



Boundary County

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DEPT. OF LABOR

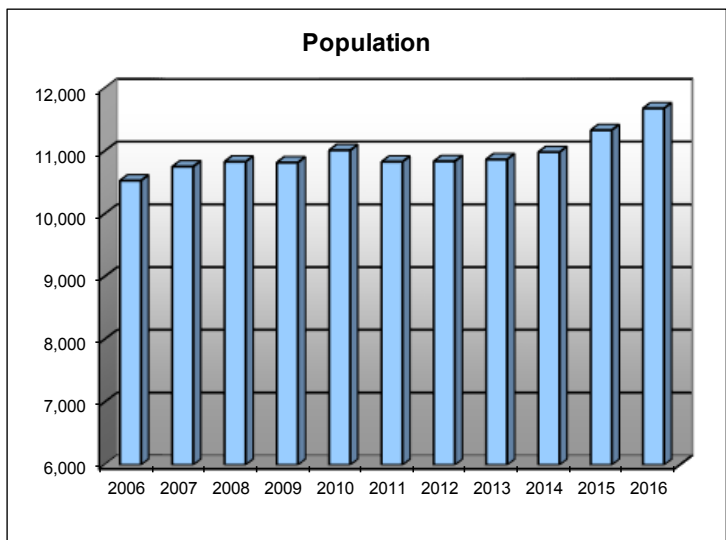
September 2017

Workforce Trends

Population

Boundary County's scenery, recreational opportunities, quality of life and expanding job market drew many new residents in the 1980s and 1990s. But in 2001, economic trouble began slowing population growth. Growth resumed in 2005 with the statewide expansion. The county's lower housing costs and rural lifestyle drew some people from neighboring Bonner County. But from 2006 to 2016, the county's population grew 11 percent from 10,530 to 11,681 while Idaho's population grew 14.6 percent and the U.S. population grew 8.3 percent.

About 90 percent of the county is forested so most of the people live in the Kootenai River Valley, where Bonners Ferry had a population of 2,549 in 2016 and Moyie Springs had a population of 717.

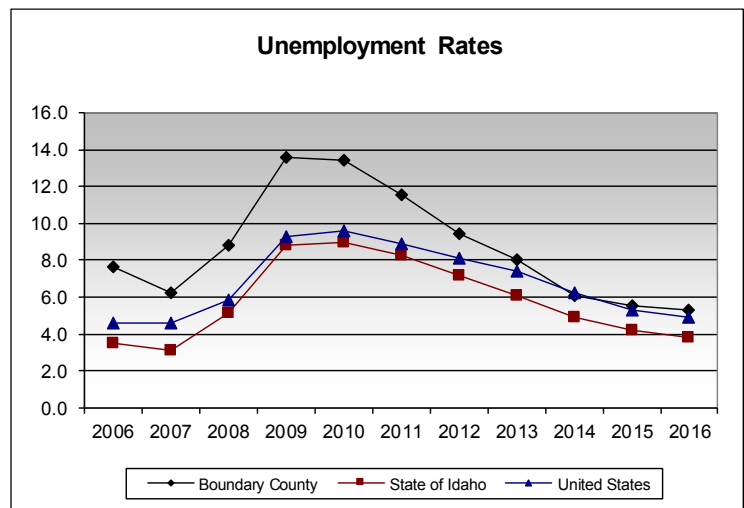


Labor Force & Employment

Timber and agriculture are the county's mainstays. However, the economy continues to slowly diversify as health care, manufacturing and retail play an increasingly important role. Next to Boundary County government, Boundary Community Hospital is the largest employer and Idaho Forest Group and Welco are the largest private employers.

Agriculture's importance increased in the 1980s when Anheuser-Busch began growing hops at Elk Mountain Farms, and several ornamental tree nurseries and Christmas tree farms opened. With the change in ownership from Anheuser-Busch to the Belgium-based In-Bev company—forming Anheuser-Busch InBev, Elk Mountain Farms cut back production and remains in flux.

In 1986, the Kootenai Tribe opened the Kootenai River Inn, giving the county's tourism sector new poten-

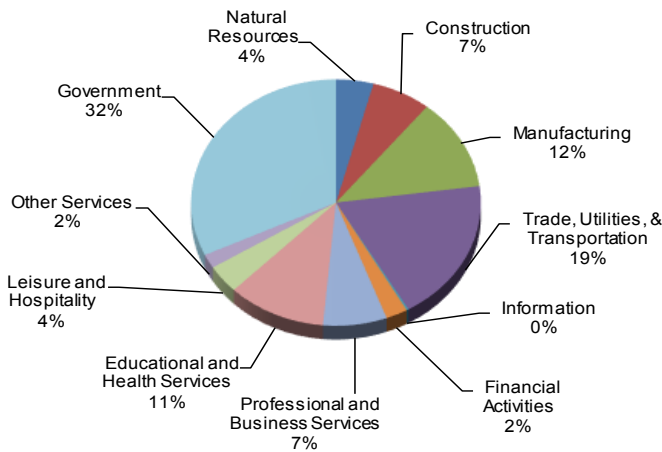


tial. In the 1990s, it added a casino and most recently expanded on its hotel. The county also benefits from economic activity at its two ports of entry on the Canadian border—Porthill and Eastport. Imports increased 24 percent at the two ports through the depths of the recession and exports increased 37 percent from 2009 to 2011. Bonners Ferry, named by tourists as Idaho's "friendliest city," has made major improvements to its downtown to attract more visitors.

Labor Force	Aug 16	Aug 17
Civilian Labor Force	5,050	5,001
Total Employment	4,795	4,798
Unemployed	255	203
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.0	4.1
State of Idaho % Unemployed	3.8	2.9
U.S. % Unemployed	4.9	4.4

Labor Force	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Civilian Labor Force	4,234	4,576	4,589	4,410	5,367	5,383	5,217	4,910	4,917	5,103	5,080
Unemployment	323	285	403	598	720	623	492	393	297	283	270
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.6	6.2	8.8	13.6	13.4	11.6	9.4	8.0	6.0	5.5	5.3
Employment	3,911	4,291	4,186	3,812	4,647	4,760	4,725	4,517	4,620	4,820	4,810

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2016



Economic Development

The county's long-term success in diversifying and expanding its economy provides a good environment for attracting new businesses. Population growth and increased tourism also help the county's businesses thrive.

From 2000 to 2016, the number of private-sector employers in Boundary County grew 13.4 percent from 374 to 424. The industries creating the most new businesses were health care and professional and business services. The Boundary Economic Development Council has been vital in providing opportunities for businesses to locate and prosper in the county.

Large Employers

Boundary Community Hospital
Boundary Regional Community Health (clinic)
Safeway
Elk Mountain Farms
Idaho Educational Services (schools)
Idaho Forest Group (mill)
Kootenai River Inn & Casino
U.S. Government (border patrol & forest service)

North Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
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
Farm Workers	\$13.38	\$14.53
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.

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
Total Covered Wages	3,566	\$27,260	3,437	\$33,045	3,471	\$34,259
Agriculture	424	\$32,317	333	\$35,709	353	\$37,022
Mining	*	*	0	\$0	0	\$0
Construction	298	\$29,505	171	\$31,837	186	\$33,736
Manufacturing	365	\$33,225	387	\$41,204	404	\$43,708
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	566	\$24,933	599	\$28,809	576	\$31,558
Information	17	\$15,065	8	\$30,372	8	\$25,301
Financial Activities	87	\$35,207	76	\$45,598	77	\$42,058
Professional and Business Services	346	\$28,000	214	\$32,822	227	\$31,204
Educational and Health Services	215	\$19,997	373	\$26,743	368	\$28,587
Leisure and Hospitality	139	\$8,966	137	\$12,353	119	\$11,661
Other Services	58	\$24,139	54	\$22,406	59	\$21,654
Government	1,052	\$27,033	1,086	\$36,329	1,095	\$36,591

Per Capita Income	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Boundary County	\$22,818	\$23,808	\$25,501	\$25,619	\$25,966	\$27,567	\$28,363	\$29,359	\$31,453	\$31,283
State of Idaho	\$31,357	\$32,580	\$33,031	\$31,436	\$31,727	\$33,296	\$34,691	\$35,703	\$37,153	\$38,392
United States	\$38,144	\$39,821	\$41,082	\$39,376	\$40,277	\$42,453	\$44,267	\$44,462	\$46,414	\$48,112

Information provided by Bureau Economic Analysis



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

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