



Boundary County

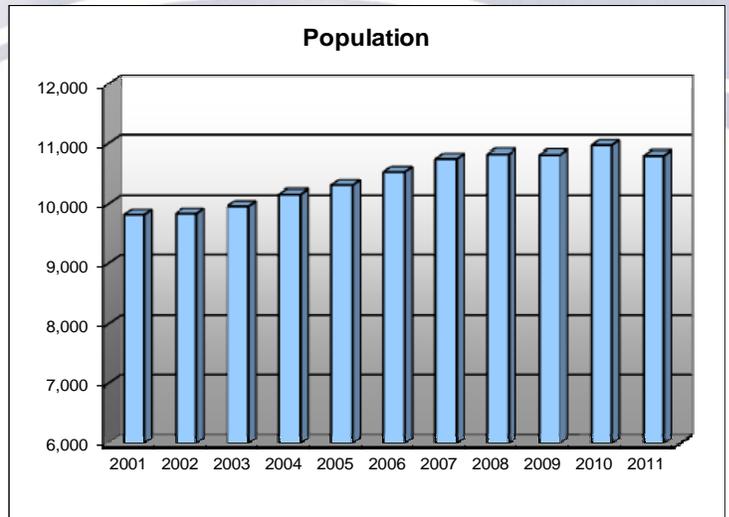
August 2012

Work Force 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 2000 to 2010, the county's population grew only 11.2 percent from 9,871 to 10,972 while Idaho's population grew 20 percent and the U.S. population grew 9.5 percent.

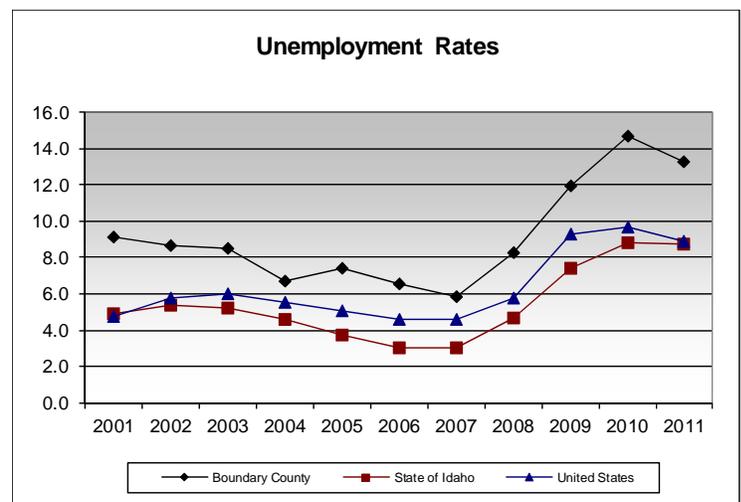
About 90 percent of the county is forested so most of the people live in the Kootenai River Valley where Bonners Ferry has a population of 2,543 and Moyie Springs has a population of 718.



Labor Force & Employment

Timber and agriculture are the county's mainstays. In 2003, one of its two largest mills closed, and as lumber prices fell to extremely low levels in the last two years, another 280 logging and mill jobs have disappeared. 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. Last year, Elk Mountain Farms cut back production from 1,700 acres to 300.

Boundary County diversified its economic base in the last two decades. In 1982, CEDU Educational Services Inc. founded Rocky Mountain Academy, a boarding school for troubled teens. By 2004, its payroll was over 330, making it the county's largest employer. But in March 2005, the company went into bankruptcy and closed its schools. Late that year, Idaho Educational

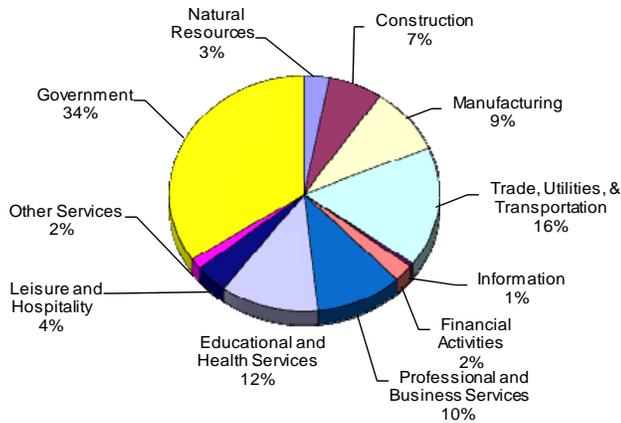


Labor Force	July 11	July 12
Civilian Labor Force	4,966	4,970
Total Employment	4,263	4,427
Unemployed	703	543
% of Labor Force Unemployed	14.2	10.9
State of Idaho % Unemployed	8.9	7.5
U.S. % Unemployed	9.1	8.3

Services took over the schools and currently employs about 150. In 1986, the Kootenai Tribe opened the Kootenai River Inn, giving the county's tourism sector new potential. In the 1990s, it added a casino. The county also benefits from post-2001 employment increases at its two ports of entry on the Canadian border. Bonners Ferry, named by tourists as Idaho's "friendliest city," has made major improvements to its downtown to attract more visitors.

Labor Force	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Civilian Labor Force	4,036	4,043	4,183	4,269	4,172	4,160	4,556	4,601	4,345	4,770	4,924
Unemployment	367	349	356	286	308	272	265	379	520	700	652
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.1	8.6	8.5	6.7	7.4	6.5	5.8	8.2	12.0	14.7	13.2
Employment	3,670	3,694	3,827	3,983	3,864	3,889	4,291	4,222	3,825	4,070	4,271

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2011



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 2010, the number of private-sector employers in Boundary County grew 13 percent from 374 to 421. 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
Millwrights	\$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 2001, 2010 & 2011	2001		2010		2011	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	3,321	\$23,321	3,238	\$29,694	3,328	\$30,639
Agriculture	370	\$24,334	281	\$32,850	252	\$35,386
Mining	*	*	*	*	*	*
Construction	149	\$19,440	197	\$29,510	207	\$38,071
Manufacturing	424	\$31,021	208	\$45,748	294	\$43,014
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	524	\$19,925	559	\$26,793	525	\$25,164
Information	24	\$18,201	16	\$13,615	16	\$14,361
Financial Activities	50	\$18,318	75	\$29,507	74	\$30,454
Professional and Business Services	124	\$30,673	278	\$24,013	332	\$21,745
Educational and Health Services	436	\$23,954	353	\$28,601	376	\$30,674
Leisure and Hospitality	148	\$7,587	120	\$11,645	125	\$11,359
Other Services	46	\$13,923	50	\$16,224	49	\$17,953
Government	1,026	\$23,965	1,101	\$31,990	1,079	\$33,186

Per Capita Income	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Boundary County	\$18,068	\$19,221	\$19,735	\$20,617	\$21,188	\$22,491	\$23,574	\$25,092	\$24,819	\$26,044
State of Idaho	\$25,665	\$26,042	\$26,452	\$28,412	\$29,544	\$31,493	\$32,607	\$33,110	\$30,997	\$31,897
United States	\$31,157	\$31,481	\$32,295	\$33,909	\$35,452	\$37,725	\$39,506	\$40,947	\$38,846	\$39,937

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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