



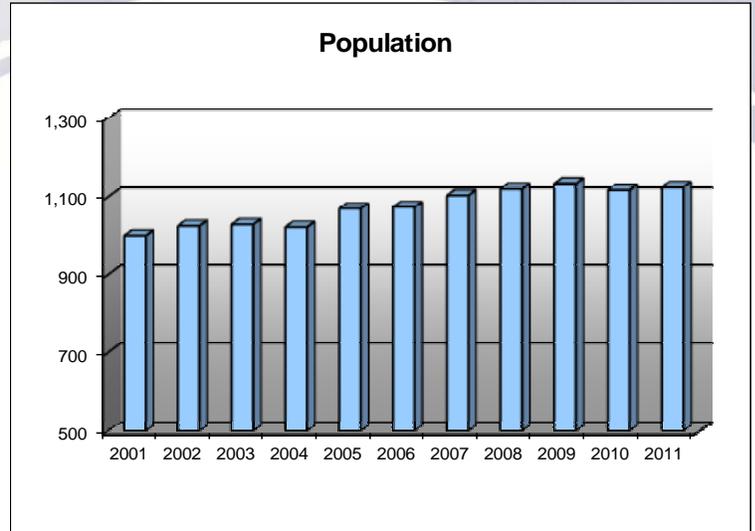
# Camas County

August 2012

## Work Force Trends

### Population

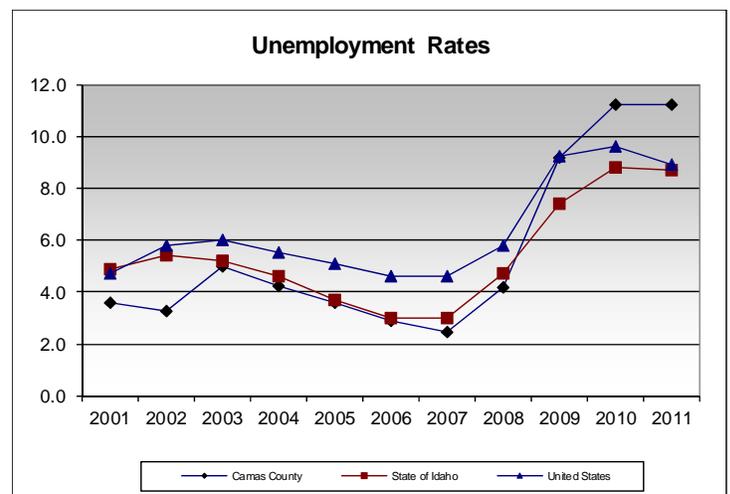
Camas County grew 6.3 percent from 1,000 in 2001 to 1,124 in 2011. The population periodically drops like it did in 2004 and then again in 2010. It is the third least populated county in Idaho but contains some of the most beautiful and rugged scenery. At an elevation of 5,069 feet, Camas County offers recreational opportunities from fishing, hunting, skiing and snowmobiling to camping and golfing. Fairfield, the county seat and only major town with a population of 418, is at the foot of rugged Soldier Mountain. The distance from population centers limits its development. Consequently the outlook is for slow, albeit steady, growth over the next decade.



### Labor Force & Employment

Seasonally adjusted unemployment in Camas County has been on a roller coaster for the last decade – hitting 5 percent in 2003 before plunging to a record low 2.5 percent in 2007 and then skyrocketing as a result of the national recession to 11.3 percent in 2010. The civilian labor force is so small that minor adjustments translate into wide swings in the rate.

Most workers in Camas County are in government, education, agriculture or trade. Before the recession, commuters to Blaine County were common, gaining higher-wage jobs in landscaping and construction. But many of those jobs were lost in the downturn and have not returned. During the winter, Soldier Mountain Ski Resort employment jumps significantly while demand

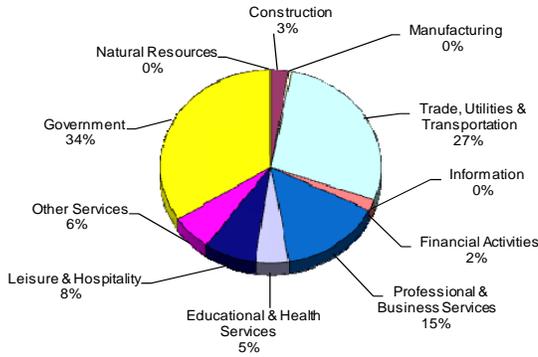


for farm labor is high in the summer and fall. The major crops are hay, dryland wheat and barley. Cattle and sheep ranches also dot the Camas Prairie. The local economy has diversified somewhat with transportation, manufacturing and service jobs. The future appears to be stable with limited growth. Soldier Mountain Ski Resort, which operates at a loss most years, is considering converting to nonprofit status.

Labor Force	July 11	July 12
Civilian Labor Force	625	600
Total Employment	540	537
Unemployed	85	64
% of Labor Force Unemployed	13.6	10.6
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	563	578	563	569	614	630	617	634	592	598	595
Unemployment	20	19	28	24	22	18	15	27	55	67	67
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.6	3.3	5.0	4.2	3.6	2.9	2.5	4.2	9.2	11.3	11.2
Employment	543	559	535	545	592	612	602	607	537	531	528

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2011



## Wages & Income

Per capita income in Camas County has grown 47 percent over the last nine years to \$34,727 in 2010. Camas has been higher than the state for eight straight years but is never within striking distance of the nation's per capita income. The county ranked eighth among Idaho's 44 counties in 2010. High Country Fusion, a fabricator and distributor of high density polyethylene pipe, is one of the largest and relatively newer employers. In-migration of retirees drawn by the recreational opportunities and the ability to generate income from either work at home jobs or self employment ventures have driven both population and per capita income growth. Average wages for all

## Major Employers

Camas Creek Country Store Inc.  
 Camas County  
 Camas County School District  
 Double G LLC  
 Ecolab Inc.  
 High Country Fusion  
 Kimco Corp  
 Soldier Mountain Enterprises  
 US Forest Service

## Occupational Wages\*

## Starting Wage

Occupational Wages*	Starting Wage
Elementary Teachers	\$50,000.00
Secondary Teachers	\$50,000.00
Teachers Aides	\$11.00
Bookkeepers	\$11.00
Cashiers	\$9.00
Construction labor	\$11.00
Landscapers	\$12.00

\* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the

industries increased by 13 percent from 2010 to 2011 while covered employment fell 3.1 percent. Agricultural covered wages increased by 18 percent over this time period, driven by high commodity prices and yields that brought high profits to producers in 2011.

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>	265	\$16,770	384	\$29,516	373	\$33,322
<b>Agriculture</b>	18	\$25,811	46	\$31,869	37	\$37,621
<b>Mining</b>	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
<b>Construction</b>	24	\$24,645	*	*	9	\$19,263
<b>Manufacturing</b>	*	*	*	*	2	\$21,215
<b>Trade, Utilities &amp; Transportation</b>	22	\$10,898	109	\$40,035	97	\$53,072
<b>Information</b>	*	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
<b>Financial Activities</b>	6	\$16,044	*	*	7	\$51,876
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	*	*	50	\$15,921	52	\$17,908
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	*	*	17	\$13,021	17	\$15,812
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	75	\$6,823	32	\$10,122	27	\$11,858
<b>Other Services</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Government</b>	113	\$21,965	119	\$31,987	120	\$31,292

Per Capita Income	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>Camas County</b>	\$23,706	\$26,627	\$26,329	\$27,728	\$28,643	\$31,868	\$32,492	\$35,504	\$36,357	\$34,727
<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:  
 Idaho Department of Labor  
 733 N. Main St., Suite C  
 Bellevue, ID 83333 Ph: (208) 788-3526

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