



Benewah County

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DEPT. OF LABOR

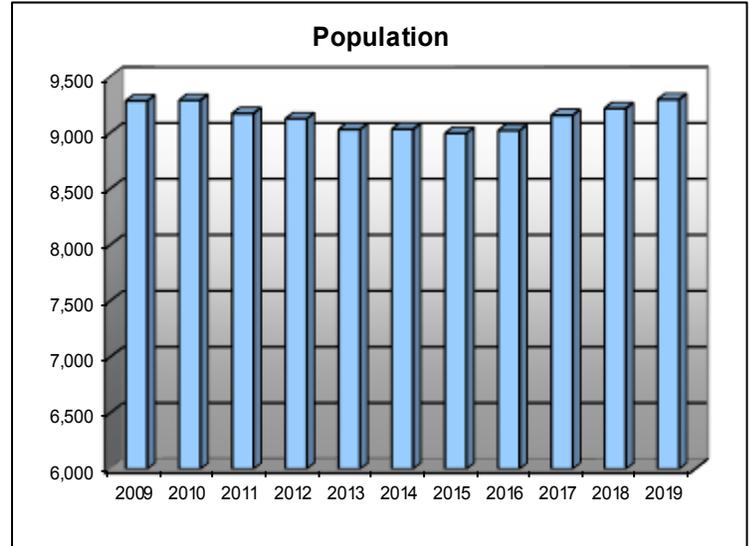
September 2020

Workforce Trends

Population

Benewah County experienced fairly strong population growth in the early 1990s. Its rural lifestyle and great hunting and fishing opportunities persuaded many people to move there. Then the county stagnated during and after the 2001 recession before growth resumed from 2004 to 2008 as more retirees discovered its attractions. The recession reversed the growth and the population has fluctuated for the past several years. Significant growth occurred in 2017 boosting population to 9,218 followed by another increase in 2019 bringing the population to 9,298, the highest since 2011.

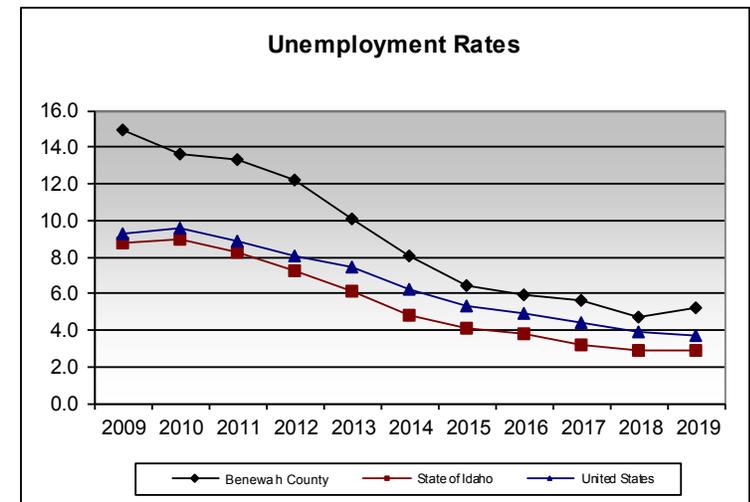
The county seat, St. Maries, had a population of 2,448 in 2019. Plummer added 4 people bringing the population to 1,029. Tensed, the smallest city in the county, with a population of 121 added 2 people in 2019...



Labor Force & Employment

Benewah County's economy remains heavily dependent on forest products. Over one in six jobs is in the forest products industry. Despite the county's beauty and outdoor recreational opportunities, tourism employs around 150. Dependence on forest products makes the county vulnerable to high unemployment, particularly following the collapse of the housing industry. Since 2006, extremely low lumber prices have reduced employment. However, lumber prices began rising in 2009 and have continued to increase.

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe — its reservation extending from western Benewah County into southern Kootenai County — has driven growth in the last 10 years. Today, approximately 600 work at its headquarters, retail stores, medical clinic, farm and school. The tribe oper-



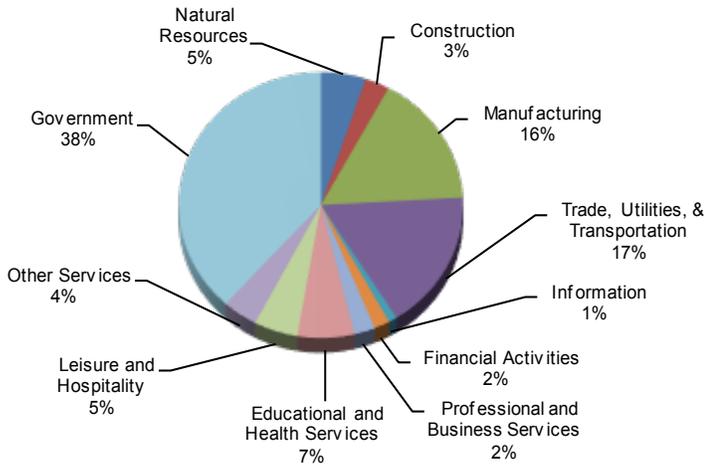
ates a casino with hotel and golf course in employing approximately 800 in Worley just over the Kootenai County line.

Because so much of the county's income is from forests and farms, employment peaks in late summer and drops off as winter approaches, hitting its lowest level in spring when load limits on muddy roads force many loggers out of the woods. In 2019, the unadjusted unemployment rate peaked at March at 10.1 percent and fell to 3.1 percent in December.

Labor Force	Aug 19	Aug 20
Civilian Labor Force	4,149	4,142
Total Employment	3,915	3,895
Unemployed	234	247
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.6	6.0
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.9	4.2
U.S. % Unemployed	3.7	8.4

Labor Force	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Civilian Labor Force	4,174	4,209	4,152	4,159	3,990	3,966	4,036	4,019	4,007	4,018	4,109
Unemployment	625	573	552	506	402	320	260	238	226	187	215
% of Labor Force Unemployed	15.0	13.6	13.3	12.2	10.1	8.1	6.4	5.9	5.6	4.7	5.2
Employment	3,549	3,636	3,600	3,653	3,588	3,646	3,776	3,781	3,781	3,831	3,894

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2019



Major Employers
Benewah Community Hospital
Valley Vista Care (nursing home & corp. HQ)
Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Jack A. Buell Trucking
Potlatch Corp.
Stimson Lumber (Plummer & St. Maries)
Archies IGA
Benewah Medical & Wellness Center (CdA Tribe)

Economic Development Efforts

Benewah County is struggling to overcome a legacy of economic stagnation, which has hampered business growth. The number of private sector businesses with employees in Benewah County edged down from 308 in 2000 to 269 in 2004. However, the number fluctuated during the last ten years with 309 in 2013, dropping to 290 in 2015, then rebounding to 301 in 2017 but experiencing another slight dip to 297 in 2018.

Timber Plus, the county's economic development organization, and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe are strenuously recruiting job opportunities to the area.

North Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	\$11.92	\$18.00
Carpenters	\$14.82	\$20.89
Cashiers	\$9.11	\$11.41
Construction Laborers	\$12.49	\$18.39
Cooks, Restaurant	\$9.35	\$12.83
Fallers	\$22.11	\$28.11
Janitors & Cleaners	\$9.65	\$12.71
Log Graders and Scalers	\$16.01	\$20.08
Logging Equipment Operators	\$16.33	\$26.68
Millwrights	\$19.63	\$25.06
Office Clerks, General	\$10.70	\$16.26
Registered Nurses	\$25.94	\$35.10
Retail Salespersons	\$10.02	\$14.58
Secretaries & Administrative Assistants	\$12.08	\$16.82
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$15.05	\$23.45

* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at <https://lmi.idaho.gov/oes>

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2009, 2018 & 2019	2009		2018		2019	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	3,356	\$31,242	3,456	\$40,460	3,493	\$41,542
Agriculture	168	\$36,377	181	\$53,191	178	\$55,026
Mining	31	\$30,907	32	\$43,637	30	\$40,823
Construction	116	\$30,645	92	\$39,232	98	\$35,999
Manufacturing	505	\$40,691	580	\$52,867	568	\$53,146
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	651	\$29,077	588	\$40,223	594	\$42,373
Information	25	\$28,385	34	\$44,148	34	\$41,792
Financial Activities	60	\$21,981	57	\$36,092	60	\$35,421
Professional and Business Services	61	\$26,545	89	\$46,797	85	\$56,628
Educational and Health Services	211	\$26,907	216	\$31,038	225	\$31,739
Leisure and Hospitality	144	\$7,870	151	\$10,999	175	\$11,183
Other Services	53	\$26,299	114	\$32,059	112	\$34,763
Government	1,331	\$32,237	1,323	\$38,678	1,335	\$40,377

Per Capita Income	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Benewah County	\$26,577	\$27,986	\$29,060	\$30,620	\$32,098	\$32,247	\$35,344	\$35,421	\$35,691	\$37,383
State of Idaho	\$31,186	\$31,957	\$33,515	\$35,188	\$36,200	\$37,896	\$39,857	\$40,670	\$42,094	\$43,901
United States	\$39,284	\$40,546	\$42,735	\$44,599	\$44,851	\$47,058	\$48,978	\$49,870	\$51,885	\$54,446

Information provided by Bureau Economic Analysis



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