

# 2017 Bismarck Livability Survey Results

## SWOT: Business & Innovation & Employment

### Strengths

Opportunity for work

Has more potential than any city I know to become the healthiest, most livable city for a young professional in tech as well as someone raising a family, if the right decions are made in the next 5 years

Strong employment opportunities. Strong middle class.

Small town with work opportunities

Clean and employment options

There are still some wonderful people in this town. Lucky to live in a great neighborhood and many of the business that I do support are the smaller companies because of their service and professionalism.

Work attitude

Bismarck has a lot of opportunity to grow. There are a lot of people in the community with great ideas on what the community needs, Humpback sallys for example.

It's people and business opportunities

Jobs

They really love franchises?

Stable economy and job opportunities

Good job opportunities

Economic Stability

Employment opportunities

Growth and development opportunities.

It has okay jobs?

Job opportunities.

Government stabilizes employment and job market.

Business growth

It's the seat of state government which ensures public and private sector jobs and associated economic impact.

Citizens, recent growth in small business development, parks and recreation opportunities, increase in dining options availability of jobs

Employment opportunities.

Economic growth

Lots of govt employment opportunity

Stable economy

Good small business opportunities

Strong economy

Stable economy

The continuation of improving all aspects of the community

Low unemployment

Job and shopping opportunities that smaller communities don't have.

Job opportunities

Schools, economic growth

Retail shops

Hospitals for employment and the capital.

Current retention of youth with job opportunities

Being large enough to have retail and restaurants, etc, but small enough to be safe.

There is great options for shopping finally.

## ECONOMY

It's people. Businesses and employees. P

Job opportunities.

Yim Siam Thai - greatest Thai food I have ever had. I wish more people loved it as much as I did so they could open a sit-down establishment. Honestly - the city could get the travel channel to come out and feature this joint and increase tourism.

Job Growth

Talk is forward thinking and positive to make changes for public to access in downtown Bismarck.

Bismarck is the type of city that has everything you need. It is home to many local and national restaurants and businesses

Vibrant young community open to developing growth and innovation by many (not all have the same idea in mind, but most people do).

Access to the Missouri River, good economy, great place to start a business, safe, good neighborhoods and school system.

It has some great momentum in working to become a great small city, things like One Million Cups, the IDEA Center, Downtowners efforts, Leadership Bismarck/Mandan, etc.

Bismarck is looking toward the future and ways to grow. It's actively invites new business and looks for growth opportunities. Not all communities in North Dakota have done that.

People with a vision for what Bismarck can be.

Strong and growing economy for business sector.

Open to new and improved ideas and ways to bring new opportunities into our community.

People, job market.

Jobs

As a professional, the community is close-knit with ample opportunity to expand skills and networks (Leadership Bismarck-Mandan, Service Clubs, YP Network, U-Mary Master's programs, BSC community events and classes...)

Bismarck's location in proximity to the oil fields keeps it away from some of the more unsavory aspects while still being able to reap the benefits. This provides the city with the opportunity for rapid expansion

It's commitment to small business growth and retention.

It's openness and the rate of growth in small businesses

Safe community with a variety of options for work, recreation and positive growth

Strong local economy due to the diversity within the business sector -- strong health care presence, state government, manufacturing, agriculture

Its bustling downtown, career opportunities for younger people, beautiful residential areas.

Location. It is a beautiful city. Also, it is very safe with lots of jobs.

Bismarck's young people recreating the city in a way that is attractive to increased development and success.

It's increasingly diverse population. Bismarck is changing in an exciting way. New ideas from new people will revitalize this town.

Suitable retailers, restaurants, and health services. Superlative police, fire, water, waste, and street services.

Bismarck is peaceful. Many are welcome, many activities and interests are encouraged, but there aren't any strip clubs, (right?) dangerous neighborhoods, broken-glass-alleys, or 8-lane freeways. It's comfortable.

It is a community that offers a lot of opportunities for families in terms of career, education, and recreation.

## Weaknesses

Career opportunities

Lack of high paying employment

The lack of college graduates who move here to start a job. People don't move back to Bismarck until they are ready to start a family. We need a downtown community that can encourage people to move here from Fargo after school.

lack of living/working situation that align with emerging market preferences for walkability.

Conservatism and lack of creativity and / or vision

Better jobs

Poor paying jobs and housing expensive

Outdated ideas for rules governing business, and development. Also A lack of entertainment not preparing for a younger generation, lack of quality housing within reason to downtown. Its high cost of living.
Expensive living
the cost of living and the lack of higher paying jobs
Not having more businesses and recreational access along the river
Needs more diversity in shopping/dining/recreational activities. Also the climate :/
Housing over priced and wages low.
Increased cost of living
too much taxes high cost of living
High paying jobs
Cost of living
Attracting and retaining young professionals
Developers and people with money trying to force their ideology on the city. Self interested business people.
Good paying jobs.
Growing in an efficient and effective manner
Variety of Healthcare, big box companies moving in and competing against the "hometown" hospital creating a monopoly. Also the high cost of living in relation to the type of jobs available.
Good paying jobs
lack of action from the state during an emergency - "the pipeline protesters" -- jobless coming to Bismarck due to the lack of jobs on the western side of the state - and now our financial burden
We have difficulty attracting a talented workforce, especially immigrants, mostly because of perceived deficiencies (cold).
Not enough high paying jobs poor city planning
retaining young professionals
Cost of living
Need to attract more young professionals and youth and flow of traffic
Adjusting to the growth spurts and economic uncertainties of the age we live in.
Keeping up with the increase in population ( crime, traffic, and employment).
Cost of living
Employment opportunities that make living here affordable.
Housing prices, low wages
Good jobs
good paying jobs
Not keeping up with a growing population
Need more popular retail stores
Job force
Cost of living
Unreasonably high cost of living and poor pay
How to grow the business without taxing it's residents
Not enough high-paying jobs for our young people.
Jobs
Lack of vision by developers and businesses.
high taxes - I don't know how retired people can afford to live in Bismarck; unless they had a job that gave them a good retirement pension or made good money at their job. This city is made up of teachers and state employees - the pay is horrible!
Wage and opportunity equity
It's current leadership pushing agendas rather than encouraging entrepreneurs to build and expand and excel.
Weather and economic potential
Affordable

New business and manufacturing
Stagnation. The Status quo is dead. We must not allow ourselves to fall into the trap of not attracting a competent workforce because we don't have practical employment opportunities, because we don't have people. If we are to be a service economy then let us attract the best industry leaders of that sort.
too many hoops to jump through to start new businesses
Not enough employees for all of the job openings.
Lots of jobs but low pay with high prices of living.
High paying jobs
We could use an outlet mall.
High Cost of Living
There are higher paying jobs outside of Bismarck.
Big box store developments and strip malls up North.
Lack of career opportunities; not a lot here for young professionals.
pay scales and entertainment
Cost of living vs. wages
A small college population equals less business geared towards young adults which in turn leads to an aging population.
Cost of living vs. rate of pay.
Lack of artistic offerings. High cost of living compared to salary increases.
Expensive place to live compared to salaries.
Rise in cost of living
Housing and limited career opportunities in STEM related fields
Cost of living.
Encouraging young people and entrepreneurs to find success at home.
Growing population
Lack of High paying jobs
Continued increases in cost of living with no change in average incomes.
Not enough gas stations north of town
Inability to manage growth effectively
diverse industries
Certain industries/businesses lack of competition.
COST OF LIVING! In comparing us to the next largest city (Fargo)- Bismarck housing costs are higher, gas and groceries are more expensive, retail goods are slightly higher as well...all while working salaries are only similar! Just the cost of everything
layoffs and hiring freezes by two of it's top employers
The infrastructure needs to keep up with the growth
Bismarck is going through an identity crisis of what it should look like.
Too many low paying retail jobs. Lack of high-quality jobs.
One must drive everywhere! It takes too long to get from North to South. Can make professional lateral moves, but harder to come across opportunities to 'climb the ladder'.
Culture not keeping up with the opportunities for advancement
Affordability.
Lack of resources and good paying jobs for those coming from the oil patch
Not a lot of well salaried work opportunities for young adults who have bachelor's degrees. Also a need for more young adult events in the community.
Relatively expensive environment to live
limited job opportunities. too many low wage jobs
High cost of living
Lack of new industry to create higher-level employment opportunities.
Branching out to include new industries and the cities ability to keep those industries here.

Too conservative and not progressive
population growing too fast
Too much sprawl, retail shopping spread too far apart.
Next to nothing when it comes to manufacturing. The economy is almost all retail.
high cost of affordability
Bureaucracy - As the capital city, we expect economic opportunity to come to us. We don't innovate aggressively enough.
Lack of forward thinking leadership
old attitude and unwillingness to change-doing it the way you have always done it
The community is stuck in a mentality of "this is the way we've always done it".
Making the transition from small town to a larger regional center requires letting go of some old ideas and looking proactively to address the challenges of growth. Many residents seem to be resistant to this and oppose taking the leap of faith that is required to embrace the future.
Not enough higher paying jobs. Public transportation for people who are poor or disabled
Expensive products and high taxes
Lack of high quality industry.
Lack of vision of some business leaders/landowners. No understanding of the appeal of sense of place.
higher cost of living than any other major ND city
The prevalence of the conservative 'old boys' club, hard to get past their archaic thinking.
The population is growing faster than the city can support.
Lack is a stable employment base for the retail and service industry
Lack of competition in gas prices.
Shopping, Restaurants
Unbridled growth and the desire to be politically correct.
Being a follower among larger communities in North Dakota; only making changes after other communities have done them first; not being progressive--being afraid of change.
Not enough retail or current retail needs competition.
Not progressive enough and property taxes are high for our community
Inability to attract residents with no prior connection to the city or area.
Innovative ideas, such as this livability survey, take too long to happen. We take too long to move ideas forward.
Educational opportunities. Only one private university (that is skewing more and more exclusively Catholic).
Management-level job opportunities that don't require industry-specific experience. Low unemployment is a factor of lots of lower paying, labor or service positions.
<b>Opportunities</b>
activating young leaders
Seizing the moment to best fulfill the growing and changing needs of our community.
More green spaces, parks and trails (unpaved). Increased walkability and recreation. Better architecture and landscaping. Multi-use buildings: Retail on street level, office/residential 2-4 floors. Less sprawling strip mall lots - Where people drive 100 yards to the next shop (even though it takes longer).
I see many business opportunities. The town could really use well ran ethnic restaurants.
Lots of employment opportunity
Make it more feasible for businesses to renovate buildings downtown and see their dreams come alive!
grow
Attracting other retailers/restaurants
Technology jobs
Create incentives for bigger companies to locate here for city growth and job growth
Need for more restaurants.
Grow entertainment sector and other amenities in order to draw better class of residents.

Good jobs.
Offer incentives to bring in business, manufacturing, etc. that offer good paying jobs.
economy
I think the Kirkwood Mall area could expand east and create a retail area between it and Cashwise if the trailer parks were removed.
More shopping and restaurants
attracting young professionals
I see the local food movement picking up and that excites me! I have better access to locally grown food and opportunities to connect with farmers at the BisMarket.
Room for new businesses and entrepreneurs to move in and make it a better community
Continued dedication to bringing new businesses/restaurants/activities to town. Have seen great improvement to the downtown area in the last several years.
Making it friendly to small business owners who want to bring more variety
Economic growth and a sustainable technological opportunities
Retail business and restaurants/bars
Embrace tech starts-ups. Get more. People a growing tech hub through incentives.
Lots of low pay retail jobs
Drawing in young professionals
More restaurants and entertainment
More Technology and manufacturing based jobs
Manufacturing
The growth has been wonderful and hopefully it can be utilized to entice more people/companies to invest here.
Building a bigger mall north of town
Restaurants
Make it attractive for younger people to move here and WANT to stay.
New event center that can bring attractive things to Bismarck. Current event center is either poorly run or not adequate for anything other than Hairball
Creating an event center on the north side of town
Growth
Small business growth. Clean energy jobs.
Manufacturing
Developing more around the Event Center
Smarter infrastructure planning and continuation of public-private investments will make the city economically more sound.
Manufacturing, access to water and power
The potential for the Downtown area. Expanding events at the Bismarck Events Center. Continue growing the area around Kirkwood Mall. More restaurants and things to do in the north part of town.
Manufacturing
Join the Governor in identifying more high tech jobs.
Small business opportunities
Bring in small business
Build an auditorium that will attract outside entertainers and be financially accessible to local organizations
Building on a strong and growing economy to attract professionals, businesses and employers from outside of North Dakota.
Take on a better event facility to compete with Fargo
Lots of newcomers who are looking for reasons to stay.
More manufacturing
Try to attract more technology jobs
Improve infrastructure and build a bigger north side event center.
Wind and solar advancement

Five South & new Missouri Valley Complex.
Repurpose buildings
There are an increasing number of innovative tech thinkers and talented creatives in the region, Bismarck needs to become a technology hub recognized on a national scale.
Manufacturing jobs
There are a lot of career opportunities in Bismarck
Bringing in new young professionals with the skills and ambitions this city needs to sustain growth.
The chance to become a modern midsize city that is also a destination.
Business growth
Keeping the young generation here to help the economy
Outdoor recreation, young professionals
Probably new business opportunities as it grows and also new opportunities for Seniors.
Job growth
More retail shopping.
More manufacturing
Small business infrastructure
New venue up north would be a great opportunity development
Attracting new people, with good jobs
Continued small business opportunities due to increased population,
Retail, food trucks, Small business
bring in higher paying jobs
Get some industry in this town.
Seek out industries other than service to be brought to this town. Work on bringing other employers to this town for more professional level jobs. Add more professional level jobs and the service industry will follow WITHOUT having to subsidize it with our tax dollars.
The opportunity for more places like Sky Zone and new restaurants.
New businesses
tech
Add a business district along the river. Like a boardwalk with food, retail and lodging
Need a building like Ralph Engelstad civic center is junk and for a capital city it's embarrassing we don't have a staple building
Shops and restraints along the river
Work
Continue to take advantage of opportunities with the oil industry as that market slowly builds back. The opportunity is to be that peripheral hub for oil companies while not being right in the heart of the action.
Growth with economy, restaurants, shopping centers, and entertainment.
Increasing the tax base by attracting high quality employment opportunities.
Oil industry
Tech manufacturing tech schools
Creating restaurants north in Bismarck and options in downtown
More opportunity for small business, and an alive, thriving downtown.
Small businesses
Continued economic growth
More restaurants. Weekends are a nightmare to go out and eat.
Better mainstream retail options
Jobs
Economic growth
Expansion of professional career opportunities
Oil will boom again and getting in on the growth of that industry

We need better paying jobs and a bigger law enforcement staff.
To provide long term jobs that are not short term blue collar labor jobs related to the oil boom.
Revitalizing our downtown. Immense potential for development and growth in our city center - and developing this will help attract and keep the young, entrepreneurs and creative people.
More funding to make Bismarck appealing to people outside the community. Invest in projects using LOCAL talent. There are a lot of members of this community who would love to be involved in creating a more attractive city.
Develop opportunities for young people to stay in Bismarck.
Technology
Good paying jobs
Develop downtown, improve traffic, increase wages.
Local business variety.
More recreational facilities/multi use community center
Attract tech companies that are not limited by geographical location
River, health care, workers
Investing in areas of town other than downtown.
Culver's
Loosening restrictive codes and superfluous regulation on small businesses expanding.
The civic center addition and the complex that is planned near it.
Planning better for safe growth of neighborhoods and keeping businesses separate
More departments stores
Economic growt. Employment opportunities
More manufacturing.
The growth we are seeing should attract new business opportunities.
Better paying professional jobs.
We need to try get more businesses to Bismarck. Restaurants etc..
Invest in unique housing, incentivize local shops and dining
Oil
The addition of new businesses and restrurants
Expanding retail and restaurants. I think people are willing to spend their money for the right things. I think restaurants such as noodles and co., chipotle, would do well in Bismarck. Also, trying to do something with gateway mall. I think it is a wasted area of space
Expansion, allowing now new businesses and entertainment to come.
As Bismarck is growing, more young people are choosing to stay in town and start their families.
So many job openings to fill, make housing affordable.
Business growth
Steadily growing economy
Large waterpark would be a good investment...or a new mall.
Indian food
Find some way of attracting young people to ND to fill all of the jobs.
Technology and affordable housing
Being a Oil Field fringe city, i.e. controlled growth.
To be a destination point for vacations and businesses
With the growth slowing down we should take the time to plan future growth correctly.
attracting new companies
Open an outlet mall. Nearest one is like 6 hours away.
Industrial growth to the East along the interstate.
Young professional development
Making doing business in Bismarck more affordable for companies particularly manufacturing and service industry. It is a good place to live. Can't do much about the weather but it is interesting how many native ND citizens or people who have lived here a long time and move away end up coming back. It feels like coming home.



Increasing retail so there is a big draw from the Western portion of the state. There were rumors of a Culver's and a Costco and those venues have not been seen.
Allowing diverse retail.
growth in businesses
Open more stores and restaurants to accommodate growing population
Younger professionals and families moving in...We have the money to spend on entertainment and specialty (e.g., vegan) shops and restaurants. However, little opportunity to spend it...
Reduce cost of living.
Continue to build the arts and restaurant scene
IT Industry Growth
They need to attract more industry
continued economic diversification
Become an oasis from the oil activity, yet a staging area for recreation, shopping and transportation for people involved in oil activity,
Attract larger successful companies
Its overall growth potential
explore more manufacturing
Innovation - doing things differently than in the past. Allowing things like 5 South to move forward. Seeing the benefits of expansion of the event center AND the ability to add some other venue up north (we can have both). A quality innovative design of the community we want to be is within our reach. We have to be willing to let it take shape
Small business ventures
Continued growth
Building a stronger more inviting downtown. I would love to see a splash pad park for kids, with a small amphitheater for performances and concerts. More restaurants along the Missouri River would be great and so well
Business growth and stability
Science and biomedical research facilities
More eating places
There is a burgeoning community of young (under 50?) entrepreneurs here that are breaking away from the all-too-common mindset of employers in this area that you need to work like you are in a factory, punch in, punch out, who cares if you get anything done, no telecommuting, no flexible scheduling, etc.
The capital city is one big opportunity to keep young professionals in this area to raise their families.
Can expand on current businesses and focus on small business gains
More access to malls, grocery stores, fuel stations.
Involving 18-25 year olds in the work place/social scene
local business growth
More housing downtown, continue to add density and commercial opportunities there.
Continued growth due to the areas power resources such as oil, wind, and hopefully continued use of coal. This creates many good paying jobs and continued strong economic growth and business opportunities.
recruiting in-state college students to move here
Better relationships between businesses and non-profit organizations
Leverage Bobcat to attract more manufacturing activity
the growth of the city, keeping residents and bringing in various different industries
We need to bring in more industry
Assisting current businesses, such as healthcare, and others in providing assistance and enhancing their opportunities for growth.
Quality work force that may be under employed.
Young professionals starting new companies.
Find a way to reduce cost of living to keep young people here and provide them the ability to strive professionally and financially.
Doing a better job managing growth, planning for the future, making investments in infrastructure before it's an urgent need.
An influx of new people (demographers say we are growing!) could mean new ideas, unique opportunities.

Green Energy and Beautification
Need to develop more activities and business closer to the river. This could be a fantastic draw for tourism.
entrepreneurship
Business growth, attraction of quality people for jobs
Now that the money has been already spent on the Civic Center expansion/remodel, we should make sure it is "booked" at all times with opportunities for everyone in the City and surrounding areas.
If housing prices decreased and pay was higher, then I think it would attract more young adults who are bachelor prepared.
There are so many career opportunities here, we really need to focus on the fact that this is a great place to develop your career in a mid-size town. Not everyone wants to spend their entire life in a large city, and I think the tide may turn a few years from now when we begin to see more millennials considering other options besides larger metropolitan areas. The quality of life-- the ability to have work/life balance is much more achievable here.
Economic development and creating better jobs for future generations.
Diversity in business
Several city departments have department head retiring, I understand the need to promote from within, but it would be nice to see new people with fresh new ideas.
Utilize technology to create more jobs to sustain the growth of the city and to create higher level employment opportunities.
Take advantage of being a regional hub for entertainment and shopping for people.
Commercial investment
growth
Promote businesses that are technology driven, more manufacturing jobs.
growth and ability to improve on community resources
Our ever increasing diversity in our local demographic should lead to increased opportunities to diversify our local economy
Technology
energy related career opportunities
To make downtown Bismarck a business and consumer friendly place to be without moving ahead with the current large and expensive plan for a huge apartment building no one can afford to live in. Maybe use those funds to make improvements on things that already work, or make it look nicer. It's definitely grungy and dark right now. The art in the alleyways was a step in the right direction.
High tech industry
Bring in quality educated people to a bustling economy.
Growth
Get more small businesses or businesses geared toward families
Growth in North Bismarck.
continued growth and managing it properly
I do believe in a lot of ways, Bismarck is a great kept secret. We have U of Mary and BSC for education options, we have a few larger employers and many mid sized ones with a variety of industries.
Growth of technology businesses
Being an incubator for entrepreneurs.
Right now there are more jobs than people.
Economic Opportunity for start-up businesses. Bismarck has a great economic environment and a young population that is eager to create a diverse and interesting marketplace. Bismarck is full of young families that have chosen to make this their home. They are looking for a quality of life that is achievable here.
Bismarck has an opportunity to make their downtown the cultural center of the city, with great housing, retail, and landscaping- a place where people want to be and hang out!
Shift to an emphasis on looking at new primary sector employment.
Bring back the downtown area in terms of nightlife and shopping.
To continue growing and still maintain its quality
With the coming oil boom, expansion of residential and commercial areas is needed.
Larger department stores
using the youth of the community to plan for the future

Should have much more available being the capital city  
 To be a technology and commerce hub for the region.  
 Beautiful city with lots of growth opportunity  
 Diversify economy  
 so much potential for growth  
 growth  
 Become a magnet for young people.  
 Growing in every direction.  
 The oil industry is picking up again.  
 Develop programs that will help individuals/families become home owners.  
 Entrepreneurship. We need more business's started that will benefit the people and community and not just another app or technology company. Something that adds substance.

**Threats**

Weather and high paying career oppertunities  
 losing youth to more progressive markets  
 Lack of high paying employment  
 unemployment  
 The biggest threat is using the recent economic success to further expand our borders, build more on the fringe, invest in sprawling shopping centers, and divert money away from a struggling core that's seen recent success but needs help now more than ever to see it continue and ultimately help Bismarck as a whole to realize it's full potential for many years and decades to come  
 slower economy  
 Fringe development. Paving the prairie is environmentally, socially, and economically unsustainable. Bismarck is very dependent on agriculture and energy industries; a downturn in either industry could have significant effect on Bismarck.  
 high cost of living - rent, flights, food, etc.  
 Lack of adequate funding strategies for smart growth and sustainable development, complacency of the urgency of this issue  
 loss of manufacturing jobs that pay well  
 The cost of living vs income  
 Sprawling  
 Lack of progressive thinking people who want no diversity  
 Shut down of oil drilling.  
 Lack of planning ahead for growth  
 Influx of people not willing to work for their living  
 Keeping up with growth.  
 Lack of viable employment in a city that is too expensive to live in for a simple Midwest town.  
 same leadership going down the wrong path  
 The biggest threat is not attracting young people to stay/move to Bismarck.  
 Certain people of Bismarck want to control Bismarck and the infrastructure. The small people of Bismarck need to step up and make a sound.  
 I think if Bismarck doesn't start doing more to embrace the young people in this town, then there won't be much attraction for them to stay around. Young people are drawn to big cities.  
 Younger people are still leaving to find better opportunity  
 Cost of housing outpacing wages.  
 Oil companies  
 Lack of a vision that benefits everyone. The huge hotel is a mistake. Go for small boutique hotels with character.  
 Gentrification is going to ruin the downtown.  
 Republican controlled govt. Big oil.

I have always felt its homogeneity is its biggest threat, as it drives out creative, smart, people, and stifles innovation and beauty.
Failure to attract small businesses
Lack of considering beauty and art in urban planning. Our main drives are ugly and commercial with no concept of beauty or nature
Lack of professional land developers that have the vision to guide our community in orderly and efficient growth. The major developers in this community are only worried about their bottom line and not the continued success of the community. Owning land does not qualify one to be a professional and successful land developer.
Flight of young people.
Ignorant, selfish, non-intellectual people who do not want to move toward the future.
Opposition to change
Narrow minded people
Outdated visions with city development
Close mindedness.
Lack of space in schools. Losing state employees due to low pay and cutting benefits
The oil companies
Over dependence on state government and the oil industry.
Too many places hiring and not being able to fill positions or not get good quality workers in order to just fill a spot
Poor financing
Not staying current with other new citirs
non-diversified economy
Cost of living vs. quality of life
The city is growing fast but our city government does not keep up. We need more law enforcement. More forward thinking. We have enough restaurants and banks - need more variety in businesses.
The takeovers of both health care systems by outside entities is terrifying. Keep businesses local and give small business owners opportunities and incentives to make this a truly unique place to live.
Oil industry
Spending!
Lots of places looking to hire, but some are not paying comparable wages to other business in Bismarck and in the state of ND.
Over population yet not enough grocery stores
Fargo taking our jobs, housing, and ideas from Bismarck. Bismarck lacks the use of the most popular asset, the RIVER!
The biggest threat facing Bismarck is lack of affordable housing; no one will move there if they can't afford to live there.
Housing bubble breaks & property values decline.
Young families leaving due to lack of things to do and lack of affordable housing, rising property taxes, good ol' boys club.
The business people running the city
Chain and franchises taking away from local eclectic nature of the people and the area
Zoning commission officials need to keep their distance and not have close relationships with business owners.
Wages, homeless population growing and drug problems.
Young professionals leaving. Professional jobs do not pay well.
Oil
Infrastructure and retail not keeping up with growth.
MDC merging with Sanford- Monopoly in Bismarck. Also the monopoly of grocery stores
We lose our ND residents due to being "behind times" and younger generations looking for technology jobs, higher paying jobs etc.
Losing existing healthcare facilities/jobs
Cost of living compared to wages
too much and too restrictive regulation of business; too restrictive on re-development/revitalizing older parts of town
without a university such as UND, or NDSU it is hard to get cultural activities, and ethnic restaurants to come here. How many different hamburger joints to we need. Yuck. The younger crowds move away for this lack of opportunity

Not enough employees willing to live in cold ND weather for all of the jobs.
Government and national economy
If good employment opportunities dries up due to ND's economy I think many young, transplants to Bismarck could leave. Hurting the economy and future of the town.
Lack of workforce
Growing too much on the edges/building schools where there is nothing around them. i.e. Legacy, Horizon, Liberty, St. Mary's
Unplanned growth
Lack of professional opportunities
Higher-paying jobs elsewhere
Lack of industrial jobs.
Losing young professionals to larger metropolitan areas like Denver.
Oil Industry.
Being lured by businesses that will leave Bismarck after incentives expire.
Weather, economic difficulties.
Doing the same old thing over and over...more banks, more churches, more of the same restaurants and shops. The young professionals need seek more variety in entertainment, commerce options, green spaces, art/culture in any form. Thank you for listening.
The oil.
High Paying Jobs
Insanely-high pricing of homes, apartments
The oil boom not coming back up
Oilfield instability
The oil boom not coming back as strong as it was.
Entrenched business interests resistant to change.
Spending too much downtown and neglecting other business areas! people like access to business possibilities in a neighborhood close to home!
Good paying jobs to match the cost of housing.
The continued push for TIF and Renaissance Zones. Continued rising costs of new homes in the area caused by regulations and policies from building and zoning departments.
Do goods in City Government who want to create housing downtown, open more bars and eateries. This is not the function of government.
High cost of living and large income gap between the upper and middle classes
Foreign multinationals abusing our resources and effecting our small economies of scale.
Becoming to commercial and too many chains
Lack of mid-level to high-level jobs
Lack of options for people - retail, airlines, restaurants, affordable/reasonable housing
Stagnation from oil boom dying off. Luckily Bismarck worked on bringing in new businesses, but could work to bring in more technology based companies and work to be the new corporate center for non-energy based industries.
Dependency on oil industry, long-term planning
Ignoring the small business opportunities for pie-in-the sky big business opportunities
Fargo
Not a lot of professional jobs and a lot of retail and hospitality positions
relying to heavily on a couple of industries
Not prepared for growth
Cost of living is higher than comparable markets in the midwest. Lack of affordable housing and property taxes that are higher than other midwest markets make it tough to stay here.
Cost of Living and a population scared of expansion
Not having some of the things bigger cities have
Not being able to keep the middle class located here
Not evolving to new opportunities

Not sure on this one. Possibly a downfall in the economy now that the oil boom has slowed.
Disengaged workforce
Young people are leaving because there are no entry level career opportunities.
Urban Sprawl - We already have two largely commercialized separate areas in town. If we continue to grow outward, we will need to have more and more which I think diminishes community. Growing upward reduces cars on the road and travel distance. It's greener and would accent the Main Street Initiative.
Lack of higher-end employment opportunities and not enough workers for the entry-level and lower end employment opportunities. Also the cost of living is very high - especially housing.
That the basis for our economy may be hit by changing world views and away from what we value.
Government competition against private sector
Overbuild of commercial space. Lot of empty spaces
The oil money will dry up and all that is left will be the elderly and burger flippers.
high cost of living. This can be a deterrent when trying to recruit employees to move to Bismarck.
not catching up and always being behind-no forethought to what may be coming and anticipating the communities needs.
That young professionals will leave for better techy jobs, modernistic housing and inspirational opportunities.
North/South Access. Drawing new retail/commercial and employment.
Opposition to progressive ideas
Lack of start-up companies in the technology sector.
Urban Sprawl - neighborhoods with empty lots
job pay
Developing and sustaining a skilled workforce. Fewer high quality career opportunities compared to larger metros.
Infrastructure needs as we grow outside city limits
Taxes and the high gas and electricity prices
Lack of support for families in which both parents work. QUALITY, AFFORDABLE childcare is rare. Expensive, 1 adult per 15 toddlers, is typical. Businesses in Bismarck use deaf, disabled grandparents to try to claim that they have enough staff to care for children. I have personally witnessed older children being forced to sit in high chairs for many hours in a row in front of a TV. I also wonder if the deterioration of environment for children is associated with the increase in ADD and ADHD diagnoses in Bismarck.
Loss of jobs - CHI, BSC, state employment shrinking, while crime seems to be increasing.
Too many unemployed, transient people that expect services and yet they are not contributing to our society.
Too much growth too fast