



NORTH DAKOTA

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Objective To secure relocation or expansion of northern California businesses and business professionals in North Dakota.

Education

- North Dakota has 18 college and university campuses, one of the highest ratios of college institutions per college-aged population.
- Per capita, North Dakota has the highest number of full-time students enrolled in college.
- The average combined SAT score for North Dakota was 17% above the national average in 1998.
- North Dakota has one of the highest percentages of students in the nation graduating from high school.
- Eighth graders rank top in the nation and seventh in the world for math scores, and top in the nation and second in the world for science scores.
- In 1998-99, the average student-teacher ratio was less than 15 to 1 in K-12.

Workforce Skills and Training

- One community's employers report an annual employee turnover of 6-9% and a daily absenteeism rate of less than 5%. More than 37,000 workers in another community indicated they want better jobs (underemployment).
- Average labor costs are about 15% less than the nationwide average (lower cost of doing business).
- The Department of Commerce estimates North Dakota has over 52 major call, information technology and service center facilities employing more than 11,400 people with wages ranging from \$7-\$12 per hour (labor availability).
- Job Service North Dakota is the one-stop coordinator of all state and federal workforce training programs and financial assistance (cost and time savings).
- A qualifying business with 100 jobs paying \$40,000 a year could receive nearly \$800,000 in workforce training assistance (incentives).

Business Experience

- Productivity for North Dakota's industrial machinery manufacturers is 35% higher than the national average.
- Twenty-one of North Dakota's top information technology and service centers achieved an average employment growth of 237% from first year to current year of operations.
- North Dakota's dynamic industries (i.e. business services and industrial machinery and equipment manufacturing) outpace U.S. growth by 6%.
- Employment growth in manufacturing averaged nearly 4% per year over the past 10 years, while manufacturing employment nationwide declined.

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Qualifications

- North Dakota boasts a broadband network that connects 194 communities to the fastest, most powerful on-line capacity available today.
- More than 38,000 miles of fiber optic cable support the state's telecommunication infrastructure.
- Two North Dakota communities are rated in the top 50 U.S. cities for high-tech growth, and another is rated among the top 10 best places to start a high-tech company.
- North Dakota delivers low commercial and industrial electric rates of 3.5¢-5.5¢ per kwh.
- North Dakota ranks sixth in the nation in energy production and exports 60% of its power.
- North Dakota's tax incentives support business relocation or expansion. These include a five-year corporate income tax exemption, five-year property tax exemption (with property tax assessed on real property, not infrastructure within), and sales and use tax exemptions. For example, \$10,000,000 in computer and telecommunications equipment purchases would receive a \$500,000 savings (5% state sales tax).
- Other tax exemptions include electricity and interstate communications over phone lines, as well as a discounted 2% rate on natural gas.

Background Highlights

- In 2001, North Dakota was designated the safest state in the U.S.
- One North Dakota community has the lowest rate of violent crime of any major metropolitan area in the nation. Two others rank in the top 25.
- North Dakota is ranked the ninth healthiest state in the nation.
- One North Dakota community ranked eighth in the nation in a 2000 Ladies Home Journal rating of the best places for women to live.
- A single-family home in North Dakota costs 73% of the U.S. median at \$97,000.

References:

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