

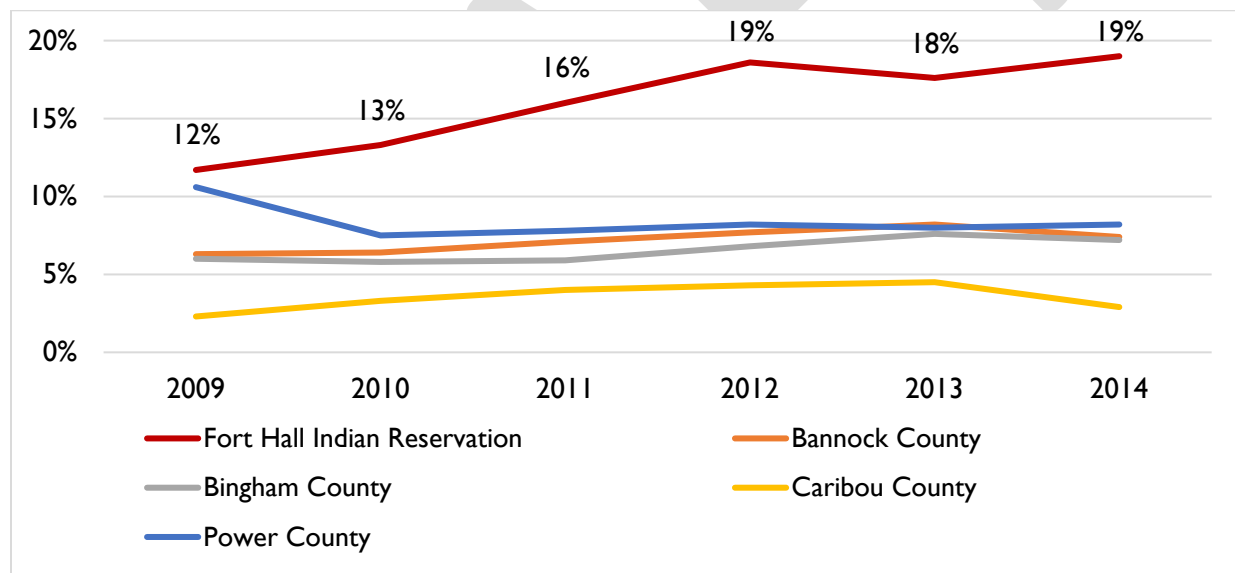
Economic Profile

Economic indicators such as median household income, unemployment and poverty give valuable perspective on the current and future economic prospects of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.

Employment and Unemployment

Unemployment on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation grew 7.3 percent over the period of 2009 to 2014, from 11.7 percent unemployment to 19 percent (Figure 11). During the same period, unemployment in surrounding Eastern Idaho counties remained relatively constant with averages between three to ten percent. Unemployment estimates track only individuals of working age who are actively looking for work but are not finding employment, and who would be available to start working if an opportunity were to arise.⁵

Figure 11: Eastern Idaho Regional Unemployment Trend Data 2009 to 2014



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

This divergence between Reservation and regional unemployment trends suggests a range of possible workforce development challenges, including a lack of employment opportunities, insufficient workforce education, and/or access to part-time or flexible jobs that meet the needs of individuals who may be taking care of dependents or have other obligations.⁶ Additionally,

⁵ ACS Employment Status Data by Block Group, 2006-2010. Labor Force Statistics.

http://www.census.gov/people/laborforce/about/acs_employ.html. All civilians 16 years old and over are classified as unemployed if they (1) were neither “at work” nor “with a job but not at work” during the reference week, and (2) were actively looking for work during the last 4 weeks, and (3) were available to start a job. Also included as unemployed are civilians who did not work at all during the reference week, were waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off, and were available for work except for temporary illness.

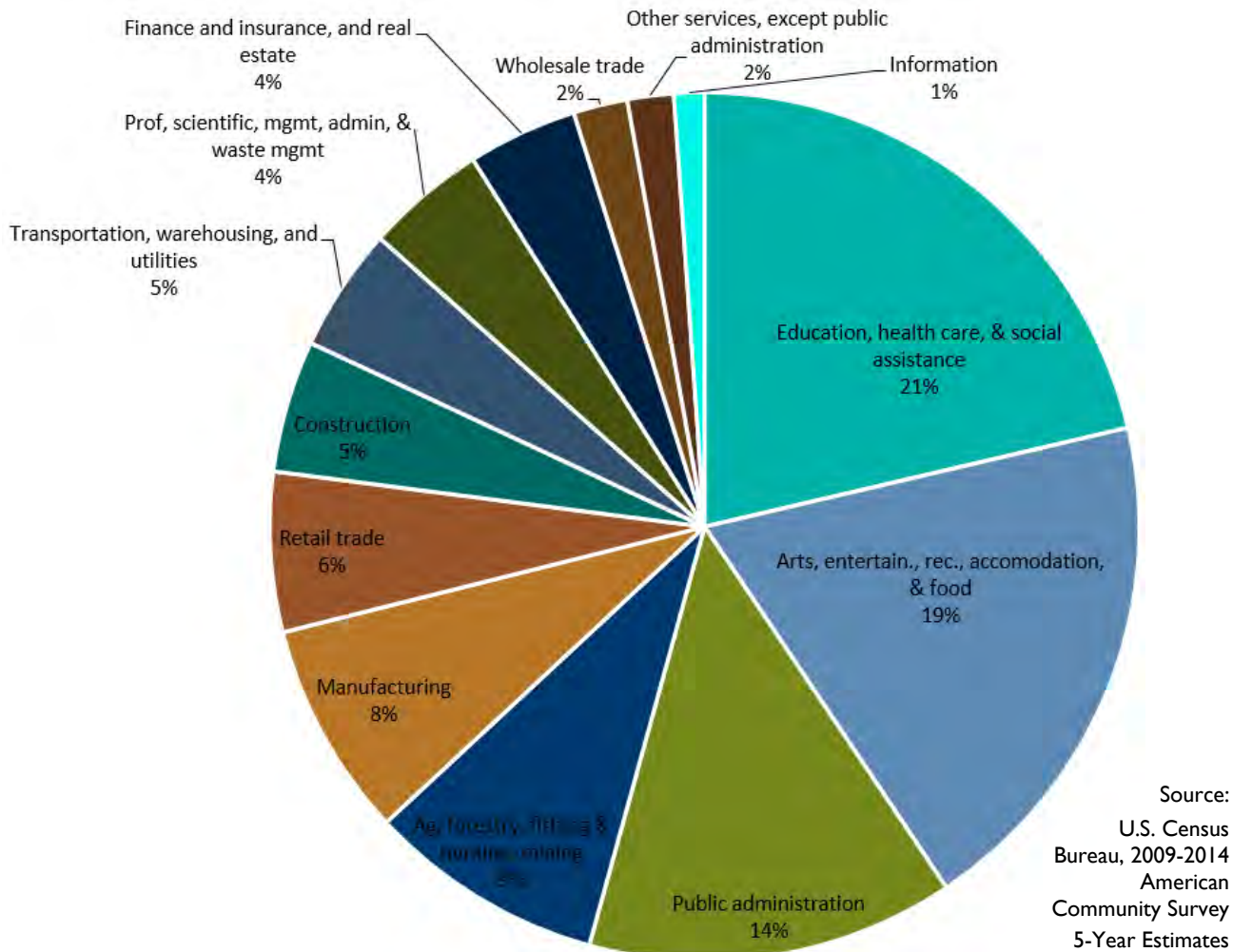
⁶ Conversations with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Business Council on May 12th, 2016 revealed a lack of training and educational opportunities to meet available jobs, and many individuals struggling to maintain employment while managing personal or familial issues.

according to the 2010 *Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Comprehensive Plan* chronic health issues are a limiting factor for some tribal members seeking employment.⁷

Local Employment Sectors and Occupations

Education, health care and social assistance is the largest sector of employment for the Fort Hall Indian Reservation population, providing 21.3 percent of total employment (Figure 12). Arts, entertainment, recreation and accommodation is the next largest employment sector with 19.3 percent of total employment, followed by public administration at 13.7 percent. Employment by industry sector shows the relative diversity of the economy and the degree of dependence on particular industries or employers. Figure 12 shows the complete industry breakdown for the Fort Hall Indian Reservation based on 2009 to 2014 Census estimates.

Figure 12: Fort Hall Indian Reservation Employment by Industry, 2009 to 2014 Averages



⁷ Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Comprehensive Plan Final Draft, September 17, 2010. “Diabetes, substance abuse, behavioral problems and other problems of the body and mind have caused much suffering in our community. These problems also affect the ability of tribal members to hold jobs, to raise their children, to exercise treaty rights, and to enjoy life as it was meant to be.”