

McKENZIE COUNTY

★ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ★

ECONOMY

AT A GLANCE

MAY 2025

UPDATED MONTHLY	March 2025	March 2024	February 2025	February 2024
McKenzie County Unemployment Rate	2.9%	2.6%	3.0%	2.2%
North Dakota Unemployment Rate	3.1%	2.8%	3.2%	2.9%
McKenzie County Labor Force	7,973	7,850	7,958	7,784
North Dakota Labor Force	428,193	421,801	426,495	418,989
Online Job Openings-McKenzie County	263	326	293	340
West Texas Intermediate Oil (Price/Barrel)	\$68.24	\$81.28	\$71.53	\$77.25
Oil Production-McKenzie County (Barrels)	10,846,261	12,600,732	9,257,095	11,488,471
Farmers Prices Received Index (2011 Base)	142.6	122.3	147.1	120.5
Farmers Prices Paid Index (2011 Base)	147.4	140.7	146.9	140.5

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

MONTHLY/YEAR TO DATE	April 2025	April 2024	Jan-April 2025	Jan-April 2024
Occupancy Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$12,972	\$11,279	\$69,076	\$52,842
City Sales Tax Distribution -Watford City	\$339,504	\$262,643	\$1,942,269	\$1,458,307
City Sales Tax Distribution -Alexander	\$132,243	NA	\$381,729	NA
Restaurant/Lodging Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$25,422	\$20,326	\$116,523	\$105,316
Permits-Watford City	40	28	62	64
Permits Value-Watford City	\$3,742,357	\$1,353,560	\$4,790,860	\$4,988,411
Permits-McKenzie County	7	1	15	3
Permits Value-McKenzie County	\$1,706,930	\$1,000,000	\$4,215,310	\$1,050,000
Landfill Daily Average (tons)-McKenzie County	105.8	83.3	286.1	269.5
LoadPass Permits	2,682	2,954	9,774	10,483
Thdr. Roosevelt National Park-North Unit Visits	8,400	8,700	22,300	17,500
Rough Rider Center Visits	16,200	19,100	92,000	86,900
City of Watford City Visits	128,100	133,000	513,600	509,100
City of Arnegard Visits	6,000	5,900	17,400	15,500
City of Alexander Visits	8,300	8,900	30,700	31,200

SOURCES: Tax distributions from North Dakota State Treasurer (Alexander's City Sales Tax Distribution Total is excluding March, April and May numbers); 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; Visit data is from Placer.ai.

APARTMENT OCCUPANCY RATE	May 2025	April 2025	May 2024	May 2023
Watford City-Brookledge	97%	96%	98%	93%

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	3,116	2,775	2,590	2,310
Median Age-County residents	NA	31.8	31.5	31.3
Oil Extraction and Transport employment	NA	3,439	3,188	2,984
All other employment	NA	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
Total true and full value of property	NA	NA	\$3,556,496,745	\$3,290,936,283

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	2024Q4	2024Q3	2023Q4	2023Q3
Watford City	\$73,064,333	\$73,755,543	\$70,956,404	\$75,259,539
McKenzie County	\$84,818,193	\$88,016,972	\$84,742,292	\$88,273,273
North Dakota	\$7,132,168,914	\$7,240,804,466	\$6,905,097,443	\$7,222,708,278

SOURCE: North Dakota State Tax Commissioner Office