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**“This is a big win for producers ... This move is absolutely critical for South Dakota farmers and ranchers as recent years have seen lower commodity prices and unstable market conditions.”**

— Gov. Kristi Noem, Oct. 2019, applauding the Trump administration's new plan to promote biofuels and expand ethanol production



# South Dakota

Pop. (2019): 899,158  
Median household income (2019): \$55,722  
Credit Rating: AAA/Stable

Pop. growth 2019–2024: 1.04%  
Median age (2019): 38  
Right-to-work state: Yes

## Legislative Update

The early-year session produced measures closing the broadband gap and helping to bring the B-21 next-generation bomber to Ellsworth Air Force Base.

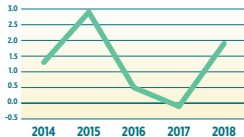
A new law eases the professional licensing process for the spouses of military members assigned to Ellsworth or other locations in South Dakota.

Gov. Noem's "Pipeline Package," signed into law in March, created the Pipeline Engagement Activity Coordination Expenses (PEACE) fund for the coordination of law enforcement expenditures, and created an additional fund and legal remedies "to pursue out-of-state money fueling riots that aim to shut down the pipeline build." A separate measure streamlines the permit procedures for solar and wind energy facilities.

Gov. Noem vetoed industrial hemp legislation, and followed up later in the year with a study group tasked to look into questions surrounding its cultivation and regulation.

GDP

**47<sup>th</sup>**



**2018 GDP**  
(in millions of current US\$)  
**\$46,490.5**



Business Tax Climate Rank Change 2019–2020: 0

**2<sup>nd</sup>**



Higher Ed. R&D Expenditure in \$000s: **115,860**

**49<sup>th</sup>**



Number of NCRCS: **32,747** | Percent Improvement 2019–2020: **23.92%**

**25<sup>th</sup>**



2019 Workers' Comp Index Rate: **1.73**

**28<sup>th</sup>**



Industrial power cost per kWh: **\$7.83**

**13<sup>th</sup>**



Total Revenue as Share of Total Expenses, FY 2004–2018: **105.8%**

**8<sup>th</sup>**