



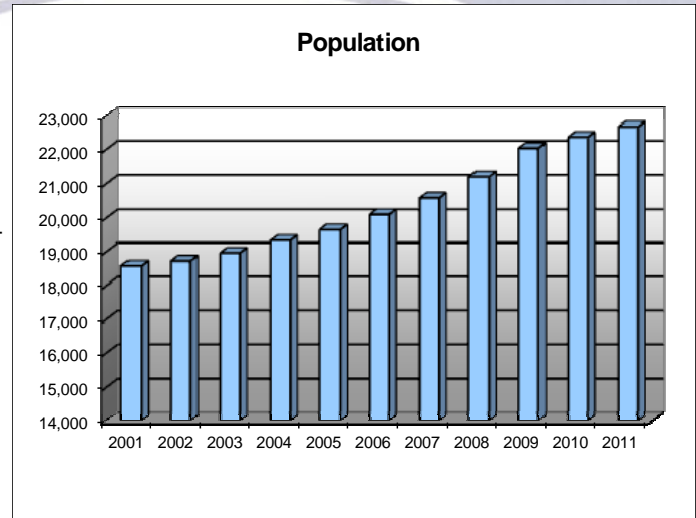
Jerome County

April 2012

Work Force Trends

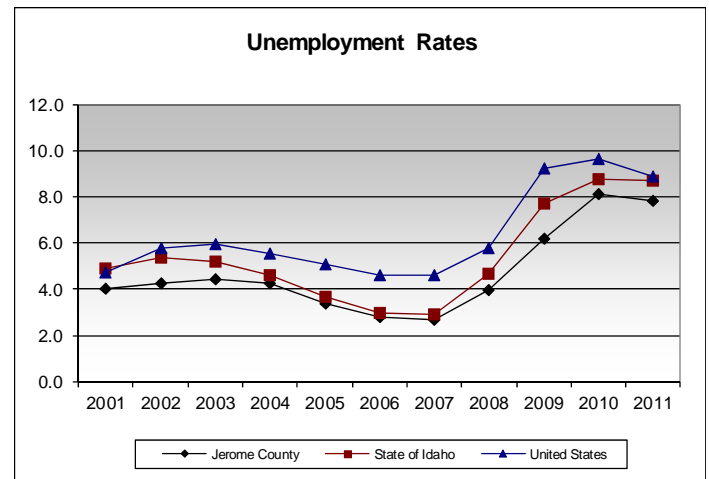
Population

Jerome County's population has grown steadily, rising 22.1 percent from 18,579 in 2001 to 22,682 in 2011 in response to strong economic and infrastructure development. Jerome is the county seat and by far the largest city at 10,890 residents. Hilex Poly, an advanced plastics manufacturer that makes grocery bags, and Idaho Milk Products with its state-of-the-art milk processing plant are examples of the newer companies requiring workers with better than average skills. The dairy industry continues to be a major factor in the economy and community, drawing feeder businesses such as Jerome Cheese, West Farm Foods Inc. and WOW Logistics. The recently constructed Con Paulos auto dealership, new schools and the steady increase of small retailers have invigorated the community. Jerome's residential construction grew on affordable values and a downtown adjacent to the interstate. The Crossroads Point Business Center at the intersection of Interstate 84 and U.S. Highway 93 and the 93 Technology Park along with numerous other industrial parks position Jerome for significant growth over the next decade.



Labor Force & Employment

Seasonally adjusted unemployment in Jerome County was falling prior to the recession as it was statewide. Unemployment dropped from a high of 4.6 percent in 1998 to a low of 2.9 percent in 2007, driven by economic diversification, development and growth in the dairy industry. The current downturn has unemployment higher again but still well below the record levels of 1983, when the rate hit 9.7 percent. While dairy has provided many stable jobs, it remains a volatile commodity. Dairy farms culled cows to meet debt obligations but stressed some banking relations as supply and demand imbalances drove prices lower. Milk prices have rebounded but so have fuel and feed prices. The economic outlook remains optimistic with continued development of the Crossroads Point Business Center, which currently includes a Comfort



Labor Force	Mar 11	Mar 12
Civilian Labor Force	10,714	10,612
Total Employment	9,911	9,892
Unemployed	803	720
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.5	6.8
State of Idaho % Unemployed	8.7	7.9
U.S. % Unemployed	8.9	8.2

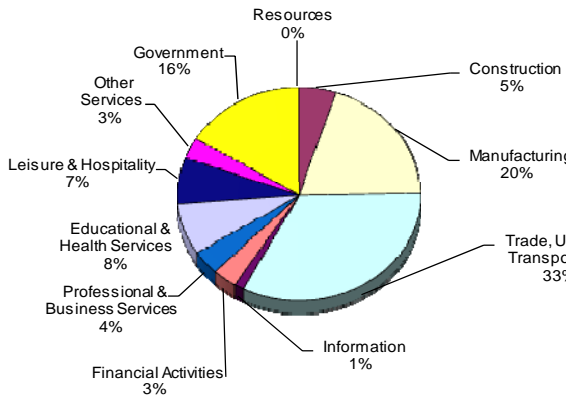
Inn Hotel, Federal Express office, Idaho Wind Partners, Fastenal, a Subway sandwich shop, the Heritage Office Complex, B & N Machine and Freightliner of Idaho the most recent addition. The investment by developers and concerted efforts of economic development professionals is expected to pay off over the next decade with the help of Jerome's convenient location on Interstate 84 and job creation efforts emphasizing industry clusters.

Labor Force	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Civilian Labor Force	9,322	9,586	9,509	9,696	9,817	10,096	9,810	10,020	10,384	10,583	10,712
Unemployment	374	407	420	410	335	285	263	398	646	860	838
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.2	3.4	2.8	2.7	4.0	6.2	8.1	7.8
Employment	8,948	9,180	9,088	9,285	9,482	9,812	9,548	9,622	9,738	9,723	9,875

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Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2010



Major Employers	
Aardema Dairy	Rich Thompson Trucking
Arlo G. Lott Trucking, Inc.	Rite Stuff Foods
Commercial Creamery Co.	Si-Ellen Farms
Hilex Poly	Spears Manufacturing
Idaho Milk Products	St. Luke's Jerome
Jerome Cheese	Standlee Hay Company
Mellencamp Cattle	Wal-Mart

Wages & Income

Jerome County has shown strong growth in per capita income over the last decade. A 29 percent increase since 2000, slightly below the state figure, ranks the county 25th statewide.

The dairy industry still faces challenges. While the moratorium on new operations has been lifted for the time being, there are new requirements along with higher fuel and feed price that are eroding profits. Average employment was down 3.7 percent this spring over spring 2010 while average wages edged up 1.6 percent. The cluster of industries and forward thinking development have kept Jerome on the periphery of the recession. Hispanics comprise 31 percent of the population, increasing over the decade by 22 percent. Hispanic buying power has taken a hit statewide, but Jerome County prevailed with buying power growing from 2009's \$90 million to \$101.6 million for 2010.

Occupational Wages*	Average Wage
Teachers	\$52,000.00
Teachers Aides	\$10.00
Registered Nurses	\$28.50
Receptionists	\$10.00
Medical Secretaries	\$13.00
Bookkeepers	\$11.00
Cashiers	\$8.50
Janitorial	\$9.00
Landscapers	\$12.00
Maintenance Mechanics	\$15.00
Cheese Processors	\$10.00
Construction Laborers	\$11.00
Milkers	\$11.00
Farm Laborers	\$10.41

* 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	7,051	\$21,837	8,905	\$29,712	8,574	\$30,196
Agriculture	1,534	\$20,995	2,149	\$28,738	2,127	\$28,938
Mining	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Construction	363	\$23,179	338	\$39,890	325	\$42,737
Manufacturing	985	\$24,253	1,285	\$32,587	1,282	\$33,533
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	2,087	\$22,971	2,392	\$31,873	2,140	\$32,742
Information	55	\$23,381	80	\$35,522	82	\$34,863
Financial Activities	105	\$20,403	203	\$24,445	196	\$26,476
Professional and Business Services	236	\$25,020	255	\$31,580	241	\$32,050
Educational and Health Services	301	\$21,539	509	\$31,110	516	\$30,543
Leisure and Hospitality	356	\$9,059	459	\$12,209	444	\$12,936
Other Services	137	\$18,001	188	\$22,256	186	\$23,855
Government	894	\$22,437	1,047	\$28,403	1,034	\$27,710

Per Capita Income	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Jerome County	\$22,851	\$25,299	\$24,685	\$24,846	\$27,953	\$28,709	\$29,579	\$32,526	\$32,736	\$29,437
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