



Custer County

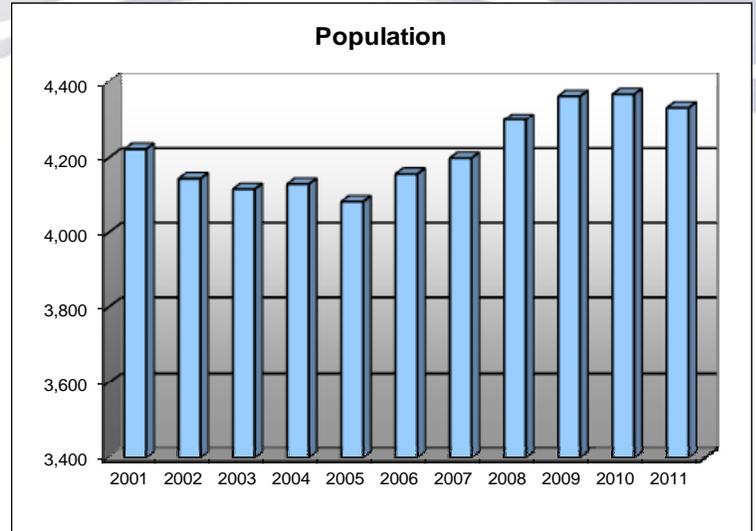
August 2012

Work Force Trends

Population

Custer County ranks 38th in the state with a 2011 population of 4,333. For each person the county offers more than a square mile of space. It reflects the fortunes of the mining industry. Population decreased in the early 2000s reaching a low in 2005, losing over 300 residents as Hecla Mining closed. Thompson Creek Mining, still considered one of the largest employers, operates an open pit molybdenum mine. Population began growing again in 2006 and was up 176 since.

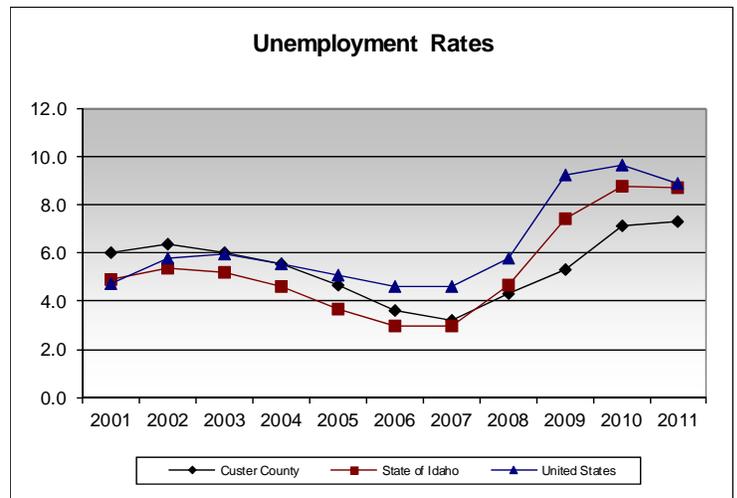
The county has been concentrating on diversifying beyond mining. Economic developers are working hand-in-hand with government officials to attract new business and help existing ones expand in order to reverse, or at least slow, the decline in the future.



Labor Force & Employment

Custer County's unemployment rate was higher than either the state or nation early in the last decade. In 2003 the rate dipped to match the state and national rates and then slip below both. The civilian labor force steadily decreased from 2001 to 2006 and has shown little change since. Because the county has limited employers, mergers and changes in management can severely affect the work force, many of whom travel from other counties. The 2007 unemployment rate was the lowest of the last decade. It rose in 2008 and 2009 as the national recession took its toll. The 2011 annual unemployment rate was 7.3 percent. The county has been affected by forest fires and mine closures throughout the decade.

Half of the county's jobs are in government or natural resources. With only 5 percent of the land in

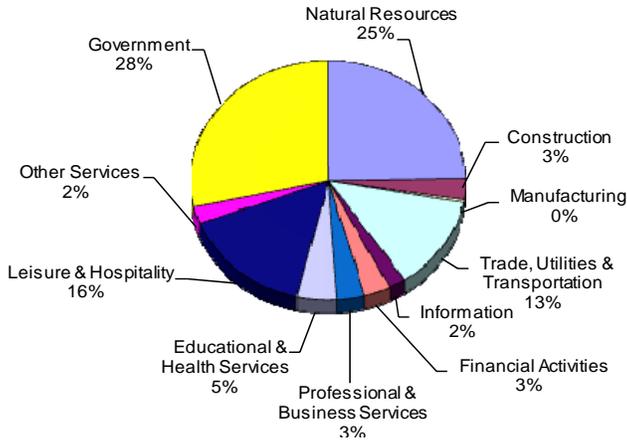


private ownership, the state Department of Fish & Game and the federal departments of Interior and Agriculture have cadres of employees to maintain the land. They complement employees of school districts and local government. Trade is still a large industry as is leisure and hospitality because of resources like Redfish Lake, the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Borah Peak, the highest point in Idaho.

Labor Force	July 11	July 12
Civilian Labor Force	2,573	2,502
Total Employment	2,382	2,324
Unemployed	191	178
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.4	7.1
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	2,692	2,555	2,523	2,545	2,568	2,506	2,324	2,451	2,664	2,560	2,550
Unemployment	163	163	151	141	120	90	75	106	142	182	186
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.0	6.4	6.0	5.5	4.7	3.6	3.2	4.3	5.3	7.1	7.3
Employment	2,529	2,392	2,372	2,404	2,449	2,416	2,249	2,345	2,522	2,378	2,363

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2011



Major Employers
Challis & Mackay Jnt School Dist #181 & #182
Custer County
Idaho & U.S. Government (BLM, F&G, Ag)
Lamb's Foodtown
The Village Inn
Thompson Creek Mining Co
Village Square

Eastern ID Occupational Wages*	Median Wage
Farmworkers and Laborers	\$14.74
Cashiers	\$8.64
Excavation & Loading Machine & Dragline Operator	\$17.61
Food & Beverage Serving Workers	\$7.77
Industrial Truck/Tractor Operators	\$14.23
Laborers & Material Movers, Hand	\$9.78
Lodging Managers	\$20.64
Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners	\$8.30
Retail Sales Workers	\$8.96

Covered Employment & Wages

Covered employment grew 2.2 percent over the decade. At the same time, covered wages increased by 53 percent. Wages among all industries except Information, education and health services and other services increased in 2011. The county's per capita income is slightly higher than the state average with mining wages still the highest of all industries.

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

- Wage data includes nine counties of eastern Idaho. 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	1,655	\$24,051	1,675	\$34,867	1,692	\$36,812
Agriculture	35	\$18,970	36	\$21,755	39	\$23,753
Mining	*	*	386	\$67,244	422	\$68,770
Construction	197	\$41,562	48	\$31,099	47	\$32,622
Manufacturing	3	\$19,601	3	\$41,149	6	\$43,141
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	321	\$17,812	241	\$22,575	217	\$24,198
Information	*	*	31	\$45,139	35	\$42,879
Financial Activities	59	\$12,824	51	\$18,385	49	\$19,369
Professional and Business Services	56	\$14,930	57	\$34,596	56	\$44,395
Educational and Health Services	82	\$9,261	62	\$17,289	81	\$15,871
Leisure and Hospitality	250	\$12,458	269	\$13,340	265	\$14,129
Other Services	15	\$26,054	22	\$31,091	22	\$30,946
Government	488	\$26,619	471	\$32,665	455	\$33,164

Per Capita Income	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Custer County	\$24,215	\$23,432	\$24,412	\$24,593	\$26,761	\$27,878	\$30,328	\$31,813	\$33,095	\$32,507
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 listed below:
 Idaho Department of Labor
 1301 Main St., Unit 1
 Salmon, ID 83467-0990 Ph: (208) 756-2234

labor.idaho.gov