

# Cassia County

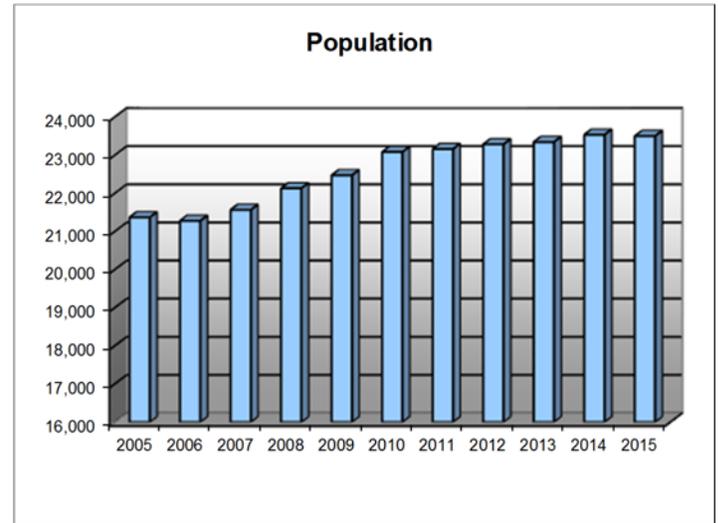
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## Workforce Trends

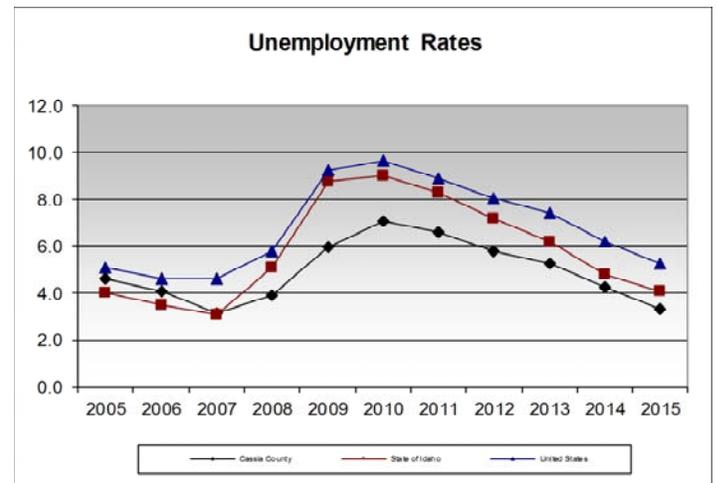
### Population

Cassia County's population grew 10.4 percent over the last 10 years with highest growth during the Great Recession. Population was estimated at 23,506 in 2015, up from 21,372 in 2005. 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 moved the unemployment rate to nearly 6 percent while the recession sent it to 7.1 percent in 2010. Since then, RV maker Dutchmen Manufacturing opened and was a large employer for five years, shuttering its operation in late 2013. 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. It continues to expand. 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, came in 2009. High Desert Milk and Gem State Processing are the most recent food processing additions to Burley building new plants. All pay competitive wages with benefits. Many of the food processing jobs require higher skill levels due to automation and McCain Foods is currently updating technology in part of its operation. In 2007, Cassia County's unemployment rate was at a record low 3.2 percent. 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.

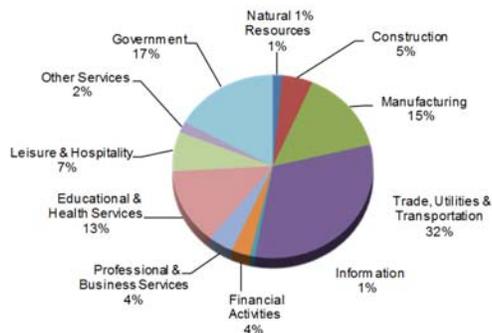
Labor Force	Oct 15	Oct 16
Civilian Labor Force	11,539	11,598
Total Employment	11,196	11,283
Unemployed	343	314
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.0	2.7
State of Idaho % Unemployed	4.0	3.8
U.S. % Unemployed	5.0	4.9

Labor Force	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Civilian Labor Force	10,065	10,449	10,795	10,985	10,190	11,113	11,191	11,113	11,133	11,263	11,546
Unemployment	483	430	342	432	609	787	738	645	586	478	385
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.6	4.1	3.2	3.9	6.0	7.1	6.6	5.8	5.3	4.2	3.3
Employment	9,602	10,019	10,453	10,554	9,581	10,326	10,453	10,468	10,548	10,784	11,161

Prepared by Jan Roeser, Regional Economist, Idaho Department of Labor • 420 Falls Ave, Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

Phone: (208) 735-2500, ext. 3639 • email: [jan.roeser@labor.idaho.gov](mailto:jan.roeser@labor.idaho.gov) • Labor Market Information website: [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov)

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2015



## Wages & Income

Wages have been traditionally low in Cassia County but with the influx of manufacturing companies, particularly over the last decade, wages are on the rise. Most jobs had been in agriculture, food processing, retail or services. The dairy industry has brought some stability to agricultural wages. Cassia is the leading county in the state for agricultural receipts, ranked 34th nationally. Per capita income increased 3 percent from 2014 and has exceeded the state's per capita income the last four years. Its ranking of 7th statewide reflects the high agricultural prices and record yields of many commodities in 2014. Growth over the last decade is estimated at 56 percent. Cassia County's per capita income is 10 percent below the nation's, with the gap narrowing. Covered wages grew 5.2 percent in 2015—most significantly in information and financial activities. Historically, the lower wage scale has attracted many companies, but higher skilled jobs are pulling up the average wages. Wage growth in covered employment has increased over the last decade by 38 percent. State agricultural income fell 30 percent in 2015.

## 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

Occupational Wages*	Median Wage
Teachers	\$43,380
Social Workers	\$24.42
Registered Nurses	\$26.98
Dental Assistants	\$17.91
Medical Secretaries	\$12.02
Truck drivers	\$16.46
Bookkeepers	\$15.31
Cashiers	\$8.94
Servers	\$8.65
Food cooking machine operators	\$14.38
Landscapers	\$12.17
Forklift Operators	\$15.65
Industrial Maintenance Mechanics	\$23.28
Graders/sorters, ag products	\$12.72
Ag workers, farm/ranch animals	\$9.08

\* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at [imi.idaho.gov](http://imi.idaho.gov).

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2005, 2014 & 2015	2005		2014		2015	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	8,791	\$24,271	10,424	\$31,794	10,665	\$33,450
Agriculture	1,171	\$22,086	1,583	\$32,780	1,554	\$34,380
Mining	191	\$27,759	132	\$31,785	142	\$33,936
Construction	363	\$26,451	417	\$37,044	436	\$39,457
Manufacturing	909	\$33,882	1,300	\$41,832	1,353	\$43,549
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	2,312	\$22,968	2,688	\$32,498	2,875	\$34,715
Information	55	\$48,846	86	\$50,404	72	\$56,230
Financial Activities	289	\$31,019	271	\$42,480	272	\$45,642
Professional and Business Services	203	\$27,464	357	\$27,081	367	\$26,963
Educational and Health Services	992	\$21,153	1,282	\$29,554	1,230	\$31,573
Leisure and Hospitality	577	\$8,351	556	\$10,946	632	\$10,276
Other Services	120	\$16,292	156	\$20,532	181	\$20,834
Government	1,609	\$27,157	1,596	\$28,477	1,554	\$30,045

Per Capita Income	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Cassia County	\$26,566	\$27,294	\$30,485	\$31,757	\$28,435	\$31,770	\$33,959	\$35,570	\$40,243	\$41,492
State of Idaho	\$29,815	\$31,945	\$32,952	\$32,854	\$31,392	\$32,050	\$33,544	\$34,846	\$35,641	\$36,734
United States	\$35,904	\$38,144	\$39,821	\$41,082	\$39,376	\$40,277	\$42,453	\$44,266	\$44,438	\$46,049

Information provided by Bureau of Economic Analysis



This county is served by the office located at the address below:  
 Idaho Department of Labor  
 127 W. Fifth St. N.  
 Burley, ID 83318 Ph: (208) 678-5518

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

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