



Benewah County

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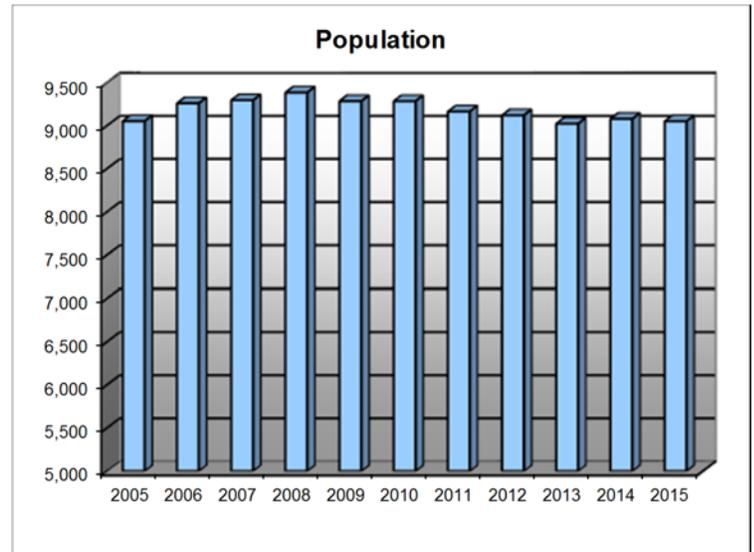
Workforce Trends

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 during and after the 2001 recession before growth resumed from 2004 to 2008 as more retirees discovered its attractions. The recession reversed that resulting in population decreases until 2014 when the population had grown to 9,080.

From 2005 to 2015, the county's population is unchanged but experienced a decrease of 28 people, a 31 percent drop, from 2014.

The county seat, St. Maries, had a population of 2,325 in 2015 while Plummer had a population of 1,019 and Tensed 120

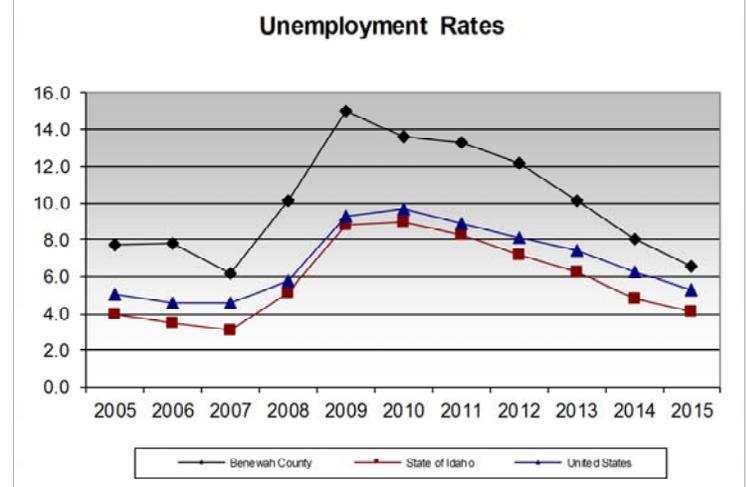


Labor Force & Employment

Benewah County's economy remains heavily dependent on forest products. Over one in six jobs is in the forest products industry. Until 2004, the county had only 60 jobs in manufacturing outside forest products. But in 2006, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe purchased Berg Integrated Systems and moved it to Plummer, where it employed about 100 people. Since then, Berg built and moved to a larger facility in Post Falls and Ground Force, an international manufacturer of mining support equipment, expanded its operations into the old Berg plant in Plummer, where it continues to grow. Despite the county's beauty and outdoor recreational opportunities, tourism employs just 150. Dependence on forest products makes the county vulnerable to high unemployment, particularly following the collapse of the housing industry. Since 2006, extremely low lumber prices have reduced employment. However, lumber prices began rising in 2009 and have continued to increase.

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe – its reservation extending from

Labor Force	Oct 15	Oct 16
Civilian Labor Force	4,131	4,082
Total Employment	3,843	3,822
Unemployed	288	260
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.0	6.4
State of Idaho % Unemployed	4.0	3.8
U.S. % Unemployed	5.0	4.9

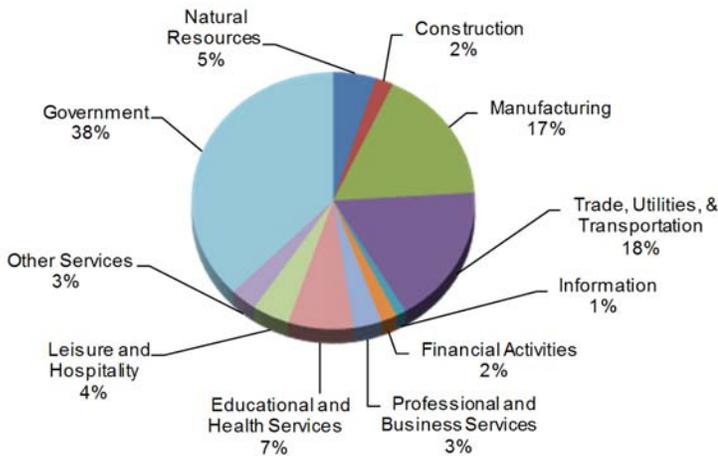


western Benewah County into southern Kootenai County – has driven growth in the last 10 years. Today, 590 people work at its headquarters, retail stores, medical clinic, farm and school, and nearly 1,000 at its newly expanded casino, hotel and golf course in Worley just over the Kootenai County line.

Because so much of the county's income is from forests and farms, employment peaks in late summer and drops off as winter approaches, hitting its lowest level in spring when load limits on muddy roads force many loggers out of the woods. In 2008, for example, the unadjusted unemployment rate peaked at 16.9 percent in April and fell to 7 percent in August.

Labor Force	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Civilian Labor Force	4,044	3,957	4,062	4,080	4,174	4,209	4,149	4,159	3,997	3,974	4,073
Unemployment	311	309	250	412	625	573	552	507	405	320	267
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.7	7.8	6.2	10.1	15.0	13.6	13.3	12.2	10.1	8.0	6.6
Employment	3,733	3,648	3,811	3,668	3,549	3,636	3,597	3,652	3,592	3,655	3,805

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2015



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 308 in 2000 to 286 in 2010. However, the number began to rebound in 2012 and reached a high of 354 in 2014.

Timber Plus, the county's economic development organization, and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe are strenuously recruiting job opportunities to the area.

Major Employers

Benewah Community Hospital
Valley Vista Care (nursing home & corp. HQ)
Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Jack A. Buell Trucking
Potlatch Corp.
Stimson Lumber (Plummer & St. Maries)
Archies IGA
Benewah Medical & Wellness Center (CdA Tribe)

Occupational Wages*

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 website at imi.idaho.gov.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2005, 2014 & 2015	2005		2014		2015	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	3,559	\$29,894	3,301	\$36,290	3,410	\$37,539
Agriculture	317	\$34,567	151	\$46,735	160	\$44,077
Mining	*	*	29	\$31,592	33	\$32,668
Construction	142	\$26,677	70	\$33,186	61	\$30,379
Manufacturing	601	\$40,933	549	\$47,167	591	\$50,319
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	639	\$28,093	574	\$31,812	580	\$33,629
Information	34	\$21,369	37	\$49,319	40	\$44,242
Financial Activities	54	\$20,710	66	\$31,000	63	\$33,843
Professional and Business Services	61	\$18,065	112	\$48,536	102	\$53,474
Educational and Health Services	222	\$22,166	207	\$32,681	258	\$32,137
Leisure and Hospitality	160	\$6,772	142	\$10,485	146	\$10,479
Other Services	56	\$25,657	76	\$29,161	75	\$32,631
Government	1,227	\$30,295	1,290	\$35,368	1,302	\$36,253

Per Capita Income	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Benewah County	\$24,712	\$25,650	\$27,231	\$26,957	\$26,389	\$28,768	\$30,057	\$30,504	\$31,061	\$31,805
State of Idaho	\$29,815	\$31,945	\$32,952	\$32,854	\$31,392	\$32,050	\$33,544	\$34,846	\$35,641	\$36,734
United States	\$35,904	\$38,144	\$39,821	\$41,082	\$39,376	\$40,277	\$42,453	\$44,266	\$44,438	\$46,049

Information provided by Bureau of Economic Analysis