



# Camas County

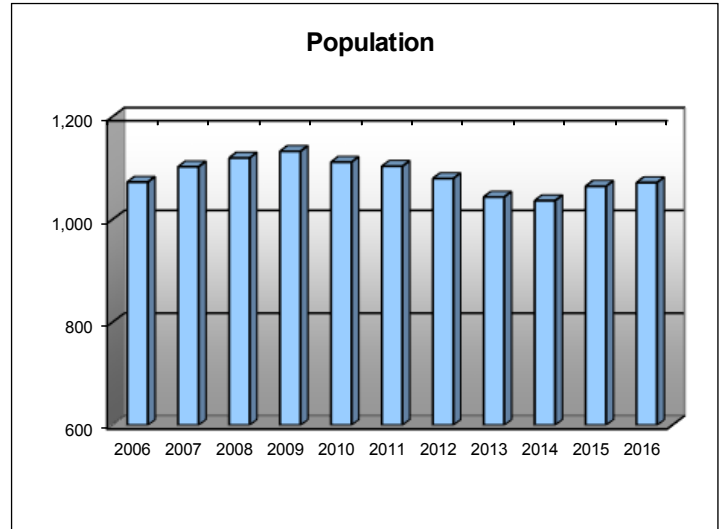
IDAHO  
DEPT. OF LABOR

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## Workforce Trends

### Population

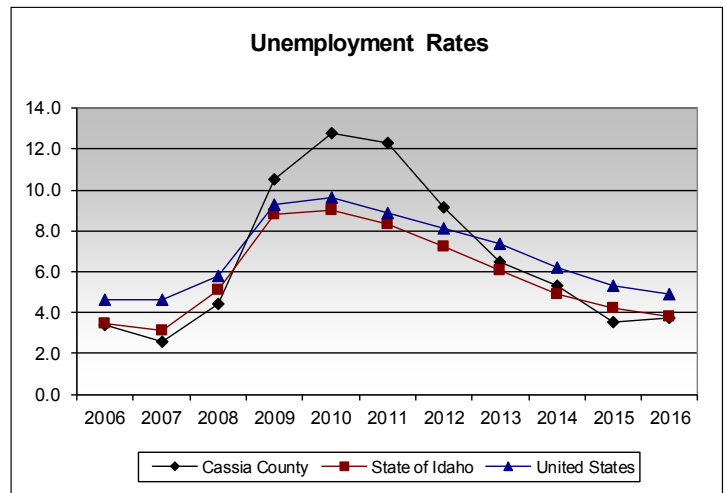
Camas County's population has lost population five out of the last ten years. The 2016 population is an estimated 1,072, up .7 percent. It is the third least-populated county in Idaho but contains some of the most beautiful and rugged scenery. At an elevation of 5,069 feet, Camas County offers recreational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

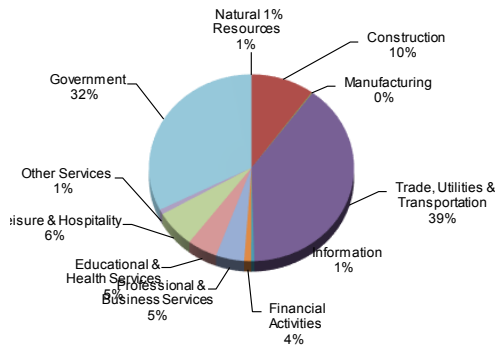


farm labor is high in the summer and fall. The major crops are hay, dry land wheat and barley. Cattle ranches also dot the Camas Prairie. The local economy has diversified somewhat with transportation, manufacturing and service jobs. The future appears to be stable with limited growth. Soldier Mountain 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	Aug 16	Aug 17
Civilian Labor Force	654	655
Total Employment	633	641
Unemployed	21	14
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.2	2.1
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	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



## Wages & Income

Per capita income dropped 2.1 percent in Camas County, driven by nonfarm proprietors' income. The county's per capita income ranks 9th 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 experienced huge wage gains in 2015 particularly in Agriculture, Professional and Business Services and Other Services. Average wages for all industries increased nearly 12 percent from 2014 to 2015 while covered employment fell by 4.6 percent. Professional and Business Services employment dropped by 51 percent, an industry that has included lone eagles in the past. Government jobs' share of All Jobs

## 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

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)

continues to decrease, dropping from 43 percent in 2001 to 29 percent in 2015. 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 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	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Camas County</b>	\$31,338	\$29,576	\$30,466	\$29,516	\$26,566	\$31,500	\$36,240	\$39,814	\$40,264	\$39,431
<b>State of Idaho</b>	\$31,357	\$32,580	\$33,031	\$31,436	\$31,727	\$33,296	\$34,691	\$35,703	\$37,153	\$38,392
<b>United States</b>	\$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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[labor.idaho.gov](http://labor.idaho.gov)

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