



INDUSTRY FACTS

\$938M

BROADBAND
INVESTMENTS OVER
THE PAST 5 YEARS

77%

NORTH DAKOTANS
WITH GIGABIT
INTERNET ACCESS

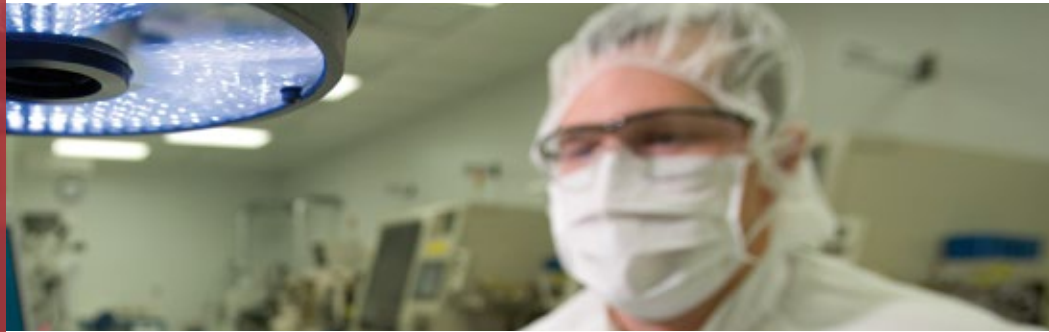
21,996

JOBS IN
TECHNOLOGY
SUBSECTORS

6.5%

OF THE STATE'S
GDP

Updated 5.21.2024



NORTH DAKOTA'S TECHNOLOGICAL PROWESS

Information technology (IT), as well as technology subsectors, have rapidly become one of North Dakota's largest industries and continue to be a driver for all sectors of the state's economy. IT is a major center for innovation that stimulates job growth in areas like agriculture, health care, energy production and autonomous systems. Job growth in IT has increased nearly 16% over the past decade where start-up activities have become plentiful. The state's technology subsectors employ approximately 22,000 people across 4,971 businesses, including the nation's third-largest Microsoft campus. In addition, IT and technology contribute more than \$3.6B per year to the state's gross domestic product (GDP) with annual wages averaging \$90,688 per employee. Significant cluster development and growth is occurring in North Dakota in areas such as mobility (autonomous systems), computer and cyber sciences, cybersecurity, ag technology, and energy.

“Information technology continues to be a leading industry that touches all sectors across North Dakota, from government and health care to education and the economy,” Gov. Doug Burgum said. “Continuing to invest in our IT network for business, workforce, education and private use will ensure that North Dakota remains at the forefront of connectivity, cybersecurity and technological advances.”

GROWTH FACTORS

- Gigabit service to every school district, higher education campus, state government building, and more than 77% of citizens.
- Growing capabilities in data analytics and storage, highlighted by the construction of two new data centers.
- Focus on developing technological skills needed to meet future workforce needs through initiatives such as North Dakota Citizens Skills for All and the Emerging Digital Academy.
- Leading edge research in areas such as ag technology, biosciences, energy, autonomous systems, space studies, and more.
- State and private investment for high-tech initiatives such as Grand Farm, which is developing the farm of the future, and Vantis, a statewide network that enable drones to fly Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS).

DID YOU KNOW



Technology subsectors in North Dakota **employ approximately 22K people** across 4,971 businesses, including the nation's third largest Microsoft campus.



North Dakota is a **national leader in broadband** activity with almost \$1B invested in infrastructure



IT and technology contribute more than **\$3.6B per year** to the state's GDP



Annual wages in IT average **\$90,688**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY IN NORTH DAKOTA

IT and technologically oriented firms have not only led to job creation but have supported statewide economic diversification while contributing to national and international intellectual property commercialization. Emerging technologies in sectors such as energy production, biomedical, UAS/precision ag, software development and defense technology are being developed and commercialized in North Dakota as a direct result of North Dakota's unique clusters.

- **Thread** leverages its proprietary software, drones, and other robotics to automate critical infrastructure inspection and deliver accurate analytics rapidly through a robust data and asset management platform. Thread is raising more than \$15M in one of the largest Series A funding rounds in North Dakota history.
- **Packet Digital** has been awarded an \$8.5M contract by the United States Navy to develop smart batteries, chargers, and power systems for drones. Combined with other major commercial and defense projects, Packet Digital is experiencing rapid growth as it adds staff and expands its manufacturing capabilities.
- **Bushel** is a leading provider of software technology solutions for grain growers, buyers, ag retailers, protein producers and food companies. Its platform, which includes a mobile app, digital payments, market feeds, and a custom software division focused on agriculture, reaches over 40% of grain providers in the U.S.
- **Be More Colorful** creates interactive virtual tours and virtual reality experiences for anything from residential real estate to travel and tourism. It's CareerViewXR platform is becoming a vital asset to the workforce development efforts of companies, communities, and statistics. CareerViewXR provides amazing virtual reality career experiences to students and job seekers, helping align them with career pathways that interest them.
- **Bitzero** has selected North Dakota as its headquarters and hub for all North American operations. Key factors in Bitzero's decision to locate in North Dakota include access to top-tier engineering and software talent. Bitzero plans to build 200 megawatts of data centers in North Dakota among other project possibilities.
- The **Joint-Cybersecurity Operations Command Center** was founded in North Dakota to facilitate interstate cooperation on cybersecurity and threat intelligence sharing. Today, nearly 20% of states participate in cooperative defense against ever-growing cyber threats.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR IT AND TECH

North Dakota is making the requisite investments in infrastructure, K-12 education and in its university system to provide a solid foundation for industry to continue to grow. With projected increases of 10-20% in IT and technical positions, North Dakota will be positioned to have the necessary workforce in place to meet demand. To further growth prospects in IT and emerging technologies, the North Dakota Department of Commerce promotes North Dakota's business-friendly environment and economic development programming and incentives to encourage job creation, spin-offs into private industry, and clustering of new companies in emerging sectors.