

10 REASONS TO INVEST AND DO BUSINESS IN



1. *Gallup Job Creation Index* ranks North Dakota #1 for the Best Jobs Market in 2012.
2. North Dakota has increased exports by 585 percent since 2000.
U.S. Department of Commerce, 2012
3. North Dakota ranks #1 in the nation for the highest growth of GDP in 2010, 2011, and 2012 and leads the nation in personal income growth.
Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2012, 2013
4. North Dakota ranks #2 in the nation in state competitiveness and is #2 in a national entrepreneurship index.
Beacon Hill Competitiveness Index, 2012
University of Nebraska, Bureau of Business Research, 2012
5. North Dakota ranks #3 as a pro-business state in America, according to the *Pollina Corporate Top 10 Pro-Business States for 2013*. *CNBC* ranks North Dakota #3 in America's Top States for Business in 2013.
6. North Dakota was named the nation's #2 top growth performer since 2000.
U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 2011
7. *Forbes Magazine* recognizes North Dakota as the #4 state for business. *Forbes* ranks Fargo #2 and Bismarck #3 in the 2012 Best Small Places for Business and Careers.
8. North Dakota residents and businesses have received over \$1 billion in cuts to personal, corporate and property taxes, from the 2009, 2011 and 2013 legislative sessions.
North Dakota Tax Commissioner
9. *Business Facilities* ranked North Dakota #3 for economic growth potential in 2012.
10. North Dakota is the top performing state in the nation reporting positive economic growth for the fourth quarter of 2012, with job creation and increased incomes as the key indicators.
Bloomberg Economic Evaluation of States Index, 2012



STRATEGIC INCENTIVE ADVANTAGES

Corporate Tax Exemptions

- Five-year corporate income tax exemption for new or expanding primary sector business
- Salary and R&D tax credits available

Sales Tax Exemptions

- Sales and use tax exemptions on manufacturing/computer/telecommunication equipment, water, electricity and interstate communications for technology-based business

Property Tax Exemptions

- Up to five-year property tax exemption
- Additional five years available for agricultural processors or a project located in property leased from a governmental entity
- In lieu of a property tax exemption, in full or part, a company may negotiate a fixed or graduated rate for a period not to exceed 20 years
- No personal property taxed, including equipment, materials in process, and accounts receivable

Financial Incentives

- North Dakota Development Fund – gap financing loan and equity program
- PACE Program – interest buy down program at Bank of North Dakota
- MATCH Program – loans at U.S. Treasury yield rate + 0.25% - 0.50% for “A” or “BBB” rated companies

Job Training Programs

- One-stop job training assistance – both state and federal programs available for businesses
- Workforce 2020 – state-funded program for training new technologies and processes
- New Jobs Training Program – “no cost” program utilizing employee withholding tax

Workers Compensation

- Lowest workers compensation premium rates in the nation - 2012

COMPETITIVE BUSINESS COST ADVANTAGES

Power

- Power offered at industrial rates below national average – avg. 6.56 cents/kh – YTD January 2013
- State exports nearly 70% of electricity produced
- Supporting “green” business trend by developing renewable energy sources

Public Policy

- Constitutionally balanced budget
- Person-to-person access to public officials
- Only state-owned bank in the nation offers business expansion funds

Taxes

- In 2011, State Legislature lowered the top corporate income tax rate from 6.4% to 5.15%