



South Dakota Secretary of State

Monae L. Johnson
Secretary of State

Thomas J. Deadrick
Deputy Secretary of State

For Immediate Release: May 21, 2026

Contact: SOS.Media@state.sd.us

SECRETARY OF STATE MONAE L. JOHNSON RELEASES THE 2026 Q1 ECONOMIC REPORT

Pierre, S.D. — The South Dakota Secretary of State’s Office has released the 2026 Q1 Economic Report, outlining continued economic strength across the state while identifying emerging challenges related to workforce availability and housing demand.

The report shows sustained momentum in business activity, strong labor market conditions, and continued growth in key sectors. At the same time, data indicates pressures from rising housing costs and a persistently low unemployment rate, underscoring the need for strategic workforce recruitment and long-term planning.

South Dakota’s economy continues to demonstrate remarkable resilience and optimism. One of the strongest indications of that optimism is the continued growth in business formation across our state. During the first quarter of 2026, South Dakota LLC filings approached 4,000, surpassing first-quarter filing totals from each of the previous six years.

“These numbers reflect the entrepreneurial spirit that continues to define our state as individuals invest in our communities and create new opportunities for the future,” states Secretary Johnson. “South Dakota is a great place to live, raise your family, and create your dream business.”

The 2026 Q1 Economic Report is a collaborative effort between the South Dakota Secretary of State’s Office, Dakota Wesleyan University, and the Mitchell Area Development Corporation. The report was developed with analysis provided by students in Dr. Tracy Dice’s economics courses, along with contributions from public and private partners across the state.

Secretary Johnson invites everyone to read the 57-page 2026 South Dakota Economic Report, which can be found on the Secretary of State’s website at: <https://sdsos.gov/general-information/publications/Economic%20Reports%202026/2026%20Q1%20Economic%20Report.pdf>