



# Shoshone County

August 2017

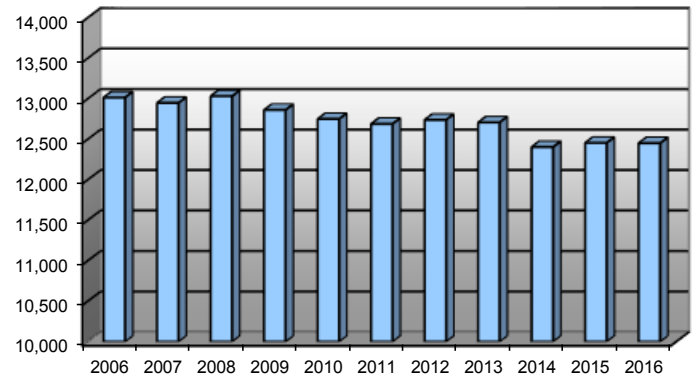
## Workforce Trends

### Population

After devastating mine and smelter closures, Shoshone County's population fell 28 percent in the 1980s and continued declining at a lesser rate in the following decades. Increasingly some Silver Valley towns became bedroom communities for the Coeur d'Alene area. From 2006 to 2016, the population fell 4 percent from 13,014 to 12,452 while Idaho's population grew 14.6 percent and the U.S. population grew 8.3 percent.

The county seat, Wallace, has a population of 761 in 2015. The largest cities are Kellogg with a population of 2,069, Pinehurst at 1,580 and Osburn at 1,510.

Population

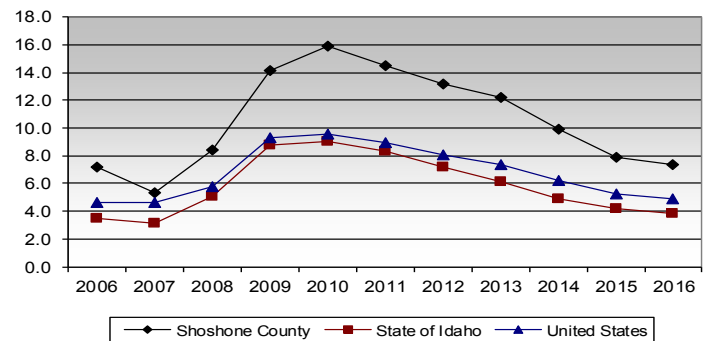


### Labor Force & Employment

High silver prices are breathing some life back into the mining industry, which had declined from a peak of 4,200 jobs in 1981 to just 310 in 2003. The Lucky Friday and Galena mines, which were the only ones left open, employ twice as many people as they did four years ago, and the Sunshine Mine reopened in 2007 after closing in 2001. By mid-2008, mining employed 700. Then the global recession hit, slashing prices for silver, lead and zinc. Sunshine shut down again and the Galena laid off workers in late 2008. In the last half of 2009, higher prices for silver and other minerals raised hopes, and by the end of 2010 exploration efforts increased and the Coeur side of the Galena Mine reopened in early 2011. Mining employment was back to 782 in 2015. The three richest silver mines in the United States are in Shoshone County.

Shoshone County is developing its tourism sector. In 1990, the world's longest gondola opened, running from Kellogg to the Silver Mountain ski area. In 2008, Silver

Unemployment Rates

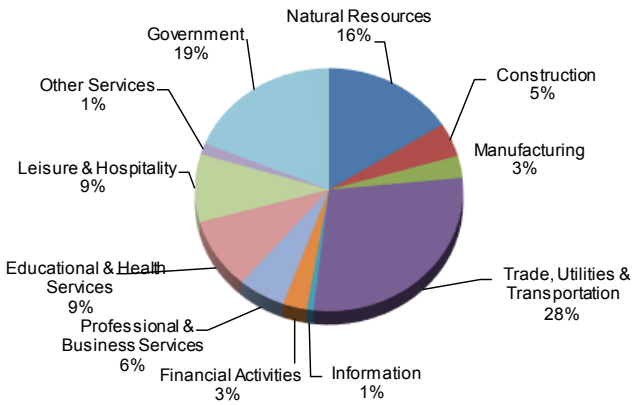


Mountain Resort broke ground on an 18-hole golf course and opened an indoor water park. Just two years later Silver Rapids was named one of the top 10 water parks in the nation. Wallace's charming and historic downtown draws many travelers off Interstate 90. Lookout Pass, a ski area along the interstate near the Montana border, doubled employment in the last few years. Hikers, bicyclists and snowmobilers are increasingly exploring the county's hundreds of miles of trails. The ski areas, tourist facilities, lodging, restaurants and bars employ about 400 people, and have attracted new out of state investors.

Labor Force	July 16	July 17
Civilian Labor Force	5,007	4,926
Total Employment	4,659	4,615
Unemployed	349	312
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.0	6.3
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	5,630	5,864	6,193	6,304	5,488	5,511	5,605	5,497	5,211	5,140	5,079
Unemployment	406	312	521	890	873	799	736	669	518	403	372
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.2	5.3	8.4	14.1	15.9	14.5	13.1	12.2	9.9	7.8	7.3
Employment	5,224	5,552	5,671	5,414	4,615	4,712	4,869	4,829	4,692	4,737	4,708

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2016



## Economic Development

In the early 1980s, Shoshone County was one of Idaho's three most prosperous counties. More than 20 years of high unemployment made it the third poorest by 2003. Fortunately, rising employment and wages over the last few years have helped the county regain some of its former luster. According to U.S. Census Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, the county's median household income grew 31 percent between 2003 and 2008. But median household income fell nearly 9 percent from 2008 to 2009. As silver prices and production gained traction in 2010, median household income rose nearly 3 percent in 2010. The Silver Valley Economic Development Corp. is adamant about expanding and diversifying the economy.

## Major Employers

Dave Smith Motors
Galena Mine (operated by US Silver)
Lookout Pass Ski Area
Lucky Friday Mine (operated by Hecla Mining Corp.)
Shoshone Medical Center
Silver Mountain Resort
United Mine Services
Wal-Mart

North Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Assemblers	\$11.10	\$12.80
Bookkeepers	\$11.05	\$16.55
Carpenters, Journey-level	\$13.27	\$18.50
Cashiers	\$8.27	\$9.57
Clerks, General Office	\$9.85	\$13.53
Clerks, Retail	\$9.03	\$11.50
Cooks, Restaurant	\$9.74	\$11.25
Janitors	\$8.91	\$11.19
Laborers, Mine	\$22.39	\$27.61
Miners, Contract	\$17.94	\$22.31
Nurses, Registered	\$23.28	\$32.79
Secretaries, General	\$10.91	\$14.91
Truck Drivers, Heavy	\$14.72	\$19.39

\* 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>	4,476	\$29,574	4,569	\$43,354	4,581	\$41,000
<b>Agriculture</b>	72	\$42,859	22	\$39,444	28	\$29,345
<b>Mining</b>	411	\$57,165	777	\$81,257	712	\$78,268
<b>Construction</b>	232	\$29,500	182	\$45,819	187	\$47,742
<b>Manufacturing</b>	248	\$26,937	137	\$32,658	133	\$32,745
<b>Trade, Utilities &amp; Transportation</b>	1,119	\$32,045	1,246	\$43,141	1,310	\$38,115
<b>Information</b>	32	\$21,849	41	\$46,232	38	\$45,628
<b>Financial Activities</b>	116	\$21,285	130	\$26,887	134	\$26,470
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	314	\$24,208	251	\$34,973	257	\$36,653
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	369	\$24,618	459	\$32,848	434	\$34,593
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	411	\$10,175	377	\$13,389	420	\$13,802
<b>Other Services</b>	95	\$18,356	69	\$32,088	67	\$33,313
<b>Government</b>	1,056	\$28,978	878	\$35,292	861	\$35,214

Per Capita Income	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Shoshone County</b>	\$25,014	\$26,769	\$28,490	\$28,129	\$29,582	\$30,729	\$32,621	\$32,080	\$33,165	\$35,229
<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



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