



Blaine County

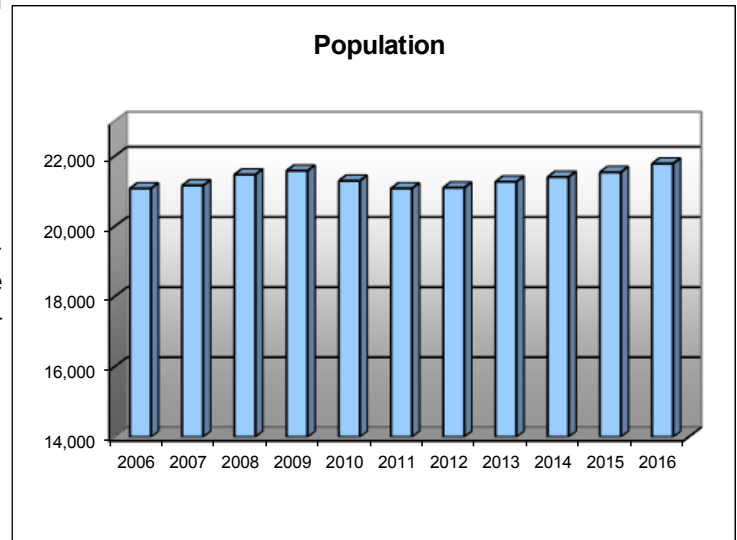
IDAHO
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Workforce Trends

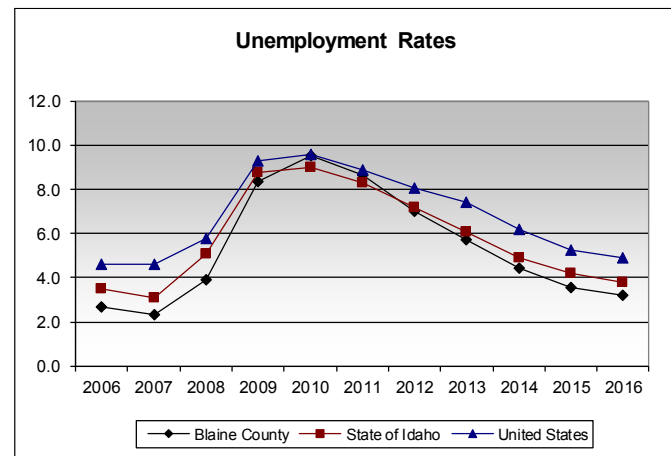
Population

Blaine County's population rose 3.4 percent from 21,082 in 2006 to 21,791 in 2016, slow growth with negative growth in 2010 and 2011. Year-over-year growth is the highest since 2008 at 1.1 percent. Hailey is the county seat and largest town with 8,134. Beautiful mountains and virtually unlimited recreational opportunities make Blaine County a destination for visitors, both domestic and international. The world famous Sun Valley Ski Resort reported 400,000 skier days during the 2016-2017 season, down four percent from the previous season. The resort recorded 337 inches of snow on Baldy Mountain, outpacing recent snowfalls. Local leaders are working on issues such as affordable housing and how to attract workforce. The recession was severe, dramatically cooling building activity in upscale subdivisions and condominium projects. Ketchum, the commercial hub, has five approved hotel projects with one completed. New direct flights from major cities and regional jets should increase access, mostly supported by local option



Labor Force & Employment

Blaine County's workforce has suffered from the construction and housing slump that hit many tourism and high-growth areas across the nation. Unemployment is returning to pre-recession levels that are indicative of full employment. Spring and fall recreation and conferences have eased some of the seasonal slack. Most jobs are in the relatively lower-paying hospitality and retail sectors so the labor pool continues to be constrained by a lack of affordable housing. The loss of long-standing Smith Optics opened opportunities for use of its facilities by the Community School. Efforts by communities to require affordable housing or to build their own have not fully solved the problem. The high cost of living more than offsets wages that are typically higher than elsewhere in Idaho. A significant number of workers commuted to the county for higher-paying construction and landscape jobs be-

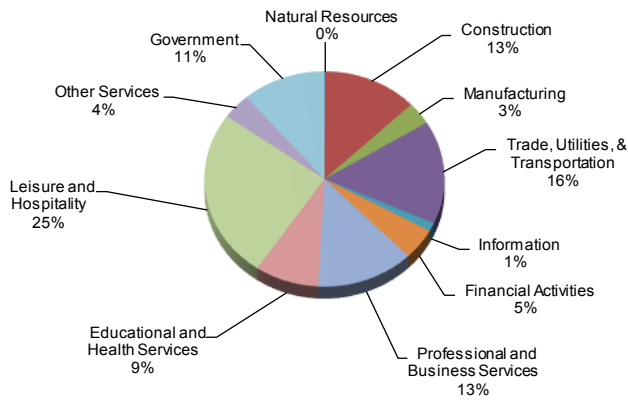


fore the Great Recession and those numbers are slowly returning. A new hotel in Hailey has been approved but leaves existing hoteliers wondering if the market can handle more rooms. The Air BNB and VPO have opened up opportunities for second home owners to increase their return on investment. In turn, this has negatively impacted the long-term rental availability increasing already high rents. The opening of Limelight Hotel has increased hiring pressure.

Labor Force	Dec 16	Dec 17
Civilian Labor Force	11,757	12,518
Total Employment	11,424	12,196
Unemployed	333	322
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.8	2.6
State of Idaho % Unemployed	3.6	2.9
U.S. % Unemployed	4.7	4.1

Labor Force	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Civilian Labor Force	14,167	13,677	13,726	13,348	11,948	11,870	11,716	11,592	11,474	11,851	11,797
Unemployment	382	321	540	1,116	1,141	1,030	823	664	512	424	378
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.7	2.3	3.9	8.4	9.6	8.7	7.0	5.7	4.5	3.6	3.2
Employment	13,785	13,356	13,186	12,232	10,806	10,840	10,894	10,928	10,963	11,427	11,419

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2016



Wages & Income

Wages in Blaine County are significantly higher than other counties in the region and statewide because workers cannot afford the high real estate costs so they commute in for work. The higher wages are insufficient to close this cost of living gap which pulls workforce from bedroom communities while adding a wage premium for the travel.

The affluent are attracted to the county by its natural beauty and diverse recreational opportunities, impacting the per capita income—the highest among the 44 counties. The 2016 per capita income grew 0.1 percent from 2015, a slower pace than the nation and the state, both grew 1.6 percent. Blaine's per capita income is 88 percent, or \$43,249, higher than the nation's—while it is 134 percent, or \$53,025, greater than the state's.

Major Employers

Atkinson's Market
180 Connect
Power Engineers
Rocky Mountain Hardware
St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center
Sun Valley Lodge aka Sinclair Company
Webb Landscape, Inc.

Occupational Wages	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Public School Teachers	\$45,148	\$73,429
Social Workers	\$17.21	\$28.92
Registered Nurses*	\$26.48	\$34.46
Legal Secretaries	\$16.82	\$21.01
Bookkeepers	\$15.37	\$22.17
Cashiers	\$8.83	\$10.90
Motel Housekeeping	\$9.14	\$12.15
Chefs	\$16.89	\$19.53
Landscapers	\$12.20	\$16.35
Construction Labor	\$12.47	\$14.83
Electricians, Journeyman	\$17.19	\$18.66
Automotive Mechanics	\$13.77	\$23.49

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

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2006, 2015 & 2016	2006		2015		2016	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	13,859	\$35,394	12,388	\$39,736	12,449	\$39,971
Agriculture	133	\$23,571	115	\$32,022	117	\$34,624
Mining	37	\$40,507	*	*	*	*
Construction	2,524	\$37,946	1,563	\$43,080	1,500	\$42,759
Manufacturing	457	\$69,066	438	\$54,868	417	\$51,724
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	2,224	\$32,930	1,892	\$34,342	1,923	\$35,748
Information	338	\$34,119	160	\$42,557	161	\$44,427
Financial Activities	792	\$51,778	550	\$52,326	574	\$53,654
Professional and Business Services	1,902	\$46,975	1,587	\$58,847	1,572	\$58,449
Educational and Health Services	722	\$35,055	1,042	\$52,584	1,091	\$49,830
Leisure and Hospitality	2,929	\$18,742	3,117	\$21,881	3,211	\$22,974
Other Services	448	\$29,976	451	\$35,367	440	\$37,700
Government	1,353	\$36,790	1,449	\$43,662	1,420	\$44,735

Per Capita Income	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Blaine County	\$71,941	\$77,245	\$65,517	\$60,406	\$67,454	\$76,249	\$79,875	\$86,255	\$92,402	\$92,495
State of Idaho	\$32,580	\$33,031	\$31,436	\$31,726	\$33,296	\$34,695	\$35,720	\$37,186	\$38,848	\$39,470
United States	\$39,821	\$41,082	\$39,376	\$40,277	\$42,461	\$44,282	\$44,493	\$46,494	\$48,451	\$49,246

Information provided by Bureau Economic Analysis



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