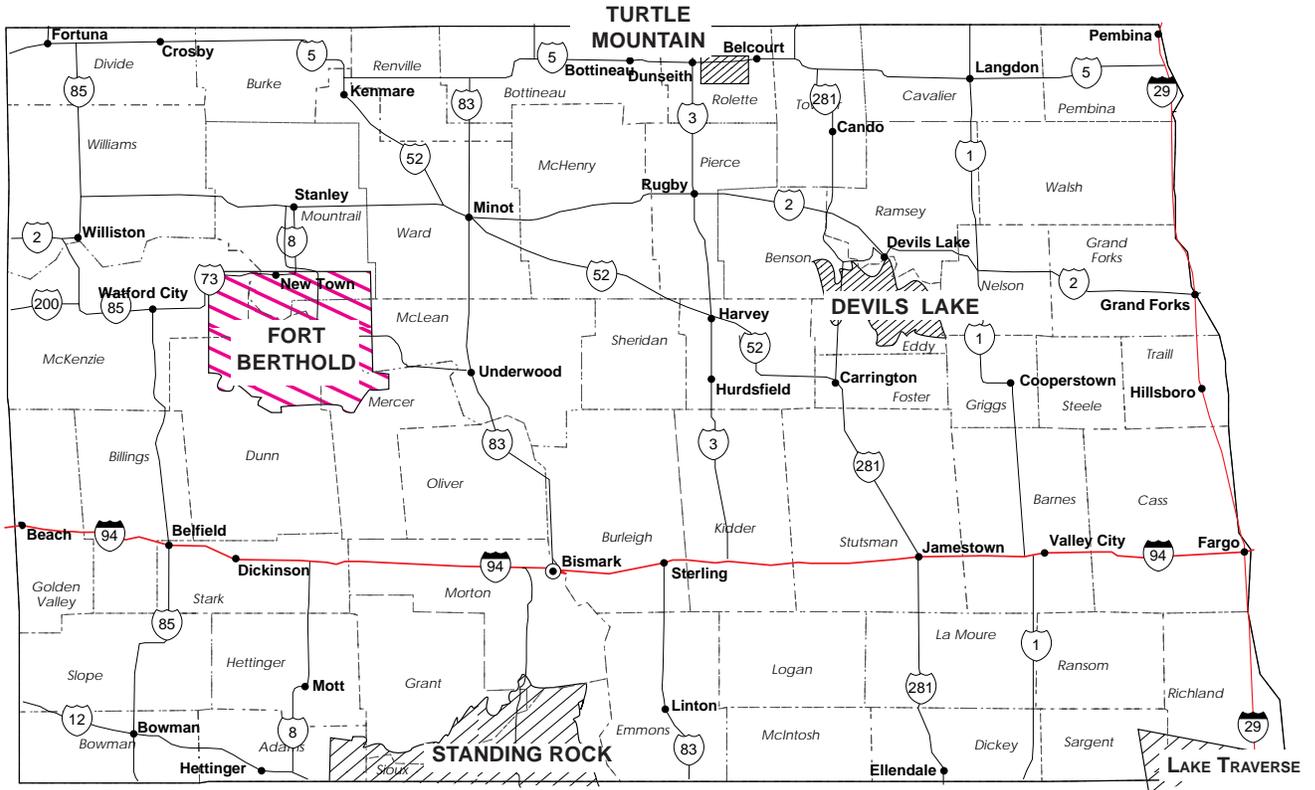


NORTH DAKOTA



Devils Lake Sioux Reservation

Federal reservation
Sioux
Benson, Nelson, Ramsey and Eddy counties, North Dakota

Devils Lake Sioux Tribe
a.k.a. Mni Wakan Oyate Tribe
P.O. Box 359
Fort Totten, ND 58335
(701) 766-4221
Fax: 766-4126

Total area	245,141 acres
Tribally owned	26,316 acres
Allotted	34,026 acres
Other	342 acres

Total labor force	755
High school graduate or higher	52.1%
Bachelor's degree or higher	04.4%
Unemployment rate	25.0%
Per capita income	\$3,940

Population	3,754
Tribal enrollment	4,420

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

The Devils Lake Reservation includes over 245,000 acres within its boundaries, just over 60,000 of which remain under Indian ownership today. The reservation is located in northeastern North Dakota, largely in Benson county, with smaller holdings in Ramsey, Eddy, and Nelson counties. Devils Lake forms the northern boundary, its southern shore consisting of thickly forested rolling hills. The Cheyenne River forms the reservation's southern boundary, where the land is generally flat with relatively sparse vegetation. The Devils Lake Sioux Indian Reservation is divided into four political districts (Fort Totten, Mission, Woodlake, and Crowhill).

The reservation was established by treaty in 1867. Original boundaries contained nearly 221,000 acres, with about 136,000 going into allotments for 1,205 tribal members, 88,000 being relegated to "surplus" status for sale to white settlers, and 2,350 acres set aside for missions and schools. By 1937, Indian allottees had sold over 80,000 acres of their initial allotments. Subsequent federal purchases during the 1950s increased Indian-owned land to near its present acreage.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

The Devils Lake Sioux belong to the Sisseton-Wahpeton Band of

Mississippi or Eastern Sioux. This group's ancestral grounds lie in what is now Minnesota. An 1862 discovery of gold in Montana brought hordes of gold seekers and settlers through Minnesota Sioux Country, resulting in the Minnesota Uprising that same year. Many of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Band migrated west in the wake of this conflict, a number of whom ended up in the Fort Totten area. At the time of the reservation's establishment in 1867, 732 Indians lived there and were mostly engaged in agriculture. While agriculture still constitutes an economic force for the tribe (much of it through the leasing of lands to outside interests), the tribe's modern success story has been based on its ability to establish businesses—including two large manufacturing concerns, along with a casino—on the reservation. Of the approximately 4,420 enrolled tribal members, nearly 3,000 reside on the reservation, a fact that perhaps helps the tribe retain its strong and vital traditions and culture. Pow wows, Native American Church (peyote) meetings, Sacred Pipe ceremonies, and the Dakota dialect all continue to be practiced on the reservation. Particular goals of the tribal council these days include the elimination of substandard housing on the reservation (in which the tribe has been assisted with HUD grants) and the improvement of educational levels among tribal members.

GOVERNMENT

The tribe operates under a constitution and bylaws approved on February 14, 1946, revised May 6, 1960, and further amended several times. The Tribal Council is made up of six members, including a chairman and secretary, elected at large by the tribal membership, and one representative from each of the reservation's four districts. Council members serve four-year terms, while the vice-chairman is appointed from within the Tribal Council. Elections are held annually in May.

ECONOMY

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

The southern portion of the reservation includes significant acreage under cultivation with grain crops.

FISHERIES

Devils Lake is the largest natural body of water in North Dakota. Though not the site of a commercial fishing industry, recreational and subsistence fishing have long been productive and popular here. According to a study conducted by North Dakota State University, recreational fishing in the lake generates \$12-27 million annually for the local economy.

FORESTRY

The reservation possesses 6,390 acres of woodland areas, which are a valuable commercial resource. The tribe and the BIA are currently developing a forest management plan.

GAMING

The tribe operates the Devils Lake Casino, an enterprise that currently employs over 240 persons and generates considerable tribal revenues. Currently, the tribe is considering the development of an additional gaming complex which will include an amphitheater, marina, RV park, and campground.

GOVERNMENT AS EMPLOYER

Both the tribal and federal governments combine to comprise a major source of tribal employment. Tribal employees work in various tribal operations from administrative functions to tribal businesses such as the Dakota Casino and the Dakota Tribal Industries. Federal employees predominantly work for either the BIA or the Indian Health Service.

INDUSTRIAL PARKS

The tribe maintains a 40-acre industrial park which contains the Sioux Manufacturing Corporation, Dakota Tribal Industries, and the Tribal Utilities Building.

MANUFACTURING

The tribe owns and operates two sizable manufacturing enterprises which combine to employ 312 persons and generate highly significant annual revenues. Dakota Tribal Industries, Inc. was established in 1985 and largely operates on U.S. Government defense contracts. It manufactures products as diverse as cargo slings, camouflage screen cases, multi-purpose netting for military field usage, and army tank vehicular restraints, among others. Similarly, the Sioux Manufacturing Corporation produces such Defense Department products as laminated ballistic helmets and highly advanced autoclave-bonded structures and protective panels.

MINING

Numerous small deposits of sand and gravel are scattered throughout the reservation; the tribe has requested an economic assessment of these deposits through the BIA Mineral and Mining department.

SERVICES

There are 25 retail and service related businesses located throughout the reservation. These include a grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, video arcades, a small marina, three or more construction contractors, and others.

TOURISM AND RECREATION

Aside from the casino, attractions include the Fort Totten historical site, Sulleys Hill National Game Preserve, an archeological site near Grahams Island, and Fort Totten Days, an annual celebration that occurs on the last weekend in July. Rodeos, horse racing, and pow wows are also held.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The reservation is served by State Highways 281, 57, 20, and 15, which all run directly through its boundaries. Local roads within the reservation are maintained by the BIA. Commercial air services are available at Devils Lake Municipal Airport (15 miles from Ft. Totten). The Triangle Busline provides service directly to the town of Devils Lake, as do UPS and Twin City Freight. As for rail service, Amtrak provides passenger service, while Burlington Northern, and the Soo Line Railroad Company offer freight service.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Tribal Headquarters are located in the village of Fort Totten and contain the BIA offices and the Indian Health Services Clinic. Electric power is provided by three carriers: Baker Electric Power Co-op, Sheyenne Valley Co-op, and Otter Tail Power Company. Gas is provided by Montana Dakota Utilities. Sioux Utilities maintains both the water and sewage systems. The Tribal Landfill is located about four miles from Fort Totten. The Little Hoop Community College in the town of Fort Totten is a tribally chartered and state accredited two-year college. Next door to the college is the New Tribal Library, future site of the tribe's archives.

Fort Berthold Reservation

Federal reservation
Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara
Dunn, McLean, McKenzie, Mountrail, Ward, and Mercer
counties, North Dakota

Three Affiliated Tribes
P.O. Box 220
New Town, ND 58763
(701) 627-4781
Fax: 627-3805

Total area	1,000,000 acres
Federal trust	500,000 acres
Total labor force	1,059
High school graduate or higher	70.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher	08.3%
Unemployment rate	26.5%
Per capita income	\$4,849
Population	5,387
Tribal enrollment	8,500

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

The Fort Berthold Reservation spans approximately one million acres of both flat prairie land and rolling terrain in west-central North Dakota, southeast of Minot and northwest of Bismarck. The reservation is intersected by the Missouri River. About 11 percent of the total surface area is covered by Lake Sakakawea, the reservoir formed behind the Garrison Dam. While there are Indian families living throughout the reservation, the majority live in the local communities of Mandaree, White Shield, Twin Buttes, Four Bears (location of the tribal headquarters), and the incorporated towns of Parshall and New Town (location of the BIA headquarters).

The reservation was established by treaty in 1851 for the Arikara, Hidatsa, and Mandan Tribes. Congressional Acts and executive orders gradually reduced the reservation to its present size from the initial 12.5 million acres. In 1972 a federal court ruling determined that land lost to homesteaders through the 1910 Homestead Act had, in fact, always been part of the reservation.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

The Fort Berthold Reservation was established for the Arikara, Mandan, and Hidatsa Tribes by the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851. Once geographically and linguistically separated, the three tribes now present a united front to state and federal officials, while still maintaining separate tribal identities. At the time of initial contact with Euro-American culture (around 1790), the three tribes lived along the Missouri River, hunting buffalo and growing squash, corn, and beans. Contact brought some predictable consequences, notably a devastating smallpox epidemic in 1837. To escape the disease, a group of Hidatsa moved up the Missouri River in 1845 and established the village of Like-A-Fishhook. Eventually they were joined here by the other two tribal bands and by 1862, formal unification of the tribes had begun. Though the Treaty of Ft. Laramie granted the three tribes over 12 million acres, executive orders and allotments eventually reduced the reservation's size to less than one million acres, its approximate size today. During 1954, the tribes lost another 152,300 acres, along with innumerable natural resources, due to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' filling of the Garrison Reservoir (which is now Lake Sakakawea). The flooding destroyed long-established Indian population centers, while families who had supported themselves by ranching and farming along the fertile Missouri bottomlands now found themselves relocated to dry,

windy uplands. The tribal administrative center was moved to New Town, not officially on the reservation. And though the tribes received \$12 million in compensation for their flooded land, an independent evaluator placed the loss at more than \$20 million.

Today the reservation continues to support limited farming and ranching, but the tribes have been more successful in establishing or attracting businesses in electronics manufacturing, construction, gaming, and the like. Traditional culture has seen an upswing here of late, with Native American Church ceremonies, sweat lodges, and the use of native languages all making a comeback. The tribes continue to maintain discrete tribal identities through preservation of language, customs, and residence.

GOVERNMENT

The Three Affiliated Tribes accepted the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act and formed a representative tribal government. A tribal constitution and bylaws were drawn up and, with several amendments, are followed today. The tribal government is legally titled the Three Affiliated Tribes Business Council, a body consisting of a chairman, vice-chairman, treasurer, secretary, and three at-large members. Business Council members are elected to four-year terms by the general membership.

ECONOMY

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

The "badlands" regions of the reservation are used for livestock production. The flat to rolling grasslands of the east and northeast portions of the reservation contain areas of desirable cropland. Both the livestock and agriculture industries are currently underdeveloped.

CONSTRUCTION

The majority of tribally based construction contracting is generated through highway construction and maintenance projects. The tribe operates the Lumber, Construction, and Manufacturing Corporation (LCM), which obtains many of these contracts and is a major source of construction employment.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The tribe has a number of promising projects in the works. The financing plan for Dakota Pins, a manufacturing plant for steel parts for heavy equipment, is nearly complete, while research is underway for the establishment of a gas/propane operation on the reservation. And a tribal task force is proceeding with steps to develop a mini-mall in the New Town area of the reservation.

FISHERIES

Lake Psychic offers excellent recreational fishing opportunities.

FORESTRY

Though there are few stands of forest in this region, the tribe maintains a link with the timber industry through its Lumber, Construction, and Manufacturing Corporation.

GAMING

In 1993 the tribe opened a high-stakes gambling casino, which promises to be very lucrative and will provide significant tribal employment.

GOVERNMENT AS EMPLOYER

The tribal government of the Three Affiliated Tribes serves as a major source of employment, an average of 150 workers at any given time. Additionally, the tribal Housing Authority employs about 33 people. The BIA Fort Berthold Agency employs about 40.

And within the five reservation school districts and the community college, approximately 360 people find employment.

MANUFACTURING

The Northrop Dakota Plant at New Town (just outside the reservation) provides jobs for about 100 persons—many of them tribal members—in electronic circuit board manufacturing for U.S. Defense Department contracts. Also, the tribe maintains the Mandaree Electronics Corporation, developed through a direct loan program by the BIA.

MINING

During the 1980s significant oil exploration occurred on and near the reservation. Presently some oilfield employment still exists, though to a diminished degree, due in part to the international decline in oil prices.

SERVICES

The Lumber, Construction, and Manufacturing Corporation provides, among other services, retail lumber and hardware sales. Each of the seven districts on the reservation has at least one convenience store. There are currently four motels on the reservation, none of them tribally owned.

TOURISM AND RECREATION

Boating, fishing, and other water recreation are quite popular on Lake Sakakawea; the tribe owns three parks on the lake that offer boat launching facilities and full-service RV sites. The tribes hold numerous pow wows through out the year: the White Shield Pow Wow during the second weekend of July, the Little Shell Pow Wow during the first weekend of August, the Mandaree Pow Wow over the third weekend of July, and the Twin Buttes Pow Wow in August. All feature traditional Indian dancing and ceremonies. The tribe maintains the Four Bears Museum at its tribal headquarters in Four Bears.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Road access to the reservation is provided by U.S. Highways 83 and 85, which run north-south, and State Highways 23 and 200 running east-west. I-94 also runs east-west due south of the reservation. Commercial air service is available at Minot (about 68 miles away) and at Bismarck (160 miles). Smaller airports are located in nearby New Town and Williston. Amtrak and buslines serve Minot, while commercial freight lines serve the reservation directly. Commercial water transportation on Lake Sakakawea is currently under study.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The reservation is provided with electricity by three rural electric cooperatives and two private companies. Montana-Dakota Utilities provides natural gas to the surrounding area but not yet onto the reservation. Telephone service is provided by the Reservation Telephone Cooperative and assisted by AT&T and US West. The reservation's water comes largely from wells at present; the tribe recently acquired an \$8 million federal grant for construction of a reservation-wide water system. Each of the four communities on the reservation has its own sewage system; upkeep and improvements are provided by the Indian Health Service. The reservation maintains five public school districts. Additionally, an Indian Health Service grant is currently being applied toward the construction of a reservation hospital. The Fort Berthold Community College provides higher education opportunities for tribal members and others.

Lake Traverse Reservation

Federal reservation

Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux

Roberts, Day, Codington, Marshall, and Grant counties, South Dakota

Sargent and Richland counties, North Dakota

Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe

P.O. Box 509

Agency Village, SD 57262

(605) 698-3911

Total area 107,245.39 acres

Tribally owned 26,976.28 acres

Allotted 80,269.10 acres

Fee 425.00 acres

Total labor force 909

High school graduate or higher 63.7%

Bachelor's degree or higher 03.6%

Unemployment rate 23.7%

Per capita income \$4,058

Population 10,840

Tribal enrollment 9,894

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

The Lake Traverse Reservation spans more than 107,000 acres in five counties of northeastern South Dakota and two counties of southeastern North Dakota. The BIA and tribal headquarters are located in Agency Village, SD. The topography of the reservation consists of two general areas and attendant terrains: the Sisseton Hills, which cover most of the eastern and southern portion of the reservation; and the Minnesota River valleys, which cover its northeastern quadrant. Elevation varies from 2,100 feet in the Sisseton Hills to about 1,000 feet at Lake Traverse.

The present reservation site was created by Article III of the Treaty of February 19, 1867, an outgrowth of a treaty signed in 1863 at Enemy Swim Lake. This prior treaty occurred in the wake of the tribe's return from Canada where it had fled the previous year to escape the agonizing Minnesota Sioux War.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

For about a century after the appearance of white explorers, all the Sioux Indians occupied village sites along the Minnesota-Wisconsin border, an excellent spot for hunting, fishing, and planting. Most of these bands were Dakota-speaking. When the settlers began to put down roots, a series of treaties was imposed upon the Indians, with the Sissetons accepting the terms of the 1851 Traverse des Sioux Treaty. In the wake of the 1862 Minnesota Sioux War, federal officials placed subdivisions of Sissetons on both Lake Traverse and Devils Lake Reservations. Residents of the Lake Traverse Reservation endured land loss, financial hardship, and federal paternalism. While the initial reservation amounted to nearly one million acres, the approximately 2700 tribal members were allotted just over 300,000 acres, with the remainder purchased for non-Indian settlement. Over the years, tribal members sold off their allotments for survival, and by 1952 retained only about 117,000 acres. In 1933 the tribe adopted its constitution and bylaws. It later revised the constitution according to the terms of the 1934 IRA.

During the Depression, tribal members survived through subsistence farming, trapping, hunting, fishing, and federal trust fund payments until New Deal programs came along. The Civilian Conservation Corps was especially helpful in providing

employment to the reservation. By the 1960s, cultural renewal had generated changes in tribal education and government. For instance, Congress funded two new schools, one in Sisseton and one in Peever, to provide integrated instruction. In 1975 tribal councilors chartered the Sisseton-Wahpeton Community College and the Tiospa Zina High School to furnish education with an emphasis on tribal values. And in the 1980s, federal rulings on "cumulative" balloting helped elect Dakotas to the Roberts County School Board. It was during this period that the Sacred Pipe Religion came into open use, while instruction in native languages gained popularity.

The region's economy, based primarily on agriculture and cattle grazing, has long supported substantial numbers of tribal members through field work. By the 1980s, however, the tribe had successfully established a manufacturing base on the reservation and by the early 1990s had developed a highly lucrative gaming industry in two different sites.

GOVERNMENT

The Tribal Council is composed of 15 representatives and three executive council members (chairman, secretary, treasurer). The three executive council members are elected at large, while each of the remaining 15 is elected to represent a given reservation district. Council members serve for two-year terms. The tribe is unincorporated and operates under a 1966 revised constitution and bylaws which replaced those of 1946.

ECONOMY

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

In 1993 the tribe was initiating development of an agribusiness project involving several other Dakota tribes in the region. The tribe intends to introduce high-quality cattle grazing and production to the reservation, beginning with a minimum of 150 bred heifers on a select 300-400 acres of land. Currently, individual Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux members raise cattle, sheep, horses, and hogs. Additionally, the tribe receives over \$1.2 million annually from the lease of lands to non-Indians for crop production and grazing. This income allows for the repayment of FHA loans that were used to purchase most of the land currently owned by the tribe.

CONSTRUCTION

The expansion of the tribe's gaming operations has provided construction industry employment. The tribe's current small business sector is heavily concentrated in the areas of construction and automotive repair. The construction firms operate predominantly during the summer months.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The tribe's longtime goal has been to reduce its reliance on federal projects and programs. The success of gaming has helped realize this goal, but the tribe continues to pursue opportunities to attract or develop additional manufacturing entities like Dakota Western, its plastic bag manufacturing plant. These efforts seek to address the needs of the local market and to use the tribe's natural and human resources more directly and effectively. Finally, the tribe is assessing the prospects for residential, commercial, and recreational development along the shores of Lake Traverse.

FISHERIES

In 1992, the tribe opened a hatchery for harvesting a variety of fish (walleye and northern pike among them) and restocking reservation lakes. The tribe is exploring other forms of aquaculture as well.

GAMING

The tribe currently runs two gaming facilities located in Agency Village and Watertown. Both began as simple bingo operations in

1989; following a favorable federal court ruling in 1990, the Dakota Sioux Casino (at Watertown) added blackjack to its operations, while both sites added slot machines. The two operations jointly produced over \$15 million in revenues in 1993, employed nearly 500 persons (many of them tribal members), and produced about \$1.2 million for distribution to the reservation's seven districts and its organizations and programs. Additionally the tribe has signed a gaming compact with the State of North Dakota for a third gambling enterprise, expected to open by late 1994.

GOVERNMENT AS EMPLOYER

At present, two thirds of all tribal employees work within government services, including those indirectly employed through the gaming enterprises. As of 1993, the tribe and its entities employed between 900 and 1,000 persons, making it the largest employer in northeast South Dakota.

INDUSTRIAL PARKS

The tribe has a 20-acre industrial park funded by EDA, which provides commercial/industrial sites, along with water and sewer facilities. The park is able to meet the needs of most moderate-sized plants. The park is directly adjacent to the tribal headquarters complex, about seven miles south of Sisseton.

MANUFACTURING

Dakota Western, the tribe's plastic trash bag manufacturer, began in a 1,750-square foot, makeshift building, but in 1992 moved into a new 25,000-square foot facility planned and constructed by the tribe (with EDA assistance). The firm, whose major contract is with the U.S. Government's General Services Administration, currently employs about 35 tribal members and has excellent prospects for expansion of its markets.

MINING

Granite outcrops which appear just southeast of the reservation in Grant County are extensively quarried for dimension stone and the monument business. The tribe also utilizes this area's gravel resources for its road repair and construction efforts.

SERVICES

The reservation supports numerous tribally owned businesses including various small construction firms, automotive repair shops, and small stores.

TOURISM AND RECREATION

While the tribe's primary tourism draw is currently its two casinos, the tribe is considering possibilities for recreational development on its numerous lakes and wetlands. Currently, the tribe's annual pow wow and rodeo, along with its other celebrations, draw a substantial numbers of visitors.

INFRASTRUCTURE

U.S. Highway 12 crosses east-west through the reservation. Highway 81 and Interstate 29 run north-south through the immediate vicinity. Train, bus, and truck lines stop in Sisseton (on the reservation), and in nearby Webster. The nearest commercial air service is located in Watertown, about 50 miles south of the tribal headquarters.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Water is provided by the Department of the Interior treatment plant and by wells and springs. The community of Sisseton is provided water services by the city water system. Ottertail Power Company and the Lake Region Electric Cooperative supply electricity. Northwestern Bell Telephone serves the reservation area. The local hospital in Sisseton provides health care for tribal members under

a contract with the U.S. Public Health Service. Other county hospitals are found in Britton and Day. Tiospa-Zina High School and Sisseton-Wahpeton Community College provide education with sensitivity to traditional tribal culture.

Turtle Mountain Reservation and Trenton Indian Service Area

Federal reservation

Chippewa

Rolette County, North Dakota

Williams, Divide, and McKenzie counties, North Dakota

Sheridan, Richland, Roosevelt counties, Montana

Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa

P.O. Box 770

Highway 5 West

Belcourt, ND 58316

(701) 477-6451

Fax: 477-6836

Trenton Indian Service Area

P.O. Box 210

Trenton, North Dakota 58853

Total area	140,107 acres
Tribally owned	35,579 acres
Allotted	104,005 acres
Total labor force	2062
High school graduate or higher	55.1%
Bachelor's degree or higher	08.2%
Unemployment rate	34.1%
Per capita income	\$4,681
Population	7,101
Tribal enrollment	25,000

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

The Turtle Mountain Reservation is located in the extreme north-central portion of North Dakota, about seven miles from the Canadian border and near the exact geographic center of the North American continent. The reservation is almost equally divided between tribally owned and individually allotted lands. The terrain ranges in elevation from 200 to 2,300 feet above sea level and is dotted with lakes, rolling hills, and a relative abundance of trees. The unincorporated town of Belcourt, North Dakota, is the only community on the Turtle Mountain Reservation.

The reservation was established by Executive Orders of December 21, 1882 and March 29, 1884 on an area of 72,000 acres of land. The 72,000 acres immediately proved to be inadequate for the population of the reservation. In order to meet the land needs of the people, additional land was allotted in western North Dakota and Montana; this location, the Trenton Service Area, consisting of approximately 69,860 acres, was established by Tribal Ordinance on March 25, 1975 and supported by the Appropriations Act of 1975. The Turtle Mountain Reservation lies within Rolette County, North Dakota; the Trenton Indian Service Area spans six counties in North Dakota and in Montana. The Service Area lies approximately 250 miles from the Turtle Mountain Reservation.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

The Chippewa peoples of North Dakota come from the Algonquian linguistic family and migrated to the Northern Great Plains from the eastern Great Lakes region during the 1600s. By the latter portion of the 19th century, the Turtle Mountain Band sought official recognition from the U.S. Government, and in 1882 finally received a reservation. While the initial reservation agreement encompassed about 10 million acres, in 1884 its size was dramatically reduced when the government decided that most of the mixed-blood population was Canadian in origin. After ongoing legal battles, the federal government finally agreed in the Act of 1904 to compensate the tribe one million dollars for the appropriation of its land, or about 10 cents an acre. The Burke Act of 1906 provided for the allotment of reservation land to individual tribal members. Due to the greatly diminished size of the reservation, the federal government had to allot land from the public domain as distant as Montana and South Dakota once reservation lands were exhausted. Over the ensuing years, many of the allottees eventually lost their holdings because of their inability to pay the taxes; now landless, many made the trek back to what was left of their North Dakota reservation. During the 1950s, the Turtle Mountain Chippewa were targeted for termination, due in part to their rejection of the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act. Fortunately for the tribe, these plans were never realized. During the 1970s, enhanced tribal sovereignty, along with federal help in attracting business investment and constructing housing, the tribe began to realize a degree of success and self-sufficiency. The reservation is now home to a Bulova watch factory, a shopping mall, an industrial park, a casino, and other business ventures. These represent no small accomplishment, given the ultra-rural and traditionally undeveloped status of the region. During the late 1980s, the federal government recognized the unfairness of the so-called Ten Cent Treaty and began a reparations process. Presently, the traditional Chippewa and Mitchell languages are still spoken on the reservation and vicinity, as is Mitchif, a creole language. And while the majority of tribal members are Roman Catholic, a small but growing percentage practice traditional religious customs.

GOVERNMENT

The tribe's governing body, the Tribal Council, consists of a chairman and eight members elected to two-year terms. The chairman is elected at large by the general membership; the vice-chairman is elected from the eight council members at the first meeting of each newly elected council. The tribal government is organized according to a 1959 constitution and bylaws. In 1976, the tribe adopted a Tribal Code, covering criminal and civil law. The Trenton Indian Service Area is now governed by an elected Board of Directors made up of seven members, six directors and a chairperson-at-large. Election of directors are held every four years; terms are staggered. The Service Area has been divided into three districts (Williston, Trenton, Montana), with two representatives from each district.

ECONOMY

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

The land available for agriculture production is limited to an estimated 12,000 acres. The length of summer days, about 18 hours, contributes to the success of crops in the region. The tribe maintains a small herd of bison just west of Belcourt on the south side of Highway 5 in a grassy, wooded park. The Trenton Indian Service Area owns 96 acres of fee patented land presently used for pasture.

CONSTRUCTION

Of the approximately 100 Indian-owned businesses in Rolette County, an estimated 30 are construction companies. A number of these were active in the 1978 construction of the reservation-based shopping mall. According to 1990 census figures, 115 tribal

members make their living through construction industry employment.

FISHERIES

Compared with most of the surrounding region, the Turtle Mountain region is relatively flush with lakes and streams which have traditionally supported subsistence fishing. Today the tribe is actively pursuing the development of a commercial walleye fishing industry and commercial bait farms on the reservation.

FORESTRY

The Turtle Mountain forest is incredibly rich when compared to the austerity of the surrounding Great Plains. It contains mature and over-mature stands of timber which have traditionally been considered to have little economic value beyond firewood. Given the limited and unique nature of the forest, the tribe maintains a rigorous vigilance over it and its attendant wildlife.

GAMING

The reservation offers horse racing with pari-mutuel betting and a bingo hall/casino. The Turtle Mountain Bingo offers a large seating capacity, refreshment, and pulltab concessions. The Turtle Mountain Casino offers high-stakes blackjack, video machines and a connecting restaurant. Ninety-nine percent of the employees at the Turtle Mountain Casino are tribal members. Both these ventures provide a significant and growing source of revenue and tribal employment.

GOVERNMENT AS EMPLOYER

Tribal programs, Indian Health Service, the local school systems, and the BIA employ a significant number of people. Altogether, the local, state, and federal governments currently provide over 50 percent of the jobs of all employed tribal members.

INDUSTRIAL PARKS

The tribe operates a 40-acre industrial park about three miles west of Belcourt on U.S. 281. The park maintains an excellent track record and steady activity, along with good transportation routes, an ample utilities package, and tax advantages.

MANUFACTURING

Turtle Mountain Manufacturing Company has produced cargo trailers and truck boxes, mostly for U.S. military contracts, since 1978. The company is 100 percent tribally owned and operated. It employs 134 to 160 persons full-time and grosses about \$19 million annually. Turtle Mountain Manufacturing is currently planning a 20,000-square-foot expansion of its facilities. The Bulova Watch Company operates a plant in Rolla, just off the reservation, employing 140 persons, 75 percent of whom are tribal members.

SERVICES

Uniband Data Entry Corporation has been providing data entry and ADP services to both government agencies and private corporations since 1987. Operators enter information on worksheets provided to Uniband by a contractor. Begun as a joint venture with a private firm, Uniband is now fully owned by the tribe. Uniband currently employs 65 people and has the capacity to employ up to 300. A shopping mall operates on the reservation, containing a large

supermarket, post office, bank, barber and hairstylist shops, among other businesses. Additionally, the reservation supports a number of other grocery stores, gas stations, and the like.

TOURISM AND RECREATION

The reservation's numerous lakes and forested hillsides afford excellent fishing, hunting, and other outdoor recreation. The tribe celebrates St. Ann's and Turtle Mountain Days every July—a festival which revels in traditional spirituality, history, and games. The reservation also features a Chippewa Heritage Center with museum, archives, art gallery, and gift shop. In addition, the tribe's Anishinaubag Center is a tourist operation in a beautiful natural setting on Fish Lake which promotes intercultural understanding. The center includes a Plains Indian village, Mandan earth lodges, log cabins and other historic re-creations demonstrating the Native American history of the area. The Turtle Mountain Artists Board promotes the profusion of musicians and other performing artists in the area. Finally, the tribe celebrates pow wows during July and over Labor Day weekend, drawing crowds, along with U.S. and Canadian dancers.

The Trenton Indian Service Area has leased land adjacent to Trenton Lake from the Army Corps of Engineers for recreational and tourism purposes.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The reservation lies on Highways 5 and 281 linking Minot, ND and Winnipeg, Ontario. U.S. Highways 2, 52, and 83 provide access to Bismarck and the remainder of the region. Rail service is available locally through three commercial lines, including Amtrak. Regular commercial air service is available at Minot International Airport and Devils Lake. UPS serves the reservation, while other commercial trucklines serve Rolla (seven miles from the reservation) and Rugby, 40 miles distant. Major highways accessing the Trenton Service Area include U.S. 85, extending north and south from the Canadian Border into South Dakota, and U.S. 2, which runs east-west across North Dakota and into Montana. Highway 1804 runs from the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation through the town of Trenton and into Sidney, Montana. Rail service is available in Williston with passenger service provided by the Amtrak system. Parcel delivery service and overnight express are available out of Trenton. Passenger and air freight services are available in Sidney, MT and Williston, ND.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Telephone service and utilities are available throughout the reservation; three different electric companies, several natural gas and propane companies, and a rural water system provide the services. The town of Belcourt on the reservation has a modern Indian Health Service Hospital, with clinics in Rolla and other nearby communities. Education facilities are provided through Belcourt's Turtle Mountain Community School System which includes a modern high school, middle school, and elementary school. Ojibwa Indian School serves grades K-8. The Turtle Mountain Community College is located in Belcourt. Finally, Belcourt has the oldest Indian-owned radio station in the U.S., and the *Turtle Mountain Star*, an Indian-run newspaper, is published weekly at Rolla.

