



# Shoshone County

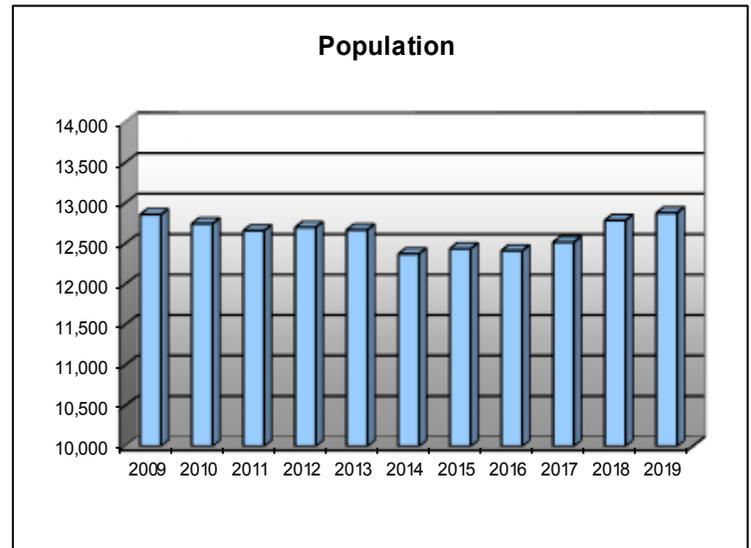
September 2020

## Workforce 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 2009 to 2019, the population grew 0.2 percent from 12,862 to 12,882 while Idaho's population grew 15 percent and the U.S. population grew 7 percent.

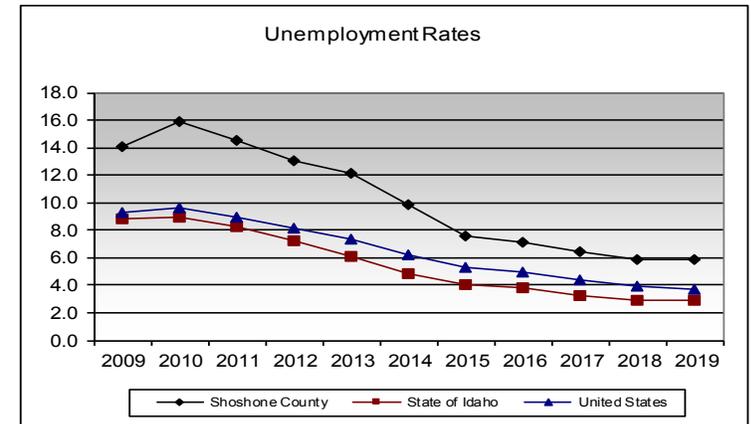
The county seat, Wallace, has a population of 782 in 2019. The largest cities are Kellogg with a population of 2,136, Pinehurst at 1,626 and Osburn at 1,556.



### 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 782 in 2015. However, workers at the Lucky Friday mine have been on strike for most of 2017 reducing mining employment around 480. The three richest silver mines in the United States are in Shoshone County.

Shoshone County is developing its tourism sector. In

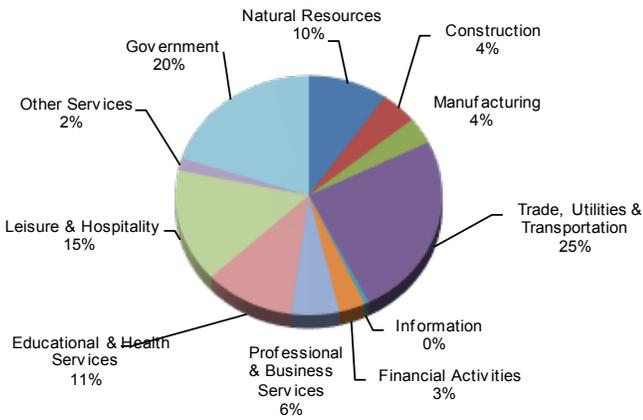


1990, the world's longest gondola opened, running from Kellogg to the Silver Mountain ski area. In 2008, Silver Mountain Resort broke ground on an 18-hole golf course and opened an indoor water park. Just two years later Silver Rapids was named one of the top 10 water parks in the nation. Wallace's charming 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 600 people, and have attracted new out of state investors.

Labor Force	Aug 19	Aug 20
Civilian Labor Force	5,090	5,391
Total Employment	4,782	5,001
Unemployed	308	390
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.1	7.2
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	6,304	5,488	5,514	5,609	5,493	5,203	5,124	5,126	5,036	5,073	5,143
Unemployment	890	873	799	736	665	517	391	364	320	297	304
% of Labor Force Unemployed	14.1	15.9	14.5	13.1	12.1	9.9	7.6	7.1	6.4	5.9	5.9
Employment	5,414	4,615	4,715	4,873	4,828	4,686	4,733	4,762	4,716	4,776	4,839

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2019



## 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

North Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Assemblers	\$10.37	\$13.68
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks.	\$11.92	\$18.00
Carpenters	\$14.82	\$20.89
Cashiers	\$9.11	\$11.41
Office Clerks, General	\$10.70	\$16.26
Retail Salespersons	\$10.02	\$14.58
Cooks, Restaurant	\$9.35	\$12.83
Janitor & Cleaner	\$9.65	\$12.71
Registered Nurse	\$25.94	\$35.10
Secretaries & Administrative Assistants	\$12.08	\$16.82
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$15.05	\$23.45

\* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at [imi.idaho.gov](http://imi.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
<b>Total Covered Wages</b>	4,577	\$31,620	4,460	\$38,575	4,533	\$37,099
<b>Agriculture</b>	68	\$35,706	17	\$29,757	13	\$23,883
<b>Mining</b>	506	\$60,536	421	\$77,360	425	\$68,656
<b>Construction</b>	238	\$39,670	206	\$57,989	203	\$58,367
<b>Manufacturing</b>	214	\$32,694	144	\$34,249	164	\$34,807
<b>Trade, Utilities &amp; Transportation</b>	1,143	\$29,781	1,190	\$39,191	1,133	\$40,266
<b>Information</b>	41	\$28,944	20	\$53,668	24	\$57,090
<b>Financial Activities</b>	143	\$22,861	147	\$27,055	144	\$26,623
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	277	\$32,137	254	\$39,859	264	\$39,353
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	366	\$26,875	467	\$34,257	496	\$27,116
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	449	\$11,523	665	\$14,692	696	\$14,938
<b>Other Services</b>	86	\$21,884	69	\$45,042	74	\$39,076
<b>Government</b>	1,045	\$29,588	860	\$36,513	898	\$37,017

Per Capita Income	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Shoshone County</b>	\$27,853	\$29,084	\$30,812	\$32,993	\$32,671	\$33,851	\$35,852	\$35,949	\$34,669	\$35,537
<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 of Economic Analysis

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