

The Bismarck Con•nect•or

Connector: a short road or highway that connects two longer roads or highways



TOP NEWS

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Mandan Business Roundtable Discusses Workforce Shortage

The Workforce Center along with the City of Mandan hosted a roundtable with Mandan employers to share how Job Service can assist during the current workforce shortage. Micaela and Amy discussed the many programs the Workforce Center has for employers to help them meet their workforce needs.

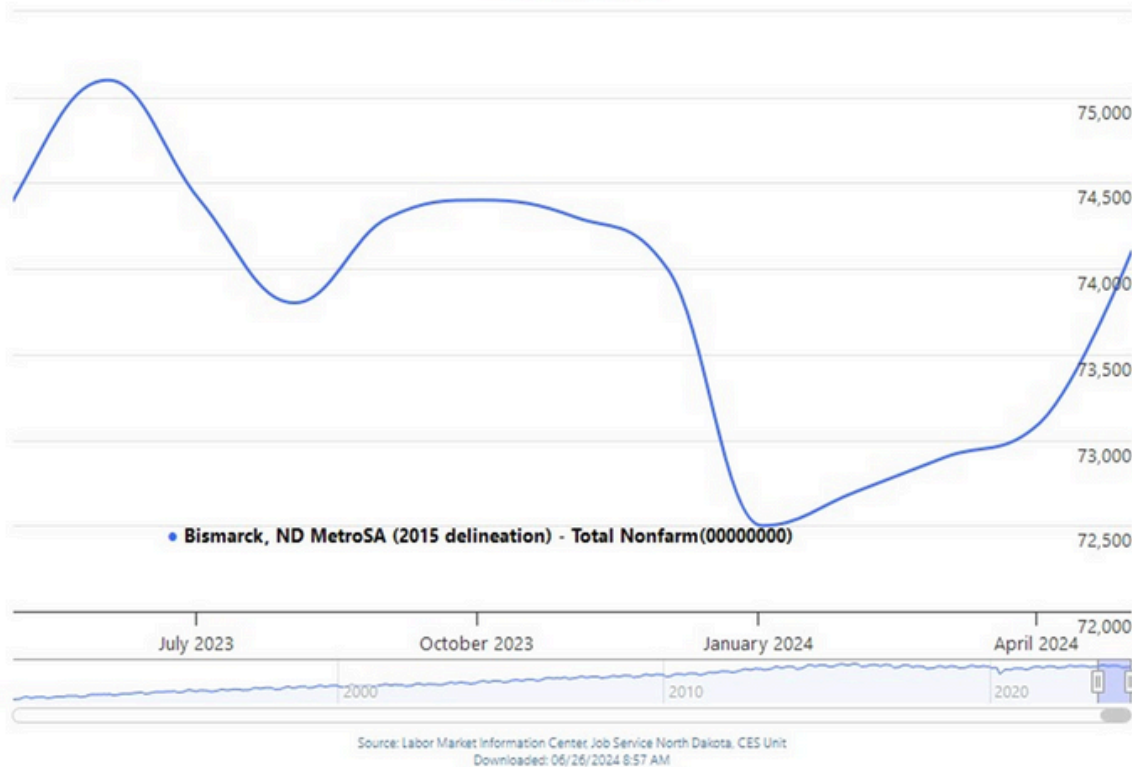
One valuable tool employers can utilize is the recruitment system on ND Workforce Connection, where businesses can post open positions. Job seekers can search the over 14,000 currently open positions through the website, and employers can accept applications, search active resumes, and track the hiring process. Employers learned about several more services they might take advantage of, including the On-the-Job Training program, Work Experience placements, Work Opportunity Tax Credits, federal bonding, upcoming Job Fairs and Hiring Events and other assistance in the recruitment process.

Any businesses that missed the event and would like to find out about services offered can reach out to the Workforce Center. Mandan Business Roundtable discusses workforce shortage ([kxnet.com](https://www.kxnet.com)).



Labor Market Information

Not seasonally adjusted Current Employment Statistics data for Total Nonfarm (00000000) (all workers) in Bismarck, ND MetroSA (2015 delineation).
Employment



North Dakota's May not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 2.0 percent. Preliminary estimates indicate North Dakota's May 2024 not seasonally adjusted employment increased 6,900 from the same period one year ago and increased 8,200 over the month. The Bismarck Metropolitan increase of 1,000 over the month, however, saw a decrease of 300 from the same period one year ago.

**WORKFORCE
WEDNESDAY
HIRING EVENT**

**1ST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH
3:00 PM TO 5:00 PM**



Capital Career Fair

This year marks the first annual Capital Career Fair! This mega event took place on February 27, 2024 at the Bismarck Event Center and was hosted by Job Service, Bismarck State College, United Tribes Technical College, and the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber EDC. The collaborative goal for this event was to bring together students, the public, and employers under one roof to foster meaningful connections between job seekers and prospective employers. To say this event was a success would be an understatement! Employers from all across North Dakota were in attendance representing a vast variety of different industries. 432 job seekers attended this event, 190 of those being students and over 12 attendees were hired on the spot. The event marks the first of many more to follow. Our hopes are that this event will continue to grow each year, becoming bigger and better. Mark your calendars for the next Capital Career Fair happening March 18, 2025!



WIOA – On-the-Job Trainings and Work Experience

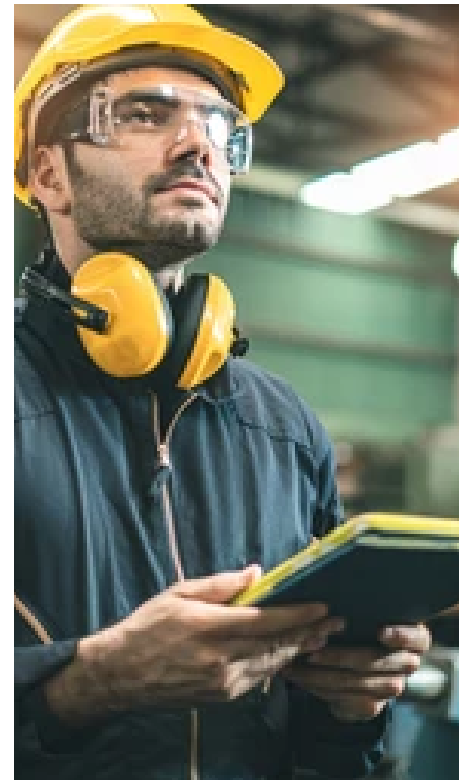
The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is a federal grant that offers work experience and on-the-job training components aimed at helping both job seekers and employers.

The WIOA work experience is aimed primarily at youth and first-time job holders. The purpose of a work experience is for the participant to gain knowledge and skills needed in the workforce. With this program, participants are paid 100% by Job Service to work at a business. Employers gain an employee who they train and teach the knowledge and skills needed without the added cost of hiring on a new employee.

With work experience participants, employers are able to mentor a new generation of workers and help shape and mold the future workforce. Work experience participants can work a maximum of 25 hours per week, with a total of 1,040 hours during their time with the program. During the time participants are with employers, employers get to see how participants learn, grow, and become more confident in themselves and their work.

On-the-job training is another program offered by WIOA. On-the-job training is a way for participants to get training in a field they are passionate about and to learn while getting paid. On-the-job training is an employer incentive program to offset the costs for training for those who don't have the proper education and/or training for the position. The employer trains the participant for the job they are hiring for. WIOA can reimburse the employer up to 50% of the participant's wages during the on-the-job training period.

With on-the-job training, it is important to keep in mind that the program is designed for participants to have full-time employment with the employer after the program period ends. The training period for on-the-job training with the WIOA program is 1,040 hours which is about 6 months when working 40 hours a week. At the end of the training period with WIOA, the employer has a skilled employee, and the participant has full-time employment in a field they have a passion for.



If you would like to know more about the WIOA work experience and/or on-the-job training opportunities, Job Service staff would be happy to talk with you!

Job Fairs of Spring 2024

Following the Capital Career Fair, the Bismarck Workforce Center co-hosted the first New American Job Fair with the Adult Learning Center on March 14, 2024 at the Bismarck Career Academy. The job fair was catered to New Americans and all levels of English language learners, many of whom were highly-educated in their home countries and who have vast professional experience. Overall, the event was well-attended with 35 job seekers and 23 employers present from various industries.

On April 17th, the Bismarck Workforce Center hosted a Construction and Trades Job Fair with 21 employers representing the construction industry. This event targeted individuals looking for or that have experience working in fabrication, production, general construction, building, painting, general labor, etc. This event was well-received and drew over 70 job seekers.

In June, the Bismarck Workforce Center hosted the annual Fair Chance Job Fair on Thursday, June 6th. This event provided the opportunity for job seekers with barriers to employment to be connected directly with employers that are aware of their status and are willing to consider them for employment opportunities. Barriers could include homelessness, a criminal record, gaps in employment, disability, English as a second language, or lack of high school diploma or GED, among other challenges. Last year's event drew more than 90 attendees, while this year's saw over 100 attendees! A large number of attendees expressed how surprised they were at the different job opportunities available and were grateful to be given the opportunity to get a foot in the door with employers willing to give second chances.



Important Contact Information:

Bismarck Workforce Center - 701.328.5000
infojsbis@nd.gov

Unemployment Insurance Claims -
701.328.4995

Unemployment Insurance Employer -
701.328.2866

Employer Unemployment Tax - 701.328.2814

Recurring Local Events:

- WIOA Orientation Weekly Tuesday 9am
- Bismarck Veterans Memorial Library - 1st Tuesday of every month, 1-5pm
- Workforce Wednesday Hiring Event - 1st Wednesday of every month, 3-5pm
- Job Readiness Workshops - Every Wednesday, 8:30-12pm
- Dream Center - 2nd Monday of every month, 5-7pm
- Dream Center - 4th Tuesday of every month, 7-9am

Other Resources:

Secretary of State - 701.328.2900

Workforce Safety Insurance - 800.777.5033

Department of Labor 701.328.2600

