



Bear Lake County

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DEPT. OF LABOR

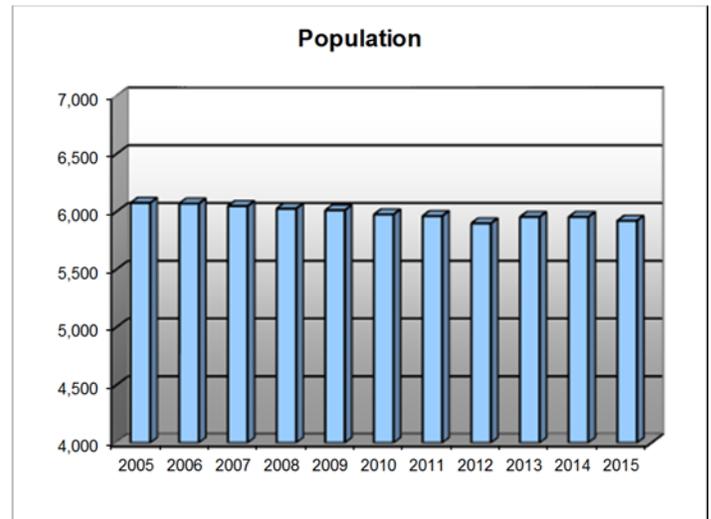
November 2016

Workforce Trends

Population

Bear Lake County was discovered during the early 1990s. Throughout that decade, half the population growth was spurred by development of affordable recreational homes near Bear Lake, also known as the “Caribbean of the Rockies” for its spectacularly blue water. During the last half of the 1990s, population fluctuated but held fairly steady. By 2002 with population at 6,164, the county started a slow but steady decline, until 2013. By the 2010 census the population was at 5,986. 2015 population estimates place the county’s population at 5,922. The local communities in the county continue to work to promote tourism to create jobs and retain young people in the community.

Montpelier, Bear Lake County’s largest city, is home to the Oregon/California Trail Interpretive Center. Other attractions include the historic Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints’ Tabernacle in Paris and Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge near the north end of Bear Lake.



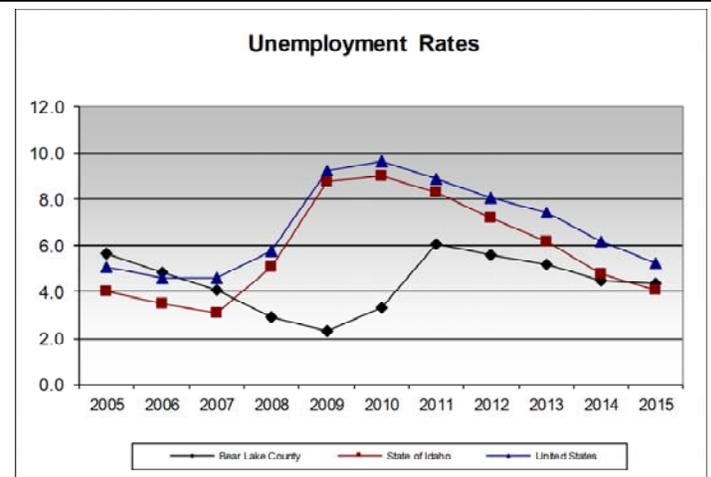
Labor Force & Employment

During the last 10 years, Bear Lake County’s labor market has been tight, providing jobs for most individuals who wanted to live in the county.

The unemployment rate has fluctuated between 6.1 percent in 2011 and 2.3 percent in 2009. The rate has been fairly stable the last two years at 4.5 percent and current 4.4 percent,

The county’s civilian labor force peaked in 2010 at 3,302 but has declined every year since. In 2015, the labor force was 2,842, continuing to be below the 2010 peak. The number of unemployed workers has increased from a low of 73 in 2009 to 124 in 2015.

The largest nonfarm industries in Bear Lake County trade, leisure and hospitality and government. Retail trade, accommodation and food service jobs are tied to the county’s tourism efforts. The Bear Lake Scenic Highway and the Oregon/California Trail Interpretive



Center attract tourists driving between Salt Lake City and Jackson Hole, Wyo., and Yellowstone National Park.

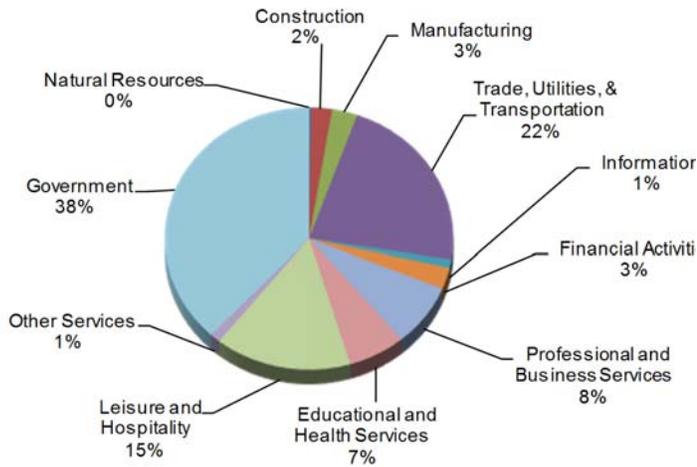
Government accounted for 38 percent of the nonfarm jobs. The largest employer in the county is Bear Lake County Hospital followed by the Bear Lake County School District #33.

During the last decade the industry composition has changed little with government, trade and services supplying most of the nonfarm jobs.

Labor Force	Oct 15	Oct 16
Civilian Labor Force	2,831	2,803
Total Employment	2,714	2,690
Unemployed	117	113
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.1	4.0
State of Idaho % Unemployed	4.0	3.8
U.S. % Unemployed	5.0	4.9

Labor Force	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Civilian Labor Force	2,894	3,027	3,055	3,051	3,158	3,302	2,921	2,881	2,888	2,866	2,842
Unemployment	165	146	124	89	73	110	178	161	150	129	124
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.7	4.8	4.1	2.9	2.3	3.3	6.1	5.6	5.2	4.5	4.4
Employment	2,730	2,881	2,931	2,961	3,085	3,192	2,743	2,720	2,738	2,737	2,717

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2015



Industry Employment & Wages

Because of Bear Lake County's tourism-based economy, trade, utilities, transportation and leisure and hospitality go hand in hand to provide 39 percent of all nonfarm jobs and 35 percent of all covered jobs. But those jobs pay relatively low wages.

Government also provides 40 percent of the jobs, paying higher wages than most other industries.

Wages in Bear Lake County are lower than in most of the state due in large part to the dominance of tourism.

Major Employers

Artic Circle
Bear Lake County
Bear Lake County School District #33
Bear Lake Memorial Hospital
Broulims Foodtown
Jenson Lumber
National Employers Council
U.S. Forest Service
Walton Feed, Inc.

Occupational Wages*

Starting Wage

Cashiers, Retail	\$7.25
Cooks	\$7.25
Food & Beverage Servers	\$7.25
Janitors	\$8.38
Construction Laborers	\$9.29
Maids	\$7.25
Nurses, Registered	\$22.23
Information & Record Clerks	\$8.39
Auto Mechanics	\$9.56
Teachers	\$16.98

* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Department of Labor website at lmi.idaho.gov/.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2005, 2014 & 2015	2005		2014		2015	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	1,515	\$20,182	1,643	\$26,993	1,643	\$27,257
Agriculture	*	*	*	*	*	*
Mining	*	*	*	*	*	*
Construction	34	\$18,285	40	\$32,418	37	\$22,371
Manufacturing	60	\$22,984	45	\$36,604	49	\$33,831
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	355	\$21,152	354	\$24,731	313	\$25,712
Information	*	*	18	\$22,406	18	\$20,386
Financial Activities	52	\$21,386	41	\$34,669	43	\$33,265
Professional and Business Services	32	\$23,234	115	\$36,823	133	\$35,560
Educational and Health Services	70	\$15,250	94	\$16,887	111	\$19,193
Leisure and Hospitality	226	\$7,495	242	\$14,132	263	\$13,943
Other Services	23	\$13,581	22	\$24,742	20	\$27,423
Government	642	\$24,826	656	\$30,890	651	\$32,068

Per Capita Income	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bear Lake County	\$23,516	\$23,849	\$26,240	\$28,179	\$28,522	\$29,253	\$30,776	\$33,674	\$34,495	\$35,842
State of Idaho	\$29,815	\$31,945	\$32,952	\$32,854	\$31,392	\$32,050	\$33,544	\$34,846	\$35,641	\$36,734
United States	\$35,904	\$38,144	\$39,821	\$41,082	\$39,376	\$40,277	\$42,453	\$44,266	\$44,438	\$46,049

Information provided by Bureau of Economic Analysis



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This publication is produced by the Idaho Department of Labor and is funded at least in part by federal grants from the U.S. Department of Labor. Costs associated with this publication are available upon request. The Idaho Department of Labor is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Dial 711 for Idaho Relay Service.