

McKENZIE COUNTY

★ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ★

ECONOMY

AT A GLANCE

October 2025

UPDATED MONTHLY	August 2025	August 2024	July 2025	July 2024
McKenzie County Unemployment Rate	2.4%	2.4%	2.2%	2.3%
North Dakota Unemployment Rate	2.5%	2.4%	2.6%	2.7%
McKenzie County Labor Force	8,757	8,347	8,603	8,205
North Dakota Labor Force	435,319	431,737	436,050	434,963
Online Job Openings-McKenzie County	179	260	184	258
West Texas Intermediate Oil (Price/Barrel)	\$64.86	\$76.68	\$68.39	\$81.80
Oil Production-McKenzie County (Barrels)	9,806,495	12,207,441	9,927,261	12,069,070
Farmers Prices Received Index 2011 Base (Percent)	137.7	128.4	136.4	123.4
Farmers Prices Paid Index 2011 Base (Percent)	152.0	138.3	150.7	139.7

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	September 2025	September 2024	Jan-Sep 2025	Jan-Sep 2024
Occupancy Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$16,541	\$20,165	\$146,627	\$146,456
City Sales Tax Distribution -Watford City	\$399,548	\$378,347	\$4,324,527	\$3,600,247
City Sales Tax Distribution -Alexander	\$62,362	\$51,769	\$716,814	\$383,628
Restaurant/Lodging Tax Distribution-Watford City	\$45,320	\$33,826	\$282,601	\$271,650
Permits-Watford City	28	44	237	225
Permits Value-Watford City	\$1,586,653	\$8,276,622	\$21,447,363	\$21,355,053
Permits-McKenzie County	2	3	35	21
Permits Value-McKenzie County	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	\$11,820,940	\$5,366,599
Landfill Daily Average (tons)-McKenzie County	133.6	117.3	857.6	757.9
LoadPass Permits	1,143	2,980	20,265	24,306
Births (mother's residence-McKenzie County)	17	26	214	210
Deaths (McKenzie County)	8	NR	64	38
Thdr. Roosevelt National Park-North Unit Visits	14,600	14,700	97,500	93,300
Rough Rider Center Visits	15,700	17,300	148,900	141,500

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	October 2025	September 2025	October 2024	October 2023
Watford City-Brookledge	94%	94%	96%	97%

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