

The header features a blue background with a white grid pattern. In the center, the Idaho State Capitol dome is visible through the grid. The text "Idaho Employment" is written in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. Below it, in a smaller white font, is the subtitle "A monthly update of how Idaho's economy is doing in your area". In the bottom right corner, the "IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR" logo is displayed in white.

Idaho Employment

A monthly update of how Idaho's economy is doing in your area

IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Volume 24.7

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, GOVERNOR

July 2012 Issue

ROGER B. MADSEN, DIRECTOR

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

- Index Tracks Manufacturing Sector Growth, page 4
- Idaho's Benefits Dropping in Replacement Rate, page 8
- More Claimants to Exhaust Unemployment Benefits, page 10
- Underemployment Remains a Reality in Idaho, page 14
- Minorities Elusive in Idaho's Hot Jobs, page 18
- Population Continues to Shift to Urban Areas, page 22
- New Fed Farm Bill Passes Senate, Waits for House, page 25

INDUSTRY CLUSTERS CULTIVATE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Fostering the growth of industry clusters is an effective economic development strategy. But before the clusters can be fostered, they must be identified.

Clusters are geographic concentrations of industries generally attracted by an area's competitive advantages and tied to each other by common products, services, supply chains and workforce needs. These businesses may have developed to support others in the cluster. They can compete because they make the same products or provide the same services, or they may provide related products or services. As part of a common supply chain, they often have similar workforce needs, and workers trained for one firm may easily find work at another in the same cluster. Clusters arise because they increase the productivity, increasing companies' competitive edge.

Economic developers must identify the industries that primarily sell outside their region, are more heavily concentrated in the region than elsewhere, are growing faster in the region than elsewhere and that tend to pay higher wages and have many local suppliers. While there are many tools to identify these attributes, the most important is the knowledge of how various businesses and industries interact – competing for customers, supplying each other's needs, using similar technologies and needing workers with the same skills.

CLUSTER FORMED IN NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO

North central Idaho has several industry clusters – some are well-developed but continuing to evolve and others are still in the process of forming. Some firms belong to more than one cluster because they interact closely with more than one industrial group.

Forest products including biomass: Forest products is one of the region's two largest and oldest clusters. It includes logging; transportation companies that carry logs, lumber, paper and wood chips; wood products manufacturing; paper products manufacturing; machine shops that specialize in repairing and fabricating logging and sawmill equipment; and forest management.

Now a new element is being added – woody biomass plants. Elk City and Clearwater County both are exploring woody biomass plants, and other entities are looking at small biomass facilities. Woody biomass comes from debris from logging known as slash and forest thinning – tree tops, limbs, shrubs, needles and tree bark – and processing residuals – shavings, sawdust, mill ends and other materials left over from milling timber and making paper.

North central Idaho's 120 logging, wood products and paper products companies employed nearly 2,500 people with a payroll of \$98.4 million in 2011. In addition, the cluster had hundreds of jobs in trucking, wholesale trade, and logging and mill equipment repair.

Natural resource management: Forest management including reforestation, management for recreational uses, stream restoration and fish and wildlife management are the sources of many jobs with the U.S. Forest Service, fish hatcheries, the state Lands and Parks and Recreation departments, the Nez Perce Tribe, the University of Idaho, environmental engineering and analysis firms and private forest land owners. Well-managed forests in turn boost tourism and make the region attractive to people looking for places to live. In 2011, this cluster provided about 1,500 jobs with a payroll of \$68 million.

Recreational technology: North central Idaho is an outdoor paradise, offering great opportunities for hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, recreational vehicle use, jet boating, whitewater rafting, snowmobiling, horseback riding and cross country skiing. Not surprisingly, many manufacturers in the region make equipment for recreational activities. The region's reputation as an outdoor paradise – along with its low costs of doing business plus Idaho laws that are friendly to gun and ammunition makers – make it an attractive place for rec-tech businesses. This group does not meet the definition of a cluster, but the grouping includes two clusters active in north central Idaho.

- **Ammunition and firearms** is the largest rec-tech cluster, with nine companies employing more than 1,400 people in the region. It is expected to add up to 300 jobs in the next 12 months. The largest company, ATK, employs more than 1,100 people in Lewiston and currently is filling many new positions. Last fall, ammunition maker PNW Arms moved into Potlatch in rural Latah County from the Seattle area. It currently employs more than 40 people and is in the process of adding more. In addition to the ammunition and firearm makers, there are two sister companies that make equipment for manufacturing ammunition. Now one of them, Howells, is expanding into making ammunition in Lewiston.

The cluster is likely to continue growing. Potlatch has received national attention for its plans to open an industrial park with 26 acres available for firearms and ammunition makers and a hunting-themed housing and retail development. The Idaho Department of Commerce is making firearms manufacturers a recruiting priority. The state recently passed a law that protects firearms makers from liability lawsuits or excessive regulation.

- **Jet Boats.** The Lewis-Clark Valley is known as the jet boat capital of the world because 13 companies in Lewiston, Clarkston and Orofino make aluminum jet boats. The Northwest Intermountain Manufacturing Association and the Clearwater Economic Development Association

helped them form Snake River Boat Builders. A consultant helped the boat makers introduce their jet boats to the European market, and they have exhibited their boats at Europe's largest boat show in Dusseldorf, Germany, in both 2011 and 2012 and in Barcelona, Spain, last November. They are working on earning the CE mark, the European Union's designation that a product meets consumer safety and environmental standards. The boat builder coalition, which includes a manufacturer of boat trailers, also has hosted contingents of Europeans interested in jet boats.

In addition to the boat builders and the ammunition makers, there are 15 other companies that make outdoor recreational equipment including rifles, riflescopes, kayaks, arrows and bows, bird and animal calls for hunting and fishing gear. Together, those 15 companies employ about 250 people. Nightforce Optics, a maker of riflescopes, in Orofino is the fastest growing part of this rec-tech group. Its employment more than doubled to 80 in the last three years. Today, rec-tech companies including ammunition and boat builders provide about 1,750 jobs – accounting for more than one-third of the region's manufacturing jobs.

Metal manufacturing: The jet boat builders and ammunition makers are part of a larger supercluster of companies primarily engaged in metal fabrication – machine shops, makers of farm and mining equipment, metal part fabricators and the new Ende Foundry in Craigmont. The supercluster shares common workforce needs, especially for welders and machinists, and buyers and sellers of intermediate products or services.

Metal fabrication companies work together on projects such as the American Manufacturing Network, developed by the Clearwater Economic Development Association and the Northwest Intermountain Manufacturing Association, to help local manufacturers get military contracts. Another collaboration of the two along with Valley Vision, the University of Idaho, Lewis-Clark State College and six high schools in the region is developing the workforce for this metal fabrication cluster and other manufacturers. The Solidworks in the Classroom initiative is teaching high school students how to use three-dimensional, solid modeling software for manufacturing design. As part of the Solid Works initiative, the two associations are exploring the workforce needs of local manufacturers. In addition, Lewis-Clark State College will develop mentoring and job shadowing programs with local manufacturers, exposing more students to job opportunities in the manufacturing sector.

Another boost to the metal manufacturing cluster will come from the opening of the IdahoFabLab in Moscow by Biketronics, which makes electronic accessories for Harley Davidson motorcycles. The company wants to help other people innovate. Its IdahoFabLab will provide north central Idaho residents access to manufacturing equipment, training and idea-sharing that will help create new products and companies.

The metal manufacturing supercluster includes at least 37 businesses with 1,602 jobs and payrolls totaling \$47.4 million in 2011.

Technology transfer: The University of Idaho is the source of another cluster – professional service firms that spin off from university research. Their growth is fostered by the Palouse Knowledge Corridor, an organization formed by the university and Washington State University, just across the state border, to promote businesses that develop from research. The

university is directing more research to the needs of Idaho businesses, generating patents and increasing technology transfer programs that create businesses in the community based on those patents.

Management, scientific and technology consulting and research companies in Moscow employed about 30 people in 1995. By 2003, the payrolls tripled, and today they employ more than 340. In addition, there are two manufacturing operations with about 50 workers that are technology transfer companies.

Vineyard and wine-making: In the last 10 years, several businesses have developed the hope to revive what was once a big industry in the Clearwater Valley – growing grapes and making wine. Before Prohibition, the region was well known for its wines. The Palouse Lewis Clark Valley Wine Alliance, representing six wineries and 11 vineyards in north central Idaho and southeastern Washington, received an \$18,000 grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration to help establish a recognized American Viticulture Area, a crucial step to restoring one of the Lewiston area's first major industries. The alliance also is working with the Idaho Grape Growers and Wine Producers Commission, based in Caldwell, to prepare a comprehensive research and marketing strategy for Idaho wines.

Turning farm products into value-added products: On the agricultural lands throughout the region, farmers grow wheat, barley, lentils, peas, garbanzos, canola, hay and other crops, and ranchers raise cattle and horses. Growing these agricultural products creates vital income and results in jobs at grain and seed storage facilities, implement dealers, farm wholesalers, veterinarian offices, agricultural services and transportation companies.

Very few agricultural products are processed locally. In the last couple of years, two small ventures have opened to make humus and other products from the region's garbanzo crop. Economic development organizations, university researchers and agricultural producers are trying to develop food processing that uses local products and adds value. The Latah Economic Development Council is exploring the feasibility of creating a food innovation center, where new food products can be developed and marketed. Spin-off companies would create manufacturing jobs in the county. The center would leverage two of the county's greatest strengths – the research skills of graduates and faculty of the University of Idaho and the Palouse's bountiful harvests of wheat, garbanzos, peas and lentils – to create jobs and business opportunities for entrepreneurs and farmers. Others are looking at another element that will bolster farm incomes and attract dollars from outside the region – agritourism. That would also bolster the emerging wine cluster since tourists could visit vineyards and vintners.

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

INDEX TRACKS MANUFACTURING SECTOR GROWTH

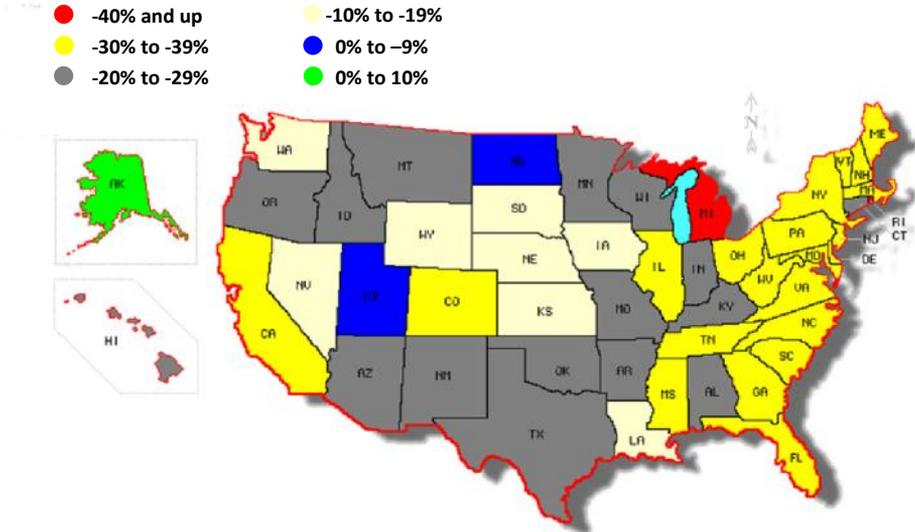
The nation's manufacturing index continued fluctuating between 53 and 55 this spring although the Institute for Supply Management, which provides this important gauge of the manufacturing sector, reported a decline from 54.8 in April to 53.5 in May and a decrease of 3.8 percentage points in June to 49.7 percent.

Until last month, the index has remained above 50 for the last 34 months; a good sign for the country’s manufacturing industry since levels over 50 signal expansion.



The decline in May was the result, in part, of weakening consumer confidence and continuing financial turmoil in Europe. Nationwide, the manufacturing industry has been slowly chipping away at employment levels over the past decade. Employment in the sector declined 30 percent from 2001 to 2010.

Michigan’s automotive industry was the hardest hit, with overall manufacturing employment falling 42 percent during the decade. The largest manufacturing state continues to be Texas even after the sharp declines of 21.3 percent since 2001. Alaska was the only state to see job growth during the period – a mere 2 percent.



Less than half of 1 percent of manufactured products in the U.S. are exported from Idaho, where manufacturers employed 54,500 people in 2011 on payrolls totaling \$2.7 billion annually. The over 2,300 manufacturers shipped more than \$5.9 billion worth of goods in 2011, a 14.4 percent increase from 2010 and 51 percent higher than 2009.

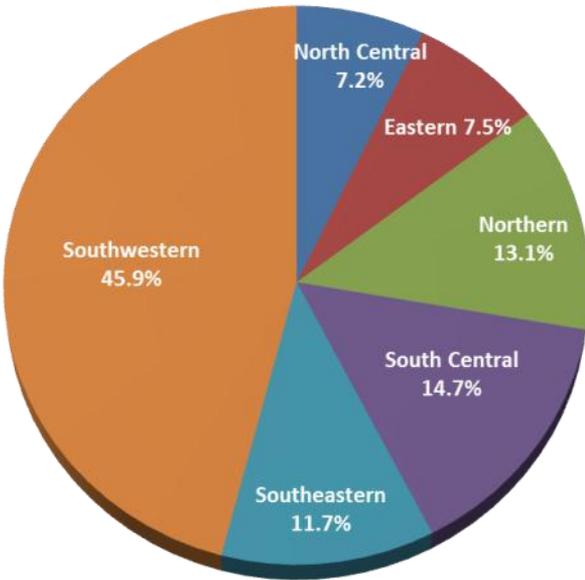
Electrical machinery was the largest commodity exported in 2011, representing 45 percent of total exports. Silver was the second highest, comprising 8 percent of all exports in 2011.

Although Idaho’s electrical manufacturers are comprised of large international employers like Micron and Hewlett-Packard, food manufacturers are the state’s largest manufacturing employer – largely a domestic industry.

This labor-intensive industry will continue to flourish in Idaho’s southern economies as more food manufacturers move to Idaho like the most recent entry of Chobani yogurt in Twin Falls.



Regional Allocation of Manufacturing



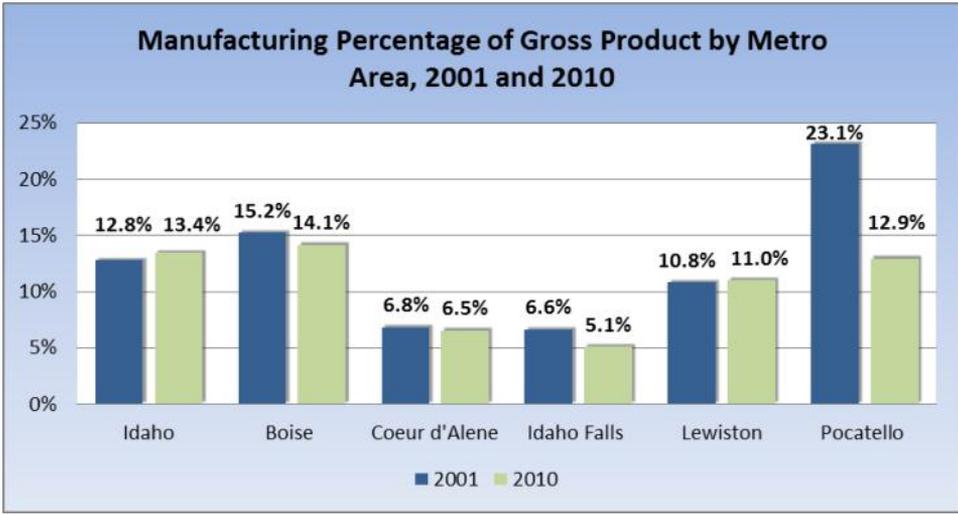
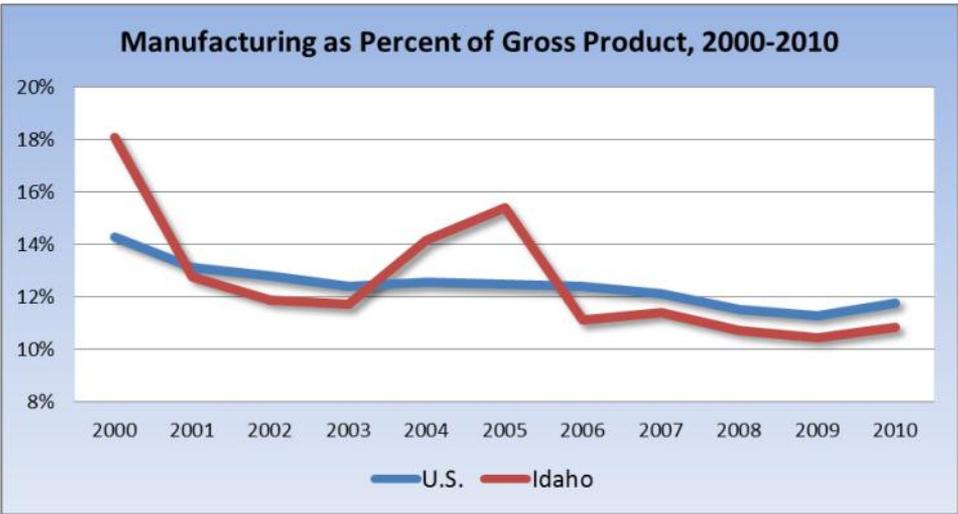
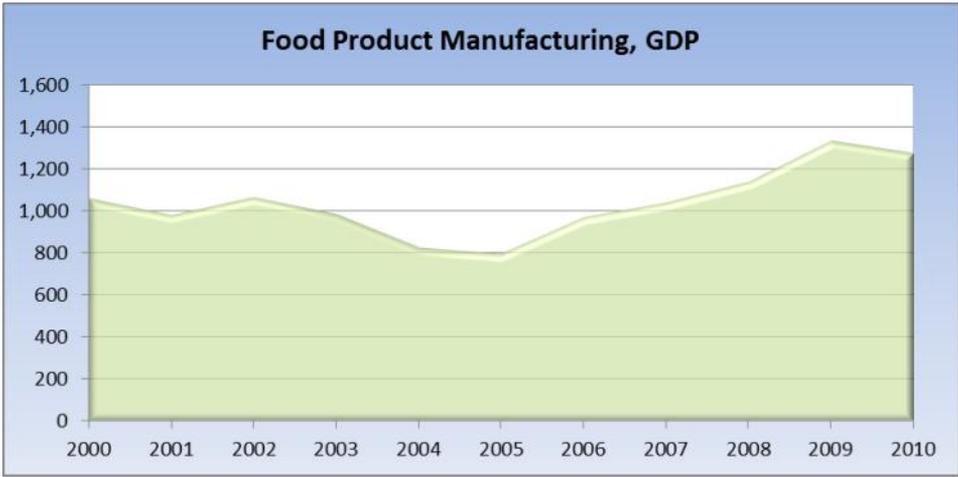
MANUFACTURING OUTPUT IN IDAHO

Although food processing has seen significant productivity growth over the past decade, manufacturing’s overall contribution to the state’s gross domestic product has dwindled from 18.1 percent in 2000 to 10.8 percent in 2010 although that still is above national levels.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Lewiston was the only metropolitan area in Idaho to produce at levels higher than in 2001 while the Pocatello area has seen dramatic fluctuations in the contribution of manufacturing to total gross product. A large part of the growth in the Lewiston metro

area stemmed from recreation technology companies including ammunition and jet boat manufacturers.

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



IDAHO'S BENEFITS DROPPING IN REPLACEMENT RATES

Idaho's 2012 maximum weekly unemployment benefit amount is \$343 - \$73 less than the national average of \$415. The nation's highest unemployment benefits are in Massachusetts at \$653 per week while Mississippi pays out only \$235. From coast-to-coast benefit amounts vary. Regionally Idaho's maximum weekly benefit amount is lower than all its neighboring states and 12th lowest in the nation.

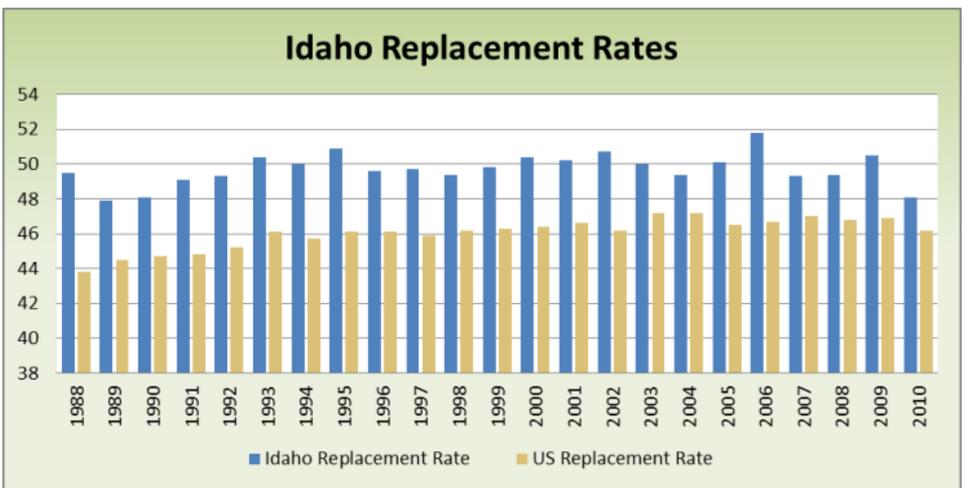
Maximum Weekly Benefit Amounts			
Idaho \$343			
Montana	\$431	Utah	\$472
Nevada	\$396	Washington	\$583
Oregon	\$507	Wyoming	\$444

Many contend a dollar goes further in Idaho than many areas of the country. But when wages are low, the comparison loses ground.

Workers eligible for unemployment benefits make claims to receive weekly payments. The whole purpose of the program is to soften the economic blow of lost wages to the local economies, help newly unemployed workers make ends meet and keep workers close by so they are available when the call back to work comes.

Unemployment benefits were not intended to replace all of workers' wages. The amount they do cover is referred to as the replacement rate.

Unfortunately the replacement rates for 2011 and 2012 were not available through the U.S. Department of Labor's Unemployment Insurance Chartbook. The national replacement rate has increased from 43.8 percent in 1988 to 46.2 percent in 2010. The highest point was 47.2 percent in 2003 and 2004. Idaho's replacement rate has consistently been higher than the national average. The gap was widest in 1988 when Idaho's rate was 5.7 percentage points higher than the nation's. Over the years the difference between the U.S. and Idaho has shrunk. By 2010 the gap was less than 2 percentage points.



In 1988 Idaho had the seventh highest replacement rate of the nation at 49.5 percent. New Jersey was leading the country at 51.8 percent while Alaska trailed at only 28 percent. By 2010 the Idaho replacement rate fell to 48.1 percent pushing Idaho to number 21 out of 50 states. Idaho was one of only 15 states to show a declining replacement rate between 1988 and 2010.

Maximum Weekly Benefit By State

50-State Average \$415

Massachusetts	\$653	Colorado	\$500	Texas	\$426	Iowa	\$385	Georgia	\$330
New Jersey	\$598	Utah	\$472	Vermont	\$425	Virginia	\$378	South Carolina	\$326
Minnesota	\$597	North Dakota	\$470	West Virginia	\$424	Alaska	\$370	South Dakota	\$323
Washington	\$583	Arkansas	\$457	Kentucky	\$415	Maine	\$366	Missouri	\$320
Connecticut	\$573	California	\$450	New York	\$405	Wisconsin	\$363	Florida	\$275
Pennsylvania	\$573	Kansas	\$444	Illinois	\$403	Michigan	\$362	Tennessee	\$275
Rhode Island	\$566	Wyoming	\$444	Ohio	\$400	Oklahoma	\$358	Alabama	\$265
Hawaii	\$523	Montana	\$431	Nevada	\$396	Nebraska	\$354	Louisiana	\$247
North Carolina	\$522	Maryland	\$430	Indiana	\$390	Idaho	\$343	Arizona	\$240
Oregon	\$507	New Hampshire	\$427	New Mexico	\$386	Delaware	\$330	Mississippi	\$235

1988 Replacement Rates by State



2010 Replacement Rates by State

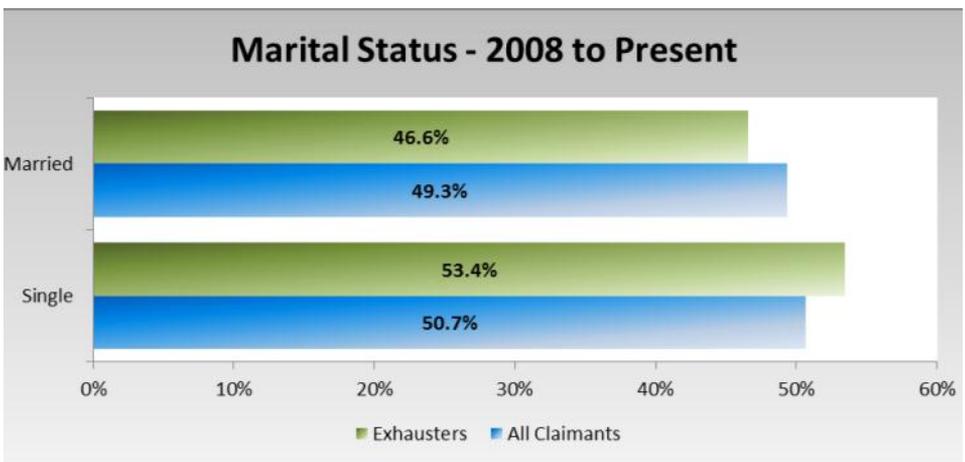


Will.Jenson@labor.idaho.gov, Regional Economist
(208) 557-2500 ext. 3077

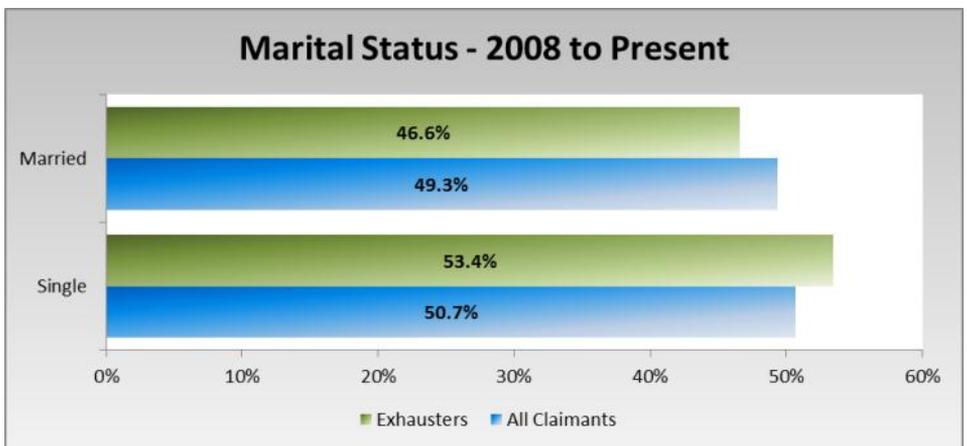
MORE CLAIMANTS TO EXHAUST UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

In response to skyrocketing unemployment during the recession, Congress authorized several new programs to extend unemployment benefit coverage. The last phase of these programs was the Federal-State Extended benefits. Claimants had to have exhausted all of their regular state benefits and their Emergency Unemployment Compensation 2008 benefits before receiving benefits from this program. The last of those on Federal-State Extended benefits will get their last payments over the next several weeks.

For the most part, there is very little difference between workers who have exhausted Federal-State Extended benefits and those of all claimants in general. Gender differs by only a few percentage points. Males make up the largest percentage of both categories – 64 percent of all claimants and 59 percent of exhausters — those who have received their maximum benefits and can draw no more.

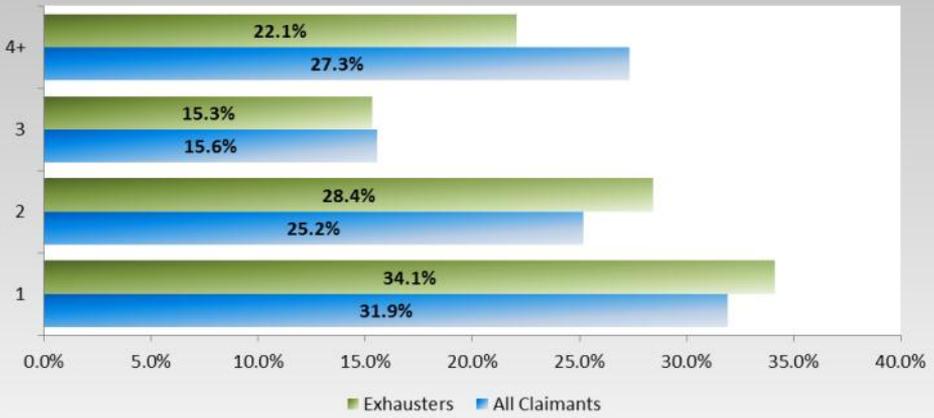


Barely a majority are unmarried. Fifty-three percent of exhausters and 51 percent of all claimants are single.



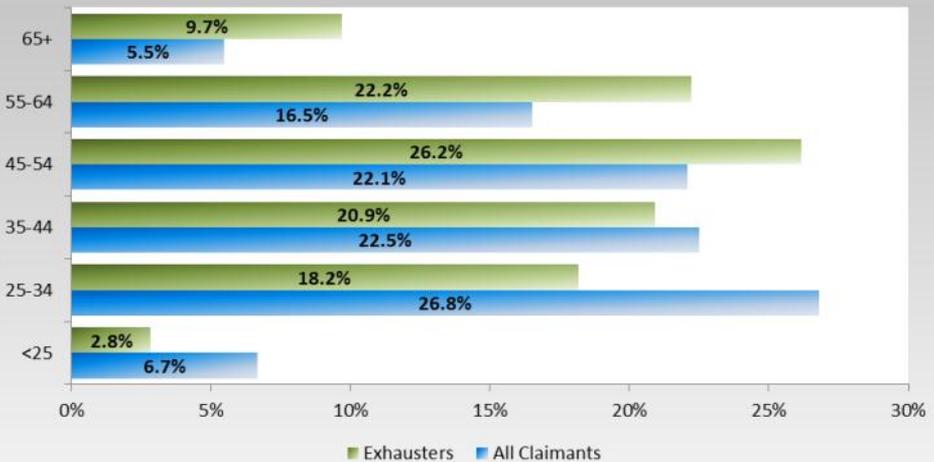
For those with families, claimants in general had more dependents. More than 27 percent of all claimants had four or more dependents compared to 22 percent for exhausters. Just under 16 percent of all claimants had three dependents while just over 15 percent of exhausters had three. But 28 percent of exhausters had two dependents while 25 percent of all claimants were in that category.

Family Size - 2008 to Present



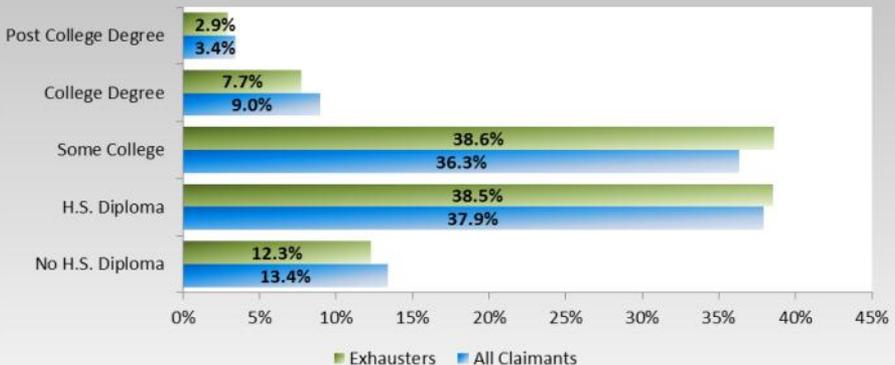
But the biggest difference is in age. Twenty-seven percent of all claimants since 2008 have been aged 25 to 34 and 23 percent were 35 to 44. For exhausters, 26 percent are 45 to 54 years of age and 22 percent are 55 to 64.

Age - 2008 to Present

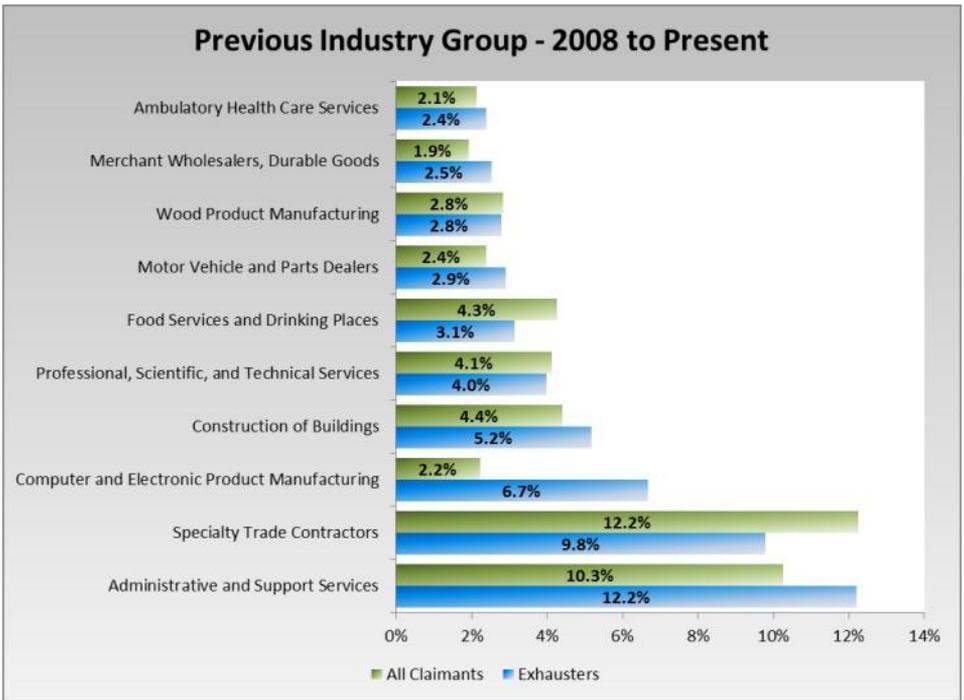


All claimants and exhausters tended to break down the same in educational attainment. Just over 12 percent of all claimants had college degrees or higher while 10.6 percent of exhausters were in that category. But only 12 percent of exhausters did not have high school diplomas compared to 13 percent for all claimants.

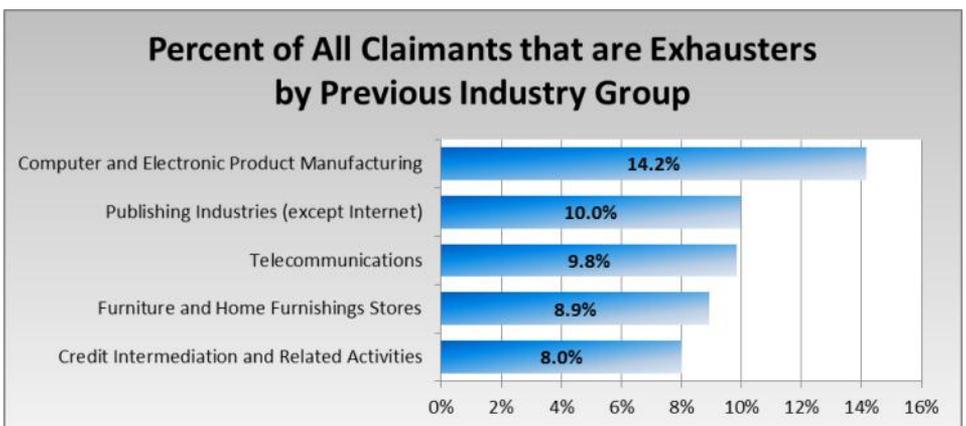
Level of Education - 2008 to Present



When looking at the data by industry, the largest percentage of exhausters worked in administrative and support services with over 12 percent of the total. However, construction has two industries listed in the top 10 which combined make up more. Specialty trade contractors and construction of building industries combine for 15 percent of the total exhausters. Construction along with manufacturing, which also had two industries in the top 10 and when combined made up almost 10 percent, were the hardest hit during the recession in terms of employment loss.



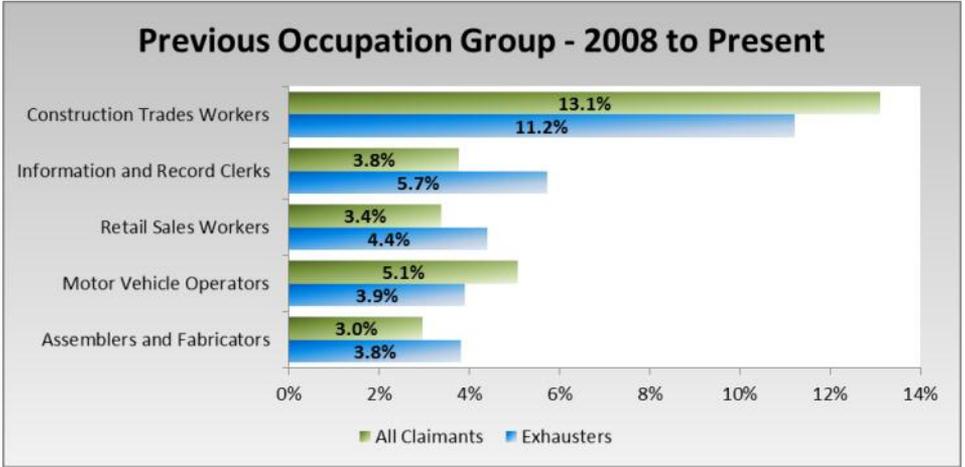
The industry mix showed some differences. Fifteen percent of exhausters were in building construction or specialty trades compared to 16.6 percent of all claimants. Over 12 percent of exhausters were in administrative and support services, two points higher than all claimants. Only sectors with at least 100 exhausters were compared.



The hardest industry to find a new job in was computer and electronic manufacturing. Over 14 percent of the claimants who were laid off from that sector exhausted their benefits without finding another job. Ten percent of the workers laid off in publishing exhausted without finding work while 9.8

percent of those idled in telecommunications used up all benefits without finding new jobs.

The effects of the recession can clearly be seen in the occupations of claimants and exhausters. Construction trades made up over 13 percent of the jobs held by all claimants since 2008 and over 11 percent of the exhausters. In both cases, that was more than double the next occupation group. Only occupations with at least 100 exhausters were compared.



Among specific occupations with the most exhausters were carpenters and customer service representatives, which combined for almost 9 percent.

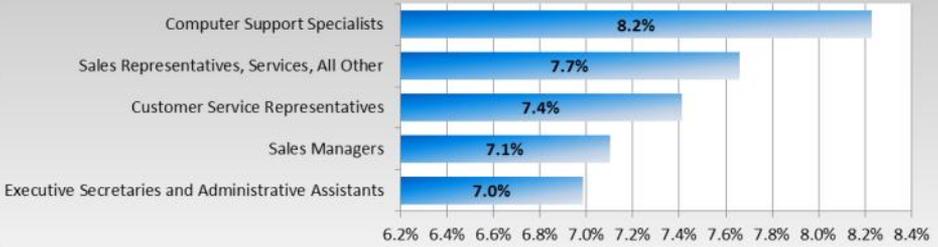
Somewhat surprisingly was the comparatively high percentage of exhausters among truck and tractor-trailer drivers when the transportation industry maintains there is a shortage of people to fill the jobs it already has available.

Occupation	Percent of Exhausters
Carpenters	4.40%
Customer Service Representatives	4.30%
Sales Representatives, Services, All Other	2.60%
Retail Salespersons	2.30%
Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	2.20%
Cashiers	1.90%
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	1.80%
Sales Managers	1.60%
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	1.50%
Executive Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	1.40%

The loss exhaustion rate among the other top occupations reflects the ripple effect of a recession that began in housing and manufacturing. As those relatively high-paying jobs were lost, money circulating in the general economy shriveled, leading to retailers and other businesses trimming payrolls or shutting down outright.

As far as difficulty in finding another job in the same occupation, computer support specialists again had the hardest time. More than 8 percent of all claimants from that occupation have exhausted since 2008. Over 7 percent of both sales managers and customer service representatives also exhausted benefits before finding new work.

Percent of All Claimants that are Exhausters by Previous Occupation



Given the immense number of variables that go into finding, qualifying and being chosen for a job, drawing conclusion from this data be misleading. However, knowing what demographic groups, industries and occupations are exhausting extended unemployment benefits should help organizations committed to helping these individuals focus their efforts.

Andrew.Townsend@labor.idaho.gov, *Regional Economist*
(208) 332-3570, ext. 3455

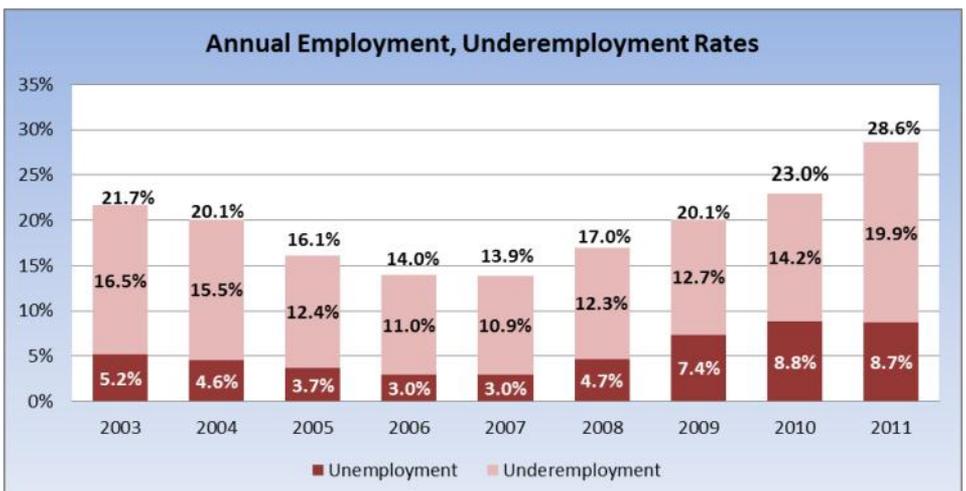
UNDEREMPLOYMENT REMAINS A REALITY IN IDAHO

The Idaho economy has pulled out of the recession, but it is generating jobs, especially full-time jobs, at a comparatively slow pace despite the declining unemployment rate.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has fallen from a post-recession high of 8.9 percent in July 2011 to 7.7 percent in April 2012. But the number of unemployed remains at 60,000, and the federal government estimates thousands more are so discouraged they have just given up looking. The number of discouraged and frustrated workers was nearly 14,000 in 2011.

But then there are the tens of thousands of workers who are underemployed – one in every five in 2011. They were either working part-time or at temporary jobs when they wanted full-time work or held associate degrees or higher and were still looking for new jobs because their current jobs did not pay or provide responsibilities at the level their education and training would normally command.

That number has risen steadily since the expansion peaked in 2007.



Underemployment is not a hard and fast statistic. It is based on a number of assumptions and does not attempt to measure holiday or seasonal workers.

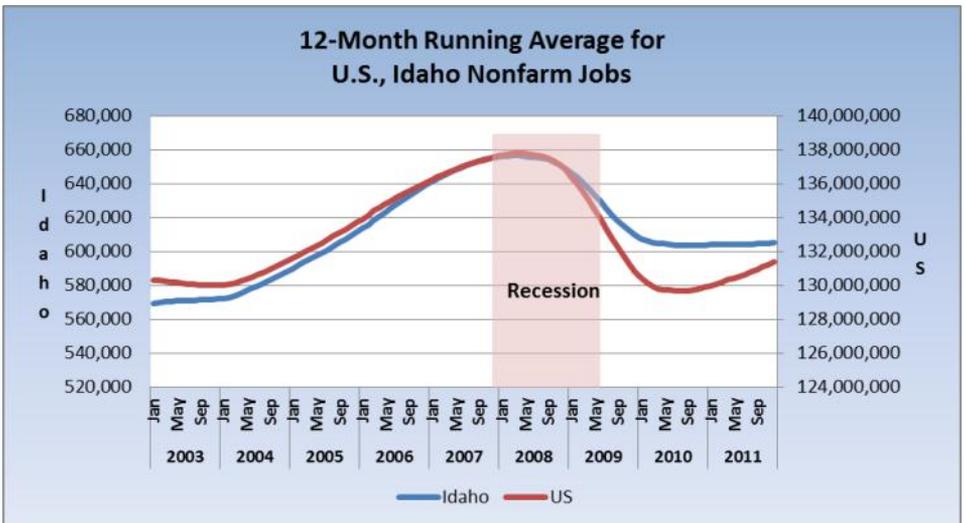
These underemployment statistics, compiled by Idaho Department of Labor Principal Research Analyst John Panter, cover two categories:

- Employed workers who are working part-time or temporary jobs but want full-time work based on the ratio of part-time and temporary jobs listed with the 25 local Labor Department offices.
- Workers who have associate degrees or higher and are currently employed but have filed with a local Labor office to find another job.

This assumes that the job listings and employment applications filed with the local Labor offices are numerous enough to represent current labor market conditions.

Underemployment declined steadily coming out of the 2001 recession until it bottomed out at 10.9 percent in 2007 when the economic expansion peaked in Idaho. It rose relatively slowly but steadily through the recession and the first year afterward until it jumped nearly six percentage points in 2011.

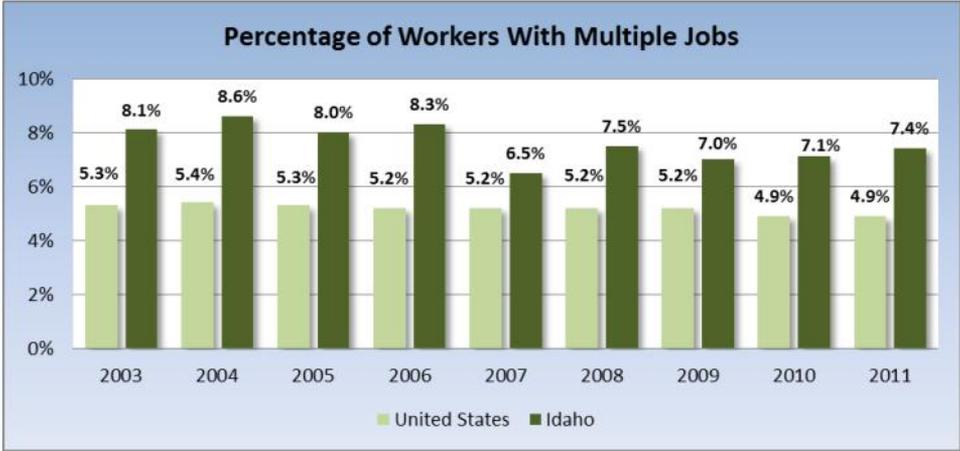
The primary reason the underemployment rate spiked was failure of the economy to create an adequate number of full-time jobs. People were forced to take part-time work or work below their skill levels because there were no better alternatives as their unemployment benefits expired.



Jobs in the state and national economies peaked at the same time in spring 2008. While the national job decline appears steeper, it was just under 6 percent compared to the 8 percent job loss Idaho experienced in hitting the bottom in late summer 2010. But the rebound nationally was stronger over the next 15 months at 1.3 percent growth while Idaho saw less than three-tenths of a percentage point growth over the same period.

The anemic job creation was also reflected in the percentage of the Idaho workforce that holds more than one job. Like other states with heavy agricultural components to their economy, Idaho has traditionally had a high percentage of multiple jobholders. But that percentage has been relatively

low compared to the percentages following the 2001 recession. During that post-recession expansion, over 8 percent of Idaho workers held down more than one job. In 2010, 7.1 percent of Idaho workers had more than one job. That rose to 7.4 percent in 2011.



Regionally, the movement in the underemployment rates generally followed the evolution of the economy through the recession.

Regional Unemployment and Underemployment Rates											
	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		
	UE Rate	UnderE Rate	UE Rate	UnderE Rate	UE Rate	UnderE Rate	UE Rate	UnderE Rate	UE Rate	UnderE Rate	
Statewide	3.0%	10.9%	4.7%	12.3%	7.4%	12.7%	8.8%	14.2%	8.7%	19.9%	
Northern	3.6%	9.2%	6.0%	11.2%	9.2%	11.3%	11.2%	14.7%	11.1%	19.9%	
North Central	3.4%	10.6%	5.0%	10.8%	6.8%	13.3%	8.1%	14.0%	8.2%	19.3%	
Southwestern	3.0%	11.5%	5.1%	13.6%	8.2%	13.4%	9.2%	11.7%	9.0%	18.2%	
South Central	2.7%	12.4%	3.8%	12.8%	6.0%	12.8%	8.0%	20.8%	7.9%	20.4%	
Southeastern	2.7%	11.3%	4.0%	12.3%	6.0%	8.8%	7.4%	14.1%	7.5%	20.9%	
Eastern	2.3%	10.0%	3.5%	9.4%	5.6%	14.1%	6.9%	18.3%	7.2%	24.6%	

Where unemployment was especially low, like eastern Idaho, the underemployment rate rose significantly more than in other areas as workers avoided unemployment by shifting to part-time or lower-level jobs. Areas with higher unemployment to begin with, like northern Idaho, experienced relatively stable underemployment rates with workers shifting from underemployment to unemployment as the recession deepened.

Because the underemployment rate relies heavily on job listings and job applications filed with the local Labor Department offices, the estimates for rural, less populated counties can have a wide margin of error.

See *unemployment rate and underemployment rate by county on page 17.*

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

Unemployment and Underemployment Rates by County

	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
	UE Rate	UnderE Rate	UnderE		UnderE		UnderE		UnderE	
			UE Rate	Rate						
Statewide	3.0%	10.9%	4.7%	12.3%	7.4%	12.7%	8.8%	14.2%	8.7%	19.9%
Ada	2.6%	10.1%	4.5%	14.3%	7.5%	11.9%	8.4%	11.0%	8.0%	18.6%
Adams	5.5%	13.6%	10.0%	27.1%	14.0%	4.4%	16.5%	3.0%	17.3%	11.7%
Bannock	2.9%	8.5%	4.4%	6.9%	6.6%	10.5%	7.9%	13.1%	8.0%	15.5%
Bear Lake	2.3%	0.2%	3.1%	0.2%	5.0%	0.2%	6.2%	0.5%	5.5%	0.4%
Benewah	5.9%	14.5%	9.4%	8.6%	12.8%	10.8%	13.2%	4.1%	13.7%	8.2%
Bingham	2.6%	16.4%	3.7%	21.1%	5.5%	6.4%	7.0%	19.5%	7.3%	28.2%
Blaine	2.3%	12.9%	3.6%	17.2%	7.1%	13.1%	8.9%	17.1%	8.8%	58.0%
Boise	3.3%	5.3%	5.6%	18.4%	7.6%	69.1%	9.7%	10.8%	9.6%	81.9%
Bonner	3.7%	9.9%	6.2%	11.1%	9.4%	12.3%	12.1%	20.8%	12.3%	16.9%
Bonneville	2.1%	7.2%	3.3%	5.8%	5.4%	11.3%	6.6%	16.8%	7.1%	13.9%
Boundary	6.0%	30.6%	8.3%	16.3%	11.6%	21.5%	14.7%	32.8%	13.2%	19.0%
Butte	2.4%	0.5%	4.1%	0.3%	4.8%	12.9%	6.2%	0.1%	7.1%	0.1%
Camas	2.4%	0.3%	4.3%	0.3%	8.9%	0.5%	11.2%	0.8%	11.3%	1.3%
Canyon	3.6%	13.8%	6.0%	11.9%	9.6%	22.4%	10.7%	15.9%	10.8%	13.8%
Caribou	2.8%	12.1%	3.4%	12.4%	5.6%	0.8%	7.6%	1.8%	7.6%	4.8%
Cassia	3.1%	8.6%	3.7%	11.8%	5.0%	6.8%	6.8%	12.9%	6.8%	24.0%
Clark	2.2%	8.5%	3.2%	0.2%	5.1%	0.2%	8.4%	0.4%	8.4%	0.2%
Clearwater	7.2%	14.1%	10.3%	9.6%	12.7%	30.3%	15.0%	27.4%	14.9%	18.0%
Custer	3.3%	9.7%	4.3%	10.3%	5.2%	26.1%	7.1%	7.4%	7.3%	21.0%
Elmore	3.8%	12.5%	5.3%	7.0%	7.2%	3.9%	8.5%	5.5%	9.0%	9.7%
Franklin	2.1%	5.2%	3.1%	0.3%	4.6%	0.5%	5.4%	0.3%	5.7%	0.4%
Fremont	3.2%	30.4%	4.7%	17.1%	7.5%	30.4%	9.2%	29.2%	8.2%	20.7%
Gem	3.7%	10.8%	6.7%	7.5%	9.9%	7.4%	11.1%	11.0%	11.4%	17.4%
Gooding	2.1%	10.0%	3.2%	0.4%	5.3%	19.5%	6.9%	7.5%	6.6%	8.8%
Idaho	4.9%	10.6%	7.1%	12.7%	9.4%	15.2%	10.9%	8.6%	11.4%	15.7%
Jefferson	2.4%	13.4%	3.6%	12.5%	5.9%	9.2%	7.3%	11.4%	7.2%	34.8%
Jerome	2.8%	6.0%	4.0%	7.8%	6.0%	3.7%	8.1%	8.8%	7.8%	19.4%
Kootenai	3.2%	5.4%	5.4%	9.9%	8.6%	9.9%	10.4%	9.9%	10.3%	22.7%
Latah	2.7%	8.2%	3.9%	7.3%	5.7%	10.0%	7.2%	10.2%	7.2%	14.3%
Lemhi	4.4%	27.7%	6.4%	29.4%	7.6%	24.4%	9.9%	32.6%	10.9%	32.9%
Lewis	2.5%	9.1%	3.7%	4.0%	5.1%	6.1%	6.0%	8.3%	6.3%	23.1%
Lincoln	3.3%	4.6%	5.3%	0.7%	10.2%	4.1%	13.0%	58.1%	12.4%	9.9%
Madison	2.1%	9.6%	3.3%	10.1%	5.1%	18.3%	5.8%	23.9%	6.2%	52.0%
Minidoka	3.8%	35.0%	4.3%	37.1%	5.7%	27.4%	7.5%	57.2%	7.3%	24.7%
Nez Perce	2.9%	12.3%	4.3%	15.9%	5.7%	12.5%	6.9%	15.9%	6.9%	26.7%
Oneida	1.7%	0.4%	3.3%	0.4%	5.3%	0.7%	5.0%	12.9%	5.1%	25.3%
Owyhee	1.9%	8.8%	2.9%	0.5%	3.7%	0.6%	4.8%	17.3%	5.0%	23.7%
Payette	4.1%	26.8%	5.6%	10.8%	8.4%	10.2%	9.2%	18.6%	9.6%	26.7%
Power	3.9%	5.6%	5.0%	11.1%	6.9%	4.8%	9.3%	14.2%	9.2%	55.9%
Shoshone	5.1%	6.6%	7.8%	6.4%	12.1%	4.6%	14.3%	25.9%	13.7%	21.3%
Teton	1.6%	2.2%	2.7%	5.8%	5.9%	1.1%	7.3%	7.8%	6.7%	29.0%
Twin Falls	2.7%	9.2%	3.8%	8.4%	5.9%	12.1%	8.1%	14.4%	8.0%	11.7%
Valley	4.0%	17.4%	8.4%	15.3%	12.3%	27.4%	15.8%	28.2%	15.2%	32.3%
Washington	4.1%	14.0%	5.4%	7.5%	8.4%	11.3%	10.0%	12.0%	10.1%	5.2%

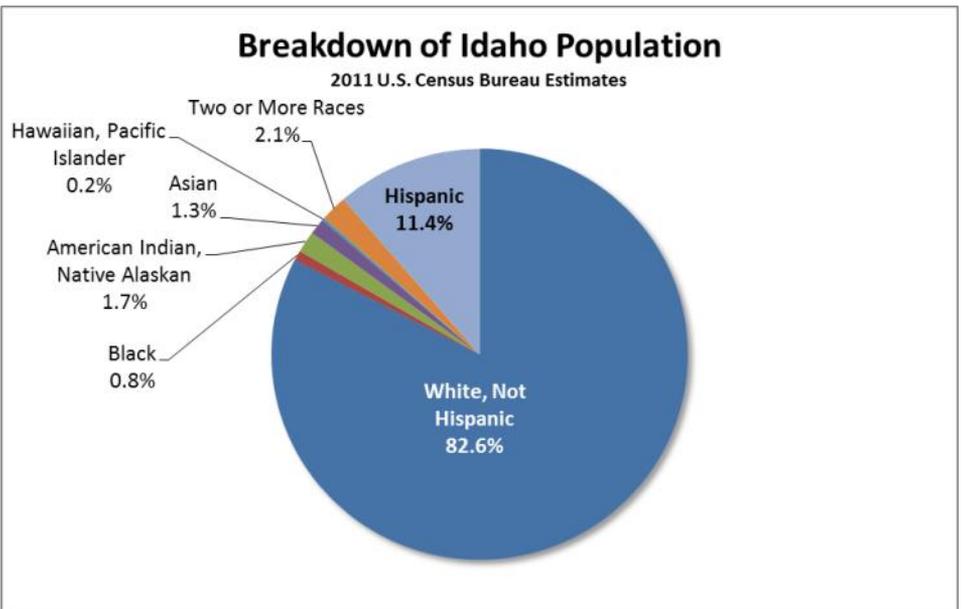
MINORITIES ELUSIVE IN IDAHO'S HOT JOBS

Education has been a traditional and generally proven path toward upward mobility in America, and for the past two centuries minorities and immigrant groups have used education and training to advance economically and socially.

Hot Jobs 2008-2018, the Idaho Department of Labor publication of the most abundant, fastest growing and best paying jobs, can help young people and other job seekers make informed decisions about the kind of education or training they need to qualify themselves for one of these high-demand careers. Those occupations are:

1. Registered Nurses
2. Farm, Ranch and Other Agricultural Managers
3. Postsecondary Teachers, All Other
4. Pharmacists
5. Computer Software Engineers, Applications
6. Dental Hygienists
7. Accountants and Auditors
8. Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software
9. Sales Managers
10. Elementary School Teachers, except Special Education

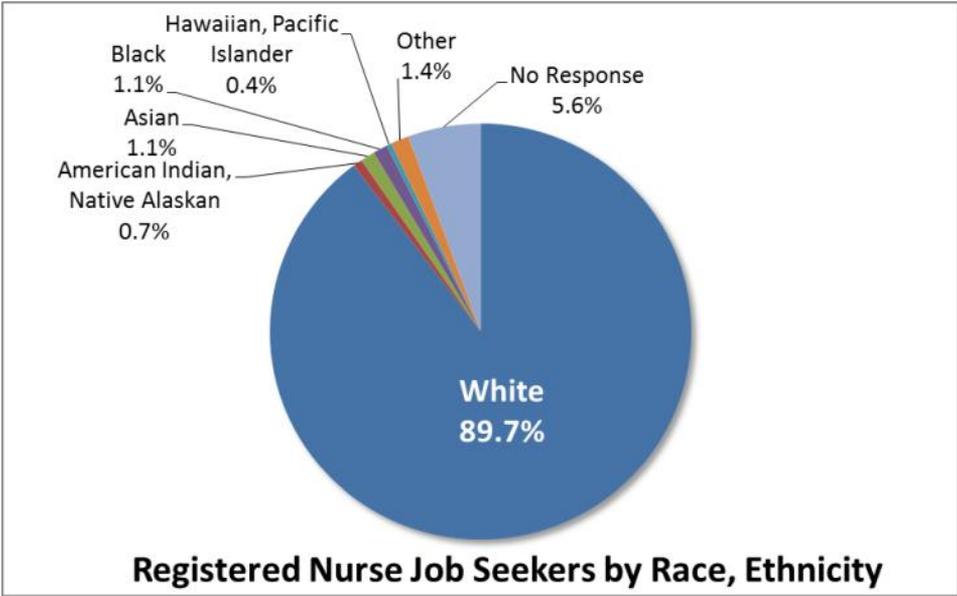
But based on the preferences Idaho job seekers list on their 2011 employment profiles, minorities do not seem to be pursuing these careers, although in some cases, the data is limited because job seekers are not required to list their race or ethnicity.



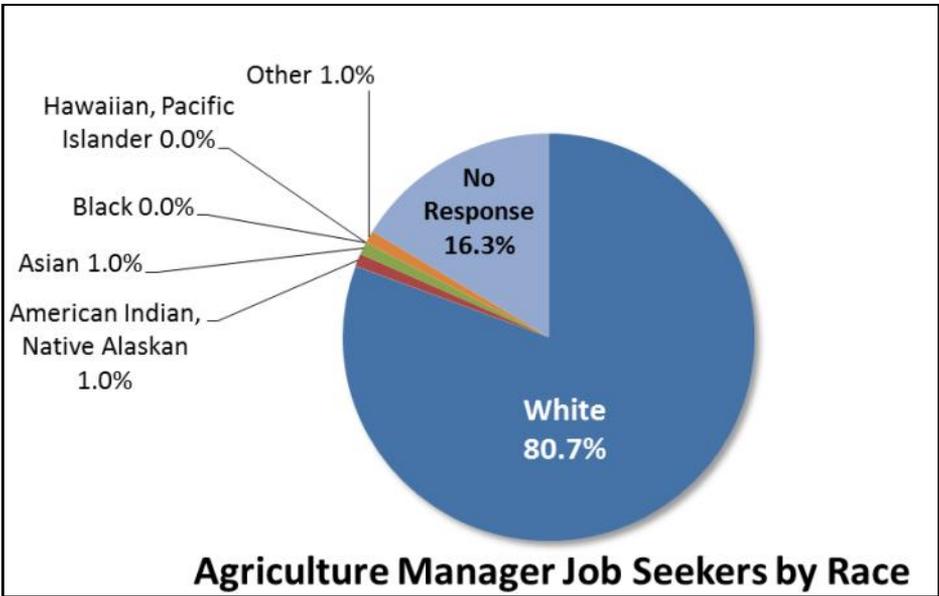
In 2011 the Idaho Department of Labor recorded 285 job seekers looking for work as registered nurses. Despite being one of Idaho's best career opportunities, few minorities sought employment in this occupation. Of those, two identified themselves as American Indian or native Alaskan, three as Asian, three as black, one as Hawaiian or another Pacific Islander, four as other and 256 as white. Sixteen did not respond to that question.

Nearly 90 percent of those seeking jobs as registered nurses were white. This rate is higher than the proportion of whites in Idaho, which stands at 83.6 percent. A group whose percentage of applicants fell well below its share of the state’s population was American Indians and native Alaskans, who despite being 1.7 percent of the population, only represented 0.7 percent of registered nursing aspirants.

The only minority group that sought employment as registered nurses in a greater proportion than its share of the state’s population in 2011 were blacks and Hawaiians.

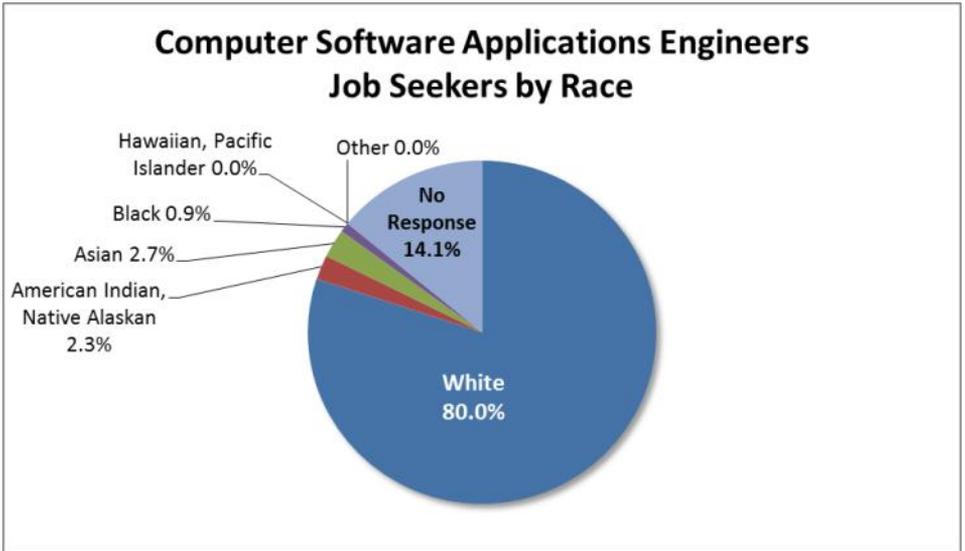


Ninety-eight job seekers were interested in jobs as farm, ranch and other agriculture managers. Again the vast majority was white but at a percentage lower than their share of the population. No blacks sought employment in this occupation.

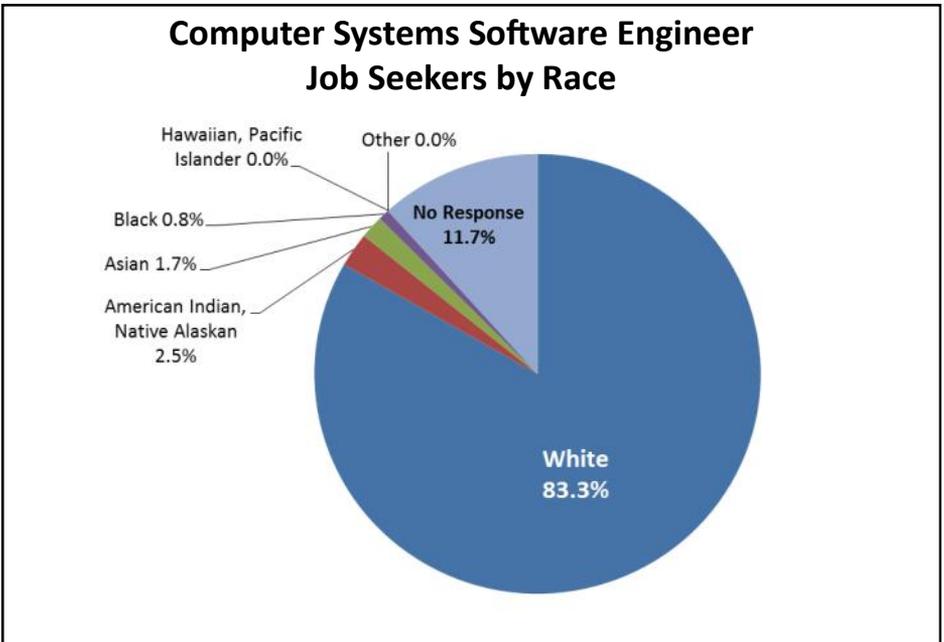


The job of postsecondary teacher drew interest only from whites although nearly 10 percent of the job profiles did not disclose the race of the job seeker. The same was true of pharmacist. All eight job seekers interested in that job were white.

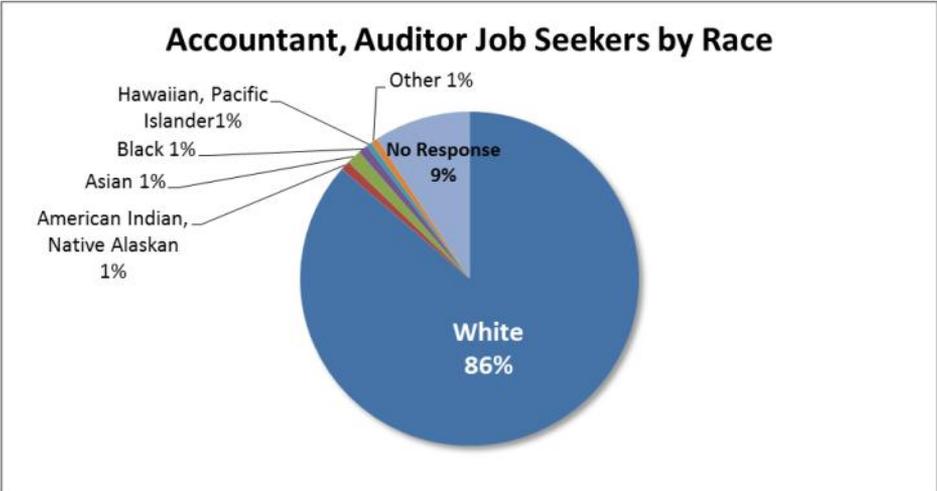
By contrast, there was better than proportional representation of minorities for jobs as computer software applications engineers. Of the 221 jobseekers interested in that field, 2.7 percent were Asian, 2.3 percent American Indian or native Alaskans and 0.9 percent black – all higher than their percentages of the state population.



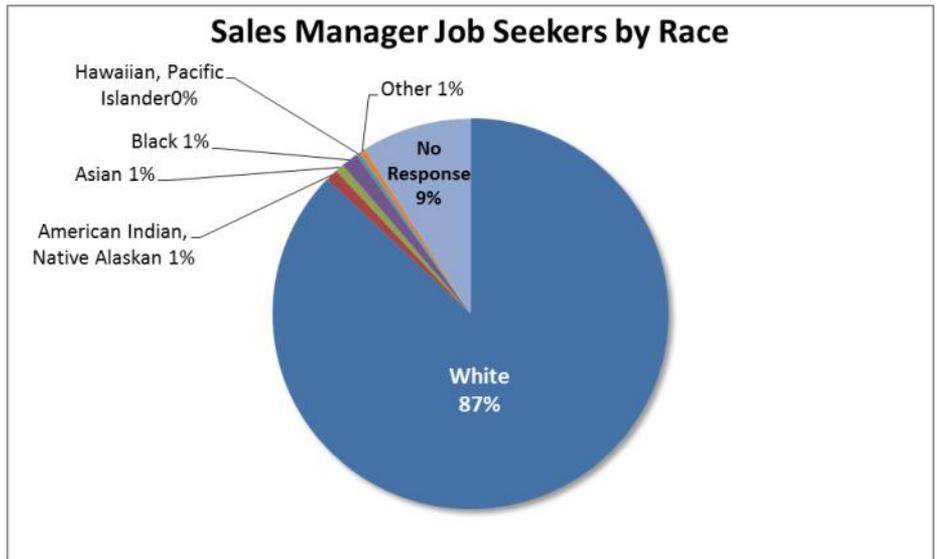
Asians and American Indians and native Alaskans were also represented in greater proportion than their percentage of the population among those looking for jobs as computer system software engineers. Of the 120 total job seekers recorded, 2.5 percent were American Indians or native Alaskans, 1.7 percent were Asian and 0.8 percent were black.



Among the 425 job seekers looking for accountant or auditor jobs, blacks, Asians, and American Indians and native Alaskans were represented in proportions higher than or equal to their shares of the population.



The breakdown of job seekers for sales manager jobs showed a low number of minorities pursuing that career. The only minorities applying in at least the same proportion as their share of the state’s population were blacks and Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. Of the 2,054 sales manager job seekers 87.1 percent were white.

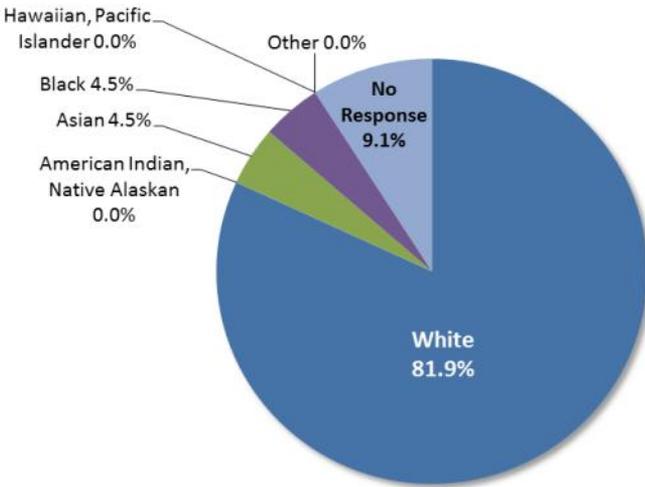


Only 22 people expressed interest in working as dental hygienists. A relatively large number of blacks and Asians sought employment in this career, but the limited data affects how representative this result may be. See chart on page 22.

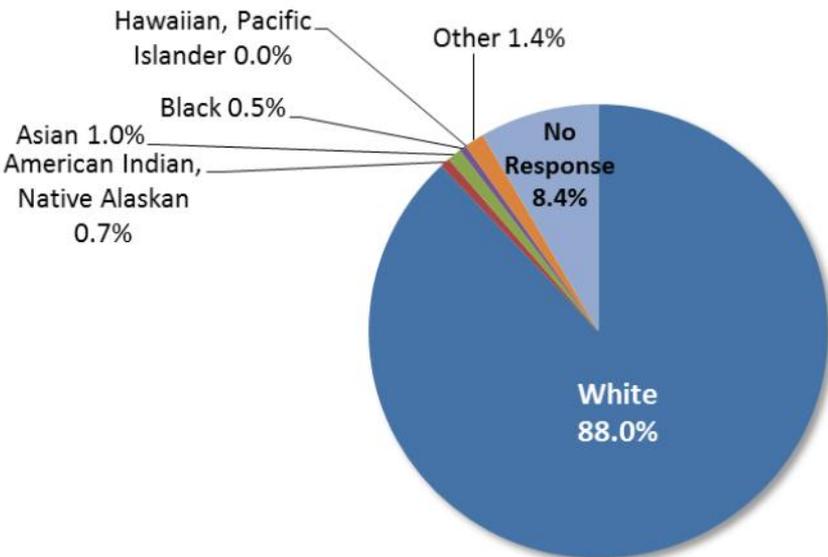
Tenth on the list of Idaho’s Hottest Jobs is elementary school teachers excluding special education teachers. Once again minorities represent a disproportionately low number of job seekers on this career path. See chart on page 22.

These data indicate that minorities are not seeking some of Idaho’s best career opportunities, possibly because they lack the postsecondary education needed to qualify.

Dental Hygienist Job Seekers by Race



Elementary School Teaching Job Seekers by Race



A federal program administered by the Idaho Department of Labor is helping address this issue. The Workforce Investment Act Youth Program works with eligible young people who have dropped out or left traditional high school programs before graduation and provides them access to valuable on-the-job training opportunities while encouraging them to enroll in postsecondary education courses or training.

More information is available at <http://labor.idaho.gov/dnn/CustomerServices/Youth/tabid/536/Default.aspx>.

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

POPULATION CONTINUES TO SHIFT TO URBAN AREAS

Idaho’s population growth has slowed since the Great Recession, but the economic slowdown has not interrupted the persistent shift in population to

the state’s urban areas. Whether the economy is expanding or contracting, the larger cities are driving growth.

From 2005 to 2006, it was clear a robust economy brought people to the larger areas. The residential construction boom and concurrent job creation fueled population gains in south central Idaho’s three largest cities. Growth was nearly 4 percent while population statewide increased 2.5 percent. Clearly the very smallest communities in the state have stagnated due to issues typically beyond their control, in most cases tied to location and infrastructure – issues affecting small towns throughout the United States.

Population Change in Idaho’s 22 Smallest Cities During Expansion and Recession				
	2005	2006	2010	2011
Population Estimates	1,832	1,836	1,702	1,706
Year-Over-Year Growth	4		4	
Year-Over-Year % Growth	0.20%		0.20%	

Source: US Census Bureau

The regional allocation of population shifted slightly from the expansion in the mid-2000s to the post-recession period. Regions with the largest cities gained ground from movement of people within the state, notably the northern and southwestern regions, while in-migration from other states and nations generally benefited all regions of the state.

Of the smaller regions, south central Idaho was the only one to increase its share of the state’s population as new companies were in the process of relocating and established ones were expanding before the recession hit. The big jump in enrollment at the College of Southern Idaho likely drew rural students to Twin Falls to take advantage of less expensive training and educational opportunities until the economy strengthened. Meanwhile, southeastern and eastern Idaho’s larger cities lost state population share. New residents may be choosing to live in some of the outlying areas, but these regions as a whole continue to be third and fourth as far as percentage of total population.

Population Change in Idaho's 18 Largest Cities During Expansion and Recession			
Percent of State Population			
	Three Largest Cities		Entire Region
	2006	2011	2011
Northern	5.3%	5.5%	13.5%
North Central	4.0%	3.7%	6.7%
Southwestern	23.0%	23.3%	42.8%
South Central	3.9%	4.2%	11.8%
Southeastern	5.2%	5.1%	10.6%
Eastern	6.2%	6.1%	13.2%
Largest Cities Share of State Total	47.6%	47.9%	

Source: US Census Bureau

The energy prevailing in Idaho during the expansion is underscored by Meridian in Ada County and the 14 percent growth it experienced – 7,500 new residents – from 2005 to 2006. In 2011 there was still significant growth in Meridian, but not by the measure of five years earlier. The recession had slowed the influx of new people to Meridian to just 2 percent – 1,500.

Burley and Boise are the only two large communities that saw higher growth in 2011 than in 2006 except for Grangeville, which saw high percentage growth but only 22 more people. Burley, with its renaissance of new companies in the area, is recovering from the trauma in the mid-2000s with the closing of the J.R. Simplot plant in Heyburn. Boise did not enjoy the construction boom as bedroom communities with cheaper land siphoned off residents, causing schools to close in some instances. Now prices have lowered in the Boise core, and there is not the new subdivision development to attract buyers. The allure of city living and spending less on fuel is motivating some of this growth.

Overall, in less populated pockets particularly, population growth clusters around the more densely populated areas for health care, education, services and amenities such as restaurants, recreation and retail. This clustering continues to be a hindrance to rural areas, creating a brain drain because jobs are not being created to retain the young people that keep communities vibrant.

Idaho Large City Population								
	Population		Change		Population		Change	
	2005	2006	Number	Percent	2010	2011	Number	Percent
Northern Idaho								
Coeur d'Alene	39,762	40,872	1,110	2.8%	44,269	44,962	693	1.6%
Post Falls	23,197	24,354	1,157	5.0%	27,658	28,104	446	1.6%
Hayden	11,902	12,331	429	3.6%	13,334	13,550	216	1.6%
Total	74,861	77,557	2,696	3.6%	85,261	86,616	1,355	1.6%
North Central								
Lewiston	31,167	31,464	297	1.0%	31,936	32,119	183	0.6%
Moscow	23,736	24,187	451	1.9%	23,842	24,080	238	1.0%
Grangeville	3,058	3,066	8	0.3%	3,146	3,176	30	1.0%
Total	57,961	58,717	756	1.3%	58,924	59,375	451	0.8%
Southwestern								
Boise	200,163	200,228	65	0.0%	206,252	210,145	3,893	1.9%
Meridian	52,744	60,200	7,456	14.1%	75,308	76,750	1,442	1.9%
Nampa	72,016	75,819	3,803	5.3%	81,774	82,755	981	1.2%
Total	324,923	336,247	11,324	3.5%	363,334	369,650	6,316	1.7%
South Central								
Twin Falls	38,638	40,208	1,570	4.1%	44,273	44,564	291	0.7%
Jerome	8,387	8,520	133	1.6%	10,931	11,040	109	1.0%
Burley	9,033	8,942	-91	-1.0%	10,405	10,447	42	0.4%
Total	56,058	57,670	1,612	2.9%	65,609	66,051	442	0.7%
Southeastern								
Pocatello	53,360	54,001	641	1.2%	54,357	54,794	437	0.8%
Chubbuck	10,883	11,284	401	3.7%	13,952	14,067	115	0.8%
Blackfoot	10,653	10,750	97	0.9%	11,935	11,987	52	0.4%
Total	74,896	76,035	1,139	1.5%	80,244	80,848	604	0.8%
Eastern								
Idaho Falls	51,787	52,272	485	0.9%	57,022	57,646	624	1.1%
Ammon	10,798	11,946	1,148	10.6%	13,868	14,019	151	1.1%
Rexburg	26,451	27,058	607	2.3%	25,528	25,705	177	0.7%
Total	89,036	91,276	2,240	2.5%	96,418	97,370	952	1.0%
Totals	677,735	697,502	19,767	2.90%	749,790	759,910	10,120	1.30%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Idaho Small Town Population

	Population		Change		Population		Change	
	2005	2006	Number	Percent	2010	2011	Number	Percent
Northern								
Huetter	99	97	-2	-2.0%	100	102	2	2.0%
Hope	83	85	2	2.4%	86	85	-1	-1.2%
State Line	63	62	-1	-1.6%	38	38	0	0.0%
Total	245	244	-1	-0.4%	224	225	1	0.4%
North Central								
Reubens	70	71	1	1.4%	71	71	0	0.0%
Elk River	141	140	-1	-0.7%	125	124	-1	-0.8%
White Bird	104	104	0	0.0%	92	93	1	1.1%
Total	315	315	0	0.0%	288	288	0	0.0%
Southwestern								
Midvale	185	184	-1	-0.5%	169	171	2	1.2%
Placerville	59	59	0	0.0%	53	53	0	0.0%
Crouch	161	164	3	1.9%	161	163	2	1.2%
Total	405	407	2	0.5%	383	387	4	1.0%
South Central								
Minidoka	118	118	0	0.0%	112	113	1	0.9%
Murtaugh	137	139	2	1.5%	115	115	0	0.0%
Acequia	136	136	0	0.0%	124	125	1	0.8%
Total	391	393	2	0.5%	351	353	2	0.6%
Southeastern								
Oxford	53	52	-1	-1.9%	48	50	2	4.2%
Atomic City	25	25	0	0.0%	29	29	0	0.0%
St. Charles	134	133	-1	-0.7%	131	131	0	0.0%
Total	212	210	-2	-0.9%	208	210	2	1.0%
Eastern								
Spencer	34	34	0	0.0%	37	36	-1	-2.7%
Clayton	25	26	1	4.0%	7	7	0	0.0%
Drummond	15	15	0	0.0%	16	16	0	0.0%
Warm River	10	10	0	0.0%	3	3	0	0.0%
Hamer	12	12	0	0.0%	48	48	0	0.0%
Stanley	95	98	3	3.2%	63	62	-1	-1.6%
Butte	73	72	-1	-1.4%	74	71	-3	-4.1%
Total	264	267	3	1.1%	248	243	-5	-2.0%
Statewide	1,832	1,836	4	0.2%	1,702	1,706	4	0.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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

NEW FARM BILL PASSES SENATE, WAITS FOR HOUSE

The 2012 farm bill has passed the Senate and is awaiting action by the House. It is reauthorized every five years – coincidentally in tune with the five-year agriculture census.

The latest version reflects the changing attitudes toward government involvement from the first farm bill passed in 1933 to protect the nation's food source by keeping independent producers in business while maintaining stable and reasonable grocery. The United States today has lower food costs as a percentage of income than most other countries. While the nation still imports commodities that cannot be grown in America, the U.S. is not dependent on other countries for food.

But the increasing demand from conservatives for major cuts in government spending has shifted the focus of the farm bill from crop subsidies to insurance. Only about 35 percent of Idaho farmers received subsidies in 2011 – to a great extent because they concentrate on commodities without

subsidies – so the state’s industry will be less affected by this shift than others. Forty percent of farmers got subsidies nationally. Neighboring Montana and Washington receive higher total subsidies than Idaho and are ranked ahead of Idaho’s middle-of-the-pack standing. Nevada has the lowest, and it is primarily disaster relief. It does not have the water to support much crop agriculture.

The distinguishing factor in the states surrounding Idaho is the wheat subsidy, which is huge among Montana’s dryland farmers. The second highest form of federal subsidy in Idaho is the Conservation Reserve Program, which provided \$562 million from 1995 to 2011 to Idaho farmers who withheld land from cultivation as a conservation measure. Idaho dairy farmers, who got over \$27 million in 2009 from the Dairy Subsidy Program, received just \$1.6 million in 2010.

Farm Subsidies for Idaho and Surrounding States					
	Number of Farms	Percent Participating	Subsidies 2005-2011 (in millions)	Average Subsidy for Top 10%	Nat'l rank
Montana	29,524	44%	\$6,280	\$45,858	17
Washington	39,284	18%	\$4,280	\$41,369	23
Idaho	25,349	36%	\$3,020	\$31,696	27
Oregon	38,553	13%	\$1,830	\$29,911	31
Wyoming	11,069	25%	\$732	\$19,263	37
Utah	16,700	18%	\$618	\$18,014	38
Nevada	3,131	11%	\$122	\$17,135	46

Source: EWG Farm Subsidies

Four of the five counties generating the most farm and ranch receipts were in south central Idaho – Cassia with \$626.7 million, Gooding with \$624.4 million, Twin Falls with \$471.9 million and Jerome with \$461.6 million.

Farm Bill Subsidies to South Central Idaho Producers (in millions)					
	Total	Commodities	Crop Insurance	Conservation	Disaster
Cassia	\$200.00	\$131.00	\$20.50	\$34.00	\$15.10
Twin Falls	\$120.00	\$86.40	\$12.00	\$11.00	\$10.80
Minidoka	\$109.00	\$82.80	\$16.90	\$4.72	\$4.50
Jerome	\$70.80	\$58.70	\$7.34	\$1.75	\$3.01
Gooding	\$50.50	\$42.20	\$2.73	\$1.06	\$4.53
Lincoln	\$33.90	\$24.20	\$3.59	\$2.49	\$3.63
Blaine	\$15.20	\$11.20	\$2.13	\$1.12	\$0.74

Source: EWG Farm Subsidies

Subsidies will not match a year with high yields and high prices, but they do take the edge off a bad year.

Additional information with a list the largest recipients from each county is online at <http://farm.ewg.org>

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

NORTHERN IDAHO

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai & Shoshone counties

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- Aero-Flite Inc., an Arizona-based company, recently garnered a big contract to help provide the U.S. Forest Service with next-generation air tankers for wildfire suppression and now plans to establish operations at Spokane International Airport. Aero-Flite is one of four companies that have been awarded contracts to provide a total of seven air tankers this year and next as part of a sweeping effort to replace the government's aging fleet. The company expects to employ approximately 40 at the new Spokane location.
- According to a recent Union Pacific Railroad report, U.S. railroads are expected to carry increasingly more cargo than they do today. Union Pacific is preparing to handle the increase, recently completing a \$10.9 million infrastructure upgrade for 95 miles of rail line that runs between the small communities of Athol and Eastport in northern Idaho. The railroad plans to invest a total of \$3.6 billion in its rail network this year.
- ReliOn Inc., the Spokane Valley-based manufacturer of fuel cell-powered backup power systems, has received a patent for the internal technology used in its newest product line, its E-Series. That brings the company's total U.S. patents to 36. ReliOn also holds 38 foreign patents. Users of ReliOn's backup power generation systems include companies in the telecommunications, utility, transportation and government sectors. ReliOn's president was recently appointed to the U.S. Department of Energy's Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technical Advisory Committee. ReliOn employs just under 50 people and has more than 1,400 of its systems installed in 42 states and 34 countries.
- Spokane County will be hosting the second of two job fairs on July 21 to hire more than 200 temporary workers for the next Spokane County Interstate Fair. Positions include ticket takers, maintenance crews, janitors, and barn and livestock clerks. All jobs pay \$9.04 per hour – the Washington minimum wage. The fair runs Sept. 7-16.
- Aerospace Initiative for Recruitment, AIR Spokane, expects to make a 300-acre site near the Spokane International Airport "shovel ready" for Boeing or another major aerospace company this summer. Such a company potentially could develop 1.7 million square feet of building space there. AIR Spokane involves local government, airport and economic development officials who have taken a collaborative approach to attract a large aerospace manufacturer or supplier to the area.
- The Aerospace Training Initiative, a Washington state training initiative that aims to sustain and enhance aerospace manufacturing skills, has

launched an apprenticeship program in Spokane. The initiative combines on-the-job training with supplemental instruction to pass along advanced manufacturing skills as the population ages and skilled workers retire.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

BENEWAH COUNTY

- A \$32,200 federal grant will finance updating the Benewah County wild-fire urban interface plan. The plan was originally drafted in 2004 as a way to protect people and property in the event of forest fires.
- The Benewah Community Hospital auction made more than \$15,000 for new equipment and operations.
- The community of Tekoa dedicated its new veterans memorial in June. It took 10 years to complete the project. There are more than 350 veterans buried at the Tekoa Golden Road Cemetery served in the Civil War, Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. The memorial was financed with private donations.

BONNER COUNTY

- After 65 years from the time it was first discussed, the Sand Creek Byway is completed and was dedicated in mid-July. The \$100 million project is Idaho's single largest highway project.
- The long-planned \$26 million fly-in community at Sandpoint, SilverWing, approved by the city of Sandpoint and Bonner County in 2007, has been grounded since because the Federal Aviation Administration was concerned about a residential development alongside a public airport. That issue has been resolved and the development could resume. Marketing efforts will target air shows, fly-in events and aviation media.
- The Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce has reopened its newly renovated visitors center.

BOUNDARY COUNTY

- Fiber optic is coming to Bonners Ferry. Boundary County will issue \$14 million in tax-exempt bonds to fund the project. The bonds will be paid back with revenue generated from the new system. The fiber optics will run from the Canadian border and from Moyie Springs to Seattle.

KOOTENAI COUNTY

- WinCo Foods is finally making headway on a 17-acre parcel in Coeur d'Alene that had been a gravel pit for more than 50 years. The grocery store will build a 142,854-square-foot store with retail shops on the north side of the property. Five other projected buildings in the development include a convenience store with gas pumps, a fast-food eatery with drive-through, a financial institution and a sit-down restaurant, all completing a commercial circle named The Crossroads Coeur d'Alene. Construction is expected to start in the spring with the opening in late 2013 or early 2014.
- FMI-EPS LLC, a Post Falls company that makes foam insulation and packaging materials, has managed to expand during the recession, largely by

capitalizing on growing Canadian markets and diversifying its U.S. product line. Business in 2011 was up 18 percent from 2010, and the payroll has grown from 17 in 2008 to 29. The owner also owns a plant in Jerome and is part owner of a plant in Canada.

- An \$8 million-plus expansion project is expected to break ground this summer at the Spokane Veterans Affairs Medical Center. The addition will cover 15,000 square feet.
- Idaho Department of Labor's Kootenai County office is holding a bi-weekly workshop on what it's like to work in North Dakota. It has been a popular workshop with 15-20 people attending each presentation intrigued to find out more about the Bakken oilfield. In this 45-minute presentation, Carol Shemanski, a consultant with Idaho Labor, talks about the realities of working in North Dakota and what to expect. She provides great insight and useful resources to help land a good paying job in the most recent oil boom.

SHOSHONE COUNTY

- U.S. Silver Corp., which owns and operates the Galena mine and Coeur redevelopment project, is merging with RX Gold & Silver Inc. to create U.S. Silver & Gold.

OPENINGS

- New York Bagel Cafe and Deli in Coeur d'Alene
- Faithful Chocolates in Coeur d'Alene
- Tiki Hut at Coeur d'Alene City Beach
- Teriyaki Tiki in Coeur d'Alene
- The Beachhouse Bar & Grill in Coeur d'Alene
- Vivo's clothing

EXPANSION

- Findlay Automotive Group acquired Midway Nissan in Post Falls

CLOSURES

- Tara B's Fashion & Jewelry in Coeur d'Alene
- Lemongrass restaurant in Coeur d'Alene
- The Picket Fence in Hayden

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

- Imperial Oil/ExxonMobil withdrew its application in June to haul oversized loads of oil-processing equipment over Lolo Pass and through north-western Montana. Several environmental groups asked the courts to block the loads from the Port of Lewiston along U.S. Highway 12 into Montana and then to Canada. Imperial Oil initially proposed hauling more than 200 oversized loads on U.S. 12 and Montana 200. Imperial Oil found alternative routes as its proposed path through Montana remained una-

vailable. At the Port of Lewiston, a crane used as part of the shipments was dismantled after the last loads headed north on U.S. Highway 95 in March. Imperial Oil also contracted to break down into loads that would not require special permits its only megaload to travel through Idaho to the Montana border. The “test module” had been sitting in a parking lot at Lolo Hot Springs since May 4, 2011.

- Congress approved a one-year extension of federal timber payments to rural counties. The one-time distribution of \$346 million to 700 rural counties is expected to be the last payment under the Secure Rural Schools Act. Congress is now trying to determine how to generate a steady stream of federal money to replace the revenues from cutting timber on national forests that fell sharply after 1990. Congress passed the Secure Rural School Act in 2000 to make up for that loss, providing \$3 billion in rural counties—70 percent for roads and 30 percent for schools. This year’s payments are a 31 percent reduction from funding levels in 2010. Idaho County received \$10.5 million. The federal payments made up 73 percent of the county’s road budget that year and provided \$1.6 million —15 percent of its budget—to Mountain View School District based in Grangeville, 10 percent of the Cottonwood district's \$4.8 million budget and 8 percent of Kamiah’s \$3.9 million budget. Losing the payments will place major stress on the school districts that rely on them and might push some road districts toward insolvency. The Idaho County Road and Bridge Department would be obligated to absorb any failed district. School districts and road departments in Clearwater and Latah County also rely considerably on the funds.
- Counties received the final payments from the lieu of taxes program for Bureau of Land Management land. More than 1,850 local governments around the nation received a record \$393 million, the largest amount ever allocated under the program. Unlike money from the Secure Rural Schools Act, which helps pay for roads and schools, the payment-in-lieu-of-taxes funds go directly to the counties’ general funds. The final payments for this year’s program included \$1.5 million for Idaho County with 4.5 million federal acres; \$556,975 for Clearwater County with 835,771 federal acres; \$236,512 for Latah County with 95,852 federal acres; \$75,942 for Nez Perce County with 31,563 acres; and \$7,605 for Lewis County with 3,082 federal acres.
- History Channel’s “American Pickers” showed up in several communities in north central Idaho in June. Series stars Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz travel the country searching for valuable relics in junkyards, barns, basements and attics. They filmed a nearly two-acre pile of junk collected by a Lewiston resident over half a century, which was recently purchased by Sutton Salvage of Lewiston. They also did some filming in Grangeville.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

CLEARWATER COUNTY

- The Orofino School District will lay off at least 19 people in the coming school year as it struggles to cope with the loss of federal and state funding. The district has struggled with the long-term loss of state funding, as its enrollment has declined. It expects to have 45 fewer students in Sep-

tember than it had last September, bringing its enrollment to about 1,000. When the district made its decision, it was facing the end of special stimulus funding for schools, which gave it \$400,000 during the prior two school years. The district also faces the possible loss of Secure Rural School funding, which provided \$340,000 last year. It will lose nearly five teaching positions—three by attrition, one by eliminating a behavioral specialist position and the equivalent of one by reducing the hours of three classroom teachers. Among classified staff, the district plans to reduce the equivalent of 10 full-time positions. This includes reductions in hours for, or elimination of, 15 full-time and half-time instructional aides and maintenance personnel. The district passed a \$1.94 million supplemental levy in May.

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers upgraded the safety rating of Dworshak Dam from “Unsafe or Potentially Unsafe,” which was imposed after an initial risk analysis four years ago, to “Conditionally Unsafe” following an in-depth study. After the 2008 risk analysis, Corps officials said there was no danger of the 700-foot-high dam failing. It also began steps to reduce leaks and update instruments designed to detect problems at the dam. The new study says a failure is only likely during a huge earthquake or extreme flood, both of which the corps considers rare. Risk is calculated by multiplying the probability of failure by the consequences of failure. Although the probability of failure is extremely low, Dworshak is so massive and holds so much water in its 55-mile-long reservoir that it would cause great damage to life and property if it were to fail. Maps from a 25-year-old emergency plan show low-elevation areas of Lewiston and Clarkston could be swamped with 38 feet of water if the dam were to fail catastrophically.

IDAHO AND LEWIS COUNTIES

- Primeland Cooperatives closed its feed plant in Cottonwood July 1, but none of the eight people who worked there lost jobs; they were moved to other Primeland operations on the Camas Prairie. The Cottonwood plant produced chopped barley, milled corn and other feed. Primeland decided to close the feed plant after a University of Idaho study found the plant was no longer financially viable because of the dramatic decline in livestock in the region. New regulations also would have required Primeland to invest a significant amount of money to keep the plant going. The cooperative will continue to have operations in Cottonwood, including a grain-handling facility, fertilizer plant, seed distribution and a self-service gas station. Although Primeland no longer processes feed, it still employs a staff of trained feed nutritionists and sells bulk feed and delivers it to farms from its Grangeville bulk feed distribution plant.
- A Grangeville business is the Success Story of 2012, according to the North Central Idaho Business Development Center. Home Grown Quilts, owned by Jody Hoogland, specializes in offering name brand fabrics, quilting supplies, long-arm quilting machine services and sewing and quilting workshops. The shop, which opened last year, is the only storefront fabric store within 50 miles of Grangeville. Hoogland said she attributes her success in part to her completion of the NxLevel Online business

plan-writing course offered by the Small Business Development Center. “NxLevel Online is the one thing that pushed me forward in the acquisition of my business. I learned valuable information from each segment of the program that transferred into the success of my business including marketing/branding, financials and processes,” Hoogland said. “Without this new knowledge, I would never have been able to put together a usable business plan on my own. My finished business plan was the key element to obtaining a small business loan.”

- Local residents continue to develop new ways of making a living from tourism. Pat Sullivan, a Grangeville High School history teacher, opened Central Idaho River Shuttles in March. He has hired several drivers to pick up the vehicles of rafters and kayakers and takes them to their destination to meet their owners following trips. The service covers the Selway, Hells Canyon, the South Fork of the Clearwater River and Main and Lower Salmon rivers. “Besides having a family business, I also want to be able to get the rafters to come back to Grangeville to visit, stay in our hotels, eat at our restaurants and enjoy our area,” Sullivan said.
- Kamiah’s Hearthstone Restaurant and Bakery celebrated the 100th anniversary of its building in June. The beautiful brick building with its tin ceiling and elegant moldings was constructed as a drug store in 1912. Ten years ago, Harry and Marjorie Schmael renovated the building into a restaurant, bakery and event center. A few years ago, the Schmaels opened Hearthstone Elegant Lodge By The River on Highway 12. The Hearthstone operations, the Flying B Ranch and the Nez Perce Tribe’s casino are Kamiah’s largest tourism operations. The Flying B Ranch is a luxurious hunting lodge on 5,000 acres with permits to outfit in the 740,000 acres of the Nez Perce and Clearwater national forests. In addition to wingshooting, the ranch conducts hunts for whitetail deer, mule deer, elk, black bear and turkey and offers opportunities to fish for salmon, steelhead and trout.

LATAH AND WHITMAN COUNTY

- Moscow Valley Transit is able to purchase a new bus because of an \$87,500 grant from the Walmart Foundation. Valley Transit recently learned it will receive \$277,000 in federal funding for fiscal year 2013 to run its two fixed routes and \$135,600 for its dial-a-ride service. The bus service also will receive \$92,000 to add another fixed route if it can provide the required matching funds by April when the money become available.
- The University of Idaho plans to use a \$640,200 grant from the Idaho Global Entrepreneurial Mission to hire five new faculty members who will bolster its research into cybersecurity issues. The five new faculty members, who will work for the university’s 14-year-old Center for Secure and Dependable Systems, will respectively specialize in computer science, electrical and computer engineering, civil engineering and sociology. The new funding will also assist in the development of educational workshops, joint proposals and joint development activities for students in addition to support for the establishment of a software security testing laboratory. College of Engineering Dean Larry Stauffer plans “to leverage

the support from IGEM to accelerate our ability to advance cybersecurity technologies - particularly as they pertain to electrical power and transportation infrastructure.”

- Potlatch spent \$100,000 on energy efficient improvements to four of its buildings that are expected to save it that same amount in the next seven years. The city used a federal energy efficient stimulus grant to install new windows, doors, lighting fixtures and insulation at its hall, shop, senior center and the “little depot,” a facility at the park used to prepare and serve food for wedding receptions and other community events year-round. The city was also able to concurrently complete a scheduled remodel of the senior center to comply with building codes.
- Northwest MedStar opened a base at the Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport in June, providing improved air ambulance service for people in the region. The emergency helicopters can take patients to Spokane, the Tri-Cities, Seattle and even outside the Northwest. The clinical crew includes a critical care registered nurse dual-certified as a paramedic and a respiratory therapist dual-certified as an EMT. The company headquartered in Spokane also operates bases at airports in Spokane, Tri-Cities and Moses Lake.
- The Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport shut down for five days in mid-July to repave the runway at a cost of \$1.5 million. The airport paid about \$75,000. The project was postponed a year because of a lack of long-term funding authority from Congress. The new pavement, designed to last a decade, will eventually be altered with a \$60 million runway realignment to rotate it and add 400 feet to the length.
- The National Lentil Festival, held every August in Pullman, is featured in the July/August edition of *Every Day with Rachel Ray*. Organized by the U.S. Pea and Lentil Council headquartered in Moscow, this year’s festival will be held Aug. 17-18.

NEZ PERCE AND ASOTIN COUNTIES

- The Port of Lewiston will receive a \$1.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to expand its container dock from 120 feet to 270 feet, allowing it to accommodate two barges at a time. The \$2.9 million project was the only Idaho project to be awarded a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Discretionary Grant. The project will be completed before the end of 2013. Currently, barges or the port’s crane must be repositioned to get shipping containers on and off of a ship, which adds time to the process. The port is the furthest inland of the ports on the Columbia and Snake rivers, 465 river miles from the Pacific Ocean. The port estimates the project will create 48 jobs by 2023, assuming the annual number of containers the port handles grows from the 3,653 it handled last year, the lowest number in the past 20 years, to 16,000. Before the recession, the port moved as many as 18,000 containers a year onto ocean-going ships.
- Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories recently donated \$7,000 to improve the engineering curriculum at Lewiston High School. The award allowed the school to purchase an injection-molding machine to teach students how to produce parts and design their own molds.

- Construction of a life-sized replica of Idaho's first Capitol began in June a block away from the original building's site in downtown Lewiston. From 1863 to 1865, Lewiston was Idaho's capital, and territorial government was housed in a small wooden building. The project is using wood taken from an old barn that is being dismantled. The building should be completed by the middle of August. The replica will be part of a campus that includes the Nez Perce County Historical Museum, Nutting House, Lewis-Clark State College Center for Arts and History and the new city library that is currently under construction.

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

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- U.S. Bank announced plans to add two new branches in the region. More than 100 construction jobs will be generated by the project, and the banks, which will be located in Nampa and Meridian, will employ 15. Both buildings will meet LEED standards when they open in early 2013.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

ADA COUNTY

- Meadow Lake Village plans to add 100 more apartments. The retirement community located in Meridian announced the addition of a three story lodge that will include 68 rooms and a second 30,000 square-foot center focused on people with memory care needs. The \$22 million project is expected to create 300 construction jobs and add 50 to Meadow Lake's current payroll on completion.
- Kendall Auto Group announced the purchase of Meridian Ford last month. The Boise-based company owns dealerships in Oregon, Alaska, Montana and Idaho although this is its first dealership in the Boise area.
- Hiring started for the new Big Al's in Meridian. The \$10 million entertainment center plans to hire up to 175 employees ranging from servers and hostesses to arcade technicians and managers. Opening is scheduled for August.
- Fred Meyer opened its newest store in western Ada County last month. The 171,000-square-foot store is part of the 40 acre Eagle Island Marketplace. The roughly \$30 million store will employ more than 200.
- Micron Technology announced two acquisition plans this month totaling over \$2.8 billion. The first and most expensive is the purchase of Japan's Elpida Memory Inc. Elpida filed for bankruptcy earlier this year. The roughly \$2.5 billion deal consists of a \$750 million in cash and \$1.75 billion in annual installments over the next several years. It will increase Micron's manufacturing capacity around 50 percent. The deal still requires approval of Elpida's creditors, courts in Japan and antitrust regulators. If the deal goes through, Micron will also purchase a 24 percent stake in

Rexchip Electronic Corp for \$334 million. Combined with Elpida's current stake in Rexchip Electronic, Micron would own 89 percent.

- During this year's State of the City address, Boise's Mayor Dave Bieter announced two new projects for the city. The \$68 million retirement community – Terraces of Boise – will be built this fall and offer 150 independent living residences and employ over 150 people. The second is development of the Reserve Street Armory for mixed use by J&M Land. The building built in the 1930s has been vacant for more than a decade. Plans could include residences and small businesses.

CANYON COUNTY

- The College of Western Idaho has begun construction on a 20,000-square-foot building that will house the college library. The school has also partially opened the new Micron Center for Professional Development. The new building, which will be completed in November, will also house a medical clinic, an early childhood education program, classrooms and offices. The building will be leased with an option to buy in the future. The new Micron Center for Professional Development will house nine programs that are moving from the Boise State University campus.
- West Valley Medical Center opened up its remodeled intensive care unit. The upgrade increased the square footage by 30 percent and allows for larger patient rooms and offices.
- St. Luke Health System's opened a portion of its newest facility in Nampa this month – a 15-bed emergency department. The rest of the 120,000-square-foot St. Luke's Nampa Medical Plaza will open this fall.
- The Middleton Village Center has two new stores opening this summer. The Family Dollar and King's Discount Store are opening at the former Ridley's location.

ELMORE COUNTY

- The Life Flight Network closed its Mountain Home air ambulance base last month. The company cited the lack of flight activity. Employees for the base were moved to other areas in the network, and services for the area will continue to be provided from Boise.

PAYETTE COUNTY

- Idaho Power's new gas-fired power plant was opened last month. The nearly \$400 million project south of New Plymouth is a combined-cycle combustion plant that Idaho Power can ramp up or down to meet demand. It took over 100 construction workers two years to complete the 300-megawatt plant. The plant will employ around 20.

EXPANSION

- Fisher's Document Systems is adding eight to its Boise office staff.

CLOSINGS

- Monkey Bizness in Boise
- Davis Creek Cellars in Eagle
- Ali Baba in Boise
- Twig's Cellar in Boise

OPENINGS

- Snake River Cross Fit in Nampa
- Ye Olde Sweet Shoppe in Eagle
- Teavana in Boise
- Co-op Pet Shop in Boise
- Maple Tree House, a domestic violence shelter, in Payette
- Fashion City Exchange, a resale clothing store, in Eagle
- Telford Law and AP Consultants in Nampa
- Great Clips in Eagle with 10 employees
- The Griddle Restaurant in Boise
- Fred Meyer in Meridian with over 200 employees
- Beauty at the Plaza, a salon, in Boise
- Pacific Rim Wine Stop in Boise

Andrew.Townsend@labor.idaho.gov, *Regional Economist*
(208) 332-3570, ext. 3455

SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO

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

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

TWIN FALLS COUNTY

- The city of Twin Falls will invest in a generator to back up pumps for the water system. A violent windstorm blew over trees in the area earlier in June knocking down a line that powered the pumps. Water levels dropped dangerously low so commercial, industrial, irrigation and residential water users were asked to stop using water. Even a few restaurants closed, but full service was restored within 24 hours.
- The College of Southern Idaho experienced a 13 percent decline in summer enrollment to 1,925. The school cited high fuel prices, more jobs openings as the economy slowly recovers, a reduction in federal Pell Grants and the more rigorous course study required for the shorter course periods as reasons for the decrease.
- Twin Falls County commissioners chose Barry Hayes Construction of Idaho Falls to remodel the former St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, now called County West. The large building was vacant until recently when the Idaho Department of Correction's Division of Probation and Parole took over 12,000 square feet. The remainder of the building will be dedicated to non-judicial county offices. The remodeling project estimated at \$3 million will be completed next February. The commissioners estimate the building should accommodate the county's needs for the next 20 years.
- Chobani sent 40 of its new managers to the College of Southern Idaho for safety training. Twenty-two of the people who will be running the new Greek yogurt plant are from south central Idaho and the others have moved to the area. The Idaho Department of Labor is financing the training through the Workforce Development Training Fund. Chobani expects to begin production this fall.

- Idaho's Simplified Summer Food Program offers lunch to all kids up to 18 without any qualifying conditions and is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In Twin Falls County, there are 14 sites at various parks and schools serving 2,400 lunches a day, an increase from last summer. The program has seen increased annual participation for the past several years.
- Glanbia USA celebrated its 21st year in the Magic Valley with a huge party at the fairgrounds that included a concert with Jason Lugo and Montgomery Gentry.
- Norco contributed \$250,000 to the St. Luke's Magic Valley Health Foundation. The company has built a new facility near the new regional medical center. The money will finance medical equipment and hospital programs according to Foundation Executive Director Larry Baxter.
- The U.S. Border Patrol will close its Twin Falls office and eight more in other states. The two existing agents in Twin Falls will be reassigned. "These deactivations are consistent with the strategic goal of securing America's borders, and our objective of increasing and sustaining the certainty of arrest of those trying to enter our country illegally," the agency stated.

BLAINE COUNTY

- Arthur and Pauline Frommer visited Ketchum's Community Library, which won a contest for designing the most creative display for Frommer travel guides. The "Frommer Roamer" is a colorful cardboard cutout taxi with Frommer books stacked in the rear window, the Community Library Logo on the side and an Idaho "Gems" license plate. The Frommers, a father and his daughter, are famous for books on budget travel. It was Arthur Frommer's first visit to Sun Valley, a childhood dream after reading about Gary Cooper's skiing vacations. They both provided tips on saving money in the current travel environment and donated 50 Frommer travel books to the library.

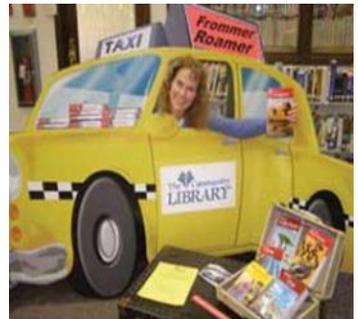


Photo courtesy of Ketchum Community Library.

- Blaine County's property values dropped 11 percent this year based on preliminary assessments. The total moved from \$9.3 billion to the current \$8.3 billion after peaking at \$12.4 billion in 2008. This is the fourth year in a row that the assessments have been reduced. Short sales and foreclosures could be driving down values. Realtors are more optimistic with the number of properties under contract currently at 171 compared to 76 a year ago.
- Hotel Ketchum developer Jack Bariteau has a year extension from the city council on the permit for the 73-room hotel planned for the south entrance to the city. Trail Creek Village was originally financed through First Bank of Idaho, which the Office of Thrift Supervision placed in receivership. That delayed the hotel project. Bariteau, who owns a number of Ketchum buildings, promised to improve the look of existing businesses around the future hotel in winning the extension from the council.

- The Blaine County School District Board has approved 5 percent raises for its administrators and directors. The raises are a combination of a one-time Christmas bonus of 1 percent and a previous 1 percent raise with the 3 percent raise called for annually in the contract. Superintendent Lonnie Barber's pay will not be increased, in part because of uncertainty over a legal matter.
- The Sun Valley Marketing Alliance is using technology to draw more visitors to central Idaho. People can virtually try stuffing 30 items into a car and then shutting the door. When they do, they will be entered to win a trip to Sun Valley plus the items they tried packing into the car. The items are donated by Sun Valley businesses and depict the fun and adventure of the area.
- The Ride Sun Valley Bike Festival featuring the USA Cycling Mountain Bike Cross-Country National Championships topped last year's event with 1,200 riders and an estimated crowd of 5,000 visitors to the area. The Sun Valley Marketing Alliance is spending about a third of its budget to promote summer tourism with the rest focused on winter activity, particularly after Christmas. "If we're a mountain resort destination, we can't have a dead January and February," Arlene Schieven, Sun Valley Marketing Alliance president, said. "We are really focused on that." Harry Griffith, executive director of Sustain Blaine, estimates that biking of all types has a direct economic impact of \$6 million to the Wood River Valley. Roughly 85 percent comes from bike-specific retail and employees in the biking sector. The rest is from biking events, like the national championship, and activities.

JEROME COUNTY

- The Supreme Court has upheld the operating permit for a contained animal feeding operation just a mile from the Hunt Internment Camp, part of Idaho's history during World War II. Neighbors along with benefactors and supporters of the Minidoka national historic site have been appealing the decision since 2008. "We are large supporters of the agricultural industry in Jerome County and believe preservation at Minidoka can take place at the same time, but only if farming operations are planned in a way that recognize public uses," said Hanako Wakatsuki, chairperson of Friends of Minidoka. The group advocates for preservation of and education about the site.

OPENING

- A Valley Country Store under construction in Gooding

CLOSURES

- The Roosevelt Grill in Ketchum after being in business for at least 14 years
- That One Place restaurant in Buhl

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

SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO

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

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

BANNOCK COUNTY

- Dry conditions in southeastern Idaho led to tragedy in late June when 66 homes and 29 other buildings were destroyed by wildfire. The Charlotte Fire just south of Pocatello burned over 1,000 acres before being contained. Members of the community, local charities and churches banded quickly together to aid victims, providing them clothes, food and shelter. Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter promised to work with local officials to help those affected by the fire.

BINGHAM COUNTY

- Over the past two months controversy has swirled around the management of Bingham Memorial Hospital. The Idaho Attorney General’s office has accepted a request from Bingham County Prosecutor J. Scott Andrew to take over the investigation of the hospital so Andrew could avoid any conflict of interest. Complaints regarding the management of the hospital led the Bingham County Commission to seek a forensic audit of the facility.

CARIBOU COUNTY

- A controlled burn near Bancroft got out of control and turned into a 1,700-acre wildfire on June 29. Local fire fighters were able to contain the fire to sagebrush and grassland, doing little damage to property. The fire was aided by the dry conditions and high winds.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

- Franklin City held its annual Idaho Days Celebration at the end of June. The festival commemorates the settlement of Franklin by Mormon settlers in 1860. The community is the oldest in Idaho. The special day’s events include a parade, entertainment and an opportunity for community members to celebrate their special place in Idaho’s history.

ONEIDA COUNTY

- Malad hosted its annual Welsh Festival in late June, celebrating the role immigrants from Wales had in settling the southeastern Idaho community. Malad has one of the highest proportions of individuals of Welsh ancestry in the United States. The two-day festival included food, music, crafts, games and lectures. The event serves as a homecoming for the community, and it attracts visitors from all over the western United States who are interested in Welsh and Celtic culture.

POWER COUNTY

- Amy Manning stepped down as mayor of American Falls on June 29. Manning, who was elected mayor in 2005 and had 18 months left on her term, was recently married; her husband and family live in Pocatello and

she was moving there to be with them. Until the city council names a replacement, Council President Marc Beitia is the acting mayor.

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

EASTERN IDAHO

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

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

BONNEVILLE COUNTY

- The Idaho Falls Post Register reports an increase in new-home construction in the city. Construction permits for the first six months of 2012 have already equaled the number issued in all of 2011. Between January and June 2012 the city issued 60 new residential construction permits. In comparison the city issued 169 permits during the first six months of 2007, and so far 2012 construction permit numbers are higher than any January-June period since then.
- Idaho Falls Power has started installing smart grid electric meters and thermostat controls on hundreds of area homes. The project focuses on reducing energy consumption through new technology. The new components are part of the Pacific Northwest Smart Grid Demonstration Project. Idaho Falls Power is the only Idaho utility participating. Half of the program's cost was funded by the city of Idaho Falls and the rest with federal stimulus money.
- Allegiant Airlines has temporarily suspended air service between Idaho Falls and Los Angeles. Reduced demand between Aug. 12 and Nov. 16 is the reason for the seasonal suspension. About 16 percent of Allegiant's routes are subject to seasonal suspensions.
- The Idaho Falls Airport received a grant for more than \$1 million to replace aging equipment. The largest proposed purchase is a \$500,000 dual-engine snow sweeper and blower.
- Eastern Idaho Technical College saw its highest enrollment yet for the Summer Science Camp. About 475 students will participate in elementary science experiments and education programs based on science, engineering, technology and mathematics. Students participate for three hours Monday through Friday of one week. Courses are offered in the morning and afternoon. Cost was \$65 per student, but scholarships were available.
- Union members from across the state converged on Idaho Falls for the annual Idaho AFL-CIO convention. Among other things, the delegates determined political endorsements. Idaho Department of Labor Director Roger Madsen was a guest speaker.

TETON COUNTY

- Civic leaders, local businesses, economic developers and nonprofit organizations gathered at an economic development summit in Teton County to discuss economic development strategies. A third of the participants saw eCommerce as the best opportunity for economic growth. Value-

added agriculture and recreational technology were also highly favored in the discussion.

- Teton County received a \$1 million grant to reduce flooding along the Teton Creek. Money will be used to stabilize eroding stream banks. Fish and wildlife habitats will also be improved. The project should cost \$1.3 million with \$334,000 being funded by the county.

MADISON COUNTY

- A major project, spanning 14 lots in Rexburg, will provide housing for 1,100 mainly Brigham Young University-Idaho students. The project includes multiple buildings with some as high as five stories. A 500-car parking garage will also be constructed. Construction for the complex is expected to start in September.

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



The Census Bureau’s website has a helpful link — QuickFacts - <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/index.html>. QuickFacts provides the latest census data for the state, counties or cities. From there you can access more detailed information.

Click on the link above, pick a state, then select a county or city and find the latest data quickly and easily. See some QuickFacts about Idaho below.

Census QuickFacts: Idaho and U.S.

QUICK FACT	IDAHO	U.S.
Population, 2011 estimate	1,584,985	311,591,917
Land area in square miles 2010	82,643.12	3,531,905.43
Persons per square mile	19.0	87.4
Housing units in 2010	667,796	131,704,730
Home ownership rate, 2006-2010	71.0%	66.6%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units	\$172,700	\$188,400
Median household income 2006-2010	\$46,423	\$51,914
Building permits, 2011	3,815	624,061

The June unemployment rates for the state, counties, cities and metropolitan areas will be released and published July 20. See Imi.idaho.gov for most current economic data from the Idaho Department of Labor.

State of Idaho Data – State Economic Indicators

	May 2012**	Apr 2012*	May 2011	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE ⁽¹⁾					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	782,000	779,100	769,200	0.4	1.7
Unemployment	60,600	60,200	67,500	0.7	-10.2
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	7.8	7.7	8.8		
Total Employment	721,400	718,900	701,700	0.3	2.8
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	783,700	772,200	768,900	0.4	1.7
Unemployment	58,200	60,000	62,600	0.7	-10.2
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	7.4	7.8	8.1		
Total Employment	725,500	712,200	706,300	0.3	2.8
U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ⁽²⁾					
	Jun 2012	May 2012	Jun 2011		
	8.2	8.2	9.1		
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
	Jun 2012**	May 2012*	Jun 2011		
<i>Claims Activities</i>					
Initial Claims ⁽³⁾	7,427	8,329	10,591	-10.8	-29.9
Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾	56,778	65,923	75,106	-13.9	-24.4
<i>Benefit Payment Activities</i> ⁽⁵⁾					
Weeks Compensated	45,772	65,189	76,234	-29.8	-40.0
Total Benefit \$ Paid	\$10,551,483.92	\$15,482,585.03	\$17,437,688.60	-31.8	-39.5
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$230.52	\$237.50	\$228.74	-2.9	0.8
Covered Employers	47,173	47,173	47,550	0.0	-0.8
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾	\$197,608,338	\$204,494,543	\$243,932,654	-3.4	-19.0
U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ⁽²⁾					
	Jun 2012	May 2012	Jun 2011	% Change Month	% Change Year
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	226.0	226.6	222.5	-0.2	1.6
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	229.5	229.8	225.7	-0.1	1.7

**Forecast data

* Preliminary estimate

(2) Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(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 email to janell.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