



Benewah County

November 2009

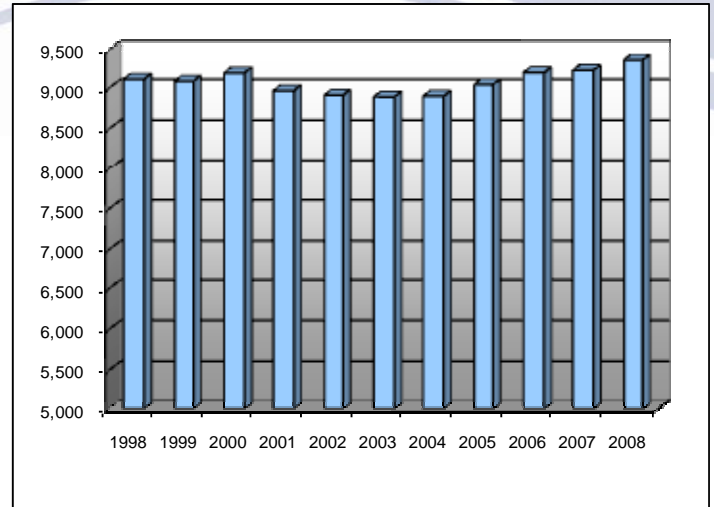
Work Force Trends

Population

Benewah County experienced fairly strong population growth in the early 1990s. Its rural lifestyle and great hunting and fishing opportunities persuaded many people to move there. Then the county stagnated for several years. But in the last four years, as more retirees discovered its attractions, the population grew. It is likely not to add population in 2009 because of the national recession.

From 1998 to 2008, the county's population grew 3 percent from 9,116 to 9,352 while Idaho's population grew 22 percent and the U.S. population grew 10 percent.

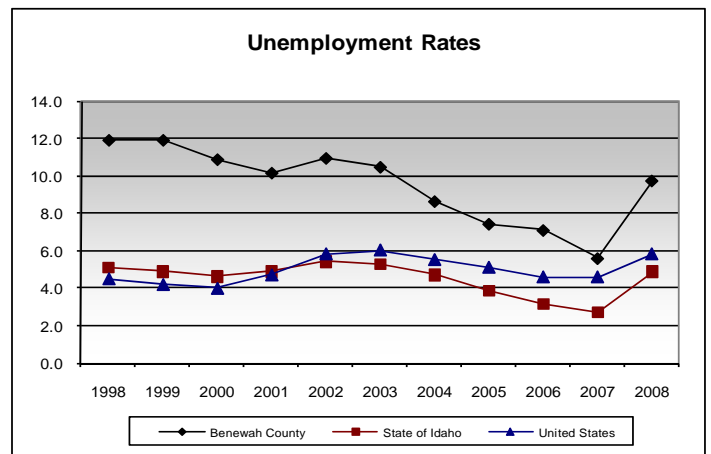
The county seat, St. Maries, had a population of 2,644 in 2008 while Plummer had a population of 997



Labor Force & Employment

Benewah County's economy remains heavily dependent on forest products. More than one in four jobs are in the forest products industry. Until 2006, the county had only 60 jobs in manufacturing outside forest products. In 2006, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe purchased Berg Integrated Systems and moved it to Plummer, where it now employs about 80 people. Despite the county's beauty and outdoor recreational opportunities, tourism employs fewer than 200. Dependence on forest products makes the county vulnerable to high unemployment when U.S. housing construction falls. Since 2006, extremely low lumber prices have reduced employment.

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe, whose reservation extends from western Benewah County into southern Kootenai County, has been the main engine of growth in the last 10 years. Today, it employs 540 people at its headquarters, retail stores, medical clinic, farm, school and the Berg



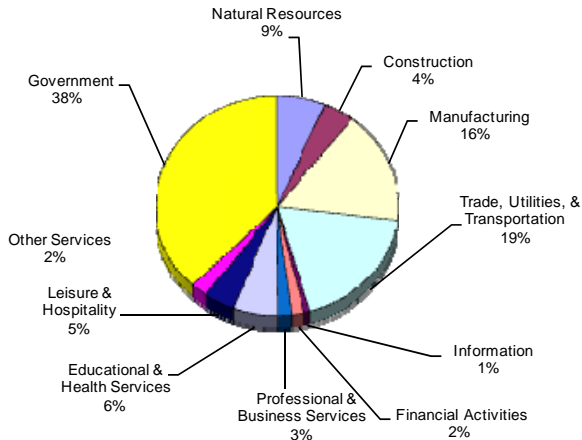
plant in Benewah County and nearly 900 people at its casino, hotel and golf course in Worley, just over the Kootenai County line.

Because so much of the county's income is from forests and farms, employment peaks in late summer and drops off as winter approaches. Employment falls to its lowest level in spring when load limits on muddy roads force many loggers out of work. In 2008, for example, the unadjusted unemployment rate peaked at 14.4 percent in April and fell to 6.6 percent in July.

Labor Force	Oct 2008	Oct 2009
Civilian Labor Force	3,924	4,191
Total Employment	3,502	3,372
Unemployed	422	819
% of Labor Force Unemployed	10.8	19.5
State of Idaho % Unemployed	5.6	8.9
U.S. % Unemployed	6.6	10.2

Labor Force	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Civilian Labor Force	4,517	4,421	4,003	4,029	4,008	3,943	3,990	4,003	3,905	3,942	4,024
Unemployment	538	528	435	409	438	413	344	297	277	220	392
% of Labor Force Unemployed	11.9	11.9	10.9	10.2	10.9	10.5	8.6	7.4	7.1	5.6	9.7
Employment	3,979	3,893	3,568	3,620	3,570	3,530	3,646	3,705	3,628	3,722	3,632

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2008



Economic Development Efforts

Benewah County is struggling to overcome a legacy of economic stagnation, which has hampered business growth. The number of private-sector businesses with employees in Benewah County edged down from 313 in 1998 to 304 in 2008.

Timber Plus, the county's economic development organization, and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe are strenuously recruiting businesses and expanding job opportunities by making the area more attractive to tourists and potential residents.

Major Employers

Benewah Community Hospital
Berg Integrated Systems
Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Jack A. Buell Trucking
Peet Shoe Dryer (manufacturer)
Potlatch Corp.
Stimson Lumber (Plummer & St. Maries)
Valley Vista Care (nursing home & corp. HQ)

Occupational Wages*

Starting Wage

Bookkeepers, Full-charge	\$8.75
Carpenters, Journey-level	\$15.00
Cashiers/Checkers	\$7.25
Clerks, General Office	\$7.75
Clerks, Retail	\$7.25
Cooks, Restaurant	\$8.00
Janitors	\$7.75
Laborers, Construction	\$10.00
Loggers	\$15.50
Millwrights	\$17.40
Nurses, Registered	\$18.50
Sawmill Workers	\$13.75
Secretaries, General	\$8.50
Truck Drivers, Heavy	\$15.75

* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor Web site at lmi.idaho.gov.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1998, 2007 & 2008	1998		2007		2008	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	3,455	\$24,196	3,640	\$32,065	3,547	\$31,811
Agriculture	334	\$30,046	269	\$39,831	213	\$39,413
Mining	*	*	65	\$32,071	59	\$32,026
Construction	115	\$23,596	152	\$26,827	147	\$27,473
Manufacturing	633	\$31,791	622	\$44,808	579	\$42,537
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	598	\$23,937	687	\$29,903	665	\$30,620
Information	36	\$19,981	31	\$24,343	30	\$27,402
Financial Activities	79	\$18,067	48	\$20,686	55	\$19,927
Professional and Business Services	133	\$23,281	66	\$23,738	65	\$24,840
Educational and Health Services	300	\$21,711	221	\$25,534	215	\$27,187
Leisure and Hospitality	203	\$6,237	150	\$7,935	147	\$8,327
Other Services	127	\$16,041	49	\$32,655	54	\$29,509
Government	710	\$22,496	1,279	\$31,005	1,318	\$31,355

Per Capita Income	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Benewah County	\$19,100	\$19,703	\$20,215	\$21,711	\$21,231	\$21,800	\$23,701	\$24,960	\$26,100	\$28,237
State of Idaho	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,077	\$25,024	\$25,234	\$25,543	\$27,389	\$28,681	\$30,374	\$31,804
United States	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,843	\$30,574	\$30,838	\$31,530	\$33,157	\$34,690	\$36,794	\$38,615

Information provided by Bureau of Economic Analysis



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