

MCKENZIE COUNTY

★ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ★

ECONOMY

AT A GLANCE

January 2026

UPDATED MONTHLY	November 2025	November 2024	October 2025	October 2024
McKenzie County Unemployment Rate	2.4%	2.5%	N/A	2.1%
North Dakota Unemployment Rate	2.3%	2.2%	N/A	1.9%
McKenzie County Labor Force	8,176	7,994	N/A	8,121
North Dakota Labor Force	428,698	42,688	N/A	426,853
Online Job Openings-McKenzie County	208	255	172	232
West Texas Intermediate Oil (Price/Barrel)	\$60.06	\$69.95	\$60.89	\$71.99
Oil Production-McKenzie County (Barrels)	10,428,922	11,036,997	10,939,523	11,356,556
Farmers Prices Received Index 2011 Base (Percent)	125.1	120.5	120.5	112.7
Farmers Prices Paid Index 2011 Base (Percent)	153.0	140.2	154.6	139.7

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. Some data is N/A due to government shutdown

MONTHLY/YEAR TO DATE	December 2025	December 2024	2025	2024
Occupancy Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$14,500	\$7,778	\$208,160	\$205,493
City Sales Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$413,893	\$419,549	\$5,821,253	\$4,953,087
City Sales Tax Distribution-Alexander	\$51,274	\$75,251	\$924,360	\$554,654
Restaurant/Lodging Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$31,242	\$24,131	\$387,500	\$367,799
Permits-Watford City	11	10	292	279
Permits Value-Watford City	\$2,115,711	\$135,750	\$25,509,228	\$22,168,736
Permits-McKenzie County	0	0	39	28
Permits Value-McKenzie County	\$0	\$0	\$12,770,940	\$7,152,174
Landfill Daily Average (tons)-McKenzie County	65.3	64.9	1115.0	994.8
LoadPass Permits	1,701	2,027	27,848	31,600
Births (mother's residence-McKenzie County)	20	22	265	263
Deaths (McKenzie County)	NR	8	78	76
Thdr. Roosevelt National Park-North Unit Visits	903	2,200	106,900	105,600
Rough Rider Center Visits	21,100	18,400	201,900	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	January 2026	December 2025	January 2025	January 2024
Watford City-Brookledge	89%	89%	94%	95%

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 Recorders 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