

# Idaho Employment

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

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[Link to Idaho Labor Market Information Website](#)

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## ANNUAL SURVEY CAPTURES COMMUNITY DATA

The U.S. Census Bureau's 2009 American Community Survey found that the number of households in Idaho dropped to 559,000 from 566,000 in 2008 and the average household size was up a tenth to 2.7 people, both likely reflections of the impact of the national recession.

The American Community Survey is conducted yearly to provide communities with a fresh look at how they are changing between the decennial censuses. The survey collects basic social, economic, housing and demographic information on the state and its six largest counties – Ada, Bannock, Bonneville, Canyon, Kootenai and Twin Falls. Data are also collected for the cities of Boise, Meridian and Nampa.

Among the highlights of the 2009 survey for Idaho:

- Families made up 71 percent of all households, an increase of 3,300 from 2008. On the other hand, there was a loss of 8,500 nonfamily households, possibly the result of the recession forcing people who were living alone to find roommates to split expenses or family members moving in with family after having lived on their own.
- There are 25,500 grandparents living with their own grandchildren under 18 years of age, and 46 percent of them are responsible for the grandchildren, down from 54 percent in 2008.
- Of the population 25 and over, 88 percent have at least a high school diploma, and 60 percent have at least some college education. Twelve percent were dropouts – they were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school.
- The total school enrollment in Idaho was 420,000 in 2009. Nursery school and kindergarten enrollment was 45,000 and elementary or high school enrollment was 269,000 children. College or graduate school enrollment was 105,000. Total school enrollment is up nearly 1,000 from one year earlier with most of the growth in elementary school and college.
- The civilian population 18 years and over totaled 1.1 million, up 16,000 from 2008. Nearly 11 percent were military veterans, but that was down nearly 13,000 from the previous year.

- Eighty-three percent of the people one year of age and older lived in the same residence they had one year earlier, 10 percent had moved during the past year from another residence in the same county, 3 percent moved from another county in the same state, 4 percent moved to Idaho from another state and 1 percent moved from another country.
- Seventy-eight percent of Idaho workers drove to work alone in 2009, 11 percent carpooled, 1 percent took public transportation and 5 percent used other means. The remaining 5 percent worked at home. Among those who commuted to work, it took them on average 19.8 minutes one way. The most significant change from 2008 was 4 percent more people drove alone and 2 percent fewer carpooled.
- The median income of households was \$44,925. Eighty-one percent of the households received earnings and 17 percent received retirement income other than Social Security. Twenty-eight percent of the households received Social Security. The average income from Social Security was \$15,763. These income sources are not mutually exclusive; that is, some households received income from more than one source.
- Fourteen percent of people were in households with incomes below the federal poverty line. Eighteen percent of related children under 18 lived below the poverty level compared with 8 percent of people 65 and older. Ten percent of all families and 30 percent of families with a female householder and no male present had incomes below the poverty level. *The poverty level for a single person was \$10,830 in 2009, \$430 more than in 2008. For a family of four, the poverty level was \$22,050, \$850 more than in 2008.*
- Of the 1.5 million noninstitutionalized people in Idaho, 83 percent, or 1.3 million, had health insurance coverage, down fractionally from 2008. Sixty-eight percent were covered by private insurers. That is three percentage points lower than the private health insurers covered in 2008 with government plans picking up the difference. Seventeen percent of the population continued to have no health coverage. Eleven percent of the population under 18 years of age had no health coverage, down from 13 percent in 2008.
- Idaho had a total of 648,000 housing units, up 6,000 from 2008. Fourteen percent of those were vacant compared to 12 percent in 2008. Seventy-six percent were single-unit structures, 14 percent were multi-unit structures and 10 percent were mobile homes. Thirty-nine percent of the housing units were built since 1990.
- Seventy-two percent, 400,000, of the occupied housing units were owner-occupied while 28 percent were occupied by renters. Two percent of the households did not have telephone service, and 4 percent did not have access to a car, truck or van for private use. Four of every 10 households had at least two vehicles, and nearly three of 10 had at least three.
- The median value of an owner occupied housing unit was \$171,700, down from the 2008 median value of \$183,100.
- The median monthly housing costs for mortgaged owners was \$1,216, nonmortgaged owners \$327, and renters \$693. Thirty-seven percent of owners with mortgages, 11 percent of owners without mortgages and 48 percent of renters in Idaho spent 30 percent or more of household income on housing.
- The median age of Idaho's 1.5 million population was 34.2 years. There were 7,000 more men than women. Twenty-seven percent of the population was under 18 years and 12 percent was 65 and older.

- Ninety-two percent of the people reporting heritage of one race reported being white. One percent was Black or African American, 1 percent was American Indian and Alaska Native, 1 percent was Asian and less than half a percent was native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander. Two percent reported some other race, and 3 percent reported two or more races. Eleven percent of the people in Idaho were Hispanic, which is an ethnicity.

Additional American Community Survey data can be accessed at [http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?\\_program=ACS&\\_submenuId=&\\_lang=en&\\_ts=](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?_program=ACS&_submenuId=&_lang=en&_ts=) or by going to [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov) clicking on Population/Census and then American Community Survey.

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## CENSUS BUREAU SAYS IDAHO'S MEDIAN WAGE DROPPED IN 2009

New estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey show that the median wage – where half the workers make more and the other half less – fell from 2008 to 2009 in nearly every sector of the Idaho economy. That drove the median wage for all jobs down 5.2 percent.

The recession began in December 2007 and bottomed out in June 2009. During 2008 in the heart of the recession, half the sectors in Idaho saw their median wage rise enough to offset losses in the other half and push the median wage for all jobs up nearly 2 percent from 2007.

In 2009, only four sectors posted increases. Retail trade and utilities were up fractionally. Other services like dry cleaning, auto and other repair and personal care saw an increase of 5.8 percent, and real estate was up nearly 16 percent but only after plunging over 25 percent during the previous two years as the housing bubble burst.

But those were not enough to keep the median wage for all jobs from declining 5.2 percent in 2009 after only a modest increase in 2008. Over those two years, the cost of living increased 2.9 percent, leaving workers, on average, with almost 7 percent less buying power than they had before the recession.

Based on the 2009 estimates from the American Community Survey, the number of Idaho workers earning some amount of money dropped nearly 16,000 from 2008 to under 818,000, a 1.8 percent decline even as the number of Idahoans over 16 grew nearly 15,000, or 1.2 percent.

It was more evidence that the impact of the recession came late to Idaho and could affect the state economy longer than the rest of the nation. Although the recession has been over for 15 months, the Idaho economy has done little to regain any of the 61,000 nonfarm jobs it has lost to the recession since 2007.

The Idaho Department of Labor's Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages shows total wages from nonfarm jobs in Idaho fell nearly \$2.2 billion from 2008 to 2009, a 10 percent decline. It was the first time total wages have been under \$20 billion since 2005.

The recession hit construction and manufacturing the hardest of any sector, eliminating more jobs typically held by men than by women, and the workers left on the job generally took bigger hits on their paychecks if they were men. The median wage for men in Idaho fell 6.5 percent from 2008 while the median wage for women was off less than half that at 3.2 percent.

That helped to close the wage gap that had widened between men and women in Idaho in 2008 when the median wage for women fell 1.2 percent while the median wage for men rose 4.2 percent. In 2008, the median wage

for women was just over 60 percent of the median wage for men. In 2009, that rose to 62.5 percent. But it varies significantly by sector from as little as 29 percent in agriculture to near parity in mining – a sector where women hold few jobs.

The number of six-figure incomes dropped significantly from 2008 as did the number of men holding down full-time jobs even though the number of adults eligible to work rose more than a percentage point.

## Idaho Median Wage by Sector

	2009	2008	% Change	Total Wage Change
All Jobs	\$26,218	\$27,658	-5.2%	(\$2,170,739,776)
Agriculture, Forestry	\$23,465	\$24,119	-2.7%	(\$14,047,425)
Mining	\$48,680	\$50,377	-3.4%	(\$39,277,486)
Construction	\$30,332	\$32,031	-5.3%	(\$418,919,244)
Manufacturing	\$33,976	\$35,473	-4.2%	(\$386,118,144)
Wholesale Trade	\$33,301	\$35,094	-5.1%	(\$72,223,638)
Retail Trade	\$21,251	\$21,126	0.6%*	(\$153,388,218)
Transportation, Warehousing	\$32,954	\$36,405	-9.5%	(\$28,650,690)
Utilities	\$48,297	\$48,147	0.3%	\$42,444
Information	\$26,067	\$27,262	-4.4%	(\$46,040,190)
Finance, Insurance	\$32,259	\$33,535	-3.8%	(\$44,854,097)
Real estate	\$26,237	\$22,696	15.6%*	(\$32,827,059)
Professional, Scientific, Technical Services	\$41,509	\$42,451	-2.2%	(\$66,089,830)
Management of Companies and Enterprises	\$23,090	\$48,849	-52.7%	(\$37,353,003)
Administrative, Support, Waste Mgt. Services	\$21,122	\$21,584	-2.1%	(\$9,398,119)
Educational Services	\$27,621	\$30,308	-8.9%*	\$15,852,789
Health Care, Social Assistance	\$23,796	\$24,729	-3.8%*	\$144,248,082
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation	\$11,047	\$13,784	-19.9%	(\$16,567,831)
Accommodation, Food Services	\$9,561	\$11,149	-14.2%	(\$39,182,119)
Other services	\$20,504	\$19,375	5.8%*	(\$18,751,544)
Government	\$39,947	\$40,961	-2.5%*	\$59,771,232

\*Total wage payments can decline either because workers are laid off or because wages or working hours are reduced. The median wage can rise even as total wages fall if workers remaining after layoffs are paid more for taking on more responsibility or duties.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

## Idaho Median Wage by Gender by Sector

	Men		Women	
	Income	% Change from 2008	Income	% Change from 2008
All Jobs	\$32,580	-6.5%	\$20,350	-3.2%
Agriculture, Forestry	\$27,665	10.5%	\$8,202	-48.6%
Mining	\$49,545	4.3%	\$48,210	-32.2%
Construction	\$30,769	-7.0%	\$22,448	2.2%
Manufacturing	\$39,188	0.7%	\$24,697	-6.8%
Wholesale Trade	\$34,113	-11.4%	\$30,905	25.3%
Retail Trade	\$27,651	-1.3%	\$16,038	1.2%
Transportation, Warehousing	\$36,656	-11.3%	\$22,177	-8.2%
Utilities	\$52,129	4.3%	\$31,630	-28.0%
Information	\$30,644	-14.2%	\$23,263	1.2%
Finance, Insurance	\$47,313	-16.4%	\$28,426	-2.4%
Real estate	\$35,081	25.9%	\$19,735	14.8%
Professional, Scientific, Technical Services	\$55,714	-10.0%	\$26,882	1.6%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	\$72,696	47.2%	\$22,673	18.3%
Administrative, Support, Waste Mgt. Services	\$21,737	-10.9%	\$19,917	7.6%
Educational Services	\$31,816	-10.6%	\$23,799	-0.1%
Health Care, Social Assistance	\$43,258	1.6%	\$22,104	-2.4%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation	\$18,199	-25.0%	\$7,996	-22.4%
Accommodation, Food Services	\$11,639	-10.7%	\$8,802	-13.7%
Other services	\$28,697	10.5%	\$12,740	7.3%
Government	\$45,610	-5.6%	\$33,112	-2.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Income erosion caused by the recession threw nearly 30,000 more Idahoans into poverty. Nearly 220,000 people, 14.3 percent of the population, had incomes at or below the poverty line in 2009. That compared to a 2008 poverty rate of 12.6 percent, and is the highest since 1995. The number of people who earned only half or less of the poverty level rose from 75,000 in 2008 to over 90,000 in 2009.

At the same time the number of Idahoans who earned more than twice the poverty rate in 2009 dropped from almost 65 percent to 62 percent.

### Full-Time Idaho Workers by 2009 Income Level

Earnings Level	Men Number	% Change From 2008	Women Number	% Change From 2008
<b>Total</b>	584,204	1.1%	589,142	1.6%
Worked full-time, year-round	262,760	-13.6%	182,749	-2.0%
No earnings	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
With earnings:	262,760	-13.6%	182,749	-2.0%
\$1 to \$2,499 or less	965	-28.5%	1,050	-6.7%
\$2,500 to \$4,999	885	23.8%	971	62.9%
\$5,000 to \$7,499	1,654	-44.7%	1,509	-58.5%
\$7,500 to \$9,999	2,405	-20.2%	4,041	8.0%
\$10,000 to \$12,499	4,365	-39.7%	8,178	-21.9%
\$12,500 to \$14,999	3,914	-8.1%	8,004	30.2%
\$15,000 to \$17,499	6,346	-12.9%	9,066	-15.0%
\$17,500 to \$19,999	12,213	46.1%	12,615	23.5%
\$20,000 to \$22,499	12,877	-15.4%	12,788	-7.1%
\$22,500 to \$24,999	11,896	-6.0%	15,530	22.8%
\$25,000 to \$29,999	24,068	0.5%	21,743	3.4%
\$30,000 to \$34,999	24,011	-21.9%	19,035	-11.5%
\$35,000 to \$39,999	23,818	-3.6%	14,862	5.1%
\$40,000 to \$44,999	20,106	-17.7%	11,555	-9.2%
\$45,000 to \$49,999	16,763	-15.4%	9,797	-2.0%
\$50,000 to \$54,999	15,345	-31.5%	8,110	-14.8%
\$55,000 to \$64,999	23,612	-18.2%	9,214	12.1%
\$65,000 to \$74,999	14,212	-16.4%	4,885	-17.2%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	21,625	-7.2%	6,367	1.8%
\$100,000 or more	21,680	-15.8%	3,429	-16.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The poverty level for a single person was \$10,830 in 2009, \$430 more than in 2008. For a family of four, the poverty level was \$22,050, \$850 more than in 2008.

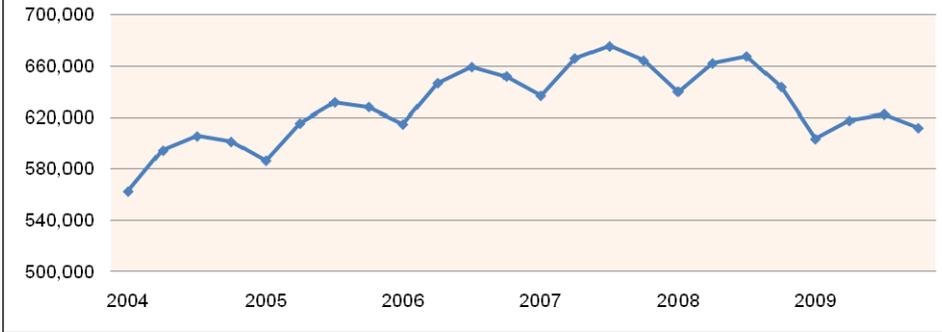
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### IDAHO ECONOMY SHOWS SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT IN LATE 2009

The Idaho economy showed signs of a return to pre-recession trends and the beginnings of recovery in the fourth quarter of 2009. Covered employment, according to the [Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages](#), averaged 612,118 in the October-December quarter – down from 622,693 in the third quarter. This decrease in jobs came from seasonal losses experienced by many industries, leaving the fourth quarter 2009 with 31,800 jobs fewer than the year-earlier level.

Although the over-the-year difference in employment was significant for the final quarter of 2009, it was less than the over-the-year difference for the third quarter. This was the first decrease in the over-the-year job deficit since job loss began in the second quarter of 2008. While total wages in the fourth quarter of 2009 fell short of the fourth quarter 2008 by over \$171 million,

## Idaho Average Quarterly Employment 1Q 2004-4Q 2009

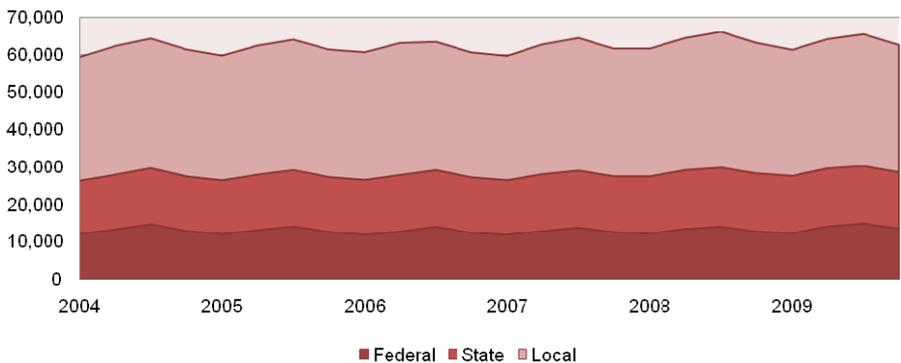


wages still exceeded the third quarter by nearly \$400 million, and the fourth quarter year-over-year wage gap was half the third quarter gap.

Private-sector jobs totaled 497,683 in the fourth quarter. This amounted to a decrease of over 13,000 jobs, or 2.6 percent, from the third quarter. But the loss was within normal seasonal patterns, and the over-the-year deficit was less than in the previous quarter at 31,600, or 6 percent. The government sector including public education averaged 114,435 jobs in the fourth quarter, up 2,781 from the third. This increase could be predominantly attributed to the regular seasonal increase in education employment as the fall term begins. Federal employment in Idaho was down 1,300 from the previous quarter – a 9 percent decrease from the last three months of 2008 due to a seasonal decrease in forestry activities. State government payrolls also dropped 1,800 jobs, and local government gained 5,924 jobs with the return to school.

October, November and December 2009 saw retail jobs virtually unchanged from third-quarter levels. There was no over-the-quarter gain usually experienced in non-recession years. Retail lost fewer than 100 jobs, or 0.1 percent, from the third to the fourth quarter, bringing the total number of jobs in the sector to 76,569 – 5,840 fewer than at the end of 2008. Retail’s over-the-quarter net loss came mostly from the seasonal decrease in building material and garden supply stores employment. Gasoline stations also showed a loss while general merchandise stores experienced a modest increase. Transportation and warehousing fared moderately well, gaining nearly 600 jobs, while wholesale trade experienced a loss of nearly 400 jobs.

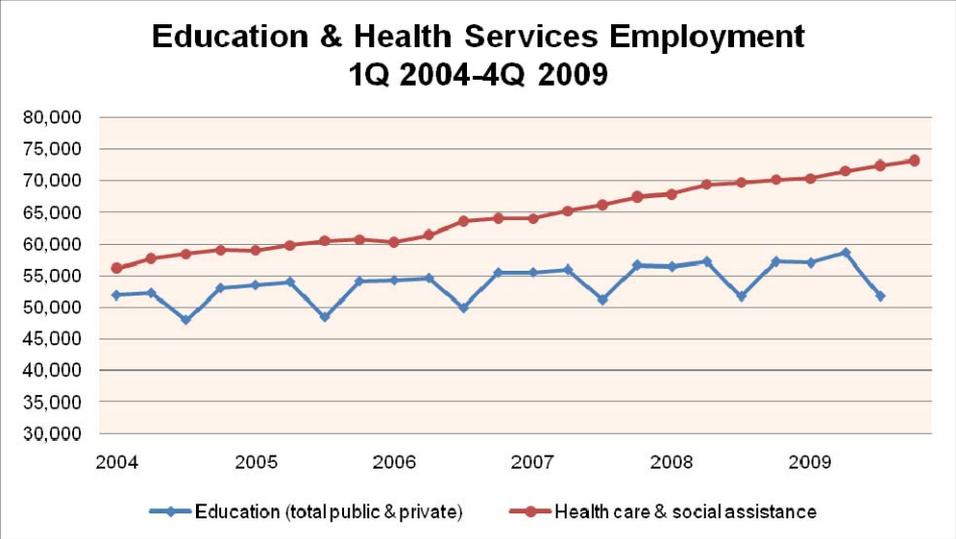
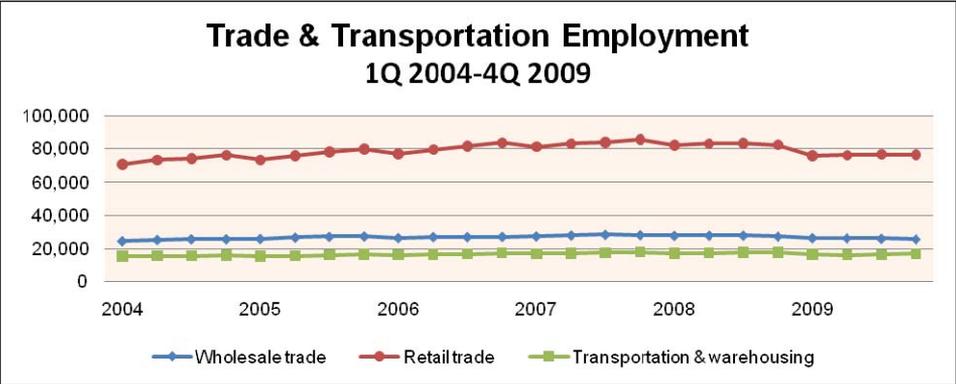
## Public Administration Employment 1Q2004-4Q2009



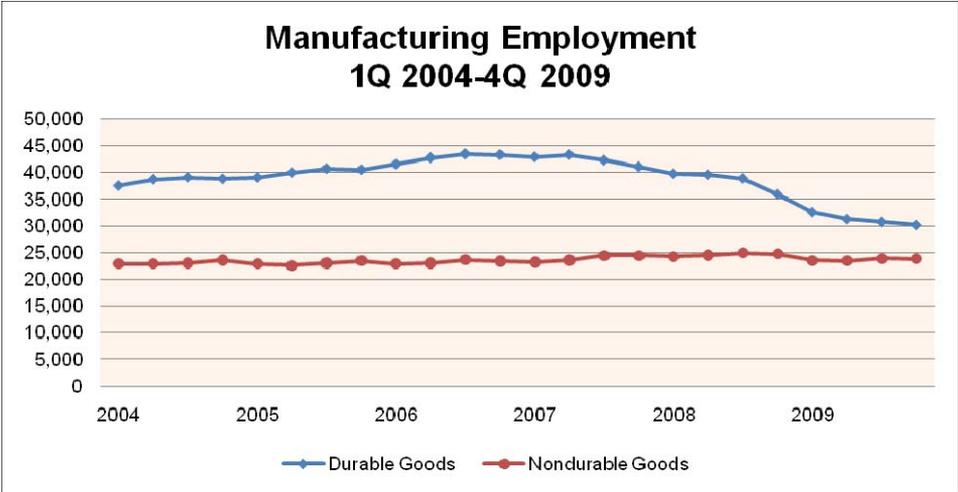
Health care continued its steady climb, gaining 744 jobs in the fourth quarter. This was a 1 percent increase from the third quarter and a 4.3 percent increase over the year-ago level. All healthcare subsectors experienced gains.

Construction experienced a seasonal fourth quarter loss of just under 3,000 jobs, or 8.2 percent, from the third quarter. Historically, this constituted a fairly normal third-to-fourth quarter decrease although employment in the sector was still 21.1 percent below the year-earlier level. Heavy and civil engineering experienced the greatest loss at 13.1 percent. But this was not surprising, given that this is the construction sector that usually experiences the most seasonal variation.

Employment losses in manufacturing continued but at a moderated rate in the fourth quarter. The sector shed fewer than 640 jobs from the third quarter, a 1.2 percent loss. This left manufacturing payrolls 11.1 percent smaller than a year earlier, but this was an improvement in the over-the-year deficit from the 14.5 percent between the third quarters of 2009 and 2008. As in previous quarters, durable goods continued to suffer greater losses than nondurables. Durable manufacturing employment fell 16.2 percent from the fourth quarter



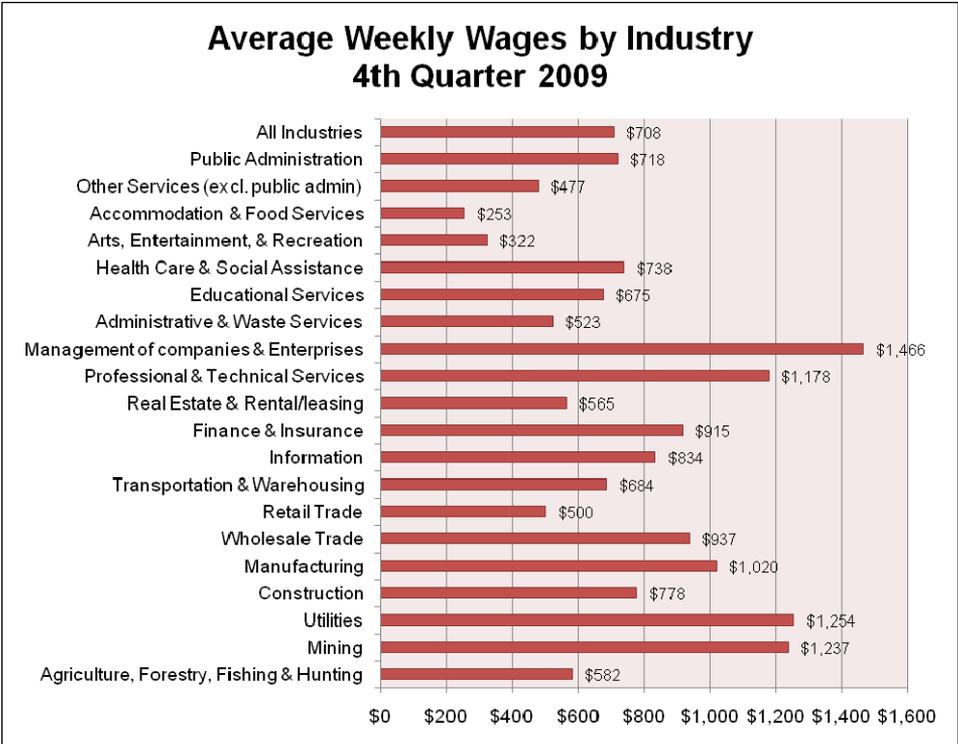
of 2008 compared to a 3.7 percent deficit for nondurables. Sectors that lost the most jobs between the third and fourth quarters were nonmetallic mineral products manufacturing at 8.4 percent, machinery manufacturing at 3.7 percent and wood products manufacturing at 3.2 percent. Fabricated metal products manufacturing experienced a small gain of 0.9 percent, and food manufacturing was up the same amount as a result of seasonal increases in sugar and confectionary products manufacturing and animal slaughter and processing.



**WAGES**

During the fourth quarter of 2009, Idaho’s average weekly wage for all industries was \$708, up \$61 from the previous quarter. The lowest weekly wages were reported in accommodations and food services at \$253, a \$2 decrease from the third quarter, and leisure activities at \$322, a \$12 increase. As usual, company management recorded the highest wage at \$1,466 a week, which was \$88 higher than the previous quarter. Utilities followed at \$1,254, up \$143 from the third quarter, and mining came in at \$1,237, a \$211 increase.

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## FINANCE, INSURANCE JOBS EXPECTED TO GROW IN PANHANDLE

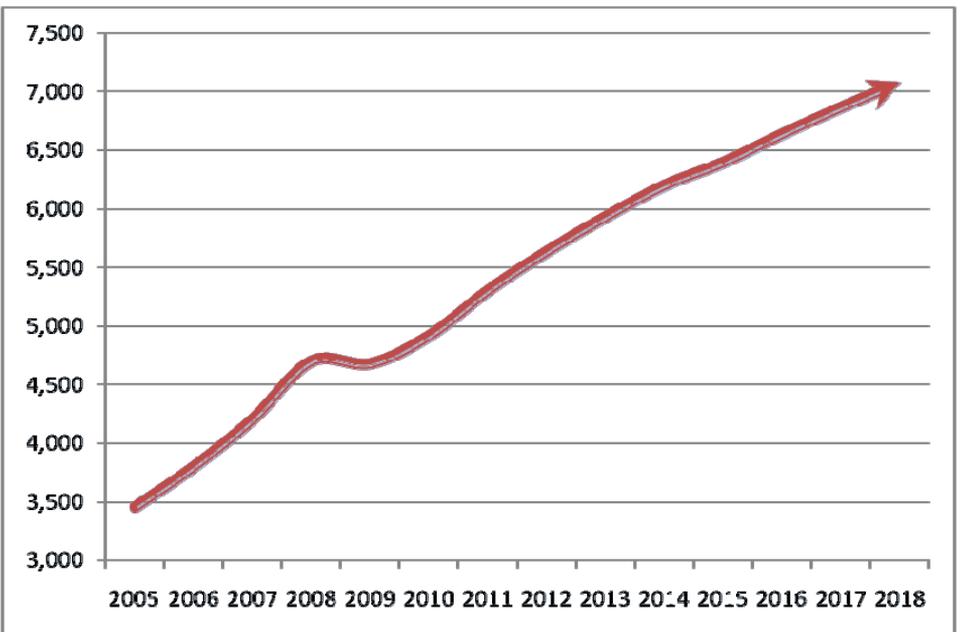
The finance and insurance sector is beginning to be recognized in northern Idaho as an economic stimulus.

Economic Modeling Specialists Inc. ranks this financial services sector as the second fastest growing in the five-county region based on job concentration. In 2009, the industry represented 3.6 percent of total employment in northern Idaho, up from 3 percent in 2005. It put the job increase between 2005 and 2008 at 35.5 percent – an annual rate of 7.1 percent. Over half of the growth is in the credit intermediation and related activities subsector. Industries in this subsector include credit unions, commercial banks, credit card issuers and sales financiers.

Most of this increase was due to a number of small businesses moving to the region. Only six financial services companies in the Panhandle have 50 or more employees. Their combined payroll was \$147.4 million in 2009. On average, the finance and insurance firms have at least five employees, whose annual incomes average about \$38,000.

EMSI projects the finance and insurance sector to grow 51 percent from 4,700 jobs in 2008 to 7,078 jobs in 2018. That compares to growth nationally of just 5.4 percent. Health care is projected to gain 3,034 jobs, or 32 percent, over the same period.

### Finance and Insurance Employment, 2005 Projected to 2018



Financial services is the top regional industry ranked by the competitiveness effect,” which is the industry’s job growth in excess of national trends over time.

In addition, this sector is the eighth highest paying in northern Idaho, giving it an even more competitive advantage over other industries. Typically, finance and insurance is among the industries that pay the highest percentage of gross earnings in the form of supplemental pay – overtime, bonuses and extra pay for employees working less desirable shifts – along with utilities and wholesale trade. Industries for which supplemental pay makes up a considerably smaller percentage of gross earnings are educational services, accommodations, food services and retail trade.

Location quotient is a way of quantifying how concentrated a particular industry is in a region as compared to the nation. It can reveal what makes a

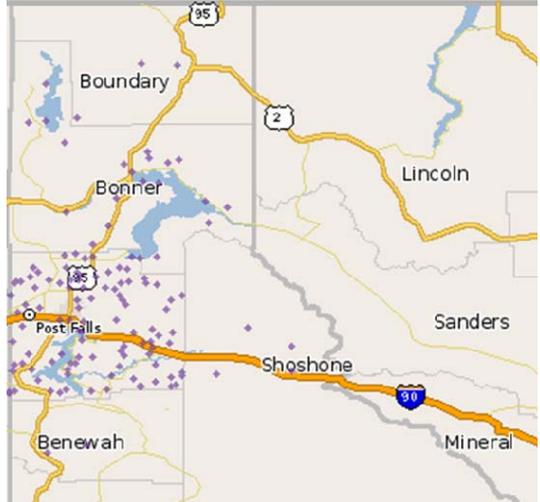
particular region unique in comparison to the national average. The finance and insurance industry currently has a location quotient of 0.77, indicating that it has a slightly lower demand for labor in northern Idaho compared to the nation overall. The highest concentration of jobs in financial services is in Kootenai County. However, EMSI projects the demand for labor in this industry to increase over the next decade – comparable to national averages – particularly in the depository credit intermediation subsector.

According to EMSI, the largest growth occupations in this sector include personal financial advisors and tellers.

Larger financial services employers such as the U.S. Bank call center have played a significant role in the multiplier effect the sector has on other industries. For every 10 jobs in the finance and insurance industry, there are another 17 generated in other industries. As this sector grows, other industries in the region will follow.

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## Financial Services Job Concentration in Northern Idaho



\*Each dot represents 36 jobs.

### Selected Financial Services Occupations

Occupation	2008 Jobs	2018 Jobs	Annual Openings	Median Wage	Education Level
Financial managers	481	627	25	\$23.52	Degree Plus Work Experience
Personal financial advisors	565	868	37	\$10.64	Bachelor's Degree
Insurance sales agents	422	585	28	\$9.90	Bachelor's Degree
Securities, commodities, and financial services sales agents	421	647	36	\$17.53	Bachelor's Degree
First-line supervisors/managers of office and administrative support workers	1,250	1,547	61	\$17.63	Work Experience in a Related Field
Tellers	426	671	44	\$12.01	Short-Term On-the-Job Training
Customer service representatives	1,560	2,197	116	\$12.10	Moderate-Term On-the-Job Training

## NEZ PERCE TRIBE VITAL TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Before settlers surged into their territory in the 1860s, the Nez Perce, who called themselves the Nimiipuu, were the economic powerhouse for 17 million acres of northern Idaho, northeastern Oregon and southeastern Washington. Today, the tribe plays a major role in the economic development of four Idaho counties – Nez Perce, Lewis, Idaho and Clearwater. The reservation covers 1,195 square miles, the largest in Idaho.

About 27 percent of the residents of the four counties live on the reservation – about 18,000 people – including 2,700 Nez Perce tribal members and over 100 members of other tribes including Blackfeet, Chippewa, Coeur d'Alene, Colville, Navajo, Sioux and Yakama. Another 700 Nez Perce live off the reservation.

In 1887, the Dawes Act opened the reservation to homesteading that resulted in non-Indians owning land within the reservation borders next to Indian trust allotments. That created a checkerboard pattern of land ownership. Today the tribe owns about 86,000 acres of the 770,000-acre reservation, and tribal members own an additional 38,000 acres.

### 2000 Census Data On the Nez Perce Reservation

Census Tract County	9501 Lewis	9502 Lewis	9605 Idaho	9702 Clearwater	9901 Nez Perce
Cities in Tract	Kamiah	Craigmont, Nezperce, Winchester	Ferdinand, Kooskia, Stites	Orofino	Culdesac, Lapwai
Population	1,574	2,116	4,130	5,720	4,419
Households	686	847	1,635	2,176	1,661
Non-family households	264	236	439	699	407
Males Living Alone	81	113	186	275	179
Females Living Alone	147	90	194	318	169
Other	36	33	59	106	59
Families	422	611	1,196	1,477	1,254
Married-couple families	344	541	1,014	1,221	962
With children under 18 years	117	205	390	445	346
No children under 18 years	227	336	624	776	616
Families headed by males	20	30	70	97	96
With children under 18 years	12	17	44	71	56
No children under 18 years	8	13	26	26	40
Families headed by females	58	40	112	159	196
With children under 18 years	40	29	64	103	118
No children under 18 years	18	11	48	56	78

### Income, Age and Educational Attainment, Census 2000

	Reservation		Outside Reservation	
	Native Americans	All Others	Rest of Counties	United States
Per capita income (2010 dollars)	\$13,088	\$18,640	\$19,483	\$27,247
Poverty Rate	26.0%	14.2%	13.0%	12.4%
Percent of Population				
Under 18 years	38.4%	23.3%	23.7%	25.7%
18 to 34 years	21.4%	15.8%	20.0%	23.8%
35 to 49 years	21.0%	23.4%	22.4%	23.2%
50 to 64 years	12.4%	20.1%	17.1%	14.9%
65 years and older	6.9%	17.5%	16.8%	12.4%
Percent of Population 25 Years & Over				
Less than 9th grade	5.2%	5.8%	4.5%	7.5%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	14.0%	12.5%	10.6%	12.1%
High school graduate	32.2%	35.8%	33.9%	28.6%
Some college, no degree	31.0%	24.4%	25.6%	21.0%
Associate degree	7.2%	7.1%	7.6%	6.3%
Bachelor's degree	8.3%	10.6%	12.9%	15.5%
Graduate or professional degree	2.1%	3.8%	5.0%	8.9%

The statistics for Native Americans are for people who classified themselves as one race only -- American Indian and Alaska Native. Some tribal members classified themselves as being of more than one race. Some of those who said they were Native American only were not Nez Perce.

### The Economy of the Reservation

The traditional economic mainstays on the reservation are farming, ranching, logging and sawmills. Over time, changes in technology and reductions in timber availability have eroded employment in those industries. The decline of those high-paying jobs has offset most of the gains in other sectors over the last 20 years. Tourism is playing a growing role. Federal and state government agencies — especially the Army Corps of Engineers, Forest Service, hatcheries and the state mental health and correctional institutions in Orofino — provide many jobs. Health care, education and retail trade also are major sectors. New types of manufacturing have created dozens of job opportunities in recent years and have strong potential to create dozens more in the next few years. The largest employer on the reservation is the tribe.

### Reservation Industries and Jobs

	2008	2002
Number of Employers	472	441
Total Jobs	4,757	4,418
Agriculture, Forestry, Outfitting	204	251
Construction, Mining, Utilities	299	186
Manufacturing	559	514
Wholesale Trade	154	138
Retail Trade	480	447
Transportation and Warehousing	122	106
Financial Activities	123	106
Professional and Business Services	107	97
Educational Services	517	605
Health Care and Social Assistance	781	700
Leisure & Hospitality	567	404
Information, Repair, Other Services	105	104
Government	739	760

By 2008, the collapse of the U.S. housing market already had slashed jobs in wood products manufacturing, logging and other forestry operations. It also was reducing jobs in construction and related industries. Further job losses occurred in the first half of 2009. In the last 12 months, some of the manufacturing and logging jobs have been restored, but construction remains depressed.

### The Tribe as Employer

The tribe employs nearly 1,000 people, making it the fourth largest employer in north central Idaho after the University of Idaho, Clearwater Paper and bullet maker ATK Inc.

Its headquarters in Lapwai serves many functions including tribal government, economic development, telecommunications, water and wastewater services, environmental protection, information technology, law enforcement, forest and land protection, housing, public transportation and community center. It employs more than 450 people.

The tribe also employs about 30 people at community centers in Kamiah and Orofino, 120 at health clinics in Lapwai and in Kamiah, 50 at hatcheries and 350 at casinos, hotel and retail operations in Lewiston and Kamiah.

### Betting on Casinos and Tourism

The Nez Perce Tribe ventured into gaming in 1995 when it opened the It'se-Ye-Ye Casino in Kamiah. A year later, it opened the tent-like Clearwater River Casino east of Lewiston. In 1999, Aht'wy Plaza, anchored by the casino, opened a 33-space recreational vehicle park with swimming pool and a 20-space campground. The plaza also contains the Camas Express convenience store, which currently is under expansion. In 2006, a permanent building for the casino and buffet opened near the original tent-like building that now is used for concerts, boxing and mixed martial art matches and other events. At the same time, a 50-room hotel with an indoor pool opened next to the casino. In the next few years, the tribe plans to add hotel rooms, develop retail stores and replace the current event center with a more permanent building better suited to host conferences and business meetings. The tribe gets a lot of interest from different tour groups even outside the U.S., and the new events center will capitalize on that interest. Long-term plans for the plaza include bungalows, an amphitheater, a water park and a center that would showcase the tribe's culture. Despite the economic downturn, employment at the casino resort has grown 33 percent since 2008.

The tribe expects to hear this fall if construction can start on an overpass over U.S. Highway 12/95 by the Clearwater River Casino near Lewiston. The tribe recently applied for a \$14 million Tiger II grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for the construction project. The \$16 million project would replace the east entrance with a two-lane interchange accessible by on and off ramps for both east- and west-bound traffic. It would greatly reduce the risk of traffic accidents at the entrance. About 10,500 cars travel along the highway by the casino each day. If the grant is awarded, construction should begin in the next 18 months. The overpass would be required for full buildout of the Aht'wy Plaza complex.

Construction of a truck stop and rest area at the Nez Perce Tribe's Camas Express convenience store in Winchester is expected to start in the next nine months. The tribe plans to expand the Camas Express gas station to sell diesel fuel and add a rest area and slots for tractor-trailers drivers who travel U.S. Highway 95.

The Nez Perce Tribe tourism office, located inside the Clearwater River Casino, explores ways to increase national and international awareness of the Nimiipuu to attract tourists, open markets for local artisans and retailers and promote awareness of the tribe's culture and history. It is working with local businesses to create exciting package tours that could include horse packing, traditional teepee camping, dancing and cultural demonstrations, fishing, boating and other river activities. The tours also would showcase Nez Perce artwork and craftsmanship, providing outlets for local artisans. In the last couple of years, the office has hosted dozens of tour operators from other states and many European nations to familiarize them with local recreational opportunities.

### **Improving Telecommunications to Join Today's Global Markets**

A major challenge to economic development in north central Idaho is its distance from major markets and the lack of technology infrastructure to bridge some of that gap by keeping businesses linked to global markets. The tribe has played a leading role in improving telecommunications in the region.

The tribe received more than \$1.5 million in stimulus money to improve Internet and cell phone service on and near the Nez Perce Reservation in August. The tribe will expand sparse wireless coverage in areas of Clearwater, Idaho, Lewis and Nez Perce counties. In partnership with Inland Cellular of Lewiston and First Step Internet of Moscow, the tribe will develop a wireless microwave network that will provide high-speed services throughout the reservation. The project calls for seven new microwave towers with 10 existing towers providing middle-mile expansion along the 119-mile backbone of the reservation. It will also connect buildings including 12 public safety entities, four libraries and the tribal government buildings with high-speed wireless broadband. It will enhance distance learning through Northwest Indian College, which provides higher education opportunities on the reservation. The providers will be able to offer cheaper and more accessible service to 4,800 households and 480 businesses. The project will specifically enhance wireless service in Lapwai, Culdesac, Peck, Ahsahka, Orofino, Kamiah and Kooskia and provide voice and data cellular service to much-traveled dead zones on the reservation like those between Greer and Kamiah and Winchester and Culdesac. The grant requires the work to be completed within the next two years.

The middle-mile infrastructure project, which opens opportunities for last-mile service providers to serve the area, has the potential to create jobs by helping existing businesses grow, attracting new businesses and improving training opportunities by bringing Internet courses and services to schools and libraries in a severely underserved area. With the Internet playing a growing role in the success of many small businesses, improved Internet services will foster business by providing essential information in a timely manner and making it easier to market products and services and find supplies less expensively. Economic development organizations have pushed for improved Internet service because many businesses looking to relocate place a high premium on availability of high-speed Internet.

### **Improving the Environment and Creating Jobs**

The tribe plays an important role in protecting and restoring the region's rivers, salmon and steelhead. In 2001, it opened a \$16 million salmon hatchery on tribal property just east of the Cherrylane Bridge on the Clearwater

River. As part of the 2007 Snake River Basin Adjudication agreement, the tribe has a defined role in managing 200,000 acre-feet of water in Dworshak Reservoir and in Dworshak National Fish Hatchery's management. Under the agreement, it also began operating the Kooskia National Fish Hatchery, which employs more than 30 people. This year, the facility received \$1.25 million in federal stimulus money to improve energy efficiency and replace aging infrastructure. As well as being essential to the tribe's cultural heritage, salmon and steelhead also bring many tourists to the region. Nez Perce Tribal Enterprises is working with river tour companies to market fishing and river packages at the Clearwater River casino and hotel.

As a participant in the Clearwater Basin Collaborative, the tribe is working with others to improve the environment and strengthen the economy of the Selway-Middle Fork region. The collaborative is expected to create up to 300 jobs over the next 10 years while also making the region more attractive to tourists and reducing fire hazards.

To promote renewable and sustainable energy development, the tribe recently created an energy coordinator and hosted a workshop on renewable energy.

### **Strengthening the Work Force and Businesses**

Improved educational opportunities and meaningful work force training programs could promote the growth of new industries and expand opportunities for individual business and worker economic success. The tribe encourages its members to embrace the concept of a lifelong journey in education. It is trying to remove the barriers that tribal members face in continuing their formal education, forming businesses or learning a trade. The reservation's communities are separated by long drive-times especially during the winter, posing challenges for delivering educational programs and work force training.

Working with Lewis-Clark State College, the University of Idaho, the Northwest Indian College, Walla Walla Community College and Washington State University, the tribe offers residents access to distance learning courses and helps students access programs at partner institutions. It runs education facilities in Lapwai and Kamiah that provide high-speed Internet access and educational programs.

The Nez Perce Tribe plans to expand programs that foster the creation and growth of small businesses, which play an especially important role on the reservation. While nearly 10 percent of U.S. workers own their own businesses, more than 15 percent of the workers living on the Nez Perce Reservation own their own businesses. The tribe is actively encouraging its members to start businesses and providing business counseling, classes and assistance.

The tribe intends to create a business incubator in the education center it hopes to build in the next three years. Cubicle space and stalls will be available at low rates for entrepreneurs who are just getting started. Incubator tenants will benefit from the other programs and services offered by the center that will increase a new business owner's skills and chances for success. The center would sponsor courses on marketing, product development, business writing, effective advertising, sales and business planning and offer shorter seminars on workplace ethics, interpersonal communication, customer service, time management, team building, productivity and other professional development practices.

Building a \$9 million education center near its headquarters in Lapwai is a high priority. Tribal leaders interviewed students, tribal program managers, business and educational leaders, local manufacturers and tribal elders to determine how to enhance the skills and long-term prospects of individuals, provide a skilled work force for local businesses and promote business creation and expansion. They envision a one-stop educational center offering work

force training, education programs from preschool through college, cultural knowledge transmission and a business development center. Intended to serve tribal members and other residents of Idaho, eastern Washington and eastern Oregon, it would promote economic development while supporting traditional tribal culture.

Currently, many of the tribe's educational programs are housed in overcrowded, aging buildings or surplus government trailers. Young children attend Head Start programs in the basement of an 85-year-old tuberculosis sanitarium that does not meet federal requirements. The proposed education center would provide 35,000 square feet of space to integrate existing programs and add new ones.

Work force training could include website design and maintenance; keyboarding; medical terminology; viticulture including cooperage, stainless steel equipment maintenance, inventory tracking, aging and blending for the wine industry; heavy equipment operation; culinary arts; industrial plant maintenance; bookkeeping; computer programming graphics; in-home care for adults including nutrition, first aid and gerontology; medical record keeping; child development and care; CNC machine operation; welding; small engine repair and office equipment repair.

The center also would provide advanced and refresher professional courses for law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians. To develop potential tribal leaders, it would provide leadership training. Adult basic education programs including remedial mathematics and English would allow individuals to prepare for higher education.

### **Other Economic Development Projects**

The tribe and the city of Lapwai broke ground in July on an \$8.5 million wastewater treatment plant to serve 4,500 Lapwai Valley residents. Without the tribe's assistance, the city never could have received the federal grants that make the project possible. When completed in the summer of 2012, the plant will allow the Lapwai area to accommodate population growth and make it possible for businesses to grow there.

"Everybody in this area has been on septic tanks and drain fills or lagoons or outhouses," said Nez Perce Tribe Water Resources Director Gwen Carter. "We thought in order for us to grow, we need to have a good facility. We need to have good water. We need to have a wastewater treatment plant. We need to have good roads and good communication."

Last year's economic summit for tribal members was so successful that the summit will now be an annual event. This year's major theme was the best ways for the Plateau tribes to market to each other.

The 3,000-watt radio station under construction next to the Wa A Yas Community Center in Kamiah will go on the air in December. Broadcasting throughout north central Idaho, KIYE-FM will provide community news, teach the Nez Perce language a couple of hours a day, offer music and entertainment and engage tribal members with their culture and government.

Construction is expected to begin this fall on a \$1.7 million longhouse for traditional Nez Perce spiritual practices near Lapwai. Two older longhouses were lost to a flood and a fire more than 20 years ago, and the longhouse will replace the temporary dwellings used since then. Like most churches, the longhouse also will provide counseling and assist families in need.

Transportation is a major issue for communities on the reservation so the tribe started the Appaloosa Express bus service in 2008. In addition to helping the tribe's employees and many other people commute to work, the public transportation system also allows elderly and disabled residents to get to doc-

tor's appointments and shopping. This year, the tribe received federal stimulus funds to purchase three buses, construct bus facilities and extend the routes.

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## Nez Perce Indian Reservation

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## THE GRAYING OF NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO

The graying of America is transforming the nation, and the aging of north central Idaho's population is even more dramatic.

Even though the region grew more slowly than the nation between 1990 and 2009 – 15.9 percent compared to 23.4 percent – its population 60 and older grew faster – 41.3 percent compared to 32.3 percent.

The three major forces aging the U.S. population also affect north central Idaho.

- People are living longer so the number 75 and older has swelled. In 1900, American life expectancy at birth was 47 years. Today it is approximately 79 years.
- Aging baby boomers – those born between 1946 and 1964 – are swelling the ranks of the middle-aged. In 1970, the boomers were 6 to 24 years old. By 2009, they were 45 to 63 years old. Next year, the oldest boomers will turn 65.
- Birth rates have fallen considerably since the 1960s.

In addition, north central Idaho has been affected by even more marked declines in birth rates and by limited job opportunities that have forced rural youth to leave their communities to find work elsewhere. The communities with the oldest populations are the ones that experienced the most job losses as the timber industry shriveled.

Before the 1980s, north central Idaho's birth rate was much higher than the nation's, and it had a youthful population. Since then, the economies of Clearwater, Idaho and Lewis counties have stagnated, and many young fami-

lies have had to move elsewhere for jobs. The decline in the young adult population and dramatic changes in family size have resulted in fewer births. In 1970, there were 480 babies under the age of 1 in the three counties. Today, there are about 300. The few people who moved in were retirees. Nez Perce County's economy grew faster than the smaller counties, allowing more immigration. Many of the new residents were retirees attracted by the county's relatively warm climate, public transportation options and large community of health care providers. So its population also has aged considerably. The presence of Lewis-Clark State College boosts the young adult population there. Because of the University of Idaho and its long-term economic growth, Latah County's age structure is different from the other counties in the region.

## Percentage by Age of County, State and National Population

	Clearwater, Idaho, Lewis	Latah	Nez Perce	State	US
<b>2009</b>					
<b>Under 15</b>	16.4	15.0	17.7	22.8	20.2
<b>15 to 29</b>	15.7	40.0	20.2	22.0	21.1
<b>30 to 44</b>	14.2	13.4	17.8	18.7	20.0
<b>45 to 59</b>	24.8	17.0	20.4	19.4	20.7
<b>60 to 74</b>	20.1	9.4	14.1	11.7	11.9
<b>75 &amp; over</b>	8.8	5.2	9.9	5.5	6.1
<b>1990</b>					
<b>Under 15</b>	22.3	19.5	20.9	25.9	21.5
<b>15 to 29</b>	17.0	35.0	20.3	21.7	23.4
<b>30 to 44</b>	22.6	21.5	22.7	22.8	23.9
<b>45 to 59</b>	17.2	11.5	15.5	13.7	14.4
<b>60 to 74</b>	14.3	7.7	13.6	10.8	11.5
<b>75 &amp; over</b>	6.6	4.7	7.1	5.1	5.3
<b>1970</b>					
<b>Under 15</b>	30.9	23.8	29.7	30.4	28.3
<b>15 to 29</b>	21.0	37.6	22.8	24.1	24.5
<b>30 to 44</b>	17.5	13.6	16.8	15.9	16.9
<b>45 to 59</b>	16.7	12.5	16.3	15.9	16.3
<b>60 to 74</b>	10.6	8.7	10.5	9.9	10.3
<b>75 &amp; over</b>	3.2	3.6	3.9	3.9	3.7

In Clearwater, Idaho and Lewis counties, senior citizens outnumber children. The population 65 and over is larger than the population under 18. Nationally the population 65 and over is slightly more than half the size of the population under 18. In the three counties, 20.6 percent of the population is 65 years and over, while 20.4 percent of the population is under 18. In the US, seniors make up 12.9 percent of the population and children make up 24.3 percent.

The graying of the population poses challenges for rural communities. Organizations that serve that elderly, the disabled and the disadvantaged will experience rising demand for their services. School district enrollment declines are followed by declines in state funding, which is based on the number of students. But most school district expenditures are systemwide, tied to facilities, or based on the number of classes, not the number of students. Therefore, school districts are increasingly stressed. Traditionally, civic organizations rely on young adults to perform duties. With fewer young adults, those groups are finding it harder to recruit volunteers. For example, rural communities that rely on volunteer fire fighters are finding it increasingly difficult to replace older volunteers. Some may be forced to spend many more dollars to hire firefighters in the next couple of decades. In addition, many rural communities fear

they will reach a tipping point where they are perceived as retirement communities and not as places to raise children.

The changes in the age structure affect the economy in many ways. Seniors tend to spend less money on goods and more on services. Retailers will generally earn more in younger communities than older ones.

### County Population Change by Age, 1990-2009

	Clearwater	Idaho	Latah	Lewis	Nez Perce	Region	State	U.S.
<b>2009</b>								
<b>Total</b>	8,043	15,461	38,046	3,735	39,211	104,496	1,545,801	307,006,550
<b>Under 15</b>	1,193	2,611	5,710	651	6,921	17,086	351,924	61,882,854
<b>15 to 29</b>	1,159	2,532	15,206	590	7,911	27,398	339,997	64,755,115
<b>30 to 44</b>	1,283	2,113	5,094	474	6,975	15,939	288,985	61,418,559
<b>45 to 59</b>	2,003	3,896	6,457	865	7,990	21,211	299,373	63,567,509
<b>60 to 74</b>	1,713	3,005	3,587	753	5,540	14,598	180,198	36,603,990
<b>75 and over</b>	692	1,304	1,992	402	3,874	8,264	85,324	18,778,523
<b>1990</b>								
<b>Total</b>	8,505	13,783	30,617	3,516	33,754	90,175	1,006,749	248,709,873
<b>Under 15</b>	1,747	3,176	5,981	841	7,056	18,801	260,422	53,567,871
<b>15 to 29</b>	1,483	2,324	10,731	571	6,844	21,953	218,297	58,087,372
<b>30 to 44</b>	1,978	3,118	6,586	735	7,653	20,070	229,901	59,441,790
<b>45 to 59</b>	1,578	2,278	3,514	578	5,219	13,167	138,314	35,754,842
<b>60 to 74</b>	1,207	1,940	2,357	536	4,583	10,623	108,305	28,722,725
<b>75 and over</b>	512	947	1,448	255	2,399	5,561	51,510	13,135,273
<b>% Chg 1990-2009</b>								
<b>Total</b>	-5.4	12.2	24.3	6.2	16.2	15.9	53.5	23.4
<b>Under 15</b>	-31.7	-17.8	-4.5	-22.6	-1.9	-9.1	35.1	15.5
<b>15 to 29</b>	-21.8	9.0	41.7	3.3	15.6	24.8	55.7	11.5
<b>30 to 44</b>	-35.1	-32.2	-22.7	-35.5	-8.9	-20.6	25.7	3.3
<b>45 to 59</b>	26.9	71.0	83.8	49.7	53.1	61.1	116.4	77.8
<b>60 to 74</b>	41.9	54.9	52.2	40.5	20.9	37.4	66.4	27.4
<b>75 and over</b>	35.2	37.7	37.6	57.6	61.5	48.6	65.6	43.0

Health care jobs will grow even faster as the boomers enter their 60s and 70s in the next couple of decades and as people live longer. The low proportion of younger residents hampers labor force growth, which could reduce long-term economic growth. That makes it even more critical that leaders in north central Idaho help youth make the right decisions about education and training.

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### EXPLORING JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE TRADES

At the High School to Hard Hats fair on the Lewis-Clark State College campus in late September, teens from throughout north central Idaho and south-eastern Washington got to sheetrock, paint, lay tiles, go up in a bucket truck and operate backhoes, nail guns and welding equipment as they learned about careers in the manufacturing and construction trades. Sponsored by the Idaho Department of Labor, the Idaho Transportation Department, Lewis-Clark State College, Walla Walla Community College's Clarkston Center, the Lewiston and Clarkston chambers of commerce, Valley Vision and the Oxarc welding company, the fair brought 500 high school students together with people who work in the trades. About 20 different schools in Idaho and Washington participated. More than two dozen hands-on exhibits gave students a chance to try each trade. The Department of Labor provided brochures describing the manufacturing and construction trades, how much they pay and factors affecting demand for tradespeople.

New technologies are spurring demand for electricians. Increasingly, buildings will be prewired during construction to accommodate use of computers and telecommunications equipment. Robots and other automated manufacturing systems in factories will require the installation and maintenance of more complex wiring systems. Efforts to boost energy conservation in public buildings and in new construction will heighten demand for electricians be-

cause they are critical to installing some of the latest energy savers and green technology such as solar panels and motion sensors for turning lights on and off.

Masons should be in high demand in the next 10 years because of the need to build more energy-efficient industrial facilities and office buildings and to restore a growing number of old brick and stone buildings. With growing interest in green construction, masons who know about environmentally conscious construction methods and methods of saving energy will have the best job opportunities.

Millwrights, who install, repair and maintain machines in factories, are increasingly responsible for installing robotics and programming electronic controls. The hottest field for millwrights is in medicine – setting up and maintaining the sophisticated equipment used by today’s hospitals and other health care providers. The power generation industry is another where millwrights should find more work in coming years as demand grows for power produced with less pollution.

American manufacturers are increasingly hiring people who can operate sophisticated computerized machinery, follow complex blueprints and demonstrate higher mathematics proficiency than they used to require of the typical assembly line worker. Fabricators now are using laser light to cut metal, and that requires proficiency in math and science.

Demand for plumbers will be especially hot because so many plumbers are expected to retire over the next 10 years.

The skills required by heavy equipment operators are changing. Due to the increasing use of computerized controls, understanding electronics and a mechanical aptitude are becoming critical to a growing number of jobs.

Surveyors, who can earn more than \$70,000 a year, increasingly use the Global Positioning System, aerial photography and geographic information systems.

No occupation better illustrates how technology advances can change skill requirements than automotive mechanics. The days of the uneducated grease monkey are over. Fifty years ago, people who found it difficult to read could do well as auto mechanics. Today, automotive service technicians are the epitome of “lifelong learning.” They must train constantly to keep up with the latest technology. Most attend two or three seminars a year to learn about new products. They also spend a lot of time on the Internet reading complicated manuals and finding information about the latest technology. Their responsibilities have evolved from simple mechanical repairs to high-level technological work. The integration of computers in automobiles means mechanics must be familiar with complicated new systems. Today, they must know not only about the mechanics of a car but also about electrical systems – a car’s wiring is more complicated than the average home’s – new fuel systems and computerized electronics that make a television set seem simple. Today luxury vehicles often have integrated global positioning systems, accident-avoidance systems and other new features with which technicians must become familiar. With the advance of hybrid and new diesel technology, their jobs have become

The Idaho Career Information System, an online career planning website offered by the Idaho Department of Labor, lets you explore careers, providing detailed information about hundreds of occupations, the training needed to get a job in that field, financial aid information and more. Best of all, it’s free! You can locate this resource at Idaho Labor’s website, <http://labor.idaho.gov> or directly from <http://idcis.intocareers.org>.



even more complicated. They must be able to work with electronic diagnostic equipment and digital manuals and reference materials.

Many skilled tradespeople now are in their 50s and 60s. As they retire, there will be many job openings even in trades that are growing slowly – or not at all. In north central Idaho, 19 percent of manufacturing workers and 16 percent of construction workers are 55 or older. Those older workers tend to be the most experienced and most skilled manufacturing workers. More information about the graying of the trades in Idaho is in the December 2009 issue of “Idaho Employment” at <http://labor.idaho.gov/lmi/pubs/idempnews/archived/iecurdec9.pdf>.

Skilled tradespeople earn wages that allow them to support their families well. Many trades offer relatively high pay – few jobs that don’t require college degrees pay better.

### North Central Idaho Trades and Hourly Pay\*

Occupation	Jobs	25th Percentile	Mid-Range	75th Percentile
<b>Automotive Body and Related Repairers</b>	50	\$14.63	\$17.20	\$25.63
<b>Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics</b>	240	\$14.47	\$17.65	\$22.86
<b>Bus &amp; Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists</b>	70	\$13.11	\$17.22	\$22.44
<b>Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters</b>	80	\$7.53	\$11.19	\$14.68
<b>Carpenters</b>	220	\$14.63	\$17.08	\$21.19
<b>Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers</b>	80	\$13.01	\$14.66	\$17.17
<b>Drafters</b>	440	\$17.95	\$21.55	\$24.89
<b>Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers</b>	n/a	\$27.64	\$31.31	\$35.64
<b>Electricians</b>	210	\$20.27	\$24.79	\$27.94
<b>Excavating, Loading Machine, Dragline Operators</b>	n/a	\$13.46	\$16.11	\$18.35
<b>Heating, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers</b>	n/a	\$11.53	\$18.57	\$23.67
<b>Machinists</b>	110	\$17.60	\$25.78	\$29.20
<b>Millwrights</b>	170	\$19.85	\$25.13	\$28.53
<b>Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators</b>	90	\$16.36	\$18.99	\$23.64
<b>Painters, Construction and Maintenance</b>	50	\$10.29	\$13.92	\$17.82
<b>Plumbers, Pipefitters, Steamfitters</b>	n/a	\$14.95	\$18.46	\$22.77
<b>Surveyors</b>	40	\$14.43	\$18.17	\$26.60
<b>Team Assemblers</b>	440	\$13.56	\$15.05	\$16.96
<b>Welders, Cutters, Solderers, Brazers</b>	120	\$12.94	\$15.81	\$19.82

\* Mid-Range is half higher and half lower. 25th Percentile is a quarter lower and three-quarters higher. 75th Percentile is three-quarters lower and a quarter higher.

Most trades offer great opportunities for self-employment. Plumbers, electricians, masons, painters and finish carpenters are especially likely to run their own businesses.

Carpenters have more opportunities than most other construction workers to become general construction supervisors because carpenters are exposed to the entire construction process.

The opportunities offered by trades jobs are not just for men. Women are also encouraged to explore the trades. In north central Idaho, 7.3 percent of workers in construction, installation and repair occupations and 20.8 percent of workers in production occupations are women.

Good pay, challenging and meaningful work and a large degree of independence lead to high job satisfaction.

There is something deeply satisfying about making things. People who study jobs find that people who make things – including buildings and manufactured objects – tend to be especially happy with their career choices.

Opportunities to learn a trade are growing. Professional-technical programs at community colleges are teaching an increasing number of trades. Many strictly on-the-job training opportunities exist. Some of the highest-paying

trades are offered through formal apprenticeships that combine on-the-job training with classes. Lewis-Clark State College, the Northwest Inland Manufacturer Association and school districts are working together to strengthen professional-technical programs in high schools and at the college level. Some businesses are working with the U.S. Bureau of Apprenticeship Training to create apprenticeship programs that teach skills that are in demand.

Helping young people enter the trades and learn how to get their foot on career ladders not only benefits them but also the economy as a whole. It helps manufacturing and construction businesses grow. It eventually will lead to the creation of more businesses as experienced tradespeople start their own businesses. In addition, the availability of skilled workers can attract new businesses to the community.

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## THE FORCES OF CREATIVE DESTRUCTION IN IDAHO AND LEWIS COUNTIES

The business activity in two rural Idaho counties during what was the worst recession since World War II demonstrates the energy local economies have even during the worst times and the stability the rural economy provides to the state overall.

At the request of the Ida-Lew Economic Development Council, the Idaho Department of Labor used unemployment insurance tax rolls to determine how many businesses in Lewis and Idaho counties opened and closed between March 2007 before the recession began and March 2010, nine months after it ended.

Surprisingly, the two-county area saw more businesses added to the tax rolls than drop off although the jobs and payrolls of the new businesses were not enough to completely offset the losses from those that closed or severely contracted.

Most of the businesses did not actually die. They changed ownership or restructured. Some involved curtailing operations so no employees were needed. Some of the businesses that were added to the tax rolls just reflected those ownership changes or restructuring.

These results illustrate the dynamic nature of a market-oriented economy and the process of “creative destruction,” where new businesses emerge as old businesses die. It shows that even in the worst of times new businesses come into being just as in the best of times some businesses fail.

About 29 percent of private-sector employers in Idaho and Lewis counties dropped off the unemployment insurance employer tax rolls over the 36 months in question. That was 210 employers with 1,112 workers and total payrolls of \$28.9 million.

Over the same 36 months, about one-third of the businesses in Idaho and Lewis counties were added to the unemployment insurance tax rolls. That totaled 234, but those new businesses generated only 1,041 jobs paying \$26.4 million.

Average pay for the lost jobs was just under \$25,990 while average pay for the jobs gained was just over \$25,360.

By county, Idaho lost 166 businesses with 909 jobs and \$25 million in payroll and gained 174 businesses with 755 jobs and \$20.9 million in payroll. Lewis lost 44 businesses with 203 jobs and \$3.9 million in payroll and gained 60 employers with 286 jobs and \$5.5 million in payroll.

The largest operation to permanently close was the Three Rivers Mill in Kamiah in Idaho County. That put 108 people out of work in December 2008. Leisure and hospitality, construction and retail sales had the most permanent closures in the two counties. Some were victims of the economic downturn, but those industries also tend to have high rates of business failure even in good economic times. Restaurants, which make up the largest share of leisure and hospitality sector, tend to have high failure rates.

In the case of construction, businesses sometimes are added to the tax roll just for the duration of a project, and when it ends the businesses ceases operations.

Health care, manufacturing and construction saw the most openings of new businesses.

Of the new businesses, records indicate 28 relocated from elsewhere in Idaho or were new branches of a business existing somewhere else. Of those 28 businesses, 18 moved to Idaho County and 10 to Lewis County.

<b>Private-Sector Employers by Industry In Idaho and Lewis Counties</b>						
Industry	Both Counties		Idaho County		Lewis County	
	2010	2007	2010	2007	2010	2007
<b>Total</b>	720	707	552	553	168	154
<b>Natural Resources, Mining</b>	78	67	56	50	22	17
<b>Construction</b>	133	127	111	104	22	23
<b>Manufacturing</b>	39	34	29	28	10	6
<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	36	38	22	23	14	15
<b>Retail Trade</b>	91	93	66	70	25	23
<b>Transportation, Utilities</b>	47	40	37	35	10	5
<b>Finance, Insurance</b>	34	37	28	30	6	7
<b>Real Estate</b>	15	18	10	14	5	4
<b>Professional, Business Services</b>	50	46	40	38	10	8
<b>Health Care, Social Assistance</b>	54	54	36	37	18	17
<b>Arts, Entertainment, Recreation</b>	28	30	25	25	3	5
<b>Accommodation, Food Services</b>	63	75	48	60	15	15
<b>Miscellaneous Services</b>	52	48	44	39	8	9

<b>Private-Sector Employers by Size in Idaho and Lewis Counties</b>						
Size	Both Counties		Idaho County		Lewis County	
	2010	2007	2010	2007	2010	2007
<b>Total</b>	720	707	552	553	168	154
<b>Under 5 employees</b>	513	484	394	379	119	105
<b>5 to 9 employees</b>	109	123	88	96	21	27
<b>10 to 19 employees</b>	67	67	45	51	22	16
<b>20 to 49 employees</b>	24	22	21	20	3	2
<b>50 to 99 employees</b>	5	8	2	4	3	4
<b>100 or more employees</b>	2	3	2	3	0	0

According to statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2006, there were also 1,471 businesses in Idaho and Lewis counties that did not have any employees. By 2008, the most recent year for which figures are available, there were 1,562 so there was a net increase of 91 “nonemployee” businesses.

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## PORT OF WILMA WORKERS FROM IDAHO AND WASHINGTON

Although the Port of Wilma is in Washington’s Whitman County, most people who work there live in the Lewiston-Clarkston area. It is one of the three seaports serving the Lewis-Clark Valley. The 280-acre port is located just west of Clarkston on the opposite side of the Snake River.

Unlike the Port of Lewiston, it is not a container port. It primarily transports wheat, dry peas and the various products of its tenants and their customers.

Tenants include general cargo firms, a petroleum import and storage company, a lumber mill, wood chip processors and shippers, a concrete block manufacturer, propane distribution and storage companies, a wood recycling company, a tree service company, a waste-processing facility, a helicopter business, a boat manufacturing company, a meat-cutting business and a grain shipment and storage company. The port can store up to six million bushels of grain and dry peas. In addition to ocean-going barges, the port also has rail service.

A port tenant is planning to more than triple the length of its dock. TGM Investments, a private company that specializes in moving goods to and from barges, trucks and rail cars wants to extend a dock it leases from 60 to 195 feet. Construction could start as early as December and be completed before spring. TGM says it needs more dock space, because it's moving a lot of logs for Potlatch and chips and sawdust for Clearwater Paper. It also is pursuing jobs where it would handle large pieces of equipment and refurbish them before shipping them elsewhere.

Makers of equipment for wind farms potentially could use TGM. TGM plans to make the expansion even though it appears Imperial Oil is going to send its more than 200 loads of oversized cargo through the Port of Lewiston. Imperial Oil, owned mostly by Exxon Mobil, wants to move Korean-made equipment up the Columbia-Snake river system to the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley where it would continue by truck on U.S. Highway 12 to the Karl Oil Sands in Alberta, Canada.

It's possible that "mega loads" will not be allowed on U.S. Highway 12. The Idaho Supreme Court heard a case in early October involving proposed oversized shipments of Conoco Phillips equipment on the highway that travels along the Lochsa to Lolo Pass. The court's decision hasn't been issued yet. In April 2009, the port's largest tenant, Guy Bennett Lumber, indefinitely shuttered its operations, resulting in the loss of 70 jobs. Before the recession began in 2007, the mill had employed 140. Despite a rise in lumber prices, the mill remains closed.

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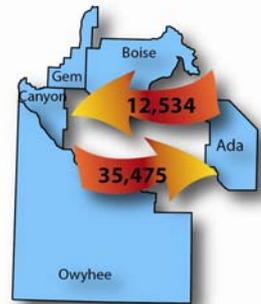
## BOISE METROPOLITAN INTERCOUNTY LABOR SHED

Each county in the Boise metropolitan area relies on at least one of the other counties for its work force. That labor interaction is detailed through On-the-Map, an online interactive U.S. Census Bureau tool that provides demographic information about workers for specific geographic areas. The commute-shed descriptions do not consider commuters to or from any counties outside the five-county metro area.

### ADA COUNTY

Ada County unsurprisingly receives the largest number of workers from other counties. Over 35,000 people commute to Boise, Meridian, Garden City and Eagle as well as employers in unincorporated parts of the county. That is one of every five people who work in the county. Two-thirds of the people entering Ada County for work are headed to Boise.

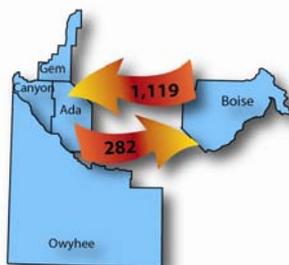
Ada County provides over 12,500 people, or 22 percent of the work force in the four surrounding counties.



Overall, Ada County receives almost two workers for every one worker that leaves for another county. Over 80 percent of the people who work in the county live in the county.

**BOISE COUNTY**

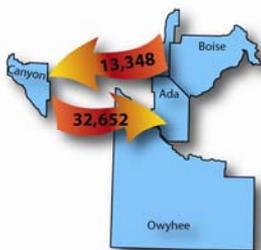
Boise County residents depend heavily on jobs in other counties for their incomes. More than four times as many people leave the county for work every day as come to the county from outside to work. Fewer than 300 people come into Boise County from other counties to work, but they hold nearly one-third of Boise County’s primary jobs.



**CANYON COUNTY**

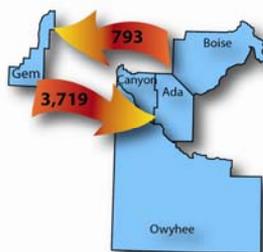
Canyon County’s commuting pattern is roughly the opposite of Ada County’s. More than 32,600 people leave Canyon County to work elsewhere while 13,000 come from other counties to work in Canyon.

Over 95 percent, or 31,000, of the outbound commuters are headed to Ada County every day for their jobs. Another 3 percent go to Owyhee County, and less than 2 percent make the drive to Gem or Boise counties.



**GEM COUNTY**

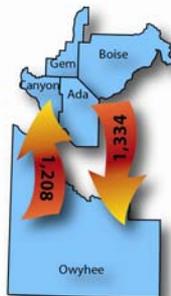
Gem County provides 3,719 workers to the other four counties in the metro area while attracting only 793. The majority of people leaving Gem County – nearly 2,000 of the 3,700 – go to work in Boise. Other cities getting workers from Gem County are Nampa and Caldwell with 614, Meridian with just under 500, Eagle with 109 and Star with 23.



**OWYHEE COUNTY**

Owyhee County sees the largest percentage – 52 percent - of its primary jobs held by people living outside the county. Caldwell sends 186 people to Owyhee County, Nampa 269 and the rest of Canyon County 550. Just over 150 people commute from Boise, Meridian, Eagle and Garden City

Access the On-the-Map tool at the Department of Labor website at <http://lmi.idaho.gov> under population/census or directly from the Census Bureau at <http://lehdmap4.did.census.gov/themap4/>.



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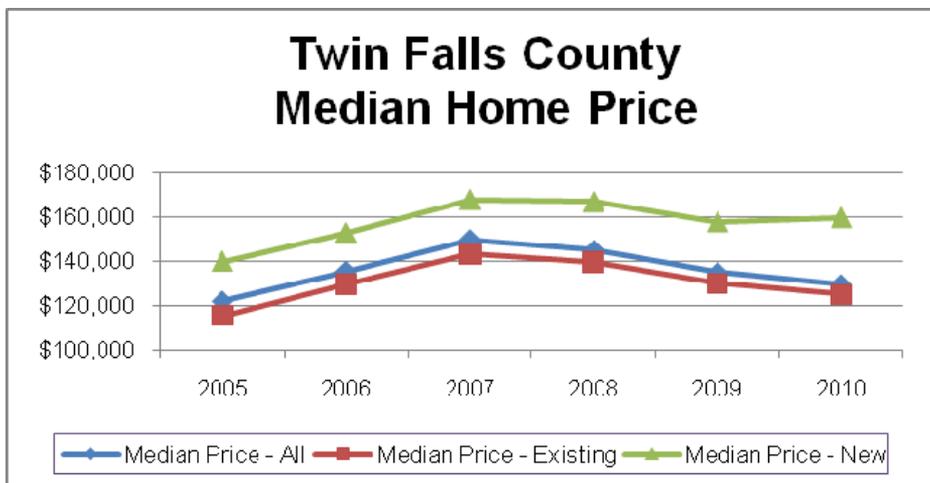
**TWIN FALLS REAL ESTATE: THE BEAR FACTS**

No matter where people live, the real estate market “ain’t what it used to be.”

But among the indicators quickening the pulse of realtors around the Magic Valley are the latest statistics from the Intermountain Multiple Listing Service covering the 19 counties across southern Idaho.

The median price for new homes in Twin Falls County rose 1.3 percent from the third quarter of 2009 to this summer, the third quarter of 2010 when it hit

\$159,900. While this uptick is positive, the median home price is still nearly 6 percent below the peak of \$168,000 during the summer of 2007.



Over the last five years, the median home price has been trending up but the time it takes to sell a home – days on the market – has practically doubled for new construction and increased by two-thirds for existing homes. The number of sales and their value reflect the toll taken by the recession triggered when the housing bubble burst. Most home owners stayed put, taking a wait-and-see attitude as consumer confidence plunged. The number of people moving to south central Idaho, which had been one of the factors spurring growth during the expansion of the mid-2000s, dropped dramatically from 1,526 from 2005-2006 to just 477 in 2008-2009.

#### Twin Falls County January-September Housing Statistics, 2005-2010

All Homes	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	% Change 2005-2010
Single Family Homes Sold	1,045	993	882	647	557	533	-49.0%
Median Price	\$122,000	\$135,500	\$149,900	\$145,000	\$135,000	\$129,500	6.1%
Days on Market	67	60	88	105	105	114	70.1%
Total Residential Value (\$mill)	\$141.8	\$149.5	\$150.7	\$102.8	\$81.3	\$73.5	-48.2%
<b>Existing</b>							
Single Family Homes Sold	779	722	682	539	492	471	-39.5%
Median Price	\$115,500	\$129,500	\$143,436	\$139,500	\$130,000	\$125,000	8.2%
Days on Market	65	57	74	92	95	109	67.7%
Total Residential Value (\$mill)	\$99.5	\$102.2	\$110.8	\$81.7	\$69.6	\$62.9	-36.8%
<b>New Construction</b>							
Single Family Homes Sold	265	265	198	116	67	60	-77.4%
Median Price	\$139,900	\$152,900	\$168,000	\$167,000	\$157,900	\$159,900	14.3%
Days on Market	76	66	137	161	181	146	92.1%
Total Residential Value (\$mill)	\$42.0	\$45.8	\$39.8	\$22.4	\$12.4	\$10.2	-75.7%

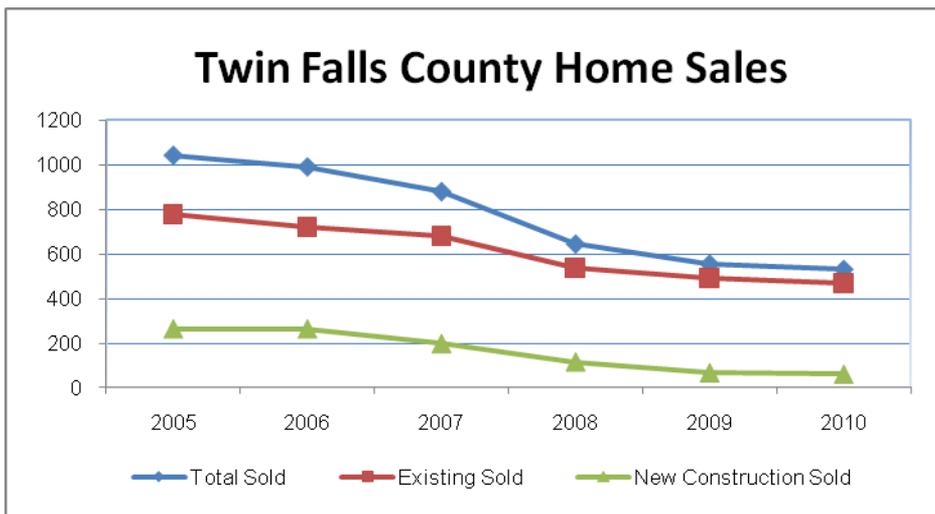
Source: Intermountain Multiple Listing Service

Homes continue to cost more in Ada County than in the Magic Valley despite the deterioration of the Boise area market through the recession. The median sales price in Ada County for all homes in the third quarter 2010 was \$157,500, which was dramatically higher than in Twin Falls at under \$130,000, and the median price for new construction was \$168,500 in Ada County, \$8,600 higher than in Twin Falls. The price gap on new construction has all but disappeared, however. In 2010, median prices for Twin Falls new construction were 95 percent of the Ada County median while at the height of the bubble, Twin Falls new construction was 57 percent of new construction in Ada County.

Neighboring Canyon County, however, has substantially lower prices. The median price for all homes was \$94,000 in 2010 compared to nearly \$130,000 in Twin Falls. New construction at \$122,100, was just 76 percent of the median price in Twin Falls.

But while home sales continued to decline in Twin Falls through the first nine months of 2010, sales in both Ada and Canyon counties rebounded strongly after apparently bottoming out in 2009. Twin Falls saw another 4.3 percent decline in the number of home sales in 2010 from 2009 while Ada County posted a 14.7 percent increase and Canyon County was up over 31 percent.

It is likely that much of the increase was due to sales of distressed properties. The median price for all homes sold in Twin Falls was down 4.1 percent from 2009. But the median in Ada County was off 8 percent, and Canyon was down over 15 percent.



The most activity in all three counties involved houses – existing and new – in the price range of \$120,000 to \$160,000.

In Twin Falls County, existing homes carried the market over the past five years, and sales of new construction were severely limited since the recession took hold. It took longer for the market to soften in the Magic Valley compared to the nation, and it is remaining weak even as there are tentative signs of improvement nationally. New home sales in 2010 were less than a quarter of the pre-recession levels, and existing homes were off by 40 percent. Three quarters of the way through 2010, 88 percent of all sales involved existing homes compared to 75 percent during the first nine months of 2005. Economy wary buyers are looking for value over newer, bigger or more prestigious.

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## RARE EARTHS MAY PRESENT RARE OPPORTUNITY FOR EASTERN IDAHO

During the 1960s, something remarkable happened in the Santa Clara, Calif., area. Encouraged in part by Stanford University, a growing electronics industry sprang up. Silicon Valley became a pioneer in the use of the element silicon in transistors and later semiconductors. Today, of course, Silicon Valley is an economic and technological powerhouse, which creates a robust economy in the region just south of San Francisco.

Many factors led to the rise of Silicon Valley including the involvement of Stanford University in technology transfer to business and an existing electronics industry. Similarly, eastern Idaho has many important resources. Two of the most prominent are the Idaho National Laboratory and Idaho State University.

A new important resource can be now added to the economy of Eastern Idaho – rare earths. Rare earths combined with the region’s other economic assets could provide a unique opportunity for job growth.

The discovery of rare earths in the Salmon area “could mean a lot of jobs and commerce for Idaho,” according to U.S. Rare Earths Inc. Chief Executive Richard Cowle. His company recently signed a contract to supply elements contained in rare earth to airplane manufacturing giant Boeing.

One might ask why Boeing is coming to Idaho to purchase something called “rare earths.” One reason — Idaho is one of the few places outside China that can supply rare earth elements, which can be important to industry.

Elements include:

- Scandium — added to aluminum to improve strength and heat resistance and can be used as a substitute for titanium
- Yttrium —used in LED displays and high temperature superconductors
- Praseodymium and neodymium —used in lasers and rare earth magnets.
- Promethium —used in nuclear batteries
- Gadolinium — used in computer memory, lasers, neutron capture and x-ray devices

Fortune magazine recently reported that China dominates rare earth production, holding 97 percent of this \$2 billion industry. Its importance in the rare earth supply chain was underscored when its ban on rare earth exports to Japan crippled Japan’s ability to produce computer screens and hybrid cars, according to the New York Times.

China’s dominance has sparked concern because rare earth elements have many national security applications and are used in many emerging technologies. Congressional hearings have been held on how the United States can resume rare earth production.

Forbes magazine reports that China’s competitive advantage comes from its large supply of rare earths, lax environmental regulations and low labor costs. The United States’ only active rare earth mine in southwestern California was closed in 2002 because it could not compete with Chinese operations.

Idaho has a unique opportunity as one of few locations outside China where rare earth elements exist. The presence of these materials combined with Idaho’s research abilities through the INL and Idaho State University position eastern Idaho to become a hub of an emerging – and profitable – industry.

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## FEDERAL GRANTS PROVIDE FUNDING FOR NEW IDEAS, BUSINESS

By definition innovative people have lots of ideas. But too often ideas remain just that, ideas.

Now a federal program is attempting to move great ideas from mere concepts to new products and businesses.

In 1982 Congress and President Ronald Reagan established the Small Business Innovation Research Program to stimulate technological innovation and increased private sector commercialization, using small business to meet federal research and development needs.

Each year thousands of grants are awarded to men and women across the United States through a highly competitive program that encourages small businesses to explore their technological potential and take advantage of incentives to profit from commercialization.

By including qualified small businesses in the process of meeting the nation’s specific research and development goals, the Small Business Innovation Research Program aims to stimulate high technology innovation while fostering the country’s entrepreneurial spirit.

Charles Wessner of the National Science Foundation sees the program's main goal as creating new businesses and employment opportunities. Since program grants focus on technology and innovation, the employment opportunities they create are likely to lead to high-paying careers.

Often projects have high technological merit, strong commercial potential but are risky enough not to be able to attract venture capital.

Currently 11 federal agencies participate in the Small Business Innovation Research Program:

- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Defense
- Department of Education
- Department of Energy
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of Transportation
- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- National Science Foundation

A recent study found that the bulk of the grants go to just a few states. California, Massachusetts and Virginia generally each get more than 1,000 grants in any three-year period. Idaho, on the other hand, was among a group of smaller states that only got a handful of grants.

The program has three phases, and the first two are supported by grant funding.

During the initial phase scientific or technical merit and commercial feasibility of the proposed project is determined. These are grants for up to \$100,000 for up to six months.

During the second phase, the research continues relying on the approaches found to be most promising during the first phase. These are grants for up to \$750,000 for up to two years.

During the final phase, the business pursues commercialization of the project with non-grant resources such as venture capital. This reinforces a major objective of the program – to increase private sector commercialization of innovations derived from federal research and development.

Only businesses may apply, and those businesses must be:

- American-owned and independently operated
- For profit
- The employer of the principal researcher
- A company with 500 or fewer employees

Successful proposals typically focus on technology. These grants are not intended to back traditional business ventures.

For those affiliated with research institutions, the related Small Business Technology Transfer Program provides competitive grants that reserve a specific percentage of the federal research and development funding for small business and nonprofit research institution partners. Unlike the Small Business Innovation Research Program, an institutional partner is needed, and the grant's principal researcher need not be an employee of the company submitting the grant proposal.

This program also has three similar phases. Phase I provides up to \$100,000, and Phase II awards up to \$750,000. Phase III does not provide any grant money.

More information on these programs including current grant solicitations is at <http://www.grants.gov> or specific Idaho programs are at <http://commerce.idaho.gov/community-programs/>.

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## JOB SEEKERS MAKING CHANGES IN OCCUPATION PREFERENCES

With many industries cutting back on labor, some Idahoans see the writing on the wall.

Since 2003 job seekers have been changing their career paths. The IdahoWorks website gives job seekers the opportunity to select the specific occupations they are interested in. When new jobs are posted in their area of interest, they automatically get the information on those jobs. Department of labor analysts study the job seeker data, which provides valuable information about changes in the supply of labor and qualitative information about the characteristics and preferences of the labor force.

From 2003 through the third quarter of 2010 there has been a gradual change in the preferences of some job seekers while those of many have remained the same. The reasons are varied. Across the state a higher percentage of job seekers have obtained a GED or high school diploma, reducing the number of job seekers without that critical credential.

**IdahoWorks Job Seeker Education Attainment**

Education	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No High School Diploma	17%	16%	16%	17%	17%	17%	16%	15%
GED or High School Diploma	39%	39%	39%	40%	40%	41%	42%	40%
Some College	30%	29%	29%	30%	29%	29%	30%	30%
Associate's Degree	5%	5%	5%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%
Bachelor's Degree	7%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%
Master's Degree	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Doctorate	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Regionally, occupational interests are slightly different from those statewide. The breakdown by gender for all job seekers was 58 percent men and 42 percent women.

At the state and regional level, office and administrative support occupations took the top spot with 26 percent of job seekers listing them as their first preference. Both statewide and in east central Idaho, 78 percent of those job seekers were women. Construction was second but with a higher concentration in east central Idaho, where just under 96 percent of those job seekers were men.

**High Interest Occupations in 2010**

Occupation	State	East Central	% Female
Office and Administrative Support	26%	26%	78%
Construction and Building Trades	18%	22%	4%
Transportation and Delivery	17%	17%	13%
Produce and Manufacturing	15%	10%	29%
Food Science and Services	14%	14%	57%
Sales and Agent Representatives	12%	14%	58%

As the economy has evolved, there have been several occupations that have grown in popularity while others have become less attractive. Remarkably, many of these changes have occurred gradually. Some of the changes appear to be correlated with the recession. Others do not.

One of the more notable changes occurred in construction and building trade occupations. Construction industry employment has been hit especially hard by the recession and the bottom falling out of the housing market. As workers in construction trades lost jobs, they continued to express interest in construction occupations. In fact, construction occupations have gained a larger share of job seeker interests. The first three quarters of 2010 showed a 1 percent decrease, but that was less than some other occupations. With fewer construction jobs available in a still depressed housing market, there could be a shift in job seeker interests toward jobs with a more positive outlook.

## Unemployment Insurance Claimant Characteristics

Occupation	% of Claimants
Office and Administrative Support	14%
Construction and Building Trades	11%
Production	10%
Transportation and Delivery	9%
Sales and Agent Representatives	7%

In contrast, there has been a steady decline in interest for office and administrative support occupations and sales-related occupations, both of which are preferred predominantly by women. In August 2010 office and administrative support was the leading occupation for unemployment insurance claimants followed by construction, production or manufacturing, transportation and sales. It appears that female job seekers can see the writing on the wall better than males.

See table on page 31 for a chart of changing occupational interests by gender and region.

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## CENSUS BUREAU TO SURVEY NATION'S SPENDING HABITS

PHILADELPHIA — U.S. Census Bureau field representatives began collecting information this month about how much Americans spend for groceries, clothing, transportation, housing, health care and other items from a sample of households across the country. About 15,000 households will be visited each quarter during the coming year to obtain data on relatively large expenditures and also those expenditures that occur on a regular basis such as rent and utilities.

Another 12,500 households will be asked to keep two consecutive one-week diaries of smaller, more frequent purchases that may be difficult for respondents to recall later such as a fast-food purchase at a drive-through window, a soda or candy bar from a vending machine or a carton of eggs from the supermarket.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics will calculate and publish integrated data from the two surveys to provide a snapshot of our nation's economy and spending habits. Government economists use the survey results to update a "market basket" of goods and services for the Consumer Price Index, our nation's most widely used measure of inflation.

"The findings are invaluable to businesses and policymakers in our communities," said Fernando Armstrong, director of the Census Bureau's Philadelphia Regional Office. "They use the data to evaluate consumer needs and track changes in consumer spending." (Source: U.S. Census Bureau.)

## Occupations Showing Changing Interests

Table shows the percent of job seekers that expressed interest in the occupation.

Gender	Region	Occupation	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Change
Both	State	Construction and Building Trades	15%	16%	15%	16%	18%	19%	19%	18%	4%
Both	State	Office and Administrative Support	29%	27%	27%	28%	27%	26%	25%	26%	-3%
Both	State	Sales and Agent Representatives	15%	14%	14%	13%	13%	13%	12%	12%	-3%
Both	East Centre	Construction and Building Trades	18%	19%	19%	19%	20%	22%	22%	22%	4%
Both	East Centre	Office and Administrative Support	30%	28%	28%	28%	28%	27%	25%	26%	-4%
Both	East Centre	Sales and Agent Representatives	18%	17%	16%	16%	15%	15%	15%	14%	-4%
Female	State	Office and Administrative Support	49%	48%	48%	49%	49%	49%	48%	48%	0%
Female	State	Produce and Manufacturing	13%	12%	12%	13%	12%	11%	11%	10%	-2%
Female	State	Sales and Agent Representatives	21%	19%	19%	18%	18%	18%	18%	17%	-4%
Female	East Centre	Office and Administrative Support	51%	50%	49%	50%	51%	50%	49%	50%	-1%
Female	East Centre	Sales and Agent Representatives	24%	23%	22%	21%	21%	20%	20%	19%	-5%
Male	State	Construction and Building Trades	25%	26%	26%	27%	29%	30%	30%	30%	5%
Male	State	Produce and Manufacturing	23%	20%	20%	20%	20%	19%	19%	19%	-4%
Male	State	Sales and Agent Representatives	11%	10%	10%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	-2%
Male	State	Transportation and Delivery	29%	26%	26%	27%	27%	26%	25%	25%	-4%
Male	East Centre	Construction and Building Trades	30%	32%	31%	31%	33%	35%	36%	36%	6%
Male	East Centre	Office and Administrative Support	14%	13%	12%	12%	12%	11%	10%	10%	-5%
Male	East Centre	Transportation and Delivery	28%	26%	26%	27%	28%	27%	26%	26%	-3%
Color Scheme		Decline	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Growth

## Area and County Developments

Nonfarm jobs data for the state and labor market areas are posted on the department's labor marketing information Web site at <http://lmi.idaho.gov/EmploymentUnemployment/IdahoNonfarmJobs/tabid/760/Default.aspx>.

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### NORTHERN IDAHO

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai & Shoshone counties

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#### CDA LABOR OFFICE MOVES TO POST FALLS



A view of the new Idaho Department of Labor local office in Post Falls.

The Idaho Department of Labor's Coeur d'Alene office is moving. It will be closed Oct. 29 for the move and will reopen at its NEW location Monday, Nov. 1.

The new address is:

600 N. Thornton Street  
Post Falls, Idaho 83854

Phone: 208-457-8789

FAX: 208-773-5773

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#### REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- For the second consecutive year, Spokane Teachers Credit Union has been judged among the highest-performing credit unions by Raddon Financial Group. Raddon considers a vast array of data provided by more than 500 credit unions to measure growth, service and overall performance. Based on Raddon's Performance Index, Spokane Teachers was at the 100th percentile for 2009, meaning that while some of the participating credit unions may have done equally well, none of those steadily performed better. The credit union was at the 99th percentile in 2008. In August, Raddon honored Spokane Teachers and nine other large credit unions with more than \$500 million in assets with its Crystal Performance Award. Spokane Teachers also received the honor last year, based on its 2008 performance. Spokane Teachers Credit Union has 14 branches in eastern Washington and northern Idaho and more than \$1.4 billion in total assets.
- Three local school districts will receive their portion of the \$51.6 million allocated to Idaho by the federal government for teacher salaries and benefits. The stimulus money is part of a \$26 billion spending plan directed at limiting teacher layoffs. The St. Maries school district gets \$224,926, Plummer-Worley \$100,873 and Kootenai \$75,487. St. Maries trustees will spend half their award to retain five professional development days that were previously cut from teacher's contracts when the board reduced the work year from 190 days to 185 days. The board intends to save the other half as a hedge against future budget problems.
- The western lumber industry had its worst year in 2009 since records have been kept, and the outlook for this year is even more dismal. Statistics from the Western Wood Products Association show just 10.4 billion board

feet of lumber were produced last year in 11 states, the lowest annual volume since figures were first compiled in the late 1940s. Production in each of the states dropped by double-digit percentages from 2008. Statistics show Oregon mills produced 3.8 billion board feet worth \$875.7 million in 2009, the most in the nation. Washington was second at 3.2 billion board feet worth \$828.3 million followed by California with 1.4 billion board feet worth \$468.6 million. Idaho produced 1.1 billion board feet worth \$301.1 million, and Montana 418 million board feet worth \$110 million. Nationally, 11.8 billion board feet were produced, down 19.5 percent from 2008. A record 2.15 million housing starts nationwide in 2005 dwindled to just 554,000 in 2009, the lowest total since World War II. Earlier this year, industry officials projected between 650,000 and 700,000 starts in 2010. Low demand also forced down prices for lumber products from 170 western mills. The estimated wholesale value of 2009 production was \$2.69 billion, down 26 percent from 2008. Five years ago, the mills produced 19.3 billion board feet of lumber valued at \$7.7 billion.

- The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved an average 9.35 percent increase over three years in Avista Utilities electric rates and an average 2.6 percent over two years in Avista gas rates. Effective Oct. 1, electric rates rose 3.59 percent and gas rates 1.9 percent. The settlement approved by the commission gives the company \$21.2 million spread over three years in electric revenue and \$1.85 million spread over two years in gas revenue. Helping to offset the increase was a \$17.5 million deferred state income tax benefit. On Oct. 1, 2011, there will be a 3.9 percent electric rate hike and 0.72 percent gas hike and on Oct. 1, 2012, a 1.74 percent electric rate hike.
- Three new Subway sandwich shops have opened this month in the Spokane-Post Falls area. The new outlets range in size from about 1,500 to 1,800 square feet, and each outlet employs between 10 and 15 people.
- Many people celebrated the opening of Coeur d'Alene Mine's \$400 million Kensington Gold Mine in Alaska. The payoff is even better now that gold prices have risen to above \$1,300 an ounce. The Juneau Empire estimates that mining the gold costs Coeur d'Alene \$500 an ounce, and at an estimated 125,000 ounces of production annually, the company can expect \$100 million a year in profits. That would make up for the \$400 million the company has spent and the risks it has taken to get the mine opened responsibly.

#### ***BENEWAH COUNTY***

- The Plummer-Worley School District will break ground at the end of October on its new 47,000 square-foot, \$11.3 million elementary school, which will replace Lakeside Elementary in Worley. It will allow the entire district to operate from one location in Plummer. The new building, which will be ready in fall 2012, will include a gymnasium, music stage, multipurpose room, library, computer lab and administrative offices. The Worley School was closed last year after Division of Building Safety Administrator Kelly Pearce declared that the failing trusses in the school's gymnasium roof were a safety hazard to students. In response to the building's closure, the district leased and installed six portable classrooms in Plummer, which will continue to house Lakeside Middle School students until the new school opens. The middle school currently houses elementary students.
- The federal government will spend more than \$600,000 in Benewah County this year to stabilize river banks along the St. Maries and St. Joe rivers, protecting 14,070 feet of stream bank on seven properties at a cost of \$626,750, an average of \$89,000 per landowner. Money for the

projects comes from the Natural Resource Conservation Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. During fiscal year 2010, the service approved and funded seven projects on private land through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, a voluntary conservation program which provides financial and technical assistance to farmers, ranchers and small private forest land owners who face threats to soil, water, air and related natural resources on their land. The service pays the landowners a percentage of the cost to do the work.

- The Coeur d'Alene Tribe recently received \$500,000 in federal funding to enhance its police department's equipment. The grant comes from the U.S. Department of Justice and will be used to purchase a new boat, five new patrol cars, computers and other needed equipment. The tribe currently has two boats to patrol the lower third of Lake Coeur d'Alene. The new one, however, is both faster and more maneuverable. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe employs 14 officers.
- Emergency hospital nurses, emergency room physicians and staff participated in a pediatric emergency simulation exercise at Benewah Community Hospital, which is one of many hospitals that pay into a group fund to finance such training. The hospital plans to run the simulation training annually.

#### ***BONNER COUNTY***

- The Bonner Community Housing Agency has teamed up with Community Frameworks to administer a program that could, in the next few years, provide homes for working families making 80 percent or less of the median income for the county. In Bonner County, that means a family of four earning \$41,350 would be eligible for a new loan program offered by the federal Rural Development Housing Services. Using federal funds, Community Frameworks plans to buy land in existing Sandpoint neighborhoods. A depressed housing market apparently has prompted at least one in-town developer to consider selling property that would be used for the loan program.
- Lake Pend Oreille High's night school program is an independent study designed for young adults under the age of 21 who need to work but want to earn their high school diplomas. Students keep their regular work schedules and complete their studies on their own time.
- Image Metrics Inc., a leading provider of facial animation technology for the entertainment industry, has acquired FacePro of Priest River, a leading lip sync services and technology company. FacePro provides highly automated lip synchronization that can be shaped by art directors for unique, accurate results. Image Metrics will integrate the FacePro technology into its industry-leading FACEWARE facial animation software solution to improve efficiency and reduce the cost of animation services. The combined technology enables facial animation to be sold as low as \$12 per second. FacePro clients include major video game publishers such as Activision, Ubisoft, THQ, Square Enix and leading visual effects studios such as Industrial Light & Magic.
- Bonner County's Planning and Zoning Commission has approved permits for a wireless communication tower in Blanchard and an emergency communications tower in Clark Fork.

#### ***BOUNDARY COUNTY***

- The Kootenai Tribe has made an \$81,000 donation to the Boundary County School District for new bleachers at the middle school. Any remaining money will be used to purchase new computers for the students.

- Compared to last year, 99 fewer students attended the first day of school in Boundary County. Total attendance was 1,462 students. Attendance held steady in 2008 at 1,560 and 2009 at 1,561. On the first day of school in 2007, 1,605 students were in attendance, 143 more students than this year.

#### *KOOTENAI COUNTY*

- The Coeur d'Alene City Council approved a 1.5 percent property tax increase for the 2010-2011 fiscal year along with a \$77,913,463 budget. The new budget is roughly \$4 million higher than the current budget. The 1.5 percent tax increase is expected to bring in \$237,675, which will go toward new library books, a copy machine for city hall, three new police vehicles and new police radios.
- North Idaho College reported a 12 percent student increase to 6,347 for the fall semester. But that is not as dramatic as last fall's 16.5 percent surge. Since fall 2007 enrollment has increased 36.5 percent. The number of students in professional-technical programs was up 15.4 percent. The school's full-time equivalency is up 12.1 percent to 4,435 this year. An increase in full-time equivalency typically means students are taking heavier class loads. The number of full-time students increased 13.8 percent to 3,517. The number of part-time students increased 10.2 percent to 2,830. The most popular major continued to be general studies, which increased from 1,969 students last fall to 2,237 students this fall. Business administration and management continued to be the second most popular major with 409 students enrolled in fall 2010.
- LA Aluminum Casting Co. of Hayden Lake is riding a string of strong sales years that helped it glide through the recession and is expected to continue. The company, which casts specialty parts from aluminum alloys, boosted its sales 25 percent in 2008, matched that growth in 2009, and likely will add another 25 percent to its revenues in 2010. LA Aluminum employs 50 people now, but it projects employment will rise to 80 in three years. Construction of an additional 10,000-square-foot building should begin this fall. It had no layoffs during the recession and in fact added eight people.
- Silverwood Theme Park is spending \$1 million to transform into Scarywood for Halloween. In its first year in 2009, Scarywood attracted more than 20,000 visitors into a supernatural world of ghouls and ghosts and vampires. Silverwood has brought in more locals for the special season as well as technicians and specialists from the Midwest who for the past month have been transforming existing buildings. Silverwood officials believe it could double last year's attendance.
- Windermere Coeur d'Alene Realty Inc. has launched the first phase of a planned 175-lot residential subdivision in northern Idaho. Single-family homes will range from \$126,000 to \$210,000. That likely would put the total value of the development at more than \$20 million. The initial 63-lot phase is part of the Prairie Sky development that is to be located on 40 acres on the south edge of Rathdrum. Windermere has selected Benway Quality Homes Inc. of Coeur d'Alene, Jacor Inc. of Rathdrum and JT Homes by Jim Taigen of Mead to build homes in the development.
- While enrollment has dropped in the Kootenai School District, Plummer-Worley has remained steady. On the first day of school last year, Kootenai had an enrollment of 246 students. As of Sept. 15, that number has dropped to 234. Enrollment at Harrison Elementary is 99 students and Kootenai Junior-Senior High School has an enrollment of 135. Plummer-

Worley started last school year with 439 students, the same as the number of students counted on Sept. 16. As of Sept. 16, 250 students are enrolled at Lakeside Elementary and 189 at Lakeside Junior-Senior High School.

- The Post Falls City Council declared the Idaho Veneer property and immediate surrounding areas "deteriorated," the first step in creating Post Falls' seventh urban renewal district. The decision does not guarantee approval of a new revenue allocation area, however. A resolution will be brought forward to the council in the upcoming weeks. Firm boundaries, along with a plan on how the land will be developed, will be determined later. The conceptual plan calls for a multi-use development with a combination of residential and commercial that would tie the city center in with the east side of Post Falls. In most urban renewal districts, a proponent or developer will use its own funds to install public infrastructure. The incremental taxes that are paid based on the higher assessed values after development are remitted to the area and are paid back to the proponent as reimbursement for the infrastructure.
- Horizon Air's decision to outsource its aircraft heavy maintenance work is giving a boost to the Kootenai County economy. Empire Aerospace, a division of express-freight shipper Empire Airlines, was recently awarded a long-term contract to complete heavy maintenance and aircraft modification work for Horizon. This means the creation of 100 new jobs at Empire's 50,000 square-foot facility at the Coeur d'Alene Airport in Hayden. Empire's two organizations already support 250 jobs — 230 of them are direct employees. Empire has expressed interest in hiring some of the 100 mechanics whose Portland jobs were eliminated where Horizon's work was originally done. On Empire Aerospace's website there are openings posted for inspectors, lead mechanic technicians and maintenance technicians. All positions require an FAA mechanics license.
- Around 1,300 people passed through the 2010 North Idaho Veterans Stand Down, an annual event that lends a helping hand to former soldiers, sailors and their families. The largest one-day stand down in the country is organized through the Homeless Coalition and sponsored chiefly by the St. Vincent de Paul Society. It has taken place in Post Falls every year since 2001.
- A new fire station in Rathdrum will become reality thanks to a \$1 million federal grant. The Northern Lakes Fire District, which covers Hayden, Rathdrum and Hayden Lake, will be awarded the funds through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The district has saved \$1 million in matching funds for the project. Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway a year ago donated nearly 3 acres valued at \$660,000 along Idaho Highway 53 next to the current station for a new facility. Sixty-five percent of the cost is coming from grants or donations. Construction on the 10,000-square-foot station may start in January, weather permitting, and the building could open as early as next summer.
- For the second consecutive year, Modern Healthcare magazine has named Kootenai Health one of the nation's best places to work in health care. Each year the publication reviews employers in the health care industry from across the nation and recognizes the top 100 that have the best employment practices. Employers are surveyed on indicators like pay, time off and benefits. Other indicators include wellness programs, environmental stewardship and family friendly policies. Employees also are surveyed to collect anonymous feedback on their employer. Kootenai Health employs 1,800 people.

- The Coeur d'Alene Resort has been chosen as one of the favorite hotel properties of readers of Meetings West magazine. Top national meeting planners termed the facility "outstanding" among all properties in the Western U.S., Western Canada and Mexico, in the company's annual "Best of the West" award.
- Ground was broken on the youth Science, Technology and Research, or STAR, Center just north of Rathdrum off Idaho Highway 41. The 20,000-square-foot center expected to open in fall 2011 and cost between \$2 million and \$2.5 million. The project is the brain child of Paul and Lorna Finman, founders of the nonprofit North Idaho Discovery Association, which will fund the building along with science camp and program fees and exhibit and building sponsors. The Finmans also own LCF Enterprises in Post Falls, which designs and manufactures amplifiers for commercial and military applications.
- Outstanding common stock of NightHawk Radiology Holdings Inc., based in Scottsdale, Ariz., with an office in Coeur d'Alene, has been acquired by Virtual Radiologic. This June, NightHawk, which provides overnight radiology reports, announced it would close a portion of its Coeur d'Alene office to cut costs. The company reported a net loss of \$19.2 million in the first quarter of 2010. At that time, the company vacated about one-third of its 24,000 square feet on three floors in Coeur d'Alene, laying off a dozen people. The transaction is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2011, depending on closing conditions and NightHawk's stockholder approval. After NightHawk Radiology opened in 2001, it grew from three to 500 employees with offices around the world including Australia and Switzerland. In 2004 the company received a cash infusion of \$25 million from Summit Partners, a private equity and venture capital firm. On Aug. 13, 2009, NightHawk agreed to repurchase 3 million shares of its common stock held by the company's founder and former chairman for \$4.63 per share. In the past year, the company's stock has traded as high as \$7.75. The last closing stock price for NightHawk prior to the transaction was \$3.25 per share.

#### *SHOSHONE COUNTY*

- Though a final decision on whether to go ahead with a major expansion project at the Lucky Friday mine in northern Idaho is not expected until later this year, Hecla Mining Co. has already spent \$200 million on an internal hoist that would boost production by 60 percent. Hecla also says it will invest an additional \$150 million to \$200 million at the mine, sinking a new internal shaft to a depth of roughly 8,800 feet and opening up more of a promising vein that could boost Lucky Friday's silver production to 5 million troy ounces a year from about 3 million ounces expected this year.
- Greyhound Lines, Inc., the largest North American provider of intercity bus transportation, has made Kellogg a stop for buses headed to Missoula, Seattle and Spokane. Greyhound Lines was last in Kellogg Aug. 18, 2004, and is returning to the Silver Valley to honor a request by the community to serve Shoshone County. It is unclear the employment impact of the new office although there will always be at least one employee working and selling tickets.
- The Route of the Hiawatha, which may be considered the "crown jewel" of rail-to-trail bicycle routes, is enjoying record attendance to accompany its growing national fame. July riders totaled 11,321, and August surpassed even that record with 12,263 riders. The season total is 10.5 percent higher than last year's record season. In July 2009 approximately 10,100 cyclists rode the Route of the Hiawatha followed by nearly 10,600 riders in

August 2009. The East Portal Trailhead will be expanded this fall as 139 parking spaces are added to accommodate increased traffic and address overflowing parking. In May, the Route of the Hiawatha was listed first in USA Today's 10 great places for bikers to ride the rails. The trail was also highlighted in a national Idaho Tourism board summer promotion as a noteworthy recreational activity in Idaho.

- Voters in the Mullan School District approved a supplemental levy increase of \$190,000. To avoid a projected depletion of reserve funds in less than three years, the permanent, supplemental levy was passed and will provide sufficient revenue for the school district to maintain normal operations for at least eight years without another increase in local funding.
- Budget woes forced the Shoshone County Sheriff's Office to eliminate three patrol positions and two jailers and freeze salaries for two years. Not only does the Sheriff's Office face a tight budget, it also has the mandatory five-year replacement of bullet-proof vests, costing \$25,000 total, and a mandatory increase in pay-out to the juvenile detention center in Kootenai County. The state has also reduced the number of inmates it houses – and pays for – in the Shoshone County Jail.
- The price of silver has worked its way up consistently to \$20 per ounce. The last time the price of silver reached such heights was first quarter 2008. The increased price of silver means more profitability for the silver mines in the valley although production will remain the same. The increased earnings will trickle down to the hourly employees through monthly profit sharing payments. However, this is small change compared to the peak of \$50 that silver hit in 1980.
- The pursuit of the high-grade gold vein at the Golden Chest Mine near Murray was temporarily put on hold after the mine was deemed unsafe as a result of extremely difficult ground conditions and a high rate of groundwater inflow. The intercept was first announced by New Jersey Mining Co. in late June and was rated at more than 860 grams per ton of gold. A second intercept in the Claggett vein was graded at nearly 15 grams per ton of gold. Veins near the intercept that have been explored to this point have contained strands of visible gold, ranging from one gram per ton to more than 15.
- Dave Smith Motors of Kellogg is breaking ground on a new showroom and service department for its Chrysler vehicle lines and will follow that project with a new showroom for its General Motors lines. The first new showroom is anticipated to be completed by Dec. 15. Business has been good at Dave Smith Motors with the company on pace to be the nation's largest Dodge dealer in 2010 and the Northwest's largest GM dealer for the 15th year in a row. The company is looking to hire people in several departments with sales hires being its top priority. It wants to add 15 salespeople to help cover the larger showroom and increased inventory.
- Silver Needle Inc. was presented with the Lean Manufacturing Spirit of Continuous Innovation Award from TechHelp for the company's work with TechHelp in improving efficiency, safety and production at its Kellogg factory since 1981. Silver Needle, which makes safety and fire-resistant clothing and is a consultant in on-the-job safety, was recognized by Idaho state Sen. Joyce Broadsword for working with TechHelp and using the "Principles of Lean" to improve efficiency and lead times – the time it takes from placing an order to seeing it shipped.
- The mountain at Lookout Pass Ski and Recreation Area boasts three chair lifts, 34 named runs and a wide variety of terrain, but it could get even

bigger if a large-scale expansion plan gets Forest Service approval. Lookout Pass currently operates high on the continental divide on Forest Service land in both Idaho and Montana. The ski area plans to eventually open a new peak, which rises 6,200 feet above sea level, on the west side of the existing ski area located near the St. Regis Basin. Several intermediate and expert runs will be cleared, and two additional chairlifts will be erected. The 20-year, multi-phase project will cost an estimated \$20 million. Every phase of the Lookout Pass plan will require analysis. If the expansion blueprints stand up to federal environmental scrutiny, the plan will move forward.

#### **OPENINGS**

- The Fedora restaurant in Coeur d'Alene employing 65
- Current Electric, a green energy business in Sandpoint, after going through North Idaho College's state certified electrical, plumbing and HVAC apprentice program
- Sherman Junction in Coeur d'Alene employing 48 — 32 newly hired
- Center Partners third call center in Hayden with 80 new sales representatives
- Coffee Cottage Coffee House in Post Falls
- Walmart in Hayden with 270 new employees
- CPR Credit Repair in Coeur d'Alene
- Harvest Foods in Bonners Ferry
- Razor's Edge Training Center and Boot Camp Academy in Dalton Gardens

[Link to state and regional nonfarm job data.](#)

[Alivia.Body@labor.idaho.gov](mailto:Alivia.Body@labor.idaho.gov), *Regional Economist*  
(208) 769-1558 ext. 3486

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## **NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO**

Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce counties

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### **REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS**

#### **CLEARWATER COUNTY**

- The Grangemont Road looping Orofino, Pierce and Headquarters is being upgraded under a \$9.6 million Federal Highway Administration project in conjunction with Clearwater County and the Clearwater National Forest. Bids came in under estimates, allowing additional improvements beyond repaving. The project includes ditch reconditioning, shoulder widening and new guardrails and signs.
- Dworshak State Park increased revenue 3 percent during the summer season that ran from April through September. An exceptionally cool spring and confusion about whether the park would remain open in the face of budget cuts reduced visitors. The number of people visiting the park was down 8,000 from 2009 to 69,400. But the number of people who spent the night was up. This season, 2,479 campsites were occupied at the park compared to 2,380 last season.
- High unemployment has forced a few families to move out of the Orofino area, resulting in a drop in fall enrollment at the local school district from 1,163 in 2009 to 1,128. After the closure of Orofino Junior High School this summer, eighth graders moved into the high school and seventh graders into the elementary. In Weippe, the elementary enrollment is down two students from last August, but the high school is up four. Peck and Cavenish each added two students to last fall's enrollments.

- The Orofino school district failed to get the required two-thirds majority for a \$3.85 million bond for additional classrooms at Orofino High School and Timberline Schools, a kitchen renovation and a bus loading area at Orofino Elementary School. Only about 60 percent of voters approved of the bond. The school board had hoped to receive authorization on the bond before the time limit on stimulus money expires Dec. 31. High unemployment and economic uncertainty probably caused the levy's failure. The school board now is considering other options.
- Clearwater Valley Hospital and Clinics, based in Orofino, and St. Mary's Hospitals and Clinics, based in Cottonwood, recently received a \$300,000 grant from the Office of Rural Health Policy to conduct a three-year effort to improve clinical outcomes for patients with diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Information about outcomes will be used to help other rural districts improve quality of care. Nationwide, only 60 grants were approved. The two hospitals are the only Idaho facilities to receive a grant.

#### *IDAHO AND LEWIS COUNTIES*

- Syringa Medical Center in Grangeville opened an outpatient clinic for veterans in late September. The veterans clinic is in the same building as the physical therapy center and the walk-in clinic directly behind the main hospital. The clinic, which is a satellite of the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Walla Walla, is open five days a week and is expected to serve as many as 2,500 veterans in Idaho and Lewis counties. Services at the Grangeville clinic include primary care, diabetes treatment, flu vaccines and education about smoking cessation and healthier lifestyles. Veterans will be notified by mail about the clinic's availability and what they need to do to become eligible for free services. Although Syringa provides the building and the medical staff, the Veterans Administration is installing its own computer network to keep medical records for its patients.
- Business is surging for Idaho Sewing for Sports. The company at Mount Ida near Grangeville expects to quadruple its revenue over the next two years. It completed a contract earlier this year to make protective gear and training suits for law enforcement officers. Its flexibility has taken it from producing the padding for the speed-skating tracks at the 2002 winter Olympics to making chairlift seat covers for ski resorts. Adding product lines helps the company stabilize its employment base, an important factor in a small rural community where job options are few. It employs about 15 people.
- Despite a cool, rainy start to its season, River Dance Lodge in Syringa had a busy summer. The "adventure resort" on the Middle Fork of the Clearwater River in the heart of the Bitterroot Mountains was named to National Geographic Traveler's "Stay List" last year. Beside the upscale lodge are log cabins — each with its own fireplace and hot tub — and a campground for those who prefer staying in tents. Riverdance often hosts family reunions, weddings and business retreats. About 20 people work there. Opened by River Odysseys West in 2005, it offers adventure in many forms — fly fishing, rafting, kayaking and swimming from white sand beaches in the Clearwater, Lochsa and Selway rivers and hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding along the historic Lewis and Clark Trail or to former camps of the Nez Perce Tribe or natural hot springs. Whitewater is the biggest draw. "The Lochsa drops over 30 feet per mile!" the lodge website declares. "Combine that drop with a huge volume and you have raft-bashing, kayak tossing waves and holes that are legend." ROW Adventures, founded by Peter Grubb, offers guided adventures all over Idaho and around the globe. It is well known for its Galapagos tours. Some of its

other adventures include Idaho guest ranches, a Lewis and Clark canoe trip in Montana, cruises to Alaska, barge trips in France, rafting in Ireland, yachting in Croatia and Turkey and multisport adventures in Algeria, the Amazon, Mexico, Jamaica, Machu Picchu in Peru and the Rocky Mountains.

- Local school districts recently learned how much they get from a one-time \$51.6 million federal payment to Idaho for teacher and student support personnel salaries and benefits. Since most school districts already have set their budgets for the school year, they probably will use the money in the 2011-2012 school year. The money must be spent within two years or returned to the federal government. Given the extreme pressures on school district budgets, the funds will make a significant difference. The funds allocated to school districts in Idaho and Lewis counties were:

Cottonwood .....	\$101,657
Highland .....	\$61,446
Kamiah .....	121,422
Mountain View .....	\$256,181
Nezperce .....	\$54,569
Salmon River .....	\$48,184

**LATAH COUNTY**

- Fall enrollment at the University of Idaho was 3 percent higher this fall than fall 2009. Statewide, the university has 12,302 students. The freshman class of 1,754 is second only to last year's record of 1,780. The number of graduate students was up 5 percent to 2,114. Enrollment would have increased even more if tuition hadn't soared — rising 9.5 percent for full-time, in-state students.
- A Moscow company recently won a contract with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to analyze samples from the nation's coasts in an effort to monitor and evaluate the ecological and environmental conditions in U.S. coastal waters. Many of the samples will come from locations near the recent British Petroleum oil spill disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. EcoAnalysts Inc., the largest bioassessment laboratory in North America, will search for clues to the state of the waters by analyzing microorganisms in the water. CEO Gary Lester, who founded the company in 1995, said microorganisms can say a lot about the health of the water. "We know a lot about the environmental tolerances of the species that could be present at a site," Lester said. "So based on getting that snapshot of the list of species that are there or which species aren't there that should be, we can really get a good snapshot of what the overall environmental conditions are." EcoAnalysts processes over 5,000 benthic samples annually and has completed projects around the globe. The Eastside Marketplace laboratory employs 35 with another 10 people working in field offices.
- In Potlatch, a piece of the past is becoming a symbol of the town's resurgence. The Washington, Idaho & Montana Railway depot, built in 1906 when the Potlatch Co. founded the town, is under renovation. The depot, which was in rough shape, might have been demolished if not for some locals who banded together in 1998 to form the Washington, Idaho & Montana Railway History Preservation Group. The Idaho Transportation Department awarded a \$500,000 grant to restore the two-story depot a few years ago. The first tenant in the partially completed project is an art gallery and gift shop. BlackBird Station, owned by Karen Rohn and Julie Kerr, opened in July. They say tourists stopped at the gallery all summer long, and word of mouth is increasing visits by art lovers and shoppers in

the region. The gallery features a dozen local artists. The depot also is now the Potlatch stop for the Northwestern Trailways bus that connects Lewiston and Coeur d'Alene.

- Woodland Enterprises of Moscow was featured in the September/October issue of Zions Bank magazine and the bank's radio show that highlights outstanding businesses. For 25 years, Jim and Dawn Fazio have run Northwest Showcase, a sales outlet for area artisans. A growing part of their business is Woodland Catalog offering Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl clothing, toys, blankets, decorations, backpacks, posters and other gift items. Woodland Enterprises now will be home to a JC Penney catalog store where customers can order from catalogs, use the store's Internet to place orders, pick up orders and make returns and exchanges.
- The University of Idaho's College of Business and Economics recently began offering affordable marketing consulting services for local businesses. Through Vandal Solutions, business clients can choose a team from a diverse group of student professionals — not only marketing and advertising majors, but finance, economics, public relations, human resource and operations management majors, as well. Vandal Solutions can conduct market research, design effective posters and fliers, create social media advertising, design websites, write copy, design logos and develop brands. Students can draw on the university's resources including faculty and technology. Not only do businesses receive low-cost, professional services, students also gain real-life experience and skills. Profits are donated back into the university. For more information about Vandal Solutions, call (208) 885-1122 or visit [www.vandalsolutions.com](http://www.vandalsolutions.com).
- When the state of Washington imposed a 6.3 percent across-the-board cut in September, Washington State University lost another \$11.2 million in funding. Earlier this year, its budget for the next two years was cut \$13.5 million. The university has lost more than a quarter of its state support in the last two years, falling from \$522 million per biennium to \$396 million. WSU met earlier cuts by laying off hundreds of employees, eliminating programs, freezing new hires, offering early retirement incentives and halting most university funded employee travel. It is not yet known where the \$25.7 million cut will be made. Washington State received nearly \$35 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which helped research efforts. Those stimulus funds will no longer be available after the end of this year. Budget cuts forced the university to limit the size of this year's freshman class. In 2008 the school admitted an all-time high 3,411 freshmen. Last year's freshmen class was 3,373. The larger classes put pressure on the university's teaching capacity, and the decision to restrict freshman numbers was designed to create some relief. This fall, Washington State enrolled a freshman class of 2,980. More seats should become available beginning in 2012, when the first of the large incoming classes from the past two years will start to graduate. Access to higher education has become a growing concern in Washington. While the next couple of years might see flat enrollment numbers, the university will eventually resume its trend of steady growth. This fall enrollment on the Pullman campus surpassed the 20,000 mark for the first time at 20,060. Much of the growth came from a 5.5 percent increase in graduate students to 2,343. The university's cuts could affect property values in Pullman and retail sales activity in both Whitman and Latah counties. The opening of the new Walmart store in Pullman in October will offset some of the retail sales losses on the Washington side of the border but will lead to lost sales in Idaho. The Moscow store will close for an indefinite period the day before the Pullman supercenter opens.

## NEZ PERCE AND ASOTIN COUNTIES

- Five school districts want to build a professional-technical education center in Lewiston. The Culdesac, Genesee, Juliaetta-Kendrick, Lapwai and Lewiston school districts would pool resources to provide more variety and state-of-the art training in manufacturing, repair and construction trades than they could provide individually. Most of the \$5 million to \$6 million cost could be paid with a federal grant that the Clearwater Economic Development Association would apply for. Operating costs would come from the participating districts. As a partner, Lewis-Clark State College would supply equipment for the center and then use it for classes at night or in summer when the high school students are gone. It also would ensure the center's educational offerings remain as current as possible and its equipment would be state of the art. If everything goes as planned, the new center could start providing classes as early as spring 2012. Improved professional-technical programs benefit businesses that need employees and students who develop skills that are in demand. It also can help students understand the value of mathematics and other academic courses as they see their practical application in their professional-technical classes.
- Lewis-Clark State College's enrollment rose 8.1 percent from 4,210 in 2009 to a record 4,552 this fall. The recession is probably responsible for some of the increased enrollment, but Lewis-Clark's enrollment has grown steadily for the last 10 years. Its enrollment has increased 68.1 percent — by 1,840 students — since 2000. The freshman class is nearly 100 students larger than last fall's, topping 2,000 for the first time. Some of this fall's enrollment increase was the result of a significant increase in the college's retention from 50 percent to 54 percent. The enrollment gains occurred despite an 8.7 percent jump in tuition for full-time, in-state students.
- Bullet-making operations will add an estimated 200 jobs over the next two years. ATK plans another 100 jobs at its Lewiston ammunition plant by the end of this year. ATK has been on a strong expansion path over the last four years with the exception of a temporary layoff of 70 workers in January 2009. Four years ago ATK employed fewer than 800 people. By the end of this year, it expects to employ about 1,200. Strong demand for sporting ammunition and a \$14 million contract ATK landed last year to provide 9mm ammunition for French law enforcement prompted ATK's expansion. ATK now is the second largest employer in Nez Perce County. Clearwater Paper, which employs more than 1,600, is the largest.
- Another Lewiston company, Extreme Bullet, is expanding in two buildings near the Lewiston airport. One building will house a bullet-making operation while the other will disassemble bullets from big ammunition factories that don't meet specifications. Within three years, the company expects to hire 100 workers. Extreme Bullet's owner, David Howell, also operates two companies that employ 44 people in downtown Lewiston. Howell Machine makes parts for large-scale ammo manufacturers such as ATK while Ammo Load produces manufacturing equipment for small- to mid-size manufacturers. Both companies have expanded in the last couple of years.
- Clearwater Paper is acquiring a company that makes private-label consumer tissue and a type of paper often used to wrap sandwiches at restaurants. The \$502 million deal will extend the geographic reach of Clearwater Paper's tissue business. Cellu Tissue, headquartered in Georgia, employs 1,100 people in Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Mississippi, Georgia, New York, Connecticut and Ontario, Canada. Clearwater Paper, headquartered

in Spokane, employs 2,500 people in Idaho, Arkansas, Nevada, Washington and Illinois. Clearwater Paper and Cellu Tissue both make tissue products such as toilet paper sold under house labels at retailers, but neither company manufactures brand-name goods. At this time, Clearwater Paper has no immediate plans to shift production from its facilities to those that now belong to Cellu Tissue. The acquisition also will not affect Clearwater Paper's planned construction of a manufacturing complex in Shelby, N.C., with 70,000 tons of capacity for tissue.

- The city of Clarkston moved into its new \$1 million city hall in September. The new city hall is more than twice as large as the old one across the street. The new council chamber can accommodate 120 people, about three times as many as the old chamber.
- Valley Transit ended its remaining services in the Lewis-Clark Valley on Sept. 30 except for intercity routes between Lewiston and Moscow. The Dial-A-Ride service, which it provided for 17 years, was no longer sustainable following last year's losses of fixed-route contracts with the city of Lewiston and Asotin County Public Transportation Benefit Area. Valley Transit will continue its growing bus and Dial-A-Ride services in Moscow and its intercity service between Lewiston and Moscow. Its office at the Lewiston Community Center will be retained.
- Bob Tippett, who served as executive director of Valley Vision for seven years, retired Oct. 1. Valley Vision is the lead economic development organization in the Lewis-Clark Valley. His successor, Doug Mattoon, will build on Tippett's achievements in increasing the valley's economic vitality. Mattoon is the owner of Mattoon Management Services and a former public works director in Clarkston. To devote himself full-time to Valley Vision, he resigned as an Asotin County commissioner, which he had been since 2005.
- The Port of Wilma in Washington's Whitman County is in an historically under-used business area, a federal HUB zone designation that gives contractors located there advantages in bidding on certain government projects. The Port employs many people from Idaho and Washington.

#### OPENINGS

- Pa-Kea Martial Arts and Yoga on Third Street in Moscow
- Papa Dog's Pizza on Main Street in Grangeville
- Ramzeys Emporium, an "upscale thrift store" selling new, used, collectible, antique and craft clothing and home décor, on Main Street in Lewiston
- Retro Espresso in a 1960 Airstream trailer on Main Street in Moscow
- Scotty's 3rd Base Grill on Thain Road in Lewiston

[Link to state and regional nonfarm job data.](#)

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## SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO

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

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### REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

#### ADA COUNTY

- The Old Boise Guitar Co. closed at the end of September after 25 years. The business succumbed to the economic slump that has affected many retailers over the past several years, especially in downtown Boise.

### *ADAMS COUNTY*

- Many campgrounds in the Payette National Forest have continued to receive makeovers during the last two years. More than \$450,000 has been spent on new restrooms, fire pits, grills and tables on the federal land.
- Independent Tractor North in Council, a commercial and industrial machinery repair and maintenance business, closed Oct. 15.

### *CANYON COUNTY*

- Kohl's department store opened its second Boise metropolitan area location in Nampa off the Karcher Road interchange.
- Nunhems, a seed processing plant in Parma, has nearly completed its \$30 million expansion, which will double the plant's size.
- Treasure Valley Community College opened its new Caldwell location in mid-September. The new building is larger and now includes a science lab and book store.

### *ELMORE COUNTY*

- Richard McKenna Charter High School in Mountain Home held a dedication ceremony celebrating the installation of a new wind turbine. The turbine serves multiple purposes, generating power and acting as a teaching resource.

### *GEM COUNTY*

- A Starbucks coffeehouse opened in September in Albertson's in Emmett. The company averages eight employees per location.
- The \$475,000 overhaul of Main Street in Emmett has been completed. The project included new sewer lines, road, sidewalks and a sprinkler system and was funded with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds.

### *OWYHEE COUNTY*

- American Wind Group will meet with Owyhee County's Planning and Zoning Commission on a conditional use permit. American Wind Group plans to invest \$120 million in a 60 megawatt wind farm outside Murphy.
- An overlay will be applied to a section of Idaho 78 and is expected to be completed by the end of September. According to Economic Modeling Specialists Inc., the project, which cost nearly \$1 million, saved or created more than 40 jobs.

### *PAYETTE COUNTY*

- More than 12,000 spectators turned out in mid-September for the 'Big Nasty Hillclimb,' Idaho's largest motorcycle event. About 2,500 attended the first 'Big Nasty' in 2001. This year's event drew nearly 700 entrants.
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds are financing a new \$1.9 million fire station in the city of Payette. The stimulus grant was approved in late 2009. As with many large stimulus projects, the time between approval and construction can be lengthy.

### *VALLEY COUNTY*

- Parties of Tamarack Resort bankruptcy have agreed to appoint Michael Fleischer as chief restructuring officer who will organize the resort's sale. Dec. 20 is the date the Tamarack Municipal Association expects to open the hill to skiers for the first time in nearly two years.
- The McCall Area Chamber of Commerce CEO, Tim Cochrane, will be stepping down due to health reasons. A replacement has yet to be announced.

- Kelly's Whitewater Park in Cascade drew over 25,000 visitors and kayakers during its first season.

#### WASHINGTON COUNTY

- Three streets in the city of Weiser are being repaved with \$500,000 received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

[Link to state and regional nonfarm job data.](#)

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## SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO

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

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### REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

#### HARVEST UPDATE

- According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, 16 percent of the beets in south central Idaho had been harvested by Oct. 3. That is ahead of both last year at 14 percent and the five-year average of 12 percent. Growers expect yields will be less than average considering that yields were down this year for potatoes and small grain. However, sugar content seems to be good.

#### BLAINE COUNTY

- Northwoods Place, the affordable housing complex recently built in Ketchum, will have 247 photo voltaic solar panels on its roof providing 71,000 kilowatt hours of power. The complex provides other environmentally sustainable points that will be a draw to the average resident, most importantly low energy bills.
- Jason Miller, director of Mountain Rides in Ketchum, has been named one of the top 40 under 40 by Mass Transit Magazine. The publication recognizes up and coming leaders under the age of 40 in the public transportation industry across the nation. Nominations were accepted from peers in the industry and judged on job commitment, industry innovation, involvement, achievement and contribution based on position in the field.
- Hailey celebrated the opening of The Yellow Brick Road, which combines seven different businesses under one roof. The Old Town Mercantile building houses Sun Valley Shoes, Iconoclast Books, Vintage Gypsy, Ketchum Bed and Bath, Tater Tots, Board Bin and Jewelry by Lisa.
- Billionaire Earl Holding dropped to 101 on Forbes magazine's 2010 list of the 400 richest people in America. This is the fourth year that investments including Sinclair Oil, Sun Valley Co., Snowbasin Ski Resort and a substantial Salt Lake City real estate portfolio have dropped in value compared to other wealthy individuals.
- The Trailing of the Sheep festival is a tradition in the Wood River Valley. The celebration was Oct.8-10 this year. Those ranchers still in business will attest that the sheep industry is at a better place than it has been over the last decade. Much of the interest in lamb has been spurred by chefs on the Food Network, a new generation of gourmards and the sustainable food movement that favor lamb that is typically grass fed and in some cases certified organic and antibiotic and hormone free. The Mountain States Rosen Coop was formed a few years ago as a marketing and distribution outlet for many producers throughout the West. The lamb is packaged under the name Cedar Springs Lamb and demand for the product is

running strong. Opportunities were rampant during the three-day festival to savor creatively prepared lamb. In addition, Blue Sage Farms in Shoshone featured sheep cheese and sausage. Sheepdog trials offered a source of fascination for many, merging the complexity of the course with the intelligence of the dogs and the patience of their handlers.

- Old Cutters housing development in Hailey originally had 12 lots dedicated to affordable housing for the Wood River Valley work force. But none sold, apparently because of the deed restrictions. The income and residency requirements were eased in an attempt to expand the potential buyer pool, and the restriction on resale was reduced from seven to five years.
- Ground has been broken for the new ice rink in Hailey, which could open late next year. An anonymous donor gave the final \$3 million needed to start construction with the stipulation that Power Engineers of Hailey be the general contractor. The amenities keep growing with plans to add indoor tennis courts and a visitor center to the original rodeo grounds and ice skating rink.
- The Sun Valley Marketing Alliance has joined forces with the Sun Valley-Ketchum Chamber & Visitors Bureau and will serve as the nonprofit recipient of the annual \$200,000 Idaho State Tourism grant. The alliance will handle tourism marketing while the chamber will be dedicated to promoting businesses and events in Ketchum and Sun Valley. But while the organizational structure has been endorsed by the Ketchum City Council, the Sun Valley Council has been sharply divided.
- Breakaway Productions, which organizes bicycle races, has been hired to start construction this fall on the courses needed for the 2011 and 2012 Cross Country Mountain Bike National Championships. USA Cycling, which sanctions races in the United States, chose Sun Valley's Dollar Mountain for the events. An estimated 1,400 competitors and their families will attend the five-day competitions in mid-July, injecting \$1 million or more into the local economy.

#### *GOODING COUNTY*

- North Canyon Hospital, which opens its \$17 million facility in February, is now looking for new executives. St. Luke's Health Systems is recruiting for a chief executive officer and a chief financial officer to replace the interim appointments in both positions.

#### *JEROME COUNTY*

- Jerome County is taking a new jail proposal to a strongly divided electorate in November after years of pushing for a regional jail failed to produce any consensus. The conceptual drawings for the \$13 million, 165-bed jail were prepared by Lombard-Conrad of Boise. Should the bond pass, property owners will pay an extra \$33 on every \$100,000 of taxable value, according to the Jerome County clerk.
- Jerome residents hope their new city park near the new Senior Center will be finished in November. The park is being financed with cash from the \$800,000 bond passed by Jerome voters for the Senior Center.

#### *LINCOLN COUNTY*

- Over the last decade, Blue Sage Farms has been expanding its presence in Wood River Valley restaurants and farmers markets throughout the region. A Department of Agriculture grant financed the milking parlor, which handles about 100 ewes a day while more marketing opportunities are developed. The sheep milk is made into feta cheese at Ballard Farms in

Gooding or sent to Wisconsin where Basque Petit and Roquefort cheeses are made.

#### *MINIDOKA COUNTY*

- AT&T has located a new 3G cell tower in Minidoka County to provide additional range for those traveling between Rupert and Paul. A tower was also placed near Twin Falls for better coverage in the rural areas.

#### *TWIN FALLS COUNTY*

- Amalgamated Sugar Co. plans to replace two granulators at its Twin Falls plant in time for the 2011 sugar campaign. The \$2 million investment will reduce emissions. By capturing the particles, air quality is improved and efficiency increased by capturing the amount of sugar dust in the end product.
- The Buhl Chamber of Commerce and a group of residents have saved the city's annual Trout Festival. But the event will be downsized to a Friday evening of music, trout appetizers and entrees. The city's trout statue has been rededicated after being restored.
- C-3 call center in Twin Falls began operating on Oct. 1 and will have 880 workers by Nov. 1 with an estimated 950 by the end of the year. Workers receive training, orientation and help in securing their insurance license. The international company has call centers in Salt Lake City, Ohio, Florida, Mumbai, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico and the Philippines.
- The Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization's annual meeting, held in partnership with the Idaho National Laboratory, spotlighted renewable energy and dovetailed with a Business After Hours event featuring energy industry displays. The organization announced that it would work with local leaders to create urban renewal agencies in Heyburn, Filer and Kimberly. Organization Director Jan Rogers called urban renewal agencies "the best tools we have in economic development ... to stay competitive." Former banker Larry Hall is the new director of the Southern Idaho Rural Development Organization, which is supported by a grant from the Idaho Department of Commerce and serves rural areas outside Twin Falls. Hall serves on the Twin Falls Urban Renewal Board and played a major role in developing that board's strategic plan. The Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization also wants to focus on developing government-owned properties that already have zoning and permitting issues resolved. Gem State Prospector, the Department of Commerce's online property listing service, will be the marketing tool for these commercial and industrial properties.

#### *OPENINGS*

- Burnt Lemon Grill in Jerome offering fast food
- Red Door Design House relocated from Bellevue to Hailey
- Flatbread Company pizzeria in Hailey

#### *LAYOFFS*

- Jayco, the recreational vehicle manufacturer, permanently laid off 10 percent of its work force and cut the remaining workers down two weeks to adjust inventories.

#### *CLOSURES*

- Fire 10 Grill in Kimberly
- Hitchrack Motel, Gas & Grocery in Hailey
- Summit Auto used cars in Hailey
- Red Elephant Restaurant & Bar in Hailey

[Link to state and regional nonfarm job data.](#)

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## SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO

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

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### REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

#### *BANNOCK COUNTY*

- Idaho State University has been awarded a \$1 million dollar grant to expand its medical residency program. University President Arthur Vailas said the award represents the school's growing leadership in Idaho's health care system. Currently Idaho State operates over a dozen clinics statewide, providing treatment to over 30,000 patients. More than 65 percent of those patients have no health insurance. At present the university does not have a medical school despite efforts to establish one. Enrollment at Idaho State totaled 15,500 students with the largest graduate student enrollment in the state.
- The former Rite Aid building in Pocatello will once again house a business when Big Lots, the nation's largest broad line closeout retailer, opens this fall. Big Lots, like other discount stores, has seen increased growth due to a nationwide rise of budget conscience shoppers. The Pocatello Big Lots store is expected to carry a wide variety of items including furniture, housewares, clothing, electronics and groceries. The new store management expects to hire 50 people.

#### *BEAK LAKE COUNTY*

- Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter and members of his cabinet were in Montpelier last month to listen to local officials and residents. They talked about transportation, agriculture, education, wildlife management and the economy. Otter discussed resident views on Utah's blueprint for the Bear Lake Valley, which is a joint effort between Idaho and Utah to plan for the region's economic development. While in Montpelier, the governor fielded questions from local grade school students and addressed concerns of the mayor's Youth Council.

#### *BINGHAM COUNTY*

- Agriculture officials representing 22 nations visited the University of Idaho's Research and Extension Center in Aberdeen to learn about research in wheat, barley, oats and potatoes. The visit was organized by the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service and designed to help foster trade opportunities for Idaho farmers overseas. Foreign Agricultural Service Administrator John Brewer said the "tours not only showcase U.S. farms and their food products but facilitate face-to-face interactions that open and expand opportunities for U.S. producers to enhance global food security." Represented in Aberdeen were Angola, Austria, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Egypt, the European Union, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Israel, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Spain and Vietnam.
- Blackfoot Community Center Executive Director Ashlee Howell believes a new community center must be big enough to address the growing demands of Blackfoot residents. Howell says a driving force behind the need for a new community center is an increased demand for children's programs. "As soon as it's there, the kids will come," she said. Despite the focus on the needs of youth, Community Center President Brent Arave wants "a balanced facility for the whole community." Center organizers hope to have funding in place by next fall in order to begin construction.

### *CARIBOU COUNTY*

- The Soda Springs Educational Foundation has awarded five grants to teachers, totaling nearly \$4,500. The grants will finance: drug tests for Soda Springs High School athletes, who currently are among the few in the state who are proactively tested; new mathematics teaching software; new laboratory glassware and equipment for the middle school and production of the high school Music Department play “You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown.” A major contributor to the Soda Springs Educational Foundation is Monsanto Corp., which is a major Soda Springs employer.

### *FRANKLIN COUNTY*

- Officials from Pocatello Regional Transit, Cache Valley Transit and Salt Lake Express are partnering to provide a new bus service to Preston. Beginning Oct. 4, a Pocatello Regional Transit bus is running from Preston to Logan, where riders can connect with a Salt Lake Express bus to Salt Lake City, Ogden and Brigham City. The bus leaves Preston at noon and arrives in Logan at 12:50 p.m. A return bus from Logan to Preston leaves at 1:15 p.m.

### *POWER COUNTY*

- The American Falls School District will ask voters to approve continuation of supplemental levies in November. Taxes would not increase if the levies are extended for another year. One raises \$600,000 and the other \$1.2 million. Combined they make up 19 percent of the district’s budget. The American Falls School District lost \$1.2 million in state support due to budget cuts.

[Link to state and regional nonfarm job data.](#)

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## **EAST CENTRAL IDAHO**

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

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### **REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS**

- Last year’s record number of Yellowstone National Park summer visitors has just been outdone. The June, July and August 2010 summer season saw more than 2.5 million visitors – 200,000 more than last year. The Park Service hopes that the annual count will also break previous records.
- Grand Teton National Park’s summer visitation was up 5 percent over the same month last year. The park saw 598,412 visitors in September and 568,122 in August 2009. For the year visitation is up 4 percent.

### *LEMHI COUNTY*

- Over 600 middle and high school students attended the third annual Salmon Career Expo on Sept. 22 at the Lemhi County Fair Grounds. Over 50 businesses, representatives of the military and eight colleges were on hand to inform students in rural Idaho about career opportunities. The event was sponsored by Rural Idaho Outreach Partners, which includes the Idaho Department of Labor, Premier Technology, the Idaho National Laboratory, the Lemhi County Economic Development Association and the Salmon School District. Students also designed and built catapults and then competed for a first place \$1,500 prize sponsored by Premier Tech-

nology. Salmon High School won followed by Leadore in second for \$1,000 and Dubois in third place for \$500.

- The Boeing Co. and U.S. Rare Earths Inc. plan to mine rare-earth minerals near Diamond Creek in Caribou County and Lemhi Pass near Salmon. Many high technology companies use the minerals to manufacture consumer electronics. The U.S. Geological Survey confirmed the location of the mineral deposits. China currently produces 97 percent of the world rare-earth minerals. China recently announced that it will reduce exports of these minerals by 72 percent during the second half of 2010.

#### *TETON COUNTY*

- The city of Driggs will be making some changes to Main Street. Three blocks of the street will be narrowed to make room for wider sidewalks, helping pedestrians cross more safely. The town and Idaho Transportation Department hope the improvements will make a more pedestrian friendly downtown.

#### *BONNEVILLE COUNTY*

- Free mathematics classes for moms and dads are being offered by the Idaho Falls campus of Stevens-Henager College. The three-week classes are designed to help parents beef up their math skills and be ready for homework questions when the kids come home from school. The classes help parents learn math in innovative ways.
- U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu spoke to 200 employees of the Idaho National Laboratory about energy conservation, growing dependency on foreign fuels and nuclear energy. He said that America's carbon footprint must be reduced 80 percent by using other energy sources like wind, solar and especially nuclear.
- Bonneville County and Idaho Falls have joined forces to build a fuel reserve station. The reserve is designed to hold enough diesel fuel to power more than 1,000 government vehicles for 30 days — that's 60,000 gallons of fuel. With harsh winter weather and often unpredictable road conditions, the area's fuel reserve has always been a concern.
- Bonneville County's total hotel sales for July 2010 came to \$4.7 million, 19 percent higher than July 2009's sales of \$3.9 million. This July marks an all time high for hotel sales in the county.

#### *MADISON*

- The Madison County Planning and Zoning Commission has passed an ordinance it hopes will bring geothermal power plants to the area. Millions of years ago the area had similar characteristics to Yellowstone National Park, which is rich in geothermal resources. The new ordinance will protect citizens of the county and make way for future power plants.

[Link to state and regional nonfarm job data.](#)

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## State of Idaho Data – State Economic Indicators

	Sep 2010**	Aug 2010*	Sep 2009	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>IDAHO LABOR FORCE <sup>(1)</sup></b>					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	756,700	756,000	749,900	0.1	0.9
Unemployment	67,800	67,300	65,100	0.7	4.1
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	9.0	8.9	8.7		
Total Employment	688,900	688,700	684,800	0.0	0.6
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	758,100	761,700	749,900	-0.5	1.1
Unemployment	62,900	65,500	65,100	-4.0	-3.4
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	8.3	8.6	8.7		
Total Employment	695,200	696,200	684,800	-0.1	1.5

### U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE<sup>(2)</sup>

9.6                      9.6                      9.8

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

#### *Claims Activities*

Initial Claims <sup>(3)</sup>	10,404	12,447	11,208	-16.4	-7.2
Weeks Claimed <sup>(4)</sup>	72,366	94,009	96,168	-23.0	-24.8

#### *Benefit Payment Activities<sup>(5)</sup>*

Weeks Compensated	60,696	78,565	98,886	-22.7	-38.6
Total Benefit \$ Paid	13,856,872	17,889,649	25,088,199	-22.5	-44.8
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$228.30	\$227.71	\$253.71	0.3	-10.0
Covered Employers	48,310	48,696	49,649	-0.8	-2.7
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months <sup>(4)</sup>	\$335,138,857	\$346,370,184	\$350,934,196	-3.2	-4.5

### U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX<sup>(2)</sup>

	Sep 2010	Aug 2010	Sep 2009	% Change Month	% Change Year
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	214.3	214.2	211.3	0.0	1.4
All Urban Consumer (CPI- U)	218.4	218.3	216.0	0.1	1.1

\*\*Forecast data

\* Preliminary estimate

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

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

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

(5) Includes all entitlements, total liable activities.

# Glossary of Labor Market Terms

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

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