

McKENZIE COUNTY

★ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ★

ECONOMY

AT A GLANCE

March 2026

UPDATED MONTHLY	January 2026	January 2025	December 2025	December 2024
McKenzie County Unemployment Rate	N/A	2.7%	2.6%	2.4%
North Dakota Unemployment Rate	N/A	3.1%	2.5%	2.5%
McKenzie County Labor Force	N/A	7,912	8,166	7,917
North Dakota Labor Force	N/A	424,680	427,513	422,339
Online Job Openings-McKenzie County	231	221	199	246
West Texas Intermediate Oil (Price/Barrel)	\$60.04	\$75.74	\$57.97	\$70.12
Oil Production-McKenzie County (Barrels)	10,287,854	11,150,502	10,575,848	11,168,985
Farmers Prices Received Index 2011 Base (Percent)	116.5	129.8	121.2	127.1
Farmers Prices Paid Index 2011 Base (Percent)	158.6	146.9	153.3	141.5

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. ND January labor force data has not yet been released

MONTHLY/YEAR TO DATE	February 2026	February 2025	Jan-Feb 2026	Jan-Feb 2025
Occupancy Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$23,513	\$24,734	\$43,416	\$45,208
City Sales Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$470,286	\$485,397	\$957,016	\$998,933
City Sales Tax Distribution-Alexander	\$75,156	\$88,886	\$163,571	\$189,793
Restaurant/Lodging Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$35,670	\$32,515	\$85,485	\$67,549
Permits-Watford City	10	7	16	13
Permits Value-Watford City	\$1,122,000	\$328,055	\$1,947,000	\$346,055
Permits-McKenzie County	1	2	2	2
Permits Value-McKenzie County	\$4,000	\$550,000	\$254,000	\$550,000
Landfill Daily Average (tons)-McKenzie County	70.2	53.1	131.6	113.5
LoadPass Permits	2,148	1,776	3,849	4,068
Births (mother's residence-McKenzie County)	20	15	47	45
Deaths (McKenzie County)	NR	NR	6	9
Thdr. Roosevelt National Park-North Unit Visits	2,000	1,700	3,000	3,200
Rough Rider Center Visits	24,800	26,300	52,600	54,900

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	March 2026	February 2026	March 2025	February 2025
Watford City-Brookledge	89%	91%	97%	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

TAXABLE SALES & PURCHASES	2025Q4	2025Q3	2024Q4	2024Q3
Watford City	\$63,238,773	\$67,768,589	\$73,314,348	\$73,812,286
McKenzie County	\$73,008,290	\$77,152,272	\$85,140,027	\$88,073,715
North Dakota	\$7,085,342,917	\$7,251,663,052	\$7,243,596,055	\$7,250,883,059

SOURCE: North Dakota State Tax Commissioner Office