



Caribou County

November 2009

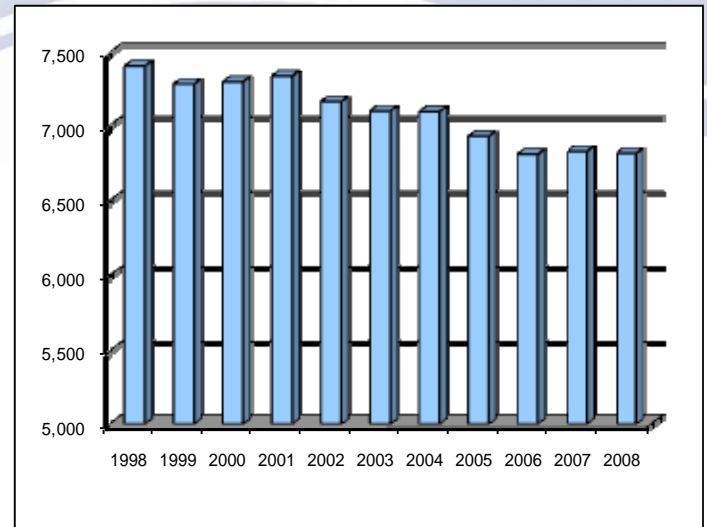
Work Force Trends

Population

History, scenery, recreation and industry make Caribou County what the entire country used to be – wide open spaces, friendly people and a place to have fun.

Fluctuation best describes Caribou County's population between 1998 and 2008. The overall result was a decrease of 8.2% from 7,411 in 1998 to 6,826 in 2008.

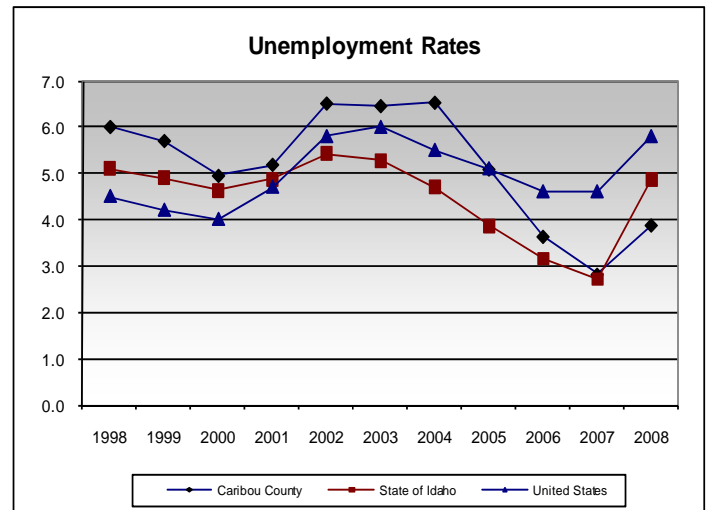
The county is at the hub of the Pioneer Historic Byway and the Caribou Scenic Byway, which brings in tourists. Soda Springs, named for its natural carbonated springs, has a geyser, which erupts every hour on the hour. The city of Grace is home to Heritage Safe Company, which has gained national attention for its business practices.



Labor Force & Employment

Caribou County has a diverse and highly skilled work force with an excellent work ethic, which has been recognized nationally for exceptional safety records. The county's economy depends heavily on agriculture, phosphate mining and manufacturing. During the last decade, the civilian labor force followed employment. Opportunities. In 2008 the annual average unemployment rate increased to 3.9 percent from an all-time low 2.8 percent in 2007. Over the decade, efforts to attract more tourism have helped diversify the labor market with the opening of several service and trade sector businesses.

Because the county heavily depends on natural resource-based industries – agriculture, mining and manufacturing – both population and employment are influenced by the national economic impact on those

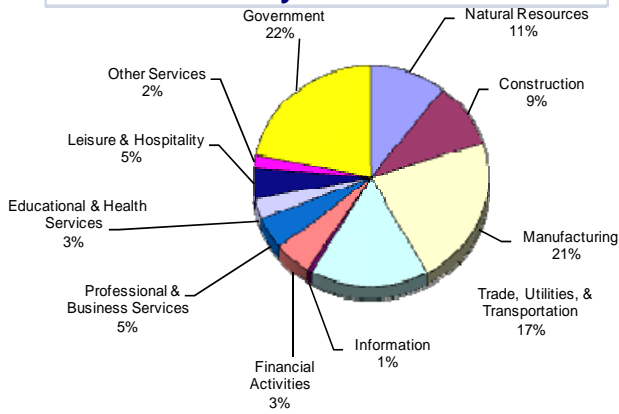


Labor Force	Oct 2008	Oct 2009
Civilian Labor Force	3,413	3,622
Total Employment	3,260	3,357
Unemployed	153	265
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.5	7.3
State of Idaho % Unemployed	5.6	8.9
U.S. % Unemployed	6.6	10.2

industries. Following national trends, mining jobs declined significantly during the 1990s. Recently job prospects improved, and expansion of the Dry Canyon phosphate mine operated by the J.R. Simplot Co. will contribute to labor stability. Jobs in construction, manufacturing, trade, services and public education increased in response to growth in local mining and gas and oil exploration in the neighboring states of Wyoming, Utah and Montana.

Labor Force	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Civilian Labor Force	3,256	3,105	3,287	3,431	3,361	3,398	3,284	3,278	3,312	3,332	3,424
Unemployment	195	178	163	178	219	219	214	167	121	94	133
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.0	5.7	4.9	5.2	6.5	6.5	6.5	5.1	3.6	2.8	3.9
Employment	3,061	2,927	3,124	3,253	3,142	3,179	3,070	3,111	3,192	3,237	3,291

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2008



Industry Employment and Wages

Nearly half the jobs in Caribou County are in production of fertilizer, phosphorus and weed killer. Mining provided 19 percent of the wages, and construction another 23 percent. Manufacturing accounted for 21 percent of the jobs but 45 percent of all county wages.

Government is the next largest employer with 20 percent of the jobs. Nine of 10 are in local government.

Wages in Caribou County are higher than most of the state because of phosphate mining and manufacturing. The average annual covered wage in Caribou County is among the highest in the state at \$39,604.

Major Employers
Agrium U.S., Inc.
Degerstrom-Dravo
Caribou Memorial Hospital & Living Center
J.R. Simplot Co., Smoky Mine
Heritage Safe Company
Mark III
Monsanto Company

Occupational Wages*	Starting Wages
Cashiers, Retail	\$6.55
Cooks	\$7.00
Food & Beverage Servers	\$6.55
Janitors	\$6.86
Construction Laborers	\$8.10
Maids	\$6.55
Nurses, Registered	\$19.83
General Office Clerks	\$7.35
Stock & Shipping Clerks	\$10.24
Teachers	\$31,750.00

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

But while per capita income of \$29,270 is the highest for the region, it is only 92 percent of the state average.

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	3,004	\$32,866	3,216	\$40,038	3,302	\$42,050
Agriculture	65	\$15,296	104	\$19,150	108	\$25,658
Mining	458	\$42,523	358	\$46,584	348	\$54,677
Construction	248	\$30,938	251	\$46,471	310	\$49,785
Manufacturing	777	\$55,697	692	\$78,809	705	\$78,797
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	437	\$20,988	518	\$23,714	520	\$24,826
Information	14	\$9,596	22	\$16,733	22	\$16,883
Financial Activities	60	\$19,131	152	\$33,563	154	\$31,136
Professional and Business Services	40	\$20,077	150	\$28,436	158	\$33,698
Educational and Health Services	95	\$12,341	103	\$17,102	96	\$14,523
Leisure and Hospitality	148	\$5,272	132	\$7,548	143	\$7,464
Other Services	55	\$13,310	50	\$15,689	52	\$16,628
Government	610	\$22,031	683	\$26,740	686	\$28,231

Per Capita Income	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Caribou County	\$20,210	\$20,390	\$20,622	\$20,975	\$22,180	\$22,814	\$25,519	\$25,942	\$26,936	\$29,270
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:
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 Pocatello, ID 83205-4087 Ph: (208) 236-6710

labor.idaho.gov