



Butte County

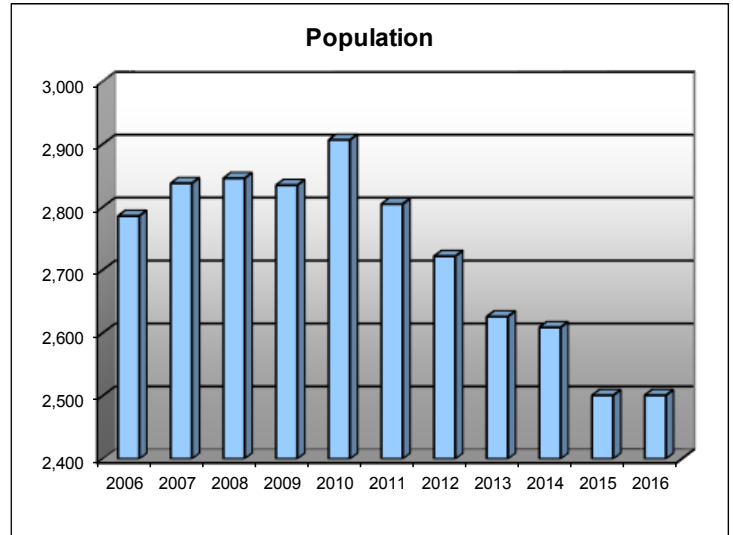
September 2017

IDAHO
DEPT. OF LABOR

Workforce Trends

Population

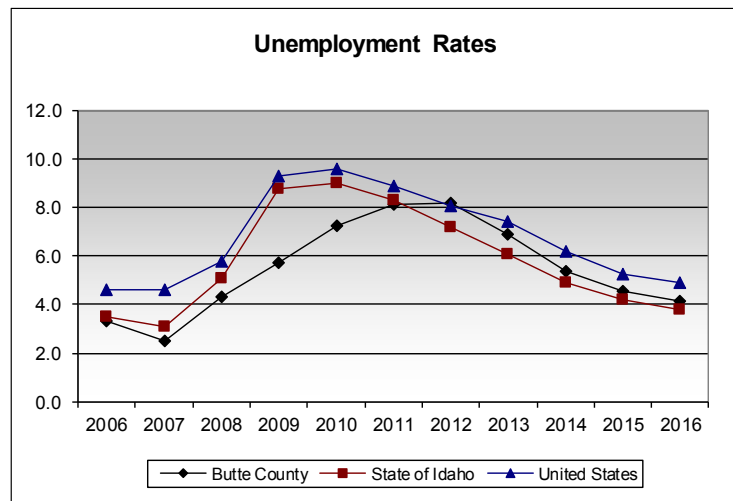
Butte County has seen its population fall over the last decade, dropping over 300 between 2005 and 2016 to 2,501. Difficulty keeping young people after high school graduation has contributed to the stagnant population. Still, the county is committed to economic development and a long-range plan for stability. It is focusing on tourists traveling through to destinations like Craters of the Moon National Monument and Sun Valley. The Idaho National Laboratory is located about 12 miles from Arco, the county seat. The majority of the 7,000 or more employees located at the laboratory work in the county but live elsewhere and commute by mass transit, making it a challenge for the county to see much economic gain from the laboratory. Arco, the largest city in the county, had a 2016 population of 849.



Labor Force & Employment

With a smaller population and labor force, the unemployment rate in Butte County fluctuates. In 2007 the county's unemployment fell to 2.5 percent. As the recession took hold in 2008, however, the rate nearly doubled to 4.3 percent and continued to climb, peaking at 8.2 percent in 2012. Despite fluctuations, the county's unemployment rate has remained below the national average for most of the last decade. In 2016 the rate fell to 4.1 percent.

The majority of the county's jobs are in professional and business services, which are mostly located at the federal laboratory. Government is a stable employer that includes small offices of several federal agencies along with county and school workers. The incubation center in Arco and the Butte County Economic Development group



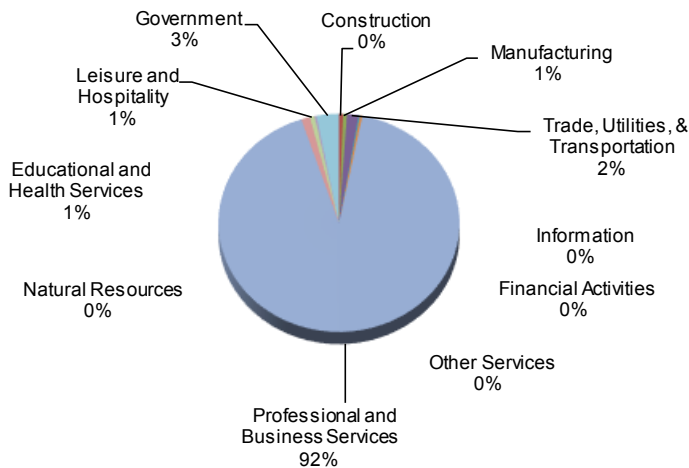
continue to focus on and assist with business development and attraction. Tourism is also an important economic factor because of the Craters of the Moon National Monument.

In 2014 the U.S. Census Bureau announced that Butte County is officially part of the Idaho Falls metropolitan statistical area. This change is the result of a significant number of workers commuting to Butte for work at the national laboratory.

Labor Force	Aug 16	Aug 17
Civilian Labor Force	1,302	1,299
Total Employment	1,249	1,263
Unemployed	54	36
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.1	2.8
State of Idaho % Unemployed	3.8	2.9
U.S. % Unemployed	4.9	4.4

Labor Force	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Civilian Labor Force	1,430	1,369	1,370	1,471	1,353	1,324	1,335	1,297	1,304	1,280	1,305
Unemployment	47	34	59	84	98	108	109	90	70	58	54
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.3	2.5	4.3	5.7	7.3	8.1	8.2	6.9	5.4	4.6	4.1
Employment	1,383	1,335	1,310	1,387	1,254	1,216	1,226	1,207	1,234	1,221	1,252

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2016



Covered Employment

While Butte County benefits from one of the state's largest employers, the Idaho National Laboratory, most workers at the lab live outside the county. For this county it is important to remember that employment and wage numbers are calculated by where the jobs occur. As such, the high wages at the laboratory artificially elevate the average wage in the county due to the fact that only a small percentage of the county's residents actually work at the lab. While the county's average wage paid in 2014 was \$82,394, per capita income was \$31,715.

Major Employers

U.S. Department of Energy
Battelle Energy Alliance
Bechtel BWXT Idaho, LLC
Bechtel Bettis Inc.
Butte County School District # 111
CH2M-WG Idaho
Lost River Hospital

Idaho Falls MSA Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Farm Workers	\$8.07	\$9.32
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks	\$11.75	\$16.47
Cashiers	\$8.31	\$9.07
Construction Laborers	\$10.80	\$13.43
Cooks, Restaurant	\$8.59	\$10.48
Customer Service Reps	\$9.28	\$12.35
Engineers (All)	\$31.38	\$51.01
Food Servers, Nonrestaurant	\$8.28	\$9.11
General Office Clerks	\$9.34	\$13.04
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$14.11	\$17.59
Health Technologists & Technicians	\$15.57	\$21.26
Secretaries & Administrative Asst	\$11.40	\$15.96
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$12.21	\$15.94
Waiters/Waitresses	\$8.22	\$9.08

* This wage data represents eastern Idaho's nine counties. 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	5,527	\$68,884	7,393	\$86,439	7,634	\$87,768
Agriculture	40	\$17,324	33	\$27,913	34	\$27,833
Mining	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Construction	17	\$36,154	35	\$38,088	40	\$41,112
Manufacturing	15	\$44,620	47	\$40,637	40	\$42,922
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	107	\$15,191	117	\$28,030	117	\$27,914
Information	9	\$30,031	14	\$47,121	15	\$56,852
Financial Activities	41	\$29,417	45	\$75,124	24	\$54,116
Professional and Business Services	4,776	\$75,248	6,731	\$91,285	6,984	\$92,545
Educational and Health Services	145	\$30,105	98	\$37,990	90	\$40,685
Leisure and Hospitality	79	\$9,577	47	\$13,605	49	\$15,597
Other Services	22	\$27,520	12	\$59,050	18	\$69,247
Government	276	\$38,067	214	\$37,682	225	\$37,368

Per Capita Income	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Butte County	\$22,534	\$24,497	\$31,455	\$30,367	\$27,821	\$30,860	\$31,280	\$33,035	\$31,715	\$33,506
State of Idaho	\$31,357	\$32,580	\$33,031	\$31,436	\$31,727	\$33,296	\$34,691	\$35,703	\$37,153	\$38,392
United States	\$38,144	\$39,821	\$41,082	\$39,376	\$40,277	\$42,453	\$44,267	\$44,462	\$46,414	\$48,112

Information provided by Bureau Economic Analysis

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