



# Power County

IDAHO  
DEPT. OF LABOR

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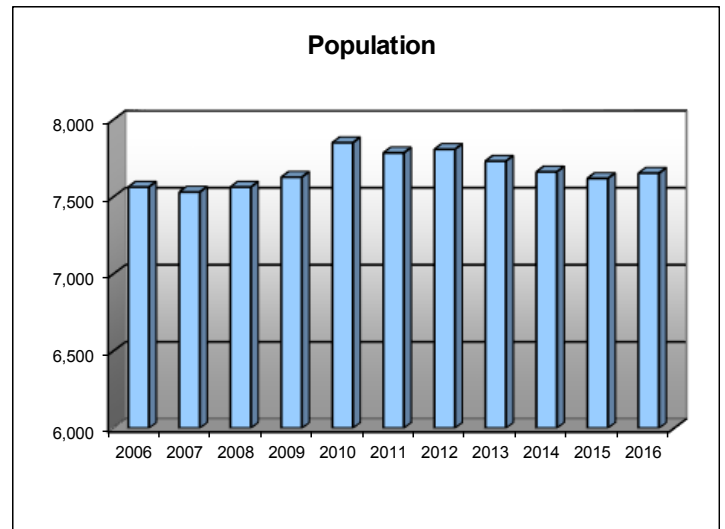
## Workforce Trends

### Population

Power County's population was relatively stable through the 2000s. Between 2000 and 2010 the county's population grew by 4.9 percent to 7,851. The population in recent years has declined.

Natural growth and in-migration raised the population early in the decade. The loss of manufacturing jobs midway through forced people to look for work elsewhere. The population in 2016 was estimated to be 7,654. American Falls, the largest city in the county had a population of 4,311.

The American Falls Reservoir, the largest on the Snake River, is one of the best boating and fishing lakes in the state. It also provides storage for irrigation and hydropower generation. The original American Falls, below the dam, adds stunning scenery to the county's lush and fertile farm land.

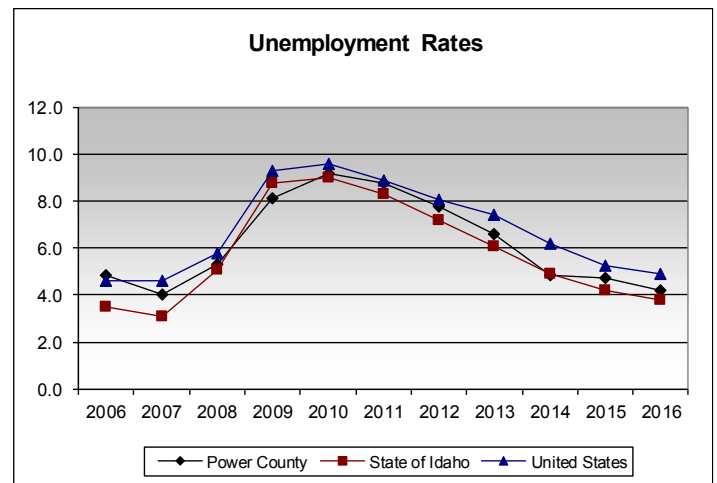


### Labor Force & Employment

A diverse, skilled work force with an excellent work history is heavily dependent on agriculture and related manufacturing. National and regional economic fluctuations in agriculture kept unemployment high throughout the decade. The lowest rate at 4.0 percent came in 2007.

With agriculture and related manufacturing providing most of the county's employment, diversification is needed for future growth. The many marinas and beaches, excellent trout fishing and wind and water conditions have potential to draw more tourists to American Falls.

The labor force changed little between 2000 and 2010. Because of seasonal layoffs in food processing, the county unemployment rate jumped to 8.1 percent in 2009, reached a record high in 2010 at 9.2 percent and then began a downward trend in 2011. In 2014 the rate dropped 1.7 percentage points to 4.9 percent. The rate



fell in 2016 further, with 4.2 percent unemployed.

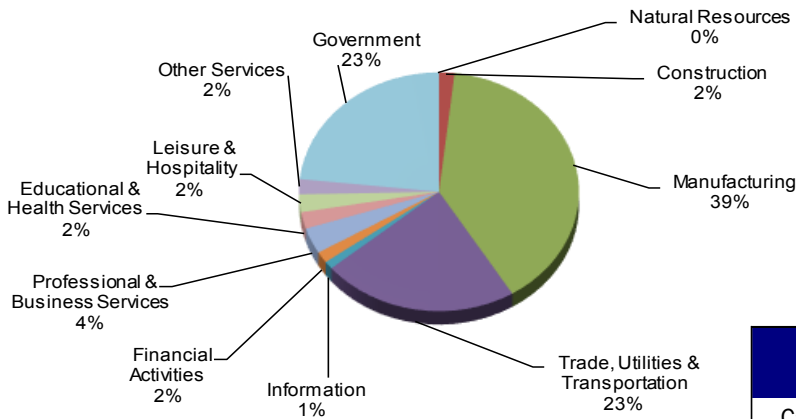
Employment dropped in Power County from 3,695 in 2006 to a low of 3,177 in 2009. However, the level has remained fairly constant since 2012. Nearly all the loss was in manufacturing with the shutdown of the Astaris phosphate plant at the end of 2001.

In the recession, only two industries showed significant employment growth over the decade – agriculture and other services.

Labor Force	July 16	July 17
Civilian Labor Force	3,884	3,846
Total Employment	3,714	3,724
Unemployed	171	122
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.4	3.2
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	3,873	3,753	3,541	3,459	3,872	3,927	4,086	3,983	3,982	3,885	3,905
Unemployment	188	151	188	281	357	345	318	263	194	183	164
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.9	4.0	5.3	8.1	9.2	8.8	7.8	6.6	4.9	4.7	4.2
Employment	3,685	3,602	3,353	3,177	3,515	3,582	3,768	3,720	3,788	3,703	3,741

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2016



## Major Employers (Private)

Con Agra
County Line Farms
Driscoll Potatoes LLC
Double L Manufacturing
Amerian Falls School District
Ken's Food Market
J. R. Simplot Company
Koopin Farms
Lance Funk Farms

## Industry Employment & Wages

Even though the number of manufacturing jobs decreased between 2000 to 2016, the industry still provides 29 percent of covered employment and pays Power County's second highest wages.

Agriculture accounts for 22 percent. Government has 18.4 percent of the jobs with many in public education.

The average covered wage of \$40,228 ranks well among all Idaho counties, influenced by the large percentage of workers in manufacturing, where the average wage is \$51,926. However, the county's per capita income ranks 27th in the state.

Southeast Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wages	Median Wages
Cashiers	\$8.32	\$9.34
Retail Sales Workers	\$8.39	\$10.31
Food Processing Workers	\$10.31	\$11.80
Food & Beverage Serving Workers	\$8.33	\$8.82
Janitors & Cleaners	\$8.29	\$9.50
Construction Laborers	\$8.62	\$13.41
Maids	\$8.26	\$9.08
Nurses, Registered	\$22.26	\$28.47
Information & Record Clerks	\$9.50	\$13.13
Auto Mechanics & Service Techs	\$9.43	\$16.55
Teachers, Elementary	\$29,091	\$41,298
Teachers, Secondary	\$27,556	\$40,945

\* 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
Total Covered Wages	3,084	\$29,349	3,305	\$39,154	3,252	\$40,228
Agriculture	430	\$22,486	736	\$33,192	611	\$33,119
Mining	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Construction	77	\$27,672	53	\$32,071	41	\$33,148
Manufacturing	1,001	\$40,405	967	\$52,841	1,052	\$51,926
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	570	\$23,511	614	\$37,583	595	\$39,895
Information	34	\$36,932	*	*	*	*
Financial Activities	62	\$22,408	41	\$36,044	40	\$37,849
Professional and Business Services	86	\$33,516	82	\$58,172	94	\$59,397
Educational and Health Services	35	\$24,705	62	\$23,380	60	\$25,150
Leisure and Hospitality	83	\$7,650	59	\$8,060	58	\$9,820
Other Services	37	\$19,023	54	\$27,246	55	\$28,584
Government	670	\$25,622	610	\$30,363	617	\$30,873

Per Capita Income	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Power County	\$25,113	\$28,425	\$30,495	\$30,437	\$30,210	\$35,398	\$35,973	\$36,132	\$34,016	\$36,019
State of Idaho	\$31,357	\$32,580	\$33,031	\$31,436	\$31,727	\$33,296	\$34,691	\$35,703	\$37,153	\$38,392
United States	\$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