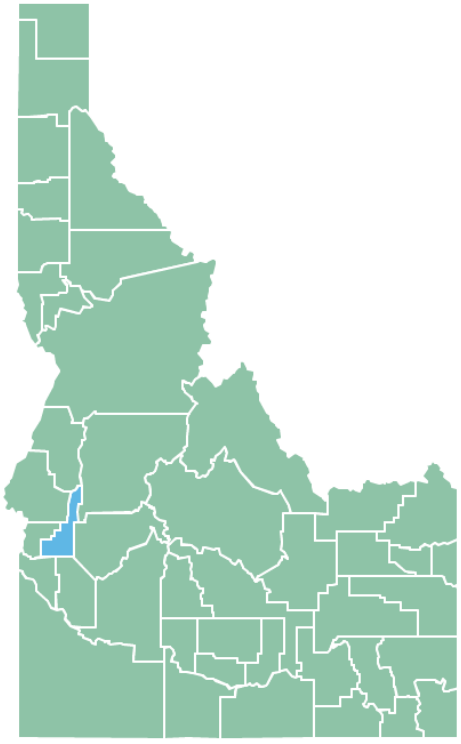


# Gem County Labor Force And Economic Profile

Last Updated: November 2026

## Gem County Economic Overview

| | |
|---|---|
| Civilian Labor Force (Oct 2026) | 10,729 |
| Unemployment Rate (Oct 2026) | 3.8% |
| Population (2025) | 21,773 |
| Median Household Income (2024) | $64,605 |
| Per Capita Personal Income (2024) | $49,972 |
| Poverty Rate (2024) | 12.0% |





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. Gem County Demographic Characteristics, 2024 5-Year ACS

| | Gem County | Gem County (%) | State of Idaho (%) | United States (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total Population** | 20,614 | 100.0% | 1,934,262 | 334,922,499 |
| **Race and Ethnicity** | | | | |
| White alone, not hispanic | 17,758 | 86.1% | 81.7% | 61.0% |
| Black or African American alone, not hispanic | 2 | 0.0% | 0.8% | 12.2% |
| Native American alone, not hispanic | 155 | 0.8% | 1.2% | 0.9% |
| Asian alone, not hispanic | 159 | 0.8% | 1.4% | 6.0% |
| Hispanic, or Latino (of any race) | 1,992 | 9.7% | 13.6% | 19.3% |
| **Gender** | | | | |
| Male | 10,620 | 51.5% | 50.3% | 49.5% |
| Female | 9,994 | 48.5% | 49.7% | 50.5% |
| **Age** | | | | |
| Median age | 44.2 | - | 37.3 | 38.9 |
| Under 18 years | 4,523 | 21.9% | 24.1% | 22.0% |
| Over 18 years | 16,091 | 78.1% | 75.9% | 78.0% |
| 21 years and over | 14,664 | 71.1% | 66.1% | 68.9% |
| Over 65 years | 4,755 | 23.1% | 17.0% | 17.2% |
| **Educational Attainment (Population 25 years and Over)** | | | | |
| Less than 9th grade | 451 | 2.2% | 2.1% | 3.2% |
| High school graduate (with equivalencies) | 4,954 | 24.0% | 17.3% | 17.9% |
| Some college, no degree | 3,994 | 19.4% | 16.0% | 13.1% |
| Associate's degree | 1,141 | 5.5% | 6.4% | 6.1% |
| Bachelor's degree | 2,483 | 12.0% | 14.1% | 14.9% |
| Graduate or professional degree | 557 | 2.7% | 7.0% | 9.7% |
| **Median Household Income** | $64,605 | - | $77,800 | $80,734 |

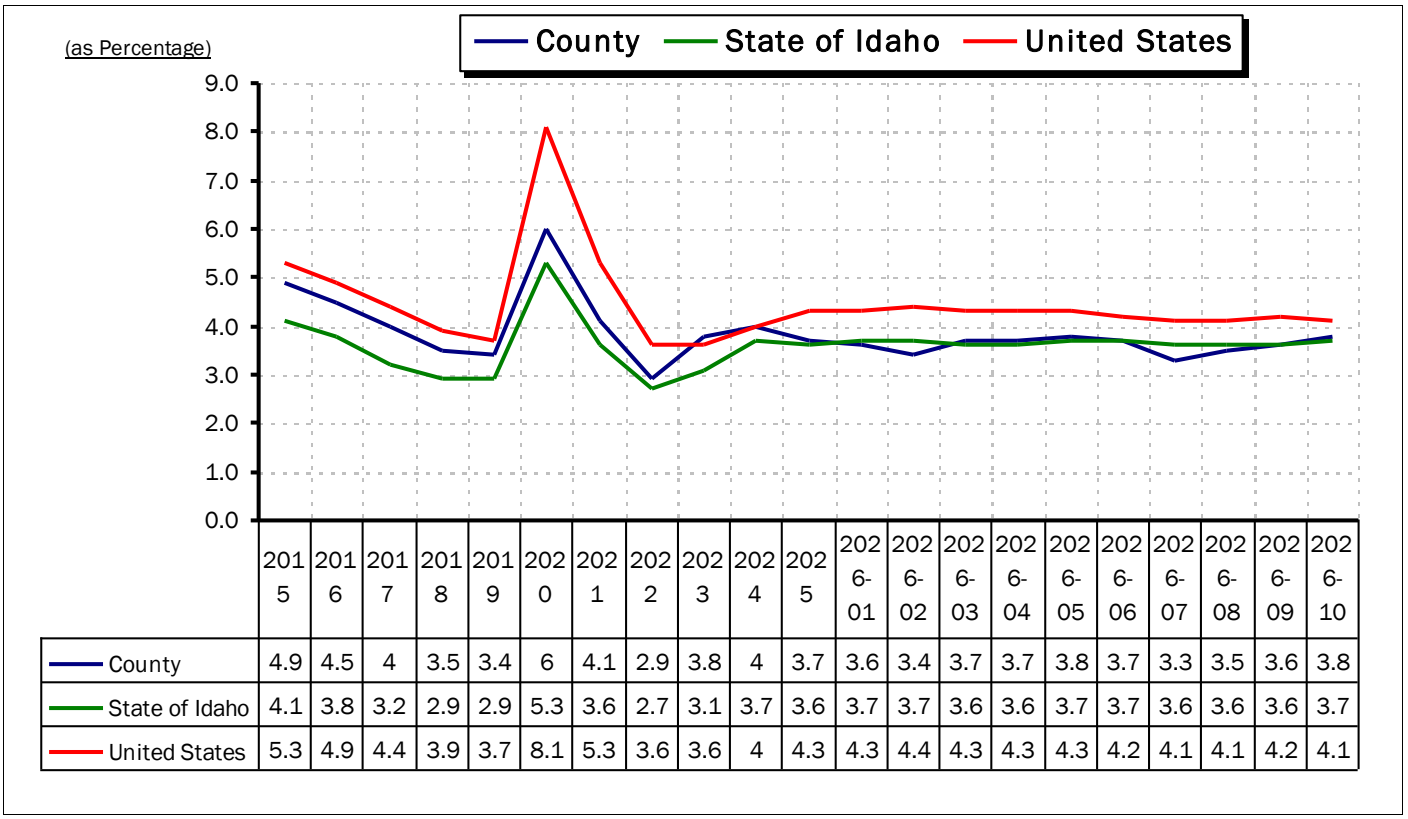
Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

## 2. Labor Force Growth, October 2025 to October 2026

| | Labor Force | Employment | Unemployed | Unemployment Rate |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **October 2026** | 10,729 | 10,326 | 403 | 3.8% |
| **October 2025** | 10,756 | 10,345 | 412 | 3.8% |
| **YoY % Change** | -0.3% | -0.2% | -2.1% | 0.0% |

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

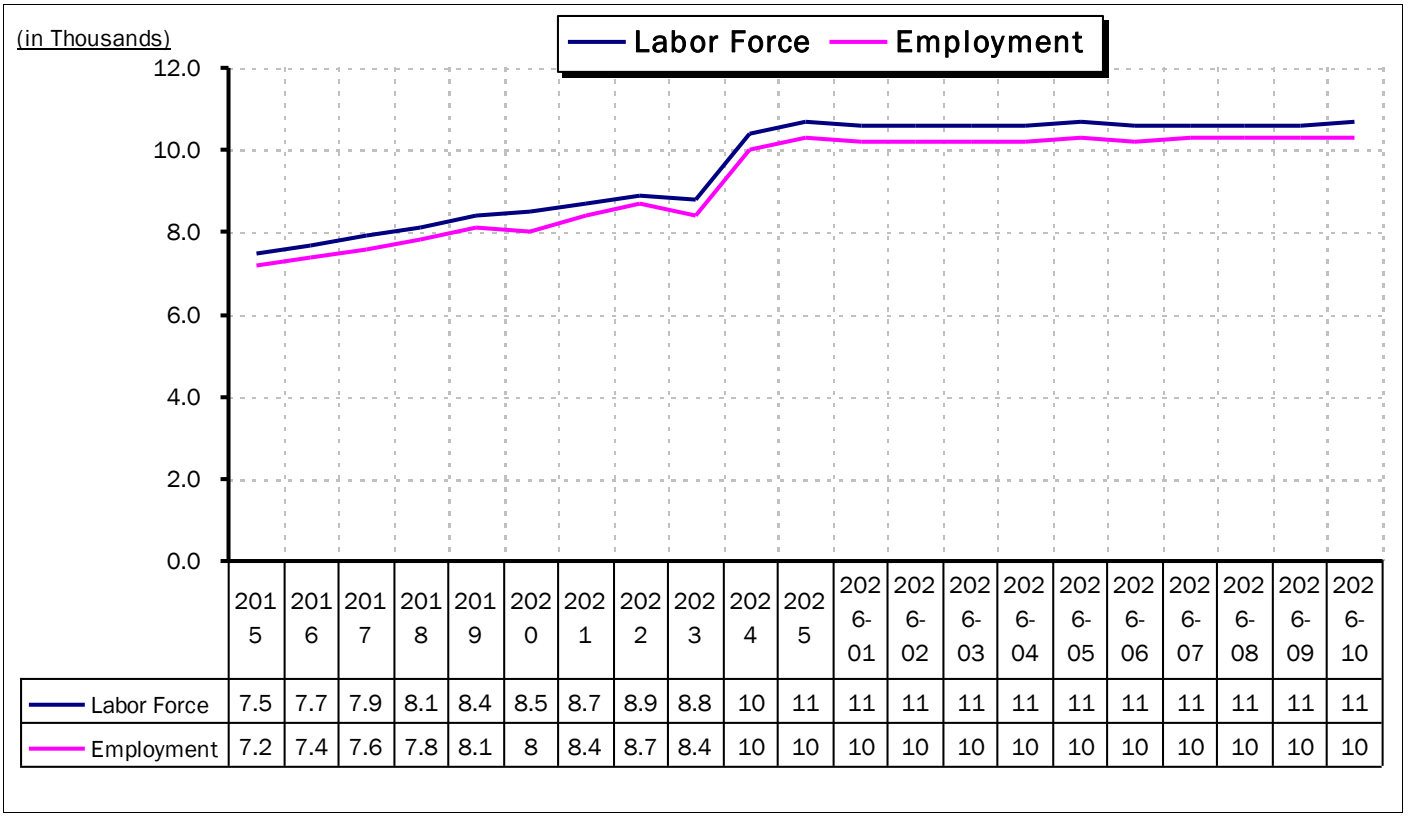
## 3. Seasonally-Adjusted Unemployment Rate, 2015 to October 2026




| | 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 | 2026-10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| County | 4.9 | 4.5 | 4 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 6 | 4.1 | 2.9 | 3.8 | 4 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.3 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.8 |
| 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 | 3.7 |
| 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 | 4.1 |

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

## 4. Seasonally-Adjusted Labor Force and Employment, 2015 to October 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 | 2026-10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Labor Force | 7.5 | 7.7 | 7.9 | 8.1 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 8.7 | 8.9 | 8.8 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Employment | 7.2 | 7.4 | 7.6 | 7.8 | 8.1 | 8 | 8.4 | 8.7 | 8.4 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |

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 | 3,474 | $29,221 | 705 | $44,950 | 4,572 | $46,099 |
| Natural Resources and Mining | 225 | $34,943 | 27 | $60,232 | 125 | $60,362 |
| Construction | 247 | $30,538 | 162 | $51,764 | 404 | $53,093 |
| Manufacturing | 133 | $29,532 | 40 | $49,579 | 386 | $53,613 |
| Trade,Transportation, and Utilities | 634 | $33,289 | 118 | $42,739 | 897 | $42,169 |
| Information | 12 | $25,990 | 6 | $64,553 | 15 | $63,568 |
| Financial Activities | 86 | $37,023 | 46 | $51,504 | 117 | $55,977 |
| Professional and Business Services | 115 | $33,074 | 98 | $56,946 | 275 | $62,039 |
| Education and Health Services | 1,304 | $28,891 | 110 | $45,709 | 1,407 | $46,995 |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 262 | $10,832 | 48 | $20,524 | 447 | $19,288 |
| Other Services | 107 | $21,962 | 38 | $37,745 | 124 | $38,931 |
| Public Administration | 348 | $31,279 | 13 | $48,967 | 373 | $50,958 |

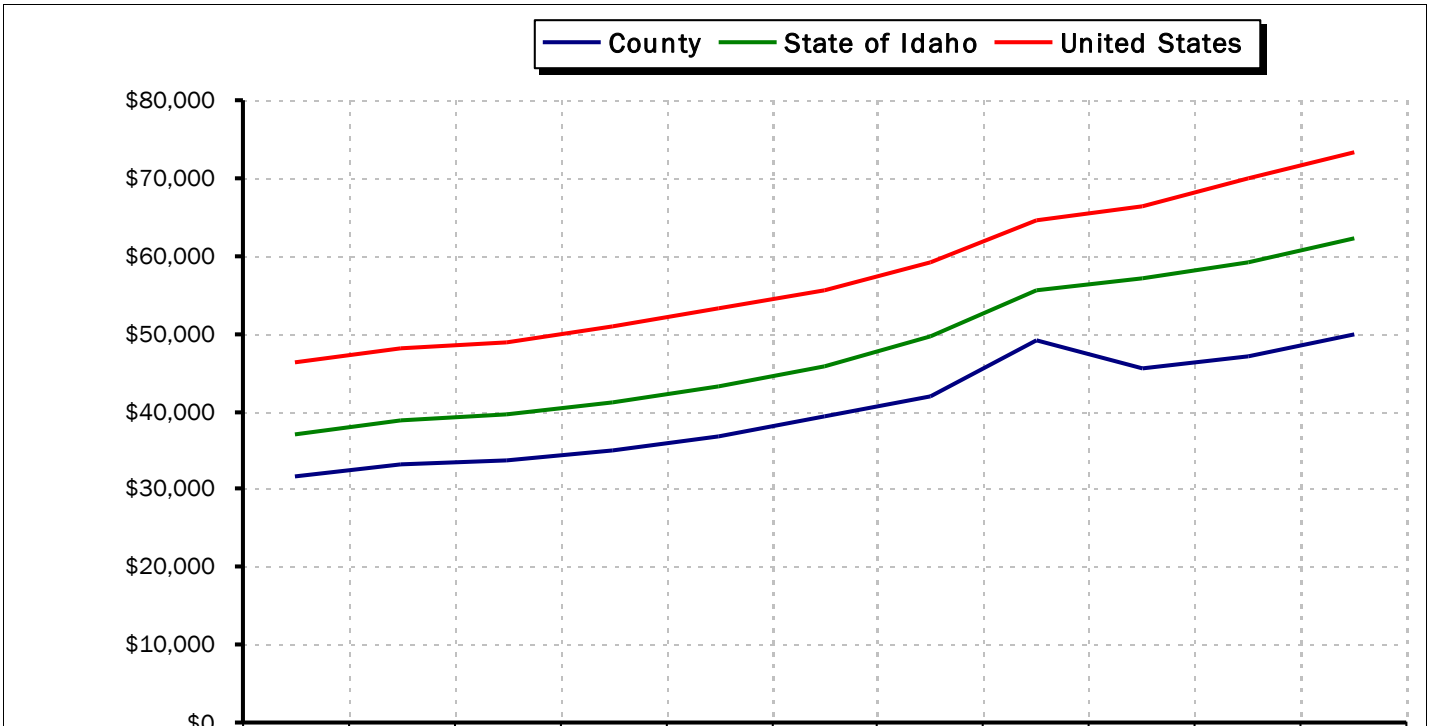
Source: Idaho Department of Labor- Quarterly Census of Employment Wages (QCEW)

## 6. Top Employers, 2025

| Employer | Ownership | Employment Range |
|---|---|---|
| Emmett School District | Local Government | 250 - 499 |
| Walter Knox Memorial | Local Government | 100 - 249 |
| Albertsons Llc | Private | 100 - 249 |
| Gem County | Local Government | 100 - 249 |
| Woodgrain Millwork Inc | Private | 050 - 099 |
| City Of Emmett | Local Government | 050 - 099 |
| District 1 | Local Government | 050 - 099 |
| Rmd Management Llc | Private | 050 - 099 |
| Abs Global | Private | 050 - 099 |
| Magellan Hrsc Inc | Private | 050 - 099 |

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

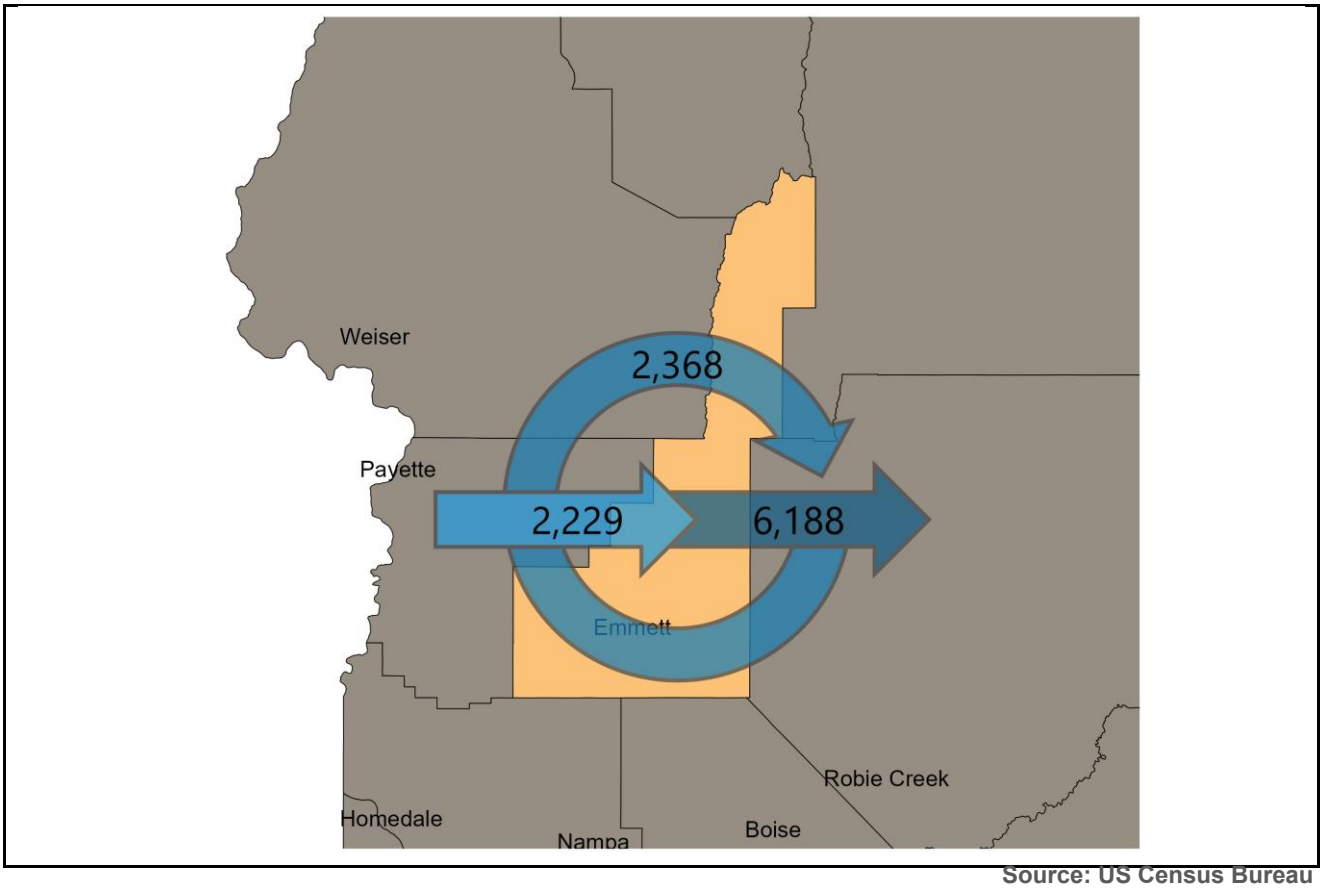



| | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| County | 31,589 | 33,072 | 33,807 | 34,969 | 36,831 | 39,331 | 41,896 | 49,059 | 45,478 | 47,138 | 49,972 |
| State of Idaho | 37,107 | 38,813 | 39,653 | 41,197 | 43,254 | 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, 2024

It is estimated that 2,368 workers lived and worked in Gem County in 2024. Another 2,229 workers were employed in Gem County but lived outside, while 6,188 workers commuted to other counties for work.




Source: US Census Bureau

## 9. Top 10 Cities Where People Who Work in Gem County Live, 2024

| City of Residence | Count of All Jobs | Percentage of Total Jobs |
|---|---|---|
| Boise City city, ID | 1,900 | 41.3% |
| Emmett city, ID | 1,466 | 31.9% |
| Meridian city, ID | 761 | 16.6% |
| Nampa city, ID | 711 | 15.5% |
| Caldwell city, ID | 387 | 8.4% |
| Eagle city, ID | 288 | 6.3% |
| Garden City city, ID | 159 | 3.5% |
| Fruitland city, ID | 89 | 1.9% |
| Star city, ID | 80 | 1.7% |
| Twin Falls city, ID | 71 | 1.5% |

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 Gem County Work, 2024

| City of Employment | Count of All Jobs | Percentage of Total Jobs |
|---|---|---|
| Emmett city, ID | 1,003 | 11.7% |
| Nampa city, ID | 273 | 3.2% |
| Boise City city, ID | 272 | 3.2% |
| Meridian city, ID | 242 | 2.8% |
| Caldwell city, ID | 195 | 2.3% |
| Eagle city, ID | 63 | 0.7% |
| Middleton city, ID | 62 | 0.7% |
| Star city, ID | 62 | 0.7% |
| Payette city, ID | 55 | 0.6% |
| Fruitland city, ID | 46 | 0.5% |

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:

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