

Idaho Employment

A monthly update of how the economy is performing in your area.

IDAHO
labor.idaho.gov

Volume 23.4

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, GOVERNOR

April 2011 Issue

ROGER B. MADSEN, DIRECTOR

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

- Recession's Effect on Government v. Private Sector Wages, page 1
- Private Sector Losing Jobs at Slower Rate, page 5
- Community College Programs Beef up Green Programs:
 - Eastern Idaho Technical College, page 13
 - North Central Idaho College, page 14
 - College of Southern Idaho, page 17
- Idaho Green Expo Returns to Boise in May, page 31

Idaho's unemployment rate is now being released on the same day as the county and sub-county areas due to changes made by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. For most months, this will occur on the third Friday. BLS will continue to release the national unemployment rate on the first Friday of the month.

RECESSION LIFTS AVERAGE GOVERNMENT WAGE OVER PRIVATE SECTOR

The first two years of the recession lifted the average pay for government workers above the average for private sector workers, whose employers were cutting hours and paychecks in addition to laying off people to cope with the severe downturn.

Statistics from the Local Employment Dynamics program showed that the average monthly wage of \$3,167 for government workers at all levels – federal, state and local – was 7.2 percent above the average for all workers in the private sector in 2009.

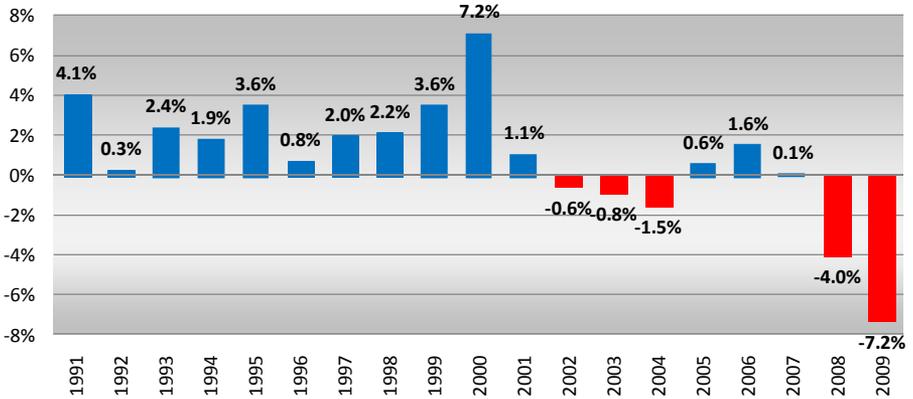
That built on the 4 percent gap between average government and private sector wages in 2008, and the trend mirrored what occurred in the aftermath of the 2001 recession. Then average government pay exceeded average private sector pay by 0.6 percent in 2002, 0.8 percent in 2003 and 1.5 percent in 2004.

There is typically a lag between the recession's impact on the general economy and that impact being felt by government, so as private industry began pulling out of the recession and government was feeling the effects of the downturn, private sector wages again exceeded the average for government. That was also the case through the 1990s in Idaho.

While expansions build up private sector wages and contractions bring them down, government wages, especially at the state and local level, seem less affected by the economic cycle.

Average private sector wages were 7.2 percent higher than average government wages in 2000, the year before the nine-month recession that was relatively mild compared to the recent downturn that lasted 19 months officially and inhibited growth for much longer in Idaho.

Private Sector Average Monthly Wage Compared to Average Government Wage

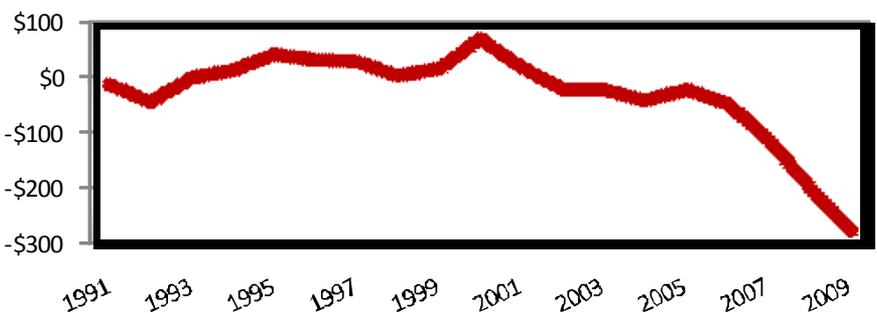


Average government wages in Idaho are exaggerated by the significantly higher pay levels for federal employees. In 2009, the average wage for Idaho’s 13,500 federal workers was just over \$4,767 a month. The nearly 26,000 state workers was \$3,211 a month and for the 74,000 local government workers including 40,000 public school teachers the weekly wage averaged \$2,612. Lumping the federal wages in with state and local paychecks as the Local Employment Dynamics program does reduces the actual gap between private and state and local government employees.

The overall difference in average government wages carries through the various occupations in government. The federal and state governments had 76 similar occupations in 2009. The median wage, which is the point at which half the people are paid more and half less, was higher for federal workers in 68 of those occupations. The state and local governments had 80 occupations in common, and the median wage was higher for state workers in 58 of those occupations.

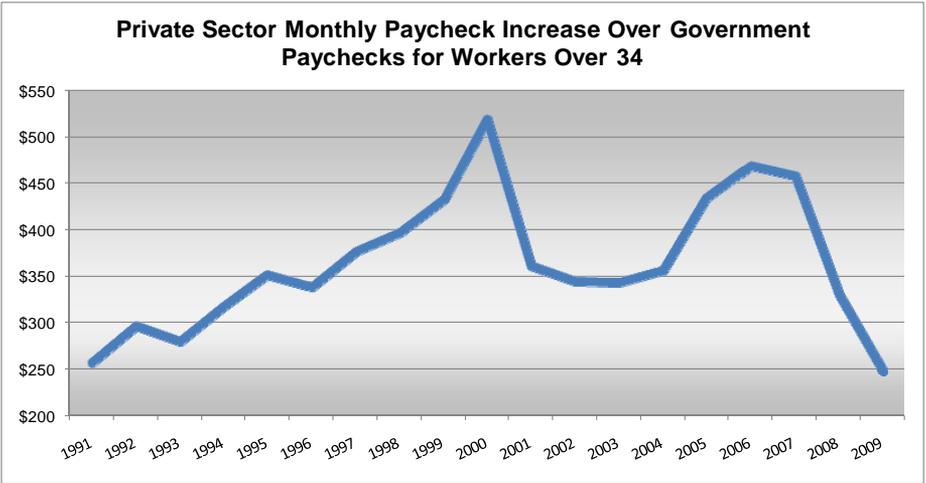
Since the previous recession in 2001, average government pay at all levels for employees under 35 years old has exceeded average private sector wages for the same age group. Before that recession, average government wages were only higher generally for workers 22 to 24 years old.

Private Sector Monthly Paycheck Difference With Government Paychecks for Workers Under 35



Twenty-six percent of government workers are under 35 compared to 41 percent in the private sector.

Before the most recent recession began in late 2007, the difference between private sector and government average monthly wages for workers under 35 was generally less than \$50 typically in favor of the private sector. Since the recession the average government wage for this age group has been steadily higher than the private sector wage, reaching \$276 a month more than the private sector in 2009.



The private sector has consistently paid its older, more experienced workers more than government although the gap tends to close during and after recessions.

The gap between average private sector and government monthly wages grew steadily through the expansion of the 1990s, hit more than \$500 in 2000 before plunging with the onset of the 2001 recession. The gap fell to around \$350 a month in the three years following that recession as the economy struggled to recover, but when the expansion began in earnest in 2005 the gap began widening again, hitting \$470 in 2006 before declining as the latest recession took hold.

The higher private sector wages for the over-34 workers are meaningful because 74 percent of the government work force is over 34 compared to 59 percent in the private sector.

Bob.Uhlenkott@labor.idaho.gov, Chief Research Officer
(208) 332-3570, ext. 3217

Bob.Fick@labor.idaho.gov, Communications Manager
(208) 332-3570, ext. 3628

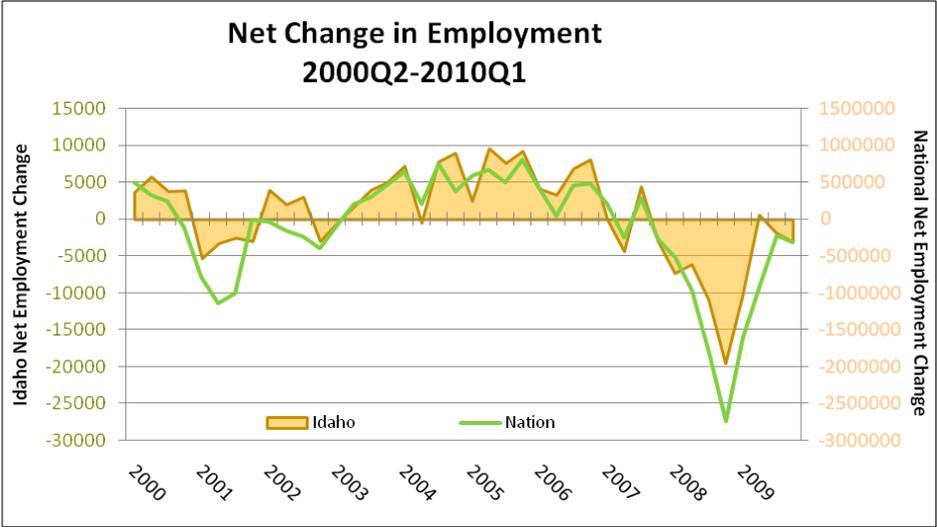
Idaho's Average Monthly Wage By Age, Government & Private Sector

	2009		2008		2007		2006		2005	
	Gov't	Pvt								
All Ages	\$3,167	\$2,953	\$3,123	\$3,004	\$3,008	\$3,011	\$2,884	\$2,931	\$2,755	\$2,773
19-21	\$1,224	\$1,164	\$1,302	\$1,265	\$1,266	\$1,297	\$1,247	\$1,252	\$1,106	\$1,175
22-24	\$2,042	\$1,626	\$2,051	\$1,737	\$1,993	\$1,753	\$1,797	\$1,698	\$1,703	\$1,614
25-34	\$2,909	\$2,556	\$2,897	\$2,657	\$2,805	\$2,685	\$2,678	\$2,633	\$2,564	\$2,523
35-44	\$3,452	\$3,507	\$3,388	\$3,586	\$3,252	\$3,594	\$3,075	\$3,503	\$2,914	\$3,322
45-54	\$3,418	\$3,736	\$3,381	\$3,800	\$3,251	\$3,813	\$3,132	\$3,705	\$3,009	\$3,483
55-64	\$3,270	\$3,586	\$3,219	\$3,591	\$3,075	\$3,614	\$2,986	\$3,523	\$2,863	\$3,305
65+	\$1,978	\$2,279	\$1,888	\$2,225	\$1,749	\$2,146	\$1,696	\$2,040	\$1,486	\$1,909

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

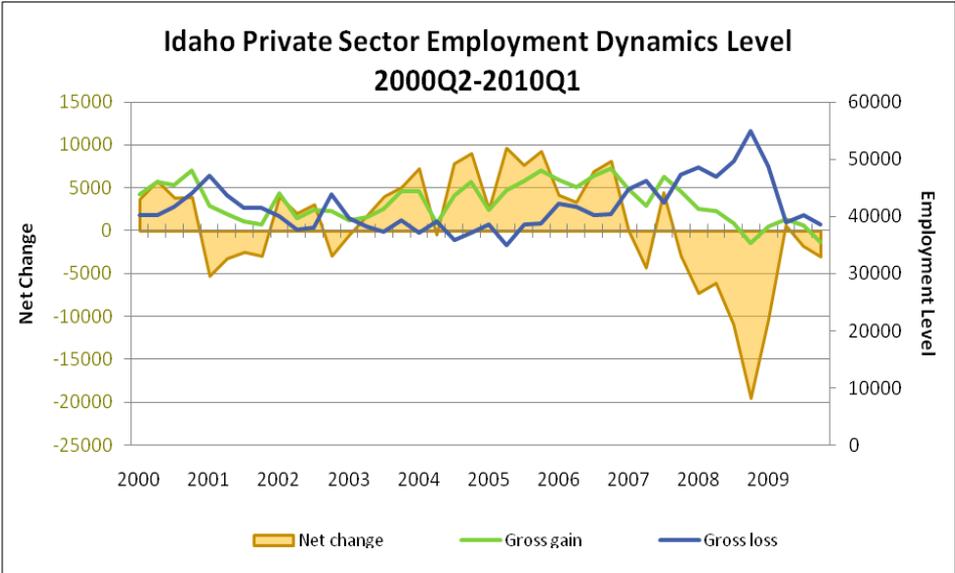
PRIVATE SECTOR LOSES JOBS AT SLOWER RATE

Idaho experienced a net loss of 3,018 private sector jobs during the first quarter of 2010 on a seasonally adjusted basis, according to the Business Employment Dynamics program of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



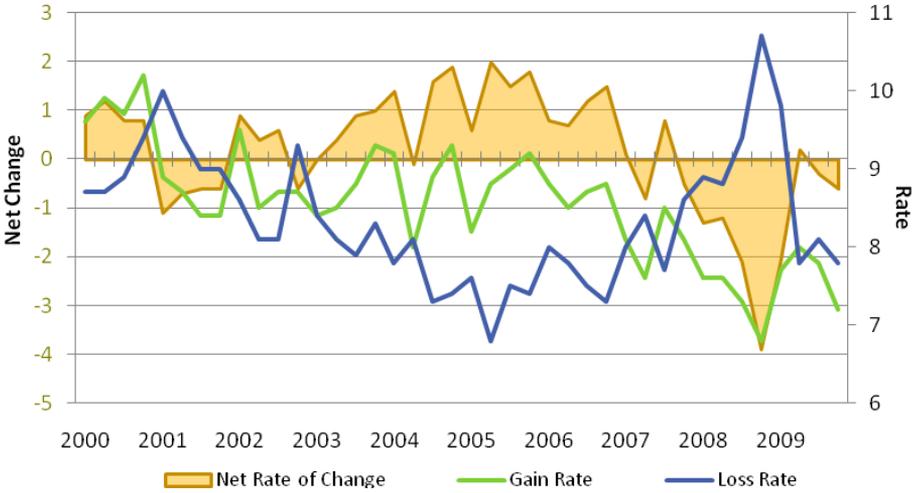
The Business Employment Dynamics program tracks information on job gains and job losses from private businesses opening, expanding, closing and downsizing. It provides another tool for analyzing the business cycle.

From January to March 2010, Idaho’s opening and expanding businesses added roughly 35,600 jobs while those closing or downsizing cut just over 38,600. The net loss of just over 3,000 jobs was a continuation of a streak of job losses that began in the first quarter of 2008, interrupted only by a slight net gain of 600 jobs in the third quarter of 2009.



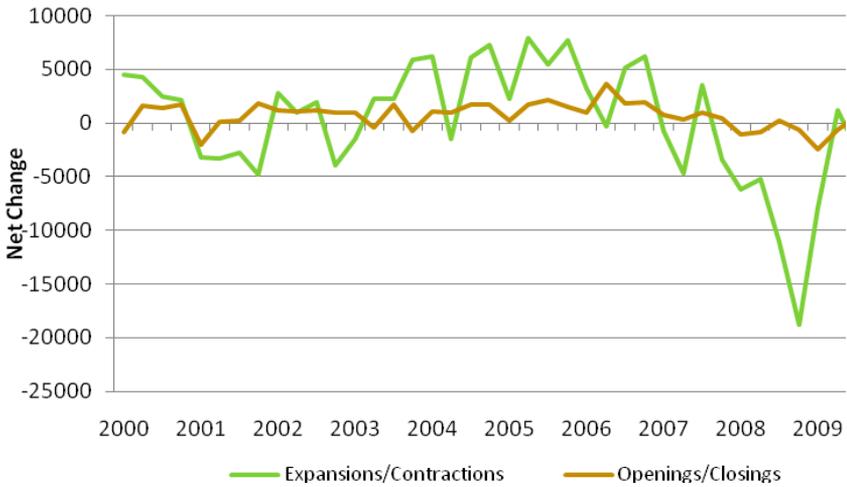
The National Bureau of Economic Research marks the beginning of the recession in December 2007 although Idaho began seeing evidence of a slow-down during the second quarter of 2007. In the eleven quarters that followed, Idaho lost jobs in all but the fourth quarter of 2007 and the third quarter of 2009. Even with the slight gains in these two quarters, net job loss since the downward trend began exceeded 58,200 by the end of March 2010.

Idaho Private Sector Employment Dynamics Rate 2000Q2-2010Q1



The rate of job gains in the first quarter of 2010 slipped to 7.2 percent. This was the second quarter in a row of declining job gain rates following the only two quarters of increased job gain rates since the start of the recession. The gross job gain rate was topped by the gross job loss rate in first quarter just as it was in the final quarter of 2009. At 7.8 percent, the gross loss rate was 0.3 percent lower than fourth quarter's rate. This put the net change rate for first quarter at -0.6 percent.

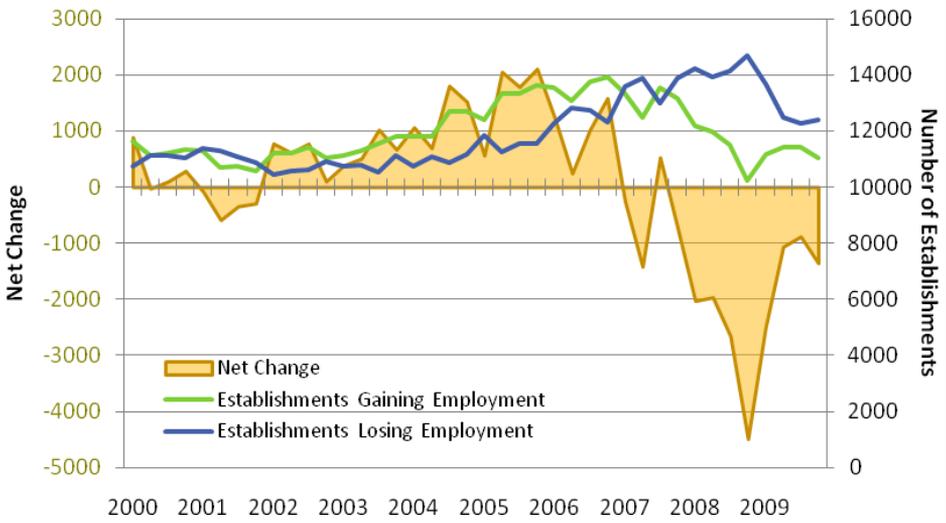
Components of Idaho's Private Sector Employment Gross Job Gains and Gross Job Losses 2000Q2-2010Q1



Contracting businesses eliminated about 2,300 more jobs than expanding businesses created during the first quarter of 2010. Meanwhile, new businesses created 700 fewer jobs than closing businesses eliminated.

Over 11,000 of Idaho's 50,000 businesses added jobs during the first quarter of 2010 – 8,400 through expansion and 2,600 for those opening for the first time. But nearly 12,400 others eliminated jobs – 9,400 through downsizing and 3,000 through closure.

Number of Idaho Private Sector Establishments by Direction of Employment Change 2000Q2-2010Q1



Nationally, first quarter 2010 saw a net job loss of over 300,000 stretching across all economic sectors. New and expanding businesses created 6.1 million jobs, roughly 550,000 fewer than in the fourth quarter of 2009. Meanwhile, the nation experienced a loss of 6.4 million jobs as more businesses closed or pared payrolls. However, this loss was 470,000 jobs less severe than the loss seen in fourth quarter.

The sector that encompasses education and health care was the only one to gain jobs in the first quarter of 2010, posting a net increase of 40,000 across the country. It remained the only sector to gain jobs in every quarter since the beginning of the series in 1992. The only other sector that did not experience net job loss in the first quarter was utilities, where there was no net change.

Despite some easing of job losses nationwide, substantial losses were still experienced in several sectors. Construction posted a net loss of 137,000 jobs, but it was the only sector to record a six-digit loss in the first quarter, a marked improvement from fourth and third quarters when a number of industry sectors lost over 100,000 jobs. It is a continuation of the steady decline in construction losses that prevailed over the previous year.

Alaska remained the state with the highest gross job gain rate at 10.6 percent followed by the Virgin Islands' 8.5 percent and Wyoming's 8.4 percent. Idaho ranked fifth at 7.2 percent. First quarter gain rates were still offset by higher loss rates in most states. The nation's highest was again Alaska at 9.8 percent followed by 8.9 percent in Wyoming and 8.2 percent in Montana. Idaho posted the fourth highest loss rate at 7.8 percent.

Third and fourth quarter 2009 had seen an increasing number of states experiencing gain rates equal to or greater than their loss rates, and this trend continued in the first quarter of 2010. Eight states plus the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands experienced net job gains in first quarter, and eight states' employment levels remained the same as in the previous quarter.

Although the Idaho economy experienced a net loss of jobs in the first quarter of 2010, the job losses were relatively slight compared to the depths of the recession. On the national level, continued improvement was evident on an industry-by-industry and state-by-state basis. Overall, the first quarter held promise of a slowly recovering economy with Idaho lagging slightly behind other parts of the nation.

**The Business Employment Dynamics data series includes job gains and losses at private sector establishments. The data represent the change in the number of jobs over time, which is the net result of increases and decreases in employment that occur at all businesses in the economy. More information on Business Employment Dynamics series is on the Web at www.bls.gov/bdm/.*

*Karen.JarboeSingletery@labor.idaho.gov, Senior Research Analyst
(208) 332-3570, ext. 3215*



WOODY BIOMASS USE COULD INCREASE GREEN JOBS

Biomass energy is a growing source of green jobs. After hydroelectricity and wind energy, biomass is the next largest source of renewable electricity in the United States. It was only overtaken by wind energy two years ago. Biomass accounted for more than 35 percent of total renewable generation in 2009 excluding conventional hydroelectric generation.

Woody biomass is by far the largest source of biomass energy, and the forest products industry is the largest source and user of biomass energy in Idaho. Nationally, forest product companies are among the most energy efficient of all manufacturers, meeting up to 80 percent of their own energy needs through cogeneration. In Idaho, woody biomass makes up more than 4 percent of all energy consumed.

Woody biomass always has provided a considerable amount of energy, but in recent years the emphasis on renewable energy, environmental concerns and desire to rely less on imported oil have converged to intensify interest. With forests covering 40 percent of its area, Idaho has strong potential for expanding woody biomass use.

When trees and plants burn, they release planet-warming gases into the atmosphere, but when their replacements are growing, they absorb more of those gases. They sequester carbon. So using wood for energy can lead to lower atmospheric greenhouse gas levels in the long run.

Woody biomass comes from logging debris or slash and forest thinning including tree tops, limbs, shrubs, needles and tree bark as well as processing residuals like shavings, sawdust, mill ends and other materials left over from milling timber and making paper.

Mill residuals – what is left from the process of turning round logs into square boards – do not go to waste. What is not used to run kilns and boilers that run equipment and heat mills is sold as pulp to make paper, shavings for animal bedding, bark for landscaping and sawdust for stove pellets. In northern Idaho, Clearwater Paper in Lewiston is the largest purchaser of mill residuals. Other residual users include Rosebud Horse Bedding, which uses shavings to make horse bedding, and Rocky Canyon Pellet, which uses sawdust and shavings to make environmentally friendly stove pellets and pellets for controlling moisture and odor in stables. Both are located near the Idaho Forest Group mill in Grangeville. Most large mills have residual managers to

find the best deals for the residuals. Since much of the residuals are used as renewable energy and their uses reduce wastes that could harm the environment, residual management can be classified as green work.

The potential for increased biomass use comes from materials left in the forest after logging or thinning. With a growing need to reduce fire risk in the national forests, thinning may prove to be a substantial source of woody biomass in Idaho's future.

TODAY'S GREEN JOBS IN FOREST PRODUCTS

Woody biomass jobs are classified as green jobs because they provide renewable energy. Many Idaho forest products companies acknowledged having green jobs involved with using biomass to generate renewable energy, but foresters, environmental engineers and related technicians in the forest products industry are also green. Currently, most people involved with woody biomass perform other duties as well so they do not spend 50 percent or more of their time producing renewable energy. As a result, there are many green processes in Idaho's forest products industry but not that many green occupations – occupations where individuals spend more than half their time on renewable energy.

Woody biomass is nothing new for forest product companies. Since its earliest days, Idaho's forest products industry has used wood waste to heat kilns for drying lumber and power other equipment. Until environmental regulations ended the practice in the 1970s, "teepee burners" – those metallic structures shaped like badminton shuttlecocks that burned ground up wood waste to dry lumber – dotted Idaho's forest communities. Today that waste still is burned in mills' boilers, used to heat buildings and run equipment and kilns for drying lumber. In recent decades, several mills have operated cogeneration plants that provide energy for their own operations and also supply excess power to the grid.

The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act passed by Congress in 1978 laid the foundation for cogeneration. The act promotes greater use of renewable energy by creating a market for independent electric power producers and forcing electric utilities to buy that power at the cost they would incur if they built a plant to generate the power or purchased it from another utility. Two of the oldest cogeneration facilities – Evergreen Forest in Tamarack near New Meadows and Stimson Lumber in Plummer – have been operating since the mid-1980s. The largest cogeneration project in the Northwest is at Clearwater Paper in Lewiston, which has a 62,000-kilowatt capacity.

Another woody biomass cogeneration project was approved by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission in November. Yellowstone Power Inc. is developing a \$2.85 million plant at the Emerald Forest Products sawmill that opened last May in Emmett. The plant will produce 11.7 megawatts in heat and power that will be sold to Idaho Power. Emerald has three forest-thinning "stewardship" contracts to supply fuel for the cogenerator. Other sources of supply include state timber sales and oversized and undersized logs from other mills.

Idaho Forest Group is exploring biomass cogeneration projects for its mills in Grangeville, Chilco eight miles north of Coeur d'Alene and Laclede 15 miles west of Sandpoint. Cogeneration would contribute to the economic stability of the mills while being carbon neutral.

Boilers also are used by companies that do not generate additional electricity to sell on the grid but use all the energy on site to run industrial equipment and heat buildings. Among the Idaho forest product companies that have wood-fired boilers are Bennett Lumber in Princeton, Blue North Forest Products in Kamiah, Clearwater Paper in Lewiston, Emerald Forest Products in Emmett, TriPro Forest Products in Orofino, Potlatch Corp. in St. Maries, Kamiah Mills in Kamiah, Idaho Forest Group in Chilco, Grangeville, Laclede and Moyie Springs and Stimson Lumber in Moyie Springs, Plummer, Priest River and St. Maries.

While mills' kilns generally burn mill residuals, a new dry kiln at Evergreen Forest's Tamarack Mill uses wood waste left from logging and thinning projects in local forests including the Payette and Boise national forests. Before the \$2.5 million kiln began operating in February 2010, the mill had to send its green lumber 112 miles to be dried. The kiln has greatly reduced costs, allowing the mill to keep running and maintaining the jobs of more than 100 people. In addition, a cogeneration plant at the mill fueled by biomass heats the dry kiln and produce excess energy that is sold to Idaho Power Co.

A bioenergy demonstration project sponsored by the Idaho Bioenergy Program is a new wood pellet mill feedstock dryer at the Jensen Lumber mill near Paris in southeastern Idaho. The program promotes effective use of locally grown biomass resources by providing technical assistance, offering educational workshops and sharing costs for demonstration projects. The program also sponsors a small backpressure turbine at the Ceda-Pine Veneer mill in Samuels.

BOILER AND KILN OPERATORS

Boiler operators control and maintain steam boilers used to generate heat or electricity. They ensure that the equipment operates safely, economically and within established limits by monitoring meters, gauges and computerized controls. Major responsibilities include activating valves to maintain required amounts of water in boilers, adjusting supplies of combustion air, controlling the flow of fuel into burners, monitoring boiler water, chemical and fuel levels and making adjustments to maintain required levels. As well as running boilers, they also perform routine maintenance and make minor repairs. They record data on boiler operations, maintenance, breakdowns and repairs. Safety is a major concern. Boiler operators must follow procedures to guard against burns, electric shock, noise, dangerous moving parts and exposure to hazardous materials. In addition to causing injuries, their errors can lead to power outages.

Most employers prefer applicants with a basic understanding of mathematics, science, computers, mechanical drawing, machine shop practice and chemistry. As automated systems and computerized controls make newly installed equipment more efficient, experienced workers will increasingly be needed to maintain and repair these complex systems.

Workers acquire their skills primarily on the job and usually start as apprentices or helpers. This practical experience may be supplemented by post-secondary vocational training in subjects such as computerized controls and instrumentation. Becoming a boiler operator usually requires many years of work experience. Continuing education such as vocational school or college

courses is becoming increasingly important for stationary engineers and boiler operators because of the growing complexity of equipment.

In Idaho, forest product manufacturers are the largest sources of boiler jobs. Most other boiler operators work at hospitals, schools and other government buildings. Wages for boiler operators typically start around \$15 to \$16 an hour. The median wage in Idaho is \$20.01. The most experienced workers typically receive wages between \$22 and \$28 an hour. Boiler operators generally work in industries offering a full range of health insurance, vacation, leave and retirement benefits.

People interested in working as stationary engineers and boiler operators should expect stiff competition for these relatively high-paying positions. Job satisfaction tends to be high, resulting in low turnover rates. The tendency of experienced workers to stay in a job for decades can make it difficult for entry level workers to find an opening. Increasing computerization and the long-term decline in manufacturing jobs will cause the occupation to grow more slowly than most others. Although many opportunities will be created by the retirement of baby boomers, finding an entry level job still will be difficult.

Kiln operators tend ovens used to dry lumber and many control the air, temperature and humidity in buildings. Properly dried lumber is much easier to work with than non kiln-dried lumber. It weighs less, machines better, glues better, finishes better and holds screws and nails better. Too much humidity can result in staining or mold growth. Drying also can kill infestations, harden pitch and prevent shrinkage. Like boiler operators, kiln tenders must be physically fit, have mechanical aptitude and pay attention to detail and show thoroughness in completing work tasks. They must allow the pace of work to be determined by automated machinery and must be able to clean and repair as well as operate the kilns. Kiln operators in Idaho typically start around \$15 to \$16 an hour. The median wage is \$20.79 with the most experienced workers earning more than \$24. Most of them receive a full range of benefits – health care, retirement and leave.

THE FUTURE OF WOODY BIOMASS

Because of growing interest in biomass from rural communities, the Idaho Department of Commerce developed a woody biomass task force in 2009 to work with industry to address the challenges of expanding this renewable energy source. The challenges are many including finding a reliable source of woody biomass and acquiring financing.

A partnership between the U.S. Forest Service, state and private foresters and Bitterroot Resource Conservation and Development created the Fuels for Schools Program in 2003 to encourage the use of woody biomass to provide clean, renewable energy to heat and power buildings in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. It provides technical and financial assistance to people interested in biomass projects that use fuels from the forests. Districts in Council and Kellogg now are using woody biomass to heat their schools, and some other communities are exploring the possibility.

The University of Idaho contracted to have a woodchip-fueled boiler constructed in 1986. Although it was originally intended to be a backup to the existing boiler, its efficiency turned it into the lead boiler that runs about 95 percent of the time. The cost of heating with woody biomass is between one quarter and one third of the cost of heating with natural gas. Steam is used to

provide hot water as well as to heat and air condition buildings. A byproduct of central heating is snow-free campus sidewalks that lie above the steam tunnels. They are currently using cedar chips from mill waste.

Sandpoint plans to build a cogeneration system at its industrial park near the airport. The system would use wood waste including slash and logging debris from land-clearing operations and construction waste destined for landfills. The city plans to heat nearby city owned buildings including its business incubator. It also would provide electricity for the incubator. The city is looking for other businesses that need heat such as greenhouses, pasteurization facilities and commercial laundries.

Clearwater County hopes to build a biomass plant that would use logging slash to generate electricity for sale on the grid. Excess steam would heat the state prison in Orofino, which would be next to the plant.

Several other Idaho communities including Elk City and Shoshone and Boise and Valley counties are investigating the feasibility of woody biomass plants.

A donation from Texas entrepreneur Randy Hill to the University of Idaho is funding research focused on converting woody biomass to energy. It has allowed installation of a pilot-scale pyrolysis unit at the university steam plant, which heats most buildings on campus using woody biomass. Pyrolysis is a type of incineration that uses almost no oxygen. When applied to an organic material like wood, pyrolysis yields biofuel plus a small amount of charcoal, generating substantial amounts of clean energy with little waste.

Vapor Locomotive Co., which overhauls and upgrades steam engines for combined heat and power systems and other processes, moved to Sandpoint two years ago to become involved with the growing woody biomass projects in the region. The community's commitment to sustainable living recently earned it the official designation of Transition Town, the second American community after Boulder, Colo., to get the designation. Vapor Locomotive, founded in January 2007, has steam engine expertise in both cogeneration and locomotion. Last year, the company completed a 1 million BTU combustion system to operate a dry kiln that burns mill residuals at a local sawmill. It also is working with the city of Sandpoint on its planned biomass project.

BIOMASS TECHNICIANS

While small biomass projects primarily need boiler operators, larger biomass plants employ technicians that measure, monitor and prepare raw biomass materials; operate valves, pumps, engines or generators to control and adjust production of power; perform maintenance and minor repairs on equipment; inspect plant equipment; and maintain records about operations, maintenance and repair. They must be able to read and interpret instruction manuals or technical drawings related to equipment and processes.

*Kathryn.Tacke@labor.idaho.gov, Regional Economist
(208) 799-5000 ext. 3984*



EASTERN IDAHO TECHNICAL COLLEGE PREPARES WORK FORCE FOR HIGH-DEMAND ENERGY CAREERS

In the fall of 2010 Eastern Idaho Technical College in Idaho Falls enrolled its first cohort of students in a new energy systems technology program. The



goal was to prepare workers for high-demand careers in wind, solar, hydro, geothermal, biomass – in short – all things energy. Students who complete the program will develop mechanical, electrical, instrumentation and control system skills needed for jobs in the growing energy industry.

Leading the program is Lorin McArthur, who brings more than 20 years of teach-

ing and work experience in private and public institutions. His initial group of nine students will soon complete the first year of the program, moving to Idaho State University's Energy System Technology and Education Center in Pocatello for their final year. This coming fall, 15 more students will begin the program with another 16 on a waiting list. As the program develops, Eastern Idaho Tech plans to have two cohorts of students through the program each year – one group finishing as another starts.

IS THE PROGRAM FOR YOU?

McArthur pointed out there are a few natural and acquired abilities that can help students succeed. Students who enjoy working with their hands, have a mechanical inclination, enjoy algebra and can think analytically tend to perform better. A few of the current students already have bachelor's degrees, others are changing career paths and some are just starting out. The current group ranges in age from 17 to 54.

Demand for skills acquired through this program continues to increase. Over 40 employers are eager to hire students who complete the two-year program. According to the college, many energy systems technology jobs pay \$50,000 to \$75,000 a year. With a large percentage of that sector's current work force nearing retirement, increased competition for new hires is poised to push salaries even higher. Many older energy industry workers put off plans to retire following the downturn in the economy, but once financial markets improve and 401ks looks less like 201ks, this aging work force will make plenty of room for new workers. Jobs are available in Idaho and throughout the United States.



More information on the Energy System Technology Program at Eastern Idaho Technical College is on the school's website at www.eitc.edu.

Will.Jenson@labor.idaho.gov, *Regional Economist*
(208) 557-2500 ext. 3077

See table on page 14 for a list of companies hiring graduates of ISU's Energy Systems Technology & Education Center and Eastern Idaho Technical College.

Companies Hiring Graduates of ISU's Energy Systems Technology & Education Center and Eastern Idaho Technical College

URS/EGG, Utah	ISU, Idaho
Emerson Process Mgt., Utah	Tri-State Motor Transport/INL, Idaho
Idaho Power, Idaho	Tri-State Power, Colorado
Scientech, Idaho	Kern River, Wyoming
Jerome Cheese, Idaho	DYNEGY INC, California
PacifiCorp, Utah	On Semiconductor, Idaho
JT3, Nevada	Conoco Phillips, Wyoming
Hoku, Idaho	Diversified Control Solutions, Idaho
Kinder Morgan, Montana	Idaho Foods, Idaho
Bureau of Reclamation, Idaho	Idaho National Laboratory/MFC, Idaho
Constellation Energy, Alabama	Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Washington
Constellation Energy, Utah	Premier Technology, Idaho
Constellation Energy, California	DTE, California
Williams Gas Pipeline, Wyoming	Nevada Energy, Nevada
Frasier Industrial, Idaho	Agrium, Idaho
Aerospace Contractor, Tennessee	Stillwater Platinum, Montana
GE Wind, Idaho	Sandia National Lab, New Mexico
Allegheny Technologies Inc. Rowley Operations, Utah	Monsanto, Idaho
Idaho National Laboratory/CH2MHill, Idaho	INOVAR, Utah
Thompson Creek Mine, Idaho	Clearwater Paper, Idaho
Simplot, Idaho	Lamb Weston, Idaho



GREEN TRAINING UNDERWAY IN NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO

The U.S. Department of Labor awarded Idaho nearly \$6 million in January 2010 to prepare workers for fast-growing careers in energy efficiency, renewable energy and other green occupations. The green industry grant is being used to teach skills needed by emerging industries. Under the grant, the Idaho Department of Labor joined with the state's professional-technical educators, its colleges, the Idaho National Laboratory, the AFL-CIO and the federal Office of Apprenticeship to provide training for hundreds of workers.

Two north central Idaho schools received grant funds. Lewis-Clark State College received approximately \$400,000 in new equipment, and Kamiah High School received \$53,300 for equipment and software to teach green job skills. With green technology growing more important, this not only prepares students for the future but also assists local businesses that need workers with those skills.

At Kamiah High School, the grant helped 25 students in the pre-engineering course learn about solar and wind energy. It also allowed the purchase of instruments and equipment commonly used in renewable energy work so the students could have hands-on experience. The enhancements to the curriculum will benefit future classes as well. The equipment purchased with the Grow Green Grant is increasing its academic foundation in various energy fields including mechanical engineering technology, wind engineering

technology, electrical engineering technology related to solar and other renewable energy sources and energy systems instrumentation and control engineering technology. It also strengthened the dual-credit program where high school students can earn post-secondary credits before graduation. Some of the students in the pre-engineering program will go on to earn bachelor's degrees in engineering while others are preparing to work in manufacturing, construction and repair industries.

The college used the money for equipment in its electronics, automotive, diesel and collision repair courses, benefitting about 120 students this year. Students are learning the latest techniques in renewable energy and improving energy efficiency. Because of the green industry grant, the college made major curriculum changes in its automotive technology, diesel technology, collision repair and electronics programs that will better prepare students for future jobs.

As hybrid cars become more common, learning to diagnose, service and repair them will give Lewis-Clark automotive technology graduates an edge and help fill a skills gap in the region. With this year's enrollment over 50, the automotive technology program will train student to use a dynamometer for emissions and systems testing. Training now includes hybrid systems identification and low-voltage systems service, HEV test equipment and HEV brake system service, high-voltage DC systems service, hands-on hybrid vehicle familiarization, advanced automotive electrical training, compressed natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas, all-electric vehicles, alternative fuels and hybrid and electric vehicle technology emissions and environmental standards.

In the diesel technology program, which has approximately 40 students, the grant allowed increased emphasis on hybrids, emission control and bio-diesel. The biggest piece of equipment was a \$100,000 hybrid diesel truck. The program now incorporates training for diesel emission control standards that took effect with the 2010 model year. Students learn about the maintenance, diagnosis and repair procedures for the new emission control systems on medium and heavy duty trucks and construction and agricultural diesel equipment.

New curriculum for the collision repair program's 15 students includes both theoretical coursework and practical laboratories on complying with new ozone restrictions that become effective in 2013 for collision repair shops. It focused on the transition from solvent-based to water-based paints and equipment. Graduates will be better prepared to work in the new green work environment.

The college's electronics program, which has about 25 students, added a section on the electronics associated with wind and solar power. Program curriculum, equipment and supplies were adapted to provide students with certificates in alternative energy and as electronics technicians from the Electronics Technician Association. Students will also qualify for certification in renewable energy through the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners.

"With education budgets dwindling, the equipment that the college purchased because of the green industry grant will give students opportunities that they might not have had for years – maybe even 10 or more," said Tim Wiggins, who chairs the technical and industrial division at the college.

“Through involvement with the equipment, students become prepared to work with the latest technologies.”

Kathryn.Tacke@labor.idaho.gov, *Regional Economist*
(208) 799-5000 ext. 3984



NIC USES GRANT TO UPGRADE GREEN CURRICULUM

The U.S. Department of Labor has awarded nearly \$6 million to Idaho’s Grow Green initiative to equip secondary and postsecondary technical schools so they can prepare workers for careers in green jobs.



North Idaho College received \$196,000 of the grant, about \$30.50 per student, to upgrade courses in industrial mechanics and diesel engine technology and to integrate “green” principles and skills with existing programs offered by the institution.

The industrial mechanics program includes instruction on energy sources such as solar, wind, hydropower and geothermal and how they work. To teach students about these energy resources, the college is buying a wind energy turbine and electrical components, which require completely different skills and knowledge of programmable logic controllers, industrial electricity training and circuit analysis. This program received 32 percent of the grant.

The rest of the money is going into the diesel engine technology program to incorporate training for diesel emission control standards that took effect with the 2010 model year. Postsecondary programs at North Idaho College have begun training students on operational theory, maintenance, diagnosis and repair procedures for the new emission control systems on medium and heavy duty trucks and construction and agricultural equipment.



NIC industrial mechanics students are learning to incorporate green skills with a federal grant. *Photo: North Idaho College*

A 2011 Peterbilt truck is being used as a training module. Testing and diagnostic equipment was also purchased along with electronic tooling and diagnostic software.

Industrial mechanics training is classified as “green,” but its career crosswalk can be used in many other industries. In northern Idaho these skills sets are most used in silver ore mining, sawmills, forestry operations and veneer and plywood manufacturing. According to EMSI, this occupation is growing faster in the region than in the state or nation.

Diesel mechanics are also growing faster in northern Idaho than in the state or the nation. However, the industrial mix of companies that would potentially hire diesel mechanics is dramatically different. Local government is the largest employer of diesel mechanics by and far. Diesel Mechanic jobs in general automotive repair in this region are limited as are jobs in solid waste collection, general freight and rail transportation.

All of the programs under Idaho's Grow Green initiative are in cooperation with President Obama's, Recovery through Retrofit initiative led by the Council on Environmental Quality. Such initiatives will help create a skilled and certified retrofit work force.

Alivia.Body@labor.idaho.gov, *Regional Economist*
(208) 457-8789 ext. 3486



CSI PLAYS SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN GREEN TECHNOLOGY

The College of Southern Idaho has a lot happening in the field of green. Just recently it received a \$4.4 million grant for the new Applied Technology and Innovation Center, a \$7 million building that will join the LEED Gold Certified Health and Human Sciences building on the Twin Falls campus.

As the green economy seems to be on everyone's mind, its apparent in south central Idaho has a score of wind farms, the state's only commercial geothermal operation, an ethanol plant and a growing number of dairies interested in anaerobic digesters to handle animal waste.

Many of these technologies require specific skills and abilities and a certain amount of experience and education. But the paychecks are also higher.

The College of Southern Idaho is training students in three areas:

- Environmental Technology
- Water Resource Management
- Wind Energy Technology

ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY

Environmental Technology began in 2009 along with the wind technician program. There is a cap of 15 students a year for the class with an entrepreneurial bent. The students study combustion and electrical renewable energy production. Combustion includes biodiesel, ethanol, bio-gas and hydrogen. Electrical encompasses solar, residential wind, geothermal and hydro. Students also study water measurement, the application of water law and the basics of water quality. Water is an important aspect of a sustainable environmental stewardship.

One of the program's recent acquisitions is an oil seed press that will create biodiesel out of a variety of seeds such as canola, safflower, mustard and flax. The program has access to a small wind turbine and solar panels. Students are exposed to hydrogen fuel cells and how they function. The program does not prepare students to directly work in these various industries but does expose them to the concepts behind the technology.

Professor Ross Spackman teaches most of the classes and ensures the courses are as hands-on as possible. He organizes internships for all students midway through their studies so they can apply what they have learned. Spackman also helps students find work after they graduate.



CSI students can specialize in producing renewable energy — either combustion or electrical. *Photo: College of Southern Idaho*

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Water Resource Management program, which started in 1995, offers many options to students, and most find jobs with solid wages and benefits. Students can obtain either an Associate of Applied Science degree or a one-year technical certificate. They can choose:

- Municipal/Industrial emphasis on potable water and wastewater distribution and treatment processes.
- Environmental emphasis on water uses for wildlife habitat, irrigation and protection of quality.

In the course of becoming more acquainted with industry needs both locally and nationally, the school compiled a list of the more common targeted by the program.

- **Water/Wastewater Treatment Operator** - Maintains water/wastewater plants within state and federal water quality standards. Many opportunities exist in this rapidly growing field.
- **Laboratory Technician** - Analyzes water and makes recommendations for particular uses.
- **Hydrology Assistant** - Accurately measures surface and ground water resources.
- **Natural Resource Management** - Conducts water measurements and does water quality testing for wildlife habitat suitability and can be involved in land reclamation.
- **Irrigation Company Technician** - Measures water and maintains irrigation delivery systems.

WIND ENERGY TECHNOLOGY

The Wind Energy Program became extremely pertinent to the area as wind farms popped up and the interest in large scale wind farms became more apparent. Such examples include China Mountain, which is awaiting federal environmental impact statements. China Mountain will have close to 200 turbines near the Idaho/Nevada border and will send their electricity to Las Vegas and any other interested market. Exergy/GE has built 122 wind turbines in the Hagerman area and Cassia County. Initially one technician was thought to be needed for every 20 turbines, but safety concerns have changed that to a technician for every 10 turbines because of the remote locations and the climbing requirements to maintain the equipment.



College of Southern Idaho offers courses in for wind turbine technicians in its wind energy program.
Photo: College of Southern Idaho

In addition to being able to climb a 250 foot ladder and work in adverse weather conditions, the job requires solid math, trouble shooting, mechanical skills and computer skills.

In many cases entry level wind technicians may have to relocate to areas where the turbines are located, but the career ladder allows movement into management with the option of staying in one place and traveling less frequently. But these jobs are commodities, and those who seek them must be flexible.

The first students graduate this spring and will determine the strength of this specific green job market.

GREEN WEEK

CSI's Sustainability Council has organized a week of activities for Green Week that includes the traditional Earth Day April 22. There will be a campus clean-up competition, a green fashion show, various games, green cotton candy, documentaries, a debate on organic foods, an herb garden and the Peace Pole dedication. The week ends on Earth Day with a fair with music, exhibits, free appetizers and door prizes. Students and faculty will be encouraged to car pool or use alternative transportation that week, to recycle telephone books, shoes and cell phones.

The College of Southern Idaho has been a leader in green energy and one of the first nationally to initiate training and programs directly benefiting the renewable energy industry.

*Jan.Roeser@labor.idaho.gov, Regional Economist
(208) 735-2500 ext. 3639*

IDAHO CITIES SHOW RAPID GROWTH SINCE 1990

Idaho's 200 incorporated cities grew briskly in the last 20 years. While the state's population outside of cities grew 28.0 percent, city populations jumped 72.7 percent from 623,182 in 1990 to 1,076,442 in 2010. Ninety percent of the city growth was in the 30 largest cities.

While 61.9 percent of Idaho's population lived in cities in 1990, it has increased to 68.7 percent. Today, 57.7 percent of Idahoans live in the state's 30 largest cities compared to 48.8 percent 20 years ago. The growth between 1970 and 1990 was more widespread, feeding rural areas as much as urban ones so the percentages did not significantly change during that period.

Fast growth in Kuna, Meridian, Middleton, Rathdrum and Star allowed them to move to the top 30 list between 1990 and 2010, pushing slower-growing American Falls, Buhl, Preston, Shelley and Weiser off the list. Between 1990 and 2010, rapid growth allowed Rathdrum to move from 48th to 26th. Eagle moved from 31st in 1990 to 13th in 2010. Kuna's growth was even more astonishing. It moved from 51st to 14th.

*Kathryn.Tacke@labor.idaho.gov, Regional Economist
(208) 799-5000 ext. 3984*

See continued table and additional data tables on pages 20-25.

Idaho's 30 Largest Cities in 1970, 1990 and 2010

	1970	1990	2010
Total Population of Idaho	713,015	1,006,749	1,567,582
Average City Population	2,380	3,147	5,382
Idaho Population in Cities	461,688	623,182	1,076,442
Percent of Idaho Population in Cities	64.8%	61.9%	68.7%
Total Population in 30 Largest Cities	356,015	491,750	904,113
Average Size of 30 Largest Cities	11,867	16,392	30,137
Percent of Idaho Population in 30 Largest Cities	49.9%	48.8%	57.7%

Rank	1970		1990		2010	
1	Boise	74,990	Boise	125,738	Boise City	205,671
2	Pocatello	40,036	Pocatello	46,117	Nampa	81,557
3	Idaho Falls	35,776	Idaho Falls	43,929	Meridian	75,092
4	Lewiston	26,068	Nampa	28,365	Idaho Falls	56,813
5	Twin Falls	21,914	Lewiston	28,082	Pocatello	54,255
6	Nampa	20,768	Twin Falls	27,591	Caldwell	46,237
7	Coeur d'Alene	16,228	Coeur d'Alene	24,563	Coeur d'Alene	44,137
8	Caldwell	14,219	Caldwell	18,400	Twin Falls	44,125
9	Moscow	14,146	Moscow	18,398	Lewiston	31,894
10	Blackfoot	8,716	Rexburg	14,298	Post Falls	27,574
11	Burley	8,279	Blackfoot	9,646	Rexburg	25,484
12	Rexburg	8,272	Meridian	9,596	Moscow	23,800
13	Mountain Home	6,451	Burley	8,702	Eagle	19,908
14	Rupert	4,563	Mountain Home	7,913	Kuna	15,210
15	Payette	4,521	Chubbuck	7,791	Mountain Home	14,206
16	Jerome	4,183	Post Falls	7,349	Chubbuck	13,922
17	Sandpoint	4,144	Jerome	6,529	Ammon	13,816
18	Weiser	4,108	Garden City	6,369	Hayden	13,294
19	Emmett	3,945	Payette	5,592	Blackfoot	11,899
20	Orofino	3,883	Rupert	5,455	Garden City	10,972
21	Kellogg	3,811	Sandpoint	5,203	Jerome	10,890
22	Grangeville	3,636	Ammon	5,002	Burley	10,345
23	Preston	3,310	Emmett	4,601	Hailey	7,960
24	Soda Springs	2,977	Weiser	4,571	Payette	7,433
25	Buhl	2,975	American Falls	3,757	Sandpoint	7,365
26	Chubbuck	2,924	Hayden	3,744	Rathdrum	6,826
27	Salmon	2,910	Preston	3,710	Emmett	6,557
28	St. Anthony	2,877	Hailey	3,687	Star	5,793
29	American Falls	2,769	Shelley	3,536	Rupert	5,554
30	Meridian	2,616	Buhl	3,516	Middleton	5,524

See table on pages 21-25: Population of Idaho Cities, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010.

Population of Idaho Cities, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010

Year						Growth 1970	Growth 1990
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	to 1990	to 2010
State of Idaho	713,015	944,127	1,006,749	1,293,953	1,567,582	41.2%	55.7%
Aberdeen	1,542	1,528	1,406	1,840	1,994	-8.8%	41.8%
Acequia	107	100	106	144	124	-0.9%	17.0%
Albion	229	286	305	262	267	33.2%	-12.5%
American Falls	2,769	3,626	3,757	4,111	4,457	35.7%	18.6%
Ammon	2,545	4,669	5,002	6,187	13,816	96.5%	176.2%
Arco	1,244	1,241	1,016	1,026	995	-18.3%	-2.1%
Arimo	252	338	311	348	355	23.4%	14.1%
Ashton	1,187	1,219	1,114	1,129	1,127	-6.1%	1.2%
Athol	190	312	346	676	692	82.1%	100.0%
Atomic City	24	34	25	25	29	4.2%	16.0%
Bancroft	366	505	393	382	377	7.4%	-4.1%
Basalt	349	414	407	419	394	16.6%	-3.2%
Bellevue	537	1,016	1,275	1,876	2,287	137.4%	79.4%
Blackfoot	8,716	10,065	9,646	10,419	11,899	10.7%	23.4%
Bliss	114	208	185	275	318	62.3%	71.9%
Bloomington	186	212	197	251	206	5.9%	4.6%
Boise	74,990	102,249	125,738	185,787	205,671	67.7%	63.6%
Bonnars Ferry	1,909	1,906	2,193	2,515	2,543	14.9%	16.0%
Bovill	343	289	256	305	260	-25.4%	1.6%
Buhl	2,975	3,629	3,516	3,985	4,122	18.2%	17.2%
Burley	8,279	8,761	8,702	9,316	10,345	5.1%	18.9%
Butte city	42	93	59	76	74	40.5%	25.4%
Caldwell	14,219	17,699	18,400	25,967	46,237	29.4%	151.3%
Cambridge	383	428	374	360	328	-2.3%	-12.3%
Carey			427	513	604	-	41.5%
Cascade	833	945	877	997	939	5.3%	7.1%
Castleford	174	191	179	277	226	2.9%	26.3%
Challis	784	758	1,073	909	1,081	36.9%	0.7%
Chubbuck	2,924	7,052	7,791	9,700	13,922	166.5%	78.7%
Clark Fork	367	449	448	530	536	22.1%	19.6%
Clayton	36	43	26	27	7	-27.8%	-73.1%
Clifton	137	208	228	213	259	66.4%	13.6%
Coeur d'Alene	16,228	19,913	24,563	34,514	44,137	51.4%	79.7%
Cottonwood	867	941	822	944	900	-5.2%	9.5%
Council	899	917	831	816	839	-7.6%	1.0%
Craigmont	554	617	542	556	501	-2.2%	-7.6%
Crouch	71	69	75	154	162	5.6%	116.0%
Culdesac	211	261	280	378	380	32.7%	35.7%
Dalton Gardens	1,559	1,795	1,951	2,278	2,335	25.1%	19.7%
Dayton	198	368	357	444	463	80.3%	29.7%
Deary	411	539	529	552	506	28.7%	-4.3%

Population of Idaho Cities, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010

Year	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	Growth 1970	Growth 1990
Declo	251	276	279	338	343	11.2%	22.9%
Dietrich	84	101	127	150	332	51.2%	161.4%
Donnelly	114	139	135	138	152	18.4%	12.6%
Dover		190	294	342	556	-	89.1%
Downey	586	645	626	613	625	6.8%	-0.2%
Driggs	727	727	846	1,100	1,660	16.4%	96.2%
Drummond	13	25	37	15	16	184.6%	-56.8%
Dubois	400	413	420	647	677	5.0%	61.2%
Eagle		2,620	3,327	11,085	19,908	-	498.4%
East Hope	175	258	215	200	210	22.9%	-2.3%
Eden	343	355	314	411	405	-8.5%	29.0%
Elk River	383	265	149	156	125	-61.1%	-16.1%
Emmett	3,945	4,605	4,601	5,490	6,557	16.6%	42.5%
Fairfield	336	404	371	395	416	10.4%	12.1%
Ferdinand	157	144	135	145	159	-14.0%	17.8%
Fernan Lake	179	178	170	186	169	-5.0%	-0.6%
Filer	1,173	1,645	1,511	1,620	2,508	28.8%	66.0%
Firth	362	460	429	408	477	18.5%	11.2%
Franklin	402	423	478	641	641	18.9%	34.1%
Fruitland	1,576	2,559	2,400	3,805	4,684	52.3%	95.2%
Garden City	2,368	4,571	6,369	10,624	10,972	169.0%	72.3%
Genesee	619	791	725	946	955	17.1%	31.7%
Georgetown	421	544	558	538	476	32.5%	-14.7%
Glenns Ferry	1,386	1,374	1,304	1,611	1,319	-5.9%	1.2%
Gooding	2,599	2,949	2,820	3,384	3,567	8.5%	26.5%
Grace	826	1,216	973	990	915	17.8%	-6.0%
Grand View		366	330	470	452	-	37.0%
Grangeville	3,636	3,666	3,226	3,228	3,141	-11.3%	-2.6%
Greenleaf		663	648	862	846	-	30.6%
Hagerman	436	602	600	656	872	37.6%	45.3%
Hailey	1,425	2,109	3,687	6,200	7,960	158.7%	115.9%
Hamer	81	93	79	12	48	-2.5%	-39.2%
Hansen	415	1,078	848	970	1,144	104.3%	34.9%
Harrison	249	260	226	267	203	-9.2%	-10.2%
Hauser	349	305	380	668	678	8.9%	78.4%
Hayden	1,285	2,586	3,744	9,159	13,294	191.4%	255.1%
Hayden Lake	260	273	338	494	574	30.0%	69.8%
Hazelton	396	496	394	687	753	-0.5%	91.1%
Heyburn	1,637	2,889	2,714	2,899	3,089	65.8%	13.8%
Hollister	57	167	144	237	272	152.6%	88.9%
Homedale	1,411	2,078	1,963	2,528	2,633	39.1%	34.1%

Population of Idaho Cities, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010

Year	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	Growth 1970	Growth 1990
Hope	63	106	99	79	86	57.1%	-13.1%
Horseshoe Bend	511	700	643	770	707	25.8%	10.0%
Huetter	49	65	82	96	100	67.3%	22.0%
Idaho City	164	300	322	458	485	96.3%	50.6%
Idaho Falls	35,776	39,739	43,929	50,730	56,813	22.8%	29.3%
Inkom	522	830	769	738	854	47.3%	11.1%
Iona	890	1,072	1,049	1,201	1,803	17.9%	71.9%
Irwin	228	113	108	157	219	-52.6%	102.8%
Island Park	136	154	159	215	286	16.9%	79.9%
Jerome	4,183	6,891	6,529	7,780	10,890	56.1%	66.8%
Juliaetta	423	522	488	609	579	15.4%	18.6%
Kamiah	1,307	1,478	1,157	1,160	1,295	-11.5%	11.9%
Kellogg	3,811	3,417	2,591	2,395	2,120	-32.0%	-18.2%
Kendrick	426	395	325	369	303	-23.7%	-6.8%
Ketchum	1,454	2,200	2,523	3,003	2,689	73.5%	6.6%
Kimberly	1,557	2,307	2,367	2,614	3,264	52.0%	37.9%
Kooskia	809	784	692	675	607	-14.5%	-12.3%
Kootenai	168	280	327	441	678	94.6%	107.3%
Kuna	593	1,767	1,955	5,382	15,210	229.7%	678.0%
Lapwai	400	1,043	932	1,134	1,137	133.0%	22.0%
Lava Hot Springs	516	467	420	521	407	-18.6%	-3.1%
Leadore	111	114	74	90	105	-33.3%	41.9%
Lewiston	26,068	27,986	28,082	30,904	31,894	7.7%	13.6%
Lewisville	468	502	471	467	458	0.6%	-2.8%
Mackay	539	541	574	566	517	6.5%	-9.9%
Malad City	1,848	1,915	1,946	2,158	2,095	5.3%	7.7%
Malta	196	196	171	177	193	-12.8%	12.9%
Marsing	610	786	798	890	1,031	30.8%	29.2%
McCall	1,758	2,188	2,005	2,084	2,991	14.1%	49.2%
McCannon	623	770	722	805	809	15.9%	12.0%
Melba	197	276	252	439	513	27.9%	103.6%
Menan	545	605	601	707	741	10.3%	23.3%
Meridian	2,616	6,658	9,596	34,919	75,092	266.8%	682.5%
Middleton	739	1,901	1,851	2,978	5,524	150.5%	198.4%
Midvale	176	205	110	176	171	-37.5%	55.5%
Minidoka	131	101	67	129	112	-48.9%	67.2%
Montpelier	2,604	3,107	2,656	2,785	2,597	2.0%	-2.2%
Moore	156	210	190	196	189	21.8%	-0.5%
Moscow	14,146	16,513	18,398	21,291	23,800	30.1%	29.4%
Mountain Home	6,451	7,540	7,913	11,143	14,206	22.7%	79.5%
Moyie Springs	203	386	415	656	718	104.4%	73.0%

Population of Idaho Cities, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010

Year	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	Growth 1970	Growth 1990
Mud Lake	194	243	179	270	358	-7.7%	100.0%
Mullan	1,279	1,269	821	840	692	-35.8%	-15.7%
Murtaugh	124	114	134	139	115	8.1%	-14.2%
Nampa	20,768	25,112	28,365	51,867	81,557	36.6%	187.5%
New Meadows	605	576	534	533	496	-11.7%	-7.1%
New Plymouth	986	1,186	1,313	1,400	1,538	33.2%	17.1%
Newdale	267	329	377	358	323	41.2%	-14.3%
Nezperce	555	517	453	523	466	-18.4%	2.9%
Notus	304	437	380	458	531	25.0%	39.7%
Oakley	656	663	635	668	763	-3.2%	20.2%
Oldtown	161	257	151	190	184	-6.2%	21.9%
Onaway	166	254	203	230	187	22.3%	-7.9%
Orofino	3,883	3,711	2,868	3,247	3,142	-26.1%	9.6%
Osburn	2,248	2,220	1,579	1,545	1,555	-29.8%	-1.5%
Oxford	75	66	44	53	48	-41.3%	9.1%
Paris	615	707	581	576	513	-5.5%	-11.7%
Parker	266	262	288	319	305	8.3%	5.9%
Parma	1,228	1,820	1,597	1,771	1,983	30.0%	24.2%
Paul	911	940	901	998	1,169	-1.1%	29.7%
Payette	4,521	5,448	5,592	7,054	7,433	23.7%	32.9%
Peck	238	209	160	186	197	-32.8%	23.1%
Pierce	1,218	1,060	746	617	508	-38.8%	-31.9%
Pinehurst	1,934	2,183	1,722	1,661	1,619	-11.0%	-6.0%
Placerville	14	20	14	60	53	0.0%	278.6%
Plummer	443	634	804	990	1,044	81.5%	29.9%
Pocatello	40,036	46,080	46,117	51,466	54,255	15.2%	17.6%
Ponderay	275	399	449	638	1,137	63.3%	153.2%
Post Falls	2,371	5,736	7,349	17,247	27,574	210.0%	275.2%
Potlatch	871	819	790	791	804	-9.3%	1.8%
Preston	3,310	3,759	3,710	4,682	5,204	12.1%	40.3%
Priest River	1,493	1,639	1,560	1,754	1,751	4.5%	12.2%
Rathdrum	741	1,369	2,000	4,816	6,826	169.9%	241.3%
Reubens	81	87	46	72	71	-43.2%	54.3%
Rexburg	8,272	11,559	14,298	17,257	25,484	72.8%	78.2%
Richfield	290	357	383	412	482	32.1%	25.8%
Rigby	2,293	2,624	2,681	2,998	3,945	16.9%	47.1%
Riggins	533	527	443	410	419	-16.9%	-5.4%
Ririe	575	555	596	545	656	3.7%	10.1%
Roberts	393	466	557	647	580	41.7%	4.1%
Rockland	209	283	264	316	295	26.3%	11.7%

Population of Idaho Cities, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010

Year	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	Growth 1970 to 1990	Growth 1990 to 2010
Rupert	4,563	5,476	5,455	5,645	5,554	19.5%	1.8%
Salmon	2,910	3,308	2,941	3,122	3,112	1.1%	5.8%
Sandpoint	4,144	4,460	5,203	6,835	7,365	25.6%	41.6%
Shelley	2,614	3,300	3,536	3,813	4,409	35.3%	24.7%
Shoshone	1,233	1,242	1,249	1,398	1,461	1.3%	17.0%
Smelterville	967	776	464	651	627	-52.0%	35.1%
Soda Springs	2,977	4,051	3,111	3,381	3,058	4.5%	-1.7%
Spencer	45	29	11	38	37	-75.6%	236.4%
Spirit Lake	622	834	790	1,376	1,945	27.0%	146.2%
St. Anthony	2,877	3,212	3,010	3,342	3,542	4.6%	17.7%
St. Charles	200	211	189	156	131	-5.5%	-30.7%
St. Maries	2,571	2,794	2,442	2,652	2,402	-5.0%	-1.6%
Stanley	47	99	71	100	63	51.1%	-11.3%
Star			648	1,795	5,793	-	794.0%
State Line	22	26	26	28	38	18.2%	46.2%
Stites	263	253	204	226	221	-22.4%	8.3%
Sugar City	617	1,022	1,275	1,242	1,514	106.6%	18.7%
Sun Valley	180	545	938	1,427	1,406	421.1%	49.9%
Swan Valley	235	135	141	213	204	-40.0%	44.7%
Tensed	151	113	90	126	123	-40.4%	36.7%
Teton	390	559	570	569	735	46.2%	28.9%
Tetonia	176	191	132	247	269	-25.0%	103.8%
Troy	541	820	699	798	862	29.2%	23.3%
Twin Falls	21,914	26,209	27,591	34,469	44,125	25.9%	59.9%
Ucon	664	833	895	943	1,108	34.8%	23.8%
Victor	241	323	292	840	1,928	21.2%	560.3%
Wallace	2,206	1,736	1,010	960	784	-54.2%	-22.4%
Wardner	492	423	246	215	188	-50.0%	-23.6%
Warm River	10	2	9	10	3	-10.0%	-66.7%
Weippe	713	828	532	416	441	-25.4%	-17.1%
Weiser	4,108	4,771	4,571	5,343	5,507	11.3%	20.5%
Wendell	1,122	1,974	1,963	2,338	2,782	75.0%	41.7%
Weston	230	310	390	425	437	69.6%	12.1%
White Bird	185	154	108	106	91	-41.6%	-15.7%
Wilder	564	1,260	1,232	1,462	1,533	118.4%	24.4%
Winchester	274	343	262	308	340	-4.4%	29.8%
Worley	235	206	182	223	257	-22.6%	41.2%



SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO SHARES IN GROW GREEN PROGRAMS

Federal grants provided under the 2009 stimulus law provided to educational institutions across the state with money to create new programs or adapt existing programs teaching students about green technologies and how to handle stricter policies on emissions. Eight Idaho institutions shared over \$750,000 to develop 13 green programs.

Construction

Three secondary schools – Daryl Dennis Professional Technical Education Center, Idaho City High School and Mountain Home High School – each received between \$15,000 and \$18,000 to integrate green practices into already existing curricula. The students will obtain a broad range of construction knowledge from building design to landscaping and learn how to incorporate green practices in each phase of construction like recycling materials and designing homes to use less water and electricity. Fifty students will be admitted to the programs at both the Mountain Home High School and Idaho City High School while the Daryl Dennis Center will enroll 45 students. The stimulus grants will finance materials such as solar panels, a wind turbine, power usage meters and supporting textbooks needed for the courses.

But the grants require results. Between 40 percent and 50 percent of the students are expected to complete each construction program. Of those who complete the program, 10 percent to 25 percent are expected to obtain post-secondary education while the rest of the completers are expected to find jobs in the field.

Electronics

The College of Western Idaho and two secondary schools shared \$250,000 in stimulus grants to establish programs in green electronics. The two-year College of Western Idaho got \$205,000 to set up a program allowing students to obtain certificates in alternative energy and become electronics technicians certified by the Electronics Technician Association. Meridian Technical Charter High School and the Dehryl A. Dennis Technical Education Center received about \$20,000 each to update their curricula so students could earn college credits primarily in alternative energy engineering applications, electrical energy systems and energy systems instrumentation and control.

The high schools will each allow 50 students in their programs, and about 30 percent of them are expected to complete the programs. Of those, over 20 are expected to go on to a postsecondary institution and at least five of the others are expected to get jobs related to their engineering training.

The College of Western Idaho is buying new computers and software, home automation trainers and a geothermal/steam turbine generator along with a dozen other pieces of equipment to give students hands-on experience and familiarity with green technologies. Meridian Technical Charter High School and the Dehryl A. Dennis Technical Education Center are building a hands-on laboratory with a video microscope, soldering equipment and fume extractors.

Pre-Engineering

Capital High School and Renaissance High School in Ada County and Columbia High School in Canyon County have been awarded more than \$150,000 to buy robotics kits, tools and a wind turbine/solar power generator

for curricula in engineering related to renewable energy. The three programs are expected to admit over 175 students combined, and nearly half of them are expected to go on to postsecondary education in energy engineering.

Automotive

The College of Western Idaho received grants for three automotive courses – general automotive, diesel engine technology and environmental collision repair and auto refinishing technology. The two-year school received over \$250,000 to adapt current programs to incorporate changes in emissions technology and policy on emission standards.

The schools general automotive program will incorporate training on the unique characteristics of hybrid vehicles, teaching students to test brake systems, service high-voltage systems and maintain vehicles using nontraditional fuels such as compressed natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas. The grant is financing training instructors and the purchase of a hybrid car and specialized hybrid tools.

The diesel engine technology program will be upgraded to cover the new 2010 emissions standards. The community college will purchase a diesel tractor, new computers and diesel emissions smoke tester.

The collision repair program will now incorporate new painting and repair processes that comply with the more stringent regulation on ozone emissions from repair facilities that take effect in 2013. The school is buying new spray guns, paints and a blower system.

Home Technology

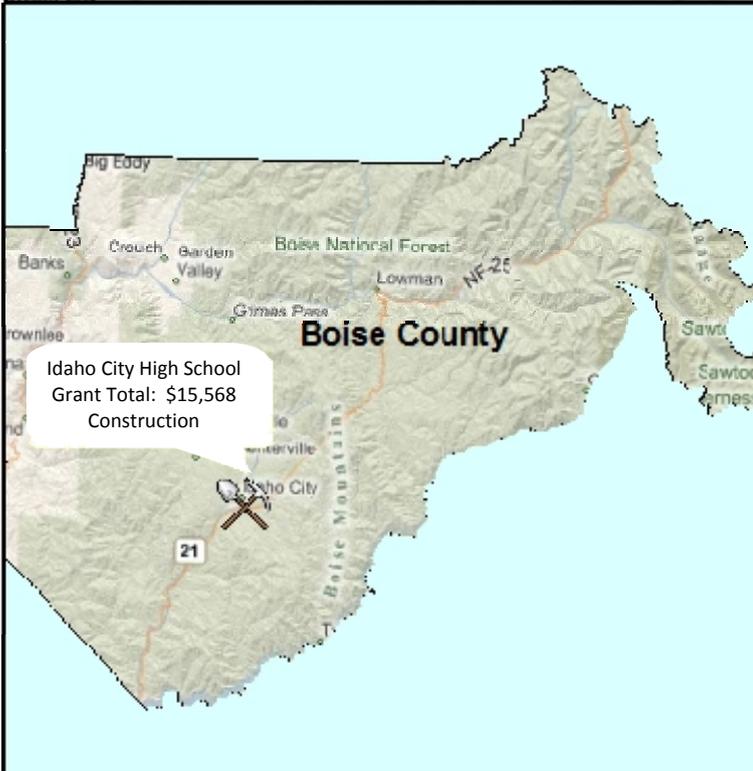
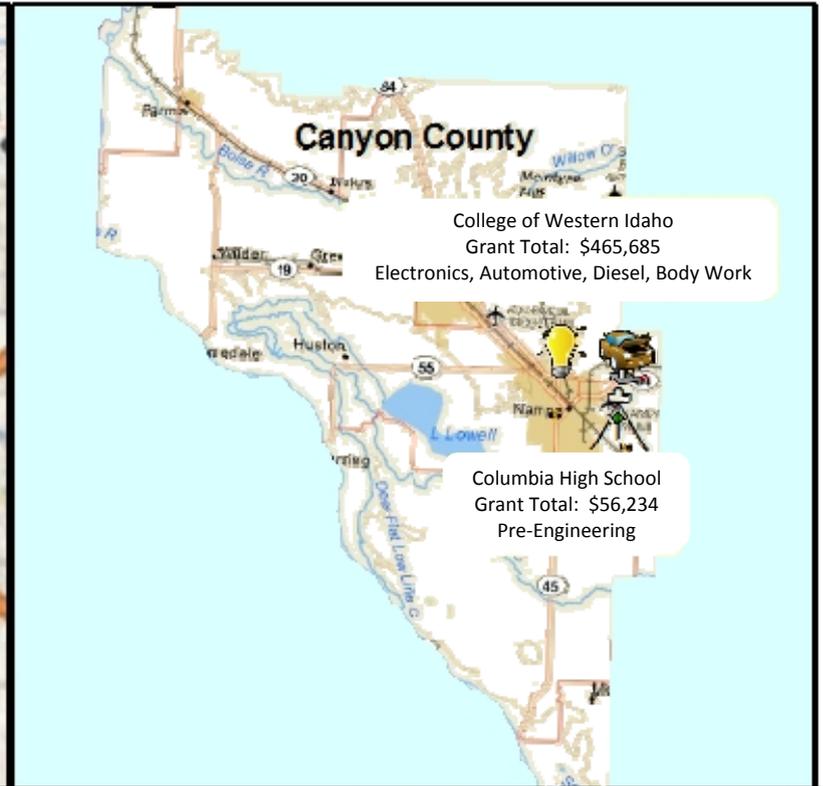
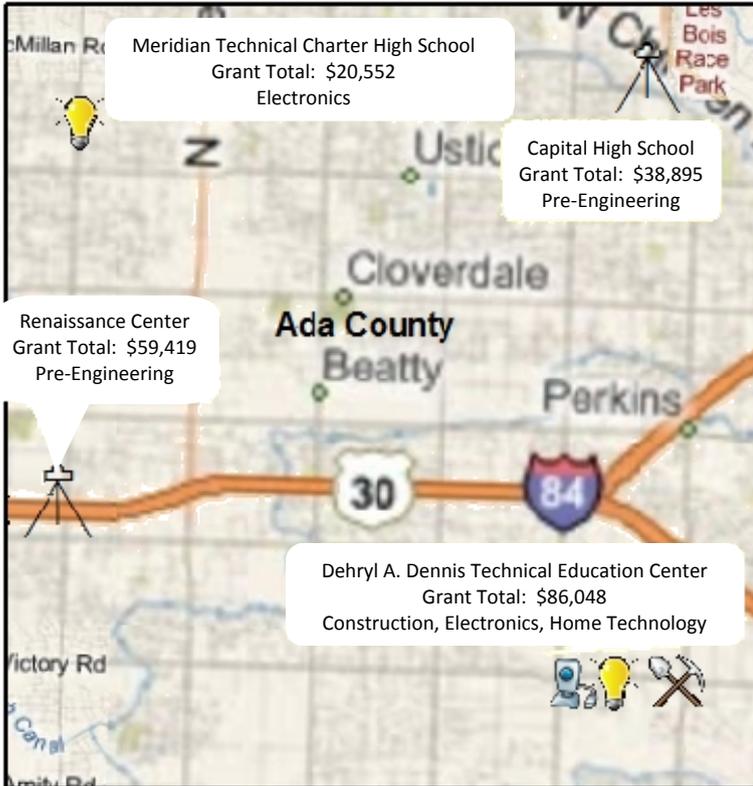
The Dehryl A. Dennis Technical Education Center received nearly \$50,000 to incorporate wind and solar energy systems into its existing home technology program, which teaches students about the integration of computers in the home to control and monitor energy use. About 40 percent of the grant will be used to buy a 3.7 Kilowatt wind turbine, its tower and required installation. The rest of the money will finance computer software, monitoring equipment and solar-related instruments.

This program is smaller than some of the others receiving grants. Only 20 students are expected to enter training, and of those 12 are expected to complete the program with eight going on to postsecondary education in this field.

*John.VanDyke@labor.idaho.gov, Regional Economist
(208) 332-3570, ext. 3199*

See map of impact area on page 28.

Southwestern Idaho Educational Institutions Using Green Grant to Build Programs





MBA PROGRAM TAKES ON GREEN HUE

“Green” education is typically associated with science and technology devoted to answering environmental questions. But Maryhurst University in Maryhurst, Ore., has developed a revolutionary Master of Business Administration curriculum focused on green business.

The program expands student knowledge of green business, help students gain leadership skills and learn the intricacies of becoming a forward-thinking leader in sustainable business practices. Students are encouraged to make environmentally and socially conscious decisions that are both good for the world around them and for their organization’s bottom line.

Green practices and sustainability are meshed with traditional perspectives on business, marketing, finance, ethics and communication to create an MBA in sustainable business. Maryhurst University hopes the program creates a cadre of environmentally sensitive business leaders who can show how sustainability and commerce relate to one another in the boardroom.

Students have the option to attend traditional classroom-based courses, or they can pursue their degree online from anywhere in the United States.

This master’s curriculum offers many of the same core courses found in a traditional MBA programs – finance, marketing, leadership, decision making and economics. But each traditional core course has a green emphasis.

Beyond that the curriculum has unique green courses – Principals of Sustainability, Resource Economics, Environmental Law, Renewable Energy, Green Development, Food Production and Environmental Health and Environmental Protection and Policy.

Maryhurst offers study concentrations unique to graduate level business – renewable energy, government policy and administration, green development and natural and organic resources.

While the aim of the program is to create new environmentally aware business leaders, it also provides students with a thorough understanding of traditional business practices that could be applied to any major industry. Program officials predict this MBA will become very attractive to businesses as they face compliance with more and more environmental laws and regulations.

Maryhurst’s students have done well professionally. Sustainable business MBA graduates have found their way into some of America’s top companies including General Motors, Nike and Siemens.

Founded in 1893 as private non-profit institution affiliated with the Catholic Church, the school’s sustainable business MBA program is accredited regionally by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities and by the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education as a specialized business program.

Tuition is currently \$516 per credit hour for the 36-hour course. Students enrolled at least half-time can qualify for student aid including federal student loan programs. More information is at <http://onlinedegrees.marylhurst.edu/>,

Dan.Cravens@labor.idaho.gov, *Regional Economist*
(208) 236-6710 ext. 3713



GREEN BUILDING SOLUTIONS: FINDING YOUR NEXT HOME AT IKEA

Green technology is often seen as new or high-tech. But all too often green technology and green processes are things that have been rediscovered. IKEA, for example, has rediscovered a green business model developed by Sears many years ago.

In fact, green building practices were being promoted and sold in the Sears Catalog in 1908 when Sears launched selling prefabricated home kits.

According to author Rosemary Fuller Thornton, the kits were easy to assemble, and many could be handled by only one workman. Buyers saved a great deal of money due to reduced construction costs.

The kits contained precision cut lumber and other building materials. Unused or excess building materials can greatly increase overall building costs and waste natural resources such as wood.

But a century ago, Sears did not realize it had become a pioneer in green building technology.

According to Thornton, the Sears homes were durable, very popular and, like IKEA, affordable. They sold for between \$15,388 and \$59,187 in current adjusted costs.

It is unknown how many total Sears homes were built. A fire at Sears corporate offices destroyed records on the product. The Sears kit homes were not easily distinguishable from traditionally built homes of the era and were of at least equal quality. The Sears home kit program ran from 1908 until 1940.

According to Thornton, 70,000 Sears kit homes have been discovered in the United States.

Despite their popularity, Sears was forced to stop selling the kits because of a high default rate on company backed loans consumers took to buy them.

IKEA, the Swedish home furnishing provider, is picking up where Sears left off in 1940. IKEA is selling its own home kits to consumers in Europe and soon will bring these homes to the United States.

According to building industry author Broderick Perkins, the homes in the United Kingdom are sold for about \$185,000 for a one-bedroom home to \$327,000 for a three-bed room house including construction. These kits are specifically designed for first-time home buyers. Recent economic reports indicate that one in four young working British households cannot afford the cheapest homes. IKEA hopes to attract buyers who otherwise could not buy their own home.

The homes seem popular in Europe. Perkins says that IKEA sells 800 to 1,000 kits in Sweden alone each year.

IKEA's prefabricated homes in the United States will likely be less costly than their European counterparts. The IKEA Smart Car House, which is expected to be introduced in America, is about 600 square feet with a total construction cost of about \$24,000 minus the cost of the building site, according building industry expert Nigel Maynard.

Like the Sears kit homes of decades past, the IKEA homes are designed to be cost sensitive and easy to build. Like the Sears kits, they waste far less

building materials than homes built using traditional techniques. IKEA's homes also incorporate many green features such as energy efficiency, natural lighting and recycled building materials.

Soon American consumers may go to IKEA for not just their furniture but also their new house. Information on BoKlok / IKEA homes in Europe can be found at <http://www.boklok.com/>.

*Dan.Cravens@labor.idaho.gov, Regional Economist
(208) 236-6710 ext. 3713*

IDAHO GREEN EXPO RETURNS FOR FOURTH YEAR

A two-day free event promoting sustainable living, services and products in Idaho returns to Boise Centre May 8-9.

In addition to businesses exhibiting green products and practices, several agencies and non-profit groups will staff booths offering information about green sustainability practices and ideas.

Free workshops on both days cover topics such as xeric landscaping, green building practices, alternative transportation and tips for reducing energy consumption in the home.

Two panel discussions will be offered on how to prepare for a career in the burgeoning green economy.

A green film festival sponsored by Idaho Public Television is also part of the event and includes films such as "Plan B: Mobilizing to Save Civilization" and "The Story of Stuff."

The Eco-Kids Room will feature activities for kids and families organized by Boise WaterShed, Foothills Learning Center, the MK Nature Center and others .

All the activities and schedules are found online at <http://idahogreenexpo.org>.



The expo is produced by GreenWorks Idaho in collaboration with the city of Boise and the U.S. Green Building Council. Hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.



Area and County Developments

NORTHERN IDAHO

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai & Shoshone counties

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS



Free energy efficiency evaluations are being conducted for small businesses in northern Idaho by University of Idaho students. The internship program through 2012 is a joint venture of the university's sustainability center and the environmental science program, the Idaho Small Business Development Center and Avista Utilities.

- Mount Spokane ski area wants to build a new chairlift and seven ski runs in the undeveloped old-growth forests, alpine meadows and wetlands on the western-northwestern side of the state park. The expansion allows Mt. Spokane to extend its season by giving skiers access to deeper snow on north-facing slopes.
- The Spokane Teachers Credit Union has begun remodeling its headquarters in Liberty Lake, Wash. The multimillion-dollar project is expected to be completed in a year. The project will make more efficient use of space and improve energy efficiency with new heating and cooling systems, new windows and doors and a new roof and insulation. An improved cafeteria and a courtyard for the staff are included. EHS Design in Seattle and Contractors Northwest Inc. of Coeur d'Alene are working on the project.
- Eastern Washington University is planning a \$25 million residence hall on its Cheney campus, and a university committee has named ALSC Architects PS to oversee its design. The 109,000-square-foot complex of up to four stories is expected to house 350 students.

BENEWAH COUNTY



A \$500,000 Indian Community Development Block Grant has been awarded to the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, one of 50 competitive grants totaling \$33.6 million awarded to Indian tribes and Alaska native villages by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The funds will be used by the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Housing Authority to rehabilitate 35 of its rental homes and install energy-saving upgrades.

- Contracts have been awarded for the third phase of the \$28.5 million hospital and clinic in Benewah County. The first two phases came in \$887,432 under bid. The new contracts are going to Ginno Construction of Coeur d'Alene for \$2.9 million, Great Northern Masonry of Spokane for \$350,981, Beck Cabinet Co. of Coeur d'Alene for \$329,312, All Wall of Post Falls for \$299,000, Granite Enterprises of Rathdrum for \$200,984, Advanced Fireproofing & Insulation of Spokane for \$76,794, Modern Glass of Coeur d'Alene for \$222,710, Drywall Specialties of Spokane for

\$1,181,925, Fairway Floor & Design of Post Falls for \$330,000, All Wall Contracting of Post Falls for \$118,500, Schindler Elevator of Spokane for \$275,000 and ETCO Services of Hayden for \$4.2 million.

BONNER COUNTY

- Thanks to a widened pipeline provided by Frontier Internet services, current subscribers, regardless of their package, should see faster downloads and uploads and less slowdown during peak hours. Frontier will also be offering higher speed caps in new areas of Bonner County for those wishing to upgrade their services.

BOUNDARY COUNTY

- Boundary County commissioners approved Sunday sales at the state-run liquor store. Proceeds are used to help pay for Boundary County's portion of North Idaho College tuition for high school and Boundary County residents who attend the community college. Each resident is allowed a lifetime maximum \$3,000 toward NIC tuition. Sunday operation is estimated to generate \$3,000 in liquor sales each day. The revenue would be a portion of the extra \$156,000 per year in sales, all of which would go to the two-year college program.

KOOTENAI COUNTY

- The Business, Education and Workforce Development Committee of the Post Falls Chamber of Commerce organized the fifth annual Reverse Job Fair on March 23 at Real Life Ministries in Post Falls. The Reverse Job Fair lets students choose and conduct research for a career field they are most interested in pursuing after graduation. The students create a portfolio and display they present the day of the event and are given the opportunity to practice their interview skills with professionals in their chosen career field. About 270 students from the Post Falls, Lakeland and Genesis Prep Academy school districts participated this year, meeting with 225 business professionals representing a variety of occupations. The students interviewed the adults to gather more information about specific careers. In some cases, business cards were exchanged with an open invitation to the student to visit the business.
- Command Center Inc., the Post Falls-based temporary labor provider, announced revenue of \$69.4 million for the 53-week period that ended Dec. 31. That was an increase of 35 percent from revenue of \$51.6 million for the 52-week period that ended Dec. 25, 2009. The company recorded an operating profit of \$1.56 million from its 50 branches in 2010 compared with a loss of \$3.19 million in 2009. The Command Center was able to employ 29,400 in 2010. Those employees worked nearly 5 million hours for nearly 3,000 clients.
- Silverwood Theme Park is spending more than \$2 million on new attractions at its Boulder Beach water park, highlighted by the "Ricochet Rapids" family raft ride that runs down a 40-foot hill into a 30-foot valley with a steep drop into a 20-foot diameter enclosed mega tube. There will also be new family water rides "Butterflyer" and "Froghopper" and a new shooting gallery. Construction on the newest attractions begins this month. The rides should open by June 17.

Silverwood also held a two-day job fair to fill 1,200 openings for the upcoming season. The park near Athol needs ride operators, lifeguards, food and beverage workers, housekeepers, retail clerks and games staffers from the entry to supervisory level. Wages will range from \$7.25 an hour to \$12 or more. There will be a training program starting next month.

- Due to its increasing demand, Coeur d'Alene's Kroc Center, a community center operated by the Salvation Army, will begin constructing a \$2.6 million, one-level parking garage on the west end of the current parking lot. The Kroc Center is averaging 2,000 visitors per day. It will add 140 spaces to the 353-space lot.
- A \$150,000 renovation on the Lake City Playhouse should be finished Sept. 15, prior to launching the 51st season with "Fiddler on the Roof."
- Kootenai Technical Education Campus will begin a year earlier than scheduled. The project is expected to go to bid in July, and by then more than half of the \$9.5 million approved by voters in 2010 will have been collected. By 2012, the high school being built by the three local school districts will offer classes in skilled trades to juniors and seniors such as health occupations, welding, construction and automotive.
- Ground Force Manufacturing LLC, a Post Falls-based maker of huge support vehicles for open-pit mining operations, is forming a separate company to serve the underground mining industry. It will create 100 jobs within two years. The new company, Under-Ground Force LLC, will be in a 10-acre plant in Coeur d'Alene, where it plans to invest \$5.5 million in land, building renovations, new construction and equipment.
- Kuespert Insurance Agency acquired Panhandle Insurance Agency as part of its Coeur d'Alene division. Kuespert Insurance's Coeur d'Alene office will operate under the Panhandle Insurance Agency name and has moved.
- Silver Creek has broken ground on a \$3.8 million, 42-unit senior affordable housing project on the west side of Post Falls. Intended for residents 55 and older, it will offer three-bedroom units to accommodate the growing trend of grandparents being the primary caregivers for their grandchildren. The 2.3-acre project will include a three-story building, a community center, carpools, walking paths, greenspace and a small "tot lot" for children. It is expected to be completed in the fall. Silver Creek is funded by federal stimulus money, a tax credit through the Idaho Housing and Finance Association, a construction loan and investors. The monthly rent will range from \$277 for a basic one-bedroom apartment to \$594 for a three-bedroom unit. Supportive services such as transportation will be available for the tenants. Silver Creek is the first of two phases – the second to include 42 senior units.
- Construction has begun on a 9,000-square-foot building for Advanced Dermatology & Skin Surgery in the Riverstone complex. With completion anticipated for the end of September, the building will be a clinic and surgery center for skin cancer and various skin conditions. The practice includes six physicians, a physician's assistant and a nurse practitioner.

SHOSHONE COUNTY

- New Jersey Mining Co. and Marathon Gold Corp. reported that gold was observed in the Idaho vein intercept. Five surface drill holes have been completed with each intercepting the Idaho vein, for a total of 155.38 grams of gold per ton of ore.
- According to Great Britain-based Skiinfo, Lookout Pass had received more snow the last few days in February and first three days in March than any other ski area “on the planet” with 6.5 feet in a one week period.

OPENINGS

- Chef Heaven in Coeur d’Alene
- Bi-Plane Brewing Co. in Post Falls
- Big Country, offering electronic technology based management and supervision tools, reopened in Coeur d’Alene after recovering from a roof cave-in during last winter’s heavy snow.
- Taco Loco Taqueria restaurant in Post Falls
- Sully's Pub and Grill in Coeur d’Alene
- Jimmy John’s in Coeur d’Alene
- Ryder's Collectibles in Coeur d’Alene
- Top This, a frozen yogurt shop in Coeur d’Alene
- Stash Box in Coeur d’Alene
- Pacific Crest Insurance in Coeur d’Alene
- Home Away From Home Child Care in Bonners Ferry

EXPANSIONS

- Apollo Spas moved to a new location in Coeur d’Alene, expanding from 4,000 to 7,700 square feet.
- The Velvet Hanger doubled its space in Coeur d’Alene.
- Liberty Lake data center company TierPoint expanded into an \$8.5 million, 15,000-square-foot addition.

CLOSURES

- Tequila Joe's in Hayden
- Beaudry Motorsports in Post Falls

Alivia.Body@labor.idaho.gov, Regional Economist
(208) 769-1558 ext. 3486

NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO

Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce counties

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- Even though fewer spring chinook appear to be headed up the Columbia River, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission approved a fishing season much like last year’s. Fishing for chinook begins April 23 on the Clearwater River, its north, south and middle forks and on the Lochsa, Salmon and Little Salmon rivers and the Snake River in Hells Canyon. Only hatchery fish with the missing adipose fin can be taken. Fisheries managers expect a return of 20,500 hatchery chinook this year. Those not needed for spawning at hatcheries are split evenly between sport and tribal anglers. Fishing attracts many visitors to the region so the season’s length affects inns, restaurants and stores. An Idaho Department of Fish and

Game study in 2001 estimated that chinook anglers spent \$46.2 million a year. Adjusted for inflation since then, that total would exceed \$56 million.

- The Nez Perce Tribe reached a milestone in coho recovery in March when it released 550,000 smolts from adult coho that returned to tributaries of the Clearwater River. In the 1920s, construction of the old Lewiston dam nearly eliminated coho salmon in the Clearwater Basin, and they were finally declared extinct in the 1980s. But in the late 1990s, the tribe began trying to re-establish the species by releasing juvenile coho salmon in the Clearwater Basin. Most years, at least some of those fish have come from coho adults that returned to hatcheries on the lower Columbia River. This year marks the first time all of the juveniles came from fish that returned to Lapwai Creek or Clear Creek near Kooskia.
- Two contrary forces are affecting lumber prices, which ultimately are a major determinant of Idaho logging and mill employment levels. Housing starts in the United States slowed in February to the slowest pace since April 2009, and building permits fell to a record low. Those signs that housing construction is faltering may bring lumber prices down. According to Random Lengths, the composite price for framing lumber fell to \$291 per thousand board feet in the last week of March, down from \$305 in the third week of January. Strong demand from other countries, especially China, and the potential for sales to Japan when it begins rebuilding from the earthquake and tsunami may help offset that downward pressure. International demand in the last year buoyed lumber prices, pushing them up even though U.S. construction activity remained depressed. Current prices are 53 percent higher than the record low of \$190 in the fourth week of January 2009 and 61 percent lower than the record high of \$474 in the second week of August 2004. In north central Idaho, about 870 people work for wood product manufacturers and another 600 for logging operations.

IDAHO AND LEWIS COUNTIES

- Grangeville Health and Rehabilitation landed on the U.S. News and World Report list of best nursing homes for 2011. The 60-bed facility employs more than 50 people. Strong support from the community provides a good atmosphere. Many volunteers entertain and care for residents.
- Riggins is preparing its annual jet boat races April 15-17 and rodeo May 7-8. Both draw people throughout the Northwest. Events like the jet boat races have been added in recent years to build on the tourism enthusiasm the rodeo has generated over its 62-year run. The 55-room Salmon Rapids Lodge Best Western on the Salmon River at its confluence with the Little Salmon River symbolizes the city's transition from a resource-based to a tourism-based economy. The hotel opened in 2001 near the site of a sawmill that burned down in 1986. Riggins is also exploring a whitewater park that would potentially attract thousands of new visitors. It hopes to build a city park that overlooks the Little Salmon River and three structures in the river for kayaking, boogie boarding and fishing.
- The century old Monastery of St. Gertrude near Cottonwood hosts about 10,000 visitors a year for retreats, conferences and museum visits. The

monastery's spirit center for retreats and conferences has three conference rooms and 22 guest rooms, which opened in 2005. There is also a bread and breakfast that opened last summer, and recent improvements were made to a museum featuring regional history.



Hillco Technologies in Nez Perce received a Governor's Award for Excellence in Agriculture in February for its innovative technology. Hillco makes combine-leveling systems that allow farmers working in hilly terrain to reduce grain loss. The unit can be attached to any combine built by major equipment manufacturers. Hillco employs more than 40 engineers, welders, machinists, assemblers and marketers and expects to expand over the next few years. Higher prices for agricultural commodities may increase farmers' spending on equipment this year.

- Voters rejected a four-day week for Mountain View School District 244 in Grangeville. Given the potential budget savings, many school districts are looking at cutting a day out of the week. The Salmon River Joint School District in Riggins introduced a four-day week last fall.
- Tourist facilities in the Lowell and Syringa areas are starting to see more activity. After some remodeling this winter, the Wilderness Inn and Cougar Canyon now are both open during the day. In the last two months, these and other facilities along U.S. Highway 12 hosted megaload crews, Idaho Department of Fish and Game personnel who were counting elk, Nez Perce Tribal members working on fish ladders and traps and students from Washington State University and the University of Idaho. Soon chinook anglers will arrive. In the summer, they will be overflowing with whitewater enthusiasts, bicyclists, backpackers and anglers.

LATAH COUNTY

- Palouse Prairie School of Expeditionary Learning is adding seventh and eighth grades. The charter school opened in Moscow in 2009 with students in kindergarten through fifth grade. It added sixth grade last fall. The school's curriculum involves in-depth projects that emphasize concepts more than specific skills. Current students are automatically guaranteed a seat next year. Preference is given to children living within the Moscow School District. Remaining seats are assigned by lottery.
- Gritman Memorial Hospital in Moscow, Latah County's second largest employer, continues to expand its services. It recently completed the first phase of converting an old nursing home on the city's south side into a wellness center. In addition to an updated pool and spa and expanded locker rooms, the plan calls for an adult day health facility, rehabilitation, physical and aquatic therapy units, outpatient counseling and child day care services by 2014. Child care is currently being used by Gritman employees and parents of disabled children. The hospital also just finished construction of a medical office building, allowing Moscow Family Medicine to expand and providing space for Blue Sky Dental, Inland Orthopedic and QuickCare. It is the first medical office to be built in Moscow in over 25 years. At the main hospital, new pediatric echocardiography equipment provides sonograms of the heart. Also new at the hospital is equipment that provides Idaho's only breast MRIs.



The Idaho State Board of Education's Higher Education Research Council recently awarded gap funding to five University of Idaho research projects. They involve generation of potato-based resistant starch ingredients for testing within commercial product prototypes by an industrial partner, commercializing specific probiotic bacterial strains to improve fish health and reduce disease-related mortality at aquaculture facilities, nanospring coatings for the promotion of bone growth on prostheses, enhancing propagation capability to accelerate the commercialization of domesticated native plants and constructing a pilot-scale bioplastic production facility. Gap funding helps university developed technology bridge voids in funding between early stage research and commercially ready results. It helps researchers develop prototypes, proof-of-concept testing and field trials. Moving more research from the theoretical to commercial applications has become an important goal in recent years. The university is strengthening efforts to target research to the needs of Idaho businesses, generate patents and increase technology transfer programs that create businesses in the community based on those patents. It is providing resources to help professors become more entrepreneurial.

NEZ PERCE AND ASOTIN COUNTIES

- Navigation on the Columbia and Snake rivers resumed March 27 after the locks had been closed since Dec. 10 for repairs. The Army Corps of Engineers said the repairs took 10 days longer than expected because high winds and rain slowed work at Lower Monumental Dam. The three ports in the Lewis-Clark Valley are now back to normal operations. The Port of Lewiston, the only container port, was most affected by the closure. Container volume was halved during the closure. Only transport on rail on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe and the local Great Northern Railroad short line was available through the closure. Shipping by barge is cheaper because barges use about a third the fuel trucks use. The five tug and barge lines serving the ports are back on the job and local products are again being trucked to the Lewiston port. At the Port of Wilma, TGM Investments — a transfer specialist that loads and unloads barges, trucks, railroad and storage facilities — is dealing with a backlog of products to be shipped. The Port of Clarkston, which serves cruise boats, was not affected by the closure since the first cruise boat of the year was not scheduled to dock until April. Five cruise lines dock boats carrying up to 235 tourists each through October. The port's 580-foot Gateway Dock is ideally situated for visitors to board a jet boat for a whitewater ride up the Snake into Hells Canyon, North America's deepest river gorge.
- Tri-State Memorial Hospital in Clarkston, Wash., began three remodeling projects worth \$208,000 in March. To meet the need of its growing patient volume, it is remodeling the interior of the hospital to provide more space for the pharmacy. It also is adding space for another physician and expanding the wound care unit at its medical office building next door. When financing becomes available, it also plans to undertake major remodeling and expansion of both the hospital and medical office building.
- A proposal to build a new Lewiston High School did not receive the required two-thirds majority in a levy election in March. Another levy for the same purpose failed last October.

OPENINGS

- A and B Cleaning Services in Orofino
- A and C Discount selling new and secondhand toys, clothing and household items on Main Street in Grangeville
- Back Porch Treasures Antiques on Main Street in Troy
- Daily's Bakery, serving meals as well as selling baked goods in Clarkston
- Rivertown Coffee Roasters inside Daily's Bakery in Clarkston
- The South Fork Café, offering breakfast, lunch and dinner in Stites
- The Tiny Trailer Roadside Eatery serving burgers and sandwiches in Stites
- We Love Transmissions repairing transmissions in cars, trucks and large vehicles such as school buses and motor homes in Lewiston

Kathryn.Tacke@labor.idaho.gov, *Regional Economist*
(208) 769-1558 ext. 3486

SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO

Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley & Washington counties

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

ADA COUNTY

- The Boise Valley Economic Partnership is raising more than \$1.6 million over the next 60 days to reach its funding goal of \$4 million for its Competitive Edge Initiative, a program focusing on employer recruitment and job growth in southwestern Idaho.
- Winco plans to move its purchasing, pricing and marketing departments to Boise from Woodburn, Ore. The move is expected to bring 60 jobs although it was unclear if the workers would be relocating from Woodburn or be hired locally.

ADAMS COUNTY



Idaho Power Co. says it will not stand in the way of the effort to get a higher rate for the electricity that would be produced by the woody biomass plant proposed for Adams County. The county believes the plant's electricity should be covered by the rate directive in place when the plant was first proposed, not the lower rates now in effect. The county intends to take its case to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission. This would be one less obstacle for a potentially stable employer in a county with one of the highest fluctuations in employment over the course of a year.



Over 60 percent of the 400,000 acres in the Payette National Forest deemed suitable for commodity production will be designated for restoration, according to the proposed Wildlife Conservation Strategy. The remaining acreage would be harvested through thinning projects, resulting in a smaller but consistent yield.

CANYON COUNTY

- The J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation donated \$6 million to the College of Western Idaho for the school's purchase and renovation of the former Sam's Club building in Nampa. The college plans to move eight of

its existing programs into the new building, which will give the community college future program flexibility.

ELMORE COUNTY

- The Elmore County Planning and Zoning Commission has approved the Mayfield Townsite, a planned community of roughly 15,000 homes for 37,500 more people in the county. The planned community is sited near another planned community, Mayfield Springs, which is expected to add 10,000 people.
- The Department of Veterans Affairs opened a clinic in Mountain Home in March. The clinic will offer non-emergency services and will employ three full-time staff – two medical staff and a clerk. The primary physician will be available two days a week.

VALLEY COUNTY



Valley County could see curbside recycling if a proposal by Lakeshore Disposal is approved by the County Commission. Residents would see their monthly disposal bill increase by \$5.50. While recycling would cut the amount of trash shipped to Elmore County for disposal by 53 tons a year, the dollar savings has not been estimated. The county commissioners will make a decision on recycling once that estimate is made.

- MeadowCreek Golf Course owner Randy Hopkins' offer to sell the course to the MeadowCreek Property Owners Association has been rejected for a second time. The deal called for the homeowners association to take responsibility for maintenance and operations of the course. Hopkins is removing all maintenance equipment from the course.

PAYETTE AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

- Residents in Washington and Payette counties are concerned about the potential hazards from hydraulic fracturing, a process where fluid is pushed through a wellbore in order to "crack" the rock below to free up natural gas deposits. Bridge Energy has recently performed exploratory drilling in both counties. Residents are worried hydraulic fracturing will lead to contaminating the local water supply. Both counties have been holding hearings on the drilling project, and the city of New Plymouth has asked the Department of Lands to enforce a two-year moratorium on exploration drilling and hydraulic fracturing.

*John.VanDyke@labor.idaho.gov, Regional Economist
(208) 332-3570, ext. 3199*

SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO

Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka and Twin Falls counties

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- The Idaho State Department of Education estimates that consolidating the state's 115 school districts into 44 countywide districts would save \$15 million, and the bulk of that savings would be in south central Idaho. Merging the eight school districts in Twin Falls County would save \$2.5 million, according to the estimate. That is the highest single county savings in the state. Consolidating the four districts in neighboring Gooding County would reduce costs by \$2 million, the second highest single

county savings. Making the three districts in Lincoln County one would save another \$600,000. Consolidation in those three counties alone accounts for more than a third of the savings statewide.

- Ratings issued by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Health Institute rank some south central counties as the least healthy in the state. Gooding County was listed as the fourth least healthy county in Idaho because of an extremely high rate of premature deaths, very poor clinical care and a state-leading rate of low birth weight babies. Lincoln County was the sixth least healthy with a premature death rate just below Gooding's and a ranking of no better than fifth from the bottom in health behaviors – primarily teen birth rate, excessive drinking and obesity. Jerome County made the bottom 10 at tenth with motor vehicle crash death rate and teen birth rate both double the state average. Jerome also ranked no better than sixth or worse in poor health behaviors. The rankings did not include Clark and Camas counties because of their extremely small populations.

BLAINE COUNTY

- The Friedman Memorial Airport reported a 2 percent increase in passengers this winter over last. Skywest, owned by Delta, said its travel remained even and Horizon, with flights originating and departing to Seattle and Los Angeles, reported a 7 percent increase.
- The Craters of the Moon National Monument was the site an Idaho student attending Columbia University's School of the Arts in New York City chose for filming his low-budget thriller. Jesse Millward grew up in Blackfoot and attended Idaho State University before going to Columbia. The bleak terrain and freezing temperatures at Craters of the Moon during the February filming convinced the 10-member crew to leave as quickly as possible. "A weird thing that happened while filming," Millward said. "We had a fire going, which caught the attention of a pack of coyotes. You could hear them all around. We realized we were being watched the whole time at Craters of the Moon even though no one was out there that we could see." The movie budget was kept around \$11,000 and the director/co-producer is hopeful the film will be in the Sundance Film Festival repertoire.
- The United States Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame and International Skiing History Association held an induction ceremony in conjunction with the association's annual meeting. Local inductees included Sun Valley Resort owner Earl Holding and Muffy Davis, a U.S. paralympian champion. This is the first time the hall of fame and the association co-organized a large event creating a week of music, ski and snowboarding films, a ski race, demonstrations, exhibits, dinners and soirees. Participants came from all over the globe.



Hiking Craters of the Moon on snowshoes is a favorite winter activity. Photo: Bureau of Land Management

- Lack of financing is holding up four hotel projections in the ski hub of Ketchum, consequently slowing down the additions of fresh retail shops and restaurants, a golf course, residences and parking garages. The construction costs for all four developments are estimated at \$2 billion.
- Spring skiing is icing on the cake for Sun Valley Resort with snow storms extending the season to April 24. The resort is featuring lodging specials and outdoor bands Wednesday through Sunday afternoons. Good news for a community that has been hit hard by the recession's impact on tourism, construction and real estate.

GOODING COUNTY

- Gooding School District patrons approved a two-year \$325,000 supplemental levy. The levy will add \$36.96 annually to each household's tax bill for every \$100,000 valuation.

JEROME COUNTY

- Jerome School District patrons voted to continue a \$650,000 supplemental levy for 2011-2012. The levy will add \$60 annually for each \$100,000 in valuation. Voter turnout was considered low at 21 percent, and 71 percent voted to pass the measure. Only a simple majority was required.

MINIDOKA & CASSIA COUNTIES

- The Cassia County School District failed to reel in the votes for a \$41.5 million bond to build three new schools and update other facilities. It was the third failure since 2008. Superintendent Gaylen Smyer did not know if the board would pursue another vote in the near future. A two-thirds majority was required. The bond drew only 55 percent. The bond would have increase property tax bills by \$48.60 per \$100,000 valuation.
- The Rupert City Council voted to sign a rate settlement with Bonneville Power Administration. The deal, still to be approved by Bonneville Power users, could yield an \$80,000 reimbursement to the city for alleged overcharges.
- Dot Foods will be recognized this September in Washington, D.C., for its support of the military. The company is one of fifteen being honored by Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Almost half of our nation's military is comprised of National Guard and Reserve members and the organization received over 4,000 nominations from servicemen and women for 2011 awards. The Freedom Award will be personally presented by the Secretary of Defense as an acknowledgment of Dot Food's commitment to its employees serving in the guard not only for saving the jobs of called up guardsmen but also for supporting them with care packages a couple of times per year while they are overseas.

TWIN FALLS COUNTY

- The U.S. Economic Development Administration approved a \$4.4 million grant for the College of Southern Idaho's Applied Technology and Innovation Center. Construction is expected to take 18 months for the \$7 million, 29,600-square-foot building, which will house the renewable energy generation and green construction programs along with the auto body program.

- Allegiant Air is going dark during what it considers the slack season from mid-August to mid-November. "Because we manage our schedules so closely with leisure travelers, seasonal suspensions are not uncommon," McGee told the Times-News. The airline started its Twin Falls-Las Vegas route last June and saw travelers from the Boise market, as well as the Magic Valley market. Seven part-time employees will lose hours but not jobs as their duties will shift specifically to taking reservations for flights after the break.
- Groundwater users and irrigation districts collaborated to purchase production facilities and all water rights from three fish farms in the Magic Valley – Blue Lakes Trout Farm, Clear Lake Trout and Rim View Trout, all owned by the same group. The process will alleviate future court deliberations over water calls in the Thousand Springs area. A previous deal in 2008 was resolved with the city of Twin Falls paying \$10 million to SeaPac of Idaho for Pristine Springs. The terms of this deal were not disclosed.
- The city of Kimberly will be upping its water rates to pay back the bond for its new meter system and water towers. Kimberly will also garner fresh ideas on downtown development from its newly hired consultant, Boisean Mark Rivers of Brix and Co., also a consultant for the Twin Falls downtown urban renewal efforts.
- The College of Southern Idaho is increasing tuition by \$5 per credit hour with the full support of the student Senate, which also voted to return student fees to the institution to assist with shortfalls. Tuition is \$1,360 per semester for up to 16 credit hours at the community college. Anything below 12 credits or above 16 is billed at the \$110 per credit hour. State support for the school fell \$515,000 this budget year. The tuition and student fee increases will generate about \$570,000. President Jerry Beck said the student involvement was tremendously important. "We will continue to look for savings, and the CSI Foundation will provide more than \$1 million in scholarships this year," Beck said.
- The Twin Falls Planning and Zoning Commission voted against allowing the Magic Valley Bible Church to take over the large Cain's Furniture building that has been vacant for two years. The commission said there was not enough parking, the church would increase traffic too much and commercial activity would be curtailed because liquor licenses could not be granted within 300 feet of a church. "We're in a spot that, by possibly allowing this, we could be shutting down a lot of activity," Commissioner Erick Mikesell said. The church pastor indicated he may appeal the ruling to the Twin Falls City Council.
- Twin Falls School District won approval of a \$7.5 million supplemental two-year levy with 55 percent of the vote. The levy will boost property taxes \$136.80 per \$100,000 valuation. Voter turnout was considered low at 16.5 percent. A simple majority was required to pass the measure.
- More and more businesses are relocated to Blue Lakes Boulevard just south of the Snake River Canyon. Cobble Creek, a downtown women's dress shop, is now occupying the space previously filled by Black Rock

Clothiers who moved from Buhl when the economy worsened. The former Rite-Aid space is finishing up its face lift with contemporary facades and smaller spaces introducing a mix of new and existing businesses including Hair Tech.

OPENINGS

- Formalicity, a formal dress shop selling both new and consignment items, in both Twin Falls and Burley. The Twin Falls store is paired with Tuxedo Now for one-stop wedding planning.
- Cycle Therapy, a high end cycling shop also offering rentals, in Twin Falls

CLOSINGS

- Black Rock Clothier, a women's clothing boutique, in Twin Falls

LAYOFFS

- South Central Community Action laid off 20 workers in the region as the federal stimulus funds it received for the weatherization program ran out.

Jan.Roeser@labor.idaho.gov, *Regional Economist*
(208) 735-2500 ext. 3639

SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO

Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida & Power counties

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

BANNOCK COUNTY

- Don Aslett's Museum of Clean held an investor appreciation event March 31, hosted by the Bannock Development Corp for about 75 local area investors. Bannock Development Executive Director Gynii Gilliam called it a "chance to say hello to all the investors. Businesses like Hoku Materials, Allstate Insurance and ON Semiconductor have brought in about \$450 million in capital, and by the first of next year, the tally could reach a total of 800 jobs."
- About 240 women attended the 11th annual Women at Work Conference sponsored by Idaho State University's Center for New Directors to learn about career opportunities. The all-day event paid particular attention to careers in science, mathematics, engineering and technology. Event organizer Christine Bower urged women to "consider careers in these fields and other non-traditional fields because they offer high wages, good benefits, advancement opportunities and, most importantly, job satisfaction."
- By a substantial margin, voters in the Pocatello-Chubbuck School District passed a \$1.5 million levy to cover budget shortfalls. The levy will increase property taxes \$2.05 per \$100,000 of assessed property value.

BEAR LAKE COUNTY

- Last January truck driver Ben Wright had a close encounter with the national symbol as he drove through Bear Lake County on Highway 30. A bald eagle flew into the truck's windshield as the semi was going 60 miles an hour and became lodged in the broken glass. Thanks to the efforts of Idaho Fish and Game officials and the Teton Raptor Center in Jackson, Wyo., the eagle, now named Window Eagle, was rehabilitated and successfully released back into the wild last month.

BINGHAM COUNTY

- Like the rest of the state, the construction industry in southeastern Idaho has been hit hard. However, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes' new \$47 million hotel-event center construction project is bringing the region's construction workers much needed jobs. A March 30 job fair at the Tribal Council's Business Building drew 170 people looking for work. Construction is expected to take 14 months, employing 300. Once the center is completed, it is expected to employ about 100 hospitality workers.

CARIBOU COUNTY

- The local Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion organizations are working together to place a memorial on the courthouse lawn honoring all soldiers from Caribou County. The memorial would contain five granite pillars representing each branch of the armed services. Caribou County Commissioner Lloyd Rasmussen said "all those people who served deserve a memorial."

FRANKLIN COUNTY

- The Preston business community lost a voice in 2009 when the Chamber of Commerce closed. It was difficult to get information on local businesses or to promote them. But Paul Judd, a Preston businessman and resident of only two years, has taken matters into his own hands. Judd started a new organization to help businesses network, market their products, and learn the tricks of the trade. "If we help businesses, it helps the community," he said.

ONEIDA COUNTY

- Commissioners in Oneida County are planning to move the Rockland Highway east of its current location. The road, which is referred to by locals as "The Narrows," has become too difficult to maintain but is an important route between Rockland, American Falls and northern Utah. The project is expected to cost \$7.5 million.

POWER COUNTY

- To celebrate its 50th anniversary, Harms Memorial Hospital District has changed its name to the Power County Hospital District. Hospital spokesperson Jacklyn Taylor said the name change "better represents the district itself and who we serve." The hospital was named for Frank Harms, a doctor who worked in area for nearly 40 years and delivered nearly 3,000 babies. As part of the name change the hospital has a new web address – www.pchd.net.

*Dan.Cravens@labor.idaho.gov, Regional Economist
(208) 236-6710 ext. 3713*

EAST CENTRAL IDAHO

Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison & Teton counties

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Idaho potato stocks for March are down 19 percent from a year earlier – the lowest March stockpile since 1989. Stocks in 13 major potato producing states were also down by 15 percent compared to a year earlier.

- The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has announced plans to build a \$3.7 million bridge across the South Fork of the Snake River about a half mile below Palisades Dam. Drivers, who used to cross on the crest of the dam, will no longer have access to the dam's immediate vicinity – reducing security threats. Construction will begin in October and should last eight months.

MADISON COUNTY

- The University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation listed Madison County as the healthiest county in Idaho. The County Health Rankings Report used adult smoking, obesity and teen pregnancy rates to measure health. Also included were social and economic factors like the number of uninsured adults and high school graduation rates.

LEMHI COUNTY

- After a century of service, the Lemhi Post Office may be closing its doors. The Post Office has been a hub for local business. But the U.S. Postal Service announced plans to lay off thousands of postal workers across the county in response to increasing use of e-mail and other forms of electronic communication. If the office closes, customers would have to open new P.O. Boxes in Tendoy, eight miles north. Another office in Baker recently closed.

BONNEVILLE COUNTY

- Eastern Idaho Technical College is using human simulators to train nursing students. The human patient simulation laboratory features two high-fidelity human models and five medium-fidelity models. Other nursing programs in the region and nationwide have moved toward human simulators to offset the impact of an economy that often does not provide real nursing opportunities and clinical experience.
- Over 650 Idaho Falls high school students recently learned about available health care career options. The Idaho Department of Labor teamed up with Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center to educate young people on a broad spectrum of health care occupations. Many youth are familiar with doctors and nurses but often fail to recognize the behind-the-scenes professionals who make the industry tick. Students were introduced to a patient who sustained a hand injury and followed his interaction with all the individuals involved in his recovery.
- The Idaho National Laboratory is sending Japan a unique robot that can take measurements where humans would be at risk. The robot is equipped with monitoring equipment and radioactive shielding for its camera so it can work in the area where nuclear power reactors were knocked offline by an 8.9 magnitude earthquake.
- The Greater Idaho Falls Lodging Association is opposing a ballot measure creating an auditorium district in Idaho Falls. The new taxing district, if approved, would finance a new event center near the Snake River Landing development. The Bonneville County Republican Central Committee is also on record against the ballot measure.

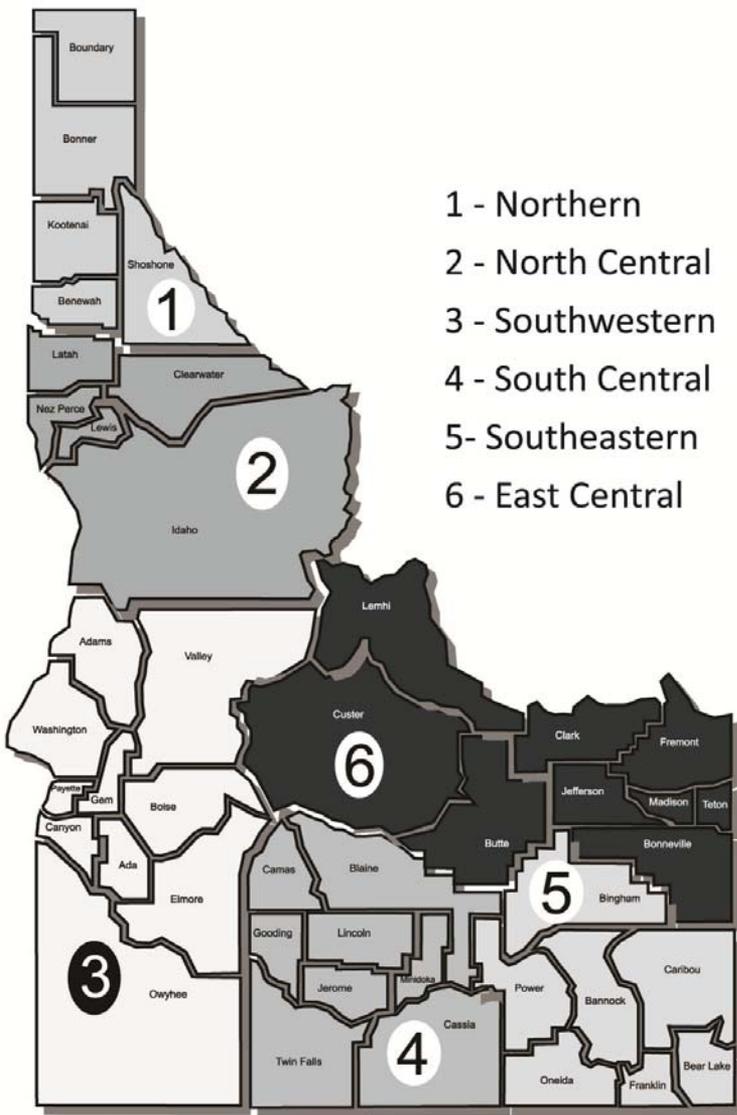
- The Idaho Falls Airport increased passenger boardings by over 12 percent in January and February 2011 compared to a year earlier. The airport is the second busiest airport in the state and 23rd busiest in the northwest. New flights to Mesa and Long Beach have boosted accessibility. In June, air service to San Francisco will also be added.

TETON COUNTY

- Huntsman Springs Golf Course in Driggs was recently recognized by Golf Week Magazine in its “2011 Top 100 Modern Courses” list. Courses on the list opened after 1960. The Huntsman Springs course was ranked 30th.

Will.Jenson@labor.idaho.gov, Regional Economist
(208) 557-2500 ext. 3077

Idaho’s Six Work Force Regions



State of Idaho Data – State Economic Indicators

	Mar 2011**	Feb 2011*	Mar 2010	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE ⁽¹⁾					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	762,900	760,700	757,700	0.3	0.7
Unemployment	74,000	74,000	68,400	0.0	8.2
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	9.7	9.7	9.0		
Total Employment	688,900	686,700	689,300	0.3	-0.1
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	760,000	757,400	753,900	0.3	0.8
Unemployment	78,900	80,700	74,700	-2.2	5.6
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	10.4	10.7	9.9		
Total Employment	681,100	676,700	679,200	0.7	0.3

U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE⁽²⁾

	Mar 2011	Feb 2011	Mar 2010
	8.9	9.0	9.7

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Claims Activities

Initial Claims ⁽³⁾	12,593	11,706	13,462	7.6	-6.5
Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾	121,795	128,144	179,497	-5.0	-32.1

Benefit Payment Activities⁽⁵⁾

Weeks Compensated	129,197	112,945	158,946	14.4	-18.7
Total Benefit \$ Paid	\$31,331,666.74	\$27,411,026.71	\$39,595,368.36	14.3	-20.9
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$242.51	\$242.69	\$249.11	-0.1	-2.6
Covered Employers	47,743	48,346	48,912	-1.2	-2.4
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾	\$286,962,649	\$295,226,351	\$333,989,984	-2.8	-14.1

U. S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX⁽²⁾

	Mar 2011	Feb 2011	Mar 2010	% Change Month	% Change Year
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	220.0	217.5	213.5	1.1	3.0
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	223.5	221.3	217.6	1.0	2.7

**Forecast data

* Preliminary estimate

(2) Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics – CPI Index is released the 14th of each month.

(3) Includes all entitlements on intrastate and interstate agent, new and additional claims.

(4) Includes all entitlements, intrastate and interstate agent.

(5) Includes all entitlements, total liable activities.

Glossary of Labor Market Terms

Agriculture Employment: Persons on agriculture payrolls who work or receive pay for any period during the survey week. This includes owners, operators, unpaid family members who work at least 15 hours a week, and hired laborers.

Average Hourly Earnings/Average Weekly Hours: The average total money earnings earned by production or non-supervisory workers for selected industries. The average number of hours worked by production or non-supervisory workers including overtime, paid vacation, and sick leave. The data is collected for the week including the 12th of the month.

Average Weekly Earnings: Average Hourly Earnings multiplied by Average Weekly Hours.

Civilian Labor Force: A count of non-institutional persons 16 years of age and over residing within a specific geographic area, excluding members of armed forces, who are classified as employed, unemployed and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

Consumer Price Index (CPI): A national index measuring changes over time in the price of a fixed market basket of goods and services. There are two indexes—the All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) represents the buying habits of about 80 percent of the non-institutional population of the United States, and the Urban Wage & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) represents 40 percent of the population.

Covered Employers: Employers who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws.

Durable Goods: Also known as “hard goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers with a normal life expectancy of three years or more.

Employed: Individuals, 16 years of age or older, who worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit or worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week including the 12th day of the month. Individuals are also counted as employed if they had a job but did not work because they were: ill, on vacation, in a labor dispute, prevented from working because of bad weather, or temporarily absent for similar reasons.

Initial Claim: Any notice of unemployment filed to request (1) a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or (2) a second or subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA): A county or a combination of counties in which at least half the residents live in an urban center of 50,000 or more and the rest have significant commuting ties to that central county. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MSAs. Idaho has five MSAs: Boise MSA including Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem and Owyhee counties; Bonneville MSA including Bonneville and Jefferson counties; Pocatello MSA including Bannock and Power counties; Lewiston MSA including Nez Perce County and Asotin County, Wash.; Coeur d’Alene MSA including Kootenai County.

Micropolitan Statistical Area (MicSA): Combinations of counties in which at least half the residents live in urban centers totaling at least 10,000—or 5,000 living in a single urban center—and the rest have significant commuting ties to that central county. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MicSAs. Idaho has three MicSAs: Burley MicSA including Cassia and Minidoka counties; Rexburg MicSA including Madison and Fremont counties; Twin Falls MicSA including Twin Falls and Jerome counties.

Glossary of Labor Market Terms (cont.)

Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment: Persons on nonfarm establishment payrolls (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work or receive pay for any part of the week including the 12th of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work. It does not include self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, military personnel and persons who are laid off, on leave without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period.

Nondurable Goods: Also known as “soft goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers that generally last for only a short period of time (three years or less).

Seasonally Adjusted: Data is seasonally adjusted to remove the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year such as the effect of cold weather on outdoor activities, the Christmas holiday, or the summer influx of youth into the labor market.

Small Labor Market Areas (SLMA): Combinations of counties with significant ties through commuting patterns but no urban centers with populations of 10,000 or more. The Office of Management and Budget designates the SLMAs. Idaho has two SLMAs: Hailey SLMA including Blaine and Camas counties; Grangeville SLMA including Lewis and Idaho counties.

Unemployed: Those individuals, 16 years of age or older, who do not have a job but are available for work and actively seeking work during the week including the 12th of the month. The only exceptions to these criteria are individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days—these, too, are considered unemployed.

Unemployment Insurance: Unemployment Insurance is a program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers, to be used for the payment of Unemployment Insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond their control.

Unemployment Rate: The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labor force.

Weekly Benefit Amount: The amount payable to a claimant for a compensable week of total unemployment.

Weeks Claimed: The number of weeks that unemployed workers claimed Unemployment Insurance benefits.

Weeks Compensated: The number of weeks for which compensation was actually paid.

IDAHO EMPLOYMENT is published online monthly by the Idaho Department of Labor. All information is in the public domain and may be duplicated without permission; however, the Idaho Department of Labor should be cited as the source.

The source for all data tables and graphs is the Idaho Department of Labor, Communications & Research, except where noted.

IDAHO EMPLOYMENT is produced by the Idaho Department of Labor which is funded at least in part by federal grants from the U.S. Department of Labor. Costs associated with this online publication are available by contacting the Idaho Department of

Labor. Questions and comments can be directed to Public Affairs by phoning (208) 332-3570, ext. 3220, or by e-mail to janel.hyer@labor.idaho.gov or to the Regional Economists noted in each area news section.

Editor: Bob Fick (bob.fick@labor.idaho.gov)

Layout/Design: Jean Cullen
(jean.cullen@labor.idaho.gov)

IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
C.L. “BUTCH” OTTER, GOVERNOR
ROGER B. MADSEN, DIRECTOR
50