

Idaho Employment

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

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SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO LABOR ECONOMIST DIES

By John O'Connell

Idaho State Journal

Scott Hobdey, a veteran staff member of the Idaho Department of Labor and its southeastern Idaho labor economist for the past three years, died suddenly on Nov. 5 after suffering a brain aneurysm while in Boise on department business.

Hobdey, 60, joined the department in 1987 after 11 years as assistant athletic director at Idaho State University.

Known for his dry wit, Hobdey could put a room full of people in stitches with a few well-selected words, but he also took his role of finding good jobs for the area's unemployed extremely seriously. He was recently recognized by the Bannock Development Corp. with a certificate of appreciation for his "investment in the economic growth and vitality of the region."

"For Scott, they weren't just numbers. The stats signified information that we could utilize to help people get better jobs. We will miss a friend and a colleague more than I can say," said Gynii Gilliam, executive director of Bannock Development Corp.

A decorated Vietnam veteran, Hobdey was a graduate of Idaho State University. He is survived by his wife Deborah and his two daughters.



JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

Scott Hobdey was a regional economist for the Idaho department of Labor in Pocatello. He worked for the agency since 1987. Hobdey died Nov. 5 at St. Alphonsus Hospital in Boise after suffering a brain aneurysm while on a business trip.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS DRAIN FUND, KEEP ECONOMY MOVING

Since 1936, the unemployment insurance program has provided billions of dollars in relief to millions of Idahoans out of work through no fault of their own and the businesses in their communities that rely on their patronage.

Over that nearly three-quarters of a century – through extended periods of growth interrupted by 13 recessions beginning in the Great Depression – jobless benefits have become part of the state's economy, keeping workers in place during slowdowns so they can get back to work when activity picks up.

For many workers in seasonal jobs like construction, timber and food processing, weekly unemployment checks are part of their yearly budgeting.

But for thousands more – just like in the early 1980s – having to fall back on a weekly unemployment check has been a new – for some upsetting – experience as they became statistics in what has increasingly become known as the Great Recession.

It officially began in December 2007 and was going strong into the summer of 2009. Because of the way employers handled the downturn – many cutting back hours rather than laying workers off completely – there is the likelihood that even if the recovery has begun nationally as a number of experts believe, it will not be reflected in any surge of new jobs for the tens of thousands of Idaho workers who lost their jobs over the past two years.

The collapse of the labor force has been swift. In September 2007, Idaho had three jobs for every two unemployed workers, according to the monthly online help wanted survey conducted by the Conference Board, the New York-based business and management research group.

This September there was one job for every four unemployed workers.

Idaho's regular unemployment benefit program – financed by employers – paid out record benefits of \$210 million to 160,000 workers in 2008 as the recession took hold. But 2009 is dwarfing that.

Through October 2009, more than \$345 million in regular unemployment benefits has been paid to over 120,000 workers, who have also collected another \$180 million in federally financed extended and supplemental benefits. That is more than a half billion dollars being spent at businesses in communities throughout Idaho, and the total will likely exceed \$600 million by year's end.

The rapid increase in unemployment and the demand being placed on the trust fund is increasing the financial impact on employers, who finance the benefits. The state's federal trust fund has been drained despite a 70 percent increase in employer tax rates this year, and Idaho has borrowed over \$75 million from the federal government so far this year to continue paying benefits. The combination of federal borrowing – even though it is interest free – and the demand for benefits will push tax rates even higher in 2010 and keep them there for a number of years until the federal loans are repaid.

But that money – and the hundreds of millions more the federal government is providing directly in jobless benefits – is going right back into the state economy. Mark Zandi, the chief economist for Moody's Economy.com, estimates that every dollar paid in jobless benefits has an economic impact of \$1.63 because unemployment checks are cashed and spent – not saved – and that spending has a ripple effect through the local economy. The only better government encouragement of economic activity, Zandi says, is food stamps, which have a return of \$1.73 for every dollar provided.

An analysis of unemployment benefit spending at the unprecedented level that is occurring this year in Idaho found that every \$80,000 paid out in job-

less benefits preserves one job in the economy. Through October, based on that calculation, the benefit program has preserved over 6,600 jobs around the state. Without that assistance to workers, Idaho's job loss could have been 12 percent to 13 percent greater than the nearly 50,000 recorded last summer.

This year unemployment benefits became a significant stabilizing factor for total personal income in Idaho. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis estimated that the state's personal income in the second quarter of 2009 – the total of all wages, business profits, investment earnings and transfer pay-

Total Unemployment Benefit Payments Through September			
County	2009	2008	% Increase
Ada	\$128,854,311.63	\$39,948,545.36	222.6%
Adams	\$2,471,121.80	\$1,335,806.00	85.0%
Bannock	\$18,490,331.43	\$7,549,436.20	144.9%
Bear Lake	\$627,493.40	\$232,358.00	170.1%
Benewah	\$4,755,018.95	\$2,000,105.75	137.7%
Bingham	\$8,056,236.25	\$3,294,827.00	144.5%
Blaine	\$9,008,889.10	\$2,506,251.85	259.5%
Boise	\$2,273,141.93	\$1,037,886.00	119.0%
Bonner	\$15,555,449.07	\$6,929,639.30	124.5%
Bonneville	\$18,735,071.80	\$6,399,374.30	192.8%
Boundary	\$3,990,180.30	\$1,939,605.90	105.7%
Butte	\$339,674.70	\$200,138.00	69.7%
Camas	\$525,256.40	\$147,764.00	255.5%
Canyon	\$74,475,178.16	\$25,634,450.87	190.5%
Caribou	\$1,176,745.40	\$439,146.00	168.0%
Cassia	\$2,870,604.00	\$1,416,496.50	102.7%
Clark	\$95,707.60	\$44,957.00	112.9%
Clearwater	\$3,303,643.90	\$1,717,812.00	92.3%
Custer	\$681,601.50	\$342,070.00	99.3%
Elmore	\$5,560,955.00	\$2,149,394.20	158.7%
Franklin	\$1,042,547.70	\$295,811.00	252.4%
Fremont	\$3,254,238.60	\$1,429,764.20	127.6%
Gem	\$6,300,888.51	\$2,567,417.23	145.4%
Gooding	\$2,775,032.80	\$1,202,729.00	130.7%
Idaho	\$4,998,654.70	\$2,259,972.50	121.2%
Jefferson	\$4,683,800.32	\$1,747,253.00	168.1%
Jerome	\$4,057,940.45	\$1,484,379.36	173.4%
Kootenai	\$43,422,603.80	\$17,262,993.38	151.5%
Latah	\$4,990,044.49	\$1,999,305.90	149.6%
Lemhi	\$1,911,530.10	\$955,052.50	100.1%
Lewis	\$325,781.70	\$139,463.50	133.6%
Lincoln	\$2,369,653.30	\$820,916.08	188.7%
Madison	\$3,222,281.80	\$1,137,355.50	183.3%
Minidoka	\$3,582,702.90	\$1,842,441.00	94.5%
Nez Perce	\$5,760,947.39	\$2,151,538.50	167.8%
Oneida	\$452,140.50	\$191,913.00	135.6%

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

Total Unemployment Benefit Payments Through September			
County	2009	2008	% Increase
Owyhee	\$382,037.80	\$218,797.00	74.6%
Payette	\$5,969,984.30	\$2,484,592.50	140.3%
Power	\$1,477,274.20	\$815,707.38	81.1%
Shoshone	\$6,584,893.10	\$2,260,095.90	191.4%
Teton	\$2,132,021.30	\$520,315.50	309.8%
Twin Falls	\$15,915,909.82	\$5,201,793.50	206.0%
Valley	\$5,884,642.60	\$3,043,971.00	93.3%
Washington	\$2,619,863.15	\$1,062,384.00	146.6%
Undetermined Counties	\$715,752.30	\$241,526.00	196.3%
Interstate	\$20,415,208.29	\$6,728,956.68	203.4%
Total	\$457,094,988.24	\$165,332,509.34	176.5%

Source: Idaho Department of Labor

ments like Social Security and jobless benefits – grew from the previous quarter only because of unemployment benefits.

On an annualized basis, wages and business profits were down eight-tenths of a percent in the April-June quarter from the January-March quarter, and investment earnings were off nearly 4 percent. Those losses were partially offset by Social Security, disability and other payments unrelated to unemployment. But because unemployment benefits were up more than 60 percent from the first quarter what would have been another quarterly income decline was turned into the first quarterly increase in a year although the gain was just 0.4 percent.

Unemployment benefits accounted for 1.5 percent of total personal income, their highest contribution since the recession of 1982 and only the second time in the post-1982 economy that jobless benefits were solely responsible for a quarterly increase in personal income. The other instance was the third quarter of 2001 just before that year's recession ended. Unemployment benefits were responsible for only fractional growth – three one-thousandths of a percent.

By those measures, Idaho's job loss at what may have been the depth of the recession in August would have been not 7.5 percent but 8.3 percent had there been no jobless benefits. Personal income would have dropped 0.2 percent in the second quarter instead of growing 0.4 percent.

An analysis conducted for the U.S. Department of Labor in 1999 concluded that unemployment benefits clearly have a positive impact on troubled economies.

“The stabilizing impact of each UI benefits dollar injected into the economy has not changed substantially over the past 25 years,” according to the report, “Unemployment Insurance as an Economic Stabilizer: Evidence of Effectiveness Over Three Decades.” “Recessions – as measured by declines in real GDP – would be about 15 percent deeper if the UI program did not exist.”

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SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO PLAYS CRUCIAL ROLE IN ENERGY GROWTH

During the last two or three years energy has become a significant issue in economic discussions across eastern Idaho. Recent proposals for a large wind farm in Power County and a large geothermal plant in Franklin County combined with a series of public meetings on routes for two large high-voltage electrical transmission lines to heighten public interest in energy's economic impact on the region's economy.

Most of these projects are directly related to electricity and not energy's entire economic spectrum. The difference is significant and important. Total energy production includes energy created for transportation, heating and cooling. The sources are primarily petroleum, coal and natural gas. Idaho ranks 44th in the nation for energy production and drops to 43rd in net electricity generation as the tables on pages 8 and 9 show.

The increase in energy demand by developing nations such as China and India and the instability of oil supplies from large importers in the Middle East have contributed to higher energy prices and reignited concerns about energy availability in the United States.

Southeastern Idaho has a role in the larger picture of energy development, particularly in electrical generation.

There are 136 hydro electric plants in Idaho that can produce a maximum of 2,500 megawatts combined. That maximum, however, is rarely attained because of water flows, especially from storage reservoirs. While conventional wisdom has been that Idaho has maximized its hydropower resources, researchers at the Idaho National Laboratory have identified 6,700 additional sites that could potentially produce another 2,100 megawatts of electricity. A megawatt of electricity is enough to power one average home in the Intermountain West for more than a month, according to UtiliPoint International, an energy research firm.

But environmental concerns make it unlikely any of these sites will be developed in the near term. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, Idaho produced 9,021,690 megawatt hours of hydro-powered electricity in 2007 and ranked seventh in the nation for renewable energy production.

Most residents of southeastern Idaho know about geothermal energy because of the many natural hot springs they use for recreation. Some homes and several small-scale hydroponic greenhouses use the earth's hot water for heating. But there is only one active geothermal electric site in the state and the first geothermal power plant in the Northwest. Operated by U.S. Geothermal Inc. near Raft River, the facility produces about 13 megawatts of electricity although the maximum potential is estimated at 110 megawatts. Generating costs are relatively high, but technological improvements offer prospects of developing one or more of the other 24 geothermal sites in Idaho identified by researchers Ken Neely and Gerry Galinato for the Governor's Geothermal Task Force in 2007. The recent announcement by the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation about its plans to develop a 100 megawatt geothermal plant near Preston adds credence to the viability of geothermal electric generation in Idaho.

Throughout the United States coal is used to produce electricity, and for the most part it is economical and reliable. Coal gasification, which converts coal to methane or hydrogen, is a new technology to generate electricity on a large scale, but concerns about the production of air pollutants, especially carbon dioxide, need to be addressed before it becomes widely accepted.

Idaho imports nearly all fossil fuel used for energy production, and it is unlikely to change until the price for energy in general rises to the point that previously uneconomical resources become financially feasible to explore.

Biomass – wood products, cellulosic feedstock and byproducts from grain crops – is being evaluated throughout the state as an energy source. The biomass umbrella also covers gases containing carbon from decomposing landfill material, but the concentration is in areas with large amounts of timber and grain. Interest varies with demand and price. When prices for grain or timber decline so does production so there is less byproduct to use for energy production. Technology is continually being developed to make conversion more economical. In 2006 Idaho generated 75,926 megawatt hours using biomass systems, ranking 18th in the nation.

While solar power is often the focus of alternative energy generation, the technology for large scale projects is still being researched and developed. Most solar generation is occurring on a small scale – individual homes or businesses. But the technology is changing rapidly, and with the large number of cloudless days in southern Idaho solar energy could conceivably provide significant power to the area.

Southeastern Idaho Wind Sites by County

Southeastern Idaho Wind Sites by County		
BANNOCK COUNTY		
Site	MegaWatts	Wind Class
Armstrong	20	3
Haystack/Bonneville	245	5
Old Tom's Mountain	240	5
Community Charter	0.0018	2
Poc. E. Ridge #1	15	5
Poc. E. Ridge #2	15	5
Poc. W. Ridge	15	5
Wakley/Elkhorn	282	4
Windy Pass	100	5
Total	932.0018	4.3
BEAR LAKE COUNTY		
Bloomington/Paris Peaks	65	6
Snowdrift Mountain	130	6
Total	195	6
BINGHAM COUNTY		
Gibson Ridge	20	4
Goshen South	375	4
Lava Beds	18	3
Western Energy	99	4
Wolverine Creek	64.5	4
Total	576.5	3.8
CARIBOU COUNTY		
Buckskin Mountain	122.5	6
Chesterfield Ridge	82.5	3
Ridgeline South of Soda	260	5
Total	465	4.7
FRANKLIN COUNTY		
Dayton/Weston Ridge	53	3
Wilderness Peak	130	4
Total	183	3.5
<i>Continued on page 7</i>		

Southeastern Idaho Wind Sites by County

Cont. from page 6

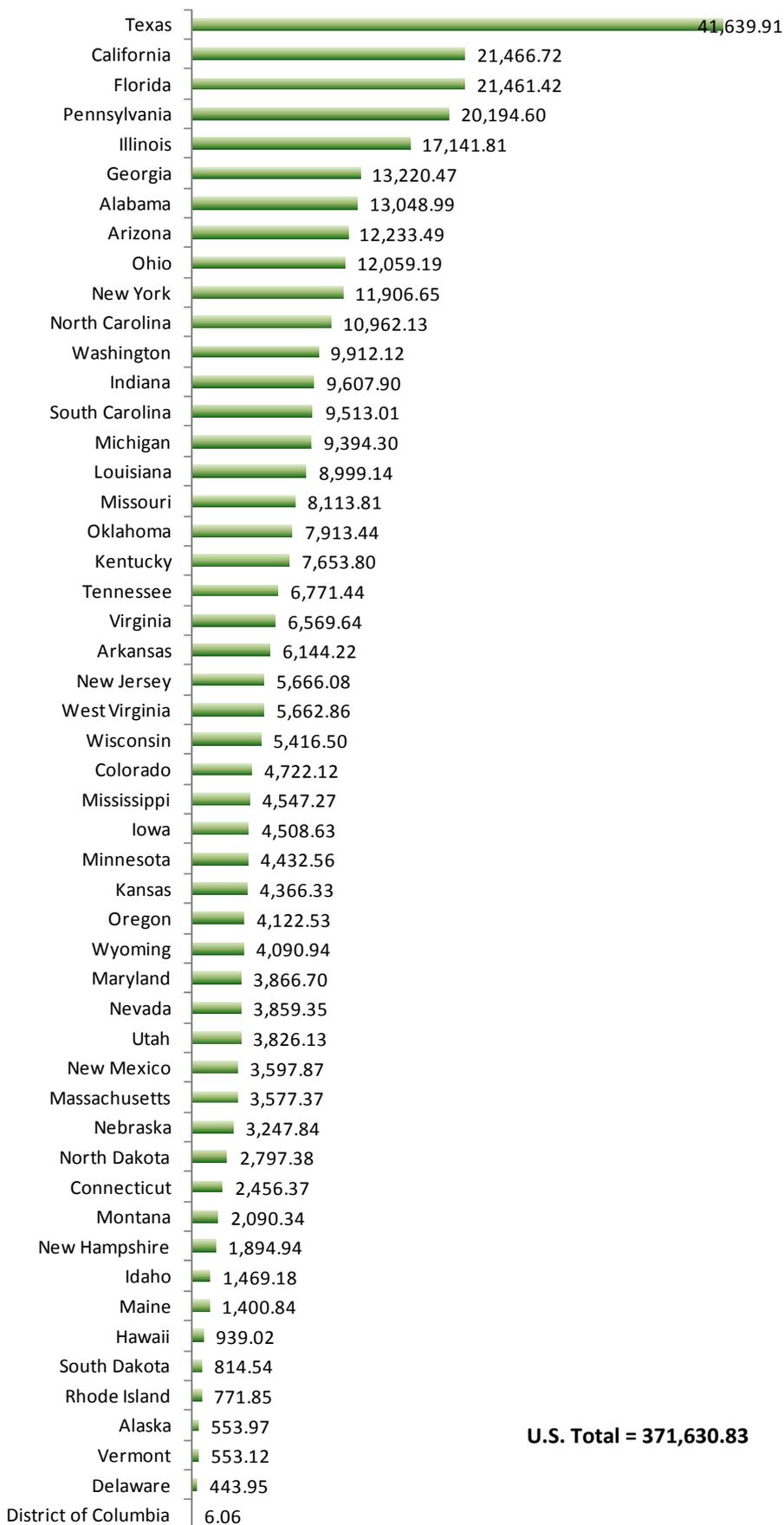
Site	MegaWatts	Wind Class
ONEIDA COUNTY		
Buist/Pleasantview Hills	50	3
Hughes	20	2
Juniper	50	3
Malad Schools	0.1	3
Oxford	240	4
Total	360.1	3
POWER COUNTY		
Windland	200	4
American Falls/Rockland	20	5
Deep Creek Peaks	207.5	5
FMC site	20	5
Molly's Nipple	217	3
Pleasant View Hills	20	4
Rockland/Ridgeline Inc	300	4
West Siphon road	50	2
Tomkinson Farm	20	3
Wheat Grass Ridge	150	4
Total	1204.5	3.9
SOUTHEAST REGION		
Projected Region Mwatts	3916.1018	
Average Wind Class		4.15
Sites with Wind Class >3		25

There has been a revival of nuclear power in the United States that was embodied in the Federal Energy Policy Act of 2005. In eastern Idaho the Idaho National Laboratory and Idaho State University have received a great deal of funding for nuclear research including ways of extending the life of existing nuclear plants. The French company Areva has proposed a \$2 billion power plant in the Idaho Falls area, hoping to start construction in 2012.

But wind is the most likely alternative energy source to have an impact in southeastern Idaho. In 2006 Idaho generated 169,617 megawatt hours with wind to rank eighth nationally in the generation of wind energy. Currently only one wind farm is generating significant amounts of electricity in southeastern Idaho – the Wolverine Farm, which generates 64.5 megawatts in Bingham County. While most other forms of electrical production remained relatively constant in the United States since 2003, the production of electricity by wind has more than tripled from 11,000 megawatt hours to more than 34,000 megawatt hours. Recent wind mapping indicates Idaho has about 18,000 megawatts of generation potential, the 13th highest potential in the United States. Southeastern Idaho has been identified as having several locations which could support viable wind farms. They are near high power transmission lines, are easily accessible and have fairly constant wind speeds. Most developers require a wind classification of three or higher. There are 75 sites in Idaho with that rating and a third are in southeastern Idaho. A list of those sites by county is found in the table on page 6 and 7. Only preliminary assessments have been made on most, but development is being sought for sites on Goshen Ridge, Windland, the Lava Beds and Rockland/Ridgeline.

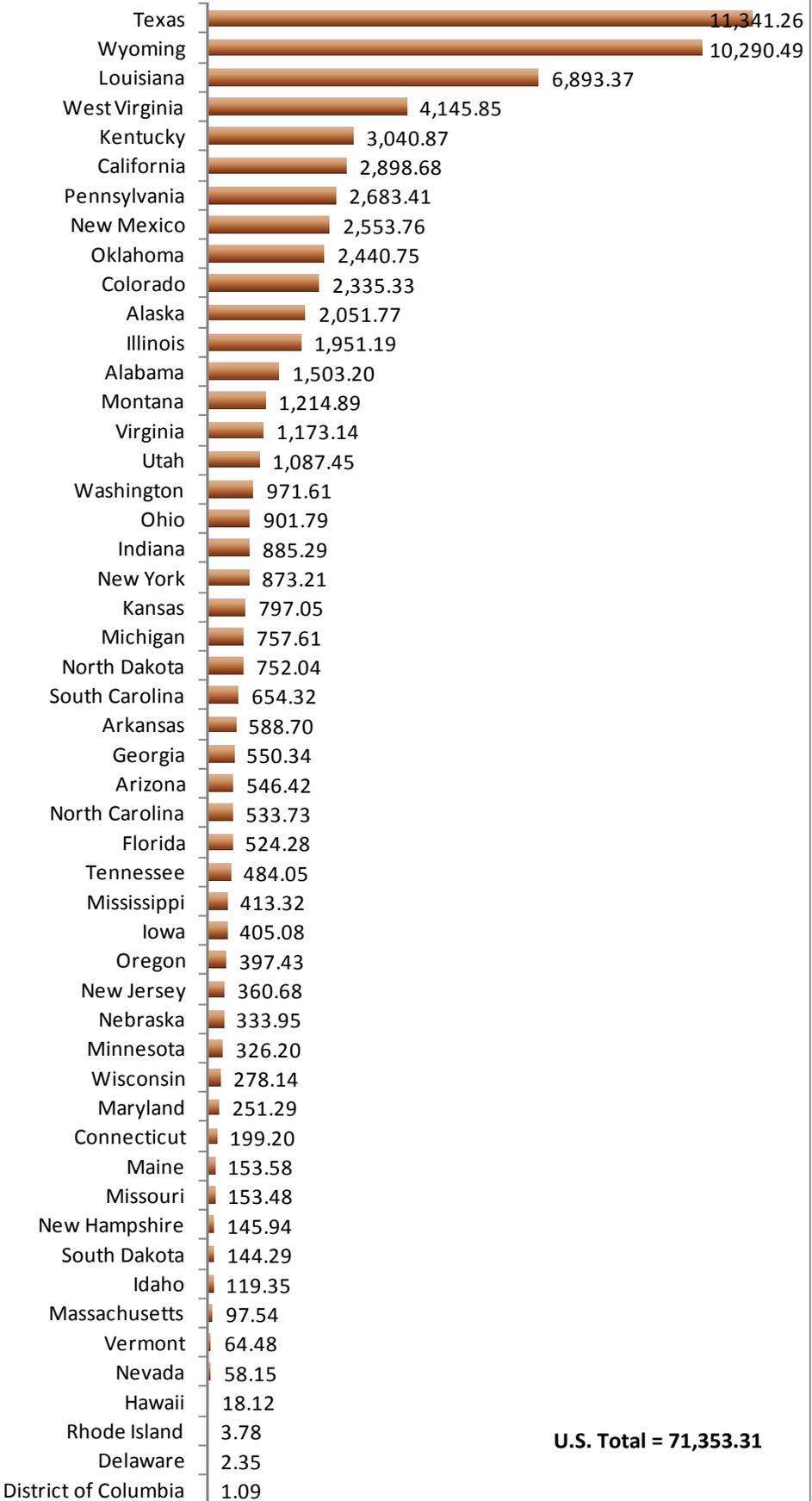
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Electricity Total Net Generation (thousand MWh) Rank by State



Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration

Total Energy Production (trillion Btu) Rank by State



Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration



Area and County Developments

PANHANDLE

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai & Shoshone counties

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

BENEWAH COUNTY

- Timber Plus, the economic development organization serving the Greater St. Joe area, is showing its new promotional video featuring Benewah County and the St. Joe River Valley. The movie-quality video features breathtaking views of the area and highlights opportunities for businesses. It also showcases the area's recreational opportunities. Brad Shaw, based in Boise, produced the video. The video can be viewed on the St. Maries Gazette's Web site at www.smgazette.com.
- Dalco Construction of Plummer soon will begin construction of a new \$97,000 barn at the Benewah County Fairgrounds in St. Maries. When a small barn used for sheep and goats collapsed under last winter's heavy snows, the county commissioners decided to tear down the remaining barns and replace them with a single 12,960-square-foot barn to house all the animals at the fair.
- The St. Maries River Railroad, owned by Potlatch Corp., no longer is running between Clarkia and St. Maries since Potlatch closed the Clarkia landing where for decades it sorted, stored and then shipped logs to area mills. The railroad is scrapping 475 log carriers, which are more than 50 years old and not suitable for faster-speed railroads. The company's crews will salvage and sell 19 million pounds of steel to help pay for maintaining the railroad, which will continue carrying plywood and lumber from the Potlatch and Stimson mills in St. Maries to Plummer and remain the connection with Union Pacific cars that deliver the freight to its final destinations.
- Bidding has begun to build a new 5,400-square-foot library in Plummer. The new building, which will be built next to the smaller 60-year-old existing library, will include a 650-square-foot meeting room, an area for staff to work and public restrooms. The \$700,000 cost will be financed with grants and a \$500,000 bond that passed last November.
- Northwest Small Engine Repair debuted in late September in Tensed. Owner Arthur Nelson specializes in repowering lawn tractors and engine rebuilding. He is also an authorized Kawasaki motorcycle engine dealer and a certified two-stroke engine technician. Nelson is set up to be mobile so he can make repairs away from the shop.

BONNER COUNTY

- The region's largest ski area, Schweitzer Mountain Resort near Sandpoint, has begun hiring for the ski season. Schweitzer employs up to 700 people at the season's peak. Last winter, business was fairly stable January through March, but



*A skier at Schweitzer Mountain Resort
Photo: [Idaho Division of Tourism](http://IdahoDivisionofTourism.com)*

Schweitzer never completely recovered from the late Dec. 12 opening that was followed by a snowstorm that made roads nearly impassable. If all goes well, Schweitzer will open by the Friday after Thanksgiving. Weather forecasts suggest a mild winter in the valleys yet plenty of snow in the mountains, which makes it easy for skiers and snowboarders to get to quality snow. Summer business at Schweitzer set a record for the third year in a row, which suggests the upcoming ski season could be a big success if the weather allows. Hundreds of restaurant, lodging and retail jobs exist in Sandpoint because of Schweitzer's visitors. Good weather conditions also attract many snowmobilers, who spend a lot of money, especially in the Priest Lake area.

- Despite the recession's devastating effect on the U.S. electronics industry, Encoder Products has kept its employment steady. It employs about 120 people at its headquarters and manufacturing plant in Sagle, a few miles south of Sandpoint. Encoder, which makes motion feedback devices that controls robotic devices used in manufacturing, has operated in the Sandpoint area for 40 years.
- A coffee roasting "artisan studio," Evans Brothers Coffee, recently opened in downtown Sandpoint. The roasterie, which contains a tasting room, sells its coffee to several local restaurants and coffee shops.
- Your Complete Wine Shoppe, a new store on Schweitzer Plaza in Ponderay, provides products for home wine makers and brewers. It also offers courses in winemaking.

BOUNDARY COUNTY

- Welco Lumber Co. announced in October that it plans to close its Naples mill in the third week of December, putting 93 people out of work. The mill, which makes cedar fence planks, has been operating for 17 years. Insufficient demand as home construction remains depressed led to the decision. Welco expects to reopen the mill when the U.S. housing market returns to normal but believes that could be a long time off. The average Welco employee makes \$15.05 an hour. Employees who remain until the mill closes will receive one week's pay for every year of employment up to four years or a minimum of \$1,000. The depression in the timber industry and the general economic sluggishness because of the severe recession already pushed Boundary County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate to 14 percent in September. The Welco closure and the resulting impact on logging, transportation and retail could push the rate close to 20 percent.
- Northwest Industrial Manufacturing in Bonners Ferry has come up with a solution to a dangerous task performed by logging truck drivers – an automatic system for raising the steel extensions logging trucks need to keep the logs on the truck bed. To stack a load of logs, truckers now manually insert steel extensions into the truck's bunks, usually by climbing on the truck tires to the trailers or even onto the bunks themselves. Frequently, injuries occur, especially in muddy or snowing conditions, from slipping and falling while inserting the extensions. Northwest Industrial Manufacturing, a steel fabrication and millwright shop owned by Joe Stockdale, makes Safe-T-Bunks, which operate with the push of a button inside the cab. An air compressor that runs on the truck's brake system activates the extensions. Northwest Industrial Manufacturing sells Safe-T-Bunk kits that allow truckers to retrofit their trailers by removing the bunk arms and welding on the Safe-T-Bunks. Alternatively, the company also provides a full set of the mechanized log bunks ready to install on a trailer. Safe-T-Bunks are being recognized in the logging industry. The October edition of Forest Op-

erations Review magazine will feature an article on Safe-T-Bunks. Also, truck manufacturers are beginning to show interest in the Safe-T-Bunks. In fact, Northwest Industrial is currently negotiating a contract with Kenworth Trucks in Missoula, Mont. If awarded the contract, Northwest Industrial will open a Safe-T-Bunk fabrication shop in Bonners Ferry.

- The Best Western Kootenai River Inn Casino and Spa recently earned the Best Western Directors Award by scoring 991 points out of a perfect 1,000. Owned by the Kootenai Tribe and managed by Hagadone Hospitality, the inn has received the award four years in a row. The inn on the banks of the Kootenai River near downtown Bonners Ferry is the flagship of Boundary County's tourism sector. It contains 65 guest rooms, a casino, restaurant, lounge, recreation center and day spa and employs 170 people. The tribe opened the inn in 1986. Ten years later, it launched the casino.
- Thick 'n' Thin Beams and Lumber Sawmill, a small three-year-old sawmill located near Bonners Ferry, recently added custom flooring to its product line, which already included custom beams, desk tops and counter tops. The mill also produces sawdust, wood shavings and firewood as by-products for sale locally.
- Gov. Butch Otter and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna announced in September that 12 Idaho schools — including the high schools in Bonners Ferry and Sandpoint — are the first to be connected to the new Idaho Education Network. The network is a statewide effort to provide state-of-the-art broadband Internet access to every Idaho student. The Idaho Legislature appropriated almost \$3 million in federal stimulus funding to finance Phase One, which resulted in high-speed connectivity for a dozen schools effective Sept. 1.
- Val Harrington recently opened Val's Sewing Pantry on Vista Drive in Bonners Ferry. The shop offers mending, alterations and custom sewing including making custom wedding gowns and other formal attire.

KOOTENAI COUNTY

- For October, Silverwood Theme Park near Athol transformed itself into Scarywood. By assuming a Halloween theme, the theme park was able to operate for four more weekends than normal. During the day, Scarywood celebrated family activities suitable for younger children including costume and pumpkin contests. But after dark, it became truly frightening for those who don't already find its roller coasters daunting. The enthusiastic response to its Scarywood incarnation allowed it to keep many people employed a little longer while attracting visitors who stayed at local hotels and ate at local restaurants.
- Wal-Mart just started construction on a \$10.3 million, 150,000-square-foot supercenter near Cabela's in Post Falls. When it opens in early summer, it will hire about 200 people. The store will be Wal-Mart's second in Post Falls. Its third Kootenai County store — a 200,000-square-foot supercenter that will employ about 250 — is expected to open in late summer in Hayden. There is speculation that the current Wal-Mart in Post Falls will be transformed into a Sam's Club, Wal-Mart's version of a Costco warehouse, but there has been no official announcement.
- Depressed U.S. housing starts continue to trouble Panhandle wood products mills. Intermittent shutdowns are one way mills respond to low demand and prices for their products. Idaho Veneer in Post Falls shut down for two weeks in October in an attempt to reduce inventory. Both the sawmill and veneer plants temporarily closed just as they did in January. The

company's Ceda-Pine Veneer mill near Sandpoint has been shut down since June. The company currently employs 40 people in Post Falls. It employed more than 100 four years ago when U.S. housing starts were near record levels.

- Northwest Specialty Hospital, a physician-owned surgical hospital in Post Falls, is spending \$7 million to add two additional operating rooms, seven recovery rooms and 12 inpatient rooms. Polin & Young Construction Inc. of Coeur d'Alene is building the addition, slated for completion in December. Surgeries performed at Northwest Specialty largely are in the areas of bariatrics, podiatry, orthopedics, pain management, neurosurgery, plastic and reconstructive surgery, gynecology and ear, nose and throat. The hospital currently employs 125 people in various support roles and has 88 doctors on its medical staff. The new space should be enough to accommodate the hospital's growth needs for the next five to 10 years. The hospital recently created an occupational medicine program to treat injured workers and facilitate their quick return to a functional status. It also is adding a sleep lab.
- The Center for Advanced Microelectronics and Biomolecular Research has created a single computer chip more powerful than 17,000 Intel quad core processors that runs on 0.03 percent of the power those chips would require. The chip will be used on NASA's developing Geostationary Synthetic Thinned Aperture Radiometer project, which will observe hurricanes and other severe storms in the U.S. The chip is responsible for correlating 588 antennas in real-time while running only 120 watts of power. The research center is at the University of Idaho Research Park in Post Falls.
- River City Hospice recently opened in Post Falls. It provides in-home nursing care, pain management and social services to people expected to have six months or less to live. It employs 12 and serves six northern Idaho counties. End of life care and other medical services are growing rapidly in Kootenai County because of the aging of the county's population. The county's population 70 and older grew 44.2 percent from 9,549 in 2000 to 13,774 in 2008, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.
- The Idaho Department of Labor recently approved a \$41,000 Workforce Development Training Fund grant to upgrade the skills of 15 workers at Heater Craft in Rathdrum. The 15-year-old company — which makes heating equipment for boats, RVs and other vehicles — will use the grant to retrain workers so they can move to production of steel containers for the military as the company diversifies. The Workforce Development Training Fund provides training support of up to \$2,000 per new worker in urban areas and \$3,000 per worker in rural communities. Since its inception in 1996, the fund has assisted 46 companies in the Idaho Panhandle, helping to pay training costs for 5,060 workers.
- Texas Roadhouse Inc., a chain that specializes in steaks and spareribs, plans to open a large restaurant in Coeur d'Alene in March. It will seat up to 250 people and employ about 160.
- Despite the recession, several new businesses have opened in the county. Super Silver in downtown Coeur d'Alene offers a wide variety of silver jewelry. Crosby's Floral and Interior Accent, which has operated a store in Coeur d'Alene since 1995, opened a second store at the Prairie Shopping Center in Hayden. Turkey Hill Antiques & More recently opened in Post Falls where seven dealers sell antique furniture, vintage clothing and jewelry and cowboy collectibles. Olinger Marine in Coeur d'Alene offers a large inventory of new and used boats. A new restaurant in Post Falls, Famous Willies Barbecue, serves Texas-style barbecue. Porky G's, a new restaurant

in Coeur d'Alene, features Southern-style smoked barbecue. Kids can play in seven inflatable bounce houses with slides at Jump-A-Lot Indoor Party Zone in Hayden. The zone also has a party room for special events and a video game area. Green Goat Rentals near Hayden rents goats, which are increasingly being used to clear weeds. About 10 goats can clear a quarter acre in three days, and they're better for the environment than pesticides. Natives of Crete, who have operated restaurants in the U.S. for 30 years, opened a Greek restaurant in Coeur d'Alene. They serve food made from their family recipes for lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday.

SHOSHONE COUNTY

- With silver prices hovering above \$16 an ounce, more than twice the level four years ago, silver mines are coming back to life. SNS Silver Corp. has entered a joint venture agreement with Syringa Exploration Inc. to reopen the Crescent Mine near Kellogg for development, exploration and production. Over the next three years, Syringa will invest \$8.2 million in the historic mine's operations. The rate of initial production is estimated to be about 70,000 ounces a month. The Crescent, which closed in 1986, lies between two of the world's greatest silver producers—the Sunshine and Bunker Hill mines, which together produced 559 million ounces of silver. The Crescent itself produced over 28 million ounces of silver between 1917 and 1983. In 2006, SNS Silver began rehabilitating the mine's accesses to allow easier core drilling. About 30 people have been working on exploration at the mine.
- Hecla Mining reports that the Lucky Friday Mine near Mullan has experienced record drilling results over the past year, increasing the potential for future development. Hecla is considering major investments to add decades to the life of the mine. Even without putting in additional investments, current reserves will carry Lucky Friday operations to 2015. The Lucky Friday employs about 240 people.
- Budget Travel magazine listed Wallace as one of the “coolest small towns” in its October edition. The publication describes Wallace as “a place that mines its own history.” The town of 860 located on Interstate 90 is well-known for its charming downtown where every building is on the National Register of Historic Places. Its major tourist haunts include the Sixth Street Theater & Melodrama, Wallace Inn, Oasis Bordello Museum, Wallace Brewing Company, Jameson Hotel and Saloon, Northern Pacific Railroad Depot and the Sierra Silver Mine Tour, which reported record attendance this summer. It also is near the Silver Mountain Resort in Kellogg and two renowned multi-purpose trails – the Route of the Hiawatha and the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes. Next year, its Pulaski trail will be of special interest since it will be the centennial of the famous fire that burned 3 million acres of Idaho and Montana, including one-third of Wallace itself.
- Silver Mountain and Lookout Pass are gearing up for the ski season, hoping to open by Thanksgiving. Despite the economy and heavy snows that often made it difficult for people to travel, Lookout Pass on Interstate 90 at the Idaho-Montana border had a record season last year. It began hiring for this season in mid-October. At the season's peak, it employs about 100 people. This winter, Lookout Pass is open six days a week and in January it will add another day of operation like it did last January. Silver Mountain Resort including its gondola and indoor water park in Kellogg employs 300 to 350 people during the ski season. Its growing reputation and last spring's addition of the water park at Morning Star Lodge should bring even more visitors this season. The waterpark makes it easier for some family members to ski or snowboard while others can stay warm and

toasty playing in the waterpark. Last ski season, lodging was up 85 percent despite a rough start in December.

- The Route of the Hiawatha, a 15-mile trail along the former Milwaukee railroad through Lookout Pass, hosted nearly 33,000 cyclists this season between May 30 and Oct. 4, a 14 percent increase over 2008. The rugged grade through the towering Bitterroot Mountains has a growing national reputation. Most riders begin the Hiawatha at the East Portal, pedaling through the darkness of the St. Paul Pass Tunnel, then going downhill through the Loop Creek drainage. When they arrive at the Pearson trailhead, the end of the line, shuttle buses are there ready to transport riders and their bicycles back up the hill. Many cyclists came from Canada, the Boise area and California.



Route of the Hiawatha. *Photo by [Skilookout](#).*

- Federal stimulus money accelerated cleanup of land contaminated with lead and other heavy metals from more than a century of mining and smelting in the Silver Valley. This summer, 3.2 million square feet of land – the yards of 344 homes – were remediated. That's a 28 percent increase over 2008, when 2.5 million square feet were remediated. This summer, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and its contractors employed more than 240 people on lawn remediation.
- Cleaner tap water will soon be running through the pipes of Burke Canyon households as the result of a new \$600,000 water filtration plant and other cleanup projects. The East Shoshone County Water District serves 3,200 customers throughout Wallace, Mullan and Burke. The Burke system, which receives its raw water from Sawmill Gulch Creek, has about 21 service connections and approximately 45 customers. Its water supply has been plagued by sewage and environmental cleanup issues and has not met Safe Drinking Water standards for years. Along with construction of the plant, the water district will also oversee a \$20,000 project to clean up a mine adit upstream of Burke's water intake.
- The Calder Sewer District and Shoshone County have received a \$97,010 Community Development Block Grant to replace a sewer line that has been in jeopardy since the spring. Significant portions of Calder Road, where the line runs, were wiped away by a landslide in April. The grant will fund relocation of the sewer line away from the unstable hillside. Calder is an unincorporated community of 100 people on the St. Joe River about halfway between Avery and St. Maries.

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NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO

Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce counties

REGIONAL NEWS

- Since Washington voters approved an initiative in 1998 to annually adjust the state's minimum wage for changes in the consumer price index, the minimum wage has risen every Jan. 1 until now. There will be no increase in 2010 because the consumer price index decreased 2 percent during the relevant 12 months. The Washington minimum wage will remain at

\$8.55 an hour for another year, still the highest in the nation. That is good news for Washington employers struggling through the recession, and it will not further aggravate wage pressure on the Idaho side of the border, where the minimum wage is \$7.25.

- An international tribunal ruled in September that the U.S. could continue imposing a 10 percent duty on Canadian softwood lumber imports until it collects the \$68 million the arbitrators said Canada owes to remedy violations of the Softwood Lumber Agreement between the two countries. Generous subsidies from the Canadian government to lumber producers give an unfair advantage to Canadian lumber. The ruling should help lumber producers, especially in Idaho and other northern states.

NEZ PERCE TRIBE

- It has been 19 months since the Nez Perce Tribe used a \$250,000 Federal Transit Administration grant to launch the Appaloosa Express, a public transit system covering the reservation. Three buses carry people between Lewiston and Kamiah on U.S. Highway 12 and between CULDESAC and Lewiston on U.S. Highway 95 for only \$1. The tribe is now pursuing a federal stimulus grant to expand the service south to Grangeville. Commuters and seniors needing to attend events or medical appointments are the largest component of the Express's ridership. The stimulus money would also finance three more buses, a bus barn and a transportation director.
- The Nez Perce Tribe received a \$430,000 stimulus grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to help clean up two underground gasoline storage tanks. The tribe gets its drinking water from underground sources that could be contaminated if old fuel seeped into the ground. The tanks belonged to Bovey Oil in Craigmont and a service station in Ferdinand.

IDAHO AND LEWIS COUNTIES

- Kamiah still is reeling from the loss of Three Rivers Timber, the community's largest employer at a payroll of 108 before closing last December. The mill's closure also resulted in the loss of dozens of logging and transportation jobs in the community of 1,087. Now, the resulting loss of income is eroding local retail and service jobs and curtailing revenue for local government. The mill had operated for more than 30 years. Kamiah residents continue to hope that someone will buy the mill and reopen it, but no bids were received at a planned auction in August. In October the U.S. Department of Labor approved Trade Adjustment Assistance for 97 of the mill workers. That pays for retraining and education for workers idled by foreign competition. The Idaho Department of Labor administers the program.
- Grangeville plans to undertake major improvements on a half-mile of North Meadow Street next year. A \$500,000 grant from the governor's discretionary stimulus funds made possible repaving, improved storm drainage and installation of handicapped-accessible ramps at all six intersections. Before the street work begins, the city will replace aging four- and six-inch diameter sewer lines with eight-inch lines. The city is paying for the sewer work.
- Gov. Butch Otter and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna announced in September that 12 Idaho schools including the high schools in Grangeville and Cottonwood would be the first connected to the new Idaho Education Network, a statewide initiative to provide state-of-the-art broadband Internet access to every Idaho student. The Idaho Legislature appropriated almost \$3 million in federal stimulus funding to finance Phase One, which resulted in high-speed connectivity for a dozen schools this fall.

- Harrison Ford, the Hollywood actor and producer best known for the “Indiana Jones” and “Star Wars” series, visited the Kamiah area in early October. Ford and his companions were flying to his ranch in Montana and stopped in Kamiah to refuel. They ate lunch at Rivers Café on Kooskia’s Main Street. Ford’s visit illustrates the fact that the addition of a fuel truck at the Kamiah Airport is attracting more visits to the airfield. That makes Kamiah and Kooskia a little less off the beaten track. The more people who see the area’s incredible scenery and enjoy the great hunting, fishing and rafting opportunities, the better for the growing tourism sector.
- Farms and ranches are finding new ways of making money. The R.J. Ranch and Therapeutic Riding Center south of Grangeville caters to children with disabilities, providing therapeutic riding on the 13-acre complex to build muscle strength, increase body awareness, relax tight muscles, improve balance, sharpen eye-hand coordination, promote sensory integration, deepen concentration and boost self-esteem. It motivates riders to improve communication and promotes socialization. The center is run by Julie and Roger Kulp.

NEZ PERCE & ASOTIN COUNTIES

- Valley Vision, the economic development organization serving the Lewis-Clark Valley, has formed a collaborative group of several leading business service providers to help local businesses succeed despite the recession by creating a business environment that fosters stability and success. It will help businesses find the information and resources to expand sales and production, locate new facilities or sites, access capital, deal with work force issues including training, pursue export opportunities and remove constraints to growth. Interested businesses in the Lewis-Clark Valley can contact Bob Tippett at Valley Vision at bobt@lewiston.com or Debbie Baker at debbieb@lewiston.com or call (208) 799-9083.
- Nathan and Alicia Yoder are breathing new life into a 17-acre complex that includes two indoor arenas, an outdoor arena and 110 horse stall that they bought in August. They plan to use the arenas, which have been idle for several years, for concerts, weddings, team riding contests and other events. The Rockin' Y Stables and Event Center could accommodate up to 4,500 people in its largest arena, giving it the potential to attract nationally known musicians. The Yoders plan to renovate two banquet halls in the largest arena at the complex on the southern edge of Lewiston.

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SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO

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

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

ADA COUNTY

- Meridian Development Corp., the city’s urban renewal agency, launched its business incubator in November in a historic downtown building. Meridian-based VengaWorks will oversee design, development and operation of the incubator, which offers emerging businesses an economical way to get established and grow.
- Idaho Public Television is laying off a videographer/director and an on-air operations center supervisor and leaving another job vacant because of state budget cuts. The action will reduce the station’s budget by

\$124,000, 7.5 percent of its \$1.6 million appropriation, in response to the governor's most recent order to cut state spending by another \$99 million.

- PetSmart is relocating its store about a half mile to the site of the old Cineplex Odeon theater in the parking area of the Boise Town Square Mall. The new building will be 27,880 square feet and will include a PetsHotel, expanding the payroll by up to 25.
- Norwalk Furniture at the east end of the Boise Towne Square Mall closed in late October after eight years. The owner had been selling furniture since leaving high school and decided to liquidate in part because the Norwalk factory in Ohio closed after 107 years.
- Teknor Inc. has announced the consolidation of its point-of-sale and cash register divisions. The company was known as RVP Business Systems, DirectPOS and Ada Cash Register. The ownership has not changed but the business will now be known as DirectPOS. It provides retail and restaurant point-of-sale solutions, cash registers and credit card processing in Idaho, Oregon, Utah and other states. It employs 15.
- Invovus Solar embodies the local manifestation of the "green revolution." The company, founded in 2007, retrofits traditional outdoor street and area lighting with solar-powered SmartPole or LED equipment. Invovus Solar's lights are completely self contained, autonomous and look just like any other light, making them accepted to standards committees but with the flexibility to meet changing public demand. The company's 22 employees are mostly ex-Micron, Microsoft and Hewlett-Packard workers. At its current growth rate, employment could double but the end of the next year. Invovus Solar was the first to move into a new "green" high-tech business center in Boise.

ADAMS COUNTY

- The new dry kiln at Evergreen Forest's Tamarack Mill has generated employment for over 100 people through kiln construction, the steel and equipment fabrication and increased demand on local merchants. The increased productivity that the kiln provides ensures the company and its 80 workers continue operation of the mill for a least several more years. The new kiln, heated with energy from wood left from projects on nearby private, state and federal land, eliminates the need for hauling green lumber 112 miles to be dried and planed.

CANYON COUNTY

- A federal enterprise zone over a triangle formed by Idaho 19, U.S. 95 and U.S. 20/26 between western Caldwell, Wilder and Parma may be one way to help bring jobs to Canyon County and safeguard its agricultural base. The city of Wilder already has a federal grant to promote economic development along one leg of the triangle, but by joining forces, the county and small cities can accomplish much more including an eventual regional sewer and water system. The zone would be the first in Idaho, offering tax relief and incentives to industry and business locating in it. Agriculture advocates say they're wary of the breadth of the economic development proposal. An early estimate spans more than 30,000 acres including some of the county's best farmland. But they are encouraged that they will have a voice in the process.
- Darby's at the Market opened in Nampa in late October where Market Limone was located. The restaurant will employ up to six full-time and 30 part-time employees.

- Redeeming Time recently opened in Nampa, with longtime clock enthusiast and expert Robert Spinden specializing in repairing electronic clocks, wall clocks and grandfather clocks. Spinden can make custom pieces for missing parts.
- Brownfield's expanded to Nampa to take advantage of an expanding customer base. Brownfield's has been providing prosthetic and orthotic services for 60 years from its Boise store. Brownfield's offers back, knee and foot braces, artificial limbs, custom footwear for diabetic feet, mastectomy care for people with breast cancer, orthopedic ankle and knee supports, sports orthotics for athletes and compression garments for the lower extremities.
- Buffalo Wild Wings added a new restaurant to its chain. In late October its new eatery opened near Edwards 14 movie theater in Nampa. The first 100 customers got coupons for free buffalo wings every week for a year. The first two customers stood in line for 36 hours. Buffalo Wild Wings opened at a Meridian location in early 2009.
- Indulgence Salon & Spa opened in Caldwell with five employees specializing in eyelash extensions, pedicures, manicures, dimensional hair coloring, facials, body wraps, waxing and haircuts for men and women.
- Macy's recent opening is providing momentum for Nampa's Gateway Center. Import Outlet, the Idaho Athletic Club and the Sports Authority are also there along with J C Penney. A new Edwards Cinemas is slotted to open next December with 12 screens in 50,000 square feet. The center has 17 units available, ranging from 1,750 to 4,000 square feet. Ultimately, Gateway officials hope to lure a dozen restaurants and a hotel.

GEM COUNTY

- The Gem Lounge, a downtown fixture that was vacant for years, reopened this summer after extensive remodeling. Along with a Bi-Mart, an Italian deli, a pizza parlor, a boot and leather shop, several antique stores and other new businesses, the lounge is part of a trend that's filling empty buildings and bringing new hope to a town that's had its share of hard times. Emmett has launched an economic development campaign that, while not attracting a major employer like the Boise Cascade mill yet, has locals staying home to shop, small businesses opening and groundwork being laid for revitalizing the downtown. "Four years ago, we had 14 empty buildings downtown," said Bill Bailey, co-owner of a downtown fabric store. "Now we have about four." Bailey is chairman of a newly formed downtown business improvement district. Starting in January, member businesses will pay \$25 a month - money that will be used for awnings, landscaping and other beautification projects. The city also received \$700,000 in stimulus money that will be used to upgrade two downtown blocks starting next spring with new pavement, water and sewer lines, streetlights, landscaping and stamped-brick sidewalks. "It will give downtown a quaint, old-town look," said Jefferson Jenkins, owner of Emmett's year-old Huck-n-Finns Sports Bistro. "We hope it inspires people to bring their businesses up to that level and make this the kind of town people want to come visit and shop."
- The Emmett airport reopened in mid-October with a new \$900,000 runway that officials hope will foster economic development. The completion of the project was the result of a unique cooperative agreement between the city, Gem County and the Idaho Division of Aeronautics.
- XL Hospice of Emmett is a partner in the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization's Caring Connections workplace outreach initiative to

increase awareness of caregivers who struggle with work-life balance while taking care of their ill, elderly or frail family members. It will also provide support for employers with working caregivers. XL Hospice is one of 35 hospice partners located across the country and will be actively reaching out to employers in the community over the next year.

OWYHEE COUNTY

- The Owyhee Barber and Beauty is the first new business in some time to open in Grand View. The shop will be open Monday through Saturday.

PAYETTE COUNTY

- Countryside Poultry Processing recently opened in Fruitland. The new owners decided that in addition to raising their own chickens and turkeys, they would process the poultry themselves. They also process ducks, geese and other game birds, but the birds must be brought to them live. Countryside Poultry is providing a service to people who are raising birds and don't want to do the processing. The facility can process 400 birds a day. The family operation hopes to have enough business to remain open year-round. The company's slogan: "You bring 'em in cluckin' 'n' we do the pluckin'."
- The nonprofit Computer for Kids organization will provide computers to students who fill out an application form, write a one-page essay and pay a \$35 processing fee. The computers will be built individually for them. The organization takes donated computers, refurbishes them and distributes them for home use to students in kindergarten through the second year of college. The computers are distributed with two free educational software applications and come with a year of free technical support. The organization is keeping tons of computers out of the landfills and providing computers to students who otherwise could not own them.
- A state-of-the-art, three-story, steel frame building in New Plymouth will house the growing Internet Truckstop along with Roady's Truck Stops and a majority of the businesses that have spun off from the Internet Truckstop. It will house all the company's 100 New Plymouth employees plus another 140 when needed. The project is using Idaho products and as much local labor as possible so it has a positive impact on the local economy. In addition to Roady's and Internet Truckstop, the building will house U Drove and U Drove Wireless. U Drove developed a smart phone application that allows truck drivers to file the necessary reports with companies with minimum effort and less expensively. U Drove Wireless sells cellular telephones which will accept the applications and allow truckers to file. The two new companies should begin operating in the next few months.

VALLEY COUNTY

- Alpine Village in McCall has signed its first restaurant tenant. Wraptor, a lunch and dinner establishment, is expected to open in December. The menu will offer fresh wraps, rice bowls, tacos, salads and baked goods featuring locally supplied and homemade ingredients. Multi-ethnic influences are found across the menu that features homemade sauces and salsa. The restaurant plans to have a local art exhibit and open mic night for local musicians. Wraptor fills a niche in the McCall for fast, fresh and healthy food.
- First American Title became another new tenant in the Alpine Village after 13 years at another location in Valley County.
- Early October saw as many as 3,000 sheep making their way through the Bear Basin Recreational Area near McCall. The ranchers were moving stock to lower elevations for the winter.

- Valley County government is trying out a four-day work week in an effort to save about \$20,000 in utility costs. The four, 10-hour days began Nov. 1. Most offices are open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. unless there is a Monday holiday when office hours will be Tuesday through Friday. The shift will not affect the Valley County Sheriff's Office except for driver's licenses and renewals. The county clerk's and recorder's office will also not be affected by the change. They will remain open Monday through Friday. Valley County has over 150 employees.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

- The Payette National Forest has begun spending its \$4.6 million in federal stimulus money on three road and bridge projects in Washington County. Six miles of Mann Creek Road will be resurfaced near Weiser, three miles of Fourth of July Road will be resurfaced while the Fourth of July Bridge is placed on a permanent foundation and the bridge across Blue Springs Creek will be replaced with a concrete box culvert.
- After two years of planning and construction, the Weiser Community Pond opened in mid-October. The pond is a cooperative project between the city of Weiser, the Idaho Fish and Game Department, the Indianhead Fly Fishers and several other groups. Weiser Feed and Storage donated the land for the pond and adjacent nature trail. Staff from the Weiser Natural Resource Conservation Service office helped design the pond while Fish and Game helped with the planning and securing a \$90,000 federal grant. Indianhead Fly Fishers raised thousands of dollars to pay for pond aerators and perimeter fencing. The local Elks Lodge is working on a wheelchair-accessible fishing pier.

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SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO

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

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

TWIN FALLS COUNTY

- Walgreens opened its second Twin Falls store, this one near the new hospital. It was built on the company's Consumer Centric Retailing model that makes the store brighter and roomier. More than half of the 7,000 Walgreens across the country will be remodeled to the new standard in the next year. Between the two stores, 12 new staff was hired.
- Tacoma Screw Products is opening in Twin Falls. It is only the Tacoma-based company's third store outside Washington. The others are in Portland and Boise. The company sells standard and specialty fasteners, tools, shop and maintenance supplies and especially hard-to-find items. Tacoma Screw is looking for two outside sales people for the local area.
- A proposed zip line along the Snake River Canyon has run into problems. Magic Valley Flight Simulation LLC of Twin Falls partnered with the Canyon Crest Dining and Event Center on the powered zip line that runs 3,558 feet from Canyon Crest and back. The concept of the 1.3-mile ride has prompted concerns by canyon rim landholders. It was denied by the Twin Fall's Planning and Zoning Commission and is now awaiting review by the city council.

- The federally funded Refugee Service Center at the College of Southern Idaho is expected to handle another 300 to 400 refugees through next September. The nation will receive 80,000 refugees in that time. The refugees must have employment after the initial 4½ months of cultural and language training and sign a note to repay transportation costs. Center Director Ron Black said "the biggest challenge for refugees is the language barrier and the short time frame they have to learn the English language." Most refugees are placed in minimum wage jobs in the area with some commuting as far as Jackpot and Gooding. Recent problems with work documents have seen the dairy industry reaching out to fill jobs with the new immigrants since their paperwork is beyond reproach. Refugee education is mixed. There are second generation refugee camp residents with no formal education or training, others with sixth grade schooling and then a small portion, primarily from Iran and Iraq, with graduate degrees. Even the highly educated must accept blue collar, low-paying jobs because their credentials and professional skills are not recognized in the U.S. The most recent groups of refugees are from Bhutan, Burma, Eritrea, Iran, Iraq and Vietnam. Last year the center processed a record 365 arrivals. Circuit riders from the United States travel from refugee camp to refugee camp conducting interviews and researching backgrounds and health status to identify the appropriate place for permanent relocation. There are about eight countries that participate in the refugee program. The Refugee Service Center in Twin Falls employs 14 full- and part-time workers.
- The International Economic Development Council has recognized the Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization's advertising campaign to promote southern Idaho and buying local. "Furthering economic development is rarely a simple task in the best of times, and advancing the cause in the midst of a global financial crisis is nothing less than arduous," Council Chairman Ian Bromley said. The council said the ad campaign was a "clear standout" in the category of paid advertising by organizations serving areas with populations under 50,000 people. The promotion highlighted the area's economic diversification that makes it able to withstand the current recession.
- The College of Southern Idaho reported a 10.6 percent increase in attendance this fall from a year ago. Slightly more of the students were enrolled in academic courses – 84 percent – than a year ago. Students from more than 50 high schools across the state were enrolled for 1,500 hours of course work that provides credit for both high school and college.
- The College of Southern Idaho has retained its contract with Dell Computer Inc. to train technicians who will be working from home now that the call center operation is being shut down. College President Jerry Beck said the school will train up to 150 Dell employees to provide technical support for consumer and corporate computing systems. The frequency of the training will depend on how often Dell updates software and hardware. Beck called the agreement a good indication that Dell will continue a partnership with the college and the Twin Falls area. He said the school may also continue to train employees from other call centers - something that was common practice in the past. One of the two Dell classrooms reserved on campus for the last eight years will be returned to general academic use.
- Magic Valley Habitat for Humanity has received \$415,000 to rehabilitate homes. The group will buy homes for under \$100,000 and spend up to \$10,000 on materials to remodel them. The work is done by members of low-income families or individuals who qualify to purchase the homes at no interest. Both Buhl and Twin Falls will benefit from the program.

- Spring will bring Filer a new par 3 golf course surrounded by upscale homes. Named Pebble Ponds, the 400-acre development is within a short commute to the new hospital and high school. Only 17 one-acre lots are involved in the first phase.
- Wheat prices, lucrative in recent years, have dropped back to levels seen 15 years ago because of high global and domestic stockpiles. Blaine Jacobson, executive director of the Idaho Wheat Commission, believes “the future of Idaho's number two cash crop remains bright with worldwide demand for wheat continuing to grow along with domestic demand. There is nothing in the big picture of wheat that's gloomy.” Idaho growers are uniquely positioned because southern Idaho’s hard white wheat is the fastest growing type of wheat. California, the largest hard white wheat producer, cannot keep up with demand.
- The city of Buhl will receive \$1.5 million in federal stimulus money for a long overdue waste water system. The other \$500,000 will be financed by a revenue bond although the city hopes lower construction costs will bring the project in under the \$2 million budget. The Army Corps of Engineers was on hand for the formal signing of the stimulus agreement by the city.
- The film crew has arrived to begin work on the independent film, “Buhl Idaho.” Jaffe Zinn, a Buhl native who attended New York University’s Tisch School of Art, is making his screen-writing debut with the movie. The screenplay, which is about a tragic event that unfolds over the course of a single day in a small town, has been awarded the university’s Richard Vague film grant. The cast is headed by Scott Glenn, Alison Elliott and Kyle Gallner and includes Matthew Gubler, Will Estes and Johnny Lewis. The producer is Heather Rae of Boise who has been nominated for two Oscars and won a major prize at the Sundance Film Festival in 2008. In September, Variety called her one of the top 10 producers to watch. The production is expected to generate 50 temporary jobs.
- Sliman and Butler Irrigation purchased the AIS Irrigation Supply Co. in Buhl. Sliman and Butler started their business in Gooding and currently serve the area as the local Zimmatic pivot dealer.
- A University of Idaho study for the Idaho Dairywomen’s Association found that Hispanics who account for most of the sector’s work force, were not an economic drain on either the legal or health care systems but that the language barrier was creating a problem for the school districts, particularly in Jerome where the Hispanic population has increased by 80 percent since 2000. Teaching English as a Second Language to children whose parents do not speak English at home requires a high level of commitment and resources. Poverty is also a problem for many of the households with only one wage-earner, and the study recommended that a native Spanish speaking liaison be hired to provide community education and outreach to promote things like the Earned Income Credit and provide translation services in courts and schools. The dairywomen were also urged to support immigration reform.
- A consultant told an economic symposium sponsored by the Idaho Dairywomen’s Association that the new coffee drinks at McDonalds that are 80 percent milk are positively affecting demand and the escalation in advertising among pizza outlets should have the same impact, although he acknowledged that food service typically cuts back on cheese to save money in tough times. A trader from the Chicago Mercantile floor explained the complex mechanism that dictates cheese pricing throughout the nation. In the past, dairywomen have expressed skepticism of the pricing since trading

is so light compared to comparable systems such as the New York Stock Exchange. An economist maintained that uptick in prices a year ago was the result of high demand globally that has since abated with the recession. He contended the milk oversupply problem is being resolved with the gradual culling of herds. Government subsidies and intervention are typically not a good idea, he said, because there is a loss of control and prices and demand are artificially inflated to eventually create imbalance.

- Production in the 23 major milk producing states during September totaled 13.9 billion pounds, down 0.7 percent from September 2008. Production for August was revised to 14.6 billion pounds, down 0.1 percent from August 2008. The August revision represented an increase of 23 million pounds, or 0.2 percent, from the preliminary estimate. Production per cow averaged 1,672 pounds in September, 22 pounds above September 2008. The number of milk cows on farms was 8.34 million head, 168,000 fewer than September 2008 and 32,000 fewer than in August 2009.

BLAINE COUNTY

- St. Luke's has opened its \$10.5 million, 30,000-square-foot medical clinic in Hailey. It includes Idaho Elks rehabilitation with space still available for other health care providers.
- The Ketchum Community Development Corp. is raising matching money for a \$50,000 USDA Rural Development grant to create a revolving micro loan fund to assist startup businesses. The loans at 6 percent to 8 percent for up to four years are intended to eliminate the need of small businesses to rely on high-interest credit cards for startup cash. The money must be used for equipment, fixtures or operating capital. The development corporation board will review all loan requests and disburse funds held by Rural Development on a case by case basis.
- Premier Resorts International, which manages 100 condominiums and 30 homeowner associations in Ketchum and Sun Valley, has turned over its operations to Hawaii-based property manager Aston Hotels and Resorts. According to the Park City Park Record, Premier's property management contracts for one-third of its vacation rentals in 15 resort areas have been cancelled. Those include The Point Orlando Resort in Florida, Whalers Cove in Hawaii and Manor Vail and Hotel Telluride in Colorado. According to the newspaper, the Utah division of Premier filed for bankruptcy this summer. As property manager of homeowner associations, Aston receives dues and is responsible for landscaping of common areas and handling finances. For rental properties, Aston is responsible for common area and building upkeep, rental sales and marketing.
- The 13th annual Trailing of the Sheep Festival in October featured 1,500 sheep from the John Faulkner operation in Gooding, one of the state's oldest. The parade through Ketchum and the festivities surrounding it highlight the history of central Idaho, which once had more sheep than any place else on the globe but Sydney, Australia. Over 2.5 million sheep were raised in Idaho in the 1920's. The festival has turned in to a culinary love fest focused on lamb, which is normally grass-fed. The entertainment ranged from a Basque dancing group to a Polish Highlander group from Chicago along with the sheep dog competition.
- The new gondola on Bald Mountain is not the only improvement to the ski resort this year. The resort has hired Snow Park Technologies to build a snowboarder terrain park with jumps, rails and boxes on Dollar Mountain. This is a concerted effort to draw younger people to the resort town. The

park should be open by the Christmas holidays. The project may include a separate “progression park” to help skiers and snowboarders become more comfortable in freestyle terrain before taking on the larger park.

- An early winter storm wrought havoc on the Wood River Valley with heavy snow and an inordinate amount of rain, damaging or destroying over 100 trees. The city of Hailey has indicated it will seek federal disaster aid for cleaning up both public and private property.
- The site of the old Louie's restaurant, the historic First Congregational Church, and an adjacent building are being converted to an office complex. The picket fence will be extended to include both properties with 1,686 square feet added to the back of the church. A plaque will be placed on the building documenting its historic past. The developer is Old Mill Development from San Francisco. Louie's was a popular destination for tourists and residents alike for 35 years.
- Sun Valley Resort owner Earl Holding, who also owns Sinclair Oil, the Snowbasin Ski Resort in Utah and the Little America hotel chain, remains on the Forbes list of 400 wealthiest individuals. Holding was listed with a net worth of \$3.3 billion, ranking 93rd. He was 77th last year. Total wealth declined for 314 of the 400 on the list. Bill Gates and Warren Buffet were first and second, respectively.

JEROME COUNTY

- The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved sales agreements between Idaho Power Co. and Exergy Development Group of Idaho, which proposed three wind farms in the Hagerman area. Federal law requires electric utilities to offer to buy power produced by qualifying small-power producers. The three projects will generate a combined total of 64.5 megawatts of energy beginning next September. The city of Jerome is working with the company to open a corporate office with up to 30 employees including engineers, administrative personnel and mechanics.
- A coalition of environmental groups has asked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to monitor and regulate confined animal feeding operations, typically dairies and feedlots, under the Clean Air Act to control emissions of ammonia, nitrous oxide, methane and sulfides. The Humane Society of the United States led the coalition in filing the petition, which contends EPA already has that legal responsibility. The EPA is wrapping up a study of 24 factory farms with results to be released in 2010. The latest petition must elicit a response within 120 days. Dairies and other livestock operations emitting more than 100 tons of ammonia a year in Idaho are monitored by the state departments of Environmental Quality and Agriculture.
- University of Idaho President Duane Nellis has approved reducing support for the proposed dairy research center in south central Idaho. The university will cut \$600,000, or 6 percent, from nearly \$10 million that was set aside to build the research center. It is uncertain whether private industry will cover that amount on top of the \$5 million it has already committed. Existing research centers will likely be affected by this second round of budget cuts as well.
- WOW Logistics has been selected as the U.S. distributor of products from Thilmany Papers, a unit of Packaging Dynamics Corp. The contract to be managed at the WOW Logistics Distribution Center in Little Chute, Wis., will affect the warehouse in Jerome.
- The new Jerome Senior Center has opened in the city's old Historical Society museum. The city and the board of Jerome County Senior Service Area

Inc. signed a five-year lease for \$1 annually. The city has agreed the seniors would continue to manage the center, renting it for meetings and special events and retaining the proceeds. The facility will have a park designed on the needs of the seniors and is scheduled for completion next summer.

MINIDOKA AND CASSIA COUNTIES

- The Burley City Council approved the 8-foot wide, 5,000-foot long paved path from the Municipal Golf Course to Scholer Park near the Burley-Heyburn Bridge. The Oregon Trail Recreation District is paying \$180,000 of the cost, and Burley is supplying \$62,440 in labor. There are still some details regarding the golf course that must be resolved before work can begin.
- Cassia County School Board will conduct non-punitive nicotine screening on half its student-athletes, who are undergoing district-mandated random alcohol and drug testing. The board is looking for data to decide whether to become the first district in Idaho to impose nicotine screening on all student athletes including cheer and dance team members. Cassia County School District Attorney Doug Whipple said that to justify the policy the board must determine whether tobacco use among student athletes is a significant local problem and whether testing is an appropriate way to address it. Jody Prewitt, co-owner of Mobile Drug Screen, which currently performs drug and alcohol tests on district athletes, said some random sampling of school athletes has already been conducted.

GOODING COUNTY

- Rowdy's Pub & Grill is back in operation with a more prominent western theme that includes barbeque and old-time country western music. The pub has been a fixture in Gooding since 1909 but recently has gone through a number of operators.

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SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO

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

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

- The Bureau of Land Management has been hosting public meetings in Bingham and Power counties on the Mountain States Transmission Inter-tie Project – a high-voltage electric transmission line running from Townsend, Mont., to Idaho Power's Midpoint Substation north of Jerome. Northwestern Energy will build the overhead lines and the company has developed several potential routes for the line that will bisect much of eastern Idaho. The project has been in the planning stages since early 2006 and will transport up to 1,500 megawatts of electricity primarily generated by Montana-based wind farms to several western states. Northwestern Energy hopes to have the line constructed by 2013 and in service by mid-2014.
- The Center for Advanced Energy Studies has far exceeded its initial financial goal. The partnership between Idaho State University, Boise State University and the University of Idaho to conduct research that advances energy independence and economic opportunity wanted to generate \$5 million for its operation by Oct. 31, 2009. Records indicate the center nearly tripled that target, securing grants totaling \$13.9 million through last May.

- Much of the funding is for nuclear-related research that focuses on extending the life of the nation's 104 nuclear power plants.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

BANNOCK COUNTY

- The city of Pocatello has applied for a \$50,000 grant through the Idaho Office of Energy Resources to study the feasibility of building a large solar plant. Preliminary plans call for a 5-megawatt plant that converts sunlight into electricity using semiconductors. The plan calls for capacity to eventually be increased to 20 megawatts.
- Ash Grove Cement Co., located in Inkom, is laying off 11 more workers beginning Dec. 8. The plant laid off 45 workers less than a year ago, and will now operate with a skeleton crew of a dozen.
- The parent company of Great Western Malting, United Malt Holdings, was sold to GrainCorp based in Sydney, Australia, for \$655 million. The new owner told the 36 workers at the Pocatello plant that there would be no layoffs there. United Malt operates 14 malt plants and produces about 1 million metric tons of malt a year.
- The chief market strategist for the investment firm D.A. Davidson & Company, Fred Dickson, told the Pocatello Rotary Club there are promising areas of growth for the local economy. He specifically cited water resource acquisition and distribution, global food production and distribution, national and business security, preventive and diagnostic health care, advanced technology solutions, alternative energy and major infrastructure upgrades.
- The Bannock County Planning and Zoning Commission approved a gravity flow wastewater system north of Chubbuck. The \$23.5 million initial phase of the project includes a lift station, two pumps, a back-up generator and sewer lines.
- Pam Crowell, vice-president for research at Idaho State University, believes recent grants have given the school a strong chance of exceeding \$28 million in research funding for the 2009-2010 school year.

BINGHAM COUNTY

- Blackfoot High School has opened a career center and will be offering an early morning career education class beginning next trimester. The center offers access to the online computer programs supported by the Idaho Department of Labor's Career Information System, which helps align student strengths and interests with career choices.
- The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and Bureau of Indian Affairs officials have signed two contracts paving the way for operating the new \$20 million Justice Center. The exact contract amounts have not been determined, but the endorsement of the agreement by Idaho's congressmen assures the tribe that funding will be available to operate the facility once construction is completed early next year.
- Premier Technology's purchase of a neighboring business, the El Rey De Oro Event Center, will allow the company to expand manufacturing operations in the near future.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

- Franklin County is exploring the possibility of securing grants to advance alternative energy development. One possibility is obtaining an energy

zone designation. Officials with Wind Spring Energy believed there is \$1.5 million in grant money available for cities and counties.

- The two largest private commercial projects in Preston are racing toward completion. Webb Funeral Home is building a new 11,000-square-foot building outside of town, and Grolls Gym is adding 12,000 square feet to its existing building. If weather cooperates, both projects are expected to be completed by January.
- The Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Tribe will begin building a 100 megawatt geothermal-powered electric generating plant next spring. The plant, to be constructed in phases with the first costing \$120 million, is the largest construction project in the history of Franklin County. The Shoshone Preston Geothermal plant will be wholly-owned by the tribe. The city of Anaheim, Calif., has already agreed to buy 32 megawatts of power for 30 years, and other cities are expected to sign similar agreements shortly. The Northwest Band of Shoshone Nation was re-recognized as a federal tribe only 20 years ago and was granted trust land at that time. In addition to alternative energy projects, the tribe has national security, language translation and construction contracts.
- The Environmental Protection Agency has designated Franklin County as a nonattainment area for fine air particles. The nonattainment area extends into Utah's Cache Valley and the Logan area. The state now has three years to submit a plan to address the pollution and two additional years to implement the plan to meet the air quality standard. The designation is based primarily on high particle levels near Logan, but Franklin County was included because "preliminary studies show it is one geographic entity that has homogenous air."

ONEIDA COUNTY

- The announcement by ATK in Promontory, Utah, that 550 workers were being laid off will affect up to 12 workers in Oneida County. ATK took an active role in helping displaced workers find other employment by sponsoring a job fair, offering transfers to other ATK operations and helping place employees with other companies in the area.
- Four engineering firms have expressed interest in western Oneida County's "Narrows" road project and a subdivision in Gwenford. The county has a \$2.2 million federal grant to fix problems with existing culverts on the Narrows road, and the subdivision developer must determine if the soil is stable enough to support the proposed 31 houses.

POWER COUNTY

- The Power County Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously approved Ridgeline Energy's application for a wind farm. The Rockland Windfarm is expected to include 66 wind turbines. But agreements involving the transmission line route for the power have not been finalized. The wind farm is estimated to contribute up to \$700,000 to Power County's tax base each year. Ridgeline officials believe the turbines could begin being installed next fall.

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EAST CENTRAL IDAHO

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

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

- The U.S. Department of Energy is spending over \$800,000 in federal stimulus money in eastern Idaho on energy efficiency, pollution reduction and green job creation. The city of Idaho Falls will get \$539,100 to complete an interactive teaching center at the municipal power utility's headquarters that will showcase energy efficient appliances and provide tips on lowering energy bills. Idaho Falls will also invest in solar panels, recycling centers and energy-efficient lighting throughout the city. Bonneville County will get \$177,100 for energy-efficient lighting in the County Courthouse and Law Enforcement Building and new windows. Rexburg plans to spend \$123,000 for a new city hall roof and insulation and new windows for other city buildings.

BONNEVILLE COUNTY

- Local businesses are encouraging employee exercise and interaction. Potandon Produce at the new Snake River Landing provides bicycles employees can ride on the greenbelt and elsewhere during breaks and lunch. It sponsors volleyball games during the summer lunches, and managers even book retreats at fitness clubs. An energized company culture and more healthy employees is the byproduct. Melaleuca Inc. has a gym and fitness center where personal trainers and fitness classes are available. While the employees have to pay \$30 a month to use the gym, the company offers them \$3 every time they go to the gym so the cost is zeroed out with just 10 visits in a month. Melaleuca has found that in addition to weight loss and improved physical condition, employees are seeing a reduction in stress with regular exercise.
- Gold's Gym will open in Ammon at the end of November. Owners Bob and Jen Roberts have another gym in Twin Falls. A weight room, group fitness classes, women's-only workout room and personal trainers will be offered. The location is only temporary as the Roberts plan to move into a 40,000-square-foot building in 2011. The gym will employ 20 to 30.
- Frank Vandersloot, co-founder and chief executive of Melaleuca Inc., was honored as 2009 Entrepreneur of the Year from Idaho by American Solutions for Winning the Future, a conservative political organization in Washington D.C. The group's general chairman, Newt Gingrich, presented the award at a dinner in the nation's capital. The organization encourages politicians and citizens to create solutions to the country's challenges.
- The Idaho Falls Tautphaus Park Zoo retained its national accreditation that less than 10 percent of licensed animal exhibitors have from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The designation was first obtained in 1998 based on animal care, keeper training, safety and conservation efforts. Zoos are re-evaluated every five years.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

- A \$45 million bond has been approved for a new high school in the Jefferson County Joint School District. The current high school will become a junior high school as the district moves to deal with growth. While a design firm has not been selected, designs submitted by current Rigby High School students will be considered. Construction should start in spring of 2011.

- The city of Rigby opened a much-needed wastewater treatment plant in October. The \$10 million plant took a year and a half to build. City reserves and several bonds financed the projects that serve Rigby even if the population doubles.

MADISON COUNTY

- The Rexburg Business Expo was considered a success in October. Donna Benfield organized the first ever business-to-business expo to inspire networking and coordination between businesses. She also wanted to make the public more aware of local businesses and what they had to offer. The expo was held at Madison High School.

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Census Facts

Thanksgiving Day Nov. 26, 2009

In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims, early settlers of Plymouth Colony, held a three-day feast to celebrate a bountiful harvest, an event many regard as the nation's first Thanksgiving. It eventually became a national holiday in 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday of November as a national day of thanksgiving. Later, President Franklin Roosevelt clarified that Thanksgiving should always be celebrated on the fourth Thursday of the month to encourage earlier holiday shopping, never on the occasional fifth Thursday.

WHERE TO FEAST

3 — Number of places in the United States named after the holiday's traditional main course. Turkey, Texas, was the most populous in 2008, with 456 residents, followed by Turkey Creek, La., at 361 and Turkey, N.C. at 272. There are also nine townships around the country named Turkey, three in Kansas.

5 — number of places and townships in the United States that are named Cranberry or some spelling variation — like Cranbury, N.J. — of the red, acidic berry that is a popular side dish at Thanksgiving. Cranberry township in Butler County, Pa., was the most populous of these places in 2008, with 27,194 residents. Cranberry township in Venango County, Pa., was next at 6,795.

28 —number of places in the United States named Plymouth, as in Plymouth Rock, the landing site of the first Pilgrims. Plymouth, Minn., is the most populous, with 71,486 residents in 2008; Plymouth, Mass., had 55,705. There is just one township in the United States named "Pilgrim." Located in Dade County, Mo., its population was 128 in 2008. And then there is Mayflower, Ark., whose population was 2,231 in 2008.



State of Idaho Data

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Oct 2009				Oct 2008			
	Civilian Labor Force	# Unemployed	% Unemployed	Total Employment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unemployed	% Unemployed	Total Employment
STATE OF IDAHO	753,372	67,279	8.9	686,093	758,904	42,608	5.6	716,296
COUNTIES								
ADA	191,130	17,892	9.4	173,239	195,486	10,782	5.5	184,704
ADAMS	2,019	419	20.8	1,600	1,863	228	12.3	1,635
BANNOCK	41,368	3,120	7.5	38,249	42,495	1,999	4.7	40,495
BEAR LAKE	3,318	217	6.5	3,101	3,373	141	4.2	3,232
BENEWAH	4,191	819	19.5	3,372	3,924	422	10.8	3,502
BINGHAM	22,543	962	4.3	21,581	22,375	665	3.0	21,710
BLAINE	12,680	1,352	10.7	11,328	13,167	670	5.1	12,497
BOISE	3,449	328	9.5	3,121	3,580	254	7.1	3,326
BONNER	20,290	2,546	12.5	17,745	20,149	1,592	7.9	18,557
BONNEVILLE	50,824	3,025	6.0	47,800	51,432	1,820	3.5	49,612
BOUNDARY	4,333	690	15.9	3,642	4,104	466	11.4	3,638
BUTTE	1,557	101	6.5	1,455	1,522	71	4.7	1,451
CAMAS	614	103	16.9	510	606	43	7.0	563
CANYON	82,029	9,396	11.5	72,633	83,655	6,216	7.4	77,439
CARIBOU	3,622	265	7.3	3,357	3,413	153	4.5	3,260
CASSIA	10,420	598	5.7	9,822	10,396	395	3.8	10,001
CLARK	585	32	5.5	553	587	25	4.3	562
CLEARWATER	3,349	561	16.8	2,788	3,212	391	12.2	2,820
CUSTER	2,557	205	8.0	2,353	2,520	163	6.5	2,357
ELMORE	11,103	1,037	9.3	10,066	11,131	743	6.7	10,388
FRANKLIN	6,163	247	4.0	5,916	6,103	180	2.9	5,923
FREMONT	6,195	431	7.0	5,764	6,486	262	4.0	6,224
GEM	7,006	841	12.0	6,165	7,154	581	8.1	6,573
GOODING	8,507	568	6.7	7,939	8,449	310	3.7	8,139
IDAHO	7,092	871	12.3	6,222	6,924	650	9.4	6,274
JEFFERSON	11,206	657	5.9	10,550	11,317	366	3.2	10,950
JEROME	10,029	716	7.1	9,313	10,046	464	4.6	9,582
KOOTENAI	71,984	7,957	11.1	64,026	70,246	4,930	7.0	65,316
LATAH	18,642	1,250	6.7	17,392	18,206	809	4.4	17,397
LEMHI	3,744	385	10.3	3,359	3,767	320	8.5	3,447
LEWIS	1,632	95	5.8	1,536	1,606	56	3.5	1,549
LINCOLN	2,606	372	14.3	2,234	2,440	170	7.0	2,270
MADISON	17,448	806	4.6	16,642	18,546	576	3.1	17,970
MINIDOKA	9,564	494	5.2	9,070	9,635	399	4.1	9,235
NEZ PERCE	20,162	1,239	6.1	18,924	19,419	984	5.1	18,435
ONEIDA	2,353	151	6.4	2,203	2,311	94	4.1	2,217
OWYHEE	4,162	194	4.7	3,968	4,372	141	3.2	4,231
PAYETTE	11,350	844	7.4	10,506	10,939	651	5.9	10,288
POWER	3,586	145	4.0	3,441	3,741	97	2.6	3,644
SHOSHONE	6,069	963	15.9	5,106	6,213	693	11.1	5,520
TETON	4,115	389	9.5	3,726	4,269	204	4.8	4,064
TWIN FALLS	38,532	2,708	7.0	35,824	38,485	1,624	4.2	36,861
VALLEY	4,484	834	18.6	3,651	4,531	525	11.6	4,006
WASHINGTON	4,761	455	9.6	4,306	4,712	282	6.0	4,430
ASOTIN WA	11,214	1,025	9.1	10,189	10,627	646	6.1	9,981

* In thousands

State of Idaho Data

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

LABOR MARKET AREAS	Oct 2009				Oct 2008			
	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employ- ment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Un- employ- ed	Total Employ- ment
BOISE CITY-NAMPA MSA	287,776	28,651	10.0	259,125	294,247	17,974	6.1	276,273
BURLEY MicSA	19,984	1,092	5.5	18,892	20,031	794	4.0	19,237
COEUR D'ALENE MSA	71,984	7,957	11.1	64,026	70,246	4,930	7.0	65,316
GRANGEVILLE SLMA	8,724	966	11.1	7,758	8,529	706	8.3	7,824
HAILEY SLMA	13,294	1,455	10.9	11,838	13,773	712	5.2	13,060
IDAHO FALLS MSA	62,031	3,681	5.9	58,349	62,748	2,186	3.5	60,562
LEWISTON MSA	31,377	2,264	7.2	29,113	30,046	1,630	5.4	28,416
POCATELLO MSA	44,955	3,265	7.3	41,690	46,235	2,096	4.5	44,139
REXBURG MicSA	23,643	1,237	5.2	22,406	25,032	839	3.3	24,193
TWIN FALLS MicSA	48,561	3,423	7.0	45,138	48,530	2,088	4.3	46,443
CITIES								
BOISE	108,662	10,786	9.9	97,876	110,576	6,423	5.8	104,153
CALDWELL	18,287	2,506	13.7	15,781	18,390	1,597	8.7	16,793
COEUR D' ALENE	23,452	2,620	11.2	20,831	22,711	1,501	6.6	21,210
IDAHO FALLS	28,047	2,008	7.2	26,039	28,109	1,135	4.0	26,974
LEWISTON	16,815	1,099	6.5	15,716	16,140	860	5.3	15,280
MERIDIAN	32,495	3,283	10.1	29,212	32,929	1,842	5.6	31,086
NAMPA	37,017	4,772	12.9	32,245	37,338	3,026	8.1	34,312
POCATELLO	28,295	2,338	8.3	25,957	28,853	1,425	4.9	27,429
TWIN FALLS	22,048	1,794	8.1	20,254	21,873	1,072	4.9	20,801
United States*	153,975	15,700	10.2	138,275	154,878	10,221	6.6	144,657

* In thousands

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

State of Idaho Data — Nonfarm Jobs

% change from

BY PLACE OF WORK	Oct 2009*	Sep 2009	Oct 2008	Last Month	Last Year
Total Nonfarm Jobs**	606,900	610,700	650,100	-0.6%	-6.6%
Total Private	486,900	493,900	527,900	-1.4%	-7.8%
Goods-Producing Industries	92,400	94,100	112,400	-1.8%	-17.8%
Mining & Logging	3,400	3,500	4,400	-2.9%	-22.7%
Logging	1,400	1,400	1,800	0.0%	-22.2%
Mining	2,000	2,100	2,600	-4.8%	-23.1%
Construction	33,400	35,200	45,400	-5.1%	-26.4%
Construction of Buildings	7,600	8,300	10,800	-8.4%	-29.6%
Residential Building Construction	5,300	5,400	6,600	-1.9%	-19.7%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	5,800	6,000	6,400	-3.3%	-9.4%
Specialty Trade Contractors	20,000	20,900	28,200	-4.3%	-29.1%
Foundation, Structure and Bldg Exterior Contractors	5,100	5,200	7,500	-1.9%	-32.0%
Building Equipment Contractors	7,300	7,600	10,300	-3.9%	-29.1%
Building Finishing Contractors	3,700	4,000	5,500	-7.5%	-32.7%
Other Specialty Trade Contractors	3,900	4,100	4,900	-4.9%	-20.4%
Manufacturing	55,600	55,400	62,600	0.4%	-11.2%
Nondurable Goods	25,100	24,800	25,300	1.2%	-0.8%
Food Manufacturing	16,400	16,100	16,600	1.9%	-1.2%
Fruit and Vegetable Preserving and Specialty Food Manufacturing	8,400	8,300	8,200	1.2%	2.4%
Durable Goods	30,500	30,600	37,300	-0.3%	-18.2%
Woods Product Manufacturing	4,600	4,600	6,000	0.0%	-23.3%
Machinery Manufacturing	2,600	2,600	3,200	0.0%	-18.8%
Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	10,600	10,700	14,200	-0.9%	-25.4%
Computer & Peripheral Equipment Manufacturing	2,800	2,900	3,600	-3.4%	-22.2%
Semiconductor & Other Elec. Component Manufacturing	7,300	7,400	10,100	-1.4%	-27.7%
Service-Providing	514,500	516,600	537,700	-0.4%	-4.3%
Private Service Providing	394,500	399,800	415,500	-1.3%	-5.1%
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	121,800	122,100	130,900	-0.2%	-7.0%
Wholesale Trade	26,300	26,400	27,700	-0.4%	-5.1%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	11,500	11,600	12,700	-0.9%	-9.4%
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	11,700	11,800	12,100	-0.8%	-3.3%
Retail Trade	75,500	75,400	81,700	0.1%	-7.6%
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	10,200	10,300	11,700	-1.0%	-12.8%
Building Material & Garden Equipment	7,600	7,700	8,300	-1.3%	-8.4%
Food & Beverage Stores	12,700	12,600	13,200	0.8%	-3.8%
Grocery Stores	10,900	10,900	11,400	0.0%	-4.4%
General Merchandise Stores	17,100	16,900	17,000	1.2%	0.6%
Department Stores	5,400	5,200	5,600	3.8%	-3.6%
Other General Merchandise Stores	11,600	11,500	11,500	0.9%	0.9%
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	20,000	20,300	21,500	-1.5%	-7.0%
Utilities	2,100	2,200	2,300	-4.5%	-8.7%
Transportation & Warehousing	17,800	18,100	19,200	-1.7%	-7.3%
Truck Transportation	8,800	8,700	9,600	1.1%	-8.3%
General Freight Transportation	6,100	6,100	6,300	0.0%	-3.2%
Information	10,000	10,000	12,000	0.0%	-16.7%
Telecommunications	3,500	3,500	4,900	0.0%	-28.6%

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State of Idaho Data — Nonfarm Payroll Jobs						% change from
BY PLACE OF WORK	Oct 2009*	Sep 2009	Oct 2008	Last Month	Last Year	
Total Nonfarm Jobs**	606,900	610,700	650,100	-0.6%	-6.6%	
<i>Financial Activities</i>	29,300	29,500	31,500	-0.7%	-7.0%	
Finance & Insurance	22,300	22,400	23,300	-0.4%	-4.3%	
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	11,000	11,000	11,600	0.0%	-5.2%	
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	9,600	9,600	9,800	0.0%	-2.0%	
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	7,000	7,100	8,200	-1.4%	-14.6%	
<i>Professional & Business Services</i>	75,000	76,100	80,400	-1.4%	-6.7%	
Professional, Scientific & Technical Svcs.	32,000	32,100	33,600	-0.3%	-4.8%	
Architectural, Engineering & Related Services	5,500	5,600	7,100	-1.8%	-22.5%	
Scientific Research & Development	7,800	7,700	7,300	1.3%	6.8%	
Management of Companies & Enterprises	6,700	6,700	7,100	0.0%	-5.6%	
Administrative & Support & Waste Management	36,300	37,300	39,700	-2.7%	-8.6%	
Administrative & Support Services	34,400	35,300	38,100	-2.5%	-9.7%	
Employment Services	10,600	11,600	14,300	-8.6%	-25.9%	
Business Support Services	11,500	11,300	10,400	1.8%	10.6%	
Services to Buildings & Dwellings	7,800	8,200	8,900	-4.9%	-12.4%	
Educational & Health Services	80,100	79,800	79,400	0.4%	0.9%	
Educational Services	9,100	8,500	9,300	7.1%	-2.2%	
Health Care & Social Assistance	71,000	71,300	70,200	-0.4%	1.1%	
Ambulatory Health Care Services	27,900	28,300	27,800	-1.4%	0.4%	
Hospitals	18,700	18,700	17,600	0.0%	6.3%	
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	16,500	16,500	15,700	0.0%	5.1%	
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	12,400	12,300	12,700	0.8%	-2.4%	
Social Assistance	12,000	12,000	12,100	0.0%	-0.8%	
<i>Leisure & Hospitality</i>	58,100	61,600	61,000	-5.7%	-4.8%	
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7,900	9,400	7,800	-16.0%	1.3%	
Amusement, Gambling & Recreation Industries	7,000	8,300	6,900	-15.7%	1.4%	
Other Amusement & Recreation Industries	6,000	6,700	6,400	-10.4%	-6.3%	
Accommodation & Food Services	50,200	52,100	53,200	-3.6%	-5.6%	
Accommodation	8,300	9,100	8,800	-8.8%	-5.7%	
Food Services & Drinking Places	41,900	43,100	44,400	-2.8%	-5.6%	
Full Service Restaurants	19,100	19,300	21,000	-1.0%	-9.0%	
Limited Service Restaurants	18,700	19,600	19,300	-4.6%	-3.1%	
<i>Other Services</i>	20,200	20,700	20,300	-2.4%	-0.5%	
Repair & Maintenance	5,900	6,000	6,100	-1.7%	-3.3%	
Automotive Repair & Maintenance	4,400	4,600	4,700	-4.3%	-6.4%	
<i>Government</i>	120,000	116,800	122,200	2.7%	-1.8%	
Federal Government	14,000	13,800	13,400	1.4%	4.5%	
State Government	29,100	28,700	31,000	1.4%	-6.1%	
State Government Educational Services	13,400	12,900	15,000	3.9%	-10.7%	
Local Government	76,900	74,300	77,800	3.5%	-1.2%	
Local Government Educational Services	43,400	39,200	41,700	10.7%	4.1%	

*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

	Oct 2009	Sep 2009	Oct 2008	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE ⁽¹⁾					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	753,400	752,700	758,900	0.1%	-0.7%
Unemployment	67,300	66,200	42,600	1.7%	58.0%
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	8.9	8.8	5.6		
Total Employment	686,100	686,500	716,300	-0.1%	-4.2%
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	755,600	751,700	760,800	0.5%	-0.7%
Unemployment	62,500	61,100	38,700	2.3%	61.5%
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	8.3	8.1	5.1		
Total Employment	693,100	690,600	722,100	0.4%	-4.0%

U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE⁽²⁾

	10.2	9.8	6.6
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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Claims Activities

Initial Claims ⁽³⁾	15,183	11,208	14,860	35.5	2.2
Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾	92,966	96,168	62,429	-3.3	48.9

Benefit Payment Activities⁽⁵⁾

Weeks Compensated	78,881	98,886	49,812	-20.2	58.4
Total Benefit \$ Paid	19,838,987	25,088,199	12,860,064	-20.9	54.3
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$251.51	\$253.71	\$258.17	-0.9	-2.6
Covered Employers	49,610	49,649	51,164	-0.1	-3.0
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾	\$397,261,068	\$390,018,133	\$193,143,647	1.9	105.7

U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX⁽²⁾

	Sep 2009	Aug 2009	Sep 2008	% Change Month	% Change Year
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	211.3	211.2	214.9	0.1%	-1.7%
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	216.0	215.8	218.8	0.1%	-1.3%

(1) Preliminary estimate

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

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

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

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

Panhandle Data

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

	Oct 2009*	Sep 2009	Oct 2008	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	71,984	71,213	70,246	1.1	2.5
Unemployed	7,957	7,418	4,930	7.3	61.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	11.1	10.4	7.0		
Total Employment	64,026	63,795	65,316	0.4	-2.0
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	72,505	71,341	71,074	1.6	2.0
Unemployed	6,665	6,237	4,037	6.9	65.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.2	8.7	5.7		
Total Employment	65,840	65,104	67,037	1.1	-1.8
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Total Nonfarm Jobs**	55,030	54,900	57,590	0.2%	-4.4%
Total Private	45,330	46,190	47,610	-1.9%	-4.8%
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	9,920	10,120	10,510	-2.0%	-5.6%
Mining & Logging	290	310	420	-6.5%	-31.0%
Construction	5,170	5,310	5,390	-2.6%	-4.1%
Manufacturing	4,460	4,500	4,700	-0.9%	-5.1%
Wood Products	710	710	810	0.0%	-12.3%
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	45,110	44,780	47,080	0.7%	-4.2%
Private Service Providing	35,410	36,070	37,100	-1.8%	-4.6%
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	10,450	10,520	10,960	-0.7%	-4.7%
Wholesale Trade	1,450	1,490	1,550	-2.7%	-6.5%
Retail Trade	8,000	7,980	8,300	0.3%	-3.6%
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	1,000	1,050	1,110	-4.8%	-9.9%
Information	890	900	910	-1.1%	-2.2%
Financial Activities	3,110	3,100	3,180	0.3%	-2.2%
Professional & Business Services	5,480	5,590	5,790	-2.0%	-5.4%
Educational & Health Services	6,280	6,210	6,150	1.1%	2.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	7,940	8,450	8,660	-6.0%	-8.3%
Other Services	1,260	1,300	1,450	-3.1%	-13.1%
Government	9,700	8,710	9,980	11.4%	-2.8%
Federal Government	610	610	560	0.0%	8.9%
State Government	700	730	820	-4.1%	-14.6%
Local Government	8,390	7,370	8,600	13.8%	-2.4%
Government Education	3,500	3,330	3,310	5.1%	5.7%
Government Administration	6,200	5,380	6,670	15.2%	-7.0%

* 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.

	Oct 2009*	Sep 2009	Oct 2008	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	31,377	30,731	30,046	2.1	4.4
Unemployment	2,264	2,078	1,630	8.9	38.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.2	6.8	5.4		
Total Employment	29,113	28,653	28,416	1.6	2.5
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	31,139	30,633	29,788	1.7	4.5
Unemployment	2,129	1,961	1,508	8.6	41.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.8	6.4	5.1		
Total Employment	29,010	28,672	28,280	1.2	2.6
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Total Nonfarm Jobs**	28,240	28,140	29,870	0.4%	-5.5%
Total Private	21,520	21,690	23,420	-0.8%	-8.1%
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>					
Natural Resources & Mining	210	220	330	-4.5%	-36.4%
Construction	1,290	1,350	1,490	-4.4%	-13.4%
Manufacturing	3,140	3,140	3,100	0.0%	1.3%
Wood Products Mnfct	380	380	430	0.0%	-11.6%
Paper Mnfct	1,010	1,020	1,060	-1.0%	-4.7%
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>					
Private Service Providing	16,880	16,980	18,500	-0.6%	-8.8%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,610	5,710	5,490	-1.8%	2.2%
Wholesale Trade	600	610	670	-1.6%	-10.4%
Retail Trade	4,030	4,080	3,730	-1.2%	8.0%
Transportation & Warehousing	980	1,020	1,090	-3.9%	-10.1%
Information	390	390	390	0.0%	0.0%
Financial Activities	1,790	1,800	2,040	-0.6%	-12.3%
Professional & Business Services	1,390	1,440	1,660	-3.5%	-16.3%
Education & Health Services	4,760	4,680	5,030	1.7%	-5.4%
Leisure & Hospitality	2,190	2,230	2,810	-1.8%	-22.1%
Other Services	750	730	1,080	2.7%	-30.6%
Government					
Federal Government	280	270	230	3.7%	21.7%
State Government	1,810	1,740	1,640	4.0%	10.4%
Local Government	4,630	4,440	4,580	4.3%	1.1%
Government Education	2,230	2,090	2,200	6.7%	1.4%
Government Administration	4,490	4,360	4,250	3.0%	5.6%

*Preliminary estimate

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

Southwestern Idaho Data

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

	Oct 2009*	Sep 2009	Oct 2008	% Change	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	287,776	288,706	294,247	-0.3	-2.2
Unemployment	28,651	27,843	17,974	2.9	59.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	10.0	9.6	6.1		
Total Employment	259,125	260,863	276,273	-0.7	-6.2
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	287,365	288,133	293,219	-0.3	-2.0
Unemployment	27,823	27,291	17,033	1.9	63.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.7	9.5	5.8		
Total Employment	259,542	260,842	276,186	-0.5	-6.0
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Total Nonfarm Jobs**	247,570	251,240	270,540	-1.5%	-8.5%
Total Private	205,510	209,290	225,980	-1.8%	-9.1%
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES					
<i>Mining, Logging & Construction</i>	15,790	17,090	18,510	-7.6%	-14.7%
Construction	13,490	13,830	17,600	-2.5%	-23.4%
Construction of Buildings	2,870	3,110	3,420	-7.7%	-16.1%
Specialty Trade Contractors	10,650	11,300	11,690	-5.8%	-8.9%
Foundation, Structure & Bldg Contractors	1,980	2,170	2,680	-8.8%	-26.1%
<i>Manufacturing</i>	23,110	23,560	27,860	-1.9%	-17.0%
Non-Durable Goods	7,030	6,950	6,960	1.2%	1.0%
Food Manufacturing	5,030	4,980	4,850	1.0%	3.7%
Durable Goods	16,080	16,610	20,900	-3.2%	-23.1%
Wood Product Manufacturing	1,310	1,360	1,780	-3.7%	-26.4%
Fabricated Metal Products	1,370	1,390	1,480	-1.4%	-7.4%
Machinery Manufacturing	980	1,000	1,150	-2.0%	-14.8%
Computer & Electronic Mfg.	9,290	9,470	12,420	-1.9%	-25.2%
Computer & Peripheral Mfg.	2,870	2,900	3,170	-1.0%	-9.5%
Semiconductor & Other Mfg.	6,150	6,300	9,040	-2.4%	-32.0%
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	1,490	1,500	1,790	-0.7%	-16.8%
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES					
Private Service Providing	166,610	168,640	179,610	-1.2%	-7.2%
<i>Trade, Transportation & Utilities</i>	49,120	49,800	52,940	-1.4%	-7.2%
Wholesale Trade	11,510	11,610	11,920	-0.9%	-3.4%
Merchant Wholesalers (Durable Goods)	6,430	6,460	6,560	-0.5%	-2.0%
Retail Trade	29,910	30,390	32,740	-1.6%	-8.6%
Food & Beverage Stores	4,850	4,930	4,970	-1.6%	-2.4%
Grocery Stores	3,710	3,710	3,730	0.0%	-0.5%
General Merchandise Stores	6,170	6,280	6,680	-1.8%	-7.6%
Other General Merch. Stores	4,400	4,360	4,560	0.9%	-3.5%
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	7,700	7,800	8,280	-1.3%	-7.0%
<i>Information</i>	5,450	5,620	5,810	-3.0%	-6.2%
Telecommunications	1,550	1,530	2,310	1.3%	-32.9%
<i>Financial Activities</i>	13,130	13,330	14,120	-1.5%	-7.0%
Finance & Insurance	10,410	10,200	10,450	2.1%	-0.4%
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	4,700	4,720	4,880	-0.4%	-3.7%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	2,720	3,130	3,670	-13.1%	-25.9%
<i>Professional & Business Services</i>	34,330	34,710	40,600	-1.1%	-15.4%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Svcs.	11,580	12,210	12,290	-5.2%	-5.8%

Continued on next page.

Southwestern Idaho Data *(continued)*

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

	<u>% Change</u>				
	Oct 2009*	Sep 2009	Oct 2008	Last Month	Last Year
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Total Nonfarm Jobs**	247,570	251,240	270,540	-1.5%	-8.5%
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises	4,560	4,660	5,230	-0.3%	-20.3%
Administrative / Support & Waste Mgmt.	18,410	18,470	23,090	-5.1%	-15.8%
Employment Services	6,660	7,020	7,910	2.5%	3.4%
Business Support Services	6,640	6,480	6,420	-4.9%	-3.0%
Services to Bldg and Dwellings	4,480	4,710	4,620	1.7%	-1.8%
Educational & Health Services	33,950	33,390	34,580	16.2%	-1.1%
Educational Services	2,730	2,350	2,760	0.6%	-1.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	31,220	31,040	31,820	-0.1%	4.5%
Ambulatory Health Care Service	12,340	12,350	11,810	2.4%	-5.5%
Hospitals	9,990	9,760	10,570	1.2%	-4.9%
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	8,970	8,860	9,430	-4.8%	-4.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	22,610	23,760	23,600	-9.6%	-6.0%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2,830	3,130	3,010	-4.1%	-3.9%
Accommodation & Food Services	19,780	20,630	20,590	-3.1%	-4.0%
Food Services & Drinking Places	17,920	18,500	18,670	-0.2%	-8.9%
Full-Service Restaurants	8,320	8,340	9,130	-2.3%	-2.6%
Limited-Service Eating Places	7,240	7,410	7,430	-0.1%	0.8%
Other Services	8,020	8,030	7,960	0.3%	-5.6%
Government	42,060	41,950	44,560	0.8%	2.6%
Federal Government	6,370	6,320	6,210	0.1%	-5.6%
State Government	13,560	13,550	14,360	1.1%	-1.1%
State Government Educational Services	4,540	4,490	4,590	0.2%	-7.8%
Local Government	22,130	22,080	23,990	6.4%	7.8%
Local Government Educational Services	16,390	15,410	15,210	17.6%	9.4%

* 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.

South Central Idaho Data

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

	<u>% Change From</u>				
	Oct 2009*	Sep 2009	Oct 2008	Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	48,561	49,397	48,530	-1.7	0.1
Unemployment	3,423	3,468	2,088	-1.3	64.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.0	7.0	4.3		
Total Employment	45,138	45,929	46,443	-1.7	-2.8
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	49,484	49,477	49,391	0.0	0.2
Unemployment	3,305	3,264	1,968	1.3	67.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.7	6.6	4.0		
Total Employment	46,179	46,213	47,423	-0.1	-2.6
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Total Nonfarm Jobs**	39,530	39,950	40,840	-1.1%	-3.2%
Total Private	33,570	34,200	35,130	-1.8%	-4.4%
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>					
Logging, Mining & Construction	1,850	1,890	2,350	-2.1%	-21.3%
Manufacturing	4,660	4,890	5,000	-4.7%	-6.8%
Food Manufacturing	3,030	3,240	3,110	-6.5%	-2.6%
Other Manufacturing	1,630	1,650	1,890	-1.2%	-13.8%
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>					
Private Service Providing	27,060	27,420	27,780	-1.3%	-2.6%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	10,170	9,860	10,420	3.1%	-2.4%
Wholesale Trade	1,780	1,780	1,980	0.0%	-10.1%
Retail Trade	5,700	5,680	5,740	0.4%	-0.7%
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	2,690	2,400	2,700	12.1%	-0.4%
Information	680	680	660	0.0%	3.0%
Financial Activities	1,690	1,670	1,750	1.2%	-3.4%
Professional & Business Services	4,340	4,870	4,860	-10.9%	-10.7%
Educational & Health Services	5,960	5,910	5,330	0.8%	11.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	3,040	3,230	3,270	-5.9%	-7.0%
Other Services	1,180	1,200	1,490	-1.7%	-20.8%
Government	5,960	5,750	5,710	3.7%	4.4%
Government Education	3,320	3,040	3,310	9.2%	0.3%
Government Administration	2,640	2,710	2,400	-2.6%	10.0%

*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

	Oct 2009*	Sep 2009	% Change From		
			Oct 2008	Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	44,955	45,727	46,235	-1.7	-2.8
Unemployment	3,265	3,860	2,096	-15.4	55.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.3	8.4	4.5		
	41,690	41,867	44,139	-0.4	-5.5
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	43,678	43,704	44,752	-0.1	-2.4
Unemployment	3,276	3,620	2,059	-9.5	59.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.5	8.3	4.6		
Total Employment	40,402	40,084	42,693	0.8	-5.4
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Total Nonfarm Jobs**	36,430	36,770	39,040	-0.9%	-6.7%
Total Private	26,850	27,290	29,050	-1.6%	-7.6%
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>					
Natural Resources & Mining	1,690	1,730	2,130	-2.3%	-20.7%
Manufacturing	3,560	3,580	3,660	-0.6%	-2.7%
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg	270	260	230	3.8%	17.4%
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>					
Private Service Providing	21,600	21,980	23,260	-1.7%	-7.1%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	6,680	6,750	7,130	-1.0%	-6.3%
Wholesale Trade	1,390	1,370	1,300	1.5%	6.9%
Retail Trade	4,100	4,180	4,690	-1.9%	-12.6%
Transportation & Warehousing	1,190	1,200	1,140	-0.8%	4.4%
Information	510	540	550	-5.6%	-7.3%
Financial Activities	2,180	2,190	2,120	-0.5%	2.8%
Professional & Business Services	4,070	4,130	4,440	-1.5%	-8.3%
Educational & Health Services	3,600	3,670	4,100	-1.9%	-12.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	3,700	3,800	3,790	-2.6%	-2.4%
Other Services	860	900	1,130	-4.4%	-23.9%
Government	9,580	9,480	9,990	1.1%	-4.1%
Federal Government	600	590	590	1.7%	1.7%
State Government	3,960	3,420	4,320	15.8%	-8.3%
Local Government	5,020	5,470	5,080	-8.2%	-1.2%
Government Education	4,490	4,420	4,670	1.6%	-3.9%
Government Administration	5,090	5,060	5,320	0.6%	-4.3%

*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.

East Central Idaho Data

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

	Oct 2009*	Sept 2009	Oct 2008	<u>% Change From</u>	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	62,031	62,401	62,748	-0.6	-1.1
Unemployment	3,681	4,218	2,186	-12.7	68.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.9	6.8	3.5		
Total Employment	58,349	58,182	60,562	0.3	-3.7
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	62,390	62,195	62,923	0.3	-0.8
Unemployment	3,749	3,748	2,175	0.0	72.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.0	6.0	3.5		
Total Employment	58,641	58,447	60,748	0.3	-3.5
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Total Nonfarm Jobs**	49,750	50,530	52,120	-1.5%	-4.5%
Total Private	42,420	43,310	44,720	-2.1%	-5.1%
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	7,660	7,860	8,080	-2.5%	-5.2%
Construction	3,400	3,640	3,940	-6.6%	-13.7%
Manufacturing	3,380	3,400	3,230	-0.6%	4.6%
Food Manufacturing	880	820	910	7.3%	-3.3%
Fabricated Metal Product Manfct	260	250	290	4.0%	-10.3%
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	42,090	42,670	44,040	-1.4%	-4.4%
Private Service Providing	34,760	35,450	36,640	-1.9%	-5.1%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	11,970	12,020	13,110	-0.4%	-8.7%
Wholesale Trade	3,250	3,230	3,580	0.6%	-9.2%
Retail Trade	7,330	7,390	7,660	-0.8%	-4.3%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,390	1,400	1,870	-0.7%	-25.7%
Transportation	1,520	1,550	1,570	-1.9%	-3.2%
Information	1,200	1,280	1,370	-6.3%	-12.4%
Financial Activities	1,950	1,970	2,120	-1.0%	-8.0%
Professional & Business Services	4,770	4,940	5,020	-3.4%	-5.0%
Educational & Health Services	7,230	7,290	7,610	-0.8%	-5.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	5,210	5,420	5,210	-3.9%	0.0%
Other Services	2,430	2,530	2,200	-4.0%	10.5%
Government	7,330	7,220	7,400	1.5%	-0.9%
Federal Government	950	950	900	0.0%	5.6%
State Government	960	960	980	0.0%	-2.0%
Local Government	5,420	5,310	5,520	2.1%	-1.8%
Government Education	3,850	3,630	3,780	6.1%	1.9%
Government Administration	3,480	3,590	3,620	-3.1%	-3.9%

*Preliminary estimate

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

Glossary of Labor Market Terms

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Glossary of Labor Market Terms (cont.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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