



# Bear Lake County

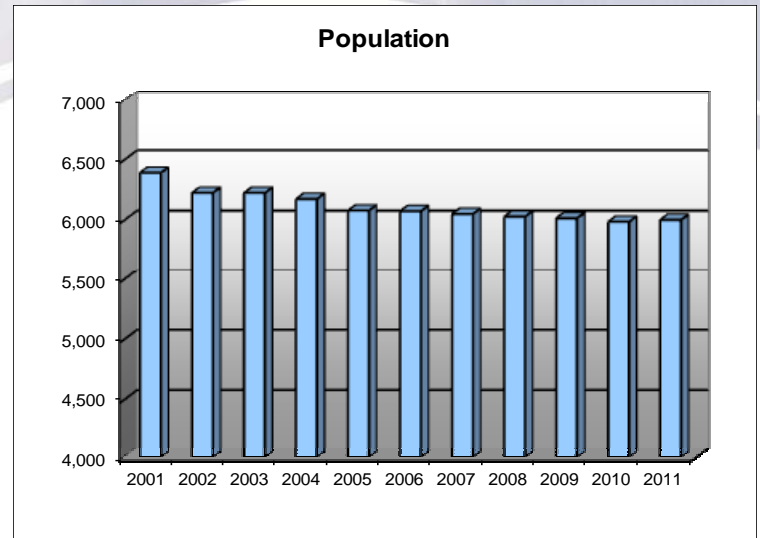
April 2012

## Work Force 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. By 2010 Census the population was at 5,986. 2011 population estimates place the county’s population at 6,001. The local communities in the county continue to work to promote tourism in order create jobs and retain youth 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

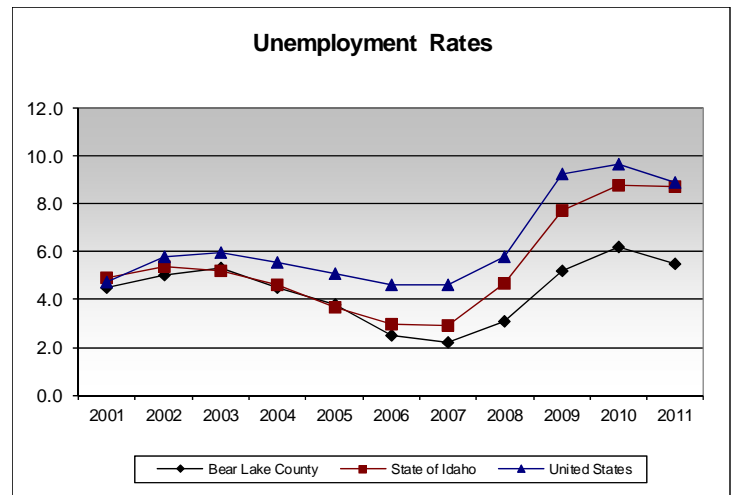
During the last 10 years, Bear Lake County’s labor market has been tight, providing jobs for most individuals who wanted to live in the county.

The unemployment rate has fluctuated between 5.5 percent in 2009 and 2.2 percent in 2007. In 2008 the rate increased to 3.2 percent, primarily because of job losses in the gas fields of western Wyoming and northern Utah. The rate rose even higher in 2009 as the recession tightened its grip.

The county’s civilian labor force increased 12.0 percent, or by 356 between 2001 and 2011. This growth is a positive sign for the county.

The largest nonfarm industries in Bear Lake County are leisure and hospitality, government and trade.

Government accounted for 39 percent of the nonfarm jobs in a county where the federal government manages 46 percent of the land. During the last decade the



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

Tourism-related jobs should remain stable because 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.

Construction activity may increase again as the nation continues to pull out of the recession and resort properties, recently put on hold, resume being developed.

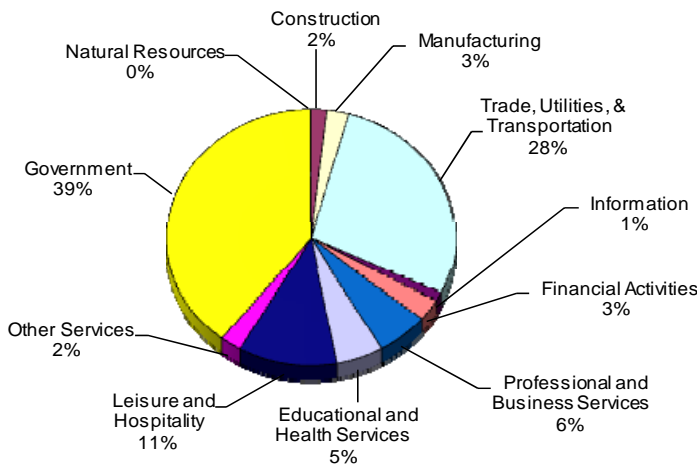
Labor Force	Mar 11	Mar 12
Civilian Labor Force	3,337	3,324
Total Employment	3,168	3,163
Unemployed	169	161
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.1	4.8
State of Idaho % Unemployed	8.7	7.9
U.S. % Unemployed	8.9	8.2

Labor Force	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Civilian Labor Force	2,971	2,879	2,887	3,006	3,016	3,020	3,154	3,322	3,349	3,268	3,327
Unemployment	133	144	154	135	114	76	69	103	174	203	182
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.5	5.0	5.3	4.5	3.8	2.5	2.2	3.1	5.2	6.2	5.5
Employment	2,837	2,735	2,733	2,871	2,902	2,945	3,085	3,219	3,175	3,065	3,144

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## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2010



### 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. But those jobs pay relatively low wages.

Government also provides 39 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

Alco Discount Store
Bear Lake County
Bear Lake County School District #33
Bear Lake Memorial Hospital
Broulims Foodtown
IVI Hotel Management
U.S. Forest Service
Walton Feed, Inc.

### Occupational Wages\*

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/](http://lmi.idaho.gov/).

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2000, 2009 & 2010	2000		2009		2010	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
<b>Total Covered Wages</b>	1,470	\$18,575	1,691	\$23,761	1,633	\$24,818
Agriculture	6	\$15,553	*	*	*	*
Mining	0	\$0	0	\$0	*	*
Construction	45	\$11,850	47	\$23,917	31	\$18,898
Manufacturing	78	\$21,277	39	\$27,040	44	\$25,959
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	387	\$20,382	473	\$20,054	413	\$21,769
Information	18	\$6,568	21	\$11,870	21	\$12,478
Financial Activities	60	\$16,462	51	\$26,854	47	\$26,857
Professional and Business Services	28	\$20,880	111	\$38,821	103	\$34,226
Educational and Health Services	70	\$13,695	68	\$21,200	94	\$20,438
Leisure and Hospitality	175	\$7,806	203	\$10,590	196	\$11,190
Other Services	20	\$14,726	27	\$19,887	20	\$19,322
Government	582	\$21,998	647	\$28,377	662	\$30,516

Per Capita Income	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Bear Lake County	\$17,165	\$19,565	\$19,958	\$20,883	\$22,029	\$23,564	\$24,168	\$26,530	\$28,530	\$29,085
State of Idaho	\$24,683	\$25,642	\$26,007	\$26,438	\$28,414	\$29,594	\$31,585	\$32,734	\$33,062	\$31,857
United States	\$30,318	\$31,145	\$31,461	\$32,271	\$33,881	\$35,424	\$37,698	\$39,461	\$40,674	\$39,635

This county is served by the office located at the address below:  
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[labor.idaho.gov](http://labor.idaho.gov)



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