

Rural Idaho Since the Recession

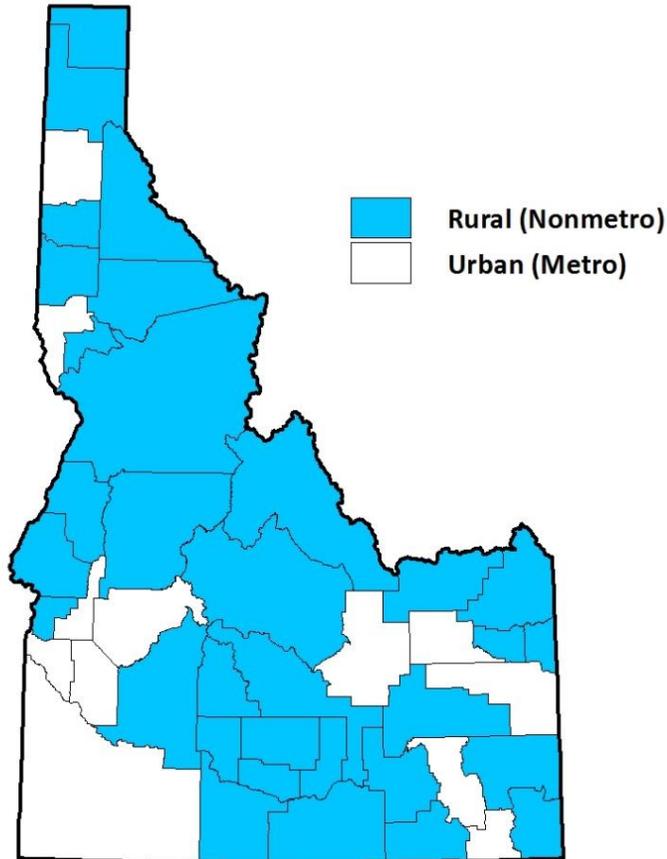
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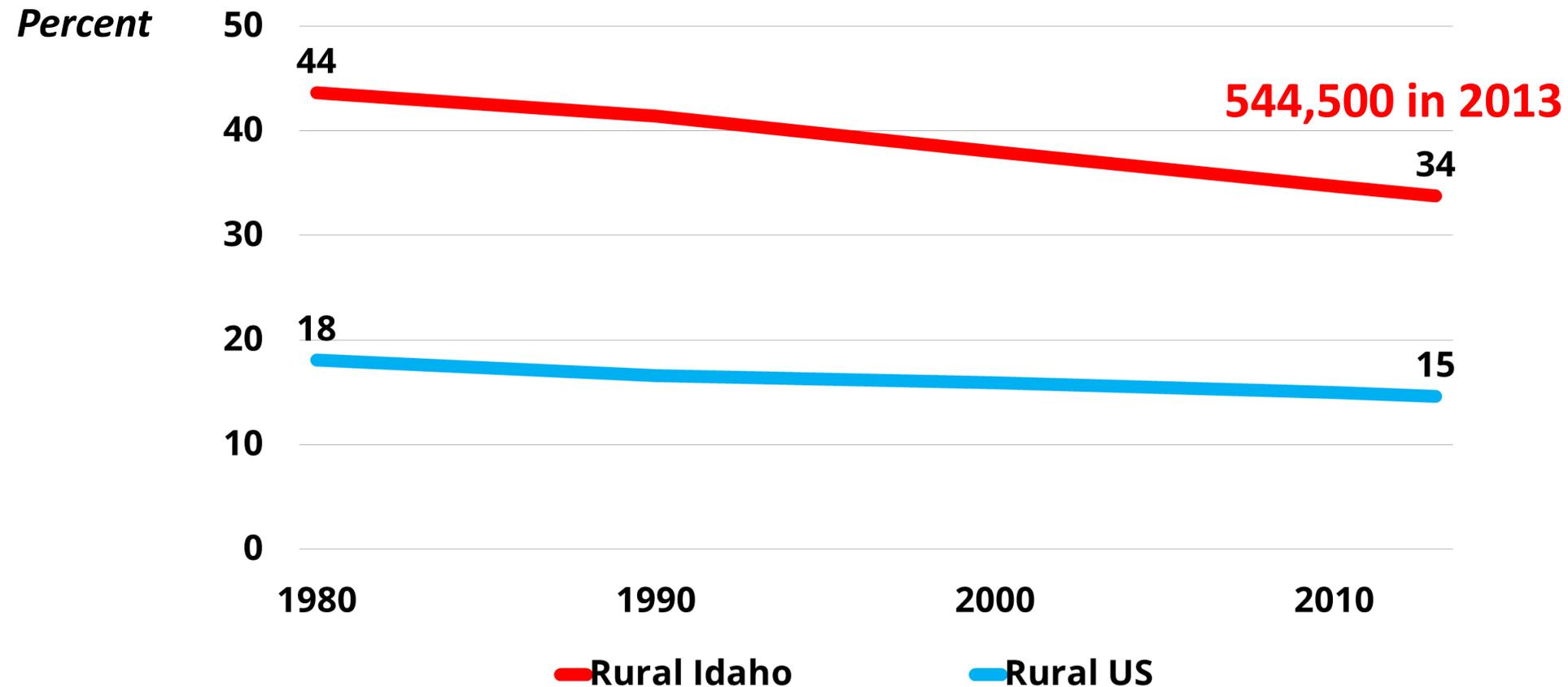
What is “rural” Idaho?



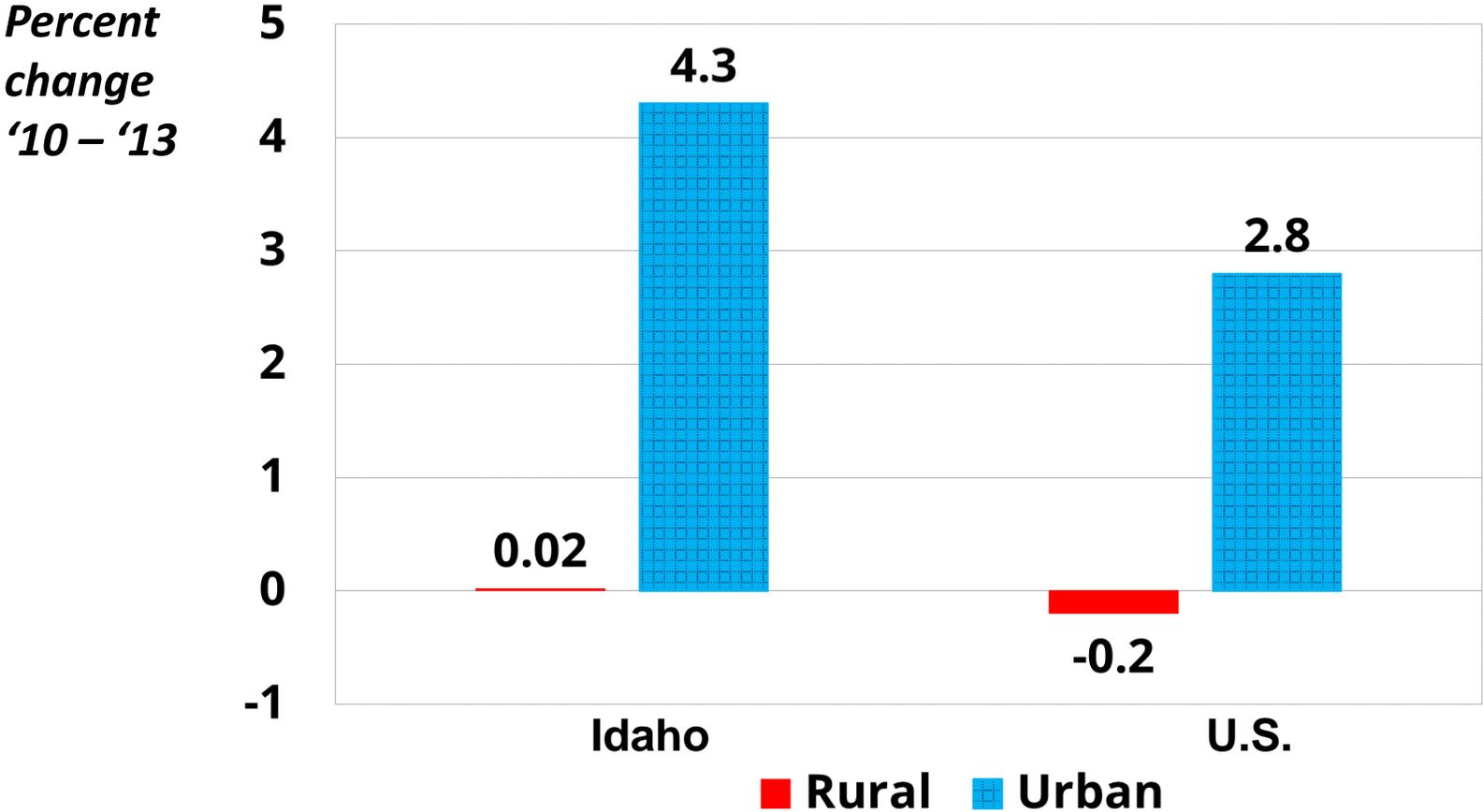
All 32 counties *other than* these metro areas:

- Coeur d’Alene (1 county)
- Lewiston (1 county)
- Boise-Nampa-Caldwell (5 counties)
- Pocatello (2 counties)
- Idaho Falls (3 counties)

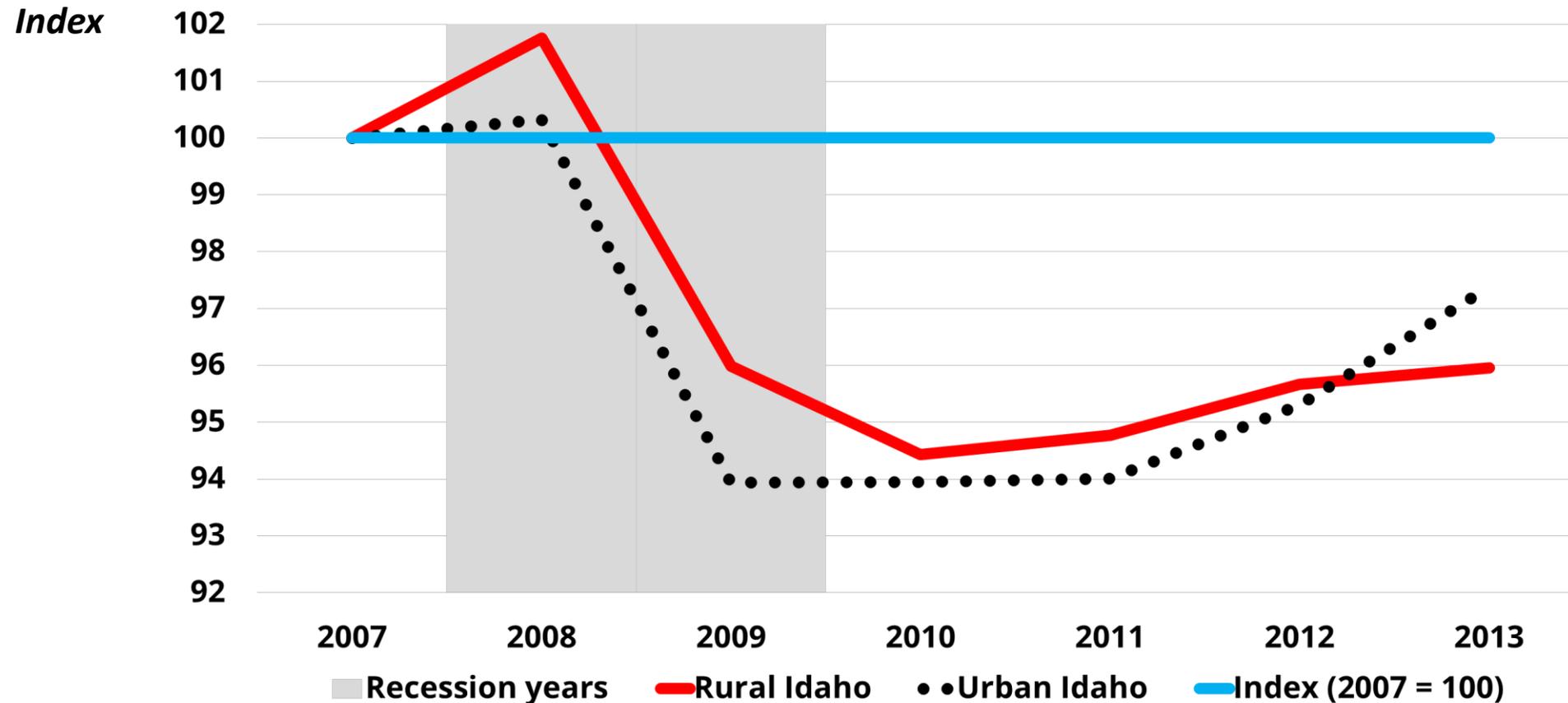
Rural Idahoans make up a declining but significant share of the population.



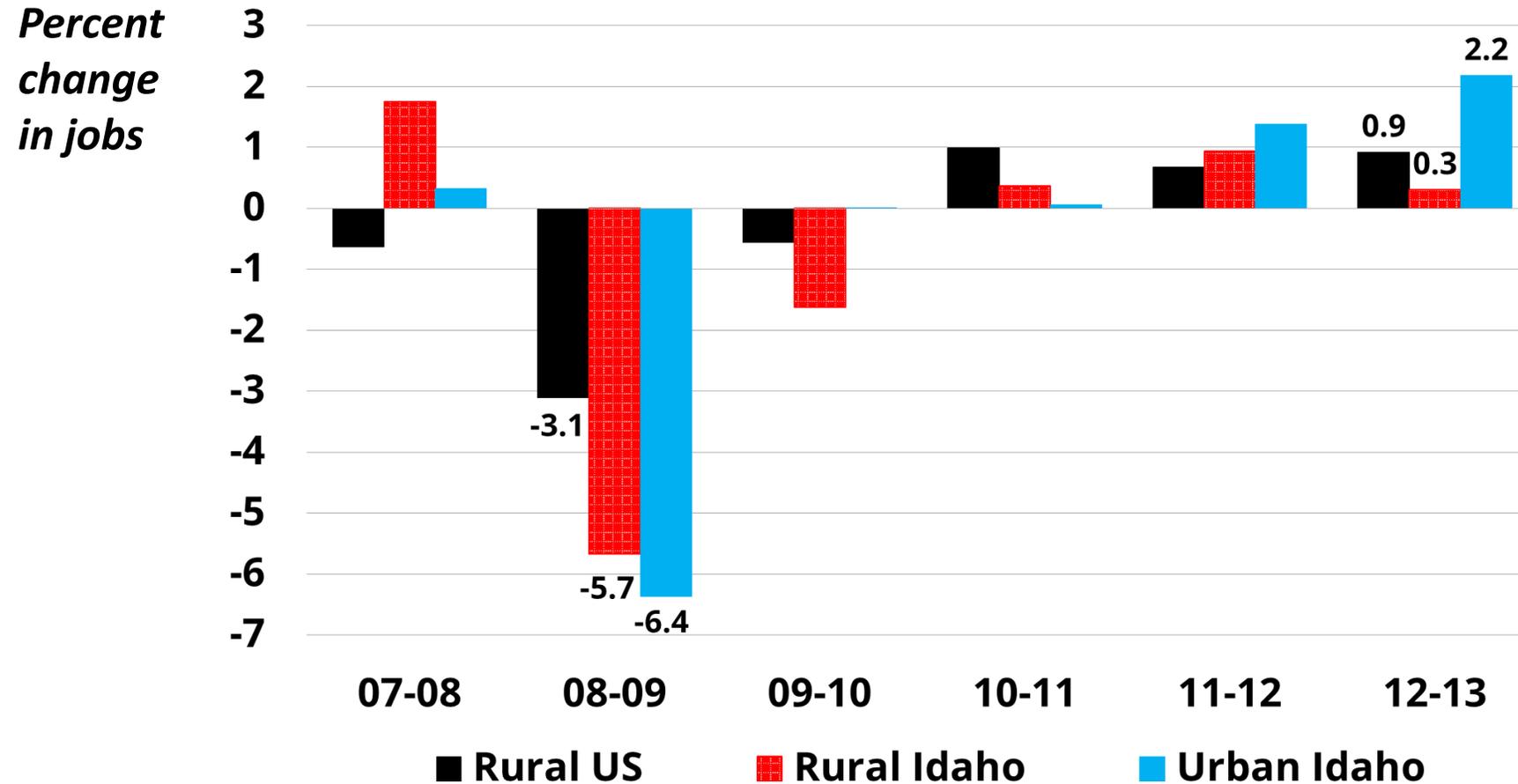
Idaho's urban population is up since the recession. Not so in rural.



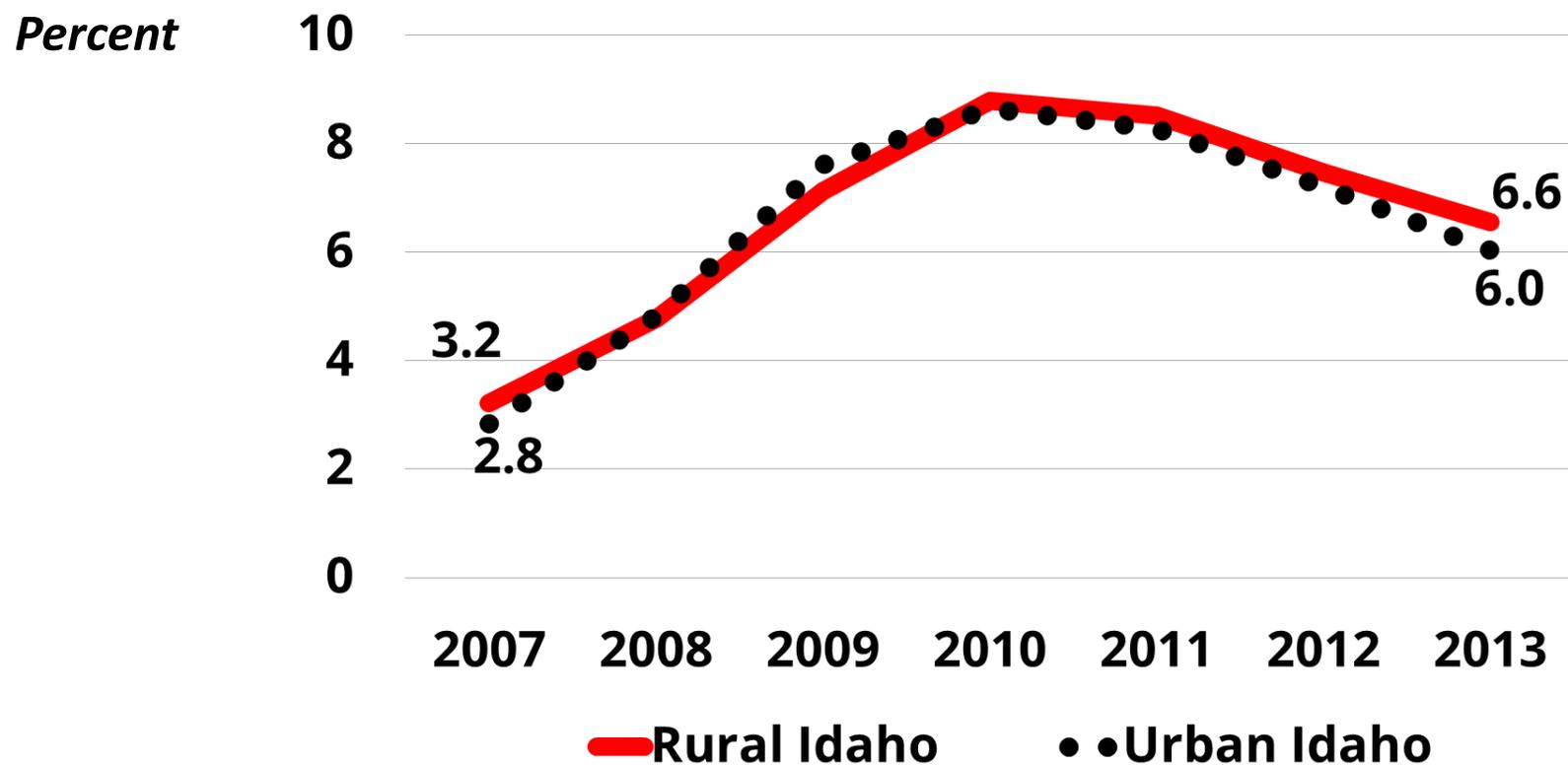
Employment was hit hard in both rural and urban Idaho. Rural is recovering more slowly.



Another way to look at the same story...

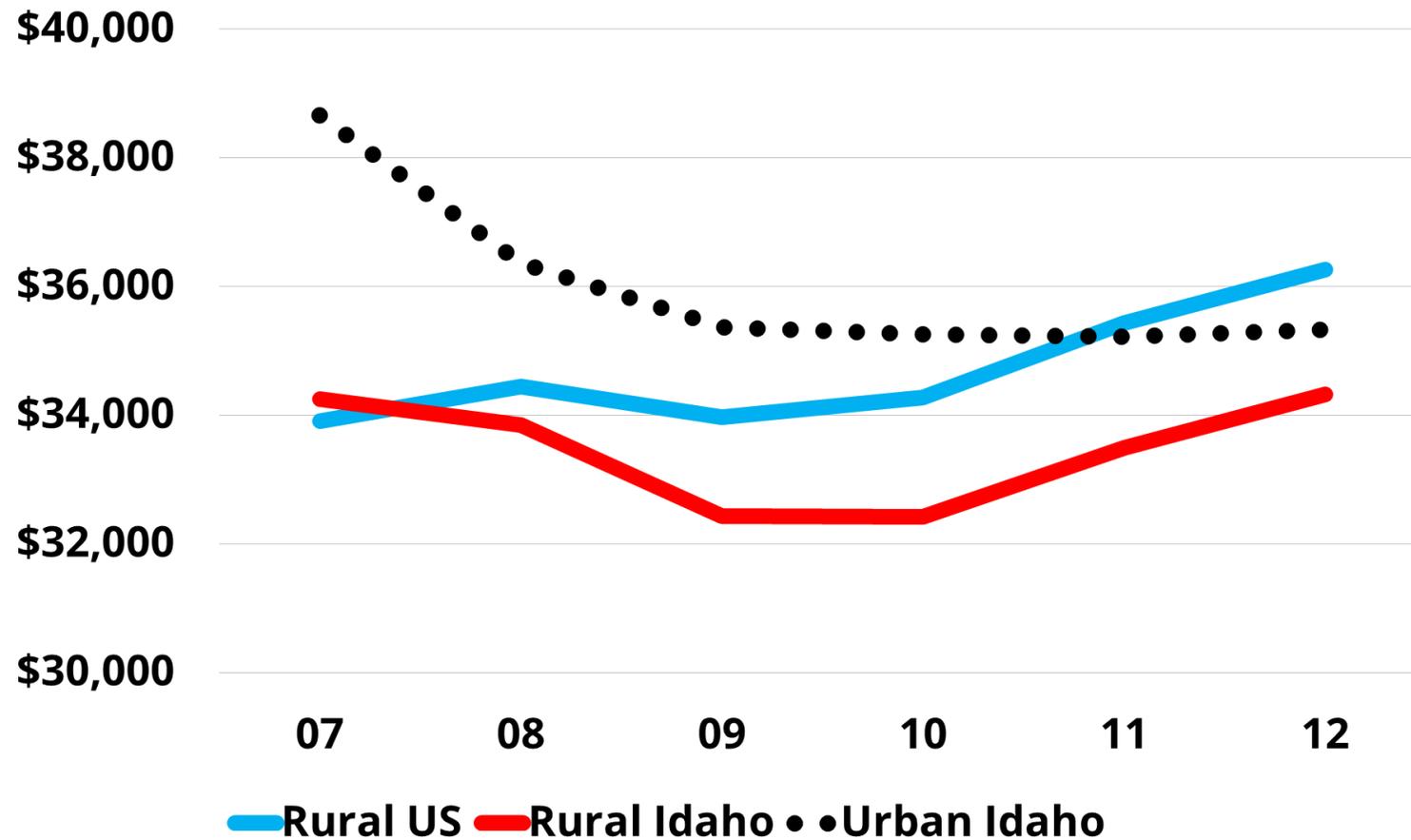


Unemployment rates are inching down from the peak.
Rural rates are slightly higher than urban.



Surprising trend in per capita income: rural is catching up to urban, which appears stalled.

Adjusted for inflation



The picture is mixed in Idaho's farm-dependent counties.

Since the recession...

- **Population numbers: flat**
- **Jobs: up slightly and more than in Idaho as a whole**
- **Unemployment rates: below the state level and falling**
- **Average wages: slightly higher than the state level**

Summary

- **Idaho is becoming less rural**
- **Since the recession**
 - **Population growth is flat**
 - **Number of jobs is up but not to pre-recession levels**
 - **Rural lags urban in terms of job recovery**
 - **Unemployment rates are down but not to pre-recession levels**
 - **Unexpected trends in income – something to watch**