



NORTH DAKOTA

Economic Development & Finance

PO Box 2057 • Bismarck, ND 58502-2057

1-866-4DAKOTA • 4dakota@state.nd.us • www.growingnd.com

Objective To secure relocation or expansion of high-quality 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.
- In 2001, North Dakota ranked number one in the nation for average SAT scores.
- North Dakota's high school graduation rate is the second highest in the country at 84 percent.
- Our eighth graders consistently lead the nation in math and science scores.
- Our average student to teacher ratio is 13.7 to 1, placing North Dakota among the top eight states in the nation.

Workforce Skills and Training

- North Dakota employee turnover rates hover around seven percent and our absenteeism rates are typically under three percent, compared to double-digit rates in other parts of America (lower cost of doing business).
- More than 37,000 workers in one North Dakota community indicated they want better jobs (underemployment).
- The Department of Commerce estimates North Dakota is home to 55 successful business service companies that employ more than 9,000 customer service representatives (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 new business with 100 jobs paying \$40,000 a year would be eligible for workforce training support approaching \$800,000 (incentives).

Business Experience

- Productivity for North Dakota's industrial machinery manufacturers is 35 percent higher than the national average.
- Twenty-one of North Dakota's top information technology and service centers achieved an average employment growth of 237 percent 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 six percent.
- Employment growth in manufacturing averaged nearly four percent 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 nearly 200 communities and 500 physical locations 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.
- North Dakota delivers low commercial and industrial electric rates of 3.5¢-6.0¢ per kwh.
- North Dakota ranks sixth in the nation in energy production and exports 60 percent 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 (five percent state sales tax).
- Other tax exemptions include electricity and interstate communications over phone lines, as well as a discounted two percent rate on natural gas.

Background Highlights

- In 2002, North Dakota was designated the safest state in the U.S.
- In 2000, Microsoft made its largest acquisition at the time – purchasing Great Plains Software for \$1.1 billion - and chose to grow the company in North Dakota.
- The North Dakota crime rate is the lowest in the nation.
- The air quality in North Dakota is second to none.
- One North Dakota community ranked eighth in the nation in a 2000 Ladies Home Journal rating of the best places for women to live.
- Housing costs in North Dakota are just \$97,000 for a typical, single-family home, 73 percent of the U.S. median cost.

References:

Darcy Volk, General Manager
Unisys
701.221.7071

Dennis Gladen, Mfg. Director
Imation Corporation
701.671.6140

Ronald Robson, President
US Bank
701.280.3657

Dennis Johnson, CEO
TMI Systems Design Corp.
701.456.6301