

MARCH 2015

## LABOR

Job Service ND and MN Department of Employment and Economic Development

| MEASURE   |         | MONTH                  | MOST RECENT                  | YEAR EARLIER                 | % CHANGE     |
|---|---------|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Unemployment Rate                                       | F-M MSA | Feb -15                | 3.3%                         | 3.5%                         |              |
|   | ND      | Feb -15                | 3.7%                         | 3.5%                         |              |
|   | MN      | Feb -15                | 4.4%                         | 5.3%                         |              |
|   | US      | Feb -15                | 5.8%                         | 7.0%                         |              |
| Labor Force   | F-M MSA | Feb -15                | 130,924                      | 126,031                      | 3.9%         |
|   | ND      | Feb -15                | 416,643                      | 406,066                      | 2.6%         |
|   | MN      | Feb -15                | 2,996,671                    | 2,955,395                    | 1.4%         |
|   | US      | Feb -15                | 156,213,000                  | 155,027,000                  | 0.8%         |
| Employed  | F-M MSA | Feb -15                | 126,547                      | 121,619                      | 4.1%         |
|   | ND      | Feb -15                | 401,157                      | 392,005                      | 2.3%         |
|   | MN      | Feb -15                | 2,863,978                    | 2,797,747                    | 2.4%         |
|   | US      | Feb -15                | 147,118,000                  | 144,134,000                  | 2.1%         |
| Wage Growth - Quarterly Total and Average Annual Salary | Cass    | 3rd Qtr-14 Annualized* | \$1,335,890,159<br>\$ 46,644 | \$ 1,228,866,427<br>\$44,772 | 8.7%<br>4.2% |
|   | Clay    | 3rd Qtr-14 Annualized* | \$ 166,003,490<br>\$ 36,088  | \$ 157,953,274<br>\$ 34,008  | 5.1%<br>6.1% |

Notes: Unemployment Rate, Labor Force, & Employed data are not seasonally adjusted. Most recent labor statistics are estimates generated monthly through the LAUS program with frequent revisions as updated data becomes available.

\*These numbers are quarterly/weekly wages and have been prorated by GFMEDC to demonstrate an annual wage for the quarter. It is important to note there are quarterly fluctuations in wages such as 4th quarter bonuses in addition to some seasonal effects.

## PROPERTY

Nat'l Association of Home Builders - MSA New Housing Units Authorized by Building Permits



| YEAR TO DATE   | FEB 2015 | FEB 2014 | % CHANGE |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Total Units    | 19       | 14       | 36%      |
| Single Family* | 15       | 14       | 7%       |
| Multi-Family   | 4        | 0        | N/A      |

\*Twinhomes, townhomes and duplexes are included in single family numbers.

NAHB housing starts data excludes residential remodel permits. For quarterly new and remodel residential and commercial permits, visit [www.hbafm.com](http://www.hbafm.com).

## COST OF LIVING

Council for Community and Economic Research - Cost of Living Index

| COMPOSITE INDEX | GROCERY | HOUSING | UTILITIES | TRANSPORTATION | HEALTH CARE | OTHER SERVICES |
|-----------------|---------|---------|-----------|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| 94.0            | 101.7   | 83.5    | 92.1      | 96.6           | 111.3       | 97.2           |

2014 Annual Average Data - The average for participating places, both metropolitan and nonmetropolitan, equals 100. Each participant's index is read as a percentage of the average for all places.

## TRANSPORTATION

Hector International Airport - Total Passengers

| FEB 2015 | FEB 2014 | % CHANGE | YTD 2015 | YTD 2014 | % CHANGE |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 73,872   | 76,493   | -3.4%    | 146,763  | 148,205  | -1.0%    |

## CONSUMERS

ND Office of State Tax Commissioner - Taxable Sales and Purchases (Cass County)

| 3RD QTR 2014  | 3RD QTR 2013  | % CHANGE | YTD 2014        | YTD 2013        | % CHANGE |
|---------------|---------------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|
| \$888,712,608 | \$860,703,238 | 3.3%     | \$2,368,589,603 | \$2,265,487,301 | 4.6%     |

For more information on N.D. state and local sales & use tax, visit [www.nd.gov/tax/salesanduse](http://www.nd.gov/tax/salesanduse).

These economic indicators have been compiled by the Greater Fargo Moorhead Economic Development Corporation. For additional information, call 701-364-1900.