



Boundary County

IDAHO
DEPT. OF LABOR

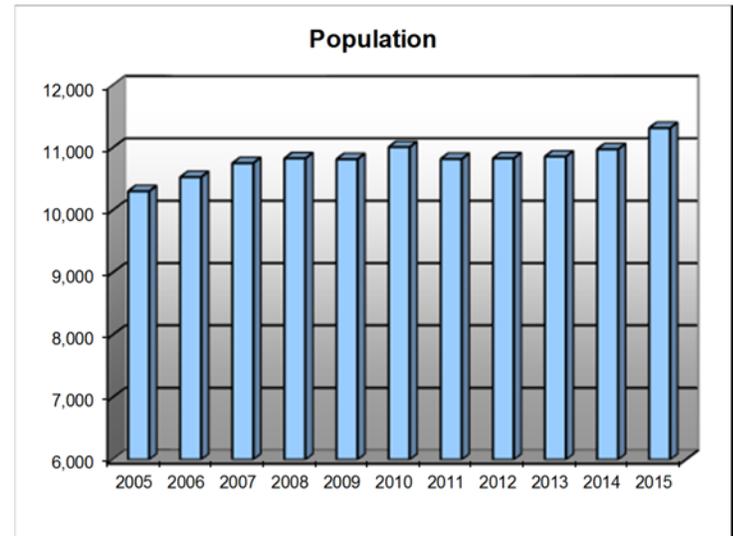
November 2016

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 2005 to 2015, the county's population grew 10 percent from 10,303 to 11,318 while Idaho's population grew 16 percent and the U.S. population grew 9 percent.

About 90 percent of the county is forested so most of the people live in the Kootenai River Valley where Bonners Ferry has a population of 2,549 in 2015 and Moyie Springs has a population of 717.

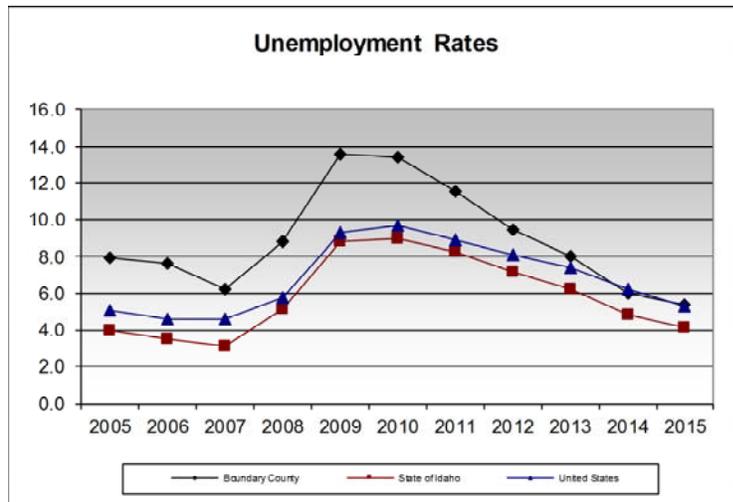


Labor Force & Employment

Timber and agriculture are the county's mainstays. However, the economy continues to 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-

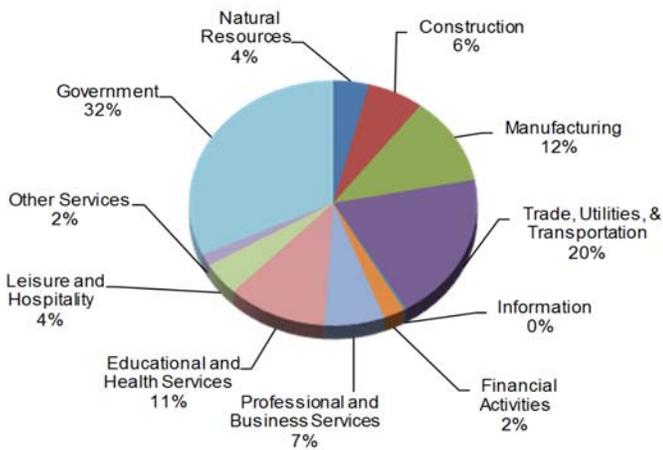


Labor Force	Oct 15	Oct 16
Civilian Labor Force	5,036	5,100
Total Employment	4,789	4,876
Unemployed	247	225
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.9	4.4
State of Idaho % Unemployed	4.0	3.8
U.S. % Unemployed	5.0	4.9

Labor Force	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Civilian Labor Force	4,241	4,234	4,576	4,589	4,410	5,367	5,383	5,220	4,915	4,920	5,076
Unemployment	338	323	285	403	598	720	623	493	394	297	272
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.0	7.6	6.2	8.8	13.6	13.4	11.6	9.5	8.0	6.0	5.4
Employment	3,903	3,911	4,291	4,186	3,812	4,647	4,760	4,727	4,520	4,623	4,803

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.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2015



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 2015, 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)

Occupational Wages*	Starting Wage
Bookkeepers	\$8.50
Carpenters, Journey-level	\$16.00
Cashiers	\$7.00
Clerks, General Office	\$8.00
Clerks, Retail	\$7.25
Cooks, Restaurant	\$7.50
Farm Workers	\$7.75
Janitors	\$8.50
Laborers, General	\$9.00
Milwrights	\$15.75
Nurses, Registered	\$18.00
Sawmill Workers	\$11.25
Secretaries, General	\$8.75
Truck Drivers, Heavy	\$12.25

* 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	3,475	\$25,617	3,374	\$31,151	3,438	\$33,254
Agriculture	441	\$30,058	325	\$33,426	332	\$35,751
Mining	*	*	0	\$0	0	\$0
Construction	257	\$25,314	207	\$29,360	172	\$31,726
Manufacturing	386	\$32,781	357	\$38,600	388	\$41,171
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	559	\$23,097	587	\$25,839	601	\$28,821
Information	22	\$13,303	7	\$27,413	8	\$30,372
Financial Activities	76	\$31,663	77	\$40,386	76	\$45,598
Professional and Business Services	185	\$24,314	214	\$33,492	212	\$32,973
Educational and Health Services	279	\$20,846	353	\$25,206	370	\$26,825
Leisure and Hospitality	151	\$8,488	130	\$11,158	140	\$12,125
Other Services	53	\$21,142	42	\$21,080	54	\$21,710
Government	1,066	\$26,504	1,075	\$34,891	1,085	\$37,050

Per Capita Income	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Boundary County	\$20,904	\$22,187	\$23,269	\$24,747	\$24,633	\$24,708	\$26,398	\$27,703	\$29,340	\$29,769
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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