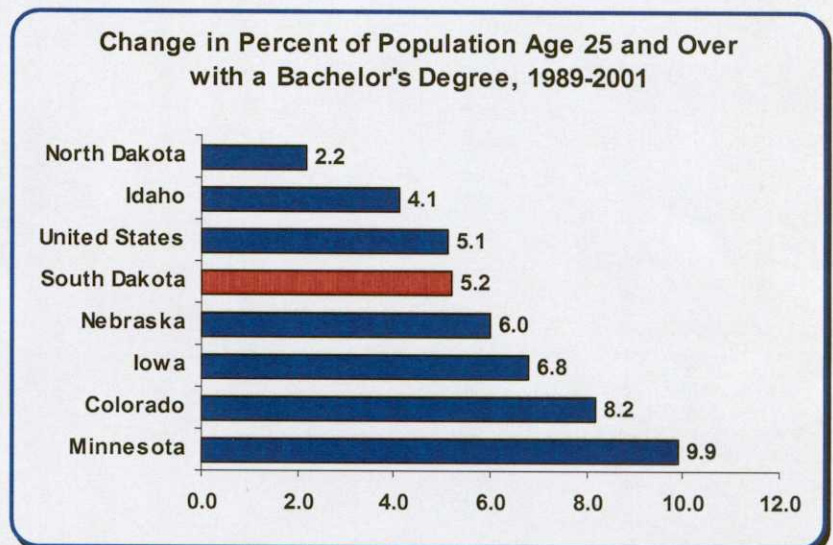


**Synopsis:** *The migration and geographic mobility of college graduates holds significant implications for a state's economic development prospects. In the decade after graduation, young college students are very mobile geographically. "They are far more mobile than they will be at any time later in their lives" (Postsecondary Education OPPORTUNITY, April 2003, p. 1). While the number of bachelor's degree holders in South Dakota is on the increase, when measuring the net migration of college freshmen and college graduates, South Dakota loses both freshmen and graduates to other states -- about 1,500 students per year.*

Measures of a state's prosperity are determined in large part by the proportion of its workers with college degrees.

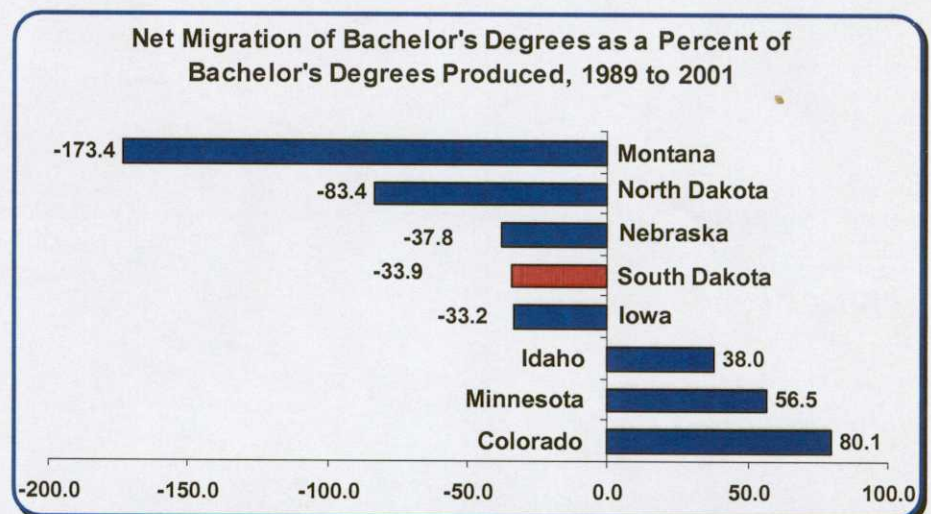
## Bachelor Degree Holders

The stock of bachelor's degree holders in South Dakota is increasing. From 1989 to 2001, the proportion of South Dakota's population with a bachelor's degree went up 5.2 percent, slightly better than the national average of 5.1 percent. South Dakota still has some way to go, however. In 1989, only 18.4 percent of its population age 25 and over had at least a bachelor's degree. In 2001, the percentage had increased to 23.6 percent.



Source: Postsecondary Education Opportunity, April 2003

While the state is producing more bachelor's degrees, about a third of those are leaving the state. Although other states in this region—Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, and Nebraska—fare even worse, about 34 percent of the bachelor degree holders produced in South Dakota between 1989-2001 left the state.



Source: Postsecondary Education Opportunity, April 2003

