

Idaho Employment

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

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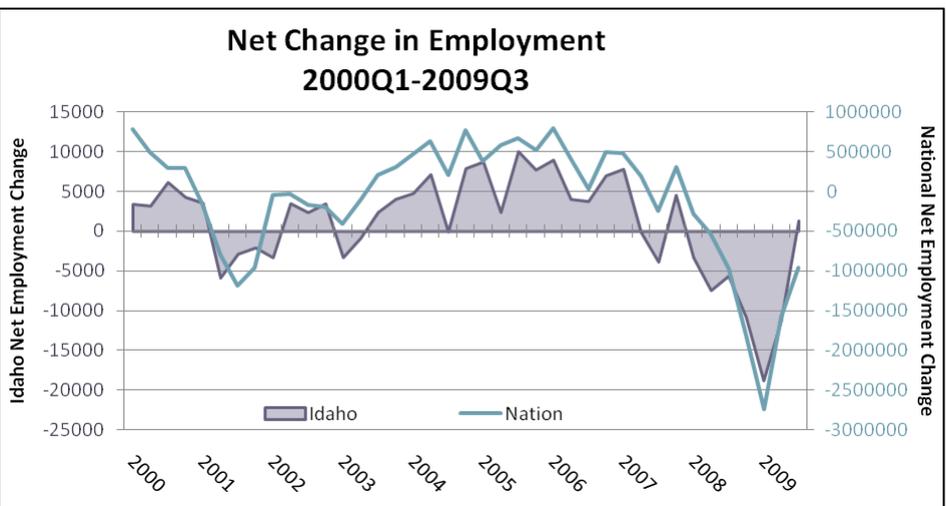
ROGER B. MADSEN, DIRECTOR

SUB-STATE LABOR FORCE DATA PUBLISHED LATER IN MONTH

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

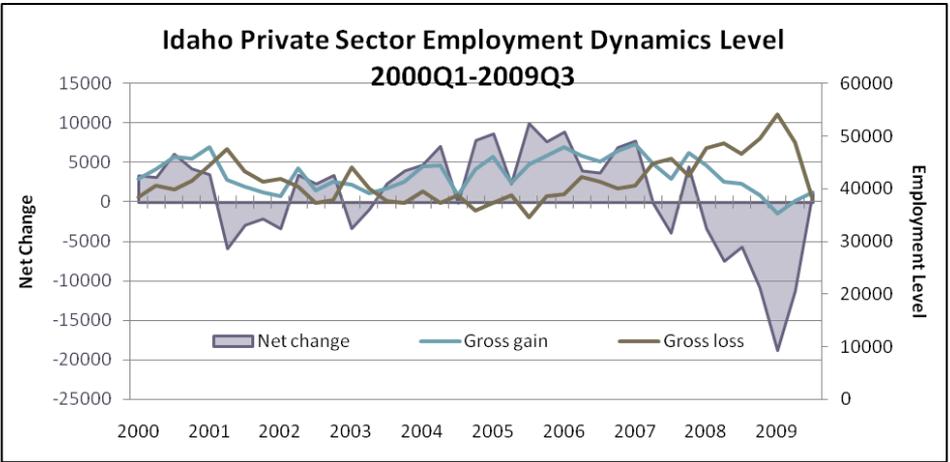
RISE IN PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS IN THIRD QUARTER 2009

Idaho experienced a net gain of 1,316 private sector jobs during the third quarter of 2009 on a seasonally adjusted basis. This was the state's first job gain in almost two years and broke the longest streak of job losses on record, according to the Business Employment Dynamics program of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

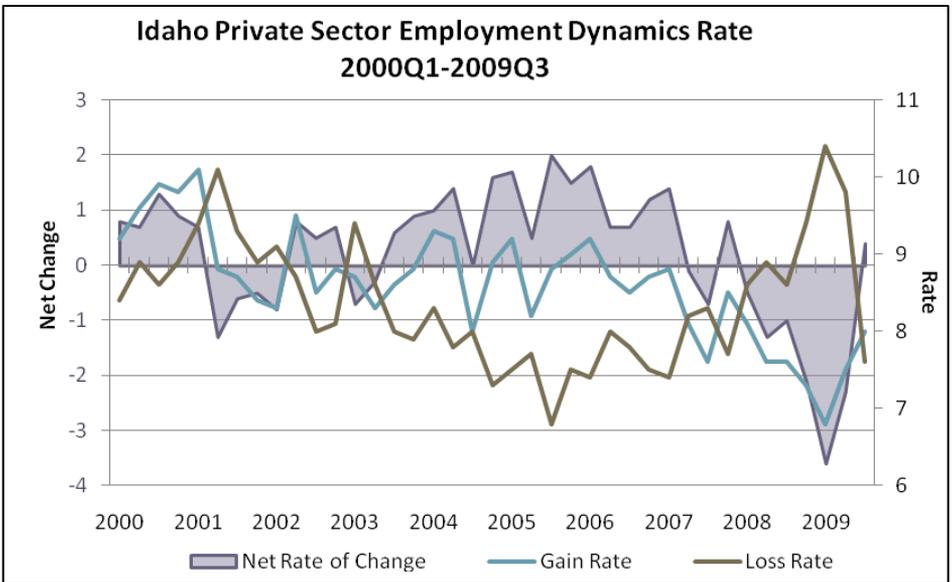


The Business Employment Dynamics program tracks job gains and job losses from private businesses opening, expanding, closing and downsizing. It is another tool for analyzing the business cycle. From July to September 2009, Idaho's opening and expanding businesses added roughly 39,300 jobs while those closing or downsizing cut just over 38,000. It was the first net job gain

since the fourth quarter of 2007 and finally broke the string of increasingly large job losses which had prevailed since the beginning of 2008.



The National Bureau of Economic Research marks the beginning of the recession in December 2007, though Idaho began to see evidence of a slow-down during the second quarter of 2007. In the nine quarters that followed, Idaho lost jobs in all but the fourth quarter of 2007 and third quarter of 2009. Even with the slight gains in these two quarters, net job loss since the downward trend began exceeded 55,000 by the end of September 2009.

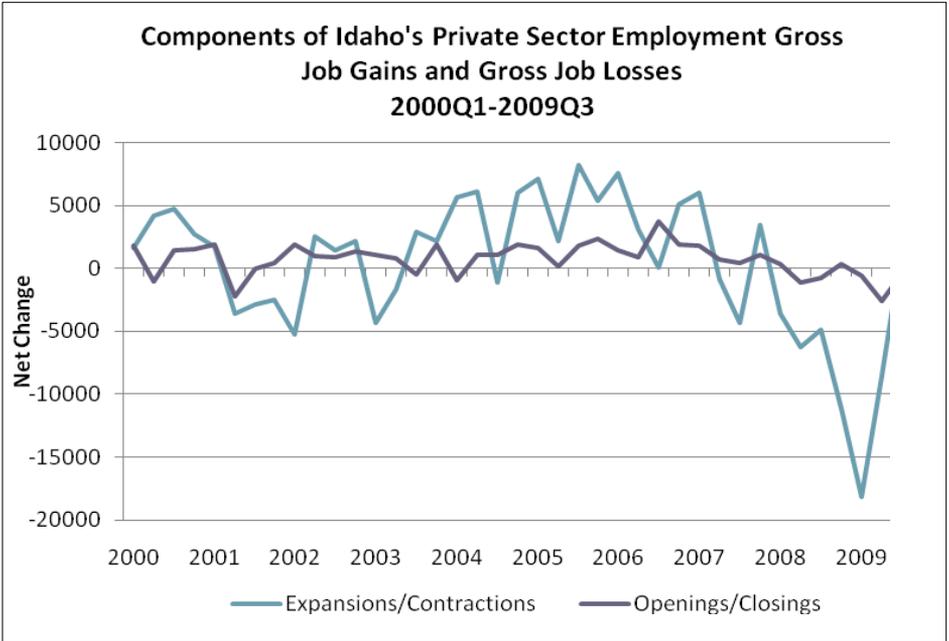


The gross job gain rate in the third quarter of 2009 was up to 8 percent, approaching pre-recession gain rates. In the second quarter, the job gain rate rose to 7.5 percent, exceeding the rate of the previous quarter for the first time since the start of the recession. The additional gain of half a percentage point in the third quarter continued this positive trend.

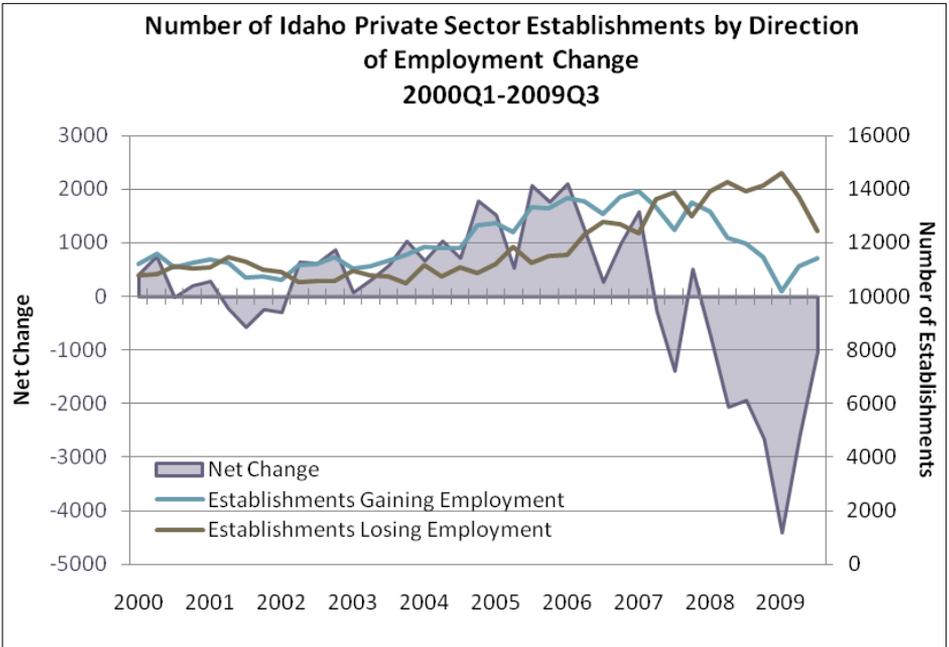
The gross job loss rate dropped more than two percentage points from the second to third quarters, falling to 7.6 percent. This was the largest over-the-quarter drop in the loss rate since the BED series began in 1992.

Expanding businesses created nearly 1,700 more jobs than contracting businesses eliminated during the third quarter of 2009. This shift from net loss to net gain was primarily the result of contractions substantially easing from the second quarter – down nearly 9,000. There were also slightly more gains due to expansions in the third quarter. The same was true for new and

closing businesses. While new businesses created 360 fewer jobs than closing businesses lost, the lost jobs due to closures were down 2,150 from the second quarter. This trend offered an indication of a stabilizing economy.



Just over 11,400 of Idaho's 50,000 businesses added jobs during the third quarter of 2009 – 8,700 through expansion and 2,700 opening for the first time. Nearly 12,400 others eliminated jobs – 9,400 downsized and 3,000 closed altogether.



Nationally, third quarter 2009 saw a net job loss of nearly 1 million stretching across all economic sectors. This was a smaller net loss than in the previous three quarters and brought the total net job loss for the six quarters since the official beginning of the recession to 8.9 million jobs. New and expanding businesses created 6.3 million jobs, roughly 125,000 fewer than in the second quarter of 2009, and contracting or closing businesses lost 7.3 million. This loss was still 750,000 jobs less severe than in the second quarter.

Education and health services was the only sector to experience a net job gain in the third quarter. It posted a net increase of 28,000 jobs across the country, remaining the only sector to gain jobs every quarter since the beginning of the series in 1992. However, this was a meager job gain compared to past quarters, which showed gains of 100,000 or more. The utilities sector experienced no change and was the only other sector that did not lose jobs in the third quarter.

Despite some easing of job losses nationwide, substantial losses were still experienced in several sectors – 201,000 jobs in construction, 181,000 in professional and business services, 114,000 in retail trade, 111,000 in leisure and hospitality and 102,000 in manufacturing. Although these were all significant losses, this was just over half the nine sectors losing over 100,000 jobs in first quarter. Most sectors lost significantly fewer jobs than in the first or second quarters.

Alaska remained the state with the highest gross job gain at 9.7 percent, followed by Wyoming's 8.2 percent and Idaho's 8.0 percent. Third quarter's gain rates, however, were still offset by even higher loss rates. Alaska again led the nation at 10.6 percent, Wyoming followed at 8.7 percent and Montana at 8.2 percent. Although all states had seen losses exceeding gains through the first two quarters of 2009, in the third quarter three states – North Dakota, Idaho and Indiana – broke this trend with gains that exceeded losses, and Michigan experienced a net change of virtually zero.

Overall, while the third quarter job gain in Idaho was a positive sign, it remains to be seen whether this trend will continue or whether the slight job gain in the third quarter of 2009 will give way to more losses as occurred after the job gain in the fourth quarter of 2007. Continuing job losses experienced in other states and at the national level suggest that recent positive trends be celebrated with caution.

The Business Employment Dynamics data series includes job gains and losses at private sector establishments. The data represent the change in the number of jobs over time, which is the net result of increases and decreases in employment that occur at all businesses in the economy. More information on Business Employment Dynamics series is on the Web at www.bls.gov/bdm/.

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NUMBER OF IDAHO WORKERS WITH MULTIPLE JOBS FLUCTUATES

A recent report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates Idahoans are finding it difficult to get second jobs to help ends meet.

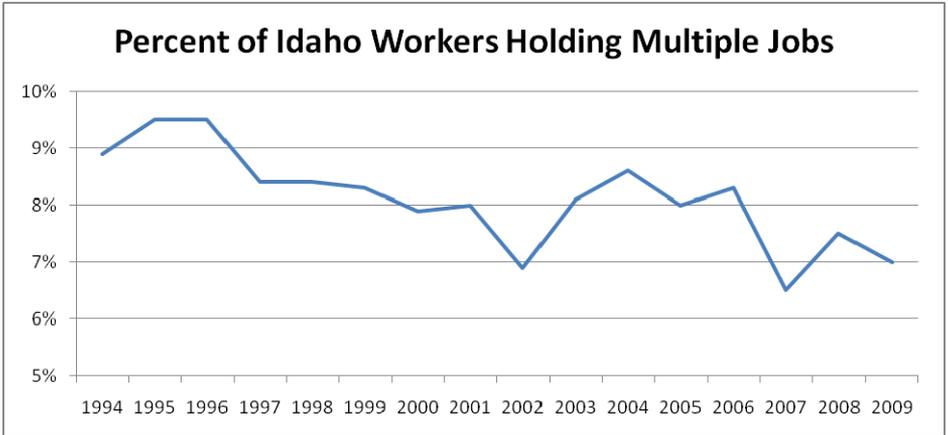
The report estimates that 7 percent of Idaho workers held down more than one job in 2009. While significantly above the 5.2 percent multiple job holder estimate nationwide, it was down a half percentage point from 2008.

Idaho lost 6.9 percent of its jobs to the recession. Total nonfarm jobs dropped from an average of nearly 656,000 in 2007 to just over 610,000 in 2009. Total wages fell 5.5 percent over the two years – a loss of more than \$1.2 billion.

When employers pulled in payrolls they left a number of Idaho workers with no room to move in finding that second job to supplement paychecks from a first job that fell short of covering their bills. A similar decline in the percentage of workers holding more than one job occurred in 2002 following the 2001 recession.

As the Idaho economy expanded during the 1990s and the job market improved, the percentage of the work force with more than one job began stead-

ily declining. It leveled off during the 2001 recession and then took a dive as the economy tightened — and so did employers.



Once growth resumed, the number of workers with multiple jobs increased as the opportunity to find additional workers increased. Then in 2006, demand for workers began outpacing the available workers, forcing employers to turn to higher wages and better benefits to lure qualified employees onto their payrolls. Improving wages reduced the need for some workers to hold down that second job and likely led to the decline in the percentage of multiple job holders in 2007.

When the belt-tightening began again, however, so did the search for a second job or another job to compensate for the loss of hours in the first — at least until jobs of any kind became scarce.

Idaho has always ranked in the top third of the states in percentage of multiple jobholders, partly because of the high number of Idahoans who run their own businesses on the side. In 2008 Idaho had 110,000 non-employee businesses – one for every 73 residents. At 7 percent multiple job holders, Idaho ranked 15th nationally in 2009.

Some state research has also pegged the rate of multiple job holders to agriculture’s economic prominence and the harshness of winters. The conclusion is that more farmers and ranchers means more multiple job holders, especially in less hospitable winter climates where outdoor work is severely restricted. With agriculture accounting for about 5 percent of the gross state product, at least some of Idaho’s multiple job holding rate could be attributed to this.

But research in neighboring Wyoming, Montana and Utah has linked high rates of multiple job holders with relatively lower wages. Idaho’s average annual wage in 2008 was 75.5 percent of the national average wage. Only Mississippi, Montana and South Dakota had lower average wages. In addition, only one in three Idaho jobs paid a wage that a family of four could live on without needing public assistance of some kind.

See table on page 6 that shows the percent and average wage of multiple job holders for all 50 states.

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Multiple Job Holders, Average Wage By State

	% of Multiple Job Holders	Avg Wage % of US Avg 2008
US	5.2%	100.0%
Alabama	4.6%	83.2%
Alaska	7.8%	102.8%
Arizona	3.8%	94.5%
Arkansas	4.8%	77.5%
California	4.4%	114.4%
Colorado	6.0%	103.0%
Connecticut	5.8%	125.7%
Delaware	4.4%	102.7%
Florida	4.2%	91.4%
Georgia	4.6%	95.1%
Hawaii	7.7%	92.0%
Idaho	7.0%	75.5%
Illinois	5.4%	107.8%
Indiana	5.0%	85.1%
Iowa	8.8%	79.2%
Kansas	7.4%	85.2%
Kentucky	5.5%	81.3%
Louisiana	3.9%	89.6%
Maine	7.7%	81.6%
Maryland	5.7%	111.1%
Massachusetts	6.0%	122.0%
Michigan	4.6%	95.5%
Minnesota	9.0%	98.6%
Mississippi	5.5%	74.6%
Missouri	5.3%	89.8%
Montana	7.1%	72.8%
Nebraska	9.8%	82.5%
Nevada	3.7%	96.7%
New Hampshire	6.6%	96.8%
New Jersey	4.1%	119.3%
New Mexico	4.7%	84.2%
New York	4.6%	129.9%
North Carolina	5.2%	88.8%
North Dakota	9.8%	76.2%
Ohio	5.9%	90.0%
Oklahoma	5.0%	82.8%
Oregon	5.9%	89.4%
Pennsylvania	5.5%	95.1%
Rhode Island	7.2%	95.2%
South Carolina	4.7%	81.4%
South Dakota	9.5%	71.5%
Tennessee	5.0%	86.3%
Texas	4.2%	99.6%
Utah	6.9%	84.5%
Vermont	8.9%	82.2%
Virginia	4.8%	105.7%
Washington	5.2%	103.3%
West Virginia	4.3%	77.5%
Wisconsin	7.7%	86.4%
Wyoming	8.4%	91.7%

MINING STILL BIG PLAYER IN NORTHERN IDAHO

Despite the economic gyrations of the past several decades, Idaho's Silver Valley remains a major component of the state's mining sector.

As of March 2010, Shoshone County accounted for 23.3 percent of Idaho's mining industry — over 500 jobs. Nearly 95 percent of the ore extracted from the mines of Shoshone County contain silver. More than half of the county's mining payroll is made by Hecla Mining Co.'s Lucky Friday mine in Mullan. The Lucky Friday is the deepest operating mine in the United States, producing 3.5 million ounces of silver in 2009.

Custer County in eastern Idaho, where Thompson Creek runs the world's fourth largest molybdenum mine for the mineral that strengthens steel, claims 16.1 percent, and Caribou County, southeastern Idaho's mining center for elemental phosphorus used in fertilizer, animal feed and industrial chemicals, accounts for another 14.7 percent.

Mining plays a major role in each county's economy. Custer County is the most heavily reliant on mining, which provides 21 percent of total employment. Public administration is the second largest industry, followed by accommodation and food services — combined, they make up 29.8 percent of the total economy in Custer County.

Mining accounts for 11 percent of total employment in Shoshone County, a little more diverse than Custer County. Retail trade is the largest industry representing 18.9 percent of total employment. Public administration coupled with health care, and accommodation and food services completes the economic mix of Shoshone County.

Caribou County is heavily concentrated in manufacturing, which accounts for 22.3 percent of total employment while mining employment is 10 percent. But the bulk of manufacturing involves the processing of the ore.

The Idaho mining industry paid out \$123 million in wages to nearly 2,200 workers in 2009, second highest to managers of companies. Shoshone County mining employment paid an average wage of \$60,497 in 2009, approximately 91.6 percent higher than wages in other Shoshone County industries.

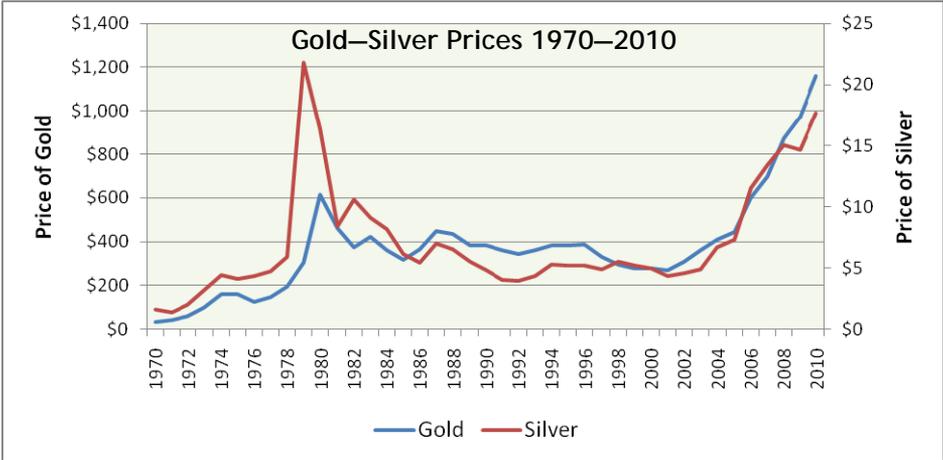
However, Shoshone County is only second in mining wages. Custer County pays 4.7 percent more than Shoshone County and 11.8 percent more than the statewide average of under \$57,000. Although mining wages pay 34.5 percent more than wages in other industries in Caribou County, they are 7.2 percent lower than mining wages in Shoshone County.

Counties with Highest Mining Employment, 2009

County	Mining Jobs	Total Jobs	Mining Jobs as % of Total Jobs	Average Annual Mining Wage	Average Annual Wage	Local Mining Jobs as % of All Mining Jobs
Shoshone	506	4,578	11.1%	\$60,497	\$31,567	23.3%
Custer	351	1,663	21.1%	\$63,341	\$32,246	16.1%
Caribou	320	3,210	10.0%	\$56,429	\$41,948	14.7%
Bonner	151	13,359	1.1%	\$47,387	\$30,618	6.9%
Cassia	99	9,690	1.0%	\$30,536	\$28,221	4.6%
Statewide	2,174	613,738	0.4%	\$56,679	\$34,119	

In 1979, the price of silver was at a record high \$21.79 an ounce. The highest price since was in 2008 at \$14.99 an ounce. Notably, both peaks were in conjunction with recessions — similar to the price for gold.

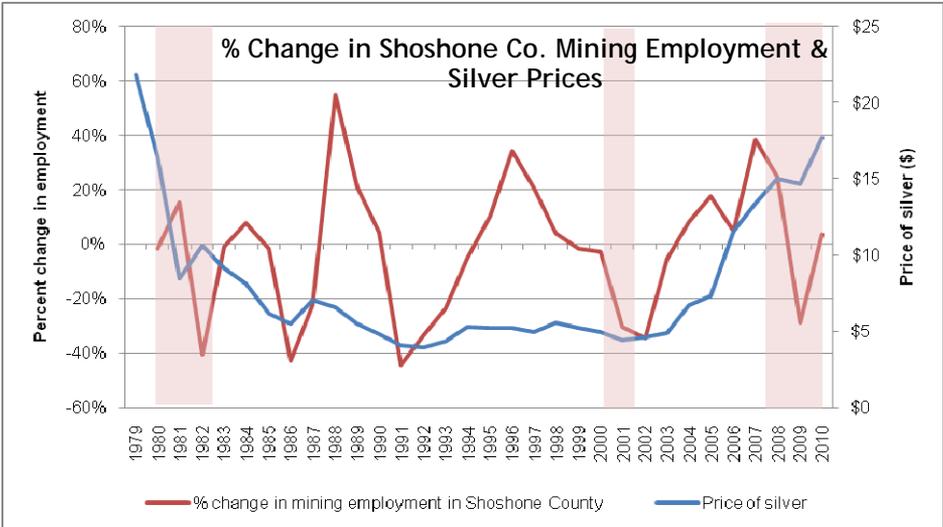
The top investment during a recession is precious metal. Growing demand for silver from the government and industrial sectors has been helping edge up the metal's price. Gold has also been on the rise as many investors feared inflationary pressure and financial turmoil in the markets throughout the recession.



Mining is a volatile industry. Employment in Shoshone County was at an all-time high in 1981 at 2,795. The 1980-82 recession hit the nation hard as well as the Silver Valley. Following the closure of the Bunker Hill lead smelter in Kellogg, at least 1,150 people lost their jobs through 1983 – possibly more – changing the course of mining history in the Silver Valley. A modest resurgence from 1988 to 1990 pushed employment up nearly 81 percent.

But the early '90s saw the largest cumulative employment decline on record, a drop of 106 percent in three years. Jobs fell from 839 in 1991 to 406 in 1994. The loss after the smelter closed was 41 percent.

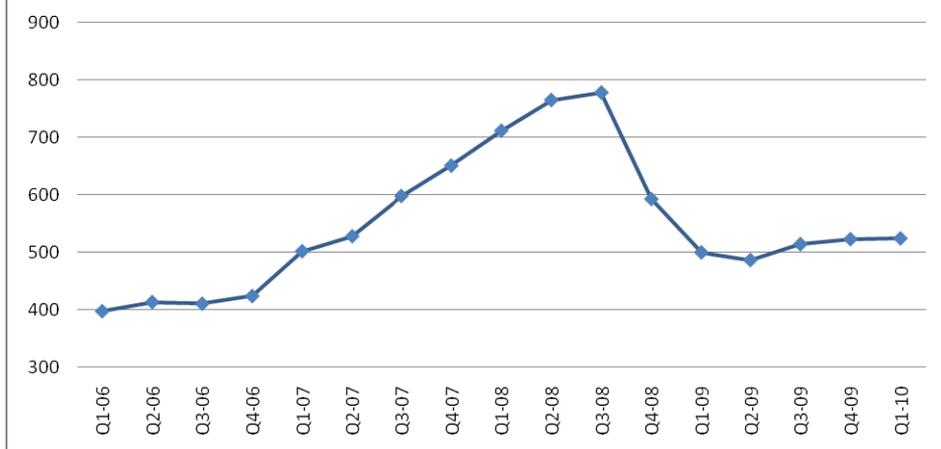
More recently, annual mining employment doubled from 335 in 2004 to 711 in 2008. From 2008 to 2009, annual employment decreased by 28.9 percent, following a near all-time high in silver prices at \$14.99 an ounce.



Average monthly mining employment in Shoshone County hit bottom at 288 in November 2003 and has been climbing ever since. It peaked in August 2008 at 789. By March 2010, mining employment was at 529. See final graph on page 9.

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Quarterly Mining Jobs in Shoshone County



LATAH COUNTY SHOWS MANUFACTURING POTENTIAL

Despite the many advantages Latah County offers manufacturers, its manufacturing sector is relatively small, providing only 2.6 percent of total jobs in 2009. Statewide manufacturing provided 8.9 percent of all jobs and nationally 9.1 percent.

But Latah County's manufacturing sector is increasingly diverse and has potential for growth. Cities and economic development organizations are making significant strides toward making the county an even better place for manufacturers to start up, move in or expand.

The county offers:

- ◆ Low costs for wages and salaries, workers' compensation, taxes, electricity and natural gas.
- ◆ Idaho's business-friendly climate.
- ◆ Good transportation access with the Moscow-Pullman airport, U.S Highway 95, rail lines and barges from the Port of Lewiston, 32 miles south.
- ◆ Proximity to two major research universities — the University of Idaho in Moscow and Washington State University in nearby Pullman. These schools provide college graduates for professional and managerial jobs, employee training, business-related research and technology transfer.
- ◆ The Idaho Workforce Development Training Fund, which pays up to \$3,000 per person being trained for new manufacturing jobs.
- ◆ A small town atmosphere mixed with a sophisticated arts community and creative class.
- ◆ A work force with experience, skills and interest in working in manufacturing.

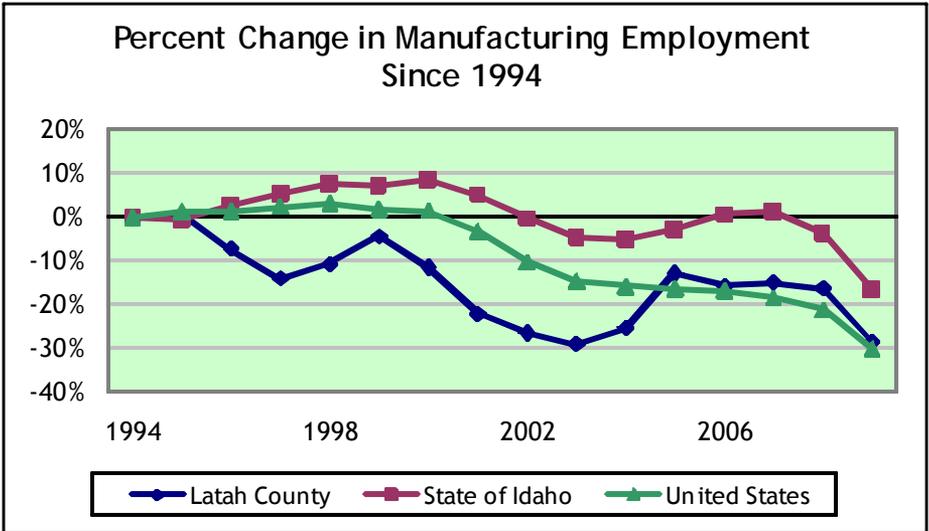
North central Idaho's work force has considerable experience in manufacturing and related industries. The University of Idaho is a source of high-skilled engineers and other people with research and development skills while Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston provides machinist, welding and other professional-technical training as well as training customized to the needs of particular manufacturers. Many people who graduate from regional schools wish to remain in the area but are forced to leave because of a lack of jobs. An expanding manufacturing sector would find a skilled and eager labor force and help reduce the "brain drain" that has plagued the region for decades.

Manufacturing is important because of its role as an exporter that brings in dollars from outside the area, intensifying its overall economic impact. Manufacturing has a high multiplier of 3.25, which means that for every 100 jobs

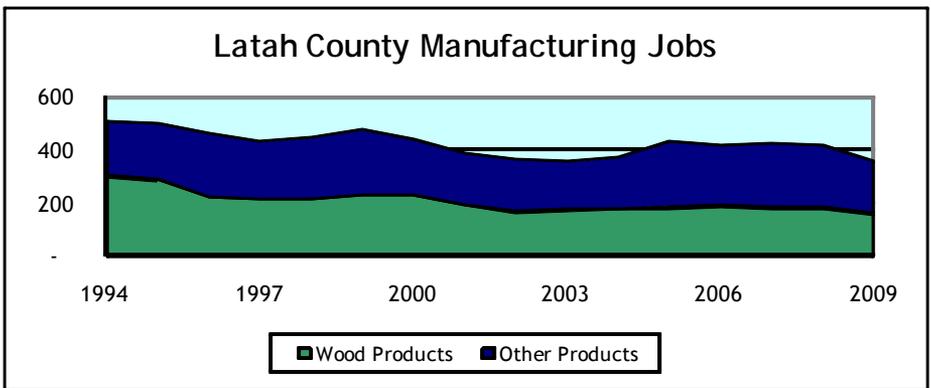
created directly in manufacturing, another 225 jobs are created in other economic sectors. That is a strong impact on a local economy.

Manufacturing’s comparatively high wages heighten its economic impact. Its jobs are generally full time and in periods of high demand workers can earn extra pay with overtime. The average pay for Latah County manufacturing workers in 2009 was \$40,186, while the average pay for all other private-sector jobs was \$24,558. Most manufacturing workers also receive health care, retirement and paid leave benefits. The county’s manufacturing sector paid \$14.3 million in wages and salaries in 2009 and an estimated \$3.9 million in benefits.

Latah County’s manufacturing jobs declined over the last 15 years at about the same rate as the nation’s.



The long-term decline in the county’s manufacturing jobs largely resulted from the deterioration of the wood products industry.



Recovering from the Recession

Latah County’s manufacturing job losses in the last five years at 4.3 percent have been less severe than the state’s at 11.8 percent or the nation’s at 17 percent.

The county’s manufacturing sector also has made great strides toward recovering from the recession. Employment has picked up considerably in recent months. Three major manufacturing operations returned to pre-recession job levels by June, recalling about 50 laid-off workers in the second quarter. The county’s 10 largest manufacturers added a net 42 jobs between June 2009 and June 2010, a 16 percent increase. Five added 54 jobs to offset the loss of 12 by the other five manufacturers..

Meet Latah County's Manufacturers

Latah County has 35 manufacturers employing about 390 people today. In addition, three other businesses classified as wholesalers or professional services have significant manufacturing components. Together, they employ another 100 people.

Many manufacturing operations in Latah County are related to natural resources. They use wood or agricultural products or make equipment for working in or playing in the region's forests, rivers and fields. Most of the others are high-tech companies created by technology transfer from the universities.

Fab Tec Inc. produces portable processing machinery for the rock-crushing industry. About 40 people work in the 30,000-square-foot Fab Tec plant just south of Moscow. Founded in 1992 by Doug Church, the company sells its equipment all over the world.

D8 Inc. in Potlatch makes dies, tools and jigs. Founded in 1987 by Barry Ramsay, it also offers reverse engineering and model-making services and employs more than a dozen people.

Ram Products, a small manufacturer in Moscow, makes vises and other equipment to help do-it-yourselfers build archery bows.

IVUS Energy Innovations, a new company in Moscow, makes environmentally-friendly, bright flashlights that can be used for up to two hours at a time and recharges in only 90 seconds. It employs nine people.

Abbot Inc. in Troy specializes in heavy industrial steel fabrications and installations. Established in 1986 by Peter Abbot, the machine shop performs most of its work on equipment for lumber mills, farms and fire fighters.

Another Moscow equipment manufacturer, Forest Robot, makes the Logg Dogg, a radio-controlled skidder for harvesting small diameter trees with a portable winch. It can be towed by a pickup, making it easy to get in and out of forested areas. Because it can be operated from a distance, it improves logging safety. It can move and stack trees up to 20" in diameter and also is ideal for moving slash. Since 1990, large-diameter timber has become less available. Today, more and more logging is done on small parcels of private land, where the Logg Dogg's portability and low impact on the environment is especially suited. Forest Robot also is developing a small, unmanned vehicle that can operate autonomously in catastrophic forest fires.

On the electronics side, Biketronics Inc., founded by electrical engineer Mike Meehan in 2007, makes electronic controls for Harley-Davidson™ motorcycles. Currently employing between 15 and 25 people, it recently moved into a larger facility at Alturas Technology Park and is considering diversifying into other products.

Comtech AHA Corp., formerly Advanced Hardware Architectures, moved from Pullman to Moscow's Alturas Technology Park in 2005. Most of its 20-plus employees are engineers, who design computer hardware including chips and circuit boards.

Manning Applied Technology in Troy offers consulting and contract research in FT-IR instrumentation and spectroscopy including digital signal processing and electronics. Founded in 1993, the company recently developed a series of instruments for polymer rheo-optical measurements and pioneered in the area of very-rapid-scan FT-IR spectrometry.

Potting Shed Creations, established in Troy by Ann Killen and Liz Cosko in 2004, handcrafts seed kits and bonsai kits in interesting containers that are sold on the Internet, by catalog and at major retailers including Hallmark, Whole Foods and Crate and Barrel. In the last few years, the company has successfully expanded its international sales, especially to Germany. It employs more than 30 people.

Northwest River Supply, founded in 1974 by business professor Bill Parks, employs more than 50 people in Moscow making and distributing NRS inflatable kayaks, rafts, life jackets, wetsuits and related gear and clothing. Two years ago, the company expanded into the former Tidyman's building near Alturas Technology Park. Most of its sales are made on the Internet. Its international exports have grown in recent years.

Food and beverage makers employ nearly 40 people in Moscow.

Paradise Farm Organics, owned by internationally known "farm girl" Mary-Jane Butters, makes organic food for backpackers and sells over the Internet. Butters also publishes "Farm Girl" magazine and runs another website and retail stores in Moscow and Coeur d'Alene, where she sells bedding, furniture and other items inspired by the rural lifestyle.

Camas Prairie Winery, a downtown landmark since 1983, produces a wide variety of wines from grapes grown on vineyards throughout the Northwest. Idaho's oldest independent winery has earned a reputation for environmentally friendly practices including installing solar panels on its rooftop. Another winery, Colter's Creek, operates a vineyard along the Clearwater River near Juliaetta.

Wood products employment in Latah County fell from 300 in 1994 to 180 a decade later and has remained there except during the worst months of the recent recession. Bennett Lumber's mill in Princeton is the county's largest manufacturer, employing about 150 people. Improved lumber prices recently allowed it to recall the 30 workers laid off in 2009. Browning Cut Stock in Juliaetta has been making toy parts, beehive boxes, frames and other wood products since 1964. Idaho Cedar Sales produces split-rail fencing and fence pickets in Troy.

On the Horizon

Several projects currently in the works could help Latah County's manufacturing sector generate hundreds of jobs in the coming years.

Moscow plans to create a light industrial park on 65 acres just south of the city. With access to two major roads — U.S. Highway 95 and East Palouse River Drive — the site can accommodate up to 780 jobs. Reflecting Moscow's emphasis on environmental sustainability and maintaining the character of its neighborhoods, the \$9.1 million park will include a greenbelt and pedestrian paths, restored riparian area and trees screening the park from the highway.

Moscow also plans over the next few years to expand Alturas Technology Park, which was established in 1996 for research and technology companies.

Potlatch began studying the feasibility of opening its own light industrial park after Potlatch Corp. offered the city 110 acres for that purpose. The site along the Palouse River just outside the western city limit originally contained a Potlatch lumber mill that closed in 1981 after 75 years of operation. The city is investigating the possibility with assistance from the Clearwater Economic Development Association, the Latah Economic Development Council, Avista Corp. a \$10,000 Gem Community grant and a \$15,000 federal rural development grant. The industrial park would probably use 40 acres. The remaining 70 might be developed into homes and a nine-hole golf course. Potlatch Corp. established the city in 1906 and was owned and maintained by the company until 1950. Now, its economic future may be shaped by the company's gift.

Moscow is working with the University of Idaho and Lewis-Clark State College to open a professional-technical training center or maybe even a community college at the Legacy Crossing development between downtown Moscow and the university. Civic leaders believe work force training opportunities would expand the community's economic development prospects. Although Moscow benefits from the university's development of high-end work skills, it

currently lacks lower level training opportunities. The city also is working with Moscow High School to increase internships, mentoring and other job-training opportunities for local teens.

A Canadian company is seeking approval to mine clay, feldspar and quartz in Bovill. Near the mine i-minerals inc. plans to operate a processing plant that would provide more than a dozen manufacturing jobs.

GoNano Technologies in Moscow expects to open a manufacturing plant for its nanospring technology in the next few years.

Biketronics owner Mike Meehan, with assistance from economic development organizations, is exploring the possibility of opening the Idaho Fab Lab to spur creation of small, dynamic manufacturing companies in the region. Biketronics would open its doors to anyone who wants to tinker on the firm's CNC, CAD and laser machines. The Fab Lab also would offer low-rent office space to startup companies and provide safety training and entrepreneurship classes.

Northwest Inland Manufacturers Association is developing a program that could help local manufacturers grow. The association's Asset program would help the Defense Department find local manufacturers, who could re-engineer and supply replacements for obsolete parts. With hundreds of aging airplanes, tanks and ships needing parts, the program has the potential to create many jobs in the region. Many projects would require reverse engineering that could be done by D8 Inc., Moscow's high-tech companies and engineering professors.

Although the University of Idaho is one of the nation's top 200 research institutions and the College of Engineering is nationally recognized for engineering research, the university has "generated remarkably few patents to date," according to the Moscow economic development plan. The university is strengthening its efforts to direct its research to the needs of Idaho businesses, generate patents and increase technology transfer programs that create businesses in the community based on those patents.

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DOWNTOWN LEWISTON REVITALIZING IN TIME FOR 150TH CELEBRATION

Downtown Lewiston is enjoying a resurgence as it approaches its 150th birthday. Incorporated in 1861, the city was home to Idaho's first post office in 1862, newspaper in 1862, capitol building in 1864, telephone exchange in 1878, school district in 1880 and only seaport in 1975.

Today, the city is exploring ways of using that history and the Snake and Clearwater rivers to draw more visitors to downtown and to promote long-term growth in tourism, retail, office and residential uses downtown and on the waterfront. Downtown landmarks including the Lewis Clark Hotel, Morgan's Alley and Towne Square are or soon will be going through renovation.

To create a vibrant downtown that provides significant economic and cultural benefits, businesses formed Beautiful Downtown Lewiston in 2008. Following the model of the Main Street Program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the nonprofit organization works to revitalize downtown and help businesses locate, stay and expand there.

A major factor in downtown's transformation is a New York investor, Mark Alexander. Impressed with the charm of the historic district, Alexander also believes strongly in Lewiston's future. He is giving a facelift to a 105-year-old landmark at the heart of downtown and recruiting new tenants for its retail and office spaces. Two new tenants at the renovated Towne Square Mall are Sugar Mammias Bakery and Jazzy's, a nightclub offering live jazz. Alexander is

also renovating the retail property across the street. He has plans for the Jacobson Mall, a mini-mall perpendicular to Main Street near Zions Bank.

Lewis-Clark Plaza, the landmark building near the US-12 bridge across the Snake River on the west edge of downtown Lewiston, is being updated. The 80,000-square-foot building that once housed the region's most prominent hotel and today contains offices, sets the tone for the western part of downtown. When the nearly deserted building was renovated in the mid-1980s, it greatly improved the area around it and provided a great western entrance to downtown.

Earlier this year, an attractively landscaped area with a large sign welcoming people to Lewiston was added on the other side of Main Street. A 20-foot-tall wave sculpture made of recycled canoes will be installed near the Interstate Bridge, and interpretive panels depicting the significance of the two rivers to the Nez Perce Tribe and their interaction with Lewis and Clark will be built as part of the project. The \$904,000 West Main Street Enhancement Project includes a lighted pathway to Kiwanis Park, giving pedestrians access to the park and levee trail system. Near the park, construction on a new skateboard and bike park started in August.



Photo courtesy of the City of Lewiston.

The city of Lewiston also purchased and remodeled the old city hall building at the corner of 3rd and D Streets. The \$330,000 project now houses the public works and transportation departments.

An 8,600-square-foot building that will house 18 offices is rising from a vacant lot at Fifth and Capital streets. Kenaston Corp. is constructing it for Capital Street Properties. The building will be completed by December.

The Lewis-Clark State College Center for Arts & History recently completed repairs after a fire damaged the 125-year-old gallery in downtown Lewiston last year. Insurance covered the \$550,000 damage to the gallery and its exhibits. The Chinese Beuk Aie Temple exhibit, which contains part of a temple located downtown during the 1800s, was relocated to the main floor.

The college has plans for another downtown building it owns. It is seeking tenants for the ground floor of its Clearwater Residence Hall built in 2006. More than 100 students live on the upper floors. If state money is available, the college plans to complete commercial space in the building along with offices, meeting rooms, classrooms and additional exhibit space for the arts center by 2012.

The former Twin City Foods pea-processing complex, which closed in 2004, was razed this winter. The 10-acre site between the Clearwater River and downtown could play a key role in revitalizing downtown, depending on what kind of businesses locate there.

Brackenbury Square in the center of downtown was renovated two years ago, when the city added a state-of-the-art sound system, new streetlights and a fountain. The square and its large stage host special events including Hot August Nights and St. Patrick's and Halloween festivities as well as offering the farmer's market and live music throughout the summer.

The Lewiston city library is strongly considering relocating to the 60,000-square-foot former Erb Hardware building at the intersection of Fifth and D streets. It's a natural fit given its proximity to the college Center for Arts and History and the Nez Perce County Museum on the site of the historic Luna Hotel.

Across the country, libraries are increasingly moving into downtowns. Beautiful Downtown Lewiston, which suggested the site, believes the library could draw together the social fabric of downtown and serve as an anchor for future downtown development.

The downtown's largest employer, the Tribune Publishing Company Holdings, added 32,000 square feet to its building two years ago to accommodate its state-of-the-art press.

Morgan's Alley, a warren of shops in an historic building, opened the MarketPlace, where 24 local artisans sell their products on the second floor. New first floor tenants include La Boheme, a European bistro, and Matt's Grill, a German restaurant.

James and Julie Pierce, who helped form Beautiful Downtown Lewiston, plan to open a street-level delicatessen and an upstairs ballroom in the Odd Fellows building, constructed in 1886.

A recent study of traffic flows in downtown Lewiston and Clarkston, commissioned by the Lewis Clark Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization and conducted by WGM Group, recommends roundabouts, more attractive street-scaping, fewer one-way streets and more parking.

WGM studied an area along the U.S. Highway 12 corridor from 15th Street in Clarkston to 22nd Street in Lewiston. Improving traffic flow is the major goal, but the study also suggests ways to improve the ability to attract foot traffic for shops and stimulate redevelopment by making infrastructure changes. It proposes rerouting Lewiston's levee bypass further inland to give more prime real estate along the river, connecting streets to the old Twin City Foods site near downtown and diverting more traffic from Fair Street onto Port Drive in Clarkston. WGM finds only 15 percent of vehicles entering the valley along the Highway 12 corridor pass through without stopping.

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PORT OF LEWISTON TO SHUT DOWN BARGE TRAFFIC FOR 14 WEEKS

Barge traffic on the Snake and Columbia rivers will halt for 14 weeks beginning Dec. 10, so the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can make major repairs on the locks at The Dalles, John Day and Lower Monumental dams on the Columbia.

Starting in February, the locks at McNary, Lower Granite and Ice Harbor dams are scheduled to close for five-week maintenance projects. The other two locks on the Columbia-Snake system will close for maintenance for two weeks as they normally do every winter. All locks are scheduled to be open by March 18, allowing barges to again travel from Lewiston to Portland.

The Port of Lewiston, which is the only container port in the Lewis-Clark Valley and one of only four on the entire system, will be the most affected by the work. The container yard crew probably will work through the lock closures – loading containers onto railcars or providing security for large cargo. But it is too early to know whether all seven container employees will avoid temporary layoff. The container crew was reduced by two in 2009 because the recession depressed container shipping to its lowest level since the early 1980s.

Some employees of the five tug and barge lines and 10 truck lines serving the



Aerial view, Port of Lewiston. Photo courtesy of Port of Lewiston.

port probably will experience temporary layoffs, but they should not have a significant impact on the Lewiston area. Most of the tug and barge line workers live outside the Lewis-Clark Valley, and some of the trucking companies will pick up extra work carrying cargo to the coast that normally would be shipped by barge. The port's largest tenant, Swift Transportation with a fleet of 500 trucks, may be forced to lay off a few workers for a short time.

Wheat and other agricultural products account for much of the cargo carried on the Columbia-Snake river system. As the major gateway for U.S. wheat exports, about 40 percent of the nation's white wheat travels through the Port of Portland. More than 750 tons of wheat and barley move through the Port of Lewiston each year, and over 20 percent of that comes from Montana, the Dakotas, Wyoming and other points east of Idaho.

Given its proximity to the "pea and lentil capital of the world" on the Palouse and to the Camas prairies, the port is also a leading exporter of peas and lentils that primarily are sold in Pakistan, Peru and Turkey.

Many farmers have made arrangement to rush their products to the port before the locks close. That rush may depress prices for soft white wheat and other farm products. Others will ship theirs by rail or truck. Burlington Northern Railroad says it can pick up the slack.

The port's largest individual shipper, Clearwater Paper, has made alternative arrangements for shipping its products during the closure.

Two major products shipped through the port are bentonite clay from Wyoming and garnet sand from Benewah County. The port ships many other products including lumber, golf bags, plastics, electronic games, jet boats and log homes. With the jet boat manufacturers' initiative to expand sales into Europe, jet boats could become a larger component of shipping from the port over the next few years.

Although the lock closures will be a major inconvenience, ports and shippers want the repairs made. Most of the locks were built in the 1950s and 1960s, and locks generally last 50 to 60 years without significant rehabilitation. The failure of an aging lock could cause unexpected shutdowns lasting weeks as demonstrated by the three-week system closure in September 2009.

In recent years, ports have urged the federal government to make the critically needed repairs to the Columbia-Snake system's infrastructure and ensure its long-term reliability. Federal stimulus funds made the \$43.6 million investment in the locks possible. The repairs will prepare the system for an anticipated tremendous growth in demand over the next 15 years. The Army Corps of Engineers gave a year's notice for the repairs, allowing shippers and ports to make alternative plans.

The Port of Lewiston expects a flurry of activity when the system reopens in late March.

The Port of Clarkston, which serves cruise boats, rarely has cruise boats dock in the winter so the closure will not have much effect. The first cruise boat of 2010 is scheduled to dock in April.

A Few Facts about the Port of Lewiston

- Lewiston, 465 miles from the Pacific Ocean, is the most inland port on the West Coast.
- The port provides the largest crane, warehouse complex and grain storage facilities on the inland river system.
- The first barge shipments left Lewiston in 1975 after Lower Granite Dam was built 39 miles downstream on the Snake River.
- A single grain barge can move 3,000 tons of grain — the equivalent of 134 grain trucks — and uses a quarter to half the amount of fuel as trucks or locomotives.

- It takes about 50 hours of actual shipping time to travel from Lewiston to Portland. Including the time spent in docks, it is a three-day trip.
- The Columbia-Snake river system is the nation's second-largest water transportation highway.

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NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO WINE INDUSTRY EMERGING

North Central Idaho's emerging wine industry performed well against wineries from Oregon, Washington, British Columbia and elsewhere in Idaho at the Northwest Wine Summit. Basalt Cellars, a winery founded in 2004 at the Port of Clarkston, won a silver medal for its 2007 Columbia Valley Merlot. Colter's Creek Winery of Juliaetta won a silver for its 2009 Estate Chardonnay and bronze for its 2008 Snake River Valley Rose and a 2008 blend.



They are helping restore an industry that once thrived in the region, nurtured by the Clearwater Valley's fertile soil, steep slopes and long, hot growing season. The river valleys around Lewiston are the lowest and warmest areas in Idaho.

From 1872 until Prohibition began, vineyards and wineries thrived in the Lewiston area, growing up to 40 varieties of grapes.

Winemaker Melissa Sanborn and her husband Mike Pearson, who own Colter's Creek, are working with other local vintners to re-establish the region as a premier viticulture area, seeking recognition as the Clearwater American Viticulture Area to help market local wines.

Their vineyard, nestled along the Potlatch River near its confluence with the Clearwater, benefits from the cooling effect of the river and low elevation between 800 to 1,200 feet. The couple found the abandoned vineyard in 2007 and retrained the vines and opened a winery. Today, they grow grapes on 11 acres and plan to add three to five acres next year.

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WINE INDUSTRY GROWING IN SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO

SNAKE RIVER VALLEY AMERICAN VITICULTURAL AREA

Currently, Idaho boasts only one designated American Viticultural Area: the Snake River Valley. The area consists of 12 counties in southwestern Idaho: Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Gooding, Jerome, Owyhee, Payette, Twin Falls, and Washington – and two eastern Oregon counties – Baker and Malheur. The Snake River Valley was designated an AVA in early 2007.

EMPLOYMENT

In 2002, the winery industry provided just 55 jobs on average throughout the Snake River Valley. Today, jobs number three times that at 160. The counties employing the most are Canyon with employment over 70 followed by Elmore at 42 and Ada at 34. Jobs are projected to increase steadily although not at the pace seen in recent years. It is expected that total jobs in the winery industry will increase by 30, or just over 18 percent, be-

VITICULTURE — from the Latin word for *vine*, is the science, production and study of grapes which deals with the series of events that occur in the vineyard. When the grapes are used for winemaking, it is also known as viniculture. It is one branch of the science of horticulture.

tween now and 2020. Growth is expected to occur proportionately based on current winery industry job levels with the larger employing counties adding the majority of the new workers by 2020.

Winery Industry Jobs

by County for the Snake River Valley

Area	2010 Jobs	Current EPW	2010 LQ
Snake River Valley AVA	160	\$36,786	1.13
County			
Canyon, ID	71	\$29,346	3.12
Elmore, ID	42	\$43,268	9.69
Ada, ID	34	\$30,269	0.44
Baker, OR	<10	--	--
Twin Falls, ID	<10	--	--
Malheur, OR	<10	--	--
Owyhee, ID	<10	--	--
Payette, ID	<10	--	--

EPW-Annual earnings per worker.

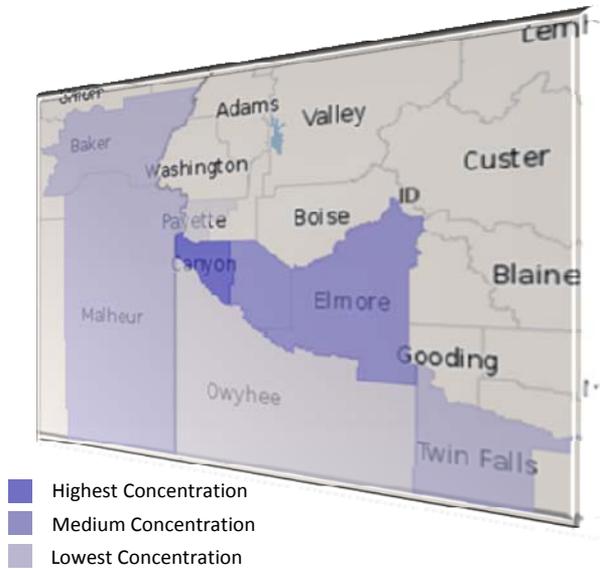
LQ-Location quotient is the ratio of specific sector jobs to all jobs in an economy compared to that ratio nationally.

INDUSTRY CONCENTRATION

The winery industry located in the Snake River Valley AVA maintains a location quotient of 1.13, meaning jobs in the winery industry within the region are 13 percent higher than what you would expect based on national employment levels. By 2020, this figure is expected to decrease to 0.97 as winery job growth eases through the next decade.

Elmore County boasts the largest LQ, maintaining nearly 10 times the number of jobs you would expect to find in the area compared to national levels. Canyon County maintains a significant LQ at 3.12. However, this is not surprising since seven of the 16 employers are in Canyon County.

Distribution of Winery Industry Employment



SHIFT SHARE

The job growth of the wine industry in the Snake River Valley can be attributed to three factors: national – the growth/decline of the national economy as a whole; industry mix – the growth/decline of the industry across the nation; and competitive effect – the growth/decline of the industry unique to a geographic area, such as the Snake River Valley. Over the last eight years, the Snake River Valley should have experienced job growth in the winery industry of 40 had it grown solely based on the growth of the national economy and the growth experienced across the nation in the winery industry. However, the Snake River Valley saw jobs increase by 105, 65 more than the 40 expected.

The 65 additional jobs above and beyond what was expected can be attributed to the unique geographic area and indicates the Snake River Valley was a hot spot for the winery industry during this period.

Over the next 10 years, growth is expected in response to national and industry specific growth. The geographic area's influence – competitive effect – is expected to restrain potential growth. However, the net result is still projected to be positive, resulting in an overall increase of 29 jobs to a total of 189 by 2020 in the Snake River Valley AVA.

It is important to note that projections for industries as small as the winery industry, which represents only three ten-thousandths (.0003) of total employment for the nation, carry large margins of error. Therefore, growth over the next 10 years may be more or less for the Snake River Valley AVA.

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Winery Industry Location Quotient Snake River Valley

County	2010 Location Quotient
Elmore, ID (16039)	9.69
Canyon, ID (16027)	3.12
Baker, OR (41001)	1.37
Owyhee, ID (16073)	1.34
Malheur, OR (41045)	0.63
Payette, ID (16075)	0.58
Ada, ID (16001)	0.44
Twin Falls, ID (16083)	0.25

EXPORTS SUSTAIN ECONOMY IN SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO

Exports play an integral role in the economy of south central Idaho as they do statewide and in the nation. But fluctuations in demand created by political disagreements, the ups and downs of currency exchange rates and public opinion and policy can contribute to instability.

Even so, it appears the recession has not adversely affected the number of countries buying products from Idaho. Halfway through 2010 exports seem to be having a robust year with the potential to outperform 2008. The following table shows the number of countries Idaho exports to and the corresponding year-to-date valuations.

Year	# Importers	Valuations	Lead Idaho Partner	Annual Average Broad Index US \$
2000	123	\$1,447,103,446	United Kingdom	119.45
2001	128	\$1,255,557,353	Singapore	125.91
2002	112	\$1,010,543,919	Canada	126.75
2003	124	\$ 964,406,342	Canada	119.28
2004	122	\$1,438,755,180	United Kingdom	113.63
2005	134	\$1,556,723,543	Canada	110.71
2006	123	\$1,759,812,360	Canada	108.52
2007	126	\$2,194,777,180	China	103.4
2008	138	\$2,584,488,932	Singapore	99.83
2009	135	\$1,663,352,870	Canada	105.87
2010	138	\$2,566,898,144	Canada	n.a.

Source: Federal Reserve Statistical Release and World Trade Statistics

The foreign exchange rate of the U.S. dollar was at its lowest point in 2008 (blue text), and Singapore took advantage to buy such products as computer chips from Idaho at the highest value in the last 10 years. Northern neighbor Canada has been the leading trading partner more than half of the last decade, also a consumer of Micron computer chips. Aircraft was another high item for Canada in 2010. Although county statistics are not available, the bulk of Idaho's exported dairy and trout industry products are from the south central region.

The value of Idaho dairy exports skyrocketed from 2004 to 2005, rising from \$4.9 million to \$19.2 million. Successive surges occurred in 2006 rising from \$21.2 million to \$40.5 million in 2007, then to \$92.4 million in 2008 – dropping back to \$36 million in 2009. The recession had hit the foreign markets that had been so receptive to milk imports but also 2008 was that period when the value of the U.S. dollar was at one of its lowest points highlighting the difference created by the currency exchange.

Dairy has its myriad of issues and roller coaster pricing, but it is a huge economic engine due to its export potential. The growth in global markets is highly dependent on the health of each trading partner's economy, as well as the pricing of barrel cheese on the Chicago Mercantile, which has worked to the advantage of the buyer over the last two years.

Trout has also seen its export base eroding due to the economy. Canada has been the sole importer in the first half of 2010. Previous years have shown Indonesia and Mexico as partners but insignificant dollar-wise. The following table shows the past few years of exports from Idaho in seafood and trout, confirming the tightening of belts worldwide.

Idaho Exports in US Dollars			
2008	2009	2010	% change from 2009
\$938,731	\$708,247	\$547,512	-22.69

The ups and downs of the export market can be fascinating to track, such as the volatility of the beef market earlier in the decade because of the mad cow disease uproar. Though Idaho operates a trade office in Mexico with a growing population of Mexican-born citizens in Idaho, it's surprising that Mexico is not one of the state's largest trade partners. However, the economy and the ability to purchase Idaho exports hinder these efforts, as well as competition from the border states of California and Arizona. Canada and Pacific Rim countries make up most of the top ten list of export partners for Idaho.

1. Canada
2. Singapore
3. Taiwan
4. China
5. Korean Republic
6. Japan
7. Malaysia
8. Hong Kong
9. Mexico
10. France

The state of Idaho sent trade missions to Asia, Mexico and Cuba over the past two years, and the Idaho Department of Commerce operates offices in China, Mexico and Taiwan. Exports bring in outside money providing fuel to fire up even more manufacturing and value-added natural resource development.

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Top 30 Countries Importing Dairy Products from ÆUÇ

	U.S. Dollar			% Share			% 10/09
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	
1 China	8,729,472	4,643,079	7,854,286	7.51	7.62	9.97	69.16
2 Indonesia	10,926,809	6,095,424	2,954,213	67.65	78.41	34.23	-51.53
3 Korean Republic	390,784	106,024	1,995,740	0.87	0.34	2.82	1,782.35
4 Japan	14,155,402	1,808,801	1,522,156	19.61	4.97	2.89	-15.85
5 Vietnam	837,755	211,199	1,456,897	22.58	38.15	64.46	589.82
6 Yemen	0	0	1,269,003			95.52	
7 Saudi Arabia	458,190	0	1,124,178	44.57	0	51.6	
8 Egypt	509,439	1,232,335	834,774	94.9	93.96	64.94	-32.26
9 Australia	956,959	0	507,556	7.8	0	8.73	
10 Mexico	633,000	1,043,072	454,350	1.84	2.55	1.23	-56.44
11 Malaysia	2,204,147	1,543,276	444,962	6.61	3.03	0.95	-71.17
12 Singapore	0	17,250	432,833	0	0.01	0.16	2,409.18
13 Belgium	646,535	481,564	267,398	20.49	50.15	42.15	-44.47
14 Trinidad & Tobago	217,976	202,642	220,107	88.93	63.14	89.06	8.62
15 Pakistan	55,900	96,438	218,814	28.5	100	17.96	126.9
16 Argentina	0	0	180,000	0	0	6.73	
17 Russia	0	0	170,187	0	0	32.44	
18 Jamaica	36,394	40,348	155,330	1.02	11.6	27.77	284.98
19 New Zealand	0	0	152,033	0	0	13.57	
20 Venezuela	386,172	0	139,895	44.89	0	48.66	
21 Peru	373,248	3,461	131,592	11.41	0.38	11.06	3,702.14
22 South Africa	0	0	119,107	0	0	8.64	
23 Guatemala	97,639	166,127	98,563	5.41	26.73	16.03	-40.67
24 Brazil	3,864,637	0	95,244	41.95	0	1.81	
25 Panama	0	12,788	63,185	0	3.64	15.21	394.1
26 Taiwan	204,519	20,200	52,660	0.2	0.04	0.03	160.69
27 Phillipines	942,474	216,013	47,050	1.1	2.67	0.55	-78.22
28 Thailand	3,842,002	551,994	31,760	27.7	9.06	0.43	-94.25
29 Hong Kong	0	0	25,868	0	0	0.05	
30 United Kingdom	0	5,150	12,874	0	0.02	0.06	149.98

POCATELLO METRO AREA OFFERS MULTILINGUAL JOB FORCE

In an increasingly competitive economic atmosphere that now spans the globe, communications is critical to success, and that means being able to talk to potential customers, clients or suppliers in something other than English.

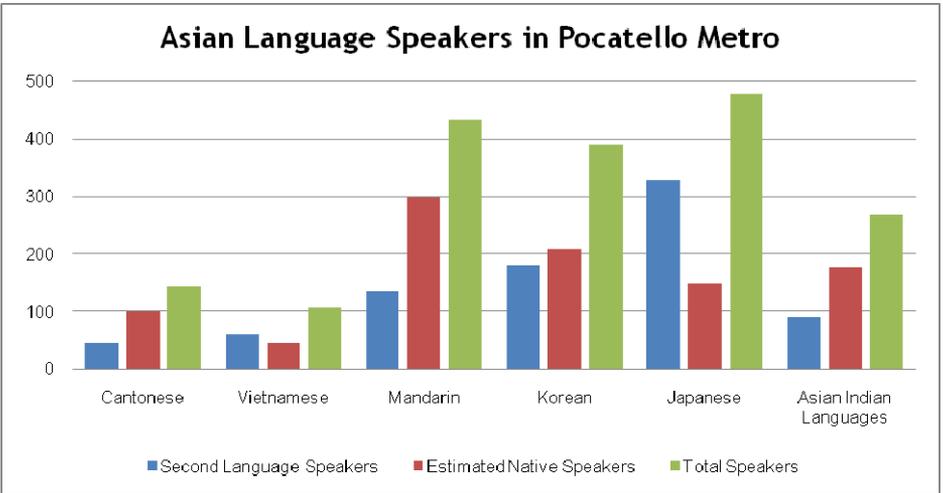
Jonathan Swift, a well known international business consultant, says the rise of the global economy has intensified the importance of executives and their employees to be multilingual.

Fortunately for southeastern Idaho, skills in foreign languages, particularly Asian languages, that are normally associated with major cities like San Francisco and New York are present in the Pocatello metropolitan area.

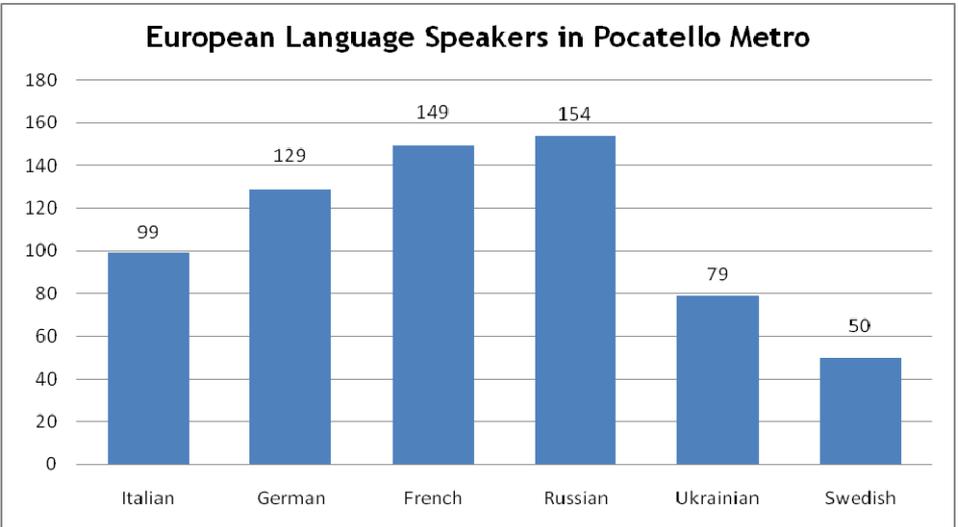
About 42,000 of the two-county Pocatello metro area – nearly half the population – are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, where it is typical to volunteer to do missionary work often overseas and early in life. About a third of all church members do.

That large Mormon population – including a high percentage of former missionaries – means a high number of workers are multilingual. Augmenting that group is the presence of Idaho State University, which draws students from across the globe.

By far the most prevalent language in the metro area after English is Spanish. An estimated 4,100 persons speak Spanish as a second language, and it is estimated that over 4,000 more speak Spanish as their primary language.



Source: US Census 2008 Population Estimates and the Association of Religion Data Archives



According to the 2000 Census only 376 residents of the Pocatello area were originally natives of European nations so a calculation of native speakers cannot be accurately made.

Surprisingly, however, nearly 2,000 people are fluent in the Asian languages commonly used in international trade and commerce.

But Asian languages are not the only foreign languages at home in the Pocatello area. Many European languages are also widely spoken.

The community's rich fabric of languages adds to Pocatello's vitality and culture. The area's collective language skills and low cost of living make it a logical center for international trade.

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AGRICULTURE HELPS STABILIZE SE IDAHO'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Today's focus on high technology and the benefits those jobs offer to local economies is understandable, but it would be a mistake to overlook the positive impact agriculture still has regionally.

In a 2000 study Yair Mundlak, a internationally renowned professor of agricultural economics and Director of Hebrew University's Center for Agricultural Economics Research, credited agriculture as being a key stabilizing force in an economy. Regardless of economic ups and downs, agriculture is always in demand simply because people need to eat.

Roger D. Norton, economic professor at the University of New Mexico, believes "agricultural growth is key to the expansion of an entire economy."

In mid-2010 only 3 percent of Idaho's unemployment claims were made by workers from the agriculture sector, and Bingham County's performance despite the recession's downward pull can be tied in large part to agriculture.

Four of Bingham County's five top industries are related directly to agriculture – crop and animal production; fruit and vegetable canning, pickling and drying; fresh fruit and vegetable merchant wholesalers; support activities for crop production. A conservative estimate of agriculture employment within the county is about 4,950, or nearly 24 percent of all jobs.

The county's heavy employment levels in agriculture are reflected in the unemployment rate. Bingham County's unemployment rate was 7.3 percent in June, a percentage point and half lower than the state rate.

Bingham County's low unemployment rate seems unrelated to the suspension of extended unemployment benefits in June and July, which appeared to convince some unemployed workers to drop out of the labor force. Instead of seeing its labor force contract, Bingham County showed an increase of over 200 workers from May to June while the number of unemployed fell nearly 3 percent.

From mid-2007 to mid-2010 agricultural employment in Bingham County grew by about 3 percent despite the recession. The strength and growth of agriculture in the county's economy helped greatly to curtail losses in other economic sectors within the county.

As the table on page 24 shows selected Bingham County industry sectors have outperformed the same sectors statewide during the recession. The stabilizing effect of agriculture has generally spurred growth greater than the state average or kept employment losses below the state averages.

Bingham County is not the only example of agriculture's positive economic impact in Idaho. Among others Oneida County, which has over last few months enjoyed one of the state's lowest unemployment rates, has just over 33 percent of its labor force in the agricultural and natural resources sector.

Franklin County, which like Oneida County posts unemployment rates well below the state rate of 8.8 percent, has just over 25 percent of its work force in agriculture and natural resources.

Percentage Change in Jobs 2007-2010		
Sector	Idaho	Bingham County
Construction	-28%	-17%
Retail Trade	-7%	-2%
Wholesale Trade	-6%	2%
Real Estate	3%	12%
Transportation	-1%	6%

Source EMSI - Measuring Second Quarter Employment in 2007 and 2010

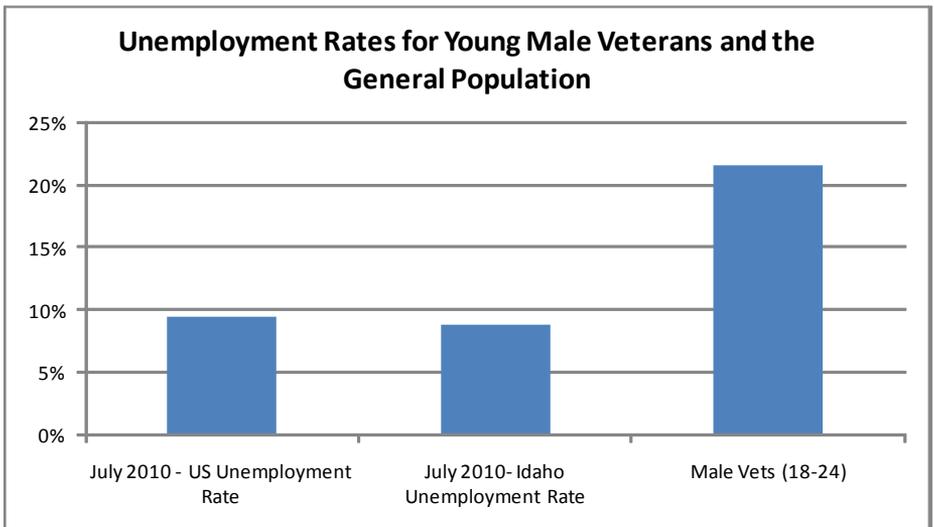
Other factors such as the recent growth at Bingham Memorial Hospital, Premier Technologies and the employment provided by the Idaho National Laboratory have aided the economy of Bingham County. But the significant presence of agriculture has lessened the recession’s blow in Bingham County by adding economic stability.

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YOUNG MALE VETERANS STRUGGLE TO FIND EMPLOYMENT

A new U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics study has provided some shocking information – 21.6 percent of male veterans between 18-24 years of age who served during the Second Gulf War are unemployed. That compares to a national unemployment rate in July of 9.5 percent and a state rate of 8.8 percent.

According to the federal study, half of the nation’s 22.2 million veterans are 55 or older and just 1.9 million of them have served since 2001.



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, March 12, 2010, report.

The high unemployment rate among young male veterans may be tied to age as opposed to veteran’s status, Phillip Rones, deputy commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, told Congress earlier this year. Rones said the unemployment rate for young male veterans is “slightly higher than for male non-veterans of the same age.”

Rones dispelled the common myth that combat related disability hampers many veterans in finding work. While any disability is a hardship, Rones said that the unemployment rate for Gulf War Era I & II veterans with disabilities

was 10.4 percent, which is only slightly higher than the current national unemployment rate for all Americans.

It is somewhat ironic that many young veterans are have such difficulty finding work when they were enticed into the military over the past decade with campaigns touting the benefits of military training

David Henderson, the director of the Military Officers of America Placement Service who wrote “Job Search: Marketing Your Military Experience” in 2007, contends that military training makes veterans highly competitive for civilian jobs, and he is not alone. Ron Tapia, local veterans employment representative for the Idaho Department of Labor’s Pocatello office and a former Marine, calls military training valuable, especially the “discipline, leadership and management skills.”

In fact, much of the military recruitment campaigns in the last decade have emphasized the benefits of military training and the good career opportunities former service members would have due to that training. Yet they still struggle to find employment.

But Tapia also agrees with Henderson that “many veterans do not know how to present their military related skills and abilities to potential employers.” One of Tapia’s jobs at the Idaho Department of Labor is to help vets understand and express their value to an employer. Tapia provides access to other services for vets including employment information, vocational guidance, training programs and information on and referrals to services offered by other agencies.

The Idaho Department of Labor also has consultants focused on veterans services – like Tapia – in its local offices in Idaho Falls, Twin Falls, Boise, Meridian, Canyon County, Lewiston, Sandpoint and Coeur d’Alene. The department is committed to aiding the career success of veterans, and Tapia encourages all veterans to take advantage of the services.

“If you are a veteran, there is a good chance there is program we have access to which will bring you added opportunities in employment or other benefits,” Tapia said.

To find out the many services and job search assistance available to veterans, contact the Idaho Department of Labor or check out the website at <http://labor.idaho.gov>. Select *Job Seekers*, then *Veterans*.

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REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT CONCENTRATION IN EASTERN IDAHO

The recession has put some truth to the old saw “don’t put all your eggs in one basket.” It has demonstrated that when the economic basket falls, the fallout depends on the kind of eggs in it and what the basket is made of.

Between 2007 and 2009 only five out of 22 Idaho employment sectors saw an increase in employment at the state level – agriculture, utilities, education services, health care and government. Only government and health care reported positive growth for each of the six regions of the state. With a new budget and decreased tax receipts, 2010 will take its toll on government employment. During the course of the recession health care grew between 3.2 percent and 9.8 percent across the six regions of Idaho. Statewide, health care grew by 7.2 percent. Is this the basket where all the eggs should be? No, but without it the economy would likely be in worse condition.

Slightly over 47 percent of Idaho employment is concentrated in five sectors, and regionally ranged from 47 percent to 59 percent. The most concentrated region was north central Idaho and the least was southwestern Idaho.

Sector Concentration	Top 5 Sectors		Top 3 Sectors		Counties Below State Unemployment Rate
	% of Employment	2007-2009 Change	% of Employment	2007-2009 Change	
East Central	50%	-2.4%	34%	3.3%	7 of 9
Southeast	53%	0.0%	37%	-2.9%	7 of 7
North	49%	-10.3%	33%	-4.6%	0 of 5
North Central	59%	0.8%	41%	-3.2%	3 of 5
South Central	49%	0.3%	32%	-6.9%	6 of 8
Southwest	47%	-5.9%	31%	-5.4%	2 of 10
State	47%	-4.9%	31%	-8.9%	25 of 44

It appears that higher unemployment rates and lower employment growth is not really a function of how densely concentrated the region is but what sectors the region is concentrated in. East central Idaho is highly concentrated in professional, scientific and technical services – providing 13 percent of the region’s jobs. This sector includes many nuclear services jobs. Given that, the region’s eggs should be nuclear and the basket lined with lead – creating a very stable employment platform during economically difficult times. However, employment in east central Idaho decreased by over 7 percent since the start of the recession. See page 27 for a table showing employment changes by region and industry.

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Check out the Idaho Department of Labor’s **Calendar of Events** online, listing job fairs, workshops and gatherings for your area or across the state. Many features allow you to view what suits you. It’s on our website at <http://labor.idaho.gov>.

Idaho Department of Labor

IDAHO Department of Labor
Calendar of Events

Home Advanced Search List View Local Office Map Contact Us ▶

Calendar View **Statewide Events** All Categories

By Region: Statewide By Local Office: Region: All Office: All Year: 2010 Month: September

Start Date	Office	Name	Details
9/1/2010	Boise	Job Search Workshop	View
9/1/2010	Pocatello	"Let's Talk" Workshop Community Resources	View
9/1/2010	Rexburg	Job Search Workshop	View
9/1/2010	Salmon	Job Search Workshop	View
9/1/2010	Sandpoint	Job Club	View
9/2/2010	Blackfoot	Job Search Workshop	View
9/2/2010	Blackfoot	Job Search Workshop/Spanish	View
9/2/2010	Boise	WIA Orientation	View
9/2/2010	Meridian	Job Search Workshop	View
9/2/2010	Meridian	WIA Orientation	View
9/3/2010	Canyon County	Job Seekers Networking Group	View
9/3/2010	Southwest	"Business to Business" Early Bird Breakfast	View
9/6/2010	Blackfoot	Labor Day - Office Closed	View
9/6/2010	Statewide	Labor Day Holiday	View
9/7/2010	Boise	Uncovering Job Opportunities through Social Media Networking	View
9/7/2010	Canyon County	Workforce Investment Act & Trade Act Information Orientation	View
9/7/2010	Idaho Falls	Application and Interview Workshop	View
9/8/2010	Boise	Job Search Workshop	View
9/8/2010	Bonnars Ferry	WIA Information Workshop	View
9/8/2010	Grangeville	WIA Orientation	View

1 2 3 4

Employment Changes by Region and Industry

	East Central		Southeastern		Northern		North Central		South Central		Southwestern		State	
	% of Employment	2007-2009 Change												
11-Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	3.0%	7.4%	3.8%	-0.3%	1.4%	-32.2%	2.0%	-21.8%	11.7%	2.1%	2.4%	9.8%	3.6%	0.9%
21-Mining	0.5%	18.0%	0.8%	-27.1%	1.0%	-15.1%	0.4%	-22.2%	0.2%	-28.0%	0.1%	-34.6%	0.4%	-18.0%
22-Utilities	0.3%	-1.1%	0.4%	-8.3%	0.8%	0.4%	0.4%	-2.9%	0.6%	-2.4%	0.4%	6.1%	0.5%	1.2%
23-Construction	5.8%	-33.5%	5.3%	-21.4%	7.4%	-30.1%	4.2%	-18.3%	5.8%	-28.0%	5.5%	-39.7%	5.7%	-33.8%
30-Manufacturing	5.2%	-19.3%	11.4%	-3.8%	9.3%	-13.4%	8.7%	-9.5%	10.0%	-3.9%	9.1%	-25.3%	8.9%	-17.4%
42-Wholesale Trade	6.3%	-5.1%	4.6%	-2.9%	2.4%	-4.0%	2.3%	-7.5%	4.2%	-1.8%	4.3%	-10.8%	4.3%	-6.9%
44-Retail Trade	7.7%	-10.2%	7.8%	-6.0%	9.1%	-8.7%	9.2%	-5.2%	8.0%	-7.8%	7.4%	-15.5%	7.9%	-11.2%
45-Retail Trade	4.9%	-2.0%	4.1%	-3.4%	6.3%	-7.3%	3.9%	-8.9%	4.1%	-0.3%	4.6%	-1.8%	4.7%	-3.3%
48-Passenger, Freight Transport and Pipeline	2.2%	-2.0%	1.9%	-3.4%	1.7%	-7.3%	2.3%	-8.9%	3.9%	-0.3%	2.0%	-1.8%	2.3%	-3.3%
49-Postal, Courier Transport and Warehousing	0.9%	-5.6%	1.1%	1.8%	0.7%	-11.2%	1.1%	-14.4%	1.1%	2.3%	1.1%	-6.2%	1.0%	-5.0%
51-Information	2.0%	3.5%	1.3%	-28.6%	1.5%	-14.1%	1.7%	-12.3%	1.6%	-1.1%	1.8%	-5.7%	1.7%	-7.1%
52-Finance and Insurance	2.4%	-8.2%	3.2%	-7.6%	3.6%	8.7%	4.1%	-6.7%	2.4%	-7.3%	3.8%	-6.3%	3.4%	-5.3%
53-Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1.2%	-10.1%	0.9%	-11.5%	1.3%	-18.2%	0.9%	-13.6%	1.2%	-5.1%	1.3%	-22.6%	1.2%	-17.5%
54-Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	13.0%	-7.6%	2.6%	-8.4%	4.0%	-9.4%	2.5%	7.8%	3.5%	1.4%	4.5%	-6.9%	5.2%	-5.6%
55-Management of Companies and Enterprises	0.2%	7.0%	0.6%	-1.2%	0.5%	-18.7%	0.8%	-22.5%	0.4%	-1.6%	1.8%	-16.0%	1.1%	-14.4%
56-Administrative and Support	4.9%	7.0%	5.1%	-1.2%	5.1%	-18.7%	1.7%	-22.5%	4.8%	-1.6%	8.1%	-16.0%	6.2%	-14.4%
61-Educational Services	9.2%	6.5%	12.7%	-2.0%	7.0%	-0.9%	17.1%	3.8%	8.1%	2.4%	8.2%	3.8%	9.1%	2.8%
62-Health Care and Social Assistance	12.3%	3.2%	13.0%	9.8%	13.8%	8.1%	15.0%	5.1%	10.8%	3.4%	13.3%	8.8%	12.9%	7.2%
71-Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1.0%	-18.8%	1.4%	0.1%	4.0%	3.3%	1.7%	-3.2%	1.2%	0.8%	1.4%	-5.6%	1.7%	-3.6%
72-Accommodation and Food Services	7.8%	-3.0%	7.8%	-3.7%	9.9%	-11.0%	8.8%	-5.1%	8.3%	-2.6%	8.1%	-9.7%	8.3%	-7.5%
81-Other Services (except Public Administration)	2.6%	-0.9%	2.3%	2.3%	2.5%	-5.9%	2.5%	-2.5%	2.7%	-2.4%	2.8%	-3.1%	2.7%	-2.6%
92-Public Administration	6.6%	5.9%	7.9%	0.6%	6.8%	4.5%	8.8%	1.0%	5.4%	4.5%	7.8%	4.9%	7.2%	4.1%

*Bolted numbers show top five sectors for each region. Dark blue shaded rows are sectors with double digit declines at the state level.



Area and County Developments

Nonfarm jobs data for the state and labor market areas are posted on the department's labor marketing information Web site at <http://lmi.idaho.gov/EmploymentUnemployment/IdahoNonfarmJobs/tabid/760/Default.aspx>.

NORTHERN IDAHO

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai & Shoshone counties

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- MC Energy LLC, a Spokane Valley company that currently contracts out production of small-scale wind turbines for farms and rural homes, plans to build its own plant in the next year and boost payroll from five to as many as 35 employees. The MC turbines are “downwind,” meaning the rotors are in the back. In strong winds, the three blades fold into a shape like a badminton shuttlecock to maintain an optimal rotation of 150 revolutions per minute.
- Avista Corp. plans to spend \$29 million this year, 60 percent more than normal, on information systems, technology and cybersecurity. It will replace mountaintop communications towers, upgrade accounting systems and implement disaster recovery plans. The work is due partly to external regulatory pressures and partly to company initiatives to cut operating costs and improve reliability and customer service.
- Foreclosures in Spokane County almost tripled in June compared to 2009, and while the numbers in Kootenai County and Idaho have stabilized, they are at levels above the national average. The 139 foreclosures in Spokane represented one of every 1,420 homes compared with Kootenai County, where 220 homes were foreclosed or one of every 273. The overall state rate, one of 285, placed Idaho eighth among the states. During the first six months of 2010, 675 Spokane homes were foreclosed or received notices of foreclosure. The total for Kootenai County was 1,011.
- Community Colleges of Spokane is seeking \$4 million in federal funds for a new Aerospace and Technology Center for Spokane Community College's aviation maintenance technology program, Spokane Falls Community College's flight training program and a new aerospace apprenticeship program. The center will also be an option for aerospace companies to train their employees through customized programs. Ten faculty and staff will man the center, training 100 aerospace workers each year.

BENEWAH COUNTY

- Plummer Senior Citizens recently received a \$500 grant from the Idaho Community Foundation to purchase a new dishwasher for the senior meal site. Plummer Senior Citizens provides low cost meals to persons over 60 every Tuesday and Friday at the meal site adjacent to Plummer City Hall.

BONNER COUNTY

- Super 1 Foods had a grand opening for its new store in Sandpoint. The 54,000 square-foot store is open 24-7 and employs 107. Most of them are from the immediate area.

- Another longtime downtown retailer is succumbing to the recession and competition amid perceptions that buying locally costs more than shopping at the big box stores or online. The Inkwel has been a downtown Sandpoint fixture for the last 35 years. At one time, the Inkwel also had locations in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston and Spokane with a payroll of 80. Lewiston and Spokane were closed, and Sandpoint and Coeur d'Alene served as distribution points. The 12 current employees, most longtime Inkwel workers, will be laid off when the Sandpoint and Coeur d'Alene stores close.
- The Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce has a new president and chief executive. Kate McAlister, a former employee of Itron in Spokane, brings more than 20 years of corporate program development and marketing experience to the chamber.
- The Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce gave Laughing Dog Brewing the Business of the Month award for its exemplary service and generosity to the community. Laughing Dog Brewery opened in August 2005 and sells its beer in 22 states.

BOUNDARY COUNTY

- Idaho's State Training and Registry System gave Teddy Bear Daycare a \$10,000 grant to improve its playground to help children explore their imagination, creativity and learning opportunities. There will be a garden and small orchard with fruit trees, which the children will help grow and harvest. The site will include a creek, lots of wildflowers, shade trees and bird feeders to attract different species of birds.

KOOTENAI COUNTY

- Esterline has cut the ribbon on its 54,000 square-foot addition. The Coeur d'Alene keyboard manufacturing company, founded in 1977 as Advanced Input Devices in Post Falls, has grown to more than 300 employees. Esterline, which bought the business in 1999, is an international manufacturer of products for the aerospace and defense industries.
- A Korean company has licensed Blue Water Technologies' phosphorous-removal system and will manufacture it there, paying Blue Water royalties. The Hayden company removes phosphorus from wastewater by filtering it through absorbent chemically-coated sand. The coating rubs off of the sand as it collects phosphorus, and the sand, clean water and phosphorus-laden dirty water then are separated by density. Blue Water has 25 employees and anticipates hiring another six to 10 in 2011. The company projects its revenue will increase by 25 percent to about \$4 million this year before rising another 50 percent in 2011.
- Whitewater Creek Inc., an affiliate of Tullamore Seniors LLC in Hayden, has received building permits from the city of Post Falls for nine one-story low-income apartments with four to six units each and a one-story community center.
- Hospice of North Idaho has broken ground on the region's first hospice. The project is expected to be completed by next spring. The house in Coeur d'Alene will have rooms for 12 terminally ill patients, whose care can no longer be sustained at home. The house will offer gardens, a meditation room, kitchen and living area for families and a round-the-clock staff of doctors, nurses, social workers and volunteers. Hospice raised \$3.7 million for the project through community donations.
- Thanks to a year-long fundraising campaign by local businesses, United Way of Kootenai County handed out \$160,000 in grants to 24 local non-

profits and \$115,000 in individual grants to some nonprofits. Donors included Kootenai Health, which brought in more than \$35,000; US Bank, which raised \$76,000; and Costco, which raised \$81,000. Grant recipients included Big Brothers Big Sisters, TESH Inc., Idaho Drug Free Youth, Dirne Health, Panhandle Autism Society, ElderHelp of North Idaho and the Area Agency on Aging. United Way focused this year on organizations that help children, seniors, family and community well being and health care access.

- Developers of the North Idaho STEM Community Charter School, which will emphasize science, technology, engineering and mathematics, are seeking approval of the charter by the Idaho Public Charter School Commission in Boise. If approved, the school will open in September 2011 and become the third charter school in Kootenai County. It will be located in Rathdrum although the facilities plans have not yet been finalized.

SHOSHONE COUNTY

- Hecla Mining Co. opened an office in Idaho's Silver Valley to keep local residents abreast of future expansions at the Lucky Friday Mine and the company's role in environmental cleanup in the area. A \$150 million to \$200 million expansion of the mine is under consideration. It would allow the company to access silver deposits below the existing workings. Hecla's corporate offices were located in Wallace until 1986, when the company moved its headquarters to Coeur d'Alene.
- Due to a difficult economy and a tight budget, two parks in the Silver Valley will close on selected days to conserve operating costs – Gene Day Park in Osburn and West Shoshone Park in Pinehurst. The gates will be closed each Monday through August, and each Monday and Tuesday in September, as the county attempts to stay within budget on staffing and operating costs.
- Silver Needle Inc. of Kellogg, which for 32 years has been making protective gear and accessories for workers in smelting, mining and logging, has earned a women-owned business certificate, a qualified HUBZone certification and a Lean Knowledge certificate. The company is entering the Dupont Trademark Licensing Program after patenting its flash suit.

[Link to nonfarm job data.](#)

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NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO

Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce counties

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- Harvest is running a couple of weeks later than normal this year. Wheat growers in Asotin and Nez Perce counties began July 18, two weeks later than the normal start on July 4. Grain growers at higher elevations also are expected to begin harvest about two weeks later than normal. Harvest should be in full swing on the Palouse and the Camas and Weippe prairies by Aug. 20. Spring rains delayed the growth of most crops, and some fields suffered from stripe rust because of the delay. Wheat prices hovered around \$4.90 a bushel in the first week in July, up from \$4.75 in the same week the year before. Then, a drought and fires in Russia pushed wheat future prices to \$6.94 by Aug. 6. Not only are prices looking good, but this year's above-average rainfall boosted wheat yields, which are projected to

be 15 percent to 20 percent higher than normal. Later harvests make crops more vulnerable to hail, which caused damage to some fields on the Camas Prairie and the White Bird area in early August. Haying was also delayed by the rainy weather by as much as a month in many areas. The delay caused alfalfa to have low feed value and poor appearance.

- Idaho Department of Labor Director Roger Madsen held listening sessions for businesses in Lewiston July 19 and in Kamiah the next day. “We’re your employees. We want you to know we’re listening,” Madsen told the groups. “We are here to help you hire, retain and retrain employees.” Local employers discussed their concerns about the local work force, the skills their workers need to help their businesses succeed and the ways they are coping with the economic downturn. In Lewiston, one employer complained about the increase in unemployment insurance tax rates caused by the tremendous surge in unemployment in the last two years. In Kamiah, where businesses from Orofino, Kooskia and Kamiah met with Madsen, some complained that many job applicants do not seem to know how to follow directions in the hiring process including filling out job applications appropriately. The department offers instruction and mentoring to job applicants, and it provides services for employers to help screen applicants to check their skills compared with those needed for a particular job. Leandra Burns, the department’s business service coordinator, previewed a new business service program that will be introduced soon. “We’re going to have four regional experts covering the state. Our local offices will identify a business that needs special assistance, and the regional expert will coordinate with the business to identify its needs. Then, the local office manager will assemble a team to work directly with the business to solve its problems, bringing in help from other state agencies or schools when necessary. We would serve as an extension of your human resources.” In Lewiston, Madsen also met with job seekers, who asked questions about unemployment benefits and job search. The bottom line, Madsen said, is that the department is here to help job seekers and employers find each other.

CLEARWATER COUNTY

- Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter made Pierce Idaho’s capital for a day Aug. 4. The governor, accompanied by several state agency directors, answered questions from the crowd, and then he rode in a horse-drawn wagon to the old Pierce Courthouse. On the courthouse steps, the governor made a proclamation celebrating Pierce’s sesquicentennial and the city’s crucial role in Idaho history. Pierce was the first place in Idaho where gold was discovered. The ensuing gold rush made Pierce a boomtown, and it became Idaho’s first incorporated city in 1860.
- During Capital for a Day, Maj. Gen. Gary Saylor, commander of the Idaho National Guard, announced that Pierce is the best location for a boot camp-style program for high school dropouts. If approved by the U.S. Department of Defense, the Guard’s Youth Challenge Program would bring about 60 new jobs to the area. An old school in Pierce would be renovated to provide dormitory accommodations for 100 students ranging in age from 16 to 18. Two classes, each starting with a two-week camp and then lasting five more months, would be held annually. Students would be required to do 60 hours of community service. Youth Challenge participants would have to volunteer for the program, which stresses discipline, teamwork, physical fitness and leadership. When they complete the program, students would receive a diploma from the local school district. Idaho should receive word of the Department of Defense’s decision before the

end of the year. Once approved, it probably would take 12 more months to renovate the school and hire and train the staff.

- Since Potlatch closed the Jaype mill in 2000, the Pierce-Weippe area has struggled with the long-term loss of forest product jobs. Its population fell between 2000 and 2005. Long-term prospects for the area look much brighter, as retirees are discovering what a great place it is to live and as small innovative businesses are growing there. Residents also have learned to look for work outside their community. Of the 470 payroll workers living in the Pierce-Weippe area in 2008, fewer than 100 had jobs in the area. The rest worked in Orofino, Lewiston, Clarkston, Kamiah and other places. The Pierce-Weippe area's largest private employers include the Empire Lumber mill; Barlow Truss manufacturing plant; Maki Manufacturing, which fabricates and repairs logging equipment; Recognition Express, making personalized promotional items, signs, banners and name-tags; and Creative Gifts, a silk screen and embroidery business that fills orders from all over Idaho for personalized clothing, team uniforms, signs and gift baskets. Located in the Clearwater National Forest, Pierce offers an exciting array of outdoor recreational opportunities – big game hunting, fishing, hiking, ATV trails, downhill and cross-country skiing, snowmobiling and camping. History buffs love to visit Pierce and Weippe, where the Lewis and Clark expedition first encountered the Nez Perce Tribe. Local tourist facilities include the Weippe Discovery Center; J. Howard Bradbury Logging Museum; the Gold Rush Historic Byway; Bald Mountain Ski Area; and Cedar Inn Restaurant & Miners Shanty, which also rents cabins and gold prospecting supplies.

IDAHO AND LEWIS COUNTIES

- Framing Our Community, an Elk City organization dedicated to economic development and forest restoration, is running a work experience program for the second summer in row. Eleven teens are learning work skills – including basic workplace habits, surveying, data entry, water monitoring and basic carpentry – while they help the community. This summer, the Youth Corps is improving aquatic and wildlife habitat, building trails, renovating the organization's office and creating defensible space around private residences to protect them from wildfires. Fire is a major threat to Elk City, a community of about 500 people surrounded by 2.2 million acres of national forest.
- Prescriptive Livestock Services began renting goats 10 years ago, after owner Ray Holes saw how well they controlled yellow star thistle on his ranch near White Bird. Each Boer goat eats about 3½ pounds of vegetation a day, preferring invasive weeds like knapweed, tansy and St. John's wort. This summer, Heyburn State Park near Plummer is using federal stimulus dollars to rent 540 goats to control noxious weeds. The company's goats also have significantly reduced yellow star thistle on grazing allotments in the Nez Perce National Forest. Prescriptive Livestock Services is the largest contract grazing company in the Pacific Northwest. Its herd contains more than 6,500 goats that are sent on targeted grazing projects from the Oregon coast to Wyoming. It also sells nanny goats for other farmers' herds and goats for slaughter.
- Federal stimulus money financed a startup business to gain a foothold in a tough economy. Soon after Ken Geis opened LiveWire Electric in Cottonwood last year, he bid on a stimulus-funded project to rewire the five-building Bureau of Land Management complex in Cottonwood. Winning the contract allowed him to pay off some debts and hire two apprentice electricians. The BLM complex was built in the late 1950s as residential housing

for an Air Force radar station on the Cottonwood Butte. After the Air Force left, the BLM acquired the buildings in 1974, when it opened the Cottonwood field office. No significant electrical work had been done since they were built, so modern office equipment and electronics strained the obsolete system. The Cottonwood office currently employs 26.

- A small fencing company in Grangeville also benefited from stimulus funds. AMJA Inc. won a \$41,042 contract from the Bureau of Land Management to replace a 60-year old fence on Noon Creek in the newly created North Fork Owyhee Wilderness. AMJA has worked on 20 different BLM fencing projects in Nevada and Idaho so it brought considerable expertise to the challenges of steep, rugged terrain and the requirement to carry new materials in and old materials out without vehicles. Owner J3sus Ramirez has designed a special apparatus specifically for carrying fencing materials on a heavy-duty backpack frame with detachable parts for holding spools of fencing wire or for carrying fence posts. AMJA built almost four and a half miles of fence in about one month. The new fence effectively keeps in domestic animals grazing there but allows elk, deer and other wildlife to pass safely over or under it. In addition, it can be laid down easily in winter allowing wildlife movement between habitats.
- The Payette National Forest is using \$1.2 million in stimulus funds to widen and surface portions of Warren Wagon Road in Idaho County this summer. Completion is set for mid-September. Another stimulus project in the Payette is reconditioning Goose Lake Road that stretches between Idaho and Adams counties. Both projects include adding and improving culverts and concrete barriers.
- Federal special education funds and creative thinking helped Mountain View School District restore three positions for the school year that begins in August. Trustees kept 1.5 positions at Clearwater Valley Elementary School and one at Grangeville Elementary-Middle School. One-half position was also paid for by the Nez Perce Tribe to help maintain all-day, every day kindergarten at Clearwater Valley.
- Kamiah's Three Rivers Mill, closed since November 2008, is reopening as Blue North Forest Products. The mill's new owner currently is hiring 60 people to work there when it begins production in mid-August.
- Idaho and Lewis counties learned they would receive federal assistance to repair damage to roads and infrastructure caused by flooding in early June. The Federal Emergency Management Agency announced July 27 that the president had approved Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter's request for federal disaster assistance for the counties of Adams, Gem, Idaho, Lewis, Payette, Valley and Washington. Preliminary assessments indicate Idaho County suffered more than \$3 million in flood-related damages to public roads. Road repair costs exceed 2.5 times the county's annual road repair and maintenance budget. For this reason, county officials said federal assistance was required to return roads to their pre-flood condition. In Lewis County, heavy rains triggered landslides and washed out parts of a few roads, causing about \$100,000 in damage. Following this week's declaration, FEMA will pay 75 percent of approved costs while the state of Idaho and the local jurisdiction will share the remaining 25 percent.
- St. Mary's Hospital in Cottonwood plans to turn its Grangeville physical therapy center into a full medical clinic by September. Three days a week, doctors and nurse practitioners will see patients. On the other two days, the clinic will offer regular diabetes counseling and complementary health services such as massage therapy and blood draws. St. Mary's runs other clinics in Cottonwood, Craigmont, Kamiah and Nezperce.

- The Payette National Forest will reduce domestic sheep grazing 70 percent to protect wild bighorn sheep from diseases carried by domestic sheep. The number of acres where ranchers can graze their domestic sheep and goats will fall from 100,000 acres to 31,500 acres by 2013. According to a Forest Service analysis, more than 10,000 wild bighorn sheep roamed Hells Canyon a century ago. Today, only 850 remain. Ranchers in the Riggins area say the grazing reductions could lead to the loss of 28 jobs. The Idaho Wool Growers Association says the restrictions will put at least two of the four ranchers using the Payette forest out of business. Forest Supervisor Suzanne Rainville said, "If habitat for bighorn sheep populations is provided, the unique nature of bighorn sheep hunts, the demand for bighorn sheep permits, their cultural importance to tribes and increasing popularity of nature-based tourism suggest that the role bighorn sheep play in local recreation economies could remain stable or increase."

LATAH COUNTY

- GoNano Technologies, the Moscow developer of environmentally friendly nanosprings for catalytic processing and energy storage, recently received a \$147,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to continue developing carbon capture and recovery technology. GoNano's patent-pending nanotechnology transforms carbon dioxide from a waste product into valuable chemicals such as methanol, formic acid and formaldehyde. It's a cost-effective way that greenhouse gas emitters can turn their emissions into valuable commodities. GoNano expects that eventually it will be running a manufacturing plant in the Moscow area making nanosprings for a variety of commercial applications.
- Another technology transfer company, Diligent Inc., recently was hailed by Seattle Business magazine as the Washington small manufacturer of the year. The Pullman-based company was founded in 2000 by Washington State University electrical engineering professors Clint Cole and Gene Epperson. Today, it has 25 employees in Pullman, and another 20 or so in Romania, China and Taiwan. Its circuit boards convert a virtual software design into the real thing allowing students and industry to test products. Diligent builds low-cost kits that make it easy to troubleshoot problems. It sells to more than 1,000 universities around the world and many leading technology companies. Diligent is also exploring new ideas such as a device for analog engineering that does what its circuit boards did for digital engineering. "Diligent is one of many companies that have come out of Washington State University's thriving research environment," said Candis Claiborn, dean of the College of Engineering and Architecture. "It is one of many examples of the real impact that our engineering and architecture alumni, teachers and researchers have on our state's economy and quality of life."
- A \$1.2 million grant from the Micron Technology Foundation will help the University of Idaho research a major economic problem and develop solutions. Idaho, like the nation, is falling behind in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Idaho's global competitiveness depends on convincing more young Idahoans to enter these fields. The university will conduct a four-year statewide study of ways to motivate students to pursue STEM careers. Through focus groups and interviews with teachers, parents and other interested parties throughout the state, researchers will identify barriers to learning in STEM fields. Then they will share what they learn with schools and existing programs to encourage interest in mathematics and science through the sharing of data.

- TerraGraphics, an environmental engineering firm based in Moscow, has cleaned up the pollutants left behind by mining and other industrial operations from Idaho's Silver Valley to Africa. It grew from a small home office in 1984 to a firm with more than 100 employees and satellite offices in Boise, Helena, Kellogg, Las Vegas and Spokane Valley. It offers risk assessment and management, GIS mapping and analysis, environmental site assessment, superfund and brownfield cleanup and resource planning. This year, TerraGraphics has been helping solve a major health crisis in Nigeria. The global demand for gold had spurred many of Nigeria's poor farmers to start small mining operations, and they dragged lead and other contaminants back to their family compounds where their wives and children processed the ore. Hundreds of people, including many children, have fallen ill or died in the last two years. Blacksmith Institute, an international aid group that focuses on cleaning up pollution, turned to TerraGraphics for help. After three months on the job, TerraGraphics has organized the cleanup of 160 compounds in two villages. The company is now working with the United Nations and the World Health Organization to secure funding to clean at least five more villages starting in September.
- The University of Idaho opened a new north entrance to the campus in July. The new entrance and the \$1.5 million extension of Stadium Drive resulted from collaboration between the university, the city of Moscow and the Idaho Transportation Department. Two-thirds of the funding for the \$1.5 million project came from the Idaho Transportation Department with the city and the university paying the balance. Requiring two new bridges and a new traffic signal, the project was designed to funnel students who live north of the highway – whether walking, on bikes or in vehicles – into safe crossing zones. The university has been acquiring land along its northern border that used to be a major railroad corridor to prevent development contrary to its campus master plan and its philosophy of environmental sustainability. Keeping the area locked away from new buildings is expected to actually stimulate further economic development across the highway by creating a more pleasing, natural aesthetic. The new campus entrance ties in with the \$3.8 million restoration of Paradise Creek by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The corps will reroute the waterway near its original bed north of the student recreation center.

NEZ PERCE AND ASOTIN COUNTIES

- The city of Lapwai and the Nez Perce Tribe broke ground in July on a wastewater treatment plant near Lapwai that has been in the works for more than 13 years. The \$6 million project, expected to begin operating next year, will serve 4,500 Lapwai Valley residents. About \$4.5 million will be spent on construction with another \$1.5 million providing 30 miles of pipes and interceptors from Spalding to Sweetwater. The state-of-the-art plant will replace the city's present lagoon system that has been near capacity for some time. The plant will accommodate the expected growth in the Lapwai area.
- Clearwater Paper, Lewiston's largest employer, is outsourcing seven full-time jobs from its accounts payable and receivable department to India. Another three positions will move to the company's headquarters in Spokane. The transition should be completed in October. Some of the Lewiston employees are applying for jobs in Spokane or accepting early retirement. All have the opportunity for severance packages and free job counseling. The company's employment in Lewiston will remain around 1,600 because it currently is filling some vacant positions and adding new ones. The company earned \$20.6 million in the second quarter of 2010. Sales of consumer tissue products including house-brand toilet paper increased

4.3 percent compared with the same quarter last year while sales of paperboard – used by a variety of businesses to package products – increased 14.9 percent.

- Asotin County, Wash., will ban motorized boats on the Grand Ronde River between Sept. 15 and March 15, but making exceptions for law enforcement, emergency responders and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife workers. Anglers, crowding the banks and wading into the river when the steelhead are running in the fall and winter, have been endangered by jet boats.
- The Lewis-Clark Early Childhood Program broke ground in July for the Chestnut Street Early Head Start Center near the alternative school in Clarkston. The \$1.3 million center, funded by federal stimulus funds, should be completed by the end of the year. It will offer programs to pregnant teens and their children under 3 years old in Asotin and Nez Perce counties. Nearly 20 people will work there.

OPENINGS

- Adventurist Air at the airport in Lewiston, offering rides in a hot-air balloon.
- The Bent Rod, a Riggins store selling fishing, hunting and outdoor recreation supplies.
- Big Country Liquidators in Lewiston.
- Spot On Yogurt in the Lewiston Orchards.
- Sugar Mammias, a bakery in Towne Square in downtown Lewiston.

CLOSURES

- Hollywood Video in Lewiston.
- Movie Gallery in Clarkston.

[Link to nonfarm job data.](#)

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SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO

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

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

ADA COUNTY

- The Melting Pot, a fondue restaurant in downtown Boise, is closing in mid-August, aggravating job losses in the restaurant sector. First quarter 2010 job figures were down 300 from the first quarter 2009 in Ada County alone.

ADAMS COUNTY

- Property sales were up in Adams County during June. Residential and commercial sales totaled 13.

CANYON COUNTY

- Bids for the Hugh Nichols Public Safety Building in Nampa came in \$3 million to \$4 million below the projected \$18 million price tag. About 150 construction jobs will be created over the 18 months the projects will take. A ground breaking ceremony is scheduled for Aug. 18.
- Bronco Motors broke ground on their new headquarters in Nampa across from the Idaho Center on July 20. The company, which expects work at the

former Kia Motors dealership to be finished by February, will increase the payroll by 40 in the remodeled dealership. More than 100 construction workers have been involved in the project.

ELMORE COUNTY

- Mountain Home Air Force Base did not make the final cut to host the F-35A Joint Strike Fighter. But the decision only affects the placement of no more than 300 of the planned 1,700 planes that would eventually be added to the Air Force fleet at various AFBs across the country. So Mountain Home could still get some of the fighters in the future.

GEM COUNTY

- A new Emmett charter school is set to open this fall after a \$1.1 million operating budget was approved. In addition to adding vocational programs, the school will absorb several elective classes from Emmett High School.
- Gem County residents met with the County Zoning Commission to discuss a special permit request for a 58-acre gravel pit. Nearby residents are concerned about the potential impact on well water levels and the aesthetic atmosphere of the area. But for every 10 jobs created at a gravel pit another 11 jobs are created elsewhere in the economy.

OWYHEE COUNTY

- The city of Marsing received a \$15,000 grant for a feasibility study on extracting methane gas from city wells to power municipal buildings, or even sell to Idaho Power Co.
- The Badiola Arena, a 45,000-square-foot, indoor climate-controlled arena, will likely open this fall in Homedale. The facility will focus on rodeo events such as team roping and barrel racing.

PAYETTE COUNTY

- TIPS restaurant, which has served Payette County for over 24 years, is closing, another victim of the recession. TIPS has a payroll of eight.
- The Fruitland and Payette Chambers of Commerce may be joining forces to represent the county as a whole under the banner of the Payette County Chamber of Commerce. The merger is supported by both towns' mayors and is expected to reduce the cost of chamber events by 50 percent. Alternate Energy Holding Inc. Chief Executive Don Gillispie is satisfied with how quickly things are moving for rezoning land the company wants for a nuclear power plant. The plant is expected to provide 5,000 jobs during construction and 1,000 once it begins operating.
- Internet Truckstop moved its headquarters into a new building in New Plymouth. The move this month also marks the business's 15th year of existence. Internet Truckstop Chief Executive Scott Moscrip is a New Plymouth native.

VALLEY COUNTY

- McCall Memorial Hospital may become part of the St. Luke's Health System as early as October 2010. St. Luke's, which is Idaho's largest employer, would rename the local hospital St. Luke's McCall.
- Tamarack Resort has several potential buyers although none have made an official offer. As soon as an offer is secured, Tamarack Resort could reopen for the coming ski season.

[Link to nonfarm job data.](#)

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SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO

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

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

BLAINE COUNTY

- The Mountain School of Bellevue has won approval to expand from 27 to 35 students. The school is located in a residential subdivision and the enrollment size has become an issue for the residents, particularly when big events are scheduled.
- Allen & Company threw its annual bash for the rich and the famous and roped off business reporters representing the major publications from attendees. Purportedly the private jets were bigger this year, and the big surprise was that traditional advertising is rebounding faster than its digital counterpart. Sightings of the Prince of Jordan and Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg were reported.
- Ketchum's Town Square had its grand opening with a huge turnout. The construction took two months and cost \$500,000 in donations. It was a way of bringing the heart back into the community as Ketchum Mayor Randy Hall put it. The Town Square will feature music throughout the summer.

CASSIA COUNTY

- McCain Foods has been upgrading its two-building facility over the last several years at a cost of about \$8 million annually to boost efficiency. The company cuts and packages fries for Red Robin, Sonic, Jack in the Box and Wendy's with a payroll of 620. The company purchased the plant from Ore-Ida Foods in 1997.
- Mountain View Christian Center recently gave away 2,000 fresh Chinook salmon and will continue the giveaways for the next several weeks. The church gave away 8,000 steelhead trout, 2,000 loaves of bread and 2.5 tons of fresh potatoes – worth about \$370,000 retail – during three events in May. The church believes its role is to feed the hungry with the help of donators from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and Freedom Resources of Boise, a nonprofit organization. The Pahsimeroi Hatchery above Challis donated the salmon.

GOODING COUNTY

- Wendell School District is asking its patrons to approve a \$9.8 million bond for a new elementary school. Currently, 155 students attend school in modular classrooms due to overcrowding, which poses fire and safety violations. The bond will add \$13.20 to each \$100,000 of home value and double that for business value.
- The city of Gooding is joining other local communities and counties in the Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization. The community was previously involved with the Magic Valley Economic Development Association, which did not have its funding renewed this year by Department of Commerce. Gooding is trying to sell the Kieferbuilt Trailers building, marketing it as part of its Urban Renewal policy.
- Glanbia, the large cheese producer with headquarters in Ireland, recently invested \$4 million in its wastewater treatment plant in Gooding, where the company processes 9 million pounds of milk daily. The quality of the treated waste water can now be used to irrigate crops grown on the com-

pany's 1,000 acres near the cheese plant. The crops are feed for the dairy cows that provide the milk for the cheese completing the supply cycle.

TWIN FALLS COUNTY

- Ameristar Casinos Inc., owner of Cactus Pete's Resort Casino and the Horseshu Hotel & Casino in Jackpot, Nev., is giving all part-time employees under 30 hours a week a healthcare subsidy to cover half the premium for themselves and their dependents.
- Twin Falls County Pest Abatement and the Idaho Fish and Game Department are using blue gill taken from Dierkes Lake to eat mosquito larvae at three places in the county, reducing the risk of West Nile disease. This is the first time that blue gill have been used in any large quantity.
- Clear Springs Foods is processing its fish remnants into organic liquid fertilizer with powerful results. One hay producer said he can get five cuttings with just one application. At \$50 an acre, the compound is affordable, and it does not clog the sprinkler heads. The remnants were previously sold to mink farmers and now are being used on gardens, fields and landscaping in south central Idaho.

JEROME COUNTY

- The Jerome City Council is hiring four temporary workers to complete the Tech Park's infrastructure, including water and sanitation construction, which was starting to fall behind schedule. The \$4.5 million park is projected to attract high technology companies to the area.

OPENINGS

- Ashley Manor Assisted Living in Kimberly – 12 new workers
- DA Davidson, financial advisor office in Twin Falls – two staff
- OneWave Network, internet providers in Twin Falls

[Link nonfarm job data.](#)

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SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO

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

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

BANNOCK COUNTY

- ON Semiconductor has cut the ribbon on its \$11 million Pocatello expansion. Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter was on hand along with Mayor Brian Blad and Labor Director Roger B. Madsen. Otter praised ON employees and management for being "builders" in the Pocatello community. On Semiconductor is a worldwide leader in the production of semiconductors. In addition to the Pocatello expansion, it recently bought Sanyo Electric.
- Gateway Financial, which has offices in Pocatello, Idaho Falls and Logan, Utah, last year started a program called Gradient Gives Back, which focused this year on helping military families and those who recently served. Camille Gilbert of Gateway's Pocatello office said "the goal of the program is to help those who are in the military, or have recently returned to civilian life, have a financial makeover. As part of our financial makeover, we may help a vet and the family pay for a mortgage for six months or even pay college tuition for six months. It's our way of paying tribute to veterans." Three families will be selected for the program.

BEAR LAKE COUNTY

- Envision Utah is holding several meetings in Bear Lake County this month to talk with residents about economic development in the area. The meetings will focus on economic growth, job creation, housing and recreation in the Bear Lake Valley over the next 10 to 20 years. Over the past few years the county has seen a rise in tourism and construction of vacation homes. The group hopes to address the availability of quality employment opportunities for future generations of the Bear Lake Valley residents.
- Montpelier Mayor Reed Peterson has asked the City Council to consider opening a call center business employing 20 people. Peterson said the new business would have little upfront cost and could generate a \$100,000 profit each year. City Attorney Adam McKenzie said cities can operate public utilities, but McKenzie doubted that city ownership of a call center would be legal. The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare has expressed an interest in doing business with the call center if it comes to fruition.

BINGHAM COUNTY

- In the economic churn that sees all too many businesses close before they can even get established, Wallace Drug in Aberdeen is a reason to celebrate. Wallace Drug opened in 1910. Owner J.T. Dvorak was clearly a man of hearty stock. He made the bricks for his store by hand. In 1965 the store doubled in size to meet greater customer demands. Beside health remedies, the store had a soda fountain, which Dvorak ran himself. Today, the store is a landmark. One can still come to store for medications and ice cream. But Wallace Drug has also changed with the time, offering that all too modern luxury – video rentals.
- Fort Hall Business Council Chairman Nathan Small and Fort Hall Tribal Police Chief Pat Teton were in Washington, D.C., on July 29 to see President Obama sign The Tribal Law and Order Act at the White House. The act is designed to improve all aspects of the justice system on American Indian reservations and especially to clear up issues of jurisdiction between tribal, state and other law enforcement agencies. According to the White House, crime rates on reservations are double the national average, and on some reservations the crime rate is 20 times that. The act gives law enforcement on reservations better tools to deal with crime.
- A new chapter in the life of Bingham Memorial Hospital will begin this fall. Four osteopathic medical students from Pacific Northwest University will complete their third and fourth years of medical study in Blackfoot. All four of the students either grew up in the region or have family ties to Idaho.
- The medical students are assigned to a practicing doctor and are placed on rotations for family medicine, internal medicine and general surgery. While at Bingham Memorial each student will be exposed to pediatrics, orthopedic surgery, neurosurgery, obstetrics/gynecology, dermatology and emergency medicine. After successfully completing their studies in Blackfoot, the students will receive their Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degrees. Osteopathic medical training is equivalent to the training received at allopathic medical colleges, which award the more common Doctor of Medicine degree. Osteopathy focuses on the relationship of the bones, nerves and organs in the health of patients.
- Over the last 100 years many farms and residents of southern Bingham County have benefited from the life-giving water provided by the Aberdeen-Springfield Canal. The 72-mile-long canal completed in 1910 at a cost of \$886,000 is a product of private enterprise. Today the southern part of

Bingham County produces crops such as beets, grains and, of course, potatoes because of the water it provides. Steve Howser, the current manager of the canal, estimates the crops are worth \$140 million.

CARIBOU COUNTY

- Travis McLing, the technical lead for Carbon Sequestration at the Idaho National Laboratory, believes carbon storage may be viable, and McLing thinks Soda Springs will be an ideal place to study how underground water can store carbon dioxide. The research, which has been agreed to by the city, will take place over an extended period of time. Hotels, restaurants and other businesses should see increased traffic as a result of the research. There are no plans to make Soda Springs a carbon dioxide storage site in the future.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

- The Irish were right when they said you don't miss the water until the well goes dry. Several residents south of Preston have reported low water levels in their wells – likely the result of an abnormally dry spring and a recently installed water pipeline. Local officials are expected to meet soon to discuss solutions to the situation. Franklin County Extension Agent Stuart Parkinson said agriculture has not been overly affected by the lack of precipitation. But he is concerned that water may run short toward the end of the season for third crop of alfalfa.

ONEIDA COUNTY

- After serving the public for 38 years, the Malad Valley Clinic closed in July, merging with the Oneida County Clinic. Staff and services are being maintained, and Oneida County Hospital Administrator Todd Winder said the impact will be lower overhead and operational costs. The Malad Valley Clinic was founded by Gerald Goodenough in 1972. Since 1982 it has been operated by Dr. Stephen Johnson. At present, there are plans to turn the Malad Valley Clinic building into an apartment complex.
- Payment in lieu of taxes for Oneida County is down this year. The federal program that compensates local governments for property taxes uncollected on federal land, dropped to \$532,019 in 2010 from \$626,634 last year. Oneida County has 408,545 acres of tax-exempt federal land within its boundaries. The reduction is the result of the county receiving money from the federal Secure Rural Schools program in 2009, which affected its allocation under payment in lieu of taxes. Counties throughout the West suffered similar cuts.

POWER COUNTY

- The American Falls Committee for Downtown Improvement was recently formed to promote and plan for the city's economic future. The committee, which is promoting the city with brochures and bumper stickers during American Falls Day in mid-August, is made up of members of city and county government, civic leaders, businesses and other interested citizens. The committee hopes to focus on job creation, educational opportunities, recreation, the arts and civic pride. It is currently working to establish an information station for visitors to the community.
- Harms Hospital will continue receiving Medicare funding after recent approval from the State Bureau of Facility Standards.

[Link to Nonfarm Job Data.](#)

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EAST CENTRAL IDAHO

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

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- Vice President Joe Biden visited Yellowstone National Park in late July. The park received \$12.4 million under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for 14 revitalization projects across the park. Jonathan Jarvis, the director of National Parks Service, said that every dollar put into national parks returns, \$4 to the general economy.
- The largest fire in Idaho National Laboratory history has been fully extinguished. High winds drove the otherwise routine range fire over 109,000 acres. In only a few hours the fire scorched its way across more than 40 miles of sage brush and grasslands. Many employees were evacuated, but there were no injuries or major damage. At one point 300 firefighters were tackling the blaze.
- Economic downturns and unfavorable weather conditions have not helped eastern Idaho river rafting companies. Fortunately warmer weather has caused a surge in interest in river trips. Many of the outfitters are already starting to see increased interest for 2011.

BONNEVILLE COUNTY

- The U.S. Navy Blue Angels were the main attraction in Idaho Falls July 24-25. More than 50,000 fans showed up to watch the Extreme Blue Thunder Air Show.
- Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center was honored with Qualis Health's 2009 Award of Excellence in Healthcare. Emergency room triage time at the medical center has dropped over 38 percent from 13 minutes to only eight. The time between arrival and when they see a doctor has improved by 48 percent.
- Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center will soon have an additional 24,000 square feet of space for its state-of-the-art Women and Infants Center. The project is expected to take 140 construction workers nine months to complete at a cost of \$20 million. Dozens of local subcontractors will be hired to do the work. The funds for the project were provided by HCA Inc., the hospital's parent company.
- Idaho Falls made it on the Money Magazine list of 100 best small cities of America. Coming in at number 99, the magazine cited engineering and energy firms, downtown boutiques, restaurants and the greenbelt as reasons to live in Idaho Falls.
- AREVA was awarded a \$750,000 block grant for work on a new overpass on U.S. Highway 20. The overpass will increase safety and improve capacity for new workers at the new uranium enrichment facility.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

- Rigby is undergoing a \$1 million facelift, funded by a government grant and urban renewal resources. New street lamps, 50 trees, park benches and a "pocket park" are all part of the project to create a more attractive place to shop and do business, laying a better foundation for economic recovery.

MADISON COUNTY

- Citing revenue problems, Madison County Commissioners plan to cut the budget by 6 percent. That means the sheriff will lose four to six positions. The cut will also mean a \$200,000 reduction in revenue for the Sheriff's Office.

FREMONT COUNTY

- Fremont County will use a \$326,000 grant from the Bureau of Homeland Security to protect county roads from flood damage.

LEMHI COUNTY

- The Lemhi County airport will be getting some upgrades with the help from a \$180,000 grant to pave the ramp and the northern part of the taxiway. The runway itself will not be upgraded but will have major work done in 2015. All work will be done in phases so the airport can remain open.

[Link to nonfarm job data.](#)

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State of Idaho Data – State Economic Indicators

	Jul 2010*	Jun 2010	Jul 2009	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE ⁽¹⁾					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	756,700	759,000	748,700	-0.3	1.1
Unemployment	66,600	66,600	61,600	0	8.1
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	8.8	8.8	8.2		
Total Employment	690,100	692,400	687,100	-0.3	0.4
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	765,100	763,600	758,400	0.2	0.9
Unemployment	65,400	63,900	58,900	2.3	11
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	8.5	8.4	7.8		
Total Employment	699,700	699,700	699,500	0	0

U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE⁽²⁾

9.5 9.5 9.4

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Claims Activities

Initial Claims ⁽³⁾	10,596	12,000	12,410	-11.7	-14.6
Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾	81,365	99,167	115,544	-18.0	-29.6

Benefit Payment Activities⁽⁵⁾

Weeks Compensated	69,601	110,718	101,288	-37.1	-31.3
Total Benefit \$ Paid	15,844,544	21,659,075	25,834,333	-26.8	-38.7
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$227.65	\$195.62	\$255.06	16.4	-10.7
Covered Employers	48,649	48,569	50,052	0.2	-2.8
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾	\$351,126,444	\$345,394,035	\$327,245,199	1.7	7.3

U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX⁽²⁾

	Jul 2010	Jun 2010	Jul 2009	% Change Month	% Change Year
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	213.9	213.8	210.5	0.0	1.6
All Urban Consumer (CPI- U)	218.0	218.0	215.4	0.0	1.2

(1) Preliminary estimate

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

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

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

(5) Includes all entitlements, total liable activities.

Glossary of Labor Market Terms

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

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