



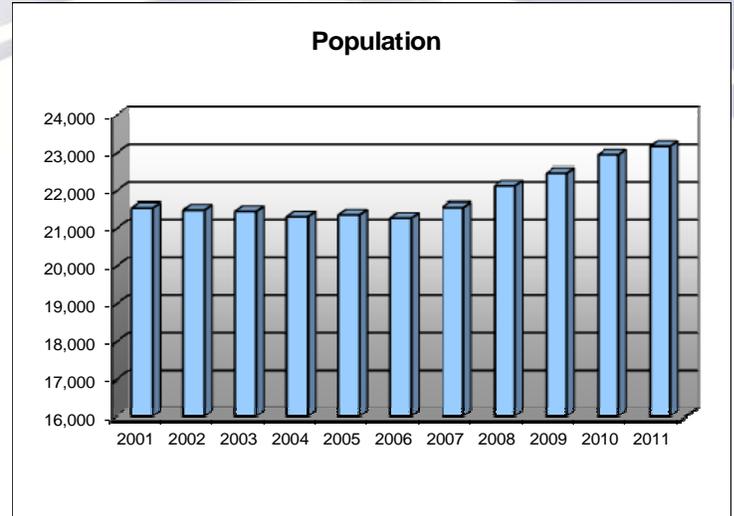
Cassia County

August 2012

Population

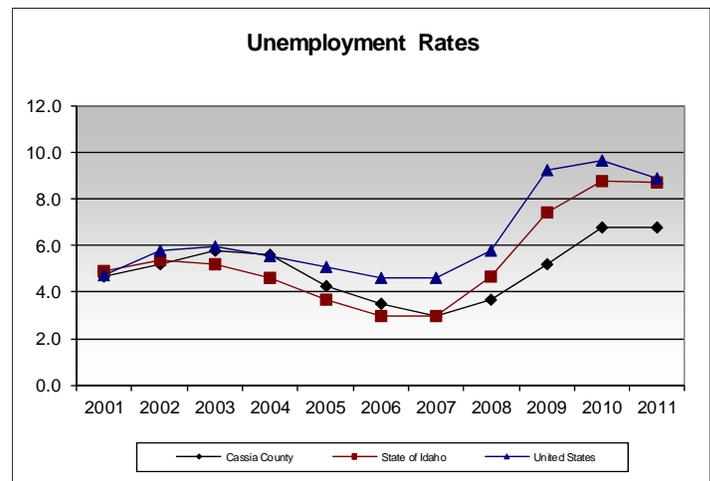
Cassia County's population grew 7.6 percent over the last 10 years with all growth occurring in the last five. Population was estimated at 23,186 in 2011, up from 21,557 in 2001. The county diversified beyond agriculture as national companies relocated and existing businesses survived the recession. Efforts to market Cassia and Minidoka counties together through a community partnership that spotlighted low land and labor costs were successful in landing new businesses. The area offers an array of natural resources and recreational opportunities. Burley, the largest city with a population of 10,447 is on the banks of the scenic Snake River. It is a short jaunt to the City of Rocks National Reserve for climbing and Pomerelle Mountain Resort for skiing. City and business leaders expect moderate to strong growth based on the favorable business climate and Burley's investment in waste water capacity.

Work Force Trends



Labor Force & Employment

Cassia County has traditionally experienced higher unemployment than the rest of south central Idaho. The closure of the J.R. Simplot potato processing plant in Heyburn in 2003 pushed the unemployment rate to nearly 6 percent. Since then, companies such as Dutchmen Manufacturing, a large-scale RV maker, and Mulholland Positioning Systems, which makes gait assistance devices for disabled children and adults, have opened. Pacific Ethanol started production in April 2008 but experienced ups and downs due to fuel price fluctuations and then the recession. DOT Foods, a national re-distribution company, opened its state-of-the-art warehouse in 2008, attracted by convenient access along Interstate 84 and proximity to I-86 and plans to expand. Packaging Specialties opened its shrink wrap and printing operation in 2008, while 2009 brought Hy-Line North America, an egg hatching operation that is shipping chicks from its new plant in Burley and



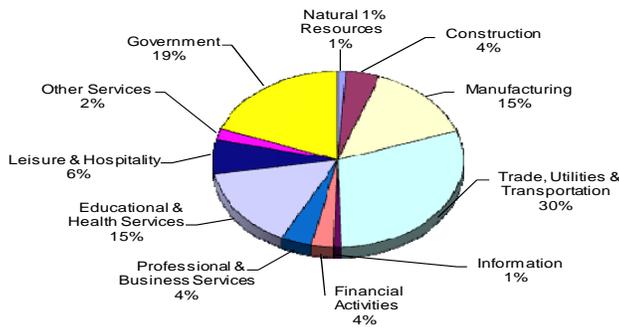
buying eggs locally. High Desert Milk and Gem State Processing are the most recent food processing additions. All of the new firms pay competitive wages with benefits.

In 2007, Cassia County's unemployment rate was at a record low 3 percent. While rising with the recession, it has remained lower than the national and state rates. Cassia County's low real estate prices, job opportunities, location on I-84 and proximity of outdoor recreation will continue to be a draw. The outlook for the county's job and labor force is strong over the long term.

Labor Force	July 11	July 12
Civilian Labor Force	11,315	11,201
Total Employment	10,525	10,589
Unemployed	790	612
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.0	5.5
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	10,339	10,319	9,853	9,806	9,930	10,327	10,775	11,047	10,143	11,116	11,493
Unemployment	482	534	570	550	422	364	320	404	530	752	780
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.7	5.2	5.8	5.6	4.2	3.5	3.0	3.7	5.2	6.8	6.8
Employment	9,857	9,785	9,283	9,255	9,508	9,963	10,455	10,643	9,613	10,364	10,714

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2011



Wages & Income

Wages have been traditionally low in Cassia County, but with the influx of manufacturing companies, particularly over the last decade, wages are on the rise. Most jobs had been in agriculture, food processing, retail or services. The dairy industry has brought stability to agricultural wages. Per capita income in 2010 increased by 4.1 percent although still below 2008 levels of \$33,866, which was driven by skyrocketing commodity prices. Cassia is the leading county in the state for agricultural receipts. Its per capita income is similar to the state's but lags the nation by 20 percent. Growth in covered wages from 2010 to 2011 was most significant in agriculture and manufacturing with employment up over 3 percent and wages almost 5 percent higher. In the past, the lower wage scale has attracted many companies, but higher skilled jobs are pushing average wages up more dramatically.

Major Employers

Ag Express
Americold Logistics
Boise Paper Holdings
BRP Health Management Systems
Cassia Regional Medical Center
DOT Foods
Dutchmen Manufacturing
McCain Foods
Parke View Rehab & Care Center
Walmart

Occupational Wages*

Average Wage

Teachers	\$50,000.00
Social Workers	\$19.00
Registered Nurses	\$25.00
Dental Assistants	\$12.00
Secretary/Receptionists	\$10.00
Drivers	\$10.00
Bookkeepers	\$11.00
Cashiers	\$8.50
Servers	\$7.25
Food Processors	\$10.00
Landscapers	\$10.00
Forklift Operators	\$14.00
Maintenance Mechanics	\$13.00
General Farm Labor	\$10.41

* 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	8,848	\$21,811	9,806	\$28,859	9,898	\$29,751
Agriculture	991	\$19,103	1,418	\$28,872	1,467	\$30,362
Mining	112	\$23,357	92	\$30,273	92	\$31,156
Construction	352	\$27,354	361	\$30,982	367	\$32,161
Manufacturing	1,108	\$26,828	1,195	\$37,495	1,234	\$39,260
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	2,257	\$21,021	2,477	\$28,473	2,531	\$29,912
Information	151	\$23,195	81	\$48,856	75	\$47,692
Financial Activities	266	\$27,082	253	\$32,616	232	\$35,559
Professional and Business Services	320	\$15,948	349	\$31,996	330	\$30,827
Educational and Health Services	907	\$22,659	1,294	\$25,568	1,286	\$27,110
Leisure and Hospitality	584	\$7,904	499	\$10,097	520	\$10,032
Other Services	183	\$15,199	128	\$19,403	146	\$19,715
Government	1,619	\$25,275	1,658	\$29,380	1,617	\$28,534

Per Capita Income	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Cassia County	\$24,439	\$24,534	\$24,462	\$25,960	\$27,290	\$27,980	\$31,606	\$33,866	\$30,157	\$31,407
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



This county is served by the office located at the address below:
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