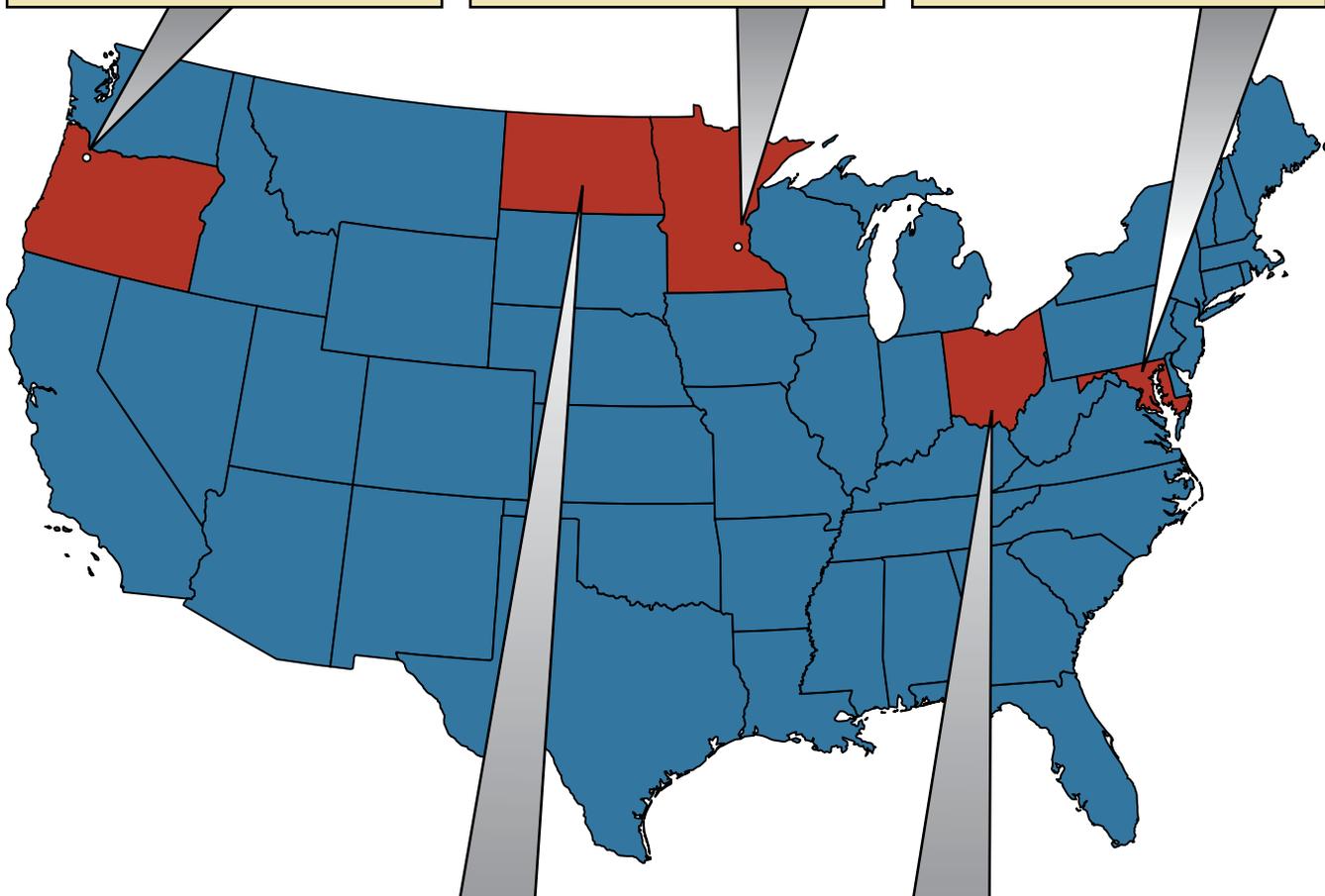


Areas Leveraging Strengths for Future Growth

Portland, Oregon and its young, creative class of workers: Workforce is expected to grow by 2.4% a year over the next decade – six times as fast as the U.S. average. Those in the 25- to 34-year-old age group grew by 12% in a decade. In addition, 22 nanotechnology start-ups have raised \$96 million and the Oregon Wave Energy Trust is seeking to harness the oceans' wave power and thousands of jobs.

Minneapolis-St. Paul and its talented people. Nearly 38% of the workforce has a college degree, patent rates are double the U.S. average and 21 Fortune 500 companies call the region home. The Entrepreneurship Accelerator is a 10-year project committed to financing 50 start-ups, with emphasis on an export strategy to capitalize on a strong base of medical device companies.

Maryland and bioscience research and development: Numerous federal labs, plus John Hopkins University, give the state a 44% greater concentration of bioscience talent than the national average. A BioMaryland 2020 strategy includes a financial commitment of \$1.3 billion over the next 10 years, increased biotech tax credit and new investment tax credit.



North Dakota and energy: Developing technologies to unlock previously unreachable oil and gas reserves. Even if oil prices drop, low exploration costs and proven supplies will keep the state producing. Projecting as many as 26,000 new oil wells over the next 25 years. State is near the top in gross domestic product growth and has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation.

Ohio and advanced manufacturing. The goal, not unlike others in the Midwest, is to retool old-school industries to produce 21st century technologies. An example is Toledo glassmaker Pilkington transforming to photovoltaic materials. A future focus is on flexible electronics (circuits printed on polymer films), using expertise developed at Kent State University.

Source: The Kiplinger Letter