

# Cassia County

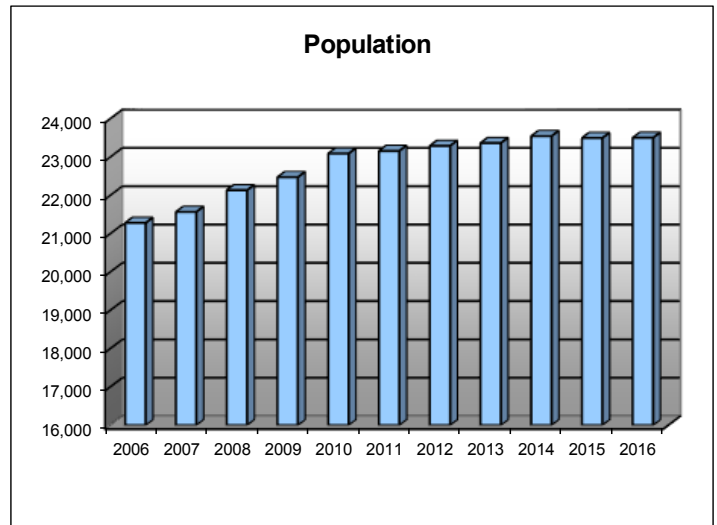
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## Workforce Trends

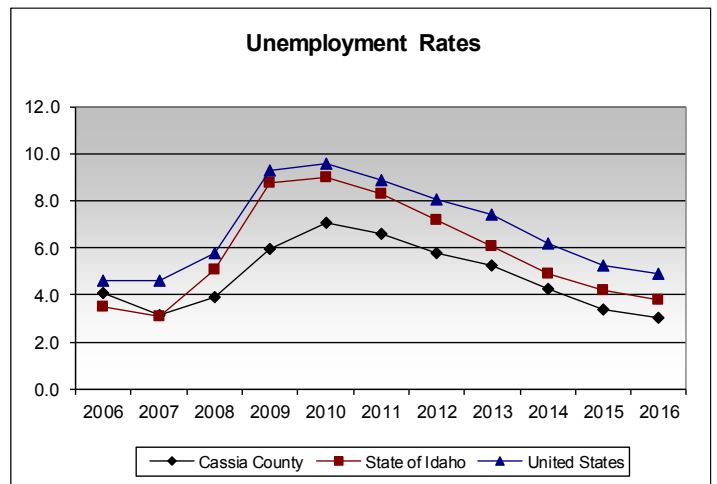
### Population

Cassia County's population grew 10.5 percent over the last 10 years with highest growth during the Great Recession. Population was estimated at 23,504 in 2016, up from 21,281 in 2006. The county diversified beyond agriculture as national companies relocated and existing businesses survived the recession. Efforts to market Cassia and Minidoka counties together through a community partnership that spotlighted low land and labor costs were successful in landing new businesses. The area offers an array of natural resources and recreational opportunities. Burley, the largest city with a population of 10,436 is on the banks of the scenic Snake River. It is a short jaunt to the City of Rocks National Reserve for climbing and Pomerelle Mountain Resort for skiing. City and business leaders expect moderate to strong growth based on the favorable business climate and Burley's investment in waste water capacity.



### Labor Force & Employment

Cassia County traditionally experienced higher unemployment than the rest of region due to seasonal employment. The closure of the J.R. Simplot potato processing plant in Heyburn in 2003 shot the unemployment rate up for a couple of years. Since then, RV maker Dutchmen Manufacturing opened and has been replaced by Watco, who maintains Eastern Idaho Railroad lines in Idaho with lofty plans of an intermodal facility. Mulholland Positioning Systems, which makes gait assistance devices for the disabled, moved its manufacturing from California. Pacific Ethanol started production in April 2008 but temporarily closed as the recession hit and fuel prices fluctuated. DOT Foods, a national food redistributor, opened its state-of-the art warehouse in 2008, attracted by convenient access to Interstates 84 and 86. Packaging Specialties opened its shrink wrap and printing operation in 2008, and Hy-Line North America, an egg hatching operation that ships chicks from its new plant in Burley and buys eggs locally, add-



ed diversity in 2009. High Desert Milk and Gem State Processing are the most recent food processing additions to Burley, both building new plants. All these national companies pay competitive wages with benefits. Many of the food processing jobs require higher skill levels due to automation. McCain Foods is an example of automating with higher skilled jobs and higher wages, recently announcing a \$100 million expansion. A \$37 million school bond passed allowing renovations and new schools in Burley, Declo, Malta and Raft River. Fabri-kal, a plastic container manufacturer, opened its new plant towards the end of 2015, investing \$50 million and hiring 50 workers initially. Dow will open in 2017.

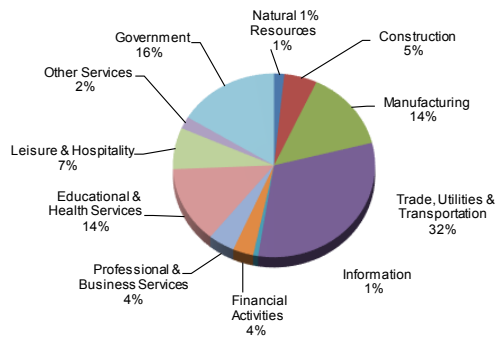
Labor Force	Aug 16	Aug 17
Civilian Labor Force	11,606	11,676
Total Employment	11,254	11,416
Unemployed	352	260
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.0	2.2
State of Idaho % Unemployed	3.8	2.9
U.S. % Unemployed	4.9	4.4

Labor Force	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Civilian Labor Force	10,449	10,795	10,985	10,190	11,113	11,191	11,108	11,124	11,255	11,487	11,601
Unemployment	430	342	432	609	787	738	644	584	479	388	352
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.1	3.2	3.9	6.0	7.1	6.6	5.8	5.2	4.3	3.4	3.0
Employment	10,019	10,453	10,554	9,581	10,326	10,453	10,464	10,540	10,776	11,099	11,249

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## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2016



## Major Employers

Ag Express
Americold Logistics
Boise Paper Holdings
BRP Health Management Systems
Cassia Regional Medical Center
DOT Foods
High Desert Milk
McCain Foods
Parke View Rehab & Care Center
Walmart

## Wages & Income

Wages have been traditionally low in Cassia County but with the influx of national companies, particularly over the last 8 years, wages are climbing. Previously, jobs had been in agriculture, food processing, retail or services. The dairy industry has brought some stability to agricultural wages with its year-round need and deep supply chain. Cassia is the leading county in the state for agricultural receipts, ranked 34th nationally. Per capita income increased 17 percent from 2014, about half of the state and nation's growth. Its ranking of 7th is an indicator of the wealth from large farms and supporting business. Per capita income growth over the last decade is estimated at nearly 57 percent. Cassia County's per capita income is 11 percent below the nation's and 11 percent higher than the state's per capita income. Covered wages for All Industry grew 5.2 percent from 2014—most significantly in Financial Activities and Information. Historically, the lower wage scale has attracted many companies, but higher skilled jobs are pulling up the average wage. Wage growth in covered employment has increased over the last decade for All Industry by 38 percent compared to 21 percent employment growth.

South Cental Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Elementary Teachers	\$30,730	\$45,120
Secondary Teachers	\$35,790	\$43,860
Social Workers	\$18.08	\$26.23
Registered Nurses	\$22.07	\$28.72
Dental Assistants	\$13.22	\$14.98
Medical Secretaries	\$13.79	\$15.56
Truck drivers, Light or Delivery	\$10.97	\$16.75
Bookkeepers	\$11.78	\$17.87
Cashiers	\$8.34	\$9.27
Servers	\$8.32	\$8.96
Food cooking machine operators	\$12.02	\$16.46
Landscapers	\$10.26	\$15.30
Forklift Operators	\$13.06	\$16.24
Industrial Maintenance Mechanics	\$19.75	\$25.25
Graders/sorters, ag products	\$11.22	\$15.72
Ag workers, farm/ranch animals	\$8.27	\$9.74

\* 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>	9,200	\$25,743	10,676	\$33,494	10,997	\$34,346
<b>Agriculture</b>	1,198	\$23,633	1,552	\$34,444	1,646	\$34,533
<b>Mining</b>	176	\$29,834	142	\$33,969	155	\$34,190
<b>Construction</b>	395	\$27,257	437	\$39,503	481	\$42,149
<b>Manufacturing</b>	986	\$34,197	1,353	\$43,658	1,331	\$44,385
<b>Trade, Utilities &amp; Transportation</b>	2,346	\$26,049	2,875	\$34,744	2,938	\$36,048
<b>Information</b>	64	\$46,669	72	\$56,309	74	\$62,977
<b>Financial Activities</b>	305	\$30,853	272	\$45,769	304	\$45,342
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	205	\$29,370	373	\$26,687	392	\$27,205
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	1,201	\$22,322	1,234	\$31,625	1,276	\$32,166
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	589	\$8,336	630	\$11,123	677	\$10,276
<b>Other Services</b>	106	\$17,614	183	\$20,699	195	\$22,099
<b>Government</b>	1,629	\$28,037	1,554	\$30,145	1,527	\$31,475

Per Capita Income	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Cassia County</b>	\$27,343	\$30,632	\$32,640	\$29,596	\$32,574	\$34,515	\$36,153	\$40,775	\$42,110	\$42,823
<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



This county is served by the office located at the address below:  
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[labor.idaho.gov](http://labor.idaho.gov)

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