

Idaho Employment

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

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ROGER B. MADSEN, DIRECTOR

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

SLOW IMPROVEMENT SEEN IN PRIVATE SECTOR SECOND QUARTER 2010

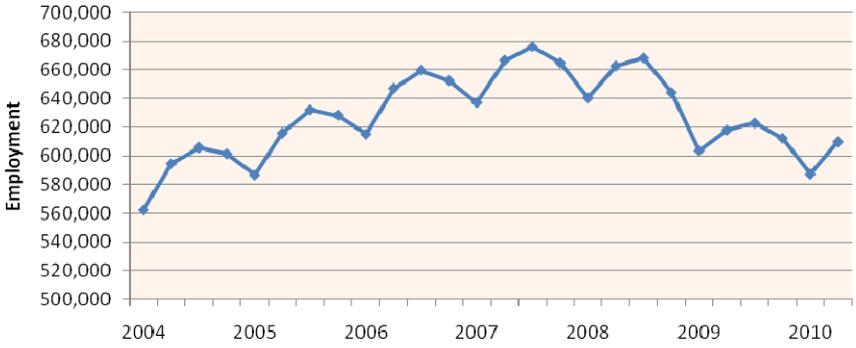
The Idaho economy continued to show signs of slow improvement in the second quarter of 2010. Total covered employment reported through the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages averaged 609,644 in the April-June quarter, up from 587,198 in the first quarter. This increase in jobs came from seasonal gains experienced by many industry sectors, leaving second quarter 2010 employment 8,160 jobs below the year-earlier level.

Although the year-over-year difference in employment was significant, it was roughly half the deficit for the first quarter and the smallest year-over-year deficit in nearly two years. Year-over-year job losses were first reported in the second quarter of 2008. The year-over-year gap had narrowed for three straight quarters at the end of the second. The smaller deficit was evident both in goods production, where the gap shrank from 8.1 percent to 5 percent, and in the service sector, where the gap shrank from 1.5 percent to 0.4 percent.

Total wages rose significantly from the first quarter, up \$300 million or 6.8 percent. This was beyond the usual seasonal change and \$85 million higher than total wages in the second quarter of 2010, marking the first over-the-year increase in total wages since the fourth quarter of 2008.

Private-sector jobs totaled 492,564 in the second quarter, an increase of nearly 19,000 jobs or 4 percent from the first quarter. That gain cut the over-the-year deficit nearly two thirds, narrowing the gap to 8,286 or 1.7 percent. Government including education averaged 117,092 jobs in the second quarter, an increase of 3,661 or 3.2 percent from the first quarter. This represented a 0.1 percent increase in total government jobs since second quarter

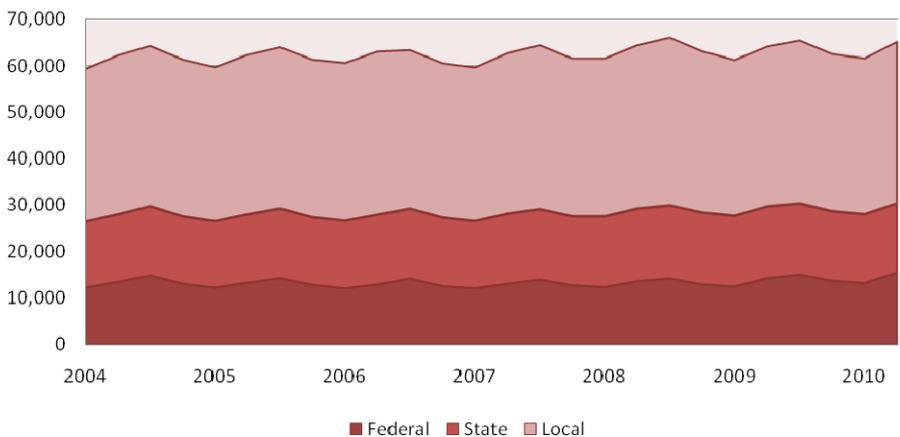
**Figure 1: Idaho Average Quarterly Employment
1Q 2004-2Q 2010**



2009. That gain is due primarily to temporary jobs created by the 2010 Census. Census employment jumped by over 1,100 from first quarter levels, contributing to a 17.4 percent over-the-quarter boost in total federal employment that also saw a seasonal increase in Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service employment. Meanwhile, state government gained 250 jobs, and local government showed a seasonal increase of over 1,100 jobs as figure 2 shows.

April, May and June of 2010 brought a seasonal gain in retail jobs. Retail increased over 1,700 jobs, or 2.4 percent, from the first to the second quarters, bringing the total number of jobs in the sector to 74,762. That was only 1,572 below second quarter 2010. The first-to-second quarter rate of gain in 2010 was four times higher than the 0.6 percent increase in 2009. The 2.1 percent year-over-year retail deficit was a marked improvement over 3.7 percent in the prior quarter and 8 percent in the prior year. The most significant over-the-quarter gains were experienced in building material and garden supply stores at 12.9 percent and gasoline stations at 4.8 percent. Four retail subsectors saw second quarter employment levels higher than the year before. Transportation and warehousing experienced a slight quarterly loss of 1.1 percent, but wholesale trade gained 2.2 percent from the first quarter as figure 3 on page 3 shows.

**Figure 2: Public Administration
1Q 2004-2Q 2010**

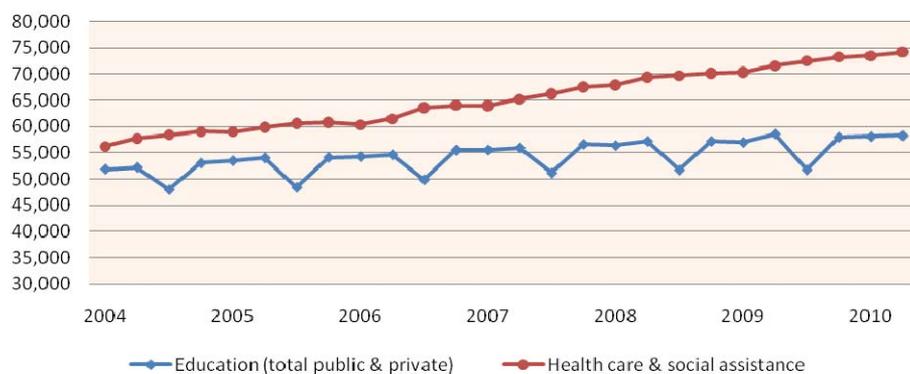


**Figure 3: Trade & Transportation
1Q 2004-2Q 2010**



Health care continued its steady climb, gaining 722 jobs in the second quarter of 2010 as figure 4 shows. This constituted an increase of 1 percent from the first quarter, boosting health care employment 3.6 percent above the year-earlier level. Although all components of the health care sector experienced job gains, ambulatory health care services saw the greatest growth, adding over 400 jobs from the first quarter or 1.5 percent.

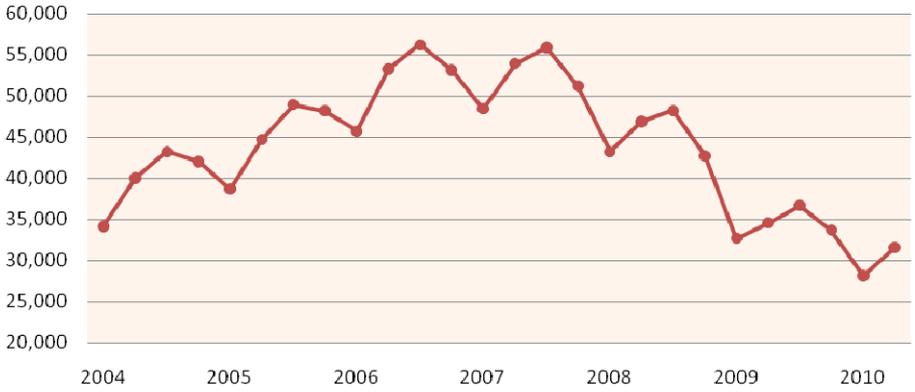
**Figure 4: Education & Health Services
1Q 2004-2Q 2010**



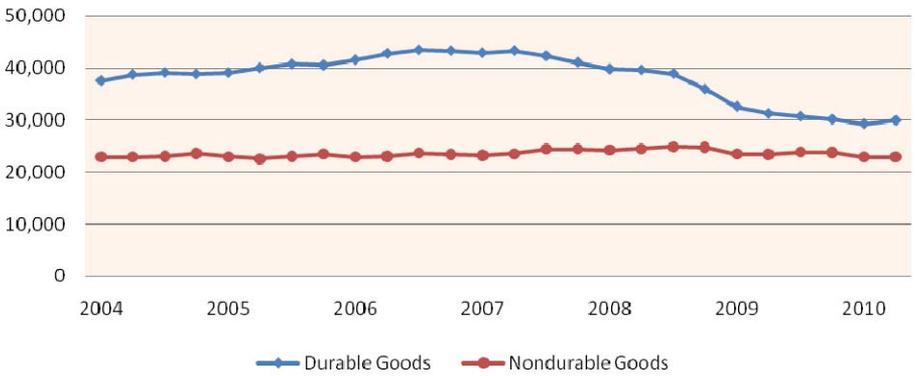
Construction experienced a seasonal second quarter gain of just under 3,500 jobs, or 12.2 percent, from the first quarter as figure 5 on page 4 shows. This was considerably more substantial than the 5.6 percent increase in the second quarter of 2009, and the year-over-year deficit diminished from 14 percent to 8.6 percent. Over-the-quarter gains occurred across all construction subsectors, but employment levels in all subsectors remained below year-earlier levels in spite of the seasonal gains.

Manufacturing employment increased more than 650 from the first to second quarters, growth of 1.3 percent. Aside from a slight gain of less than 100 jobs in the second quarter of 2008, this was the first over-the-quarter gain experienced in manufacturing since the second quarter of 2007. This return to normal seasonal increases narrowed the year-over-year job gap from 7 percent in the first quarter to 3.4 percent in the second. The shrinking gap

**Figure 5: Construction
1Q 2004-2Q 2010**



**Figure 6: Manufacturing
1Q 2004-2Q 2010**



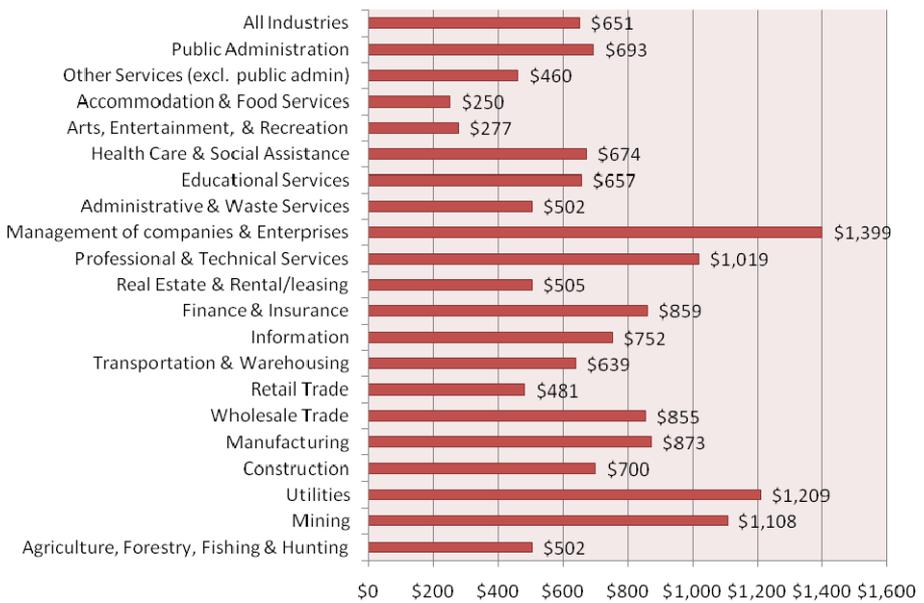
was evident in both durable and nondurable goods manufacturing as figure 6 shows. The year-over-year deficit was 4.2 percent in durable goods, down from 10.2 percent in the first quarter, and 2.2 percent in nondurable goods, down from 2.5 percent in the prior quarter. Seven manufacturing subsectors experienced year-over-year gains in the second quarter.

Wages

During the second quarter of 2010, Idaho’s average weekly wage for all industries was \$651, up \$18 from the previous quarter. The lowest wages were reported in accommodations and food services at \$250, a \$4 increase from the first quarter, and leisure activities at \$277, a \$17 decrease. Company management continued to pay the highest wage at \$1,399 a week. Utilities followed at \$1,209, and mining came in at \$1,108. See Figure 7 on page 5 for a breakdown of average weekly wages by industry for the quarter.

karen.jarboesingletary@labor.idaho.gov, Research Analyst Sr.
(208) 332-3570, ext. 3215

**Figure 7: Average Weekly Wages by Industry
2nd Quarter 2010**



DEPRESSED URBAN WAGES PULL DOWN STATE AVERAGE

Idaho's 2009 average annual wage gained ground on the national average wage for the first time in three years, primarily because rural Idaho was more resistant to the recession's impact on paychecks.

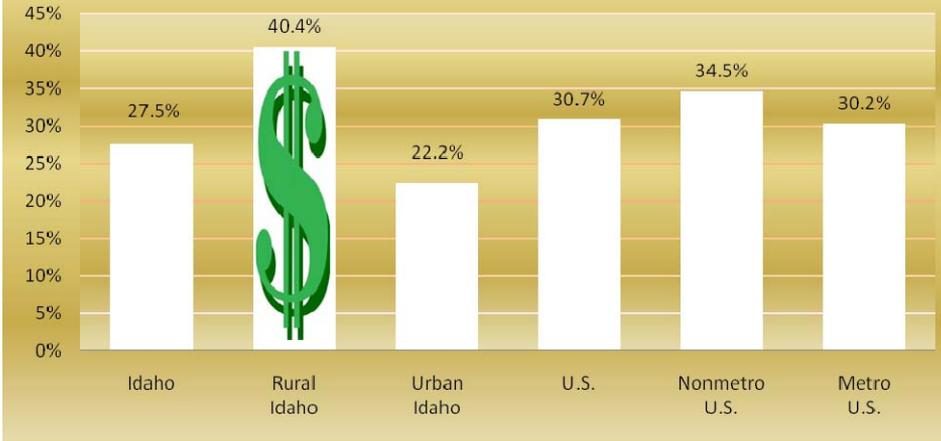
Idaho's average annual wage rose 1.3 percent to \$35,131 in 2009 compared to a 0.1 percent increase in the national average wage to \$45,831. While the spread remains significant, the 2009 average wage in Idaho was 76.7 percent of the national average. That was up a full percentage point from 2008's 75.7 percent, the lowest percentage of the national average for Idaho in 40 years. Despite the increase, the 2009 percentage was lower than any year but 2008, and only South Dakota, Montana and Mississippi had lower percentages.

Idaho closed the gap on the strength of 2.9 percent growth in average wages for the 33 rural counties, according to estimates by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. That beefed up the statewide average, which was tempered by an increase of just 0.7 percent in the average wage for the 11 metropolitan counties. Those metro counties – Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem, Owyhee, Kootenai, Nez Perce, Bannock, Power, Bonneville and Jefferson – account for 65 percent of Idaho's employment.

Nationally, metropolitan average annual wages fell fractionally – just \$16 – from 2008 to 2009 while rural wages rose only 0.8 percent.

It was the fifth time in six years and the seventh in 10 years that the increase in the rural average wage was greater than the increase in the metro wage. During the first decade of the 21st Century, the average wage in rural Idaho rose over 40 percent despite two recessions, nearly twice the 22 percent increase in the metro areas.

Average Wage Growth, 2000-2009

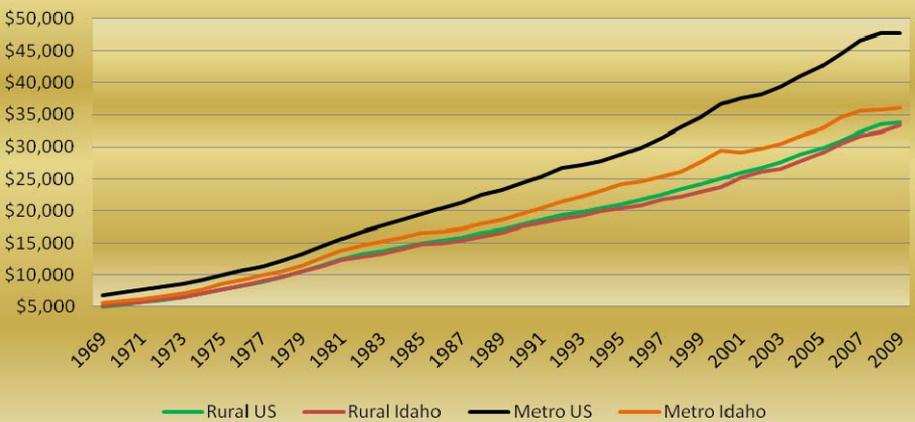


In fact, the 40 percent growth in the average annual wage for rural Idaho outpaced wage growth in Idaho statewide and the nation in both the metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas.

It further demonstrated the relative economic stability of rural Idaho during the business cycle – absent any major turmoil like the demise of wood manufacturing in the northern part of the state in the 1980s.

The statewide average wage has never been more than 88 percent of the national average, but the average wage in rural Idaho was higher than the national average for nonmetropolitan areas during the 1970s before the dramatic loss of high-paying jobs in timber and mining during the recessions of the 1980s. While it fell below the national nonmetropolitan average for good in 1980, it has never been less than 94 percent of that national average and stood at 98.4 percent of the national average in 2009.

Metro, Nonmetro Average Wages



Rural Idaho’s average wage has essentially kept pace with the national average for nonmetropolitan areas over the last 40 years, and the gap between rural and urban average wages has been significantly narrower in Idaho than nationally.

Urban wages have always been higher than rural wages – anywhere from 7 percent to 25 percent in Idaho but from 25 percent to 45 percent nation-

ally. The difference in that spread in 2009 was startling – only 8 percent in Idaho compared to 41 percent nationally.

In dollar terms, Idaho’s 2009 average annual urban wage was just \$2,740 higher than Idaho’s rural average but \$11,700 lower than the national average for metro areas.

Nationally, the metro wage was nearly \$14,000 higher than the nonmetro average.

The fact that Idaho’s rural wage has closely tracked its national counterpart while staying relatively close to the state’s urban wage highlights the comparatively depressed wages paid in Idaho’s most populous areas.

Idaho’s 2009 average urban wage of \$36,034 ranked 49th among the states while the state’s rural wage of \$33,294 ranked 29th.

The production side of the economy generated an average wage of \$44,455 in the urban counties, where higher-paying manufacturing and construction jobs boosted paychecks, but those jobs accounted for only 21.5 percent of the payroll in urban Idaho. The average wage in the service sector – which made up the bulk of Idaho’s metro payroll, was over \$12,000 lower at \$32,319.

By comparison, the average production wage in rural counties was just over \$34,000, more than \$10,000 below the urban average, but that average was dragged down by the heavy concentration of lower paying agricultural jobs – over 31 percent of all production jobs. Excluding agricultural jobs, which averaged \$27,250 a year, the average production wage in rural Idaho was over \$37,000.

Nationally, Idaho ranked 46th in its average production and service sector wages. South Dakota, Mississippi, Nebraska and Arkansas had lower production wages while South Dakota, Mississippi, Montana and West Virginia had lower service-sector wages.

*Bob.Fick@labor.idaho.gov, Communications Manager
(208) 332-3570, ext. 3628*

Idaho Average Annual Wages

(urban counties highlighted)

Area/County	2008	2009	% Change	Production	Services
State	\$34,666	\$35,131	1.3%	\$40,246	\$31,603
Urban	\$35,781	\$36,034	0.7%	\$44,455	\$32,319
Rural	\$32,365	\$33,294	2.9%	\$34,062	\$30,263
Ada	\$40,248	\$40,522	0.7%	\$58,275	\$35,651
Adams	\$27,368	\$28,658	4.7%	\$24,750	\$24,906
Bannock	\$31,895	\$31,635	-0.8%	\$38,898	\$28,309
Bear Lake	\$24,934	\$26,110	4.7%	\$33,380	\$22,247
Benewah	\$32,855	\$31,924	-2.8%	\$37,652	\$27,369
Bingham	\$30,488	\$31,478	3.2%	\$34,327	\$27,102
Blaine	\$37,399	\$35,959	-3.9%	\$38,998	\$34,656
Boise	\$25,534	\$24,081	-5.7%	\$30,157	\$16,692
Bonner	\$31,808	\$31,483	-1.0%	\$34,940	\$28,419
Bonneville	\$32,248	\$32,801	1.7%	\$36,005	\$29,881
Boundary	\$30,260	\$31,384	3.7%	\$33,475	\$26,604
Butte	\$73,208	\$77,521	5.9%	\$37,852	\$77,342
Camas	\$31,453	\$33,189	5.5%	\$36,651	\$30,218
Canyon	\$31,287	\$31,819	1.7%	\$32,970	\$28,616
Caribou	\$42,220	\$42,829	1.4%	\$63,210	\$22,883
Cassia	\$29,423	\$30,717	4.4%	\$31,537	\$25,437
Clark	\$34,622	\$36,052	4.1%	\$32,677	\$33,760
Clearwater	\$30,479	\$30,633	0.5%	\$33,438	\$26,174
Custer	\$35,442	\$33,165	-6.4%	\$53,756	\$18,450
Elmore	\$36,632	\$37,714	3.0%	\$27,548	\$25,468
Franklin	\$25,947	\$25,682	-1.0%	\$31,101	\$21,480
Fremont	\$29,184	\$29,575	1.3%	\$29,910	\$23,243
Gem	\$26,977	\$26,929	-0.2%	\$29,014	\$24,323
Gooding	\$30,902	\$33,696	9.0%	\$31,985	\$27,559
Idaho	\$29,580	\$30,217	2.2%	\$32,510	\$25,093
Jefferson	\$26,017	\$26,787	3.0%	\$27,336	\$23,456
Jerome	\$31,451	\$33,216	5.6%	\$31,138	\$28,794
Kootenai	\$32,279	\$32,432	0.5%	\$37,422	\$29,395
Latah	\$28,586	\$29,165	2.0%	\$36,516	\$28,757
Lemhi	\$27,041	\$27,157	0.4%	\$30,321	\$22,631
Lewis	\$24,763	\$25,074	1.3%	\$27,215	\$22,737
Lincoln	\$30,758	\$32,427	5.4%	\$32,299	\$22,559
Madison	\$25,781	\$27,667	7.3%	\$31,225	\$26,519
Minidoka	\$29,187	\$31,383	7.5%	\$34,680	\$25,785
Nez Perce	\$34,525	\$34,588	0.2%	\$46,848	\$30,162
Oneida	\$24,115	\$24,840	3.0%	\$29,898	\$21,459
Owyhee	\$28,354	\$30,324	6.9%	\$21,530	\$25,577
Payette	\$30,597	\$31,409	2.7%	\$29,441	\$29,869
Power	\$32,288	\$34,076	5.5%	\$37,275	\$27,976
Shoshone	\$32,784	\$32,562	-0.7%	\$47,297	\$25,840
Teton	\$31,900	\$32,223	1.0%	\$31,335	\$30,107
Twin Falls	\$29,321	\$30,205	3.0%	\$31,443	\$27,124
Valley	\$30,523	\$29,828	-2.3%	\$29,929	\$26,163
Washington	\$26,984	\$27,126	0.5%	\$24,066	\$25,652

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Average Wages in 2009 by State

(highest to lowest)

Statewide		Metro		Nonmetro	
US	\$45,831	US	\$47,728	US	\$33,786
New York	\$56,960	New York	\$58,469	Alaska	\$46,641
Connecticut	\$56,888	Connecticut	\$58,029	Massachusetts	\$44,099
Massachusetts	\$55,282	Massachusetts	\$55,331	Nevada	\$42,766
New Jersey	\$54,398	New Jersey	\$54,398	Maryland	\$41,630
California	\$52,740	California	\$53,040	Wyoming	\$41,493
Maryland	\$51,784	Maryland	\$52,319	New Hampshire	\$39,713
Virginia	\$49,554	Virginia	\$51,415	Connecticut	\$39,421
Illinois	\$49,120	Illinois	\$50,881	Arizona	\$39,070
Alaska	\$48,420	Delaware	\$49,915	Hawaii	\$37,594
Washington	\$48,079	Washington	\$49,484	New Mexico	\$37,220
Colorado	\$47,622	Alaska	\$49,303	Colorado	\$36,720
Delaware	\$47,041	Colorado	\$49,234	New York	\$35,914
Texas	\$45,258	Minnesota	\$47,828	California	\$35,739
Minnesota	\$44,621	New Hampshire	\$47,061	Louisiana	\$35,500
New Hampshire	\$44,244	Texas	\$46,576	Utah	\$35,441
Rhode Island	\$43,967	Georgia	\$46,072	Vermont	\$35,071
Georgia	\$43,961	Pennsylvania	\$45,363	North Dakota	\$34,892
Pennsylvania	\$43,928	Michigan	\$44,760	Ohio	\$34,751
Nevada	\$43,841	Hawaii	\$44,507	Illinois	\$34,279
Arizona	\$43,775	Arizona	\$44,053	Washington	\$34,269
Michigan	\$43,120	Rhode Island	\$43,967	West Virginia	\$34,247
Hawaii	\$42,776	Nevada	\$43,937	Michigan	\$34,149
Florida	\$42,408	Missouri	\$43,529	Indiana	\$34,073
Wyoming	\$41,542	North Carolina	\$43,326	South Carolina	\$34,069
Louisiana	\$41,274	Vermont	\$43,088	Pennsylvania	\$34,006
Ohio	\$41,268	Oregon	\$43,044	Maine	\$33,891
Oregon	\$41,176	Florida	\$42,784	Florida	\$33,792
Missouri	\$41,040	Louisiana	\$42,663	Wisconsin	\$33,313
North Carolina	\$40,879	Ohio	\$42,443	Idaho	\$33,294
Wisconsin	\$39,794	Kansas	\$42,373	Virginia	\$33,240
Tennessee	\$39,684	Wisconsin	\$41,736	Delaware	\$33,220
New Mexico	\$39,337	Wyoming	\$41,654	Montana	\$33,016
Utah	\$39,282	Nebraska	\$41,555	North Carolina	\$32,999
Kansas	\$39,108	Tennessee	\$41,537	Oregon	\$32,929
Indiana	\$38,809	Alabama	\$40,640	Texas	\$32,816
Alabama	\$38,701	Kentucky	\$40,474	Oklahoma	\$32,506
Nebraska	\$38,225	New Mexico	\$40,265	Kentucky	\$32,497
Vermont	\$38,124	Oklahoma	\$40,186	Nebraska	\$32,442
South Carolina	\$37,856	Indiana	\$39,866	Minnesota	\$32,388
Kentucky	\$37,834	Maine	\$39,750	Alabama	\$32,226
Oklahoma	\$37,775	Utah	\$39,688	Iowa	\$32,129
Maine	\$37,640	Iowa	\$39,220	Tennessee	\$32,104
Iowa	\$36,528	South Carolina	\$38,742	Mississippi	\$31,898
West Virginia	\$36,354	Arkansas	\$38,698	Georgia	\$31,817
Arkansas	\$36,017	West Virginia	\$37,687	Kansas	\$31,155
North Dakota	\$35,788	Mississippi	\$37,430	Arkansas	\$30,713
Idaho	\$35,131	North Dakota	\$36,506	Missouri	\$30,618
Mississippi	\$34,645	South Dakota	\$36,151	South Dakota	\$29,976
Montana	\$33,918	Idaho	\$36,034	New Jersey *	\$0
South Dakota	\$33,136	Montana	\$35,234	Rhode Island *	\$0

* New Jersey and Rhode Island do not have any nonmetropolitan areas

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Average Wages in 2010 by State By Selected Sector

(highest to lowest)

Goods Production		Services		Federal Gov't		State & Local Gov't	
Alaska	\$74,191	New York	\$59,024	Maryland	\$92,658	Connecticut	\$65,094
New Jersey	\$66,675	Connecticut	\$56,740	Virginia	\$91,539	California	\$63,572
Massachusetts	\$66,626	Massachusetts	\$55,051	New Jersey	\$84,570	New Jersey	\$62,437
Connecticut	\$66,437	New Jersey	\$52,708	Rhode Island	\$83,639	Rhode Island	\$59,929
Texas	\$61,412	California	\$48,993	New Hampshire	\$81,276	Nevada	\$59,552
California	\$57,979	Virginia	\$47,756	Alabama	\$77,757	Massachusetts	\$56,701
New York	\$57,326	Maryland	\$46,858	Colorado	\$76,709	Illinois	\$56,579
Louisiana	\$57,272	Illinois	\$46,668	Illinois	\$76,336	Hawaii	\$56,441
Nevada	\$57,272	Delaware	\$46,339	California	\$76,306	Washington	\$56,190
Maryland	\$57,253	Colorado	\$45,268	Massachusetts	\$76,063	New York	\$55,460
Wyoming	\$57,158	Washington	\$45,240	Connecticut	\$74,981	Vermont	\$51,760
Illinois	\$56,406	Minnesota	\$43,600	Ohio	\$74,861	Michigan	\$51,188
New Hampshire	\$55,452	Pennsylvania	\$42,872	New York	\$74,554	Colorado	\$50,538
Michigan	\$55,444	New Hampshire	\$42,849	Michigan	\$74,345	Minnesota	\$49,871
Colorado	\$54,777	Georgia	\$42,634	Hawaii	\$73,357	Oregon	\$49,728
Delaware	\$53,459	Texas	\$42,342	Alaska	\$72,685	Ohio	\$49,475
West Virginia	\$52,710	Arizona	\$40,269	Georgia	\$71,017	Maryland	\$49,072
Hawaii	\$52,562	Rhode Island	\$40,029	Washington	\$70,870	Arizona	\$48,730
Washington	\$52,377	Michigan	\$39,770	Texas	\$70,731	Delaware	\$47,626
Minnesota	\$52,327	Alaska	\$39,731	Florida	\$70,421	Pennsylvania	\$46,948
Arizona	\$52,116	Florida	\$39,405	Pennsylvania	\$70,397	Alaska	\$45,253
Pennsylvania	\$51,420	Tennessee	\$38,639	West Virginia	\$68,239	Iowa	\$45,202
Indiana	\$50,844	Nevada	\$38,563	New Mexico	\$67,989	Florida	\$45,144
Ohio	\$50,097	Missouri	\$38,367	Arizona	\$67,925	Virginia	\$45,008
Oklahoma	\$48,754	Oregon	\$37,949	Tennessee	\$67,130	Texas	\$44,712
Missouri	\$48,505	North Carolina	\$37,764	Louisiana	\$67,028	Wyoming	\$44,220
Rhode Island	\$48,367	Ohio	\$37,653	Kansas	\$66,691	Wisconsin	\$44,198
Vermont	\$47,711	Hawaii	\$37,147	Nevada	\$65,817	New Hampshire	\$44,089
Kentucky	\$47,575	Alabama	\$36,193	Oklahoma	\$65,796	Louisiana	\$42,611
Oregon	\$47,503	Kansas	\$36,071	Indiana	\$65,231	New Mexico	\$42,543
Wisconsin	\$47,239	Utah	\$35,936	Maine	\$65,227	Maine	\$41,410
Virginia	\$47,160	Wisconsin	\$35,784	North Carolina	\$64,979	Utah	\$40,926
Tennessee	\$46,935	Louisiana	\$35,739	South Carolina	\$64,886	North Carolina	\$40,181
Kansas	\$46,814	Vermont	\$35,514	Delaware	\$64,088	Alabama	\$39,962
North Dakota	\$46,602	New Mexico	\$35,149	Minnesota	\$64,070	Kentucky	\$37,751
Utah	\$45,787	Nebraska	\$35,135	Missouri	\$64,029	Georgia	\$37,696
New Mexico	\$45,775	Kentucky	\$34,689	Vermont	\$63,884	Idaho	\$37,391
Georgia	\$45,696	Maine	\$34,151	Oregon	\$63,494	Tennessee	\$37,362
Iowa	\$45,508	Arkansas	\$34,083	Arkansas	\$62,039	Oklahoma	\$37,144
North Carolina	\$45,225	Indiana	\$33,838	Mississippi	\$61,623	Kansas	\$36,918
Alabama	\$44,916	Oklahoma	\$33,693	Utah	\$60,843	Indiana	\$36,859
South Carolina	\$44,339	Iowa	\$33,461	Nebraska	\$60,481	Nebraska	\$36,489
Maine	\$43,423	South Carolina	\$33,357	Wisconsin	\$60,416	Missouri	\$36,371
Montana	\$43,238	North Dakota	\$33,067	Kentucky	\$59,825	Arkansas	\$35,335
Florida	\$42,810	Wyoming	\$32,692	Idaho	\$58,916	South Carolina	\$35,023
Idaho	\$40,101	Idaho	\$31,802	North Dakota	\$58,698	South Dakota	\$33,814
Mississippi	\$39,712	West Virginia	\$31,612	Iowa	\$58,181	Montana	\$33,415
Nebraska	\$39,698	South Dakota	\$31,609	Montana	\$57,514	Mississippi	\$32,533
Arkansas	\$38,204	Mississippi	\$30,804	Wyoming	\$56,756	North Dakota	\$32,493
South Dakota	\$37,828	Montana	\$30,250	South Dakota	\$55,759	West Virginia	\$32,287

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



LAWN & GARDEN INDUSTRIES MOWED DOWN BY RECESSION

The 2010 Idaho Green Jobs Survey showed 3 percent of Idaho jobs are green. At the same time a preliminary Idaho quarterly census of employment and wages has revealed an 8 percent decrease in covered employment for all industries between 2007 and 2010, and much of that was in construction, which lost almost 40 percent of its jobs in the recession.

The construction decline translated into additional job losses in several green industries, and that means yards around the state may be a little less green because it could be harder to find someone at the local nursery or garden center to answer questions and provide advice.

EMPLOYMENT

In 2007 there were more than 7,100 Idaho lawn and garden jobs involving production, retail and wholesale sales and services. They were in the following sectors as identified by the North American Industry Classification System:

Lawn and Garden Industries

NAICS Code	Industry Name
111421	Nursery and Tree Production
111422	Floriculture Production*
424960	Flower, Nursery Stock and Florists' Supplies Wholesalers
444210	Outdoor Power Equipment Stores
444220	Nursery and Garden Centers
541320	Landscape Architectural Services
561730	Landscape Services

By the end of 2010 these industry shed over 2,000 jobs – almost one-third of its pre-recession employment. Northern Idaho had the smallest decline at 20 percent while south central Idaho had the largest at 32 percent. Most of these regions experienced exceptional growth leading up to 2007. In some cases employment growth reached double-digits.

*The floriculture industry comprises establishments primarily engaged in growing or producing products, such as cut flowers and roses, cut cultivated greens, potted flowering and foliage plants and flower seeds both under cover and in open fields.

In 2008 the recession tightened its grip on consumers' wallets. Many lawn and garden-related industries felt decreasing demand for products that could be considered luxuries in tight times and responded with reduced seasonal hiring and increased layoffs. In 2008 average employment for these industries dropped by 9 percent. By the end of 2009 another 17 percent of statewide lawn- and garden-related jobs were lost. In 2010 the losses continued but at a slower rate – only shedding 6 percent of the jobs that were left.

Employment at nurseries and garden centers showed the highest percentage decline among the lawn and garden center industries – 43 percent from 2007 to 2010. Landscape architectural services decreased by 35 percent and landscape services by 27 percent.

EMPLOYERS

Some lawn- and garden-related employers have also lost the recession battle. The total number of employers continued to increase in 2007 and

2008 – eventually topping out at 1,058. In 2008 only the southwestern region of the state experienced declines – around 4 percent. In 2009, the rest of the southern part of the state posted losses. Only north central and northern Idaho saw lawn- and garden-related employers increase. Statewide there was a 3 percent decline. The northern region held its own until 2010 when it finally reported losses – a 6 percent drop in the number of lawn and garden employers – higher losses than in any other region. During 2010 south central and southeastern Idaho began coming back – the only regions to see an increase in the total number of lawn and garden employers.

Between 2007 and 2010, the number of nursery and garden center employers decreased by 29 percent. Floriculture production was the only other lawn and garden industry to show a double-digit decrease – 11 percent.

WAGES

Since the start of the recession, average wages for jobs in lawn and garden industries continued growing until 2009 when the average wages fell 6 percent. The largest declines in average wages were observed in south central Idaho at 13 percent and southeastern Idaho at 12 percent. Only north central Idaho recorded an increase in average wages for 2009, and wages there finally declined in 2010.

Statewide average wages decreased by two-tenths of a percentage point in 2010. Compared to pre-recession levels, statewide average wages for lawn and garden sector employees shrank by 4 percent. South central Idaho suffered more than double that – a wage decline of 10 percent. The southeastern region however, posted a 5 percent increase.

By far, the largest decrease in the average wage among the lawn and garden industries hit landscape architectural services. Average wages there plummeted 27 percent. That was followed by flower, nursery stock and florists' supplies wholesalers, which fell 5 percent. Other losses were very minor.

With construction of new homes still hobbled by excess supplies, lawn and garden industries must rely on existing homeowners to sustain business. A number of variables could explain recent changes in demand for lawn and garden goods and services. Some homeowners looking to sell might consider adding curb appeal through landscaping. But these jobs will not provide the same level of revenue new home construction and complete yard installation did during the boom. Other homeowners have changed plans from continually flipping houses to living in their current houses for longer periods. Investments around the yard might be more frequent when the possibility of seeing long-term outcomes is more likely.

Spring has melted almost all of the valley snow while warmer weather has spurred new growth around the state. As the economy begins to heat up, hopefully it will provide much needed growth to Idaho's lawn and garden industries. Many indicators are now pointing toward economic recovery. Labor markets often show a slower response but have also shown improvement.

*Will.Jenson@labor.idaho.gov, Regional Economist
(208) 557-2500 ext. 3077*

See the table on page 13 for changes in number of jobs, businesses and wages for the Idaho Lawn & Garden Industries, 2006-2010.

Change in Number of Idaho Jobs and Businesses, Wages for Lawn and Garden Industries 2006-2010

Lawn and Garden Industries	Avg Employment Change						Avg Employment					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2007-2010	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
State of Idaho	10%	5%	-9%	-17%	-6%	-29%	6,196	6,819	7,140	6,498	5,374	5,066
North Central	0%	-2%	-12%	-6%	-2%	-20%	214	215	210	185	173	169
Eastern	2%	11%	5%	-21%	-8%	-24%	798	814	900	948	749	687
Northern	8%	-10%	-8%	-12%	-9%	-27%	755	815	737	680	596	540
South Central	9%	9%	-5%	-23%	-7%	-32%	1,239	1,346	1,471	1,392	1,075	1,001
Southeastern	7%	5%	3%	-17%	-10%	-23%	270	289	303	311	259	234
Southwestern	14%	5%	-16%	-15%	-3%	-31%	2,914	3,333	3,516	2,970	2,512	2,432

Lawn and Garden Industries	Employer Change						Employers					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2007-2010	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
State of Idaho	4%	4%	0%	-3%	-3%	-6%	974	1,015	1,054	1,058	1,028	995
North Central	-2%	4%	2%	8%	-4%	6%	47	46	48	49	53	51
Eastern	1%	5%	8%	-8%	-2%	-2%	112	113	119	129	119	117
Northern	11%	6%	2%	1%	-6%	-4%	145	161	171	174	175	164
South Central	8%	4%	5%	-3%	1%	3%	132	142	147	154	149	151
Southeastern	-3%	4%	0%	-2%	3%	2%	59	57	59	59	58	60
Southwestern	3%	3%	-4%	-3%	-4%	-11%	477	490	504	486	469	448

Lawn and Garden Industries	Average Wage Change						Average Wage					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2007-2010	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
State of Idaho	6%	4%	2%	-6%	0%	-4%	\$ 23,454	\$ 24,798	\$ 25,794	\$ 26,432	\$ 24,785	\$ 24,746
North Central	6%	4%	2%	1%	-3%	-1%	\$ 19,492	\$ 20,732	\$ 21,467	\$ 21,858	\$ 21,969	\$ 21,288
Eastern	2%	12%	1%	-4%	0%	-2%	\$ 22,805	\$ 23,184	\$ 25,922	\$ 26,292	\$ 25,345	\$ 25,278
Northern	4%	5%	-4%	-4%	2%	-5%	\$ 21,631	\$ 22,540	\$ 23,589	\$ 22,752	\$ 21,847	\$ 22,302
South Central	3%	3%	5%	-13%	-1%	-10%	\$ 25,277	\$ 26,104	\$ 26,948	\$ 28,248	\$ 24,473	\$ 24,295
Southeastern	2%	-1%	12%	-12%	6%	5%	\$ 21,461	\$ 21,974	\$ 21,720	\$ 24,297	\$ 21,422	\$ 22,790
Southwestern	8%	2%	2%	-4%	-1%	-2%	\$ 23,713	\$ 25,693	\$ 26,310	\$ 26,911	\$ 25,886	\$ 25,682

HIGH-SPEED INTERNET SPREADS IN NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO

Improving Internet access has been a high priority for north central Idaho's economic development organizations over the last eight years. High-speed Internet has become such a standard part of doing business that lacking it limits local businesses' ability to expand and communities' attractiveness to potential residents and new businesses. Broadband Internet also can help rural hospitals and emergency care providers access information and improve communication. It enhances educational and work force training opportunities as well.

In 2003, Clearwater Economic Development Association collaborated with other economic development organizations and community leaders to draft a detailed plan for improving Internet access in north central Idaho. Most of the plan's goals have been accomplished in the last few years, but some needs remain.

Working as the in-state partner to the LinkIDAHO initiative and VisionTech 360, the Clearwater Economic Development Association has taken the early lead in developing a new regional plan at the same time that Idaho's five other economic development districts are putting together their plans. The regional plans will be incorporated into the state plan being developed by LinkIDAHO that will identify needs statewide and be used to ultimately get broadband access to underserved communities.

The region's highest investment priority is improving broadband to support small manufacturing and entrepreneurial businesses and developing application awareness. The team has been meeting with local service providers and interested manufacturers to determine a future course of action.

Moscow and Lewiston are considered as having adequate broadband access; surrounding areas still are classified as underserved and are targets of pending projects.

First Step Internet, a Moscow-based Internet service provider, was awarded \$2.4 million in March to improve access to Internet and telephone service throughout north central Idaho. It will boost high-speed Internet capacity by at least 10 times what is in Bovill, Deary, Elk River, Potlatch, Princeton and Troy. It will also establish a second licensed high-speed Internet path for First Step between Moscow and Lewiston, which will have a much higher capacity than the existing one. The new system also will provide redundancy so traffic can be rerouted – instead of disrupted – if one section of the network goes down.

The Idaho Regional Optical Network – a cooperative effort of the universities, the state, the Idaho Hospital Association and the Idaho National Laboratory – will facilitate advanced networking among institutions and supporting organizations for research, education, health care and state government. The network established two new traffic aggregation sites in Lewiston and Moscow in 2010 to give people in and around the two cities multiple, low-cost access points to the network in addition to existing access points at the University of Idaho in Moscow and Washington State University in Pullman, Wash. It also established high-speed wired and wireless connectivity to the network from the University of Idaho at a very high speed of 10 gigabits per second and from First Step Wireless in Moscow; from Lewis-Clark State College, St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center and XO Communications in Lewis-

ton; from Clearwater Valley Hospital in Orofino; and from St. Mary's Hospital in Cottonwood.

The Nez Perce Tribe is extending its broadband network throughout the reservation and in some neighboring communities. Headquartered in Lapwai, the network uses microwave towers to transmit broadband connectivity. In partnership with Inland Cellular of Lewiston, First Step Internet of Moscow, and the Idaho Regional Optical Network, the tribe's network will serve as a major data storage and backup facility for other businesses. The network infrastructure will be tied to libraries, hospitals and fire districts throughout the reservation and neighboring communities. It will connect with the giant Internet pipelines known as "gigapops," which run across the country providing network collaboration between universities, industry and government. The tribe landed a federal grant of nearly \$1.6 million last summer to improve Internet and cell phone service in parts of Clearwater, Idaho, Lewis and Nez Perce counties.

Frontier Communications, which purchased Verizon last summer, has invested \$1.2 million to expand the broadband availability in the Palouse including Genesee and Weippe. The high-speed Internet Frontier offers runs through households' existing landlines, assuring consistent speeds. Over the next three years, it plans to expand services to Viola, Moscow Mountain area and other communities. Frontier also launched a project last fall to provide broadband access to half the homes in Orofino and plans to extend high-speed Internet to Weippe this year.

Potlatch Telephone Co., based in Kendrick, received more than \$2.6 million in federal stimulus funds last fall to bring high-speed broadband service to unserved populations in the Kendrick-Juliaetta area.

The Idaho Education Network has brought faster Internet connections to school districts including those in Culdesac, Cottonwood and Grangeville. Over the next couple of years, the network will expand to all school districts in Idaho.

Avista Corp recently donated \$5,000 to the North Central Idaho Telecom Consortium to enhance the development of the multi-user, wide area network led by First Step Internet. The utility also donated another \$1,250 so the Clearwater Economic Development Association could join the Idaho Regional Optical Network. Although network users will pay for services, the association members — which include the county governments and most of the city governments in the region — can access the network without paying an additional membership fee.

The association is wrapping up its telemental health initiative that installed a network connecting the five hospitals in north central Idaho and providing adult and children's psychiatric services. The initiative helps people get psychiatric services in their own communities and offsets some of the difficulties created by the national shortage of psychiatrists. The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and the Region II Mental Health Board encouraged the creation of the system.

The Orofino library helped expand broadband capabilities for the community by providing faster Internet access through a wireless connection. Homes and businesses near the library also can use the wireless Internet connection.

Kathryn.Tacke@labor.idaho.gov, Regional Economist
(208) 799-5000 ext. 3984



WHAT DOES BUYING LOCAL HAVE TO DO WITH GREEN?

A great deal.

Giving priority to locally owned producers and service providers in a particular region has immediate environmental benefits. It reduces transportation costs in shipping and other costs associated with distant headquarters and production. In turn, local producers and providers contribute less to sprawl, congestion, habitat loss and pollution.

But it also makes economic sense.

Local owners and their employees pay local taxes and spend more money locally, generating the economic multiplier effect that can be as high as two to three times the benefit of money left in local economies by non-local corporations like chain stores.

According to the Institute for Self-Reliance, \$45 of every \$100 spent at a locally owned business remains in the local economy while only \$14 of every \$100 spent at a big-box store stays in the local economy.

Food is often a logical place to start. Everyone needs and cares about food, and food can be grown almost everywhere.

Local businesses, or grocers, can directly purchase merchandise from local growers, giving them competitive pricing and access to almost anything produced.

	Calendar Year		% of total (2010)	% Δ 2000-2010
	2000	2010		
*Idaho Businesses	2,714	1,479	39.5%	-45.50
**Out-of-State Business with State Presence	1,478	708	18.9%	-52.1%
*Idaho Nonprofit Corporations	568	1,472	39.3%	159.2%
**Out-of-State Nonprofit Corporations with State Presence	63	90	2.4%	42.90
Total	4,823	3,749	100%	-22.3%

* (Domestic entities are entities organized in Idaho)

** (Foreign entities are entities organized outside Idaho)

*** (Business entity types not filed in these years)

Source: Idaho Secretary of State

Spending a significant amount of a household budget with local businesses, service providers and farms strengthens the economic base of the community. In contrast, large, non-local firms, buy in bulk from more distant suppliers. A creation of a coupon book that hosts a network of local independent retailers helps keep cash in the community.

Then there is the issue of the higher cost of local goods.

After all, big-box stores got to be big because their prices are low. But the difference fades once you consider the increase in local employment as well as the relationships that grow when people buy from people they know.

Furthermore, supporting independent businesses has positive benefits for not only a community’s economy but also its cultural heritage, civic engagement and environmental well-being. By supporting local trade, communities help recreate the diversity of small businesses that are flexible and can adjust to changing needs and market conditions.

One-of-a-kind businesses are also an integral part of the distinctive character of a region and benefit tourism.

Top 10 Industries to Meet Northern Idaho’s Economic Requirements					
NAICS Code	Description	\$ Required (000)	\$ Satisfied in Region (000)	Difference (000)	In Region
622110	General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	\$283,457	\$10,873	\$272,584	yes
324110	Petroleum Refineries	\$162,144	\$0	\$162,144	no
522110	Commercial Banking	\$233,055	\$138,542	\$94,514	yes
541330	Engineering Services	\$86,362	\$5,303	\$81,059	yes
611310	Colleges, Universities and Professional Schools	\$76,936	\$10	\$76,926	yes
524126	Direct Property and Casualty Insurance Carriers	\$83,321	\$8,686	\$74,635	yes
551114	Corporate, Subsidiary and Regional Managing Offices	\$118,113	\$45,479	\$72,635	yes
325412	Pharmaceutical Preparation Manufacturing	\$73,795	\$3,790	\$70,005	yes
511210	Software Publishers	\$72,125	\$12,197	\$59,927	yes
524113	Direct Life Insurance Carriers	\$55,327	\$225	\$55,102	yes

Note: Requirements less than \$1k are not shown.

Source: EMSI

“When people go on vacation they generally seek out destinations that offer them the sense of being someplace, not just anyplace,” according to the National Historic Preservation Trust.

When needs are met by locally owned enterprises, money is recycled through the community – not leaked into the global financial drain. Jobs are more secure, economies are more stable, and there are the means and the incentives to protect the environment and build the mutual trust and responsibility that are the foundation of community.

Exports bring outside dollars into a region while imports ship cash out. When exports exceed imports, a community gains economically. But when there is an import gap – the need to go outside to satisfy local demand – a regional economy can become less self-reliant, more vulnerable to economic events elsewhere.

There are 10 main industries in northern Idaho that would need to be further developed or brought to the region to reduce the region’s overall import dependence.

Although all of these industries have high import dependence, not all can be viably integrated into the regional economy.

While commercial banking had the smallest import gap, it also relied on out-of-region providers for many of the services it requires, suggesting a greater potential than other sectors for securing services locally if those services can be provided. What makes hospitals high on the list is their dependence on managing offices and support from outside the region.

Of course, it may not always be feasible or desirable to meet all the region's needs locally. But those that do can provide opportunity for job growth and further develop regional initiatives.

There are many well-documented benefits of choosing local, independently owned businesses to communities and their residents. Consumers cannot always get what they need or want locally, but it is important to at least Think Local FIRST!

As the nation limps through the recession, many towns and cities are hurting. "Buy-local" campaigns can help economies withstand the downturn by recirculating local dollars with as little leakage possible.

Alivia.Body@labor.idaho.gov, *Regional Economist*
(208) 457-8789 ext. 3486



"Buy Local" is a theme spreading across the country in large cities such as the city of Portland, Ore., to mid-sized cities like Boise, to small cities like Rathdrum. The logos for all three campaigns are pictured above.



UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO PREPARES FOR THE GREEN ECONOMY

No organization plays a greater role in preparing the state for future green jobs than the University of Idaho. Because of its research and education programs in science, engineering, agriculture, hydrology, forestry and architecture, the university develops and teaches technologies for energy efficiency, alternative energy production, environmental protection, sustainable agriculture and eco-friendly building practices. Its research leads to the creation of new companies with a green focus. Its inventory of buildings and land both in Moscow and elsewhere in Idaho can model sustainable practices.

The College of Natural Resources – which includes forestry, rangeland management, ecology, conservation biology, fish and wildlife and resource tourism – offers one of the largest natural resources undergraduate and graduate programs in the country.

“The green economy is a rapidly growing billion-dollar sector that includes renewable energy sources, organic produce and products, green buildings, alternative fuel vehicles, sustainable building and much more,” according to its website. A graduate from the College of Natural Resources will be “ready to jump in and contribute to this thriving sector of our economy.”

About 500 undergraduates and 200 postgraduates were enrolled this spring in natural resource programs. Another 1,300 undergraduates and 300 graduate students were enrolled in agricultural, engineering, architectural and scientific majors with emphasis on green technology.

The university devotes considerable resources to researching green technologies. Its architecture school and engineering college conduct research on ecologically friendly building practices, energy efficiency and techniques for restoring and preserving land. The College of Natural Resources houses one of the largest genetics laboratories in the nation. It also has an experimental forest and a wilderness field station. Several research projects focus on biomass and other forms of bioenergy.

Techniques for water, energy and soil conservation are developed by the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and taught to farmers by its extension agents. It also conducts research on bioenergy including biodiesel. The geology department offers a unique teaching and research environment at its campus groundwater laboratory for the study of ground water resources and hydrogeology.

A \$20 million grant to conduct research on regional climate change awarded earlier this year is an example of the green projects the university undertakes. The five-year study focuses on how climate change could affect wheat and barley production in the Palouse and Columbia River basins. Researchers will monitor changes in climate throughout the region, interview stakeholders and determine what policies should be developed to keep agricultural systems sustainable. They will look at ways to mitigate climate change including soil conservation, weed and pest control and cropping systems.

Researchers recently landed a \$438,000 federal grant to develop a sustainable livestock food system in the Pacific Northwest. The project, stemming from an ongoing collaboration between the University of Idaho, local livestock producers and nonprofit organizations, will generate a roadmap to grow the diversity of the livestock food system, reduce the long-term risks and costs associated with environmental impacts and increase local and regional economic vitality. Previous efforts identified necessary components for a regional livestock food system, focusing on small producers. They included mechanisms for commercial processing and marketing.

The university constantly adapts courses and introduces programs to reflect changing technologies and emerging occupations. In recent years, the school has responded similarly to the growth of green jobs. One example of building valuable, real-world skills for the emerging green economy is a new internship program that provides energy efficiency evaluations for small businesses in northern Idaho. Last summer, the university introduced an innovative, interdisciplinary Professional Science Master’s in Natural Resources and Environmental Science. It challenges students to synthesize diverse perspec-

tives and integrate knowledge from several academic colleges to foster greater understanding of the scientific, political and economic impacts of environmental issues. Students choose one of seven tracks — restoration ecology, environmental contamination, sustainability science, water resources management, climate change and management of regulated river systems and ecohydrology science and management.

A student-run Sustainability Center funded through student fees works in tandem with the faculty- and staff-led Sustainable Idaho initiative infuse sustainable considerations into the university's culture, curriculum and operations and create opportunities for student engagement. This collaboration recently sponsored the fourth annual President's Sustainability Conference — a three-day series of lectures, films, workshops, industry round tables and site tours. Wrapping up this year's conference was a workshop on sustainable community planning with walking tours showcasing sustainability in action around Moscow.

The university has committed itself to making the campus as green as possible. Its Sustainable Building Policy requires all new buildings and major remodels to meet the Silver LEED standard, ensuring a higher level of energy efficiency than previously required in a drive to make the campus carbon-neutral by 2030.

The school is implementing \$35 million in energy conservation measures along with increasing the recycling rate on campus to 40 percent from the current 14 percent. In recent years, the overall waste stream has been reduced by 10 percent.

To strengthen biodiversity, the Sustainability Center created the Get Rooted program two years ago, and over 1,000 students and other volunteers have worked to replant the campus and the surrounding community with native trees and Palouse prairie plants. Since 2006, students have been working on a wetland restoration project on the state line, converting a degraded water treatment site into a community wildlife park.

The university's heating system is a model for woody biomass utilization. In 1986, the school had a woodchip-fueled boiler built as a backup to the existing boiler. But it was so efficient that it became the main boiler that runs about 95 percent of the time. The cost of heating with woody biomass is a third or less the cost of heating with natural gas. Steam is used to provide hot water and to heat and air condition the buildings. A 2011 research grant focused on converting woody biomass to energy enabled a pilot-scale pyrolysis unit to be installed at the steam plant. Pyrolysis is a type of incineration that uses almost no oxygen and generates substantial amounts of clean energy while producing very small amounts of waste.

Through technology transfer, the university also generates green jobs. Among the green companies that resulted from its research are EcoAnalysts Inc., the largest bioassessment laboratory in North America; GoNano Technologies, a developer of nanosprings that won a grant last year from the National Science Foundation to continue developing carbon capture and recovery technology; IVUS Energy Innovations, which makes environmentally friendly, ultrastrong flashlights; Anatech Labs, an environmental analytical laboratory specializing in drinking water, wastewater, hazardous waste and

soil analysis; and Blue Water Technologies, which designs and builds systems for removing phosphorous, nutrients and other impurities from water.

Kathryn.Tacke@labor.idaho.gov, *Regional Economist*
(208) 799-5000 ext. 3984



GETTING ENERGY FROM TRASH

Every community has to deal with solid waste. Landfills use up valuable space and often create environmental problems. In 2009 the United States produced 243 million tons of solid waste, triple the amount of trash the nation generated in 1960.

Progress is being made, but is it fast enough? According to the Environmental Protection Agency, in 2009 33.8 percent of America's solid waste went through some type of recycling process. In 1960 only 6.4 percent of solid waste was recycled.

In 2009, 95.7 percent of auto batteries, 74.2 percent of office-type paper, 66 percent of steel cans, 59.9 percent of yard trimmings and 50.7 of aluminum beverage cans were recycled.

Last year MSW Green, a Utah-based firm, had an exciting proposal for Bingham County officials. The firm offered to handle Bingham County's solid waste and turn it into energy, and the county took up the challenge.

Unfortunately for Bingham County – and MSW Green – it has not worked. Currently, the contract between MSW Green and Bingham County is in the courts.

While Bingham County's project was not successful, electricity can be generated by burning municipal solid waste as a fuel. Solid waste power plants, also called waste to energy plants, are a green technology designed to dispose of solid waste and to produce electricity as a byproduct of incineration.

The process of converting solid waste into electrical power is one that has been practiced in many regions of the United States. In 1998 17 percent of U.S. solid waste was burned to produce electricity, 55 percent was disposed in landfills and 28 percent was recovered for reuse, according to the EPA. Presently, enough power comes from solid waste conversion to support about 2 million U.S. homes.

According to PowerScorecard.org, there are two major techniques for converting solid waste into electrical power in the U.S.

Mass burn is the most common. Solid waste is burned directly in much the same way as fossil fuels are burned directly to generate power. Burning solid waste converts water to steam to drive a turbine connected to an electricity generator.

The second is refuse-derived fuel. Here facilities process solid waste prior to combustion. The level of pre-combustion processing varies among facilities but generally involves shredding the waste and removing metals and other bulky items not likely to burn well. The shredded waste is then used as fuel in the same manner as a mass burn plant.

Besides producing electricity and reducing waste by 90 percent, burning solid waste has some surprising environmental benefits. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, burning at extremely high tempera-

tures destroys chemical compounds and disease-causing bacteria. Regular testing ensures that residual ash is non-hazardous before being placed in a landfill. About 10 percent of the total ash formed in the combustion process is used beneficially as daily cover in landfills and on road construction.

It is doubtful that waste will ever go away. But burning solid waste could play a role in helping Idaho produce more affordable energy in the future while eliminating excess waste.

Dan.Cravens@labor.idaho.gov, *Regional Economist*
(208) 236-6710 ext. 3713



CEDA EXPLORES GREEN JOB POSSIBILITIES

Clearwater Economic Development Association has taken the first step in research on north central Idaho's potential for creating jobs with a distinct environmental focus.

The association's green technology workshop March 24-25 in Moscow, organized by Michele Vachon of the University of Idaho's Building Sustainable Communities Initiative, detailed the benefits green technology brings to communities and provided some information on green initiatives. The university and CEDA staff intend to work with participants on a strategy for developing a work force for green jobs.

Among the green industries likely to grow in the region are alternative energy production and forest restoration. The Clearwater Basin Collaborative will create about 300 jobs focusing on forest restoration in the Clearwater and Nez Perce national forests over the next 10 years. Several communities in north central Idaho – particularly Clearwater County and Elk City in Idaho County – are exploring the feasibility of establishing woody biomass projects. Investors have also expressed some interest in creating wind power projects in Idaho County.

The [2011 green job survey](#) recently published by the Idaho Department of Labor found that north central Idaho runs second among Idaho's six regions in green job concentration in three major occupational groups associated with green jobs – construction and extraction, architecture and engineering and life, physical and social sciences.

Many of the architectural, engineering and science jobs are associated with the University of Idaho, Lewis-Clark State College, the Nez Perce Tribe's fisheries and forest and stream restoration programs and the U.S. Forest Service. Since 73 percent of the region is covered by forests, foresters, forest technicians and related occupations also play a major role in the regional green economy.

Woody biomass utilization at sawmills also is the source of some green jobs. The survey estimates 1,284 green jobs in the region. That is about 3.1 percent of north central Idaho's payroll jobs while statewide only 2.8 percent of all jobs were considered green in the Department of Labor study.

Kathryn.Tacke@labor.idaho.gov, *Regional Economist*
(208) 799-5000 ext. 3984

POCATELLO LABOR OFFICE PROMOTES STARTUP BUSINESSES

The Kaufmann Foundation, which promotes free enterprise, found in 2010 that most new jobs in the United States are created by startup companies less than a year old. To help southeastern Idaho diversify its economy, the Idaho Department of Labor staged a high technology startup business seminar at the Pocatello office this spring.

Twenty-two potential local entrepreneurs had a chance to learn from experts and consultants who work with new high-tech businesses and share their business ideas. Participating were representatives from the Small Business Development Center in Pocatello, Technology Venture Corp., Idaho TechConnect, the Idaho Innovation Council, the Idaho Department of Labor, the intellectual property law firm of Zarian Midgley & Johnson and the Bannock Development Corp.

“The Department of Labor recognizes the importance of new startup businesses to stimulate our local economy and bring in high-tech industries to strengthen our economic diversity,” Department of Labor Pocatello Manager Kandi Rudd said.

Marsha Wright, the department’s regional business specialist, called the seminar “a beautiful example of collaboration in eastern Idaho. Large and small businesses are important to the continued growth of the ‘Corridor of Opportunity’ here in East Idaho. The seminar targeted high-tech entrepreneurial startup businesses. This was the start of creating entrepreneur networks, mentoring programs and support services strategies to boost eastern Idaho’s economy.”

Jay Larsen, founder and chief executive of the Idaho Innovation Council, outlined Idaho’s potential to create innovative companies and urged the potential entrepreneurs to “think big and outside the box.”

Several participants were interested in starting businesses that involved green technologies. Scott Vernon, who is considering a business that uses recycled materials to enhance road paving surfaces, said he learned a lot.

The seminar was an effort by the Department of Labor to support the federal government’s new Startup America Partnership and to meet Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter’s Project 60 challenge to expand Idaho’s economy by increasing its gross state product.

Startup America is a partnership between government and private enterprise designed to help encourage the founding of new high-tech businesses by helping them gain greater access to capital and technology.



“This new initiative is intended to provide increased support to aspiring entrepreneurs who ultimately drive innovation, increase competitiveness, and create jobs,” said Rodney Grzadzieleski, supervisory business development specialist for the Small Business Administration’s office in Boise.

One source of technology for Startup America is the Idaho National Laboratory. On March 28 U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced the

"America's Next Top Energy Innovator" challenge, which will give startup companies the opportunity to license groundbreaking technologies developed by the national laboratories for \$1,000 and build successful businesses. To further help new businesses, the Department of Energy is reducing both the cost and paperwork requirements for startup companies to obtain an option agreement to license many of the 15,000 patents and patent applications held by the 17 national laboratories including Idaho's.

The Idaho Department of Labor is ready to help new businesses fulfill their potential for innovation and entrepreneurialism by seeing that they have the tools they need to grow and succeed.

*Dan.Cravens@labor.idaho.gov, Regional Economist
(208) 236-6710 ext. 3713*



IDAHO FARMERS SEE SOME IMPROVEMENT IN AG

The number of farming and ranching operations in Idaho was up 200 to 25,700 in 2010 from the previous year while the count nationwide was essentially unchanged. The size of the average Idaho farm decreased three acres to 444 in 2010.

Rising milk and livestock prices combined with a modest 2 percent increase in operating costs generated a 55 percent increase in net farm income for Idaho operators in 2010. While hay, barley, potatoes and sugar beets – all important crops to south central Idaho – had a tough year, revenue from livestock and dairy accounted for 53 percent of total farm receipts.

In 2011, however, weather has wreaked havoc on farmers. Tornadoes, hurricanes and cooler-than-average temperatures have altered most commodity forecasts. Prices are all over the board but mostly higher – like the prices at the pump. Unfortunately, budget constraints have forced the National Agricultural Statistics Service at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/> to drop its quarterly farm report, which has been central to assessing agricultural prospects as the year progresses.

The University of Idaho estimated farm receipts for 2010 at \$5.78 billion, up 12 percent from 2009 when receipts fell for the first time in the last decade. Receipts hit a record \$6.3 billion in 2008. Net farm income was up \$400 million to \$1.44 billion, recovering about half the loss suffered in 2009.

Possibly the best news so far for growers in 2011 is an abundant water supply, continued high prices for wheat and a rebound in milk prices after the industry practically bled out the last couple years.

On the other hand, operating costs have been pushed up substantially by escalating oil prices, and the delay in planting due to weather spells delayed harvests that could encounter frost.

POTATOES

Idaho grows 30 percent of the nation's potatoes, more than any other state. Potatoes generated \$690 million in sales during 2010 to remain the state's top crop, but because last year's forecast was for a large supply, farm gate prices were 13 percent lower, and production yields were disappointing, pulling down sales by \$96 million or 12 percent. This combination has made for higher prices in 2011 with some inventories commanding \$14 per hundred pounds compared to \$7 in 2010. Potato stocks are projected to be down

28 percent from last spring – the lowest since 1991. Acres planted are also down from previous years, contributing to stronger prices. March fresh pack prices were at \$10.20 compared to March 2010 at \$2.90. Potatoes bound for processing plants are holding steady year-over-year, likely the result of existing contracts.

An issue is the continuing fallout from the potato cyst nematode scare of 2006. It has not been found beyond Shelley, but Japan will not accept potato imports if the origin was Idaho seed.

WHEAT

Wheat was the second highest revenue producer in Idaho and has been for most of the decade. Prices started upward in 2007 and 2008, caused by shortages in large-grain producing countries such as Russia and Australia, and they have continued to rise. Regionally, the winter wheat crop is running about 25 percent later than usual. The majority of the spring wheat has been planted, but initial growth is about 10 percent behind the average.

Exports of Idaho wheat were strong in the first quarter of 2011, more than doubling foreign sales during 2010’s first quarter. Higher prices – as much as 40 percent to \$7 a bushel – were a primary factor.

Description	U.S. Dollar			% Share			%Δ 11/10
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011	
Cereals	1,658,656	5,690,012	11,288,709	100.00	100.00	100.00	98.40
Wheat And Meslin (non-durum wheat)	1,128,451	4,977,879	10,848,745	68.03	87.48	96.10	117.94
Barley	131,411	127,181	298,759	7.92	2.24	2.65	134.91
Corn (Maize)	333,604	573,852	133,283	20.11	10.09	1.18	-76.77
Millet	65,190	11,100	0	3.93	.20	0.00	-100.00

Source: World Trade Statistics, First Quarter 2011

HAY

Idaho’s hay inventory remains low. Stocks are 64 percent off last year, which was down 38 percent from 2009. With the delay in growth due to cooler temps, production is expected to be down because late season fourth and fifth cuttings will likely be lost. That has nearly doubled prices in the face of production falling short of 2010’s crop. Supreme quality hay is pulling in over \$200 a ton. Conversely, the national stock pile of hay is up 6 percent, resulting in a lower price nationwide.

The dairies provide much of the demand for hay throughout south central Idaho. Most dairies attempt to internally meet some of their needs, but an estimated 80 percent is purchased from outside sources.

“Alfalfa has key environmental benefits that will keep it as an important component of sustainable agricultural systems in the future,” says Dan Putnam, extension forage specialist for the University of California at Davis. Alfalfa has a root system stretching almost 50 feet deep and infuses nitrogen into the soil rather than requiring nitrogen to grow.

SUGAR BEETS

Sugar beets were one of the underperformers in 2010. Farm receipts were down 2 percent from 2009. Planting this year is behind schedule, and many producers in Minidoka and Cassia counties have already had to replant. Still acreage is expected to set a record. It appears Idaho will plant the third most acres in the nation behind Minnesota and North Dakota. Yields depend on fall weather and avoiding a freeze. Idaho accounted for 19 percent of American sugar beet production in 2009.

Seedlings that are Round Up-resistant create some concern for producers since some buyers still question whether genetically engineered products are safe for the environment and human consumption. A court has allowed planting genetically engineered seeds under certain conditions for now. A thorough environmental impact statement will be completed prior to a final judicial ruling.

CORN

Statewide, field corn acres are estimated to be up 22 percent from 2010, which could be a new high for the state. Dairies and feedlots remain the big consumers. An ethanol plant gets most of its stock from the Midwest. Nationally, corn acreage is up 5 percent.

Corn demand domestically has been high for food, not livestock, which are the main consumers in south central Idaho. Major food processors have shifted from canning sweet corn to a frozen product.

Prices are anticipated to be up this year due to continued economic recovery nationally and globally as consumers have a greater ability to purchase higher priced items such as meat, poultry and dairy products. The weak dollar has been advantageous for those marketing to foreign buyers.

MILK

Dairy has out-produced other agricultural sectors for most of the decade, exceeding \$2 billion in farm receipts during 2007 and 2008 before prices began falling toward the end of 2008. Farm receipts from 2009 to 2010 increased by 36 percent while dairy exports grew significantly – whey up \$8.9 million and butter up \$11.3 million. Cheese saw export flurry as well jumping \$6 million. March saw milk prices rebound to \$20 per hundred pounds.

Description	U.S. Dollar			% Share			%Δ 11/10
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011	
Dairy,Eggs,Honey,Etc	20,377,423	24,544,322	67,774,905	100	100	100	176.13
Whey,Other Milk							
Prods	9,366,013	14,255,983	23,149,744	45.96	58.08	34.16	62.39
Milk,Cream							
Conc,Sweet	9,710,996	4,389,204	21,411,582	47.66	17.88	31.59	387.82
Milk	365,968	2,072,663	13,333,706	1.8	8.44	19.67	543.31
Cheese And Curd	934,446	3,826,472	9,870,693	4.59	15.59	14.56	157.96
Bird Egg+Shell	0	0	9,180	0	0	0.01	

Source: World Trade Statistics, First Quarter 2011

Jan.Roeser@labor.idaho.gov, Regional Economist
(208) 735-2500 ext. 3639



Area and County Developments

NORTHERN IDAHO

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai & Shoshone counties

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- Telect Inc., the Liberty Lake-based developer and manufacturer of telecommunication-connectivity equipment, moved its headquarters to a larger leased space about a half-mile away from its previous location. Center Partners, the call-center with facilities in Post Falls and Coeur d'Alene, is also in the early stages of applying for a building permit with the city of Liberty Lake to make improvements to Telect's former headquarters.
- Post Falls-based contractor CMEC Inc. has landed a contract for nearly \$1 million of the \$6 million remodel and addition project at the Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., exchange store. CMEC, a general construction and construction management firm, is a disabled veteran-owned business that does federal contract work. The majority of the company's work is in remodeling and reconstructing.
- Coeur d'Alene-based Contractors Northwest Inc. has won a more than \$3 million contract to improve a portion of the city drinking water system in Emmett. The project includes construction of two steel-tank water reservoirs, installation of water-filtration equipment and a 3,000-square-foot building to house that equipment, which will be tied into two of the city's wells.

BENEWAH COUNTY

- The Coeur d'Alene Tribe has spent \$75 million to expand and upgrade its resort and casino in Worley that includes a 15,000-square-foot spa and indoor pool, 98 new hotel rooms and a 120-seat steakhouse. The tribe estimates that the expansion will create 150 new jobs.
- Record-breaking rain in March accompanied by continued rain and unseasonably cold temperatures in April may force grain farmers to plant later than usual. Federal crop insurance will not cover spring wheat planted after May 15.
- The Coeur d'Alene Tribe received a \$500,000 federal grant to update 35 residential rental units in the Plummer-Worley area on the tribe's reservation. The Indian Community Development Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will finance renovation and energy-conserving upgrades for affordable housing tribal members live in on the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation.
- Circling Raven Golf Club was named one of "America's 100 greatest public courses" by Golf Digest magazine. This is a biennial rating program and the second consecutive time Circling Raven has earned top 100 status. More than 13,500 courses are evaluated nationwide.

BONNER COUNTY

- The Idaho Transportation Board approved \$11.8 million to widen U.S. Highway 95 to four lanes from Sandpoint through Ponderay. A traffic signal will be installed at Bonner Mall Way and a separated pedestrian path will extend from the south end of the project to Bonner Mall Way.
- Selkirk-Pend Oreille Transit, Bonner County's fixed-route bus system, is expected to debut in June. The route begins in Dover, heading up Highway 2 into Sandpoint. From there, the bus hits prominent stops along Division Street, curves eastward onto Boyer Avenue and makes a pass through downtown Sandpoint before heading up Highway 2 to key shopping stops like Bonner Mall and Walmart. Finally, the bus moves along Kootenai Cutoff Road to major locations in Ponderay and Kootenai.

BOUNDARY COUNTY

- The Bonners Ferry Fire Department received a granite stone from Idaho Granite Works with the names of past volunteer fire fighters who have died.

KOOTENAI COUNTY

- The Coeur d'Alene School District is working with Kootenai Medical Center to provide special-education high school students intensive on-the-job training. Project SEARCH is a national program to help those with mental and physical disabilities transition from school to work, immersing students in a workplace environment for a year, giving them the chance to explore possible careers while still being supported by professionals.
- The Union Gospel Mission Association of Spokane plans to break ground this month in Coeur d'Alene on a \$6 million, 27,000-square-foot transitional housing and recovery services center for women and children.
- The city of Spirit Lake has received a \$500,000 Idaho Community Development Block Grant to help revitalize Maine Street from Highway 41 to Third Avenue and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Data networking business Ednetics Inc. in Post Falls is finishing a new \$7.5 million, 32,000-square-foot corporate headquarters next to the University of Idaho Research Park.
- The Post Falls Chamber of Commerce business fair drew more than 1,000 attendees and 97 companies, 20 more than last year's fair. The fair provides an opportunity for citizens to mingle with businesses and groups in the community.
- Idaho Department of Labor consultant Robert Shoeman, who works in the Kootenai County office in Post Falls, has been named by the American Legion as one of the nation's best in assisting unemployed veterans and disabled veterans. A Vietnam-era Navy veteran, Shoeman has been a local veterans employment representative for the past 10 years. He is the co-chairman of the North Idaho Veterans Stand Down Committee, the state chairman of the American Legion Economic Committee and the employer outreach director for northern Idaho's employer support of the guard and reserve organization. Shoeman was also given the volunteer service award by former President George W. Bush.

- The Silverwood Theme Park wants to rezone 95 adjacent acres for future expansion. The 216-acre park currently has more than 65 rides, slides, shows and attractions. Silverwood is investing \$2 million on new attractions at its water park including the "Richocet Rapids" raft ride. The park wants the area rezoned now in advance of proposed transportation projects.
- Parker Automotive Inc. has bought the Subaru dealership in Post Falls and renamed it Parker Subaru. The dealership, formerly Select Subaru, had been a subsidiary of Midway Automotive Group Inc., which had three separate dealerships on the east end of Post Falls. Parker Subaru has retained most of Select's 20 employees and plans to expand the staff to 30.
- Hundreds of middle and high school students sampled a taste of blue collar work at the fourth annual Hard Hats, Hammers and Hot Dogs event, where the young people got a chance to use equipment for construction, logging and a multitude of other trades at the Kootenai County Fairgrounds.
- Construction has begun on Love's Travel Stop off Interstate 90 west of Post Falls. With completion planned for September, the development will include a 9,000-square-foot building with a 24-hour country store, truck tire center, 24 fuel pumps, a Carl's Jr. restaurant and a game room and office.

SHOSHONE COUNTY

- Lucky Friday Mine resumed production in Mullan after a two-week shutdown during attempts to rescue Larry Marek. Hecla suspended operations April 15 when a roof collapse in a tunnel more than a mile underground trapped Marek, 53, who died before rescuers could reach him.
- The price of silver is soaring, and the U.S. Mint cannot keep up with the demand for Silver Eagle dollar coins, boosting prospects for the Coeur d'Alene mining district. U.S. Silver Corp., owner of the Galena Mine, ended 2010 with a 270 percent increase in operating cash flow, largely the result a worldwide increase in silver prices, which hit \$50 an ounce. That was the highest price since a brief boom-and-bust in 1980-1981. Gold is historically the most sought-after precious metal. However, silver is projected to perform as much as 400 percent better than gold, mostly driven by industrial demand. Currently, 40 percent of silver production is funneled into the technology industry as a conductor in electronics like cell phones, circuit boards, solar batteries, water purifiers and plasma TVs. Demand from large industrialized nations like India and China will also have major long-term impacts on silver prices. According to the Wall Street Journal, global demand is expected to jump 36 percent by 2015.
- United Mining Group Inc. may reopen the Crescent Silver Mine in Big Creek east of Kellogg later this year. The company acquired 80 percent ownership of the mine through an earn-in agreement a year ago. In January, the company continued building the final 650 feet of the planned Hooper Tunnel extension. Scheduled for completion in the second quarter of 2011, the 1,100-foot extension will allow for further underground drilling.

OPENINGS

- Trendz Salon in Priest River
- Ugly Fish Restaurant at Coeur d'Alene's Riverstone
- Relief Workers Massage in Coeur d'Alene
- Tequila Joe's in Hayden
- MoonDollars Restaurant in Rathdrum
- Sandy's Take & Bake Pizza in Coeur d'Alene
- Organize by Design in St. Maries
- Frosted Cupcakes in Coeur d'Alene
- Coeur d'Alene Audio in Coeur d'Alene
- Midtown Salon in Coeur d'Alene
- BioLife in Hayden

EXPANSIONS

- Peck Landscape Supplies in Sagle expanded with a new farm store
- Blue Dog RV expanded into a new facility in Post Falls

CLOSURES

- Good Pickins thrift store in Coeur d'Alene
- Thee Place Salon in Coeur d'Alene

Alivia.Body@labor.idaho.gov, *Regional Economist*
(208) 769-1558 ext. 3486

NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO

Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce counties

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

NEZ PERCE TRIBE

- Appaloosa Express recently received a \$250,000 award from the Federal Transit Administration's Tribal Transit Program to continue operating three fixed routes and complimentary paratransit service. "We have been pleased with the growth of Appaloosa Express and look forward to the possibility of expanding services in Idaho County," tribal Transportation Planner Mary Beth Frank said. Operated by the tribe and headquartered in Lapwai, Appaloosa Express serves all residents, offering regular bus service between Lewiston and Lapwai, Orofino and Lapwai and Orofino and Kooskia.

CLEARWATER COUNTY

- On the final day of the session, the Idaho Legislature approved money to renovate the old Pierce elementary school so it can qualify for the National Guard's Youth Challenge program. Currently offered in 28 states, boot camp-style academies help high school dropouts 16 to 18 years old get their lives back on track. The 22-week residential program is followed by a year of mentoring with volunteers. Every year, the program will hold two classes of 125 students. The school, which will employ about 50, is expected to open in mid-2012.
- Darren and Lori Turner, owners of Alpine Heating and Sheet Metal, have had problems finding shop space in Orofino so they are building their own. When the business complex is completed this fall, it will have space for four businesses plus their own, which they are currently running from their home.

- The Idaho Department of Labor held a career fair at the city park in Orofino April 28. Representatives from a wide variety of businesses offered high school and middle school students from throughout north central Idaho glimpses of career opportunities. A high point for many was the opportunity to operate heavy equipment including a front-end loader, grader, skidder, feller buncher and dump truck.
- The Clearwater County commission signed an emergency declaration in April after heavy spring rains and rapid snowmelt caused landslides and high water that damaged county roads. The county wants state and federal assistance to cover the estimated \$2.5 million in road repairs. The county was included in an emergency declaration by the governor for flood and landslide damage March 31 through April 11.

IDAHO AND LEWIS COUNTIES

- Idaho and Lewis counties were among six counties hit by flooding and landslides in early April and covered by Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter’s emergency declaration. Idaho County problems included washouts, mudslides, asphalt separation and culvert failure. Officials estimate repairs to county roads will cost \$2.5 million. Three highway districts—Keuterville, Good Roads and Deer Creek — reported another \$300,000 damages. This is the second year in row that Idaho County has declared a disaster. Last spring, heavy runoff from streams washed away sections of road and culvert near Kamiah, Kooskia and Stites. In Lewis County, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game took special action to make quick repairs at Winchester Lake, where overflowing waters threatened to wash away part of the dam.
- The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has ruled that Allied Wireless Communications Corp., which operates as Alltel Wireless, is eligible to receive federal assistance under the Universal Service Fund to expand its wireless network to serve several rural areas of Idaho. The fund was created by Congress to ensure that rural consumers have access to the same telecommunications services as urban customers at about the same cost. The state decision means Alltel will provide service to the community of Warren in a remote area of Idaho County. Although Warren is often referred to as a ghost town, it has been occupied continuously since gold was discovered there in 1862. About 15 people live there year-round, and another 50 live there during the summer.
- Unusually cool, rainy and windy April weather kept tourists away from Lowell, Syringa and other rural communities, reducing the numbers of anglers, rafters and other visitors in the Lochsa-Selway area. Tourist activity began heating up in early May, and a surge in reservations suggests this will be a busy summer.

LATAH COUNTY

- The steering committee is formalizing its plan for an industrial park in Potlatch, and Welch Comer Engineers recently completed surveys of wetland areas and floodplains on the 70 acres donated by Potlatch Corp. The park would have mixed uses including some residential, entertainment and recreational opportunities such as a golf course. Ideally, it would pro-

vide jobs in several sectors, including manufacturing and other industries. Located between U.S. Highway 95 and the Potlatch Depot, the property already has water and sewer infrastructure and highway access. Potlatch City Council Member Dave Cada said the city is in the process of recreating the community planned by founder Potlatch Corp. “The heyday of this community is in the future,” Cada said.



Growth in demand for garbanzos, dried peas and lentils combined with increased emphasis on quality led the Pacific Northwest Farmers Co-operative to have its food safety system certified. The co-op of 750 farmers, headquartered in Genesee, operates 26 processing facilities throughout the Palouse with a total storage capacity of over 14 million bushels. It currently employs 37 people in Genesee and another 41 at its other locations. With technical guidance from TechHelp, a partnership of Idaho's three universities, the co-op adopted quality assurance procedures and installed \$1.8 million in new equipment. The changes start with growers and extend throughout the process to packaging garbanzo beans, lentils and dried peas. In the plant, an electric eye that can look at 32 million legumes per hour inspects the color of each bean and sorts out those that aren't up to standards. The improvements enabled the co-op to add six workers, retain \$10 million in sales and it increased sales by another \$3.1 million.

- Roger Brown's retail business is unique and shows how innovative rural Idahoans are at creating employment for themselves and others. Steam-punked Out sells items that rely on steam- or spring-powered technology used from 1837 to 1901. The business Brown runs out of his Troy home takes its name from a science fiction sub-genre often set in the Victorian era that has spawned many books and conventions around the United States. Among the many Steampunk items Brown makes are wall sconces, mechanical bracers, jewelry and leather gun holsters and pouches. He showcases his products on the Internet and at the Troy Creative Co-Op, which showcases handmade and locally grown items. The co-op is managed by Troy Horizons, a local economic development group.
- The Moscow City Council is shelving the West Palouse River Drive ball fields. The projected \$7.8 million cost is too high in a still sluggish economy.
- Bovill residents are vocally opposing closure of their post office – one of 15 in Washington and Idaho targeted in budget cuts. At an April meeting with Postal Service representatives, 70 residents said a post office is a critical piece of infrastructure. Bovill is a logging community with a population of 260, about half the level in 1950. If the office closed, mail would most likely be handled through the Deary Post Office 11 miles away. That would pose difficulties for many residents. “We have quite a large retiree group in this community, and we have several people who are home-bound, and they depend on family members and friends that are up in age themselves to go to the post office and get their mail,” Mayor Janiece Atkins said. Bovill's population could also grow if the I-Minerals quartz, feldspar and clay mine opens, creating about 40 jobs. The only employers

now are Bailey's Tavern and an elementary school. After the other businesses died, the post office became the town hub. No decision has been made.



Agriculture and chemistry students at Troy Junior-Senior High School are learning about a growing green energy field. They are processing their own biodiesel on school property using locally grown rapeseed. The students use the biodiesel to run various motors in the ag shop. The program, which is the first of its kind in Idaho, is now in its fourth year and involves more than 100 students. It was named an exemplary program this year by the Northwest Accreditation Commission.

NEZ PERCE AND ASOTIN COUNTIES

- Downtown Lewiston is the future home of the Lewiston library. The library board has chosen to move the library downtown from the Lewiston Orchards area of town. The new building will provide more than three times the space of the current building acquired in 1970. It will allow the library to greatly expand the number of computers available to the public. After a complete remodel, the library probably will move into the new space in the fall of 2012. Officials of the Beautiful Downtown Lewiston organization believe the library will help downtown revitalization.
- Lewis-Clark State College held a three-day symposium in early May on the research conducted by its students and faculty. Nearly 160 presentations were made. The annual symposium ran concurrently with the annual Author Recognition Program, featuring the creative work of faculty and staff authors. Much of the student research done at the school comes out of the senior capstone courses required for many majors. The symposium provides students an opportunity to hone their professional presentation skills and enriches their efforts by connecting the insulated world of the classroom to the practical experience of life. Presentations covered the hard sciences and professional-technical programs as well as liberal arts and business.
- The Idaho Small Business Development Center on the Lewis-Clark State College campus has been serving businesses of all kinds throughout north central Idaho for 25 years. Director Jill Thomas-Jorgenson said that businesses that work with the center are four times more likely to succeed. "Generally they think that we help startup businesses, which we do," Thomas-Jorgenson said. "One of our primary activities is assistance with business planning, so we get a lot of business referrals from banks. If somebody goes in and they want to borrow money and they don't have a business plan, they say go to the SBDC." But the center also spends a lot of time helping existing businesses. It provides no-cost consulting, low-cost training courses and in recent years has been helping unemployed people examine the possibilities of starting their own ventures and existing businesses deal with cash flow, declining customer bases, the need to cut costs and other issues. A Small Business of the Year award recently was given to Spot On Yogurt that took advantage of everything the center has to offer. The self-serve frozen yogurt bar in Lewiston approached the center before opening and credits the center with its success in financing, marketing and other aspects of business startup.

OPENINGS

- Elite Repeats, a consignment store in Orofino
- Ernie's Man Cave, a lounge serving food in Grangeville
- Fiesta En Jalisco, a Mexican restaurant in Orofino
- Gnosh at the Red Door, a restaurant serving cocktails, steaks and Basque, Caribbean, Japanese and Korean dishes in Moscow
- Harebrained and Happy, a gift and espresso store featuring handcrafted items and lotions made by owner Ashley Glassman in Potlatch
- Integrated Personnel Inc., an employment service for temporary and permanent general and skilled laborers and clerical personnel in Lewiston
- Pie Hole, a restaurant specializing in pizza by the slice and employing 15 people in Moscow
- Riversong, a gift and collectibles shop at the Chukar Point development south of Riggins

EXPANSIONS

- ClearView Eye Clinic in Moscow

Kathryn.Tacke@labor.idaho.gov, Regional Economist
(208) 769-1558 ext. 3486

SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO

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

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

ADA COUNTY

- POD Inc., a New Mexico-based information technology company, wants to open an office in Boise after securing contracts with the state. The company will hire 20 information technology professionals, but the overall economic impact will be minimal since the local companies that didn't receive the contracts will likely reduce payrolls.
- Micron Technology Inc. may sell its Japanese manufacturing plant to TowerJazz, an Israeli company. The current sales price is \$140 million. If the deal occurs, Micron would own 6 percent of TowerJazz.
- The J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation has donated the rest of the cash needed to begin construction of the Boise River Recreation Park for kayakers and river enthusiasts. Wave generators and boulder obstacles among other features will be added to the river. The Albertson Foundation donation was its second, bringing the total contribution to the park to \$1.7 million. Construction will begin this fall.

CANYON COUNTY

- Ground was broken in early April for a 35-acre medical/retail complex. Tenants of the \$25 million complex include St. Luke's and Saltzer Medical Group. St. Luke's will employ roughly 300 people there. According to Economic Modeling Specialists Inc., the construction phase will employ over 220.
- XL Four Star Beef announced in early April that it will be shutting down the Nampa plant on June 7. More than 520 workers will lose their jobs.

- The College of Western Idaho will be increasing its tuition by 5.4 percent, or \$7, from \$129 to \$136 per credit hour. The increase is less than the increases at Idaho's public universities, which range from 5 percent to 8.4 percent.

GEM COUNTY

- The Emerald Forest Products mill in Emmett is planning to close for about four months to make capital improvements. The temporary closure is in addition to an announcement made by Boise Cascade earlier in the month stating that it would be relocating its facility to Owyhee County. The preliminary unadjusted unemployment rate in Gem County for March is 14 percent, which has been increasing since the beginning of the year. Between the two mill layoffs, which account for about 85 workers, Gem County could see its unemployment rate increase by over 1 percentage point.

OWYHEE COUNTY

- Silver Falcon Mining wants to expand its facility in Owyhee County to incorporate chemicals in its refining process. Currently, 28 people are employed at the site. The effect on employment of the proposed expansion is unknown.

VALLEY COUNTY

- Tamarack Resort broke even for the 2010-2011 ski season after missing the 2009-2010 season. The hill employed over 100 people through the season and operated under a \$1.4 million budget. More than 600 passes have been sold in advance for the 2011-2012 season.

*John.VanDyke@labor.idaho.gov, Regional Economist
(208) 332-3570, ext. 3199*

SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO

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

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

BLAINE COUNTY

- Mountain Rides, the public transportation service in Blaine County, received a grade of 3.7 out of 4.0 from its riders. Only three of the 174 surveyed gave a rating below 3. Riders on one route have formed a social organization and estimate they have saved over 5,500 pounds of carbon dioxide this winter by riding instead of driving to the ski slopes.
- The Hailey City Council voted to accept eight parcels of the Old Cutters development in lieu of \$2.5 million in annexation fees only to reverse the decision two weeks later. The developer had previously negotiated with the city to provide water rights in lieu of meeting the community housing requirements. The council was divided on the issue since much of the community has been hit hard by the real estate crisis. The mayor backed the deal as a means of compromise but later the entire council would not agree on mutual terms regarding the sale of development parcels. It is anticipated the development will go back to the financier, Mountain West Bank.

- The Hailey City Council is reducing on-street parking and replacing some sidewalks with landscaping to secure a \$3.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. The grant will finance road resurfacing, a roundabout, bike paths and new sidewalks.
- Sun Valley had the fifth best season for snowfall this past winter. The skier count was 407,500, up 2 percent from the previous year.
- New locally crafted beers are being produced by Sawtooth Brewery and introduced in the Wood River Valley. The owners are searching for a physical home in Ketchum to showcase their beers. There are two other breweries in Hailey that welcome the competition.

GOODING COUNTY

- Idaho Power Co. shut down operations at its Thousand Springs plant for six months for maintenance. Water will be flowing out of the canyon wall at Thousand Springs at a rate of 300 cubic feet per second.



Fourth-year veterinary students from Washington State University spent two weeks at the Aquaculture Research Institute and Hagerman Fish Culture Experiment Station studying “Fish Diseases and Health Management.” It was the first time in the United States that such aquaculture and fisheries training has been available to veterinary students.

MINIDOKA AND CASSIA COUNTIES

- The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation will replace its 62-year-old building with a new Upper Snake field office and warehouse in Heyburn on land purchased for \$120,000. The \$2.5 million project has been awarded to Bateman-Hall of Idaho Falls and must be completed by November 2012. Work is expected to begin this fall. Energy efficiency is a priority. The field office with 30 employees manages Minidoka, American Falls, Jackson Lake, Little Wood, Ririe, Grassy Lake, Island Park and Palisades dams and reservoirs. They supply irrigation water to about 1.2 million acres and generate 902 gigawatt hours, enough to power 62,000 homes for a year. The office also manages two wildlife mitigation areas, recreation areas on four reservoirs and switchyards and transmission lines.

TWIN FALLS

- Twin Falls revitalization efforts are focusing on updating nine downtown kiosks with new hardware and repainting them and the downtown benches. Urban renewal board members hope the work will help shift attitudes about downtown. The \$6,500 project was recommended by the downtown consultant who is paid \$5,000 a month.
- St. Luke’s Magic Valley Regional Medical Center held its Dedication Community Celebration May 6 – the first of a series of events for the community to familiarize itself with the new facility. Lt. Gov. Brad Little delivered the keynote address. The \$238 million complex is expected to have an economic impact of \$600 million. St. Luke’s is the largest employer in south central Idaho with over 2,000 employees in the Twin Falls and Ketchum hospitals and medical offices.
- The city of Twin Falls will be spending \$550,000 on seal coating this summer and another \$300,000 to rebuild a number of roads including the last

of three north-south arteries to be rebuilt. The 2011 budget is 42 percent less than 2010.

- The Magic Valley Mall's marketing director, Shellien Gilliland, released sales growth for some of its tenants, indicating the expected post-recession improvement. First quarter sales were up \$520,000 from a year earlier. The mall has announced 13 new stores in the last 12 months, pushing occupancy to 97 percent. Nationally mall occupancy has averaged 71 percent.
- The Southern Idaho Job Fair at the College of Southern Idaho was more active than last year's. Ten colleges set up booths to speak with students and job seekers along with employers. It was the ninth year the fair was sponsored by the college, the Twin Falls Times-News and the Idaho Department of Labor.
- Shoshone Falls is drawing tourists again with water flows at 14,400 cubic feet per second and increasing. The mist from the falls causes photographers to choose higher elevations. The highest recorded rates were in 1997 at 30,000 cubic feet per second.
- After a 12-year run, the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce has opted to cancel the Snake River Canyon Jam that originally started as the Rotary Club's Jazz in the Canyon. It was a business decision based on last year's dismal attendance of 516 compared to crowds of 1,500 in previous years.
- Region IV Development Corp. has officially expanded its reach beyond the Magic Valley by opening a Business Lending Solutions satellite office in downtown Boise to support activities there. Business Lending Solutions is a division of Region IV Development Corp., which will continue its mission on the campus of the College of Southern Idaho, facilitating lending to small businesses throughout southern Idaho. Programs they assist with include the U.S. Small Business Administration, USDA Business and Industry Loans, USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant Micro-Enterprise Loans, loan programs through the Idaho-Nevada Community Development Financial Institution and conventional bank loans.
- Twin Falls' Comfort Inn owned by Summit Hotel Properties of Sioux Falls, S.D., and managed by Interstate Hotels & Resorts has rebranded to the AmericInn franchise. Summit Hotel Properties owns 66 hotels in 19 states, focusing exclusively on premium-branded limited-service and select-services hotels. Interstate Hotels & Resorts is the nation's largest independent hotel management company, owning and managing over 62,000 rooms in 39 states.
- Twin Falls hosted two back-to-back weekends of soccer tournaments. The Canyon Rim Classic drew more than 100 teams from at least five states. The new tournament, the Idaho Youth Association State Cup Championship, attracted 90 teams. According to the Travel USA 2008 Visitor Report the average per person expenditures by visitors in Idaho is \$131 a day on lodging, food, retail purchases, recreation and transportation. Youth events like the soccer tournaments and the FFA State Convention really stimulate the hospitality industry.

- The College of Southern Idaho announced that 1,192 students plan to graduate this spring, roughly 200 more than last year. There was a mix of degrees and technical certificates. A smaller percentage actually walks through the graduation ceremony.
- C3 CustomerContactChannel held an anniversary celebration for its employees and community partners, with Governor CL “Butch” Otter in attendance. “We have quickly come to love the Magic Valley, its people and the community we have joined,” commented David Epstein, co-CEO of C3. “The steady support that the local team continues to receive from our community partners serves as a constant reminder to us that Twin Falls was the perfect choice for such a critical expansion. Our client satisfaction and results are phenomenal, and we are excited about the endless opportunities this next year will bring.” It was a year ago that the company committed to establishing a large-scale call center in the former Dell building.

OPENINGS

- Toughlove, a fitness studio in Ketchum selling fitness by the session rather than a set membership
- CP Capital Solutions in Twin Falls, offering financial solutions for small businesses.
- Gem State Staffing satellite office in Burley
- Norco’s recently constructed office building near the new hospital complex in Twin Falls
- MaRozie’s boutique providing a new option of women’s clothing to the Magic Valley

CLOSINGS

- The Brick House, a restaurant in Bellevue after just a year in operation.

EXPANSIONS

- DOT Foods plans to expand its freezer area in 2014 and 2015.

*Jan.Roeser@labor.idaho.gov, Regional Economist
(208) 735-2500 ext. 3639*

SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO

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

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

BANNOCK COUNTY

- The cities of Pocatello and Chubbuck have agreed to ensure that permits and inspections for the Allstate call center being built in Chubbuck are done in a timely manner. Under the agreement, Chubbuck will handle permitting issues and contract with the Pocatello for necessary building inspections. Once fully operational, the new center is expected to employ up to 600.

- The Idaho Department of Labor's Pocatello office hosted a job fair April 19 for 20 area employers. Participants included Idaho Central Credit Union, the FBI, On Semiconductor, Papa John's Pizza, Conagra, Lowe's, Health West, Idaho State University and the Social Security Administration. In addition to employers, several labor and veterans organizations were on hand, promoting their services for the more than 400 job seekers attending. Participating employers had about 75 openings to fill.

BEAR LAKE COUNTY

- The uniquely blue waters of Bear Lake draw visitors from many different states to the county. The winter and spring precipitation at 146 percent of average means high water levels that will make Bear Lake even more attractive to boaters and tourists. The extra water is also good news for the many farmers.

BINGHAM COUNTY

- The Bingham County Historical Society has moved into the 100-year-old Stanrod Bank building in downtown Blackfoot. The new location is 30 percent larger for the offices and museum that memorialize the history of the county in the settlement of the state. The museum is open every Tuesday and Wednesday and the first and last Mondays of the month from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Jensen Grove, Blackfoot's largest park, is ready for summer visitors. The head gates to the Snake River were opened in April to fill the large reservoir, which is a favorite spot for boaters. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game will plant 2,500 trout in the lake to provide for sports fishing. Four new docks have been installed on the reservoir along with a new ski-jump ramp. Last year the city renovated the lake-front amphitheater and added new playground equipment and new picnic areas.

CARIBOU COUNTY

- Officials with the Soda Springs Chamber of Commerce feel the community needs a slogan and have launched a branding campaign. The chamber wants suggestions from the community and visitors for a slogan identifying the heart of the community. Entries can be made on the Chamber's Facebook page at <http://sodachamber.com/>. The winner will receive a \$50 chamber gift certificate, two tickets to the Caribou County Fair and an associate chamber membership.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

- Vandals used shotguns to destroy shade trees and a telephone switch box at Twin Lakes Reservoir in early April. The damage was estimated at \$5,000. Reservoir officials are offering a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the vandals.

ONEIDA COUNTY

- Union Pacific Railroad and Idaho Milling and Grain officials met with Oneida County commissioners about rebuilding a rail spur in Malad to serve Idaho Milling and Grain. A public hearing on the proposal is expected to be held in the near future.

POWER COUNTY

- The proposed Power County Advanced Energy Center west of American Falls has been stalled because of inadequate financial backing. The 450-acre, \$1.5 billion plant would produce fertilizer through a coal gasification process, but spokesman John Burk of Southeast Idaho Energy, the New York-based company pushing the project, said the demand for fertilizer remains strong, and the plant continues to “look like an excellent project.”

Dan.Cravens@labor.idaho.gov, *Regional Economist*
(208) 236-6710 ext. 3713

EASTERN IDAHO

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

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- The Idaho Falls Post Register and the Idaho Automobile Dealers Association report that seven eastern Idaho counties experienced between 3 percent and 40 percent increase in vehicle sales during the first quarter of 2011 compared to a year earlier. Madison County dealers sold 735 vehicles, 40 percent more than the same quarter in 2010. The increase has been attributed to higher demand following the recession. Greater access to financing also played a role in improved sales.

BONNEVILLE COUNTY

- Idahoan Foods, makers of Idaho potato products, plans to move its corporate office from Lewisville to Idaho Falls. Although only 17 miles away from its previous location, the company reports that moving to Idaho Falls will provide better access to facilities, tools and opportunities as the company grows. The new corporate office will be located in a newly renovated building in historic downtown Idaho Falls. Potato processing operations will continue in the Lewisville office. Gordon Lewis, President and CEO of Idahoan Foods LLC said, “because of the considerable growth we’ve experienced since the new Idahoan Foods was formed in 2007, it has become necessary for us to move our corporate offices to a building in a nearby city, closer to the home of a majority of our corporate employees, that has adequate space for today and room for future expansion.”
- French company AREVA is pushing back the groundbreaking of the Eagle Rock Nuclear Enrichment plant to spring 2012. Final approval of the plant by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is not expected until September. Harsh winter conditions also contributed to the decision to move the start date to the spring.
- A work force restructuring program at Idaho National Laboratory will affect workers who make depleted uranium tank armor. The lab announced that a quarter of the 221 workers will be laid off at the Special Manufacturing Capability facility. The layoff results from reduced orders for new tank armor.

- Idaho Falls Airport may have landed a new service. Seaport Airlines will fly nonstop from Idaho Falls to Boise starting this summer. Plans would include four round trips a day, six days a week.

FREMONT COUNTY

- The Chester Dam hydroelectric project is nearing completion. Fish ladders and new boat ramps are now in place and turbines are set to begin operating in late May or June. The \$18 million dam is operated by Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative and owned by the Fremont-Madison Irrigation District. The turbines will produce up to 3.3 megawatts of power.

LEMHI COUNTY

- Lemhi County commissioners and the Lemhi County Economic Development Association are thinking about using the Salmon Valley Business and Innovation Center to house junior college classes. Dan Schroeder of Salmon has been assessing programs offered through the North Idaho College's 'Idaho Goes' Outreach Project. The program would allow local students to obtain associates degrees.

MADISON COUNTY

- Brigham Young University-Idaho is offering a new program to help high school juniors and seniors prepare for college by taking online classes. The new program would give high school students a head start by finishing up to a year of classes before entering the university. Some classes may also count toward high school credit.

CUSTER COUNTY

- Challis School District is one of 15 receiving \$2,000 grants for community gardens. Each grant recipient will also be required to offer nutrition education. Some of the produce will be sold, but some will be used at a harvest party for students.

*Will.Jenson@labor.idaho.gov, Regional Economist
(208) 557-2500 ext. 3077*

State of Idaho Data – State Economic Indicators

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

	Apr 2011**	Mar 2011*	Apr 2010	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE (1)					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	765,400	762,900	758,400	0.3	0.9
Unemployment	73,300	74,000	69,000	-0.9	6.2
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	9.6	9.7	9.1		
Total Employment	692,100	688,900	689,400	0.5	0.4
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	761,800	760,000	756,900	0.2	0.6
Unemployment	73,900	78,900	70,800	-6.3	4.4
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	9.7	10.4	9.4		
Total Employment	687,900	681,100	686,100	1.0	0.3

U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE⁽²⁾

	Apr 2011	Mar 2011	Apr 2010
	9.0	8.8	9.9

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Claims Activities

Initial Claims ⁽³⁾	12,384	12,593	13,372	-1.7	-7.4
Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾	97,540	121,795	120,840	-19.9	-19.3

Benefit Payment Activities⁽⁵⁾

Weeks Compensated	84,587	129,197	106,247	-34.5	-20.4
Total Benefit \$ Paid	\$20,152,336.14	\$31,331,666.74	\$25,908,732.90	-35.7	-22.2
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$238.24	\$242.51	\$249.11	-1.8	-4.4
Covered Employers	47,825	47,743	48,882	0.2	-2.2
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾	\$266,048,717	\$286,962,649	\$353,498,829	-7.3	-24.7

U. S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX⁽²⁾

	Apr 2011	Mar 2011	Apr 2010	% Change Month	% Change Year
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	221.7	220.0	214.0	0.8	3.6
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	224.9	223.5	218.0	0.6	3.2

**Forecast data

* Preliminary estimate

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

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

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

(5) Includes all entitlements, total liable activities.

Glossary of Labor Market Terms

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

Average Hourly Earnings/Average Weekly Hours: The average total money earnings earned by production or non-supervisory workers for selected industries. The average number of hours worked by production or non-supervisory workers including overtime, paid vacation, and sick leave. The data is collected for the week including the 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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Editor: Bob Fick (bob.fick@labor.idaho.gov)

Layout/Design: Jean Cullen
(jean.cullen@labor.idaho.gov)

IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
C.L. “BUTCH” OTTER, GOVERNOR
ROGER B. MADSEN, DIRECTOR