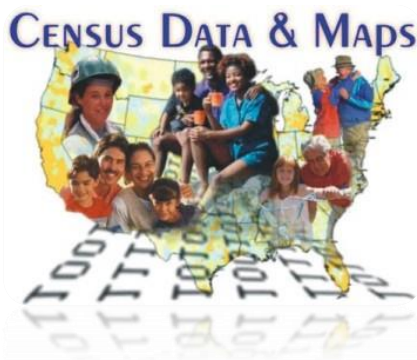


Chapter 4

POPULATION

A general analysis of past, present, and future trends of the County's population--including such characteristics as total populace, age, sex, and income--can be found at: <http://censusviewer.com/county/ID/Jerome>



One of the overriding purposes of establishing a Comprehensive Plan for land use in Jerome County is to ensure that adequate public facilities and services can be provided to the people at a reasonable cost. Population data and growth patterns represent quantifiable facts that the land-use policy recommendations in the 2018 Jerome County Comprehensive Plan may reflect, as may any subsequent amendment. Population actuals and projections are also used to design the capacity of roads

and sewage treatment plants, as well as to determine the level of law enforcement and fire protection. Further, population information is used by the private sector to determine the need for additional retail or service activities.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

In 1990, the single largest share of total County population was in the unincorporated County. The unincorporated areas showed moderate growth from 1990 to 2017. This is likely due to the expansion of agricultural activities--primarily the dairy industry, related processing facilities, and support industries. The City of Jerome showed a steady increase in percentage of population while Hazelton nearly doubled in size and Eden experienced limited growth. For the most recent population facts, see Appendix A: 4-1. https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml

AGE DISTRIBUTION

To better understand the changes in our population nationally--by state and here in Jerome County--it is necessary to recognize the general change in generations that did not appear to impact livelihood and population in decades past. A generation typically refers to groups of people born over a 15-20 year span: such as the millennial generation, currently the youngest adult generation. (For a current breakdown of the generations,

see Appendix A: 4-2) Previous generations were reported to settle in more often, driven by land ownership, community, and family. Stability and prosperity were the driving



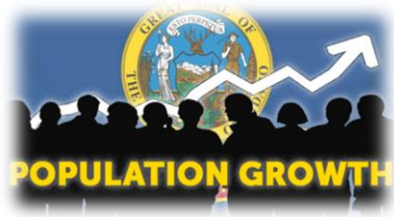
forces after surviving world wars and the great depression. However, newer generations and their greater “global” connection may have a significant effect on the population, housing, and the economy. Faster paced from birth, witnessing the evolution of technology in a few short decades, or having known only a world of readily available global communication and technology at their fingertips, the newer generations are less likely to settle early--focusing less on their immediate community and tending to start families and purchase homes in their late 20's or early 30's if at all. <http://genhq.com/faq-info-about-generations/>

RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN

The designation of races used for Jerome County residents follow definitions of the Federal Office of Management and Budget and the United States Census Bureau. From 1990 to 2018, the reported number of white residents increased by 552; while the reported number of Hispanic residents increased by 7,168 for the same period. On a percentage of total basis, the white resident total decreased from 88.5% to 62.6%. At the same time the Hispanic resident total increased from 6.3% to 34.5%. This dramatic shift relates to the growth in the agricultural and dairy industry where many of the employees are Hispanic. While there are changes in other race categories, the Hispanic resident change was most notable. Current race and origin data can be found in Appendix A: 4-3. County population may not total in Appendix A: 4-3 because persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race, according to census bureau definitions. <http://gemstateprospector.com> – Idaho Commerce – demographics

POPULATION GROWTH

The population growth appears to ebb and flow with the economy--increasing as the economy does and stagnating during economic downturns. Nonetheless, the Idaho Department of Labor has projected a moderate but steady increase of population. These projections can be found in Appendix A: 4-4. 2015-2025 Population Projections, Idaho Department of Labor - 2018



MAINTAINING AND INCREASING GROWTH

Three areas that provide the best opportunity for population growth are:

- Economic development efforts that will bring jobs to the community,
- Planning for an assortment of locations and home styles for a variety of residential opportunities,
- Creation and expansion of varied local recreational and educational opportunities.

Encapsulating these attributes will ensure that the County will maintain the increasing workforce within its boundaries.