



Economic Overview

Yankton County, South Dakota



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Demographic Profile

The population in Yankton County, South Dakota was 23,414 per American Community Survey data for 2020-2024.

The region has a civilian labor force of 11,833 with a participation rate of 61.9%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in Yankton County, South Dakota, 30.9% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 37.3% in the nation.

The median household income in Yankton County, South Dakota is \$72,821 and the median house value is \$225,900.

Summary¹

	Percent			Value		
	Yankton County, South Dakota	South Dakota	USA	Yankton County, South Dakota	South Dakota	USA
Demographics						
Population (ACS)	—	—	—	23,414	907,428	334,922,499
Male	52.0%	50.8%	49.5%	12,175	460,693	165,808,018
Female	48.0%	49.2%	50.5%	11,239	446,735	169,114,481
Median Age ²	—	—	—	42.5	38.0	38.9
Under 18 Years	21.2%	24.2%	22.0%	4,974	219,743	73,517,834
18 to 24 Years	8.9%	9.3%	9.1%	2,081	83,939	30,597,362
25 to 34 Years	10.7%	12.6%	13.7%	2,508	114,387	45,806,540
35 to 44 Years	12.0%	12.6%	13.2%	2,815	114,320	44,237,292
45 to 54 Years	12.0%	10.7%	12.2%	2,802	96,999	40,743,799
55 to 64 Years	13.8%	12.6%	12.7%	3,229	114,729	42,386,044
65 to 74 Years	12.3%	11.0%	10.2%	2,885	99,777	34,092,907
75 Years and Over	9.1%	7.0%	7.0%	2,120	63,534	23,540,721
Race: White	87.8%	80.7%	61.0%	20,564	732,146	204,142,876
Race: Black or African American	1.6%	2.3%	12.2%	385	20,474	40,919,547
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	2.7%	7.5%	0.9%	643	68,370	3,095,754
Race: Asian	0.3%	1.4%	6.0%	75	12,717	19,937,283
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0	340	631,517
Race: Some Other Race	1.2%	1.6%	7.1%	283	14,447	23,884,085
Race: Two or More Races	6.3%	6.5%	12.6%	1,464	58,934	42,311,437
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	5.9%	4.8%	19.3%	1,370	43,777	64,759,370
Population Growth						
Population (Pop Estimates) ⁴	—	—	—	23,635	935,094	341,784,857
Population Annual Average Growth ⁴	0.4%	0.9%	0.6%	93	8,043	2,104,586
People per Square Mile ⁴	—	—	—	45.3	12.3	96.7
Economic						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	61.9%	67.0%	63.3%	11,833	475,223	170,199,520
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	80.9%	86.6%	83.2%	6,574	279,694	108,100,165
Work from Home	6.2%	9.7%	15.1%	702	44,388	24,042,489
Armed Forces Labor Force	0.1%	0.6%	0.5%	16	4,102	1,293,756
Veterans, Age 18-64	4.4%	5.2%	4.1%	592	26,930	8,225,965
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	84.6%	81.8%	77.1%	501	22,030	6,341,643
Median Household Income ²	—	—	—	\$72,821	\$75,081	\$80,734
Per Capita Income	—	—	—	\$41,047	\$40,550	\$44,673
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	—	—	—	15.3	17.8	26.4
Commute via Public Transportation	1.7%	0.5%	3.2%	199	2,286	5,157,401
Educational Attainment, Age 25-64						
No High School Diploma	6.1%	6.6%	9.8%	690	29,276	17,001,659
High School Graduate	31.8%	26.7%	24.8%	3,614	117,563	42,949,236

Summary¹

	Percent			Value		
	Yankton County, South Dakota	South Dakota	USA	Yankton County, South Dakota	South Dakota	USA
Some College, No Degree	18.5%	19.0%	18.9%	2,097	83,696	32,726,555
Associate's Degree	12.7%	14.0%	9.2%	1,447	61,530	15,888,163
Bachelor's Degree	22.3%	23.7%	23.1%	2,535	104,384	40,059,314
Postgraduate Degree	8.6%	10.0%	14.2%	971	43,986	24,548,748
Housing						
Total Housing Units	—	—	—	10,616	408,584	143,775,355
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) ^{2,5}	—	—	—	\$225,900	\$257,400	\$332,700
Homeowner Vacancy	0.4%	0.8%	0.9%	32	2,104	796,730
Rental Vacancy	14.0%	6.0%	5.5%	432	7,476	2,645,644
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	27.3%	31.4%	34.8%	2,649	114,923	45,017,354
Owner-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	72.7%	68.6%	65.2%	7,046	250,621	84,210,142
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	5.2%	5.2%	8.4%	502	19,123	10,793,323
Social						
Poverty Level (of all people)	11.9%	11.9%	12.5%	2,600	104,798	40,735,661
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	7.3%	7.9%	12.1%	712	28,788	15,572,114
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	1.4%	1.2%	1.3%	334	10,692	4,441,917
Disconnected Youth ³	1.2%	2.9%	2.4%	15	1,427	430,721
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	27.0%	29.2%	33.9%	1,243	60,277	23,651,363
Uninsured	5.6%	9.0%	8.4%	1,250	79,933	27,734,911
With a Disability, Age 18-64	11.1%	10.4%	10.9%	1,381	53,265	21,803,902
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	55.4%	57.5%	48.5%	765	30,654	10,583,510
Foreign Born	2.9%	4.0%	14.1%	680	35,988	47,349,078
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	2.2%	2.3%	8.6%	483	19,518	27,139,643

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

1. American Community Survey 2020-2024, unless noted otherwise

2. Median values for certain aggregate regions (such as MSAs) may be estimated as the weighted averages of the median values from the composing counties.

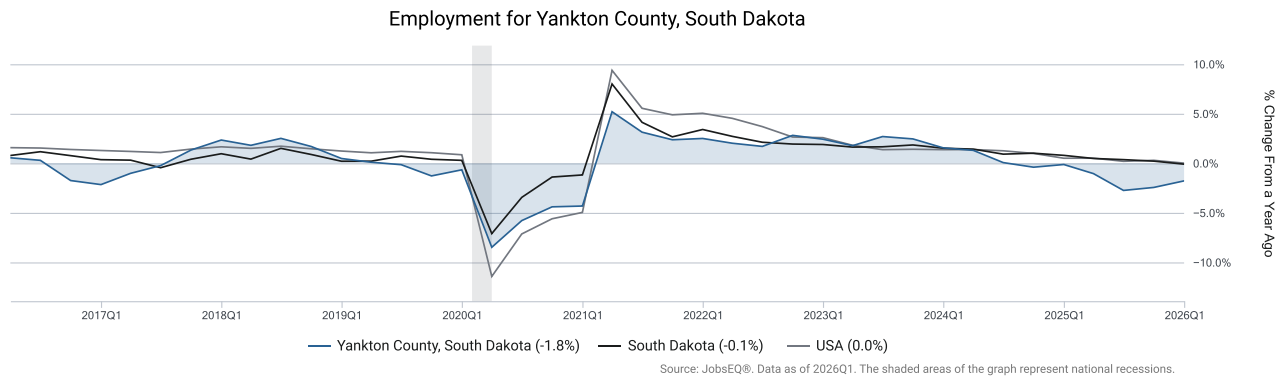
3. Disconnected Youth are 16-19 year olds who are (1) not in school, (2) not high school graduates, and (3) either unemployed or not in the labor force.

4. Census Population Estimate for 2025, annual average growth rate since 2015.

5. The Census's method for calculating median house values changed with the 2022 data set, so pre-2022 values are not directly comparable with later data.

Employment Trends

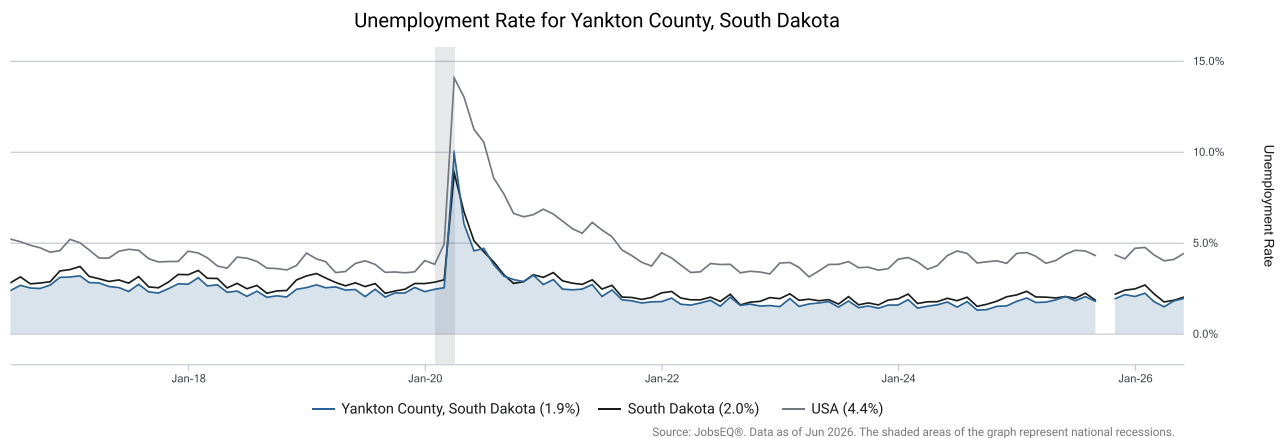
As of 2026Q1, total employment for Yankton County, South Dakota was 13,853 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2026Q1, employment declined 1.8% in the region.



Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2025Q4 with preliminary estimates updated to 2026Q1.

Unemployment Rate

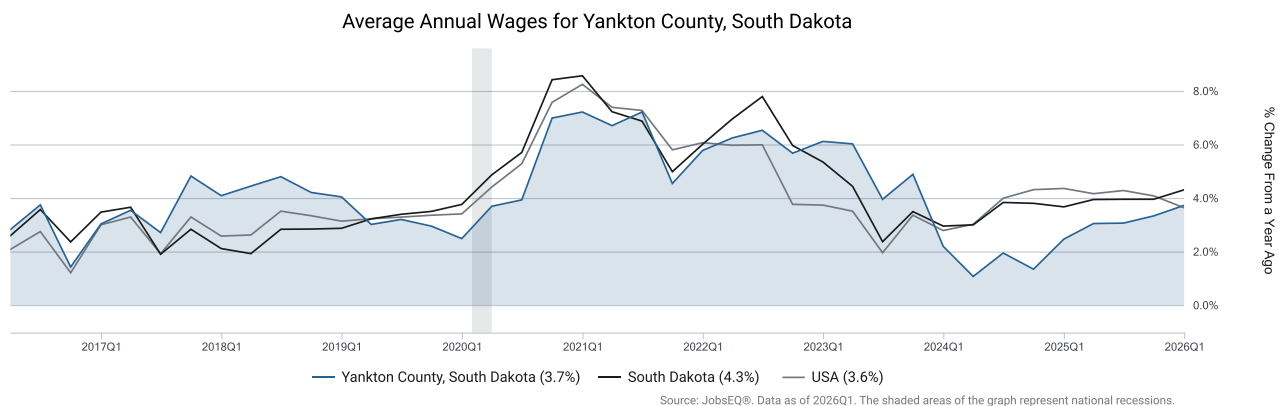
The unemployment rate for Yankton County, South Dakota was 1.9% as of June 2026. The regional unemployment rate was lower than the national rate of 4.4%. One year earlier, in June 2025, the unemployment rate in Yankton County, South Dakota was 2.0%.



Unemployment rate data are from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and updated through June 2026.

Wage Trends

The average worker in Yankton County, South Dakota earned annual wages of \$57,500 as of 2026Q1. Average annual wages per worker increased 3.7% in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were \$77,110 in the nation as of 2026Q1.



Annual average wages per worker data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2025Q4 with preliminary estimates updated to 2026Q1.

Cost of Living Index

The Cost of Living Index estimates the relative price levels for consumer goods and services. When applied to wages and salaries, the result is a measure of relative purchasing power. The cost of living is 15.8% lower in Yankton County, South Dakota than the U.S. average.

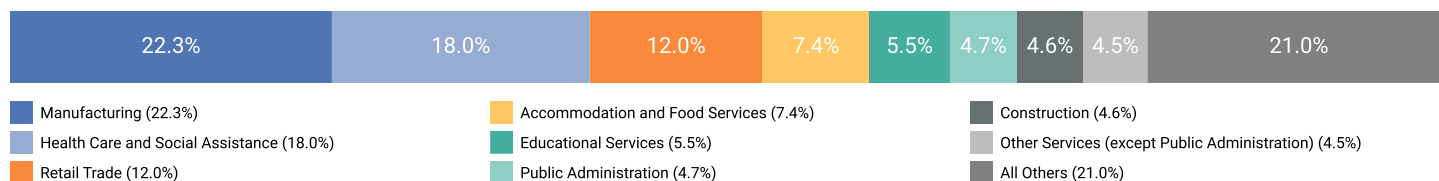
	Cost of Living Information		
	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index (Base US)	US Purchasing Power
Yankton County, South Dakota	\$57,500	84.2	\$68,316
South Dakota	\$61,642	88.9	\$69,369
USA	\$77,110	100.0	\$77,110

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)
Data as of 2026Q1
Cost of Living per [COLI](#), data as of 2026Q1, imputed by Chmura where necessary.

Industry Snapshot

The largest sector in Yankton County, South Dakota is Manufacturing, employing 3,092 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are Health Care and Social Assistance (2,487 workers) and Retail Trade (1,661). High location quotients (LQs) indicate sectors in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The sectors with the largest LQs in the region are Manufacturing (LQ = 2.89), Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (1.73), and Retail Trade (1.25).

Total Workers for Yankton County, South Dakota by Industry



Source: JobsEQ®
Data as of 2026Q1
Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2025Q4 with preliminary estimates updated to 2026Q1.

Sectors in Yankton County, South Dakota with the highest average wages per worker are Management of Companies and Enterprises (\$159,820), Finance and Insurance (\$110,804), and Utilities (\$109,557). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last 5 years are Health Care and Social Assistance (+142 jobs), Retail Trade (+139), and Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (+104).

Over the next 1 year, employment in Yankton County, South Dakota is projected to contract by 42 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be Utilities with a +0.2% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Health Care and Social Assistance (0 jobs), Accommodation and Food Services (0), and Construction (0).

Yankton County, South Dakota, 2026Q1¹

NAICS	Industry	Current			5-Year History		1-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Avg Ann Wages	LQ	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
31	Manufacturing	3,092	\$68,226	2.89	-85	-0.5%	286	123	181	-18	-0.6%
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	2,487	\$72,981	1.15	142	1.2%	246	123	123	0	0.0%
44	Retail Trade	1,661	\$33,915	1.25	139	1.8%	212	102	121	-11	-0.6%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	1,029	\$20,299	0.86	70	1.4%	178	79	99	0	0.0%
61	Educational Services	768	\$43,454	0.68	32	0.9%	68	35	37	-4	-0.6%
92	Public Administration	652	\$59,456	1.00	60	1.9%	56	25	34	-3	-0.4%
23	Construction	634	\$56,244	0.76	-3	-0.1%	53	21	31	0	0.1%
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	624	\$26,764	1.06	91	3.2%	69	31	39	-1	-0.2%
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	504	\$48,929	0.61	4	0.2%	54	24	32	-2	-0.4%
42	Wholesale Trade	463	\$75,285	0.91	37	1.7%	44	18	27	-1	-0.3%
52	Finance and Insurance	397	\$110,804	0.73	12	0.6%	31	13	18	-1	-0.1%
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	303	\$67,784	0.30	80	6.3%	24	10	14	0	0.0%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	287	\$95,543	1.73	-25	-1.7%	32	18	17	-2	-0.7%
48	Transportation and Warehousing	280	\$57,614	0.40	68	5.7%	29	13	16	0	-0.2%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	280	\$27,505	0.95	104	9.8%	40	17	23	0	0.0%
51	Information	207	\$53,778	0.80	68	8.2%	16	7	11	-1	-0.4%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	136	\$47,960	0.56	-8	-1.2%	13	6	7	0	-0.1%
22	Utilities	25	\$109,557	0.35	6	5.3%	2	1	1	0	0.2%
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	13	\$61,483	0.27	-8	-8.8%	1	0	1	0	0.2%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	9	\$159,820	0.04	-7	-10.3%	1	0	0	0	0.0%
Total - All Industries		13,853	\$57,500	1.00	778	1.2%	1,435	658	819	-42	-0.3%

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2026Q1

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. All data based upon a four-quarter moving average

Exits and transfers are approximate estimates based upon occupation separation rates.

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2025Q4 with preliminary estimates updated to 2026Q1. Forecast employment growth uses national projections adapted for regional growth patterns.

Occupation Snapshot

The largest major occupation group in Yankton County, South Dakota is Production Occupations, employing 2,009 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Office and Administrative Support Occupations (1,434 workers) and Sales and Related Occupations (1,353). High location quotients (LQs) indicate occupation groups in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The major groups with the largest LQs in the region are Production Occupations (LQ = 2.77), Community and Social Service Occupations (1.50), and Architecture and Engineering Occupations (1.25).

Occupation groups in Yankton County, South Dakota with the highest average wages per worker are Management Occupations (\$120,200), Legal Occupations (\$110,000), and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (\$96,200). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 0.8% among Architecture and Engineering Occupations to 3.1% among Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations.

Over the next 1 year, the fastest growing occupation group in Yankton County, South Dakota is expected to be Community and Social Service Occupations with a +0.3% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (+1 jobs) and Community and Social Service Occupations (+1). Over the same period, the highest separation demand (occupation demand due to retirements and workers moving from one occupation to another) is expected in Production Occupations (206 jobs) and Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (205).

Yankton County, South Dakota, 2026Q1¹

SOC	Occupation	Current						5-Year History		1-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Mean Ann Wages ²	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads ³	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
51-0000	Production	2,009	\$49,900	2.77	36	2.1%	47	-86	-0.8%	193	83	123	-13	-0.7%
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support	1,434	\$45,200	0.94	22	1.7%	29	-22	-0.3%	141	74	80	-14	-0.9%
41-0000	Sales and Related	1,353	\$51,500	1.13	31	2.5%	93	84	1.3%	165	83	93	-11	-0.8%
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	1,102	\$33,100	0.96	31	3.1%	40	93	1.8%	204	91	114	-2	-0.1%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	999	\$44,600	0.84	26	2.7%	57	91	1.9%	124	54	70	0	0.0%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	959	\$96,200	1.14	6	0.8%	153	83	1.8%	53	28	24	1	0.1%
11-0000	Management	764	\$120,200	0.70	6	0.9%	43	67	1.8%	61	28	34	-1	-0.1%
31-0000	Healthcare Support	605	\$41,800	0.87	10	1.8%	42	68	2.4%	84	43	42	0	0.0%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	603	\$85,300	0.66	7	1.3%	23	88	3.2%	46	18	28	0	0.0%
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library	551	\$51,700	0.72	6	1.3%	4	32	1.2%	47	24	25	-3	-0.5%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	550	\$55,900	0.88	11	2.1%	9	9	0.3%	43	17	26	0	0.1%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	526	\$60,100	0.99	6	1.3%	38	36	1.4%	46	20	26	0	0.0%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	478	\$39,200	1.05	10	2.3%	15	28	1.2%	63	30	34	-1	-0.2%
21-0000	Community and Social Service	400	\$54,700	1.50	5	1.5%	22	16	0.8%	37	17	19	1	0.3%
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	356	\$37,900	0.98	10	3.1%	8	70	4.5%	62	26	36	0	-0.1%
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering	276	\$91,100	1.25	2	0.8%	17	11	0.8%	18	7	11	1	0.2%
33-0000	Protective Service	227	\$53,900	0.74	2	1.1%	13	31	3.0%	21	9	13	-1	-0.6%

Yankton County, South Dakota, 2026Q1¹

SOC	Occupation	Current					5-Year History			1-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Mean Ann Wages ²	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads ³	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	217	\$88,300	0.49	3	1.6%	5	28	2.8%	12	4	7	1	0.3%
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	216	\$55,300	0.91	5	2.7%	19	40	4.2%	20	9	12	-1	-0.4%
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	93	\$76,800	0.74	1	1.5%	5	6	1.4%	8	2	6	0	0.0%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	76	\$45,700	0.97	2	2.4%	1	-3	-0.7%	11	5	6	0	-0.6%
23-0000	Legal	58	\$110,000	0.49	0	n/a	2	9	3.5%	3	1	2	0	-0.1%
Total - All Occupations		13,853	\$58,200	1.00	238	1.9%	686	778	1.2%	1,462	673	831	-42	-0.3%

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2026Q1 unless noted otherwise

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. Data based on a four-quarter moving average unless noted otherwise.

2. Wage data represent the average for all Covered Employment

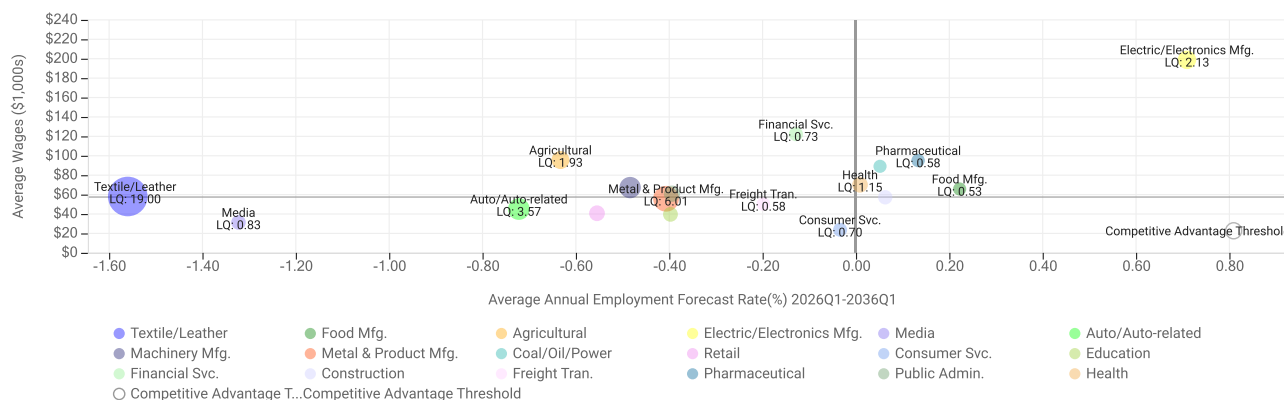
3. Data represent found online ads active within the last thirty days in the selected region. Due to alternative county-assignment algorithms, ad counts in this analytic may not match that shown in RTI (nor in the popup window ad list). Ad counts for ZCTA-based regions are estimates.

Occupation employment data are estimated via industry employment data and the estimated industry/occupation mix. Industry employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and currently updated through 2025Q4, imputed where necessary with preliminary estimates updated to 2026Q1. Wages by occupation are as of 2026 provided by the BLS and imputed where necessary. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Industry Clusters

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. The industry cluster in Yankton County, South Dakota with the highest relative concentration is Textile/Leather with a location quotient of 19.00. This cluster employs 477 workers in the region with an average wage of \$58,057. Employment in the Textile/Leather cluster is projected to contract in the region about 1.6% per year over the next ten years.

Industry Clusters for Yankton County, South Dakota as of 2026Q1



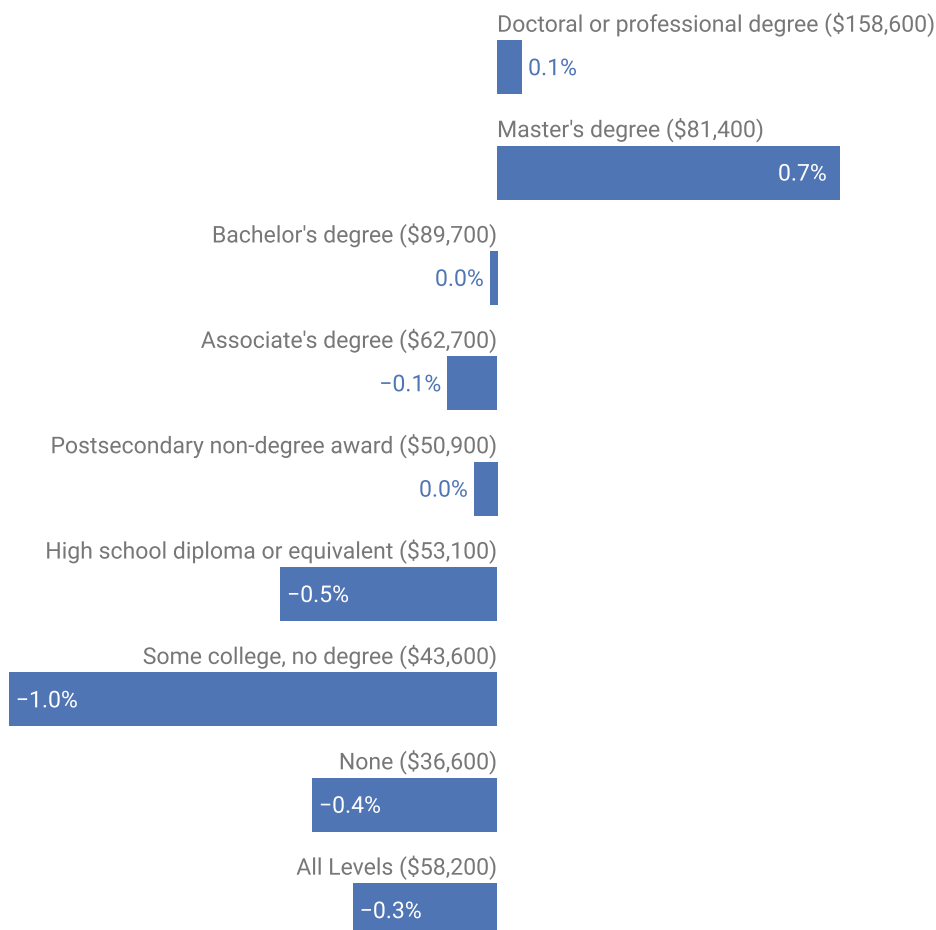
Source: JobsEQ® Data as of 2026Q1

Location quotient and average wage data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, imputed where necessary, and updated through 2025Q4 with preliminary estimates updated to 2026Q1. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Education Levels

Expected growth rates for occupations vary by the education and training required. While all employment in Yankton County, South Dakota is projected to contract 0.3% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to grow 0.1% per year, those requiring a bachelor's degree are forecast to contract 0.0% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to contract 0.1% per year.

Annual Average Projected Job Growth by Education Levels

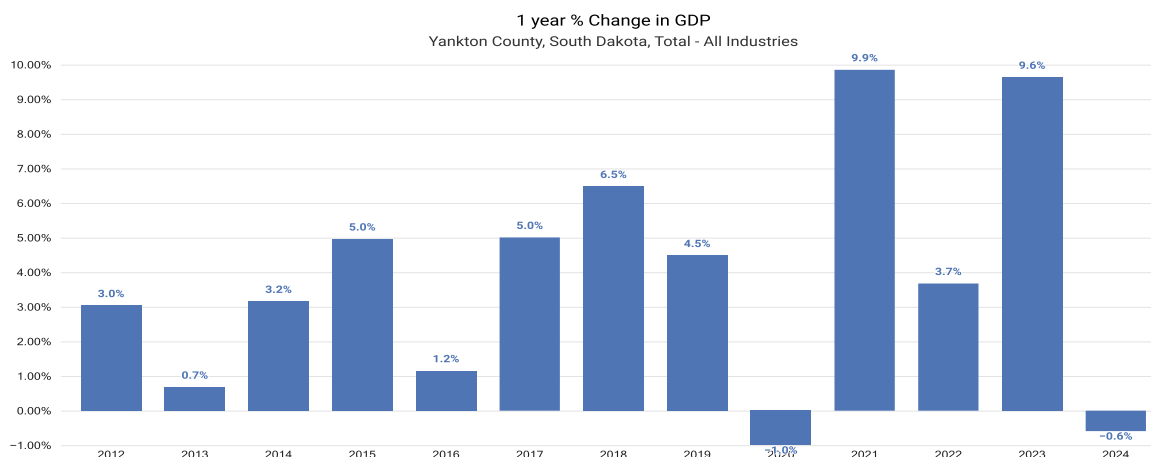


Source: JobsEQ®
Data as of 2026Q1

Employment by occupation data are estimates as of 2026Q1. Education levels of occupations are based on BLS assignments. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services produced by a region. In 2024, nominal GDP in Yankton County, South Dakota contracted 0.6%. This follows growth of 9.6% in 2023. As of 2024, total GDP in Yankton County, South Dakota was \$1,767,916,000.

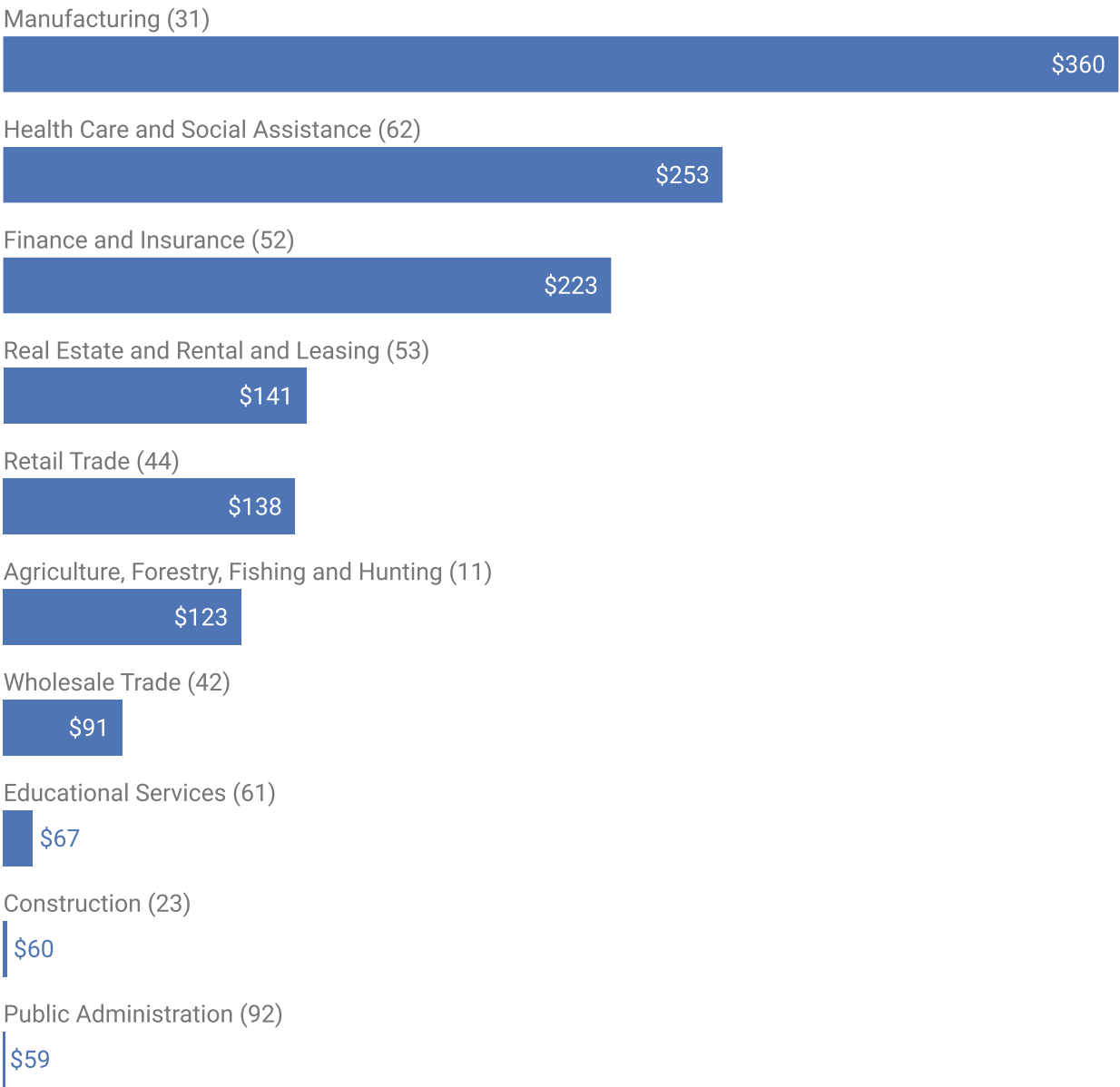


Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2024.

Of the sectors in Yankton County, South Dakota, Manufacturing contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2024, \$360,245,000. The next-largest contributions came from Health Care and Social Assistance (\$252,817,000); Finance and Insurance (\$222,954,000); and Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (\$141,247,000).

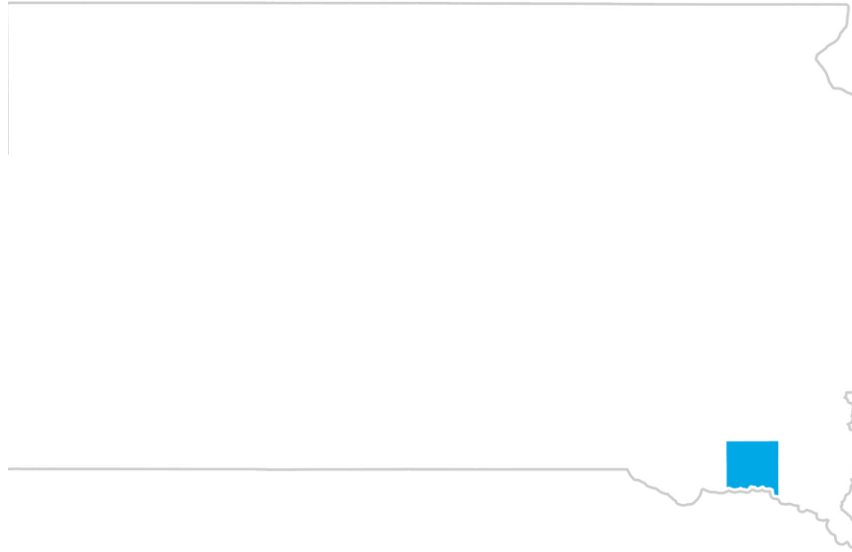
GDP (in \$ millions)

Yankton County, South Dakota, 2024



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2024.

Yankton County, South Dakota Regional Map



FAQ

What is a location quotient?

A location quotient (LQ) is a measurement of concentration in comparison to the nation. An LQ of 1.00 indicates a region has the same concentration of an industry (or occupation) as the nation. An LQ of 2.00 would mean the region has twice the expected employment compared to the nation and an LQ of 0.50 would mean the region has half the expected employment in comparison to the nation.

What is separation demand?

Separation demand is the number of jobs required due to separations—labor force exits (including retirements) and turnover resulting from workers moving from one occupation into another. Note that separation demand does not include all turnover—it does not include when workers stay in the same occupation but switch employers. The total projected demand for an occupation is the sum of the separation demand and the growth demand (which is the increase or decrease of jobs in an occupation expected due to expansion or contraction of the overall number of jobs in that occupation).

What is a cluster?

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. If a regional cluster has a location quotient of 1.25 or greater, the region is considered to possess a competitive advantage in that cluster.

What is the difference between industry wages and occupation wages?

Industry wages and occupation wages are estimated via separate data sets, often the time periods being reported do not align, and wages are defined slightly differently in the two systems (for example, certain bonuses are included in the industry wages but not the occupation wages). It is therefore common that estimates of the average industry wages and average occupation wages in a region do not match exactly.

What is NAICS?

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is used to classify business establishments according to the type of economic activity. The NAICS Code comprises six levels, from the “all industry” level to the 6-digit level. The first two digits define the top level category, known as the “sector,” which is the level examined in this report.

What is SOC?

The Standard Occupational Classification system (SOC) is used to classify workers into occupational categories. All workers are classified into one of over 804 occupations according to their occupational definition. To facilitate classification, occupations are combined to form 22 major groups, 95 minor groups, and 452 occupation groups. Each occupation group includes detailed occupations requiring similar job duties, skills, education, or experience.

About This Report

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