



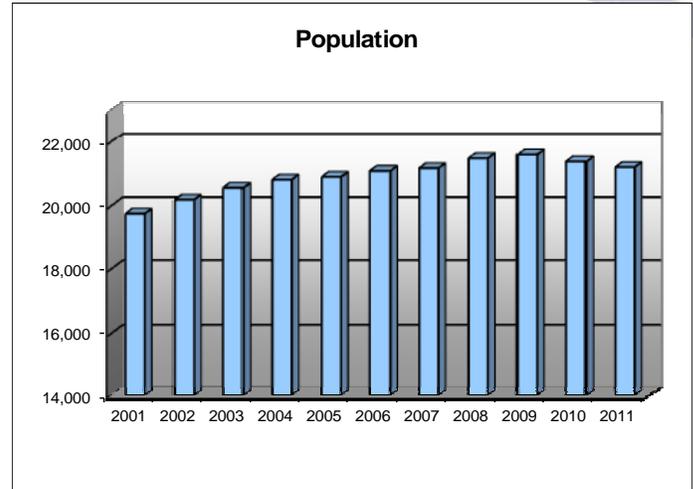
Blaine County

August 2012

Work Force Trends

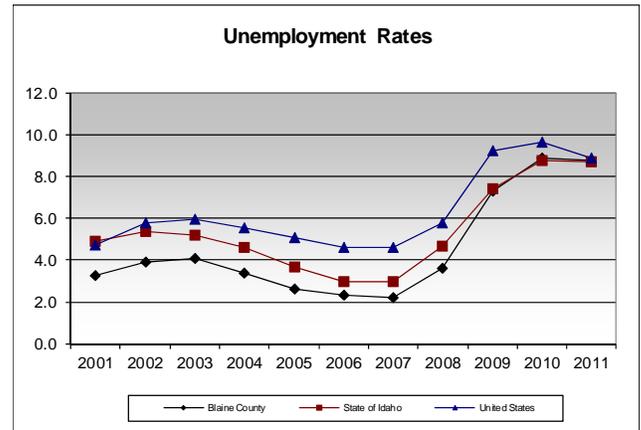
Population

Blaine County has experienced steady growth over the last decade. The population rose 7.3 percent from 19,755 in 2001 to 21,199 in 2011, relatively slow growth compared to better economic times. Hailey is the county seat and largest city at 7,893. Beautiful mountains and virtually unlimited recreational opportunities make Blaine County a destination for visitors, both domestic and international. The world famous Sun Valley Ski Resort saw a 382,128 skier count during the 2011-2012 season, down 6.2 percent from the previous year. Local leaders continue to try jump starting the economy. The recession was severe, dramatically cooling building activity in upscale subdivisions and condominium projects. Ketchum, the commercial hub, has four hotel projects seeking financing. New attractions in recent years include an all-season gondola, another golf course, an outdoor symphony pavilion and rodeo grounds, all enhancing tourism. Collaborative marketing is expected to bring more visitors to the area. Talks continue on ensuring regular commercial air service on regional jets, a step up from current regulations.



Labor Force & Employment

Blaine County's workforce has suffered from the construction and housing slump that hit many tourism and high-growth areas across the nation. The unemployment rate was fairly stable during the early part of the last decade. The continued expansion sent the rate plunging to 2.2 percent in 2007 before the recession pushed it up to 8.9 percent in 2010. Spring and fall recreation and conferences have eased some of those seasonal slumps. Most jobs are in the relatively lower-paying hospitality or retail sectors so the labor pool continues to be constrained by a lack of affordable housing. Efforts by communities to require affordable housing or to build their own along with dropping home prices have temporarily lessened the impact. The high cost of living offsets wages that are typically higher than elsewhere in Idaho. Routine traffic congestion between Ketchum and

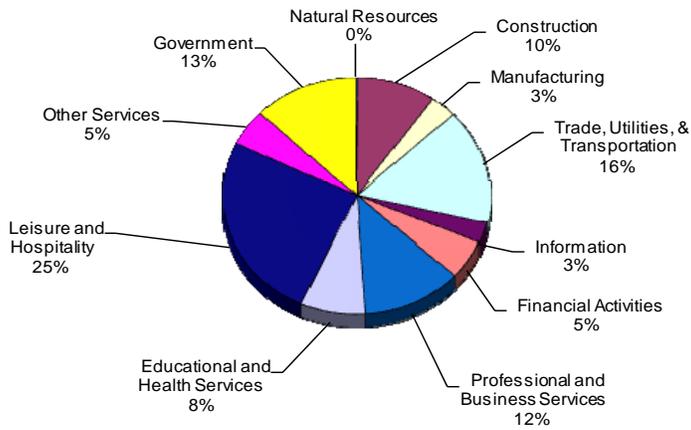


Bellevue has increased public transportation ridership. A significant number of workers commuted to the county for higher-paying construction and landscape jobs before the recession. A new airport was planned and then put on hold by the Federal Aviation Administration. With the imminent approval of Sun Valley to become the first Nordic Olympic and Paralympic training site in the US, an efficient, effective, transportation system is critical for accessibility.

Labor Force	July 11	July 12
Civilian Labor Force	12,780	12,439
Total Employment	11,681	11,605
Unemployed	1,099	834
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.6	6.7
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	12,439	12,893	12,653	13,261	13,898	14,030	13,658	13,798	13,243	12,655	12,575
Unemployment	408	507	520	449	363	323	300	502	969	1,125	1,104
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.3	3.9	4.1	3.4	2.6	2.3	2.2	3.6	7.3	8.9	8.8
Employment	12,031	12,386	12,132	12,812	13,535	13,707	13,358	13,296	12,274	11,530	11,471

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2011



Wages & Income

Wages in Blaine County are significantly higher than in the rest of south central Idaho and the state because of the high cost of living, which can mostly be attributed to high real estate prices. The county's natural beauty and diverse recreational opportunities attract the affluent. Per capita income in 2010 remained the highest in Idaho. In fact, it was one and a half times the United State's per capita income and double Idaho's. In the past, employers have had to subsidize normal wage rates. Job loss have finally abated and the labor market stabilize between 2010 and 2011, except for construction, which fell 8.5 percent.

Major Employers

Atkinson's Market
180 Connect
Power Engineers
Rocky Mountain Hardware
St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center
Sun Valley Lodge aka Sinclair Company
Webb Landscape, Inc.

Occupational Wages*

Starting Wage

Public School Teachers (annual wage)	\$65,000
Social Workers	\$19.00
Registered Nurses	\$28.50
Legal Secretaries	\$19.00
Bookkeepers	\$15.00
Cashiers	\$10.00
Motel Housekeeping	\$9.00
Chefs	\$15.00
Lifeguards and Ski Patrol	\$10.00
Landscapers	\$15.00
Construction Labor	\$15.00
Electricians, Journeyman	\$24.00
Maintenance Mechanics	\$24.00

* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at 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
Total Covered Wages	11,965	\$31,801	11,698	\$35,894	11,697	\$36,414
Agriculture	107	\$23,802	117	\$27,543	142	\$27,411
Mining	40	\$32,518	21	\$49,466	26	\$42,614
Construction	2,108	\$32,765	1,240	\$35,793	1,135	\$37,632
Manufacturing	387	\$36,219	388	\$52,579	377	\$53,550
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	1,996	\$26,793	1,825	\$31,634	1,858	\$31,715
Information	205	\$32,417	338	\$41,992	329	\$40,630
Financial Activities	665	\$32,546	603	\$55,414	584	\$49,510
Professional and Business Services	1,551	\$59,867	1,417	\$52,777	1,434	\$55,018
Educational and Health Services	675	\$33,254	879	\$45,225	910	\$50,345
Leisure and Hospitality	2,674	\$19,501	2,982	\$19,661	3,021	\$19,633
Other Services	451	\$23,446	408	\$32,738	411	\$32,946
Government	1,107	\$19,501	1,480	\$19,661	1,471	\$19,633

Per Capita Income	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Blaine County	\$45,015	\$44,388	\$46,040	\$52,665	\$56,450	\$62,554	\$63,712	\$70,455	\$61,198	\$63,883
State of Idaho	\$25,665	\$26,042	\$26,452	\$28,412	\$29,544	\$31,493	\$32,607	\$33,110	\$30,997	\$31,897
United States	\$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 located at the address below:
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labor.idaho.gov