

# Caribou County

IDAHO  
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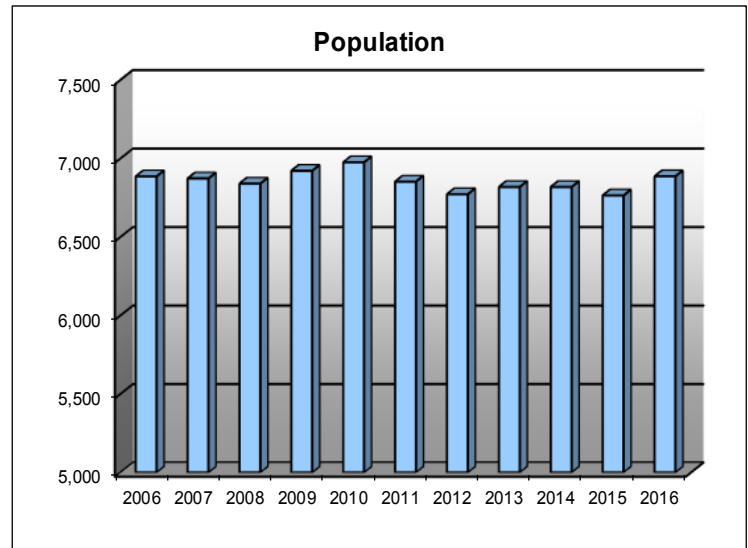
## Workforce Trends

### 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 2016 Census population estimates for the county was 6,887 the same as it was a decade before. Over this time, population has fluctuated. A peak population of 6,976 was reached in 2010. The county's largest city, Soda Springs, has an estimated population of 2,982 in 2016

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.

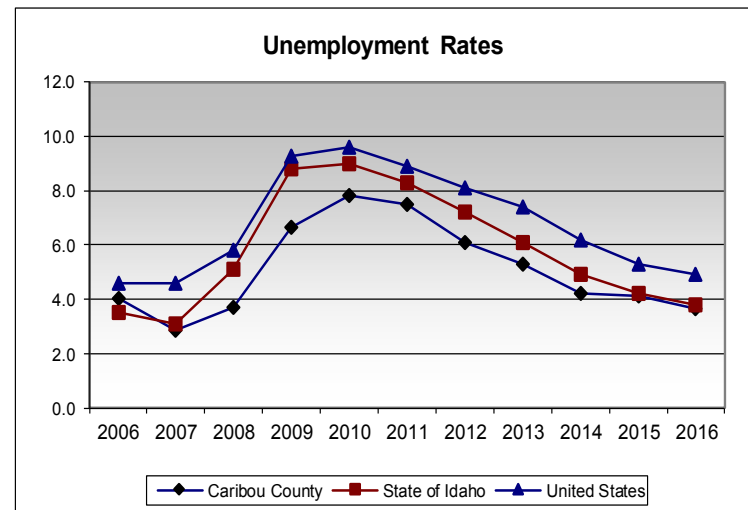


### Labor Force & Employment

Caribou County has a 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 2.9 percent in 2007, the unemployment rate rose to a high of 7.8 percent in 2010 and has been in steady decline since then. In 2016, the average annual unemployment rate was 3.7 percent.

The county is known for its scenic beauty. 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

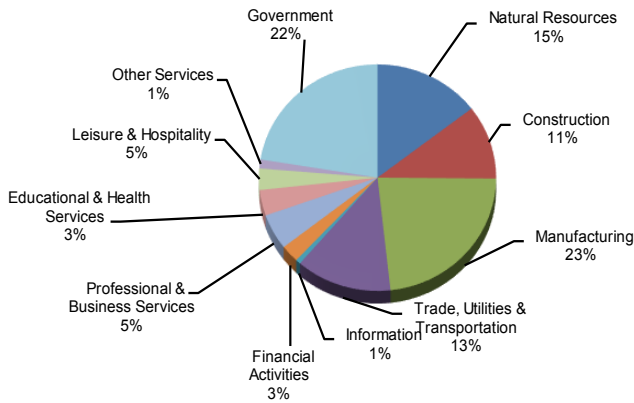


influenced by the national economy. Following national trends, mining jobs declined significantly during the 1990s and again in 2008. The expansion of the Dry Canyon phosphate mine operated by the J.R. Simplot Co. and the operational change at Agrium's mine are contributing to labor stability. The increase 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                 | Sep 16 | Sep 17 |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|
| Civilian Labor Force        | 3,747  | 3,854  |
| Total Employment            | 3,610  | 3,750  |
| Unemployed                  | 137    | 104    |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed | 3.7    | 2.7    |
| State of Idaho % Unemployed | 3.8    | 2.8    |
| U.S. % Unemployed           | 4.9    | 4.2    |

| Labor Force                 | 2006  | 2007  | 2008  | 2009  | 2010  | 2011  | 2012  | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Civilian Labor Force        | 3,343 | 3,863 | 3,899 | 3,464 | 3,840 | 3,884 | 3,970 | 3,900 | 3,857 | 3,773 | 3,753 |
| Unemployment                | 135   | 111   | 144   | 231   | 300   | 290   | 242   | 207   | 163   | 156   | 138   |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed | 4.0   | 2.9   | 3.7   | 6.7   | 7.8   | 7.5   | 6.1   | 5.3   | 4.2   | 4.1   | 3.7   |
| Employment                  | 3,209 | 3,752 | 3,755 | 3,233 | 3,541 | 3,593 | 3,728 | 3,693 | 3,694 | 3,617 | 3,615 |

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2016



## Industry Employment and Wages

Nearly half the jobs in Caribou County involve the production of fertilizer, phosphorus and weed killer. While mining and construction accounted for 25 percent of employment, manufacturing accounted for 23 percent and paid the best wages.

Government is the county's second largest employer, providing 23 percent of nonfarm 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 \$53,273. The per capita income in Caribou County is slightly above the statewide average.

### 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     |

| Southeast Idaho Occupational Wages*  | Entry Wages | Median Wages |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Cashiers                             | \$8.32      | \$9.34       |
| Retail Sales Workers                 | \$8.39      | \$10.31      |
| Cooks                                | \$8.30      | \$9.27       |
| Food & Beverage Serving Workers      | \$8.33      | \$8.82       |
| Janitors & Cleaners                  | \$8.29      | \$9.50       |
| Construction Laborers                | \$8.62      | \$13.41      |
| Maids                                | \$8.26      | \$9.08       |
| Nurses, Registered                   | \$22.26     | \$28.47      |
| Office Clerks, Information & Record  | \$9.50      | \$13.13      |
| Stock Clerks & Order Fillers         | \$9.17      | \$11.82      |
| Shipping, Receiving & Traffic Clerks | \$9.68      | \$14.84      |
| Teachers, Elementary                 | \$29,091    | \$41,298     |
| Teachers, Secondary                  | \$27,556    | \$40,945     |

\* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Commerce website at [imi.idaho.gov](http://imi.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>  | 3,166              | \$39,026      | 3,164              | \$50,770      | 3,206              | \$53,273      |
| <b>Agriculture</b>  | 79                 | \$17,393      | 127                | \$29,806      | 127                | \$29,378      |
| <b>Mining</b>   | 347                | \$50,955      | 291                | \$69,320      | 455                | \$70,301      |
| <b>Construction</b>   | 238                | \$39,198      | 336                | \$50,360      | 321                | \$50,825      |
| <b>Manufacturing</b>  | 694                | \$76,789      | 721                | \$85,835      | 722                | \$88,175      |
| <b>Trade, Utilities &amp; Transportation</b>                            | 482                | \$24,472      | 414                | \$35,996      | 394                | \$42,305      |
| <b>Information</b>  | 21                 | \$16,834      | 17                 | \$34,704      | 21                 | \$34,394      |
| <b>Financial Activities</b>   | 144                | \$27,950      | 194                | \$60,439      | 73                 | \$48,208      |
| <b>Professional and Business Services</b>                               | 164                | \$27,457      | 124                | \$33,743      | 154                | \$39,109      |
| <b>Educational and Health Services</b>                                  | 103                | \$16,269      | 113                | \$15,757      | 113                | \$18,806      |
| <b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>  | 152                | \$6,745       | 126                | \$11,522      | 93                 | \$11,047      |
| <b>Other Services</b>   | 46                 | \$15,393      | 34                 | \$25,035      | 39                 | \$23,194      |
| <b>Government</b>   | 696                | \$25,589      | 666                | \$33,568      | 693                | \$34,798      |

| Per Capita Income     | 2006     | 2007     | 2008     | 2009     | 2010     | 2011     | 2012     | 2013     | 2014     | 2015     |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>Caribou County</b> | \$29,066 | \$30,421 | \$34,155 | \$33,084 | \$31,256 | \$34,513 | \$36,719 | \$36,867 | \$37,567 | \$38,795 |
| <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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