



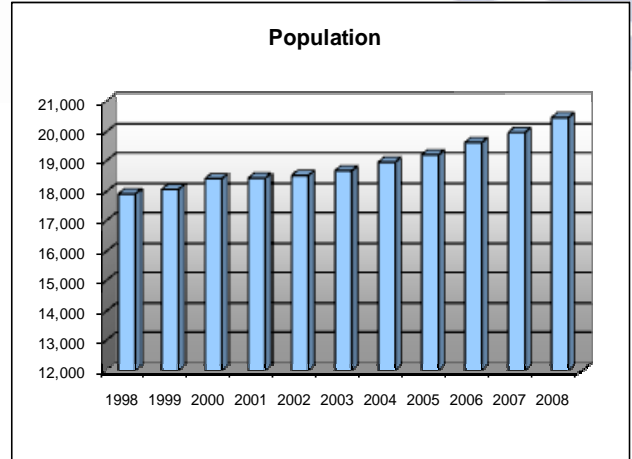
# Jerome County

November 2009

## Work Force Trends

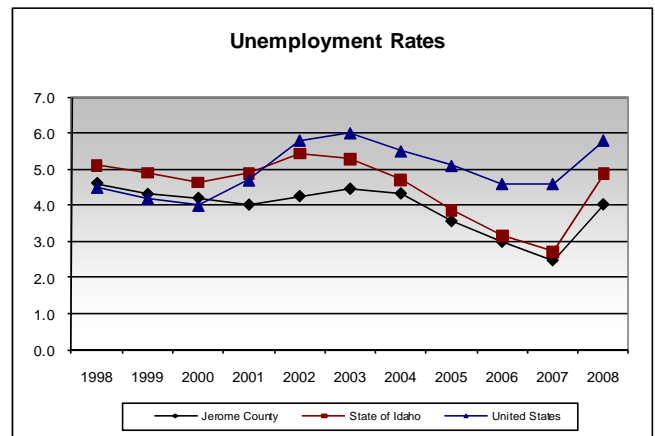
### Population

Jerome County's population has grown steadily, rising 14 percent from nearly 18,000 in 1998 to just under 20,500 in 2008 in response to strong economic and infrastructure development. Jerome is the county seat and by far the largest city at 9,157 residents. Hilex Poly, an advanced plastics manufacturer that makes grocery bags, and Idaho Milk Products with its new state-of-the-art milk processing plant are examples of new companies requiring workers with high skill sets. The dairy industry continues to be a major factor in the economy and community, drawing feeder businesses such as Jerome Cheese, West Farm Foods Inc. and WOW Logistics. The newly-constructed Con Paulos auto dealership, new schools and the steady increase of small retailers have invigorated the community. Jerome's residential construction had been going strong into the downturn with big draws such as affordable real estate and prime interstate location. The Crossroads Point Business Center at the high traffic intersection of I-84 and US 93, along with 93 Technology Park and numerous other industrial parks, will position Jerome for significant growth over the next decade.



### Labor Force & Employment

Seasonally adjusted unemployment in Jerome County has improved the past few years as has been the trend throughout Idaho. It dropped from a high of 4.6 percent in 1998 to a low of 2.5 percent in 2007, driven by economic diversification, development and growth in the dairy industry. The current downturn has unemployment creeping back up but not to the record levels of 1983 when the average adjusted rate was 9.7 percent. While dairy has provided many stable jobs directly and indirectly, it remains a volatile commodity. Some dairy farms are culling cows to meet debt obligations due to the latest price pinch, with the rigors of supply and demand imbalances creating the current price deflation. Jerome County is expected to resume its recent experience of relatively low

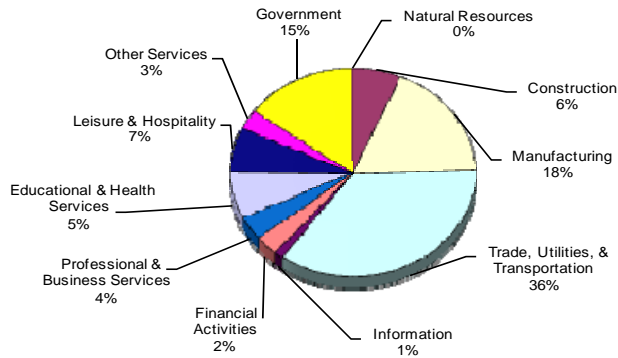


unemployment and continue to outperform the nation and state. The economic outlook remains optimistic with continued development of the Crossroads Point Business Center, which currently boasts a Wingate Hotel, Fed Ex, Pella Windows, Fastenal, Subway and the Heritage Center. Work on a new St. Benedict's Hospital is anticipated to start in 2010. The concerted efforts of economic development professionals toward green energy industry is expected to pay off over the next decade with the help of Jerome's convenient location on Interstate 84 and job creation efforts by industry clusters.

Labor Force	Oct 2008	Oct 2009
Civilian Labor Force	10,046	10,029
Total Employment	9,582	9,313
Unemployed	464	716
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.6	7.1
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	9,003	8,954	9,253	9,322	9,586	9,518	9,772	9,857	10,117	10,181	10,137
Unemployment	411	382	388	374	407	423	422	351	302	253	407
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.6	4.3	4.2	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.3	3.6	3.0	2.5	4.0
Employment	8,592	8,572	8,865	8,948	9,180	9,095	9,350	9,506	9,815	9,928	9,730

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2008



## Wages & Income

Jerome County has shown strong growth in per capita income over the last decade. A 43 percent increase brought per capita income from \$22,065 in 1998 to \$31,440 in 2007, ranking the county seventh statewide, slightly below the state level.

The dairy and cheese industry is struggling through pricing and profitability problems that hit in the third quarter of 2008. Dairy moratoria have been imposed and lifted, upsetting residents on both sides. Even with these challenges, average employment grew 379 jobs, or 4.4 percent, and average wages crept up 5.8 percent during the recession. The cluster of industries and forward development have kept Jerome on the periphery of the current economic malaise, fostered by proactive development and collaboration leading to job creation.

## Major Employers

Aardema Dairy	Rite Stuff Foods
Arlo G. Lott Trucking, Inc.	Si-Ellen Farms
Crestview Calves	Spears Manufacturing
Dietrich Cattle Company	St. Benedict's Medical Center
Hilex Poly	Standlee Hay Company
Jerome Cheese	Wal-Mart

## Occupational Wages\*

## Average Wage

Teachers	\$17.00
Teachers Aides	\$8.50
Registered Nurses	\$20.00
Receptionists	\$8.50
Medical Secretaries	\$9.50
Bookkeepers	\$9.00
Cashiers	\$7.25
Janitorial	\$8.00
Landscapers	\$9.00
Maintenance Mechanics	\$12.20
Cheese Processors	\$9.40
Construction Laborers	\$11.52
Milkers	\$9.90
Farm Laborers	\$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>	6,110	\$20,693	8,649	\$27,571	9,028	\$29,165
<b>Agriculture</b>	1,260	\$19,173	2,046	\$26,149	2,132	\$28,298
<b>Mining</b>	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
<b>Construction</b>	258	\$22,958	433	\$30,979	441	\$35,956
<b>Manufacturing</b>	767	\$22,661	1,237	\$29,200	1,261	\$31,576
<b>Trade, Utilities &amp; Transportation</b>	1,836	\$22,455	2,290	\$30,304	2,462	\$32,034
<b>Information</b>	46	\$21,780	78	\$32,488	82	\$35,818
<b>Financial Activities</b>	97	\$20,457	220	\$30,158	203	\$24,518
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	204	\$22,649	253	\$30,246	266	\$30,056
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	319	\$23,571	467	\$31,298	508	\$32,132
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	343	\$8,376	442	\$11,567	474	\$12,008
<b>Other Services</b>	116	\$16,217	193	\$22,211	186	\$22,514
<b>Government</b>	865	\$20,684	990	\$25,439	1,013	\$25,989

Per Capita Income	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Jerome County</b>	\$22,065	\$23,341	\$21,797	\$24,816	\$24,100	\$24,352	\$26,917	\$27,918	\$27,896	\$31,440
<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



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