



# Lemhi County

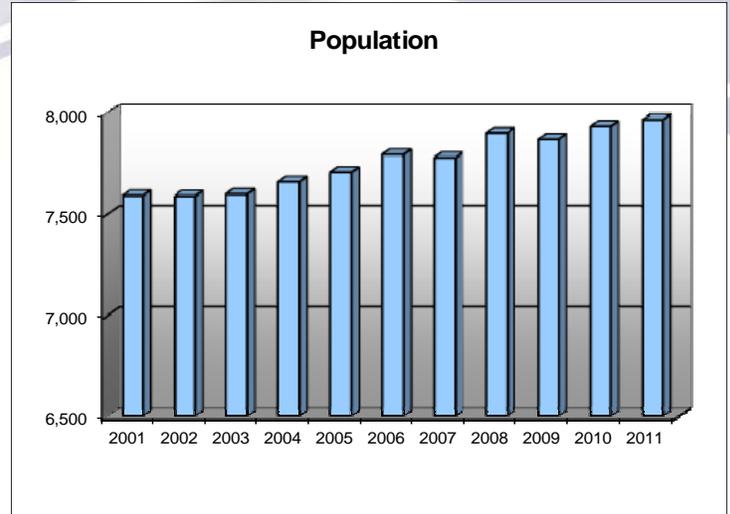
August 2012

## Work Force Trends

### Population

Lemhi County has depended on mining for most of its history, and the last decade reflects it. The population steadily eroded early in the decade before resuming growth. The county's population ranked 32<sup>nd</sup> in the state at 7,967 in 2011, down from 30<sup>th</sup> in 2000. Recent population fluctuations have been relatively minor, and the count increased slightly between 2010 and 2011.

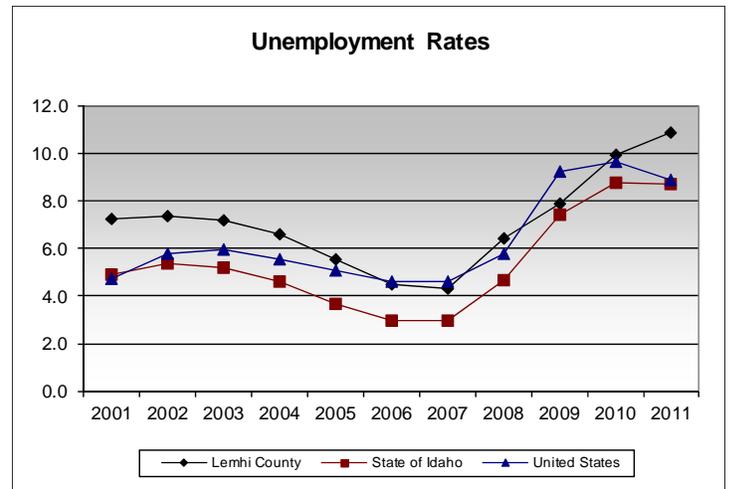
Cobalt and rare earth metals have sparked interest in new mining development. As commodity prices recovered, the Thompson Creek Mine in Custer County has taken on employees, and there is still discussion of selling and re-starting mines. In the past several years, the county has also built a business incubation center, a large hospital and the impressive Sacajawea Education & Interpretive Center. Efforts to improve local schools are also under way.



### Labor Force & Employment

Early in the decade Lemhi County's unemployment rate approached 8 percent and gradually declined to 4.3 percent by 2007. Since then rates have more than doubled, averaging 10.9 percent in 2011. The county is diversifying while capitalizing on its strengths. Summer fires over the last decade, some demanding national help, temporarily boosted employment. But the county has rebounded with the support of residents and leaders.

Government employs 34 percent of the county's workers. Over 90 percent of the land is owned by the federal government so land management agencies like the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the Idaho Fish and Game Department employ many. Agriculture accounts for employment not included in nonfarm payrolls. Total acreage for cattle is almost as high as total acreage for crops. Trade, transportation and utilities



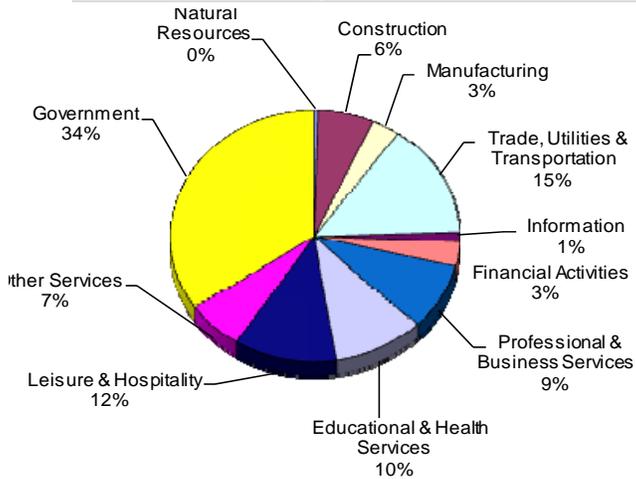
along with leisure and hospitality employ 27 percent of the labor force. Trade represents many jobs not only in food stores, restaurants and bars but also in auto dealerships, which serve a large geographic area that includes Montana and Wyoming.

Increased diversification will help limit recessionary effects. Much of the unemployment appears to be the result of layoffs. Evidence of this can be seen by decreasing employment and a growing number of unemployed.

Labor Force	July 11	July 12
Civilian Labor Force	3,658	3,596
Total Employment	3,251	3,226
Unemployed	407	370
% of Labor Force Unemployed	11.1	10.3
State of Idaho % Unemployed	8.9	7.5
U.S. % Unemployed	9.1	8.3

Labor Force	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Civilian Labor Force	3,886	3,807	3,820	3,922	4,015	3,952	3,733	3,678	3,941	3,810	3,645
Unemployment	282	281	275	260	223	178	160	236	312	378	396
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.3	7.4	7.2	6.6	5.6	4.5	4.3	6.4	7.9	9.9	10.9
Employment	3,604	3,526	3,545	3,662	3,792	3,774	3,572	3,442	3,629	3,432	3,249

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2011



## Covered Employment & Wages

Since 2001 covered employment has decreased by nearly 3 percent. Job declines continued in leisure and hospitality in 2011. Between 20010 and 2011 total covered employment fell by over 4 percent. Wages have shown some growth, especially in financial activities which increased by 25 percent. Average covered wages increased just over 3 percent between 2010 and 2011.

Covered employment includes jobs subject to state and federal unemployment insurance laws. These laws apply to approximately 92 percent of Idaho's employers.

## Major Employers

Discovery Care Center LLC  
Lemhi County  
Idaho Department of Fish & Game  
Q B Corporation  
Salmon Public Schools #291  
Saveway Market Inc.  
Steele Memorial Hospital  
U.S. Government

## Eastern ID Occupation Wages\*

## Median Wage

Eastern ID Occupation Wages*	Median Wage
Agricultural Workers	\$8.52
Cashiers	\$8.12
Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse	\$15.75
Food & Beverage Serving Workers	\$7.77
Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses	\$17.27
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants	\$9.91
Health Diagnosing & Treating Practitioners	\$27.23
Production Occupations	\$14.28
Receptionists & Information Clerks	\$10.50
Retail Sales Workers	\$8.96

\* Wages include nine counties of eastern Idaho. 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 2001, 2010 & 2011	2001		2010		2011	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
<b>Total Covered Wages</b>	2,421	\$21,047	2,457	\$27,573	2,353	\$28,498
<b>Agriculture</b>	40	\$18,126	27	\$24,011	27	\$24,829
<b>Mining</b>	*	*	9	\$81,916	11	\$70,382
<b>Construction</b>	118	\$18,186	165	\$35,879	152	\$35,357
<b>Manufacturing</b>	143	\$25,158	81	\$30,773	75	\$30,420
<b>Trade, Utilities, &amp; Transportation</b>	458	\$16,117	365	\$24,485	350	\$27,813
<b>Information</b>	38	\$14,710	33	\$15,536	29	\$17,743
<b>Financial Activities</b>	70	\$19,668	78	\$21,596	67	\$27,046
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	105	\$19,466	9	\$28,211	11	\$26,017
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	182	\$13,675	250	\$18,273	243	\$19,534
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	319	\$9,232	299	\$11,797	279	\$11,782
<b>Other Services</b>	77	\$14,014	111	\$17,342	109	\$17,666
<b>Government</b>	853	\$30,146	824	\$37,309	806	\$37,972

Per Capita Income	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>Lemhi County</b>	\$22,028	\$22,242	\$22,953	\$24,566	\$25,130	\$26,450	\$28,263	\$29,530	\$29,526	\$30,669
<b>State of Idaho</b>	\$25,665	\$26,042	\$26,452	\$28,412	\$29,544	\$31,493	\$32,607	\$33,110	\$30,997	\$31,897
<b>United States</b>	\$31,157	\$31,481	\$32,295	\$33,909	\$35,452	\$37,725	\$39,506	\$40,947	\$38,846	\$39,937

Information provided by Bureau of Economic Analysis



This county is served by the office listed below:  
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[labor.idaho.gov](http://labor.idaho.gov)

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