

Idaho Employment

A monthly update of
Idaho's economic health in your area

IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Franklin Basin by Ann Keyser

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C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, GOVERNOR

ROGER B. MADSEN, DIRECTOR

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IDAHO 2008 WAGE AND PROFITS SHOW WEAK PERFORMANCE

Idaho wages and business profits rose in 2008, but it was the third weakest showing since World War II as employers reduced payrolls for the first time since the economic downturn of the 1980s, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Total personal income rose \$1.4 billion, or 2.9 percent, to nearly \$49 billion in 2008, but that included investment earnings and payments like pensions, Social Security benefits and federal tax rebate checks sent out during spring 2008. Wages and profits made by business operators were up 0.9 percent, about \$300 million, with significant declines in wages for construction and real estate, manufacturing – primarily high technology – and retail trade.

Those earnings declines came with layoffs and closures in all four sectors. There were job losses in other major industries, but none were accompanied by a decline in wages and profits.

The last time wages and business profits performed so anemically was in 1982 when they fell a third of a percentage point in the midst of a double-dip recession. The only weaker period was during the 1954 recession when wages and profits were off by less than two-tenths of a percent.

The income declines in both 1982 and 1954 marked the third years of dropping nonfarm jobs around the state. The only other post-war year that Idaho saw a loss of jobs was 1986 during the last part of that decade's extended recession. But there was no accompanying decline in wages and business profits.

The bottom falling out of the housing market in 2008 claimed nearly 7,000 construction jobs and reduced wages and profits by \$470 million. Wages and profits were down almost 16 percent from 2007 while the job decline was just over 13 percent, suggesting that in addition to lost jobs there were also pay and profit reductions for those who remained active

in the sector.

Durable manufacturing dropped 3,600 jobs and over \$175 million in wages and profits. That was only partially offset by a modest gain in nondurable production – 700 jobs and \$69 million in earnings.

CORRECTION: The March issue of Idaho Employment contained some inaccurate data in the North Central Idaho labor force and nonfarm jobs table on page 36. That has been corrected in the [March online newsletter](#).

Administrative services was another sector with losses, shedding 1,800 jobs mainly in employment services, but it posted a 1.5 percent increase in earnings for the year.

Partially offsetting the job loss and completely offsetting the earnings decline were health care and government, much of that in education. Health care, the one sector that has withstood the recession as Idaho's population ages, added 3,500 jobs between 2007 and 2008, an increase of over 5 percent. Wages and profits rose \$235 million, up nearly 7.5 percent.

Government jobs at all levels rose by 2,300, or 2 percent, and wages were up more than \$350 million, or 6 percent.

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Idaho Jobs, Wages and Profits by Industry						
	2007		2008		Change	
	Jobs	Wages & Profits	Jobs	Wages & Profits	Jobs	Wages & Profits
Nonfarm earnings	659,800	\$33,114,916,000	652,700	\$33,416,250,000	-7,100	\$301,334,000
Forestry, fishing, related activities	6,200	\$420,943,000	5,700	\$403,000,000	-500	-\$17,943,000
Mining	2,600	\$227,201,000	2,700	\$249,250,000	100	\$22,049,000
Utilities	2,100	\$278,968,000	2,200	\$310,000,000	100	\$31,032,000
Construction	52,100	\$3,024,114,000	45,200	\$2,552,000,000	-6,900	-\$472,114,000
Manufacturing	66,300	\$4,334,034,000	63,400	\$4,227,250,000	-2,900	-\$106,784,000
Durable goods	42,400	\$3,058,173,000	38,800	\$2,882,250,000	-3,600	-\$175,923,000
Nondurable goods	23,900	\$1,275,861,000	24,600	\$1,345,000,000	700	\$69,139,000
Wholesale trade	28,000	\$1,656,190,000	27,600	\$1,676,750,000	-400	\$20,560,000
Retail trade	83,500	\$2,863,554,000	82,600	\$2,847,250,000	-900	-\$16,304,000
Transportation and warehousing	18,800	\$1,031,156,000	18,700	\$1,047,500,000	-100	\$16,344,000
Information	10,900	\$545,938,000	11,800	\$602,250,000	900	\$56,312,000
Finance and insurance	23,600	\$1,507,617,000	23,300	\$1,538,750,000	-300	\$31,133,000
Real estate and rental and leasing	8,900	\$532,630,000	8,400	\$508,000,000	-500	-\$24,630,000
Professional, scientific and technical services	33,800	\$3,193,728,000	33,400	\$3,361,000,000	-400	\$167,272,000
Management of companies and enterprises	7,900	\$759,375,000	7,200	\$678,500,000	-700	-\$80,875,000
Administrative and waste services	41,500	\$1,250,141,000	39,700	\$1,270,000,000	-1,800	\$19,859,000
Educational services	8,300	\$270,348,000	8,400	\$285,000,000	100	\$14,652,000
Health care and social assistance	65,700	\$3,171,012,000	69,200	\$3,406,250,000	3,500	\$235,238,000
Arts, entertainment and recreation	9,100	\$308,516,000	9,200	\$310,000,000	100	\$1,484,000
Accommodation and food services	54,200	\$895,981,000	54,300	\$915,000,000	100	\$19,019,000
Other services, except public administration	19,400	\$834,705,000	20,500	\$863,750,000	1,100	\$29,045,000
Government	116,900	\$6,008,765,000	119,200	\$6,364,750,000	2,300	\$355,985,000

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

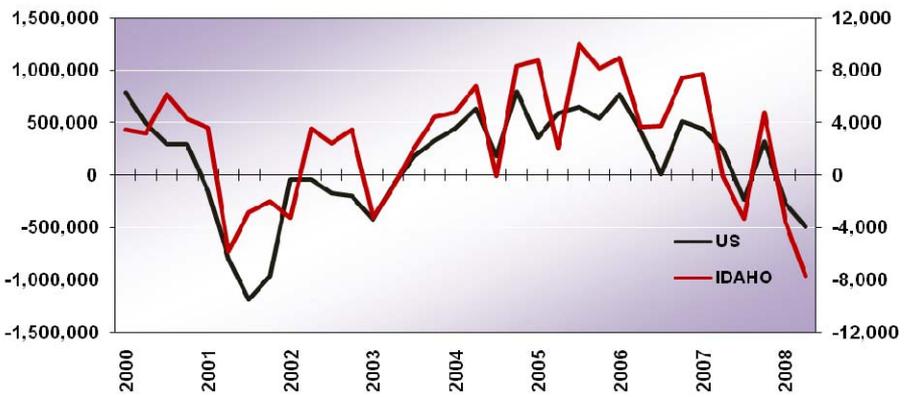
IDAHO'S BUSINESSES SHED RECORD NUMBER OF JOBS LAST SPRING

Idaho businesses eliminated a record number of jobs during spring 2008 as the national recession cut deeper into an economy that less than a year before was among the strongest in the nation, according to the latest figures from the Business Employment Dynamics program of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The program, which tracks job gains and losses based on private business expansion and contraction, recorded 40,999 jobs created by new and expanding businesses across the state during the April-June 2008 quarter but 48,725 jobs were lost to business closures and down-sizing. The net loss of 7,726 jobs was the greatest since the expansion and contraction records began being kept in 1992. That eclipsed the previous record of over 5,800 jobs lost in the second quarter of 2001 at the beginning of that recession. The 2001 decline came on the heels of the net loss of 3,562 jobs during the January-March quarter, and the unemployment rate while rising rapidly was still almost two and half percentage points lower than it was in March.

The state and national data show the net change in jobs is sensitive to the business cycle, and the record job loss underscores the fact that Idaho made it through the 2001 recession with less economic disruption than most other states and the nation.

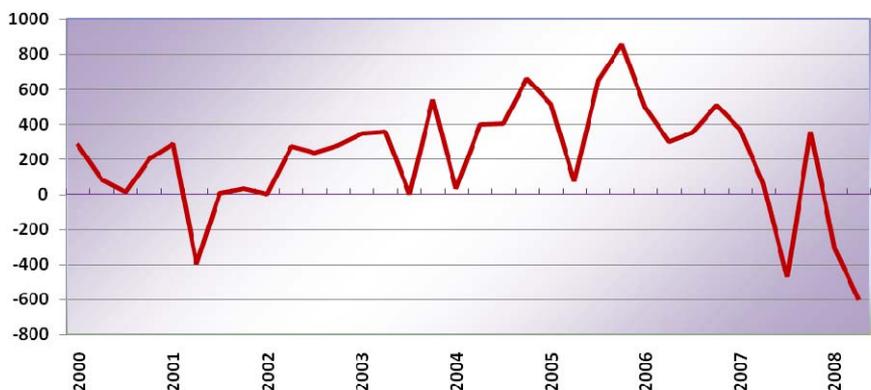
Chart 1. Net Change in Jobs by quarter, 1st Quarter 2000 to 2nd Quarter 2008, Seasonally Adjusted



Source: BED/ Bureau of Labor Statistics

The second quarter 2008 saw 590 more Idaho businesses close than open, the largest net loss of private businesses on record. It was the second straight quarterly loss of establishments after eight years with average quarterly business gains of 255 businesses. See Chart 2 on page 4.

Chart 2. Net Change in Number of Private Sector Establishments Based on Employment Change in Idaho by quarter, 1st Quarter 2000 to 2nd Quarter 2008



Source: BED/ Bureau of Labor Statistics

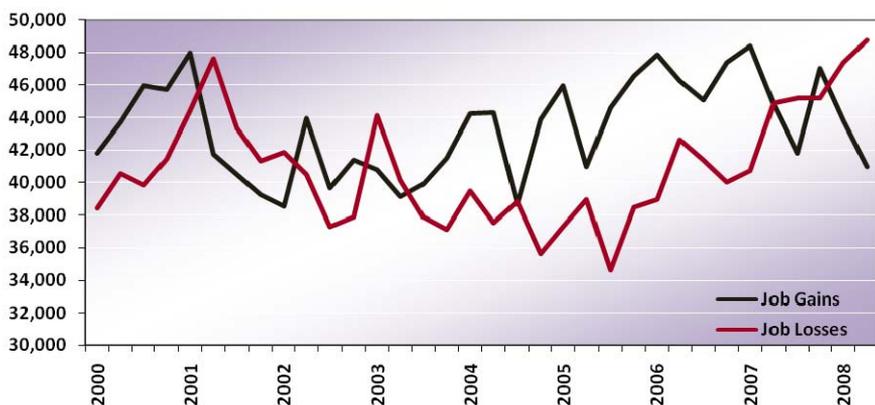
Nationally, the nation suffered a net job loss of 493,000 during the second quarter 2008, stretching across all economic sectors. New and expanding businesses created 7.3 million jobs in the second quarter, 128,000 more than in the first quarter. But that was more than offset by the loss of 7.8 million jobs as even more businesses closed or pared payrolls, an increase of 351,000 from previous quarter.

Net jobs gains were limited. Health care and education picked up 73,000 jobs in the quarter while natural resources including mining added 12,000, miscellaneous services 7,000, utilities 4,000 and information 1,000.

But that gain of less than 100,000 was overwhelmed by the loss of 185,000 jobs in construction, 111,000 in manufacturing, 141,000 in retail trade, 88,000 in professional and business services and 61,000 in financial services. It marked the fourth quarter in a row that financial services shed employment.

Alaska reclaimed the highest gross job gain at 11.5 percent followed by Wyoming's 8.7 percent. Maine and Montana both posted increases of 7.8 percent while Idaho ranked fifth at 7.5 percent., half a percentage point below the first quarter gain. Wyoming's job gain, however, was more than offset by a 10.4 percent increase in gross job losses, and Alaska's double-digit gain was muted by a 9.7 percent increase in job losses. Idaho ranked third with an 8.9 percent increase in job losses. Overall Idaho's economy maintained a second quarter of job losses outpacing gains, abandoning the usual seasonal pattern.

Chart 3. Gross Job Gains and Losses in Idaho, 1st Quarter 2000 to 2nd Quarter 2008, Seasonally Adjusted



Source: BED/ Bureau of Labor Statistics

*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. For more information on Business Employment Dynamics series, go to the Web site at www.bls.gov/bdm/.

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Area and County Developments

PANHANDLE

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai & Shoshone counties

REGIONAL ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

Most timber-dependent counties — Benewah and Boundary — continue to experience extremely high unemployment. While western Bonner County is reeling from timber industry job losses, the greater Sandpoint area is benefitting from its diversified economic base, which has kept the unemployment rate in single digits, hovering above 9 percent in March. Shoshone County's dynamism has led to a seeming contradiction. It's experienced the sharpest increases in unemployed residents, while also being the only Panhandle county to enjoy significant employment growth between March 2008 and March 2009. Silver mines added a couple of hundred jobs in the first half of 2008 and then lost them in the second half while most of the county's other industrial sectors grew slightly. Kootenai County's unemployment rate of 7.4 percent in March remains below the nation's rate, which is at a 25-year high, but above the state's rate, which is at a 21-year high.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

	March 2009	March 2008
United States	8.5%	5.1%
State of Idaho	7.10	4.1%
Panhandle Region	8.5%	5.5%
Benewah County	15.9%	11.2%
Bonner County	9.2%	6.4%
Boundary County	12.8%	9.60
Kootenai County	7.4%	4.6%
Shoshone County	11.6%	6.8%

None of the Panhandle counties experienced employment decreases as large as the national or state decreases.

The Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Corp. will spend \$23 million to improve its railroad tracks in the Idaho Panhandle this year. Nearly half will go to replacing aging spans and piers on the railroad's mile-and-a-half-long bridge over Lake Pend Oreille near Sandpoint. The railroad began work on the bridge last sum-

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Statistics

	March 2009		March 2008		Growth in Unemp	Growth in Emp
	Unemp Residents	Emp Residents	Unemp Residents	Emp Residents		
U.S. (In thousands)	13,161	140,887	7,820	146,023	68.3%	-3.5%
State of Idaho	53,002	696,717	30,966	720,532	71.2%	-3.3%
Panhandle Region	9,236	98,943	5,773	99,353	60.0%	-0.4%
Benewah County	668	3,541	446	3,546	49.9%	-0.1%
Bonner County	1,952	19,170	1,284	18,930	52.0%	1.3%
Boundary County	558	3,783	407	3,840	37.1%	-1.5%
Kootenai County	5,309	66,759	3,229	67,480	64.4%	-1.1%
Shoshone County	750	5,690	407	5,556	84.0%	2.4%

mer, replacing 12 aging spans and concrete piers. Sixteen more will be replaced this year between July and September. The 104-year-old steel and concrete bridge handles up to 50 trains a day. Fifty people will work on the project during the summer. In addition to improving the bridge, 11,500 concrete ties will be installed, 1,000 wooden ties replaced at switch locations and surfacing improvements made from the Montana-Idaho border east of Bonners Ferry to the Rathdrum area on the Idaho-Washington border.

BENEWAH COUNTY

- Cheri Carney and Mary Wade have watched other Emida area residents struggle with job losses and the resulting difficulties of keeping up their homes or finishing renovation projects. They wanted to help their neighbors afford appliances or new windows to replace broken ones. So they recently opened the nonprofit M & C Country Creek. The store offers used, heavily discounted, or new donated appliances, furniture, lumber, piping and windows. Money from sales has to go back to the community in one form or another, the women said, so they donate things to people in need. The women are also working on a voucher program and hope to have non-perishable foods on their shelves soon.

BONNER COUNTY

- A family restaurant focusing on health and affordability – Gary and Laura Peitz’s Dish Home Cooking – recently opened in a 2,200-square-foot space in Sandpoint. Meals are made from natural, fresh food.
- The 157,000-square-foot Wal-Mart supercenter in Ponderay has started a three-month renovation expected to be completed by mid-June as part of the chain’s nationwide upgrade. The remodel does not include any structural changes, and hours of operation will not be affected.
- Bonner General Hospital in Sandpoint employs 425 employees, making it the county’s fourth-largest employer. The hospital has 50 active physicians on staff and another 25 providing specialist services. It contributes approximately \$41 million to the local economy through wages and the local purchase of goods and services. Through the “BGH Cares” program, the hospital provided more than \$600,000 in charity care during 2007 to patients who could not otherwise afford treatment. Last year, 424 babies were born at the hospital, and people made 8,444 visits to the emergency room.

BOUNDARY COUNTY

- Residents voted 1,108 to 971 to renew an \$865,000 maintenance and operations tax levy for the Boundary County School District. The levy will support extracurricular activities, transportation, technology, textbooks and instructional materials.
- The Bonners Ferry Visitor Center plans to stay open year-round instead of only five or six months a year because it has become such a hit among travelers. The Greater Bonners Ferry Chamber of Commerce, which maintains and operates the two-year-old visitor center, is lining up volunteers.

KOOTENAI COUNTY

- The U.S. Small Business Administration recently named Bullet Tools the 2009 Exporter of the Year in the Northwest. When the company’s founder, Dalen Gunn, was working as a flooring installation trainer in the 1990s, he saw the need for better tools to install laminate and Pergo flooring. He created a handheld tool for repairing tongue and groove flooring so it fits together properly. In January 2002, he opened Bullet Tools in Hayden. Now he has developed a couple dozen other tools for construction and remodeling work. With assistance from the Small Business Development Center at

North Idaho College, Bullet Tools has grown into a full product line manufacturer. Last year, the company's exports to the United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, Canada and other countries accounted for almost half its sales. From annual sales of \$22,000 in 2002, the company has grown to \$2 million in sales and now employs 17.

- Juanita Carmack, owner of Taco Chic Salsa in Rathdrum, received national recognition for her entrepreneurial endeavors when an MSNBC crew filmed her story as part of an 18-episode series, "Baby Boomers Reinventing America," expected to air in the late spring. She was chosen as one of 18 featured entrepreneurs because of her compelling story of "rising from the ashes and reinventing herself," personally and professionally, while balancing a family, widowhood, unemployment and bankruptcy. In 2008 Country Living Magazine named Carmack one of Top Ten Women Entrepreneurs. She has been interviewed by CNBC's Donny Deutsch and has been on the Today Show as part of the NBC's "Today's Working Woman: Turning Dreams into Dough" series.
- The Post Falls Police Department has been awarded \$75,765 as part of the federal stimulus package for two new patrol cars. The department also hopes to apply for a stimulus grant called COPS More to hire two police officers. That would require \$17,664 in city matching funds to hire, train and outfit them. Over the three-year grant period, the city would receive an estimated \$354,253. The city would be required to retain the two employees after the three-year grant period.
- Coeur d'Alene Garden, Gift & Gallery opens in April in Coeur d'Alene. The 5,000-square-foot store with an acre of outdoor space offers all types of plants, statues, fountains, gardening tools and landscaping supplies. The store includes Fleurtation, a floral business that designs bouquets and event décor, and a 2,000-square-foot gallery for local and Northwest artists. The business will have eight employees. A 96,000-square-foot WinCo discount grocery store employing 200 is expected to open in 2011 next door.
- Post Falls voters overwhelmingly approved a two-year \$1.7 million supplemental levy in March for maintenance projects, student programs and curriculum.
- Federal stimulus money through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program is providing nearly \$600,000 in the Idaho Panhandle. Coeur d'Alene is receiving \$191,700 while Kootenai County gets \$374,400 and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe \$25,000 for reducing energy costs.
- Peter Grubb and Betsy Bowen, co-owners of ROW Inc., have been named the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2009 Region I Small Business Persons of the Year. ROW Inc., based in Coeur d'Alene, is an adventure travel company with three divisions. It operates whitewater rafting, fly fishing, canoeing and other outdoor adventures in Idaho, Montana and Oregon. Remote Odyssey Worldwide is a tour operator offering adventures around the world including trips to South America, Europe and North Africa. River Dance Lodge is ROW's own outdoor adventure resort located on the Clearwater River in central Idaho.
- Taryn A. Hecker Photography opened on Spirit Lake's Maine Street. Offering high-quality portraits of people and pets, Hecker also shoots weddings and other events and does commercial work either in her studio or on location.
- One more national media outlet is praising Coeur d'Alene. The April edition of **Every Day with Rachel Ray**, a magazine with a circulation of 1.5 million, extols the charm and beauty of the lake city and recommends it as a desti-

nation for getaways off the beaten path. The article features pictures of a kayaker, Bella Rose Cafe, ROW Adventures and the Roosevelt Inn Bed and Breakfast.

- North Idaho College welcomed the inaugural North Idaho POST Academy in April. New law enforcement officers are required by state law to complete the 13-week Peace Officer Standards and Training course within six months of their hiring. Until now, the only available academy has been in Meridian between Boise and Nampa. The college received approval from the POST Council to offer two academy sessions – one in the spring and one in the fall. After that, the program will be evaluated to determine if it will continue.
- The Kootenai County Workforce Development Task Force, led by Idaho Department of Labor Assistant Manager Vicki Isakson, hosted the second Manufacturing and Construction Career Fair – “Hard Hats, Hammers and Hot Dogs” – for middle and high school students at the Kootenai County Fairgrounds on April 7 and 8. Twice as many students attended this year as did last year’s highly successful fair. About 1,000 students had the opportunity to visit with representatives from 50 local businesses and get hands-on experience with construction equipment and materials. The fair’s goal was to make young people aware of the tremendous opportunities ranging from entry level apprenticeships and high-tech jobs to professional positions in construction and manufacturing.
- Coeur d’Alene ranked 33rd in the new Forbes magazine list of its 200 Best Cities for Business and Careers. Coeur d’Alene ranked 29th in the cost of doing business including labor, energy taxes and rent; ranked 24th in job growth over three years; and 91st in percent of population over age 25 with bachelor degrees or higher .
- Knight’s Gamemasters opened in March in Hayden. The store sells, buys and trades cards, action figures, clothing and games featuring superheroes. Tables and chairs offer kids places to play the games. Owner Logan Knight wants the store to be a safe, fun place for kids.
- Hermine’s Old World Confections recently opened in Coeur d’Alene. Owner Hermine Sittel Kubista, who was born in Germany and moved to the United States 45 years ago, makes candies, cookies and small cakes featuring high-quality chocolate, marzipan and spices.

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NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO

Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce counties

REGIONAL ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

North central Idaho is holding up relatively well in the current U.S. recession. The region’s most timber-dependent counties, Clearwater and Idaho, are experiencing high unemployment, but unemployment in the rest of the region remains low relative to soaring national and state rates. The University of Idaho keeps employment fairly stable in Latah County, and the expansion of Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories in Pullman provides job opportunities for many Latah County residents. Nez Perce County saw a 2 percent increase in employment between March 2008 and March 2009 while U.S. employment dropped 3.5 percent and Idaho 3.3 percent.

Despite a slowdown in retail activity and trouble in the lumber industry, Nez Perce County benefitted from the stability of Clearwater Paper’s 1,450-

employee paper products section, ATK's ammunition plant, Regence Blue-Shield's insurance office, the Nez Perce Tribe's enterprises including its casino near Lewiston, Lewis-Clark State College and the health care industry led by St. Joseph Regional Medical Center. A fairly good year for farmers and a small but growing manufacturing sector was keeping Lewis County's unemployment rate low.

	March 2009	March 2008
United States	8.5%	5.1%
State of Idaho	7.1%	4.1%
North Central Region	6.7%	4.8%
Clearwater County	16.5%	12.9%
Idaho County	9.9%	6.6%
Latah County	5.6%	3.8%
Lewis County	4.3%	3.0%
Nez Perce County	4.8%	3.6%

In March, Clearwater County's unemployment rate was 16.5 percent, the highest rate of Idaho's 44 counties. Layoffs from logging companies and mills also have taken a toll in Idaho County, where the unemployment rate was 9.9 percent in March. But today's rates also demonstrate how much stronger and more diversified the counties' economies are than 25 years ago. U.S. housing starts are currently at their lowest level since World War II. The last time housing starts were nearly this low was in the recession of 1981-'82, when Clearwater County's unemployment rate rose to 33.8 percent in October 1982 and Idaho County's rate peaked at 20.1 percent in December.

First Step Internet of Moscow recently acquired the wireless network of CompuNet of Grangeville. It will attempt to bring in additional bandwidth as well as continue to increase connectivity options throughout the region. Since 2004, the Clearwater Economic Development Association has been promoting expanded broadband service, which it views as critical for economic development. The association sees First Step's acquisition as a step toward expanding service. First Step Internet has been building networks since 1989 and now has high speed wireless service available in over 33 towns and cities with 600 miles of point to point microwave links and more than 3,000 square miles of network coverage. In addition it also provides dial up, DSL and fiber Internet access throughout eastern Washington and northern Idaho. Customers include the University of Idaho, Gritman Medical Clinic, Pullman Regional Hospital, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, the city of Moscow, Latah County and the Moscow, Genesee and Potlatch school districts.

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U.S. (In thousands)	13,161	140,887	7,820	146,023	68.3%	-3.5%
State of Idaho	53,002	696,717	30,966	720,532	71.2%	-3.3%
North Central Region	3,417	47,912	2,394	47,661	42.8%	0.5%
Clearwater County	596	3,015	454	3,054	31.5%	-1.3%
Idaho County	753	6,858	496	7,000	51.8%	-2.0%
Latah County	1,039	17,632	697	17,528	49.0%	0.6%
Lewis County	76	1,687	53	1,722	45.0%	-2.0%
Nez Perce County	952	18,720	694	18,357	37.2%	2.00%

IDAHO & LEWIS COUNTIES

- The Grubstake Café recently opened next door to the hotel in Elk City. Owned by Paula Moore, it features fresh bakery items, pizza and a variety of other foods.
- Budget reductions will force Lewis-Clark State College to close its Clearwater Valley Outreach Center in Kooskia June 30. One full-time coordinator and a work-study position will be affected. The center opened in 1996. The college operates two other outreach centers in Grangeville and Orofino, where it offers continuing education, workshops, distance learning credit courses and teacher in-service programs. The college is working to reduce its expenses by \$1.7 million, an 8.6 percent cut during the current fiscal year. Low usage of the Kooskia Outreach Center was the main reason for its closure.

LATAH COUNTY

- Tim and Judy Bickford recently opened Mug Shots Filling Station, a coffee house and restaurant in Troy. The restaurant's name reflects the building's original use. It opened in the 1930s as a Standard Oil gas station. The large garage door creates an indoor-outdoor seating area. An awning that used to cover the gas pumps shelters an outdoor eating area. Open 5 a.m. to 5 p.m., the restaurant serves espresso drinks, breakfast and lunch.

NEZ PERCE & ASOTIN COUNTIES

- Lewiston ammunition maker ATK is rehiring many of the 70 to 80 workers it laid off in January when it finally eliminated a backlog of orders. About 850 employees remained after the January layoff. ATK is the second-largest manufacturer in north central Idaho. Now, surging demand for ammunition is allowing ATK to restore most of the jobs it had cut.
- Guy Bennett Lumber in Clarkston has notified its 70 remaining employees it will begin curtailing operations in early June, when it exhausts its supply of logs. The company doesn't believe it will be able to purchase any more at prices low enough to make cutting logs profitable. In addition, the mill has traditionally purchased its logs from private landowners, and they're reluctant to sell since log prices are so low. The mill near the Port of Wilma will recall its workers as soon as the lumber market improves. It already has taken other steps to keep operating, including eliminating its night shift and then going to a 32-hour week. Before the night shift was cut, the mill employed about 140 people. This is the first time in the 70-year history of the mill that it's been idled indefinitely.
- Valley Vision, the non-profit economic development group that serves Lewiston and Clarkston, is helping local businesses identify potential threats and providing them free help from a wide variety of local business experts. With the U.S. recession posing problems for many local firms, the help is especially timely.
- Voters in the Lapwai School District passed a \$600,000 supplemental levy to build five classrooms for middle school students who were moved out of their building last month due to concerns about air quality and rodent infestation. The district will also get funding from the Nez Perce Tribe, federal impact aid and the general fund for the \$1.18 million project. Middle school kids have been attending classes in the old junior-senior high school but the school board closed that building and moved the kids to the new high school building, where they're using the library, cafeteria and sharing classrooms.

- One of Lewiston’s newest retailers, Wild West Ranch Wear, carries dozens of styles of jeans for toddlers, girls, boys, men and women of all shapes and sizes. Randi Flinders’ new store also offers a wide variety of other Western clothing, cowboy boots and hats and accessories. Flinders wanted to fill the void left by the December closure of Corral West.

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SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO

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

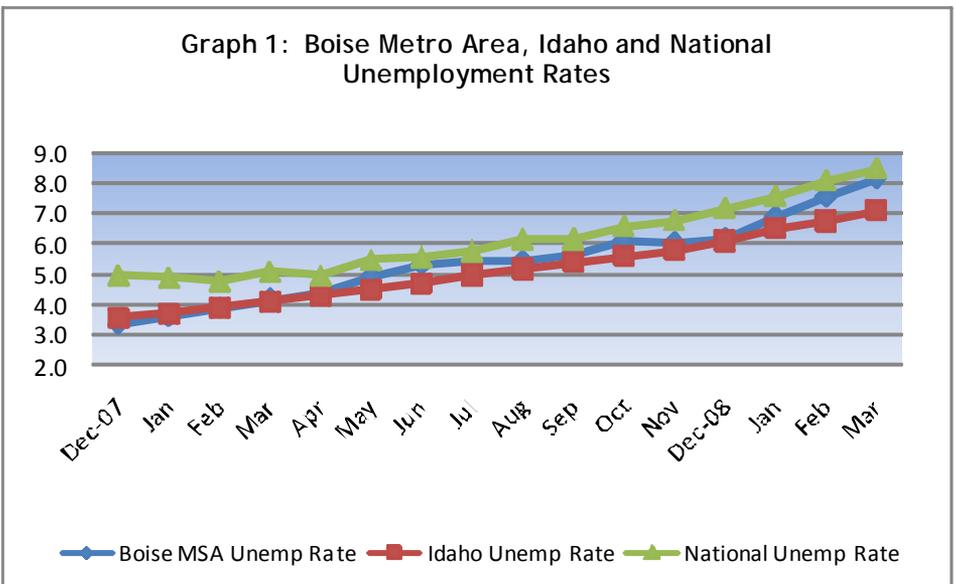
REGIONAL ECONOMIC UPDATE

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise metropolitan area rose to a record 8.1 percent in March. The five-county area has only existed since 2000 so comparable unemployment rates are only available for the 2001 recession. It was the second straight monthly increase of six-tenths of a point following a seven-tenths increase from December to January. The recession is dramatically impacting the state’s largest metropolitan area. One year ago the unemployment rate was at 4.2 percent. Graph 1 shows the increase in the area’s unemployment rate since the recession began in December 2007. In February 2008 the metro and state unemployment rates were identical at 3.9 percent. Since then the Boise area’s rate has been rising more rapidly than the state’s, especially in 2009. The layoff of nearly 1,700 workers at Micron since October has had a definite impact on the area’s unemployment rate.

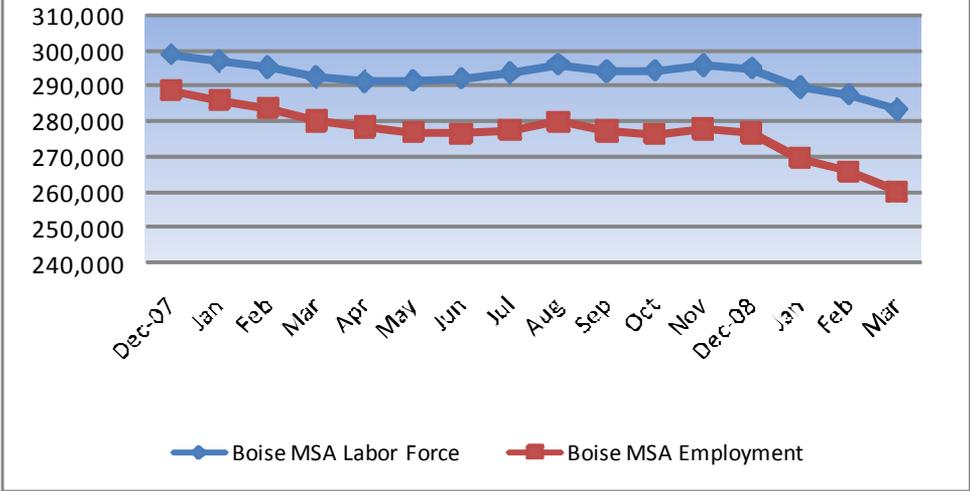
Since the recession began, the metropolitan area has lost nearly 28,000 workers. About 13,000 joined the ranks of the unemployed while the other 15,000 either left the area or dropped out of the labor force. Graph 2 on page 12 shows the loss of people working in comparison to the decline in the labor force.

And the metropolitan area is not alone in being hit by the recession. Graph 3 on page 13 shows the monthly unemployment rates for each of the other five southwestern Idaho counties. Adams and Valley counties have always had the area’s highest unemployment rates. But these five counties are all reporting higher unemployment rates than one year ago with significant increases occurring in the last six months.

Graph 1: Boise Metro Area, Idaho and National Unemployment Rates



Graph 2: Boise Metro Area Labor Force and Employment



Southwestern Idaho is a diverse region. In 2009 Adams County’s unemployment rate has been one of the three highest in the state so far. On the other hand, Owyhee County’s rate has been either the lowest or second lowest. In March, eight of the 10 counties in the region had unemployment rates between 6 percent and 10 percent, ranking them in the top half of all the counties along with Adams, which came in third at 14.9 percent. The exception was Owyhee, which had the lowest rate in the state at 3.9 percent.

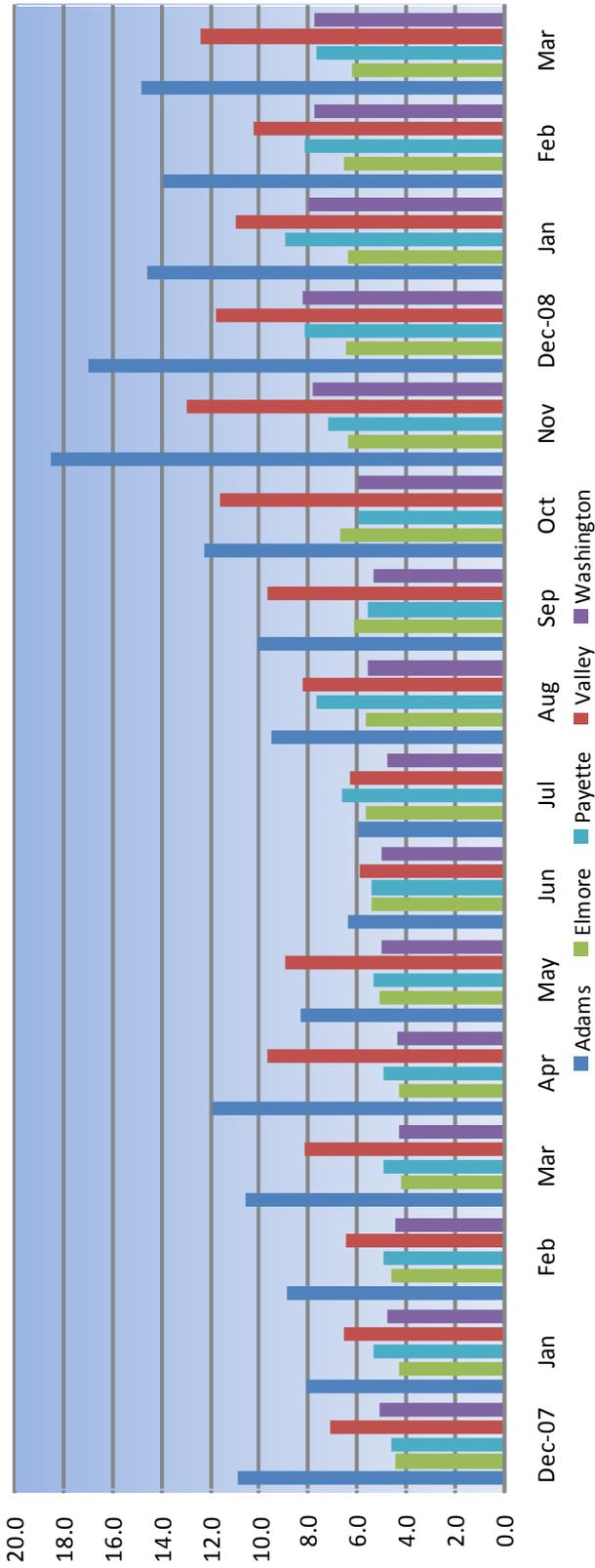
Nonfarm payroll jobs fell another 700 in the Boise-Nampa area, the 10th consecutive monthly job decline. With total jobs at just 252,600 in March, the metro area has shed 23,800 jobs since May 2008, when payrolls peaked. With the exception of state and local government, the only major private sector not to experience a loss was information, which has added about 100 jobs due primarily to the opening of WDS Global in February 2008. The growth in government was primarily in public schools, which has added nearly 600 jobs in the last 10 months.

Between February and March, only three sectors reported job growth – retail trade, hotels and restaurants and other services. They combined for a gain of 1,200 jobs. However, those gains were more than offset by the loss of 500 jobs in the computer manufacturing sector and 300 jobs each in real estate, administrative support and state and local government. While major layoffs like those at Micron Technology Inc. and MPC capture public attention, smaller layoffs are having a significant impact on the job market. Employers are cutting back the number of workers they need, reducing hours and other expenses to keep their doors open in hope that the economy will soon hit bottom and begin to rebound. But there appear to be months of rough going before that will happen.

REGIONAL AND COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

- About 1,350 people have been hired by the U.S. Census Bureau statewide in preparation for the 2010 census. Address canvassing will run from April 6 through June 26. The census workers, in some cases, will knock on resident’s doors to verify addresses and inquire about additional living quarters on the premises. Census workers will use new handheld computers equipped with GPS to increase geographic accuracy. All Idahoans will get their addresses verified during this period. In southwestern Idaho the Census Bureau has hired 277 people for Ada County, 110 for Canyon, 15 for Gem, 20 for Owyhee and 10 for Payette.

Graph 3: Southwestern Idaho County Unemployment Rates, Monthly Changes



ADA COUNTY

- Although many restaurants have disappeared from the area, there are still new ones opening up.
 - Order of fries with a burger on the side – that is the concept of a new restaurant that opened in March in Boise. At Idaho Fry customers get their choice of a wide variety of fries from Idaho russets to Yukon golds to the more exotic blue Okinawan sweet potatoes along with their choice of cuts and 10 dipping sauces from traditional fry sauce to chipotle aioli. The potatoes are fried in canola or peanut oil. Sides include beef, bison or vegan vegetarian burgers.
 - Gandolfo's opened its sixth restaurant in Idaho and fourth in the Treasure Valley in April. The newest New York style deli opened in the center of downtown Boise. The menu includes fresh deli sandwiches, house-made soups, fresh salads and gelato.
 - The Modern Hotel now has a bar and restaurant. The boutique hotel in Boise's Linen District added Modern Cuisine in April. The menu ranges from rich light-bites to ricotta and chorizo tartines to the Modern salad, assorted greens with apples, blue cheese and nuts.
 - The Texas Boogie opens in April in downtown Boise, offering sweet Texas barbecue with some regional specialties plus a full bar with dueling pianos.
 - The Wild West Bakery in Eagle has been transformed from a coffeehouse to a quaint, yet sophisticated, bistro and wine bar called Rachel K's Bistro. It has an eclectic selection of wines as well as beer, coffee, espresso and other beverages.
 - Ali Baba's Restaurant opened recently in Boise. The restaurant will serve up traditional Arabic food including shawarma and other specialties like kabob. The restaurant uses cooking styles from Lebanon, Iraq and other Arabic cultures. It will use halal meat, which processed similarly to kosher meats but in the Arabic tradition.
 - The Falcon Tavern is moving around the corner in downtown Boise to where Satchel's used to be across from the old post office. It is a larger spot, and the tavern hopes to take advantage of the large patio by bringing back the outdoor movies and music from the Satchel's days.
 - Andrew's and Eagle Rib Shacks have closed. The owner is looking for a new location but in the meantime is catering and fixing barbecue for delivery – ribs to go now.
 - Ben & Jerry's Scoop Shop will open in Boise's historic Gem Noble building. The owner chose the downtown location because of the attractive lease rate, smaller space and great foot traffic.
- Guy Fieri from the Food Network's "Diners, Drive-ins and Dives" was in the Treasure Valley filming for upcoming episodes. There are no guarantees that every restaurant will make the cut. Fieri visits included Donnie Mac's Trailer Park Cuisine's specialty the Thunder Plate, Gernika Basque Pub and Eatery, West Side Drive-In and the Kodiak Grill, which used to be Donn's Hilltop Café on the road north of Mountain Home. Fieri also popped in on Pizzalchik in Boise; Rick's Press Room in Meridian and The Orchard House for its finger steaks in Caldwell. Stay tuned for dates and times.
- Qwest launched its Talk to Qwest customer service in April with five employees in Boise to cover its 14-state territory. Qwest is using the popular micro-blogging site Twitter.
- Riverside Hospital, a private hospital planned by a group of Treasure Valley surgeons, has been shelved. Ground was broken 18 months ago, but the project had not progressed. The Riverside Medical Group approached St Luke's Regional Medical Center about the possibility of a joint venture. Details have not been worked out, but St. Luke's has agreed to buy the land

and co-manage services in orthopedics and neurosurgery. The new plan brings together the administrative and organizational skills of St. Luke's with the clinical knowledge and expertise of orthopedic and neurosurgical physicians.

- Construction and development projects have been adversely affected by the recession as evidenced by the announcement that SunCor, a national development company, wants to sell the Avimor planned community project northwest of Boise. Avimor was one of only five planned community applications to be approved and the only one that actually started construction. SunCor has the agreement of land owners to build homes on 20,000 acres known as Spring Valley Ranch. The first phase was to build 684 homes. To date SunCor has built about 20 homes along with baseball and soccer fields, trails and a partially completed community center. Only 10 of the homes have been sold. If a new investor is found, the land owners would have to approve the change in partnership. SunCor has about 10 employees, but the number of construction jobs would have been more significant.
- Marketing Media Group and Davies Rourke have merged to become Davies-Moore. The two companies specialize in advertising, branding and public relations. Company President Edward Moore said the merger "will not only benefit both agencies, but it also greatly benefits our clients because they get both years of experience and wisdom combined with an abundance of energy, talent and fresh ideas." The two firms have about 20 employees.
- Business is not the only victim of the recession. The Boise Art Museum will offer fewer exhibitions that will stay up longer as it deals with lower revenues and mounting debt. Also the museum will be open fewer hours. It joins other local art institutions and groups in southwestern Idaho that are trimming their costs due to the recession. A couple of examples are the Boise Contemporary Theater, which cancelled part of its season and laid off staff, and the J Crist Gallery, which closed leaving many local artists without representation.
- Despite high unemployment, business closures, sluggish consumer spending and slow construction in Boise, there must be other places that are worse off, according to Forbes. Forbes.com ranked Boise the eighth best place for business and careers among the 200 largest metro areas in the county. Some of the criteria that Forbes used were job growth over time, labor supply, crime, college job projections, the ratio of subprime mortgages to loan originations for the last three years, the cost of doing business and colleges. Boise ranked 17th lowest in the cost of doing business and 47th for best projected job growth at 0.5 percent. Forbes found nearly 17 percent of mortgages written between 2005 and 2007 fell into the subprime category.
- Coach Inc. is coming to Boise. Coach is America's pre-eminent designer, producer and marketer of fine accessories and gifts for women and men including handbags, business cases, luggage and travel accessories, wallets, outerwear, eyewear, gloves, scarves, fragrance and fine jewelry. As Coach continues to develop new categories, it further establishes the signature style and distinctive identity of its brand. Together with its licensing partners, Coach also offers watches, footwear and office furniture bearing its brand name. They will open a 3,257-square-foot store on the lower level of Boise Towne Square in late May.
- Several flower shops are closing in the valley. All the businesses reported Valentine's Day sales, a major flower holiday, were off by about 40 percent. Jack's Flowers and the two Floweramas in Boise and The Authentic Rose Corner in Nampa have closed.

- After 57 years in business, GI Joe's, also known as Joe's, filed for bankruptcy and announced on April 9 that it will be closing its stores. The Portland, Ore.-based chain had two stores located in southwestern Idaho — Meridian and Nampa. Together they employed about 100 people. This is the second major sports store that has announced bankruptcy and closure in the last month. Sportsman Warehouse was the other.
- Mexico opened a consulate in Boise in February at the Washington Group International Plaza with a staff of 12. The services include travel documents, passport processing, credential and other identification documents, document retrieval such as marriage and birth certificates and advocacy to local authorities. Ricardo Pindea, the consul, would like to host a variety of seminars on how Idaho can do business with Mexico, make trade investments and enhance tourism. Once the Boise consulate is operational, Pindea hopes to open satellite offices. The biggest challenge is to reach the Mexican population in a timely manner. One purpose of the consulate is to look after the commercial interest and welfare of Mexican citizens in the United States. "We are here to perform no more than what the U.S. Consulate provides in Mexico," Pindea said. "We are here to show the real face of Mexico. It is a face of friendship and cooperation."
- Boise State University sent nonrenewal letters to 800 contract employees. Those letters went to professional staff, clinical and research faculty members and special lecturers. Other faculty and classified employees were not included. The letters were sent early because the university's budget would not be decided until after the deadline when employees must be notified that their contracts could change. The actual number of employees to be terminated will not be known until late April. The State Board of Education has approved a 5 percent increase in student fees.

ADAMS COUNTY

- The National Park Service awarded a grant to improve the 84-mile Weiser River Trail that stretches from Weiser to New Meadows. Trail development began over a decade ago when the land was secured as the foundation for future improvement. Trail managers are now promoting public awareness, increasing trail users and maximizing the value the trail can have to the local communities. Advocates hope the trail will produce economic and social benefits for local residents and communities.
- Cambridge High School students had recently explored possible career opportunities. For two days, 22 students shadowed a career they were interested in pursuing. Boise businesses participating included the Holiday Inn, Fire Station #5, Turbo Air, the National Inter Agency Fire Center, the Rehabilitation Authority, Bogus Basin Ski Patrol, Central District Health Department, Caledonia Fine Fabrics, the Ada County Sheriff, CSHQA, Camille Bechman, Apollo College and the Northwest Lineman College. The event was a great opportunity for students to get an idea of what is involved in a variety of businesses.

CANYON COUNTY

- If you want a touch of Hollywood and home-cooked food in a fast-food venue, try Caldwell's new restaurant — Hollywood Chicken Café, which opened in March. The idea came from the owner's brothers in California and the desire to have a fast-food restaurant that would offer fresh, non-processed and home-cooked style meals.
- Caldwell's Bent Fork Bar & Grill is a traditional ma and pa style restaurant that keeps its menu simple with burgers, sandwiches, wraps and steaks.

- Story and Company held its grand opening on April 2 in Caldwell. The eclectic store is a women's consignment boutique. The owner says the new store has something going for it in the current economic slowdown. It specializes in recycled clothing at a time when people are watching their dollars.
- It won't add any jobs to the local economy, but it will help out the local folks who are looking for good, cheap transportation. Shaun Christensen, a Nampa dentist, and his family ran a bike swap in late March. The proceeds will help some of the area's young people pay for camp. The Nampa Bike Swap was started so that young people could be hired to work and earn money for summer camps. The swap targets buyers who want to buy a bike but can't justify the expense of a new one. Buyers can get a great used bicycle for a great price. The bike swap takes a 20 percent commission.
- Three and half years after opening its doors, the Character Depot in Nampa is closing. It was the only full-blown costume shop in Canyon County. After struggling to keep business going, the profit margin began to slip in October. It closed April 15.
- Nampa is home yet to another Walgreen's. The newest store opened April 7 with 30 employees. Currently there are more than 30 Walgreens across the state with a total payroll of more than 500.
- Canyon County employees are not exempt from the recession. To balance the budget, 800 county employees were given a 2.5 percent pay cut through the rest of the fiscal year – Sept. 30. The budget shortfall is about \$6 million due to a significant loss in revenues resulting from the economic downturn. The pay reduction will save the county just under \$390,000. Other areas have also been cut to balance the budget. One source of lost revenues is the drop in property values, the dramatic drop in housing construction and other economic development activities, an increase in the number of homes on the market and the rise in foreclosures.
- The Murphy Law Office opened its third location in southwestern Idaho March 24 in Caldwell. The original office was in Caldwell with a second office in Meridian. The second Caldwell office was added to be closer to some clients – title companies, accounting firms and investment firms. The law office provides services in real estate, business law, estate planning in probates, bankruptcy, personal injury and creditors' rights including collection work.
- Marriott Fairfield Inn & Suites formally opened in mid-March in Nampa. The three-floor hotel has 76 rooms and 12 suites. A free continental breakfast is available as well a meeting space, high-speed Internet access and an indoor pool.
- Mail Room 'n More celebrated its grand opening in March. The business offers FedEx, Postal Service, UPS and DHL International shipping. The owner, a retired postal worker, noticed the endemic long lines at other outlets and saw an opportunity. The new business offers a variety of services including notary, post office boxes, faxing, laminating, binding, passport photos, greeting cards, gift wrapping and packing supplies. An unusual service is an activity center for children to keep them safe and occupied while the adults are shopping.

ELMORE COUNTY

- The Western Elmore County Recreation District was awarded \$285,000 to build a community center. Combined with tax support, the district is very close to having the amount needed to build the center without bonding. The

center will provide a recreation and aquatic health facility for more than 25,000 youth, adults and senior citizens in Elmore County and the surrounding communities of Bruneau, Grand View and Fairfield. The money is part of a larger funding bill recently passed by the U.S. Congress.

OWYHEE COUNTY

- Just east of Marsing is the little community of Givens, probably best known for a hot springs swimming pool. But the community is also home to the only winery in Owyhee County. The Miceli vineyard was planted in 2003 by Jim Mitchell, who brought a family heritage of winemaking from Italy to California to Canyon County to Givens. The climate and soils of southwestern Idaho are the reason so many wineries have sprung up in the area. The generally long, warm days and cool nights during the growing season and rich soil, much of it volcanic sediment from the late Ice Age that produced Lake Idaho, provide good growing conditions for wine grapes. Miceli is a small, family vineyard that grows seven types of grapes – Tempranillo, Tablas, Creed Syrah, Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon, Viogner and Chardonnay.
- Owyhee County ranked first in southwestern Idaho in 2008 for beef cattle with a total herd of 41,500. The county was third in sheep and lambs at 4,700, second in barley yield at 92 bushels per acre, third in sugar beet yield at 34.1 tons per acre, second in corn production at 2.8 million bushels, second in corn silage yield at 28 tons per acre and third in wheat yield at 99 bushels per acre.

PAYETTE COUNTY

- In March, voters in the Fruitland School District passed a \$250,000 plant facility levy by better than nine to one. The money will pay for maintenance of district buildings and facilities.
- Jeanie Hershey opened a new counseling service, Jeanie’s Helping Heart, in Payette. Jeanie’s Helping Heart is available for individuals or family sessions as well as workshops and presentations. The counseling service can help individuals or families address such issues as depression, anxiety,

ADA-CANYON COUNTY AREA FIRST EVER

Volunteer Fair

Saturday, May 16 ♦ 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Two Locations

Meridian School District Service Center
1303 Central Drive ♦ Meridian, Idaho

Caldwell Armory ♦ 1200 S. Kimball ♦ Caldwell

No Admission Fee

Morning workshop for volunteer professionals, 8:30 a.m.

Workshop for volunteers, 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Dozens of organizations will be represented. Below are just a few.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Boys & Girls Club | Interfaith Sanctuary Housing Service |
| Friends in Action Inc. | Idaho Commission for Libraries |
| World Relief | Mercy Medical Center |
| The Arc Inc. | Boise School District |
| National MS Society | Northwest Animal Companions |

For more information, contact Jennifer at 332-3570, ext. 3424

Event sponsored by the Idaho Department of Labor, the Southwest Idaho Directors of Volunteer Services and the Idaho Nonprofit Center.

The Idaho Department of Labor is an equal opportunity employer and service provider.
Dial 711 for TTY Idaho Relay Service.

panic attack, phobias, sexual and relationship problems, medical and health concerns, grief and loss, work and career issues, stress management, addiction and recovery, parenting and conflict resolution.

- The little-known Idaho Hall of Fame, begun in the 1980s, has only recently found a permanent home. The organization locates men and women who were born in Idaho, attended school in an Idaho school system or spent the majority of their lives in Idaho, who have had an impact in their communities, the state, the nation or the world. The Hall of Fame then introduces them to the youth of Idaho. The organization's home is now with the Chamber of Commerce in Payette. The hall still needs funds to hire someone to oversee the day-to-day operation so that the public can get acquainted with another part of Idaho's history.
- President Barack Obama signed the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 into law on March 30. This bill designates two million acres of wilderness in nine states for protection including 517,000 acres in Idaho's Owyhee Canyonlands. After eight years of diligence and perseverance, the initiative became law. It marks the first wilderness added in Idaho in nearly 30 years while ensuring water rights, existing multiple uses and continued hunting access to much of the area. The bill designates 316 miles of waterways under the Wild and Scenic River Act and provides for protection of cultural resources particularly important to the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes.

VALLEY COUNTY

- The U.S. Postal Service is cancelling a contract with backcountry pilot Ray Arnold, ending the air mail route to more than 20 ranchers in central Idaho's Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. It was the only backcountry air mail route remaining in the lower 48 states.

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SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO

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

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

BLAINE COUNTY

- KB's, a popular burrito joint in Ketchum, has lost its lease and is looking for a new location. Owners say they have every intention of reopening in time for the summer crowds.
- The Shakespeare Festival and Renaissance Festival have become victims of the recession. The nexStage Theatre Company started the festivals in 2000 and vows both will return. The company will use this hiatus to retool its strategies.
- The Valley Club, a private golf club in Hailey, wants to add another nine holes to its 27-hole operation. The donation of property by a local developer is an incentive for the members to vote in favor of the expansion but follows a year of construction overruns on an expansion of the clubhouse that caused 100 individuals to drop their memberships.
- Receipts from the local option tax are off 21 percent halfway through the Sun Valley's and Ketchum's fiscal years. The biggest loss has been on building materials, which fell 28.4 percent while liquor sales have fallen only 14.4 percent for the first half of the year.

- Sun Valley Resort is showing a 20 percent drop in visitors from 2007-2008 and the lowest in the last 20 years. The average skier count since 1971 is 357,806. This year's tally at two weeks before closing weekend was just short of 330,000 skiers. The highest count was in the 2005-2006 ski season when 420,517 skiers hit the slopes.

CAMAS COUNTY

- Soldier Mountain Ski Resort suffered a historic loss when the rustic lodge and adjoining ski rental shop burned in an electrical fire. The lodge was ultimately slated for replacement but only when attendance on the hill had doubled. A master plan submitted to Sawtooth National Forest Fairfield Ranger District officials last year included an additional three lifts and snow-making capacity. The resort is co-owned by actor Bruce Willis and his Valley Entertainment company.

GOODING COUNTY

- The Hagerman Joint School District passed a plant facility levy for building maintenance. The \$20,000 10-year levy will finance a new HVAC system for the elementary classrooms this year.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture will provide 200 million pounds of nonfat dry milk to low-income families. This move is supported by the Independent Milk Producers but is not likely to have any real impact on low milk prices. The disbursement will reduce the government inventory held for hedging purposes and for price support.
- Wind energy is on the rise. Hagerman currently has 10.5 megawatts of electricity being generated from wind turbines. Another 300 megawatts is in advance planning stages outside of Rogerson in Twin Falls County while another 100 megawatts has sales agreements in effect. This is good news for a state used to lower electricity rates but having to endure frequent increases the past few years and significant penalties for excessive usage. The College of Southern Idaho is proceeding with a new program to train turbine technicians and assist this renewable energy industry. Idaho Power is required to purchase power from these small producers under federal law. The Idaho Public Utilities Commission recently updated the pricing schedule so that major users will ultimately be paying the small power generators a higher price, in some cases up to 25 percent higher.

JEROME COUNTY

- Jerome School District patrons passed a supplemental levy to maintain programs and services that were threatened by reduced state support. The district stresses intervention at an early age to give students a head start in reading plus all-day kindergarten classes for those needing additional assistance.

TWIN FALLS COUNTY

- Curtailment for water pumpers controlling 865 wells and 41,000 acres of farmland has been avoided for now. The pumpers have vowed to dry up acres along the Snake River Canyon rim and pump water from these wells over the rim to the Clear Springs fish farm. Clear Springs Trout has objected to the plan, contending the pumpers cannot meet the June 1 deadline for providing the water. Curtailment could still occur this irrigation season if the pumpers fail to meet the deadline because of circumstances they controlled.

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SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO

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

REGIONAL ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

The March unemployment rate for the Pocatello metropolitan area remained unchanged at 5.6 percent, more than one and a half percentage points higher than a year earlier. It was the third consecutive month the unemployment rate for the metro area has been above 5 percent. The last time occurred March through May 2003. Although the Pocatello area recorded over 300 more people working in March than a year earlier, the rate remained high because nearly 1,100 more people wanted work than in March 2008. But at the same time employment grew, the actual number of jobs dropped, suggesting more people had part-time work. See the Pocatello MSA Labor Force & Employment table on page 36.

Only 13 of Idaho's 44 counties had a larger labor force and more people working in March 2009 than in March 2008. Table 1 shows four of those counties were in southeastern Idaho.

Another 610 nonfarm jobs disappeared from the area between February and March, nearly a third of the total loss over the previous year. Goods production decreased by 170 with 100 of those jobs in construction trades. There were only 1,430 construction jobs in the metro area in March, the fewest since construction jobs slipped under 1,400 in February 1996. The service sector lost 440 jobs during March to bring the year-over-year loss to more than 1,500. Most of the job loss from February was in the hospitality industry where employers shed workers as the recession continued to check consumer spending. Retailers only dropped 70 more jobs from February to March, but retail trade was the hardest hit over the previous year in the Pocatello area, losing nearly 600 jobs overall. That dropped the retail sector to its lowest job total since February 1994.

Table 1: Southeastern Idaho Unemployment, Employment Year-Over-Year

County/Area	Unemployment Rate		Total Employment		
	Mar 08 Benchmarked	Mar 09 Forecast	Mar 08 Benchmarked	Mar 09 Forecast	# Change
Bannock	4.0%	5.8%	37,760	38,044	284
Bear Lake	2.6%	4.2%	3,111	3,310	199
Bingham	3.3%	5.4%	20,644	20,519	(125)
Caribou	2.8%	4.7%	3,260	3,221	(39)
Franklin	3.3%	4.9%	5,286	5,278	(8)
Oneida	2.7%	4.8%	2,080	2,097	17
Power	4.1%	4.9%	3,389	3,415	26
Region	3.6%	5.4%	75,530	75,884	354
State of Idaho	4.1%	7.1%	722,694	703,362	(9,868)

CELEBRATE, PROMOTE VOLUNTEERISM IN APRIL

April is National Volunteer Month, marking the 35th celebration of volunteerism and community service. With thousands of people losing their jobs across Idaho in the past year, volunteer work has become the new job for a number of them. Volunteers work without expecting a tangible reward, and Americans have a reputation for volunteering their time and talents to help others. People often say their time spent volunteering is more personally rewarding than if they'd been paid. But even in the absence of a paycheck, volunteerism creates a substantial amount of economic activity. While often not considered part of the economy, it is in fact a very important element. Without volunteerism at all levels, many government operations would be much larger if they were to pro-

vide the social, cultural and educational activities volunteers now provide. Eighty percent of volunteering is with nonprofit, independent organizations like the Heart Association, Habitat for Humanity, the American Red Cross and the American Cancer Society, where volunteer time is one-quarter of the total labor input. The other 20 percent of volunteer time is in a wide range of government and quasi-government activities.

In the mid-1990s the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued standards requiring nonprofits to report the value of volunteer services as part of their contributions. Previously most agencies would make a mention of volunteer work but not assign it any value. The new standard is providing better information on the extent of volunteer help. Data on volunteering was collected as part of the September 2008 Current Population Survey and can be viewed at <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/volun.nr0.htm>. The survey shows 26.4 percent of the U.S. population over 16 years old volunteered at least once between September 2007 and September 2008, and the median time spent volunteering was 52 hours. Volunteers 16 to 24 years of age had a median time of 42 hours, up two hours from the 2007 report, while those over 24 had a median of 52 hours, down two hours from the 2007 report.

Employed people volunteered at a rate of 28.9 percent, markedly higher than unemployed at 22.3 percent or people not in the work force at 22.2 percent.

The survey found that 43.7 percent of the volunteers were asked to volunteer by someone in the organization, and a smaller proportion, 40.8 percent, became involved on their own. The main activity of volunteers was fundraising at 11.4 percent and tutoring or teaching at 10.1 percent.

Each organization is encouraged to report the value of volunteer services based on the work actually performed and not on the rate of pay volunteers might be earning at their regular jobs. The estimated dollar amount assigned to volunteer time in 2007 by Independent Sector, a leadership forum for charities, foundations and corporate giving programs was \$19.51 per hour for the nation and \$15.24 for Idaho. Using the same participation rates for the state as the nation, there would have been 300,356 individuals volunteering 1.56 million hours at a rate of \$15.24 an hour for a total value of nearly \$238 million in 2008. The Independent Sector estimates of volunteer value for 2008 will be issued in June.

The table on page 23 shows number and value of volunteers by county.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

BANNOCK COUNTY

- The Pocatello Regional Airport is opening bids April 21 on a major improvement project that will make the process of security checks and boarding planes more convenient for travelers. The cost is expected to be about \$4 million.
- Applebee's Neighborhood Bar and Grill was damaged by fire and will be closed for repairs for at least eight weeks. Because it is a busy time of year in Pocatello for many in the food service business many of the temporarily displaced workers have been able to find work at other eateries in town.
- The economic slowdown is taking its toll on Pocatello retailers. Rite Aid Pharmacy, Sportsman's Warehouse and Gottschalks all announced they were closing their stores in Pocatello. Both Gottschalks and Sportsman's Warehouse indicated their local stores were profitable but were still being closed because of company-wide bankruptcy proceedings. Rite Aid is closing several stores in the mountain states to consolidate operations.

Adult Volunteers and the Value of Their Time		
	Volunteers	Value
Ada	75,223	\$59,612,805
Adams	776	\$615,091
Bannock	15,717	\$12,455,598
Bear Lake	1,197	\$948,370
Benewah	1,924	\$1,524,757
Bingham	8,281	\$6,562,229
Blaine	4,543	\$3,600,585
Boise	1,622	\$1,285,624
Bonner	8,832	\$6,999,278
Bonneville	18,572	\$14,717,628
Boundary	2,249	\$1,782,509
Butte	566	\$448,766
Camas	238	\$188,293
Canyon	33,988	\$26,935,140
Caribou	1,395	\$1,105,700
Cassia	3,995	\$3,166,256
Clark	181	\$143,521
Clearwater	1,846	\$1,463,039
Custer	916	\$726,184
Elmore	5,595	\$4,433,888
Franklin	2,275	\$1,803,012
Fremont	2,426	\$1,922,892
Gem	3,410	\$2,702,008
Gooding	2,811	\$2,227,509
Idaho	3,352	\$2,656,399
Jefferson	4,300	\$3,407,271
Jerome	3,847	\$3,048,468
Kootenai	27,778	\$22,013,782
Latah	7,952	\$6,302,175
Lemhi	1,678	\$1,329,769
Lewis	765	\$606,304
Lincoln	866	\$686,015
Madison	7,129	\$5,649,425
Minidoka	3,648	\$2,891,138
Nez Perce	8,308	\$6,583,987
Oneida	835	\$661,328
Owyhee	2,143	\$1,698,196
Payette	4,532	\$3,591,380
Power	1,511	\$1,197,754
Shoshone	2,791	\$2,211,818
Teton	1,602	\$1,269,933
Twin Falls	14,712	\$11,659,327
Valley	1,925	\$1,525,803
Washington	2,101	\$1,665,140
State	300,356	\$238,026,123

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

- Idaho Power is building a \$14.8 million substation to supply power to the Hoku Materials manufacturing plant. Hoku will need an uninterrupted supply of up to 82 megawatts, and Idaho Power has agreed to a contract to supply the power with a clause that allows for a short summer shut down.
- The remodel of the historic Whitman Hotel is not entirely complete, but enough has been done to allow a few tenants to move into the renovated structure.
- Idaho Accelerator Center Director Doug Wells is pursuing cash to begin producing medical isotopes. Currently most medical isotopes are produced in a nuclear facility in Quebec, Canada. Those facilities are aging and expected to close in the near future, opening the possibility of entering this well established market with great potential for expansion.

BEAR LAKE

- Montpelier city officials are evaluating the concept of a large multiple-use building. An advisory vote taken several years ago was evenly split on the ideas of remodeling or replacing the current Montpelier City Hall. Since that time there have been numerous studies about the cost of repairs and upgrades but very little research into the cost of a new building. Architects have presented approximate costs for several options including incorporating a community center as part of the City Hall. There may be some grant money for a community center but none for a city hall. However, with the decrease in building costs, council members believe now may be the time to get started on the project.

BINGHAM COUNTY

- Snake River School District trustees approved a \$17 million May 12 school bond election. The revenue will be used to upgrade several school buildings.
- The final decision on the permit for the Goshen South Wind Energy Project is expected shortly after a July 28 hearing before 7th District Judge Richard St. Clair. He will review the procedures followed by Bingham County officials in granting a special use permit to Ridgeline Energy to build a 150-turbine wind project.
- The grand opening of the Sage Hill Travel Center & Casino on Interstate 15 brought dignitaries from throughout the area. The new facility has a convenience store, 100 gambling machines, a restaurant and amenities for truckers. The project was funded with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes' economic development fund and will employ 30.
- The Blackfoot City Council filed a petition for judicial approval to issue \$4 million in bonds for a water storage tank. The council believes the bonds can be paid off in eight years, which is much sooner than the 20-year deadline on such projects.
- The Science and Technology Charter School expected to be built near Groveland this summer has been hiring teachers and administrative staff. The 30,000-square-foot school hopes to enroll 170 middle school students this fall and 300 students when the building is completed. With more students interested in attending the school than there is room for, the administrators have already held their first lottery for admission.
- Bingham Cooperative Inc., a division of grain and oilseed marketer CHS, announced a record cash patronage and equity distributions based on business over the 12 months ending Aug. 31, 2008. More than \$576,000 was paid out in cash during February to 370 eligible patrons. CHS is owned by farmers, ranchers and cooperatives along with thousands of preferred stockholders.

- Bingham Memorial Hospital's new 53,000-square-foot medical plaza is open and staffed by 40 full-time and part-time physicians. In addition to examination rooms and offices, the plaza includes classrooms for community education and the Idaho Physicians Clinic.

CARIBOU COUNTY

- Caribou County commissioners signed an agreement with the U.S. Forest Service for \$270,000 from the economic stimulus bill for five road projects. The projects will begin as soon as weather permits. They must be completed by Sept. 30, 2010. The projects will benefit many user groups, local residents and general public who use the National Forest.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

- Kathy Ray, economic development director for southeastern Idaho counties, met with Preston city officials to discuss the current industrial park and preparations for growth. Ray said that despite the weak national economy she is getting inquiries from businesses about an industrial park in the area. She explained the importance of being proactive with economic growth plans rather than waiting for someone to show interest and reacting under pressure when it does.
- Contrary to most parts of the nation there does not seem to be a shortage of health care workers in Franklin County. During a recent interview, Franklin County Medical Center Chief Executive Mike Andrus said "We are not experiencing any difficulty maintaining adequate staffing levels." Andrus said the primary reason for adequate staffing has been the hospital's willingness to assist staff with continuing education and licensure.
- A long time Preston employer, Freedom Plastics, has been purchased for \$400,000 by NACO of Logan, Utah. In February Freedom Plastics began a court-supervised receivership, which was expected to allow the company to operate without interruption while it transitioned to new ownership. The first planned auction did not raise enough money to satisfy creditors.

ONEIDA COUNTY

- Oneida County commissioners are considering a proposal to dispose of solid waste at a facility which would convert the garbage to energy. The plant would be located in the Dayton/Weston area to collect and process garbage from the surrounding counties into pellets, which would be used to generate electricity. The company proposing this system is BioGreen Energy Inc., and the counties involved would be Oneida, Bear Lake, Caribou and Franklin.

POWER COUNTY

- Idaho Power officials indicated the company has reached an agreement with private property owners in Power County for a preferred route for the 230-kilovolt and 500-kilovolt lines, which will run through the county. The lines are part of a project known as the Gateway West Transmission Line Project, which will span more than 1,100 miles. It is a cooperative effort between Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power. Work is expected to begin in 2011 with segments of the system in service by 2014.

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EAST CENTRAL IDAHO

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

WINDS OF CHANGE IN REGION

In an ever evolving world, employers and job seekers alike must at least keep up and better yet move beyond. Competition is stiff, especially where there is demand. Competition keeps business owners and job seekers on their toes. If they aren't, they won't survive.

Take Eagle Rock Timber in Idaho Falls. Rick Gokey founded the logging company in 1977. Logging was good at that time, but many developments since then have changed that. Almost 20 years later, instead of closing the business, Gokey changed industries. Eagle Rock Timber became a construction and engineering firm. Now as the construction sector has faded, Gokey is reinventing the company again. Eagle Rock Timber now builds wind farms. The first jobs for Gokey's 32-man crew were in Cheyenne, Wyo., and Goldendale, Wash. More work throughout the country is ahead for Eagle Rock Timber, now a multimillion-dollar company that works with the Idaho National Laboratory and federal contractors.

While not every company evolves to this extent, each must understand what's happening in its industry and adapt to new technology, new demands of customers and whatever else will maintain its competitive edge. Businesses do not have to hire a research analyst to keep up with industry changes. Instead they can listen to the needs of customers and consider the ideas of their own employees. That all will go a long way to maintaining profitability.

The same applies to workers. Many are out of work as the tumultuous waves of recession wash over the economy. Others are underemployed or dissatisfied with the jobs they have. Injuries are denying workers the jobs they once had, and there are those with great ideas who want to stretch out on their own. But in the current economic unrest, workers with jobs should reconsider giving them up unless they have a guarantee of a new job to go to.

Knowing one's strengths and desires and determining what best fits them through research, tests or on-the-job experience helps job seekers enhance their lives and keep them competitive in the labor force.

While striking out on a new course is not always easy – sometimes it requires accepting a reduction in pay or inconvenient hours while learning a new career or starting a business – there are pluses. Keeping up with new computer programs or other technology is an advantage, and learning the skills needed in the new career is valuable.

Market study is a key to success in starting a new business along with a solid business plan and having a good management team. Rarely can one person take on all aspects of managing a business and make it a success. Finding a trustworthy and skilled team is important.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

BONNEVILLE COUNTY

- Areva opened an office in Taylor Crossing on the River at the McNeil Building. Robert Poyser of Areva Enrichment Services LLC and an administrative assistant make up the advance team for the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility that will be located 18 miles west of Idaho Falls. Areva is still awaiting licensure from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Poyser and Mayor Jared Fuhriman recently sent a group of 20 local students to France to tour another Areva facility to find out what uranium enrichment is and the opportunities the new facility will bring to the area. Construction is expected to begin in 2011.

- Inkley's in historic downtown Idaho Falls is closing after holding a spot there for over a quarter century. Inkley's specialized in cameras and photo developing and was part of the Ritz Camera Centers that filed for bankruptcy several months ago. The store will be closing around May, idling five workers.
- Several new restaurants have opened in Idaho Falls
 - Fatboys Grill specializes in half-pound burgers, hotdogs and sandwiches .
 - Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches opened a second outlet after the first was such a success. Owner Jake Lindsay said his 2009 business was up 23 percent so far from the previous year. Jimmy John's specializes in sandwiches. Lindsay is also planning to open in Rexburg before the end of the year.
 - The Hard Hat Steakhouse & Grill moved from Rexburg to Idaho Falls' Snake River Landing to reach more customers. It has a payroll of 190.
- Great Clips has opened its second location in Idaho Falls. Owner Randy Jensen also owns salons in Twin Falls and Pocatello.

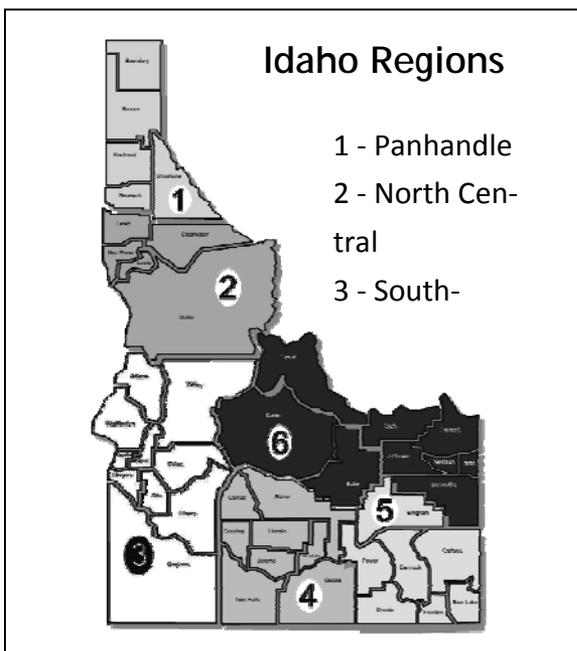
JEFFERSON COUNTY

- Broulim's grocery store in Rigby is expanding. The 14,000-square-foot addition includes a renovated deli, bakery, a Dairy Queen and a drive-in pharmacy. The building next door is being razed to provide more parking, and the grocery's entrance is being moved to the north side. The store will remain open during the expansion. Broulim's has seven stores in eastern Idaho.

LEMHI COUNTY

- The Salmon Business and Innovation Center has been doing exactly what it was designed to do. Two former businesses have moved out of the center to their own locations and four more have started up at the center – a day care center, an hydraulic pump repair, a therapeutic body works firm and a forest products company. Channel Blend, the center's largest employer, rented a third bay and is planning further expansion to possibly bring employment to 60.

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State of Idaho Data

March 2009 Labor Force (preliminary) compared to March 2008 data *(continued on next page)*.

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Mar 2009				Mar 2008			
	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem-ployed	% Unem-ployed	Total Employ-ment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem-ployed	% Unem-ployed	Total Employ-ment
STATE OF IDAHO	749,719	53,002	7.1	696,717	751,498	30,966	4.1	720,532
COUNTIES								
ADA (1)	188,631	14,458	7.7	174,173	195,045	7,493	3.8	187,553
ADAMS	2,255	335	14.9	1,920	2,236	235	10.5	2,000
BANNOCK (8)	40,369	2,325	5.8	38,044	39,328	1,567	4.0	37,760
BEAR LAKE	3,455	145	4.2	3,310	3,195	84	2.6	3,111
BENEWAH	4,210	668	15.9	3,541	3,992	446	11.2	3,546
BINGHAM	21,692	1,174	5.4	20,519	21,350	706	3.3	20,644
BLAINE (5)	14,257	920	6.5	13,337	13,758	467	3.4	13,291
BOISE (1)	3,398	245	7.2	3,153	3,597	201	5.6	3,396
BONNER	21,121	1,952	9.2	19,170	20,214	1,284	6.4	18,930
BONNEVILLE (6)	49,835	2,501	5.0	47,334	50,202	1,403	2.8	48,799
BOUNDARY	4,340	558	12.8	3,783	4,247	407	9.6	3,840
BUTTE	1,422	62	4.4	1,360	1,459	49	3.3	1,411
CAMAS (5)	650	43	6.6	607	628	23	3.6	605
CANYON (1)	80,143	7,591	9.5	72,552	82,130	4,006	4.9	78,124
CARIBOU	3,380	159	4.7	3,221	3,354	93	2.8	3,260
CASSIA (2)	10,022	409	4.1	9,613	10,176	333	3.3	9,843
CLARK	528	23	4.4	505	584	15	2.6	569
CLEARWATER	3,612	596	16.5	3,015	3,508	454	12.9	3,054
CUSTER	2,831	122	4.3	2,709	2,775	89	3.2	2,685
ELMORE	11,348	701	6.2	10,647	11,521	482	4.2	11,040
FRANKLIN	5,551	273	4.9	5,278	5,467	181	3.3	5,286
FREMONT (9)	5,810	405	7.0	5,406	5,804	263	4.5	5,541
GEM (1)	6,917	669	9.7	6,248	7,129	402	5.6	6,727
GOODING	8,473	368	4.3	8,105	8,360	241	2.9	8,119
IDAHO	7,611	753	9.9	6,858	7,496	496	6.6	7,000
JEFFERSON (6)	11,011	610	5.5	10,401	11,067	343	3.1	10,724
JEROME (10)	10,519	557	5.3	9,962	10,280	338	3.3	9,941
KOOTENAI (3)	72,068	5,309	7.4	66,759	70,708	3,229	4.6	67,480
LATAH	18,672	1,039	5.6	17,632	18,225	697	3.8	17,528
LEMHI	3,905	288	7.4	3,617	3,950	208	5.3	3,741
LEWIS (4)	1,763	76	4.3	1,687	1,775	53	3.0	1,722
LINCOLN	2,590	214	8.3	2,375	2,534	108	4.3	2,426
MADISON (9)	15,999	689	4.3	15,311	16,105	409	2.5	15,696
MINIDOKA (2)	9,441	532	5.6	8,909	9,461	338	3.6	9,122
NEZ PERCE (7)	19,672	952	4.8	18,720	19,051	694	3.6	18,357
ONEIDA	2,203	107	4.8	2,097	2,137	57	2.7	2,080
OWYHEE (1)	4,179	120	2.9	4,060	4,475	104	2.3	4,371
PAYETTE	10,443	797	7.6	9,647	10,477	515	4.9	9,962
POWER (8)	3,591	176	4.9	3,415	3,535	146	4.1	3,389
SHOSHONE	6,439	750	11.6	5,690	5,964	407	6.8	5,556
TETON	5,072	196	3.9	4,876	5,172	120	2.3	5,052
TWIN FALLS (10)	40,317	2,126	5.3	38,191	39,279	1,169	3.0	38,110
VALLEY	5,044	627	12.4	4,417	4,872	398	8.2	4,473
WASHINGTON	4,926	381	7.7	4,546	4,874	210	4.3	4,664
ASOTIN WA (7)	10,931	872	8.0	10,059	10,398	531	5.1	9,866

* In thousands

State of Idaho Data

March 2009 Labor Force (preliminary) compared to March 2008 data *(continued from previous page)*.

Seasonally Adjusted Data LABOR MARKET AREAS	Mar 2009				Mar 2008			
	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employ- ment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employ- ment
BOISE CITY-NAMPA MSA (1)	283,268	23,083	8.1	260,185	292,378	12,207	4.2	280,171
BURLEY MicSA (2)	19,463	941	4.8	18,522	19,637	671	3.4	18,965
COEUR D'ALENE MSA (3)	72,068	5,309	7.4	66,759	70,708	3,229	4.6	67,480
GRANGEVILLE SLMA (4)	9,374	829	8.8	8,545	9,271	549	5.9	8,722
HAILEY SLMA (5)	14,907	963	6.5	13,944	14,387	490	3.4	13,897
IDAHO FALLS MSA (6)	60,846	3,111	5.1	57,735	61,269	1,746	2.8	59,523
LEWISTON MSA (7)	30,604	1,824	6.0	28,780	29,448	1,225	4.2	28,223
POCATELLO MSA (8)	43,961	2,502	5.7	41,459	42,863	1,714	4.0	41,149
REXBURG MicSA (9)	21,810	1,093	5.0	20,716	21,909	672	3.1	21,237
TWIN FALLS MicSA (10)	50,836	2,683	5.3	48,153	49,559	1,507	3.0	48,051
CITIES								
BOISE	105,294	7,335	7.0	97,958	109,823	3,920	3.6	105,903
CALDWELL	17,428	1,748	10.0	15,680	17,950	999	5.6	16,951
COEUR D' ALENE	23,000	1,690	7.3	21,310	22,628	1,003	4.4	21,626
IDAHO FALLS	27,746	1,449	5.2	26,297	28,038	818	2.9	27,219
LEWISTON	16,371	765	4.7	15,606	15,896	533	3.4	15,363
MERIDIAN	31,587	2,283	7.2	29,305	32,826	1,144	3.5	31,682
NAMPA	35,475	3,436	9.7	32,039	36,333	1,696	4.7	34,636
POCATELLO	28,296	1,471	5.2	26,824	27,761	1,030	3.7	26,730
TWIN FALLS	22,345	1,188	5.3	21,157	21,834	638	2.9	21,196
United States*	154,048	13,161	8.5	140,887	153,843	7,820	5.1	145,969

* In thousands

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

State of Idaho Data — Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

% change from

BY PLACE OF WORK	Mar 2009*	Feb 2009	Jan 2008	Last Month	Last Year
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	610,100	610,300	641,100	0.0	-4.8
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	95,400	96,600	110,700	-1.2	-13.8
<i>Natural Resources & Mining</i>	3,200	3,300	4,200	-3.0	-23.8
Logging	1,200	1,300	1,600	-7.7	-25.0
Mining	2,000	2,000	2,600	0.0	-23.1
Metal Ore Mining	1,100	1,100	1,200	0.0	-8.3
<i>Construction</i>	34,900	35,600	42,500	-2.0	-17.9
<i>Manufacturing</i>	57,300	57,700	64,000	-0.7	-10.5
Durable Goods	32,900	33,400	39,700	-1.5	-17.1
Wood Product Manufacturing	5,700	5,700	7,100	0.0	-19.7
Sawmills & Wood Preservation	1,800	1,800	2,300	0.0	-21.7
Veneer & Engineered Products	1,100	1,100	1,300	0.0	-15.4
Other Wood Product Manufacturing	2,800	2,800	3,500	0.0	-20.0
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	4,600	4,600	4,700	0.0	-2.1
Machinery Manufacturing	2,900	2,900	3,100	0.0	-6.5
Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	11,100	11,700	14,800	-5.1	-25.0
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	2,600	2,600	3,500	0.0	-25.7
Other Durable Goods	6,000	5,900	6,500	1.7	-7.7
Nondurable Goods	24,400	24,300	24,300	0.4	0.4
Food Manufacturing	15,600	15,700	15,600	-0.6	0.0
Fruits & Vegetable Preserving & Specialty	8,000	8,000	7,800	0.0	2.6
Paper Manufacturing	1,600	1,600	1,700	0.0	-5.9
Printing & Related Support Activities	1,700	1,700	1,800	0.0	-5.6
Chemical Manufacturing	2,400	2,300	2,300	4.3	4.3
Other Nondurable Goods	3,100	3,000	2,900	3.3	6.9
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	514,700	513,700	530,400	0.2	-3.0
<i>Trade, Transportation, & Utilities</i>	121,100	121,200	130,300	-0.1	-7.1
Trade	102,000	101,600	109,400	0.4	-6.8
Wholesale Trade	25,800	25,800	27,800	0.0	-7.2
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	11,400	11,500	13,100	-0.9	-13.0
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	12,000	11,900	11,900	0.8	0.8
Retail Trade	76,200	75,800	81,600	0.5	-6.6
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	10,800	10,700	12,200	0.9	-11.5
Building Material and Garden Equipment	8,000	7,700	8,300	3.9	-3.6
Food & Beverage Stores	12,900	12,900	13,000	0.0	-0.8
General Merchandise Stores	16,500	16,300	16,400	1.2	0.6
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	19,100	19,600	20,900	-2.6	-8.6
Utilities	2,200	2,200	2,000	0.0	10.0
Transportation & Warehousing	16,900	17,400	18,900	-2.9	-10.6
Rail Transportation	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0	0.0
Truck Transportation	8,400	8,500	9,200	-1.2	-8.7
<i>Information</i>	12,000	11,900	11,100	0.8	8.1
Telecommunications	4,800	4,800	4,100	0.0	17.1
<i>Financial Activities</i>	31,200	31,100	31,800	0.3	-1.9
Finance & Insurance	23,300	23,300	23,500	0.0	-0.9
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	7,900	7,800	8,300	1.3	-4.8
<i>Professional & Business Services</i>	70,800	70,800	78,800	0.0	-10.2
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	31,200	31,100	34,100	0.3	-8.5
Scientific Research & Development	7,300	7,300	7,500	0.0	-2.7
Management of Companies & Enterprises	6,900	6,800	7,500	1.5	-8.0
Administrative & Support & Waste Management	32,700	32,900	37,200	-0.6	-12.1
Administrative & Support Services	30,200	30,500	35,700	-1.0	-15.4
<i>Educational & Health Services</i>	78,400	78,400	77,000	0.0	1.8
Educational Services	8,200	8,200	9,100	0.0	-9.9
Health Care & Social Assistance	70,200	70,200	67,900	0.0	3.4
Hospitals	16,700	16,700	17,000	0.0	-1.8
<i>Leisure & Hospitality</i>	59,300	58,100	61,400	2.1	-3.4
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	8,000	7,900	8,300	1.3	-3.6
Accommodation & Food Services	51,300	50,200	53,100	2.2	-3.4
Accommodation	9,000	9,000	8,800	0.0	2.3
Food Services & Drinking Places	42,300	41,200	44,300	2.7	-4.5
<i>Other Services</i>	19,400	19,400	20,500	0.0	-5.4
<i>Total Government</i>	122,500	122,800	119,500	-0.2	2.5
Federal Government	12,100	12,100	12,200	0.0	-0.8
State & Local Government	110,400	110,700	107,300	-0.3	2.9
State Government	30,600	30,600	30,500	0.0	0.3
State Government Education	15,200	15,100	14,800	0.7	2.7
State Government Administration	15,400	15,500	15,700	-0.6	-1.9
Local Government	79,800	80,100	76,800	-0.4	3.9
Local Government Education	42,200	42,400	41,500	-0.5	1.7
Local Government Administration	34,200	34,400	32,000	-0.6	6.9
Local Government Tribes	3,400	3,300	3,300	3.0	3.0

*Preliminary estimate ** Estimates include all full or part time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

State of Idaho Data — State Economic Indicators

	Mar 2009	Feb 2009	Mar 2008	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE ⁽¹⁾					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	749,700	752,200	751,500	-0.3	-0.2
Unemployment	53,000	50,900	31,000	4.1	71.0
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	7.1	6.8	4.1		
Total Employment	696,700	701,300	720,500	-0.7	-3.3
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	745,300	748,100	748,000	-0.4	-0.4
Unemployment	59,400	58,700	35,600	1.2	66.9
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	8.0	7.8	4.8		
Total Employment	685,900	689,400	712,400	-0.5	-3.7
U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE⁽²⁾					
	8.5	8.1	5.1		
U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX⁽²⁾					
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	207.2	206.7	209.1	0.2	-0.9
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	212.7	212.2	213.5	0.2	-0.4
AGRICULTURE					
Agriculture Employment	39,290	36,310	38,250	8.2	2.7
Operators	10,110	9,750	9,740	3.7	3.8
Unpaid Family	360	350	360	2.9	0.0
Hired Workers	28,820	26,210	28,150	10.0	2.4
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
<i>Claims Activities</i>					
Initial Claims ⁽³⁾	16,416	16,763	9,163	-2.1	79.2
Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾	228,742	185,304	111,253	23.4	105.6
<i>Benefit Payment Activities⁽⁵⁾</i>					
Weeks Compensated	203,624	163,883	83,055	24.2	145.2
Total Benefit \$ Paid	54,858,552	43,324,423	22,016,512	26.6	149.2
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$269.41	\$264.36	\$265.08	1.9	1.6
Covered Employers	50,852	51,177	51,291	-0.6	-0.9
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾	\$290,584,926	\$257,742,886	\$151,034,360	12.7	92.4

(1) Preliminary estimate

(2) Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

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

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

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

Panhandle Data

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

	Mar 2009*	Feb 2009	Mar 2008	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	72,070	71,250	70,710	1.2	1.9
Unemployed	5,310	5,190	3,230	2.3	64.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.4	7.3	4.6		
Total Employment	66,760	66,060	67,480	1.1	-1.1
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	71,130	71,310	69,570	-0.3	2.2
Unemployed	6,640	6,670	4,130	-0.4	60.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.3	9.4	5.9		
Total Employment	64,490	64,640	65,440	-0.2	-1.5
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	54,600	54,290	54,970	0.6	-0.7
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	9,360	9,290	10,000	0.8	-6.4
Natural Resources & Mining	300	310	280	-3.2	7.1
Construction	4,550	4,500	4,990	1.1	-8.8
Manufacturing	4,510	4,480	4,730	0.7	-4.7
<i>Wood Product Manufacturing</i>	730	730	820	0.0	-11.0
<i>Other Manufacturing</i>	3,780	3,750	3,910	0.8	-3.3
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	45,240	45,000	44,970	0.5	0.6
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	10,440	10,380	10,750	0.6	-2.9
<i>Wholesale Trade</i>	1,530	1,520	1,540	0.7	-0.6
<i>Retail Trade</i>	7,910	7,840	8,160	0.9	-3.1
<i>Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities</i>	1,000	1,020	1,050	-2.0	-4.8
Information	910	910	870	0.0	4.6
Financial Activities	3,100	3,090	3,170	0.3	-2.2
Professional & Business Services	5,200	5,200	5,630	0.0	-7.6
Educational & Health Services	6,280	6,240	5,920	0.6	6.1
Leisure & Hospitality	7,960	7,890	7,170	0.9	11.0
Other Services	1,410	1,400	1,510	0.7	-6.6
Government Education	3,770	3,760	3,720	0.3	1.3
Government Administration	5,270	5,260	5,320	0.2	-0.9
Government Tribes	900	870	910	3.4	-1.1

* Preliminary estimate

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

North Central Idaho Data

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

	Mar 2009*	Feb 2009	Mar 2008	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	30,600	30,940	29,450	-1.1	3.9
Unemployment	1,830	2,230	1,230	-17.9	48.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.0	7.2	4.2		
Total Employment	28,770	28,710	28,220	0.2	1.9
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	30,650	30,870	29,470	-0.7	4.0
Unemployment	2,150	2,330	1,450	-7.7	48.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.0	7.5	4.9		
Total Employment	28,500	28,540	28,020	-0.1	1.7
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	25,900	25,920	27,520	-0.1	-5.9
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	4,010	4,100	4,630	-2.2	-13.4
Natural Resources & Mining	220	220	180	0.0	22.2
Construction	690	780	1,120	-11.5	-38.4
Manufacturing	3,100	3,100	3,320	0.0	-6.6
<i>Wood Product Manufacturing</i>	460	470	520	-2.1	-11.5
<i>Paper Manufacturing</i>	1,090	1,090	1,120	0.0	-2.7
<i>Other Manufacturing</i>	1,550	1,540	1,680	0.6	-7.7
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	21,890	21,820	22,890	0.3	-4.4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,230	5,230	5,600	0.0	-6.6
<i>Wholesale Trade</i>	580	580	680	0.0	-14.7
<i>Retail Trade</i>	3,620	3,620	3,770	0.0	-4.0
<i>Utilities</i>	90	90	90	0.0	0.0
<i>Transportation & Warehousing</i>	940	940	1,060	0.0	-11.3
Information	350	370	400	-5.4	-12.5
Financial Activities	2,100	2,100	2,100	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	1,370	1,350	1,510	1.5	-9.3
Education & Health Services	4,240	4,270	4,320	-0.7	-1.9
Leisure & Hospitality	2,490	2,440	2,630	2.0	-5.3
Other Services	860	860	1,110	0.0	-22.5
Government Education	2,610	2,610	2,560	0.0	2.0
Government Administration	1,970	1,920	1,970	2.6	0.0
Government Tribes	670	670	690	0.0	-2.9

*Preliminary estimate

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

Southwestern Idaho Data

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

	Mar 2009*	Feb 2009	Mar 2008	% Change	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	283,300	287,700	292,400	-1.5	-3.1
Unemployment	23,100	21,800	12,200	6.0	89.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.1	7.6	4.2		
Total Employment	260,200	265,900	280,200	-2.1	-7.1
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	284,500	287,000	294,400	-0.9	-3.4
Unemployment	24,500	24,100	13,300	1.7	84.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.6	8.4	4.5		
Total Employment	260,000	262,900	281,100	-1.1	-7.5
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	252,600	253,300	272,100	-0.3	-7.2
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES					
<i>Natural Resources & Construction</i>					
Construction	15,400	15,600	18,600	-1.3	-17.2
<i>Manufacturing</i>					
Durable Goods	15,200	15,400	18,300	-1.3	-16.9
Manufacturing	24,300	24,900	28,800	-2.4	-15.6
Durable Goods	17,300	17,900	21,900	-3.4	-21.0
Wood Product Manufacturing	1,400	1,400	2,100	0.0	-33.3
Fabricated Metal Products Mfg.	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0	0.0
Machinery Manufacturing	1,100	1,100	1,200	0.0	-8.3
Computer & Electronic Manufacturing	9,400	9,900	12,800	-5.1	-26.6
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	1,600	1,700	2,200	-5.9	-27.3
Other Durable Goods	2,300	2,300	2,100	0.0	9.5
Nondurable Goods	7,000	7,000	6,900	0.0	1.4
Food Manufacturing	4,900	5,000	4,800	-2.0	2.1
Printing & Related Support Activities	700	700	700	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	1,400	1,300	1,400	7.7	0.0
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES					
<i>Trade, Transportation, & Utilities</i>					
Trade	212,900	212,800	224,700	0.0	-5.3
Wholesale Trade	50,100	49,600	53,400	1.0	-6.2
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	42,100	41,500	45,600	1.4	-7.7
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	11,700	11,700	12,200	0.0	-4.1
Retail Trade	6,500	6,500	7,000	0.0	-7.1
Food & Beverage Stores	3,800	3,800	3,800	0.0	0.0
General Merchandise Stores	30,400	29,800	33,400	2.0	-9.0
All Other Retail Trade	4,700	4,700	5,000	0.0	-6.0
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	6,600	6,400	6,500	3.1	1.5
Utilities	19,100	18,700	21,900	2.1	-12.8
Transportation & Warehousing	8,000	8,100	7,800	-1.2	2.6
Information	900	900	700	0.0	28.6
Information	7,100	7,200	7,100	-1.4	0.0
Telecommunications	5,600	5,600	4,900	0.0	14.3
Financial Activities	2,300	2,300	1,500	0.0	53.3
Finance & Insurance	13,600	13,900	14,300	-2.2	-4.9
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	10,400	10,400	10,500	0.0	-1.0
Professional & Business Services	3,200	3,500	3,800	-8.6	-15.8
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	35,100	35,400	40,700	-0.8	-13.8
Management of Companies & Ent.	11,800	11,800	12,700	0.0	-7.1
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt.	5,100	5,100	5,500	0.0	-7.3
Educational & Health Services	18,200	18,500	22,500	-1.6	-19.1
Educational Services	33,900	33,900	35,200	0.0	-3.7
Health Care & Social Assistance	2,800	2,800	3,300	0.0	-15.2
Hospitals	31,100	31,100	31,900	0.0	-2.5
Leisure & Hospitality	9,900	9,900	10,500	0.0	-5.7
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	22,000	21,600	24,700	1.9	-10.9
Accommodation & Food Services	1,900	2,000	3,300	-5.0	-42.4
Accommodation	20,100	19,600	21,400	2.6	-6.1
Food Services & Drinking Places	2,200	1,900	2,300	15.8	-4.3
Other Services	17,900	17,700	19,100	1.1	-6.3
Total Government	8,100	8,000	8,300	1.3	-2.4
Federal Government	44,500	44,800	43,200	-0.7	3.0
State & Local Government	6,100	6,100	5,900	0.0	3.4
State Government	38,400	38,700	37,300	-0.8	2.9
State Government Education	14,300	14,400	14,000	-0.7	2.1
State Government Administration	4,500	4,500	4,700	0.0	-4.3
Local Government	9,800	9,900	9,300	-1.0	5.4
Local Government Education	24,100	24,300	23,300	-0.8	3.4
Local Government Administration	15,300	15,400	14,600	-0.6	4.8
Local Government Administration	8,800	8,900	8,700	-1.1	1.1

* Preliminary estimate

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

South Central Idaho Data

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

	<u>% Change From</u>				
	Mar 2009*	Feb 2009	Mar 2008	Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	50,840	49,390	49,560	2.9	2.6
Unemployment	2,680	2,670	1,510	0.4	77.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.3	5.4	3.0		
Total Employment	48,160	46,720	48,050	3.1	0.2
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	49,480	49,400	48,290	0.2	2.5
Unemployment	3,020	3,050	1,730	-1.0	74.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.1	6.2	3.6		
Total Employment	46,460	46,350	46,560	0.2	-0.2
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	38,790	38,540	39,610	0.6	-2.1
<i>Goods-Providing Industries</i>					
Natural Resources & Mining	70	60	60	16.7	16.7
Construction	1,900	1,830	2,100	3.8	-9.5
Manufacturing	4,410	4,510	4,640	-2.2	-5.0
<i>Food Manufacturing</i>	2,520	2,610	2,560	-3.4	-1.6
<i>Other Manufacturing</i>	1,890	1,900	2,080	-0.5	-9.1
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>					
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	9,810	9,980	9,890	-1.7	-0.8
<i>Wholesale Trade</i>	1,900	1,910	1,910	-0.5	-0.5
<i>Retail Trade</i>	5,410	5,370	5,710	0.7	-5.3
<i>Utilities</i>	160	160	150	0.0	6.7
<i>Transportation & Warehousing</i>	2,340	2,540	2,120	-7.9	10.4
Information	660	650	670	1.5	-1.5
Financial Activities	1,610	1,610	1,690	0.0	-4.7
Professional & Business Services	4,460	4,300	4,830	3.7	-7.7
Educational & Health Services	5,370	5,320	5,290	0.9	1.5
Leisure & Hospitality	3,340	3,220	3,180	3.7	5.0
Other Services	1,490	1,460	1,500	2.1	-0.7
Government Education	3,460	3,400	3,390	1.8	2.1
Government Administration	2,210	2,200	2,370	0.5	-6.8

*Preliminary estimate

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

Southeastern Idaho Data

Pocatello MSA Labor Force & Employment — Bannock and Power counties

	Mar 2009*	Feb 2009	Mar 2008	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	43,960	45,130	42,860	-2.6	2.6
Unemployment	2,500	2,520	1,710	-0.8	46.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.60	5.6	4.0		
	41,460	42,610	41,150	-2.7	0.8
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	44,570	45,040	43,590	-1.0	2.2
Unemployment	2,770	2,830	1,950	-2.1	42.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.2	6.3	4.5		
Total Employment	41,800	42,210	41,640	-1.0	0.4
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	36,710	37,320	38,600	-1.6	-4.9
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	5,040	5,210	5,420	-3.3	-7.0
Natural Resources & Mining	30	20	30	50.0	0.0
Construction	1,430	1,530	1,800	-6.5	-20.6
Manufacturing	3,580	3,660	3,580	-2.2	0.0
<i>Food Manufacturing</i>	1,470	1,470	1,370	0.0	7.3
<i>Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing</i>	250	250	220	0.0	13.6
<i>Machinery Manufacturing</i>	90	90	80	0.0	12.5
<i>Other Manufacturing</i>	1,770	1,850	1,920	-4.3	-7.8
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	31,670	32,110	33,180	-1.4	-4.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	6,540	6,670	7,590	-1.9	-13.8
<i>Wholesale Trade</i>	1,370	1,380	1,370	-0.7	0.0
<i>Retail Trade</i>	4,040	4,110	4,620	-1.7	-12.6
<i>Utilities</i>	50	50	50	0.0	0.0
<i>Transportation & Warehousing</i>	1,080	1,130	1,550	-4.4	-30.3
Information	550	560	720	-1.8	-23.6
Financial Activities	2,180	2,220	2,160	-1.8	0.9
Professional & Business Services	4,050	4,070	3,870	-0.5	4.7
Educational & Health Services	3,680	3,690	3,420	-0.3	7.6
Leisure & Hospitality	3,450	3,620	3,810	-4.7	-9.4
Other Services	1,340	1,340	1,280	0.0	4.7
Government Education	6,100	6,140	6,050	-0.7	0.8
Government Administration	3,780	3,800	4,280	-0.5	-11.7

*Preliminary estimate

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

East Central Idaho Data

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

	Mar 2009*	Feb 2009	Mar 2008	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	60,850	61,880	61,270	-1.7	-0.7
Unemployment	3,110	3,090	1,750	0.6	77.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.1	5.0	2.8		
Total Employment	57,730	58,790	59,520	-1.8	-3.0
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	60,880	60,830	61,350	0.1	-0.8
Unemployment	3,590	3,510	2,060	2.3	74.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.9	5.8	3.4		
Total Employment	57,280	57,310	59,290	-0.1	-3.4
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	49,140	49,230	51,050	-0.2	-3.7
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	6,230	6,490	7,610	-4.0	-18.1
Construction & Natural Resources	2,830	3,100	4,200	-8.7	-32.6
Manufacturing	3,400	3,390	3,410	0.3	-0.3
<i>Food Manufacturing</i>	920	920	940	0.0	-2.1
<i>Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing</i>	280	280	270	0.0	3.7
<i>Machinery Manufacturing</i>	140	140	150	0.0	-6.4
<i>Other Manufacturing</i>	2,060	2,050	2,050	0.5	0.5
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	42,910	42,740	43,440	0.4	-1.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	12,190	12,260	13,170	-0.6	-7.4
<i>Wholesale Trade</i>	3,440	3,450	3,690	-0.3	-6.8
<i>Retail Trade</i>	7,370	7,440	7,630	-0.9	-3.4
<i>Utilities</i>	60	60	60	0.0	0.0
<i>Transportation</i>	1,330	1,310	1,790	1.5	-25.7
Information	1,390	1,330	1,470	4.5	-5.4
Financial Activities	2,100	2,010	2,230	4.5	-5.8
Professional & Business Services	4,720	4,630	4,990	1.9	-5.4
Educational & Health Services	7,250	7,270	7,320	-0.3	-1.0
Leisure & Hospitality	5,180	5,260	4,850	-1.5	6.8
Other Services	2,730	2,630	2,160	3.8	26.4
Government Education	3,950	3,960	3,820	-0.3	3.4
Government Administration	3,400	3,390	3,430	0.3	-0.9

*Preliminary estimate

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

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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