



“If we want to build a workforce in rural communities, we need to build more livable rural communities.”

— Gov. Doug Burgum, in remarks during the first workshop of his central policy initiative as 2020 chair of the Western Governors' Association (WGA), “Reimagining the Rural West”

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North Dakota

Pop. (2019): 788,958

Median household income (2019): \$60,996

Credit Rating: AA+/Stable

Pop. growth 2019–2024: 1.46%

Median age (2019): 38

Right-to-work state: Yes

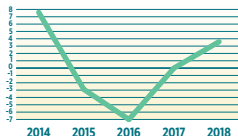
Legislative Update

HB 1171 provides \$3 million in skilled workforce scholarships and \$3 million in student loan repayments to incentivize college graduates with high-demand degrees to stay in North Dakota. HB 1040 provides \$2 million for an automation tax credit as an incentive for businesses to adopt automated manufacturing processes that improve job quality and increase productivity. SB 2306 provides occupation license reciprocity for eligible trailing spouses of military personnel.

HB 1018, the Department of Commerce budget, provides \$28 million to create a statewide infrastructure network to support the operation of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) beyond visual line of sight. It also provides \$2 million to the Northern Plains UAS Test Site in Grand Forks and \$3 million for an enhanced-use lease grant with the Grand Sky UAS business park at Grand Forks Air Force Base.

In October, Gov. Burgum joined U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler in announcing that the \$2.75 billion Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project has been invited to apply for a \$561 million EPA loan – clearing a major hurdle for a crucial piece of financing for the flood control project.

GDP
46th



2018 GDP
(in millions of current US\$)
\$52,873



16th

Business Tax Climate Rank Change 2019–2020: -1



41st

Higher Ed. R&D Expenditure in \$000s: **255,534**



41st

Number of NCRCs: **2,165** | Percent Improvement 2019–2020: **65.39%**



1st

2019 Workers' Comp Index Rate: **0.82**



11th

Industrial power cost per kWh: **\$8.47**



3rd

Total Revenue as Share of Total Expenses, FY 2004–2018: **122.1%**