

McKENZIE COUNTY

★ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ★

ECONOMY

AT A GLANCE

AUGUST 2025

UPDATED MONTHLY	June 2025	June 2024	May 2025	May 2024
McKenzie County Unemployment Rate	2.8%	2.7%	2.0%	2.0%
North Dakota Unemployment Rate	2.7%	2.8%	2.1%	2.1%
McKenzie County Labor Force	8,406	8,190	8,238	8,006
North Dakota Labor Force	437,013	433,422	431,146	426,685
Online Job Openings-McKenzie County	194	254	233	278
West Texas Intermediate Oil (Price/Barrel)	\$68.17	\$79.77	\$62.17	\$80.02
Oil Production-McKenzie County (Barrels)	9,660,056	11,631,323	10,040,906	12,213,842
Farmers Prices Received Index (2011 Base)	138.5	126.8	140.2	123.8
Farmers Prices Paid Index (2011 Base)	149.9	139.9	149.4	140.2

SOURCES: Unemployment, labor force, and online job openings data from Job Service North Dakota; Oil price from US Energy Information Administration; Oil production from North Dakota Department of Mineral Resources; Farmers price index from United States Department of Agriculture

MONTHLY/YEAR TO DATE	July 2025	July 2024	Jan-July 2025	Jan-July 2024
Occupancy Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$18,587	\$8,313	\$109,936	\$97,485
City Sales Tax Distribution -Watford City	\$503,808	\$350,499	\$3,362,204	\$2,698,465
City Sales Tax Distribution -Alexander	\$93,711	\$59,230	\$572,672	\$265,775
Restaurant/Lodging Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$32,052	\$24,299	\$202,849	\$198,679
Permits-Watford City	50	28	178	145
Permits Value-Watford City	\$7,001,433	\$2,422,752	\$15,653,924	\$10,178,184
Permits-McKenzie County	8	7	26	14
Permits Value-McKenzie County	\$2,207,500	\$680,000	\$8,751,440	\$3,255,000
Landfill Daily Average (tons)-McKenzie County	121.3	98.2	607.7	538.2
LoadPass Permits	2,112	2,595	16,685	18,182
Births (mother's residence-McKenzie County)	19	25	170	160
Deaths (McKenzie County)	NA	8	48	28
Thdr. Roosevelt National Park-North Unit Visits	27,800	25,600	90,100	84,000
Rough Rider Center Visits	6,400	5,500	126,200	116,600

SOURCES: Tax distributions from North Dakota State Treasurer (Alexander's City Sales Tax Distribution Total is excluding March, April and May numbers) for 2024; Building permit data from City of Watford City or McKenzie County; "Permits" for City of Watford City includes building, moving, sign, excavation, w/s access, demolition, fence, general, private septic, storage, and construction and repair. LoadPass numbers from McKenzie County Public Works; Visit data is from Placer.ai.

APARTMENT OCCUPANCY RATE	August 2025	July 2025	August 2024	August 2023
Watford City-Brookledge	90%	94%	97%	94%

SOURCE: Brookledge Apartments that includes 174 units

UPDATED YEARLY (for McKenzie County)	2024	2023	2022	2021
Births	263	247	206	224
Deaths	76	87	93	97
K-12 Fall Public School enrollment	3,054	2,775	2,590	2,310
Median Age-County residents	31.8	31.7	31.5	31.3
Oil Extraction and Transport employment	3,395	3,425	3,188	2,984
All other employment	8,090	7,615	6,939	6,142
All cattle and calf inventory	68,000	74,000	79,000	83,000
US Hwy 85 Oversize/overweight permits	45,878	44,829	37,398	35,131

SOURCES: Births/Deaths from ND Dept of Health; School enrollment data from North Dakota Department of Public Instruction; Median age from US Census Bureau; Employment data from QCEW for All Employers, "Oil Extraction and Transport" cover NAICS codes 21, 48, 49 and "All other employment" cover any others besides what is included in oil extraction and transport; Cattle inventory is from USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service; Total true and full value is provided by the McKenzie County Records Office; NA means the data is not available.

TAXABLE SALES & PURCHASES	2025Q1	2024Q4	2024Q1	2023Q4
Watford City	\$64,340,024	\$73,267,040	\$61,075,771	\$71,029,334
McKenzie County	\$73,908,898	\$85,079,184	\$72,041,373	\$84,860,341
North Dakota	\$5,656,166,798	\$7,229,904,729	\$6,735,210,311	\$6,904,613,009

SOURCE: North Dakota State Tax Commissioner Office