

# AT A GLANCE: NEZ PERCE COUNTY



Square Miles: 849  
 County Seat: Lewiston (32,817)  
 Established in 1864

## POPULATION

2010 Census  
**39,265**

2018 Estimate  
**40,408**

2025 / 2030 Projection  
**41,212 / 41,363**

Females  
**50.6%**

Males  
**49.4%**

Minority  
**13.1%**

Median Age  
**40.8**

Age 65+  
**3,697**

Age 15-64  
**29,549**

Under 15  
**7,162**

## HOUSING

Median Home Value  
**\$172,500**

Homeowner Vacancy Rate  
 1.3%

Rental Vacancy Rate  
 7.5%

Occupied Housing Units  
 16,308

Assisted Living Facilities  
 9

## HIGHER EDUCATION

Lewis-Clark State College  
 University of Idaho

## LARGEST PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYERS

1. Clearwater Paper
2. Vista Outdoor
3. Nez Perce Tribe
4. St. Joseph Regional Medical Center
5. Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories

## ECONOMIC

Median Household Income  
 \$51,804

Per Capita Income  
 \$26,799

County Property Tax  
 \$1.95 per \$100 Value

% of Families Below Poverty Level  
 9.4%

Food Insecurity Rate:

COUNTY  
**13.1%**

REGION  
**14.7%**

## INDUSTRIES

Job Comparison	2013	2018	Change in Jobs	2018 Pay Per Job
Agriculture and Forestry	212	176	-36	\$53,754
Mining	75	95	20	\$71,944
Construction	669	911	242	\$43,586
Manufacturing	3,532	3,645	113	\$58,133
Trade, Utilities, and Transportation	3,745	3,852	107	\$36,883
Financial Activities	1,328	1,217	-111	\$57,327
Professional and Business Services	919	1,016	97	\$35,344
Education and Healthcare	5,118	5,273	155	\$40,091
Leisure and Hospitality	2,128	2,194	66	\$18,309
Information and Other Services	928	971	43	\$30,435
Public Administration	1,641	1,648	7	\$46,919

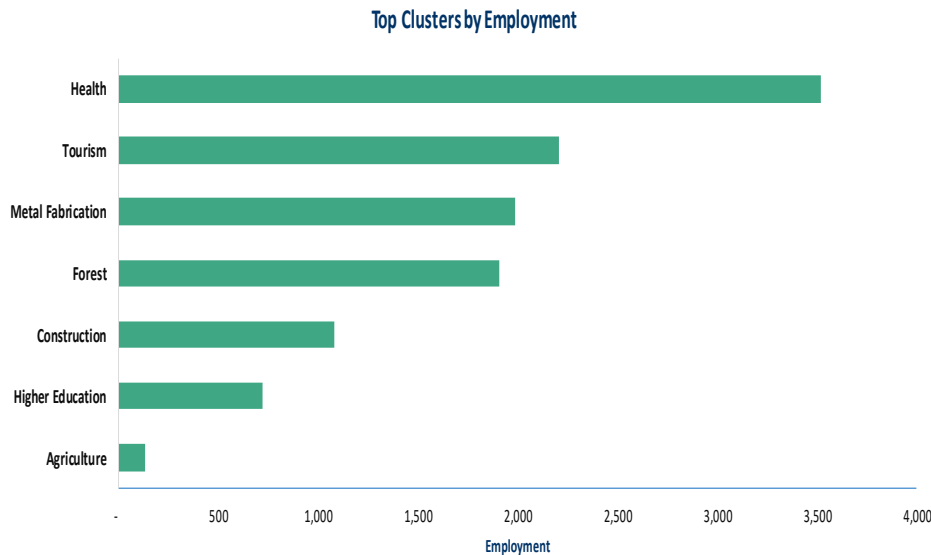
**Sources**  
 US Census Bureau, 2013-2019 ACS  
 Stats America: Measuring Distress  
 Idaho Department of Labor  
 National Association of Realtors  
 Feeding America Map the Meal Gap 2018  
 Google

Nez Perce County is a regional hub for retail, health care, media, government and transportation. Lewiston is Idaho's only seaport. Barges travel the Snake and Columbia rivers from there to the ocean.

Manufacturing jobs grew 20 percent from 3,060 in 2003 to 3,667 in 2018, while U.S. manufacturing employment fell 13 percent. The largest employer is Clearwater Paper, whose 1,200 employees make tissue and paperboard. The Vista Outdoors bullet plants employ 1,000 people. Ammo makers added more than 1,000 jobs after 2010, but then lost more than 500 since the 2016 presidential election. The opening and subsequent expansions of the Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories electric equipment plant created more than 500 jobs. A variety of metal fabricators, including ammunition manufacturers and aluminum jet boat builders, make up a sizeable portion of manufacturing employment.

The Nez Perce Tribe employs more than 600 people at its Lapwai headquarters and medical clinic and another 250 at its casino resort near Lewiston. St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center, the heart of Lewiston's xmedical community, employs more than 900. Lewis-Clark State College employs 700.

Valley Vision ([www.lewis-clarkvalley.org](http://www.lewis-clarkvalley.org)) serves both Nez Perce and Asotin counties, recruiting businesses, helping businesses grow, and tackling problems that hamper economic development. The Nez Perce Tribe also plays an important role in economic development in the county and neighboring counties. The Port of Lewiston promotes economic development through its vital role in transportation; its business incubator and industrial parks; and efforts to improve Internet access.



Sources:  
Idaho Department of Labor

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Lewiston area is known as the "Banana Belt", because of its mild winter climate that allows year-round golfing. Lewiston sits at the confluence of the Snake and Clearwater Rivers – which the Lewis and Clark expedition cut through with dugout canoes on its trek westward to the Pacific Ocean. Lewiston is named after the expedition's leader Meriwether Lewis. Its sister city just across the Snake River in Washington took the name Clarkston when it incorporated in 1902. The discovery of gold in Pierce led to the establishment of Lewiston in 1862. Since boats could travel from the Pacific Ocean to Lewiston via the Columbia and Snake rivers, it became a point of destination for miners and their supplies. The town's population soared, and for a brief period, it had a population larger than Seattle and Portland combined.

In 1863, Lewiston became the first capital of the newly created Idaho Territory. In 1866, the capital was moved to Boise over the strenuous objections of Idaho's northern residents.

Chinese were among the thousands of miners who came to Idaho for gold, discovered in the fall of 1860 in Pierce. Lewiston's