

Idaho Employment

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

IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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2010 CENSUS FORMS MAILED, DUE APRIL 10

By now, most Idaho residents have received the 2010 Census form. The U.S. Census Bureau provides an enormous amount of information on its Web site at 2010.census.gov/. Each state's participation rates can be tracked online at <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/take10map/>.

United States
**Census
2010**

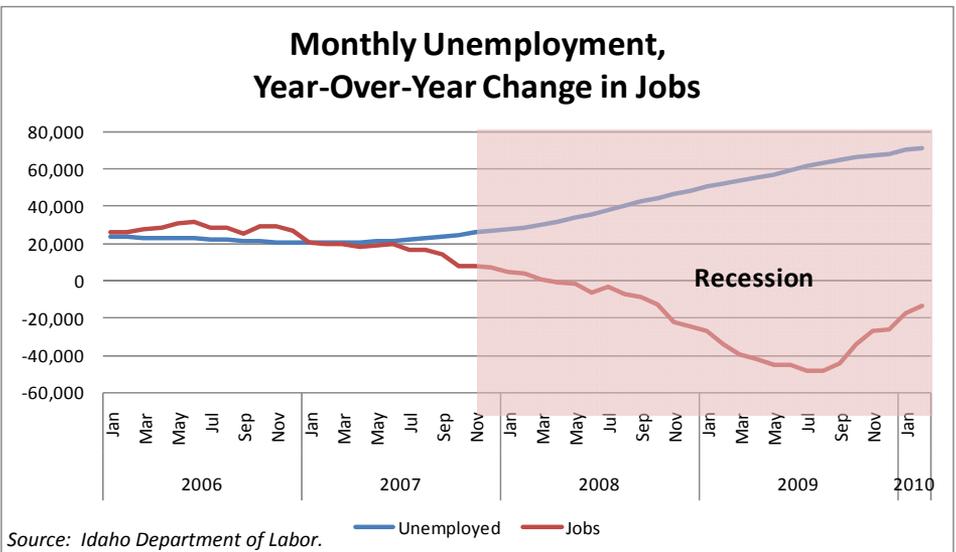
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JOB CREATION SLOW, BUT THERE'S HOPE FOR FALL

Idaho appears to have weathered the worst of the Great Recession. But while the economy has stopped shedding jobs, it has yet to begin creating them at any significant rate.

The year-over-year gap in nonfarm jobs continued closing in February, but that was more the result of job losses being so severe a year ago.

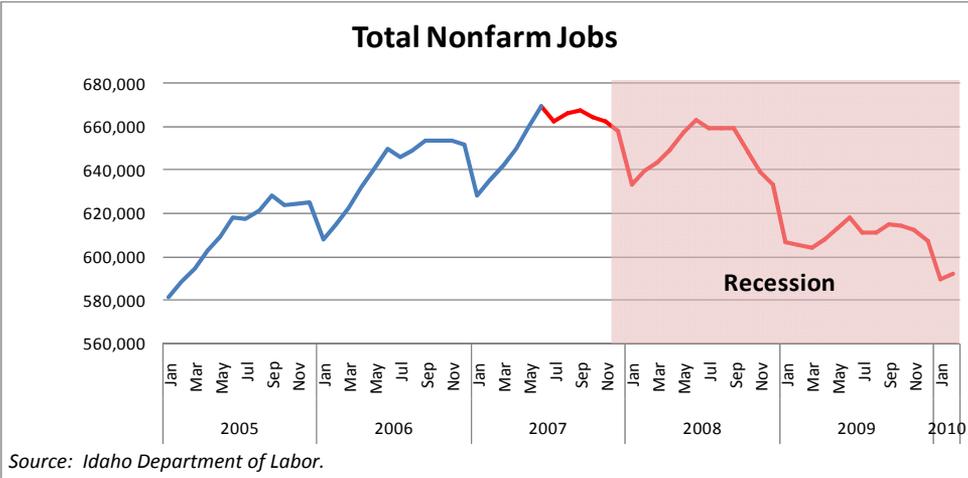


February is a telling month for jobs. Since Idaho launched its record long expansion in 1990, there has been an average increase of 4,300 jobs between January and February. That does not include the 1,400 job lost in 2009, the only time jobs have declined from January to February since the 1980-1982 double-dip recession. Even during the rest of the 1980s as Idaho struggled to pull free of the recession, the economy managed to avoid losing jobs between January and February each year.

The increase in 2010 was just 2,100. While the increase signaled a return to the seasonal trend of adding jobs in February, only three other years – and 2009’s loss – recorded smaller increases since Idaho’s economy began growing again after the severe downturn of the early and mid-1980s.

The average January-February job growth between 2004 and 2008 leading into the recession was 6,700.

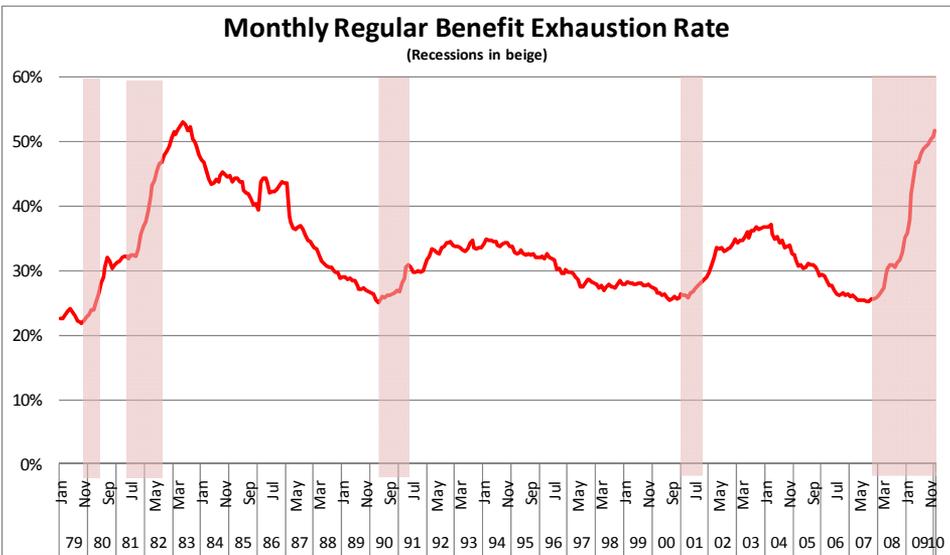
Total jobs remained below 600,000 for the second straight month in February, marking the first time since early 2005. The recession essentially stripped the Idaho economy of at least half the jobs gained during the expansion.



Source: Idaho Department of Labor.

Employers remain extremely cautious, and because of that, it still appears Idaho will not see current-month jobs exceed year-ago job totals until fall, and jobs will not match prerecession totals before late 2013.

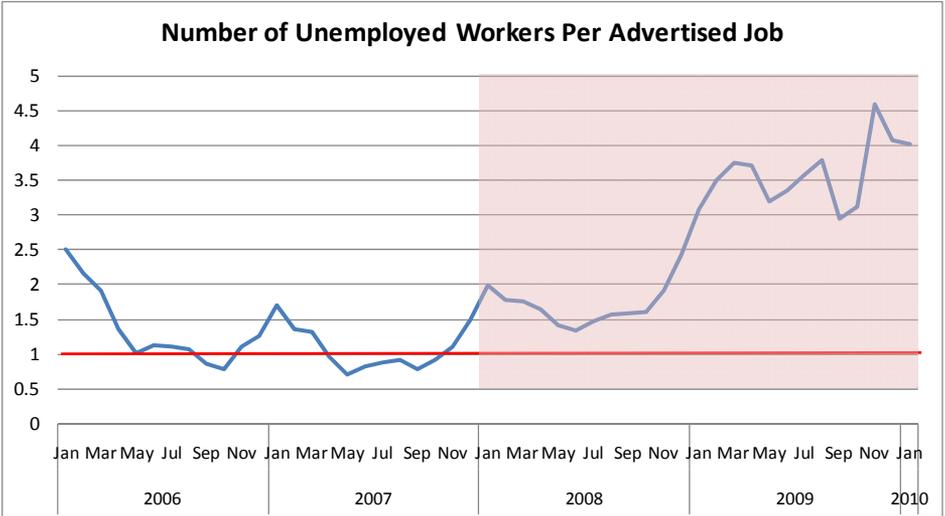
The inability of the economy at this stage to generate new jobs has been seen in the unemployment rolls. More than half the workers who begin receiving unemployment benefits exhaust their regular benefits before they can find new jobs. That is an exhaustion rate that approaches the severe recessions of the 1980s.



Source: Idaho Department of Labor.

In March, 58,000 workers were receiving unemployment checks, and nearly 24,000 of them had already moved to the extended benefits programs. Another 3,000 had exhausted all their benefits – regular and extended – which can last up to 99 weeks.

Figures on hiring have not improved. In February, Idaho employers hired just 8,300 workers, 500 fewer than in January and the smallest number of new hires for any month since 1998, the first year the Idaho Department of Labor kept new hire statistics as part of welfare reform. Up until this year, January and February new hires both averaged over 13,500.



Source: Idaho Department of Labor.

There is just no demand. The Conference Board, a business think tank in New York, has maintained a log of help-wanted advertisements posted online each month and compared them to the number of people unemployed in each state.

By that measure, less than three years ago – May 2007 – there were three jobs listed for every two idled workers in Idaho. Last November, there were four and a half unemployed workers for every listed job, and it has remained over four to one since. Only 16 other states had higher ratios last November, and just two of them – Oregon and California – were west of the Mississippi River.

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DIFFERING STATE TAX STRUCTURES AFFECT RANKINGS

There are a variety of ways to compare the tax structures of the states, and their relative rankings can seem contradictory. Some such as the one published by the Idaho State Tax Commission show Idaho as having one of the least intrusive tax structures that is quite competitive with the other 11 western states. Others such as the one published by The Tax Foundation rank Idaho as a heavily taxing state. It ranks Idaho with the 13th highest tax structure. The Tax Commission places Idaho 42nd on that list. So how can Idaho simultaneously rank at the top and bottom?

While each report analyzes and compares the tax burden of each state, each defines ‘burden of taxes’ very differently. The Idaho State Tax Commission bases its ranking on how much tax each state collects. The Tax Foundation uses total taxes paid by residents and includes those taxes paid out of state.

THE IDAHO STATE TAX COMMISSION

The Idaho State Tax Commission measures how much each state and the nation collect in taxes each year as a proportion of total personal income. This produces an average actual tax rate for the states and nation. The actual na-

Taxing Capacity and Actual Taxes for U.S., Idaho, Selected States (in millions)

	Income	Total State-Local Taxes	Tax Capacity	Difference from Capacity	Average Actual Tax Rate	% of Tax Capacity	Rank
United States	\$11,579,795	\$1,275,551	N/A	N/A	11.0%	N/A	N/A
Idaho	\$47,811	\$4,766	\$5,267	\$501	10.0%	90.5%	42
Montana	\$31,519	\$3,270	\$3,472	\$202	10.4%	94.2%	34
Nevada	\$100,935	\$10,444	\$11,118	\$674	10.3%	93.9%	36
Oregon	\$130,550	\$12,749	\$14,381	\$1,632	9.8%	88.7%	44
Utah	\$81,651	\$8,907	\$8,994	\$87	10.9%	99.0%	24
Washington	\$261,115	\$27,533	\$28,763	\$1,230	10.5%	95.7%	31
Wyoming	\$23,851	\$3,247	\$2,627	-\$620	13.6%	123.6%	4
Alaska	\$27,169	\$4,950	\$2,993	-\$1,957	18.2%	165.4%	1

Source: Idaho State Tax Commission

tional average tax rate is then applied to each state's personal income to calculate a tax capacity, or the amount of taxes potentially collected if the national rate were substituted for the states' rate. Each state is then ranked according to tax effort – the percentage of tax capacity it uses. The closer a state's tax effort is to 100 percent, the closer the state is to the national average actual tax rate and thereby fully using its tax capacity. The more a state underutilizes its capacity, the smaller the tax burden.

For Fiscal Year 2007, the most recent Tax Commission analysis, Idaho fell farther below its tax capacity than most other states. Neighboring Wyoming, on the other hand, overutilizes its tax capacity and ranks fourth nationally in tax burden.

THE TAX FOUNDATION

The Tax Foundation takes a much different approach, focusing on the taxpayer, or resident of the state, rather than the state itself.

To calculate state rankings, the foundation considers taxes paid both in and out of the state. Taxes paid out of state but included as part of Idaho's tax burden, for instance, would include income taxes paid by an Idahoan who works in Washington or property taxes on a vacation home an Idahoan owns in Arizona or various taxes an Idahoan pays during a vacation to Disneyland. At

Tax Burden for Select State as Determined by The Tax Foundation

State	Per Capita Income	Per Capita Taxes Paid in State	Per Capita Taxes Paid Out of State	Total Capita Taxes	Tax Rate	Rank
U.S.	\$42,817	\$2,874	\$1,349	\$4,223	9.9%	N/A
Alaska	\$43,150	\$1,338	\$1,446	\$2,784	6.5%	50
Idaho	\$35,725	\$2,345	\$1,289	\$3,634	10.2%	15
Montana	\$35,613	\$1,878	\$1,197	\$3,074	8.6%	42
Nevada	\$48,243	\$2,007	\$1,306	\$3,313	6.9%	49
Oregon	\$38,386	\$2,514	\$1,188	\$3,701	9.6%	25
Utah	\$34,788	\$2,359	\$1,144	\$3,503	10.1%	17
Washington	\$46,602	\$2,882	\$1,366	\$4,248	9.1%	36
Wyoming	\$51,123	\$1,803	\$1,755	\$3,557	7.0%	48

Source: The Tax Foundation

the same time, taxes paid by an Oregonian working in Idaho or a Californian who owns a vacation home in Idaho or an Ohioan who vacations in Idaho would not be counted as taxes collected in Idaho. According to the Tax Foundation, the percentage of taxes paid out of state by residents range from 24 in New York to 50 percent in Alaska. Idaho has a 35 percent out-of-state rate while the national rate was 36 percent in 2007.

This is the reason that Alaska, which is ranked as having the highest tax burden by the Idaho State Tax Commission, falls to the lowest tax burden by the Tax Foundation. The significant tax revenues Alaska obtains from oil exports are the other 49 states' tax burden.

	State & Local Tax Burden	Rank
U.S. Average	9.9%	N/A
Idaho	10.2%	15
Montana	8.6%	42
Nevada	6.9%	49
Oregon	9.6%	25
Utah	10.1%	17
Washington	9.1%	36
Wyoming	7.0%	48
Alaska	6.5%	50

Source: <http://www.taxfoundation.org/research/topic/9.html> retrieved March 15, 2010

The foundation determines the per capita tax payment and then divides it by per capita income to determine the overall impact the taxes paid has on the residents of each state. For those states having a lower per capita income such as Idaho, which has the 42nd lowest wages in the nation, each dollar in taxes paid has a greater burden than it would on those states whose per capita income is higher.

While this seems much simpler than the calculation performed by the Idaho State Tax Commission, gathering the information on taxes paid in state and out of state is much more cumbersome.

CALCULATION METHODS

While there are numerous tax rankings created by individuals and groups, these rankings are relatively meaningless without knowing the method by which they are calculated. For states that raise significant amounts of tax revenues from exports, like Wyoming and Alaska do on oil and gas, the Idaho State Tax Commission's calculations would rank them high in tax capacity utilization – first for Alaska and fourth for Wyoming – while The Tax Foundation would rank them low on per capita tax burden – 50th for Alaska and 48th for Wyoming. See table on next page showing rankings by state.

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IDAHO'S PRIVATE SECTOR SHEDS JOBS SIX QUARTERS IN A ROW

Idaho suffered a seasonally adjusted net loss of 11,200 private sector jobs during the second quarter 2009. This was the sixth consecutive quarter of job loss, marking the longest streak of continuous job declines on record, according to the Business Employment Dynamics program of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

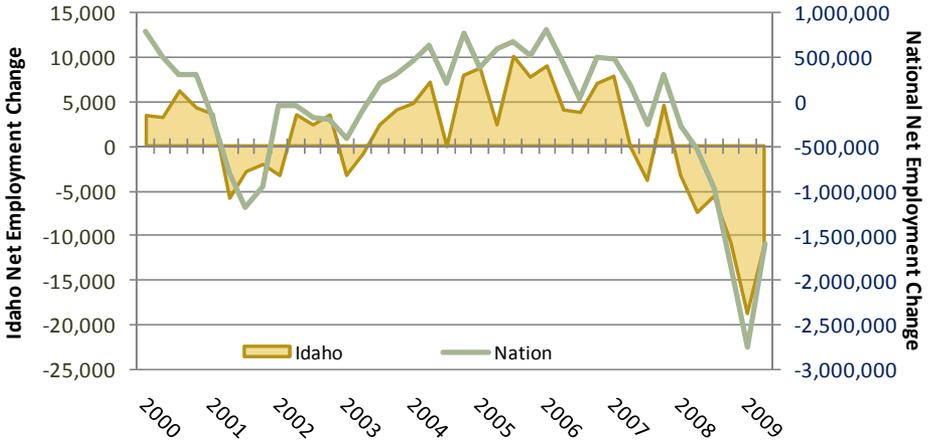
Tax Rankings by State Based on Calculation Methods of the Tax Foundation

State	Rate	Rank (1 is highest)	Per Capita Taxes Paid to Home State	Per Capita Taxes Paid to Other States	Total State and Local Per Capita Taxes Paid	Per Capita Income	% of Taxes Paid to Other States
United States	9.7%		\$2,924	\$1,358	\$4,283	\$44,254	31.7%
Alabama	8.6%	38	\$1,977	\$1,168	\$3,144	\$36,372	37.2%
Alaska	6.4%	50	\$1,433	\$1,438	\$2,871	\$44,872	50.1%
Arizona	8.5%	41	\$2,170	\$1,074	\$3,244	\$38,174	33.1%
Arkansas	10.0%	14	\$2,315	\$1,036	\$3,351	\$33,395	30.9%
California	10.5%	6	\$3,683	\$1,345	\$5,028	\$47,706	26.8%
Colorado	9.0%	34	\$2,684	\$1,675	\$4,359	\$48,300	38.4%
Connecticut	11.1%	3	\$4,498	\$2,509	\$7,007	\$63,160	35.8%
Delaware	9.5%	24	\$2,364	\$1,889	\$4,253	\$44,889	44.4%
District of Columbia	10.3%	8	\$4,344	\$2,964	\$7,308	\$70,730	40.6%
Florida	7.4%	47	\$2,384	\$1,057	\$3,441	\$46,293	30.7%
Georgia	9.9%	16	\$2,579	\$1,156	\$3,735	\$37,850	31.0%
Hawaii	10.6%	5	\$3,699	\$1,221	\$4,920	\$46,512	24.8%
Idaho	10.1%	13	\$2,374	\$1,296	\$3,670	\$36,492	35.3%
Illinois	9.3%	30	\$2,948	\$1,398	\$4,346	\$46,693	32.2%
Indiana	9.4%	28	\$2,348	\$1,154	\$3,502	\$37,279	33.0%
Iowa	9.3%	31	\$2,263	\$1,327	\$3,589	\$38,636	37.0%
Kansas	9.6%	21	\$2,460	\$1,451	\$3,911	\$40,784	37.1%
Kentucky	9.4%	25	\$2,201	\$1,042	\$3,243	\$34,339	32.1%
Louisiana	8.4%	42	\$2,093	\$1,193	\$3,286	\$39,116	36.3%
Maine	10.0%	15	\$2,701	\$1,135	\$3,835	\$38,309	29.6%
Maryland	10.8%	4	\$4,062	\$1,607	\$5,669	\$52,709	28.3%
Massachusetts	9.5%	23	\$3,609	\$1,768	\$5,377	\$56,661	32.9%
Michigan	9.4%	27	\$2,536	\$1,158	\$3,694	\$39,273	31.3%
Minnesota	10.2%	12	\$3,328	\$1,360	\$4,688	\$46,106	29.0%
Mississippi	8.9%	36	\$1,773	\$1,061	\$2,834	\$31,836	37.4%
Missouri	9.2%	32	\$2,261	\$1,248	\$3,508	\$38,084	35.6%
Montana	8.6%	40	\$1,960	\$1,199	\$3,158	\$36,793	38.0%
Nebraska	9.8%	17	\$2,611	\$1,371	\$3,983	\$40,499	34.4%
Nevada	6.6%	49	\$1,952	\$1,293	\$3,245	\$49,371	39.8%
New Hampshire	7.6%	46	\$1,824	\$1,818	\$3,642	\$48,033	49.9%
New Jersey	11.8%	1	\$4,376	\$2,234	\$6,610	\$56,116	33.8%
New Mexico	8.6%	39	\$2,051	\$1,063	\$3,114	\$36,031	34.1%
New York	11.7%	2	\$4,845	\$1,573	\$6,419	\$55,032	24.5%
North Carolina	9.8%	20	\$2,597	\$1,066	\$3,663	\$37,508	29.1%
North Dakota	9.2%	33	\$2,167	\$1,470	\$3,637	\$39,612	40.4%
Ohio	10.4%	7	\$2,937	\$1,112	\$4,049	\$38,925	27.5%
Oklahoma	9.8%	19	\$2,280	\$1,481	\$3,761	\$38,415	39.4%
Oregon	9.4%	26	\$2,538	\$1,181	\$3,719	\$39,444	31.8%
Pennsylvania	10.2%	11	\$3,054	\$1,409	\$4,463	\$43,796	31.6%
Rhode Island	10.2%	10	\$2,900	\$1,633	\$4,533	\$44,463	36.0%
South Carolina	8.8%	37	\$2,048	\$1,079	\$3,127	\$35,419	34.5%
South Dakota	7.9%	45	\$1,645	\$1,434	\$3,079	\$39,103	46.6%
Tennessee	8.3%	44	\$1,779	\$1,382	\$3,160	\$38,090	43.7%
Texas	8.4%	43	\$2,082	\$1,498	\$3,580	\$42,796	41.8%
Utah	9.6%	22	\$2,305	\$1,140	\$3,446	\$35,971	33.1%
Vermont	10.3%	8	\$3,072	\$1,337	\$4,410	\$42,626	30.3%
Virginia	9.8%	18	\$3,281	\$1,388	\$4,669	\$47,666	29.7%
Washington	8.9%	35	\$2,957	\$1,377	\$4,334	\$48,574	31.8%
West Virginia	9.3%	29	\$1,982	\$1,018	\$3,000	\$32,145	33.9%
Wisconsin	10.2%	9	\$3,047	\$1,147	\$4,194	\$40,953	27.3%
Wyoming	7.0%	48	\$1,925	\$1,788	\$3,714	\$53,163	48.1%

Source: Tax Foundation calculations based on data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the Census Bureau, the Council on State Taxation, the Travel Industry Association, Department of Energy, and others.

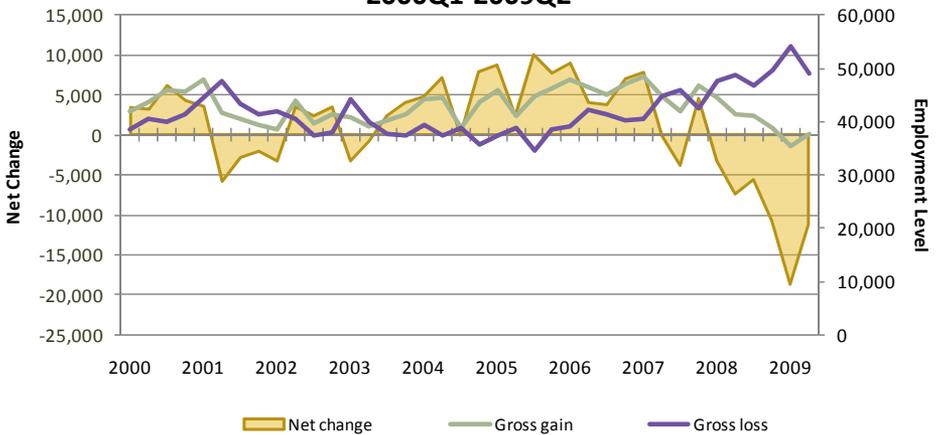
The Business Employment Dynamics program tracks private sector job gains and job losses from businesses opening, expanding, closing and downsizing. From April to June 2009, Idaho's new and expanding businesses added just under 37,700 jobs while those closing or downsizing cut just over 48,900. The net loss of over 11,200 jobs was smaller than the loss of more than 18,000 jobs in the first quarter breaking five straight quarters of rising job losses.

Net Change in Employment 2000Q1-2009Q2



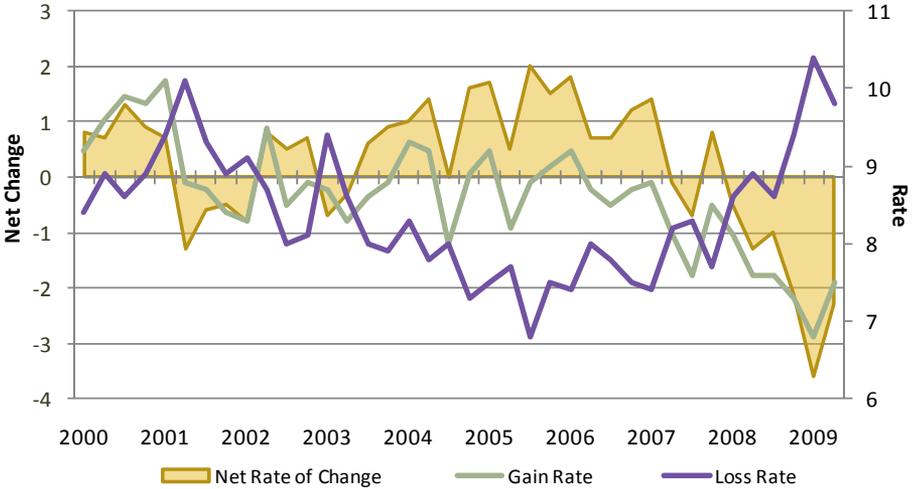
Although the National Bureau of Economic Research marks the recession's start in December 2007, Idaho began seeing evidence of a slowdown during the second quarter of 2007. In the eight quarters that followed, Idaho lost jobs in all but the final three months of 2007, and in spite of that quarter's slight gain, the net number of jobs lost since the downward trend began exceeded 56,000 by mid-2009.

Idaho Private Sector Employment Dynamics Level 2000Q1-2009Q2



The steady quarterly decline in jobs put the rate of new jobs from businesses opening or expanding at an all-time low of 6.8 percent in the first quarter of 2009. In the second quarter, the rate finally began to rebound, hitting 7.5 percent for gross job gains. That, of course, was more than offset by a 9.8 percent gross job loss for the quarter. Still the net loss in jobs was lower than the preceding quarter for the first time since the end of 2007. So even though overall job losses continued through June 2009, they appeared to be flattening out.

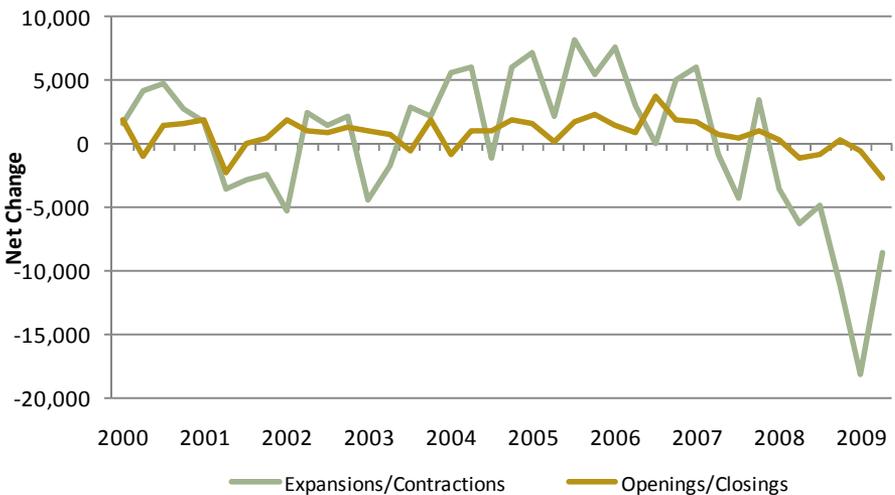
Idaho Private Sector Employment Dynamics Rate 2000Q1-2009Q2



Contracting businesses shed over 8,500 more jobs than expanding businesses created during the second quarter of 2009, but that was less than half the gap posted for the first quarter. At the same time, however, new businesses created 2,600 fewer jobs than closing businesses eliminated, a difference four times greater than in the previous quarter. This shift in the pattern of losses indicates that although fewer businesses were opening and more were closing in the second quarter, the already established businesses that remained open were more economically stable than in previous quarters, filling more jobs and cutting fewer than they had in the past.

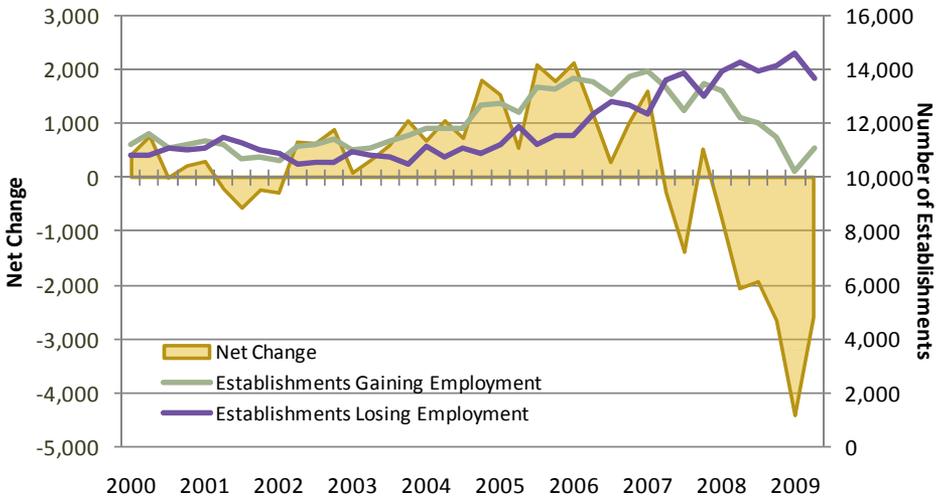
Just under 11,100 of Idaho's 50,000 businesses added jobs during the second quarter of 2009 – 8,500 through expansion and 2,600 opening for the first time. But nearly 13,700 others eliminated jobs – 10,300 downsized and 3,400 closed altogether.

Components of Idaho's Private Sector Employment Gross Job Gains and Gross Job Losses 2000Q1-2009Q2



Nationally, second quarter 2009 saw a net job loss of nearly 1.6 million stretching across all economic sectors. This was less than the net loss experienced in the previous two quarters and brought the total net loss for the six quarters since the official beginning of the recession to 7.9 million jobs. New and expanding businesses created 6.4 million jobs, roughly 700,000 more

**Number of Idaho Private Sector Establishments by Direction
of Employment Change
2000Q1-2009Q2**



than in the first quarter of 2009. Simultaneously, the nation experienced a loss of 8 million jobs as even more businesses closed or pared payrolls. However, the first quarter loss was 8.5 million.

Education and health services were the only areas to experience net job gains in the second quarter. Together they recorded a net increase of 60,000 jobs across the country, remaining the only sectors to gain jobs in every quarter since the data began being compiled in 1992. While the second quarter's gain was less robust than gains in the last two quarters of 2008, which each saw gains of 100,000, it was much more encouraging than first quarter's gain of a mere 8,000 jobs.

Utilities posted a small net loss for the first time in three quarters, but the losses in other sectors were significant. Manufacturing dropped 529,000 jobs in the second quarter, professional and business services 331,000, construction 326,000, wholesale trade 116,000 and 106,000 each in financial services and transportation and warehousing. While significant, nine sectors posted losses of more than 100,000 during the first quarter.

Alaska remained the state with the highest gross job gain at 10.8 percent followed by Montana's 8 percent and Maine's 7.8 percent. Idaho was fourth at 7.5 percent, tying Vermont. Those increases, however, were offset by the nation's highest loss rates – 12 percent loss in Wyoming, 10.8 percent in Alaska and 9.8 percent in Idaho.

While job loss continued both in Idaho and nationally, the latest rates of gain and loss suggest that the economy was flattening somewhat in 2009's April-June quarter and had begun to stabilize.

The Business Employment Dynamics data series is on the Web at www.bls.gov/bdm/, which is also the source for all the tables in the article.

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SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT DROPPED IN '09

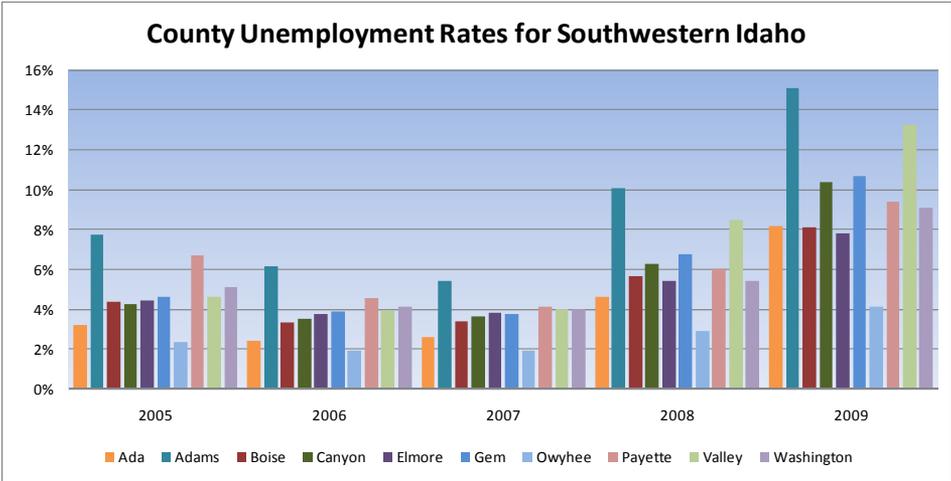
Southwestern Idaho's civilian labor force and employment both shrank significantly in 2009. Nearly 2,600 people left the labor force, and there were 14,300 fewer people working than in 2008. The result was an increase of

11,700 in unemployment. It was the second year that employment has declined and the third year the number of jobless workers has risen. Since record employment in 2007, the area’s economy has been dramatically affected by the recession, which began in December 2007.

Southwestern Idaho accounted for 43 percent of the state’s labor force and employment but 48 percent of the unemployment in 2009.

The region’s work force has changed significantly over the last five years. The continued growth in 2006 during the expansion following the last recession dropped the unemployment rate eight-tenths of a percentage point. The optimism that trend fostered among workers caused the labor force to swell into 2007. While many of those job seekers found work as employment continued to rise, many did not, and that began edging the unemployment rate upward. In 2008, the effects of the recession were finally being felt across Idaho. There was a significant increase in the number of jobless workers and the first loss in the number of workers since 2002.

In 2008, every county except Elmore posted higher unemployment and lower employment. Elmore County had a small employment growth of 200 people in 2007.



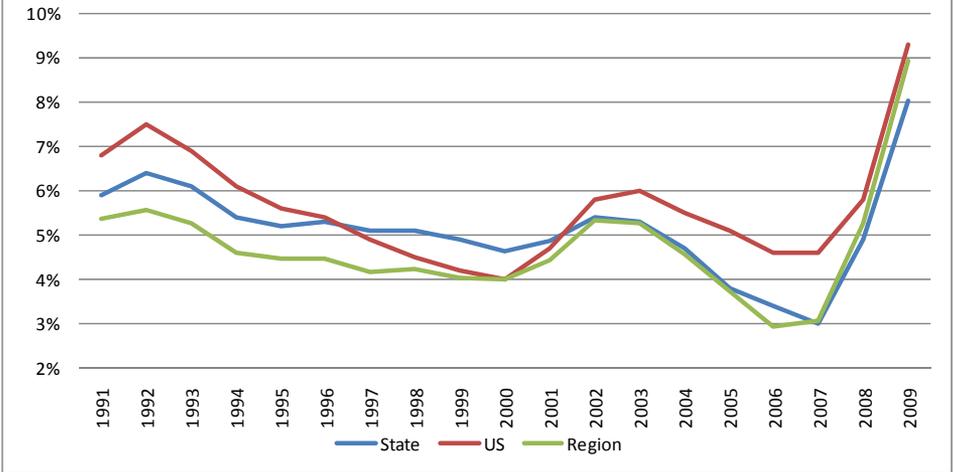
The unemployment rates in the counties nearly doubled between 2007 and 2008, rising again in 2009 and in some cases hitting triple the 2007 rates. Consistently, Owyhee County has had the lowest rate and Adams County the highest. However, the most significant changes were in Ada and Canyon counties.

Since 1991 the region’s unemployment rate has been below both the state and the nation. In 2007 the annual average unemployment rate for southwestern Idaho climbed above the state rate for the first time. The smaller counties – Adams, Payette and Valley – typically had higher unemployment rates so when the rates in Ada and Canyon counties began rising, it had more of an impact on the region. In 2007 only Adams County had an unemployment rate above 5 percent. By 2009 only Owyhee County had an unemployment rate below 7 percent. In fact, four counties — Adams, Canyon, Gem and Valley — were experiencing double-digit unemployment.

NONFARM JOB DECLINE

The number of nonfarm jobs decreased more than 10 percent since 2007 — a loss of 28,800 jobs that shows the recession’s impact on the jobs in southwestern Idaho. The comparison is based on the average of the first three quarters of 2007, 2008 and 2009 because no figures are available yet for the final quarter of 2009.

Average Unemployment Rates, 1991-2009



Nonfarm Jobs in Southwestern Idaho

Industry	Numeric Change						
	3 Qtr Avg 2007	3 Qtr Avg 2008	23 Qtr Avg 2009	2007-'08	2008-'09	2007-'09	2% Change 2007-'09
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	277,766	272,905	248,919	-4,860	-23,987	-28,847	-10.4
Natural Resources	453	432	310	-22	-122	-144	-31.7
Construction	25,124	20,111	14,801	-5,012	-5,310	-10,323	-41.1
Manufacturing	33,679	31,220	25,122	-2,459	-6,098	-8,556	-25.4
Trade Transportation Utilities	57,687	57,258	51,937	-429	-5,321	-5,750	-10.0
Information	4,993	5,741	4,728	748	-1,013	-265	-5.3
Financial Activities	15,945	15,265	13,439	-681	-1,825	-2,506	-15.7
Professional & Business Services	42,036	42,157	39,092	120	-3,065	-2,944	-7.0
Education & Health Services	34,656	36,425	37,513	1,769	1,088	2,857	8.2
Leisure & Hospitality	27,959	27,625	25,539	-334	-2,086	-2,420	-8.7
Other	8,883	9,308	8,982	425	-326	99	1.1
Government	26,351	27,365	27,456	1,014	91	1,104	4.2

Construction plunged due to the collapse of the home construction industry, which also dragged down natural resources, financial activity and real estate.

Manufacturing was off as a result of significant layoffs at Micron Technology in Boise and the closure of the MPC plant in Nampa.

Trade and transportation became victims of the collapse in other sectors as consumers, uncertain about their economic futures, held down spending. Leisure and hospitality, particularly restaurants and hotels, suffered the same fate.

Professional and business services declined as economic activity slowed and demand for workers, building and other services contracted.

The decline in the information sector was the result of a major company being reclassified to business services so the job loss was actually a job shift.

Businesses in Southwestern Idaho

Industry	Numeric Change						
	3 Qtr Avg 2007	3 Qtr Avg 2008	3 Qtr Avg 2009	2007- '08	2008- '09	2007- '09	2% Change 2007- '09
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	22,576	22,299	21,660	-276	-639	-915	-4.1
Natural Resources	79	74	67	-4	-7	-11	-14.4
Construction	4,287	3,958	3,424	-329	-533	-863	-20.1
Manufacturing	912	914	895	3	-19	-17	-1.8
Trade Transporta- tion Utilities	4,775	4,710	4,630	-64	-80	-144	-3.0
Information	354	350	356	-4	6	2	0.6
Financial Activities	2,792	2,758	2,561	-34	-197	-231	-8.3
Professional & Business Services	3,900	3,946	4,029	46	83	129	3.3
Education & Health Services	1,969	2,023	2,066	53	44	97	4.9
Leisure & Hospitality	1,595	1,621	1,643	27	22	48	3.0
Other	1,434	1,466	1,505	32	40	71	5.0
Government	480	480	483	0	3	3	0.6

Education, both private and public, added a modest number of jobs in southwestern Idaho, but the only real gain came in health care where ambulatory medical service providers grew in response to a population that was still growing, albeit at a slower pace, and still getting older. The federal government also added jobs.

Although the number of businesses decreased in the past two years, the losses were primarily in construction, which tumbled from a record high, trade and transportation and manufacturing. Professional and business services experienced the largest increase. All subsectors reported increases in the number of establishments except for architectural and engineering services, which felt the fallout of the housing decline.

The unemployment rates in February remained above the year-ago levels. While there are indications the job market may be easing, only time will tell. Spring and summer normally generate seasonal jobs so the outlook remains optimistic.

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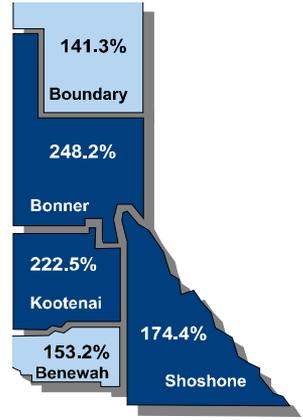
LAYOFFS CONTINUE TO BURDEN BOUNDARY COUNTY EMPLOYMENT

The Welco mill closure sent Boundary County employment into a tailspin in January, driving the unemployment rate up to 17.4 percent from 16.4 percent in December. That matched the rate in May 1982, which was the highest since the Great Depression. Construction layoffs contributed to the escalation in unemployment. With the layoffs limiting employment opportunities in January, the local economy failed to generate enough jobs to accommodate the more than 400 new people who entered the labor force that month.

In February, employment essentially held its own but more workers apparently became discouraged with their prospects and dropped out of the labor force, bringing the unemployment down substantially to 15.3 percent.

While Boundary County's jobless rate jumped 141.3 percent between 2007 and 2010, that increase was much lower than the surrounding counties experienced — although it was more the result of Boundary County's 2007 rate at 6 percent being higher than all but Benewah County's at the time.

The industry that experienced the most contraction – 58 percent – was professional, scientific and technical services. Construction followed, down 31.6 percent from 2007 to third quarter 2009. Despite the recession, the health care sector continued to expand, growing nearly 43 percent, and will continue to flourish as the baby boomers – four of every 10 Boundary County residents – grow older, shifting the median age even higher than the current 38.3 years. At the same time retirees continue to flock to county.



Bonner County also experienced one of the highest unemployment rates in history in January, rising to 13 percent from 12.2 percent in December. Unemployment took another jump in February, hitting 13.1 percent – the highest rate since December 1982. Manufacturing, wholesale trade and construction all shed jobs as the year began to undermine the economic picture.

From 2007 to third quarter 2009, construction, manufacturing and retail trade contracted the most. Construction fell from providing nearly 10 percent of the county's jobs to barely 7 percent, a decline of nearly a third. Manufacturing decreased 14.6 percent, and retail was off 10.2 percent.

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Bonner County - Average Employment, 2007 to 2009

	2007	2009	Change	% Change
TOTAL	14,716	13,393	-1,323	-9.0%
Agriculture, Natural Resources	243	164	-79	-32.5%
Mining	154	151	-3	-2.2%
Utilities	152	161	9	5.6%
Construction	1,429	948	-481	-33.7%
Manufacturing	2,321	1,981	-340	-14.6%
Wholesale Trade	212	241	29	13.6%
Retail Trade	2,716	2,441	-275	-10.1%
Transportation, Warehousing	263	213	-50	-19.0%
Information	231	223	-8	-3.6%
Finance, Insurance	371	351	-20	-5.4%
Real Estate, Rental, Leasing	218	175	-43	-19.9%
Professional, Scientific, Technical Services	642	538	-104	-16.2%
Management of Companies	96	96	0	0.3%
Administrative, Support Services	211	185	-26	-12.2%
Educational Services	850	800	-50	-5.9%
Health Care, Social Assistance	1,414	1,434	20	1.4%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation	496	514	18	3.6%
Accommodation, Food Services	1,349	1,358	10	0.7%
Other Services (except Govt.)	491	538	47	9.6%
Government	856	881	25	2.9%

CONSTRUCTION FALLOUT: COMPANIES UNDERBID TO GET WORK

A slowdown in construction is creating some unhealthy competition among bidders for too few projects.

Project owners are benefiting from low bids. But contractors are going farther from home to bid on jobs, bidding on jobs they wouldn't have considered a few years ago and in some cases bidding below cost just to keep working until construction picks up again.

A recent National Association of General Contractors survey found 17 percent of Washington state-based respondents have adjusted bids to the point they are taking losses. That means in a field of 20 bidders, about four contractors likely are bidding below their costs, and those that don't will not get work.

While the price might seem right for project owners, contractors are struggling to keep their doors open. But taxpayers are seeing their construction dollars go farther as a result of these bidding wars. The money saved on public works projects is financing additional work.

With building costs down, consumers are realizing that there are good deals on new residential construction. Victory Homes, a Coeur d'Alene-based home builder that previously had concentrated on the northern Idaho market, is capitalizing on this opportunity by expanding across the state line into Spokane.

The company recently began building single-family homes in the Five-Mile area of Spokane and is beginning to construct homes at two other Spokane-area developments, one just south of Spokane Valley and another in the River District in Liberty Lake.

Victory Homes has had brisk sales so far this year and hopes to build and sell 100 or more homes in 2010, up from the 65 homes it built and sold in Idaho last year. In 2008, the company built about 85 homes.

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COMMUTING AFFECTS EMPLOYMENT, LABOR FORCE DATA

Asotin County, Wash., was hit hard like most other areas by the recession that began in December 2007. Between the third quarter of 2007 and the third quarter of 2009, Asotin County lost 300 jobs – about 5 percent of its nonfarm payroll jobs. Manufacturing dropped 225 jobs, construction and housing-related sectors another 125, government shed 25 and transportation lost 10. These losses were partially offset by modest gains in professional services, health care and private education.

But the real boost in the fourth quarter of 2009 came in retail when the Wal-Mart supercenter opened. That brought about 500 jobs to Clarkston – 280 of them transferred across the state line from the Lewiston Wal-Mart that was closed in deference to the newer, bigger store.

So if Asotin County's nonfarm payroll rose to its highest level by the end of 2009, why was the county's unemployment rate still 7 percent in February?

There is a vast difference between the number of residents who are employed and the number of payroll jobs in the county. Labor force statistics including Asotin County employment of 9,900 in 2008 are based on where the workers live while payroll jobs including Asotin County's 5,300 jobs where people receive wages, salaries, commissions, tips and other labor income in 2008 are based on where people work.

Based on data from the Local Employment Dynamics program, of those 5,300 payroll jobs in Asotin County, about half – 2,700 – were held by county

residents. Fourteen hundred were held by residents of Nez Perce County. The rest of the workers came from other Washington and Idaho counties.

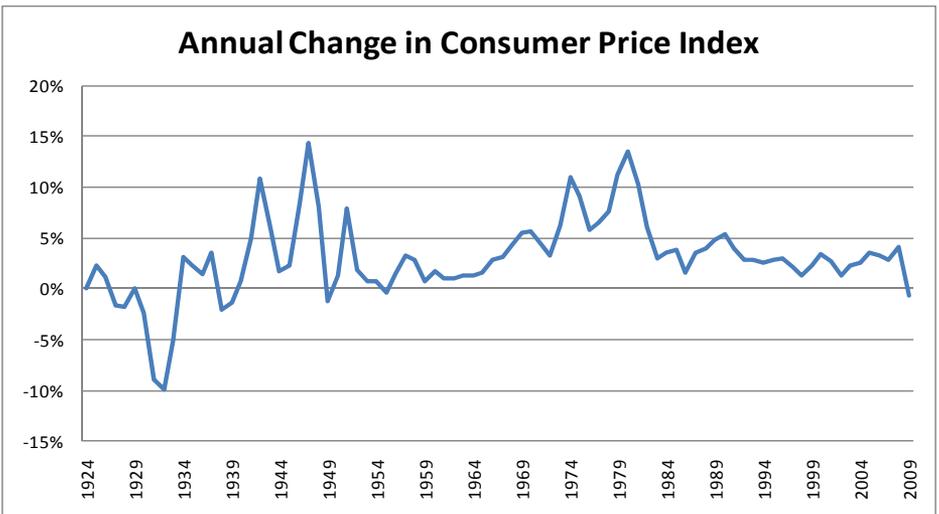
The wide gap between employment and jobs is the result of a very large number of Asotin County residents commuting to jobs in Lewiston. There were nearly as many Asotin County residents working in Idaho as in Washington. About 8,800 residents of Asotin County had payroll jobs or were self-employed. About 3,700 are on payrolls in Nez Perce County compared to just 2,700 working in Asotin County. Another 2,400 residents work in other counties including students who are officially residents of Asotin County but work where they go to college.

Asotin County residents had a relatively high unemployment rate in February despite gains in payroll jobs because residents working in Nez Perce County and other counties lost their jobs.

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ANNUALLY, CONSUMER PRICES FELL FIRST TIME IN 50 YEARS

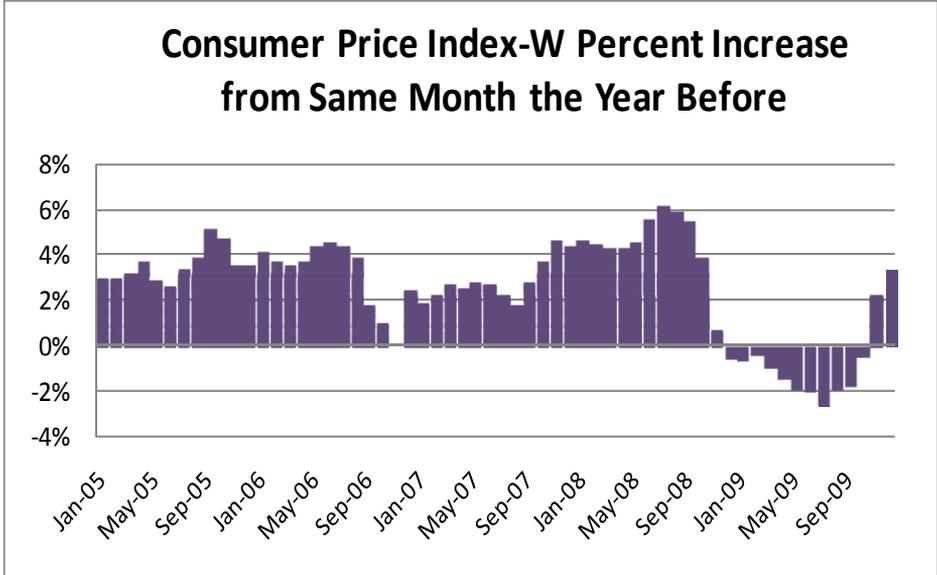
Consumer prices fell in 2009, for the first time in more than 50 years. The graph below shows the annual change in the U.S. consumer price (CPI-W) index from 1924 through 2009. For most of the 75-year period, consumer prices were rising. During the Depression in the 1930s, prices fell sharply. The last deflation occurred in the late 1940s, when the U.S. experienced a short recession and was coming off the high price pressures caused by World War II. The big upward spikes in the 1970s were the result of the run-up in oil prices following the 1973 Arab-Israeli war and a later rise in oil prices as OPEC flexed its muscles. Since the early 1980s, the U.S. has experienced only mild inflation. The severity of the recent recession caused downward pressure on prices, resulting in deflation in 2009.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Consumer prices have changed very quickly since the recession began in December 2007. Then 2008 started out with relatively strong inflationary pressures, because of the rising costs of food, metals and energy costs especially gasoline. The inflationary pressures were highest in July, when the U.S. consumer price index (CPI-W) was 6.2 percent higher than in July 2007. But then the deepening worldwide recession depressed commodity prices and the price of gasoline fell sharply. By December 2008, consumer prices had not only quit rising; they had fallen. CPI-W was 0.5 percent lower than it was in December 2007.

Inflation officially returned in November 2009, when the CPI-W was 2.3 percent higher than the same month the year before. Since then, the consumer price index has been significantly higher than the same month the year before. The CPI-W increased 2.8 percent between February 2009 and February 2010.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Deflation in 2009 affected cost of living adjustments for many things, including Social Security benefits and the Washington State minimum wage. Social Security beneficiaries get an automatic cost-of-living increase every year. This year, there was no increase, because the CPI-W decreased, rather than increased, between the third calendar quarter of 2008 and the same quarter of 2009. The Washington State minimum wage, which is the highest in the nation, rises every Jan. 1, depending on the increase in the consumer price index. Since the consumer price index did not increase in 2009, the Washington State minimum wage did not increase on Jan. 1, remaining at \$8.55 an hour.

Month	CPI-W for	
	2008	2009
July	216.304	210.526
August	215.247	211.156
September	214.935	211.322
Average	215.495	211.001

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

DOWNWARD PRESSURE ON WAGES TO EASE SLIGHTLY

Wage and benefit costs, both before and after adjusting for inflation, grew more slowly in 2009 than any year since the U.S. government began tracking data in 1982 as double-digit unemployment weakened workers' ability to command higher pay. Between the fourth quarter of 2008 and the fourth quarter of 2009, the cost of wages and benefits for workers other than those employed by the federal government rose 1.5 percent, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics employment cost index. Over the same period, consumer prices rose 2.7 percent.

Adjusted for inflation, wages and benefits fell by 1.3 percent after rising by 2.8 percent in 2008, the first year of the recession. The inflation-adjusted cost of wages and benefits at the end of 2009 stood just 1.1 percent higher than at the end of the previous recession in 2001.

The employment cost index measures the cost of labor free from the influence of changes in compensation caused when high-wage sectors grow more

– or less – rapidly than low-wage sectors. The index includes the cost of benefits, which account for about 30 percent of total compensation costs. Private employers' health insurance costs rose 4.4 percent in 2009. The 2009 increase was the second lowest rate of increase in more than a decade. That number partly reflects employers reducing their contributions to employees' health insurance or switching to lower-cost health plans.

Although the downward pressures on wages have decreased slightly, they remain low especially for entry-level jobs. With a large number of job applicants for every opening, employers have little incentive to increase entry-level wages. In 2006, for every job opening listed with the Idaho Department of Labor, there were 1.4 job applicants registered. By 2008 there were 2.8 applicants per opening and by 2009 it was 6.6. Average earnings for new hires in Idaho in the first quarter of 2009 were \$1,785, slightly lower than \$1,789 in the first quarter of 2007. When adjusted for inflation, average earnings for new hires in Idaho fell 4.1 percent over the two-year period.

Until the unemployment rate declines significantly, and state and local budgets improve, employers will also feel little pressure to give significant pay raises to their workers. Wages for state and local government workers are expected to experience the most downward wage pressure this year, while the private sector is likely to give some raises to their current work forces but downward pressures will continue to push down entry-level wages.

Three reasons why most employers are likely to increase wages more this year than last are the return of inflation, the expectation that most sectors are expected to increase employment at least a little and the surge in productivity after layoffs cut the least productive workers from payrolls. The productivity increase, coupled with slow compensation growth, caused unit labor costs in the fourth quarter of 2009 to fall 4.7 percent from the same quarter the year before, the largest four-quarter decline since the series began in 1948. Economic theory suggests that wages in the long run should rise with increased productivity.

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SOME COUNTIES SURVIVE MANUFACTURING DOWNTURN

In the 1990s, Idaho added manufacturing jobs at a rapid rate – 25 percent – while the nation lost 3 percent of its manufacturing jobs. Then the state succumbed to the national manufacturing malaise during the following decade, but some Idaho counties bucked the trend.

The U.S. lost nearly 5.4 million manufacturing jobs – nearly a third of the total – between 2000 and 2009. The job losses accelerated after the recession began in 2007.

Over the same period Idaho lost nearly a quarter of its manufacturing jobs although the 23 percent decline was eight points less than the nation suffered.

In general, the counties that relied the most on electronics and wood products jobs saw the biggest losses. The importance of Micron and its suppliers is the main reason why Ada and Canyon counties experienced three-quarters of the total job loss from 2000 to 2009.

Bonner County in the Panhandle was the most fortunate, adding nearly 500 jobs. That was especially remarkable considering the county experienced one of the largest job losses in wood products manufacturing. The opening of the Quest Aircraft plant and the expansion of salad dressing maker Litehouse, drug packaging producer Unicep Packaging, nutrition supplement maker

Manufacturing Employment by County

	Total Employment			Change			% Growth
	2000	2007	2009*	2000-7	2007-9	2000-9	2000-9
U.S. (in millions)	17.3	13.9	11.9	-3.4	-2.0	-5.4	-31%
Idaho	71,064	65,942	54,719	-5,122	-11,223	-16,345	-23%
Ada	24,227	20,934	15,242	-3,293	-5,691	-8,985	-37%
Adams	95	17	37	-78	20	-58	-61%
Bannock	2,842	2,796	2,327	-45	-470	-515	-18%
Bear Lake	78	55	39	-23	-16	-39	-50%
Benewah	542	622	502	80	-120	-40	-7%
Bingham	2,360	2,148	2,433	-212	285	73	3%
Blaine	351	466	415	115	-51	64	18%
Boise	34	50	22	16	-27	-11	-34%
Bonner	1,486	2,321	1,981	835	-340	495	33%
Bonneville	2,088	2,545	2,107	457	-437	19	1%
Boundary	467	303	285	-164	-18	-182	-39%
Butte	6	22	19	16	-4	12	193%
Camas	1	4	2	3	-3	1	56%
Canyon	11,089	9,727	7,458	-1,362	-2,270	-3,632	-33%
Caribou	780	692	729	-88	37	-51	-7%
Cassia	1,107	1,121	1,178	14	57	71	6%
Clark	199	220	212	21	-9	12	6%
Clearwater	451	219	222	-232	3	-229	-51%
Custer	6	9	1	3	-8	-5	-77%
Elmore	449	324	471	-126	147	22	5%
Franklin	220	216	157	-3	-59	-62	-28%
Fremont	53	38	47	-16	9	-7	-12%
Gem	467	153	121	-314	-31	-345	-74%
Gooding	595	764	746	169	-18	151	25%
Idaho	463	487	352	24	-135	-111	-24%
Jefferson	603	968	799	365	-170	196	32%
Jerome	985	1,237	1,272	253	35	287	29%
Kootenai	4,504	4,753	4,206	250	-547	-297	-7%
Latah	443	424	355	-18	-69	-87	-20%
Lemhi	153	121	85	-32	-36	-67	-44%
Lewis	83	138	153	55	15	71	86%
Lincoln	58	110	127	52	18	69	121%
Madison	1,203	1,074	811	-129	-263	-392	-33%
Minidoka	1,826	1,005	921	-821	-84	-905	-50%
Nez Perce	2,980	2,793	2,573	-187	-220	-407	-14%
Oneida	14	21	13	7	-8	-1	-7%
Owyhee	124	192	132	69	-61	8	6%
Payette	1,499	1,395	1,108	-104	-286	-391	-26%
Power	1,675	1,040	1,080	-635	41	-594	-35%
Shoshone	206	251	207	45	-44	1	0%
Teton	48	148	97	100	-51	49	101%
Twin Falls	3,511	3,468	3,147	-43	-321	-364	-10%
Valley	140	64	53	-76	-11	-87	-62%
Washington	554	488	474	-66	-14	-80	-15%

*Average of January to September Employment

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Idaho Department of Labor.

Thorne Research and dozens of other companies led to the county's manufacturing growth.

Food processing was the main source of the manufacturing job gains in the other counties that expanded payrolls by more than 100.

South central Idaho's Jerome County saw its dairy products industry add more than 200 jobs between 2000 and 2009 while benefitting from the 2005 opening and subsequent expansion of Hilex Poly, a manufacturer of plastic bags. Dairy products were the major factor in manufacturing growth in Gooding County as well.

Eastern Idaho's Jefferson County added nearly 100 potato-processing jobs along with gains at other local manufacturers.

Looking ahead, it seems likely manufacturers will add a few jobs this year. Wood products, which suffered a series of major layoffs, no longer is losing jobs, and some mills may bring some workers back this year. Electronics continues to decline, but most other manufacturers have stabilized and are again adding a few jobs. One of biggest gainers this year could be Nez Perce County where ATK has added more than 100 jobs since September, and related companies have plans to add a couple dozen themselves.

The loss of manufacturing jobs is particularly difficult since they are export-oriented and tend to drive local economies. They also have intricate networks of suppliers, which mean their loss can lead to job losses among those suppliers. Their high wages – an average of \$46,700 in 2008 compared to the \$31,800 average in all other private-sector jobs – and generous benefits are a major contributor to local spending power so their loss can lead to further job erosion in retail and services. The table on page 18 shows losses and gains in manufacturing jobs by county.

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SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO INDUSTRIES

There are 20 different industries in the North American Industry Classification System, and all are represented in south central Idaho. The top eight based on average employment, as might be expected, include agriculture and manufacturing.

Rank	Industry	Average Employment	Average Quarterly Wage/Hour	% of Regional Employment
	South Central Region	80,175	\$13.51	100%
1	Retail	9,806	\$10.50	12.2%
2	Agriculture	9,721	\$12.35	12.1%
3	Health Care	8,511	\$14.32	10.6%
4	Manufacturing	8,118	\$17.26	10.1%
5	Tourism	7,787	\$7.26	9.7%
6	Professional/ Business Services	7,241	\$13.72	9.0%
7	Education	5,776	\$14.17	7.2%
8	Construction	4,678	\$14.98	5.8%

Source: Idaho Department of Labor, Quarterly Tax Reports, third quarter 2009

Most economic development efforts focus on businesses that provide moderate to higher wages and competitive benefits – the kind of job opportunities that can create wealth in a community or region.

RETAIL AND AGRICULTURE

Retail and agriculture fall short of that target. Retail, a sector driven by population growth, provides the biggest share of employment in a region that has seen marked population increases. But it is known for its comparatively low wages, a high percentage of part-time workers and no extensive training requirements. Agriculture is a highly seasonal sector also known for comparatively low wages, long hours and mostly on-the-job training. The outdoor nature of the work draws people who have been on farms or ranches from childhood – often family members – with the initiative, strong work ethic and ability to work alone. In some cases, room and board are included with jobs, partially offsetting the low wages. But for many working in agriculture it is a lifestyle rather than a job, so the industry – as stable as it is economically – defies typical recruiting efforts.

PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Professional and business services includes a wide range of activity – scientific and technical services, management of companies, administrative and support services and waste management. Like retail, many follow population growth and adapt to the demands of the key industries producing goods and providing services in the region. These are the accountants, attorneys, architects, engineers, managers and others working for themselves or in businesses such as laboratories, staffing agencies, landscaping companies, veterinary services, travel agencies, telemarketing and credit bureaus. Wages and employment are average but can experience wide swings depending on the time of year. This is a sector that takes a secondary place in economic development campaigns. In south central Idaho, this sector was hit hard by the recession. Average employment dropped 12 percent from the third quarter 2007 to the third quarter 2009. Most of the loss occurred during 2008.

TOURISM

Tourism, which is a component of the leisure and hospitality sector, can be generated artificially but more typically is the result of natural features – the amount of snow and vertical drop of the hills, the quality of whitewater and the opportunity for climbing like the City of Rocks offers. Easy access to an interstate highway also helps. But capitalizing on tourism takes nurturing – specialized marketing, training and recruiting. This is typically a task taken up by associations of resort operators rather than economic development professionals. The success of tourism also depends on variables like the weather and whether the economy has provided people the disposable income they need to become tourists – making predictions difficult. The work force in this sector is among the youngest of any major sector. This is one of two sectors where the south central Idaho work force is on average younger than the work force statewide. The other is government, where the experience people gain over the years typically enables them to move to jobs with better pay and more responsibility but typically outside the region. The recession also took a toll on tourism and other businesses dependent on discretionary income. From third quarter 2007 to third quarter 2009, the leisure and hospitality sector saw average employment drop 2.5 percent despite four new hotels that opened in Twin Falls and Jerome during that period.

Generally, the regional work force is older than the comparable work force statewide because younger people tend to flock to larger population areas while retirement-age individuals choose areas based on where their children live, where there is a lot of recreational opportunities or where the lifestyle is simpler – amenities south central Idaho offers.

HEALTH CARE

With over 8,000 workers in the region, health care ranked third among the sectors. The diverse occupations, preparation requirements and working environments create wide disparity in wages. A registered nursing license is one of the most sought after because the wage prospects are \$50,000 a year with just a two-year investment in training. The demand for nurses is comparatively high due to the aging population, increasing concern with health because of lifestyle choices and the looming retirement of 40 percent of this labor pool who are 45 years of age and older. The nation, state and region continue to experience shortages of specific health care professionals, particularly in rural areas. This is an industry with hourly wages higher than the total of all others in the region. However, there is a significant number of low-skilled jobs in this sector such as certified nursing assistants and licensed practical nurses who staff retirement homes and home health care agencies. Low-paid daycare employees also fall in this sector. These considerations bring the ranking of health care's average hourly pay of \$14.32 to 10th among the industries. Also eroding away at wages is that most emergency room visits are relatively routine, not requiring surgical physicians and support personnel. Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls, the largest hospital in the eight counties, flies trauma patients to Boise on a daily basis rather than maintain the higher skilled staff needed to treat them locally. Health care has been one of the few industries posting job growth during the recession – 2.8 percent from third quarter 2007 to third quarter 2009 although average employment was essentially flat during the final four quarters of that period.

MANUFACTURING

Manufacturing, ranked fourth regionally in average employment, is second only to education in the older makeup of its work force. This is a result of unionized food processors — especially in sugar, meat and frozen potatoes — where workers tend to stick around. Union activity in this right-to-work state falls off significantly in durable manufacturing. Still there is job longevity in Minidoka and Cassia counties where most residents are inclined to stay because of family considerations and recreational opportunities. Twenty percent of the manufacturing workers in the two counties are over 55 and will have to be replaced in the next 10 to 15 years. Clearly, once a worker gets a foot in the door with one of these companies that provide higher wages and competitive benefits, the worker's loyalty and commitment is solidified and turnover reduced. Regional manufacturing wages were higher than the average of all industries in the third quarter 2009 at \$17.26 compared to \$13.51. With almost half of the work force over 45 years of age, the next 20 years will see labor shortages that could negatively affect business expansion in the area. High schools have been marketing construction and manufacturing to their graduates in the face of that prospect – offering dual credit enrollment or college credits along with the high school credits when students take specific courses. A federal work force innovation grant has helped provide equipment for some training courses to meet the industry's demand for well-trained skilled workers. The recession, however, has blunted that trend. Manufacturing jobs have declined 5.3 percent since summer 2007 with most of the loss in the second half of 2008 and the first half of 2009.

EDUCATION

Education has the highest percentage of older workers in the region but is experiencing very low turnover because of the time it takes to become a teacher, the career ladder and its financial incentives and that educators have summers and holidays free. Still the knowledge and historical perspective that will be lost when these experienced teachers retire will create a tremendous void. The older age for the region's teaching corps is understandable since advanced degrees take time to obtain as does experience. The U.S. Census

Bureau estimates that more than a fourth of all workers in education in south central Idaho are 55 to 64 years of age and up to one third in some counties. These individuals will retire at some point during the next 10 years. The unknown is how many teachers entered this career later in life after raising their children and will continue their teaching careers beyond normal retirement. The average wage is lower for education than for some other industries because starting teacher wages are relatively low and the occupations in education include lower paid teachers' aides, maintenance workers, cafeteria workers and office staff. The average hourly wage for the region during the third quarter 2009 was \$14.17, ranking seventh. Education has withstood the recession with average employment up 2.5 percent or 150 jobs.

CONSTRUCTION

Construction draws a younger work force by its physical nature. But many of the owners, superintendents and project managers are older, having worked their way up. Investments not being what they once were, people who could have retired are still working, but they will eventually have to be replaced. More than a third of the region's construction work force is age 45 or older while 15 percent is 55 and older. Construction is dominated by men, who earn more than the women working in the sector. This accounts for the wage disparity with industries like education and health care. Construction carries an average wage of close to \$15 per hour, pushed up by the high-priced home building boom in the Sun Valley area. The recession ended that. Blaine County lost 38 percent of its construction jobs and the region shed 31 percent. State-wide construction jobs dropped a third. *The table on page 23 provides wage and employment by industry for third quarter 2009 for the region. The tables on pages 24-27 provide data on workers by age and by industry for south central Idaho counties. The table on page 28 shows job growth changes in the region during the recessionary period.*

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FIRST ANNUAL MAYOR'S BUSINESS DAY IN IDAHO FALLS

Idaho Falls Mayor Jared Fuhriman is not a man to sit around, waiting to react after the fact. Time and again he has been proactive in behalf of his city, tapping local experts and civic leaders to tackle issues before they become problems.

Now in his second term, Fuhriman and the city are facing unprecedented challenges brought on by the recession. In the fall of 2009, he called on the Greater Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce and Idaho Falls office of the Department of Labor to examine the economy and ways to boost business and job creation.

Over the next four months, the mayor and representatives of the chamber and the Labor Department developed what became the Mayor's Business Day.

The event on March 8 at the Idaho Falls High School was essentially a boot camp for businesses followed by a job fair for workers — all at no charge.

The boot camp, attended by over 200 people, included insight on business operations from government and business professionals, who discussed what business operators can expect coming out of the recession and where financing will be available.

Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter encouraged these business people to grow their way out of the recession, maintaining that the best helping hand was the one at the end of a sleeve.

South Central Idaho - Third Quarter 2009 Industry Employment Data

	Total Wage	# Employers	Average Employment	Avg. Hourly Wage	Rank by Employment	% of Region Total
All	\$585,028,635	7,573	80,175	\$13.51		
11-Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	\$ 64,806,653	664	9,721	\$ 12.35	2	12.1%
21-Mining	\$ 2,118,313	26	246	\$ 15.92	17	0.3%
22-Utilities	\$ 4,963,534	54	461	\$ 19.92	16	0.6%
23-Construction	\$ 37,853,155	1,150	4,678	\$ 14.98	8	5.8%
31-33 Manu-All	\$ 75,646,323	290	8,118	\$ 17.26	4	10.1%
42-Wholesale Trade	\$ 30,685,862	419	3,241	\$ 17.53	11	4.0%
44-45 Retail-All	\$ 55,612,929	849	9,806	\$ 10.50	1	12.2%
48-49 Trans & Ware	\$ 31,959,717	380	3,783	\$ 15.64	10	4.7%
51-Information	\$ 9,914,299	117	1,251	\$ 14.68	14	1.6%
52-Finance and Insurance	\$ 20,089,937	353	1,910	\$ 19.48	13	2.4%
53-Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	\$ 5,786,290	310	979	\$ 10.95	15	1.2%
54-56 Prof & Bus Serv	\$ 53,638,157	950	7,241	\$ 13.72	6	9.0%
61-Educational Services	\$ 44,180,006	141	5,776	\$ 14.17	7	7.2%
62-Health Care and Social Assistance	\$ 65,799,357	603	8,511	\$ 14.32	3	10.6%
71-72 Tourism	\$ 30,532,959	535	7,787	\$ 7.26	5	9.7%
81-Other Services (except Public Administration)	\$ 13,627,745	536	2,227	\$ 11.33	12	2.8%
92-Public Administration	\$ 37,813,399	195	4,438	\$ 15.78	9	5.5%
99-Unknown		1				

Source: Third Quarter 2009, Quarterly Census of Employed Workers, Idaho Department of Labor.

South Central Idaho - Industries by Age of Workers

Q2 2008-Q1 2009 Averaged	Total	45-54	55-64	65-99	Totals	% older than 45	% over 55	% over 65
MANUFACTURING								
South Central Region	8,790	2,375	1,382	225	3,982	45.3%	18.3%	2.6%
Blaine	486	109	67	10	186	38.3%	15.8%	2.1%
Camas	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-	0.0%		
Cassia	1,234	374	222	37	633	51.3%	21.0%	3.0%
Gooding	712	164	83	18	265	37.2%	14.2%	2.5%
Jerome	1,265	309	160	29	498	39.4%	14.9%	2.3%
Lincoln	103	25	14	1	40	38.8%	14.6%	1.0%
Minidoka	1,102	325	199	36	560	50.8%	21.3%	3.3%
Twin Falls	3,888	1,069	637	94	1,800	46.3%	18.8%	2.4%
State	64,194	17,649	8,812	1,444	27,905	43.5%	16.0%	2.2%
CONSTRUCTION								
South Central Region	5,831	1,259	644	230	2,133	36.6%	15.0%	3.9%
Blaine	2,222	483	248	87	818	36.8%	15.1%	3.9%
Camas	11	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-	0.0%		
Cassia	494	102	54	25	181	36.6%	16.0%	5.1%
Gooding	326	80	32	19	131	40.2%	15.6%	5.8%
Jerome	407	107	46	13	166	40.8%	14.5%	3.2%
Lincoln	206	51	18	8	77	37.4%	12.6%	3.9%
Minidoka	398	87	48	19	154	38.7%	16.8%	4.8%
Twin Falls	1,767	349	198	59	606	34.3%	14.5%	3.3%
State	43,047	9,128	4,535	1,165	14,828	34.4%	13.2%	2.7%
WHOLESALE TRADE								
South Central Region	3,283	807	486	162	1,455	44.3%	19.7%	4.9%
Blaine	222	43	24	11	78	35.1%	15.8%	5.0%
Camas	85	18	7	0	25	29.4%	8.2%	0.0%
Cassia	331	81	55	18	154	46.5%	22.1%	5.4%
Gooding	155	46	32	12	90	58.1%	28.4%	7.7%
Jerome	431	105	70	20	195	45.2%	20.9%	4.6%
Lincoln	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0.0%		
Minidoka	591	157	83	30	270	45.7%	19.1%	5.1%
Twin Falls	1,468	357	215	71	643	43.8%	19.5%	4.8%
State	27,540	6,702	3,738	1,003	11,443	41.6%	17.2%	3.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau., LED on the Map.

South Central Idaho - Industries by Age of Workers

Q2 2008-Q1 2009 Averaged	Total	45-54	55-64	65-99	Totals	% older than 45	% over 55	% over 65
RETAIL								
South Central Region	10,461	2057	1317	455	3,829	36.6%	16.9%	4.3%
Blaine	1,708	375	234	76	685	40.1%	18.1%	4.4%
Camas	18	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-	0.0%		
Cassia	1,603	300	204	83	587	36.6%	17.9%	5.2%
Gooding	422	92	60	22	174	41.2%	19.4%	5.2%
Jerome	1,095	239	147	53	439	40.1%	18.3%	4.8%
Lincoln	67	17	8	4	29	43.3%	17.9%	6.0%
Minidoka	547	112	72	30	214	39.1%	18.6%	5.5%
Twin Falls	5,001	922	592	187	1,701	34.0%	15.6%	3.7%
<i>State</i>	<i>83,860</i>	<i>15,942</i>	<i>10,065</i>	<i>3,144</i>	<i>29,151</i>	<i>34.8%</i>	<i>15.8%</i>	<i>3.7%</i>
Professional/ Scientific/Technical								
South Central Region	3,089	695	451	163	1,309	42.4%	19.9%	5.3%
Blaine	880	220	158	16	394	44.8%	19.8%	1.8%
Camas	8	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-	0.0%		
Cassia	126	25	17	6	48	38.1%	18.3%	4.8%
Gooding	176	45	21	8	74	42.0%	16.5%	4.5%
Jerome	141	42	17	7	66	46.8%	17.0%	5.0%
Lincoln	13	4	0	0	4	30.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Minidoka	181	53	23	14	90	49.7%	20.4%	7.7%
Twin Falls	1,564	306	215	112	633	40.5%	20.9%	7.2%
<i>State</i>	<i>33,237</i>	<i>8,128</i>	<i>5,184</i>	<i>985</i>	<i>14,297</i>	<i>43.0%</i>	<i>18.6%</i>	<i>3.0%</i>
ADMINISTRATION								
South Central Region	3,696	674	361	125	1,160	31.4%	13.1%	3.4%
Blaine	857	179	86	22	287	33.5%	12.6%	2.6%
Camas	43	12	7	0	19	44.2%	16.3%	0.0%
Cassia	159	38	28	9	75	47.2%	23.3%	5.7%
Gooding	23	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-	0.0%		
Jerome	167	34	14	1	49	29.3%	9.0%	0.6%
Lincoln	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-	0.0%		
Minidoka	20	7	4	0	11	55.0%	20.0%	0.0%
Twin Falls	2,427	404	222	93	719	29.6%	13.0%	3.8%
<i>State</i>	<i>39,401</i>	<i>7,135</i>	<i>3,908</i>	<i>1,124</i>	<i>12,167</i>	<i>30.9%</i>	<i>12.8%</i>	<i>2.9%</i>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau., LED on the Map.

South Central Idaho - Industries by Age of Workers

Q2 2008-Q1 2009 Averaged	Total	45-54	55-64	65-99	Totals	% older than 45	% over 55	% over 65
EDUCATION								
South Central Region	6,128	1859	1411	289	3,559	58.1%	27.7%	4.7%
Blaine	754	224	148	25	397	52.7%	22.9%	3.3%
Camas	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-			
Cassia	749	223	186	38	447	59.7%	29.9%	5.1%
Gooding	575	173	134	22	329	57.2%	27.1%	3.8%
Jerome	627	183	128	19	330	52.6%	23.4%	3.0%
Lincoln	202	53	53	14	120	59.4%	33.2%	6.9%
Minidoka	650	221	173	37	431	66.3%	32.3%	5.7%
Twin Falls	2,571	782	589	134	1,505	58.5%	28.1%	5.2%
State	55,355	15,635	12,184	2,398	30,217	54.6%	26.3%	4.3%
HEALTHCARE								
South Central Region	8,089	1807	1177	322	3,306	40.9%	18.5%	4.0%
Blaine	694	159	92	23	274	39.5%	16.6%	3.3%
Camas	13	1	0	0	1	7.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Cassia	1,258	275	162	37	474	37.7%	15.8%	2.9%
Gooding	392	91	56	20	167	42.6%	19.4%	5.1%
Jerome	444	96	66	23	185	41.7%	20.0%	5.2%
Lincoln	117	17	11	6	34	29.1%	14.5%	5.1%
Minidoka	534	120	89	19	228	42.7%	20.2%	3.6%
Twin Falls	4,637	1048	701	194	1,943	41.9%	19.3%	4.2%
State	77,051	17,255	11,042	2,477	30,774	39.9%	17.5%	3.2%
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, RECREATION								
South Central Region	865	171	98	36	305	35.3%	15.5%	4.2%
Blaine	372	89	42	19	150	40.3%	16.4%	5.1%
Camas	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-			
Cassia	91	17	8	5	30	33.0%	14.3%	5.5%
Gooding	19	5	0	0	5	26.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Jerome	34	6	5	0	11	32.4%	14.7%	0.0%
Lincoln	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-	0.0%		
Minidoka	38	n.a.	6	0	6	15.8%	15.8%	0.0%
Twin Falls	311	54	37	12	103	33.1%	15.8%	3.9%
State	10,386	1,632	1,132	493	3,257	31.4%	15.6%	4.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau., LED on the Map.

South Central Idaho - Industries by Age of Workers

Q2 2008-Q1 2009 Averaged	Total	45-54	55-64	65-99	Totals	% older than 45	% over 55	% over 65
ACCOMMODATIONS & FOOD								
South Central Region	6,637	824	441	168	1,433	21.6%	9.2%	2.5%
Blaine	2,361	315	226	85	626	26.5%	13.2%	3.6%
Camas	22	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-	0.0%		
Cassia	677	69	35	15	119	17.6%	7.4%	2.2%
Gooding	225	30	13	5	48	21.3%	8.0%	2.2%
Jerome	376	47	27	10	84	22.3%	9.8%	2.7%
Lincoln	41	10	2	3	15	36.6%	12.2%	7.3%
Minidoka	273	42	13	5	60	22.0%	6.6%	1.8%
Twin Falls	2,662	311	125	45	481	18.1%	6.4%	1.7%
State	52,713	5,627	2,677	1,075	9,379	17.8%	7.1%	2.0%
GOVERNMENT								
South Central Region	3,398	927	612	142	1,681	49.5%	22.2%	4.2%
Blaine	534	157	72	13	242	45.3%	15.9%	2.4%
Camas	43	14	12	0	26	60.5%	27.9%	0.0%
Cassia	372	117	71	23	211	56.7%	25.3%	6.2%
Gooding	286	59	58	13	130	45.5%	24.8%	4.5%
Jerome	393	108	79	18	205	52.2%	24.7%	4.6%
Lincoln	138	46	30	6	82	59.4%	26.1%	4.3%
Minidoka	361	96	63	19	178	49.3%	22.7%	5.3%
Twin Falls	1,271	330	227	50	607	47.8%	21.8%	3.9%
State	35,933	9,882	7,162	1,193	18,237	50.8%	23.3%	3.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau., LED on the Map.

Job Growth in South Central Idaho by Industry Over the Recessionary Time Period

South Central Idaho	Avg.		Avg.		Avg.		Avg.	Avg.	Avg.	Avg.
	Employment	% of total	Employment	% of total	Employment	% of total	Employment	Employment	Employment	Employment
	Q3-07	jobs	Q3-08	jobs	Q3-09	jobs	3rd Quarter	3rd Quarter	3rd Quarter	3rd Quarter
							2007-2009	2008-2009	2007-2009	2007-2009
						TWO YEAR %	YEAR-OVER-	TWO YEAR #	YEAR-OVER-	
						CHANGE	YEAR %	CHANGE	YEAR #	
							CHANGE		CHANGE	
All Y07_NAICS	84,127	100%	84,731	100%	80,175	100%	-4.7%	-5.4%	(3,952)	(4,556)
11-Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	9,545	11.3%	9,632	11.4%	9,721	12.1%	1.8%	0.9%	176	89
21-Mining	359	0.4%	312	0.4%	246	0.3%	-31.5%	-21.1%	(113)	(66)
22-Utilities	473	0.6%	478	0.6%	461	0.6%	-2.6%	-3.6%	(12)	(17)
23-Construction	6,779	8.1%	6,644	7.8%	4,678	5.8%	-31.0%	-29.6%	(2,101)	(1,966)
31-33-Manufacturing	8,572	10.2%	8,576	10.1%	8,118	10.1%	-5.3%	-5.3%	(454)	(458)
42-Wholesale Trade	3,358	4.0%	3,382	4.0%	3,241	4.0%	-3.5%	-4.2%	(117)	(141)
44-45-Retail Trade	10,239	12.2%	10,277	12.1%	9,806	12.2%	-4.2%	-4.6%	(433)	(471)
48-49-Transportation and Warehousing	3,643	4.3%	3,792	4.5%	3,783	4.7%	3.9%	-0.2%	140	(9)
51-Information	1,298	1.5%	1,271	1.5%	1,251	1.6%	-3.6%	-1.5%	(47)	(20)
52-Finance and Insurance	2,062	2.5%	1,953	2.3%	1,910	2.4%	-7.4%	-2.2%	(152)	(43)
53-Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,028	1.2%	1,023	1.2%	979	1.2%	-4.8%	-4.3%	(49)	(44)
54-Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	2,765	3.3%	2,864	3.4%	2,648	3.3%	-4.2%	-7.5%	(117)	(216)
55-Management of Companies and Enterprises	343	0.4%	336	0.4%	330	0.4%	-3.8%	-1.8%	(13)	(6)
56-Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	5,117	6.1%	4,952	5.8%	4,263	5.3%	-16.7%	-13.9%	(854)	(689)
54-56 Professional Business Services Supersector	8,225		8,152		7,241		-12.0%	-11.2%		
61-Educational Services	5,634	6.7%	5,699	6.7%	5,776	7.2%	2.5%	1.4%	142	77
62-Health Care and Social Assistance	8,283	9.8%	8,497	10.0%	8,511	10.6%	2.8%	0.2%	228	14
71-Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1,091	1.3%	1,079	1.3%	1,042	1.3%	-4.5%	-3.4%	(49)	(37)
72-Accommodation and Food Services	6,899	8.2%	7,188	8.5%	6,744	8.4%	-2.2%	-6.2%	(155)	(444)
71-72 - Tourism Supersector	7,990		8,267		7,786		-2.5%	-5.8%		
81-Other Services (except Public Administration)	2,320	2.8%	2,392	2.8%	2,227	2.8%	-4.0%	-6.9%	(93)	(165)
92-Public Administration	4,320	5.1%	4,386	5.2%	4,438	5.5%	2.7%	1.2%	118	52

Note: Totals may be insignificantly off due to the exclusion of a sub-sector.

Source: Idaho Dept. of Labor, Quarterly Census of Employed Workers (QCEW)

National economist Jeff Thredgold said 2010 will provide hope and change as the economy emerges from the recession and tries to stabilize, predicting that 2011 and 2012 would be even better although the economy may look different.

Panels of local experts took on issues ahead of the chamber's annual Area Business Connection where businesses showcased themselves.

Thirty businesses were part of the three-hour job fair that drew more than 1,000 job seekers.

Furihman deemed the event a success that he hopes to repeat — possibly with some modifications — in years to come when the economy has finally begun to expand again.

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2010 RURAL CONFERENCE MAY 4-6

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Rebuilding Rural Communities Through Innovation in Education, Economic and Work Force Development

The 2010 Rural Conference is focused on rebuilding and reinvesting in rural America. Nationally recognized speakers will address such critical subjects as job creation, how to create a culture of entrepreneurship, creating opportunities for and retaining youth, key strategies for economic development, green jobs, educational initiatives to meet the demands of the future and more.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Business and community leaders, work force and education professionals, economic development specialists, volunteers and community organizers.

COST AND REGISTRATION

\$325 per person includes full conference access and in-session meals. Seating is limited so register online soon at <http://ruralconference2010.com/>. **Registration closes April 19.**

LODGING

A limited number of deluxe accommodations have been held at a special rate of \$75 per night for conference attendees at the [The Coeur d'Alene](#) resort. **Special rate available only until March 31.** Call the Resort Reservation Line at (800) 688-5253 and request the special rate for the 2010 Rural Conference.

EXHIBITOR SPACE AVAILABLE

Contact [Diana Kearby](#) (208) 332-3570 ext 3080 and complete the online [Exhibitor Application](#).

PARTNERS

The Idaho Economic Development Association, the Idaho Department of Labor, The Oregon Consortium & Oregon Workforce Alliance and Worksource Oregon, Idaho National Laboratory and Idaho Rural Partnership.

INFORMATION

<http://ruralconference2010.com/>



Area and County Developments

PANHANDLE

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai & Shoshone counties

DEVELOPMENTS

- Temporary-help agencies are seeing an encouraging increase in demand for contract and temporary workers. The industry is considered a barometer of economic activity because employers often use temps to ramp up operations quickly to respond to growing demand for their products and services without committing to hiring additional permanent employees. The first month of 2010 has already surpassed the last quarter of 2009, which was more profitable for some temp agencies than the three prior quarters.

BENEWAH COUNTY

- In light of the proposed \$5.1 million cut in state funding, Heyburn State Park is discussing alternatives for increasing revenue. The Idaho Parks and Recreation Department predicts Heyburn's operating costs in the fiscal year starting July 1 will be around \$668,000. With projected revenue of around \$837,000, the park will have an income of \$171,000. In fiscal year 2009, Heyburn brought in approximately \$668,000 and spent roughly \$605,000 on operations for a profit of \$63,000. The jump in revenue can be attributed to increased day use, annual passes and lessee and camping fees throughout the park. Park managers are also considering a retail store in the new visitor center and developing Rocky Point Lodge into a family and group-use facility. They plan to sell the park's 87-passenger cruise boat which no longer operates, saving \$15,000 a year in insurance and \$8,000 in storage costs.
- The East Side Fire Protection District has expanded emergency medical services. The district now covers the east side of Coeur d'Alene Lake from Beauty Creek to the Coeur d'Alene River just north of Harrison. Six new volunteers recently completed extensive testing to be certified as emergency medical responders. They join the current response team, seven EMTs and three helpers to provide around the clock medical response for the area.
- Elise Durham has donated \$84,000 to the St. Maries Public Library to fulfill long-awaited plans for additional space. The new construction will enclose the lower half of the building and add much needed meeting space, a restroom, kitchenette and storage. Originally the library board had budgeted \$70,000 to enclose the space and finish it as money allowed, but the money left by Mrs. Durham will allow the library to complete the entire project at once. Construction is expected to start this summer. This will be the first structural change the building has had since the 1980s.

BONNER COUNTY

- The slowing economy caused gaps in production for Quest Aircraft Co., leading to the layoff of 22 of the 303 full-time workers at its Sandpoint plane manufacturing plant. The jobs cut were mostly in production, but employees in engineering, administration and quality control were also let

go. Employees could be recalled when contracts and the economy pick up. Quest continues to produce three Kodiak planes a month and has a waiting list of 18 months.

- Idaho Legal Aid provides free legal help to low-income residents at the Bonner Community Food Center. After losing some funding, the agency cut travel costs from Coeur d'Alene to Bonners Ferry and Sandpoint, resulting in a reduction of services to one in eight Bonner County families. Typically, people are seeking legal help in domestic violence, child support and child custody cases and landlord disputes. Idaho Legal Aid will continue providing services, but some people will have to make contact by long-distance telephone calls or by letter to the Coeur d'Alene office.
- A 300-foot dock for transient moorage and an addition of 300 feet to the existing breakwater are part of a three-phase improvement project of the Sandpoint Parks & Recreation Department. This initial stage was financed with grants, new construction fees and Sandpoint Parks and Recreation's improvement funds. It should be completed in June. C.E. Kramer Crane and Contracting Inc. was awarded the \$750,000 bid for the Dock Street project. The company is employing up to eight of its own workers and several local subcontractors. The other improvements are expected to be completed over the next few years.
- Keller Williams Realty opened a branch office in Sandpoint with prospects for expanding the staff from 12 to at least 30 agents. The company opened the Sandpoint office when agents in Coeur d'Alene began selling more homes in Bonner County. The realty company's Coeur d'Alene office has 92 agents.

BOUNDARY COUNTY

- Meadow Creek Computer Works began providing high-speed Internet to Eastport last fall. The company plans to do the same for Porthill by late spring or early summer, introducing a Voice over Internet Protocol system at the same time. VoIP provides telephone service over the Internet for \$20 a month. There will be no federal taxes, long-distance will be free and the service would be available to anyone with a high-speed Internet connection. Meadow Creek Computer Works now employs four full-time staff and serves 400 clients.

KOOTENAI COUNTY

- Pacific West Communities may partner with the city of Coeur d'Alene on a 60-unit housing project for seniors with incomes at 60 percent or less of the median income for the area. If approved by the Idaho Housing and Finance Association, the project would be funded through the tax credit program, and state funding would ensure these units are available for qualifying citizens for the next 40 years.
- The University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute ranked Kootenai County 12th among the states' counties in overall health. The ranking compared low birth weights, numbers of sick days, people's description of their health as fair or poor, tobacco and alcohol use, exercise, diet and access to healthy food, unsafe sex, access to health care and quality of care, education, employment and income, family and social support, community safety and air quality. Kootenai County ranked high for access to and quality of health care. It has a high number of primary-care doctors for its population and a low number of preventable hospital stays. Kootenai County ranked third in the report's category called "critical care," which includes access to care and quality of care.

- Lake City Development Corp., Coeur d'Alene's independent public redevelopment agency, has recapped 2009, citing:
 - Revitalization of entire sections of town
 - Continued multi-agency partnerships to ensure progress toward future community goals
 - Completion of the midtown revitalization project including new sidewalks, street surfaces, trees and public art
 - Assistance in financing disability access at the Sorensen Magnet School
 - Planned support for Kootenai Youth Recreation, which is rebuilding its ice arena after it collapsed under heavy snow
 - Progress with plans to acquire the old Burlington Northern-Santa Fe railroad right of way through downtown for a possible educational corridor, including demolition making the corridor accessible
 - The partnership with The Housing Company to purchase land in Midtown for a work force housing and retail building. Ground should be broken by the end of 2010
 - Work with downtown interests to renovate older buildings, create pocket parks, enhance McEuen Field and build a parking structure near the old federal building
- North Idaho College plans to move its manufacturing and trades-related professional-technical education programs from the school's main campus to a separate campus on the Rathdrum Prairie. Enrollment in those programs has reached capacity, and many courses have waiting lists. The college is requesting \$20 million from the state's permanent building fund for a trades and industry building on a 40-acre tract the school bought recently south of Rathdrum. The proposed trades and industry building site would be part of the 100-acre Kootenai Technical Education Campus.
- Despite a slow economy, Dutch Bros. Coffee ended 2009 on a high note that included a nearly 6 percent sales increase over last year. Last year Dutch Bros. served more than 25 million drinks using more than a million pounds of coffee beans, a million gallons of milk and 125,000 gallons of syrup.
- As a result of the governor's trade mission to Mexico with Idaho business leaders, Ground Force Manufacturing has sold two specialized truck bodies designed to carry 60-ton payloads of fuel and lubrication to service smaller trucks working in La Herradura, Mexico's largest gold mine. Carrying 10,000 gallons of diesel, the giant vehicles can pump 300 gallons per minute into smaller 800-gallon tank mining trucks. Now 30 percent of the manufacturer's business is in South America.
- LCF Enterprises in the Riverbend Commerce Park, which is involved in the export market, designs and manufactures power amplifiers for military and commercial applications. It's equipment is installed on vehicles regularly used by troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. One product is designed to work as part of a system that jams signals to defeat remote controlled roadside bombs.

SHOSHONE COUNTY

- With a little help from the Idaho Small Business Development Center, Lakeside Holistic Health is thriving. It carries a variety of pharmaceutical-grade supplements and uses natural substances. The business treats a variety of conditions such as colds, hormonal balancing, fertility, high cholesterol and fatigue and offers conventional and special laboratory testing for food allergies, hormones and nutritional deficiency.

- Mountain Valley Care and Rehabilitation in Kellogg was one of 173 nursing homes nationwide voted “America’s Best Nursing Homes” and included in the cover story “How to Live to 100” in the February 2010 issue of U.S. News & World Report. More than 15,500 nursing homes were evaluated based on rankings from Nursing Home Compare, a program operated by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. They were evaluated on health inspections, nurse staffing and measures of care, the magazine said, including occurrence of bedsores, confinement and restraint and the number of health and fire deficiencies. Mountain Valley was the only Idaho facility to be named.
- The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency are considering expanding the Big Creek Repository from 500,000 cubic yards to 700,000. Only about 95,000 cubic yards of storage remain. The current fill rate is 60,000 cubic yards per year, according to Idaho’s environmental agency. Although the dump at East Mission Flats was initially proposed at a capacity of 600,000 cubic yards, it was built to only 400,000 cubic yards in response to public objections. Expanding the facility would be more cost-effective than trying to locate a new dump site.
- Despite the current economic climate and below normal snowfall, Lookout Pass experienced a 38 percent increase in lift tickets sold-to-date compared to the same time last season. Much of the increase is due to the Nov. 13 early season opening a month earlier than in 2008. Growth trends are encouraging with a 7.7 percent increase in revenues and a 6.5 percent increase in skier visits this January over last January. December numbers were very similar.

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NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO

Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce counties

CLEARWATER COUNTY

- Clearwater County received nearly \$94,000 in federal stimulus funding for energy efficiency projects. The county will retrofit the courthouse with energy efficient lighting and insulation and make improvements to its heating and cooling systems.
- The budget for State Hospital North, the 55-bed psychiatric hospital in Orofino, was cut by \$650,000 – a 9.3 percent reduction. In the past two years, state funding for the hospital, which employs more than 90 people, is down nearly 22 percent. In the past year, the hospital has responded to budget cuts by closing a laboratory and using less expensive drugs when possible. To further reduce costs, it has developed a community based support system that helps patients transition from the hospital to everyday life. That has reduced the average hospital stay from 60 days to 40 days, which in turn reduced the waiting list. When people in state custody are placed on a waiting list, the state must pay private facilities to care for them, so reducing the waiting list has reduced costs considerably. A new psychiatric physician will join the staff in June, helping improve patient care and reducing costs by minimizing the need for outside services.

IDAHO AND LEWIS COUNTIES

- Kamiah voters approved the construction of a new \$2.1 million water treatment plant on Feb. 2. Repairing the current plant was more expensive than building a new one.
- Increasing consumer emphasis on organically grown local foods is moving some farmers in that direction. Eric Hickman and his family have built terraced garden plots near White Bird where they are planting 50,000 corn, 2,500 tomato, 1,000 cantaloupe and 500 watermelon plants. In addition, they are growing herbs, eggplants and other vegetables. The Hickmans plan to sell their produce at farmers' markets and a booth near Hoot's Café. The six 12-foot wide terraces can be seen on the west side of the White Bird bridge. If lined up, they would stretch more than a mile.
- The next few months will determine the fate of the Three Rivers Mill in Kamiah, which closed in December 2008 and put nearly 100 people out of work. The Inverness Group, the Portland-based company that became the receiver for Three Rivers after its owners defaulted on multimillion-dollar bank loans, hopes to put the mill on the auction block in April if the district court allows. There were no bidders at an auction last summer, which required a minimum bid of \$6 million. There will be no minimum bid at the upcoming auction. If no bidders appear this time, Inverness plans to dismantle the mill and sell its equipment separately. Inverness recently won permission from 2nd District Judge John H. Bradbury to sell timber land that belongs to Three Rivers.

LATAH COUNTY

- IVUS Energy Innovations, a new company in Moscow, is growing at a rapid rate in its strategic alliance with 5.11 Tactical, a fast-growing catalog company that sells everything from gun holsters to undercover clothing for police officers. The catalog company now is selling the IVUS flashlight. The environmentally friendly flashlight uses ultra capacitors rather than batteries, is much brighter than most flashlights, can be used for up to two hours at a time and has parts designed to last for 10 years under rigorous conditions. Its biggest advantage is that it charges in only 90 seconds in a vehicle cigarette lighter port. Similar flashlights take at least an hour to charge. The flashlights are assembled overseas. IVUS plans to develop more ways to use ultra capacitors for other types of hand-held devices. It employs seven people and plans to hire two more engineers. It's likely that Moscow will continue to see companies like IVUS that are linked indirectly to research at the University of Idaho.
- Alturas Analytics is an example of how technology transferred from the University of Idaho can lead to high-paying jobs in the community. Created 10 years ago, the company at Alturas Technology Park in Moscow has seen its profits grow about 30 percent a year. It currently employs 23 people. Its success was illustrated when Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter mentioned it in his State of the State address as one of the businesses making significant differences in their communities. In addition to testing the effects of drugs that are being developed, the company also helped the military develop anti-chemical warfare agents that soldiers can inject as antidotes if they are gassed. Each drug requires the development of a unique test that can be applied consistently and meet the standards of the federal Food and Drug Administration. Testing is increasingly complicated as drugmakers introduce remedies that work at lower levels or change more than once after they enter the body.

- Wal-Mart may close its Moscow store after it opens the supercenter east of Pullman, Wash., this fall. The world's largest retailer closed its Lewiston store when it opened its Clarkston store last September. Wal-Mart executives are discussing the possibility of closing the 17-year-old Moscow store, which employs nearly 300 people and is an anchor tenant at the region's largest mall.
- Hundreds of high school students came from Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Alaska to participate in the annual Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival in February. Hundreds of other people came to listen to the music. The week-long festival is Moscow's largest tourism event. Good weather and clear roads helped offset the reduction in visitors because of the poor economy.

NEZ PERCE AND ASOTIN COUNTIES

- Site Selection magazine recently featured Idaho as a great place to do business. Much of the article focused on ATK, the ammunition maker located in Lewiston, which showed its confidence in Idaho's business climate by expanding its Lewiston work force from 925 to 1,075 in 2009. Martin Zacha, ATK's general manager of operations in Lewiston, praised the local labor force's excellent work ethic. He told the magazine that the business case for locating ATK in Idaho is simple: "We are an ammunition and accessory products business, and Idaho is all about the outdoors. It is about hunting and fishing. It plays well to what we do. It definitely helps with our work force. Most of our employees know our products. They use them and understand them. People in Idaho grow up hunting and fishing. They appreciate the quality of our products, and they know why quality is important." Zacha also cited the state work force development fund, which provided money for training of machinists and electricians and allowed them to set up apprenticeship programs.

The magazine said that ATK's "growth, in many ways, mirrors the expanding business environment of the state. As entrepreneurs and outdoor enthusiasts alike have flocked to Idaho seeking a fresh start or a better way of life — or both — they have found a business climate that fosters creativity, a strong work ethic and an appreciation for clean communities." Zacha said the state's supportive attitude toward business has helped ATK grow to become the Lewis-Clark Valley's second largest employer. "We are definitely growing, and we will continue to grow." The magazine also interviewed Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter. The article and interview can be viewed online at <http://www.siteselection.com/features/2010/jan/Idaho/>.

- Lewis-Clark State College earned top marks on its fall 2009 accreditation evaluation by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. It received six commendations. A successful accreditation qualifies a college or university to access federal funds to support teaching, research and student financial aid. Lewis-Clark employs more than 700 in Lewiston.

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SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO

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

ADA COUNTY

- Northwest Computer Support will add up to 12 engineers and sales people in southwestern Idaho in the next year. The IT services and support company, which is expanding its Boise office, has worked with area businesses on a limited basis since 2008. The company held a technology showcase at its grand opening March 11, offering an attendance prize of a \$50,000 "Extreme Technology Makeover."
- Artisans4Hope is a nonprofit, volunteer project that helps refugees learn English, integrates them into the community and helps them make money. In the last decade about 5,500 refugees resettled in Boise. When the economy was good, most of the refugees found jobs and became self-sufficient within three to five months. But during the recession many of the jobs that refugees would have gotten are being taken by laid-off workers. Volunteers at Artisans4Hope are helping the refugees hone their creative skills and then selling their work at local events, Dunia Marketplace in Hyde Park and home parties. Most of the money from the sales goes to the refugee with a small amount going to purchase supplies. English lessons are integrated into the work sessions.
- Offices at the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare are closing every other Friday until at least June 11 in response to the state budget crisis. The unpaid time off for 3,000 employees will save about \$1 million through June. Each employee will take 108 furlough hours resulting in a 5.2 percent reduction in their pay. The director's office will remain open, and crisis-response services for mental-health and child-protection are not affected.
- The Ground Floor is a 3,000-square-foot business incubator that opened in January with financial support from the Meridian Development Corp. But it has struggled to find tenants. VengaWorks Venture Centers had agreed to manage the facility but pulled out. Tribute Media Inc., a Web-based marketing and development company, will relocate 18 employees there including eight who have been working out of their homes. Tribute Media is working with the new management group, V&G Ventures LLC, to get more tenants by offering monthly marketing workshops.

ADAMS COUNTY

- Evergreen Forest Products' new dry kiln is a "stimulus" success story. Financed with federal stimulus money, the company estimates 100 people worked on construction that began last August, and other jobs were indirectly generated as a result. Those included steel and equipment manufacturers and local services such as motels and restaurants. The dry kiln addition doubled the amount of wood the company can transport from the saw mill to the planer facility over 100 miles away, cutting both costs and transportation carbon emissions. The saving will be used for raw material purchases and wages for additional workers who will be needed at both plants. According to Evergreen Forest Products Vice-President Rodney Krogh, the new kiln protected 40 jobs at the saw mill and created 60 new ones, giving the company a new outlook for the future. The increased need for raw materials will provide work for those in the logging industry.
- Creations is a new business started by textile students at Council High School. They will be selling zippers, buttons, trims, kwik sew patterns, bias and quilt binding – no fabrics or thread. The students will do machine

quilting for customers, clean, oil and adjust sewing machines, replace zippers and do other repairs. Students will use proceeds to attend the HMQS quilt show in Salt Lake in May.

CANYON COUNTY

- Nampa's Gateway Center continues to expand. Construction is underway on the new 12-screen, 50,000-foot Edwards Cinemas that will open later this year. Currently, the 104-acre Gateway Center includes JC Penney, Macy's, Idaho Athletic Club, Sports Authority and a few smaller shops.
- Micron Technology has entered into a joint-venture with Origin Energy to develop solar photovoltaic technology. Origin Energy is an Australian firm with significant interest and history in renewable energy technologies. Combining Origin's solar experience and Micron's semiconductor manufacturing expertise could result in a strong partnership. The operation will be located in the SpecTek facility in Nampa adjacent to the vacant former MPC Computers building. Micron secured a \$5 million stimulus grant last year to explore LED manufacturing and has done some work on light-emitting diodes, its first venture into renewable and green energy fields.

ELMORE COUNTY

- The new Mountain Home Elk's Lodge was completed in February 2010 after burning to the ground in September 2007. Although no activity, technically, can be held at the lodge unless a lodge member offers an invitation, the membership has always been willing to make the lodge available for community events. So not only did the Elks lose a home, but the community lost a resource. The new lodge, too, is available to the community, but is larger, better equipped and more flexible. It can handle 570 people for an event. The main hall can be configured for more than one activity at the same time. It also has a state-of-the-art kitchen, offices for lodge business, expanded restroom capacity and a much larger members' lounge.

OWYHEE COUNTY

- The Silver Falcon Mining's Diamond Creek mill was completed in late January. The building will house the milling circuit, which enables Silver Falcon to begin processing ore bearing rock. Silver Falcon Mining is a junior resource production company specializing in gold and silver properties. It has acquired the rights to develop and operate the mines of GoldCorp Holdings on War Eagle Mountain on the Owyhee Gold Trend of the Silver City Mining District in Owyhee County. Initial production on the mountain is scheduled for the second half of 2010 with an estimated 15 to 20 year life. Annual yield, at full capacity, is estimated at \$215 million based on gold at \$650 an ounce. A new mill manager has been hired and is currently acquainting himself with the operation.

VALLEY COUNTY

- Cascade and the Long Valley area are hoping for a boom in business when Kelly's Whitewater Park opens. The park boasts one feature many whitewater parks lack — a 2,600-square-foot welcome center. The center will overlook the water park and has amphitheater-type seating for 55 as well as changing and bath rooms. The park on the North Fork of the Payette River will have protected wading pools and a side channel for beginning kayakers. Construction is ahead of schedule, and the park should be completed by late March. The park will employ three or four workers, but volunteers will staff the welcome center.

OPENINGS:

- Nick Reed has won approval from the Weiser City Council to open a pawn shop specializing in gold, firearms and smaller items like watches.

- The Bakery in downtown Weiser is run by Mary Wall and Sally Baker, who offer everything from specialty cakes to fresh cinnamon rolls and Wolverine Cookies. The Bakery shares space with Pizz-Amoré. There is a slight crossover in hours.
- El Herradero has opened a second location — El Herradero Taco Express — in the Mountain Home Chervon Service Station.
- Emotion Portrait Design has reopened at a new location in Mountain Home, still offering portrait sessions that are relaxed, fun and memorable.
- Mountain Home Pro Real Estate has been opened in Mountain Home by broker Barb Fogelman, who decided to take her special understanding of the housing needs of service families on her own. She works with two other brokers.
- Jackson Street Sweet in downtown Mountain Home opened in February, offering a sense of nostalgia with a collection of toys, sodas and candies including flat taffy, Mallow Cups and Skybars.

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SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO

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

BLAINE COUNTY

- The Hailey Hotel, originally built in 1924 and named the Rialto Hotel, has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places, a program administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior. The hotel was built in 1924. When the Triumph Mine opened in 1930, hotel co-owners — a local contractor and a Gooding/Shoshone Basque sheep ranching family — prospered and paid off the mortgage early. The national register designation opens the door to participation in federal grants, tax credit and other programs to encourage preservation. Currently, the hotel is a local nightclub called the “Hay Ho” by regulars.
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- Historic Hailey Hotel in Hailey.
- Organizers and locals were relieved at the success of the first annual Sun Valley Nordic Festival Jan. 30 to Feb. 7. The nine-day extravaganza was combined with the 35th annual Boulder Mountain Tour race, a 32 kilometer competition expanded this year to include a Half Boulder event of 15 kilometers. The big race had 823 participants, down from the record 955 in 2004 but up from last year’s 689 skiers. More than 130 skiers signed up for the Half Boulder race. Because other events were free, it was difficult to gauge the number of attendees and their economic impact though some lodges sold out of rooms two weeks in a row.
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- Skiers at the Sun Valley Nordic Center.

- Morgan Arritola and Hailey native Graham Watanabe represented the United States in the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada where Arritola placed 34th in the women's 10 kilometer freestyle cross country ski race, and Watanabe finished 18th in the snowboard cross race, dropping from second place in the qualifying rounds.
- The city of Ketchum donated \$160,000 towards the \$474,500 cost of the new Town Square — a project that will transform 17 parking spaces to a raised platform for performances, a fountain, a fire pit titled “Flame of Champions” in tribute to the Olympians from the area, tables, benches, pots, solar-powered lighting, trees and space for vendors. The city owns the land through the Urban Renewal Agency, and the Ketchum Community Development Corp. has committed professional services as an in-kind donation. The remainder of the money will be provided by individuals throughout the valley. Ketchum Parks and Recreation will hire one additional seasonal worker to maintain the square during the summer.
- The Idaho Department of Labor moved to a new location in Bellevue that has additional meeting space for employers to use for interviews, testing or presentations. Its new location at 733 N. Main St., in Bellevue is more centralized, making it more convenient for job seekers who need such services as the Internet to search for jobs and other services. To reach the office, call (208) 788-3526 or send an e-mail to blainecounty-mail@labor.idaho.gov.
- A new base village at River Run will bring in an estimated \$5.5 million to the city of Ketchum during its 13 years under construction, according to an economic analysis. The city's Urban Renewal Agency has estimated it will collect \$25.3 million in property taxes and then \$3.6 million annually after completion in 2023. The district goes out of existence in 2030 so a strict adherence to the time table is imperative. Negotiations are still underway. The city wants a soccer park and a fee assessed to finance affordable, community housing.

GOODING COUNTY

- Construction of the \$28 million North Canyon Medical Center in Gooding has been completed at \$1 million under budget. The building cost \$17 million, and another \$11 million was spent on upgrading equipment and services. Chief Executive Earl Fitzgerald said the new hospital provides a surgery center, modern equipment and a more efficient building. Inherently important is its location at the intersection of highways from Shoshone and Wendell, providing great access for these outlying communities. The entire facility is 50,000 square feet, and most areas have been built for expansion as needed. Private rooms and two advanced operating rooms providing orthopedic, podiatric, urological, cosmetic, hand and general surgery will enhance services the most for patients. “This helps provide care for patients in their community, closer to home,” Fitzpatrick said. North Canyon Medical Center has partnered with St. Luke's, which can provide support in technology, human resources, management and operations. Specialized doctors visit the facility from various parts of the state, providing needed services to a remote and aging population. The 40-year-old Gooding County Memorial Hospital building was constructed on state-owned land and reverted back to the state. Plans for the former hospital have not been finalized, but the institution has been assisting in finding health care-related tenants. The new hospital has created six to 12 new jobs.
- Gooding residents failed to muster the two-thirds supermajority to pass a \$5 million bond issue for schools, falling 46 votes short. Bond proceeds

would have been used to update a 40-year old HVAC system and construct a new high school cafeteria among other projects.

JEROME COUNTY

- Heritage Academy has submitted its application to the Idaho Public Charter School Commission to set up the first charter school in Jerome. The Jerome School Board has expressed concern about losing students and revenue from the regular school system, potentially up to \$1.5 million.

LINCOLN COUNTY

- Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter and his cabinet visited Shoshone for his 36th Capital for a Day event. Residents discussed the high unemployment rate in the area – Lincoln County's December 2009 rate was estimated at 17.7 percent. Concerns were expressed on such diverse topics as energy costs, the permitting process for tree removal from waterways and federal immigration laws.

MINI-CASSIA AREA

- The Minidoka County School District approved renewal of a two-year \$500,000 plant facilities levy. The money will provide technology equipment and work stations at all eight schools; roofing; HVAC; sidewalk and paving repair; new buses and a bus engine hoist; resurfacing of the track at the middle school and at one parking lot; installing a drain at the bus compound; entry and parking at various sport venues; new wrestling mats and remodeling of restrooms.
- Wal-Mart in Burley is remodeling its store starting in August, hiring approximately 70 temporary workers to move materials and perform other labor-intensive work. A job fair may be in the works to ramp up for this major overhaul.
- The city of Burley overspent its budget by almost \$280,000 for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2009, according to an audit from an independent accounting firm. The golf course lost \$96,000 last year, contributing to the shortfall. The city council has adopted procedures to review financial statements on a regular basis in the future.
- Cassia County commissioners have rewritten the ordinance for Confined Animal Feeding Operations involving poultry. The ordinance established a 4.2 million-bird limit for facilities and a four-mile biosecurity buffer that would place at least eight miles between each facility. "Our biggest density problem in the U.S. isn't animals, its people," Commissioner Clay Handy said. In response to a comment that the area leaders were desperate to create jobs, he said, "We have the lowest unemployment rates in the state right now. It may appear that we were in a panic to create jobs, but that was not the case."

TWIN FALLS COUNTY

- The water outlook this spring mirrors last spring when there was less-than-average precipitation throughout the winter and levels were below 50 percent of average. Last year turned out fine as late spring precipitation continued into June and kept high temperatures at bay, slowing down the snow runoff while delaying the demand for irrigation. This year, the upper altitudes have not seen mid-winter melts that lead to early run off, and all that most agricultural crop producers can do is hope for a rainy, cool spring.
- ConAgra/Lamb Weston has notified the state that one of its oldest potato processing lines will be shut down in September, affecting between 110

and 120 workers. The company does not anticipate mass layoffs since most of the workers will either be offered alternative employment at the plant or will leave voluntarily. The Twin Falls plant is one of the five largest Lamb Weston facilities in the nation.

- The U.S. Department of Labor approved a \$1.3 million National Emergency Grant to assist dislocated Dell call center workers. The local office of Idaho Department of Labor will ensure the money is distributed to recipients obtaining training or education in a career that is considered in high demand, such as nursing, business management and teaching. "This grant will provide important re-employment and retraining services to help workers in Idaho access job opportunities in expanding fields," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis.

OPENINGS:

- Feels So Good Foot Care providing pedicures to senior citizens and diabetics in Buhl.
- Rock Starr Tattoo Parlor in Buhl.
- Edward Jones, financial advisory office, located in the space formerly occupied by Black Rock Clothier in Buhl.
- 5B CrossFit Strength and Conditioning offering gym and fitness classes in Hailey.
- High Altitude Fitness offering gym and fitness classes in Hailey.
- Gossner Magic Valley retail specialty foods and cheese curds, hiring eight to 10 workers in Twin Falls.
- Priella Springs manufacturer of pro-biotic cleaner, hiring 15 workers in Burley.

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SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO

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

BANNOCK COUNTY

- Bannock County, the city of Pocatello and the Pocatello/Chubbuck School District 25 shared a refund of \$146,481 following the closure of the East Center Street Urban Renewal and Revenue Allocation tax increment financing district. The district was created to finance infrastructure and other groundwork in the area surrounding Portneuf Medical Center's east campus, but after the county partnered with Legacy Health Partners Inc., Legacy made a substantial private investment and the tax district was no longer needed. Tax increment financing diverts property tax revenue on the value of improvements made in specified areas, which are used to finance bonds issued to encourage development in the first place or leverage future growth in the district. When the improvements are repaid, the financing district is retired and taxes return to normal.

BINGHAM COUNTY

- The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes have opened a new \$25 million Justice Center. The center houses a juvenile center that serves up to 20 juveniles. The 66,000-square-foot building also includes courtrooms, an adult jail to detain up to 80 inmates and the headquarters of the Fort Hall Police Department. Construction took two years but was in the planning stage for 30 years. The project was financed with a \$16 million loan, \$6 million in federal stimulus money, the tribe's savings and some grant money.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

- Minerals from a Franklin County farm may have ended up in the village of Sarnac Lake, British Columbia, the site of the 2010 Winter Olympics. Based on a tip from a Canadian resident Olympic organizers tried a truck-load of ecoTRACTION, a non-toxic substance used in place of ice-melt or sand to provide safe, non-skid surfaces in icy conditions. The product is made from zeolite, a natural volcanic mineral that takes millions of years to form. It is mined on Dennis Webster's farm on the Glendale Reservoir in Franklin County. The mine, which employs 15, sells its material to companies for a variety of uses including water purification, soil additives for aerating lawns and gardens, animal nutrition and aquaculture, air filtration and even cat litter. Webster's company shipped about 40 semi-truck loads of zeolite in 2008 and doubled that in 2009.
- River's Edge Energy of Pocatello is a newly formed wind-powered alternative energy company focused on delivering long-lasting energy generation systems for agricultural, residential, commercial and government sectors. River's Edge Energy, Inc. has contracted with All Bright International to sell and install wind turbines in all 50 states. The first residential and agricultural scale vertical wind turbines will soon arrive in Pocatello for assembly and installation.

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EAST CENTRAL IDAHO

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

- The Department of Energy has extended the contract of Bechtel BWXT-Idaho to operate the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project at the Idaho National Laboratory through March 31 and may extend it up to Sept. 30. The contract has been extended several times for retrieval, treatment and packaging of radioactive waste to be shipped out of Idaho. The federal government is considering bids for a new contract running through 2015.
- Several eastern Idaho cities and counties were awarded grants to increase energy efficiency, spur economic development and job creation, and encourage renewable energy deployment. The Idaho Office of Energy Resources awarded 63 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants. Clark County and Dubois were awarded \$121,675 and \$113,000 to help upgrade heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems in city and county buildings, add street lights and conduct a feasibility study on the waste conversion facility and biomass products. Among other grants:
 - Ashton — \$97,600 to retrofit windows, doors and lighting in the Ashton Community Center
 - Sugar City — \$37,667 for insulation, windows, doors and HVAC system upgrades
 - Teton County — \$56,833 for insulation and street light upgrades
 - Newdale — \$66,667 for a wastewater pump and street light upgrades
 - Jefferson County — \$100,000
 - Tetonia — \$51,833
 - Driggs — \$91,989
 - Teton County — \$96,356.

BONNEVILLE COUNTY

- Ammon city officials are hoping to be chosen as a trial location for high-speed networks to serve up to 500,000 users through a program sponsored by Internet search technologies company Google. Under the program Fiber for Communities Google will install ultra-high-speed network cables with vastly increased bandwidth over standard lines, helping businesses to move large amounts of data quickly and efficiently. If chosen, Ammon would get a boost in attracting technology businesses that need these services. Google believes that widespread use of broadband networks can revolutionize education, entertainment and medical treatment and that connection to high-speed Internet service has become an increasingly important economic indicator worldwide. The United States has fallen behind many developed countries in this area.
- The local branch of the Better Business Bureau has been combined with the Boise office that now includes southern Idaho and parts of Oregon and Wyoming. Dale Dixon remains president and chief executive. The change is not expected to have any impact on the employees at the Idaho Falls office, but Dixon said more offices may open throughout eastern Idaho. The bureau is a nonprofit organization charged with advancing marketplace trust by:
 - Creating a community of trustworthy businesses
 - Setting standards for marketplace trust
 - Encouraging and supporting best practices
 - Celebrating marketplace role models
 - Denouncing substandard marketplace behavior

The bureau provides reliability reports with company ratings that the public can access at www.idahofalls.bbb.org to research companies and file complaints.

- Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center in Idaho Falls has a new tool for patients with major heart problems. The Impella, billed as the world's smallest heart pump, is a motor inside a catheter about the thickness of a cocktail straw that enables doctors to stabilize a patient's blood pressure and alleviate the workload of the heart. It can go into the body quickly and stabilize the patient's condition before more major damage is done, pumping oxygenated blood from the left ventricle through the aortic valve and back into the artery where it is pumped through the rest of the body. The motor can pump at about a rate of 50 to 60 percent of a normal heart, and the amount of blood pumped can be adjusted as the patient's heart gradually returns to normal. The Idaho Falls medical center is one of 325 hospitals nationwide to have the Impella and has been using it since December.
- Idaho Falls native John Hart has been hired as the new executive director of the Idaho Falls Downtown Development Corp. Hart recently worked as communications director of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition and as director of economic development for Jefferson County. He also served as professor of multimedia concepts at Rowan University in New Jersey. Hart will focus on parking and the reconfiguration of Memorial Drive and the green-belt expansion. He believes forming partnerships with government and property and business owners will help make the downtown the focal point of the city.

CUSTER COUNTY

- Thompson Creek Mine's board of directors has approved expanding the molybdenum mine's payroll from 346 to 374 employees. Most of the new

jobs are technical. The company says it already has 2,000 applications on file. The mine's operations plan was updated last year to extend its life from 2017 to 2025 and doubling its area to 5,000 acres in a land trade that will open 20,000 acres above the Broken Wing Ranch and along the Salmon River to the public. In a 2007 study, Thompson Creek provided one of every five jobs in Custer County, contributing 44 percent of the total wages and salaries. It also accounted for 40 percent of the county's total taxes. Out of \$77 million spent in 2007, \$27 million was spent in Custer and Bannock counties. While the company has had steady growth since 1960, the rate has increased to around 4 percent as the demand for molybdenum has grown. It is being used in more applications, especially steel for the oil and gas industry.

FREMONT COUNTY

- When Ashton resident Nancy Bergman bought the old red Masonic Lodge/Royal Hotel building on Main Street in 2008, she envisioned it growing into a business incubator that would help revitalize downtown. Since then, several interested businesses have had to postpone or cancel plans due to the economy, but Bergman's office on the second floor and Royal Station's Caldera Coffee shop on the main floor have since become the gathering place for the community, providing space for meetings and events. Bergman continues to update the building, hoping to attract businesses looking to grow while at the same time helping the incubator grow.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

- The Menan-Lorenzo intersection at U.S. Highway 20 will soon be getting a makeover. The \$10 million to \$15 million federally aided project will begin the end of March and take eight months to complete. The project calls for a full overpass with on and off ramps from Highway 20.

MADISON COUNTY

- Madison County was ranked as one of the healthiest counties in Idaho. A study by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute ranked 42 of Idaho's 44 counties. Clark and Camas counties were not ranked due to inadequate data. The institute used federal and state data in its first national evaluation. It has conducted the study in Wisconsin since 2003. The study compares morbidity, mortality, health factors, clinical care, social and economic factors and physical environment. Madison County ranked number one in the state in both health behavior and social/economic factors. The report can be found at www.countyhealthrankings.org.
- Rexburg hosted the first Westwood Film Festival in early March, showcasing eight short and four feature-length films. Three Brigham Young University-Idaho students partnered with city officials on the festival to create a credible event for filmmakers to show their work, support the Westwood Theater, stimulate the arts and bring visitors to Rexburg. About 300 people attended the two-evening event, raising about \$1,000 towards restoring the theater. Interns from BYU-I will continue to handle the festival each year. According to the organizers, "Filmmaking is not about big budgets, but rather big ideas."
- The city of Rexburg has a new development facilitator and grant writer to help with job creation and economic growth. Former business analyst and human resource manager for AMX Inc. in Rexburg, Scott W. Johnson, was selected for the new position.

OPENINGS

- The Shoe Box — specializing in women’s clothes, shoes and accessories in Rigby.
- Morning Krave — specializing in gourmet coffees, flavored hot chocolates, smoothies and Italian sodas in Rigby.

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CENSUS HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS: THEN AND NOW

Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution specifies that the number of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives be distributed proportionally among the states on the basis of the census to be conducted every 10 years.



The 2010 Census is the 23rd headcount of the population in our nation’s history. To highlight the tradition of the decennial census, the Census Bureau prepared a profile of each census starting with the first one in 1790. Below is a list of facts about the first census and the 2010 Census.

1790

- Census Day was Aug. 2 (the first Monday of the month).
- Six questions were asked, including name of "head of family," number of free white males by age (16 and up and under 16) and number of free white females.
- The census was conducted in the 13 original states as well as the districts of Maine, Vermont, Kentucky and the Southwest Territory (Tennessee).
- U.S. marshals, who conducted the census, submitted their results to Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson, nominal director of the census.
- President George Washington delivered the first “State of the Union” address on Jan. 8, 1790.
- Rhode Island entered the Union as the 13th state, May 29, 1790.

U.S. population: 3.9 million.

2010

- The census form is one of the shortest in history: just 10 questions that only take about 10 minutes to answer.
- Integrated communications campaign with DraftFCB and many subcontractors is intended to boost public awareness and participation through paid advertising, a Road Tour, Census in Schools, partnership, social media, a NASCAR race car and an interactive 2010 Census Web site. Ads in 28 languages (in contrast to 17 languages in 2000) reach all segments of the population.
- The “long form” no longer exists, having been converted to the ongoing American Community Survey throughout the decade.
- Questions are very basic, asking about topics such as name, age, race, Hispanic origin and homeownership.
- Households in areas with high concentrations of Spanish-speaking residents receive a bilingual (English/Spanish) form.

Expected U.S. population: around 309 million.

More information on the 2010 Census can be found at <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/> with more details on census history available at <http://www.census.gov/history/> or in Measuring America: The Decennial Censuses from 1790 to 2000 <http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/pol02-ma.pdf>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

State of Idaho Data

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Feb 2010				Feb 2009			
	Civilian Labor Force	# Unemployed	% Unemployed	Total Employment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unemployed	% Unemployed	Total Employment
STATE OF IDAHO	755,653	71,606	9.5	684,047	750,713	52,037	6.9	698,676
COUNTIES								
ADA	192,864	18,295	9.5	174,569	195,266	13,604	7.0	181,662
ADAMS	2,118	375	17.7	1,742	2,144	309	14.4	1,834
BANNOCK	40,568	3,493	8.6	37,075	40,436	2,374	5.9	38,062
BEAR LAKE	3,316	253	7.6	3,062	3,414	138	4.0	3,275
BENEWAH	4,170	636	15.3	3,534	4,083	569	13.9	3,514
BINGHAM	23,196	1,736	7.5	21,460	21,492	1,180	5.5	20,313
BLAINE	12,758	1,254	9.8	11,504	13,457	845	6.3	12,612
BOISE	3,415	369	10.8	3,046	3,447	277	8.0	3,170
BONNER	20,628	2,700	13.1	17,928	20,103	1,923	9.6	18,179
BONNEVILLE	50,530	3,648	7.2	46,882	50,884	2,557	5.0	48,327
BOUNDARY	4,822	736	15.3	4,085	4,221	460	10.9	3,761
BUTTE	1,424	88	6.2	1,336	1,425	70	4.9	1,355
CAMAS	591	69	11.7	522	620	47	7.6	573
CANYON	83,411	9,474	11.4	73,937	84,331	7,391	8.8	76,940
CARIBOU	4,042	333	8.2	3,709	3,529	156	4.4	3,373
CASSIA	11,095	739	6.7	10,356	10,149	405	4.0	9,744
CLARK	558	47	8.4	511	548	20	3.6	528
CLEARWATER	3,408	522	15.3	2,886	3,485	488	14.0	2,997
CUSTER	2,493	195	7.8	2,298	2,626	133	5.1	2,493
ELMORE	11,644	1,077	9.3	10,567	11,243	759	6.7	10,484
FRANKLIN	5,587	261	4.7	5,326	5,730	265	4.6	5,465
FREMONT	5,736	606	10.6	5,130	5,357	388	7.2	4,968
GEM	6,949	884	12.7	6,065	7,010	698	10.0	6,312
GOODING	8,814	681	7.7	8,133	8,380	430	5.1	7,951
IDAHO	7,215	815	11.3	6,401	7,263	702	9.7	6,561
JEFFERSON	11,475	918	8.0	10,557	11,517	634	5.5	10,882
JEROME	10,227	858	8.4	9,369	10,026	577	5.8	9,448
KOOTENAI	71,394	7,486	10.5	63,908	70,159	5,411	7.7	64,749
LATAH	16,995	1,311	7.7	15,683	17,067	971	5.7	16,096
LEMHI	3,631	394	10.8	3,237	3,818	296	7.7	3,522
LEWIS	1,683	103	6.1	1,580	1,699	79	4.7	1,620
LINCOLN	2,592	374	14.4	2,219	2,511	265	10.6	2,245
MADISON	16,259	984	6.1	15,274	15,629	838	5.4	14,791
MINIDOKA	10,118	707	7.0	9,411	9,317	463	5.0	8,854
NEZ PERCE	18,762	1,360	7.3	17,402	18,479	980	5.3	17,499
ONEIDA	2,316	133	5.7	2,183	2,242	125	5.6	2,117
OWYHEE	4,112	211	5.1	3,901	4,208	148	3.5	4,060
PAYETTE	11,009	1,178	10.7	9,830	10,693	901	8.4	9,792
POWER	3,573	287	8.0	3,286	3,569	195	5.5	3,373
SHOSHONE	6,191	876	14.2	5,315	6,170	717	11.6	5,453
TETON	5,140	469	9.1	4,671	5,282	212	4.0	5,070
TWIN FALLS	39,341	3,393	8.6	35,948	38,406	2,152	5.6	36,254
VALLEY	4,655	752	16.2	3,903	4,477	512	11.4	3,965
WASHINGTON	4,828	523	10.8	4,305	4,803	374	7.8	4,429
ASOTIN WA	9,980	695	7.0	9,285	10,627	1,207	11.4	9,420

* In thousands

State of Idaho Data

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data LABOR MARKET AREAS	Dec 2009				Dec 2008			
	Civilian Labor Force	# Unemployed	% Unemployed	Total Employment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unemployed	% Unemployed	Total Employment
BOISE CITY-NAMPA MSA	290,752	29,234	10.1	261,518	294,262	22,118	7.5	272,144
BURLEY MicSA	21,213	1,445	6.8	19,768	19,465	867	4.5	18,598
COEUR D'ALENE MSA	71,394	7,486	10.5	63,908	70,159	5,411	7.7	64,749
GRANGEVILLE SLMA	8,898	917	10.3	7,981	8,963	782	8.7	8,181
HAILEY SLMA	13,349	1,323	9.9	12,026	14,078	892	6.3	13,186
IDAHO FALLS MSA	62,005	4,567	7.4	57,439	62,401	3,191	5.1	59,210
LEWISTON MSA	28,742	2,055	7.2	26,687	29,105	2,186	7.5	26,919
POCATELLO MSA	44,140	3,779	8.6	40,361	44,005	2,569	5.8	41,435
REXBURG MicSA	21,995	1,590	7.2	20,405	20,986	1,226	5.8	19,760
TWIN FALLS MicSA	49,568	4,251	8.6	45,317	48,431	2,729	5.6	45,702
CITIES								
BOISE	105,622	9,100	8.6	96,522	107,226	7,027	6.6	100,199
CALDWELL	18,313	2,130	11.6	16,183	18,481	1,682	9.1	16,799
COEUR D' ALENE	22,985	2,240	9.7	20,745	22,690	1,724	7.6	20,966
IDAHO FALLS	27,255	1,906	7.0	25,349	27,436	1,369	5.0	26,067
LEWISTON	15,490	1,057	6.8	14,434	15,295	816	5.3	14,479
MERIDIAN	32,551	2,998	9.2	29,553	32,945	2,266	6.9	30,679
NAMPA	35,356	3,759	10.6	31,597	36,030	3,229	9.0	32,801
POCATELLO	27,613	2,097	7.6	25,516	27,631	1,500	5.4	26,131
POST FALLS	13,458	1,705	12.7	11,754	13,176	1,297	9.8	11,879
REXBURG	21,914	1,598	7.3	20,317	20,893	1,267	6.1	19,626
TWIN FALLS	22,299	1,739	7.8	20,560	21,847	1,163	5.3	20,685
United States*	153,512	14,871	9.7	138,641	154,401	12,714	8.2	141,687

* In thousands

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

State of Idaho Data — Nonfarm Jobs

BY PLACE OF WORK	% change from				
	Dec 2009*	Nov 2009	Dec 2008	Last Month	Last Year
Total Nonfarm	587,100	585,400	605,500	0.3%	-3.0%
Total Private	466,300	468,200	485,900	-0.4%	-4.0%
GOODS PRODUCING	80,300	81,300	90,900	-1.2%	-11.7%
Mining & Logging	2,800	2,800	3,200	0.0%	-12.5%
Logging	800	900	1,200	-11.1%	-33.3%
Mining	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0%	0.0%
Construction	25,900	26,400	31,900	-1.9%	-18.8%
Construction of Buildings	6,700	6,500	7,500	3.1%	-10.7%
Residential Building Construction	4,100	4,200	4,500	-2.4%	-8.9%
Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction	3,700	3,900	4,100	-5.1%	-9.8%
Specialty Trade Contractors	15,500	16,000	20,300	-3.1%	-23.6%
Foundtn, Structr, & Bldg Exterior Contractors	3,500	3,600	4,700	-2.8%	-25.5%
Building Equipment Contractors	6,600	6,800	8,600	-2.9%	-23.3%
Building Finishing Contractors	2,500	2,800	4,000	-10.7%	-37.5%
Other Specialty Trade Contractors	2,900	2,800	3,000	3.6%	-3.3%
Manufacturing	51,600	52,100	55,800	-1.0%	-7.5%
Nondurable Goods	22,900	23,600	23,400	-3.0%	-2.1%
Food Manufacturing	15,300	15,500	15,300	-1.3%	0.0%
Fruit & Veg. Preserving & Spclty Food Mfg	7,600	7,600	7,600	0.0%	0.0%
Durable Goods	28,700	28,500	32,400	0.7%	-11.4%
Wood Product Manufacturing	4,500	4,500	4,900	0.0%	-8.2%
Machinery Manufacturing	2,600	2,600	2,900	0.0%	-10.3%
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg	9,800	9,700	12,100	1.0%	-19.0%
Computer & Periph. Equipment Mfg	2,700	2,700	3,100	0.0%	-12.9%
Semicondctr & Electron. Component Mfg	6,800	6,700	8,600	1.5%	-20.9%
SERVICE-PROVIDING	506,800	504,100	514,600	0.5%	-1.5%
Private Service Providing	386,000	386,900	395,000	-0.2%	-2.3%
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	115,700	117,100	121,900	-1.2%	-5.1%
Wholesale Trade	24,600	24,900	26,300	-1.2%	-6.5%
Merchant Wholesalers (Durable Goods)	11,100	11,100	11,900	0.0%	-6.7%
Merchant Wholesalers (Nondurable Goods)	11,700	11,600	11,700	0.9%	0.0%
Retail Trade	72,100	72,900	75,400	-1.1%	-4.4%
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	10,000	10,000	10,400	0.0%	-3.8%
Building Material & Garden Equipment	6,500	6,400	6,900	1.6%	-5.8%
Food and Beverage Stores	12,300	12,400	12,200	-0.8%	0.8%
Grocery Stores	10,500	10,600	10,500	-0.9%	0.0%
General Merchandise Stores	16,000	16,400	16,500	-2.4%	-3.0%
Department Stores	5,100	5,400	5,200	-5.6%	-1.9%
Other General Merchandise Stores	10,900	11,000	11,300	-0.9%	-3.5%
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	19,000	19,300	20,200	-1.6%	-5.9%
Utilities	2,000	2,100	2,100	-4.8%	-4.8%
Transportation & Warehousing	17,000	17,200	18,100	-1.2%	-6.1%
Truck Transportation	8,800	8,900	8,600	-1.1%	2.3%
General Freight Trucking	6,100	6,100	6,000	0.0%	1.7%
Information	9,600	9,600	10,500	0.0%	-8.6%
Telecommunications	3,300	3,400	3,900	-2.9%	-15.4%
Financial Activities	28,700	28,600	30,000	0.3%	-4.3%

Continued from previous page.

State of Idaho Data — Nonfarm Payroll Jobs				% change from	
BY PLACE OF WORK	Feb 2010*	Jan 2010	Feb 2009	Last Month	Last Year
Total Nonfarm Jobs**	587,100	585,400	605,500	0.3%	-3.0%
Financial Activities	28,700	28,600	30,000	0.3%	-4.3%
Finance & Insurance	22,000	21,800	22,700	0.9%	-3.1%
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	10,900	10,800	11,400	0.9%	-4.4%
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	9,400	9,400	9,700	0.0%	-3.1%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	6,700	6,800	7,300	-1.5%	-8.2%
Professional & Business Services	70,800	71,900	74,200	-1.5%	-4.6%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	31,500	31,500	31,900	0.0%	-1.3%
Architectural, Engineering, & Related Svcs	5,200	5,300	5,400	-1.9%	-3.7%
Scientific Research & Development	7,800	7,700	7,500	1.3%	4.0%
Management of Companies & Enterprises	6,700	6,700	6,900	0.0%	-2.9%
Admin. & Sprrt & Waste Mgt & Remediation	32,600	33,700	35,400	-3.3%	-7.9%
Administrative & Support Services	30,300	31,400	33,100	-3.5%	-8.5%
Employment Services	9,400	9,200	11,000	2.2%	-14.5%
Business Support Services	12,500	12,300	11,500	1.6%	8.7%
Services to Buildings & Dwellings	6,100	6,000	6,500	1.7%	-6.2%
Educational & Health Services	83,600	83,100	80,200	0.6%	4.2%
Educational Services	10,200	9,700	9,500	5.2%	7.4%
Health Care & Social Assistance	73,400	73,400	70,700	0.0%	3.8%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	28,600	28,700	27,700	-0.3%	3.2%
Hospitals	19,300	19,300	18,700	0.0%	3.2%
General Medical & Surgical Hospitals	17,200	17,300	16,700	-0.6%	3.0%
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	13,000	12,900	12,500	0.8%	4.0%
Social Assistance	12,500	12,500	11,800	0.0%	5.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	57,500	56,600	56,900	1.6%	1.1%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	8,200	8,000	8,000	2.5%	2.5%
Amusement, Gambling, & Rec. Indust.	7,200	7,100	7,100	1.4%	1.4%
Other Amusement & Rec. Indust.	6,500	6,400	6,700	1.6%	-3.0%
Accommodation & Food Services	49,300	48,600	48,900	1.4%	0.8%
Accommodation	8,000	7,900	7,600	1.3%	5.3%
Food Services & Drinking Places	41,300	40,700	41,300	1.5%	0.0%
Full Service Restaurants	20,200	19,800	19,300	2.0%	4.7%
Limited Service Restaurants	17,200	17,100	18,300	0.6%	-6.0%
Other Services	20,100	20,000	21,300	0.5%	-5.6%
Repair & Maintenance	5,600	5,500	5,800	1.8%	-3.4%
Automotive Repair & Maintenance	4,300	4,200	4,400	2.4%	-2.3%
Government	120,800	117,200	119,600	3.1%	1.0%
Federal Government	11,900	11,900	12,400	0.0%	-4.0%
State Government	29,700	28,000	30,700	6.1%	-3.3%
State Government Educational Svcs	13,400	11,700	14,900	14.5%	-10.1%
Local Government	79,200	77,300	76,500	2.5%	3.5%
Local Government Educational Svcs	43,200	41,600	42,000	3.8%	2.9%

State of Idaho Data — State Economic Indicators

	Feb 2010*	Jan 2010	Feb 2009	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE ⁽¹⁾					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	755,700	753,300	750,700	0.3	0.7
Unemployment	71,600	70,100	52,000	2.1	37.7
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	9.5	9.3	6.9		
Total Employment	684,100	683,200	698,700	0.1	-2.1
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	753,000	750,400	746,600	0.3	0.9
Unemployment	79,300	79,900	60,100	-0.8	31.9
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	10.5	10.7	8.1		
Total Employment	673,700	670,500	686,500	0.5	-1.9

U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ⁽²⁾

9.7 9.7 8.2

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Claims Activities

Initial Claims ⁽³⁾	12,982	17,804	16,763	-27.1	-22.6
Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾	174,235	164,365	185,304	6.0	-6.0

Benefit Payment Activities⁽⁵⁾

Weeks Compensated	142,456	139,552	163,883	2.1	-13.1
Total Benefit \$ Paid	36,050,930	35,553,365	43,324,423	1.4	-16.8
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$253.07	\$254.77	\$264.36	-0.7	-4.3
Covered Employers	49,408	49,439	51,177	-0.1	-3.5
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾	\$389,377,654	\$396,651,147	\$235,584,794	-1.8	65.3

U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ⁽²⁾

	Feb 2010	Jan 2010	Feb 2009	% Change Month	% Change Year
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	212.5	212.6	206.7	0.0%	2.8%
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	216.7	216.7	212.2	0.0%	2.1%

(1) Preliminary estimate

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

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

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

(5) Includes all entitlements/programs, total liable activities.

Panhandle Data

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

	Feb 2010*	Jan 2010	Feb 2009	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	71,390	71,700	70,160	-0.4	1.8
Unemployed	7,480	8,400	5,410	-11.0	38.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	10.5	11.7	7.7		
Total Employment	63,910	63,300	64,750	1.0	-1.3
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	71,880	71,810	70,290	0.1	2.3
Unemployed	9,220	9,490	6,950	-2.8	32.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	12.8	13.2	9.9		
Total Employment	62,660	62,320	63,340	0.5	-1.1
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Total Nonfarm Jobs**	51,720	51,420	52,060	0.6%	-0.7%
Total Private	41,510	41,630	42,060	-0.3%	-1.3%
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	7,440	7,590	8,420	-2.0%	-11.6%
Mining & Logging	240	250	240	-4.0%	0.0%
Construction	3,260	3,390	3,780	-3.8%	-13.8%
Manufacturing	3,940	3,960	4,400	-0.5%	-10.5%
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	44,280	43,830	43,640	1.0%	1.5%
Private Service Providing	34,070	34,040	33,640	0.1%	1.3%
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	9,720	9,790	10,010	-0.7%	-2.9%
Wholesale Trade	1,430	1,420	1,490	0.7%	-4.0%
Retail Trade	7,300	7,390	7,570	-1.2%	-3.6%
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	990	990	960	0.0%	3.1%
Information	780	770	850	1.3%	-8.2%
Financial Activities	3,090	3,080	3,240	0.3%	-4.6%
Professional & Business Services	5,600	5,640	5,910	-0.7%	-5.2%
Educational & Health Services	6,360	6,340	6,120	0.3%	3.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	6,910	6,800	5,850	1.6%	18.1%
Other Services	1,620	1,620	1,650	0.0%	-1.8%
Government	10,210	9,790	10,000	4.3%	2.1%
Federal Government	540	550	530	-1.8%	1.9%
State Government	910	870	860	4.6%	5.8%
Local Government	8,770	8,370	8,610	4.8%	1.9%

* 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 Data

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

	Feb 2010*	Jan 2010	Feb 2009	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	28,750	28,860	29,110	-0.4	-1.2
Unemployment	2,060	2,180	2,190	-5.5	-5.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.2	7.5	7.5		
Total Employment	26,690	26,680	26,920	0.0	-0.9
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	28,780	28,720	29,060	0.2	-1.0
Unemployment	2,210	2,390	2,300	-7.5	-3.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.7	8.3	7.9		
Total Employment	26,570	26,330	26,760	0.9	-0.7
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Total Nonfarm Jobs**	25,440	25,280	25,710	0.6%	-1.1%
Total Private	20,060	20,150	20,410	-0.4%	-1.7%
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	3,960	3,990	4,040	-0.8%	-2.0%
Mining & Logging	150	150	190	0.0%	-21.1%
Construction	870	880	990	-1.1%	-12.1%
Manufacturing	2,940	2,960	2,860	-0.7%	2.8%
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	21,490	21,290	21,670	0.9%	-0.8%
Private Service Providing	16,100	16,160	16,370	-0.4%	-1.6%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,010	5,050	5,180	-0.8%	-3.3%
Wholesale Trade	590	590	600	0.0%	-1.7%
Retail Trade	3,430	3,460	3,500	-0.9%	-2.0%
Transportation & Warehousing	990	1,000	1,080	-1.0%	-8.3%
Information	360	340	390	5.9%	-7.7%
Financial Activities	1,620	1,640	1,740	-1.2%	-6.9%
Professional & Business Services	1,440	1,460	1,450	-1.4%	-0.7%
Education & Health Services	4,410	4,410	4,370	0.0%	0.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	2,410	2,400	2,380	0.4%	1.3%
Other Services	850	860	880	-1.2%	-3.4%
Government	5,380	5,130	5,300	4.9%	1.5%
Federal Government	220	220	220	0.0%	0.0%
State Government	1,550	1,310	1,540	18.3%	0.6%
Local Government	3,620	3,600	3,540	0.6%	2.3%

*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.

Southwestern Idaho Data

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

	Feb 2010*	Jan 2010	Feb 2009	% Change	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	290,800	291,900	294,300	-0.4	-1.2
Unemployment	29,300	27,100	22,100	8.1	32.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	10.1	9.3	7.5		
Total Employment	261,500	264,800	272,200	-1.2	-3.9
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	290,200	291,300	293,600	-0.4	-1.2
Unemployment	31,000	31,500	24,600	-1.6	26.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	10.7	10.8	8.4		
Total Employment	259,200	259,800	269,000	-0.2	-3.6
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Total Nonfarm Jobs**	245,600	244,600	255,780	0.4%	-4.0%
Total Private	201,500	202,120	211,460	-0.3%	-4.7%
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES					
<i>Mining, Logging & Construction</i>	11,180	11,730	13,580	-4.7%	-17.7%
Construction of Buildings	2,100	2,170	2,630	-3.2%	-20.2%
Specialty Trade Contractors	7,010	7,130	8,660	-1.7%	-19.1%
Foundation, Structure & Bldg Contractors	1,440	1,560	1,940	-7.7%	-25.8%
<i>Manufacturing</i>	21,440	21,450	24,030	0.0%	-10.8%
Non-Durable Goods	6,580	6,640	6,580	-0.9%	0.0%
Food Manufacturing	4,760	4,760	4,720	0.0%	0.8%
Durable Goods	14,860	14,810	17,450	0.3%	-14.8%
Computer & Electronic Mfg.	8,580	8,530	10,550	0.6%	-18.7%
Computer & Peripheral Mfg.	2,390	2,420	2,710	-1.2%	-11.8%
Semiconductor & Other Mfg.	5,830	5,840	7,610	-0.2%	-23.4%
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES					
Private Service Providing	168,870	168,950	173,850	0.0%	-2.9%
<i>Trade, Transportation & Utilities</i>	47,120	47,370	49,190	-0.5%	-4.2%
Wholesale Trade	11,000	11,140	11,650	-1.3%	-5.6%
Merchant Wholesalers (Durable Goods)	5,940	5,940	6,480	0.0%	-8.3%
Retail Trade	28,570	28,670	29,890	-0.3%	-4.4%
Food & Beverage Stores	4,340	4,390	4,280	-1.1%	1.4%
Grocery Stores	3,720	3,780	3,640	-1.6%	2.2%
General Merchandise Stores	5,970	6,120	6,510	-2.5%	-8.3%
Other General Merch. Stores	4,240	4,310	4,520	-1.6%	-6.2%
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	7,550	7,550	7,640	0.0%	-1.2%
<i>Information</i>	4,240	4,210	4,610	0.7%	-8.0%
<i>Financial Activities</i>	13,070	13,060	13,670	0.1%	-4.4%
Finance & Insurance	9,980	9,970	10,400	0.1%	-4.0%
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	4,720	4,690	4,890	0.6%	-3.5%
<i>Professional & Business Services</i>	36,350	36,590	38,650	-0.7%	-6.0%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Svcs.	11,800	11,840	12,610	-0.3%	-6.4%

Southwestern Idaho Data *(continued)*

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

	<u>% Change</u>				
	Feb 2010*	Jan 2010	Feb 2009	Last Month	Last Year
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Total Nonfarm Jobs**	245,600	244,600	255,780	0.4%	-4.0%
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises	4,850	4,840	5,140	0.2%	-5.6%
Admin. & Sprrt & Waste Mgt & Remediation	19,700	19,920	20,900	-1.1%	-5.7%
Administrative & Support Services	18,980	19,280	20,350	-1.6%	-6.7%
Employment Services	5,820	5,750	6,350	1.2%	-8.3%
Business Support Services	7,790	7,760	7,460	0.4%	4.4%
Services to Bldg and Dwellings	3,260	3,260	3,610	0.0%	-9.7%
<i>Educational & Health Services</i>	37,160	36,970	35,900	0.5%	3.5%
Health Care & Social Assistance	33,810	33,810	32,540	0.0%	3.9%
Ambulatory Health Care Service	12,510	12,460	12,020	0.4%	4.1%
Hospitals	11,060	11,090	10,690	-0.3%	3.5%
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	9,390	9,370	9,140	0.2%	2.7%
<i>Leisure & Hospitality</i>	21,910	21,850	22,890	0.3%	-4.3%
Accommodation & Food Services	19,290	19,290	19,630	0.0%	-1.7%
Food Services & Drinking Places	17,480	17,520	17,930	-0.2%	-2.5%
Full-Service Restaurants	8,470	8,410	8,400	0.7%	0.8%
Limited-Service Restaurants	7,080	7,170	7,640	-1.3%	-7.3%
<i>Other Services</i>	9,020	8,900	8,950	1.3%	0.8%
<i>Government</i>	44,110	42,470	44,320	3.9%	-0.5%
Federal Government	6,010	6,030	6,140	-0.3%	-2.1%
State Government	13,450	12,350	14,190	8.9%	-5.2%
State Government Educational Services	4,680	3,680	4,910	27.2%	-4.7%
Local Government	24,650	24,100	23,990	2.3%	2.8%
Local Government Educational Services	16,420	15,900	14,730	3.3%	11.5%

* 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.

South Central Idaho Data

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

	<u>% Change From</u>				
	Feb 2010*	Jan 2010	Feb 2009	Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	49,570	49,160	48,430	0.8	2.4
Unemployment	4,250	4,070	2,730	4.4	55.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.6	8.3	5.6		
Total Employment	45,320	45,090	45,700	0.5	-0.8
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	49,680	49,380	48,430	0.6	2.6
Unemployment	4,640	4,700	3,120	-1.3	48.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.3	9.5	6.4		
Total Employment	45,040	44,680	45,310	0.8	-0.6
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Total Nonfarm Jobs**	38,190	37,830	38,040	1.0%	0.4%
Total Private	32,210	32,070	32,250	0.4%	-0.1%
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	5,800	5,790	5,900	0.2%	-1.7%
Logging, Mining & Construction	1,450	1,450	1,680	0.0%	-13.7%
Manufacturing	4,350	4,340	4,230	0.2%	2.8%
Food Manufacturing	2,720	2,730	2,550	-0.4%	6.7%
Other Manufacturing	1,620	1,610	1,680	0.6%	-3.6%
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	32,390	32,050	32,140	1.1%	0.8%
Private Service Providing	26,410	26,280	26,340	0.5%	0.3%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	9,970	10,060	9,720	-0.9%	2.6%
Wholesale Trade	1,760	1,740	1,860	1.1%	-5.4%
Retail Trade	5,430	5,510	5,340	-1.5%	1.7%
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	2,620	2,650	2,360	-1.1%	11.0%
Information	660	650	660	1.5%	0.0%
Financial Activities	1,600	1,580	1,700	1.3%	-5.9%
Professional & Business Services	3,990	3,850	4,320	3.6%	-7.6%
Educational & Health Services	5,650	5,630	5,400	0.4%	4.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	2,990	2,970	2,990	0.7%	0.0%
Other Services	1,560	1,540	1,550	1.3%	0.6%
Government	5,980	5,770	5,790	3.6%	3.3%
Federal Government	440	440	450	0.0%	-2.2%
State Government	510	510	530	0.0%	-3.8%
Local Government	5,030	4,810	4,810	4.6%	4.6%
Government Educational Services	3,800	3,280	3,360	15.9%	13.1%
Government Administration	2,180	2,490	2,430	-12.4%	-10.3%

*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.

Southeastern Idaho Data

Pocatello MSA Labor Force & Employment – Bannock and Power counties

	% Change From				
	Feb 2010*	Jan 2010	Feb 2009	Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	44,140	43,090	44,010	2.4	0.3
Unemployment	3,780	3,550	2,570	6.5	47.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.6	8.2	5.8		
	40,360	39,540	41,440	2.1	-2.6
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	44,130	43,180	43,920	2.2	0.5
Unemployment	4,080	4,150	2,900	-1.7	40.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.2	9.6	6.6		
Total Employment	40,050	39,030	41,020	2.6	-2.4
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Total Nonfarm Jobs**	35,980	35,600	37,290	1.1%	-3.5%
Total Private	26,870	26,810	28,180	0.2%	-4.6%
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	4,500	4,540	4,990	-0.9%	-9.8%
Mining, Logging & Construction	1,290	1,300	1,520	-0.8%	-15.1%
Manufacturing	3,220	3,240	3,480	-0.6%	-7.5%
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	31,480	31,060	32,300	1.4%	-2.5%
Private Service Providing	22,360	22,270	23,190	0.4%	-3.6%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	6,540	6,540	7,070	0.0%	-7.5%
Wholesale Trade	1,150	1,150	1,270	0.0%	-9.4%
Retail Trade	4,120	4,130	4,410	-0.2%	-6.6%
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	1,270	1,260	1,390	0.8%	-8.6%
Information	470	470	530	0.0%	-11.3%
Financial Activities	1,780	1,770	1,880	0.6%	-5.3%
Professional & Business Services	3,620	3,570	3,790	1.4%	-4.5%
Educational & Health Services	5,250	5,220	5,140	0.6%	2.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	3,540	3,530	3,610	0.3%	-1.9%
Other Services	1,160	1,170	1,180	-0.9%	-1.7%
Government	9,110	8,790	9,110	3.6%	0.0%
Federal Government	500	510	530	-2.0%	-5.7%
State Government	4,620	4,430	4,650	4.3%	-0.6%
Local Government	4,000	3,850	3,940	3.9%	1.5%

*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.

East Central Idaho Data

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

	Feb 2010*	Jan 2010	Feb 2009	<u>% Change From</u>	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	62,010	61,870	62,400	0.2	-0.6
Unemployment	4,570	4,460	3,190	2.5	43.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.4	7.2	5.1		
Total Employment	57,440	57,410	59,210	0.1	-3.0
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	61,080	61,070	61,330	0.0	-0.4
Unemployment	4,970	4,950	3,630	0.4	36.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.1	8.1	5.9		
Total Employment	56,110	56,120	57,700	0.0	-2.8
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Total Nonfarm Jobs**	47,150	47,240	48,590	-0.2%	-3.0%
Total Private	39,540	39,830	41,140	-0.7%	-3.9%
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>					
Mining, Logging and Construction	2,750	2,820	3,060	-2.5%	-10.1%
Manufacturing	2,730	2,760	2,970	-1.1%	-8.1%
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>					
Private Service Providing	34,060	34,250	35,110	-0.6%	-3.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	11,830	11,960	12,530	-1.1%	-5.6%
Wholesale Trade	3,450	3,460	3,590	-0.3%	-3.9%
Retail Trade	6,640	6,740	7,190	-1.5%	-7.6%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,740	1,760	1,750	-1.1%	-0.6%
Information	1,240	1,260	1,530	-1.6%	-19.0%
Financial Activities	2,060	2,060	2,190	0.0%	-5.9%
Professional & Business Services	4,840	4,850	4,880	-0.2%	-0.8%
Educational & Health Services	7,760	7,720	7,470	0.5%	3.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	4,560	4,600	4,650	-0.9%	-1.9%
Other Services	1,770	1,790	1,860	-1.1%	-4.8%
Government	7,610	7,410	7,460	2.7%	2.0%
Federal Government	840	810	810	3.7%	3.7%
State Government	910	840	930	8.3%	-2.2%
Local Government	5,860	5,750	5,710	1.9%	2.6%

*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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