

# Idaho Employment

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

IDAHO  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, GOVERNOR

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## SUB-STATE LABOR FORCE DATA PUBLISHED LATER IN MONTH

The county, metropolitan area and city unemployment rates for the previous month that are normally found at the end of this newsletter will no longer be included, but will be published on the department's labor market information website at <http://lmi.idaho.gov> later in the month. In the past, the Idaho Department of Labor has released forecast labor force for the sub-state areas at the same time as the state unemployment rate release. However, because of the statistically small numbers of workers in many Idaho counties, some rates have been subject to significant change from the forecast to the preliminary figure, which is released two weeks later, because the forecast did not benefit from the additional information compiled during the first half of each month. The preliminary figure provide more accurate figures and will better reflect the employment situation in each sub-state area.

## JOB LOSSES SHOW GENDER AND AGE SHIFTS

Younger workers have borne a disproportionate share of the Idaho job losses since the recession began, and women generally fared better than men when it came to layoffs over the past two years. But their gains in the workplace were limited.

According to the Local Employment Dynamics program, which meshes labor market and demographic information, men held two-thirds of the 44,000 jobs the recession claimed in Idaho between 2007 and 2009. Their share of all jobs fell from 52 percent in 2007 to under 51 percent in 2009.

The Local Employment Dynamics program reflects employment covered by the unemployment insurance system. This is about 92 percent of all employment in Idaho.

This is being reflected in unemployment claims, which are cyclical, and for women generally rise in the summer as men return to seasonal jobs and fall in the winter when seasonal jobs typically held by men are idle. In summer 2006 during the economic expansion, women accounted for about 55 percent of jobless claims. This summer they have accounted for 45 percent.

Only four sectors – natural resources, utilities, education and health care – added jobs between 2007 and 2009 along with government, which began cutting back in 2010 as the recession further dampened tax collections.

And from an age perspective, even though the economy lost jobs overall, employers had 3,800 more workers aged 55 and older on their payroll in 2009 than they did in 2007. In fact, mining, construction, manufacturing, real estate, administrative services and company management were the only sectors that did not increase hiring of workers 55 and older during the recession. That extra hiring of older workers helped offset, but only by a modest amount, the job losses that hit the rest of the labor force.

## Percentage of Idaho Nonfarm Jobs by Gender

	2007			2009		
	Total Jobs	Men	Women	Total Jobs	Men	Women
All Sectors	644,974	51.9%	48.1%	600,994	50.7%	49.3%
Natural Resources	20,441	70.7%	29.3%	20,656	70.5%	29.5%
Mining	2,587	86.0%	14.0%	2,288	86.4%	13.6%
Utilities	2,674	75.9%	24.1%	2,763	75.4%	24.6%
Construction	51,360	84.5%	15.5%	34,861	84.6%	15.4%
Manufacturing	68,623	71.9%	28.1%	56,937	71.2%	28.8%
Wholesale Trade	27,689	70.4%	29.6%	26,240	70.9%	29.1%
Retail Trade	85,861	49.1%	50.9%	78,555	48.8%	51.2%
Transportation, Warehousing	18,727	74.3%	25.7%	17,908	74.7%	25.3%
Information	11,650	52.9%	47.1%	10,794	53.6%	46.4%
Finance	22,326	29.3%	70.7%	21,033	30.0%	70.0%
Real Estate	8,884	48.8%	51.2%	7,352	50.5%	49.5%
Professional, Technical Services	32,884	55.0%	45.0%	31,417	55.6%	44.4%
Management of Companies	7,312	54.5%	45.5%	6,585	54.9%	45.1%
Administrative, Support Services	41,287	54.4%	45.6%	37,770	55.0%	45.0%
Education	54,459	31.6%	68.4%	55,703	31.8%	68.2%
Health Care	72,728	19.6%	80.4%	78,415	20.4%	79.6%
Arts, Entertainment	10,300	48.3%	51.7%	9,984	48.0%	52.0%
Accommodations, Food Services	53,324	41.5%	58.5%	49,560	42.3%	57.7%
Other Services	16,939	49.6%	50.4%	16,468	49.5%	50.5%
Government	34,697	55.6%	44.4%	35,918	55.9%	44.1%

**Source: Local Employment Dynamics**

Three of every five jobs lost since 2007 were in construction and manufacturing, two higher-paying sectors where women had comparatively few jobs to start with. Men held four of every five construction and manufacturing jobs eliminated during the recession. But even at that women were still only 15.4 percent of the construction labor force and under 29 percent in manufacturing.

As might be expected, women lost ground in sectors where they made up over half the work force in 2007 – finance, real estate, education, health care and accommodations and food service – and just maintained their standing in retail trade, other services and arts and entertainment.

Workers under age 25 of both genders accounted for less than 19 percent of Idaho's labor force in 2007 but took over half the layoffs forced by the recession. This dropped their labor force participation to under 16 percent in 2009.

Young workers experienced more layoffs than occurred overall in other services, arts and entertainment and accommodations and food service, and their jobs were reduced in natural resources, utilities and education even as those sectors added jobs overall through the recession.

In the case of health care, where nearly 5,700 jobs were added between 2007 and 2009, workers under 25 filled only 3.1 percent of those new jobs. They accounted for over 14 percent of the health care work force in 2007.

## Job Loss By Sector By Age, 2007-2009

	% of Labor Force Under 25 in 2007	Under 25 Job Change 2007-2009	Percent of Jobs Change 2007-2009	Total Job Change 2007-2009
All Sectors	18.7%	22,281	50.7%	43,982
Natural Resources	20.3%	83	38.6%	215
Mining	12.0%	117	39.1%	299
Utilities	4.3%	27	N/A	89
Construction	18.5%	5,073	30.7%	16,499
Manufacturing	10.3%	2,428	20.8%	11,686
Wholesale Trade	12.7%	732	50.5%	1,449
Retail Trade	26.4%	4,312	59.0%	7,306
Transportation, Warehousing	8.2%	287	34.9%	823
Information	17.0%	270	31.5%	857
Finance	11.9%	613	47.4%	1,294
Real Estate	17.6%	479	31.3%	1,532
Professional, Technical Services	12.1%	979	66.7%	1,467
Management of Companies	11.8%	164	22.6%	726
Administrative, Support Services	23.1%	1,746	49.6%	3,518
Education	5.8%	99	N/A	1,244
Health Care	14.6%	176	3.1%	5,686
Arts, Entertainment	31.4%	412	130.0%	317
Accommodations, Food Services	48.1%	4,024	106.9%	3,764
Other Services	20.9%	500	106.4%	470
Government	6.6%	112	N/A	1,221

Source: Local Employment Dynamics

Red numbers denote loss.

With the large number of well-educated, well-trained workers thrown off the job during the recession, employers had a very broad selection of talent to fill any opening, and they clearly took advantage of the skills that come with experience on the job. The change in number of jobs by age from 2007 to 2009 is provided on the table on page 4.

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## Change in Number of Jobs from 2007 to 2009 By Age

	Total Jobs 2009	14-18	19-21	22-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-99	All Ages
All Sectors	600,994	9,551	6,801	5,929	7,376	10,388	7,703	2,947	821	43,980
Natural Resources	20,441	189	25	81	129	357	32	118	10	215
Mining	2,288	28	50	39	24	75	73	8	3	299
Utilities	2,763	9	7	12	16	31	37	95	11	89
Construction	34,861	1,028	1,929	2,116	4,385	3,312	2,603	763	363	16,499
Manufacturing	56,937	402	931	1,095	3,137	3,683	2,131	219	88	11,686
Wholesale Trade	26,240	160	306	266	368	406	136	114	78	1,449
Retail Trade	78,555	2,053	1,346	913	1,155	1,376	866	285	118	7,306
Transportation, Warehousing	17,904	56	82	149	259	300	104	72	55	823
Information	10,794	131	54	86	254	187	182	7	29	857
Finance	21,033	79	307	228	249	364	204	70	65	1,294
Real Estate	7,352	97	196	186	275	314	277	150	37	1,532
Professional, Technical Services	31,417	368	327	284	212	319	365	286	122	1,467
Management of Companies	6,585	65	78	21	124	222	203	25	12	726
Administrative, Support Services	37,770	666	724	357	485	877	234	50	126	3,518
Education	55,703	37	34	97	531	209	391	617	377	1,244
Health Care	78,415	306	239	244	1,982	1,131	438	1,577	383	5,686
Arts, Entertainment	9,984	330	53	29	7	21	1	69	3	317
Accommodations, Food Services	49,560	3,199	581	244	555	237	135	53	25	3,764
Other Services	16,468	311	99	90	18	62	45	108	11	470
Government	35,918	39	29	45	311	308	126	692	148	1,221

**Source: Local Employment Dynamics**

Numbers in red denote loss

## WHAT'S NEW WITH OLDER WORKERS

Older workers — workers 55 and older — are becoming a larger part of Idaho's work force. In 1990, they made up 11 percent of the labor force. Today, they make up 19 percent.

In north central Idaho, older workers rose from 12 percent to 21 percent of the labor force.

Today's seniors face problems but also have advantages that earlier generations of seniors did not.

Since the recession began in December 2007, older workers across the nation have behaved differently and been treated differently than older workers in past recessions and so have younger workers. These national trends are affecting Idaho workers as well.

### Labor Force Participation Rises after Decades of Decline

The percentage of Americans 55 and older working or seeking work declined from the 1940s reaching a low of 29.2 percent in 1993. It has been rising since and hit 38.6 percent in 2007, the highest rate since the early 1960s.

Older Idahoans also increased their labor force participation over the past two decades as well. In 2008, more than 38 percent of Idahoans 55 and older were in the work force and nearly 33 percent in north central Idaho.

The long-term increase in older worker participation was partly a response to the replacement of defined-benefit retirement plans with defined-contribution retirement plans. By changing from traditional pensions to 401(k)s and other variations on that theme, employers shifted more responsibility for retirement income to employees, including the financial risks to retirement funds. In 1992, 35 percent of workers were covered by defined-contribution retirement plans while 32 percent were covered by defined-benefit plans. By 2007, 43 percent of American workers were covered by defined-contribution retirement plans while 20 percent were covered by defined-benefit plans. In addition, workers without any retirement benefits increased from 33 percent to 37 percent.

Declines in defined-benefit plans have especially affected private-sector workers. Those with employer-provided retirement plans have seen defined-benefit coverage decline from 66 percent in 1980 to only 10 percent in 2006.

Other factors convincing older workers to remain on the job:

- Improved health allows more of today's seniors to work longer, and lengthening life spans require more post-retirement income.

### Percent of Population 65 Years and Over Participating in Labor Force

Area	2008	1990
North Central Idaho	13.4	11.1
State of Idaho	14.4	13.1
United States	15.7	12.8

*U.S. Census Bureau*

#### Defined Benefit Plan . . .

...is a company retirement plan such as a pension plan in which a retired employee receives a specific amount based on salary history and years of service, and in which the employer bears the investment risk. Contributions may be made by the employee, the employer or both.

#### Defined Contribution Plan . . .

. . . a company retirement plan, such as a 401(k) plan or 403(b) plan, in which the employee elects to defer some amount of his/her salary into the plan and bears the investment risk.

<http://www.investorwords.com/>.

- Changes in Social Security rules have made work more attractive by increasing the full retirement age, eliminating the earnings test for workers of full retirement age and boosting credits for those who postpone retirement.
- Today's seniors are more highly educated than their predecessors and educated workers — especially professionals and the self-employed — tend to postpone retirement. It was not that long ago that older workers had very different educational backgrounds than younger workers. In 1997, 21 percent of workers 65 and older had not completed high school compared to 10 percent of workers 25 to 64. By 2007, 13 percent of workers 65 and older had not completed high school, compared to 9 percent of workers age 25 to 64. In 1997, 26 percent of older workers were college graduates, compared to 11 percent of workers 25 to 64. By 2007, 31 percent of older workers were college graduates, compared to 33 percent of workers age 25 to 64.
- The relative decline in manufacturing, agriculture and construction jobs over the last few decades has made work less physically demanding so it is easier for seniors to keep working. In addition, fewer seniors suffer from work-related disabilities that force them to retire early.
- Compared to earlier generations, today's seniors are more likely to still have children at home or be supporting grandchildren. Because their parents are living longer, more seniors also are supporting their parents. According to the Census Bureau, Idaho had 10,212 grandparents responsible for raising their grandchildren under 18 in 2008, up 25.9 percent from 8,110 in 2000. In north central Idaho, there were 931, up 66.8 percent from 558.
- Rising medical expenses, which consume 16 percent of seniors' income, prompt people to delay retirement. Only one in three large private employers now offer retiree health benefits compared with two in three in the 1980s. It is also more common today for an unexpected medical problem to wipe out a family's savings, forcing its members to postpone retirement.

Not only have labor force participation rates increased for seniors, but they also are more likely to work full time than in the past. By 2007, 56 percent of workers 65 and older worked full time compared to 44 percent in 1995.

### **Labor Force Participation Accelerates**

The labor force participation rate for older workers typically drops during recessions as many take early retirement, but in this downturn senior participation in the labor force increased. Plummeting home values and tremendous declines in 401(k) and individual retirement accounts and stock market investments since 2007 pushed older workers' participation rate from 38.6 percent in 2007 to 40 percent in 2009. Despite the stock market's rebound from the lows of 2009, nest eggs remain severely impaired. As of the first quarter of 2010, net household assets — homes, 401(k) and other retirement assets and investments minus debts — stood at \$54.6 trillion, down 18 percent from the end of 2007. That's an average of about \$171,000 per person. Because of the loss of wealth that would have supported them in retirement, many seniors have postponed retirement. In addition, many people who had retired before 2008 have been forced to return to work.

The decline in retirement savings probably explains why college-educated older workers increased their labor force participation rates the most. They had larger retirement savings than their less educated peers and therefore had more to lose.

In contrast, the labor force participation rates of other age groups — especially young people — have declined since the recession began.

### Population 16 Years and Older

	Number of People				Percent Change		
	2019	2009	2000	1990	2019-2009	2009-2000	1990-2000
<b>North Central Idaho</b>							
<b>Total 16 +</b>	88,560	87,410	82,075	71,374	1.3%	6.5%	15.0%
<b>16 to 24</b>	17,295	20,417	18,393	15,269	-15.3%	11.0%	20.5%
<b>25 to 54</b>	34,421	37,196	39,958	35,969	-7.5%	-6.9%	11.1%
<b>55 to 64</b>	14,323	13,023	9,507	7,714	10.0%	37.0%	23.2%
<b>65 +</b>	22,521	16,774	14,217	12,422	34.3%	18.0%	14.5%
<b>State of Idaho</b>							
<b>Total 16 +</b>	1,275,921	1,193,877	990,946	746,327	6.9%	20.5%	32.8%
<b>16 to 24</b>	203,434	228,653	204,852	146,230	-11.0%	11.6%	40.1%
<b>25 to 54</b>	618,860	605,890	532,649	400,875	2.1%	13.8%	32.9%
<b>55 to 64</b>	192,851	171,916	107,529	77,957	12.2%	59.9%	37.9%
<b>65 +</b>	260,776	187,418	145,916	121,265	39.1%	28.4%	20.3%
<b>United States</b>							
<b>Total 16 +</b>	254,076,460	240,816,129	221,168,531	195,142,002	5.5%	8.9%	13.3%
<b>16 to 24</b>	37,016,272	38,769,829	39,183,891	36,774,327	-4.5%	-1.1%	6.6%
<b>25 to 54</b>	125,288,808	127,688,761	122,718,203	105,977,921	-1.9%	4.1%	15.8%
<b>55 to 64</b>	40,950,584	34,786,949	24,274,684	21,147,923	17.7%	43.3%	14.8%
<b>65 +</b>	50,820,796	39,570,590	34,991,753	31,241,831	28.4%	13.1%	12.0%

### Unemployment Rises to Record Levels

Unlike previous recessions over the past 60 years, this recession did not spare older workers. In earlier recessions unemployment rates among older workers rose only modestly, but by 2009 unemployment rates for American workers 55 years and older reached record levels. In February, the rate peaked at 7.1 percent, its highest level since records first were kept in 1948. It edged down to 6.9 percent in July.

In previous recessions, many older workers retired so they were no longer classified as unemployed. In this downturn, fewer employers offered early retirement partly because fewer offered defined-benefit plans that had to be formally triggered by employment separation. Going hand in hand was the decision by many older workers to postpone retirement because of their loss of retirement savings and other assets, and others returned to the labor force from retirement for the same reason. A July survey by Chicago-based Career-Builder found that 72 percent of surveyed workers over age 60 were putting off retirement because they said they could not afford to retire.

### U.S. Labor Force Statistics by Age, Seasonally Adjusted

	July 2010				July 2007				Percent Change		
	Labor Force	Total Emp	Unemp	Unemp Rate	Labor Force	Total Emp	Unemp	Unemp Rate	Labor Force	Total Emp	Unemp
<b>Total</b>	153,559	138,960	14,599	9.5	153,039	145,926	7,113	4.6	0.3%	-4.8%	105.2%
<b>16 to 24</b>	20,666	16,851	3,815	18.5	21,973	19,725	2,248	10.2	-5.9%	-14.6%	69.7%
<b>25 to 54</b>	102,780	94,062	8,718	8.5	104,270	100,261	4,009	3.8	-1.4%	-6.2%	117.5%
<b>55 +</b>	<b>30,113</b>	<b>28,047</b>	<b>2,066</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>26,796</b>	<b>25,940</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>12.4%</b>	<b>8.1%</b>	<b>141.4%</b>
<b>55 to 64</b>	23,688	22,071	1,616	6.8	20,750	20,080	670	3.2	14.2%	9.9%	141.2%
<b>65 +</b>	6,425	5,976	450	7.0	6,046	5,860	186	3.1	6.3%	2.0%	141.9%

### Idaho Labor Force Statistics by Age, May 2010

	Participation Rate	Labor Force	Total Employment	Total Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Total	79.7	695,800	631,800	63,600	9.1
16 to 24 years	60.2	60,400	49,000	11,400	18.9
25 to 54 years	92.2	277,100	253,100	23,800	8.6
55 years and over	47.3	81,200	76,600	4,600	5.7

Source: Current Population Survey

The unemployment rate for older men has been far higher than in previous recessions. The 2009 unemployment rate for men 55 to 64 was 7.2 percent — more than a percentage point higher than the previous record of 6.1 percent set in 1983 — and the rate for men 65 and older was 6.6 percent — again more than a percentage point above the previous high of 5.4 percent in 1961. Men have suffered proportionately more job losses in this recession than women, because many of the industries that shed jobs most dramatically — construction, related wholesale operations, manufacturing, transportation and engineering — are male-dominated.

### Job Applicants by Age

	2010	2007	Change
<b>North Central Idaho</b>			
Total	7,234	4,871	48.5%
Under 21	541	380	42.4%
22 to 30	2,140	1,469	45.7%
31 to 55	3,572	2,490	43.5%
56 +	981	532	84.4%
<b>State of Idaho</b>			
Total	129,846	71,023	82.8%
Under 21	8,059	5,367	50.2%
22 to 30	35,091	20,452	71.6%
31 to 55	69,748	37,640	85.3%
56 +	16,948	7,564	124.1%

Source: Idaho Department of Labor

### Average Duration of Regular Unemployment Insurance Claims, in Weeks

Age Ranges	June 2010		June 2007	
	State of Idaho	North Central Idaho	State of Idaho	North Central Idaho
Under 25 years	11.7	10.1	8.6	8.4
25 to 54 years	12.3	11.2	11.3	10.9
55 years and over	14.0	13.7	12.8	13.4

\*Does not include extended unemployment claims, which were not available in 2007.

### Fourth Quarter Covered Employment by Age

	2009	2007	Change
<b>North Central Idaho</b>			
Total	40,320	42,789	-5.8%
Under 25	6,377	7,455	-14.5%
25 to 54	25,759	27,309	-5.7%
55 to 64	6,579	6,519	0.9%
65 +	1,605	1,506	6.6%
<b>State of Idaho</b>			
Total	604,099	657,210	-8.1%
Under 25	92,667	117,294	-21.0%
25 to 54	401,040	431,681	-7.1%
55 to 64	88,323	86,439	2.2%
65 +	22,069	21,796	1.3%

Source: Local Employment Dynamics, U.S. Census Bureau.

Today's labor market offers fewer protections for older workers than in previous decades. Seniority rules protect the most experienced workers, who usually are older, from layoffs. But far fewer workplaces are unionized or otherwise follow seniority rules than 20 or 30 years ago. Another reason for the declining influence of seniority rules is that workers have become increasingly mobile and spend less time with one employer.

Although unemployment rates for older workers are lower than for younger workers, the gap between them narrowed in this recession compared to previous recessions.

Idaho also saw a surge in older workers looking for jobs, based on registrations with the Idaho Department of Labor. The number of Idaho job registrants of all ages rose 83 percent from the first quarter of 2007 to the first quarter of 2010 while the number of seniors registering jumped 124 percent.

### **Longer Spells of Joblessness**

Older workers who lost their jobs in the last couple of years have spent more time out of work than younger workers. The duration of unemployment is at its highest level since the Great Depression for all age groups, and older workers are experiencing the longest spells of joblessness. In April, 49.1 percent of unemployed workers 55 and older were jobless for more than 26 weeks compared to 41.3 percent of unemployed workers 25 to 54 and 28.5 percent of workers 16 to 24. The average duration of unemployment for workers 55 to 64 was 41.3 weeks, while the average duration for all workers was 32.8 weeks.

Among the possible explanations for why older workers tend to be unemployed longer than younger workers:

- Older workers, who on average are wealthier and less likely to have young children to support, may be able to afford to wait for just the right job.
- Some older workers may not be using the most effective job search techniques for today's labor market including the Internet and social media.
- Many older workers may be laid off from industries that have long-term unemployment problems due to structural change.
- Age discrimination may prevent some older workers from being hired. Some employers are more likely to favor younger workers over older workers. They may fear that an older worker would expect higher wages, retire soon giving the employer less time to recoup hiring and training costs, possess fewer technology skills, not have enough physical stamina or understanding of younger customers or have high health care costs. In fact, most of those assumptions are wrong. Because they have fewer dependents than their younger counterparts, health care benefits for the average older worker cost less than for a younger counterpart. Older workers also tend to take less sick leave than younger workers.

### **Employment also Rises**

Although older workers' unemployment increased, so did their employment. That was possible because of the dramatic growth in the older worker labor force. Older workers were the only age group to see an increase in employment. Between July 2007 and July 2010, employment of people 55 years and older climbed 8.1 percent, while employment of people ages 25-64 fell 6.2 percent and employment of people under 25 fell 14.6 percent.

Employment grew only for older workers with at least some postsecondary education. Employment rates did not increase for those with no more than a high school diploma.

### **Baby Boomers Cause Surge in Older Workers**

Last fall, the number of people age 65 and older in the labor force was greater than the number of teenage workers for the first time ever. In the next 20 years, the number of older workers will surge as baby boomers join their ranks. The surge will continue for a long time. The oldest baby boomers, born in 1946, will turn 65 next year, while the youngest baby boomers, born in 1964, will turn 65 in 2029.

The number of American workers 55 and older is expected to grow by a third over the coming decade. Their numbers could grow even more rapidly if labor force participation rates continue to grow among older workers.

The number of American workers age 65 and older is expected to grow about 10 times faster than the total labor force.

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## TRUCKING GROWS NATIONALLY, NURSING STRONG LOCALLY

Is the market being flooded with truck drivers, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and vocational nurses? The question arises after years of Idaho Department of Labor consultants recommending job seekers look into these careers.

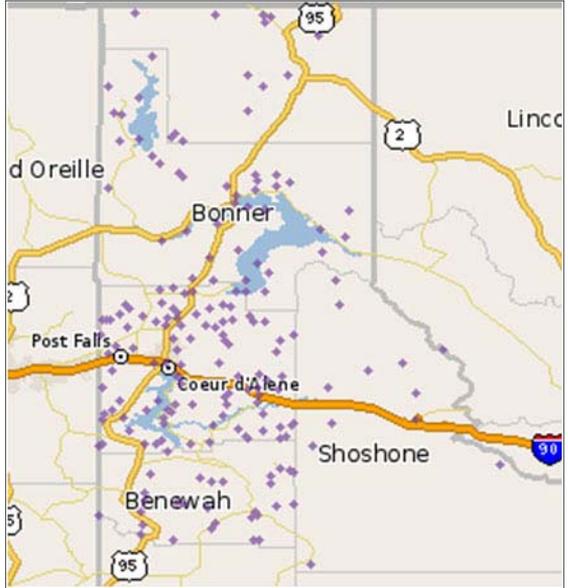
### TRUCKING

Driving jobs for both heavy and light trucks in northern Idaho are expected to increase 11.6 percent over the next five years. That is 180 jobs on top of the nearly 1,600 that currently exist in the region.

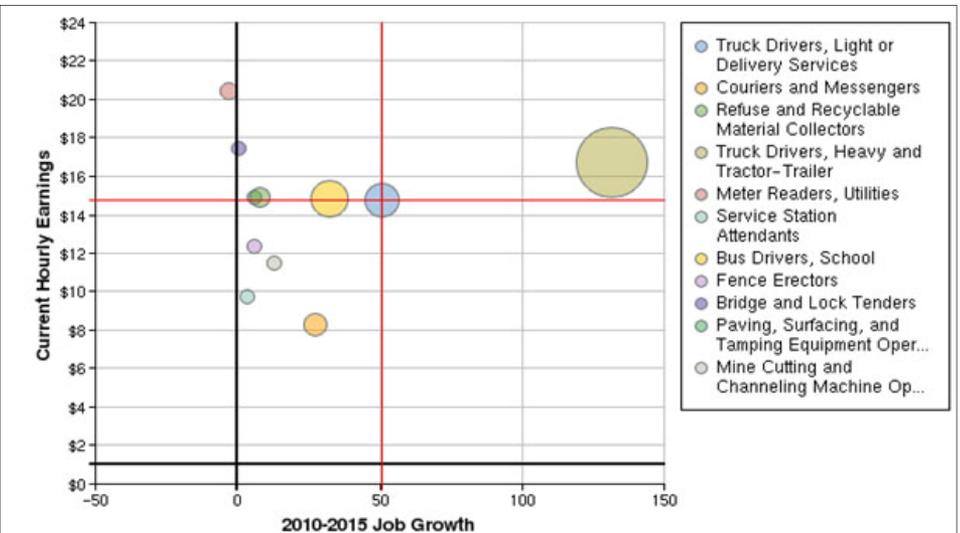
Transportation, which includes jobs as couriers, with the postal service and in warehousing, accounts for 1.5 percent of total payroll jobs in northern Idaho. Economic Modeling Specialists Inc. projects the need for about 70 new truck drivers a year between 2010 and 2015 to replace retirees and those moving to other industries and to fill new openings.

A local truck driving school graduated 161 students in 2009, and 72 percent found jobs in the trucking industry.

According to EMSI, there were just 34 openings for truck driving jobs in 2009 in northern Idaho so the market was oversaturated with candidates



Each dot represents the location of 10 jobs driving heavy and light trucks. Source: EMSI



Transportation sector jobs in northern Idaho based on median wage and number in 2010. Source: EMSI.

since five times as many people completed training to obtain that skill. Most of the trucking school graduates found work with national companies.

The demise of the housing sector has played a major role in creating the imbalance. Construction workers were the hardest hit – accounting for 27.5 percent of unemployment in May 2010 – and many construction workers sought work in the trucking industry.

Nationally, there is a shortage in long-haul truck drivers. If current demographic trends continue, the supply of new long-haul heavy truck drivers will grow at an annual rate of just 1.6 percent in the next decade. But Global Insight, an economic consulting firm conducting a survey for the American Trucking Association, predicts over the next 10 years the economy will generate an annual need for an average of 2.2 percent more long-haul heavy truck drivers.

Local truck driving schools are trying to fill that gap by placing graduates with national transportation companies like Swift Transportation, May Trucking, WSE Transportation and Trans-System Inc.

## NURSING

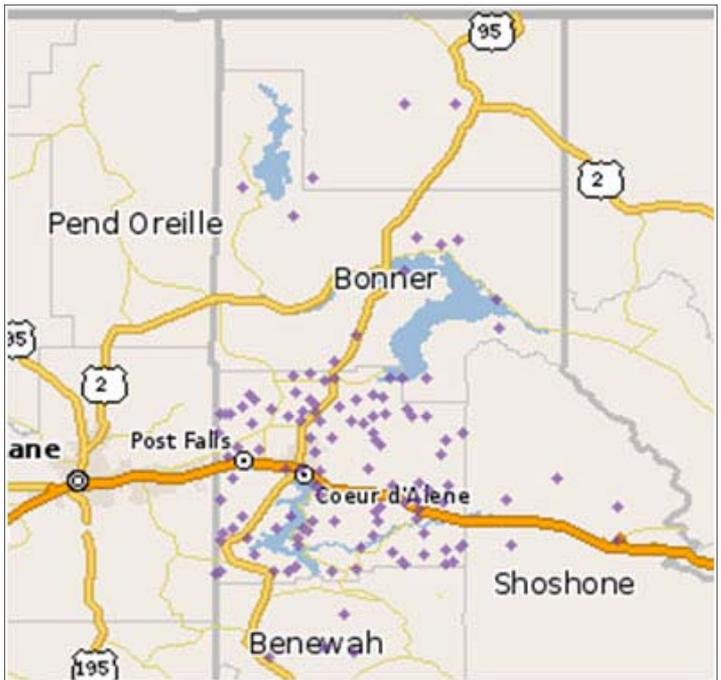
According to EMSI, the need for registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and vocational nurses in northern Idaho is expected to increase 18.7 percent over the next five years, another 280 jobs on top of the nearly 1,400 nursing jobs that already exist in the region. The health care industry accounted for 13.8 percent of total payroll jobs in northern Idaho in 2009. EMSI projects openings for 87 nurses a year between 2010 and 2015.

In 2009, North Idaho College graduated 52 students from its registered nursing program and 23 from its licensed practical and vocational nursing program. The region had 90 open-

ings for those types of nurses in 2009, and through mid-2010 there were 118 openings for registered nurses and 16 for licensed practical nurses.

Northern Idaho has a median age of 40, which is older than the rest of the state, where it is 34. Bonner County is the oldest of all counties with a median age of 43 followed by Shoshone County at 41. This increases demand for health care services and, as a result, for health care professionals including nurses. RN and LPN positions are expected to grow at an annual rate of 3.7 percent between 2010 and 2015.

While workers 55 years and older make up 18.4 percent of northern Idaho's work force, they make up 21.4 percent of employment in the region's health care and social assistance sector, making replacement demand high over the next few years.

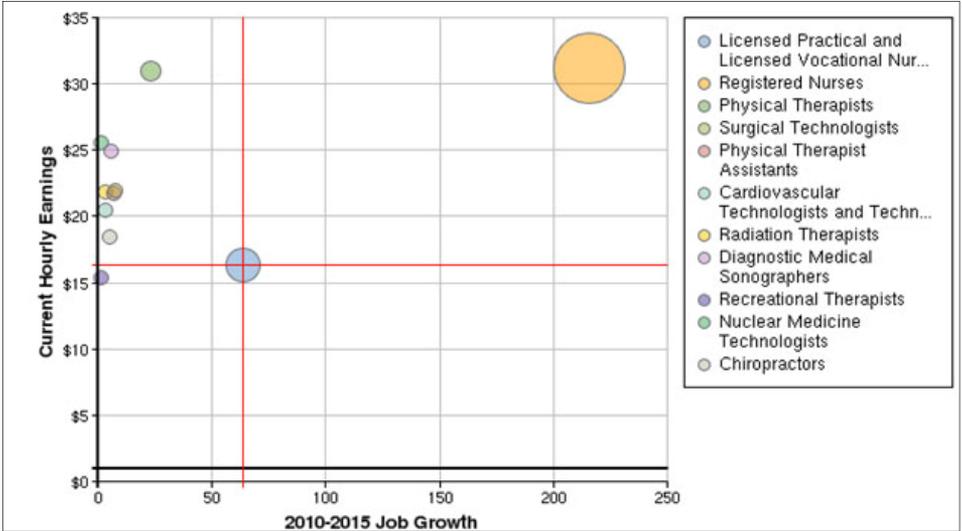


Each dot represents 12 registered nurse and licensed practical and vocational nurse jobs. Source: EMSI

That signals the potential for a tight supply of qualified nurses to meet regional demand in the coming years.

The scatter graph below illustrates job growth to median hourly earnings in comparison to both RN and LPN occupations. The bubble size represents the number of jobs in 2010.

As the economic sluggishness from the recession lingers, the unemployed and first-time job seekers are searching for occupations in demand. Health



Health care and social assistance jobs in northern Idaho based on median wage and number in 2010.

Source: EMSI

care careers in areas like nursing are examples of occupations in demand in northern Idaho. And while dislocated construction workers have saturated the truck driving market this past year, the national trend shows a demand in long haul truck drivers.

Information on occupations in demand over the next decade will be available later this fall when the Idaho Department of Labor releases its regional occupation projections 2008-2018.

## Job Prospects in Nursing, Trucking

	Nurses		Truck Drivers	
	RNs	LPNs	Heavy	Light
2009 Jobs	1,040	340	1,230	340
2009 Completions	52	23	n/a	n/a
5-year growth (number) – 2010-2015	216	64	131	51
5-year growth (percent) – 2010-2015	19.40%	16.60%	9.60%	9.60%
Annual growth rate	3.90%	3.30%	1.90%	1.90%
Openings (2010-2015)	313	124	253	98
Annual Openings (2010-2015)	62.6	24.8	50.6	19.6
Current Job Listings	118	15	9	13
Median Hourly Earnings (\$)	\$31.19	\$16.29	\$16.70	\$14.76

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## AN ANALYSIS OF CLAIMANTS' OCCUPATIONS: Comparing Proportion Shifts from Pre-recession to Recession Levels

Over 200,000 people have claimed unemployment insurance benefits since the onset of the recession in December of 2007. While much has been said about the industries affected by the slowdown, little attention has been given to the occupations of the workers who have lost their jobs.

There has clearly been a shift in the occupations affected by layoffs between December 2007 and August 2010 compared to the same 33 month period from December 2004 through August 2007, which captures one of the strongest expansions in Idaho history.

The number of people making claims on Idaho's unemployment insurance program during the prerecession period was 126,000. During the recession period, individual claimants hit 200,000, nearly 60 percent more.

In addition, the average time claimants collected benefits before either exhausting their entitlement or finding a new job has risen from 11.6 weeks in 2007 to 17 weeks in 2009. Not only are more people obtaining benefits, but they are staying unemployed longer because the economy just is not producing jobs to get them back to work. Claimants using up their benefits without finding work jumped from about 25 percent at the peak of the expansion to over 50 percent for the past year.

### *THE GOOD*

Semi and heavy truck drivers were among the most numerous claimants in both periods, and the number of claimants rose dramatically from the expansion to recession periods. But while more truckers were on the unemployment line, they actually made up a smaller proportion of all claimants than during the expansion – dropping from 3.8 percent of all claimants between December 2004 and August 2007 to 3.4 percent of all claimants since December 2007. Still, the number of idled truckers increased from 4,000 in the period prior to the recession to 6,000 during the recession. Laid-off drivers also were unable to escape longer periods of unemployment. Their average time receiving unemployment benefits jumped five weeks to 16.4 weeks during the recession.



While the increase in average duration and the number of claimants is substantial, truckers have navigated the recession better than many other occupations because truck transportation is vital to a broad range of industries. There is no question that some specific haulers have been hit hard – drivers for specialty trade contractors and concrete manufacturers, for example. But others have held their own like agriculture and temporary employment, where employment levels have held steady or actually increased since the recession began.

In 2011, there should be about 400 openings for both light and heavy truck drivers. That is good enough in this sluggish economy to rank truck driving 60<sup>th</sup> on the list of Idaho's 100 hottest occupations through 2011. Long-term prospects are even better. Demand in Idaho for drivers is projected to outpace the nation by a wide margin. Nationally, light and heavy truck driving jobs are projected to increase by nearly 10 percent while the growth rate in Idaho is pegged at 18 percent – another 3,000 jobs through 2018.

### *THE BAD*

Customer service representative topped the list of occupations where unemployment claimants increased disproportionately to the pre-recession level. During the expansion period from December 2004 to August 2007, people laid off as customer service representatives accounted for 2.6 percent of unemployment claimants. During the recession, they jumped to 3.2 percent.

While a shift of six-tenths of a percentage point seems insignificant, it means nearly 1,100 more customer service representatives than might otherwise be expected lost their jobs in the last three years. Had the occupation maintained its proportional standing, the number of customer service representative claimants would have gone from just under 4,000 during the pre-recession period to 5,300 during the recession instead of the 6,400 as they did.

The disproportionate increase in the unemployed can be attributed to large-scale closures. Dell USA, an in-bound call center in Twin Falls, began decreasing employment substantially towards the tail-end of 2009 and continued until it closed earlier this year. Roughly 600 people, many of them customer service representatives, lost their jobs.



On a positive note, job listings for this occupation have been high recently with the impending opening of C3 in Twin Falls as well as large listings by WDS Global in Boise. The number of job openings is expected to remain high throughout Idaho with more than 600 expected during 2011. In the long-term, the number of annual openings is expected to continue to increase, reaching nearly 800 by 2018.

The average duration of benefits for these claimants rose from 13 weeks during the expansion to 17 weeks during the recession<sup>1</sup>.

#### **THE UGLY**

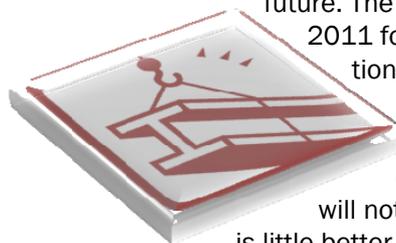
Not surprisingly, construction occupations saw disproportionate shifts in the number of claimants and large increases in overall duration.

The number of out-of-work cabinet makers increased five-fold from pre-recession levels, and they stayed on unemployment seven weeks longer at 19 weeks average during the recession.

Floor layers experienced similar changes. Their duration also jumped seven weeks to 22 weeks.

Other occupations heavily reliant on the health of the housing industry such as title examiners also showed large increases in average duration, growing by over 20 weeks to 31 weeks of unemployment benefits.

It is projected that just over 50 openings will be available for cabinet makers through the end of 2011, leaving more than 350 people who had been in that line of work searching for jobs elsewhere in the economy. Electrician helpers were another group with little prospect of finding similar work in the near future. The projected number of openings is only two in 2011 for the 80 people who lost jobs in that occupation.



Many occupations will not recover from the recession for a long time. In the case of electrician helpers, for example, the demand will not hit 2008 levels again until 2018. The future is little better for cabinet makers, who will not see demand return to 2008 levels until 2016.

<sup>1</sup>Average duration by occupation is calculated by taking regular unemployment insurance annual weeks compensated and dividing it by regular unemployment insurance annual first pays for each occupation. Therefore, it is for comparison purposes only and does not describe total length of unemployment benefits received from extended benefits. The year 2006 was used to determine annual average duration for the pre-recession year, while 2009 was used to calculate the annual average duration for the recession year.

*\*It is possible to obtain an average duration of over 26 weeks (the maximum number of regular unemployment insurance benefits obtainable) under certain conditions, such as working part-time and receiving a partial payment rather than a full payment.*

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## DAIRY ON THE RISE IN SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO

National attempts in 2009 to counter the oversupply of milk resulted in a quarter of a million head being cut from the nation's dairy herd by that September. It was then that Idaho became the nation's number three milk producer in the nation, replacing New York for one fleeting month.

The ranking did not last in 2009. But Idaho surged past New York again this summer, and it appears the state will remain there. Production totaled 1.12 billion pounds in July, up over 5 percent from June. New York production totaled 1.1 billion pounds.

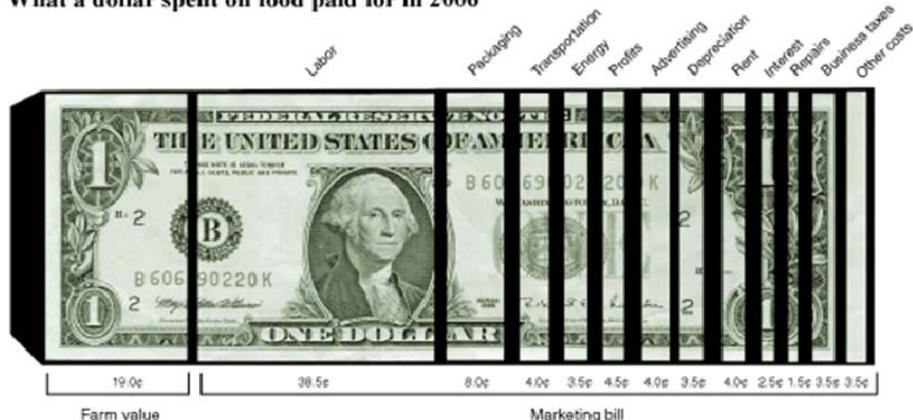
Milk prices at the farm gate have been increasing from the low point of 2009 and are approaching the breakeven point, which is always a moving target since production costs for feed and other inputs fluctuate as well. Prices now range from \$13 to \$17 per hundred pounds, and margins depend on operational management practices and decisions already made by producers about bulk purchases of feed, ratios of feed and contracts with processors.

There is a seasonal fluctuation in milk prices as the Progressive Dairyman showed in charting the average monthly price for the past 30 years.

Based on that seasonality, milk prices should continue trending higher for another couple of months. The Sept. 7 opening price was \$15.70 a hundred pounds compared to \$13.74 in July and \$9.97 in July 2009.

For the value-added industry, year-over-year figures for July 2010 indicate total milk production is up 3 percent and total cheese production is up 5.2 percent. The inventory being held in cold storage totaled 1.05 billion pounds compared to just over 800 million pounds averaged between 2004 and 2008. The amount of butter was down 5.6 percent and non-fat dry milk 6.8 percent. The overall cow inventory is at its lowest since the recessions of the 1980s. The price for quality hay appears to be stabilizing at 40 percent below its peak in summer 2008. But the price of grain soared on wild fires and drought conditions in Russia that stopped all exports. The price will impact both the dairy and beef cattle industry when decisions are made as to what to plant for the best return. Corn and silage may take a backseat to wheat, if prices continue to rise, consequently raising all feed costs.

What a dollar spent on food paid for in 2006



Source: USDA's Economic Research Service.

The price fluctuations of a gallon of milk at the grocery store do not track the price fluctuations of raw milk on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. This differential is an ongoing topic of discussion in the industry. The dairyman average about 30 percent of what consumers pay for milk at the grocery store. That is substantially better than the average for all commodities, for which farmers get an average of 19 percent of the retail price. The rest are costs that most producers and shoppers do not take into consideration when buying milk and milk products. The biggest cost is labor. Packaging is also a significant cost in sensitive products such as dairy.

Using 2003 as a base period, the dairyman's share of the retail price has varied markedly during this decade. Three years between 2000 and 2008 farmers got less than 30 percent of the store price for a pound of cheddar cheese and more in five years. Farm value to retail spread has been higher starting in 2005 but particularly in 2008 compared to the first half of the decade — likely due to the higher cost of fuel and feed.

The dairy industry has been one of the greatest contributors to wealth in south central Idaho with average annualized growth in double digits for both employment and total wages. Milk processing has expanded payroll at a slower pace as automation has increased efficiency more than in the milking sheds and feed lots.

### Farm-Retail Value of Cheddar Cheese, One Pound

Year	Retail Price	Farm Value	Farm Share
	Dollars	Dollars	Percent
2000	3.83	1.03	27
2001	4.03	1.28	32
2002	4.22	1.06	25
2003	3.95	1.18	30
2004	4.27	1.51	35
2005	4.38	1.39	32
2006	4.25	1.15	27
2007	4.23	1.61	38
2008	4.73	1.77	38

Source: Economic Research Service, Bureau of Labor Statistics

### South Central Idaho Dairy Employment and Wages

Year	Average Employment		Total Wages	
	Dairy Farming	Dairy Processing	Dairy Farming	Dairy Processing
1991	546	564	\$9,644,323	\$12,306,383
1992	615	504	\$10,555,393	\$11,308,813
1993	789	587	\$13,580,089	\$12,855,582
1994	972	566	\$17,242,357	\$13,213,313
1995	1,158	558	\$21,221,977	\$13,293,096
1996	1,375	584	\$25,986,923	\$14,035,096
1997	1,573	673	\$29,770,824	\$16,571,520
1998	1,783	709	\$34,668,052	\$19,361,008
1999	2,105	716	\$42,018,123	\$21,758,194
2000	2,413	754	\$50,817,773	\$24,714,847
2001	2,651	851	\$57,903,821	\$28,387,691
2002	3,009	878	\$66,486,032	\$30,299,263
2003	3,232	855	\$71,950,848	\$29,980,688
2004	3,423	1,016	\$80,303,194	\$36,433,468
2005	3,681	1,027	\$88,038,776	\$37,860,539
2006	4,004	1,029	\$96,689,045	\$40,689,536
2007	4,167	982	\$107,904,738	\$42,473,021
2008	4,496	1,088	\$122,203,015	\$46,753,632
2009	4,454	1,177	\$120,822,746	\$51,479,568
2008-2009	-0.90%	8.10%	-1.10%	10.10%
3 Year % Change	11.20%	14.30%	25.00%	26.50%
5 Year % Change	30.10%	15.80%	50.50%	41.30%
10 Year % Change	111.60%	64.30%	187.50%	136.60%
10-Year Annualized Average Change	7.80%	5.10%	11.10%	9.00%
15 Year % Change	358.40%	107.80%	600.70%	289.60%
15 Year Annualized Average Change	16.40%	7.60%	21.50%	14.60%

The migration of dairy operations from California was greater in earlier years when Californians were more mobile and the environmental oversight was less consequential. Dairymen have moved into renewable energy through biomass to improve margins.

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## FALL HARVEST IMPACTS SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO ECONOMY

Agriculture in southeastern Idaho is no small matter. In the region's seven counties – Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida and Power – agriculture accounts for 10 percent in the labor force of 90,000 – an estimated 9,100 jobs. Agriculture's impact is magnified because much of the region's manufacturing employment is directly linked to goods produced on farms.

For example, 15 percent of the Bingham County economy is agricultural, but 1,200 of the county's 5,300 manufacturing jobs – over 20 percent – are tied to farm products.

Two key crops are wheat and barley. Idaho ranks fifth nationally in wheat production, and Bingham County is the state's largest wheat producer. According to University of Idaho Extension, Idaho produces just over 20 percent of the United States barley crop, and about 55 percent of that barley is grown in southeastern Idaho.

With a global grain shortage being predicted by some because of drought and fire in Russia, southeastern Idaho's wheat and barley could be in high demand.

On June 9 wheat futures closed at a year-low of \$4.255 a bushel at the Chicago Board of Exchange. By Sept. 20, the price had reached \$7.41. In Europe, the price of wheat has risen 80 percent since the beginning of last year. This rapid price increase will likely be felt by consumers at the grocery store, but it may provide Idaho grain farmers with extra cash after this year's harvest.



Russia is the third largest producer of wheat in the world. According to the Russian Ministry of Agriculture, wheat production is down 26 percent from last year, and barley production is down a staggering 47 percent. In response to these declines, Russia has stopped all exports of wheat and barley.

Idaho grain crops have done well. Juliette Marshall, a cereal extension specialist with the University of Idaho Extension, said grain production is up from

last year. Marshall expects good yields although “there is still concern about unharvested grain crops in higher elevations being subjected to too much moisture.” Marshall estimates that about 80 percent of Idaho’s grain has been harvested.

Paul Patterson, an agricultural economist with the University of Idaho Extension, believes the good harvest is good news since prices are up.

“If wheat and other grain prices remain high, Idaho farmers will benefit,” Patterson said but cautioned that supply of the grain in the United States is still high and may temper the price of grain internationally.

Barley has also seen major price increases in the recent months. However, according to Patterson, many Idaho farmers will not see a benefit from the upward price shift since they have existing production contracts to supply barley to brewers like Anheuser-Busch. Farmers fortunate not be under a contract may benefit greatly from the worldwide barley shortage.

According to Kelly Olsen, administrator of the Idaho Barley Commission, about 80 percent of Idaho’s barley is grown under contract, and only about a quarter of Idaho barley is feed barley versus malt barley. Feed barley is currently more affected by the grain shortages, Olsen said, and she generally believes barley farmers may not see the same benefits from the grain shortage as wheat farmers in Idaho.

A non-grain crop which Idaho is famous for may unexpectedly benefit from grain shortage as well. According to the USDA’s Economic Research Service, the amount of acreage devoted to potatoes may shrink as growers plant more grain crops to meet shortages. If fewer potatoes are planted worldwide, then Idaho farmers could see a benefit in terms of higher prices.

USDA recently projected that the potato harvest will be above the most recent five year average but less than last year. The USDA reported in late August that 95 percent of Idaho’s potato crop was in good or excellent condition. Factors which may work to lower yields include a lower than usual number of growing days in southern Idaho and the cool and wet weather, which was experienced this past spring in many parts of Idaho.

Bill Bohl, extension educator with the University of Idaho Extension Office in Bingham and Bannock counties, said potatoes haven’t caught up with where they were last year. Bohl feels the crop in southeastern Idaho should be at least a normal one since the growing season has been generally typical.

If Idaho farmers see increased profits as a result of the worldwide wheat and barley shortage, then Idaho’s rural communities may get a much needed economic shot in the arm as additional money flows in. The coming months may show added promise for rural Idaho.

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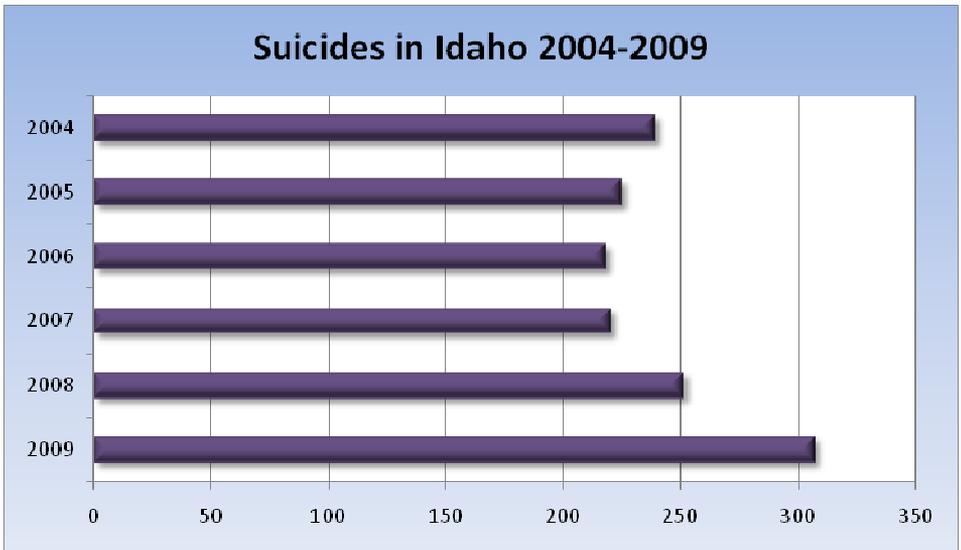
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## UNEMPLOYED AT RISK FOR DEPRESSIVE ILLNESS

Idaho Department of Labor staff in the Pocatello office are trained to recognize depressive illness or suicidal behavior in their customers. With so many people out of work for extended periods of time and increasing traffic in the local office, staff recently had refresher training in handling at-risk clients.

“If our staff observes any clients experiencing suicidal behavior, they can refer them to local mental health professionals,” said Jill Kleist, manager of Idaho Labor’s Pocatello office. “Each member of our staff in Pocatello has access to the Guide to Human Services and Community Recourses. If there is immediate danger our staff will call the appropriate authorities to help the individual.”

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare recently reported that the suicide rate in the state had increased 22 percent in 2009 from 2008 and 40 percent from 2007, a year when about 220 suicides occurred. This rapid increase may be tied closely to the recent recession and job loss. According to Idaho State University Institute of Rural Health, the suicide rate in Idaho could be even higher in 2010. The institute expects about 4,500 calls to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline from Idaho residents, up from the 3,633 calls the hot line received in 2009.



Source: Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

Beyond providing referrals to other agencies, the Idaho Department of Labor is responding to the needs of its clients by providing counseling services. According to Kandi Rudd, Assistant Manager of the Pocatello office, “in a few weeks our customers will have access to a part-time licensed counselor who will provide mental health and career counseling at the Pocatello office.” The counseling services will be provided free of charge, and are provided in cooperation with the Center for New Directions at Idaho State University.

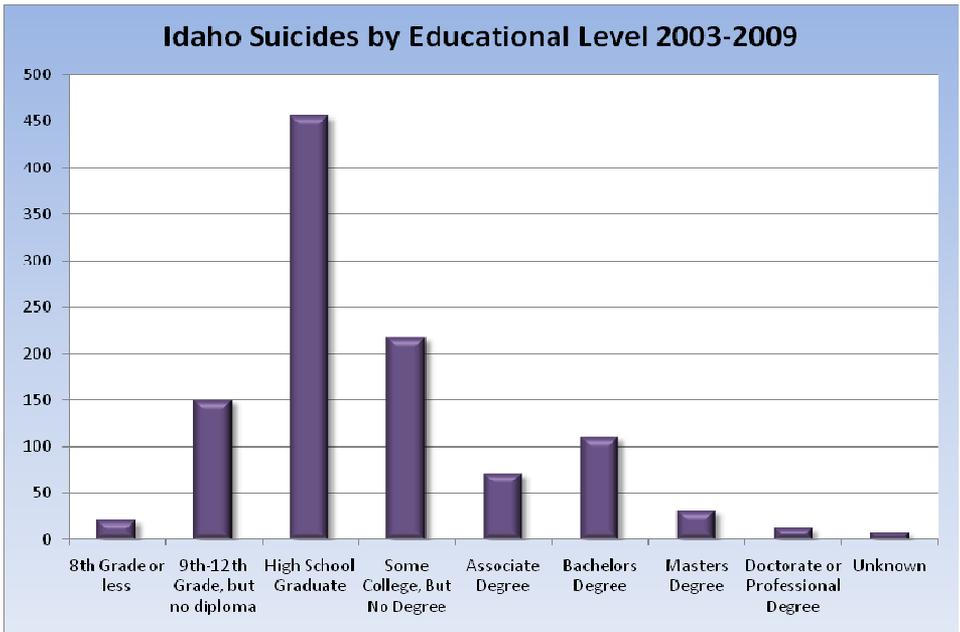
As the recession began to hit the Idaho labor market, suicide rates began to rise. The Idaho unemployment rate and suicide rate both rose sharply from 2008 to 2009. In July, 2008 state unemployment was 5 percent. A year later the state rate was 8.8 percent.

According to the Idaho Suicide Prevention Project, unemployment and economic hardship are factors contributing to suicide. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reach the same conclusion. Experts say men are at greater risk of suicide to begin with, and unemployment only increases the risk because men in general obtain their sense of self worth and identity through their jobs. Men also are socialized to be independent and self-sufficient. They are less likely to seek treatment for depressive illness than women.

“I wouldn’t be surprised if there are a lot of people out of work suffering from serious depression,” said Christy Kelshaw, a licensed mental health counselor with New Directions in Pocatello. “What is really sad about the situation is most unemployed individuals who are depressed do not have the resources or insurance coverage which will allow them to seek counseling.”

Suicide among working age males age 18 to 64 is one of four target groups of suicide prevention for the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. The others are American Indian men, senior men and male teenagers. According to Health and Welfare statistics, of the 1,075 suicides in Idaho between 2003 and 2009, 627 had a high school education or less.

The correlation between education and suicide is significant since there is also a relationship between unemployment and education. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, in July 2010 the national unemployment rate for persons holding a bachelor's degree or higher was 4.5 percent while the unemployment rate for persons with only a high school diploma or GED was 10.1 percent. For those with less than a high school education the rate rises to 13.8 percent. Sociologist V.C. Pandey concludes that the limitations of a lack of education places on economic and social mobility may increase the suicide risk of an individual by six times. The ability of one to find a job in the current economy is tied to the level of education one has achieved.



Source: Idaho Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics

Besides the clear and devastating human toll of suicide, there is an economic impact as well. According Idaho State University's Institute of Rural Health, each suicide has a negative impact of \$1.37 million on average due to the loss of the victim's lifetime earnings and labor.

### RESOURCES FOR HELP

Suicide represents the heavy human toll economic hard times can take on individuals. Information regarding suicide prevention resources including treatment opportunities is available at the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at (900) 273-TALK (8255). Other suicide hotlines include:

- Idaho Statewide Suicide Hotline is (800) 564-2120
- Kristen Brooks Hope Center is (800) SUICIDE (784-2433)

Questions regarding suicide prevention and research can be answered by the Suicide Prevention Network of Idaho at 208-860-1703.

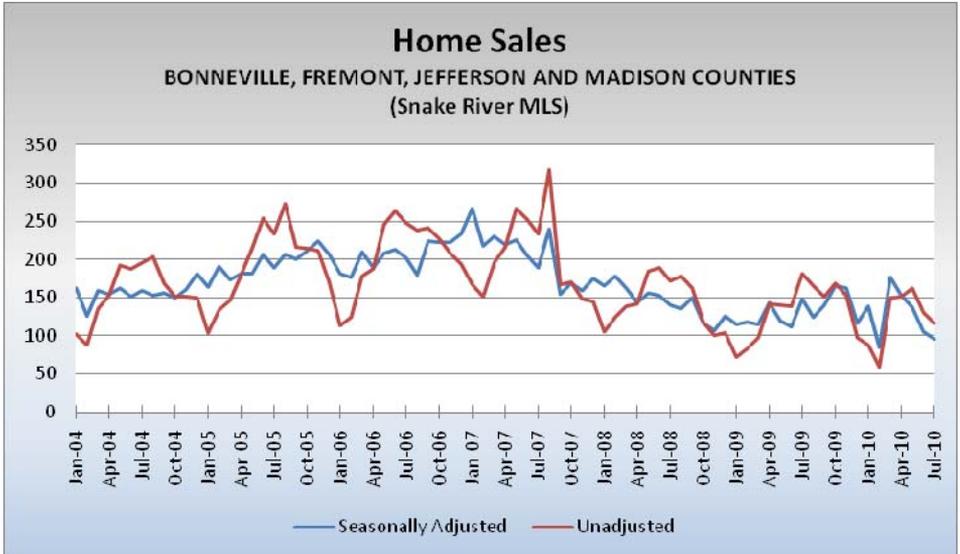
The 2-1-1 Idaho CareLine is a free state-wide community information and referral service, provided by Idaho Department of health and Welfare. Simply dial 2-1-1 to contact CareLine.

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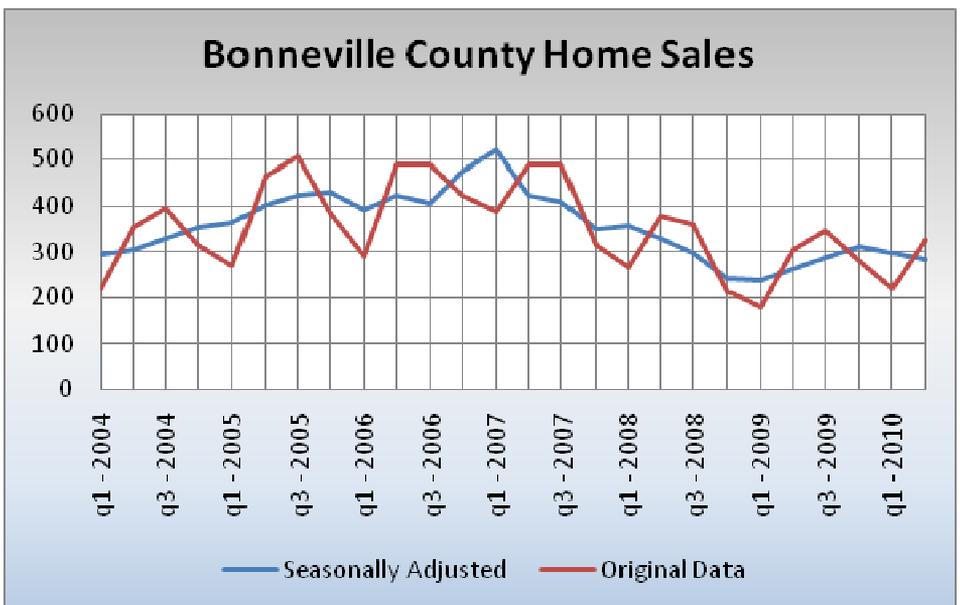
## EAST CENTRAL HOUSING MARKET - AN EARLY START TO THE RECESSION

Now that most of the first-time home buyer stimulus dust has settled, it is time to see where it led. East central Idaho construction employment has taken a 33 percent hit since the start of the Great Recession. There has definitely been some strain on the housing market.

Home sales exhibit strong seasonal patterns. Historically, the summer months from May through October have had the highest number of sales – August being the peak. The end of the first-time home buyer tax credit made it difficult to see what its real effects were. Some home sales resulting from the tax credit could still be unaccounted for since some buyers were eligible for extensions.

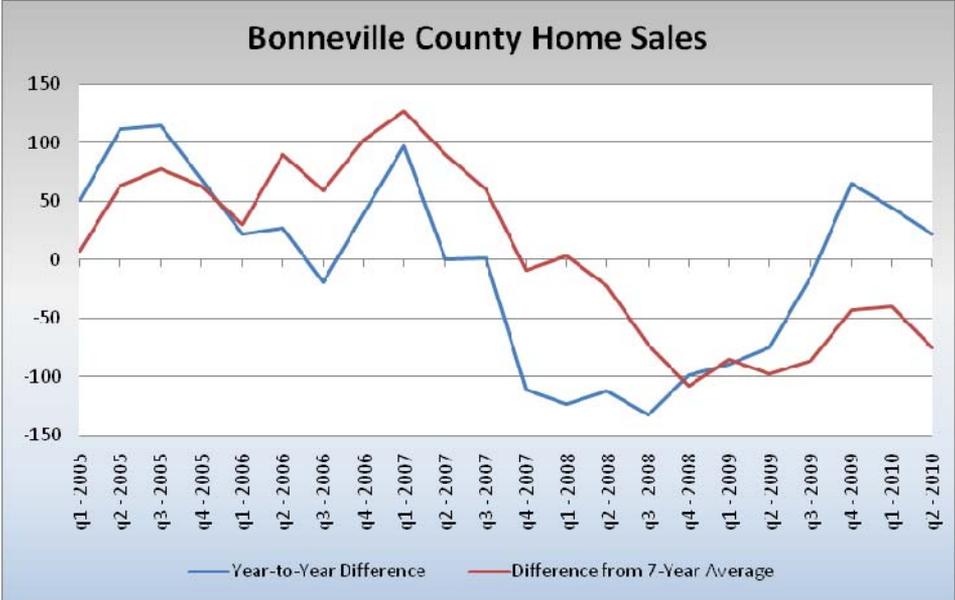


In the past seven years the highest seasonally adjusted home sales came from January 2007 with 266 sold. Following the seasonally adjusted numbers it looks as though the housing market recession started close to a year earlier in Idaho than the national recession, which officially started in December of 2007. The unadjusted peak came five months earlier in July 2007 with 317 homes sold.



Bonneville County contributes the largest number of homes sales to the Snake River Multiple Listing Service region. On average Bonneville County accounts for almost 70 percent of sales among the four counties, but only accounts for 57 percent of the population – just over 101,000 by itself. That makes Bonneville County market the analytical focus.

Each quarter since the beginning of 2004 until the first quarter of 2007, seasonally adjusted home sales grew by an average of 5 percent. The highest increase came in the second quarter of 2005 at 11 percent and fourth quarter of 2006 at 17 percent. Following the first quarter of 2007, Bonneville County saw a constant decline in home sales – falling an average of 4 percent a quarter. The decline started off at a rapid pace showing a 19 percent decrease in the second quarter of 2007. The timing of the tax credit came at a very crucial time. Just one quarter earlier the decline reached its highest point of 20 percent.



Responding to government tax incentives, first-time buyers began hunting for homes again, and sales started picking up again quarter to quarter. During the first year the credit was available, the number of home sales grew an average of 7 percent each quarter. Starting the first quarter of 2010, however, the negative numbers have returned. The first and second quarters have each delivered a 5 percent decrease. It is as though the people who were planning on buying already did.

As the April 2010 deadline approached, buyers hurried to qualify for tax credits. Sellers were also aware of the deadline, and the number of new listings increased in March and April to the highest levels in seven years – close to 300 new listings each month. After adjusting for seasonal patterns, February to March home sales grew by 137 percent. February’s unadjusted figures showed 42 sales, the lowest number of sales in seven years, and March returned to the seven-year average of 118.

Year over year, quarterly home sales have been positive since the end of 2009 although the latest figures suggest that may not continue. Without tax credits available, continued uncertainty in labor markets and a lack of additional buyers, conditions do not favor increased home sales.

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## 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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#### REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- Key Tronic Corp., the provider of electronic manufacturing services, has renewed its lease on its Spokane-area building for another 10 years and secured additional space, adding 20 new employees in the last few months. The company also bought a building adjacent to its manufacturing plant in Mexico and leased a building near its plant in China. Its total work force in the Spokane Valley is nearly 200. Quarterly revenue was a record \$61.9 million.
- After receiving a \$625,000 federal grant to train health information technology workers, North Idaho College says it will offer courses toward a certificate in electronic medical records adoption for health care practices. In the spring semester, the school will likely offer a second certificate program in electronic medical record software support for health care practices. The first 135 students who complete the program before mid-May 2011 will be eligible for tuition reimbursement. The school has not decided whether the training will be offered beyond the current school year. The federal government estimates about 51,000 qualified health information technology workers will be needed over the next five years as hospitals and physicians adopt electronic records systems. The federal government wants hospitals and other medical providers to have electronic medical record systems in operation by 2014, but demand for trained software support workers could continue into the future.
- North Idaho College has been selected to receive a federal grant that will help the college continue federal outreach and student services programs that identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. The \$1.28 million grant is expected to finance the program for five more years. Called TRIO Student Support Services, the federally funded academic assistance program helps participating students successfully complete their course of study at NIC and then transfer to a four-year college or university. Each semester, the program serves 160 primarily low-income, first-generation and disabled students.
- The city of Spokane and Waste Management recently entered negotiations to lease eight acres of undeveloped land adjacent to the waste-to-energy plant west of Spokane for a \$12 million recycling plant that will reduce waste and boost recycling across the Inland Northwest. The plant would create 50 construction jobs and 25 permanent jobs.
- Spokane County and the city of Spokane Valley issued 216 commercial building permits in the first six months of this year, down from 235 permits a year-earlier. The total dollar value, however, was \$91.3 million, up from

\$75.5 million in the first half of 2009. The greater Coeur d'Alene area issued 314 permits, down from 464 the year prior.

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded \$15.7 million to Spokane's Inland Northwest Health Services and Beacon Community of the Inland Northwest to lead the area in the eventual widespread use of health information technology. The three-year pilot program will enhance health care coordination for patients with adult-onset, or type 2, diabetes.
- Lora Whalen, who leads the Panhandle Health District's Family and Community Health Division, is replacing retiring Health District Director Jeanne Bock. Whalen will oversee public health services in the state's five northern counties. Those services range from immunizations, nutrition counseling and women's health checks to home health care, health education, aquifer protection and public health emergency preparedness.
- To help improve accessibility and better meet student demands, North Idaho College has expanded course options to now include not only traditional face-to-face weekday courses, but also hybrid and Internet-only courses, Friday-only and Saturday-only courses, Friday and Saturday courses, evening courses and additional offerings at outreach centers. Course times will range from traditional 50-minute sessions to two-hour and 50-minute sessions, depending on the schedule.
- Receipts from the state tourism tax totaled nearly \$6.3 million in Fiscal Year 2010, down more than \$1 million from FY2008. The 2 percent tax is paid on lodging paid by tourists and business travelers on hotel, motel and private campground spaces. Ten percent of the revenue goes to administering the state tourism program while the rest is split evenly between statewide and regional travel promotion. The Idaho Travel Council distributed more than \$2.5 million in tourism marketing grants to nonprofit organizations through the Idaho Regional Travel and Convention Grant Program. Northern Idaho's share was \$583,803, down from \$648,112 in 2009. The most ever received by the region was \$669,003 in 2008. Those amounts include smaller grants to groups such as the Idaho Bed & Breakfast Association and Idaho Ski Area Association. The council awarded \$347,000 to chambers of commerce and other organizations promoting tourism in the Panhandle, down from \$385,500 in 2009 and \$407,000 received in 2008. The Post Falls Chamber of Commerce also was awarded a grant of \$57,200, also down from the \$63,387 received in 2009 and \$69,190 in 2008. The Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce received \$98,374, down from \$109,300 in 2009.

#### *BENEWAH COUNTY*

- After nine months of meetings, the Powderhorn project in Harrison was given a green light. The city will double in size with the addition of much of the peninsula to the north across the northeast corner of Lake Coeur d'Alene, where Powderhorn Ranch Inc. plans to build a 2,000-acre, three-golf-course resort with up to 1,300 luxury homes. Within 90 days of the annexation the developers must pay \$50,000 with another \$50,000 to be paid by Sept. 1, 2011, \$325,000 to fund a public park and trail, \$25,000 per year for the next eight years to be offset by taxes as well as a new sewer plant or \$2 million in lieu of the plant.
- Benewah County's proposed budget calls for a more than 13 percent reduction in spending, from \$9.3 million this year to \$8 million. Most of the reduction involves grants which are no longer active. Benewah Community Hospital will take a \$25,000 cut in county support, and funding for solid

waste will drop from \$2.3 million to \$985,000 due to the completion of the new \$1.7 million, 12,000 square-foot transfer station. Other major changes in next year's budget include increased funding for the St. Maries Municipal Airport, the 911 emergency service and noxious weed control.

- The city of St. Maries voted to increase water rates 3 percent, boosting the average bill a dollar a month to cover operating expenses. The city also agreed to extend Casa de Oro's lease at the golf course for two years with an option of two additional years.

#### *BONNER COUNTY*

- The Sandpoint-based women's apparel retailer Coldwater Creek posted a profit this summer. Analysts polled by Thomson Reuters, on average, expected Coldwater Creek to report a loss of 4 cents per share on lower revenue of \$233.8 million. Instead, its net income grew to \$40.3 million, or 26 cents per share, in the three months ended July 31. That compares with \$38.7 million, or 23 cents per share, a year earlier. Revenue rose 12.6 percent to \$253.5 million from \$225.2 million last year. The company opened five new stores in the latest quarter and told investors this week that it is making progress with its inventory - a key concern for retailers as they deal with the new reality of frugal shoppers. Other local businesses have benefited from Coldwater Creek's stream of revenue. A local wood-crafting shop, Barush Woodworking, accepted a contract to produce new store fixtures for the retailer's more than 350 stores nationwide. The one-man operation went to a two-shift manufacturer and back again in the period between May and the middle of August, creating 40 temporary jobs.
- A device to terminate the use of fossil fuels in modern engines quietly sits in a shop on the outskirts of Sandpoint. It is the first home ethanol refinery and pumping system in the region. It uses a fermentation tank to make ethanol and a pump for owners to fuel their cars and trucks. A Sandpoint inventor whose green technology company, Smart Plugs, manufactures high-tech, clean-burning ignition systems, as well as ethanol conversion kits, recently became the first regional distributor of the E-FUEL MicroFueler endorsed by California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

#### *BOUNDARY COUNTY*

- Seven months after the Welco Lumber Co. closed its Naples mill because of the sluggish housing market, the mill has reopened full time. The company is now able to buy logs at a lower cost because of fewer cedar competitors. The mill now employs 36, nearly all former workers. The average wage is \$13 to \$15 an hour. When Welco closed in December, the average wage was \$15 an hour.
- Critics have appealed the Boundary County Planning and Zoning Commission's approval of two wind-powered towers to provide high-speed Internet service to most Boundary County residents. About 75 percent of the needed power would be generated by required by wind and the rest by a propane generator. The dispute is over whether the property owners have given permission to access the proposed tower site. The appeal also contends that the application lacked sufficient detail to clearly depict the nature of the proposed use and that public notice of the commission meeting was not legally provided.

#### *KOOTENAI COUNTY*

- Sterling Codifiers Inc., a Coeur d'Alene-based, company that incorporates into existing laws and ordinances new laws and ordinances of cities, counties and American Indian tribes has bought a building that will more than

double its current office space in Coeur d'Alene. Sterling Codifiers employs 22, including six who are based in the company's Weiser office. Sterling's niche is serving small- to medium-sized municipalities, and the company has 960 clients in 25 states.

- Voters in the Coeur d'Alene, Post Falls and Lakeland school districts approved levies that will finance the construction of a \$9.5 million professional-technical high school building on the Rathdrum Prairie. The 50,000-square-foot Kootenai Technical Education Campus is expected to open in 2013 and will offer classes in skilled trades, health occupations, welding, construction and automotive trades to high school students in the three districts. Despite the recession, a committee of area business leaders, working with the school districts and North Idaho College, were able to secure a 20-acre site for the school using no tax money – 10 acres were donated and the balance was paid for by school supporters.
- The city of Coeur d'Alene has issued a permit to a Liberty Lake developer to start site work on the \$6.2 million first phase of a planned 203-unit apartment complex just south of Interstate 90. The initial phase of the Coeur d'Alene project would include three 29,000-square-foot, 24-unit buildings and two 20,000-square-foot, 16-unit buildings, each four stories. The total project includes 12 buildings with 16 to 24 units each, a 3,600-square-foot recreation facility and parking for 527 vehicles.
- The Kootenai County Commission unanimously approved the county's first impact fee ordinance to help taxing districts fund growth-related services like fire, emergency medical, highways, parks and law enforcement.

#### *SHOSHONE COUNTY*

- A grant from the Idaho Office of Energy Resources has made it possible for Pinehurst City Hall to undergo an energy efficiency makeover. The building will be retrofitted with new windows, doors, furnace, heat pump, air conditioning, water heater and lights. A trussed roof has also been added with additional insulation installed in the roof and beneath the building itself.
- Other federal stimulus projects in Shoshone County include the Interstate 90 repairs and additional funding for county school districts.
- The National Emergency Food and Shelter Board has awarded Shoshone County an additional \$8,419 on top of the original award of \$11,987 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county. The money will go to qualified private voluntary non-profits organizations or government agencies that have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and shelter programs.
- The North Idaho Violence Prevention Center opened its new office in Kellogg. The office will enhance the center's ability to help Shoshone County survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault by providing additional resources. Everything from crisis counseling, community education and court advocacy will be offered in a safe environment closer to home. The local office in Kellogg was made possible through funding from the Idaho Council on Domestic Violence and Victims Assistance along with other grants.

#### *OPENINGS/EXPANSIONS*

##### August

- Pita Pit in Sandpoint
- Welco Lumber Co. in Naples
- Kootenai Café in Coeur d'Alene with four employees
- Brickwa L.L. Spa and Espresso in St. Maries

## July

- Red, White & Blue BBQ in Coeur d'Alene
- Sherman Junction Eatery in Coeur d'Alene
- Starbucks in the Bonners Ferry Safeway
- Esterline of Coeur d'Alene expanded into a 54,000-square-foot building
- Northwest Specialty Hospital in Post Falls finished a 14,500-square-foot expansion
- Platinum Home Mortgage opened a new branch in Coeur d'Alene

## CLOSURES/LAYOFFS

### August

- Quest Aircraft laid off 65 employees

### July

- Inkwell in Sandpoint, idling 12
- Rena Theater in Kellogg

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

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## NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO

Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce counties

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### REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack granted the Clearwater Basin Collaborative \$1 million to restore forests and streams in the Nez Perce and Clearwater national forests this year and is expected to provide more Forest Landscape Restoration Act funds over the following nine years. The collaborative plans to thin fire-prone forests, obliterate old logging roads, restore habitat for fish and big game and treat noxious weeds on 1.4 million acres in the Selway and the Middle Fork of the Clearwater basins. Two years ago, U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo brought together representatives of the timber industry, environmental organizations, recreation users and local governments to break the deadlock over forest management. Some of the work such as thinning forests near rural communities will produce commercial timber to feed local mills. The projects are expected to create more than 300 jobs over 10 years.

### CLEARWATER COUNTY

- A contractor will begin experimental work in mid-September to fix leaks at Dworshak Dam near Orofino. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hired Jacobs Engineering of Seattle to inject urethane in joints between two of the dam's concrete monoliths. The dam is made up of 51 concrete monoliths joined by vertical copper seams known as water stops. About six of the water stops are leaking badly. While the leaks do not threaten the structural integrity of the dam, the leaks makes it difficult for engineers to monitor water slipping beneath the dam and gauge how much upward pressure is being exerted. A trial run at Little Goose Dam on the Snake River showed the urethane injections should stop the leaks. The \$1.3 million project is funded with federal stimulus money. Another \$1.8 million in stimulus is financing additional instruments at the dam to measure uplift pressure and stress on cracks in the concrete. Both projects are risk reduction measures the corps outlined after a safety assessment indicated Dworshak is potentially unsafe. The corps says Dworshak Dam received the rating not because there is a significant threat of failure but because the loss of human life and property would be high if the dam failed.

- Frontier Communication, which recently acquired Verizon landlines and other assets in 14 states including Idaho, launched a project to dramatically expand broadband capacity to Orofino. After the expansion, about half the homes in the Orofino area will have access to broadband. Frontier also plans to extend high-speed Internet to Weippe by the end of the year. The company is committed to expanding broadband to outlying areas over the next few years. Broadband can serve as a catalyst for revitalizing local economies.
- Dworshak State Park now offers WiFi access. The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation partnered with Blue Mesh Networks to provide WiFi access within Dworshak and 12 other state parks. Park goers have been requesting WiFi so they can remain connected with friends and family. Some may increase their stays as a result. More than 25 states have equipped their parks with wireless Internet hotspots, and Idaho parks needed to do the same to stay competitive.
- Exceptional water conditions make Ashahka, on the Clearwater River four miles west of Orofino near Dworshak Dam, a great place to raise young fish. That's why two large hatcheries operate there. The Clearwater Hatchery was opened in 1991 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to mitigate fish losses caused by the construction of the four lower Snake River dams and employs more than 30. Two pipelines from Dworshak Reservoir feed the runways where fish are raised. By delivering water at two different temperatures, the pipelines allow the hatchery to raise spring chinook salmon and summer steelhead trout at optimum rearing temperatures. The hatchery also operates satellite facilities at Red River, Crooked River and Powell, where ponds are used to raise and acclimate chinook salmon and steelhead. The facilities also stock about 100,000 rainbow trout at 28 different sites in the Clearwater region every summer. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game operates the hatchery with funding from U.S. Fish and Wildlife.
- Dworshak National Fish Hatchery at the confluence of the North Fork and Clearwater rivers also raises salmon and steelhead. Co-managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Nez Perce Tribe, the hatchery employs about 40. It releases 2 million steelhead, 1 million chinook and hundreds of thousands of coho salmon each year. Young salmon are trucked to Kooskia National Fish Hatchery, managed by the tribe, every March for acclimation and eventual release into Clear Creek. Built in the late 1960s by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to mitigate the construction of Dworshak Dam, the aging hatchery needs about \$70 million to replace eroding ponds and antiquated technology that make it a water and energy hog. Gravity fed pipes to bring water from Dworshak Reservoir at two different temperatures like the setup at the Clearwater Hatchery would save millions of dollars in electricity costs now used to heat water. The steelhead and salmon raised at the hatcheries have an economic impact throughout the Columbia River system. They draw growing numbers of anglers to north central Idaho as well as provide amenities that also attract new residents.
- The Fraser Community Center is upgrading its kitchen, adding running water and an indoor bathroom and installing a new wood heating stove. Fraser is an unincorporated community of 150 among the rolling farm fields near Weippe. Ten years ago, a community center board was formed to assume the responsibility for maintaining the Fraser Grange as a gathering place.

## IDAHO AND LEWIS COUNTIES

- Intermountain Machine & Fab Inc. in Grangeville is a growing business. Specializing in fabrication and repair of construction and farm equipment, the machine shop and welding center also repairs jet boats and hydraulic cylinders. In addition, the company manufactures flatbeds for pickups, dump boxes for trunks, self-loading hay wagons and thumbs for excavators. Owner Roy Schumacher, who opened the business nine years ago, developed a road packer that attaches behind road graders and is used by road districts, the U.S. Forest Service and counties to maintain gravel roads. The packers replace the more expensive vibrator rollers. Schumacher asked the Idaho Small Business Development Center in Lewiston for help developing a marketing plan for his company. Together they developed a professional brochure, a website, a pricing program to accommodate dealers and a customer management plan. The center helped him identify potential customers in the Pacific Northwest. Implementation of the marketing plan is still in its infancy but has already generated dozens of calls leading to potential new orders. With its new marketing plan in place, Intermountain Machine and Fab, which currently employs about a dozen people, is expected to add jobs over the next five years.
- Grangeville voters on Aug. 3 approved a \$3.5 million revenue bond for a wastewater system upgrade. The 30-year bond will help fund a \$5.8 million upgrade to bring the city into compliance with federal phosphorous discharge requirements. The project will be completed in July 2011.
- The president of an Idaho custom fabrication and engineering company met with Idaho County commissioners, school board members, the mayors of Grangeville, Kooskia and Stites and other leaders on a strategy to attract new industry to the County. Doug Sayer, recently named Idaho's business leader of the year by Idaho State University, said he's a man on a mission to make Idaho's rural communities stronger. His company, Premier Technology, employs 370 people in Blackfoot in eastern Idaho. He's trying to help small communities tap their educational and industrial resources to produce more jobs for youngsters graduating from high school. To achieve that goal, local industries and schools must join forces to develop ways for students to get training while still in school. Producing a more highly skilled work force would make it easier to attract new industry. "You can't grow your community without developing a work force." Participants discussed the lack of job opportunities for young people and how few young people are able to remain in the county.
- Employees of both Idaho and Lewis counties will not get raises in the 2011 fiscal year beginning Oct. 1. This will be the second year in a row that Idaho's 110 and Lewis' 35 employees do not receive raises as economic conditions continue to depress county revenues.
- Clearwater Economic Development Association completed the purchase of the old sawmill site in Craigmont in July and began work on an 18-acre industrial park. Ende Machine & Foundry, owned by Ed Endebrook and Sue Edwards, will be the industrial park's first tenant, occupying seven acres. The foundry, which should be operating by Nov. 1, will initially employ three but could eventually employ 20. Craigmont hasn't had any manufacturing jobs since the Channel Lumber mill closed in 2002. The foundry will build the capacity for regional manufacturers, who have had to rely on foundries in the eastern U.S. or in China. Among the businesses that will benefit from reduced costs, better quality and improved timeliness of supplies are jet boat builders and the Hydraulic Warehouse — a Lewiston busi-

ness founded by Endebrook that makes and repairs hydraulic pumps and motors for dump trucks, tunnel borers and Ferris wheels. The foundry could turn waste that local manufacturers now ship out of the region to be recycled into a new product, reducing costs and generating revenues.

#### *LATAH COUNTY*

- Potlatch Telephone Co. in Kendrick will receive more than \$2.6 million in federal stimulus funds to bring high-speed Internet service to unserved populations in the Kendrick-Juliaetta area. Current residents only have slow dial-up Internet service or expensive satellite-based service. When U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the grants for the Potlatch project and 125 other rural infrastructure projects, he said “expanding broadband access will have a profound impact on economic opportunity in communities across the country.” Potlatch Telephone will bring fiber optic cable closer to rural customers, who will be offered the same programs and fee structures as urban customers. The project will benefit 296 households and 10 businesses, according to Kerrie Hurd, business program specialist with USDA Rural Development in Boise. Farmers also are expected to benefit from improved access to information about grain and livestock markets. Among the businesses that will get an economic boost from the project is Colter’s Creek Vineyards and Winery near Juliaetta, which is far from the nearest broadband node and has been paying \$100 a month for satellite Internet service that has inherent delays. Wireless Internet access often is unreliable in the area’s steep, narrow river canyons. The project will allow entrepreneurs to set up shop “in some areas they haven’t been able to touch to this point because of lack of access,” said a spokesperson for Potlatch Telephone’s parent company, TDS Telecom.
- Walmart will have two stores on the Palouse. The night before it opens the new 175,000-square-foot Pullman supercenter on Oct. 28, the Moscow store will close. After it is renovated and a grocery department is added, the Moscow store will reopen. A number of variables played into Walmart’s decision to keep the Moscow store. Moscow and Pullman are college towns where some students don’t own cars, and the Moscow store is along a heavily traveled commuter route between Moscow and Pullman.
- The Pullman city council recently purchased 18 acres northeast of the Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport to provide a safety zone for the new runway the airport plans to begin building in 2013. A Federal Aviation Administration grant will cover 95 percent of the \$50 million cost, and the airport will cover the rest. The improvements will allow larger aircraft, such as Boeing 737s, to land in Pullman without special waivers. The improvements to the airport are expected to enhance economic development by opening the airport to more commercial, corporate and charter planes. That should make the Moscow-Pullman area more attractive to emerging businesses, especially to technology firms that depend on airports for access to customers all over the globe. It also will benefit existing businesses such as Schweitzer Engineering Laboratory and technology-transfer firms in Moscow as well as the universities.
- Ticket sales at the airport have risen during recent years despite the economic downturn that caused drops at many other airports. The number of passengers grew 37.9 percent from 46,699 in 2006 to 64,404 in 2009. The surge in passengers was partly a response to Horizon bringing larger planes that doubled seats while lowering fares at the same time. In the first seven months of this year, the airport served 38,451 passengers, 14.4 percent more than the 33,700 it served in the same period in 2009.

## NEZ PERCE AND ASOTIN COUNTIES

- The Lewiston Chamber of Commerce will resume promoting Nez Perce County to tourists, ending a two-year venture of jointly marketing Nez Perce and Asotin, Wash., counties through the Hells Canyon Visitor Bureau. This year, the chamber, rather than the visitor bureau, received \$33,000 from lodging taxes for tourism promotion from the Idaho Travel Council. A chamber statement said the change will give Lewiston “more exposure to travel and trade shows, familiarity trips for writers of magazines to promote Lewiston, a new tourism website and a promotional brochure to highlight all of Lewiston's vast features.” The decision to make the change came from the visitor bureau, which felt it shouldn't continue to work for both sides of the river when it was getting \$35,000 from Nez Perce County and \$125,000 from Asotin County. The chamber is creating a “visit Lewiston” website and a recreation brochure.
- Nez Perce County, responding to tight budgets, cut 4½ janitorial jobs in August. By hiring a private cleaning company, the county will save about \$127,000 next year. Western Building Maintenance of Lewiston began cleaning county buildings Sept. 1.
- The Queen of the West moored at the Port of Clarkston in August for the first time since September. The 230-foot paddlewheeler, operated by American Cruise Lines Co., now offers seven-night, one-way trips between Portland and Clarkston. Traditionally, it offered seven-night round trips from Portland to Clarkston and back. This gives people more time in the ports, and it also means many people will fly into or out of the Lewiston airport and spend several days in north central Idaho before or after going on the cruise. That's great news for local tourist spots and retailers. The Queen of the West carries up to 120 passengers and a crew of 30. Four more trips from Portland to Clarkston are scheduled through late October. In 2011, American Cruise Lines has scheduled 12 trips from Portland to Clarkston and 12 from Clarkston to Portland. The cruise season begins in April and ends in November.

## OPENINGS

- The Landing Strip, a restaurant and bar at the Nez Perce County Regional Airport
- Kamiah Community Credit Union branch in Kooskia
- Game Play, a store selling videogames and game systems and renting DVD and Blu-ray movies, in downtown Clarkston

[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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### ADA COUNTY

- Whole Foods Market has indicated it is again preparing to build a store just east of downtown Boise across from the University of Idaho complex. The company is beginning the process of securing required permits.
- Intermountain Gas Co. has requested a decrease of its annual purchased gas cost of around \$2.2 million. This means customers will save an average of 90 cents a month.

- Declining lease rates and the vast amount of vacant commercial properties are leading some property owners to offer free rent to tenants so long as they agree to maintain the property or make improvements while they occupy the space.

#### *ADAMS COUNTY*

- Meadow Creek Golf Course may shut down next year. Current owner Hopkins Northwest LLC has said it has no intention of maintaining operations. If the golf course closes, it is estimated that property values of homes within the Meadow Creek subdivision will drop by a total of \$18 million, which would substantially decrease tax receipts for Adams County.

#### *BOISE COUNTY*

- A Canadian mining company, Mosquito Consolidated Gold Mines Limited, intends to expand mining operations near Idaho City. The mining company requested permits to drill 260 exploratory holes and construct 10 to 13 miles of new temporary access roads.
- Silver Creek campground is getting a facelift. The \$1.4 million project includes over 70 new campsites as well as tables and fire rings. The majority of the cost, \$1 million, is being financed by federal stimulus money.

#### *CANYON COUNTY*

- Pepsi has acquired sugar from Nampa's Amalgamated Sugar Co. and will begin distributing a series of retro soda products to appeal to Baby Boomers.

#### *ELMORE COUNTY*

- The F-35 Joint Strike Fighter II will not be making Idaho its home at either Gowen Field or Mountain Home Air Force Base. Both were passed over in the selection process to house one or more squadrons of the advanced aircraft. This is only the first roll-out of the new plane, which means Idaho may be considered again in the future.

#### *GEM COUNTY*

- The Gem County zoning commission has issued its decision against an Eagle man's request for a special-use permit that would have allowed a gravel pit to be developed in an area designated as residential.

#### *OWYHEE COUNTY*

- Homedale may begin seeing "Buy Local" stickers in local retailers' windows to assist customers in making purchases that support the local economy. The program is being led by the Homedale Chamber of Commerce.

#### *PAYETTE COUNTY*

- A \$1.5 million dollar bond was passed to expand the Payette library to accommodate a doubling in the number of users over the past 10 years. The library's old boiler system will also be replaced with a new furnace. The expansion could begin next spring.
- The Langley Gulch natural gas-fired power plant is taking shape. Crews began construction on the facility near New Plymouth. The area has been a hotbed for energy production over the last several years due to discoveries of natural gas reserves in Washington County and the intention of Alternate Energy Holding Inc. to build a nuclear plant in Payette County.

#### *VALLEY COUNTY*

- St. Luke's is expected to complete a merger with McCall Memorial Hospital within a month. The merger would create a new nonprofit hospital named St. Luke's McCall under the umbrella of hospitals in Idaho carrying the St.

Luke's name. McCall Memorial Hospital currently maintains employment between 100 and 149, which would be added to St. Luke's employment levels if the merger goes through. St. Luke's is Idaho's largest employer.

- The Pelorus Group purchased the Tamarack Resort convention and meeting center known as the Arling Center for \$975,000, and the Utah company has submitted an offer to buy the entire Tamarack Resort for an undisclosed sum. Whether current owners are interested in the offer is not yet known.
- The installation of a sewer line across McCall Airport property is scheduled during October. The new sewer line would allow development of a large area of south McCall.

#### WASHINGTON COUNTY

- Washington County intends to cut funding to its economic development office by half due to budgetary constraints. The money saved on the economic development office will be used to resurface the Weiser Airport. The project is projected to cost between \$1.7 million and \$2.5 million. The majority of the cost would be financed by Federal Aviation Administration funds.

[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

#### TWIN FALLS COUNTY

- The College of Southern Idaho resumed classes this fall session anticipating record enrollment of over 9,000, which will include high school dual enrollment. Final figures will be available in early fall. The full time equivalency, which is a calculation of the number of students taking at least 15 credits, is 4,675 this year compared with 4,426 last year at the same time, for a 5.6 percent increase
- Glanbia Food's annual golf tournament, begun in 1994, passed the million dollar donation mark this year. The company will likely donate \$100,000 this year in conjunction with suppliers and customers. The Blue Lakes Rotary Club, Twin Falls Education Foundation, Victory Home, Safe Kids Magic Valley and Mercy Housing will share the donation. Over the past 16 years, Glanbia has donated to more than 50 local nonprofit groups.
- Hands On, a local pottery painting, mosaic and fused glass studio, has launched its Traveling Gnome contest, integrating it into social networking. Participants take photos of their hand-painted yard gnome at a vacation spot or hiding place and submit the photo complete with a 'gname' for the Hands On Face Book page. The studio is celebrating its seventh anniversary.
- Buhl's Farmer's National Bank is one of six banks in Idaho that are on the federal regulatory watch list due to less than optimal capitalization ratios. Only one Idaho bank has failed, Ketchum-based First Bank of Idaho. To be well capitalized, bank holding companies are required to have a ratio of 6 percent of capital and reserves to assets with some risk. Farmer's Na-

tional has six branches throughout the Magic Valley and has been operating since 1917. The bank continues to be family-owned and operated.

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J.C. Hamilton (left), the original cashier of the Farmer's National Bank, in his early banking days.

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- The U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded \$99,000 to Region IV Development Corp. to expand financing options for small and emerging private business enterprises in south central Idaho. The agency said the money should create or save 10 jobs by providing additional financing options for the micro-loan market. A micro-loan revolving fund will be set up to provide financing alternatives for small businesses.

#### *JEROME COUNTY*

- Jerome County seal coated portions of the service road along Interstate 84 and U.S. Highway 93 in August. The Idaho Department of Transportation said work on I-84 from mileposts 166 to 173 took about four days with crews moving operations to U.S. 93 between I-84 and the Idaho Highway 25 junction. Kloepper Inc. of Paul is the contractor for the \$1.1 million seal-coat project, which also includes future seal coating in Buhl and Twin Falls.
- Exergy Development, the initial investor in the \$500 million Oregon Trail Wind Farm, has donated \$5,000 each to the Bliss and Hagerman rural fire departments, which participated in battling the Long Butte fire that burned dangerously close to existing Hagerman wind turbines at Fossil Gulch and Cassia wind farms.
- Construction started on DeSano Place Village, a new assisted-living center for people with dementia. The facility is scheduled to open April 2011, offering 16 private rooms, three spa bathrooms and a secure wander garden. Other facilities offering similar amenities are located in Shoshone and Gooding.

#### *GOODING COUNTY*

- Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter attended ceremonies promoting 11 wind farms stretching from Hagerman to Burley. GE Energy Financial Services President Alex Urquhart credited a federal grant for keeping the project alive. The grant encouraged similar alternative energy projects throughout the nation that must start construction by the end of 2010. The 183 megawatt project has equity ownership by GE and Exergy Development of Boise. Construction is estimated at \$500 million. The project is one of the largest in the Pacific Northwest with a generating capacity sufficient to power 39,500 homes.
- The Idaho Dairymen's Association released data indicating the state dairy industry has moved into third place nationally for milk production, overtaking New York. Production rose 5.2 percent in July from July 2009 and 4 percent from June. The increases follows the improved ranking of Idaho cheese production from fourth to third nationally.
- Wally Hedrick, USDA Rural Development Idaho State Director, was in Gooding to present Troy Hurd with the agency's Site Manager of the Year Award for family housing. Hurd oversees the management and maintenance of Evergreen Village, a 20-unit project owned by Boise Housing Corp and managed by Tomlinson & Associates in Gooding.

## BLAINE COUNTY

- The second round of the 2010 U.S. Paragliding Championship took place in Sun Valley in late August and early September with a cross-country competition billed as Race to Goal. Mike Pfau, president of Sun Valley Paragliders and organizer of the Sun Valley portion of the national paragliding event, said the competition is not based on the best flight but on cumulative points. "The series allows for pilots to drop their worst day and still be able to win." As many as 100 pilots from the United States and foreign countries participated. The U.S. championships could be the foundation for Sun Valley's selection to hold one of seven World Cup events.
- 
- The Sun Valley Writer's Conference pulled in some heavyweights this year. Henry Paulson, former Treasury Secretary during the Bush administration, spoke to the 1,500 attendees about his recently released memoir "On the Brink: Inside the Race to Stop the Collapse of the Global Financial System." Five-time Emmy Award-winning actor John Lithgow and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer addressed the conference as well.
  - The Ketchum City Council approved a five-year \$32 million plan to upgrade city buildings, infrastructure and equipment. The plan will keep up with projected population growth and tourism expansion. During peak tourism seasons, the city's population roughly doubles, putting increased stress on city services. The plan includes a \$9 million fire station and \$3 million city hall, a \$500,000 miniature golf course at Atkinson Park, a \$115,000 trail to connect Warm Springs with River Run and a \$75,000 expansion of Guy Coles Skate Park. About \$9.6 million is already secure for wastewater treatment facilities, water systems and parks development. The council expects the rest of the money to come from development impact fees, donations and grants.
  - Blaine County commissioners voted against a noise-mitigation wall along state Highway 75 south of St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center. Commission Chairman Larry Schoen called it "antithetical to every part of Blaine County Code." The eight-foot-high, 610-foot-long wall was recommended by the Idaho Transportation Department to muffle noise from the highway, which is scheduled for widening. The issue over the proposed wall will be returned to the Federal Highway Administration, which will decide whether to consider the commissioners' collective opinion over the wishes of property owners.
  - The new marketing board for Sun Valley and Ketchum has added its final member, Scott Montgomery, a respected marketer and current employee of Scott USA. The board accepted the resignation of long-time Ketchum Chamber & Visitor's Board executive director Carol Waller while highlighting the new organization – Sun Valley Resort Area Marketing Inc. The organization has the resounding support of both the Sun Valley and Ketchum mayors, who have demanded a more aggressive promotion.
  - Hailey's Hop Porter Park was the site of the 34<sup>th</sup> Northern Rockies Folk Festival, which featured 11 groups including Kelly Willis, Leslie and the Badgers, No Cheap Horses, Joe Paisley, Gypsy River Haunts and Lisa Haley and the Zydecats. Bands travelled from as far as Texas and California while local "tweeners" were encouraged to share their musical talent on stage, filling 15 minute spots between band changes.

- A new concept of rotations among the restaurant kitchens of Ketchum has been developed to teach cooking to food lovers. "We want to raise the awareness of the joy of cooking and the joy of eating," restaurateur Devra Mary said. Ketchum chefs will use locally grown organic food in demonstrating techniques, different styles of ethnic food cooking, specialties such as Dutch-oven cooking and desserts. Participating restaurants include the Ketchum Grill, Ciro, Cristina's, Segó, Rasberry's, Nourish Me, Rico's, Bigwood Grill, Perry's and Globus.
- Smith Optics is celebrating its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The first Smith goggles were manufactured using dentistry tools in the home of orthodontist and skier, Bob Smith, who would then sell them to skiers in Utah to finance his skiing. The company has been ranked fourth on the list of best places to work by Outside Magazine for three straight years. Smith Optics has 68 employees in Ketchum. Long lunch hours and ski pass subsidies are part of the benefit package.
- Sun Valley Resort hosted the 2010 dealer conference for its parent company, Sinclair Oil, in August. The company does not report data on occupancy or conference bookings but did say the summer was good to the resort with high but not record breaking numbers outperforming the dismal 2009 summer season.

#### **CLOSURE**

- Pandora's Restaurant – Twin Falls grill & pub lost its lease

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

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## **SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO**

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

### **BANNOCK COUNTY**

- Every spring for 19 years Pocatello's economy received a shot in the arm from the Dodge National Circuit Finals Rodeo. But the rodeo announced late this August that it would not return to Pocatello in 2011. J.D. Johnson, chairman of the Pocatello Frontier Rodeo Association, announced that plans are under way to bring a new event to the city – the 15<sup>th</sup> stop on the Wrangler Million Dollar Tour rodeo. Studies suggest that Dodge National Circuit Finals brought anywhere from \$4.5 million to \$6 million in the southeastern Idaho economy.
- August marks the return of students to Idaho State University, a major its and employer in southeastern Idaho. The school employs around 2,200. To celebrate and thank the university for its contribution to the community, Pocatello hosted the first ever "Welcome Back Black and Orange" day. The festivities gave the community more than an opportunity to recognize Idaho State. It also allowed students to be introduced to local businesses and services. Both university and community organizers plan to make it an annual event.

### **BEAR LAKE COUNTY**

- Elected officials from Bear Lake County are considering the future of the Bear Lake Valley area. They have nine meetings planned to gather input from residents, businesses, public officials and community leaders regarding economic and community development issues. The goal is to develop a long-term vision for the future of Bear Lake Valley with a blueprint to develop the valley into an area that will hold on to future generations with an

enhanced quality of life. Nine communities in both Idaho and Utah are involved in the planning process.

#### *BINGHAM COUNTY*

- The Greater Blackfoot Area Chamber of Commerce hired Rebecca Price as its new executive director. Price replaces Stephanie Govatos, who moved to Florida. Price is a native of Blackfoot but was most recently an office manager for a commercial real estate company in Boise. She hopes to increase involvement by chamber members in the community and promote more special events.
- Jessica James, daughter of Alvin James of Pyramid Lake, Nev., and Dr. LaNada War Jack of Fort Hall, has been appointed by Labor Secretary Hilda Solis to the National Native American Employment and Training Council. James currently is the Workforce Investment Director at the Indian Center Inc. in Lincoln, Neb., and holds a bachelor's degree in American Indian Studies from Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan., and a master's degree in Indigenous Nation Studies. She is a member of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe.
- The Aberdeen Gem Trail Foundation received a major boost towards its goal of connecting the bike and walking trails around the community. Idaho Parks and Recreation Board awarded the foundation \$82,933 for the completion of Hazard Creek Trail Segment of the Aberdeen Gem Trail Project. Additionally, the National Park Service awarded the Aberdeen Trail Foundation \$5,040 to pave a 540-foot section of the Aberdeen Gem Trail along Powerline Road. The Aberdeen Gem Trail is planned to begin at the Aberdeen School Complex, extend west towards Powerline Road, and then continue east toward the north end of Main Street.

#### *CARIBOU COUNTY*

- Caribou County Clerk Veda Mascarenas reports that the proposed county budget for the coming fiscal year will increase to \$11.2 million from \$10.6 million. Boosting the budget are rising health insurance costs for county employees, medical services for county residents and jail expenditures. Caribou County raised \$4.48 million from property taxes, an increase from last year of about 3 percent because unlike many counties in Idaho property values are up. Because of that, the county dropped the tax rate 3 percent.

#### *FRANKLIN COUNTY*

- Franklin County Assessor Rich Umbel reports that the county's property values are holding their own against other counties in southeastern Idaho and the state as a whole. Neighboring Cache County, Utah, saw property values decline by 10 percent, amounting to a lost value of \$558 million. In contrast, Franklin County saw a slight increase in property values while Ada County experienced an 11.1 percent decrease.

#### *ONEIDA COUNTY*

- The Oneida County proposed budget for the coming fiscal year is nearly \$5.3 million, up from \$5.2 million this year. Oneida, like many counties in Idaho and in the nation as whole, faces higher expenses and declining revenues. County Commissioner Larry Etherington said that the county, dependent on federal and state money, finds itself "at the bottom of the stream when it comes to the money trail." One cause of Oneida County's budget woes is increased health care costs. Despite a rise in the deductible paid by county employees, insurance costs will still increase by 14 percent. Another cause is a decrease in state money for roads and bridges.

Additionally, federal payments to compensate for federal land not being subject to property taxes have declined.

#### **POWER COUNTY**

- The jobless numbers in Power County have been disappointing even though July's 10.8 percent unemployment rate was a decrease from the June rate of 12.6 percent. According to information collected by the Idaho Department of Labor, 388 residents of Power County were out of work during July. To address the serious unemployment problem, the Idaho Department of Labor, working with Horizons of Power County and the American Falls Public Library, held the community's first job fair. Companies participating in the agriculturally focused fair included Simplot, Amalgamated Sugar and the Bingham County Co-op. About 160 Power County area residents came to the fair to meet with area employers. According to Kristen Jensen with Horizons, who has been on the American Falls City Council for 19 years, "the job fair was a huge success. This is an event we hope to repeat." The Idaho State Journal and KPVI-TV in Pocatello both promoted the event.
- American Falls residents in cooperation with the Idaho Potato Commission packed 308,240 potato-based meals to send overseas. The meals are destined for needy people in Africa, Haiti and the Philippines. Volunteers from Lamb Weston set a record at the event by packing 33 boxes in one session. The prior record for this event was 27. Other business and organizations in the community closed their doors in order to send volunteers to help.

[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**

- Yellowstone National Park opened a new Old Faithful geyser visitor's center. Over 3,000 people attended the opening ceremonies including National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis and Tom Strickland, the U.S. assistant secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks. The center replaced the old facility that opened in 1972. The Yellowstone Park Foundation raised \$15 million of the \$27 million construction cost. The center hosts views of the famous geyser as well as a working miniature model.
- Central bankers from all parts of the world met in Jackson, Wyo., to discuss the global economy as part of the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank's annual monetary symposium. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke spoke at the event. Bernanke's address can be found at <http://federalreserve.gov/newsevents/speech/bernanke20100827a.htm>

#### **LEMHI COUNTY**

- The Lemhi County Economic Development Association has hired Tammy Stringham as its new economic development professional. She had been tourism manager for the Lost Rivers Economic Development Corp. in Mackay and Arco.

### *CUSTER COUNTY*

- The city of Challis is one step closer to building a new events center. Construction on land owned by the local fire department will be largely funded by an \$885,000 congressional appropriation. Talks are under way between the city and the local fire department on a land swap. The Custer Economic Development Association recommended the center be owned jointly by the city and county. A third entity will manage the facility.
- In Challis, the Braun Brothers music festival sold up to 7,000 tickets this year. That number brings with it a significant economic impact on a community with a population of only 920. Restaurants, hotels and campgrounds were all packed with visitors for the annual festival.

### *MADISON COUNTY*

- Brigham Young University – Idaho has officially named the new auditorium the BYU-Idaho Center. The building boasts 10 full basketball courts, a 15,000-seat auditorium and over 430,000 square feet. The university hopes to complete the new auditorium in time for fall commencement ceremonies.
- Sugar City will have its own fire station for the first time since the Teton Dam flood. Half of the \$630,000 construction cost will be covered by a grant, the other half by the Madison Fire Department through its budget. Ground has already been broken.

### *BONNEVILLE COUNTY*

- Eastern Idaho continues to attract government investment in nuclear energy. The U.S. Department of Energy's Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program has thrived in the deserts west of Idaho Falls for over 50 years. The government has proposed a \$1 billion makeover to improve existing buildings and construct new ones. The proposal is in preliminary stages with construction to begin in 2016 and be finished by 2020. An economic study will determine how many jobs the project will generate.
- New elementary schools in Bonneville County want to focus more on mathematics and science. Mountain Valley and A.H Bush elementary schools will give parents the option of enrolling their children in a public school with specialized curriculum through a waiver process as room is available.
- Bonneville School District 93 has enrolled over 100 students in its virtual academy. The academy has a vast curriculum and allows students to work from home at their own pace. The state gives the district \$6,900 per student for the program.

### *FREMONT COUNTY*

- The city of St. Anthony may soon require business licenses. Currently, as long as businesses comply with zoning, state and federal laws, they are welcome to open in St. Anthony. The city hopes that requiring licenses will be helpful to organizations like the local chamber of commerce. The mayor suggests more research and public comment be heard before an ordinance is drafted.

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

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## State of Idaho Data – State Economic Indicators

	Aug 2010*	Jul 2010	Aug 2009	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>IDAHO LABOR FORCE <sup>(1)</sup></b>					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	756,100	757,000	749,300	-0.1	0.9
Unemployment	67,400	66,900	63,500	0.7	6.1
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	8.9	8.8	8.5		
Total Employment	688,700	690,100	685,800	-0.2	0.4
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	761,700	765,400	753,800	0.1	1.5
Unemployment	65,600	65,700	61,200	-8.0	19.6
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	8.6	8.6	8.1		
Total Employment	696,100	699,700	692,600	0.9	0.1

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

9.6                      9.5                      9.7

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

#### *Claims Activities*

Initial Claims <sup>(3)</sup>	12,447	10,596	12,521	17.5	-0.6
Weeks Claimed <sup>(4)</sup>	94,009	81,365	115,544	15.5	-18.6

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

Weeks Compensated	78,565	69,601	89,944	12.9	-12.7
Total Benefit \$ Paid	17,889,649	15,844,544	22,645,908	12.9	-21.0
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$227.71	\$227.65	\$251.78	0.0	-9.6
Covered Employers	48,696	48,649	50,036	0.1	-2.7
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months <sup>(4)</sup>	\$346,370,184	\$351,126,444	\$338,993,082	-1.4	2.2

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

	Aug 2010	Jul 2010	Aug 2009	% Change Month	% Change Year
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	214.2	213.9	212.8	0.3	1.4
All Urban Consumer (CPI- U)	218.3	218.0	217.2	0.3	1.1

(1) Preliminary estimate

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

(3) Includes all entitlements 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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