

McKENZIE COUNTY

★ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ★

ECONOMY

AT A GLANCE

November 2025

UPDATED MONTHLY	September 2025	September 2024	August 2025	August 2024
McKenzie County Unemployment Rate	N/A	2.2%	2.4%	2.4%
North Dakota Unemployment Rate	N/A	1.9%	2.5%	2.4%
McKenzie County Labor Force	N/A	8,172	8,757	8,347
North Dakota Labor Force	N/A	428,776	435,319	431,737
Online Job Openings-McKenzie County	196	212	179	260
West Texas Intermediate Oil (Price/Barrel)	\$63.96	\$70.24	\$64.86	\$76.68
Oil Production-McKenzie County (Barrels)	9,919,472	11,654,458	9,806,495	12,207,441
Farmers Prices Received Index 2011 Base (Percent)	N/A	120.8	137.7	128.4
Farmers Prices Paid Index 2011 Base (Percent)	N/A	137.9	152.0	138.3

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. Some data is N/A due to government shutdown

MONTHLY/YEAR TO DATE	October 2025	October 2024	Jan-Oct 2025	Jan-Oct 2024
Occupancy Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$19,695	\$16,654	\$166,322	\$163,110
City Sales Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$518,181	\$416,513	\$4,842,708	\$4,016,760
City Sales Tax Distribution-Alexander	\$75,872	\$39,753	\$792,686	\$423,381
Restaurant/Lodging Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$34,515	\$31,030	\$317,116	\$302,680
Permits-Watford City	22	29	259	254
Permits Value-Watford City	\$1,052,425	\$403,662	\$22,499,788	\$21,758,715
Permits-McKenzie County	2	5	37	26
Permits Value-McKenzie County	\$406,000	\$1,585,675	\$12,226,940	\$6,952,274
Landfill Daily Average (tons)-McKenzie County	106.2	102.1	963.8	860.0
LoadPass Permits	1,209	2,983	21,474	27,289
Births (mother's residence-McKenzie County)	22	16	238	226
Deaths (McKenzie County)	NR	6	66	44
Thdr. Roosevelt National Park-North Unit Visits	6,100	7,700	103,600	101,000
Rough Rider Center Visits	14,400	17,000	164,700	159,300

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	November 2025	October 2025	November 2024	November 2023
Watford City-Brookledge	94%	94%	96%	96%

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; NA means the data is not available.

TAXABLE SALES & PURCHASES	2025Q2	2025Q1	2024Q2	2024Q1
Watford City	\$72,259,492	\$64,365,497	\$70,282,692	\$61,075,771
McKenzie County	\$82,838,871	\$73,941,629	\$81,761,744	\$72,096,722
North Dakota	\$7,086,143,587	\$5,673,210,823	\$6,847,130,427	\$5,737,149,314

SOURCE: North Dakota State Tax Commissioner Office