



Southwestern Idaho

September 2020

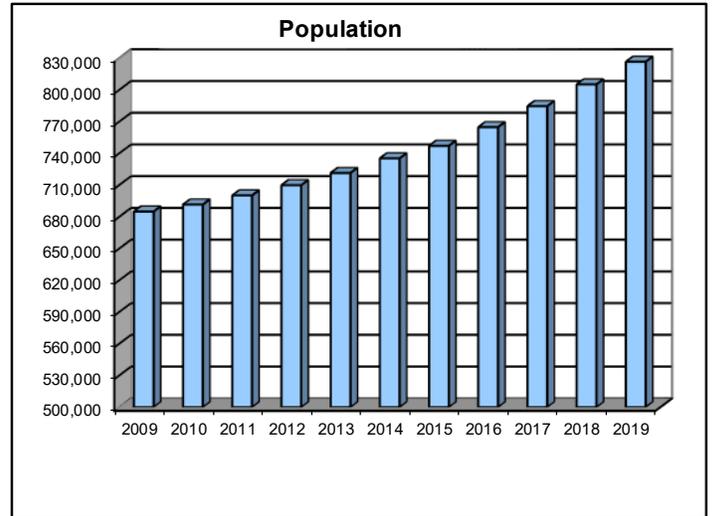
Population

Southwestern Idaho is the largest of the six regions both in area and population at 826,544 in 2019. Its ten counties are geographically and economically diverse. Adams and Valley counties are known for timber and tourism among its rugged mountains and wild rivers while Owyhee County boasts expansive canyon lands and Elmore County has Mountain Home Air Force Base.

2019 population for Ada and Canyon counties is 711,436—almost 40 percent of the state’s population and 86 percent of regional population. Ada is the largest county in the state with 481,587 residents and is home to Boise, Idaho’s capitol and Boise State University. Canyon County’s 2019 population is 229,849 and is comprised of agricultural communities and two top notch private universities. The other eight counties are smaller with natural resource or tourism-driven economies.

The region’s population grew almost 21 percent since 2009 adding 141,621 people—Ada and Canyon comprised 96% of the growth. Since 2018, the region experienced a 2.7 percent uptick.

Workforce Trends

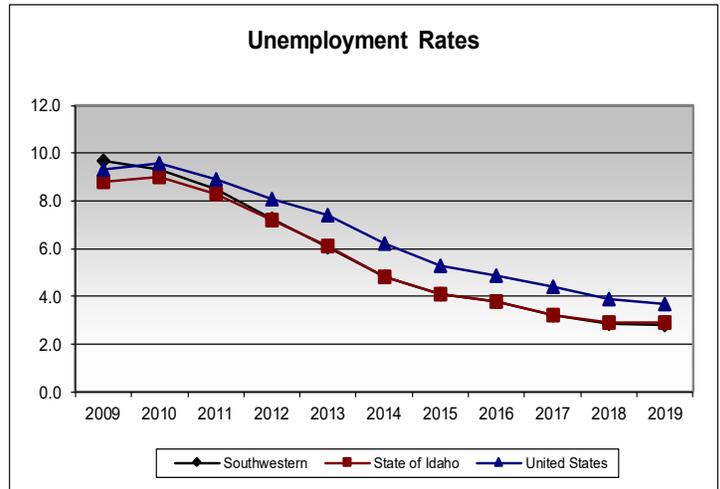


Labor Force & Employment

Southwest Idaho’s labor force grew rapidly in the mid-2000s, dipped during the recession, then continued to grow to 410,981 in 2019.

The region was economically shook by the Great Recession. Due to an exuberant construction industry, unemployment was below 4%—the collapse of the housing bubble rippled through manufacturing and the service industries. By 2010 the number of unemployed had nearly tripled from the 2006 low point. By 2018, the economy had improved to the point that the unemployment rate was lower than pre-recession levels at 2.8 percent and remained unchanged in 2019. Retirees aging in place and leaving states with high housing costs have contributed to a workforce shortage for businesses.

Covered employment in 2019 experienced gains in the region, adding 12,180 jobs to local payrolls. The majority came in the education and health care sector with just over 3,000 jobs. Trade, utilities and transportation followed adding nearly 2,200 jobs. The construction and leisure and hospitality sectors also report significant job growth at 2,000 and 1,800, respectively.

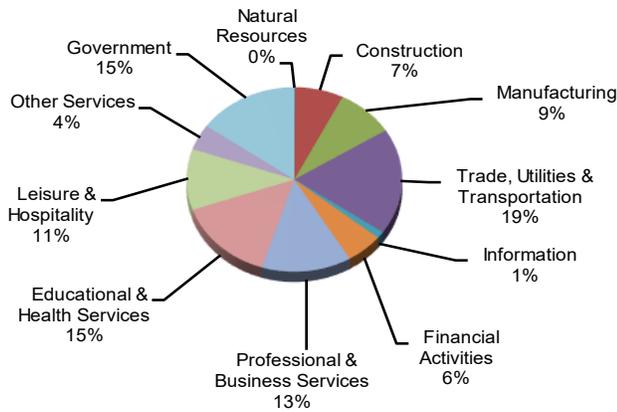


The region as a whole added 82,233 covered jobs since 2009 with only the information sector reporting a decline. Construction had reported jobs losses over the decade but that trend was reversed with job gains of over 11,500. Education and health services had the largest job growth over the decade, adding nearly 15,400 covered jobs since 2009. Other industries experiencing significant job growth over the decade include: construction with 11,500; trade, utilities and transportation with 15,100; and leisure and hospitality with 13,500.

Labor Force	Aug 19	Aug 20
Civilian Labor Force	413,995	420,658
Total Employment	402,051	402,363
Unemployed	11,944	18,295
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.9	4.3
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	330,487	331,283	334,784	339,740	342,484	348,912	357,008	369,041	381,478	396,901	410,981
Unemployment	31,979	30,943	28,430	24,610	20,834	16,864	14,724	13,897	12,224	11,301	11,638
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.7	9.3	8.5	7.2	6.1	4.8	4.1	3.8	3.2	2.8	2.8
Employment	298,508	300,340	306,354	315,130	321,650	332,048	342,284	355,144	369,254	385,600	399,343

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2019



Per Capita Income, Employment & Wages

Southwestern Idaho had a per capita income of \$45,342 in 2018, 3 percent above the state per capita income and 17 percent below the national figure. The region is over \$1,441 over the state's per capita income, continuing more than a decade trend.

Trade, utilities and transportation continue to make up the largest portion, 19 percent, with covered employment of over 67,000. Government and educational and health services employ more than 50,000 each.

The average covered wage has increased by nearly \$1,700 to 46,344. The highest average wage in 2018 was in manufacturing (\$79,463) and the lowest in leisure and hospitality (\$17,696). No sectors experienced a decrease in wages in 2018.

Major Private Employers

Albertsons	Idaho Power
Amalgamated Sugar Co	J R Simplot Co
Blue Cross of Idaho	Fred Meyer
Bogus Basin	Marathon Cheese Corp
Brimdage Mountain	Micron Technology Inc
Citicorp Credit Services	Shore Lodge
Darmondy - McDonalds	Saint Alphonsus Reg Medical Ctr
DirecTV	St Lukes Reg Medical Ctr
Fry Foods	T Mobile
Hewlett Packard Co	Walmart
Idaho Power Co	Woodgrain Millwork

Southwest Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Assemblers & Fabricators	\$10.72	\$14.01
Construction Laborers	\$12.65	\$16.79
Customer Service Representatives	\$12.28	\$16.79
Electricians	\$15.73	\$23.90
Exec Secretaries & Admin Assistants	\$17.43	\$24.82
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	\$10.00	\$11.82
Medical Assistants	\$13.51	\$17.09
Registered Nurse	\$26.79	\$34.33
Retail Salespersons	\$9.48	\$13.88
Structural Metal Fabricators and Fitters	\$16.25	\$20.83
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$15.68	\$22.63
Waiters & Waitresses	\$8.58	\$11.26
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	\$12.96	\$18.31

* 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	273,187	\$36,743	343,240	\$46,360	355,420	\$47,716
Agriculture	6,574	\$23,551	6,809	\$36,181	6,701	\$36,127
Mining	180	\$58,969	267	\$64,162	266	\$61,210
Construction	14,683	\$40,982	24,218	\$46,336	26,199	\$48,323
Manufacturing	24,916	\$55,146	31,363	\$79,467	31,505	\$75,511
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	52,093	\$33,159	65,041	\$43,175	67,234	\$44,959
Information	4,710	\$46,712	4,364	\$54,812	4,328	\$57,650
Financial Activities	13,378	\$44,438	17,029	\$60,917	17,809	\$64,309
Professional and Business Services	39,193	\$39,354	47,866	\$50,076	48,698	\$54,625
Educational and Health Services	37,342	\$38,235	49,699	\$45,916	52,732	\$47,294
Leisure and Hospitality	25,236	\$13,725	36,945	\$17,699	38,773	\$18,557
Other Services	7,519	\$24,152	9,312	\$31,619	10,022	\$33,742
Government	47,364	\$39,197	50,327	\$46,149	51,153	\$47,440

Per Capita Income	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Southwestern Idaho	\$32,496	\$33,172	\$34,453	\$36,136	\$37,228	\$39,137	\$41,078	\$41,951	\$43,489	\$45,342
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