

McKENZIE COUNTY

★ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ★

ECONOMY

AT A GLANCE

June 2026

UPDATED MONTHLY	April 2026	April 2025	March 2026	March 2025
McKenzie County Unemployment Rate	2.5%	2.4%	2.9%	2.9%
North Dakota Unemployment Rate	2.2%	2.6%	2.8%	3.1%
McKenzie County Labor Force	8,210	8,145	8,211	8,217
North Dakota Labor Force	430,964	429,709	433,124	427,373
Online Job Openings-McKenzie County	248	219	224	263
West Texas Intermediate Oil (Price/Barrel)	\$100.32	\$63.54	\$91.38	\$68.24
Oil Production-McKenzie County (Barrels)	9,807,740	11,202,716	10,433,725	11,511,670
Farmers Prices Received Index 2011 Base (Percent)	135.4	137.9	132.4	142.6
Farmers Prices Paid Index 2011 Base (Percent)	163.0	148.4	160.6	147.6

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	May 2026	May 2025	Jan-May 2026	Jan-May 2025
Occupancy Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$14,206	\$14,565	\$72,976	\$81,642
City Sales Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$406,154	\$460,067	\$2,052,484	\$2,402,336
City Sales Tax Distribution-Alexander	\$113,943	\$97,231	\$386,541	\$478,961
Restaurant/Lodging Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$28,421	\$26,253	\$163,012	\$142,775
Permits-Watford City	26	36	92	98
Permits Value-Watford City	\$2,383,825	\$437,770	\$5,277,021	\$5,228,630
Permits-McKenzie County	7	8	21	24
Permits Value-McKenzie County	\$2,230,000	\$4,128,126	\$7,900,100	\$7,612,926
Landfill Daily Average (tons)-McKenzie County	107.8	91.2	478.9	377.3
LoadPass Permits	2,476	2,339	11,827	12,113
Births (mother's residence-McKenzie County)	24	35	123	133
Deaths (McKenzie County)	7	10	28	35
Thdr. Roosevelt National Park-North Unit Visits	12,600	12,100	22,900	23,900
Rough Rider Center Visits	11,600	14,500	107,200	107,300

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	May 2026	May 2025	April 2026	April 2025
Watford City Hotels	49.2%	45.7%	45.1%	37.7%

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

APARTMENT OCCUPANCY RATE	2026 Q1	2025 Q1	2025 Q4	2024 Q4
McKenzie County Apartments	88.2%	91.4%	89.8%	91.5%

SOURCES: 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	N/A	31.8	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