking for work, and 14 percent were not employed and were not looking for work (Table 11). The percentage of respondents who were not employed was greater after their move (20.7%) than before moving (16.6%). For spouses, the percentage who were not employed was similar before and after moving (20% after vs. 19.6% before).

Among the respondents, 6.3 percent reported that they were retired after moving, compared to 5.0 percent before moving, while the corresponding figures for spouses were 6 percent after and 4.9 percent before (Table 11). About 15 percent of the respondents had been full-time students before their move, compared to 8.5 percent after moving. Among spouses, the corresponding values were 9.7 percent before and 7.5 percent after moving. The percentage of respondents who were homemakers was higher after moving (15.9% vs. 13.5%), while the corresponding values for spouses decreased slightly (14.3% after vs. 14.6% before).

The percentage of respondents who were retired after moving was much higher for those living in rural communities than for those in urban centers (10.6% vs. 3.8%) (Table 12). The same relationship was found for spouses, 12.2 percent of those living in rural communities were retired, compared to only 3.2 percent in the urban centers. The percentage of respondents who were homemakers was slightly higher in rural communities than in urban centers (16.2% vs. 15.7%) while the percentage of spouses was considerably higher (20.3% vs. 12.3%). On the other hand, the percentage of respondents and spouses who were either full- or part-time students were substantially higher in the urban counties.

About 67 percent of the respondents were employed full-time, and this ranged from 69 percent in the regional trade centers to 65 percent in rural communities. Among spouses, 69 percent overall were employed full-time, ranging from 73 percent in urban centers to 59 percent in rural communities. In addition, 12 percent of respondents and 11 percent of spouses were employed part-time, with slightly higher percentages in rural communities. About 6 percent of the respondents were not employed but were looking for work, a situation generally referred to as being *unemployed*, as were 5 percent of the spouses. The percentages who were unemployed did not appear to vary substantially by place of residence (Table 12). About 14 percent of the respondents and 15 percent of the spouses were not employed and were not looking for work, a situation usually referred to as being *out of the labor force*. The percentage of respondents who were out of the labor force ranged from 14.1 percent in urban centers to 15.6 percent in rural communities, while the corresponding percentages for spouses were 11.7 percent in urban centers and 22.1 percent in rural counties.

About 9 percent of both respondents and spouses reported holding more than one job, with the percentages of multiple job holding being highest in rural communities and lowest in regional trade centers. About 10 percent of respondents and 11 percent of spouses reported being self-employed, with the percentages of self-employment being highest in rural communities and lowest in urban centers. The differences were substantial; among respondents, only 7 percent

were self-employed in urban centers compared to 17 percent in rural communities, while the corresponding percentages for spouses were 6 percent and 25 percent.

**Table 11. Employment of New Residents before and after Moving to North Dakota, Respondents to 1997 Survey**

Item	After Moving	Before Moving
	----- Percent -----	-----
Respondent is:		
Retired	6.3	5.0
A homemaker	15.9	13.5
Full-time student	6.2	12.1
Part-time student	2.3	3.0
None of the above	69.3	66.4
Spouse is:		
Retired	6.0	4.9
A homemaker	14.3	14.6
Full-time student	5.6	6.0
Part-time student	1.9	3.7
None of the above	72.2	70.8
Respondent is:		
Employed full-time (35+ hrs./week)	67.1	68.4
Employed part-time (<35 hrs./ week )	12.2	15.0
Not employed but looking for work	6.3	4.4
Not employed and not looking for work	14.4	12.2
Spouse is:		
Employed full-time (35+ hrs./week)	69.1	68.4
Employed part-time (<35 hrs./ week)	10.9	12.0
Not employed but looking for work	5.0	6.5
Not employed and not looking for work	15.0	13.1
Has More Than One Job:		
Respondent	9.2	14.5
Spouse	8.8	8.9
Respondent is self-employed (primary job)	9.7	8.4
Spouse is self-employed (primary job)	11.3	9.9

**Table 12. Employment of New Residents after Moving to North Dakota, by Place of Residence, for Respondents to 1997 Survey**

Item	Place of Residence			Overall
	Urban Centers	Regional Trade Centers	Rural Communities	
----- Percent -----				
Respondent is:				
Retired	3.8	9.8	10.6	6.3
A homemaker	15.7	16.1	16.2	15.9
Full-time student	7.6	6.3	2.5	6.2
Part-time student	2.9	0.9	1.9	2.3
None of the above	70.1	67.0	68.9	69.3
Spouse is:				
Retired	3.2	7.1	12.2	6.0
A homemaker	12.3	13.1	20.3	14.3
Full-time student	7.4	6.0	0.8	5.6
Part-time student	1.6	6.0	0.0	1.9
None of the above	75.5	67.9	66.7	72.2
Respondent is:				
Employed full-time (35+ hrs./week)	67.4	68.9	64.9	67.1
Employed part-time (<35 hrs./week)	11.7	12.3	13.6	12.2
Not employed but looking for work	6.9	4.7	5.8	6.3
Not employed and not looking for work	14.1	14.2	15.6	14.4
Spouse is:				
Employed full-time (35+ hrs./week)	73.1	68.7	59.0	69.1
Employed part-time (<35 hrs./week)	10.8	7.2	13.9	10.9
Not employed but looking for work	4.4	7.2	4.9	5.0
Not employed and not looking for work	11.7	16.9	22.1	15.0
Has More Than One Job:				
Respondent	9.5	3.4	12.8	9.2
Spouse	8.4	3.1	13.7	8.8
Respondent is self-employed (primary job)	7.2	9.3	17.1	9.7
Spouse is self-employed (primary job)	6.4	10.3	25.0	11.3

The relationship between employment and labor force status of respondents and their age was examined (Appendix Table 7). About 36 percent of respondents age 20 or less were full-time students while 21.5 percent of those 21 to 25 were full- or part-time students. The percentages who were students dropped to 8.2 percent for those age 26 to 30, 4.1 percent for those 31 to 50, and 3.2 percent for those 51 to 60. The percentages of respondents who were employed full-time was 41 percent among those age 20 or less, rising to 72 percent of those 21 to 25, 75 percent for those 26 to 30, and dropping slightly to 70 percent for those 31 to 50 and 63 percent for those 51 to 60. Only 13 percent of those over age 60 were employed full-time. The percentage of respondents employed part-time was 41 percent for those 20 and under, dropping to a low of 9.5 percent for those 31 to 50 and rising somewhat for older respondents. The percentage who were unemployed did not appear to be systematically related to age, while the percentage who were out of the labor force was lowest for workers in their 20s, rising slightly in the 31 to 50 age group, then increasing to 21 percent for those 51 to 60 and to 63 percent for those over 60.

When the results of the North Dakota survey are compared with those from Nebraska and Washington, the percentages of respondents and spouses who were employed vs. unemployed or not in the labor force were quite similar between North Dakota and Nebraska (Appendix Table 8). The major difference between the two states was that only 2 percent of Nebraska's respondents were unemployed at the time of the survey, compared to 6 percent in North Dakota. A comparison of those not employed but looking for work by length of time they have resided in North Dakota revealed that both the respondent and respondent's spouse were more likely to be unemployed and looking for work if they have lived here for 6 months or less (8 to 9% unemployed) vs. those that have been a resident for longer than 6 months (3 to 7% unemployed). The corresponding figures for spouses were 2 percent unemployed in Nebraska and 5 percent in North Dakota. When these results are compared with those of the Washington survey, substantially larger percentages of the Washington respondents and spouses were found to be either unemployed or out of the labor force.

## **Location of Work**

The new residents were also asked whether they normally work at home or elsewhere. About 9 percent of respondents and 8 percent of spouses reported that they normally work at home, whereas 79 percent of respondents and 77 percent of spouses work at a building or location elsewhere, and 12 percent of respondents and 14.5 percent of spouses reported that their work is done at no single location (Table 13). Working at home was closely associated with self-employment. Of those who were self-employed, 45 percent reported that they normally work at home, compared to only 2.9 percent of those who work for someone else.

The average one-way commuting distance for respondents and spouses was less than 10 miles (Table 13). The commuting distances were least for those who lived in or near regional trade centers. The average one-way commuting time was about 14 minutes for both respondents and spouses; commuting times were shortest for those who live in or near regional trade centers and longest for those who live in rural communities. Commuting distances and times tended to be shorter for female workers. About 78 percent of female workers reported that they commuted 5 miles or less and only 10 percent commuted more than 10 miles, whereas 61 percent of males commuted less than 5 miles and 22 percent commuted more than 10 miles. Similarly, 70 percent

**Table 13. Location of Work for Respondent and Spouse, by Place of Residence, Respondents to 1997 Survey**

Item	Unit	Place of Residence			Overall
		Urban Centers	Regional Trade Centers	Rural Communities	
Where Respondent Normally Works (primary job):					
At home	%	7.0	5.6	16.4	8.9
In building or location elsewhere	%	82.4	83.2	67.2	79.2
No single location	%	10.6	11.2	16.4	12.0
Where Spouse Normally Works:					
At home	%	6.4	3.3	16.1	8.1
In building or location elsewhere	%	81.4	86.9	60.2	77.3
No single location	%	12.3	9.8	23.7	14.5
Average One-Way Commuting Distance:					
Respondent	Miles	8.3	6.7	8.4	8.1
Spouse	Miles	9.5	5.3	13.8	9.9
Average One-Way Commuting Time:					
Respondent	Min.	13.3	10.3	19.0	13.8
Spouse	Min.	13.8	10.8	16.9	14.0
Respondent Sometimes Works At Home:					
	%	27.9	19.3	36.9	28.5
Spouse Sometimes Works At Home:					
	%	25.2	18.0	36.2	26.7
Percent of Work Done at Home:					
Respondent	%	9.4	6.3	18.3	10.8
Spouse	%	8.1	2.8	22.8	10.6

**Table 13. Continued**

Item	Unit	Place of Residence			Overall
		Urban Centers	Regional Trade Centers	Rural Communities	
Is Respondent a Telecommuter?					
No, not at all	%	94.2	96.8	91.9	94.1
Yes, one day or less per week	%	2.8	3.2	3.0	2.9
Yes, 2-3 days per week	%	1.1	0.0	2.2	1.2
Yes, full time	%	1.9	0.0	3.0	1.9
Is Spouse a Telecommuter?					
No, not at all	%	92.6	98.5	92.3	93.4
Yes, one day or less per week	%	3.3	1.5	3.9	3.2
Yes, 2-3 days per week	%	1.9	0.0	1.9	1.6
Yes, full time	%	2.2	0.0	1.9	1.8
Respondent and/or Spouse Operate a Business out of the Home					
	%	10.5	13.8	22.8	13.8

of female workers commuted less than 10 minutes (compared to 59 percent of males), and only 9 percent commuted more than 20 minutes (compared to 17 percent of males).

About 28 percent of the respondents and 27 percent of the spouses reported that they sometimes work at home (Table 13). The response to this question was substantially different for those who were self-employed (72% sometimes work at home) compared to those who work for someone else (only 23% sometimes work at home). Both respondents and spouses reported that an average of 11 percent of their work was done at home. Among those who were self-employed, 51 percent reported that they did 50 percent or more of their work at home, whereas 86 percent of those who work for someone else reported that they do less than 10 percent of their work at home.

Another question concerned whether the respondent or spouse was a telecommuter. Recently, the phenomenon of telecommuting, whereby individuals do some or all of their work at home and use telecommunications to stay in touch with the office or clients, has attracted increasing attention by policy makers (Mokhtarian 1998). Overall, about 6 percent of respondents and 7 percent of spouses reported that they were telecommuters. About 2 percent of each group reported that they were full-time telecommuters (Table 13). Telecommuting was somewhat more common for those who lived in rural communities (about 8 % of respondents and spouses reported some telecommuting). In comparison, a recent study estimates that 6.1 percent of the workforce nationwide is currently telecommuting (Mokhtarian 1998).



In a related question, respondents were asked whether the availability of technologies such as personal computers, fax machines, modems, and/or other telecommunications services had any effect on their decision to live in North Dakota. Overall, about 3.8 percent indicated that these technologies influenced their decision to move, ranging from 2.7 percent for those living in or near regional trade centers to 5.6 percent for those living in rural communities. By comparison, 4 percent of the respondents to the Washington survey, but only 2 percent of respondents to the Nebraska survey, indicated that telecommunications technologies influenced their decision to move.

In about 14 percent of the households contacted, either the respondent, the spouse, or both operated a business out of their home. This percentage was much higher for those living in rural communities (23%) than for those living in urban centers (11%).

### **Equipment and Services Used at Work**

The new residents also were queried concerning types of equipment and services they use at work (Table 14). About 81 percent of respondents and 80 percent of their spouses use a computer with keyboard at work. Other equipment used by a majority of respondents and spouses included fax machine or modem (67% of respondents and 64% of spouses), telephone answering machine or voice mail (61% of both respondents and spouses), and computer modem (55% of respondents and 60% of spouses).

The rates of use reported for most of the equipment or services listed were lower for those living in rural communities. For instance, only 66 percent of respondents in rural communities reported using a computer with keyboard, compared to 86 percent in urban centers. Similarly, only 52 percent of rural residents reported using a fax machine, compared to 71 percent of those who live in or near urban centers. Electronic mail was a service that is used more than twice as frequently by residents of urban centers than by those in rural communities (Table 14). On the other hand, there was relatively little difference in use of telephone answering service/voice mail or cellular telephone. The use of overnight or courier delivery service was substantially higher for those who live in or near regional trade centers than for residents of either urban centers or rural communities.

**Table 14. Equipment and Services Used at Work by New Residents, by Place of Residence, Respondents to 1997 Survey**

Item	Place of Residence			Overall
	Urban Centers	Regional Trade Centers	Rural Communities	
----- Percent using each item -----				
Computer with keyboard:				
Respondent	85.8	84.7	66.0	81.2
Spouse	86.4	76.5	64.5	80.0
Computer modem:				
Respondent	57.8	62.5	43.4	55.3
Spouse	65.3	56.9	46.1	59.7
Fax machine or fax modem:				
Respondent	70.7	73.6	51.9	66.9
Spouse	68.1	70.6	47.4	63.8
Overnight or courier delivery service for products:				
Respondent	39.6	57.8	34.0	41.1
Spouse	42.1	47.1	35.5	41.4
Overnight or courier delivery of supplies:				
Respondent	40.5	50.7	38.7	41.6
Spouse	41.3	49.0	29.0	39.7
Electronic mail:				
Respondent	52.3	49.3	24.5	45.5
Spouse	60.1	41.2	25.0	49.4
Internet:				
Respondent	41.9	33.8	22.6	36.3
Spouse	45.1	25.5	23.7	37.4
Answering service or voice mail:				
Respondent	60.0	62.0	64.2	61.2
Spouse	63.9	54.9	56.6	60.9
Cellular telephone:				
Respondent	37.7	41.7	40.6	39.0
Spouse	38.5	37.2	39.5	38.5
Conference telephone capability:				
Respondent	36.8	52.1	28.3	37.2
Spouse	35.7	37.2	15.8	31.5

## Living Arrangements

About 30 percent of the new residents reported that they moved to North Dakota alone, while 70 percent moved with others (Table 15). About 66 percent moved with a spouse or partner, and 40 percent moved with children. The percentage who moved alone was substantially higher among those who live in urban centers (32%) than for those who live in rural communities (22%). About 13 percent of the respondents reported that they had relocated since initially moving to North Dakota.

More than 82 percent of the respondents reported living within the city limits of a town or city, while about 13 percent lived outside of town but within 15 minutes travel time, and 5 percent lived more than 15 minutes from town. Interestingly, even for residents of rural counties, only 6 percent lived more than 15 minutes from the nearest town (Table 15).

**Table 15. Living Arrangements and Moves within North Dakota, by Place of Residence, for Respondents to 1997 Survey**

Item	Place of Residence			Overall
	Urban Centers	Regional Trade Centers	Rural Communities	
-----Percent-----				
Respondent Moved to North Dakota:				
Alone	31.8	32.4	22.0	29.7
With others	68.2	67.6	78.0	70.3
Moved with spouse or partner	63.4	66.7	73.7	66.2
Moved with children	38.6	37.1	45.4	39.9
Respondent has relocated since moving to North Dakota				
	12.1	15.3	14.5	13.1
Location of Current Residence:				
Inside city limits	84.2	89.4	71.6	82.2
Less than 15 minutes outside city limits	10.0	8.0	22.8	12.6
More than 15 minutes outside city limits	5.8	2.7	5.6	5.2
Own or Rent Current Home:				
Own	36.7	47.8	46.3	40.7
Rent	48.5	44.3	35.8	44.9
Other	14.9	8.0	17.9	14.5

About 41 percent of the respondents owned their current home, 45 percent rented, and 14.5 percent had other housing arrangements (which included military base housing, university dormitories, and living with parents). Home ownership was somewhat less common for those who lived in or near urban centers.

### Family Income

New residents were asked to estimate their total family income for the first year after moving and the last year before moving. Income for the first year after moving covered a broad range, with 11 percent of respondents reporting a total income of \$10,000 or less and 19 percent reporting \$10,000 to \$19,999, while 14 percent had incomes of \$50,000 to \$74,999 and about 9 percent reported incomes of \$75,000 or more (Table 16).

**Table 16. Family Income After and Before Moving to North Dakota, by Place of Residence, for Respondents to 1997 Survey**

Item	Place of Residence			Overall
	Urban Centers	Regional Trade Centers	Rural Communities	
	----- Percent -----			
Family Income the first year after Moving:				
Less than \$10,000	9.0	17.9	12.1	11.1
\$10,000 -- \$19,999	16.0	22.1	24.3	18.8
\$20,000 -- \$29,999	22.2	14.7	22.1	21.1
\$30,000 -- \$39,999	17.1	15.8	13.6	16.1
\$40,000 -- \$49,999	10.1	10.5	11.4	10.5
\$50,000 -- \$74,999	14.0	12.6	13.6	13.7
\$75,000 or more	11.6	6.3	2.9	8.8
Family Income the year before Moving:				
Less than \$10,000	8.6	15.8	11.6	10.4
\$10,000 -- \$19,999	19.3	16.8	18.4	18.7
\$20,000 -- \$29,999	20.1	14.7	17.7	18.7
\$30,000 -- \$39,999	15.9	13.7	15.7	15.5
\$40,000 -- \$49,999	8.3	14.7	13.6	10.5
\$50,000 -- \$74,999	14.1	13.7	15.7	14.4
\$75,000 or more	13.8	10.5	7.5	11.8

The percentage of respondents in the lowest income groups was slightly greater after moving; 29.9 percent of respondents had incomes less than \$20,000 after moving compared to 29.1 percent before moving. The percentage of respondents in the highest income categories was somewhat lower after moving; 22.5 percent of respondents reported incomes of \$50,000 or more after moving compared to 26.2 percent before moving. Not surprisingly, a substantially greater share (more than 70 %) of those North Dakota in-migrants with household income levels of more than \$50,000 were college graduates, were married, and resided in urban areas of the state (Appendix Table 9). Slightly more than one-half of the respondents who made more than \$50,000 in annual income were less than 40 years of age.

The results with respect to income levels before and after moving were similar to those of the Nebraska and Washington surveys. In Nebraska, 30 percent of households had incomes of less than \$20,000 after moving, compared to 28 percent before, and 23 percent had incomes of \$50,000 or more after moving, compared to 26 percent before. In Washington, 37 percent of households had incomes of less than \$20,000 after moving, compared to 31 percent before, and 24 percent had incomes of \$50,000 or more after moving, compared to 29 percent before.

The respondents also were queried concerning assistance they might have received during or after their move. About 35 percent of the respondents reported that they and/or their spouse/partner had received moving expenses from their employer, ranging from about 40 percent for those living in urban centers to 26 percent for those in rural communities. About 4 percent reported that they and/or their spouse/partner had received state unemployment assistance, ranging from 3 percent in urban centers to 5 percent in regional trade centers. About 5 percent of the respondent households had received state welfare assistance, ranging from 3 percent in urban centers to 7 percent in rural communities. About 7 percent of households reported receiving either unemployment or welfare assistance, or both, and this ranged from 5 percent in urban centers to 9 percent in rural communities and almost 10 percent in regional trade centers.

### **Telecommunications and Computer Equipment in Home**

New residents were asked about telecommunications and computer-related equipment and services that were available in their homes. Almost 99 percent had touch tone telephones, and 96 percent had VCR players, while about 85 percent had a telephone answering machine (Table 17). About 75 percent of respondents had cable TV while 11 percent had TV satellite dishes. About 58 percent of the respondents had personal computers, and 45 percent had computer modems. Equipment and services reported by smaller percentages of respondents included fax machine (19%), non-local electronic mail service (16.7%), local electronic mail service (17.3%), multiple phone lines (14.4%), and incoming toll-free 800 number (9.9%).

The prevalence of some types of equipment or services in homes appeared to be related to the respondents' place of residence, while others were relatively uniform in their distribution. For example, touch tone phones were reported by more than 98 percent of homes in rural communities as well as 99 percent of those in urban centers. Likewise, VCR players were reported in nearly 95 percent of the homes in regional trade centers, 96 percent of those in rural communities, and 97 percent of those in urban centers. Items found more often in urban centers included telephone answering machines, cable TV, personal computers and modems, fax

**Table 17. Types of Telecommunications and Computer Related Equipment in Homes of 1997 Survey Respondents, by Place of Residence**

Item	Place of Residence			Overall
	Urban Centers	Regional Trade Centers	Rural Communities	
----- Percent who have item in home-----				
Touch tone telephone	99.3	98.2	98.1	98.9
VCR player	97.0	94.6	95.7	96.3
Telephone answering machine	89.3	76.2	78.1	84.7
Cable TV	80.4	69.1	63.7	74.8
TV satellite dish	6.6	9.4	23.4	10.9
Personal computer	61.6	50.9	53.8	58.2
FAX machine	21.1	15.1	15.8	19.0
Computer modem	49.5	34.9	39.2	44.9
More than one phone line	15.3	9.5	15.1	14.4
Subscribe to non-local electronic mail service (e.g., America On-Line, CompuServe)	20.8	7.5	12.0	16.7
Subscribe to local electronic mail service	20.4	15.7	10.1	17.3
Incoming toll-free 800 number	8.9	9.3	13.1	9.9
-----				
Telephone service available to home prevents use of one or more of these services				
Yes	7.0	9.2	15.5	9.3
Don't Know	6.3	9.2	13.7	8.4

machines, and electronic mail service. On the other hand, TV satellite dishes and incoming toll-free 800 numbers were more often reported in rural communities. In many cases, the differences between urban centers and rural communities were relatively small. For example, 54 percent of homes in rural communities reported personal computers (compared to 62% in urban centers), 39 percent had computer modems (49.5% in urban centers), and 78 percent had telephone answering machines (compared to 89% in urban centers).

About 9 percent of the respondents reported that the telephone service available to their home would limit their ability to utilize one or more of the services listed. This percentage was more than twice as high in rural communities (15.5%) compared to urban centers (7%). In addition, about 8 percent of respondents indicated that they did not know whether their telephone service would limit them. This percentage ranged from 6 percent in urban centers to 13 percent in rural communities.

When the responses to these questions were compared with those for the new residents of Nebraska, the results were quite similar (Appendix Table 10).

### **Public Services and Community Amenities**

Survey respondents evaluated a variety of public services and community amenities. For each item that is available in their community, the respondents indicated their degree of satisfaction, ranging from very satisfied to very dissatisfied. The services that were most often reported as being unavailable were public transportation (12.5% said it was unavailable in their community), nursing home care (5.3%), mental health services (5.2%), Head Start programs (5.1%), retail shopping (3.7%), library services (3.6%), senior centers (3.2%), and solid waste disposal (3.0%) (Table 18). Each of these services was most frequently reported as unavailable by respondents residing in rural communities. For example, public transportation was reported as unavailable by 32.5 percent of respondents from rural communities, compared to 4.2 percent of those in urban centers. Similarly, nursing home care was reported as unavailable by 15.6 percent of rural community respondents, compared to 2.4 percent of those in urban centers; Head Start programs were unavailable to 16.6 percent of rural community respondents (compared to 2.2% in urban centers), and mental health services were unavailable to 14.9 percent of rural residents (compared to 2.6% in urban centers).

Among the respondents for whom the various services were available, more than 96 percent of those expressing an opinion were either satisfied or very satisfied with fire protection (Table 19). Other services with which 90 percent or more of the residents were somewhat or very satisfied included sewage disposal, water, solid waste disposal, senior centers, nursing home care, emergency medical services, and church or civic activities. The services with which the lowest percentages of respondents were somewhat or very satisfied were entertainment (59% were somewhat or very satisfied), streets and highways (60%), retail shopping (65.5%), and public transportation (67.6%).

The percentages of respondents who were somewhat or very satisfied with these services was generally higher in the urban centers than in rural communities, although this was not always the case. About 68 percent of urban center residents were somewhat or very satisfied with entertainment, for instance, compared to only 39 percent of rural community residents.

**Table 18. Respondents' Evaluations of Availability of Public Services and Community Amenities, by Place of Residence, Respondents to 1997 Survey**

Item	Place of Residence			Overall
	Urban Centers	Regional Trade Centers	Rural Communities	
	----- Percent reporting service as <i>unavailable</i> -----			
Housing	0.0	0.0	7.5	1.7
Streets and highways	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.1
Sewage disposal	1.4	0.9	5.6	2.3
Water	1.2	0.9	7.5	2.6
Solid waste disposal	1.2	0.9	9.4	3.0
Law enforcement	0.2	0.0	2.5	0.7
Fire protection	0.2	0.0	1.3	0.4
Parks and recreation	0.2	0.0	3.7	1.0
Library services	0.9	2.7	11.2	3.6
Education (K-12)	1.7	0.9	4.4	2.2
Public transportation	4.2	15.5	32.5	12.5
Head Start programs	2.2	0.0	16.6	5.1
Day care services	1.2	0.0	9.5	2.9
Senior centers	2.6	0.9	6.3	3.2
Nursing home care	2.4	0.9	15.6	5.3
Emergency medical services	0.9	0.0	3.7	1.4
Basic medical care services	0.9	0.0	7.5	2.3
Mental health services	2.6	0.9	14.9	5.2
Retail shopping	1.6	0.9	11.2	3.7
Restaurants	0.5	0.0	3.1	1.0
Entertainment	0.9	0.9	9.4	2.9
County government	0.9	0.0	3.7	1.4
City/village government	0.9	0.0	5.0	1.7
Church or civic activities	0.2	0.0	1.9	0.6

Similarly, 77.5 percent of urban center dwellers were satisfied with the retail shopping available in the community, compared to 42 percent of those who lived in rural communities, and 75.5 percent of urban center residents were satisfied with public transportation, compared to 50 percent of those living in rural communities. On the other hand, rural community residents were more satisfied with roads and streets than their counterparts who lived in or near larger communities. About 73 percent of rural community residents were satisfied or very satisfied with



streets and highways, compared to 35 percent of those who live in or near regional trade centers and 62 percent of those who live in or near urban centers (Table 19).

**Table 19. Respondent's Evaluations of Public Services and Community Amenities, by Place of Residence, for Respondents to 1997 Survey**

Item	Place of Residence			Overall
	Urban Centers	Regional Trade Centers	Rural Communities	
	-- Percent of those expressing an opinion <sup>1</sup> who were very or somewhat satisfied-----			
Housing	77.9	67.0	76.0	75.7
Streets and highways	61.6	35.3	73.4	60.0
Sewage disposal	95.3	85.3	87.3	91.9
Water	94.7	87.4	89.2	92.3
Solid waste disposal	92.9	85.7	90.4	91.1
Law enforcement	92.4	81.7	81.8	88.5
Fire protection	98.2	91.9	93.6	96.3
Parks and recreation	87.6	78.4	90.5	86.7
Library services	91.7	74.2	71.5	84.5
Education (K-12)	92.7	78.7	89.2	89.5
Public transportation	75.5	55.3	50.0	67.6
Head Start programs	90.0	77.1	82.2	86.6
Day care services	83.2	67.6	79.9	79.9
Senior centers	94.0	83.0	89.6	90.2
Nursing home care	94.1	81.8	90.4	90.7
Emergency medical services	95.0	92.9	82.4	91.4
Basic medical care services	94.9	83.7	79.1	89.6
Mental health services	92.0	80.0	75.6	85.8
Retail shopping	77.5	49.0	42.0	65.5
Restaurants	79.3	59.6	55.8	71.7
Entertainment	67.6	46.9	38.9	59.0
County government	85.2	61.4	77.0	79.4
City/village government	83.1	51.5	73.8	75.4
Church or civic activities	92.9	89.2	93.2	92.5

<sup>1</sup> Respondents who indicated that they had "no opinion" or who indicated the service was "not available" are excluded.

## CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

Recent employment growth appears to be stimulating increased in-migration to some of North Dakota's rural communities, as well as to the state's larger cities, and additional in-migration is likely to be critical to sustain the state's momentum in economic development. Understanding the characteristics of the new residents, their motivations for moving, and their expectations regarding and satisfaction with their new community is important for state and local decision makers. This study addresses these needs by describing basic socioeconomic characteristics of new residents to North Dakota, the factors motivating their move, and their satisfaction with the North Dakota communities where they live.

The new residents who responded to the survey were generally younger than the North Dakota population overall. About two-thirds were between 21 and 40 years old. The educational level of the migrants was also higher than that of the state's population overall, as 47 percent of the new residents were college graduates and additional 35 percent reported some college or post-secondary vocational/trade school attendance. Thus, these new residents are augmenting population strata that were severely depleted by the out-migration of the 1980s.

About 48 percent of the new residents had previous ties to North Dakota. About 37 percent had lived here previously, while another 11 percent indicated that their parents or grandparents live in the state, or had lived here at one time.

While 42 percent of the new residents came from adjacent states (24 percent from Minnesota alone), the other 58 percent came from a broad cross-section of states, with no single region predominating. An implication appears to be that North Dakota can attract new residents from many parts of the country.

The new residents generally appeared happy with their new communities and their reception there. About 90 percent indicated that they felt welcome or very welcome, and about two-thirds said that, if they had it to do over again, they would probably or definitely move to North Dakota. When asked to rate their communities based on whether they are friendly, trusting, and supportive, the respondents gave relatively favorable ratings on each dimension. New residents in both rural communities and urban centers gave their respective communities higher ratings on each attribute than did those living in or near regional trade centers.

When asked about their reasons for moving to North Dakota, the new residents most often mentioned: looking for a safer place to live (59.5%), closer to relatives (50%), quality of the natural environment (49.5%), lower cost of living (48%), outdoor recreational opportunities (38%), and quality of local grade/high schools (35%). These factors could be emphasized by those seeking to encourage individuals or businesses to relocate to North Dakota.

New job opportunities or transfers were central to many new residents' decisions to relocate. About 65 percent of the new resident households indicated that a new job or business opportunity, a transfer by a current employer, or a military transfer had been a key factor influencing their decision to move.

Following their move to North Dakota, about 67 percent of respondents and 69 percent of their spouses or partners were employed full-time, while 12 percent of respondents and 11 percent of spouses were employed part-time. About 10 percent of respondents and 11 percent of spouses were self-employed, with the percentages of self-employment being highest in rural communities. About 9 percent of each respondents and spouses overall reported holding more than one job, with the percentages of multiple job holding being highest in rural communities. About 9 percent of respondents and 8 percent of spouses reported that they normally work at home, whereas 79 percent on respondents and 77 percent of spouses work at a fixed location elsewhere. The remainder (roughly 12% of respondents and 15% of spouses) reported that their work is done at no single location.

The new residents reported using a variety of telecommunications capabilities at work. The most commonly reported items were computer with keyboard (81% of respondents and 80% of spouses), fax machine or modem (67% of respondents and 64% of spouses), answering machine or voice mail (61% of both), and computer modem (55% of respondents and 60% of spouses).

About 30 percent of the new residents moved to North Dakota alone, while 70 percent moved with others. About 66 percent moved with a spouse or partner and 40 percent moved with children. About 41 percent owned their current home, 45 percent rented, and 14 percent reported other housing arrangements. Household incomes covered a broad range, with about 30 percent reporting an income of \$20,000 or less the first year after moving while 23 percent had incomes over \$50,000. The percentage of households with incomes less than \$20,000 was slightly higher after moving than before, and the percentage with incomes over \$50,000 was slightly lower.

Most of the new residents had a number of telecommunications and computer-related capabilities available in their homes. Almost 99 percent had touch tone telephones, 96 percent had VCR players, 85 percent had telephone answering machines, 58 percent had personal computers, and 45 percent had computer modems. About 9 percent reported that the telephone service available to their home would limit the use of some telecommunications services or capabilities, and this percentage was more than twice as high in rural communities (15.5%) compared to urban centers (7%).

The new residents were asked to evaluate a variety of public services and community amenities. Some services were unavailable to a substantial number of respondents. For example, public transportation was unavailable to 12.5 percent of respondents overall (32.5% in rural communities), nursing home care was viewed as unavailable by 5.3 percent (15.6% in rural communities), mental health care was unavailable to 5.2 percent overall (14.9% in rural communities), and Head Start programs were unavailable to 5.1 percent (16.6% in rural communities). Among those to whom services were available, satisfaction with the various services varied. Of those who expressed an opinion, more than 96 percent were satisfied with fire protection, and more than 90 percent were satisfied with water, sewer, solid waste disposal, emergency medical services, church or civic activities, senior centers, and nursing home care. On the other hand, the respondents were less satisfied with entertainment (only 59% were very or somewhat satisfied), streets and highways (60%), retail shopping (66%), and public transportation (68%). These may be areas for attention by state and local decision makers.

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# **Appendix A**

## **Appendix Tables**

**Appendix Table 1. Selected Characteristics of North Dakota Residents and In-migrants, by Metro and Nonmetro Residence**

Characteristic	Residents (1990 Census)			In-migrants (survey)		
	Total	Metro	Nonmetro	Total	Metro	Nonmetro
	-----percent-----					
Population	100	40.3	59.7	100	48.9	51.1
Age:						
Under 40	62.3	67.9	58.5	69.3	72.5	66.2
40-59	19.2	18.6	19.5	25.6	22.0	29.1
60 and over	18.5	13.5	21.9	5.1	5.5	4.7
Education for persons 25 and over:						
High school or less	51.4	41.4	57.6	17.7	12.7	22.5
Some college	20.5	22.9	19.0	35.1	34.4	36.1
College graduate	28.1	35.6	23.4	47.3	52.9	41.4
Sex:						
Male	49.8	49.8	49.8	45.0	47.9	41.6
Female	50.2	50.2	50.2	55.0	52.1	58.4
Marital Status for persons 15 and over:						
Married	59.1	55.6	61.4	68.4	63.2	73.3
Never married	25.4	29.7	22.4	18.5	25.0	12.4
Divorced/separated	7.9	9.0	7.2	12.3	11.5	12.9
Widowed	7.7	5.7	9.0	0.8	0.3	1.4
Race:						
White	94.7	96.7	93.3	92.8	94.1	91.0
Black	0.6	0.7	0.5	1.8	1.5	2.2
Native American or Alaskan Native	4.0	1.5	5.6	1.7	0.6	2.8
Asian or Pacific Islander	0.5	0.8	0.3	1.7	1.8	1.4
Other	0.3	0.3	0.3	2.0	2.1	2.0

**Appendix Table 2. Selected Characteristics of New Residents of North Dakota, Nebraska, and Washington, by Metro and Nonmetro Residence**

Characteristic	<u>North Dakota</u>			<u>Nebraska</u>			<u>Washington</u>		
	Total	Metro	Nonmetro	Total	Metro	Nonmetro	Total	Metro	Nonmetro
-----Percent-----									
State of Origin:									
Adjacent	42	48	35	41	36	46	17	15	26
Other	58	52	65	59	64	53	83	85	74
Age:									
Less than 40	69	72	66	59	62	56	63	65	53
40-59	26	22	29	31	32	31	27	26	34
60 and over	5	6	5	10	7	13	10	9	13
Respondent Education:									
High school or less	18	13	22	21	15	27	19	18	25
Some college	35	34	36	34	33	36	40	39	44
College graduate	47	53	41	44	51	37	42	44	31
Spouse Education:									
High school or less	19	16	21	25	16	33	21	19	33
Some college	37	32	42	33	34	32	37	37	36
College graduate	44	52	37	42	50	35	42	44	31
Annual Income Before Move:									
Less than \$20,000	29	28	30	28	24	33	31	30	36
\$20,000 to \$50,000	45	42	47	46	43	48	41	40	41
Over \$50,000	26	30	22	26	32	19	29	30	23

**Appendix Table 2. Continued**

Characteristic	<u>North Dakota</u>			<u>Nebraska</u>			<u>Washington</u>		
	Total	Metro	Nonmetro	Total	Metro	Nonmetro	Total	Metro	Nonmetro
	-----Percent-----								
Annual Income After Move:									
Less than \$20,000	30	24	36	30	20	41	37	35	44
\$20,000 to \$50,000	48	48	47	47	48	47	40	40	39
Over \$50,000	22	29	16	23	33	13	24	25	17
Sex:									
Female	55	52	58	55	53	56	50	49	54
Male	45	48	42	45	47	44	50	51	46



**Appendix Table 3. Respondents' Rating of their Nebraska Community as Friendly, Trusting, and Supportive, by Place of Residence**

Community is:	Mean Scores <sup>1</sup>		
	Friendly	Trusting	Supportive
Overall	2.7	3.0	3.1
Metropolitan counties	2.7	2.9	3.1
Large trade center counties	2.9	3.0	3.2
Small trade center counties	2.9	3.1	3.2
Rural counties	2.5	2.9	2.7
Frontier counties	2.6	2.9	2.9

<sup>1</sup>Based on a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 is the most favorable.

**Appendix Table 4. Reasons for Moving to State for New Residents of North Dakota, Nebraska, and Washington, by Metro and Nonmetro Residence**

Item	<u>North Dakota</u>			<u>Nebraska</u>			<u>Washington</u>		
	Total	Metro	Nonmetro	Total	Metro	Nonmetro	Total	Metro	Nonmetro
	-----Percent who said reason was <i>very</i> or <i>somewhat</i> important -----								
To be closer to relatives	49	50	50	53	48	59	46	44	53
To obtain training/education	23	28	19	22	25	19	28	28	24
To lower cost of living	48	44	52	44	42	46	34	33	42
Desirable climate	17	15	19	23	17	28	57	56	61
Quality of the natural environment	49	47	51	41	37	45	70	70	71
Outdoor recreational opportunities	38	38	38	30	26	34	64	64	67
Looking for a safer place to live	59	58	61	51	45	58	51	50	59
Quality of local grade/high schools	34	34	35	35	31	38	28	28	27
More cultural opportunities	16	15	17	17	18	15	33	34	27
To get more affordable health care	15	15	15	14	14	15	15	14	17
To lower cost of operating a business	5	4	7	6	6	6	7	6	8

**Appendix Table 5. Reasons for Moving from Previous Residence for New Residents of North Dakota, Nebraska, and Washington, by Metro and Nonmetro Residence**

Item	<u>North Dakota</u>			<u>Nebraska</u>			<u>Washington</u>		
	Total	Metro	Nonmetro	Total	Metro	Nonmetro	Total	Metro	Nonmetro
	-----Percent who said reason was <i>very</i> or <i>somewhat</i> important -----								
High cost of living	39	31	46	38	32	45	36	35	41
Fear of crime	44	41	47	41	36	47	43	43	47
Undesirable climate	16	16	17	18	16	20	39	39	40
Urban congestion	33	31	34	34	31	36	39	38	45
High state and/or local taxes	33	32	33	23	21	25	32	32	34
Lack of outdoor recreational opportunities	12	12	12	8	7	10	26	25	27
Long commute	19	22	16	18	19	18	21	21	21
Poor schools	20	17	23	21	21	22	22	22	22
High cost of operating a business	6	5	8	7	5	9	10	10	11
Too close to relatives	11	9	13	10	10	10	*	*	*
place to live	36	34	37	34	30	38	*	*	*
Quality of the natural environment	17	17	17	17	16	19	*	*	*
Few cultural amenities	10	8	12	12	13	10	*	*	*

\* These questions were not included in the Washington State survey.

**Appendix Table 6. Job-Related Considerations for Moving to North Dakota, Nebraska, and Washington**

Item	North Dakota	Nebraska	Washington	
			-----Percent -----	
Respondent:				
Transferred by current employer		12	11	9
Accepted employment by new employer		26	32	20
Start/take over a business		6	6	7
Military transfer		10	4	9
Spouse:				
Transferred by current employer		11	12	9
Accepted employment by new employer		23	22	9
Start/take over a business		7	6	6
Military transfer		17	5	13

**Appendix Table 7. Employment and Labor Force Status by Respondent Age, Respondents to 1997 Survey**

Item	Age					
	20 or less	21-25	26-30	31-50	51-60	over 60
	----- percent -----					
Respondent is:						
Retired	0	0	0	1.2	23.0	69.7
A homemaker	18.2	9.9	13.4	19.6	14.8	9.1
Full-time student	36.4	16.5	6.7	1.9	1.6	0.0
Part-time student	0.0	5.0	1.5	2.2	1.6	3.0
None of these	45.5	68.6	78.4	75.1	59.0	18.2
Respondent is:						
Employed full-time	40.9	71.9	75.2	69.7	63.2	13.3
Employed part-time	40.9	13.2	10.5	9.5	14.0	16.7
Not employed but looking for work	0.0	6.6	3.8	8.5	1.8	6.7
Not employed and not looking for work	18.2	8.2	10.5	12.3	21.1	63.3

**Appendix Table 8. Labor Force and Other Characteristics of New Residents of North Dakota, Nebraska, and Washington, by Metro and Nonmetro Residence**

Item	<u>North Dakota</u>			<u>Nebraska</u>			<u>Washington</u>		
	Total	Metro	Nonmetro	Total	Metro	Nonmetro	Total	Metro	Nonmetro
	-----Percent-----								
Labor Force Status:									
<u>Respondent</u>									
<b>In Labor Force<sup>1</sup></b>									
Employed full-time	67	70	65	68	70	65	59	62	48
Employed part-time	12	11	13	15	16	14	13	12	16
Unemployed	6	6	6	2	1	4	12	11	14
<b>Not in Labor Force</b>	14	13	16	15	13	17	16	15	22
<u>Spouse</u>									
<b>In Labor Force</b>									
Employed full-time	69	72	67	69	72	67	56	57	54
Employed part-time	11	11	11	15	16	12	12	12	10
Unemployed	5	5	5	2	2	2	10	11	10
<b>Not in Labor Force</b>	15	12	17	18	17	18	22	21	27
Employment Status:									
<u>Respondent</u>									
Has more than one job	9	8	10	15	15	15	10	10	12
Self-employed	10	7	12	13	10	16	12	11	16
<u>Spouse</u>									
Has more than one job	9	9	9	13	12	13	9	9	10
Self-employed	11	7	15	16	11	20	14	13	15

**Appendix Table 8. Continued**

Item	<u>North Dakota</u>			<u>Nebraska</u>			<u>Washington</u>		
	Total	Metro	Nonmetro	Total	Metro	Nonmetro	Total	Metro	Nonmetro
	-----Percent -----								
Other:									
<u>Respondent</u>									
Retired	6	5	7	11	9	14	9	8	15
Homemaker	16	12	19	13	12	15	13	13	14
Full-time student	6	8	5	6	7	5	5	5	7
Part-time student	2	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	2
<u>Spouse</u>									
Retired	6	5	7	7	4	11	9	7	15
Homemaker	14	12	16	17	17	18	19	20	18
Full-time student	6	7	5	3	2	3	6	6	4
Part-time student	2	0	3	3	6	1	2	2	2

"Full-time": employed at least 35 hours per week; "Part-time": employed less than 35 hours per week ; "Unemployed": not employed and looking for work; "Not in labor force": not employed and not looking for work.

**Appendix Table 9. Annual Household Income of New Residents After Moving to North Dakota, by Trade Area Classification, Age, Education, and Marital Status**

	Annual Household Income			
	Total	Less than \$20,000	\$20,000 to \$50,000	Over \$50,000
	----- Percent -----			
Trade Area Classification:				
Urban	62	52	65	71
Regional trade center	15	20	13	13
Rural	23	28	22	16
Respondent Age:				
Less than 40	70	75	73	58
40-59	25	20	23	36
60 and over	5	5	4	6
Respondent Education:				
High school or less	18	27	17	9
Some college	34	42	36	20
College graduate	48	31	47	71
Spouse Education:				
High school or less	19	35	15	11
Some college	37	43	42	23
College graduate	44	22	43	66
Have Spouse or Partner:				
Yes	77	63	80	91
No	22	36	20	9
Don't know	1	1	0	0



# **Appendix B**

## **Questionnaire**

WELCOME

# New Residents Survey

conducted by

**Center for Rural Community  
Revitalization & Development -  
University of Nebraska**

**Nebraska Rural Development Commission**

**Nebraska Department of Economic Development**

**Partnership for Rural Nebraska**

**Q1. In what month and year did you move to (or back to) North Dakota?**

\_\_\_\_\_MONTH and \_\_\_\_\_YEAR

**Q2. Are you a first time North Dakota resident?** *(Please circle number of your answer.)*

1. YES

2. NO ----->

**Q3. (If No) What year did you leave North Dakota to live someplace else?**

\_\_\_\_\_ YEAR

**Q4. (If No) Altogether, how many years have you lived in North Dakota?**

\_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER OF YEARS

**Q5. Did you move to North Dakota alone or with others?** *(Please circle number of answer.)*

1 Alone

2 With other(s) ----->

**Q6. Who did you move to North Dakota with?**

*(Circle number of all who moved here with you.)*

1 Spouse or partner

2 Child or children \_\_\_\_\_NUMBER

3 Other (Please specify)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Q7. Do one or more of your parents or grandparents currently live in North Dakota?**

1. Yes -----> *Go to Question 9*

2. No

**Q8. Was there ever a time when one or more of your parents or grandparents lived in North Dakota, even though they are not now living in North Dakota?**

1. Yes

2. No

**Q9. What was the most important reason you moved to North Dakota?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Q10. Did any of the following job-related considerations influence your decision to move to North Dakota? (Please circle YES or NO for each item.)**

	YOURSELF		YOUR SPOUSE OR PARTNER (If you have one)	
	▼ YES	▼ NO	▼ YES	▼ NO
A transfer by current employer (except military).....				
To look for new work/job.....				
To accept employment by a new employer..				
To start/take over a business.....				
A military transfer.....				

**Q11. Do you consider each of the following to be a very important, somewhat important, or not a reason for your decision to move to North Dakota? (Circle one number for each item.)**

Reasons You May Have Moved to North Dakota	NOT A REASON	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT REASON	VERY IMPORTANT REASON
	▼	▼	▼
To be closer to relatives . . . . .	1	2	
.....	3		
To obtain training/education . . . . .	1	2	
.....	3		
To lower cost of living . . . . .	1	2	
.....	3		
Desirable climate . . . . .	1	2	
.....	3		
Quality of the natural environment . . . . .	1	2	
.....	3		
Outdoor recreational opportunities . . . . .	1	2	
.....	3		
Looking for safer place to live . . . . .	1	2	
.....	3		
Quality of local grade/high schools . . . . .	1	2	
.....	3		
More cultural opportunities . . . . .	1	2	
.....	3		
To get more affordable health care . . . . .	1	2	
.....	3		
To lower cost of operating a business . . . . .	1	2	
.....	3		

**Q12. Did the availability of technologies such as personal computers, fax machines, modems, and/or other telecommunication services have any effect on your decision to live in North Dakota?**

1 No

2 Don't know

3 Yes ----->

Please  
explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Q13. If you had to do it over again, would you move to North Dakota?**

- 1 Definitely yes
- 2 Probably yes
- 3 Don't know
- 4 Probably no
- 5 Definitely no

**Q14. What, if anything, do you not like about living in North Dakota?**

---



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**Q15. Where did you live immediately before moving to North Dakota?**

\_\_\_\_\_ Town or City  
 \_\_\_\_\_ State  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Country (If not the United States)

**Q16. In thinking about why you left the place you lived and moved to North Dakota, which one of the following best sums up why you moved? (Circle one number)**

- 1 I wanted to leave the place I was living
- 2 I wanted to move to North Dakota
- 3 Both considerations were about the same
- 4 None of these reasons apply

**Q17. Did any of the following considerations influence your decision to leave the location you listed in Question 15? (Circle YES or NO for each.)**

	YOURSELF		YOUR SPOUSE OR PARTNER (If you have one)	
	▼	▼	▼	▼
Laid off from job . . . . .	YES	NO	YES	NO
Decided to retire . . . . .	YES	NO	YES	NO
Could continue to work "long-distance" for same employer or clients . . . . .	YES	NO	YES	NO

**Q18. Here are reasons people sometimes give for leaving a place they live and moving somewhere else. Do you consider each of these possible reasons for leaving the place you used to live a very important, somewhat important, or not an important reason for leaving the location you listed in Question 15?**

Reasons You May Have Left Your Former Location	NOT A REASON ▼	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT REASON ▼	VERY IMPORTANT REASON ▼
High cost of living . . . . .	1	2	3
Fear of crime . . . . .	1	2	3
Undesirable climate . . . . .	1	2	3
Urban congestion . . . . .	1	2	3
High state and/or local taxes . . . . .	1	2	3
Lack of outdoor recreational opportunities . . . . .	1	2	3
Long commute . . . . .	1	2	3
Poor schools . . . . .	1	2	3
High cost of operating business . . . . .	1	2	3
Too close to relatives . . . . .	1	2	3
Unsafe place to live . . . . .	1	2	3
Quality of the natural environment . . . . .	1	2	3
Few cultural opportunities . . . . .	1	2	3

**Q19. Since moving to North Dakota, have you lived anyplace other than your current place of residence?**

- 1 YES ----->
- 2 NO

**Q20. IF YES, what were the names of the other towns or cities in North Dakota in which you lived since moving to North Dakota.**

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### The Place Where You Now Live

**Q21. Do you rent or own your home?**

- 1 Own
- 2 Rent
- 3 Other

**Q22. Many changes are occurring in the kinds of telephone services and computer related equipment people have in their homes. Please indicate whether you do or do not have each of these items in your home. (Circle YES or NO for each item.)**

Touch tone telephone .....	YES	NO
A VCR player .....	YES	NO
A telephone answering machine .....	YES	NO
Cable TV .....	YES	NO
A TV satellite dish .....	YES	NO
A personal computer .....	YES	NO
A FAX machine .....	YES	NO
A computer modem .....	YES	NO
More than one telephone line, each with its own number .....	YES	NO
A subscription to a <u>non-local</u> electronic mail service such as PRODIGY, America On-Line or CompuServe .....	YES	NO
A subscription to a <u>local</u> electronic mail service .....	YES	NO
An 800 number people can use to call you .....	YES	NO

**Q23. Is there anything about the telephone service available to your home which keeps you from using any of the equipment or services mentioned above?**

- 1 No
- 2 Don't know
- 3 Yes -----> (IF YES) Please explain:

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**Q24. Do you or your spouse (or partner), if you have one, operate a business (either part-time or full-time) out of your home?**

- 1 No -----> *Please skip to the next page (Q27)*
- 2 Yes, I do
- 3 Yes, my spouse/partner does
- 4 Yes, we operate a business jointly

**---> Q25. (IF YES) What kind of business is it, that is, what products or services do you sell?**

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**Q26. Which of the computer or telephone services mentioned in Question 22 above, if any, are used in the operation of your business?**

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**Q27. Listed below are several pairs of contrasting views regarding your community. For each pair please indicate which one of the two views you most agree with - the one in the left-hand column or the one in the right-hand column - by circling the appropriate number on the line between them.**

<b>Friendly</b>	1 ... 2 ... 3 ... 4 ... 5 ... 6 ... 7	<b>Unfriendly</b>
<b>Trusting</b>	1 ... 2 ... 3 ... 4 ... 5 ... 6 ... 7	<b>Distrusting</b>
<b>Supportive</b>	1 ... 2 ... 3 ... 4 ... 5 ... 6 ... 7	<b>Hostile</b>

**Q28. Listed below are public services and community amenities that many citizens believe are important. All things considered (e.g., accessibility, cost, and quality), how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with what your community has to offer for each item listed below? (Please circle the number of your answer, or check the box if the service/amenity is unavailable in your community.)**

	Un- Available	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	No Opinion	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
a. Housing		1	2	3	4	5
b. Streets and Highways		1	2	3	4	5
c. Sewage Disposal		1	2	3	4	5
d. Water Disposal		1	2	3	4	5
e. Solid Waste Disposal		1	2	3	4	5
f. Law Enforcement		1	2	3	4	5
g. Fire Protection		1	2	3	4	5
h. Parks and Recreation		1	2	3	4	5
i. Library Services		1	2	3	4	5
j. Education (K-12)		1	2	3	4	5
k. Public Transportation		1	2	3	4	5
l. Head Start Programs		1	2	3	4	5
m. Day Care Services		1	2	3	4	5
n. Senior Centers		1	2	3	4	5
o. Nursing Home Care		1	2	3	4	5
p. Emergency Medical Services		1	2	3	4	5
q. Basic Medical Care Services		1	2	3	4	5
r. Mental Health Services		1	2	3	4	5
s. Retail Shopping		1	2	3	4	5
t. Restaurants		1	2	3	4	5
u. Entertainment		1	2	3	4	5
v. County Government		1	2	3	4	5
w. City/Village Government		1	2	3	4	5
x. Church or Civic Activities		1	2	3	4	5

**Q29. As a “newcomer” to your new North Dakota community, did the existing local residents generally make you feel... (Circle the number of your answer)**

1. VERY WELCOME
2. SOMEWHAT WELCOME
3. SOMEWHAT UNWELCOME
4. VERY UNWELCOME

### Before Moving to North Dakota

**Q30. Before you moved to North Dakota, were you living with a spouse or partner?**

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

*Please answer each question below for yourself and your spouse or partner, if you had one.*

**Q31. Before moving to North Dakota, were you or your spouse or partner...**

*(Please circle a number for each person)*

	YOUR SPOUSE OR PARTNER (If you had one)
--	--------------------------------------------

	YOURSELF	
Retired .....	1	
A homemaker .....	2	
Full-time student .....	3	
Part-time student .....	4	
None of the above .....	5	

	YOUR SPOUSE OR PARTNER (If you had one)	
	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	

**Q32. Before moving to North Dakota, were you or your spouse or partner...**

Employed full-time (at least 35 hours/week) .....	1	
Employed part-time (less than 35 hours/week) .....	2	
Not employed and looking for work .....	3	
Not employed and <u>not</u> looking for work .....	4	

**Q33. (If employed) Did you or your spouse or partner have more than one job?**

Yes .....	1	
No .....	2	

*(If not employed before the move to North Dakota, the next question is Q41 at the top of page 9. If employed, please continue below.)*

**Q34. Thinking about the primary job(s), were you or your spouse or partner...**

Self-employed .....	1	
Working for someone else .....	2	

**Q35. In your primary job, what specific type of work were you doing?**

What were your most important duties or responsibilities?

---

**Q36. In your spouse's or partner's primary job, what specific type of work was he/she doing?**

---

What were his/her most important duties or responsibilities?

---

	YOURSELF ▼	YOUR SPOUSE OR PARTNER (If you had one) ▼
<b>Q37. In your primary job, where did you or your spouse or partner normally work?</b>		
At home . . . . .	1	1
In building or location somewhere else . . . . .	2	2
No single location . . . . .	3	3
<b>Q38. How many miles, one way, did you or your spouse or partner usually commute to their primary job?</b>		
Miles to work, one way . . . . .	_____	_____
Average time per one way trip (minutes)	_____	_____
<b>Q39. About how much did you or your spouse or partner earn in this job, on average, before taxes?</b>		
Amount . . . . .	\$ _____	\$ _____
<b>Is this amount...(Please circle one)</b>		
Dollars per <u>hour</u> before taxes . . . . .	1	1
Dollars per <u>week</u> before taxes . . . . .	2	2
Dollars per <u>month</u> before taxes . . . . .	3	3
Dollars per <u>year</u> before taxes . . . . .	4	4
<b>Q40. About how many hours per week did you or your spouse or partner work in this job?</b>		
Hours of work per week . . . . .	_____	_____

## After Moving to North Dakota

**Q41. Do you now have a spouse or partner?**

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

*Please answer each question for yourself and your spouse or partner, if you have one.*

**Q42. Are you or your spouse or partner...**  
*(Please circle number for each person)*

- Retired ..... 1
- A homemaker ..... 2
- Full-time student ..... 3
- Part-time student ..... 4
- None of the above ..... 5

**YOUR SPOUSE  
OR PARTNER**  
*(If you have one)*

**YOURSELF**

- Q43. Are you or your spouse or partner...**
- Employed full-time (at least 35 hours/week) ..... 1
  - Employed part-time (less than 35 hour/week) ..... 2
  - Not employed and looking for work ..... 3
  - Not employed and not looking for work ..... 4

*If not employed after the move to North Dakota, the next question to answer is Q56 on page 12. If employed, please continue on this page.*

**Q44. (If employed) Do you or your spouse now have more than one job?**

- Yes ..... 1
- No ..... 2

**Q45. Thinking about the job at which you or your spouse or partner now spends most of their time (their primary job), are you or your spouse or partner...**

- Self-employed ..... 1
- Working for someone else ..... 2

**Q46. In your primary job, where do you or your spouse or partner normally work?**

At home . . . . .	1	1
In building or location somewhere else . . . . .	2	2
No single location . . . . .	3	3

	YOURSELF ▼	YOUR SPOUSE OR PARTNER (If you have one) ▼
<b>Q47. How many miles, one way, do you or your spouse or partner usually commute to their primary job?</b>		
Miles to work, one way . . . . .	_____	_____
Average time per one way trip (minutes) . . .	_____	_____
<b>Q48. In your primary job, do you or your spouse or partner sometimes work at home?</b>		
Yes . . . . .	1	1
No . . . . .	2	2
<b>Q49. In your primary job, what percent of your or your spouse's or partner's work is usually done from home?</b>		
Percent of work done at home . . . . .	_____ %	_____ %
<b>Q50. Please circle the number of each type of equipment or service that is used by you or your spouse or partner in his/her work, regardless of work location. (Circle all that apply.)</b>		
A computer with a keyboard . . . . .	1	1
A computer modem . . . . .	2	2
Fax machine or fax modem . . . . .	3	3
Overnight or courier delivery of materials, products, or information you produce . . . . .	4	4
Overnight or courier delivery to you of things you need for work . . . . .	5	5
Electronic mail . . . . .	6	6
Internet . . . . .	7	7
Answering machine or voice mail . . . . .	8	8
Cellular telephone . . . . .	9	9
Conference telephone capability . . . . .	10	10
Other equipment (please explain) . . . . .	11	11

YOURSELF ▼	YOUR SPOUSE OR PARTNER (if you have one) ▼
---------------	-----------------------------------------------------

**Q51. Recently there has been discussion about some people “telecommuting” to work. This means that a person uses a computer modem and/or fax machine at home to stay in touch with another place where they normally (or sometimes) work. Do you consider either yourself or your spouse/partner to be a telecommuter?**

No, not at all . . . . .	1	1
Yes, a day or less a week . . . . .	2	2
Yes, 2-3 days per week . . . . .	3	3
Yes, full-time . . . . .	4	4

**Q52. In your primary job, what specific type of work are you doing?**

---

**What are your most important duties or responsibilities?**

---

**Q53. In your spouse or partner’s primary job, what specific type of work is he/she doing?**

---

**What are his/her most important duties or responsibilities?**

---

*Please answer each question for yourself and your spouse or partner, if you have one.*

YOURSELF ▼	YOUR SPOUSE OR PARTNER (if you have one) ▼
---------------	-----------------------------------------------------

**Q54. About how much do you or your spouse or partner now earn, on average, before taxes?**

Amount . . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Is this amount...(Please circle one)**

Dollars per <u>hour</u> before taxes . . . . .	1	1
Dollars per <u>week</u> before taxes . . . . .	2	2
Dollars per <u>month</u> before taxes . . . . .	3	3
Dollars per <u>year</u> before taxes . . . . .	4	4

	YOURSELF ▼	YOUR SPOUSE OR PARTNER (if you have one) ▼
<b>Q55. About how many hours per week do you or your spouse or partner <u>now</u> work?</b>		
Hours of work per week . . . . .	_____	_____
<b>Q56. Sometimes when people move from one state to another, they receive some temporary assistance that helps during or after the move. Please circle each type of assistance you or your spouse or partner has received, if any.</b>		
Moving expenses from an employer . . . . .	1	1
State unemployment assistance . . . . .	2	2
State welfare assistance . . . . .	3	3
<b>Q57. What is the highest level of education that you or your spouse or partner has completed?</b>		
Grade school or less . . . . .	1	1
Some high school . . . . .	2	2
High school graduate . . . . .	3	3
Trade or vocational school . . . . .	4	4
Some college . . . . .	5	5
College graduate . . . . .	6	6
Professional degree . . . . .	7	7
Masters or doctoral degree . . . . .	8	8

**Q58. What is the name and zip code of the place you now live in North Dakota?**

\_\_\_\_\_ City or Town  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code

**Q59. Where is the home in which you now live? (Circle number)**

- 1 Inside the city limits (of the city or town) mentioned above
- 2 Less than 15 minutes outside the city limits
- 3 More than 15 minutes outside the city limits

**Q60. In the year before you moved to North Dakota, about how much was your family income before taxes?**

- |   |                     |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1 | Less than \$10,000  | 5 | \$40,000 - \$49,999 |
| 2 | \$10,000 - \$19,999 | 6 | \$50,000 - \$74,999 |
| 3 | \$20,000 - \$29,999 | 7 | \$75,000 - \$99,999 |
| 4 | \$30,000 - \$39,999 | 8 | \$100,000 - OR MORE |

**Q61. In the first year after you moved to North Dakota, about how much was your family income before taxes (or how much do you expect it will be)?**

- |   |                     |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1 | Less than \$10,000  | 5 | \$40,000 - \$49,999 |
| 2 | \$10,000 - \$19,999 | 6 | \$50,000 - \$74,999 |
| 3 | \$20,000 - \$29,999 | 7 | \$75,000 - \$99,999 |
| 4 | \$30,000 - \$39,999 | 8 | \$100,000 - OR MORE |

**Q62. What is your age?** \_\_\_\_\_ **YEARS**

**Q63. What is your gender?** *(Circle the number of your answer)*

- |   |      |   |        |
|---|------|---|--------|
| 1 | MALE | 2 | FEMALE |
|---|------|---|--------|

**Q64. What is your ethnicity?**

- |   |                                      |   |                           |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1 | BLACK                                | 4 | ASIAN or PACIFIC ISLANDER |
| 2 | WHITE                                | 5 | HISPANIC ORIGIN           |
| 3 | AMERICAN INDIAN OR<br>ALASKAN NATIVE | 6 | OTHER _____               |

**Q65. What is your current marital status?** *(Circle the number of your answer)*

- |   |               |   |                    |
|---|---------------|---|--------------------|
| 1 | MARRIED       | 3 | DIVORCED/SEPARATED |
| 2 | NEVER MARRIED | 4 | WIDOWED/WIDOWER    |



**Q66. Do you plan to move from your community in the next year?** *(Circle the number of your answer)*

- 1 YES ----->
- 2 NO
- 3 UNCERTAIN

**Q67. (If Yes) Where do you plan to move?**

- 1 FARGO OR BISMARCK METRO AREAS
- 2 SOMEPLACE IN NORTH DAKOTA  
OUTSIDE THE FARGO OR BISMARCK  
METRO AREAS
- 3 SOME PLACE OTHER THAN NORTH  
DAKOTA

**Q68. If you could give any advice to elected officials and agency directors for improving the quality of life for people who have recently moved to North Dakota, what would it be?**

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your help in this effort is greatly appreciated. If you have any additional comments that you would like to make, please feel free to note them below.

Thank you!

**North Dakota State University**  
**Department of Agricultural Economics**

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