



Jerome County

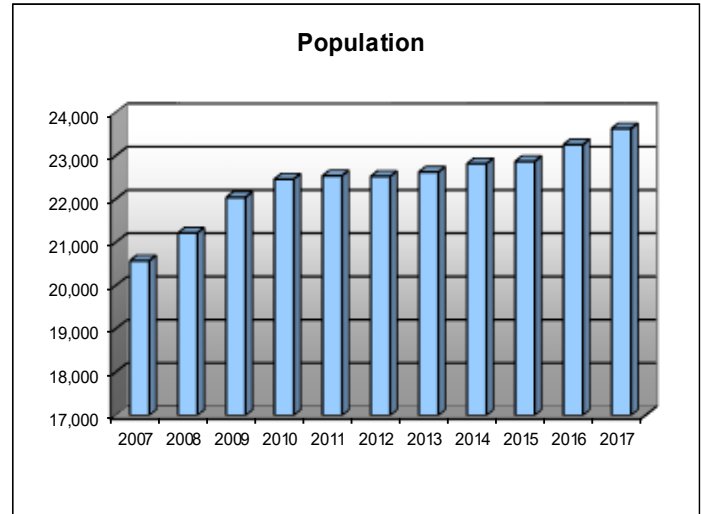
IDAHO
DEPT. OF LABOR

January 2019

Workforce Trends

Population

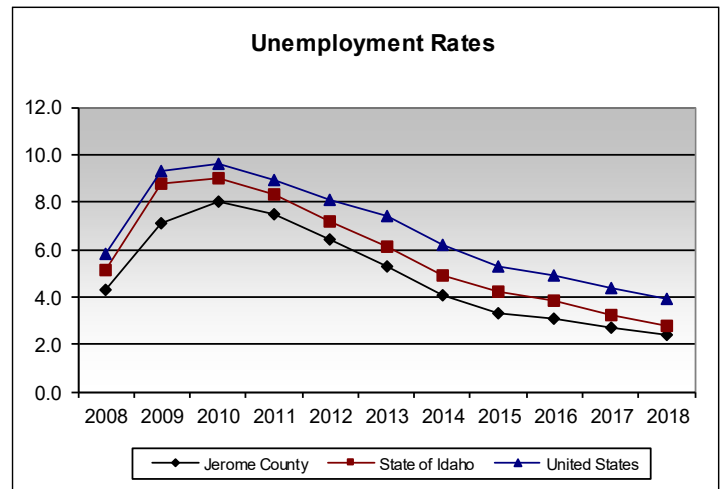
Jerome County's population grew 1.6 percent from 2016. It rose 15 percent from 20,572 in 2007 to 23,627 in 2017—in response to strong economic and infrastructure development. Jerome is the county seat and by far the largest city at 11,636. Novolex, a plastic grocery bag manufacturer, and Idaho Milk Products, a state-of-the-art milk processing plant, are examples of the newer companies requiring workers with higher-than-average skill levels. The dairy industry continues to be a major force driving the local economy, drawing feeder businesses such as Agropur, previously known as Jerome Cheese, Darigold and Commercial Creamery. Old Hickory Sheds filled the former Con Paulos auto dealership while new schools and a new senior center were constructed during the Great Recession. Pre-recession, affordable housing also grew and commercial interests sought locations close to the interstate and highway systems. Most recent construction for community services includes a \$12.1 million new jail, waste water infrastructure improvements judicially confirmed after voters denied the bond request—a \$35.8 million investment and the Jerome School District



is expanding facilities and improving learning opportunities as enrollment grows.

Labor Force & Employment

Seasonally adjusted unemployment in Jerome County was falling prior to the recession moving from a high of 6.3 percent in 1998 to a low of 2.9 percent in 2007, driven by economic diversification, development and growth in the dairy industry. The Great Recession sent unemployment higher, but the rate was still well below the record levels of 1983, when it hit 10.5 percent. While the dairy industry has provided many stable jobs, it remains a volatile commodity. The end of 2013 realized record high milk prices while most food processors either automated or expanded lines. Across the board, ag prices have dropped over the last three years—prices are expected to stay low with the strong dollar and higher production domestically and abroad. The economic outlook remains optimistic with continued development of the Crossroads Point Business Cen-

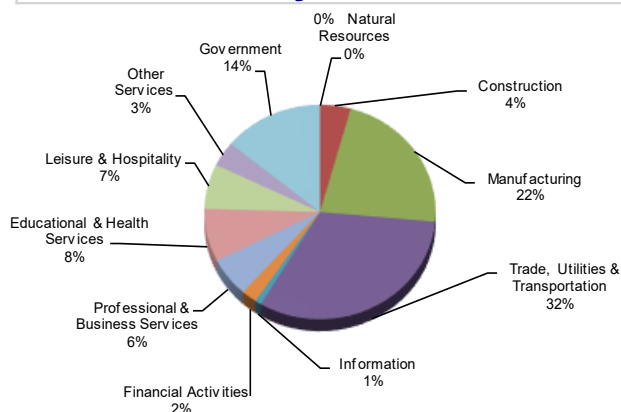


ter. The civilian labor force has grown great guns over the last decade up 22 percent. This follows expansions and new lines at many of the manufacturers including Novolex aka Hilex Poly that expanded to the tune of \$6.5 million, creating 45 new jobs in 2016. Magic Valley Quality Milk Producers, a milk cooperative, is building a \$20 million plant which will manufacture ultra-filtered skim milk, condensed skim milk and cream. Job creation is estimated at 15, opening in 2019. Commercial Creamery is also adding to its campus.

Labor Force	Dec 17	Dec 18
Civilian Labor Force	11,891	12,291
Total Employment	11,599	11,989
Unemployed	292	302
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.5	2.5
State of Idaho % Unemployed	3.0	2.6
U.S. % Unemployed	4.1	3.9

Labor Force	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Civilian Labor Force	9,966	10,448	11,020	11,107	10,974	10,943	11,103	11,458	11,513	11,763	12,172
Unemployment	425	742	886	833	705	579	448	379	355	321	294
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.3	7.1	8.0	7.5	6.4	5.3	4.0	3.3	3.1	2.7	2.4
Employment	9,541	9,705	10,135	10,274	10,270	10,364	10,656	11,079	11,158	11,442	11,878

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2017



Wages & Income

Jerome County's per capita income is ranked 18th statewide, improving from 20th in 2016. From 2016 to 2017, the per capita income grew by 3.5 percent to \$38,279, ranking 13th among Idaho's 44 counties. Per capita income grew 33.5 percent since 2007. The dairy industry continues to grow with the Idaho Dairymen's Association estimating a surplus of milk from producers which encourages processors' expansions.

From 2016, total covered average employment grew by 2.2 percent while wages grew by 2.8 percent—indicators of sustainable growth. Manufacturing employment increased 3.2 percent while its average wages grew 5.6 percent. Professional and Business Services had the highest employment growth at 13.2 percent and wages followed suit, growing 9 percent. Construction employment is still down from pre-recession levels needing another 30 percent of growth to recapture that record level. Over the decade, professional and business services jobs realized the strongest average employment growth of all sectors at 72 percent.

Major Employers

Aardema Dairy	Progressive Logistics
Arlo G. Lott Trucking, Inc.	Rite Stuff Foods
Double A Dairy	Si-Ellen Farms
Hilex Poly dba Novolex	Spears Manufacturing
Hutch Management	St. Luke's Jerome
Jerome Cheese dba Agropur	Standlee Hay Co
Millenkamp Cattle	Wal-Mart

South Central Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Elementary Teachers	\$30,328	\$44,433
Secondary Teachers	\$37,061	\$48,025
Teacher Assistants	\$17,237	\$22,293
Registered Nurses	\$23.13	\$29.86
Janitors and Cleaners	\$9.14	\$11.99
Medical Secretaries	\$13.68	\$16.40
Bookkeepers	\$11.89	\$19.12
Cashiers	\$8.25	\$9.45
Landscapers	\$10.01	\$14.69
Maintenance Mechanics	\$13.79	\$16.96
Food Batchmakers	\$12.13	\$16.46
Extruding Machine Operators	\$12.49	\$16.85
Construction Laborers	\$11.27	\$13.97
Ag workers, farm/ranch animals	\$8.41	\$10.77
Crop/nursery/greenhouse workers	\$8.42	\$11.15

* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at mi.idaho.gov.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2007, 2016 & 2017	2007		2016		2017	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Employment & Wages	8,649	\$27,571	9,887	\$35,408	10,106	\$36,390
Agriculture	2,046	\$26,149	2,612	\$34,895	2,652	\$36,732
Mining	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Construction	433	\$30,979	298	\$39,450	303	\$40,095
Manufacturing	1,237	\$29,200	1,620	\$39,258	1,672	\$41,449
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	2,290	\$30,304	2,405	\$38,793	2,393	\$38,880
Information	78	\$32,488	65	\$49,072	61	\$51,299
Financial Activities	220	\$30,158	154	\$30,854	161	\$29,181
Professional and Business Services	253	\$30,246	385	\$39,801	436	\$43,379
Educational and Health Services	467	\$31,298	606	\$31,535	594	\$31,421
Leisure and Hospitality	442	\$11,567	465	\$14,607	512	\$14,690
Other Services	193	\$22,211	247	\$34,651	273	\$36,937
Government	990	\$25,439	1,031	\$31,607	1,050	\$31,297

Per Capita Income	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Jerome County	\$28,767	\$25,440	\$28,783	\$30,988	\$32,722	\$34,223	\$37,190	\$37,236	\$36,982	\$38,279
State of Idaho	\$32,646	\$31,142	\$31,921	\$33,503	\$35,187	\$36,167	\$37,792	\$39,780	\$40,508	\$41,826
United States	\$40,904	\$39,284	\$40,545	\$42,727	\$44,582	\$44,826	\$47,025	\$48,940	\$49,831	\$51,640

Information provided by Bureau of Economic Analysis

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