



Northern Idaho

August 2012

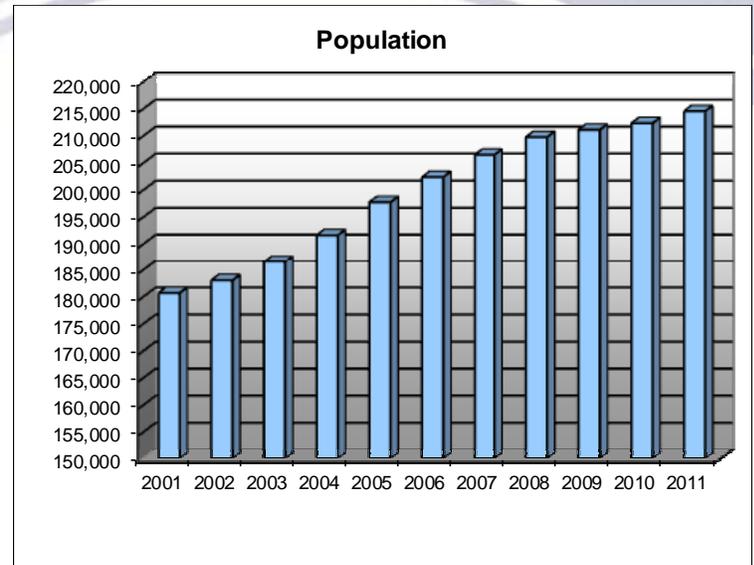
Work Force Trends

Population

With its stunning scenery, great fishing and hunting opportunities and pleasant lifestyle, the Panhandle has attracted thousands of new residents since the early 1970s. Over the last few decades, many retirees have chosen to move to the region, joined by many workers during periods of job growth.

While the U.S. population grew 9.5 percent between 2000 and 2010, Idaho's population grew twice as fast – 20 percent – but the Panhandle grew at a lesser rate – 19 percent to 212,393. Kootenai County's population grew 27 percent to 138,494; Bonner County 11 percent to 40,877, Boundary County 11 percent to 10,972 and Benewah County 1 percent to 9,285. Shoshone County's population fell 7 percent to 12,765.

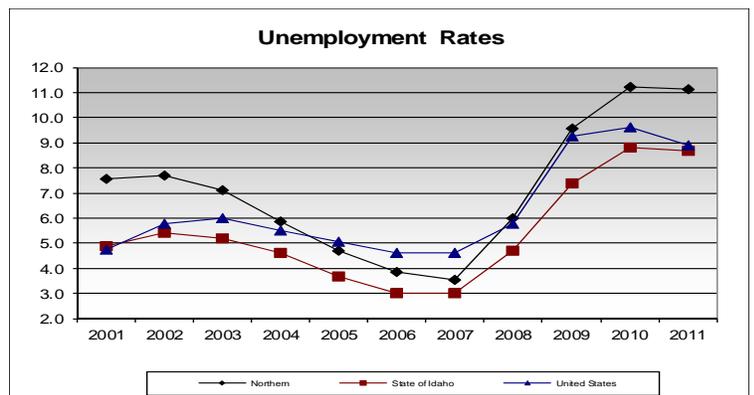
The largest cities are Coeur d'Alene at 44,137, Post Falls at 27,574, Hayden at 13,294, Sandpoint at 7,365, Rathdrum at 6,826, Bonners Ferry at 2,543, St. Maries at 2,402, Dalton Gardens at 2,335, Kellogg at 2,120 and Priest River at 1,751.



Labor Force & Employment

The Panhandle economy has traditionally relied on natural resources – forest products, mining and agriculture. Over the last 25 years, it has successfully diversified and grown. Today, a variety of manufacturing, health care and tourism are major drivers of the region's economy. In addition, five large call centers and several corporate headquarters provide hundreds of jobs. Rapid population growth also bolstered construction, retail, services and health care over the last 10 years.

After four years of remarkable job growth, the Panhandle's unemployment rate fell to a record low 2.8 percent in July 2007. Since then, U.S. housing starts have fallen to a 25-year low, resulting in the loss of nearly 1,400 logging and mill jobs. Many other sectors also experienced job losses in the recession. Unemployment peaked in the Panhandle at



14.5 percent in late 2009 and again in August 2010. The last time it was that high was March 1987.

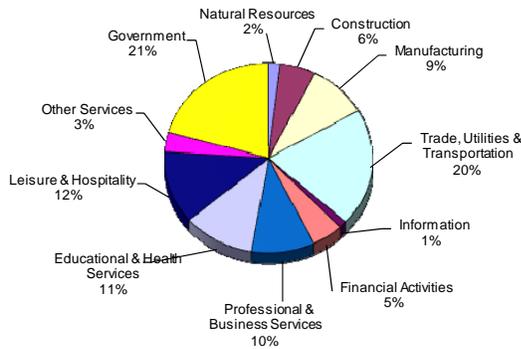
Despite the slowdown, most manufacturers have held their own. In the last 20 years, dozens of manufacturers have moved from California to the Panhandle for its low business costs and excellent business climate.

Tourism plays a major role in the Panhandle. Its largest employers are the Coeur d'Alene Resort, the casino hotels of the Kootenai and Coeur d'Alene tribes, Schweitzer and Silver Mountain ski resorts and Silverwood Theme Park.

Labor Force	July 11	July 12
Civilian Labor Force	107,322	107,984
Total Employment	94,265	97,275
Unemployed	13,058	10,709
Panhandle Idaho % Unemployed	12.2	9.9
State of Idaho % Unemployed	8.9	7.5
U.S. % Unemployed	9.1	8.3

Labor Force	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Civilian Labor Force	91,227	92,238	93,410	96,026	100,228	101,766	104,317	106,449	105,622	107,182	107,319
Unemployment	6,892	7,116	6,662	5,656	4,716	3,907	3,696	6,371	10,095	12,028	11,941
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.6	7.7	7.1	5.9	4.7	3.8	3.5	6.0	9.6	11.2	11.1
Employment	84,335	85,123	86,748	90,370	95,512	97,859	100,621	100,078	95,527	95,154	95,378

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2011



Covered Employment & Wages

A favorable business climate and growing customer base help Panhandle businesses prosper. The number of private-sector employers grew 9 percent from 7,334 in 2005 to 7,976 in 2008. Growth statewide was 10 percent. The Panhandle lost 680 employers to the recession from 2008 to 2011, or 8 percent.

Overall, northern Idaho's economy has greatly diversified over the past decade. A service-based economy is focusing more on health care, retail, manufacturing, and business support services. The shift in nature of the firms in northern Idaho has created a more stable employment and economic base.

In addition to private-sector employers, the region has 93 federal, 70 state and 242 local government agencies including five community hospitals. There are 12 employers through the Kootenai and Coeur d'Alene Indian tribes.

Major Employers

Bonner General Hospital	Kimball Office
Center Partners	US Silver
Coeur d'Alene Tribe	Kootenai Health
Coldwater Creek	Litehouse
Dave Smith Motors	North Idaho College
Esterline Advanced Input Systems	Wal-Mart
Hagadone Corporation	Silverwood Theme Park
Hecla Mining	U.S. Bank

Occupational Wages*

Starting Wage

Bookkeeper	\$9.00
Cashier	\$7.00
Child Care Worker	\$6.60
Computer Technician	\$9.00
Construction Laborer	\$9.50
Customer Service Rep	\$9.00
Dental Assitant	\$12.00
Janitor & Cleaner	\$10.00
Laborer & Material Handler	\$9.00
Office Clerk	\$9.00
Registered Nurse	\$20.00
Salesperson, Retail	\$7.00
Secretary	\$12.00
Teacher	\$15.00
Truck Drivers, Heavy	\$17.00

- Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at

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	66,805	\$24,573	75,454	\$31,779	75,297	\$32,640
Agriculture	1,486	\$27,055	948	\$33,946	909	\$36,549
Mining	715	\$43,627	807	\$85,086	962	\$82,203
Construction	4,639	\$27,705	4,710	\$33,405	4,269	\$34,239
Manufacturing	7,048	\$30,408	6,844	\$37,069	7,080	\$38,624
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	13,240	\$24,129	15,197	\$30,119	15,188	\$30,429
Information	1,401	\$30,430	929	\$42,464	918	\$44,625
Financial Activities	6,073	\$25,088	7,364	\$34,047	7,435	\$36,968
Professional and Business Services	2,615	\$30,565	3,723	\$39,065	3,612	\$39,488
Educational and Health Services	5,937	\$23,092	8,466	\$30,967	8,444	\$30,528
Leisure and Hospitality	8,126	\$10,801	9,330	\$14,475	9,401	\$14,667
Other Services	1,758	\$17,773	1,765	\$22,644	1,780	\$22,610
Government	13,768	\$27,376	15,371	\$36,136	15,300	\$37,206

Per Capita Income	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Panhandle Idaho	\$22,272	\$23,271	\$23,524	\$24,345	\$26,127	\$27,763	\$29,586	\$31,065	\$31,639	\$31,057
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