



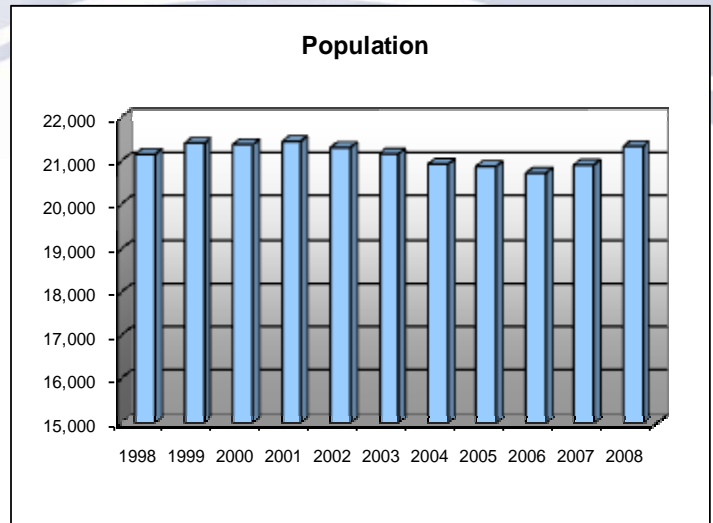
Cassia County

November 2009

Work Force Trends

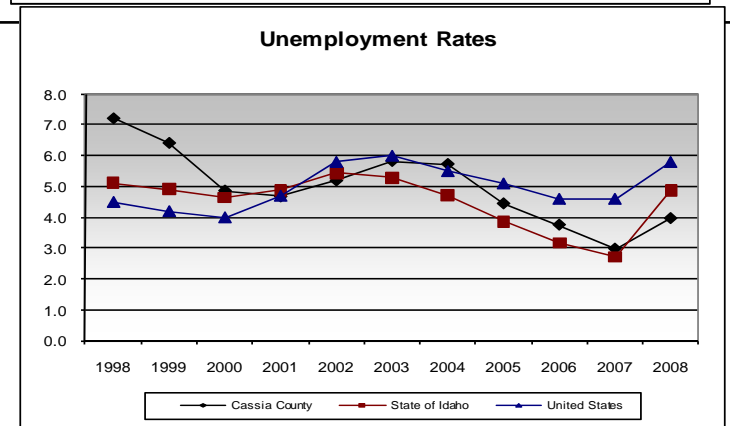
Population

Cassia County's population declined over most of the last decade until 2008. Since 1998 it has grown just 0.9 percent from 21,162 to 21,348. The county is diversifying its agricultural base and still holding on to existing businesses. Efforts to market the two-county area of Cassia and Minidoka through community partnership and a focus on the low land and labor costs have resulted in new businesses relocating. The area has abundant natural resources and recreational opportunities. Burley is located on the scenic Snake River a short distance to the City of Rocks National Reserve and the Pomerelle Ski Resort, both popular recreational destinations. Moderate growth is likely to continue as job opportunities expand.



Labor Force & Employment

Cassia County has traditionally had higher unemployment than the rest of south central Idaho. The closure of the J.R. Simplot potato processing plant in 2002 and 2003 pushed the unemployment rate to an annual average of 6 percent in 2004. Companies such as Dutchmen Manufacturing, a large recreational vehicle manufacturer, and Mulholland Positioning Systems Inc., which makes gait assistance devices for disabled children and adults, have opened plants within the last five years. Pacific Ethanol started production in April 2008 after a hiring spree but shutdown in 2009 amid lower fuel prices and the recession. DOT Foods, a national re-distribution company, opened its state-of-the-art warehouse in 2008. The company was attracted by easy shipping access to Interstate 84. Packaging Specialties opened its shrink wrap and printing operation in 2008. Hy-Line North America, an egg hatching operation, is building a new



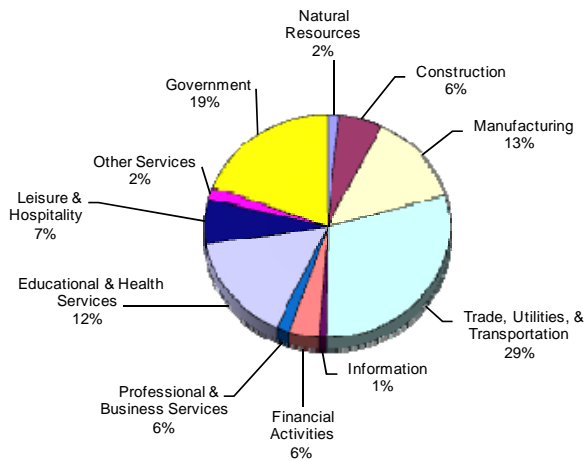
facility in Burley, where High Desert Milk and Dutchmen RV anchor the west end of town. The new firms pay competitive wages with benefit packages.

In 2007, Cassia County's unemployment rate dropped almost a full percentage point to a record low of 3 percent before rising again in 2008 to 4 percent, which many economists still see as full employment. Commercial and home construction is outpacing the region, state and nation as corporate managers for these new companies relocate to an area that had not been overbuilt. There is a resurgence of interest in Cassia County because of its low real estate prices and the proximity of outdoor recreation. The outlook for the county's job and labor force is strong over the long run.

Labor Force	Oct 2008	Oct 2009
Civilian Labor Force	10,396	10,420
Total Employment	10,001	9,822
Unemployed	395	598
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	5.7
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	9,631	9,671	10,299	10,339	10,319	9,864	9,886	9,974	10,353	10,071	10,108
Unemployment	690	618	499	482	534	573	565	442	388	299	400
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.2	6.4	4.8	4.7	5.2	5.8	5.7	4.4	3.7	3.0	4.0
Employment	8,941	9,053	9,799	9,857	9,785	9,290	9,321	9,532	9,966	9,773	9,708

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2008



Wages & Income

Wages have been traditionally low in Cassia County. Most jobs are either in agriculture, food processing, retail or services. Per capita income has increased from \$20,744 in 1998 to \$28,589 in 2007, up 37.8 percent. Cassia County ranks 20th of Idaho's 44 counties in per capita income. Wage levels are one of the attractions for many companies seeking lower business costs, but as the economy diversifies, more highly skilled jobs will evolve and average wages will increase.

Major Employers

Ag Express
 Americold Logistics
 Boise Cascade
 Dutchmen Manufacturing
 McCain Foods
 Northwest Bec aka Burley Care Center
 Pacific Ethanol
 Parke View Care & Rehab

Occupational Wages*

Average Wage

Teachers	\$17.00
Social Workers	\$15.00
Registered Nurses	\$17.00
Dental Assistants	\$10.00
Secretary/Receptionists	\$8.00
Drivers	\$9.00
Bookkeepers	\$9.00
Cashiers	\$6.55
Servers	\$3.35
Food Processors	\$10.00
Landscapers	\$8.50
Forklift Operators	\$9.50
Maintenance Mechanics	\$12.00
General Farm Labor	\$6.55

* 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	8,385	\$20,241	9,570	\$27,017	9,814	\$27,826
Agriculture	965	\$16,661	1,254	\$25,857	1,241	\$28,440
Mining	84	\$25,824	144	\$31,550	138	\$27,345
Construction	375	\$23,297	455	\$29,461	496	\$31,297
Manufacturing	1,198	\$24,790	1,121	\$33,910	1,156	\$34,265
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	2,167	\$19,508	2,423	\$26,578	2,552	\$27,504
Information	142	\$19,422	70	\$46,812	81	\$49,342
Financial Activities	284	\$27,350	314	\$33,752	308	\$33,528
Professional and Business Services	192	\$16,113	208	\$27,633	157	\$29,195
Educational and Health Services	812	\$19,845	1,325	\$24,487	1,355	\$25,189
Leisure and Hospitality	520	\$6,670	519	\$8,292	555	\$8,750
Other Services	159	\$16,059	105	\$20,185	136	\$18,426
Government	1,487	\$23,544	1,630	\$28,964	1,638	\$29,475

Per Capita Income	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Cassia County	\$20,744	\$21,845	\$21,595	\$23,178	\$23,316	\$23,602	\$24,288	\$25,400	\$25,958	\$28,589
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



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