



# Idaho Employment

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

IDAHO  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
*Franklin Basin by April Keyser*

Volume 21.5 Idaho Department of Labor  
C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, GOVERNOR

May 2009 Issue / April 2009 Data  
ROGER B. MADSEN, DIRECTOR

---

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Characteristics of Unemployment Shift in Current Economy, page 1
- Slight Increase in Nonfarm Jobs March to April, page 5
- State Economic Developments, page 8

## State Tables

- April Labor Force Data by County, LMA, City, page 29
- April Nonfarm Jobs, page 31
- April Economic Indicators, page 32

## Regional Labor Force Tables, page 33

Panhandle, North Central, Southwestern, South Central, Southeastern,  
East Central

## Glossary of Labor Terms, page 39

---

## CHARACTERISTICS OF UNEMPLOYED SHIFT IN CURRENT ECONOMY

The national recession is steadily changing the face of Idaho's unemployment insurance claimants.

Their number today is nearly three times what it was during the heart of Idaho's economic expansion in 2006. But beyond just the sheer size of their ranks, a greater percentage of today's unemployed are men. They're younger and a little better educated, and they're much more likely to have been laid off by a contractor or a manufacturer and less likely to have lost a job in health care.

These changing characteristics reflect the depth and breadth of the economic slowdown that has pushed unemployment in Idaho over 7 percent, the highest in more than two decades.

Three years ago when Idaho was creating jobs at a faster pace than every other state in the nation, the number of workers with jobs was growing monthly, exceeding 720,000 by the end of 2006.

Unemployment was going in the other direction, steadily falling to under 21,000 and a record low 2.8 percent. Sixty-three percent of the jobless were men as more and more women entered the labor force to take advantage of the expansion. About 27.5 percent of Idaho's jobless workers were between 22 and 34 – the age range when working careers are taking shape. The college graduates who were still unemployed after the 2001 recession or who could not find jobs after getting out of school were dropping steadily, albeit slowly, toward 8 percent the next year.

Today, the number of workers without jobs has more than doubled, and those with jobs have been declining since mid-2008, slipping below 698,000 in March. Sixty-nine percent of unemployed were men in 2008, up six percentage points from two years earlier. Nearly a third were between 22 to 34 years of age, again a substantial increase from 2006. And at the beginning of April, nearly 10 percent of unemployment claimants had college degrees, an increase of 25 percent from 2007.

As the recession spread more broadly through the economy, it began impacting workers who found it easy to land a job when the state was riding a wave of residential and commercial construction, and manufacturers such as the recreational vehicle sector were experiencing high demand for their product.

Men who dominate jobs in construction and manufacturing were being laid off in disproportionate numbers. As employers cut back, they kept more experienced workers and let the newer – and typically younger – ones go. That age group increased three and a half percentage points from the heyday of the expansion.

But the ranks of the older claimants also rose – up two and a half points over the past several years – as workers with decades on the job would end up without paychecks when their employers shut down completely. In just the last year, over 400 more employers went out of business than opened businesses across Idaho.

Job losses in goods production began mounting steadily beginning in late 2006, primarily in construction and manufacturing, where wages were typically higher than for most other jobs in the economy. Today, the percentage of jobless construction workers claiming benefits is almost 10 points higher while idled manufacturing workers were up almost four percentage points.

Those layoffs increased through 2007, and by late in the year, they were taking a toll on the rest of the economy. Every sector saw an increase in unemployed workers as total unemployment more than doubled. But retail experienced the greatest decline as consumers scaled back spending. Retail's share of claimants jumped over two percentage points.

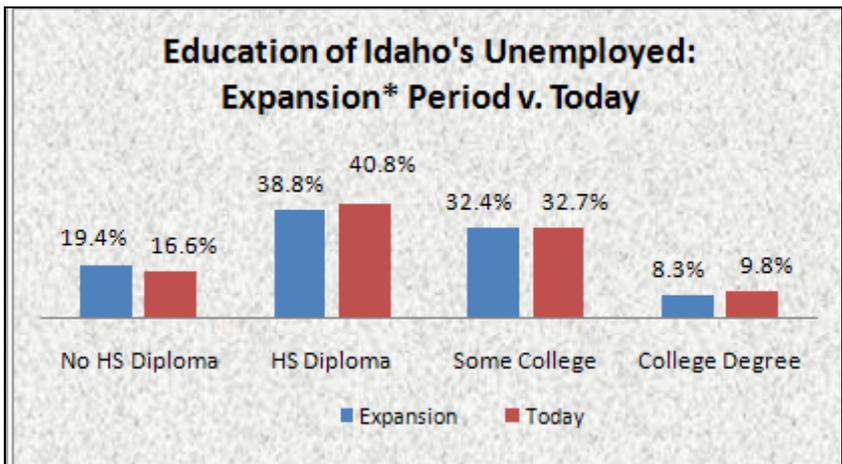
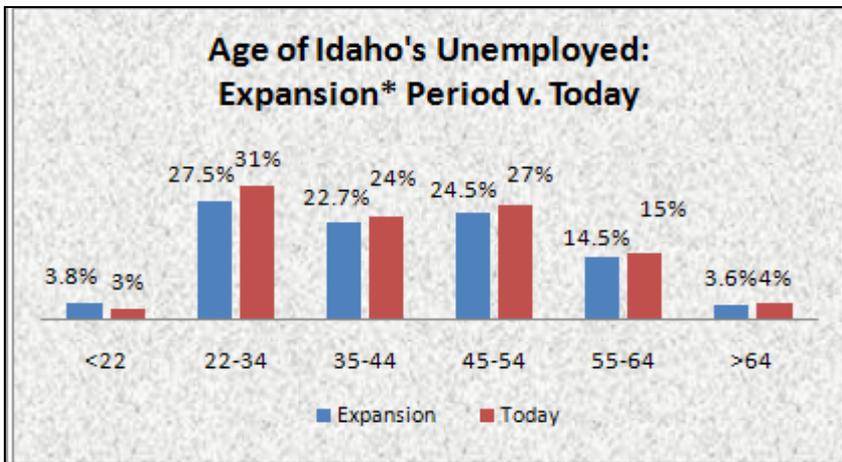
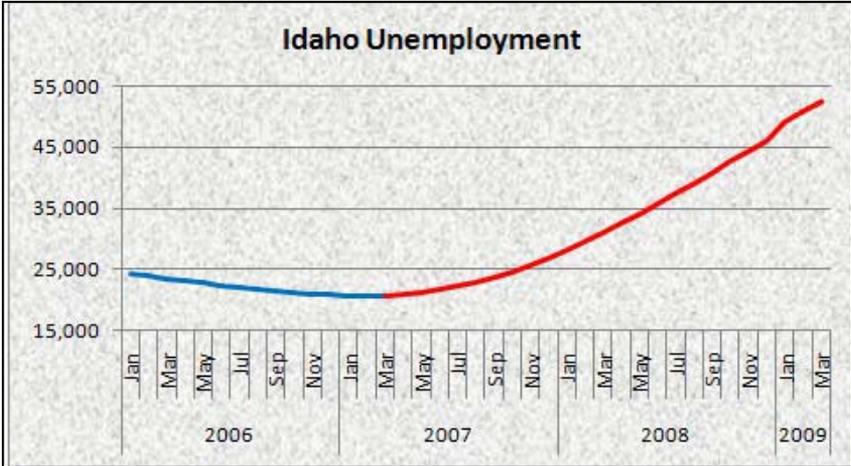
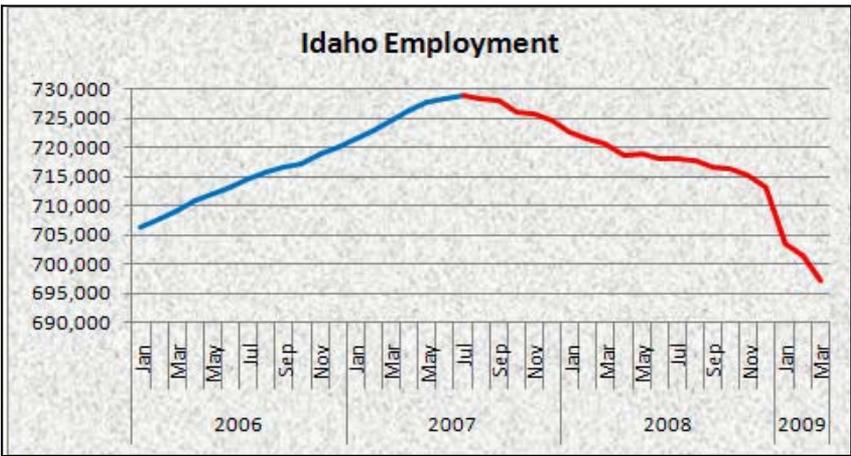
Health care was the one sector that continued growing as the recession took hold. While the number of health care workers receiving unemployment has risen, their percentage of the total number of benefit claimants has nearly halved to just over three percent as demand for medical services remained strong amidst a growing population.

Changes in the proportion of unemployed from the other sectors were relatively minor, underscoring the significant impact construction, manufacturing and retail had on Idaho's economic expansion coming out of the 2001 national recession.

The level of education has also been affected by the prolonged downturn. The share of claimants without a high school diploma has dropped, most likely because they were early casualties of the recession, have exhausted their unemployment benefits and are being shut out of new jobs by more skilled candidates, who have been flooding the job market for months because they have lost their jobs. The two percentage point increase in high school graduates claiming benefits is likely the result of the same phenomenon, while the proportional increase in college graduates on the unemployment line underscores how deeply into the economy this recession has cut.

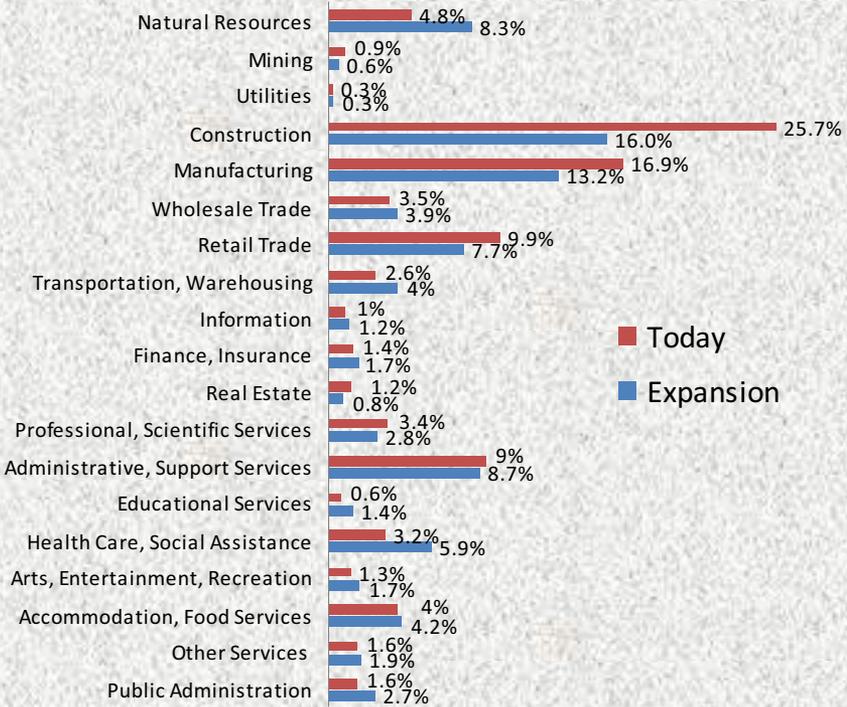
**Bob Fick, Communications Manager**  
**(208) 332-3570 ext. 3628**  
**[bob.fick@labor.idaho.gov](mailto:bob.fick@labor.idaho.gov)**

***The charts on pages 3-4 illustrate the changes in characteristics of Idaho's unemployed from the expansion period compared to today.***

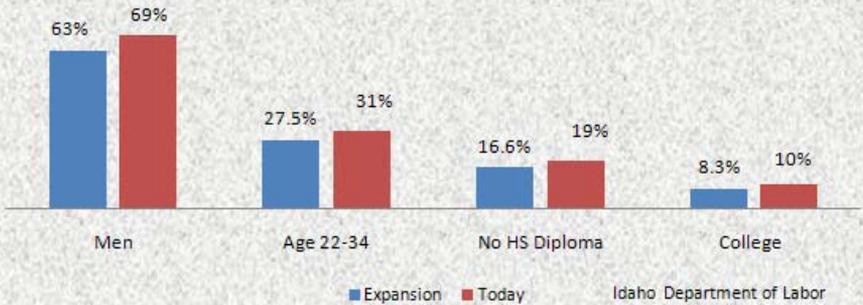


\* Expansion period occurred during 2006. Source: Idaho Department of Labor

## Sectors of Idaho's Unemployed Expansion Period vs. Today



### Characteristics of Idaho's Unemployed: Expansion Period\* v. Today



### Key Sectors of Idaho's Unemployed: Expansion Period\* v. Today



\* Expansion period occurred during 2006. Source: Idaho Department of Labor

## APRIL SHOWS SLIGHT INCREASE FROM MARCH IN NONFARM JOBS

Coming off of the lowest February-to-March growth since World War II, Idaho had a welcome seasonal increase in April. Employers added 3,000 jobs to their payrolls, bringing total nonfarm jobs in the state to 614,800. But the increase of 0.49 percent was just half the average 0.98 percent Idaho has been used to for the past several few years. Year-over-year the state is down more than 30,000 jobs, or 4.75 percent.

According to Bureau of Labor Statistics, construction added 1,400 jobs. The 3.84 percent increase was just one full percentage point below the five-year-average of 4.93 percent, something that has not occurred since construction experienced seven consecutive months of jobs lost before April. Even with the seasonal increase, there were 6,800 fewer jobs in construction than last year, and the 38,000 jobs remaining in that sector left construction at a level last seen in 2004.

Construction's good news was tempered with the performance of manufacturing, impacted by persisting layoffs in the high technology sector. The 300 jobs lost in April represented another half-percentage point decline from March, leaving manufacturing 7,000 jobs short of a year ago. Since August 2007, when high-tech employment began to slide, the state has lost 10,500 manufacturing jobs to drop below 57,000. Manufacturing in Idaho is now at the level reported in April 1992. From that point, it took over 8½ years to reach the peak of 71,600 jobs in November 2000.

Leisure industries that normally see jobs increase by about 0.85 percent suffered a loss of 200 jobs. Restaurants and bars did not boost payrolls with seasonal staff that usually offsets the layoffs at the end of the ski season.

Government added just 600 jobs, and those were mostly workers hired by the Census Bureau in preparation for next year's decennial headcount. State and local government either kept payrolls stable or reported cuts.

The construction gains and seasonal increases elsewhere, even though they were weak, were welcome but should be tempered by the continued depressed overall level of employment across nearly every sector. While it is too early to declare Idaho has reached the bottom of the recession, April may be providing the first break in what has been a relentless stream of bad news.

**Craig Shaul, Research Analyst, Senior**  
**(208) 332-3570 ext. 3201**  
**[craig.shaul@labor.idaho.gov](mailto:craig.shaul@labor.idaho.gov)**

---

## MAY CELEBRATES OLDER AMERICANS

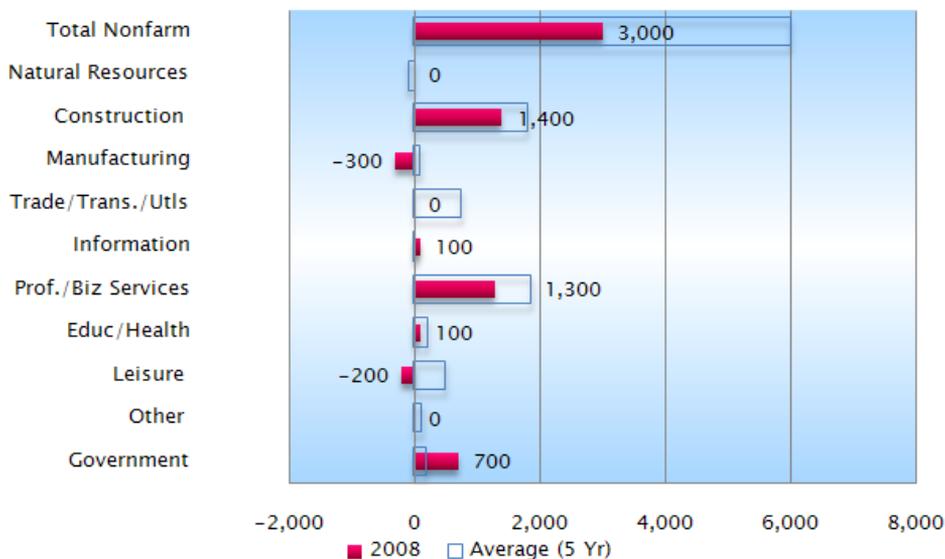
President John F. Kennedy designated May 1963 as Senior Citizens Month, encouraging the nation to pay tribute in some way to older people across the country. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter's proclamation changed the name to Older Americans Month, a time to celebrate those 65 and older. Below are some statistics gathered by the U.S. Census Bureau on older Americans.

**37.9 million** — The number of people 65 and older in the United States on July 1, 2007. This age group accounted for 13 percent of the total population. Between 2006 and 2007, this age group increased by 635,000 people. *Source: Population estimates*, <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/011910.html>>

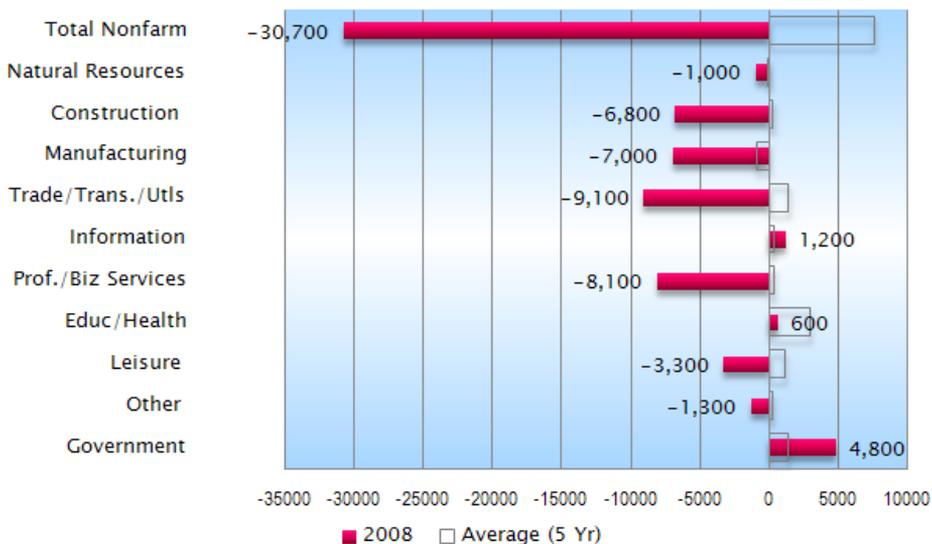
**88.5 million** — Projected population of people 65 and older in 2050. People in this age group would comprise 20 percent of the total population at that time. *Source: Population projections* <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/012496.html>>

**518 million** — Projected 2009 midyear world population 65 and older. Projections indicate the number will increase to 1.6 billion by 2050. *Source: Population projections*. *Source: Population projections* <<http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idb>>

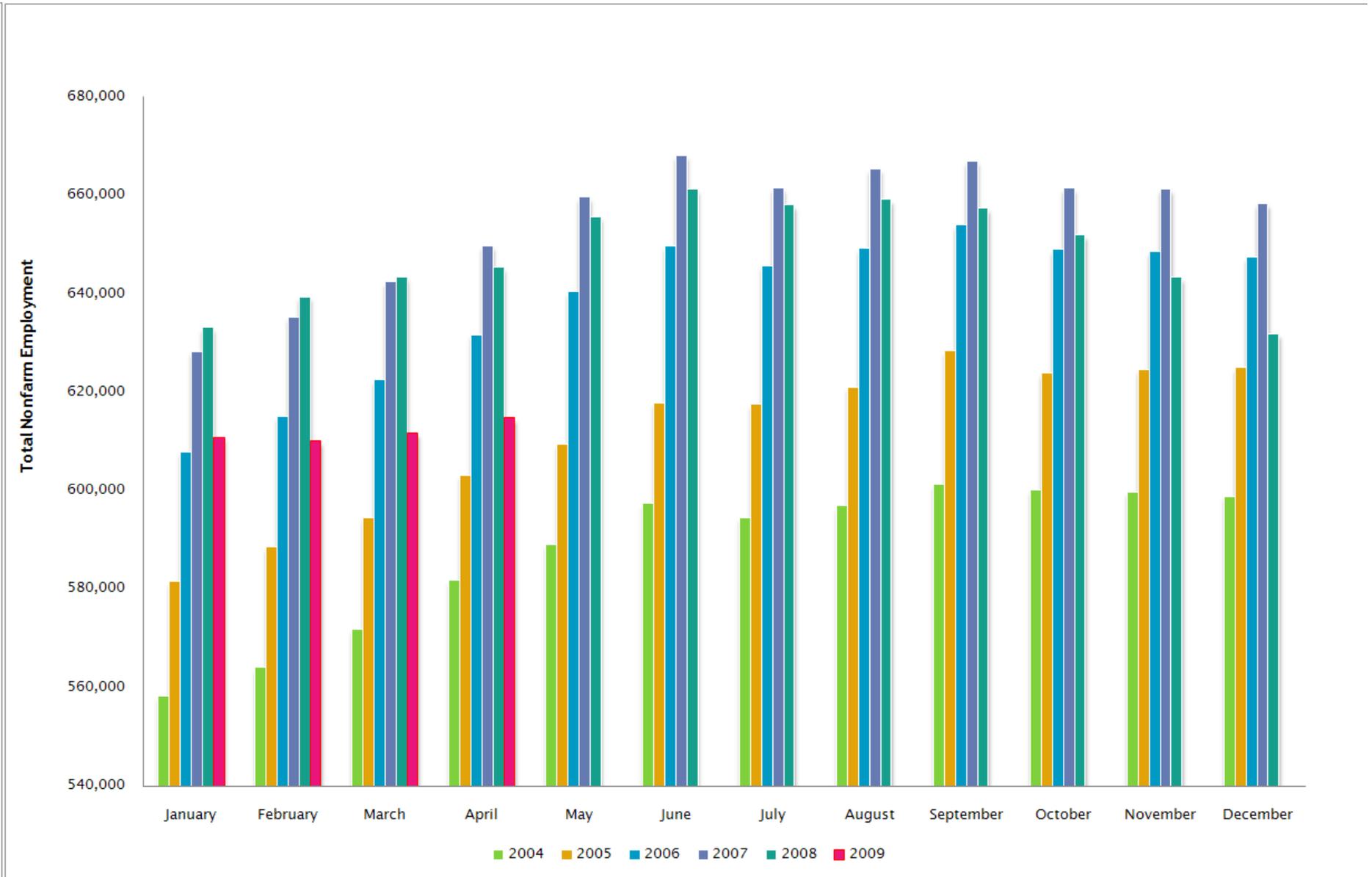
### March to April Job Growth Compared with Five Year Average



### April 2008 to 2009 Job Growth Compared with Five Year Average



## Total Nonfarm Jobs by Month, 2004 to 2009, Compared



# Area and County Developments

## PANHANDLE

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai & Shoshone counties

---

### AREA DEVELOPMENTS

#### BENEWAH COUNTY

- Emerald Creek Garnet recalled its workers in late April after being shut down since December. The company, which has operated near Fernwood since the 1930s, is one of only two commercial garnet operations in North America. The garnets the company mines are the hardest and most durable type for industrial uses such as abrasives, water jet cutting and water filtration. Emerald Creek's crew moved to an area where a higher grade of garnet is anticipated.

- Federal stimulus money is allowing the Coeur d'Alene Tribe to launch projects that had been put on hold. The tribe plans to use \$880,000 for its Citylink bus service, which offers free transportation on the reservation and to Coeur d'Alene and Post Falls. It will buy four new vehicles with a \$420,000 grant and build a maintenance garage with a \$460,000 grant. In addition, the tribe has already received money for housing and medical services. It probably will develop a neighborhood near the old tribal headquarters near



Plummer. University of Idaho architecture students worked with tribal members and leaders last spring on plans for a neighborhood with mixed housing, gardens and a community center to replace several abandoned houses. Construction could start as early as this fall. The tribe also plans to compete for other grants. About \$3 billion of the \$787 billion federal stimulus package was reserved for tribes and tribal organizations.

- In early May, Potlatch's St. Maries complex started operating at full capacity for the first time in over a year. The plywood plant began running two 40-hour weekly shifts on May 4, and the sawmill called back workers to fill two shifts in April. The complex employs 250 people. St. Maries Joint School District successfully passed a supplemental levy April 21 with an 88.4 percent majority. The \$767,000 levy for the next two years will support essential programs for students.
- Sun Meadow resort, a nudist retreat near Worley, got a little national attention in late March when CNN ranked it as one of the five best places to take "nakations" – vacations where visitors can "forget their worries – and their swimsuits." Sun Meadow was lauded for its indoor pool, meeting space and music. Cabins, RV sites and a limited number of hotel rooms are available.

#### BONNER COUNTY

- Manito Super 1 Foods Inc., owned by Hayden Mayor Ron McIntire, plans to open a 53,000-square-foot supermarket in north Sandpoint. Super 1 hopes to start construction on the former Louisiana-Pacific Mill site this fall and open in spring 2010. The Sandpoint store would be McIntire's 11th and would employ about 100.
- Despite the recession, Schweitzer Mountain near Sandpoint enjoyed a banner ski season. The resort was able to open in early December with help

from \$1.4 million in new snowmaking machines. From then on, Mother Nature provided plenty of powder. Schweitzer hosted more than 200,000 skier visits with over 300 inches of snowfall by season's end.

- A project is under way to preserve Sandpoint's classic train depot. The Idaho Transportation Department has hired a masonry restoration company to do a comprehensive analysis of the historic depot and reinforce parts of the building as construction of the U.S. Highway 95 bypass picks up. Built in 1916 for the Northern Pacific Railroad, the depot was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. It is said to be the oldest active Northern Pacific depot in Idaho. The depot is now owned by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway and used as a stop for Amtrak's Empire Builder passenger train from Chicago to the Pacific Northwest. A new frontage road will allow traffic and pedestrians to access the depot from Bridge Street.
- CTA Architecture/Engineering, a Montana firm with 14 locations throughout the Northwest, will be the first tenant of Panhandle State Bank's 94,000-square-foot building in downtown Sandpoint. The firm does environmentally conscious architectural and engineering work. A \$650,000 stimulus grant will help clean two miles of Lake Pend Oreille shoreline, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator announced in May. The funds will be used to revitalize a "brownfield" site contaminated by hazardous pollutants, the Black Rock area in Ponderay. The communities of Ponderay, Sandpoint, Kootenai and Bonner County have formed a coalition to undertake the project, which includes performing environmental site assessments for hazardous contamination, conducting soil, groundwater and surface water sampling and then preparing the area for redevelopment.
- Connie's Café, a long-time presence in downtown Sandpoint, is back after a few months of dormancy. After a complete renovation, it reopened May 11 under new ownership.
- Your Complete Wine Shoppe recently opened in Ponderay. It supplies all the equipment and supplies that home vintners need to make their own wine.

#### **KOOTENAI COUNTY**

- After four years of planning, competing and fund raising, Kootenai County residents now are enjoying their new community center. On opening day May 11, hundreds came to see the Salvation Army's Kroc Community Center. The 123,000-square-foot building and other community centers going up across the nation were funded by a \$1.6 billion legacy from Joan Kroc, widow of McDonald's founder Ray Kroc, to the Salvation Army. The Coeur d'Alene center was built with \$34 million from Kroc and \$4 million in local donations after a fierce national competition in 2006 to land a grant. The facility includes a competition pool designed by the same company involved in the Beijing Olympics, a leisure pool with water slides and a lazy river, spas, a gym full of exercise equipment, an indoor power-walking track, aerobics studio, rock-climbing wall, a children's area with tunnels and play equipment, a performing arts center seating 400 and containing state-of-the-art theater lighting and audiovisual equipment, three full-size basketball courts, a recording studio, teen activities center and game room, a café and a community wing with three meeting rooms, a plaza and an outdoor patio. The Kroc center employs about 80 people.
- Go Green Electric Cars, an electric car and scooter dealership in Post Falls, filed for bankruptcy on April 29. The company, which received widespread media coverage as the Inland Northwest's first electric car dealership when it opened in October 2007, closed last fall.

- ZAGAT America's Top Golf Courses 2009-10 rated Circling Raven Golf Club near Worley as the 20<sup>th</sup> best public-access golf course in the United States out of roughly 13,500 courses. According to ZAGAT, courses that score between 26 and 30 points on a 30-point scale rate as "extraordinary to perfection." Circling Raven scored in this highest category with 28 points. Circling Raven is part of the Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort Hotel, owned by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe.
- Costco plans to make a \$2.7 million addition to its Coeur d'Alene store. It will add 15,000 square feet to the current building to make it 152,000 square feet, the size of the average Costco store. The store opened in 2004.
- About 74 percent of the voters passed a two-year levy for \$7.8 million a year that will help the Coeur d'Alene School District maintain extracurricular activities, support programs and other services not covered by state funding.
- Ground Force Manufacturing, the Post Falls manufacturer of mining equipment, is one of three Idaho companies recognized for their high level of exports. Ground Force began working with the U.S. Commercial Service to increase its international sales in 2004. As a direct result of increasing exports from 25 percent of its total sales in 2001 to 50 percent today, Ground Force created about 30 new jobs.
- Les Schwab opened its 452<sup>nd</sup> tire store in Rathdrum with 16 employees. The company also has stores in Post Falls, Coeur d'Alene, Hayden, St. Maries, Priest River and Sandpoint.
- Rosa's Italian Market and Deli, the new business across from the Post Falls City Hall, recently opened in a hundred-year-old house, the only Post Falls house on the National Register of Historic Places. The deli serves sandwiches, soups, desserts and espresso. The market sells imported wines and beer, as well as kitchenwares, cookbooks, picnic items, hand-sewn originals and gift items with an international theme. Frozen meals made in the store include meatballs, sausage, lasagna, stuffed peppers and ravioli.
- Vivo, the store that recently opened in downtown Coeur d'Alene, features trendy clothing, accessories, jewelry and gift items.

### **SHOSHONE COUNTY**

- Shoshone Medical Center recently purchased the 15,025-square-foot TSI commercial building along with 4.5 acres of land just off Interstate 90 in Smelterville. The facility will be a cornerstone of a long-term strategy to bring additional outpatient medical services and specialists to the Silver Valley community.
- Contractors Northwest Inc. of Coeur d'Alene is working on a \$1.4 million project to replace the well that serves the Kingston water district between Cataldo and Pinehurst. The water district's current water supply could be contaminated by pollutants in the surface water. Contractors Northwest will build a concrete-block well house for a new 100-foot-deep well and backup well that have been drilled in the city of Pinehurst. The contractor also will construct a 250,000-gallon water-storage tank and a water transmission line to Kingston. The Kingston Water District serves about 250 customers.
- The Silver Valley will receive a share of the federal stimulus money to remove 1,000 residential lawns contaminated with heavy metals from decades of mining and smelting. Between \$10 million and \$25 million will be spent, and the work force will be expanded from 125 to 225 to complete the work by 2013, two years ahead of schedule. The superfund cleanup has

already removed contaminated lawns in Kellogg, where a smelter produced extensive pollution. The Environmental Protection Agency reports that more than 3,000 lawns have been replaced since 1998. The lawn replacement program has now moved to outlying parts of the valley from the town of Mullan to near Harrison.

**Kathryn Tacke, Regional Economist**  
**(208) 769-1558 ext. 3984**  
**kathryn.tacke@labor.idaho.gov**

---

## **NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO**

Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce counties

---

### **AREA DEVELOPMENTS**

#### **CLEARWATER COUNTY**

- The Clearwater Career Fair drew more than 350 students from five local high schools and a junior high to the Orofino City Park April 30. Over 40 businesses helped students learn about a variety of careers. Representatives from some colleges and universities also attended. Students worked with construction and logging equipment, performed as a radio deejay and learned what it was like to be a masseuse, medical technologist, banker, chef or member of law enforcement. They also learned to “dress for success.”
- The Clearwater and Nez Perce national forests will receive \$14.5 million in federal stimulus funds for road maintenance. The work is expected to create more than 250 jobs in Clearwater, Idaho and Latah counties. About \$12.5 million will be spent in the Clearwater forest and the other \$2 million in the Nez Perce.

#### **IDAHO & LEWIS COUNTIES**

- Wells Fargo plans to close its Craigmont branch in August. That will leave the city of 520 without a bank although there is a local credit union. The nearest bank would be 15 miles away in Cottonwood. Wells Fargo cites the high operating costs including extensive remodeling that would be needed if the branch remained opened.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s hatchery in Kooskia will receive \$1.1 million in federal stimulus money for upgrades at the 41-year-old facility. The hatchery produces 600,000 spring Chinook salmon annually and acclimates another 300,000 coho salmon for release.
- Robert and Anna Bishop, who own Bishop’s Bistro in Nezperce, purchased Barb’s Cafe on Grangeville’s Main Street and re-opened it as Bishop’s Bistro in early May. The full-service restaurant offers a wide variety of dishes for breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- The Nez Perce National Forest has approved a special-use permit for a new owner to begin operating the historic Red River Hot Springs near Elk City. Although the buildings of the resort are privately owned, the land is administered by the U.S. Forest Service. The resort first opened in 1901 but has been closed since last July. The new owner, Robert G. Blake, and his two sons are upgrading the pool and outbuildings. The special-use permit requires the owner to maintain the hot springs as a public resort and keep it open more than 200 days a year. Blake hopes to open the resort this summer.
- A \$6 million White Bird grade widening project is one of eight “shovel-ready” highway projects announced by Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter in April funded by a

\$148 million package from the federal economic stimulus program. U.S. Highway 95 will be widened between mileposts 231 to 233 to create a continuous uphill passing lane about two miles long in the southbound lane to the top of the summit. The widening project, which has been on the Idaho Transportation Department's planning list for a decade, will make it safer for vehicles to pass and add capacity. Construction is expected to begin in August and take about six months.

- Organizers of a proposed Riggins whitewater park look to capitalize on the community's natural assets to provide enhanced recreation opportunities and economic development while also improving environmental conditions. Based on a feasibility study by Recreation Engineering and Planning of Boulder, Colo., initial development would be along a third of a mile of the Little Salmon River from near the Mill Bridge to the confluence with the Main Salmon. The \$550,000 project would require in-stream modifications to create boating and river play areas, drops and pools for fish habitat, improved access for fishing and stream-bank stabilization. Walkers, joggers and bicyclists would benefit from a walkway through the park. A federal grant and donation from Brown Industries financed the study. No timetable has been established.

#### **LATAH COUNTY**

- In the 12 months from December 2007, when the U.S. recession began, to December 2008, the U.S. lost 2.2 percent of its jobs. In the same period, the state lost 4.0 percent of its jobs. But Latah County was one of nine Idaho counties to experience job growth over that period while the other 35 counties lost jobs. Its payroll employment increased 0.9 percent to 14,108. The relative stability of the University of Idaho, growth of some high technology businesses, a fairly good year for farmers and the growth of Schweitzer Engineering Laboratory in Pullman, Wash., where many Latah County residents work, protected the county's economy.
- The University of Idaho, Lewis-Clark State College and eight other public and private institutions got a \$16.5 million booster shot in the form of a five-year grant — the largest in state history. The National Institutes of Health increased funding for the Idaho Institutional Development Award's Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence to foster collaboration among the schools. A \$489,000 grant will allow Lewis-Clark State College to buy scientific equipment for Sacajawea Hall, the new nursing and health science building that opens this summer.

#### **NEZ PERCE COUNTY**

- About 50 employees of the Clearwater Paper's paperboard plant were laid off for a week in early May because of a slowdown in orders. This was the first time since 1999 that market reasons prompted a layoff at the Lewiston plant, which has a payroll of 680. In addition, Clearwater Paper employs another 1,020 workers at its wood products and consumer products divisions in Lewiston. The consumer products division has seen growth in the last year with many consumers switching to store-brand napkins and tissue paper made in Lewiston. The wood products division has experienced intermittent shutdowns in the last two years because of extremely low lumber prices.
- Sincure Enterprises, a new Clarkston business, is actually two businesses in one storefront. Owners Gary Marcott and Malcolm Greene Jr. provide computer services under the name of Greene Technology and Computer Services and sell figurines, fountains, Harley-Davidson memorabilia, scented lotions and other gift items under the name of GG&L's Nik-Nak's and More. Greene Technology Services fixes computers on site or at their

location. It also builds custom computers designed for specific functions such as gambling or office use. Some of the hundreds of gift items, which are sold mostly through a catalog or online, are in stock at the store near Papa Murphy's Pizza.

**Kathryn Tacke, Regional Economist**  
**(208) 769-1558 ext. 3984**  
**kathryn.tacke@labor.idaho.gov**

## SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO

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

### REGIONAL ECONOMIC UPDATE

As the economy in southwestern Idaho continued to deteriorate, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate hit a record 8.4 percent in April in metropolitan Boise. It was the fifth straight monthly increase, but this time the jump was just three-tenths of a percentage point compared to hikes of six-tenths of a point in both February and March. Until March 2008 as the recession was taking hold, the unemployment rate for the five-county area had only exceeded the state-wide rate once since the metro area was created in 2000 – in March 2003 when the state rate was 5.4 percent compared to the metro rate of 5.5 percent. In the last 14 months, the metro rate has been anywhere from a tenth of a percentage point higher to the current 1.4 percentage points. One year ago the unemployment rate was 4.4 percent. Since the recession began in December 2007, the metropolitan area has lost nearly 40,000 workers. Over 15,000 joined the ranks of the unemployed while the other 25,000 either left the area or dropped out of the labor force

The recession's impact has not been limited to the Boise area. As the table below shows, the monthly unemployment rates for each of the counties and major cities in southwestern Idaho has risen dramatically, especially in the last

| Southwestern Idaho Counties<br>Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for April 2009 |                      |                   |                    |                 |
|---|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| County  | Civilian Labor Force | Number Unemployed | Percent Unemployed | Number Employed |
| Ada   | 188,223              | 15,249            | 8.1                | 172,975         |
| Adams   | 2,187                | 302               | 13.8               | 1,885           |
| Boise   | 3,349                | 222               | 6.6                | 3,126           |
| Canyon  | 79,480               | 7,515             | 9.5                | 71,965          |
| Elmore  | 11,598               | 717               | 6.2                | 10,881          |
| Gem   | 6,831                | 636               | 9.3                | 6,195           |
| Owyhee  | 4,157                | 147               | 3.5                | 4,010           |
| Payette   | 10,449               | 801               | 7.7                | 9,648           |
| Valley  | 5,055                | 600               | 11.9               | 4,455           |
| Washington  | 4,843                | 389               | 8.0                | 4,454           |
| City  |                      |                   |                    |                 |
| Boise   | 105,874              | 7,863             | 7.4                | 98,011          |
| Caldwell  | 17,519               | 1,804             | 10.3               | 15,715          |
| Meridian  | 31,792               | 2,492             | 7.8                | 29,300          |
| Nampa   | 35,714               | 3,605             | 10.1               | 32,110          |
| <b>Statewide</b>  | <b>750,180</b>       | <b>52,249</b>     | <b>7.0</b>         | <b>697,550</b>  |

six months, although Adams and Valley counties have always had high rates. Of the nine major cities, Caldwell and Nampa were both in double digits at record highs, suggesting the impact was a result of layoffs at Micron Technology and the closure of MPC.

Southwestern Idaho's economic diversity is reflected in the fact that so far in 2009 Adams County's unemployment rate has been one of the three highest in the state while Owyhee County's has been among the lowest three. In addition to Adams at 13.8 percent and Valley at 11.9 percent, seven of remaining eight counties also had rates between 6 percent and 10 percent to rank in the top half of all of Idaho's counties in April. Owyhee had the third lowest rate in the state at 3.5 percent.

Nonfarm employers added 1,200 jobs, the first month-over-month increase since May 2008. With total payrolls at 253,900 in April, the metro area has shed 22,500 jobs since the May 2008 peak. Administrative and support services added 800 jobs in April with most of the growth in employment and building services. Construction was up 700 jobs, primarily in the heavy construction sector. Accommodations and federal government each added 200 jobs in April.

With the exception of government, the only major private sector to report a growth in jobs was information, which has added about 1,000 jobs due primarily to the opening of WDS Global in February 2008. The growth in government was primarily in public schools, which has added 700 jobs in the last 12 months.

## **SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO DEVELOPMENTS**

### **ADA COUNTY**

- Blue Cow Frozen Yogurt opened in Boise in April. The self-serve yogurt business employees eight. Customers select from 12 different flavors then add any of the over 30 toppings ranging from candy to fresh fruit. Customers are charged based on the weight of their creations.
- Ugobe Inc., the creator of the Furby and Pleo toys, filed for bankruptcy and dismissed its workers in April, the victim of the worldwide credit squeeze. The company moved to Idaho from Emeryville, Calif., earlier this year. Pleo was a robotic dinosaur with many of the same characteristics as a household pet. Ten percent of the company's business was in the United States. The rest was in the European and Asian markets.
- Boise State University broke ground on a five-story, 90,000-square-foot Center for Environmental Science and Economic Development. The building will house the departments of Geosciences, Civil Engineering, Public Policy and Administration and Political Science. It will support a Western agenda on the environment, transportation, water, land use and community and regional planning and bring together many of the state's experts in these areas. It is estimated the project will take two years to complete.
- The city of Boise announced a layoff of nine employees in May to balance its budget. In addition, 26 of the 67 employees eligible for early retirement took the offer, and 90 vacant positions will be eliminated. Considering the city employs 1,700, the layoff impact was limited.
- Idaho Power reorganized its new customer division and eliminated 40 jobs. The company hoped all 40 jobs could be handled through eligible employees accepting voluntary severance packages. The layoffs are necessary because of the poor economy and low revenue growth. The reorganization will not affect electrical services. Idaho Power is the state's largest utility with about 21,000 employees serving 487,000 residential customers.

## **ADAMS COUNTY**

- Council's Mountain Medical Clinic will close May 31. The clinic was originally opened to bring quality health care to the community after the hospital closed. Clinic officials said the Adams County Health Center will continue to be a resource for the area. The Council clinic was a branch of the Payette Lakes Medical Clinic. Other branches in New Meadows and Riggins will remain open.
- Two single family homes sold in March and April in the Council city limits according to the Intermountain Multiple Listing Service. Currently there are 413 active listings for the Cambridge, Indian Valley, Council and New Meadows area. These properties are on the market an average of 328 days. The listings include properties ranging from agriculture land to condos to ranches to single family homes with a lot in between.

## **CANYON COUNTY**

- Two businesses that are closing in Nampa include Helen's Gifts & Flowers, a long-time tenant of Karcher Mall, which closes May 31 after 28 years, a casualty of the recession and a decision to retire. Helen plans to donate to charity what she doesn't sell before the end of May. The second business is Market Limone. The upscale specialty food and drink establishment was a possible anchor for Nampa's downtown.
- The Nampa Neighborhood Stabilization Program was established to help stabilize communities that have suffered from recent foreclosures and abandonment. The city and nonprofit housing organizations are looking for experienced contractors to partner in the project. The city would like to pre-qualify contractors who have demonstrated good business practices and who are willing to take on a range of residential construction projects. A \$3.6 million grant from the Housing and Economic Recovery Act will finance the stabilization program. Cities that have suffered from recent foreclosures and abandonment qualified for the assistance in acquiring and rehabilitating foreclosed or abandoned homes to either resell them to eligible buyers or to keep them as rental housing for special-needs populations.
- Despite intensifying demand for local library services, the city of Nampa announced that the Nampa library will cut hours June 1. Although usage is up 15 percent from a year ago, library trustees felt it was the best way to handle budget cuts. The reduced hours will allow staff to keep up with the dramatic increase in materials to be sorted and shelved without cutting children's programs and morning job seeker computer time. The library will close one hour earlier.
- Groundbreaking for a new Middleton High School was held May 12. This time the construction of the high school is by choice rather than need when 75 percent of the school was destroyed by fire several years ago. The citizens passed a \$51.9 million bond for the four-year school, which will be completed in two years and handle 1,500 students with room for growth. The school will have 84 teaching stations, specialty classrooms, a greenhouse, a 900-seat auditorium, a 100-seat lecture hall and 1,304 parking spaces. Athletic facilities include an all-surface track, a varsity baseball field, two football fields, a varsity softball field and eight tennis courts.

## **ELMORE COUNTY**

- In a partnership with the Republic of Singapore, the Mountain Home Air Force Base will maintain up to 10 F-15-SG fighters and help train its aircrews as part of the 428<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron known as the Buccaneers. The unit will include approximately 180 active duty and 130 support personnel, and over the life of the program, as many as 2,000 active duty personnel from Singapore will live and work on the base.

- Mountain Home Mortgage opened on May 8, offering a wide array of home loans included VA, IHFA, RD guaranteed, conventional, investment property, construction, adjustable rate and non-conventional along with rate and term refinances, and cash-out refinances.

#### **OWYHEE COUNTY**

- In the face of the recession, Homedale is adding new businesses and seeing some reopening after remodeling. Homedale Mini Mall Furniture is now open Tuesday through Saturday. The Side Pocket opened in April with professional pool tables, video games, full-sized air hockey and more. The Red Rock has reopened and offers furniture and related merchandise. Back after a remodel is the Homedale Drive-In. Snake River Motors is open by appointment at the present, selling cars, trucks, RVs, ATVs and recreational vehicles.

#### **PAYETTE COUNTY**

- Payette continues to promote local businesses, but due to current economic conditions the Chamber of Commerce has eliminated its paid executive director and turned the job over to volunteer Shelley Bredenbach, who also serves as the vice president. When the chamber is more financially stable, an executive director will be hired again. For now, Bredenbach will take on the day-to-day operations, find new ways to use the community center and promote Payette.

#### **VALLEY COUNTY**

- Arnold Aviation was notified that the Postal Service reversed its decision and will renew its contact for mail delivery in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. The company credits Sens. Mike Crapo and Jim Risch and Rep. Walt Minnick for convincing postal officials that mail service was critical to the 20 to 100 people living in the remotest parts of central Idaho.

**JANELL HYER, REGIONAL ECONOMIST SUPERVISOR**

**(208) 332-3570 EXT. 3220**

***Janell.hyer@labor.idaho.gov***

## **SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO**

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

### **COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS**

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped four-tenths of a percent to 5 percent in April in Twin Falls and Jerome counties, two full points lower than the state rate and nearly four points lower than the national rate. While seasonal demand in retail garden centers, landscaping, construction and agriculture provided jobs for workers unemployed a month earlier, hiring was not at the level typical for this time of year. The extent and depth of the recession appears to have pulled some people back into the labor force who were not looking for work a year ago such as stay-at-home parents whose spouses may have lost their jobs or had reduced hours.

Over the last six years, the Twin Falls-Jerome micropolitan area has enjoyed steady growth in the labor pool and employment. At the same time the state and the Burley micropolitan area experienced more volatility, in Burley's case due to less diversity and the impact of a deteriorating economy on specific businesses and industries. A case in point is Amalgamated Sugar, where reduced sugar beet acreage meant fewer beets to process this year. Durable manufacturing represented by the trailer makers was tied directly to dwindling discretionary income so layoffs followed, pushing employment down 2.3 percent. The Twin Falls-Jerome area has seen a 12.3 percent increase in civilian labor force over the last six years while the state posted 9.2 percent growth. The Mini-Cassia

area rebounded after suffering through the J.R. Simplot closure and the sale of Kraft Cheese with a 3.9 percent growth in the labor force. Planned diversification efforts should keep south central Idaho's labor pool expanding. The table below provides an historical view of April labor force figures for the last six years.

### April Historic Labor Force Data

| Burley Micro Area                | Civilian Labor Force | Unemployed | % Unemployed | Total Employment |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|------------|--------------|------------------|
| April 2003                       | 19,226               | 1,281      | 6.7          | 17,945           |
| 2004                             | 19,289               | 1,465      | 7.6          | 17,824           |
| 2005                             | 19,150               | 1,078      | 5.6          | 18,073           |
| 2006                             | 19,928               | 967        | 4.9          | 18,961           |
| 2007                             | 19,996               | 687        | 3.4          | 19,310           |
| 2008                             | 20,225               | 732        | 3.6          | 19,493           |
| 2009                             | 19,968               | 931        | 4.7          | 19,037           |
| 6 Year % Change                  | 3.90%                | -27.40%    | -30.10%      | 6.10%            |
| 6 Year Annualized Average Change | 0.60%                | -5.20%     | -5.80%       | 1.00%            |
| 1 Year % Change                  | -1.30%               | 27.20%     | 28.80%       | -2.30%           |
| Twin Falls Micro Area            |                      |            |              |                  |
| April 2003                       | 45,265               | 2,041      | 4.5          | 43,225           |
| 2004                             | 45,904               | 2,063      | 4.5          | 43,841           |
| 2005                             | 46,531               | 1,800      | 3.9          | 44,731           |
| 2006                             | 48,080               | 1,614      | 3.4          | 46,466           |
| 2007                             | 48,675               | 1,407      | 2.9          | 47,268           |
| 2008                             | 49,406               | 1,560      | 3.2          | 47,846           |
| 2009                             | 50,819               | 2,531      | 5            | 48,288           |
| 6 Year % Change                  | 12.30%               | 24.00%     | 10.50%       | 11.70%           |
| 6 Year Annualized Average Change | 1.90%                | 3.70%      | 1.70%        | 1.90%            |
| 1 Year % Change                  | 2.90%                | 62.20%     | 57.70%       | 0.90%            |
| State of Idaho                   |                      |            |              |                  |
| April 2003                       | 687,121              | 36,960     | 5.4          | 650,161          |
| 2004                             | 699,642              | 33,789     | 4.8          | 665,853          |
| 2005                             | 721,344              | 28,983     | 4            | 692,361          |
| 2006                             | 739,592              | 24,340     | 3.3          | 715,252          |
| 2007                             | 747,344              | 20,913     | 2.8          | 726,431          |
| 2008                             | 751,203              | 32,507     | 4.3          | 718,696          |
| 2009                             | 750,180              | 52,630     | 7            | 697,550          |
| 6 Year % Change                  | 9.20%                | 42.40%     | 30.40%       | 7.30%            |
| 6 Year Annualized Average Change | 1.50%                | 6.10%      | 4.50%        | 1.20%            |
| 1 Year % Change                  | -0.10%               | 61.90%     | 62.10%       | -2.90%           |

September is typically the peak employment month in the Twin Falls-Jerome area because of the harvest that demands drivers, sorters and processors. The return to school also pumps up retail sales and school personnel numbers. While unemployment was down in April, nonfarm jobs were off 1.5 percent from a year earlier, but that stood in stark contrast to the state's job decline of 4.7 percent. Also encouraging is the 3.9 percent year-over-year growth in wages, which in south central Idaho are typically some of the lowest in the state. Another 100 businesses also started up in 2008, showing resiliency of the region's entrepreneurial spirit.

## **AGRICULTURE**

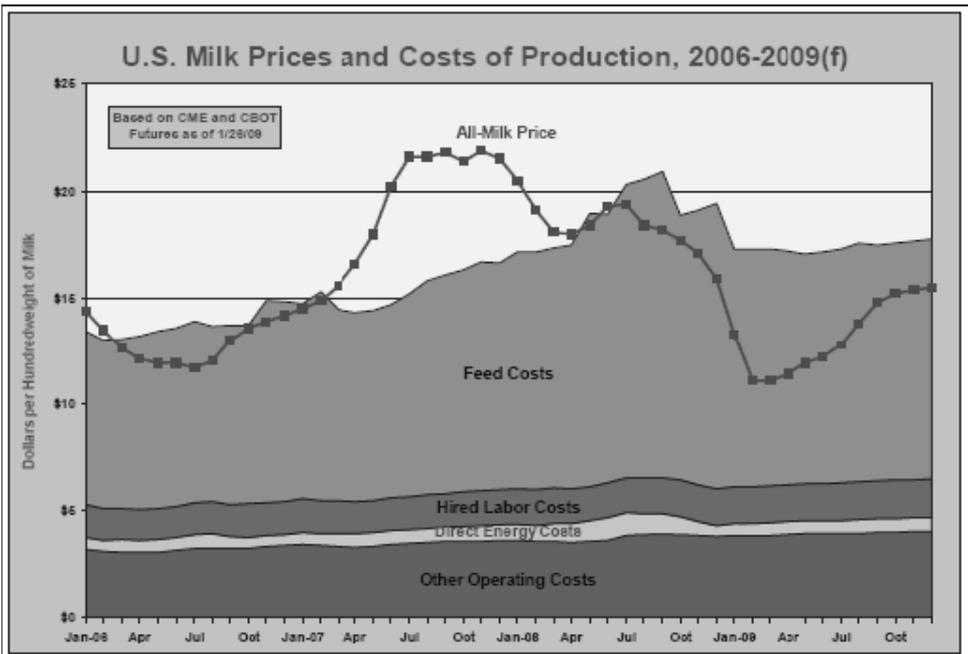
The Twin Falls Canal Co. released water the first part of April for flushing and recharging just as it did a year ago. Once again, certain maintenance activities were delayed due to rains, and the water outlook improved vastly with storms occurring toward the end of March and into April. Later than usual snow pack runoff due to the cool spring accounted for a better than average water year last year, and the water masters hope for the same result in 2009.

Due to the weather, only 31 percent of the spring wheat was planted in south central Idaho by April 13 compared to the five-year average of 78 percent. Barley was also behind with just 26 percent seeded compared to 60 percent the same time last year.

The outlook for corn and wheat is mixed. National wheat production is forecast lower this year due to spring freezes that particularly affected Oklahoma and Texas. Prices should rise based on reduced production and continued increases in global demand. Corn production is also expected to be down this year based on slow planting due to weather and the likelihood producers will move acres to different crops because of the delay. Ethanol demands continue to creep into the equation.

Tilapia may replace trout as a favorite on menus across the country, particularly the trendy ethnic restaurants in larger cities. Tilapia is currently ranked fifth in national fish consumption, and 75 percent of the tilapia comes from Idaho. Input prices are high, and feed for tilapia is no exception. Producers in the Hagerman Valley are depending on a University of Idaho research project to discover the best mix of nutrients to feed to optimize production. Idaho aquaculture has always been a good business with national production data indicating Idaho is the nation's top trout producer. Commercial production of tilapia originated in the Hagerman Valley during the early 1970s and currently outperforms trout in pricing by two to one. The geothermal water found in the Hagerman Valley is prime habitat for tilapia.

Dairy farmers throughout south central Idaho are watching the markets and wondering if they can hold out until the market rebounds. While retail prices seem to change little and only go up when they do, producers deal in a highly volatile market that depends on contracts to stabilize prices over the long run. But producers have seen prices eroded to half what they were a year ago. The impact varies – less equity in their businesses, too many cows or too much feed bought at the price peak. Declining market values are weighing on balance sheets, and the break-even price of around \$15 a hundredweight is not expected to return until fall. According to the Progressive Dairyman, Idaho experienced 6.6 percent growth in milk production from 2007 to 2008 and 7 percent growth in the number of dairy cows. The average herd size is 865 while the number of licensed herds is 635, reflecting contraction of the industry with those staying in managing larger herds. Based on 2008 statistics, Idaho is the fourth largest producer of milk in the nation at 12.3 million gallons, right behind New York state but far behind California and Wisconsin, which rank first and second. The graph on page 19 illustrates some of the changes in milk pricing and cost of production in the U.S. over the last three years.



### **BLAINE COUNTY**

- Smith's Sport Optics of Ketchum made the list of "Best Places to Work" from Outside magazine. According to the magazine, the company employs 68 and believes in the mantra that life must balance work for productivity to increase.
- Charity bikers, 200 in all, participated in the Chick-Fil-A Charity Ride Across America to raise money for Victory Junction, a national organization that helps children with chronic diseases. Ketchum and Sun Valley welcomed the riders, who include celebrities such as football star Hershel Walker, NASCAR driver Kyle Petty and golf pro Davis Love III. Besides the welcoming ceremony, a full-blown block party provided plenty of hospitality as the riders made their way across the country to Greensboro, N.C., which they were scheduled to complete May 16.
- The Idaho Department of Commerce hosted a three-day conference on tourism in Sun Valley with the emphasis on the tough economy. The department also released a report by Longwoods Research profiling the Idaho visitor. Among its findings:
  - In 2008 Idaho recorded 31.7 million person-trips, which is one trip taken by one visitor. Fifty-seven percent were day trips, and 43 percent were overnight trips.
  - Idaho's share of the nation's adult domestic trips was 0.9 percent in 2008, up slightly from 0.8 percent in 2007.
  - Eighty-four percent of Idaho's overnight trips were for leisure, 11 percent for business and 5 percent a combination of the two.
  - Total spending in Idaho from overnight trips in 2008 was \$1.8 billion. The average person spent \$37 for lodging, \$31 for restaurants, \$25 for retail purchases, \$22 for transportation and \$16 for recreation, sightseeing and entertainment.
  - The top reason for overnight trips was visiting friends or relatives followed by outdoor recreation and touring. Compared to the national average, Idaho indexes high for all three categories.
  - The most common states of origin include Idaho at 35 percent of overnight trips, Washington at 17 percent, Utah at 11 percent and California at 7 percent.

➤ Visitors to Idaho:

- More likely come from the Mountain or Pacific regions.
  - Skew to female.
  - Are 75 percent married and come with their partner.
  - Do not have children under age 18 in 60 percent of the cases.
  - Have some college or more in 80 percent of the cases.
  - Are retired 40 percent of the time.
- Owners of Whiskey Jacques have gotten approval of their design so reconstruction will start on the popular drinking establishment in June with a re-opening scheduled for December. A new concept is planned to be more open with views of the ski hill and a second story deck.
  - Friedman Memorial Airport reported first quarter activity down 10 percent year-over-year. The number of overall flights for March was down 32 percent from 3,097 in 2008 to 2,052 in 2009.
  - First Bank of Idaho was the 29<sup>th</sup> bank to fail this year in the United States. The bank was headquartered in Ketchum with branches in Hailey, Bellevue, Victor, Driggs and Jackson Hole. First Bank had almost half of the deposits in Blaine County and strong community support. Federal regulators determined the bank had been extremely active in its community lending practices to the extent that there were no reserves and \$55 million more in loans than deposits. Losses occurring in the economic downturn compounded problems. In 2008, First Bank showed a loss of \$2 million compared to the \$5 million profit in each of the previous two years. The bank was given 45 days to increase its capital reserves, but conditions immediately worsened for a number of reasons. Many of the employees have been hired by other banks because of their customer service experience and visibility. Both the Sun Valley and Jackson Hole areas have taken severe hits in construction, finance and tourism. Congressmen Michael Simpson and Walt Minnick have contacted the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., requesting an explanation for the hasty closure after initially providing the 45-day window to increase capitalization.
  - Emergency food and shelter programs in Cassia, Jerome, Minidoka and Twin Falls counties will receive \$26,000 in federal stimulus funds from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency. The program is locally administered by the South Central Community Action Partnership.

**CAMAS COUNTY**

- Fairfield schools hosted the third annual Academic Fair where students showcased what they've learned through demonstrations and exhibits. One group dressed up like historic figures and provided their services as guides through interpretive exhibits.
- Soldier Mountain Resort, owned by Valley Entertainment Group, announced it will start removing debris so it can rebuild the main lodge that burned this spring. A temporary lodge will be used during the 2009-2010 ski season because it will take time to finalize the design and obtain bids for the project. Gooding County
- Bliss voters passed a \$1 million bond to supplement development of a wastewater treatment system with 94 percent approval. The small city hopes to attract enough government support so the full amount of the bond will be unneeded. The total cost of the wastewater treatment facility is \$7 million. The investment will enhance opportunities to develop business and industry in the area.

## TWIN FALLS COUNTY

- Glanbia earned two gold, four silver and two bronze medals at the recent 2009 U.S. Championship Cheese Contest in Wisconsin. Glanbia Foods is the largest American-style cheddar cheese manufacturer in the world. Between Glanbia and its joint venture, Southwest Cheese, the company processes 20 million pounds of milk every day from three world-class plants in Twin Falls, Gooding and Richfield. More than 700 million pounds of cheese and 125 million pounds of dairy ingredients are produced annually.
- The Workforce Development Alliance in conjunction with many partners throughout the Magic Valley organized a construction career fair at the College of Southern Idaho this spring. The goal of “Heavy Metal and Cashing In” was to expose as many local high school students as possible to the experience of hands on construction work such as operating a backhoe, front loader or roller, texturing a wall or even scaling a utility pole. More than 450 high school students attended.
- Fashion Cents, a women’s boutique in downtown Twin Falls, closed this month. The boutique was a startup three years ago and enjoyed a loyal following that looked for upscale brands at lower than normal rack prices.
- Blue Lakes Boulevard, the main artery through Twin Falls, is being resurfaced. Western Construction of Boise is the general contractor on the \$4.6 million project that affects 1.6 miles. The city had hoped to pay for existing lines to be buried underground during the project, but current economic conditions made that impossible. The road will be re-surfaced, sidewalks will be upgraded to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and new storm-sewer lines will be added along with fiber-optic conduit. The project is expected to continue well into the fall.

*Jan Roeser, Regional Economist  
(208) 769-1558 ext. 3984  
jan.roeser@labor.idaho.gov*

---

## SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO

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

---

### ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

The Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area labor force contracted in April from the previous month, but in a bit of good news in the midst of the national recession, the metro labor force was larger than it was a year ago. April’s labor force was down 490 from March, reflecting both lower employment and unemployment. The combination – 140 fewer workers without jobs and 350 fewer with jobs – pushed the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate down two-tenths of a point to 5.5 percent. The year-over-year increase in the labor force could mean workers are congregating in Pocatello from other parts of the state and nation where the jobless rate is higher or more people are simply looking for jobs because spouses are being laid off or working reduced hours. Throughout southeastern Idaho, the number of people employed was up 307 from April 2008 as the tables on page 22 show.

Nonfarm jobs were also up in April from March, but most of the 430 increase was the result of the Census Bureau hiring workers to do initial canvassing. Most sectors showed very little change from the previous month. That is of concern since the production side of the economy, which was flat, typically sees an increase from March to April in construction and manufacturing as demand for products increases with better weather. Only one other time in the past 20 years has there not been an increase in the number of goods-producing jobs from March to April in the metropolitan area – 1997 when jobs decreased by 28 because a food processing line shut down.

### Unemployment by the Numbers, Southeastern Idaho Counties

| Area                | Apr 2008                   | Apr 2009                | Difference |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
|                     | Total Employed Benchmarked | Total Employed Forecast |            |
| State of Idaho      | 718,696                    | 697,550                 | (21,146)   |
| Southeastern Region | 75,875                     | 76,182                  | 307        |
| Bannock County      | 37,675                     | 37,738                  | 63         |
| Bear Lake County    | 3,155                      | 3,336                   | 181        |
| Bingham County      | 20,979                     | 21,008                  | 29         |
| Caribou County      | 3,263                      | 3,244                   | (19)       |
| Franklin County     | 5,284                      | 5,315                   | 31         |
| Oneida County       | 2,128                      | 2,143                   | 15         |
| Power County        | 3,391                      | 3,398                   | 7          |

### Unemployment by Percent, Southeastern Idaho Counties

| Area                | Apr 2008                 | Apr 2009                   | % Change |
|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------|
|                     | Unempl. rate benchmarked | Unempl. rate Rate forecast |          |
| State of Idaho      | 4.3%                     | 7.0%                       | 2.9      |
| Southeastern Region | 3.7%                     | 5.1%                       | 1.4      |
| Bannock County      | 4.3%                     | 5.6%                       | 2.1      |
| Bear Lake County    | 2.7%                     | 4.2%                       | 1.3      |
| Bingham County      | 3.4%                     | 5.1%                       | 2.1      |
| Caribou County      | 3.2%                     | 4.8%                       | 1.8      |
| Franklin County     | 2.7%                     | 3.3%                       | 1        |
| Oneida County       | 2.7%                     | 4.9%                       | 2.6      |
| Power County        | 3.6%                     | 3.8%                       | 1.5      |

### UNCERTAIN ECONOMY ENCOURAGES SKILL SELF ASSESSMENT

The large loss of jobs across the nation and the increase in unemployment rates have created uncertainty about future employment among many in the civilian labor force. Workers who have lost their jobs are clearly more anxious and frustrated than those who have held on to theirs, but for most workers job uncertainty can cause a great deal of introspection. While the recession is a major concern, many workers are likely to experience job losses because of a business environment changed by globalization, innovation and technology. Possibly as a defensive response, more and more workers who have lost jobs or fear they will are looking to upgrade their skills and education. To do this most effectively, workers must take an honest inventory of their experience, current skills and competencies and how they apply to forecasted job needs. The Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor is trying to help industry and workers prepare for the future through its Industry Competency Model Initiative. The model can be accessed on the Internet at [www.careeronestop.org/CompetencyModel/pyramid.aspx](http://www.careeronestop.org/CompetencyModel/pyramid.aspx).

Although the model was designed to help industry and the general work force, it also can be used to evaluate individual strengths and weaknesses people have in regard to working in a specific career or industry.

The model has nine levels in a pyramid shape, which can be designed for a specific job or industry. It is possible to develop a specific model for a specific industry or specific career, but the general description for the building blocks at each level remains the same. The first blocks include evaluation of personal traits such as integrity, motivation, ability to learn, interpersonal skills, flexibility and adaptability. The second level includes academic skills such as reading comprehension, writing, speaking, listening, mathematics and critical thinking. The third level focuses on abilities needed in all work environments such as teamwork, problem solving, following directions and decision making. The fourth

level moves toward more industry-focused skills such as troubleshooting, safety awareness, industrial principles and concepts, quality control, laws and regulations. The fifth level refines those abilities by listing technical industry talents while the sixth level lists occupational-specific knowledge and the seventh technical occupation proficiencies.

As one might expect, the higher up the pyramid the more specific and refined the levels become. Level eight lists occupation-specific skills and knowledge. The ninth level is the final building block of the pyramid and is the one that ties it all together. This block covers management aptitude.

## **AREA UPDATES**

Officials from Idaho Power Co. and Rocky Mountain Power met with the southeastern Idaho Land Use Committee of the Idaho Association of Counties on the Gateway West transmission project, which involves the installation of more than 1,000 miles of electrical transmission line from Wyoming to western Idaho. The power companies prefer to gain approval regionally rather than county by county. Committee Chairman Ken Estep said members thought a regional plan could be developed but wanted to be assured affected property owners would receive just compensation.

Kathy Ray, executive director of the Four County Alliance of Southeastern Idaho, reports that more than \$1.1 million in new capital investment and about \$1.1 in grant funding has come to the region since 2007, resulting in several infrastructure improvements. Ray also announced a workshop on June 12-13 for those interested in consensus planning for projects such as supporting school bonds.

## **COUNTY UPDATES**

### ***BANNOCK COUNTY***

- The Hoku Materials manufacturing facility will hire six full-time operators to join the current staff of about a dozen managers and superintendents, according to Ed Church, plant manager. By June, the operators will be trained on the reactors used to create polysilicon. The company has assured clients that Hoku will be able to produce polysilicon of the quality needed by July.
- The parent company of the Pine Ridge Mall in Chubbuck filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. General Growth Properties has about 200 shopping malls nationwide and was not successful in restructuring its debt, which required a \$1 billion payment at the end of 2008 and another \$3 billion payment last March. The company has obtained a financing commitment of \$375 million to operate during the bankruptcy process.
- Nordic Windpower plans to ship its initial order of turbine housings to a customer in Uruguay in July. The first three nacelles will be built by managers for the company so they will know firsthand what is involved in assembling the products Nordic sells. The current staff of five workers is expected to grow to about 50 by next year and 100 by 2011.
- Inkley's, a local retail establishment, will close because parent company Ritz Camera's has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. It is closing of 300 stores nationwide including those in Pocatello, Idaho Falls and Moscow.
- Faced with large reductions in state appropriations, Idaho State University administrators announced that 73 employees will be laid off for the next fiscal year. Another 77 vacant positions will not be refilled. The majority of the positions are adjunct faculty, 47 are non-classified workers and 38 are classified/hourly workers.
- Amtrak has hired J.L. Patterson & Associates to study the feasibility of restoring passenger rail service through southern Idaho. The Pioneer Route

ran between Salt Lake City and Seattle with stops in Idaho from 1977 to 1997 and was discontinued because of nearly a nearly \$20 million loss systemwide.

- Intermountain Gas Co. announced statewide job reductions, primarily to its marketing department. Two of the targeted jobs are in Pocatello. The job losses are part of a companywide consolidation and integration program imposed after the company was purchased last year by MDU Resources.
- A large 329-foot water slide with a vertical drop of more than 60 feet will open by Memorial Day in Lava Hot Springs. The \$1.6 million attraction spans Center Street with an overhead clearance of 17 feet. The slide is expected to attract additional thrill seekers this summer. Fees at the swimming complex will remain the same as last year.
- Pocatello received some respectable notice when an international magazine ranked the Gate City No. 2 for best economic potential among cities with a population less than 100,000. The magazine, *Foreign Direct Investment*, also rated Pocatello fifth in the same category for quality of life. Earlier in the year, *Forbes* rated Pocatello 62 out of 179 cities on its Best Small Places for Business and Careers list.
- IsoRay Medical of Richmond, Wash., has abandoned its plans to begin operations in Pocatello. Since December 2005 IsoRay has been working with researchers at the Idaho National Laboratory to develop an economically feasible way to produce the medical isotope Cesium-131. Although the INL research proved the isotope could be produced, it has not been produced at a cost-effective price.
- While rail traffic has slowed in direct response to the national recession, Union Pacific Railroad is going forward with \$3 billion in projects to improve its system in 2009. Half the money will be spent on new infrastructure and the other half on maintaining existing infrastructure. The railroad will be using 65,000 ties on projects replacing 4.1 miles of track in Pocatello and on a stretch between Pocatello and McCammon.
- Farmers Insurance held a grand reopening this month to highlight the completion of a \$2 million renovation at its service center in Pocatello. Since opening 50 years ago, Farmers has become the second largest insurer in the state. The renovation will allow expansion from the current 240 workers to 340 as business grows.

#### **BEAR LAKE COUNTY**

- After more than 60 years of operating in Montpelier, Tapper Motors closed in April, primarily because sales had slowed dramatically, financing for buyers was increasingly hard to get and operating costs were rising.
- The Montpelier Gem Team advised the city of Montpelier to form a non-profit corporation to assist Triad in qualifying for industrial revenue bonds. Triad will benefit by being able to issue low interest bonds for construction of its manufacturing plant. A buyer for the bonds may have already been identified.
- Community and education leaders met with Doug Sayers, president of Premier Technology, to discuss ideas for improving the local education system's ability to prepare students for future work force needs. Premier Technology has been a leader in working with school districts throughout southeastern Idaho to provide innovative educational experiences.
- A recent report from the American Hospital Association indicated eight out of 10 hospitals have stopped, postponed or scaled back improvement projects. Given those numbers, local residents cheered the announcement by

officials with Legacy Hospital Partners Inc. that Layton Construction Co. is the general contractor and construction manager on the \$200 million expansion of Portneuf Medical Center. Construction is expected to begin in June, and the expansion will be completed by late summer 2011. The new hospital will have more than 300,000 square feet and the latest in medical equipment. It will have 187 acute care beds, 25 emergency department beds and a newborn intensive care unit with a capacity for 16.

#### **BINGHAM COUNTY**

- Shelley School District officials broke ground for a new \$12.5 million elementary school north of town. District Superintendent Bryan Jolley said the new school will have a capacity of 600 students and is expected to be ready by August 2010.
- A new farm supply store, PRB Feed, opened in the temporary location of Girder Honey Business Mall in Blackfoot but will be move to a permanent location that currently is under construction. The store sells custom bulk feeds and seeds as well as a large variety of horse tack and equipment. The business is managed by Terry Bradshaw in partnership with Ray Butt, Delwyn Mickelsen and Perry Butt.
- The building formerly occupied by Blackfoot Motors has been remodeled and redesigned to accommodate a classic car collection and small eatery to supplement the businesses of three new tenants. The building will house three new businesses operated by three brothers as a partnership. Steve, Kenn and Derek Condon have reopened the building as Liberty Collision. In addition to the auto body shop, owned by Derek, the brothers will also have an RV business called Freedom RV operated by Steve and an auto service center operated by Kenn.
- Tamara Dance, president of a construction project management and support business in Fort Hall, was recognized by the Small Business Administration as the Business Person of the Year for District 5. The business has grown from four full time and two part-time workers to six full time and up to 18 part-time workers during busy periods. Future plans include establishing an intern program through ISU and development of a business incubator center.

#### **CARIBOU COUNTY**

- The 9<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has ordered a halt to expansion of the Smoky Canyon Mine by the J.R. Simplot Co. The three-judge panel that heard the appeal filed by Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Sierra Club and Defenders of Wildlife sent the case back to the district court for further consideration. The panel agreed with the environmental groups that Simplot had not adequately considered the effect preliminary preparation work might have on the environment. Preliminary activities include such things as road building and timber harvesting needed to access the mine site.
- Soda Springs officials continue to evaluate ways of paying for upgrading the water treatment plant to reduce the amount of phosphate and ammonia being discharged into the Bear River. The city passed a \$6.7 million bond to pay for the project, but the bids for construction came in at more than \$10 million last year. Options being considered include grants for matching funds and possible federal stimulus money.
- The work force in Caribou County has a long record of being safety conscious. The reputation was confirmed again when the Degerstrom Ventures received recognition for completing five years with no lost time due to accidents. Degerstrom Ventures employees have logged more than 650,000 hours without an accident that caused an employee to miss work. The company mines and hauls phosphate rock for processing by Monsanto Co.

- Representatives from the Southeast Idaho Council of Governments met with the Grace City Council to review the proposed \$7.5 million bond for water facility improvements. The bond is set for a vote in November. The council members were informed additional studies will be required.

#### **ONEIDA COUNTY**

- When ATK officials announced the company was going to terminate 300 employees at its launch systems plant in Promontory, Utah, most felt dozens of workers from Oneida County would be affected. But that doesn't appear to be the case. Because the company made its intentions known months earlier, most Oneida County workers appear to have found other jobs, taken a retirement option, left the area or gone back to school.
- The Oneida County Commissioners heard a presentation from the Farm Service Agency's County Committee on the impact of expiring land contracts under the Conservation Reserve Program. In Oneida County 15,000 acres are scheduled to be dropped from the program. The biggest concern for county commissioners is the effect the expirations will have on tax revenue as the land is reclassified from crop to grazing land. Some preliminary figures indicate the loss of property tax revenue could be as much as \$75,000 per year. Additional concerns were expressed about the increase in soil erosion and loss of wildlife habitat.
- Earlier this year the federal Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services honored Oneida County Hospital and the long-term care center with top ratings of five stars. Additionally Blue Cross of Idaho recognized the facility by naming it the Rural Facility of the Year in Idaho. Rating criteria are based on reports submitted by Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, safety surveys, staffing indicators and patient care levels. Long-term care center comparisons for the area can be found at [www.medicare.gov/NHCompare](http://www.medicare.gov/NHCompare).

#### **POWER COUNTY**

- At the request of Mayor Amy Wynn, U.S. Department of Agriculture officials with the Rural Development Agency have offered to provide a grant to cover 30 percent of the \$14 million cost of upgrading the sewer and water treatment plant for American Falls. Additionally, the federal government will offer the city a loan at 3.75 percent interest to cover the remaining 70 percent of the cost. The offer is contingent on residents passing a bond on May 26 and the city increasing the monthly charge for sewer service from \$32 to \$40.
- Southeast Idaho Energy officials continue to discuss environmental concerns with representatives of the Idaho Conservation League, Sierra Club and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. All agree the open discussion is preferable to a costly and lengthy court fight. The major concern seems to be excess carbon dioxide produced by the process being proposed by SIE to convert coal into nitrogen based fertilizer.
- Indian Springs Resort and RV Park is opening this May. Tom Henesh, who has the sheriff deed to the property, said he encountered a great deal of doubt from people who did not believe the park could open at all after years of disrepair and abandonment. Long days of work by family members, volunteers, contractors and quick responses to questions from the Southeastern District Health officials contributed to accomplishing the daunting task of being able to open for business prior to Memorial Day.

**Scott Hobdey Regional Economist**  
**(208) 236-6710, ext. 3713**  
**[scott.hobdey@labor.idaho.gov](mailto:scott.hobdey@labor.idaho.gov)**

---

## EAST CENTRAL IDAHO

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

---

### SIGNS OF A STABILIZING ECONOMY

Seasonally adjusted labor force figures are offering signs of economic stabilization in the Idaho Falls metropolitan statistical area with the unemployment rate dropping two-tenths of a point to 5 percent for April. The total labor force increased by about 900 from March and even exceeded April 2008. That was the first month this year that the metro area has seen year-over-year growth in the labor force even if it only was 60. The number of unemployed dropped from the previous month for the first time since November when harvest was wrapping up. More job openings were posted, and construction jobs increased by 100 from March, following the statewide trend. While a few industries showed very slight job decreases over the month, the rest remained constant or increased as much as 50 in industries like health care and professional and business services. While nothing certain can be established by a single month, the April figures were encouraging. Consumer and employer confidence appears to be increasing.

### IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY

The new radiochemistry laboratory at the Materials and Fuels Complex is almost ready for operation. Work was completed in April on the 8,000-square-foot building that will mainly focus on testing of advanced nuclear fuel technologies. The builder was making sure equipment such as a laboratory glovebox, sinks and instrumentation laboratories were working properly. The laboratory will consolidate research from several older INL buildings that are scheduled for demolition in the Idaho Cleanup Project.

The INL will receive at least \$10 million over the next five years from the Department of Energy's Office of Science to operate the Energy Frontier Research Center. This shift in funding from Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy reflects a move in the laboratory's focus toward fundamental science. The center will study how and why various nuclear fuels react to radiation under normal and extraordinary conditions. The center will draw on studies and expertise of scientists and universities throughout the country to resolve the world's energy crisis. It will help develop the next generation of scientists to bring nuclear science into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. If the research center performs to standards, the Energy Department could extend funding for another five years. The INL was one of 46 research centers funded out of a pool of 260 applicants.

Cleanup at the INL's Test Area North was completed four years early and \$61 million under budget. Buildings with walls as thick as seven feet and infrastructure were decontaminated and demolished. The money saved can be moved to other cleanup projects.

### COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

#### *BONNEVILLE COUNTY*

- Sites' Violin Shop and Music Studio in Idaho Falls has changed owners. Joe and Jacie Sites have sold out to Dillon and Samantha Mockli, who will keep the same 14 instructors but will bolster the guitar inventory. Dillon Mockli has been a guitar instructor at the center for the past five years. The Sites wanted more time to focus on Celtic Air, a band that Jacie leads, along with teaching and traveling. Joe Sites will continue to repair violins, and the Sites will continue to run Strings for Kids, the nonprofit organization that provides lessons and instruments for 125 elementary school students.

- Idaho Falls is one step closer to getting an arena and a professional hockey team. A \$45,000 feasibility study done by a Los Angeles-based company in 2008 found that the area had the infrastructure and demographics to support a 4,500- to 5,000-seat events center, especially if it could secure an anchor tenant. Bill Stewart, co-owner of the National American Hockey League's hockey team in Wenatchee, Wash., said the NAHL will start a franchise in Idaho Falls and league officials would bring a team here if the arena is built. Robb Chiles of the Greater Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce has been advocating the arena for years as a way to "add quality of life to the business components of (this) community." Idaho Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director Bob Everhart is seeking a location for the arena and accepting written site recommendations that will be evaluated based on acquisition costs, location, utility availability and access. Chiles and Everhart believe the arena will also serve the area with other public events such as concerts and trade shows.
- The Downtown Development Corporation of historic Idaho Falls still has some money from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development community development block grants for building façade improvements with emphasis on restoring exteriors to save historic values. The grants are capped at \$30,000 and require owners to pay 25 percent of the project cost. Since 2006, \$275,000 has been awarded and \$78,000 remains available. Currently the Actors' Repertory Theater of Idaho is restoring brick for the front of the theater, and the Rogers Building's lead windows, which were boarded up and hidden over time, are being restored. The money has also been used to refurbish signs, replace chipped and broken exteriors, repaint exteriors and restore awnings.

#### **CUSTER COUNTY**

- Pocatello-based Safe Haven Health Care took over operations of the Challis Assisted Living Facility on May 1. The new operators brought in new management. The facility has been renamed to Safe Haven Assisted Living of Challis.

#### **TETON COUNTY**

- After failing to generate support for more affordable housing for students who wanted to learn acting and filmmaking, Dawn Wells is closing up the Idaho Film and Television Institute in Driggs and heading back to her native state of Nevada. Wells, formerly Mary Ann of "Gilligan's Island," points to the bad economy and inability to find permanent employees as other factors in her decision. Wells' non-profit organization also spearheaded the annual Spud Fest Family Film and Television Festival in Driggs.

***Tanya Albán, Regional Economist  
(208) 557-2500, ext. 3587  
tanya.alban@labor.idaho.gov***

# State of Idaho Data

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

| Seasonally Adjusted Data | Apr 2009             |                   |                   |                       | Apr 2008             |                   |                   |                       |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
|                          | Civilian Labor Force | # Unem-<br>ployed | % Unem-<br>ployed | Total Employ-<br>ment | Civilian Labor Force | # Unem-<br>ployed | % Unem-<br>ployed | Total Employ-<br>ment |
| STATE OF IDAHO           | 750,180              | 52,630            | 7.0               | 697,550               | 751,203              | 32,507            | 4.3               | 718,696               |
| <b>COUNTIES</b>          |                      |                   |                   |                       |                      |                   |                   |                       |
| ADA (1)                  | 188,223              | 15,249            | 8.1               | 172,975               | 194,437              | 8,025             | 4.1               | 186,413               |
| ADAMS                    | 2,187                | 302               | 13.8              | 1,885                 | 2,093                | 249               | 11.9              | 1,844                 |
| BANNOCK (8)              | 39,992               | 2,254             | 5.6               | 37,738                | 39,355               | 1,681             | 4.3               | 37,675                |
| BEAR LAKE                | 3,483                | 146               | 4.2               | 3,336                 | 3,244                | 89                | 2.7               | 3,155                 |
| BENEWAH                  | 4,179                | 643               | 15.4              | 3,536                 | 4,096                | 575               | 14.0              | 3,520                 |
| BINGHAM                  | 22,133               | 1,124             | 5.1               | 21,008                | 21,708               | 729               | 3.4               | 20,979                |
| BLAINE (5)               | 14,069               | 885               | 6.3               | 13,184                | 13,564               | 491               | 3.6               | 13,073                |
| BOISE (1)                | 3,349                | 222               | 6.6               | 3,126                 | 3,564                | 194               | 5.4               | 3,369                 |
| BONNER                   | 21,431               | 1,917             | 8.9               | 19,514                | 20,444               | 1,386             | 6.8               | 19,058                |
| BONNEVILLE (6)           | 50,290               | 2,509             | 5.0               | 47,781                | 50,256               | 1,430             | 2.8               | 48,826                |
| BOUNDARY                 | 4,511                | 476               | 10.5              | 4,036                 | 4,426                | 389               | 8.8               | 4,037                 |
| BUTTE                    | 1,446                | 63                | 4.4               | 1,383                 | 1,482                | 51                | 3.4               | 1,431                 |
| CAMAS (5)                | 639                  | 46                | 7.1               | 593                   | 613                  | 24                | 3.9               | 589                   |
| CANYON (1)               | 79,480               | 7,515             | 9.5               | 71,965                | 81,576               | 4,020             | 4.9               | 77,555                |
| CARIBOU                  | 3,407                | 163               | 4.8               | 3,244                 | 3,369                | 106               | 3.2               | 3,263                 |
| CASSIA (2)               | 10,335               | 446               | 4.3               | 9,888                 | 10,495               | 370               | 3.5               | 10,125                |
| CLARK                    | 564                  | 17                | 3.0               | 547                   | 614                  | 10                | 1.6               | 605                   |
| CLEARWATER               | 3,549                | 487               | 13.7              | 3,062                 | 3,471                | 429               | 12.4              | 3,041                 |
| CUSTER                   | 2,974                | 99                | 3.3               | 2,875                 | 2,925                | 80                | 2.7               | 2,845                 |
| ELMORE                   | 11,598               | 717               | 6.2               | 10,881                | 11,728               | 498               | 4.2               | 11,230                |
| FRANKLIN                 | 5,494                | 179               | 3.3               | 5,315                 | 5,433                | 149               | 2.7               | 5,284                 |
| FREMONT (9)              | 5,817                | 375               | 6.4               | 5,442                 | 5,675                | 242               | 4.3               | 5,433                 |
| GEM (1)                  | 6,831                | 636               | 9.3               | 6,195                 | 7,115                | 439               | 6.2               | 6,676                 |
| GOODING                  | 8,431                | 338               | 4.0               | 8,093                 | 8,278                | 239               | 2.9               | 8,039                 |
| IDAHO                    | 7,766                | 717               | 9.2               | 7,049                 | 7,573                | 535               | 7.1               | 7,038                 |
| JEFFERSON (6)            | 11,078               | 570               | 5.1               | 10,508                | 11,054               | 316               | 2.9               | 10,738                |
| JEROME (10)              | 10,503               | 517               | 4.9               | 9,986                 | 10,256               | 361               | 3.5               | 9,894                 |
| KOOTENAI (3)             | 72,210               | 5,267             | 7.3               | 66,942                | 71,417               | 3,439             | 4.8               | 67,978                |
| LATAH                    | 18,347               | 1,010             | 5.5               | 17,337                | 17,578               | 790               | 4.5               | 16,788                |
| LEMHI                    | 4,041                | 226               | 5.6               | 3,815                 | 4,148                | 174               | 4.2               | 3,975                 |
| LEWIS (4)                | 1,823                | 82                | 4.5               | 1,741                 | 1,807                | 69                | 3.8               | 1,738                 |
| LINCOLN                  | 2,623                | 200               | 7.6               | 2,423                 | 2,584                | 100               | 3.9               | 2,484                 |
| MADISON (9)              | 16,161               | 642               | 4.0               | 15,519                | 16,005               | 513               | 3.2               | 15,492                |
| MINIDOKA (2)             | 9,633                | 484               | 5.0               | 9,149                 | 9,730                | 362               | 3.7               | 9,368                 |
| NEZ PERCE (7)            | 19,641               | 968               | 4.9               | 18,673                | 18,889               | 694               | 3.7               | 18,195                |
| ONEIDA                   | 2,254                | 112               | 4.9               | 2,143                 | 2,188                | 60                | 2.7               | 2,128                 |
| OWYHEE (1)               | 4,157                | 147               | 3.5               | 4,010                 | 4,443                | 120               | 2.7               | 4,322                 |
| PAYETTE                  | 10,449               | 801               | 7.7               | 9,648                 | 10,390               | 509               | 4.9               | 9,881                 |
| POWER (8)                | 3,531                | 134               | 3.8               | 3,398                 | 3,518                | 127               | 3.6               | 3,391                 |
| SHOSHONE                 | 6,494                | 771               | 11.9              | 5,724                 | 5,987                | 456               | 7.6               | 5,530                 |
| TETON                    | 4,843                | 170               | 3.5               | 4,673                 | 4,877                | 110               | 2.3               | 4,766                 |
| TWIN FALLS (10)          | 40,316               | 2,014             | 5.0               | 38,302                | 39,150               | 1,199             | 3.1               | 37,951                |
| VALLEY                   | 5,055                | 600               | 11.9              | 4,455                 | 4,839                | 469               | 9.7               | 4,370                 |
| WASHINGTON               | 4,843                | 389               | 8.0               | 4,454                 | 4,809                | 209               | 4.3               | 4,600                 |
| ASOTIN WA (7)            | 11,095               | 861               | 7.8               | 10,234                | 10,284               | 446               | 4.3               | 9,838                 |

\* In thousands

## State of Idaho Data

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

| Seasonally Adjusted Data<br>LABOR MARKET AREAS | Apr 2009             |                   |                   |                  | Apr 2008             |                   |                   |                  |
|--|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
|  | Civilian Labor Force | # Unem-<br>ployed | % Unem-<br>ployed | Total Employment | Civilian Labor Force | # Unem-<br>ployed | % Unem-<br>ployed | Total Employment |
| BOISE CITY-NAMPA MSA (1)                       | 282,040              | 23,769            | 8.4               | 258,271          | 291,135              | 12,799            | 4.4               | 278,336          |
| BURLEY MicSA (2)                               | 19,968               | 931               | 4.7               | 19,037           | 20,225               | 732               | 3.6               | 19,493           |
| COEUR D'ALENE MSA (3)                          | 72,210               | 5,267             | 7.3               | 66,942           | 71,417               | 3,439             | 4.8               | 67,978           |
| GRANGEVILLE SLMA (4)                           | 9,588                | 799               | 8.3               | 8,790            | 9,380                | 604               | 6.4               | 8,777            |
| HAILEY SLMA (5)                                | 14,708               | 930               | 6.3               | 13,777           | 14,177               | 515               | 3.6               | 13,662           |
| IDAHO FALLS MSA (6)                            | 61,368               | 3,079             | 5.0               | 58,289           | 61,311               | 1,747             | 2.8               | 59,564           |
| LEWISTON MSA (7)                               | 30,736               | 1,829             | 6.0               | 28,907           | 29,173               | 1,140             | 3.9               | 28,033           |
| POCATELLO MSA (8)                              | 43,523               | 2,388             | 5.5               | 41,135           | 42,874               | 1,808             | 4.2               | 41,066           |
| REXBURG MicSA (9)                              | 21,978               | 1,017             | 4.6               | 20,961           | 21,681               | 755               | 3.5               | 20,925           |
| TWIN FALLS MicSA (10)                          | 50,819               | 2,531             | 5.0               | 48,288           | 49,406               | 1,560             | 3.2               | 47,846           |
| <b>CITIES</b>                                  |                      |                   |                   |                  |                      |                   |                   |                  |
| BOISE  | 105,874              | 7,863             | 7.4               | 98,011           | 110,294              | 3,989             | 3.6               | 106,305          |
| CALDWELL                                       | 17,519               | 1,804             | 10.3              | 15,715           | 17,985               | 941               | 5.2               | 17,044           |
| COEUR D' ALENE                                 | 22,599               | 1,710             | 7.6               | 20,889           | 22,344               | 996               | 4.5               | 21,349           |
| IDAHO FALLS                                    | 27,817               | 1,504             | 5.4               | 26,313           | 27,872               | 809               | 2.9               | 27,063           |
| LEWISTON                                       | 16,383               | 780               | 4.8               | 15,604           | 15,824               | 522               | 3.3               | 15,303           |
| MERIDIAN                                       | 31,792               | 2,492             | 7.8               | 29,300           | 32,913               | 1,133             | 3.4               | 31,780           |
| NAMPA  | 35,714               | 3,605             | 10.1              | 32,110           | 36,525               | 1,697             | 4.6               | 34,827           |
| POCATELLO                                      | 28,567               | 1,466             | 5.1               | 27,102           | 28,251               | 1,019             | 3.6               | 27,232           |
| TWIN FALLS                                     | 22,333               | 1,216             | 5.4               | 21,117           | 21,725               | 666               | 3.1               | 21,058           |
| <b>United States*</b>                          | <b>154,731</b>       | <b>13,724</b>     | <b>8.9</b>        | <b>141,007</b>   | <b>153,932</b>       | <b>7,675</b>      | <b>5.0</b>        | <b>146,331</b>   |

\* 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                              | Apr<br>2009*   | Mar<br>2009    | Apr<br>2008    | Last<br>Month | Last<br>Year |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>                 | <b>614,400</b> | <b>611,900</b> | <b>648,600</b> | <b>0.4</b>    | <b>-5.3</b>  |
| <b>GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>             | 97,300         | 96,300         | 112,600        | 1.0           | -13.6        |
| <i>Natural Resources &amp; Mining</i>         | 2,400          | 2,500          | 3,500          | -4.0          | -31.4        |
| Logging                                       | 700            | 800            | 800            | -12.5         | -12.5        |
| Mining  | 1,700          | 1,700          | 2,700          | 0.0           | -37.0        |
| Metal Ore Mining                              | 1,100          | 1,100          | 1,200          | 0.0           | -8.3         |
| <i>Construction</i>                           | 37,900         | 36,500         | 45,100         | 3.8           | -16.0        |
| <i>Manufacturing</i>                          | 57,000         | 57,300         | 64,000         | -0.5          | -10.9        |
| Durable Goods                                 | 32,600         | 32,900         | 39,700         | -0.9          | -17.9        |
| Wood Product Manufacturing                    | 5,700          | 5,700          | 6,900          | 0.0           | -17.4        |
| Sawmills & Wood Preservation                  | 1,800          | 1,800          | 2,200          | 0.0           | -18.2        |
| Veneer & Engineered Products                  | 1,100          | 1,100          | 1,200          | 0.0           | -8.3         |
| 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          | 3,200          | 0.0           | -9.4         |
| Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing   | 10,800         | 11,300         | 14,800         | -4.4          | -27.0        |
| Transportation Equipment Manufacturing        | 2,600          | 2,600          | 3,500          | 0.0           | -25.7        |
| Other Durable Goods                           | 6,000          | 5,800          | 6,600          | 3.4           | -9.1         |
| Nondurable Goods                              | 24,400         | 24,400         | 24,300         | 0.0           | 0.4          |
| Food Manufacturing                            | 15,600         | 15,600         | 15,500         | 0.0           | 0.6          |
| Fruits & Vegetable Preserving & Specialty     | 8,000          | 8,000          | 7,800          | 0.0           | 2.6          |
| Paper Manufacturing                           | 1,600          | 1,500          | 1,700          | 6.7           | -5.9         |
| Printing & Related Support Activities         | 1,700          | 1,700          | 1,800          | 0.0           | -5.6         |
| Chemical Manufacturing                        | 2,400          | 2,400          | 2,300          | 0.0           | 4.3          |
| Other Nondurable Goods                        | 3,100          | 3,200          | 3,000          | -3.1          | 3.3          |
| SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES                  | 517,100        | 515,600        | 536,000        | 0.3           | -3.5         |
| <i>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</i> | 121,700        | 121,800        | 131,100        | -0.1          | -7.2         |
| Trade   | 102,300        | 102,400        | 110,300        | -0.1          | -7.3         |
| Wholesale Trade                               | 25,700         | 25,900         | 27,800         | -0.8          | -7.6         |
| Wholesalers, Durable Goods                    | 11,400         | 11,500         | 12,900         | -0.9          | -11.6        |
| Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods                 | 12,000         | 12,000         | 12,000         | 0.0           | 0.0          |
| Retail Trade                                  | 76,600         | 76,500         | 82,500         | 0.1           | -7.2         |
| Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers               | 11,000         | 10,800         | 12,600         | 1.9           | -12.7        |
| Building Material and Garden Equipment        | 8,200          | 8,000          | 9,000          | 2.5           | -8.9         |
| Food & Beverage Stores                        | 13,000         | 12,900         | 13,100         | 0.8           | -0.8         |
| General Merchandise Stores                    | 16,500         | 16,500         | 16,700         | 0.0           | -1.2         |
| Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities      | 19,400         | 19,400         | 20,800         | 0.0           | -6.7         |
| Utilities                                     | 2,200          | 2,200          | 2,100          | 0.0           | 4.8          |
| Transportation & Warehousing                  | 17,200         | 17,200         | 18,700         | 0.0           | -8.0         |
| Rail Transportation                           | 1,300          | 1,300          | 1,300          | 0.0           | 0.0          |
| Truck Transportation                          | 8,400          | 8,400          | 9,000          | 0.0           | -6.7         |
| Information                                   | 12,100         | 12,000         | 10,900         | 0.8           | 11.0         |
| Telecommunications                            | 4,800          | 4,800          | 4,000          | 0.0           | 20.0         |
| <i>Financial Activities</i>                   | 31,000         | 31,000         | 31,800         | 0.0           | -2.5         |
| Finance & Insurance                           | 23,100         | 23,200         | 23,400         | -0.4          | -1.3         |
| Real Estate & Rental & Leasing                | 7,900          | 7,800          | 8,400          | 1.3           | -6.0         |
| <i>Professional &amp; Business Services</i>   | 72,800         | 71,700         | 81,100         | 1.5           | -10.2        |
| Professional, Scientific, & Technical         | 31,300         | 31,200         | 33,900         | 0.3           | -7.7         |
| Scientific Research & Development             | 7,300          | 7,300          | 7,400          | 0.0           | -1.4         |
| Management of Companies & Enterprises         | 6,800          | 6,900          | 7,300          | -1.4          | -6.8         |
| Administrative & Support & Waste Management   | 34,700         | 33,600         | 39,900         | 3.3           | -13.0        |
| Administrative & Support Services             | 32,200         | 31,400         | 38,300         | 2.5           | -15.9        |
| <i>Educational &amp; Health Services</i>      | 78,400         | 78,300         | 78,100         | 0.1           | 0.4          |
| Educational Services                          | 8,100          | 8,200          | 9,100          | -1.2          | -11.0        |
| Health Care & Social Assistance               | 70,300         | 70,100         | 69,000         | 0.3           | 1.9          |
| Hospitals                                     | 16,500         | 16,600         | 17,000         | -0.6          | -2.9         |
| <i>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</i>              | 58,800         | 59,000         | 62,100         | -0.3          | -5.3         |
| Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation             | 8,100          | 8,000          | 8,400          | 1.3           | -3.6         |
| Accommodation & Food Services                 | 50,700         | 51,000         | 53,700         | -0.6          | -5.6         |
| Accommodation                                 | 8,800          | 9,100          | 8,700          | -3.3          | 1.1          |
| Food Services & Drinking Places               | 41,900         | 41,900         | 45,000         | 0.0           | -6.9         |
| <i>Other Services</i>                         | 19,300         | 19,300         | 20,600         | 0.0           | -6.3         |
| <i>Total Government</i>                       | 123,000        | 122,500        | 120,300        | 0.4           | 2.2          |
| Federal Government                            | 12,700         | 12,100         | 12,600         | 5.0           | 0.8          |
| State & Local Government                      | 110,300        | 110,400        | 107,700        | -0.1          | 2.4          |
| State Government                              | 30,500         | 30,500         | 30,700         | 0.0           | -0.7         |
| State Government Education                    | 14,900         | 14,900         | 14,800         | 0.0           | 0.7          |
| State Government Administration               | 15,600         | 15,600         | 15,900         | 0.0           | -1.9         |
| Local Government                              | 79,800         | 79,900         | 77,000         | -0.1          | 3.6          |
| Local Government Education                    | 42,100         | 42,200         | 41,300         | -0.2          | 1.9          |
| Local Government Administration               | 34,300         | 34,300         | 32,300         | 0.0           | 6.2          |
| Local Government Tribes                       | 3,400          | 3,400          | 3,400          | 0.0           | 0.0          |

\*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

|   | Apr<br>2009   | Mar<br>2009   | Apr<br>2008   | % Change From |              |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
|   |               |               |               | Last<br>Month | Last<br>Year |
| <b>IDAHO LABOR FORCE <sup>(1)</sup></b>                       |               |               |               |               |              |
| <i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>                                    |               |               |               |               |              |
| Civilian Labor Force  | 750,200       | 749,700       | 751,200       | 0.1           | -0.1         |
| Unemployment  | 52,600        | 52,600        | 32,500        | 0.0           | 61.8         |
| Percent of Labor Force<br>Unemployed                          | 7.0           | 7.0           | 4.3           |               |              |
| Total Employment  | 697,600       | 697,100       | 718,700       | 0.1           | -2.9         |
| <b>Unadjusted</b>   |               |               |               |               |              |
| Civilian Labor Force  | 745,200       | 745,300       | 748,200       | 0.0           | -0.4         |
| Unemployment  | 54,600        | 59,000        | 31,900        | -7.5          | 71.2         |
| Percent of Labor Force<br>Unemployed                          | 7.3           | 7.9           | 4.3           |               |              |
| Total Employment  | 690,600       | 686,300       | 716,300       | 0.6           | -3.6         |
| <b>U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE<sup>(2)</sup></b>                  |               |               |               |               |              |
|   | 8.9           | 8.5           | 5.0           |               |              |
| <b>U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX<sup>(2)</sup></b>                |               |               |               |               |              |
| Urban Wage Earners & Clerical<br>Workers (CPI-W)              | 207.9         | 207.2         | 210.7         | 0.3           | -1.3         |
| All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)                                    | 213.2         | 212.7         | 214.8         | 0.2           | -0.7         |
| <b>AGRICULTURE</b>  |               |               |               |               |              |
| Agriculture Employment  | 45,460        | 39,290        | 44,470        | 15.7          | 2.2          |
| Operators   | 10,480        | 10,110        | 9,740         | 3.7           | 7.6          |
| Unpaid Family   | 350           | 360           | 350           | -2.8          | 0.0          |
| Hired Workers   | 34,630        | 28,820        | 34,380        | 20.2          | 0.7          |
| <b>UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE</b>                                 |               |               |               |               |              |
| <b>Claims Activities</b>                                      |               |               |               |               |              |
| Initial Claims <sup>(3)</sup>                                 | 15,075        | 16,416        | 7,981         | -8.2          | 88.9         |
| Weeks Claimed <sup>(4)</sup>                                  | 171,925       | 228,742       | 76,179        | -24.8         | 125.7        |
| <b>Benefit Payment Activities<sup>(5)</sup></b>               |               |               |               |               |              |
| Weeks Compensated   | 153,823       | 203,624       | 81,336        | -24.5         | 89.1         |
| Total Benefit \$ Paid   | 41,066,269    | 54,858,552    | 21,557,423    | -25.1         | 90.5         |
| Average Weekly Benefit Amount                                 | \$266.97      | \$269.41      | \$265.04      | -0.9          | 0.7          |
| Covered Employers   | 50,456        | 50,852        | 51,291        | -0.8          | -1.6         |
| Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last<br>12 Months <sup>(4)</sup> | \$310,093,771 | \$290,584,926 | \$162,545,650 | 6.7           | 90.8         |

(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

|  | Apr<br>2009* | Mar<br>2009 | Apr<br>2008 | % Change From |              |
|--|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
|  |              |             |             | Last<br>Month | Last<br>Year |
| <b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>           |              |             |             |               |              |
| <b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>                         |              |             |             |               |              |
| Civilian Labor Force                               | 72,210       | 72,370      | 71,420      | -0.2          | 1.1          |
| Unemployed   | 5,270        | 4,910       | 3,440       | 7.3           | 53.2         |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed                        | 7.3          | 6.8         | 4.8         |               |              |
| Total Employment                                   | 66,940       | 67,460      | 67,980      | -0.8          | -1.5         |
| <b>Unadjusted</b>                                  |              |             |             |               |              |
| Civilian Labor Force                               | 70,830       | 71,310      | 70,010      | -0.7          | 1.2          |
| Unemployed   | 5,830        | 6,150       | 3,580       | -5.2          | 62.8         |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed                        | 8.2          | 8.6         | 5.1         |               |              |
| Total Employment                                   | 65,000       | 65,160      | 66,430      | -0.2          | -2.2         |
| <b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>                       |              |             |             |               |              |
| <b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>              | 55,430       | 54,290      | 56,260      | 2.1           | -1.5         |
| <b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>                  | 9,590        | 9,290       | 10,160      | 3.2           | -5.6         |
| Natural Resources & Mining                         | 290          | 310         | 290         | -6.5          | 0.0          |
| Construction                                       | 4,770        | 4,510       | 5,130       | 5.8           | -7.0         |
| Manufacturing                                      | 4,530        | 4,470       | 4,740       | 1.3           | -4.4         |
| <i>Wood Product Manufacturing</i>                  | 740          | 740         | 790         | 0.0           | -6.3         |
| <i>Other Manufacturing</i>                         | 3,790        | 3,730       | 3,940       | 1.6           | -3.8         |
| <b>Service-Providing Industries</b>                | 45,840       | 45,000      | 46,100      | 1.9           | -0.6         |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities                 | 10,540       | 10,380      | 10,810      | 1.5           | -2.5         |
| <i>Wholesale Trade</i>                             | 1,550        | 1,520       | 1,550       | 2.0           | 0.0          |
| <i>Retail Trade</i>                                | 7,980        | 7,840       | 8,200       | 1.8           | -2.7         |
| <i>Transportation, Warehousing &amp; Utilities</i> | 1,010        | 1,020       | 1,060       | -1.0          | -4.7         |
| Information  | 910          | 910         | 910         | 0.0           | 0.0          |
| Financial Activities                               | 3,120        | 3,090       | 3,160       | 1.0           | -1.3         |
| Professional & Business Services                   | 5,390        | 5,200       | 5,700       | 3.7           | -5.4         |
| Educational & Health Services                      | 6,310        | 6,240       | 6,270       | 1.1           | 0.6          |
| Leisure & Hospitality                              | 8,280        | 7,890       | 7,810       | 4.9           | 6.0          |
| Other Services                                     | 1,410        | 1,390       | 1,500       | 1.4           | -6.0         |
| Government Education                               | 3,750        | 3,770       | 3,680       | -0.5          | 1.9          |
| Government Administration                          | 5,250        | 5,270       | 5,320       | -0.4          | -1.3         |
| Government Tribes                                  | 880          | 860         | 940         | 2.3           | -6.4         |

\* 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.

|  | Apr<br>2009* | Mar<br>2009 | Apr<br>2008 | % Change From |              |
|--|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
|  |              |             |             | Last<br>Month | Last<br>Year |
| <b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b> |              |             |             |               |              |
| <i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>               |              |             |             |               |              |
| Civilian Labor Force                     | 30,740       | 31,300      | 29,170      | -1.8          | 5.4          |
| Unemployment                             | 1,830        | 1,930       | 1,140       | -5.2          | 60.5         |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed              | 6.0          | 6.2         | 3.9         |               |              |
| Total Employment                         | 28,910       | 29,370      | 28,030      | -1.6          | 3.1          |
| <i>Unadjusted</i>                        |              |             |             |               |              |
| Civilian Labor Force                     | 30,970       | 31,380      | 29,370      | -1.3          | 5.4          |
| Unemployment                             | 2,080        | 2,290       | 1,230       | -9.2          | 69.1         |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed              | 6.7          | 7.3         | 4.2         |               |              |
| Total Employment                         | 28,890       | 29,090      | 28,140      | -0.7          | 2.7          |
| <b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>             |              |             |             |               |              |
| <b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>    | 27,010       | 26,500      | 27,770      | 1.9           | -2.7         |
| <i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>        | 4,290        | 4,160       | 4,700       | 3.1           | -8.7         |
| Natural Resources & Mining               | 210          | 210         | 150         | 0.0           | 40.0         |
| Construction                             | 1,120        | 1,010       | 1,230       | 10.9          | -8.9         |
| Manufacturing                            | 2,960        | 2,940       | 3,320       | 0.7           | -10.8        |
| <i>Wood Product Manufacturing</i>        | 390          | 400         | 510         | -2.5          | -23.5        |
| <i>Paper Manufacturing</i>               | 1,030        | 1,040       | 1,110       | -1.0          | -7.2         |
| <i>Other Manufacturing</i>               | 1,540        | 1,500       | 1,700       | 2.7           | -9.4         |
| <i>Service-Providing Industries</i>      | 22,720       | 22,340      | 23,070      | 1.7           | -1.5         |
| Trade, Transportation & Utilities        | 5,210        | 5,190       | 5,570       | 0.4           | -6.5         |
| <i>Wholesale Trade</i>                   | 580          | 580         | 690         | 0.0           | -15.9        |
| <i>Retail Trade</i>                      | 3,610        | 3,590       | 3,710       | 0.6           | -2.7         |
| <i>Utilities</i>                         | 100          | 100         | 90          | 0.0           | 11.1         |
| <i>Transportation &amp; Warehousing</i>  | 920          | 920         | 1,080       | 0.0           | -14.8        |
| Information                              | 370          | 370         | 370         | 0.0           | 0.0          |
| Financial Activities                     | 2,030        | 2,020       | 2,120       | 0.5           | -4.2         |
| Professional & Business Services         | 1,490        | 1,470       | 1,550       | 1.4           | -3.9         |
| Education & Health Services              | 4,460        | 4,430       | 4,430       | 0.7           | 0.7          |
| Leisure & Hospitality                    | 2,570        | 2,530       | 2,640       | 1.6           | -2.7         |
| Other Services                           | 1,070        | 1,080       | 1,100       | -0.9          | -2.7         |
| Government Education                     | 2,470        | 2,490       | 2,510       | -0.8          | -1.6         |
| Government Administration                | 2,350        | 2,070       | 2,090       | 13.5          | 12.4         |
| Government Tribes                        | 700          | 690         | 690         | 1.4           | 1.4          |

\*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

|   | Apr<br>2009* | Mar<br>2009 | Apr<br>2008 | % Change      |              |
|---|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
|   |              |             |             | Last<br>Month | Last<br>Year |
| <b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>      |              |             |             |               |              |
| <i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>                    |              |             |             |               |              |
| Civilian Labor Force                          | 282,100      | 284,000     | 291,100     | -0.7          | -3.1         |
| Unemployment                                  | 23,800       | 23,200      | 12,800      | 2.6           | 85.9         |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed                   | 8.4          | 8.2         | 4.4         |               |              |
| Total Employment                              | 258,300      | 260,800     | 278,300     | -1.0          | -7.2         |
| <i>Unadjusted</i>                             |              |             |             |               |              |
| Civilian Labor Force                          | 283,100      | 285,200     | 293,500     | -0.7          | -3.5         |
| Unemployment                                  | 23,500       | 24,600      | 11,900      | -4.5          | 97.5         |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed                   | 8.3          | 8.6         | 4.1         |               |              |
| Total Employment                              | 259,600      | 260,600     | 281,600     | -0.4          | -7.8         |
| <b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>                  |              |             |             |               |              |
| Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**                        | 253,900      | 252,700     | 273,800     | 0.5           | -7.3         |
| <b>GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>             |              |             |             |               |              |
| <i>Natural Resources &amp; Construction</i>   |              |             |             |               |              |
| Construction                                  | 200          | 200         | 300         | 0.0           | -33.3        |
| <i>Manufacturing</i>                          |              |             |             |               |              |
| Durable Goods                                 | 15,900       | 15,200      | 18,800      | 4.6           | -15.4        |
| Wood Product Manufacturing                    | 24,300       | 24,600      | 29,100      | -1.2          | -16.5        |
| Fabricated Metal Products Mfg.                | 17,200       | 17,600      | 22,100      | -2.3          | -22.2        |
| Machinery Manufacturing                       | 1,500        | 1,500       | 2,100       | 0.0           | -28.6        |
| Fabricated Metal Products Mfg.                | 1,400        | 1,400       | 1,500       | 0.0           | -6.7         |
| Machinery Manufacturing                       | 1,100        | 1,100       | 1,200       | 0.0           | -8.3         |
| Computer & Electronic Manufacturing           | 9,500        | 9,900       | 13,000      | -4.0          | -26.9        |
| Transportation Equipment Mfg.                 | 1,600        | 1,600       | 2,200       | 0.0           | -27.3        |
| Other Durable Goods                           | 2,100        | 2,100       | 2,100       | 0.0           | 0.0          |
| Nondurable Goods                              | 7,100        | 7,000       | 7,000       | 1.4           | 1.4          |
| Food Manufacturing                            | 5,000        | 4,900       | 4,900       | 2.0           | 2.0          |
| Printing & Related Support Activities         | 700          | 700         | 700         | 0.0           | 0.0          |
| Other Nondurable Goods                        | 1,400        | 1,400       | 1,400       | 0.0           | 0.0          |
| <b>SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES</b>           |              |             |             |               |              |
| <i>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</i> |              |             |             |               |              |
| Trade   | 50,300       | 50,200      | 53,400      | 0.2           | -5.8         |
| Wholesale Trade                               | 42,200       | 42,200      | 45,500      | 0.0           | -7.3         |
| Wholesalers, Durable Goods                    | 11,700       | 11,700      | 12,100      | 0.0           | -3.3         |
| Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods                 | 6,500        | 6,500       | 6,800       | 0.0           | -4.4         |
| Retail Trade                                  | 3,800        | 3,800       | 3,900       | 0.0           | -2.6         |
| Food & Beverage Stores                        | 30,500       | 30,500      | 33,400      | 0.0           | -8.7         |
| General Merchandise Stores                    | 4,700        | 4,700       | 4,900       | 0.0           | -4.1         |
| All Other Retail Trade                        | 6,600        | 6,600       | 6,700       | 0.0           | -1.5         |
| Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities      | 19,200       | 19,200      | 21,800      | 0.0           | -11.9        |
| Utilities                                     | 8,100        | 8,000       | 7,900       | 1.3           | 2.5          |
| Transportation & Warehousing                  | 900          | 900         | 700         | 0.0           | 28.6         |
| <i>Information</i>                            |              |             |             |               |              |
| Telecommunications                            | 7,200        | 7,100       | 7,200       | 1.4           | 0.0          |
| <i>Financial Activities</i>                   |              |             |             |               |              |
| Finance & Insurance                           | 5,600        | 5,600       | 4,700       | 0.0           | 19.1         |
| Real Estate & Rental & Leasing                | 2,300        | 2,300       | 1,300       | 0.0           | 76.9         |
| <i>Professional &amp; Business Services</i>   |              |             |             |               |              |
| Professional, Scientific, & Technical         | 13,500       | 13,600      | 14,300      | -0.7          | -5.6         |
| Management of Companies & Ent.                | 10,400       | 10,400      | 10,400      | 0.0           | 0.0          |
| Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt.        | 3,100        | 3,200       | 3,900       | -3.1          | -20.5        |
| <i>Educational &amp; Health Services</i>      |              |             |             |               |              |
| Educational Services                          | 35,900       | 35,100      | 41,700      | 2.3           | -13.9        |
| Health Care & Social Assistance               | 11,800       | 11,700      | 12,800      | 0.9           | -7.8         |
| Hospitals                                     | 5,000        | 5,100       | 5,500       | -2.0          | -9.1         |
| <i>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</i>              |              |             |             |               |              |
| Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation             | 19,100       | 18,300      | 23,400      | 4.4           | -18.4        |
| Accommodation & Food Services                 | 33,200       | 33,200      | 35,200      | 0.0           | -5.7         |
| Accommodation                                 | 2,900        | 2,900       | 3,300       | 0.0           | -12.1        |
| Food Services & Drinking Places               | 30,300       | 30,300      | 31,900      | 0.0           | -5.0         |
| <i>Other Services</i>                         |              |             |             |               |              |
| Hospitals                                     | 9,500        | 9,600       | 10,400      | -1.0          | -8.7         |
| <i>Total Government</i>                       |              |             |             |               |              |
| Federal Government                            | 22,400       | 22,500      | 24,800      | -0.4          | -9.7         |
| State & Local Government                      | 2,300        | 2,400       | 3,400       | -4.2          | -32.4        |
| State Government                              | 20,100       | 20,100      | 21,400      | 0.0           | -6.1         |
| State Government Education                    | 2,200        | 2,000       | 2,200       | 10.0          | 0.0          |
| State Government Administration               | 17,900       | 18,100      | 19,200      | -1.1          | -6.8         |
| Local Government                              | 8,100        | 8,100       | 8,300       | 0.0           | -2.4         |
| Local Government Education                    | 44,500       | 44,400      | 43,200      | 0.2           | 3.0          |
| Local Government Administration               | 6,300        | 6,100       | 5,900       | 3.3           | 6.8          |
| Local Government Education                    | 38,200       | 38,300      | 37,300      | -0.3          | 2.4          |
| Local Government Administration               | 14,300       | 14,300      | 14,100      | 0.0           | 1.4          |
| Local Government Education                    | 4,500        | 4,500       | 4,700       | 0.0           | -4.3         |
| Local Government Administration               | 9,800        | 9,800       | 9,400       | 0.0           | 4.3          |
| Local Government Education                    | 23,900       | 24,000      | 23,200      | -0.4          | 3.0          |
| Local Government Administration               | 15,100       | 15,100      | 14,400      | 0.0           | 4.9          |
| Local Government Education                    | 8,800        | 8,900       | 8,800       | -1.1          | 0.0          |

\* Preliminary estimate

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

# South Central Idaho Data

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

|  | <u>% Change From</u> |          |          |            |           |
|--|----------------------|----------|----------|------------|-----------|
|  | Apr 2009*            | Mar 2009 | Apr 2008 | Last Month | Last Year |
| <b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b> |                      |          |          |            |           |
| <i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>               |                      |          |          |            |           |
| Civilian Labor Force                     | 50,820               | 49,380   | 49,410   | 2.9        | 2.9       |
| Unemployment                             | 2,530                | 2,650    | 1,560    | -4.5       | 62.2      |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed              | 5.0                  | 5.4      | 3.2      |            |           |
| Total Employment                         | 48,290               | 46,730   | 47,850   | 3.3        | 0.9       |
| <i>Unadjusted</i>                        |                      |          |          |            |           |
| Civilian Labor Force                     | 49,720               | 48,050   | 48,510   | 3.5        | 2.5       |
| Unemployment                             | 2,650                | 2,980    | 1,540    | -11.1      | 72.1      |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed              | 5.3                  | 6.2      | 3.2      |            |           |
| Total Employment                         | 47,070               | 45,070   | 46,970   | 4.4        | 0.2       |
| <b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>             |                      |          |          |            |           |
| <b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>            | 39,350               | 38,880   | 39,920   | 1.2        | -1.4      |
| <i>Goods-Providing Industries</i>        | 6,420                | 6,460    | 6,790    | -0.6       | -5.4      |
| Natural Resources & Mining               | 70                   | 70       | 60       | 0.0        | 16.7      |
| Construction                             | 1,930                | 1,860    | 2,140    | 3.8        | -9.8      |
| Manufacturing                            | 4,420                | 4,530    | 4,590    | -2.4       | -3.7      |
| <i>Food Manufacturing</i>                | 2,640                | 2,730    | 2,540    | -3.3       | 3.9       |
| <i>Other Manufacturing</i>               | 1,780                | 1,800    | 2,050    | -1.1       | -13.2     |
| <i>Service-Providing Industries</i>      | 32,930               | 32,420   | 33,130   | 1.6        | -0.6      |
| Trade, Transportation & Utilities        | 9,920                | 9,890    | 9,960    | 0.3        | -0.4      |
| <i>Wholesale Trade</i>                   | 1,980                | 1,950    | 1,940    | 1.5        | 2.1       |
| <i>Retail Trade</i>                      | 5,310                | 5,310    | 5,750    | 0.0        | -7.7      |
| <i>Utilities</i>                         | 180                  | 160      | 170      | 12.5       | 5.9       |
| <i>Transportation &amp; Warehousing</i>  | 2,450                | 2,470    | 2,100    | -0.8       | 16.7      |
| Information                              | 650                  | 680      | 650      | -4.4       | 0.0       |
| Financial Activities                     | 1,790                | 1,750    | 1,730    | 2.3        | 3.5       |
| Professional & Business Services         | 4,650                | 4,500    | 4,900    | 3.3        | -5.1      |
| Educational & Health Services            | 5,380                | 5,380    | 5,260    | 0.0        | 2.3       |
| Leisure & Hospitality                    | 3,460                | 3,310    | 3,380    | 4.5        | 2.4       |
| Other Services                           | 1,470                | 1,460    | 1,510    | 0.7        | -2.6      |
| Government Education                     | 3,250                | 3,120    | 3,380    | 4.2        | -3.8      |
| Government Administration                | 2,360                | 2,330    | 2,360    | 1.3        | 0.0       |

\*Preliminary estimate

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

# Southeastern Idaho Data

## Pocatello MSA Labor Force & Employment – Bannock and Power counties

|  | Apr<br>2009* | Mar<br>2009 | Apr<br>2008 | % Change From |              |
|--|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
|  |              |             |             | Last<br>Month | Last<br>Year |
| <b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b> |              |             |             |               |              |
| <i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>               |              |             |             |               |              |
| Civilian Labor Force                     | 43,520       | 44,010      | 42,870      | -1.1          | 1.5          |
| Unemployment                             | 2,390        | 2,530       | 1,810       | -5.5          | 32.0         |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed              | 5.5          | 5.7         | 4.2         |               |              |
|  | 41,130       | 41,480      | 41,060      | -0.8          | 0.2          |
| <i>Unadjusted</i>                        |              |             |             |               |              |
| Civilian Labor Force                     | 44,560       | 44,620      | 44,060      | -0.1          | 1.1          |
| Unemployment                             | 2,420        | 2,800       | 1,730       | -13.6         | 39.9         |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed              | 5.4          | 6.3         | 3.9         |               |              |
| Total Employment                         | 42,140       | 41,820      | 42,330      | 0.8           | -0.4         |
| <b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>             |              |             |             |               |              |
| <b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>    | 37,710       | 37,280      | 39,350      | 1.2           | -4.2         |
| <b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>        | 5,220        | 5,220       | 5,580       | 0.0           | -6.5         |
| Natural Resources & Mining               | 20           | 30          | 20          | -33.3         | 0.0          |
| Construction                             | 1,540        | 1,530       | 1,950       | 0.7           | -21.0        |
| Manufacturing                            | 3,660        | 3,660       | 3,610       | 0.0           | 1.4          |
| Food Manufacturing                       | 1,480        | 1,470       | 1,370       | 0.7           | 8.0          |
| Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing   | 250          | 250         | 230         | 0.0           | 8.7          |
| Machinery Manufacturing                  | 90           | 90          | 90          | 0.0           | 0.0          |
| Other Manufacturing                      | 1,820        | 1,850       | 1,920       | -1.6          | -5.2         |
| <b>Service-Providing Industries</b>      | 32,490       | 32,060      | 33,770      | 1.3           | -3.8         |
| Trade, Transportation & Utilities        | 6,740        | 6,710       | 7,630       | 0.4           | -11.7        |
| Wholesale Trade                          | 1,380        | 1,380       | 1,330       | 0.0           | 3.8          |
| Retail Trade                             | 4,160        | 4,140       | 4,680       | 0.5           | -11.1        |
| Utilities                                | 50           | 50          | 40          | 0.0           | 25.0         |
| Transportation & Warehousing             | 1,150        | 1,140       | 1,580       | 0.9           | -27.2        |
| Information                              | 560          | 560         | 700         | 0.0           | -20.0        |
| Financial Activities                     | 2,200        | 2,210       | 2,150       | -0.5          | 2.3          |
| Professional & Business Services         | 4,180        | 4,110       | 4,230       | 1.7           | -1.2         |
| Educational & Health Services            | 3,720        | 3,700       | 3,620       | 0.5           | 2.8          |
| Leisure & Hospitality                    | 3,670        | 3,630       | 3,800       | 1.1           | -3.4         |
| Other Services                           | 1,350        | 1,340       | 1,270       | 0.7           | 6.3          |
| Government Education                     | 6,060        | 6,090       | 5,980       | -0.5          | 1.3          |
| Government Administration                | 4,010        | 3,710       | 4,390       | 8.1           | -8.7         |

\*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

|   | Apr<br>2009* | Mar<br>2009 | Apr<br>2008 | % Change From |              |
|---|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
|   |              |             |             | Last<br>Month | Last<br>Year |
| <b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>      |              |             |             |               |              |
| <i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>                    |              |             |             |               |              |
| Civilian Labor Force                          | 61,370       | 60,480      | 61,310      | 1.5           | 0.1          |
| Unemployment                                  | 3,080        | 3,120       | 1,750       | -1.3          | 76.0         |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed                   | 5.0%         | 5.2%        | 2.8%        |               |              |
| Total Employment                              | 58,290       | 57,360      | 59,560      | 1.6           | -2.1         |
| <i>Unadjusted</i>                             |              |             |             |               |              |
| Civilian Labor Force                          | 61,210       | 60,510      | 61,340      | 1.2           | -0.2         |
| Unemployment                                  | 3,260        | 3,610       | 1,740       | -9.7          | 87.4         |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed                   | 5.3%         | 6.0%        | 2.8%        |               |              |
| Total Employment                              | 57,950       | 56,900      | 59,600      | 1.8           | -2.8         |
| <b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>                  |              |             |             |               |              |
| <b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>         | 49,740       | 49,490      | 51,190      | 0.5           | -2.8         |
| <i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>             | 6,660        | 6,560       | 7,710       | 1.5           | -13.6        |
| Construction & Natural Resources              | 3,250        | 3,150       | 4,410       | 3.2           | -26.3        |
| Manufacturing                                 | 3,410        | 3,410       | 3,300       | 0.0           | 3.3          |
| <i>Food Manufacturing</i>                     | 920          | 920         | 930         | 0.0           | -1.1         |
| <i>Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing</i> | 290          | 280         | 280         | 3.6           | 3.6          |
| <i>Machinery Manufacturing</i>                | 140          | 140         | 150         | -0.3          | -6.7         |
| <i>Other Manufacturing</i>                    | 2,060        | 2,070       | 1,940       | -0.5          | 6.2          |
| <i>Service-Providing Industries</i>           | 43,080       | 42,930      | 43,480      | 0.3           | -0.9         |
| Trade, Transportation & Utilities             | 12,310       | 12,320      | 13,180      | -0.1          | -6.6         |
| <i>Wholesale Trade</i>                        | 3,450        | 3,460       | 3,640       | -0.3          | -5.2         |
| <i>Retail Trade</i>                           | 7,480        | 7,490       | 7,690       | -0.1          | -2.7         |
| <i>Utilities</i>                              | 60           | 60          | 60          | 0.0           | 0.0          |
| <i>Transportation</i>                         | 1,320        | 1,310       | 1,790       | 0.8           | -26.3        |
| Information                                   | 1,330        | 1,330       | 1,350       | 0.0           | -1.5         |
| Financial Activities                          | 2,020        | 2,020       | 2,260       | 0.0           | -10.6        |
| Professional & Business Services              | 4,710        | 4,670       | 5,140       | 0.9           | -8.4         |
| Educational & Health Services                 | 7,360        | 7,310       | 7,360       | 0.7           | 0.0          |
| Leisure & Hospitality                         | 5,320        | 5,290       | 4,810       | 0.6           | 10.6         |
| Other Services                                | 2,640        | 2,630       | 2,150       | 0.4           | 22.8         |
| Government Education                          | 3,960        | 3,950       | 3,780       | 0.3           | 4.8          |
| Government Administration                     | 3,430        | 3,410       | 3,450       | 0.6           | -0.6         |

\*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 12<sup>th</sup> of the month.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Glossary of Labor Market Terms (cont.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

---

*IDAHO EMPLOYMENT is published online monthly by the Idaho Department of Labor. All information is in the public domain and may be duplicated without permission; however, the Idaho Department of Labor should be cited as the source.*

*The source for all data tables and graphs is the Idaho Department of Labor, Communications & Research, except where noted.*

*IDAHO EMPLOYMENT is produced by the Idaho Department of Labor which is funded at least in part by federal grants from the U.S. Department of Labor. Costs associated with this online publication are available by contacting the Idaho Department of Labor. Questions and comments can be directed to Public Affairs by phoning (208) 332-3570, ext. 3220, or by e-mail to [janell.hyer@labor.idaho.gov](mailto:janell.hyer@labor.idaho.gov) or to the Regional Economists noted in each area news section.*

**Editors:** Bob Fick ([bob.fick@labor.idaho.gov](mailto:bob.fick@labor.idaho.gov)), Jean Cullen ([jean.cullen@labor.idaho.gov](mailto:jean.cullen@labor.idaho.gov)).

