

# Minidoka County

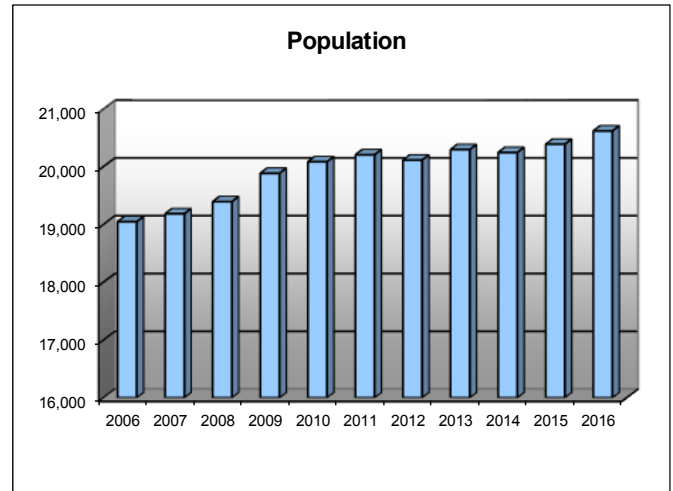
December 2017

## Workforce Trends

### Population

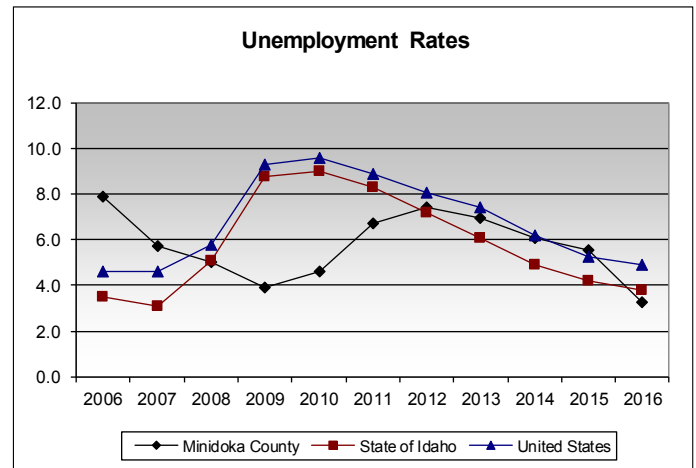
The population of Minidoka County is growing after a series of starts and stops. Incremental increases in eight of the last 10 years produced a 8.2 percent increase over the decade to 20,616 in 2016. Rupert, the county seat, has an estimated population of 5,705 for 2015. The downtown core has retained its historic buildings including the iconic Wilson Theatre, renovated with community collaboration. The downtown plaza is one of the few remaining in Idaho, continuing to be the centerpiece of the community.

Still heavily dependent on agriculture and food processing, the county economy has diversified to include durable manufacturing and wholesale and retail trade tied to agriculture. Wages tend toward the low end – a challenge in attracting and retaining workers but appealing to new businesses. New employers have been willing to pay higher wages although they remain below competing states. Renewed economic vitality, the area's scenic beauty and the lure of nearby recreation are drawing new residents and companies.



### Labor Force & Employment

Minidoka County is commonly joined to Cassia County and referred to as the Mini-Cassia area. Employment in Minidoka County has traditionally been seasonal. The city of Burley lies in both counties, divided by the Snake River, and both counties are linked economically, politically and socially. The area offers a labor pool with a strong work ethic and a strategic location with convenient access to commercial rail and Interstate 84 with I-86 nearby. The unemployment rate peaked at 10.2 percent in 1986 and saw a record low of 3.3 percent in 2016. In the past, many workers relied on fresh pack potato operations, farm jobs, sugar processing and potato processing for employment. In 2003, the J.R. Simplot Co. closed its Heyburn plant, idling 600 workers, driving unemployment to 7.7 percent. After closure, the plant along the Snake River was donated to the city of Burley for an industrial park, which now houses a retail outlet, a restaurant associated with the

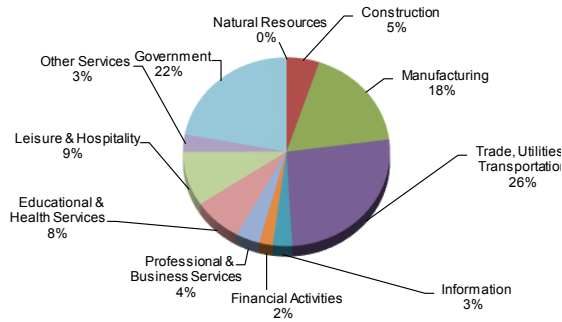


cheese plant and Gem State Processing, a potato dehydrator based out of Pasco, Washington. A previous tenant, Renova Ethanol, lost its half-built plant in bankruptcy proceedings with assets purchased by Natural Chem Holdings. Double L Manufacturing constructed a new plant for its custom-designed potato harvesting equipment marketed globally. PerforMix and WillTran have committed to facilities in Minidoka County, both with previous ties to southwestern Idaho.

Labor Force	Nov 16	Nov 17
Civilian Labor Force	10,852	11,032
Total Employment	10,527	10,760
Unemployed	326	273
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.0	2.5
State of Idaho % Unemployed	3.7	2.9
U.S. % Unemployed	4.6	4.1

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Civilian Labor Force	9,442	9,476	9,809	10,051	10,078	9,494	10,467	10,560	10,376	10,388	10,821
Unemployment	744	544	494	392	462	637	777	734	632	578	353
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.9	5.7	5.0	3.9	4.6	6.7	7.4	7.0	6.1	5.6	3.3
Employment	8,697	8,932	9,315	9,659	9,616	8,857	9,690	9,826	9,745	9,810	10,468

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2016



## Wages & Income

Minidoka County ranks 4th regionally and 15th among Idaho's 44 counties in per capita income. Growth has been robust at 38 percent since 2006 with a significant 14 percent record increase between 2010 and 2011. The per capita income grew 1.3 percent from 2015, slightly less than the 1.6 percent posted by the state and nation. Minidoka's per capita income was 95 percent of the state's average and 76 percent of the national average.

Average covered employment rose 1.9 percent from 2015 with wages growing 2 percent over the same time period. Employment in educational and health services reported the largest growth at 21 percent. Professional and business services experienced the largest increase since 2006 with a 25 percent growth in wages, \$6,

### Major Employers

Amalgamated Sugar	Horizon Organic Milk
Budget Motor	Jentzsch-Kearl Farms
Brewster West Dairy	Minidoka Memorial Hosp.
Double L Manufacturing	Sun Valley Potatoes
Gem State Processing	Ridley's Food Corporation
Gossner Foods	Whitesides Dairy

South Central Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Elementary Teachers	\$30,730	\$45,120
Secondary Teachers	\$35,790	\$43,860
Registered Nurses	\$22.07	\$28.72
Certified Nurses Aides	\$9.91	\$12.74
Medical Secretary	\$13.79	\$15.56
Bank Tellers	\$10.15	\$11.88
Cashiers	\$8.34	\$9.27
Welders	\$13.72	\$17.76
Janitors and cleaners	\$8.95	\$12.59
Landscapers	\$10.26	\$15.30
Construction Labor	\$11.08	\$13.64
Food batchmakers	\$12.02	\$16.46
Ag workers, farm/ranch animals	\$8.27	\$9.74
Graders/sorters - ag products	\$11.22	\$15.72

\* 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>	6,787	\$25,589	7,562	\$35,088	7,704	\$35,773
<b>Agriculture</b>	1,142	\$20,915	1,427	\$32,777	1,428	\$34,640
<b>Mining</b>	*	*	0	\$0	0	\$0
<b>Construction</b>	343	\$27,037	331	\$39,153	316	\$42,628
<b>Manufacturing</b>	1,051	\$40,572	1,192	\$54,518	1,130	\$53,209
<b>Trade, Utilities &amp; Transportation</b>	1,364	\$26,067	1,580	\$39,800	1,617	\$40,816
<b>Information</b>	144	\$28,307	165	\$35,870	190	\$33,985
<b>Financial Activities</b>	127	\$25,027	128	\$36,137	131	\$37,264
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	165	\$32,626	204	\$26,921	234	\$33,766
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	352	\$18,372	405	\$19,639	489	\$21,624
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	538	\$9,823	545	\$12,648	592	\$12,917
<b>Other Services</b>	152	\$16,488	168	\$26,066	183	\$27,962
<b>Government</b>	1,407	\$25,045	1,418	\$29,982	1,394	\$31,523

Per Capita Income	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Minidoka County</b>	\$27,292	\$29,564	\$29,118	\$28,872	\$32,917	\$34,250	\$34,429	\$35,999	\$37,068	\$37,542
<b>State of Idaho</b>	\$32,580	\$33,031	\$31,436	\$31,726	\$33,296	\$34,695	\$35,720	\$37,186	\$38,848	\$39,470
<b>United States</b>	\$39,821	\$41,082	\$39,376	\$40,277	\$42,461	\$44,282	\$44,493	\$46,494	\$48,451	\$49,246

Information provided by Bureau of Economic Analysis



This county is served by the office listed 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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