

# McKENZIE COUNTY

## ★ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ★

# ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

## May 2026

UPDATED MONTHLY	March 2026	March 2025	February 2026	February 2025
McKenzie County Unemployment Rate	2.9%	2.9%	3.0%	3.0%
North Dakota Unemployment Rate	2.8%	3.1%	3.1%	3.2%
McKenzie County Labor Force	8,177	8,107	8,186	7,958
North Dakota Labor Force	433,016	427,373	432,612	425,120
Online Job Openings-McKenzie County	224	263	231	293
West Texas Intermediate Oil (Price/Barrel)	\$91.38	\$68.24	\$64.51	\$71.53
Oil Production-McKenzie County (Barrels)	10,329,195	11,511,670	9,359,448	10,015,144
Farmers Prices Received Index 2011 Base (Percent)	131.5	142.6	130.1	147.3
Farmers Prices Paid Index 2011 Base (Percent)	160.4	147.6	159.6	147.4

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	April 2026	April 2025	Jan-Apr 2026	Jan-Apr 2025
Occupancy Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$11,434	\$12,972	\$58,770	\$67,077
City Sales Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$382,102	\$339,504	\$1,646,330	\$1,942,270
City Sales Tax Distribution-Alexander	\$61,941	\$132,243	\$272,598	\$381,730
Restaurant/Lodging Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$34,127	\$25,422	\$134,591	\$116,523
Permits-Watford City	40	40	66	62
Permits Value-Watford City	\$877,996	\$3,742,357	\$2,893,196	\$4,790,860
Permits-McKenzie County	5	7	14	15
Permits Value-McKenzie County	\$1,269,000	\$1,706,930	\$4,170,100	\$4,215,310
Landfill Daily Average (tons)-McKenzie County	172.2	105.8	371.1	286.1
LoadPass Permits	2,551	2,682	9,351	9,774
Births (mother's residence-McKenzie County)	25	25	97	98
Deaths (McKenzie County)	NR	10	21	25
Thdr. Roosevelt National Park-North Unit Visits	4,100	5,000	10,300	11,800
Rough Rider Center Visits	19,200	16,000	96,200	92,800

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	April 2026	April 2025	March 2026	March 2025
Watford City Hotels	45.1%	37.7%	41.5%	36.8%

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	89.9%	92.1%	91.3%	91.9%

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 Records Office

TAXABLE SALES & PURCHASES	2025 Q4	2025 Q3	2024 Q4	2024 Q3
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