

2025 year-end and Q4 taxable sales, purchases reports issued

Tax Commissioner Brian Kroshus has announced that North Dakota's taxable sales and purchases for calendar year 2025 increased slightly by 0.27% over last year. Sales and purchases in 2025 totaled \$27.16 billion versus \$27.09 billion in 2024.

"Retail trade, the state's largest revenue category and key measurement of consumer health, remained resilient, posting modest increases over the previous year in each respective quarter," said Commissioner Kroshus. "Conversely, mining and oil extraction contracted as the year progressed, most notably in the oil sector in the second half of the year."

Of the top industries within North Dakota, roughly half showed gains in 2025 versus 2024:

- Accommodation and food services -- decrease of 0.6%
- Construction -- increase of 6.3%
- Manufacturing -- decrease of 0.6%
- Mining and oil and gas extraction -- decrease of 1.4%
- real estate and rental and leasing -- increase of 7.7%
- Retail trade -- increase of 2.3%
- Wholesale trade -- decrease of 4.0%

"Lower commodity pricing and tariff-related impacts certainly influenced purchasing activity in the energy sector, beginning in the second quarter of 2025 as energy producers made forward purchases of inputs in advance of anticipated tariffs," said Commissioner Kroshus. "But, as the year progressed, purchases slowed in tandem with lower oil pricing and a similar dynamic was felt in the agricultural sector, the result of persistently low grain prices and concerns over federal trade policy."

North Dakota's largest cities saw the following percentage changes when compared to 2024's annual report:

- Dickinson -- increase of 6.58%
- Bismarck -- increase of 2.87%

- Williston -- increase of 2.82%
- Jamestown -- increase of 2.30%
- Minot -- increase of 0.02%
- Fargo -- decrease of 1.61%
- Grand Forks -- decrease of 3.02%

Counties with the highest percent increases for 2025 (compared to 2024) included:

- Steele -- increase of 28.0%
- Divide -- increase of 18.5%
- Dickey -- increase of 14.2%
- Burke -- increase of 13.7%
- Slope -- increase of 10.5%

2025 fourth quarter taxable sales, purchases

Fourth quarter results showed a decrease of 2.29% compared to the same period in 2024. For October, November and December 2025, taxable sales and purchases totaled \$7.08 billion versus \$7.24 billion in the prior year.

Of the 15 major industry sectors, eight reported an increase when compared to the fourth quarter of 2024. In the fourth quarter, utilities and construction rose by 27.4% and 10.7% respectively. Retail trade grew by 2.5% compared to the same timeframe in 2024, and mining and oil and gas extraction declined by 14.7%.

The fourth quarter report includes data for the largest 50 cities in North Dakota and all 53 counties. Of the 50 largest cities in the state, the highest percent increases (compared to the fourth quarter of 2024) were Steele, Divide, Dickey, Traill and Burke.

The 2025 annual and the 2025 fourth quarter ND Sales and Use Tax Statistical Reports can be accessed online at www.tax.nd.gov/data. Sales tax collections administered by the ND Office of State Tax Commissioner represent a significant portion of all general fund revenue collections used to support essential services provided by state government to the citizens of ND.

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING DAKOTA PRAIRIE SCHOOL BOARD

Dec. 9, 2025 - 7:30 a.m. - Zoom
The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dave Blasey with members Nikki Ohnstad, Charlie Stein, Jennifer Rusten and Anna Halvorson present. Also present were Superintendent Jay Slade; principals Jackie Bye and Clay Johnson; Business Manager Lori Dahl; and Hunter Sand, athletic director.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
Motion by Charlie Stein, second by Jennifer Rusten, to confirm the proposed agenda, with the removal of items 4 and 5 off the agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

The minutes and bills were presented to the board for review and approval.

Advanced Business	
Methods	\$2,141.88
Genex Fleetcard	110.63
CHS Ag Services	2,073.50
City of McVillie	352.10
Cole Papers, Inc.	8,668.96
Tyler Cree-Beglaug	50.00
Dickey Rural Networks	4,621.25
Farmers Union Oil Co.	3,667.90
Farmers Union Oil Co. --Tolna	876.30
Farmers Union Oil --Aneta	1,086.82
The Golden Rule	12.00
Hamster Oil, LLC	1,750.70
Cooper Hovdenes	250.00
Information Technology Dept.	202.39
Todd Johnson	450.00
Junior Library Guild	1,055.96
Lakeside Surveillance	98.50
Lock & Key	149.76
Lakota Hardware & Building Products	10.48
Lakota School	50.00
Leon's Building Center, Inc.	213.00
Lookout Books	252.51
Menards	135.46
Michigan Hometown Foods	179.44
Courtney Molstad	13.23
NAPA Auto Parts	47.50
Nelson Co. Hwy. Dept.	1,524.00
Nelson Co. Health Syst.	85.00
Otter Tail Power Co.	5,048.97
Pearce & Durick	392.50
Polar Communications	1,832.63
Pomp's Tire Service, Inc.	258.92
Popplers Music Store	53.90
Rochester 100, Inc.	65.84
Rod's Auto Body	14,233.40
Sam's Club MC/Syncb	1,305.06
School Specialty	51.96
Lori Ternquist	112.00
Tri-County Water Users, Inc.	76.10
Victory Diesel, LLC	17,743.49
Xtreme Signs & Graphix	2,849.85
Total	\$73,901.38

Motion by Charlie Stein, second by Anna Halvorson, to approve the minutes as printed and the bills for payment. All in favor, motion carried.

Activity Director Report -- Hunter Sand reported that there were 70 in attendance at the fall sports banquet. Basketball seasons are in full swing, we have a junior high girls coach (Cory and Colleen Anderson will take it on), Courtney Stein may still be helping. The girls basketball team had their first win at the Lake Region tournament and we had a selection for the all-tournament team. For the spring season we are looking for a head track coach. Mr. Sand is working with Hudl to set up sponsorships, looking at a tier system, and next year to put together a sponsor package. We are still working on pricing, game sponsorship ideas and will try to have it set up for the first of the year.

Elementary Principal Report -- Elementary events and activities, student testing, virtual learning, human

trafficking education. Also discussed behavior initiatives and academic initiatives. The elementary school is also working on the community engagement project of assembling Christmas baskets for elderly. Current enrollments and hosting a student teacher in January. Behaviors this year have been wonderful; there are a few exceptions but are isolated incidents.

High School Principal Report -- Music concert was very successful; there was a group of students in Seven Mindsets who went to the Aneta home and it was very well-received. Virtual learning has been very well-attended and connected. Students have made up all their time and did not need to attend the board meeting; the early graduation requests have made other arrangements. Finals week is coming up and stressful for all. The state testing at the high school will be done in late January.

Superintendent Slade presented calendar suggestions for the 2026-27 school year. He is looking for board suggestions and will bring back a proposal for the January board meeting. It was requested that there be snow days built in, not virtual learning, but also a question if the quality of instruction is acceptable with virtual learning, also could we try to make the schedule more compatible with Lakota due to practices, etc.

The 2026-27 bus routes need discussion. We are going to be short bus drivers next year, so there will be changes made. This decision will need to be made prior to the end of this school year so parents are aware of what will happen. At this point it looks like we will have two additional resignations and are already down one driver this year. We have only one person working on their license at this time. We need drivers or we need to make changes. Suggestions to date are to eliminate transportation for out-of-district students, elimination of after-school practice shuttles, routes only between McVillie or Petersburg. Jackie Bye suggested an open house night for anyone interested in driving so we can give them all the information firsthand, have board members and transportation. The discussion will continue at future meetings; board members will talk with their communities and other parents.

The following policies are recommended to approve updates: ABAA, ABAB, ABBD, ABBA, ABCB, BAA, BAB.

Motion by Jennifer Rusten, second by Charlie Stein, to approve the following updates to policies: ABAA, ABAB, ABBD, ABBA, ABCB, BAA, BAB. All in favor, motion carried.

Policies BBC, BC are recommended for first reading. Motion by Anna Halvorson, second by BC for first reading. All in favor, motion carried.

Policies CAAA, CAAB, CABB, CBAA are presented for the second reading. Motion by Jennifer Rusten, second by Charlie Stein, to approve policies CAAA, CAAB, CABB, CBAA for second reading. All in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Slade would like the board to review and decide if they would like to adopt Policy BEC as this is a recommended policy regarding school board self-evaluation. There is also a recommended evaluation form that will be brought to the board; this item is tabled to the January meeting.

The financial reports were presented for the board's approval. Motion by Anna Halvorson, second by Charlie Stein, to accept the November 2025 financial reports as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

There will be a formal thank-you and pictures for the newspaper and

the Knight Reader to the Michigan, McVillie and Tolna Legions for the donations for the school to purchase six backpack AEDs. There are also banners that will hang in the gym at the elementary.

The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 14, 2026 at 7 p.m. in the DPHS conference room.

Motion by Jennifer Rusten, second by Charlie Stein, to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

Lori Dahl Business Manager

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING DAKOTA PRAIRIE SCHOOL BOARD

Jan. 14, 2026 - 7 p.m. - DPHS

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dave Blasey with members Jennifer Rusten, Nikki Ohnstad, Charlie Stein and Anna Halvorson present. Also present were Superintendent Jay Slade; Principals Jackie Bye and Clay Johnson; and business manager Lori Dahl. Also present was Dan Guastad, school district attorney.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Motion by Jennifer Rusten, second by Nikki Ohnstad, to confirm the proposed agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

The minutes and bills were presented for review and approval.

Advanced Business	
Methods	\$1,654.71
City of McVillie	257.60
City of Petersburg	1,175.00
Cole Papers, Inc.	2,851.67
Dickey Rural Networks	7,703.14
Farmers Union Oil Co.	5,975.68
Farmers Union Oil Co. --Tolna	359.06
Farmers Union Oil --Aneta	718.66
Hamster Oil, LLC	1,737.01
Jaymar Business Forms, Inc.	68.26
Sarah Johnson	25.18
Todd Johnson	375.00
Lakota Hardware & Building Products	48.98
Tyler Larson	50.00
Stacy Luehring	50.00
Menards	923.33
Mid-American Research Chemical	455.32
NDSSOS	30.00
NDTC	251.32
Nelson Co. Sheriff's Office	100.00
Nelson Co. Treasurer	4,177.76
Northwest Tire	2,328.78
Otter Tail Power Co.	6,475.71
Polar Communications	1,459.97
Pomp's Tire Service, Inc.	260.60
Tri-County Water Users, Inc.	246.80
Victory Diesel, LLC	13,822.69
Xtreme Signs & Graphix	1,149.12
Total	\$54,731.35

Motion by Charlie Stein, second by Nikki Ohnstad, to approve the minutes as printed and the bills for payment.

At this time Chairperson Blasey read the required information for the board to recess to executive session: Discuss the pending litigation of Berg v. Parsley and Dakota Prairie School District No. 1, Nelson County, ND, District Court Case No. 32-2025-CV-00113; and Crow v. Parsley and Dakota Prairie School District No. 1, Nelson County, ND, District Court Case No. 32-2025-CV-00114.

The school board may convene into executive session for attorney consultation regarding this pending civil litigation pursuant to NDCC §§ 44-04-19.1 and 44-04-19.2.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
Motion by Charlie Stein, second by Jennifer Rusten, to adjourn executive session at 7:04 p.m.

RECONVENE OPEN MEETING
The board resumed the regular

Nelson County

Step up, make a difference!

First Day Circulation of Petitions

Primary: January 1st 2026
General: April 3rd 2026

Petition Filing Date

Primary: 4:00pm April 6th 2026
General: 4:00pm August 31st 2026

Office	Minimum	Maximum
Nelson County District 1 County Commissioner	29	300
Lakota City north of the railroad crossing		
Nelson County District 3 County Commissioner	26	300
Nash, Petersburg, Adler, Rugh and Ora Townships including Petersburg and Aneta Cities		
Nelson County District 5 County Commissioner	28	300
Central, Melvin, Hamlin, Field, Nesheim and Lee Townships including McVillie City		
Nelson County State's Attorney	25	300
Nelson County Sheriff	30	300
Supervisor, Nelson County Soil Conservation District	25	300

Absentee Applications will be sent to all active voters in Nelson County

2026 Primary Election - June 9th 2026 • 2026 General Election - November 3rd 2026

Polls will be open 7:00am - 7:00pm

SIGNATURES REQUIRED FOR PETITIONS IN 2026 ELECTIONS
NDCC 16.1-11-11 & 4.1-20-16

First year behind the wheel is the most dangerous

Data shows teen drivers three times more likely to be in fatal crash

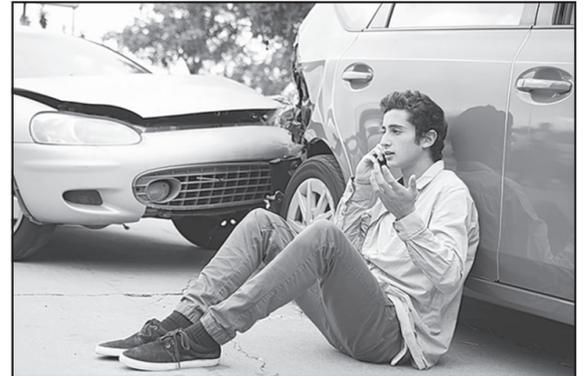
The driver's license photo may be slightly awkward, but the milestone is unforgettable. For families, a newly licensed teen means independence, busy schedules and a new set of responsibilities.

Motor vehicle crashes remain one of the leading causes of death for US teens, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Data

from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration shows drivers ages 16-19 are nearly three times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than drivers 20 and older, per mile driven.

The statistics are serious, but they're also manageable.

"With the right preparation, teen driving doesn't have to feel overwhelming," said Su-



san Trace, manager, divisional claims at Mercury Insurance. "Experience is what young drivers are building. Parents can help shorten that learning curve with structure, technology and smart coverage decisions."

Why the first year matters: Federal safety data shows crash risk is highest in a teen's first year of independent driving. Night driving, teen passengers and distracted driving increase that risk -- while seat belts, graduated licensing laws and supervised practice significantly reduce it.

In 2023, more than 2,800 teens ages 13-19 were killed in motor vehicle crashes nationwide, according to the CDC. However, teen crash rates have declined over time thanks to safer vehicles, graduated driver licensing programs and greater awareness of distracted driving.

Ways to reduce teen driving risk: The experts at Mercury Insurance encourage families to focus on preparation rather than panic.

- 1. Coach early and often**
 - Log supervised driving time in different conditions -- highways, rain, nighttime.
 - Create a simple written driving agreement outlining expectations.
 - Limit teen passengers during the first year.
 - Make seatbelts non-negotiable.

2. Let technology help

- Choose vehicles with safety features like automatic emergency braking and blind-spot monitoring.
- Use telematics or safe-driving feedback tools to reinforce good habits.
- Activate smartphone "do not disturb while driving" settings.

3. Review insurance before the keys change hands

- Add teens to your insurance policy promptly.
- Revisit liability limits to protect family assets.
- Ask about good student and driver training discounts.

"Insurance is about preparation, not fear," Trace said. "When families combine active coaching with the right coverage, they're setting their teen up for safer miles ahead."

Preparation turns risks into confidence: The first solo drive is a milestone, but preparation determines what comes next. By pairing common-sense coaching with today's vehicle safety technology and thoughtful insurance planning, families can support independence while managing risk responsibly.

For more teen driver safety tips and coverage guidance, visit MercuryInsurance.com/resources.

--Feature Impact! Shutterstock photo

National Suicide Lifeline phone number is 9-8-8

The National Suicide Lifeline has officially changed its number to 9-8-8 and has been renamed to the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. All conversations and interactions with 9-8-8 crisis workers are free, confidential and non-judgmental.

There is now the ability to text or chat online with a crisis worker. To text, someone in crisis can text any message to 9-8-8 in order to start a conversation. A follow-up text will be sent to gather some more information about the individual and the situation they are facing. For the online chat, someone in crisis can go to 988lifeline.org/chat to connect with a crisis worker.

There is a pre-chat survey for the individual to fill out in order to provide the crisis worker with more information on the situation they are going through. These new ways of reaching out for help increase the availability of 9-8-8 services for people in crisis to get the help they need. Along with the texting and



chatting resource availability, there is also the Veterans Crisis Line. If a veteran is in crisis or if someone is concerned for a veteran, they can call 9-8-8 and press 1 to be connected with a trained peer supporter. There is also an option to text at 838255, as well as the online chat option for veteran specific crisis intervention and support at www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help-now/chat/.

To learn more about the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, please visit 988lifeline.org to explore all the information and resources provided.

Lori Dahl Business Manager

Dave Blasey Chairperson