



# Jefferson County

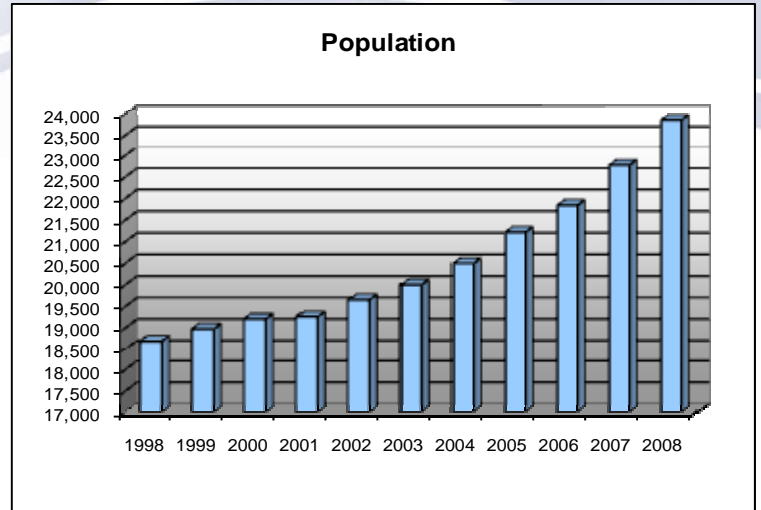
November 2009

## Work Force Trends

### Population

Jefferson County has been growing by an average of 517 people a year since 1998. The population in 2008 was estimated at 23,860 following the largest one-year growth spurt of 1,083 people. The county is part of the Idaho Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area and sits between the high-growth counties of Bonneville and Madison, which affects Jefferson with their overflow.

New residential subdivisions and commercial developments are continually being added, and the county is trying to stay abreast of infrastructure issues.

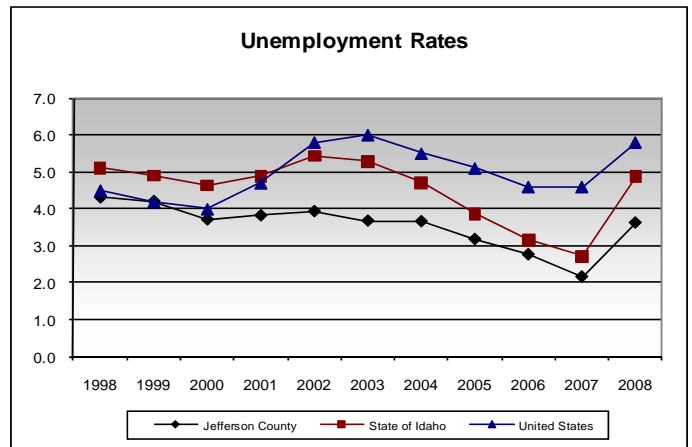


### Labor Force & Employment

Jefferson County's unemployment rate remained comparatively low between 1998 and 2008, staying below the state and national rates for almost all of the decade. Many residents commute to Madison or Bonneville counties, where growth has been substantial. The labor force grew by 1,184, or 11.8 percent, during the decade while unemployment decreased by 194 through 2007 and then increased with the onset of the national recession.

U.S. Highway 20 is a gateway for tourists heading to Island Park and Yellowstone National Park, and the county wants to take advantage of that traffic. The Riot Zone, which features recreational activities for the whole family, is situated next to Rigby Lake, which offers picnic sites, day use and swimming. U.S. Highway 26 also attracts tourists traveling to the Targhee National Forest, various ski resorts and Jackson Hole, Wyo.

Government, trade, manufacturing and construction are



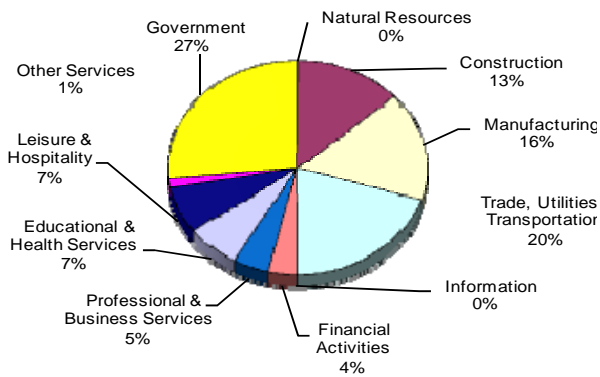
the largest industries with government and trade providing almost half of the jobs. The Department of Transportation, local officials and several school districts account for government jobs while two of the area's large potato fresh-pack plants employ many in wholesale trade. Most of the manufacturing jobs are at two large potato processing plants, Idahoan Foods and Idaho Pacific. Grain, corn and potatoes are produced in the county.

The county's claim to fame is the city of Rigby, the home of the inventor of television, Philo Farnsworth.

Labor Force	Oct 2008	Oct 2009
Civilian Labor Force	11,317	11,206
Total Employment	10,950	10,550
Unemployed	366	657
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.2	5.9
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	10,061	10,301	9,028	9,218	9,449	9,900	10,145	10,672	10,914	11,187	11,245
Unemployment	435	430	334	352	371	363	370	338	301	241	407
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.3	4.2	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.2	2.8	2.2	3.6
Employment	9,626	9,871	8,694	8,867	9,078	9,537	9,775	10,334	10,614	10,946	10,838

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2008



## Covered Employers

Jefferson County's covered employment increased 24.2 percent from 1998 to 2008, over 1,160. Construction, government and manufacturing experienced the largest growth – almost 800 combined – while agriculture lost jobs. Commercial and residential developments continue to spring up as the county grows along with all other industrial sectors. The average annual wage rose \$6,602 during the decade.

*Covered employment includes employers who are subject to state and federal unemployment insurance laws. These laws apply to approximately 92 percent of Idaho's employers.*

## Major Employers

Blaine Larsen Farms, Inc.
Broulim's Foodtpwm
Idahoan Foods
Idaho Pacific Corporation
Idaho Transportation Department
Kelly Canyon Winter Park LLC
Rigby Produce
Taylor Produce

## Occupational Wages\*

## Average Wage

Agricultural Workers	\$8.28
Bookkeeping, Accounty & Auditing Clerk	\$12.15
Cashiers	\$8.40
Construction Trade Workers	\$15.24
Cooks & Food Preparation Workers	\$7.74
Customer Service Reps	\$10.92
Engineers (All)	\$36.65
Food & Beverage Serving Workers	\$7.33
Food Processing Workers	\$13.23
General Office Clerks	\$11.35
Graders & Sorters, Agricultural Products	\$6.78
Janitors & Cleaners (exc Housekeepers)	\$10.98
Packers & Packagers, Hand	\$9.43
Retail Sales Workers	\$10.60

\* 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>	4,802	\$18,280	6,126	\$24,070	5,963	\$24,882
<b>Agriculture</b>	1,120	\$18,842	731	\$26,075	759	\$27,612
<b>Mining</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Construction</b>	431	\$15,979	862	\$24,778	706	\$25,963
<b>Manufacturing</b>	631	\$22,224	968	\$25,521	854	\$26,309
<b>Trade, Utilities &amp; Transportation</b>	928	\$16,118	1,103	\$23,820	1,064	\$24,950
<b>Information</b>	*	*	3	\$17,271	3	\$44,865
<b>Financial Activities</b>	90	\$22,310	155	\$34,076	178	\$33,377
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	77	\$22,087	219	\$31,496	241	\$32,209
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	163	\$11,508	359	\$25,887	350	\$26,909
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	258	\$6,060	352	\$7,555	381	\$7,192
<b>Other Services</b>	42	\$16,420	56	\$20,715	69	\$19,253
<b>Government</b>	1,054	\$21,573	1,316	\$23,281	1,353	\$24,080

Per Capita Income	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Jefferson County</b>	\$17,201	\$17,818	\$18,754	\$19,764	\$20,157	\$19,698	\$21,192	\$21,608	\$22,513	\$23,792
<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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[labor.idaho.gov](http://labor.idaho.gov)

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