



South Central Idaho

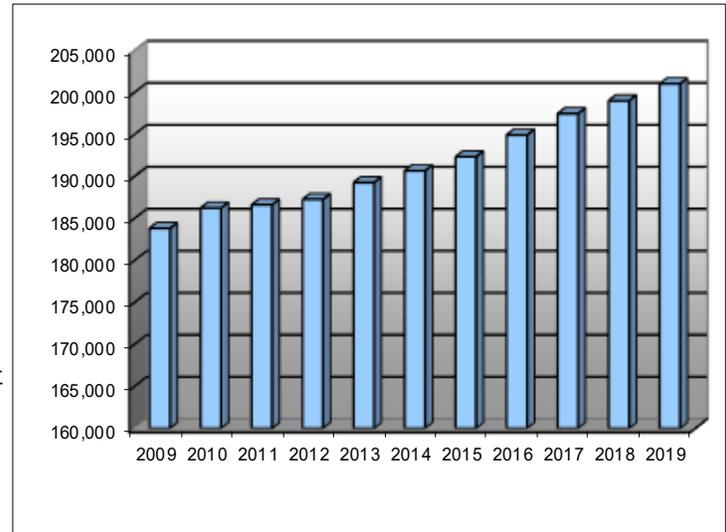
IDAHO
DEPT. OF LABOR

September 2020

Workforce Trends

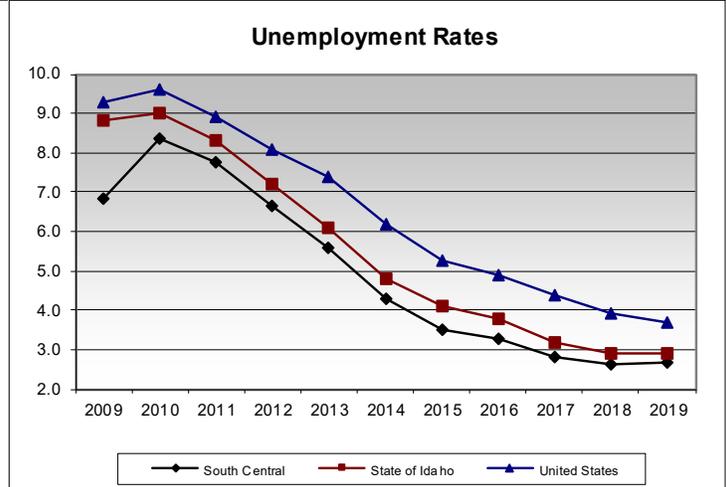
Population

South central Idaho has grown steadily from 183,814 in the eight-county area in 2009 to 201,031 in 2019, an uptick of 9.4 percent or 17,217 residents. The highest growth counties were Twin Falls and Jerome at almost 14% and 11%, respectively. Twin Falls County continues its sixth ranking size-wise among Idaho's 44 counties. Growth is attributed to both in-migration of workers and retirees but supported also by natural increases from births outweighing deaths. Counties located on Interstate 84 have fared better economically in south central Idaho. The Hispanic population estimate is about 49,000—24 percent of the south central population or one in four residents compared to the state at one in ten. Many workers were initially attracted by seasonal farm jobs and since have permanently settled in the region that offers year-round dairy work or service-related jobs with reasonably-priced education for the next generation. The outlook for annual growth is steady. Twin Falls is the eighth largest city at 51,197 in 2019, growing 1% since 2018 and blowing past the 50,000 mark for the first time. Twin Falls and Jerome counties were delineated a Metropolitan Statistical Area after release of the 2010 Census results.



Labor Force & Employment

Employment opportunities slowed in 2009 when the Great Recession impacted south central Idaho. Before then, manufacturing was on the rise with the relocation of national durable manufacturers primarily to the four largest counties with multiple I-84 access—Twin Falls, Jerome, Cassia and Minidoka. The high-volume dairy production kept milk processors and cheese companies in growth mode, attempting to utilize milk capacity. Blaine County was hit the hardest in that monumental downturn, battered by the loss of consumer interest in tourism and second homes. The construction industry is still rebuilding after losing workers and tradesman to retirement and other industries such as health care. Minidoka and Cassia Counties fared the recession by steadily attracting new industry and workforce. Twin Falls' investment in commercial construction continues even after the completion of a \$250 million hospital, the College of Southern Idaho's new LEED-certified Health Science building and an Applied Technology building, a \$450 million Greek yogurt plant, and a new bypass, along with a handful of new hotels. Repurposing Twin Falls and Rupert's downtowns is paying off. Those national retailers announcing closures are seamlessly backfilled. Coveted national franchise restaurants are whetting diners' appetites —Olive Garden opened its doors early in 2019. Clif Bar's first commercial bakery started production June 2016 in Twin Falls after the region gained notoriety with Chobani's 'world's largest Greek yogurt plant'. The College of Southern Idaho, always a leader in the state for accessing post-secondary education and training continues to work closely with Southern Idaho Economic Development. It offers curricula custom-designed for employers, a popular dual-credit program and two-year degrees at one-third the cost of credits at four-year universities. CSI is offering its first bachelor degree program in Food Processing and is partnering with the University of Idaho's Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment—CAFÉ opening in 2023/2024.

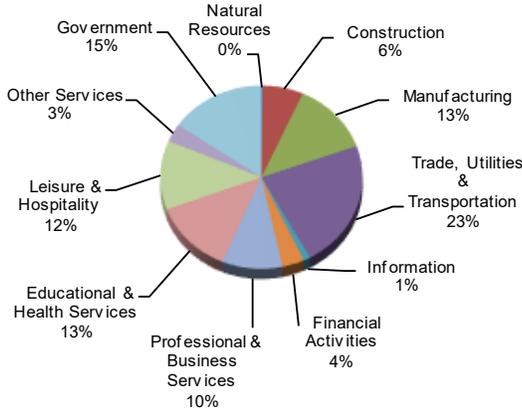


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Labor Force	Aug 19	Aug 20
Civilian Labor Force	101,338	103,789
Total Employment	98,631	99,919
Unemployed	2,707	3,870
South Central % Unemployed	2.7	3.7
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.9	4.2
U.S. % Unemployed	3.7	8.4

Labor Force	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Civilian Labor Force	94,623	93,249	93,486	93,236	93,276	93,997	95,625	96,686	98,086	99,278	101,187
Unemployment	6,486	7,808	7,246	6,182	5,213	4,042	3,365	3,162	2,756	2,584	2,715
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.9	8.4	7.8	6.6	5.6	4.3	3.5	3.3	2.8	2.6	2.7
Employment	88,137	85,441	86,240	87,054	88,063	89,955	92,260	93,524	95,330	96,694	98,472

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2019



Covered Employment & Wages

Per capita income is 12% higher than the state and 10% lower than the nation—up over 50% since 2009 outpacing the state and nation. The region's growth was 4.2% over the year—less than the state and nation. Per capita income in south central Idaho advanced in all counties except for Gooding with its stronghold of dairies and accompanying financial woes. South central Idaho covered wages ranked fifth lowest of the six regions statewide driven by strong service and agricultural sectors with part-time and/or seasonal jobs. Growth in covered wages and average employment since 2009 underperformed the state. The region has the highest percentage of goods producing jobs to service jobs. Many believe the region carries less risk than others that rely heavily on the military, large corporations or government, which all must regularly renew funding or contracts. Covered employment reached a record average high in 2019 topping 91,000. The region is currently adjusting to its new norm after significant job creation yet persistent demand for workforce continues. New schools and homes are popping up with only the smallest counties not capitalizing on the latest economic expansion, including Camas, Gooding and Lincoln counties. The COVID-19 crisis has uprooted growth.

Major Employers

Amalgamated Sugar	Hilex Poly aka Novolex
Bettencourt Dairies	Jerome Cheese aka Agropur
Cassia Regional Medical Center	McCain Foods
C3 CustomerContactChannels	Minidoka Regional Medical Center
Chobani Greek Yogurt	Personnel Plus
Clear Springs Foods	Power Engineers
College of Southern Idaho	Spears Manufacturing, Inc.
Iamb Weston	St. Luke's Regional Medical Center
Glanbia Foods NA	Sun Valley Company
Independent Meat	Wal-Mart

South Central Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	\$10.60	\$19.29
Cashiers	\$8.96	\$10.99
Childcare Workers	\$8.34	\$10.80
Customer Service Representatives	\$10.91	\$15.84
Dental Assistant	\$12.60	\$15.34
Janitors & Cleaners	\$9.90	\$13.50
Laborer & Material Handler	\$11.02	\$15.61
Office Clerks, General	\$10.21	\$15.66
Team Assemblers	\$10.77	\$14.78
Registered Nurses	\$23.14	\$31.54
Retail Salespersons	\$9.78	\$15.32
Teachers, Elementary	\$33,645	\$52,710
Teachers, Secondary	\$36,831	\$48,703
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$10.65	\$16.50

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

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2009, 2018 & 2019	2009		2018		2019	
	Avg Employment	Avg Wages	Avg Employment	Avg Wages	Avg Employment	Avg Wages
Total Covered Wages	78,668	\$29,901	89,904	\$37,466	91,331	\$38,452
Agriculture	9,219	\$27,653	10,667	\$37,147	10,756	\$38,441
Mining	165	\$31,893	172	\$40,682	166	\$40,291
Construction	4,410	\$33,275	5,006	\$42,259	5,245	\$43,171
Manufacturing	7,853	\$37,633	10,145	\$49,038	10,382	\$50,488
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	16,549	\$29,164	18,070	\$38,311	18,210	\$39,255
Information	1,221	\$34,359	915	\$45,245	895	\$46,395
Financial Activities	2,807	\$38,670	2,767	\$48,427	2,797	\$51,909
Professional and Business Services	6,705	\$32,537	7,832	\$38,202	7,800	\$38,418
Educational and Health Services	8,416	\$31,710	10,163	\$38,402	10,496	\$39,958
Leisure and Hospitality	7,458	\$14,948	9,392	\$18,250	9,838	\$18,602
Other Services	2,058	\$25,300	2,469	\$34,278	2,472	\$34,234
Government	11,807	\$31,172	12,309	\$35,986	12,273	\$36,893

Per Capita Income	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
South Central Region	\$32,508	\$34,100	\$37,036	\$39,626	\$41,375	\$44,154	\$45,731	\$45,926	\$47,262	\$49,263
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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