



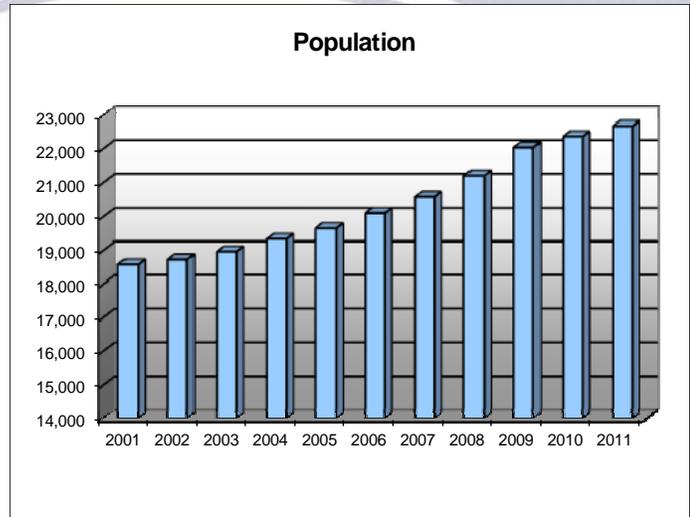
# Jerome County

August 2012

## Work Force Trends

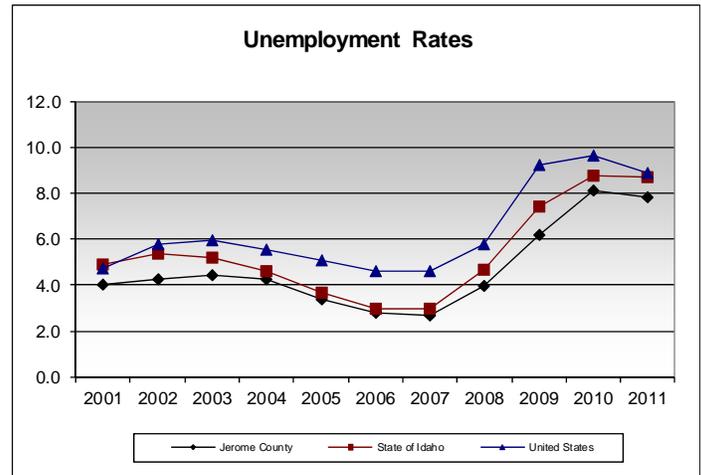
### Population

Jerome County's population has grown steadily, rising 22.1 percent from 18,579 in 2001 to 22,682 in 2011 in response to strong economic and infrastructure development. Jerome is the county seat and by far the largest city at 11,040 residents. Hilex Poly, an advanced plastics manufacturer that makes grocery bags, and Idaho Milk Products, a state-of-the-art milk processing plant, are examples of the newer companies requiring workers with higher-than-average skill levels. The dairy industry continues to be a major factor in the economy and community, drawing feeder businesses such as Jerome Cheese, West Farm Foods Inc. and Commercial Creamery. Old Hickory Sheds is filling the former Con Paulos auto dealership space while new schools and a new senior center have invigorated the community. Jerome's residential construction grew on affordable values while commercial entities sought out accessibility to the interstate highway. The Crossroads Point Business Center at the intersection of I-84 and U.S. Highway 93, and the 93 Technology Park will enable significant growth over the next decade for Jerome.



### Labor Force & Employment

Seasonally adjusted unemployment in Jerome County was falling prior to the recession as it was statewide. Unemployment dropped from a high of 4.6 percent in 1998 to a low of 2.9 percent in 2007, driven by economic diversification, development and growth in the dairy industry. The current downturn has unemployment higher again but still well below the record levels of 1983, when the rate hit 9.7 percent. While dairy has provided many stable jobs, it remains a volatile commodity. Dairy farms culled cows to meet debt obligations but stressed some banking relations as supply and demand imbalances drove prices lower. Milk prices have rebounded somewhat but fuel and feed prices have also risen. The economic outlook remains optimistic with continued development of the Crossroads Point Business Center, which currently includes a Comfort Inn Hotel,

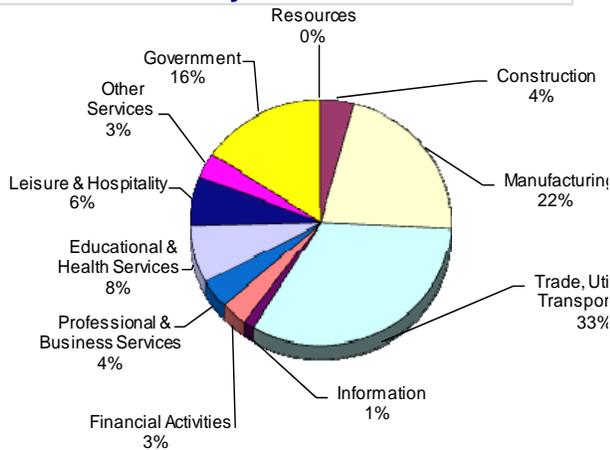


Labor Force	July 11	July 12
Civilian Labor Force	10,669	10,759
Total Employment	9,824	10,033
Unemployed	845	726
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.9	6.7
State of Idaho % Unemployed	8.9	7.5
U.S. % Unemployed	9.1	8.3

Federal Express office, Idaho Wind Partners, Fastenal, a Subway sandwich shop, the Heritage Office Complex, B & N Machine and Freightliner of Idaho, which is the most recent addition. The investment by developers and concerted efforts of economic development professionals is expected to pay off over the next decade with the help of Jerome's convenient location on Interstate 84 and affordable business costs.

Labor Force	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Civilian Labor Force	9,322	9,586	9,509	9,696	9,817	10,096	9,810	10,020	10,384	10,583	10,712
Unemployment	374	407	420	410	335	285	263	398	646	860	838
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.2	3.4	2.8	2.7	4.0	6.2	8.1	7.8
Employment	8,948	9,180	9,088	9,285	9,482	9,812	9,548	9,622	9,738	9,723	9,875

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2011



### Major Employers

Aardema Dairy	Rich Thompson Trucking
Arlo G. Lott Trucking, Inc.	Rite Stuff Foods
Commercial Creamery Co.	Si-Ellen Farms
Hilex Poly	Spears Manufacturing
Idaho Milk Products	St. Luke's Jerome
Jerome Cheese	Standlee Hay Company
Mellencamp Cattle	Wal-Mart

## Wages & Income

Jerome County's per capita income increased over the last decade but not as robustly as the state and nation, ranking 24th among the 44 counties.

The dairy industry continues to experience challenges, but the new Greek yogurt plant in Twin Falls has hopes up for higher prices. The moratorium on new operations has been lifted for the time being, creating new requirements along with higher fuel and feed price that are eroding profits. From 2010 to 2011, covered average employment declined by 16 percent in the construction industry while the rest of the region experienced more modest declines or slight upticks. Manufacturing experienced gains in average employment by 8 percent while wages rose 4 percent. Hispanics make up 31 percent of the county population, increasing over the past decade by 22 percent. They gravitate toward industries such as agriculture, construction and manufacturing. Agriculture lost 2.5 percent of its workers.

Occupational Wages*	Average Wage
Teachers	\$52,000.00
Teachers Aides	\$10.00
Registered Nurses	\$28.50
Receptionists	\$10.00
Medical Secretaries	\$13.00
Bookkeepers	\$11.00
Cashiers	\$8.50
Janitorial	\$9.00
Landscapers	\$12.00
Maintenance Mechanics	\$15.00
Cheese Processors	\$10.00
Construction Laborers	\$11.00
Milkers	\$11.00
Farm Laborers	\$10.41

\* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at [lmi.idaho.gov](http://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
<b>Total Covered Wages</b>	7,040	\$22,407	8,555	\$30,200	8,447	\$30,934
<b>Agriculture</b>	1,515	\$21,589	2,115	\$28,934	2,062	\$28,454
<b>Mining</b>	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
<b>Construction</b>	309	\$22,921	326	\$42,688	273	\$35,733
<b>Manufacturing</b>	1,002	\$24,192	1,282	\$33,533	1,390	\$34,881
<b>Trade, Utilities &amp; Transportation</b>	2,123	\$23,442	2,138	\$32,775	2,119	\$35,696
<b>Information</b>	46	\$24,436	82	\$34,863	87	\$31,243
<b>Financial Activities</b>	116	\$21,665	196	\$25,979	197	\$27,118
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	233	\$24,464	241	\$32,050	242	\$35,330
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	302	\$24,179	515	\$30,549	487	\$31,997
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	362	\$9,419	440	\$12,938	417	\$13,033
<b>Other Services</b>	127	\$20,191	185	\$23,832	191	\$24,481
<b>Government</b>	905	\$23,582	1,034	\$27,710	983	\$26,925

Per Capita Income	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>Jerome County</b>	\$25,133	\$24,441	\$24,497	\$27,466	\$28,095	\$28,843	\$31,639	\$31,709	\$27,719	\$29,214
<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  
 420 Falls Avenue  
 Twin Falls, ID 83301 Ph: (208) 735-2500

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

This publication is produced by the Idaho Department of Labor and is funded at least in part by federal grants from the U.S. Department of Labor. Costs associated with this specific publication are available by contacting the Idaho Department of Labor. The Idaho Department of Labor is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Dial 711 for TTY Idaho Relay Service.