

Idaho Employment

A monthly update of
Idaho's economic health in your area

IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Franklin Basin by April Keyser

Volume 21.7 Idaho Department of Labor
C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, GOVERNOR

July 2009 Issue / June 2009 Data
ROGER B. MADSEN, DIRECTOR

IN THIS ISSUE

- State Taps Interest-free Loans for Benefits, Trust Fund, page 1
- Nonfarm Jobs Show Weak Increase in June, page 4
- GM, Chrysler End Relationships with Four Idaho Dealers, page 8
- Changes in Labor Force, Fed Policies Closely Connected, page 22

[State Tables](#), page 28

[Regional Labor Force Tables](#), page 33

[Glossary of Labor Terms](#), page 40

FRINGE BENEFITS SURVEYS BEING MAILED

The climate of an economy can be measured in part by the fringe benefits employers offer to their workers. Every two years, the Idaho Department of Labor surveys a random selection of private employers about benefits. The findings are invaluable to legislators, other businesses, chambers of commerce, economic developers and more. Please take time to complete the short questionnaire if you receive one in the mail. All responses are held in complete confidence.

STATE TAPS INTEREST-FREE LOANS FOR BENEFITS, TRUST FUND

The current recession – its length and depth unimagined just eight months ago – has been steadily draining the Idaho Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund, and the state for the first time ever has begun borrowing from the U.S. Department of Labor to continue paying unemployment benefits.

Because the dramatic increase in unemployment hit Idaho so rapidly, the trust fund was projected to go broke in November or December – as the funds in 15 other states already have – and Idaho was prepared to borrow at that time.

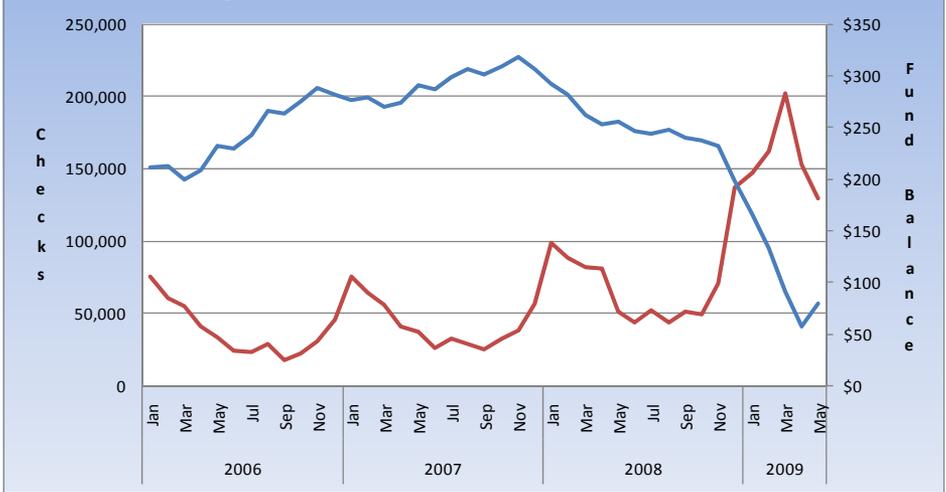
But favorable provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 – the stimulus package – made it beneficial for the state to begin borrowing earlier. The way Idaho's trust fund is set up is the reason.

Idaho is one of three states with trust funds in two components – one controlled by the federal government and the other by the state. The trust funds of the other 47 states are completely in the hands of the federal government. The advantage to Idaho's arrangement is that earnings on the investment of



Nearly 40,000 workers will see a pay increase July 24 when Idaho's minimum wage increases to \$7.25 an hour. Forty percent of the affected jobs are in food service and retail sales. For jobs where people earn tips — bartenders, waiters and waitresses, for example — the minimum wage remains unchanged at \$3.35 an hour, but employers must ensure tips provide another \$3.90 an hour and combined with wages, equals the new minimum. If the combination falls short, the employer is required to make up the difference.

Monthly Trust Fund Balance Falls as Checks Increase



the state-held component of the trust fund are retained by the state and can be used not only to pay benefits but to maintain Department of Labor services and local office operations.

When the federal government offered interest-free loans to states whose federally held trusts were depleted, it made sense to preserve as much of Idaho's state-held trust as possible to generate investment earnings and take advantage of the interest-free loans to continue paying benefits.

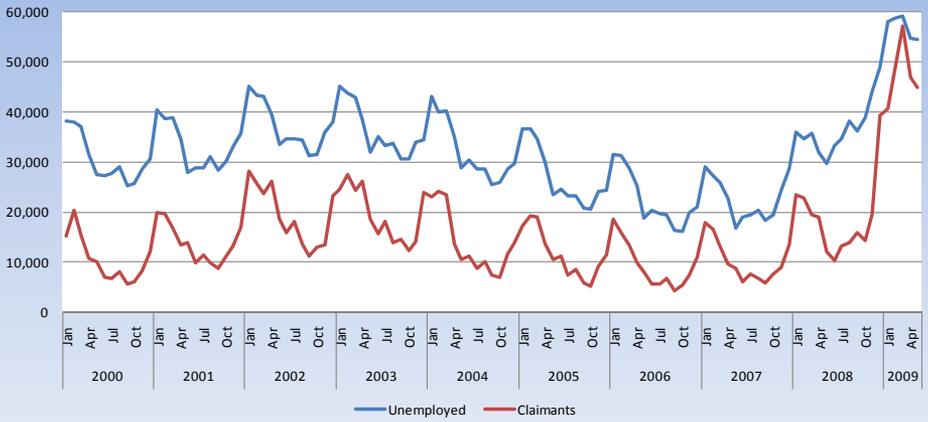
One month before the recession hit – November 2007 – Idaho had \$118 million in the state-held trust and \$200 million in the federally held trust – a total of \$318 million. What appeared to be a huge financial cushion was eaten away as the recession gained its hold on the economy in 2008. Idaho's 50,000 employers, paying record low tax rates that reflected the economic expansion of the previous three years, paid \$104 million in unemployment insurance taxes while the expanding ranks of the unemployed collected \$248 million in benefits.

This year began with a balance of \$80 million in the federal trust and \$118 million in the state-held portion. But record payments in excess of \$10 million a week from the beginning of February through mid-April rapidly depleted what was left of the cushion along with the \$58 million in employer tax payments and more than half the state-held reserve. By the end of May the federally held part of the trust was empty and the state-held part was down to just \$43 million.

That opened the door to securing interest-free federal loans that could preserve the remaining balance of the state-held part of the trust and the earnings made on its investment. The state borrowed \$33 million during June and the first week of July. The state-held portion of the trust was rebuilt to about \$75 million with \$32.3 million in stimulus funds accepted by the state for relatively modest unemployment benefit extensions.

While substantial, the tax rate increase for 2009 is not sufficient to offset the speed with which Idaho's economy deteriorated. Aggravating that was the recession's toll on the number of covered businesses and the employees and wages those businesses pay taxes on. Their tax rates are based on experience – the more claims by former employees, the higher the tax rates – and the tax is applied to the first \$33,200 each employee is paid this year. At the end of 2008, there were about 130 fewer Idaho businesses in the unemployment insurance system and 30,000 fewer employees. Total wages paid during the first three months of 2009 were nearly \$250 million less than paid in the same quarter of 2008. And that followed a wage decline of \$147 million in the fourth quarter of 2008 from the same quarter in 2007.

Monthly Unemployed, Benefit Claimants 2000-2009



The situation has further eroded since then.

Through the end of June, the state paid out over \$250 million in regular unemployment benefits, almost \$50 million more than it paid during all of 2008 – the previous record for regular benefit payments. Another \$92 million was paid in federally financed extended and supplemental benefits during the first half of this year.

At the same time, the fund took in just over \$60 million in employer tax payments. At the current rate, the state could approach paying three times as much in regular benefits as it receives in employer tax payments during 2009.

That means employers will see another substantial increase in their tax rates in 2010 and that will still not be enough to offset the need for the state to continue borrowing to make benefit payments.

Preliminary projections by department analysts indicate that Idaho will see only slow job growth after mid-2010 for another two and half years before job totals return to prerecession levels sometime in the first half of 2013. That will limit the number of workers and their wages on which taxes are paid, keeping tax receipts from catching up with benefit payments before 2012 if that soon.

That will lead to comparatively high tax rates and lower maximum weekly benefits for several years until the economy rights itself and the trust fund stabilizes.

The prolonged imbalance between receipts into the trust and benefit payments from the trust is the result of unexpected economic decline and the revision of the unemployment insurance financial system that both labor and business supported and the Legislature unanimously approved in 2005.

To keep more money in the hands of businesses so they could expand and raise wages, the revision essentially cut in half the target balance for the overall trust. The larger balance was seen as sufficient to support the unemployment insurance program through a recession lasting about 18 months. The new target balance – enough to weather a nine-month recession – was adopted on the generally accepted assumption at the time that recessions in the new American economy would be shorter and shallower than in the past.

With the target balance of the trust reduced, the financing mechanism was revamped to respond much more quickly to economic change. But at the same time some of the key economic statistics used to determine employer tax rates and maximum worker benefits are a year old. As a result tax rates dropped dramatically to historic lows in 2008 – even though the recession began in December 2007 – because the rates were based in part on wages paid during 2006 as Idaho’s expansion was reaching its peak. The same thing

was true in 2009. Tax rates were based on wages paid during 2007 when the economy was relatively strong until the final months of the year.

The length and depth of the recession may mean the state will be unable to repay all the money it borrows from the federal government by the end of 2010 when the interest-free period currently ends. But considering the number of other states and the amounts they are borrowing, Congress could extend the interest-free period, and if it doesn't, Idaho will have what remains in the state-held portion of the trust fund to cover any interest payments that are imposed. That will save employers the cost of having to cover the interest as well as repayment of the loan amounts.

See map on page 39 for a map showing the current status of unemployment insurance funds by state.

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

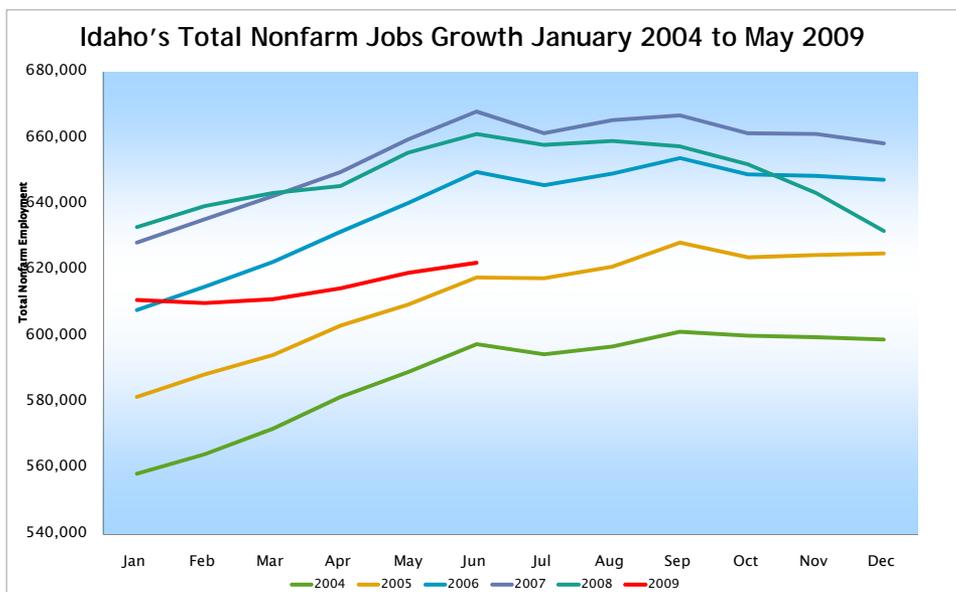
IDAHO'S NONFARM JOBS SHOW WEAK INCREASE IN JUNE

The increase in Idaho's nonfarm payroll jobs from in June was one of the weakest May-to-June increases on record, and the anemic job activity on a seasonal basis during the first half of 2009 leaves the search for the bottom of the current recession unresolved.

Based on preliminary estimates, June's nonfarm jobs totaled 622,200, 5.9 percent below June 2008 and 7 percent below the peak of 668,100 in June 2007. If this estimate is confirmed by actual payroll data developed at the end of 2009, the gap will eclipse the 5.5 percent year-to-year deficit Idaho experienced in February 1982. That was the deepest point of the double recessions of the early 1980s.

The 0.47 percent job increase in June – just 2,900 – from May's revised figures is only the fifth time that May-to-June job expansion has fallen below 1 percent since estimates of Idaho's nonfarm employment were established in 1939. The last time June job growth was weaker was in 1980 at 0.40 percent. There is no instance on record of Idaho experiencing negative growth in June.

All employment sectors experienced modest seasonal increases – most at about half the average over the past five years. The exceptions were manufacturing and government. Government's job decline was seasonal, reflecting the end of the school year. But manufacturing's loss of another 300 jobs completed a full year of month-to-month job losses. This sustained decline has pushed employment to levels below those last seen in 1992. A qualitative change must



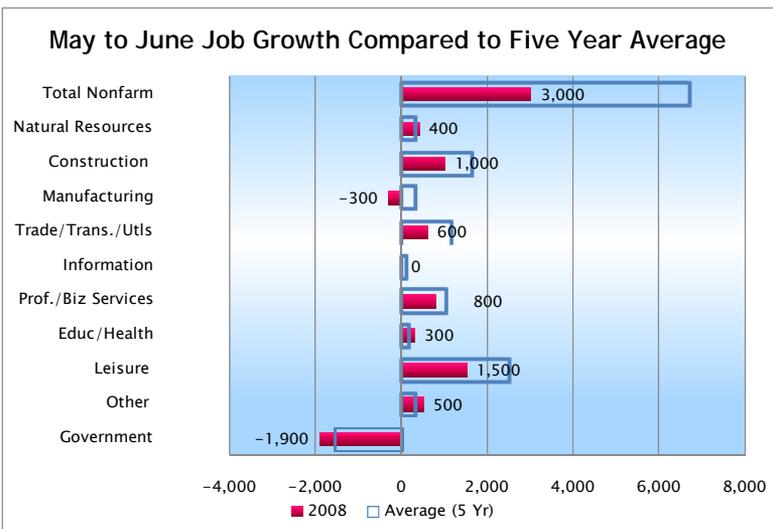
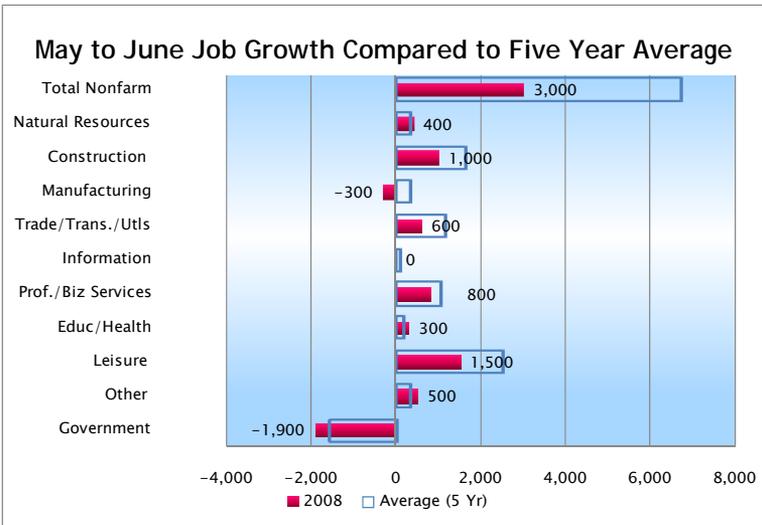
occur in the structure of the manufacturing sector before any thought of significant job growth can be entertained.

Construction added 1,000 jobs, a 2.5 percent seasonal increase against an average of 4.2 percent, and the 590 jobs added in the trade, transportation and utilities sector amounted to less than a half percent over May. The onset of summer provided a 2.4 percent job increase in leisure and hospitality, but that was far short of the seasonal June average of 4.2 percent.

May's nonfarm job estimate was revised upward by 1,000 to capture slight increases in construction, government and other services. This revision reduced May's year-to-year job deficit from 5.7 percent to 5.6 percent. A similar revision for June would decrease the gap with June 2008 to just under 5.8 percent – still above 1982. It would require a revision three times greater than May's to bring June's year-to-year deficit below the one Idaho posted during the severe recessions of the 1980s.

NOTE: Idaho's Nonfarm Jobs Report is an industry analysis incorporating research by the Idaho Department of Labor to track month-to-month rate of change in nonfarm jobs and capture an accurate jobs total for the Idaho economy and its specific sectors. It is revised quarterly and is based on a survey sample of employers and historical data. Current Employment Statistics data produced by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics do not reflect the Idaho research and analysis and can be found at www.bls.gov/ces.

*Craig Shaul, Research Analyst, Principal
(208) 332-3570, ext. 3201
craig.shaul@labor.idaho.gov*





Area and County Developments

PANHANDLE

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai & Shoshone counties

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

BENEWAH COUNTY

- It's always good news when an important employer is making improvements. It means they plan to stick around. So St. Maries residents took heart at the upgrades under way at Stimson Lumber's mill. The mill formerly owned by Regulus is installing a chip bin, an electrostatic precipitator on the wood-fired boiler and a bag house to control emissions from the planer mill. The new equipment will reduce particle emissions at some of the operations by 99 percent. Despite the improvements, increased production at the plant will result in a slight increase of emissions overall.
- The St. Maries school district recently accepted bids to install a wood pellet boiler at Heyburn Elementary School and put a new roof on the school's older wing. Shannon Industrial Contractors of Coeur d'Alene was awarded the boiler project estimated at \$298,000. The woody biomass heating unit is under construction by SolaGen Inc. at a cost of \$95,000 and is expected to be ready for installation in early August. T&T Roofing and Sheet Metal of Coeur d'Alene won the roofing contract for just over \$95,000.

BONNER COUNTY

- A new 83-room Holiday Inn Express will open at the end of July in Ponderay. Construction began last September. The hotel will offer high-speed wireless Internet and an indoor saltwater swimming pool.
- Two hundred years ago, Hudson Bay Company sent David Thompson and 16 other people to explore what now is northern Idaho. That summer, Thompson came to eastern Bonner County to an encampment of the Flathead, Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai and Kalispel Indians. Boundary, Bonner, and Kootenai counties all are planning some bicentennial commemorations.
- The health care sector continues to be healthy despite the U.S. recession. To help workers in the growing industry find uniforms locally, Catherine Murray opened Catie's Uniform Shoppe, a retail uniform store for the medical community. Located a block north of Life Care Center in Sandpoint, it offers a variety of brands, styles and sizes for both men and women.
- Zehn Technologies is Sandpoint's newest computer repair, sales and service business. Located downtown, it repairs all types of Apple computers and PCs.

BOUNDARY COUNTY

- As part of the National Geographic's Megafishes Project, aquatic ecologist Dr. Zeb Hogan and his television crew filmed the Kootenai Fish Hatchery in April. The Kootenai Tribe is doing its best to ensure the continuation of the white sturgeon population in the Kootenai River. The endangered species is among the world's largest freshwater fish and is only found between Bonnington Falls in British Columbia and Troy, Mont. Due to the dwindling food supply in the river caused by the construction of Libby Dam, there are only an estimated 1,000 to 1,500 sturgeon left in the river. Since the white stur-

geon are not yet able to reproduce in the wild, the Kootenai Tribe, the state of Idaho, the federal government and the Bonneville Power Administration have stepped in to collaborate to save the ancient species. “The Kootenai Tribal Sturgeon Hatchery is the best hatchery I've ever seen,” Zeb said. “It does an excellent job of artificially hatching fish and reintroducing them back into the river.”

KOOTENAI COUNTY

- San Francisco Sourdough Eatery, a restaurant chain headquartered in Coeur d’Alene, plans to open about 100 stores across the country in the next three years. Currently, it has about a dozen. The company is marketing primarily in western states.
- Western States Cat opened a \$10 million, 55,000-square-foot facility in Hayden early this summer, providing complete sales and service for the U.S. Highway 95 corridor. There are 10 full-service bays, built-in compressed air and oil delivery systems computerized with wireless transmitters that regulate and record types and amounts of oil products dispensed and an express hydraulic hose repair and welding shop. The facility has wash and fuel bays, a 10,000-square-foot warehouse and six cranes integrated into the building including a 10-ton overhead crane. Diesel truck and heavy construction equipment technicians are on-call around the clock.
- Red Lion Templin's Hotel on the River has more than 40 new boat slips this past year, spending \$650,000 to add two docks. Over the last four years, Templin's, the largest hotel in Post Falls, has added four docks and more than 90 slips.
- Twin Lakes Village Golf Club officially opened its newly-renovated clubhouse in June, allowing members and guests the chance to enjoy the view from the brand-new pro shop. The 35-year-old building’s facelift cost an estimated \$850,000.

Kathryn Tacke, Regional Economist
(208) 769-1558 ext. 3984
kathryn.tacke@labor.idaho.gov

NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO

Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce counties

REGION’S ECONOMY WEATHERS RECESSION

The national recession has taken a toll throughout north central Idaho, but the area is suffering a little less than the state or nation. The region was the only one in Idaho to experience employment growth between June 2008 and June 2009. The number of unemployed workers jumped 37.4 percent in that period, but that’s only half the increases at the state and national levels. Only eastern Idaho has a lower unemployment rate than the north central part of the state. Latah and Nez Perce counties have several large employers, which are relatively insulated from the national economy. With fewer job opportunities and many workers realizing they need more skills for the evolving job market, enrollments at the University of Idaho and Lewis-Clark State College are rising. Although reduced financial support from the state has forced cuts and hiring freezes, job losses at those two schools have not been extensive. The largest manufacturer in Nez Perce County is Clearwater Paper, whose paper products are famously recession-proof. The next largest manufacturer, ATK, makes one of the few products in higher demand these days than two years ago – ammunition. The Nez Perce Tribe and the region’s relatively large health care sector also help keep employment stable. Idaho and Clearwater counties have seen

Unemployment-Employment Data by Region

| <i>Seasonally Adjusted</i> | Unemployment Rate | | Employed Residents | | Growth in Emp. |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------|--------------------|---------|----------------|
| | Jun-09 | Jun-08 | Jun-09 | Jun-08 | |
| United States (thousands) | 9.5 | 5.6 | 140,196 | 145,891 | -3.9% |
| State of Idaho | 8.3 | 4.7 | 685,615 | 717,896 | -4.5% |
| Regions | | | | | |
| Panhandle-Coeur d'Alene | 8.9 | 5.1 | 96,990 | 101,187 | -4.1% |
| North Central- Lewiston | 6.2 | 4.6 | 46,095 | 45,614 | 1.1% |
| Southwestern-Boise | 10.1 | 5.3 | 287,440 | 309,684 | -7.2% |
| South Central-Twin Falls | 6.4 | 4.0 | 89,635 | 91,390 | -1.9% |
| Southeastern-Pocatello | 7.4 | 4.4 | 73,768 | 74,688 | -1.2% |
| Eastern-Idaho Falls | 5.7 | 3.5 | 91,686 | 95,333 | -3.8% |

their unemployment rates climb as U.S. housing starts have fallen to their lowest level since World War II. Fortunately, neither county is as dependent on the timber industry as it was in the early 1980s when depressed U.S. housing starts led to unemployment rates in both counties soaring above 20 percent.

GM, CHRYSLER END RELATIONSHIPS WITH FOUR LOCAL DEALERS

The recession already has reduced sales at some local automotive dealerships. Now recent moves by Chrysler and General Motors to handle bankruptcy are causing more job losses in the region.

In May, Chrysler attempted to eliminate 1,900 dealerships nationwide — about 25 percent. The only cut Chrysler sought in north central Idaho was Ambassador Auto in Moscow, where it discontinued the Jeep line at what is primarily a Subaru dealership. Despite losing the Chrysler affiliation, the dealership will continue to service Jeeps as it keeps selling Subarus and used cars.

General Motors sent letters terminating its relationship to 1,100 of its 6,000 dealers across the country. Rudolph's Buick Pontiac GMC in Lewiston, Gortsema Motors in Grangeville and Barnett-Thompson Chevrolet in Orofino were among those losing their affiliation with GM.

GM's letter to Rudolph's Buick Pontiac GMC, which has been in business for 50 years, said it could remain an affiliated dealer at least through September 2010 but GM would eventually like to have only one dealer in Lewiston. The city's other GM dealership is Tyler & Kelly Trademark Motors. Rudolph's plans to continue as an independent service center and is exploring other options.

Gortsema, a 70-year-old dealership that employs 20 people, plans to shift its focus to used cars, which have historically represented a majority of its sales. While the franchise agreement is in effect through September 2010, Gortsema will continue to perform GM warranty and shop work. Gortsema also provides services particularly important in a small town such as mechanical and body repairs along with car rentals.

After receiving his letter, Barnett-Thompson owner Denny Thompson decided to close the 82-year-old business June 30, putting six people out of work. Barnett-Thompson was recognized by Time Magazine as a quality dealer in 2007 for its longevity and profitability. The award also recognized Thompson's community involvement including his work to convince the Bank of Latah to open a branch in Orofino.

The relative economic stability of the Lewiston-Moscow area has made its dealerships perform better in recent months than most nationwide. Lewiston is a bright spot among the dealerships that Kendall Automotive Group operates in Oregon, Alaska and Idaho, Kendall President David Blewett told the Lewiston Tribune.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

IDAHO AND LEWIS COUNTIES

- Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter announced in June that four Idaho County projects were awarded \$130,405 in Gem Community Grants. Statewide, 15 projects received \$497,068. The package includes \$50,000 for construction of a turn lane on U.S. Highway 12 near Kamiah, allowing better access for the new Clearwater Builders Supply there; \$5,405 for power upgrades at the Elk City forest products incubator, allowing it to operate a new planer; \$50,000 for an engineering study of the whitewater park the city of Riggins hopes to open in a few years along the Little Salmon River; and \$25,000 so Idaho County can determine the feasibility of building a 40,000-square-foot hangar at the county airport. The hangar is intended to attract aviation-related businesses and allow for possible expansion of Anderson Aeromotive in Grangeville, which specializes in radial engine rebuilds and repair.
- The city of Craigmont received a \$9,500 Gem Community Grant to investigate the feasibility of opening a foundry. Gem Community Grants, an extension of the Idaho Rural Initiative, are designed to help communities with economic development. They are intended to create or preserve jobs in rural areas of Idaho counties and in cities with fewer than 10,000 residents.
- In the last 20 years, different kinds of farms have appeared in northern Idaho like Two Ravens Herbals about 20 miles east of Kooskia. Owners Meryl and James Flocchini both have educations in botanical medicine and sustainable agriculture. They produce organic fruit and vegetables along with wild and domestic medicinal herbs and herbal products. Their orchard currently yields apples, pears and plums, and they are experimenting with grapes and almonds. The Flocchins use the herbs they grow in teas, tinctures, oils, lotions and other personal products. The rest they gather from the surrounding national forest or from their neighbors’ properties. Most of Two Ravens Herbals are sold from the company’s Web site, but it also sells at the Moscow Food Co-op, health food stores in Grangeville and Kooskia and the Grangeville Farmers Market.
- The Canyon Area Bus Service, the non-profit organization serving Riggins, is expanding in response to a surge in demand for public transportation. It began offering on-demand service in September 2008 and currently provides shuttle service to Grangeville and McCall on alternating Wednesdays. A new 14-passenger bus with a wheelchair lift is being added in July, and the number and frequency of trips is being increased with trips to Lewiston and Boise being added. A full-time multi-modal transit facility is being planned and will include a dispatch center, administrative offices and a transportation information and education facility with computers and printed materials for public access. The expansion projects are funded by the Idaho Transportation Department’s Mobility and Access Pathways Program.
- From families throughout the Northwest, the Idaho Division of Tourism selected a family of four from Seattle to tour Idaho with film crews in tow to provide clips of Idaho’s great tourism opportunities. The film clips will be shown on the Internet and used in some television advertising. Adventures in Living is the Tourism Division’s way of tapping into the viral nature of interactive marketing and social media to stay competitive with other western states vying for tourism dollars. Dog Bark Park in Cottonwood was one of the stops the vacationing family made.

LATAH COUNTY

- Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter awarded a \$50,000 Gem Community Grant to the city of Moscow to develop a 65-acre light industrial park. The park will provide a suitable location for industrial development, creating an estimated 780 jobs.
- Washington State University in Pullman announced in mid-June that its new two-year budget cuts 360 jobs. The cuts help offset a \$54 million reduction in state financial support over the next two years. The university also raised tuition by 14 percent in each of the two years to cover much of the shortfall. Reduced employment at Washington State probably will translate into less retail and service spending in Moscow since many university workers live on the Idaho side of the border and many Pullman residents do much of their shopping at the greater variety of stores in downtown Moscow and its two major shopping centers.
- University of Idaho and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials recently signed an agreement to design a \$3.9 million ecosystem restoration project on Paradise Creek, which runs through and in many areas under Moscow. They will relocate the creek near its original bed, add natural vegetation and improve wildlife habitat both in and along the stream. The Army Corps allocated \$3.8 million in federal stimulus funds to pay for the bulk of the project. Construction is set to begin in a year and continue to the end of 2010.

NEZ PERCE AND ASOTIN, WASH., COUNTIES

- The city of Lewiston is using a \$77,205 Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation grant to install sinks with running water and flush toilets at the Southway boat ramp. Construction should start after steelhead season ends.
- ATK landed a contract with the French government with a potential value of more than \$14 million over four years. A quarter-million French police officers will be supplied with ammunition manufactured at ATK's Lewiston plant. After ATK laid off about 70 employees this winter, it employed about 850 people in Lewiston. Since April it has been hiring, and its employment has not only recovered but grown to 970.

Kathryn Tacke, Regional Economist
(208) 769-1558 ext. 3984
kathryn.tacke@labor.idaho.gov

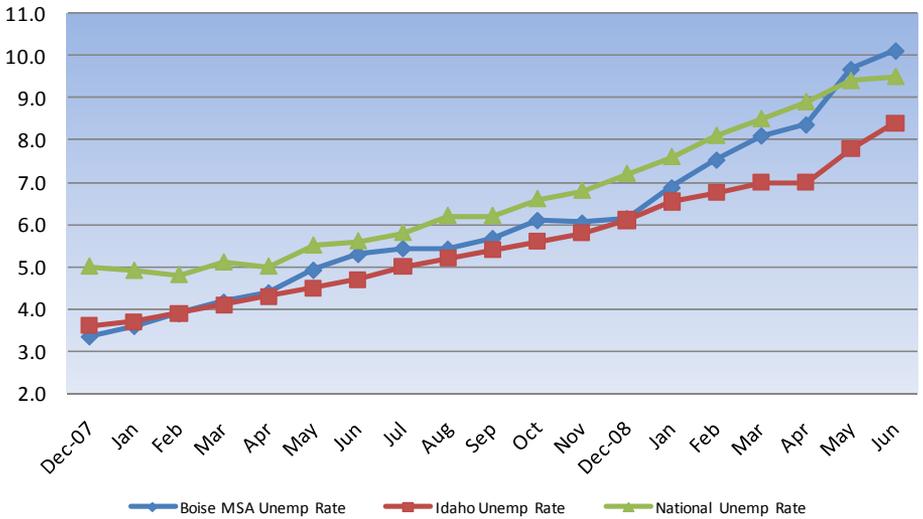
SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO

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

ECONOMIC TRENDS

The economy in the Boise metropolitan area did not show any sign of recovery in June. The unemployment rate increased four-tenths of a percentage point to 10.1 percent. This is the highest unemployment rate for the five-county area since it stood at 10.5 percent in April 1983. The metro labor force grew 2,500, but the ranks of the unemployed jumped by 1,500 to account for 60 percent of the increase. The unemployment rate has been rising steadily since it stood at just 2.2 percent in July 2007. The current rate is nearly double the 5.3 percent experienced in June 2008, reflecting the recession's significant impact. Figure 1 on page 11 shows the increase in the area's unemployment rate since the recession began in December 2007. In February 2008 the metro and state rates were identical at 3.9 percent. Since then the Boise area's rate has been rising more rapidly. For the last 18 months employment has been below the year-

Figure 1: Boise MSA, Idaho & National Unemployment Rates



earlier level with the gap in June approaching 21,000. The year-to-year increase in the number of jobless workers has continually widened from just 99 in October 2007 to over 13,000 in June, the largest year-over-year increase on record.

Since the recession began, the metropolitan area has lost more than 42,000 workers. Over 20,000 joined the ranks of the unemployed while the other 22,000 either left the area or dropped out of the labor force. During this same period the unemployment rate increased 7.4 percentage points. Figure 2 shows the loss of people working compared to the decline in the labor force. Of the nearly 32,000 workers who have lost their jobs since June 2008, 66 percent are in the Boise metropolitan area, more evidence of how hard the recession has hit the area. Nearly half of the increase in the number of unemployed workers statewide was in metropolitan Boise.

Figure 2: Boise MSA Labor Force and Employment

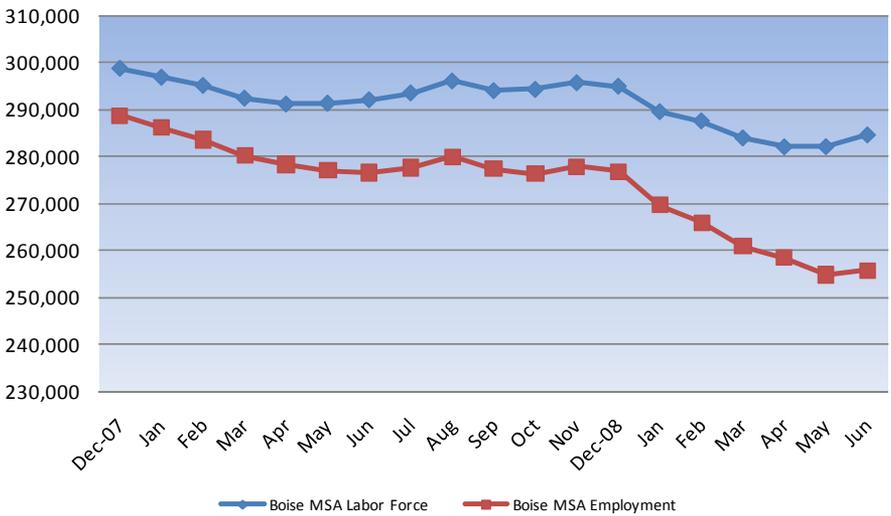


Table 2 on page 12 shows the monthly unemployment rates for each of the 10 counties in southwestern Idaho. Traditionally, Adams and Valley counties have had the area's highest unemployment rates. However, in June Canyon, Gem, Payette and Washington counties joined Adams in reporting double-digit unemployment rates. The diversity of the southwestern Idaho region is evident in the unemployment rates in June. The highest rate was in Canyon County at

Table 2: Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Data of Southwestern Idaho Counties

| Seasonally Adjusted Data COUNTY / AREA | Jun 2009 | | | | Jun 2008 | | | |
|---|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | Civilian Labor Force | # Unem- ployed | % Unem- ployed | Total Employment | Civilian Labor Force | # Unem- ployed | % Unem- ployed | Total Employment |
| Ada | 188,910 | 17,796 | 9.4 | 171,114 | 194,615 | 9,595 | 4.9 | 185,020 |
| Adams | 2,265 | 242 | 10.7 | 2,023 | 2,203 | 141 | 6.4 | 2,062 |
| Boise | 3,302 | 212 | 6.4 | 3,091 | 3,494 | 151 | 4.3 | 3,342 |
| Canyon | 81,392 | 9,915 | 12.2 | 71,477 | 82,420 | 5,135 | 6.2 | 77,286 |
| Elmore | 11,571 | 893 | 7.7 | 10,678 | 11,950 | 649 | 5.4 | 11,302 |
| Gem | 6,856 | 739 | 10.8 | 6,117 | 7,071 | 457 | 6.5 | 6,614 |
| Owyhee | 4,102 | 144 | 3.5 | 3,958 | 4,437 | 158 | 3.6 | 4,279 |
| Payette | 10,838 | 1,180 | 10.9 | 9,658 | 10,518 | 571 | 5.4 | 9,947 |
| Valley | 5,283 | 479 | 9.1 | 4,804 | 5,436 | 322 | 5.9 | 5,114 |
| Washington | 5,047 | 527 | 10.4 | 4,520 | 4,969 | 250 | 5.0 | 4,719 |
| Boise | 106,702 | 9,354 | 8.8 | 97,349 | 110,347 | 5,002 | 4.5 | 105,345 |
| Caldwell | 18,064 | 2,443 | 13.5 | 15,621 | 18,088 | 1,184 | 6.5 | 16,904 |
| Meridian | 32,084 | 2,982 | 9.3 | 29,102 | 32,892 | 1,399 | 4.3 | 31,493 |
| Nampa | 36,455 | 4,539 | 12.4 | 31,917 | 36,723 | 2,185 | 5.9 | 34,538 |
| Statewide | 749,200 | 62,700 | 8.4 | 686,500 | 753,655 | 35,759 | 4.7 | 717,896 |

12.2 percent and the lowest in Owyhee County at 3.5 percent. Owyhee County was the only one in the region to report an unemployment rate lower than one year ago.

Nonfarm payroll jobs were up just 200 in the metropolitan area in June. With total jobs at just 255,100 in June, the metro area has lost more than 20,000 jobs since June 2008. Government was the only sector to post job gains over the year – 1,400 with 1,100 of them in public schools. There were very small increases of 100 or 200 jobs in other nondurable goods manufacturing, general merchandise retailing, and transportation and warehousing. All other sectors reported job losses. The largest were 4,400 in administrative and support services, 3,100 in computer manufacturing, 2,500 in retail other than general merchandising and food, 1,700 in entertainment and recreation and 1,600 in health care. Most other sectors posted losses of less than 1,000.

The concern in the Boise metropolitan area is this year-over-year job erosion. As the summer season begins, the lack of seasonal increases in construction, accommodations, landscaping and other sectors that hire temporary summer help will continue to drive the recession.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

ADA COUNTY

- A tiny new chip made by Micron Technology will allow digital devices like mobile phones with photo and video, MP3 players and smart phones to store more items in less space. A Micron subsidiary, Lexar Media Inc., will use the new chips in its flash-memory cards and USB flash drives. The 16-gigabyte version of the new chip is about one-third as large as one key on a computer keyboard.
- Exergy Development Group says it will construct 14 wind parks across southern Idaho that will produce 228 megawatts of electricity and put Idaho in the top 20 states for wind power. The Boise-based company will create 275 jobs during the seven months of construction and 22 permanent jobs. It is the largest wind development project to date in the state. Exergy already has a wind park at Fossil Gulch near Hagerman. These parks will be built in Elmore, Cassia, Lincoln and Bingham counties. The new wind parks will produce enough electricity to power about 60,000 homes.
- Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter recently announced that 57 jobs at the Idaho Air National Guard have been restored. The squadron has been charged with retrofitting half of the nation's A-10 Warthog combat aircraft with new high technology equipment. This could open the door for similar work on other military equipment. The governor said that the state will do all it can to support the concept of using Gowen Field as a central depot, efficiently putting the Air National Guard's key equipment and Idaho people back to work.
- Boise Mayor Dave Bieter announced the creation of a new business incubator to support local alternative energy startups. The "Green House," likely to open later this year in a city-owned building downtown, will offer office space and support services like free legal and accounting help for startup green businesses. The mayor compared the "Green House" to the successful WaterCooler business incubator for encouraging new businesses.
- Inovus and Alloway have teamed up to win the contract to retrofit 725 historic streetlights in Boise with LED lighting. The \$446,000 project, financed with money from the federal stimulus package, is expected to protect 15 current jobs and create 10 to 12 new ones.
- The Boise Public Library is hiring 20 support staff, in part to man its branch that opened in June. There will be eight new library pages to shelve and retrieve books, starting at \$8.58 an hour and working 19 hours a week; a full-time and two part-time library assistants at \$11.12 an hour for 19 to 25 hours a week to help people use the computers and find books and other materials; and a part-time specialist at \$10.19 an hour to help patrons check books in and out and assist with library programming and clerical tasks.
- A Boise French fry restaurant learned that using the phrase "Idaho potato," "Idaho fry" or anything similar in business could involve a legal battle. Idaho Fry Co. had to change its name because Potato Commission officials found that the business' moniker violates its trademark on "Idaho Potato" and similar phrases. It has until August to change the name.
- In an anonymous Garden City office park, Camille Doughty is pushing discarded wine bottles through a diamond blade wet saw, and the bottoms are smoothed down to make drinking glasses. This small factory is a young non-profit called Sustainable Futures – a spinoff of the Green Foundations Building Center, an environmentally conscious building supplier with a storefront next door. Dr. Lisa Scales created Sustainable Futures to help

women in the criminal justice system rebuild their lives and redefine sustainability for women as they repurpose wine bottles into glassware that local restaurants are beginning to use. The Sustainable Futures concept has drawn a unique following from enlightened business owners, hippies, yogis and self-proclaimed luminaries to professors and even bureaucrats. All of the women who come to work in the glass shop are on work release from the state prison system's work center in Boise. But the women's salaries are paid initially from a federal workforce training grant that requires some programming. "The thing about work experience is there is some job training that goes on, but equally important to that is what they are learning about showing up to work on time, having the right attitude," said Kristyn Roan, an area manager at the Idaho Department of Labor who also sits on the Sustainable Futures board of directors. And Scales wants her workers to succeed so she can hire them when they are released and eventually pay them a living wage.

- Even die-hard anchovy lovers might call pizza and sushi an unnatural pairing. But since October, Brett Nunez, owner of Superb Sushi, has been serving his signature Crane Creek and Suckafish rolls in a corner of LuLu's Fine Pizza at 2594 Bogus Basin Road. Nunez had been serving his sushi to the lunch crowd in Ridley's grocery store next door until the store closed last fall. Faced with losing a presence in the neighborhood, Nunez was open to creative solutions. As it happens, LuLu's pizza next door was facing a crisis of its own. Diners were dwindling as the financial sector collapsed, and prices for flour and cheese, a pizza parlor's heart and soul, were spiking. Pushed by economic conditions, Jim Balis, co-owner of LuLu's, did what many business owners are doing to survive – he cut overhead by partnering up. Some business people are finding their partnerships lead to more than just cost savings. They're also bringing in new clients and fostering new ways of thinking about business. Restaurants, shoe stores and home decor companies are pulling together, sharing space, resources and customers. Balis and Nunez said their cooperative arrangement works because each works in the interests of the other.
- The Braille Transcription Center at the Idaho Correctional Center south of Boise began in 2002 at the request of Bob Hall and another former inmate. Inmates quietly slouch over banks of computers, pecking away at keyboards, constantly referring to junior high school chemistry books, sheets of music and children's stories. They're making those reading materials accessible to blind Idahoans. The prisoners admit they have committed serious crimes. But they see every letter they transcribe as a step closer to redemption. The center is one of 23 such programs in the United States. Hall has glaucoma and feared going blind. Using a manual Braille machine from his prison cell, he earned his certification to transcribe through the Library of Congress. With help from the prison, the Idaho State School for the Deaf and Blind and the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, the program got equipment and materials. Now inmates spend at least six hours a day transcribing. So far, the program has certified 27 inmates, and there are 17 inmates in the program now. Since 2002, the inmates have transcribed more than 300,000 pages of textbooks, tests, ballots, hymn books, novels, children's literature and even labels for the Boise Towne Square mall. When they get out of prison, they can earn money with their transcription expertise. Of the inmates who have received Braille instruction and been released into the community, none have been reincarcerated.
- The Meridian Development Corp. board of directors has approved the creation of a downtown business incubator in the old Commercial Newspaper Service building downtown. The owners are restoring the building's historic

façade. The development corporation will lease the entire ground floor for the incubator at \$2,725 a month and then sublet space to small entrepreneurs who now have to work out of their homes or coffee shops. The incubator is expected to open by Aug. 1.

- The median assessed value for residential real estate in Ada County as of Jan. 1, 2009, was \$187,500 - down 12 percent from \$212,800 a year ago, according to the assessor's report. Countywide assessments have fallen the past two years. People who purchased their homes in 2005 and 2006 were able to take advantage of skyrocketing home values during the housing boom. Those who purchased in 2007 or 2008 have seen their equity drop and now may owe more than the house is worth, which means they can't refinance or sell the home without taking a loss. But falling home assessments will not necessarily translate into lower property taxes. The amount a homeowner pays in property taxes is determined by the taxing districts as they set their budgets. There are 44 taxing districts in Ada County, including the county, cities, emergency medical services, library, cemetery, mosquito abatement and irrigation districts.
- When Jim Trounson founded Medical Management Inc. in 1977, the main office was near downtown Boise. But when the company went digital 10 years ago, Trounson used technology to upend his business model for managing 17 hospitals and clinics in the Northwest and Alaska. He closed the office and began operating in the virtual world, shredding eight Dumpsters' worth of paperwork and saving \$15,000 a month. Trounson and his team run the company from anywhere in the world using laptop computers and smartphones. Still based in Boise, the MedMan corporate team maintains a small meeting space downtown outfitted with a 50-inch video monitor for teleconferencing, a half-dozen easy chairs with integrated desktops and a Pleo robotic dinosaur for entertainment. MedMan provides clients with a professional manager on site but also backs them up with a staff of professionals with expertise in health law, coding, finance and marketing.
- Delsa's Ice Cream Parlour, a Boise institution beloved for its ice cream and dating to 1961, recently reopened after being closed for 18 months, and people waited in line to get in. It closed in 2007 after its owners declared bankruptcy. The owners of Boise's Capri Restaurant bought it in December and have extensively renovated it. In addition to ice cream made with the original Delsa's recipes, the shop serves homemade soups and other specialties, for which the Capri is known. A staff of 24, including some former Delsa's employees, handles the business.
- Gem Community Grants have been awarded for \$25,000 to the city of Star for a Greenbelt Master Plan, \$12,000 to the city of McCall to design a business park and \$50,000 to the city of Parma for airport infrastructure.
- Telemetric Corp. has been sold to Sensus, based in Raleigh, N.C. Telemetric sells distribution-automation systems to help electric utilities monitor and control equipment on their electric distribution systems. Its employees will remain in Boise. The additional resource and worldwide reach of Sensus will accelerate growth. Sensus, which reported \$806 million in sales in its latest fiscal year, helps electric, water and gas utilities meter usage and collect data. Telemetric was the first company financed by Highway 12 Ventures in Boise, the state's largest venture-capital firm.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture will invest nearly \$10 million in Treasure Valley Forest Products in Ada County to set up a wood-pellet mill.

ADAMS COUNTY

- Adams County has received money through the federal stimulus package for a variety of projects:
 - \$135,000 to the Adams County Health Center to increase capacity for patients with little or no insurance coverage and \$355,000 to upgrade facilities, purchase new medical equipment and complete the tele-radiology system.
 - \$500,000 to overlay 4.2 miles of Indian Valley Road.
 - \$2.5 million to Evergreen Forest Products for construction of three dry kilns at the mill that will add six jobs. The mill currently employs about 50 people. The new kilns will improve the mill's chances of competing with larger, better-funded mills. The new kilns will allow Evergreen to dry the boards locally rather than shipping them to Kooskia.
 - \$4.5 million to the Payette National Forest for seven fuels-reduction projects – five in the New Meadows Ranger District and two in the Council Ranger District. Overall, the projects involve the commercial sale of 3.6 million cubic feet of timber and the chipping and removal of 34,100 tons of biomass.
- The Council Valley Rural Fire Department's \$25,000 override levy has passed. The money will help the department pay off its portion of the new Emergency Services Building while maintaining its normal operations. Once the building is finished and fully paid off, the levy will be discontinued.
- The Alpine Store on U.S. Highway 95 in Indian Valley has been remodeled. Open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week, the store has a full line of groceries, a full-service deli with grinders, salads and desserts. It also has automotive and sporting goods and meat locker rentals. Fuel and meat processing will be available in the near future.
- Two Council High School students claimed ribbons in a machine-quilted quilt competition in Salt Lake that drew entries from as far as Germany. Tyler Shelton entered his Rodeo Round-up in shades of green and gold, earning second place and \$300. Tony Randall entered an original design with over 1,000 pieces, claiming third place and \$200. Throughout the year, students at the high school designed and created quilts.

BOISE COUNTY

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture will invest \$3 million in the Garden Valley school system to convert the school's heating system to a biomass-fueled plant.

CANYON COUNTY

- General Motors has notified a Larry Miller Pontiac Buick GMC that it plans to end the dealer's contract in October as the giant automaker restructures. The Caldwell dealership will still sell Fords, Lincolns and Mercurys. It has been a mainstay in the Boise market for the Salt Lake-city based company. Larry Miller has been in Caldwell since 1997 when it purchased Wolf Automotive.
- The 2009 property assessments in Canyon County were even grimmer than in neighboring Ada County. Six of the 12 school districts saw valuations decline more than 20 percent. The 27,000 homes in the Nampa School District took the biggest hit, falling on average 29 percent to a median value of \$120,700 last Jan. 1. Homeowners in the Wilder School District saw a decline of just 5.4 percent. The median value for the thousand homes in that area began the year at \$110,900. The fall-off in home prices had been expected because of the decline in housing sales and the growing number of foreclosures and short sales. The downturn has left many homeowners

without enough equity to refinance. One company reported that about 70 percent of its appraisal business now is foreclosures, bank-owned sales and short sales where a lender agrees to accept less than mortgage balance. The effect on property taxes paid by Canyon County homeowners will depend on how many of the 61 taxing districts in the county decide to raise their budgets for the 2010 fiscal year. By law, the taxing districts can raise their budgets by 3 percent a year, plus a percentage for new construction.

- The Sorrento Lactalis cheese factory in Nampa is launching a \$50 million expansion to boost production capacity. The plant, long known as the Swiss Village Cheese Factory, will add about 50 permanent jobs when the expansion is complete. About 250 construction jobs will also be created. The cheese factory was once owned by the J.R. Simplot Co.
- Sleep with Grace opened a third valley location in Nampa in the Treasure Valley Marketplace. The store specializes in providing special foam technology mattresses. Other stores are in Boise and Meridian.
- Mama's Cocina y Granados Bakery combines two longtime forces in the Nampa Hispanic culinary scene. Maria Martinez, the cook, and her husband owned and operated several Mexican restaurants in the area for nearly 30 years. Baker Juan Grandaos was the former baker at Rita's Bakery in Nampa. The new restaurant offers a full Mexican restaurant menu and a full bakery menu.
- Pearson's Twice Sold Tales has reopened in downtown Nampa. The book store, a fixture in Nampa for nearly 20 years, was purchased last winter. After six months of cleaning, reorganizing and expanding, local bookworms can once again find a variety of books ranging from arts and crafts to history, mystery and Westerns including vintage and out-of print titles.
- Catwalk Consignment Boutique in downtown Nampa was opened recently by a former real estate agent. The boutique specializes in clothing and accessories, including purses, jewelry and shoes for women and teenage girls.
- Whiskey River, a Western-themed bar, opened in Nampa at the former Cowgirls Saloon location with a similar country music atmosphere. It will offer a little of everything – karaoke on Tuesdays, live music on Thursdays, DJ music on Fridays and Saturdays, along with broadcasts of NFL games and Ultimate Fighting matches.
- The economic downturn has made Cattails Salon in Caldwell a reality for a mother-daughter duo. When a local spa and salon appeared for sale, the two grabbed it, retained the 13 former employees and opened for business. The salon offers a wide variety of services from haircuts and full body waxing to eyelash/eyebrow tinting and massages.
- Therapeutic Associates, a physical therapy practice with clinics throughout the Northwest, has expanded to Nampa. The clinic emphasizes orthopedics with a focus on biomechanical analysis of the upper and lower extremities. It also provides athletic enhancement treatment with emphasis on proper running and cycling techniques. Therapeutic Associates was the medical provider for the Ironman 70.3 Boise and has two clinics in Boise.
- Eyemart Express opened in Nampa's Treasure Valley Marketplace as part of an aggressive 30-store expansion into small and medium markets. The one-hour optical care provider has an in-store optical lab and a large selection of brand-name frames.
- Macy's, Sports Authority and Idaho Athletic Center are taking shape at the Nampa Gateway Center, a 104-acre development along Interstate 84 in

Nampa. Currently the center is home to JC Penney. It is anticipated that the three new facilities will be open for the holiday shopping season.

- Miles of railcars are parked in Nampa, reflecting the nationwide economic downturn as Union Pacific Railroad experiences a decrease in business. Railcars are used to ship lumber, other home materials, home furnishings and automobiles. Unlike many businesses, the railroad cannot sell off assets. It has to hang on to the cars for times when business rebounds. Union Pacific began by storing cars in less populated areas, but as the number grew, up to 70,000 nationwide, that became more difficult. The railroad has spent more than \$12 million on track improvements between Nampa and Pocatello since early April. Crews have replaced more than 66,000 ties on 35 miles of double track and renewed the road surfaces at 55 crossings.
- Canyon County Motor Vehicles and Driver's License offices began closing at 4 p.m. on Wednesdays. The Treasurer's Office will close Fridays at 4 p.m. The early closings were called for by the county commission in May to shorten the work week by an hour – called the Employee Appreciation Hour – to compensate for the 2.5 percent pay reduction. The early closings will continue through Sept. 30 to help reconcile the county's budget.
- Norfleet Development in Caldwell received high Energy Star honors on its recently completed office and warehouse. It ranks in the top five percentile in terms of energy efficiency, earning enough points to obtain the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Platinum rating. That is the highest rating from the U.S. Green Building Council. Once the final certification occurs, it will be the 18th structure in the world to obtain the rating. The warehouse is one of 36 Energy Star-rated buildings in Idaho, but only one of two in Caldwell.
- Boise State University's Selland College of Applied Technology was transferred to the new College of Western Idaho in July by the State Board of Education. The transfer of the programs makes the new school a comprehensive community college. The programs are Workforce Development/Training, Adult Basic Education and Professional/Technical Education. A new president was also named. Berton L. Glandon took over the community college in July. Glandon served as the president of Arapahoe Community College in Colorado since 2002 but was the president of Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario, Ore., prior to that.

ELMORE COUNTY

- The Tipanuk Fire District is no more. Voters overwhelmingly dissolved the district by a 62-11 margin, effective Dec. 31. That will give the district time to complete its operations and dispose of equipment including a fire truck. Any money after the debts have been paid will go to the Mountain Home Highway District.
- The Richard McKenna Charter High School alternative energy class in Mountain Home wants to bring a wind turbine to the school. Securing the Skystream 3.7 will cost about \$15,000. The school hopes to get \$3,000 to \$5,000 in donations or grants. Once completed, the turbine will power the school's 30 computers and 20 percent of the school's lighting. It is anticipated that the project should be completed between by next spring.
- Idaho's first commercial wind farm located between Boise and Mountain Home will donate its turbines to the College of Southern Idaho and Idaho State University's Energy Systems Technology and Education Center. The schools will use the turbines to train technicians. Idaho State will refurbish one of the two turbines it receives to generate power near the campus.

- Winger's began construction on a new restaurant in Mountain Home in June. It is known for wings but also features a full menu. Operation is set for fall with 35 employees.

GEM COUNTY

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture will invest \$4 million to help complete construction of a mill in Gem County. The department says the work will result in "increased value of biomass generated during forest restoration projects, the removal of economic barriers to using small diameter trees and woody biomass, and generation of renewable energy from woody biomass."

OWYHEE COUNTY

- Silver Falcon Mining purchased 20 acres near War Eagle Mountain. The company will move its milling operation from Melba to the Murphy area by September, cutting costs in half. Plans for the 2,400-square-foot warehouse have been approved. Silver Falcon Mining is an exploration and development company specializing in gold and silver mining properties in North America. The company acquired the rights to develop and operate the mines of GoldCorp Holdings on War Eagle Mountain on the Owyhee Gold Trend of the Silver City Mining District. Those mines have produced approximately \$270 million in gold and silver to date.
- Diamond B Group moved from Star to Homedale. The company is an architecture, construction management and interior design business handling everything from multimillion-dollar hotels to dog houses.
- Idaho Power opened the C.J. Strike Wildlife Management Area headquarters near Jack's Creek just south of Bruneau in July. It houses offices for the biologist in charge of environmental affairs and an employee of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. As part of the mitigation for licensing of C.J. Strike Dam, Idaho Power was required to establish a 3,300-acre wildlife management area in the 1960s. In 2006, as part of the mitigation for the 2004 relicensing of the dam, Idaho Power was directed to enhance the area and assume responsibility for the preserve.

PAYETTE COUNTY

- Payette was named as one of the top 200 list of best cities for outdoorsman in the county. Outdoor Life released the rankings from its second annual survey. Payette was 67th. Towns were ranked on available sporting opportunities and quality of life. Payette was fifth of six Idaho cities to make the list. Other cities were Idaho Falls at three, Pocatello at five, Hailey at 32, Coeur d'Alene at 53 and Orofino at 76.
- Details Done Right opened in Payette, offering automobile detailing and window tinting and replacement.
- Pick & Pack grocery in Fruitland was destroyed by fire in early July. The fire began in the deep-fat fryer. The interior of the building was gutted, but there did not appear to be structural damage. The business employed four people.

VALLEY COUNTY

- JBeck at Home is a new home accessories boutique located in McCall. The store features a wide selection of home furnishing, art and accessories that are designed and created by the owners. Most of the pieces in the store are one of a kind.
- McCall Commerce Center will be the first eco-friendly commercial building in McCall. Initially it will house three artist studios and one office. The building

will include photovoltaic panels to offset energy costs, a holding pond to conserve runoff water and landscaping that focuses on local plants to minimize irrigation. The new building will eventually house five additional studios and a space for retail, office or light manufacturing.

- The Cascade Aquarium, an outdoor aquarium in Fischer Park in McCall, opened in June. Three years in the building, it allows visitors to see aquatic organisms in a natural setting. Educational information about fish life cycles and fish species identification is provided. The aquarium's 10,000 gallon water volume is exchanged about every four hours. Excess water cascades from the aquarium into a man-made creek channel running into Fischer Pond. The pumped water is fed through an aeration column before it is introduced to the bottom of the aquarium.
- Operation control of the Tamarack Resort has reverted to the original owners after Credit Suisse Group told a state judge that it was ending funding for the court-appointed receiver running the resort. The resort still owes a lender group led by Credit Suisse \$300 million on a construction loan. A major concern is the upkeep of the facilities. The owners still hope to find a new investor. Tamarack opened in 2004 about 90 miles north of Boise, but since early 2008 it has been mired in deepening financial trouble. Tamarack mothballed operations in March. In a separate lawsuit, Bank of America Corp. seeks to repossess the Wildwood and Buttercup ski lifts because of missed lease payments.

Janell Hyer, Regional Economist Supervisor
(208) 332-3570 ext. 3220
janell.hyer@labor.idaho.gov

SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO

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

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

BLAINE COUNTY

- Jane's, a paper and office supply store at Giacobbi Square in Ketchum, has closed. Owner Doug Brown cited increased local and regional competition, high rent, the recession, the economic impacts of the 2007 Castle Rock Fire, bank refinancing challenges and "paying too much for the business." The Jane's Paper Place business was established 25 years ago. Brown and his wife Robin bought the business about five years ago including retail locations in Ketchum and Hailey.
- Blaine County posted record rainfall in June with 5 ½ inches. Average precipitation for June is 1½ inches. The combination of record rains and fires that burned away vegetation caused erosion particularly harmful to residents and travelers on Warm Springs Road. Problems are expected to persist through the winter when the potential for avalanches will also increase.

TWIN FALLS COUNTY

- Researchers at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service Laboratory near Kimberly are undertaking a 12-month study of a dozen south central Idaho dairies to determine how much water cows use. The \$225,000 study is funded by the Idaho Dairymen's Association and supervised by the Idaho Department of Water Resources. Dairymen maintain that the average dairy cow uses 29 gallons of water daily while the Idaho Department of Water Resources believes that figure is closer to 70 gallons a day. The study will not be considered statistically valid because it

involves only 21 percent of the region's dairies, but it will provide substantially more data on the potential of using dairy water to recharge the aquifer or for irrigation.

- The Wal-Mart Supercenter has finally opened in Twin Falls. For years nearby neighbors objected to the 24-hour store and the traffic it would draw to the area. The store has less inventory and more spacious aisles with added emphasis on name-brands to appeal to a more selective consumer. To show Wal-Mart's "commitment to communities in which it operates," the Wal-Mart Foundation will donate \$18,000 to various local organizations including the Crisis Center of Magic Valley, Idaho Food Bank, Magic Valley Rehabilitation Services, Mercy Housing, the Magic Valley Humane Society and Valley Housing Coalition. The organizations will be receiving their donations in a check presentation at the grand-opening celebration.
- Select Source has relocated and moved from a specialty construction retail store to a hardware store serving the Kimberly and southeastern Twin Falls areas. The national company is not widely known in Idaho.
- Kimberly Nurseries retail and garden supply has closed. The mix of services and products has changed over the last century since the business first opened in south central Idaho. The emphasis is now on landscaping, irrigation and bulk products, which encompasses close to 70 percent of sales. Some employees will transfer to that side of the business. Owner Dave Wright is considering options for future development of the site.
- A ribbon cutting ceremony was held by the Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce for PBS Van Tours. The company offers daily trips to Hagerman Valley, Phantom Falls and the City of Rocks.
- Renegade Classics Outlet store has opened a branch in Twin Falls, selling motorcycling accessories, equipment and clothing. The franchise's corporate office is in Sacramento, Calif.
- Nature's Retreat Spa opened its themed rooms for treatments in May. The owner is a certified massage therapist, and themes for rooms include the seashore, forest and mountain cabin.

CAMAS COUNTY

- Valley Entertainment plans to mix the old with the new for the newly proposed Soldier Mountain Lodge. The original lodge, built in 1948, was destroyed in an electrical fire in March. Surfaces on the outside patio will be pavers rather than wood decking for better traction and maintenance. There will be an emphasis on energy conservation by using solar energy while capturing the mountain vistas through the expansive windows. Plans are for the lodge to be ready for the start of 2009-2010 ski season.



Elevation drawing of the proposed new Soldier Mountain Lodge. *Source: Valley Entertainment Group.*



The original Soldier Mountain Lodge, which burned down in March, was built in 1948.

MINIDOKA AND CASSIA COUNTIES

- The Minidoka Joint School District donated the north campus of the old Heyburn Elementary School to the city for public use. The building currently houses an art collection for the Alumni Association, which will remain.
- The Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting to open the Multipurpose Center at Paul Elementary School.
- The Idaho Regatta, undeterred by this year's gloomy economic climate, came into Burley for the 33rd year with its normal panache and high decimal wailing from engines on the river. This event brings in close to \$5 million to the economy. Last year's event sold 3,000 tickets at \$25 a pop.

GOODING COUNTY

- Gooding hosted the first annual Gooding Heritage Gathering and Ranch Hand Rodeo. The celebration of the West features a rodeo each night, cattle herding down Main Street, cowboy poetry and lore around a campfire, a Dutch oven cooking contest and a fund-raising duck race down the Big Wood River.

Jan Roeser, Regional Economist
(208) 769-1558 ext. 3984
jan.roeser@labor.idaho.gov

SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO

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

ECONOMIC TRENDS

Metropolitan Pocatello's unemployment rate soared nearly two percentage points in June from May's 6.3 percent to 8.2 percent. More workers joined the unemployment lines while workers who have been idle for an extended period dropped out of the labor force because job prospects are so slim, resulting in the biggest one-month rate increase since July 1982. The rate jumped from 8.9 percent to 11.5 percent in the heart of that decade's double-dip recession. The rate in June 2008 was 5 percent, making the year-over-year increase the largest since September 1986, when the rate at 11.9 percent stood four points higher than a year earlier.

The number of jobs in the metro area remained essentially unchanged from May. An increase of 90 jobs on the production side of the economy was offset by the loss of 80 service sector jobs. In services, the end of school reduced public education employment by 540, but that was partially offset by other agencies adding 180 jobs in the form of wildfire personnel, recreationists and other seasonal activities.

Compared to a year ago, the impact of the national recession was evident. Goods production shed 380 jobs, nearly all of them in construction, while service-sector jobs plunged 920. The majority of the loss came in retail, transportation, warehousing and government administration.

CHANGES IN LABOR FORCE, FED POLICIES CLOSELY CONNECTED

Most economists agree that growth in Idaho and the United States depends on labor, capital, natural resources and entrepreneurship. They are the four components of production – workers, equipment and financing, land and water and the initiative and innovation to effectively and profitably pool those resources.

It is futile to claim one component is more or less important because each contributes to nearly every facet of production and is uniquely linked to supply and demand. Labor, however, involves every working person in the state, nation and world.

People renting their time and talent to others is much the same as equipment or land being rented. Often considered a stagnant factor, the local labor force – those with jobs and those still looking – is actually in constant flux. It changes in size, skills, education, experience in response to the evolving demand for specific goods or services. As skills are developed, the value of workers rises because they enhance the production process, making it more efficient. But there are questions about the belief that workers in the United States can move anywhere to find a new job or get additional training. In reality workers are hesitant to relocate for many reasons – distance from families or the likelihood with so many dual-income families that one spouse would lose a job. This hesitancy to relocate slows the economy by keeping people unemployed longer even as jobs elsewhere go unfilled.

In addition to changes in the demand for goods and services, labor is affected by changes in population, changes in the percentage of working-age adults who actually want to work, new technologies, economic developments affecting the nation's trading partners and government policy on issues like minimum wage. With so many factors influencing labor, it is not unusual to have periods of low unemployment followed closely by periods of high unemployment – as Idaho has seen in the last three years. These large changes can be devastating to local economies and individual workers.

In an attempt to lessen these impacts, the federal government steps in with policies on unemployment benefits, minimum wages, working conditions, business taxes, unionization and, less directly, federal monetary policy. During periods of high unemployment, the Federal Reserve can try tempering the unemployment rate by increasing the money supply. This measure may provide temporary relief but is not generally regarded as a long-term solution for high unemployment. In times of very low unemployment when wages rise faster than production, the Fed can slow the economy by tightening the money supply to reduce the likelihood of spiraling inflation.

In the final analysis it is obvious the policies of the federal government play a large role in how the economy functions. Labor is a major influence on the productivity of the nation, but the efforts of individual workers can be greatly impacted by rules and policies of federal agencies. Although still an admirable and necessary characteristic, it is no longer adequate to just be a good worker who shows up each day and does what is asked. Workers today must be prepared to understand the many extraneous factors which affect the need for the labor they supply and be prepared to adjust and supplement their skills in order to remain competitive.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

BANNOCK COUNTY

- More than 150 people joined officials from Portneuf Medical Center for ground breaking ceremonies to reignite the construction of the \$200 million complex. The project is expected to take 24 to 30 months to complete. Layton Construction based in Sandy, Utah, was chosen as the general contractor. Layton indicated 85 percent of the workers will be from the local area and has already signed contracts with Jack B. Parsons Co. for earthwork, asphalt and site concrete. Portneuf Electric has the contract for the electrical work.
- Hoku Scientific announced a delay in construction of its Pocatello manufacturing facility because of difficulty in obtaining the financing needed to complete the project. Hoku officials indicate \$300 million has been spent on construction, and another \$106 million is needed before production can begin. The company did get a reprieve from delivery commitments from one of its customers. Tianwei New Energy Wafer Co. based in Sichuan, China,

agreed to extend delivery in exchange for a reduced price for the polysilicon wafers expected to be delivered.

- Sam's Gun Shop moved to a new building and added an indoor shooting range at a cost of more than \$320,000. More than 300 people attended the grand opening, many buying half-year memberships.
- Pocatello food and lodging businesses benefitted from many activities staged in the city. In addition to several traditional golf tournaments, there was the week-long State High School Rodeo, State Soccer Championships, Northwest Regional Wrestling tournament, Idaho State University graduation, State Football All-Star Games and the largest crowds in 30 years for horse racing every weekend.
- Area cleaning and restoration businesses were busy in June when many residences and businesses suffered unexpected flood damages from record rainfall. Several excavating business also have been busy removing silt, mud and debris.

BEAR LAKE COUNTY

- Nu-West Mining Inc. and Nu-West Industries have resumed reclaiming the Central Farmers Fertilizer plant in Georgetown Canyon. Construction will consist of removing stockpiled ore and dewatering, regrading and capping a portion of the site. Nu-West never operated the facility but has been conducting reclamation activities at the site since 1996.
- Steve Hailstone is believed to be the first person in the Bear Lake area to place a wind turbine on private property for individual use. The turbine is expected to produce more than enough electricity for his residence and excess power will be sent out to the grid for credit to be applied to the power bill of another building owned by Hailstone. The turbine is located on Easterholdt Lane in Pegram.

BINGHAM COUNTY

- First Choice Urgent Care and Medical Clinic opened for business this month. The clinic is an affiliate of Bingham Memorial and is staffed by four health care providers with combined experience of more than 60 years. First Choice guarantees patients will be seen by a medical care provider within 20 minutes of the time they arrive. The Medical Clinic will be staffed by Dr. Thomas Faber, who is also a member of Bingham Memorial Hospital internal medicine team.
- Mike and Jennifer Krehbiel opened a new café in Blackfoot. The Red Rhino is a country style café with a wide variety of traditional items on the menu. In addition to the owners, a staff of six will provides service from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. every day of the week.
- Fort Hall Business Council Chairman Alonzo Coby met with the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs to discuss the need for funding the operation of the new Shoshone-Bannock Justice Center. The center is expected to be completed late this year and operational costs are estimated at \$400,000 annually. Coby's presentation was endorsed by Sens. Mike Crapo and James Risch as well as congressmen Mike Simpson and Walt Minnick.
- The Bureau of Land Management has partnered with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to support a full-functioning greenhouse built by tribal workers. The greenhouse will grow up to 40,000 sagebrush seedlings, which are used in restoring and rehabilitating public lands.

CARIBOU COUNTY

- Officials with the Bureau of Land Management anticipate releasing a draft environmental impact statement for Monsanto Co.'s planned Blackfoot Bridge Mine by the end of July. The mine site is about eight miles northeast of Soda Springs on 740 acres. Ten percent of that is public land. Bureau and U.S. Forest Service staff have been working with Monsanto for nearly four years on the mine site. Because the proposed site is near the Blackfoot River, there is a great deal of concern about possible selenium contamination. Monsanto hopes to begin small development of the mine in the second half of 2010.
- The Grace City Council is reviewing options for upgrading the water system. The current system is 40 years old and has many deficiencies including a substandard 250,000 gallon water tank. Officials with the Southeast Idaho Council of Governments and representatives of JUB Engineers estimate the cost to upgrade the system at \$7.5 million.
- The Grace School District was one of only 16 in the state to receive a \$75,000 grant to enhance mathematics and science curricula. The grant will finance computer upgrades to allow for virtual science laboratory experiments. The upgraded computers will also allow students to access Apangea, which is a math program focusing on individualized student learning.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

- A bond election for a new Franklin County hospital could be held in early November. The hospital board received revised estimates putting the new hospital's cost at about \$20 million. The estimate is for 47,500 square feet, but it is still uncertain if the new facility would include a new nursing home.

ONEIDA COUNTY

- Oneida County has been awarded a \$2.5 million Local Highway Technical Assistance Council grant to repair a section of Idaho Highway 37 known as the "Narrows." The county also got \$161,000 from the U.S. Forest Service to cover its required match for the highway grant.
- Western Fabrication of Malad will receive a Gem Grant to upgrade the power supply for its welding operation.

POWER COUNTY

- The Bureau of Land Management has finished an environmental assessment of the proposed route for the Gateway West transmission line. The assessment allows drillings along the proposed route and all current alternate routes. The public comment period ends July 22. The assessment is available at the Pocatello BLM office or at www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west/documents.php

Scott Hobdey Regional Economist

(208) 236-6710, ext. 3713

scott.hobdey@labor.idaho.gov

EAST CENTRAL IDAHO

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

EFFECTS OF DOWNTURN ON SMALL ECONOMIES

Financial pressures and challenges during hard economic times have brought changes to many areas, and rural communities seem to be taking more

of a beating than the urban areas. East central Idaho is a case in point. While education remains a top priority, extracurricular activities apparently are not.

Mackay High School, which won the 1AD2 boys basketball championship, will be cutting its entire athletic program unless a levy is approved for the 2009-2010 school year. The first attempt to pass a levy on May 19 failed 61-49.

South Fremont High School in St. Anthony and North Fremont in Ashton have both eliminated some sports and cut back the schedules on most of the others in what is a major blow to the communities. "To a large extent, sports are all these smaller communities have," South Fremont Athletic Director Chris Tucker said.

Mackay Athletic Director Jack McKelvey told the Idaho Statesman that without sports, "I think you'd see a lot of kids leave, and then you lose attendance and it just compounds things from a financial standpoint."

Even the Idaho Falls area is affected in that families of players will have to take on the cost. All player fees are going to double in two of the larger Idaho Falls high schools.

Another blow came recently for Dubois when Idahoan Foods announced it was closing its plant there and moving those operations to its Idaho Falls plant to save money. While all workers are transferring to Idaho Falls, Dubois businesses will lose their patronage. It's unknown how many of those workers will decide to move out of Dubois to Idaho Falls to save commuting time and expense and increase time with their families, especially in the current tough economy. The impact ripples through the education system and other aspects of a community.

Cities, counties and the state are trimming budgets just to stay afloat as the recession curbs employment and consumer spending. Social services, police and fire protection are being hit at a time when they are probably needed even more as uncertainty or even despair create a whole new set of problems. While many see such cuts as unwise, local governments are typically at the end of their ropes without any alternatives.

Communities are turning to their residents to fill some of the gaps. The Salmon Chamber of Commerce did just that in May when it held "Clean-Up Main Street Day." All the businesses helped clean the sidewalks, windows and store fronts and hauled off dirt and trash to make Main Street more attractive. Volunteerism like this – so often overlooked – can have a huge impact on a community's attitude and self-perception.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

BONNEVILLE COUNTY

- Melaleuca Inc., which manufactures and sells health and beauty aids along with household products worldwide, broke ground on a new manufacturing plant next to its distribution center in Idaho Falls. The 38,000-square-foot facility will manufacture a line of powdered drinks that is currently contracted out. Making its own instant shakes for energy, muscle building, weight loss and health will add 120 workers over the next five years to its worldwide payroll of 3,400. Company founder and owner Frank Vandersloot predicted that Idaho Falls "will become an international hub in the powdered drink industry, and these products will be shipped all over the world." The company has been in business for over two decades and hit record sales of \$887 million. Its sales have escalated in Asia through referral marketing. Melaleuca again sponsored its annual Melaleuca Freedom Celebration of fireworks and music that brought an estimated 100,000 people to the Snake River in downtown Idaho Falls. AOL's Digital City, a national lifestyle guide, ranked the Melaleuca Freedom Celebration the nation's 17th biggest and most impressive fireworks extravaganza.

- The Idaho Falls Regional Airport is getting a new \$2 million base for its snow removal operations. The 15,600-square-foot building being completed this fall will serve as the headquarters and house \$6 million in snow removal equipment. A federal grant covered 95 percent of the cost. A Colorado consulting firm has been hired with a \$318,000 Federal Aviation Administration grant to update the airport master plan. The plan will include projects over the next 20 years to make the airport safer and more efficient. The consultants along with Grow Idaho Falls have considered the idea of an airport business park for businesses catering to aviation.

CUSTER & LEMHI COUNTIES

- Thompson Creek Mining Co. in Clayton is laying off workers for a month. They will return to work in mid-August. Workers can use accrued vacation to maintain their income during the layoff. A skeleton crew will continue to take care of operations. Clayton's 2008 population was identical to the count in the 2000 Census – 27 – which is less than the speed limit through town.
- Fiber optic cable is being installed from the 45th parallel near Elk Bend in Custer County to Custer Telephone Broadband Services in Salmon. The project is under the direction of Custer Telephone Cooperative Inc. to expand and enhance services. At Salmon, the cable will be placed in specific locations on the existing cable television network, dividing the system to increase capacity. It will also be placed at the wireless towers site, a construction project that will be completed by the end of the month. Once the cable is set up, the broadband service will move to a new location, where it will also offer retail sales and new high speed Internet service.
- Salmon Air was acquired by McCall Aviation in May and is now the largest backcountry and scheduled commuter air service provider in Idaho. No service interruptions are anticipated. The operation now has an expanded fleet of 16 planes and will provide better pricing, more overall capacity and an expanded base of operations.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

- A low-income 23-unit apartment complex has been started and 15 self-help homes will soon start in Roberts with \$3 million in grants and loans from a combination of state and federal agencies. This project will provide housing primarily for farmworkers in Roberts, Hamer and Mud Lake. The project is being administered by Eastern Idaho Community Action Program.

Tanya Albán, Regional Economist
 (208) 557-2500, ext. 3587
tanya.alban@labor.idaho.gov

State of Idaho Data

June 2009 Labor Force (preliminary) compared to June 2008 data *(continued on next page)*.

| Seasonally Adjusted Data | Jun 2009 | | | | Jun 2008 | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | Civilian Labor Force | # Unem- ployed | % Unem- ployed | Total Employment | Civilian Labor Force | # Unem- ployed | % Unem- ployed | Total Employment |
| STATE OF IDAHO | 749,238 | 62,697 | 8.4 | 686,541 | 753,655 | 35,759 | 4.7 | 717,896 |
| COUNTIES | | | | | | | | |
| ADA (1) | 188,910 | 17,796 | 9.4 | 171,114 | 194,615 | 9,595 | 4.9 | 185,020 |
| ADAMS | 2,265 | 242 | 10.7 | 2,023 | 2,203 | 141 | 6.4 | 2,062 |
| BANNOCK (8) | 39,609 | 3,245 | 8.2 | 36,364 | 38,588 | 1,852 | 4.8 | 36,736 |
| BEAR LAKE | 3,622 | 172 | 4.8 | 3,450 | 3,424 | 94 | 2.8 | 3,329 |
| BENEWAH | 4,093 | 350 | 8.6 | 3,743 | 4,100 | 228 | 5.6 | 3,872 |
| BINGHAM | 21,615 | 1,441 | 6.7 | 20,174 | 21,295 | 872 | 4.1 | 20,423 |
| BLAINE (5) | 14,284 | 1,026 | 7.2 | 13,258 | 14,504 | 479 | 3.3 | 14,025 |
| BOISE (1) | 3,302 | 212 | 6.4 | 3,091 | 3,494 | 151 | 4.3 | 3,342 |
| BONNER | 20,901 | 1,866 | 8.9 | 19,035 | 21,023 | 1,085 | 5.2 | 19,938 |
| BONNEVILLE (6) | 49,708 | 2,899 | 5.8 | 46,809 | 50,944 | 1,746 | 3.4 | 49,198 |
| BOUNDARY | 4,361 | 439 | 10.1 | 3,922 | 4,147 | 308 | 7.4 | 3,839 |
| BUTTE | 1,392 | 62 | 4.4 | 1,330 | 1,440 | 56 | 3.9 | 1,384 |
| CAMAS (5) | 640 | 43 | 6.7 | 597 | 650 | 19 | 3.0 | 630 |
| CANYON (1) | 81,392 | 9,915 | 12.2 | 71,477 | 82,420 | 5,135 | 6.2 | 77,286 |
| CARIBOU | 3,494 | 200 | 5.7 | 3,294 | 3,554 | 127 | 3.6 | 3,427 |
| CASSIA (2) | 10,375 | 553 | 5.3 | 9,822 | 10,412 | 404 | 3.9 | 10,007 |
| CLARK | 565 | 33 | 5.8 | 532 | 587 | 14 | 2.4 | 573 |
| CLEARWATER | 3,539 | 332 | 9.4 | 3,208 | 3,387 | 259 | 7.7 | 3,127 |
| CUSTER | 2,934 | 106 | 3.6 | 2,827 | 3,053 | 91 | 3.0 | 2,962 |
| ELMORE | 11,571 | 893 | 7.7 | 10,678 | 11,950 | 649 | 5.4 | 11,302 |
| FRANKLIN | 5,531 | 390 | 7.0 | 5,141 | 5,519 | 181 | 3.3 | 5,338 |
| FREMONT (9) | 5,585 | 399 | 7.1 | 5,185 | 5,416 | 220 | 4.1 | 5,196 |
| GEM (1) | 6,856 | 739 | 10.8 | 6,117 | 7,071 | 457 | 6.5 | 6,614 |
| GOODING | 8,406 | 496 | 5.9 | 7,911 | 8,333 | 314 | 3.8 | 8,018 |
| IDAHO | 7,413 | 560 | 7.6 | 6,852 | 7,359 | 428 | 5.8 | 6,931 |
| JEFFERSON (6) | 11,044 | 734 | 6.6 | 10,310 | 11,228 | 392 | 3.5 | 10,836 |
| JEROME (10) | 10,312 | 703 | 6.8 | 9,609 | 10,126 | 427 | 4.2 | 9,699 |
| KOOTENAI (3) | 70,773 | 6,094 | 8.6 | 64,680 | 70,901 | 3,400 | 4.8 | 67,500 |
| LATAH | 16,772 | 916 | 5.5 | 15,856 | 16,467 | 635 | 3.9 | 15,831 |
| LEMHI | 4,226 | 300 | 7.1 | 3,926 | 4,268 | 223 | 5.2 | 4,045 |
| LEWIS (4) | 1,772 | 82 | 4.6 | 1,690 | 1,775 | 65 | 3.7 | 1,710 |
| LINCOLN | 2,709 | 282 | 10.4 | 2,428 | 2,601 | 121 | 4.7 | 2,480 |
| MADISON (9) | 15,628 | 781 | 5.0 | 14,848 | 15,488 | 612 | 4.0 | 14,876 |
| MINIDOKA (2) | 9,649 | 560 | 5.8 | 9,089 | 9,708 | 448 | 4.6 | 9,259 |
| NEZ PERCE (7) | 19,625 | 1,135 | 5.8 | 18,489 | 18,828 | 813 | 4.3 | 18,014 |
| ONEIDA | 2,195 | 126 | 5.7 | 2,070 | 2,206 | 81 | 3.7 | 2,125 |
| OWYHEE (1) | 4,102 | 144 | 3.5 | 3,958 | 4,437 | 158 | 3.6 | 4,279 |
| PAYETTE | 10,838 | 1,180 | 10.9 | 9,658 | 10,518 | 571 | 5.4 | 9,947 |
| POWER (8) | 3,589 | 314 | 8.7 | 3,275 | 3,561 | 252 | 7.1 | 3,309 |
| SHOSHONE | 6,344 | 734 | 11.6 | 5,610 | 6,445 | 407 | 6.3 | 6,038 |
| TETON | 6,187 | 268 | 4.3 | 5,919 | 6,390 | 127 | 2.0 | 6,263 |
| TWIN FALLS (10) | 39,392 | 2,470 | 6.3 | 36,922 | 38,819 | 1,548 | 4.0 | 37,271 |
| VALLEY | 5,283 | 479 | 9.1 | 4,804 | 5,436 | 322 | 5.9 | 5,114 |
| WASHINGTON | 5,047 | 527 | 10.4 | 4,520 | 4,969 | 250 | 5.0 | 4,719 |
| ASOTIN WA (7) | 11,309 | 983 | 8.7 | 10,326 | 10,353 | 597 | 5.8 | 9,756 |

* In thousands

State of Idaho Data

June 2009 Labor Force (preliminary) compared to June 2008 data *(continued from previous page)*.

| LABOR MARKET AREAS | Seasonally Adjusted Data | | | | Jun 2009 | | | | Jun 2008 | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------|--|--|--|
| | Civilian Labor Force | # Unem- ployed | % Unem- ployed | Total Employment | Civilian Labor Force | # Unem- ployed | % Unem- ployed | Total Employment | | | | |
| BOISE CITY-NAMPA MSA (1) | 284,563 | 28,805 | 10.1 | 255,757 | 292,036 | 15,496 | 5.3 | 276,540 | | | | |
| BURLEY MicSA (2) | 20,025 | 1,113 | 5.6 | 18,911 | 20,119 | 852 | 4.2 | 19,267 | | | | |
| COEUR D'ALENE MSA (3) | 70,773 | 6,094 | 8.6 | 64,680 | 70,901 | 3,400 | 4.8 | 67,500 | | | | |
| GRANGEVILLE SLMA (4) | 9,185 | 643 | 7.0 | 8,542 | 9,134 | 493 | 5.4 | 8,641 | | | | |
| HAILEY SLMA (5) | 14,924 | 1,069 | 7.2 | 13,855 | 15,154 | 498 | 3.3 | 14,655 | | | | |
| IDAHO FALLS MSA (6) | 60,751 | 3,632 | 6.0 | 57,119 | 62,172 | 2,138 | 3.4 | 60,034 | | | | |
| LEWISTON MSA (7) | 30,934 | 2,118 | 6.8 | 28,815 | 29,180 | 1,410 | 4.8 | 27,770 | | | | |
| POCATELLO MSA (8) | 43,198 | 3,558 | 8.2 | 39,639 | 42,149 | 2,103 | 5.0 | 40,045 | | | | |
| REXBURG MicSA (9) | 21,213 | 1,180 | 5.6 | 20,033 | 20,904 | 833 | 4.0 | 20,071 | | | | |
| TWIN FALLS MicSA (10) | 49,704 | 3,173 | 6.4 | 46,531 | 48,945 | 1,975 | 4.0 | 46,970 | | | | |
| CITIES | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BOISE | 106,702 | 9,354 | 8.8 | 97,349 | 110,347 | 5,002 | 4.5 | 105,345 | | | | |
| CALDWELL | 18,064 | 2,443 | 13.5 | 15,621 | 18,088 | 1,184 | 6.5 | 16,904 | | | | |
| COEUR D' ALENE | 22,588 | 2,184 | 9.7 | 20,404 | 22,446 | 1,135 | 5.1 | 21,311 | | | | |
| IDAHO FALLS | 27,359 | 1,655 | 6.1 | 25,704 | 27,997 | 959 | 3.4 | 27,038 | | | | |
| LEWISTON | 16,641 | 927 | 5.6 | 15,715 | 15,952 | 629 | 3.9 | 15,323 | | | | |
| MERIDIAN | 32,084 | 2,982 | 9.3 | 29,102 | 32,892 | 1,399 | 4.3 | 31,493 | | | | |
| NAMPA | 36,455 | 4,539 | 12.4 | 31,917 | 36,723 | 2,185 | 5.9 | 34,538 | | | | |
| POCATELLO | 29,033 | 2,240 | 7.7 | 26,793 | 28,278 | 1,190 | 4.2 | 27,089 | | | | |
| TWIN FALLS | 22,196 | 1,482 | 6.7 | 20,714 | 21,753 | 827 | 3.8 | 20,926 | | | | |
| United States* | 154,926 | 14,729 | 9.5 | 140,196 | 154,400 | 8,662 | 5.6 | 145,891 | | | | |

* In thousands

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

State of Idaho Data — Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

| BY PLACE OF WORK | % change from | | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| | Jun 2009* | May 2009 | Jun 2008 | Last Month | Last Year |
| Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** | 628,700 | 619,200 | 661,400 | 1.5 | -4.9 |
| GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES | 101,600 | 98,900 | 117,000 | 2.7 | -13.2 |
| <i>Mining & Logging</i> | 3,700 | 2,600 | 4,500 | 42.3 | -17.8 |
| Logging | 1,700 | 900 | 1,400 | 88.9 | 21.4 |
| Mining | 2,000 | 1,700 | 3,100 | 17.7 | -35.5 |
| <i>Construction</i> | 41,600 | 39,800 | 48,300 | 4.5 | -13.9 |
| Construction of Buildings | 9,500 | 8,600 | 11,400 | 10.5 | -16.7 |
| Residential Building Construction | 6,100 | 5,800 | 7,400 | 5.2 | -17.6 |
| Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction | 6,100 | 5,800 | 6,700 | 5.2 | -9.0 |
| Specialty Trade Contractors | 26,000 | 25,400 | 30,200 | 2.4 | -13.9 |
| Foundation, Structure and Bldg Exterior Contractors | 6,700 | 6,400 | 7,800 | 4.7 | -14.1 |
| Building Equipment Contractors | 9,800 | 9,900 | 10,800 | -1.0 | -9.3 |
| Building Finishing Contractors | 4,800 | 4,700 | 6,300 | 2.1 | -23.8 |
| Other Specialty Trade Contractors | 4,700 | 4,400 | 5,300 | 6.8 | -11.3 |
| <i>Manufacturing</i> | 56,300 | 56,500 | 64,200 | -0.4 | -12.3 |
| Durable Goods | 31,900 | 32,500 | 39,400 | -1.9 | -19.0 |
| Wood Product Manufacturing | 5,800 | 5,600 | 6,900 | 3.6 | -15.9 |
| Machinery Manufacturing | 2,900 | 2,900 | 3,200 | 0.0 | -9.4 |
| Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing | 10,500 | 10,700 | 14,500 | -1.9 | -27.6 |
| Computer & Peripheral Equipment Manufacturing | 3,400 | 3,500 | 3,700 | -2.9 | -8.1 |
| Semiconductor & Other Elec. Component Mnft. | 7,100 | 7,300 | 10,300 | -2.7 | -31.1 |
| Nondurable Goods | 24,400 | 24,000 | 24,800 | 1.7 | -1.6 |
| Food Manufacturing | 15,800 | 15,600 | 15,900 | 1.3 | -0.6 |
| Fruit and Vegetable Preserving and Specialty Food Manufacturing | 8,300 | 8,000 | 8,200 | 3.8 | 1.2 |
| SERVICE-PRODUCING | 527,100 | 520,300 | 544,400 | 1.3 | -3.2 |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities | 122,400 | 121,800 | 132,500 | 0.5 | -7.6 |
| Wholesale Trade | 25,300 | 24,900 | 28,000 | 1.6 | -9.6 |
| Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods | 10,900 | 10,800 | 12,900 | 0.9 | -15.5 |
| Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods | 11,900 | 11,800 | 12,000 | 0.9 | -0.8 |
| Retail Trade | 77,300 | 77,200 | 83,500 | 0.1 | -7.4 |
| Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers | 11,100 | 11,100 | 12,600 | 0.0 | -11.9 |
| Building Material and Garden Equipment | 8,600 | 8,700 | 9,200 | -1.2 | -6.5 |
| Food and Beverage Stores | 13,300 | 13,200 | 13,400 | 0.8 | -0.8 |
| Grocery Stores | 11,600 | 11,500 | 11,600 | 0.9 | 0.0 |
| General Merchandise Stores | 16,300 | 16,400 | 16,800 | -0.6 | -3.0 |
| Department Stores | 5,100 | 5,100 | 5,300 | 0.0 | -3.8 |
| Other General Merchandise Stores | 11,200 | 11,300 | 11,500 | -0.9 | -2.6 |
| Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities | 19,800 | 19,700 | 21,000 | 0.5 | -5.7 |
| Utilities | 2,200 | 2,200 | 2,200 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Transportation & Warehousing | 17,600 | 17,500 | 18,800 | 0.6 | -6.4 |
| Truck Transportation | 8,600 | 8,500 | 9,100 | 1.2 | -5.5 |
| General Freight Transportation | 6,100 | 6,100 | 6,200 | 0.0 | -1.6 |
| <i>Information</i> | 12,200 | 12,200 | 11,900 | 0.0 | 2.5 |
| Telecommunications | 4,700 | 4,800 | 4,900 | -2.1 | -4.1 |

Continued on next page.

Continued from previous page.

| State of Idaho Data — Nonfarm Payroll Jobs | | | | | % change from | |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|--|
| BY PLACE OF WORK | Jun 2009* | May 2009 | Jun 2008 | Last Month | Last Year | |
| Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** | 628,700 | 619,200 | 661,400 | 1.5 | -4.9 | |
| <i>Financial Activities</i> | 31,100 | 30,800 | 31,900 | 1.0 | -2.5 | |
| Finance & Insurance | 22,800 | 22,700 | 23,200 | 0.4 | -1.7 | |
| Credit Intermediation & Related Activities | 11,300 | 11,200 | 11,400 | 0.9 | -0.9 | |
| Insurance Carriers and Related Activities | 9,800 | 9,800 | 9,900 | 0.0 | -1.0 | |
| Real Estate & Rental & Leasing | 8,300 | 8,100 | 8,700 | 2.5 | -4.6 | |
| <i>Professional & Business Services</i> | 78,300 | 74,900 | 82,800 | 4.5 | -5.4 | |
| Professional, Scientific, & Technical | 31,900 | 31,600 | 33,500 | 1.0 | -4.8 | |
| Architectural, Engineering, & Related Services | 6,400 | 6,200 | 7,300 | 3.2 | -12.3 | |
| Scientific Research & Development | 7,600 | 7,400 | 7,600 | 2.7 | 0.0 | |
| Management of Companies & Enterprises | 6,900 | 6,900 | 7,400 | 0.0 | -6.8 | |
| Administrative & Support & Waste Management | 39,500 | 36,400 | 41,900 | 8.5 | -5.7 | |
| Administrative & Support Services | 37,400 | 34,300 | 40,200 | 9.0 | -7.0 | |
| Employment Services | 13,000 | 12,700 | 14,500 | 2.4 | -10.3 | |
| Business Support Services | 10,200 | 9,900 | 10,900 | 3.0 | -6.4 | |
| Telephone Call Centers | 7,500 | 7,500 | 8,200 | 0.0 | -8.5 | |
| Services to Buildings & Dwellings | 8,200 | 7,700 | 9,900 | 6.5 | -17.2 | |
| Educational & Health Services | 78,600 | 78,000 | 77,800 | 0.8 | 1.0 | |
| Educational Services | 7,400 | 7,600 | 8,400 | -2.6 | -11.9 | |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 71,200 | 70,400 | 69,400 | 1.1 | 2.6 | |
| Ambulatory Health Care Services | 29,500 | 28,800 | 27,600 | 2.4 | 6.9 | |
| Hospitals | 16,600 | 16,700 | 17,200 | -0.6 | -3.5 | |
| General Medical and Surgical Hospitals | 15,400 | 15,300 | 15,300 | 0.7 | 0.7 | |
| Nursing and Residential Care Facilities | 12,700 | 12,700 | 12,400 | 0.0 | 2.4 | |
| Social Assistance | 12,400 | 12,200 | 12,200 | 1.6 | 1.6 | |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 62,600 | 59,900 | 66,600 | 4.5 | -6.0 | |
| Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation | 9,800 | 8,700 | 10,400 | 12.6 | -5.8 | |
| Amusement, Gambling, & Recreation Industries | 8,900 | 7,700 | 9,300 | 15.6 | -4.3 | |
| Other Amusement & Recreation Industries | 6,600 | 5,800 | 7,500 | 13.8 | -12.0 | |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 52,800 | 51,200 | 56,200 | 3.1 | -6.1 | |
| Accommodation | 9,800 | 9,100 | 9,800 | 7.7 | 0.0 | |
| Traveler Accommodation | 9,900 | 9,100 | 9,300 | 8.8 | 6.5 | |
| Food Services & Drinking Places | 43,000 | 42,100 | 46,400 | 2.1 | -7.3 | |
| Full Service Restaurants | 19,700 | 19,600 | 22,100 | 0.5 | -10.9 | |
| Limited Service Restaurants | 19,300 | 18,900 | 20,300 | 2.1 | -4.9 | |
| Other Services | 20,200 | 19,100 | 21,200 | 5.8 | -4.7 | |
| Repair & Maintenance | 5,800 | 5,700 | 6,400 | 1.8 | -9.4 | |
| Automotive Repair & Maintenance | 4,500 | 4,500 | 4,900 | 0.0 | -8.2 | |
| <i>Total Government</i> | 121,700 | 123,600 | 119,700 | -1.5 | 1.7 | |
| Federal Government | 12,900 | 13,100 | 14,400 | -1.5 | -10.4 | |
| State Government | 29,800 | 30,100 | 29,900 | -1.0 | -0.3 | |
| State Government Educational Services | 13,900 | 14,300 | 13,200 | -2.8 | 5.3 | |
| Local Government | 79,000 | 80,400 | 75,400 | -1.7 | 4.8 | |
| Local Government Educational Services | 40,700 | 42,400 | 39,600 | -4.0 | 2.8 | |

*Preliminary estimate ** Estimates include all full or part time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

State of Idaho Data — State Economic Indicators

| | Jun 2009 | May 2009 | Jun 2008 | % Change From | |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|
| | | | | Last Month | Last Year |
| IDAHO LABOR FORCE ⁽¹⁾ | | | | | |
| <i>Seasonally Adjusted</i> | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 749,200 | 750,800 | 753,700 | -0.2 | -0.6 |
| Unemployment | 62,700 | 58,600 | 35,800 | 7.0 | 75.1 |
| Percent of Labor Force Unemployed | 8.4 | 7.8 | 4.7 | | |
| Total Employment | 686,500 | 692,200 | 717,900 | -0.8 | -4.4 |
| <i>Unadjusted</i> | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 758,800 | 748,500 | 763,900 | 1.4 | -0.7 |
| Unemployment | 60,500 | 54,300 | 33,200 | 11.4 | 82.2 |
| Percent of Labor Force Unemployed | 8.0 | 7.3 | 4.3 | | |
| Total Employment | 698,300 | 694,200 | 730,700 | 0.6 | -4.4 |
| U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ⁽²⁾ | | | | | |
| | 9.5 | 9.4 | 5.6 | | |
| U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ⁽²⁾ | | | | | |
| Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) | 211.0 | 208.8 | 215.2 | 1.1 | -2.0 |
| All Urban Consumer (CPI-U) | 215.7 | 213.9 | 218.8 | 0.9 | -1.4 |
| AGRICULTURE | | | | | |
| Agriculture Employment | 48,710 | 47,570 | 47,510 | 2.4 | 2.5 |
| Operators | 11,210 | 10,850 | 9,740 | 3.3 | 15.1 |
| Unpaid Family | 360 | 350 | 360 | 2.9 | 0.0 |
| Hired Workers | 37,140 | 36,370 | 37,410 | 2.1 | -0.7 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT INSUR- ANCE | | | | | |
| <i>Claims Activities</i> | | | | | |
| Initial Claims ⁽³⁾ | 13,588 | 12,285 | 7,872 | 10.6 | 72.6 |
| Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾ | 152,281 | 144,502 | 62,876 | 5.4 | 142.2 |
| <i>Benefit Payment Activi- ties ⁽⁵⁾</i> | | | | | |
| Weeks Compensated | 133,853 | 129,459 | 44,342 | 3.4 | 201.9 |
| Total Benefit \$ Paid | 34,657,313 | 34,113,265 | 11,438,080 | 1.6 | 203.0 |
| Average Weekly Benefit Amount | \$258.92 | \$263.51 | \$257.95 | -1.7 | 0.4 |
| Covered Employers | 50,209 | 50,551 | 51,287 | -0.7 | -2.1 |
| Total Benefit \$ Paid Dur- ing Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾ | \$353,928,646 | \$330,709,413 | \$172,187,854 | 7.0 | 105.5 |

(1) Preliminary estimate

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

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

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

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

Panhandle Data

SCoeur d'Alene MSA Labor Force & Employment — Kootenai County

| | Jun 2009* | May 2009 | Jun 2008 | % Change From | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| | | | | Last Month | Last Year |
| INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE | | | | | |
| <i>Seasonally Adjusted</i> | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 70,770 | 72,200 | 70,380 | -2.0 | 0.6 |
| Unemployed | 6,090 | 5,880 | 2,720 | 3.6 | 123.9 |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed | 8.6 | 8.1 | 3.9 | | |
| Total Employment | 64,680 | 66,320 | 67,660 | -2.5 | -4.4 |
| <i>Unadjusted</i> | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 71,810 | 70,980 | 71,420 | 1.2 | 0.5 |
| Unemployed | 5,950 | 5,740 | 2,540 | 3.7 | 134.3 |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed | 8.3 | 8.1 | 3.6 | | |
| Total Employment | 65,860 | 65,240 | 68,880 | 1.0 | -4.4 |
| JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK | | | | | |
| Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS | 56,960 | 55,970 | 58,580 | 1.8 | -2.8 |
| <i>Goods-Producing Industries</i> | 10,100 | 9,860 | 10,690 | 2.4 | -5.5 |
| Mining & Logging | 340 | 270 | 370 | 22.3 | -9.7 |
| Construction | 5,250 | 5,070 | 5,520 | 3.7 | -4.9 |
| Manufacturing | 4,510 | 4,520 | 4,790 | -0.2 | -6.0 |
| <i>Service-Providing Industries</i> | 46,860 | 46,110 | 47,900 | 1.6 | -2.2 |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities | 10,630 | 10,540 | 11,150 | 0.9 | -4.7 |
| Wholesale Trade | 1,500 | 1,480 | 1,600 | 0.9 | -6.3 |
| Retail Trade | 8,100 | 8,050 | 8,420 | 0.6 | -3.8 |
| Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities | 1,040 | 1,000 | 1,130 | 3.4 | -8.4 |
| Information | 900 | 910 | 920 | -0.2 | -1.6 |
| Financial Activities | 3,150 | 3,120 | 3,220 | 1.1 | -2.3 |
| Professional & Business Services | 5,660 | 5,490 | 5,900 | 3.0 | -4.1 |
| Educational & Health Services | 6,330 | 6,290 | 6,100 | 0.7 | 3.9 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 8,880 | 8,460 | 9,430 | 5.0 | -5.8 |
| Other Services | 1,450 | 1,400 | 1,480 | 3.4 | -2.2 |
| <i>Government</i> | 9,860 | 9,900 | 9,710 | -0.4 | 1.6 |
| Federal | 610 | 610 | 610 | 0.0 | -0.2 |
| State | 720 | 720 | 890 | 0.8 | -19.2 |
| Local | 8,530 | 8,570 | 8,210 | -0.5 | 3.9 |

* Preliminary estimate

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

North Central Idaho Data

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

| | Jun 2009* | May 2009 | Jun 2008 | % Change From | |
|--|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| | | | | Last Month | Last Year |
| INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE | | | | | |
| <i>Seasonally Adjusted</i> | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 30,930 | 31,090 | 29,450 | -0.5 | 5.0 |
| Unemployment | 2,110 | 1,970 | 1,320 | 7.1 | 59.8 |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed | 6.8 | 6.3 | 4.5 | | |
| Total Employment | 28,820 | 29,120 | 28,130 | -1.0 | 2.5 |
| <i>Unadjusted</i> | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 31,410 | 31,340 | 29,910 | 0.2 | 5.0 |
| Unemployment | 2,050 | 1,950 | 1,250 | 5.1 | 64.0 |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed | 6.5 | 6.2 | 4.2 | | |
| Total Employment | 29,360 | 29,390 | 28,660 | -0.1 | 2.4 |
| JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK | | | | | |
| Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS | 26,750 | 26,720 | 28,660 | 0.1 | -6.7 |
| <i>Goods-Producing Industries</i> | | | | | |
| Natural Resources & Mining | 190 | 180 | 230 | 5.6 | -17.4 |
| Construction | 950 | 940 | 1,390 | 1.1 | -31.7 |
| Manufacturing | 3,120 | 3,110 | 3,270 | 0.3 | -4.6 |
| <i>Wood Product Manufacturing</i> | 410 | 420 | 470 | -2.4 | -12.8 |
| <i>Paper Manufacturing</i> | 1,050 | 1,050 | 1,100 | 0.0 | -4.5 |
| <i>Other Manufacturing</i> | 1,660 | 1,640 | 1,700 | 1.2 | -2.4 |
| <i>Service-Providing Industries</i> | | | | | |
| Trade, Transportation & Utilities | 5,280 | 5,240 | 5,570 | 0.8 | -5.2 |
| <i>Wholesale Trade</i> | 600 | 590 | 700 | 1.7 | -14.3 |
| <i>Retail Trade</i> | 3,660 | 3,630 | 3,730 | 0.8 | -1.9 |
| <i>Utilities</i> | 90 | 90 | 90 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| <i>Transportation & Warehousing</i> | 930 | 930 | 1,050 | 0.0 | -11.4 |
| Information | 360 | 370 | 380 | -2.7 | -5.3 |
| Financial Activities | 2,020 | 2,030 | 2,150 | -0.5 | -6.0 |
| Professional & Business Services | 1,440 | 1,460 | 1,490 | -1.4 | -3.4 |
| Education & Health Services | 4,420 | 4,410 | 4,400 | 0.2 | 0.5 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 2,620 | 2,620 | 2,770 | 0.0 | -5.4 |
| Other Services | 1,070 | 1,070 | 1,110 | 0.0 | -3.6 |
| Government Education | 2,310 | 2,380 | 2,320 | -2.9 | -0.4 |
| Government Administration | 2,250 | 2,210 | 2,190 | 1.8 | 2.7 |
| Government Tribes | 720 | 700 | 710 | 2.9 | 1.4 |

*Preliminary estimate

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

Southwestern Idaho Data

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

| | % Change | | | | |
|---|-----------|----------|----------|------------|-----------|
| | Jun 2009* | May 2009 | Jun 2008 | Last Month | Last Year |
| INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE | | | | | |
| <i>Seasonally Adjusted</i> | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 284,600 | 282,100 | 292,000 | 0.9 | -2.5 |
| Unemployment | 28,800 | 27,300 | 15,500 | 5.5 | 85.8 |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed | 10.1 | 9.7 | 5.3 | | |
| Total Employment | 255,800 | 254,800 | 276,500 | 0.4 | -7.5 |
| <i>Unadjusted</i> | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 288,200 | 283,000 | 296,600 | 1.8 | -2.8 |
| Unemployment | 27,000 | 24,000 | 14,000 | 12.5 | 92.9 |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed | 9.4 | 8.5 | 4.7 | | |
| Total Employment | 261,200 | 259,000 | 282,600 | 0.8 | -7.6 |
| JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK | | | | | |
| Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** | 255,100 | 254,900 | 275,500 | 0.1 | -7.4 |
| GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES | | | | | |
| <i>Natural Resources & Construction</i> | 40,500 | 40,500 | 48,500 | 0.0 | -16.5 |
| <i>Natural Resources & Construction</i> | 200 | 200 | 300 | 0.0 | -33.3 |
| Construction | 16,300 | 16,200 | 19,200 | 0.6 | -15.1 |
| <i>Manufacturing</i> | | | | | |
| Durable Goods | 16,900 | 17,100 | 21,900 | -1.2 | -22.8 |
| Wood Product Manufacturing | 1,300 | 1,300 | 2,200 | 0.0 | -40.9 |
| Fabricated Metal Products Mfg. | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,500 | 0.0 | -13.3 |
| Machinery Manufacturing | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,100 | 0.0 | -9.1 |
| Computer & Electronic Manufacturing | 9,700 | 9,800 | 12,800 | -1.0 | -24.2 |
| Transportation Equipment Mfg. | 1,500 | 1,500 | 2,200 | 0.0 | -31.8 |
| Other Durable Goods | 2,100 | 2,200 | 2,100 | -4.5 | 0.0 |
| Nondurable Goods | 7,100 | 7,000 | 7,100 | 1.4 | 0.0 |
| Food Manufacturing | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Printing & Related Support Activities | 600 | 600 | 700 | 0.0 | -14.3 |
| Other Nondurable Goods | 1,500 | 1,400 | 1,400 | 7.1 | 7.1 |
| SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES | | | | | |
| <i>Trade, Transportation, & Utilities</i> | 214,600 | 214,400 | 227,000 | 0.1 | -5.5 |
| Trade | 50,500 | 50,300 | 53,300 | 0.4 | -5.3 |
| Wholesale Trade | 11,700 | 11,700 | 12,100 | 0.0 | -3.3 |
| Wholesalers, Durable Goods | 6,500 | 6,500 | 6,800 | 0.0 | -4.4 |
| Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,800 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Retail Trade | 30,700 | 30,500 | 33,300 | 0.7 | -7.8 |
| Food & Beverage Stores | 4,800 | 4,800 | 5,000 | 0.0 | -4.0 |
| General Merchandise Stores | 6,700 | 6,600 | 6,600 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| All Other Retail Trade | 19,200 | 19,100 | 21,700 | 0.5 | -11.5 |
| Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities | 8,100 | 8,100 | 7,900 | 0.0 | 2.5 |
| Utilities | 700 | 700 | 700 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Transportation & Warehousing | 7,400 | 7,400 | 7,200 | 0.0 | 2.8 |
| <i>Information</i> | 5,600 | 5,700 | 5,600 | -1.8 | 0.0 |
| Telecommunications | 1,400 | 1,300 | 1,500 | 7.7 | -6.7 |
| <i>Financial Activities</i> | 13,500 | 13,500 | 14,300 | 0.0 | -5.6 |
| Finance & Insurance | 10,300 | 10,300 | 10,300 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Real Estate & Rental & Leasing | 3,200 | 3,200 | 4,000 | 0.0 | -20.0 |
| <i>Professional & Business Services</i> | 36,300 | 36,300 | 41,700 | 0.0 | -12.9 |
| Professional, Scientific, & Technical | 12,100 | 12,000 | 12,600 | 0.8 | -4.0 |
| Management of Companies & Ent. | 4,900 | 4,900 | 5,400 | 0.0 | -9.3 |
| Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt. | 19,300 | 19,400 | 23,700 | -0.5 | -18.6 |
| <i>Educational & Health Services</i> | 33,200 | 33,100 | 35,100 | 0.3 | -5.4 |
| Educational Services | 2,600 | 2,700 | 2,900 | -3.7 | -10.3 |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 30,600 | 30,400 | 32,200 | 0.7 | -5.0 |
| Hospitals | 9,500 | 9,600 | 10,600 | -1.0 | -10.4 |
| <i>Leisure & Hospitality</i> | 23,000 | 22,800 | 25,500 | 0.9 | -9.8 |
| Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation | 2,200 | 2,200 | 3,900 | 0.0 | -43.6 |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 20,800 | 20,600 | 21,600 | 1.0 | -3.7 |
| Accommodation | 2,300 | 2,100 | 2,200 | 9.5 | 4.5 |
| Food Services & Drinking Places | 18,500 | 18,500 | 19,400 | 0.0 | -4.6 |
| <i>Other Services</i> | 8,200 | 8,100 | 8,600 | 1.2 | -4.7 |
| <i>Total Government</i> | 44,300 | 44,600 | 42,900 | -0.7 | 3.3 |
| Federal Government | 6,600 | 6,400 | 6,300 | 3.1 | 4.8 |
| State & Local Government | 37,700 | 38,200 | 36,600 | -1.3 | 3.0 |
| State Government | 13,900 | 14,100 | 13,700 | -1.4 | 1.5 |
| State Government Education | 4,600 | 4,500 | 4,100 | 2.2 | 12.2 |
| State Government Administration | 9,300 | 9,600 | 9,600 | -3.1 | -3.1 |
| Local Government | 23,800 | 24,100 | 22,900 | -1.2 | 3.9 |
| Local Government Education | 14,900 | 15,300 | 13,900 | -2.6 | 7.2 |
| Local Government Administration | 8,900 | 8,800 | 9,000 | 1.1 | -1.1 |

* Preliminary estimate

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

South Central Idaho Data

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

| | <u>% Change From</u> | | | | |
|--|----------------------|----------|----------|------------|-----------|
| | Jun 2009* | May 2009 | Jun 2008 | Last Month | Last Year |
| INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE | | | | | |
| <i>Seasonally Adjusted</i> | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 49,700 | 50,840 | 48,950 | -2.2 | 1.5 |
| Unemployment | 3,170 | 2,870 | 1,970 | 10.5 | 60.9 |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed | 6.4 | 5.6 | 4.0 | | |
| Total Employment | 46,530 | 47,970 | 46,980 | -3.0 | -1.0 |
| <i>Unadjusted</i> | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 50,200 | 50,280 | 49,490 | -0.2 | 1.4 |
| Unemployment | 2,950 | 2,650 | 1,770 | 11.3 | 66.7 |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed | 5.9 | 5.3 | 3.6 | | |
| Total Employment | 47,250 | 47,630 | 47,720 | -0.8 | -1.0 |
| JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK | | | | | |
| Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** | 40,140 | 39,600 | 40,890 | 1.4 | -1.8 |
| <i>Goods-Providing Industries</i> | | | | | |
| Natural Resources & Mining | 70 | 70 | 70 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Construction | 2,010 | 1,930 | 2,330 | 4.1 | -13.7 |
| Manufacturing | 4,400 | 4,450 | 4,770 | -1.1 | -7.8 |
| <i>Food Manufacturing</i> | 2,700 | 2,660 | 2,750 | 1.5 | -1.8 |
| <i>Other Manufacturing</i> | 1,700 | 1,790 | 2,020 | -5.0 | -15.8 |
| <i>Service-Providing Industries</i> | | | | | |
| Trade, Transportation & Utilities | 9,960 | 9,950 | 9,920 | 0.1 | 0.4 |
| <i>Wholesale Trade</i> | 2,020 | 1,990 | 1,970 | 1.5 | 2.5 |
| <i>Retail Trade</i> | 5,700 | 5,360 | 5,740 | 6.3 | -0.7 |
| <i>Utilities</i> | 190 | 180 | 180 | 5.6 | 5.6 |
| <i>Transportation & Warehousing</i> | 2,050 | 2,420 | 2,030 | -15.3 | 1.0 |
| Information | 610 | 650 | 650 | -6.2 | -6.2 |
| Financial Activities | 1,760 | 1,770 | 1,730 | -0.6 | 1.7 |
| Professional & Business Services | 4,740 | 4,590 | 5,330 | 3.3 | -11.1 |
| Educational & Health Services | 5,490 | 5,460 | 5,360 | 0.5 | 2.4 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 3,710 | 3,640 | 3,580 | 1.9 | 3.6 |
| Other Services | 1,800 | 1,470 | 1,560 | 22.4 | 15.4 |
| Government Education | 3,010 | 3,130 | 3,040 | -3.8 | -1.0 |
| Government Administration | 2,580 | 2,490 | 2,550 | 3.6 | 1.2 |

*Preliminary estimate

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

Southeastern Idaho Data

Pocatello MSA Labor Force & Employment – Bannock and Power counties

| | Jun 2009* | May 2009 | Jun 2008 | % Change From | |
|---|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|--------------|
| | | | | Last Month | Last Year |
| INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE | | | | | |
| <i>Seasonally Adjusted</i> | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 43,200 | 43,420 | 42,150 | -0.5 | 2.5 |
| Unemployment | 3,560 | 2,730 | 2,100 | 30.4 | 69.5 |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed | 8.2 | 6.3 | 5.0 | | |
| | 39,640 | 40,690 | 40,050 | -2.6 | -1.0 |
| <i>Unadjusted</i> | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 44,570 | 44,610 | 43,570 | -0.1 | 2.3 |
| Unemployment | 3,340 | 2,470 | 1,880 | 35.2 | 77.7 |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed | 7.5 | 5.5 | 4.3 | | |
| Total Employment | 41,230 | 42,140 | 41,690 | -2.2 | -1.1 |
| JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK | | | | | |
| Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS | 37,460 | 37,450 | 38,760 | 0.0 | -3.4 |
| <i>Goods-Producing Industries</i> | 5,400 | 5,310 | 5,780 | 1.7 | -6.6 |
| Natural Resources & Mining | 20 | 20 | 20 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Construction | 1,750 | 1,650 | 2,110 | 6.1 | -17.1 |
| Manufacturing | 3,630 | 3,640 | 3,650 | -0.3 | -0.5 |
| <i>Food Manufacturing</i> | 1,460 | 1,440 | 1,430 | 1.4 | 2.1 |
| <i>Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing</i> | 260 | 260 | 230 | 0.0 | 13.0 |
| <i>Machinery Manufacturing</i> | 100 | 100 | 100 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| <i>Other Manufacturing</i> | 1,810 | 1,840 | 1,890 | -1.6 | -4.2 |
| <i>Service-Providing Industries</i> | 32,060 | 32,140 | 32,980 | -0.2 | -2.8 |
| Trade, Transportation & Utilities | 6,780 | 6,740 | 7,760 | 0.6 | -12.6 |
| <i>Wholesale Trade</i> | 1,370 | 1,370 | 1,330 | 0.0 | 3.0 |
| <i>Retail Trade</i> | 4,190 | 4,180 | 4,750 | 0.2 | -11.8 |
| <i>Utilities</i> | 50 | 50 | 50 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| <i>Transportation & Warehousing</i> | 1,170 | 1,140 | 1,630 | 2.6 | -28.2 |
| Information | 560 | 560 | 690 | 0.0 | -18.8 |
| Financial Activities | 2,190 | 2,180 | 2,130 | 0.5 | 2.8 |
| Professional & Business Services | 4,310 | 4,210 | 4,190 | 2.4 | 2.9 |
| Educational & Health Services | 3,720 | 3,710 | 3,600 | 0.3 | 3.3 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 3,800 | 3,710 | 3,860 | 2.4 | -1.6 |
| Other Services | 1,370 | 1,340 | 1,280 | 2.2 | 7.0 |
| Government Education | 5,000 | 5,540 | 4,820 | -9.7 | 3.7 |
| Government Administration | 4,330 | 4,150 | 4,650 | 4.3 | -6.9 |

*Preliminary estimate

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

East Central Idaho Data

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

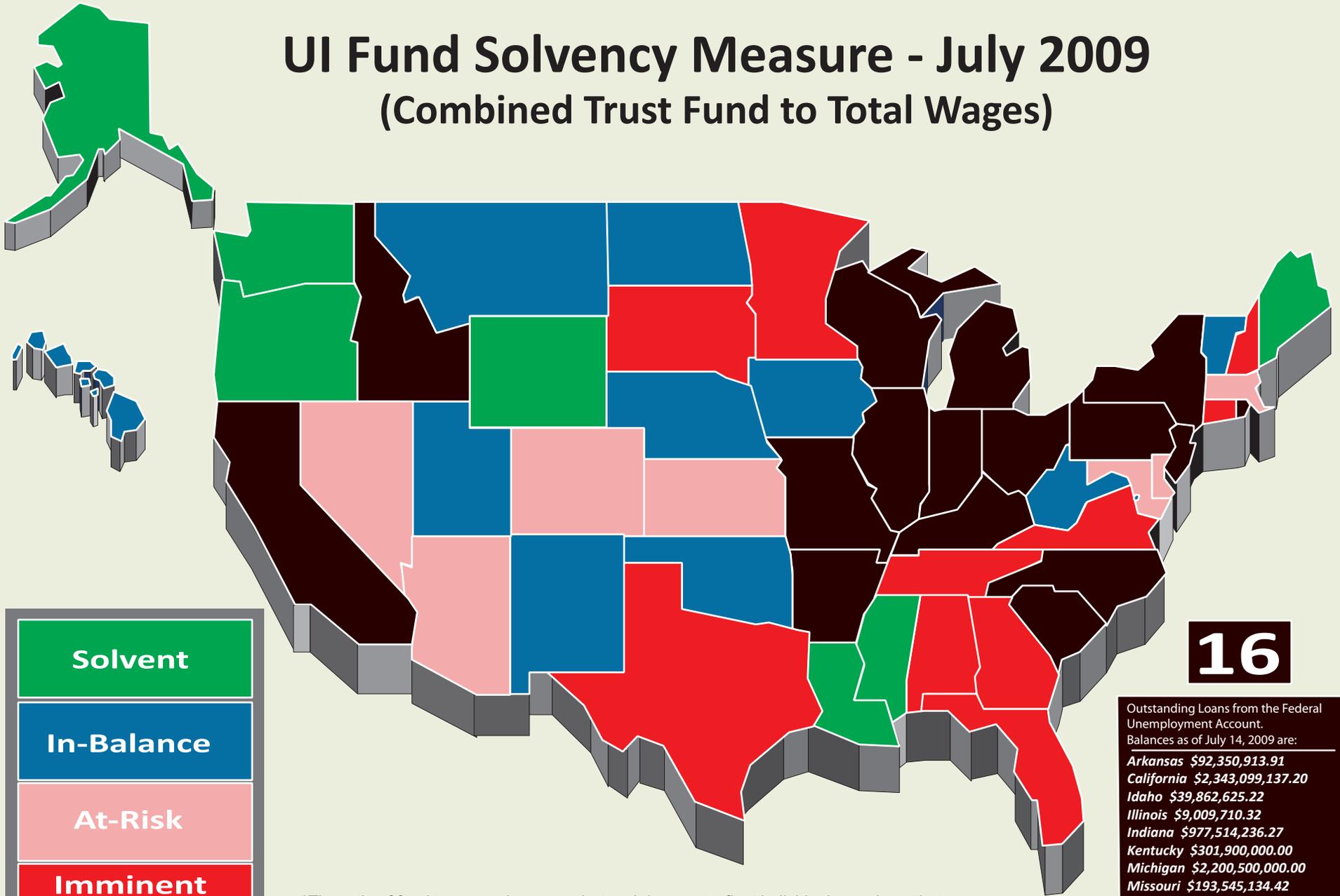
| | Jun 2009* | May 2009 | Jun 2008 | % Change From | |
|---|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|--------------|
| | | | | Last Month | Last Year |
| INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE | | | | | |
| <i>Seasonally Adjusted</i> | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 60,750 | 61,420 | 62,170 | -1.1 | -2.3 |
| Unemployment | 3,630 | 3,370 | 2,140 | 7.7 | 69.6 |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed | 6.0% | 5.5% | 3.4% | | |
| Total Employment | 57,120 | 58,050 | 60,030 | -1.6 | -4.8 |
| <i>Unadjusted</i> | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 61,620 | 61,250 | 63,190 | 0.6 | -2.5 |
| Unemployment | 3,360 | 3,050 | 1,900 | 10.2 | 76.8 |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed | 5.4% | 5.0% | 3.0% | | |
| Total Employment | 58,270 | 58,190 | 61,290 | 0.1 | -4.9 |
| JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK | | | | | |
| Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS | 51,060 | 50,470 | 52,960 | 1.2 | -3.6 |
| <i>Goods-Producing Industries</i> | | | | | |
| Construction & Natural Resources | 3,650 | 3,460 | 4,780 | 5.5 | -23.6 |
| Manufacturing | 3,450 | 3,420 | 3,360 | 0.9 | 2.7 |
| <i>Food Manufacturing</i> | 860 | 870 | 940 | -1.1 | -8.5 |
| <i>Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing</i> | 230 | 220 | 290 | 4.5 | -20.7 |
| <i>Machinery Manufacturing</i> | 130 | 130 | 150 | 0.0 | -13.3 |
| <i>Other Manufacturing</i> | 2,230 | 2,190 | 1,980 | 1.8 | 12.6 |
| <i>Service-Providing Industries</i> | | | | | |
| Trade, Transportation & Utilities | 12,390 | 12,250 | 13,400 | 1.1 | -7.5 |
| <i>Wholesale Trade</i> | 3,400 | 3,340 | 3,710 | 1.8 | -8.4 |
| <i>Retail Trade</i> | 7,550 | 7,520 | 7,780 | 0.4 | -3.0 |
| <i>Utilities</i> | 60 | 60 | 60 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| <i>Transportation</i> | 1,380 | 1,330 | 1,850 | 3.8 | -25.4 |
| Information | 1,320 | 1,330 | 1,460 | -0.8 | -9.6 |
| Financial Activities | 2,020 | 2,010 | 2,270 | 0.5 | -11.0 |
| Professional & Business Services | 4,960 | 4,800 | 5,390 | 3.3 | -8.0 |
| Educational & Health Services | 7,440 | 7,380 | 7,500 | 0.8 | -0.8 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 5,530 | 5,390 | 5,080 | 2.6 | 8.9 |
| Other Services | 2,740 | 2,640 | 2,230 | 3.8 | 22.9 |
| Government Education | 3,850 | 3,970 | 3,680 | -3.0 | 4.6 |
| Government Administration | 3,710 | 3,820 | 3,810 | -2.9 | -2.6 |

*Preliminary estimate

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

UI Fund Solvency Measure - July 2009

(Combined Trust Fund to Total Wages)



| |
|----------------------|
| Solvent |
| In-Balance |
| At-Risk |
| Imminent Risk |
| Borrowing |

16

Outstanding Loans from the Federal Unemployment Account.
Balances as of July 14, 2009 are:

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Arkansas | \$92,350,913.91 |
| California | \$2,343,099,137.20 |
| Idaho | \$39,862,625.22 |
| Illinois | \$9,009,710.32 |
| Indiana | \$977,514,236.27 |
| Kentucky | \$301,900,000.00 |
| Michigan | \$2,200,500,000.00 |
| Missouri | \$193,545,134.42 |
| New Jersey | \$427,000,833.38 |
| New York | \$1,316,887,391.04 |
| North Carolina | \$837,778,816.88 |
| Ohio | \$961,237,799.00 |
| Pennsylvania | \$527,945,039.50 |
| Rhode Island | \$70,270,572.01 |
| South Carolina | \$387,657,234.28 |
| Wisconsin | \$500,401,263.04 |

**The ratio of fund to wages is a snapshot and does not reflect individual state laws that may have provisions that automatically trigger higher taxes or that may be indexed to wages and other pertinent metrics.*

Archived in research/UI/solvency project.
Actual Balances provided by the US Department of Labor - July 2009.
Graphics and algorithm provided by the Idaho Department of Labor- Communications and Research - July 2009.

Glossary of Labor Market Terms

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

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

Average Weekly Earnings: Average Hourly Earnings multiplied by Average Weekly Hours.

Civilian Labor Force: A count of non-institutional persons 16 years of age and over residing within a specific geographic area, excluding members of armed forces, who are classified as employed, unemployed and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

Consumer Price Index (CPI): A national index measuring changes over time in the price of a fixed market basket of goods and services. There are two indexes—the All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) represents the buying habits of about 80 percent of the non-institutional population of the United States, and the Urban Wage & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) represents 40 percent of the population.

Covered Employers: Employers who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws.

Durable Goods: Also known as “hard goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers with a normal life expectancy of three years or more.

Employed: Individuals, 16 years of age or older, who worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit or worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week including the 12th day of the month. Individuals are also counted as employed if they had a job but did not work because they were: ill, on vacation, in a labor dispute, prevented from working because of bad weather, or temporarily absent for similar reasons.

Initial Claim: Any notice of unemployment filed to request (1) a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or (2) a second or subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA): A county or a combination of counties in which at least half the residents live in an urban center of 50,000 or more and the rest have significant commuting ties to that central county. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MSAs. Idaho has five MSAs: Boise MSA including Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem and Owyhee counties; Bonneville MSA including Bonneville and Jefferson counties; Pocatello MSA including Bannock and Power counties; Lewiston MSA including Nez Perce County and Asotin County, Wash.; Coeur d’Alene MSA including Kootenai County.

Micropolitan Statistical Area (MicSA): Combinations of counties in which at least half the residents live in urban centers totaling at least 10,000—or 5,000 living in a single urban center—and the rest have significant commuting ties to that central county. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MicSAs. Idaho has three MicSAs: Burley MicSA including Cassia and Minidoka counties; Rexburg MicSA including Madison and Fremont counties; Twin Falls MicSA including Twin Falls and Jerome counties.

Glossary of Labor Market Terms (cont.)

Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment: Persons on nonfarm establishment payrolls (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work or receive pay for any part of the week including the 12th of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work. It does not include self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, military personnel and persons who are laid off, on leave without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period.

Nondurable Goods: Also known as “soft goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers that generally last for only a short period of time (three years or less).

Seasonally Adjusted: Data is seasonally adjusted to remove the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year such as the effect of cold weather on outdoor activities, the Christmas holiday, or the summer influx of youth into the labor market.

Small Labor Market Areas (SLMA): Combinations of counties with significant ties through commuting patterns but no urban centers with populations of 10,000 or more. The Office of Management and Budget designates the SLMAs. Idaho has two SLMAs: Hailey SLMA including Blaine and Camas counties; Grangeville SLMA including Lewis and Idaho counties.

Unemployed: Those individuals, 16 years of age or older, who do not have a job but are available for work and actively seeking work during the week including the 12th of the month. The only exceptions to these criteria are individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days—these, too, are considered unemployed.

Unemployment Insurance: Unemployment Insurance is a program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers, to be used for the payment of Unemployment Insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond their control.

Unemployment Rate: The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labor force.

Weekly Benefit Amount: The amount payable to a claimant for a compensable week of total unemployment.

Weeks Claimed: The number of weeks that unemployed workers claimed Unemployment Insurance benefits.

Weeks Compensated: The number of weeks for which compensation was actually paid.

IDAHO EMPLOYMENT is published online monthly by the Idaho Department of Labor. All information is in the public domain and may be duplicated without permission; however, the Idaho Department of Labor should be cited as the source.

The source for all data tables and graphs is the Idaho Department of Labor, Communications & Research, except where noted.

IDAHO EMPLOYMENT is produced by the Idaho Department of Labor which is funded at least in part by federal grants from the U.S. Department of Labor. Costs associated with this online publication are available by contacting the Idaho Department of Labor. Questions and comments can be directed to Public Affairs by phoning (208) 332-3570, ext. 3220, or by e-mail to janell.hyer@labor.idaho.gov or to the Regional Economists noted in each area news section.

Editor: Bob Fick (bob.fick@labor.idaho.gov)

Layout/Design: Jean Cullen (jean.cullen@labor.idaho.gov)

