

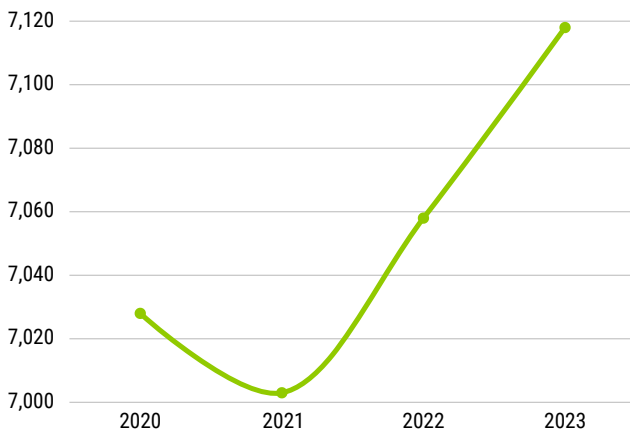
# CARIBOU COUNTY

Population  
7,118

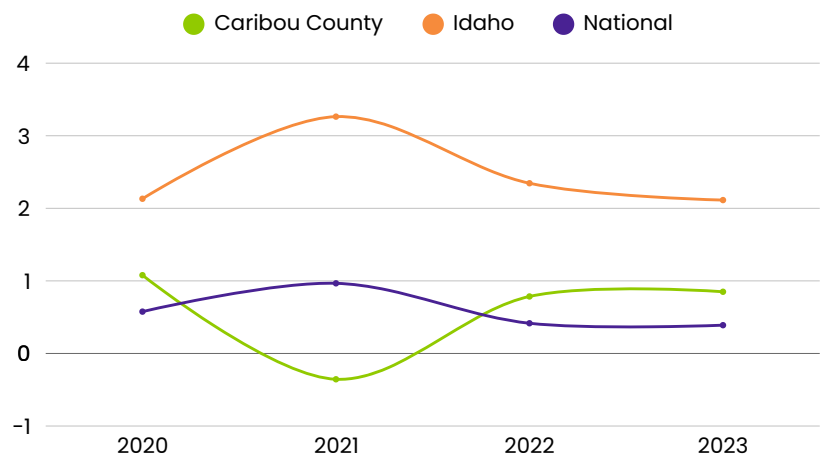


SOURCE: CARIBOU COUNTY IDAHO FACEBOOK PAGE

## POPULATION



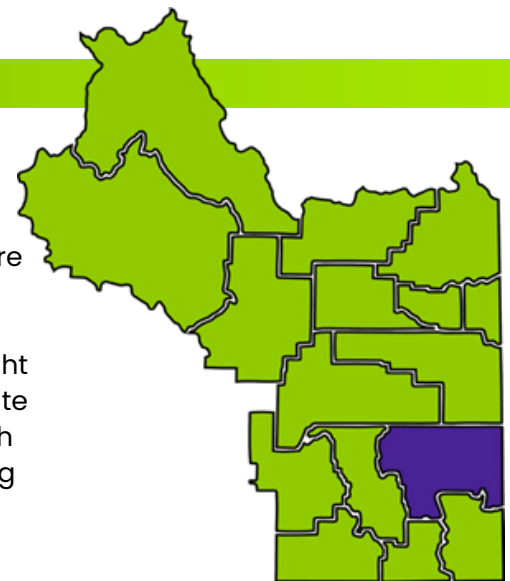
## POPULATION PERCENTAGE CHANGE



U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Age and Sex." American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0101, [https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2023.S0101?t=Populations+and+People&g=010XX00US\\_040XX00US16\\_050XX00US16029](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2023.S0101?t=Populations+and+People&g=010XX00US_040XX00US16_050XX00US16029). Accessed on 12 Aug 2025.

## CARIBOU COUNTY'S STEADY GROWTH

Between 2020 and 2023, Caribou County's population growth fluctuated more sharply than state and national trends. In 2020, the county grew by about 1.08%, roughly half of Idaho's strong 2.13% growth but still well above the national rate of 0.58%. The following year, Caribou County experienced a slight population decline of -0.36%, in contrast to continued growth at both the state (3.26%) and national (0.97%) levels. Growth rebounded in 2022 and 2023, with increases of 0.79% and 0.85%, though still trailing Idaho's rates and remaining modest compared to its 2020 gain. This pattern suggests that while Caribou County has generally grown over the past four years, it has done so at a slower and more inconsistent pace than the state overall.

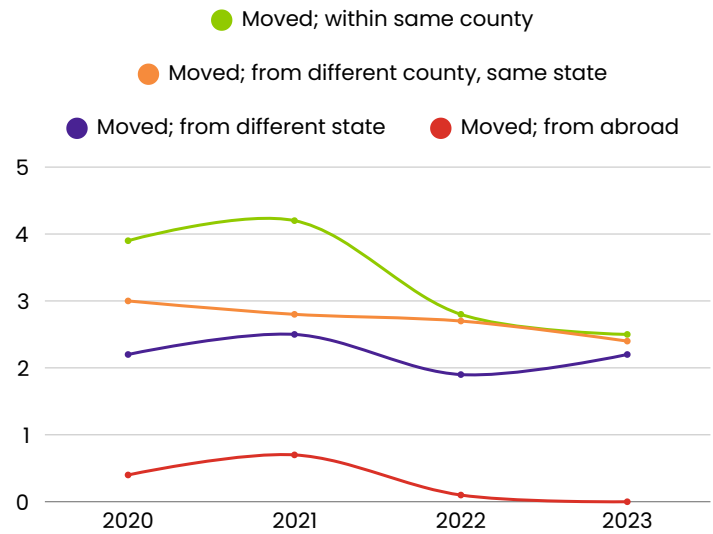


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## GEOGRAPHIC MOBILITY IN CARIBOU COUNTY

From 2020 to 2023, Caribou County's in-and out-migration trends point to a steady but narrowing flow of new residents. In-migration from other states remained relatively consistent—rising from 2.2% in 2020 to 2.5% in 2021 before returning to 2.2% in 2023—suggesting that the county continues to appeal to out-of-state movers, though without major growth in attraction. In-state migration from other Idaho counties declined from 3.0% to 2.4%, which may reflect a combination of limited housing availability, tighter labor markets, or shifting preferences toward other parts of the state. International migration was minimal and fell to zero by 2023, underscoring the county's limited exposure to global migration flows. Overall, while Caribou County is still gaining residents from both in-state and out-of-state sources, the slight decline in mobility could indicate that its growth is becoming more dependent on natural population change rather than net migration.



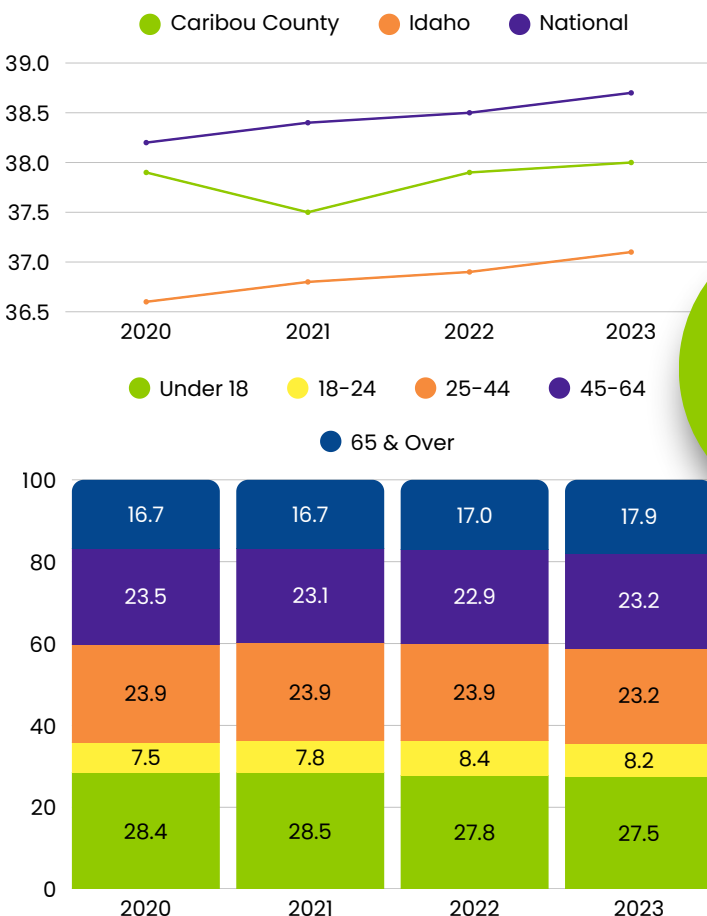
U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Geographic Mobility by Selected Characteristics in the United States." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0701, <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2023.S0701?q=migration&g=050XX00US16023>. Accessed on 22 Jul 2025.

## MEDIAN AGE

### STEADY AND STRONG: A BALANCED AGE PROFILE IN CARIBOU COUNTY

Caribou County's age profile has remained relatively stable in recent years, with only minor shifts between 2020 and 2023. The median age decreased slightly from 37.9 in 2020 to 37.5 in 2021, before gradually rising to 38.0 in 2023. This keeps the county just above Idaho's median age but consistently below the national figure. The stability suggests a balanced mix of age groups, with neither rapid aging nor significant youth influx altering the population structure. Such steadiness may reflect a combination of moderate migration patterns and consistent birth rates, indicating that Caribou County's demographic makeup—and the services and workforce capacity tied to it—are likely to remain steady in the near term.

**31.6%**  
are between 18  
and 44 years old

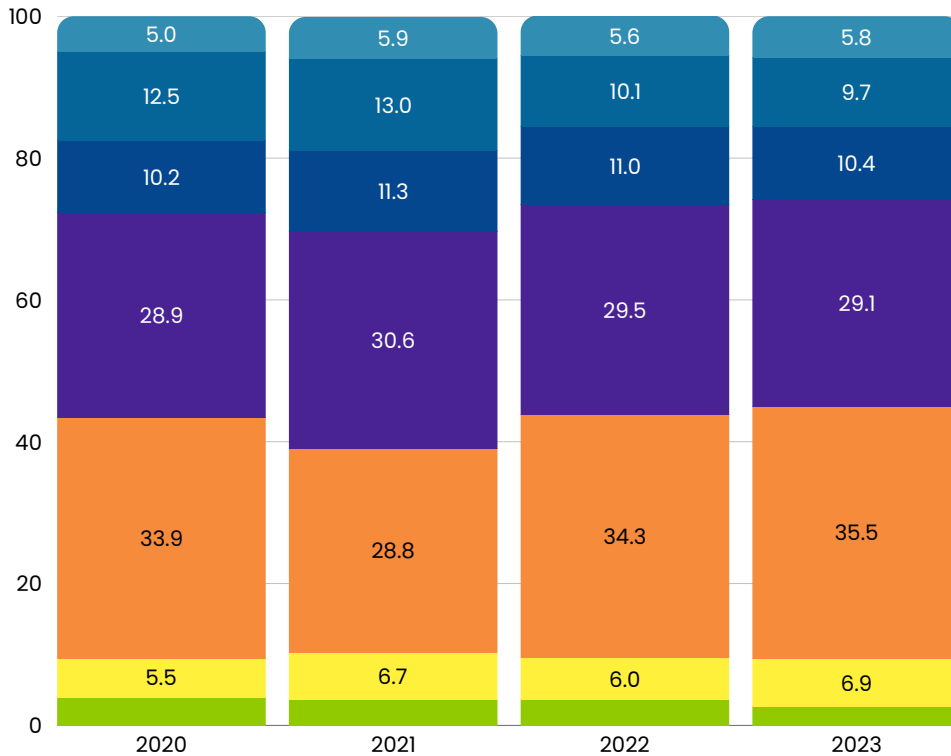


U.S. Census Bureau. "AGE AND SEX." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0101, <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2020.S0101?q=median+age&g=050XX00US16029>. Accessed on 13 Aug 2025.

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# EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

- Less than 9th grade
- 9th – 12th grade, No diploma
- High school graduate (includes equivalency)
- Some college, No degree
- Associate's degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Graduate or professional degree



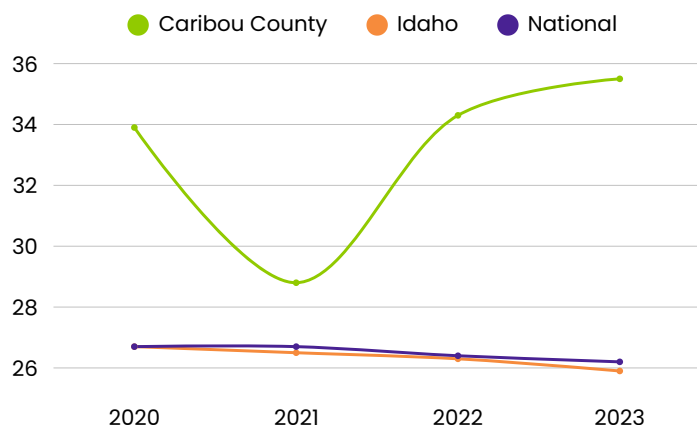
Educational attainment among Caribou County residents aged 25 and older has remained steady from 2020 to 2023, with some positive shifts. In 2023, the largest share (35.5%) held a high school diploma or equivalent, and 29.1% had completed some college without earning a degree—demonstrating strong participation in postsecondary education. Associate's degree attainment stayed consistent at around 10–11%, and the share with less than a 9th-grade education declined from 4.0% to 2.6%. While bachelor's degree attainment dipped from 12.5% to 9.7%, graduate and professional degree rates held steady near 6%. These patterns reflect a community with a solid educational foundation and a workforce equipped for a range of careers. Continued access to postsecondary and technical education opportunities can help further strengthen skill levels and economic potential across the county.



U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Educational Attainment." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1501, <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2023.S1501?t=Educational+Attainment&g=050XX00US16029>. Accessed on 14 Aug 2025.

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

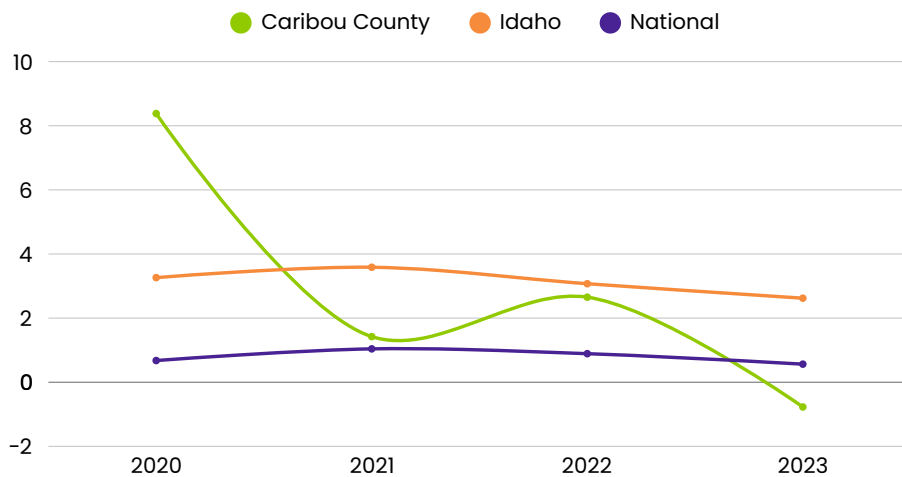
From 2020 to 2023, the percentage of Caribou County residents aged 25 and older whose highest level of education was a high school diploma or equivalent increased from 33.9% to 35.5%. High school graduation remains the most common level of attainment in the county and continues to exceed both Idaho and national averages, which were 25.9% and 26.2% in 2023, respectively. This strong foundation in high school education equips residents with essential skills for workforce participation and provides a stepping stone for further education and career advancement. At the same time, the county is seeing growth in postsecondary and technical education, reflecting a community that values lifelong learning and is increasingly prepared for a diverse and evolving economy. These trends highlight Caribou County's commitment to educational achievement and its role in supporting local economic growth and opportunities for residents of all ages.



U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Educational Attainment." American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1501, [https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2023.S1501?t=Educational+Attainment&g=010XX00US\\_040XX00US16\\_050XX00US16029](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2023.S1501?t=Educational+Attainment&g=010XX00US_040XX00US16_050XX00US16029). Accessed on 14 Aug 2025.

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## JOB GROWTH



U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Selected Economic Characteristics." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP03, [https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2023.DP03?t=Employment+and+Labor+Force+Status&g=010XX00US\\_040XX00US16\\_050XX00US16029](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2023.DP03?t=Employment+and+Labor+Force+Status&g=010XX00US_040XX00US16_050XX00US16029). Accessed on 15 Aug 2025.

Caribou County has experienced notable shifts in job growth over the past four years. In 2020, the county saw a sharp increase of 8.38%—well above both the Idaho state average and national growth rates. Moderate gains followed in 2021 (1.42%) and 2022 (2.65%), again outpacing national trends in both years. However, in 2023 the county recorded a slight decline of 0.77%, while state and national employment continued to grow. These patterns reflect a labor market that can achieve periods of strong expansion but remains sensitive to changes in local economic conditions.



### KEY EMPLOYERS

Caribou County's employment landscape is anchored by a mix of private and public sector employers that support education, healthcare, agriculture, and local services. Leading the county is G&A Outsourcing, the largest employer with 250–499 workers, providing significant private sector employment. Other major private employers include J R Simplot, Caribou Medical Center, and N A Degerstrom, each employing 100–249 people and contributing to the county's agricultural and healthcare industries. Public sector employment is highlighted by the Soda Springs and Grace Joint School Districts, Caribou County government, and the North Gem School District, which together employ 50–249 individuals, emphasizing the importance of education and local administration. Smaller private employers, such as Broulim's Foodtown and Bear River Electric, employ 15–99 people, rounding out a diverse employment base that blends public services, healthcare, agriculture, and local business.

Top Employers	Local Government	Employment Range
G&A Outsourcing	Private	250-499
J R Simplot	Private	100-249
Caribou Medical Center	Private	100-249
Soda Springs School District	Local Government	100-249
Caribou County	Local Government	100-249
N A Degerstrom	Private	100-249
Grace Joint School District	Local Government	100-249
Broulim's Foodtown	Private	50-99
North Gem School District	Local Government	50-99
Bear River Electric	Private	15-49

Idaho Department of Labor. Caribou County Labor Force and Economic Profile. June 2025, <https://lmi.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/CaribouProfile.pdf>. Accessed 15 Aug. 2025.

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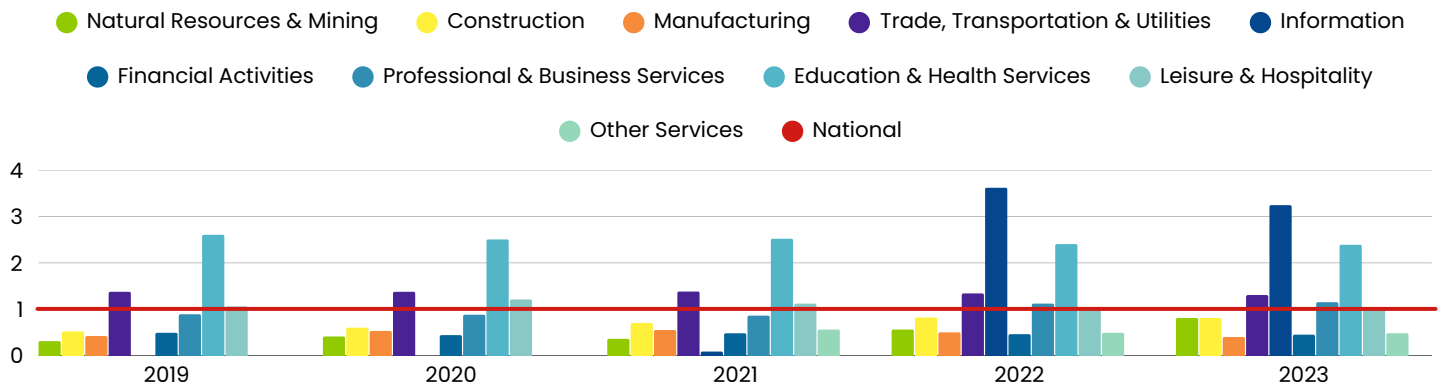
## EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR

Caribou County's employment base is driven by a combination of natural resource industries and service sectors. Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining remain the largest sector, employing 17.6% of the workforce in 2023, though its share has declined from 23.7% in 2020. Educational services, healthcare, and social assistance form the second-largest sector, growing steadily to 24.0% of jobs. Construction has expanded from 12.7% to 16.0% over the same period, while manufacturing holds a stable share at 10.1%. Retail trade accounts for 8.5% of employment, followed by smaller contributions from transportation and utilities (4.1%), professional and administrative services (4.5%), and arts, entertainment, and hospitality (5.1%). Other sectors, including wholesale trade, finance, public administration, and information services, each make up less than 4% of jobs, contributing to a diverse but resource-oriented economy.



U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Selected Economic Characteristics." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP03, <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2023.DP03?t=Industry&g=050XX00US16029>. Accessed on 15 Aug 2025.

## LOCATION QUOTIENT



Location quotient (LQ) compares local industry employment concentration to the national average (1.0). In Caribou County, Education & Health Services is the dominant industry, with LQs consistently above 2.3 from 2019 to 2023, indicating a strong local concentration. Trade, Transportation & Utilities also shows above-average presence, with LQs around 1.30–1.38, reflecting the county's reliance on these sectors for employment. Natural Resources & Mining has grown steadily, rising from 0.31 in 2019 to 0.81 in 2023, showing an increasing local concentration. Construction also shows moderate strength with LQs around 0.52–0.82, while Professional & Business Services (0.86–1.15), Leisure & Hospitality (1.01–1.21), and Financial Activities (0.44–0.45) are near or slightly below national averages. Manufacturing (0.40–0.55), Information (0.00–3.62), and Other Services (0.00–0.56) remain below or volatile compared to the national baseline. Overall, Caribou County's economy is anchored by education, healthcare, and trade, with growing contributions from natural resources and construction.

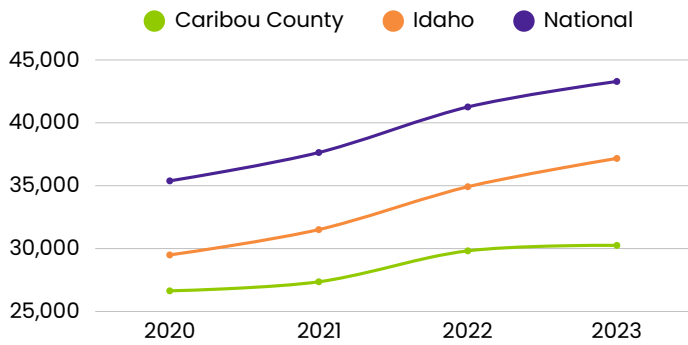
Bureau of Labor Statistics. QCEW Data Files – Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2024, [www.bls.gov/cew/downloadable-data-files.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cew/downloadable-data-files.htm).

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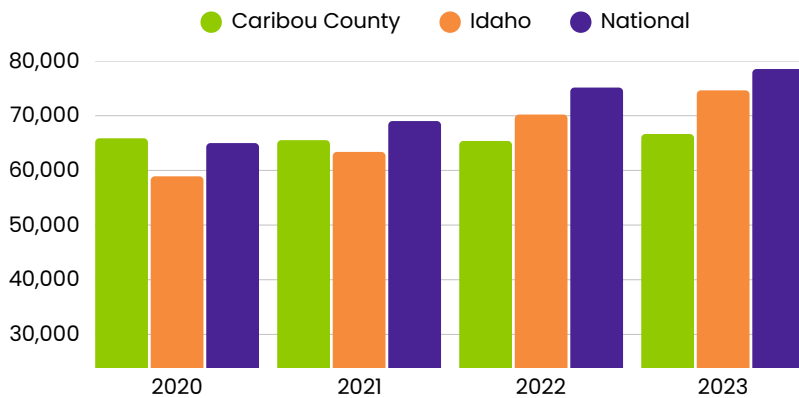
## INCOME PER CAPITA



Caribou County's per capita income has steadily increased over the past four years, rising from \$26,640 in 2020 to \$30,255 in 2023. Despite this growth, the county's per capita income remains below both the Idaho state average (\$37,169 in 2023) and the national average (\$43,289), reflecting a smaller, rural economy with limited high-wage employment opportunities. The steady upward trend suggests gradual income growth, likely driven by gains in healthcare, education, and construction-related employment.

U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Selected Economic Characteristics." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP03, [https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2023.DP03?t=Industry&g=010XX00US\\_040XX00US16\\_050XX00US16029](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2023.DP03?t=Industry&g=010XX00US_040XX00US16_050XX00US16029). Accessed on 15 Aug 2025.

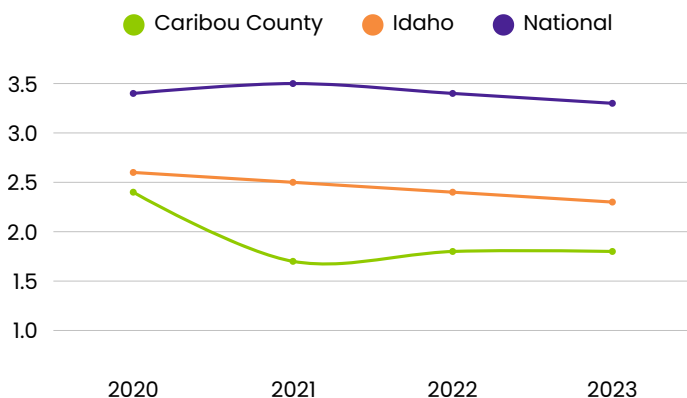
## MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME



Caribou County's median household income has steadily grown from \$65,871 in 2020 to \$66,653 in 2023. While slightly below the state and national medians, this steady growth reflects stable economic conditions and consistent income gains for local households. The county's diverse economy—anchored by healthcare, education, construction, and public sector employment—continues to provide opportunities that support residents and sustain the community's quality of life.

U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Selected Economic Characteristics." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP03, [https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2023.DP03?t=Industry&g=010XX00US\\_040XX00US16\\_050XX00US16029](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2023.DP03?t=Industry&g=010XX00US_040XX00US16_050XX00US16029). Accessed on 15 Aug 2025.

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



Caribou County has maintained a low and stable unemployment rate over the past four years, ranging from 1.7% to 2.4%. In 2023, the county's unemployment remained at 1.8%, below both the Idaho state average of 2.3% and the national rate of 3.3%. This consistently low unemployment reflects a resilient local labor market, supported by key sectors such as healthcare, education, construction, and public administration. The county's stable employment environment provides a strong foundation for economic growth and community well-being.

U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Selected Economic Characteristics." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP03, [https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2023.DP03?t=Industry&g=010XX00US\\_040XX00US16\\_050XX00US16029](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2023.DP03?t=Industry&g=010XX00US_040XX00US16_050XX00US16029). Accessed on 15 Aug 2025.

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# COST OF LIVING

Household Size	Living Wage	Poverty Wage	Minimum Wage
1 Adult	\$17.10	\$6.40	\$7.25
1 Adult 1 Child	\$31.25	\$8.75	\$7.25
1 Adult 2 Child	\$39.20	\$11.00	\$7.25
1 Adult 3 Child	\$51.00	\$13.25	\$7.25
2 Adult (1 Work)	\$26.10	\$8.75	\$7.25
2 Adult (1 Work) 1 Child	\$32.00	\$11.00	\$7.25
2 Adult (1 Work) 2 Child	\$38.10	\$13.25	\$7.25
2 Adult (1 Work) 3 Child	\$42.20	\$15.50	\$7.25
2 Adult	\$13.30	\$4.40	\$7.25
2 Adult 1 Child	\$18.15	\$5.50	\$7.25
2 Adult 2 Child	\$23.00	\$6.60	\$7.25
2 Adult 3 Child	\$27.25	\$7.70	\$7.25

The cost of living in Caribou County highlights the gap between minimum wage earnings and what is needed to meet basic expenses. A single adult must earn a living wage of \$17.10 per hour, more than double the federal minimum wage of \$7.25. For families, the required income increases significantly—one adult with two children needs \$39.20 per hour, while a single earner in a two-adult household with three children must earn \$42.20 per hour to cover necessities. Even dual-earner households face challenges; two working adults with two children each need to make \$23.00 per hour. These figures underscore the economic pressures on working families in Caribou County, particularly for single-parent households.

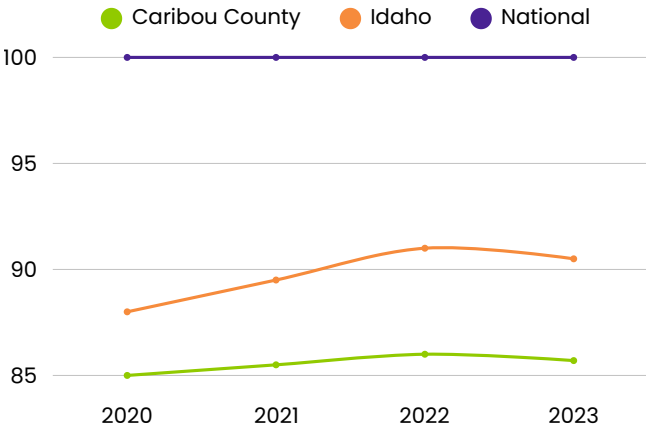
## POVERTY

In 2023, approximately 7.3 percent of Caribou County residents were included in the population for whom poverty status is determined. While this is lower than state and national averages, it still highlights the importance of supporting targeted programs in economic development, workforce training, and social services. Local efforts can help ensure residents have access to housing, healthcare, and education, fostering greater economic stability and a strong quality of life for the community in the years ahead.

Living Wage Calculation for Caribou County, Idaho. Living Wage Calculator, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 10 Feb. 2025, [livingwage.mit.edu/counties/16023](https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/16023). Accessed 15 Aug. 2025.

U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1701, <https://data.census.gov/table/ACST5Y2023.S1701?q=poverty&g=050XX00US16029>. Accessed on 18 Aug 2025.

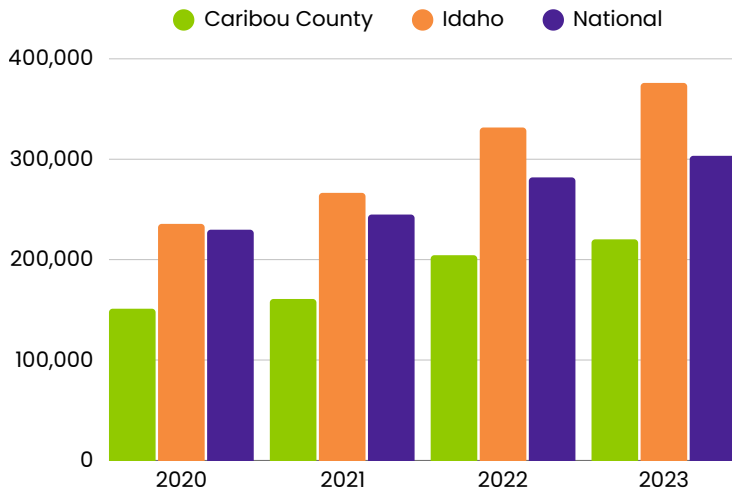
The cost of living index for Caribou County from 2020 to 2023 is estimated to be between 85.0 and 86.0, which is lower than Idaho's range of 88.0 to 91.0, and significantly below the national average set at 100. This indicates that Caribou County offers lower living expenses, mainly due to affordable housing and the economic benefits associated with rural areas. These estimates are based on state-level Regional Price Parities and inflation trends, providing useful approximations of relative price levels. However, they may not fully capture all local variations and specificities. As such, while they offer a general sense of cost differences, individuals considering a move to Caribou County should conduct further research into specific expenses that may affect their personal cost of living.



U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; Council for Community and Economic Research; and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional and Local Cost of Living and Price Parity Data. U.S. Department of Commerce; C2ER; Federal Reserve Economic Data (FRED), 2023, <https://www.bea.gov/data/prices-inflation/regional-price-parities>; <https://www.coli.org/>; <https://www.bls.gov/cpi/>. Accessed 18 Aug. 2025.

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## MEDIAN HOME VALUE

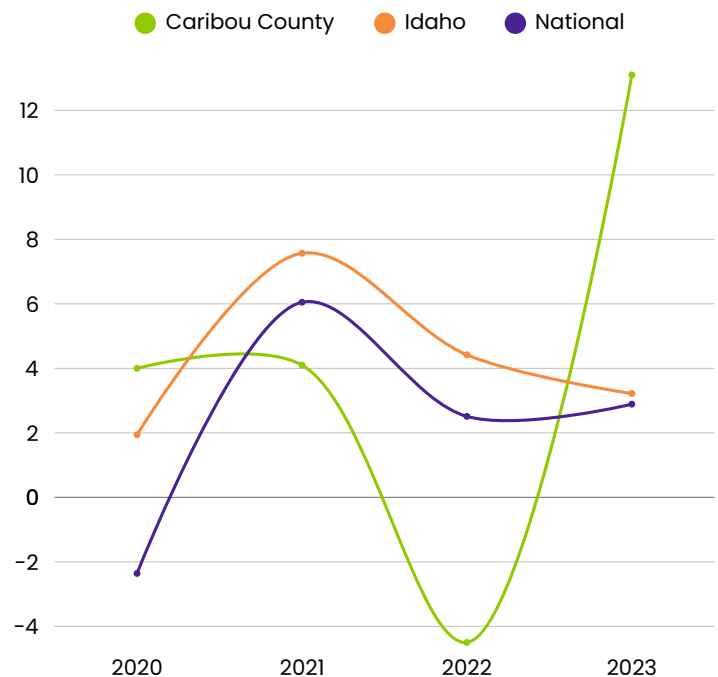


From 2020 to 2023, Caribou County's median home value increased from \$151,100 to \$220,200 — a gain of over 45% in just four years. While home values in the county remain well below Idaho's 2023 median of \$376,000 and the national median of \$303,400, this affordability may offer an advantage for attracting new residents. The steady appreciation in value also reflects growing interest in the area's housing market, signaling potential opportunities for both homeowners and developers.

U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Median Value (Dollars)." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B25077, [https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5Y2023.B25077?t=Housing+Value+and+Purchase+Price&g=010XX00US\\_040XX00US16\\_050XX00US16029](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5Y2023.B25077?t=Housing+Value+and+Purchase+Price&g=010XX00US_040XX00US16_050XX00US16029). Accessed on 18 Aug 2025.



Between 2020 and 2023, Caribou County's GDP growth demonstrated notable resilience amid fluctuating state and national trends. In 2020, while the national economy contracted by 2.4% and Idaho grew modestly by 1.9%, Caribou County's economy is estimated to have grown approximately 4.0%, reflecting its ability to withstand early pandemic-related disruptions. The county continued this positive momentum in 2021 with a 4.1% increase, even as Idaho surged 7.6% and the national economy grew 6.1%. In 2022, Caribou County experienced a temporary contraction of 4.5%, contrasting with Idaho's 4.4% and the nation's 2.5% growth, likely due to localized sector-specific challenges. However, the county rebounded strongly in 2023, posting a 13.1% growth rate compared to Idaho's 3.2% and the national 2.9%, signaling robust economic recovery and expansion. Over these four years, Caribou County's GDP trends reflect both resilience and a capacity for rapid rebound, highlighting its emerging significance within the regional economy.



U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. Gross Domestic Product by County and Metropolitan Area, 2023. BEA 24-57, Dec. 2024, <https://www.bea.gov/sites/default/files/2024-12/lagdp1224.pdf>. Accessed 18 August 2025.

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