Jerome County

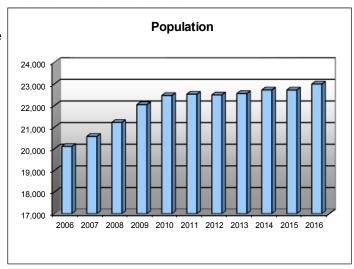


August 2017

Workforce Trends

Population

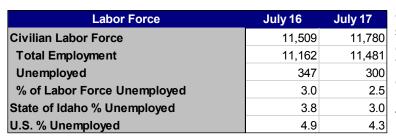
Jerome County's population grew 1.2 percent from 2015. It rose 14.3 percent from 20,111 in 2006 to 22,994 in 2016—in response to strong economic and infrastructure development. Jerome is the county seat and by far the largest city at 11,184. Hilex Poly, a plastic grocery bag manufacturer, and Idaho Milk Products, a state-of-the-art milk processing plant, are examples of the newer companies requiring workers with higher-than-average skill levels. The dairy industry continues to be a major force driving the local economy, drawing feeder businesses such as Agropur, previously known as Jerome Cheese, Darigold and Commercial Creamery. Old Hickory Sheds filled the former Con Paulos auto dealership while new schools and a new senior center were constructed during the Great Recession. Pre-recession, affordable housing also grew and commercial interests sought locations close to the interstate and highway systems. Most recent construction for community services in-

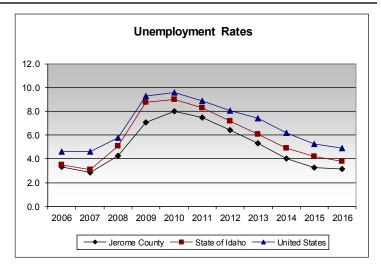


cludes a \$12.1 million new jail, waste water infrastructure improvements judicially confirmed after voters denied the bond request—a \$35.8 million investment and the Jerome School District is expanding and improving as enrollment grows.

Labor Force & Employment

Seasonally adjusted unemployment in Jerome County was falling prior to the recession similar to the state. Unemployment dropped from a high of 6.3 percent in 1998 to a low of 2.9 percent in 2007, driven by economic diversification, development and growth in the dairy industry. The Great Recession sent unemployment higher, but the rate was still well below the record levels of 1983, when it hit 10.5 percent. While dairy has provided many stable jobs, it remains a volatile commodity. The end of 2013 realized record high milk prices while most food processors either automated or expanded lines. Across the board, ag prices have dropped in 2016 and are expected to stay low with the strong dollar and higher production domestically and abroad. The economic outlook remains optimistic with continued development of the Crossroads Point Business



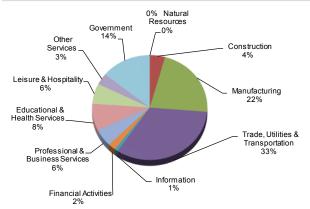


Center, which currently includes a Comfort Inn hotel, a Federal Express office, Idaho Wind Partners, Fastenal, a Subway sandwich shop, the Heritage Office Complex, B & N Machine, Freightliner of Idaho, Rush Truck Center and Valley-Wide Co-op. Hilex Poly expanded to the tune of \$6.5 million expansion creating 45 new jobs in 2016. There are plans to remake the downtown and new companies are interested in the area due to its growth and younger demographics.

Labor Force	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Civilian Labor Force	10,204	9,827	9,966	10,448	11,020	11,107	10,974	10,957	11,121	11,493	11,582
Unemployment	336	281	425	742	886	833	705	582	445	379	361
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.3	2.9	4.3	7.1	8.0	7.5	6.4	5.3	4.0	3.3	3.1
Employment	9,867	9,546	9,541	9,705	10,135	10,274	10,270	10,375	10,677	11,114	11,220

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Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2016



Wages & Income

Jerome County's per capita income nearly doubled the pace of the state over the last decade advancing 42.4 percent. From 2014 to 2015, growth slowed to less than 1 percent ranking 14th among the other 44 counties. The dairy industry continues to experience workforce challenges but demand from the new Chobani Greek yogurt plant in Twin Falls county and expansions at most other dairy processors has cut back on export dependency. The high dollar has slowed most exports abroad but companies in Jerome are establishing new markets for their goods in the Pacific Rim.

From 2014, total covered average employment surged 6.2 percent compared to wage growth of less than one percent. Construction is still below pre-recession spikes, shy 27 percent from its 2008 peak. Manufacturing employment increased seven percent while wages plummeted ten percent. Professional and business services jobs expanded by nearly nine percent. Over the decade, education and health care realized the strongest average employment growth of all sectors at 67.4 percent. Financial activities lost 22 percent of its employment base from 2005-2015.

Major Employers							
Aardema Dairy	Progressive Logistics						
Arlo G. Lott Trucking, Inc.	Rite Stuff Foods						
Double A Dairy	Si-Ellen Farms						
Hilex Poly	Spears Manufacturing						
Hutch Management	St. Luke's Jerome						
Jerome Cheese	Standlee Hay Co						
Millenkamp Cattle	Wal-Mart						

South Central Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Elementary Teachers	\$30,730	\$45,120
Secondary Teachers	\$35,790	\$43,860
Teacher Assistants	\$17,190	\$21,990
Registered nurses	\$22.07	\$28.72
Janitors and cleaners	\$8.95	\$12.59
Medical secretaries	\$13.79	\$15.56
Bookkeepers	\$11.78	\$17.87
Cashiers	\$8.34	\$9.27
Landscapers	\$10.26	\$15.36
Maintenance mechanics	\$15.43	\$25.33
Food batchmakers	\$12.02	\$16.46
Extruding machine operators	\$10.63	\$14.66
Construction laborers	\$11.08	\$13.64
Ag workers, farm/ranch animals	\$8.27	\$9.74
Crop/nursery/greenhouse workers	\$8.93	\$11.65

^{*} Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at lmi.idaho.gov.

	Department of Labor Website at <u>infl.idano.gov</u> .										
Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2006, 2015 & 2016				2006		2015			2016		
			Av	erage	Average	Average	Avera	ge A	Average	Average	
			Emp	loyment	Wages	Employme	nt Wag	es Em	ployment	Wages	
Total Covered Employme	ent & Wages	\$		8,329	\$26,675	9,9	973 \$34	,616	9,885	\$35,418	
Agriculture				1,858	\$24,418	2,6	§ \$32	,793	2,612	\$34,876	
Mining				0	\$0		0	\$0	0	\$0	
Construction				448	\$26,781	;	314 \$42	,208	297	\$39,525	
Manufacturing				1,207	\$28,884	1,	569 \$39	,203	1,620	\$39,258	
Trade, Utilities & Transportation				2,240	\$29,485	2,	500 \$37	,946	2,405	\$38,840	
Information				77	\$39,620		67 \$43	,397	65	\$49,072	
Financial Activities				209	\$27,957		157 \$29	,313	154	\$30,854	
Professional and Busin	ess Service	s		262	\$25,461	;	371 \$40	,689	385	\$39,801	
Educational and Health	Services			439	\$29,274		596 \$32	,371	606	\$31,535	
Leisure and Hospitality				448	\$10,909	4	157 \$13	,795	463	\$14,592	
Other Services				175	\$21,910	2	234 \$33	,646	247	\$34,589	
Government				965	\$27,697	1,0)16 \$30	,749	1,031	\$31,607	
Per Capita Income	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Jerome County	\$26,269	\$29,197	\$29,775	\$25,822	\$28,709	\$31,126	\$32,523	\$34,029	9 \$37,173	\$37,418	

Per Capita Income	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Jerome County	\$26,269	\$29,197	\$29,775	\$25,822	\$28,709	\$31,126	\$32,523	\$34,029	\$37,173	\$37,418
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										

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This county is served by the office listed below: Idaho Department of Labor 420 Falls Avenue
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<u>labor.idaho.gov</u>

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