

Jerome County

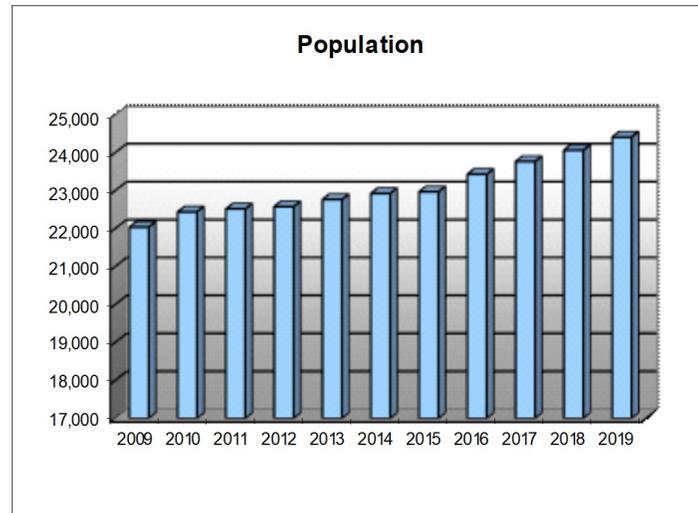
IDAHO
DEPT. OF LABOR

September 2020

Workforce Trends

Population

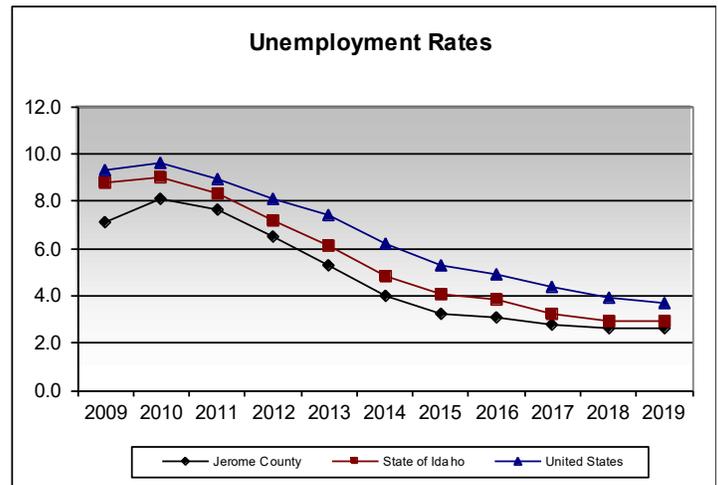
Jerome County's population is 24,412 in 2019 and grew 1.4% from 2018—solid growth but not record breaking. It rose 10.8% from 2009 to 2019. Jerome is the county seat and by far the largest city at 11,994. Jerome's population characteristics include high levels of work ethic to meet the needs of its concentration of manufacturing. Novolex, a plastic grocery bag manufacturer, and Idaho Milk Products, a state-of-the-art milk processing plant, are examples of the newer companies to Jerome needing workers with research, trouble-shooting and critical thinking skills. The dairy industry continues to be a driving force in the local economy, drawing feeder businesses such as Agropur, previously known as Jerome Cheese, Darigold, Commercial Creamery and Magic Valley Quality Milk Producers that built a condensing plant in 2019. 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 recently, 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 facilities and improving learning opportunities to follow enrollment growth.

Labor Force & Employment

Unemployment in Jerome County was falling prior to the recession moving 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 production and value-added 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 the dairy industry 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 over the last three years. The COVID-19 crisis has made it worse decimating the food service market domestically and exports may also be hurt. The economic outlook was strong with continued development of the Crossroads Point Business Center including a commitment to build the education center for the University of Idaho Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environ-

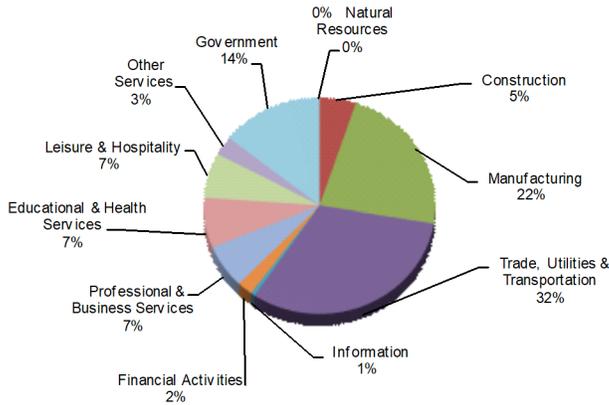


ment. It is unclear how COVID-19 will impact any plans that include Idaho universities going forward as most are experiencing severe deficits and struggling to ensure distance learning is a strong option for Idaho students, especially during times of social distancing. Dairies are dumping milk and while it is believed that this situation is temporary, the domestic and global markets for agriculture products are uncertain.

Labor Force	Aug 19	Aug 20
Civilian Labor Force	12,192	12,458
Total Employment	11,882	12,066
Unemployed	310	392
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.5	3.1
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	10,448	11,005	11,031	10,878	10,829	11,172	11,336	11,366	11,637	11,977	12,199
Unemployment	742	886	833	705	579	442	367	358	329	310	315
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.1	8.1	7.6	6.5	5.3	4.0	3.2	3.1	2.8	2.6	2.6
Employment	9,705	10,119	10,198	10,173	10,250	10,730	10,969	11,008	11,308	11,667	11,884

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2019



Wages & Income

Jerome County's per capita income level ranked 23rd statewide. From 2017 to 2018, per capita income grew by 4% to \$38,184, ranking 24th in percentage growth among Idaho's 44 counties. It grew 50 percent since 2009 yet is 87% of the state's per capita income and 70% of the nation's per capita income.

From 2018, covered employment grew by 1.1% while wages grew by 4.1%—indicators of a tight labor market and more higher skilled jobs in the Magic Valley. In 2019, manufacturing employment and wages both reported an uptick of 3%. Construction reported 9% employment growth with wage growth up 7%. Construction employment maintain lower levels than pre-recession with another 13% growth to regain record levels. Over the decade, wages are up almost 34% or \$10,000 while employment is up almost 18% or 1,574. Agriculture and manufacturing added the highest share to the employment spurt. Location on I-84, work ethic and waste water capacity bode well for Jerome's positive outlook.

Major Employers

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

South Central Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	\$10.60	\$19.29
Cashiers	\$8.96	\$10.99
Construction Labor	\$10.45	\$14.79
Teachers, Elementary	\$33,645	\$52,710
Farmworkers & Laborers - Crop	\$10.17	\$11.47
Farmworkers, Farm & Ranch Animals	\$8.97	\$12.66
Food Batchmakers	\$12.88	\$17.35
Janitors and Cleaners	\$9.90	\$13.50
Landscaping & Groundskeeping Workers	\$11.43	\$15.96
Maintenance Workers, Machinery	\$15.18	\$19.40
Medical Secretaries	\$12.52	\$16.28
Registered Nurses	\$23.14	\$31.54
Teachers, Secondary	\$36,831	\$48,703

* 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 2009, 2018 & 2019	2009		2018		2019	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Employment & Wages	8,905	\$29,712	10,369	\$38,124	10,479	\$39,704
Agriculture	2,149	\$28,738	2,846	\$37,759	2,896	\$39,184
Mining	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Construction	338	\$39,890	354	\$39,799	387	\$42,580
Manufacturing	1,285	\$32,587	1,657	\$44,725	1,711	\$46,037
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	2,392	\$31,873	2,368	\$41,429	2,424	\$43,029
Information	80	\$35,522	58	\$50,094	43	\$56,008
Financial Activities	203	\$24,445	167	\$31,424	161	\$35,615
Professional and Business Services	255	\$31,580	470	\$43,140	498	\$45,177
Educational and Health Services	509	\$31,110	617	\$31,565	561	\$36,975
Leisure and Hospitality	459	\$12,209	505	\$15,363	510	\$15,638
Other Services	188	\$22,256	279	\$40,689	214	\$29,792
Government	1,047	\$28,403	1,048	\$32,954	1,074	\$34,737

Per Capita Income	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Jerome County	\$25,468	\$28,815	\$31,010	\$32,623	\$34,009	\$37,126	\$37,130	\$36,656	\$36,699	\$38,184
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

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