



# Southwestern Idaho

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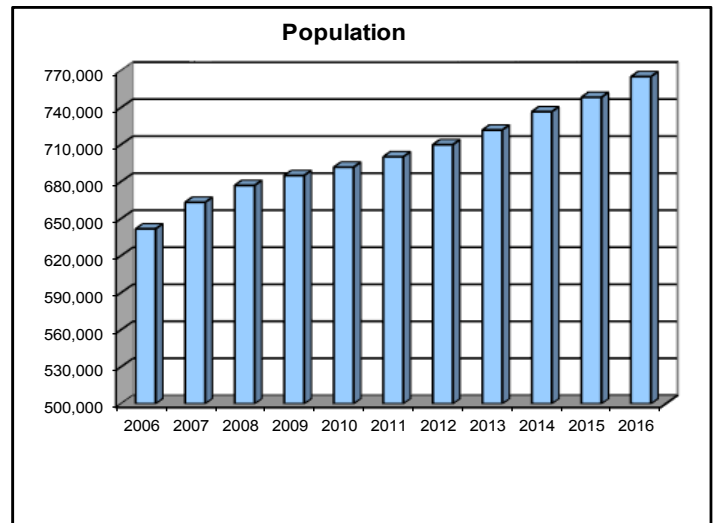
## Population

Southwestern Idaho is the largest of the six regions both in area and population. Its ten counties run from Adams and Valley counties, with their rugged mountains and wild rivers, in the north to Owyhee County, with its expansive canyon lands, in the south to Elmore County, with Mountain Home Air Force Base, in the east.

Ada and Canyon counties, with 655,726 people between them, claim almost 40 percent of the state's population and 86 percent of the Southwest Region's population. Ada is the larger with over 444,000 residents and is home to the state's capitol, Boise. Canyon has less than half the population of Ada and holds many of Boise's bedroom communities. Much of the region's growth occurs in these two counties.

The region's population grew throughout the recession, gaining 19.2 percent from 2006 to 2016. In the last year, the region added 16,7412 people, growing 2.2 percent from 2015 to reach a population of 765,035.

## Workforce Trends

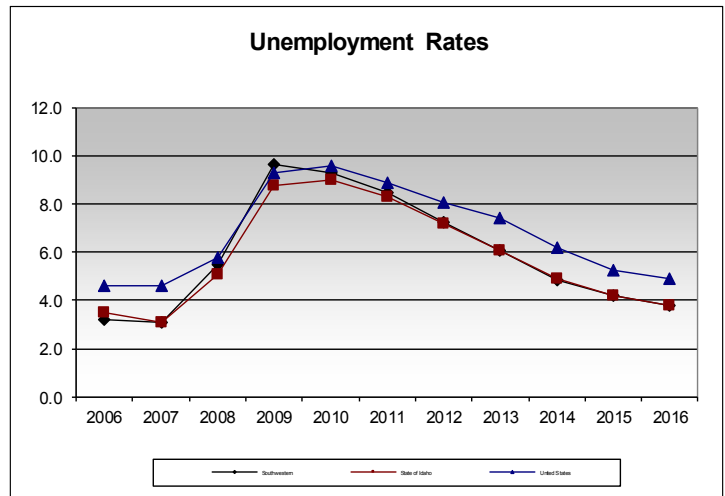


## Labor Force & Employment

Southwest Idaho's labor force grew rapidly in the mid-2000s, dipped during the recession, then continued to grow to 357,210 in 2016.

The region's unemployment rate hovered between 3 and 4 percent until late 2008 when the recession took hold. Due to an overly robust construction industry, this region was hit hard by the collapse of the housing bubble, and it rippled into manufacturing and the services. By 2010 the number unemployed had nearly tripled from the 2006 low point. The jobless rate increased as employment levels dropped. As the region emerged from the recession, the rate began to decrease—from 2010, the rate improved by at least a point a year through 2014. In 2014, the rate sat at 4.8 percent, 1.3 points below 2013. By 2016, the rate continued to 3.8 percent, down 5.9 percentage points from the 2009 high.

Covered employment in 2015 experienced gains in the region, adding 9,384 jobs to local payrolls. The majority came in trade, utilities and transportation sector with nearly



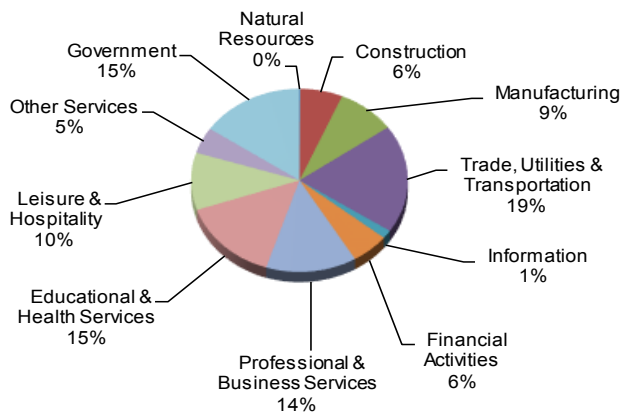
Labor Force	Aug 16	Aug 17
Civilian Labor Force	371,019	378,216
Total Employment	356,807	368,265
Unemployed	14,213	9,951
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	2.6
State of Idaho % Unemployed	3.8	2.9
U.S. % Unemployed	4.9	4.4

2,300 jobs. Education and health services followed, gaining over 1,500 jobs. Education and health services also had the largest job gains over the decade, adding nearly 14,000 covered jobs since 2005.

The region as a whole added 27,421 covered jobs since 2005 with just two industry sectors reporting declines—construction and manufacturing. Manufacturing was heavily impacted, losing over 5,400 jobs due to outsourcing and downsizing by one of the region's largest employers.

Labor Force	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Civilian Labor Force	315,181	318,121	318,134	319,480	320,099	323,430	328,655	331,829	338,522	346,616	357,210
Unemployment	10,024	9,766	17,442	30,887	29,865	27,428	23,759	20,243	16,352	14,644	13,491
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.2	3.1	5.5	9.7	9.3	8.5	7.2	6.1	4.8	4.2	3.8
Employment	305,157	308,355	300,692	288,592	290,234	296,003	304,896	311,586	322,170	331,972	343,718

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2016



## Per Capita Income & Employment

Southwestern Idaho had a per capita income of \$39,636 in 2015, 3 percent above the state per capita income and 18 percent below the national figure. The region's per capita income is higher than the state average. Now, the region is just over \$1,200 per capita over the state, continuing more than a decade trend.

Trade, utilities and transportation continue to make up the largest portion of the covered employment followed by government. But education and health care continued to grow to meet the demands of the rapidly increasing population.

## Major Private Employers

Albertsons	Idaho Power
Amalgamated Sugar Co	J R Simplot Co
Blue Cross of Idaho	Fred Meyer
Bogus Basin	Marathon Cheese Corp
Brimdage Mountain	Micron Technology Inc
Citicorp Credit Services	Shore Lodge
Darmondy - McDonalds	St Alphonsus Reg Medical Ctr
DirecTV	St Lukes Reg Medical Ctr
Fry Foods	T Moblie
Hewlett Packard Co	Wal-Mart
Idaho Power Co	Woodgrain Millwork

## Occupational Wages\*

### Entry Wage

Medical Assistants	\$12.06
Waiters and Waitresses	\$8.06
Structural Metal Fabricators and Fitters	\$12.39
Customer Service Representatives	\$10.95
Electricians	\$14.47
Construction Laborers	\$9.64
Team Assemblers	\$9.15
Registered Nurse	\$24.29
Home Health Aides	\$8.21
Truck Drivers, Heavy	\$12.47
Exec Secretaries & Admin Assistants	\$13.90
Welders	\$12.02
Retail Salespersons	\$8.15

\* 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>	292,884	\$36,068	303,761	\$41,812	316,672	\$42,622
<b>Agriculture</b>	5,981	\$24,372	6,859	\$30,497	6,845	\$32,105
<b>Mining</b>	286	\$42,787	230	\$70,357	201	\$63,179
<b>Construction</b>	25,623	\$36,825	17,635	\$41,885	19,639	\$43,818
<b>Manufacturing</b>	33,794	\$52,350	27,377	\$65,998	28,203	\$64,806
<b>Trade, Utilities &amp; Transportation</b>	55,345	\$33,523	59,884	\$40,170	61,304	\$41,047
<b>Information</b>	4,959	\$44,800	4,954	\$48,678	4,767	\$51,515
<b>Financial Activities</b>	15,045	\$43,759	14,677	\$54,787	15,599	\$57,648
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	41,230	\$40,265	40,247	\$44,061	43,225	\$44,059
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	32,778	\$35,440	45,618	\$43,454	47,081	\$45,375
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	26,052	\$13,435	30,536	\$15,673	32,724	\$16,296
<b>Other Services</b>	7,328	\$23,655	8,161	\$27,674	8,595	\$28,727
<b>Government</b>	44,463	\$36,253	47,583	\$42,433	48,488	\$43,190

Per Capita Income	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Southwestern Idaho</b>	\$35,102	\$35,228	\$34,130	\$32,825	\$33,640	\$34,547	\$35,884	\$36,526	\$37,698	\$39,636
<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