



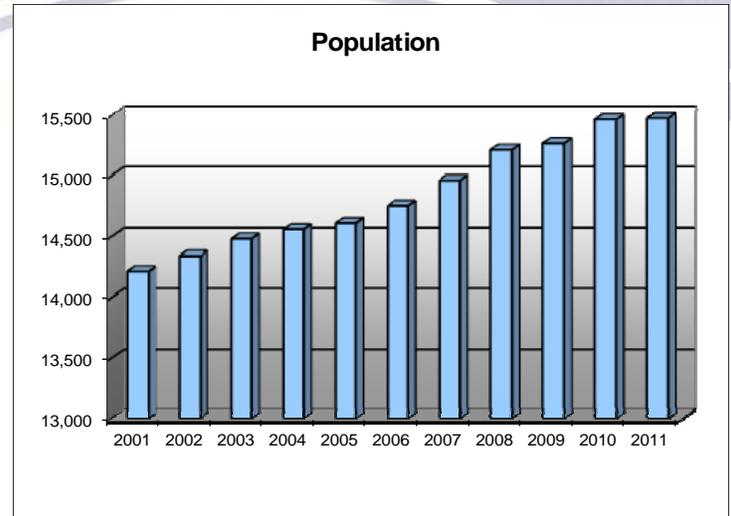
# Gooding County

August 2012

## Work Force Trends

### Population

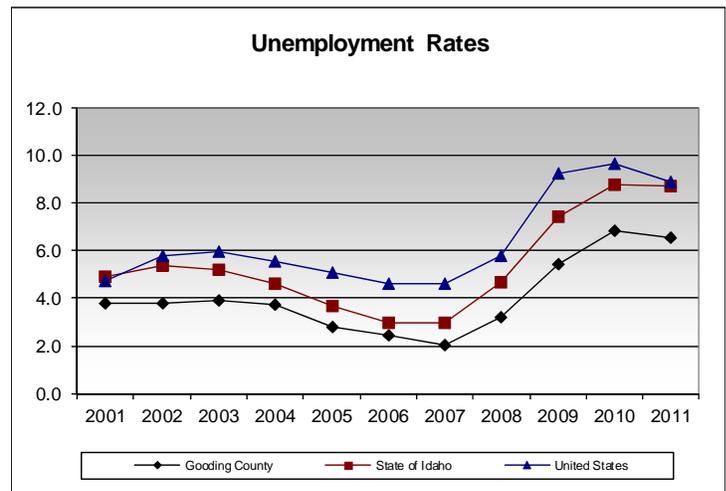
Gooding County has experienced less than average growth over the last 10 years. The population rose 9 percent from 14,155 in 2000 to 15,464 in 2010. Between 2003 and 2006, Gooding's population dipped slightly due to restructuring of the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind. The recession and low dairy prices took their toll in 2009. Gooding County is the state's dairy leader, but the explosive growth over the last 15 years was blunted by moratoria on dairies and feedlots. The industry has converted typically migrant, seasonal workers into permanent residents. The county seat and largest town is Gooding at 3,569 residents in 2011. Wendell, coined the Hub City due to its central location, is the second largest town at 2,784. Over half the county lives outside the cities. Despite the predominance of dairy, the county's agriculture is diverse from specialty onions to trout and beef cattle. Dairy products have been stable, but milk prices were below the break even point for 18 months, overlapping high feed costs in 2008 similar to expectations in 2012. North Canyon Medical Center opened its new facility in 2010.



### Labor Force & Employment

The civilian labor force has been steadily growing in Gooding County over the last decade from 6,600 in the late 1990s to 9,000 in 2011. The unemployment rate has fluctuated from a low 2 percent in 2007 to 6.9 percent in 2010. It has remained well below state and national rates.

The dairy and cheese processing industries, which provide year-round employment, offer stable jobs. The rapid growth in dairies has slowed in recent years as environmental concerns forced the Gooding County Commission to tighten standards for large livestock operators. Kieferbuilt Trailers started operations in 2004 and provided higher skilled jobs until it shut down during the recession. Its space was filled by Wel Companies a logistics and warehousing company. At one time, many residents

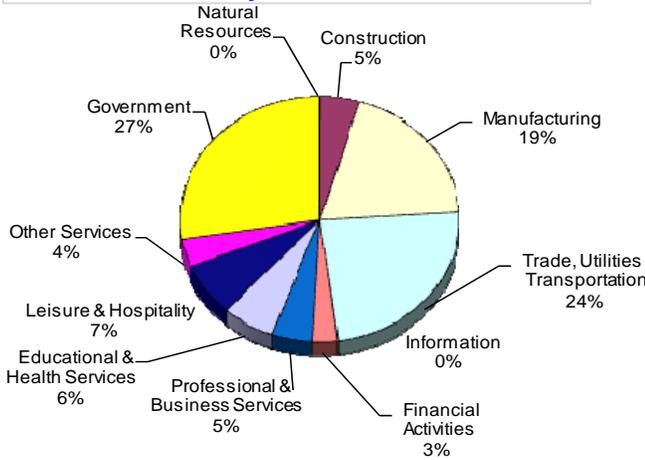


commuted to Blaine County for the higher-paying landscaping and construction jobs. But those jobs dried up in the economic downturn despite the needs of estates, second homes and hotels in Sun Valley and Ketchum. A growing charter school competes for students, stressing public schools budgets. Glanbia, a cheese and whey processor, is a large-scale buyer of milk and an innovative business leader in waste water issues to keep its small dairies afloat. Gooding County's outlook is for steady growth.

Labor Force	July 11	July 12
Civilian Labor Force	9,033	8,999
Total Employment	8,429	8,522
Unemployed	605	477
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.7	5.3
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	7,113	7,231	7,390	7,598	8,044	8,439	8,792	8,787	8,339	9,001	8,992
Unemployment	270	276	291	282	224	206	179	283	455	617	591
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.7	2.8	2.4	2.0	3.2	5.5	6.9	6.6
Employment	6,843	6,955	7,100	7,316	7,819	8,233	8,614	8,505	7,884	8,384	8,401

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2011



## Wages & Income

Income generated from dairies, its value-added manufacturing and transportation jobs plus access to higher paying opportunities in Blaine County have been the catalyst for much of Gooding County's growth in per capita income. Agricultural prices experienced substantial slides in 2009, which translated into a huge per capital income decline. Gooding County ranked fifth among Idaho's 44 counties in 2010. The work force is stable yet willing to spend the extra time and fuel for higher wages in Blaine County when quality jobs are not available at home. Gooding County has the second highest per capita income in south central Idaho. It saw significant employment growth from 2010 to 2011 in the construction industry, which rose 15 percent. The outlook remains solid.

## Major Employers

Bettencourt Dairies	Glanbia, Inc.
Box Canyon Dairy	Gooding County
Borrowman Trucking	Helena Chemical Company
BRP Health Management	Idaho State School for Deaf & Blind
Clear Springs Food	Jack Verbree Jr. Dairy
D & D Transportation	Magic Valley Growers
Double A Dairy	North Canyon Medical Center

## Occupational Wages\*

## Average Wage

Cashiers	\$8.00
Cheese Processors	\$9.50
Construction Labor	\$12.00
General Farm Labor	\$10.41
Maintenance Mechanics	\$12.50
Milkers	\$11.00
Receptionists	\$12.00
Registered Nurses	\$24.00
Social Workers	\$19.00
Substance Abuse Counselors	\$18.00
Teachers	\$50,000.00
Waiters & Waitresses	\$7.25

\* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at [imi.idaho.gov](http://imi.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>	5,230	\$21,814	6,173	\$29,331	5,955	\$30,172
<b>Agriculture</b>	1,507	\$21,308	2,091	\$28,180	2,015	\$28,705
<b>Mining</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Construction</b>	189	\$24,530	161	\$28,579	183	\$31,114
<b>Manufacturing</b>	369	\$30,785	763	\$42,010	777	\$44,781
<b>Trade, Utilities &amp; Transportation</b>	1,108	\$22,068	957	\$29,249	962	\$29,418
<b>Information</b>	*	*	8	\$22,201	*	*
<b>Financial Activities</b>	86	\$19,063	105	\$29,078	101	\$30,418
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	139	\$29,122	199	\$33,580	190	\$35,095
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	305	\$22,170	369	\$26,208	244	\$27,301
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	325	\$7,523	295	\$9,938	283	\$10,089
<b>Other Services</b>	105	\$29,546	126	\$41,470	122	\$43,894
<b>Government</b>	1,091	\$21,497	1,097	\$27,083	1,091	\$26,311

Per Capita Income	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>Gooding County</b>	\$28,862	\$25,847	\$25,334	\$31,834	\$31,660	\$30,498	\$37,528	\$38,002	\$30,305	\$37,054
<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:  
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 Twin Falls, ID 83301-5129 Ph: (208) 735-2500

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