



A century of expansion in employee benefits

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When referring to the topic of employee benefits, you’ve probably heard the words “fringe benefits” before. You also may have noticed that the phrase has, in recent years, become limited in its use. The word *fringe* can be defined as “marginal,” “secondary” or “peripheral,” suggesting lesser significance. However, as you will discover in the following article, employee benefits have become noticeably more than *fringe* over the past hundred years.

At the turn of the 20th century, a typical wage could be expressed in cents, and employee benefits were generally unheard of. Employees were entirely responsible for retirement savings, and employer-based health benefits were non-existent. Working conditions were poor, long workdays and workweeks were standard, and there was no government resolution for workers who lost their jobs or were injured on the job.

The years following the turn of the century marked a revolution for the American workplace. Working conditions gradually improved, electricity boosted productivity, technology and communication evolved, and establishments became larger. Service industries grew by leaps and bounds, and professional and technical occupations followed. Along with changes such as these came widespread development in employee benefits.

The table below summarizes the general developments in employee benefits over the past hundred years. It is based on data from an article written by Albert E. Schwenk and Jordan N. Pfuntner of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (*Compensation in the Later Part of the Century; Fall 2001 Issue of Compensation and Working Conditions*).

Developments in Employee Benefits in the 20th Century					
	1900	1925	1950	1975	2000
Wages	*Wages	*Wages	*Wages	*Wages *Annual bonuses	*Wages *Supplements that tie pay to performance
Paid Time Off		*Paid Holidays	*Paid holidays *Paid vacation	*Paid holidays *Paid vacation *Paid personal leave *Paid sick leave	*Paid holidays *Paid vacation *Paid personal leave *Paid sick leave *Unpaid family leave
Reimbursement accounts					*Reimbursement account for child care expenses & medical expenses
					*Choice of medical plans

<p>Health care & benefits</p>		<p>*Company doctor</p>	<p>*Basic medical plan</p>	<p>*Basic medical plan plus major medical through commercial insurer *Dental plan *Medicare</p>	<p>including Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) *Dental plan *Vision plan *Prescription drug plan *Medicare *Retiree health insurance</p>
<p>Life & disability insurance benefits</p>		<p>*Benevolent association death & disability benefits</p>	<p>*Life insurance *Weekly disability benefit</p>	<p>*Life insurance varying with earnings *Weekly disability benefit</p>	<p>*Choice of life insurance amounts *Weekly disability benefit</p>
<p>Retirement & savings plans</p>			<p>*Social Security benefits available at age 65</p>	<p>*Social Security benefits available at age 65, with reduced benefits at age 62 *Defined benefit pension</p>	<p>*Social Security full benefits available at age 67, with reduced benefits at age 62, for workers born in 1960 or later *Combination of pensions & 401k savings plans</p>

Changes in employee benefits, as well as the workplace in general, were motivated by technological advances, intensified education, increases in capital, changes in workforce demographics, legislation and increased competition. These are just a few of the factors that created a more favorable workplace for employees at the end of the century than those at the start of it.

The tradeoff of technological advancements and intensified education led to economic growth and a more efficient workplace. Advancements in communication and the invention of the computer have made way for remarkable progress. The era also sparked increases in capital and the ability for employers to better compensate their employees. Increased competition locally, nationally and abroad has driven employers to offer appealing benefits packages to attract and maintain valuable workers.

Demographic changes in the workforce prompted the development of many benefits, including “family-friendly” ones. Having more women in the workforce has led to innovations in maternity leave and paternity leave. Also on the rise as a result is the availability of on-site childcare and daycare spending accounts. Over time, the graying population and longer life expectancy have put more emphasis on retirement plans and an altered focus on health insurance issues. The desire to maintain employer-based health insurance has led many aging workers to search for or continue working for employers who offer health insurance. Their primary reason for continuing employment is to retain medical coverage, which can get extremely expensive otherwise.

Certain acts of legislation have mandated the availability of several legally required benefits. The original Social Security Act was approved in 1935. The Federal Unemployment Tax Act of 1939 was followed by the development of individual state unemployment insurance programs. The Medicare bill was signed in 1965. The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 was established to grant family and temporary medical leave under certain circumstances. Together, these and other legislation were designed to assist and ensure the American worker.

Of course, the expansion in employee benefits over the years has come with a price. A recent U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics report disclosed employee benefits now make up nearly 30 percent of

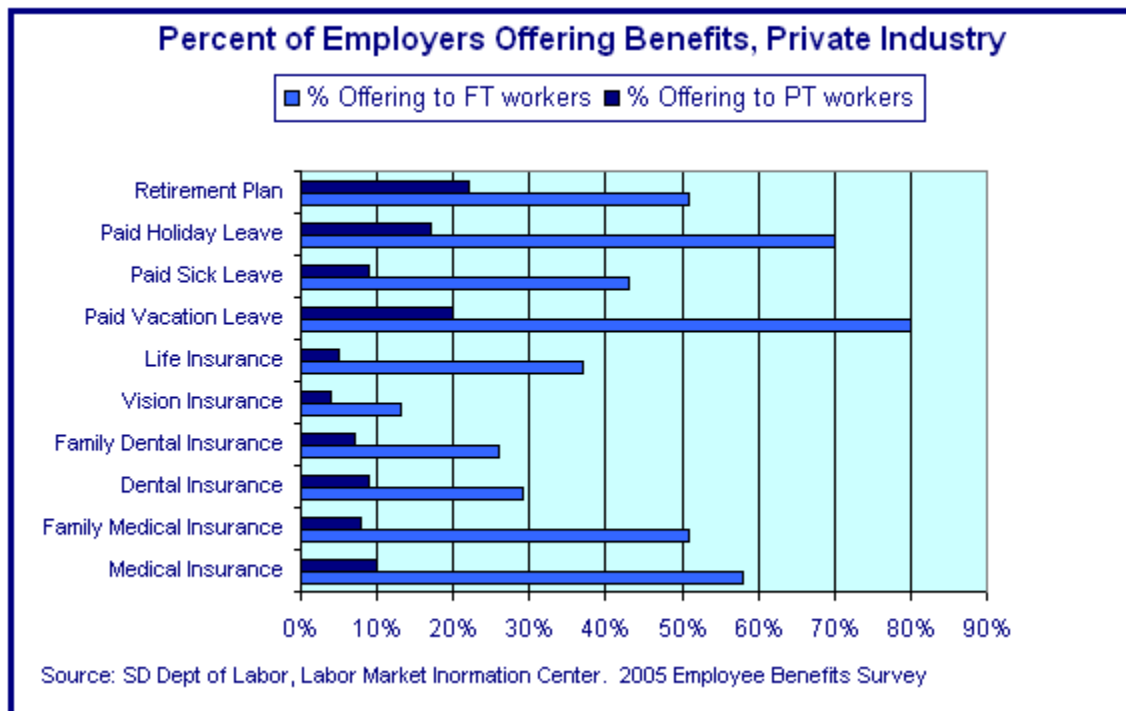
total compensation for the average employee, as compared to just more than one percent of total compensation in 1929 (the first year benefits were measured). The largest of the costs involved come from legally required benefits, followed by insurance benefits, then retirement and savings, and finally paid leave and other costs.

Other non-quantifiable benefits have evolved over the years as well. Such benefits that don't carry a definite price tag are flexible scheduling, on-the-job training, access to stock options and telecommuting opportunities. Also, in many cases, an employer may offer certain benefits, but does not contribute toward the cost of it. For example, an employer may *offer* its employees group medical insurance but does not contribute toward the cost of it. The employees are responsible for the entire premium if they choose to participate. The benefit in this case is that the employee can typically enroll in insurance coverage for cheaper than if they sought individual coverage on their own.

Employee Benefits in South Dakota

While historical progress in benefits data is not available for South Dakota specifically, it is likely the state has followed similar trends as the nation as a whole. A recent statewide survey of employers captured the status of employee benefits in today's workplace.

The chart below gives an illustration of the share of employers in the private industry who offer select employee benefits in South Dakota. As shown, the most frequently offered benefits are paid vacation leave, paid holiday leave and medical insurance. Had the chart been created to represent employee benefits one hundred years ago, it probably would have been blank.



A more detailed look at the findings of the survey revealed that the availability of employee benefits varies by size class and by industry. In general, the larger the firm, the more likely major benefits will be offered. When comparing industries, certain industries like Utilities, and Finance and Insurance stand out in terms of offering benefits.

While the data discussed in the previous paragraphs illustrates the percent of *employers offering* benefits, the information can also be examined from another angle. The percent of employees offered benefits takes on a slightly different meaning; this data is a snapshot of *employees* rather than *employers*. In other words, a firm employing 250 workers would carry much more weight than a firm with three workers. Since larger firms are more likely to offer benefits, the percent of employees offered a benefit will usually be higher than the percent of employers offering that benefit. Findings at the "employees offered" level show that benefits most frequently offered to full-time employees are medical insurance (87 percent), retirement plans (83 percent) and paid

vacation leave (82 percent).

Today's workforce has become well acquainted with employee benefits, both legally required and not. One can only speculate whether progress will continue at the same pace, but it is apparent that employee benefits are a mainstay in the workplace.

 If you have questions or need more information, contact Laura Sichmeller of the Labor Market Information Center at (605) 626-2314 or e-mail her at laura.sichmeller@state.sd.us.



Overview of the Current Labor Market

Overview of the South Dakota labor market in April 2006

Labor Supply

The number of South Dakotans who would be available to staff a new or expanding business, or South Dakota's labor supply, was estimated at 81,510 in April, up considerably from the previous month. Included in this labor supply are those who currently hold jobs (and would like to change) and those who, for a variety of reasons, do not have jobs. The labor supply numbers are estimated using the "labor shed" approach and include both residents and commuters. ([Click here](#) for related data.)

Labor Force

South Dakota's labor force was 432,500 in April, up slightly from March. There were 13,000 unemployed in April, down considerably from the previous month. ([Click here](#) for related data.)

Nonfarm wage & salaried workers by industry

This data is not seasonally adjusted.

Based on a monthly survey of South Dakota establishments, the number of nonfarm wage and salaried workers increased by 7,200 employees (or 1.9 percent) from March 2006 to April 2006 and was within [historical patterns](#) derived from previous March to April total nonfarm employment level changes. Construction, retail trade, professional and business services, and leisure and hospitality showed the most significant gains. All other industries showed smaller percentage movements or small worker level changes (possibly higher percent movements, but only 100 to 200 worker changes) that fell within their historical patterns. ([Click here](#) for current, month-ago and year-ago data.)

Construction showed a 2,600 worker (or 13.7 percent) over-the-month gain and was within historical patterns for this time period as construction-friendly weather allowed more construction projects to start.

Retail trade was also within historical patterns for this time period as retail trade gained 900 workers (or 1.9 percent) to accommodate the influx of customers. April is the time of the year when consumers start to do their spring shopping for things like gardening, yard improvement projects and do-it-yourself home repair supplies, and spring clothes.

Professional and business services gained 700 workers (or 2.9 percent) from March to April. Professional and business services do not have the stability or the seasonality that many other industries have since this industry is dependant on the economic health of the industries it serves. This is most noticeable in professional and business services' temporary employment agencies, where employment can vary widely from month to month. Several consecutive months of professional and business service over-the-month growth is a better indicator of true expansion not only in professional and business services, but the other industries they support. Leisure and hospitality added 2,400 workers (or 6.2 percent) as all sectors produced over-the-month gains within historical patterns. April is the time of the year some businesses start to reopen for a new season, such as drive-in restaurants, golf courses and hotels.

Compared to a year ago

The total number of South Dakota nonfarm wage and salaried workers increased by 9,100 workers (or 2.4 percent) from April 2005 to April 2006 as South Dakota remains [one of the best states](#) for businesses to operate in when doing [state to state comparisons](#). ([Click here](#) for current and year-ago data.). The increase was the result of noticeable gains in construction, manufacturing, financial activities, professional and business services, educational and health, and leisure and hospitality. Year-ago or over-the-year change (change in last 12 months) is an

accurate indicator of real industry worker growth/contraction, since seasonal employment nullifies itself because it occurs at the same time of year, and one is left with net worker gains/losses. Just like over-the-month changes, over-the-year data is subject to a change in seasonality too, so two or more months of over-the-year change is best to gauge real economic changes in an industry.

Construction grew by 1,500 workers (or 7.5 percent) over the year and shows promise of continuing a South Dakota annualized (annual average) construction worker expansion trend that started in 1989. Past and current population shifts from several large urban areas continue to cause increases in residential housing, infrastructure and industrial construction. Likewise, heavy construction continues to get a boost from the federal government's past spending on transportation infrastructure through the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) and recently from the federal government's continuing plan called the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The SAFETEA-LU provides a large majority of funding for the South Dakota Department of Transportation's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) with the remaining funds coming from South Dakota state and local governments.

Manufacturing grew by 1,700 workers (or 4.3 percent) from April 2005 to April 2006 and produced an employment level of 41,200 workers. Surprisingly, and to many smaller communities' benefit, a large majority of South Dakota manufacturing's over-the-year gain took place outside of the Sioux Falls and Rapid City metropolitan statistical areas. South Dakota statewide manufacturing's recovery started in January 2004 and still persists with continued growth anticipated per a recent federal survey of regional manufactures.

Worker levels in the financial activities industry grew by 1,400 workers (or 5.0 percent) over the year as the industry continues a noticeable growth trend. Professional and business services added 800 workers (or 3.3 percent), which continues to be a sign of a statewide economic recovery. The recent hiring of additional workers in this industry is a positive economic indicator since it signals other industries are expanding at the rate they need the additional support services. Education and health services increased by 1,300 workers (or 2.2 percent). Three hundred of the worker gain came from private education, as educational institutions have readily adapted to the current educational needs of individuals and have produced the skilled workers businesses need. (Note: public education is coded under government.) The health care and social services industry increased by 1,000 workers and is continuing a lengthy growth trend. Leisure and hospitality grew by 1,200 workers (or 3.0 percent) and continues a growth trend now over four years long.

Hours and Earnings of Manufacturing Production Workers

South Dakota production worker numbers continue to rise. April 2005 to April 2006 shows a 1,000 (or 3.3 percent) production worker increase. The hiring of additional personnel has lowered the amount of overtime needed to fill orders. Since overtime usually pays time and a half, the lowering of hours worked per week and the lowering of time and a half pay has lowered the average weekly earnings compared to a year ago. It is important to remember that manufacturing payroll is collected from a limited sample of reporters and that estimates for the most recent month are preliminary since not all reporters' data has been collected at that time. The preliminary estimates will be re-estimated the following month and will include more reporters' data and should reflect the industry more accurately. [Click here](#) for related data.

Nonfarm Wage and Salaried Workers in the Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Rapid City MSA

The total number of nonfarm wage and salaried workers in the Rapid City MSA increased by 1,000 workers (or 1.7 percent) from March 2006 to April 2006. [Click here](#) for related data.

The worker gain is within historical patterns, with leisure and hospitality showing the highest over-the-month gain as the RCMSA prepares for the influx of visitors to the Black Hills area. The total number of nonfarm wage and salaried workers in the RCMSA increased by 500 workers (or 0.9 percent) from April 2005 to April 2006. Education and healthcare had the largest over-the-year gain with 400 workers (or 4.5 percent) added, for the same reasons as statewide.

Sioux Falls MSA

The total number of nonfarm wage and salaried workers in the Sioux Falls MSA showed a increase of 1,700 workers (or 1.3 percent) from March 2006 to April 2006, as construction produced the most noticeable gain of 1,000 workers (or 14.5 percent). [Click here](#) for related data.

Leisure and hospitality showed the second largest gain of 300 workers, while all other industries showed small gains or were basically unchanged. The April 2005 to April 2006 comparison shows the total number of nonfarm workers in the SFMSA grew by 4,100 workers (or 3.3 percent) with no industry showing a worker decline. As mentioned with the statewide date, much of the change in the over-the-year

? If you have questions or need more information, contact Tom Leonhardt of the Labor Market Information Center at (605) 626-2314 or by e-mail at tom.loenhardt@state.sd.us .

South Dakota Nonfarm Worker Levels

<u>Industries</u>	<u>April 2006</u>	<u>March 2006</u>	<u>April 2005</u>	<u>% Chg Last Month</u>	<u>% Chg Last Year</u>
TOTAL	395,800	388,600	386,700	1.9	2.4
Nat. Resources/Mining	900	800	900	12.5	0.0
Construction	21,600	19,000	20,100	13.7	7.5
Manufacturing	41,200	41,200	39,500	0.0	4.3
- Durable Goods	28,300	28,200	26,900	0.4	5.2
- Nondurable Goods	12,900	13,000	12,600	-0.8	2.4
Wholesale Trade	17,700	17,700	17,500	0.0	1.1
Retail Trade	49,400	48,500	49,000	1.9	0.8
- Mtr Veh/Prts Dealers	6,300	6,300	6,500	0.0	-3.1
- Food/Beverage Stores	8,500	8,300	8,400	2.4	1.2
- Gen Merchds Stores	9,600	9,600	9,700	0.0	-1.0
Trans/Warehsing/Util	11,900	11,700	11,700	1.7	1.7
- Utilities	2,200	2,100	2,100	4.8	4.8
- Trans/Warehousing	9,700	9,600	9,600	1.0	1.0
Information	6,800	6,900	6,500	-1.4	4.6
Financial Activities	29,300	29,200	27,900	0.3	5.0
- Finance/Insurance	25,500	25,300	24,300	0.8	4.9
- RE/Rental/Leasing	3,800	3,900	3,600	-2.6	5.6
Prof/Bus Services	25,100	24,400	24,300	2.9	3.3
Education/Health Svc	59,100	59,000	57,800	0.2	2.2
- Educational Services	6,700	6,600	6,400	1.5	4.7
- Hlth Care/Soc Assist	52,400	52,400	51,400	0.0	1.9
- - Ambul Hlth Care Serv	13,200	13,200	12,700	0.0	3.9
- - Hospitals	18,400	18,500	18,100	-0.5	1.7
- - Nurs/Res Care Facil	13,100	13,000	12,900	0.8	1.6
Leisure/Hospitality	41,100	38,700	39,900	6.2	3.0
- Arts/Ent/Recreation	6,300	5,500	6,100	14.5	3.3
- Accom/Food Service	34,800	33,200	33,800	4.8	3.0
- - Accommodation	7,400	6,700	7,200	10.4	2.8
- - Food Serv/Drnkng Plac	27,400	26,500	26,600	3.4	3.0
Other Services	15,400	15,400	15,500	0.0	-0.6
Government	76,300	76,100	76,100	0.3	0.3
- Federal	11,000	11,000	11,100	0.0	-0.9
- State	18,100	18,100	18,000	0.0	0.6
- - State Education	9,300	9,300	9,200	0.0	1.1
- Local	47,200	47,000	47,000	0.4	0.4
- - Local Education	25,700	25,600	25,400	0.4	1.2

2006 data is preliminary and subject to revision. Data may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Produced in cooperation with the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Rapid City Metropolitan Statistical Area Nonfarm Worker Levels

<u>Industries</u>	<u>April 2006</u>	<u>March 2006</u>	<u>April 2005</u>	<u>% Chg Last Month</u>	<u>% Chg Last Year</u>
TOTAL	59,200	58,200	58,700	1.7	0.9
Nat. Res/ Mining/Const	4,900	4,600	4,700	6.5	4.3
Manufacturing	3,800	3,800	3,800	0.0	0.0
Wholesale Trade	2,100	2,100	2,200	0.0	-4.5
Retail Trade	8,600	8,400	8,500	2.4	1.2
Trans/Warehsing/Util	1,800	1,800	1,800	0.0	0.0
Information	1,000	1,100	1,100	-9.1	-9.1
Financial Activities	3,400	3,400	3,400	0.0	0.0
Prof Bus Services	4,100	4,100	4,100	0.0	0.0
Education/Health Svc	9,200	9,100	8,800	1.1	4.5
Leisure/Hospitality	7,700	7,200	7,600	6.9	1.3
Other Services	2,600	2,600	2,600	0.0	0.0
Government	10,000	10,000	10,100	0.0	-1.0

2006 data is preliminary and subject to revision. Data may not sum to totals because of rounding.

The Rapid City MSA includes the following counties: Pennington and Meade.

Produced in cooperation with the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Sioux Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area Nonfarm Worker Levels

<u>Industries</u>	<u>April 2006</u>	<u>March 2006</u>	<u>April 2005</u>	<u>% Chg Last Month</u>	<u>% Chg Last Year</u>
TOTAL	128,900	127,200	124,800	1.3	3.3
Nat. Res/ Mining/Const	7,900	6,900	7,100	14.5	11.3
Manufacturing	12,900	13,000	12,500	-0.8	3.2
Wholesale Trade	6,600	6,500	6,300	1.5	4.8
Retail Trade	16,300	16,000	16,300	1.9	0.0
Trans/Warehsing/Util	4,800	4,800	4,700	0.0	2.1
Information	3,000	3,000	2,700	0.0	11.1
Financial Activities	15,500	15,600	15,000	-0.6	3.3
Prof Bus Services	9,300	9,200	9,200	1.1	1.1
Education/Health Svc	23,300	23,400	22,600	-0.4	3.1
Leisure/Hospitality	12,600	12,300	12,000	2.4	5.0
Other Services	4,600	4,600	4,500	0.0	2.2
Government	12,100	11,900	11,900	1.7	1.7

2006 data is preliminary and subject to revision. Data may not sum to totals because of rounding.

The Sioux Falls MSA includes the following counties: Lincoln, McCook, Minnehaha and Turner.

Produced in cooperation with the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

South Dakota Statistical Areas Nonfarm Worker Levels

<u>Areas</u>	<u>April 2006</u>	<u>April 2005</u>
Rapid City MSA	59,200	58,700
Sioux Falls MSA	128,900	124,800
Aurora County	650	655
Beadle County	7,455	7,455
Bennett County	875	880
Bon Homme County	2,205	2,165
Brookings County	18,155	17,725
Brown County	21,365	20,840
Brule County	2,165	2,185
Buffalo County	560	535
Butte County	2,700	2,645
Campbell County	465	490
Charles Mix County	3,450	3,490
Clark County	870	875
Clay County	7,105	6,845
Codington County	15,850	15,295
Corson County	900	915
Custer County	2,350	2,305
Davison County	12,495	12,255
Day County	2,130	2,130
Deuel County	1,575	1,540
Dewey County	1,930	2,090
Douglas County	1,150	1,140
Edmunds County	1,065	1,050
Fall River County	2,885	2,785
Faulk County	615	580
Grant County	3,745	3,665
Gregory County	1,535	1,570
Haakon County	725	750
Hamlin County	1,570	1,590
Hand County	1,260	1,200
Hanson County	480	490
Harding County	430	400
Hughes County	11,120	10,680
Hutchinson County	2,675	2,635
Hyde County	555	540
Jackson County	720	715
Jerauld County	1,240	1,235
Jones County	480	470
Kingsbury County	1,835	1,815
Lake County	5,195	5,055
Lawrence County	11,640	11,300
Lyman County	1,470	1,520
McPherson County	705	720
Marshall County	1,460	1,395
Mellette County	395	375
Miner County	820	780
Moody County	2,340	2,220
Perkins County	1,260	1,230
Potter County	910	875
Roberts County	3,630	3,490
Sanborn County	905	900

Shannon County	3,945	4,055
Spink County	2,445	2,410
Stanley County	1,130	1,060
Sully County	475	450
Todd County	2,980	3,015
Tripp County	2,245	2,230
Union County	8,405	7,960
Walworth County	2,300	2,275
Yankton County	13,345	12,930
Ziebach County	390	390

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The Sioux Falls MSA includes the following counties: Lincoln, McCook, Minnehaha and Turner.

The Rapid City MSA includes the following counties: Pennington and Meade.

South Dakota Labor Supply

April 2006

South Dakota	81,525	Hanson County	195
Rapid City MSA	12,900	Harding County	105
Sioux Falls MSA	22,285	Hughes County	1,900
Aurora County	185	Hutchinson County	515
Beadle County	1,400	Hyde County	115
Bennett County	520	Jackson County	395
Bon Homme County	560	Jerauld County	240
Brookings County	3,060	Jones County	110
Brown County	3,815	Kingsbury County	420
Brule County	450	Lake County	1,010
Buffalo County	405	Lawrence County	2,845
Butte County	720	Lyman County	585
Campbell County	95	McPherson County	170
Charles Mix County	910	Marshall County	350
Clark County	255	Mellette County	215
Clay County	1,485	Miner County	175
Codington County	2,750	Moody County	490
Corson County	430	Perkins County	245
Custer County	845	Potter County	190
Davison County	2,230	Roberts County	1,160
Day County	500	Sanborn County	190
Deuel County	345	Shannon County	2,120
Dewey County	1,095	Spink County	510
Douglas County	225	Stanley County	295
Edmunds County	275	Sully County	145
Fall River County	750	Todd County	1,375
Faulk County	140	Tripp County	455
Grant County	630	Union County	1,405
Gregory County	315	Walworth County	480
Haakon County	140	Yankton County	2,430
Hamlin County	385	Ziebach County	330
Hand County	260		

United States & South Dakota

Seasonally Adjusted

Labor Force

Areas	April 2006*				April 2005			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
United States	150,811,000	143,688,000	7,123,000	4.7%	148,839,000	141,196,000	7,644,000	5.1%
South Dakota	432,500	419,500	13,000	3.0%	431,100	414,400	16,700	3.9%

Benchmarked estimates for 2000, 2004 and 2005 have been recently updated.

Produced in cooperation with the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

South Dakota Areas & Counties

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Labor Force

Areas	April 2006*				April 2005			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
Rapid City MSA	64,315	62,470	1,845	2.9	65,120	62,790	2,330	3.6
Sioux Falls MSA	121,980	119,040	2,940	2.4	120,875	116,870	4,005	3.3
Aberdeen MiSA	23,130	22,555	575	2.5	23,075	22,285	790	3.4
Brookings MiSA	18,605	18,195	410	2.2	18,450	17,880	570	3.1
Huron MiSA	8,645	8,370	275	3.2	8,875	8,435	440	4.9
Mitchell MiSA	13,150	12,760	390	3.0	13,090	12,675	415	3.2
Pierre MiSA	12,315	12,045	270	2.2	12,070	11,700	370	3.1
Spearfish MiSA	12,840	12,495	345	2.7	12,825	12,335	490	3.8
Vermillion MiSA	7,565	7,365	200	2.6	7,420	7,160	260	3.5
Watertown MiSA	19,015	18,480	535	2.8	18,735	18,025	710	3.8
Yankton MiSA	12,250	11,940	310	2.5	12,155	11,725	430	3.5
Dewey-Ziebach LMA	3,250	3,035	215	6.6	3,470	3,230	240	7.0

Benchmarked estimates for 2000, 2004 and 2005 have been recently updated.

Estimates for the latest year are subject to revision early the following calendar year.

Produced in cooperation with the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

South Dakota & Counties

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Labor Force

Areas	April 2006				April 2005			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
SOUTH DAKOTA	430,655	418,375	12,280	2.9	429,635	413,300	16,335	3.8
Aurora County	1,345	1,300	45	3.4	1,350	1,295	55	4.1
Beadle County	8,645	8,370	275	3.2	8,875	8,435	440	4.9
Bennett County	1,390	1,330	60	4.3	1,430	1,335	95	6.6
Bon Homme County	3,370	3,265	105	3.2	3,350	3,220	130	3.8
Brookings County	18,605	18,195	410	2.2	18,450	17,880	570	3.1
Brown County	21,035	20,510	525	2.5	21,000	20,265	735	3.5
Brule County	2,730	2,655	75	2.7	2,775	2,670	105	3.8
Buffalo County	545	490	55	9.9	555	470	85	15.5
Butte County	5,110	4,985	125	2.5	5,115	4,935	180	3.5
Campbell County	875	855	20	2.5	915	875	40	4.4
Charles Mix County	4,070	3,935	135	3.3	4,135	3,960	175	4.3
Clark County	1,810	1,745	65	3.5	1,810	1,715	95	5.3
Clay County	7,565	7,365	200	2.6	7,420	7,160	260	3.5
Codington County	16,115	15,655	460	2.8	15,870	15,275	595	3.7
Corson County	1,385	1,305	80	5.8	1,400	1,310	90	6.3
Custer County	4,395	4,265	130	3.0	4,425	4,240	185	4.2
Davison County	11,135	10,795	340	3.1	11,070	10,720	350	3.2
Day County	3,000	2,855	145	4.9	3,015	2,830	185	6.2
Deuel County	2,650	2,545	105	4.0	2,620	2,485	135	5.1
Dewey County	2,405	2,240	165	6.9	2,560	2,385	175	6.8
Douglas County	1,760	1,720	40	2.3	1,760	1,705	55	3.0
Edmunds County	2,095	2,045	50	2.3	2,085	2,025	60	2.8
Fall River County	3,870	3,760	110	2.8	3,845	3,690	155	4.0
Faulk County	1,190	1,160	30	2.4	1,145	1,100	45	4.0
Grant County	4,185	4,035	150	3.6	4,165	3,960	205	4.9
Gregory County	2,430	2,350	80	3.2	2,460	2,370	90	3.7
Haakon County	1,145	1,115	30	2.4	1,175	1,135	40	3.4
Hamlin County	2,895	2,820	75	2.6	2,870	2,755	115	4.1
Hand County	1,940	1,890	50	2.7	1,880	1,805	75	3.9
Hanson County	2,010	1,965	45	2.3	2,020	1,955	65	3.2
Harding County	815	795	20	2.3	785	755	30	3.8
Hughes County	10,340	10,120	220	2.1	10,140	9,830	310	3.1
Hutchinson County	3,815	3,695	120	3.2	3,770	3,620	150	4.0
Hyde County	770	745	25	3.1	745	715	30	3.9
Jackson County	1,195	1,130	65	5.5	1,210	1,120	90	7.3
Jerauld County	1,275	1,240	35	2.8	1,280	1,235	45	3.5
Jones County	700	680	20	2.6	690	665	25	3.3
Kingsbury County	3,035	2,940	95	3.1	3,015	2,895	120	4.0
Lake County	6,915	6,745	170	2.5	6,840	6,605	235	3.4
Lawrence County	12,840	12,495	345	2.7	12,825	12,335	490	3.8
Lincoln County	18,785	18,440	345	1.8	18,545	18,105	440	2.4
Lyman County	1,930	1,845	85	4.3	1,990	1,880	110	5.6
McCook County	3,040	2,965	75	2.5	3,010	2,915	95	3.2
McPherson County	1,205	1,160	45	3.7	1,205	1,155	50	4.3
Marshall County	2,160	2,075	85	4.0	2,090	1,990	100	4.7
Meade County	12,745	12,360	385	3.0	12,890	12,425	465	3.6
Mellette County	920	880	40	4.4	900	845	55	5.9
Miner County	1,225	1,185	40	3.4	1,190	1,130	60	5.0

Minnehaha County	95,415	93,030	2,385	2.5	94,615	91,330	3,285	3.5
Moody County	3,980	3,865	115	2.9	3,870	3,720	150	3.8
Pennington County	51,570	50,110	1,460	2.8	52,230	50,365	1,865	3.6
Perkins County	1,740	1,685	55	3.3	1,715	1,635	80	4.6
Potter County	1,345	1,300	45	3.2	1,305	1,245	60	4.5
Roberts County	4,935	4,735	200	4.0	4,815	4,555	260	5.4
Sanborn County	1,590	1,550	40	2.6	1,595	1,540	55	3.5
Shannon County	3,670	3,415	255	6.9	3,985	3,545	440	11.0
Spink County	3,475	3,370	105	3.0	3,450	3,305	145	4.2
Stanley County	1,980	1,930	50	2.4	1,935	1,875	60	3.0
Sully County	1,005	985	20	1.8	975	940	35	3.4
Todd County	3,390	3,215	175	5.2	3,460	3,265	195	5.7
Tripp County	3,075	2,980	95	3.1	3,050	2,935	115	3.7
Turner County	4,735	4,605	130	2.8	4,705	4,520	185	3.9
Union County	7,580	7,300	280	3.7	7,550	7,250	300	3.9
Walworth County	2,670	2,560	110	4.1	2,675	2,530	145	5.4
Yankton County	12,250	11,940	310	2.5	12,155	11,725	430	3.5
Ziebach County	845	795	50	6.0	915	845	70	7.5

Benchmarked estimates for 2000, 2004 and 2005 have been recently updated.

Produced in cooperation with the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Hours & Earnings of Manufacturing Production Workers

	April 2006*	March 2006	April 2005
Number of Manufacturing Production Workers	31,200	31,100	30,200
Average Weekly Hours	40.5	41.1	42.6
Average Weekly Earnings	\$549.18	\$560.60	\$555.08
Average Hourly Earnings	\$13.56	\$13.64	\$13.03

*Preliminary data subject to revision.

Produced in cooperation with the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

South Dakota Annualized Pay of Covered Workers

October 2004 to September 2005*

Statewide	\$29,035	Hutchinson County	\$22,321
Rapid City MSA	\$28,618	Hyde County	\$25,670
Sioux Falls MSA	\$33,073	Jackson County	\$21,231
Aurora County	\$20,560	Jerauld County	\$23,267
Beadle County	\$27,165	Jones County	\$20,286
Bennett County	\$23,156	Kingsbury County	\$24,013
Bon Homme County	\$23,294	Lake County	\$25,865
Brookings County	\$28,167	Lawrence County	\$24,551
Brown County	\$28,118	Lincoln County	\$30,158
Brule County	\$21,170	Lyman County	\$20,464
Buffalo County	\$28,750	McCook County	\$21,816
Butte County	\$22,170	McPherson County	\$17,804
Campbell County	\$18,880	Marshall County	\$24,580
Charles Mix County	\$21,566	Meade County	\$27,047
Clark County	\$20,750	Mellette County	\$20,250
Clay County	\$24,908	Miner County	\$21,555
Codington County	\$26,829	Minnehaha County	\$33,633
Corson County	\$22,940	Moody County	\$27,405
Custer County	\$23,898	Pennington County	\$28,831
Davison County	\$26,406	Perkins County	\$20,707
Day County	\$21,347	Potter County	\$21,427
Deuel County	\$25,634	Roberts County	\$22,082
Dewey County	\$26,941	Sanborn County	\$20,522
Douglas County	\$20,947	Shannon County	\$28,062
Edmunds County	\$22,648	Spink County	\$23,504
Fall River County	\$24,966	Stanley County	\$24,114
Faulk County	\$20,179	Sully County	\$21,742
Grant County	\$28,504	Todd County	\$25,844
Gregory County	\$20,202	Tripp County	\$22,679
Haakon County	\$22,418	Turner County	\$22,996
Hamlin County	\$23,889	Union County	\$41,251
Hand County	\$21,980	Walworth County	\$21,066
Hanson County	\$22,784	Yankton County	\$27,851
Harding County	\$24,046	Ziebach County	\$25,191
Hughes County	\$29,499		

*This data is updated quarterly.

Activities of the South Dakota Department of Labor Career Centers and Unemployment Insurance

	April 2006	March 2006	April 2005	% Chg Last Month	% Chg Last Year
<u>Career Center Activities</u>					
Job Seekers	62,603	59,293	66,348	5.6%	-5.6%
Entered Employments	26,709	24,603	26,640	8.6%	0.3%
Job Openings Received	72,355	65,900	64,124	9.8%	12.8%
<u>Unemployment Insurance Activities</u>					
Initial Claims	1,120	1,395	1,297	-19.7%	-13.6%
Weeks Claimed	10,496	13,733	11,167	-23.6%	-6.0%
Amount of Benefit Payments	\$1,629,305	\$2,553,591	\$2,048,577	-36.2%	-20.5%
Unemployment Trust Fund Balance	\$17,773,320	\$14,697,193	\$20,554,944	20.9%	-13.5%

Unemployment Insurance Weeks Claimed South Residents By County

April 2006

Aurora	43	Fall River	89	Marshall	96
Beadle	238	Faulk	5	Meade	340
Bennett	37	Grant	124	Mellette	47
Bon Homme	96	Gregory	64	Miner	43
Brookings	217	Haakon	2	Minnehaha	2013
Brown	398	Hamlin	65	Moody	83
Brule	37	Hand	18	Pennington	1450
Buffalo	61	Hanson	48	Perkins	62
Butte	94	Harding	0	Potter	48
Campbell	9	Hughes	132	Roberts	222
Charles Mix	87	Hutchinson	75	Sanborn	43
Clark	47	Hyde	7	Shannon	219
Clay	100	Jackson	25	Spink	73
Codington	426	Jerauld	40	Stanley	41
Corson	86	Jones	12	Sully	13
Custer	115	Kingsbury	55	Todd	225
Davison	461	Lake	189	Tripp	70
Day	190	Lawrence	271	Turner	101
Deuel	55	Lincoln	238	Union	179
Dewey	213	Lyman	93	Walworth	125
Douglas	9	McCook	46	Yankton	215
Edmunds	27	McPherson	31	Ziebach	56

National Economic Indicators

	April 2006	March 2006	April 2005	% Chg Last Month	% Chg Last Year
Consumer Price Index	201.5	199.8	194.6	0.9%	3.5%
Nonfarm Payroll Employment	135.0	134.1	133.2	0.7%	1.4%
Privately Owned Housing Starts	1,849	1,996	2,079	-7.4%	-11.1%
Bank Prime Loan Rate	7.75	7.53	5.75	2.9%	34.8%