



Bonner County

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DEPT. OF LABOR

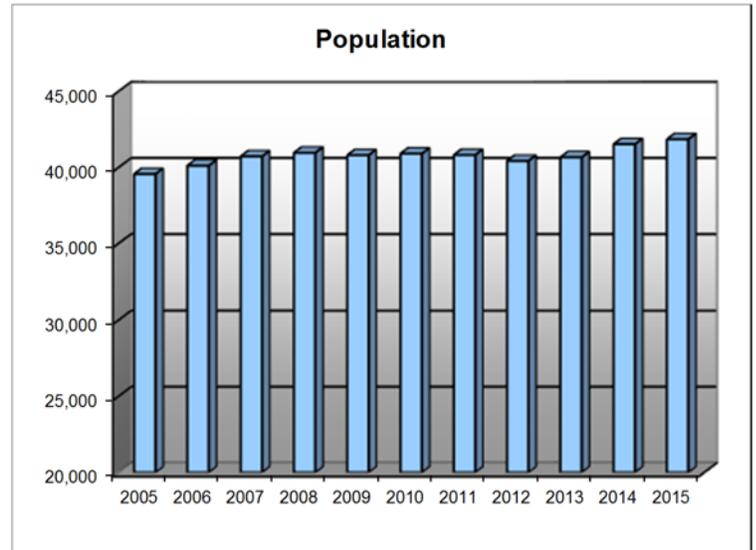
November 2016

Workforce Trends

Population

Bonner County has experienced rapid population growth. Its beauty, recreational opportunities and quality of life attracted thousands of new residents. From 2005 to 2015, however, the county's population grew 5.8 percent from 39,576 to 41,859 while Idaho's population grew 16 percent and the U.S. population grew 9 percent. The county also has hundreds of summer residents.

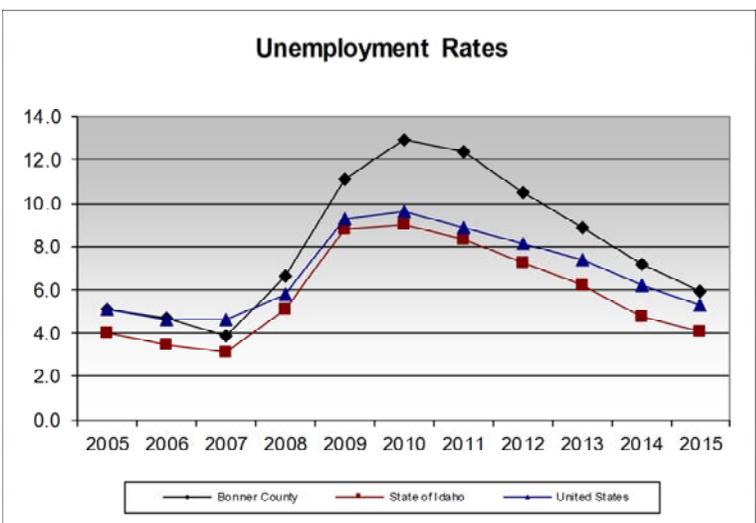
Sandpoint, the county seat, has a population of 7,835 in 2015. Surrounding populations include 1,138 in Ponderay, 789 in Kootenai and 660 in Dover. The largest city west of Sandpoint, Priest River, has 1,758 residents. Clark Fork with 541 residents is the largest town to the east.



Labor Force & Employment

Bonner County has enjoyed considerable success in diversifying and expanding its economy. Manufacturing jobs rose 27 percent from 1,486 in 2000 to 1,880 in 2010 while they fell 26 percent statewide. The aerospace sector has taken off in Bonner County with companies like Aerocet, Quest Aircraft, Cygnus and Tamarack Aerospace Group. Also contributing to the expansion were Litehouse salad dressings, Unicep Packaging plastic applicators, Thorne Research's nutritional supplements, Diedrich's coffee-roasting machines and Encoder Products electronics. But the recession claimed nearly 450 manufacturing jobs. The county's mainstay, sawmills, have been suffering from low prices. Since 2006, the Priest River area has lost more than 650 sawmill and logging jobs.

The development of Schweitzer Mountain Resort and Sandpoint's reputation as a haven for the arts contributed to tourism growth. Schweitzer's expansions since 1990 have boosted winter employment at local motels, restaurants and



stores. But as important as the winter tourism is, the summer brings even more tourists.

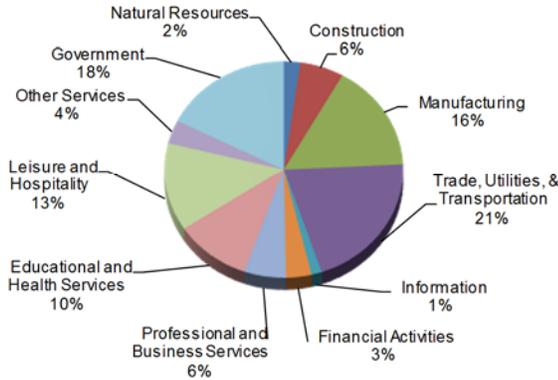
The largest private employers are Litehouse Inc, a manufacturer of salad dressing and related products headquartered in Sandpoint, and Wal-Mart, major retail outlet located in Sandpoint.

The timber industry's troubles, steep drops in construction and other effects of the recession are slowing the local economy. However, the county continues to lay the foundation for strong growth in the future.

Labor Force	Oct 15	Oct 16
Civilian Labor Force	18,515	18,826
Total Employment	17,487	17,886
Unemployed	1,028	940
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.6	5.0
State of Idaho % Unemployed	4.0	3.8
U.S. % Unemployed	5.0	4.9

Labor Force	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Civilian Labor Force	20,471	20,547	20,646	20,417	20,958	19,494	19,036	18,607	18,308	18,266	18,525
Unemployment	1,050	966	800	1,354	2,328	2,516	2,352	1,952	1,619	1,302	1,094
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.1	4.7	3.9	6.6	11.1	12.9	12.4	10.5	8.8	7.1	5.9
Employment	19,420	19,581	19,845	19,063	18,630	16,978	16,685	16,655	16,689	16,963	17,431

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2015



Major Employers

Bonner General Hospital
Lake Pend Oreille School District
Lighthouse (manufacturer)
Thorne Research
Schweitzer Mountain Resort
Life Care Center (Skilled Nursing Facility)
Idaho Forest Group
Wal-Mart

Economic Development

The Bonner County Economic Development Corp. and the Priest River Development Corp. are working to bring more jobs to the county. They can show potential employers the county's high quality of life, excellent business climate and low business costs.

The county's growing population and ever-growing number of tourists benefit many retail and service businesses. Between 2000 and 2015 the number of private sector employees in Bonner County grew 12 percent from 9,601 to 10,506.

Occupational Wages*

Starting Wage

Assemblers	\$9.75
Bookkeepers	\$10.50
Carpenters, Journey-level	\$18.00
Cashiers	\$8.25
Clerks, General Office	\$8.00
Clerks, Retail	\$8.75
Cooks, Restaurant	\$12.00
Janitors	\$9.00
Laborers, General	\$11.00
Milwrights	\$16.00
Nurses, Registered	\$18.50
Sawmill Workers	\$11.00
Secretaries, General	\$9.00
Truck Drivers, Heavy	\$13.50

* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at lmi.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	13,872	\$28,498	12,835	\$33,515	13,060	\$33,192
Agriculture	313	\$29,311	205	\$35,645	230	\$36,098
Mining	102	\$41,997	131	\$51,036	125	\$56,804
Construction	1,239	\$25,976	667	\$32,973	684	\$34,253
Manufacturing	2,090	\$34,174	2,040	\$43,662	2,138	\$43,901
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	3,047	\$32,364	2,735	\$33,554	2,654	\$29,407
Information	177	\$29,298	137	\$39,911	180	\$44,952
Financial Activities	569	\$35,873	436	\$45,081	437	\$45,587
Professional and Business Services	840	\$35,281	698	\$39,594	710	\$36,802
Educational and Health Services	1,103	\$24,939	1,291	\$28,925	1,359	\$29,161
Leisure and Hospitality	1,679	\$11,854	1,725	\$15,750	1,755	\$15,671
Other Services	404	\$18,521	428	\$22,164	451	\$24,021
Government	2,312	\$30,111	2,342	\$36,969	2,337	\$38,779

Per Capita Income	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bonner County	\$27,285	\$29,878	\$31,040	\$30,401	\$29,518	\$29,669	\$31,776	\$32,655	\$33,093	\$33,786
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



This county is served by the office listed below:
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labor.idaho.gov

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