

Idaho Employment

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

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UNDEREMPLOYMENT RISES WITH UNEMPLOYMENT

Since the current recession began in December 2007, Idaho's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has risen to within a tenth of a percentage point of the 1983 record of 9.6 percent, and the economy lost over 55,000 jobs. The number of workers off the job skyrocketed from fewer than 27,000 to over 71,000 before beginning to recede in March.

On top of that, tens of thousands of workers remained underemployed throughout the state economy. They were either working part-time or at temporary jobs when they wanted full-time work or they held associate degrees or higher and were still looking for new jobs because their current jobs did not pay much or provide responsibilities at the level their education and training would normally command.

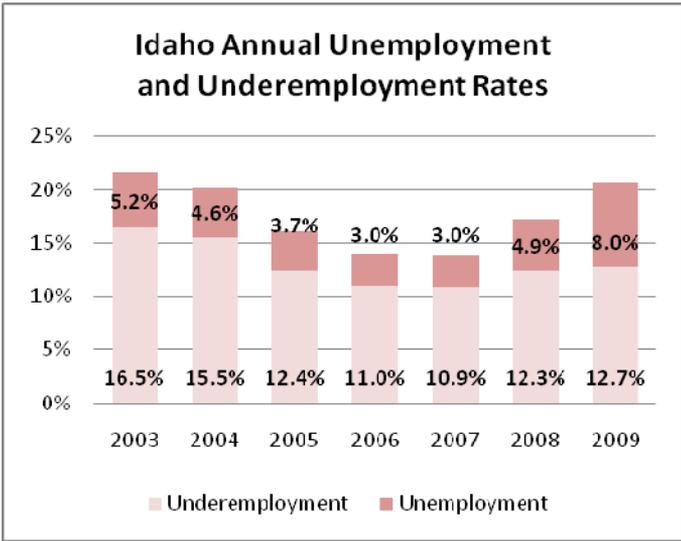
But the number of underemployed Idahoans rose only modestly in 2009 after a substantial increase in 2008 as the recession finally began exacting a toll on the state's economy.

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

These underemployment statistics are comprised of two categories: 1) employed workers who are working part-time or temporary jobs but want full-time work based on the ratio of part-time and temporary job listed with the 25 local Labor Department offices; and 2) workers who have associate degrees or higher and are currently employed but have filed with a local office to find another job.

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

Underemployment averaged 12.7 percent of the Idaho total employment in 2009 compared to 12.3 percent in 2008. The increase of just 2,000 on the heels of over 11,000 joining the ranks of the underemployed in 2008 demonstrates, to a point, the progression of the recession in Idaho.

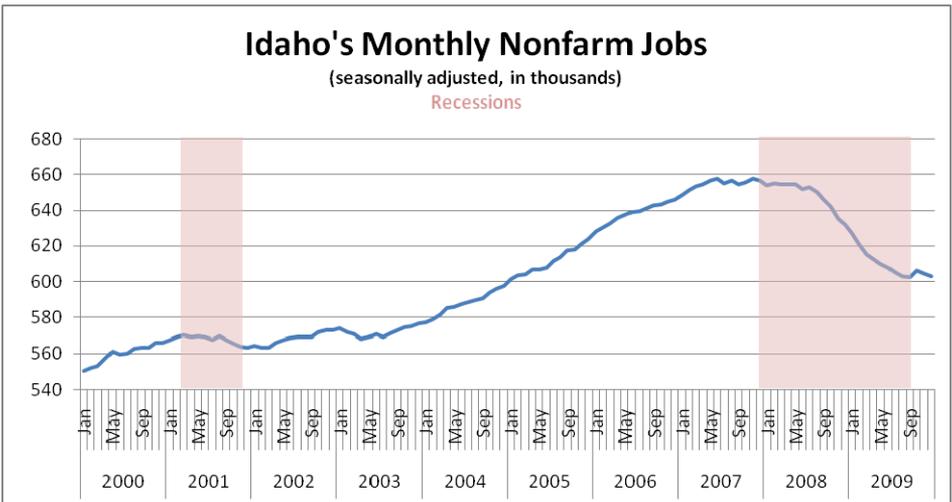


At the peak of the state’s economic expansion, unemployment averaged 3 percent and underemployment was around 11 percent in 2006 and 2007. The combination translated into under 105,000 workers.

As the economy began to worsen in 2008, however, many employers decided to cope by cutting wages or curtailing hours before laying workers off as many businesses did. That drove thousands of workers into underemployment while unemployment began rising. The combination totaled 130,000.

Then in 2009 as the recession bored deeply into the Idaho economy, more businesses began cutting wages or hours, shifting more workers to the ranks of the underemployed. At the same time, however, other businesses that normally operated with part-time or temporary workers or had previously cut back hours to deal with the slowdown wound up closing completely, throwing what had been underemployed workers into the unemployment line. The average unemployment rate rose from 4.9 percent in 2008 to 8 percent in 2009 – 23,000 more people out of work. Combined, unemployment and underemployment totaled 155,000 in a work force of just under 750,000 – one of every five workers.

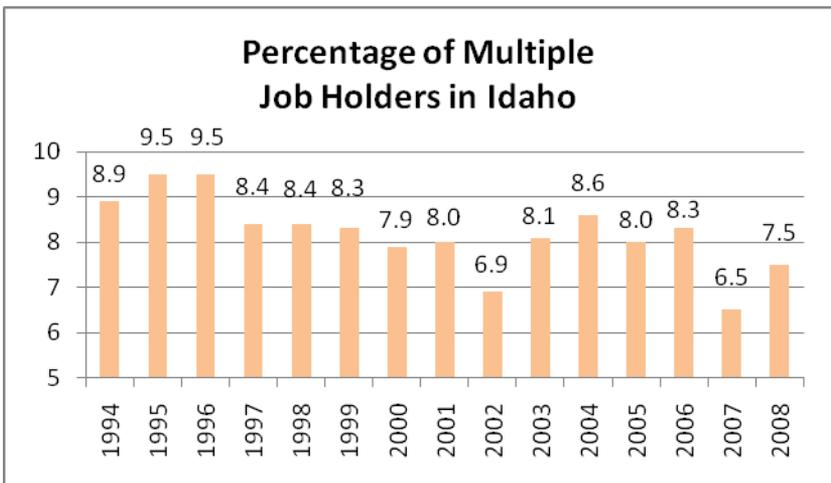
Based on what occurred after the 2001 recession, the combined unemployment and underemployment rate will likely continue to rise in the next two years. But the growth will be in underemployment as unemployed workers begin finding jobs – often part-time or temporary – in an economy that is sluggish in creating them. Nonfarm job growth is projected at only about 1 percent for 2011 and around 2 percent for 2012. Job growth approached 5 percent in 2006.



The Conference Board’s monthly online job opening survey has had about seven unemployed Idaho workers for every two Idaho job openings listed each month since December. That is down slightly from the peak of 10 people per job listing in November.

The level of underemployment in Idaho has also been high because of the large number of workers who hold down more than one job, suggesting their primary employment fails to provide the financial resources they need to support themselves and their families.

At the peak of Idaho’s expansion when the state was creating jobs faster than nearly every other, Idaho workers holding down more than one job dropped to its lowest level – 6.5 percent in 2007 – since the statistic was first compiled in 1994. But as employees took steps to cope with the downturn, multiple job holders rose to 7.5 percent in 2008. That percentage is likely to fall again in 2009 because the recession stripped so many jobs from the economy. Finding one job became difficult, let alone finding more.



Regionally, the movement in the underemployment rates followed the evolution of the economy through the recession.

Area	2007		2008		2009	
	Unem- ployment	Underem- ployment	Unem- ployment	Underem- ployment	Unem- ployment	Underem- ployment
State	3.0%	10.9%	4.9%	12.3%	8.0%	12.7%
Northern	3.7%	9.2%	6.2%	11.2%	9.9%	11.3%
North Central	3.4%	10.6%	5.0%	10.8%	7.2%	13.3%
Southwestern	3.1%	11.5%	5.3%	13.6%	8.9%	13.4%
South Central	2.8%	12.4%	3.9%	12.8%	6.6%	12.8%
Southeastern	2.8%	11.3%	4.1%	12.3%	6.4%	8.8%
Eastern	2.3%	10.0%	3.6%	9.4%	6.3%	14.1%

Where unemployment was especially low, like eastern Idaho, the underemployment rate rose significantly more than in other areas, apparently a reflection of more resilience to the downturn than in other regions. Areas with higher unemployment to begin with, like the Panhandle, experienced relatively stable underemployment rates with workers shifting from underemployment to unemployment as the recession deepened. See *table of county rates on page 4*.

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Annual Unemployment and Underemployment Rates

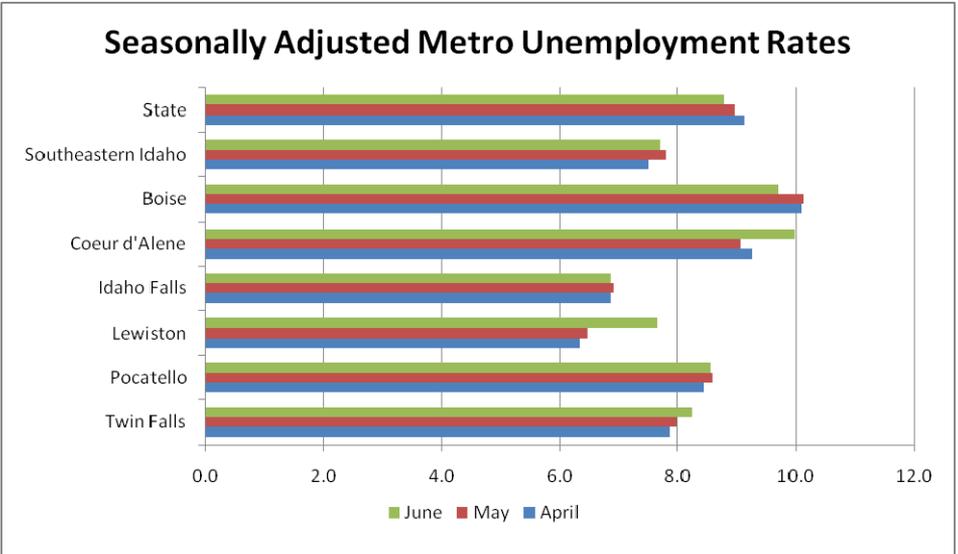
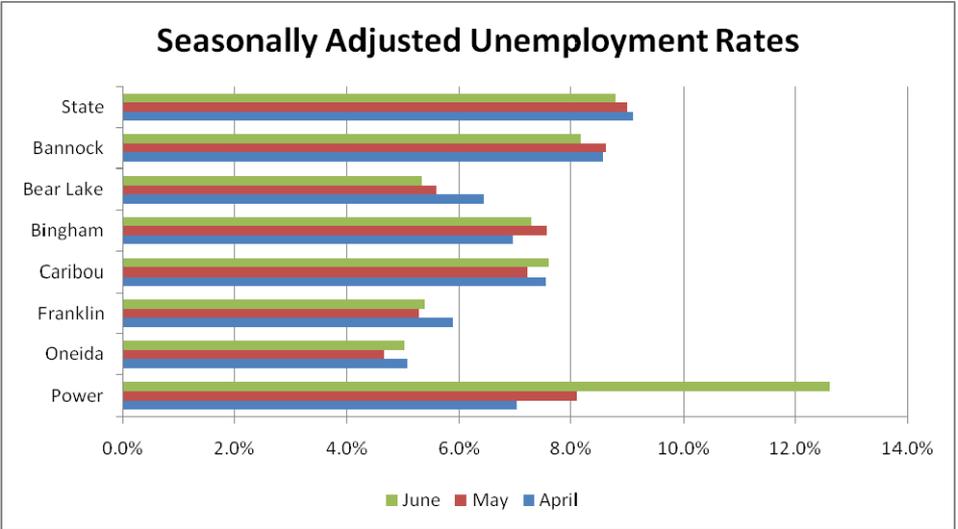
	2007		2008		2009	
	Unem- ployment	Underem- ployment	Unem- ployment	Underem- ployment	Unem- ployment	Underem- ployment
State	3.0%	10.9%	4.9%	12.3%	8.0%	12.7%
Ada	2.6%	10.1%	4.7%	14.3%	8.2%	11.9%
Adams	5.6%	13.6%	10.3%	27.1%	15.1%	4.4%
Bannock	2.9%	8.5%	4.6%	6.9%	6.9%	10.5%
Bear Lake	2.3%	0.2%	3.2%	0.2%	5.5%	0.2%
Benewah	6.0%	14.5%	9.8%	8.6%	13.9%	10.8%
Bingham	2.6%	16.4%	3.9%	21.1%	6.0%	6.4%
Blaine	2.3%	12.9%	3.8%	17.2%	7.7%	13.1%
Boise	3.3%	5.3%	5.8%	18.4%	8.1%	69.1%
Bonner	3.8%	9.9%	6.4%	11.1%	10.2%	12.3%
Bonneville	2.2%	7.2%	3.5%	5.8%	5.8%	11.3%
Boundary	6.0%	9.9%	8.6%	11.1%	12.6%	12.3%
Butte	2.4%	0.5%	4.2%	0.3%	5.3%	12.9%
Camas	2.6%	0.3%	4.4%	0.3%	9.3%	0.5%
Canyon	3.6%	13.8%	6.3%	11.9%	10.4%	22.4%
Caribou	2.8%	12.1%	3.6%	12.4%	6.1%	0.8%
Cassia	3.1%	8.6%	3.8%	11.8%	5.5%	6.8%
Clark	2.2%	8.5%	3.4%	0.2%	5.5%	0.2%
Clearwater	7.3%	14.1%	10.6%	9.6%	13.8%	30.3%
Custer	3.3%	9.7%	4.5%	10.3%	5.6%	26.1%
Elmore	3.8%	12.5%	5.5%	7.0%	7.8%	3.9%
Franklin	2.1%	5.2%	3.3%	0.3%	5.1%	0.5%
Fremont	3.2%	30.4%	4.8%	17.1%	8.1%	30.4%
Gem	3.7%	10.8%	6.9%	7.5%	10.7%	7.4%
Gooding	2.1%	10.0%	3.3%	0.4%	5.8%	19.5%
Idaho	5.0%	10.6%	7.4%	12.7%	10.2%	15.2%
Jefferson	2.4%	13.4%	3.7%	12.5%	6.5%	9.2%
Jerome	2.8%	6.0%	4.1%	7.8%	6.6%	3.7%
Kootenai	3.3%	5.4%	5.6%	9.9%	9.1%	9.9%
Latah	2.7%	8.2%	4.1%	7.3%	6.0%	10.0%
Lemhi	4.5%	27.7%	6.7%	29.4%	8.4%	24.4%
Lewis	2.6%	9.1%	3.8%	4.0%	5.6%	6.1%
Lincoln	3.3%	4.6%	5.5%	0.7%	11.0%	4.1%
Madison	2.1%	9.6%	3.4%	10.1%	5.4%	18.3%
Minidoka	3.8%	35.0%	4.4%	37.1%	6.2%	27.4%
Nez Perce	3.0%	12.3%	4.4%	15.9%	6.2%	12.5%
Oneida	1.7%	0.4%	3.4%	0.4%	5.7%	0.7%
Owyhee	1.9%	8.8%	3.0%	0.5%	4.1%	0.6%
Payette	4.1%	26.8%	5.8%	10.8%	9.4%	10.2%
Power	3.9%	5.6%	5.2%	11.1%	7.3%	4.8%
Shoshone	5.1%	6.6%	8.1%	6.4%	13.1%	4.6%
Teton	1.7%	2.2%	2.8%	5.8%	5.7%	1.1%
Twin Falls	2.7%	9.2%	3.9%	8.4%	6.4%	12.1%
Valley	4.0%	17.4%	8.7%	15.3%	13.3%	27.4%
Washington	4.1%	14.0%	5.6%	7.5%	9.1%	11.3%

SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO: WHY IT HAS THE STATE'S LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

A look at the last two months of unemployment numbers shows a pattern, which bodes well for southeastern Idaho and its seven counties. In May each county had unemployment rates below the statewide rate of 9 percent. The highest rate was in Bannock County at 8.6 percent. Oneida County had the lowest rate at 4.6 percent. The same was generally true in June. Six of the seven counties had jobless rates below the 8.8 percent statewide. Power County was in double digits because of temporary food processing layoffs.

Additionally, the region bucked the state trend of a lower civilian work force. The labor force in southeastern Idaho in May was 79,378 with 6,168 workers without jobs. In June, the work force grew by just over 400 to 79,786, and the number of unemployed workers fell to 6,117. The combined unemployment rate for the region was 7.7 percent, which is 1.1 percentage points lower than the statewide rate – further positive economic news for the region.

Southeastern Idaho’s unemployment rate compares very favorably to other areas in the state.

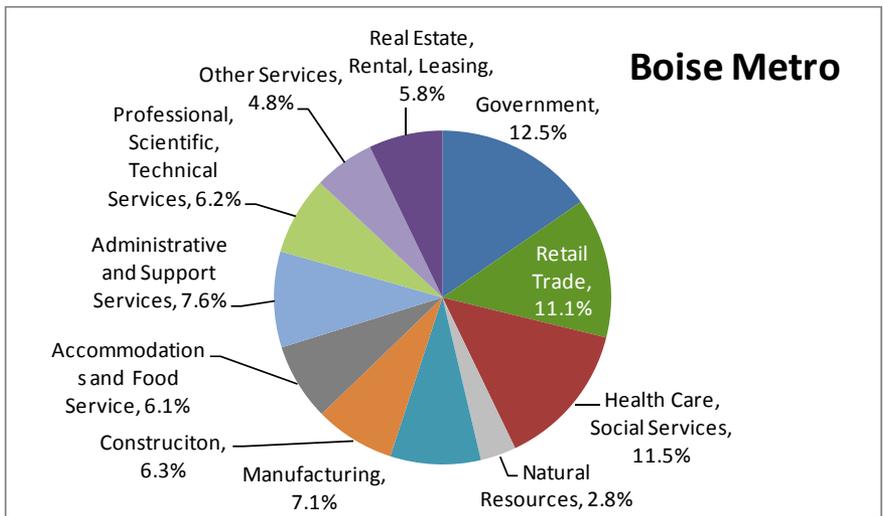
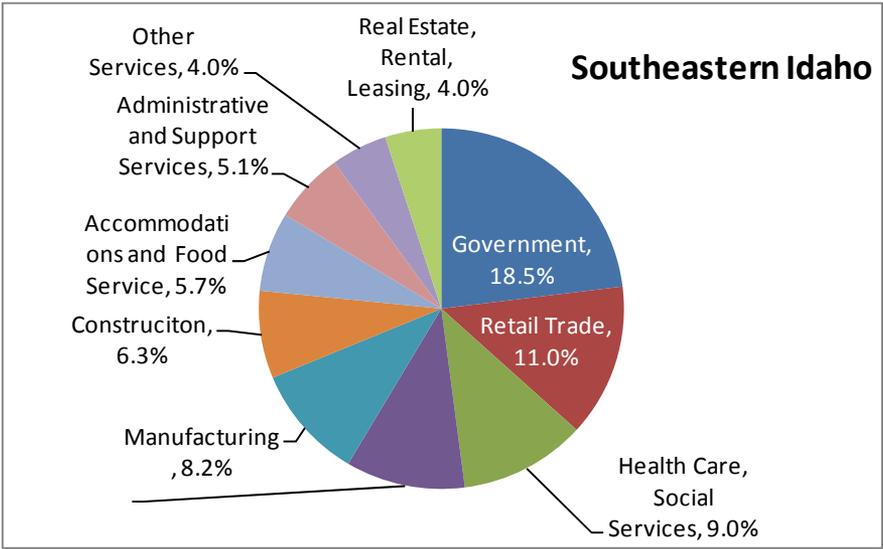


A breakdown of southeastern Idaho’s employment sectors explains why the region has lower unemployment. The employment patterns holding unemployment below the statewide level become evidence in comparison to the Boise metropolitan area, the state’s largest.

There are similarities between southeastern Idaho’s top 10 employment sectors and those of the Boise metro area. Health care and social assistance and accommodation and food service account for generally similar portions of the job pool in each area. The two regions also had similar employment levels in the three industries hit hardest by the recession – construction, manufacturing and retail trade.

The difference comes in natural resources and government – both sectors that help moderate an otherwise turbulent economic period. In the Boise metro area, natural resources – farming, forestry, hunting and fishing – accounted for 2.8 percent of total employment while it contributed 8.5 percent of the employment in southeastern Idaho.

Agriculture provides southeastern Idaho with a stable employment base that tempers the jobless rate. As of June, 2010 only 3 percent of the jobless claims statewide were filed by persons from the natural resource sector.



Despite being the state capital, government provides only 12.5 percent of the employment in the five-county Boise metropolitan area while 18.5 percent of southeastern Idaho’s employment is in government. In June only 2 percent of the jobless claims statewide came from former government employees.

The prevalence of these two sectors in southeastern Idaho plays a key role in lowering the region’s unemployment level. Continued low unemployment levels in these sectors will continue to benefit the region and aid in its recovery.

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SHORT-TERM EFFECT OF EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT CUTS IN IDAHO COMMUNITIES EXAMINED

Richard Rossmiller, who teaches educational leadership and policy analysis at the University of Wisconsin, maintains in his book “Education Finance in the New Millennium” that “expenditures for public education tend to track quite closely with economic trends.” Idaho is no exception to Rossmiller’s statement. The recent economic downturn has forced cuts in education. The long-term economic cost of educational cuts is hard to measure. But the short-term effects these employment cuts have on a community is not.

In Pocatello the local school district decided last month to cut 14 full-time positions and did not replace five other full-time employees who left the district.

Based on a computer model, the economic impact of these job losses on the Pocatello metropolitan area – Bannock and Power counties – is slight overall.

Impact of Jobs Cuts in the Pocatello and Chubbuck School Districts

Description	Original Jobs	Current Jobs	Change
Natural Resources	1,909	1,908	1
Mining, Quarrying, Oil and Gas Extraction	129	129	0
Utilities	56	56	0
Construction	2,779	2,779	0
Manufacturing	3,619	3,619	0
Wholesale Trade	1,358	1,358	0
Retail Trade	5,747	5,747	0
Transportation, Warehousing	2,081	2,081	0
Information	678	678	0
Finance and Insurance	2,274	2,274	0
Real Estate, Rental, Leasing	2,097	2,096	1
Professional, Scientific, Technical Services	1,991	1,991	0
Management of Companies, Enterprises	345	345	0
Administrative, Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services	3,372	3,371	1
Educational Services	386	367	19
Health Care, Social Assistance	5,389	5,389	0
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation	899	899	0
Accommodation, Food Services	3,497	3,497	0
Other Services (except Government)	1,991	1,991	0
Government	9,661	9,662	1

Source: EMSI Complete Employment - 2nd Quarter 2010

The numbers become only slightly more pronounced when the planned 4 percent, \$1.8 million across-the-board salary cut for all remaining staff is factored in along with the elimination of three jobs in the American Falls School District.

These education cuts are a direct result of state revenues declining in response to the long recession. But there are other threats to school funding on the horizon.

Among the factors Rossmiller cites as possibly adversely affecting education funding in the years to come are voucher programs, charter schools and legal challenges to school financing systems.

Technology will play a key role in future school funding needs, Rossmiller believes, because “students receive much of their instruction over the Internet.” As this trend continues, the need for brick and mortar classrooms may decrease. As technology grows in capability students may be able to access curriculum, teachers and programs in places far away from their local school yards. Many school districts may find that their educational programs will have to compete for students with programs from across the nation and even from across the globe. See *table on page 8*.

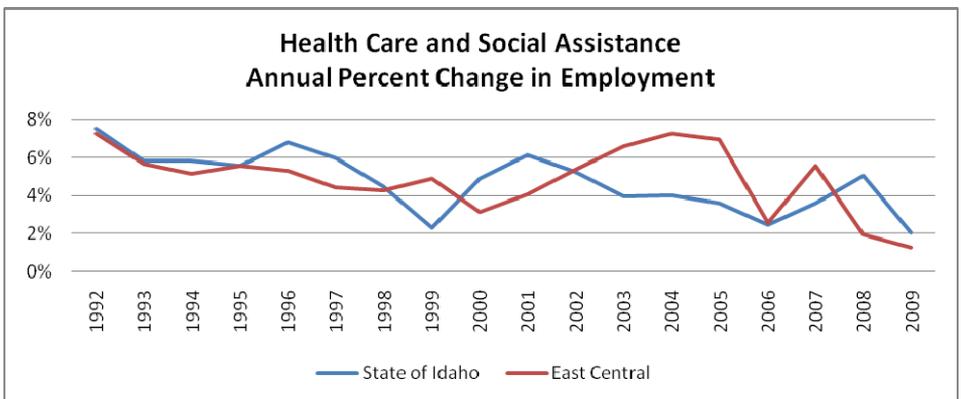
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Impact of Education Job and Salary Cuts on the Pocatello Metro Area

Description	Original Jobs	Current Jobs	Change
Natural Resources	1,909	1,908	1
Mining, Quarrying, Oil and Gas Extraction	129	129	0
Utilities	56	56	0
Construction	2,779	2,778	1
Manufacturing	3,619	3,619	0
Wholesale Trade	1,358	1,358	0
Retail Trade	5,747	5,744	3
Transportation, Warehousing	2,081	2,081	0
Information	678	678	0
Finance, Insurance	2,274	2,274	0
Real Estate, Rental, Leasing	2,097	2,094	3
Professional, Scientific, Technical Services	1,991	1,991	0
Management of Companies, Enterprises	345	345	0
Administrative, Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services	3,372	3,369	3
Educational Services	386	364	22
Health Care and Social Assistance	5,389	5,392	3
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation	899	899	0
Accommodations, Food Service	3,497	3,495	2
Other Services (except Government)	1,991	1,990	1
Government	9,661	9,659	2

EAST CENTRAL HEALTH CARE - HISTORICAL EMPLOYMENT ANALYSIS

Health care provides over 12 percent of the jobs in east central Idaho, and the growth has been steady to meet the demand for health care from a regional population that continues to rise. During harsh economic times, the region has maintained unemployment rates below the state and national levels, and health care's positive growth rates have helped temper the impact of declines in others sectors. From 2002 to 2007, east central Idaho consistently surpassed growth rates set by the state.

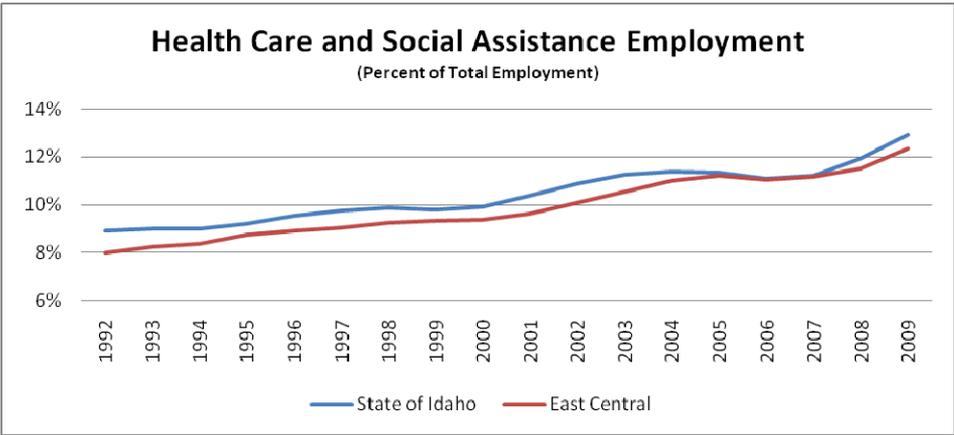


Health care has been one of the fastest growing sectors on both the state and regional level. East central Idaho has grown at a rate just higher than the state. Since 1992 the state averaged annual growth of 4.7 percent while the east central region grew by 4.9 percent. In more recent years this rate has slowed. Since 2005 the state's average annual growth rate was 3.3 percent while regional growth was 3.7 percent.

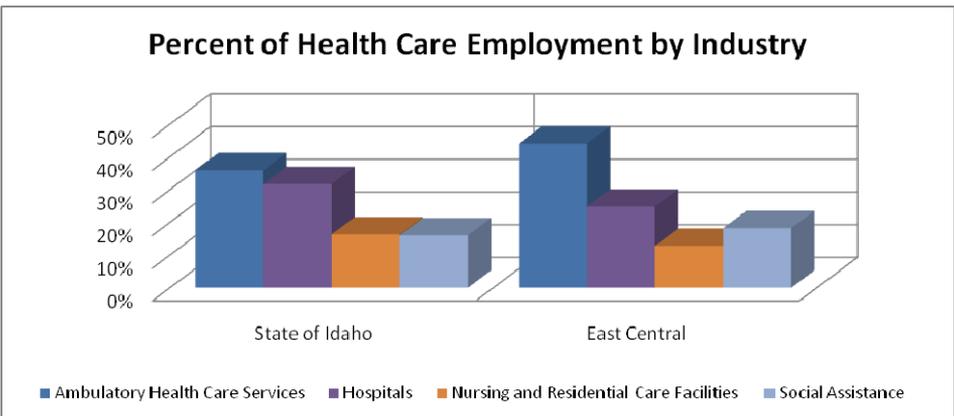
The recent recession took its toll on employment in most sectors. Manufacturing and construction were hit the hardest. So with those setbacks in other sectors, health care even as its growth slowed in recent years, has been pro-

viding an increasing share of overall employment. In 1992 health care employed around 9 percent of workers on the state level and 8 percent of workers in east central Idaho. By 2009 the sector accounted for 13 percent of statewide employment and 12 percent in east central Idaho.

At first glance it is difficult to understand how a sector that has experienced decreasing growth rates could at the same time gain a larger share of overall employment. It is the result of other industries suffering actual losses of employment due to contractions in the economy. At the same time demand for health care has maintained moderate, although lower, growth. This bodes well for the east central economy. Since many health care-related jobs pay higher than average wages, other economic sectors supported by those employed in health care experience increased stability during uncertain economic times. Supporting businesses also stand to benefit from consistent demand for their services and products.



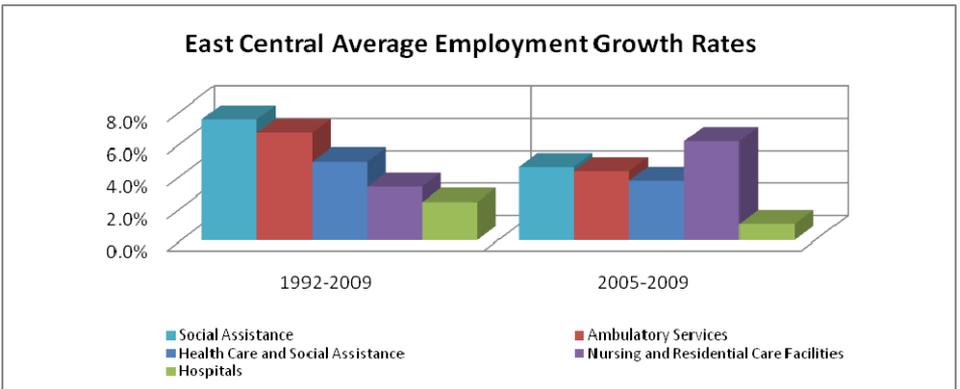
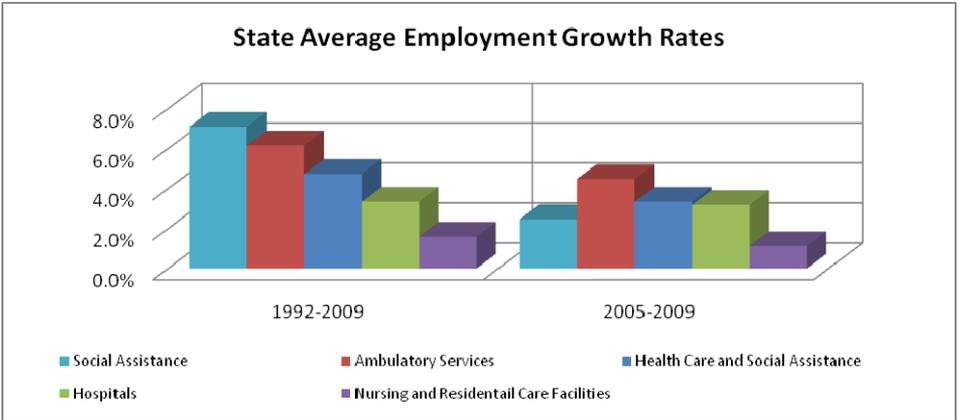
Within health care, ambulatory health care services provide the most jobs. In 2009 ambulatory health care services employed 36 percent of all health care workers at the state level and 44 percent in east central Idaho. Within that subsector, physicians and dentists were the major employers. Compared to the state, east central Idaho showed heavier employment in social assistance and lower employment in hospitals and nursing and residential care facilities.



Since 1992 very few subsectors within health care have experienced decreased employment. On the state level, there was a slight job decrease in psychiatric and substance abuse hospitals – averaging less than 1 percent. East central Idaho saw a decrease in employment for nursing care facilities, but it averaged less than a half percent. At the state level, the last five years have seen a much greater decrease in employment for psychiatric and sub-

stance abuse, averaging 4.6 percent and down 21 percent in 2009 alone in a reflection of decreased financial support as the recession wore on. There have also been slight decreases in employment for community relief services and child day care services. The heaviest decreases in child care services occurred in 2009 when employment fell by 9 percent, possibly due to unemployed parents spending more time at home while saving on day care expenses.

In the last five years east central Idaho has shown a steady decrease in employment for medical and diagnostic laboratories. From 2005 to 2009, employment decreased nearly 12 percent on average with a 25 percent decline in 2009. Although this subsector makes up a very small segment of total health care employment, the change is notable. East central employment for child care services followed state trends, falling 10 percent in 2009.

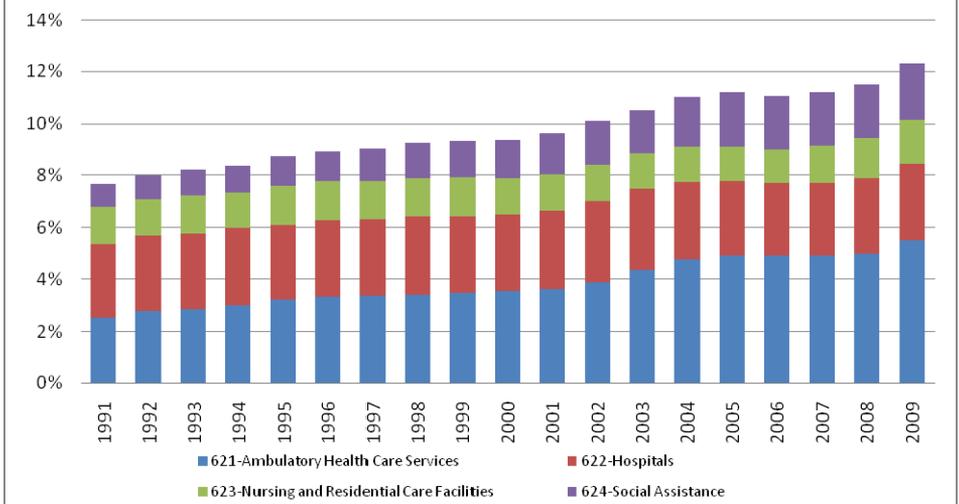


Health care continues to be a vital component of both the state and regional economies. As populations grow, demand for health care services will continue to increase. An educated work force will be needed to meet the future demands of this growing industry. If current trends continue, by 2025 health care employment in east central Idaho will be 75 percent larger than it currently is. However, there are many factors that will shape the actual outcome.

See more tables on page 11.

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East Central Idaho Health Care Employment (Percent of Total Employment)



Industries with Notable Changes in Employment NAICS Industry Classification	State		East Central Region	
	1992-2009	2005-2009	1992-2009	2005-2009
6213-Offices of Other Health Practitioners	7.0%	5.3%	7.9%	1.5%
6214-Outpatient Care Centers	15.8%	10.2%	21.3%	10.1%
6215-Medical and Diagnostic Laboratories	3.2%	0.9%	2.1%	-11.7%
6216-Home Health Care Services	14.6%	8.0%	23.1%	4.7%
6219-Other Ambulatory Health Care Services	11.0%	22.5%	21.0%	34.7%
6222-Psychiatric and Substance Abuse Hospitals	-0.8%	-4.6%	**	**
6223-Specialty (except Psychiatric and Substance Abuse) Hospitals	9.3%	17.1%	**	**
6239-Other Residential Care Facilities	11.0%	8.9%	32.5%	28.2%
624-Social Assistance	7.1%	2.5%	7.5%	4.5%
6241-Individual and Family Services	11.3%	3.8%	14.4%	6.8%
6242-Community Food and Housing, and Emergency and Other Relief Services	4.1%	-0.5%	0.5%	-2.2%
6244-Child Day Care Services	4.2%	-0.2%	3.1%	0.1%

HIGH TECH SIGNIFICANT IN SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO'S ECONOMY

High technology has been a major economic contributor for the last 20 years, particularly in areas like Silicon Valley, the greater Denver area and Austin, Texas. Even Boise was bolstered by computer chips, software development and printer production. And even with the significant layoffs high-tech has gone through in the recession and before, the sector remains an economic contributor with a long supply chain, many supporting industries and indirect jobs.

For regions like south central Idaho, there is a mind-set that high-tech cannot coexist with dairies, trout, sugar beets and spuds, that it takes skyscrapers, bustling downtowns with pricy parking and more than one sushi bar.

Though south central Idaho may not have as much going on as Boise or Idaho Falls with Idaho National Laboratory, high-tech feeds a surprisingly substantial chunk of the payroll. Many believe high-tech will be the sector that leads the economy into recovery, and everyone is scouting for high-tech businesses that have the potential for growth.

Total payroll for the top 10 industry categories was \$127.5 million in south central Idaho last year and \$2.1 billion statewide. While the state's biggest high-tech employer, computer chip maker Micron Technology, has fallen on difficult times, high-tech is still a significant economic player. The opportunity for south central Idaho lies in using high technology solutions to improve the efficiency and profitability of its agriculture and manufacturing businesses. The region would be the logical place for more research and development activity in dairy, cattle management and organic production.

The downturn did not affect the region as much as the rest of the state. More small employers are entering the marketplace as an alternative to working for someone else. The state has lost 2,500 jobs in the 10 high-tech industries most prominent in south central Idaho, down 5 percent in a year and that was after Micron had made most of its thousands of layoffs. Wages have not fallen as much as some employers rewarded their remaining workers for taking on more of the work.

Top 10 High-Tech Industries in South Central Idaho, 2009 (wages in millions)

	Employers		Employees		Total Wages	
	Region	State	Region	State	Region	State
Electric Power Generation, Transmission, Distribution	26	90	120	1,210	\$8.2	\$92.1
Industrial Machinery Manufacturing	5	30	54	329	\$2.3	\$15.0
Professional and Commercial Equipment, Supplies Wholesalers	16	280	60	1,671	\$2.5	\$113.4
Wired Telecommunications Carriers	17	141	364	2,942	\$17.9	\$140.0
Wireless Telecommunications Carriers (except Satellite)	6	48	33	313	\$1.5	\$14.5
Architectural, Engineering, Related Services	99	966	680	5,557	\$45.3	\$315.4
Computer Systems Design, Related Services	41	840	137	3,020	\$7.7	\$170.0
Management, Scientific, Technical Consulting Services	85	1,102	238	2,979	\$10.4	\$152.4
Scientific Research, Development Services	14	145	156	7,565	\$8.3	\$604.6
Management of Companies, Enterprises	35	294	331	6,720	\$23.2	\$508.6

Percentage Change in High-Tech Work Force 2008-2009

	State	South Central
Employers	1.3%	2.0%
Total Wage	-4.8%	-0.1%
Average Employment	-7.3%	-0.9%

The future for high-tech in south central Idaho is good with continued emphasis on lean manufacturing, lean management and automation. See table on page 13 for a listing of other high-tech industries.

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Other High-Tech Industries

Navigational, Measuring, Electro-medical, Control Instruments Manufacturing

Basic Chemical Manufacturing

Pesticide, Fertilizer, Other Agricultural Chemical Manufacturing

Other Chemical Product, Preparation Manufacturing

Commercial and Service Industry Machinery Manufacturing

Other General Purpose Machinery Manufacturing

Semiconductor, Other Electronic Component Manufacturing

Internet Service Providers and Web Search Portals

Electrical Equipment Manufacturing

Aerospace Product, Parts Manufacturing

Software Publishers

Telecommunications Resellers

Data Processing, Related Services

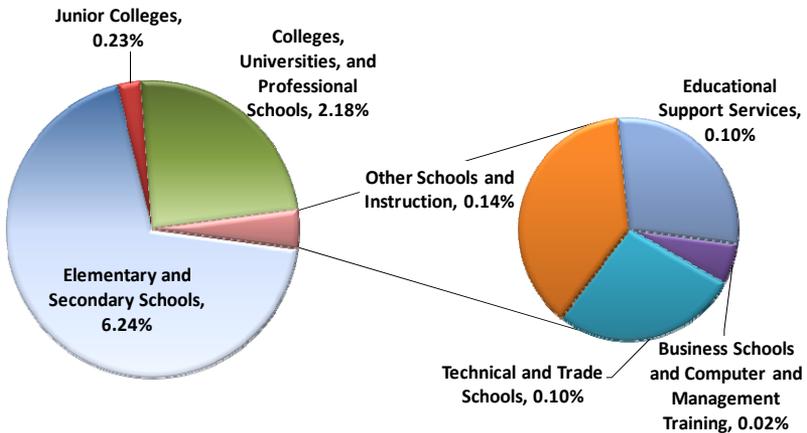
Electronic, Precision Equipment Repair and Maintenance

IDAHO'S EDUCATIONAL SERVICE SECTOR FOURTH LARGEST INDUSTRY

PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYMENT

Idaho's educational services sector accounts for slightly more than 9 percent of total employment, making it the fourth largest industry sector in the state.

Educational services encompasses several smaller, more specific industry groups. Elementary and secondary schools followed by colleges, universities and professional schools make up the vast majority of employment within the sector.



Educational Services Sector Employment

Employment Growth

The fastest growing subsector is junior colleges, where employment has increased nearly 45 percent between third quarter 2007 and third quarter 2009. All the other educational industry groups showed a very modest increase or decline, which was the norm for the two-year period that covered the worst of the last recession.

Average Weekly Wages

Average weekly wages within the sector are low to moderate except for colleges, universities, professional schools and business schools and computer and management training firms. Those employers maintained higher average weekly wages.

COMPARISON TO OTHER INDUSTRIES

Compared to the other industry groups, colleges, universities and professional schools show a moderate to high average weekly wage and percentage of employment as well as steady growth, ranking it ninth overall. Highest Employing Industry Group

Elementary and secondary schools ranked 45th, primarily due to the high percentage of employment. In fact, this subsector, with over 6 percent employment, is the largest subsector of the Idaho economy with nearly 39,000 employees. The next largest, general medical and surgical hospitals, employs just under 23,000 people. This means the top employment subsector is nearly 70 percent larger than the next largest subsector, ensuring that elementary and secondary schools will be the largest subsector for some time.

See table of top 25 industry groups on page 15.

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NC IDAHO ECONOMIC CONDITIONS SHOW SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT

Since July 2009, layoffs have become less common in north central Idaho, and employment is slowly recovering from the effects of the most severe recession since the Great Depression.

Jobs covered by unemployment insurance averaged 40,870 in the first quarter of 2010, down 1 percent from 41,300 in first quarter of 2009. If Wal-Mart hadn't moved, causing the loss of 280 jobs in Lewiston and adding 500 in Clarkston, the decline would have been just 0.4 percent.

The first quarter of 2010 broke a streak of seven quarters when manufacturing employment was lower than the same quarter a year before. Manufacturing employment rose 1.4 percent from 3,650 in first quarter of 2009 to 3,700 in the first three months of 2010.

After 10 quarters of year-over-year decline, construction employment rose 3.6 percent from 1,560 in the first quarter of 2009 to 1,600 in the first quarter of 2010.

The retail sector experienced the largest job losses between the first quarter of 2009 and the beginning of 2010. Retail employment fell 8.6 percent from 5,620 to 5,140. The Wal-Mart move to Clarkston accounted for over half the loss.

Taxable sales, an indicator for retail and some service industries, grew marginally so far this year – 0.7 percent – from \$220.4 million in the first five months of 2009 to \$221.9 million in the first five months of 2010. They had dropped 13.3 percent between 2008 and 2009 after falling 2.9 percent the year before that. Taxable sales continued to fall in Clearwater and Lewis counties while they edged up marginally in Idaho County and rose in Latah and Nez Perce counties despite the loss of the Lewiston Wal-Mart.

Health care continued to shine. Although hiring slowed in 2009, health care employment still grew 2.1 percent from 5,191 to 5,302.

Leisure and hospitality employment was up 1.6 percent from 4,260 in the first quarter of 2009 to 4,330 a year later after five straight quarters of year-over-year decreases.

Hotel-motel receipts in north central Idaho, as reported in the Idaho Travel and Convention Tax Report, fell 21.4 percent from \$8.8 million in the first five months of 2009 to \$7 million during January through May 2010. The decline statewide was similar at 20.6 percent. The first half of the year is mostly related to business and convention travel, which have been particularly hard hit by the economic downturn. Growth in hunting and fishing activities helped the

Top 25 Industry Groups

Including all industries in the Educational Services Sector

Rank*	Industry (NAICS)	% of Employment	Average Weekly Wage	Net Change in Employment**	% Change in Employment**
1	5417-Scientific Research and Development Services	1.20%	\$1,500	1,975	34.4%
2	6221-General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	3.69%	\$891	1,354	6.3%
3	6211-Offices of Physicians	1.67%	\$1,181	111	1.1%
4	9241-Administration of Environmental Quality Programs	1.16%	\$964	194	2.3%
5	2379-All Other Heavy Construction	0.20%	\$1,938	202	16.9%
6	9281-National Security and International Affairs	0.28%	\$1,033	217	14.3%
7	6223-Specialty (except Psychiatric and Substance Abuse) Hospitals	0.25%	\$799	662	66.6%
8	5415-Computer Systems Design and Related Services	0.49%	\$1,070	43	1.4%
9	6113-Colleges, Universities and Professional Schools	2.18%	\$731	450	3.3%
10	5621-Waste Collection	0.20%	\$1,084	99	7.2%
11	9221-Justice, Public Order and Safety Activities	0.72%	\$786	179	4.2%
12	9261-Administration of Economic Programs	0.75%	\$881	11	0.2%
13	5411-Legal Services	0.59%	\$926	1	0.0%
14	3115-Dairy Product Manufacturing	0.39%	\$763	403	19.6%
15	5221-Depository Credit Intermediation	1.42%	\$773	107	1.2%
16	2211-Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution	0.20%	\$1,431	44	3.8%
17	5239-Other Financial Investment Activities	0.13%	\$1,123	144	22.3%
18	4541-Electronic Shopping and Mail-Order Houses	0.19%	\$987	103	8.6%
19	9211-Executive, Legislative and Other General Government Support	3.44%	\$703	474	2.2%
20	6214-Outpatient Care Centers	0.35%	\$720	511	29.3%
21	9231-Administration of Human Resource Programs	0.72%	\$755	146	3.4%
22	5231-Securities and Commodity Contracts, Intermediation and Brokerage	0.14%	\$1,571	51	6.6%
23	4249-Miscellaneous Nondurable Goods Wholesalers	0.40%	\$835	71	2.7%
24	6212-Offices of Dentists	0.82%	\$720	149	3.0%
25	5191-Other Information Services	0.22%	\$748	296	29.5%
45	6111-Elementary and Secondary Schools	6.24%	\$567	-78	-0.2%
59	6112-Junior Colleges	0.23%	\$504	488	44.9%
85	6114-Business Schools and Computer and Management Training	0.02%	\$1,157	2	1.6%
135	6115-Technical and Trade Schools	0.10%	\$592	6	1.0%
205	6117-Educational Support Services	0.10%	\$363	9	1.5%
218	6116-Other Schools and Instruction	0.14%	\$277	-9	-1.1%

*Ranking based on percentage of total employment, average weekly wage and percentage growth in employment from third quarter 2007 through third quarter 2009. A total of 278 industry groups were used in the analysis. Some industries were not included due to Bureau of Labor Statistics confidentiality requirements or zero employment.

**Figures are based on change in employment from third quarter 2007 through third quarter 2009

region’s hotel-motel receipts grow in the second half of 2009, despite the downturn.

Transportation and warehousing jobs declined for the 11th quarter in a row, falling 6.6 percent from 1,220 in the first quarter of 2009 to 1,140 a year later. Transportation tends to rise when manufacturing and agricultural production rise and when retailers and wholesalers boost sales. With manufacturing and retail expected to increase in the next few months, transportation should start regaining jobs later this year.

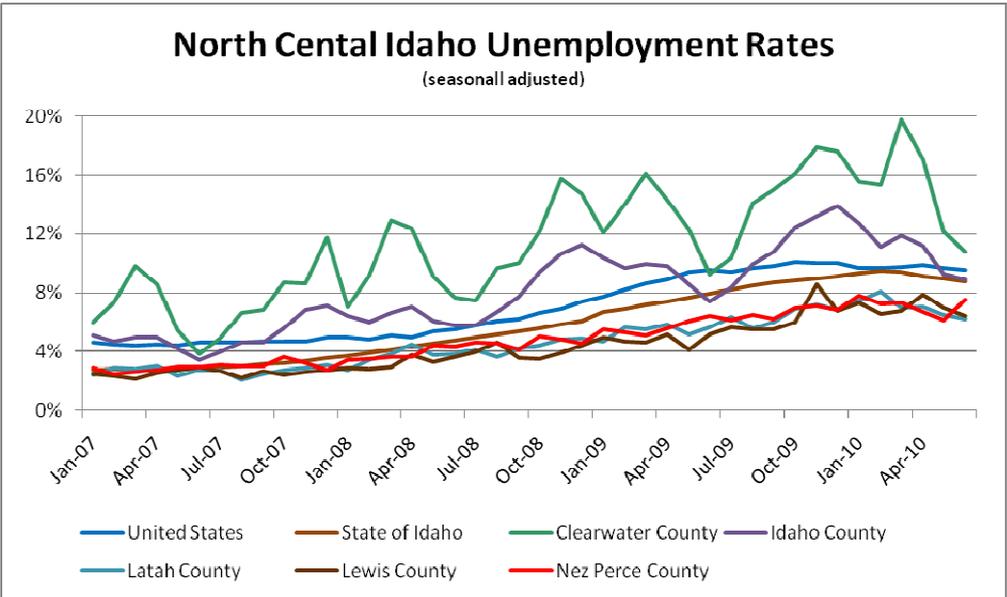
All five counties were basically in the same boat when it came to employment growth. Clearwater and Lewis counties had marginal increases in jobs between the first quarter of 2009 and the first quarter of 2010 while the other three counties had marginal decreases.

Total payrolls increased in all five counties, reflecting both increases in work hours for many employees and small raises for most workers.

Average pay for covered workers in north central Idaho rose 2.7 percent from \$7,528 in the first quarter of 2009 to \$7,735 in the first quarter of 2010.

Of the 250 north central Idaho employers who responded to the monthly Current Employment Statistics survey in both May 2009 and May 2010, 68 added jobs, 87 kept employment steady and 95 reported losses over the 12-month period. But together they added more jobs than they lost. Their employment rose 1.8 percent from 17,096 in May 2009 to 17,404 a year later.

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates have edged down from their near-record levels a few months ago.



Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

	June 2010	Highest Rate Since Jan. 2001	
U.S.	9.5%	10.2%	October 2009
Idaho	8.8%	9.5%	February 2010
North Central Idaho	7.4%	8.8%	January-February 2010
Clearwater County	10.8%	19.3%	March 2010
Idaho County	8.9%	13.9%	Dec. 2009
Latah County	6.2%	8.0%	Feb. 2010
Lewis County	6.4%	8.6%	Nov. 2009
Nez Perce County	7.5%	7.8%	Jan. 2010

North central Idaho's unemployment rate in June was 7.4 percent. It had the second lowest unemployment rate of the state's six regions.

Unemployment rates edged down between May and June in four of the region's counties but jumped in Nez Perce County.

There were several reasons behind the Nez Perce increase. About 100 temporary census jobs ended. Unusually cool, wet weather early in the month hampered logging, construction, transportation, tourism and retail trade. There was a surge in the labor force as many people began looking for jobs. There were two large temporary layoffs during the week of June 12, the week during which unemployment data is collected.

The issue is how many unemployed residents have to go back to work to bring the unemployment rate back down to its pre-recession level in November 2007, the month before the recession began. North central Idaho needs solid growth but not at the level both the state and nation need to return to pre-recession form.

A Return to the Pre-recession Economy

	Unemployment Rate		Jobs Needed To Offset Recession Losses	
	Nov. 2007	June 2009	Number	% Growth
United States (In thousands)	3.7%	9.5%	8,935	6.4%
State of Idaho	3.4%	8.8%	40,812	5.9%
Region 2	4.0%	7.4%	1,703	3.8%
Clearwater County	8.6%	10.8%	75	2.4%
Idaho County	6.8%	8.9%	153	2.3%
Latah County	2.9%	6.2%	594	3.5%
Lewis County	2.6%	6.4%	66	4.0%
Nez Perce County	3.3%	7.5%	786	4.6%

The number of employed workers in north central Idaho grew 2.1 percent between June 2009 and June 2010 while growth statewide was only 0.5 percent. Nationally employment fell 0.7 percent. But since the number of people joining the labor force grew faster than employment in north central Idaho, the number of unemployed workers increased 18.9 percent.

Why the manufacturing sector is set to grow

Manufacturing, which dropped severely during the recession, has begun recovering and should grow considerably in the next year or two.

Since the recession began in December 2007, Lewiston ammunition maker ATK has increased its employment from 950 to 1,100 and could hit 1,200 by the end of this year.

Clearwater Paper plans to introduce a new product – fluffier tissue paper that also is certified as environmentally friendly – that may lead to some employment growth at the Lewiston mill although other changes including the opening of a new plant in the southern United States will offset some of that growth. More than 1,600 people work for Clearwater Paper in Lewiston.

Manufacturers in Idaho, Clearwater and Lewis counties that bucked the national downturn include farm equipment maker Hillco Technologies in Nezperce, the SJX jet boat company that moved to Orofino, rifle scope maker Nightforce Optics in Orofino, machine shop J.C. Uhling/Militec in Cottonwood, Pacific Cabinets in Ferdinand and Idaho Sewing for Sports in Grangeville. All expect to add jobs this year. Howell Precision Machines in Lewiston, which supplies the fast-growing ATK operations, also has been expanding to keep pace with ATK. Howell Precision's sister operation, Extreme Bullets, expects to add up to 100 jobs over the next two years near the Lewiston airport.

Just as important, manufacturers that lost jobs during the last couple of years have started turning around. Orders for their products are up. Many are

increasing the hours of work for their employees and expect to do some hiring in the next few months.

If all continues to go smoothly, a foundry soon will be under construction in Craigmont at the old sawmill site. It will be the first time in more than a decade that Craigmont will have manufacturing jobs again. The foundry is expected to employ about 20 once it has been operating for two years. Access to a local foundry should foster growth at Hydraulic Warehouse in Lewiston and boat builders in the region including the Clarkston area.

As the recession wanes and efforts to expand European sales pay off, boat builders could not only restore the 120 jobs they lost over the last two years but probably add up to 100 more.

Even the wood products industry has stabilized after losing 350 jobs — about a third of the regional total — since the recession began. Several mills expect to add a handful of jobs this year, and some already have increased the hours for their existing employees. The Three Rivers Mill in Kamiah expects to re-open in August with a crew of about 60 workers.

About one in five of the region’s manufacturing jobs are in wood products, where employment is greatly influenced by the level of U.S. housing. Housing starts increased dramatically beginning in 2003 and peaked at an annualized rate of 2.27 million in February 2005. But the market’s implosion sent starts to their lowest level since World War II – an annualized rate of 477,000 in April 2009. Starts were up to 659,000 this past April but dipped to 540,000 in June.



The mills became more profitable in late 2009 after lumber prices rose from record lows. The Random Lengths composite price for framing lumber rose from \$190 per thousand board feet in late January 2009 to \$367 in late April 2010.

Recent weakness in the U.S. housing market pushed lumber prices to \$247 by late June possibly the result of the April 30 end of the generous home buyer tax credits that helped stabilize the housing market. More than 2.6 million taxpayers claimed the credits through April. New home buyers received up to \$8,000 while other home buyers received credits of up to \$6,500. Persisting high unemployment and rising foreclosures also contributed to the housing market’s weakness.

Manufacturers in north central Idaho, especially wood products manufacturers, have benefited from the low value of the U.S. dollar because it has made American goods less expensive for foreigners and foreign goods more

expensive for Americans. The Canadian dollar in June was worth 96 U.S. cents. In June 2009, it was worth 89 cents. Since many local manufacturers, especially lumber mills, compete with Canadian products, the high value of the Canadian dollar relative to the U.S. dollar has made them more competitive.

Strong demand from China, Korea and Japan for lumber also has helped American lumber mills.

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KOOTENAI COUNTY'S TOURISM INDUSTRY SEES SLIGHT UPTICK

From Car d'Lane to the Ford Ironman Coeur d'Alene triathlon, the month of June kicks off the tourism season in Kootenai County and much of northern Idaho. With the approaching summer solstice typically comes the largest jump in average employment in the leisure and hospitality industry.

The recession coupled with cooler, spring-like weather this past June colored a different picture from previous years. Industry employment in Kootenai County was down 14.1 percent from June 2009 and 22.8 percent from June 2008. Although the declines were spread across all subsectors of the industry, food services and drinking places have been most affected, losing approximately 580 jobs from June 2009 to June 2010.

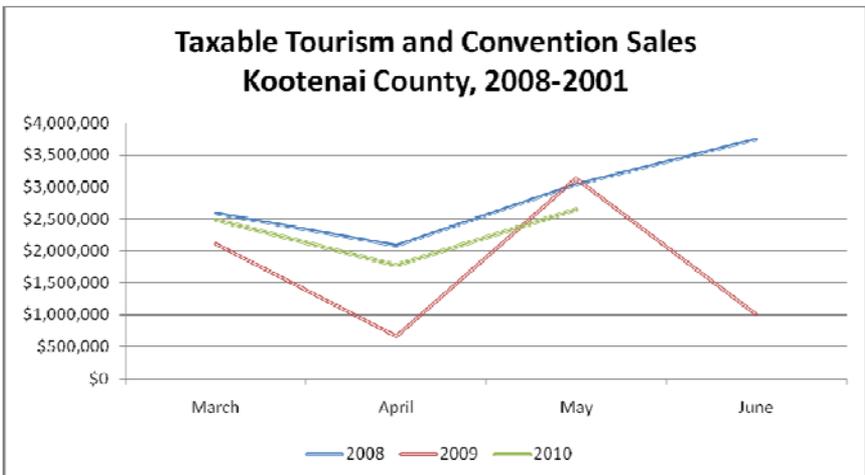
Tourism sales, however, do not look so grim as measured by the travel and convention tax in Kootenai County. Taxable sales in March were up 17.7 percent from a year earlier and April's sales were over 150 percent higher. Then May saw a 15.5 percent decrease from 2009, and June's numbers have yet to be released. But businesses anticipate a recovery from last year's 73.2 percent plunge in taxable sales from 2008.

Silverwood Theme Park had a slow start due to the rainy weather. Attendance in May and June were significantly lower than the previous year. However, Kootenai County and much of northern Idaho have finally seen a few sunny days that are getting people motivated and out of the house ready to enjoy the summer heat. During the second week in July, the gate count was double the same week a year ago - 6,000 compared to 3,000.

On the other hand, indoor tourism attractions like Triple Play experienced higher attendance earlier in the summer compared to 2009.

From May to June, the leisure and hospitality sector created the most jobs in Kootenai County - 490 - followed by 160 in construction and 100 in retail trade combined with 60 more in transportation and utilities.

The cooler, spring-like weather has not drawn travelers to the outdoors in northern Idaho. With warmer summer weather should come a cash influx into the community and the leisure and hospitality industry.



Car d’Lane, a mid-June weekend devoted to classic cars, drew over 1,000 entries and tens of thousands of visitors this year to kick off the summer season in Coeur d’Alene. The Ford Ironman Coeur d’Alene triathlon at the end of June typically brings in around \$10 million from the several thousand participants and their families.

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PANHANDLE NONFARM EMPLOYMENT INCREASES IN JUNE

The number of people working in the Coeur d’Alene Metropolitan Statistical Area in June increased by 1,065 from May, the largest one-month increase since June last year. A decrease of labor force in June was due in large part to the exhaustion of unemployment benefits. Nearly 500 jobless workers lost their benefits in Kootenai County amid the congressional impasse over continuing federal extended benefits that expired after Memorial Day.

The leisure and hospitality sector continued its seasonal monthly increases— adding almost 500 jobs from May to June. Other seasonal industries such as construction and retail also showed increases. Both added approximately 160 jobs.

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COUNTY	June 2009 Total Employment	June 2010 Total Employment	Difference
BENEWAH	3,534	3,786	252
BONNER	18,587	19,101	514
BOUNDARY	3,798	3,963	165
KOOTENAI	64,798	65,495	697
SHOSHONE	5,660	5,658	-2
Northern Idaho Total	96,377	98,003	1,626

Coeur d’Alene MSA	May 2010	Jun 2010	Jun 2009
Individuals by Place of Residence			
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>			
Civilian Labor Force	73,333	72,755	71,164
Unemployment	6,647	7,260	5,872
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.1	10.0	8.3
Total Unemployment	66,687	65,495	65,292
NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS			
Total Nonfarm	53,740	54,805	55,658
Total Private	43,519	44,610	45,663
Goods Producing	7,872	8,167	8,939
Mining & Logging	230	297	290
Construction	3,619	3,779	4,395
Manufacturing	4,023	4,091	4,254
Service-Providing	45,868	46,638	46,719
Private Service Providing	35,647	36,443	36,724
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	10,180	10,346	10,296
Wholesale Trade	1,464	1,488	1,505
Retail Trade	7,706	7,808	7,750
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	1,010	1,050	1,041

CENSUS POPULATION UPDATE

Idaho's oldest city, Pierce, is celebrating its sesquicentennial this year, and the next oldest, Lewiston, will celebrate the 150th anniversary of its incorporation next year. The table below and on the next two pages show the population of several cities in Idaho and neighboring states from the first Census after each was incorporated through 2000 plus the 2009 estimates of population made by the U.S. Census Bureau. [*Kathryn Tacke*](#), *Regional Economist*

Census Populations								
	Lewiston, Idaho	Portland, Oregon	Clarkston, Washington	Pullman, Washington	Seattle, Washington	Spokane, Washington	Vancouver, Washington	Walla Walla, Washington
1850		821						
1860		2,874			188			
1870	1,560	8,293			1,151			1,394
1880	739	17,577			3,533	350	1,722	3,588
1890	849	46,385		868	42,837	19,922	3,545	4,709
1900	2,425	90,426		1,308	80,671	36,848	3,126	10,049
1910	6,043	207,214	1,547	2,602	237,194	104,402	9,300	19,364
1920	6,574	258,288	1,859	2,440	315,312	104,437	12,637	15,503
1930	9,403	301,815	2,870	3,322	365,583	115,514	15,766	15,976
1940	10,548	305,394	3,116	4,417	368,302	122,001	18,788	18,109
1950	17,479	373,628	4,521	12,022	467,591	161,721	41,664	24,102
1960	22,371	372,676	5,617	12,957	557,087	181,608	32,464	24,536
1970	26,068	382,619	6,209	20,509	530,831	170,516	42,493	23,619
1980	27,986	366,383	6,312	23,579	493,846	171,300	42,834	25,619
1990	28,082	437,319	6,903	23,478	516,259	177,196	46,380	26,482
2000	30,904	529,121	7,337	24,675	563,374	195,629	143,560	29,686
2009	31,887	566,141	7,174	27,619	617,334	203,276	165,809	31,286

Census Populations

	Boise, Idaho	Coeur d'Alene, Idaho	Grangeville, Idaho	Idaho Falls, Idaho	Kellogg, Idaho	Moscow, Idaho	Nezperce, Idaho	Orofino, Idaho
1850								
1860								
1870								
1880	1,899	150	129	300		76		
1890	2,311	491	540	938	324	1,139		
1900	5,957	508	1,142	1,262	823	2,484	300	300
1910	17,358	7,291	1,534	4,827	1,273	3,670	599	384
1920	21,393	6,447	1,439	8,064	3,017	3,956	677	537
1930	21,544	8,297	1,360	9,429	4,124	4,476	444	1,078
1940	26,130	10,049	1,929	15,024	4,235	6,014	590	1,602
1950	34,393	12,198	2,544	19,218	4,913	10,593	543	1,656
1960	34,481	14,291	3,642	33,161	5,061	11,183	667	2,471
1970	74,990	16,228	3,636	35,776	3,811	14,146	555	3,883
1980	102,249	19,913	3,666	39,739	3,417	16,513	517	3,711
1990	125,738	24,563	3,226	43,929	2,591	18,398	453	2,868
2000	185,787	34,515	3,228	50,730	2,395	21,291	523	3,247
2009	205,707	43,805	3,121	55,312	2,177	24,338	504	2,987

Census Populations

	Pierce, Idaho	Pocatello, Idaho	Twin Falls, Idaho	Wallace, Idaho
1850				
1860				
1870	850			
1880	45			
1890	238	1,659		878
1900	281	4,046		2,265
1910	220	9,110	5,258	3,000
1920	120	15,001	8,324	2,816
1930	400	16,471	8,787	3,634
1940	381	18,133	11,851	3,839
1950	584	26,131	17,600	3,140
1960	522	28,534	20,126	2,412
1970	1,218	40,036	21,914	2,206
1980	1,060	46,340	26,209	1,736
1990	746	46,080	27,591	1,010
2000	617	51,466	34,469	960
2009	514	55,076	42,741	843



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

- Several construction projects are planned for Spokane's University District, east of downtown. The district is bounded roughly by Interstate 90 south, Sharp Avenue north, Division Street West, and Hamilton Street and the Spokane River East. The district includes the Riverpoint and Gonzaga University campuses and surrounding businesses and neighborhoods. The projects have a combined value of more than \$130 million.
 - Extension of Riverside Avenue, east of Division Street connecting to Trent Avenue, \$13 million starting summer 2010.
 - Renovation of former Great Northern building, just west of Hamilton Avenue, 10 million starting summer 2010.
 - Riverpoint Medical School's Biomedical Health-Sciences building, \$78 million starting summer 2011.
 - Division Street Gateway Corridor — pedestrian overpass, no value available, starting summer 2011.
 - Soil cleanup at Riverpoint Medical School facility, \$5.3 million starting spring 2011.
 - Riverside-Division Street intersection, \$2 million starting summer 2011.
- Spokane's Riverpoint Campus is expanding its four-year medical school in anticipation of a statewide physician shortage. Washington already imports 80 percent of its doctors from other states, and that is predicted to worsen dramatically in the next two decades as the population ages and doctors retire. The health care and biomedical industries expect to support more than 9,000 new jobs and generate more than \$2.1 billion in new economic activity annually by 2030 when all plans for the Riverpoint Campus are fully developed.
- Coeur d'Alene Mines Corp. is processing and selling gold concentrates produced at its new Kensington gold mine in Alaska under a contract with China National Gold Group Corp., China's largest gold producer. This agreement is the first of its kind between a state-owned corporation of the Peoples Republic of China and a U.S. precious metals mine. Coeur produced 50,000 ounces of gold at Kensington this year and expects 125,000 ounces a year for another dozen years. China National Gold Group will take delivery of about half the output at competitive prices. Coeur Alaska employs close to 200 workers. The company works closely with Berners Bay Consortium, made up of Klukwan Inc., Kake Tribal and Goldbelt Native Corps., with on-the-job training and hiring local and native Alaskans at Kensington.

- Greenstone Corp. purchased the vacant Agilent Technologies building in Liberty Lake including about 70 acres of land and a two-story building for \$6 million. The president of Greenstone plans to turn the 250,000-square-foot building into a technology campus, attracting startups and existing companies looking to grow.

BENEWAH COUNTY

- A new Worley fire station has been completed on U.S. Highway 95 at Setters. The 12,000-square-foot, \$1.4 million station houses 27 fire and emergency medical volunteers and features living quarters, administrative offices, a full industrial kitchen and meeting rooms.
- In November, voters approved lending \$28.5 million to St. Maries hospital for an addition and new clinic. Last week the hospital board opted to build one five-story building instead of two smaller ones. The new proposal will cut construction costs by about \$575,000. Work will begin late this year.
- July marks the 20th anniversary for the Benewah Medical Center. In 1990, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe opened the center to serve the health care needs of Plummer and the surrounding communities. With just eight employees and 800 patients, it was the first tribal clinic in the country to offer its services to both tribal and non-tribal patients. Today the center has 114 employees, a \$15 million annual budget and serves more than 6,500 patients each year. A new clinic is being planned.

BONNER COUNTY

- Within five years, Litehouse Foods Inc. intends to increase its sales by about 78 percent and eventually become one of the top 10 food producers in the country. During the recession, the Sandpoint-based company increased its marketing, expanded its product line, moved into new sales territories nationwide including Chicago and invested more in research and development. The company employs 340 at its Sandpoint plant and headquarters and another 150 at a plant it operates in Lowell, Mich. The company recently purchased the assets and brand of Green Garden Foods and will add its name to the University of Idaho's Kibbie Dome premium seating area. Litehouse will pay the university \$200,000 a year from 2011-2015 in exchange for naming the premium seating area the "Litehouse Center."
- The Panhandle Alliance for Education has given the Lake Pend Oreille School District over \$167,000 to incorporate innovative projects into the district's curriculum next fall. Programs are submitted by teachers and then reviewed and chosen by the Panhandle Alliance for Education Grants Committee. They range from reading to alternative energy.

BOUNDARY COUNTY

- Voters in Boundary County rejected a proposal to close the Naples Elementary School as part of a plan to cope with reduced state funding. Closing Naples would have saved the district about \$250,000 a year, and the 123 Naples students would have been bused nine miles to Valley View Elementary in Bonners Ferry. The district is closing Evergreen Elementary but will still be \$34,000 short of balancing its budget.

KOOTENAI COUNTY

- Patrons of the Kootenai School District have approved a \$250,000 levy to partially offset \$298,000 in reduced state funding. But taxes will not rise because the money will come from the district reserve, which finances construction debt. In addition, the school district has cut five days from the calendar, resulting in a 2.6 percent reduction in teachers' pay; adjusted

teacher benefits and incorporated six mandatory days off without pay for all faculty and staff.

- Wal-Mart is filling 350 jobs at its new stores in Post Falls and Hayden. The jobs pay around \$7.25 an hour, which is minimum wage in Idaho. The Post Falls store will open Aug. 18 and the Hayden store in mid-September. Many associates from the current Post Falls store will transfer to the new store.
- Only half the 19 Riverstone condominiums put up for auction recently sold, bringing in \$117,000 to \$309,000. The auction set for commercial property failed to draw any suitable bids for most parcels. An auction was also held in December to help spur activity in the mixed development campus.
- During economic downturns, when people look for ways to cut living costs, businesses like Kuma Stoves flourish. Kuma Stoves manufactures wood burning stoves and is completing a new 17,000-square-foot building on old U.S. Highway 95, nearly doubling the size of the current plant.
- June kicks off the tourism season in Coeur d'Alene. The Car d'Alene and Ford Ironman Coeur d'Alene spur significant economic activity. Roughly 20,000 to 30,000 visitors attend the classic car cruise. About 2,700 signed up for this year's Ironman Triathlon, each athlete typically spending \$185 to \$300 per day each. Competitors are required to arrive two days before the race so they spend at least several days in the community. An additional three to four people accompany each competitor and spend a similar amount. The estimated economic boost Ironman has on the local economy is more than \$10 million.
- A Hayden company has won a federal contract to design a lighter, more effective survival oxygen tank-backpack for military helicopter pilots and crews. The U.S. Army will pay an undisclosed amount to Unitech Composites & Structures Inc. to develop two dozen prototypes of the unit called an SEA - Survival Egress Air system. The company won the contract after demonstrating it can reduce the weight of the current tank by 20 percent and increase breathable air by 50 percent. The prototypes, which will be ready in about a year, will be tested by the Defense Department. The Army will then award a production contract for the tanks, which help pilots and crews survive when helicopters are forced down.

SHOSHONE COUNTY

- During a routine inspection, damaged timbers were found in the Lucky Friday Mine's No. 2 shaft, prompting a two-week suspension of operations so Lucky Friday employees could make repairs. Full production has since resumed.
- Officials with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are preparing to collect public comment on a planned expansion of Superfund cleanup efforts in the Coeur d'Alene River Basin. The expansion brings in the upper portion of the south fork of the Coeur d'Alene River, where more than 300 old mining sites have been identified. The piles are left over from the mining boomtown days of the early 1900s, and they are leaching toxic metals into Canyon Creek. Parts of the creek are too poisonous for fish. The expansion is expected to add \$1.28 billion to the cost of the cleanup, which could take another 50 to 90 years. A settlement with mining company Asarco will help cover the bill.

OPENINGS

- Skin Deep Couture in Coeur d'Alene.
- St. Joseph Consignment Furniture Store in Coeur d'Alene.

- Super 1 Foods in Sandpoint, which hired 100.
- Go Fish! fishing charters in Sandpoint.

CLOSURES/LAYOFFS

- A portion of Nighthawk Radiology's Coeur d'Alene offices, affecting 35 employees.
- 41 Business Licenses were issued in the greater Coeur d'Alene area.

[Link to nonfarm job data.](#)

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NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO

Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce counties

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- The Clearwater Economic Development Association, working with the Northwest Inland Manufacturers Association, recently landed a \$21,350 grant to bolster the ability of small manufacturers to compete for federal defense contracts. The manufacturers group is creating a network of local manufacturers that can re-engineer and then make the parts to repair aging military vehicles and equipment. The economic development association has several projects to help manufacturing grow in north central Idaho including the establishment of an industrial park in Craigmont with a "lost foam" foundry as chief tenant. Also in the works are projects to expand sales of regional boat builders to Europe and a program to help local manufacturers learn how to begin exporting. The developers are also exploring ways to create green jobs in the region. The manufacturers association is playing a role in these programs while working to improve the manufacturing skills of the region's young people.

CLEARWATER COUNTY

- The Idaho Department of Fish and Game will spend \$1.4 million to build a fishing pond four miles west of Weippe. Construction of a dam on Schmidt Creek could begin in August. Mary Lou Deyo of Lewiston gave the department 94 acres of land in 2002 for a fishing reservoir. The 55-acre Deyo Reservoir will have a boat ramp, two peninsulas for better fishing access, a parking lot, a drive-through loop, a picnic pavilion and enhanced wetlands. The dam should be completed by the end of the year. The reservoir could take up to three years to fill. In the future, campgrounds could be added.

IDAHO AND LEWIS COUNTIES

- The recent sale of the Three Rivers Timber mill, which closed in November 2008, could help pull Kamiah out of the economic doldrums. The mill sold in June to Michael Burns, who owns a commercial fishing company in Seattle. He paid \$2.65 million for the mill and its equipment, which was scheduled to be sold in pieces at the end of June. The mill, which specialized in processing small logs, employed 115 people before it closed. It could reopen as early as August and initially will employ one shift of 60 workers. The sale will help Idaho County and Kamiah's fire, library, cemetery and school districts because the proceeds will be used to pay thousands of dollars in back taxes owed on the mill property.
- Torrential rains falling on supersaturated soil sent several rivers and streams surging past flood stage in early June, causing damage to roads and bridges in Idaho, Clearwater and Asotin counties. Idaho County suffered the most damage. The Little Salmon River south of Riggins and

creeks draining into the South Fork of the Clearwater River between Koo-skia and Stites swelled over their banks as did the Snake River between Asotin and Clarkston in Washington. The rains washed out Dead Horse Bridge in the Warren-Burgdorf area, stranding residents and severing the fiber optic cable for telephone service. The latest estimate is Idaho County suffered \$2.5 million in damages including \$800,000 from the washout of Battle Ridge Road at Koo-skia and \$500,000 from the washout of Thorn Springs Road at its junction with State Highway 62 south of Kamiah. Koo-skia's wastewater treatment plant required about \$6,000 in repairs. Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter declared a disaster in Idaho County, opening up potential funding sources to assist in repair and restoration of damaged infrastructure.

- The Nez Perce Tribe recently broke ground on a 100-foot tall radio tower next to the Wa A Yas Community Center in Kamiah. The 3,000-watt radio station, KIYE on 88.7 FM, should be on the air by September, broadcasting throughout north central Idaho. The radio station will feature local news and Nez Perce language, culture and music. It will broadcast in the Nez Perce language for about two hours a day, which will help teach young tribal members the language — a major goal for the tribe.
- For the second year in a row, the Grangeville smokejumper base held training sessions for smokejumper candidates in Montana and Idaho. To become fully qualified as smokejumpers — Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management personnel who parachute into remote areas to attack forest fires before they have a chance to grow large — candidates must make a minimum of 15 jumps. They learn to dig fire lines, climb trees and saw trees and must pass rigorous pack tests. The Grangeville airport provides a cost-effective and logistically efficient place for the training because of short taxi times, close proximity to the National Forest, permission to use private land near town and low hourly rates on the base's aircraft. The Forest Service employs about 200 people year-round and up to 400 in the summer, making it Idaho County's largest employer.
- Downtown Grangeville soon will have a department store after more than a decade without one. Larson's Department Store will occupy the building left vacant when Miller Hardware closed a few months ago. As well as filling a hole in the center of town, the department store will offer a wide variety of clothing and accessories. The Grangeville store will be the third Larson's Department Store. The other two are in Sandpoint and Bonners Ferry. Arnzen Construction of Cottonwood will begin remodeling the building in July. About six people will work at the department store when it opens late this summer.

LATAH COUNTY

- The Idaho Land Board granted i-minerals inc. a 29-year lease for a mineral processing plant near Bovill. Construction is expected to start next year if the company obtains the required permits. It plans to mine and process feldspar and quartz near Bovill, where it would employ about 70 people.
- A Spokane developer plans to develop a strip mall at the former Karl Tyler Motors site on Pullman Road in Moscow. The University Crossing mall developed by Selkirk Inc. will house up to four tenants. The largest space already is leased to Inland Cellular while 3,400 square feet are available for other tenants when the project is completed in October.
- The State Board of Education recently approved the University of Idaho's plan to renovate the Kibbie Dome. The university is raising the required \$6.7 million from private donations. Improvements will include a new me-

dia and game operations box, conversion of the existing media box, suite-style seating boxes and additional improvements aimed at enhancing spectator comfort and enjoyment. The board also approved an agreement between the University of Idaho and Litehouse Inc., the Sandpoint manufacturer of salad dressings, for sponsorship and naming rights. Under the agreement, Litehouse will pay \$200,000 a year from 2011 -2015 in exchange for naming the Kibbie Dome premium seating area the "Litehouse Center." The Kibbie not only hosts Vandal athletics, it also hosts the Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival, commencement ceremonies, academic conferences and other campus and community activities. The board also approved the \$2.5 million reconstruction of the Dan O'Brien Outdoor Track and Field Complex.

- Washington State University broke ground in June on a building for researching ways to protect the health of animals and therefore of humans. The school's global health program helps detect and control diseases in the animal population before they emerge in human populations. Two-thirds of the new human infectious diseases emerge from animals. The Global Animal Health building southeast of the veterinary teaching hospital is funded by a \$25 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the largest monetary donation the university has ever received, and \$10 million in matching funds from the university and more than 350 individual donations. The 62,000-square-foot building should be completed by spring 2012. When additional funding becomes available, the university plans to build a 75,000-square-foot animal disease and diagnostic laboratory on the west side of the site.

NEZ PERCE AND ASOTIN (WASH.) COUNTIES

- Extreme Bullet, a small Lewiston-based manufacturer, will expand into two existing buildings on two acres at South Port near the airport. A 6,000-square-foot building will house a bullet-making operation, while a 3,500-square-foot building, will house an operation that disassembles ammunition that generally comes from large-scale factories but does not meet specifications. The city of Lewiston secured a \$200,000 grant from the Idaho Department of Commerce to upgrade the city's water system to satisfy fire protection requirements for the Extreme Bullet expansion that could lead to the creation of up to 100 jobs. If everything goes smoothly, the new factory could be running within two months. The company's owner David Howell also operates Howell Machine and Ammo Load Worldwide that employs 44 in downtown Lewiston. Howell Machine makes parts for manufacturing equipment for large-scale companies such as ATK. Ammo Load produces manufacturing equipment for small- to mid-size ammunition makers.
- Riverport Brewing, a microbrewery in Clarkson, is expanding after turning a profit during its first year in business. It will add about 2,000 square feet to the 3,000-square-foot space it currently occupies near Wal-Mart. When construction is complete in December, the additional room will allow the brewery to increase production; sell beer in bottles, not just kegs; market to restaurants and retail outlets and expand its beer storage. The brewery is expanding its sales to restaurants in Spokane and Coeur d'Alene.
- Outdoor Life magazine recently ranked Lewiston as the fourth best place in the country for hunters and anglers to live. Outdoor Life ranks towns based on criteria like proximity to quality hunting and fishing, public lands access and the liberalness of their gun laws. It also considers economic indicators such as unemployment rates, cost-of-living indices, median household income, growth and median home prices. Quality-of-life indica-

tors such as amenities, quality of schools and population densities are also factors. This was the fourth year in row the magazine ranked Lewiston in its top four best places.

- Regence BlueShield of Idaho is hiring about 45 people for new positions at its Lewiston health insurance office. The hiring will restore about half of the jobs the office lost during the recession, bringing employment close to 700.
- The former Lewiston Inn and Suites now is Cedars Inn Lewiston. Its new owners are completely renovating the hotel on Main Street and restoring its swimming pool.
- The Lee Morris building, a brick edifice in downtown Clarkston built in 1903, is being transformed from a retail space into a dental clinic. The Community Health Association of Spokane plans to open the Lewis and Clark Dental Clinic by mid-August. The clinic will provide access to high-quality, affordable dental care for low-income families in the Lewis-Clark Valley.

[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

- St. Luke's Regional Medical Center opened a new Heart Health and Rehabilitation Center in June with nearly four to five additional nursing therapy and administrative staff. Current hospital employees will also man the new center.
- The Boise Airport terminal control facility, known as TRACON, will be staying in Boise. TRACON had been scheduled to move to Salt Lake City, but those plans have been set aside, leaving Boise with high paying jobs and other benefits that result from the facility being located in the area.
- Dick's Sporting Goods has opened its first Idaho location in Meridian. The new sporting goods store hired 50 people prior to opening on June 6 and intends to hire another 25 over the next few months.
- Transform Solar, a company spun off from Boise's Micron Technology and Australia's Origin Energy, has announced plans to research, develop and manufacture ultra thin solar panels at its Boise and Nampa locations. The company has already hired 70 employees and intends to hire an additional 50 by year's end.
- The Powerhouse Events Center closed in June, citing the down economy and increased competition from other events centers such as the Stueckle Sky Center.
- Supervalu has outsourced some finance functions and laid off 60 people at its administrative offices in Boise.
- A private school, Broadview University, plans to open in early 2011. Twenty-five staff and faculty will be hired initially with the potential to expand employment to over 150 as enrollment increases. Broadview has a \$6 million

building under construction in Meridian. The project should save about 100 construction jobs in the area.

ADAMS COUNTY

- Flooding from the Weiser River wrought havoc on roads and bridges in Adams County, and it will be some time before recreation and logging roads are repaired. That could have an effect on the tourism and logging industries.

CANYON COUNTY

- Stevens Henager College in Boise is renovating an existing building southeast of the Karcher Mall to serve its Canyon County students. Employment is expected to increase by at least 15 instructors, admissions staff and financial aid advisors. The renovation is expected to be completed by the end of August with the first classes being held in September.

ELMORE COUNTY

- Mountain Home Air Force Base has lost its bid to host ground control stations for the Reaper and Predator remotely piloted vehicles and the 300 jobs they would have generated.

GEM COUNTY

- The Payette River flood destroyed one bridge to the Gem Island Sports Complex and flooded several homes, but the damage was minor compared to flooding in Adams and Payette counties.

OWYHEE COUNTY

- Downtown Homedale is scheduled for a facelift beginning in late June. The city will get new lighting and sidewalks, which are expected to be completed by mid-September.

PAYETTE COUNTY

- Two Canadian natural gas exploration companies have identified major gas wells in Payette County. Drilling will begin after seismic operations are completed in July. The project is expected to provide the state with increased tax revenues from the sale of natural gas.

VALLEY COUNTY

- Kelly's Whitewater Park opened in Cascade free to the public on June 14, providing five in-water features. Local businesses are expected to benefit greatly from the added recreational attraction.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

- Weiser River flooding in early June caused \$100,000 in damage, but most of it was to Forest Service roads and campgrounds, for which Washington County is not financially responsible.

CLOSURES

- The Brown Wrapper, a custom picture frame shop, and the Movie Gallery in Mountain Home. Together they employed 10.
- The Nampa and Eagle locations of general merchandiser Kings. The two stores employed about 20 people.

[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

TWIN FALLS

- C3, an in-bound call center that courts Fortune 500-type companies, is taking over the former Dell building. C3 stands for “Customer, Contact, Channels,” which highlights the company’s focus. Most importantly, the ramp-up is on a fast track. C3 originally wanted to fill 600 jobs by the end of the year, then three weeks into the process it raised the bar to 900 jobs. The wages for customer service representatives are anticipated to be less than those paid by Dell, but required skill levels are different as well. Eighty percent of the work is general customer service, not the technical support which was Dell’s emphasis. The identities of C3’s two contracts have not been released, but at least one involves life and health insurance sales. The Urban Renewal Agency, which manages the 48,000-square-foot building, is leasing it to C3 at \$8 a square foot for five years. Within the first week of the announcement 400 people submitted résumés to fill 40 positions – recruiters, trainers, human resource staff and quality auditors. It is estimated the C3 payroll will come close to matching Dell’s and will include fringe benefits.
- Savor Idaho was the newest event of the Snake River Jam Festival this year at the Canyon Crest Event Center. The event put the spotlight on local beverages and food. Smoked trout, organic cheeses and wines were offered to the 233 tickets holders, a near sellout for the event’s first year.
- The College of Southern Idaho is adding 4,200 square feet to its welding program area to accommodate increased enrollment. The \$456,000 expansion of the Desert Building will add offices and storage space for projects. Close to 100 students attended the day and evening programs this past year. Starr Corp. is anticipated to start the design-build project later this summer.
- The College of Southern Idaho will accept bids on a \$2 million improvement to the fine arts building for performance and music education. The last renovation was completed in 2007 and added additional performance areas.
- Resident student quarters are getting tight on the College of Southern Idaho’s campus, unlike most other community colleges where the commuter enrollment has been rising. This will be the second time in the last five years the college has had to accommodate increased demand for on-campus housing. Proposals will be solicited for a \$4 million apartment complex of 20 one-bedroom and 20 two-bedroom apartments.
- The Department of Commerce awarded \$27,500 a year for the next three years to Twin Falls County to provide rural economic development support. The county collaborated with regional development representatives to win the grant, which had previously been awarded to the Rural Magic Valley Economic Development Association, which consisted of the cities of Gooding, Shoshone, Carey, Wendell and Bliss.
- Beginning this summer, Mountain West Realty of Bountiful, Utah, will renovate the former Rite Aid location into a 34,000-square-foot strip mall called Blue Lakes Marketplace. The corner will be converted into an eight-tenant development with updated facades and additional parking. Rents are expected to range from \$12.50 a square foot up to \$23. The average lease rate is \$12 in the Twin Falls area.

- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded \$373,000 to improve low-income public housing units in rural areas of south central Idaho. The Twin Falls Housing Authority will receive more than \$268,000. Jerome will get about \$63,000, and Buhl will receive nearly \$52,000.

BLAINE COUNTY

- National Republican Committee Chairman Michael Steele spoke to 200 at the River Run Lodge in Ketchum about the current political environment. "The GOP, the Grand Old Party, is no longer your mother and father's party. It's yours," he said.
- Blaine County has received a \$27,500 grant from the Idaho Department of Commerce to pursue rural economic development over the next three years.
- The Sun Valley-Ketchum Chamber of Commerce is splitting off its Visitors Bureau, placing it under a new board to intensify marketing with a higher budget. Both Ketchum and Sun Valley mayors support the move, preferring the chamber focus on assisting businesses with promotions and leading the charge for local community events. The Sun Valley City Council budgeted \$400,000 for the promotional effort.
- Sun Valley Resort reported 909 gondola riders took advantage of the great weather on the opening weekend. For \$20, people can ride the gondola to the Roundhouse where they can lunch on the patio and, for the more adventurous, mountain bike back down the hill.
- The Sun Valley Volleyball Classic, the newest component of the Sun Valley Wellness Festival, drew professional players such as Priscilla Lima, Ron von Hagen and Sinjin Smith to the Wood River Valley. The PlayHard-GiveBack' Foundation, which organized the event, is dedicated to engaging young athletes in social, environmental and humanitarian causes. Tyia Wilson, a jazz singer from Las Vegas, performed a yoga concert, sharing the stage with six yoga instructors at the Sun Valley ice rink. Jamie Lee Curtis, actor and author, gave the festival keynote on "Live Wisely, Love Well." Curtis has been spending holidays in Sun Valley since she was a child, accompanying her famous acting parents, Janet Leigh and Tony Curtis.

JEROME COUNTY

- Exergy Development Group has partnered with GE Energy Financial Services, a unit of GE, and Reunion Power to finish construction of the \$500 million Idaho Wind Projects. GE will hold the majority equity interest in the project, which was started last month in Gooding County and should be completed by year's end. The project will employ 175 temporary construction workers and provide 25 permanent jobs. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory model estimates indirect jobs will total 2,200 for a one-year period – half in Idaho and half elsewhere. Fagen Inc., which was involved with Cargill's anaerobic digester projects in Jerome and Roberts, is doing the work. With a total of 122 turbines capable of 183 megawatts, the wind farm is projected to generate power for 39,700 average Idaho homes.

MINIDOKA AND CASSIA COUNTIES

- The Albion Bed 'N Breakfast and the Albion Schoolhouse Bakery opened earlier this year at the Albion Normal School campus under the same ownership. The bakery will serve "non-gluten bread. "Our main thing is artesian and organic for people who want to enhance their health," Chad Mander-

scheid said. “We did it in Seattle and were making 700 rolls a day.” He currently delivers bread to Gossner’s and Upper Crust and hopes to deliver to other smaller places in the area. When possible, he tries to use local produce and supplies. Manderscheid hopes to have ovens in the basement by winter and will use them to help heat the building.

OPENINGS

- Annie’s Lavender and Coffee Shop in Twin Falls, affiliated with the Valley View Lavender Farm in Buhl.
- Design House in Hailey providing graphic art design services.
- Buddha Bar in the Ketchum-based Chapter One Bookstore featuring organic and local products.
- Extreme Staffing, a new temporary employment agency in Twin Falls.
- The Local Dish & Market, offering local grocery produce and products, and lunch and dinner options prepared with fresh, unprocessed ingredients.

CLOSURES

- Swenson’s Market in Rupert after almost 20 years. The store in Twin Falls is still open.
- St. Benedict’s Family Medical Center’s long-term care center, Jerome’s only skilled nursing facility, due to declining residents and fire code issues.
- New York Burrito, replaced by a Jumba Juice franchise.

[Link nonfarm job data.](#)

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SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO

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

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

BANNOCK COUNTY

- Idaho’s efforts to grow high technology industries have paid dividends in Bannock County. On Semiconductor announced in June an \$11 million expansion of its Pocatello operation. On currently employs 630 people, and the expansion is expected to bring several new high paying jobs to the area. Gynii Gilliam, executive director of the Bannock Development Corp., said the expansion “bodes well for the future staying power of ON Semiconductor in the community.” A key factor in On’s success is a five-year, 50 percent reduction of the assessed value of the new equipment. The firm also worked with the city of Pocatello to obtain a \$200,000 Idaho Department of Commerce grant for electronics infrastructure development.
- The Idaho Department of Labor’s Pocatello office held a special workshop on June 30 for individuals whose unemployment benefits have been exhausted or soon will be. A packed room listened to presentations on department services and the current labor market situation. Each workshop participant was given one-on-one assistance with résumé writing and had the opportunity to participate in mock job interviews. Supervisor Matt Thompson said the Pocatello office “wanted to show jobs seekers in our community that we’re not just an unemployment office but an employment office. Our main goal is to help people find work.”
- Voters in the Marsh Valley Joint School District approved using \$500,000 from the existing \$750,000 plant facility levy for two years to help pay for operating expenses. The school district is trying to make up for a \$780,000 reduction in state support. The district has already cut staff salaries by 5 percent and reduced textbook, technology and supplies

budgets. The district has also eliminated field trips and school transportation to extracurricular activities within 85 miles.

BEAR LAKE COUNTY

- The National Oregon/California Trail Center in Montpelier is working with the Smithsonian Institution and the Idaho Humanities Council to attract more visitors this summer. The Smithsonian is bringing to the Montpelier center the exhibit “Journey Stories” about the American desire to travel, explore and settle new places. Becky Smith, the center’s director, expects visitors to increase. “A few years ago we would have around 7,500 visitors per year,” she said. “Now thanks in large part to numerous tour groups who stop at the center, we have around 50,000 visitors per year.” The Journey Stories exhibit runs from July 23 through Aug. 28.
- As a major tourist attraction and natural resource in Bear Lake County, Bear Lake is watched closely. Concern over the water level due the lack of precipitation has so far been abated. Despite only 60 percent to 70 percent of the normal precipitation this winter, the lake has not been negatively affected. Due to a cold and rainy spring for irrigators downstream, there has been little need to draw on lake water.

BINGHAM COUNTY

- Very few people in Bingham County noticed when the company that moves Bingham County's solid waste changed on June 1. MSW Green, the company hired by Bingham County to deal with refuse, became embroiled in a payment dispute with its subcontractors, Mill Creek Metals and Corder Transport LLC. Both contractors stopped work, and the garbage began to literally pile up at the county’s waste transfer station. In response to the crisis, and a notice from the Southeastern District Health Department, the Bingham County Commission signed a 30-day contract with Mill Creek Metals to manage the waste transfer station, and Corder LLC has been hired to move the waste. County officials are exploring legal action against MSW Green.
- Voters in the Firth School District rejected a \$200,000 levy to help offset a \$600,000 reduction in state funding. To reduce costs, the district has already shortened the school year by 10 days, and teachers in the district will see their pay cut. The district may present the levy to voters again in the coming months.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

- One doesn’t usually think of mollusks being a source of concern for local government. But the zebra mussel is now a concern for Franklin County and Idaho state officials. Over Memorial Day weekend, Franklin County working with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture began to inspect boats entering Idaho on U.S. Highway 91. The inspection station will continue operating through mid-September. It is one of five stations in southern Idaho and one of 19 statewide. Zebra mussels were first discovered in the Great Lakes in 1988. The mollusk is a free-swimming bivalve, which was brought to North America from Russia. According to the Center for Invasive Species Research, zebra mussels have been responsible for damage to boats, water intake systems and pipelines. They have also been linked to avian botulism in the Great Lakes region, and due to their sharp shells, they may cut swimmers who come into contact with them.

ONEIDA COUNTY

- During April and May Oneida County enjoyed Idaho’s lowest unemployment rate. May unemployment stood at 4.6 percent. However, Oneida

County's unemployment rate may climb in the coming months. Several residents are employed at ATK in Box Elder County, Utah, where they make solid rocket boosters for the space shuttle. Due to the federal government's decision to end the space shuttle program, ATK has laid off 800 workers at the production facility. According to Malad Area Chamber of Commerce President Lance Tripp, "we may have 15 to 30 additional unemployed residents due to the ATK layoffs. ATK provided residents here in the Malad area an opportunity for good paying high-tech jobs. The loss of wages from ATK's workers in our county could affect other businesses here." Beyond the layoffs that have already occurred, Tripp worries that ATK could let other workers from the county go.

POWER COUNTY

- The Power County Commission is funding an effort to prevent a new series of power transmission lines from being located in the county. The 1,150-mile Gateway Transmission Line planned by Rocky Mountain Power and Idaho Power would run from eastern Wyoming to near Boise. Opposition stems from concerns that the project will interfere with agriculture. Power County is working with five other Idaho counties to block the project and so far has spent \$60,000 in legal fees on the effort.

[Link to nonfarm job data.](#)

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EAST CENTRAL IDAHO

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

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- Clark, Custer, Lemhi and Butte counties are among 17 rural areas in Idaho that will share \$500,000 to fund full-time economic development professionals. Funding runs from July 1 through June 30, 2011.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

- The city of Rigby has ended the wage cuts imposed in January. Effective June 30, city employees received a 4 percent wage increase – back to January levels. The city has gone through rigorous efforts to improve its budget situation. Reducing wages for six months saved the city \$15,000. Eight departments are currently under budget by a total of around \$40,000.

MADISON COUNTY

- Brigham Young University–Idaho has passed the 10-year mark since announcing its transition from the two-year Ricks College to a four-year university. Changes during the 10 years include assigning students to attend two out of three full semesters offered each year. In January 2000, student enrollment was about 8,600. Today enrolment each semester is over 13,000. University officials expect enrollment to approach 15,000 by 2015. Currently the university offers 60 bachelors and 14 associate degrees.
- Over the last decade Rexburg has nearly doubled its borders, annexing 3,133 acres since 2000, to total 6,242 acres today. Much of the expansion has been to the southeast. The growth has presented some challenges for public works like water, sewer and city streets. The city is currently in the first phase of a major wastewater treatment plant upgrade.

LEMHI COUNTY

- Rural Idaho Outreach Partners is again hosting the Salmon Career Expo Sept. 22. The expo at the Lemhi County fairgrounds runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The rural outreach program is a joint partnership between the Idaho National Laboratory and Premier Technology with help from the Idaho Department of Labor. Youth from Arco, Mackay, Challis, Salmon, Leadore, West Jefferson and Dubois school districts will be bused in to participate in the expo and learn about career opportunities from over 55 different businesses. Last year over 600 students participated.

FREMONT COUNTY

- Fremont County property values have generally decreased, according to the Fremont County Assessor. Most commercial property in St. Anthony and some residential properties have decreased in value, although agricultural property has held steady. The county assessor found that some residential properties have declined by up to 3 percent.

BONNEVILLE COUNTY

- Construction permits are on the rise in Idaho Falls and Ammon. There were only 31 building permits issued in Idaho Falls for 2009. In 2010 so far there have been 50, but the total value has plummeted from \$11 million in 2009 to around \$9 million in 2010. While Ammon has also seen total permits increase by 75 percent since 2009, the values have increased only 47 percent. New home construction and residential alteration permits are up 380 percent over last year. The Idaho Falls development – Snake River Landing – announced earlier this month the Legacy Creek subdivision will begin construction with 34 single family homes bringing much needed employment back to the construction industry.
- U.S. Sens. Mike Crapo and Jim Risch and Idaho State Representative Erik Simpson were in Idaho Falls June 26 to announce the formation of a National Nuclear Caucus. They hope that the new caucus will promote the use of clean, safe nuclear power. The bipartisan caucus of nine – seven Republicans and two Democrats – has gained attention at both the state and federal level.
- Some Idaho National Laboratory bus drivers are not happy with the discussions on their new contract with Battelle Energy Alliance. Amalgamated Transit Union representatives have objected to provisions of the proposed three-year contract on unpaid lunches and seniority privileges.
- Workers at Integrow Malt voted 17-9 in October to form a union, but after eight months of negotiations there has been no agreement on a contract. Because allegations of illegal activities were lodged over the election, the National Labor Relations Board will have to approve the results of the balloting. Company representatives who filed the objections claim they are not trying to stall the contract talks.
- INL has been named a research partner for building detailed computer simulations of nuclear power plant operations. Through the computer simulations, scientists hope to improve the efficiency of the country's current commercial nuclear reactors. It is unclear how much of the \$122 million in research funds will be allocated to INL.
- Allegiant Air is now offering nonstop flights from Idaho Falls to Long Beach Airport. The low-cost flights will leave on Friday and return Monday.
- Disagreements at tracks in Boise and Wyoming are stifling the racing industry in Idaho. But Ida Racing is picking up some of the slack with additional race dates at Sandy Downs in Idaho Falls. Quarter Horse Journal

estimates that each horse brought in for the races supports 6.5 jobs – everything from hay producers to motel clerks. Owners of horses typically fly in to watch the races and patronize local hotels and restaurants. Some publications have estimated the loss of racing due to the disputes could translate into an economic loss of \$40 million this year.

[Link to nonfarm job data.](#)

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State of Idaho Data – State Economic Indicators

	June 2010*	May 2010	June 2009	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE ⁽¹⁾					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	759,000	761,500	748,200	-0.3	1.4
Unemployment	66,600	68,300	59,500	-2.5	11.9
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	8.8	9.0	7.9		
Total Employment	692,400	693,200	688,700	-0.1	0.5
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	763,600	758,200	757,900	0.7	0.8
Unemployment	63,900	63,500	57,800	0.6	10.6
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	8.4	8.4	7.6		
Total Employment	699,700	694,700	700,100	0.7	-0.1

U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE⁽²⁾

9.7 9.9 9.4

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Claims Activities

Initial Claims ⁽³⁾	12,000	10,421	13,588	15.2	-11.7
Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾	99,167	99,167	152,281	0.0	-34.9

Benefit Payment Activities⁽⁵⁾

Weeks Compensated	110,718	83,760	133,853	32.2	-17.3
Total Benefit \$ Paid	21,659,075	20,257,682	34,657,313	6.9	-37.5
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$195.62	\$241.85	\$258.92	-19.1	-24.4
Covered Employers	48,569	49,012	50,209	-0.9	-3.3
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾	\$361,116,233	\$345,394,035	\$314,844,710	4.6	14.7

U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX⁽²⁾

	June 2010	May 2010	June 2009	% Change Month	% Change Year
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	213.8	214.1	211.0	-0.1	1.4
All Urban Consumer (CPI- U)	218.0	218.2	215.7	-0.1	1.1

(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.

State of Idaho Data

Jun 2010 Labor Force (preliminary) compared to June 2009 (benchmarked) data
(continued on next page).

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Jun 2010				Jun 2009			
	Civilian Labor Force	# Unemployed	% Unemployed	Total Employment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unemployed	% Unemployed	Total Employment
STATE OF IDAHO	759,040	66,619	8.8	692,421	748,233	59,463	7.9	688,770
COUNTIES								
ADA	192,909	17,547	9.1	175,361	192,892	16,776	8.7	176,116
ADAMS	2,281	237	10.4	2,044	2,235	208	9.3	2,028
BANNOCK	38,842	3,194	8.2	35,648	38,546	3,084	8.0	35,462
BEAR LAKE	3,493	191	5.5	3,301	3,385	174	5.1	3,211
BENEWAH	4,156	378	9.1	3,778	4,062	329	8.1	3,733
BINGHAM	22,540	1,664	7.4	20,876	21,530	1,434	6.7	20,096
BLAINE	13,742	1,144	8.3	12,598	13,451	948	7.0	12,504
BOISE	3,314	236	7.1	3,078	3,304	213	6.4	3,091
BONNER	21,216	2,125	10.0	19,091	20,915	1,743	8.3	19,172
BONNEVILLE	50,645	3,468	6.8	47,177	50,025	2,951	5.9	47,074
BOUNDARY	4,517	549	12.2	3,968	4,254	416	9.8	3,838
BUTTE	1,521	80	5.3	1,440	1,461	64	4.4	1,397
CAMAS	622	48	7.8	574	610	40	6.6	570
CANYON	83,120	9,490	11.4	73,630	82,980	9,032	10.9	73,947
CARIBOU	3,530	271	7.7	3,259	3,565	207	5.8	3,358
CASSIA	10,737	741	6.9	9,996	10,444	578	5.5	9,866
CLARK	572	41	7.2	530	556	32	5.7	524
CLEARWATER	3,515	377	10.7	3,137	3,441	319	9.3	3,122
CUSTER	3,002	157	5.2	2,846	3,083	114	3.7	2,969
ELMORE	12,063	1,055	8.7	11,008	11,553	906	7.8	10,646
FRANKLIN	5,671	327	5.8	5,344	5,542	343	6.2	5,200
FREMONT	5,599	489	8.7	5,109	5,330	398	7.5	4,932
GEM	6,843	691	10.1	6,151	6,884	706	10.3	6,178
GOODING	8,490	616	7.3	7,874	8,395	495	5.9	7,900
IDAHO	7,295	644	8.8	6,651	7,323	539	7.4	6,784
JEFFERSON	11,418	852	7.5	10,566	11,286	741	6.6	10,544
JEROME	10,361	810	7.8	9,551	10,084	699	6.9	9,385
KOOTENAI	72,528	6,947	9.6	65,580	71,164	5,872	8.3	65,292
LATAH	17,661	1,119	6.3	16,543	16,758	949	5.7	15,809
LEMHI	4,315	331	7.7	3,984	4,153	297	7.2	3,856
LEWIS	1,745	110	6.3	1,635	1,759	91	5.2	1,669
LINCOLN	2,671	292	10.9	2,379	2,663	251	9.4	2,413
MADISON	15,925	1,012	6.4	14,912	15,256	863	5.7	14,393
MINIDOKA	9,882	762	7.7	9,121	9,566	564	5.9	9,002
NEZ PERCE	18,488	1,326	7.2	17,162	18,232	1,168	6.4	17,064
ONEIDA	2,193	116	5.3	2,077	2,194	130	5.9	2,064
OWYHEE	4,210	218	5.2	3,991	4,203	194	4.6	4,008
PAYETTE	11,033	996	9.0	10,037	10,857	969	8.9	9,889
POWER	3,635	459	12.6	3,175	3,481	323	9.3	3,159
SHOSHONE	6,430	774	12.0	5,656	6,140	677	11.0	5,463
TETON	6,237	364	5.8	5,874	6,080	298	4.9	5,783
TWIN FALLS	39,917	3,334	8.4	36,584	38,422	2,472	6.4	35,950
VALLEY	4,989	548	11.0	4,441	5,080	429	8.4	4,651
WASHINGTON	5,170	487	9.4	4,683	5,088	429	8.4	4,659
ASOTIN WA	10,255	830	8.1	9,425	10,204	849	8.3	9,355

* In thousands
July 2010

State of Idaho Data

June 2010 Labor Force (preliminary) compared to June 2009 (benchmarked) data (continued from previous page).

LABOR MARKET AREAS	June 2010				June 2009			
	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employ- ment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Un- emplo- yed	Total Employ- ment
BOISE CITY-NAMPA MSA	290,395	28,184	9.7	262,211	290,261	26,921	9.3	263,341
BURLEY MicSA	20,619	1,503	7.3	19,117	20,010	1,142	5.7	18,868
COEUR D'ALENE MSA	72,528	6,947	9.6	65,580	71,164	5,872	8.3	65,292
GRANGEVILLE SLMA	9,040	754	8.3	8,286	9,082	629	6.9	8,453
HAILEY SLMA	14,364	1,192	8.3	13,172	14,061	988	7.0	13,073
IDAHO FALLS MSA	62,063	4,320	7.0	57,743	61,311	3,692	6.0	57,619
LEWISTON MSA	28,743	2,156	7.5	26,587	28,436	2,017	7.1	26,419
POCATELLO MSA	42,477	3,653	8.6	38,824	42,027	3,407	8.1	38,621
REXBURG MicSA	21,523	1,501	7.0	20,022	20,586	1,261	6.1	19,325
TWIN FALLS MicSA	50,278	4,144	8.2	46,134	48,506	3,171	6.5	45,335
CITIES								
BOISE	107,737	9,360	8.7	98,377	108,244	8,858	8.2	99,385
CALDWELL	18,862	2,313	12.3	16,549	18,968	2,249	11.9	16,719
COEUR D' ALENE	23,093	2,471	10.7	20,622	22,724	2,073	9.1	20,652
IDAHO FALLS	27,562	2,002	7.3	25,560	27,322	1,666	6.1	25,656
LEWISTON	15,540	1,077	6.9	14,464	15,424	957	6.2	14,467
MERIDIAN	32,806	2,730	8.3	30,076	33,144	2,759	8.3	30,385
NAMPA	36,597	4,286	11.7	32,311	36,780	4,139	11.3	32,641
POCATELLO	28,162	2,187	7.8	25,975	28,134	2,142	7.6	25,992
POST FALLS	13,702	1,349	9.8	12,353	13,590	1,219	9.0	12,371
REXBURG	22,157	1,400	6.3	20,756	21,346	1,194	5.6	20,152
TWIN FALLS	22,301	1,915	8.6	20,386	21,626	1,475	6.8	20,151
United States*	153,741	14,623	9.5	139,119	154,759	14,721	9.5	140,038

* In thousands

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

Northern Idaho Labor Force Data

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

	June 2010*	May 2010	June 2009	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	72,530	73,950	71,160	-1.9	1.9
Unemployed	6,950	7,260	5,870	-4.3	18.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.6	9.8	8.3		
Total Employment	65,580	66,690	65,290	-1.7	0.4
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	73,070	72,630	72,210	0.6	1.2
Unemployed	6,730	7,100	5,770	-5.2	16.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.2	9.8	8.0		
Total Employment	66,340	65,530	66,440	1.2	-0.2

* Preliminary estimate

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

North Central Idaho Labor Force Data

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

	June 2010*	May 2010	June 2009	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	28,740	30,530	28,440	-5.9	1.1
Unemployment	2,150	2,130	2,020	0.9	6.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.5	7.0	7.1		
Total Employment	26,590	28,400	26,420	-6.4	0.6
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	29,050	30,730	28,870	-5.5	0.6
Unemployment	2,080	2,090	1,970	-0.5	5.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.2	6.8	6.8		
Total Employment	26,970	28,640	26,900	-5.8	0.3

*Preliminary estimate

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

Southwestern Idaho Labor Force Data

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

	June 2010*	May 2010	Jun 2009	% Change	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	290,400	293,100	290,300	-0.9	0.0
Unemployment	28,200	29,200	26,900	-3.4	4.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.7	10.0	9.3		
Total Employment	262,200	263,900	263,400	-0.6	-0.5
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	292,200	293,600	294,200	-0.5	-0.7
Unemployment	26,200	25,700	25,400	1.9	3.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.0	8.8	8.6		
Total Employment	266,000	267,900	268,800	-0.7	-1.0
Preliminary estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.					

South Central Idaho Labor Force Data

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

	Jun 2010*	May 2010	Jun 2009	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	50,280	50,110	48,500	0.3	3.7
Unemployment	4,140	3,930	3,170	5.3	30.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.2	7.8	6.5		
Total Employment	46,140	46,180	45,330	-0.1	1.8
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	50,360	49,430	48,960	1.9	2.9
Unemployment	3,830	3,640	2,970	5.2	29.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.6	7.4	6.1		
Total Employment	46,530	45,790	45,990	1.6	1.2
*Preliminary estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.					

Southeastern Idaho Labor Force Data

Pocatello MSA Labor Force & Employment – Bannock and Power counties

	Jun 2010*	May 2010	% Change From		
			Jun 2009	Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	42,480	42,420	42,030	0.1	1.1
Unemployment	3,650	3,560	3,410	2.5	7.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.6	8.4	8.1		
Total Employment	38,830	38,860	38,620	-0.1	0.5
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	43,490	43,430	43,360	0.1	0.3
Unemployment	3,370	3,230	3,220	4.3	4.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.8	7.4	7.4		
Total Employment	40,120	40,200	40,140	-0.2	0.0

*Preliminary estimate

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

East Central Idaho Labor Force Data

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

	Jun 2010*	May 2010	Jun 2009	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	62,060	63,050	61,310	-1.6	1.2
Unemployment	4,320	4,280	3,690	0.9	17.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.0	6.8	6.0		
Total Employment	57,740	58,770	57,620	-1.8	0.2
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	62,480	62,730	62,180	-0.4	0.5
Unemployment	3,960	3,890	3,440	1.8	15.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.3	6.2	5.5		
Total Employment	58,520	58,840	58,740	-0.5	-0.4

*Preliminary estimate

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

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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