



Camas County

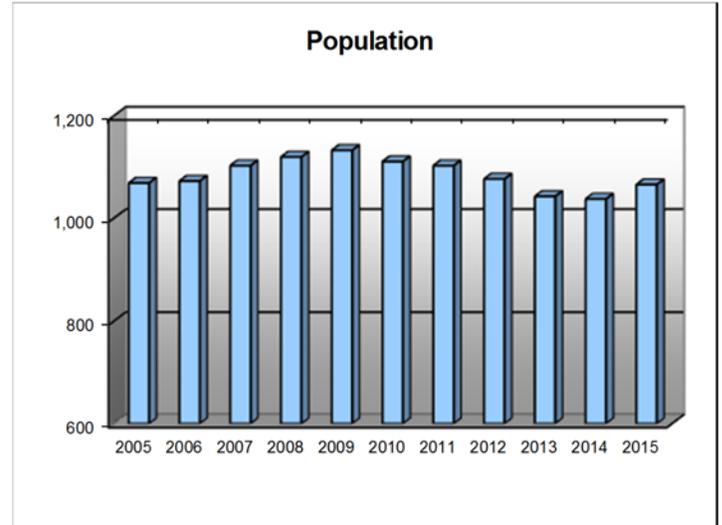
IDAHO
DEPT. OF LABOR

November 2016

Workforce Trends

Population

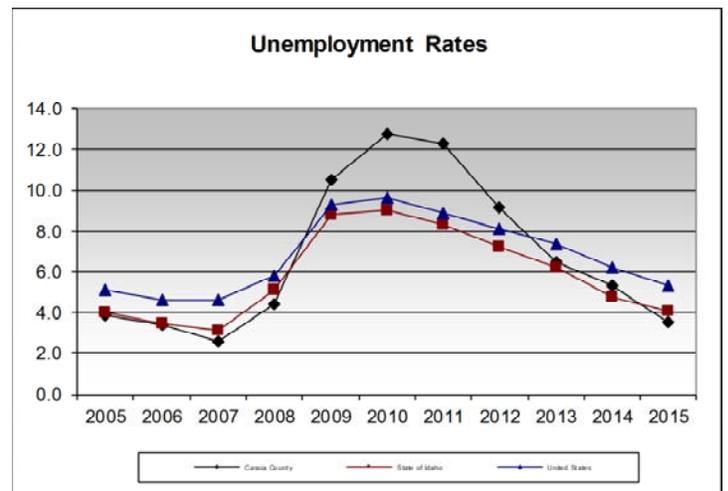
Camas County's population grew at a brisk pace from 2004 to 2009 when the Great Recession erased most of that growth. The population is an estimated 1,066 for 2015. It is the third least-populated county in Idaho but contains some of the most beautiful and rugged scenery. At an elevation of 5,069 feet, Camas County offers recreational opportunities from fishing, hunting, skiing and snowmobiling to camping and golfing. Fairfield, the county seat and only major town with a population of 389, is at the foot of vertical Soldier Mountain with a summit elevation of 7,177 feet. The distance from population centers and the interstate limit its development. Consequently, the outlook is for slow but steady growth over the next decade as tourism in areas such as nearby Sun Valley return to pre-recession levels.



Labor Force & Employment

Seasonally adjusted unemployment in Camas County has been on a roller coaster for the last decade plunging to a record low 2.6 percent in 2007 and then skyrocketing as a result of the national recession to 12.8 percent in 2010. The civilian labor force is so small that minor adjustments translate into wide swings in the rate. The rate has dropped drastically to 3.6 percent in 2015.

Most workers are in government, education, agriculture or trade industries. Commuters to Blaine County are common, taking higher-wage jobs in landscaping and construction with seasonal swings following the economy. During the winter, Soldier Mountain Ski Resort employment jumps significantly while demand for

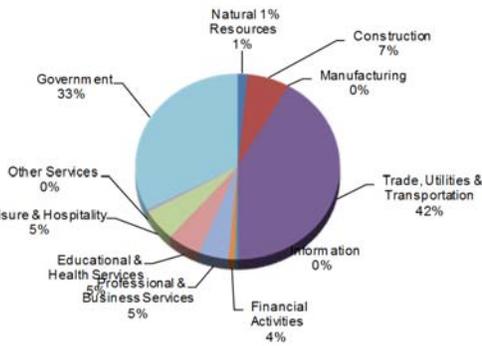


farm labor is high in the summer and fall. The major crops are hay, dry land wheat and barley. Cattle ranches also dot the Camas Prairie. The local economy has diversified somewhat with transportation, manufacturing and service jobs. The future appears to be stable with limited growth. Soldier Mountain Ski Resort was sold in 2012, then again in 2015. The ski season was short in 2014-'15 due to lack of snow—bonus snowfall in 2016..

Labor Force	Oct 15	Oct 16
Civilian Labor Force	640	641
Total Employment	623	625
Unemployed	17	16
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.6	2.5
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	622	637	618	630	598	643	638	668	634	632	644
Unemployment	24	22	16	28	63	82	79	61	41	34	23
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.9	3.4	2.6	4.4	10.5	12.8	12.3	9.1	6.5	5.3	3.6
Employment	598	615	602	602	535	561	560	607	593	599	621

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2015



Wages & Income

Per capita income growth dropped by 2.4 percent in Camas County, impacted by falling commodity prices. The county ranked 35th among the 44 counties. High Country Fusion, a fabricator and distributor of high density polyethylene pipe, is one of the largest private employers. In-migration of retirees drawn by the recreational opportunities and the ability to generate income from either work at home or self employment have driven some income growth but Agriculture really experienced solid wage gains in 2015. Average wages for all industries increased nearly 12 percent from 2014 to 2015 while covered employment lost ground by 4.6 percent. Professional and business services employment dropped by 51 percent, lone eagles are frequently in this industry. Other services, a very small com-

Major Employers

Camas Creek Country Store Inc.
 Camas County
 Camas County School District
 Double G LLC
 Ecolab Inc.
 High Country Fusion
 Kimco Corp
 Soldier Mountain Ski Area
 US Forest Service

Occupational Wages*	Median Wage
Elementary Teachers	\$43,380
Truck Drivers	\$16.46
Welders	\$17.31
Bookkeepers	\$15.31
Cashiers	\$8.94
Extrusion Machine Operators	\$16.42
Construction Labors	\$13.22
Landscapers	\$12.17

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

ponent of jobs, lost a significant portion— 47 percent. The area is dependent on a strong economy in surrounding counties for recovery to pre-recession levels.

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	357	\$25,218	380	\$47,254	363	\$52,812
Agriculture	37	\$27,705	36	\$37,215	37	\$45,987
Mining	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Construction	10	\$30,286	17	\$37,877	19	\$36,554
Manufacturing	3	\$24,239	0	\$0	0	\$0
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	82	\$37,906	133	\$75,811	139	\$79,466
Information	*	*	*	*	*	*
Financial Activities	5	\$38,935	4	\$32,537	3	\$36,851
Professional and Business Services	33	\$14,618	33	\$33,495	16	\$57,296
Educational and Health Services	9	\$9,769	18	\$24,456	18	\$27,005
Leisure and Hospitality	53	\$7,085	15	\$12,309	18	\$12,431
Other Services	4	\$28,211	6	\$33,037	3	\$46,259
Government	121	\$26,686	117	\$32,015	107	\$34,231

Per Capita Income	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Camas County	\$27,208	\$28,690	\$27,406	\$28,370	\$27,522	\$25,111	\$29,374	\$31,434	\$32,209	\$31,448
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



This county is served by the office listed below:
 Idaho Department of Labor
 733 N. Main St., Suite C
 Bellevue, ID 83333 Ph: (208) 788-3526

labor.idaho.gov

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.