

# Idaho Employment

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

**IDAHO**  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, GOVERNOR

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ROGER B. MADSEN, DIRECTOR

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## UNDEREMPLOYMENT KEEPS PACE WITH UNEMPLOYMENT

The national recession has stifled economic activity and driven up unemployment throughout Idaho. But comparatively unnoticed in the fallout from the dramatic slowdown has been the rise in underemployment, and the worst is still to come.

Since Idaho's unemployment rate bottomed out at 2.8 percent in May 2007, the rate has been climbing steadily each month, hitting 6.8 percent in February. Only Hawaii saw its rate escalate faster over the same period.

The number of workers without jobs jumped from barely 21,000 in May 2007 to over 51,000 in February, and 28,000 jobs have disappeared.

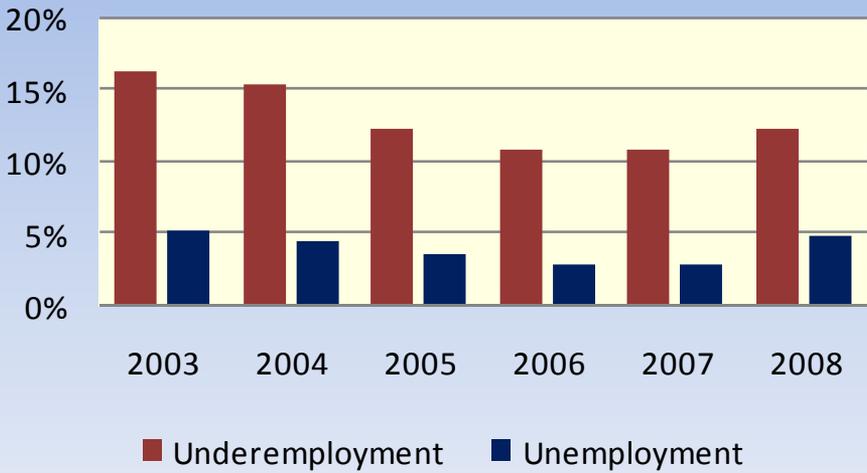
A similar, albeit slower increase has been occurring in underemployment – the number of workers who want full-time jobs but can only find part-time work or jobs with wages, benefits or responsibilities below their skills.

The increase has not been as significant or abrupt, partly because a number of underemployed workers have joined the ranks of the unemployed and partly because fewer jobs are available that in better times would have transitioned many workers into becoming underemployed after being laid off. Now that option is substantially limited by the fact that in the past year Idaho has lost 30,000 jobs, a decline of nearly 5 percent.

In 2008, underemployment averaged 12.3 percent of total employment across Idaho, or over 88,000 workers. That was up from 79,000, or 10.9 percent in 2007.

Reports of an overwhelming number of applicants for just about any job are increasing – 100 including a large number of college graduates applying for a \$10 an hour government clerical job that requires only a high school diploma, 400 for a big box cashier's job and companies holding initial interviews in groups because the applicant base is so large.

## Idaho Unemployment, Underemployment Correlation, 2003-2008



Underemployment will rise even more in 2009 as the economy feels the full force of the recession. But as what is expected to be a slow recovery begins, possibly sometime this fall, unemployment will begin to subside while underemployment will continue to rise.

The recessions of the early 1980s and 2001 show the pattern. The double-dip recessions of 1980 and 1981-1982 ended in November 1982, but it took another four years for Idaho's economy to regain all the jobs lost during that severe downturn.

The underemployment statistic has only recently been developed so there is no information on that phenomenon. But the annual poverty rates jumped markedly from the 13 percent to 14 percent range typical for that time. The poverty rate spiked three percentage points to 17.7 percent in 1981 and averaged over 17 percent through 1986 before dropping to 15 percent in 1987 and then below 13 percent in 1988 and 1989 as the economy began growing and generating new jobs.

The early 1990s essentially bypassed Idaho. Job growth slowed somewhat during much of 1991 but never fell below year-earlier levels before growth began again exceeding 15,000 year-over-year.

But the 2001 recession, while not as deep as the early 1980s, took more of a toll. Year-over-year job growth went negative in late 2001 and stayed that way for nearly a year before beginning to post modest monthly increases. Unemployment peaked at 5.5 percent during the final half of 2002 before beginning to abate. But it was not until after 2003 that monthly year-over-year job growth regained its pre-recession level of 10,000 or more.

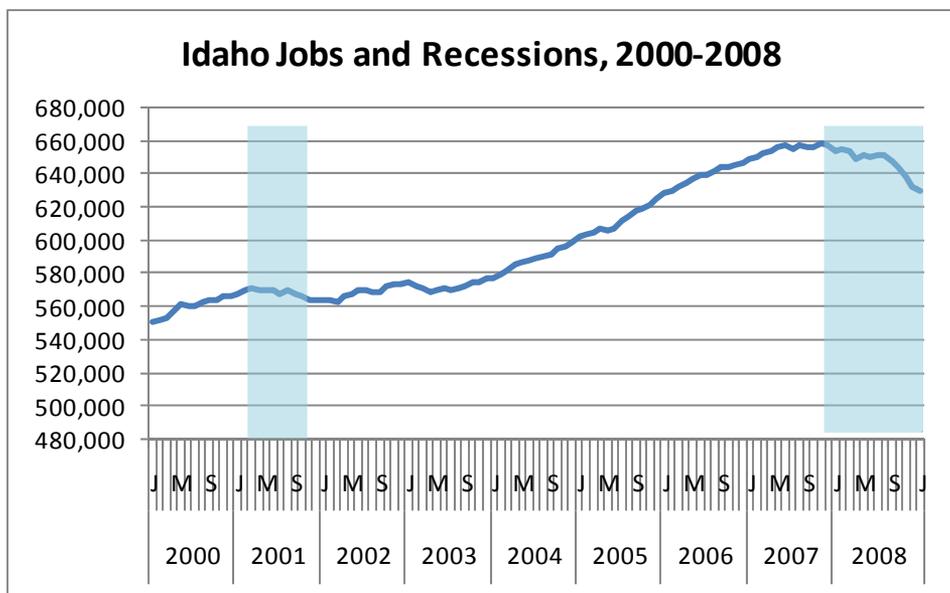
That sluggish job picture contributed to the persisting rise in underemployment even after the unemployment rate began dropping. Underemployment hit 16.5 percent in 2003, nearly 110,000, and 15.5 percent in 2004 before finally dropping back below 13 percent in 2005.

Not surprisingly, underemployment bottomed out in 2007, the same year that unemployment hit a record low and the percentage of the workforce holding down more than one job fell to its lowest level in more than a decade.

Only 6.5 percent of Idaho workers had more than one job in 2007, and that reflected the fact that the average wage in Idaho jumped 5.5 percent in 2006, the second largest one-year gain in a quarter century.

Multiple jobs are linked to pay, another barometer of the adequacy of wages in a state. At 6.5 percent, Idaho ranked 17<sup>th</sup> among the state in the percentage of multiple job holders, its lowest ranking in years. But of those 17 states, 11 including Idaho had average annual wages in the bottom 40 percent of the states, two — Alaska and Hawaii — have very high costs of living and Minnesota has a large agricultural sector that also compels producers to hold second or even third jobs in town.

Considering the depth and breadth of the current recession in Idaho, multiple job holders could be kept in check in both 2008 and 2009 because of job contraction, and underemployment will continue rising through 2011 and possibly 2012 before employment opportunities begin catching up with worker demand.



J M S = January, March, September

### ASSESSING THE UNDEREMPLOYED

Underemployment is not a hard and fast statistic. It is based on a number of assumptions and does not attempt to measure holiday or seasonal workers.

It is based on that part of all employed workers who take jobs listed with the 25 local Labor Department offices that are part time, temporary or full time lasting less than 150 days or who have associate degrees or higher and are currently employed but have filed with a local office to find another job.

This assumes that the job listings and employment applications filed with the local Labor offices are numerous enough and representative of current labor market conditions.

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### FEBRUARY ECONOMY MORE SEVERE THAN FIRST ESTIMATED

Idaho's economy continued its decline in February, and revised job figures for 2008 showed the slowdown was more severe than originally estimated.

Nonfarm payroll jobs fell another 1,400 in February, a decline of 0.2 percent from January to mark the first January-to-February decline in 27 years. The last was 0.5 percent in 1982 during the heart of that decade's double-dip recession.

Over 25,000 jobs have disappeared since February 2008, a 4.7 percent loss. The number of nonfarm jobs in Idaho is now 5,500 below the February 2006 level of 615,000.

The industries that suffered the most job loss were construction, manufacturing and trade, transportation and utilities.

Construction jobs fell by 900 from January, a 2.5 percent decline, but that matched the fall-off of a year ago. Compared to January and February 2008, construction jobs were down 16 percent in both January and February 2009. That compares to the 18.7 percent drop in December 2008 from the previous December. Trade, transportation and utilities shed the most jobs in February, nearly 2,000 from January or 1.6 percent. That followed a December-to-January loss of over 6,000 jobs, or 4.8 percent. Retail job losses of 1,600 drove the overall loss in the sector as they did in January when 5,000 disappeared.

Manufacturing dropped another 1,000 jobs in February, suffering the second largest decline of the month. This estimate does not include the most recent layoffs announced by Micron Technology, which should begin showing up in the March estimate.

Government gained 2,700 jobs, but that increase is misleading. This growth reflects 3,000 public school teachers and employees returning to work after the winter break, and it masks a decline of 500 state government administrative jobs as agencies laid off and furloughed workers.

Revisions to the 2008 job estimates using more recent data showed Idaho's economy to be much weaker through the first three quarters than originally indicated and slightly stronger in the final three months of the year. Average job loss was over 1 percent.

Assuming Idaho's seasonal job patterns hold in the midst of the current national recession, March could show the first month-to-month payroll increase in eight months. March has produced an average job increase of about 1 percent. March 2008 posted the shallowest growth in over 10 years at 0.8 percent. Since 1939, the earliest year on record, the only decline from February-to-March was in 1944. Disrupting the trend, however, would be the layoffs at Micron. *See pages 5-8 for tables illustrating changes in Idaho.*

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## LMI Web Site Features Wage, Occupations and More

**Occupational trends** — High demand occupations, fastest growing occupations, declining occupations, occupations by industry.

**Industry data** — Employment by industry, nonfarm payroll jobs, growing industries, declining industries.

**Wages and benefits** — Wages by occupation, Davis-Bacon wages, wages for major industries.

**Economic information** — Population, health, education, employment, earnings, industry mix, income, occupational profiles, business development.

**Work force information** — Unemployment, employment, labor force, affirmative action statistics, occupations, wages.

**Census data** — Census data center of Idaho population, demographics, vital statistics.

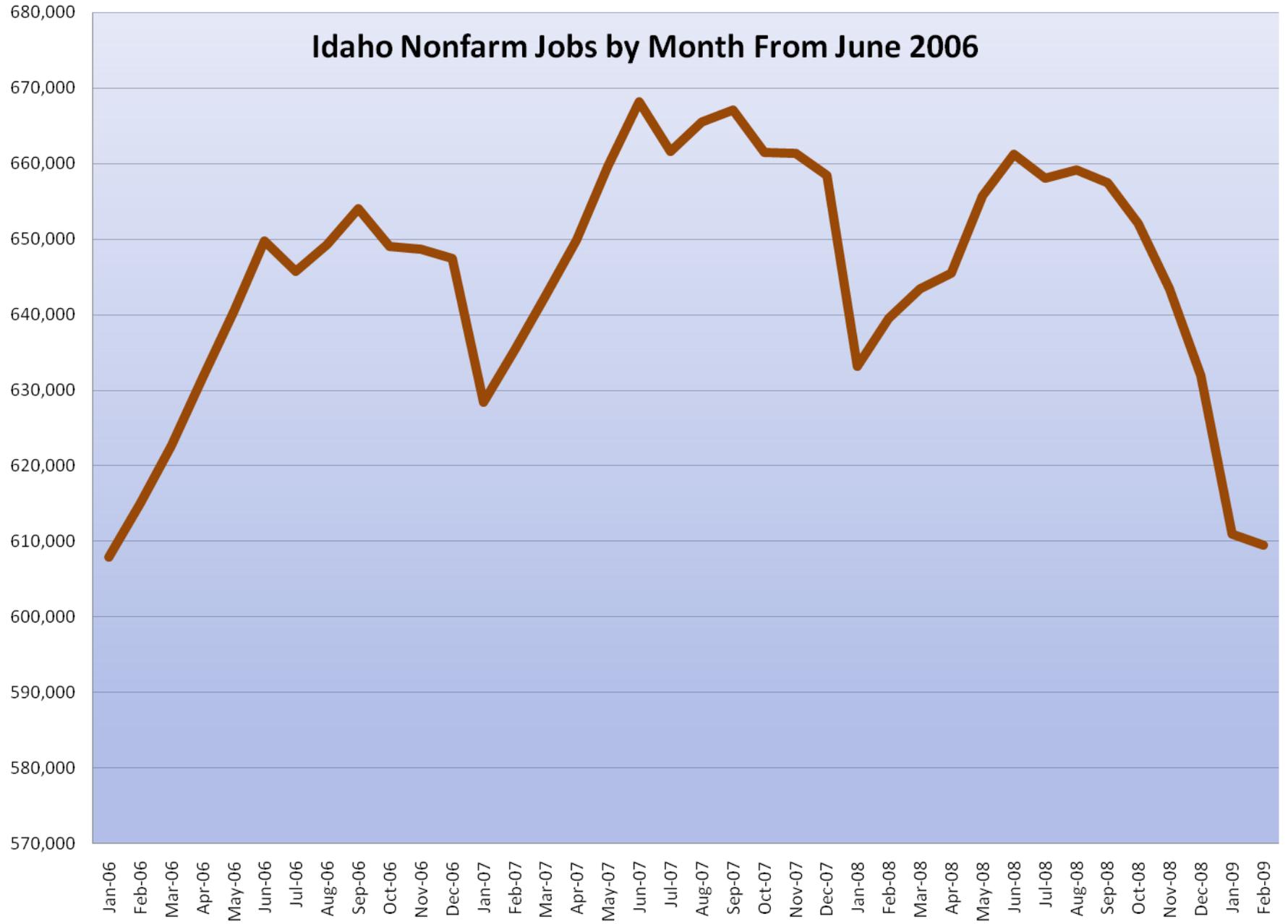
**Connect to a variety of labor market and economic publications available on the Web site and in print.**

**[lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov)**

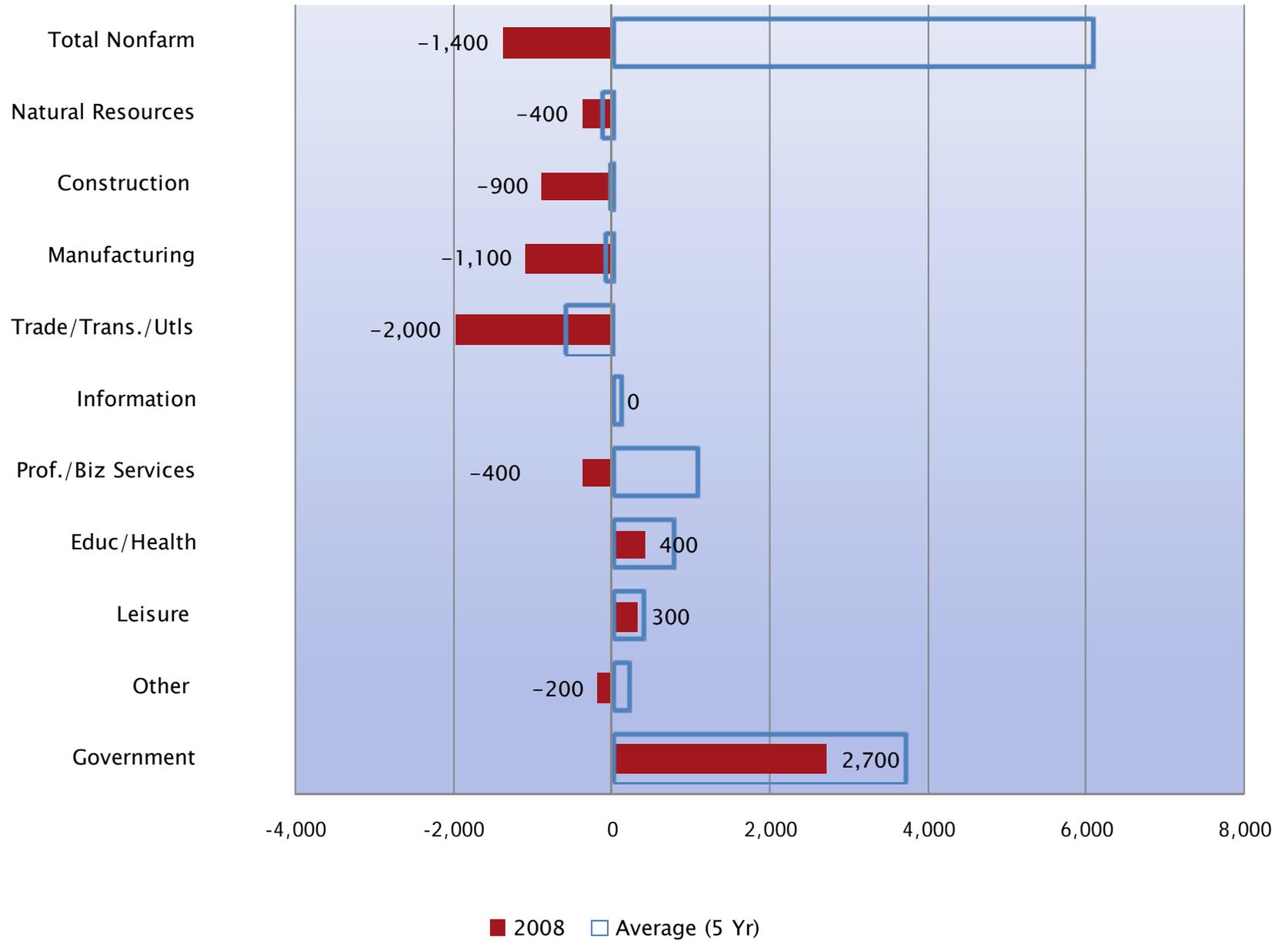
### Idaho Jobs Benchmarked and Unbenchmarked August 2007 to December 2008



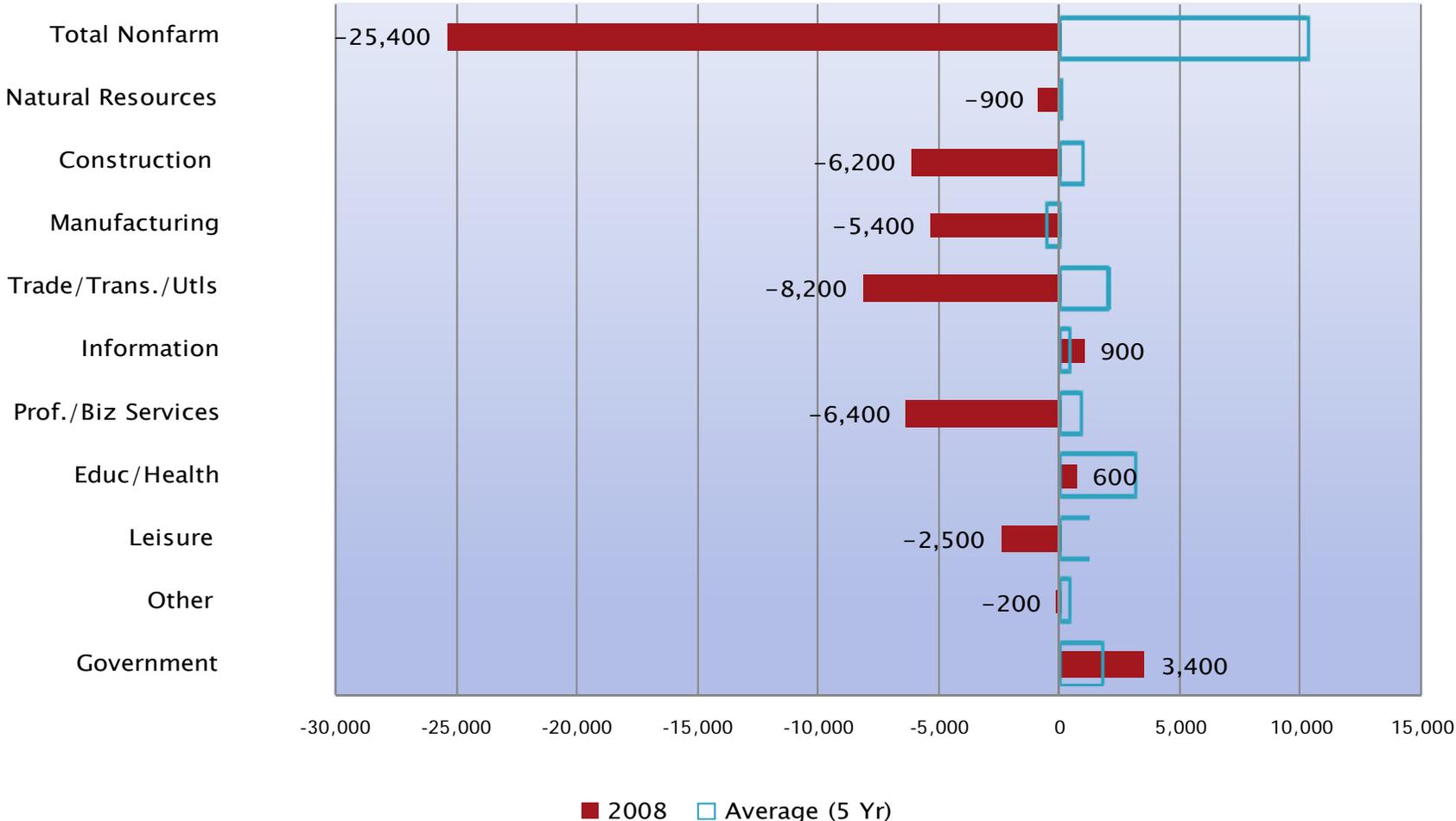
### Idaho Nonfarm Jobs by Month From June 2006



## Change in Selected Nonfarm Job Sectors January to February 2008 Compared to Five-Year Average



### Change in Selected Nonfarm Job Sectors February 2008 to February 2009 Compared to Five-Year Average



## PRIVATE SECTOR JOB LOSSES OUTPACED GAINS 1ST QUARTER

Private sector job losses from closing and contracting businesses outpaced gains from new and expanding business during the first quarter of 2008, according to Business Employment Dynamics data released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Idaho's net job loss was 3,562, marking only the third time since the end of the 2001 recession that Idaho has lost more jobs than it gained in the first quarter, according to the newly revised figures. The others were in the aftermath of the last recession — 2002 with 3,310 jobs lost and 2003 with 3,297 lost.

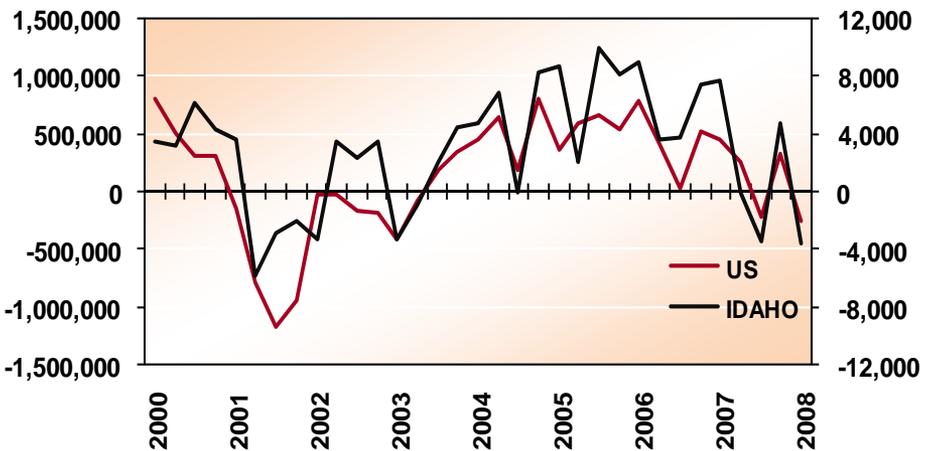
The economy gained a total of 43,825 new jobs during the first three months of 2008, which was down a half percent point from the increase in the fourth quarter of 2007 and three-quarters of a percentage point lower than the first quarter of 2007. That was more than offset by the loss of 47,387 existing jobs, the highest ever for a first quarter and second only to the third quarter of 2001 when closing and contracting businesses shed 47,593 jobs.

Despite the very small seasonal net increase in jobs during the fourth quarter of 2007, it is clear Idaho was already beginning to feel the economic slowdown during the second half of 2007 and was in its grip at the onset of 2008.

The national economy posted a net loss of 270,000 jobs for the first quarter. Payrolls grew by 7.1 million from new and expanding business, but that was offset by closing and contracting businesses dropping 7.4 million jobs.

Chart 1 illustrates the ever-changing Business Employment Dynamic and compares Idaho to the nation. Analyzing state and national data shows the net change in jobs is sensitive to the business cycle. In first quarter of 2008, Idaho's net job loss of 3,562 was the highest for any first quarter since the statistic began being compiled in 1992.

Chart 1. Net Change in Jobs, Idaho and U.S.,  
3rd Quarter 1992 to 1st Quarter 2008 (seasonally adjusted)



Source: BED/Bureau of Labor Statistics

While there are no state statistics on job gains and losses by sector, nationally education and health services posted a net gain of 118,000 jobs. The other three sectors to gain jobs saw anemic results. Leisure and hospitality added a weak net gain of 4,000 jobs while utilities added another 3,000, and miscellaneous services was up 1,000.

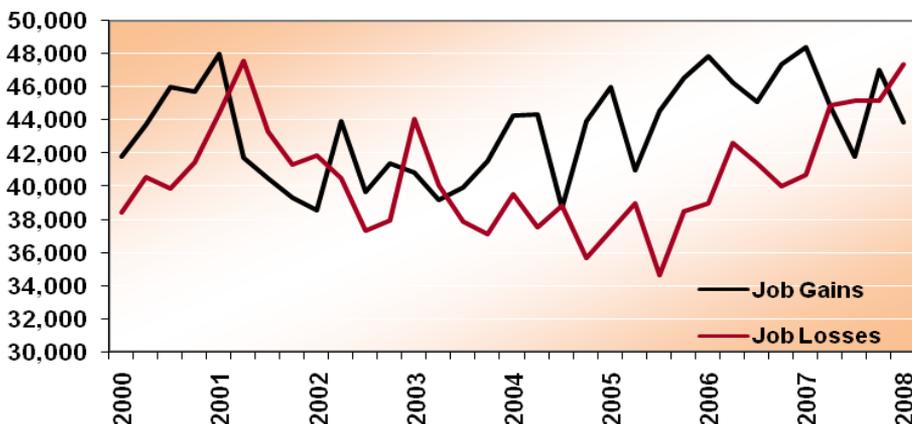
Goods production led the nine industries that dropped a significant number of jobs during the January-March quarter. Manufacturing lost 140,000 jobs followed by construction at 106,000. Professional and business services were off 119,000 jobs and financial activities 24,000, which followed a fourth quarter loss of 54,000 jobs. Lastly, information shed 10,000 jobs.

Nationally Wyoming had the highest gross job gain at 10.5 percent followed by Alaska at 10.2 percent. Montana was third with 8.5 percent, and Idaho was fourth with an 8 percent job gain. The slowest growing states were Illinois at 5 percent and Indiana at 5.2 percent.

On the job loss side, Connecticut had the lowest rate of gross job losses at 5.3 percent followed by Illinois at 5.4 percent. Alaska continued with the highest gross job loss at 9 percent. Wyoming was second at 8.9 percent, and Idaho was third with an 8.6 percent job loss.

Chart 2 shows the Idaho economy had fewer job gains than losses during the first quarter of 2008 and the third quarter of 2007, breaking a string of positive job gains reaching back to 2003.

Chart 2. Idaho Gross Job Gains and Losses, 3rd Quarter 1992 to 1st Quarter 2008 (seasonally adjusted)



Source: BED/Bureau of Labor Statistics

*Data in this quarter National and State releases incorporate annual revisions to the Business Employment Dynamics series. Annual revisions are published each year with the release of first quarter data. These revisions cover the last four quarters of non-seasonally adjusted data and five years of seasonally adjusted data.*

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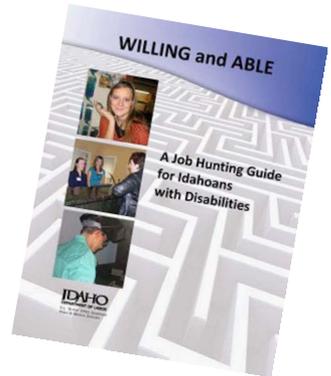
# Area and County Developments

## PANHANDLE

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai & Shoshone counties

### REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- As the national recession reduces tourism, especially convention trade, the region's tourism leaders were delighted to see Sandpoint and Coeur d'Alene listed as two of the country's greatest 100 towns for getaway vacations or the rest of one's life. The latest edition of "The Great Towns of America" cites good weather, scenic beauty, Lake Pend Oreille and Lake Coeur d'Alene, low crime, recreational opportunities, Schweitzer Mountain Resort's continual upgrading, the Coeur d'Alene Resort and the new Coeur d'Alene Public Library as attributes.
- More than \$2 million will be funneled to northern Idaho creating 55 jobs to prevent catastrophic wildfires. The Northern Region of the Forest Service and the Idaho Department of Lands will receive the money to beef up existing hazardous fuel treatment programs on state and private land. It's labor-intensive work. The Panhandle Area Council said the timber-related jobs will start as soon as weather and ground conditions permit. Those interested in the jobs should apply through the Department of Labor as existing vendor companies are being notified of the funding. The funds are expected to create 20 new jobs in Kootenai County, 15 in Bonner and 10 each in Boundary and Benewah.
- The Idaho Department of Labor has published *Willing and Able: A Job Hunting Guide for Idahoans with Disabilities*. The handbook assists workers with disabilities and helps employers put these individuals' underused skills to work. It can also serve as a reference for people who work with the disabled. The guide is available online at [labor.idaho.gov](http://labor.idaho.gov). Choose "Publications" and then click on "Employment Services."
- The U.S. Department of Labor has announced a \$523,935 grant to assist the 130 Idaho workers laid off at JD Lumber Inc. in Priest River, Sterling Mining Co. in Kellogg and U.S. Silver Corp. in Wallace. "The layoffs in Idaho's natural resource industry have had significant impact on the local economy," Deputy Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training Douglas Small said in a statement. This grant "will provide necessary services and allow affected workers to return to work faster." The Idaho Department of Labor will use the money to provide additional services to workers eligible for Trade Adjustment Assistance. These services include skills assessment, counseling, case management, job search and job placement assistance as well as follow-up. Affected workers will have access to dislocated worker services. Support services, such as out-of-area job search and relocation assistance, transportation and day care also may be provided.



### BENEWAH COUNTY

- Potlatch Corporation laid off 33 workers at its St. Maries complex in mid-February. The workers aren't expected to return until the wood products

market turns up. Both the sawmill and plywood mill cut jobs. Since the mills closed for a week at Christmas, employees have been working just three days a week. They are expected to remain on that schedule until wood products demand increases.

- A taxiway will be added this summer at the St. Maries airport, which will allow planes to get off the runway as soon as they land. Now they have to back taxi on a runaway, and without a control tower that poses a safety risk. Federal aviation grants are paying for 95 percent of the \$1 million project. The 25-foot taxiway will parallel the airstrip for 2,400 feet. It should be completed by October.
- Heide Lounsbury recently opened St. Maries Sandwich & Catering Co. in the River City Mall. The menu features soup, salads, sandwiches and desserts and will offer breakfast later this year.

#### *BONNER COUNTY*

- Quest Aircraft remains the brightest spot in the region. The company, which produced its first airplane in January 2008, has a backlog of orders for its hardy, single-engine cargo planes designed to take off and land in remote areas. When it first began production, it employed about 135 people. Today, it employs 275 people and plans to add 50 more jobs before the end of the year. Its average annual wage exceeds \$36,000.
- A lone eagle operating in Priest River allows teenagers all over the world to live out their rock star fantasies. Rod Stafford is president and founder of a world-renowned animation studio called FacePro. He helped develop an interactive video game that allows players to sing as if they were on “American Idol.” Stafford uses the Internet to connect with his four-person staff of animators, who live in different states. They produced the hyper-realistic facial animation for the game by carefully analyzing each other’s emotions while lip syncing to songs. The team then digitally animated a number of singing faces to look as if they were giving a soulful, happy or teary rendition of a song. The group also often animates faces for video games including the dying soldiers in “Mercenaries 2: World in Flames.” In addition to video games, the group also has contributed facial animation to interactive Web-based applications and instructional videos. Stafford started FacePro in February 2007 after spending two decades working in various aspects of the gaming and film industries. He got his start working for filmmaker George Lucas at Industrial Light and Magic.
- The Forest Service recently awarded Swank Enterprises of Kalispell, Mont., a \$3.1 million contract for the new Sandpoint Ranger District office. Work should be completed on the 13,363-square-foot, single-story building early next year.
- Federal stimulus funds are allowing the Idaho Transportation Board to move ahead with all of its highest priority projects including replacing the dilapidated Dover Bridge on U.S. Highway 2. The bridge west of Sandpoint has become a poster child for the nation’s crumbling infrastructure. The \$40 million project is scheduled for bid advertising on May 5.
- The sawmill at Ceda-Pine Veneer in Samuels north of Sandpoint shut down in mid-February, idling 14 people indefinitely. The veneer mill closed in early January.
- Residents in Bonner and Boundary counties who need dialysis no longer need to travel three days a week to Coeur d’Alene, Post Falls or Spokane. Now they can go to Idaho Panhandle Dialysis in Ponderay. The facility that opened in mid-February has 12 hemodialysis stations and is open three

days a week. As population and demand grow, the center owned by Fresenius Medical Care will add days and expand hours.

- Spokane Teachers Credit Union opened a branch on U.S. Highway 95 in Ponderay in February. While it began as a credit union for teachers, it now serves anyone. The Ponderay branch is the company's 13<sup>th</sup> branch and employs three people.
- Rainelle McCasland recently opened Four Seasons Consignment in Clark Fork, offering household and seasonal items as well as clothing.
- Bouncing Bobbins is a quilting and scrapbooking store that opened in downtown Priest River in February. Owned by Mary Young and Kerry Lucas and her mother Carol Lucas, the store sells custom event invitations, wedding favors, seasonal supplies and sewing accessories. The shop wants to become a part of the community and is offering patrons a chance to work on their projects at the store. It rents "cubbies" and plans to offer a ladies day, where a group can spend the afternoon creating and crafting while enjoying brunch and the company of others.
- Business analyst Dawn Petek recently opened Starlight Business Systems in Priest River, offering services to help make business more efficient and improve work flow. Petek and an employee offer bookkeeping, GPS/GIS mapping, report design, systems analysis, process redesign and business startup support.
- Jennifer Hartwig and Julie Anderson opened Noni, a wine bar in downtown Priest River, in January. In addition to wine, it also serves appetizers and Italian desserts.

#### *BOUNDARY COUNTY*

- A \$2 million expansion is underway at Fodge Pulp in Bonners Ferry. The company manufactures paper chips, hog fuel for generating electricity and bark for landscaping. The expansion includes installing machinery to make the products more efficiently. The new debarking system will be electrical while the current system is run by diesel. The project began in December and should be completed in April, weather permitting. Ansley Inc. is the general contractor, E.L. Automation is doing the electrical work and BF Redi Mix did the concrete work. Owners Sam and Deneice Fodge don't know how many jobs the project could create. That will depend on the economy. Currently, Fodge Pulp employs nine people.
- The Blue Lake RV Resort just off U.S. Highway 95 in Naples is undergoing a major renovation and will reopen May 1. To enhance the resort's potential as a group facility, its owners are renovating an old lakeside building into a rustic clubhouse with full kitchen, seating up to 50 people indoors and 100-plus outside. With 20 acres and a lake, Blue Lake could be a perfect setting for reunions, weddings and retreats. Camping cabins and boutique pole tents are being built along the lake, and the RV sites are being upgraded and widened so they can handle big rigs comfortably. Also planned are a new bath house, Wi-Fi, a new dock and propane service. Canoes and kayaks will be available for rent.
- Five businesses recently opened in Bonners Ferry. Mica Wages Johnson, a Bonners Ferry native who owns a studio in Hayden, recently opened Mica-Jae's Photography Studio. John and Gretchen Miller opened Miller's Auto Body, a full-service automotive body shop. Donald Gaspar, who specializes in upholstery for cars, boats and motorcycles, recently opened D and H Customs. Heritage Jewelers is a custom design and repair jeweler located downtown. Gary and Billie Warwick soon will open a 1950s-themed restau-

rant in the former Corner Drug. A screen similar to a drive-in movie theater will play old movies and drag races from the 1950s, and the juke box will play golden oldies. The soda fountain will feature classic shakes, floats and specialty drinks.

#### *KOOTENAI COUNTY*

- Buck Knives, the manufacturer of hunting knives which relocated to Post Falls from the San Diego area in 2005, is moving forward with plans to shift more of its production from overseas to northern Idaho. Last year the company was purchasing materials to make its blades from Taiwan. By shifting materials production to Post Falls it hopes to save money and bring more jobs to the region. Lean manufacturing techniques have allowed the Post Falls plant to make more knives at lower costs. President C.J. Buck says the Buck brand stands for American-made knives. About 95 percent of Buck's new products for 2009 and 2010 will be manufactured in Post Falls, and all hunting products are being made domestically. The company, which employs more than 200 people, expects to make 20 percent more products this year than last, and it plans to hire more employees by this summer.
- Kimball International, which has an office furniture factory in Post Falls, is imposing across-the-board salary reductions to survive the recession. Management will shoulder a 5 percent cut and all other salaried employees 3 percent. Kimball employs 450 people. Most earn between \$12 and \$18 per hour. The Post Falls facility has avoided layoffs, and when other Kimball facilities have consolidated, some of their work has been sent to Post Falls.
- Century Publishing, a longtime large employer in Post Falls, permanently cut 50 jobs in early February and another 20 three weeks later. In 2007, the company employed 135 people. But 85 percent of its work came from the real estate industry, which is now suffering its worst problems since the Great Depression. Real estate agents don't have money to advertise. The remaining current staff will now focus on printing magazines and the membership directories for area chambers.
- Severely depressed demand for wood products continues to take a toll on jobs. Idaho Veneer indefinitely shut down its sawmill and its planer in Post Falls in February, idling 17 employees. About the same time, Idaho Veneer called back three machine centers, putting 15 of the 40 employees who were laid off there in early January temporarily back to work.
- Global Drug Testing Labs Inc., based in Coeur d'Alene, is growing quickly. Employers and courts increasingly require drug testing. Also, the expansion of drug courts, which employ stringent requirements to help people convicted of drug-related crimes stay out of jail, has driven growth in the drug-testing industry. Global's growth also results from a Web-based software program it's developed that allows it to process up to 800 tests a day as easily as it used to handle 200 tests. In 2008, it employed 40 people and had \$2 million in sales, compared with six people and \$160,000 in sales when Ken Smith bought the company in 2005. This year, Smith hopes to see sales rise to \$6 million. Global currently has laboratories in Coeur d'Alene, Salt Lake City and San Jose, Calif., where it both collects and performs drug tests on urine and hair samples. At five other sites, it collects samples and sends them to one of its three labs for processing. It expects to open four or five more labs and several collection facilities over the next year and add up to 12 employees at each lab.
- Indians and Outlaws, a new store in downtown Coeur d'Alene, features genuine antiques and authentic reproductions of Indian and old western artifacts. The western-themed items include everything from snowshoes,

masks, war shirts, kachina dolls and moccasins to Charlie Russell paintings.

- GarageTown USA recently moved its growing corporate offices into the first floor of the Spokesman-Review Building in Coeur d'Alene. The four-year-old company — owned by Cliff Mort, Cyndie Johnson, Joe Enos and Chuck Lempeis — now offers luxury garage condo units in 18 places in six states. GarageTown employs 10 employees locally.
- The U.S. recession is hitting the electronics industry hard. Mor Manufacturing, a custom electronics manufacturer in Post Falls, laid off about 50 employees in January.
- Rathdrum has three new eateries. Randy Youngdell recently filled the retail space left when Taco Bell built its new store. He opened San Francisco Style Sourdough Eatery, serving sandwiches made from freshly baked bread, soups and gourmet salads. The eatery employs 10 people. A block down the highway, Marshall Hegney opened the first West Side Pizza franchise in Idaho. Surf City Burgers replaced A&W inside Stein's IGA in December with a menu featuring all-natural ingredients.
- The newest tenant at the Plaza Shoppes, the mall next to the Coeur d'Alene Resort, is Bruttles by the Lake, making peanut brittle, fudge, truffles and other candy from family recipes and serving ice cream. The 1,270-square-foot store employs five people, increasing to eight in the summer.
- CDA Yarn & Fiber recently opened in Coeur d'Alene. Offering a wide selection of yarns, fibers and equipment, the store also offers classes.
- The first federal fiscal stimulus money received in the Panhandle was \$1.29 million for the Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization, which will spend \$300,000 to replace a pair of CityLink buses, \$150,000 for two wheelchair-accessible mini-buses and \$50,000 for a CityLink paratransit bus. Another \$70,000 will go to buy a maintenance vehicle for CityLink. About \$720,200 will be used for an environmental site study for a future transit center in the Coeur d'Alene-Post Falls area, which is expected to cost about \$1.3 million. The Riverstone development in Coeur d'Alene has been the northern transfer site for CityLink buses. But because it has become busier, CityLink needs a new transfer site. CityLink is exploring the possibility of a regional transit center; an intermodal facility to be used by CityLink, Kootenai Area Transportation System, Greyhound and other transportation providers.
- Grumpy's restaurant in midtown Coeur d'Alene opened in March, offering soups, salads, pasta, steaks, salmon, gelato, desserts, wines and beers. The restaurant employs seven people.

#### *SHOSHONE COUNTY*

- Peak Adventures, a 15-year-old business based in Cataldo, offers snowboarders and skiers access to some challenging peaks and great powder experiences. An outing with Peak Adventures begins at home base in Cataldo, where skiers are served muffins and hot chocolate, briefed on the conditions they'll likely encounter and informed of the safety measures that need to be taken. Then it's off to the mountains, a half-hour drive to where the snowcat begins its hour-long ascent to the top of the St. Joe range. Once the cat reaches the summit, the skiers and boarders can enjoy 8 to 10 runs per day. When the sun begins to set, the day-trippers head home, but more adventurous clients can enjoy an overnight stay in the company's permanent yurt. Peak Adventures operates four snowcats for skiers, including the vancat — a one-of-a-kind backcountry vehicle with a spacious inte-

rior, capable of hauling 11 skiers and their equipment. A large group is always accompanied by two professional, licensed guides. Additional safety precautions include always skiing in pairs, an avalanche transceiver for every skier and emergency whistles.

- Silver prices are rising again, but base metal prices have fallen considerably in the last year and are expected to remain stagnant until the global recession ends.
- Silver prices rose from \$11.53 per ounce on Jan. 2 to \$13.18 on Mar. 15. The global financial crisis is causing many people to invest in gold and silver. If silver prices continue to rise, U.S. Silver intends to resume its rehabilitation of the shaft at its Galena Mine near Silverton.
- The prices of base metals — lead, zinc and copper — have not experienced the same upswing as precious metals. Hecla's Lucky Friday Mine near Mullan, which produces significant quantities of lead and zinc, has been hurt by the price slide from all-time highs in the spring of 2008. Lead dropped from \$1.75 per pound to 54 cents per pound, and zinc fell from \$1.65 to 53 cents. U.S. Silver's main by-products are lead and copper, whose price dropped from \$4 per pound last spring to \$1.65 today.
- The Silver Valley's economy is so dynamic that it stands out for its fast employment growth and high unemployment. In February, Shoshone County ranked second out of Idaho's 44 counties for employment growth from February 2008 to February 2009. It also had the fourth highest unemployment rate. The paradox can be explained by the very rapid population growth Shoshone County had in the first half of 2008, followed by major layoffs at two mines in the last half of the year. When the mining industry was thriving, retail and service sectors were growing too. The average mining industry employee earned more than \$60,000 in 2007 so miners were putting lots of dollars back into the local economy. With more than 200 miners losing jobs since September and with reductions in bonuses and profit-sharing because of lower metal prices, miners are spending much less than they were, and the retail and service sectors are feeling the effects.
- The Packrat, a new store in uptown Kellogg, offers bargains on clothes, furniture, kitchenware, linens, books and collectibles. The nonprofit thrift store donates its proceeds to low-income individuals in the Silver Valley.

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## NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO

Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce counties

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### REGIONAL AND COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

- St. Mary's Hospital in Cottonwood and Clearwater Valley Hospital in Orofino recently received robots from St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise that allow doctors in major urban hospitals to interact with patients in rural facilities. The 5-foot tall wireless, mobile Remote Presence robots, known as RP-7s, equipped with special video cameras, LCD screens and microphones, are controlled from workstations which also have video cameras, microphones and specialized software. A physician at St. Alphonsus can "drive" the robot to a patient's room, view the patient's bedside monitor for vital readings and then have a two-way communication with the patient, family or health provider at the remote site. The robots will also be used for staff training. Specialized nurses from St. Alphonsus will train local operat-

ing room staff in the best surgical techniques. After online education, the nurses will discuss different approaches to patient care with the local staff via the robots. The nurse trainers will later view the techniques of local operating room personnel during procedures. Local staff can also view a surgical procedure at the remote site and talk with the surgical team.

#### *IDAHO & LEWIS COUNTIES*

- The Salmon Rapids Lodge in Riggins has recently received the Best Western Chairman's Award, the hotel chain's highest honor for outstanding quality standards for cleanliness, maintenance and customer service. The motel with 55 guest rooms overlooks the Salmon River at its confluence with the Little Salmon River. It features an indoor pool, outdoor spa, gift shop and high-speed wireless Internet service throughout. Since opening in May 2000, it has earned the chairman's award every year.
- Avista Corp. begins its \$1.8 million utility line replacement project in Elk City March 30. The line serves about 640 customers in the Elk City, Dixie, Orogrande, Newsome and Golden areas. Replacing the 101 poles, which were installed in the 1961, will reduce outages. Given the steep, rugged terrain, the project is expected to take until September or October.

#### *LATAH COUNTY*

- The city of Moscow plans to turn its tallest building, a 100-year-old grain elevator, into dwelling units, retail space and office space. Located between downtown Moscow and the University of Idaho campus, the mixed-used development will replace blight with high-density urban living. The Anderson Group development team, with the help of a brownfield cleanup grant from the state, is determining what is needed to restore it to a usable condition. Site cleanup could begin in late spring after the public comment is received on the plan. Once renovated, the grain elevator will reopen as "Pike Place Market, Moscow-style." Local vendors and artists will showcase their work and sell their products. The residences, commercial space, pedestrian walking paths, public transportation stops and more will follow in phases.
- Karl Tyler Motors, a Moscow car dealership, closed March 6, putting 22 people out of work. Some of the employees were offered jobs at the new Tyler and Kelly Motors in Lewiston. The owners blamed the closure on the difficulty of replacing the dealership's general manager, who is ill.
- A Canadian mining company's plans for an open pit clay mine near Bovill are nearly complete. i-minerals Inc. is a few weeks away from completing stream diversion and other mitigation required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Once it receives the 20-year operating permit on 4,500 acres of state land, the company will mine clay, feldspar and quartz, which are used in paint, ceramics, brick, glass, tile and paper products. The mine and adjacent processing plant could employ up to 50.
- The Federal Defender Services of Idaho is moving from Moscow to Boise in May. The agency employs 16. Established in 1997 to defend the last appeals of death row inmates in Idaho and Washington, it has an annual budget of \$1 million.
- Mix Drinks is the name, as well as the purpose, of the cocktail lounge that recently opened in Moscow's Eastside Marketplace. Its menu includes 30 types of martinis.

#### *QUAD CITIES*

- Ten positions are being eliminated at the Lewiston Tribune and the Moscow-Pullman Daily News as the newspapers cut costs in the face of declining advertising revenues. At the same time, the Moscow-Pullman Daily News shifts from afternoons to six-day morning delivery on May 4 so it can be

printed by the same press crew that prints the Lewiston Morning Tribune. That change eliminates another four jobs at the TPC Production Center in Lewiston, where the two newspapers are printed. Those cuts in the company's third downsizing over the last year represent 6.9 percent of the staff. About 172 people remain on the payroll. In addition, wages at the newspapers are frozen for the year. Managers are taking two days of unpaid leave in the first quarter of 2009 and all other employees are taking one.

- Since Horizon Air switched from 37-seat airplanes to 76-seat planes about a year ago, it has made some schedule changes. Horizon reduced its Lewiston-Boise daily departures from two to one at the Lewiston airport and added service from Pullman to Boise at the Pullman-Moscow airport. Horizon says the schedule changes have proved successful. With more seats to sell, it's been able to fly more people. The new planes are more fuel efficient, reducing the fuel expense per passenger. Horizon also plans to suspend one of its Seattle flights from Pullman for the summer because traffic volumes are down when students at both the University of Idaho in Moscow and Washington State University in Pullman are gone.
- Delta Airlines, the other commercial passenger carrier serving Lewiston through a contract with Skywest, has two daily flights to Salt Lake City except on Saturday and Tuesday, when there is only one.
- The Lewiston-Nez Perce County Regional Airport and the Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport had 94,983 boardings in 2008, more than in any other year since 2001. About twice as many passengers flew from Lewiston than from Pullman, but Lewiston's airport saw its numbers decrease last year from 2007 while Pullman's climbed. Passengers are likely using Pullman more because it has service to Boise for the first time since 1998, according to the manager of the Moscow-Pullman airport.

#### *NEZ PERCE AND ASOTIN, WASH., COUNTIES*

- The economic stimulus package provided a \$1.3 million grant to open a new medical clinic in Lewiston. The clinic, which opens in June, will be run by the Community Health Association of Spokane. The association operates five clinics in Spokane County, and will serve southeastern Washington and north central Idaho residents, who now have to drive to Spokane. Community Health estimates the clinic will employ 45 and handle between 4,000 and 5,000 patient visits in its first year. About half the patients will be uninsured. The project will give low-income people access to comprehensive primary and preventive health care services.
- Clearwater Paper, the spinoff from Potlatch which now is the area's largest private employer, is temporarily laying off the 270 hourly employees at its Lewiston sawmill for two weeks starting March 23. When the workers return on April 6, they will continue working 30-hour work weeks as they have since the year began. Most Idaho lumber companies do not believe market conditions will improve significantly before the fourth quarter of this year at the earliest. U.S. housing starts probably will stay at record lows, and demand for lumber will be severely depressed. Housing starts this January were 56 percent lower than in January 2008.
- The Northwest Children's Home is celebrating 100 years of serving children. The private, nonprofit organization started as an orphanage run by a Congregationalist pastor. It evolved into a residential treatment center for children 6 to 18 with emotional and behavioral problems. The 22-acre campus in Lewiston serves about 68 kids a year. The campus includes four houses, an administration building, swimming pool, outdoor sports areas and a recreation building. In addition, the organization operates an education center

in Lewiston. It currently is raising \$100,000 to add on to two of the houses on the campus and add two safe rooms at a third.

- In its struggle to deal with a projected 10 percent state budget cut for the coming fiscal year, Lewis-Clark State College recently announced that it will cut 21 positions. Nine are currently vacant. The school also has taken many other steps to reduce expenses through reorganizing or eliminating programs. The programs to be eliminated include video production, pre-engineering, earth information systems, machine technology, color press technician and phototype setting. They all tend to be relatively expensive and had fewer than three graduates each of the last five years.
- Community Bank recently broke ground for its first Clarkston branch, which should be completed around Thanksgiving. Currently Community Bank, based in Joseph, Ore., has a lending office in Lewiston with three employees, who will move to the new building when it is completed.

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## SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO

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

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### ECONOMIC UPDATE

Unemployment in Idaho's major metropolitan area jumped another six-tenths of a percentage point in February to hit a record 7.7 percent. In just 12 months the rate has nearly doubled in the Boise metro area from 3.9 percent, underscoring the dramatic impact the current recession has had on the region. Over 18,000 fewer people were working than in February 2008. The five-county metro area has 38 percent of the state's labor force but accounts for over 43 percent of the unemployed.

Four of the five southwestern counties outside the metro area had rates even higher with Adams posting the state's highest rate at 14.3 percent. Owyhee County, however, recorded the lowest rate for February at 3.23 percent.

Nonfarm payroll jobs fell 1,000 in February to 253,500 in the metro area, three-tenths of a percentage point below January. An increasing number of jobs have been disappearing every month since May.

Modest February job gains in education, health care, restaurants and bars combined with fractional increases in several other sectors were more than offset by significant job losses in construction, manufacturing and trade.

The impact of the recession on the Boise metropolitan area has been persistent and deepening. Beginning in January 2008, the region has seen the number of jobs fall below the year-earlier level every month. In February there were 20,000 fewer jobs in the metro area than in February 2007. In just the last year goods-producing industries shed 6,900 jobs, primarily in construction and computer and electronics production. Layoffs at Micron Technology, MPC and Hewlett-Packard played a major role.

The Idaho Construction Report published by Wells Fargo reported a decline of nearly 13 percent in the number of building permits issued in southwestern Idaho in 2008. That translated into a loss of \$616 million in construction value, a drop of 29 percent. This year started no better. In February the number of permits issued was 1,139, down 61 percent from February 2008, which was already down 46 percent from 2007, and the construction value was at \$106.8 million, down 43 percent from one year ago.

Micron Technology laid off about 1,000 workers between October and December, hoping it would trim company operations enough to keep the company viable until the market improved. However, the company announced in February that an additional 500 workers would be laid off imminently with an additional 1,500 by August.

MPC in Nampa closed its doors in December, affecting another 400 workers.

The effect of these layoffs rippled through the service sector, resulting in a loss of 10,200 jobs. Retail trade lost 3,500 jobs in all areas. Administrative support services dropped 2,800 jobs with employment and business services accounting for most of the decline.

The leisure and hospitality sector reported a loss of 2,400 jobs from one year ago. Jobs in arts, entertainment and recreation were down by 900 as resort visits fell off in reaction to the poor economy. Hotels and motels felt the same thing with both business and tourist activity down. Restaurants continued reducing their payrolls as they tried to meet customer's needs on a tighter and tighter budget. There have been a few closures, but most businesses are just reducing staff.

The outlook for the spring and summer is no better. Layoffs will continue, and unemployment will increase as everyone tries to hang on until the stimulus takes effect. Although Idaho and the region will receive stimulus money, it will take a few months for the money to be distributed and contracts let.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### *ADA COUNTY*

- The 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games in February drew 2,000 athletes from 95 countries to events in Boise, McCall and Sun Valley. The games generated about \$21 million in economic activity, mostly in Idaho. That does not count the additional workers who were needed at various businesses to meet the demands of the athletes, volunteers, spectators and media. However, the indirect marketing and exposure will have a long range economic impact on the area.
- Tucanos Brazilian Grill opened its doors in Boise in February. This is the fourth outlet for the small, regional chain. The restaurant is working with Snake River Farms to develop menu items that highlight beef and pork. The meat is tastefully seasoned and cooked on skewers over open-flamed grills. The restaurant also features the Salad Festival, which takes the traditional salad bar to another level.
- Circuit City closed March 7, leaving about 50 workers in Boise without jobs as the company proceeded through bankruptcy nationwide.
- A positive note from Micron Technology was the announcement that it hopes to convert its idle buildings in Boise and Nampa to manufacture solar panels and high efficiency light components. Micron said its mass manufacturing experience in semiconductors will allow it to dramatically lower the costs of solar photovoltaic cells and LEDs. Semiconductors are a part of both products. Micron's research and development team is versed in solar panel technologies and in the emerging technologies for manufacturing LEDs. The company would convert fabrication plants in Boise and Nampa.
- The Boise School district will cut 75 part-time and full-time elementary and secondary teachers with one-year contracts, and 47 secondary teachers whose contracts won't be renewed. Student enrollment has dropped in the past five years, particularly at the secondary level, where it is down 550. The district must cut expenses, possibly by as much as \$10 million in the next year, and personnel is 86 percent of the budget.

- The Meridian school district has been experiencing tremendous growth with the addition of 1,100 students this year. The district may need additional teachers next year.

#### *ADAMS COUNTY*

- A group of residents in Council wants to develop a community garden. A tentative location with its own water supply has been found. The garden will have a large section handled by volunteers that will supply fresh produce to the food bank and the senior center and be sold at the farmers market. Another section will be broken up into smaller plots that will be available for a small fee to anyone who wants to garden. This will provide a chance for Council residents to garden who don't now because of prohibitively high water bills. It will also offer the opportunity to provide fresh, chemical-free, locally grown food for people in the community who need it and help reduce grocery bills while participants will learn more about gardening.

#### *CANYON COUNTY*

- Sportsman's Warehouse in Nampa will close in May, one of 23 stores the company is closing nationwide to reduce bank debt. It is also selling 15 stores to UFA Co-operative United of Calgary, Alberta.
- Western World Inc. has gone out of business, and its inventory of Circle J stock trailers and production gear will go on the block at a bank liquidation auction. Circle J Trailers was started in 1958 in Salem, Ore., and moved to Caldwell in the early 1960s. In 1976, Bob Bushnell brought the company but kept the name Circle J although company's formal name was Western World. The company has had more than 100 employees but recently had dropped to 20 due to economic conditions.
- Seven employees working for the Development Services Department of Canyon County were laid off March 20 because of the dramatic decline in construction and growth. The county felt that it could no longer keep a large staff to process such a small number of applications. The department is retaining 16 employees.
- Nunhems, the vegetable seed business of Bayer CropScience AG, will invest nearly \$19 million to expand its facility in Parma. The company plans to build a new seed processing and storage facility, upgrade equipment and expand administrative, marketing and logistics functions. "This investment lays the foundation for the sustainable growth of our vegetable seed business in the U.S. and worldwide," said Joachim Schneider, head of the bioscience business unit at Bayer CropScience. "The objective of the expansion of our seed production in the U.S. is to efficiently meet the needs of our customers in the future." The Idaho facility currently has 150 full-time employees.

#### *GEM COUNTY*

- The wireless company Cricket has come to Emmett, offering an alternative for mobile phone and broadband users in Gem County. This is the third Cricket location that owner Tony Ball has as an authorized dealer and contract store. Besides Bell, the store will have seven employees.
- The new service department at Hanigan Auto Sales in Emmett brings a combined 35 years of experience to the local automotive service industry and offers continuation of contract work that originated at the Bill Buckner Chrysler Jeep Dodge service department that closed last fall. Jim Humphries and Jesse Brown will run the service center, which offers a full line of automotive and light truck diagnostics and repair.

- The Emmett Albertsons Sav-On Pharmacy expanded its in-store pharmacy to include customers of Tyler Gem Pharmacy. Rob Tyler, owner of Tyler Gem Pharmacy, looked at closing his business when fate intervened. The match was perfect. Sav-On offered jobs to Tyler's staff. Three accepted, and one found a job closer to her home in Canyon County. Tyler will also be one of the pharmacists on staff. The computer system at Albertsons has been able to integrate and convert all of the Tyler's accounts.

#### VALLEY COUNTY

- Tamarack Resort closed on March 5. The owners filed for bankruptcy in February 2008 but the resort did open for the season under a court appointed receiver at the request of Credit Suisse, a major financier. Tamarack was the first new ski resort to be built in North America in 23 years. The last failure of a major North American ski resort was Stagecoach south of Steamboat Springs, Colo., in 1974. The Tamarack closure affected over 200 workers. At a court hearing, the judge approved the use of \$1.7 million to provide for an orderly closure of the ski area. The skier visits were below projections and operations were thousands of dollars in the red. Tamarack is located in rural Idaho that has a limited economic base; the closure is sure to have negative consequences.
- Not all of the news was negative in Valley County this February, however. The annual Winter Carnival took place Jan. 30 through Feb. 8. The first winter carnival was held in 1924, starting when the largest train ever to enter McCall arrived with 248 passengers including Gov. C. Moore. The event has grown in popularity since. Not only are there a variety of snow events, but the ice sculptures are a major draw for out-of-towners. This year's carnival coincided with the snowshoeing event for the Special Olympics. The annual carnival provides a major economic boost to the area.
- Mustache Flats Gallery Outlet, a new consignment store showcasing custom pine furniture, opened in McCall. It features the works of Swede Schmidt, creator of the Mustache Flats furniture line. Schmidt builds what he calls "primitive reproductions" made from 80- to 100-year-old seasoned wood he finds in old barns and buildings throughout the country. He incorporates historical relics on nearly every piece, each with a story to tell. The outlet invites local artists and craftspeople with items to participate.

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## SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO

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

### COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

#### BLAINE AND CAMAS COUNTIES

- The Camas County Library has moved into the building that housed Peak One Gym. The \$310,000 renovation was financed by Farm Service Credit, the Apex Foundation, Micron Technology and community contributions.
- The proposal for a 90-foot cell tower at the top of Galena Summit has taken a political turn. Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter has formally requested that the Sawtooth National Forest reverse its denial of the tower issued last summer. The Forest Service ordered consideration of the proposal reopened to allow for more public input. Former Gov. Cecil Andrus is on the other side, contending a series of strategically placed emergency call boxes could provide needed communication access while protecting the natural beauty of

the area. A tower only two-thirds as high as the one proposed could still provide enhanced emergency communications coverage if the cell phone component were abandoned. Idaho Tower Co. has proposed the cell tower. Sawtooth National Forest officials are sifting through comments submitted by the March 11 deadline before deciding on more rigorous rules regarding the protection of scenic areas.

- The new “One Community, One Town” committee is analyzing the proposed consolidation of Sun Valley and Ketchum. The proponents claim it would save as much as \$2 million by combining administrative and protective services. A petition to place the proposition on the ballot needs signatures of at least 418 registered Ketchum voters and 100 registered Sun Valley voters. The opponents believe Sun Valley is more financially stable than Ketchum or that the cultures are too divergent. More information is on the Web site [onetown.wordpress.com](http://onetown.wordpress.com).
- Receipts from Sun Valley’s local option tax declined \$25,000 in the fourth quarter of 2008. The sign of more fallout from the national recession has not concerned the city too much, but it has cut all but essential services and topped off its contingency fund, which could hit \$2.4 million by the end of the year.
- Staff for the Sun Valley/Ketchum Chamber of Commerce, the Visitor’s Center, Mountain Rides and Ketchum’s Community Development Corp. have all moved to the former Mountain West Bank building. The city’s purchase of the building will save an estimated \$100,000 a year in rent.
- The opening of the new White Clouds golf course last summer brought new Nordic skiing trails this winter. The Sun Valley Club lodge provides a year-round indoor driving range, heated parking spaces and an upscale dining experience. Guests are commenting on the elegant atmosphere of the lodge compared to the more utilitarian digs of most Nordic operations.
- South central Idaho will be getting some help in easing its congested commuting corridor leading north. The region is getting a share of the \$18.5 million awarded to the state in the federal stimulus package. Mountain Rides Transportation Authority will put together a mobility management program and buy 10 new vans to serve workers commuting into Blaine County. The van service relies on volunteer drivers and monthly subscription fees from riders to cover fuel and maintenance. Mountain Rides plan totals just under \$1.7 million to buy new and replacement clean diesel buses and do preventative maintenance on existing buses, pull outs and bus stop shelters.

#### *GOODING COUNTY*

- The Gooding School District estimates saving of \$140,000 with a four-day school week. The school district was already dismissing classes at noon on Fridays so only a few hours will need to be distributed over the four days although that plan has not been finalized.

Voters approved supplemental and plant facilities levies, hoping to maintain existing programs for students and keep up with building maintenance. The levies will increase taxes \$138 for every \$100,000 of property value.

- The Hagerman Valley Chamber of Commerce is welcoming Mi Tesoro, meaning My Treasure, the valley’s new Latin restaurant. Monique and Eddie Salazar have taken over the former Larry & Mary’s location on U.S. Highway 30. The couple relocated to the area several years ago from southern California.

**TWIN FALLS**

- LINC – Living Independent Network – is another beneficiary of transit money in the economic stimulus package. Within six months it will receive \$62,000 for a new van and its maintenance to enhance mobility throughout south central Idaho. The van will provide transportation for the people who need accessible transportation and those in rural areas who have medical appointments or need to run routine errands.
- The two Rite-Aids in South Central Idaho will be drastically changed by the end of March. Walgreens has purchased both retail stores and will close the one in Twin Falls and rebrand the store in Burley. Existing employees will be interviewed, should they express a desire to continue working, but for Walgreen’s. All records and prescriptions will be transitioned to Walgreens without any effort required of customers.
- Pam Crabtree is the new owner of Applegate Assisted Living in Buhl. A registered nurse who formerly served residents at the facility before buying it, Crabtree brings a family-orientation to Applegate, which is home to eight people but has the capacity for 11.
- The Fairview Veterinary Clinic has moved into its new building with two examination rooms, an operating room, a pharmacy and boarding kennels. The practice includes dental work on pets and herbal treatments. The Home Again Animal Shelter is part of the veterinary practice, and separate kennel facilities house these animals that are held indefinitely for adoption.
- Bids for the Filer School District’s new intermediate school and high school expansion have come in \$3 million below the approved bond limit of \$15 million. That is giving the district the opportunity to take on other projects that would have been delayed or possibly reduce the amount of the next supplemental levy.
- Good news sometimes comes in very small doses. New residential building permits were up in Twin Falls and Jerome in February from a year earlier. Twin Falls had two additional permits over last year’s six while Jerome had three compared to none in February 2008.
- Rock Creek Rural Fire Protection District was awarded \$137,000 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security under its Assistance to Firefighters Grant program. The district includes Murtaugh, Hansen and Kimberly.
- The Western Days Board of Directors has canceled the Memorial Day weekend event due to lack of sponsorship. The parade, booths and entertainment in the City Park have been a tradition for more than 27 years.
- Groundwater users in south central Idaho are promoting yet another plan to mitigate the reduction in water flows to trout producer Clear Springs Food. The Department of Water Resources is currently reviewing the proposal, but Clear Springs has issues with it. A curtailment order covering 41,000 acres and 865 wells is hanging in the balance but would not affect dairies since their mitigation plan was approved last year. If

<b>Top Aquaculture Producers in U.S. by Sales (in millions)</b>			
	1998	2007	2007 ranking
Mississippi	\$290.4	\$237.9	1
Arkansas	\$84.1	\$118.7	3
Florida	\$76.7	\$61.3	7
Maine	\$66.6	\$26.3	10
Alabama	\$59.7	\$99.5	6
Washington	\$56.6	\$162.9	2
Louisiana	\$53.2	\$109.1	4
California	\$43.5	\$102.2	5
<b>Idaho</b>	<b>\$35.9</b>	<b>\$56.2</b>	<b>8</b>
Virginia	\$24.6	\$53.0	9

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA

plan was approved last year. If the pumpers are cut off, the cost in lost production is estimated at \$33 million, and that does not include an indirect loss in the rest of the local economy estimated at over \$18 million. On the upside, the federal stimulus package could provide the trout producers some relief from high feed costs. Idaho produces 70 percent of the commercial trout in the United States. But trout accounts for only 8 percent of total aquaculture production. Cat fish production is the largest component at 72 percent with producers concentrated in the South.

- Wings Charter Middle School will open this fall in Twin Falls. The anticipated enrollment is 60, all in the sixth grade. They are students who aren't learning under typical classroom curriculum and teaching styles. The school will employ four teachers, two in special education. Wings hopes to add one grade and 60 more students each fall for the following two years. The school has received \$250,000 in state and federal government grants and will receive annual per student allotments from the state.
- The closures of Latham Motors last summer and then the Hertz dealership in January created significant job losses in south central Idaho in what was already a vulnerable industry. There was likely some shifting of repair and warranty business to the remaining dealerships and repair shops. The data indicate there was a 2.6 percent year-over-year increase in the number of retail businesses operating in Twin Falls and Jerome counties last summer, but the average employment was down 1.2 percent.
- Muni Storage has opened in Twin Falls, offering varying sizes of storage units and packing materials for moves.
- Southern Idaho Potato Cooperative growers have voted to levy themselves five cents per hundredweight to create a legal defense fund with a potential of raising \$6 million if all growers participate. The potato producers are concerned about potential contract disputes with Con Agra because the large processor allegedly refuses to follow the terms of the 2009 contract. That deal was negotiated to assist farmers with increased input and fuel costs, boosting prices almost 50 percent over last year's. Con Agra wants growers to accept a joint venture or something similar to a custom farming arrangement where the growers split the profits with the processor. Idaho raised 11.5 billion pounds of potatoes last year.
- A new office building is being completed east of the College of Southern Idaho. A mortgage company has committed to 40 percent of the 6,000 square feet with leasing and tenant improvements on schedule for a May 15 opening. Gerald Martens of EHM Construction is the developer.
- The Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce helped the new owners celebrate the opening of Fox Floral. The staff includes new design talent from California and a horticulturalist from Sun Valley.
- A U.S. Army recruitment office is moving into a new office building on Cheney, adjacent to the Deseret Industries building. Other space is still available for lease.

#### *MINIDOKA - CASSIA COUNTIES*

- Pacific Ethanol has shut down because of slumping demand and pump prices. A skeleton crew is keeping the plant maintained so production can resume when the right market conditions return. The plant site covers 177 acres. Grants paid for the foundation for prospective companies to relocate to the industrial park and for road and utility work.
- Southern Idaho Living, a regional magazine, is up for sale due to the economy. It has been known for its spectacular photographs of south central

Idaho, simple, nutritional recipes and classy crafts. The breadth of coverage brought adventure and the outdoors to many who are only able to imagine it. The last edition was the January/February 2009 issue, delivered as always free of charge to mailboxes.

- Rupert is home to the oldest practicing physician in Idaho. Dr. Don Pates, 85, still skis, rides a motorcycle and plays golf. He was honored by the Idaho Academy of Family Physicians for achieving this milestone after starting his medical career in 1952. Pates commented that his mother lived to be 102 and he wants to 'use it rather than lose it' by keeping his office open four days a week. He has delivered 5,000 babies over his career.

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## SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO

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

### ECONOMIC TRENDS

Unemployment jumped nearly three-quarters of a percentage point in the Pocatello metropolitan area in January as employment fell by over 500. But that significant increase was overshadowed by the 2 percentage point increase from January 2008 to 5.5 percent this January. There were similar rate increases in the other counties in southeastern Idaho. Power County was the only one that did not post an increase in the jobless rate from December to January. However, the increases were fairly typical since many people who find jobs during the holiday season are laid off at the end of the year, and some business wait until year end to make changes in the way they do business. The large drop in the unemployment rate for Power County reflected the return to work at Con-Agra after the seasonal layoff in December.

#### Percentage Unemployed by Southeastern Idaho Counties

	Jan 2008 Unempl. rate benchmarked	Dec 2008 Unempl. rate benchmarked	Jan 2009 Unempl. rate Rate forecast	% change from Previous Month    Previous Year	
Bannock County	3.4%	4.5%	5.5%	1	2.1
Bear Lake County	2.6%	4.1%	3.9%	0.2	1.3
Bingham County	3.2%	5.1%	5.3%	0.2	2.1
Caribou County	3.1%	6.0%	4.9%	1.1	1.8
Franklin County	3.0%	3.1%	4.0%	0.9	1
Oneida County	1.5%	3.6%	4.1%	0.5	2.6
Power County	4.4%	8.2%	5.9%	-2.3	1.5
State of Idaho	3.7%	6.1%	6.6%	0.5	2.9

#### # Unemployed by Southeastern Idaho Counties

	Jan 2008 Total Employed Benchmarked	Dec 2008 Total Employed Benchmarked	Jan 2009 Total Employed Forecast	# change from YTD Previous Month    Previous Year	
Bannock County	38,137	39,177	38,719	(458)	582
Bear Lake County	3,032	3,165	3,012	(153)	(20)
Bingham County	20,335	19,675	20,385	710	50
Caribou County	3,292	3,213	3,345	132	53
Franklin County	5,621	5,816	5,718	(98)	97
Oneida County	2,197	2,191	2,097	(94)	(100)
Power County	3,426	3,531	3,478	(53)	52
Region	76,040	76,768	76,754	(14)	714
State of Idaho	722,694	713,230	703,362	(9,868)	(19,332)

Employment in the seven counties was up 700 from January 2008, but unemployment was over 1,600 higher. All counties except Oneida and Bear Lake had more people working this January, but all seven had substantially more workers without jobs than a year ago. The employment drop in Oneida County reflected the closure of Laz-E-Boy factory in nearby Tremonton, Utah. The employment decline in Bear Lake was fractional.

The number of nonfarm jobs in metropolitan Pocatello dropped significantly from the previous month, but the bulk of the loss was seasonal. Construction shed 420 jobs while manufacturing maintained its payrolls. Retailers laid off the extra help they hired for the holiday season, and most part-time educational staff were laid off for two or three weeks during the holidays. There was a substantial job gain in equipment and machinery maintenance and repair, personal care services like health clubs and in civic and advocacy organizations. *See the Pocatello MSA Labor Force & Employment data on page 39.*

## **JOB STABILITY BECOMES FIRST PRIORITY**

As the number of the unemployed increases and jobs decrease, more and more workers are concerned their jobs could be affected by the economic slowdown. During better economic conditions job hunters are generally concerned about wages, benefits and career advancement. Today many are listing job stability as their top priority. Those who have had the misfortune of being laid off several times want jobs that are recession proof. Most economists agree that no career or occupation is totally immune from an economic downturn the magnitude of today's. However, there are jobs which are less likely to be affected by economic upheaval. Many are related to basic human needs like power plant operators, linemen, water system workers, sewage plant operators, sanitation and workers who maintain utilities; firemen and policemen who ensure the public safety. Nurses, pharmacist, doctors, medical technologists, medical assistants and other health care workers will be affected less than most by a recession. Where there is typically a decline in elective surgeries and things like orthodontic care, basic medical needs persist as the population ages. Some believe demand for health care professionals actually increases because as people cut back on some preventative care they develop worse and more complex health care problems. Jobs in growing and processing food remain fairly constant because people still have to eat. Often over-looked among the basic human needs is death care and funeral homes. Teaching jobs, generally regarded as critical to society, have generally been less affected than most jobs during past economic slowdowns, although the depth of the current recession is beginning to reach into those ranks. Jobs involving debt collection, bankruptcy filings and financial planning will be in demand as people work through personal financial issues.

The concern about recession-proof jobs is a lagging indicator of a slowing economy since it develops well after recessions begin. However, many recession-resistant jobs may also be considered the "hot jobs" of the future regardless of economic circumstances because of the education needed, the demand and the wages. As it turns out in Idaho, health care is at the top of that list.

## **COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS**

### **BANNOCK COUNTY**

- A project at the Idaho Accelerator Center has great potential for future economic growth. Medical isotopes developed from molybdenum using an electron accelerator can detect cancerous cells and tumors through the human body. The vast majority of these isotopes are produced in Canada using nuclear reactors, which are becoming outdated and likely will not be replaced. That opens the opportunity for the Idaho Accelerator to become the new center for the medical isotope production.

- The Idaho Accelerator is also working with privately owned Positron to test the strength of materials used in U.S. Air Force aircraft by projecting gamma rays onto the materials. If successful, it is likely to develop more business in the area from the Air Force and many private companies.
- The Idaho Department of Transportation announced the expansion and improvement of Hilina Road northwest of downtown Pocatello. The \$11 million project includes the demolition and rebuilding of two Interstate 86 bridges and channeling Hilina Canal underground. Seven local subcontractors will handle the work that is expected to be completed by late summer 2010.
- Hoku Materials recently announced that six Siemen process reactors are ready for installation in its manufacturing plant. The reactors are the key component in polysilicon production. The next 10 reactors are expected in late March or early April. The company has already invested \$140 million in the plant that is expected to cost \$390 million when completed.
- Paul Smith, a Pocatello real estate appraiser, says home values in the area are holding nearly steady although the number of homes being sold is down considerably. The same general observation is being made throughout southeastern Idaho. Most real estate and financial people believe the area is bucking the national trend because it did not experience the speculative growth other areas had. That kept the home market from being overbuilt so the inventory of homes is manageable.
- One of three low-cost mental health clinics, Cedar Health Center, was forced to close because it could no longer meet expenses. Despite a large client base, declining reimbursement from government health care programs and an increase in the number of uninsured patients took its toll.

#### *BEAR LAKE COUNTY*

- Bear Lake County commissioners are considering water quality and supply concerns as they decide whether to approve various stages of the Black Bear Mountain Resort development. Developers Bruce Barrett and Ted Galavan say progress has slowed because of the tight credit market, but they have obtained one loan and are finalizing a \$4.5 million loan to get the project moving again.
- Local businessman Gary Sims is proposing a 100-acre development near the entrance of North Canyon Road. Sims is proposing nine 10-acre lots with the remaining land for common use. County land would be used for snow machine parking. The development will require Sims to install community water and sewer systems.

#### *BINGHAM COUNTY*

- Premier Technology has formed a construction management division to complement its other operations. The new division will be managed by Charles "Ben" Johnson from company headquarters in Blackfoot. Johnson will manage, coordinate and supervise the company construction projects from concept development to completion.
- The current economic slowdown has prompted the Fort Hall Business Council to re-evaluate plans for its proposed \$90 million casino and resort near the existing Fort Hall Casino. The tribes have secured \$35 million for the project, which would include a convention center, hotel, golf course and water park

#### *CARIBOU COUNTY*

- Caribou Memorial Hospital reported \$13.1 million in revenues for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, a 22 percent increase from the previous year. The performance reflects an increase in surgeries as a result of Dr. Nita Weber's

decision to relocate to Soda Springs. Weber is an internal medicine specialist who is also a pediatrician.

- Tronox Inc. has filed to reorganize under federal bankruptcy laws. The company has secured \$125 million in new debtor-in-possession financing, which allows it to continue operating during the restructuring process. The liabilities which Tronox has not been able to meet involve costs for environmental remediation and litigation incurred when it was spun off from Kerr-McGee in 2006.
- Because of financial uncertainty and the status of firearms laws, Heritage Safe Co., maker of home and gun safes, is experiencing its greatest demand since 1993. To keep pace the company has increased payroll by nearly 40 percent. Informational calls and Internet requests have increased 150 percent since last November's national election.
- The parent company of Intermountain Gas Co., MDU Resources Group, announced plans to close the Soda Springs call center during the next three months.

#### *FRANKLIN COUNTY*

- Because Cache County, Utah, and Franklin County, Idaho, share the same valley, natural resources, air and major roads, Envision Cache Valley is inviting Franklin County commissioners and mayors to take part in a public forum on growth issues. The nonprofit foundation located in Logan, Utah, wants to develop possible solutions. Envision has been operating as a planning organization in Utah since 1997 and strongly encourages public input on decisions guiding growth in the valley.
- Phase two of a feasibility study on an \$80 million horse complex was approved by county commissioners. Phase one indicated the site would need to be 300 to 500 acres and could generate the required \$80 million in private investment. It was funded by a \$21,500 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture that was matched by \$1,000 from Franklin County. Phase two has not received any grants and is being done by Strategy 5 LLC.
- A 200-lot subdivision complete with commercial development at the south end of Franklin County has not developed as rapidly as originally estimated. The slowdown is due to the recession. Water lines and the sewer system are installed, and the state Department of Environmental Quality has issued permits for building.
- The Preston Community Food Pantry plans to partner with the city of Preston on a new 36-by-44-foot building to store food for those who need the help. All building supplies and labor will be donated.
- "The Sinking of the Santa Isabel" was filmed in Preston and has been shown at Cinequist Film Festival in San Jose, Calif., the Moondance Film Festival in Colorado and most recently the LED Film Festival in Orem. Much like Preston's famous predecessor, "Napoleon Dynamite," this second film projects the innocence of life in a small town. The film is directed by Jacob and Michael Hamblin.
- Clifton residents rejected a draft comprehensive plan by the Southeast Idaho Council of Governments. The residents thought the overall idea of the plan was good but felt it was too restrictive for property owners. It was decided to rework the document after more public input and another hearing to review a summary of the proposed changes.

## ONEIDA COUNTY

- Management of Malad Valley Clinic was transferred to the Oneida County Hospital. Hospital Administrator Todd Winder said the new arrangement will help the county recruit and retain health care providers, and patients will receive a higher degree of consistency in care and better tracking of medical records.

## POWER COUNTY

- The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality announced that the Power County Advanced Energy Center has been issued an air quality permit to build the first phase of a \$1 billion coal gasification plant. The permit allows construction to begin pending a 35-day public comment period, in which the permit may be appealed. The next step involves working with investors to finalize financing, which was promised before the economic downturn. The developers believe most of it is still available, which would allow construction to begin late 2009 or early 2010.
- Slow auto sales and a tight credit market prompted Hirning Chevrolet to close its American Falls dealership, idling nine full-time and four part-time workers. Some will be offered jobs with Hirning in Pocatello, and the American Falls location may re-open as a used car dealership in the future.
- It appears Indian Springs Resort and RV Park will re-open this summer. The property was sold at auction to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes a month ago but the sale was voided when the seller failed to provide clear title. Now Tom Henesh has the sheriff's deed for the recreation area and is in the process of making repairs needed before the pool can open. Henesh hopes the most critical work is done so he can open for Memorial Day.

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## EAST CENTRAL IDAHO

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

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*There is no written report for East Central Idaho this issue except for the labor force and nonfarm data table on page 40.*

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# State of Idaho Data

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Feb 2009				Feb 2008			
	Civilian Labor Force	# Unemployed	% Unemployed	Total Employment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unemployed	% Unemployed	Total Employment
STATE OF IDAHO	752,174	50,859	6.8	701,315	751,005	29,495	3.9	721,510
<b>COUNTIES</b>								
ADA (1)	190,913	13,352	7.0	177,561	196,330	6,941	3.5	189,388
ADAMS	2,201	307	14.0	1,893	2,145	190	8.8	1,956
BANNOCK (8)	41,436	2,325	5.6	39,111	39,997	1,484	3.7	38,513
BEAR LAKE	3,407	131	3.8	3,276	3,187	76	2.4	3,111
BENEWAH	4,203	565	13.4	3,638	3,973	335	8.4	3,638
BINGHAM	21,653	1,163	5.4	20,490	21,283	702	3.3	20,580
BLAINE (5)	14,174	843	5.9	13,331	13,891	408	2.9	13,482
BOISE (1)	3,460	271	7.8	3,189	3,604	203	5.6	3,401
BONNER	21,248	1,869	8.8	19,378	20,359	1,222	6.0	19,136
BONNEVILLE (6)	50,616	2,485	4.9	48,132	50,768	1,411	2.8	49,356
BOUNDARY	4,251	442	10.4	3,808	4,132	301	7.3	3,831
BUTTE	1,403	71	5.0	1,332	1,426	50	3.5	1,376
CAMAS (5)	645	48	7.4	597	630	26	4.1	604
CANYON (1)	82,165	7,349	8.9	74,815	83,638	3,840	4.6	79,799
CARIBOU	3,417	152	4.5	3,265	3,364	94	2.8	3,270
CASSIA (2)	9,923	390	3.9	9,533	9,955	333	3.3	9,622
CLARK	522	22	4.2	500	567	15	2.6	552
CLEARWATER	3,510	486	13.8	3,024	3,354	308	9.2	3,046
CUSTER	2,647	127	4.8	2,520	2,639	101	3.8	2,538
ELMORE	11,408	746	6.5	10,662	11,469	528	4.6	10,941
FRANKLIN	5,793	251	4.3	5,542	5,621	155	2.8	5,466
FREMONT (9)	5,604	383	6.8	5,222	5,587	237	4.3	5,349
GEM (1)	6,978	692	9.9	6,286	7,117	412	5.8	6,705
GOODING	8,463	420	5.0	8,042	8,289	272	3.3	8,016
IDAHO	7,363	697	9.5	6,666	7,180	433	6.0	6,746
JEFFERSON (6)	11,268	610	5.4	10,658	11,271	341	3.0	10,930
JEROME (10)	10,207	573	5.6	9,635	9,960	349	3.5	9,611
KOOTENAI (3)	71,253	5,194	7.3	66,058	69,774	3,231	4.6	66,543
LATAH	17,352	923	5.3	16,429	16,975	583	3.4	16,392
LEMHI	3,745	292	7.8	3,453	3,820	201	5.3	3,619
LEWIS (4)	1,726	75	4.3	1,651	1,720	49	2.9	1,671
LINCOLN	2,504	262	10.5	2,242	2,412	136	5.6	2,276
MADISON (9)	16,015	763	4.8	15,252	16,107	479	3.0	15,628
MINIDOKA (2)	9,241	455	4.9	8,786	9,205	338	3.7	8,868
NEZ PERCE (7)	19,614	925	4.7	18,689	19,107	668	3.5	18,439
ONEIDA	2,284	121	5.3	2,163	2,234	59	2.6	2,175
OWYHEE (1)	4,167	135	3.2	4,032	4,418	116	2.6	4,301
PAYETTE	10,707	873	8.1	9,835	10,550	518	4.9	10,031
POWER (8)	3,696	191	5.2	3,505	3,594	142	3.9	3,452
SHOSHONE	6,597	699	10.6	5,899	6,151	362	5.9	5,789
TETON	5,406	197	3.7	5,209	5,421	111	2.1	5,310
TWIN FALLS (10)	39,186	2,100	5.4	37,087	38,207	1,211	3.2	36,996
VALLEY	4,994	513	10.3	4,481	4,872	315	6.5	4,557
WASHINGTON	4,808	372	7.7	4,436	4,704	207	4.4	4,496
ASOTIN WA (7)	11,327	1,305	11.5	10,022	10,544	793	7.5	9,751

\* In thousands

## State of Idaho Data

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data  LABOR MARKET AREAS	Feb 2009				Feb 2008			
	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employ- ment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employ- ment
BOISE CITY- NAMPA MSA (1)	287,683	21,799	7.6	265,884	295,106	11,512	3.9	283,594
BURLEY MicSA (2)	19,164	845	4.4	18,319	19,161	671	3.5	18,490
COEUR D'ALENE MSA (3)	71,253	5,194	7.3	66,058	69,774	3,231	4.6	66,543
GRANGEVILLE SLMA (4)	9,089	771	8.5	8,317	8,899	482	5.4	8,417
HAILEY SLMA (5)	14,820	891	6.0	13,929	14,521	434	3.0	14,087
IDAHO FALLS MSA (6)	61,884	3,095	5.0	58,790	62,039	1,753	2.8	60,286
LEWISTON MSA (7)	30,941	2,230	7.2	28,711	29,650	1,461	4.9	28,190
POCATELLO MSA (8)	45,132	2,516	5.6	42,616	43,591	1,626	3.7	41,965
REXBURG MicSA (9)	21,619	1,145	5.3	20,474	21,694	717	3.3	20,977
TWIN FALLS MicSA (10)	49,394	2,672	5.4	46,722	48,167	1,560	3.2	46,607
<b>CITIES</b>								
BOISE	105,628	6,918	6.5	98,709	109,399	3,763	3.4	105,636
CALDWELL	17,448	1,661	9.5	15,786	17,771	877	4.9	16,893
COEUR D' ALENE	23,025	1,697	7.4	21,328	22,546	990	4.4	21,556
IDAHO FALLS	27,488	1,337	4.9	26,151	27,673	768	2.8	26,906
LEWISTON	16,269	770	4.7	15,499	15,858	515	3.2	15,343
MERIDIAN	31,790	2,237	7.0	29,553	32,706	1,079	3.3	31,627
NAMPA	35,475	3,219	9.1	32,256	36,098	1,578	4.4	34,520
POCATELLO	28,443	1,457	5.1	26,986	27,605	943	3.4	26,662
TWIN FALLS	22,311	1,139	5.1	21,172	21,824	632	2.9	21,192
<b>United States*</b>	<b>154,214</b>	<b>12,467</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>141,748</b>	<b>153,498</b>	<b>7,423</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>145,993</b>

\* In thousands

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

# State of Idaho Data — Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

% change from

BY PLACE OF WORK	Feb 2009*	Jan 2009	Feb 2008	Last Month	Last Year
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	<b>609,800</b>	<b>611,000</b>	<b>641,100</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-4.9</b>
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>	96,700	98,800	110,600	-2.1	-12.6
<i>Natural Resources &amp; Mining</i>	3,300	3,600	4,100	-8.3	-19.5
Logging	1,300	1,500	1,600	-13.3	-18.8
Mining	2,000	2,100	2,500	-4.8	-20.0
Metal Ore Mining	1,200	1,200	1,200	0.0	0.0
<i>Construction</i>	35,500	36,300	42,500	-2.2	-16.5
<i>Manufacturing</i>	57,900	58,900	64,000	-1.7	-9.5
Durable Goods	33,700	34,600	39,700	-2.6	-15.1
Wood Product Manufacturing	5,800	5,800	7,100	0.0	-18.3
Sawmills & Wood Preservation	1,700	1,700	2,300	0.0	-26.1
Veneer & Engineered Products	1,100	1,100	1,300	0.0	-15.4
Other Wood Product Manufacturing	3,000	3,000	3,500	0.0	-14.3
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	4,700	4,700	4,700	0.0	0.0
Machinery Manufacturing	3,000	3,000	3,200	0.0	-6.3
Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	11,700	12,100	14,800	-3.3	-20.9
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	3,000	3,000	3,400	0.0	-11.8
Other Durable Goods	5,500	6,000	6,500	-8.3	-15.4
Nondurable Goods	24,200	24,300	24,300	-0.4	-0.4
Food Manufacturing	15,700	15,600	15,600	0.6	0.6
Fruits & Vegetable Preserving & Specialty	8,000	8,000	7,800	0.0	2.6
Paper Manufacturing	1,600	1,600	1,700	0.0	-5.9
Printing & Related Support Activities	1,700	1,700	1,800	0.0	-5.6
Chemical Manufacturing	2,400	2,400	2,300	0.0	4.3
Other Nondurable Goods	2,800	3,000	2,900	-6.7	-3.4
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES</b>	513,100	512,200	530,500	0.2	-3.3
<i>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</i>	121,500	123,500	130,300	-1.6	-6.8
Trade	101,600	103,500	109,400	-1.8	-7.1
Wholesale Trade	25,700	26,000	27,800	-1.2	-7.6
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	11,500	11,600	13,100	-0.9	-12.2
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	12,000	11,900	11,900	0.8	0.8
Retail Trade	75,900	77,500	81,600	-2.1	-7.0
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	10,700	10,700	12,200	0.0	-12.3
Building Material and Garden Equipment	7,700	7,700	8,300	0.0	-7.2
Food & Beverage Stores	12,900	13,000	13,000	-0.8	-0.8
General Merchandise Stores	16,300	16,700	16,400	-2.4	-0.6
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	19,900	20,000	20,900	-0.5	-4.8
Utilities	2,200	2,200	2,000	0.0	10.0
Transportation & Warehousing	17,700	17,800	18,900	-0.6	-6.3
Rail Transportation	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0	0.0
Truck Transportation	8,700	8,700	9,200	0.0	-5.4
<i>Information</i>	11,900	11,900	11,100	0.0	7.2
Telecommunications	4,800	4,800	4,100	0.0	17.1
<i>Financial Activities</i>	31,000	30,900	31,800	0.3	-2.5
Finance & Insurance	23,200	23,100	23,500	0.4	-1.3
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	7,800	7,800	8,300	0.0	-6.0
<i>Professional &amp; Business Services</i>	71,200	71,500	78,800	-0.4	-9.6
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	31,300	31,600	34,100	-0.9	-8.2
Scientific Research & Development	7,300	7,300	7,500	0.0	-2.7
Management of Companies & Enterprises	6,900	6,900	7,500	0.0	-8.0
Administrative & Support & Waste Management	33,000	33,000	37,200	0.0	-11.3
Administrative & Support Services	30,600	30,500	35,700	0.3	-14.3
<i>Educational &amp; Health Services</i>	77,700	77,200	77,100	0.6	0.8
Educational Services	8,200	7,800	9,200	5.1	-10.9
Health Care & Social Assistance	69,500	69,400	67,900	0.1	2.4
Hospitals	16,600	16,800	17,000	-1.2	-2.4
<i>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</i>	58,000	57,800	61,400	0.3	-5.5
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	7,600	7,800	8,300	-2.6	-8.4
Accommodation & Food Services	50,400	50,000	53,100	0.8	-5.1
Accommodation	9,000	8,800	8,800	2.3	2.3
Food Services & Drinking Places	41,400	41,200	44,300	0.5	-6.5
<i>Other Services</i>	19,300	19,500	20,500	-1.0	-5.9
<i>Total Government</i>	122,500	119,900	119,500	2.2	2.5
Federal Government	12,100	12,000	12,200	0.8	-0.8
State & Local Government	110,400	107,900	107,300	2.3	2.9
State Government	30,200	29,700	30,500	1.7	-1.0
State Government Education	15,100	14,100	14,800	7.1	2.0
State Government Administration	15,100	15,600	15,700	-3.2	-3.8
Local Government	80,200	78,200	76,800	2.6	4.4
Local Government Education	42,500	40,900	41,500	3.9	2.4
Local Government Administration	34,400	33,900	32,000	1.5	7.5
Local Government Tribes	3,300	3,400	3,300	-2.9	0.0

\*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

	Feb 2009	Jan 2009	Feb 2008	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>IDAHO LABOR FORCE <sup>(1)</sup></b>					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	752,200	752,600	751,000	-0.1	0.2
Unemployment	50,900	49,200	29,500	3.5	72.5
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	6.8	6.5	3.9		
Total Employment	701,300	703,400	721,500	-0.3	-2.8
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	748,100	747,600	746,300	0.1	0.2
Unemployment	58,700	58,100	34,600	1.0	69.7
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	7.8	7.8	4.6		
Total Employment	689,400	689,500	711,700	0.0	-3.1
<b>U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE<sup>(2)</sup></b>					
	8.1	7.6	4.8		
<b>U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX<sup>(2)</sup></b>					
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	206.7	205.7	207.3	0.5	-0.3
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	212.2	211.1	211.7	0.5	0.2
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>					
Agriculture Employment	36,310	35,100	35,410	3.4	2.5
Operators	9,750	9,380	9,740	3.9	0.1
Unpaid Family	350	350	360	0.0	-2.8
Hired Workers	26,210	25,370	25,310	3.3	3.6
<b>UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE</b>					
<i>Claims Activities</i>					
Initial Claims <sup>(3)</sup>	16,763	21,277	10,604	-21.2	58.1
Weeks Claimed <sup>(4)</sup>	185,304	175,351	103,394	5.7	79.2
<i>Benefit Payment Activities<sup>(5)</sup></i>					
Weeks Compensated	163,883	149,390	90,760	9.7	80.6
Total Benefit \$ Paid	43,324,423	40,386,295	23,968,191	7.3	80.8
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$264.36	\$270.34	\$264.08	-2.2	0.1
Covered Employers	51,177	51,113	51,533	0.1	-0.7
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months <sup>(4)</sup>	\$257,742,886	\$238,386,654	\$143,181,284	8.1	80.0

(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

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

	Feb 2009*	Jan 2009	Feb 2008	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	71,250	71,800	69,770	-0.7	2.1
Unemployed	5,190	5,870	3,230	0.0	63.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.3	8.2	4.6		
Total Employment	66,060	65,930	66,540	-0.7	-0.9
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	71,310	71,700	69,540	-0.3	2.6
Unemployed	6,670	6,870	4,200	9.7	61.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.4	9.6	6.0		
Total Employment	64,640	64,830	65,340	-1.2	-1.2
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	53,800	53,730	54,410	0.1	-1.1
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>					
Natural Resources & Mining	310	340	340	-8.8	-8.8
Construction	4,470	4,540	4,830	-1.5	-7.5
Manufacturing	4,500	4,510	4,720	-0.2	-4.7
<i>Wood Product Manufacturing</i>	720	730	870	-1.4	-17.2
<i>Other Manufacturing</i>	3,780	3,780	3,850	0.0	-1.8
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>					
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	10,300	10,530	10,630	-2.2	-3.1
<i>Wholesale Trade</i>	1,530	1,510	1,520	1.3	0.7
<i>Retail Trade</i>	7,750	7,980	8,060	-2.9	-3.8
<i>Transportation, Warehousing &amp; Utilities</i>	1,020	1,040	1,050	-1.9	-2.9
Information	900	910	850	-1.1	5.9
Financial Activities	3,090	3,070	3,140	0.7	-1.6
Professional & Business Services	5,530	5,580	5,650	-0.9	-2.1
Educational & Health Services	6,240	6,180	5,890	1.0	5.9
Leisure & Hospitality	7,140	7,140	7,030	0.0	1.6
Other Services	1,390	1,390	1,490	0.0	-6.7
Government Education	3,740	3,440	3,660	8.7	2.2
Government Administration	5,310	5,250	5,310	1.1	0.0
Government Tribes	880	850	870	3.5	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.

# North Central Idaho Data

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

	Feb 2009*	Jan 2009	Feb 2008	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	30,940	31,040	29,650	-1.9	4.0
Unemployment	2,230	2,150	1,460	8.5	49.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.2	6.9	4.9		
Total Employment	28,710	28,890	28,190	-2.6	1.6
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	30,870	30,840	29,640	-1.4	3.8
Unemployment	2,330	2,350	1,550	4.1	47.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.5	7.6	5.2		
Total Employment	28,540	28,490	28,090	-1.8	1.4
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	25,800	25,800	27,330	0.0	-5.6
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	4,070	4,170	4,640	-2.4	-12.3
Natural Resources & Mining	220	220	210	0.0	4.8
Construction	750	800	1,110	-6.3	-32.4
Manufacturing	3,100	3,150	3,320	-1.6	-6.6
<i>Wood Product Manufacturing</i>	450	460	520	-2.2	-13.5
<i>Paper Manufacturing</i>	1,090	1,090	1,120	0.0	-2.7
<i>Other Manufacturing</i>	1,560	1,600	1,680	-2.5	-7.1
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	21,730	21,630	22,690	0.5	-4.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,250	5,400	5,580	-2.8	-5.9
<i>Wholesale Trade</i>	510	590	710	-13.6	-28.2
<i>Retail Trade</i>	3,720	3,760	3,750	-1.1	-0.8
<i>Utilities</i>	90	90	90	0.0	0.0
<i>Transportation &amp; Warehousing</i>	940	970	1,040	-3.1	-9.6
Information	370	370	390	0.0	-5.1
Financial Activities	2,100	2,120	2,100	-0.9	0.0
Professional & Business Services	1,410	1,430	1,470	-1.4	-4.1
Education & Health Services	4,270	4,260	4,310	0.2	-0.9
Leisure & Hospitality	2,440	2,390	2,560	2.1	-4.7
Other Services	660	660	1,090	0.0	-39.4
Government Education	2,630	2,660	2,530	-1.1	4.0
Government Administration	1,930	1,660	1,970	16.3	-2.0
Government Tribes	670	680	690	-1.5	-2.9

\*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.

# Southwestern Idaho Data

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

	Feb 2009*	Jan 2009	Feb 2008	% Change	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	287,600	290,498	295,106	-1.0	-2.5
Unemployment	22,100	20,523	11,512	7.7	92.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.7	7.1	3.9		
Total Employment	265,500	269,975	283,594	-1.7	-6.4
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	287,100	289,298	294,330	-0.8	-2.5
Unemployment	24,500	24,753	12,927	-1.0	89.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.5	8.6	4.4		
Total Employment	262,600	264,545	281,403	-0.7	-6.7
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	253,300	254,300	270,400	-0.4	-6.3
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>					
<i>Natural Resources &amp; Construction</i>	15,500	15,800	18,300	-1.9	-15.3
Construction	15,200	15,500	18,000	-1.9	-15.6
<i>Manufacturing</i>	25,000	25,500	29,100	-2.0	-14.1
Durable Goods	18,100	18,500	22,100	-2.2	-18.1
Wood Product Manufacturing	2,000	2,000	2,100	0.0	-4.8
Fabricated Metal Products Mfg.	1,400	1,500	1,500	-6.7	-6.7
Machinery Manufacturing	1,100	1,100	1,200	0.0	-8.3
Computer & Electronic Manufacturing	10,200	10,200	13,000	0.0	-21.5
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	1,900	1,800	2,200	5.6	-13.6
Other Durable Goods	1,500	1,900	2,100	-21.1	-28.6
Nondurable Goods	6,900	7,000	7,000	-1.4	-1.4
Food Manufacturing	5,000	5,000	4,900	0.0	2.0
Printing & Related Support Activities	700	700	800	0.0	-12.5
Other Nondurable Goods	1,200	1,300	1,300	-7.7	-7.7
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES</b>					
<i>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</i>	49,300	50,400	53,300	-2.2	-7.5
Trade	41,200	42,300	45,400	-2.6	-9.3
Wholesale Trade	11,500	11,700	12,200	-1.7	-5.7
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	6,400	6,500	7,000	-1.5	-8.6
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	3,700	3,700	3,800	0.0	-2.6
Retail Trade	29,700	30,600	33,200	-2.9	-10.5
Food & Beverage Stores	4,700	4,700	5,000	0.0	-6.0
General Merchandise Stores	6,400	6,500	6,500	-1.5	-1.5
All Other Retail Trade	18,600	19,400	21,700	-4.1	-14.3
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	8,100	8,100	7,900	0.0	2.5
Utilities	900	900	700	0.0	28.6
Transportation & Warehousing	7,200	7,200	7,200	0.0	0.0
<i>Information</i>	5,600	5,600	4,900	0.0	14.3
Telecommunications	2,200	2,100	1,500	4.8	46.7
<i>Financial Activities</i>	13,600	13,600	14,300	0.0	-4.9
Finance & Insurance	10,400	10,400	10,500	0.0	-1.0
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3,200	3,200	3,800	0.0	-15.8
<i>Professional &amp; Business Services</i>	35,700	35,900	39,800	-0.6	-10.3
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	11,800	11,900	12,700	-0.8	-7.1
Management of Companies & Ent.	5,100	5,100	5,500	0.0	-7.3
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt.	18,800	18,900	21,600	-0.5	-13.0
<i>Educational &amp; Health Services</i>	34,000	33,500	34,900	1.5	-2.6
Educational Services	2,600	2,300	3,200	13.0	-18.8
Health Care & Social Assistance	31,400	31,200	31,700	0.6	-0.9
Hospitals	10,100	10,100	10,400	0.0	-2.9
<i>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</i>	22,000	22,000	24,400	0.0	-9.8
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2,300	2,500	3,200	-8.0	-28.1
Accommodation & Food Services	19,700	19,500	21,200	1.0	-7.1
Accommodation	1,900	1,900	2,200	0.0	-13.6
Food Services & Drinking Places	17,800	17,600	19,000	1.1	-6.3
<i>Other Services</i>	8,000	7,900	8,300	1.3	-3.6
<i>Total Government</i>	44,600	44,100	43,100	1.1	3.5
Federal Government	6,100	6,000	5,900	1.7	3.4
State & Local Government	38,500	38,100	37,200	1.0	3.5
State Government	14,200	14,200	14,000	0.0	1.4
State Government Education	4,500	4,500	4,600	0.0	-2.2
State Government Administration	9,700	9,700	9,400	0.0	3.2
Local Government	24,300	23,900	23,200	1.7	4.7
Local Government Education	15,400	15,100	14,500	2.0	6.2
Local Government Administration	8,900	8,800	8,700	1.1	2.3

\* Preliminary estimate

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

# South Central Idaho Data

## Twin Falls-Jerome MicSA Labor Force & Employment – Twin Falls and Jerome counties

					<u>% Change From</u>	
	Feb 2009*	Jan 2009	Feb 2008	Last Month	Last Year	
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>						
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>						
Civilian Labor Force	49,390	49,150	48,170	0.5	2.5	
Unemployment	2,670	2,580	1,560	3.5	71.2	
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.4	5.2	3.2			
Total Employment	46,720	46,570	46,610	0.3	0.2	
<i>Unadjusted</i>						
Civilian Labor Force	49,400	49,190	48,200	0.4	2.5	
Unemployment	3,050	3,090	1,810	-1.3	68.5	
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.2	6.3	3.8			
Total Employment	46,350	46,100	46,390	0.5	-0.1	
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>						
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	38,540	38,660	39,280	-0.3	-1.9	
<i>Goods-Providing Industries</i>						
Natural Resources & Mining	60	60	50	0.0	20.0	
Construction	1,830	1,850	1,970	-1.1	-7.1	
Manufacturing	4,510	4,460	4,650	1.1	-3.0	
<i>Food Manufacturing</i>	2,610	2,600	2,570	0.4	1.6	
<i>Other Manufacturing</i>	1,900	1,860	2,080	2.2	-8.7	
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>						
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	9,980	10,090	10,020	-1.1	-0.4	
<i>Wholesale Trade</i>	1,910	1,910	1,900	0.0	0.5	
<i>Retail Trade</i>	5,370	5,430	5,660	-1.1	-5.1	
<i>Utilities</i>	160	160	150	0.0	6.7	
<i>Transportation &amp; Warehousing</i>	2,540	2,590	2,310	-1.9	10.0	
Information	650	650	670	0.0	-3.0	
Financial Activities	1,610	1,620	1,710	-0.6	-5.8	
Professional & Business Services	4,300	4,170	4,720	3.1	-8.9	
Educational & Health Services	5,320	5,360	5,260	-0.7	1.1	
Leisure & Hospitality	3,220	3,200	3,090	0.6	4.2	
Other Services	1,460	1,450	1,480	0.7	-1.4	
Government Education	3,400	3,550	3,310	-4.2	2.7	
Government Administration	2,200	2,200	2,350	0.0	-6.4	

\*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.

# Southeastern Idaho Data

## Pocatello MSA Labor Force & Employment — Bannock and Power counties

	Feb 2009*	Jan 2009	Feb 2008	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	45,150	44,670	43,070	1.1	4.8
Unemployment	2,520	2,470	1,510	2.0	66.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.6	5.5	3.5		
	42,630	42,200	41,560	1.0	2.6
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	45,060	44,590	43,150	1.1	4.4
Unemployment	2,830	2,980	1,970	-5.0	43.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.3	6.7	4.6		
Total Employment	42,230	41,610	41,180	1.5	2.5
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	37,140	37,770	37,330	-1.7	-0.5
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>					
Natural Resources & Mining	20	20	20	0.0	0.0
Construction	1,600	2,080	1,710	-23.1	-6.4
Manufacturing	3,690	3,630	3,600	1.7	2.5
<i>Food Manufacturing</i>	1,490	1,500	1,380	-0.7	8.0
<i>Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing</i>	250	240	200	4.2	25.0
<i>Machinery Manufacturing</i>	90	100	80	-10.0	12.5
<i>Other Manufacturing</i>	1,860	1,790	1,930	3.9	-3.6
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>					
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	6,940	7,370	7,530	-5.8	-7.8
<i>Wholesale Trade</i>	1,380	1,380	1,350	0.0	2.2
<i>Retail Trade</i>	4,260	4,510	4,630	-5.5	-8.0
<i>Utilities</i>	40	40	40	0.0	0.0
<i>Transportation &amp; Warehousing</i>	1,260	1,440	1,500	-12.5	-16.0
Information	560	570	700	-1.8	-20.0
Financial Activities	2,220	2,120	2,130	4.7	4.2
Professional & Business Services	3,460	3,530	3,970	-2.0	-12.8
Educational & Health Services	3,820	3,990	3,360	-4.3	13.7
Leisure & Hospitality	3,620	3,610	3,670	0.3	-1.4
Other Services	1,340	880	1,260	52.3	6.3
Government Education	5,630	5,950	5,130	-5.4	9.7
Government Administration	4,240	4,020	4,250	5.5	-0.2

\*Preliminary estimate

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

# East Central Idaho Data

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

	Feb 2009*	Jan 2009	Feb 2008	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	61,880	61,750	62,040	0.2	-0.3
Unemployment	3,090	2,950	1,750	4.7	76.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.0%	4.8%	2.8%		
Total Employment	58,790	58,800	60,290	0.0	-2.5
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	60,830	60,800	60,990	0.0	-0.3
Unemployment	3,510	3,400	2,020	3.2	73.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.8%	5.6%	3.3%		
Total Employment	57,320	57,400	58,970	-0.1	-2.8
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	<b>49,760</b>	<b>49,410</b>	<b>50,560</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>-1.6</b>
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	6,550	6,550	7,540	0.0	-13.1
Construction & Natural Resources	3,160	3,090	4,190	2.3	-24.6
Manufacturing	3,390	3,460	3,350	-2.0	1.2
<i>Food Manufacturing</i>	900	910	930	-1.1	-3.2
<i>Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing</i>	300	300	260	0.0	15.4
<i>Machinery Manufacturing</i>	140	140	150	0.0	-6.7
<i>Other Manufacturing</i>	2,050	2,110	2,010	-2.8	2.0
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	43,210	42,860	43,020	0.8	0.4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	12,320	12,370	13,050	-0.4	-5.6
<i>Wholesale Trade</i>	3,460	3,460	3,670	0.0	-5.7
<i>Retail Trade</i>	7,500	7,470	7,540	0.4	-0.5
<i>Utilities</i>	60	50	60	20.0	0.0
<i>Transportation</i>	1,300	1,390	1,780	-6.5	-27.0
Information	1,370	1,370	1,310	0.0	4.6
Financial Activities	2,010	2,030	2,240	-1.0	-10.3
Professional & Business Services	4,620	4,770	4,990	-3.1	-7.4
Educational & Health Services	7,720	7,150	7,300	8.0	5.8
Leisure & Hospitality	5,190	5,330	4,790	-2.6	8.4
Other Services	2,630	2,610	2,110	0.8	24.6
Government Education	3,950	3,840	3,790	2.9	4.2
Government Administration	3,400	3,390	3,440	0.3	-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.

# Glossary of Labor Market Terms

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Glossary of Labor Market Terms (cont.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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