2050 BASELINE DEMOGRAPHIC FORECAST

Introduction

The Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments (Metro COG) develops demographic forecasts for the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area every five years as part of the long-range transportation planning process. These forecast projections are vital to local area jurisdictions and other entities and help to support ongoing planning efforts throughout the region.

Study Area

The Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) includes Cass County, North Dakota and Clay County, Minnesota. While forecasts were completed for the entire MSA, additional forecasts were completed for the Metro COG Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA), the boundary by which Metro COG's transportation planning process must be carried out. Metro COG's MPA covers 21 cities, 15 townships in Cass County, and 16 townships in Clay County. It accounts for both urbanized areas as well as contiguous exurban areas with vital county, state, and federal roadways that can be expected to urbanize over a 25-year period.

	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
MSA	249,843	273,216	284,619	301,327	317,850	335,540	357,322
MPA	240,394	263,536	275,150	291,475	307,410	324,950	346,464
Cass County	184,525	201,292	210,140	222,569	234,743	247,753	263,766
Clay County	65,318	71,923	74,479	78,758	83,107	87,787	93,556
Fargo	125,990	135,147	140,312	145,195	150,063	155,681	164,507
West Fargo	38,626	41,617	42,512	47,688	52,122	57,627	62,789
Horace	3,085	6,263	8,316	9,409	11,297	12,356	13,615
Casselton	2,479	2,631	3,138	3,629	3,782	3,934	4,023
Mapleton	1,320	1,892	2,283	2,821	3,208	3,662	4,111
Kindred	889	1,122	1,209	1,244	1,272	1,352	1,432
Rural Cass	12,136	12,620	12,370	12,583	12,999	13,141	13,289
Moorhead	44,505	49,997	51,367	54,638	57,989	61,863	66,766
Dilworth	4,612	4,973	5,326	5,644	5,958	6,272	6,586
Barnesville	2,759	2,875	3,086	3,201	3,292	3,376	3,459
Hawley	2,219	2,314	2,404	2,495	2,585	2,676	2,766
Glyndon	1,306	1,385	1,469	1,483	1,493	1,499	1,501
Rural Clay	9,917	10,379	10,827	11,297	11,790	12,101	12,478

*Most Likely scenario for population growth

Study Process

For the 2050 Baseline Demographic Forecast, a cohort-based estimation approach was used to develop two unique growth scenarios based on trend variables (cohort age structures, industry labor distribution), dynamic variables (birth rates, death rates, migration), and constants (household to demographic relationships, labor force participation rates, gender ratio). Population, household, and employment forecasts from these scenarios are provided in five-year increments through 2050. This approach allows for a deeper understanding of why population and job numbers can be expected to change over the course of the next 30 years.

- ☑ Trend Variables
  - Cohort Age Structures
  - Industry Labor Distribution
- ☑ Dynamic Variables
  - Birth Rates
  - Death Rates
  - Migration
- ☑ Constants
  - Household and Demographic Relationship
  - Labor Force Participation
  - Gender Ratio

Public Engagement

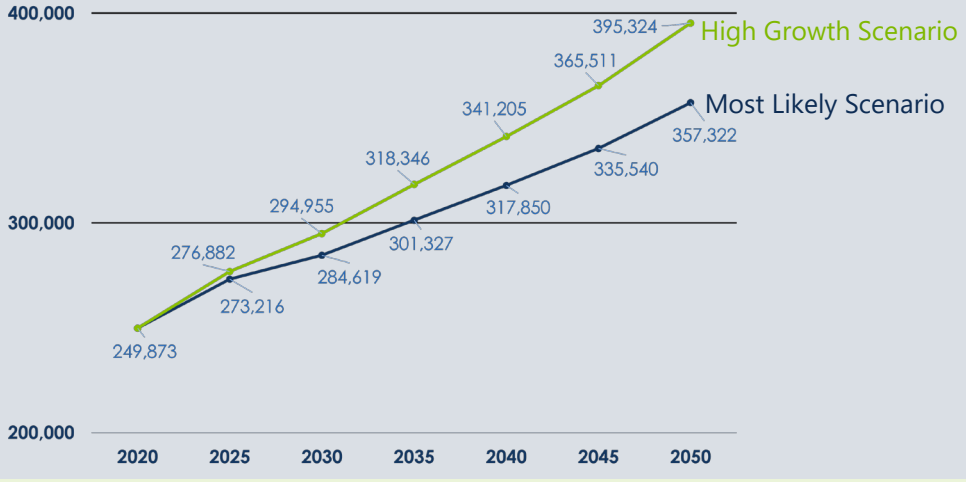
Several organizations and industries were contacted during the study process to solicate feedback, including K-12 school districts, social services groups, housing organizations, a residential development association, and economic development organizations.

Check out a **video** explaining the 2050 Demographic Forecast Study, available on Metro COG's website!

http://fmmetrocog.org/projects-rfps/completed-projects/metro-cog-baseline-2050-demographic-forecast

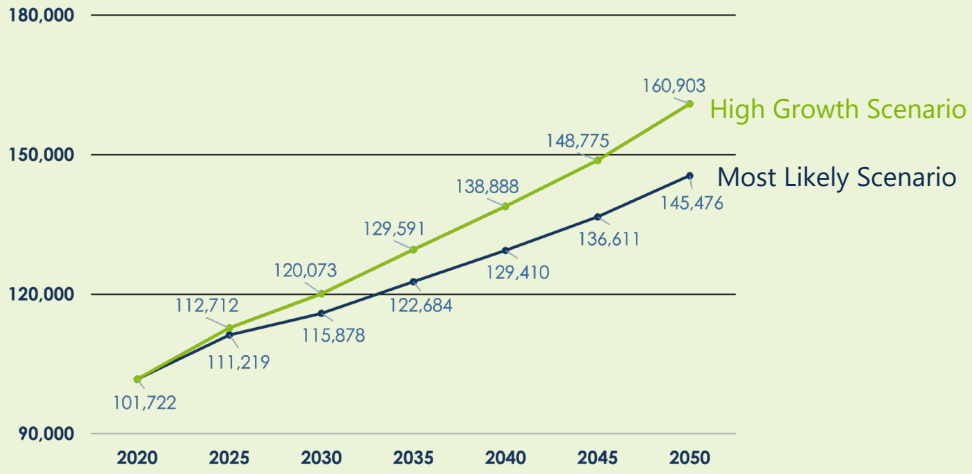
Population Forecasts

The Most Likely population scenario provides an overall population increase for the MSA from the 2020 U.S. Census Bureau number of 249,648 to 357,322 in 2050. This represents a 43.1 percent increase in the total population of the MSA between 2020 and 2050. The Best Case population scenario provides an overall population increase for the MSA from the 2020 U.S. Census Bureau number of 249,648 to 395,324 in 2050. This represents an overall increase of 58.4 percent between 2020 and 2050.



Household Forecasts

The Most Likely scenario provides an overall household increase for the MSA from the 2020 baseline number of 101,722 to 145,476 in 2050. This is a 43.0 percent change between 2020 and 2050. The Best Case Scenario provides an overall household increase for the MSA from the 2020 baseline number of 101,722 to 160,903 in 2050. This is a 58.2 percent change between 2020 and 2050. For the purposes of this forecast, "household" is a group of people living in a dwelling unit while "housing unit" is another term for a dwelling unit.



Employment Forecasts

The Most Likely scenario provides an overall jobs increase for the MSA from the 2020 baseline estimate of 183,356 to 235,326 in 2050. This is a 28.3 percent change between 2020 and 2050. The Best Case scenario provides an overall jobs increase for the MSA from the 2020 baseline estimate of 183,356 to 252,531 in 2050. This is a 37.7 percent change between 2020 and 2050. The graph breaks this data down into ten industries and their respective growth between 2020 and 2050.