



# Power County

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DEPT. OF LABOR

November 2016

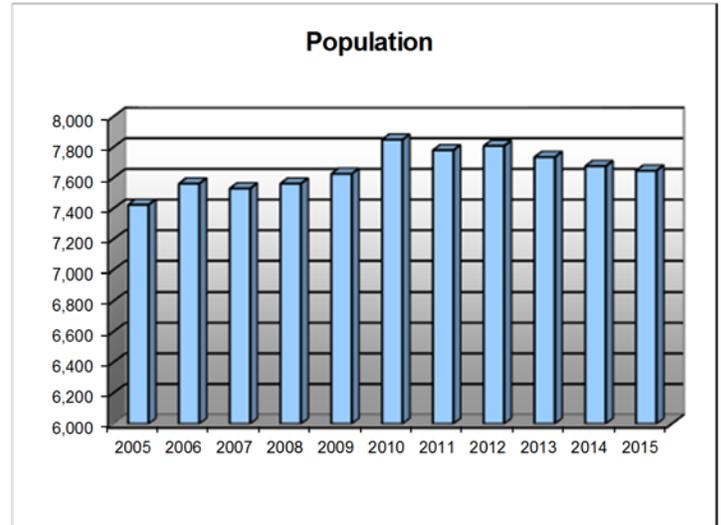
## Workforce Trends

### Population

Power County's population was relatively stable through the 2000s. Between 2000 and 2010 the county's population grew by 4.9 percent to 7,851. The population in recent years has declined.

Natural growth and in-migration raised the population early in the decade. The loss of manufacturing jobs midway through forced people to look for work elsewhere. The population in 2015 was estimated to be 7,648. American Falls, the largest city in the county had a population of 4,321.

The American Falls Reservoir, the largest on the Snake River, is one of the best boating and fishing lakes in the state. It also provides storage for irrigation and hydropower generation. The original American Falls, below the dam, adds stunning scenery to the county's lush and fertile farm land.

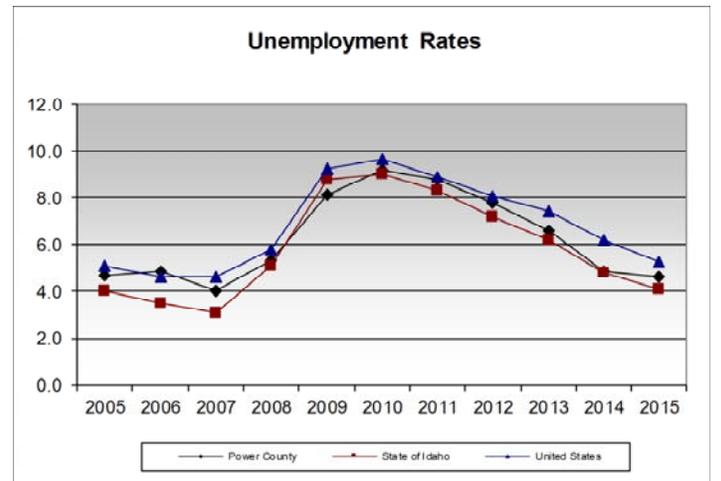


### Labor Force & Employment

A diverse, skilled work force with an excellent work history is heavily dependent on agriculture and related manufacturing. National and regional economic fluctuations in agriculture kept unemployment high throughout the decade. The lowest rate at 4.0 percent came in 2007.

With agriculture and related manufacturing providing most of the county's employment, diversification is needed for future growth. The many marinas and beaches, excellent trout fishing and wind and water conditions draw tourists to American Falls.

The labor force changed little between 2000 and 2010. Because of seasonal layoffs in food processing, the county unemployment rate jumped to 8.1 percent in 2009, up 2.8 percentage points, reached a record high in 2010 at 9.2 percent and then began a downward trend in 2011. In 2014 the rate dropped 1.7 percentage points to



4.9 percent. The rate fell in 2015 further, with 4.6 percent unemployed.

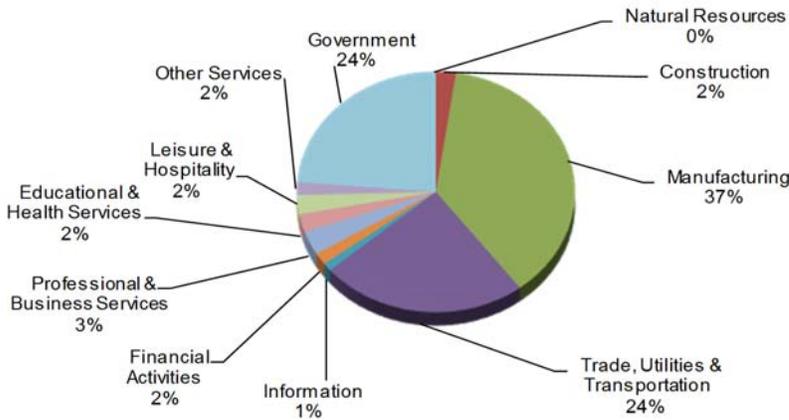
Employment dropped in Power County from 3,617 in 2005 to a low of 3,177 in 2009. However, the level has remained fairly constant since 2012. Nearly all the loss was in manufacturing with the shutdown of the Astaris phosphate plant at the end of 2001.

In the recession, only two industries showed significant employment growth over the decade — agriculture and other services.

Labor Force	Oct 15	Oct 16
Civilian Labor Force	3,969	3,976
Total Employment	3,817	3,835
Unemployed	153	141
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	3.5
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	3,794	3,873	3,753	3,541	3,459	3,872	3,927	4,088	3,986	3,985	3,905
Unemployment	177	188	151	188	281	357	345	319	264	193	180
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.7	4.9	4.0	5.3	8.1	9.2	8.8	7.8	6.6	4.9	4.6
Employment	3,617	3,685	3,602	3,353	3,177	3,515	3,582	3,770	3,722	3,791	3,726

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2015



## Industry Employment & Wages

Even though the number of manufacturing jobs decreased between 2000 to 2015, the industry still provides 29 percent of covered employment and pays Power County's second highest wages.

Agriculture accounts for 22 percent. Government has 18.4 percent of the jobs with many in public education.

The average covered wage of \$39,309 ranks well among all Idaho counties, influenced by the large percentage of workers in manufacturing, where the average wage is \$52,851. However, the county's per capita income ranks 27th in the state.

### Major Employers (Private)

Con Agra
County Line Farms
Driscoll Potatoes LLC
Double L Manufacturing
Amerian Falls School District
Ken's Food Market
J. R. Simplot Company
Koompin Farms
Lance Funk Farms

### Occupational Wages\*

Occupational Wages*	Starting Wages
Cashiers, Retail	\$8.16
Food Processing Workers	\$10.03
Food & Beverage Serving Workers	\$8.08
Janitors & Cleaners	\$9.34
Construction Laborers	\$9.65
Maids	\$8.08
Nurses, Registered	\$23.78
Information & Record Clerks	\$13.16
Auto Mechanics & Service Techs	\$9.57
Teachers	\$18.84

\* 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
Total Covered Wages	2,724	\$26,102	3,356	\$38,691	3,310	\$39,309
Agriculture	417	\$21,168	616	\$31,498	735	\$33,173
Mining	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Construction	77	\$23,978	62	\$33,591	53	\$32,071
Manufacturing	650	\$36,297	1,082	\$51,883	967	\$52,851
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	559	\$21,987	614	\$38,127	615	\$37,519
Information	34	\$37,437	38	\$28,471	28	\$33,919
Financial Activities	58	\$20,961	51	\$31,510	41	\$35,879
Professional and Business Services	102	\$28,806	75	\$55,049	83	\$66,202
Educational and Health Services	34	\$26,747	65	\$21,587	62	\$23,362
Leisure and Hospitality	77	\$7,305	48	\$8,912	62	\$8,170
Other Services	37	\$17,973	56	\$26,675	54	\$27,246
Government	679	\$25,030	648	\$28,757	610	\$30,368

Per Capita Income	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Power County	\$22,569	\$25,114	\$28,634	\$30,078	\$30,009	\$29,740	\$34,621	\$34,610	\$34,629	\$32,654
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 U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the office listed below:  
 Idaho Department of Labor  
 430 N. Fifth Ave.  
 Pocatello, ID 83205-4087 Ph: (208) 236-6710

[labor.idaho.gov](http://labor.idaho.gov)

This publication is produced by the Idaho Department of Labor and is funded at least in part by federal grants from the U.S. Department of Labor. Costs associated with this publication are available upon request. The Idaho Department of Labor is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Dial 711 for Idaho Relay Service.