



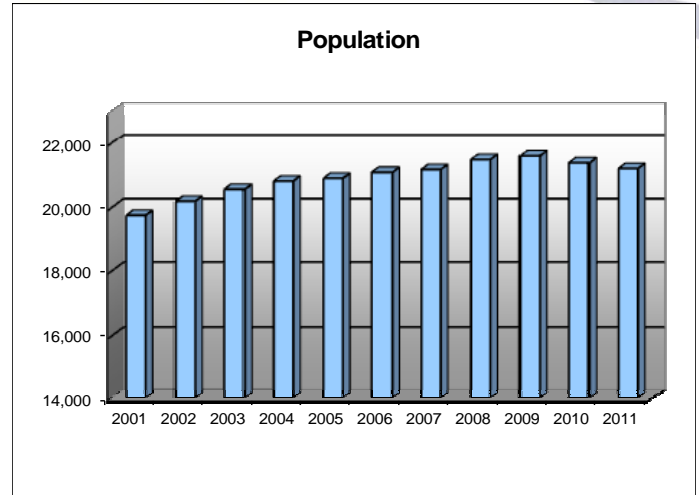
# Blaine County

April 2012

## Work Force Trends

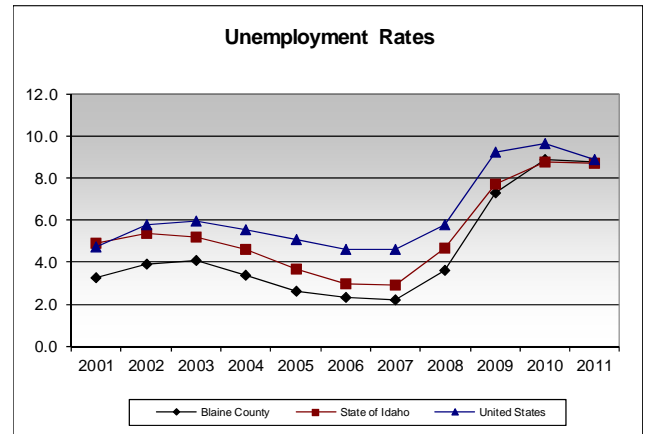
### Population

Blaine County has experienced steady growth over the last decade. The population rose 7.3 percent from 19,755 in 2001 to 21,199 in 2011, relatively slow growth compared to better economic times. Hailey is the county seat and largest city at 7,960. 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 saw a 407,000 skier count during the 2010-2011 season, the resort's fifth best year of snowfall. There continue to be differences of opinion throughout the community on how to move forward. The recession was severe, dramatically cooling building activity in upscale subdivisions and condominium projects. Ketchum, the commercial hub, has four hotel projects seeking financing. New attractions in recent years include an all-season gondola, golf course and outdoor symphony venue enhancing tourism. Collaborative marketing is expected to bring more visitors to the area.



### Labor Force & Employment

Blaine County's work force has suffered from the construction and housing slump that hit many tourism and high-growth areas across the nation. The unemployment rate was fairly stable during the early part of the last decade. The continued expansion sent the rate plunging to 2.2 percent in 2007 before the recession pushed it up to 8.9 percent in 2010. Spring and fall recreation and conferences have eased some of those seasonal slumps. Most jobs are in the relatively lower paying hospitality or retail sectors so the labor pool continues to be constrained by a lack of affordable housing. Efforts by communities to require affordable housing or build their own along with dropping home prices have temporarily lessened the impact. The high cost of living offsets wages that are typically higher than elsewhere in Idaho. Routine traffic congestion between Ketchum and

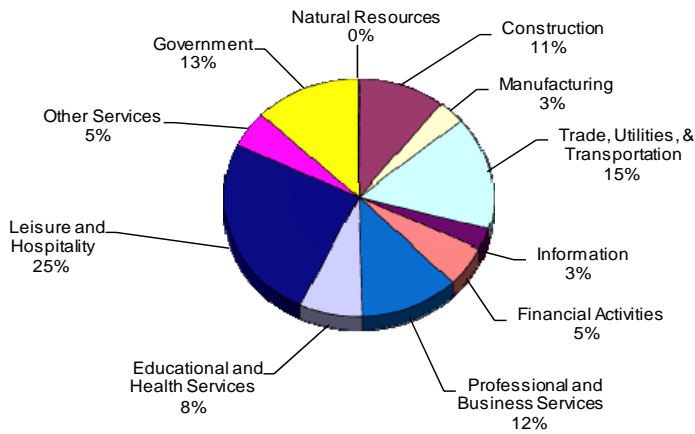


Bellevue has increased public transportation ridership. A significant number of workers commuted to the county for higher-paying construction and landscape jobs before the recession. Blaine County continues to see new developments such as the rodeo grounds and the ice rink which is scheduled for completion in 2012. A new airport was planned and then put on hold by the FAA. With Sun Valley's approval to become the first Nordic Olympic and Paralympic training site in the US, transportation issues must be resolved.

Labor Force	Mar 11	Mar 12
Civilian Labor Force	12,617	12,329
Total Employment	11,515	11,410
Unemployed	1,103	918
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.7	7.4
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	12,439	12,893	12,653	13,261	13,898	14,030	13,658	13,798	13,243	12,655	12,575
Unemployment	408	507	520	449	363	323	300	502	969	1,125	1,104
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.3	3.9	4.1	3.4	2.6	2.3	2.2	3.6	7.3	8.9	8.8
Employment	12,031	12,386	12,132	12,812	13,535	13,707	13,358	13,296	12,274	11,530	11,471

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2010



## Wages & Income

Wages in Blaine County are significantly higher than in the rest of south central Idaho and the state because of the high cost of living, much of which can be attributed to high real estate costs. The county's natural beauty and diverse recreational opportunities attract the affluent. Per capita income in 2009 remained the highest in Idaho. In fact, it exceeds the United State's per capita income for 2009 by \$18,000, or 45 percent, and Idaho per capita income by \$25,779, or 81 percent. Employers have had to subsidize normal wage rates. Jobs have fallen off 5.3 percent between 2009 and 2010 with construction down 23 percent.

### 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\*

### Starting Wage

Public School Teachers (annual wage)	\$65,000
Social Workers	\$19.00
Registered Nurses	\$28.50
Legal Secretaries	\$19.00
Bookkeepers	\$15.00
Cashiers	\$10.00
Motel Housekeeping	\$9.00
Chefs	\$15.00
Lifeguards and Ski Patrol	\$10.00
Landscapers	\$15.00
Construction Labor	\$15.00
Electricians, Journeyman	\$24.00
Maintenance Mechanics	\$24.00

\* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho 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>	11,371	\$31,635	12,349	\$35,576	11,700	\$35,886
<b>Agriculture</b>	96	\$25,063	150	\$25,169	117	\$27,543
<b>Mining</b>	36	\$33,810	28	\$35,539	21	\$49,466
<b>Construction</b>	1,897	\$32,607	1,610	\$37,285	1,238	\$35,727
<b>Manufacturing</b>	351	\$37,995	409	\$51,188	388	\$52,579
<b>Trade, Utilities &amp; Transportation</b>	1,942	\$26,343	2,012	\$30,817	1,824	\$31,679
<b>Information</b>	216	\$32,250	362	\$36,061	338	\$41,992
<b>Financial Activities</b>	623	\$45,108	632	\$49,918	600	\$55,375
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	1,445	\$50,154	1,537	\$51,722	1,418	\$52,788
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	412	\$31,710	864	\$42,669	886	\$45,043
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	2,649	\$23,504	2,878	\$20,259	2,981	\$19,667
<b>Other Services</b>	432	\$21,737	424	\$33,184	408	\$32,738
<b>Government</b>	1,274	\$23,504	1,444	\$20,259	1,480	\$19,667

Per Capita Income	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>Blaine County</b>	\$44,543	\$44,838	\$44,063	\$45,575	\$51,951	\$55,505	\$61,295	\$62,179	\$63,185	\$57,636
<b>State of Idaho</b>	\$24,683	\$25,642	\$26,007	\$26,438	\$28,414	\$29,594	\$31,585	\$32,734	\$33,062	\$31,857
<b>United States</b>	\$30,318	\$31,145	\$31,461	\$32,271	\$33,881	\$35,424	\$37,698	\$39,461	\$40,674	\$39,635

Information provided by Bureau of Economic Analysis



This county is served by the office located at the address below:  
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Bellevue, ID 83313 Ph: (208) 788-3526

[labor.idaho.gov](http://labor.idaho.gov)