



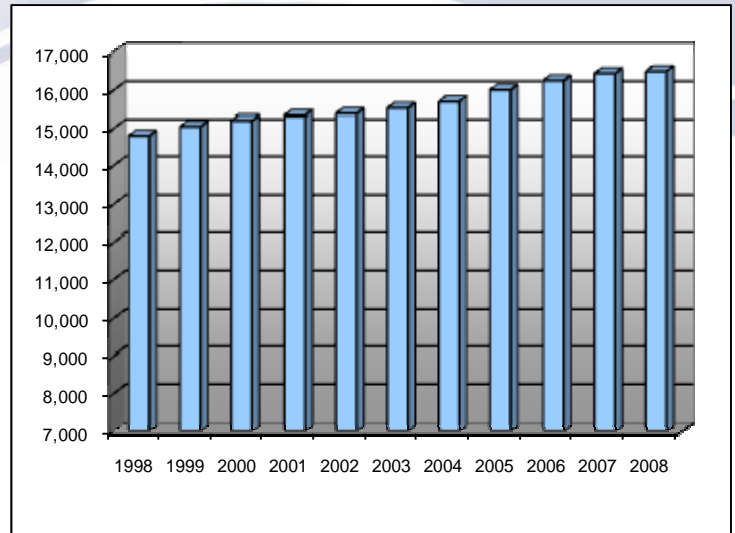
Gem County

November 2009

Work Force Trends

Population

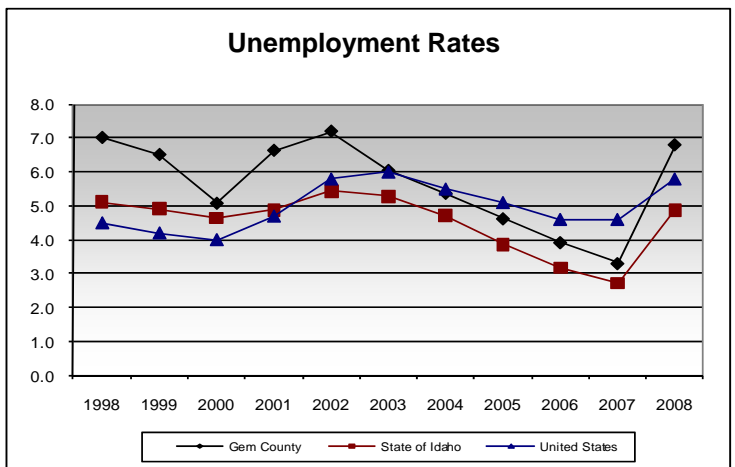
Gem County is the 19th most populous of Idaho's 44 counties and the fifth smallest geographically with 38 percent owned by the federal government. The population steadily increased through 2007 before flattening in 2008 as the economy slowed. From 1998 to 2008 the population increased 11.6 percent, or 1,710. As growth in the nearby population centers of Ada and Canyon counties slowed, the overflow into Gem County declined. People had been moving to the county to escape the crowds and congestion while at the same time enjoy a more rural lifestyle than the nearby metropolitan areas provide.



Labor Force & Employment

After unemployment rates remained under 4 percent for two years, Gem County's labor force declined in 2008 by 3.4 percent and the average unemployment rate more than doubled to 6.8 percent. Since many residents commute to Ada and Canyon counties, the major job losses in both contributed to rising unemployment in Gem County. In the last decade, unemployment peaked at 7.2 percent in 2002 before steadily subsiding. But the rate in 2009 likely will exceed the previous peak as the recession wears on.

Gem County did not have the robust nonfarm job growth in 2007 that many counties in southwestern Idaho did. But it suffered the same job erosion in 2008, losing 3 percent of nonfarm jobs. Not surprisingly, construction posted the largest decline of 105 jobs, or 26 percent. All other sectors combined shed just 103 jobs. The construction industry had been the major economic driver in Gem County over the

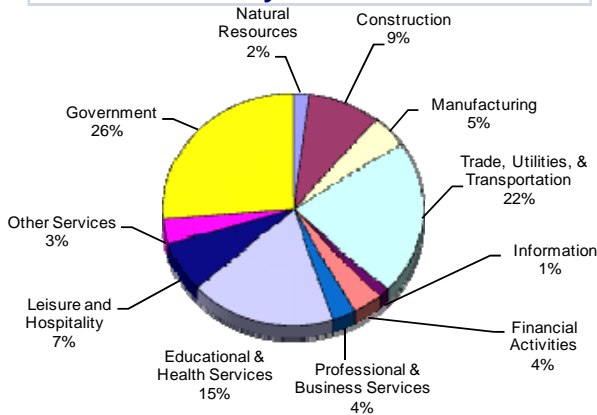


last few years, and despite its steep decline in 2008, there were still 62 percent more jobs in construction than there were in 1998. Fortunately, other sectors added jobs during the year partially offsetting construction's decline. Most notably, education and health services increased by 8.8 percent, or 48 jobs. Trade, transportation and utilities made a modest gain during 2008 as well, indicating consumer spending had not dropped enough during the latter half of 2008 to warrant job cuts as it did in many other counties. That may not be the case in 2009.

Labor Force	Oct 2008	Oct 2009
Civilian Labor Force	7,154	7,006
Total Employment	6,573	6,165
Unemployed	581	841
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.1	12.0
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	6,400	6,260	7,040	7,222	7,089	7,030	7,024	7,172	7,265	7,391	7,136
Unemployment	448	408	357	478	509	424	377	331	284	244	484
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.0	6.5	5.1	6.6	7.2	6.0	5.4	4.6	3.9	3.3	6.8
Employment	5,952	5,852	6,683	6,744	6,580	6,606	6,647	6,841	6,981	7,147	6,652

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2008



Per Capita Income & Employment

Gem County dropped from 29th in 2006 to 33rd in 2007 in per capita income, closely following the decline in construction since then. In 2004 the county ranked 37th and moved up to 29th in 2006 as construction boomed.

After years of significant decline, agriculture somewhat stabilized in 2008 at essentially the same job level as 2007. as the fourth highest paying industry in Gem County, a stable agriculture sector would be a plus even if it accounts for only 4.5 percent of covered employment.

Major Employers

Gem County
Elderly Opportunity Agency Inc.
Walter Knox Memorial Hospital
Emmett Middle School
Emmett High School
Butte View Elementary School
Community Partnerships of Idaho Inc.
City of Emmett
Emmett Valley and Shoshone Livestock

Occupational Wages*

Occupational Wages*	Starting Wage
Retail Salesperson	\$7.20
Licensed Practical Nurse	\$14.67
Construction Laborer	\$8.91
Cook	\$9.46
Medical Assistant	\$10.82
Farm Laborer	\$6.55
Maintenance Workers	\$9.88
Equipment Operator	\$12.22
Registered Nurse	\$18.70
Office Clerk	\$8.65
Electrician	\$11.95
Bookkeeper	\$10.08

* 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	3,202	\$21,217	3,407	\$25,811	3,304	\$25,819
Agriculture	280	\$20,908	150	\$30,139	149	\$29,172
Mining	*	*	*	*	*	*
Construction	184	\$18,123	403	\$28,223	298	\$28,717
Manufacturing	498	\$33,837	153	\$33,378	147	\$29,109
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	652	\$16,610	677	\$26,584	685	\$25,475
Information	19	\$20,924	59	\$37,716	44	\$37,568
Financial Activities	105	\$20,603	119	\$26,181	110	\$27,389
Professional and Business Services	107	\$20,577	95	\$29,602	98	\$32,243
Educational and Health Services	302	\$18,239	550	\$21,165	599	\$22,502
Leisure and Hospitality	214	\$6,901	241	\$9,700	230	\$9,933
Other Services	68	\$11,708	94	\$18,153	88	\$19,477
Government	760	\$23,759	852	\$28,743	842	\$29,366

Per Capita Income	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Gem County	\$17,880	\$18,219	\$19,388	\$20,025	\$19,485	\$19,661	\$21,117	\$22,534	\$24,053	\$25,398
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
 2030 S. Washington St.
 Emmett, ID 83617-9450 Ph: (208) 364-7780

labor.idaho.gov