



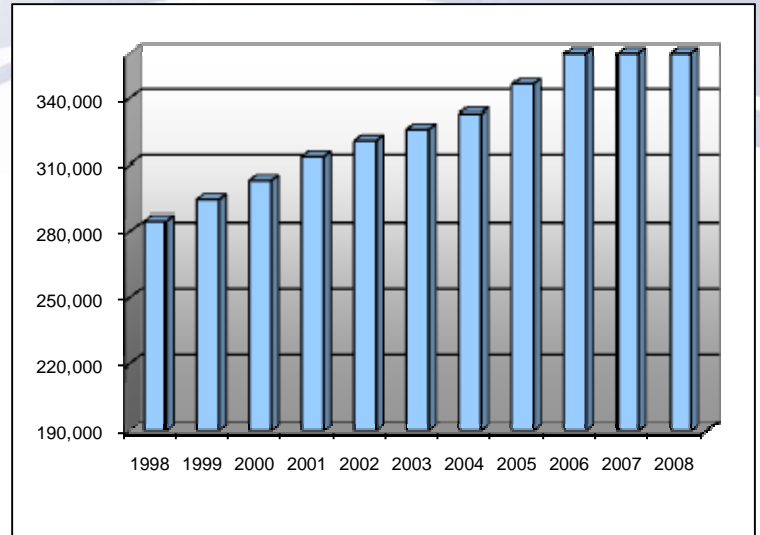
Ada County

November 2009

Work Force Trends

Population

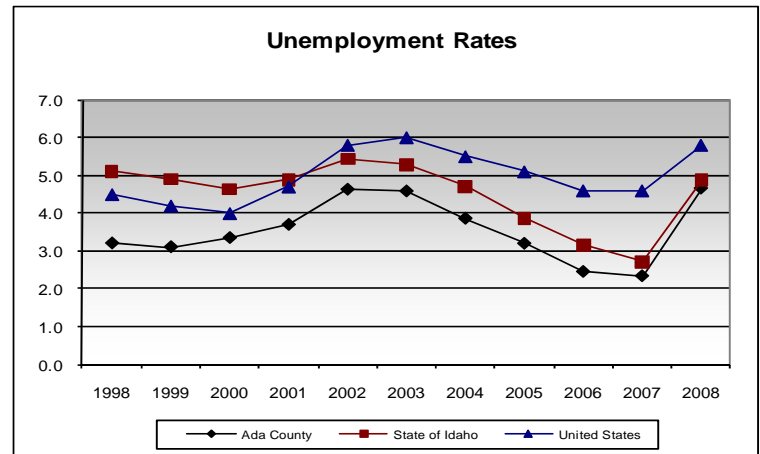
Ada County is Idaho's most populous at 380,920, a regional center of government, industry and education. It is over twice the size of neighboring Canyon County, the next largest. It ranks 31st among Idaho's 44 counties in area. Over 29 percent of the county is public land. The population has grown rapidly in the past decade, adding 95,974 residents since 1998. Ada County has been a popular relocation destination, especially in the last five years. People from other states flocked to the county for its outdoor lifestyle and comparatively low real estate prices. It was not uncommon for people to have sold a small house elsewhere and relocate to Ada County, paying cash for a new, larger home. The probability of finding work was high as the unemployment rate hovered around full employment for most of the decade. But the national recession has slowed population growth and economic activity in the county, driving home values down and limiting employment opportunities.



Labor Force & Employment

The Ada County labor force grew significantly between 1998 and 2008, adding 32,915 workers or roughly a third of the population growth. Ada County hosts a large commuting population from neighboring Canyon County. In fact, Ada County has more jobs than its labor force supports, requiring commuters from elsewhere to fill them. But during the second half of 2008 the unemployment rate began to rise, and the labor force began contracting to end up 1,000 smaller than in 2007. Feeling the brunt of the recession, the unemployment rate rose sharply during the last half of 2008.

Amid deteriorating economic conditions, the number of payroll jobs declined in 2008. Construction activity fell, shedding over 3,000 jobs or a drop of 18.6 percent. Micron Technology, the state's largest private employer, laid off another 1,000 employees on top of the roughly 1,100 during the summer of 2007 to lead the decline in manufacturing. Micron announced in early 2009 that 2,000 more would be let go by year's end. Overall, manufacturing payrolls in Ada County dropped 10.5 percent during 2008. The county has typically generated the largest share of

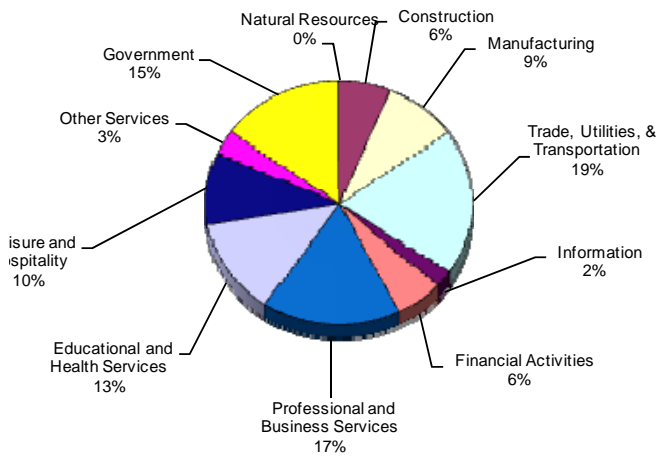


Idaho's wealth in terms of manufacturing exports and attracting outside investment in construction projects. Without these goods producers running on all cylinders, the economy will continue operating below capacity. The decline in consumer spending, which accounts for 70 percent of national economic activity, has also constrained economic activity in the county. Despite the economic downturn, government, education and health care posted job gains during the year. All three stepped up to accommodate the increased demand for services from a growing population. Since the new year however, even industries typically strong in recessions have shown weakness.

Labor Force	Oct 2008	Oct 2009
Civilian Labor Force	195,486	191,130
Total Employment	184,704	173,239
Unemployed	10,782	17,892
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.5	9.4
State of Idaho % Unemployed	5.6	8.9
U.S. % Unemployed	6.6	10.2

Labor Force	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Civilian Labor Force	162,809	166,544	170,639	175,774	175,436	176,876	178,515	185,519	192,322	196,663	195,724
Unemployment	5,212	5,135	5,703	6,488	8,102	8,091	6,877	5,919	4,710	4,592	9,100
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.7	4.6	4.6	3.9	3.2	2.4	2.3	4.6
Employment	157,597	161,409	164,936	169,286	167,334	168,786	171,639	179,600	187,612	192,071	186,624

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2008



Per Capita Income & Employment

Ada County ranks second among the 44 counties in per capita income at \$43,028, which is 35 percent above the statewide level and 1.1 percent above the national level. The county is home to several large multinational companies, and its rapid population growth increases demand for services in industries like health care and professional and business services. Ada County is also attracting a growing number of wealthy retirees seeking its comparatively lower cost of living and boosting per capita income as a byproduct.

Most sectors pay an average annual wage over \$40,000. Although the recession has tempered progress, since 1998 Ada County has made tremendous gains in the number of jobs in every industry except manufacturing.

Major Private Employers

St. Lukes Regional Medical Center
St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center
Blue Cross of Idaho Health Services
DirecTV
Hewlett Packard
Idaho Power Co.
Micron Technology, Inc.
Fred Meyer
Wal-Mart
Citicorp
Supervalu

Occupational Wages*

Entry Level Wage

Medical Assistants	\$10.82
Waiters and Waitresses	\$6.10
Structural Metal Fabricators and Fitters	\$10.07
Customer Service Representatives	\$9.32
Electricians	\$11.95
Construction Laborers	\$8.91
Team Assemblers	\$8.80
Registered Nurse	\$18.70
Exec Secretaries & Admin Assistants	\$11.79
Welders	\$10.08
Retail Salespersons	\$7.20

* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor Web site at lmi.idaho.gov.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1998, 2007 & 2008	1998		2007		2008	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	159,738	\$29,018	212,248	\$40,126	209,127	\$39,646
Agriculture	552	\$20,510	830	\$28,697	805	\$29,591
Mining	81	\$31,509	109	\$55,035	109	\$112,819
Construction	10,914	\$31,844	16,255	\$48,369	13,237	\$46,134
Manufacturing	23,550	\$42,222	20,934	\$65,433	18,730	\$66,956
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	32,500	\$27,267	41,011	\$34,834	40,387	\$34,765
Information	2,701	\$35,619	3,935	\$47,072	4,824	\$42,303
Financial Activities	9,745	\$32,349	12,063	\$47,301	11,556	\$46,044
Professional and Business Services	20,388	\$26,368	35,646	\$42,330	35,635	\$40,782
Educational and Health Services	15,957	\$28,856	25,318	\$39,802	26,961	\$40,291
Leisure and Hospitality	14,596	\$10,112	20,315	\$13,963	19,840	\$14,231
Other Services	4,731	\$20,261	5,516	\$24,852	5,631	\$25,039
Government	24,025	\$30,818	30,318	\$39,879	31,411	\$40,970

Per Capita Income	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Ada County	\$28,742	\$30,589	\$33,500	\$33,986	\$34,347	\$34,710	\$37,700	\$38,876	\$42,039	\$43,028
State of Idaho	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,077	\$25,024	\$25,234	\$25,543	\$27,389	\$28,681	\$30,374	\$31,804
United States	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,843	\$30,574	\$30,838	\$31,530	\$33,157	\$34,690	\$36,794	\$38,615

Information provided by Bureau of Economic Analysis



This county is served by the offices located at the addresses below:

Idaho Department of Labor
219 W. Main St.
Boise, ID 83735-0030 Ph: (208) 332-3575

or Idaho Department of Labor
205 E. Watertower Lane

Meridian, ID 83642-6282 Ph: (208) 364-7785

labor.idaho.gov