



Eastern Idaho

August 2012

Population

Eastern Idaho consists of nine diverse counties – Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison and Teton. The area grew by 44,394 during the decade with Madison, Jefferson and Teton counties experiencing the greatest growth—these three counties comprise three of the five fastest growing counties in the state. In 2000 Bonneville and Jefferson counties were established as the Idaho Falls metropolitan statistical area, which has received national attention for its high growth and low unemployment rates. It is currently one of the fastest-growing metropolitan areas in the nation. Due to a lower cost of living, good workforce and quality recreational opportunities, growth is expected to continue.

Labor Force & Employment

The unemployment rate for eastern Idaho remained comparatively low between 2009 and 2011 despite the national recession. Economic diversity and the stability provided by the Idaho National Laboratory limit labor force fluctuations, especially when the national economy is suffering. The INL is one of the state's largest employers with workers from throughout the region.

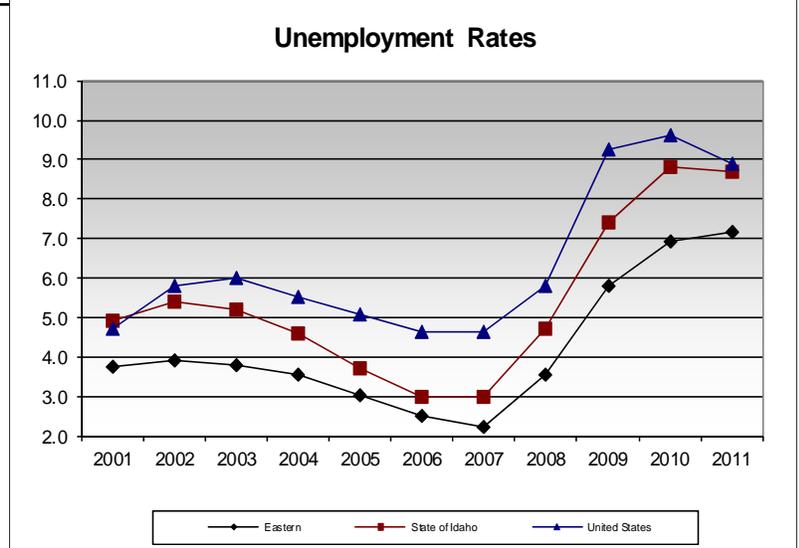
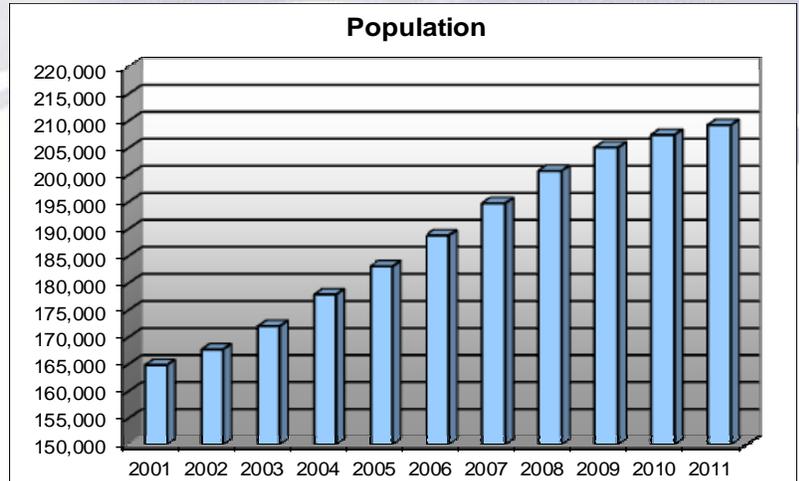
The regional labor force grew by more than 16,000 during the decade, but the number of unemployed increased by almost 5,000 since 2007.

All nine counties are heavily involved in agriculture and related industries like wholesale food and food processing. The city of Idaho Falls is a regional hub for retail and health care. The region is a gateway to popular tourist destinations like Yellowstone National Park, and hundreds of thousands of tourists pass

Labor Force	July 11	July 12
Civilian Labor Force	99,720	99,460
Total Employment	92,496	93,293
Unemployed	7,224	6,166
Eastern Idaho % Unemployed	7.2	6.2
State of Idaho % Unemployed	8.9	7.5
U.S. % Unemployed	9.1	8.3

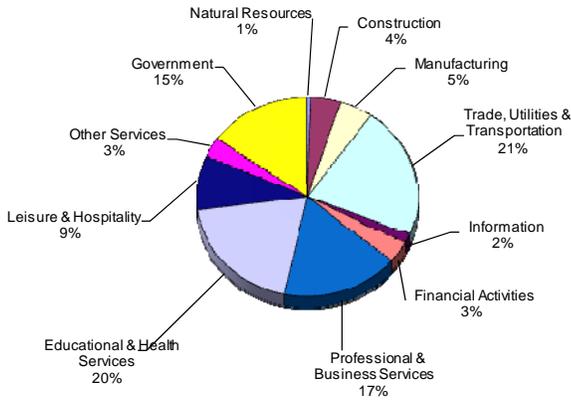
Labor Force	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Civilian Labor Force	83,414	84,908	86,998	88,687	92,823	94,005	96,549	97,771	96,575	98,740	99,495
Unemployment	3,139	3,324	3,298	3,152	2,798	2,342	2,170	3,460	5,623	6,825	7,115
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.0	2.5	2.2	3.5	5.8	6.9	7.2
Employment	80,275	81,584	83,699	85,535	90,026	91,663	94,379	94,311	90,952	91,915	92,380

Work Force Trends



through it annually on U.S. Highway 20. Henry's Lake, known worldwide for its trout fishery, and Borah Peak, the highest point in the state, are some of the attractions. Butte County is home to the world's first nuclear power plant, EBR-1, and Arco, the first city in the world to be lit by nuclear energy. The inventor of television, Philo Farnsworth, was from Jefferson County. High mountains, deep rivers and fertile valleys underscore the area's beauty.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2011



Covered Employers

Average employment increased by over 7,945 during the decade and average wages rose by \$9,062. The larger industries are trade, health and education, government and professional and business services – most are INL jobs. Government includes the local, state and federal departments operating in the region but also hospitals and correctional facilities operated by these governments. Other significant government employers are the federal departments of Energy and Agriculture and the Bureau of Land Management along with the Idaho Fish and Game Department. Construction, although it has declined due to the recession, and leisure and hospitality are also strong.

Major Employers

Battelle Energy Alliance
Bechtel Bettis
Bechtel BWXT
Brigham Young University Idaho
CH2M-WG Idaho LLC
Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center
Melaleuca, Inc.
Qwest Communications
Wal-Mart

Occupational Wages*

Median Wage

Retail Salespersons	\$9.57
Office Clerks	\$11.63
Truck Drivers, Heavy	\$16.34
General Managers	\$32.72
Cashiers	\$8.12
Customer Service Representatives	\$11.08
Waiters and Waitresses	\$7.97
Registered Nurses	\$25.68
Food Preparation Workers	\$8.50
Construction Laborers	\$12.67
Laborers	\$9.78
Janitors and Cleaners	\$10.23
First-Line Supervisors	\$19.73
Bookkeeping and Accounting Clerks	\$12.34
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	\$9.22

* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at lmi.idaho.gov.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2001, 2010 & 2011	2001		2010		2011	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	70,724	\$27,213	79,265	\$35,762	78,669	\$36,275
Agriculture	2,587	\$19,502	2,242	\$25,373	2,128	\$26,952
Mining	186	\$40,746	458	\$61,187	478	\$63,897
Construction	4,539	\$28,371	4,242	\$38,394	3,703	\$36,635
Manufacturing	4,514	\$24,041	3,970	\$33,616	4,049	\$35,449
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	15,463	\$21,703	17,183	\$29,145	17,469	\$29,454
Information	1,115	\$28,525	1,440	\$32,422	1,308	\$34,896
Financial Activities	13,915	\$43,198	14,666	\$60,351	14,470	\$61,915
Professional and Business Services	2,208	\$24,347	2,770	\$35,182	2,767	\$35,546
Educational and Health Services	7,379	\$28,059	10,812	\$34,722	10,953	\$35,208
Leisure and Hospitality	5,986	\$9,390	7,138	\$12,026	7,292	\$12,327
Other Services	1,659	\$17,228	1,721	\$22,940	1,722	\$23,593
Government	11,173	\$28,214	12,623	\$33,481	12,329	\$33,741

Per Capita Income	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Eastern Idaho	\$21,122	\$22,352	\$22,857	\$23,524	\$24,801	\$26,246	\$27,565	\$28,995	\$29,753	\$28,954
State of Idaho	\$25,665	\$26,042	\$26,452	\$28,412	\$29,544	\$31,493	\$32,607	\$33,110	\$30,997	\$31,897
United States	\$31,157	\$31,481	\$32,295	\$33,909	\$35,452	\$37,725	\$39,506	\$40,947	\$38,846	\$39,937

Information provided by Bureau of Economic A



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