

Idaho Employment

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

IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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ROGER B. MADSEN, DIRECTOR

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INDICATORS SUGGEST IDAHO'S UNEMPLOYMENT PICTURE BRIGHTER THAN ITS NEIGHBORS

Occasionally economists are asked about the "real" unemployment rate. Many are only aware of the most common measure of unemployment – the one talked about every day. This rate is calculated by dividing the number of unemployed by the civilian labor force.

But the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics measures unemployment six different ways, changing the composition of who is counted as unemployed and who is included in the civilian labor force.

The official unemployment rate is the third of these six measures and is known as U-3.

Who Is Counted as Unemployed

	Time Without a Job	Fired, Layed Off	Temporary Job Ended	New Entrants and Re-entrants	Discouraged Workers	Marginally Attached Workers	Employed Part-Time for Economic Reasons
U-1	15 weeks or longer	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
U-2	None	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
U-3	None	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
U-4	None	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
U-5	None	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
U-6	None	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

In comparison to Idaho's neighboring states – Washington, Oregon, Montana, Wyoming and Utah – Idaho has shown unique signs of recovery. Without a closer look at all six unemployment measures, some important indications of recovery are not plainly visible. For years 2005 - 2009 the data presented is the average for the

Who Is in the Labor Force

	Civilian Labor Force	Discouraged Workers	Marginally Attached Workers
U-1	Yes	No	No
U-2	Yes	No	No
U-3	Yes	No	No
U-4	Yes	Yes	No
U-5	Yes	Yes	Yes
U-6	Yes	Yes	Yes

calendar year. Since calendar year 2010 is not complete all data is the average from the fourth quarter of 2009 through the third quarter of 2010, noted by the asterisk.

U-1

In some respects, this is the most restrictive unemployment rate and is generally lower than the other measures. This rate shows the percent of the labor force that has been unemployed for 15 weeks or longer. Since 2005 Idaho has maintained a lower U-1 rate than many of its neighboring states. In 2005 Idaho was tied for second lowest in the six Mountain West states. In 2010 the Idaho rate has been the third lowest among these states.

Over the previous year this rate has increased for all the Mountain West states. However, Idaho is unique among other states because it experienced a tenth of a percentage point increase while other state increases ranged from 0.5 to 1.2 percentage points. Fewer Idaho job seekers are feeding the pool of the longer term unemployed. Between 2008 and 2009 the number of unemployed for 15 weeks and longer increased by 17,200 to 28,100. From 2009 to 2010 that number only increased by 800 to 28,900.

Idaho	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010*
Unemployed 15+ Weeks	5,700	4,800	4,300	10,900	28,100	28,900

U-1	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010*
United States	1.8	1.5	1.5	2.1	4.7	5.7
Idaho	0.8	0.6	0.6	1.4	3.7	3.8
Montana	1.2	0.9	0.9	1.2	2.9	3.4
Oregon	2.1	1.5	1.3	1.9	5.4	6.3
Utah	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.8	2.9	4.1
Washington	1.7	1.2	1.1	1.5	4.1	5.3
Wyoming	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5	2.2	3.2

U-2

This measure does not have restrictions regarding the duration of unemployment. It does limit unemployed workers to those who lost jobs and/or completed temporary jobs. Individuals just entering the job market or re-entering the job market are not counted as unemployed under U-2. When compared to neighboring states, Idaho has performed well at 5.5 percent in 2010, falling below the nation, Oregon and Washington. Higher U-2 rates would indicate larger numbers of unemployed resulting from layoffs or completing work without finding new employment. In the past year the Idaho U-2 rate increased by two-tenths of a percentage points while the other states changed from a two-tenth of a point drop to six-tenths of a point increase.

Idaho	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010*
Job Losers	14,300	12,900	10,400	22,700	39,900	41,900

U-2	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010*
United States	2.5	2.2	2.3	3.1	5.9	6.1
Idaho	1.9	1.7	1.4	3	5.3	5.5
Montana	2	1.7	1.9	2.6	4.9	4.9
Oregon	3.3	2.5	2.8	4.2	7.9	7.8
Utah	1.6	1.1	1.3	1.6	4.9	5
Washington	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.8	5.4	6
Wyoming	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.3	4.3	4.1

U-3

This is the most commonly used unemployment rate. Under U-3 workers are considered unemployed if they are jobless but able to work and have actively sought work in the previous four weeks. The civilian labor force is the sum of all the employed and unemployed individuals age 16 or older who are not institutionalized. By this measure people who are in jail, hospitals, military and full-time students would be excluded from the labor force. If you are jobless and go longer than four weeks without looking for work you would no longer be considered unemployed and would also be removed from the labor force. People who choose not to work are also excluded from the labor force.

In 2010 the Idaho rate fell below the nation, Oregon and Washington. Over the year, Oregon was the only state to outperform Idaho in rate reduction. Its U-3 unemployment rate has fallen by half a percentage point. But Oregon also had the highest unemployment rate among the mountain west states at 11 percent. Over the year the Idaho rate increased two-tenths of a point to an average of 8.7 percent.

Idaho	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010*
Labor Force	742,700	758,900	765,000	756,300	752,600	758,200
Employed	713,000	731,900	742,200	715,300	688,400	692,000
Unemployed	29,700	26,900	22,800	41,100	64,200	66,200

U-3	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010*
United States	5.1	4.6	4.6	5.8	9.3	9.7
Idaho	4	3.5	3	5.4	8.5	8.7
Montana	4.4	3.6	3.6	5.2	7.1	7.6
Oregon	6	5.4	5.2	6.4	11.5	11
Utah	4.1	2.9	2.6	3.5	7.3	8.3
Washington	5.6	5	4.6	5.3	9	10.2
Wyoming	3.6	3.4	2.9	3	6.5	7

U-4

This measure adds discouraged workers to both the unemployed and the labor force. Discouraged workers have looked for work in the past year but not the past four weeks because they believe there are no jobs. By including discouraged workers the Idaho unemployment rate increases by four-tenths of a percentage point – the same amount as Utah and Montana. Oregon, Washing-

Idaho	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010*
Discouraged Workers	1,200	400	400	1,200	2,400	2,900

U-4	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010*
United States	5.4	4.9	4.9	6.1	9.7	10.3
Idaho	4.1	3.6	3	5.6	8.8	9.1
Montana	4.6	3.7	3.7	5.3	7.4	8
Oregon	6.3	5.6	5.3	6.6	11.8	11.5
Utah	4.3	3	2.7	3.6	7.7	8.7
Washington	5.8	5.2	4.8	5.5	9.4	10.7
Wyoming	3.7	3.5	3	3	6.8	7.5

ton and Wyoming add half a percentage point each, and the nation added six-tenths. Fewer discouraged workers show better-than-average optimism among job seekers. Discouraged workers increased the U-4 unemployment rate by smaller amounts in 2009 – between three-tenths and four-tenths of a percentage point.

U-5

This net is cast even wider than U-4 and now includes marginally attached workers, which are discouraged workers who have declined to look for work for any reason other than they believe there are no jobs. Marginally attached workers added eight-tenths of a percentage point to the Idaho unemployment rate in 2009 and only half a point in 2010. Every other Mountain West state saw a proportional increase in marginally attached workers between 2009 and 2010 – with exception to Wyoming, where it was unchanged. Idaho's trend could indicate an improving labor market and job seekers with increased motivation.

Idaho	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010*
Marginally Attached	5,400	2,700	3,100	5,400	9,200	7,400

U-5	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010*
United States	6.1	5.5	5.5	6.8	11	11.1
Idaho	4.7	3.9	3.4	6.1	9.6	9.6
Montana	5.1	4.1	3.9	5.6	7.9	8.7
Oregon	7.3	6.5	6.1	7.2	12.7	12.5
Utah	4.9	3.5	3.1	4	8.3	9.5
Washington	6.7	5.9	5.5	6.3	10.2	11.6
Wyoming	4.4	3.9	3.4	3.4	7.3	8

U-6

This rate includes all workers from the previous measures but also includes individuals working part-time for economic reasons – because they cannot find full-time jobs. This new addition contributes a considerable amount to the U-6 unemployment rate. Idaho and Oregon were the only Mountain West states to see proportional decreases in workers employed part time for economic reasons between 2009 and 2010.

Idaho	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010*
Involuntary Part Time	20,700	22,600	20,800	32,500	52,600	51,400

U-6	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010*
United States	8.9	8.2	8.3	11	16	16.8
Idaho	7.5	6.9	6.1	10	17	16.3
Montana	8.8	6.9	7.1	10.3	13.5	15.1
Oregon	11.4	10.4	10	12.6	20.7	20.2
Utah	8	5.8	5	6.2	12.9	15.1
Washington	10.1	9.4	8.8	10.4	16.2	18.1
Wyoming	6.6	5.8	5.6	5.7	11.3	12.1

Although the numbers behind much of this underlying data remain high, it is encouraging that many of the numbers have not increased by significant amounts like they did in 2008 and 2009. In fact the number of employed workers has increased. The number of involuntary part-time workers and the

number of marginally attached workers have both decreased over the past year. A gradual recovery will lead to a more stable recovery and decreased likelihood of the much-discussed “double dip” recession.

One year of categorical improvement in labor markets may not completely prove the recovery is under way. It does become significant when they are the first signs of recovery since the recession began in 2007. The National Bureau of Economic Research officially declared the recession ended in June 2009. Recovery in labor markets typically lags behind the improving gross domestic product indicators used to declare the end of recessions. However, as our nation’s output expands so will the number of jobs needed to meet the new demand for goods and services. All sights will be on 2011 to see if the expansion continues.

Worker Category Definitions:

- **Discouraged workers** (U-4, U-5 and U-6 measures) are persons who are not in the labor force but want and are available for work and have looked for a job sometime in the prior 12 months. They are not counted as unemployed because they had not searched for work in the prior four weeks for the specific reason that they believed no jobs were available for them.
- The **marginally attached** (U-5 and U-6 measures) are a group that includes discouraged workers. The criteria for the marginally attached are the same as for discouraged workers with the exception that any reason could have been cited for the lack of a job search in the prior four weeks.
- Persons **employed part time for economic reasons** (U-6 measure) are those working less than 35 hours per week who want to work full time, are available to do so and gave an economic reason for working only part time – their hours had been cut back or they were unable to find a full-time job. These individuals are sometimes referred to as involuntary part-time workers.

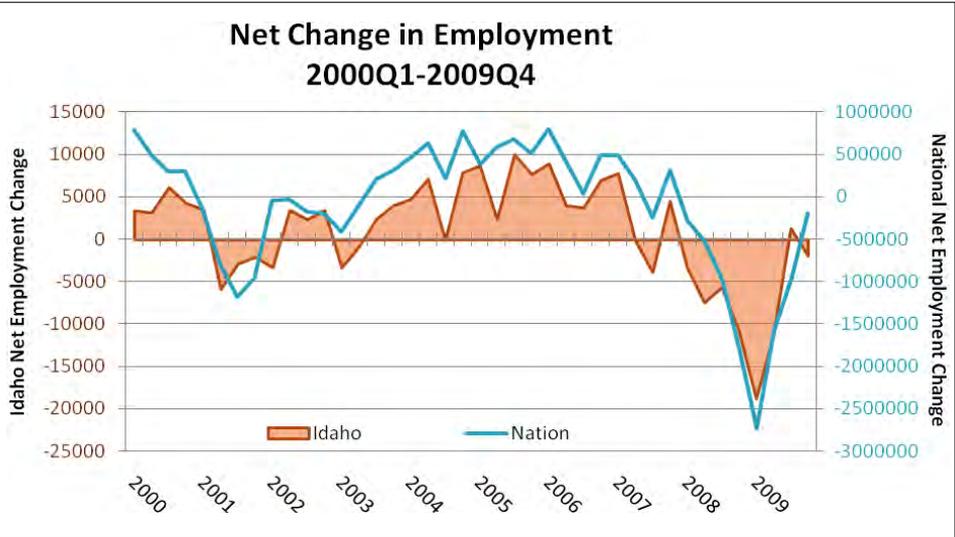
Source: U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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

IDAHO BUSINESS EMPLOYMENT DYNAMICS

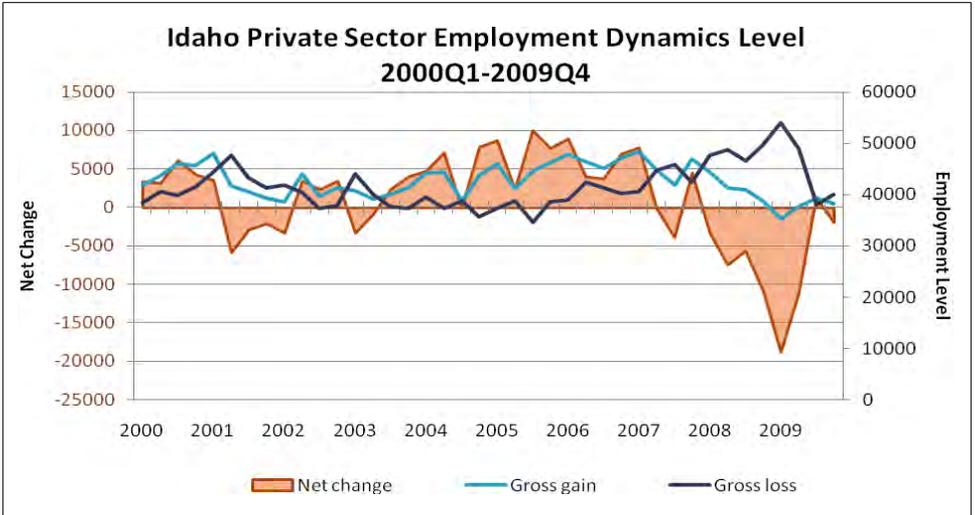
FOURTH QUARTER 2009

Idaho experienced a net loss of 1,900 private sector jobs during the fourth quarter of 2009 on a seasonally adjusted basis, less than a third of the jobs lost in the final quarter of 2008, according to the Business Employment Dynamics program of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

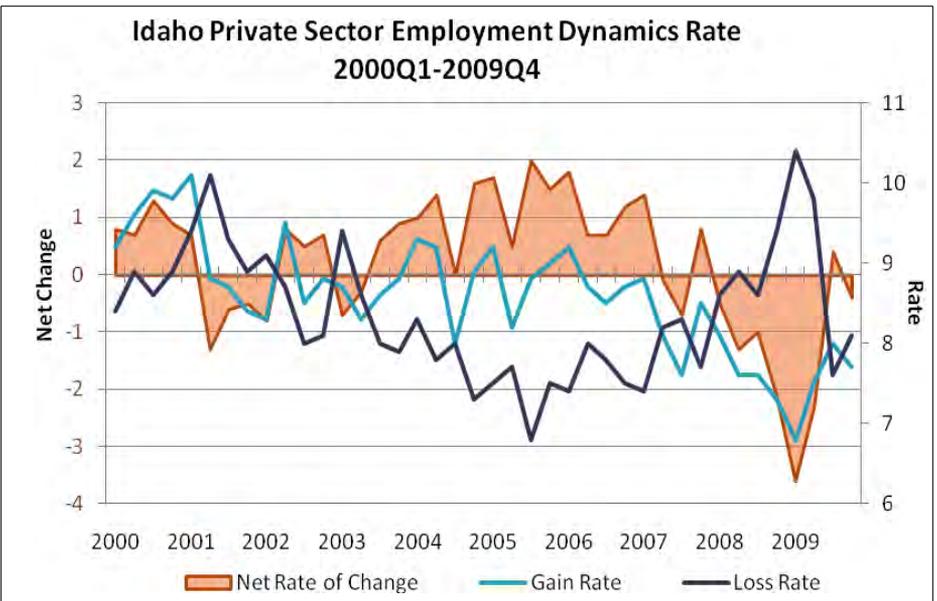


The program tracks job gains and losses from private businesses opening, expanding, closing and downsizing. It provides another tool for analyzing the business cycle.

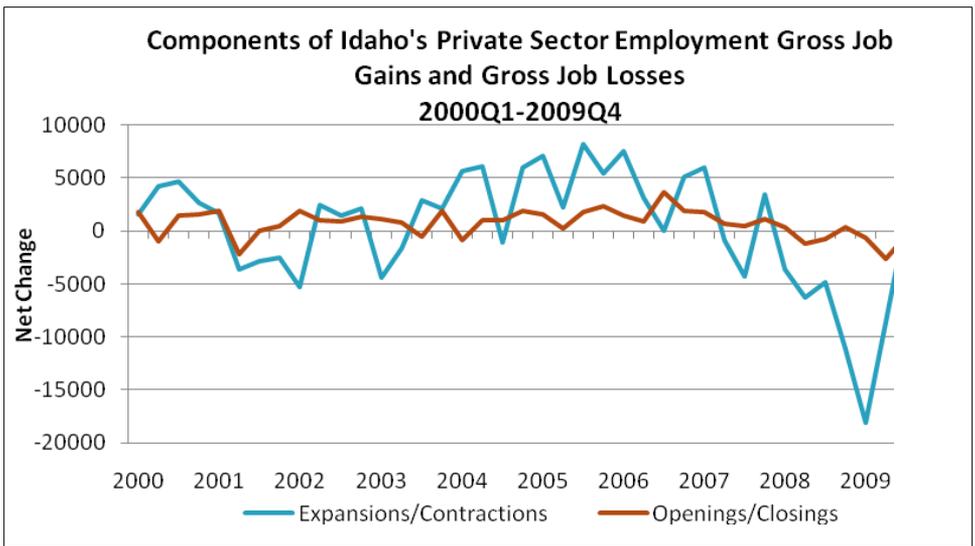
From October to December 2009, Idaho's new and expanding businesses added roughly 38,200 jobs while those closing or downsizing cut just over 40,100. The net loss of 1,900 jobs was a return to negative job change after a one-quarter respite in third quarter, when 1,300 jobs were gained.



The National Bureau of Economic Research marks the beginning of the recession in December 2007 though Idaho began to see evidence of a slowdown six months earlier. In the nine quarters that followed, Idaho lost jobs in all but the fourth quarter of 2007 and the third quarter of 2009. Even with the slight gains in these two quarters, net job loss since the slowdown began exceeded 57,000 by the end of 2009.

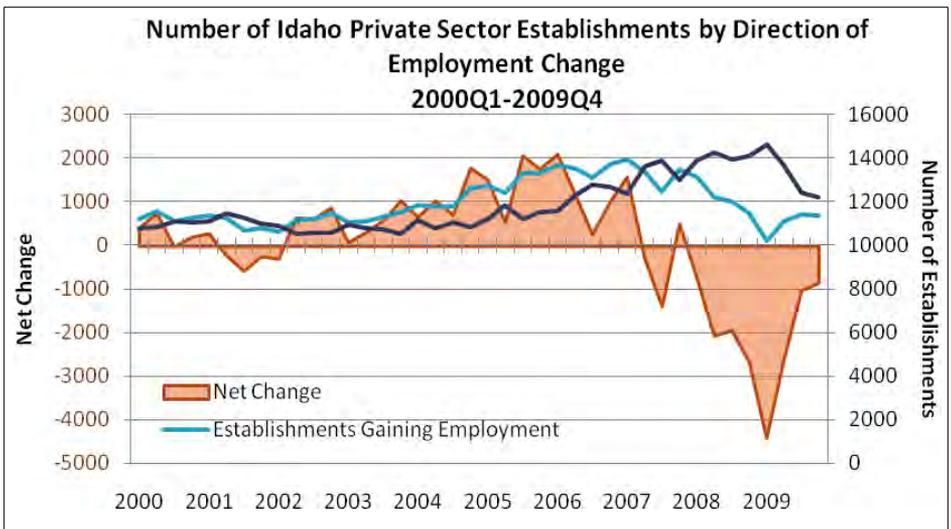


The rate of job gains in the last three months of 2009 slipped to 7.7 percent. That was down three-tenths of a point from the third quarter, breaking a brief two-quarter string of rising rates of gain – the first quarterly increases since the recession began. Additionally, the rate of job loss exceeded the gain rate by four-tenths. At 8.1 percent, the gross loss rate was also higher than the third quarter loss, cutting into a large over-the-quarter drop of more than two full percentage points between the second and third quarters.



Contracting businesses eliminated over 2,100 more jobs than expanding businesses created during the fourth quarter. Meanwhile, new businesses created 200 more jobs than closing businesses eliminated, the first time in a year this number has been positive.

Nearly 11,400 of Idaho's 50,000 businesses added jobs during the fourth quarter – 8,500 through expansion and 2,700 opening for the first time. But over 12,200 others eliminated jobs – 9,300 downsized and 2,900 closed altogether.



Nationally, fourth quarter 2009 saw a net job loss of nearly 200,000 stretching across all economic sectors. But this was a smaller quarterly net loss than any since the beginning of the recession. New and expanding businesses created 6.6 million jobs, roughly 330,000 more than in the third quarter of 2009. Meanwhile, the nation experienced a loss of 6.8 million jobs as more businesses closed or pared payrolls. However, this loss was 440,000 jobs less severe than the loss seen in third quarter.

Only two industry sectors experienced net job gains in the fourth quarter. Education and health services posted a net increase of 157,000 jobs across the country during fourth quarter, remaining the only sector to gain jobs in every quarter since the beginning of this statistical series in 1992. This was a greater job gain than the first three quarters of 2009 combined and a welcome return to regular gains of 100,000 or more seen in pre-recession quarters. Professional and business services posted a net gain of 189,000 jobs,

which completely reversed the third quarter loss experienced by this sector. Transportation and warehousing experienced no net change and was the only other sector that did not experience a net loss in the fourth quarter.

Despite some easing of job losses nationwide, substantial losses were still experienced in several sectors. Losses exceeding 100,000 in the fourth quarter included 161,000 jobs in construction, 120,000 in retail trade, 112,000 in leisure and hospitality and 108,000 in manufacturing. Although these were all significant losses, only four sectors topped the 100,000 mark while nine lost over 100,000 jobs in first quarter of 2009.

Alaska remained the state with the highest gross job gain rate at 10.3 percent followed by Montana’s 8.3 percent and Vermont’s 8.1 percent. Idaho and Wyoming shared the fourth highest gain rate, 7.7 percent.

However, those fourth quarter’s gain rates were still offset by even higher loss rates, the highest in the nation being a 10.7 percent loss rate in Alaska followed by 9 percent in Wyoming and 8.7 percent in Montana. Idaho and Washington tied for fourth highest loss rate at 8.1 percent.

Third quarter 2009 saw three states finally experience net job gains, and the trend continued in the fourth quarter. Nine states, in addition to the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, experienced net job gains, and three states reported employment levels unchanged.

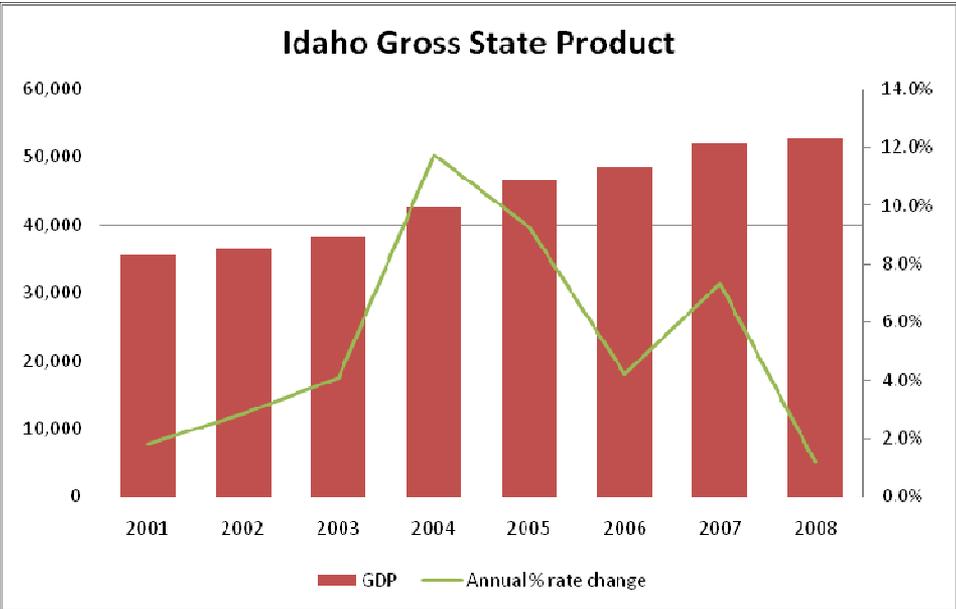
Although the job gain that Idaho’s economy experienced in the third quarter did not continue in the fourth, job losses were relatively light. On the national level, continued improvement was evident on an industry-by-industry and state-by-state basis. Overall, fourth quarter held signs of the bottom of the recession.

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

*Karen.JarboeSingletary@labor.idaho.gov, Research Analyst Sr.
(208) 332-3570, ext. 3215*

IDAHO REAL GDP STRONG FROM 2001 – 2008

Growth is the fundamental indicator of an economy's health - the rate at which income is growing. Based on gross domestic product, Idaho’s economy was stronger than the nation’s into the first year of the recent recession.



By definition, gross domestic product for a metropolitan area is the sub-state counterpart of the nation's GDP. This is the featured and most comprehensive measure of economic activity provided by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis. GDP by metropolitan area is derived as the sum of the GDP originating in all the industries in the metropolitan area. However, due to the exclusion of non-metropolitan areas, real GDP growth by metropolitan may differ from state real GDP.

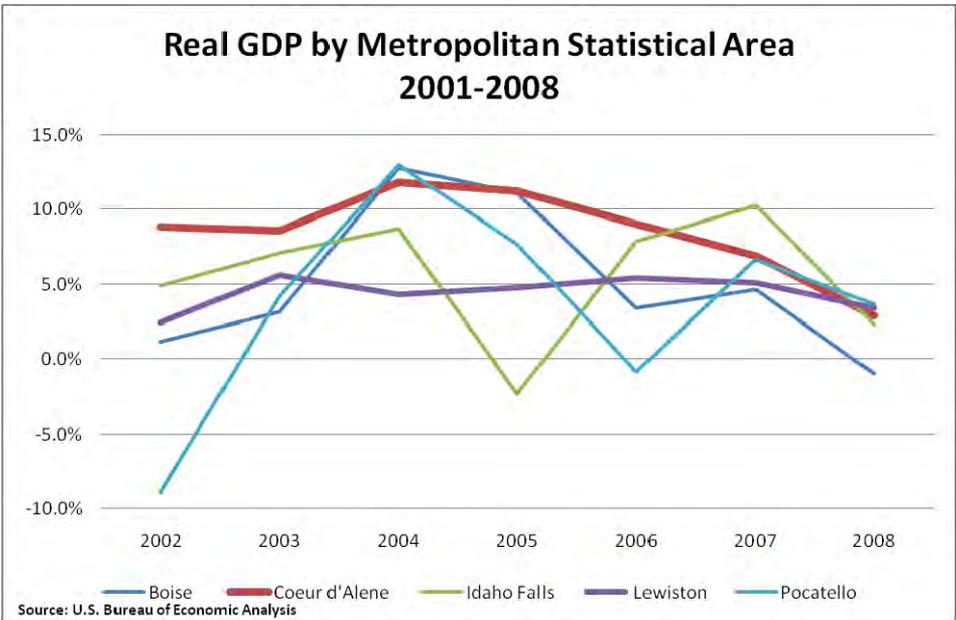
The economy of Idaho has grown from \$35 billion to over \$50 billion in this decade. The economic output of the state of Idaho was a revised \$55.7 billion in 2008 – an increase of 48 percent or an annual rate of 6 percent. In comparison, the national economy expanded 41 percent during that same period, an annual rate of 5 percent.

Idaho's inflation-adjusted GDP, or real GDP, based on 2000 dollars, was a revised \$51.9 billion in 2008, an increase of 29 percent compared to 17 percent nationally.

Three of the five metropolitan areas experienced large expansions and contractions in their economies during the short eight-year span. The Pocatello area's economy plummeted in the aftermath of the 2001 recession, decreasing 8.9 percent. Idaho Falls economy contracted 2.3 percent from 2004 to 2005 followed by a significant economic expansion immediately preceding the current recession. When other metropolitan areas were experiencing large expansions and contractions in their economy, Lewiston grew at a much slower pace, which helped maintain some economic stability in that region.

The Boise metro area produced almost 1 percent less in 2008 than 2007, falling from \$24.3 billion in GDP to \$24 billion – the first time the area's economy contracted since data was available in 2001. Since the Boise Metropolitan Statistical Area is the largest economy in terms of GDP in the state, this decline rippled throughout the rest of the state. Micron is a large contributor to this loss. In the midst of restructuring its business, Micron laid off nearly 1,400 workers between 2007 and 2008.

GDP for the Coeur d'Alene area increased 76.2 percent from \$2.38 billion in 2001 to \$4.2 billion in 2008, an average annual rate of 9.5 percent. It was the fastest expanding economy in the state. Early in the decade, the Coeur d'Alene metro area yielded the highest annual rate change. Unfortunately, those rates were not sustainable, and by 2005 the economy contracted substantially, going from an 11.1 percent expansion in 2004 to just 3.4 percent in 2005.



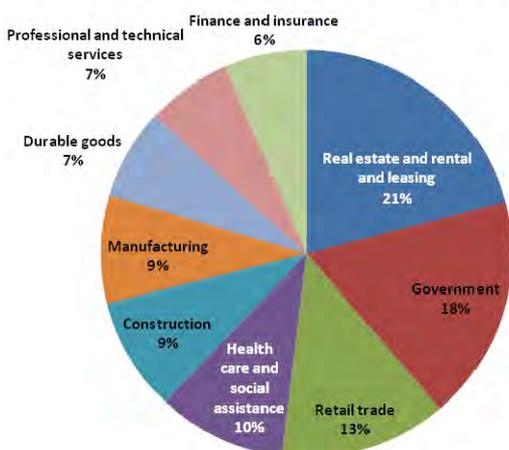
Real estate is the largest component of Coeur d'Alene's GDP at 16.9 percent in 2008. When the housing bubble burst in this region so did the rate at which GDP grew. The real estate industry generated 11.2 percent more GDP from 2005 to 2006, down to 3.9 percent from 2007 to 2008.

The metro area dropped from the fastest expanding economy in the state to middle of the road by the end of 2008. The recession also affected the rate at which retail trade was growing, dropping from a \$452 million industry in 2007 to \$445 million in 2008.

See table of Idaho metro area GDP 2001-2008 on page 11.

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

Components of Coeur d'Alene MSA GDP 2008



EMPLOYMENT CHANGE IN NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO SHOWS SIGNS OF RECOVERY

North central Idaho was hit hard by the recession that ran from December 2007 through June 2009 but not as hard as many other parts of the state, and the region's recovery while weak has been stronger as well.

All Sectors: Between 2009 and 2010, north central Idaho's percentage job growth ranked third. Its 1.6 percent job loss was slightly larger than southwestern Idaho's 1 percent and eastern Idaho's 0.4 percent. Between the second quarters of 2007 and 2010, north central Idaho's employment fell 5.5 percent. That was the smallest job loss of any region.

Private Sector: North central Idaho was the only region whose private sector added jobs between the second quarters of 2009 and 2010. It was just marginal growth – 0.4 percent – but it was growth. The region also ranked first for growth over the three-year period because it had the smallest job loss at 7.4 percent.

Manufacturing: While the state's manufacturing employment fell 3.4 percent, north central Idaho's rose 6.4 percent between the second quarters of 2009 and 2010. All the other regions lost manufacturing jobs. North central ranked second over the three-year period with a 6.7 percent drop in manufacturing jobs. South central Idaho had the smallest decline at 3.6 percent. The southwestern region had the highest at 29.7 percent.

Retail: North central Idaho performed worse than the other regions when it came to retail jobs between 2009 and 2010, plummeting 7.2 percent while the state's retail jobs fell just 1.7 percent. The region's drop would have been

GDP by Metro Area

(in millions \$)

Period	Idaho	% Chg	Boise	% Chg	Coeur d'Alene	% Chg	Idaho Falls	% Chg	Lewiston	% Chg	Pocatello	% Chg
2001	35,631		17,161		2,383		2,516		1,345		2,061	
2002	36,651	2.9%	17,358	1.1%	2,593	8.8%	2,639	4.9%	1,378	2.5%	1,877	-8.9%
2003	38,148	4.1%	17,902	3.1%	2,816	8.6%	2,827	7.1%	1,455	5.6%	1,956	4.2%
2004	42,626	11.7%	20,191	12.8%	3,148	11.8%	3,073	8.7%	1,518	4.3%	2,210	13.0%
2005	46,584	9.3%	22,432	11.1%	3,501	11.2%	3,001	-2.3%	1,590	4.7%	2,380	7.7%
2006	48,557	4.2%	23,191	3.4%	3,816	9.0%	3,238	7.9%	1,676	5.4%	2,360	-0.8%
2007	52,110	7.3%	24,262	4.6%	4,080	6.9%	3,569	10.2%	1,761	5.1%	2,516	6.6%
2008	52,747	1.2%	24,032	-0.9%	4,198	2.9%	3,652	2.3%	1,821	3.4%	2,608	3.7%
% Change from 2001	48.0		40.0		76.2		45.2		35.4		26.5	
Avg Annual % Change	6.0		5.0		9.5		5.6		4.4		3.3	

Percentage Growth in Employment by Sector by Region

	All Sectors	Private Sector	Manu- facturing	Retail	Health Care	Leisure & Hospitality
Second Quarter 2007 to Second Quarter 2010						
State	-8.7	-11.0	-21.1	-9.6	10.8	-8.4
Panhandle	-9.1	-12.1	-17.1	-8.7	12.6	-7.8
North Central	-5.5	-7.4	-6.7	-10.7	9.1	-4.4
Southwestern	-10.1	-12.8	-29.7	-11.3	12.6	-11.9
South Central	-6.2	-8.0	-3.6	-7.5	7.3	-2.2
Southeastern	-9.1	-9.1	-10.9	-7.6	11.2	-4.0
Eastern	-7.1	-9.6	-24.3	-7.8	5.4	-7.6
Second Quarter 2009 to Second Quarter 2010						
State	-1.5	-1.7	-3.4	-1.7	2.5	-1.7
Panhandle	-2.0	-2.7	-4.5	-1.1	3.1	-1.5
North Central	-1.6	0.4	6.4	-7.2	4.1	3.4
Southwestern	-1.0	-1.2	-4.1	-0.8	2.8	-2.9
South Central	-2.6	-3.3	-1.2	-1.7	3.0	0.3
Southeastern	-3.5	-4.8	-7.3	-4.2	-0.3	-3.0
Eastern	-0.4	-0.8	-4.2	-0.7	1.3	-2.3

2.8 percent if Walmart had not moved its store from Lewiston to Clarkston. Over the three-year period, north central Idaho ranked fifth in retail job loss.

Health Care: North central Idaho ranked first with 4.1 percent growth while the state had 2.5 percent growth between the second quarters of 2009 and 2010. Over the three-year period, north central was in the middle of the pack – growing 9.1 percent – while the state’s health care jobs grew 10.8 percent.

Leisure & Hospitality: North central Idaho at 3.4 percent growth and south central Idaho at 0.3 percent growth were the only regions showing growth in leisure and hospitality jobs between 2009 and 2010. Over the three-year period, the north central region ranked third, losing 4.4 percent of its leisure and hospitality jobs, while the state lost 8.4 percent.

INDUSTRIAL CHANGE SINCE 2009

The most dramatic improvements in north central Idaho’s economy between June 2009 and June 2010 occurred in logging and lumber mills. Lumber prices averaged \$306 per thousand board feet in the first half of 2010 compared to a record-low \$203 in the first half of 2009. Those higher prices helped restore some of the 750 mill and logging jobs lost between June 2007 and June 2009. After falling 47 percent in those two years, logging rose 44 percent between June 2009 and June 2010. Wood products manufacturers added 52 jobs in the same period. Since then, they have added about 50 more. Most of those new jobs came at the Blue North Forest Products mill that opened at the former Three Rivers Mill site near Kamiah in August. Lumber prices fell to \$250 per thousand board feet this past summer and have stayed there. Lower prices make it less likely that wood products manufacturers will add any more jobs in the next few months.

Most other manufacturing sectors grew between June 2009 and June 2010 as well. Expansion at ATK’s ammunition plant in Lewiston created 120 new jobs. ATK plans to create another 100 jobs before the end of the year. Other manufacturers including jet boat builders, Clearwater Paper, metal fabricators, equipment makers and recreational technology companies added 114 jobs in the 12-month period and have added another three dozen jobs since June.

Construction employment declined 3.5 percent between June 2009 and June 2010 as residential construction continued to wane. Stimulus-fueled

spending including extensive projects in the national forests partially offset job losses in commercial construction.

The retail and wholesale sectors continued to experience weakness as consumers remained tight-fisted. About 280 of the 376 retail jobs lost were the result of Walmart closing its Lewiston store when it opened its Clarkston supercenter in September 2009. The region lost another 200 jobs in October when Walmart opened its new supercenter in Pullman and closed its Moscow store. Walmart expects to reopen the Moscow store, following an expansion and renovation, in late 2011 or early 2012.

Health care continued to be one of the strongest sectors. Social assistance employment declined a bit in rural communities but grew in urban areas, resulting in stable employment. Hospital employment remained virtually unchanged. Nursing homes added about 20 jobs in Lewiston and Orofino. The opening of a dialysis center in Latah County added more than a dozen jobs. Doctors' offices and medical clinics also expanded their employment.

The leisure and hospitality sector registered 2.4 percent job growth, bolstered by marginal increases in spending by locals at restaurants and recreational facilities and a small increase in tourist visitors. The sluggish Northwest economy may be helping north central Idaho's tourism industry because camping or hunting vacations cost less than alternatives.

The greatest weakness this year has been in the public sector, which started losing significant numbers of jobs in the fall of 2009 and continues to lose them. Government administration jobs would have fallen even more if the federal government hadn't employed about 100 Census workers in June and added another 60 or so jobs, mostly at the Forest Service. State government including the University of Idaho, the Department of Health and Welfare and Lewis-Clark State College cut about 480 jobs between June 2009 and June 2010. School district employment was down marginally, while many other local entities – cities, counties and various districts – also reduced employment, mostly through attrition.

While employment declined in many sectors, payrolls grew even several that endured job losses. The payroll growth came partly from hourly pay raises, which were running from 1 percent to 2 percent, but mostly resulted from increases in hours worked and from the beginnings of recovery in some high-paying sectors including manufacturing and transportation. The return of wood products jobs and an increase in hours worked at other manufacturers caused manufacturing payrolls to grow 12 percent, nearly twice as fast as jobs. Between the second quarter of 2009 and the second quarter of 2010, the U.S. consumer price index rose 1.8 percent. Therefore, total payrolls in all sectors, when adjusted for inflation, showed a small but real increase of about 0.9 percent. See *jobs by sector and county on the table on page 14.*

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

North Central Idaho Job, Payroll Growth Q2 2009 to Q2 2010		
	Jobs	Payroll
All Sectors	-1.6%	2.7%
Private Sector	0.4%	4.1%
Health Care	4.1%	3.4%
Leisure & Hospitality	3.4%	7.5%
Manufacturing	6.4%	12.0%
Retail	-7.2%	-3.6%

Jobs by Sector, by County

	North Central Idaho			Clearwater County			Idaho County		
	June 2009	June 2010	Change 2009-10	June 2009	June 2010	Change 2009-10	June 2009	June 2010	Change 2009-10
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	45,286	45,106	-0.4%	2,889	2,931	1.5%	4,487	4,468	-0.4%
Goods-Producing	5,995	6,444	7.5%	450	510	13.3%	821	814	-0.9%
Logging & Mining	511	737	44.2%	59	150	154.2%	112	115	2.7%
Construction	1,819	1,756	-3.5%	160	155	-3.1%	353	340	-3.7%
Manufacturing	3,665	3,951	7.8%	231	205	-11.3%	356	359	0.8%
Wood Products	753	805	6.9%	77	50	-35.1%	137	149	8.8%
Paper Products	1,073	1,127	5.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%
Other	1,839	2,019	9.8%	154	155	0.6%	219	210	-4.1%
Service-Providing	39,291	180	-1.6%	2,439	2,421	-0.7%	3,666	3,654	-0.3%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	7,988	7,587	-5.0%	405	391	-3.5%	789	765	-3.0%
Wholesale Trade	989	975	-1.4%	18	17	-5.6%	125	110	-12.0%
Retail Trade	5,628	5,252	-6.7%	287	264	-8.0%	515	494	-4.1%
Transportation & Utilities	1,371	1,360	-0.8%	100	110	10.0%	149	161	8.1%
Information	645	598	-7.3%	22	13	-40.9%	45	40	-11.1%
Financial Activities	2,569	2,497	-2.8%	78	79	1.3%	189	188	-0.5%
Professional & Business Services	2,135	2,105	-1.4%	83	78	-6.0%	69	79	14.5%
Educational & Health Services	6,086	6,265	2.9%	474	483	1.9%	599	590	-1.5%
Leisure & Hospitality	3,932	4,025	2.4%	211	199	-5.7%	449	433	-3.6%
Other Services	1,731	1,747	0.9%	38	34	-10.6%	79	75	-5.1%
Government Education	8,581	8,099	-5.6%	264	256	-3.0%	324	325	0.3%
Government Administration	4,810	4,930	2.5%	865	889	2.8%	1,123	1,159	3.2%
Government Tribes	815	810	-0.6%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%
Latah County									
Lewis County									
Nez Perce County									
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	15,169	14,875	-1.9%	1,366	1,432	4.8%	21,376	21,401	0.1%
Goods-Producing	1,038	1,065	2.6%	198	246	24.2%	3,488	3,809	9.2%
Logging & Mining	172	227	32.0%	13	47	261.5%	155	198	27.7%
Construction	519	465	-10.4%	36	36	0.0%	751	760	1.2%
Manufacturing	347	373	7.5%	149	163	9.4%	2,582	2,851	10.4%
Wood Products	160	186	16.3%	96	112	16.7%	283	308	8.8%
Paper Products	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	1,072	1,126	5.0%
Other	187	187	0.0%	53	51	-3.8%	1,227	1,417	15.5%
Service-Providing	14,131	13,810	-2.3%	1,168	1,186	1.5%	17,888	17,592	-1.7%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	2,104	2,163	2.8%	358	363	1.4%	4,332	3,905	-9.9%
Wholesale Trade	203	203	0.0%	112	104	-7.1%	531	541	1.9%
Retail Trade	1,829	1,868	2.1%	194	196	1.0%	2,803	2,430	-13.3%
Transportation & Utilities	72	92	27.8%	d	d	d	998	934	-6.4%
Information	221	191	-13.6%	d	d	d	350	347	-0.9%
Financial Activities	455	439	-3.5%	46	41	-10.9%	1,801	1,750	-2.8%
Professional & Business Services	754	746	-1.1%	32	18	-43.8%	1,197	1,184	-1.1%
Educational & Health Services	1,510	1,565	3.6%	135	151	11.9%	3,368	3,476	3.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	1,403	1,476	5.2%	81	89	9.9%	1,788	1,828	2.2%
Other Services	633	590	-6.8%	9	10	11.1%	973	1,039	6.8%
Government Education	6,064	5,621	-7.3%	206	206	0.0%	1,723	1,691	-1.9%
Government Administration	987	1,019	3.2%	233	246	5.6%	1,602	1,617	0.9%
Government Tribes	0	0	0.0%	d	d	d	754	755	0.1%

HOW MANY LONE EAGLES HAVE FLOWN TO NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO?

Economic development organizations often express the desire to attract “lone eagles” – entrepreneurs and professionals who can live and work anywhere because of technological advances.

Some claim there are millions of potential lone eagles – likely an exaggeration. But there certainly is a growing number of people who can choose where they want to work. Many own or hope to start their own businesses, and others are telecommuters – employees who do not need to go to a central office as long as they are available by phone or Internet. Most work at home. The typical lone eagle is a highly educated professional with a considerable amount of experience. These lone eagles are typically consultants, accountants, financial advisors, website designers, artists, software developers and owners of Internet-based businesses.

Attracting them can bring thousands of dollars into the community. Because they sell their services outside the region, lone eagles are part of the sectors that export goods and services – prime movers of local economies. In addition, they may create jobs in the businesses they develop. Among the factors that pull lone eagles to rural communities are outdoor recreational opportunities, scenery, clean air, a less frantic lifestyle, a lower cost of living, less traffic and a safe environment.

Although there is a lot of anecdotal information about lone eagles, who have moved into north central Idaho, there is not a lot of data on them.

To identify lone eagles who are telecommuters working for an employer in another state, the Idaho Department of Labor counted the employers that had a mailing address outside Idaho, employed only one person and did not provide personal care or household services. Most of these were presumably telecommuters who worked for out-of-state businesses. There probably also are telecommuters who work for Idaho companies but live and work in a different county, but it was too difficult to accurately count them.

The number of telecommuters is not large. In the second quarter of 2010, 24 businesses met the criteria including having just one employee. If the pay was the same in each quarter of the year as it was in the second quarter of 2010, the annual payroll for these 24 lone eagles would be about \$1.9 million – an annual average wage of \$76,000.

But the number has more than doubled since 2001, when there were only 10 employers meeting the criteria. When adjusted for inflation and expressed in today’s dollars, their payrolls have risen from \$590,000 nine years ago – an average wage of \$59,000 – to \$1.9 million today. The number of telecommuters has grown from 10 in 2001 to 11 in 2004 to 16 in 2007 to 24 today.

The number of telecommuters in north central Idaho by county was:

Clearwater	2
Idaho	4
Latah	7
Lewis	3
Nez Perce	8

Employing these telecommuters were four computer programming and consulting firms, five wholesalers including three that sell over the Internet, two telecommunications companies, two engineering firms, a major national retailer, a book publisher, a software publisher, a motion picture maker, a securities broker, an insurance company, a financial consulting firm, a management consulting firm, a public relations company, an advertising firm, an educational consulting firm and a national health insurance provider.

Economic developers believe most lone eagles are self-employed, either running their own business or working as contractors for former employers. This presumably larger group would be in addition to telecommuters. The Census Bureau estimates the number of businesses that have no employees other than the owner, but there is no way of separating lone eagles from others. A possible clue to the growth of lone eagles comes from the increase in professional, scientific and technical services – the sector where most lone eagles would operate. That sector of nonemployee businesses grew 31.4 percent from 714 in 2003 to 938 in 2008. That was faster than the 5.4 percent growth of all other sectors.

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

A SNAPSHOT OF SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO VACANCIES

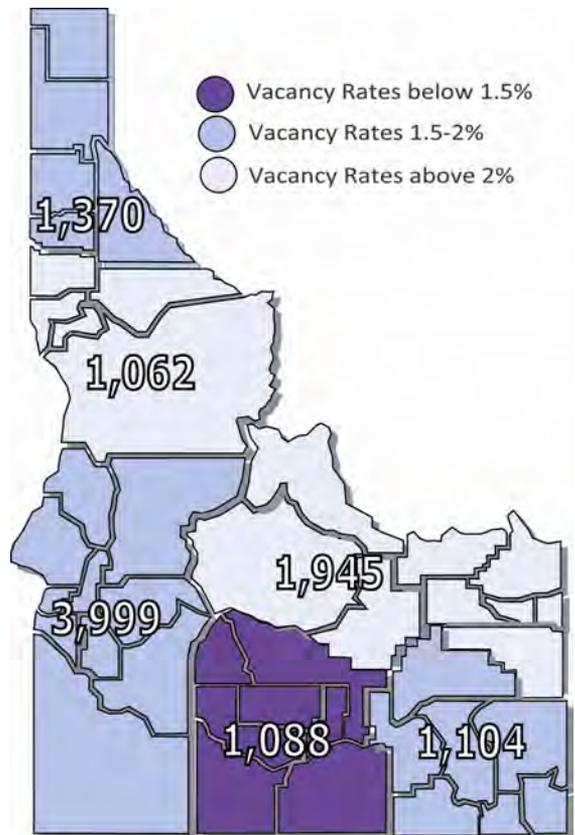
In early October, the Idaho Department of Labor published a report which focused on the number of job vacancies and corresponding vacancy rate for the state of Idaho and each of its six regions. Southwestern Idaho, known as Region 3, maintained the second lowest vacancy rate at only 1.5 percent with south central Idaho maintaining the lowest at 1.4 percent.

OCCUPATIONS

Recreation workers topped the list of occupations with the largest number of vacancies. This was primarily due to seasonal demand for camp counselors, group facilitators and similar occupations. With more than 330 openings, this occupation represented over 8 percent of all openings in southwestern Idaho. Most of these jobs were part time and were expected to disappear at the end of summer with the reopening of school.

The second highest vacancy rate was for research related interviewers with the large surge in hiring likely due to private research firms ramping up with census activity that occurred over early summer. These jobs too were part time and totaled over 250.

Retail sales was the only other occupation with more than 200 openings, and nearly 150 of them were full time.

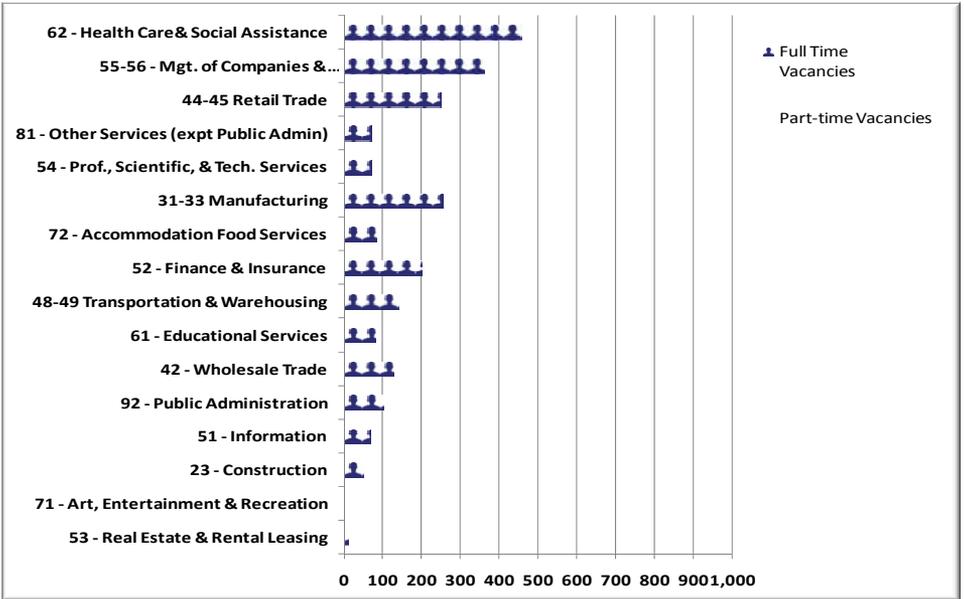


Region	Vacancies	Vacancy Rate
Northern	1,370	1.8%
North Central	1,062	2.5%
Southwestern	3,999	1.5%
Central	1,088	1.4%
Southeastern	1,104	1.9%
East Central	1,945	2.5%

INDUSTRIES

Industries such as health care, administrative support and retail trade maintained the largest number of vacancies in southwestern Idaho. Health care dominated employment growth in the region during the economic downturn with employment increasing 12.5 percent from second quarter 2007 to the same quarter 2010. During this same time period, the region's total employment dropped by over 10 percent. The occupations with the largest number of vacancies within the health care industry were registered nurses, rehabilitation counselors and personal care aides.

Full-Time, Part-Time Job Vacancies in Southwestern Idaho by Industry



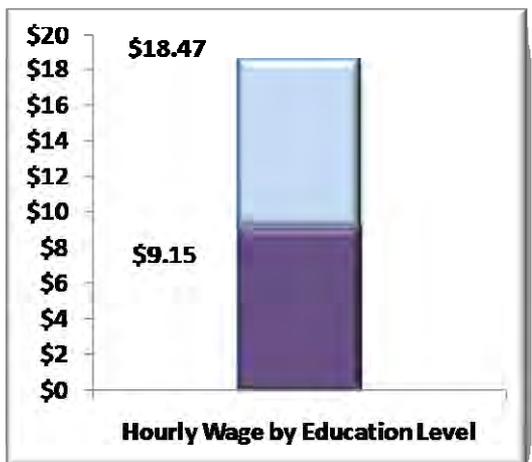
Other industries showed very few vacancies. Real estate and rental leasing had the fewest with just over 20 openings during the month of April. Only half of them were full time.

WAGES

Full-time positions provided higher hourly wages compared to their part-time counterparts, averaging \$15.71 per hour. Part-time job openings offered an average of \$9.68 an hour, over \$6 an hour less. The disparity in the full-time and part-time average wages resulted from many of the part-time jobs being seasonal and requiring little to moderate skill levels or experience while full-time openings often required a college education. Registered nurses, for example, with an average wage of \$25.89, was among the occupations with full-time job vacancies.

EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Over 33 percent of Idaho workers have an associate degree or higher while roughly 31 percent of the vacancies required an education beyond high school.



Wages for job vacancies requiring more than a high school diploma were substantially higher, offering \$18.43 an hour compared with \$9.15 for vacancies without that educational requirement.

Permanent vs. Temporary Jobs

Just under 72 percent of the 4,000 vacancies in Region 3 were expected to be permanent positions with wages averaging \$12.28 an hour. This contrasts with temporary job openings, which provided only \$8.34 per hour on average. Minimum wage in Idaho is \$7.25 per hour.

New and Replacement Jobs

A little more than one-fourth of the vacancies represented new jobs from growing companies while the other three-fourths were for existing jobs. Average wages for those new jobs were just under \$12.50 an hour. Most of those jobs were in the professional, scientific and technical services, which had over 270 vacancies. Most of them were research related interviewers likely sought out to work in conjunction with the 2010 census.

Replacement job vacancies offered wages nearly a dollar less than new jobs. The average replacement vacancy wage was just over \$11.50 an hour.

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

LABOR PARTNERS WITH ISU, POCATELLO SCHOOLS TO ASSIST STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The morning of Oct. 28 seemed typical on the campus of Idaho State University – students rushing to class, people laughing and talking along the hallways, people just enjoying a pretty fall day.

But in front of the Pond Student Union a group of high school students – prospective Idaho State students – were being dropped off to experience college life for a day. While talented, these students were different. Each has a disability.

According to Todd DeVries of Idaho State’s ADA and Disability Resource Center, about 7 percent of the school’s students have some form of disability, and many are successfully aided by services provided by the school.

The high number of students with a disability should not be surprising. A 2002 study found that 51.2 million people – 18.1 percent of the population – had some level of disability, and 32.5 million had a severe disability.

Aware of those statistics, the Idaho Department of Labor worked with Idaho State and the Pocatello School District to stage the first “Experience College Day” for over 100 area high school students with disabilities.

High school students need to know that despite their disabilities they can succeed in college and in life. Labor Director Roger B. Madsen made that point in speaking to the students. He encouraged them and reminded them that they have the potential to do great things.

The students learned about assistive technology, which “can increasingly fill the gap between a disability and access to education,” according to David Schleppebach, president of GH LLC, which provides equipment and devices that allow a person with a disability to handle the tasks of daily living and take full advantage of educational opportunities.

People with disabilities often find it difficult to successfully compete in the job market, not because of their disability, but because their disability inhibited them from obtaining an education.

According to a recent study by the National Institute of Medicine, the cost to support persons with disabilities is about 4 percent of gross domestic prod-

uct, or \$300 billion. Schleppebach points out that a few hundred dollars of assistive technology can allow a person to obtain a college education and enter the work force. Education combined with assistive technology can move those with a disability from a lifetime of welfare to life filled with career opportunities.

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

NEW JOBS IN SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO MEAN BOOST TO LOCAL ECONOMY

Despite many workers still without jobs, there are some major positive events occurring in the Pocatello-Blackfoot area.

The biggest was October’s announcement that Allstate Insurance would be hiring at least 500 employees to fill a call center in Chubbuck. Beyond the basic call center, Allstate will hire southeastern Idaho workers to become licensed insurance agents ready to serve clients across the United States. Pay is expected to range between \$27,000 and \$50,000 a year.

Allstate’s location in Chubbuck will also provide a needed boost to the local construction industry. The insurance provider is building a \$22 million facility to host its call center.

Blackfoot’s Premier Technology also announced an expansion and the addition of at least 50 employees. According to officials with Premier, the expansion is needed to deal with the across-the-board-increases in contracts the high technology company has been obtaining.

Other businesses creating new jobs in the Pocatello area include Big Lots, which just opened a store with a payroll of 50; Hoku, a high-tech company involved in solar energy that is adding about 15 more jobs; and On Semiconductor, which will create 30 new jobs with its \$15.7 million expansion announced in October.

Given the multiplier effect of new jobs – especially typically higher paying ones in sectors like manufacturing – the southeastern Idaho economy should see even more new employment opportunities beyond the 600 just announced.

Additional Jobs Generated by 600 New Call Center, Manufacturing Jobs

Sector	Original Jobs	Current Jobs	New Jobs	Added Jobs
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	4,841	4,848		7
Mining, Quarrying and Oil and Gas Extraction	138	140		2
Utilities	111	112		1
Construction	4,355	4,497		142
Manufacturing	6,086	6,195	95	14
Wholesale Trade	2,553	2,571		18
Retail Trade	7,810	7,942	50	82
Transportation and Warehousing	2,779	2,799		20
Information	784	793		9
Finance and Insurance	2,979	3,524	500	45
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	2,811	2,839		28
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	2,664	2,687		23

Economic Modeling Specialists Inc. estimates the new jobs will have a major impact in the Pocatello metropolitan area and Bingham County.

According to the economic model the 645 new jobs in the area lead to creation of another 674 jobs in other sectors of the economy through new businesses opening and existing ones expanding. Construction, which has suffered greatly since the housing bubble burst, is the big beneficiary at 142 new jobs. Retail trade picks up 82, health care 80 and finance 45. Other sectors will see on average about a 1 percent growth in employment.

In September there were about 5,000 workers without jobs in Bannock, Bingham, and Power counties – a 7.6 percent unemployment rate. Dropping that number in the three counties by over 1,300 would cut the rate to 5.6 percent.

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

VETERANS: A SOURCE OF LEADERSHIP FOR BUSINESS

As businesses continue to struggle in the sluggish post-recession economy, military veterans offer skills learned from their service that can help entrepreneurs gain profitability – leadership, courage, discipline, integrity and diligence. How these skills can benefit employers has been highlighted in “George Washington and the Art of Business” by Mark McNielly, who shows that lessons learned in the military have direct application in the world of business.

Edouard Cukierman, a venture capitalist in Tel Aviv, joined McNielly recently in telling the Economist magazine that, “Israeli startups should pay royalties to the army.”

Taking full advantage of veterans’ leadership is Fluor, a Texas-based Fortune 200 company that provides engineering, procurement and project management services. It employs 42,000 on every continent except Antarctica.

The company’s rapid growth put it in a leadership crisis. Initially uncertain where it was going to find new leaders, Fluor discovered a ready source close to home.

Chief Operating Officer David Seaton and Glenn Gilkey, Fluor’s senior vice president of human resources, formed the Junior Military Officer Hiring Initiative, which quickly generated a pool of quality employees. Most have engineering degrees from institutions such as West Point, Virginia Military Academy, the Naval Academy and The Citadel. Beyond academic experience, many of these former military officers had already led teams of up to 150, often in battle conditions. Fluor’s growth and success is a testimony to the leadership veterans provide.

The federal government has launched a new website called America’s Heroes at Work to aid employers who want to hire veterans.

However, the contribution vets are making to the business community and the American economy is not just limited to their service as employees. Many veterans are taking the bold step of becoming business owners.

A study commissioned by the Small Business Administration’s Office of Advocacy found that 22 percent of veterans are purchasing or starting a new business or thinking about it. The study also found that many of these veterans credited their interest, skill and desire to start a venture to their training and experiences in the military.

Ron Tapia, a former non-commissioned officer in the U.S. Marine Corps and the current veterans representative at the Idaho Department of Labor’s Pocatello office, says many of the vets he assists “clearly have the confidence and ability to successfully open their own business.”

In the United States many veterans are succeeding in the demanding role of entrepreneur. These people who risk much to start businesses are an important part of the overall economy and the communities they live in. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, 52 percent of non-farm private employment is provided by small businesses. By starting small businesses veterans create employment opportunities at a time when the economy needs them most.

Among vets focusing on business are those with service-related disabilities. Several universities including, Syracuse, Texas A&M, Florida State and UCLA are collaborating to provide these veterans with a business boot camp to teach them basic finance, how to write a business plan, raise capital and develop a sales and marketing strategy. Participants know that if they can overcome their disabilities they can succeed as business owners, and many have gone on to start successful businesses.

To support the efforts of vets starting their own companies, the Small Business Administration has begun the Patriot Express Loan Program, which provides up to \$500,000 in guaranteed loans to business that are at least 51 percent owned by veterans.

For information regarding the Patriot Express Loan Program please visit www.sba.gov. For information on recruiting veterans go to www.americasheroesatwork.gov/.

Information regarding hiring veterans and services available to veterans is available from the Idaho Department of Labor through its 25 local offices or on the Web at labor.idaho.gov.

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

30 Years of Career Development in Idaho!

Idaho Career Information System is celebrating the occasion and you are invited to attend.

Nov. 30, 2010

Open House & Time Capsule Viewing	Noon - 3:30 p.m.
Recognition Awards	1:30 - 1:45 p.m.
Career Development Time Capsule	1:45 - 2 p.m.
Official Sealing Ceremony	

Idaho Department of Labor, Boise Local Office

Conference Room A and B

219 W. Main St., Boise, Idaho 83735

For more information, see our website at

<http://www.idahocis.org/>





Area and County Developments

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

NORTHERN IDAHO

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai & Shoshone counties

The Idaho Department of Labor's Coeur d'Alene office has moved. Below is the new address and phone number:

Kootenai County Department of Labor

600 N. Thornton St.

Post Falls, ID 83854

Phone: (208) 457-8789

Fax Number: (208) 773-5773

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- Nearly \$1.3 billion in local road projects are listed in the just-updated Kootenai County 2010-2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The plan does not prioritize projects. Short-term projects - expected to be built by 2015 - include widening Government Way to five lanes between Dalton and Hanley avenues at \$3.3 million, widening shoulders and adding sidewalks and pathways on Hayden Avenue between Government Way and the east city limits at \$1.5 million and constructing a new three-lane connection to the proposed Ramsey Road connection on Reed Road between Warren K and Ramsey roads at \$4.6 million.

Long-term projects to be constructed by 2030 include widening Interstate 90 to six lanes between Highway 41 and the Washington state line at \$51.5 million, a new north-south freeway on U.S. 95 at Huetter from I-90 to Highway 53 at \$400 million, widening Greensferry to five lanes between 16th and Prairie avenues at \$4 million and a new three-lane rural major collector segment to Highway 53, which is Main Street in Coeur d'Alene, from Coeur d'Alene Street to Highway 53 with no price estimated. The plan can be downloaded at www.kmpo.net

- On July 1, Frontier announced that it had completed the acquisition of Verizon's wireline operations in 14 states including Idaho. Frontier said the transaction made it the largest pure rural telecommunications carrier in the country. Frontier's three-year strategy for northern Idaho calls for a 30 percent increase in high-speed Internet access to homes and more fiber-optic network infrastructure. The company likes fiber because of the network reliability it provides and because it is a gateway for other media. Frontier is working with regional economic development leaders on the communications infrastructure necessary for future business growth. Frontier has more than 200 employees in the Coeur d'Alene area.

- A longtime advocacy group for Idaho's timber industry will close at the end of the year. Members recently decided to disband the Intermountain Forest Association at the end of December, when the two remaining employees will lose their jobs. The Intermountain Forest Association's roots date back about 75 years. The organization also represented mills and timberland owners in other western states, but most of its funding came from Idaho. Sales and mergers altered Idaho's timber industry over the past decade, consolidating holdings and bringing new players into the state. The companies decided they preferred to handle lobbying and public policy issues on their own though they will continue to work together on some issues.
- Inland Empire Paper Co. says it is seeing an encouraging uptick in demand this year after experiencing a comparatively shallow decline in orders at the depth of the recession. The maker of newsprint and specialty paper products has been producing close to 510 tons of paper per day so far this year, down from 530 tons a day in 2008 but up from a low of 480 tons a day in 2009. Using entirely recycled or waste material, Inland Empire makes 32 kinds of paper including a number of different weights and colors. It can process up to 400 tons of waste wood and 335 tons of waste paper per day. It buys the waste wood, or wood chips, from Northwest sawmills and gets the waste paper from a much wider geographical area. The company sells 96 percent of the paper it produces outside of the Spokane area and more than 80 percent of it outside of the state. Inland Empire Paper, which employs 137 people including 87 in union positions, is Spokane County's third-largest taxpayer and Avista Corp.'s largest utility customer.
- Springdale Lumber & BioEnergy LLC, which is launching one of four bioenergy demonstration projects selected by the state of Washington in January, has begun sawing custom timber at a mill it refurbished at Springdale, Wash. It has created 32 jobs and set the stage for cogeneration of electricity and other operations that are expected to employ another 30. Borgford Design & Manufacturing in Colville, Wash., is working on cogeneration equipment for Springdale Lumber and plans to move its operations to a plant that it will build at the old Kulzer Mill site seven miles from Springdale. Kulzer BioEnergy LLC, another affiliated company, plans to install a bioenergy project there, and the entire Kulzer Mill site operation is expected to employ another 40 people. The bioenergy project and the cogeneration operation at Springdale will produce a combined 7.3 to 7.8 megawatts of electricity, enough to serve 5,200 to 5,600 homes.
- The Northwest Independent Film and Entertainment Society in Coeur d'Alene received a \$3,000 film grant from the Idaho Film Office to produce the film, "Root Bound." The short film covers a story of a young professional who denies his Idaho roots when he is hired by a national television show. This inaugural program is intended to advance the film-making work force in Idaho through hands-on production experience on an eligible project.
- The University of Idaho Board of Regents has approved an applied research operation at the university's research park in Post Falls. The Laboratory of Applied Science and Research will be nonprofit with an administration separate and independent of the university. Its autonomy will allow it the flexibility and freedom to pursue projects that are typically very difficult in a university setting. The concept is being used at other research institutions around the nation. Idaho's program will foster applied research and transfer technology and create opportunities for research relationships and projects with the private sector.

- A \$43 million project to repave and raise Fairchild Air Force Base's runway is planned for February. The 92nd Air Refueling Wing will move personnel and planes to Grant County Airport in Moses Lake in mid-January. A number of KC-135 aircraft will likely be stationed temporarily at Spokane International Airport. AECOM Technology, a California-based construction company, will hire 10 area subcontractors during a 10-month project to build a new runway and taxiways and install storm drains. An additional 10 to 12 Spokane-area workers will be hired during the project by Icon Materials in Tukwila, which will perform demolition, earthworks excavation, grading and installation of storm drains.
- Greenstone Corp., a Liberty Lake-based real estate company, is developing a 12-lot residential subdivision named Mackenzie Beach on the east side of Liberty Lake. The estimated value of the 140-acre development is more than \$12 million and includes six waterfront lots priced at between \$695,000 and \$895,000 and six second-tier meadow lots starting at \$225,000 each. The lots range in size from about two-thirds of an acre to slightly over an acre. Greenstone's other ongoing developments include the River District, a mixed-use development south of the Spokane River in Liberty Lake, and Kendall Yards, an urban community northwest of downtown Spokane.
- The Washington state Department of Transportation has received about \$2 million in grants to begin design work and right-of-way acquisitions for a planned \$10.5 million interchange at U.S. 195 and Cheney-Spokane Road, in southwest Spokane. The planned interchange would be built about four miles south of Interstate 90 at a busy intersection that has been the scene of many collisions, including a fatal accident. The department has made a request to the governor's office for funds to complete the project, and if the project makes it to Gov. Chris Gregoire's proposed budget for the next fiscal year, the 2011 Legislature would consider funding the project.
- Avista Corp. held an interactive summit in late October, titled Powering Our Future, with an estimated 250 community leaders and customers. Climate change, pricing and availability of energy, the advent of the smart grid and the rapid pace of technology were some of the topics discussed at the summit. Avista is rated as the 11th cleanest utility in the U.S. by the Natural Resources Defense Council.
- After reporting that Idaho customers will pay about \$4 extra on their combined monthly gas and electric bills, Avista Corp. reported net income of \$12.3 million, or 22 cents per diluted share, for the third quarter of 2010. That is up from the \$8.1 million, or 15 cents per diluted share, for the same quarter last year. According to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, the adjustments will not increase Avista's net earnings. The higher prices paid by customers stem from fluctuations in wholesale prices for natural gas and a reduced federal electric credit. Customers received a large credit last year when wholesale costs for natural gas dropped. That credit will be smaller this year.
- The Washington Department of Financial Institutions closed the Union Credit Union in Spokane because the bank experienced a high number of loan delinquencies, negative earnings and low net worth. The department reported Union had \$11.8 million in total assets and \$11.8 million in deposits. Union is the first credit union to close in Washington.
- Wind turbines could be the next cash crop for Whitman County's wheat farmers. A Boston company wants to build a \$170 million wind farm on a ridge near Oakesdale, a town of 400 about 30 miles southwest of

Spokane. First Wind Energy LLC is seeking permits for up to 50 turbines on 5,000 acres leased from local growers. The venture would be the county's first commercial wind farm. The turbines are estimated to produce enough electricity per year to meet the needs of 25,000 residences. The six- to eight-month construction process could begin later next year.

- Liberty Lake technology firm Itron Inc.'s third quarter sales and nine-month revenue soared to record levels. The maker of meters and software for utilities released quarterly sales of \$576 million, compared with \$408 million from the third quarter of 2009. Nine-month sales were \$1.6 billion, compared to \$1.2 billion from the nine months the year before. Itron also has a 12-month order backlog of \$958 million and a total order backlog of \$1.7 billion.

BENEWAH COUNTY

- The Coeur d'Alene Tribe received \$11.8 million in federal funds to build a new, 47,000-square-foot state-of-the-art medical center in Plummer. The Benewah Medical Center has 122 employees and currently serves 6,500 patients, who make more than 36,000 visits annually. Roughly half of the patients at the clinic are non-tribal members. The \$11.8 million award through the Affordable Care Act will cover 68 percent of the \$17.3 million project cost. The tribe will contribute \$3 million, and the medical center has set aside \$2.5 million for the balance. The new medical center, located on six acres west of U.S. 95 about a mile from the existing center in downtown Plummer, should open in the fall of 2012. Construction will start next spring.
- Timber Harvesting & Wood Fiber Operations magazine just named Jack Buell Trucking of St. Maries the 2010 Logging Business of the Year. Owners Jack and Eleanor Buell are featured in the September-October edition of the magazine. Jack Buell Trucking is a trucking, log handling and biomass producing company with more than 130 rigs.
- City of Plummer officials lifted a four-year hold on development in mid-October. The city imposed a moratorium on new construction in 2006 after the state deemed the sewer system inadequate. The city just completed a new \$8.5 million wastewater treatment facility. The majority of funding for the project came from a \$5 million bond. An Idaho Community Development Block Grant of \$500,000 was awarded by the Idaho Department of Commerce to fund the design engineering of the plant. And the final piece of the financing puzzle was completed by a \$7.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development program. The city has spent \$300,000 in matching funds from money invested over the years to make infrastructure improvements. The land was secured from the Idaho Transportation Department.
- The Kootenai County Sheriff's Department and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe reached an agreement in October to provide enhanced law enforcement services to both tribal and non-tribal residents across the county. The agreement builds on the existing cross-deputization and mutual aid agreement that has been in place since 2005, ensuring that deputies can enforce tribal warrants on and off the reservation just as cross-deputized tribal officers can enforce state warrants.
- The Plummer-Worley School District broke ground on a new 47,000-square-foot, \$11.3 million Lakeside Elementary building. The new building will be near both the high school and middle school.
- The St. Maries Volunteer Community Clinic received a pair of grants totaling \$4,500. The clinic provides free and reduced-cost health care for low-

income and uninsured families who cannot obtain medical services elsewhere. In its first-ever grant award, The Janice Foundation of Idaho Falls gave the clinic \$2,000 to provide access to health care services for uninsured Benewah County residents. The Idaho Community Foundation granted the clinic \$2,500 to use for patient vouchers for medication, diagnostic testing and medical supplies. The clinic has about 35 volunteers, many of whom are doctors and nurses who work at St. Maries Family Medicine, the Benewah Community Hospital and Panhandle Health.

BONNER COUNTY

- Food manufacturer Litehouse Inc. will build a new \$10 million facility in southern Utah that will employ 162. Litehouse corporate office and core job force will remain in Sandpoint, but the company's plant in Lowell, Mich., is seeking expansion. The decision to open a plant in Hurricane, Utah, was prompted by the area's positive economic and business conditions and the opportunity to better serve customers. Litehouse said the region not only offers competitive utility and labor rates, but the company received a "great incentive package" from the state of Utah. Incentives include assistance from the local community and a single taxpayer, post-performance incentive of \$502,400 as a tax credit over 10 years. Litehouse expects the new facility to open in the second quarter of 2011. The Sandpoint-based company has sales in excess of \$120 million and is owned by its more than 500 employees in Idaho and Michigan.
- The cities of Sandpoint and Ponderay and the Ponderay Community Development Corp. have agreed to make refundable contributions to the Panhandle regional fiber-optic infrastructure project lead by the Bonner County Economic Development Council. There are also plans to seek similar commitments from the cities of Kootenai and Dover. The city of Sandpoint has put up \$24,500 and the development council hopes it can secure commitments from the other jurisdictions to cover the \$50,000 cost to jump-start the fiber-to-the-premises project with U.S. MetroNets of Utah. MetroNets hopes to attract investors for the \$14 million regional fiber-optic network project and then be an anchor service provider to operate and maintain the system.
- Coldwater Creek expects third quarter retail sales to drop about 20 percent compared to the same period last year. Coldwater Creek's stock fell 35 percent to \$3.49 after the company released its third-quarter forecast. For the third quarter, Coldwater Creek expects net sales in the range of \$225 million to \$230 million – a decline in comparable retail sales of up to 21 percent. The company employs about 500 people at its headquarters in Sandpoint. The company also has a call center in Coeur d'Alene and a distribution center and call center in Parkersburg, W.Va. According to the Idaho Business Review, the company has a total payroll of 9,000 to 10,000.
- An \$18 million expansion project is planned for one of Sandpoint's drinking water treatment plants – nearly doubling the city's capacity to supply potable water. The Lake Pend Oreille plant expansion will include converting the treatment process at that plant to a pressurized microfiltration membrane system from the current gravity-fed sand filtration system. The new system will force water through tiny pores in the membrane, which will filter out contaminants. The project will expand the Lake Pend Oreille plant's capacity for treating drinking water to 10 million gallons a day and the city's total capacity to 15 million gallons a day. The Lake Pend Oreille plant west of the city center was built in 1981. The expansion will be its first upgrade. Construction is expected to begin next spring with comple-

tion in late 2012. The water system serves 4,000 households and businesses.

- The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is hoping to restore the Clark Fork River Delta. A series of metal rods implanted in the Clark Fork Delta in 1997 indicates that the delta is sloughing away by as much as 5-8 feet a year, which means 50 to 80 feet of ground has been lost in the past decade. The Clark Fork Delta is vital for migratory songbirds and waterfowl and a priority protection area for Fish and Game. The project, however, lacks funding. Fish and Game is on the lookout for further grant opportunities but is also holding out hope that the Bonneville Power Administration will help with funding.

KOOTENAI COUNTY

- Buck Knives produced its millionth knife of 2010 in the latter part of October. The Post Falls factory added about 40 employees this year, bringing its work force to 250. Buck Knives is a 108-year-old family operated business that relocated to northern Idaho from San Diego in 2005. Buck usually has between \$35 million and \$50 million in annual sales. The blade of the special knife was engraved with the date, Oct. 29, 2010 and "1,000,000th knife."
- Silverwood set record attendance in 2010 with more than 600,000 guests. That is up 6 percent from the 2009 season, which was up 2 percent from 2008. In addition to owner Gary Norton's continued investment in the park, the theme park's advertising message, "Affordable family fun a short drive away," in the Seattle, Portland and Calgary markets helped the park reach the new levels. Of the guests who visited the park in 2010, an estimated 400,000 were vacationers, which according to an updated Idaho Department Commerce study spent approximately \$67.9 million in the Coeur d'Alene-Spokane region on dining, shopping, hotel stays, fuel and more. Since the late '90s, Silverwood has increased its attendance, particularly in the last few years, when many other amusement parks suffered declines.
- The Rathdrum City Council approved a 60.7-acre annexation north of Highway 53 and east of Meyer Road. The applicants were Viking Construction and the Rathdrum Lions Club. Roughly 100 single-family homes are planned for the development. Building will likely begin in 2012. The Lions Club has its hall and ball fields on 9.5 acres at the southwest corner of the site. The remaining 30 acres along Highway 53 would be a combination of commercial and high-density or multi-family residential. The northern 30 acres of the property would be suburban residential.
- Coeur d'Alene Brewing Co., which operated in downtown Coeur d'Alene for 23 years before closing last month when its lease expired, will not re-open in Coeur d'Alene for financial reasons. The company will continue operating its restaurant in Moscow and brewery at the Steam Plant Grill in downtown Spokane.
- The build-out cost of the education corridor's infrastructure around the North Idaho College campus is estimated at \$9 million. It would start with a intersection with a signal and new road. Sewer connections would be built in. Bike trails along the Spokane River and Northwest Boulevard could also be put in and connect to the Centennial Trail around the Harbor Center. A second phase would include a roundabout at an intersection next to City Park and Memorial Field. JUB Engineers Inc. produced the conceptual design.

- C & S Glass Co. of Post Falls is building a new, larger warehouse, manufacturing and retail facility. The company sells to general contractors for commercial and office building developers. The new 8,500-square-foot building will cost about \$350,000. Precision Bilt is the general contractor, and Momentum Architecture Inc. of Coeur d'Alene designed the building.

SHOSHONE COUNTY

- Jeld-Wen Inc. of Oregon, which owns Silver Mountain Resort in Kellogg, has put the resort up for sale. Jeld-Wen is a private corporation that purchased the resort from the city of Kellogg in 1996. In addition to the ski operation, the resort includes a nine-hole golf course, condos and an indoor waterpark. Silver Mountain also operates a three-mile gondola that carries passengers to the top of the mountain.
- Both Lookout Pass and Silver Mountain Resort held job fairs to fill more than 200 positions. Lookout does not have as many openings since many of its winter workers held jobs at Lookout Pass's Route of the Hiawatha in the summer. Both resorts will be hiring lift operators, ski and snowboard technicians, bartenders, cooks, dishwashers, guest services and retail sales personnel and janitors. Silver Mountain, because it also has an 84-degree year-round indoor waterpark and a lodge, will be hiring lifeguards and housekeepers. Pay at both resorts start at minimum wage of \$7.25 and rises depending on the job. Most positions at both resorts come with a season ski pass and discounts on retail and food and free lessons. The resorts are generally open from Thanksgiving to mid-April.
- U.S. Silver is re-opening the Coeur side of the Galena Mine after 12 years and expects to hire up to 35 people. The Toronto-based mining company will start work on the Coeur mine around January. U.S. Silver expects to produce about 500,000 ounces of silver a year from the Coeur mine once it has been operating for 15 months.
- Local leaders are making progress toward their goal of having the Pulaski Trail, which traverses mostly private land, declared an historical landmark. It took eight years, but in that time the Pulaski Trail has undergone renovations that have transformed it from a neglected, washed out trail to an historical, national landmark commemorating the 1910 Fire. In cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, the Pulaski Project Committee worked to clean up the trail, install bridges, erect informational signs and redesign the trail head and the destination loop. Although the final piece of the Pulaski Trail renovation fell into place after the centennial commemoration, it completes the visual storyboard of an event remembered as a time of heroism and change for the U.S. Forest Service.

OPENINGS

- Vitalife, an energy spa, cafe and smoothie bar, in Priest River
- Biogone in Coeur d'Alene— a professional hazardous cleanup and removal business
- Critical Care Dental Clinic in Dalton Gardens
- Trader Tots, a consignment shop for children's clothing, baby gear and maternity clothing, in Post Falls
- A health-improvement business, the Marci Clark Wellness Center, in Post Falls
- Rose Lake Cookie Man between Coeur d'Alene and the Silver Valley
- Home Furnishings Outlet in Dalton Gardens
- Ellement Hair & Nail Salon in Post Falls

EXPANSIONS

- D & L Associates of Coeur d'Alene has expanded to include the Love Your Life Center, which helps clients manage their stress through massage therapy, hypnotherapy, life coaching, and smoking cessation
- The Colvin Group Inc., a health care consulting firm, has relocated to Worley from Savannah, Ga.

[Link to state and regional nonfarm job data.](#)

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

- Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories announced in October that it plans to build a manufacturing facility in Lewiston, 30 miles from its headquarters in Pullman, Wash. The \$11 million, 106,000-square-foot plant will be on 25 acres at the Port of Lewiston's Business and Technology Park. When it opens next fall, it will employ about 100 people. The site has room to double the space in the future. President Ed Schweitzer said Lewiston was chosen over numerous other sites because of company demographics. About 140 employees commute from the Lewis-Clark Valley to Pullman. Engineers are still determining exactly what devices will be produced in Lewiston. Schweitzer also plans to build a 70,000-square-foot center on its Pullman campus for research and development and where customers can learn about and test equipment they purchase. The company expects to add 150 jobs within a year. It has 1,500 working in Pullman. It plans to expand its San Luis Potosi manufacturing plant in Mexico by 68,500 square feet and increase employment there from 400 to 500. Schweitzer has been one of the fastest-growing employers in the region for more than a decade, adding 170 in the last year with 80 openings still to be filled. Its digital protective relay that pinpoints power line problems and diagnoses them continues to expand into new markets, reaching 130 countries. New product lines include communication systems for utilities that convey information among substations, generating facilities and master control stations. The company also benefits from pent-up demand for products and services to support the wind and solar energy industries.
- The Clearwater and Nez Perce national forests nearly reached their timber sale goals for the year ending Sept. 30. The Clearwater sold nearly 25 million board feet through two stewardship sales, where saw logs are essentially traded for services such as road or habitat improvements. The Nez Perce sold 92 percent of its targeted 16.6 million board feet through four sales and a log deck that was the result of thinning done to reduce fuel loading and prevent wildfires. The sales primarily targeted dead and dying lodgepole pine in the Elk City and Red River areas, where mountain pine beetles have killed many trees. Unlike past years, none of the sales offered by the forests were litigated by environmental groups, which Forest Service officials attribute to more collaboration. In the current fiscal year, the two forests plan to offer 42 million board feet of timber. Much of that will come from commercial thinning, and some will be the result of the forest restoration plan created by the Clearwater Collaborative.
- Washington State's minimum wage will increase by 12 cents to \$8.67 on Jan. 1. The minimum wage automatically increases every year based on the increase in consumer price index. There was no increase in 2010 be-

cause the consumer price index fell. Washington currently has the highest state minimum wage in the nation. Oregon's minimum wage will go to \$8.50 an hour on Jan. 1. Idaho's minimum wage matches the federal minimum at \$7.25. During periods of low unemployment, an increase in the Washington minimum wage tends to raise entry-level wages for border economies in Idaho. With unemployment considerably higher than a few years ago, the increase in the Washington rate isn't likely to put much upward pressure on wages in Idaho.

- AmericanWest Bank will soon operate under a new holding company. Customers will not notice any differences in service, but President Pat Rusnak said the change will help lending overall and keep the bank open. Rusnak said the move was the only option to complete the recapitalization needed after state regulators ordered the existing holding company, AmericanWest Bancorporation, to add new investments back in May 2009 to meet regulatory benchmarks. Unable to comply, he said the search began two months ago for a new holding company, an uncommon tactic but the best way to protect the bank. The buyer, SKBHC Holdings, will purchase the bank for \$6.5 million and make up to \$200 million in investments.
- The Idaho Supreme Court ruled 3-2 that it has no jurisdiction at this time over complaints about oversized oil rig loads taking up both lanes of U.S. Highway 12 in north central Idaho. The ruling reversed a decision by a lower court to revoke permits the Idaho Transportation Department issued for the loads in August. The court said it was premature to decide on the case since the Transportation Department had not issued anything in the ConocoPhillips case that was a final order.

CLEARWATER COUNTY

- Telemedicine was first used in the 1960s when the Gemini and Apollo astronauts were monitored via two way video connections with Space Medicine Specialists in Houston. That same concept is now being used by Clearwater Valley and St. Mary's hospitals with Boise-based psychiatrists, emergency department consults, remote surgery training, cardiologists from Spokane, Wash., and as of mid-October with hospital doctors treating patients. "We're fortunate that our seven family practice physicians are on site and can round on our hospitalized patients and be quickly available when we're needed," said Dr. Michael Meza, a Clearwater Valley family practice physician. "However, with some of our patients we must make a decision about whether or not they should be transferred to a tertiary care center in another city. It's a tough decision because often they want to stay here, close to family, friends and recognized hospital staff, but we have to balance that with providing them the best medical care possible." Telemedicine provides that care locally.
- Changes are coming to a downtown Orofino landmark with the sale of the Barnett-Thompson Chevrolet building to Paul and Lee Ann Pippenger, who plan to make the upper floor into six non-smoking apartments. They plan to convert the ground floor into retail space.
- The Orofino School District plans to use \$122,753 in federal Education Jobs Funds to hire a half-time teacher to relieve the overcrowded kindergarten/first grade class at Timberline School, a behavioral specialist to consult with staff to develop behavior plans and two paraprofessionals to work with students on individual education plans. It also restored funding for the two days eliminated from certified staff contracts.
- Clearwater Historical Museum Director Bernice Pullen updated the Clearwater County Commissioners on the plans for the county's Centennial

Celebration. As early as 1903, steps were being taken to create the county, but it was formed by the Idaho Legislature in 1911. Pullen is soliciting help on gathering historical information from the community museums in the county.

IDAHO AND LEWIS COUNTIES

- High gold prices are prompting more exploration. Premium Exploration Inc. of British Columbia filed 782 claims with the Bureau of Land Management on Oct. 14, doubling the size of its exploration site in the Orogrande zone near Elk City in the Nez Perce National Forest. With the new claims, the company is now exploring five contiguous projects that cover 58 square miles. The Orogrande zone has been host to mining operations since the 1860s. At least 10 gold mines were in production there at various times from the late 1890s to the late 1930s.
- A coalition of Nez Perce, Idaho and Lewis counties, the Nez Perce Tribe, the Idaho Transportation Department and local cyclists is exploring converting rail lines between Spalding and Grangeville to a paved bicycle and pedestrian path. The idea, still in its infancy, would create a regional trail system similar to the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes and the Route of the Hiawatha, both destination biking and walking paths in Idaho's Panhandle.
- The effort to recover spilled diesel fuel seeping into the Lochsa River has been reduced because of the onset of winter weather and difficult subsurface conditions. A coalition of state, federal and tribal agencies and private contractors will continue to monitor the spill site and use absorbent booms and pads to collect fuel that reaches the river. The team will also continue to skim fuel from groundwater beneath U.S. Highway 12. But no more soil will be removed at the site near Saddle Camp Road, where a fuel tanker crashed Sept. 30 and spilled 7,500 gallons of fuel.

LATAH COUNTY

- Pullman, Wash., leaders are considering more than doubling the current 8,300-acre urban growth area surrounding the city. This means the city could set up zoning standards for 8,380 acres outside of city limits in case property owners on the edge of city boundaries wish to apply for annexation. Commission Chair Steve Garl reminded other commissioners during a Wednesday meeting that while the city may expand their urban growth area, the development of the area may not occur for many decades after the city's decision.
- After long legal battles and much anticipation, the doors have opened at the new Pullman Walmart supercenter. Walmart closed its 17-year-old store in Moscow on October 26. All the 200 Moscow employees willing to work in Pullman kept their jobs, and about 120 more people were hired. Walmart expects to reopen the Moscow store after it is renovated and a grocery section is added. It tentatively plans to break ground on a 25,000-square-foot expansion of the Moscow store next summer and reopen in late winter or early spring 2012. In the meantime, the store's move across state lines is likely to affect Moscow retailers, since some people who might have combined trips to Walmart and other Moscow retailers may now do more of their shopping in Pullman.
- EcoAnalysts Inc. of Moscow was awarded a five-year contract by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide aquatic bio-assessment services for national Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program surveys. The contract, the firm's largest ever, involves identifying services for the 2011 National Wetland Survey, the 2012 National Lakes Survey and the 2013/2014 National Rivers and Streams Survey. This year EcoAna-

lysts will process water samples for microscopic plankton composed of animals from selected lakes nationwide to test industry-wide aquatic sampling and laboratory methods as an additional project under the contract.

- Moscow has received a \$1.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to build an intermodal transit center. The 6,800-square-foot facility will provide a link to the city's public transit systems, Moscow Valley Transit, the University of Idaho Vandal Shuttle and intercity bus service from Northwestern Trailways and Wheatland Express. It will offer access for taxis, vanpools and carpools, ensure pedestrian and bicyclist accessibility and feature a link to Paradise Path. The project is estimated to cost \$2.8 million. The city has secured the additional money through other grants. It hopes to complete the project within two years. Design West architects in Pullman and WHPacific in Portland are identifying a site for the center. A likely location is the largely dormant industrial corridor between downtown Moscow and the University of Idaho that is in the Legacy Crossing urban renewal district. Since a large number of commuters go to the campus, the site could be a prime location.

NEZ PERCE AND ASOTIN, WASH., COUNTIES

- The Port of Clarkston is getting a \$100,000 grant from the state of Washington to continue the successful Snake River Boat Builders Export Program, which was initiated and administered by the Clearwater Economic Development Administration. The Port of Clarkston's grant will allow the program to continue into next year as responsibility shifts from the administration to the port. Clearwater Economic Development and the Northwest Inland Manufacturers Association, which initially conceived the program, will continue to play a role. The initiative began by hosting boating magazine writers from Germany to learn about the aluminum-welded boats that have earned the valley the title "Jet Boat Capital of the World." Last July the industry began five months of intensive training on export financing, tariffs, intellectual property protection, freight and logistics and certification to show a product that meets Economic Union consumer safety, health and environmental regulations. Last month a trade mission of European boat buyers came to the Lewis-Clark Valley to inspect the boats, which are exceptionally sturdy, operate in just a few inches of water and can be used in law enforcement, rescue and commercial applications as well as recreation. In January, valley boat builders will staff a Snake River Boat Builders Pavilion at Europe's largest boat show in Germany, which has been a target because of its size and strong economy. The initiative is backed by Lewiston's Bentz Boats, Riddle Marine and Custom Weld Boats; Clarkston's Renaissance Marine Group, Thunder Jet, Aztec Fabrication's Phantom Jet Boats and Hells Canyon Marine and Orofino's SJX Boats and boat trailer maker Gateway Trailers. The recession hit jet boat builders hard. They lost about half their 240 jobs and have added back only 30 since the year began.
- Tribal representatives from across the Northwest were in north central Idaho last month to talk about fish and wildlife at the 28th annual Native American Fish and Wildlife Society conference. More than 200 listened to presentations from various professionals on topics related to outdoor conservation.
- Gateway Materials plans to hire 10 more people for its trailer manufacturing operation, which is moving to the Lewiston Orchards. The trailers are custom built to haul boats and RVs. With the new hires, production is expected to rise to 30 trailers a month. For over 50 years, Gateway Materials has offered a range of steel and aluminum products. In recent years, it has

expended its trailer fabrication operations and is participating with boat builders in the Lewis-Clark Valley initiative to expand exports to Germany and other European nations.

- Lewiston school patrons have rejected a \$52 million bond to build a new high school. The bond fell 5 percentage points short of the supermajority it needed. Supporters argued the current high school built in 1928 is falling apart, was not designed for 21st-Century teaching methods and technology and poses security and fire risks. Opponents objected to increasing property taxes by an estimated \$1.36 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation during a period of economic stress.
- Clearwater Paper has found another way to benefit from federal tax credits for alternative fuels. The company anticipates getting \$24.7 million from the cellulosic biofuel producer tax credit after discovering black liquor, a byproduct of making paper, qualifies for the credit. The credit would be applied to January 2009. Before that Clearwater Paper was collecting a different tax credit that rewarded it for using black liquor to create steam and electricity at its Lewiston plant. That credit created \$171 million in income for Clearwater Paper in 2009.
- The Lewiston City Council will give \$10,000 to the city's sesquicentennial celebration. Councilman Thyra Stevenson wanted a smaller amount to be matched by private donations, and Councilman Tim Broemeling wanted to make it a loan although there would be no one legally responsible for repayment. The first major event probably will be tied into the Dogwood Festival. The main event is tentatively planned for October and will have a historical focus. The combined Lewiston and Clarkston chamber has offered to do the last major gala of the year.
- The Lewis Clark Valley Chamber of Commerce will be the name of a new organization serving businesses in Nez Perce and Asotin counties. The merged chambers of Lewiston and Clarkston, Wash., will have a staff of five and be combined officially on Jan. 1. Kristin Kemak, the executive director of the Clarkston Chamber, will be president and chief executive officer of the Lewis Clark Valley Chamber. Hailey Feider will be the marketing and events manager while Mary Ann McNeely will be the business services coordinator.
- Lewiston received a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant of nearly \$1.6 million to improve its downtown stormwater system. Funding the stormwater improvements reduces the risk of flooding that could affect about 90 buildings including residences, businesses, the police station, the headquarters fire station, the Nez Perce County Courthouse, U.S. Post Office, Lewiston Community Center and a portion of U.S. Highway 12.

OPENING

- Larson's, a department store in downtown Grangeville, with five employees

CLOSING

- Ernie's Steakhouse, a restaurant in Grangeville that employed 20 people. It was destroyed by an Oct. 3 fire.

[Link to state and regional nonfarm job data.](#)

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

SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO

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

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

ADA COUNTY

- Boise State broke ground on a new business school building. The \$28 million project will employ up to 120 during construction, which is expected to last until fall 2012.

ADAMS COUNTY

- Adams County officials spoke with state elected officials during a visit to the county in early October about a proposed biomass power plant project, which would create up to 27 jobs at around \$16 an hour. The project lacks the necessary funding to push forward. County officials believe another economic stimulus or similar program would provide money to get the plant going.
- A movie production crew may be heading to Council next summer to shoot a film called "Saving Council." The moving centers on the inventive ideas a small town fictional mayor has to curb the effects of the recession. The production might add a few temporary jobs and could mean about \$400,000 to the Adams County economy.
- The city of New Meadows has mandated that all city employees begin taking furloughs. At this point, city hall will close every other Friday through next September. Every furlough day saves the city \$400.

ELMORE COUNTY

- A planned community near the Ada and Elmore county border may become a reality although it could take another 25 years. The community, named Mayfield Springs, has plans for over 4,000 housing units and areas for commercial businesses. It is projected that it will take six years before construction begins.

OWYHEE COUNTY

- Three Owyhee County libraries are on the list for funding to update their Internet to broadband. Funding for the broadband upgrades would come from \$1.9 million in stimulus funds and nearly \$1 million from Idaho agencies and other non-profits. Over 60 libraries are waiting to see if their Internet connections will be upgraded.
- A \$120 million wind farm project, which was proposed by American Wind Group, has received final approval from the Owyhee County Planning and Zoning Commission. American Wind Group is currently in the process of securing energy contracts with Idaho Power Co. That should be done by late 2011 or early 2012, and then construction can begin. The total output of energy from the alternative energy project will be around 60 megawatts.

PAYETTE COUNTY

- Members of the Fruitland and Payette chambers of commerce have voted overwhelmingly to merge the two organizations. Advocates of the merger believe the joint effort of the two communities will have a greater impact on economic expansion. The organization will be known as the Payette County Chamber of Commerce.
- The city of Payette broke ground on a new fire station in early October. Payette received a \$1.9 million grant from the American Recovery and Re-

investment Act to build the fire station. According to Economic Modeling Specialists Inc., construction will generate over 40 jobs.

VALLEY COUNTY

- The Idaho Land Board approved a deal between Tamarack Municipal Association and Credit Suisse Group, the resort's principal creditor, that would keep the lease of state land in place through July 2011, pending a federal bankruptcy judge's approval to allow the use of ski lifts, groomers and all of the resort's other equipment necessary to open the resort Dec 20.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has provided \$100,000 towards \$150,000 in improvements at the Washington County Courthouse. The replacement of windows, doors and the heating and cooling system with higher efficiency versions began in early October. The remodeling work has generated over 30 jobs, according to Economic Modeling Specialists Inc.
- Washington County will sign an engineering contract with Kimley Horn & Associates on its \$1.7 million airport runway overlay. The engineering contract is one of several things the county needed to accomplish prior to submitting a grant application to the Federal Aviation Administration. If approved, the overlay project would begin next summer, generating over 60 jobs.

[Link to state and regional nonfarm job data.](#)

*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

TWIN FALLS

- C3/Customer, Contact, Channels held its grand opening and announced its payroll was nearly 900 customer service representatives. The company made a few changes to the former Dell Computer building before moving in. An estimated 200 workers have their insurance licenses and are renewing or selling supplemental health care insurance policies.
- The Head Start building in Hansen is open and providing early education to approximately 50 preschoolers. The center provides services to children in Hansen, Kimberly, Murtaugh, Eden and Hazelton. The new 3,500-square-foot building and playground ran a bill of \$668,200 but almost 60 percent was paid from a community block grant administered by the Department of Commerce.
- The Herrett Center at the College of Southern Idaho hosted 150 9-14 year-olds for the Lego League Body Forward Challenge in building robots with Legos. There were 11 teams from various communities vying to win and attend the Lego League World Festival next year in St. Louis. Similar events were held in Idaho Falls, Pocatello and Boise. The teams brought their already designed robot to the competition.



Robots in Hammet Center, College of Southern Idaho

- The Magic Valley Art Council is moving into its new arts center on the Snake River Canyon rim. The council raised \$1.4 million through community donations to finance the new facility and has nearly achieved its \$60,000 goal for covering incidentals and future operations. The center will have an outside and inside venue, first-rate performance auditoriums, classrooms and will share the commercial complex with professionals and a restaurant managed by Tom Nickels of Ketchum who will also provide catering for events throughout the complex. Small events will be staged over the next several months to celebrate the center's completion and the successful fund raising drive.
- Ronald McDonald is coming to Buhl. The fast food chain is building as part of an expansion at the Valley Co-Op. Baumgart Construction of Boise, a long-time builder with McDonald's experience, estimates project completion toward the end of the year or early 2011. The fast food restaurant will be operated by the Kyles, who own and manage McDonalds throughout the Magic and Wood River valleys.
- Seneca's sweet corn canning line is a thing of the past. The equipment is being shipped to a different plant now that harvest processing is over. The company will emphasize frozen vegetables at the plant and will continue its acreage contracts for sweet corn and snap peas throughout southern Idaho. So far, the company has announced 40 layoffs, but that depends on whether the workers are willing to transfer to another plant. The city of Buhl is applying for a Community Block Grant through the Department of Commerce to provide some support to the company as it retools. The grant could provide additional waste water capacity, power and rail expansion. The company is looking at industrial revenue bonds along with its own investment.

JEROME COUNTY

- Three strikes and the jail bond in Jerome is out. This time, the \$13 million, 165-bed jail plan failed by its largest margin, 7.2 percent compared to 1.6 percent in November 2009 and 1.2 percent in May of this year. The bond would have financed a jail on 80 acres across from the municipal airport. City officials are weighing the merit of filing for judicial confirmation whereby a judge decrees the municipality can take on public debt. Currently the city pays for inmates to be housed elsewhere due to overcrowding.

CASSIA COUNTY

- A \$499,000 community block grant was awarded to the city of Burley to install new water, sewer and storm water systems. The updated systems will provide services to Gem State Processing, a new potato dehydration plant being constructed at the city's industrial park in Heyburn. The Department of Commerce administers the Community Block grants.

MINIDOKA COUNTY

- The Minidoka School District is drafting language to limit social media use between teachers and their students. This is a preemptive strike to ensure less opportunity for teachers and students to develop inappropriate relationships that have drawn national attention in other areas.

BLAINE COUNTY

- Blaine County resident and popular legislator Clint Stennett died in October after a long fight with brain cancer. Stennett's wife, Michelle, who was appointed to complete her husband's term by Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter, won election to a full term.

- Roxy's Market is building in the center of Ketchum where William's Market was before it closed in 2005.
- Papa Hemi's Hideaway restaurant and bar has closed in Ketchum after losing its lease.

[Link to state and regional nonfarm job data.](#)

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

BEAR LAKE COUNTY

- In October the Bear Lake County and Montpelier city planning and zoning boards met on area of impact zoning to facilitate orderly growth and development. Agricultural, commercial and residential zoning areas are designed to maintain current development patterns. A key public concern was the location of heavy industrial activity near residential areas. Others expressed concern over protection of areas that provide wildlife habitat. The impact area will do away the community expansion zone currently around Montpelier. The new impact area will not affect other incorporated cities in the county.

BINGHAM COUNTY

- The Blackfoot office of the Idaho Department of Labor hosted a job fair for Premier Technologies, which despite the recent economic downturn has become a success story in southeastern Idaho. Mike Nelson of Premier Technologies said the company has won several new contracts that require up to 75 new employees in 14 different job classifications from shop personnel to experienced engineers. Over 250 people attended the Oct. 20 fair, most getting interviews with Premier Technologies' hiring officer. This job fair is an example of how the Idaho Department of Labor is working with local employers and the public to improve Idaho's economy.

BANNOCK COUNTY

- For many months the Idaho Department of Labor has worked with other agencies including the governor office, the Idaho Department of Commerce, the Idaho Department of Insurance, Bannock County Development and officials from Pocatello and Chubbuck to bring one of the nation's largest insurers to Chubbuck. Allstate came to Chubbuck on Oct. 21 to announce a new 500-employee call center. Labor Director Roger B. Madsen called it an "opportunity to have these world class jobs from a world class company right here in our community." Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter described the process of bringing Allstate to the Pocatello area as "a courtship." Pocatello beat out over 80 other cities. Jim DeVries, Allstate senior vice president, said the deciding factoring for Pocatello was the quality of people in the labor pool. Most of the new call center's employees will be required to have an insurance license. The Idaho Department of Insurance will work with Allstate to help train new employees so that they pass the required insurance examination. The Idaho Department of Labor starting in February will work with Allstate to find qualified employees for the new center. The call center expects to be fully operational by September 2011.
- The Idaho Department of Labor, Idaho State University and the Pocatello School District put on an event to attract and encourage students with disabilities to attend college. The kick-off speaker for "Experience College Day" was Labor Director Roger B. Madsen, who discussed the great poten-

tial and possibilities each of them has. According to Todd DeVries of Idaho State's Disabilities Services Office, about 7 percent of Idaho State's current student body has a disability. Many these students are able to succeed in college due to the assistance they receive from DeVries and others who serve students with disabilities. Beth Larson of the Idaho Department of Labor's Pocatello office said the event was intended to "show that students with disabilities can succeed in college."

- Over 400 job seekers attended an Oct. 13 job fair at the Pocatello office of the Idaho Department of Labor. The 30 participating employers included service providers, retailers, financial service organizations, school districts, local unions and manufacturers. They had about 75 job vacancies among them.

CARIBOU COUNTY

- Caribou County residents may be looking closer to home for their health care needs. Caribou Memorial Hospital has seen a 3 percent increase in admissions over the previous 12 months, and surgeries were up 43 percent. Between 2005 and 2010 the hospital has seen an increase of 240 percent in surgeries and an increase of 5 percent in Medicare patients.

ONEIDA COUNTY

- Students for the Malad High School chapters of the National Honor Society, Business Professionals of America, Student Council, Future Farmers of America, the Friends of Rachel and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America are working together to aid their school district. The group held telethons Oct. 30 and Nov. 7 to raise money for school supplies, equipment, and even scholarships for graduating seniors. Over \$7,500 was raised during last year's telethons.

POWER COUNTY

- American Falls School District officials are happy that voters passed a two-year \$3.6 million levy with 75 percent approval. The addition tax revenue will help ease budget shortfalls the district is experiencing. Superintendent Ron Bolinger said the levy will provide \$1.8 million for both the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years to pay for operations, maintenance, salaries, library materials, equipment and classroom supplies.

[Link to state and regional nonfarm job data.](#)

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

EAST CENTRAL IDAHO

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

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

BONNEVILLE COUNTY

- The Idaho Falls airport landed a \$500,000 grant to help bring in new flights to San Francisco. Grant money came through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Small Community Air Service Development Program. The money will guarantee revenue to air service providers on a temporary basis.
- Big box retailers in Idaho Falls and Ammon are expecting big sales figures this Christmas season compared to last year. Target saw far better sales this August, and Kohls department store reported a 20 percent increase. Nationwide Kohls will be hiring 40,000 employees for the Christmas season and those could turn in to permanent jobs. The Kohls in Ammon

plans to hire 20 new employees with no intention of letting them go after the New Year.

- The Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce is delaying a vote on the proposed auditorium district. The auditorium district would be used to help fund an event center in Idaho Falls through a 5 percent hotel tax. After finalizing petition signatures, a special election on the issue would be held in May.

MADISON COUNTY

- Thanks to a Secure Our Schools grant, the Madison School District was awarded \$105,450 for new video cameras, lighting and doors. The will match the grant to make the upgrades. Last year, the district received a \$110,000 Secure Our Schools grant.
- The Rexburg Chamber of Commerce organized a Business Expo at the new Madison High School on Oct. 7, featuring former Dean of the Harvard Business School and current Brigham Young University-Idaho President Kim B. Clark. Clark spoke on business innovation and competition. The expo included booths where area businesses could network and explain their products and services. Workshops were held throughout the afternoon, featuring local professionals sharing ways to make businesses a success.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

- A cluster of health care related businesses is growing in Rigby. The Rigby Professional Plaza will include dental service and family medicine. The development still has 12 vacant lots for future growth. The city of Rigby continues to develop the downtown area with new trees, benches, sidewalks, gas-style street lamps and a pocket park.
- The old Jefferson County Courthouse has a new resident. The Liberty Montessori School has moved in to take advantage of the extra space and close proximity to downtown Rigby. Parents and student helped with some remodeling to make the old courthouse feel more like a school. One part of the courthouse will remain unchanged – the jury box. The school plans to use the area for mock trials to give students hands-on experience in learning about government and politics.

LEMHI COUNTY

- The Forest Service signed a new 10-year agreement with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for over \$500,000 to be used on landscape management projects in the Salmon area.
- The Lemhi County Economic Development office will be holding training courses to help local contractors with bid proposals. The workshop will be in Salmon in mid January – exact dates are yet to be determined. Contractors will be working with representatives from the Idaho Department of Labor on résumés and portfolios that will help improve local contractors' chances of winning bids on government projects. Contractors are encouraged to bring completed portfolios and résumés to the workshop for review.
- In Leadore, a public meeting was held in reference to a proposed hydroelectric power plant. The project has several more steps to take before gaining final approval. Many hope the additional power will help improve service throughout the area and create an extension of the existing three-phase power service. Agriculture and manufacturing stand to benefit from the additional power allowing for upgraded equipment.

[Link to state and regional nonfarm job data.](#)

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

State of Idaho Data – State Economic Indicators

	Oct 2010**	Sep 2010*	Oct 2009	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE ⁽¹⁾					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	756,200	756,500	750,400	0.0	0.8
Unemployment	69,200	67,900	66,400	1.9	4.2
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	9.1	9.0	8.8		
Total Employment	687,000	688,600	684,000	-0.2	0.4
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	758,300	758,000	752,900	0.0	0.7
Unemployment	66,000	63,100	62,200	4.6	6.1
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	8.7	8.3	8.3		
Total Employment	692,300	694,900	690,700	-0.4	0.2

U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE⁽²⁾

9.6 9.6 10.1

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Claims Activities

Initial Claims ⁽³⁾	12,904	10,404	15,183	24.0	-15.0
Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾	69,090	72,366	92,966	-4.5	-25.7

Benefit Payment Activities⁽⁵⁾

Weeks Compensated	57,358	60,696	78,881	-5.5	-27.3
Total Benefit \$ Paid	13,203,335	13,856,872	19,838,987	-4.7	-33.4
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$230.19	\$228.30	\$251.51	0.8	-8.5
Covered Employers	48,299	48,310	49,610	0.0	-2.6
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾	\$328,503,205	\$335,138,857	\$357,913,119	-2.0	-8.2

U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX⁽²⁾

	Oct 2010	Sep 2010	Oct 2009	% Change Month	% Change Year
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	214.6	214.3	211.5	0.1	1.5
All Urban Consumer (CPI- U)	218.7	218.4	216.1	0.1	1.2

**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