

Idaho Employment

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

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NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

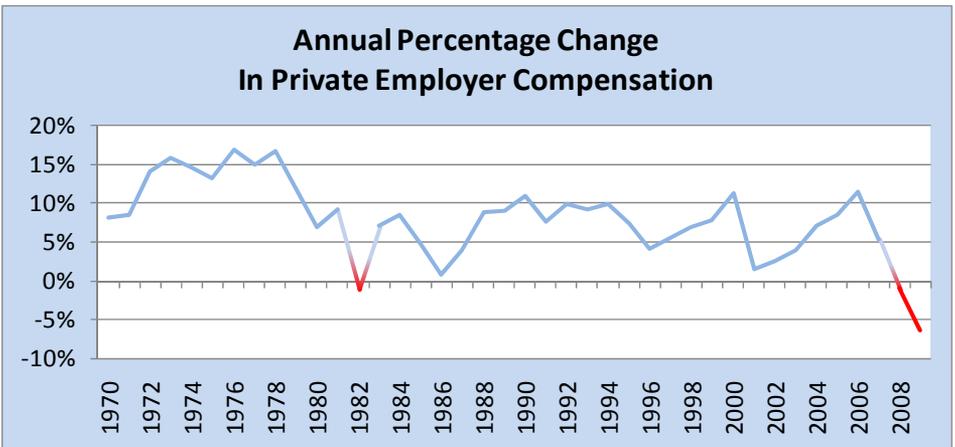
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BOISE METRO, NORTHERN COUNTIES PINCHED IN WAGES

Private sector wages in Idaho fell more than a percentage point during 2008, the first year of the recession because of declines in a half dozen rural northern counties and the Boise metropolitan area.

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis estimated 2008 compensation from private businesses at just under \$22.9 billion. In 2007, compensation was a record \$23.1 billion. While still producing the second highest annual compensation total in Idaho history, 2008 marked the largest percentage decline in annual compensation and the first time private payrolls fell since 1982 when private business paychecks dropped just under 1 percent during another severe recession.



The picture was darker in 2009. Preliminary estimates put private employer compensation down another 6 percent to just over \$21.4 billion, but the regional and county breakdown will not be released for another year.

Private sector compensation is total wages and salaries including those paid to corporate officers but not including farm or government wages. The private sector accounts for about 80 percent of all compensation in Idaho.

The compensation decline in 2008 occurred at the same time private sector employment was essentially stagnant, rising less than half of a percentage point statewide. Had it not been for offsetting wage increases in a number of areas and a number of industries, the payroll decline would have been even greater as the 2009 estimate indicates.

Idaho Compensation, Employment 2008

	2008 Wages (000)	Chg from 2007	2008 Employment	Chg from 2007
Idaho State Total	\$22,885,920	-1.02%	772,745	0.56%
Idaho Metropolitan Portion	\$16,489,627	-2.32%	525,875	0.01%
Idaho Nonmetropolitan Portion	\$6,396,293	2.49%	246,870	1.74%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Layoffs in construction, high technology and timber left thousands without any work and pushed some into jobs paying substantially less either because the hourly rate was much lower or the hours available much less than a full week. Employers tried to temper layoffs by keeping workers on their payrolls but for fewer hours each week.

Restoring those hours as the economy begins moving off the bottom is a reason for the restrained hiring of recent months.

As the preliminary statewide estimate for 2009 suggests, the recession did not hit Idaho hard until late in 2008 with the brunt of the economic damage coming the following year. But the impact in 2008 was significant once jobs began a decline in July and a sign of what was to come.

The Boise metropolitan area, which has nearly half of Idaho's private sector jobs, saw employment drop a half percentage point in 2008 – a net loss of about 1,300 jobs – while earnings by private sector workers decreased by nearly 4 percent.

All five counties in the metro area posted compensation declines. Surprisingly Jefferson County, which is part of the Idaho Falls metro area, was the only one of the other six metropolitan counties – Kootenai, Nez Perce, Bonneville, Bannock and Power – to post a decline, and it was less than a percentage point. Other increases affecting 26 percent of the state's employment and just a third of the metro employment were not enough to overcome the losses reported in southwestern Idaho.

The Boise metro area lost 4,400 comparatively good-paying construction jobs in 2008 at a loss of \$270 million in wages and the slide continued into 2009. Manufacturing – primarily high-tech – dropped 2,700 jobs with a loss of \$155 million in payroll. Those declines were only partially offset by 2,000 lesser-paying jobs in health care and modest job gains in several other sectors.

Idaho Metropolitan Employment, Compensation 2008

	2008 Wages (000)	Chg from 2007	2008 Employment	Chg from 2007
Boise-Nampa <i>(includes Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem and Owyhee counties)</i>	\$10,967,323	-3.78%	326,173	-0.41%
Coeur d'Alene <i>(Kootenai County)</i>	\$1,861,336	0.02%	68,409	1.38%
Idaho Falls <i>(includes Bonneville and Jefferson counties)</i>	\$1,720,688	0.96%	63,614	1.16%
Lewiston <i>(includes Asotin County, Wash.)</i>	\$927,907	1.83%	29,912	1.02%
Pocatello <i>(includes Bannock and Power counties)</i>	\$1,103,905	0.79%	40,959	-1.16%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Idaho's 33 rural counties, which have less than a third of the state's jobs, posted a 2.5 percent gain in compensation during 2008 despite significant declines in six of the 10 resource-reliant rural counties in the northern and western parts of the state.

Valley and Adams counties were affected by the Tamarack resort bankruptcy, which ended the extensive construction that had bolstered the economies of both counties for several years. Construction paychecks dropped 53 percent in Adams County and 34 percent in Valley.

Bonner County and the city of Sandpoint also suffered a significant decline in construction wages – nearly 10 percent – after riding the housing boom through the expansion following the 2001 recession.

Bonner along with Benewah, Clearwater and Idaho counties – all heavily reliant on timber – experienced closures of mills and other manufacturers in 2008. Bonner County was again hard hit, seeing payrolls from wood product manufacturing cut in half. Losses in the other three counties were significantly less but still serious.

Compensation, Employment Rural Northern, Southwestern Counties, 2008

	2008 Wages (000)	Chg from 2007	2008 Em- ployment	Chg from 2007	Construc- tion Chg	Manufac- turing Chg
Adams	\$24,459	-15.19%	1,871	-3.51%	-53.09%	2.53%
Benewah	\$100,804	-3.87%	3,665	-1.32%	0.06%	-1.87%
Bonner	\$484,423	-3.41%	22,045	0.06%	-9.70%	-10.32%
Boundary	\$88,867	0.30%	4,121	1.98%	-18.28%	0.24%
Clearwater	\$71,214	-1.25%	3,643	2.10%	16.07%	-5.10%
Idaho	\$115,350	-0.94%	6,616	1.52%	0.30%	-1.54%
Latah	\$286,647	2.67%	14,202	1.79%	-9.50%	-1.92%
Lewis	\$31,246	5.87%	1,548	3.55%	7.24%	9.65%
Shoshone	\$165,372	4.52%	5,717	4.84%	46.97%	8.77%
Valley	\$113,466	-17.18%	6,017	-4.88%	-34.07%	6.44%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Counties in southern and eastern Idaho withstood the recession's initial year much better. Only three – Franklin, Oneida and Teton – posted declines in private employer wages and salaries. Franklin saw a curtailment in wages from trailer manufacturing, Teton from furniture production and Oneida from mining. Data for rural southern counties is on page 4.

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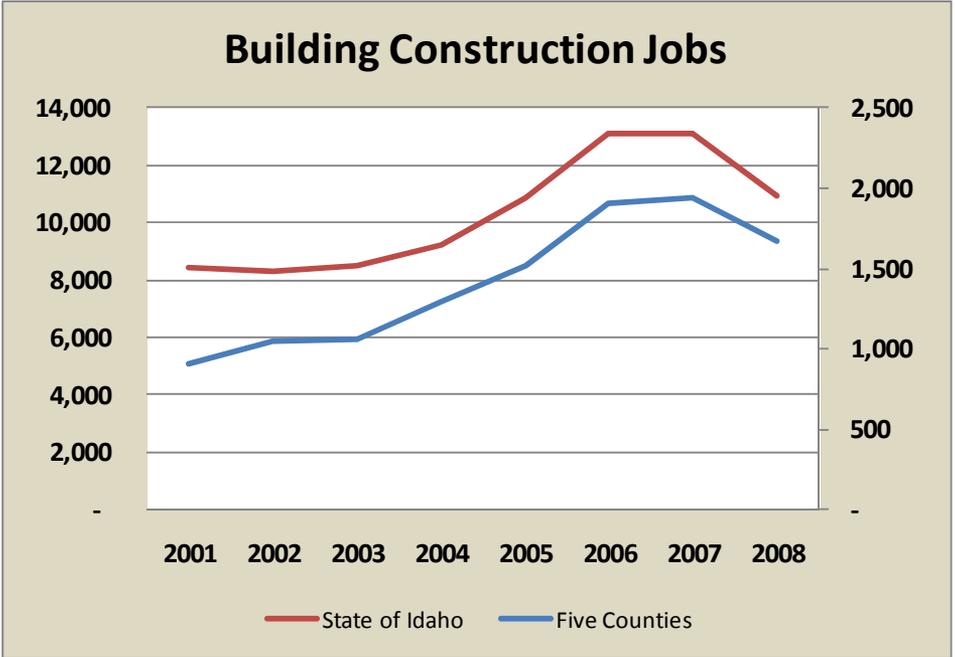
Compensation, Employment for Rural Southern Counties, 2008

	2008 Wages (000)	Chg from 2007	2008 Em- ployment	Chg from 2007
Bear Lake	36,271	10.43%	2,103	8.51%
Bingham	413,500	8.30%	16,581	4.16%
Blaine	596,327	2.19%	4,121	1.98%
Boundary	88,867	0.30%	8,603	-0.13%
Butte	694,208	3.02%	498	3.11%
Camas	9,584	9.13%	3,772	4.29%
Caribou	157,526	8.06%	10,622	4.10%
Cassia	258,621	6.42%	606	13.70%
Clark	18,764	29.55%	2,164	6.97%
Custer	59,567	10.68%	7,508	2.34%
Elmore	152,809	7.24%	4,025	0.95%
Franklin	73,757	-0.66%	3,562	1.92%
Fremont	58,585	3.26%	5,505	0.31%
Gooding	134,956	3.01%	8,889	5.27%
Jerome	245,991	11.65%	68,409	1.38%
Latah	286,647	2.67%	14,202	1.79%
Lemhi	53,670	0.61%	3,603	-0.08%
Lewis	31,246	5.87%	1,548	3.55%
Lincoln	28,426	1.63%	1,346	-0.88%
Madison	378,601	2.65%	16,286	0.06%
Minidoka	170,930	1.63%	7,200	2.21%
Oneida	19,523	-6.01%	1,202	-1.23%
Payette	200,388	3.19%	7,968	-0.28%
Shoshone	165,372	4.52%	5,717	4.84%
Teton	108,183	-1.45%	4,103	0.12%
Twin Falls	1,042,986	2.34%	40,588	1.95%
Washington	75,029	1.24%	3,411	1.52%

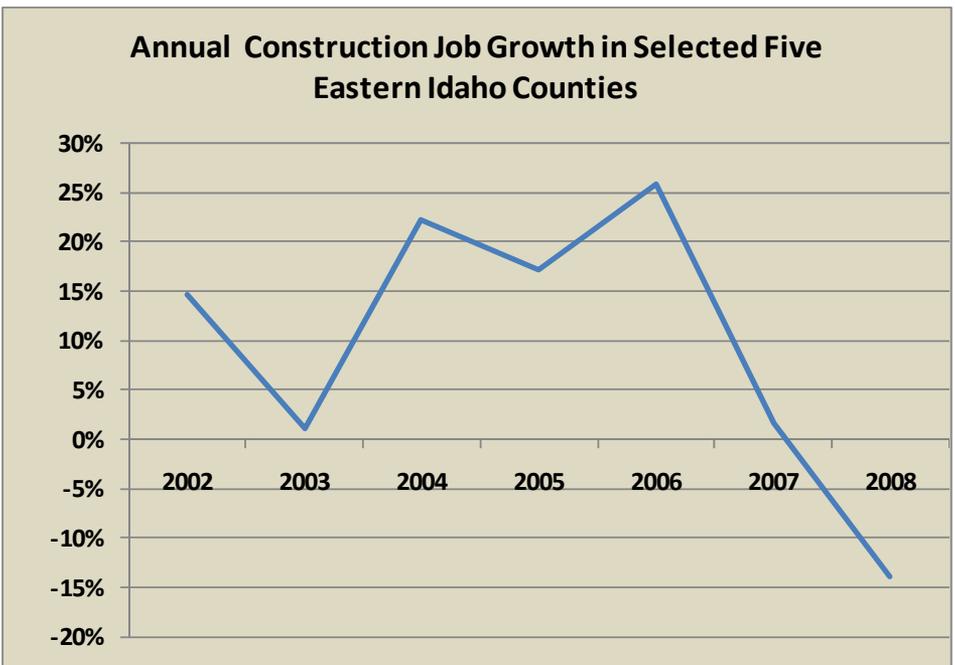
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

EASTERN IDAHO CONSTRUCTION: A "SHIFT-SHARE" ANALYSIS

As the first-time home buyer tax credit expires, the time has come to take stock of building construction in the eastern Idaho counties of Bonneville, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison and Teton.



These five counties followed Idaho’s construction employment trends very closely. In the early 2000s, the federal interest rate began falling as signs of recession became more apparent. Investors were looking for new places to put money as U.S. treasury security yields decreased. Mortgage rates followed the federal fund rate, creating great opportunities for a more stable investment – real estate. Across the nation high demand for new construction provided plenty of jobs. From 2002 to 2006 the five eastern Idaho counties experienced incredible construction job growth. In 2006 alone the industry grew by 26 percent. For other years double digit growth rates were commonplace.



A shift-share analysis shows how building construction employment – which is a component of the overall construction sector – compares to national trends. Shift-share is used to explain changes in employment in three ways. The first component called “Share Change” shows how many construction jobs would have been added due to changes in overall national employment. The 2001 recession caused nationwide job loss. During this time national trends would have decreased construction employment by a little over 1 percent. Following the recession employment began to grow again, aiding the recovery. At the height in 2005, national job growth trends would have increased building construction employment by close to 2 percent.

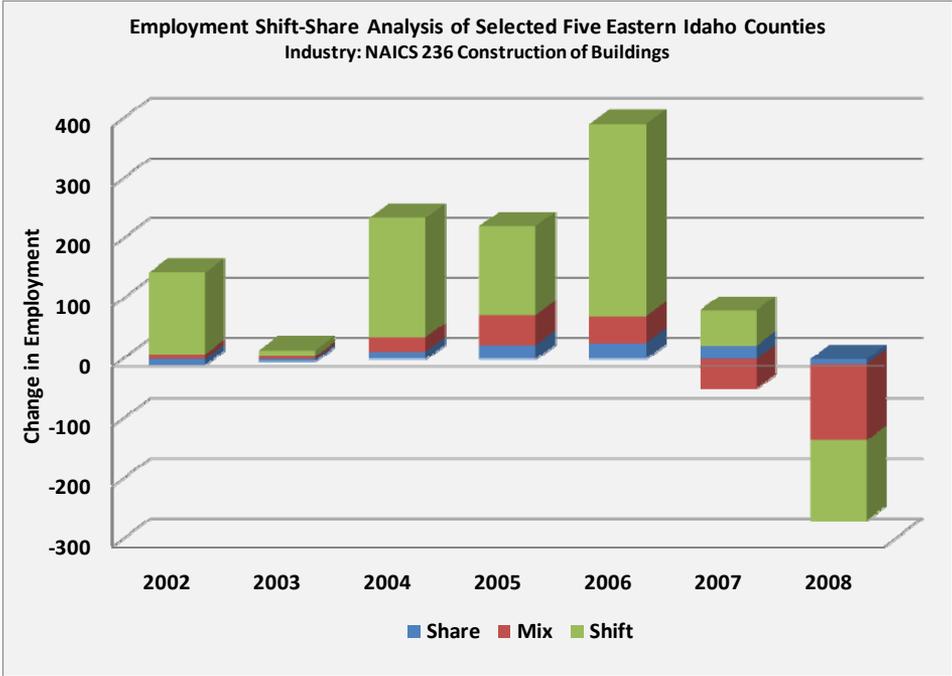
The second, or “Mix,” component of the analysis explains job growth specific to the construction industry. Between 2001 and 2003, national trends for the construction industry would have explained less than one percent job growth. National trends peaked in 2005 and explained almost four percent growth in eastern Idaho construction jobs.

The final, or “Shift,” component shows the change in employment that cannot be explained by general national job growth or by national construction industry job growth. For Bonneville, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison and Teton counties, a large majority of the changes in construction employment could not be explained by general or industry job growth at a national level. For most years the five counties added many more construction jobs than national trends would have suggested. In 2006 national trends would have indicated the counties would have added slightly over 70 construction jobs. In fact, they added 320 more than that or a total of 390. Although other years were not as dramatic as 2006, they were similar.

As the housing market matured, the five counties began to unload the excess jobs. In 2007 and 2008 national construction employment trended downward. In 2008 even general employment decreased. Still the five eastern Idaho counties continued to add construction jobs in 2007, only starting in 2008 to begin shedding many of those expansion jobs.

In 2008 national trends would have reduced construction employment by 138 in eastern Idaho. The five counties saw employment drop by that and another 133 – a total job loss of 268.

THE COMPLETE SHIFT-SHARE ANALYSIS BETWEEN 2002 AND 2008



As a comparatively large employer, construction plays a significant role in the regional economy. Fortunately strong population growth has helped reduce the need for even larger reductions in construction employment. Preliminary data show employment in this area continued its precipitous recessionary decline in 2009.

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SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO – A GLANCE AT A DECADE

The hub of southeastern Idaho is Pocatello, and the city experienced significant changes over the last decade. Its population grew by just 2,500 to nearly 55,000 since 1998 – an average of barely a half percent a year – and the labor force decreased, albeit by only 46, over the same period. But even that figure is somewhat deceptive. The city has built up its labor force twice in the last 10 years only to see the recession of 2001 eat away almost 6 percent and then again in the current recession, which claimed almost 3 percent from 2007 to 2009 as the ever-tightening job market discouraged hundreds of workers. Many of those workers became full-time students, taking advantage of federal stimulus money and government grants to improve their education and skills. The labor force peaked at just under 29,000 in 2007, almost 1,000 more than in 1999. It slipped below 28,000 in 2008 and continued to slide. The city's unemployment rate dropped from 4.9 percent in 1999 to a low of 2.7 percent in 2006 before climbing to 6.7 percent in 2009 due to the recession.

Since 1999, the Pocatello metropolitan area of Bannock and Power counties grew by 7,000, or 8.4 percent, to 90,273. Annual growth actually peaked in the past year at nearly 1,300. In five out of the last 10 years, the metro area grew by over 1,000. Still, the growth rate was below the statewide rate, and the labor force declined by almost 850. The unemployment rate dropped from 5.1 percent in 1999 to 3 percent in 2007 before riding the recession to 7 percent in 2009.

The region's remaining five counties – Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin and Oneida – posted population growth of 2,900, only 4 percent, to just over 74,000. At the same time, however, the labor force in those five counties grew by over 2,000. The unemployment rate climbed from 2.5 percent in 2007 to 5.8 percent in 2009. For comparison, the 2009 state unemployment rate was 8.0 percent, and the national rate was 9.3 percent.

Over the decade, manufacturing was hit the hardest with a loss of almost 1,300 jobs. FMC closed its phosphorus production plant in 2001, idling 600 workers. In 2005, Ballard Medical eliminated 150 jobs when the plant moved operations to Mexico to cut production costs. Another 250 technical jobs were slated to stay in Pocatello, but the plant eventually closed over the next two years. In 2008 AMI Semiconductor merged with ON Semiconductor, and there have been layoffs since, due primarily to technological changes. The area then lost some of its retail stores. Dillards and Sportsman's Warehouse closed and, also feeling the economic crunch, Idaho State University laid off over 100 adjunct professors and closed its Graphic Arts Department this past year.

However, health care was the growth sector of the decade, adding over 2,100 jobs. Administrative support, waste management and remediation services finished second, generating another 1,100 jobs, and private education services and government added nearly 500 each. Population growth drove much of the expansion in health care, education and government. Pocatello is the region's medical and retail hub, especially since the opening of Costco. New companies like Hoku and Peterson added diversity to the industrial base

and focused some national attention on the region as a potential place for other companies to relocate.

The region’s number of employers increased 16.1 percent over the decade to 4,635, and average employment increased 7.3 percent to almost 59,000. The bulk of that growth was inside the metro area, where the number of employers rose 12.3 percent and average employment decreased 3 percent as businesses laid off workers to cope with the downturn, leaving fewer employees to do the work.

Overall, southeastern Idaho is growing and should continue, capitalizing on access provided by two interstate highways, available education and training resources and a flexible work force. The annual average population growth rate for the region has been 0.9 percent over the past five years with Bannock County at 1.1 percent. Because the recession has slowed economic activity, growth over the next five years could be expected to fall below an annual average of 1 percent.

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Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area

Year	1999	2004	2009
Population	83,285	85,796	90,273
Civilian Labor Force	42,767	43,556	43,411
Total Employed	40,571	41,549	40,386
Total Unemployed	2,196	2,007	3,026
Unemployment Rate	5.1%	4.6%	7.0%
Number of Employers	2,267	2,430	2,546
Average Employment	33,899	35,832	34,902

Southeastern Idaho Statistics (7 Counties)

Year	1999	2004	2009
Population	154,658	157,422	164,526
Civilian Labor Force	77,152	78,432	79,845
Total Employed	73,376	74,908	74,696
Total Unemployed	3,776	3,524	5,149
Unemployment Rate	4.9%	4.5%	6.4%
Number of Employers	3,992	4,282	4,635
Average Employment	54,778	57,882	58,754

TRUCK DRIVING EXPECTED TO GROW STEADILY OVER NEXT TWO YEARS IN SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO

The number of truck drivers in southwestern Idaho is expected to rise 4.3 percent over the next year. That increase of about 130 jobs will lift the industry payroll in the region over 3,100.

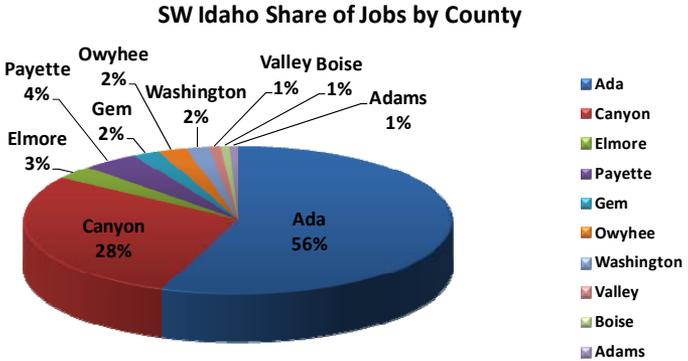
By 2012, an additional 118 drivers are expected to be hired, pushing the two-year growth to 8.1 percent. Scores of replacement drivers for retirees and others who leave one company or the sector for an-



other will also be hired in that time. Industry turnover averages 8.5 percent – mirroring turnover rates in other economic sectors in southwestern Idaho. Considering the current economic climate, trucking is showing a promising employment picture for the next two years.

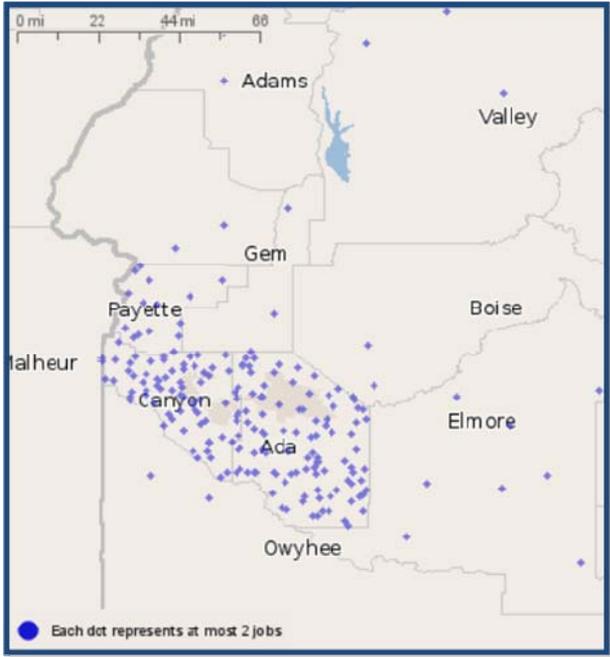
According to Economic Modeling Specialists Inc., the number of jobs in the southwestern Idaho trucking industry – not just drivers but other workers on trucking company payrolls – totals 7,300. Occupations like driver are defined by the job function while an industry is defined by a

business’s primary focus. An example would be a dispatcher who works for a trucking company. The occupation employment is among dispatchers, but the industry employment is among truck transportation.



The current number of truck driving jobs corresponds fairly well with the overall population of each county. However, some counties such as Boise and Valley have much smaller proportions of truck driving jobs. This is because the location of trucking companies is more dependent on the proximity of major roadways that serve larger population levels. The pie chart above shows each southwestern Idaho County’s share of truck driving jobs.

Three out of every four new driving jobs over the next two years will be for heavy equipment and tractor-trailers. Heavy truck and tractor-trailer drivers must have a commercial driver’s license to handle a rig weighing in excess of 26,000 pounds. These drivers are generally paid more than light truck or delivery drivers, primarily because of the licensing requirements and on-the-road lifestyle. Median annual earnings for heavy and semi-truck drivers in southwestern Idaho are just under \$30,000. The qualifications can be met in as little as 15 weeks through programs offered at schools like the College of Western Idaho. In fact, six out of the 15 weeks required to complete the course consist of a paid internship. The map on this page shows the location of projected job openings over the next two years in southwestern Idaho.



Each blue dot represents two jobs. Source: EMSI

The consensus among many Idaho Department of Labor employment consultants is that job seekers’ interest in truck driving has increased since the

recession began. The difficulty is linking interested and qualified job seekers with job openings in the area.

During April, the Labor Department had 47 driving jobs listed in southwestern Idaho in IdahoWorks, the department's job listing system. There were only 29 listed in March. Most of the jobs were expected to last five months or longer, and while they required applicants to hold or obtain a commercial driver's license, very few required any previous experience.

Overall, truck driving may be a perfect match for many displaced workers looking to transition into an occupation or industry that is expected to grow steadily in the short- and long-term.

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BUILDING THE BOAT-BUILDING INDUSTRY

As the gateway to Hells Canyon and exciting recreational opportunities along the Clearwater, Snake, Salmon, Lochsa, Selway and other rivers, the Lewis-Clark Valley has fostered boat building, and is often called "the jet boat capital of the world."

A dozen boat manufacturers in the valley build welded aluminum jet boats to the exact specifications of each customer. Most manufacturers are located on the Snake River so they can easily test and demonstrate their boats. They employ skilled welders, riggers, finishers, upholsters and detailers.

In the 1990s, local builders began developing boats for camping, fishing, water skiing and cruising oceans and lakes as well as running rivers. These builders also began selling their boats throughout the U.S. and Canada. Their employment rose from 120 in 1995 to 220 in 2005. The recent recession claimed all of that gain by last summer, but in the last few months, some workers have been recalled, and employment is back to about 130.

Renaissance Marine Group Inc. — the Clarkston, Wash., firm that makes Duckworth, Weldcraft and Columbia boats — is one of the two largest jet boat manufacturers in the valley. Duckworth, the oldest segment of the group, began producing boats in the late 1960s. It consolidated with Weldcraft in 2000 to become Renaissance Marine Group. Columbia Boats was added a couple of years later. In February, the group purchased a Pasco boat manufacturer, Northwest Jet Boats, and is consolidating production at its Clarkston factory. It recently hired six people to handle the expanded production, bringing its employment above 50. Before the recession, it employed up to 90 people. In a good year, the company makes about 550 boats.

Other Clarkston boat builders include Stealth Marine, Mills Manufacturing's Thunder Jet, Aztec Fabrication's Phantom Jet Boats, Hudson Custom Boats & Welding and Hells Canyon Marine. A few miles away in Asotin, Wash., is Bloodsworth Boats.

Lewiston is home to three major boat builders. Riddle Marine had its boats featured in the James Bond film "Quantum of Solace" and some television projects. Bentz Boats, founded in 1972, not only builds jet boats for individuals, it also builds them for tours that can seat up to 50 passengers. Custom Weld Boats at Riverview Marina on the Snake River recently entered the export market including sales to Russia.

A boat builder 35 miles from the valley will also participate in export promotion efforts. SJX Jet Boats opened in the Orofino business park in 2008. Its boats, which can perform well in exceptionally shallow areas, have been sold to the military and drug enforcement agencies in the U.S. and Ecuador as well as to individuals. It currently employs eight people.

A \$50,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture grant recently secured by the Clearwater Economic Development Association — along with more than \$25,000 contributed by boat builders, economic development organizations and local governments — will help the valley's boat builders expand exports to Europe. The Northwest Intermountain Manufacturers' Association played a major role in starting the project.

Promotion will focus on Germany because it is one of the largest consumers of marine products in Europe, and the Lewis-Clark Valley produces boats that are not generally available there. In June, writers from a major German marine trade publication will tour the valley. Later this summer, a consultant will complete research on what is required for local boats to earn the CE mark, the European equivalent of the American UL designation that demonstrates a product meets accepted safety standards. In November, the boat builders hope to host German boat dealers, who will already be in the United States for a major boat show in Florida, and in January, the valley will send a delegation to Europe's largest boat show in Düsseldorf, Germany.

Organizers expect marketing boats to Europeans will add at least 20 jobs to the local industry.

The foundry that is under development at the new Clearwater Economic Development Association industrial park in Craigmont will benefit the boat builders as well, providing a local source for aluminum castings.

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GREEN LIGHTS AT THE PORT OF CLARKSTON

The Port of Clarkston, Wash., plays a key role in economic development of the Lewis-Clark Valley. The port was created in 1958, 17 years before the completion of the Lower Granite Dam that enabled shipments from the inland port on the Snake River along the Columbia River to the ocean.

The port provides property, infrastructure and facilities to encourage private investment that creates family-wage jobs and generates wealth for the community. Since its inception, the port has focused on a 120-acre parcel on the Snake River near downtown Clarkston. In the last couple of years, that area has filled with everything from agribusiness, manufacturing, retail and tourism facilities to offices and restaurants. Kiwi Air, a sightseeing helicopter tour operator, and Riverport Brewery, a microbrewery, moved to the area in the last couple of years.

The port purchased another 131 acres south of U.S. Highway 12 last fall so it could develop a mixed-use business park — about 80 percent manufacturers and 20 percent business offices. About 300 jobs will be created after the port puts in water, sewer, roads, street lights, natural gas, power and telecommunications on 25 acres of the park, creating shovel-ready parcels for prospective businesses. In the last couple of the years, the port has turned away several interested businesses because no suitable space was available. The park-like setting with recreational trails will be a green development based on the port's commitment to the environment, combined with fiscal responsibility and feedback from the marketplace. Every decision about what the port calls its "sustainable business park" will be guided by green principles.

The port also plays a leadership role in creating a vibrant waterfront that is a centerpiece for the community and improves tourism. It hosts six different cruise boat companies that travel with hundreds of passengers from Portland to Clarkston and back. One line will offer trips originating in Clarkston this fall, which will give passengers more time to spend in the area. Over 10,000 pas-

sengers from eight different boats are expected to set foot on the port's cruise dock.

Clarkston recently shifted from being an "operating" port, one that runs its equipment and terminal operations, to a landlord port. It is actively seeking third parties to run the crane and dock. The port recently received a grant of over \$100,000 for security enhancements and a surveillance system.

Unusual in the realm of economic development, the Port of Clarkston maintains roadways in the historic port district as well as a public park. It has been leveraging tax and partner dollars with grant funds to create sidewalks, a new recreational boat dock and a barrier-free pathway to the water's edge. Its decision to "go green" actually began decades ago, when it started turning the old city landfill at the edge of the Snake River into a community park that hosts dozens of weddings every year.

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NOTHERN IDAHO JOB FAIRS, CAREER FAIRS DRAW CROWDS IN APRIL

April seemed to be job/career fair month in northern Idaho. With regional unemployment still high, these events not only generate a networking environment for employers and job seekers but hope for those still looking for work.

Idaho Department of Labor's Coeur d'Alene local office hosted the third annual Hard Hats, Hammers and Hot Dogs career fair where skilled craftsmen demonstrate their trades and give hundreds of students an opportunity to drive heavy machinery, lay bricks and take a stab at many of the other skilled jobs that are critical to Idaho's continued economic well-being. Over 500 students participated.

More than 4,000 people flocked to the third annual job fair sponsored by the Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce and the Idaho Department of Labor. Twenty-nine businesses had booths although only seven had jobs available.

Sandpoint's local Department of Labor office, in coordination with the Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce, hosted the fifth annual career fair at the Bonner Mall in Ponderay. Openings from participating employers included a mix of part-time, full-time and temporary jobs in health care, manufacturing, administration, services, education and management.

The Sandpoint office also had a job fair and provided interview rooms for the new Super 1 Foods grocery store set to open June 16. About 250 people jammed the office, hoping to land one of the 100 jobs being offered. The recruiters said they were pleased with the turnout and quality of the applicants.

Although the Silver Valley has not conducted an official job fair recently, the Silver Valley Chamber of Commerce hosted the 11th annual Silver Valley Business Expo in mid-April. The event creates an informational and networking environment for employers, employees and community members. Between 40 and 45 businesses participated in the expo this year.

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COEUR D'ALENE METRO SEES SOME JOB RECOVERY

After suffering substantial seasonal decline of 2,100 nonfarm payroll jobs from December to January, the Coeur d'Alene metro area recovered 1,600 through April, a solid performance compared to a year ago when jobs continued eroding in February and March before a modest uptick in April.

Retail was hit the hardest in January, losing 400 jobs. Half have been recouped. The leisure and hospitality industry added over 400 jobs between February and April, more than offsetting the 200 lost in January.

Coeur d'Alene Metropolitan Area Monthly Change in Nonfarm Jobs

	Dec-Jan	Jan-Feb	Feb-Mar	Mar-Apr	Net gain/loss (Feb-Apr)
Total Nonfarm	-2,100	300	300	1,000	1,600
Total Private	-1,700	100	200	1,000	1,300
Goods Producing	-600	-100	-100	300	100
Mining & Logging	-1,500	400	400	700	1,500
Construction	-1,100	200	300	700	1,200
Manufacturing	-100	0	0	0	0
Service-Providing	-500	-100	-100	300	100
Private Service Providing	0	0	0	0	0
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	-500	0	100	200	300
Wholesale Trade	-100	0	0	100	100
Retail Trade	-400	0	100	100	200
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	0	0	0	0	0
Information	0	0	0	0	0
Financial Activities	0	0	0	100	100
Professional & Business Services	-300	0	100	100	200
Educational & Health Services	-100	100	0	0	100
Leisure & Hospitality	-200	100	100	200	400
Other Services	0	0	0	100	100
Government	-400	200	100	0	300
Federal Government	0	-100	0	100	0
State Government	0	0	0	0	0
Local Government	-400	300	100	-100	300

Source: Idaho Department of Labor

From March to April, almost every industry showed gains— total nonfarm jobs increased 2.1 percent. Approximately 80 jobs were lost in local government and 10 in the mining and logging industry. As the weather gets drier, logging should return to seasonal patterns. With the construction season almost in full swing, the construction sector saw a 9 percent increase in activity last month – nearly 300 jobs – the highest month-to-month percentage gain for any sector and triple the gain of 2009. Leisure and hospitality followed with 200 more jobs, or about 3 percent, and retail added 100, about 1.3 percent.

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SCHOOL DISTRICTS ACROSS THE STATE MAKE DEEP CUTS

Dramatic reductions in state support for the 2010-2011 school year on top of reductions imposed the last two years have forced school districts across Idaho to cut their spending another 7.5 percent and 8.5 percent on top of the cuts made in the past to accommodate the recession. Federal stimulus money that helped ease the recession's pain this past school year has dried up.

While virtually all schools districts are facing cuts, that does not necessarily indicate the current state of the economy. Most money in the current state budget is based on past performance, a time when the economy was at its worst. So while cost-cutting efforts are being imposed on the 2010- 2011 school year and new state fiscal year, the funds should slowly come back to previous levels as the economy continues to slowly improve.

But while the good news is that government reductions typically are a lagging economic indicator, the 2006 decision to shift basic local support for schools from the local property tax to general state revenues may undermine that principle in this recession. Lower unemployment and increased hiring are signals of the beginning of a slow climb out of the recession.

NORTHERN IDAHO

Like most educational institutions, the Lake Pend Oreille School District is expecting a \$1.1 million shortfall for the next school year. To stay within budget, the district plans to cut seven teaching jobs at Sandpoint Middle School and High School and nine other staff while sparing Northside Elementary School. Some of the cuts are based on student average daily attendance, which impacts state support. The district has seen a drop in average daily attendance over the past two years and projects a 9 percent decrease, about 350 students, over a four-year period that includes the coming school year.

Voters in the St. Maries School District recently passed a one-year levy of \$850,000 to cover a \$1.37 million budget shortfall anticipated for next year. However, the district is still faced with cutting \$520,000 more from the budget. Final cuts have not been determined. The levy will cost taxpayers \$1.68 per \$1,000 of taxable property, in addition to the \$1.59 per \$1,000 patrons currently pay.

Salaries and benefits in the Lakeland School District of Rathdrum will be cut by \$850,000 even after recently passing the two-year levy for \$3.25 million a year. This will allow the district to continue existing programs while cutting libraries and textbook purchases.

A two-year, \$2.78 million levy for the Kellogg School District passed with 61.27 percent majority in late April. That saved the Silver Valley Alternative School, several sports programs and teaching, administrative and staff positions. Earlier, voters rejected a \$3.26 million supplemental levy.

Declining enrollment and tight budgets are forcing the school district based in Orofino to close its only junior high school, which needs expensive repairs. The school board determined it would be less expensive to close it and move the school's students to the elementary and high schools for the 2010-2011 school year.

SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO

The Twin Falls, Buhl, Jerome, Cassia, Kimberly, Minidoka County, Filer, Buhl, Dietrich and Murtaugh school districts have all declared states of financial emergency to cope with the 7.5 percent reduction in state support for the 2010-2011 school year. There will likely be more districts making the same call. Depending on how state revenues trickle in over the next quarter, further cuts could be required. Some consider further cuts unlikely unless the economy falls back into recession. Estimating state tax revenues has been complicated by the changing behavior of taxpayers. Those entitled to income tax refunds are filing their taxes earlier, and instead of spending the money on vacations, a piece of furniture or a new 'toy,' they are making mortgage payments and buying groceries with the cash, especially families where wage earners have been furloughed or laid off.

Hanson School District patrons rejected a two-year, \$300,000 a year levy to maintain district buildings and continue operations.

In the Buhl School District, where 83 percent of expenses are payroll-related, officials felt their only option was to declare a financial emergency.

The 2009 total wages for public schools – including the College of Southern Idaho – was \$166.6 million in south central Idaho. Twin Falls County accounted for \$69 million, or 41 percent, mirroring its share of the regional population. Cutting 7.5 percent as the Legislature dictated equals \$12.5 million in wages. Indirect losses based on an earnings multiplier of 1.41 adds another \$5.1 million to the economic loss. Nearly all the levy proposals put on ballots so far this spring passed.

<i>Levy Activity in South Central Idaho</i>			
<i>School</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Status</i>
Bliss	\$40,000/yr	10 yr	passed
Cassia	\$681,244	1 yr	passed
Castlefjord	\$150,000/yr	2 yr	passed
Dietrich	\$106,000	1 yr	passed
Hagerman	\$87,500/yr	2y	<i>proposed</i>
Hansen	\$300,000/yr	2 yr	<i>failed</i>
Jerome	\$650,000	1 yr	passed
Kimberly	\$50,000/yr	2 yr	passed
Minidoka	\$1,200,000/yr	2 yr	passed
Murtaugh	\$300,000/yr	2 yr	passed
Richfield	\$225,000/yr	2 yr	passed
Shoshone	\$300,000/yr	2 yr	passed

The second table on page 16 breaks out total wages for education, the percentage of the population and the estimated number of school age population by county. Blaine County has a higher percentage of the total wage than its population percentage yet also shows a smaller percentage of school age residents. The county is known for paying more per child for education than in other counties partly to offset the higher salaries paid to teachers and support staff to compensate for the area's higher-than-average cost of living.

Counties such as Cassia, Jerome and Minidoka all have consolidated school districts that draw in students from smaller, rural communities and save by reducing administrative costs. Minidoka County appears to have the highest efficiency with only 8 percent of the total education wage, 10 percent of the total population and 14 percent of the students aged 5-17.

The economic impact will be felt throughout the area as teachers are forced to find outside part-time jobs, which will cut into volunteerism and time with family while taking jobs that teens and older workers would normally fill. Area businesses are affected if educators and support staff don't get part-time jobs and reduce their discretionary spending.

2009-2010 Population and Education Wages in South Central Idaho

	Total Wages	7.5% Cut	Net Effect	Share of Total Wages	Population	Share of Total Population	School-Age Population*	Share of School-Age Population*
SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO	\$166,634,811	\$12,497,611	\$154,137,200		179,994		33,913	
BLAINE	\$31,066,672	\$2,330,000	\$28,736,672	18.6%	22,328	12.40%	3,463	10.2%
CAMAS	\$1,084,184	\$81,314	\$1,002,870	0.7%	1,109	0.60%	202	0.6%
CASSIA	\$19,221,527	\$1,441,615	\$17,779,912	11.5%	21,698	12.10%	4,787	14.1%
GOODING	\$11,909,701	\$893,228	\$11,016,473	7.1%	14,430	8.00%	3,094	9.1%
JEROME	\$15,691,599	\$1,176,870	\$14,514,729	9.4%	21,262	11.80%	4,297	12.7%
LINCOLN	\$5,234,123	\$392,559	\$4,841,564	3.1%	4,645	2.60%	924	2.7%
MINIDOKA	\$13,301,498	\$997,612	\$12,303,886	8.0%	19,226	10.70%	4,771	14.1%
TWIN FALLS	\$69,125,507	\$5,184,413	\$63,941,094	41.5%	75,296	41.80%	13,599	40.1%

Source: IDOL Quarterly Employer Tax Reports, 2009; US Census Bureau

*Counties will not total to region due to different sources.

SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO

The Preston School District will scale back to a four-day school week starting this fall. Kindergarten classes will expand to full days, but will meet only every other day to eliminate mid-day bus service. It also reduces the payroll by four teachers and one administrator. Any staff that resigned or retired this year will not be replaced. Four assistant coaching jobs and a junior high wrestling coaching job were also eliminated for the 2010-2011 school year, and the number of games that do not produce revenue will be cut to deal with a curtailed athletic budget.

The West Side District is eliminating two teachers and 10 part-time teacher aides this fall. Teachers are now cleaning their own classrooms because custodial staff were trimmed to one per building. Athletic fees were increased, and sports programs were modified.

The Pocatello-Chubbuck School District has identified \$4 million of the \$7 million it has to cut and plans to meet the balance with across-the-board salary cuts. Tentatively that could be a 6.9 percent reduction in pay for all employees including classified staff.

Several districts have declared financial emergencies including Firth and Snake River. Financial emergencies empower districts to open employee contracts during the middle of the school year to impose layoffs, salary cuts and other cost-saving measures. Pocatello-Chubbuck, Preston, Aberdeen and American Falls have already done that, and Blackfoot, Marsh Valley and Oneida are considering the option.

American Falls will eliminate three to five teachers this fall. Many of the districts are running special and supplemental levies to get additional funds since announced changes still do not make up for the actual cuts they are facing.

EASTERN IDAHO

The Madison School District trustees voted to reduce the academic school year by one week. Starting spring 2011, district schools will close May 27 instead of June 3. The district estimates that this could save as much as \$100,000. Contracted employees like teachers will continue to receive their usual pay during this time. However, classified staff like aides and bus drivers will lose five days of pay. The school district will still be within the state's required number of class days.

The Challis School District declared financial emergency. The school board does not want to cut teachers' salaries and will use Forest Reserve Funds to supplement teacher salaries for 2010-2011 school year.

The Fremont School District won approval of a \$3.6 million levy to supplement operating cash for the next two years. The levy required a simple majority and received nearly 55 percent.

The Jefferson School District is eliminating 13 teaching positions and two administrative jobs in the 2010-2011 school year on top of \$600,000 in earlier cuts that eliminated three other teaching positions.

The Madison School District is cutting pay 2.5 percent to 3.5 percent for the next three years and reducing the school year by five days. An additional \$1 million in reductions will affect athletic programs.

The Bonneville School District's \$2.8 million supplemental levy was defeated by just 72 votes.

The Idaho Falls School District will eliminate 70 jobs, reduce hours for 60 other employees and cut employee pay by 3.2 percent overall by shortening contracts. Other cost savings will come from reductions in supplies, professional development and services. Support for many extracurricular activities will also be cut. The district's proposed \$57.5 million 20-year bond was defeated.

Alivia Body, Janell Hyer, Jan Roeser, Tanya Albán and Will Jenson contributed to the article.



Area and County Developments

RECENT CHANGES: *Beginning with the last edition of Idaho Employment, the nonfarm jobs data for the state and labor market areas will not be included in the newsletter. It will continue to be posted on the department's labor marketing information Web site at <http://lmi.idaho.gov/Employment/IdahoNonfarmJobs/tabid/760/Default.aspx>.*

NORTHERN IDAHO

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai & Shoshone counties

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- North Idaho College has been awarded a \$625,000 grant to train health information technology professionals across the state. Training will be geared to students who already possess some of the needed skills like individuals with information technology experience in areas other than health care experience or with health care experience outside the information technology area. The grant is part of a \$6.2 million grant awarded to a consortium of eight community colleges in 10 states. Community colleges in the consortium will establish intensive training programs that will result in a training certificate that can be completed in six months or less. North Idaho College will subcontract with other institutions to train 300 students over the next two years.
- Members of the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers Union Local 422 at Ponderay Newsprint protested the loss of benefits and other pay. Ponderay Newsprint is the largest private employer in Pend Oreille County, Wash., with 175 workers, which is down from a high of over 200 in the 1990s. The company has already reduced its 401(k) retirement benefit match, and workers lost sick time before the union formed. Bonuses were eliminated as well as overtime incentives. Insurance premiums have risen and workers have not received a cost-of-living raise in more than three years. Ponderay Newsprint officials are also asking for wage reductions up to 14 percent and cuts to disability benefits.

BENEWAH COUNTY

- The total annual economic impact of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe on the northern Idaho economy was \$309 million in sales, \$119 million in earnings and \$12.4 million in taxes, according to a recent study published by University of Idaho economics professor Steven Peterson. According to the study, the tribe's government and business operations create nearly 4,000 jobs in the region. The tribe's business operations include the Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort Hotel, Circling Raven Golf Course and Echelon – formally doing business as Berg Integrated Systems. Echelon employs 82 people and is in the midst of fulfilling a contract valued up to \$400 million. The tribe is in the midst of a \$75 million expansion of its casino and resort. After its completion in early 2011, the casino resort hotel is expected to hire an additional 200 employees to staff the new restaurants, spa and additional guest rooms.
- Potlatch Corp. is out of the railroad business. It has sold the 91-mile St. Maries River Railroad short line to the Missouri-based Williams Group. The

line operates freight service between Bovill and Plummer to connect with the Union Pacific. The railroad will continue to serve its current customer base in St. Maries, which is primarily Potlatch and Stimson Lumber and will try to expand business. The railroad currently employs 12 people, and no layoffs are expected as a result of the transaction.

BONNER COUNTY

- Thirty high school students from Sandpoint, Clark Fork and Lake Pend Oreille are participating in this year's Future Leaders of America Today, a program guiding high school students with the professional insight they need to help plan for post-graduation decisions. The Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce program has been gaining momentum since its initiation in the fall of 2009. The students meet regularly to learn about entrepreneurial skills, job search skills, résumé building and interviewing techniques, career exposure, customer service, team building, communication techniques and personal budgeting. The students have benefited from hands-on learning provided through field trips to the Bird Aviation Museum & Invention Center, Coldwater Creek headquarters and Schweitzer Mountain Resort. Students get a certificate after they complete the program, acknowledging the new skills they have learned to apply to future endeavors.
- The University of Idaho's Research and Extension office in Sandpoint is expected to close June 30. The university announced earlier that it would make a decision May 15 on its plans for the facility. The Sandpoint station was among 12 facilities statewide targeted for closure as UI looked to cut \$3.2 million from its research and extension budget. For decades the Sandpoint station has been in the forefront of research on blueberry carcinogens, fir trees and commercial production of huckleberries and bilberries.
- The number of visits to Schweitzer Mountain Resort climbed last season from 202,000 to more than 217,000 despite fears of an El Niño winter and a struggling economy. With only 177 inches of snowfall throughout the season — almost half of last season's snowfall — visits still increased by 7.5 percent. Schweitzer also extended their season through April 11, which turned out to be the snowiest week of the season. The resort's summer operations kick off June 25.
- Women's apparel company Coldwater Creek, based in Sandpoint, currently operates about 400 retail stores. The company reduced its losses in its fiscal fourth quarter through Jan. 30, reporting a net loss of \$9.7 million compared with a net loss of \$18.6 million a year earlier. For the year, the company reported a net loss of \$56.1 million compared with a net loss of \$26 million in fiscal 2008. Coldwater Creek opened 10 new stores during fiscal 2009 and plans to double its store openings in 2010 and sharpen its focus on direct catalog and Internet sales. It also plans to raise the price point on its merchandise mix.
- Due to slow market conditions, Quest Aircraft Co. announced a second round of layoffs in April. In January, 22 jobs were eliminated, according to news reports and another 55 of its remaining 275 employees were laid off in early April. Executives at Quest are hopeful that full production will resume in August.

BOUNDARY COUNTY

- Boundary County was recently awarded a \$7,759 federal grant to assist with emergency food and shelter in the county. The grant is targeted at private voluntary non-profits or government agencies eligible to receive

federal funds. Beneficiaries have demonstrated the ability to deliver emergency food and shelter in time of need.

KOOTENAI COUNTY

- The residential real estate market in Kootenai County is showing signs of improvement. Over 320 single-family homes have sold through March, up 33 percent from last year, while the average price fell 5 percent to \$176,975. The median price fell 4 percent to \$160,000. The total volume of all residential sales reported to the multiple listing service - from mobile homes to waterfront property - totaled \$113.6 million, up 41 percent over the same period a year earlier. Sales totaled 573, a 52 percent increase, while the average sales price was down 7.6 percent to \$198,204.
- After five years, The Hagadone Corp. officially received the go-ahead to completely overhaul the marina at Blackwell Island. The development is roughly a 26-acre chunk of land on the south end of Coeur d'Alene off of U.S. 95. The proposed project will include removal of mine waste, repair of shoreline and improvement of stormwater runoff from the former Blackwell Lumber Co. operation. The area became the Marina Yacht Club in the 1950s and early '60s.

SHOSHONE COUNTY

- Over \$11,000 was raised for Silver Valley charities during the sixth annual Leadman Triathlon. Nearly 240 athletes skied 1.2 miles down Silver Mountain and then, followed by a mountain bike ride and 4.7 mile run. The event attracts hundreds to the city of Kellogg, boosting business at local restaurants and other food and beverage outlets.
- The Sterling Mining Co, which has been in Chapter 11 bankruptcy since February 2009, auctioned off all its assets to Silver Opportunity Partners LLC, a private company based in Delaware. After several days of bidding wars, Silver Opportunity outbid one other company at \$24 million. The transaction included the historic Sunshine Mine. The company says it intends to work with current employees and the community as the mine is explored and developed "in a sustainable and pragmatic manner."
- New Jersey Mining Co has completed improvements and started to process ore through its mill near Kellogg. Production and exploration are also expected to increase at the Silver Strand mine.
- Congress has asked the U.S. Department of Labor to expand the Job Corps program into more urban and rural communities. The Shoshone County Commission plan outlines a new bio-power electrical generation facility and a new Job Corps center, bringing an estimated \$12 million in new economic activity to the county annually.

OPENINGS

- Hughes Bike shop in St. Maries.
- Pepe Caldo Pizzeria in Coeur d'Alene.
- Convenient store (dependent on a Subway franchise) in Post Falls.
- Martial arts firm in Post Falls.
- Five-O-Guns and Pawn Shop in Sandpoint.
- Twice is Nice second hand store in Coeur d'Alene.
- A second Coeur d'Alene Chocolates store in Coeur d'Alene.
- Hydroseeding Unlimited Inc. in Silver Valley.
- New décor and flower shop, "Sunflower," in Coeur d'Alene.

CLOSURES/LAYOFFS

- Team Mazda Coeur d'Alene closed its doors on April 1, laying off seven workers. The inventory was moved to a Post Falls Honda dealer.

- Hollywood Video Store closed in Post Falls, affecting five employees.
- Bonners Ferry Health and Welfare office closed on April 6.
- Schweitzer Ski Resort and Mountain in Sandpoint, Silver Ski Mountain in Kellogg and Lookout Ski Mountain Idaho/Montana border near Mullan imposed seasonal layoffs.
- St. Maries' Department of Health and Welfare Office. Child welfare and mental health services continue. Three workers stayed, two were transferred and one was laid off.
- Bonners Ferry's Department of Health and Welfare Office. Two workers were laid off and six were transferred to other offices.

[Link to Coeur d'Alene MSA nonfarm job data.](#)

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NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO

Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce counties

DEVELOPMENTS

CLEARWATER COUNTY

- Employers from a wide range of industries participated in the seventh annual Clearwater Career Fair April 29 in Orofino. Hundreds of high school and junior high students along with job seekers tried their hand at tasks performed by workers in a variety of trades, learning firsthand about dozens of occupations. The Idaho Department of Labor, the Orofino Chamber of Commerce, the Clearwater Business Committee and the Orofino Kiwanis Club sponsored the fair.
- Clearwater County received a \$360,000 Idaho Community Development Block Grant in April to expand the Konkolville water system by adding a new pump station and connecting it to the Orofino water system. The U.S. Department of Agriculture will kick in an additional \$306,000 in grants and loans.
- Dworshak State Park officially reopened May 1 ending months of doubts about its future in the state park system. To reduce operating costs, Dworshak and Winchester State Park will be administered by the manager of Hells Gate State Park in Lewiston. The park has an on-site assistant manager, ranger and other seasonal employees. To offset staff reductions, the sheriff's department will take care of docks at Big Eddy marina while inmates from the state prison in Orofino will help mow grass and clean restrooms. In addition, volunteers will help keep the parks running as many hours as it did in the past. The park was created when Dworshak Dam was built in the early 1970s, backing the North Fork of the Clearwater River up into a 53-mile-long reservoir. The centerpiece of Clearwater County tourism, the park also has the potential to draw businesses and residents to the area.

IDAHO AND LEWIS COUNTIES

- The Three Rivers Mill, which closed in November 2008, apparently will not rise again. The mill, which employed more than 100, did not sell at an auction in April so it now will be dismantled and sold in pieces. The mill was Kamiah's largest employer.
- Idaho County took another step toward using its airport in Grangeville as a regional economic development engine by approving Quality Electric of

Boise's bid of \$150,000 to purchase and install an Automatic Weather Observing Station. The station should be working by Jan. 1. Currently, pilots cannot get real-time meteorological data for the airport without calling someone in Grangeville or flying over to observe the weather. The station will provide real-time weather data that can be accessed by phone, computer or onboard an aircraft, greatly improving the ability of planes to land in Grangeville. The airport's largest customer, the U.S. Forest Service, has wanted improved weather information for some time. From May through October, the Forest Service operates from the airport, sending aircraft and smokejumpers to hotspots across the Nez Perce and Clearwater national forests. The weather station will help the Forest Service with pre-mission planning, and directing and routing operations that are already under way in the backcountry. It also will assist medical flights including those of the Forest Service, LifeFlight and Medstar. The county also is working on other airport enhancements, such as hangar construction that will allow Anderson Aeromotive to expand and a major runway reconstruction project that would allow larger aircraft to use the airport.

- The Kooskia National Fish Hatchery, which raises spring Chinook salmon, will use \$1.25 million in federal stimulus money to improve the 42-year-old hatchery. Contractors will rehabilitate wells, replace aging pumps, build a permanent wall for the intake system and install a new chilling system that cools water from Clear Creek used for Chinook egg incubation. Replacing an old 180-ton chiller with a modern 20-ton chiller will cut the hatchery's electricity usage from \$12,000 a month to \$5,000 a month. Now it also will help restore the hatchery's roof, badly damaged in an April windstorm. The Kooskia hatchery is managed by the Nez Perce Tribe but is owned and funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- The Idaho Transportation Department will invest about \$6 million in roads through Idaho County this summer. An \$850,000 project to resurface the McKenzie Bridge on U.S. Highway 95 between Riggins and White Bird began in April and should be completed by early June. A second project, expected to cost \$2.7 million and start in June, is an upgrade of Highway 95 from Grangeville north to the concrete section of the highway between Fenn and Cottonwood. That portion of the highway hasn't been upgraded since 1994. And a third project — a \$3.1 million overlay project on State Highway 13 from Kooskia to seven miles south — was recently put out for bid.
- The city of Riggins is spending \$1.8 million to increase the efficiency of its 30-year-old sewer plant and bring it up to current standards. The work is funded by an Idaho Community Development Block Grant of \$500,000 and a \$1.3 million general obligation bond.
- The Idaho Department of Commerce awarded a \$500,000 Idaho Community Development Block Grant to Kamiah in April to build a new water treatment plant and improve the distribution system. The city passed a bond in February and will use a U.S. Department of Agriculture rural development loan to complete the \$3.8 million project.
- A \$290,000 Idaho Community Development Block Grant awarded in April will be used to improve and expand the Glenwood-Caribel Fire Station in the northwest corner of Idaho County. The station provides emergency fire response for its 42-square-mile district and emergency medical services in a 90-mile radius. The nearest city is Kamiah, which is 13 miles from the closest point in the district. The Idaho County hazard plan requires the facility to serve as a multi-hazard and wildfire incident command post and

evacuation center, but its current garage-like structure is not sufficient. During the 2009 Church Canyon Fire, the station was unable to accommodate the needs of the responding fire crew. In severe winter weather, the district must drain water from its vehicles so they won't freeze, meaning, of course, a great increase in response time. The improved building will provide storage for all district firefighting and emergency response equipment, a training area, a multi-hazard emergency command post and evacuation base. It would include a warming kitchen, dining area, bathroom, showers and limited sleeping accommodations for a fire or other hazard camp.

LATAH COUNTY

- In mid-April, Walmart announced it would close its Moscow store when the Pullman supercenter opens this fall. The Moscow store employs between 200 and 50 people, who would all be transferred to the Pullman store. Another 100 people will be hired this fall because the Pullman supercenter will be much larger than the Moscow store. Less than two weeks later, Walmart seemed to be re-evaluating that plan since Moscow was considering changing its rules that currently do not allow stores of more than 65,000 square feet, such as the Moscow Walmart, to expand by more than 10,000 square feet. Michael Bender, senior vice president of Walmart's mountain division, told the Lewiston Tribune, "If these reasonable changes are made to allow for a modest expansion of the existing facility, Walmart would strongly consider reopening the store there."
- The Environmental Protection Agency's brownfields program recently awarded the city of Moscow a \$475,000 grant. The brownfields program empowers communities to prevent, assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse real estate that may have been contaminated by hazardous substances. The brownfields assessment will evaluate five sites along an abandoned railroad corridor with previous chemical storage, lumber operations, grain elevators and petroleum distribution facilities. The area includes the Legacy Crossing Urban Renewal District between downtown and the university, where the city plans to build a high-density, mixed-used community centered on a former grain elevator.
- Moscow recently landed a Idaho Community Development Block Grant of \$143,066 to improve the 1912 Center, the former Moscow High School built in 1912 near downtown and used as a multipurpose community center. The project will add parking spaces, build a retaining wall, add sidewalks and improve access for people with disabilities.
- Biketronics Inc., established in Moscow in 2007 by electrical engineer Mike Meehan, makes electronic controls for Harley-Davidson™ motorcycles. It quickly became a leader in lighting control by solving the so-called load equalizer problem with its microprocessor based plug-in SmartEqualizer. Other innovations include packing immense capacity and capability into unusually small packages perfect for motorcycle applications. One of its most popular devices is a digital amplifier that significantly increases an audio system's power. Plug-n-play simplicity is the company's watchword. Sales have doubled every year except 2009, when they grew 5 percent. Today, Biketronics employs up to 25 people and is considering diversifying into other products. With demand growing, Biketronics plans to move from its 3,500-square-foot space to an 8,000-square-foot building at Alturas Technology Park this summer. Meehan is considering opening his company's doors to anyone who wants to tinker on the firm's CNC, CAD and laser machines. He plans to create a nonprofit called the Idaho Fab Lab to spur the creation of small, dynamic manufacturing companies.

Biketronics' new facility would feature an open equipment area for the Fab Lab and offer office space at low rental costs to startup companies. The lab also would offer safety training and entrepreneurship classes. The Fab Lab won't be a moneymaker for Meehan. Instead, it will be a business creation machine for the community. The city of Moscow's economic development department, the Idaho Department of Commerce and Tech Help are working with Meehan on the lab.

- Clean Green Organic Cleaning Service, a Troy-based cleaning company, has developed some environmentally friendly cleaning products. Toni Salerno started the business about a year ago after becoming aware of the toxins in many products commonly used for cleaning. The company primarily cleans commercial businesses but also residences. It has begun selling its cleaning products at the Moscow Co-op, Sisters' Brew coffee shop and on its Web site <http://cleangreenocs.com>. Salerno is considering franchising the cleaning service.

NEZ PERCE AND ASOTIN COUNTIES

- A new seven-minute, high-definition DVD promotes the business possibilities of the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley. It will be used by economic developer Valley Vision when wooing companies in other states that could benefit from relocating to the valley. The DVD is available to anyone trying to attract new employers or residents. The presentation highlights many valley advantages such as the array of transportation services from the airport, railroads, freight companies and three seaports, a skilled work force trained at Lewis-Clark State College, the University of Idaho and the University of Washington and a friendly business climate where the private and public sectors work well together. The DVD presentation emphasizes the region's abundance of recreational opportunities for anglers, hunters, boaters and other outdoor lovers using the tag line "If you can choose where you work ... Why not choose a place where you love to live?" The valley's safe environment for families, mild weather that allows golfers to hit the links even in the winter and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics World Series baseball tournament held in Lewiston every spring are also mentioned. The Port of Lewiston, St. Joseph Regional Medical Center, Valley Vision, Southeast Washington Economic Development Association, Syringa Bank and Windermere Real Estate each contributed \$2,500 towards the cost, produced at the Digital Barn in Lewiston. It's been more than 10 years since a promotional video was made. The new "A Great Place to Do Business" video can be viewed online at <http://www.digitalbarn.tv/video-presentation/lewis-clark-valley-video.html>
- Life Flight Network, an Oregon-based emergency medical service provider, opened a helicopter base at the Lewiston airport in April. Life Flight helicopter ambulances will handle calls in the Washington, Oregon and Idaho area up to 150 miles from Lewiston. To provide 24-hour coverage, the Life Flight base employs eight paramedics, five nurses, four pilots and one mechanic.

OPENINGS

- BlueSky Dental, Dr. Kevin Henry's high-tech dental practice near Walmart in Moscow.
- His Story Christian Gift Center in March at Lewiston's Mall.
- Jazzy's, a nightclub featuring live jazz, at the Towne Square Mall in downtown Lewiston.
- The Pond, which sells Peace Frog clothing and accessories for all age groups, in the Lewiston Orchards.
- Riverside Pizza and Pub on Highway 12 in Orofino will open soon.
- Timber Creek Grill Buffet in Lewiston with a payroll of 60.

CLOSURES

- The Orofino Department of Health and Welfare Office. Child welfare and mental health services are still available, but have moved to the State Hospital North. Four of 19 staff were laid off and the others were transferred to other offices.

[Link to Lewiston MSA nonfarm job data.](#)

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SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO

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

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

- Twenty Idaho companies were recognized by the Best Places to Work in Idaho program, now in its third year sponsored by the Idaho Business Review, POPULUS and Price Associates. The 20 companies among 42 that participated were recognized for strong workplace environments that demonstrated best practices in employee attraction and retention. Most are located in southwestern Idaho. The large companies of 100 or more employees were Edward Jones, Moneytree Inc., Alliance Title & Escrow, Bodybuilding.com, T-Mobile, West Valley Medical Center, Idaho Housing & Finance Association, Stevens Henager College, Primary Health Medical Group and D.L. Evans Bank. The small companies of 20 to 99 employees were CBH Homes, McKinstry Company, McMillen LLC, Fisher's Document Systems Inc., Thornton Oliver Keller, Perkins Coie, Dynamite Marketing Inc., AmeriTitle Inc., SPF Water Engineering and Colliers International.
- Idaho's Department of Education announced in April that eight school districts will receive a total of \$1.63 million from the 21st Century Community Learning Centers to help boost academic support, cultural enrichment and community involvement in afterschool programs. The programs provide opportunities for literacy and educational development to reduce and eliminate achievement gaps. The money for the 2010-2011 school year is renewable up to five years. The southwestern Idaho school districts are Marsing School District-Academies - \$136,730 – and Weiser School District-Weiser BEST - \$200,440.
- More Idahoans lost their homes to foreclosure during the first quarter of this year as banks worked through a backlog of troubled borrowers and repossessed more properties, according to RealtyTrac. The number of Idaho homes repossessed, the final stage of the foreclosure process, reached 1,234 during the quarter. In the same quarter of 2009, 198 homes were repossessed. Canyon County had Idaho's highest county foreclosure rate in February, with one in every 119 housing units under a foreclosure filing - 3.5 times the national rate. Ada County had more total foreclosure filings than any other county.
- The Payette National Forest hired 10 Youth Conservation Corps workers, ages 15-18, to work this summer for the New Meadows and Weiser ranger districts. The young people will have hands-on-experience through a variety of work projects, in-the-field environmental education, campground maintenance and renovation, trail building, planting, archeology projects, fisheries and wildlife projects. They will be paid \$9.74 an hour for a 40-hour week for eight weeks.

- The Idaho Department of Labor collaborated with other public and private organizations this spring on two job fairs that focused on the skilled trades. High school students were invited to attend the events where skilled craftsmen demonstrated their trades and gave the students an opportunity to drive heavy machinery, lay bricks and try other skilled activities. "Hot Rod, Hot Jobs and Hot Dogs" in April took place at the Owyhee County Fairgrounds in Homedale. "Rigs and Gigs - A Hands-on Career Exploration Event" was held in May at the Dennis Technical Center in Boise. The purpose of these popular events is to encourage youth to learn about and perhaps consider pursuing such occupations since many of the current workers are moving into retirement, and skill shortages will occur if a new labor force is not trained.

ADA COUNTY

- Boise's pool of aviation-related workers and access to air travel brought Extra Airways headquarters from Elko, Nev., in April. The move to Boise improves the charter plane company's ability to recruit and retain employees. The company will move 30 employees to Boise and keep six in Elko. The airline plans to add two more 737s to its fleet of three by June. The airline's expansion coincides with its new government contact with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to transport deportees and work with professional sports teams. The company will hire five to 10 people in Boise.
- Small businesses continue to grow and have a positive impact in spite of the last two years of economic turmoil. Some local businesses recently featured in Business Weekly include:
 - ◆ **CradlePoint Technology** - designs and manufactures mobile broadband networking equipment, which has been used by a remote school in Kenya, a photographer at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, the crew of HBO's "Entourage" and smokejumpers in northern California. CradlePoint has seen up to 30 percent year-over-year growth since it started in 2004, and its work force grew 75 percent to 70 employees.
 - ◆ **PalmerCash** - sells vintage-style T-shirts in more than 400 stores in 25 countries. PalmerCash launched its wholesale division in late 2008, in the middle of the recession. It experienced a six-fold increase in sales in 2009, and its 2010 sales have already surpassed 2009's total.
 - ◆ **AERO Specialties** - sells baggage carts, tow bars and other ground service equipment used at airports around the world with 30 to 40 percent of the business overseas.

Other small companies in the area providing creative solutions and global services that were featured in the magazine include MetaGeek, Sloan Security Technologies, BaliHoo and Inovus Solar. Even though the percentage of small businesses in Ada County has not changed since 2000, the number of people they employ has increased. The table below shows the trend from the last few years.

Year	SW Idaho Businesses with 1 - 99 Employees		Total Private SW Idaho		Percent of Total	
	# Units	Avg Emp	# Units	Avg Emp	# Units	Avg Emp
2000	9,612	88,285	9,830	151,216	97.8%	58.4%
2007	12,220	110,438	12,459	181,338	98.1%	60.9%
2008	11,882	107,760	12,121	177,112	98.0%	60.8%
2009	11,366	101,252	11,573	162,341	98.2%	62.4%

- The Idaho Department of Correction will eliminate 24 workers and furlough other staff to save \$3.1 million in the upcoming state fiscal year. These are front-line public safety jobs, supervisory and support staff and food service workers. This will bring the number of positions lost since 2008 to 126, just under 10 percent of the agency's work force.
- The Boise Angel Alliance recently injected \$100,000 into Boise-based Core Concepts. The company hopes to raise \$500,000 through a stock offering. With the venture capital help from the Angel Fund, the company has raised \$160,000. Core Concepts designs and sells high performance outdoor apparel to 40 retailers in the West and is currently based at the Water-Cooler business incubator. Local customers include Idaho Mountain Touring, The Benchmark and Idaho River Sports. Some manufacturing is contracted out to a Nampa company. Core Concepts has three full-time and two-part time employees.
- What do you do with 100 pounds of leftover food – feed it to worms. Dave Krick, owner of the Red Feather Lounge and Bittercreek Ale House in Boise, has found a way to compost his daily leftovers. In the basement of his restaurant he has 200,000 extra diners – Vermont red wiggler worms that work around the clock to turn kitchen waste into nutrient-rich compost. The Green Restaurant Association knows of no other restaurant in the continental U.S. doing onsite worm composting – known as vermiculture. The only other is The Kona Brewing Co. in Hawaii. The business has always focused on sustainability, serving grass-fed Idaho beef and local cheeses along with a wine list sorted by the miles each bottle travels to reach the table to encourage diners to select from local vineyards. The hope is to eliminate their garbage by 2012. Krick hopes as his worm herd grows so he can sell compost starter buckets for home use.
- Meridian School District's building construction teacher, Mark Enger, is helping students launch careers, not just jobs. Students from the Renaissance Professional-Technical Center build homes for the non-profit Habitat for Humanity. The students also develop construction industry skills in masonry, architectural design and computerized home systems that include Internet access, home security, home theaters, lighting and cooling and heating systems. The training can produce industry certifications that give the students a head start in pursuing college credits or a career in these specialized trades. The program is available to students from across the district. This year 33 students have built a 1,000-square foot, two bedroom home with an attached garage.
- Qwest Communications, the country's third-largest provider of local phone service, is merging with CenturyTel, the fifth largest, in a \$10.6 billion stock swap. In the deal the two companies gain the benefits of scale in the shrinking land line phone business. The deal, if approved, would give the new company about 18 million phone lines serving customers in 37 states, it but would still be dwarfed by telecom giants AT&T Inc. and Verizon Communications Inc. The new company would be based at CenturyTel's headquarters in Monroe, La., rather than in Denver, where Qwest is based. Officials hope the acquisition can make their combined company more competitive as a provider of telecommunications services to businesses and broadband Internet service to other consumers. The deal would likely to lead to job cuts at the companies, which are already shedding positions. Qwest is the 26th largest employer in Idaho with just over 1,600 employees – more than half in southwestern Idaho.
- St. Luke's Mountain States Tumor Institute is among 14 community cancer centers nationwide that will share \$40 million to expand cancer research

and care opportunities. St. Luke's will receive \$5 million over the next two years to address ways to reduce health care disparities, improve access to clinical trials, improve overall quality of care, promote an infrastructure to collect high quality biospecimens such as blood and tissue samples for research and link with national computer networks that support research. St. Luke's and the other community centers will work to improve survivorship, palliative care services and patient advocacy. St. Luke's must match the \$5 million.

- Cody Brown isn't your typical high school sophomore. Brown, a self-taught computer programmer from Kuna, has developed and is marketing an Apple iPhone application called "Messier." The application is a catalog of 112 "deep sky" objects identified by the 18th century French astronomer, Charles Messier, including images of star clusters, hydrogen gas clouds where stars are born, the constellations and where they are located, when they can be viewed and their exact coordinates. The 99-cent program is sold online at the iTunes App Store. Brown is currently creating nine other iPad applications that will use video to demonstrate the techniques required to earn everything from a beginner's yellow belt to three different black belt degrees in karate. The application, Kenpo Karate, will sell for \$1.99.

ADAMS COUNTY

- Adams County wants to partner with Idaho Power on a wood-fired plant adjacent to the Goodrich Landfill west of Council to produce electricity. The Woody Biomass Utilization Partnership says the primary reason for the plant is to create living-wage jobs. The county received a \$70,000 grant from the Idaho Office of Energy Resources and has committed \$150,000 of its own money to study the feasibility of building the plant which would produce 10 megawatts of electricity. The county sees the plant as a way to create jobs which could help stem the large exodus of young working people. The county had a 17 percent unemployment rate in April.
- The area of impact for New Meadows will be expanded from one-eighth of a mile to one-half mile around the city limits. Adams County commissioners approved the expansion with the condition the county retains jurisdiction. The expansion will enable long-term planning.
- The Adams County Weed Department used stimulus money to hire four field workers and an administrative assistant to eradicate weeds in the county. The grant also funded a new computer system and GPS units, a UTV/trailer and a new pickup outfitted with a sprayer.
- Development on Council Greens Golf Course began in 2006, but the economic downturn slowed the momentum. Last year area golf enthusiasts began donating their time to ensure the course would be completed. A two-year lease agreement was reached with AirDog LLC and, with a few maintenance items to be completed, the course will open this spring, even with limited amenities.
- The new Council Emergency Services Building is now in use. The \$530,000 building houses the fire department and the ambulance service. Adams County residents funded the project without help from the federal government.
- A federal grant sent 12 Council High School students to Boise to spend two days job shadowing. They followed a physical therapist, an orthopedic surgeon and athletic trainers at Idaho Sport Medicine. Others put motorcycles together at Carl's Cycle, worked on diesel engines at Trebar Kenworth Trucks, tinkered on computers at Computer Central, worked at Idaho Heli-

copter, helped out at the Ada County Sheriff's Department, worked with a dental assistant at Emerald Dental, assisted at Ada Pediatrics; job shadowed at Triple M Machines, shadowed a photographer at Hollenbaugh's, spent time on air at Peak Broadcasting and took a plane ride with Conyan Aviation. Each student came home with a valuable experience that might help them make informed career decisions.

BOISE COUNTY

- Bogus Basin ended its second-best season ever in April with an estimated 350,000 skier visits. Each year, the resort hopes for a Thanksgiving opening, but the 2009-2010 season didn't open until Dec. 17. The earliest the resort has ever opened was November 17, 1984. The resort employed nearly 600 workers at its peak this season.

CANYON COUNTY

Downtown Caldwell

- Caldwell is developing a plan to turn its foundering downtown into a thriving showplace. Empty storefronts pock Caldwell's commercial core. The 12-block downtown area — from Kimball to Fifth Avenue between Blaine Street and the railroad tracks — is now mostly small stores, taverns and restaurants, many with sandwich boards on the sidewalk to attract customers. It may take a while, but city officials hope the showpiece creek and the new Treasure Valley Community College campus will help create the "critical mass" needed to jump-start private investment. The proposed master plan aims for a "pedestrian-friendly, business-friendly, vibrant downtown" with wide sidewalks and inviting streetscapes. The plan divides Caldwell's 12-block city core into the:
 - Civic Mall District on the south side of Indian Creek, including the community college and a future city hall and auditorium. Residential development would dominate the half-block at Fifth and Arthur streets with office space and parking along busy Blaine Street.
 - Cultural Center District north of the creek and straddling Arthur Street from Kimball Street to the bend in the creek. This area, already home to Coyotes gallery and a small vineyard plot, is expected to sprout more wine- and arts-related businesses as well as a future community event center, gallery and plaza.
 - Old Town District covering about 40 percent of the downtown core, stretching from Kimball to Fifth streets between the railroad tracks and the creek, and the cultural district. It features some historic buildings, including the recently refurbished Caldwell Depot. According to the draft plan, development will focus on enhancing existing buildings with retail and restaurants downstairs and residential uses upstairs.

To realize the plan a total investment, both public and private, of about \$32 million is needed. The most expensive public project in the plan is a \$6.65 million city hall, but it is unclear whether that building will be tackled in the next five years or the next 10.

- First grade students at Nampa's New Horizon Dual Language Magnet School got a lesson on needs and wants as part of Zions Bank's celebration of Teach Children to Save Day. The students experienced hands-on activities demonstrating the difference between needs and wants and how money can grow through savings. They were also introduced to the "ABCs" of savings, the basics of how money is earned and used in everyday life and how to be thrifty. An American Express survey conducted in January found that 71 percent of parents say their children between the ages of 6 and 16 understand the economy is in a recession. The study further reveals that 20 percent of children are internalizing a sense of responsibility for the family budget.

- The fastest growing community college in the state, College of Western Idaho, is struggling to deal with budget constraints. School officials are working to keep their promise of open access to students and are looking for free classroom space and more adjunct faculty. But they will have to cut the pay for 35 employees. The school employs 300 full-time faculty, staff and administrators and another 300 adjunct faculty. Reduction and reorganization will save the school about \$770,000 in fiscal year 2011 and an additional \$190,000 in fiscal year 2012. Salary reductions will range from \$900 to \$20,000 a year for the affected faculty, administrators and staff. More than 5,000 full-time and part-time students are served by the college, which also announced that it will raise tuition by \$10 from \$119 to \$129 per credit hour starting this fall. The cap for fixed-tuition hours will be dropped from 18 to 16. Now a student with 12 to 16 hours will pay \$1,548 per semester.
- The Centennial Job Corps in Nampa is going green. The school is developing a new curriculum that emphasizes integrating energy-efficient skills into traditional and new trade job training. The electrician training program is replacing all the lights on campus with low-wattage bulbs, which will save the school between \$4,000 and \$6,000 a year. Students in the carpentry, welding and facility maintenance training programs are studying Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design building. Culinary arts students are learning to pay closer attention to where their food comes from and uses local sources to reduce the program's carbon foot print. The center has the capacity for about 300 students.
- The Canyon County Community Clinic opened in Caldwell in April. It provides care for acute non-emergency illnesses, limited chronic care, limited medications, referrals for X-rays and laboratory test and referrals to specialists. The clinic relies on volunteer physicians from the area. The clinic will be open Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Terry Reilly Health Services in Caldwell.
- Mercy Medical Center became part of the Trinity Health Systems, the parent company of Saint Alphonsus Regional Hospital in April. Trinity also purchased Holy Rosary Medical Center in Ontario, Ore., and St. Elizabeth Health Services in Baker City, Ore. Trinity plans to invest \$40 million in the three hospitals over the next five years. Initially, the hospital will implement a new electronic information system, which allows practitioners to make decisions about their patients based on more readily available electronic information. The group plans more robust physician recruitment. Telemedicine – using webcams and robots – is another area that will be explored. Mercy currently employs nearly 600 workers.
- Caldwell Fire Department has a new five-story training facility that allows firefighters to train for and practice a wide variety of fire and rescue scenarios. The Caldwell department will use it weekly, and it will be available for use by other area fire and law enforcement agencies. The new structure is 53 feet tall, made of 14 recycled intermodal shipping containers.
- The non-profit Boise Aquarium has secured a 10,000 square-foot space at the Nampa Gateway Center. Organizers have been working for more than three years to bring an aquarium to the valley. They plan to rename the project the Idaho Aquarium. The high ceilings and gray shell space offer plenty of room. Next is a vigorous fund raising campaign. When completed it is estimated that 50,000 to 100,000 visitors a year could enjoy a variety of exhibits from sharks to turtles to seals. Ticket prices will range from \$6 to \$9.

- After months of extremely high unemployment rates, Canyon County is showing signs of an upturn. Several employers have reported hiring more workers in April. Plexus added 50 to meet increased demand for custom high-tech products such as medical equipment and new high-tech X-ray machines to enhance airport security. Sorrento Lactalis plans to hire 50 more workers after the new whey tower is completed. Technology Alignment hired eight employees as it expands manufacture of high-end computer routers, office telephone systems and Linux operating systems.

ELMORE COUNTY

- The Dam Cutoff Road that carries recreational traffic to C.J. Strike Reservoir will be paved this year. Western Construction Inc. of Boise is the contractor for the \$1.86 million project that will take up to six months. It is the least common route to get to C.J. Strike, but the new road will make it more desirable and shorten the trip from Mountain Home.
- The Glens Ferry all-volunteer revitalization committee received \$45,000 from the Department of Commerce to complete its improvement projects on North Commercial and North Lincoln streets. The committee, which has worked with business owners on new sidewalks, has had fund raising projects to pay for the landscaping, lamps and a visitors center clock.
- America's Next Top Model reality show brought its search to Mountain Home in April. Women from Salt Lake City, Boise, Mountain Home, Pocatello, Twin Falls and other cities came to Mountain Home in hopes of fulfilling a dream. Video recordings of the 68 women who auditioned will be viewed by network officials along with other casting calls across the county. Some of the women will be selected to attend a regional casting call as the search for the fall contests narrows.

GEM COUNTY

- The new Emerald Forest Products sawmill is opening with 47 jobs per shift. It has taken eight years and many hands to bring the new sawmill to the community. Key to the success were officials from Gem County, the city of Emmett, the Idaho Department of Commerce, the Economic Development Grows Economies group, the Small Business Development Center and Woody Biomass Utilization Partnership.
- Students in the community based work experience program at Emmett High School have been learning job skills from the owners of Huskies Pizza for the last two years. The students thanked the owners by producing and starring in an Internet commercial promoting the pizza and Blue Bunny Ice Cream sold at the pizzeria. A representative from Blue Bunny was on hand to support the effort made possible with the donation of video equipment.
- Gem County firefighters are working with the International Academy of Public Safety in Virginia to make training videos that will serve other fire agencies throughout the country. All the videos will be used in Firefighter I training. Footage will include extrication and an actual fire.

OWYHEE COUNTY

- The Bruneau Quick Response Unit acquired a new non-transport vehicle, a 2009 Ford F-450 Type III with a remounted 2000 Med-Tec box. Grants from the Idaho Emergency Medical Services Bureau and the Northwest Farm Credit Services Rural Community Grant programs paid for the truck. The unit also welcomed seven new emergency medical technicians trained through the Initial-EMT class financed by a donation from the estate of a Bruneau High School teacher.

- A Homedale graduate has invented a battery-less flashlight. Erik Cegnar and a business partner have developed a high-capacity, quickly charging energy source for flashlights. The company known as IVUS Energy Innovations was established in 2005 by the two University of Idaho graduates. The flashlight is powered by ultra capacitors or advanced capacitors, not batteries. The energy source can be drained and recharged between 500 and 1,000 times more often than conventional batteries – about 500,000 charges. A charge will last two hours and takes 90 seconds for the capacitors to fully recharge. The flashlight is known as Light of Life PCS 300 and is being marketed to the law enforcement industry.

PAYETTE COUNTY

- Irvco Gravel was awarded the contract by the city of Payette to install American Disability Act-approved pedestrian ramps along U.S. Highway 95. The ramps will connect the businesses and schools with the sidewalks. The project was funded through a federal stimulus grant given the city.
- Maverick will build its first ever tractor-trailer and large recreational vehicle outlet in Fruitland at the corner of U.S. Highway 95 and Northwest Fourth Street.
- Bridge Energy Inc. of Denver, Colo., began drilling a 7,000-foot natural well on Little Willow in Payette. The company will drill at a second site on Idaho Highway 52, going down about 4,500- feet. Bridge Energy will drill three other wells in the area.
- Payette County Commissioners approved a comprehensive plan allowing Alternate Energy Holdings to pursue construction of a nuclear power plant near Big Willow and Stone Quarry Road. If built, it would provide around 5,000 jobs during construction and more than 1,000 for operations. The pay would average \$60,000 to \$80,000. Developers claim the project could increase Idaho's Gross State Product by \$5.3 billion – more than 10 percent – with \$4.8 billion staying in Payette County.

VALLEY COUNTY

- On April 9 Tamarack Resort was allowed to convert its Chapter 7 bankruptcy to Chapter 11 under which it is protected from creditors while attempting to reorganize its finances. This means that Tamarack will be able to continue operating and could mean there is a buyer for the resort. Tamarack owes more than \$314 million. If it were sold, even for less than what is owed, it would be a boon to the area's economy, which has been in the tank since the resort closed. Tamarack will have at least 120 days to give the bankruptcy court its reorganization plan, which will involve raising enough money to cover continuing maintenance, legal fees and a marketing plan designed to attract potential buyers. The current owners will ask to take on a new loan to finance expenses. They would pay it off with proceeds from a sale.
- The Greater Donnelly Area Chamber of Commerce has shut down because of a decline in memberships, volunteer support and the flagging economy. A liquidation sale was held with the proceeds going to pay bills. The Web site and post office box will be retained. Events that have been sponsored by the chamber such as the Huckleberry Festival, Plant Sale and Christmas in Donnelly have been cancelled.
- McCall Memorial Hospital has received tentative approval to become part of the St. Luke's Health System. The move will improve the hospital's finances and its ability to compete in recruiting physicians and staff. The merger should be completed by Oct. 1. The hospital currently employs about 150 people.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

- The city of Weiser pledged \$3,000 to the Snake River Economic Development Alliance to attract employers to Washington and Payette counties in Idaho and Malheur County, Ore. The new economic development organization can market the area to businesses all over the country, something a city or county economic development office cannot afford. The group is targeting financial institutions, utilities and medical groups.

OPENINGS

- Key Bank's 32nd Idaho branch in Meridian.
- Pita Pit's third Boise location, one of 25 new Pita Pits being opened nationwide in 2010.
- Discount Motorsports in Caldwell, offering pre-owned metric motorcycles, ATVs, personal watercraft, snowmobiles and off-road motorcycles.
- Beach'n Nails in Emmett, offering gel nail, hand treatments, foot spa treatments and permanent make-up.
- Nooks & Kranny's gift shop in downtown Emmett.

OTHER BUSINESS NEWS

- Darby's at the Market in downtown Nampa will close its restaurant during the week but will remain open for dinner on Friday and Saturday. A pub-style menu will be available in the downstairs bar. The reduced operating hours will result in the layoff of 15 of the 30 employees.
- Gardening Angel Greenhouse opened for the season with an expansion and new addition. The Emmett greenhouse now includes a shade house so that fuchsias, begonias, impatiens and other shade plants can be cultivated. The greenhouse, open from March 1 through June 30, is now also more easily accessible to wheelchairs.

CLOSINGS

- Michael's Furniture Showplace in April after more than 50 years in Boise, idling 15 people.
- The McCall office of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. One of the five employees will remain to handle child welfare cases.
- The Emmett office of the Department of Health and Welfare. The two employees are being reassigned.

[Link to Boise City-Nampa MSA nonfarm job data.](#)

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SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO

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

DEVELOPMENTS

TWIN FALLS

- The Idaho Dept of Transportation will build a second canyon overlook this summer on the west side of the Perrine Bridge for an estimated \$325,000. Federal funds will finance the project along with improvements to sidewalks near the Buzz Langdon Visitor Center, widening the city trail and restriping the parking lot. The visitor center is operated by the Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce, which will lose some of its parking during the construction phase. A similar overlook was built in 2001 on the eastern side of the bridge.
- Construction on the Twin Falls Alternative Route has gone faster than expected and may be completed by the end of 2010 rather than March or

April 2011. There has not been any mention of a reduced budget due to the time savings on this \$26.6 million project started in 2009. The general contractor, W.W. Clyde & Co. of Utah, has 100 workers on the project.

- After pressure from unhappy downtown businesses, the city council opted to dissolve Twin Falls' Old Towne Downtown Business Improvement District after several decades of operation. But council members and the business owners agreed that it should be replaced by something to help promote business. That transition will take a few months while discussions continue on the new structure of support.
- The College of Southern Idaho, with the support of student body officers, has increased the tuition starting this summer from \$100 to \$105 per credit. The college has had to deal with increased operating costs for a new Health and Human Science Building while suffering an \$886,000 reduction in state support.
- Family Health Services has broken ground on a dental clinic in Buhl. While the clinic is open to anyone, fees are based on a sliding scale for those with limited ability to pay. Local contractor Hayes Construction will build the clinic, which is financed with federal stimulus funds. Buhl is currently served by a mobile dental service twice a week.
- The Idaho Army National Guard's 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team will return to Iraq under Operation Iraqi Freedom, which will be renamed in September to Operation New Dawn. The unit is the Idaho Army National Guard's largest with about 1,500 citizen soldiers. About 300 members are based at armories in Burley, Gooding, Hailey, Jerome and Twin Falls. On Sept. 17, these citizen soldiers will head to Camp Shelby, Miss., for about two months of training before leaving for Iraq. Lt. Col. Tim Marsano said the unit's "sole focus is to support the Iraqis in their quest for self-sufficiency, providing training and security for convoys, military installations and other facilities." The deployment has been forecast for more than a year. In February 2009, the 116th was given additional personnel and funding to train as if it would be deployed. An official alert of possible deployment came in September 2009. Another 1,200 guardsmen in the 116th are from Montana and Oregon.
- Allegiant Air is starting service to Las Vegas twice weekly from Twin Falls' Joslin Field. The airline, a subsidiary of Allegiant Travel, bills itself as a full-service travel company that offers packages of flights, hotel stays and car rentals in destinations such as Las Vegas, Phoenix, Los Angeles, Orlando and Tampa. Introductory prices of \$29.95 one way will kick off the June 21st services. Allegiant joins SkyWest, the only other commercial airliner operating out of Magic Valley Regional Airport, which connects travelers to Salt Lake City and its Delta hub. Allegiant also serves Idaho Falls.
- The city of Twin Falls was awarded nearly half a million dollars to improve St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center's new administrative office building in the downtown core. An Idaho Community Development Block Grant will finance parking, sidewalks and lighting.
- Recreational vehicles developed and manufactured by Jayco have been 'green certified' by TRA Certification Inc., an internationally accredited certification organization. Products certified include brands produced by Jayco, Starcraft RV and Entegra Coach. Jayco is the first major RV manufacturer to be 100 percent green certified and fully recognized for building products with green manufacturing processes and materials. There are four levels of TRA's green ratings for RV manufacturers – Bronze, Silver, Gold and Emerald. The majority of Jayco, Starcraft and Entegra Coach

products earned the highest rating — Emerald — for water efficiency, indoor environmental quality and operation and maintenance. The Jayco Skylark travel trailer was awarded an Emerald Level Performance Rating, the highest available. The 2011 Skylark is light enough to be towed by most SUVs and minivans. Jayco is the largest privately held manufacturer of recreation vehicles in the world.

GOODING COUNTY/ JEROME COUNTY

- Two Idaho Community Development Block Grants were recently awarded — \$68,000 to the Hagerman Senior Center for improvements and \$500,000 to the city of Bliss for its water treatment center. Ireland-based Glanbia Foods with facilities in Twin Falls, Gooding and Richfield was recently awarded four gold, three silver and four bronze medals at the 2010 World Championship Cheese Contest held in Wisconsin. Glanbia's cheeses won out over 2,300 other entries from 20 nations. The company processes milk into cheese and whey in southern Idaho. It also operates a large transportation fleet and a boutique research and development laboratory in Twin Falls.
- The Jerome distribution center for Warehouses of Wisconsin Logistics, also known as WOW Logistics, built a new drive-in racking that will increase capacity by 1,000 pallets. The Jerome warehouse was originally built in 2002 and expanded in 2004 and 2008. This newest expansion is adding more than 127,000 square feet to the distribution center's dry warehouse facility, increasing the total space to 435,450 square feet. The distribution center employs 30 to handle the 80 trucks coming and going each day. The center's clients include plastics manufacturer Hilex Poly Co., and dairy processors such as Glanbia Foods, Jerome Cheese, Brewster Dairy and Darigold.

MINIDOKA AND CASSIA COUNTIES

- Webb Dairy and Heglar Canyon Farms of Raft River have invested \$75,000 in a solar thermal system. The process transfers heat to boost water temperatures for sterilizing bottles and mixing powdered milk for 1,300 feeder calves. The heat exchange system keeps temperatures relatively constant, even throughout the night, with a drop of only nine degrees. The reduction in propane costs will pay for the investment within two to three years ignoring the added incentives of tax credits and energy saving grants.
- Oakley was host to Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter and his cabinet representatives in April. This was the 39th Capital for a Day, and Otter said it was the best attended so far. Various citizens took the microphone to discuss complex topics such as the location of the planned Gateway Transmission line stretching from Wyoming through Idaho. Members of the local task force discussed the preservation of sage grouse, and others discussed deterioration of small community schools and access to mountain ridges for recreation.
- Southern Field Welding in Burley was honored by the Idaho National Guard for its support of the troops and retaining positions for reserve soldiers sent to Iraq. Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter was on hand with other military officials to bestow the "Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Patriotic Employer and Seven Seals" awards. Owners Neil and Ginger Justeson were somewhat overwhelmed by the attention, "I thought it was automatic (to help out). So I'm learning a lot from these two fellows up here that it's not always easy to do your duty and fulfill your military service and still have a job."

- Sugar beets started out on a positive note this year with 53 percent of the total acres emerged by the end of April. By this time last year, only 11 percent were emerged. The three-year average is 33 percent. Strip tillage planting practices, which are used by some producers, place the seed into last year's crop residue, which provides wind protection and holds warmth in the soil to protect against frost. However, the frost eventually got to an estimated 20 percent of the planted acres with estimates at 27,000 to 28,000 acres in need of replanting. Another threat this growing season has been voles that are consuming the seed prior to germination. Damage has been limited.

BLAINE COUNTY

- Blaine County received a \$100,000 Idaho Community Development Block Grant to finance its senior center expansion.
- Sun Valley's ski season wrapped up mid-April with above average skier count despite below average snow fall. Marketing Director Jack Sibbach said the 2008-2009 season was not that great, "but being 20 percent ahead of last year in this economy is a pretty great thing." The new gondola was a draw, but the snowfall was 34 inches below the average. However, periodic storms kept the snow base throughout the season that started on Thanksgiving this year. The average annual skier count over the last decade is 383,800. This year ended above average with 400,023 skiers and snow boarders. Only three other seasons since 2000 have topped the 400,000 mark. This was the first year of satisfaction surveys that brought in over 1,000 responses – 74 percent rated the experience marked very satisfying. The resort's goal was a 70 percent satisfaction rate. The resort heavily targeted the local market this year. The season ended with the usual sun-laden runs, costumes and bands at the base of each hill.



Skier Jean-Francois Houle launches off a monster jump near the Warm Springs base of Bald Mountain during a warm-up session for filming a movie segment by Denver-based Level 1 Productions on the Lower Warm Springs ski run. The jump built for the film measured 30 feet to the top, skiers estimated they were traveling at least 125 feet before touching down. *Photo by Willy Cook.*

- The city of Ketchum had a windfall of \$961,000 from one-time fees assessed to developers. The extra funds helped with the 2.5 percent raise for city staff not including the mayor or city council.
- Citizens for Smart Growth, a non-profit organization that has supported planned growth and open spaces in the Wood River Valley for 12 years disbanded at the end of April. The group cited financial issues as the reason.
- The Idaho Mountain Express newspaper received 28 awards in individual and group categories in the Idaho Press Club's Best of 2009 contest. It earned the Pinnacle Award for overall success among non-daily publications in Idaho. One non-daily and one daily publication receive the Pinnacle Award each year for earning the most awards in all competitive categories combined. The Idaho Statesman won the Pinnacle Award for dailies.
- Blaine County was one of five Idaho counties declared drought areas so far this spring. Significant drought conditions due to below-normal precipi-

tation and snowpack levels are occurring throughout central and eastern Idaho. As of April 5, the Big Wood and Little Wood river drainages had respective snowpack levels only around 70 percent of normal. The Department of Water Resources has forecast April-through-July stream flow volumes for the Big Wood River above Magic Reservoir at only 38 percent of average. The Little Wood River near Carey is predicted to have 46 percent of its average volume. Custer and Butte counties to the north and east have also been issued drought declarations as have the eastern Idaho counties of Teton and Fremont. Snowpack and precipitation levels in the Henrys Fork of the Snake and Teton river basins are only 61 percent of normal. Summer river volumes are forecast to be a little more than 50 percent of average. The effect of the emergency drought declaration allows the Water Resources director to approve temporary irrigation changes such as diversion, place of use and purpose of use.

NEW BUSINESS

- Apricot Lane consignment furniture store in Twin Falls.
- Jewel Metal and Finish auto body and paint shop in Castleford.
- Pasta Palace Italian restaurant featuring musical entertainment in Buhl with 10 new hires.
- An electrical parts distribution center in Rupert.

CLOSURES

- Bellevue Health and Welfare Office laid off three workers and relocated one.
- Rupert's Health and Welfare Office. Two of 10 workers were laid off and the others transferred to the office in Burley.
- Jerome Health and Welfare Office. Three staff were laid off and one was transferred.

HIRING

- Idaho State Police is hiring five troopers for Jerome to cover south central Idaho.

[Link to Twin Falls Micro SA nonfarm job data.](#)

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SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO

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

MEET NEW REGIONAL ECONOMIST

Idaho Department of Labor welcomes its newest regional economist, Dan Cravens, who will serve southeastern Idaho operating out of the Pocatello office. Originally from Illinois, Cravens most recently lived in Provo, Utah, where he was a financial advisor for Edward Jones L.P. As regional economist, he brings education and experience that includes project management, marketing, sales, business development and legal assistance. While at GL LLC in Indiana, Cravens was instrumental in the startup of an assistive technology company to help people with print disabilities access information. Cravens earned a Bachelor of Arts from Quincy University, a law degree from Gonzaga University of Law and a Master of Arts in Government from Regent University.



Dan Cravens, new regional economist for southeastern Idaho. *Photo by Connie Cleveland.*

DEVELOPMENTS

BANNOCK COUNTY

- Pocatello Downs at the Bannock County Fairgrounds is again hosting the Bitterroot Futurity and Derby horse races this year. Les Boise Park in Boise has been the traditional site of the annual event, but it was moved to Pocatello Downs last year when the Boise track was shut down for financial reasons. This year contract negotiations stalled between the Idaho horsemen and the company that runs Idaho Downs, race organizers and Les Bois management couldn't settle on terms in time. The Bitterroot finals are May 23.

- As a tribute to Pocatello's diversity, tolerance and family legacies, Bob Peyron, Idaho Purce and a committee of volunteers unveiled the Lasting Legacy Landmark, a series of monuments in the city's Triangle neighborhood. The neighborhood, east of the Union Pacific Railroad yard, became a 20th Century melting pot for railroad workers who were shunned by other neighborhoods. The landmark includes one large monument honoring Union Pacific history with the names of 512 families who lived there and five



Photo courtesy of KIFI-TV, Idaho Falls

- pillars that outline the story of the neighborhood. An additional plaque honors donors who helped fund the \$57,000 project. Peyron, a French descendant, remembers at one point sharing a block with Irish, Greek, Mexican, German, Japanese and Italian families.
- Convergys is filling 200 full- and part-time positions at its call center in Pocatello after landing a contract with an entertainment company. Convergys offers training, competitive wages, incentives and benefits including tuition reimbursement.
 - After surviving more than three years of competition from national chain store Sportsman's Warehouse, Ace Hardware and Outdoor Sports owners Paul and Stacie Gebo are expanding. Their new store, a combination Ace Hardware and Snake River Outdoor Sports, will sell camping, hunting and fishing gear, outdoor apparel and footwear. It will include community classroom space where outdoor organizations can meet during store hours. The Gebos also own an Ace Hardware store in Ammon.

BINGHAM COUNTY

- Fort Hall Business Council Chairman Alonzo Coby will not be returning to the council after 10 years of service. He withdrew from the May 26 general election and will be replaced on the ballot by former council member Aldene Pevo. Coby wants to spend more time with his family and pursue his degree in landscape architecture and environmental planning.

CLOSURES

- The American Falls Health and Welfare Office.
- The Soda Springs Health and Welfare Office.

[Link to Pocatello MSA nonfarm job data.](#)

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EAST CENTRAL IDAHO

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

DEVELOPMENTS

BONNEVILLE COUNTY

- The Department of Energy approved a \$2 billion loan guarantee for construction of the Areva Inc. uranium enrichment plant. The plant, to be located west of Idaho Falls, will create close to 4,800 direct and indirect jobs throughout the region. The loan guarantee gives Areva the ability to move forward with construction of the facility in a time where financing has become increasingly difficult. Additional licenses are in the approval process and once completed construction will begin, probably in late 2011. The plant is expected to begin operation in 2014. The construction phase alone is expected to employ over 1,000 workers.
- Symbion Inc. of Nashville has purchased an ownership interest in the Idaho Falls Mountain View Hospital. In the deal, Symbion will provide management services and appoint one person to the hospital's board of directors. The current board consists of four members. This partnership is intended to give doctors more ability to focus on patient care rather than management. The hospital could now be expanded and the staff increased.
- There is a new partnership between Mexican brewing company Modelo and the commodity giant Cargill. Together they will form InteGrow Malt LLC and hope to buy enough barley to produce 103,000 metric tons of malt each year. Other barley buyers in the area include Anheuser-Busch/InBev and Great Western Malting Co. InteGrow plans to follow through with all existing contracts between growers and Modelo. The number of existing jobs is not expected to change.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

- The Rigby Senior Center is changing its name to the Rigby Community Center. Director Bob Moon hopes that the new name will motivate more people of all ages to participate in programs offered at the center.

[Link to Idaho Falls MSA nonfarm job data.](#)

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State of Idaho Data

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Apr 2010				Apr 2009			
	Civilian Labor Force	# Unemployed	% Unemployed	Total Employment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unemployed	% Unemployed	Total Employment
STATE OF IDAHO	760,538	69,259	9.1	691,279	748,456	55,353	7.4	693,103
COUNTIES								
ADA	193,818	18,102	9.3	175,716	193,387	15,770	8.2	177,617
ADAMS	2,136	362	17.0	1,774	2,145	312	14.6	1,833
BANNOCK	39,245	3,310	8.4	35,935	38,979	2,370	6.1	36,609
BEAR LAKE	3,388	213	6.3	3,175	3,412	156	4.6	3,256
BENEWAH	4,106	651	15.9	3,455	4,058	658	16.2	3,400
BINGHAM	22,854	1,557	6.8	21,297	22,043	1,184	5.4	20,859
BLAINE	12,920	1,210	9.4	11,710	12,718	904	7.1	11,814
BOISE	3,437	351	10.2	3,086	3,351	232	6.9	3,119
BONNER	20,557	2,571	12.5	17,986	20,292	1,998	9.8	18,294
BONNEVILLE	50,322	3,364	6.7	46,958	49,855	2,629	5.3	47,226
BOUNDARY	4,743	722	15.2	4,021	4,414	497	11.3	3,917
BUTTE	1,549	85	5.5	1,464	1,479	63	4.3	1,416
CAMAS	595	61	10.3	534	585	46	7.8	539
CANYON	82,858	9,374	11.3	73,484	82,013	7,734	9.4	74,279
CARIBOU	3,392	251	7.4	3,141	3,481	170	4.9	3,312
CASSIA	10,858	731	6.7	10,127	10,541	481	4.6	10,059
CLARK	581	29	5.0	552	587	18	3.0	569
CLEARWATER	3,602	603	16.7	2,999	3,517	503	14.3	3,014
CUSTER	2,872	154	5.4	2,718	2,890	106	3.7	2,785
ELMORE	11,932	972	8.1	10,960	11,402	745	6.5	10,656
FRANKLIN	5,574	396	7.1	5,178	5,558	294	5.3	5,264
FREMONT	5,811	516	8.9	5,295	5,556	384	6.9	5,172
GEM	7,028	852	12.1	6,176	6,908	666	9.6	6,242
GOODING	8,412	541	6.4	7,872	8,322	354	4.3	7,968
IDAHO	7,538	839	11.1	6,699	7,652	749	9.8	6,903
JEFFERSON	11,282	780	6.9	10,502	11,162	600	5.4	10,562
JEROME	10,487	778	7.4	9,709	10,201	539	5.3	9,662
KOOTENAI	73,578	7,275	9.9	66,303	71,469	5,593	7.8	65,876
LATAH	20,019	1,445	7.2	18,575	18,393	1,084	5.9	17,309
LEMHI	4,169	325	7.8	3,844	4,017	239	6.0	3,778
LEWIS	1,778	128	7.2	1,650	1,791	92	5.1	1,699
LINCOLN	2,659	269	10.1	2,390	2,633	208	7.9	2,425
MADISON	16,235	845	5.2	15,390	15,802	770	4.9	15,033
MINIDOKA	9,931	691	7.0	9,240	9,672	494	5.1	9,178
NEZ PERCE	18,712	1,340	7.2	17,373	18,443	1,032	5.6	17,411
ONEIDA	2,186	109	5.0	2,077	2,208	120	5.4	2,088
OWYHEE	4,247	237	5.6	4,009	4,213	160	3.8	4,053
PAYETTE	11,041	1,222	11.1	9,819	10,798	1,087	10.1	9,711
POWER	3,438	238	6.9	3,200	3,402	142	4.2	3,260
SHOSHONE	6,148	931	15.1	5,217	6,006	794	13.2	5,212
TETON	4,733	353	7.5	4,380	4,702	232	4.9	4,470
TWIN FALLS	40,282	3,160	7.8	37,122	39,055	2,113	5.4	36,942
VALLEY	4,470	782	17.5	3,689	4,412	610	13.8	3,802
WASHINGTON	5,014	535	10.7	4,479	4,929	422	8.6	4,508
ASOTIN WA	9,915	635	6.4	9,280	10,249	750	7.3	9,499

* In thousands

State of Idaho Data

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

LABOR MARKET AREAS	Apr 2010				Apr 2009			
	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employ- ment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employ- ment
BOISE CITY-NAMPA MSA	291,387	28,916	9.9	262,471	289,872	24,561	8.5	265,311
BURLEY MicSA	20,789	1,422	6.8	19,367	20,213	975	4.8	19,238
COEUR D'ALENE MSA	73,578	7,275	9.9	66,303	71,469	5,593	7.8	65,876
GRANGEVILLE SLMA	9,315	967	10.4	8,349	9,443	841	8.9	8,602
HAILEY SLMA	13,516	1,271	9.4	12,244	13,303	949	7.1	12,353
IDAHO FALLS MSA	61,604	4,144	6.7	57,460	61,017	3,230	5.3	57,788
LEWISTON MSA	28,628	1,975	6.9	26,653	28,692	1,782	6.2	26,910
POCATELLO MSA	42,683	3,548	8.3	39,135	42,381	2,512	5.9	39,869
REXBURG MicSA	22,046	1,361	6.2	20,685	21,359	1,154	5.4	20,205
TWIN FALLS MicSA	50,769	3,938	7.8	46,831	49,256	2,652	5.4	46,604
CITIES								
BOISE	108,333	8,886	8.2	99,446	107,906	7,749	7.2	100,156
CALDWELL	19,057	2,341	12.3	16,716	18,617	1,782	9.6	16,835
COEUR D' ALENE	23,102	2,213	9.6	20,889	22,357	1,679	7.5	20,678
IDAHO FALLS	27,851	2,006	7.2	25,845	27,395	1,498	5.5	25,897
LEWISTON	15,602	1,021	6.5	14,581	15,356	795	5.2	14,561
MERIDIAN	33,270	2,866	8.6	30,404	33,081	2,461	7.4	30,620
NAMPA	36,599	3,961	10.8	32,638	36,428	3,558	9.8	32,870
POCATELLO	27,884	2,034	7.3	25,851	27,724	1,483	5.3	26,241
POST FALLS	13,593	1,474	10.8	12,119	13,230	1,232	9.3	11,998
REXBURG	22,078	1,367	6.2	20,711	21,320	1,164	5.5	20,156
TWIN FALLS	22,363	1,772	7.9	20,591	21,629	1,213	5.6	20,416
United States*	154,715	15,260	9.9	139,455	154,718	13,816	8.9	140,902

* In thousands

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

State of Idaho Data — State Economic Indicators

	Apr 2010*	Mar 2010	Apr 2009	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE ⁽¹⁾					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	760,500	757,700	748,500	0.4	1.6
Unemployment	69,200	71,000	55,400	-2.5	24.9
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	9.1	9.4	7.4		
Total Employment	691,300	686,700	693,100	0.7	-0.3
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	757,100	753,800	743,300	0.4	1.9
Unemployment	68,300	74,200	55,200	-8.0	23.7
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	9.0	9.8	7.4		
Total Employment	688,800	679,600	688,100	1.4	0.1

U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE⁽²⁾

9.9 9.7 8.9

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Claims Activities

Initial Claims ⁽³⁾	13,462	12,982	16,416	3.7	-18.0
Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾	179,497	174,235	228,742	3.0	-21.5

Benefit Payment Activities⁽⁵⁾

Weeks Compensated	158,946	142,456	203,624	11.6	-21.9
Total Benefit \$ Paid	39,595,368	36,050,930	54,858,552	9.8	-27.8
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$249.11	\$253.07	\$269.41	-1.6	-7.5
Covered Employers	48,912	49,408	50,852	-1.0	-3.8
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾	\$374,114,470	\$389,377,654	\$291,471,476	-3.9	28.4

U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ⁽²⁾	Apr 2010	Mar 2010	Apr 2009	% Change Month	% Change Year
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	214.0	213.5	207.9	0.2%	2.9%
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	218.0	217.6	213.2	0.2%	2.2%

(1) Preliminary estimate

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

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

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

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

Northern Idaho Labor Force Data

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

	Mar 2010*	Feb 2010	Mar 2009	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	73,580	72,250	71,470	1.8	3.0
Unemployed	7,280	7,310	5,590	-0.4	30.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.9	10.1	7.8		
Total Employment	66,300	64,940	65,880	2.1	0.6
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	72,420	71,570	70,070	1.2	3.4
Unemployed	7,630	8,510	5,940	-10.3	28.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	10.5	11.9	8.5		
Total Employment	64,790	63,060	64,130	2.7	1.0
* Preliminary estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.					

North Central Idaho Labor Force Data

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

	Apr 2010*	Mar 2010	Apr 2009	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	28,630	28,910	28,690	-1.0	-0.2
Unemployment	1,980	2,130	1,780	-7.0	11.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.9	7.4	6.2		
Total Employment	26,650	26,780	26,910	-0.5	-1.0
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	28,860	28,980	28,910	-0.4	-0.2
Unemployment	2,110	2,380	1,960	-11.3	7.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.3	8.2	6.8		
Total Employment	26,750	26,600	26,950	0.6	-0.7
* Preliminary estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.					

Southwestern Idaho Labor Force Data

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

	Apr 2010*	Mar 2010	Apr 2009	% Change	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	291,400	290,100	289,900	0.4	0.5
Unemployment	28,900	29,300	24,600	-1.4	17.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.9	10.1	8.5		
Total Employment	262,500	260,800	265,300	0.7	-1.1
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	292,600	290,900	290,700	0.6	0.7
Unemployment	27,100	28,900	23,300	-6.2	16.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.3	9.9	8.0		
Total Employment	265,500	262,000	267,400	1.3	-0.7
Preliminary estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.					

South Central Idaho Labor Force Data

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

	Apr 2010*	Mar 2010	Apr 2009	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	50,770	50,590	49,250	0.4	3.1
Unemployment	3,940	4,070	2,650	-3.2	48.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.8	8.0	5.4		
Total Employment	46,830	46,520	46,600	0.7	0.5
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	49,850	49,360	48,220	1.0	3.4
Unemployment	3,900	4,250	2,660	-8.2	46.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.8	8.6	5.5		
Total Employment	45,950	45,110	45,560	1.9	0.9
*Preliminary estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.					

Southeastern Idaho Labor Force Data

Pocatello MSA Labor Force & Employment — Bannock and Power counties

	Apr 2010*	Mar 2010	% Change From		
			Apr 2009	Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	42,680	43,090	42,380	-1.0	0.7
Unemployment	3,550	3,700	2,510	-4.1	41.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.3	8.6	5.9		
Total Employment	39,130	39,390	39,870	-0.7	-1.9
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	43,750	43,740	43,390	0.0	0.8
Unemployment	3,410	3,820	2,440	-10.7	39.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.8	8.7	5.6		
Total Employment	40,340	39,920	40,950	1.1	-1.5

*Preliminary estimate

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

East Central Idaho Labor Force Data

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

	Apr 2010*	Mar 2010	Apr 2009	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	61,600	60,890	61,020	1.2	1.0
Unemployment	4,140	4,330	3,230	-4.4	28.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.7	7.1	5.3		
Total Employment	57,460	56,560	57,790	1.6	-0.6
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	61,650	61,060	60,890	1.0	1.2
Unemployment	4,160	4,650	3,290	-10.5	26.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.8	7.6	5.4		
Total Employment	57,490	56,410	57,600	1.9	-0.2

*Preliminary estimate

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

Glossary of Labor Market Terms

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Glossary of Labor Market Terms (cont.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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