



# Jerome County

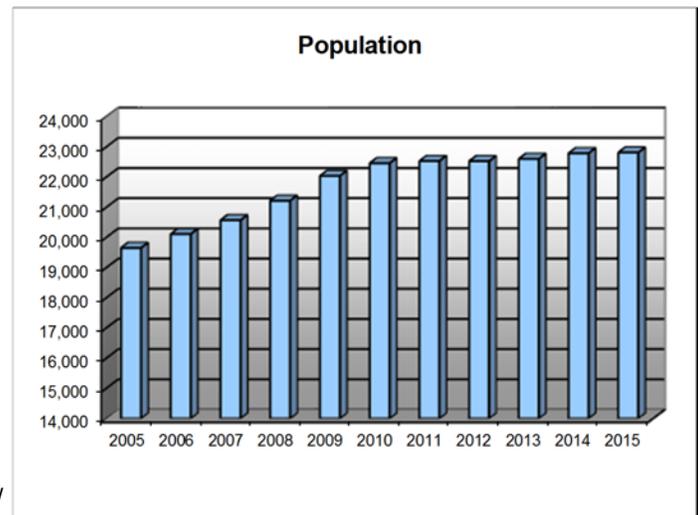
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IDAHO  
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## Workforce Trends

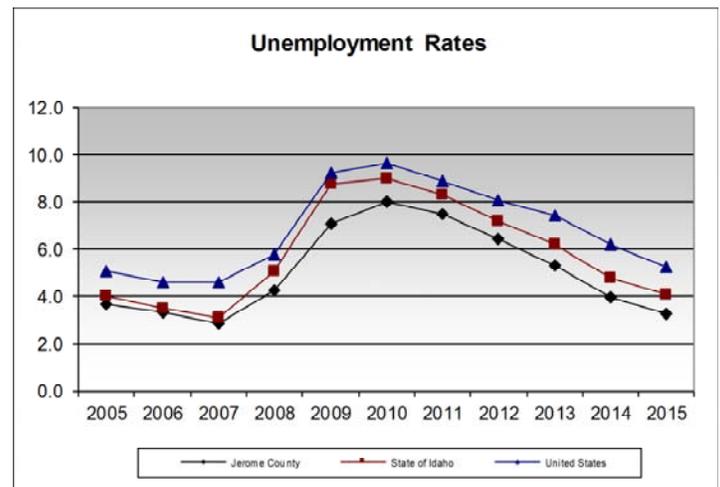
### Population

Jerome County's population has grown steadily, rising 16 percent from 19,654 in 2005 to 22,814 in 2015 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 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. New construction for community services include a \$12.1 million new jail scheduled to open in 2016 and waste water infrastructure improvements judicially confirmed after voters denied the bond request—a \$35.8 million investment. 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 2015 expecting 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 Cen-

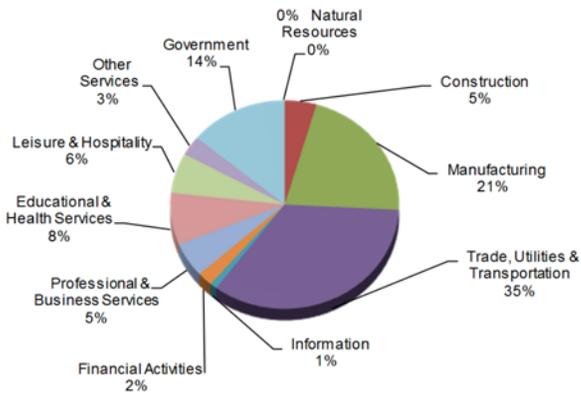


Labor Force	Oct 15	Oct 16
Civilian Labor Force	11,796	11,768
Total Employment	11,451	11,432
Unemployed	344	336
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.9	2.9
State of Idaho % Unemployed	4.0	3.8
U.S. % Unemployed	5.0	4.9

ter, 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 and currently under construction, Rush Truck Center. Hilex Poly announced a \$6.5 million expansion of its plastics manufacturing operations creating 45 new jobs. The facility is scheduled to be operational by April 2016.

Labor Force	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Civilian Labor Force	9,943	10,204	9,827	9,966	10,448	11,020	11,107	10,980	10,966	11,129	11,613
Unemployment	367	336	281	425	742	886	833	706	584	444	378
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.7	3.3	2.9	4.3	7.1	8.0	7.5	6.4	5.3	4.0	3.3
Employment	9,576	9,867	9,546	9,541	9,705	10,135	10,274	10,274	10,383	10,685	11,235

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2015



## Wages & Income

Jerome County's per capita income grew faster than the state over the last decade advancing 40 percent. From 2013 to 2014, it grew 8.5 percent, more than doubling the state and nation's per capita growth. Jerome's per capita income ranked 11th 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 stabilized production and prices somewhat.

From 2014 to 2015, total covered average employment surged 6.2 percent as wages only grew by 1 percent. Construction continues to make up ground after the Great Recession, still shy 30 percent of its 2007 peak. Manufacturing employment increased 7.4 percent however the wages dropped 9.9 percent. Professional and business services expanded by 8.7 percent while education and health care realized the strongest year-over-year employment growth at 67.4 percent, supporting an expanding economy. Financial activities lost 22 percent of its employment base from 2005-2015.

## JEROME COUNTY

### Major Employers

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

### Occupational Wages\*

### Median Wage

Teachers (annual)	\$43,380
Teacher Paraprofessionals (annual)	\$20,746
Registered nurses	\$26.98
Janitors and cleaners	\$10.79
Medical secretaries	\$12.02
Bookkeepers	\$15.31
Cashiers	\$8.94
Landscapers	\$12.17
Maintenance mechanics	\$24.48
Food batchmakers	\$15.77
Extruding machine operators	\$16.42
Construction laborers	\$13.22
Ag workers, farm/ranch animals	\$9.08
Crop/nursery/greenhouse workers	\$11.58

\* 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 2005, 2014 & 2015	2005		2014		2015	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
<b>Total Covered Employment &amp; Wages</b>	<b>7,703</b>	<b>\$25,531</b>	<b>9,397</b>	<b>\$34,288</b>	<b>9,977</b>	<b>\$34,626</b>
Agriculture	1,687	\$24,166	2,497	\$31,674	2,689	\$32,802
Mining	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Construction	298	\$23,037	251	\$39,935	313	\$42,304
Manufacturing	1,092	\$26,870	1,461	\$43,525	1,569	\$39,207
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	2,184	\$28,076	2,325	\$37,369	2,501	\$37,943
Information	52	\$29,520	71	\$38,901	67	\$43,392
Financial Activities	202	\$28,415	165	\$28,117	157	\$29,269
Professional and Business Services	261	\$24,994	353	\$37,495	384	\$40,338
Educational and Health Services	354	\$30,054	580	\$31,749	593	\$32,407
Leisure and Hospitality	456	\$10,031	453	\$13,037	456	\$13,821
Other Services	166	\$20,110	225	\$34,660	232	\$33,803
Government	952	\$27,360	1,017	\$29,399	1,016	\$30,770

Per Capita Income	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Jerome County	\$27,175	\$27,599	\$30,348	\$30,385	\$26,731	\$29,541	\$31,930	\$33,114	\$34,288	\$37,198
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 county is served by the office listed below:  
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