

AT A GLANCE: LEWIS COUNTY



Square Miles: 479
 County Seat: Nezperce (469)
 Established in 1911

POPULATION

2010 Census	3,821	Females	49.2%
2018 Estimate	3,861	Males	50.8%
2025 / 2030 Projection	3,990 / 4,009	Minority	16.7%

Median Age
48.6

Age 65+
520

Age 15-64
2,622

Under 15
719

HOUSING

Median Home Value
\$120,000

Homeowner Vacancy Rate
 2.6%

Rental Vacancy Rate
 5.3%

Occupied Housing Units
 1,626

Assisted Living Facilities
 3

HIGHER EDUCATION

University of Idaho
 Lewis-Clark State College

LARGEST PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYERS

1. Kamiah Mill (Empire)
2. Nez Perce Tribe
3. Lakeside Residential Care
4. Hillco Inc.
5. Flying B Ranch

ECONOMIC

Median Household Income
 \$40,313

Per Capita Income
 \$23,285

County Property Tax
 \$1.36 per \$100 Value

% of Families Below Poverty Level
 8.8%

Food Insecurity Rate:

COUNTY
14.8%

REGION
14.7%

INDUSTRIES

Job Comparison	2013	2018	Change in Jobs	2018 Pay Per Job
Agriculture and Forestry	112	137	25	\$44,947
Mining	0	0	0	-
Construction	64	81	17	\$26,290
Manufacturing	291	223	-68	\$37,175
Trade, Utilities, and Transportation	337	337	0	\$30,881
Financial Activities	46	66	20	\$53,676
Professional and Business Services	32	74	42	\$37,777
Education and Healthcare	361	356	-5	\$24,050
Leisure and Hospitality	136	152	16	\$16,367
Information and Other Services	30	43	13	\$18,812
Public Administration	155	173	18	\$43,542

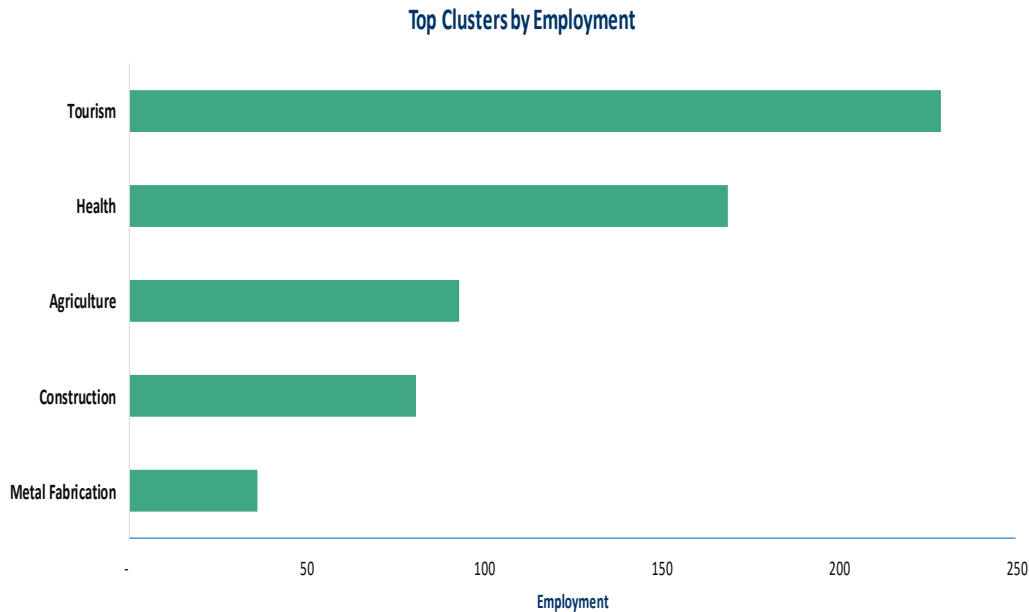
Sources
 US Census Bureau, 2013-2017 ACS
 Stats America: Measuring Distress
 Idaho Department of Labor
 National Association of Realtors
 Feeding America Map the Meal Gap 2018
 Google

Lewis County's economy remains heavily dependent on natural resources. About 300 people work at farms, grain elevators, and agricultural services. Over time the forest products industry has lost jobs, but it remains a major source of employment in several communities. In 2016, the Blue North Forest Products mill in Kamiah closed, putting 66 people out of work. Today, 160 people work at sawmills and another 80 work in the logging industry. Five years ago the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests opened its headquarters in Kamiah, and now employs about 50 people.

Manufacturers that do not make wood products employ about 60 people. The largest is Hillco Technologies, a Nezperce company making equipment to keep farm combines level. In 1993, there was no manufacturing activity outside the forest products cluster.

Employment in the tourism cluster doubled over the last 25 years to 240 jobs. Hunting, fishing, rafting, and camping draw tourists. The largest tourism attractions include the Nez Perce Tribe's casino in Kamiah, Flying B Ranch—a resort for hunters in Kamiah, and Winchester State Park.

The Ida-Lew Economic Development Council (www.ida-lew.org) is the nonprofit organization that recruits new businesses, help existing businesses expand, and otherwise strengthens and diversifies the economic base of Idaho and Lewis counties.



Source: Idaho Department of Labor

DID YOU KNOW?

Most of Lewis County lies in the Nez Perce Reservation. But only 9 percent of its population are American Indians.

Kamiah was the winter home of the Nez Perce Indians. They came to fish for steelhead, a staple in their diet, and to make "Kamia" ropes. Kamiah also is where the Nez Perce first bred the Appaloosa horse.

The Nez Perce Tribe's creation myth centers on the Heart of the Monster, a small hill outside Kamiah.

The Corps of Discovery, led by Lewis and Clark, camped near the Nez Perce in the Kamiah Valley for several weeks during the early spring of 1806 in waiting for the snow to melt before they could continue their journey east. Lewis County is named after Captain Meriwether Lewis, the expedition's leader.

In 1909, the Craig Mountain Lumber Company built a large sawmill, which employed 270 people working 10 hours a day, and a town called Winchester sprang up there. The city was named in 1900 during a meeting to establish a school district. While considering the possibilities, an individual looked at the stack of Winchester rifles at the door and suggested the name, which was approved.

After the Winchester sawmill closed in 1965, the state turned its mill pond into Winchester Lake State Park.