



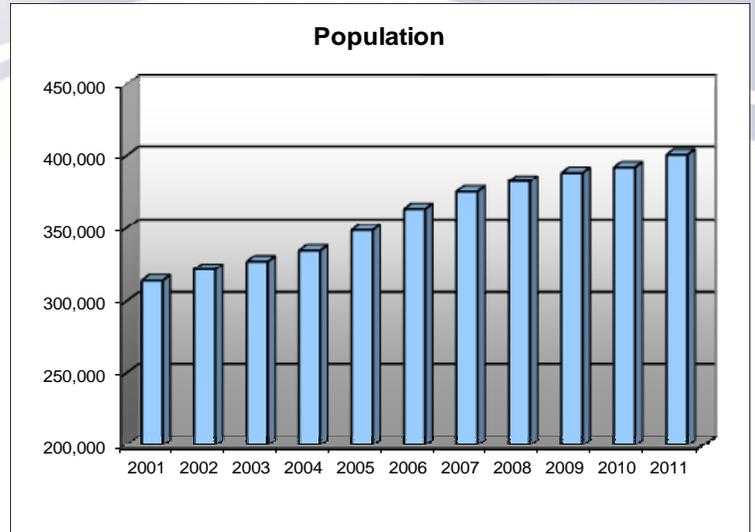
# Ada County

August 2012

## Work Force Trends

### Population

Ada County, Idaho's most populous with over 400,000 residents, is a regional center of government, industry and education. It's more than twice the size of neighboring Canyon County, the state's second most populous. Ada County ranks 31st among the 44 counties in area. Over 29 percent is public land. Ada County has grown rapidly, adding 87,000 residents since 2001. The county was a popular relocation destination, especially in the years leading up to the recession. People from other states flocked to the county for its outdoor lifestyle and comparatively low real estate prices. It was not uncommon for people to sell a small house elsewhere and pay cash for a new, larger home in Ada County. The probability of finding work was high. The unemployment rate hovered at or below 4 percent most of the decade. The national recession has taken a large toll on the area, but signs of improvement are appearing.

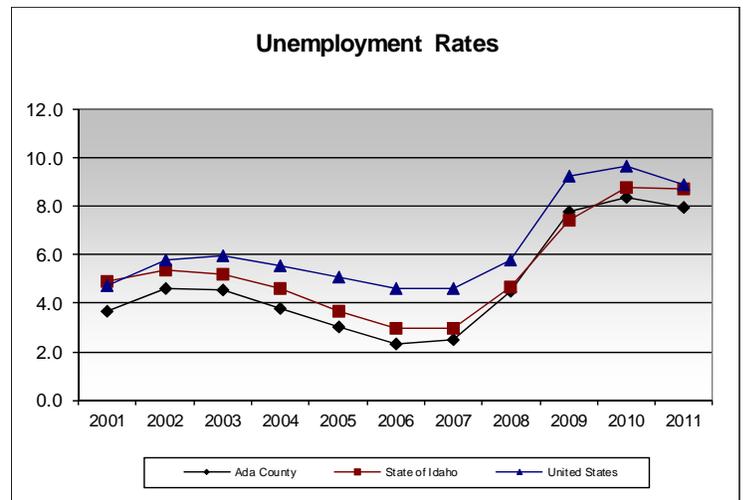


### Labor Force & Employment

The Ada County labor force grew significantly between 2001 and 2011, adding 24,000 workers or just over a quarter of the population growth. But Ada County has more jobs than its labor force supports, requiring commuters from elsewhere to fill them. During 2011, the unemployment rate saw its first annual decline since the recession began in 2007. While 8 percent is a far cry from the low of 2.3 percent recorded in 2006, it is welcome improvement.

2011 has also reversed the area's annual payroll declines, adding 2,550 covered jobs. The education and health care sector made up the lion's share of the increases, adding almost 1,500 jobs.

For the decade, the area has increased payrolls by over 12,400. That is impressive considering this time frame included the worst recession in recent memory. The landscape has changed though. Construction and manufacturing lost 12,500 jobs this decade. These sectors made up 20 percent of the covered employment in 2001 but



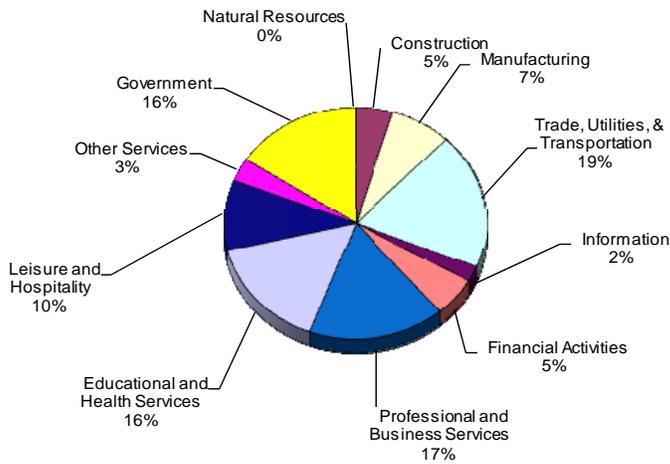
now only comprise 12 percent. The county has typically generated the largest share of Idaho's wealth in terms of manufacturing exports and attracting outside investment in construction projects. Without these goods producers running on all cylinders, the economy will continue operating below capacity.

Despite the recession, education and health care posted job gains of over 10,800 since 2001. This sector was followed by professional and business services with almost 4,500.

Labor Force	July 11	July 12
Civilian Labor Force	199,435	203,398
Total Employment	183,655	190,378
Unemployed	15,780	13,021
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.9	6.4
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	175,774	175,436	176,702	177,136	184,794	191,981	196,480	197,309	194,669	197,470	199,770
Unemployment	6,488	8,102	8,035	6,691	5,648	4,419	4,946	8,881	15,169	16,517	15,894
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.7	4.6	4.5	3.8	3.1	2.3	2.5	4.5	7.8	8.4	8.0
Employment	169,286	167,334	168,667	170,446	179,146	187,562	191,535	188,429	179,500	180,953	183,876

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2011



### Major Private Employers

St. Luke's Regional Medical Center  
 St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center  
 Blue Cross of Idaho Health Services  
 DirecTV  
 Hewlett Packard  
 Idaho Power Co.  
 Micron Technology, Inc.  
 Fred Meyer  
 Wal-Mart  
 Citicorp  
 Supervalue

## Per Capita Income & Employment

Ada County slipped to fourth among the 44 counties in per capita income at \$38,718, which was up \$1,000 from 2009. That was still 21 percent higher than statewide per capita income but over \$1200 less than national per capita income. While the recession dampened economic activity, Ada County is attracting a growing number of wealthy retirees seeking its comparatively lower cost of living that boosts per capita income as a byproduct.

Most sectors pay an average annual wage over \$41,000. Trade, utilities and transportation continue to make up the largest portion of covered jobs with 19 percent.

Occupational Wages*	Entry Level Wage
Medical Assistants	\$11.97
Waiters and Waitresses	\$7.83
Structural Metal Fabricators and Fitters	\$13.70
Customer Service Representatives	\$9.83
Electricians	\$15.29
Construction Laborers	\$10.46
Team Assemblers	\$9.02
Registered Nurse	\$23.23
Exec Secretaries & Admin Assistants	\$13.02
Welders	\$12.26
Retail Salespersons	\$8.14

\* 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>	182,311	\$33,081	192,164	\$40,803	194,714	\$41,352
<b>Agriculture</b>	604	\$22,422	756	\$30,371	764	\$31,222
<b>Mining</b>	113	\$31,559	86	\$85,688	84	\$85,155
<b>Construction</b>	12,898	\$35,628	9,466	\$44,983	9,104	\$44,306
<b>Manufacturing</b>	23,615	\$49,269	14,266	\$75,864	14,909	\$73,870
<b>Trade, Utilities &amp; Transportation</b>	34,845	\$28,813	36,703	\$36,147	37,260	\$37,152
<b>Information</b>	3,270	\$42,209	3,685	\$47,539	3,590	\$48,253
<b>Financial Activities</b>	9,459	\$38,716	10,622	\$47,224	10,800	\$48,532
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	28,878	\$36,160	33,419	\$40,951	33,338	\$42,507
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	19,800	\$31,440	29,152	\$41,739	30,616	\$42,492
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	16,722	\$11,199	18,240	\$14,701	19,101	\$14,855
<b>Other Services</b>	5,127	\$21,739	5,288	\$24,685	5,214	\$24,884
<b>Government</b>	26,980	\$33,999	30,481	\$43,138	29,935	\$43,527

Per Capita Income	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>Ada County</b>	\$34,350	\$34,872	\$35,343	\$38,252	\$39,042	\$42,516	\$42,262	\$41,234	\$37,703	\$38,718
<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 offices located at the addresses below:

Idaho Department of Labor  
 219 W. Main St.  
 Boise, ID 83735-0030 Ph: (208) 332-3575

or Idaho Department of Labor  
 1090 E. Watertower Lane, Suite 100  
 Meridian, ID 83642-6282 Ph: (208) 364-7785

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