



South Central Idaho

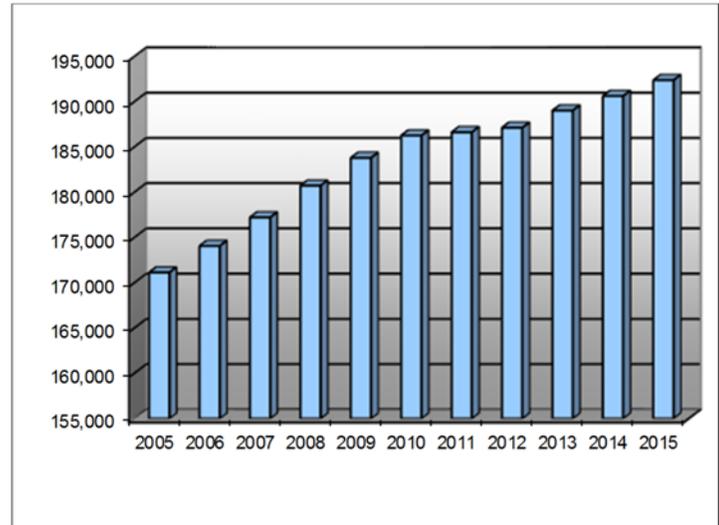
IDAHO
DEPT. OF LABOR

November 2016

Workforce Trends

Population

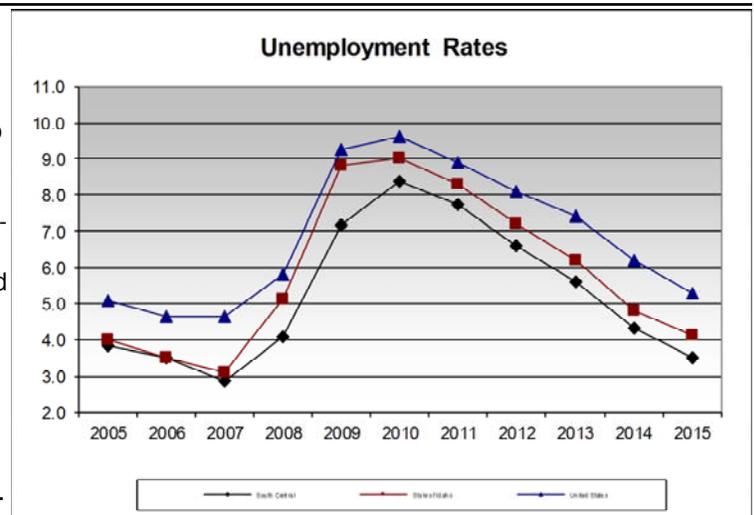
South central Idaho has grown steadily from 171,146 in the eight-county area in 2005 to 192,395 in 2015, an increase of 12.4 percent. The highest growth counties were Twin Falls at 18 percent, Jerome at 16.1 percent, Lincoln at 12.8 percent and Cassia at 10.0 percent. The region's largest city, Twin Falls, ranked eighth among the state's 200 cities at 47,468 while the county was ranked sixth. This growth is attributed to the diverse recreational opportunities provided by the mountains, waterways, deserts and canyons that make up the region, the relatively mild climate that attracts retirees and the low cost of living and doing business which has resulted in job creation. The area continues to see high growth among the Hispanic population at 11.5 percent in the last five years. The region's share of the statewide Hispanic population is 22.1 percent. Most who may have initially been attracted by seasonal farm jobs have permanently settled in the region that offers year round dairy production or service-related jobs and reasonably-priced education so their children have career options. The outlook for annual growth is steady.



Labor Force & Employment

Employment opportunities slowed in 2009 when the recession fully hit south central Idaho. Before then, manufacturing rose with the relocation of national recreational vehicle maker Jayco setting up shop in Twin Falls. Plastic bag maker Hilex Poly chose Jerome, expanding a couple of times since. High-volume dairy production keeps milk processors and cheese companies in expansionary mode including Brewster Dairy, Glanbia Foods, Gossner Cheese, Commercial Creamery, Idaho Milk Products, Jerome Cheese, High Desert Milk and Chobani Greek Yogurt. Other large manufacturers include Amalgamated Sugar, ConAgra, McCain Foods and corrugated box makers PCA and KapStone Paper. Blaine County was hit the hardest in the recession, battered by the loss of consumer interest in both tourism and real estate. Minidoka and Cassia Counties fared the recession well due to the combination of commodities and valued-added industry. Fabri-Kal started making yogurt containers in the fall of 2015.

Health care weathered the downturn, continuing to provide high-quality jobs. Residential construction, durable manufacturing and retail were hit hardest with job losses. Twin Falls momentum has not ceased with commercial construction's pipeline reloading after



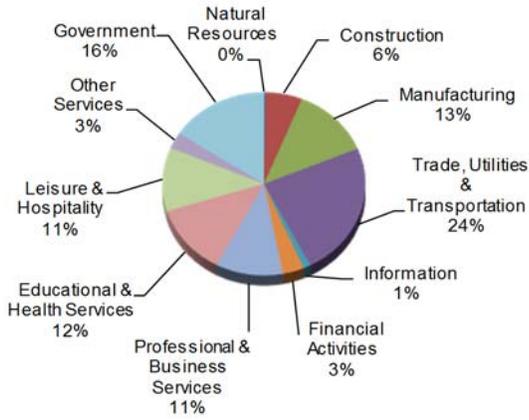
the completion of a \$250 million hospital in Twin Falls, the College of Southern Idaho's new LEED-certified Health Science Building, a \$450 million Greek yogurt plant, a new bypass and six new hotels adding more than 400 rooms. The downtown is experiencing a renaissance and new national retailers and restaurants cluster around the Perrine Bridge. Clif Bar's new plant started production in June 2016. The college offers curricula custom designed for employers. It offers dual credit to high school students and provides two-year degrees at a third the cost of a four-year university. The region is ready for its next growth spurt with continued investment in infrastructure emphasizing talent attraction.

Labor Force	Oct 15	Oct 16
Civilian Labor Force	97,494	97,892
Total Employment	94,401	94,959
Unemployed	3,093	2,932
South Central % Unemployed	3.2	3.0
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	91,842	94,705	94,087	94,799	94,066	93,326	93,876	93,778	94,073	93,834	96,708
Unemployment	3,512	3,319	2,682	3,878	6,731	7,807	7,245	6,192	5,254	4,058	3,414
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	3.5	2.9	4.1	7.2	8.4	7.7	6.6	5.6	4.3	3.5
Employment	88,330	91,386	91,404	90,920	87,334	85,519	86,632	87,586	88,819	89,777	93,294

South Central Idaho

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2015



Major Employers	
Amalgamated Sugar	Jerome Cheese Co.
Bettencourt Dairies	McCain Foods
Cassia Regional Medical Center	Minidoka Regional Medical Center
C3 Call Center	Personnel Plus
Chobani Yogurt	Power Engineers
Clear Springs Foods	Seneca Foods
College of Southern Idaho	Spears Manufacturing, Inc.
ConAgra Foods	St. Luke's Medical Center
Glanbia Foods NA	Sun Valley Company
Independent Meat Co.	Wal-Mart

Covered Employment & Wages

Average wages in south central Idaho are second lowest in the state although per capita income is 17 percent higher than the state as a whole—the numerous service and agricultural jobs are traditionally seasonal and require less skill, adversely affecting the average. Growth in covered wages and average employment outpaced the state's growth from 2005. There is little wage competition from neighboring Nevada and no employer or industry is quite large enough to pull in corporate back-office positions providing executive wages. But many believe the region carries less risk than others that rely on the military, large corporations or government, which all must regularly renew funding or contracts. The region continues to grow with Cliff Bar investing \$90 million in a new plant and Fabri-Kal investing \$50 million in its Burley plant, already making yogurt cups and Greenware from wheat straw. Per capita income in south central Idaho experienced solid growth in all counties, increasing 37 percent since 2005 —up 5.4 percent since 2013. The region's per capita income growth outperformed the state and nation. New and/or remodeled schools have been approved by the public. Residential construction returns at a cautious pace. However, the commercial pipeline exhibits steady growth in Twin Falls and the Mini-Cassia area while Ketchum builds its first new hotel in decades with another to follow. Per capita income exceeds the state propped up by Blaine County, the state's highest per capita income.

Occupational Wages*	Median Wage
Bookkeeper	\$15.31
Cashiers	\$8.94
Child Care Workers	\$8.95
Computer Tech	\$20.51
Customer Service Rep	\$13.49
Dental Assistant	\$17.91
Janitor & Cleaner	\$10.79
Laborer & Material Handler	\$12.75
Office Clerk/Secretary	\$13.24
Team Assemblers	\$13.48
Registered Nurse	\$26.98
Salesperson, Retail	\$10.57
Teacher, Elementary	\$43,380
Teacher, Secondary	\$38,393
Truck Drivers, Heavy	\$16.46

* 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	
	Ave Employment	Ave Wages	Ave Employment	Ave Wages	Ave Employment	Ave Wages
Total Covered Wages	76,843	\$26,321	82,633	\$33,156	84,834	\$34,260
Agriculture	8,033	\$23,093	9,834	\$31,489	10,173	\$33,019
Mining	262	\$27,961	166	\$34,157	176	\$36,187
Construction	5,423	\$30,717	3,699	\$36,901	4,187	\$38,647
Manufacturing	7,734	\$33,221	9,228	\$44,137	9,520	\$45,228
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	16,229	\$26,259	16,992	\$33,591	17,696	\$34,824
Information	1,124	\$30,114	913	\$39,474	868	\$41,113
Financial Activities	2,907	\$36,053	2,482	\$42,441	2,498	\$43,010
Professional and Business Services	7,305	\$27,446	7,953	\$32,215	7,923	\$34,667
Educational and Health Services	5,842	\$26,042	9,192	\$37,178	9,372	\$37,083
Leisure and Hospitality	7,443	\$12,657	8,370	\$16,045	8,483	\$16,318
Other Services	2,005	\$21,356	2,059	\$30,170	2,240	\$29,963
Government	12,535	\$28,063	11,746	\$31,853	11,697	\$32,882

Per Capita Income	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
South Central Region	\$31,352	\$32,941	\$35,408	\$36,333	\$32,354	\$33,642	\$36,841	\$38,978	\$40,825	\$43,031
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



This region is served by the office listed below:
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labor.idaho.gov

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