



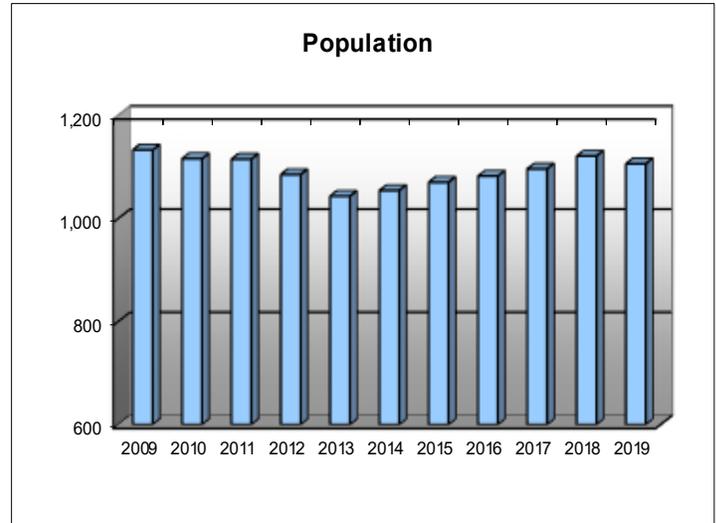
# Camas County

September 2020

## Workforce Trends

### Population

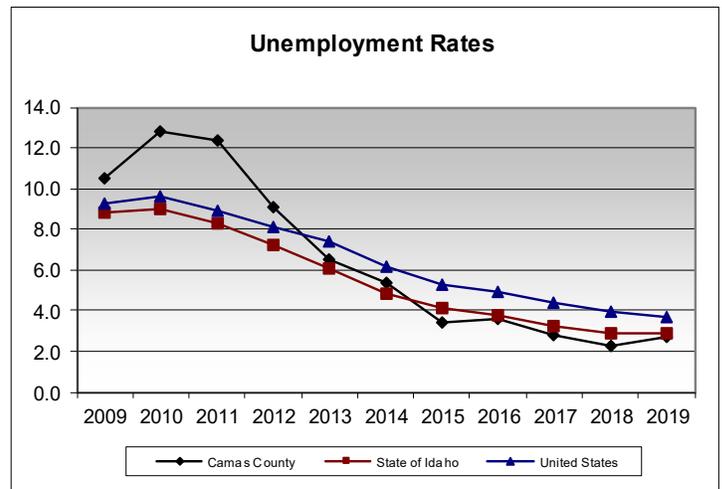
Camas County's population declined 2.4% over the last ten years. The 2019 population is estimated at 1,106, down 1.3% from 2018 losing 15 residents. It is the second least-populated county in Idaho but contains some of the most beautiful and rugged scenery. At an elevation of 5,069 feet, Camas County offers recreational opportunities from fishing, hunting, skiing and snowmobiling to camping and golfing. Fairfield, the county seat and only major town with a population of 395 is at the foot of vertical Soldier Mountain with a summit elevation of 7,177 feet. The distance from population centers and the interstate limit its development. Consequently, the outlook is for flat to slight growth, dependent on tourism and communities recovery in nearby Sun Valley—hurt by the Great Recession and now the COVID-19 crisis.



### Labor Force & Employment

The unemployment rate in Camas County has been on a roller coaster for the last decade with pre-COVID-19 bringing record low levels. The indicator follows the national economy's lead with even greater volatility compared to contiguous counties. The civilian labor force is so small that minor adjustments translate into wide swings in the rate. The labor force has grown 16% since 2009.

Most workers are in government, education, agriculture or trade industries. Commuters to Blaine County take higher-wage jobs in landscaping and construction with seasonal swings that track the tourism economy. During the winter, Soldier Mountain Ski Resort employment jumps significantly while demand for farm labor is high in the summer and fall. The major crops are hay, dry land wheat and bar-

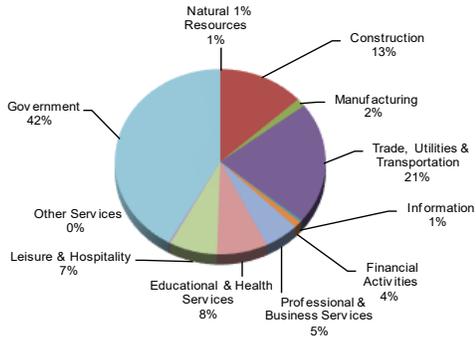


Labor Force	Aug 19	Aug 20
Civilian Labor Force	699	719
Total Employment	678	693
Unemployed	21	26
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.0	3.6
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.9	4.2
U.S. % Unemployed	3.7	8.4

ley. Cattle ranches also dot the Camas Prairie alongside hunting reserves. The local economy has diversified somewhat with transportation, manufacturing and service jobs. Camp Rainbow Gold, known for hosting summer camps for kids with cancer, is reinventing Soldier Mountain's privately held golf resort. The distance from Interstate-84 and the high percentage of federal land in the county puts it at a disadvantage for economic growth spurts.

Labor Force	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Civilian Labor Force	598	643	639	668	634	631	648	659	682	688	695
Unemployment	63	82	79	61	41	34	22	24	19	16	19
% of Labor Force Unemployed	10.5	12.8	12.4	9.1	6.5	5.4	3.4	3.6	2.8	2.3	2.7
Employment	535	561	560	607	593	597	626	635	663	672	676

# Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2019



## Major Employers

Camas Creek Country Store Inc.  
 Camas County  
 Camas County School District  
 Double G LLC  
 Ecolab Inc.  
 High Country Fusion  
 Kimco Corp  
 Soldier Mountain Ski Area  
 US Forest Service

## Wages & Income

Per capita income increased 6.3 percent in Camas County from 2017 to 2018. The county's per capita income ranks 21st amongst the 44 counties, a significant drop from 2013 and 2014 when it ranked 7th. High Country Fusion, a division of Consolidated Pipe & Supply, is one of the largest private employers—designing piping and fittings for myriad industries around the globe.

Covered employment and its wages did not experience growth, much of which is attributed to non-economic changes such as companies coded in the wrong county or industry. Overall, this small county had flat growth but covered wages are higher in this county than the other regional counties. The COVID-19 response hit schools and restaurants hardest but several restaurants in Fairfield responded with take-out service. The area's economic health is dependent on a strong economy in the surrounding counties and nationally. The next

South Central Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks	\$10.60	\$19.29
Cashiers	\$8.96	\$10.99
Construction Labors	\$10.45	\$14.79
Landscaping & Groundskeeping Workers	\$11.43	\$15.96
Teachers, Elementary	\$33,645	\$52,710
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$10.65	\$16.50
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	\$15.70	\$19.99

\* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at <https://lmi.idaho.gov/oes>

year will be economically tough for all areas associated with tourism and agriculture.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2009, 2018 & 2019	2009		2018		2019	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
<b>Total Covered Wages</b>	431	\$32,083	361	\$52,521	317	\$49,489
<b>Agriculture</b>	47	\$32,479	38	\$45,901	37	\$46,486
<b>Mining</b>	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
<b>Construction</b>	40	\$42,082	40	\$49,962	38	\$57,737
<b>Manufacturing</b>	**	**	**	**	**	**
<b>Trade, Utilities &amp; Transportation</b>	105	\$43,254	113	\$79,206	60	\$92,156
<b>Information</b>	0	\$0	**	**	**	**
<b>Financial Activities</b>	9	\$64,320	**	\$33,656	**	**
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	53	\$24,183	13	\$63,555	15	\$53,177
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	14	\$10,730	19	\$37,091	22	\$36,591
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	38	\$10,886	8	\$11,224	19	\$8,616
<b>Other Services</b>	**	**	**	**	**	**
<b>Government</b>	121	\$29,996	118	\$35,133	117	\$35,130

Per Capita Income	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Camas County</b>	\$29,673	\$26,940	\$31,355	\$36,477	\$41,250	\$41,709	\$42,218	\$36,507	\$36,314	\$38,600
<b>State of Idaho</b>	\$31,186	\$31,957	\$33,515	\$35,188	\$36,200	\$37,896	\$39,857	\$40,670	\$42,094	\$43,901
<b>United States</b>	\$39,284	\$40,546	\$42,735	\$44,599	\$44,851	\$47,058	\$48,978	\$49,870	\$51,885	\$54,446

Information provided by Bureau Economic Analysis

**IDAHO**  
 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
 BRAD LITTLE, GOVERNOR  
 JANI REVIER, DIRECTOR

This county is served by the office listed below:  
 Idaho Department of Labor  
 141 Citation Way Suite 7  
 Hailey, ID 83333 Ph: (208) 788-3526

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

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