



Gooding County

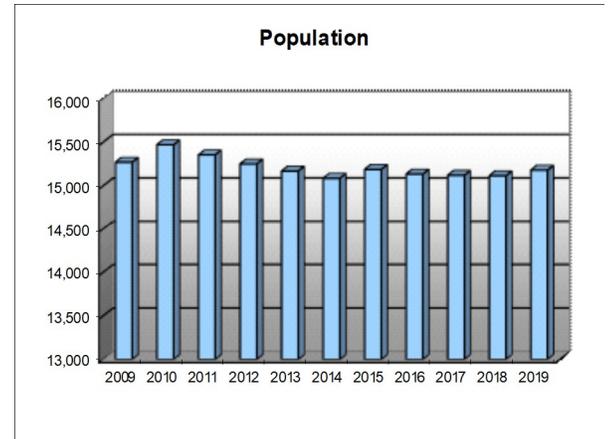
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Workforce Trends

Population

Gooding County's population lost ground since 2009 when there were 15,270 residents compared to 15,179 for 2019. This is an uptick of .4% or 63 people since 2018. Restructuring at the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind between 2003 and 2006 took its toll, as did the Great Recession. The ebb and flow of dairy prices in 2009, the last few years and during this current COVID-19 crisis caused some dairies to sell out to larger dairies. It depends on the food service industry with demand driven by restaurants and institutions such as universities. With these sources closed, some dairies started dumping milk rather than incur transportation costs when they are already below the breakeven point. A retooling of packaging lines is impractical and expensive so dairy farmers are waiting for the federal government to purchase its excess commodities for food banks. Gooding County is the state's dairy leader producing over \$620 million in sales from milk production previously. The industry has converted typically migrant, seasonal workers into permanent residents—an estimated third of the population

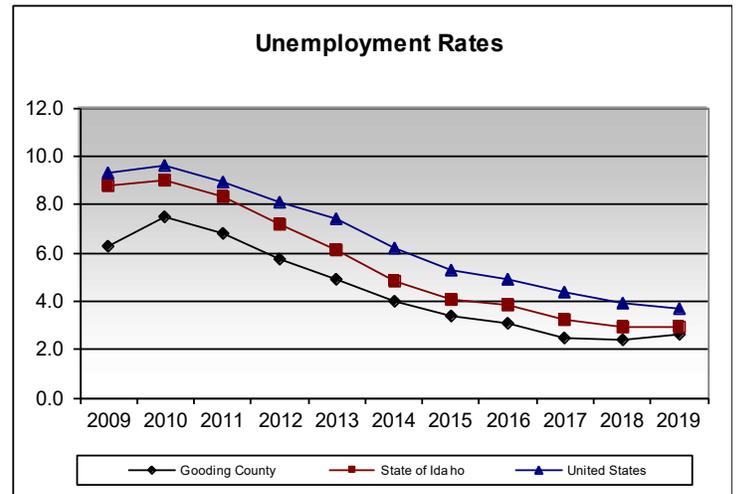


is of Hispanic ethnicity. The county seat and largest town is Gooding at 3,446 residents in 2019. Wendell, coined the Hub City due to its central location, is the second largest town at 2,714.

Labor Force & Employment

The civilian labor force declined 1.9% since 2009, down 150 workers with 1.5% growth since 2018. Gains have been recent. The unemployment rate fluctuates but remains well below state and national rates—with three years of record lows. Those that choose to live in Gooding tend to have established work or have retired and are aging in place.

Dairy and cheese processing plants provide stable year-round employment. 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 shuttering during the recession. Its space was filled by Wel Companies, a logistics and warehousing company, later sold to Glanbia. Residents continue to commute to Blaine County which has higher-paying landscaping and construction jobs. These jobs were scarce in

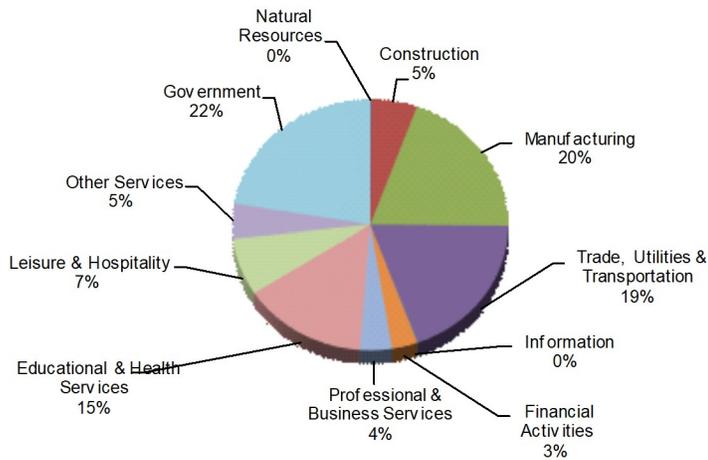


the economic downturn despite the needs of estates, second homes and hotels in Sun Valley and Ketchum. A growing charter school competes for students. Glanbia, with cheese and whey plants regionally located, is a large-scale buyer of milk and an innovative business leader in pre-treatment of its waste water. The outlook for labor force growth is flat to slow growth, after five years of thin growth. The closure of dairies will ripple through the community taking its toll.

Labor Force	Aug 19	Aug 20
Civilian Labor Force	8,281	8,397
Total Employment	8,053	8,132
Unemployed	228	265
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.8	3.2
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.9	4.2
U.S. % Unemployed	3.7	8.4

Labor Force	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Civilian Labor Force	8,380	8,496	8,355	8,093	8,033	7,984	7,982	8,012	8,021	8,096	8,222
Unemployment	523	634	565	462	395	318	272	246	199	198	217
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.2	7.5	6.8	5.7	4.9	4.0	3.4	3.1	2.5	2.4	2.6
Employment	7,857	7,862	7,790	7,631	7,638	7,666	7,710	7,766	7,822	7,898	8,005

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2019



Wages & Income

Income generated from dairies, value-added manufacturing, along with crop and ag support industry have combined to surge Gooding County's growth in per capita income by 92% since 2009. It ranks highest in growth since 2009 among Idaho's 44 counties and third in size of its per capita income in 2018. It was the only county that experienced a decrease from 2017, due in large part to dairy losses. Gooding's per capita income is 120% of the state's average and 97% of the national per capita income.

Covered job growth was flat over both the decade and since 2018, up .4% for both time periods—only 25 new jobs netted in 10 years. Covered wages grew 1.8% from 2018 with a heftier 25% rise since 2009. North Canyon Medical Center reorganized from a government entity to private ownership in 2019 resulting in 78% increase for health care employment and 50% wage increase. Construction jobs continue to recover, short 30% of pre-recession highs.

Major Employers

Bettencourt Dairies	Helena Chemical Company
Box Canyon Dairy	Idaho State School for Deaf & Blind
Clear Springs Food	Jack Verbree Jr. Dairy
D & D Transportation	Jesus Hurtado Dairy
Glanbia N.A.	Magic Valley Growers
Gooding City	North Canyon Medical Center
Gooding County	Scarraw Dairy Farm
Gooding School District	Wendell School District

South Central Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Cashiers	\$8.96	\$10.99
Child, Family, & School Social Workers	\$17.77	\$24.47
Construction Labor	\$10.45	\$14.79
Farmworkers, Farm & Ranch Animals	\$8.97	\$12.66
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$18.94	\$25.05
Packaging & Filling Machine Operators	\$12.58	\$16.35
Receptionists & Information Clerks	\$16.35	\$12.65
Registered Nurses	\$23.14	\$31.54
Substance Abuse & Mental Health Counselors	\$16.34	\$23.77
Teacher, Secondary	\$36,831	\$48,703
Teachers, Elementary	\$33,645	\$52,710
Waiters & Waitresses	\$8.48	\$9.24

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

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
Total Covered Wages	6,085	\$29,650	6,088	\$36,538	6,110	\$37,190
Agriculture	2,101	\$27,787	1,893	\$35,316	1,815	\$36,415
Mining	**	**	**	**	**	**
Construction	216	\$28,248	210	\$37,412	230	\$36,692
Manufacturing	743	\$43,604	862	\$50,614	850	\$49,221
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	833	\$31,193	803	\$35,659	829	\$36,376
Information	**	**	**	**	**	**
Financial Activities	104	\$30,449	136	\$42,562	123	\$45,090
Professional and Business Services	198	\$33,759	173	\$49,839	163	\$50,806
Educational and Health Services	351	\$26,683	356	\$24,774	631	\$37,040
Leisure and Hospitality	292	\$9,713	306	\$12,613	318	\$12,815
Other Services	137	\$40,728	192	\$46,339	192	\$46,562
Government	1,101	\$27,069	1,156	\$34,165	954	\$31,917

Per Capita Income	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Gooding County	\$27,589	\$36,527	\$43,492	\$46,018	\$48,801	\$58,373	\$52,688	\$53,588	\$53,995	\$52,875
State of Idaho	\$31,186	\$31,957	\$33,515	\$35,188	\$36,200	\$37,896	\$39,857	\$40,670	\$42,094	\$43,901
United States	\$39,284	\$40,546	\$42,735	\$44,599	\$44,851	\$47,058	\$48,978	\$49,870	\$51,885	\$54,446

Information provided by Bureau of Economic Analysis

This county is served by the office listed below:
 Idaho Department of Labor—Magic Valley
 420 Falls Avenue
 Twin Falls, ID 83301-5129 Ph: (208) 735-2500

labor.idaho.gov

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 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
 BRAD LITTLE, GOVERNOR
 JANI REVIER, DIRECTOR

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