



Custer County

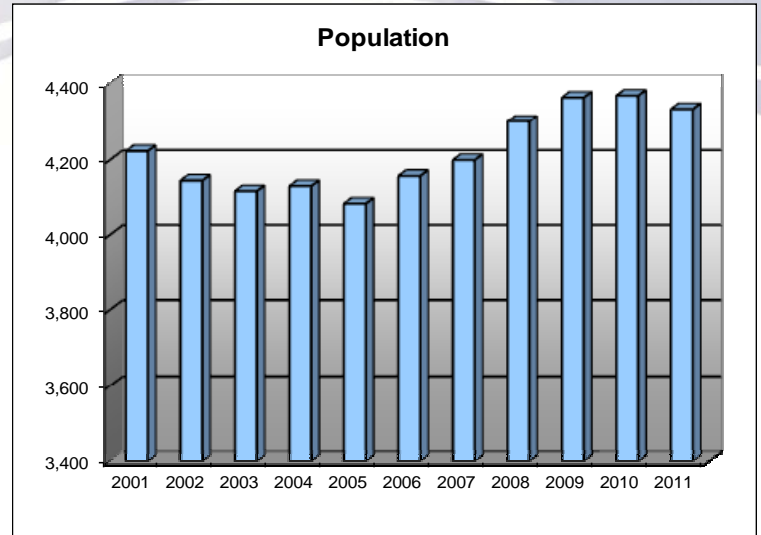
April 2012

Work Force Trends

Population

Custer County ranks 38th in the state with a 2011 population of 4,333. For each person the county offers more than a square mile of space. It reflects the fortunes of the mining industry. Population decreased in the early 2000s reaching a low in 2005, losing over 300 residents as Hecla Mining closed. Thompson Creek Mining, still considered one of the largest employers, operates an open pit molybdenum mine. Population began growing again in 2006 and was up 176 since.

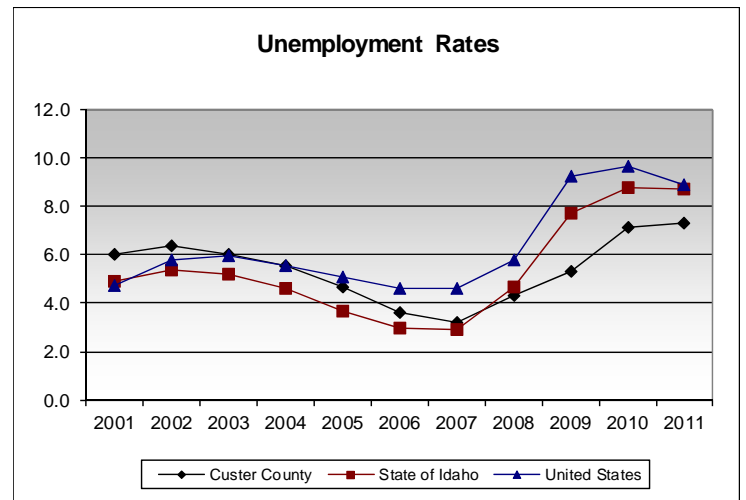
The county has been concentrating on diversifying beyond mining. Economic developers are working hand-in-hand with government officials to attract new business and help existing ones expand in order to reverse, or at least slow, the decline in the future.



Labor Force & Employment

Custer County's unemployment rate was higher than either the state or nation early in the last decade. In 2003 the rate dipped to match the state and national rates and then slip below both. The civilian labor force steadily decreased from 2001 to 2006 and has shown little change since. Because the county has limited employers, mergers and changes in management can severely affect the work force, many of whom travel from other counties. The 2007 unemployment rate was the lowest of the last decade. It rose in 2008 and 2009 as the national recession took its toll. The 2011 annual unemployment rate was 7.3 percent. The county has been affected by forest fires and mine closures throughout the decade.

Half of the county's jobs are in government or natural resources. With only 5 percent of the land in

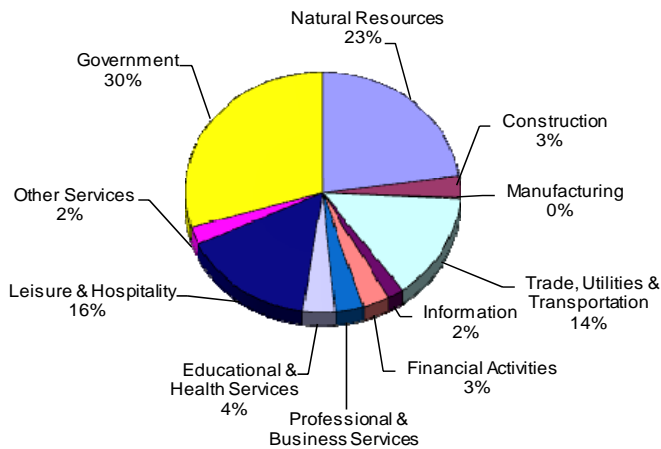


private ownership, the state Department of Fish & Game and the federal departments of Interior and Agriculture have cadres of employees to maintain the land. They complement employees of school districts and local government. Trade is still a large industry as is leisure and hospitality because of resources like Redfish Lake, the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Borah Peak, the highest point in Idaho.

Labor Force	Mar 11	Mar 12
Civilian Labor Force	2,565	2,650
Total Employment	2,403	2,476
Unemployed	162	174
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.3	6.6
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	2,692	2,555	2,523	2,545	2,568	2,506	2,324	2,451	2,664	2,560	2,550
Unemployment	163	163	151	141	120	90	75	106	142	182	186
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.0	6.4	6.0	5.5	4.7	3.6	3.2	4.3	5.3	7.1	7.3
Employment	2,529	2,392	2,372	2,404	2,449	2,416	2,249	2,345	2,522	2,378	2,363

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2010



Major Employers
Challis & Mackay Jnt School Dist #181 & #182
Custer County
Idaho & U.S. Government (BLM, F&G, Ag)
Lamb's Foodtown
The Village Inn
Thompson Creek Mining Co
Village Square

Eastern ID Occupational Wages*	Median Wage
Agricultural Workers	\$8.52
Cashiers	\$8.12
Excavation & Loading Machine & Dragline Operator	\$17.68
Food & Beverage Serving Workers	\$7.77
Industrial Truck/Tractor Operators	\$14.23
Laborers & Material Movers, Hand	\$9.78
Lodging Managers	\$20.64
Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners	\$8.30
Retail Sales Workers	\$8.96

Covered Employment & Wages

Covered employment grew 4.5 percent over the decade. At the same time, covered wages increased by 47 percent but fell between 2008 and 2009. Wages among all industries except other services increased in 2010. The county's per capita income is slightly higher than the state average with mining wages still the highest of all industries.

Covered employment includes jobs subject to state and federal unemployment insurance laws. These laws apply to approximately 92 percent of Idaho's worklrs.

- Wage data includes nine counties of eastern Idaho. Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at 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
Total Covered Wages	1,601	\$23,655	1,663	\$32,248	1,673	\$34,913
Agriculture	36	\$17,331	39	\$20,828	36	\$21,632
Mining	*	*	351	\$63,401	386	\$67,244
Construction	137	\$38,108	52	\$29,090	48	\$31,099
Manufacturing	6	\$15,092	*	*	3	\$41,149
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	288	\$16,397	253	\$21,425	241	\$22,568
Information	20	\$30,467	32	\$41,855	31	\$45,139
Financial Activities	58	\$13,845	56	\$16,748	51	\$18,354
Professional and Business Services	34	\$17,387	43	\$28,418	57	\$34,596
Educational and Health Services	76	\$9,096	70	\$15,612	62	\$17,289
Leisure and Hospitality	254	\$12,179	274	\$13,691	267	\$13,465
Other Services	17	\$25,095	23	\$31,172	22	\$31,093
Government	470	\$26,983	469	\$31,938	471	\$32,665

Per Capita Income	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Custer County	\$22,531	\$24,272	\$23,546	\$24,603	\$24,870	\$27,173	\$28,412	\$31,008	\$32,257	\$33,596
State of Idaho	\$24,683	\$25,642	\$26,007	\$26,438	\$28,414	\$29,594	\$31,585	\$32,734	\$33,062	\$31,857
United States	\$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



This county is served by the office listed below:
 Idaho Department of Labor
 1301 Main St., Unit 1
 Salmon, ID 83467-0990 Ph: (208) 756-2234

labor.idaho.gov