



Clearwater County

IDAHO
DEPT. OF LABOR

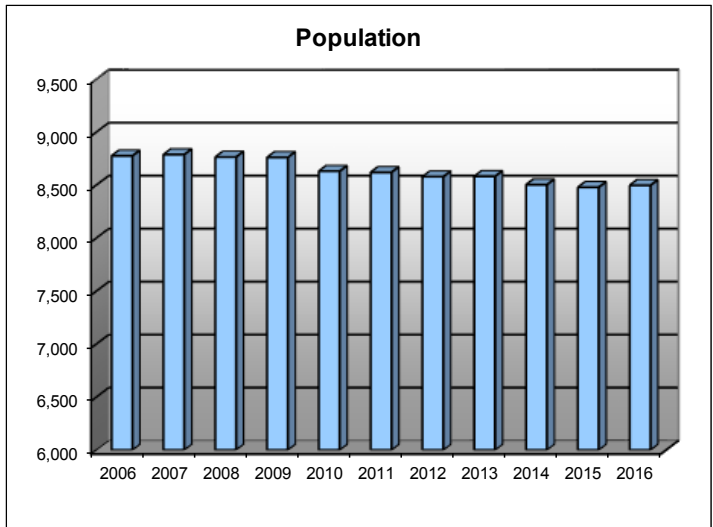
August 2017

Workforce Trends

Population

The timber boom of the 1970s boosted county population to 10,871 by 1980. It fell sharply as two recessions forced mills to close and loggers to lose jobs. The county began to add jobs after 1990, allowing the population to grow to 8,930 by 2000. Then, Potlatch Corp. closed the Jaype mill near Pierce, and population fell to 8,776 by 2006. Between 2006 and 2016, it fell 3 percent to 8,497, while the U.S. population rose 8 percent, and Idaho's population rose 16 percent. The long-term loss of young families made the county's population one of the oldest in Idaho.

The county seat, Orofino, had a population of 3,038 in 2016 while Pierce has 485, Weippe 431, and Elk River 119.

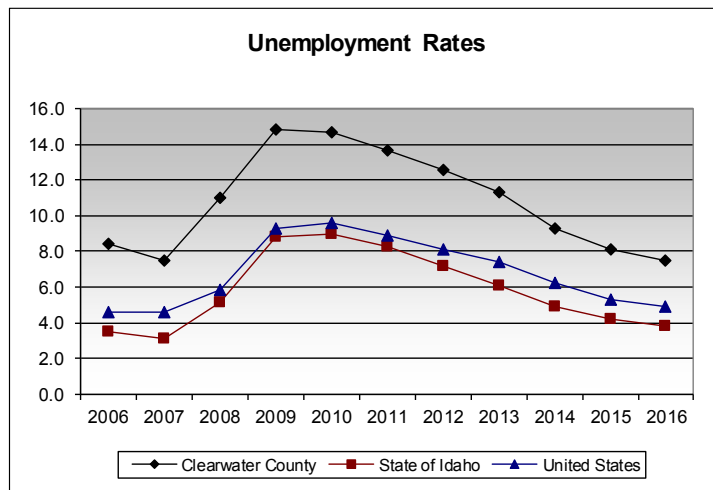


Labor Force & Employment

The long-term decline in the forest products industry has taken a toll on the county. In October 2016, the county lost its last major mill when the Tri Pro Cedar mill near Orofino closed, putting 55 people out of work.

The loss of its major industry has made the county more reliant on government jobs—including the state mental hospital and the correctional institute, which provide 230 jobs; the Army Corps of Engineers (40 jobs); federal and tribal fish hatcheries (100 jobs); the U.S. Forest Service (60 jobs); and the Idaho Youth Challenge Academy (50 jobs) in Pierce.

Economic development groups work to diversify the county's industry base. An industrial park was built in Orofino, and Architectural Signs and Engraving Inc. was the first tenant. SJX Boats opened a plant there in 2008. Nightforce Optics moved to Orofino 15 years ago and now employs more than 100 people making high-quality rifle



scopes for hunters, police and the military.

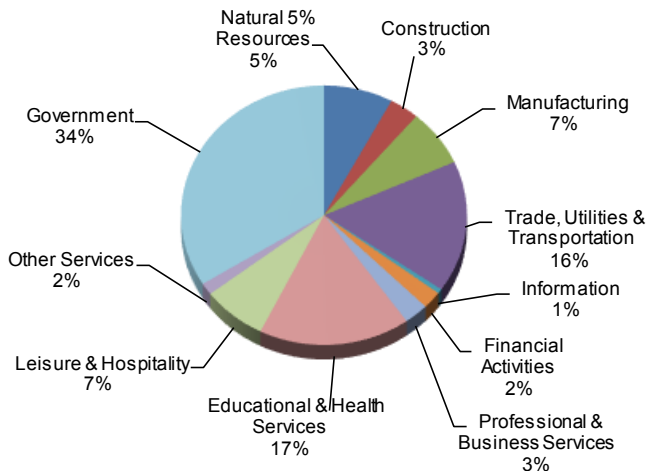
Tourists come to enjoy hunting and fishing and boating on Dworshak Reservoir and to learn about the area's role in the Lewis and Clark Expedition and Idaho's first major gold rush. The tourism sector has grown significantly over the last 20 years.

The county often has the highest unemployment rate among Idaho's 44 counties, because of its high seasonal pattern and long-term decline in forest products jobs.

Labor Force	July 16	July 17
Civilian Labor Force	3,028	2,908
Total Employment	2,822	2,728
Unemployed	206	181
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.8	6.2
State of Idaho % Unemployed	3.8	3.0
U.S. % Unemployed	4.9	4.3

Labor Force	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Civilian Labor Force	3,319	3,208	3,217	3,523	3,422	3,354	3,269	3,191	3,135	3,094	3,063
Unemployment	278	241	353	522	501	459	412	362	291	251	229
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.4	7.5	11.0	14.8	14.6	13.7	12.6	11.3	9.3	8.1	7.5
Employment	3,040	2,967	2,864	3,001	2,921	2,895	2,858	2,829	2,844	2,843	2,834

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2016



Economic Development

Clearwater County has struggled with high unemployment and low per capita income for decades. In 2015, its per capita income was \$33,885, while the state's was \$38,392 and the nation's was \$48,112.

Clearwater County Economic Development and local officials are making efforts to strengthen and diversify the economy. They are working to improve Internet access, provide advice to businesses wishing to expand or move there, and remove barriers to economic development.

Major Employers

Clearwater County
 Clearwater Valley Hospital & Clinic
 Idaho Correctional Institution
 Nightforce Optics (manufacturer)
 Orofino Joint School District 171
 State Hospital North
 Tri-Pro Forest Products
 U.S. Forest Service

North Central Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Assemblers**	\$10.35	\$13.20
Bookkeepers	\$12.68	\$18.39
Carpenters	\$14.45	\$21.00
Cashiers	\$8.23	\$9.23
Equipment Operators	\$19.03	\$25.21
General Office Clerks	\$9.11	\$13.22
Guards	\$8.62	\$11.78
Janitors	\$8.36	\$10.81
Nurses, Registered	\$24.20	\$28.90
Salespersons, Retail	\$8.42	\$11.11
Secretaries	\$10.29	\$13.24
Elementary School Teachers	\$30,632	\$48,573
Secondary School Teachers	\$25,646	\$45,493
Truck Drivers, Heavy	\$15.14	\$18.48

*Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at mi.idaho.gov.

**North Idaho wages

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	3,167	\$28,566	2,791	\$35,329	2,764	\$35,991
Agriculture	284	\$33,724	220	\$43,342	219	\$43,641
Mining	0	\$0	*	*	55	\$0
Construction	162	\$38,738	89	\$36,594	88	\$38,220
Manufacturing	309	\$32,433	193	\$30,858	193	\$30,895
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	421	\$24,054	442	\$35,566	442	\$37,820
Information	23	\$24,128	26	\$41,435	15	\$35,463
Financial Activities	60	\$29,127	64	\$30,290	57	\$28,500
Professional and Business Services	87	\$24,588	64	\$28,879	68	\$27,850
Educational and Health Services	453	\$25,428	470	\$34,648	468	\$35,492
Leisure and Hospitality	220	\$10,677	194	\$12,184	199	\$12,298
Other Services	32	\$18,171	39	\$30,745	40	\$32,646
Government	1,115	\$31,893	934	\$40,053	922	\$40,329

Per Capita Income	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Clearwater County	\$26,669	\$27,654	\$28,081	\$28,738	\$29,323	\$30,198	\$30,381	\$31,439	\$32,274	\$33,885
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