



# Camas County

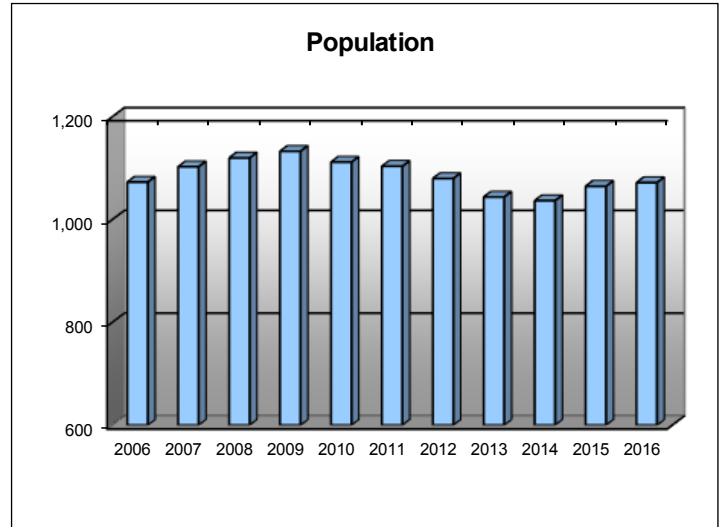
IDAHO  
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## Workforce Trends

### Population

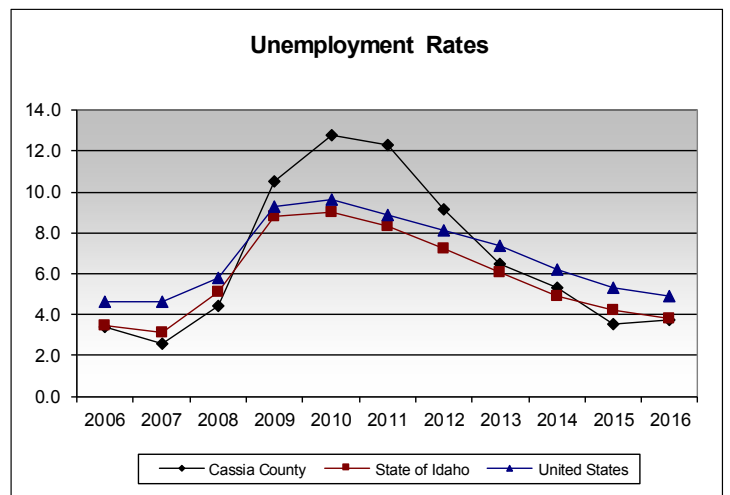
Camas County's population has lost population five out of the last ten years. The 2016 population is an estimated 1,072, up .7 percent. It is the third least-populated county in Idaho but contains some of the most beautiful and rugged scenery. At an elevation of 5,069 feet, Camas County offers recreational 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 in the last two years.

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

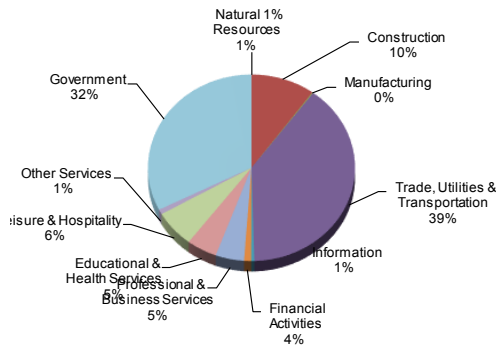


farm labor is high in the summer and fall. The major crops are hay, dry land wheat and barley. Cattle ranches also dot the Camas Prairie. The local economy has diversified somewhat with transportation, manufacturing and service jobs. The future appears to be stable with limited growth. Soldier Mountain Ski Resort was sold in 2012, then again in 2015. Record snowfall this last season caused the hill to close for a day of maintenance.

Labor Force	Dec 16	Dec 17
Civilian Labor Force	656	687
Total Employment	635	670
Unemployed	21	16
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.2	2.4
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	637	618	630	598	643	638	668	634	632	650	657
Unemployment	22	16	28	63	82	79	61	41	34	23	25
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.4	2.6	4.4	10.5	12.8	12.3	9.1	6.5	5.3	3.5	3.8
Employment	615	602	602	535	561	560	607	593	598	627	632

# Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2016



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

## Wages & Income

Per capita income dropped 4.3 percent in Camas County, driven by non-farm proprietors' income. The county's per capita income ranks 16th amongst the 44 counties. High Country Fusion, a fabricator and distributor of high density polyethylene pipe, is one of the largest private employers in this sparsely populated county. In-migration of retirees drawn by the recreational opportunities and the ability to generate added income from either work at home or self-employment had been a plus for the remote area.

Covered employment grew by 3.1 percent from 2015, mostly in construction. Average wages for all industries declined 3.5 percent from 2015. Professional and Business Services wages grew by 14 percent, an industry that has included lone eagles in the past. Government jobs grew by three percent, dropping from 43 percent in 2001 to 29 percent in 2016. The area's economic health is dependent on a strong economy in the surrounding counties and nationally.

South Central Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Elementary Teachers	\$30,730	\$45,120
Truck Drivers	\$15.00	\$22.31
Welders	\$13.72	\$17.76
Bookkeepers	\$11.78	\$17.87
Cashiers	\$8.34	\$9.27
Extrusion Machine Operators	\$10.63	\$14.66
Construction Labors	\$11.08	\$13.64
Landscapers	\$10.26	\$15.30

\* 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 2006, 2015 & 2016	2006		2015		2016	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
<b>Total Covered Wages</b>	401	\$27,953	368	\$52,696	379	\$50,834
<b>Agriculture</b>	49	\$29,042	37	\$45,987	39	\$44,759
<b>Mining</b>	0	\$0	*	*	*	*
<b>Construction</b>	11	\$29,839	19	\$36,554	32	\$41,166
<b>Manufacturing</b>	3	\$26,466	0	\$0	*	*
<b>Trade, Utilities &amp; Transportation</b>	95	\$43,012	139	\$78,567	136	\$74,933
<b>Information</b>	0	\$0	*	*	*	*
<b>Financial Activities</b>	8	\$55,214	3	\$36,851	*	*
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	40	\$17,462	16	\$57,947	15	\$66,039
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	12	\$9,569	18	\$27,005	16	\$33,399
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	62	\$8,618	18	\$12,431	22	\$10,891
<b>Other Services</b>	*	*	3	\$46,259	*	*
<b>Government</b>	118	\$29,156	107	\$34,190	110	\$34,468

Per Capita Income	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Camas County</b>	\$29,576	\$30,466	\$29,516	\$26,542	\$31,471	\$36,140	\$39,776	\$40,118	\$38,987	\$37,328
<b>State of Idaho</b>	\$32,580	\$33,031	\$31,436	\$31,726	\$33,296	\$34,695	\$35,720	\$37,186	\$38,848	\$39,470
<b>United States</b>	\$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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