

AT A GLANCE: CLEARWATER COUNTY



Square Miles: 2,461
 County Seat: Orofino (3,124)
 Established in 1911

POPULATION

2010 Census
8,761
 2018 Estimate
8,758
 2025 / 2030 Projection
8,532 / 8,531

Females
45.0%
 Males
55.0%
 Minority
10.2%

Median Age
50.5

Age 65+
1,263
 Age 15-64
6,362
 Under 15
1,133

HOUSING

Median Home Value
\$134,400
 Homeowner Vacancy Rate
 2.1%
 Rental Vacancy Rate
 5.5%
 Occupied Housing Units
 3,706
 Assisted Living Facilities
 1

HIGHER EDUCATION

University of Idaho
 Lewis-Clark State College

LARGEST PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYERS

1. Clearwater Valley Hospital & Clinics
2. Nightdforce Optics
3. Brookside Landing
4. Nez Perce Tribe
5. Debco Construction

ECONOMIC

Median Household Income
 \$41,122
 Per Capita Income
 \$22,169
 County Property Tax
 \$1.35 per \$100 Value
 % of Families Below Poverty Level
 11.1%
 Food Insecurity Rate:

COUNTY
14.8%

REGION
14.7%

INDUSTRIES

Job Comparison	2013	2018	Change in Jobs	2018 Pay Per Job
Agriculture and Forestry	229	176	-53	\$51,109
Mining	37	19	-18	\$50,540
Construction	108	91	-17	\$40,002
Manufacturing	160	170	10	\$31,858
Trade, Utilities , and Transportation	436	412	-24	\$40,208
Financial Activities	62	65	3	\$27,324
Professional and Business Services	153	127	-26	\$52,230
Education and Healthcare	740	830	90	\$36,583
Leisure and Hospitality	199	195	-4	\$13,178
Information and Other Services	85	75	-10	\$29,638
Public Administration	551	457	-94	\$40,314

Sources
 US Census Bureau, 2013-2017 ACS
 Stats America: Measuring Distress
 Idaho Department of Labor
 National Association of Realtors
 Feeding America Map the Meal Gap 2018
 Google

Clearwater County has undergone wrenching changes as its most important economic cluster, forest products, contracted over the last 40 years. In 2016, the county lost its last major mill when Tri Pro Cedar near Orofino closed. In 1978 nearly 2,000 people worked in the county's forest cluster—including logging, mills, related trucking, and the U.S. Forest Service. Today, fewer than 150 do.

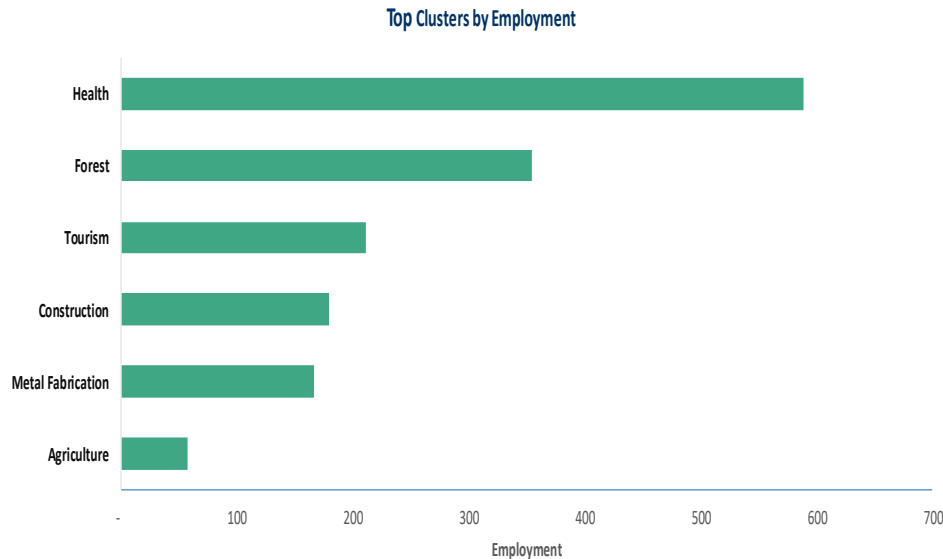
As logging fell and mills closed, the county's population fell from 10,266 in 1978 to 8,758 in 2018. That in turn led to a reduction in construction, retail, and local government.

Over the last 20 years, other manufacturers have expanded. An industrial park was built in Orofino, and Architectural Signs and Engraving Inc. was the first tenant. SJX Boats opened a plant there a few years later. It currently is building an extension that will allow it to expand. Nightforce Optics moved to Orofino 16 years ago and now employs more than 100 people making high-quality rifle scopes .

The federal and state governments play a major role Federal fish hatcheries, the Forest Service, a state prison, a state psychiatric hospital, and a National Guard academy employ more than 500 people.

Tourists come to enjoy hunting, fishing, and boating and to celebrate the county's interesting history. The tourism cluster employs 220 people.

Clearwater County Economic Development Council works with local businesses to help them expand, recruits businesses to the county, and develops solutions to problems that hamper development. For more information, go to: https://www.clearwatercounty.org/departments/economic_development/



Source: Idaho Department of Labor

DID YOU KNOW?

In September 1805, the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery was struggling to get over the Bitterroot Mountains before they starved. Captain William Clark and six men were sent ahead of the main corps to hunt for food and they came onto the Weippe Prairie, where they encountered the Nez Perce Tribe, who assisted the corps over the next few weeks.

The first gold rush in Idaho occurred in Pierce after gold was discovered in 1861.

You can see Idaho's first government building in Pierce. When the courthouse was built 1863, Pierce was the county seat of Shoshone County. The building was used until 1885 when the county seat was moved to Murray. Clearwater County was carved out of Shoshone County in 1911.

The 42-mile Gold Rush Historic Byway travels along Highway 12 from Greer to Headquarters. It offers inspiring views, visits to the historic sites in Weippe and Pierce, and access to outdoor recreation.

Elk River had the first all-electric sawmill. It was built in 1911.

Dworshak Dam is 717 feet high, making it the third tallest dam in the United States. Construction began in 1966 and was completed in 1973. The reservoir behind the concrete dam stretches 53 miles upstream.