

Butte County

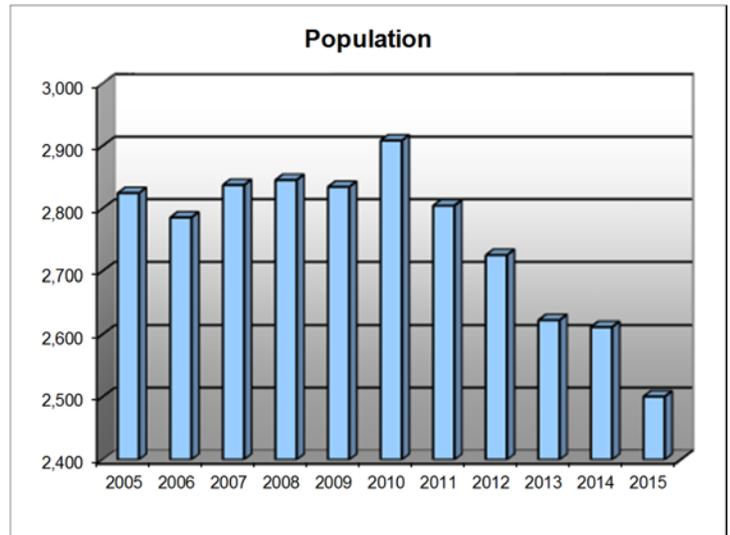
IDAHO
DEPT. OF LABOR

November 2016

Workforce Trends

Population

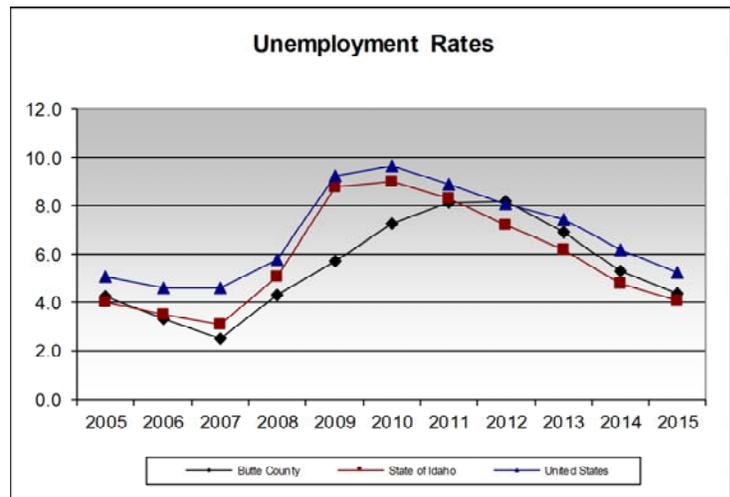
Butte County has seen its population fall over the last decade, dropping over 300 between 2005 and 2015 to 2,501. Difficulty keeping young people after high school graduation has contributed to the stagnant population. Still, the county is committed to economic development and a long-range plan for stability. It is focusing on tourists traveling through to destinations like Craters of the Moon National Monument and Sun Valley. The Idaho National Laboratory is located about 12 miles from Arco, the county seat. The majority of the 7,000 or more employees located at the laboratory work in the county but live elsewhere and commute by mass transit, making it a challenge for the county to see much economic gain from the laboratory. Arco, the largest city in the county, had a 2015 population of 857.



Labor Force & Employment

With a smaller population and labor force, the unemployment rate in Butte County fluctuates. In 2007 the county's unemployment fell to 2.5 percent. As the recession took hold in 2008, however, the rate nearly doubled to 4.3 percent and continued to climb, peaking at 8.2 percent in 2012. Despite fluctuations, the county's unemployment rate has remained below the national average for most of the last decade. In 2015 the rate fell to 4.4 percent.

The majority of the county's jobs are in professional and business services, which are mostly located at the federal laboratory. Government is a stable employer that includes small offices of several federal agencies along with county and school workers. The incubation center in Arco and the Lost River Economic Development group



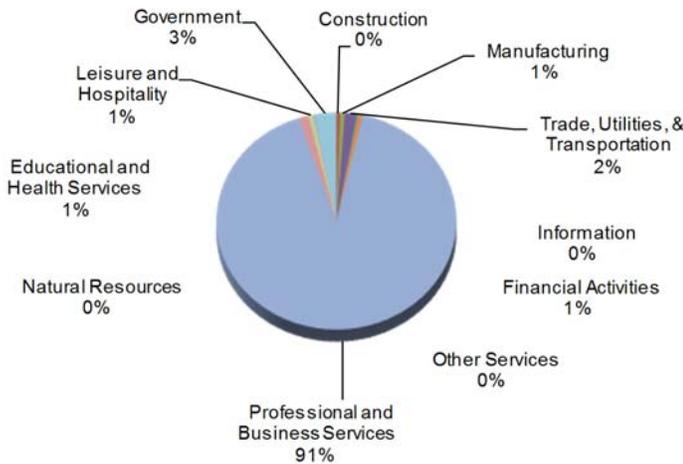
continue to focus on and assist with business development and attraction. Tourism is also an important economic factor because of the Craters of the Moon National Monument.

In 2014 the U.S. Census Bureau announced that Butte County is officially part of the Idaho Falls metropolitan statistical area. This change is the result of a significant number of workers commuting to Butte for work at the national laboratory.

Labor Force	Oct 15	Oct 16
Civilian Labor Force	1,335	1,343
Total Employment	1,282	1,292
Unemployed	53	51
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.0	3.8
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	1,397	1,430	1,369	1,370	1,471	1,353	1,324	1,336	1,298	1,304	1,335
Unemployment	60	47	34	59	84	98	108	109	90	70	58
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.3	3.3	2.5	4.3	5.7	7.3	8.1	8.2	6.9	5.3	4.4
Employment	1,337	1,383	1,335	1,310	1,387	1,254	1,216	1,227	1,208	1,235	1,277

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2015



Covered Employment

While Butte County benefits from one of the state's largest employers, the Idaho National Laboratory, most workers at the lab live outside the county. For this county it is important to remember that employment and wage numbers are calculated by where the jobs occur. As such, the high wages at the laboratory artificially elevate the average wage in the county due to the fact that only a small percentage of the county's residents actually work at the lab. While the county's average wage paid in 2014 was \$82,394, per capita income was \$34,119.

Major Employers

U.S. Department of Energy
Battelle Energy Alliance
Bechtel BWXT Idaho, LLC
Bechtel Bettis Inc.
Butte County School District # 111
CH2M-WG Idaho
Lost River Hospital

Eastern Idaho Occupational Wages*

Occupation	Median Wage
Farm Workers	\$14.74
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks	\$13.23
Cashiers	\$8.64
Construction Laborers	\$12.57
Cooks, Restaurant	\$9.86
Customer Service Reps	\$11.27
Engineers (All)	\$49.82
Food Servers, Nonrestaurant	\$8.57
General Office Clerks	\$12.35
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$16.82
Health Technologists & Technicians	\$21.08
Secretaries & Administrative Asst	\$14.33
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$16.72
Waiters/Waitresses	\$8.53

* This wage data represents eastern Idaho's nine counties. 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	4,912	\$61,817	7,121	\$82,394	7,395	\$86,430
Agriculture	32	\$15,779	50	\$23,486	34	\$30,092
Mining	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Construction	27	\$48,138	43	\$50,817	35	\$38,115
Manufacturing	10	\$29,599	8	\$43,293	14	\$47,121
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	20	\$28,204	12	\$27,786	12	\$59,377
Information	146	\$25,963	101	\$37,651	97	\$38,020
Financial Activities	34	\$28,047	37	\$48,161	45	\$75,124
Professional and Business Services	62	\$12,116	49	\$11,688	51	\$13,255
Educational and Health Services	9	\$31,721	46	\$45,664	47	\$40,641
Leisure and Hospitality	4,243	\$67,793	6,434	\$87,536	6,729	\$91,308
Other Services	100	\$22,818	123	\$23,932	118	\$28,053
Government	228	\$23,002	220	\$38,022	213	\$37,795

Per Capita Income	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Butte County	\$20,668	\$24,964	\$27,071	\$33,418	\$32,429	\$29,627	\$32,509	\$32,963	\$34,643	\$34,119
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 Bureau of Economic Analysis