

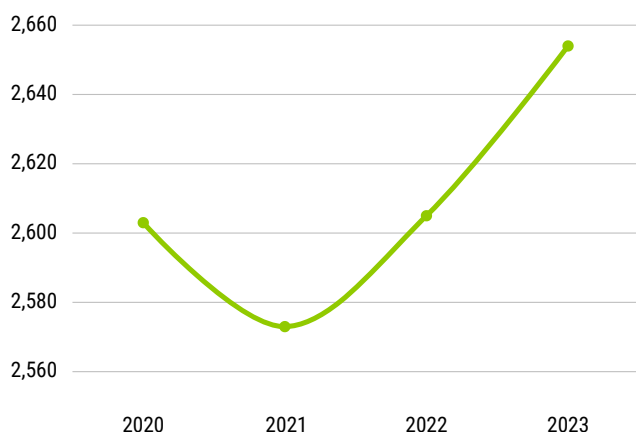
# BUTTE COUNTY

Population  
2,654

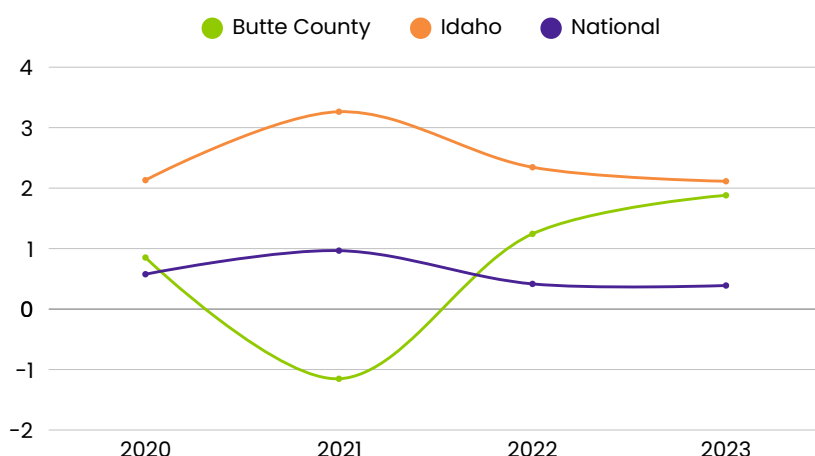


SOURCE: BUTTE COUNTY IDAHO FACEBOOK PAGE

## POPULATION



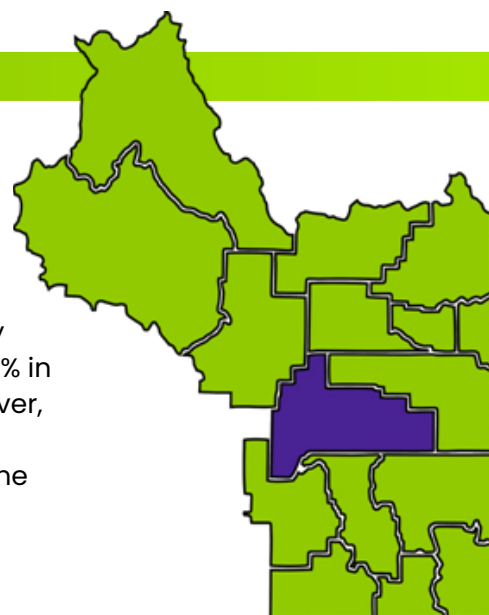
## POPULATION PERCENTAGE CHANGE



U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Age and Sex." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0101, [https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2023.S0101?t=Populations+and+People&g=010XX00US\\_040XX00US16\\_050XX00US16023](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2023.S0101?t=Populations+and+People&g=010XX00US_040XX00US16_050XX00US16023). Accessed on 22 Jul 2025.

## BUILDING MOMENTUM: BUTTE COUNTY'S PATH TO STEADY GROWTH

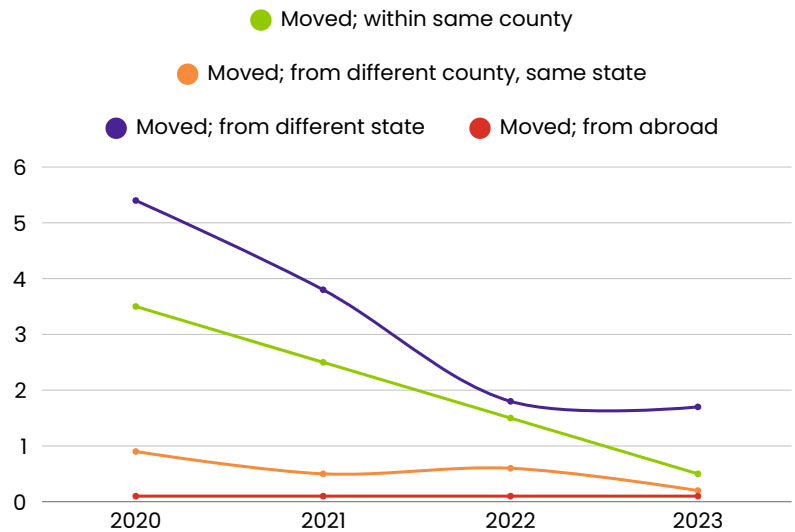
Between 2020 and 2023, Butte County's percent change showed a more variable growth pattern compared to state and national trends. The county began with moderate growth of 0.85% in 2020, followed by a decline of -1.15% in 2021—contrasting sharply with Idaho's strong 3.26% growth that year. However, Butte County rebounded in 2022 with a 1.24% increase and continued to accelerate in 2023, reaching 1.88%. While its growth rates remained below the state average throughout the period, they consistently outpaced national rates in both 2022 and 2023. This recovery suggests growing economic momentum, despite earlier fluctuations.



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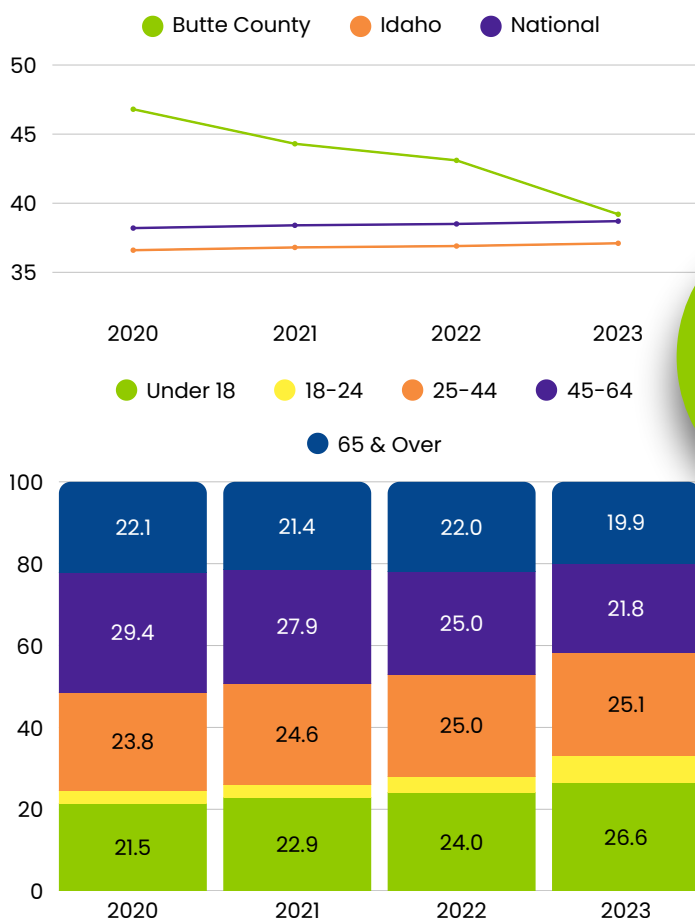
## GEOGRAPHIC MOBILITY IN BUTTE COUNTY

Geographic mobility in Butte County has steadily declined over the past four years, reflecting a trend toward greater population stability. In 2020, 3.5% of residents moved within the county, but by 2023, that figure had dropped to just 0.5%. Similarly, interstate in-migration decreased from 5.4% in 2020 to 1.7% in 2023. Moves from other counties within Idaho remained low throughout, while international migration held steady at 0.1%. These trends suggest a slowing pace of population turnover, possibly indicating a community that is becoming more settled and locally anchored. While the numbers reflect less movement overall, they may also highlight an opportunity to focus on long-term resident retention and local investment.



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



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

### BUILDING THE FUTURE: GROWTH IN BUTTE COUNTY'S YOUNG POPULATION

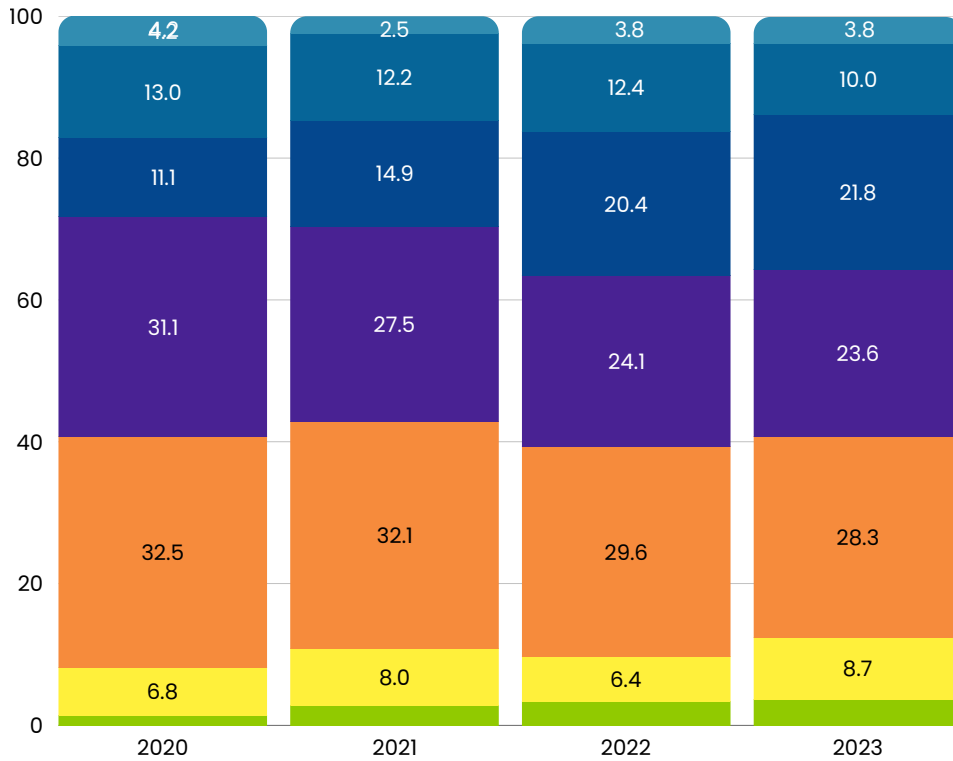
Butte County's age distribution is gradually shifting, with growth concentrated in younger age groups. Between 2020 and 2023, the share of residents under 18 increased from 21.5% to 26.6%, signaling rising demand for family services, youth programming, and K-12 education. The 18-24 population also doubled from 3.2% to 6.6%, which may point to improved local retention or the return of younger adults. Meanwhile, the 25-44 age group remained steady around 25%, reflecting a stable core workforce. Notably, the percentage of residents aged 45-64 and 65+ declined over this period, suggesting a modest demographic shift toward a younger community profile. Together, these trends point to a youthful population structure and potential momentum for long-term regional renewal.

U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Age and Sex." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0101, <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2023.S0101?q=median+age&g=050XX00US16023>. Accessed on 22 Jul 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



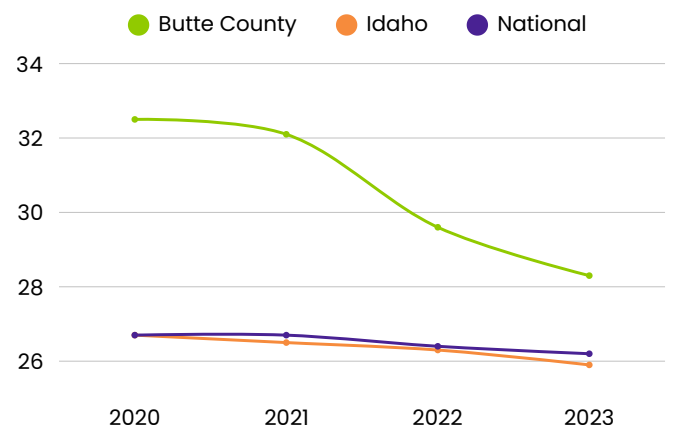
Educational attainment among Butte County residents aged 25 and older has experienced gradual changes from 2020 to 2023. As of 2023, the largest share (28.3%) held a high school diploma or equivalent, while 23.6% had completed some college without earning a degree. Notably, the proportion of residents with an associate's degree nearly doubled over the period, rising from 11.1% in 2020 to 21.8% in 2023—suggesting increased interest in technical and two-year programs. Meanwhile, bachelor's degree attainment declined slightly from 13.0% to 10.0%, and the share with graduate or professional degrees remained relatively stable at around 3–4%. There has also been a modest increase in those with less than a 9th-grade education, from 1.4% to 3.7%. Overall, the data reflects shifting educational priorities among Butte County's adult population, with growing emphasis on workforce-aligned postsecondary education.



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=050XX00US16023>. Accessed on 25 Jul 2025.

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

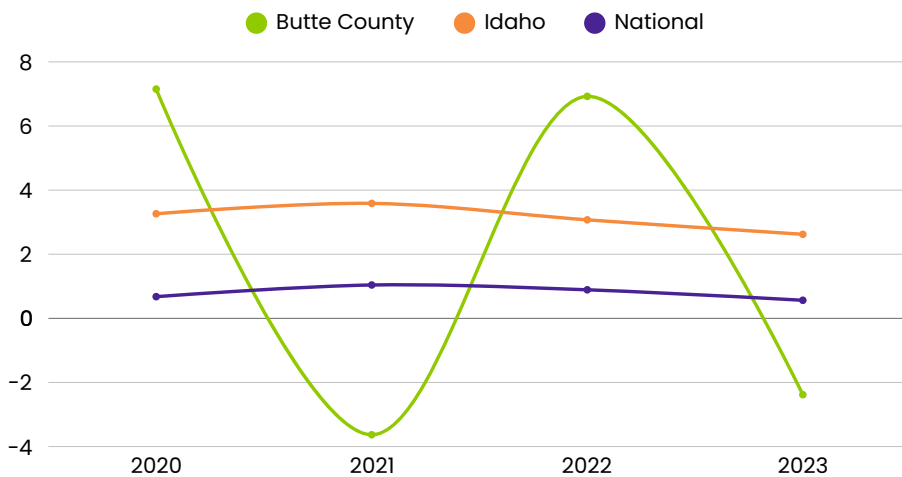
From 2020 to 2023, the percentage of Butte County residents aged 25 and older whose highest level of education was a high school diploma or equivalent declined from 32.5% to 28.3%. Despite the decline, high school graduation remains the most common single level of attainment in the county. Butte County has consistently reported a higher share of high school-only graduates compared to both Idaho and the U.S. averages. In 2023, 28.3% of adults in Butte County had a high school diploma as their highest level of education, compared to 25.9% in Idaho and 26.2% nationally. This gradual decrease may reflect a positive trend toward more residents pursuing additional education, as seen in the rising share of associate's degrees over the same period. While high school remains a key milestone for many, the data suggests a shifting educational landscape in Butte 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=010XX00US\\_040XX00US16\\_050XX00US16023](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2023.S1501?t=Educational+Attainment&g=010XX00US_040XX00US16_050XX00US16023). Accessed on 25 Jul 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\\_050XX00US16023](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2023.DP03?t=Employment+and+Labor+Force+Status&g=010XX00US_040XX00US16_050XX00US16023). Accessed on 29 Jul 2025.

Butte County has experienced notable fluctuations in job growth over the past four years. In 2020 and 2022, the county saw strong gains of 7.15% and 6.92% respectively—outpacing both the Idaho state average and national job growth in those years. However, these gains were offset by contractions in 2021 (-3.63%) and 2023 (-2.38%), indicating a highly variable local labor market. Despite these ups and downs, Butte County's job growth has periodically outperformed broader state and national trends, reflecting the county's sensitivity to shifts in local industry and employment dynamics.



## KEY EMPLOYERS

Butte County's employment landscape is anchored by a mix of private, local, and federal employers. Leading the list is Battelle Energy Alliance, employing 5,000+ workers, largely due to its operations at the Idaho National Laboratory. Other major private employers include Fluor Marine Propulsion (1,000–2,499 employees), Idaho Environmental Coalition (250–499), and Lost River Medical Center (100–249), indicating a strong presence in energy and healthcare. Public sector employment also plays a vital role, with the Butte County School District and Butte County government employing up to 99 and 49 people, respectively. Federal agencies like the U.S. Department of Energy, Department of the Interior, and local establishments such as Pickle's Place and Jelydo contribute to a diverse employment base in this rural county.

Top Employers	Local Government	Employment Range
Battelle Energy Alliance	Private	5000+
Idaho Environmental Coalition	Private	250-499
Fluor Marine Propulsion	Private	1000-2499
Lost River Medical Center	Private	100-249
Butte County School District	Local Government	50-99
Butte County	Local Government	15-49
Jelydo	Private	15-49
Pickle's Place	Federal Government	15-49
U.S. Department of The Interior	Federal Government	15-49
U.S. Department of Energy	Federal Government	15-49

Idaho Department of Labor. Butte County Labor Force and Economic Profile. June 2025, <https://imi.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/ButteProfile.pdf>. Accessed 12 Aug. 2025.

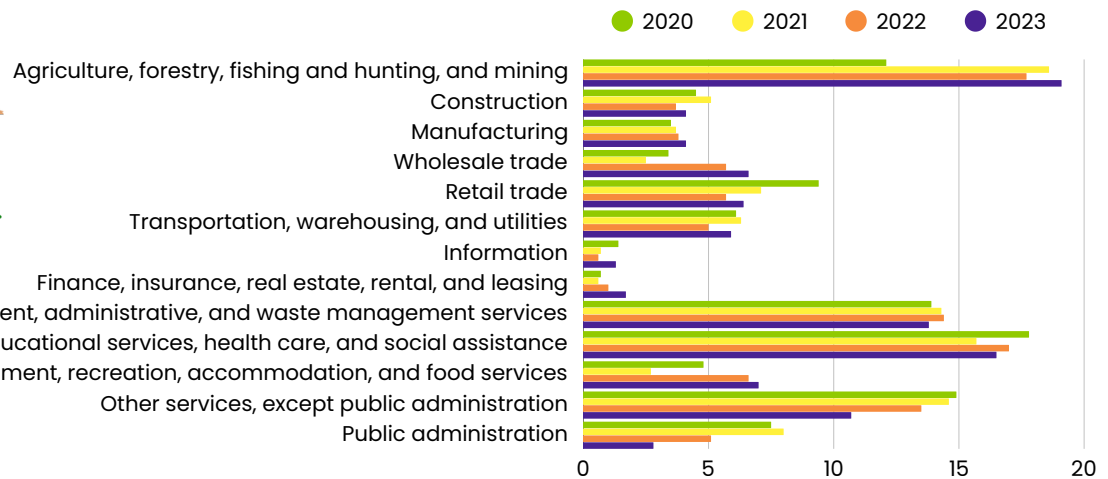
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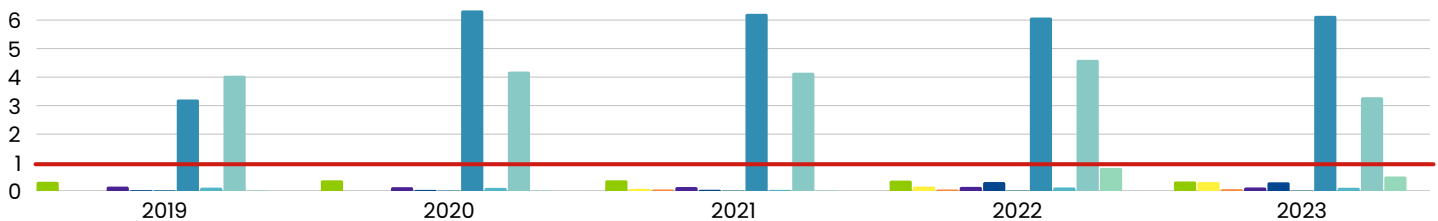
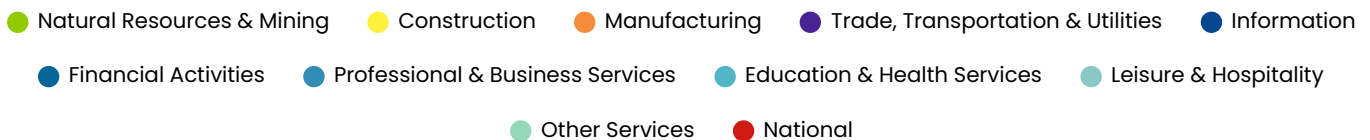
## EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR

Butte County's economy is strongly supported by agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining, which accounted for 19.1% of employment in 2023, marking it as a key economic driver. Manufacturing (4.1%) and wholesale trade (6.6%) have grown steadily, reflecting expanding industrial and commercial activity. The education, health care, and social assistance sector remains a major employer at 16.5%, alongside professional and administrative services at 13.8%, both providing stability in service industries. Retail trade (6.4%) and transportation and utilities (5.9%) contribute to the local economy, though their shares have declined somewhat. The arts, entertainment, accommodation, and food services sector rebounded to 7.0%, showing signs of recovery. Public administration employment decreased significantly to 2.8%. Overall, Butte County's employment landscape is diverse, balancing traditional resource-based industries with growing service and trade sectors, signaling a resilient and evolving 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=050XX00US16023>. Accessed on 29 Jul 2025.

## LOCATION QUOTIENT

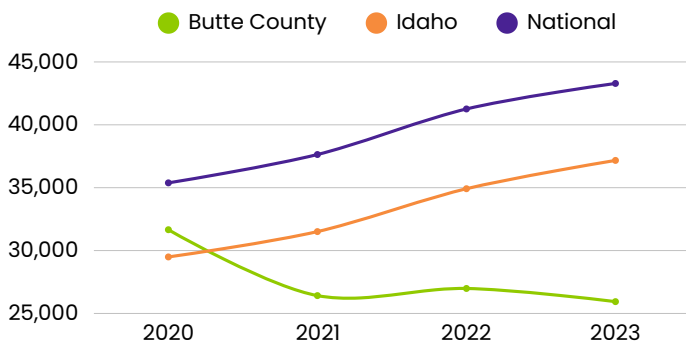


Location quotient (LQ) compares local industry employment concentration to the national average (1.0). In Butte County, Professional & Business Services is a dominant industry, with LQs consistently above 6.0 from 2019 to 2023, indicating an extremely high local concentration—likely linked to federal contract work. Leisure & Hospitality also shows a strong presence, with LQs ranging from 3.30 to 4.60, reflecting the county's reliance on tourism and service-related employment. Other sectors, including Natural Resources & Mining and Construction, remain below national levels but show slight upward trends, particularly Construction, which rose from 0.00 in 2019 to 0.32 in 2023. Manufacturing, Education & Health Services, Financial Activities, and Trade, Transportation & Utilities all have LQs well under 1.0, suggesting limited local concentration. The Information and Other Services sectors show volatility, with brief spikes possibly due to short-term activity or data anomalies. Overall, Butte County's economy is anchored by federal service-related employment and tourism, with modest movement toward diversification in construction and local services.

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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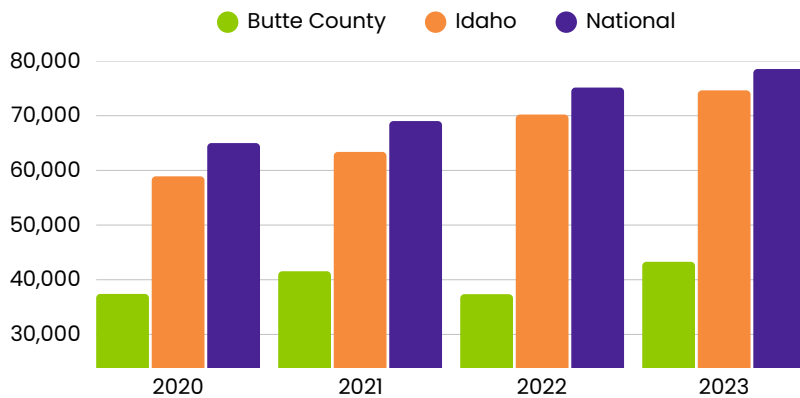
## INCOME PER CAPITA



Butte County's per capita income declined from \$31,659 in 2020 to \$25,940 in 2023, while both Idaho and national averages increased. This trend may reflect demographic factors, such as an increase in students or retirees with lower incomes, as well as the county's relatively low cost of living, which helps residents maintain a comfortable lifestyle. The local economy is also shifting toward sectors with more employment but lower wages, like retail and services, supporting overall community stability despite the drop in income.

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\\_050XX00US16023](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2023.DP03?t=Industry&g=010XX00US_040XX00US16_050XX00US16023). Accessed on 11 Aug 2025.

## MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME



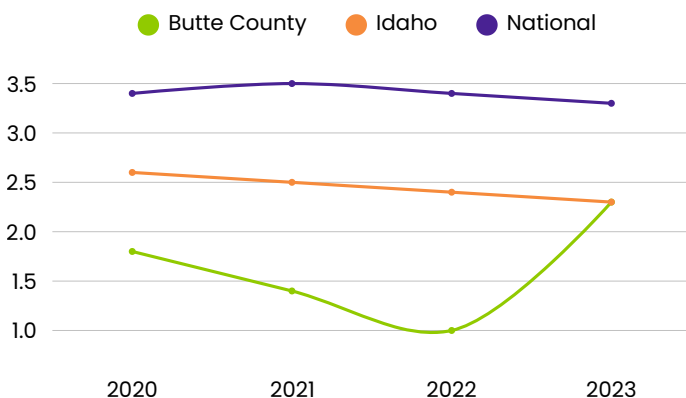
Butte County's median household income has shown modest growth over the past four years, rising from \$37,404 in 2020 to \$43,281 in 2023.

While this remains well below Idaho's 2023 median of \$74,636 and the national median of \$78,538, the recent increase from 2022 to 2023 marks a positive shift after previous fluctuations.

This upward movement may signal gradual economic resilience and potential for future income growth in the county, especially if paired with continued investment and job opportunities.

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\\_050XX00US16023](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2023.DP03?t=Industry&g=010XX00US_040XX00US16_050XX00US16023). Accessed on 11 Aug 2025.

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



Butte County's unemployment rate has remained consistently low over the past four years, ranging from 1.0% in 2022 to 2.3% in 2023, closely matching Idaho's rate and staying well below national averages. Even with the slight uptick in 2023, these figures reflect a stable local labor market and strong workforce participation. This consistent trend highlights the county's economic resilience, suggesting that local industries and employers have been able to maintain steady job opportunities despite broader economic fluctuations.

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\\_050XX00US16023](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2023.DP03?t=Industry&g=010XX00US_040XX00US16_050XX00US16023). Accessed on 11 Aug 2025.

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# COST OF LIVING

Household Size	Living Wage	Poverty Wage	Minimum Wage
1 Adult	\$25.79	\$7.52	\$7.25
1 Adult 1 Child	\$40.39	\$10.17	\$7.25
1 Adult 2 Child	\$49.21	\$12.81	\$7.25
1 Adult 3 Child	\$62.89	\$15.46	\$7.25
2 Adult (1 Work)	\$35.93	\$10.17	\$7.25
2 Adult (1 Work) 1 Child	\$43.21	\$12.81	\$7.25
2 Adult (1 Work) 2 Child	\$48.45	\$15.46	\$7.25
2 Adult (1 Work) 3 Child	\$56.56	\$18.10	\$7.25
2 Adult	\$17.97	\$5.08	\$7.25
2 Adult 1 Child	\$23.52	\$6.41	\$7.25
2 Adult 2 Child	\$27.90	\$7.73	\$7.25
2 Adult 3 Child	\$33.69	\$9.05	\$7.25

The cost of living in Butte County is relatively high compared to Idaho’s minimum wage, with a living wage for a single adult estimated at \$25.79 per hour. For households with children, the required wage increases significantly — a single adult with one child would need \$40.39 per hour, while a single adult with three children would need \$62.89 per hour to meet basic expenses. Two-adult households with only one income face similar challenges, requiring \$35.93 per hour without children and \$56.56 per hour with three children. Even in two-adult, two-income households, living wage requirements range from \$17.97 per hour without children to \$33.69 per hour with three children, highlighting the substantial gap between earnings at minimum wage and the income needed for financial stability in the county.

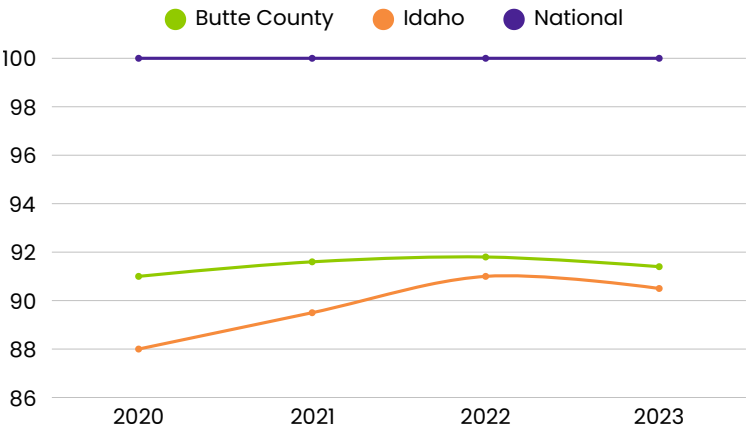
## POVERTY

In 2023, approximately 21.3 percent of Butte County residents were included in the population for whom poverty status is determined. This rate is well above both state and national averages, highlighting significant economic challenges in the county. Targeted efforts in workforce development, housing, healthcare, and education are critical to help reduce poverty and support greater economic stability and quality of life for local residents.

Living Wage Calculation for Butte County, Idaho. Living Wage Calculator, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 10 Feb. 2025, [livingwage.mit.edu/counties/16023](https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/16023). Accessed 11 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/ACSST5Y2023.S1701?q=poverty&g=050XX00US16023>. Accessed on 11 Aug 2025.

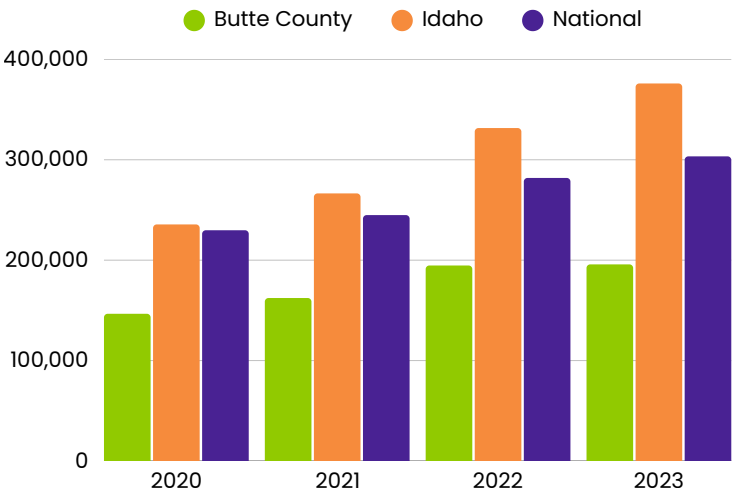
The cost of living index values for Butte County from 2020 to 2023 are estimated to range between 91.0 and 91.4, compared to Idaho’s state-level range of 88.0 to 90.5, with the national average fixed at 100. These figures are based on Regional Price Parities (RPP) data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). Because county-level cost of living data is not always directly available, these estimates for Butte County are derived from state-level data and other regional economic indicators. As a result, while they provide a useful approximation of relative price levels, they may not capture all local variations and should be interpreted as indicative rather than exact values.



U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. Regional Price Parities by State and Metro Area. U.S. Department of Commerce, 2023. Federal Reserve Economic Data (FRED), Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/data/IDRPPALL>. Accessed 17 July 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, 2023, <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2023.S1701?q=poverty&g=050XX00US16023>. Accessed 11 Aug. 2025; Council for Community and Economic Research. Cost of Living Index. 2023, <https://www.coli.org/>. Accessed 17 July 2025.

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# MEDIAN HOME VALUE

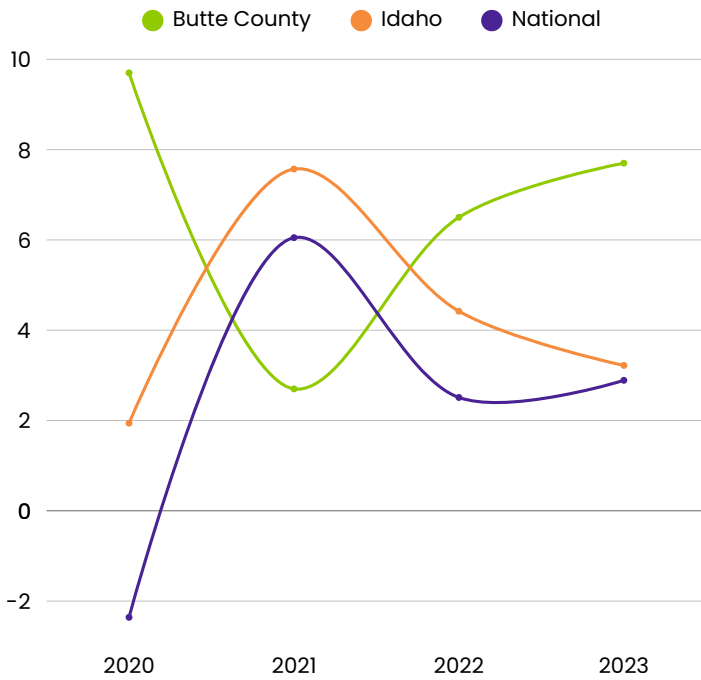


From 2020 to 2023, Butte County's median home value increased from \$146,600 to \$195,800 – a gain of over 33% in just four years. While home values in the county remain well below Idaho's 2023 median of \$376,000 and the national median of \$303,400, this affordability may offer an advantage for attracting 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\\_050XX00US16023](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5Y2023.B25077?t=Housing+Value+and+Purchase+Price&g=010XX00US_040XX00US16_050XX00US16023). Accessed on 12 Aug 2025.



Between 2020 and 2023, Butte County's GDP growth showcased both resilience and sustained economic momentum amid fluctuating broader trends. In 2020, while the national economy contracted by 2.4% due to the onset of the pandemic, Butte County surged with an impressive 9.7% growth rate, far exceeding Idaho's modest 1.9% increase. This strong start reflected the county's ability to withstand initial shocks and capitalize on local economic strengths. Although growth slowed to 2.7% in 2021—lagging behind Idaho's 7.6% and the nation's 6.1%—Butte County maintained positive expansion, suggesting a stable economic base. The county rebounded robustly in 2022 with a 6.5% GDP increase, outperforming both the state's 4.4% and the national 2.5%, signaling renewed activity likely driven by key sectors such as healthcare, manufacturing, and leisure services. This upward trajectory continued in 2023, with a strong 7.7% growth rate compared to Idaho's 3.2% and the nation's 2.9%. Over these four years, Butte County consistently outpaced broader economic trends, reflecting growing economic resilience, diversification, and its emerging role as an important contributor to 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 12 August 2025.

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