

# Labor Market of the Silver Valley

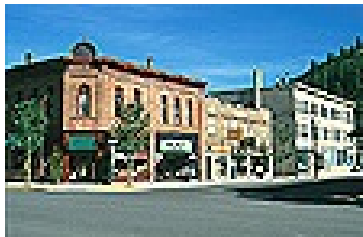


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Shoshone and Kootenai Counties form a single labor market. Many Shoshone County residents work in Kootenai County, and some Kootenai County residents work in Shoshone County. Both counties traditionally have experienced high unemployment. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics designates Shoshone County as an official labor surplus area, making businesses located there eligible for preference on federal contracts.

Currently, about 8,300 Shoshone and Kootenai County residents are unemployed and actively looking for work. In addition, an employer moving into the Silver Valley will receive applications from many individuals who currently are employed, but who are looking for opportunities for increased hours of work, less unemployment in the winter months, higher pay, or shorter commutes.



Given the large labor surplus, employers would find it relatively easy to recruit workers, even hundreds of workers. Many local residents would jump at a chance to work in a manufacturing operation, a call center, or a distribution center.



A business that moves to the Silver Valley is likely to be highly satisfied with the Silver Valley's labor force. Businesses that have relocated to the Silver Valley say they are impressed by the availability, work ethic, and skills of the local labor force. After an employer has recruited a quality labor force in the Silver Valley, it keeps it. Given the Silver Valley's long-term high unemployment, retention rates there tend to be much higher than in most communities.