

# Lemhi County

IDAHO  
DEPT. OF LABOR

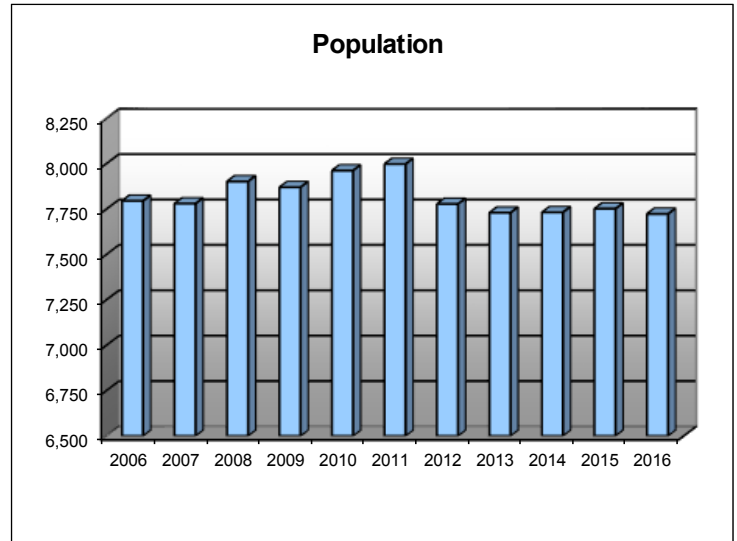
August 2017

## Workforce Trends

### Population

Lemhi County has depended on mining for most of its history, and the last decade reflects it. The population steadily eroded early in the decade before resuming growth. The county's population was 7,723 people in 2016. Salmon, ID is Lemhi County's largest city ranking 44th in the state with a population of 3,504 people. Recent population fluctuations have been minor and remained relatively unchanged from 2012.

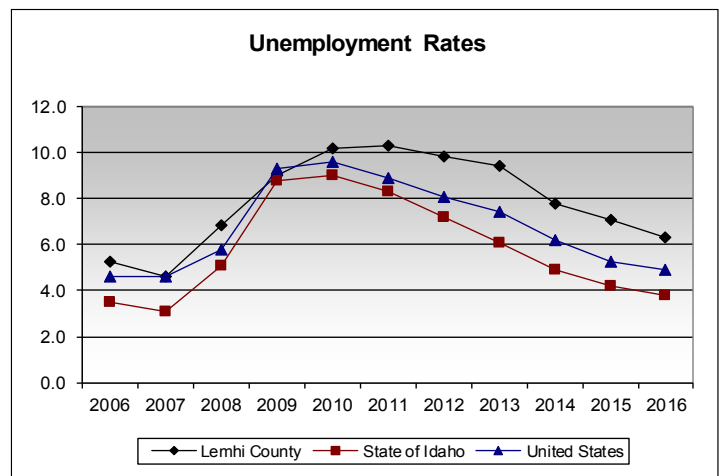
Cobalt and rare earth metals have sparked interest in new mining development. There is still discussion of selling and restarting mines. In the past several years, the county has also built a business incubation center, a large hospital and the impressive Sacajawea Education & Interpretive Center. Efforts to improve local schools are also underway.



### Labor Force & Employment

Lemhi County's unemployment rate hit 10.3 percent in peak recession times. Since then the county is diversified while capitalizing on its strengths. Summer fires over the last decade, some requiring national help, temporarily boosted employment. But the county has rebounded with the support of residents and leaders. The 2016 average unemployment rate decreased for the fifth consecutive year to 6.3 percent.

Government employs 34 percent of the county's workers. Over 90 percent of the land is owned by the federal government so land management agencies like the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the Idaho Fish and Game Department employ many. Nonfarm payroll jobs do not include employers involved in agriculture. Total acreage for cattle is almost as high as total acreage for crops.



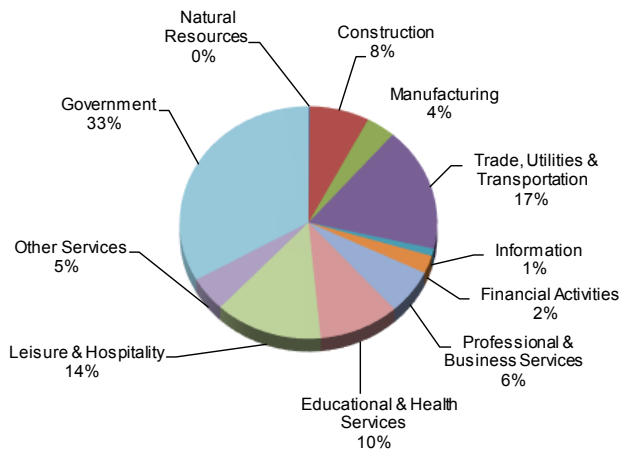
Trade, transportation and utilities along with leisure and hospitality employ 30 percent of the labor force. Trade represents many jobs not only in food stores, restaurants and bars but also in auto dealerships, which serve a large geographic area that includes Montana and Wyoming.

Increased diversification will help limit recessionary effects. Much of the unemployment is the result of layoffs, resulting in declining employment and rising unemployment.

Labor Force	July 16	July 17
Civilian Labor Force	3,411	3,361
Total Employment	3,209	3,190
Unemployed	203	171
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.9	5.1
State of Idaho % Unemployed	3.8	3.0
U.S. % Unemployed	4.9	4.3

Labor Force	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Civilian Labor Force	4,006	3,745	3,664	3,976	3,775	3,666	3,566	3,439	3,365	3,386	3,396
Unemployment	211	173	251	358	385	377	351	323	262	239	214
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.3	4.6	6.9	9.0	10.2	10.3	9.8	9.4	7.8	7.0	6.3
Employment	3,795	3,572	3,413	3,617	3,390	3,289	3,215	3,115	3,102	3,147	3,182

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2016



## Covered Employment & Wages

Since 2005 covered employment has decreased 12 percent. Job and wage growth was minimal, growing slightly more than 1 percent in 2015. As jobs declined wages increased. Over the last decade overall covered wages grew 33 percent. Professional and business services recorded the largest growth both over the decade and year at 84 percent and 23 percent respectively.

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

## Major Employers

Discovery Care Center LLC
Lemhi County
Idaho Department of Fish & Game
Q B Corporation
Salmon Public Schools #291
Saveway Market Inc.
Steele Memorial Hospital
U.S. Government

Eastern Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Agricultural Workers	\$8.21	\$9.94
Cashiers	\$8.32	\$9.29
Farmworkers & Laborers, Crop, Nursery, & Greenhouse	\$8.30	\$9.54
Food & Beverage Serving Workers	\$8.34	\$8.72
Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses	\$14.39	\$17.66
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, & Attendants	\$8.72	\$10.69
Health Diagnosing & Treating Practitioners	\$15.85	\$26.77
Production Occupations	\$9.38	\$14.67
Receptionists & Information Clerks	\$9.52	\$12.68
Retail Sales Workers	\$8.29	\$10.57

\* 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>	2,661	\$24,582	2,287	\$31,011	2,370	\$31,978
<b>Agriculture</b>	53	\$23,048	43	\$27,441	46	\$27,246
<b>Mining</b>	*	*	5	\$37,280	*	*
<b>Construction</b>	182	\$23,507	143	\$37,036	166	\$39,103
<b>Manufacturing</b>	139	\$32,722	87	\$30,008	87	\$30,960
<b>Trade, Utilities, &amp; Transportation</b>	455	\$20,379	378	\$29,566	393	\$29,380
<b>Information</b>	42	\$13,829	25	\$19,727	25	\$18,725
<b>Financial Activities</b>	93	\$29,761	52	\$25,742	57	\$25,034
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	145	\$25,187	139	\$38,651	145	\$38,918
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	234	\$16,769	230	\$22,906	236	\$26,940
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	399	\$10,494	303	\$13,689	317	\$14,100
<b>Other Services</b>	78	\$16,246	97	\$20,967	108	\$21,840
<b>Government</b>	837	\$35,201	785	\$40,541	786	\$41,900

Per Capita Income	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Lemhi County</b>	\$25,481	\$27,502	\$29,423	\$28,578	\$29,058	\$30,892	\$33,667	\$34,309	\$35,842	\$36,860
<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 of Economic Analysis