

# AT A GLANCE: REGION 2 - NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO



Clearwater, Idaho, Latah,  
Lewis, and Nez Perce Counties

## POPULATION

2010 Census

**105,358**

2018 Estimate

**109,674**

2025 / 2030 Projection

**110,721 / 111,035**

Females

**49.1%**

Males

**50.9%**

Minority

**11.9%**

Median Age

**38.6**

Age 65+

**10,485**

Age 15-64

**81,193**

Under 15

**17,996**

## HOUSING

Median Home Value

**\$178,604**

Homeowner Vacancy Rate

2.0%

Rental Vacancy Rate

4.9%

Occupied Housing Units

43,568

Assisted Living Facilities

19

## HIGHER EDUCATION

University of Idaho  
Lewis-Clark State College

## LARGEST PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYERS

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

## ECONOMIC

Median Household Income  
\$45,873

Per Capita Income  
\$24,469

County Property Tax  
\$1.53 per \$100 Value

% of Families Below Poverty Level  
9.3%

Food Insecurity Rate:

REGION II  
**14.7%**

IDAHO  
**13.2%**

## LARGEST INDUSTRIES

Job Comparison	2013	2018	Change in Jobs	2018 Pay Per Job
Agriculture and Forestry	1,023	977	-46	\$49,487
Mining	193	204	11	\$60,296
Construction	1,574	1,949	375	\$39,136
Manufacturing	4,746	4,856	110	\$54,122
Trade, Utilities, and Transportation	7,693	7,706	13	\$33,960
Financial Activities	2,004	1,882	-122	\$50,664
Professional and Business Services	2,011	2,222	211	\$39,521
Education and Healthcare	13,123	13,521	398	\$41,282
Leisure and Hospitality	4,566	4,849	283	\$16,100
Information and Other Services	1,600	1,670	70	\$29,655
Public Administration	3,585	3,499	-86	\$46,724

**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

## Workforce Trends

*Source: Idaho Department of Labor*

### Population

North Central Idaho’s population has grown more slowly than other region’s in Idaho. It grew 6 percent from 103,733 in 2008 to 109,674 in 2018, while the U.S. population grew 8 percent and Idaho’s population grew 14 percent. That reflects the region’s slow economic growth, which in turn was reinforced by the sluggish population growth.

After many young people left the region and many people who move in were retirees, the population skews older than the U.S.



The largest cities in 2018:

Lewiston	32,817
Moscow	25,766
Grangeville	3,200
Orofino	3,124
Kamiah	1,265
Lapwai	1,132
Genesee	971
Cottonwood	931

### Labor Force & Employment

Traditionally, North Central Idaho’s economy relied on natural resources—farming, ranching, logging, lumber mills, and the Forest Service. Over the last 35 years, technology and reduced timber availability cut jobs in agriculture, logging, and mills. In the same period, jet boat builders, ammunition makers, and other metal fabricators created hundreds of manufacturing jobs.

Growth of enrollment at the University of Idaho and Lewis-Clark State College boosted retail and service jobs.

Tourism grew, increasing jobs at motels, restaurants, and recreational services.

The Nez Perce Tribe expanded its employment at headquarters, opened a casino resort, and became a major player in environmental remediation.

The state government developed prisons in Orofino and Grangeville and opened a National Guard academy in Pierce, while maintaining the mental hospital in Orofino.

With the rapid growth in the senior population, the region’s health care sector has been the fastest-growing sector.

The region’s unemployment rate in the last three years fell to record lows—around 3.0 percent. That’s made it challenging for employers to recruit and keep workers, and intensified interest in career-technical training and skill development.

### Employers & Wages

The region still has not fully recovered from the severe recession that began at the end of 2007. From 2008 to 2018, the number of private-sector employers in North Central Idaho fell 2 percent from 3,198 to 3,149. Despite that decline, it increased 11 percent over the last 25 years—from 2,847 in 1993. About 73 percent of the region’s employment in the private sector, which paid an average wage of \$37,000 in 2018.



Of the 3,149 private employers, 1,821 employed fewer than five people; 987 employed 5 to 19, 253 employed 20 to 49, and 88 employed 50 or more.

In addition, the region has 74 federal, 61 state, and 164 local government employers in 2009. Their average pay was \$44,900. The largest government employers are the University of Idaho, Nez Perce Tribe, Lewis-Clark State College, and Forest Service.

Wages are rising in the region. The average pay per job grew 7 percent from \$36,400 in 2008 to \$39,100 in 2018, when adjusted for inflation and expressed in 2018 dollars.