



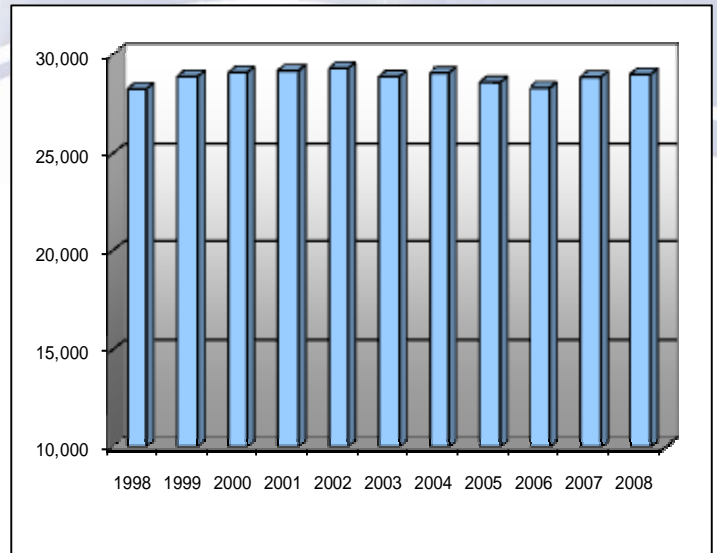
Elmore County

November 2009

Work Force Trends

Population

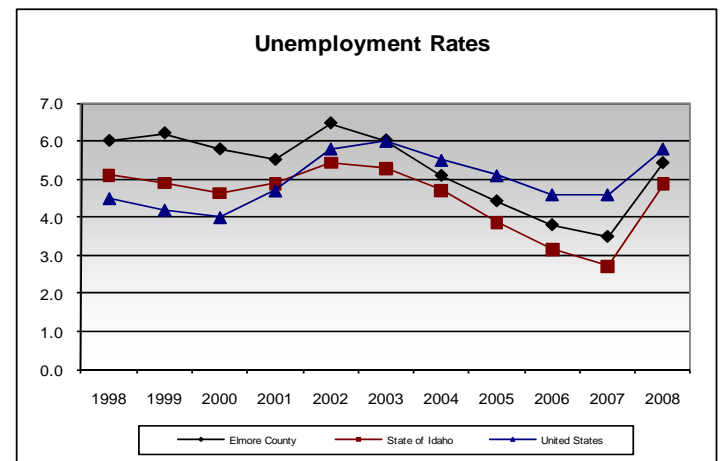
Elmore County is Idaho's 12th most populous and ranks sixth among the 44 in land size. Seventy-two percent is federally owned including Mountain Home Air Force Base in the southwestern corner of the county near the city of Mountain Home. The county's population remained relatively stable between 1998 and 2008, posting a modest 2.6 percent increase, or 728 new residents. Slower population growth in more rural areas is not unusual since they are not as economically diverse and generally not as vibrant as metropolitan centers. Air Force Base personnel are generally not counted in the local population figures. But many Air Force personnel make Mountain Home their last assignment and opt to retire close to a military base in southwestern and south central Idaho .



Labor Force & Employment

Despite slow population growth, Elmore County's civilian labor force grew considerably between 1998 and 2008, increasing over 2,200 or 24 percent. That 10-year growth rate has been consistent since the mid-1990s. The addition of a major employer, Marathon Cheese, helped drive job growth for a population of emerging first-time labor force entrants. Retirees have also been taking part-time jobs to supplement their incomes. Elmore County's 2008 unemployment rate rose from the year before to 5.4 percent, a half point above the state rate and four-tenths of a point below the national rate. Again Mountain Home Air Force Base personnel are not counted in the civilian labor force figures.

Nonfarm payroll jobs remained essentially flat in 2008 as the county did not escape the faltering economy although was spared the brunt of the decline. Manufacturing added 105 new jobs in 2008, almost entirely in food production. The construction industry essentially held its own in 2008,

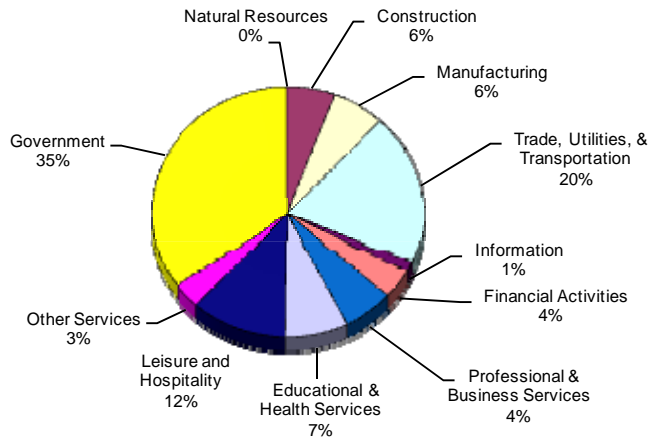


shedding just a handful of jobs to remain at an historically high level. Other sectors in decline were financial services and trade, a reflection of economic conditions. Elmore County is a good example of an economy that is positioned to weather an economic downturn better than most.. A healthy manufacturing sector has helped salvage the construction industry and has kept the trade and leisure and hospitality industries relatively intact. These industries are two that really lose jobs fast in an economic downturn, and while the overall job growth has been minimal, the large across-the-board declines have not been seen in Elmore County.

Labor Force	Oct 2008	Oct 2009
Civilian Labor Force	11,131	11,103
Total Employment	10,388	10,066
Unemployed	743	1,037
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.7	9.3
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	9,212	9,236	10,594	10,960	10,935	10,679	10,710	10,822	10,829	11,140	11,415
Unemployment	549	570	612	603	707	642	544	478	410	387	618
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.0	6.2	5.8	5.5	6.5	6.0	5.1	4.4	3.8	3.5	5.4
Employment	8,663	8,666	9,982	10,357	10,229	10,036	10,166	10,345	10,419	10,752	10,797

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2008



Major Employers
NAF Financial Management Branch
Best Western Foot Hills Motor Inn
City of Mountain Home
Elmore Medical Center
Elmore County
Three Springs Inc
Glenns Ferry School District
Pioneer Federal Credit Union
Mountain Home Air Force Base
Mountain Home School District
Wal-Mart
Marathon Cheese

Occupational Wages*	Starting Wage
Shipping, Receiving, Traffic Clerks	\$11.12
Fork Lift Driver	\$8.98
Construction Laborer	\$9.31
Cook	\$8.42
Truck Driver	\$11.49
Agricultural Workers	\$7.10
Licensed Practical Nurse	\$14.67
Registered Nurse	\$18.70
Welders, Cutters, Solderers and Brazers	\$12.17

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

Per Capita Income & Employment

Elmore County ranks 24th in 2007 per capita income at \$27,635, down from 19th in 2006. The 4.6 percent annual increase totaled just over \$1,200. The Consumer Price Index rose 2.9 percent.

Manufacturing jobs were generally declining during much of the last decade until the recent advent of several new employers. While still below 1998's level, jobs in manufacturing were created at a faster rate than any other industry in 2008. Conversely, agriculture shed 11 percent of jobs in 2008 as milk prices plunged. Government jobs make up an extraordinarily large share of covered employment because of civilian jobs at the Air Force Base.

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	6,188	\$18,462	6,979	\$26,690	6,982	\$27,737
Agriculture	465	\$16,555	430	\$22,441	383	\$25,110
Mining	*	*	*	*	*	*
Construction	238	\$25,326	393	\$32,101	382	\$36,687
Manufacturing	462	\$15,887	324	\$25,276	428	\$29,787
Trade, Utilities and Transportation	1,054	\$17,288	1,316	\$25,715	1,286	\$25,782
Information	99	\$21,476	97	\$37,919	90	\$38,343
Financial Activities	180	\$20,769	285	\$39,321	245	\$42,667
Professional and Business Services	217	\$19,029	392	\$29,637	414	\$32,765
Educational and Health Services	329	\$17,154	505	\$24,102	494	\$27,689
Leisure and Hospitality	711	\$8,337	777	\$11,218	775	\$11,420
Other Services	167	\$14,476	175	\$18,040	146	\$20,544
Government	2,257	\$22,465	2,284	\$31,259	2,339	\$30,409

Per Capita Income	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Elmore County	\$18,264	\$19,198	\$20,138	\$20,830	\$22,134	\$22,733	\$24,144	\$25,185	\$26,431	\$27,635
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
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 Mountain Home, ID 83647-0160 Ph: (208) 364-7788

labor.idaho.gov