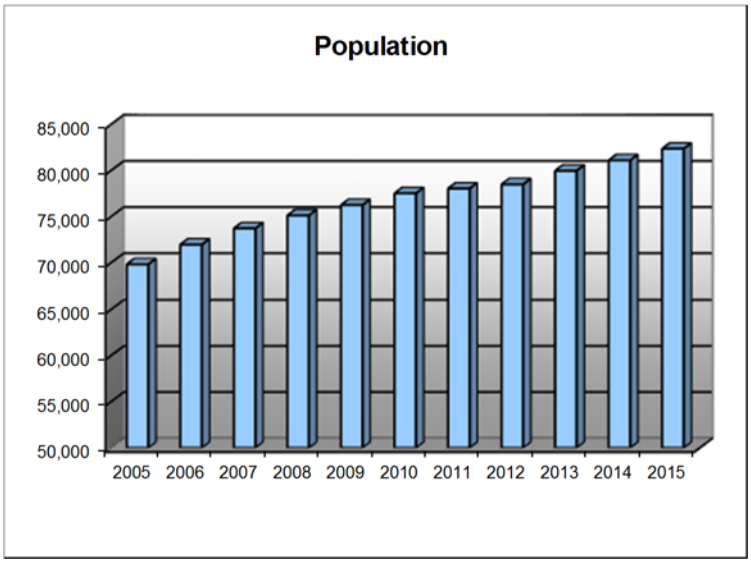
Twin Falls County

November 2016

Workforce Trends

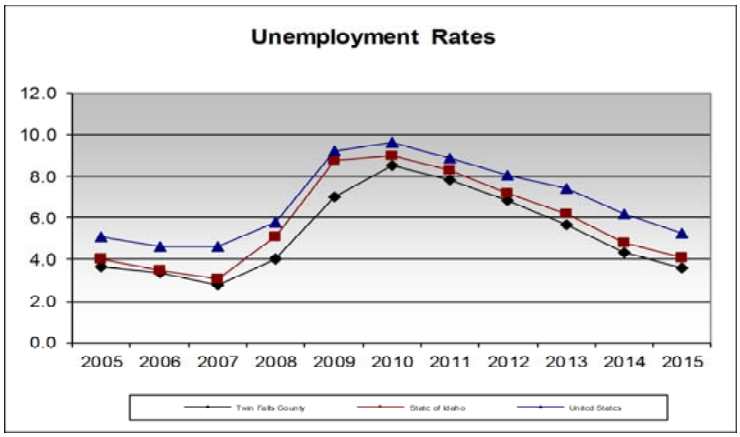
Population

The population of Twin Falls County has grown steadily from 69,833 in 2005 to 82,375 in 2015, an 18 percent increase. The population grew 1.6 percent from 2014 and continues to be ranked sixth most populous county in the state. It is a thriving retail hub for south central Idaho and northern Nevada, drawing on a consumer base of about 250,000. It is also the most urban of the region's counties with 72 percent of the residents living in a city. Abundant natural resources, recreational opportunities and cultural events attract travelers and residents. The city of Twin Falls is the county seat with a population of 47,468. It lies on the edge of the spectacular Snake River Canyon spanned by the Perrine Bridge, one of the nation's few legal take-offs for BASE jumpers. A path winds along the canyon rim adjacent to a new visitor's center, retail shops, restaurants and a clubby event center, all with a bird's eye view of golf courses. World-renown Shoshone Falls is just two miles up the canyon. A strong job market, downtown redevelopment and job creation support continued growth.



Labor Force & Employment

Although the economy remains heavily tied to agriculture, the county has diversified. Community partnerships landed Dell customer service jobs in 2002 and replaced them in 2010 with jobs at C3 Customer Contact Channels. Manufacturing jobs with Jayco RV have attracted feeder companies. While Chobani Greek Yogurt's investment of $750 million in plant and equipment has brought over 1,000 jobs to the valley. The investment brought relief to stressed dairies suffering from extended periods of low milk prices and higher feed costs. Single family housing permits peaked at over 650 in 2005 but seems to have settled around 200 the last three years. Unemployment peaked at 6.9 percent in 1992, gradually fell to a record low of 2.8 percent in 2007 and hit 8.5 percent in 2010. Twin Falls County maintains its tradition of lower than the national and state unemployment rates with the labor force responding to demand of construction and manufacturing. The region typically outperforms the state in downturns. Over the last decade, Twin Falls County posted a strong gain in retail and service jobs as big box retailers converged on the northern entrance to the city and its main artery. A Walmart super center opened in 2009, five hotels were constructed along with a new high school. The Magic Valley Mall and its rim properties have experienced a surge over the last three years with seven new national retailers opening in 2015. The new regional medical center opened in 2011 with medical office and retail following. The College of Southern Idaho's new Health and Human Science building opened to students in 2010, a new residential housing unit and the Applied Technology building were constructed in 2014. Strong community support has led to multiple improvements of the Fine Arts building. A new Visitor's Center has been a resounding success. The employment outlook for Twin Falls County is strong with Clif Bar building its first commercial bakery, myriad expansions and downtown investment in a new city hall and public gathering area.



Labor Force	Oct 15	Oct 16
Civilian Labor Force	40,211	40,688
Total Employment	38,881	39,398
Unemployed	1,329	1,290
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.3	3.2
State of Idaho % Unemployed	4.0	3.8
U.S. % Unemployed	5.0	4.9

Labor Force	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Civilian Labor Force	37,105	38,340	37,747	38,108	39,024	36,930	37,466	38,107	38,628	38,300	39,617
Unemployment	1,362	1,296	1,047	1,545	2,732	3,147	2,947	2,613	2,199	1,647	1,429
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.7	3.4	2.8	4.1	7.0	8.5	7.9	6.9	5.7	4.3	3.6
Employment	35,743	37,045	36,699	36,563	36,292	33,783	34,519	35,495	36,429	36,654	38,188

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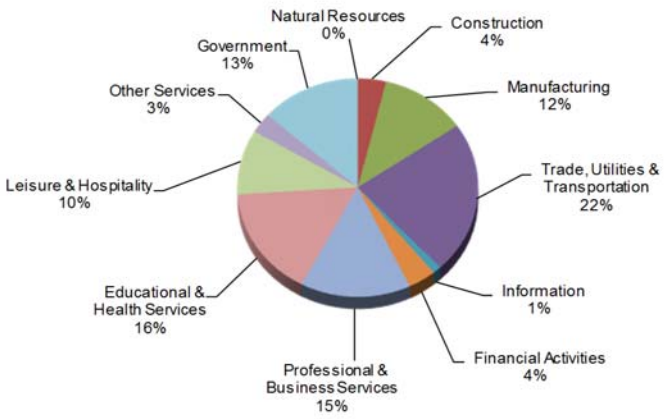
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2013



Major Employers	
Amalgamated Sugar	Henningsen Cold Storage
Bridgeview Estates	Independent Meat
C3 CustomerContactChannels	Jayco
Chobani	Personnel Plus
College of Southern Idaho	Seneca
ConAgra	Transystems
Costco	St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center
Glanbia NA	Walmart

Wages & Income

Construction is still in recovery mode down 26 percent from 2005-2015, while average employment grew 12.9 percent and wages increased by 3.8 percent year-over-year. Education and Healthcare experienced fantastic growth from 2005-2015 boosting employment by 92 percent. This is partly driven by the regional hospital's move from public to private when acquired by St. Luke's. Leisure and Hospitality grew by 29 percent over the decade. The workforce is mostly part-time, entry-level positions so the low average wage is attributable to the lack of hours worked. Over the last decade, wages have increased across the board, many outpacing inflation, except for government which experienced less than a point of growth annually on average. Construction jobs dropped off slightly in 2014 as industrial development took a hiatus waiting for infrastructure to catch up. All Industry jobs and wages grew about one percent and five percent respectively from 2014. Per capita income rose 24 percent over the decade, faster than the state but not the nation. Twin Falls ranks 17th among the 44 counties up 3.6 percent from 2014.

Occupational Wages*	Median Wage
Team Assemblers	$13.48
Teachers (annual)	$43,380
Social Workers	$24.42
Dental Assistants	$17.91
Registered Nurse	$26.98
LPNs	$17.26
Drivers	$16.46
Cashiers	$8.94
Bookkeepers	$15.31
Bank Tellers	$10.95
Landscapers	$12.17
Carpenters	$17.91
Pharmacists	$53.76
Forklift Operators	$15.65
Electricians	$21.42
Maintenance Mechanics	$23.28
Ag workers, farm/ranch animals	$9.08
Graders/Sorters - ag products	$12.72

* 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 2005, 2014 & 2015	2005		2014		2015	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	32,338	$25,327	36,003	$30,954	36,442	$32,472
Agriculture	1,619	$24,149	1,970	$31,348	2,074	$32,829
Mining	30	$20,380	7	$68,125	*	*
Construction	1,680	$26,178	1,097	$32,464	1,238	$33,686
Manufacturing	3,345	$31,607	4,070	$41,106	4,058	$43,369
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	6,990	$25,569	7,528	$31,397	7,770	$32,538
Information	553	$28,336	452	$37,948	402	$39,546
Financial Activities	1,392	$33,017	1,241	$40,071	1,272	$42,016
Professional and Business Services	4,526	$20,943	5,287	$24,947	5,136	$27,297
Educational and Health Services	2,913	$26,886	5,492	$36,483	5,588	$38,389
Leisure and Hospitality	2,579	$10,245	3,434	$13,004	3,341	$13,601
Other Services	1,000	$18,999	889	$26,705	1,002	$26,167
Government	5,711	$29,893	4,539	$32,057	4,560	$32,670

Per Capita Income	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Twin Falls County	$27,849	$28,724	$30,175	$30,391	$28,734	$29,321	$30,872	$32,235	$33,348	$34,545
State of Idaho	$29,815	$31,945	$32,952	$32,854	$31,392	$32,050	$33,544	$34,846	$35,641	$36,734
United States	$35,904	$38,144	$39,821	$41,082	$39,376	$40,277	$42,453	$44,266	$44,438	$46,049

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau

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