



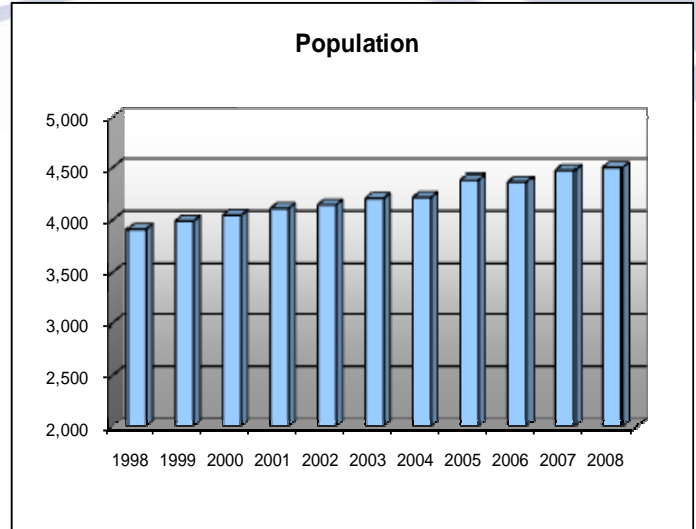
Lincoln County

November 2009

Work Force Trends

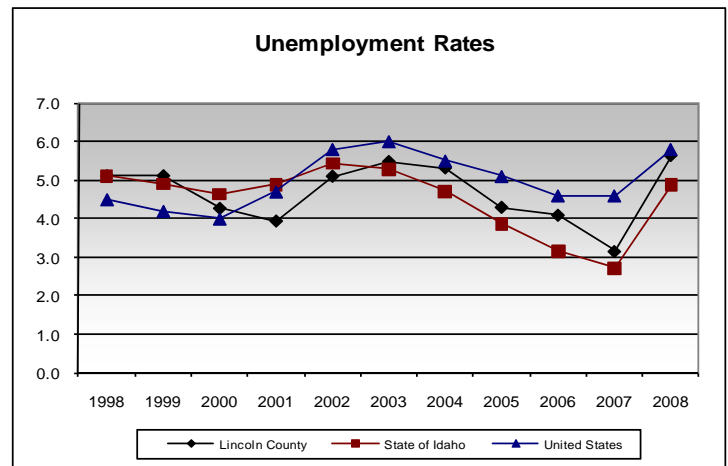
Population

Lincoln County's population has risen 15 percent in the last 10 years, keeping pace with the rest of south central Idaho. The city of Shoshone, gateway to the Sun Valley area, is the county seat with a population of 1,564. Lincoln County continues to rely on agriculture, and several dairies have started up in the last decade as part of the overall regional growth in dairies. Glanbia Foods has a whey processing plant in Richfield, 14 miles east of Shoshone, which is close enough to Twin Falls and the Wood River Valley to serve as a bedroom community for workers commuting to both. Affordable housing continues to be an issue in the Wood River Valley so subdivisions and residential construction remain an ongoing commitment in Shoshone, where sustainable growth is expected.



Labor Force & Employment

Unemployment has been a roller coaster in Lincoln County. The seasonally adjusted rate peaked at 5.6 percent in 2008 from a record low of 3.2 percent in 2007. During six of the last 10 years, the unemployment rate has exceeded 5 percent. Since the economic downturn, unemployment has reached new levels well above the state and national rates. There has been some economic diversification that created new jobs, but most are in the service sector. Dairies have brought some stability to the seasonal nature of the traditional tourism, landscaping and agricultural jobs. Several convenience stores serving Sun Valley-bound tourists have done well in Shoshone. Dairy commodities had been strong and whey processing jobs in Richfield continue to be a very stable. Hay, grains, corn and other crops that can be green chopped for dairy silage are the primary crops. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management's

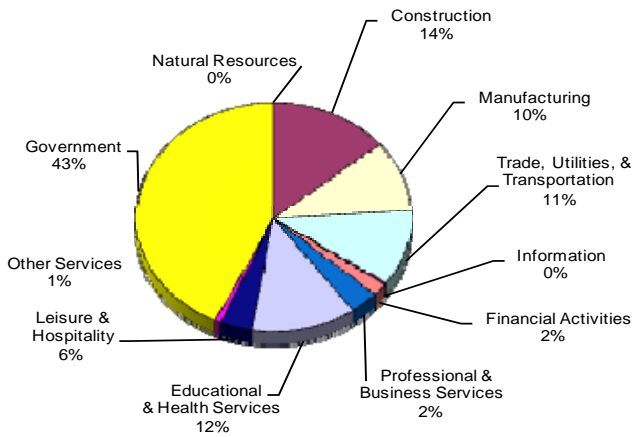


regional headquarters is located in Shoshone, as well as dispatch for the National Interagency Fire Center, serving southern Idaho. Both governmental entities experience seasonal labor fluctuations. Residential construction continues in Lincoln County where affordable housing for workers in the Wood River Valley is a priority. The surrounding small communities all saw interest in new housing prior to the downturn. The county should see light to steady growth when the economy rebounds with plentiful jobs and higher wages once again in Blaine County.

Labor Force	Oct 2008	Oct 2009
Civilian Labor Force	2,440	2,606
Total Employment	2,270	2,234
Unemployed	170	372
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.0	14.3
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	1,845	1,870	2,198	2,231	2,288	2,266	2,322	2,400	2,551	2,517	2,480
Unemployment	94	96	94	88	116	124	123	103	104	79	139
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.1	5.1	4.3	3.9	5.1	5.5	5.3	4.3	4.1	3.2	5.6
Employment	1,751	1,774	2,104	2,143	2,172	2,142	2,198	2,297	2,447	2,438	2,340

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2008



Wages & Income

Per capita income in Lincoln County has grown steadily, rising 34 percent from 1998 to 2007. The county still ranks low in comparison to others, 32nd among the 44 counties, but improving. Many of the jobs are in services and agriculture, which tend to pay lower wages. Growth in both jobs and wages is projected for Lincoln County based on new residential development in place for after the economic downturn, the whey manufacturing plant offering higher paying jobs with promise for expansion and concerted efforts by retail/office developers to capture the commuter traffic market.

Major Employers

4 Brothers Dairy	Ross Lumber
AHS of Idaho	Sweet's Septic & Backhoe Service
BRP Health Management	U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Glanbia, Inc.	Valley Co-Op
Idaho Dept of Transport.	Big Wood Canal Company

Occupational Wages*

Starting Wage

Teachers	\$17.00
Bookkeepers	\$9.00
Cashiers	\$7.25
School Custodians	\$10.50
Cheese Processors	\$9.40
Receptionists	\$9.00
Fire Fighters	\$13.00
Milkers	\$9.90
General Farm Labor	\$7.25
Construction Labor	\$12.00

* 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	1,059	\$19,212	1,438	\$27,812	1,438	\$28,726
Agriculture	117	\$15,551	203	\$25,129	232	\$26,727
Mining	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Construction	56	\$18,032	187	\$28,072	175	\$31,282
Manufacturing	*	*	110	\$46,706	124	\$45,243
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	155	\$11,809	130	\$18,930	117	\$20,017
Information	*	*	0	\$0	*	*
Financial Activities	15	\$12,600	21	\$12,841	22	\$15,548
Professional and Business Services	9	\$21,614	48	\$24,830	42	\$26,919
Educational and Health Services	120	\$16,603	163	\$24,248	156	\$23,355
Leisure and Hospitality	58	\$8,246	64	\$8,687	47	\$9,961
Other Services	*	*	8	\$23,910	9	\$23,726
Government	470	\$23,783	505	\$31,543	511	\$31,014

Per Capita Income	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Lincoln County	\$19,122	\$20,074	\$20,193	\$21,085	\$20,858	\$20,159	\$22,222	\$21,708	\$23,042	\$25,567
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:
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labor.idaho.gov

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