



# Caribou County

April 2012

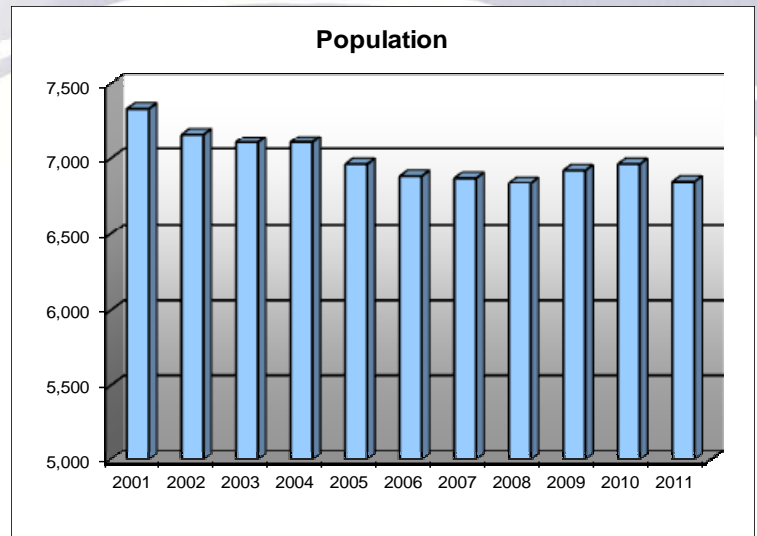
## Work Force Trends

### Population

History, scenery, recreation and industry have marked Caribou County from its onset – wide open spaces, friendly people and a place to have fun.

The county's population fluctuated over the decade before ending down 4.7 percent at 6,963 in the 2010 Census. 2011 estimates show further decline with the population of the county at 6,850.

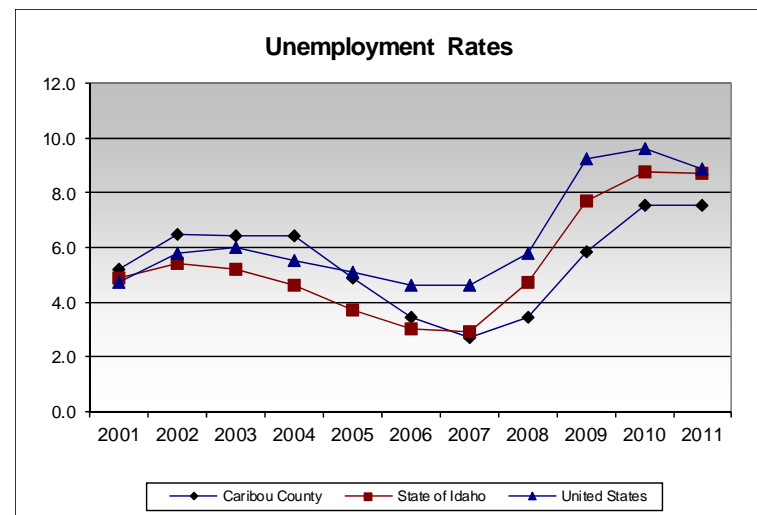
The county is at the hub of the Pioneer Historic Byway and the Caribou Scenic Byway, which bring in tourists. Soda Springs, named for its natural carbonated springs, has a geyser which erupts every hour on the hour. The county is also home to phosphate mining and processing, which helps the population enjoy a higher average wage than most other counties in Idaho.



### Labor Force & Employment

Caribou County has a diverse and highly skilled work force with an excellent work ethic, which has been recognized nationally through exceptional safety records. The county's economy depends heavily on agriculture, phosphate mining and manufacturing. During the last decade, the civilian labor force followed employment. From an all-time low of 2.8 percent in 2007, the annual average unemployment rate increased to 3.9 percent in 2008 and then to 6.1 percent in response to the recession. That was still lower than the 6.5 percent rate the county experienced in the three years following the 2001 recession. Efforts to attract more tourism have helped diversify the economy through the addition of several service and trade businesses.

Because the county heavily depends on natural resource-based industries – agriculture and mining – along with manufacturing, both population and



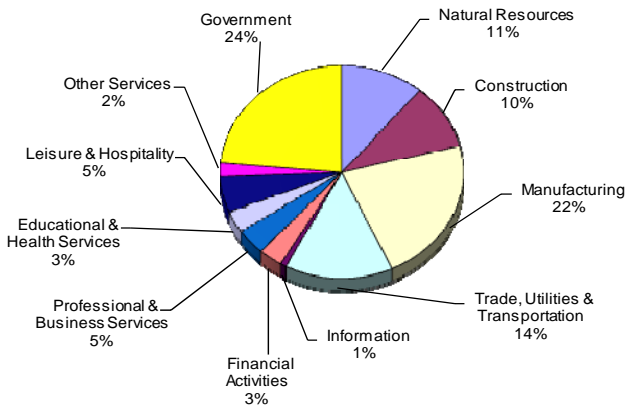
employment are influenced by the national economy.

Following national trends, mining jobs declined significantly during the 1990s and again in 2008. The expansion of the Dry Canyon phosphate mine operated by the J.R. Simplot Co. and the operational change at Agrium's mine are contributing to labor stability. The increase of mining and gas and oil exploration help a wide variety of industries in the county, state and across the border into Wyoming, Utah and Montana.

Labor Force	Mar 11	Mar 12
Civilian Labor Force	3,836	3,936
Total Employment	3,560	3,680
Unemployed	276	256
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.2	6.5
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	3,431	3,361	3,394	3,257	3,263	3,304	3,856	3,922	3,445	3,780	3,973
Unemployment	178	219	218	209	159	114	104	134	201	286	300
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.2	6.5	6.4	6.4	4.9	3.4	2.7	3.4	5.8	7.6	7.6
Employment	3,253	3,142	3,176	3,048	3,104	3,191	3,753	3,787	3,244	3,494	3,673

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2010



## Industry Employment and Wages

Nearly half the jobs in Caribou County are in production of fertilizer, phosphorus and weed killer. While mining and construction accounted for 21 percent of employment, manufacturing accounted for 22 percent and paid the best wages.

Government is the county's largest employer providing 24% of non-farm jobs.

Wages in Caribou County are higher than most of the state because of phosphate mining and manufacturing. The average annual covered wage in Caribou County is among the highest in the state at \$43,592. The per capita income is almost equal to the state's at \$31,447 and is the highest in the region.

### Major Employers (Private)

Agrium U.S., Inc.
Broulim's
Degerstrom-Dravo
J.R. Simplot Co., Smoky Mine
Kiewit
Mark III
Monsanto Company
Mullen Crane & Transport

### Occupational Wages\*

### Starting Wages

Cashiers & Retail Workers	\$7.25
Cooks	\$7.25
Food & Beverage Serving Workers	\$7.25
Janitors & Cleaners	\$9.34
Construction Laborers	\$9.29
Maids	\$7.25
Nurses, Registered	\$22.23
Office Clerks, Information & Record	\$8.29
Stock & Shipping Clerks	\$9.98
Teachers	\$18.84

\* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Commerce 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>	3,017	\$33,001	3,208	\$42,015	3,036	\$43,592
<b>Agriculture</b>	69	\$19,063	104	\$22,409	95	\$26,087
<b>Mining</b>	395	\$44,059	317	\$57,170	333	\$61,200
<b>Construction</b>	248	\$30,500	291	\$55,365	296	\$52,050
<b>Manufacturing</b>	780	\$54,451	715	\$75,516	669	\$76,624
<b>Trade, Utilities &amp; Transportation</b>	442	\$21,432	469	\$25,734	409	\$28,830
<b>Information</b>	30	\$16,686	20	\$14,691	24	\$17,542
<b>Financial Activities</b>	56	\$19,111	112	\$29,724	88	\$29,585
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	54	\$31,969	170	\$27,923	121	\$30,357
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	99	\$12,884	87	\$16,273	99	\$16,079
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	159	\$5,453	176	\$8,391	165	\$9,505
<b>Other Services</b>	54	\$13,617	53	\$18,876	53	\$21,727
<b>Government</b>	631	\$24,018	694	\$28,648	684	\$29,203

Per Capita Income	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>Caribou County</b>	\$20,741	\$21,629	\$22,589	\$23,935	\$26,248	\$27,273	\$28,694	\$29,654	\$32,149	\$31,447
<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



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

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