Kootenai County

January 2017

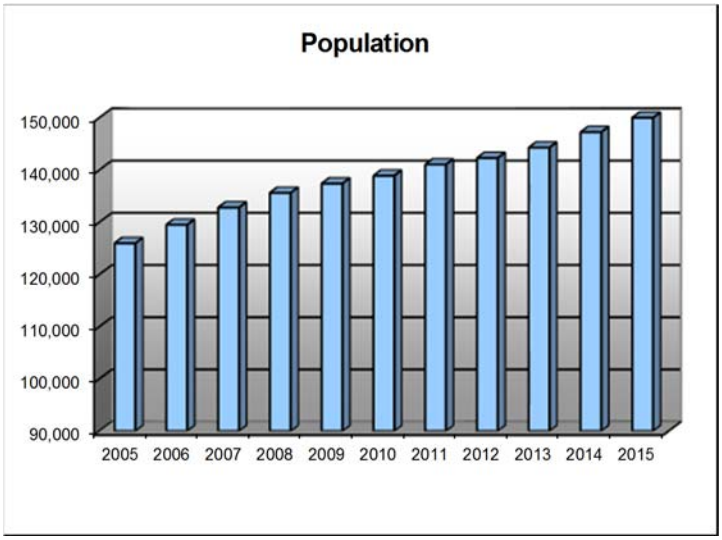
Workforce Trends

IDAHO DEPT. OF LABOR

Population

Kootenai County has experienced exceptionally strong population growth since the 1970s. From 2005 to 2015, its population grew 19.3 percent from 125,972 to 150,346 while Idaho's population grew 15.6 percent and the U.S. population grew 8.8 percent. The county's spectacular scenery, outdoor recreational opportunities, proximity to urban amenities and high quality of life continue to draw new residents. Strong population growth shapes many aspects of its economy.

The county seat, Coeur d'Alene, had a population of 49,122 in 2015. The populations of the larger cities include 30,453 in Post Falls, 14,133 in Hayden and 7,538 in Rathdrum. The county is closely tied to neighboring Spokane County, Washinton, with a population of 490,945



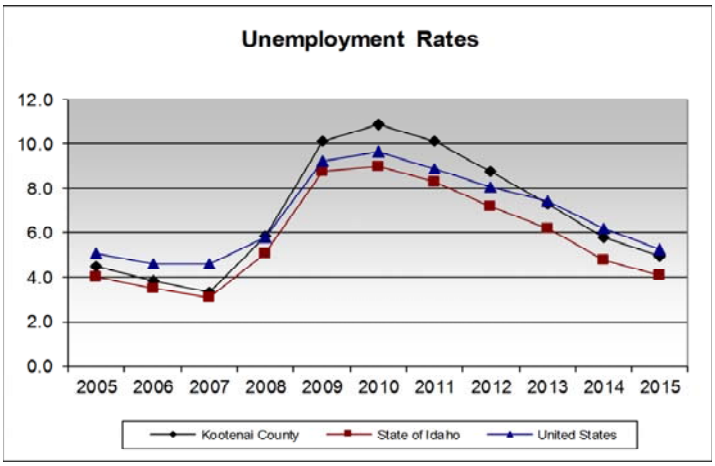
Labor Force & Employment

During the last 25 years, the local economy grew at an astounding rate on a diversifying manufacturing base, expanded tourism and new call centers and other business services. Tourism and population growth fueled the construction boom and boosted retail, health care, services and government jobs.

The opening of the Coeur d'Alene Resort in 1987 spurred tourism. The Silverwood theme park opened in 1988 and has continued to grow every year, hitting record levels in 2015. In 1994, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe opened a casino in Worley. Today, the golf course, hotel, and recently expanded casino employ nearly 1,580 people. Tourism employment peaked in 2007 at 9,050, hit bottom at 7,800 in 2010 and is on the rebound—nearing 8,200 in 2012.

Also promoting economic diversification and growth during the last decade was the relocation of many manufacturing operations and four call centers to Kootenai County. Over 4,700 people work in the county's manufacturing businesses while over 1,400 people work at call centers. Kootenai County's low business costs, good business climate and quality of life have attracted many new employers. In 2005, Buck Knives opened a manufacturing plant that employs approximately 300, and US Bank opened a customer service center that employs nearly 600. Biotech lab ALK Abello and manufacturers Berg Industries and Burly Products moved from Spokane County to Kootenai County.

Despite the recession, the county continues to lay the foundation for further economic growth.



Labor Force	Dec 15	Dec 16
Civilian Labor Force	72,861	73,316
Total Employment	69,279	69,960
Unemployed	3,581	3,356
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.9	4.6
State of Idaho % Unemployed	3.9	3.7
U.S. % Unemployed	5.0	4.7

Labor Force	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Civilian Labor Force	67,177	68,675	69,434	70,769	70,972	68,851	69,294	68,638	69,351	70,616	71,896
Unemployment	3,027	2,627	2,327	4,116	7,167	7,514	7,032	6,027	5,090	4,071	3,582
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.5	3.8	3.4	5.8	10.1	10.9	10.1	8.8	7.3	5.8	5.0
Employment	64,151	66,048	67,106	66,653	63,805	61,337	62,263	62,610	64,261	66,544	68,314

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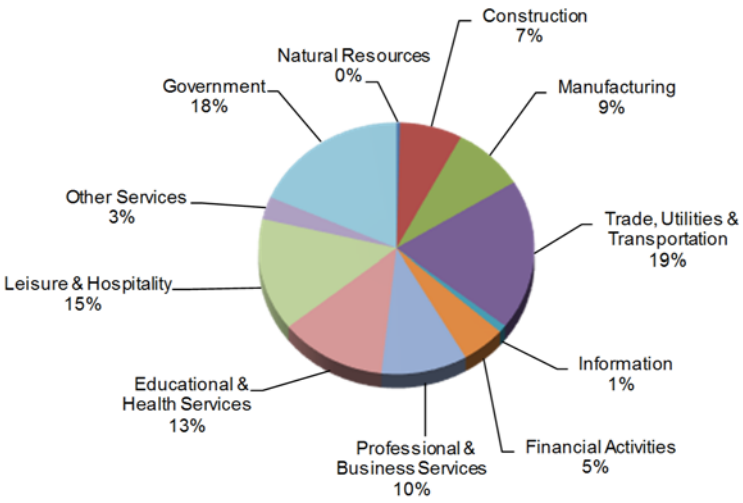
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2015



Major Employers
Kootenai Health (hospital)
Coeur d'Alene Resort
Coeur d'Alene Casino
Center Partners (call centers)
Silverwood Theme Park
North Idaho College
Esterline Advanced Input Systems (manufacturer)
U.S. Bank (including customer service center)

Economic Development

Kootenai County's growing population and economic development provide many opportunities for business creation. The number of private-sector employers increased slightly in 2015 to 4,588, employing 45,703 workers.

Jobs Plus, the local economic development organization, has recruited dozens of businesses over the last 20 years. Low business costs, a pleasant business climate, low electricity and natural gas costs and an affordable workforce are among the county's attractions for new businesses.

Occupational Wages*	Starting Wage
Assemblers	$8.75
Bookkeepers	$10.00
Carpenters, Journey-level	$17.00
Cashiers	$7.75
Clerks, General Office	$9.25
Clerks, Retail Sales	$8.00
Cooks, Restaurant	$8.00
Customer Service Reps	$9.50
Janitors	$8.75
Laborers, General	$9.25
Machinists	$13.50
Nurses, Registered	$19.20
Secretaries, General	$9.50
Truck Drivers, Heavy	$13.20

* 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	51,782	$28,208	54,878	$34,213	56,156	$35,312
Agriculture	492	$32,567	262	$37,787	267	$38,289
Mining	133	$58,502	111	$208,211	109	$174,900
Construction	5,260	$31,196	3,612	$37,282	3,913	$38,579
Manufacturing	4,549	$34,140	4,739	$40,906	4,800	$41,625
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	9,540	$27,467	10,707	$32,744	10,822	$34,317
Information	1,019	$35,454	534	$54,920	545	$59,228
Financial Activities	2,581	$39,032	2,780	$44,832	2,828	$48,480
Professional and Business Services	5,981	$28,315	5,761	$34,109	5,575	$35,862
Educational and Health Services	5,271	$27,566	7,035	$33,598	7,238	$34,091
Leisure and Hospitality	6,907	$12,878	7,857	$16,060	8,286	$16,589
Other Services	1,171	$19,997	1,291	$23,940	1,321	$24,854
Government	8,878	$32,840	10,189	$41,374	10,452	$42,600

Per Capita Income	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Kootenai County	$31,551	$32,647	$32,759	$31,490	$31,646	$33,320	$34,883	$35,779	$37,350	$38,605
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 of Economic Analysis

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