



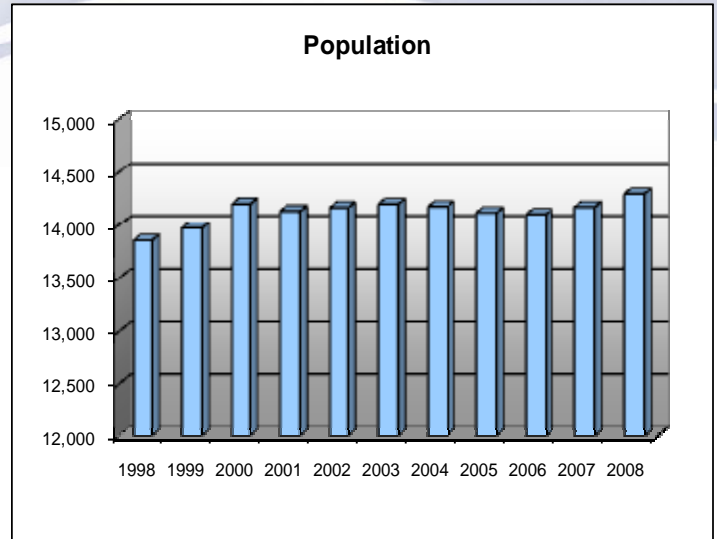
# Gooding County

November 2009

## Work Force Trends

### Population

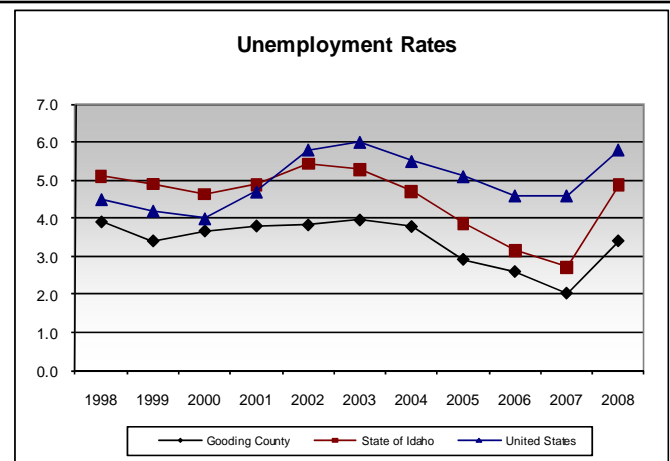
Gooding County has experienced modest growth over the last 10 years, rising from 13,854 in 1998 to 14,295 in 2008, a 3.2 percent increase. Between 2003 and 2006, Gooding's population dipped slightly due to restructuring of the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind which reduced the school's population. Gooding County leads the state in dairy with explosive growth over the last 15 years. The industry attracted permanent workers who typically would have been migrant, seasonal help, allowing them to settle in the area. The county seat and largest town is Gooding at 3,200 residents in 2008. Wendell, coined the Hub City due to its central location, is the second largest town with 2,418 residents in 2008. Over 50 percent of the county's population choose to reside outside city limits. The county's diverse market basket including specialty onions, trout, beef cattle and dairy products are stable and translate to slight, yet steady, population growth.



### Labor Force & Employment

The civilian labor force has been steadily growing in Gooding County over the last decade, from over 6,600 in 1998 to more than 8,300 in 2008. The unemployment rate has fluctuated from a low 2.0 percent in 2007 to a high of 4.0 percent – which is considered full employment – in 2003, which has been well below state and national rates.

The dairy and cheese processing industries, which provide year-round employment, keep employment stable and unemployment low. The rapid growth in dairies has slowed in recent years as environmental concerns forced the Gooding County Commission to tighten standards for large livestock operators. Kiefer-Built Trailers started operations in 2004 and provided skilled jobs, but it has

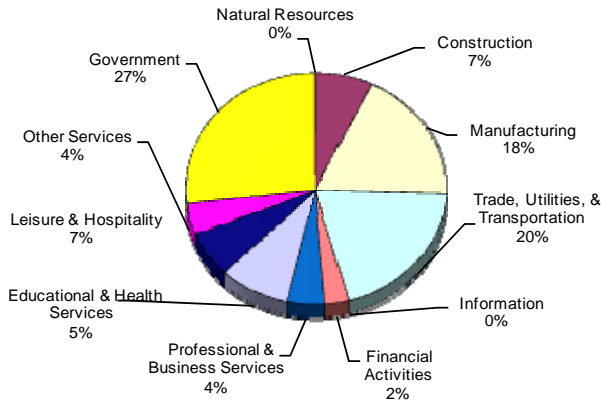


not been recession-proof and has fallen to minimal production during the recession. At one time, many residents commuted to Blaine County for the higher paying landscaping and construction jobs. But those jobs have declined in the economic downturn despite the needs of estates, second homes and hotels in Sun Valley and Ketchum. But even with the slowdown in job growth, the long-term forecast for Gooding County is an eventual return to trends of low unemployment and temperate growth.

Labor Force	Oct 2008	Oct 2009
Civilian Labor Force	8,449	8,507
Total Employment	8,139	7,939
Unemployed	310	568
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.7	6.7
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	6,686	6,621	7,172	7,113	7,231	7,397	7,657	8,074	8,454	8,367	8,368
Unemployment	260	224	263	270	276	292	289	235	219	169	285
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.9	3.4	3.7	3.8	3.8	4.0	3.8	2.9	2.6	2.0	3.4
Employment	6,426	6,397	6,910	6,843	6,955	7,105	7,367	7,839	8,236	8,198	8,084

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2008



Major Employers	
Bettencourt Dairies	Gooding County
Box Canyon Dairy	Gooding County Memorial Hospital
BRP Health Manage. Systems	Helena Chemical Company
Clear Springs Food	Idaho State School for Deaf & Blind
D & D Transportation	Jack Verbree Jr. Dairy
Double A Dairy	Magic Valley Growers
Glanbia, Inc.	The Walker Center

## Wages & Income

The income generated from dairies and access to higher paying jobs in Blaine County have been the catalyst for much of Gooding County's significant growth in per capita income, which rose 53 percent from \$23,756 in 1998 to \$36,354 in 2007. Gooding County ranks fourth among Idaho's 44 counties in per capita income. The work force is stable yet highly mobile and willing to spend the extra time and gas for higher wages in Blaine County when quality jobs are not available at home. Gooding County has the second highest per capita income in south central Idaho, after Blaine County.

Occupational Wages*	Average Wage
Cashiers	\$7.25
Cheese Processors	\$9.50
Construction Labor	\$12.00
General Farm Labor	\$7.25
Maintenance Mechanics	\$12.50
Milkers	\$10.00
Receptionists	\$9.00
Registered Nurses	\$21.00
Social Workers	\$20.00
Substance Abuse Counselors	\$16.00
Teachers	\$17.00
Waiters & Waitresses	\$7.25

\* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor Web site at [lmi.idaho.gov](http://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
<b>Total Covered Wages</b>	4,754	\$18,731	6,324	\$27,532	6,399	\$28,716
<b>Agriculture</b>	1,246	\$18,287	2,039	\$26,262	2,187	\$27,833
<b>Mining</b>	0	\$0	*	*	*	*
<b>Construction</b>	178	\$17,212	312	\$28,936	305	\$29,443
<b>Manufacturing</b>	540	\$23,600	764	\$38,280	785	\$40,304
<b>Trade, Utilities &amp; Transportation</b>	914	\$18,788	906	\$28,771	873	\$29,860
<b>Information</b>	19	\$16,630	0	\$0	0	\$0
<b>Financial Activities</b>	107	\$16,126	123	\$27,554	110	\$29,863
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	92	\$22,605	283	\$29,284	202	\$33,381
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	236	\$17,748	343	\$25,425	372	\$22,447
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	324	\$7,579	302	\$8,440	281	\$9,221
<b>Other Services</b>	94	\$26,012	143	\$30,498	162	\$32,806
<b>Government</b>	1,006	\$19,983	1,107	\$26,107	1,006	\$26,666

Per Capita Income	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Gooding County</b>	\$23,756	\$25,484	\$23,466	\$28,185	\$26,122	\$26,272	\$30,234	\$31,122	\$30,761	\$36,354
<b>State of Idaho</b>	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,077	\$25,024	\$25,234	\$25,543	\$27,389	\$28,681	\$30,374	\$31,804
<b>United States</b>	\$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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 Twin Falls, ID 83301-5129 Ph: (208) 735-2500

[labor.idaho.gov](http://labor.idaho.gov)