



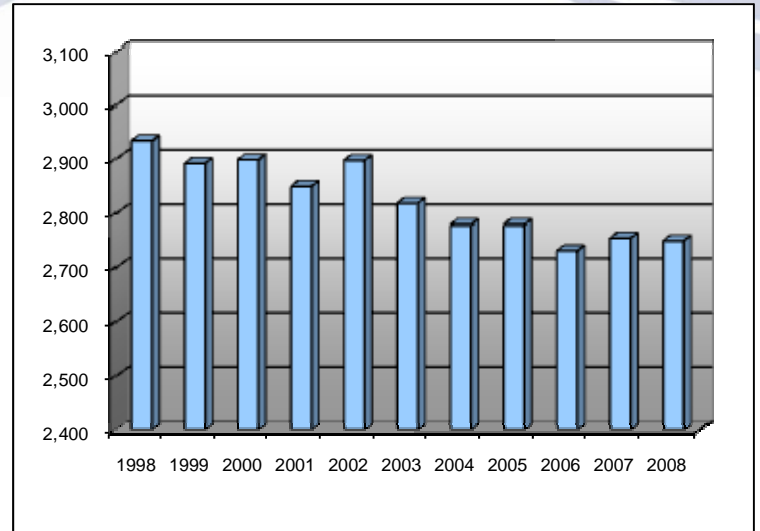
Butte County

November 2009

Work Force Trends

Population

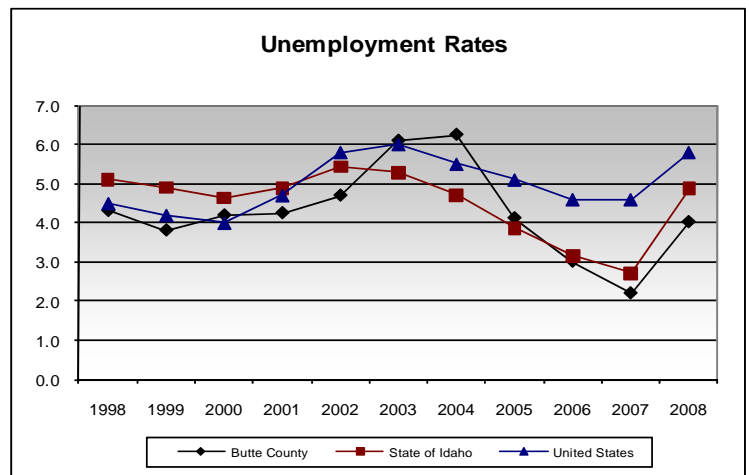
Butte County, one of the smallest in the state, lost 184 people between 1998 and 2008, when the steadily declining population hit 2,751. Significant layoffs at the Idaho National Laboratory and the closure of mines in neighboring Lemhi and Custer counties took their toll. Still, the county is committed to economic development and a long-range plan for stability. It is focusing on tourists traveling through to destinations like Craters of the Moon National Monument and Sun Valley. The INL is located about 12 miles from Arco, the county seat. The majority of over 7,000 laboratory employees work in the county but live elsewhere and commute, making it a challenge for the county to see much economic gain from the laboratory. There are plans for a museum and other attractions. Arco, the largest city, had a 2007 population of 982.



Labor Force & Employment

Because of population trends, changes in the budget for the Idaho National Laboratory and mine closures over the decade, the unemployment rate in Butte County has bounced around. In 2008 it was three-tenths of a percentage point lower than in 1998 and has been below the state and national rates for three years. While 2008's rate is up from previous years it remains comparative low given the impact of the recession on the rest of Idaho.

Just over 82.1 percent of the county's jobs are in professional and business services, most at the federal laboratory. That by far exceeds any other industry. Government is a stable industry that includes small offices of several federal agencies along with county and school workers. Education and health care along with trade are

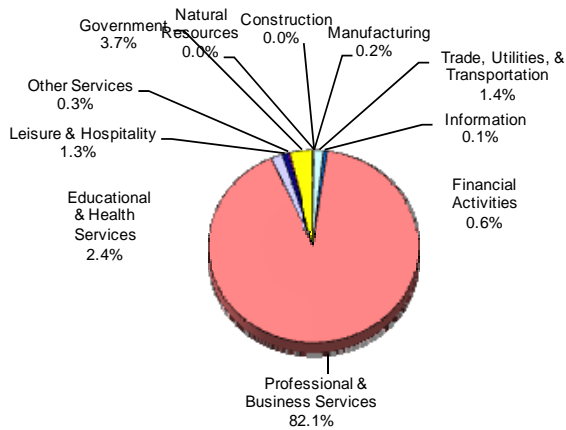


stable as well. Construction can fluctuate with large building projects at the laboratory. The incubation center in Arco and the Lost River Economic Development group continue to assist businesses. Tourism is an economic factor because of the Craters of the Moon National Monument. A museum showcasing the history of the federal research laboratory and the nuclear industry is in the works.

Labor Force	Oct 2008	Oct 2009
Civilian Labor Force	1,522	1,557
Total Employment	1,451	1,455
Unemployed	71	101
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.7	6.5
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	1,613	1,597	1,462	1,461	1,356	1,313	1,290	1,384	1,418	1,439	1,445
Unemployment	69	60	61	62	64	80	81	57	43	32	58
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.3	3.8	4.2	4.2	4.7	6.1	6.2	4.1	3.0	2.2	4.0
Employment	1,544	1,537	1,401	1,399	1,292	1,233	1,210	1,327	1,375	1,407	1,387

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2008



Covered Employers

Butte County benefits from one of the state's largest employers, the Idaho National Laboratory, being primarily located there, but most of the workers live in neighboring counties. Because jobs are counted where they are and employment by where workers live, the county statistics are somewhat misleading. The high wages at the laboratory and in manufacturing artificially elevate the average wage in the county because the vast majority of laboratory workers live elsewhere. Only about 8 percent of Butte County residents work at the laboratory.

Major Employers

U.S. Department of Energy
Battelle Energy Alliance
Bechtel BWXT Idaho, LLC
Bechtel Bettis Inc.
Butte County School District # 111
CH2M-WG Idaho
Lost River Hospital

Eastern ID Occupational Wages*	Average Wage
Agricultural Workers	\$8.59
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks	\$11.76
Cashiers	\$8.17
Construction Trades Workers	\$14.95
Cooks & Food Preparation Workers	\$8.11
Customer Service Reps	\$10.77
Engineers (All)	\$37.13
Food & Beverage Serving Workers	\$7.60
General Office Clerks	\$11.46
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$16.22
Health Technologists & Technicians	\$17.03
Secretaries & Administrative Asst	\$13.63
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$14.17
Writers/Waitresses	\$7.83

* This wage data represents eastern Idaho's 12 counties. 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	5,607	\$49,436	8,405	\$70,507	8,293	\$72,556
Agriculture	36	\$15,034	40	\$18,734	44	\$20,054
Mining	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Construction	26	\$30,286	8	\$56,118	3	\$62,097
Manufacturing	12	\$7,851	22	\$58,052	19	\$70,860
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	141	\$11,880	118	\$15,018	119	\$15,878
Information	*	*	*	*	*	*
Financial Activities	28	\$13,818	46	\$25,844	41	\$26,325
Professional and Business Services	4,905	\$54,100	7,645	\$74,556	7,543	\$76,659
Educational and Health Services	136	\$18,093	148	\$28,442	145	\$32,952
Leisure and Hospitality	53	\$7,545	72	\$11,582	74	\$13,443
Other Services	15	\$22,702	17	\$31,425	18	\$31,180
Government	250	\$20,388	281	\$40,587	282	\$41,319

Per Capita Income	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Butte County	\$18,811	\$19,315	\$20,603	\$22,615	\$21,153	\$20,945	\$23,729	\$23,893	\$25,477	\$26,994
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 listed below:
 Idaho Department of Labor
 1515 E. Lincoln Road
 Idaho Falls, ID 83401 Ph: (208) 557-2500

labor.idaho.gov