



# Shoshone County

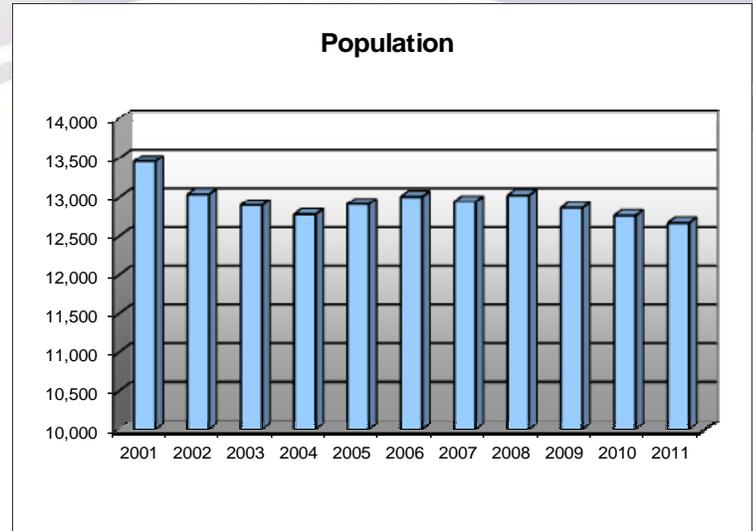
August 2012

## Work Force Trends

### Population

After devastating mine and smelter closures, Shoshone County's population fell 28 percent in the 1980s and continued declining at a lesser rate in the following decades. Increasingly some Silver Valley towns became bedroom communities for the Coeur d'Alene area. From 2000 to 2010, the population fell 7 percent from 13,771 to 12,765 while Idaho's population grew 20 percent and the U.S. population grew 9.5 percent.

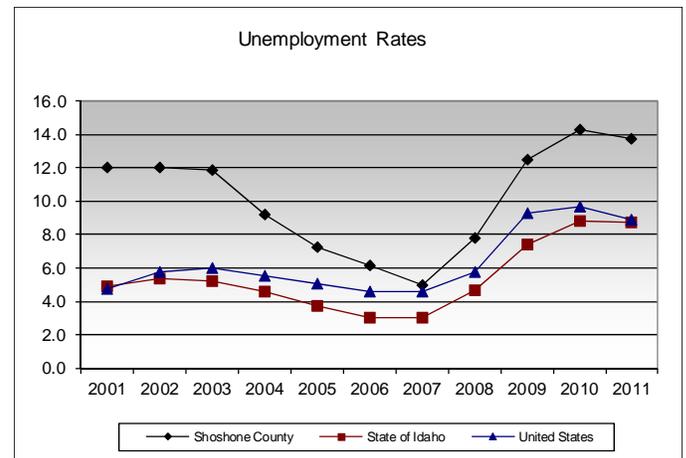
The county seat, Wallace, has a population of 784. The largest cities are Kellogg with a population of 2,120, Pinehurst at 1,619 and Osburn at 1,555.



### Labor Force & Employment

High silver prices are breathing some life back into the mining industry, which had declined from a peak of 4,200 jobs in 1981 to just 310 in 2003. The Lucky Friday and Galena mines, which were the only ones left open, employ twice as many people as they did four years ago, and the Sunshine Mine reopened in 2007 after closing in 2001. By mid-2008, mining employed 700. Then the global recession hit, slashing prices for silver, lead and zinc. Sunshine shut down again and the Galena laid off workers in late 2008. In the last half of 2009, higher prices for silver and other minerals raised hopes, and by the end of 2010 exploration efforts increased and the Coeur side of the Galena Mine reopened in early 2011. Mining employment was back to 520. The three richest silver mines in the United States are in Shoshone County.

Shoshone County is developing its tourism sector. In 1990, the world's longest gondola opened, running from



Kellogg to the Silver Mountain ski area. In 2008, Silver Mountain Resort broke ground on an 18-hole golf course and opened an indoor water park. Just two years later Silver Rapids was named one of the top 10 water parks in the nation. Wallace's charming and historic downtown draws many travelers off Interstate 90. Lookout Pass, a ski area along the interstate near the Montana border, doubled employment in the last few years. Hikers, bicyclists and snowmobilers are increasingly exploring the county's hundreds of miles of trails. The ski areas, tourist facilities, lodging, restaurants and bars employ about 400.

Labor Force	July 11	July 12
Civilian Labor Force	6,182	6,418
Total Employment	5,283	5,646
Unemployed	899	772
% of Labor Force Unemployed	14.5	12.0
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	5,741	5,441	5,454	5,475	5,604	5,537	5,842	6,205	6,206	6,071	6,139
Unemployment	690	653	646	504	405	342	289	486	774	866	843
% of Labor Force Unemployed	12.0	12.0	11.8	9.2	7.2	6.2	4.9	7.8	12.5	14.3	13.7
Employment	5,052	4,789	4,808	4,971	5,198	5,195	5,553	5,719	5,432	5,204	5,295

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2011



## Economic Development

In the early 1980s, Shoshone County was one of Idaho's three most prosperous counties. More than 20 years of high unemployment made it the third poorest by 2003. Fortunately, rising employment and wages over the last few years have helped the county regain some of its former luster. According to U.S. Census Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, the county's median household income grew 31 percent between 2003 and 2008. But median household income fell nearly 9 percent from 2008 to 2009. As silver prices and production gained traction in 2010, median household income rose nearly 3 percent in 2010. The Silver Valley Economic Development Corp. is adamant about expanding and diversifying the economy.

### Major Employers

Dave Smith Motors
Galena Mine (operated by US Silver)
Lookout Pass Ski Area
Lucky Friday Mine (operated by Hecla Mining Corp.)
Shoshone Medical Center
Silver Mountain Resort
United Mine Services
Wal-Mart

### Occupational Wages\*

### Starting Wage

Assemblers	\$7.25
Bookkeepers	\$8.75
Carpenters, Journey-level	\$16.00
Cashiers	\$6.75
Clerks, General Office	\$7.50
Clerks, Retail	\$7.00
Cooks, Restaurant	\$7.50
Janitors	\$7.75
Laborers, Mine	\$11.80
Miners, Contract	\$16.75
Nurses, Registered	\$18.25
Secretaries, General	\$7.75
Truck Drivers, Heavy	\$13.00

\* 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>	4,246	\$23,579	4,428	\$34,164	4,502	\$37,496
<b>Agriculture</b>	56	\$22,097	57	\$43,468	56	\$45,180
<b>Mining</b>	502	\$39,484	539	\$70,828	657	\$77,309
<b>Construction</b>	167	\$24,984	164	\$30,789	163	\$39,289
<b>Manufacturing</b>	220	\$24,100	214	\$32,678	185	\$33,978
<b>Trade, Utilities &amp; Transportation</b>	892	\$22,564	1,073	\$30,448	1,118	\$31,819
<b>Information</b>	58	\$23,299	41	\$30,299	41	\$31,903
<b>Financial Activities</b>	78	\$19,208	146	\$22,100	139	\$22,543
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	277	\$26,541	335	\$42,052	358	\$45,403
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	348	\$17,771	343	\$28,207	334	\$27,691
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	442	\$7,982	405	\$12,086	395	\$12,357
<b>Other Services</b>	106	\$14,221	78	\$24,293	73	\$25,682
<b>Government</b>	1,099	\$25,491	1,033	\$29,877	983	\$31,069

Per Capita Income	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>Shoshone County</b>	\$20,586	\$21,870	\$23,567	\$25,995	\$26,312	\$26,985	\$29,276	\$30,648	\$29,611	\$31,825
<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



This county is served by the office listed below:  
 Idaho Department of Labor  
 35 Wildcat Way  
 Kellogg, ID 83837-2392 Ph: (208) 783-1202

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