



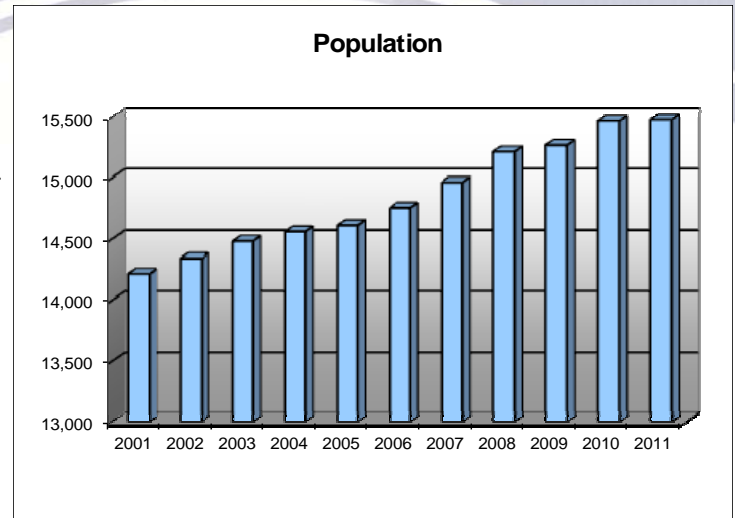
Gooding County

April 2012

Work Force Trends

Population

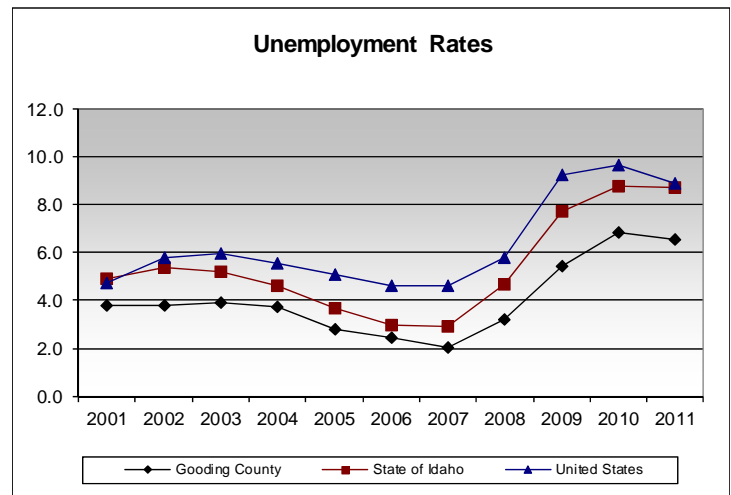
Gooding County has experienced insignificant growth over the last 10 years. The population rose 9 percent from 14,155 in 2000 to 15,464 in 2010. Between 2003 and 2006, Gooding's population dipped slightly due to restructuring of the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind. The recession and low dairy prices took its toll in 2009. Gooding County is the state's dairy leader, but the explosive growth over the last 15 years was blunted by moratoria on dairies and feedlots. The industry has converted typically migrant, seasonal workers into permanent residents. The county seat and largest town is Gooding at 3,384 residents in 2010. Wendell, coined the Hub City due to its central location, is the second largest town at 2,338. Over half the county lives outside the cities. Despite the predominance of dairy, the county's agriculture is diverse from specialty onions to trout and beef cattle. Dairy products have been stable, but milk prices were below the break even point for an 18-month period, overlapping high feed costs in 2008. North Canyon Medical Center opened its new facility in the spring of 2010.



Labor Force & Employment

The civilian labor force has been steadily growing in Gooding County over the last decade from 6,600 in the late 1990s to 9,000 in 2011. The unemployment rate has fluctuated from a low 2 percent in 2007 to 6.9 percent in 2010. It has remained well below state and national rates.

The dairy and cheese processing industries, which provide year-round employment, offer higher-paying, stable jobs. The rapid growth in dairies has slowed in recent years as environmental concerns forced the Gooding County Commission to tighten standards for large livestock operators. Kieferbuilt Trailers started operations in 2004 and provided higher skilled jobs until it shut down during the recession. At one time, many residents commuted to Blaine County for the higher-paying landscaping and construction jobs. But those jobs have dried up in the

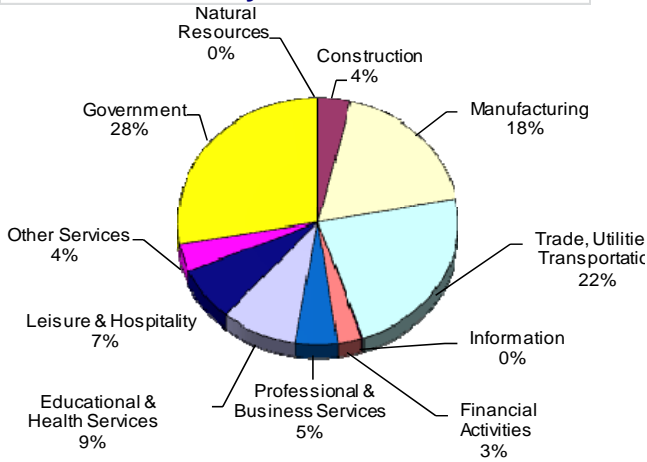


Labor Force	Mar 11	Mar 12
Civilian Labor Force	8,860	8,834
Total Employment	8,315	8,380
Unemployed	545	455
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.2	5.1
State of Idaho % Unemployed	8.7	7.9
U.S. % Unemployed	8.9	8.2

Labor Force	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Civilian Labor Force	7,113	7,231	7,390	7,598	8,044	8,439	8,792	8,787	8,339	9,001	8,992
Unemployment	270	276	291	282	224	206	179	283	455	617	591
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.7	2.8	2.4	2.0	3.2	5.5	6.9	6.6
Employment	6,843	6,955	7,100	7,316	7,819	8,233	8,614	8,505	7,884	8,384	8,401

economic downturn despite the needs of estates, second homes and hotels in Sun Valley and Ketchum. A growing charter school competes for students, stressing public schools budgets. Glanbia, a cheese producer, is a large employer in the area and has been innovative in dealing with its waste water. Its presence brought Wel Companies, a logistics and warehousing operation that took over the Kieferbuilt plant. The long-term forecast for Gooding County is steady growth.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2010



Wages & Income

Income generated from dairies, its value-added manufacturing and transportation jobs plus access to higher paying opportunities in Blaine County have been the catalyst for much of Gooding County's growth in per capita income. It rose 37 percent over the last decade, but lost 19 percent from 2008 to 2009 due to the low milk prices. Gooding County ranked fifth among Idaho's 44 counties in 2008 but fell to 15th in 2009. The work force is stable yet highly mobile and willing to spend the extra time and fuel for higher wages in Blaine County when quality jobs are not available at home. Gooding County has the third highest per capita income in south central Idaho. Gooding County was one of a handful that saw covered employment grow from 2009 to 2010. The outlook is solid.

Major Employers	
Bettencourt Dairies	Glanbia, Inc.
Box Canyon Dairy	Gooding County
Borrowman Trucking	Helena Chemical Company
BRP Health Management	Idaho State School for Deaf & Blind
Clear Springs Food	Jack Verbree Jr. Dairy
D & D Transportation	Magic Valley Growers
Double A Dairy	North Canyon Medical Center

Occupational Wages*	Average Wage
Cashiers	\$8.00
Cheese Processors	\$9.50
Construction Labor	\$12.00
General Farm Labor	\$10.41
Maintenance Mechanics	\$12.50
Milkers	\$11.00
Receptionists	\$12.00
Registered Nurses	\$24.00
Social Workers	\$19.00
Substance Abuse Counselors	\$18.00
Teachers	\$50,000.00
Waiters & Waitresses	\$7.25

* 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	5,141	\$20,874	6,085	\$29,650	6,190	\$29,418
Agriculture	1,424	\$20,375	2,101	\$27,787	2,092	\$28,175
Mining	*	*	*	*	*	*
Construction	237	\$22,257	216	\$28,248	157	\$28,567
Manufacturing	595	\$26,507	743	\$43,604	763	\$42,165
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	920	\$21,068	835	\$31,128	945	\$29,673
Information	18	\$22,038	*	*	8	\$24,321
Financial Activities	93	\$17,758	104	\$30,449	106	\$29,498
Professional and Business Services	115	\$29,037	198	\$33,759	200	\$33,424
Educational and Health Services	261	\$20,488	351	\$26,683	369	\$26,248
Leisure and Hospitality	309	\$7,040	293	\$9,691	295	\$9,938
Other Services	112	\$24,557	137	\$40,728	126	\$41,470
Government	1,056	\$21,020	1,101	\$27,069	1,056	\$27,133

Per Capita Income	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Gooding County	\$23,630	\$29,019	\$26,153	\$25,815	\$32,641	\$32,677	\$31,684	\$39,191	\$39,782	\$32,355
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:
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labor.idaho.gov