



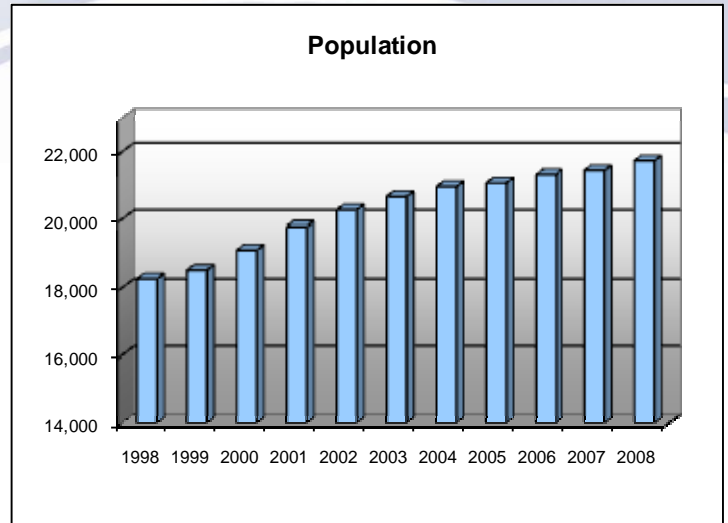
Blaine County

November 2009

Work Force Trends

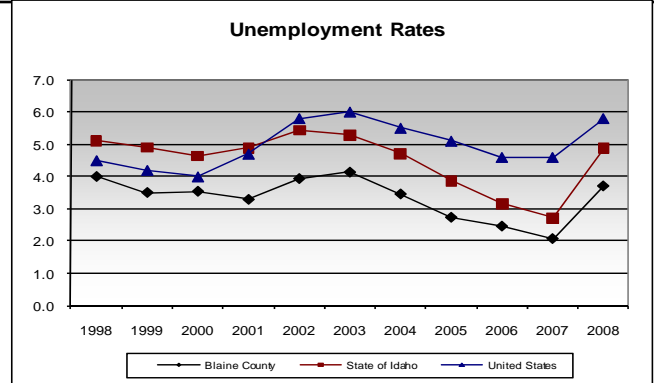
Population

Blaine County has experienced strong, steady growth over the last decade. The population increased 19 percent from 18,265 in 1998 to 21,731 in 2008, making it the fastest growing county in south central Idaho over the last decade. Beautiful mountains and virtually unlimited recreational opportunities make Blaine County a destination for visitors both domestic and international. The world famous Sun Valley Ski Resort averaged 384,000 skiers each season over the last five years. Continuing challenges include affordable housing for service workers, traffic congestion, community services during economic downturns and how to market the area. New resort hotels, expanding recreation facilities and subdivisions are in planning stages, so Blaine County is forecast to experience moderate growth over the next five years.



Labor Force & Employment

Blaine County is suffering from the construction and housing slump that has hit many tourism and high growth areas across the nation. Over the last decade, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate peaked at 4.6 percent in 1997 and then steadily dropped to 2 percent in 2007, one of the lowest in the state. The seasonality of work in Blaine County is smoothing out with increased interest in spring through fall recreational opportunities. The area is also popular for conferences in the off season. Most jobs in Blaine County are in construction and services. The local labor pool has been inhibited by a lack of affordable housing. But a number of communities are designing programs to fill the housing gap, and the recession has released some pressure. Although average wages in Blaine County are about 34 percent higher than

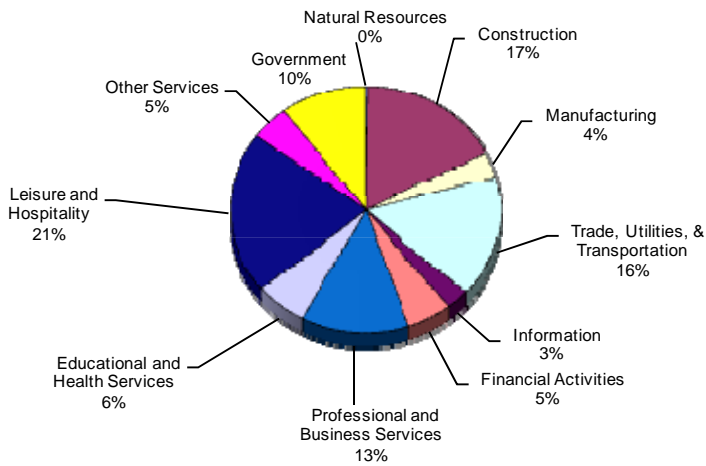


the rest of south central Idaho, they are not adequate for most workers to live there so many commute from other counties. With periodic traffic congestion between Ketchum and Bellevue, public transportation is becoming more routine for many workers. A significant number of workers commuted in for higher-paying construction and landscape jobs before they disappeared in the recession. Blaine County's economy continues to be sustainable with new developments and the potential for a new airport in the next five years. Many organizations are actively working toward a strategic plan for the future of the Wood River Valley.

| Labor Force | Oct 2008 | Oct 2009 |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 13,167 | 12,680 |
| Total Employment | 12,497 | 11,328 |
| Unemployed | 670 | 1,352 |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed | 5.1 | 10.7 |
| 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 | 10,931 | 11,117 | 11,890 | 12,439 | 12,893 | 12,665 | 13,363 | 13,949 | 14,055 | 14,030 | 13,986 |
| Unemployment | 436 | 393 | 421 | 408 | 507 | 524 | 461 | 380 | 343 | 288 | 518 |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed | 4.0 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.3 | 3.9 | 4.1 | 3.5 | 2.7 | 2.4 | 2.1 | 3.7 |
| Employment | 10,495 | 10,724 | 11,469 | 12,031 | 12,386 | 12,141 | 12,902 | 13,569 | 13,711 | 13,742 | 13,468 |

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2008



Wages & Income

Wages in Blaine County are significantly higher than in the rest of south central Idaho and the state because of the high cost of living. With its natural beauty and diverse recreational opportunities, the county attracts the affluent. Per capita income in 2007 was \$64,207, the highest in Idaho. In fact, it exceeds the United State's per capita income for 2007 by \$25,589, or 66 percent, and Idaho per capita income by \$32,403, or 102 percent.

Major Employers

| |
|---------------------------------------|
| Atkinson's Market |
| 180 Connect |
| Power Engineers |
| Rocky Mountain Hardware |
| St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center |
| Sun Valley Lodge aka Sinclair Company |
| Webb Landscape |

Occupational Wages*

Starting Wage

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Elementary Teachers | \$26.00 |
| Secondary Teachers | \$26.00 |
| Social Workers | \$20.00 |
| Registered Nurses | \$24.00 |
| Legal Secretaries | \$15.00 |
| Bookkeepers | \$14.00 |
| Cashiers | \$8.00 |
| Motel Housekeeping | \$8.00 |
| Chefs | \$14.00 |
| Lifeguards and Ski Patrol | \$9.00 |
| Landscapers | \$13.00 |
| Construction Labor | \$15.00 |
| Electricians, Journeyman | \$25.00 |
| Maintenance Mechanics | \$20.00 |

* 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 | 10,362 | \$26,583 | 13,924 | \$36,291 | 13,918 | \$37,101 |
| Agriculture | 131 | \$22,603 | 164 | \$24,410 | 164 | \$24,060 |
| Mining | 36 | \$30,869 | 35 | \$36,446 | 31 | \$37,428 |
| Construction | 1,483 | \$28,974 | 2,493 | \$39,935 | 2,411 | \$41,336 |
| Manufacturing | 341 | \$42,419 | 466 | \$47,571 | 476 | \$49,250 |
| Trade, Utilities & Transportation | 1,804 | \$23,115 | 2,260 | \$32,320 | 2,234 | \$32,034 |
| Information | 215 | \$29,962 | 355 | \$36,335 | 382 | \$36,500 |
| Financial Activities | 585 | \$32,392 | 764 | \$58,276 | 706 | \$55,471 |
| Professional and Business Services | 1,151 | \$50,166 | 1,796 | \$50,787 | 1,813 | \$51,817 |
| Educational and Health Services | 364 | \$32,218 | 770 | \$36,559 | 854 | \$41,466 |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 2,599 | \$13,507 | 3,002 | \$20,203 | 2,987 | \$20,973 |
| Other Services | 398 | \$20,518 | 440 | \$32,820 | 447 | \$33,979 |
| Government | 1,254 | \$13,507 | 1,379 | \$20,203 | 1,414 | \$20,973 |

| Per Capita Income | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Blaine County | \$37,703 | \$39,658 | \$42,965 | \$43,634 | \$42,762 | \$44,244 | \$51,013 | \$55,000 | \$59,378 | \$64,207 |
| 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 office located at the address below:
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labor.idaho.gov