

McKENZIE COUNTY

★ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ★

ECONOMY

AT A GLANCE

February 2026

UPDATED MONTHLY	December 2025	December 2024	November 2025	November 2024
McKenzie County Unemployment Rate	2.6%	2.4%	2.4%	2.5%
North Dakota Unemployment Rate	2.5%	2.5%	2.3%	2.2%
McKenzie County Labor Force	8,166	7,917	8,174	7,994
North Dakota Labor Force	427,513	422,339	428,577	422,688
Online Job Openings-McKenzie County	199	246	208	255
West Texas Intermediate Oil (Price/Barrel)	\$57.97	\$70.12	\$60.06	\$69.95
Oil Production-McKenzie County (Barrels)	10,330,589	11,168,985	10,739,779	11,036,997
Farmers Prices Received Index 2011 Base (Percent)	121.3	127.1	125.2	120.5
Farmers Prices Paid Index 2011 Base (Percent)	153.5	141.5	153.0	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	January 2026	January 2025	2025	2024
Occupancy Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$19,902	\$20,474	\$208,160	\$205,493
City Sales Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$486,730	\$513,536	\$5,821,253	\$4,953,087
City Sales Tax Distribution-Alexander	\$88,415	\$100,906	\$924,360	\$554,654
Restaurant/Lodging Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$49,815	\$35,035	\$387,500	\$367,799
Permits-Watford City	6	6	292	279
Permits Value-Watford City	\$825,000	\$18,000	\$25,509,228	\$22,168,736
Permits-McKenzie County	1	0	39	28
Permits Value-McKenzie County	\$250,000	\$0	\$12,770,940	\$7,152,174
Landfill Daily Average (tons)-McKenzie County	61.4	60.4	1115.0	994.8
LoadPass Permits	1,701	2,292	27,848	31,600
Births (mother's residence-McKenzie County)	N/A	30	285	263
Deaths (McKenzie County)	N/A	9	78	76
Thdr. Roosevelt National Park-North Unit Visits	1,100	1,500	106,900	105,600
Rough Rider Center Visits	28,200	28,500	202,000	196,000

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

APARTMENT OCCUPANCY RATE	February 2026	January 2026	February 2025	January 2025
Watford City-Brookledge	91%	89%	94%	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	2025Q3	2025Q2	2024Q3	2024Q2
Watford City	\$67,532,547	\$72,291,854	\$73,812,286	\$70,282,692
McKenzie County	\$76,481,808	\$82,871,233	\$88,073,715	\$81,761,744
North Dakota	\$7,231,059,706	\$7,108,374,415	\$7,255,939,790	\$6,854,626,887

SOURCE: North Dakota State Tax Commissioner Office