

Idaho's cost of living and affordability impact on the labor force

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- Poverty in Idaho
- Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE)
- Urban and rural divide
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Idaho's tremendous growth

From 2014 to 2024:

- Population growth: **22.6%**
- Employment growth: **32.2%**
- Real median household income growth: **18.7%**
- Real gross domestic product growth: **49.1%**

How is poverty measured?

Poverty threshold by size of family unit and weighted average thresholds per related children under 18 years

Size of family unit	Weighted average thresholds	None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight or more
One person (unrelated individual)	\$ 15,480									
Under 65 years	\$ 15,850	\$ 15,852								
65 years and over	\$ 14,610	\$ 14,614								
Two people	\$ 19,680									
Householder under 65 years	\$ 20,490	\$ 20,404	\$ 21,002							
Householder 65 years and over	\$ 18,430	\$ 18,418	\$ 20,923							
Three people	\$ 24,230	\$ 23,834	\$ 24,526	\$ 24,549						
Four people	\$ 31,200	\$ 31,428	\$ 31,942	\$ 30,900	\$ 31,008					
Five people	\$ 36,990	\$ 37,901	\$ 38,452	\$ 37,275	\$ 36,363	\$ 35,807				
Six people	\$ 41,860	\$ 43,593	\$ 43,766	\$ 42,864	\$ 41,999	\$ 40,714	\$ 39,952			
Seven people	\$ 47,670	\$ 50,159	\$ 50,472	\$ 49,393	\$ 48,640	\$ 47,238	\$ 45,602	\$ 43,808		
Eight people	\$ 52,850	\$ 56,099	\$ 56,594	\$ 55,575	\$ 54,683	\$ 53,416	\$ 51,809	\$ 50,136	\$ 49,710	
Nine people or more	\$ 62,900	\$ 67,483	\$ 67,810	\$ 66,908	\$ 66,151	\$ 64,908	\$ 63,198	\$ 61,651	\$ 61,268	\$ 58,907

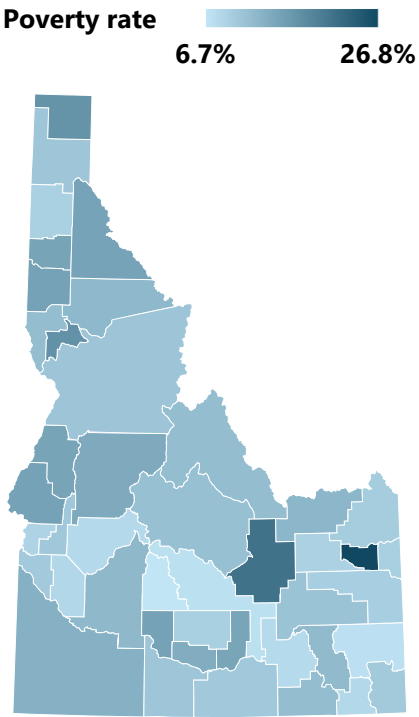
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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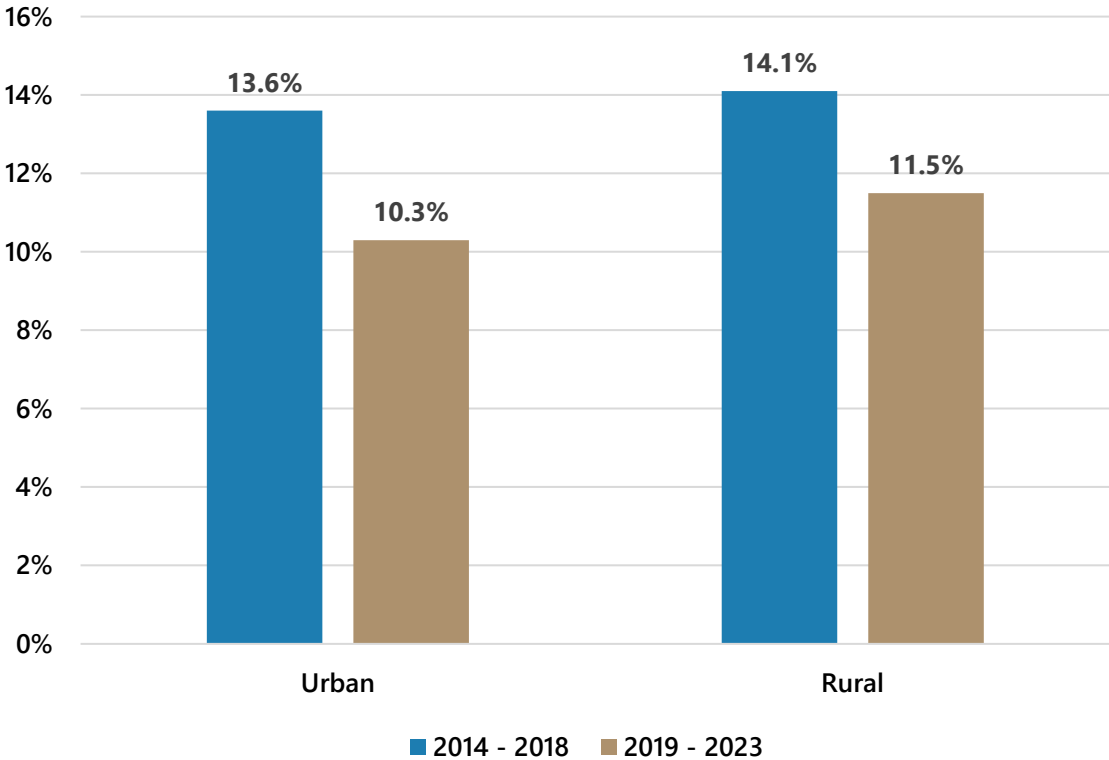
Poverty rate in Idaho

Percentage of households below the poverty level by Idaho county



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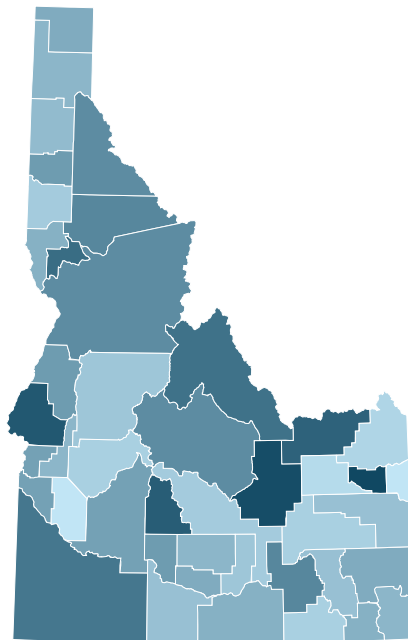
Poverty rates by urban and rural counties in Idaho



Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE)

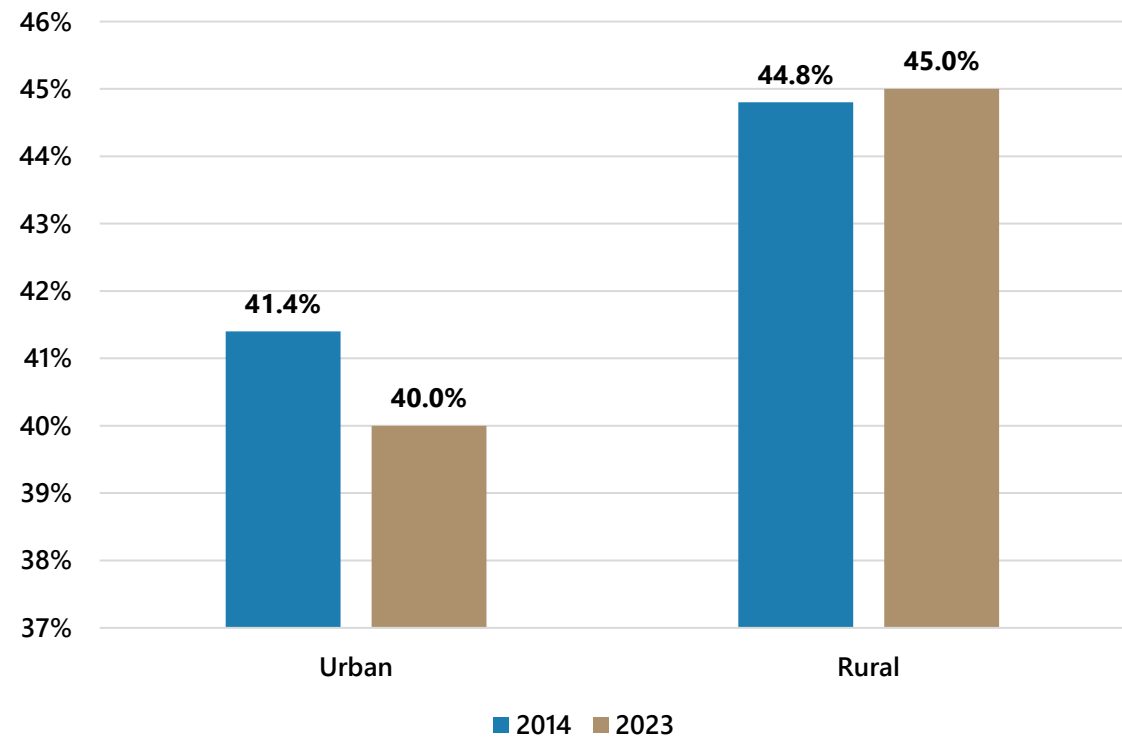
Percentage of households below ALICE threshold by Idaho county

Percentage of households below ALICE threshold 34% 64%

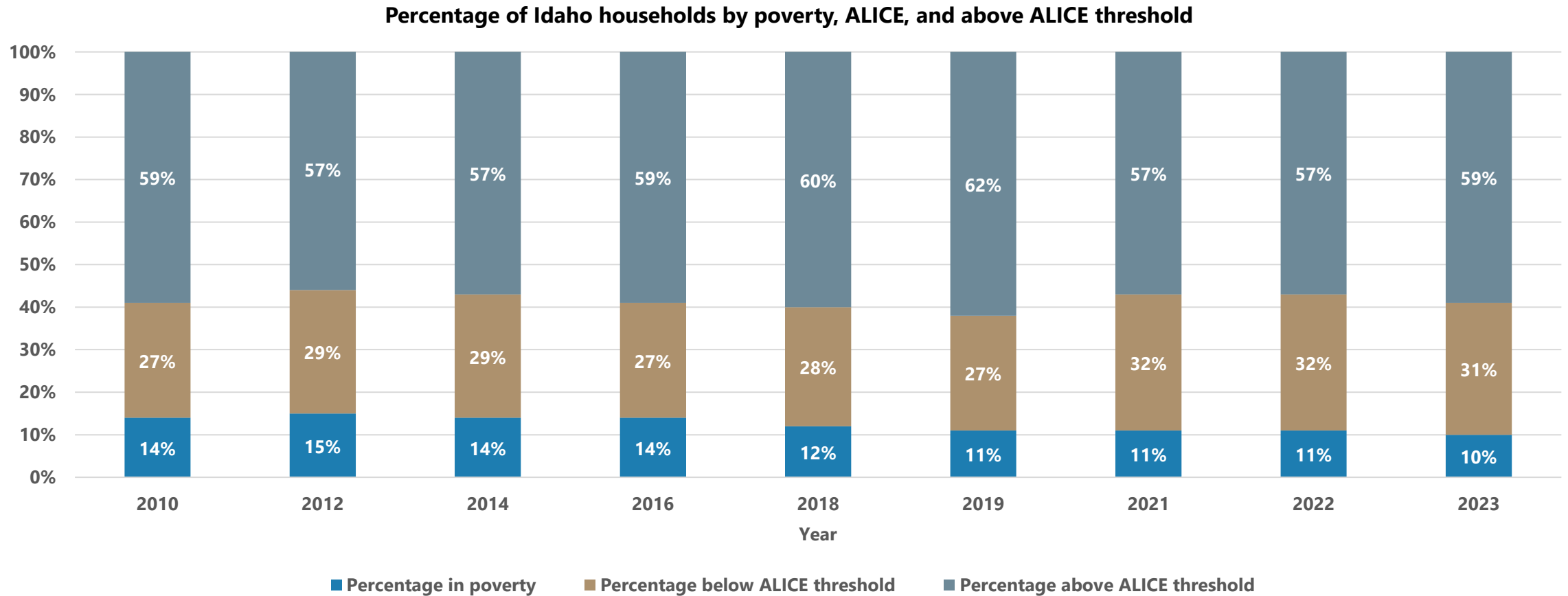


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Percentage of Idaho urban and rural households below the ALICE threshold

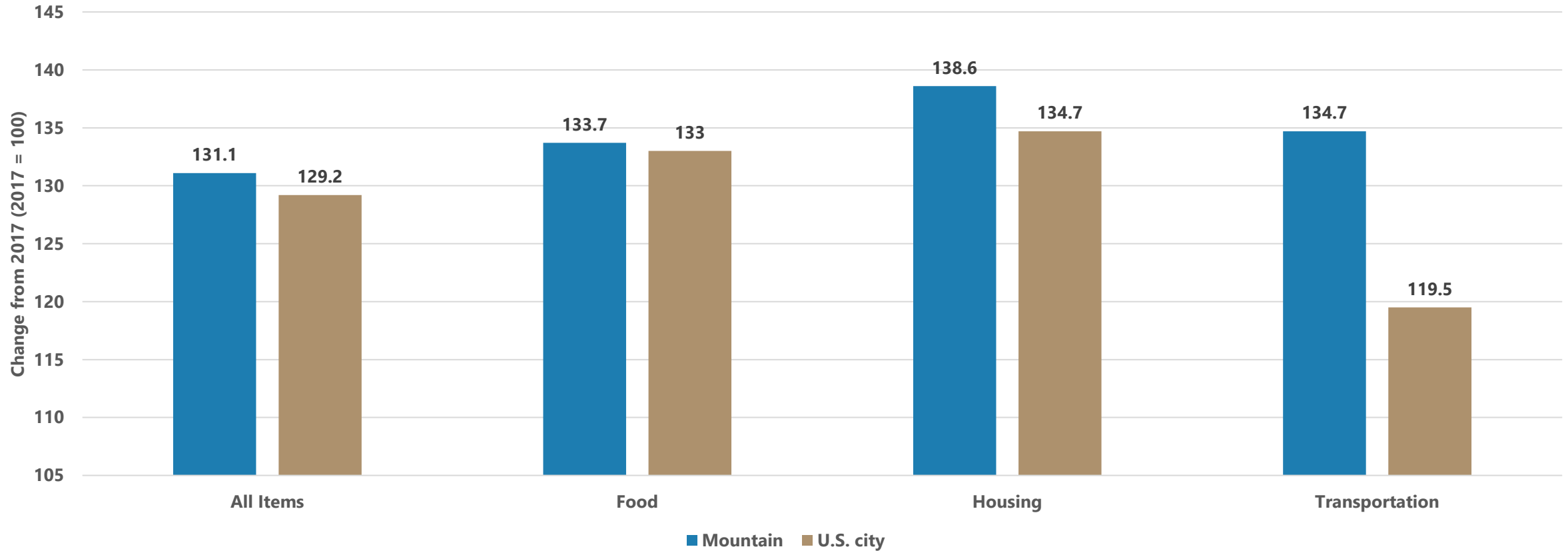


Idaho's poverty rate declining – ALICE rising



Mountain region's costs outpacing nation

Consumer Price Index: Mountain region vs. U.S. city average

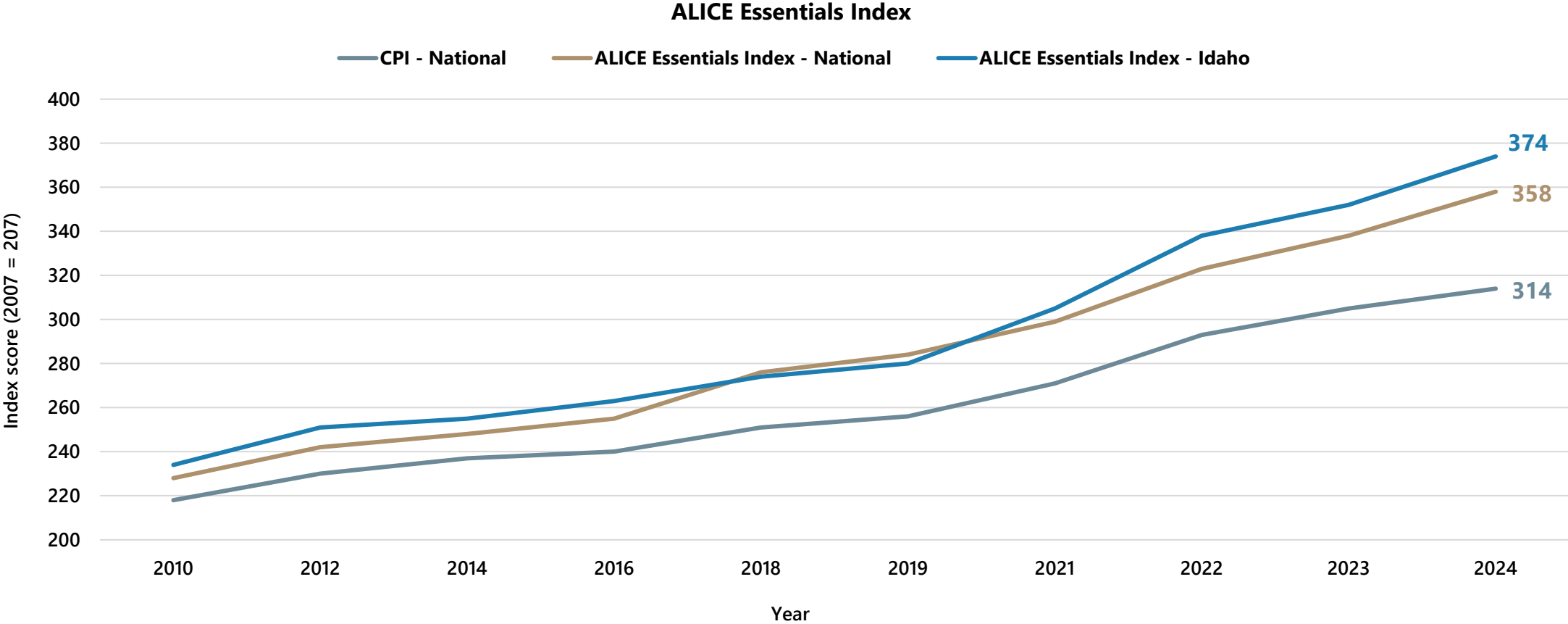


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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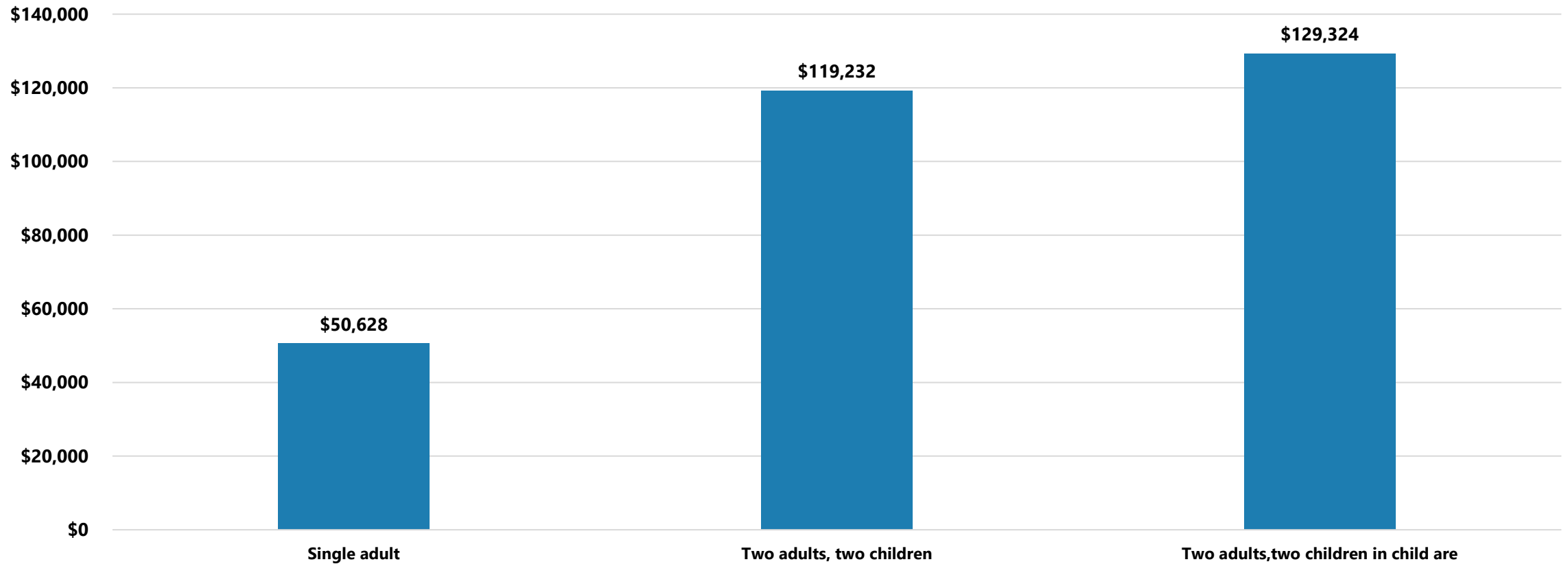
Essentials are rising faster than CPI



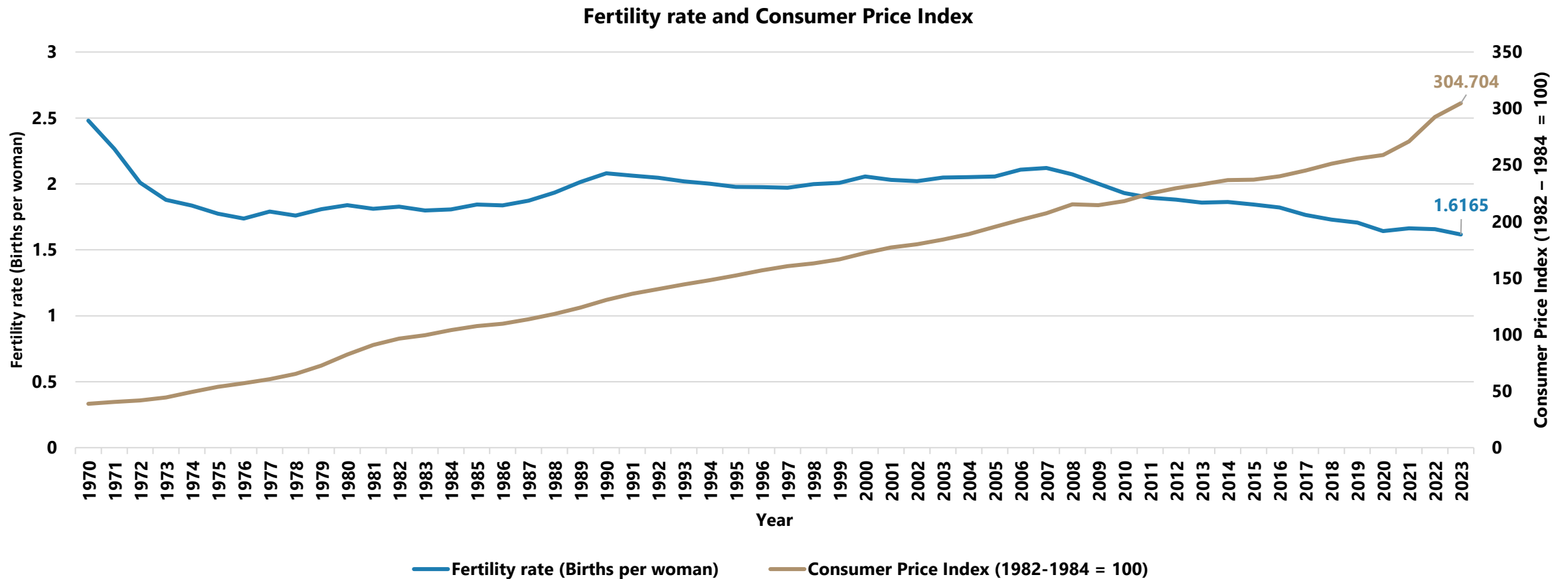
Source: United For ALICE

Income needed to support a family is a growing challenge

ALICE annual household stability budget in Idaho by household type



Rising costs of supporting a family impacts demographics

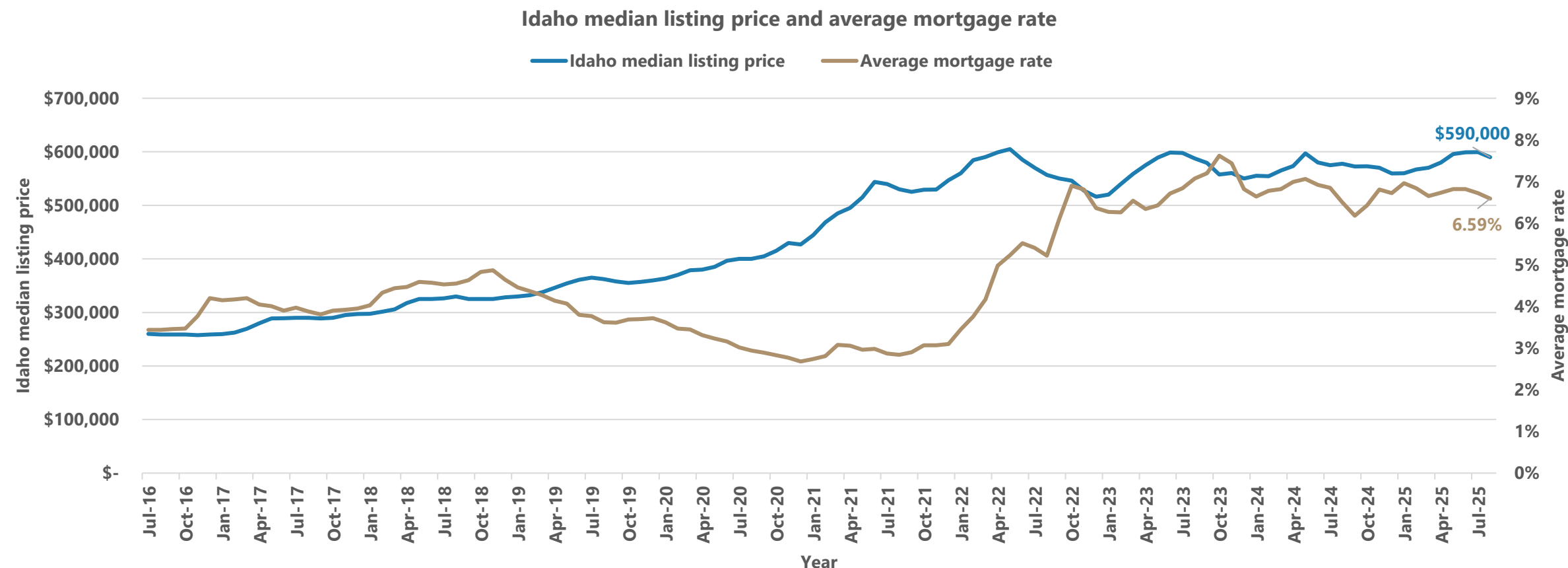


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; World Bank development indicators

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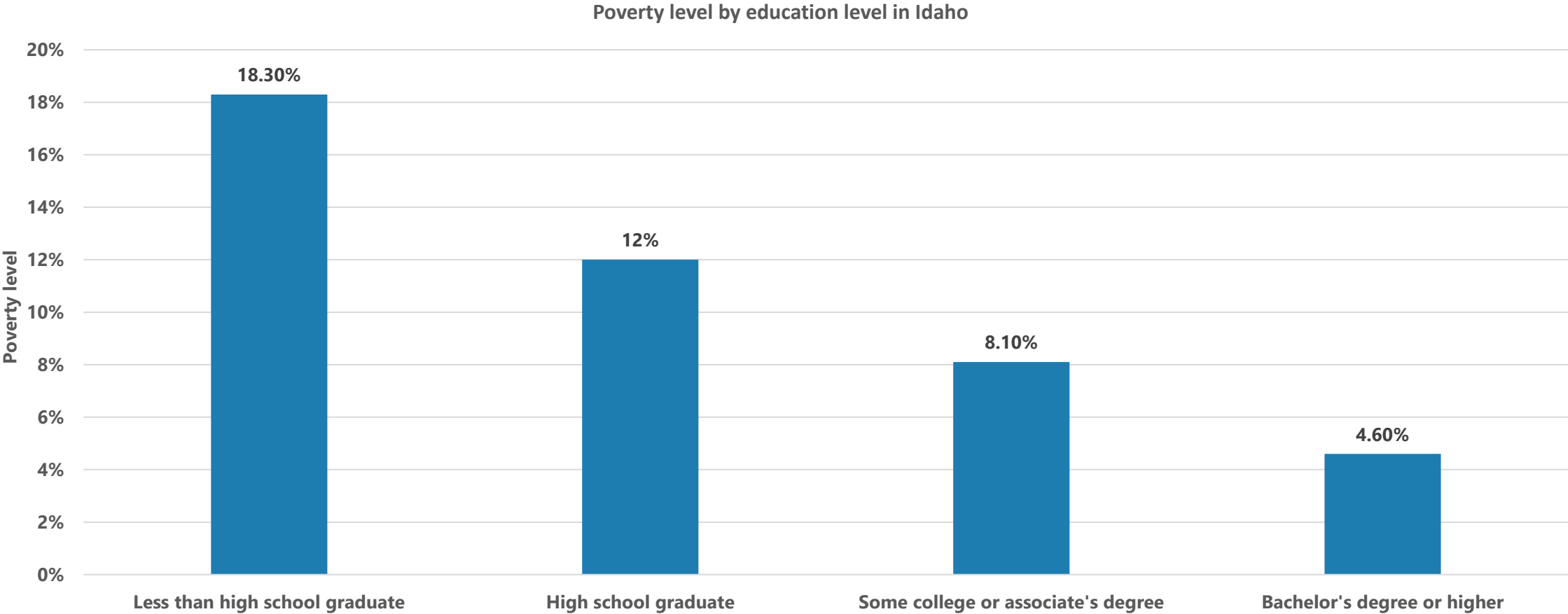
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Rising home prices limits labor mobility



Source: Realtor.com housing inventory core metrics, 2025; Freddie Mac Mortgage Market survey, 2025

Education and training reduces poverty



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2024

Department of Labor local offices

- Boise: 208-332-3575
- Burley: 208-678-5518
- Caldwell: 208-364-7781
- Idaho Falls: 208-557-2500
- Lewiston: 208-799-5000
- Pocatello: 208-236-6710
- Post Falls: 208-457-8789
- Twin Falls: 208-735-2500

Find our office directory on labor.idaho.gov for more information.

Thank you. Any questions?

Need more information?

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