

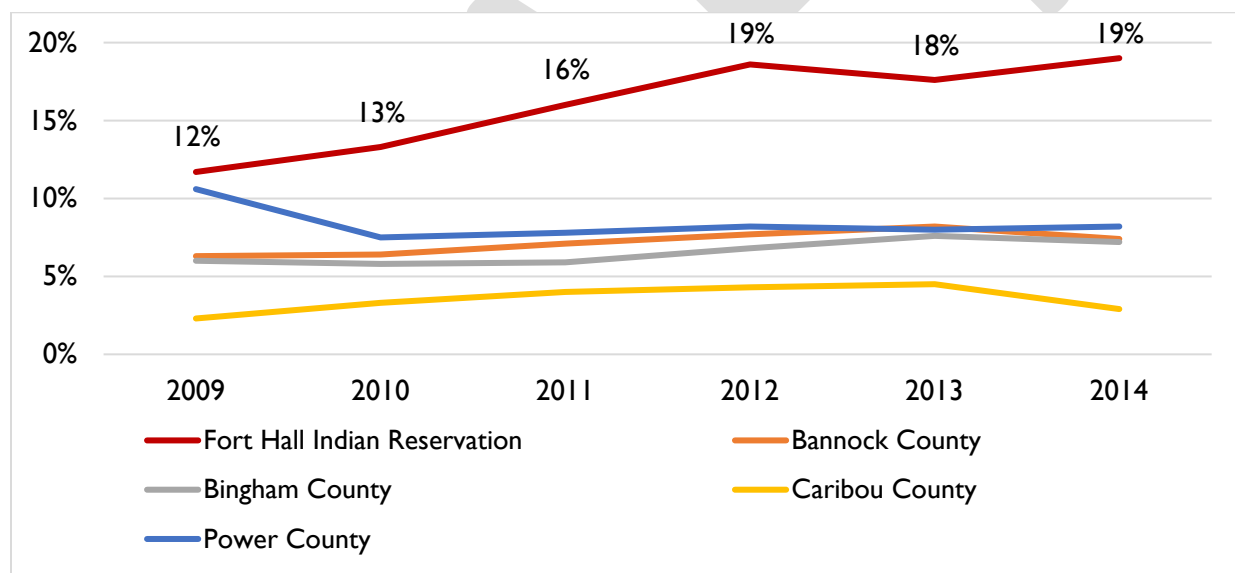
Economic Profile

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.