

Idaho Employment

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

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ROGER B. MADSEN, DIRECTOR

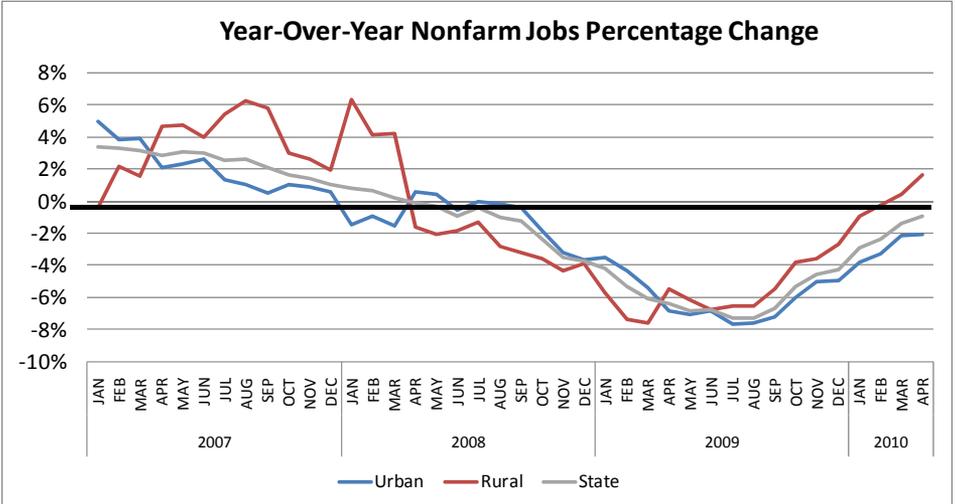
NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

- Seasonal Hiring Patterns Trending to Normal, page 4
- Real Wage Increases for East Central Idaho, page 7
- Weather Adversely Affects Southeastern Idaho Farmers, page 10
- Young Einstein: A Bright Idea for Idaho's Future, page 11
- Thousands Feel Pinch of Expiring Unemployment Benefits, page 15
- Who Moves to North Central Idaho? page 17
- Ag Plays Important Role in North Central Idaho, page 20
- How Northern Idaho has Fared Great Recession, page 22

[Link to Statewide Nonfarm Labor Jobs May 2010](#)

RURAL IDAHO RECOVERING SOONER THAN URBAN AREAS

Rural Idaho got only a relatively modest boost from the expansion that sent the state's metropolitan economies skyrocketing from 2005 into early 2007. But while hit hard in some sectors by the recession, the state's 33 rural counties went into recession months later than the urban areas and appear to be recovering at a faster pace.



The 11 counties that make up Idaho's five urban centers are Ada, Boise, Canyon, Gem and Owyhee for the Boise metro area; Bonneville and Jefferson for Idaho Falls; Bannock and Power for Pocatello; Nez Perce and Asotin in Washington for Lewiston and Kootenai for Coeur d'Alene.

Statewide job totals had been declining from the beginning of 2007. Problems in manufacturing, primarily in semiconductors and at Micron Technology, were steadily eroding the jobs in the Boise area, which accounts for over 40 percent of all jobs. In January 2007 metropolitan Boise had 6.6 percent more jobs than in January 2006 when the expansion was taking hold. By July, total jobs in metro Boise were barely 1 percent ahead of a year earlier, and the number was falling fast.

The Pocatello metro area, however, was the first of the five urban areas to see job totals turn negative. Following a relatively anemic spring and summer for the area that had coped with a sluggish economy for years, total jobs in Pocatello slipped below the year-earlier level in September 2007 and then steadily declined.

The recession officially began in December 2007, and nonfarm jobs in Boise fell into the red a month later. At that point Pocatello's year-over-year job loss was the worst it would get at just over 7 percent, and the combination pulled the job total for the five urban areas below the year-earlier amount.

Lewiston had been flirting with year-over-year job losses for much of 2007 before slipping into the red for good in March 2008, the same month that rural jobs fell below the year-earlier level. That dropped the statewide job total into the red year-over-year for the first time since August 2002 in the aftermath of the 2001 recession. But unlike the last recession, April 2008 was the first of more than two years of year-over-year job losses. The 2001 recession prompted only nine months with year-over-year job losses – the worst at 1.3 percent – with average annual jobs still growing each year if only fractionally.

Idaho Falls began feeling year-over-year job losses that summer. But Coeur d'Alene held out until November – an indication then that its local economy would weather the recession better than much of the rest of the state.

See Year-Over-Year Percentage Change in Nonfarm Jobs on page 3.

The crumbling of the housing market sowed the seeds of the recession. The entire state lost overwhelming numbers of construction jobs – over 20,000. Nearly 12,000 of those jobs were in the Boise metro area – half the area's total construction labor force at the peak when home building was driving the dramatic expansion during the middle of the decade.

But the losses were significant everywhere – 44 percent in Lewiston, 40 percent in Coeur d'Alene, 33 percent in Pocatello, 28 percent in Idaho Falls and 44 percent in rural Idaho – in large part the result of the demise of Valley County's Tamarack Resort, which began having money problems in 2007 and filed bankruptcy in February 2008. By April 2008 rural construction jobs were off 10 percent from April 2007. They were down another 26 percent in April 2009 and 22 percent more this April.

The loss of manufacturing jobs – the other sector hit hardest by the recession – was almost completely confined to the urban areas and – again – that means the Boise area. About 13,000 manufacturing jobs were lost from the peak before the recession, and about 10,000 were in metropolitan Boise. High technology layoffs were the principal reason.

The other metro areas each lost fewer than 1,000 manufacturing jobs, and rural Idaho lost 1,400 – 30 percent of those among the trailer manufacturers and others in the Twin Falls-Jerome area, the largest non-metropolitan area in the state.

The recession hit the rural retailers harder in 2008 before turning more intensely on urban retailers in 2009. Over the last two full years of the recession, rural retail jobs shrank 7 percent while urban retailers shed 9 percent of their jobs.

Surprisingly, professional and business services in rural Idaho contracted far more than in the urban centers. Rural counties lost 13 percent of their professional and business service jobs from 2007 to 2009 while the metro areas lost less than 8 percent. By the same token, professional and business services are coming back faster in rural Idaho, which has been reporting year-over-year gains since the year began while the urban centers remain 6 percent behind April 2009.

Year-Over-Year Percentage Change in Nonfarm Jobs

		State	Rural	Urban	Boise	Coeur d'Alene	Lewis-ton	Poca-tello	Idaho Falls
2007	Jan	3.34%	-0.37%	4.99%	6.62%	3.52%	-1.85%	3.16%	3.11%
	Feb	3.33%	2.18%	3.85%	4.87%	2.91%	0.75%	1.28%	3.11%
	Mar	3.16%	1.57%	3.87%	4.42%	3.24%	2.97%	2.56%	3.05%
	Apr	2.86%	4.63%	2.09%	2.99%	0.92%	-1.08%	0.25%	1.80%
	May	3.06%	4.74%	2.32%	2.70%	1.97%	0.72%	1.77%	1.97%
	Jun	3.03%	4.02%	2.59%	2.64%	2.46%	0.00%	4.35%	2.51%
	Jul	2.57%	5.43%	1.31%	1.24%	2.82%	-1.08%	1.04%	1.55%
	Aug	2.62%	6.23%	1.04%	0.91%	3.32%	-0.73%	0.77%	0.38%
	Sep	2.10%	5.81%	0.46%	0.22%	2.63%	-1.08%	-0.50%	0.97%
	Oct	1.65%	3.02%	1.04%	0.83%	2.30%	2.19%	-1.49%	2.16%
	Nov	1.41%	2.64%	0.86%	0.72%	2.32%	2.19%	-1.24%	0.97%
	Dec	1.01%	1.96%	0.60%	0.36%	2.17%	1.83%	-1.00%	0.78%
2008	Jan	0.81%	6.29%	-1.49%	-1.97%	1.32%	1.13%	-7.14%	1.21%
	Feb	0.61%	4.15%	-0.93%	-1.24%	1.13%	1.11%	-4.55%	0.40%
	Mar	0.20%	4.18%	-1.52%	-1.70%	1.11%	-1.08%	-6.25%	0.20%
	Apr	-0.11%	-1.59%	0.56%	0.69%	3.10%	-1.45%	-3.24%	1.18%
	May	-0.35%	-2.09%	0.44%	0.36%	3.35%	-2.14%	-3.47%	2.12%
	Jun	-0.97%	-1.86%	-0.57%	-0.54%	2.57%	-1.43%	-6.13%	0.56%
	Jul	-0.44%	-1.30%	-0.04%	-0.04%	2.91%	-1.46%	-3.34%	-0.19%
	Aug	-1.05%	-2.86%	-0.22%	-0.32%	2.20%	-0.73%	-3.55%	0.38%
	Sep	-1.27%	-3.17%	-0.39%	-0.61%	2.39%	-0.73%	-2.99%	-0.19%
	Oct	-2.38%	-3.56%	-1.84%	-1.97%	0.00%	-3.21%	-3.02%	-1.54%
	Nov	-3.55%	-4.32%	-3.20%	-3.65%	-1.40%	-3.93%	-3.52%	-2.11%
	Dec	-3.71%	-3.89%	-3.63%	-4.31%	-1.24%	-3.96%	-2.77%	-3.08%
2009	Jan	-4.20%	-5.72%	-3.51%	-4.55%	-2.23%	-4.09%	1.65%	-2.78%
	Feb	-5.30%	-7.38%	-4.35%	-5.26%	-2.98%	-5.49%	-1.59%	-2.40%
	Mar	-6.11%	-7.63%	-5.41%	-6.15%	-5.30%	-5.84%	0.00%	-5.33%
	Apr	-6.41%	-5.46%	-6.82%	-7.82%	-6.01%	-3.68%	-4.38%	-5.83%
	May	-6.81%	-6.17%	-7.09%	-7.68%	-7.16%	-5.11%	-4.88%	-6.62%
	Jun	-6.80%	-6.80%	-6.80%	-7.34%	-6.86%	-4.36%	-4.18%	-7.12%
	Jul	-7.32%	-6.53%	-7.68%	-8.61%	-8.32%	-4.07%	-3.99%	-6.51%
	Aug	-7.29%	-6.58%	-7.62%	-8.35%	-8.28%	-4.06%	-5.00%	-6.68%
	Sep	-6.66%	-5.48%	-7.19%	-7.78%	-8.68%	-4.03%	-4.87%	-5.76%
	Oct	-5.33%	-3.84%	-6.00%	-6.99%	-5.54%	-2.95%	-3.64%	-4.68%
	Nov	-4.58%	-3.60%	-5.02%	-5.76%	-4.42%	-1.86%	-3.91%	-4.31%
	Dec	-4.26%	-2.71%	-4.95%	-5.59%	-4.11%	-2.62%	-4.92%	-3.77%
2010	Jan	-2.92%	-0.97%	-3.78%	-4.49%	-1.90%	-1.55%	-3.78%	-3.27%
	Feb	-2.35%	-0.27%	-3.26%	-3.99%	-0.58%	-1.55%	-3.49%	-3.07%
	Mar	-1.36%	0.43%	-2.15%	-2.98%	0.58%	-0.78%	-3.20%	-0.63%
	Apr	-0.92%	1.66%	-2.07%	-2.66%	-0.19%	-1.53%	-2.16%	-1.24%

Both urban and rural Idaho lost about 7 percent of their jobs in the leisure and hospitality sector.

Overall, the job loss in rural Idaho came faster than in the urban areas, peaking at 7.6 percent in March 2009. That was five months before the urban and statewide year-over-year job loss peaked at about the same level in August.

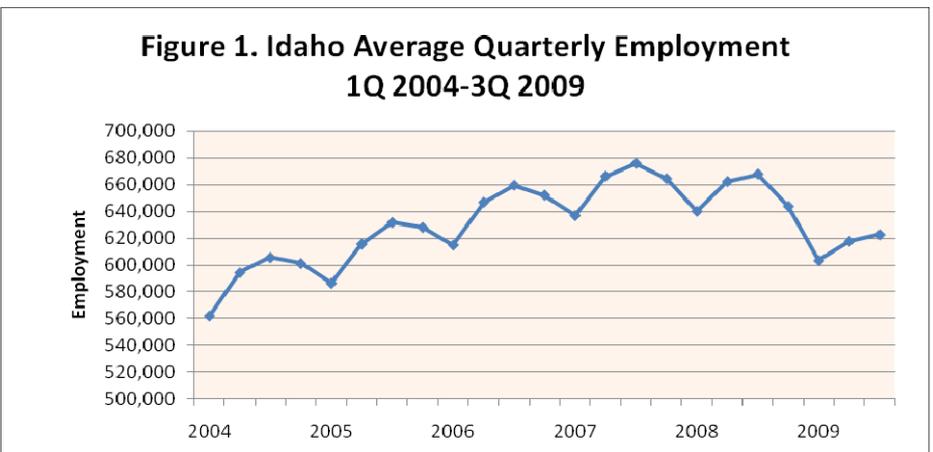
But the monthly year-over-year job loss dissipated in the rural counties just as quickly as it rose. It was a full percentage point below the urban loss in August 2009, two percentage points lower in October and nearly three percentage points lower in January. The rural counties began reporting year-over-year job growth this March while the urban areas were still more than 2 percent below 2009.

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SEASONAL HIRING PATTERNS TRENDING TO NORMAL

Idaho employers began returning to normal seasonal hiring trends in the third quarter of 2009. Total covered employment reported through the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages averaged 622,693 in the July-September quarter – up from 617,816 in the second quarter. The increase reflected seasonal growth in many industry sectors. But while jobs began moving in the right direction again, third quarter totals were still 45,200 jobs below year-earlier levels.

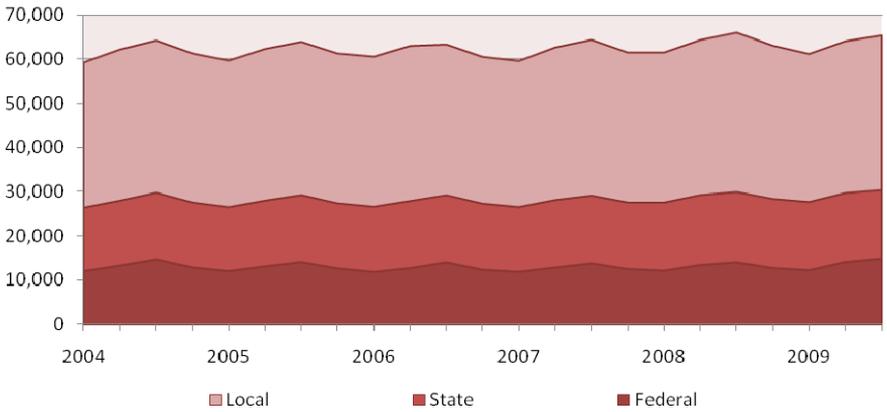
While the year-over-year job deficit remained significant, it was only slightly higher than the second quarter gap, signaling that the Idaho economy may have finally bottomed out. Although total wages in third quarter were still \$351 million below the third quarter 2008, wages exceeded those paid in second quarter by nearly \$158 million. This represented a reduction in the over-the-year wage difference by \$50 million, another positive sign of economic mending.



Private-sector jobs totaled 511,039 in the second quarter. Although this was down nearly 44,300, or 8 percent, from the same quarter the prior year, third quarter employment represented an increase of over 10,000, or 2 percent, from 2009's second quarter.

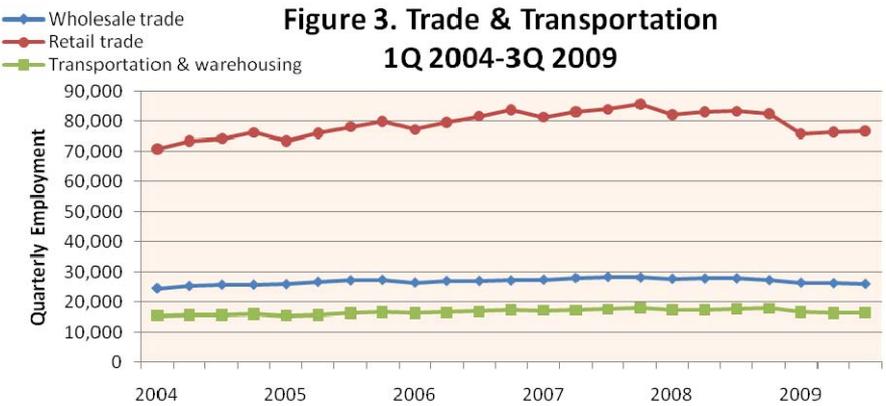
Government including education averaged 111,655 jobs, down by 5,311 from the second quarter as schools closed for the summer and over 1,000 temporary census workers were terminated. Federal employment in Idaho was up nearly 800 from the previous quarter, a 6 percent increase from one year earlier, but local governments shed 5,800 jobs while the state lost 250.

**Figure 2. Public Administration
1Q2004-3Q2009**



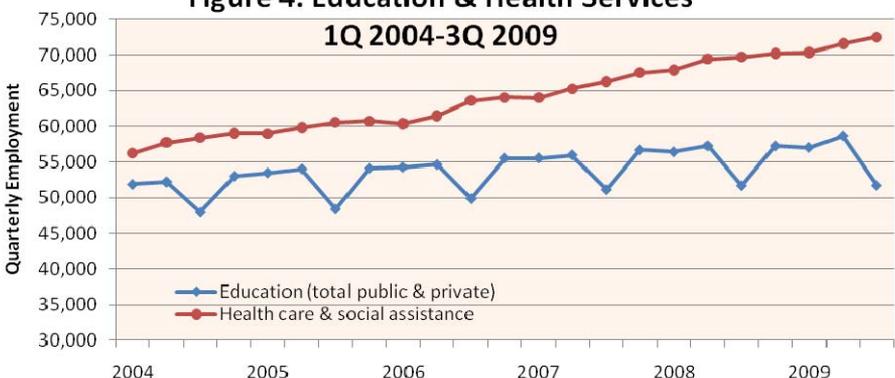
July, August and September of 2009 saw retail jobs increase more than during the same period in 2008, holding the loss of that seasonal pattern to 2008. But the 300-job increase from the second quarter was just a fraction of what typically occurs in non-recession years. Retail jobs totaled 76,643 in the quarter, down 6,600 from the third quarter of 2008. Job losses in general merchandise and building material and garden supply stores were offset by gains in gasoline and nonstore retailers, food and beverage stores and sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores. Transportation and warehousing fared moderately well, gaining 200 jobs, while wholesale trade experienced a modest loss of 200 jobs.

**Figure 3. Trade & Transportation
1Q 2004-3Q 2009**



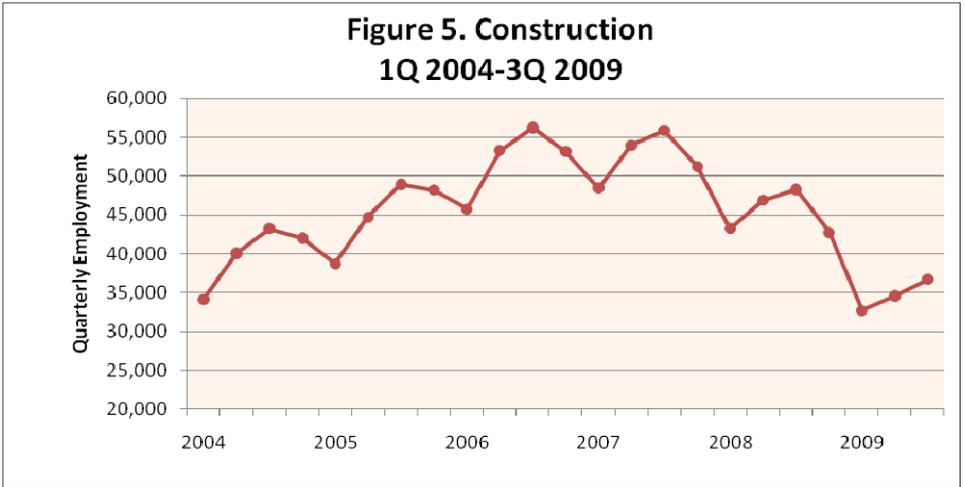
Health care continued its steady climb, gaining almost 900 jobs in the third quarter, up 1.2 percent on top of the 1.7 percent gain in the second quarter. That left health care with 3.4 percent more jobs than in the summer of 2008.

**Figure 4. Education & Health Services
1Q 2004-3Q 2009**

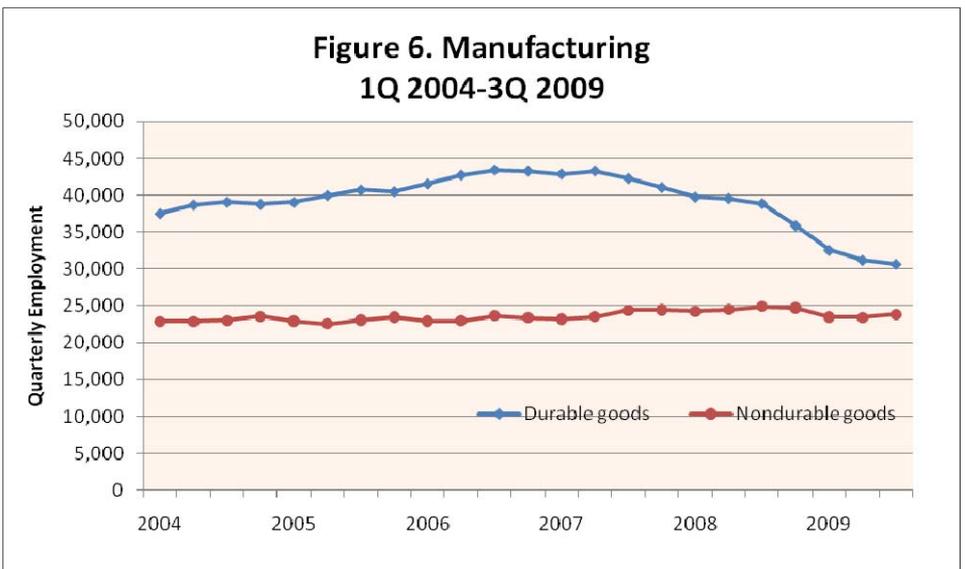


All health care subsectors experienced gains. Social assistance added 300 jobs, 2.4 percent from the second quarter. Ambulatory care was up over 200, nursing 200 and hospitals 130.

Construction experienced a second consecutive quarter of positive growth, gaining 2,154 jobs, or 6.2 percent over the second quarter. Historically, this constituted a fairly normal second-to-third quarter increase and diminished the year-to-year deficit. Still total jobs were 23.9 percent below year-earlier levels. All construction subsectors experienced healthy employment gains of 4 percent or more with heavy and civil engineering construction hitting nearly 13 percent, which translated into 700 jobs.



Job losses in manufacturing slowed in the third quarter to just 0.2 percent from the second quarter, which amounted to fewer than 100 jobs. Manufacturing has been one of the areas hit hardest by the recession, and employment in third quarter remained 14.5 percent below the third quarter 2008. As in previous quarters, durable goods continued to suffer greater losses than nondurables, sliding 21.1 percent from a year earlier compared to a 4.2 percent deficit in nondurables. Durable components posting the largest declines from the second quarter were furniture and related products at 6.6 percent, computer and electronic products at 4.1 percent and machinery at 2.9 percent.



The most significant job losses in nondurables were in chemicals at 3.2 percent and printing and related support activities at 1.4 percent. The actual impact, however, was fewer than 100 jobs.

**Figure 7. Average Weekly Wages by Industry
3rd Quarter 2009**



Idaho’s average weekly wage for all industries in the third quarter was \$647, up \$14 from the previous quarter. The lowest wages were reported in accommodations and food services at \$255, a \$13 increase from the third quarter, and leisure activities at \$310, a \$27 increase. As usual, company management recorded the highest wage at \$1,378 a week though this was \$43 lower than the previous quarter. Utilities followed at \$1,112, down \$11 from the first quarter, and mining came in at \$1,026, a \$48 decrease.

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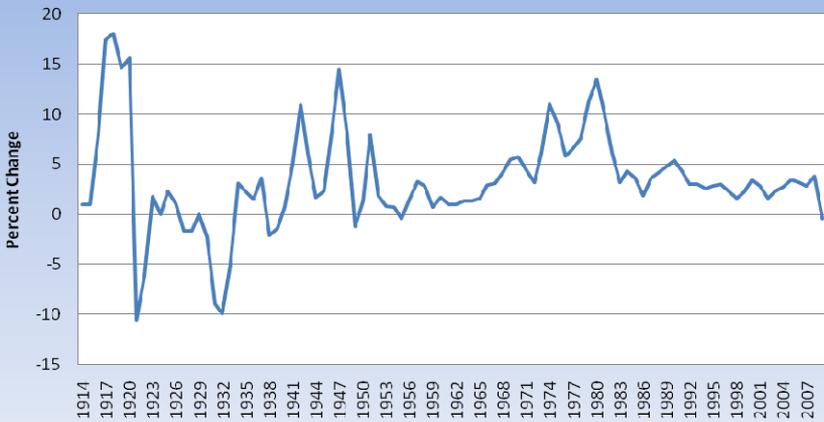
REAL WAGE INCREASES FOR EAST CENTRAL IDAHO

As employers started to see their bottom line shrink, some reduced wages for new and existing workers. During recessions, decreased aggregate demand can often lead to lower levels of inflation and in some cases – deflation. Deflation coupled with lower wages is especially troubling for those paying interest on fixed-rate loans. But with lower levels of inflation, banks can lower interest rates and still maintain an adequate rate of return on loans. But as soon as signs of inflation return, rates will begin to climb.

Due to the severity of the current recession, the consumer price index has been falling. Between the second quarter of 2008 and the same quarter in 2009 the index dropped by over 1 percent. This is not a common occurrence. Prior to the 1950s, deflation was much more common.

Economists suggest that wages and prices are sticky. That means when wages are climbing, prices will usually climb along with them. If prices begin to fall, they will often pull wages down too. Most of the working-age population is very unfamiliar with wage decreases. Recent news accounts have cited numerous school districts and other public agencies announcing wage reductions for 2010 and 2011.

Historical Changes in Price Level



For east central Idaho, falling wages are not common. Between the second quarter of 2008 and the same quarter in 2009, the recession appears to have taken its toll on select sectors. A majority of industry groups were able to increase wages. Service industries provided the largest wage increase at 2.1 percent, a reflection in part of the minimum wage increase, while goods producing industry wages increased by 1.5 percent. These increases actually understated the real increase in wages during this period. If wages increase while prices are falling the real wage ends up seeming higher because the consumer's buying power has increased. Using the consumer price index, the actual real increase in wages can be determined. In this case, goods producing industries had a real wage increase of over 2.6 percent. Service providing industry wages grew by over 3.3 percent.

If wages are not adjusted for price levels, 36 percent of east central Idaho workers saw a reduction in wages. But after adjusting for price levels only 29 percent of workers experienced a decrease in wages or a decrease in buying power. There were 5,700 workers who previously showed a decline in wages and actually had a real wage increase. This constitutes 7.6 percent of workers in this study.

Even though these seven industries received a real wage increase of 1 percent or less, they are still better off than what nominal wages suggest. In total,

East Central Idaho Wage Changes by Selected Sector

NAICS Code	Industry Group	2008 Wage	2009 Wage	2009 Q2 Employment	Adj. 2009		
					Avg. Weekly Wage (CPI-U)	Real Wage Change (CPI-U)	Nominal Wage Change
515	Broadcasting (except Internet)	\$572	\$566	231	\$566	0.1%	-1.0%
531	Real Estate	\$402	\$398	565	\$397	0.2%	-0.9%
***	Other State Government	\$724	\$719	91	\$716	0.4%	-0.7%
922	Justice, Public Order & Safety Activities	\$943	\$940	16	\$933	0.8%	-0.3%
442	Furniture & Home Furnishings Stores	\$477	\$475	253	\$472	0.8%	-0.3%
523	Securities, Commodity Contracts & Other Investments	\$678	\$677	131	\$671	1.0%	-0.1%
621	Ambulatory Health Care Services	\$719	\$719	4443	\$711	1.0%	-0.1%

71 percent of east central Idaho workers experienced a real wage increase while only 29 percent of workers did not.

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East Central Idaho Employment and Wages for Major Industry Groups

Industry Group		2008 Wage	2009 Wage	2009 Q2 Employment	Adj. 2009		
					Avg. Weekly Wage (CPI-U)	Real Wage Change (CPI-U)	Nominal Wage Change
NAICS	Goods Producing	\$632	\$641	11546	\$625	2.6%	1.5%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	\$516	\$491	#N/A	\$510	-3.6%	-4.7%
21	Mining, Quarrying and Oil and Gas Extraction	\$1,166	\$1,102	#N/A	\$1,153	-4.4%	-5.5%
23	Construction	\$628	\$618	4589	\$621	-0.5%	-1.7%
31-33	Manufacturing	\$588	\$578	4125	\$581	-0.5%	-1.6%
	Durable Goods	\$653	\$659	1591	\$646	1.9%	0.8%
	Nondurable Goods	\$544	\$528	2534	\$538	-1.8%	-2.9%
NAICS	Service-Providing	\$635	\$649	68704	\$628	3.3%	2.1%
42	Wholesale Trade	\$646	\$647	5096	\$639	1.2%	0.0%
44-45	Retail Trade	\$429	\$424	9991	\$424	0.1%	-1.1%
48-49	Transportation & Warehousing	\$559	\$555	2211	\$553	0.3%	-0.8%
22	Utilities	\$1,244	\$1,372	205	\$1,230	11.5%	10.3%
51	Information	\$638	\$613	1555	\$631	-2.8%	-3.9%
52	Finance & Insurance	\$755	\$745	1891	\$747	-0.3%	-1.4%
53	Real Estate & Rental and Leasing	\$367	\$370	942	\$363	2.0%	0.9%
54	Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	\$1,236	\$1,271	#N/A	\$1,222	4.0%	2.8%
55	Management of Companies & Enterprises	\$1,114	\$847	176	\$1,102	-23.1%	-24.0%
56	Administrative & Waste Management	\$452	\$666	3810	\$447	49.1%	47.4%
61	Educational Services (private ownership)	\$885	\$906	1663	\$875	3.6%	2.5%
62	Health Care & Social Assistance	\$577	\$579	8997	\$571	1.6%	0.4%
71	Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	\$208	\$254	804	\$206	23.6%	22.3%
72	Accommodation & Food Services	\$203	\$218	6294	\$201	8.8%	7.6%
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	\$432	\$444	1787	\$427	3.8%	2.7%
92	Public Administration & Educational Services	\$625	\$620	13138	\$618	0.4%	-0.7%
	Federal Government	\$1,088	\$983	1747	\$1,076	-8.6%	-9.6%
	State Government	\$778	\$776	1442	\$769	0.9%	-0.2%
61	Educational Services (State Administration)	\$623	\$577	194	\$616	-6.4%	-7.4%
	Local Government	\$525	\$534	9949	\$519	2.8%	1.7%
61	Educational Services (Local Administration)	\$493	\$485	5876	\$487	-0.4%	-1.5%

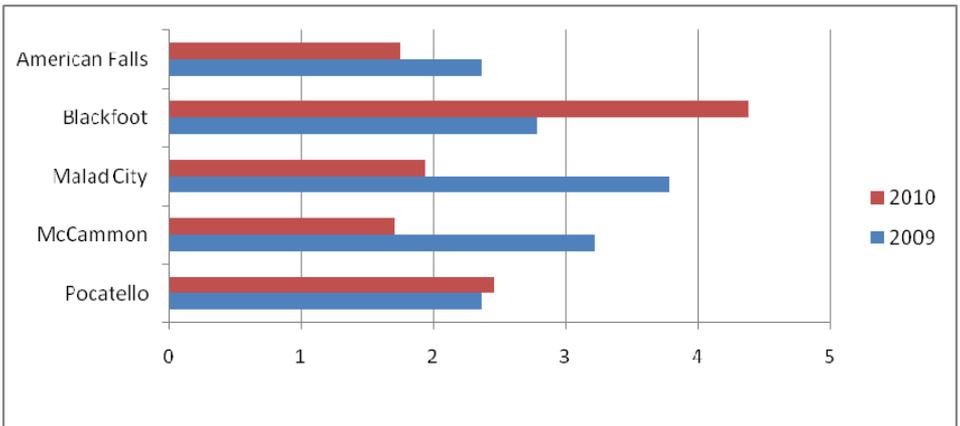
WEATHER ADVERSELY AFFECTS SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO FARMERS

As William Bohl of the University of Idaho’s Bingham County Extension Office puts it, “Rain is almost always welcome when you live in a dry place.”

Farmers, whose livelihood depends on rain, have gotten less precipitation than they hoped for this spring. A second issue affecting southeastern Idaho growers is the cool weather. If the patterns persist, growers can expect lower yields and an economic downturn for agriculture in the region.

Last year’s greater precipitation produced very good yields for the region’s farmers. This year, only the Blackfoot area, which has had close to twice the rainfall it got a year ago, and Pocatello, which has had slightly more precipitation this spring than last, have escaped the dry weather.

Figure 1: Rainfall by Inches during April and May 2009 and 2010



Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

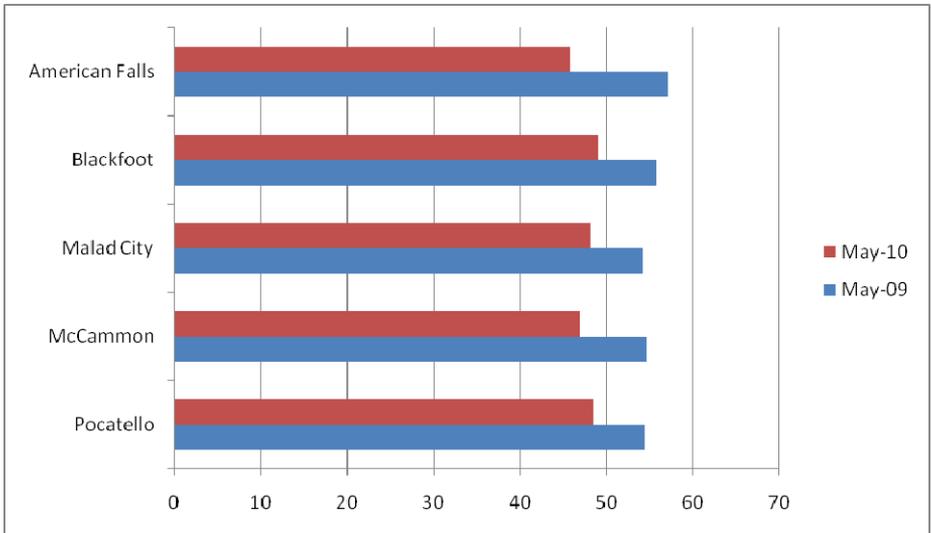
Franklin County has been hard hit by the lack of moisture. This past month the county commission drafted a letter asking Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter to declare the county a drought disaster area. Stuart Parkinson of the University of Idaho’s Franklin County Extension Office said, “Some of our irrigation springs look now like they would in the fall. If we continue to get less rain, farmers will need to be very careful with the amount of irrigation they use.”

Not all areas of southeastern Idaho are suffering. Stan Gortsema of the University of Idaho’s Power County Extension Office west of Pocatello said that while moisture overall is down somewhat from last year, recent rains have been “good and timely.” William Bohl of the University of Idaho’s Bingham County Extension Office in Blackfoot said, “Some of our farmers can’t get into their fields right now due to all the rain we have had lately.”

And southeastern Idaho farmers are feeling the effect of below normal temperatures. The month of May has been cold, and Joel Packham of the University of Idaho’s Bear Lake County Extension Office said, “If we don’t get warmer temperatures for our crops fairly soon, our harvest could be negatively affected.”

The southeastern region has seen a colder May than in 2009. Temperatures have been so low in American Falls that the average daily temperature during May 2010 was 0.4 of a degree colder than in April.

Figure 2: Average Daily Temperature in Degrees Fahrenheit during May 2009 and 2010



Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

“We need warmer temperatures to avoid our crops being damaged,” Gortsema said.

Reed Findley of the University of Idaho’s Bannock County Extension Office said the cool temperatures “are slowing down crop emergence and may eventually lead to seed rot in the fields. The lack of warm weather may lead to growth delays in spring crops.”

For the farmers of southeastern Idaho these growth delays could lead to lost yields and profits.

“The critical growing time for potato farmers is between late June and the beginning of late August,” Bohl said. “If we see average daily highs in the mid-80s and nighttime temperatures in the low 50s, we could still see an excellent crop. However, if we continue to have a pattern of cool temperatures, the result will be smaller potatoes and lower yields.”

He said much of the region’s potato crop goes to processors who depend on large spuds for their various product lines.

Right now southeastern Idaho farmers are depending on something that is not fully dependable – the weather. Better weather with higher daily temperatures and more rain is needed for another good harvest.

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YOUNG EINSTEIN: A BRIGHT IDEA FOR IDAHO’S FUTURE

The Idaho Department of Labor has collaborated with other groups to develop a program that takes aim at the nation’s poor academic standing globally.

In November 2008, the department, Partners for Prosperity and Idaho State University’s Energy Systems Technology Education Center began informal discussions about how children in eastern Idaho could become more interested in science. Many in the group were already active in the Regional Workforce Innovation Team, which has been developing a strategy to create more career opportunities in advanced manufacturing, health care and energy.

The result was the Young Einstein Program to encourage Idaho's young people to pursue education and careers in science and technology.

According to a 2008 study by the Congressional Research Service, 15-year-old students in the United States ranked 28th internationally in mathematics literacy and 24th in science literacy. Moreover, the United States ranked 20th among all nations in the proportion of 24-year-olds who earn degrees in science or engineering.



Children participating in the Young Einstein pilot program in Idaho Falls.

A clear role for economic developers is creation of employment opportunities. Beyond bringing high technology industries to eastern Idaho, the work force innovation team is always looking at ways to improve the skills of the region's future workers. Jill Kleist, manager of the Idaho Department of Labor's Pocatello office, is a co-developer of Young Einstein.

"We want today's children here in the state to become Idaho's next scientists and engineers," she said.

The collaborators decided that a science career day would be excellent way to expose young people to careers in science and technology. They called this project Young Einstein.

The pilot school for the Young Einstein program was Hawthorne Elementary in Idaho Falls. It was selected because the teachers had expressed interest in hosting a science day for their students. Hawthorne additionally was an attractive site for the Young Einstein program because of a higher than average number of students coming from families living below the poverty level. Kleist said that while the goal was to reach all students in Idaho, "we wanted to have an impact on students from a lower social economic background so that they could see that science and technology offered reachable opportunities for them to obtain rewarding careers."

The first Young Einstein science day was held at Hawthorne Elementary on Jan. 19, 2009.

It was more than a showcase for a few science experiments for the students Kleist described as "excited and captivated by the event."

A key component of the Young Einstein program is a special Parents Night, during which students, parents, teachers and members of the Young Einstein team get together to explore how science education can enrich young minds. The goal is to involve parents in encouraging their children to become interested in science.

Before the Young Einstein program sets foot on any campus, teachers at each school involved with the program are given materials enabling them to enrich their existing curriculum with a greater amount of science. Teachers are also given materials designed to help parents teach scientific concepts to their children at home.

So far the Young Einstein program has reached over 4,000 students from kindergarten through high school in 16 Idaho counties. Kleist and her collaborators hope students see the value of education and how it can lead them to exciting career opportunities as adults.

Young Einstein reflects the Idaho Department of Labor's commitment to developing the minds and skills of young Idahoans, who are the state's future workers, and should have a positive impact on students across the state.

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TWIN FALLS AREA CLIMBING OUT OF RECESSION

The Twin Falls-Jerome micropolitan statistical area is faring better than four of the five metropolitan/micropolitan areas as Idaho begins climbing out of the recession, but its job recovery is trailing the pace statewide by about six-tenths of a percentage point.

South central Idaho did not come through the recession unscathed. The most lasting impact will be in construction – just like the rest of the state and nation. Some estimates put its recovery to pre-recession levels at least 10 years away.

The May estimate for the Twin Falls-Jerome area shows a monthly increase of 400 jobs, seemingly typical at 1.1 percent growth. The year-over-year figure remained in the red at 1.6 percent below May 2009. But that is a substantial improvement over the 4.4 percent deficit in May 2009 from May 2008 during the heart of the downturn. The two-year loss is almost 6 percent. Professional and business services saw the largest decline at 850 jobs, or 16.8 percent. Mining, logging and construction and manufacturing other than food processing posted larger percentage declines but small job totals. Food manufacturing remained fairly strong although it was also down from before the recession.

Leisure and hospitality businesses experienced a spike between May 2007 and May 2008 with the opening of several new hotels and the influx of dignitaries and visitors touring attractions in Twin Falls. That pushed employment in the sector up 9.2 percent for the year ending in May 2008. But then the jobs began disappearing. Over the next year, jobs dropped 5.4 percent even with the opening of several more new hotels.

Public education had also been growing well into the recession, but the fallout from the recession is putting the brakes on job growth there even with continued in-migration to Idaho from other states. School payrolls rose 5.9 percent over the past two years with the opening of a new school and further expansion at the College of Southern Idaho, where enrollment is up as job opportunities remain few and education or retraining alternatives become more attractive. But now school districts are retrenching to cope with a 7.5 percent reduction in state support for the coming school year amid increased competition from distance learning and private schools, and unfunded mandates.

Supporting the agricultural and food processing sectors, the transportation and warehousing arenas have experienced growth of 3.3 percent year-over-year following a fractional drop in jobs from May 2008 to May 2009. This business crosses borders, and some transporters in the region are looking for ways to cut costs created by dead-heading and carrying less than full loads.

The diversity of the area's industry helped reduce losses through the downturn, and having a moderately-paced housing market saved the region from suffering the worst of that market's downward spiral. See table on page 14.

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Twin Falls-Jerome Micropolitan Area Nonfarm Jobs May 2010

	May 2010	Apr 2010	May 2009	May 2008	% Change from April	# Change from April	% Change from May 2009	# Change from May 2009	% Change from May 2008	# Change from May 2008
Total Nonfarm ¹	38,273	37,872	38,884	40,679	1.1%	401	-1.6%	(611)	-5.9%	(2,407)
Total Private	32,142	31,670	32,885	34,738	1.5%	471	-2.3%	(744)	-7.5%	(2,596)
Goods Producing	5,756	5,668	6,038	6,918	1.6%	88	-4.7%	(282)	-16.8%	(1,162)
Service Providing	32,516	32,204	32,846	33,761	1.0%	313	-1.0%	(330)	-3.7%	(1,245)
Private Service Providing	26,385	26,002	26,847	27,820	1.5%	383	-1.7%	(462)	-5.2%	(1,435)
Mining, Logging and Construction	1,547	1,481	1,820	2,312	4.4%	66	-15.0%	(273)	-33.1%	(765)
Manufacturing	4,209	4,187	4,218	4,606	0.5%	22	-0.2%	(9)	-8.6%	(397)
Food Manufacturing	2,557	2,527	2,552	2,571	1.2%	29	0.2%	5	-0.6%	(14)
Other Manufacturing	1,652	1,660	1,666	2,035	-0.4%	(7)	-0.8%	(14)	-18.8%	(383)
Wholesale Trade	1,727	1,723	1,792	1,949	0.2%	4	-3.6%	(65)	-11.4%	(222)
Retail Trade	5,482	5,390	5,543	5,779	1.7%	92	-1.1%	(61)	-5.1%	(297)
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	2,284	2,331	2,212	2,233	-2.0%	(47)	3.3%	72	2.3%	51
Information	665	656	653	657	1.4%	9	1.8%	12	1.1%	8
Financial Activities	1,564	1,552	1,658	1,629	0.7%	11	-5.7%	(95)	-4.0%	(66)
Professional and Business Services	4,208	4,097	4,583	5,058	2.7%	111	-8.2%	(375)	-16.8%	(850)
Education and Health Services	5,627	5,574	5,444	5,294	1.0%	53	3.4%	183	6.3%	333
Leisure and Hospitality	3,236	3,100	3,359	3,552	4.4%	135	-3.7%	(123)	-8.9%	(316)
Other Services	1,594	1,579	1,603	1,669	1.0%	15	-0.6%	(9)	-4.5%	(75)
Government	6,131	6,202	5,999	5,942	-1.1%	(71)	2.2%	132	3.2%	190
Federal Government	467	439	492	491	6.4%	28	-5.1%	(25)	-4.9%	(24)
State Government	546	543	538	542	0.6%	3	1.5%	8	0.7%	4
Local Government	5,118	5,220	4,969	4,909	-2.0%	(102)	3.0%	150	4.3%	210
Government Educational Services	3,385	3,511	3,257	3,197	-3.6%	(127)	3.9%	128	5.9%	187
Government Administration	2,747	2,691	2,742	2,744	2.1%	56	0.2%	4	0.1%	2

THOUSANDS OF IDAHOANS FEEL PINCH OF EXPIRING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE EXTENSIONS

The expiration of all extended benefit programs is expected to affect nearly 20,000 Idahoans currently collecting extended benefits and thousands of others who are currently receiving regular benefits.

Absent any further congressional action, the end of May marked the expiration of extended benefits, which have been in place for nearly two years. The Emergency Unemployment Compensation '08 program was activated in July 2008 as the recession continued to grow and fewer jobs were available to unemployed workers. In the following February, the Federal-State Extended benefits program triggered and were extended by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Federal Additional Compensation was also part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, providing an additional \$25 for every check issued after Feb. 22, 2009. These programs combined to offer unemployed workers an additional 28 to 73 weeks of benefits on top of the 10 to 26 weeks provided by regular state unemployment insurance.

Federal Additional Compensation

The expiration of the Federal Additional Compensation program will impact all benefit recipients who establish benefits during the week May 30, 2010, and after. They will receive \$25 less than their counterparts who entered the unemployment system one week earlier.

Regular Benefits

Regular state benefit recipients, those who are collecting their initial 10 to 26 weeks of benefits, lost their eligibility for extended federal benefits if they were still collecting regular state benefits for the week beginning May 23, 2010. Once their regular benefit payments run out, they will no longer receive weekly payments. This is expected to affect 800 to 1,000 of Idaho's insured unemployed each week. On average, the exhausters would have been entitled to an additional 59 weeks of benefits under both the extended federal benefit and federal-state benefit programs had they not expired.

Federal-State Extended

The expiration of Federal-State Extended Benefit program, the last phase of this recession's lengthened unemployment compensation structure, has the most immediate and dramatic impact. Benefits to all claimants in this program ended with the payments made the week of June 5. To be eligible for federal-state extended benefits, unemployed workers must have already exhausted their 10 to 26 weeks of regular state benefits and their 18 to 53 weeks of extended federal benefits. Of the more than 150,000 people who have received unemployment insurance during this recession, only 8,400 people failed to find work before becoming eligible for federal-state extended benefits. Of those, 4,375 exhausted this final phase of benefits. Of the 4,000 people who had not exhausted, 1,600 found employment, moved out-of-state or gave up looking for work. The remaining 2,400 were directly affected by the expiration of the extended federal programs and no longer receive unemployment insurance compensation.

More than 50 percent of the federal-state extended benefit recipients came from three industries – construction, manufacturing and management of companies and enterprises. Construction and manufacturing were disproportionately affected during the recession, increasing competition for job openings due to the large number of unemployed.

Emergency Unemployment Compensation '08

Within weeks after the final payments have been distributed to Federal – State Extended Benefit recipients, the rolls of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation '08 program will begin declining as claimants exhaust their

benefit entitlements under the tier they were in when the program expired. The last date for regular state benefit claimants to qualify for the extended program was the week beginning May 23, 2010. Regular benefit recipients who exhausted their regular unemployment insurance after that week are no longer eligible for extended benefits. Those receiving extended benefits can get payments until Nov. 6, 2010, but because the program is structured in tiers and claimants can no longer move to new tiers since the program expired, extended benefit claimants will exhaust their allocations long before that date. Benefit recipients qualified for Tier 1 on Sunday, May 23, 2010, are now locked into that tier. Claimants in Tiers 2 through 4 as of Sunday, May 30, are also now locked in. The maximum number of weeks for which benefits can be received ranges from six to 20 depending on the tier. While it is possible for a handful of claimants to receive benefits through mid-October, the majority of extended benefit recipients will most likely exhaust within the next 12 weeks.

Emergency Unemployment Compensation '08		
Program Phase	Maximum Weeks Authorized	Period in Which Majority Will Exhaust
Tier 1	20 weeks	12 weeks
Tier 2	14 weeks	9 weeks
Tier 3	13 weeks	8 weeks
Tier 4	6 weeks	5 weeks

Each week, roughly 450 people exhaust Tier 4 benefits, and since there is no longer the Federal-State Extended Benefit program, those claimants have no new program to move to.

What to Expect in the Near Future

Unless Congress passes extensions to the current extended unemployment compensation programs or creates new programs, Idaho will see the total number of people obtaining unemployment compensation drop by 18,000 and its benefit payment composition shift from predominantly extended benefits to regular benefits over the next 12 weeks.

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NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO: TWO YEARS AFTER THE RECESSION BEGAN

North central Idaho's job losses since the recession began in December 2007 have been slightly less steep than the state's or nation's.

The relative stability of some of the region's large employers including the University of Idaho, Clearwater Paper, Lewis-Clark State College, the Nez Perce Tribe and the Forest Service helped insulate the region from the effects of the recession.

Decreased employment at wood products and jet boat manufacturers was partially offset by the growth of ATK, the ammunitions manufacturer in Lewiston, and several equipment and metal parts manufacturers in Idaho and Lewis counties as well as Nightforce Optics, the rifle scope maker in Clearwater County.

% Change in Nonfarm Jobs Dec. 2007 to Dec. 2009	
North Central Idaho	-3.8%
Clearwater County	-0.9%
Idaho County	-11.3%
Latah County	-2.0%
Lewis County	-1.5%
Nez Perce County	-4.2%
State of Idaho	-8.3%
United States	-6.1%

Percentage Change in Employment Dec. 2007 to Dec. 2009

	North Central Idaho	State of Idaho	United States
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	-3.8%	-8.3%	-6.1%
Logging & Mining	-26.5%	-26.8%	-8.4%
Construction	-19.0%	-35.6%	-24.0%
Manufacturing	-9.1%	-18.3%	-15.9%
Wholesale Trade	-7.5%	-9.6%	-7.8%
Retail Trade	-12.4%	-10.9%	-8.0%
Transportation & Utilities	-10.5%	-4.9%	-8.1%
Information	-19.9%	-10.8%	-9.1%
Financial Activities	-8.6%	-9.9%	-6.9%
Professional & Business Services	-5.8%	-8.2%	-8.5%
Educational & Health Services	6.8%	8.1%	4.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	-6.4%	-9.6%	-4.2%
Other Services	5.2%	-6.9%	-0.4%
Government Education	4.2%	0.0%	0.4%
Government Administration	1.8%	4.8%	0.4%
Government Tribes	7.2%	5.2%	NA

(D) Data cannot be disclosed.

North central Idaho's tourism sector performed slightly better than the state and nation. Since December tourism in the region is primarily business-oriented, the December numbers show more of a drop than the summer and fall figures.

Growth of the health care sector throughout the region and technology transfer companies in Moscow also helped north central Idaho hold up better than the nation. See changes in nonfarm jobs by north central Idaho counties in December 2009 and 2007 on page 18.

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WHO MOVES TO NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO?

Where do people who move into north central Idaho come from? How many fewer people are moving in than a few years ago? Information from the Idaho Transportation Department on the surrender of out-of-state drivers' licenses provides some answers.

The surrender of out-of-state drivers' licenses and identification cards peaked in north central Idaho at 3,765 in 2006. The number fell slightly in 2007 and then fell sharply in both 2008 and 2009.

Statewide, the numbers also peaked in 2006 and have been falling since. The regional decline from 2006 to 2009 was 32 percent, larger than the state's 26 percent drop. As might be expected, Washington provided the most migrants followed by California and then Oregon.

Data compiled by the Census Bureau's 2008 American Community Survey shows the age of people who had moved to north central Idaho from another state or abroad in the previous year. With the University of Idaho and Lewis-Clark State College drawing many people in their late teens and early 20s, it's not surprising that youth make up the largest percentage of new residents. See table on page 19 for more data.

Ages of People Moving to Area Last Year	
Under 18 years	18.1%
18 to 24 years	40.9%
25 to 44 years	21.1%
45 to 64 years	14.1%
65 years & over	5.7%

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Nonfarm Payroll Jobs in December 2009 and 2007 by County

	Clearwater		Idaho		Latah		Lewis		Nez Perce	
	2009	2007	2009	2007	2009	2007	2009	2007	2009	2007
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	2,879	2,905	4,022	4,532	15,535	15,847	1,353	1,373	21,170	22,089
Logging & Mining	144	220	133	161	198	288	(D)	(D)	180	222
Construction	152	135	280	376	417	559	23	47	611	714
Manufacturing	202	200	346	506	351	436	152	144	2,682	2,821
Wholesale Trade	15	19	127	134	202	208	99	104	539	597
Retail Trade	273	324	494	537	1,867	2,017	183	203	2,538	3,035
Transportation & Utilities	110	97	158	186	94	100	62	55	964	1,114
Information	(D)	(D)	42	62	200	279	(D)	(D)	337	382
Financial Activities	71	63	181	196	398	486	41	47	1,768	1,899
Professional & Business Services	81	82	71	75	701	702	16	20	1,130	1,242
Educational & Health Services	507	450	613	607	1,624	1,553	147	139	3,532	3,267
Leisure & Hospitality	210	198	302	390	1,817	1,941	88	62	1,744	1,853
Other Services	d	d	75	90	631	578	11	14	958	909
Government Education	253	246	333	351	6,200	5,876	216	208	1,883	1,848
Government Administration	805	812	867	861	836	824	228	223	1,554	1,495
Government Tribes	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	59	750	691

Drivers Licenses Surrendered By Out of State Drivers, by County of Residence

(Does not include I.D. Cards)

	Clearwater			Idaho			Latah			Lewis			Nez Perce		
	2009	2007	2005	2009	2007	2005	2009	2007	2005	2009	2007	2005	2009	2007	2005
TOTAL	142	185	1852	302	388	449	908	1,156	1,128	106	125	104	683	1,376	1,090
From Other Countries	1	0	0	0	1	0	7	8	11	0	0	1	4	3	5
Canada	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	1	0	0	1	2	2	4
Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	10	0	0	0	2	1	1
From Other States	141	185	185	302	387	449	901	1,148	1,117	106	125	103	679	1,373	1,085
West	116	67	157	237	327	375	666	831	841	94	103	92	586	1,126	908
Alaska	4	4	4	15	13	14	22	50	26	5	6	3	19	22	27
Arizona	6	7	4	18	15	8	26	23	28	5	8	5	29	40	27
California	24	42	45	67	107	117	121	104	146	22	13	28	67	150	153
Colorado	5	3	5	10	5	8	16	28	31	1	6	2	7	23	21
Montana	4	8	9	20	23	36	38	62	39	4	10	3	31	73	82
Nevada	5	2	8	8	24	17	22	18	25	3	7	9	18	59	34
Oregon	20	0	26	31	39	42	71	97	114	21	12	15	69	166	86
Utah	6	0	2	9	9	17	41	33	43	4	7	4	7	25	13
Washington	32	0	46	47	83	108	288	379	346	26	26	23	326	542	445
Wyoming	7	1	0	6	7	7	10	12	17	2	6	0	7	12	16
Other	3	0	8	6	2	1	11	25	26	1	2	0	6	14	4
Midwest	11	59	11	27	20	25	87	128	127	5	11	7	36	156	87
Illinois	1	3	1	6	1	1	9	22	10	0	1	0	1	3	9
Michigan	2	1	1	3	0	1	10	15	23	0	3	0	7	8	5
Minnesota	0	0	3	2	5	4	12	14	13	1	0	1	4	85	12
Ohio	3	3	2	1	2	1	9	27	24	0	2	1	1	5	4
Wisconsin	0	48	1	1	0	2	22	14	18	0	1	1	8	9	13
Other	5	4	3	14	12	16	25	36	39	4	4	4	15	46	44
South	13	23	15	28	30	41	102	137	99	6	8	4	42	75	73
Florida	5	4	4	5	10	9	6	10	20	1	2	1	9	15	16
Texas	3	0	2	7	8	10	31	46	15	0	2	0	9	20	25
Virginia	0	10	0	0	1	0	17	17	13	0	2	0	5	6	8
Other	5	9	9	16	11	22	48	64	51	5	2	3	19	34	24
Northeast	1	36	2	10	10	8	46	52	50	1	3	0	15	16	17
New York	0	6	2	1	1	2	12	9	7	1	2	0	5	5	9
Pennsylvania	0	25	0	3	2	0	11	14	5	0	0	0	4	2	3
Other	1	5	0	6	7	6	23	29	38	0	1	0	6	9	5

Source: Idaho Department of Transportation

AGRICULTURE PLAYS IMPORTANT ROLE IN NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO

The rich land of north central Idaho's Palouse, Camas Prairie and Weippe Prairie is a cornerstone of the region's agriculture – wheat, barley, peas, lentils, grass seed, rapeseed, canola, oats and forage. Beef cattle are the major livestock. Some farmers raise horses, pigs, dairy cows, bees and sheep.

While agriculture plays a relatively small role in the Clearwater County economy, it is the most important private-sector industry in Lewis and Latah counties. Agriculture shares the top spot with timber in Idaho County's economy, and while farm employment and income are relatively small in Nez Perce County, the county is a major base for farm suppliers and for grain transportation and storage.

Dozens of businesses store and transport agricultural products or provide equipment, fertilizer, seed, fuel and other supplies. Many others provide crop dusting, veterinary support, soil analysis and other agricultural services. Farmers and ranchers are major customers for building material stores, fuel providers and automotive dealerships. In good farm years, retail stores, restaurants, service providers and community organizations benefit tremendously from the additional spending and giving by farm families.

The coming season depends – as always – on demand, expenses and weather.

Agricultural prices are notoriously volatile. The only thing that can be said for certain is some commodities will receive higher prices and others lower. A global wheat glut has driven down prices significantly from their highs in 2008. Wheat prices nearly doubled from \$4.34 a bushel in May 2007 to \$8.04 in May 2008. They fell to \$4.74 by April 2009, then slid to \$4.10 this May. The worldwide surplus probably will maintain the downward pressure, but prices also will depend on weather conditions and the speed of the global economic recovery. Lentil prices, which rose to record levels in 2008 and 2009, have moderated but remain favorable. Canola prices remain near their 2009 level. The recovery is expected to increase demand for beef, allowing prices to rebound somewhat this year.

Operating costs are likely to be a mixed bag. Prices for gasoline and other fuels have risen sharply since last year. Lower feed prices have been helping ranchers. The recession caused starting pay to dip somewhat in 2009, and wage levels are not likely to increase before this fall's harvest. After jumping to record highs since 2007, most fertilizer prices had fallen back to their 2006 levels by the end of last year. However, there is likely to be some upward pressure this year as demand rises with the world's recovery from the recession.

One factor that has helped U.S. farmers during the last couple of the years has been depreciation of the dollar. When the dollar is weakening, American crops are less expensive in foreign markets and foreign crops are more expensive for Americans. Now, the Greek financial crisis and other factors are making the dollar appreciate against the Euro and other major currencies. The dollar has continued to depreciate relative to the Canadian dollar, and Canadian farmers and ranchers are Idaho's major competitors.

Weather is the other great unknown. The rains from late March into early June brought much-needed moisture after a dry winter. But continued rainfall could harm crops. Fields at lower elevations are doing fine, but farms on the Camas and Weippe prairies are starting to get soggy. If the sun comes out soon, then some farmers will be able to harvest wheat soon after the Fourth of July – two to three weeks ahead of normal. Farmers, their suppliers and their communities will be hoping for that perfect combination of sun and rain that brings record yields. See table on page 21 for more information.

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North Central Idaho Facts from 2007 Census of Agriculture

	Region 2 Total	Clearwater	Idaho	Latah	Lewis	Nez Perce
Number of farms	2,803	241	760	1,104	225	473
Land in farms	1,604,203	69,568	590,927	344,472	245,944	353,292
Average size of farm	572	289	778	312	1,093	747
Farms by size						
1 to 9 acres	5.7%	2.1%	3.9%	5.3%	1.8%	13.1%
10 to 49 acres	23.5%	32.0%	22.9%	24.7%	13.8%	22.0%
50 to 179 acres	28.6%	27.4%	23.3%	37.6%	20.9%	20.5%
180 to 499 acres	18.1%	22.8%	18.7%	17.9%	15.1%	16.7%
500 to 999 acres	8.6%	10.0%	10.3%	6.5%	14.2%	7.6%
1,000 or more acres	15.4%	5.8%	20.9%	8.0%	34.2%	20.1%
Primary Job of Principal Operator						
Farming	45.7%	44.0%	51.4%	36.7%	61.3%	51.0%
Other	54.3%	56.0%	48.6%	63.3%	38.7%	49.0%
Market value of products sold	\$222,681,000	\$7,950,000	\$51,362,000	\$60,932,000	\$43,744,000	\$58,693,000
Crops	\$195,000,000	\$5,670,000	\$36,740,000	\$57,460,000	\$40,551,000	\$54,579,000
Animals	\$27,681,000	\$2,280,000	\$14,622,000	\$3,472,000	\$3,193,000	\$4,114,000
Average market value of products per farm	\$79,444	\$32,988	\$67,582	\$55,192	\$194,418	\$124,087

Source 2007 Census of Agriculture

HOW NORTHERN IDAHO HAS FARED THE GREAT RECESSION

The recession claimed over 6 percent of the nonfarm jobs in northern Idaho from 2007 to 2009 – a loss of nearly 6,200.

Construction was hit hardest. Nearly one in three jobs disappeared, primarily in the specialty trades. Specialty trade contractors accounted for over 4,700 of the region’s 8,100 construction jobs in 2007. By 2009, the sector had shrunk to around 5,600 and jobs in specialty trades fell to 3,300.

Of the 1,100 jobs lost in manufacturing, over 900 were in wood products manufacturing. Next to construction, the lumber industry was the hardest hit – losing more than 1,300 jobs between 2007 and 2008. Nearly 400 were in logging and forestry.

Health care was the only private industry sector posting marked growth from 2007 to 2009 in northern Idaho. Jobs were up by 8 percent, almost 800. About 46 percent of the increase – over 350 jobs – was in nursing and 32 percent – more than 250 jobs – was in ambulatory care services like clinics and doctors’ offices.

Percent Change in Nonfarm Jobs 2007-2009

	Region 1	State of Idaho	United States
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	-10.3%	-8.3%	-6.1%
Logging & Mining	-28.8%	-26.8%	-8.4%
Construction	-30.4%	-35.6%	-24.0%
Manufacturing	-13.4%	-18.3%	-15.9%
Wholesale Trade	-4.0%	-9.6%	-7.8%
Retail Trade	-8.3%	-10.9%	-8.0%
Transportation & Utilities	-12.5%	-4.9%	-8.1%
Information	-14.9%	-10.8%	-9.1%
Financial Activities	-0.2%	-9.9%	-6.9%
Professional & Business Services	-6.5%	-8.2%	-8.5%
Educational & Health Services	9.0%	8.1%	4.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	-8.1%	-9.6%	-4.2%
Other Services	-6.4%	-6.9%	-0.4%
Government Education	-0.3%	0.0%	0.4%
Government Administration	3.6%	4.8%	0.4%
Government Tribes	5.0%	5.2%	NA

In 2009, northern Idaho had 8,362 businesses, down 2.4 percent from 2007. The loss was spread among Kootenai County, the biggest being Coeur d’Alene and 63 percent of the businesses, and the other four counties.

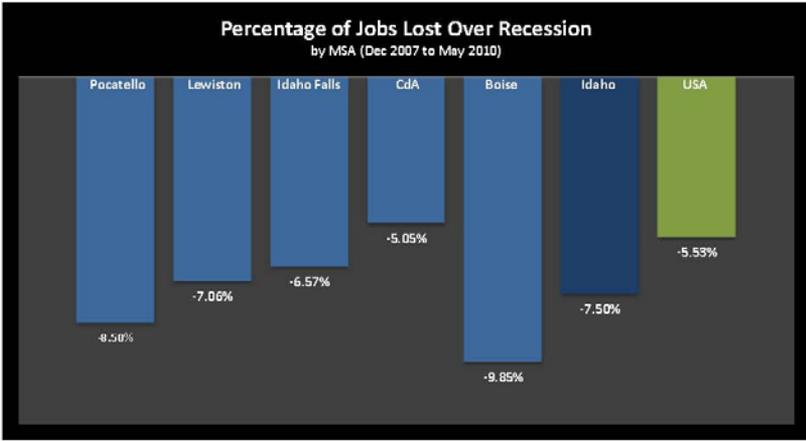
The recession sent job applicants up 48 percent and job openings down 72 percent. Job seekers from construction, manufacturing and retail were double their number in normal economic times, and even today there are still almost 14 job applicants for every job opening.

However, from the beginning of the Great Recession in December 2007 until now the Coeur d’Alene metropolitan area, which covers Kootenai County, has weathered the recession better than the state’s other metro areas. Coeur d’Alene job loss was just over 5 percent – almost 3,100 jobs. See table on page 23 and graph on page 24 for more information.

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Employment Activity in Northern Idaho 2007-2009

Geographic Area	Average Employment			Employers			Applicants/Job Openings			Unemployment Benefits (in millions)		
	2007	2009	Change	2007	2009	Change	2007	2009	Change	2007	2009	Change
Region 1	83,122	76,968	-7.4%	8,362	8,174	-2.2%	2.4	15.7	554.2%	\$22.2	\$101.8	358.6%
Benewah	3,640	3,357	-7.8%	356	353	-0.8%	3.2	8.1	153.1%	\$1.5	\$6.2	313.3%
Bonner	14,716	13,365	-9.2%	1,800	1,744	-3.1%	2.0	11.4	470.0%	\$4.6	\$21.7	371.7%
Boundary	3,561	3,414	-4.1%	484	475	-1.9%	4.0	14.3	257.5%	\$1.8	\$5.3	194.4%
Kootenai	56,436	52,251	-7.4%	5,235	5,144	-1.7%	2.2	19.2	772.7%	\$12.8	\$60.6	373.4%
Shoshone	4,769	4,580	-4.0%	488	458	-6.1%	3.2	8.1	153.1%	\$1.5	\$8.1	440.0%
Idaho	660,677	614,471	-7.0%	56,465	55,997	-0.8%	2.7	10.5	288.9%	\$120.5	\$600.7	398.5%



NECESSITY - THE MOTHER OF ALL INVENTION

Without a problem to be solved, a solution would never emerge. When people need something, they invariably come up with a way of getting it.

During this recession, many people have found themselves in need and looked for creative ways to generate new sources of income by satisfying other people's needs. This entrepreneurial spirit led to a surge in nonemployer businesses, spurred by dislocated workers and recent university graduates as wage and salary employment declined.

Nonemployer businesses have no paid employees, generate annual receipts of \$1,000 or more and are subject to federal income taxes. Most nonemployers are self-employed individuals operating very small unincorporated businesses. In some cases they are the owner's principal source of income.

Idaho was recently ranked in the top five states on the Kauffman Index of Entrepreneurial Activity. The index calculated that about 450 of every 100,000 adults 20 to 64 who did not have a business before, started businesses each month in 2009 and spent at least 15 hours a month working at it.

Micron Technology, now the largest computer chip maker in America, started out much that way.

Most businesses that have weathered this recession diversified their market base. It has been the foresight of entrepreneurs that has diversified the economy.

There were just over 21.7 million nonemployer businesses in the United States in 2007. The state of Idaho had 114,338. That was 7.6 percent of the population. More than half of Idaho's 44 counties are at or above the national average of 7.2 percent of the population involved in a nonemployer business. Blaine County contains the highest percentage of nonemployers at 15.3 percent, about 3,325 firms. Teton and Valley counties followed at 14.6 percent and 14.2 percent.

Three of the five counties in northern Idaho have averages higher than the state. Bonner County leads the region in the percentage of nonemployer businesses at 9.6 percent and is in the top 10 counties in the state. Kootenai at 8.1 percent and Boundary at 8 percent follow.

In northern Idaho, the industry with the most entrepreneurial activity was construction, accounting for 16.6 percent of the nonemployer firms or 2,847. They had \$169.2 million in receipts in 2007. Benewah and Shoshone counties differ slightly from the other three northern counties. Other services were the focus of the largest number of nonemployer businesses in both counties – specifically personal and laundry services.

Nonemployer Firms by County 2007

County	# of Non-employer Firms	Population	Non-employer firms per capita	Non-employer firms as a % of total population
Blaine	3,325	21,691	0.15	15.3%
Teton	1,229	8,418	0.15	14.6%
Valley	1,269	8,922	0.14	14.2%
Adams	387	3,548	0.11	10.9%
Custer	444	4,108	0.11	10.8%
Camas	116	1,086	0.11	10.7%
Lemhi	769	7,781	0.10	9.9%
Lewis	353	3,620	0.10	9.8%
Bonner	3,958	41,171	0.10	9.6%
Jefferson	1,996	22,766	0.09	8.8%
Boise	649	7,605	0.09	8.5%
Fremont	1,053	12,596	0.08	8.4%
Ada	30,967	372,467	0.08	8.3%
Kootenai	10,863	133,922	0.08	8.1%
Boundary	872	10,856	0.08	8.0%
Idaho	1,215	15,268	0.08	8.0%
Bonneville	7,443	96,444	0.08	7.7%
State of Idaho	114,338	1,499,245	0.08	7.6%
Bear Lake	444	5,856	0.08	7.6%
Gem	1,238	16,472	0.08	7.5%
Franklin	904	12,182	0.07	7.4%
Cassia	1,554	20,959	0.07	7.4%
Clearwater	606	8,228	0.07	7.4%
Twin Falls	5,224	72,906	0.07	7.2%
Washington	712	9,974	0.07	7.1%
Caribou	486	6,859	0.07	7.1%
Oneida	291	4,132	0.07	7.0%
Butte	193	2,780	0.07	6.9%
Minidoka	1,292	18,675	0.07	6.9%
Latah	2,554	37,295	0.07	6.8%
Shoshone	876	12,798	0.07	6.8%
Payette	1,509	22,750	0.07	6.6%
Benewah	610	9,283	0.07	6.6%
Madison	2,438	37,160	0.07	6.6%
Bannock	5,201	80,204	0.06	6.5%
Canyon	11,527	178,795	0.06	6.4%
Owyhee	692	10,947	0.06	6.3%
Bingham	2,732	43,459	0.06	6.3%
Gooding	892	14,328	0.06	6.2%
Lincoln	276	4,548	0.06	6.1%
Jerome	1,173	20,011	0.06	5.9%
Nez Perce	2,199	38,768	0.06	5.7%
Clark	49	935	0.05	5.2%
Power	381	7,676	0.05	5.0%
Elmore	1,384	28,996	0.05	4.8%

Bonner County, which had the largest percentage of nonemployer businesses, not only had many one-man construction companies but also 495 real estate and 498 professional service companies among its 3,958 nonemployer firms.

The recession unleashed pent up demand for startup businesses. According to North Idaho College's Small Business Development Center, startup businesses more than doubled from 2008 to 2009. These businesses spanned the economy from retail and technology-based to manufacturing, distribution and a myriad of services.

After being cautious throughout 2008, more and more entrepreneurs are now seeing signs of recovery and becoming eager to get to work. The Small Business Development Center is seeing a boost in demand assistance as these businesses implement their market plans to secure their places in the local economy.

Sandpoint Writer Takes Advantage of Recession

After losing both of her part-time jobs due to the recession, Sandpoint's Jane Fritz had lost her safety net. Both jobs allowed her to focus on her book that she had been working tirelessly on for the past five years.

Fritz started out as a freelance writer and independent radio producer before finding her new calling with The Idaho Mythweaver, an educational arts and humanities organization building awareness of Indian Tribes in Idaho. She started writing "Legendary Lake Pend Oreille: Idaho's Wilderness of Water," in the latter part of 2005. The book covers the human and natural history of the lake and includes a number of color and black-and-white photos and illustrations that tell stories about individuals who have visited or lived on the lake.

Jane finished the book in the summer of 2008 and spent the next two years polishing it to the publisher's guidelines. Her book was published in December 2009, just one month after she lost one of her part-time jobs.

Jane is only one of the 2,277 who have been affected by the recession in Bonner County.

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Area and County Developments

Nonfarm jobs data for the state and labor market areas are no longer included in the newsletter, but are posted on the department's labor marketing information Web site at <http://lmi.idaho.gov/EmploymentUnemployment/IdahoNonfarmJobs/tabid/760/Default.aspx>. See the links at the end of each regional article.

NORTHERN IDAHO

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai & Shoshone counties

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- Spokane County has awarded two projects totaling \$4 million to Post Falls-based Knife River Corp. and Coeur d'Alene-based Owens Construction Inc. for two sewer lines in the Spokane Valley and Liberty Lake areas. The lines will replace septic tanks as part of the county's long-term effort to connect county residences to its sewer system.
- Contractors Northwest Inc. of Coeur d'Alene started a \$10.5 million expansion of the Coeur d'Alene sewage treatment facility that includes a 250,000 gallon digester, 2,600-square-foot digester-control building for boilers and equipment, 650-square-foot biogas-control building for methane gas captured to heat six other structures at the facility, a 7,300-square-foot heated maintenance and storage building and a 9,000-square-foot two-story administration building.
- The Coeur d'Alene Tribe is contracting for design and construction of a passenger transfer station and a bus maintenance and storage facility for the Citylink public bus system. Of the \$2 million the projects are estimated to cost, \$1.7 million is from federal funds the tribe received late last year.
- Agilent Technologies, a spin-off of Hewlett-Packard, will close its Liberty Lake operation this fall, affecting 100 workers. In 2001 the Agilent plant had more than 1,200 workers on three shifts turning out circuit boards. By 2004, after cutbacks and a corporate shake-up, Agilent was left with fewer than 300 workers, most of them doing research and development on wireless test equipment. Many of the top engineering jobs paid between \$65,000 and \$100,000 a year.

BENEWAH COUNTY

- The Department of Environmental Quality has offered to loan the city of St. Maries \$2.1 million at 1.75 percent interest to be repaid over 20 years to install water meters. The city is one of six in the state without meters and one of 26 projects in the state that DEQ has designated a priority for 2011. Of the city's 1,534 water hookups, 1,399 remain unmetered.

BONNER COUNTY

- Farms, forests and foods was the theme of the 44th annual Farm Tour presented by Idaho Forest Group in mid-June. The tour provided an educational opportunity to discover the inner workings of local farms and forests. This year's tour explored southern Bonner County's Bureau of Land Management lands and Garfield Bay. After a primer on the Great Fire of 1910, the tour traveled to the WaterLife Discovery Center's focus on outdoor aquatic education surrounded by forested wetlands and abundant wildlife.

Last on the itinerary was the Gabriel Creek Ranch and its business of raising elk, rabbits, chickens, eggs and goats for meat, dairy and soap.

- The Kodiak program offered at the Spokane Turbine Center trains pilots and mechanics in three weeks to use the Kodiak, developed by Sandpoint-based Quest Aircraft Co. The aircraft is custom designed for flying in remote places. Its turboprop engine and wing design give it maneuverability for short takeoffs and landings. Quest has sold over a dozen Kodiaks to mission groups and continues to produce two a month, with a backlog of more than 40 planes.
- West Bonner County School District voters overwhelmingly backed a \$1.49 million supplemental levy. Over \$822,000 will go to cover the state budget reduction. The rest will finance a school resource officer, extracurricular activities, field trips, library, technology supplies, facility improvements, federal mandate compliance, the gifted and talented program, curriculum and emergency critical equipment replacement.
- Since Naples Elementary School is not considered a rural school, the Boundary County School Board is faced with potentially closing it. Idaho funds rural schools at a higher rate than non-rural schools. Under state law a school must be located 10 or more miles from a district office to be considered rural. Naples is nine miles from the district office. Since local hops farms are drastically cutting production this year, as many as 40 fewer migrant students are expected in class – and that translates into \$81,000 less in state support. The board is considering consolidating Naples and Valley View Elementary.

KOOTENAI COUNTY

- The small town of Bayview celebrates 100 years. Five businessmen formed the Prairie Development Co. in Spokane and plotted the town where folks could lounge on float homes. Bayview was known for the limestone mined from local quarries.
- Jacklin Seed marks its 75th business anniversary this year. The organization, which is now known in the industry as Jacklin Seed by Simplot, was started in 1936 by Arden Jacklin and his father, brothers and other relatives at Dishman in the Spokane Valley. The company's first seed crops were peas and beans, not grass. The organization flourished during World War II, thanks in large part to supplying dried foodstuffs to the military.
- The Ray and Joan Kroc Community Center turns 1 year old in June. The center originally anticipated around 2,000 members with hopes of 5,000 by this time. Today, it has 20,500 members and has entertained around 630,000 visitors. It has 272 employees. The Kroc Center with the second-most members in the West is in Salem, Ore., with 9,400.
- Post Falls, Coeur d'Alene and Lakeland school district board members are asking voters to approve financing for the Kootenai Technical Education Campus, a \$9.5 million, 50,000-square-foot joint professional-technical high school on the Rathdrum Prairie. The proposal needs a 55 percent majority in each district. The Coeur d'Alene District will levy \$2,683,846 per year for two years. Post Falls will levy \$1,125,254 each year and Lakeland will levy \$940,900.
- The Kootenai School District wants to augment its current supplemental levy with by \$250,000 from the district's bond levy fund, which is used to finish paying off construction of the high school built in 2003. There is currently two years left on the bond. The district's innovative approach would cover the bulk of the \$298,000 cut in state support for next year. The rest

is being covered by reduced sports schedules – high school football cut to nine games, high school volleyball to 12 games, high school basketball to 16 games, high school track to eight meets, junior high football to eight league games only, junior high volleyball to 12 games, junior high basketball to 14 games and junior high track to five meets.

- Conde Nast Traveler magazine has again ranked The Coeur d'Alene resort golf course in the top five among western golf resorts. It also ranks fourth for golf staff and services among courses from Florida to Hawaii in the magazine's Readers' Poll of the top 80 U.S. courses and hotels. The resort course earned the top score among western courses in course design and access and staff services including maintenance. The Coeur d'Alene resort spa was among "The Top 240 Spas in North America, Hawaii, Central America and the Caribbean" chosen by readers of Conde Nast Traveler.

SHOSHONE COUNTY

- Hecla Mining Co. reported net income of \$21.8 million for the first quarter compared to \$7.3 million a year earlier. After a dividend to holders of preferred stock, the company reported net income applicable to common shareholders of \$18.4 million, or 8 cents per basic share, compared to \$3.9 million in the first quarter of 2009. Hecla, as a company, produced 2.5 million ounces of silver in the first quarter of 2010 at a cash cost of \$3.03 per ounce, after by-product credits. That compared to 2.9 million ounces of silver in the first quarter of 2009 at a cash cost of \$4.67 per ounce and 2.4 million ounces of silver in the fourth quarter of 2009 at a cash cost of \$2 per ounce. Lower cash costs in the first quarter of 2010 from a year earlier reflect higher prices for by-product credits and increased production of zinc and lead. Silver production in the first quarter of 2010 compared to the first quarter of 2009 was lower due to normal variation in the mine plan, resulting in lower silver grades at both mines, the company said.
- The Wallace School District opted out of the statewide declaration of financial emergency.

OPENINGS

- The Gateway Bar & Grill in St. Maries
- Pub on 5th in Coeur d'Alene
- JaM's Boutique, a store for little girls, in midtown Coeur d'Alene
- NAI Black rents space at Silver Lake Mall in Coeur d'Alene
- Now and Then, an antiques and collectibles store in Newport, Wash., bordering Priest River
- The Waterfront Restaurant reopens for the season in Priest Lake
- Coeur d'Alene Cellars' wine bar, Barrel Room No. 6 in downtown Coeur d'Alene
- Forty-one new business Licenses were issued in the greater Coeur d'Alene area.

[Link to Coeur d'Alene MSA nonfarm job data.](#)

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NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO

Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce counties

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- The Clearwater Basin Collaborative could receive up to \$40 million in federal funding over the next decade to create hundreds of jobs in restoring 1.4 million acres in the Selway-Middle Fork ecosystem. The collaborative is a finalist for the grant under the Forest Landscape Restoration Act. The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture will award the grants later this summer. The collaborative includes logging and wood product industries, environmentalists, recreational sports groups, state and county governments, economic development organizations and the Nez Perce Tribe. Its restoration proposal could end decades of conflict over elk habitat, wolf management, timber harvesting and stream restoration. If the grant is approved, initial work would occur on Clear Creek above the Kooskia National Fish Hatchery. As many as 380 jobs could be created to thin forests, eradicate noxious weeds, reduce forest fuel loads, restore habitat for fish and wildlife and improve road drainage.
- As Idaho's first wine-growing region, Lewiston was well known for its vineyards and wineries until prohibition wiped out the industry in the 1920s. Eighty years later it returned and is now taking a crucial first step toward establishing recognition. The Palouse Lewis Clark Valley Wine Alliance, representing six wineries and 11 vineyards, is working with Clearwater Economic Development Association to establish an American Viticulture Area in the five counties of north central Idaho. The alliance also is working with the Idaho Grape Growers and Wine Producers Commission to prepare a comprehensive research and marketing strategy for Idaho wines. Through the commission, the alliance recently received an \$18,000 federal grant to finance work toward establishing the viticulture area.
- Throughout the Clearwater and Nez Perce national forests, contractors this summer are upgrading trails, roads and campgrounds. The federal stimulus package is providing \$21 million for 46 projects in the Clearwater forest and \$2 million for 11 projects in the Nez Perce. Many involve culvert replacements to improve fisheries. Others will improve trails, repair bridges, gravel roads, restore asphalt in campgrounds and fix up Forest Service facilities.
- The cities of Cottonwood, Grangeville and Moscow recently received federal stimulus funding for Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant ramps on city sidewalks. The new ramps will feature rectangular pads with prominently raised bumps that help sight-impaired pedestrians determine where they are and the slope of the sidewalk under them. Cottonwood will install 38 ramps, Grangeville 42 and Moscow 93.
- The U.S. Department of Labor recently approved the Idaho Labor Department's petition to dramatically expand the areas of the state where employers receive preference when they bid on federal contracts. The state's petition cited exceptional circumstances that drove the local unemployment rates over 6 percent. Local areas added to the federal preference list were Idaho County and the Lewiston metropolitan area, which includes Nez Perce County and Asotin County in Washington. Because of its long-term high unemployment, businesses in Clearwater County have been receiving federal preference.

- School districts continue grappling with budget problems in the region.
 - The Salmon River Joint School District with 151 students is moving to a four-day school week next fall and increasing the school day by 50 minutes. The district expects to lose about \$150,000 in state support. The four-day week will cut paychecks 20 percent for non-teaching staff.
 - Ten more school districts approved supplemental levies – Salmon River, Culdesac, Cottonwood, Orofino, Kendrick, Nezperce, Highland, Mountain View, Potlatch and Whitepine.
 - The Lewiston Education Association has agreed to a 2.1 percent pay cut in the upcoming school year, and the district cut two days from the school year.

CLEARWATER COUNTY

- Nightforce Inc. in Orofino has won a \$27.5 million Defense Department contract to manufacture, upgrade and repair riflescopes for Special Forces snipers. Nightforce, which employs nearly 50 people, makes high-quality scopes for hunters, police and the military. The work, to be performed in Orofino, will be completed by April 2015.

IDAHO AND LEWIS COUNTIES

- Idaho Sewing for Sports near Grangeville recently hired five new workers to bring its payroll back to 15 and expects to hire more this year as its business picks up. It is getting more orders for chairlift seat covers for ski resorts. The company, which has been operating at Mount Idaho for 15 years, also makes custom padding for baseball stadiums, Olympic sports centers, pole vault pits and tracks and tubes for tubing hills. It recently added a new product line — protective gear and training suits for law enforcement officers. That line could quadruple its annual revenues over the next two years.
- At least two businesses are showing considerable interest in purchasing and reopening the Three Rivers Mill, Kamiah's largest employer at more than 100 workers until it closed in November 2008. The mill's fate should be decided by the end of June.
- Gortsema Motors in Grangeville recently received word that it could keep the General Motors franchise it was scheduled to lose in October. GM's reductions in dealerships have resulted in Barnett-Thompson Chevrolet in Orofino to close and Rudolph's dealership in Lewiston to become a repair shop. Gortsema employs 20 people.
- This year's Winchester Rodeo on July 3-4 will be filmed by a German movie company as part of a documentary titled "Rodeoboxer" – the true story of a German bricklayer, who travels to America to make money to support his family by boxing during rodeos. The boxing match will be filmed July 4. The Winchester Rodeo is an open rodeo, which means that amateurs can compete against professionals.
- The Inn at St. Gertrude opened in May. The bed and breakfast on the campus of the Benedictine Monastery near Cottonwood offers a spectacular view of the Camas Prairie, Buffalo Hump and the Gospel and Seven Devil mountains. Each of the four guest rooms features pillow-top mattresses, private baths, monastery antiques and outdoor living



Inn at St. Gertrude.

space along with TV and broadband Internet access. Guests may enjoy breakfast in the monastery dining room, which observes silence on week-days, or a continental breakfast in the inn's common room. The monastery also operates a spirit center, where it offers spiritual retreats, educational opportunities and space for conferences. Its campus includes the 100-year-old monastery with its beautiful chapel and a museum showcasing north central Idaho history.

- Opportunities Unlimited is closing its Kamiah office. The private, nonprofit company provides training, evaluation, employment and other support to disabled and disadvantaged adults with 20 employees in Kamiah. It also operates offices in Grangeville, Lewiston and Moscow. Kamiah clients will be served by the Grangeville office.

LATAH COUNTY

- The Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport plans to spend up to \$50 million to renovate its runway. The current runway does not meet Federal Aviation Administration standards for the size of aircraft Horizon Air uses, but operations are continuing under an FAA waiver. Construction could start in 2013 if planning and environmental assessments are completed so the new runway would be finished by 2015 or 2016. The FAA will pay 95 percent — \$47.5 million — of the cost. The airport must raise the other \$2.5 million.
- A Canadian company, i-minerals inc., wants a 29-year lease on 225 acres of state land near Bovill to build a \$25 million quartz and feldspar processing plant. The plant near Moose Creek Reservoir would be four miles from the open-pit mine the company wants to begin operating in 2011 on land it has already leased. The mining site could yield quartz-feldspar ore for 30 years. The ore is used for an array of products from glass and ceramics to paint and sand for golf course traps. When fully operational, the mine and processing plant could employ up to 40 people in the Bovill area and another 30 at a Lewiston plant that would further process and then distribute the ore. In addition, the operations would create another 20 contract hauling jobs. About 50 trucks a day, five days a week, would travel between Bovill and Lewiston. Currently all feldspar produced in the United States comes from North Carolina. The Idaho operation would provide easy access throughout the West and internationally through the nearby Lewiston-Clarkston Valley ports.

NEZ PERCE AND ASOTIN COUNTIES

- The city of Clarkston recently received a \$334,600 Small Communities Rural Counties Grant for its 6th Street lighting project — installation of historic streetlights — which is part of downtown revitalization. The city is completing other revitalization projects as well.
- A project envisioned since 2002 soon will become a reality. A \$5.7 million replacement of the 50-year-old Ten Mile Creek Bridge five miles south of Asotin, Wash., begins in July.
- A \$3.7 million federal grant will finance a new activities center at Lapwai High School, which has lacked a gymnasium since the old high school was condemned in 2007. Besides providing a gym, the activities center will house art and band rooms and an auditorium for the fine arts.

[Link to Lewiston MSA nonfarm job data.](#)

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SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO

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

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

ADAMS COUNTY

- Adams County commissioners have asked Idaho Power to join forces with them on a generating plant fueled by woodchips adjacent to the landfill west of Council. The plant that would produce up to 13 megawatts of power and would give the utility generating flexibility to meet periods of high demand. The operation would provide living-wage jobs in a high-unemployment county.

CANYON COUNTY

- Bronco Motors plans a new showroom and lot in the Idaho Center Auto Mall in Nampa. The building will likely open in December and employ roughly 30 people.
- Work upgrading the 11th Avenue overpass in Nampa began in May. The cost of the project is \$4.1 million, and it should create or save 69 jobs.
- The Boise Veterans Affairs Medical Center and community partners have broken ground for the new Caldwell Community Based Outpatient Clinic. The 10,000-square-foot building should be completed next year. Veterans Affairs officials estimate there are nearly 50,000 veterans in the region but outside of Ada County. Since opening in 2007, the Caldwell clinic has seen more than 1,500 patients per year. The new clinic is expected to serve four times that many.
- Darby's at the Market in downtown Nampa has closed, but owner Darrell Kammer says he intends to reopen the bar and main-floor restaurant by late August after interior renovations are completed. As the economy turns around, he says, the business should finally improve.
- The Melba School District has eliminated all middle and high school music programs. District Superintendent Bob Larson said declining enrollment and deep cuts in state education funding made the move necessary. The elementary school will keep its music teacher, who is non-certified. Matt Barkley, president-elect of the Idaho Music Educators Association, said he is not aware of any other districts that are cutting music programs, but he said that could change.
- Caldwell voters approved two school district levies. A \$2.75 million supplemental levy will offset state cuts in support for the next two years, and a \$350,000 plant facilities levy will finance building maintenance for the next five years. The supplemental levy will cost \$104 per year or about \$8.67 per month on a \$100,000 home.

GEM COUNTY

- Walgreens is building a new store in Emmett that should be open by fall. Up to 30 people will work there.
- With the help of \$4 million from federal taxpayers, a new sawmill built by Emerald Forest Products is employing about 40 people in Emmett. Owner Richard Vinson said the plant – on the site of the old Boise Cascade mill that shut down in 2001 – will use Douglas and white fir and Ponderosa pine to make 2-by-4, 2-by-6 and 4-by-4 boards. It will sell lumber to The Home Depot chain and a Boise Cascade beam plant next door.

OWYHEE COUNTY

- Owyhee County has rejoined the Western Alliance for Economic Development. The commissioners had dropped out of the organization last year to save the \$1,000 dues during the budget crisis.
- The Bruneau-Grand View School District will move to a four-day week in the coming school year. The school board also froze district salaries and benefits at current levels to cope with reduced state support.
- The Marsing school board is cutting administrator pay 6.5 percent and teacher pay 4 percent to deal with the reduction in state support in addition to eliminating two and a half teaching positions.

ADA COUNTY

- The 104-year-old Adelman Building in Boise has been restored and is now operating as an events center. The building also houses a restaurant, coffee house and a nightclub.
- MDU Utilities, a customer service center, opened in Meridian with 85 employees. An additional 55 employees will be added by early next year.
- Boise has the authority to offer local companies and developers \$37 million in bonds to finance new buildings and expensive renovations now that the City Council had designated the entire city an "economic recovery zone." While every Idaho county has gotten some bonding authority, Boise was the only city to get its own share. The point is to stimulate construction.
- Portland's Concordia University has completed its purchase of a building in downtown Boise for its first law school. The Lutheran liberal arts university is beginning renovation of a 17,000-square-foot building that will house the law library, and construction will start in July on a three-story, 33,000-square-foot addition for classrooms and office space.
- The median assessed value of a home in Ada County dropped to \$159,800 this January, a 14.3 percent decline from a year earlier. That is 31 percent below the median assessment of \$232,900 at the height of the housing boom in 2006. Ada County Assessor Bob McQuade said home values have continued to fall through 2010 and will drop again dramatically in 2011.
- The Idaho Small Business Development Center is joining with the city of Boise to operate a business incubator downtown. The Greenhouse will provide support staff four hours a day, four days a week, with additional support as needed, city officials said. With the Small Business Development Center's tie to Boise State University, the Greenhouse will give students a chance to get involved in helping new businesses get off the ground. Ten to 12 startups will be housed in the Greenhouse.
- Inovus Solar, a renewable outdoor lighting company in Boise, plans to set up grid-smart, solar-powered light poles with LED luminaries on the Boise State University campus, enabling real-time testing and development of new solar and power conservation technologies. Boise State students will have access to the Inovus Solar installations as they learn about integrating state-of-the-art solar technologies into a distributed production network or "smart grid."

ELMORE COUNTY

- Answering pleas from educators and a mobilized cadre of high school students, voters in the Mountain Home School District approved a \$2.8 mil-

lion school levy. The levy heads off proposals of reducing the school week to four days, cutting teacher pay by up to 20 percent and eliminating all sports programs and academic competitions.

- The Mountain Home Air Force Base has a new commander – Col. Ron Buckley. Buckley is the former operations group commander at Randolph Air Force Base in Texas. He takes over command of the 366th Fighter Wing from Col. John Bird II, who was assigned to the Pentagon as chief of the Force Application Division.

PAYETTE COUNTY

- The Payette County Commission has unanimously changed the county's comprehensive plan to make way for a nuclear power plant. The plan authorizes industrial use of a tract that has previously been designated for agriculture. While that would permit construction of the power plant, Alternative Energy Holdings Inc. must still secure federal and other permits before work can begin.
- Fruitland School District voters have approved a \$475,000 supplemental levy to deal with the district's budget shortfall. That covers less than half the reduction in state support, which will be covered by cuts in all other areas of the district's budget.

VALLEY COUNTY

- The Payette National Forest has received another \$8.2 million in federal stimulus money to reduce forest fuels and improve roads, bridges and trails. That is on top of the \$18.3 million the forest already has budgeted for that kind of work this year.
- The Cascade School District is cutting pay 11.5 percent and limiting some extracurricular activities to close the rest of the budget gap not covered by approval of a \$475,000 supplemental levy.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

- Up to six furlough days will be imposed by the Cambridge School district to help offset reduced state support in the coming school year. The district is also moving to a four-day week.
- Weiser School District patrons have approved a \$350,000 supplemental levy to cover reduced state support. It is the first supplemental levy the district has needed since 2005.

OPENINGS

- Joanne's Creative Cakes in Mountain Home
- KT Lanes bowling alley in Emmett

[Link to Boise City-Nampa MSA nonfarm job data.](#)

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SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO

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

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

BLAINE COUNTY

- The Bald Mountain Lodge, a proposed 87-room hotel with 26 residential units, has reached agreement with the Ketchum City Council, which provided a timetable of incentives. The incentives would disappear should

construction not meet the schedule. If the developers start construction by June 2012 and complete the project by January 2015, they will receive a \$6.6 million exemption from providing employee housing downtown and community housing while receiving the Urban Renewal Agency's \$1.5 million in property tax credit. Should these events occur one year later, then the developers would receive \$5.2 million in incentives. Any later and they will need to provide all 23 employee housing units at an estimated cost of \$2.76 million, community housing at \$2.36 million and would not receive the Urban Renewal Agency's property tax credit.

- The March local option tax totals showed Ketchum breaking a 19-month streak of declining receipts while Sun Valley was still behind year-over-year. However, Ketchum is at just half the 10-year average for March, and Sun Valley is down only 25 percent. A relatively dated study concluded that 80 percent of tax receipts came from visitors, not residents. The tax is 3 percent applied to lodging, tickets to events and drinks by the glass, 2 percent applied to most retail and 1 percent pertained to ski lift tickets and passes.
- With the closure of the Bellevue Health and Welfare office, a Community Mental Health Task Force has formed to fill the gap. The group is looking for creative solutions to a problem that lacks resources, both financially and politically. It is comprised of mental health providers, school district representatives, the police, local government, non-governmental organizations such as the Drug Coalition and the state Health and Welfare regional director.
- Hailey voters supported the \$3.5 million bond for construction of a new rodeo grounds, a skating rink and a recreational center. It received 71 percent of the vote, which frees up an anonymous donation of \$3.9 million toward the project's estimated \$7 million cost. Hailey Mayor Rick Davis believes construction will start after July's Sawtooth Ranger's Wild West of Rodeos. "This will be our own little stimulus package to help jump-start the economy," he said. "It also shows that different groups can come together with a common goal and get something done."
- Unlike other school districts in Idaho that are scraping to maintain operations in the coming year, the Blaine County School District is spending an additional \$18 million in the 2010-2011 school year. The district got a judicial confirmation allowing it to borrow on future levy collections to take advantage now of lower construction costs and stimulus funds that won't be available later. The school district will increase its staffing particularly in its dual immersion program that assists students with English as a second language. But the district plans to assess fees for art and various electives in an effort to cut costs with the least impact.

GOODING COUNTY

- The city of Gooding has opted to replace the runway at its municipal airport with financial assistance from the Federal Aviation Association. The airport is home to Leer Jets and host to a major fly-in during the summer.
- The repair of parts of the retaining wall for the Little Wood River that runs through the city of Gooding has been estimated at \$9 million by the Army Corps of Engineers.

JEROME COUNTY

- City of Jerome administrators have been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association. Only three other municipalities in Idaho have

received this award, which encourages applying the budget holistically – as a financial plan, an operations guide, a communication device and a policy document.

- Midpoint Energy has announced plans to develop a 150-panel solar farm on 405 acres south of Shoshone. The company still needs the required permits and a power purchase plan with Idaho Power. Edgewood Green Technologies will provide the expertise for development when the initial phase of the project is completed.
- The Idaho Dairymen’s Association has formed the nonprofit IDEAL Foundation to raise \$10 million for the Idaho National Center for Livestock and Environmental Studies and to create a permanent endowment for future research. Jerry Kozak, president of the National Milk Producers Federation, has agreed to serve as the national chairman for the campaign.

TWIN FALLS COUNTY

- Ridley’s Family Markets has purchased Sav-Mor Drug in Buhl, a business with a long history in the city dating back to 1948. At some point, Ridley’s will consolidate the pharmacy into its existing grocery store. Ridley’s intends to hire much of the existing staff with little impact to the customer base.

OPENINGS

- Burnt Lemon Grill, a drive-thru restaurant with limited seating, in Twin Falls, formerly Teriyaki Express
- A Spot in the Dark Coffee House in Twin Falls
- Rocket Express Car Wash, the longest carwash in the United States, according to the Western Carwash Association located in Twin Falls. Owners Joe and Janet Russell intend to franchise the concept across the nation, emphasizing reasonable prices and time savings with computer chips that access customers’ accounts.
- Cornerstone Bar & Grill – a restaurant and bar in historic Ketchum

NEW CONSTRUCTION

- Jamba Juice in the Magic Valley Mall, scheduled to open in August
- Buffalo Wild Wings in the Magic Valley Mall, opening in August with estimated employment of 60
- St. Luke’s Surgical Center’s 16,000-square-foot, \$4.5 million ambulatory surgical center in Twin Falls – scheduled completion April 2011.

CLOSINGS

- Hollywood Video stores in Twin Falls and Burley, averaging close to 10 part-time employees at each location. Their last days have not been announced to the public or employees.

[Link to Twin Falls Micro SA nonfarm job data.](#)

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SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO

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

DEVELOPMENTS

BANNOCK COUNTY

- Until a few years ago, the Whitman Hotel was a neglected building in Old Town Pocatello. However, the Whitman in May was awarded the prestigious Orchid Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation from the Idaho Historic Preservation Council. The property, which is currently a listed on

the National Register of Historic Places and has the distinction of helping launch Judy Garland's career, was restored through a joint effort of Old Town Pocatello Inc., the city of Pocatello, the Housing Company, DeWall Construction and Whitman LLC. "The Whitman Hotel project is a cornerstone success in our efforts to attract new businesses and residents to the Old Town area," said Executive Director Stephanie Palagi of Old Town Pocatello. The building provides 26 moderate-income housing units and recently became home to a new women's clothing store.

BINGHAM COUNTY

- The Aberdeen School District finds itself with a \$400,000 budget shortfall even though voters this spring passed a \$550,000 tax levy. District Superintendent Joel Wilson said that "to compensate for the budget deficit the district will not fill two open elementary level teaching positions, and 10 classified staff positions have been eliminated." Additionally, certified staff will be required to be furloughed for nine days while classified staff will be furloughed for five days.
- Voters in the Shelley School District passed a \$250,000 two-year tax levy. District Superintendent Bryan Jolley said the levy helps offset the \$1.2 million reduction in state support, which has led to elimination of three teaching positions and a 10 percent cut in district employee salaries. The passage of the levy prevented more program cuts and a further salary reduction of 5 percent.

CARIBOU COUNTY

- By a margin of 294 to 100, voters in the Grace School District passed a \$200,000 bond. The district, which had already laid off 13 paraprofessionals because of the reduction in state support, avoided further layoffs with approval of the levy.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

- The Franklin County Commission has asked Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter for a drought emergency declaration for the county. While many areas in southeastern Idaho have seen plenty of rain, Franklin County had just 7.77 inches of precipitation through April – short of the 10 inches it usually gets. Extension Agent Stuart Parkinson said irrigation springs look now like they would in fall. He said "many farmers here in the county will have to be careful how they use their irrigation if this weather pattern continues."

ONEIDA COUNTY

- On July 1 the Malad Valley Clinic will merge with the Oneida County Clinic and begin operating from the present location of the Oneida County Clinic. Oneida County Hospital Administrator Todd Winder said "the merger will save about \$45,000 and will not affect the quality of health care residents receive." No reduction of personnel is expected.

POWER COUNTY

- American Falls School District patrons overwhelmingly approved a \$600,000 supplemental levy that will cover the bulk of the looming budget shortfall. But to cover the other \$250,000, the district will eliminate two full-time and one half-time teaching positions and one administrator. Additional cost cutting will affect athletics, activities and pay checks.

[Link to Pocatello MSA nonfarm job data.](#)

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EAST CENTRAL IDAHO

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

DEVELOPMENTS

MADISON COUNTY

- Sugar Salem School District voters passed a \$450,000 supplemental levy with 63 percent of the vote. Officials said the turnout was higher than normal for the proposition which was held in conjunction with the statewide primary election.
- After long negotiations, the Madison School District and the Rexburg Education Association have reached a 2010-2011 salary agreement. Teachers will receive a one-time 4 percent salary reduction and be required to take five furlough days.
- A wage report released by the Madison County Commission found about one-third of the Madison County employees are underpaid. The report estimates that an additional \$200,000 would be needed for employee salaries to match wages found in surrounding counties. On average, county employees were underpaid by more than 16 percent overall and in some cases as much as 60 percent. According to the survey that covered a wide range of occupations, those falling short of comparable pay included the county commissioners, clerks, support staff, sheriff's deputies and mosquito and weed abatement personnel. Only a few jobs – maintenance technician, detention deputy, prosecuting attorney and county bailiff – were not found to be underpaid.

BONNEVILLE COUNTY

- Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce has endorsed a hotel tax of up to 5 percent to finance construction costs for a \$35 million event arena. An Aug. 3 special election is scheduled on the tax and creation of the auditorium district. A similar proposal was defeated by Bonneville County voters in 1999. This time the vote will be limited to Idaho Falls residents. The 140,000-square-foot arena would accommodate conventions, concerts, trade shows and hockey games. Plans include 5,700 seats for spectators. A tract between the Snake River and Interstate 15 has been identified for the project. A feasibility study by Economic Research Associates determined that Idaho Falls could support the arena. According to the study, success of the center lies in part with attracting an anchor tenant or sports franchise.
- A new invention by scientists at Idaho National Laboratory is catching attention from NASA. The Total Ion Control has the ability to increase the number of particles examined by mass spectrometers. This can help examine and identify materials with greater accuracy. The goal is to have the technology onboard the 2018 ExoMars mission - searching for life on Mars. The instrument has a weight, efficiency, reliability and price advantage when compared to available alternatives.
- Idaho Department of Labor partnered with the Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center on a health care career fair at Bonneville High School that drew about 400 students to investigate the different careers and occupations the industry offers. As part of the fair, students could follow the case of a teenager who injured her hand, watching the various health care professionals who tended to her injury as well as those who manage the business of health care – those in billing and coding. Various booths provided

information on different health care careers as well as on training and education requirements.

- Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter and Department of Commerce Director Don Dietrich were in Idaho Falls to mark the beginning of construction of the Goshen North Wind Farm. The farm east of the city and its 83 400-foot wind turbines across 11,000 acres is a joint venture between Ridgeline Energy and BP Wind Energy. It will be the state’s largest wind farm, and the power it produces – enough to power 37,000 homes a year – will be sold to California. The project is expected to cost around \$300 million. Economic impacts to Bonneville County could reach \$20 million in new property taxes, lease payments and job creation. The addition of the wind turbines strengthens Bonneville County and southeastern Idaho as a location for alternative energy enterprises. The area also boasts research and development of nuclear and hydropower.

LEMHI COUNTY

- In Salmon, Rural Idaho Outreach Partners in conjunction with the Idaho Department of Labor, the Idaho National Laboratory and Premier Technology met with local youth. The outreach organization wants students to take a refreshing look at employment opportunities. The objective is to create more educational and career exploration opportunities for rural Idaho students.

[Link to Idaho Falls MSA nonfarm job data.](#)

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SIGNIFICANT PRICE CUT INCREASES ACCESS TO IDAHO CAREER INFORMATION SYSTEM

Beginning this year, additional financial support from the Idaho Department of Labor is allowing the Idaho Career Information System to waive all site license and user fees, making all information files free and available to the public until further notice.

The goal is to make this funding change permanent, increase accessibility to CIS information files for all Idaho citizens and give those without access to CIS an opportunity to use the system. In addition to the 93 percent of school districts, the majority of the postsecondary sites and the many public agencies who use CIS annually, 77 libraries throughout the state offered access to CIS to their patrons for the first time this year.

To do this, and to continue to improve the information and software in CIS products, financial support continues to be a need. Exploration tools, My CIS Portfolio and administrative support services and optional modules such as

Peterson’s Academic Test Prep I will still be provided to all sites at a nominal flat fee.

Idaho is one of the nation’s leading states in providing unprecedented access to career and education planning resources to its citizens.

Overview – Idaho Career Information System

Since 1980 CIS has been providing career and educational planning solutions for people in Idaho. It is the only comprehensive source of career information available about Idaho and the nation. CIS gathers information and data from hundreds of sources and formats it so people can:

- Explore career opportunities
- Find educational programs, and the schools that offer them, related to those opportunities
- Make successful career decisions and educational plans
- Find work

Find out more at <http://cis.idaho.gov>

State of Idaho Data

May 2010 Labor Force (preliminary) compared to May 2009 (benchmarked) data
(continued on next page).

Seasonally Adjusted Data	May 2010				May 2009			
	Civilian Labor Force	# Unemployed	% Unemployed	Total Employment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unemployed	% Unemployed	Total Employment
STATE OF IDAHO	761,352	68,269	9.0	693,083	748,112	57,310	7.7	690,802
COUNTIES								
ADA	195,175	18,420	9.4	176,754	193,138	16,786	8.7	176,352
ADAMS	2,344	267	11.4	2,076	2,177	254	11.7	1,923
BANNOCK	38,962	3,297	8.5	35,665	38,587	2,516	6.5	36,071
BEAR LAKE	3,423	190	5.5	3,234	3,429	161	4.7	3,268
BENEWAH	4,041	447	11.1	3,594	3,946	474	12.0	3,472
BINGHAM	22,263	1,648	7.4	20,615	21,959	1,206	5.5	20,752
BLAINE	14,071	1,154	8.2	12,918	12,704	930	7.3	11,774
BOISE	3,354	254	7.6	3,100	3,290	197	6.0	3,094
BONNER	21,139	2,277	10.8	18,862	20,603	1,848	9.0	18,755
BONNEVILLE	51,478	3,488	6.8	47,990	50,315	2,705	5.4	47,610
BOUNDARY	4,562	639	14.0	3,923	4,394	488	11.1	3,906
BUTTE	1,520	85	5.6	1,436	1,477	59	4.0	1,418
CAMAS	656	64	9.7	592	590	50	8.5	540
CANYON	83,630	9,589	11.5	74,041	82,407	8,535	10.4	73,872
CARIBOU	3,507	248	7.1	3,259	3,454	177	5.1	3,277
CASSIA	10,665	753	7.1	9,912	10,471	475	4.5	9,997
CLARK	588	29	4.9	559	571	20	3.5	551
CLEARWATER	3,569	425	11.9	3,144	3,479	427	12.3	3,052
CUSTER	2,809	151	5.4	2,658	2,907	98	3.4	2,809
ELMORE	11,626	1,075	9.2	10,551	11,446	828	7.2	10,618
FRANKLIN	5,461	334	6.1	5,127	5,500	341	6.2	5,159
FREMONT	5,528	484	8.7	5,045	5,312	346	6.5	4,965
GEM	6,941	740	10.7	6,201	6,890	703	10.2	6,186
GOODING	8,318	544	6.5	7,774	8,202	376	4.6	7,826
IDAHO	7,519	694	9.2	6,826	7,558	646	8.5	6,912
JEFFERSON	11,522	781	6.8	10,741	11,277	621	5.5	10,656
JEROME	10,307	730	7.1	9,578	10,137	536	5.3	9,601
KOOTENAI	74,017	7,298	9.9	66,719	72,098	5,685	7.9	66,413
LATAH	17,202	1,153	6.7	16,049	17,785	916	5.2	16,868
LEMHI	4,030	334	8.3	3,696	4,192	262	6.3	3,929
LEWIS	1,801	130	7.2	1,671	1,766	74	4.2	1,693
LINCOLN	2,575	250	9.7	2,325	2,623	209	8.0	2,414
MADISON	15,667	975	6.2	14,692	15,271	813	5.3	14,459
MINIDOKA	9,762	724	7.4	9,039	9,641	525	5.4	9,117
NEZ PERCE	19,664	1,329	6.8	18,335	18,259	1,113	6.1	17,146
ONEIDA	2,130	98	4.6	2,032	2,211	115	5.2	2,096
OWYHEE	4,236	214	5.0	4,022	4,156	143	3.4	4,013
PAYETTE	10,541	933	8.9	9,608	10,597	1,099	10.4	9,498
POWER	3,445	272	7.9	3,173	3,376	167	4.9	3,209
SHOSHONE	6,361	882	13.9	5,479	6,011	729	12.1	5,282
TETON	5,253	438	8.3	4,815	5,156	342	6.6	4,814
TWIN FALLS	39,850	3,210	8.1	36,641	39,011	2,279	5.8	36,732
VALLEY	4,855	692	14.3	4,162	4,775	555	11.6	4,219
WASHINGTON	4,984	532	10.7	4,452	4,963	481	9.7	4,483
ASOTIN WA	10,126	635	6.3	9,490	10,248	768	7.5	9,479

* In thousands
June 2010

State of Idaho Data

May 2010 Labor Force (preliminary) compared to May 2009 (benchmarked) data
(continued from previous page).

Seasonally Adjusted Data LABOR MARKET AREAS	May 2010				May 2009			
	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employ- ment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employ- ment
BOISE CITY-NAMPA MSA	293,336	29,217	10.0	264,119	289,881	26,364	9.1	263,517
BURLEY MicSA	20,427	1,477	7.2	18,951	20,113	999	5.0	19,113
COEUR D'ALENE MSA	74,017	7,298	9.9	66,719	72,098	5,685	7.9	66,413
GRANGEVILLE SLMA	9,320	823	8.8	8,497	9,324	719	7.7	8,604
HAILEY SLMA	14,727	1,217	8.3	13,510	13,294	980	7.4	12,314
IDAHO FALLS MSA	63,000	4,269	6.8	58,731	61,592	3,327	5.4	58,265
LEWISTON MSA	29,790	1,965	6.6	27,826	28,507	1,881	6.6	26,625
POCATELLO MSA	42,407	3,569	8.4	38,838	41,963	2,683	6.4	39,280
REXBURG MicSA	21,195	1,459	6.9	19,736	20,583	1,159	5.6	19,424
TWIN FALLS MicSA	50,158	3,939	7.9	46,218	49,149	2,815	5.7	46,334
CITIES								
BOISE	109,113	9,749	8.9	99,365	108,060	8,720	8.1	99,340
CALDWELL	19,163	2,448	12.8	16,715	18,762	2,052	10.9	16,710
COEUR D' ALENE	23,238	2,584	11.1	20,654	22,531	1,930	8.6	20,601
IDAHO FALLS	28,114	2,220	7.9	25,894	27,400	1,659	6.1	25,740
LEWISTON	16,355	1,090	6.7	15,265	15,213	909	6.0	14,304
MERIDIAN	33,397	3,023	9.1	30,374	33,152	2,786	8.4	30,366
NAMPA	36,935	4,300	11.6	32,635	36,693	4,066	11.1	32,627
POCATELLO	27,995	2,305	8.2	25,690	27,773	1,738	6.3	26,034
POST FALLS	13,692	1,465	10.7	12,227	13,373	1,177	8.8	12,196
REXBURG	21,505	1,383	6.4	20,122	20,931	1,088	5.2	19,844
TWIN FALLS	21,996	1,855	8.4	20,141	21,611	1,378	6.4	20,233
United States*	154,393	14,973	9.7	139,420	154,956	14,518	9.4	140,438

* In thousands

SOURCE: Idaho Department of Labor, Research & Analysis and Public Affairs.

State of Idaho Data — State Economic Indicators

	May 2010*	Apr 2010	May 2009	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE ⁽¹⁾					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	761,400	760,600	748,100	0.1	1.8
Unemployment	68,300	69,500	57,300	-1.7	19.2
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	9.0	9.1	7.7		
Total Employment	693,100	691,100	690,800	0.3	0.3
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	757,800	757,300	746,500	0.1	1.5
Unemployment	63,400	68,900	53,000	-8.0	19.6
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	8.4	9.1	7.1		
Total Employment	694,400	688,400	693,500	0.9	0.1

U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE⁽²⁾

9.7 9.9 9.4

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Claims Activities

Initial Claims ⁽³⁾	10,421	13,372	12,285	-22.1	-15.2
Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾	99,167	120,840	144,502	-17.9	-31.4

Benefit Payment Activities⁽⁵⁾

Weeks Compensated	83,760	103,473	129,459	-19.1	-35.3
Total Benefit \$ Paid	20,257,682	25,780,339	34,113,265	-21.4	-40.6
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$241.85	\$249.15	\$263.51	-2.9	-8.2
Covered Employers	49,012	48,882	50,551	0.3	-3.0
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾	\$345,394,035	\$359,107,478	\$330,709,413	-3.8	4.4

U. S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ⁽²⁾	Apr 2010	Mar 2010	Apr 2009	% Change Month	% Change Year
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	214.0	213.5	207.9	0.2%	2.9%
All Urban Consumer (CPI- U)	218.0	217.6	213.2	0.2%	2.2%

(1) Preliminary estimate

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

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

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

(5) Includes all entitlements, total liable activities.

Northern Idaho Labor Force Data

Coeur d'Alene MSA Labor Force & Employment – Kootenai County

	May 2010*	Apr 2010	May 2009	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	74,020	73,620	72,100	0.5	2.7
Unemployed	7,300	7,310	5,690	-0.1	28.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.9	9.9	7.9		
Total Employment	66,720	66,310	66,410	0.6	0.5
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	72,670	72,490	70,920	0.2	2.5
Unemployed	7,130	7,710	5,540	-7.5	28.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.8	10.6	7.8		
Total Employment	65,540	64,780	65,380	1.2	0.2

* Preliminary estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.

North Central Idaho Labor Force Data

Lewiston MSA Labor Force & Employment – Nez Perce County, Idaho and Asotin County, Wash.

	May 2010*	Apr 2010	May 2009	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	28,630	28,910	28,690	-1.0	-0.2
Unemployment	1,980	2,130	1,780	-7.0	11.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.9	7.4	6.2		
Total Employment	26,650	26,780	26,910	-0.5	-1.0
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	28,860	28,980	28,910	-0.4	-0.2
Unemployment	2,110	2,380	1,960	-11.3	7.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.3	8.2	6.8		
Total Employment	26,750	26,600	26,950	0.6	-0.7

*Preliminary estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.

Southwestern Idaho Labor Force Data

Boise-Nampa MSA Labor Force & Employment — Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem and Owyhee counties

	May 2010*	Apr 2010	May 2009	% Change	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	293,300	291,400	289,900	0.7	1.2
Unemployment	29,200	29,100	26,400	0.3	10.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	10.0	10.0	9.1		
Total Employment	264,100	262,300	263,500	0.7	0.2
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	293,800	292,700	291,200	0.4	0.9
Unemployment	25,700	27,400	23,100	-6.2	11.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.7	9.4	7.9		
Total Employment	268,100	265,300	268,100	1.1	0.0
Preliminary estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.					

South Central Idaho Labor Force Data

Twin Falls-Jerome MSA Labor Force & Employment — Twin Falls and Jerome counties

	May 2010*	Apr 2010	May 2009	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	50,160	50,780	49,150	-1.2	2.1
Unemployment	3,940	3,970	2,820	-0.8	39.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.9	7.8	5.7		
Total Employment	46,220	46,810	46,330	-1.3	-0.2
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	49,460	49,880	48,630	-0.8	1.7
Unemployment	3,640	3,950	2,600	-7.8	40.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.4	7.9	5.3		
Total Employment	45,820	45,930	46,030	-0.2	-0.5
*Preliminary estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.					

Southeastern Idaho Labor Force Data

Pocatello MSA Labor Force & Employment — Bannock and Power counties

	May 2010*	Apr 2010	% Change From		
			May 2009	Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	42,410	42,710	41,960	-0.7	1.1
Unemployment	3,570	3,570	2,680	0.0	33.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.4	8.4	6.4		
Total Employment	38,840	39,140	39,280	-0.8	-1.1
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	43,400	43,790	43,130	-0.9	0.6
Unemployment	3,230	3,450	2,420	-6.4	33.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.5	7.9	5.6		
Total Employment	40,170	40,340	40,710	-0.4	-1.3

*Preliminary estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.

East Central Idaho Labor Force Data

Idaho Falls MSA Labor Force & Employment — Bonneville and Jefferson counties

	May 2010*	Apr 2010	May 2009	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	63,000	61,660	61,600	2.2	2.3
Unemployment	4,270	4,180	3,330	2.2	28.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.8	6.8	5.4		
Total Employment	58,730	57,480	58,270	2.2	0.8
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	62,660	61,720	61,460	1.5	2.0
Unemployment	3,870	4,220	3,010	-8.3	28.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.2	6.8	4.9		
Total Employment	58,790	57,500	58,450	2.2	0.6

*Preliminary estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.

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.

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