

McKENZIE COUNTY

★ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ★

ECONOMY

AT A GLANCE

July 2026

UPDATED MONTHLY	May 2026	May 2025	April 2026	April 2025
McKenzie County Unemployment Rate	2.0%	2.2%	2.5%	2.4%
North Dakota Unemployment Rate	1.9%	2.3%	2.2%	2.6%
McKenzie County Labor Force	8,227	8,147	8,211	8,145
North Dakota Labor Force	432,830	430,763	430,905	429,709
Online Job Openings-McKenzie County	249	233	248	219
West Texas Intermediate Oil (Price/Barrel)	\$102.13	\$62.17	\$100.32	\$63.54
Oil Production-McKenzie County (Barrels)	10,067,676	11,062,336	10,132,370	11,202,716
Farmers Prices Received Index 2011 Base (Percent)	140.9	140.6	135.4	137.9
Farmers Prices Paid Index 2011 Base (Percent)	163.7	149.3	163.3	148.4

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	June 2026	June 2025	Jan-Jun 2026	Jan-Jun 2025
Occupancy Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$13,784	\$9,707	\$86,760	\$91,349
City Sales Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$286,592	\$456,060	\$2,339,077	\$2,858,396
City Sales Tax Distribution-Alexander	\$76,356	N/A	\$462,897	\$478,961
Restaurant/Lodging Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$26,439	\$28,022	\$189,451	\$170,797
Permits-Watford City	24	30	116	128
Permits Value-Watford City	\$6,654,260	\$3,423,861	\$11,931,282	\$8,652,490
Permits-McKenzie County	3	2	24	18
Permits Value-McKenzie County	\$950,000	\$440,000	\$8,850,100	\$6,543,940
Landfill Daily Average (tons)-McKenzie County	226.2	109.0	705.1	486.4
LoadPass Permits	2,410	2,460	14,237	14,573
Births (mother's residence-McKenzie County)	13	18	136	151
Deaths (McKenzie County)	NR	NR	38	35
Thdr. Roosevelt National Park-North Unit Visits	18,100	18,300	41,100	42,300
Rough Rider Center Visits	13,500	14,000	123,500	121,400

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	June 2026	June 2025	May 2026	May 2025
Watford City Hotels	59.2%	57.9%	49.2%	45.7%

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	87.3%	91.2%	88.2%	91.4%

SOURCE: Apartment occupancy data from CoStar consisting of 28 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 Recorders 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