



# Bonner County

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DEPT. OF LABOR

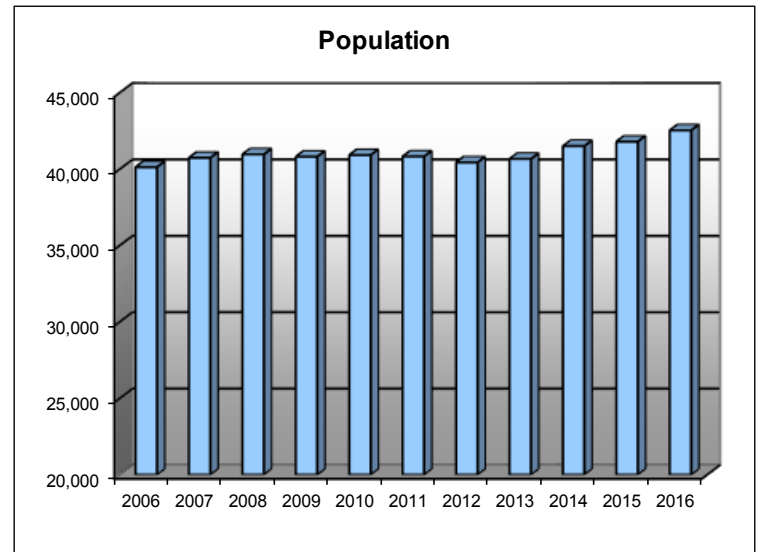
January 2018

## Workforce Trends

### Population

Bonner County has experienced steady population growth. Its beauty, recreational opportunities and quality of life attracted thousands of new residents. From 2006 to 2016, however, the county's population grew 6 percent from 40,127 to 42,536 while Idaho's population grew 14.6 percent and the U.S. population grew 8.3 percent. The county also has hundreds of summer residents.

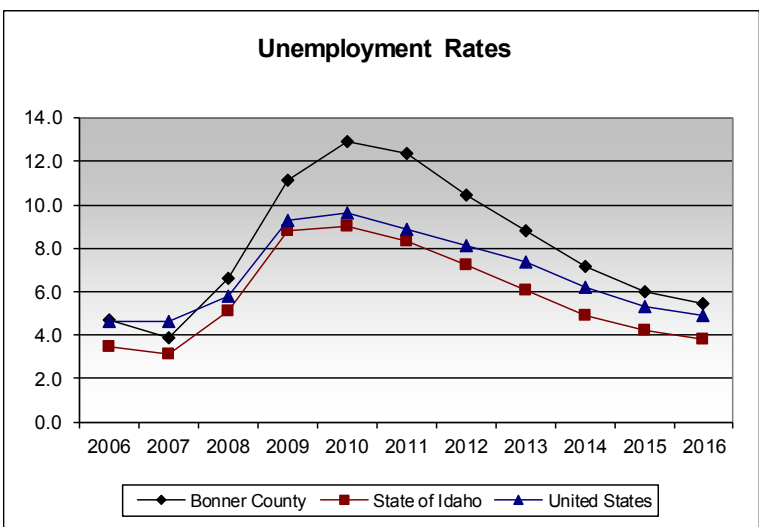
Sandpoint, the county seat, had a population of 7,835 in 2015. Surrounding populations include 1,138 in Ponderay, 789 in Kootenai and 660 in Dover. The largest city west of Sandpoint, Priest River, has 1,758 residents. Clark Fork with 541 residents is the largest town to the east.



### 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.

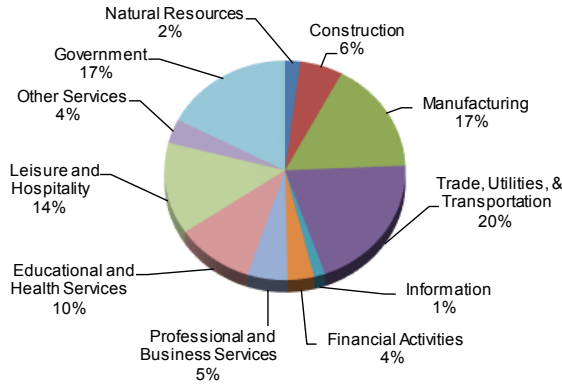
The largest private employers are Litehouse Inc, a manufacturer of salad dressing and related products headquartered in Sandpoint, and Wal-Mart, major retail outlet located in Sandpoint.

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	Dec 16	Dec 17
Civilian Labor Force	18,919	19,578
Total Employment	17,954	18,821
Unemployed	965	757
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.1	3.9
State of Idaho % Unemployed	3.6	2.9
U.S. % Unemployed	4.7	4.1

Labor Force	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Civilian Labor Force	20,547	20,646	20,417	20,958	19,494	19,036	18,597	18,292	18,254	18,578	18,820
Unemployment	966	800	1,354	2,328	2,516	2,352	1,948	1,615	1,304	1,119	1,029
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.7	3.9	6.6	11.1	12.9	12.4	10.5	8.8	7.1	6.0	5.5
Employment	19,581	19,845	19,063	18,630	16,978	16,685	16,649	16,677	16,950	17,460	17,791

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2016



## Major Employers

Bonner General Hospital
Lake Pend Oreille School District
Litehouse (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.

North Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Assemblers	\$11.10	\$12.80
Bookkeepers	\$11.05	\$16.55
Carpenters, Journey-level	\$13.27	\$18.50
Cashiers	\$8.27	\$9.57
Clerks, General Office	\$9.85	\$13.53
Clerks, Retail	\$9.03	\$11.50
Cooks, Restaurant	\$9.74	\$11.25
Janitors	\$8.91	\$11.19
Laborers, General	\$9.45	\$12.78
Millwrights	\$16.70	\$21.26
Nurses, Registered	\$23.28	\$32.79
Sawmill Workers	\$12.91	\$15.70
Secretaries, General	\$10.91	\$14.91
Truck Drivers, Heavy	\$14.72	\$19.39

\* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov).

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2006, 2015 & 2016	2006		2015		2016	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
<b>Total Covered Wages</b>	14,354	\$30,151	13,056	\$33,200	13,468	\$33,783
<b>Agriculture</b>	265	\$29,414	229	\$36,320	221	\$36,611
<b>Mining</b>	131	\$42,837	125	\$56,804	114	\$61,106
<b>Construction</b>	1,425	\$27,957	683	\$34,275	679	\$33,599
<b>Manufacturing</b>	2,297	\$34,967	2,138	\$43,890	2,281	\$44,449
<b>Trade, Utilities &amp; Transportation</b>	3,044	\$35,508	2,652	\$29,425	2,699	\$30,954
<b>Information</b>	178	\$33,207	180	\$44,917	200	\$48,344
<b>Financial Activities</b>	582	\$38,140	437	\$45,573	461	\$40,228
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	819	\$38,563	710	\$36,775	700	\$36,556
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	1,120	\$25,918	1,361	\$29,141	1,428	\$28,697
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	1,757	\$12,042	1,754	\$15,661	1,848	\$16,923
<b>Other Services</b>	394	\$20,429	450	\$24,000	440	\$25,589
<b>Government</b>	2,341	\$31,254	2,338	\$38,812	2,398	\$39,579

Per Capita Income	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Bonner County</b>	\$30,668	\$30,475	\$29,446	\$29,365	\$31,254	\$32,291	\$32,639	\$33,720	\$35,633	\$36,553
<b>State of Idaho</b>	\$32,580	\$33,031	\$31,436	\$31,726	\$33,296	\$34,695	\$35,720	\$37,186	\$38,848	\$39,470
<b>United States</b>	\$39,821	\$41,082	\$39,376	\$40,277	\$42,461	\$44,282	\$44,493	\$46,494	\$48,451	\$49,246

Information provided by Bureau Economic Analysis



This county is served by the office listed below:  
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This publication is produced by the Idaho Department of Labor and is funded at least in part by federal grants from the U.S. Department of Labor. Costs associated with this publication are available upon request. The Idaho Department of Labor is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Dial 711 for Idaho Relay Service.