



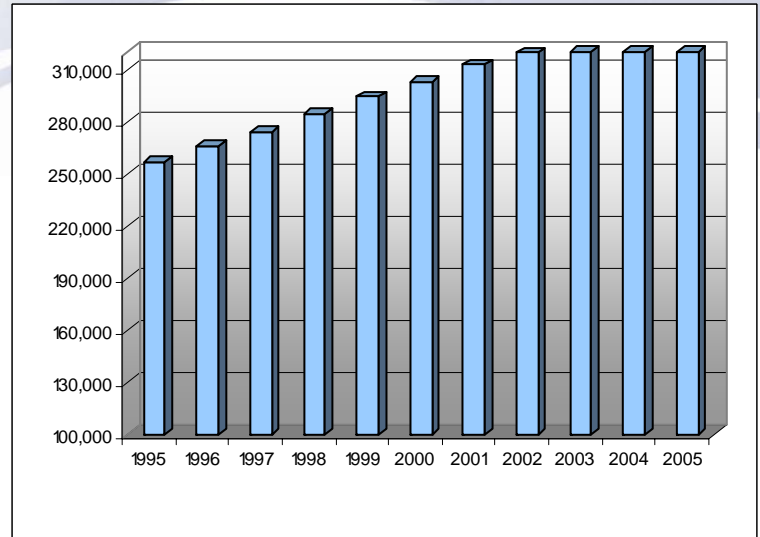
# Ada County

August 2006

## Work Force Trends

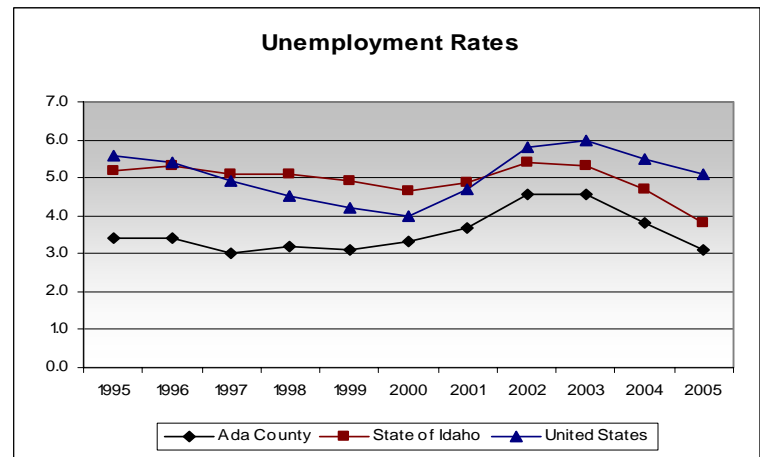
### Population

Ada County is Idaho's largest regional center of government, industry and education. It is the most populous county in Idaho at 344,727 residents, over twice the size of the next largest and neighboring county, Canyon. It ranks 31<sup>st</sup> among Idaho's 44 counties in total area, and 29.1 percent of the county is federally owned. The population has been rapidly increasing over the past decade, up an estimated 87,867 residents since 1995. This translates to an astounding 34.2 percent growth from 1995 to 2005, well above the state's growth rate of 21.4 percent. Ada County's economic vitality, concentration of high-tech industry, outdoor lifestyle and relatively mild climate continue to attract an increasing number of both young adults and retirees.



### Labor Force & Employment

The Ada County civilian labor force exhibited strong growth through the past decade, increasing by 45,902, or 32.1 percent. During 2005 alone, the labor force grew by 10,601. That increase was matched by growth in employment opportunities. The county's 2005 unemployment rate of 3.1 percent was a full two percentage points below the national rate of 5.1 percent and eight-tenths of a point lower than the statewide rate. Ada County's unemployment rate was also eight-tenths of a point lower than in 2004. Every year from 1995 to 2005, Ada County has outperformed both the state and the nation in terms of labor force and employment growth and unemployment rate. Nearly every person who wants to be working is.



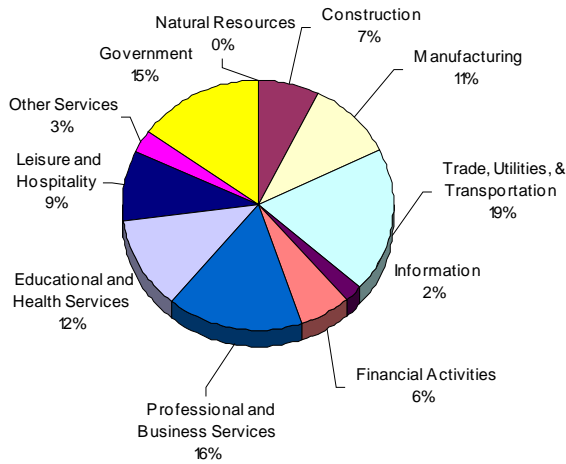
Nonfarm payroll jobs in Ada County increased by 4.7 percent during 2005. Construction led the way at 14 percent despite its comparatively small size to other industries. Manufacturing employment rose 2 percent over the year with

the high-tech sector and heavy industrial manufacturing leading the way in hiring. While this is a modest increase, it is an encouraging reversal of the recent decline in manufacturing jobs. Trade, utilities and transportation posted a gain of 5.5 percent during 2005, and education and health services added 4.3 percent more jobs. The job growth in Ada County is indicative of its rapidly growing population. Construction, trade, education and health care are all sectors that follow population growth. But the county has not been attracting the new industry with high-paying jobs, which it will need to maintain its future economic health.

Labor Force	Jul 2005	Jul 2006
Civilian Labor Force	189,837	195,586
Total Employment	184,117	190,195
Unemployed	5,720	5,391
Ada County % Unemployed	3.0	2.8
State of Idaho % Unemployed	3.8	3.6
U.S. % Unemployed	5.0	4.8

Labor Force	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Civilian Labor Force	143,168	150,023	155,647	162,809	166,544	170,639	175,705	177,959	178,022	179,958	189,003
Unemployment	4,882	5,083	4,678	5,212	5,135	5,703	6,472	8,150	8,135	6,887	5,895
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.4	3.4	3.0	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.7	4.6	4.6	3.8	3.1
Employment	138,286	144,940	150,969	157,597	161,409	164,936	169,233	169,808	169,887	173,071	183,108

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2005



## Per Capita Income & Employment

Ada County ranks second in the state in per capita income at \$36,543, which is 36 percent above the state average of \$26,877 and 16.1 percent above the national average per capita income of \$31,472. Blaine County, home of the Sun Valley resort, has the highest per capita income in the state.

Services and trade account for the majority of jobs in Ada County. Wages vary substantially between industries. The highest occur in manufacturing, led by the high-tech sector, while the lowest wages are predictably in the leisure and hospitality sector. In all industries within Ada County, wages have increased between 1995 and 2005.

## Major Private Employers

St. Lukes Regional Medical Center
St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center
Blue Cross of Idaho Health Services
DirecTV
Hewlett Packard
Idaho Power Co.
Micron Technology, Inc.
Fred Meyer
Wal-Mart
Citicorp
Albertson's

## Occupational Wages\*

## Entry Level Wage

Medical Assistants	\$11.90
Waiters and Waitresses	\$6.02
Structural Metal Fabricators and Fitters	\$11.49
Customer Service Representatives	\$9.39
Electricians	\$12.08
Construction Laborers	\$9.04
Team Assemblers	\$8.71
Registered Nurse	\$18.95
Exec Secretaries & Admin Assistants	\$11.07
Computer Support Specialists	\$13.99
Retail Salespersons	\$7.12

\* Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Commerce & Labor Web site at <http://lmi.idaho.gov>.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1995, 2004, & 2005	1995		2004		2005	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
<b>Total Covered Wages</b>	138,992	\$27,455	188,135	\$35,731	197,260	\$36,827
<b>Agriculture</b>	587	\$20,079	713	\$24,593	765	\$24,576
<b>Mining</b>	110	\$42,350	124	\$41,212	141	\$37,107
<b>Construction</b>	10,543	\$31,157	12,310	\$37,023	14,029	\$38,578
<b>Manufacturing</b>	20,486	\$45,955	20,829	\$55,797	21,251	\$57,510
<b>Trade, Utilities, &amp; Transportation</b>	29,006	\$24,018	34,949	\$31,349	36,884	\$34,007
<b>Information</b>	2,413	\$32,075	3,675	\$44,492	4,563	\$42,600
<b>Financial Activities</b>	8,719	\$27,916	10,595	\$40,980	11,305	\$43,798
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	16,362	\$22,793	31,540	\$38,328	32,869	\$37,922
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	12,226	\$27,250	22,659	\$34,828	23,647	\$36,133
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	12,634	\$9,007	17,340	\$12,169	17,858	\$12,740
<b>Other Services</b>	3,981	\$17,314	5,163	\$22,364	5,216	\$23,469
<b>Government</b>	21,925	\$28,431	28,236	\$37,676	28,733	\$37,673

Per Capita Income	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>Ada County</b>	\$26,628	\$27,104	\$27,446	\$28,742	\$30,589	\$33,510	\$34,073	\$34,470	\$34,637	\$36,543
<b>State of Idaho</b>	\$18,707	\$19,426	\$20,248	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,075	\$25,185	\$25,330	\$26,877
<b>United States</b>	\$22,172	\$23,076	\$24,175	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,845	\$30,575	\$30,804	\$31,472

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the offices located at the addresses below:

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