



EMPLOYED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS IN NORTH DAKOTA

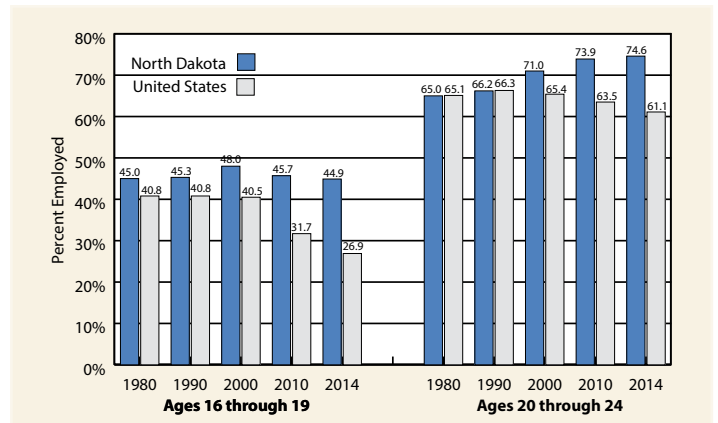
Experiencing a thriving economy, North Dakota continues to be a leader with regard to low unemployment. Since 2009, North Dakota has had the lowest annual unemployment rate among states (2.8% in 2014)¹. North Dakota, historically, has also had one of the highest percentages of working teens and young adults in the nation. In 2014, nearly two out of every three teens and young adults in North Dakota ages 16 through 24 were employed (63 percent), which is the largest proportion among states. Nationally, 46 percent of teens and young adults ages 16 through 24 were employed².

Research conducted by the Annie E. Casey Foundation explains that, “A continuum of work experiences from the teen years onward – including volunteer and community service, summer and part-time jobs, work-study experience, internships and apprenticeships – build job-readiness skills, knowledge, and confidence. These encompass not just workplace and financial skills, but also the broader ‘soft skills’ of taking responsibility and initiative, working in teams, focusing on problem-solving and learning how to contribute”³.

Failing to develop those work and life skills can have lifelong consequences. “Studies show that youth who miss out on an early work experience are more likely to endure later unemployment and less likely to achieve higher levels of career attainment”³. Yet, a healthy balance is also important. Research shows that longer work hours, particularly for high school students, can interfere with academic achievement and other beneficial school activities⁴.

Teens Ages 16-19. In 2014, nearly half of North Dakota teens ages 16 through 19 were employed (45%). This tied with South Dakota for the largest percentage among all states. Nationally, 27 percent of teenagers were employed in 2014 (Figure 1)².

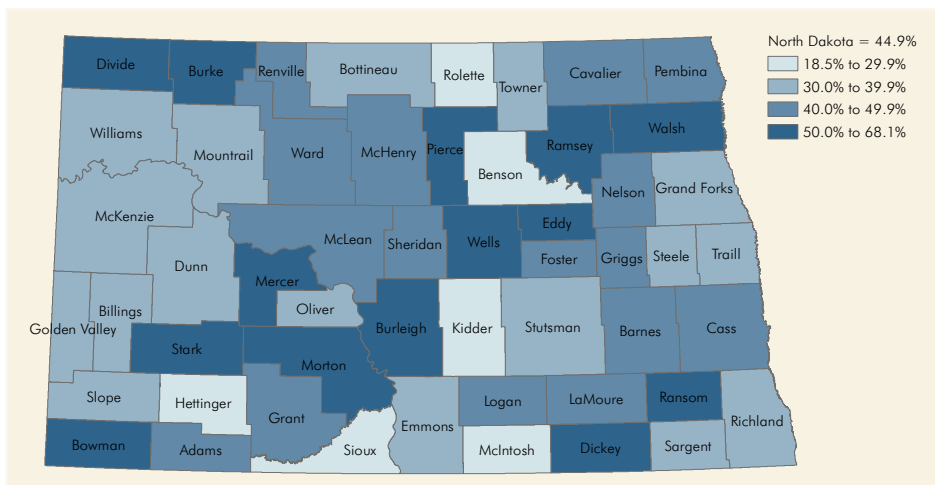
FIGURE 1. EMPLOYED YOUTH AGES 16-24, BY AGE, IN NORTH DAKOTA AND THE UNITED STATES: 1980-2014^{2,5,6,7}



In North Dakota, the percentage of working teens has changed little over the past three decades. In 1980, 45 percent of North Dakota teens ages 16 through 19 were employed⁷. Nationally, the percentage decreased from 41 percent in 1980 to 27 percent in 2014 (Figure 1)^{2,7}. In four North Dakota counties, at least 60 percent of teenagers were employed in 2014 (Dickey, Divide, Morton and Ransom) (Figure 2 and Table 1)².

Young Adults Ages 20-24. Employment rates for older youth are understandably higher than for teens. Among young adults ages 20 through 24 in North Dakota, 75 percent were employed in 2014. This was the largest percentage among all states. Nationally, 61 percent of young adults were employed (Figure 1). In seven North Dakota counties, at least 90 percent of young adults were employed in 2014 (Table 1)².

FIGURE 2. YOUTH AGES 16-19 WHO ARE EMPLOYED IN NORTH DAKOTA BY COUNTY: 2014²



The percentage of young adults ages 20 through 24 in North Dakota who are working rose 10 points over the past few decades, from 65 percent in 1980 to 75 percent in 2014. This is in contrast to the national average which decreased from 65 percent to 61 percent during the same time (Figure 1)^{2,7}.

The successful transition from youth into independent adulthood involves a combination of education, training and supportive services, strong relationships with adults, and positive work experiences. Youth who stay in school, continue their education past high school, and gain early employment experience gain valuable skills and are more likely to be successful as adults³.

¹U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Unemployment Rates for States. Retrieved from <http://www.bls.gov/lau/>. ²U.S. Census Bureau. 2006-2010 and 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B23001. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>. ³The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2012). Youth and Work: Restoring Teen and Young Adult Connections to Opportunity. Available from <http://www.aecf.org>. ⁴Child Trends. (2014). Youth Employment. Retrieved from <http://childtrends.org/?indicators=youth-employment>. ⁵U.S. Census Bureau. 2000 Census, Summary File 3, Table PCT035. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>. ⁶U.S. Census Bureau. 1990 Census, Summary Tape File 4B, Table PB56. ⁷U.S. Census Bureau. 1980 Census, Summary Tape File 4B, Table PB51. Retrieved from the National Historical Geographic Information System (NHGIS) at <https://www.nhgis.org/>.

TABLE 1. EMPLOYED YOUTH AGES 16-24, BY AGE, IN THE U.S. AND IN NORTH DAKOTA BY COUNTY: 1980-2014^{2,5,6,7}

Area	Ages 16 through 19					Ages 20 through 24				
	1980	1990	2000	2010	2014	1980	1990	2000	2010	2014
United States	40.8%	40.8%	40.5%	31.7%	26.9%	65.1%	66.3%	65.4%	63.5%	61.1%
North Dakota	45.0%	45.3%	48.0%	45.7%	44.9%	65.0%	66.2%	71.0%	73.9%	74.6%
Adams	54.6%	52.3%	52.8%	51.0%	44.2%	78.1%	72.2%	62.5%	83.5%	81.5%
Barnes	45.5%	42.7%	44.7%	46.3%	49.6%	60.5%	66.3%	74.7%	73.6%	73.0%
Benson	24.1%	24.8%	17.1%	21.9%	26.6%	60.2%	56.3%	57.1%	46.0%	48.6%
Billings	45.7%	31.3%	30.5%	40.6%	35.5%	76.5%	57.5%	73.3%	58.1%	100.0%
Bottineau	34.5%	26.6%	40.5%	32.7%	35.2%	60.0%	51.3%	62.7%	70.7%	70.7%
Bowman	57.8%	51.3%	44.8%	54.1%	52.1%	75.7%	85.7%	89.7%	84.0%	86.4%
Burke	30.1%	20.1%	39.2%	44.6%	56.7%	64.1%	69.6%	67.4%	88.5%	70.1%
Burleigh	57.5%	59.9%	57.8%	53.0%	54.8%	78.2%	77.3%	75.2%	76.9%	80.7%
Cass	52.5%	51.1%	53.4%	46.2%	45.7%	70.6%	72.0%	79.4%	80.0%	80.8%
Cavalier	31.3%	26.5%	46.7%	46.6%	40.7%	66.2%	72.5%	80.2%	91.2%	78.3%
Dickey	51.1%	49.1%	55.8%	64.2%	68.1%	65.9%	65.1%	76.7%	74.7%	73.2%
Divide	35.9%	36.8%	40.2%	68.7%	63.8%	76.3%	82.9%	71.8%	82.9%	89.3%
Dunn	43.0%	47.4%	33.0%	29.6%	34.9%	77.7%	63.6%	61.9%	66.8%	61.4%
Eddy	33.6%	26.3%	45.0%	54.8%	54.8%	70.4%	77.8%	75.7%	86.3%	72.1%
Emmons	29.6%	26.5%	47.0%	38.0%	32.9%	66.1%	56.4%	81.0%	78.0%	98.5%
Foster	51.6%	56.7%	50.5%	36.3%	42.0%	81.0%	72.1%	94.6%	85.1%	86.3%
Golden Valley	39.9%	45.7%	23.9%	38.1%	30.7%	64.0%	79.0%	67.2%	63.8%	57.4%
Grand Forks	39.7%	46.5%	48.2%	44.7%	36.3%	50.4%	59.4%	64.6%	71.6%	68.8%
Grant	46.0%	50.0%	27.4%	21.9%	46.7%	80.6%	79.0%	78.4%	100.0%	87.7%
Griggs	42.3%	39.6%	35.1%	55.1%	49.5%	76.1%	67.6%	67.7%	71.2%	87.7%
Hettinger	46.2%	24.7%	24.8%	41.7%	26.4%	80.6%	90.5%	69.0%	56.2%	64.7%
Kidder	31.8%	25.8%	24.2%	22.2%	21.3%	71.0%	69.9%	75.0%	85.4%	94.1%
LaMoure	28.2%	31.5%	42.9%	31.7%	46.5%	64.9%	69.3%	78.7%	80.7%	79.2%
Logan	40.7%	31.9%	39.8%	25.6%	40.3%	70.0%	83.6%	80.0%	94.6%	92.9%
McHenry	30.6%	30.6%	33.0%	28.8%	40.3%	55.3%	74.1%	78.7%	79.4%	79.1%
McIntosh	36.3%	55.6%	46.4%	50.5%	26.5%	76.1%	86.2%	75.8%	82.7%	70.7%
McKenzie	43.9%	37.4%	32.3%	47.4%	34.6%	70.8%	51.0%	54.0%	84.3%	68.8%
McLean	34.5%	39.0%	39.6%	45.0%	44.9%	59.5%	64.1%	67.9%	73.5%	72.3%
Mercer	51.4%	46.2%	46.7%	36.8%	51.6%	68.1%	68.3%	59.1%	74.3%	75.4%
Morton	52.4%	54.0%	51.3%	52.7%	60.5%	75.6%	78.8%	81.2%	83.5%	83.5%
Mountrail	39.0%	25.0%	29.5%	35.4%	36.9%	70.5%	52.0%	59.8%	79.6%	68.3%
Nelson	22.6%	28.6%	41.0%	45.7%	41.8%	65.6%	77.7%	75.0%	66.4%	87.8%
Oliver	33.3%	39.2%	34.1%	47.7%	33.3%	66.0%	76.7%	68.8%	82.9%	81.9%
Pembina	39.6%	51.2%	53.7%	58.8%	49.3%	72.9%	76.0%	72.6%	78.7%	72.9%
Pierce	48.8%	38.7%	51.8%	40.9%	53.0%	76.3%	81.5%	77.1%	73.2%	90.6%
Ramsey	48.4%	48.6%	49.3%	48.4%	57.1%	68.8%	75.0%	78.3%	61.3%	76.2%
Ransom	40.3%	38.5%	61.1%	49.8%	60.2%	73.9%	77.3%	86.7%	84.7%	78.0%
Renville	40.5%	14.1%	40.6%	55.4%	48.7%	67.3%	73.3%	78.1%	77.4%	76.8%
Richland	41.1%	41.9%	47.8%	43.7%	39.1%	60.1%	62.9%	61.8%	68.3%	66.5%
Rolette	20.3%	19.6%	25.4%	16.2%	18.5%	45.2%	34.6%	40.5%	29.8%	37.4%
Sargent	34.0%	42.6%	43.3%	24.3%	35.9%	81.3%	75.6%	82.5%	78.6%	92.0%
Sheridan	28.2%	16.8%	26.7%	37.5%	44.2%	72.2%	68.4%	70.0%	87.3%	60.0%
Sioux	29.4%	4.9%	6.6%	14.0%	19.1%	54.9%	25.6%	40.5%	20.6%	40.3%
Slope	21.0%	44.4%	53.8%	50.0%	36.8%	65.8%	93.1%	85.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Stark	52.0%	53.1%	49.8%	50.9%	58.1%	75.1%	76.7%	73.0%	74.5%	80.0%
Steele	37.1%	22.8%	39.6%	31.6%	39.4%	73.2%	87.0%	78.5%	78.6%	78.7%
Stutsman	47.8%	49.7%	51.5%	42.5%	35.9%	71.1%	75.7%	70.0%	73.2%	72.0%
Towner	32.7%	33.1%	31.5%	44.9%	31.5%	78.1%	67.7%	84.6%	82.2%	85.7%
Traill	37.3%	30.6%	54.2%	52.8%	34.9%	66.7%	62.8%	57.4%	73.2%	70.7%
Walsh	36.8%	46.2%	47.4%	58.1%	51.0%	66.9%	70.6%	86.7%	71.5%	72.6%
Ward	44.4%	45.4%	48.4%	49.9%	49.3%	49.2%	52.3%	57.2%	63.4%	64.3%
Wells	40.7%	33.8%	49.6%	34.4%	55.2%	70.3%	74.4%	67.3%	51.0%	87.0%
Williams	67.7%	46.8%	50.1%	55.1%	38.8%	79.6%	75.4%	79.0%	83.4%	87.4%

Note: These data represent the proportion of youth ages 16 through 19 and the proportion of young adults ages 20 through 24 who are employed in the civilian labor force.