

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Academic and Student Affairs

AGENDA ITEM: 6 – C

DATE: August 4, 2016

SUBJECT: Freshmen Migration Analysis

This analysis uses data acquired from the US Department of Education to draw comparisons between two groups:

- 1) first-time freshmen from other states who enroll in postsecondary institutions in South Dakota, and
- 2) first-time freshmen from South Dakota who enroll in postsecondary institutions in other states.

This biennial analysis updates previous reporting by examining high school graduates who entered college in Fall 2014.

For additional information, visit the interactive SDBOR Freshmen Migration Dashboard at <https://www.sdbor.edu/dashboards>

INFORMATIONAL ITEM



*** Special Data Analysis ***

Interstate Migration of College Freshmen

Hundreds of thousands of first-time college students leave their homes each year to attend college in another state. However, not all states gain equally in this exchange. Some states attract more students than they send away, while others send away more students than they attract. Because the ability to attract and retain college-educated workers may bring lasting economic and social benefits, states typically aspire to be “in the black” with respect to the interstate exchange of college students. This topic begs an important question: How does South Dakota fare as a destination for college students? This report offers updated findings from SDBOR’s biennial analysis of federal migration data, and suggests that South Dakota has continued to sustain its status as a net importer of college students.

Data Notes

Information presented in this report is sourced from an original analysis of IPEDS residence and migration survey files, which are populated for all IPEDS institutions on a biennial basis.¹ In this report, data reflect fall enrollments of first-time, degree/certificate-seeking students graduating from high school in the last twelve months.² Enrollments are analyzed for four-year and two-year degree-granting, Title IV postsecondary institutions only. The current analysis is based on data from Fall 2014, which were released by IPEDS in 2016.

Analysis

Was South Dakota a “net importer” of college freshmen in Fall 2014? The answer to this question flows from two simple observations:

- **The state exported 1,433 college freshmen in Fall 2014.** South Dakota produced 5,712 high school graduates who enrolled in a degree-granting postsecondary institution in Fall 2014. Of these, 74.9 percent (4,279) enrolled in an in-state institution, while 25.1 percent (1,433) enrolled in an out-of-state institution.
- **The state imported 2,658 college freshmen in Fall 2014.** Of the 6,937 college freshmen who enrolled in South Dakota postsecondary institutions in Fall 2014, 4,279 (61.7 percent) were South Dakota residents and 2,658 (38.3 percent) were residents of another state.

¹ Residency and migration data submissions (from postsecondary institutions to IPEDS) are mandatory in even-numbered years and optional in odd-numbered years.

² Students enrolling in multiple states will be double-counted.

Combined, these observations confirm that South Dakota was a net importer of college freshmen in Fall 2014. A total of 1,433 South Dakota residents were lost to out-of-state colleges and universities, while 2,658 non-residents were drawn to South Dakota institutions during the same term. On the whole, these totals amount to a net gain of 1,225 college freshmen in Fall 2014. Expressed as a ratio, South Dakota imported approximately two students (act. 1.85) for every one student exported.

$$\begin{array}{r} 2,658 \text{ students "imported"} \\ - 1,433 \text{ students "exported"} \\ \hline +1,225 \text{ net gain} \end{array}$$

The following figures provide a closer look at historical migration trends. As seen in Table 1, the state's migration differentials (shown as both integers and ratios) have shown consistent and dramatic improvement over the last decade. In 2002, the state's migration ratio of 0.95 reflected a net loss of 100 freshmen; by 2012, this ratio had improved to 1.95, a new all-time high. While these differentials ticked down slightly in 2014, data nonetheless continue to show that South Dakota has solidified its transformation from a net exporter of college freshmen to a net importer.

Table 1

Freshmen Migration to SD, 2000-2014

	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014
Freshmen Imported	1,776	1,751	1,948	2,003	2,134	2,288	2,693	2,658
Freshmen Exported	1,844	1,851	1,819	1,513	1,564	1,458	1,382	1,433
Net Migration	-68	-100	129	490	570	830	1,311	1,225
Ratio	0.96	0.95	1.07	1.32	1.36	1.57	1.95	1.85

Segmenting by sector, a closer inspection of migration data shows that the regental system itself has been a key leader in this growth movement. Figure 1 (next page) indicates that the state's four-year public institutions generated a sector-leading migration differential of +1,226, a figure that corresponds to a migration ratio of 2.51. This means that for every student leaving South Dakota in 2014 to study at a four-year public institution in another state, 2.51 out-of-state students entered the state to study at one of South Dakota's four-year public institutions. In terms of raw numbers, the next closest sector was the two-year public sector, which generated a net gain of only 11 students. The state's private sector accounted for a net loss of 12 students in Fall 2014.

Figure 1

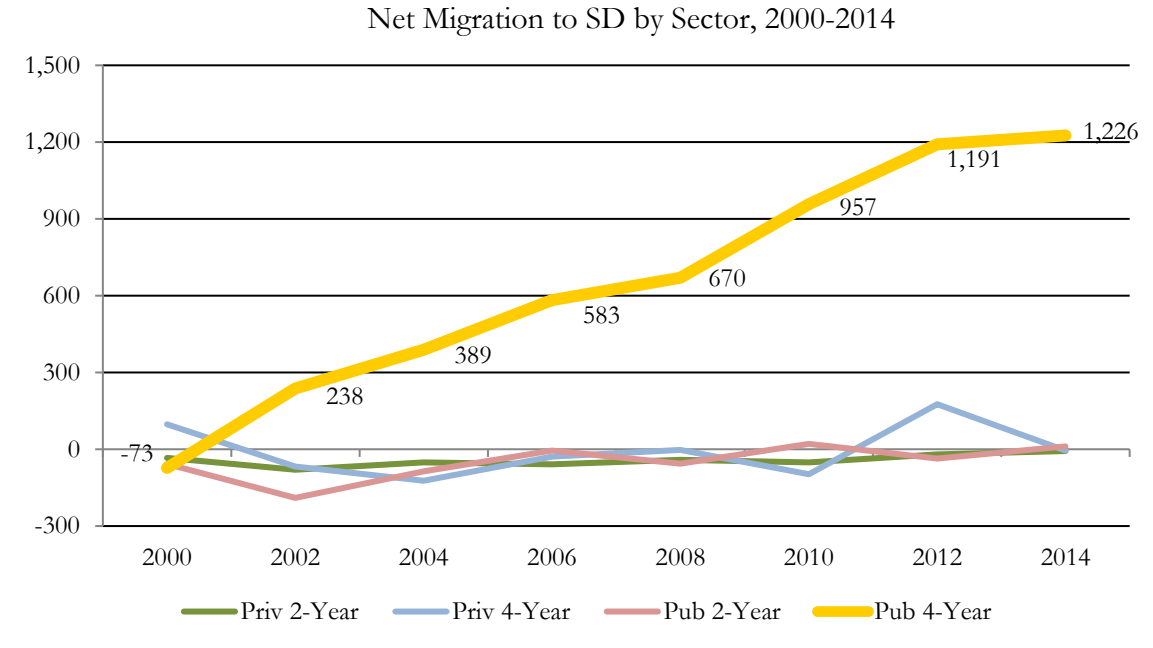


Table 2 provides national context for South Dakota’s 2014 net migration figures.³ South Dakota’s net gain of 1,225 students constitutes the 29th highest figure among all US states. It should be noted that South Dakota outperformed several neighboring states, including Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, and Wyoming.

Table 2
Net Migration by State, 2014

PA	15,060	VA	4,217	DE	1,717	NV	-1,273
MA	8,278	WV	4,190	MI	1,310	HI	-1,513
AL	8,088	MS	4,148	SD	1,225	GA	-1,522
IA	7,871	KY	4,097	MT	1,223	WA	-2,136
IN	7,652	OR	3,759	NH	1,181	MN	-4,992
AZ	7,202	MO	3,459	NE	882	CT	-5,219
SC	6,513	AR	3,313	FL	817	MD	-7,607
NC	6,278	KS	3,151	ID	708	TX	-9,601
NY	5,988	VT	2,786	ME	618	CA	-12,435
RI	5,787	ND	2,629	WY	609	IL	-17,438
OH	5,304	WI	2,618	NM	109	NJ	-27,505
UT	4,989	TN	1,729	CO	-26		
OK	4,602	LA	1,718	AK	-918		
<i>cont.</i> →		<i>cont.</i> →		<i>cont.</i> →			

³ Table values will not sum to zero due to the presence of foreign students and students from an unknown state of origin.

Finally, Figures 2 and 3 help to clarify the flow of students between South Dakota and its neighboring states. Figures presented here show the number of students gained from (or lost to) institutions in South Dakota’s six neighboring states since 2000. As seen below, South Dakota’s postsecondary institutions (and its public four-year institutions in particular) have attracted an increasing number of students from most neighboring states, particularly Minnesota and Iowa.

Figure 2
Net Migration to SD, All Sectors

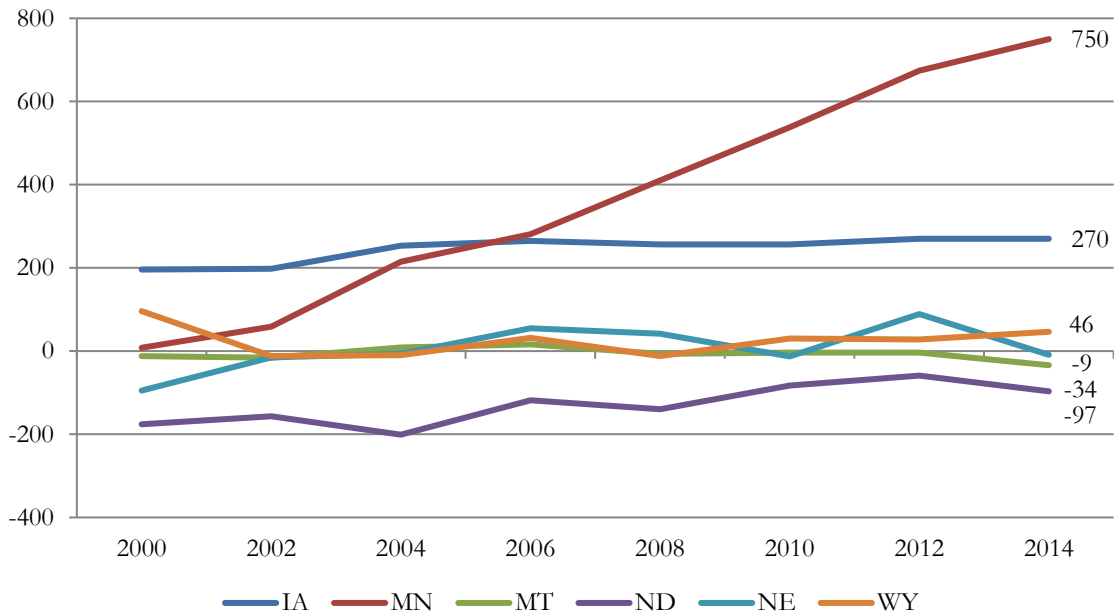


Figure 3
Net Migration to SD, Four-Year Public Institutions

