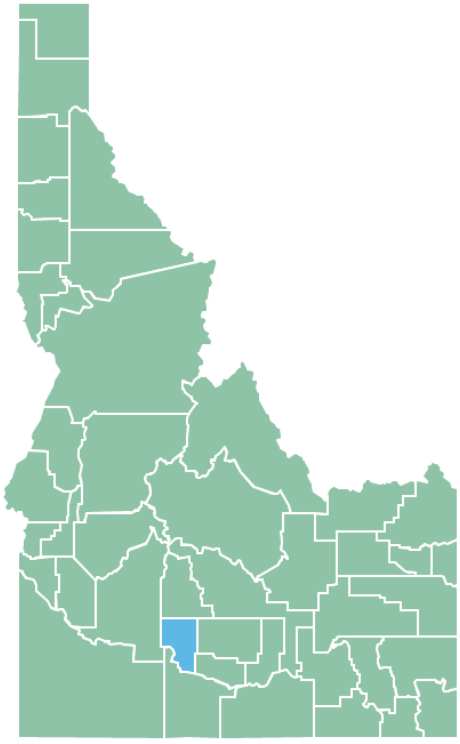
Gooding County Labor Force And Economic Profile

Last Updated: October 2026

Gooding County Economic Overview

Civilian Labor Force (Sep 2026)	8,133
Unemployment Rate (Sep 2026)	3.6%
Population (2025)	16,446
Median Household Income (2024)	$63,559
Per Capita Personal Income (2024)	$70,962
Poverty Rate (2024)	13.0%



The Idaho Department of Labor is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. Reasonable accommodations are available upon request. Dial 711 for Idaho Relay Service.

1. Gooding County Demographic Characteristics, 2024 5-Year ACS

	Gooding County	Gooding County (%)	State of Idaho (%)	United States (%)
Total Population	15,931	100.0%	1,934,262	334,922,499
Race and Ethnicity				
White alone, not hispanic	10,708	67.2%	81.7%	61.0%
Black or African American alone, not hispanic	10	0.1%	0.8%	12.2%
Native American alone, not hispanic	349	2.2%	1.2%	0.9%
Asian alone, not hispanic	44	0.3%	1.4%	6.0%
Hispanic, or Latino (of any race)	5,016	31.5%	13.6%	19.3%
Gender				
Male	8,083	50.7%	50.3%	49.5%
Female	7,848	49.3%	49.7%	50.5%
Age				
Median age	38.1	-	37.3	38.9
Under 18 years	4,204	26.4%	24.1%	22.0%
Over 18 years	11,727	73.6%	75.9%	78.0%
21 years and over	10,327	64.8%	66.1%	68.9%
Over 65 years	2,940	18.5%	17.0%	17.2%
Educational Attainment (Population 25 years and Over)				
Less than 9th grade	732	4.6%	2.1%	3.2%
High school graduate (with equivalencies)	3,199	20.1%	17.3%	17.9%
Some college, no degree	2,696	16.9%	16.0%	13.1%
Associate's degree	768	4.8%	6.4%	6.1%
Bachelor's degree	1,120	7.0%	14.1%	14.9%
Graduate or professional degree	557	3.5%	7.0%	9.7%
Median Household Income	$63,559	-	$77,800	$80,734

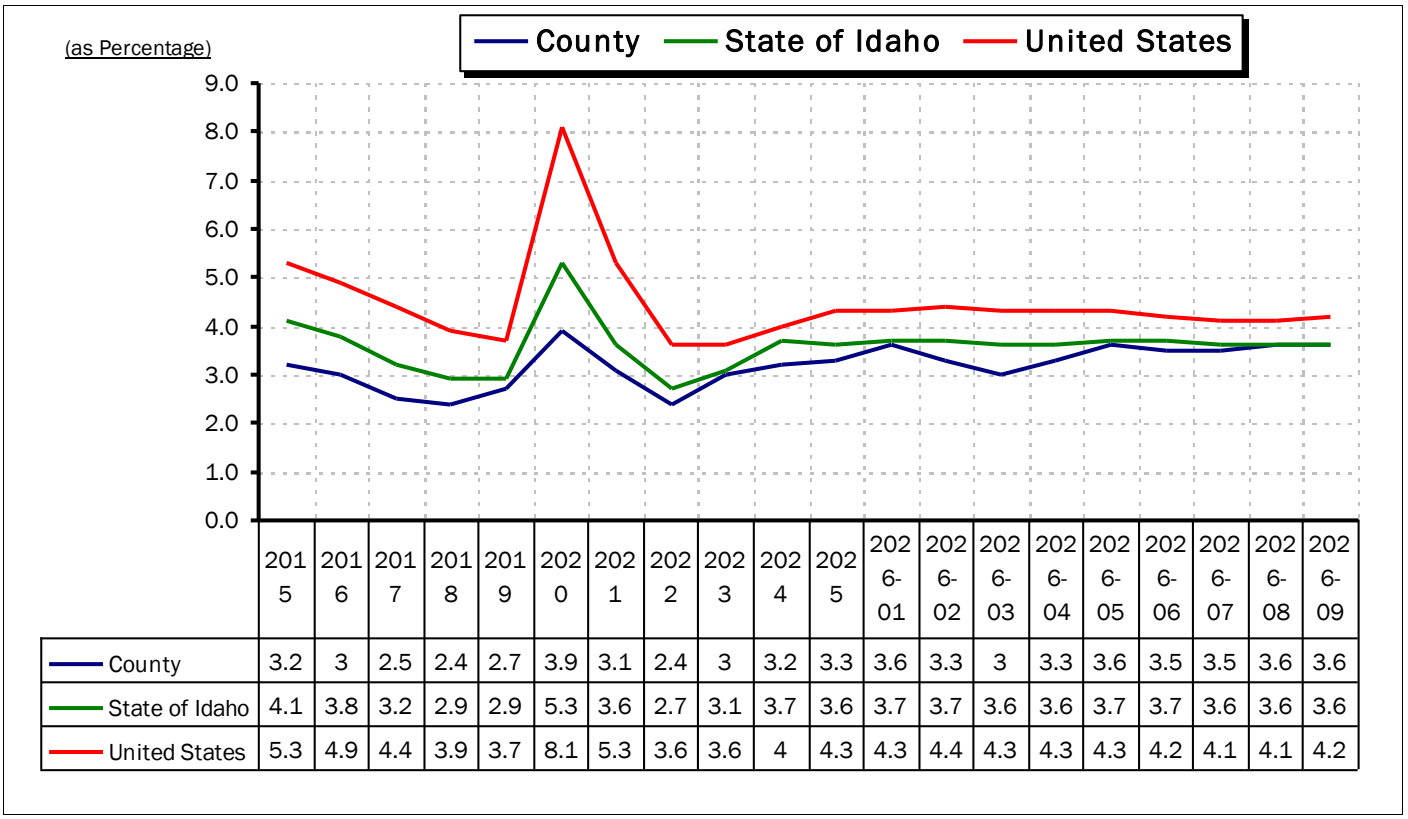
Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

2. Labor Force Growth, September 2025 to September 2026

	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
September 2026	8,133	7,839	294	3.6%
September 2025	8,290	8,018	272	3.3%
YoY % Change	-1.9%	-2.2%	8.1%	0.3%

Source: Idaho Department of Labor- Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

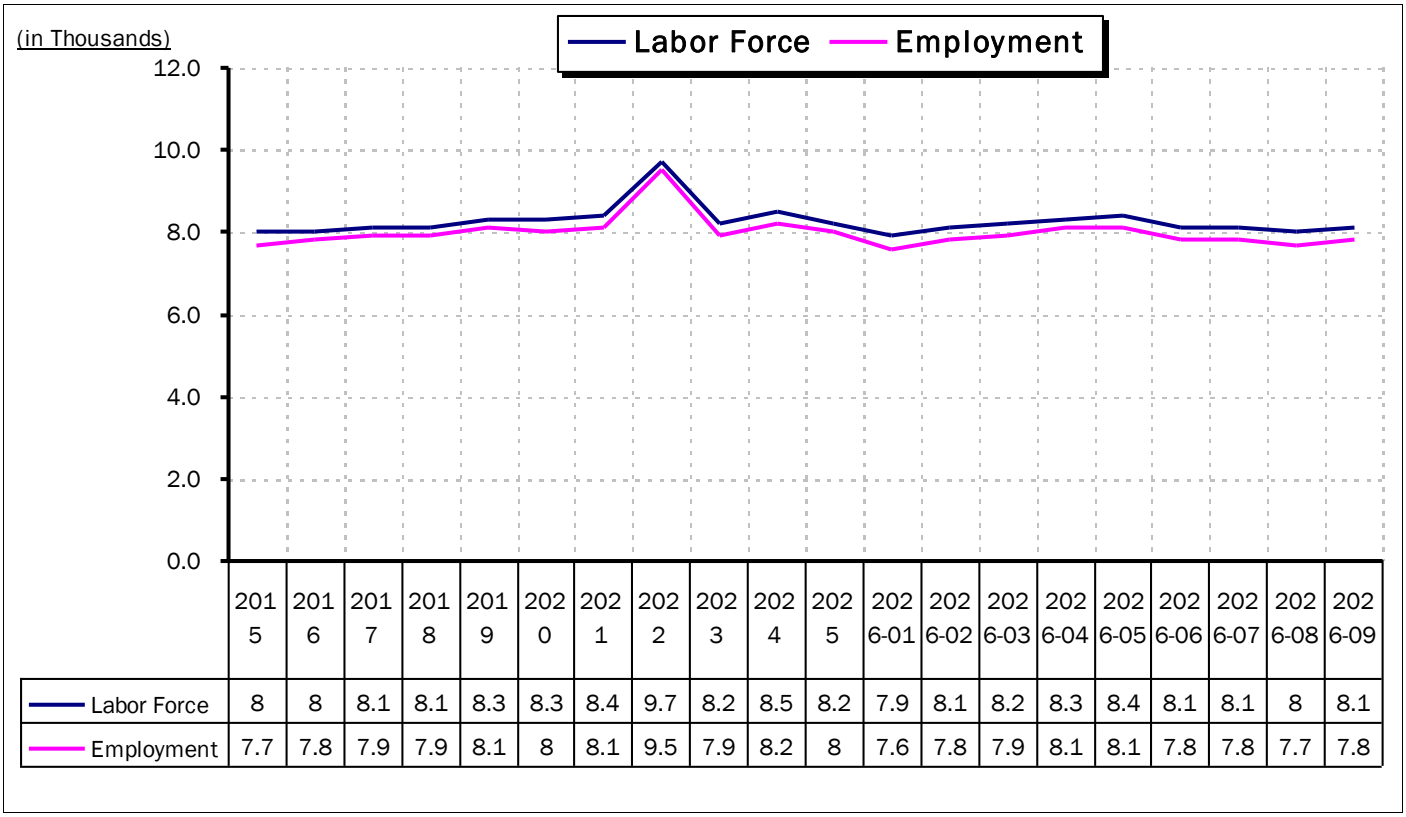
3. Seasonally-Adjusted Unemployment Rate, 2015 to September 2026



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026-01	2026-02	2026-03	2026-04	2026-05	2026-06	2026-07	2026-08	2026-09
County	3.2	3	2.5	2.4	2.7	3.9	3.1	2.4	3	3.2	3.3	3.6	3.3	3	3.3	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6
State of Idaho	4.1	3.8	3.2	2.9	2.9	5.3	3.6	2.7	3.1	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.6
United States	5.3	4.9	4.4	3.9	3.7	8.1	5.3	3.6	3.6	4	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.2

Source: Idaho Department of Labor- Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

##########



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026-01	2026-02	2026-03	2026-04	2026-05	2026-06	2026-07	2026-08	2026-09
Labor Force	8	8	8.1	8.1	8.3	8.3	8.4	9.7	8.2	8.5	8.2	7.9	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.1	8.1	8	8.1
Employment	7.7	7.8	7.9	7.9	8.1	8	8.1	9.5	7.9	8.2	8	7.6	7.8	7.9	8.1	8.1	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.8

Source: Idaho Department of Labor- Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

5. Industry Employment and Wages, 2015, 2024, and 2025

Supersector	2015 Average Employment	2015 Average Wages	2024 Average Employment	2024 Average Wages	2025 Average Employment	2025 Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	5,913	$32,840	589	$48,850	6,647	$52,060
Natural Resources and Mining	1,891	$32,016	106	$46,482	2,004	$49,410
Construction	206	$27,846	92	$53,518	342	$53,551
Manufacturing	810	$48,654	27	$61,458	1,024	$66,487
Trade,Transportation, and Utilities	828	$32,818	110	$55,305	800	$57,288
Information						
Financial Activities	96	$29,281	32	$56,475	123	$52,860
Professional and Business Services	159	$44,124	54	$62,583	125	$65,203
Education and Health Services	1,079	$28,291	64	$48,870	1,372	$48,533
Leisure and Hospitality	333	$13,025	52	$18,372	399	$19,262
Other Services	196	$44,705	28	$41,806	110	$42,340
Public Administration	314	$25,091	20	$37,112	331	$62,824

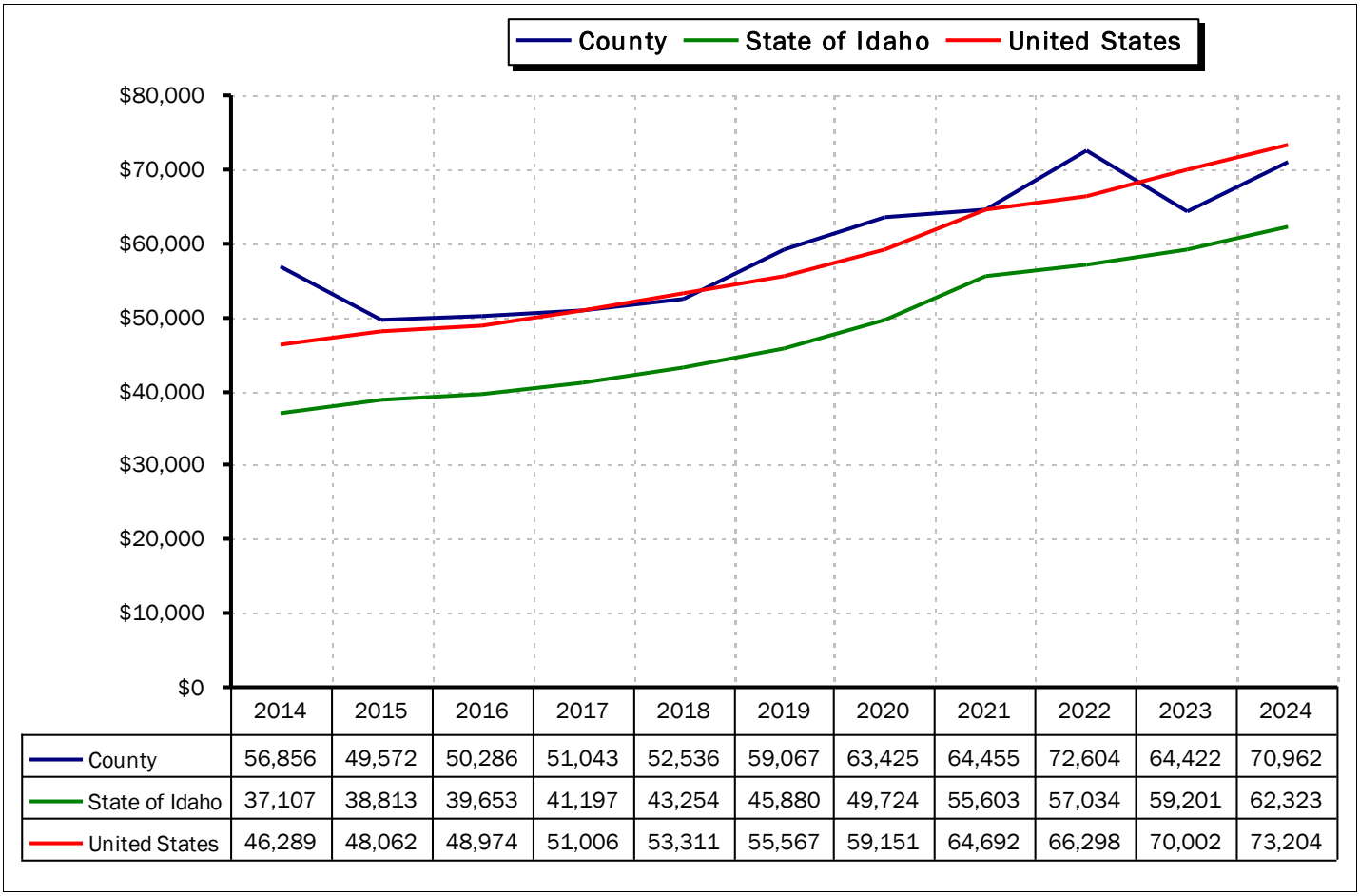
Source: Idaho Department of Labor- Quarterly Census of Employment Wages (QCEW)

6. Top Employers, 2025

Employer	Ownership	Employment Range
Nelson Ricks Creamery Co	Private	250 - 499
North Canyon Medical Center	Private	250 - 499
Magic Valley Growers Ltd Inc	Private	250 - 499
Bettencourt Dairies Llc	Private	250 - 499
Gooding Joint School District	Local Government	100 - 249
Wendell School District	Local Government	100 - 249
Riverence Provisions Llc	Private	100 - 249
Jesus Hurtado Dairy Llc	Private	100 - 249
Mustang Forestry Llc	Private	100 - 249
Gooding County	Local Government	100 - 249

NOTE: Only employers that have given the Department permission to release employment range data are listed.
Source: Idaho Department of Labor- Quarterly Census of Employment Wages (QCEW)

7. Per Capita Income, 2014 to 2024

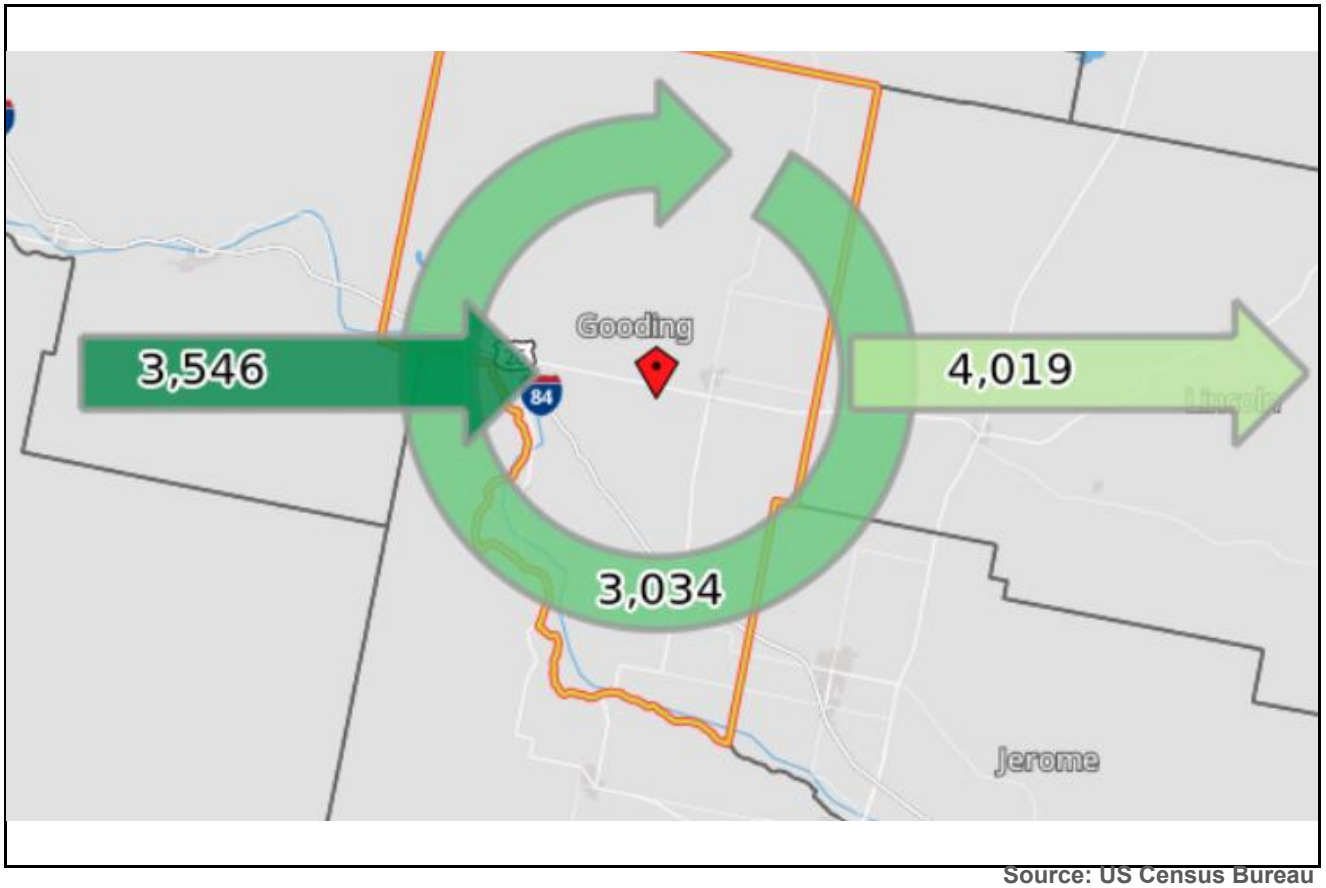


	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
County	56,856	49,572	50,286	51,043	52,536	59,067	63,425	64,455	72,604	64,422	70,962
State of Idaho	37,107	38,813	39,653	41,197	43,254	45,880	49,724	55,603	57,034	59,201	62,323
United States	46,289	48,062	48,974	51,006	53,311	55,567	59,151	64,692	66,298	70,002	73,204

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

8. Labor Force Commuting Patterns, 2023

It is estimated that 3,034 workers lived and worked in Gooding County in 2023. Another 3,546 workers were employed in Gooding County but lived outside, while 4,019 workers commuted to other counties for work.



Source: US Census Bureau

9. Top 10 Cities Where People Who Work in Gooding County Live, 2023

City of Residence	Count of All Jobs	Percentage of Total Jobs
Gooding	827	12.6%
Twin Falls	513	7.8%
Wendell	447	6.8%
Jerome	430	6.5%
Hagerman	180	2.7%
Buhl	151	2.3%
Boise	71	1.1%
Bliss	56	0.9%
Filer	56	0.9%
Shoshone	44	0.7%

Note: "All Jobs" includes private and public sector jobs. It also includes a count of workers with multiple jobs. Source: US Census Bureau- Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD)

10. Top 10 Cities Where People Who Live in Gooding County Work, 2023

City of Employment	Count of All Jobs	Percentage of Total Jobs
Gooding	933	13.2%
Twin Falls	842	11.9%
Wendell	449	6.4%
Jerome	425	6.0%
Boise	304	4.3%
Hagerman	159	2.3%
Hailey	104	1.5%
Idaho Falls	92	1.3%
Burley	90	1.3%
Meridian	90	1.3%

Note: "All Jobs" includes private and public sector jobs. It also includes a count of workers with multiple jobs. Source: US Census Bureau- Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD)

For more Information, Contact:

Seth Harrington, Labor Economist, Idaho Department of Labor • 601 Pole Line Road, Twin Falls, ID 83301 • (208) 696 - 2364 • seth.harrington@labor.idaho.gov • Labor Market Information website: lmi.idaho.gov

--- Blank Page ---