

McKENZIE COUNTY

★ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ★

ECONOMY

AT A GLANCE

August 2026

UPDATED MONTHLY	June 2026	June 2025	May 2026	May 2025
McKenzie County Unemployment Rate	2.5%	3.0%	2.0%	2.2%
North Dakota Unemployment Rate	2.5%	2.8%	1.9%	2.3%
McKenzie County Labor Force	8,293	8,336	8,223	8,147
North Dakota Labor Force	436,041	437,558	432,727	430,763
Online Job Openings-McKenzie County	216	194	249	233
West Texas Intermediate Oil (Price/Barrel)	\$84.81	\$68.17	\$102.13	\$62.17
Oil Production-McKenzie County (Barrels)	9,756,623	11,169,552	10,252,736	11,062,336
Farmers Prices Received Index 2011 Base (Percent)	138.7	138.7	140.7	140.6
Farmers Prices Paid Index 2011 Base (Percent)	162.9	149.7	163.8	149.3

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 2026	July 2025	Jan-Jul 2026	Jan-Jul 2025
Occupancy Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$14,956	\$18,587	\$101,717	\$109,936
City Sales Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$428,480	\$503,808	\$2,767,557	\$3,362,204
City Sales Tax Distribution-Alexander	\$70,701	\$93,711	\$533,598	\$572,672
Restaurant/Lodging Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$34,803	\$32,052	\$224,254	\$202,849
Permits-Watford City	12	50	128	178
Permits Value-Watford City	\$12,304,852	\$7,001,433	\$24,236,133	\$15,653,924
Permits-McKenzie County	5	8	29	26
Permits Value-McKenzie County	\$3,051,000	\$2,207,500	\$12,201,100	\$8,751,440
Landfill Daily Average (tons)-McKenzie County	461.1	121.3	1,166.20	607.7
LoadPass Permits	2,194	2,112	16,431	16,685
Births (mother's residence-McKenzie County)	33	19	169	170
Deaths (McKenzie County)	NR	NR	38	35
Thdr. Roosevelt National Park-North Unit Visits	22,800	21,500	64,100	63,800
Rough Rider Center Visits	9,200	6,000	134,400	127,300

SOURCES: 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; NR = Non Reportable; Visit data is from Placer.ai, visits >10 min

HOTEL OCCUPANCY RATE	July 2026	July 2025	June 2026	June 2025
Watford City Hotels	57.8%	56.1%	59.3%	57.9%

SOURCE: Hotel occupancy data from CoStar consisting of 8 hotels in Watford City

APARTMENT OCCUPANCY RATE	2026 Q2	2025 Q2	2026 Q1	2025 Q1
McKenzie County Apartments	87.9%	91.1%	88.4%	91.2%

SOURCE: Apartment occupancy data from CoStar consisting of 27 properties in McKenzie County

UPDATED YEARLY (for McKenzie County)	2025	2024	2023	2022
Births	287	263	247	206
Deaths	80	76	87	93
K-12 Fall Public School enrollment	3,169	3,042	2,775	2,590
Median Age-County residents	32.5	32.2	31.7	31.5
Oil Extraction and Transport employment	3,440	3,395	3,425	3,188
All other employment	8,320	8,090	7,615	6,939
All cattle and calf inventory	69,000	68,000	71,000	79,000
US Hwy 85 Oversize/overweight permits	45,882	45,878	44,829	37,398

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

TAXABLE SALES & PURCHASES	2026 Q1	2025 Q4	2025 Q1	2024 Q4
Watford City	\$59,024,009	\$63,249,994	\$64,413,866	\$73,314,348
McKenzie County	\$67,372,512	\$73,270,692	\$73,989,998	\$85,140,027
North Dakota	\$5,961,012,824	\$7,141,301,785	\$5,713,798,337	\$7,246,221,475

SOURCE: North Dakota State Tax Commissioner Office