



Jerome County

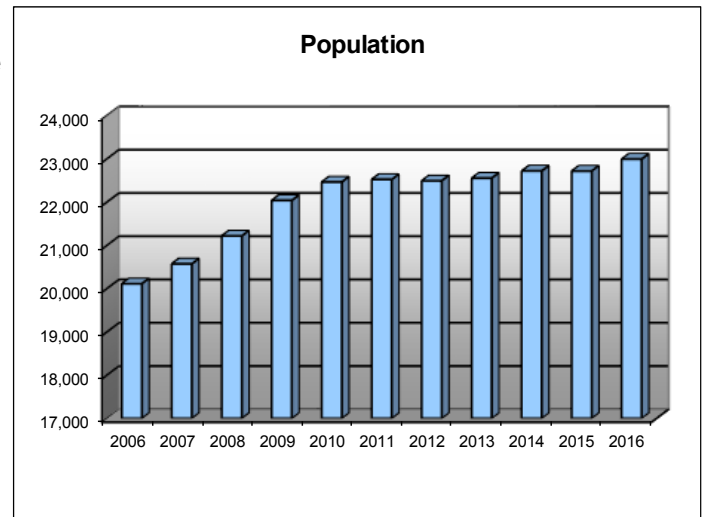
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Workforce Trends

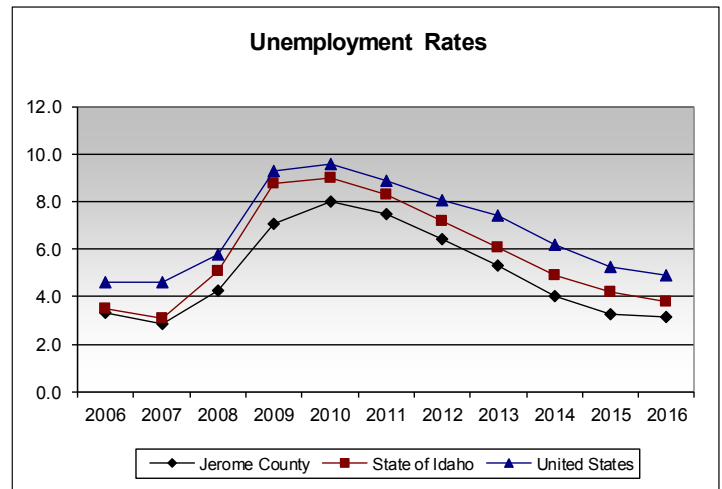
Population

Jerome County's population grew 1.2 percent from 2015. It rose 14.3 percent from 20,111 in 2006 to 22,994 in 2016—in response to strong economic and infrastructure development. Jerome is the county seat and by far the largest city at 11,184. Hilex Poly, a plastic grocery bag manufacturer, 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 force driving the local economy, drawing feeder businesses such as Agropur, previously known as Jerome Cheese, Darigold and Commercial Creamery. Old Hickory Sheds filled the former Con Paulos auto dealership while new schools and a new senior center were constructed during the Great Recession. Pre-recession, affordable housing also grew and commercial interests sought locations close to the interstate and highway systems. Most recent construction for community services includes a \$12.1 million new jail, waste water infrastructure improvements judicially confirmed after voters denied the bond request—a \$35.8 million investment and the Jerome School District is expanding and improving as enrollment grows.



Labor Force & Employment

Seasonally adjusted unemployment in Jerome County was falling prior to the recession similar to the state. Unemployment dropped from a high of 6.3 percent in 1998 to a low of 2.9 percent in 2007, driven by economic diversification, development and growth in the dairy industry. The Great Recession sent unemployment higher, but the rate was still well below the record levels of 1983, when it hit 10.5 percent. While dairy has provided many stable jobs, it remains a volatile commodity. The end of 2013 realized record high milk prices while most food processors either automated or expanded lines. Across the board, ag prices have dropped in 2016 and are expected to stay low with the strong dollar and higher production domestically and abroad. The economic outlook remains optimistic with continued development of the Crossroads Point Business

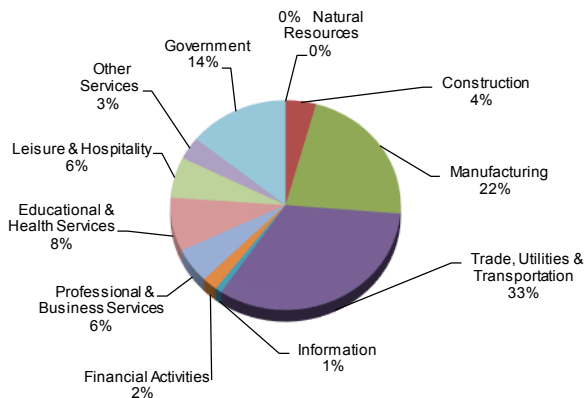


Labor Force	Dec 16	Dec 17
Civilian Labor Force	11,692	11,992
Total Employment	11,321	11,683
Unemployed	372	309
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.2	2.6
State of Idaho % Unemployed	3.6	2.9
U.S. % Unemployed	4.7	4.1

Center, which currently includes a Comfort Inn hotel, a Federal Express office, Idaho Wind Partners, Fastenal, a Subway sandwich shop, the Heritage Office Complex, B & N Machine, Freightliner of Idaho, Rush Truck Center and Valley-Wide Co-op. Hilex Poly expanded to the tune of \$6.5 million expansion creating 45 new jobs in 2016. There are plans to remake the downtown and new companies are interested in the area due to its growth and younger demographics.

Labor Force	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Civilian Labor Force	10,204	9,827	9,966	10,448	11,020	11,107	10,974	10,957	11,121	11,493	11,582
Unemployment	336	281	425	742	886	833	705	582	445	379	361
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.3	2.9	4.3	7.1	8.0	7.5	6.4	5.3	4.0	3.3	3.1
Employment	9,867	9,546	9,541	9,705	10,135	10,274	10,270	10,375	10,677	11,114	11,220

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2016



Major Employers	
Aardema Dairy	Progressive Logistics
Arlo G. Lott Trucking, Inc.	Rite Stuff Foods
Double A Dairy	Si-Ellen Farms
Hilex Poly	Spears Manufacturing
Hutch Management	St. Luke's Jerome
Jerome Cheese	Standlee Hay Co
Millenkamp Cattle	Wal-Mart

Wages & Income

Jerome County's per capita income nearly doubled the pace of the state over the last decade advancing 24.2 percent. From 2015 to 2016, the per capita income reflected a decrease of 2.5 percent from 2015 to \$36,275 and dropping its ranking to 22nd among the other 44 counties. The dairy industry continues to experience workforce challenges but demand from the new Chobani Greek yogurt plant in Twin Falls county and expansions at most other dairy processors has cut back on export dependency. The high dollar has slowed most exports abroad but companies in Jerome are establishing new markets for their goods in the Pacific Rim.

From 2015, total covered average employment dropped about 1 percent compared to wage growth of 2.3 percent. Manufacturing employment increased 3.2 percent while wages were flat. Other services had the highest growth rate at 5.5 percent. Construction continues to struggle with a 5.4 percent decrease from 2015. Over the decade, professional and business services jobs realized the strongest average employment growth of all sectors at 47 percent, expanded by 47 percent.

South Central Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Elementary Teachers	\$30,730	\$45,120
Secondary Teachers	\$35,790	\$43,860
Teacher Assistants	\$17,190	\$21,990
Registered nurses	\$22.07	\$28.72
Janitors and cleaners	\$8.95	\$12.59
Medical secretaries	\$13.79	\$15.56
Bookkeepers	\$11.78	\$17.87
Cashiers	\$8.34	\$9.27
Landscapers	\$10.26	\$15.36
Maintenance mechanics	\$15.43	\$25.33
Food batchmakers	\$12.02	\$16.46
Extruding machine operators	\$10.63	\$14.66
Construction laborers	\$11.08	\$13.64
Ag workers, farm/ranch animals	\$8.27	\$9.74
Crop/nursery/greenhouse workers	\$8.93	\$11.65

* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at mi.idaho.gov.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2006, 2015 & 2016	2006		2015		2016	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Employment & Wages	8,329	\$26,675	9,973	\$34,616	9,885	\$35,418
Agriculture	1,858	\$24,418	2,695	\$32,793	2,612	\$34,876
Mining	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Construction	448	\$26,781	314	\$42,208	297	\$39,525
Manufacturing	1,207	\$28,884	1,569	\$39,203	1,620	\$39,258
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	2,240	\$29,485	2,500	\$37,946	2,405	\$38,840
Information	77	\$39,620	67	\$43,397	65	\$49,072
Financial Activities	209	\$27,957	157	\$29,313	154	\$30,854
Professional and Business Services	262	\$25,461	371	\$40,689	385	\$39,801
Educational and Health Services	439	\$29,274	596	\$32,371	606	\$31,535
Leisure and Hospitality	448	\$10,909	457	\$13,795	463	\$14,592
Other Services	175	\$21,910	234	\$33,646	247	\$34,589
Government	965	\$27,697	1,016	\$30,749	1,031	\$31,607

Per Capita Income	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Jerome County	\$29,197	\$29,775	\$25,822	\$28,706	\$31,138	\$32,574	\$34,106	\$37,047	\$37,195	\$36,275
State of Idaho	\$32,580	\$33,031	\$31,436	\$31,726	\$33,296	\$34,695	\$35,720	\$37,186	\$38,848	\$39,470
United States	\$39,821	\$41,082	\$39,376	\$40,277	\$42,461	\$44,282	\$44,493	\$46,494	\$48,451	\$49,246

Information provided by Bureau of Economic Analysis



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