

I. WASHINGTON COUNTY – AN OVERVIEW

Washington County is located on the western most portion of Idaho and is bordered by the Snake River. Washington County's economy is primarily agricultural based with farm crops, livestock endeavors and food processing with a few manufacturing companies included such as modular home manufacturing and wood based products. Weiser is the southernmost city and the largest of the cities in Washington County. It sits at the confluence of the Weiser River and the Snake River, which marks the border with Oregon.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT WASHINGTON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A. Communities Served by Washington County Economic Development

Washington County Economic Development exists for the purpose of retaining and expanding existing businesses within Washington County; assisting new businesses with their location and expansion plans; and seeking and pursuing any opportunities for improving the local economy. Washington County consists of Weiser, Midvale and Cambridge. However for the purpose of this report, information regarding the surrounding areas such as Payette County and Malheur County are included due to their close proximity (less than 20 mile radius) to Washington County. In addition, population of other nearby counties and distance from Washington County is included to establish possible labor markets.

REGIONAL POPULATION INFORMATION			
COUNTY	COMMUNITY	POPULATION	DISTANCE FROM WEISER
Washington County Total: 10,202	Weiser	5,415	---
	Midvale	186	21 miles
	Cambridge	355	29 miles
Payette County Total 22,595	Payette	7,418	13 miles
	Fruitland	4,181	20 miles
	New Plymouth	1,374	26 miles
Malheur County Total 31,725	Ontario	11,325	20 miles
	Vale	2,050	33 miles
	Nyssa	3,220	31 miles
POPULATIONS OF OTHER NEARBY COUNTIES			
	Ada County, Idaho	359,035	65 miles
	Adams County, Idaho	3,485	51 miles
	Baker County, Oregon	16,470	25 miles
	Canyon County, Idaho	173,302	49 miles
	Gem County, Idaho	16,558	45 miles
PROJECTED POPULATION			
	2010	2015	2020
Washington County	10,913	11,873	12,917
Payette County	24,171	26,296	28,609
Malheur County	33,826	35,552	37,312
<i>Statistics compiled from U. S. Census Data and Idaho Department of Commerce demographic information. Growth rate projections were calculated on a growth rate of 1.7% annually.</i>			

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III. EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

A. Wages

POSITION	STARTING HOURLY WAGE	AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE
Customer Service	\$7.85	\$10.80
Retail Salesperson	\$6.26	\$8.58
Data Entry	\$8.90	\$11.92
Telemarketer	\$7.56	\$9.96

Statistics as of 2007 compiled from Idaho Department of Commerce demographic information from www.lmi.idaho.gov.

B. Underemployment Study

Underemployment in Washington County is at a rate of 7.5% as of December 2008. Please visit the following website for review: <http://www.lmi.idaho.gov/Underemployment/tabid/773/Default.aspx>

IV. INDUSTRY SECTOR AND COMPETITORS

A. Local Call Centers

Washington County currently has no call centers located within its boundaries. However, there is one in the adjoining county, Payette County. There are also no call centers in Malheur County, Oregon. Attached to this report you will find information regarding call centers in the Boise / Nampa Metro Area.

NAME OF COMPANY	# OF SEATS	INBOUND / OUTBOUND	FUNCTION OF CALL CENTER	BENEFITS (Y/N)	UNION (Y/N)
Progressive Referrals, Payette	3	Outbound	Insurance leads to agents	N	N

B. Major Employers

WASHINGTON COUNTY				
CITY	COMPANY	TYPE	EMPLOYEES	UNION
Weiser	Appleton Produce	Onion Packing	75 – 110*	N
Weiser	Champion Home Builders	Manufacturing	135	N
Weiser	Fry Foods	Food Processing	200	N
PAYETTE COUNTY				
CITY	COMPANY	TYPE	EMPLOYEES	UNION
Payette	Seneca	Food Processing	100	Unknown
Fruitland	Dickinson Frozen Food	Frozen Food Products	250	Unknown
Fruitland	Woodgrain Millwork	Wood Products	225	Unknown
New Plymouth	Internet Truckstop	Trucking	110	Unknown
<i>Payette County is located adjacent to Washington County, however its nearest city, Payette, is located approximately 13 miles from Weiser, Washington County</i>				

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MALHEUR COUNTY STATISTICS				
CITY	COMPANY	TYPE	EMPLOYEES	UNION
Ontario	Americold	Cold Storage	165	Y
Ontario	Argus Observer	Newspaper	120	N
Ontario	Food Services	Grocery	439	Unknown
Ontario	Heinz Frozen Products	Frozen Food Products	960	Y
Ontario	Holy Rosary Medical Center	Medical Center	400	N
Ontario	Poole Oil	Gasoline	150	N
Ontario	Produce Packing Sheds*	Fresh Produce	320	N
Ontario	Snake River Correctional Institute	Correctional Facility	930	Y
Ontario	Treasure Valley Community College	Junior College	350**	Unknown
<i>Malheur County is located adjacent to Washington County, however its nearest city, Ontario, is approximately 20 miles from Weiser, Washington County</i>				

*Depends on season due to agriculture based business

**Includes full time faculty and non-classified staff

This information does not include Federal government employers and State government employers, and local school districts. Statistics compiled from Idaho Department of Commerce demographic information from www.lmi.idaho.gov, and <http://commerce.idaho.gov/business/socioeconomic-profiles.aspx>, State of Oregon Economic & Community Development Department at www.info.econ.state.or.us and Malheur County Economic Development at www.ecodev.malheurco.org.

B. Retailers

IDAHO STATISTICS					
COUNTY	CITY	COMPANY	TYPE	EMPLOYEES	UNION
Washington	Weiser	Ridley's Family Markets	Grocery Store	40	N
Washington	Weiser	BiMart	Membership Discount	36	N
Washington	Weiser	Kings	Discount Department Store	10	N
Washington	Weiser	Les Schwab	Tire Retail	13	N
Washington	Weiser	Hometown Motors	Auto Dealer	40	N
Payette	Payette	Albertson's Supermarket	Grocery Store	50	Unknown
Payette	Payette	Hanigan Motors	Auto dealer	40	Unknown

OREGON STATISTICS				
COUNTY	CITY	COMPANY	TYPE	EMPLOYEES
Malheur	Ontario	Wal-Mart	Discount Store	476
Malheur	Ontario	Kmart	Discount Store	40
Malheur	Ontario	Home Depot	Home Improvement	80
Malheur	Ontario	Hanigan Motors	Auto dealer	32
Malheur	Ontario	JoAnn Fabrics	Craft Supply Store	25
Malheur	Ontario	Albertson's Supermarket	Grocery Store	85
Malheur	Ontario	Red Apple	Grocery Store	100

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D. Downsizing and Expansions

There has been no downsizing or expansions of major retail operators in the region as of this report.

V. COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

A. Local Colleges and Universities

INSTITUTION NAME	2-YEAR OR 4 YEAR	# OF STUDENTS
Treasure Valley Community College, Ontario, Oregon	2 Year	12,000*

*Includes part time and full time students

VI. TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

A. Telecommunications Company Information

The Weiser area is fortunate to have a local telephone company service the needs of the residents in addition to the services provided by Qwest. Most of the businesses in the Weiser area are customers of Rural Network Services. The Fruitland area is served by Farmer's Mutual Telephone Company exclusively. Additionally Ontario, Oregon is served by Malheur Bell exclusively.

COMPANY NAME	ADDRESS	CONTACT #
Rural Network Services	123 W Main St, Weiser, ID 83672	208-414-3000
Farmer's Mutual Telephone	319 SW 3 rd St, Fruitland, ID 83619	208-452-4241
Syringa Networks	PO Box 15035, Boise, ID 83715	208-229-6100
Malheur Bell	225 SW 2 nd St, Ontario, OR 97914	541-889-5321
Qwest		800-244-1111

B. Overview of Telecommunications Infrastructure

INFRASTRUCTURE ITEM	YES / NO
Fiber Equipped	Yes
ISDN	Yes
T1	Yes
Redundant Fiber	Yes
ATM	Yes
DSL	Yes

VII. BUSINESS INCENTIVES

A. Potential Business Incentives

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The State of Idaho extends financial incentives and tax credits in addition to other resources and assistance. For a full overview of the State of Idaho's Business Incentives, please see the following website: <http://commerce.idaho.gov/assets/content/docs/incrediblebusinessincentives.pdf>.

VIII. REAL ESTATE

A. Available Real Estate

There is no existing call center located in the Weiser area. There is one facility that meets the square foot requirement, however seems to be warehouse in structure. The description is attached and can also be accessed by visiting the following website: www.gemstateprospector.com. Additionally, there are several parcels of land available within Washington County that could be used to build the structure desired. This would allow room for expansions when needed. The State of Idaho also allows a 3% investment tax credit for businesses that make qualifying new investments.

In addition, there are other buildings within both Payette and Malheur Counties that would qualify in the size of the structure needed. You may also access that information by visiting the following website for Payette County: www.gemstateprospector.com and for Malheur County www.oregonprospector.com.

IX. TRANSPORTATION / ACCESS

A. Airports

Weiser, Idaho has a modern, general instrument approach, airport. Charter service, flight instruction, aircraft maintenance, and other services are available. The Weiser Airport currently offers gasoline fuel only. There are plans to include jet fuel at some time in the future. Payette, Idaho, and Ontario Oregon offer local airports as well.

The nearest major full-service regional airport is approximately one hour away in Boise, Idaho, with multiple daily services provided by Alaska, Horizon, Delta, Southwest and United Airlines to name a few.

B. Commute Times

Due to the rural aspects of Weiser and the surrounding communities, there is virtually no commute time congestion within the towns themselves. However the commute distances from Weiser to the following towns are as below:

COUNTY	COMMUNITY	DISTANCE FROM WEISER	APPROXIMATE TIME
Washington County	Weiser	---	---
	Midvale	21 miles	20 minutes
	Cambridge	29 miles	30 minutes
Payette County	Payette	13 miles	15 minutes
	Fruitland	20 miles	23 minutes
	New Plymouth	26 miles	30 minutes

Malheur County	Ontario	20 miles	25 minutes
	Vale	33 miles	42 minutes
	Nyssa	31 miles	36 minutes
	Adrian	43 miles	53 minutes
Canyon County*	Caldwell	47 miles	50 minutes
*Nearest largest metropolitan area			

This information is based on local testimony and by using www.mapquest.com.

C. Public Transportation

Weiser and Washington County currently have no public transportation available.

Payette and Malheur Counties have Snake River Transit, www.snakerivertransit.com, available for public use that provides public transportation between Ontario, Oregon; Fruitland, Idaho; and Payette, Idaho that may also accommodate individuals with physical challenges.

The city of Ontario, Oregon also has taxi service, car pool services and “dial-a-ride” services, too. There are also private van shuttle services from Ontario, Oregon to Caldwell, Nampa and Boise, Idaho. In addition, Ada County Highway Division provides a car-pool service for employees along the same route.

X. NEXT STEPS

A. Conclusion

The City of Weiser and Washington County are very interested in seeing our community prosper and grow while continuing to maintain the high quality of life that is appreciated. The City of Weiser and Washington County Governments work very well together. They have built a very positive relationship between the planning and zoning departments of each entity, too.

Washington County Economic Development would be extremely happy to schedule a visit with the local elected officials and community leaders when the “Goldfinch” Company would like to visit our area. We are pleased to have the chance to serve you as you seek to locate and operate your business in our county.

Washington County is looking to a bright future ahead.