BONNEVILLE COUNTY DEMOGRAPHIC REPORT

Prepared by Clearwater Financial

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Introduction

Bonneville County (County) is located in eastern Idaho and includes the cities of Idaho Falls, Ammon, Iona, Ucon, Irwin, and Swan Valley, as well as the Bonneville County portion of Ririe. Idaho Falls serves as the County seat and the region's primary population and employment center. Lincoln and other unincorporated communities are located throughout the agricultural areas of the Snake River Plain and the rural lands extending east toward Swan Valley.

Encompassing approximately 1,866 square miles, the County contains a mix of urban development, agricultural lands, rural communities, and state and federally managed lands. This varied geography influences where residents live, how far they travel, and how they access County facilities and services.

This report examines changes in population, age, housing, educational attainment, income, and workforce characteristics and presents long-range population forecasts.

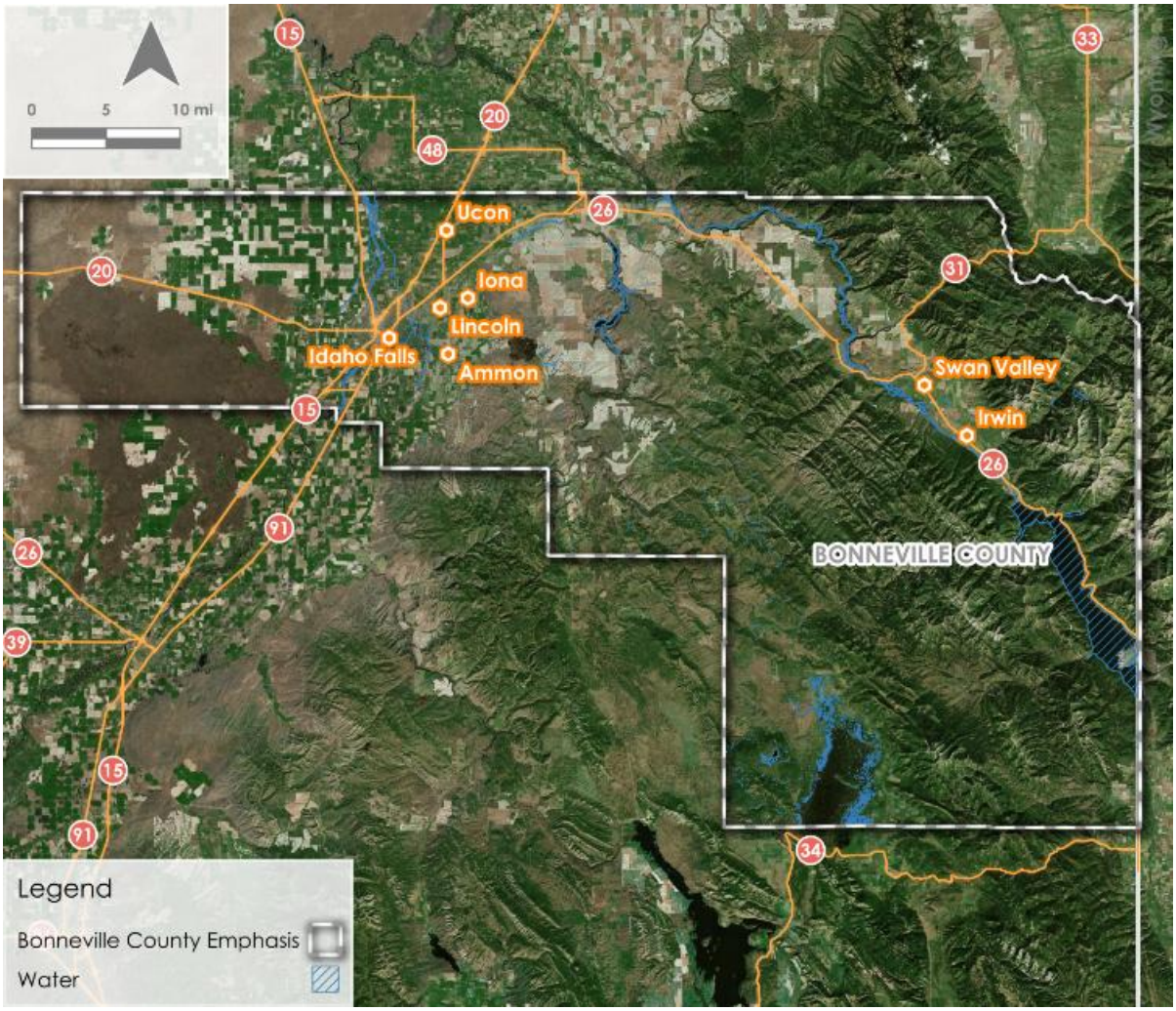
About the Data

This report uses information from the U.S. Census Bureau's Census and American Community Survey (ACS), along with population forecasts developed for the County's planning process. Census figures represent population counts collected every ten years. ACS figures are estimates based on survey data collected over a specified period and are subject to sampling variability.

Unless otherwise noted, demographic comparisons use ACS five-year estimates. The 2014, 2019, and 2024 estimates represent nonoverlapping periods, providing a consistent basis for evaluating changes over time. ACS one-year estimates are identified separately where used and may differ because they cover a shorter period and generally have larger margins of error.

The population forecasts present a range of potential growth conditions rather than predict an exact future population. Actual results will be influenced by housing development, employment, land availability, infrastructure capacity, migration, and other factors. The County should periodically compare observed conditions with the forecasts and update its planning assumptions as needed.

Figure 1: Aerial Map of Bonneville County



Note: Geographic Information System mapping data from TIGER data. Aerial imagery from Microsoft. State and Federal Lands from the National Map.

Key Demographics

- **129,523 residents** based on the 2024 ACS five-year estimate
- **18.9% population growth** between the 2010 and 2020 Census counts
- **181,547 residents by 2040** under the mid-range population forecast, approximately 40% above the 2024 estimate
- **33.6 years** estimated median age in 2024
- **49% increase** in residents aged 65 and older between 2014 and 2024
- **44,184 households** in 2024, an increase of approximately 21% since 2014
- **2.90 persons per household** in 2024
- **Approximately 12,000 more employed residents** between 2014 and 2024

Population

Historical

Bonneville County's population more than doubled between 1970 and 2020, increasing from 52,457 to 123,964 residents. Growth was especially strong during the 1970s and 2000s. The largest numerical increase occurred between 2000 and 2010, when the County added 21,712 residents.

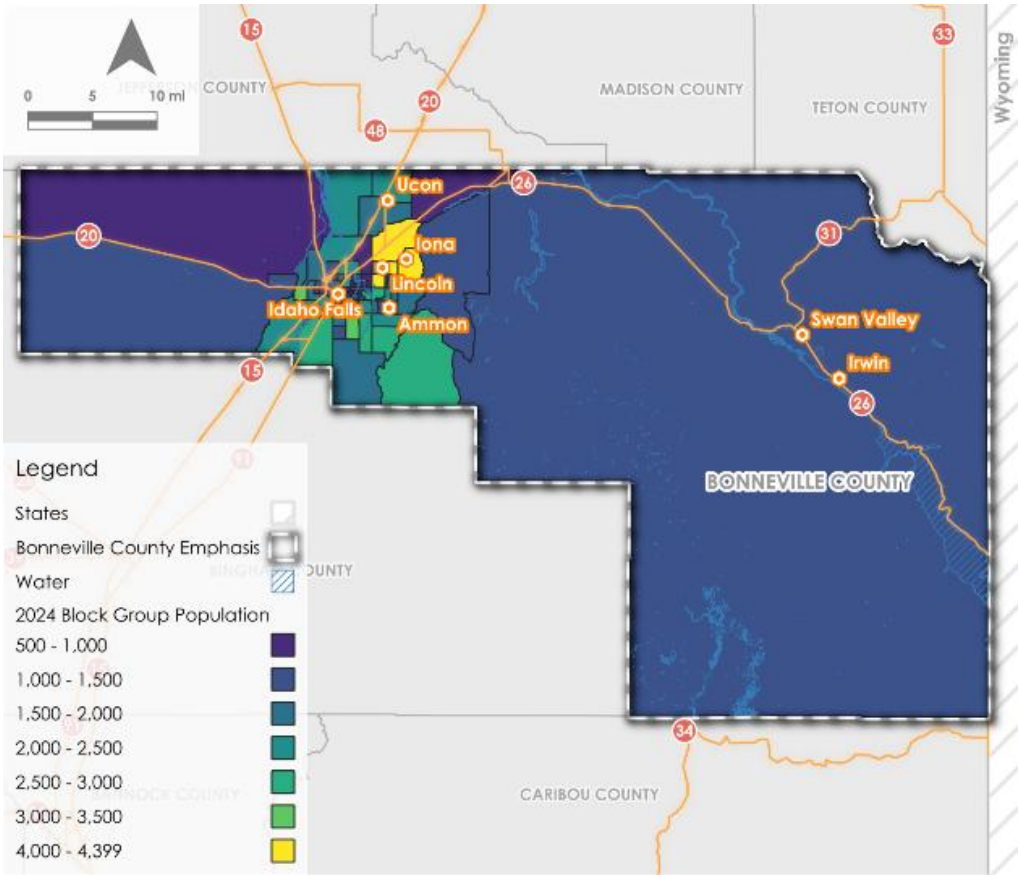
Between the 2010 and 2020 Census, Bonneville County added another 19,730 residents, an increase of 18.9%.

The 2024 ACS five-year estimate places the County's population at 129,523. This figure serves as the report's baseline for describing current demographic conditions and, together with the historical Census figures, provides context for evaluating future growth.

Population Distribution

The County's population is concentrated primarily in and around Idaho Falls, Ammon, Iona, Ucon, and the County's other incorporated communities. Much of the County's geographic area remains rural or sparsely populated. As a result, residents' proximity to County facilities and services varies considerably.

Figure 2: Estimated Population Distribution by Census Block Group, 2024



Forecast

The population forecasts include low-, mid-, and high-growth scenarios through 2060. The three scenarios follow the same trajectory through 2030. The 2030 forecast applies the County's 2014–2024 ACS population growth rate of approximately 21.4% to the 2020 Census population. Beginning in 2030, the scenarios diverge to illustrate different potential rates of long-term growth.

The mid-range forecast applies an average annual growth rate of approximately 1.89% from 2030 through 2060, based on the County's historical growth from 1970 through 2020. The low- and high-growth forecasts apply rates approximately 0.73 percentage points below and above the mid-range rate.

Under the mid-range scenario, Bonneville County would reach 181,547 residents by 2040 and 264,260 by 2060. The 2040 figure represents approximately 52,000 additional residents compared with the 2024 ACS estimate, an increase of approximately 40%.

Substantial growth is anticipated under each scenario. By 2040, the County's population ranges from approximately 169,000 under the low scenario to 195,000 under the high scenario. By 2060, that range widens to approximately 213,000 to 327,400 residents.

Although the timing and pace may vary, each scenario points to a considerably larger community. Comparing actual conditions with these scenarios over time will help the County determine which growth path it is following and update its planning assumptions accordingly.

Figure 3: Bonneville County Historical and Forecast Population, 1980–2060

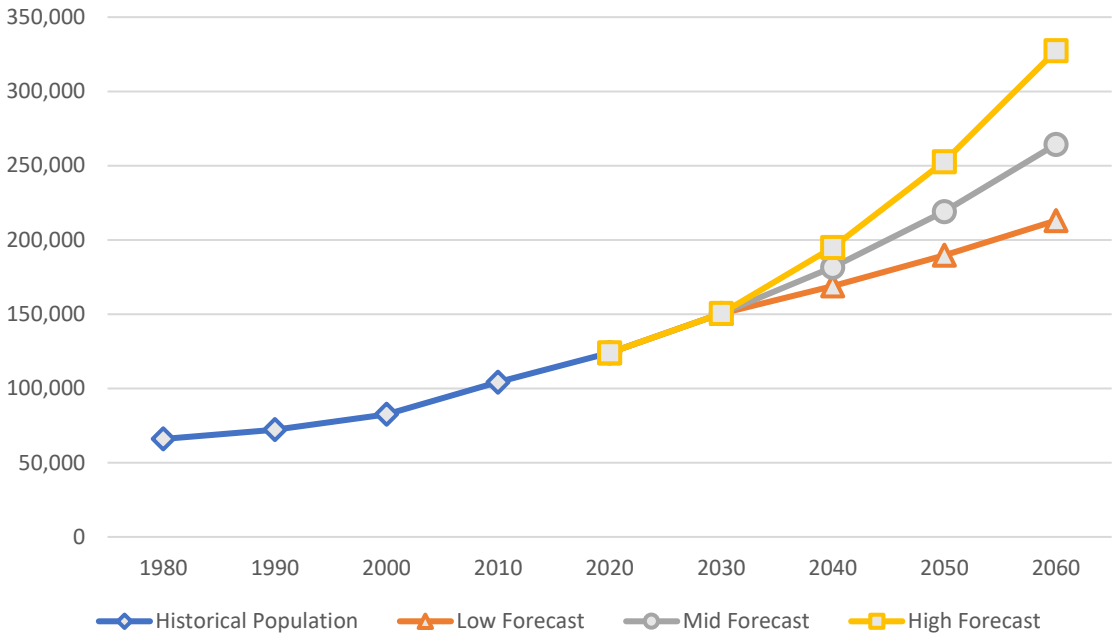


Table 1: Bonneville County Population Forecasts, 2020–2060

Year	Low Forecast	Mid Forecast	High Forecast
2020	123,964	123,964	123,964
2030	150,476	150,476	150,476
2040	168,955	181,547	194,977
2050	189,703	219,033	252,639
2060	212,999	264,260	327,354

Note: The scenarios use the same forecast through 2030 and diverge thereafter. From 2030 through 2060, the low-, mid-range, and high-growth scenarios apply average annual growth rates of approximately 1.16%, 1.89%, and 2.62%, respectively.

Sex

Bonneville County's population remains nearly evenly divided between males and females. According to the 2024 ACS five-year estimate, males represented 50.2% of the population and females represented 49.8%. This distribution has changed little since 2014.

Table 2: Bonneville County Population by Sex, 2014–2024

Population	2014	2019	2024	Change (14 to 24)	Change % (14 to 24)
Total Population	106,703	114,392	129,523	22,820	21.4%
Total Male Population	52,951	57,322	64,972	12,021	22.7%
Total Female Population	53,752	57,070	64,551	10,799	20.1%
% Male	49.6%	50.1%	50.2%	0.5 PP	-
% Female	50.4%	49.9%	49.8%	-0.5 PP	-

Age

Bonneville County continues to have a relatively young population. The estimated median age was 33.6 years in 2024, up modestly from 32.3 in 2014. Nearly 30% of County residents were under age 18, and ages 10 to 19 represented the largest age group.

At the same time, the County's older population is growing quickly. Residents aged 65 and older increased from 12,036 in 2014 to 17,950 in 2024, a gain of 49.1%. This group represented 13.9% of the population in 2024, compared with 11.3% a decade earlier.

Together, these figures show that Bonneville County serves a large population of children and families while the number of older residents is increasing.

This report does not forecast population by age group. The County should therefore monitor changes in these groups over time rather than assume that current age cohorts will translate directly into a particular level or type of future service demand.

Housing

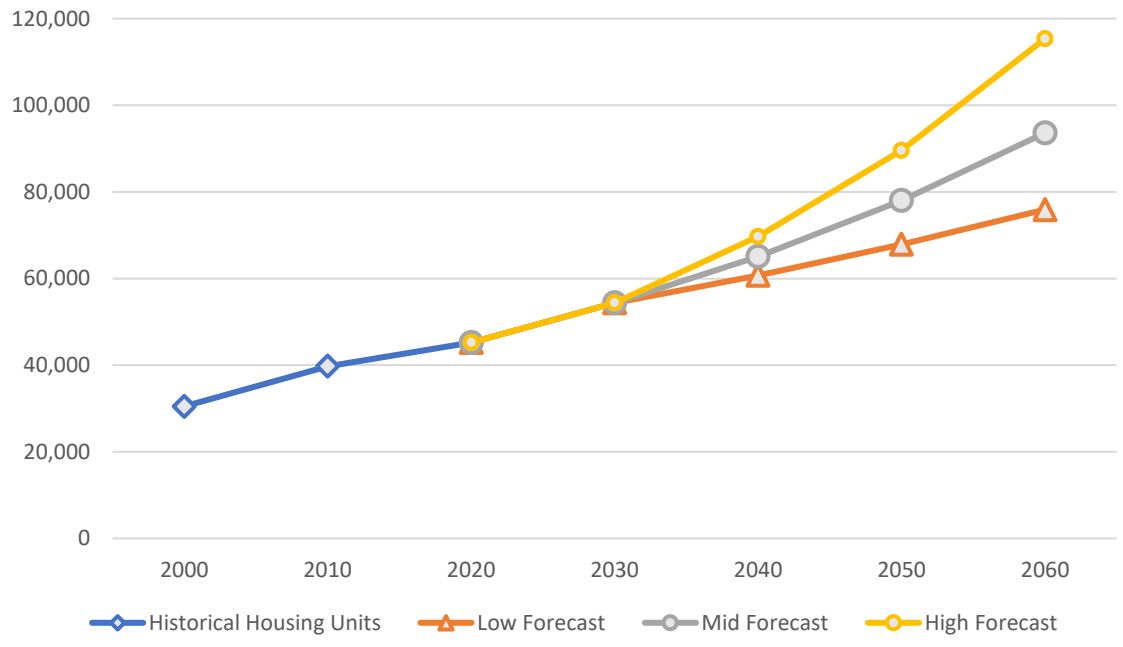
ACS estimates show that Bonneville County's total housing supply increased from 40,214 units in 2014 to 47,489 units in 2024, an addition of 7,275 units, or 18.1%. During the same period, occupied housing units, which correspond to the number of households, increased from 36,402 to 44,184, an addition of 7,782 households, or 21.4%.

Vacant units declined from 3,812 in 2014 to 3,305 in 2024. As a share of the total housing supply, the estimated vacancy rate decreased from approximately 9.5% to 7.0%. Because these are ACS estimates, they are best understood as evidence of the overall ten-year pattern rather than precise measures of annual housing-market conditions.

Owner-occupied households continued to represent most of the County's occupied housing. In 2024, 71.7% of households were owner occupied and 28.3% were renter occupied. Between 2014 and 2024, owner-occupied households increased from 26,641 to 31,697, while renter-occupied households increased from 9,761 to 12,487. Although both categories grew, the owner-occupied share decreased from 73.2% to 71.7%, while the renter-occupied share increased from 26.8% to 28.3%.

Average household size changed little overall, remaining near 2.9 persons. Average owner-occupied household size increased from 3.00 to 3.08 persons, while average renter-occupied household size decreased from 2.60 to 2.44 persons.

Figure 4: Bonneville County Historical and Forecast Housing Units, 2000–2060



Housing forecasts were calculated using the County's population forecasts and the 2024 ACS average household size of 2.90 persons. For each forecast period, the projected population increase was divided by 2.90 to estimate the additional housing units needed, and that amount was added to the County's 2020 Census housing total of 45,214 units. This planning-level calculation assumes average household size remains constant and does not separately project changes in vacancy, group-quarter population, seasonal housing, short-term rentals, or housing-unit losses.

Table 3: Bonneville County Housing Unit Forecasts, 2020–2060

Year	Low Change	Low Forecast	Mid Change	Mid Forecast	High Change	High Forecast
2020	-	45,214	-	45,214	-	45,214
2030	9,142	54,356	9,142	54,356	9,142	54,356
2040	6,372	60,728	10,714	65,070	15,345	69,701
2050	7,154	67,882	12,926	77,996	19,884	89,585
2060	8,033	75,915	15,596	93,592	25,763	115,348

Education

Bonneville County's adult population has become more highly educated over the past decade. Between 2014 and 2024, the number of residents age 25 and older grew by approximately 24.4%, while the number with a bachelor's degree or higher grew by approximately 56.0%.

In 2024, 26,492 residents held a bachelor's degree or higher. They represented 33.1% of County residents age 25 and older, up from 26.4% in 2014, compared with Idaho's 2024 ACS five-year estimate of 31.8%. The number of residents with an associate degree also increased, reaching 9,037 in 2024.

These figures describe educational attainment among County residents age 25 and older. They do not identify residents' fields of study, occupations, employers, or preferred ways of interacting with the County. Connections between educational attainment and particular industries or service-delivery practices would require additional data.

Figure 5: Percentage Change in Bonneville County Residents Age 25 and Older by Educational Attainment, 2014–2024

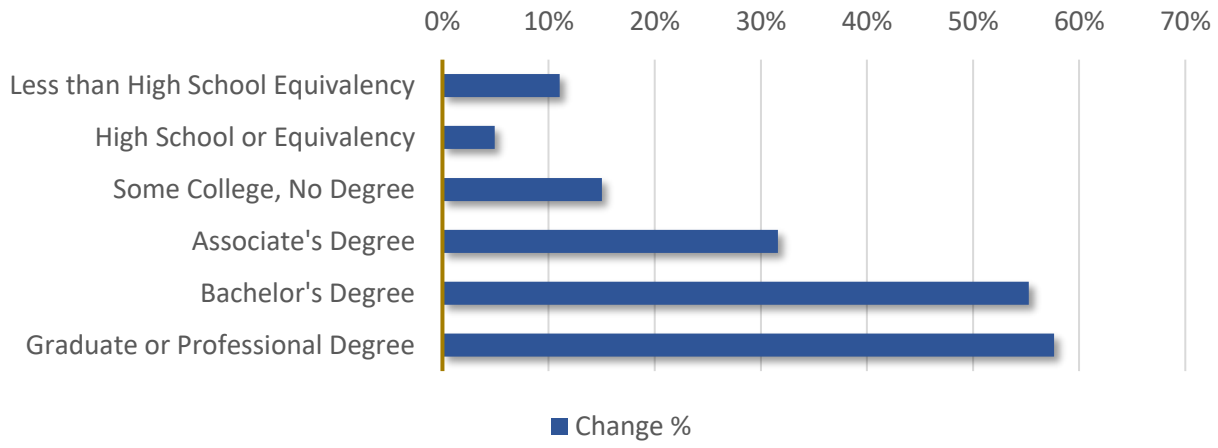
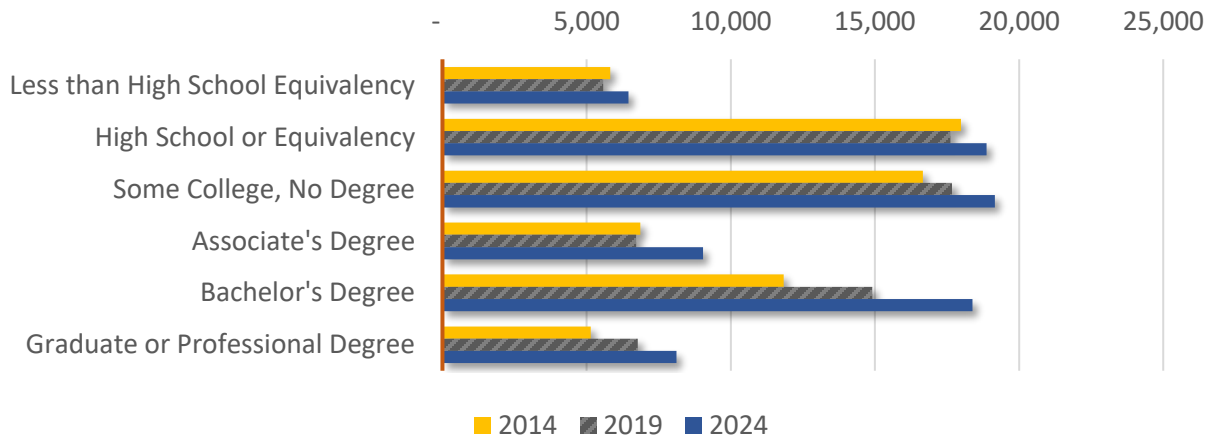


Figure 6: Bonneville County Residents Age 25 and Older by Educational Attainment, 2014–2024



Income

Household incomes in Bonneville County increased between 2014 and 2024. The estimated median household income was $79,068 in 2024, compared with $50,897 in 2014 and Idaho's 2024 ACS five-year estimate of $77,800.

Household incomes were distributed across a broad range in 2024. Approximately 16,619 households, or 37.6% of all households, reported incomes of $100,000 or more. Another 12,334 households, or 27.9%, reported incomes below $50,000, while approximately 34.5% reported incomes between $50,000 and $99,999. These categories summarize the ACS household-income distribution; they are not affordability thresholds and do not account for household size, housing costs, or other expenses.

These figures show that Bonneville County serves households across a wide range of income levels. Although the estimated median and the number of households in higher income categories increased, these data do not show how income changes were distributed among individual households or how changes in living costs affected household purchasing power.

Income data provide context for the financial circumstances of households served by the County and should be considered alongside housing and poverty data. Household income alone does not identify a resident's transportation options, access to technology, or ability to pay fees associated with particular services.

Note: Income estimates from different ACS releases are expressed in the dollars applicable to each release. Changes over time reflect both income growth and inflation and do not represent an equivalent change in purchasing power.

Figure 7: Percentage Change in Bonneville County Households by Income Range, 2014–2024

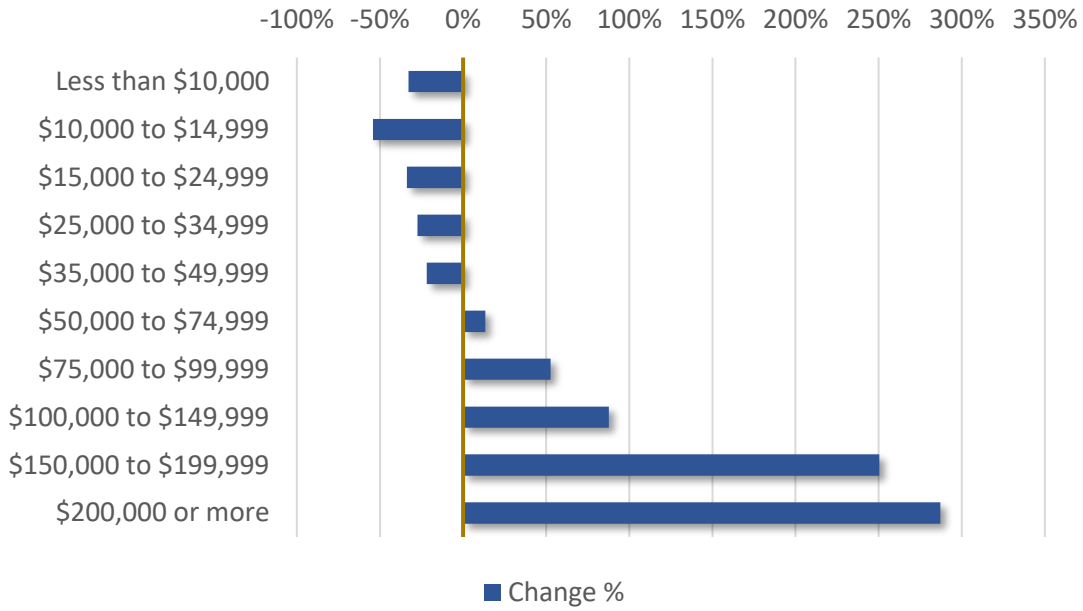


Table 4: Bonneville County Households by Income Range, 2014–2024

Household Income	2014	2019	2024	Change # (14 to 24)	Change % (14 to 24)
Less than $10,000	1,799	1,770	1,210	(589)	-32.7%
$10,000 to $14,999	2,153	1,505	987	(1,166)	-54.2%
$15,000 to $24,999	3,786	3,837	2,506	(1,280)	-33.8%
$25,000 to $34,999	4,270	3,632	3,095	(1,175)	-27.5%
$35,000 to $49,999	5,803	5,840	4,536	(1,267)	-21.8%
$50,000 to $74,999	7,362	7,754	8,345	983	13.4%
$75,000 to $99,999	4,510	5,234	6,886	2,376	52.7%
$100,000 to $149,999	4,498	6,074	8,445	3,947	87.8%
$150,000 to $199,999	1,151	2,121	4,032	2,881	250.3%
$200,000 or more	1,070	2,001	4,142	3,072	287.1%
Median income (dollars)	50,897	60,615	79,068	28,171	55.3%

Poverty

The estimated share of Bonneville County residents living below the poverty threshold declined between 2014 and 2024. In 2014, approximately 13,361 residents, or 12.7% of the population for whom poverty status was determined, lived below the poverty threshold. By 2024, the estimated number had declined to 12,487 residents, or 9.8%.

Over the full ten-year period, both the estimated number and share of residents living below the poverty threshold declined. The shorter-term comparison is different: between 2019 and 2024, the estimated number increased from 11,856 to 12,487, while the poverty rate decreased from 10.5% to 9.8%. During the same period, the population for whom poverty status was determined increased from approximately 113,110 to 127,853. The number below the threshold therefore increased, but not as quickly as the population included in the poverty estimate.

The 2024 estimate represents approximately one in ten County residents for whom poverty status was determined. This provides important context for understanding the range of financial circumstances among residents served by the County. Poverty status alone, however, does not identify an individual resident's transportation options, internet access, or ability to pay fees.

Poverty estimates compare pretax money income with thresholds established by the U.S. Census Bureau. The thresholds vary by family size and composition and are updated annually for inflation, but they do not vary geographically. The official poverty measure also does not fully account for noncash benefits, taxes, housing costs, or other expenses that may affect a household's financial circumstances.

Table 5: Bonneville County Residents by Poverty Status, 2014–2024

Persons Living in Poverty	2014	2019	2024	Change # (14 to 24)	Change % (14 to 24)
Total Persons NOT in Poverty	92,203	101,254	115,366	23,163	25.1%
Total Persons in Poverty	13,361	11,856	12,487	(874)	-6.5%
Poverty Rate	12.7%	10.5%	9.8%	-2.9 PP	-22.8%

Table 6: Bonneville County Residents Age 25 and Older Living in Poverty by Educational Attainment, 2014–2024

Persons Living in Poverty	2014	2019	2024	Change # (14 to 24)	Change % (14 to 24)
All educational attainment levels	6,234	5,628	6,002	(232)	-3.7%
Less than High School	874	890	979	105	12.0%
High school graduate	2,407	1,729	2,128	(279)	-11.6%
Some college or associate degree	2,143	2,108	2,078	(65)	-3.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher	810	901	817	7	0.9%

Workforce Characteristics

Bonneville County's working-age population and labor force expanded between 2014 and 2024. The population age 16 and older increased by 18,397 residents, while the number of residents participating in the labor force increased from 49,955 to 61,924. This represents an increase of approximately 12,000 residents, or 24%.

The number of employed civilians increased from 46,872 to 58,859, an increase of 25.6%. The number of residents working full time increased by 9,913, or 32.0%, during the same period.

Bonneville County residents work across a range of industries. Educational services, health care, and social assistance accounted for the largest number of employed residents in 2024, with approximately 13,663 workers. This group also experienced the largest numerical increase between 2014 and 2024, adding approximately 3,775 workers.

Other industries with substantial growth included construction, which added approximately 1,988 workers; arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services, which added approximately 1,747; and professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste-management services, which added approximately 1,382. Construction experienced the largest percentage increase among the major industry groups, growing by approximately 57%.

Several large public and private employers provide additional context for the County's workforce and economy. The Idaho Department of Labor identifies area school districts, health care providers, the City of Idaho Falls, Bonneville County, College of Eastern Idaho, and several private businesses among the County's top employers. Idaho National Laboratory also has a substantial regional presence and reported a workforce of more than 6,200 in fiscal year 2025. These institutions contribute to employment in education, health care, public administration, science, engineering, professional services, and related fields.

The estimated unemployment rate declined from 6.1% in 2014 to 4.5% in 2024, although it remained above the 2019 estimate of 3.4%. Because these figures are ACS five-year estimates, they reflect longer-term labor-force conditions rather than unemployment at a particular point in time.

Overall, ACS estimates show that Bonneville County's resident workforce grew between 2014 and 2024, with employment increasing in several major industry groups. These figures describe the industries in which County residents work; they do not measure the number of jobs located within the County, commuting patterns, or employment at individual organizations.

Figure 8: Bonneville County Residents Employed by Industry, 2014–2024

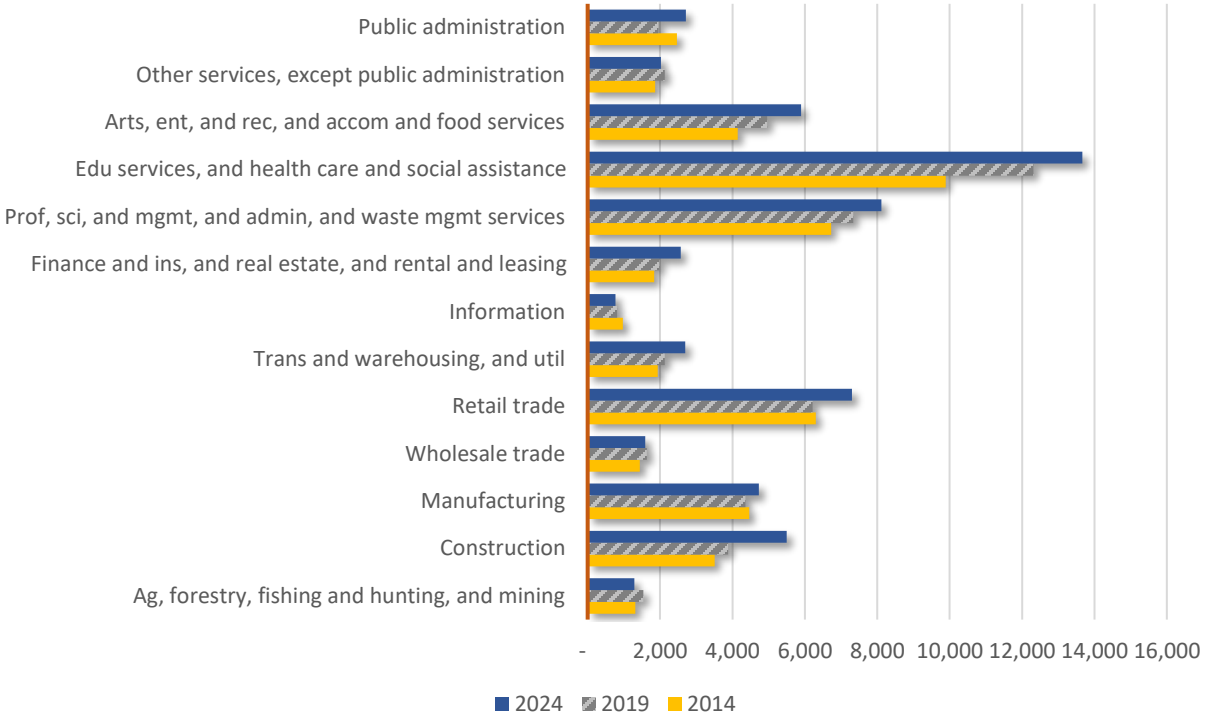
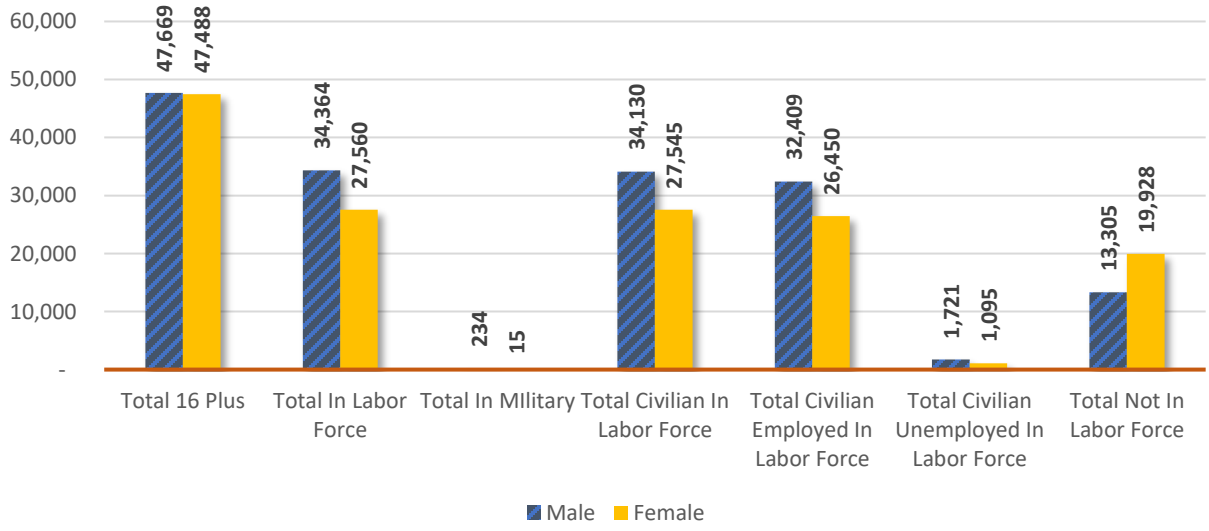


Figure 9: Bonneville County Population Age 16 and Older by Labor Force Status and Sex, 2024



Conclusion

The County's population forecasts provide a foundation for evaluating how demand for County facilities and services may change over time. They also provide a common planning baseline that can be considered alongside department operations, staffing, workloads, facility conditions, and financial capacity.

Changes in the County's age and household composition may also influence how residents access and use County services. The growing number of older residents, continued presence of children and families, and range of household incomes should be considered as the County evaluates future service needs.

The location of future population and housing growth will be important when evaluating access to County services. Demographic data alone do not determine whether services should remain centralized or be provided through additional locations or other service-delivery methods, but they provide context for those decisions.

Actual population growth should be monitored against the planning forecasts over time. Household and housing growth should also be tracked through updated ACS estimates, Census counts, and local development information. This will allow the County to adjust its assumptions as conditions change and use current information in future facility and financial planning.

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Attachments

Figure 10: Bonneville County Map of Federal and State Lands

