



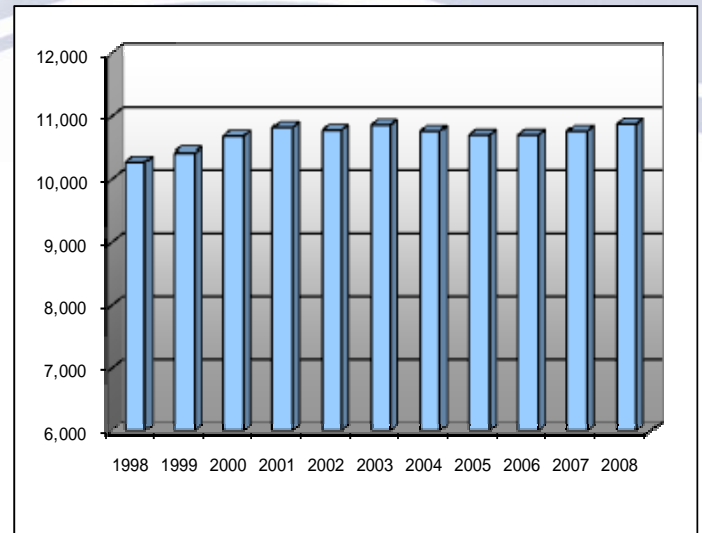
Owyhee County

November 2009

Work Force Trends

Population

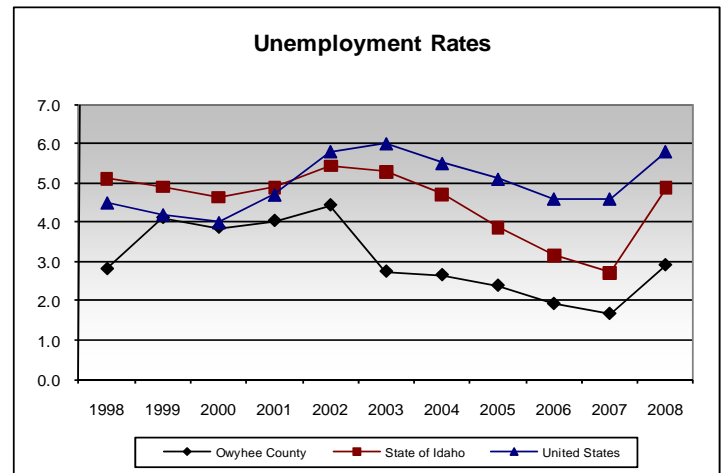
Owyhee County is the second largest and the 26th most populous of Idaho's 44 counties. It has one of the lowest population densities in the state, and more than three-quarters of the land is federally owned. As with most counties in southwestern Idaho, Owyhee's population has been steadily increasing since 1998 from 10,285 to 10,877 in 2008, or 5.8 percent. Due to the large federal land holdings and the fairly remote locations of this largely agricultural county, population growth has been slower in Owyhee County than in most surrounding areas. The western portion of the county is where the majority of residents live.



Labor Force & Employment

The Owyhee County labor force declined from 1998 to 2008 by 2.3 percent, 105 workers, the decline all coming in 2008 as the national recession hit. The relatively slow growth of the labor force kept the unemployment rate comparatively low. Only twice did it rise above 4 percent, which many economists see as full employment, while staying below 3 percent in most years. Owyhee County is the only county in southwestern Idaho that remained at the full employment level during 2008.

Nonfarm payroll jobs followed the same downward path as the rest of southwestern Idaho in 2008, declining 2 percent. Not surprisingly, construction and manufacturing suffered the brunt of the losses, construction falling 8.7 percent and manufacturing 11.5 percent. Owyhee County did not experience the exorbitant construction growth other counties did, but it ended 2008 with 58.3 percent more jobs than it had in 1998. Trade, transportation and utilities also

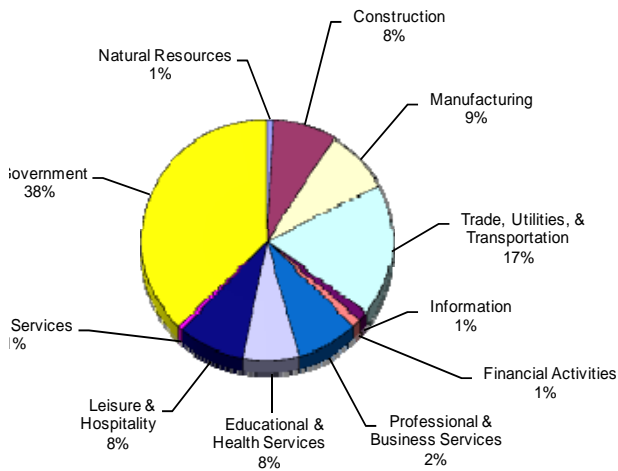


lost jobs from 2007 as the national recession took hold although the declines were not as large as other counties in the region experienced. Leisure and hospitality added jobs as did government. Owyhee County has a large federal presence due to the vast federal land holdings. Government accounts for 37.8 percent of all nonfarm jobs at the federal, state and local levels.

Labor Force	Oct 2008	Oct 2009
Civilian Labor Force	4,372	4,162
Total Employment	4,231	3,968
Unemployed	141	194
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.2	4.7
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	4,523	4,405	4,794	4,878	4,740	4,690	4,628	4,681	4,686	4,786	4,418
Unemployment	126	182	185	196	209	128	122	111	90	80	128
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.8	4.1	3.9	4.0	4.4	2.7	2.6	2.4	1.9	1.7	2.9
Employment	4,397	4,223	4,610	4,682	4,531	4,562	4,505	4,570	4,597	4,706	4,290

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2008



Per Capita Income/Covered Employment

Owyhee County ranked 28th in per capita income in Idaho in 2007 at \$26,459. That was down from 27th in 2006. The heavy dependence on agriculture, a typically low paying sector, and a larger-than-average family sizes contributed to the drop in ranking.

Agriculture and government account for 59.8 percent of covered employment in 2008, up from 57.2 percent a year earlier. Agriculture employment was up due to dairy expansion, offsetting declines in construction and manufacturing.

Major Employers

Bruneau-Grandview School District
Filler King Co.
Homedale School District
J.R. Simplot Co.
Nederend Dairy
Marsing School District
Owyhee County
Owyhee Health & Rehabilitation Center
Paul's Market
Deruyter Dairy

Occupational Wages*

Starting Wage

Bookkeeper	\$10.08
Farm Equipment Mechanics	\$12.92
Groundskeeping Workers	\$8.30
Maintenance & Repair Workers	\$9.88
Fork Lift Driver	\$8.98
School Bus Driver	\$8.85
Administrative Assistants	\$11.79
General Farm Laborer	\$6.55

* 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	2,264	\$21,786	2,890	\$26,116	2,975	\$25,261
Agriculture	623	\$21,399	943	\$25,592	1,064	\$23,281
Mining	177	\$36,542	*	*	*	*
Construction	100	\$24,830	169	\$29,097	158	\$30,223
Manufacturing	131	\$23,741	192	\$32,943	170	\$30,471
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	232	\$16,076	357	\$24,577	343	\$26,087
Information	17	\$38,912	23	\$32,488	25	\$30,349
Financial Activities	25	\$18,434	24	\$28,101	22	\$28,817
Professional and Business Services	98	\$38,268	156	\$42,974	159	\$37,092
Educational and Health Services	99	\$18,806	119	\$24,736	122	\$24,646
Leisure and Hospitality	134	\$8,611	165	\$8,157	169	\$8,341
Other Services	12	\$16,564	16	\$17,431	12	\$21,205
Government	615	\$19,681	709	\$25,046	714	\$25,966

Per Capita Income	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Owyhee County	\$17,853	\$18,470	\$18,383	\$19,738	\$19,622	\$19,416	\$21,978	\$23,174	\$24,645	\$26,459
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 offices listed below:

Idaho Department of Labor
1993 E. Eighth N.
Mountain Home, ID 83647-0160
Ph: (208) 364-7788

or
Idaho Department of Labor
4514 Jefferson Street
Caldwell, ID 83605-5100
Ph: (208) 364-7781

labor.idaho.gov

