

# Idaho Employment

A monthly update of how the economy is performing in your area

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ROGER B. MADSEN, DIRECTOR

## NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

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**Idaho's unemployment rate** is released on the same day as the county and sub-county areas. For most months, this will occur on the third Friday. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics will continue to release the national unemployment rate on the first Friday of the month.

## FED'S COINCIDENT INDEX RANKS IDAHO #1 FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH SINCE 1992

The recession may be stalling Idaho's economic growth now, but the state economy has grown more than any other state over the last two decades, according to one critical measure of economic performance.

Under the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia's monthly coincident index – an economic measure often overlooked – Idaho's index has increased by over 89 percent since 1992, outpacing every other state in the nation. The coincident index for the United States increased by only 54 percent.

### April 2011 Coincident Index by State

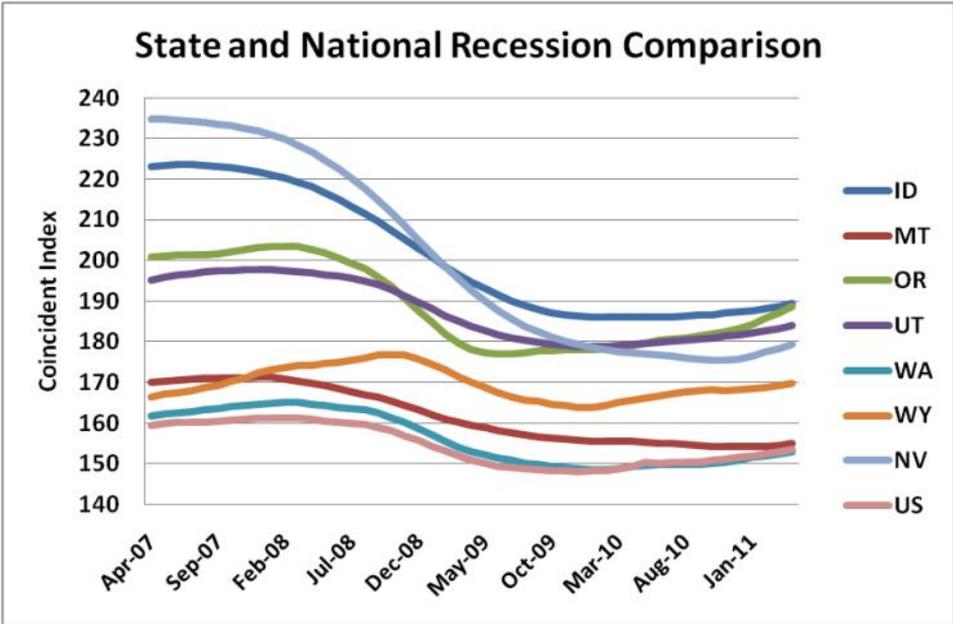
<b>ID</b>	189.3	<b>WY</b>	169.8	<b>MN</b>	152.9	<b>OH</b>	144.5	<b>DE</b>	140.1
<b>OR</b>	188.7	<b>GA</b>	160.8	<b>WA</b>	152.8	<b>AR</b>	144.2	<b>KY</b>	139.5
<b>NH</b>	188.5	<b>SD</b>	159.0	<b>NC</b>	152.1	<b>MD</b>	144.1	<b>ME</b>	138.6
<b>UT</b>	184.0	<b>OK</b>	158.7	<b>RI</b>	151.8	<b>PA</b>	144.0	<b>KS</b>	137.9
<b>AZ</b>	180.0	<b>WV</b>	158.4	<b>SC</b>	150.9	<b>MS</b>	143.9	<b>MO</b>	134.1
<b>NV</b>	179.4	<b>NE</b>	158.3	<b>VT</b>	150.2	<b>NY</b>	143.1	<b>AL</b>	130.1
<b>ND</b>	177.9	<b>NM</b>	157.6	<b>IA</b>	148.4	<b>FL</b>	142.9	<b>MI</b>	128.9
<b>MA</b>	171.6	<b>CT</b>	156.3	<b>NJ</b>	148.3	<b>IN</b>	142.2	<b>LA</b>	121.9
<b>CO</b>	171.2	<b>MT</b>	154.9	<b>VA</b>	146.2	<b>IL</b>	141.7	<b>AK</b>	117.8
<b>TX</b>	171.0	<b>CA</b>	153.1	<b>TN</b>	144.6	<b>WI</b>	141.2	<b>HI</b>	105.5
<b>United States Average</b>						<b>153.5</b>			

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

The coincident index is comprised of four variables that are often used separately to measure economic growth but can be complicated to use when comparing to other states. Combining these four variables in the form of an index facilitates state-by-state comparisons for economic conditions and growth. The variables are nonfarm payroll employment, average hours worked in manufacturing, the unemployment rate and wage and salary disbursements deflated by the Consumer Price Index.

The index establishes July 1992 as the base period from which growth is measured. At that time the index score for each state was set at 100. As the four economic variables change the index score is adjusted accordingly. An increase in payroll employment, average hours worked in manufacturing and wage and salary disbursements would all contribute to a higher index score – decreasing unemployment rates would also increase the index.

Idaho’s index has performed well over the long run although the short-term loss has been significant. In fact, only one other state – Nevada – has shown a larger percentage decrease over the course of the recent recession. Nevada’s index fell 24 percent between April 2007 and April 2011. Idaho dropped 15 percent while the nation declined just 4 percent. The highest growth state was North Dakota, which grew by 14 percent – the result of tremendous growth from the oil industry. Only nine other states experienced growth.



From April 2007 to April 2011 Idaho experienced significantly higher gains than the nation in weekly earnings, but even after those gains Idaho remains below average compared to other states and the nation. Hourly earnings also rose dramatically but again remain lower than the national average. The average number of weekly hours in manufacturing increased by a much larger percentage in Idaho than the nation, but total nonfarm employment fell by a larger percentage than the national average.

Idaho started the recession with an extremely low unemployment rate – 2.7 percent in April 2007 compared to 4.5 percent nationally – but recently surpassed the national rate in setting a new state record. The Idaho unemployment rate increased 256 percent by April 2011 while the nation was up

100 percent. This drastic change in the unemployment rate has seemingly overpowered other positive trends that would usually increase the coincident index.

Between April 2010 and April 2011 Idaho ranked 39<sup>th</sup> among other states for coincident index growth. Idaho’s index increased 1.7 percent while the nation increased 2.8 percent. North Dakota topped the chart again, increasing by almost 8 percent while Montana was the only state to continue experiencing a decline – falling by four-tenths of a percent.

The 12 months following April 2010 aligned Idaho’s coincident index performance more closely to the national average. Idaho’s annual change in three of the four coincident index variables was within a few percentage points of national trends. The exception occurred with unemployment rates. While the national rate has fallen by eight-tenths, Idaho’s rate continued increasing by a half-point.

While the recession has slowed Idaho’s economic growth in recent years, the coincident index shows significant long-term growth. The index also paints a more comprehensive picture of how Idaho compares to other states and the nation. Leading indexes created by the Federal Reserve for April 2011 put Idaho in the 70<sup>th</sup> percentile among other states for growth in the next six months – a trend that hopefully holds true.

The Coincident Index website is at <http://www.philadelphiafed.org/research-and-data/regional-economy/indexes/coincident/>

The following tables compare Idaho and national performance for the variables included in the coincident index.

Average Weekly Hours - Manufacturing		
Year (April)	Idaho	Nation
2007	36.8	40.0
2008	37.3	39.9
2009	36.7	38.2
2010	39.0	40.1
2011	39.8	40.4
2007-2011	8%	1%
2010-2011	2%	1%

Average Hourly Earnings - Total Private		
Year (April)	Idaho	Nation
2007	\$ 16.05	\$ 21.05
2008	\$ 17.26	\$ 21.49
2009	\$ 19.02	\$ 22.16
2010	\$ 20.92	\$ 22.56
2011	\$ 20.78	\$ 23.00
2007-2011	29%	9%
2010-2011	-1%	2%

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate		
Year (April)	Idaho	Nation
2007	2.7	4.5
2008	4.0	4.9
2009	7.1	8.9
2010	9.1	9.8
2011	9.6	9.0
2007-2011	256%	100%
2010-2011	5%	-8%

Average Weekly Hours - Total Private		
Year (April)	Idaho	Nation
2007	\$ 559	\$ 730
2008	\$ 580	\$ 739
2009	\$ 630	\$ 745
2010	\$ 697	\$ 767
2011	\$ 702	\$ 787
2007-2011	26%	8%
2010-2011	1%	3%

Total Nonfarm Employment (in Thousands)		
Year (April)	Idaho	Nation
2007	650	137,335
2008	649	137,475
2009	608	131,357
2010	600	129,698
2011	603	131,088
2007-2011	-7%	-5%
2010-2011	1%	1%

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## IDAHO'S OVER 65 POPULATION INCREASING

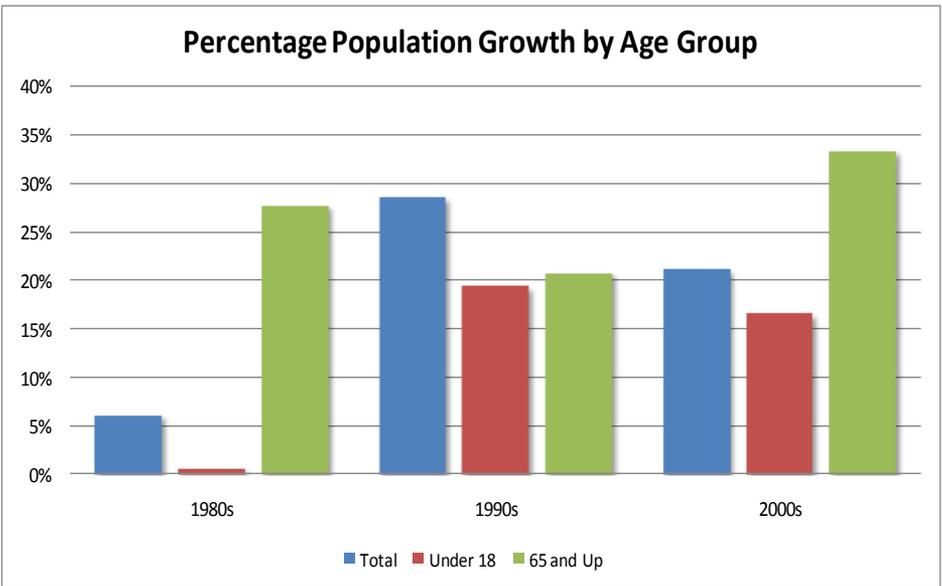
Idaho was the fourth fastest growing state during the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, but it was getting grayer at an even faster clip.

While the 2010 census found Idaho's population grew 21 percent to nearly 1.6 million, and the state remains one of the youngest in the nation with a median age of 34.6 years on April 1, 2010.

But the population 65 and older rose more than half again as fast – 33 percent. Only Alaska and Nevada posted greater increases in senior population. Even Florida, a mecca for seniors, grew at just half Idaho's rate.

Idaho's median age increased by nearly a year and a half over the decade, dropping the state from fourth to fifth youngest in the nation. In part, that was because Idaho's under-18 population grew at just 16.3 percent. The growth rate would have been even lower – 9.1 percent – had it not been for the large increase in Idaho's young Hispanic population, which was up over 70 percent.

That significant imbalance in older and young growth harkens back to the economically challenging days of a generation ago when recessions in 1980, 1981 and 1986 stifled economic growth across the state. The total population grew 6 percent in the 1980s, but the under-18 population grew at just a tenth that rate while the senior population grew four and a half times faster.

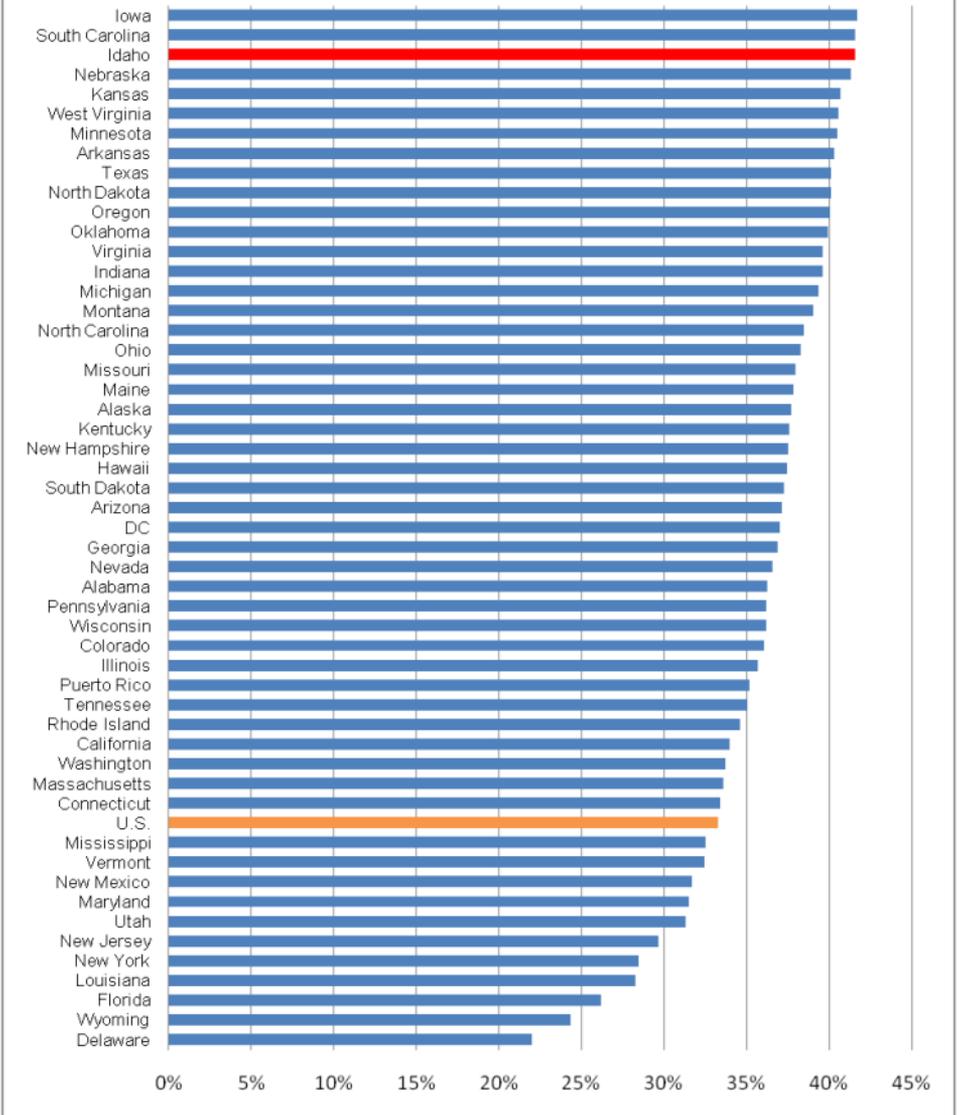


Even during the thriving 1990s, the over-64 set grew at a slightly faster rate than those under 18.

Idaho Hispanics are keeping the state younger than it would otherwise be. The under-18 population increased 61,000 from 2000 to 2010, and nearly 31,000 of them were Hispanic. Almost 42 percent of the state's Hispanics are under 18. Only Iowa and South Dakota had higher percentages and then only fractionally. See chart on page 5 for state comparisons.

Although the recession has created circumstances where baby-boomers once contemplating retirement will have to work longer to recoup their financial losses, a persisting growth imbalance between oldsters and youngsters creates real issues for policy makers, educators and business owners. How

## Percent of Hispanic Population Under 18



much does the age shift affect demand for goods and services? What skills will workers need to hold down the jobs any demand shift creates? And most importantly, will there be enough workers in the next generation to meet that demand, whatever it is?

All but seven counties saw their concentration of senior citizens rise between 2000 and 2010 and just three saw a decline in the concentration of young people under 18.

Four of the seven counties with lower senior concentrations are heavily Hispanic and influenced by the surge in Hispanic youth. The fifth is Madison County, where Brigham Young University-Idaho is located. Teton County bordering the Grand Tetons has become a magnet for younger so-called lone eagles, who telecommute to metropolitan centers thousands of miles away. The seventh is Twin Falls County, the hub of south central Idaho.

Of the four counties with increases in the under-18 bloc, Lincoln and Canyon both have heavy Hispanic populations, and Elmore County has Mountain Home Air Force Base with a traditionally younger population. The fourth is Blaine, Idaho's wealthiest county where the Sun Valley Resort is located.

## Population Concentration Over 64, Under 18 and Median Age

	Seniors		Youth		Median Age	
	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010
Ada	9.1%	10.5%	27.2%	26.4%	32.8	34.8
Adams	16.3%	20.8%	23.7%	19.2%	44.4	50.0
Bannock	10.3%	11.2%	28.0%	27.4%	29.8	31.4
Bear Lake	15.8%	18.4%	32.8%	27.3%	35.8	40.5
Benewah	14.3%	18.3%	26.8%	23.7%	39.2	44.8
Bingham	10.4%	11.4%	35.0%	33.0%	29.7	31.8
Blaine	7.7%	11.6%	23.9%	24.3%	37.4	40.4
Boise	11.1%	15.9%	27.0%	21.5%	40.4	48.4
Bonner	13.2%	17.1%	25.4%	21.7%	40.8	45.8
Bonneville	10.2%	10.9%	32.0%	31.5%	31.8	31.7
Boundary	13.4%	16.7%	29.2%	25.6%	38.3	42.8
Butte	14.9%	17.5%	28.9%	28.2%	38.8	41.7
Camas	13.1%	15.9%	24.7%	21.5%	39.7	44.3
Canyon	10.9%	10.8%	31.0%	31.5%	30.5	31.6
Caribou	13.6%	15.8%	31.7%	29.0%	35.0	37.7
Cassia	12.7%	12.9%	34.0%	33.1%	31.1	32.0
Clark	9.2%	13.1%	34.8%	31.4%	30.7	32.7
Clearwater	15.6%	22.4%	22.9%	17.8%	41.7	49.0
Custer	14.4%	18.7%	25.7%	19.6%	41.2	48.0
Elmore	7.1%	10.0%	27.8%	28.4%	29.1	30.0
Franklin	11.7%	12.8%	37.2%	35.2%	27.7	31.5
Fremont	12.5%	13.9%	33.1%	31.4%	31.9	33.5
Gem	15.7%	18.6%	28.0%	24.5%	37.5	42.9
Gooding	15.5%	15.1%	29.7%	29.5%	35.1	34.3
Idaho	16.7%	21.2%	25.0%	20.9%	42.3	48.0
Jefferson	9.3%	9.6%	36.2%	35.5%	28.8	30.0
Jerome	12.3%	11.2%	31.6%	31.1%	32.9	31.7
Kootenai	12.3%	14.5%	27.1%	24.7%	36.1	38.9
Latah	9.4%	10.4%	20.3%	18.7%	27.9	28.3
Lemhi	16.7%	22.2%	25.5%	19.9%	42.7	49.7
Lewis	18.4%	21.8%	25.1%	22.2%	42.5	48.0
Lincoln	13.2%	11.0%	30.5%	32.6%	34.3	32.0
Madison	6.0%	5.6%	26.2%	26.0%	20.7	22.6
Minidoka	13.1%	14.8%	31.6%	29.4%	33.5	35.3
Nez Perce	16.8%	18.0%	23.7%	21.7%	38.1	40.8
Oneida	16.0%	16.7%	32.0%	29.9%	36.0	39.1
Owyhee	12.3%	14.0%	31.3%	29.2%	32.9	36.0
Payette	13.3%	15.3%	30.3%	28.7%	34.4	37.2
Power	10.2%	12.1%	33.8%	30.9%	31.6	33.2
Shoshone	17.4%	19.9%	23.0%	20.8%	41.8	46.2
Teton	7.4%	6.5%	31.8%	29.7%	31.3	33.2
Twin Falls	14.1%	13.9%	27.8%	27.4%	34.9	34.4
Valley	14.7%	16.8%	23.7%	19.8%	43.5	46.9
Washington	17.2%	20.5%	27.1%	24.7%	39.2	43.6
State	11.3%	12.4%	28.5%	27.4%	33.2	34.6

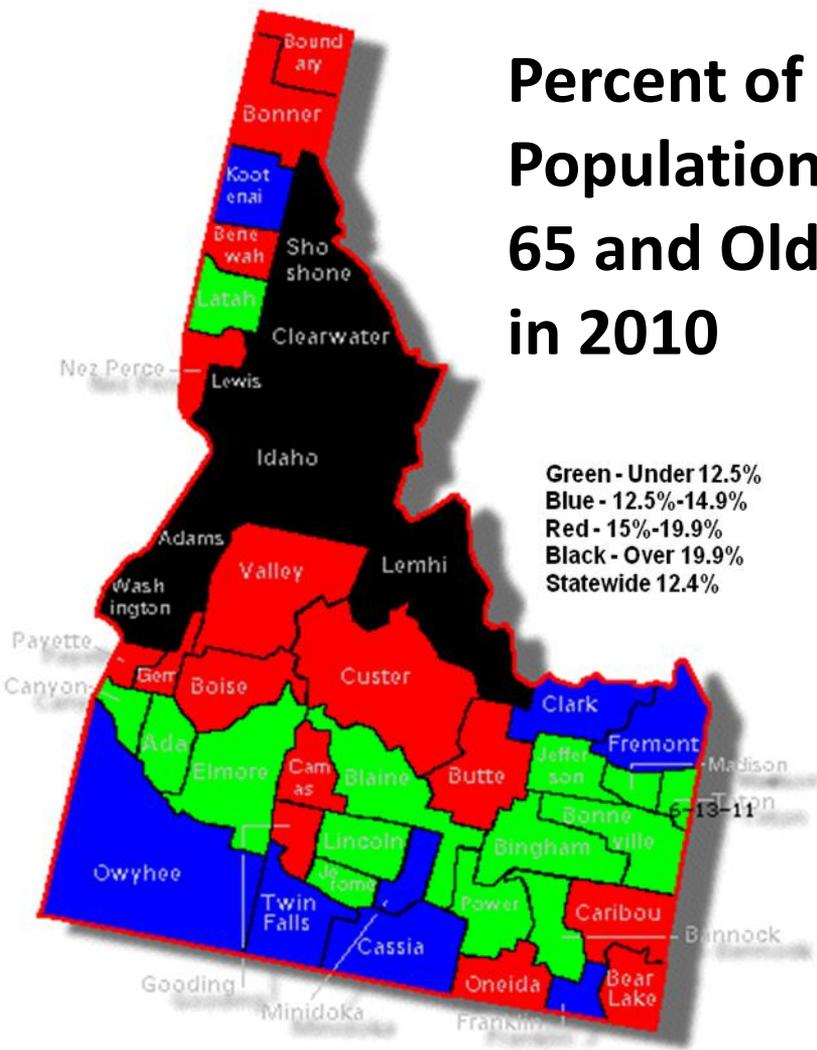
In the seven central Idaho counties whose economies have been battered by the decline of their natural resource base, especially wood products, at least one in every five people – 20 percent – is 65 or older. Statewide those 65 and over make up 12.4 percent of the population.

The lowest concentrations of seniors – levels below the statewide average – are in the developed areas along the Snake River in southern Idaho with the exceptions of Camas, Gooding and Minidoka counties.

See the table on page 8 showing Idaho’s 2010 population by county and age group.

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# Percent of Population 65 and Older in 2010

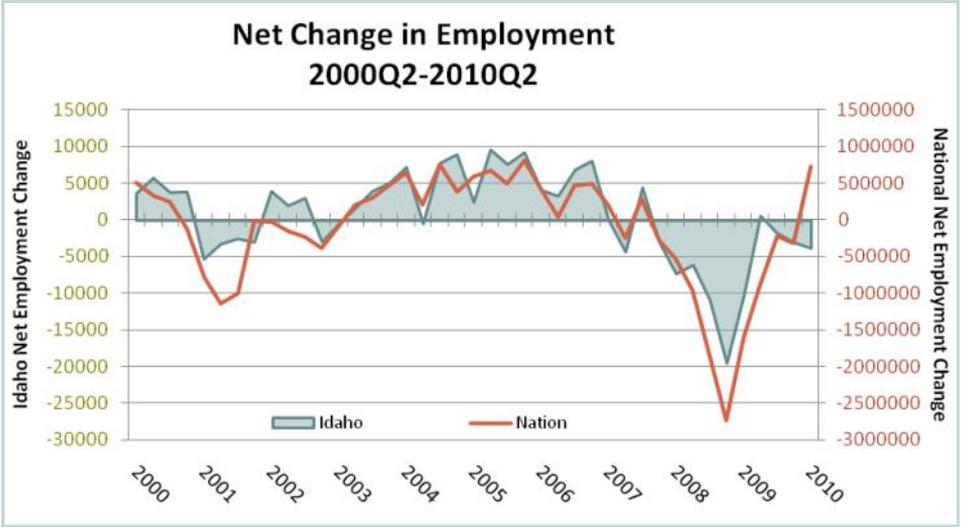


## 2010 Idaho Population by County, by Age Group

	Total	Under 18	18-20	21-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Ada	392,365	103,706	14,976	50,022	84,216	98,397	41,048
Adams	3,976	763	100	265	548	1,472	828
Bannock	82,839	22,714	4,251	12,705	14,943	18,983	9,243
Bear Lake	5,986	1,636	178	481	955	1,632	1,104
Benewah	9,285	2,201	292	722	1,459	2,912	1,699
Bingham	45,607	15,048	1,752	4,938	8,061	10,594	5,214
Blaine	21,376	5,203	514	1,990	4,379	6,814	2,476
Boise	7,028	1,509	203	351	1,097	2,750	1,118
Bonner	40,877	8,850	1,181	3,247	6,721	13,869	7,009
Bonneville	104,234	32,794	3,748	12,864	19,495	23,990	11,343
Boundary	10,972	2,812	303	873	1,780	3,372	1,832
Butte	2,891	815	81	203	437	849	506
Camas	1,117	240	23	94	209	373	178
Canyon	188,923	59,492	8,338	22,180	37,767	40,750	20,396
Caribou	6,963	2,016	198	616	1,199	1,831	1,103
Cassia	22,952	7,587	948	2,379	3,969	5,115	2,954
Clark	982	308	25	126	167	227	129
Clearwater	8,761	1,556	247	685	1,376	2,937	1,960
Custer	4,368	858	94	331	721	1,546	818
Elmore	27,038	7,675	1,244	4,607	4,996	5,800	2,716
Franklin	12,786	4,498	462	1,177	2,314	2,692	1,643
Fremont	13,242	4,154	462	1,421	2,260	3,101	1,844
Gem	16,719	4,098	586	1,402	2,710	4,816	3,107
Gooding	15,464	4,563	632	1,661	2,754	3,526	2,328
Idaho	16,267	3,405	456	1,267	2,354	5,341	3,444
Jefferson	26,140	9,287	955	2,843	4,922	5,629	2,504
Jerome	22,374	6,948	948	2,771	4,102	5,098	2,507
Kootenai	138,494	34,244	5,665	14,844	25,489	38,174	20,078
Latah	37,244	6,969	4,549	8,029	5,721	8,118	3,858
Lemhi	7,936	1,576	194	556	1,108	2,744	1,758
Lewis	3,821	848	97	322	495	1,225	834
Lincoln	5,208	1,699	186	572	973	1,205	573
Madison	37,536	9,748	5,429	11,968	4,009	4,290	2,092
Minidoka	20,069	5,893	797	2,074	3,318	5,018	2,969
Nez Perce	39,265	8,515	1,804	4,583	6,685	10,615	7,063
Oneida	4,286	1,283	124	325	675	1,165	714
Owyhee	11,526	3,369	453	1,073	2,082	2,937	1,612
Payette	22,623	6,484	852	2,145	4,016	5,664	3,462
Power	7,817	2,414	340	842	1,331	1,943	947
Shoshone	12,765	2,660	412	982	2,115	4,059	2,537
Teton	10,170	3,023	292	1,151	2,725	2,315	664
Twin Falls	77,230	21,144	3,477	9,542	13,770	18,591	10,706
Valley	9,862	1,949	220	728	1,797	3,509	1,659
Washington	10,198	2,518	325	782	1,620	2,862	2,091
<b>State</b>	<b>1,567,582</b>	<b>429,072</b>	<b>68,413</b>	<b>192,739</b>	<b>293,840</b>	<b>388,850</b>	<b>194,668</b>

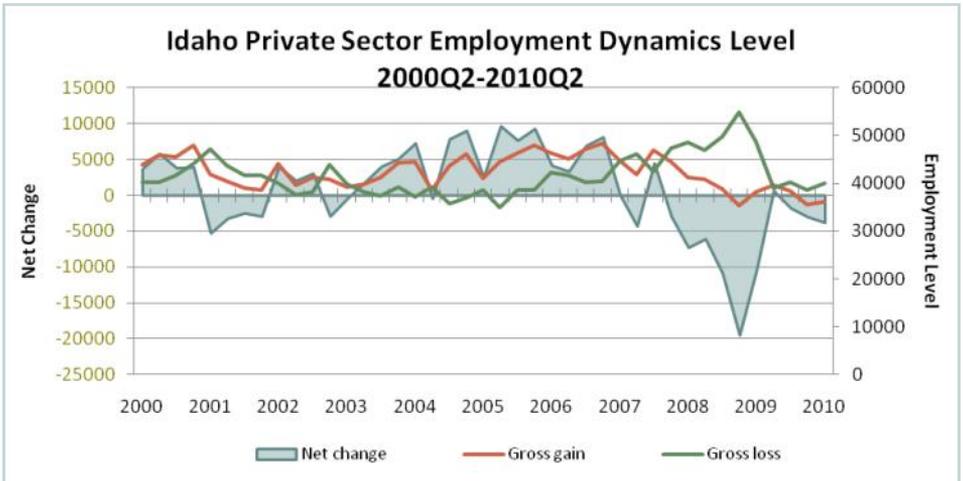
## PRIVATE SECTOR SEES NET JOB LOSS, 2ND QUARTER 2010

Idaho experienced a net loss of 3,806 private sector jobs during the second quarter of 2010 on a seasonally adjusted basis, according to the Business Employment Dynamics program of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. It was one of only five states to post a net job loss in the spring quarter.

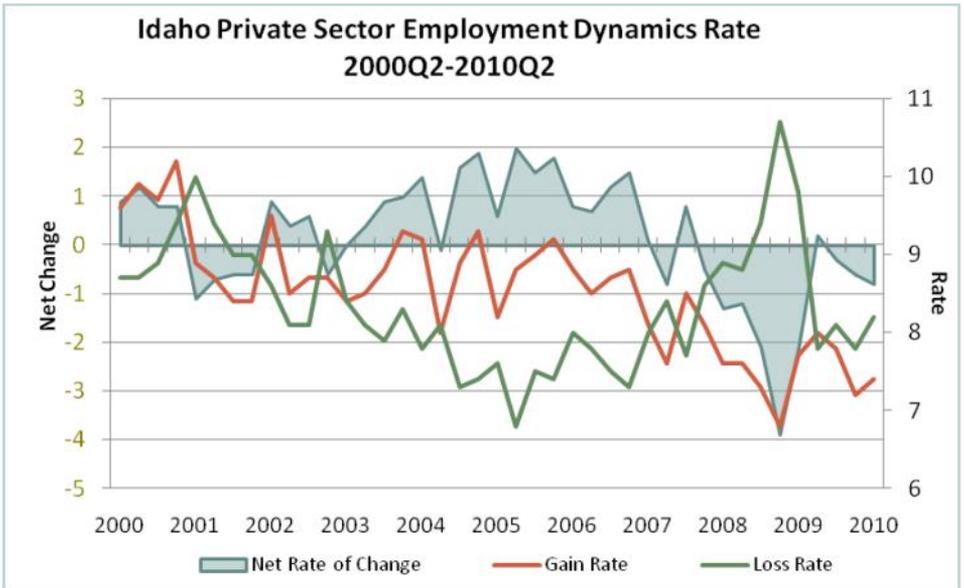


The Business Employment Dynamics program tracks information on job gains and job losses from private businesses opening, expanding, closing and downsizing. It provides another tool for analyzing the business cycle.

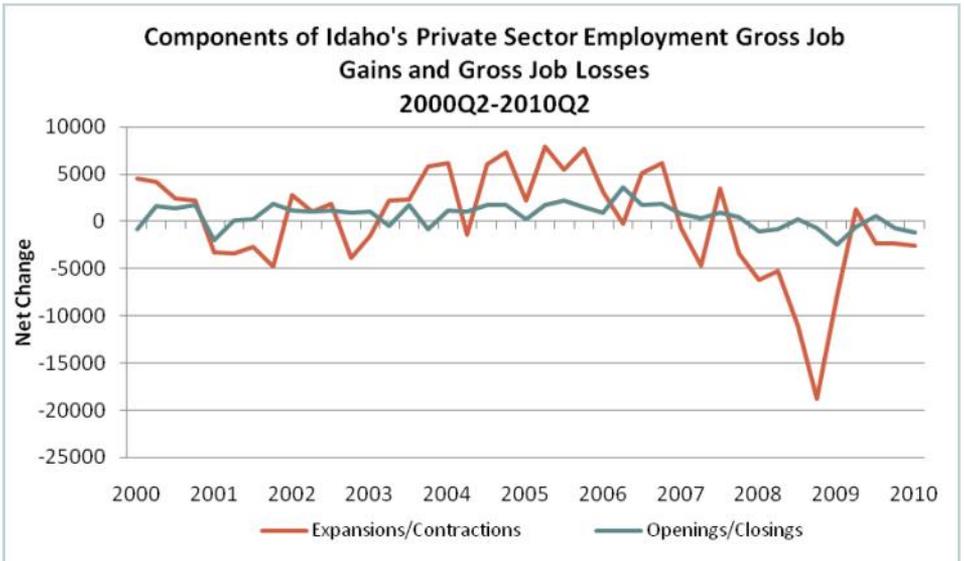
From April to June 2010, Idaho’s opening and expanding businesses added 36,170 jobs while those closing or downsizing cut 39,976. The net loss continued the streak of quarterly job losses that began in the first quarter of 2008, interrupted only by a slight gain of 600 jobs in the third quarter of 2009.



The National Bureau of Economic Research marks the beginning of the recession in December 2007 though Idaho began to see early evidence of a slowdown during the second quarter of 2007. In the 12 quarters that followed, Idaho lost jobs in all but the fourth quarter of 2007 and third quarter of 2009. Even with the slight gains in these two quarters, net job loss since the downward trend began exceeded 62,000 by the end of June 2010.



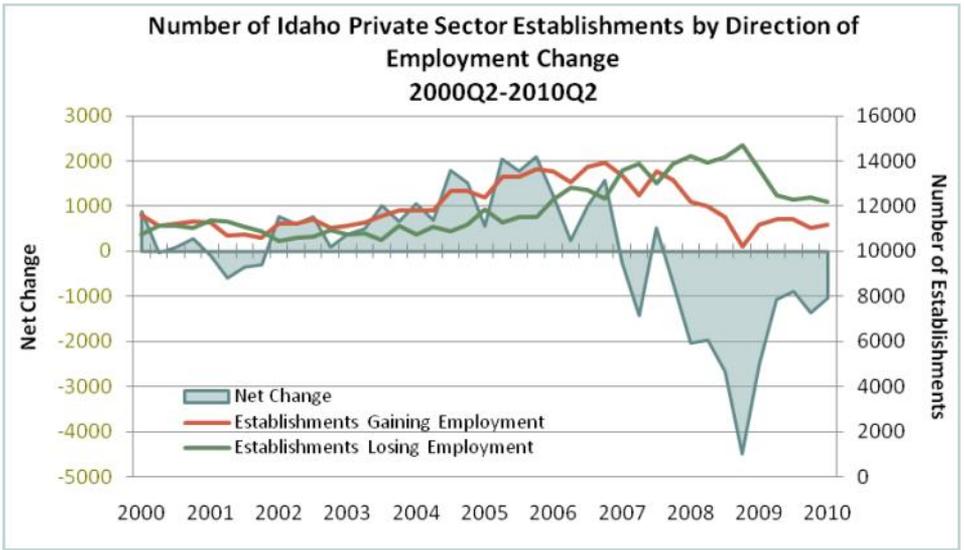
The rate of job gains in the second quarter of 2010 rose to 7.4 percent. This marked a return to increasing gain rates after gain rates fell for two quarters, and it was the third quarter of increasing gains since the beginning of the recession. As in the previous two quarters, the gross job gain rate was exceeded by the gross job loss rate. At 8.2 percent, the gross loss rate was 0.4 percentage point higher than first quarter's rate. This put the net change rate for second quarter at minus 0.8 percentage point.



Contracting businesses eliminated about 2,600 more jobs than expanding businesses created during the second quarter of 2010. Meanwhile, new businesses created 1,200 fewer jobs than closing businesses eliminated.

Nearly 11,200 of Idaho's 50,000 businesses added jobs during the second quarter of 2010 – 8,600 through expansion and 2,600 opening for the first time. But nearly 12,200 others eliminated jobs – 9,300 downsized and 2,900 closed altogether.

Nationally, second quarter 2010 saw a net job gain of nearly 730,000 stretching across all economic sectors. This was the first gain on a national level since the fourth quarter of 2007. New and expanding businesses created 6.9 million jobs, roughly 820,000 more than in the first quarter of 2010.



Meanwhile, the nation experienced a loss of 6.2 million jobs as more businesses closed or pared payrolls. This loss was 210,000 jobs less severe than the loss seen in first quarter. June 2010 was marked as the end of the recession.

Second quarter 2010 saw a significant improvement in the sector-by-sector job situation. Whereas all but a handful of sectors experienced net job losses in previous quarters, the second quarter saw all but three industry sectors post net gains. The greatest gains were seen in professional and business services at 196,000 jobs, retail at 123,000 and leisure and hospitality at 100,000. Education and health services remained the only industry sector to gain jobs in every quarter since the statistics began being compiled in 1992. The net gain in the second quarter was 49,000.

In contrast to these very healthy gains, the net losses were only slight for three sectors, financial activities at 25,000 and information and utilities at 1,000 each. Additionally, construction and manufacturing posted net gains in the second quarter for the first time since the beginning of the recession. Manufacturing was up 25,000 jobs nationally, and construction gained 1,000 jobs. These were especially significant since these two sectors were among the hardest hit by the recession.

Alaska remained the state with the highest gross job gain rate at 11.1 percent followed by Wyoming's 8.6 percent and Montana's 8.1 percent. Second quarter's steepest loss rates were 9.2 percent in Alaska, 9.1 percent in the Virgin Islands and 8.8 percent in Vermont and Wyoming. The end of 2009 and the first quarter of 2010 had seen an increasing number of states experiencing net gain rates equal to or greater than their loss rates, and this trend continued dramatically in the second quarter of 2010. Only five states including Idaho and the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico experienced net job loss in the second quarter. Two states saw no net change, and the rest gained jobs.

Although the Idaho economy experienced a net loss of jobs in the second quarter of 2010, the job losses were relatively slight compared to the depths of the recession. On the national level, continued improvement was evident on an industry-by-industry and state-by-state basis. The nation showed more and more signs of a strengthening economic recovery, but it remains to be seen how long it will take Idaho to catch up.

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

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## **MORE MEGALoadS POSSIBLE IN NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO**

Megaloads continue to grab headlines in north central Idaho. The immense truck shipments close both lanes of traffic when transported from the Port of Lewiston to the Montana border along a 175-mile stretch of U.S. Highway 12, which follows the Clearwater and Lochsa – Wild and Scenic Rivers noted for their beauty, recreational opportunities and cultural and historic values. To move an oversize load requires a permit from the Idaho Transportation Department. The loads are accompanied by Idaho State Police and an ambulance. They pull over every 15 minutes to allow traffic to pass and only move between 10 p.m. and 5:30 a.m.

ConocoPhillips, which received permits to move four 650,000-pound loads in January, now has moved the first “megaloads” on Highway 12 to its refinery in Montana.

The state Transportation Department conducted hearings in May on the permits requested by Imperial Oil, an ExxonMobil subsidiary that originally wanted to ship 207 modules made in Korea to a processing plant at the Kearl Oil Sands in Alberta, Canada. No decision has been issued by the hearing officer yet.

The state granted ExxonMobil permission to move a test module to demonstrate such massive cargo can safely navigate U.S. 12. The test module was as large as the largest load ExxonMobil is seeking permits for – three stories high, 24 feet- wide and 240 feet long. The test module hit a power line three miles east of Orofino, causing a five-hour electrical outage for about 1,300 residents of the Pierce and Weippe areas. Afterwards, 16 power lines were raised to prevent a reoccurrence. To prevent breaking any tree branches, trees were trimmed from just outside Kamiah to the Montana border.

At the hearing in May, opponents expressed concerns about the wear and tear on the asphalt of U.S. Highway 12, although a Transportation Department brief says the “loads will cause no more damage to the highway pavement than a regular legal load such as a logging truck.” Critics also said the megaloads might turn the scenic byway into an industrial “high and wide corridor” and ruin its thriving tourism draw and potentially harm the environment. Another concern was how much megaloads might slow responses to medical emergencies.

Because of delays in getting permits on U.S. 12, ExxonMobil is changing its approach. Sixty shipments originally slated to go through Lewiston now are being taken on the interstate from Vancouver where they're unloaded from ocean barges.

The company is seeking permission to use U.S. Highway 95 and Interstate 90 for 33 loads that it would convert to 60 shipments short enough to go un-

derneath interstate overpasses. Cutting a load in half requires 2,000 to 4,000 man hours and costs about \$500,000, so reducing all 33 loads could cost \$16.5 million. ExxonMobil still would wish to transport 110 oversized loads on U.S. 12.

The Moscow City Council voted in May to support Imperial Oil's proposal to haul oversized loads on Highway 95, but the mayor requested that the Transportation Department deny the permits. She expressed concerns that the loads would set a precedent for more oversized loads and would run counter to local economic development strategies.

If Highway 12 becomes the conduit for the ExxonMobil loads, hundreds more oversized loads could travel the route in coming years. Trucking company Nickel Bros. has requested a permit from the Idaho Transportation Department to move an evaporator manufactured in China from the Port of Lewiston to a Weyerhaeuser tissue pulp mill in Alberta. A few other companies have contacted the Port of Lewiston about the viability of U.S. 12 for oversize shipments. The port is seeking more than \$1 million in federal dollars for a dock expansion that would help the port accommodate megaloads.

The megaloads are boosting economic activity in Lewiston. About 300 workers, mostly from out of state, currently are preparing ExxonMobil megaloads for transport as soon as state approval is granted. Those workers are staying in local motels, eating in restaurants and spending money throughout the community. In addition, several local companies including fabrication, wholesale lumber and truck repair firms are benefiting from the megaloads. Crea Construction, an earth-moving contractor in Lewiston, flattened and graveled an eight-acre lot at the Port of Lewiston at the expense of Kiewit, which is splitting the 33 loads in to 60 shorter ones. The job employed a dozen people for two weeks. Atlas Sand and Rock supplied the gravel for that work as well as improvements made to turnouts on U.S. 12. Wackenhut, a business contracted to provide security, hired 18 local people.

Valley Vision, an economic development organization serving the Lewis-Clark valley, contends additional setbacks for megaloads could put millions of dollars at risk. "It is critical that we preserve our freight corridors now and in the future for our economic vitality," Executive director Doug Mattoon said.

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## HOME OWNERSHIP DECISIONS SHIFTING TO RENTAL SOLUTIONS

The bursting housing bubble and the severe recession that followed have had a marked effect on the financial living circumstances of many Idahoans.

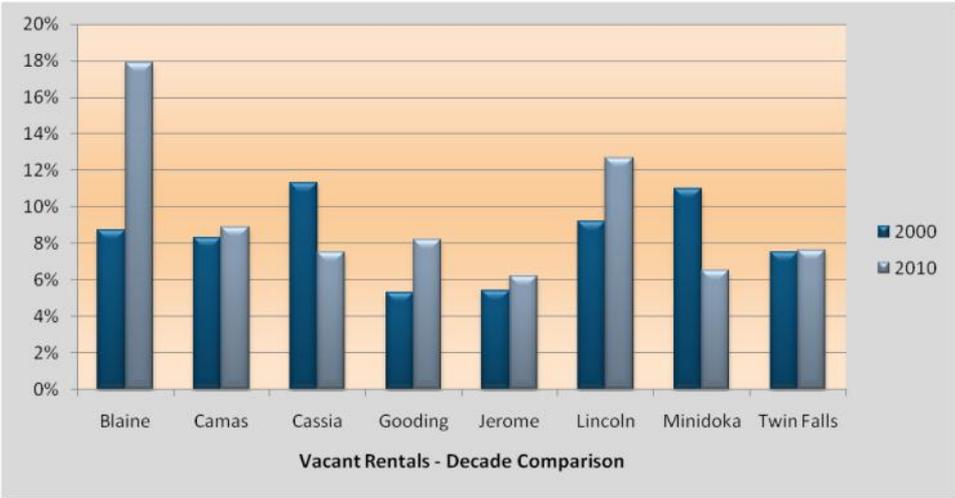
The 2010 census found Idaho experienced a shift away from home ownership over the previous 10 years. It was greater than the nation overall experienced but not as bad as in some specific areas of the nation.

Nationally, the percent of households that were renting rose from 33.8 percent in 2000 to 34.9 percent in 2010, but some cities across the country saw renters become the majority of households.

In Idaho 30.1 percent of the households were renting in 2010, up from 27.6 percent in 2000.

Augmenting that figure is the sizeable number of vacant homes in cities throughout the state due to foreclosures.

In south central Idaho, only Minidoka and Cassia counties saw a decline in the number of vacant rentals. This was primarily the result of new companies establishing operations and creating jobs in Burley and Heyburn.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 200 and 2010 Census

The Burley micropolitan area unemployment rate in April was the second lowest in the region – almost a point below the region at 7.8 percent. There is the complicating factor that large apartment complexes have not been developed in the last 10 years when more emphasis was placed on home ownership or renting single family homes, reflecting the family-oriented attitude of the heavily agricultural area. In some cases, on-site houses were provided as part of the compensation package for farm workers, particularly milkers at the dairies. In the future, there will likely be more multi-family developments in the Burley area. But residents are becoming aware that renting is more practical now that home loan standards have been tightened in response to

### April 2011 Unemployment Rate

<b>Blaine</b>	9.7%
<b>Camas</b>	11.9%
<b>Cassia</b>	7.9%
<b>Gooding</b>	7.5%
<b>Jerome</b>	8.3%
<b>Lincoln</b>	14.0%
<b>Minidoka</b>	7.7%
<b>Twin Falls</b>	8.5%
<b>Burley Micropolitan Area</b>	7.8%
<b>South Central Idaho</b>	8.6%
<b>Idaho</b>	9.6%
<b>U.S.</b>	9.0%

Source: Idaho Dept. of Labor

the housing crisis that saw too many people just walk away from mortgages due to the lost home value or lost jobs.

Blaine County experienced a surge of vacancies in general, but specifically vacant rentals increased 18 percent due in large part to the effect of the recession on tourism and the extensive second home real estate market that unraveled when the financial markets weakened. With the increase of empty storefronts throughout Ketchum comes a decrease in the number of workers as well as those able to afford housing in the area. There is increased demand for roommates or housing by workers of local businesses, negatively affecting the rental and home ownership markets. Vacant homes for sale in Blaine County stood at 6.7 percent, up 168 percent from 2000 to 2010. By far, Blaine County is in the worst shape regionally.



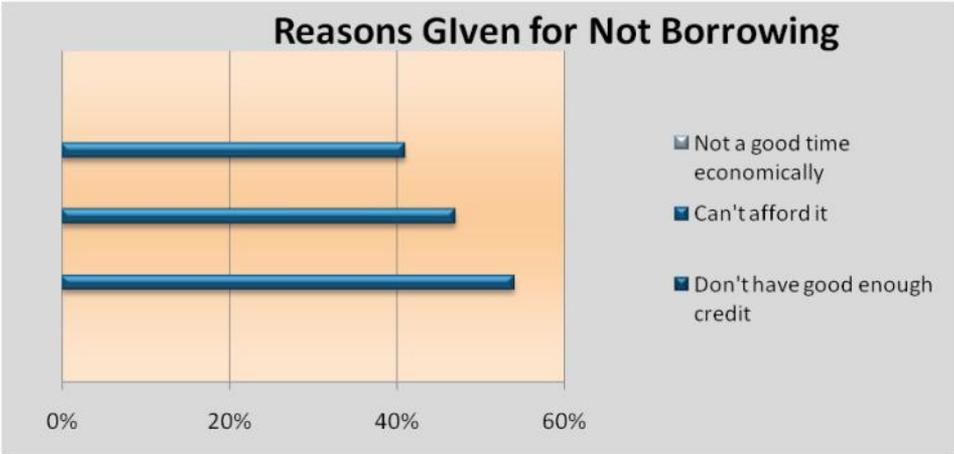
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 and 2010 Census

Although the perception that home ownership is positive has shifted somewhat in the last few years, a survey conducted by the mortgage behemoth Fannie Mae in 2010 found three-quarters of renters believe owning is superior to renting. They cited protection against rent increases and good long-term investment. The survey also found:

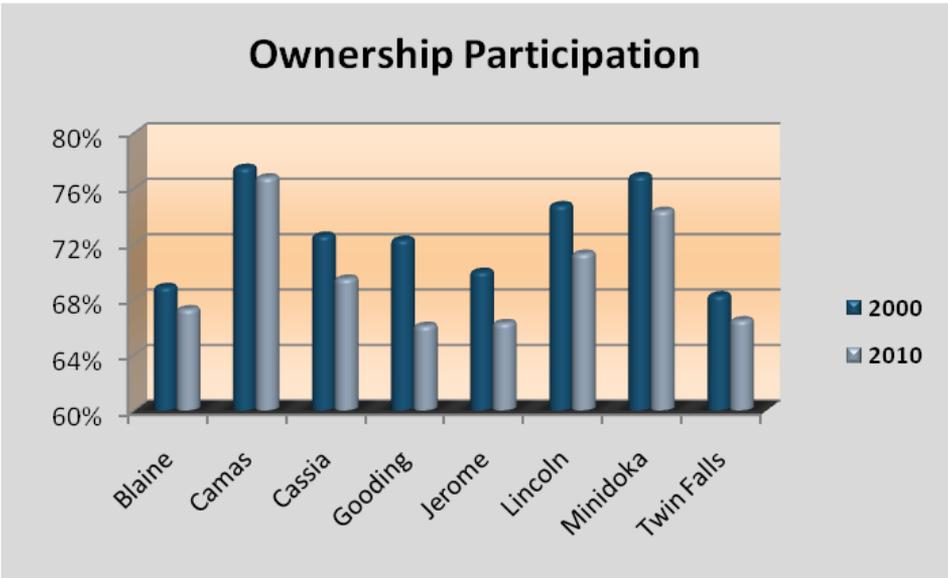
- Nearly eight in 10 renters believe that renting has been positive for them and their families.
- Nearly seven in 10 plan to buy a home at some point in the future.
- Seven in 10 think it is harder to buy a home today than it was for their parents' generation.
- Less than half of current renters said they would buy a house if they were to move, and 23 percent said they would purchase a new home later than they planned.

The two most common reasons cited by renters for choosing renting over buying were that their credit history is not good enough to qualify for a mortgage – 54 percent – and that they would be unable to afford the purchase and upkeep of a home – 47 percent.

Gooding saw the greatest drop in home ownership of almost 9 percent. The rest of the region dropped an average of 4 percent.



Source: Fannie Mae, Housing Survey, 2010



Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 and 2010

There continues to be bewilderment regarding how job creation and a recovery will occur without the construction industry playing a major role. It is clear that the American dream of owning a home has diminished but not vanished. Tenants like more control over their destiny be it price or maintenance or rules. It would appear that low interest rates and the need for individuality and control will eventually reignite demand for housing – just not the explosive growth of the housing bubble.

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## NC IDAHO SCHOOLS DEAL WITH DEEP BUDGET CUTS

To make up for large cuts in state support, school districts in north central Idaho are relying heavily on increased levies to keep going. Voters in 10 school districts approved supplemental maintenance and operations levies in elections held May 17 while the levies in Kamiah and Culdesac failed.

After the \$350,000 levy failed in May, the Culdesac school board decided to run a \$250,000 levy in August. The board is exploring sending junior and senior high students to Lewiston next year and put junior and senior high

school teachers on notice for possible layoffs pending a determination of actual staffing needs for the 2011-2012 school year. The board did eliminate an elementary school position. The district has lost \$750,000 in state funding over the past three years.

**Successful North Central Idaho School District Levies**

<b>Highland Craigmont</b>	<b>\$309,000</b>
<b>Kendrick</b>	<b>\$790,000</b>
<b>Mountain View Grangeville</b>	<b>\$2,135,980</b>
<b>Nezperce</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>
<b>Orofino</b>	<b>\$1,940,00</b>
<b>Potlatch</b>	<b>\$1,200,000</b>
<b>Cottonwood</b>	<b>\$395,000</b>
<b>Salmon River Riggins</b>	<b>\$545,000</b>
<b>Troy</b>	<b>\$830,000</b>
<b>Whitepine Bolvill-Deary</b>	<b>\$706,637</b>

Unlike most of the other districts in the region, Kamiah has avoided asking for a levy since 2006. In May, it sought a one-year levy of \$150,000, the smallest of the requests made by districts in the region. But the levy failed by six votes – 399 to 405. Now the district will have to cut an additional \$150,000 from an already thin budget. Its total funding gap is in excess of \$900,000 for the coming year. With a 14 percent drop in state support this year, the district must absorb another 10 percent cut next year.

Escalating fuel prices have put additional pressures on already tight budgets. Busing students is an especially high expense for sparsely populated districts like those on the Camas Prairie and the Bovill-Deary areas. Gas prices averaged \$2.31 per gallon in 2009, and currently are hovering around \$3.75.

To cut costs:

- Mountain View based in Grangeville closed White Bird Elementary School two years ago.
- Cottonwood is shuttering its elementary school and consolidating students into the middle and high school buildings this fall.
- Orofino closed its junior high school in 2010, moving seventh graders to the elementary school and eighth graders to the high school.
- Moscow will reconfigure its grades beginning with the 2012-13 school year. Sixth graders will move to what will become Moscow Middle School, and ninth graders will move to high school.
- Culatesac is switching to a four-day week this fall. It has cut all field trips and extracurricular activities and has contracted with the Lewiston School District for counseling, food and school bus maintenance services.
- Salmon River based in Riggins switched to a four-day week this year.
- Genesee is reducing its teaching force by two full-time equivalent positions for the upcoming school year.
- Potlatch plans to eliminate two positions by attrition.
- Teachers in some districts have taken pay cuts while most others have gone without raises for more than two years

Budget woes will increase for districts in Idaho and Clearwater counties after Secure Rural Schools funding ends next year.

### **Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act**

Historically, the federal government shared 25 percent of timber sale receipts from federal forests with rural counties. However, timber receipts have fallen over the last 20 years and tend to be inconsistent, creating budget uncertainty for rural counties that use the money primarily for schools and roads. So in 2000 Congress passed the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, continuing the timber sale sharing arrangement but also providing stable payments for rural schools and counties to ensure that students receive essential educational services and rural communities have access to necessary road services. The legislation, often called Craig-Weyden after the bill's authors, Sen. Larry Craig of Idaho and Rep. Ron Weyden of Oregon, also authorized Resource Advisory Committees that provide local collaboration on projects to improve not only federal forestland but also adjacent public and private lands. In 2008, the act was reauthorized and fully funded for four years. That extension ends in 2012. The final payment will occur in January or February.

Idaho County – where 85 percent is national forest – has been the fourth-largest beneficiary of the secure schools act in the country, receiving more than \$11 million in 2009 and \$10.5 million in 2010. When the act expires in 2012, Idaho County's share will plummet to \$708,407. Mountain View School District alone received \$1.6 million in federal funding in 2010, representing 15 percent of its budget. Clearwater County's portion in 2010 was slightly less than \$2 million and will drop to \$187,146 after 2012. The only other county in north central Idaho to receive a significant amount of Secure Rural Schools funds is Latah County, which got about \$380,000 in the last fiscal year.

Education cuts affect the economy by reducing overall spending in communities as well as potentially affecting the quality of the future work force and reducing a community's appeal to potential new residents. In many rural communities, school districts are the largest employers. In 2010, employment in north central Idaho school districts averaged 2,592 and their payrolls totaled \$76.9 million, down 2.5 percent from 2009.

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### **IDAHO'S POPULATION GROWTH SLOWING BUT RANKS 4TH**

Idaho's population growth slowed twice in the past decade – during and after the 2001 recession and before the recession that began in 2007. Still population statewide managed to grow 21.1 percent between 2000 and 2010 compared to 9.7 percent nationwide. Idaho had a rate of population change that ranked fourth among the 50 states behind only Nevada, Arizona and Utah.

Teton County boasted the highest growth rate at 69.5 percent. Its location next to Jackson Hole, Wyo., a nationally renowned ski resort and the gateway to Grand Teton National Park, has created a bedroom community there with the construction of second homes and other infrastructure supporting the services the two areas offer.

Eight counties suffered population losses. Shoshone County lost the most residents over the decade, primarily during the earlier years when the mining industry lost over 400 employees.

The large growth spurts in Canyon, Ada and Valley counties made southwestern Idaho the fastest growing region in the state at 29 percent while northern Idaho nearly matched the statewide growth rate, increasing 19.1 percent with the help of Kootenai County. North central Idaho grew just 4.8 percent.

### Total Population Change by Region

Region	2000	2010	Change	% Change
<b>Idaho</b>	<b>1,293,953</b>	<b>1,567,582</b>	<b>273,629</b>	<b>21.1%</b>
Southwestern	535,652	690,258	154,606	28.9%
Eastern	163,031	207,499	44,468	27.3%
Northern	178,333	212,393	34,060	19.1%
South Central	162,397	185,790	23,393	14.4%
Southeastern	154,007	166,284	12,277	8.0%
North Central	100,533	105,358	4,825	4.8%

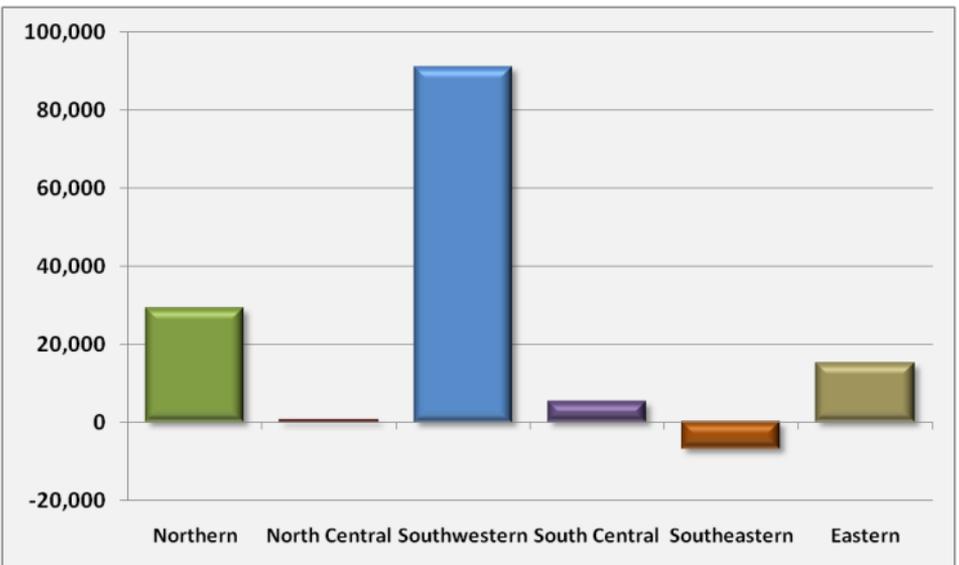
\*Ranked by largest percent change from 2000

#### NET MIGRATION

Over 134,400 more people moved to Idaho than moved out from 2000 to 2009, giving Idaho the fifth highest net migration rate in the nation at 10.4 percent. Nationally the rate was 3.2 percent.

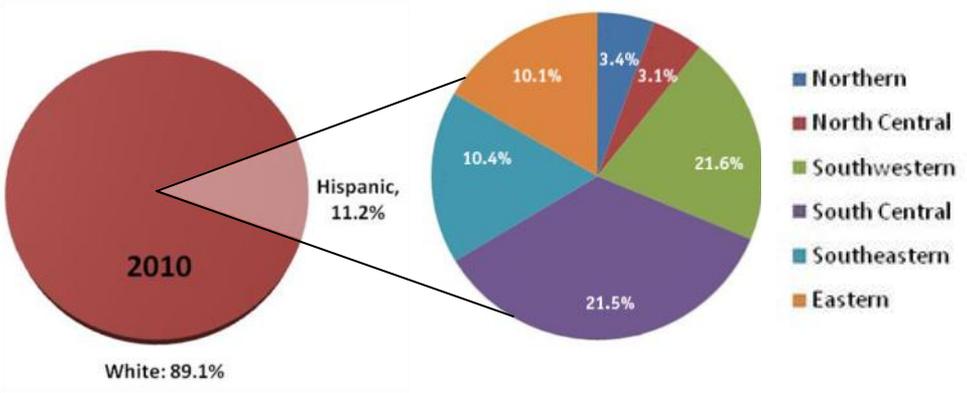
Counties that posted the highest migration rates were Teton, Canyon, Kootenai, Ada and Jefferson. Southwestern Idaho was responsible for 67.8 percent of the net growth, and southeastern Idaho was the only region that saw more people move out than move in – nearly 7,000 more people left than came.

### Net Migration from April 2000 to June 2009 by Region



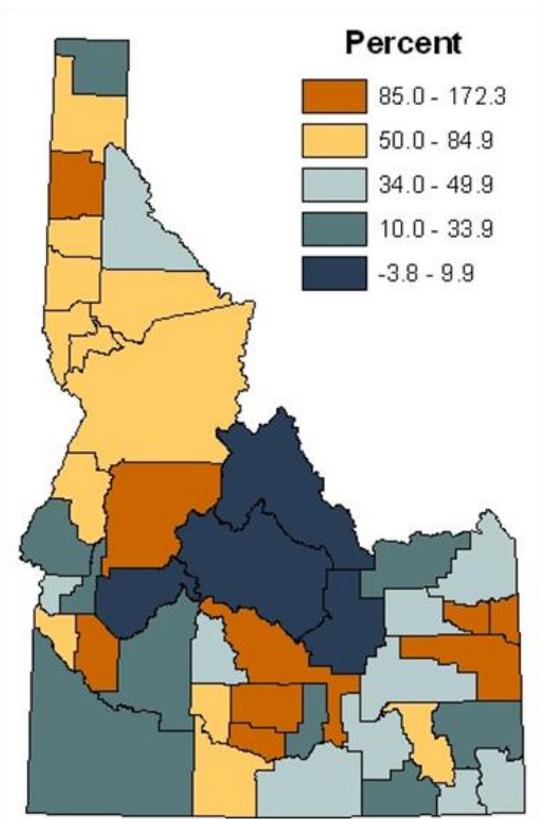
**COMPOSITION OF POPULATION CHANGING**

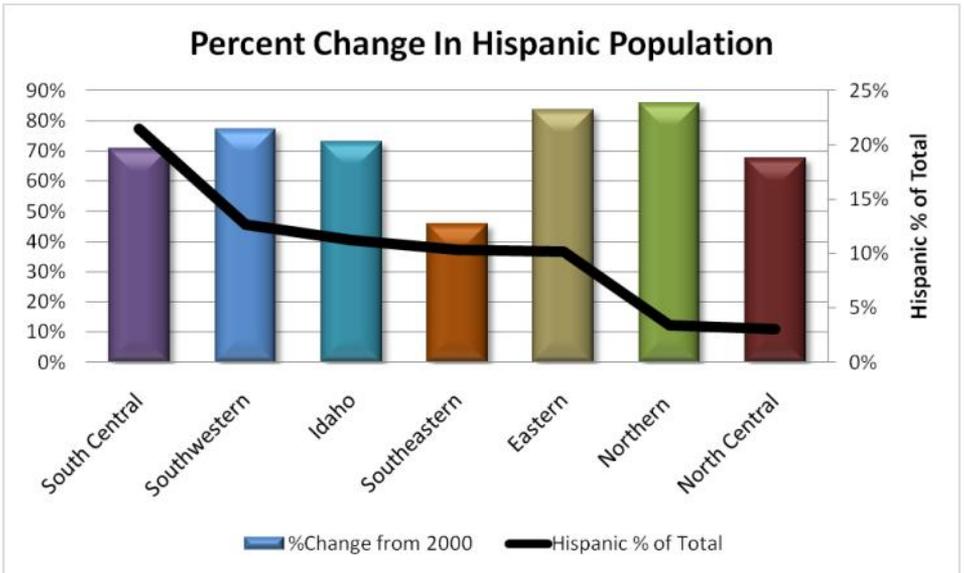
The Hispanic population in Idaho is growing at a faster rate than the population as a whole, increasing 73 percent statewide over the past decade. The proportion of Hispanic residents has jumped from 3.9 percent in 1980 to 5.3 percent in 1990 to 7.9 percent in 2000 to 11.2 percent in 2010.



South central Idaho’s Lincoln County experienced the greatest growth, nearly tripling the number of Hispanics from 542 in 2000 to 1,476 in 2010.

Hispanic as a percent of total population by region soared in northern Idaho, increasing nearly 86 percent to 7,200, a faster rate than any other region in the state. Kootenai County led the region, doubling its Hispanic residents from 2,528 in 2000 to 5,268 in 2010. Only seven counties had higher percent changes, however, only 3.8 percent of Kootenai County’s total population is Hispanic, compared to places in south central Idaho with over 20 percent.





Clark County contains the largest Hispanic population as a percent of total population, and some counties like Power in southeastern Idaho would have suffered a loss in population without Hispanic growth. See [page 44](#) for a table showing population changes in the state by region and county.

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## CULTURAL FACTORS PLAY ROLE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

One of Idaho’s economic advantages over others states has always been its people and work force. Besides being a mark of pride, the self-reliance of Idahoans may pay off in economic development.

In selecting Chubbuck for its new customer service center, Allstate Insurance said the people of southeastern Idaho were impressive. The company is not alone in that assessment.

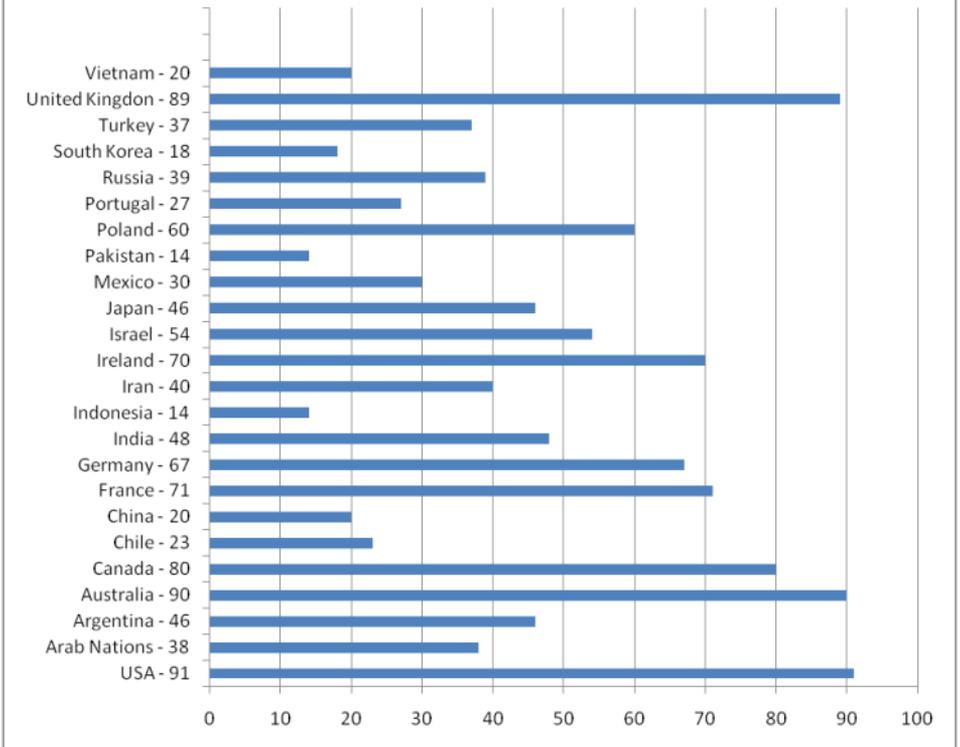
In talking about Idaho and Idahoans, sociologist C. Emory Burton points out that there are many places where an individual cannot see another individual, or even a house, for miles around.” The isolation of the Intermountain West and its sometimes harsh climate creates positive qualities – creativity, fortitude, self-confidence and the ability to solve problems on one’s own. Author Rick Newby contends the principles of hard work and self-reliance are “practiced like a religion” in Idaho.

In his research, cultural psychologist Mark Shaller at the University of British Columbia found that America is made up of very independent and self-reliant people and among the most independent are Idahoans.

The rugged individualism of Idaho residents can be something of great worth to potential employers. The late Harrison Miller Trice, a well-known scholar in organizational behavior at Cornell University, maintained the “cowboy code” of the rugged individual has many attractive attributes including “hospitality, enormous personal courage and pride in one’s work.”

Idaho, like its sister states, needs more scientists and engineers in its work force, and its culture may be fertile ground for these important professions.

## Individualism Score by National Culture



Psychologist and professor Darryl H. Stevenson says independence and self-reliance helps create individuals more likely to pursue careers as scientists and engineers.

Individualism is a quality more and more sought after in the world's multinational firms. Dutch social psychologist and anthropologist Geert Hofstede has spent much of his career looking at how individualism impacts the work force. Hofstede found cultures that produce individual thinking tend to create work forces driven to succeed with a high commitment to personal excellence.

While Idaho was not specifically studied by Hofstede, he found that America had the highest cultural level of individualism in the world, and research reported by other social scientists indicates that Idahoans have a higher level of individualism than most other Americans.

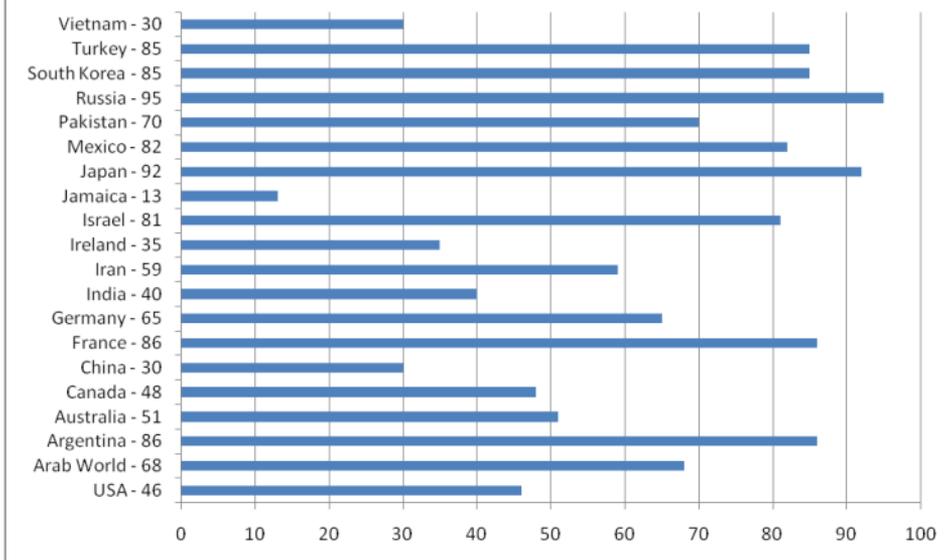
The United States, the United Kingdom and Canada all are much more individualistic than China, Pakistan and Portugal, for example.

Firms wanting a quality work force may look to the United States and specifically Idaho because of high levels of individualism and because they value employees who take pride in their work and want to succeed.

Hofstede's research also shows a generally high correlation between individualism and the ability to handle uncertainty. Workers in cultures less able to deal with uncertainty prefer high levels of structure, Hofstede's research found, while their counterparts are more open to change and have a higher degree of flexibility.

The United States is among the nations most capable of dealing with uncertainty, Hofstede found, and that most likely translates to Idaho as well. That makes the American and Idaho work forces attractive to many compa-

## Hofstede's Uncertainty Avoidance Index by National Culture



nies. Certainly, many firms are attracted to pools of potential employees who are flexible and willing to try new ideas.

It seems that social science research has confirmed something people in Idaho have known for some time – the state’s most important resource is its people.

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### WEATHER, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS CREATE MIXED BAG FOR NC IDAHO’S RESOURCE-BASED INDUSTRIES

Just as north central Idaho’s resource-based industries are regaining economic traction, Mother Nature has bogged them down. Exceptionally cool, wet weather has threatened some communities with flooding and washed out roads, causing more than \$8 million in damage in Clearwater, Idaho and Lewis counties. It also has made it hard for loggers to get into the woods, slowed construction projects, reduced tourism activity and prevented farmers from planting.

#### LOGGING AND WOOD PRODUCTS

Typically, spring breakup causes logging to halt for about six weeks in March and April. This year, repeated thawing and freezing made many logging roads impassable for heavy loads as early as February. Some continue to be closed at the end of May. The long spring breakup is also bad news for the retailers and service providers that depend on the spending of loggers. It has also caused a few mills to run out of logs. Blue North Forest Products in Kamiah temporarily laid off more than 20 of its 60 employees in April. Loggers were able to start harvesting for the company in late May, allowing the mill to recall its workers by the end of May.

Compounding the weather was the weakness in the U.S. home-building industry, which forced Clearwater Paper to lay off 200 Lewiston employees for a week in March, another three days in April and four more in May.

Conditions in the U.S. housing market have worsened, after improving slightly in 2010. For the 12 months through April, there were 430,000 single family home starts. That figure is the lowest since the figures were first tallied in 1960, and it is down 75 percent from the peak of 1.7 million just five years ago. It will be a long time before the housing market returns to normal. Housing prices fell in March to their lowest point since the downturn began, erasing the last little bit of recovery from the depths plumbed two years ago. They now are back to where they were in mid-2002. The price dropped mainly because of the large inventory of foreclosed properties that often sell at a discount, forcing other sellers to drop their prices. High unemployment also depresses home prices.

Partially offsetting the weak U.S. housing market is stronger demand from Asia. Idaho Forest Group in Grangeville, for example, has expanded exports to Japan this year. The low value of the U.S. dollar to other currencies is helping make American lumber attractive to some foreign buyers. The weak dollar also allows U.S. mills to compete with subsidized Canadian lumber and sell more of their products to wholesalers and chains including Home Depot and Lowe's. The need to rebuild after the tsunami in Japan and tornadoes in the Southeast and Midwest is expected to push up lumber prices later this year.

In late May, the Idaho Department of Commerce brought nine Taiwanese lumber importers and building designers to visit Tri-Pro Forest Products in Orofino, Bennett Lumber Products in Princeton, Idaho Forest Group in Grangeville and Clearwater Paper's lumber mill in Lewiston. New business from the delegation could help steady the lumber industry. Idaho grows some of the best cedar in the nation and cedar is used heavily in Taiwan because of how it holds up in humid conditions.

Still the price of framing lumber fell 16 percent from \$305 per thousand board feet in January to \$257 in May.

At the same time, sawlog prices rose about 20 percent. China, Korea and Japan are bidding up log prices in the western United States and Canada. Fueling China's demand are plans to build 35 million low-cost homes for peasants moving in from the countryside. Although the homes will be of concrete, wood is needed for concrete frames and scaffolding, and to attach wallboard to the concrete walls and for doors and molding. China has thousands of small mills where logs are cut and stacked by hand. Port cities like Qingdao are attracting sawmills that previously were in the Russian border region.

As a result of the log price run-up, sawmills in the American West now have higher raw material costs than sawmills in the South. Price levels in southern states remain close to a 15-year low.

Higher operating costs and lower market prices are putting a squeeze on many western mills, making it unlikely that they will expand employment this year.

In north central Idaho, about 870 people currently are working at wood product manufacturers and another 600 for logging operations.

## **AGRICULTURE**

With soft white wheat prices up more than \$3 a bushel from a year ago and other commodity prices higher as well, things were looking rosy for farmers heading into the spring planting season. But then cold, wet weather delayed planting as input costs rose sharply.

Soggy fields prevented many farmers from planting wheat this spring. Average spring planting dates vary from early February in the lower elevations to mid-May in some of the upper reaches. This year, many farmers were not able to get wheat planted before May 15, the deadline for federal crop insurance. The deadlines reflect yield history. Yields tend to drop when crops are planted after these dates. While in an average year 97 percent of spring wheat in the 10 northern counties is planted by the week ending May 22, this year only 70 percent was planted. The following week many farmers managed to finally get their spring wheat planted, and 86 percent of spring wheat acres were planted by May 29.

Spring wheat accounts for about a quarter of the acres devoted to wheat in north central Idaho. About 296,200 acres were planted with winter wheat in 2010 and nearly 100,000 with spring wheat, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service and Idaho Department of Agriculture.

Muddy fields also prevented many farmers from planting lentils and dry peas. Only 60 percent of lentils have been planted in Idaho as of the end of May – short of the normal 93 percent. About 83 percent of dry peas were in compared to an average 96 percent. In addition, poor field conditions are raising concerns about disease for peas and lentils. Shorter growing times also could depress yields.

On the positive side, pea and lentil prices are fairly strong, mostly because of a surge in demand from Asia.

Reduced planting will cut farmers' revenues and processors' volumes. It also means farmers will spend less on fertilizers, crop dusting and other services.

So far winter wheat is looking healthy, but it will need warmer temperatures and sunshine soon to continue to grow.

With cattle prices at record highs, cattle producers are both optimistic and cautious. The price for a 550-pound steer has increased by more than \$33 per cwt in the last year. But rising energy, feed and other input costs are offsetting some of the price gains. Barley, for example, is selling for \$210 a ton, up from \$143 this time last year.

Sheep growers are enjoying record prices for lamb. Demand by U.S. consumers is up, and imports are down because of decreased productions in New Zealand and Australia. That has prices soaring. The fastest growth has come from nontraditional markets, which use smaller processing plants, farmer's markets and direct sales off farms and through local butcher shops.

The Northwest hay market is strengthening ahead of the year's first cutting, which will be later than normal. Demand for hay from dairies continues to improve given higher milk prices and low on-farm hay inventories. However, dairies will likely continue to purchase hay just as needed. Growers with strong yields and quality are likely to do well this year, but higher input costs will compress margins.

One factor that has helped U.S. farmers during the last few years has been depreciation of the dollar. When the dollar is depreciating, it makes American crops less expensive for foreigners, and it makes foreign crops more expensive for Americans.

## **TOURISM**

The unusually cool, rainy and windy weather has also dampened tourism activity. It kept away many anglers, rafters and other visitor in the Lochsa-Selway area in April and May. High water and cool rains also kept many anglers away from the Clearwater and some of its tributaries. Inclement weather slowed the arrival of chinook salmon, reducing fishing activity in April and early May.

The good news was that when the chinook arrived in fairly large numbers in mid-May, many had spent three, rather than two, years in the ocean making them about 10 pounds heavier than the fish caught in 2010.

Being Idaho's lowest, warmest area helps the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley's four golf courses draw visitors in late winter and spring. Golfers normally can hit the links 11 months a year. That makes it an attractive place for other Northwest residents and Canadians to visit in the winter. Groups of 30 to 40 golfers from Montana are common in the spring, sometimes arriving by bus and staying for a day or two. This spring, cool, rainy weather reduced the number of players by about 20 percent, meaning fewer visitors at local hotels, restaurants and retailers.

Many tourist facilities expect more visitors this summer than last. Reservations are running ahead of 2010. Despite poor weather, hotel-motel receipts in north central Idaho totaled \$5.5 million in January through April, up 3.2 percent from the same months in 2010.

Outfitters and guides are relieved that Idaho took back responsibility for wolf management since they blame wolves for reducing some elk herds and scaring away hunters.

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## **NORTHERN IDAHO**

**Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai & Shoshone counties**

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### **REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS**

- Voters in the Coeur d'Alene School District approved two supplemental levies that will increase property taxes for two years to generate \$12.9 million a year in additional operating funds to offset reductions in state and other support. The district also reached agreement on a tentative contract with the teachers. If ratified by the board and the Coeur d'Alene Education Association, district employees will take two furlough work days and pay 2 percentage points more for family health coverage. That will save the school district \$156,000 next school year. In other school districts:
  - Lakeland school district voters passed a two-year levy that will raise \$3.25 million a year.
  - The St. Maries school district supported a two-year \$1.617 million levy.
  - Kootenai school district voters approved a two-year \$647,000 levy.
  - After a second attempt, the Boundary County School District passed a \$1.4 million levy per year for two years.
- North Idaho College trustees approved a \$40.8 million general fund operating budget for the next fiscal year – \$3.2 million more than the current budget. The gap will be filled with new revenue from a 4 percent tuition hike and a 2 percent property tax increase. The college's state allocation for 2012 was slashed by \$354,500 for its general budget and \$71,000 for professional-technical education.
- The long, wet spell accompanied by exceedingly cool temperatures in early- to mid-May affected farming, logging, mining and construction. Farmers typically plant around the first of May, and while spring planting can shift a week or two depending on weather, federal crop insurance will not cover spring wheat planted after May 15. Flooding closed several roads, affecting loggers and smaller mining operations such as the Emerald Creek garnet mine. Some construction projects have also been delayed due to the wet conditions.
- Spokane International Airport has unveiled its master plan to accommodate a projected doubling in passenger traffic from 3 million in 2010 to 6 million by 2030.
- Pyrotek Inc., a global leader in the development, manufacture and sale of high-temperature materials for industrial applications, has announced its decision to relocate a manufacturing line from Mexico to Washington's Spokane Valley. The company considered proposals from several U.S. locations. Pyrotek received \$150,000 in assistance funds from the state of Washington, which included \$75,000 in relocation assistance and \$75,000

in employee training assistance. Production should start in August. The company is expected to hire 20 new employees.

- Providence Health & Services has bought 11 acres of land north of Interstate 90 in Spokane Valley, and a potential development partner has approached that city about constructing a two-building, 140,000-square-foot medical complex there.
- Washington State University is making improvements to the Cougar football stadium. The \$75 million project will add 2,200 seats to the 35,117 existing seats and enhance the media facilities and football operations center. Construction is expected to begin at the end of the 2011 football season and be completed before the 2012 season. ALSC Architects of Spokane and Portland-based Hoffman Construction will be designing and building the project. Washington State University also plans to build a \$32.6 million, 300-bed residence hall on the north side of its main campus in Pullman and a \$22.6 million renovation and expansion of Duncan-Dunn and Community halls.
- Lone Wolf Harley-Davidson will close its Coeur d'Alene and Spokane stores and open one megastore in the Spokane Valley this summer. The new store will have more room to host more events, a large lounge with a café and Wi-Fi, pool table and foosball game, larger service department with more bays and a larger showroom for bikes, motor clothing, parts and accessories.
- After nearly a decade, Mt. Spokane ski area has been allowed to expand into 279 acres of an 850-acre area recognized as pristine terrain on the mountain's northwest face. The expansion includes a new chairlift and seven ski runs.

## COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

### *BENEWAH COUNTY*



Most of the work on the new \$1.73 million Benewah County transfer station is complete but for two permanent access roads on the south side of the building, which were finished in October 2010. The old facility did not meet federal or state garbage storage laws. Property owners within the city limits of St. Maries and Plummer pay an additional \$36 a year per parcel on their solid waste fees for the facility and unincorporated areas pay an additional \$94 per parcel.

- Construction of the new \$17.3 million Benewah Medical Center in Plummer has been delayed by the wet spring weather. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe now expects the project to get under way sometime this summer and to be completed by fall 2012. Sixty-eight percent of the funds for the project, \$11.8 million, come through the Affordable Care Act from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Tribe will contribute \$3 million, and the Benewah Medical Center has set aside \$2.5 million for the project. Wenaha Construction Management of Pendleton, Ore., will represent the tribe as construction project manager.



Mullan Trail Park receives \$10,000 from the city of St. Maries to help renovate the park. Mullan Trail Park marks where the Mullan Train, one of the West's first major highways, passed through the area.

## **BONNER COUNTY**

- The Bonner County Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously recommended approval of a project to expand a commercial resort at Priest Lake's Cavanaugh Bay.
- Quest Aircraft Chief Executive Paul Schaller announced his resignation this spring, and new faces will be appearing on the board of directors. Some aspects of the business operation may move from the area. A shift in the company's capital structure motivated many of the recent developments. In an effort to streamline the company, its leadership is considering moving some expanded marketing and administration elements to Wichita, Kan.

## **KOOTENAI COUNTY**

- The Coeur d'Alene City Council adopted a large scale conceptual plan to redevelop McEuen Park, the 15-acre downtown waterfront park near the Coeur d'Alene Resort. The overall plan ranges between \$15 million and \$39 million and includes construction of a one-level underground parking lot, a skate park, bocce ball courts, vacating the baseball fields and moving the boat launch. The council adopted a resolution not to use bonds, levies or tax revenue other than urban renewal money to finance the project.
- Community 1st Bank of Post Falls plans to open a new branch in Coeur d'Alene this summer with 10 employees in about 5,100 square feet of a vacant commercial building just west of downtown. According to Idaho Department of Finance, this will be the first new state-chartered bank branch to open since 2009.
- Beginning July 1, the use of all tobacco products will be prohibited on the North Idaho College campus.

## **SHOSHONE COUNTY**



- About \$3.5 million from the \$494 million Asarco cleanup fund will be used to remediate 350 properties and conduct characterization inspections of 12 mine sites along the Nine Mile Creek drainage. The inspections will determine if these sites should be dropped from the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed 90-year cleanup plan for the Coeur d'Alene Basin, which would shave years and some cost. A decision will likely be issued in November or December.
- The Shoshone County Mining and Smelting Museum in the former Bunker Hill Staff House in Kellogg opened for the 2011 season. This year's featured exhibit will be "Timber To Tunnels," illustrating the interconnection between the logging and mining industries.

## **OPENINGS**

- Sweet Lou's restaurant in Sandpoint
- Kootenai River Brewing Co. in Bonners Ferry
- Alpaca Direct in Coeur d'Alene
- Twisted Chicken Jams & Jellies in Harrison
- Historic Hughes House in St. Maries
- Dover Bay Café in Sandpoint
- The Vac Shack in Coeur d'Alene

- Atilano's Mexican Food in Coeur d'Alene
- Lakeside Mini-Market in Coeur d'Alene
- Dangerous Dog, a modern hot dog shop, in Coeur d'Alene
- Mrs. Honeypeeps Sweet Shop in Coeur d'Alene
- Jonesy's Breakfast & Lunch in Coeur d'Alene
- Stuff n' Things Boutique in Post Falls
- Literary Souls, a used book store, in Post Falls
- Storybook Bridal shop in Coeur d'Alene

#### **EXPANSIONS**

- Northwest Specialty, in Post Falls, has opened Premier Urgent Care and employs 17 additional people
- Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort added 150 jobs
- Pyramid Skate & Screen joined Coeur d'Alene Paddleboard

#### **CLOSURES**

- Kootenai Café in Coeur d'Alene

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## **NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO**

Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce counties

### **REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS**

- Lewis-Clark State College received a \$200,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to develop a model for work force training that responds to the needs of rural manufacturers. The school will build on an initiative spearheaded by the Northwest Intermountain Manufacturers Association. Solid Works is a three-dimensional, solid modeling software program for manufacturing design that can be used in science, mathematics, engineering and professional-technical courses. The project will demonstrate more uses of Solid Works in the classroom and develop online modular training components. The grant also will finance professional development for high school teachers and software purchases. The college will develop mentoring and job shadowing programs with local manufacturers, who are eager to add employees with Solid Works knowledge. The Cottonwood, Kamiah, Lewiston, Moscow, Nezperce and Orofino school districts are participating. The Clearwater Economic Development Association – working with the manufacturers, the University of Idaho and Valley Vision – developed the Solid Works project and submitted the grant proposal.
- The Idaho National Laboratory donated \$10,000 to the Clearwater Economic Development Association to help stimulate rural manufacturing. The Northwest Intermountain Manufacturing Association and the economic development group are creating the nonprofit American Manufacturer Network to help manufacturers in northern and north central Idaho and southeastern Washington overcome obstacles to contracting with the government, especially the Defense Department. The network will match existing and new manufacturing capabilities to government contracting opportunities and create business relationships with procurement officers. If necessary, the network will act as a general contractor. It

will decipher product specifications, provide technical assistance with reverse engineering, offer quality assurance and manage packaging and labeling requirements as well as support LEAN monitoring and ISO 9000 certification. The network is also supported by the Washington State University Center for Entrepreneurial Studies, the University of Idaho, Valley Vision, the Port of Clarkston and the Southeast Washington Economic Development Association.

### **NEZ PERCE TRIBE**

- The Nez Perce Tribe plans a \$10 million expansion of its Clearwater River Casino near Lewiston. The tent event center will be replaced with a 1,400-seat building that will connect to the current casino and accommodate concerts, boxing, mixed martial art matches and other events. The gambling area will be expanded to include a 130-seat bingo hall. Construction should be completed before New Years 2013. Nearly 300 people currently work at the casino resort that includes a restaurant, a 50-room hotel with an indoor pool and convenience store.



The Nez Perce Tribe recently won a \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to continue research on bighorn sheep along the Salmon River near Riggins. By learning more about the movements of wild sheep, researchers hope to reduce deaths from pneumonia. To guard against outbreaks, which appear to result from grazing near domestic sheep, the Payette National Forest is reducing domestic sheep grazing in the area about 70 percent, based on research the tribe has done over the last three years. Now the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the Nez Perce National Forest are considering similar measures on nearby land upstream from Riggins. Researchers plan to put more radio collars on wild sheep to learn why so few lambs are surviving.

## **COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS**

### **CLEARWATER COUNTY**

- The Idaho Department of Correction is ending mandatory furloughs for its employees including those in Cottonwood and Orofino. For the last three years, most employees were required to take 80 hours in unpaid furloughs each year. Prison security staff took four furlough days. The furloughs reduced employee pay up to 4 percent. The Idaho Correctional Institution-Orofino with a capacity of 541 inmates is the only Idaho prison that manages inmates at all custody levels. It employs more than 130. The North Idaho Correctional Institution at Cottonwood, with a capacity of 414 prisoners, houses minimum-security inmates although with a new therapeutic community program 132 slots are for higher risk inmates with elevated issues requiring more management. The prison issues about 300 General Education Development certificates a year. About 60 people work there.
- A creative economy workshop May 14 in Orofino taught local artists and artisans about the benefits and limitations of e-commerce and the changing demographics of consumers of crafts and artisan foods. The session – sponsored by Two Degrees Northwest, University of Idaho Extension and the Clearwater County Economic Development Council – gave partici-

pants the opportunity to create a variety of artwork including lampshades decorated with dried flowers and other botanical objects, jewelry and paintings. Two Degrees Northwest is a cooperative that provides business opportunities and training to rural artisans in north central Idaho and southeastern Washington.

- The partnership of hospitals in Orofino and Cottonwood has earned recognition as the Outstanding Rural Health Organization for 2011 from the National Rural Health Association, whose member hospitals and clinics serve 65 million Americans. Clearwater Valley Hospital and St. Mary's and Hospital and Clinics began partnering in 1998. Both are members of Es-sentia Health based in Duluth, Minn. Together, they employ nearly 400.
- Historic buildings increasingly are being used to attract and accommodate tourists. The two-story Tall Pine Cabin, built around 1900, became available for rent in April. Moved to U.S. Highway 12 across from the Orofino airport with a view of the Clearwater River, the cabin originally was built on Upper Fords Creek near Weippe. The owner wanted to preserve an example of the axe work, sturdy construction and resourcefulness of pioneers so he moved the cabin in the 1960s. The inscription in blue crayon on the cabin's back door reads: "I do not care if you come in, but don't eat up everything you find open and then lie about it. For I love to have you come, but close this door when you leave!" Now, the rustic home-stead sleeps 10 people comfortably, sports a fully equipped modern kitchen and a DVD player and soon will offer high-speed Internet.
- Brookside Landing recently celebrated 25 years of providing independent and assisted living residence for the elderly in Orofino. Established by community members in 1986, Brookside Landing allows residents of the Orofino area to remain in their own community. More than 30 people work there.
- Three major construction projects have started in Clearwater County. The school district turned over the keys to the school building in Pierce May 18 to the Idaho National Guard Youth Challenge Program, which will re-furbish the school so it can be used for a boot-camp-style school for teens beginning in the summer of 2012. The business complex being built on Orofino's Michigan Ave. by the owners of Alpine Heating and Sheet Metal is progressing. Work will start soon on the Deyo Reservoir for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. This summer, a dam will be built on Schmidt Creek four miles west of Weippe. Two years from now, when the water has built up behind the dam, visitors will find a boat ramp, two peninsulas for better access for fishing and a picnic pavilion. Contractor Motley & Motley of Pullman, Wash., is ready to break ground on the \$1.4 million project, which has passed environmental tests and received the sanction of the Nez Perce Tribe.

#### **IDAHO AND LEWIS COUNTIES**

- Budget-strapped communities are getting some free labor from county jail inmates. Idaho County is running a pilot program with low-risk jail inmates working on community projects. Funded with a three-year \$247,000 grant for transportation and equipment, the program gives in-

mates a sense of accomplishment and may help them feel more tied to the community so they are less likely to return to jail once released. Supplies like paint and building materials must be provided by the entity requesting work. In addition to the benefits for the communities and inmates, citizens are glad to see inmates doing something positive and not sitting idly in jail. When inmates cleaned the Kamiah swimming pool in May to get a ready for summer, the city saved \$1,000 in wages.

- Two local organizations won Take Pride in Idaho awards at the Idaho Conference on Recreation and Tourism in Lewiston. Grangeville Border Days was recognized as the outstanding tourism event of 2011 while Harty and Marjorie Schmaehl of Kamiah were recognized for outstanding individual achievement in recreation and tourism. Border Days, Idaho's oldest rodeo, will mark its centennial this July. Since 1912, the three-day celebration has included parades, a carnival, an art show and other festivities along with the rodeo. The Schmaehls own the Hearthstone Bakery and Tea House, which they opened in a historic brick building on Kamiah's Main Street in 2002. A few years later, they opened the Hearthstone Elegant Lodge By the River on U.S. Highway 12.
- Despite the depressed construction market, Advanced Welding and Steel Co. has doubled its work force in the last four years. Advanced Welding makes building skeletons known as red iron in the industry. It provides the entire skeleton package for a building, from beams and columns to stairs and handrails. Three years ago, the company purchased 32 acres near Idaho Forest Group just outside Grangeville and built a 30,000-square-foot plant. Today the company can produce over 400 tons of steel per month. In the last year, the company added about a dozen workers, bringing its employment above 40. Certified by the American Institute of Steel Construction, Advanced Welding provides structural support for buildings throughout the West including Hawaii and Alaska. Its projects have included the Northern Quest Casino in Spokane, the Whitworth College Visual Arts Building in Spokane, Belmont East Condos in Portland, Regal Thornton Place in Seattle and the Washington State University biotechnology building in Pullman.
- An outbreak of a severely contagious equine herpes virus is not affecting plans for rodeos and horse shows in region – at least so far. Rodeos in White Bird on June 19, Kamiah June 25-26 and Grangeville July 2-4 are still on. Rodeos are many rural communities' biggest tourism events. The disease has killed more than a dozen horses nationwide and caused cancellations of horse events throughout the West. As of June 6, eight horses in Washington and seven in Idaho had been confirmed to have the highly contagious disease. So far, none have been found in north central Idaho, and because there are no wild horse or burro herds in the area, the Bureau of Land Management office in Cottonwood has not restricted horses as federal managers have elsewhere. The Nez Perce and Clearwater national forests also have not imposed restrictions, which would keep away some summer tourists and many hunters and hurt business for outfitters and guides in the fall.
- Gateway Motel in Grangeville is building an addition that will include two extended stay rooms with kitchenettes.

- Six condominium units are going up next to St. Mary's Hospital in Cottonwood. The addition to the Prairie Retirement Condos should be completed by October.
- The Idaho Department of Labor petitioned the U.S labor department to designate Idaho County and eight other counties as areas where employers receive preference in bidding on federal contracts. In June, they were added to the list of labor surplus areas – areas with higher than average unemployment. Clearwater County already had the preference designation.

#### **LATAH COUNTY**



Product developer 3M is investing in Moscow-based GoNano Technologies to advance a high-tech material to cut vehicle pollution. Trademarked as Nanospring, this material could coat next-generation catalytic converters to increase their efficiency and longevity and reduce the amount of precious metals needed to make them. Researchers at Washington State University and the University of Idaho developed nanosprings and founded GoNano in 2007. The company currently employs eight people. The 3M investment will help GoNano increase its production capacity. Currently, the company can make chunks measuring about three centimeters by eight centimeters, but future customers will want the material by the kilogram.

- To house its growing student population, Washington State University is using revenue bonds to finance a \$22.6 million renovation and expansion of Duncan-Dunn and Community halls on the campus's north side. The work should be completed after the 2011-2012 school year. The school is looking for a firm to design and build a \$32.6 million, 300-bed residence hall a few blocks east. Construction of the new residence hall, which also will be funded with revenue bonds, probably will begin next year and be completed by summer 2013. The university currently operates 18 residence halls that house 4,500 students.



These days only a few steelhead swim up the West Fork of Little Bear Creek, which passes through Troy. A group of landowners, fisheries managers and conservation leaders are hoping to restore the runs to the high levels common more than 50 years ago. They are researching steelhead in the Potlatch River system to find out what they need to thrive. As they learn more, they will undertake a series of habitat improvement projects. In 2013, they hope to remove the Troy Dam, once used for the city's drinking water but now only acting as a barrier to steelhead trying to access prime habitat on the West Fork of Little Bear Creek. It quickly silted in after it was built and for decades the concrete dam has been a barrier to migrating fish. Other projects would help increase the flow of water in the Potlatch River during the summer months. Restoring steelhead runs could help attract more tourists.

- Care Net of the Palouse recently dedicated its new 6,000-square-foot, \$1.3 million facility in Moscow that will allow it to expand medical services and counseling to residents throughout the Palouse. Care Net, in conjunction with the Christian organization's medical arm known as WISH Medical, provides medical and counseling services for pregnancy, parent-

ing, sexual health and abortion-related issues. The building, which earned a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design — LEED — certification, has three examination rooms, three client advocacy rooms for counseling, a prayer room, laboratory, conference room, kitchen and office space.

- Acme Concrete Paving of Spokane began resurfacing a two-mile stretch of State Highway 8 in Moscow in May. The \$2.5 million federally funded project will be completed by the end of August.
- The Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport will not seek increased financial support from the two cities for the coming budget year despite a dramatic passenger increase in recent years. Between 2004 and 2010, the airport saw a 68 percent increase in passengers. This summer, the aging runway will be repaved, forcing the airport to close for five days at the end of July. The current runway doesn't meet Federal Aviation Administration standards for the size of aircraft Horizon Air uses but operations are continuing under an FAA waiver while preparations continue for the \$50 million realignment of the runway in 2016. After the realignment, larger aircraft such as Boeing 737s will be able to land without waivers. The improvements to the airport are expected to enhance economic development by making the airport more attractive to emerging businesses such as technology firms that depend on air access to customers all over the globe.

#### **NEZ PERCE AND ASOTIN COUNTIES**

- Lewis-Clark State College awarded a record 660 degrees and certificates in May. For the third straight year, the number of diplomas exceeded 600. Last fall's freshman class was the largest ever so the number of degrees awarded should continue to rise over the next three years. The college has relied on rising enrollment and tuition increases to help offset cuts in state funding. It will increase tuition 7 percent in the fall, bringing resident tuition from \$4,998 to \$5,348 per year.
- The Lewis-Clark Valley just wrapped up one of its major tourism events — the annual NAIA World Series hosted by Lewis-Clark State College. Ten teams from throughout the U.S. play in the week-long, double-elimination tournament that determines the baseball champion of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. The World Series first came to Lewiston in 1984. It left in 1991 and returned in 2000. The tournament fills hotels and restaurants and injects hundreds of thousands of dollars into the local economy. Attendance was down slightly this year, probably because of the wet weather. Rain showers put the series on hold June 2 for one full day. This was the second consecutive year that rain prevented play for an entire day. Last year was the first time a day of play was rained out in Lewiston.



Local wheat farmer Doug McIntosh and his son, David, are starting a small business growing wine grapes in the Lewiston Orchards. They want to be part of the effort to restore the Lewis-Clark Valley's former status as a leading winemaker. The valley was full of vineyards and well-known for the quality of its wines until Prohibition killed the business in 1919. Doug became so immersed in winemaking that he enrolled at

Washington State University to earn a viticulture certificate. He also extensively researched grape growing. Now a two-acre experimental plot has five varieties of grapes, and McIntosh plans to put in another 2-1/2 acres of new vines about a half-mile down the road from the existing plot. Eventually he and his son envision a network of vineyards throughout the Lewis-Clark Valley.

- Skateboarders celebrated the grand opening of the Lewiston skate park in early June, and the park is already attracting the attention of local entrepreneurs. Six owners of mobile food trucks have approached the city of Lewiston requesting permits to operate at the park. Sporting good stores, especially those catering to skateboarders and trick bicyclists, have enjoyed a surge in demand. In addition, Lewiston could become a stop on the trips that skateboarders make when they tour pro-quality parks.



Lewiston is making more progress on its plan to develop its waterfront. Excavators have begun drainage improvements on the west side of Snake River Avenue in preparation for building a roundabout at the Snake River and Southway intersection in 2012. The drainage work will not disturb a river path enhancement project that is also under way. This summer will also bring completion of a small amphitheater and lighting improvements along the river.

#### **OPENINGS**

- Fat Rickey's, a casual-dining restaurant in Orofino
- J&D Bargains, a variety store in Kamiah
- Macey's Education Station, tutoring students from kindergarten through college, in Lewiston
- Nourish, a yoga studio with a smoothie bar, in Moscow

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## **SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO**

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

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### **COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS**

#### **ADA COUNTY**

- The Core, a non-profit organization that promotes business and economic development in a six-square-mile area of Meridian, has raised \$100,000 toward its \$250,000 for marketing.
- Boise Mayor Dave Bieter, in his state of the city address, mentioned that the family of the late business magnate J.R. Simplot has committed to financing development of a 55-acre park just west of downtown. The costs, which are unknown, will include building connecting streets, a parking lot and restrooms for park-goers. This investment is likely to spur other private investment in the vicinity.

#### **GEM COUNTY**

- A proposed gravel pit that received a second denial from the Gem County Commission may still become a reality. The commissioners have decided to review the application once more. The development would provide

jobs and export potential to a county that recently took large losses, both temporary and permanent, in wood manufacturing. The development has been heavily contested by neighboring residents concerned about noise, air and water pollution.

#### **PAYETTE COUNTY**

- Malheur Federal Credit Union opened its fifth branch in New Plymouth in May.

#### **WASHINGTON COUNTY**

- Ground has been broken for the new Nazarene Church. The 16,000-square-foot building on 7.5 acres will include a gymnasium, fellowship hall and 300-seat sanctuary.

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## **SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO**

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

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### **REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS**

#### **TWIN FALLS**

- The Idaho Department of Correction announced the Twin Falls Work Center will close on Aug. 1, saving an estimated \$900,000. The 80 prisoners will be moved to other institutions, and 13 staff will be reassigned.
- Buhl School District patrons rejected a one-year supplemental levy by 676 to 609. The \$571,903 levy would have offset cuts in state support. Without it, two retiring teachers will not be replaced and students will have to pay the cost of participating in sports. Last year, a similar request was not approved and the district used reserves to keep programs intact.
- Hanson School District patrons approved a one-year \$190,000 supplemental levy, allowing the district to avoid layoffs.
- A fairly recent addition to downtown Buhl, From Seed to Store-a Natural Marketplace and Bakery, will host a street fair each month through the summer to coincide with other festivals on the county's west side. The store has over 32 vendors that contribute local items such as fresh rhubarb, eggs and homemade jam. The fair will include local musicians and vendors.
- The College of Southern Idaho campus will remain alcohol free. Trustees rejected requests to lift the ban for various events. But the board – with two new members – followed advice from the school's attorneys.
- The Twin Falls Urban Renewal Agency approved a new roof for the C3 call center building previously occupied by Dell. The cost of the roof is still unknown, but the agency said the roof had reached the end of its functional life.

#### **BLAINE AND CAMAS COUNTIES**

- A delegation of Ketchum leaders and city officials are headed for Aspen, Colo., to find out how that community handles the challenges of being a

tourist destination. Costs will be kept to a minimum with Aspen officials serving as hosts and tour guides.



Bellevue is the next community in south central Idaho to convert its electric meters to smart meters. By the end of 2011, Idaho Power Co. expects to have spent \$92 million – half in federal stimulus funds – on the conversion that will eliminate the need for meter readers throughout its Idaho and Oregon service area. The new meters will send readings four times a day to the Boise headquarters. The meter readers are being reassigned. Dan Olmstead, Idaho Power representative, believes this will save a million miles of driving annually in south central Idaho alone.

- The family and friends of deceased local artist Rod Kagan have donated his works of art to the city of Ketchum. They include six bronze totems reaching between 18 and 25 feet high and made of recycled mining equipment such as wheels, pulleys and cables. The artist was also remembered for his octagon shaped house and studio with its sculpture garden in Chocolate Gulch north of Ketchum.

Bronze totem by late artist Rod Kagan. Photo: Gail Severn Gallery of Hailey.



- State Rep. Wendy Jaquet, an eight term Democrat, was awarded the Ann & Doug Christensen Humanitarian Award. The Light on the Mountains Center for Spiritual Living recognizes individuals or organizations annually. The Rev. John Moreland said “Jaquet has been a harmonizing influence in the state Legislature, championing many initiatives that have bettered the lives of the residents of Idaho.”
- Roxy’s, a new grocer opening in Ketchum, has hired 30 workers, and Sun Valley Co. held a job fair in May that drew over 200 applicants for work on the ski hill where the gondola will be running for hikers and patrons of the Round House restaurant and for other jobs at the resort. Blaine County School District had hundreds apply for eight positions, underscoring the continued high unemployment throughout Idaho. Some teaching applicants expressed disbelief when they were turned away for not being fluent in Spanish as well as English. St. Luke’s Wood River Valley was hiring people for landscaping and health care jobs, and headhunters were actively recruiting for high technology jobs.
- A pocket park will be developed this summer on land donated by Petra Morrison in honor of her father, Oscar Smith Farnlun. The park, named Farnlun Park, will support a bike path with a turnaround and benches with shade trees. Webb Landscape secured the contract for landscaping.
- The Idaho National Guard Armory in Hailey, its \$1.26 million renovation complete, hosted Memorial Day activities as part of its grand reopening. The 25<sup>th</sup> Army Band played, and the public had the opportunity to use computer simulated weapons. An historical mural painted by Ketchum artist Ralph Harris was also unveiled.
- Craters of the Moon National Monument will be improving trails throughout the summer. The Devil’s Orchard trail, the hike to Spatter and Inferno

Cones and the North Crater Trail will be closed indefinitely although they will reopen before the end of summer.

- Castleford hosted Capital for a Day with Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter and his executive team who listened to citizen concerns.
- Buhl’s Oregon Trail Inn has a new owner and has undergone extensive remodeling. The inn is now offering local products for its breakfasts. New owner Rick McClain grew up in Buhl and had worked for both Red Lion and Hilton.

#### ***JEROME COUNTY***

- The Jerome County Historical Museum is opening to the public in the renovated Jerome Senior Center. The space is nearly three times the size of the former museum but still not big enough to showcase all the exhibits so displays will rotate. The new museum also has a research room for archeologists seeking more information.

#### ***LINCOLN COUNTY***

- The Shoshone School District is reducing the school week to four days this fall. But the superintendent estimated middle school students will attend 55.25 more hours of class than in the past. The budget savings appears small at \$125,000, but it gives the district financial leeway in other areas. Gooding and Bliss have also moved to the four-day schedule.

#### ***MINIDOKA AND CASSIA COUNTIES***

- Tessengerlo Kerley Inc. of Phoenix plans to expand its Burley operations to produce a sulfur fertilizer called Thilo-Sul. Currently the Burley plant makes a crop input that protects plants. The expansion will generate five new jobs and will fill distribution gaps in accessing western states.
- Cassia County planning authorities are backing a revised operating permit for the Double B Dairy in Murtaugh. The permit would allow an anaerobic digester to convert manure to methane to drive generators feeding electricity to the power grid. Luis Bettencourt, who owns the dairy and is one of the state’s largest milk producers, has been forward thinking on this environmental issue, blazing the trail for other dairies.
- The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare has approved a grant to Cassia Regional Medical Center for a new four-wheel drive ambulance. The money from license plate sales ensures communities, especially small ones with limited resources, can support accessible emergency medical care. There are three ambulances and 23 emergency medical technicians serving Minidoka and Cassia counties. The retiring ambulance has been donated to the College of Southern Idaho for training future technicians.
- Cassia County will be renovating a former Safeway’s grocery store for its new courthouse. The current courthouse is obsolete and would require a greater investment than the \$1.48 million needed to acquire and upgrade the old grocery store. County voters rejected a \$3.72 million courthouse bond issue in 1998. The new building, however, will not accommodate all the offices for the public defender and prosecutor. Leased space will still be needed for them.

## CLOSURES

- Four Peaks Flatbread and Grill Co. in Hailey after a short run and good reviews
- The Local Dish restaurant in Twin Falls due to insufficient seed capital

## OPENINGS

- Bella Couture, women and men's clothing boutique in Kimberly
- Big Al's Italian Hot Dogs, a sandwich shop, in downtown Kimberly
- Boise Beds in the Magic Valley Mall in Twin Falls
- Heart & Sole, featuring shoes and casual women's clothing, in the Magic Valley Mall
- Prestige, an Idaho Falls-based clothier, in the Magic Valley Mall, hiring four people
- Mama Inez, the Mexican restaurant, on Main Street in Ketchum
- Dashi, an Asian restaurant, in Ketchum, offering music and local produce
- Della Mano, an authentic yet modern Italian eatery, in Ketchum, offering seasonal and local ingredients
- ColorTyme in Twin Falls

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## SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO

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

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## COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

### BANNOCK COUNTY

- The annual "Hard Hats, Hammers and Hotdogs" career fair at the Bannock County Fairgrounds – sponsored by the Idaho Department of Labor, the Idaho Department of Transportation, the city of Pocatello, Idaho State University and the Pocatello-Chubbuck School District – drew 600 students from the area. Designed to familiarize students with various professional and technical careers, the participants were exposed to 30 different trades in energy, construction, manufacturing, landscaping, health care and emergency services. In addition to a free lunch, students had the opportunity to operate heavy equipment and get hands-on experience in building and other trades.



When Ballard Medical left Pocatello in 2007, it vacated a \$10 million building. In May Idaho State University announced it will pay \$3.6 million to buy the building and turn it into a high technology, multidisciplinary research laboratory. Idaho State President Arthur Vailas predicted that the new research facility will draw top professors, researchers, graduate students and undergraduates, providing the university with substantial new revenue streams. The center will provide research facilities for homeland security, biomedicine, advanced imaging and green energy. Shortly after that announcement, Pocatello's On Semiconductor donated a semiconductor etching system to Idaho State. The system will be installed in the new lab and will foster state-of-the-art research in computer technology. The value of On's gift was estimated at up to \$25 million.

### **BEAR LAKE COUNTY**

- The Bear Lake County Commission signed an emergency declaration in late May in response to flooding. Several properties have been damaged by high water. The declaration allows the County Commission to re-open the county's approved budget to reallocate funds to flood relief and clears the way for possible state assistance.

### **BINGHAM COUNTY**

- Construction on a planned expansion of the Bingham County jail will begin soon. The expansion will add 1,700 square feet to the jail that will include laundry and new kitchen facilities. The current jail was built in the 1980s. The new kitchen will be able to serve meals to 300 prisoners a day.

### **CARIBOU COUNTY**

- Tony Varilone, a Soda Springs resident and a longtime member of Idaho Department of Transportation's Scenic Byway Advisory Committee, recently was selected for the 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award in Recreation and Tourism by the Idaho Department of Commerce Tourism Division. Varilone received the award for his years of volunteer work promoting, encouraging and improving recreation and tourism since he arrived in Idaho in 1984. A former U.S. Forest Service ranger, Varilone also served on the Pioneer Country Travel Council, the Soda Springs Chamber of Commerce and has helped promote Oregon Trail sites within southeastern Idaho.

### **ONEIDA COUNTY**

- Malad underwent its usual May population explosion with its annual classic auto show that draws classic cars from all over the western United States. Connie Price, who owns the Malad Drive In, looks forward to the event. "We opened on July 4, 1955, so we fit right in with classic cars," she said. She simplifies the menu so she can meet the demands of the crowds during the auto show. Auto show proceeds fund the Malad Area Chamber of Commerce efforts to promote the community.

### **POWER COUNTY**

- Victims of domestic abuse in Power County now have a place to go for help and support. An office of the Family Services Alliance opened in May in the basement of the American Falls Intermediate School downtown. Vanessa Gallegos, a 20-year-old bilingual college student who accepted a part-time job with Family Services Alliance as a women and children's advocate last January, opened the office. Police Chief Brandon Wilkinson said her work has been an invaluable. Police in Power County respond to up to 10 domestic violence calls per week.

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## **EASTERN IDAHO**

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

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### **COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS**

#### ***TETON COUNTY***

- Jackson Hole, Wyo.-based St. John's Medical Center's Board of Trustees unanimously approved the center's takeover of the 4 Peaks Clinic in Driggs. St. John's intends to buy every part of the business except for the building, which will be leased. Current employees are being retained but reviewed based on productivity. Patient access is expected to increase as more health insurance networks will be available.
- The Spud drive-in theater in Driggs closed after 58 years just to reopen two weeks later. New management will be provided by Dawnelle Wood and Tyler Hammond. The news of the theater opening again has spread quickly – especially among the 1,500 plus members of a Facebook page started by Spud fans saddened by news of the closure.

#### ***BONNEVILLE COUNTY***

- Changes are being made in Idaho's nuclear waste cleanup effort. The Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project has a new contractor. Bechtel BWXT, which managed the project since 1999, is being replaced by the Idaho Treatment Group – which consists of Babcock and Wilcox Technical Services Group, Washington Group International, EnergySolutions Federal Services, Safety and Risk Analysis Consulting, Strategic Management Solutions, Visionary Solutions and Cabrera Services. CH2M Hill Newport News Nuclear had originally been awarded the new contract in March 2010. But after Bechtel BWXT and the Babcock and Wilcox Co., which also sought the contract, protested, the Energy Department rebid the deal.
- The New Sweden Irrigation District in Bonneville County wants to offset costs by installing a hydropower turbine that would generate 5,600 megawatt hours each year – enough to serve 400 homes. The cost is expected to reach \$2 million, but the turbine should pay for itself in 20 years.
- The unfinished Marriott Residence Inn Hotel in downtown Idaho Falls may finally be completed. The Woodbury Corp. has requested bids from four contractors to complete the project. Over a dozen businesses have filed liens reaching over \$5 million on the 107 room hotel. Construction was halted in 2008 as financing dried up.
- Pale cyst nematodes have been found in a 164-acre potato field in Bonneville County. This counts as the 10<sup>th</sup> field to be discovered with the pest since 2006 and the first find since 2008. In total, over 7,800 acres of are considered infested or associated with an infested field. After earlier discoveries of nematodes, Japan, Canada, Mexico and South Korea temporarily banned potatoes exported from Idaho. Nematodes pose no threat to humans but can dramatically affect crop yields.

**MADISON COUNTY**

- After two years as a pilot program, Brigham Young University-Idaho's Pathway Program will now be fully implemented. The Pathway Program allows distance education students to complete bachelor's degrees at a cost of \$7,000 to \$8,000 instead of the traditional on-campus program, which costs up to \$80,000 for tuition, books and living expenses. The program allows students to progress to four levels of academic achievement. The most basic level offers students an introduction to college level academics. As students progress they can earn certificates, an associate degree in general studies and ultimately a bachelor's degree in university studies or business. More information is available at [www.byui.edu/pathway](http://www.byui.edu/pathway).

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## County Population Growth 2000-2010, and Rank

County	% Change from 2000	State-wide Rank	% of Total Population	State-wide Rank
<b>Idaho</b>	<b>73.0</b>		<b>0.1</b>	
Benewah	65.5	17	2.5	41
Bonner	50.8	21	2.2	44
Boundary	20.0	37	3.7	31
Kootenai	108.4	7	3.8	30
Shoshone	42.9	22	3.0	37
<b>Northern</b>	<b>85.7</b>		<b>3.4</b>	
Clearwater	62.4	18	3.1	36
Idaho	73.3	16	2.6	40
Latah	79.2	13	3.6	32
Lewis	80.3	11	3.3	35
Nez Perce	53.8	20	2.8	39
<b>North Central</b>	<b>67.6</b>		<b>3.1</b>	
Ada	107.2	8	7.1	21
Adams	74.1	15	2.4	42
Boise	9.2	41	3.5	34
Canyon	84.3	10	23.9	9
Elmore	17.9	38	15.2	14
Gem	27.2	33	8.0	20
Owyhee	21.1	36	25.8	7
Payette	37.1	29	14.9	15
Valley	157.3	2	3.9	29
Washington	25.1	35	16.8	13
<b>Southwestern</b>	<b>77.3</b>		<b>12.6</b>	
Blaine	110.4	5	20.0	10
Camas	36.4	30	6.7	23
Cassia	42.6	23	24.9	8
Gooding	80.0	12	28.1	6
Jerome	120.0	4	31.0	3
Lincoln	172.3	1	28.3	5
Minidoka	26.4	34	32.4	2
Twin Falls	75.4	14	13.7	16
<b>South Central</b>	<b>70.7</b>		<b>21.5</b>	
Bannock	57.8	19	6.7	22
Bear Lake	40.3	27	3.6	33
Bingham	41.7	26	17.2	11
Caribou	16.3	39	4.8	26
Franklin	41.8	25	6.6	24
Oneida	32.6	32	2.9	38
Power	42.1	24	29.8	4
<b>Southeastern</b>	<b>45.9</b>		<b>10.4</b>	
Bonneville	108.9	6	11.4	18
Butte	-0.8	43	4.1	27
Clark	13.7	40	40.5	1
Custer	-3.8	44	4.0	28
Fremont	35.0	31	12.8	17
Jefferson	38.5	28	10.1	19
Lemhi	6.5	42	2.3	43
Madison	105.8	9	5.9	25
Teton	144.1	3	16.9	12
<b>Eastern</b>	<b>83.6</b>		<b>10.1</b>	

## State of Idaho Data — State Economic Indicators

Note: The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics does not release state, county and sub-county area unemployment rates until the third Friday of the month with a few exceptions. The most recent rate and civilian labor force information is always posted on [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov). Other current economic data is also posted regularly on the website.

	May 2011**	Apr 2011*	May 2010	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>IDAHO LABOR FORCE</b> (1)					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	766,000	765,400	758,500	0.1	1.0
Unemployment	71,700	73,200	69,700	-2.0	2.9
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	9.4	9.6	9.2		
Total Employment	694,300	692,200	688,800	0.3	0.8
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	763,000	761,700	757,900	0.2	0.7
Unemployment	66,100	73,800	65,200	-10.4	1.4
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	8.7	9.7	8.6		
Total Employment	697,000	687,900	692,700	1.3	0.6

### U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE<sup>(2)</sup>

May 2011	Apr 2011	May 2010
9.1	9.0	9.7

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

#### Claims Activities

Initial Claims <sup>(3)</sup>	10,748	12,384	10,421	-13.2	3.1
Weeks Claimed <sup>(4)</sup>	97,001	97,540	99,167	-0.6	-2.2

#### Benefit Payment Activities<sup>(5)</sup>

Weeks Compensated	69,265	84,587	83,760	-18.1	-17.3
Total Benefit \$ Paid	\$16,218,588.37	\$20,152,336.14	\$20,257,682.00	-19.5	-19.9
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$234.15	\$238.24	\$241.85	-1.7	-3.2
Covered Employers	47,887	47,825	49,012	0.1	-2.3
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months <sup>(4)</sup>	\$248,154,040	\$266,048,717	\$345,101,352	-6.7	-28.1

### U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX<sup>(2)</sup>

	May 2011	Apr 2011	May 2010	% Change Month	% Change Year
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	223.0	221.7	214.1	0.5	4.1
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	226.0	224.9	218.2	0.2	4.1

\*\*Forecast data

\* Preliminary estimate

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

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

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

(5) Includes all entitlements, total liable activities.

# Glossary of Labor Market Terms

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Glossary of Labor Market Terms (cont.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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