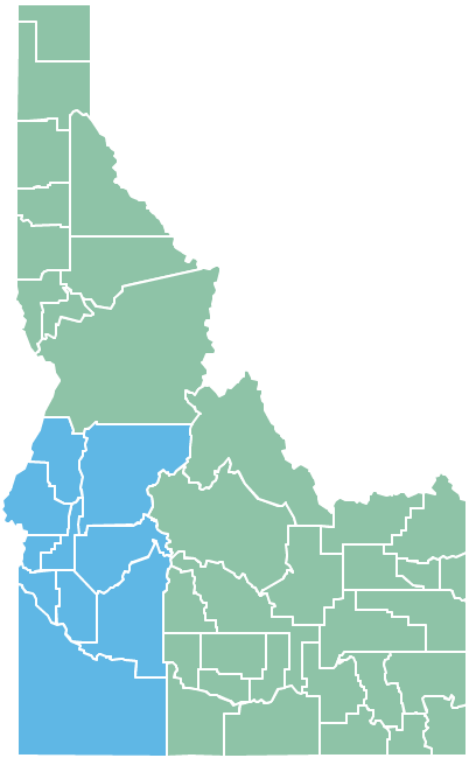


Southwest Idaho Labor Force And Economic Profile

Last Updated: November 2026

Southwest Idaho Economic Overview

Civilian Labor Force (Oct 2026)	491,806
Unemployment Rate (Oct 2026)	3.7%
Population (2025)	950,959
Median Household Income (2024)	$70,069
Per Capita Personal Income (2024)	$56,028
Poverty Rate (2024)	9.4%



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1. Southwest Demographic Characteristics, 2024 5-Year ACS

	Southwest	Region (%)	State of Idaho (%)	United States (%)
Total Population	895,482	100.0%	1,934,262	334,922,499
Race and Ethnicity				
White alone, not hispanic	715,384	79.9%	81.7%	61.0%
Black or African American alone, not hispanic	9,897	1.1%	0.8%	12.2%
Native American alone, not hispanic	7,555	0.8%	1.2%	0.9%
Asian alone, not hispanic	17,840	2.0%	1.4%	6.0%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	134,534	15.0%	13.6%	19.3%
Gender				
Male	451,403	50.4%	50.3%	49.5%
Female	444,079	49.6%	49.7%	50.5%
Age				
Median age	43.3	-	37.3	38.9
Under 18 years	209,638	23.4%	24.1%	22.0%
Over 18 years	685,844	76.6%	75.9%	78.0%
21 years and over	606,759	67.8%	66.1%	68.9%
Over 65 years	147,613	16.5%	17.0%	17.2%
Educational Attainment (Population 25 years and Over)				
Less than 9th grade	19,049	2.1%	2.1%	3.2%
High school graduate (with equivalencies)	148,990	5.9%	17.3%	17.9%
Some college, no degree	140,483	15.7%	16.0%	13.1%
Associate's degree	52,942	5.9%	6.4%	6.1%
Bachelor's degree	144,344	16.1%	14.1%	14.9%
Graduate or professional degree	72,633	8.1%	7.0%	9.7%
Median Household Income	$70,069	-	$77,800	$80,734

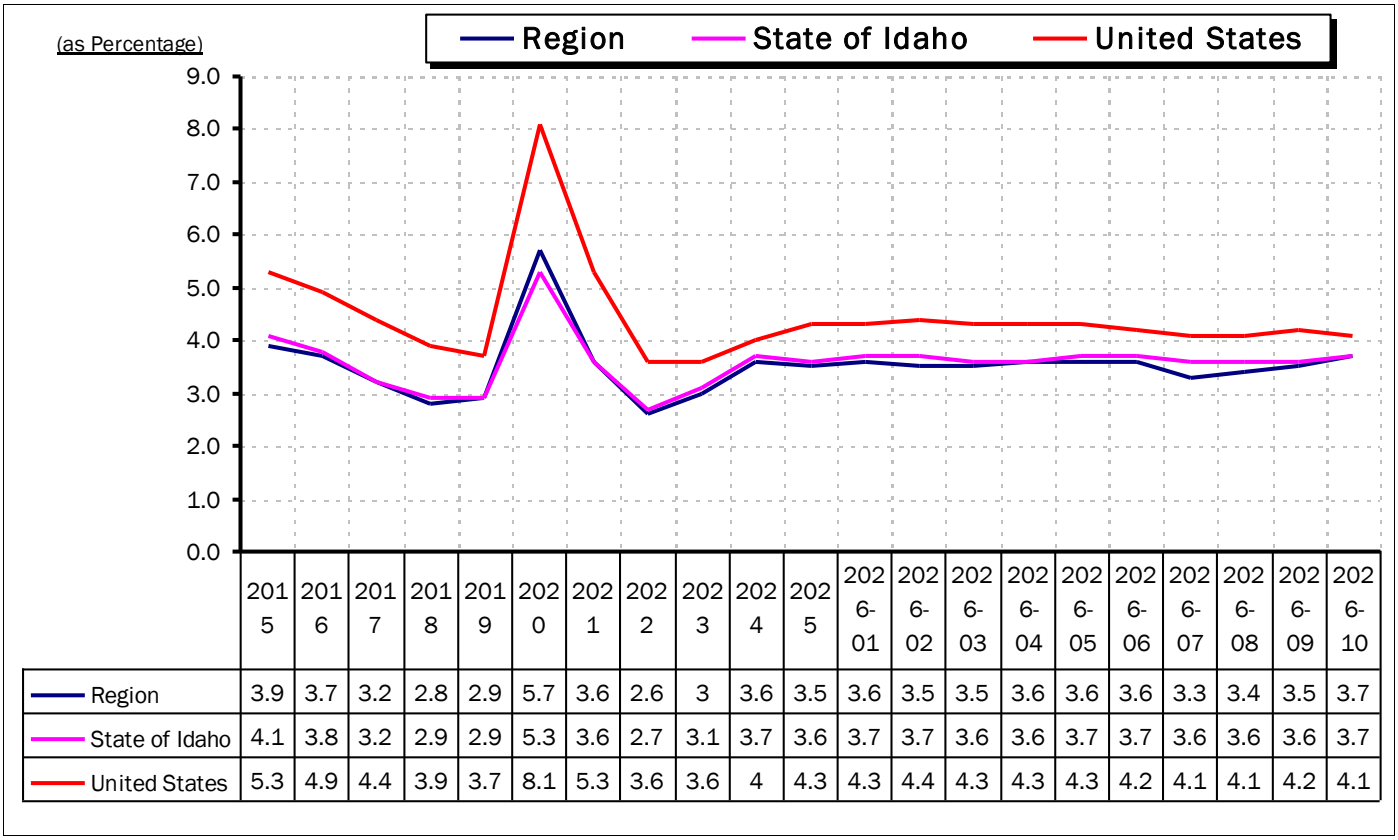
Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

2. Labor Force Growth, October 2025 to October 2026

	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
October 2026	491,806	473,713	18,093	3.7%
October 2025	495,054	477,552	17,502	3.5%
YoY % Change	**-0.7%**	**-0.8%**	**3.4%**	**0.2%**

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

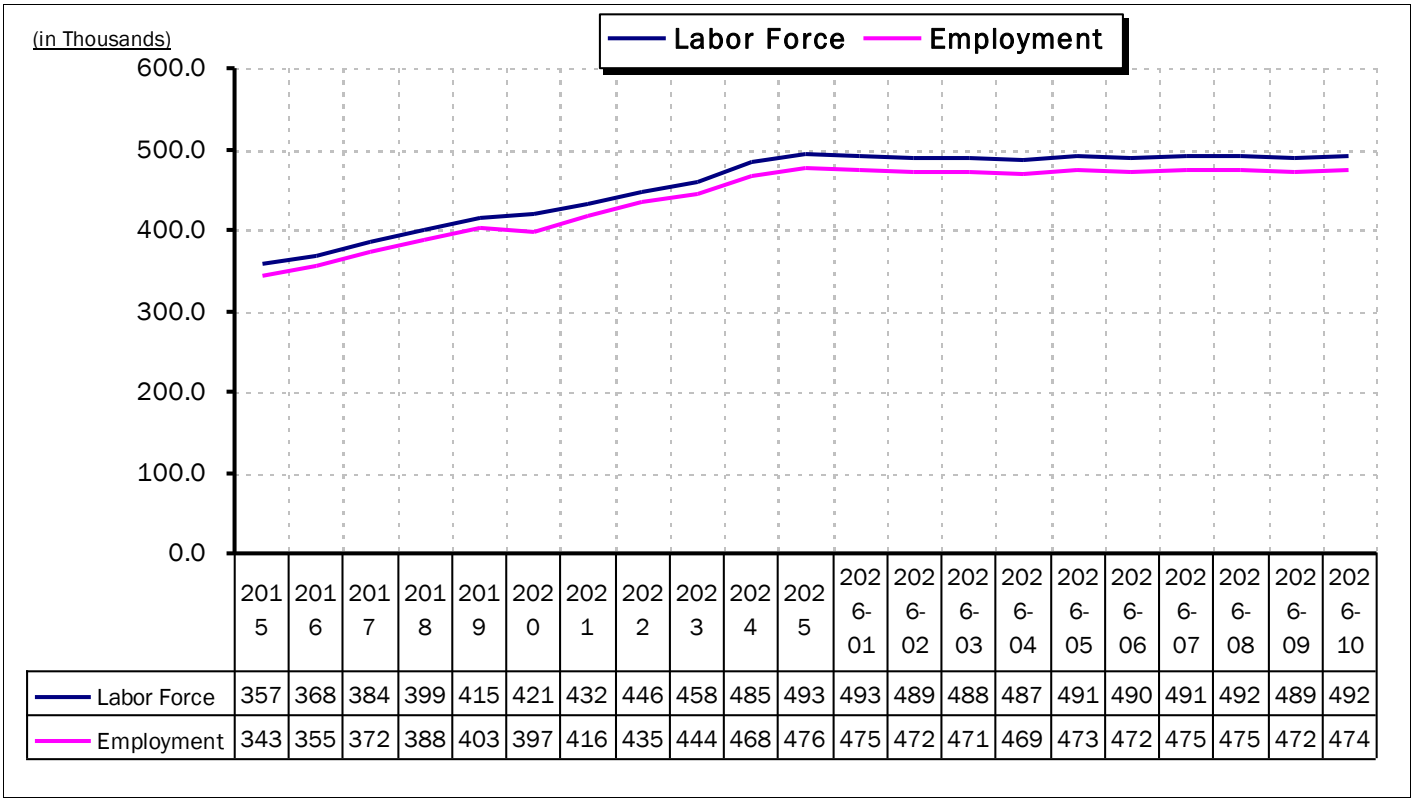
3. Seasonally-Adjusted Unemployment Rate, 2015 to October 2026



	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
Region	3.9	3.7	3.2	2.8	2.9	5.7	3.6	2.6	3	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.7
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	357	368	384	399	415	421	432	446	458	485	493	493	489	488	487	491	490	491	492	489	492
Employment	343	355	372	388	403	397	416	435	444	468	476	475	472	471	469	473	472	475	475	472	474

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

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

Industry Sector	2015 Average Employment	2015 Average Wages	2024 Average Employment	2024 Average Wages	2025 Average Employment	2025 Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	303,399	$41,794	409,489	$64,624	418,308	$67,545
Natural Resources and Mining	7,084	$31,765	6,998	$50,088	6,707	$52,579
Construction	18,022	$42,039	36,043	$69,161	38,493	$75,911
Manufacturing	27,367	$65,979	33,046	$98,645	32,803	$111,790
Trade,Transportation, and Utilities	61,706	$40,293	81,553	$58,745	82,886	$60,520
Information	5,239	$47,325	4,422	$106,636	4,143	$108,173
Financial Activities	15,045	$54,657	20,684	$89,638	20,733	$93,985
Professional and Business Services	40,300	$43,992	56,790	$81,500	56,626	$85,296
Education and Health Services	68,177	$40,684	90,418	$57,459	94,896	$58,391
Leisure and Hospitality	30,833	$15,796	44,188	$25,818	44,798	$26,459
Other Services	8,401	$27,644	11,675	$46,489	11,761	$48,236
Public Administration	21,223	$50,387	23,619	$73,351	24,281	$72,572

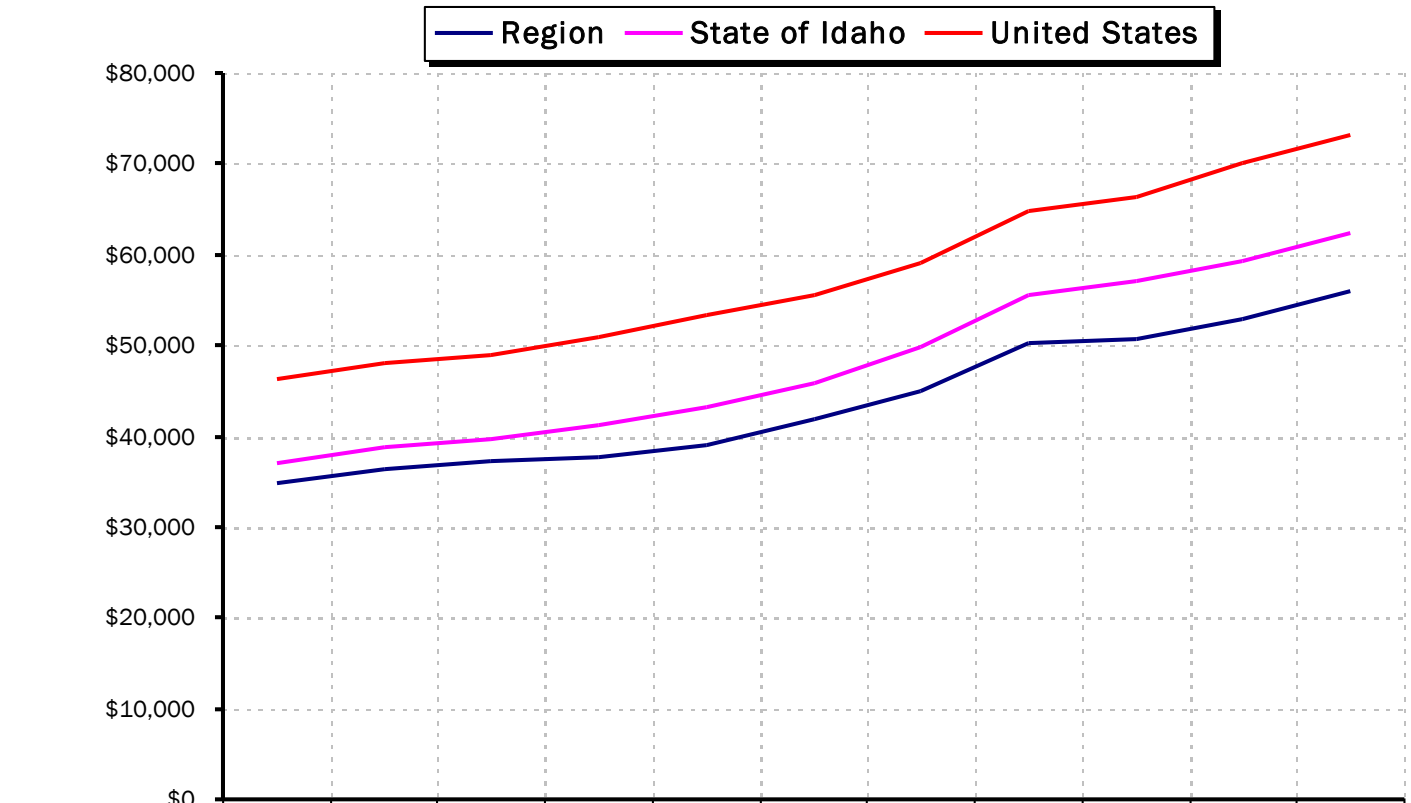
Source: Idaho Department of Labor- Quarterly Census of Employment Wages (QCEW)

6. Top Employers, 2025

Employer	Ownership	Employment Range
Saint Luke's Regional Medical Center	Private	10,000+
Saint Alphonsus Health System Inc	Private	5,000 - 7,499
Boise State University	State Government	5,000 - 7,499
Micron Technology Inc	Private	5,000 - 7,499
Joint School District	Local Government	5,000 - 7,499
Albertsons LLC	Private	2,500 - 4,999
Walmart	Private	2,500 - 4,999
Boise Independent School District	Local Government	2,500 - 4,999
City of Boise	Local Government	2,500 - 4,999
JR Simplot	Private	1,000 - 2,499

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)

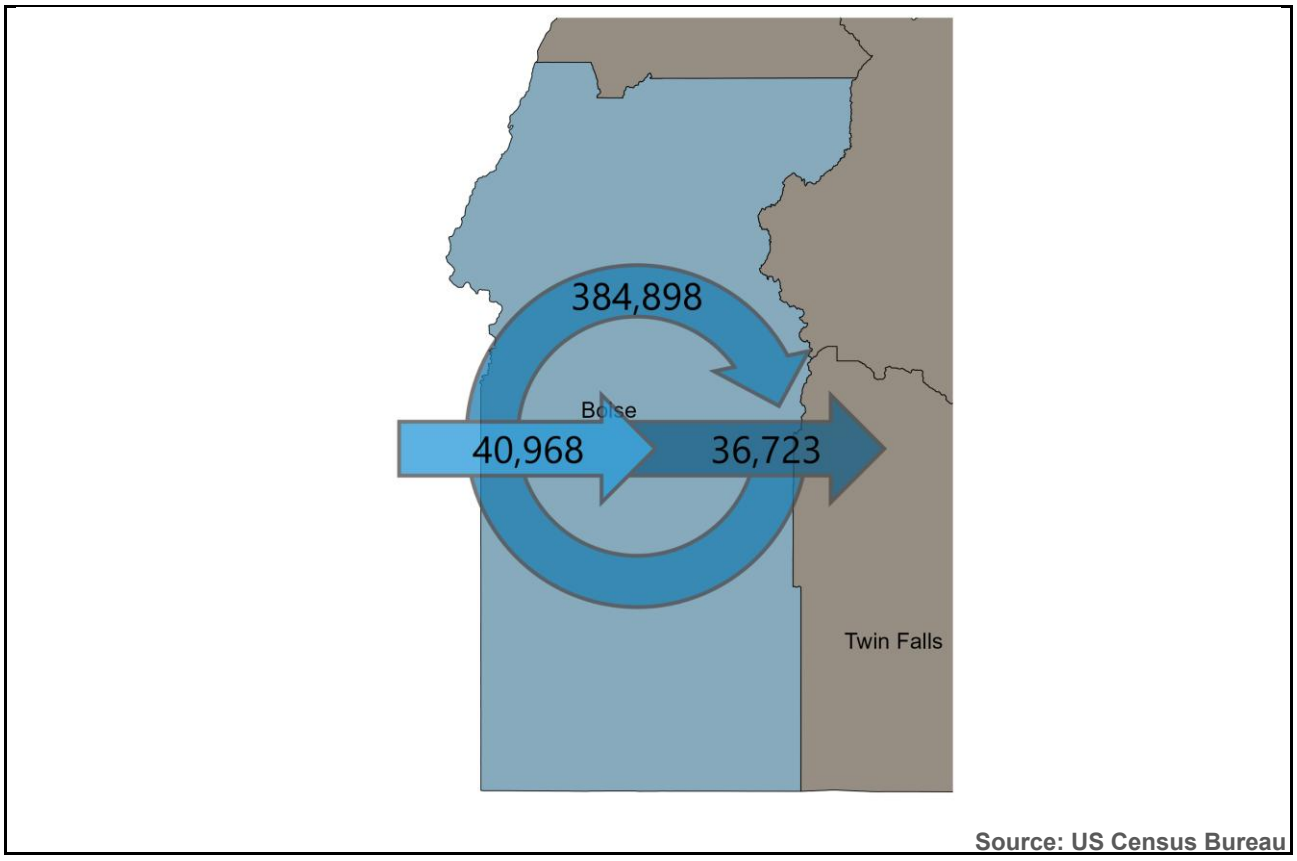
7. Per Capita Income, 2014 to 2024



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Region	34,915	36,426	37,315	37,709	39,106	41,921	44,954	50,144	50,643	52,795	56,028
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

8. Labor Force Commuting Patterns, 2024

It is estimated that 384,898 workers lived and worked in Southwest Idaho in . Another 40,968 workers were employed in Southwest Idaho but lived outside, while 36,723 workers lived in the area but commuted outside for work.



Source: US Census Bureau

9. Top 10 Cities Where People Who Work in Southwest Idaho Live, 2024

City of Residence	Count of All Jobs	Percentage of Total Jobs
Boise City city, ID	171,088	40.2%
Meridian city, ID	58,945	13.8%
Nampa city, ID	49,306	11.6%
Caldwell city, ID	20,006	4.7%
Eagle city, ID	12,346	2.9%
Garden City city, ID	9,674	2.3%
Kuna city, ID	4,329	1.0%
Mountain Home city, ID	2,666	0.6%
Twin Falls city, ID	2,491	0.6%
Star city, ID	2,455	0.6%

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 Southwest Idaho Work, 2024

City of Employment	Count of All Jobs	Percentage of Total Jobs
Boise City city, ID	109,165	25.9%
Meridian city, ID	58,371	13.8%
Nampa city, ID	49,213	11.7%
Caldwell city, ID	29,716	7.0%
Kuna city, ID	13,629	3.2%
Eagle city, ID	12,251	2.9%
Star city, ID	5,798	1.4%
Mountain Home city, ID	5,517	1.3%
Middleton city, ID	4,251	1.0%
Garden City city, ID	4,230	1.0%

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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