

Idaho Employment

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

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C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, GOVERNOR

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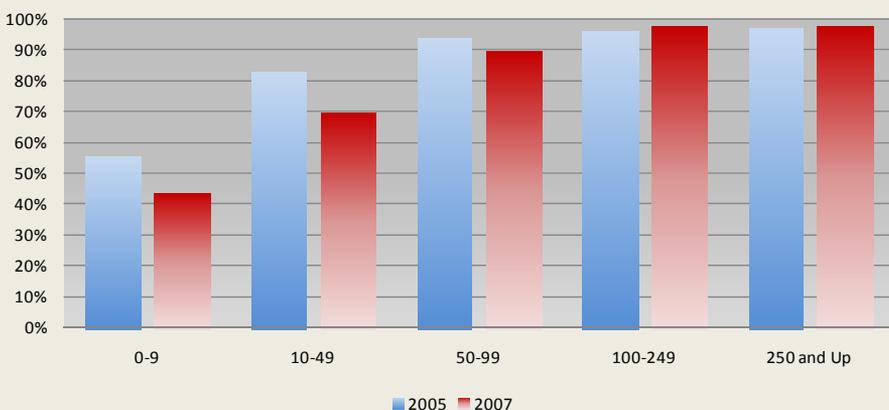
HEALTH CARE BENEFITS CONTINUE TO DROP FOR IDAHO EMPLOYEES

New estimates from the Census Bureau are confirming the findings of the last three Idaho Department of Labor surveys of employers on their fringe benefit packages – fewer are offering workers health care coverage.

The Census Bureau estimated 17.8 percent of Idaho's noninstitutionalized population – the people who were not in jail, prison, a mental hospital or other long-term care facility – had no health insurance in 2008. That was over 266,000 people, an estimate that tracked the initial impact on Idaho and its economy of the national recession that began in December 2007.

Idaho had the 12th highest percentage of uninsured among the states, and the rate was nearly three percentage points above the national uninsured rate of 15.1 percent. But the Census Bureau found that nearly 23 percent of Idaho's working-age adults – over 208,000 people – were without health insurance last year. Only 13 other states had higher percentages of working-age adults without insurance.

**Percent of Idaho Employers Offering Health Coverage
by Number of Workers**



There was no estimate on how many of those adults were in the labor force or had jobs, but results from past Idaho fringe benefit surveys indicate more and more of the working-age uninsured are employed.

In 2001, 81 percent of Idaho employers offered their full-time workers health insurance for themselves, and most had plans extending coverage to family members. Twenty-seven percent of those employers even offered coverage to their part-time workers.

Four years later as the number of employers was growing during the recovery from the 2001 recession, the number offering insurance was slipping – down to 74 percent of employers offering coverage to full-timers and 19 percent to part-timers.

And by 2007, even as the Idaho economy was enjoying a robust expansion, only 63 percent of employers offered health insurance to full-time workers and just 9 percent to part-timers.

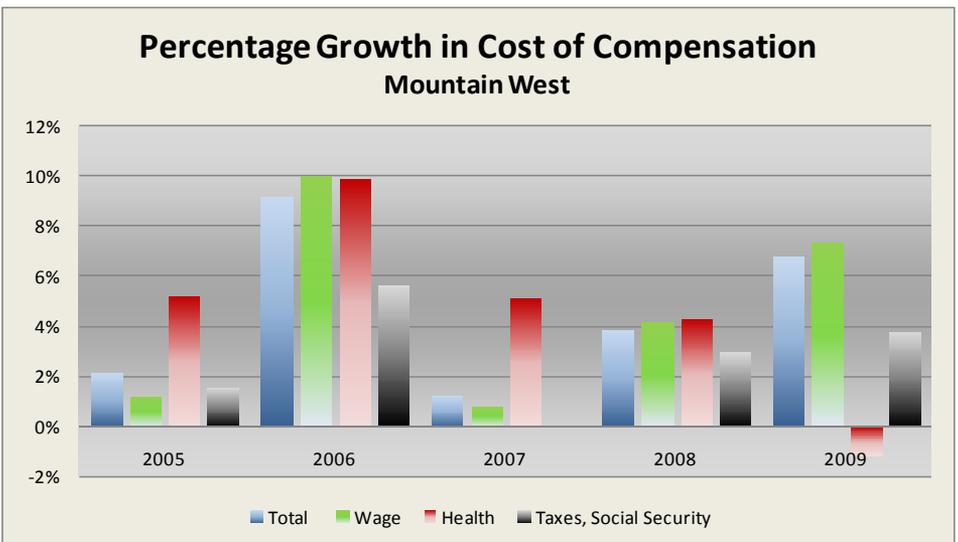
By 2007, health coverage was offered by just 44 percent of businesses with fewer than 10 employees and 70 percent of those with payrolls of 10 to 49. Ninety percent of employers with payrolls between 50 and 99 offered coverage and 98 percent of those with over 100 workers had health insurance plans.

The decline was among smaller businesses – those with payrolls under 50 – but they account for half the jobs in Idaho. In 2005, 56 percent of businesses with fewer than 10 employees and 83 percent of those with 10 to 49 employees offered coverage. About 95 percent of the businesses with 50 or more workers provided health insurance.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates the cost of fringe benefits every quarter as part of determining average hourly compensation costs for workers. But it only makes those estimates on a regional basis.

For the Mountain West – which includes not only Idaho but also Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming – the average hourly wage rose 17 percent from \$15.31 in mid-2004 to \$17.70 an hour in mid-2008. Idaho’s own occupational wage survey found the average wage in mid-2008 was \$17.94 an hour.

At the same time, the average hourly cost of fringe benefits rose 22.6 percent from \$3.84 to \$4.71 an hour in mid-2008. Insurance was the largest component of the fringe benefit package, accounting for nearly half, and health insurance was 94 percent of overall insurance costs. It rose from \$1.34 an hour to \$1.70 – an annual per employee increase of nearly \$750.



In mid-2009, however, the cost of health care as a component of hourly compensation in the Mountain West dropped more than 1 percent to \$1.68 despite a report from the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Health Research and Educational Trust that premiums for employer-sponsored health insurance rose 5 percent in 2009.

In light of the persisting decline in the percentage of Idaho employers offering health coverage since 2001, the reduction in health insurance costs as a component of compensation could indicate a further decrease in the number of employers offering health coverage.

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MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE IMPACTS UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Effective July 24, 2009, the federal minimum wage increased from \$6.55 per hour to \$7.25 per hour. This will raise the minimum quarterly wages Idaho's workers will need in order to qualify for unemployment insurance benefits. On Jan. 3, 2010, Idaho's minimum weekly benefit amount will change from \$65 to \$72, an increase of 10.7 percent. This will make workers filing after that date ineligible for benefits if their wages calculate a weekly benefit of \$71 or less.

EFFECT ON TRUST FUND

It is expected that approximately 800 unemployed workers in Idaho will no longer be eligible for unemployment benefits once the changes caused by the higher minimum wage take effect. They would average 17 weeks of benefits and save Idaho's Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund approximately \$925,000 annually.

GENDER & ETHNICITY

Approximately 60 percent of those who will no longer be eligible for unemployment benefits are female. Just under 14 percent of those who will not qualify for benefits are Hispanic.

Effects of Minimum Wage Change

Minimum. . .	2009	2010
Wage per hour	\$6.55	\$7.25
Weekly benefit amount	\$65	\$72
High quarter wages	\$1,690	\$1,872

Annual Effect on Trust Fund After Minimum Weekly Benefit Amount Changes to \$72

Estimated UI recipients affected	800
Average duration in weeks	17
Average weekly benefit amount	\$68
Total UI* payments saved	\$924,800

UI = unemployment insurance*

Gender and Ethnicity of Those Affected

Male	311	38.8%
Female	489	61.2%
Hispanic/Latino	111	13.9%
Non-Hispanic/Latino	689	86.1%

AGE

When Idaho's minimum weekly benefit amount changes from \$65 to \$72, the greatest impact will be on the state's younger workers. More than 50 percent of those impacted are 34 years old or younger. Over 20 percent will be 22 years old or younger.

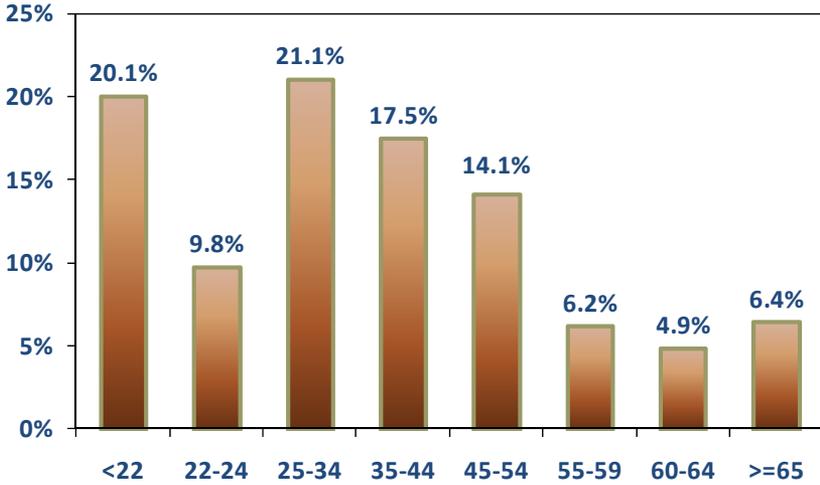
INDUSTRIES

Slightly more than 20 percent of workers being affected by the change in the weekly benefit amount are working in the accommodation and food services industry. Nearly 30 percent more will come from retail trade and the administrative and support services industries.

OCCUPATIONS

The occupation affected most by the change in benefit amount are food preparers, accounting for more than 20 percent of the workers no longer able

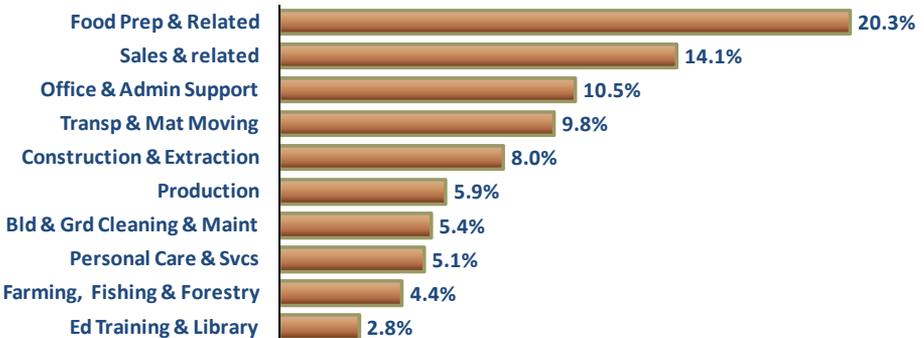
Age of Those Affected



Industries Affected



Occupations Affected



to obtain benefits. Sales and office support staff together represent nearly 25 percent more of all affected workers.

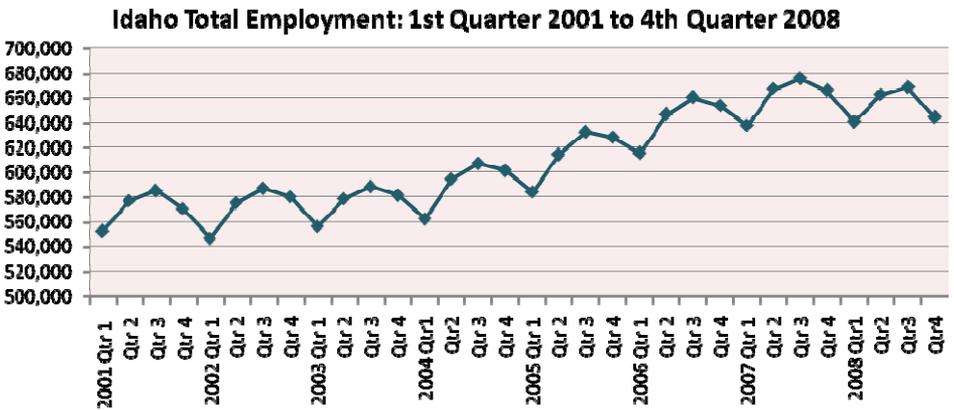
The occupation affected most by the change in benefit amount are food preparers, accounting for more than 20 percent of the workers no longer able to obtain benefits. Sales and office support staff together represent nearly 25 percent more of all affected workers.

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4TH QUARTER JOBS DECLINE FIRST TIME IN DECADE

For the first time in over a decade, Idaho saw jobs decline from the third to the fourth quarter of 2008. Covered employment reported through the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages totaled 643,854 in the October-December fall quarter, down from 667,875 in the third quarter. The fourth quarter total was also 21,434 below the fourth quarter of 2007. The dramatic decline brought job levels back to where they were in first quarter of 2008. All but a handful of industries felt the declines, and the others saw typically modest gains. The largest was nearly 5,500 in public schools, reflecting the resumption of schools in the fall.



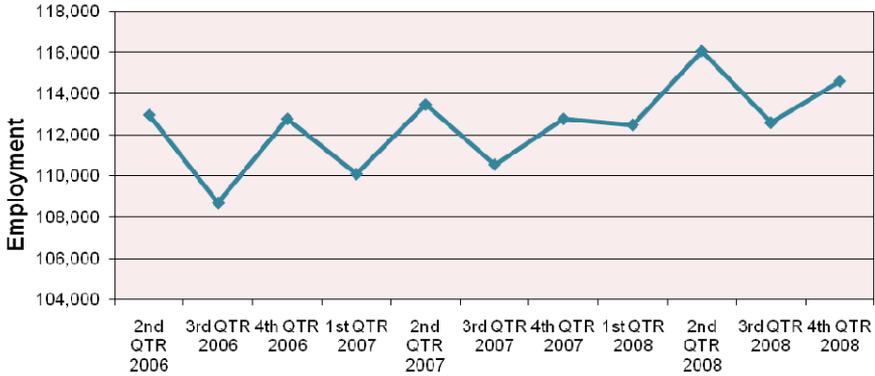
Private-sector jobs totaled 529,249 in the fourth quarter, down 20,373, or 3.7 percent, from the third quarter but 22,503, or 4.08 percent, below the year-earlier level. Limited seasonal hiring in some sectors was eclipsed by job losses in others. Government, including education, averaged 114,602 jobs in the fourth quarter, up by 2,020, or 1.8 percent, from the third. That reflects the normal third to fourth quarter increase for government employment with the beginning of school in the fall. See *figure 1 on page 6*.

Rather than the marked gain expected in retail trade from third to fourth quarters, the industry instead lost 876 jobs, or 1.1 percent, and employment in fourth quarter was 3,259, or 3.8 percent, lower than fourth quarter of 2007. This continued retail's weak performance throughout 2008. Motor vehicle and parts dealers and building material and garden supply stores – the third quarter's biggest losers – continued the losing streak, shedding 905 jobs in autos and parts and 816 jobs in building and garden supplies. As in third quarter, losses in these sectors were offset by gains in others. Clothing stores picked up 273 jobs and general merchandise added 700. Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores and nonstore retailers also saw moderate gains of 150 to 170. See *figure 2*.

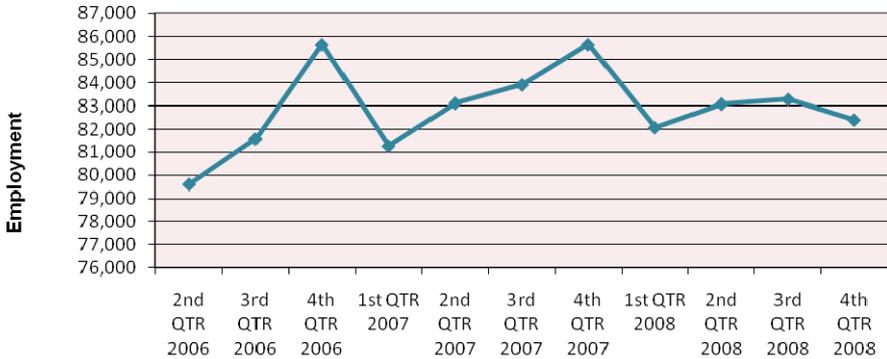
Health care employment continued to flatten out in fourth quarter, rising just 0.7 percent, or 468 jobs from the third quarter. This was even lower than the 0.9 percent growth of third quarter. Nursing and residential care facilities added 222 jobs and hospitals another 286. Social assistance lost 156 jobs while ambulatory care gained 116. The net result was that both slipped back to second quarter employment levels. See *figure 3*.

Construction continued to decline, dropping another 5,513 jobs, or 11.4 percent. The loss was in excess of the expected seasonal decline in construction employment and greater than 2007's third-to-fourth quarter loss of 8.4

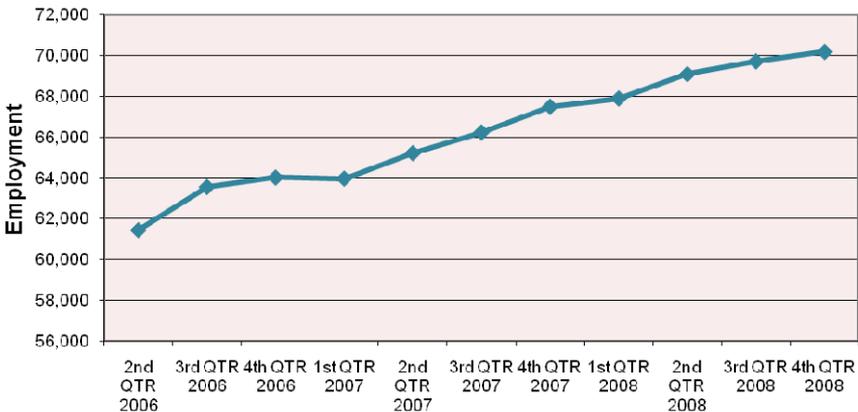
**Figure 1. Public Administration Employment:
2nd Q 2006 to 4th Q 2008**



**Figure 2. Retail Trade Employment:
2nd Q 2006 to 4th Q 2008**

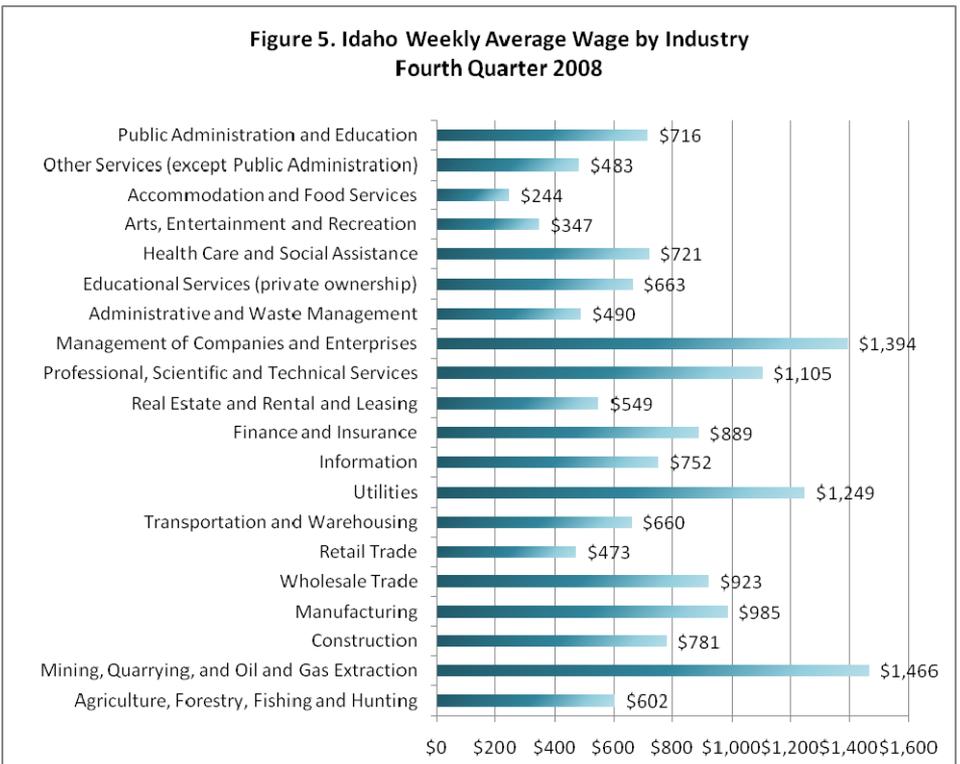
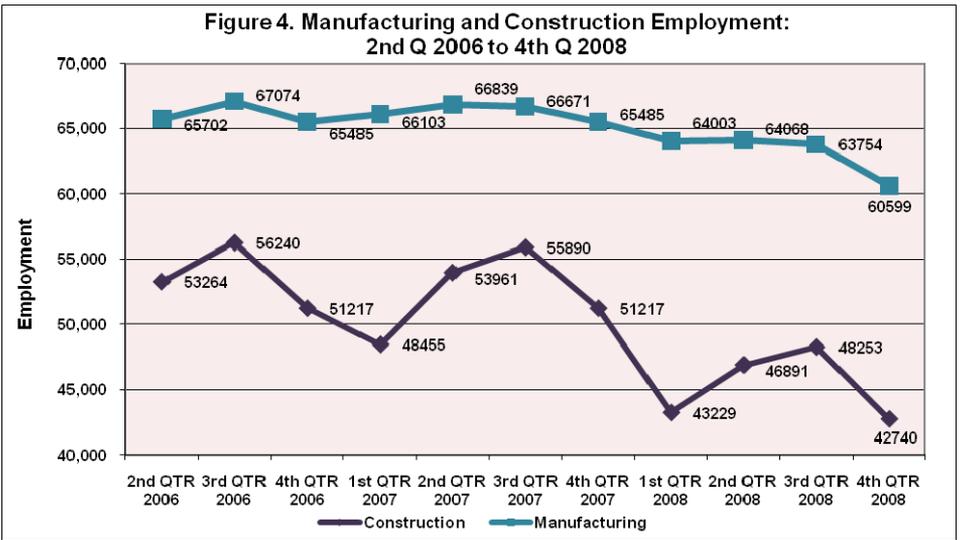


**Figure 3. Health Care and Social Assistance Employment:
2nd Q 2006 to 4th Q 2008**



percent. Employment levels in fourth quarter 2008 were 8,477, or 16.6 percent, lower than they were at the end of 2007. All sectors lost. Heavy and civil engineering dropped 1,166 jobs and construction of buildings lost 1,000. Specialty trade contractors cut payrolls by another 3,347 jobs between third and fourth quarter 2008 and 5,266 jobs from one year earlier, remaining the hardest hit component of the construction sector. See figure 4.

Manufacturing continued its job loss begun in third quarter, losing a total of 3,154 jobs in the fourth quarter and bringing employment down to 4,886, or 7.5 percent, less than in fourth quarter 2007. Durable goods suffered heavier losses than nondurable goods, 2,978 or 7.7 percent versus 176 or .70 percent, bringing the total loss in durable goods since last year up to 5,168. The sectors which lost the most jobs were wood product manufacturing at 1,069, computer and electronic product manufacture at 1,007, and transportation equipment manufacture at 446. See figure 4.



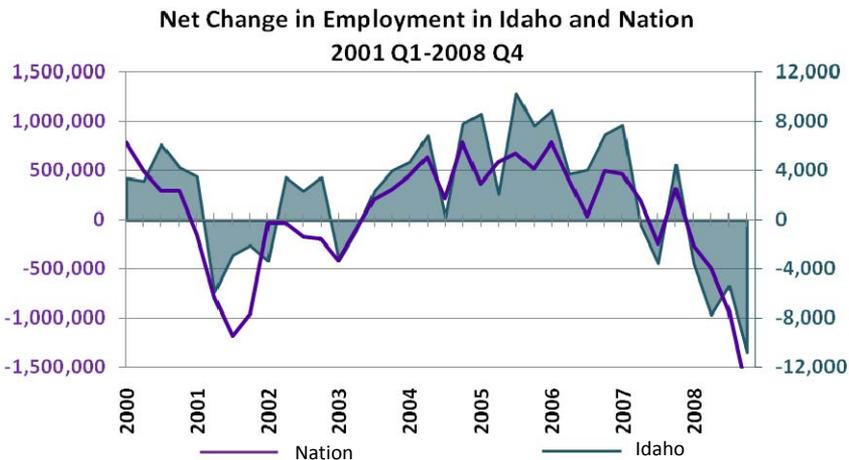
WAGES

During the fourth quarter of 2008, Idaho's average weekly wage for all industries was \$693, up \$50 from the previous quarter. The lowest wages were reported in accommodations and food services at \$244, a \$6 decrease from the third quarter, and leisure activities at \$347, a \$16 increase. Company management recorded the highest wage at \$1,394 a week, unchanged from the previous quarter. Mining followed at \$1,466, up \$473 from the third quarter and the largest increase of any industry. Utilities came in at \$1,249, up \$70 from the third quarter, and professional, scientific and technical services hit \$1,105, a \$133 increase. See figure 5 on page 7.

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IDAHO'S NET JOB LOSS TOPS 27,000 IN 2008

Idaho suffered a net loss of 10,700 private sector jobs during the fourth quarter of 2008 on a seasonally adjusted basis, pushing total net job loss for 2008 over 27,400. These four quarters of consecutive job loss matched the economic experience during the 2001 recession, but the job loss in the current recession through 2008 was substantially greater than 2001's just over 14,000, according to the Business Employment Dynamics program of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



The Business Employment Dynamics program tracks information on job gains and losses from private businesses opening, expanding, closing and downsizing, providing another tool for analyzing the business cycle. From October to December 2008, Idaho's opening and expanding businesses added fewer than 39,000 jobs while those closing or downsizing cut over 49,000. The net loss of nearly 10,800 jobs was the largest quarterly job loss since the statistical series began in 1992.

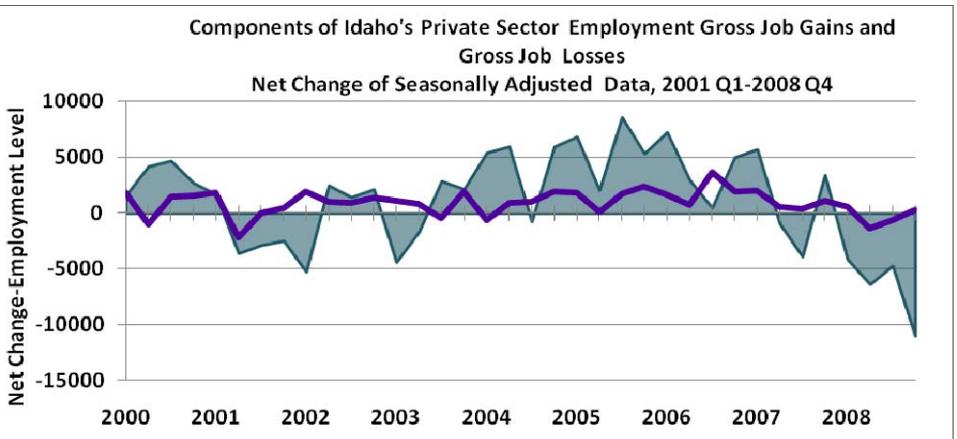
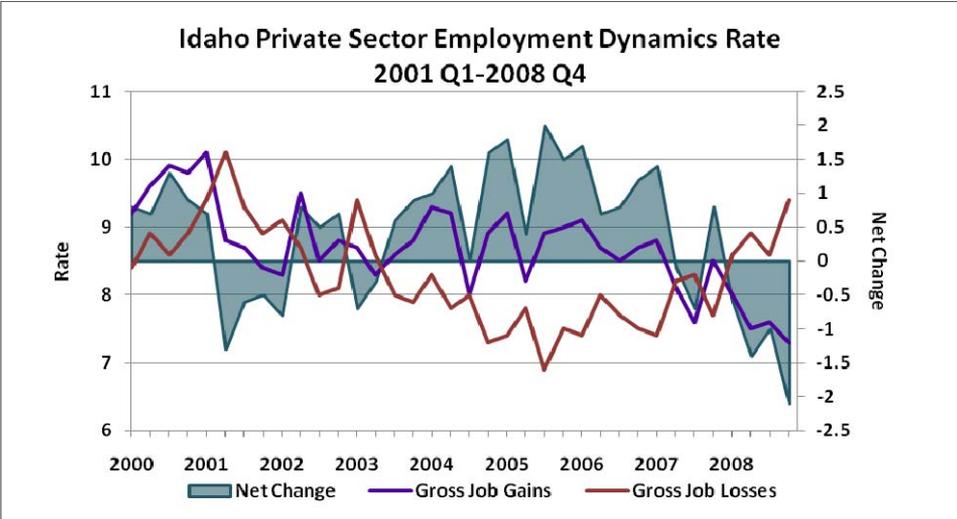
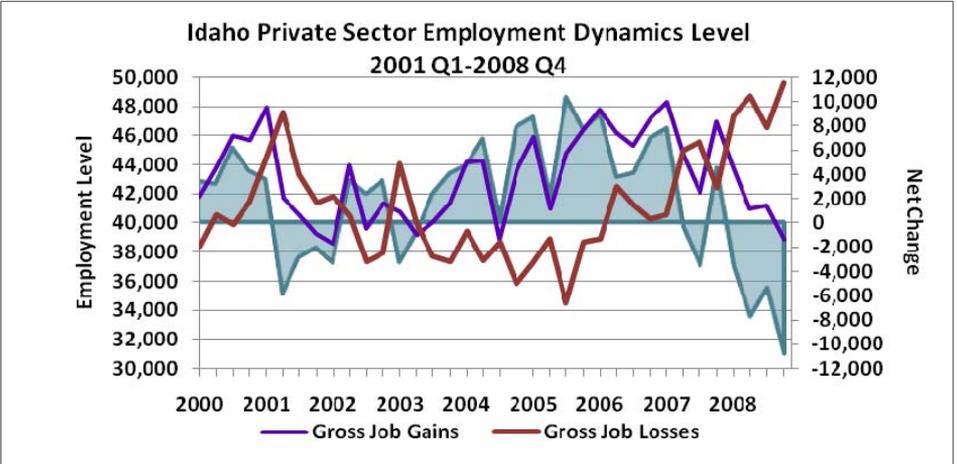
While the National Bureau of Economic Research marks the recession's start in December 2007, Idaho began seeing evidence of a slowdown during the second quarter of 2007. In the six quarters that followed, Idaho lost jobs in all but the fourth quarter of 2007, and in spite of that quarter's slight gain, the net number of jobs lost since the downward trend began approached 27,000 by the end of 2008.

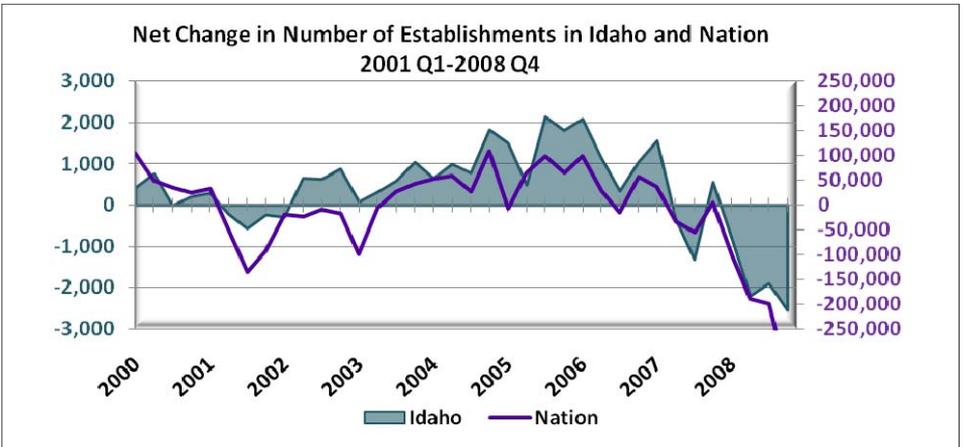
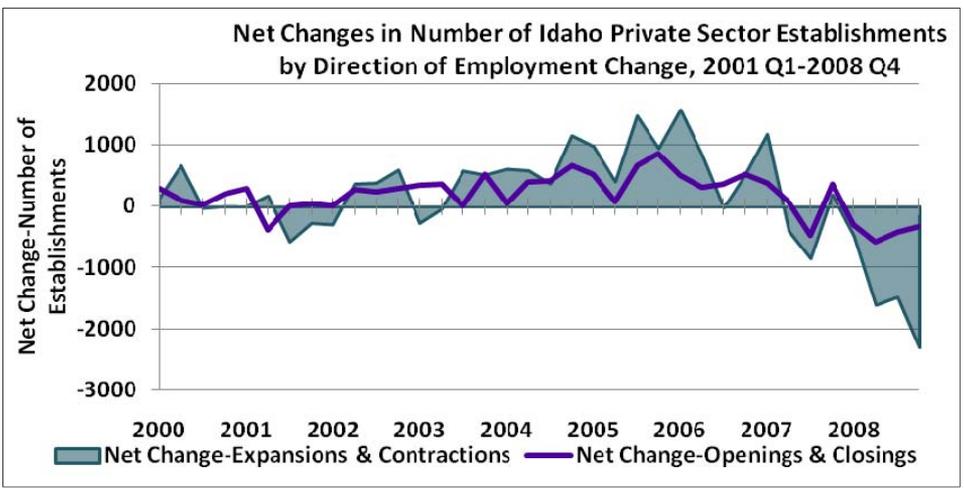
The rate of job gains reached an all-time low in the fourth quarter of 2008 at just 7.3 percent, and that was more than offset by a 9.4 percent decline in jobs from businesses downsizing or outright closing. That was up from the third quarter and the highest percentage job loss since the recession began.

Contracting businesses shed nearly 11,000 more jobs than expanding businesses created during the fourth quarter of 2008 while new businesses created only 215 more jobs than closing businesses eliminated.

Just under 11,500 of Idaho's 50,000 businesses added jobs during the fourth quarter of 2008 – 8,600 through expansion and 2,800 opening for the first time. But over 14,000 others eliminated jobs – 10,900 downsized and 3,200 closed altogether.

Nationally, fourth quarter 2008 saw a job loss of over 1.7 million stretching across all economic sectors. That exceeded the previous record loss of nearly 1.2 million in the third quarter of 2001. New and expanding businesses created 6.7 million jobs, 110,000 fewer than in the third quarter. That was more than offset by the loss of 8.5 million jobs as even more businesses closed or pared payrolls.





All sectors but utilities, education and health services experienced net job loss in the fourth quarter of 2008. Health care and education posted a net increase of 176,000 jobs across the county during the quarter, continuing to be the only sectors to gain every quarter since the beginning of the series in 1992. Utilities gained 1,000 jobs. But those gains were overwhelmed by the loss of 423,000 jobs in manufacturing, 385,000 in professional and business services, 337,000 in construction, 346,000 in retail trade, 124,000 in leisure and hospitality and 109,000 in financial services. This was the largest quarterly loss for financial services in the six straight quarters it has seen jobs contract.

Alaska remained the state with the highest gross job gain at 10.9 percent followed by Wyoming's 8.8 percent. The third highest job gain was Montana's at 7.9, and Idaho posted a gross job gain rate of 7.3, ranking sixth nationally. Alaska's job gain, however, was more than offset by an 11.2 percent gross job loss, the highest loss rate in the nation, and Idaho's gain was overshadowed by a 9.4 percent job loss. Nevada ranked third with a 9.3 percent increase in job losses. Overall, Idaho's economy throughout 2008 fell at record rates with further declines anticipated.

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

***See the August 2009 issue of the Idaho Employment Newsletter for third quarter findings. Click [HERE](#) to read the newsletter.**

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ENERGY, ADVANCED MANUFACTURING SECTORS EMERGING

During the past several years southeastern Idaho government officials, economic development specialists and business leaders have been talking about encouraging industries in the economy’s strongest and fastest growing sectors – mainly energy, advanced manufacturing and health care. Health care has long been recognized by the North American Industrial Classification System, but energy and advanced manufacturing have not because both combine components of several recognized sectors. Their emergence today as significant economic factors is increasing pressure for both to be formally recognized – something that would help identify job growth and training needs for each.

In general advanced manufacturing is the application of new technologies, improved processes and innovative management to improve the quality and efficiencies of any particular manufacturing process.

All three sectors will likely experience growth in southeastern Idaho and much of the rest of the state and nation. But agriculture will certainly remain one of the strongest components of the regional economy. The geography and environment of southeastern Idaho combine with good farming practices to make Idaho one of the

national leaders in the production of several commodities. Table 2 lists the commodities for which Idaho ranked in the top 10 nationally in 2007 compared to 1999. Clearly Idaho agriculture is important to the nation and Table 3 shows the importance of southeastern Idaho to Idaho agriculture. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s 2007 Census of Agriculture, Bingham County leads the state the total value of crops and nursery products produced. Bingham and Power counties are first and second in the production of both potatoes and wheat. The same counties are third and fourth in sugar beet production, and Bingham is second in the number of beef cattle and calves.

Product	2007 Rank	% of US product	1999 Rank
All Potatoes	1	29%	1
Food-size Trout	1	73%	1
Austrian Winter Peas	1	51%	1
Barley	2	21%	3
Wrinkled Seed Peas	2	25%	2
Sugar Beets	2	18%	3
Alfalfa Hay	3	7%	7
Hops	3	7%	3
All Mint	3	17%	3
Cheese	3	8%	4
Onions	4	12%	3
Lentils	4	13%	2
Prunes & Plums	4	15%	4
Dry Edible Peas	4	3%	2
Milk Production	4	7%	6
Spring Wheat	5	6%	9
Dry Edible Beans	5	6%	7
Milk Cows	5	6%	7
Sweet Cherries	6	1%	5
Wool	8	5%	9
All Hay	9	4%	11
All Sheep & Lambs	9	4%	9
Peaches	10	1%	12
Honey	10	3%	10

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

- **Bannock County** agriculture is very diversified. It ranked 25th among the 44 counties in total value of agricultural products sold. The county has the fifth highest number of horses and ponies, and most other agriculture-related products are found ranked between 18th and 25th.
- **Bear Lake** ranked 36th in the value of agricultural products sold but ninth for the amount of land used for forage – land used for hay, haylage, grass

2007 County Ranking in Southeastern Idaho

PRODUCT	COUNTIES			
	Bannock	Bear Lake	Bingham	Caribou
Vegetable including potatoes	18	38	1	14
Grains	21	37	1	18
Sugar beets			3	
Alfalfa	29	9	5	23
Milk and dairy products	14	17	14	16
Safflower				
Ave. per farm sales reported	\$ 36,555	\$38,886	\$ 267,420	\$ 121,172
Number of farms	937	445	1,328	454
Average farm acreage	344	524	687	928

2007 County Ranking in Southeastern Idaho

PRODUCT	COUNTIES				
	Franklin	Oneida	Power	Idaho	U. S.
Vegetable including potatoes	26	25	2		
Grains	27	28	10		
Sugar beets			4		
Alfalfa	15	14	36		
Milk and dairy products	12	27	18		
Safflower	1	2			
Ave. per farm sales reported	\$106,576	\$59,533	\$488,493	\$224,418	\$135,000
Number of farms	739	463	336	25,349	2,207,792
Average farm acreage	304	678	1,343	454	418

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

silage and greenchop. The county ranked 17th for the production of milk and other dairy products.

- **Bingham County** agricultural products ranked sixth in total value and 115th among all the counties in the United States. It led the state in the value of crops and nursery products. In addition to being the leading producer of potatoes and wheat, the county has the second highest number of horses and ponies and is third in sugar beet production.
- **Caribou County** ranked 21st in the production of all agricultural products in Idaho. The county ranked third in barley production for grain and fifth for aquaculture products.
- **Franklin County** ranked 18th in the value of all its agricultural production and first in the production of safflower, mink, chickens and eggs.
- **Oneida County** ranked 30th in overall agricultural product value but was second most in safflower production and sixth for producing mink and their pelts.
- **Power County** ranked 12th in overall agricultural value and sixth for crop value. The county was second in potatoes production and fourth for sugar beets. Its agricultural sales ranked 471st among all the counties in the nation.

A strong agricultural base generates relationships with many other industries for production-related assistance, and the greater the agriculture base,

the bigger and broader those relationships are. Southeastern Idaho has several other industries in the region that depend on agricultural production to the same degree the producers depend on those industries. Examples include large food manufacturing and processing plants, manufacturers of farm equipment, rail and truck transportation, and the financial industry needed to finance the year to year operation of much of the agricultural.

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POCATELLO AREA SAW LABOR FORCE EXPANSION IN SEPTEMBER

The employment picture in metropolitan Pocatello contrasted with the situation statewide from August to September. Statewide the civilian labor force contracted faster than total employment, driving the jobless rate down a notch to 8.8 percent. But the Pocatello metro area saw its labor force expand significantly – and faster than employment rose – driving the unemployment rate up four-tenths of a point to 8.4 percent despite an employment increase of 2,200. In the two-county metro area, total unemployment rose 500 in Bannock County, but unemployment rates declined in smaller Power County and four of the other five counties in southeastern Idaho. The improved labor situation outside of Pocatello resulted in the regional unemployment rate slipping a third of a point from August to 7.3 percent in September as total employment rose by 3,800. For the past 10 years the number of jobs in the Pocatello metropolitan area has increased from August to September as local schools and Idaho State University resumed normal classes, and 2009 was no exception. There was a net increase of 530 jobs in education, which accounted for all the job increase in September and offset a slight decline in construction.

While total job decreased, the past 10 years indicate metro Pocatello's unemployment rate should drop substantially from August to September. The average has been nearly nine-tenths of a point. The four-tenths of a point increase this year primarily was the result of a record increase in the city of Pocatello, where unemployment jumped from 7.6 percent in August to 9.2 percent in September. This likely reflects changes in the rules for drawing unemployment, particularly for college students. Previously most full-time college students would not be able to draw unemployment benefits because they would not be considered available for work. And full-time students who were not also working part-time jobs would not have been counted in the labor pool or be eligible for unemployment benefits. Now because of the federal stimulus package students can attend school full time and still draw unemployment benefits and be counted as part of the labor pool.

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SURVEY REVEALS CENSUS DATA FOR IDAHO FALLS AREA

New Census Bureau data show that from 2006 to 2008 what was once a relatively large number of households without telephone service in Idaho Falls virtually disappeared.

The annual American Community Survey found the number of households without phones dropped from 6.2 percent in 2006 to 3.4 percent in 2007 to less than a half percent in 2008. Most likely, the myriad of cell phone companies, bundled packages offered by the traditional phone companies and pre-paid phone options have helped people get affordable access to service.

The American Community Survey is a nationwide survey that provides annual updates between decennial censuses on various demographic, social, financial and other characteristics of the communities and states. The survey:

- is sent to a sample of the population
- tells us what the population looks like and how it lives
- helps communities determine where to locate services and allocate resources.

In Idaho Falls, housing units are getting larger and the prices are moving into the \$150,000 to \$300,000 range where only two years before they were mostly in the \$100,000 to 150,000 range. While three bedrooms is still the most popular home size, five or more bedrooms are becoming more common.

Idaho Falls workers now have an average commute of just over 22 minutes, more than 2 minutes longer than in 2006. More workers are also abandoning cars and trucks for public transportation or walking to get to work.

More foreign-born residents have become naturalized U.S. citizens. The number increased 7 percent from 2006 to 2008.

More data is available at <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/index.html>.

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KENDRICK DESIGNATED SEPTEMBER'S CAPITAL FOR A DAY

Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter designated Kendrick Idaho's Capital for a Day in September, giving the community a needed boost. He and members of his cabinet met with residents of the Kendrick-Juliaetta area.

Like many rural communities in north central Idaho, the Kendrick-Juliaetta's economy remains resource-based with agriculture and timber playing major roles. The economy has stagnated since the early 1980s, and the current recession is further reducing timber jobs. Since they peaked in 2006, forest product payrolls have fallen 40 percent from \$920,000 to an estimated \$550,000 this year. Currently, six government employers – the postal service, the cities of Kendrick and Juliaetta and the school, cemetery and library districts – employ about 95 people while 39 private-sector employers provide 150 jobs. Four years ago, government employment was the same while private-sector employers had 30 more jobs. Most of the job losses came in logging and construction. Most workers living in the Kendrick-Juliaetta area work elsewhere, many commuting to Lewiston, Moscow and Orofino.

Locals want to increase the number of visitors. Kendrick, which has a charming downtown, has created a walking tour of historic buildings including Long House, a mansion built in the 1890s on Main Street. The Castle Museum, originally a house built in the early 1900s and designed to resemble a Scottish castle, overlooks Juliatta. It displays memorabilia from the region's original pioneers. Complementing the area's historic charm is a growing antiques industry.

A 5.3-mile asphalt trail, along the former Northern Pacific Railroad line that runs between Highway 3 and the Potlatch River, opened in 2008. It connects Juliaetta's Centennial Park with the Kendrick High School. The railroad right-of-way, which was abandoned in the 1980s, offers walkers, bicyclists and skaters scenic views and glimpses of ospreys and eagles. It's already proven a big success. To provide space for tourists, the city of Kendrick recently opened a five-site RV park using grant money.

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Area and County Developments

PANHANDLE

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai & Shoshone counties

REGIONAL AND COUNTY UPDATES

- Since the Coeur d'Alene Tribe launched the Citylink bus system four years ago, it has carried more than 1.1 million riders throughout the greater Coeur d'Alene area and Western Benewah County. Stops on its northern loop include Coeur d'Alene, Hayden and Post Falls while its southern loop includes Worley, Plummer, Tensed and DeSmet. Today, close to 40,000 passengers ride the buses each month. In September, the tribe received \$462,000 from the federal government to build a 6,000-square-foot maintenance facility in Worley on land donated by the tribe. That money and \$558,000 received earlier will finance the new shop at a time when four new buses and a maintenance vehicle are being added to the fleet with additional federal money. The system continues to be funded by the federal government with matching money from the tribe and contributions from Kootenai County cities and the Kootenai Medical Center. Of the monthly riders, 6,000 are students and 3,000 are senior citizens. About 3,100 people use the bus to get to work.

BENEWAH COUNTY

- The Coeur d'Alene Tribe received a \$2 million federal stimulus grant to build 10 homes at the site of its former headquarters in Plummer. The Coeur d'Alene Tribal Housing Authority and the University of Idaho's Bioregional Planning Department designed a sustainable and environmentally friendly project called "The Gathering Place" last year. The 10 houses for low- and moderate-income families, slated for completion by the fall of 2010, are the first phase of the project. The tribe hopes to secure funding in the future to build 10 more houses. It received a \$500,000 grant in January to expand the existing sewer lagoon system. It also currently is rebuilding Agency Road, which is the main access to the site, using a \$1 million federal transportation grant.
- The new Tensed fire station is nearing completion. The 2,800 square-foot station is expected to open in mid-October. It provides more usable space and allows all four fire trucks to be stored in one place. Two years ago, the Tensed Fire Protection District asked local landowners for a one-time contribution to help pay for a new station. The community agreed to \$1.25 per \$1,000 of taxable property from each of the 410 landowners in the district. The project cost under \$100,000. Benewah County donated the land for the new station. The biggest contributor to the project is the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, which has already donated more than \$50,000 and has agreed to donate more in the future.
- Enrollments at the St. Maries, Plummer-Worley and Kootenai school districts are falling, suggesting the harsh economic conditions are causing young families to move away. Enrollment in St. Maries fell 4.6 percent to 1,048 this September – the second year in a row that the district lost 50 or more students. Plummer-Worley's enrollment edged down 2.9 percent to 439. The district's enrollment has been falling for five years. The Kootenai District, which covers the Harrison area, saw its first enrollment

drop in three years. It fell 11.8 percent this year to 246. Falling school attendance results in less state school support.

BONNER COUNTY

- Bonner County's largest manufacturer, Litehouse Foods, started a new line in September to produce cider along with its dressings, marinades and dips. Retailers have responded favorably to the special blend of apple varieties. With sales now running about \$3.6 million a week, Litehouse is approaching \$1 billion since its founding in the 1970s. After purchasing a small cheese factory in downtown Sandpoint in 2001, Litehouse has become a leading supplier of bleu cheese, boosting the local dairy industry. The company is becoming employee-owned through an Employee Stock Option Plan. More than 360 people work at the Litehouse headquarters and production facility. The Sandpoint company recently teamed up with Dreamworks, the movie production company, to promote the "Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa" movie.
- Quest Aircraft Co. received an unrestricted production certification for the Kodiak airplane Sept. 15 from the Federal Aviation Administration. Quest already had delivered 22 Kodiaks and is producing three a month. With the production certification in hand, Quest can streamline the production and delivery process over time because it is now responsible for inspections and coordinating changes with the FAA's Seattle manufacturing inspection office. The Kodiak is a 10-seat single engine turboprop utility airplane able to land on the shortest of airstrips. Quest's plant at the Sandpoint airport produced its first Kodiak at the beginning of 2008. Its employment rose from 50 in 2007 to 330 when certification was received. But since then, Quest laid off 25 employees, who had been hired for a production expansion to four planes a month. The continued recession, however, persuaded Quest to put off any expansion for the foreseeable future. Despite the slowdown, Quest has a two-year backlog of orders for the Kodiak.
- Laughing Dog Brewing in Ponderay has a growing reputation for its hand-crafted ales. For the second year in a row, its Hop Dog Fresh Hop Pale Ale beat the products of 15 breweries at a regional festival in Seattle. Laughing Dog employs 10. The brewery has expanded distribution outside the Northwest, selling in Pennsylvania and Alaska. Its taproom and gift store provide visitors to the Sandpoint area another attraction to visit.
- A small Sandpoint company is thriving as a Web retailer by developing a formula that puts its name atop Google search results when people look for products like safes, computer desks, garage cabinets and massage chairs. ClickShops doesn't make anything it sells. It uses its Web tactics to sell other companies' products on its own Web site. Launched in 2005 by brothers Richard and Doug Marks, ClickShops runs about 30 Web sites for products. It employs eight. Their most popular Website is Gunsafes.com. This summer, ClickShops opened a store on Sandpoint's Fifth Avenue, where shoppers can view the online store and its featured products.
- The city of Sandpoint is opening a second business incubator this month. The new incubator will be located inside Panhandle State Bank's headquarters building in downtown Sandpoint and will focus on technologically intensive businesses, providing them with a relatively inexpensive place to start up. The Bonner Business Center, the first business incubator that opened near the airport in 1992, focuses on manufacturing. It also houses a certified commercial kitchen, available to small-scale food processing companies by the hour. With the new incubator, Mayor Gretchen Hellar said the community is "looking at it as a way of doing for high-tech service

professional start-up businesses what we've been able to do for manufacturing and food processing out at the other incubator."

BOUNDARY COUNTY

- Bonners Ferry was one of 11 towns on Mother Earth News' list of "Great Places You've (Maybe) Never Heard Of." The annual list recognizes towns that demonstrate positive civic energy, investment in the local economy and meaningful initiatives for the environment. The issue released in late September spotlighted Bonners Ferry's evolution from a logging town to a vibrant community with an active arts scene and a strong commitment to local business. It also praised the Kootenai Tribe's environmental efforts, including its efforts to restore sturgeon to local rivers. "Bonners Ferry shows how a town can reinvent itself and still keep a unique local flavor," the magazine said.
- September marked the 35th anniversary of the Kootenai Tribe's declaration of war on the United States government. A new documentary, "Idaho's Forgotten War," tells the story. In those days, the tribe's members lived in poverty, stranded without reservation land. Unrecognized as a sovereign tribe, they were cut off from federal aid. The war began with a roadblock on U.S. Highway 95 where tribal members requested 10 cent donations from motorists moving north and south near Bonners Ferry. The resolution to the war brought the tribes 12 acres for a reservation and money for a new road, new homes and a community center. Now the tribe's Kootenai River Inn and Casino is the flagship of Boundary County's tourism industry, employing more than 160 people. The tribe's sturgeon hatchery is recognized worldwide, and the tribe donates thousands of dollars to the school district and North Idaho College's Bonners Ferry center. Boundary County School District recently received \$78,980 from the tribe, which was instrumental in bringing the community health clinic and 40 jobs to Boundary County.
- TrussTek is preparing to rise from the ashes. The mill built trusses near Three-Mile corner north of Bonners Ferry from 1991 until a fire destroyed it in August. Owner Ted William says a few of the presses that make trusses will be operable by mid-October so the company can resume filling orders and taking new ones. The new building is set for completion in May 2010, allowing TrussTek to return to full operation. Before the fire, TrussTek employed about 36 workers.
- A Bonners Ferry startup, Selkirk Construction and Design, is growing despite the depressed conditions in the U.S. construction market. It makes custom garden pergolas, arches and arbors. By operating in the heart of Western Red Cedar country, the company keeps its costs down while the competition has to ship lumber cross country and then ship the product to consumers. It also keeps costs low by using lean technology to increase efficiency and eliminate waste. Selkirk harvests 100 percent of its cedar on its own private 1,000-acre ranch. All lumber for SCD is custom milled by Neumayer Mill Inc. in Bonners Ferry.
- The International Selkirk Loop and Rotary International just wrapped up its first WaCanId Bike ride Oct. 1-5. The 340-mile ride along a part of the Selkirk Loop brought an estimated 500 bicyclists to Bonners Ferry, Oldtown, Priest River, Sandpoint and other towns on the route. Geared toward recreational riders and touring cyclists, the ride gave participants the choice of stopping and starting at any of eight towns on the loop. The ride organizers plan to make it an annual event and expect turnout to rise as the word gets out.



- Eight towns in the Idaho Panhandle, eastern Washington and southern British Columbia are linked together by the 450-mile International Selkirk Loop, the only international scenic by-way in North America. The scenic route has begun to receive quite a bit of national attention. The U.S. Department of Transportation named it among the top 10 scenic destinations in the Northern Rockies, Sunset Magazine called it the West's best scenic drive and Rand McNally updated its road atlas with a special feature that includes the loop as one of only five routes earning its "Best of the Roads" recognition. The Web site provides more information at <http://www.selkirkloop.org/>.



- Ornamental tree nurseries, Christmas tree farms and greenhouses play a major role in the area's economy. October is a busy time of the year for many tree nurseries, which ship product in the fall. At the end of the month, Christmas tree farms will hire a few dozen people to help with their annual harvest.

In 2008, 25 ornamental tree nurseries, Christmas tree farms, greenhouses and tree nurseries paid \$4.4 million in wages and salaries in Bonner and Boundary counties and employed 213 people. Another 12 farms and ranches averaged monthly 182 employees, paying \$8.3 million in wages and salaries, with nursery employment peaking in April with 355 jobs. The 2007 Census of Agriculture indicates Boundary County had 373 farms with a product market value of \$30.2 million last year. The value of nursery and greenhouse sales was \$10.2 million. During that time, Bonner County had 687 farms with a product market value of \$10.7 million, while nurseries and greenhouses generated \$3.4 million. The sales generated by nurseries and greenhouses in both counties were the largest of all farm categories. The value of Christmas tree farm sales in Boundary County could not be reported for confidentiality reasons, but they generated \$1.6 million in Bonner County.

Sales of ornamental tree nurseries depend to a large degree on the level of U.S. residential construction. The more new houses are being built, the greater the demand for young trees. The severe downturn in the U.S. housing market has reduced employment at the area's tree nurseries about 20 percent from their record high levels in 2007.

KOOTENAI COUNTY

- A looming \$151 million shortfall in the state's budget is requiring public colleges and universities, including North Idaho College, to cut budgets by 6 percent. That means NIC will have to reduce its spending by \$604,000. The college aims to minimize the impact on students, faculty and staff. Vacant and new positions will only be filled with approval from the college president's cabinet. NIC will avoid layoffs by reducing travel and professional development costs, and by postponing equipment purchases.
- Pita Pit Inc., headquartered in downtown Cœur d'Alene, is garnering attention for its successful restaurant chain. Franchise Direct ranked Pita Pit at No. 49 on its inaugural list of the Top 100 Global Franchises. According to the list, the franchises in the top 100 all share a defined identity, a clear business plan, a commitment to training and support, and an ability to innovate. Pita Pit also was recently named one of Restaurant Business Magazine's "Future 50" fastest-growing small chains in the United States.

Pita Pit opened 30 stores in 2008 and expects to open more than 20 in 2009. Currently, there are 176 Pita Pits in 38 states.

- Another Coeur d'Alene-based franchisor, San Francisco Sourdough Eatery Inc., plans to expand its sandwich-shop chain dramatically. It could open as many as 100 new eateries in the next three years. There currently are seven San Francisco Sourdough outlets. The chain opened its first franchise in 2004.
- Ron Nilson, president and CEO of Ground Force Manufacturing, was honored as one of Idaho's top five innovators by business law firm Stoel Rives LLP at its fourth annual Idaho Innovation Awards in September. Ron Nilson's years of Ground Force, the Post Falls manufacturer of customized mining equipment and leadership of Panhandle manufacturers earned him the Governor's Choice Award, which seeks to recognize long-term efforts that epitomize the innovative spirit celebrated by the program.

The worldwide decline in mining activity led to Ground Force eliminating 40 of its 80 jobs in September. Ground Force hopes to recall the laid-off workers in the first quarter.

- The recession is bringing new students to the Coeur d'Alene campuses of the University of Idaho and Lewis Clark State College. The schools offer bachelor and higher level programs not offered by North Idaho College, which provides two-year academic programs as well as professional-technical programs. Enrollment at Lewis Clark State College-Coeur d'Alene grew 9.4 percent, from 358 last fall to 396 this fall. The University of Idaho's Coeur d'Alene center saw enrollments rise 13.3 percent from 397 to 447.
- After months of uncertainty as to whether it would get off the ground this year, construction on the Post Falls Chamber of Commerce's new 5,900-square-foot building next to city hall started in October. It wouldn't have happened without a \$50,000 donation by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. The tribe believes in supporting business and also wanted to show its appreciation to the support of Post Falls according to Tribe Chairman James Allan. Post Falls hosts the tribe's annual powwow that draws Native Americans from all over the U.S. The chamber also received approval for up to \$36,000 in urban renewal funding to be used for infrastructure and improving the public space in front of its building as part of the City Center Urban Renewal District. The city is buying the current 1,600-square-foot chamber office on Sixth Avenue for \$50,000 for art and dancing classes.
- Despite the recession, new businesses continue to open in Coeur d'Alene. The Locker Room, a new barber shop on Government Way, features flat-panel TVs playing sports at every work station and a waiting area with beverages and other sports diversions such as games and a dart board. It also sells sports merchandise. Syringa Ballet Academy on Fourth St. offers classical and contemporary ballet for every level and every age. Donut House opened a drive-through doughnut shop in October on Lincoln Way. T-Mobile, a company offering wireless phone services and other phone services, opened a store in September in the Sportsman's Warehouse Plaza. Vito's That's Italian recently opened in the former Sunshine Trader space on Ironwood. The restaurant, which serves lunch and dinner, employs 10 people. The Quik Cash outlet that just opened at the intersection of Appleway and Government Way offers payday loans, title loans, check cashing and money transfers. Phones Plus, the primary retailer for Verizon Wireless in Northern Idaho, is constructing a new store on Highway 95.

- Walgreens plans to open its new 14,000-square-foot drug store on Highway 95 in Hayden in late October. It will employ 25 to 30 people.

SHOSHONE COUNTY

- Shoshone County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate climbed to 14.5 percent in August. A year ago, its unemployment rate was 7.4 percent. The current rate indicates significant economic distress. But as bad as times are now, they pale in comparison to the 1980s. The county went through years of economic misery after the Bunker Hill smelter closed in late 200, and many mines closed or laid off most of their work force. The unemployment rate peaked at 38.3 percent in September 1982 and remained above 10 percent for the next seven years. More than one-fourth of the county's population moved out during that period.
- Although last fall's closure of the Sunshine Mine and layoff at the Galena Mine dragged mining employment down from 789 in August 2008 to 570 this August, it remains close to its August 2007 level. That level is roughly double its record low level of 288 in 2003. With the reopening of the Sunshine becoming a strong possibility and further expansion of mining also becoming more likely, the next few years could bring mining employment to its highest level since the 1990s.
- Although tourism spending was a little slower this year and retail has been depressed by falling incomes, the long-term growth of both should increase over the next couple of years, especially with the opening of the golf course near the Silver Mountain gondola and the expected improvement in consumer spending as the recovery begins to kick in.
- Shoshone County's small manufacturing sector has felt the impact of the recession. Before the recession began in November 2007, it employed 254 people. Today, it employs about 180. Silver Valley manufactures and distributes products including Bandz Inc., adult diapers; Enyeart Cedar Products; Essential Metals Corp., metal refining; Hoffman's Boots; Kellogg Plastics, outdoor lights; Malloy Veneer; Silver Needle, clothing for industrial safety; Spunstrand, industrial ducts; West Pack, bulk bags; and Zanetti Brothers, concrete.
- Timothy Egan, the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who won the National Book Award in 2006 for his book on the Dust Bowl, just released his new book *The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and The Fire that Saved America*. The Spokane-raised Egan wanted to tell the story of the Big Blowup of August 1910, the largest wildfire in U.S. history. In a two-day period, the fire burned more than 3 million acres in Idaho and Montana and destroyed five towns plus one-third of the city of Wallace. It led to major changes in the fire-fighting techniques of the U.S. Forest Service, and influenced the conservation efforts of President Theodore Roosevelt and his chief forester, Gifford Pinchot. The book also features local hero Ed Pulaski, who saved his crew of firefighters by taking them into a mine tunnel as the firestorm approached. Sales of Egan's books should bring more visitors to the Wallace area, as it commemorates the 100th anniversary of the fire next year.
- Upscale boutique Desperate Diva came on the scene in August in downtown Wallace. It sells clothing, purses, glass jewelry made by owner Vicki Harper, birdhouses, specialty beers and wines and gift items.

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NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO

Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce counties

CLEARWATER COUNTY

- Northwest Value Drug and Gift in Orofino is building a 4,500-square-foot store that should open by New Year's. The new location is west of Barney's Harvest Foods, where it is currently housed. After the move Barney's will be able to expand its meat, deli and bakery departments. Both the grocery and drug stores will be adding workers to fill their expanded areas.

IDAHO AND LEWIS COUNTIES

- Construction has begun on a new two-lane bridge to replace the existing one-lane bridge over the Little Salmon River at the south end of Riggins. Crews also will add northbound and southbound turnbays on U.S. Highway 95 for access to the Salmon River Road. Westway Construction of Airway Heights, Wash., is the prime contractor for the \$3.8 million project. Scheduled for completion in fall 2010, the project is part of the multimillion dollar renovation of the Salmon River Road, which began in fall 2007. The renovation includes expanding the route to two lanes, lengthening turnouts, adding paving and improving drainage, all intended to improve traffic safety, maintain the primary access to the Gospel-Hump and Frank Church wilderness areas and reduce maintenance costs and sedimentation into the Main Salmon River.
- A USA Today article in September featured a large picture of Dog Bark Park in Cottonwood. The article mentioned a book by a German writer who scoured the world for unusual accommodations for a book about the most unusual hotels in the world. According to the article, "Sweet Willie, a wooden beagle, stands 33 feet high and bears a sign reading, 'I'm a B&B.' The couple who built Sweet Willie loves dogs. Both are professional chainsaw artists known for their carvings of dog breeds. Instead of chocolates on the pillow, you get dog biscuit-shaped cookies."
- Enrollment is up slightly over last year at the Prairie School District, headquartered in Cottonwood. This September, 413 students were enrolled, up slight from 408 a year ago. But unless something changes, the school district will experience steep enrollment declines in coming years. The middle school, which has four grades, had 30 fewer students than the high school, which also has four grades, while the elementary school, which has five grades, only has eight more students than the middle school.
- The North Idaho Correctional Institution near Cottonwood recently increased efforts to deter escapes. It installed double-strand accordion razor wire atop and at the base of the 10-foot perimeter fence. The average inmate stays 110 days. Each inmate is expected to complete an individualized program that could include counseling for substance abuse, anger and sexual offenses. The prison is also high-school accredited and on average issues 300 General Educational Development certificates a year. Since the prison was established in 1974, it has handled about 25,000 inmates. It has a \$5.5 million budget and employs 99.

LATAH COUNTY

- Winger's has reopened in Moscow after a fire in 2008 severely damaged the restaurant. About 30 people work for the restaurant at the Palouse Mall.

NEZ PERCE AND ASOTIN COUNTIES

- The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality named ATK, the Lewiston ammunition maker that employs nearly 900, one of Idaho's five pollution

prevention champions. ATK's ammunition is lead free. It installed 1,000 energy-efficient light bulbs, saving 2 million kilowatt hours and \$100,000 annually. In 2008, it added a program to recycle 20,000 pounds of scrap metal a year. This year, it is lowering its water consumption by 5.5 million gallons. In addition, it has introduced initiatives to recycle cardboard and other paper products.

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SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO

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

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Throughout southwestern Idaho and the rest of the state, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is advising unemployed workers that their school-age children may be eligible for free or reduced-price breakfasts and lunches. Eligibility is based on weekly household income. The only child of a single parent is eligible if the weekly household income is \$519 or less. Children in a family of four are eligible if the weekly household income is \$785 or less. Nearly 66,000 Idahoans were out of work in August – nearly half in southwestern Idaho – and about 38,000 of them were receiving weekly benefits ranging from \$90 to \$387, including a temporary \$25 supplement from the federal government. The average weekly benefit is about \$280. A year ago, fewer than 40,000 workers were jobless. In the last year, the Idaho economy has lost 47,000 jobs, and more than \$11 million a week in state and federal benefits is currently being disbursed statewide. The National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program were created to provide affordable and nutritious meals to all children. These programs can be a valuable resource for households affected by unemployment. Unemployed workers can apply by submitting a household application directly to their schools.

ADA COUNTY

- Starbucks closed its café in downtown Boise in September because it was under-performing. There are still 17 Starbucks in the Treasure Valley – 16 in Ada County and one in Canyon County – with an average employment of 14. In July 2008 three other Starbucks were closed in Ada County.
- Terry Reilly Health Services will operate the new Substance Abuse and Mental Health Crisis Center in Boise. Ground was broken in September, and the center should be completed in March. The 9,200-square-foot facility will extend emergency sobering services, detoxification services and mental health crisis services to Treasure Valley residents in need. It is estimated that more than 17,000 people in the valley struggle with at least one chemical addiction, and private medical providers currently turn away 335 people a month who voluntarily seek treatment due to a lack of resources.
- Dan Aragon, president of Industrial Insulation Systems, has developed a soft door that swings out on hinges or bends if it is struck by a forklift. The door could save businesses thousands of dollars because no matter how hard people try, forklifts invariably smash into huge refrigerator and freezer doors, breaking frames, wrecking seals. The door, which has a patent pending, is filled with foam in a flexible steel frame. Electromagnets have been installed that keep the door tight against the opening, and the heat they create is circulated through the door frame with tiny fans to keep

frost and ice from building up. As the demand grows, the payroll is anticipated to increase 24 to 100 by the end of 2010. Aragon started his business seven years ago and quickly cast himself in the industrial insulation market as the place to go for people with industrial insulation problems.

- CitySide Lofts condos in Boise successfully used an auction in September to build interest, and some bidders got good deals. The original plan to auction five units turned into seven with prospects for four or five other units to be sold under normal circumstances. The sale prices were not disclosed, but they were discounted from the original asking prices. Several hundred people went through the CitySide Lofts complex.
- In mid-September employee-owned WinCo opened its newest distribution center east of Boise just off Interstate 84. The 750,000-square-foot center - the smallest of the four WinCo has in Oregon, California and Idaho - employs about 250 and makes moving into the Utah market possible. It has the capacity to serve up to 28 stores, more than double the 13 relying on it now. Currently WinCo has 67 stores in Washington, Idaho, Nevada, California and Oregon and will open two stores in Utah this year and three more in 2010. Each store employs about 130. Headquartered in Boise, WinCo's name was the result of an employee contest. It stands for "winning company."
- Northwest Nazarene University has expanded its presence in Boise, adding two offices, a classroom and student study room to the facility the school opened as part of its School of Business in 2000. It now has six classrooms, three offices and three student group study rooms in Boise. The redone facility will also allow the Nampa-based university to conduct its Accelerated Certification for Educators program in Boise for professionals or paraprofessionals who want to become public school teachers.
- Idaho Central Credit Union has more than doubled the size of its building in Boise, one of nine locations in the region. It is the largest and can accommodate more than 8,400 members. It employs about 15.
- Micron was awarded \$5 million in federal stimulus dollars to help cover the cost of the research and development on LED production. Micron is considering a new low-cost method of making a key component of LEDs, which use one-seventh the energy of conventional lighting and last many times longer. Micron wants to convert the technology it uses to make dynamic random-access memory chips on wafers to making LEDs. Currently Micron has 30 people working on the project with another 50 to be hired to retool equipment and set up production. A prototype is expected by June with full production in 2011.
- Intermountain Gas Co. will expand its customer service center in Meridian to serve its 945,000 customers across eight states under the corporate umbrella of MDU Resources Group. The payroll will grow to 140 by late 2010. The customer service center will handle billing questions, setting up service starts and stops as well as other service related issues.

CANYON COUNTY

- The Nampa School Board approved the lowest tax rate for school in 15 years on Sept. 8. The tax rates are submitted to the county every September. The rate represents voter-approved taxes including bonds and supplemental levies plus levies approved by the board, including tort and emergency levies. The property tax rate for Nampa was reduced from \$3.73 per \$1,000 of taxable value to \$3.30 per \$1,000. Fifteen years ago, the rate was \$8.41 per \$1,000 of taxable value. The estimated amount collected

from property taxed this year will be \$12.8 million compared to \$16.6 million last year.

- Macy's opened its new store at Gateway Center in Nampa in October, ending more than three decades at Karcher Mall – first as Falk's Idaho Department Store, then as The Bon Marché and finally as Macy's in 2005. The new single-story, 120,000-square-foot store is twice the size of the mall store and employs 75.
- Northwest Nazarene University implemented an onsite concrete recycling program. The concrete from the foundation of a recently demolished home on campus was ground into gravel-sized bits and will be used as fill on the campus. It is a green initiative that should save the university money. The ground up concrete will likely be reused in future construction projects involving sidewalks and curbs.
- Centennial Job Corps in Nampa celebrated 45 years in September. During that time, the corps has adapted to the demands of an ever-changing job market to put thousands of low-income youth on successful career paths. The Nampa facility is one of 122 campuses nationwide that offer free career-oriented programs and preparation for low-income applicants between the ages of 16 and 24. There are 10 career paths that the students may select from – business technology, certified nursing assistant, computer technologies, culinary arts, carpentry, plastering, painting, electrical, general construction technologies and welding. As Centennial moves to implementing “green” programs, it will begin to offer courses in solar power and other alternative-energy industries.
- Nathan's Everyday Store opened in September. The newest store in Karcher Mall offers an eclectic variety of items from tools to sunglasses. Bryon Hawley ran his own drywall company until the recession hit and then went to work for Joe's Sports in Nampa, where he discovered a passion for retail. Earlier this year when Joe's closed, Hawley opened Nathan's. The new store offers a large selection of name-brand tools to supplement any metal or wood shop, a full line of cell phones and cell phone accessories, as well as men's and women's sunglasses and watches.

ELMORE COUNTY

- Marathon Cheese in Mountain Home laid off more than 50 workers in September. The company said the layoffs were viewed as short-term and a result of the slumping economy. It was the first significant layoff since the plant opened in April 2006. Marathon Cheese employed more than 300 at the time of the layoff. The Mountain Home plant is one of four in the country. It packages cheese for a variety of customers across the country and provides easy access to western markets. Marathon Cheese Corp. is one of the largest independent packagers of natural cheese in the world.
- Glens Ferry celebrated 100 years of incorporation in late September. It was one of the most famous river crossings on the Oregon Trail. Pioneers had to ford the Snake River at Three Island Crossing until 1869 when a ferry began operating two miles upstream. The town site was platted in 1871, just downstream from the ferry site. The first bridge across the Snake River was built there in 1908. Three Island Crossing State Park opened in 1971 and is a major attraction in the area.
- The new Emergency Services Building is open in Glens Ferry. The city donated part of the land for the \$168,000 building, which includes living quarters for on-call ambulance staff, an office/storage area and a combination kitchen/living room. It also has room for two ambulances and four fire department vehicles including two extrication trucks. The project was

financed with the money received from the federal government in lieu of taxes due on public land.

GEM COUNTY

- Gem County residents responded in force to the local economic stimulus plan promoted last summer by the Shadow Butte Development Corp. The organization offered \$20 in gift certificates to consumers who spent \$100 on general merchandise, \$350 on fuel, prescriptions or groceries or made one big-ticket purchase. Consumers spent nearly \$2 million at Gem County businesses in July, qualifying for \$75,000 in gift certificates. They have to be spent in Gem County, and the corporation is tracking where they are spent.
- Three businesses recently located or expanded in Gem County and will eventually provide nearly 50 jobs. They are Yellowstone Power, STP Concrete and Ideal Demolition.
- Bi-Mart opened its Emmett store in mid-September. Several thousand people signed up for lifetime store memberships during the two weeks prior to the store's opening. The Emmett store is also attracting out-of-town shoppers, who previously traveled to Ontario to shop at Bi-Mart. Bi-Mart is based in Yakima, Wash. The Emmett store is the company's 72nd in the Northwest.
- Soda Springs, an independent movie, is being filmed in Emmett, Boise, Payette and Sweet this fall. The film is a modern-day western about a man released from prison who comes back to his Idaho hometown of Soda Springs, where he seeks redemption and finds a second chance. Producer and star Jay Pickett and fellow Canyon County native Gary Hollie operate the company producing the film called 2C Production. They chose to make the movie in Emmett because of its historic downtown. The film will be released sometime in 2010.

OWYHEE COUNTY

- Students at the Canyon-Owyhee School Service Agency received a \$2.5 million grant to provide a new Regional Technology Center in Wilder for the rural school districts of Homedale, Marsing, Notus, Parma and Wilder. The agency provides services that were financially impossible for the rural school districts to provide individually for their students like special education, alternative high school education and professional-technical education. This new center will improve the competitiveness of the region's students by expanding their innovative approach to industry-specific training needs.

PAYETTE COUNTY

- Idaho Power Company has been granted a certificate by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission to build a 330-megawatt natural gas-fired power plant four miles south of New Plymouth near Interstate 84. Operations should begin in late 2012. The commission said the plant is needed to meet future residential and economic development demands across Idaho. The plant will employ up to 120 during construction and 18 full-time workers once it is operational.

VALLEY COUNTY

- American Asset Liquidators in Donnelly is selling home furnishings from foreclosed properties. Since August the store has sold the contents of five homes, all located at the Tamarack Resort. The company provides out-of-state owners the chance to dispose of their property. The owners get a percentage of the sale proceeds and do not have to deal with the expense

of moving their furnishings out while buyers have a chance to buy high quality furniture that is generally in great condition since it was used only a couple of weeks a year.

- Nine Tamarack Resort homeowners want to reopen the chair lifts at the closed resort in time for the ski season and want Fourth District Judge Patrick Owen to give them the go-ahead. If a new resort operator is appointed, the group has secured \$7.9 million in funding from the Mexican-based real estate investment firm Inmobiliaria Las Fuentes, S.A. de C. V. However, the loan comes with strings – Inmobiliaria Las Fuentes, S.A. de C.V. would have senior priority over all creditors, including Credit Suisse which is owed more than \$300 million. The intent of the group is to stabilize the value of their property by resuming resort operations that were the impetus for the development in the first place. The group wants to preserve the Village Plaza, the unfinished centerpiece, which could lose power and heat later in October, making it vulnerable to freezing. The group feels that after 18 months of unsuccessfully searching for lenders or buyers, this is an opportunity to make a receiver loan available.

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SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO

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

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

BLAINE COUNTY

- Sun Valley was ranked the seventh best ski resort in the nation for 2010 by Ski Magazine based on a survey of its readers. Last year, Sun Valley was 11th but improved based on the new gondolas that shortened the time spent waiting to reach the top of Bald Mountain. The survey found 84 percent of the readers are men, the median age is 49 and the median household income is \$127,000.

MINIDOKA AND CASSIA COUNTIES

- Cassia and Minidoka counties have hired former U.S. Sen. Larry Craig's consulting firm, New West Strategies, to help bring a federal prison to the area. Lobbyists will work together with U.S. Geothermal over the next 18 months to secure the contract for prison construction that will begin in about five years. The firm is receiving a monthly fee of \$5,000 plus travel approved up to \$500. The counties believe the geothermal resources in the area, if presented properly to the decision makers, give them an edge in getting the project. The length of the contract has not been released.

GOODING

- Hagerman's Public Library has accepted land donated by Ike and Pauline Thomas to the city for a new facility. The donors are paying part of the title expense associated with title transfer. Building financing and design will get under way once the transfer is final in early November.

JEROME

- Jerome's new Senior Citizen Center opens this fall, enhancing the neighborhood and providing more space for activities. The Senior Center Board secured a \$150,000 community block grant towards construction and other financing was provided by a bond. The city and the Senior Cen-

ter Board are still working out the details of operations and a lease agreement.

TWIN FALLS

- Work has begun on the second phase of the Twin Falls Alternative Route, and Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter pointed out that the project was on the board through the terms of two governors until federal stimulus money got it moving. The truck route will be widened with a new four-lane bridge to reduce the impact of the grade during inclement weather. This cost, originally estimated at \$40 million, will be \$26.6 million. The work is being done by W.W. Clyde & Co. of Springville, Utah. At the September groundbreaking, Otter promised he would be out checking driver’s licenses of the 500 workers employed on the project over the next two years to make sure most jobs go to Idahoans. Glanbia Chief Executive Jeff Williams called the improvements important to his company that has 100 truck drivers travelling 4 million miles annually. Glanbia purchases one-third of the milk produced in the region for about \$500 million a year.
- 
- Dell Computer is revamping its Twin Falls operation, laying off much of the work force and leaving a fifth of the employees working from home handling ordering, shipping and customer satisfaction. A small portion of its Twin Falls work force – primarily phone technicians – will relocate to Oklahoma City, Nashville, Tenn., and Round Rock, Texas. Dell also announced a \$3.9 billion buyout of Perot Systems Corp. Perot Systems, headquartered in Plano, Texas, has expertise in the global tech help arena, a vital component of Dell’s new direction. The newly acquired company was started by H. Ross Perot, a presidential candidate in the 1992 and 1996 and founder of Electronic Data Systems, which was bought by Hewlett-Packard in August 2008 for \$14 billion. Layoffs will occur in phases with the first and largest in early November, another in December and the last in early January. Laid off workers will be entitled to retraining and severance packages.
 - The Twin Falls County Fair saw attendance decline 3 percent from 2008 to 82,050 over the six-day event. Sunday and Monday recorded higher attendance than a year ago, suggesting the economy was keeping people closer to home. But that was offset the rest of the week. Reports were mixed for events like the rodeo, which was supersized this year to include specialty acts and more lucrative payoffs. Fair organizers said the event would break even if attendance exceeded 80,000.
 - SportGymm Fitness has opened in Twin Falls, providing customized personal training in a more private setting than typical gyms. The company also offers nutritional counseling, a full range of supplements, energy and protein drinks and clothing.
 - AllPoint Technology is another new Twin Falls business, featuring information technology services including service at the customer’s site. The company will offer repairs for between \$50 and \$100 with the option of buying a monthly preventative service plan that keeps the viruses and malware away. AllPoint also installs software allowing parents to track keystroke-by-keystroke where their children have been surfing and who they have contacted.

- Locally owned Alpine Jewelers has moved out of the Magic Valley Mall to another location in Twin Falls. Owners did not believe they were benefitting from the higher mall foot traffic. Alpine also has stores in Idaho Falls and Rexburg.
- The Vision Center has opened in Buhl, filling the void left when the local optometrist closed. The store brings in an optometrist twice a week, has over 350 pairs of frames available and provides screening services both there and at schools and businesses. Discounts are offered to seniors and the uninsured.
- Clover Trinity Lutheran Church has opened a Christian-based daycare center adjacent to the school. The Little Lambs Childhood Development Center will offer preschool for 3- and 4-year olds, giving them a jump start for elementary school.

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SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO

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

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

BANNOCK COUNTY

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded Lava Hot Springs a \$1,050,000 federal stimulus grant to cover 90 percent of engineering the upgrade to the city sewer system. The residents recently approved a \$7.5 million bond to finance work expected to begin in 2010.
- Researchers from Idaho State University's Engineering Department will work with research teams from the Idaho National Laboratory and France's Commissariat a l'Energie Atomique to evaluate neutron detectors that monitor nuclear reactor cores. The experiments will be done at the INL's Advanced Test Reactor Critical, a low powered mock-up of the Advanced Test Reactor.
- Pocatello city officials are meeting with officials from the INL and the Pocatello Development Authority on an agreement with IsoRay, a Richland, Wash.-based maker of a radiated isotope used to treat prostate cancer. The development authority and the INL paid \$340,000 to determine the

Unemployment by Percent, Southeastern Idaho Counties

Area	Sep 2009 Unempl. rate forecast	Aug 2009 Unempl. rate preliminary	Sep 2008 Unempl. rate benchmarked
State of Idaho	8.8%	8.9%	5.4%
Southeastern Region	7.0%	7.6%	4.5%
Pocatello MSA	8.4%	8.0%	4.8%
Bannock County	8.4%	7.7%	4.7%
Bear Lake County	6.3%	6.1%	3.9%
Bingham County	6.4%	7.9%	4.5%
Caribou County	6.8%	7.3%	4.5%
Franklin County	3.7%	5.0%	2.4%
Oneida County	5.1%	5.1%	4.4%
Power County	8.4%	11.2%	5.5%

Labor Force for Southeastern Counties

County/Area	Sep 2009 Labor Force	Aug 2009 Labor Force	Sep 2008 Labor Force	#Change From Month	# Change From Year
Bannock County	41,877	39,332	42,687	(810)	2,545
Bear Lake County	3,344	3,436	3,415	(71)	(92)
Bingham County	22,386	21,641	22,319	67	745
Caribou County	3,649	3,588	3,447	202	61
Franklin County	6,088	5,597	6,106	(18)	491
Oneida County	2,221	2,225	2,239	(18)	(4)
Power County	3,766	3,676	3,868	(102)	90
Region	83,331	79,495	84,081	(750)	3,836
Pocatello MSA	45,643	43,008	46,555	(912)	2,635
State of Idaho	750,750	753,284	757,597	(6,847)	(2,534)

	Sep 2009 Total Employed Benchmrkd.	Aug 2009 Total Employed Prelim. Est.	Sep 2008 Total Employed Forecast	#Change From Month	# Change From Year
Bannock County	38,366	36,311	40,664	(2,298)	2,055
Bear Lake County	3,134	3,224	3,282	(148)	(90)
Bingham County	20,962	19,927	21,305	(343)	1,035
Caribou County	3,403	3,325	3,291	112	78
Franklin County	5,863	5,316	5,962	(99)	547
Oneida County	2,108	2,110	2,140	(32)	(2)
Power County	3,449	3,263	3,656	(207)	186
Region	77,285	73,476	80,300	(3,015)	3,809
Pocatello MSA	41,815	39,574	44,320	(2,505)	2,241
State of Idaho	685,057	686,379	716,713	(31,656)	(1,322)

economic feasibility of producing the medical grade product with the expectation that IsoRay would make the product in Pocatello.

- Idaho State University posted a 6.6 percent increase in enrollment over last fall to 13,493 students. That does not include students enrolled in concurrent high school classes or those who may have registered later than 10 days after the semester began.
- The Pocatello Development Authority has agreed to exchange its \$400,000 loan to Positron for 200,000 shares of a secondary company formed to create isotopes using a linear accelerator. The new company, Accelorix, is being formed to diversify and strengthen the research and developing isotopes for use. Removing debt from Positron's balance sheet makes the company more likely to qualify for additional financial assistance if needed to expand.
- Officials with Hoku Materials and JH Kelly are modifying their contract so construction can resume on the \$400 million manufacturing plant in Pocatello. Hoku has since secured the financing to move the plant to the point it can begin producing polysilicon. Work was temporarily halted in August when it appeared Hoku did not have the cash to finish the project. The

amended agreement calls for Hoku to immediately pay \$5 million without interest, late fees or miscellaneous charges. Resumption of construction also enables Hoku to conduct a reactor demonstration in December to prove its ability to produce the amount of polysilicon needed to make solar panels. The plant is supposed to have the capacity to produce 2,500 metric tons by March 2010 and 4,000 tons by December 2010. A leading Chinese manufacturer of photovoltaic cells, Tianwei New Energy Holdings Co. Ltd., is lending \$50 million through the China Construction Bank. In return, Tianwei will become the majority shareholder in Hoku Scientific, the parent company of Hoku Materials.

- The city of Pocatello was awarded \$533,000 and Bannock County \$102,600 from the U.S. Department of Energy's Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program to implement energy efficiency and conservation measures. About \$285,000 will be used to replace 112 pedestrian lights, 67 parking lot lights and 146 intersection street lights with light-emitting diodes. About \$85,000 will be spent to lower the ceiling in the Marshal Public Library to improve heating and cooling efficiency. Another \$45,000 will be used to replace traditional computer monitors for LED flat-screens, which use much less energy. The county will spend most of its grant to upgrade fixtures, replace air conditioning units, install occupancy sensors and replace old office building windows with insulated windows.
- Heinz Frozen Food laid off 65 workers at its Pocatello plant on Sept. 6 to keep production levels in line with demand.
- Costco officials say the Pocatello store met first year expectations. Although not providing the number of memberships or amount of sales, store management said shoppers have come from Wyoming and all parts of eastern Idaho.
- Portneuf Medical Center laid off 38 full-time employees, most in administration. Hospital officials attribute the September layoffs to the economy.
- Fourteen people lost their jobs when Home Living Services Inc., an institutional pharmacy based in Pocatello, was sold to Kentucky-based Omnicare Inc. The new company decided not to retain any of the current employees.

BINGHAM COUNTY

- The city of Blackfoot is receiving \$4 million from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's State Revolving Loan Fund to build a 2.2-million gallon water storage tank. The city plans to budget \$250,000 a year to repay the loan.
- Attendance at the Eastern Idaho State Fair was 211,551 this year. Attendance typically runs right around 200,000. Carnival ride operators reported large increases from previous years, and the final event of the fair, the Demolition Derby, was sold out.
- Health West is going to build a new 3,300-square-foot clinic in Aberdeen after receiving a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development program and money from the federal stimulus package.
- The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes received a \$3.5 million grant to help complete the \$20 million Justice Center in Fort Hall. The building is 66,200 square feet with three courtrooms and separate detention areas for adults and juveniles. It should be open by February 2010.

CARIBOU COUNTY

- The U.S. Bureau of Land Management continues meeting with citizens throughout the area on the impact of Monsanto's request to expand min-

ing operations 10 miles north of Soda Springs. The primary environmental concern is selenium and other elements leeching into streams, rivers and the aquifer.

- Doctor Edward J. Moskowitz opened a urology practice at the Caribou Memorial Hospital specialty medical clinic on Sept.17. It has been several years since the community had a urologist. Local residents have had to travel to Pocatello or Salt Lake. Moskowitz also maintains a practice in Pocatello.
- The city of Soda Springs will spend \$250,000 to match a grant from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for \$997,000 to design the city's wastewater treatment plant. Previous bids for construction came in much higher than expected and were rejected. Officials hope the new design will cut costs. No time lime has been established for construction.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

- The Preston Chamber of Commerce office has closed because of financial problems most members knew nothing about. Country music concerts sponsored by the chamber lost money, contributing to a lack of operating capital. Chamber president Ray Robinson believes the chamber will be reorganized and revived.
- Preston may need a new cemetery site. The Preston City Cemetery is nearly 100 years old and has about 7,000 graves. Only about 150 plots are still available.
- Franklin County Medical Center Administrator Mike Andrus has prepared a slide presentation to build support for a \$31 million bond to build a new hospital. The current hospital was built in 1929 and extensively remodeled in the mid-1960s. While over 425 surgeries were performed in 2008, hospital officials believe they could have performed more if the hospital could have accommodated it.
- Dayton is dedicating a new 770-seat school auditorium. In 1996 the patrons of West Side School District passed a \$700,000 plant facility bond to build an auditorium. After letting the money build up over several years, district officials authorized construction four years ago. Most of the work was done by existing school employees and volunteers. The estimated value of the completed building is more than \$1.2 million.

ONEIDA COUNTY

- A feasibility study is being done on a biodigester in the southeastern corner of the state, according to Kathy Ray, executive director of 4-CASI, the Four County Alliance of Southeastern Idaho. She also said interest has been expressed by several businesses in the building previously used by Hess Cultured Stone in the Malad Industrial Park, but none has committed.

POWER COUNTY

- Ridgeline Energy has applied for a permit to develop a 66-turbine Rockland Wind Farm near Massacre Rocks State Park.

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EAST CENTRAL IDAHO

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

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

VARIOUS COUNTIES

- Enrollment is up at the colleges and universities in eastern Idaho as jobless workers look for an educational edge in landing their next paychecks. Federal stimulus money has opened doors for many students who rely on financial aid to get the training needed for a better or more stable job or entry into a new career. Eastern Idaho Technical College in Idaho Falls had a 12.6 percent enrollment increase from fall 2008, the biggest one-year gain in 10 years. Spokesman Todd Wightman said that unlike the past enrollment spikes where part-time students were the key, this fall has seen most new students enroll full time. Many programs are at capacity, and some have waiting lists up to a year. Enrollment on the Idaho State University-Idaho Falls campus was up 9 percent, more than 2,200 students. Dean of Academic Programs Lyle Castle said the Idaho Falls campus is seeing more “traditional age” students 18 to 22, possibly a reflection of young people saving money by staying home to attend the local college to pick up the skills necessary to compete in the current tight labor market. In the past the campus has had a high level of nontraditional students, who work or have families in the area. Brigham Young University-Idaho in Rexburg has over 12,000 students and expects enrollment to hit 15,000 by 2015. Enrollment this fall was capped at 12,500. University of Idaho-Idaho Falls was the only school in the region to see only fractional student gains, but the enrollment increased 22.9 percent from 2007 to 2008.

BONNEVILLE COUNTY

- Snake River Landing, a Ball Venture’s waterfront development for commercial, residential and recreation, is proposing a 30-acre park of walking paths, waterways and a 3.5-acre lake – also known as Central Valley. The development in Idaho Falls hosted the fall Harvest Fest Oct. 10 with free shows by American Idol finalist David Osmond, T Minus 5 and the Wise Brothers. Only about 10,000 of the 100,000 acres have been developed, but the developer plans to start on residential component next year. It calls for 2,000 housing units – condominiums to houses starting at \$170,000.

FREMONT COUNTY

- St. Anthony used the help of engineers from Schiess & Associates to secure a \$500,000 federal jobs grant to rebuild six blocks of its crumbling Main Street. The city must secure an engineer and get the design approved by the Idaho Department of Transportation by mid-October. Schiess & Associates has already agreed to handle the engineering and design work.

LEMHI COUNTY

- Rural Idaho Outreach Partners’ second annual Salmon Career Expo in September drew 46 exhibitors and 600 middle and high school students to the Lemhi County Fair Grounds. The Idaho Department of Labor, the Lemhi County Economic Development Association, Premier Technology and the Idaho National Laboratory all played major roles in the event.

MADISON COUNTY

- The Rexburg Area Chamber of Commerce has opened its new office. With about 450 members, the chamber needed more room to handle the workload. Additional parking has been a plus for the many tourists who stop at the office. The chamber was established in 1906.
- Brigham Young University-Idaho will complete its 15,000-seat, three-tier auditorium in fall 2010. The auditorium will be used primarily for devotionals and commencement ceremonies.
- Rexburg Mayor Shawn Larsen is resigning to take a job in Utah and will be replaced by Chris Mann, president of the city council until the council appoints a new mayor. The next election for mayor is November 2011. Larsen has been mayor for the past six years.

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Census Facts

HALLOWEEN: OCTOBER 31

The observance of Halloween, which dates back to Celtic rituals thousands of years ago, has long been associated with images of witches, ghosts, devils and hobgoblins. Over the years, Halloween customs and rituals have changed dramatically. Today, many of the young and young at heart take a more light-spirited approach. They don scary disguises or ones that may bring on smiles when they go door to door for treats or attend or host a Halloween party.

TRICK OR TREAT FACTS

36 million

The estimated number of potential trick-or-treaters in 2008 — children 5 to 13 — across the United States. This number is up about 65,000 from a year earlier. Of course, many other children — older than 13 and younger than 5 — also go trick-or-treating.

111.4 million

Number of occupied housing units across the nation in 2008 — all potential stops for trick-or-treaters.

93 percent

Percentage of households with residents who consider their neighborhood safe. In addition, 78 percent said there was no place within a mile of their homes where they would be afraid to walk alone at night.

JACK-O'-LANTERNS AND PUMPKIN PIES

1.1 billion pounds

Total production of pumpkins by major pumpkin-producing states in 2008. Illinois led the country by producing 496 million pounds of the vined orange gourd. Pumpkin patches in California, Pennsylvania and New York also provided lots of pumpkins. Each state produced at least 100 million pounds. The value of all pumpkins produced by major pumpkin-producing states was \$141 million.

For more fun facts see http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/index.html

United States
Census
2010

State of Idaho Data

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Sept 2009				Sept 2008			
	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employment
STATE OF IDAHO	750,750	65,693	8.8	685,057	759,393	37,731	5.0	721,662
COUNTIES								
ADA	191,057	17,416	9.1	173,641	195,663	10,246	5.2	185,417
ADAMS	2,002	355	17.8	1,647	1,910	193	10.1	1,717
BANNOCK	41,877	3,511	8.4	38,366	42,687	2,023	4.7	40,664
BEAR LAKE	3,344	210	6.3	3,134	3,415	133	3.9	3,282
BENEWAH	4,084	649	15.9	3,436	3,940	366	9.3	3,574
BINGHAM	22,386	1,424	6.4	20,962	22,319	1,014	4.5	21,305
BLAINE	12,743	1,218	9.6	11,525	13,446	616	4.6	12,830
BOISE	3,427	297	8.7	3,130	3,557	214	6.0	3,343
BONNER	20,529	2,312	11.3	18,217	20,406	1,336	6.5	19,070
BONNEVILLE	50,890	3,275	6.4	47,616	51,061	2,188	4.3	48,873
BOUNDARY	4,355	606	13.9	3,749	4,112	366	8.9	3,746
BUTTE	1,488	79	5.3	1,409	1,456	69	4.8	1,386
CAMAS	598	79	13.2	519	604	26	4.3	578
CANYON	81,626	8,892	10.9	72,733	83,206	5,541	6.7	77,665
CARIBOU	3,649	246	6.8	3,403	3,447	156	4.5	3,291
CASSIA	10,145	664	6.5	9,482	10,075	471	4.7	9,604
CLARK	550	31	5.7	519	566	27	4.7	540
CLEARWATER	3,397	523	15.4	2,875	3,222	322	10.0	2,900
CUSTER	2,602	169	6.5	2,433	2,548	143	5.6	2,406
ELMORE	10,918	917	8.4	10,001	10,999	671	6.1	10,327
FRANKLIN	6,088	225	3.7	5,863	6,106	144	2.4	5,962
FREMONT	5,888	484	8.2	5,403	5,837	341	5.8	5,496
GEM	7,008	822	11.7	6,186	7,137	532	7.5	6,606
GOODING	8,521	521	6.1	8,000	8,468	315	3.7	8,152
IDAHO	7,196	762	10.6	6,434	7,064	545	7.7	6,518
JEFFERSON	11,433	924	8.1	10,509	11,383	596	5.2	10,787
JEROME	10,124	687	6.8	9,436	10,242	441	4.3	9,801
KOOTENAI	70,857	7,355	10.4	63,502	71,055	4,516	6.4	66,539
LATAH	18,119	1,079	6.0	17,041	17,852	752	4.2	17,100
LEMHI	3,783	358	9.5	3,425	3,798	313	8.2	3,486
LEWIS	1,678	91	5.4	1,587	1,669	60	3.6	1,609
LINCOLN	2,609	353	13.5	2,255	2,433	159	6.5	2,275
MADISON	16,341	765	4.7	15,577	16,443	598	3.6	15,845
MINIDOKA	9,425	666	7.1	8,759	9,429	556	5.9	8,872
NEZ PERCE	19,601	1,102	5.6	18,500	19,096	791	4.1	18,305
ONEIDA	2,221	113	5.1	2,108	2,239	99	4.4	2,140
OWYHEE	4,168	181	4.3	3,986	4,425	168	3.8	4,257
PAYETTE	10,989	881	8.0	10,109	10,765	596	5.5	10,169
POWER	3,766	317	8.4	3,449	3,868	213	5.5	3,656
SHOSHONE	6,124	858	14.0	5,266	6,173	492	8.0	5,681
TETON	4,707	360	7.6	4,347	4,666	179	3.8	4,487
TWIN FALLS	39,053	2,763	7.1	36,290	39,346	1,649	4.2	37,697
VALLEY	4,565	742	16.2	3,823	4,675	453	9.7	4,222
WASHINGTON	4,818	412	8.5	4,406	4,791	255	5.3	4,536
ASOTIN WA	11,018	954	8.7	10,064	10,470	616	5.9	9,853

* In thousands

State of Idaho Data

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

LABOR MARKET AREAS	Seasonally Adjusted Data				Sept 2009				Sept 2008			
	Civilian Labor Force	# Unemployed	% Unemployed	Total Employment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unemployed	% Unemployed	Total Employment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unemployed	% Unemployed	Total Employment
BOISE CITY-NAMPA MSA	287,285	27,608	9.6	259,677	293,989	16,701	5.7	277,287				
BURLEY MicSA	19,570	1,330	6.8	18,241	19,504	1,027	5.3	18,477				
COEUR D'ALENE MSA	70,857	7,355	10.4	63,502	71,055	4,516	6.4	66,539				
GRANGEVILLE SLMA	8,874	853	9.6	8,022	8,733	605	6.9	8,127				
HAILEY SLMA	13,341	1,298	9.7	12,043	14,050	642	4.6	13,408				
IDAHO FALLS MSA	62,323	4,198	6.7	58,125	62,443	2,783	4.5	59,660				
LEWISTON MSA	30,619	2,056	6.7	28,564	29,565	1,407	4.8	28,158				
POCATELLO MSA	45,643	3,828	8.4	41,815	46,555	2,236	4.8	44,320				
REXBURG MicSA	22,229	1,249	5.6	20,980	22,280	939	4.2	21,341				
TWIN FALLS MicSA	49,177	3,450	7.0	45,727	49,588	2,090	4.2	47,498				
CITIES												
BOISE	108,974	10,536	9.7	98,438	110,979	5,981	5.4	104,998				
CALDWELL	18,247	2,387	13.1	15,860	18,386	1,468	8.0	16,918				
COEUR D' ALENE	22,964	2,550	11.1	20,414	22,893	1,526	6.7	21,367				
IDAHO FALLS	28,413	1,875	6.6	26,538	28,403	1,195	4.2	27,208				
LEWISTON	16,544	1,087	6.6	15,457	16,031	754	4.7	15,277				
MERIDIAN	32,571	3,184	9.8	29,387	33,056	1,710	5.2	31,346				
NAMPA	37,171	4,762	12.8	32,409	37,362	2,794	7.5	34,568				
POCATELLO	28,993	2,658	9.2	26,335	29,338	1,456	5.0	27,882				
TWIN FALLS	21,962	2,002	9.1	19,960	21,824	1,114	5.1	20,710				
United States*	154,006	15,142	9.8	138,864	154,621	9,592	6.2	145,255				

* In thousands

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

State of Idaho Data — Nonfarm Jobs

% change from

BY PLACE OF WORK	Sep 2009*	Aug 2009	Sep 2008	Last Month	Last Year
Total Nonfarm Jobs**	610,500	608,800	657,500	0.3%	-7.1%
Total Private	494,500	498,400	537,800	-0.8%	-8.1%
Goods-Producing Industries	93,300	93,800	115,300	-0.5%	-19.1%
Mining & Logging	3,500	3,400	4,700	2.9%	-25.5%
Logging	1,400	1,300	1,800	7.7%	-22.2%
Mining	2,100	2,100	2,900	0.0%	-27.6%
Construction	34,900	35,500	47,200	-1.7%	-26.1%
Construction of Buildings	8,500	8,400	11,000	1.2%	-22.7%
Residential Building Construction	5,400	5,400	7,100	0.0%	-23.9%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	6,000	6,100	6,800	-1.6%	-11.8%
Specialty Trade Contractors	20,600	21,200	29,400	-2.8%	-29.9%
Foundation, Structure and Bldg Exterior Contractors	5,100	5,200	7,800	-1.9%	-34.6%
Building Equipment Contractors	7,600	7,900	10,400	-3.8%	-26.9%
Building Finishing Contractors	4,000	4,100	5,900	-2.4%	-32.2%
Other Specialty Trade Contractors	4,100	4,200	5,200	-2.4%	-21.2%
Manufacturing	54,900	54,900	63,400	0.0%	-13.4%
Nondurable Goods	24,500	24,200	25,000	1.2%	-2.0%
Food Manufacturing	15,900	15,700	16,200	1.3%	-1.9%
Fruit and Vegetable Preserving and Specialty Food Manufacturing	8,300	8,200	8,400	1.2%	-1.2%
Durable Goods	30,400	30,700	38,400	-1.0%	-20.8%
Woods Product Manufacturing	4,500	4,700	6,600	-4.3%	-31.8%
Machinery Manufacturing	2,600	2,600	3,200	0.0%	-18.8%
Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	10,800	10,900	14,300	-0.9%	-24.5%
Computer & Peripheral Equipment Manufacturing	2,900	2,900	3,700	0.0%	-21.6%
Semiconductor & Other Elec. Component Manufacturing	7,500	7,400	10,200	1.4%	-26.5%
Service-Providing	517,200	515,000	542,200	0.4%	-4.6%
Private Service Providing	401,200	404,600	422,500	-0.8%	-5.0%
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	122,400	123,800	131,400	-1.1%	-6.8%
Wholesale Trade	26,800	26,700	27,900	0.4%	-3.9%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	12,400	12,400	12,700	0.0%	-2.4%
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	12,600	12,600	12,300	0.0%	2.4%
Retail Trade	75,500	76,600	82,100	-1.4%	-8.0%
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	10,300	10,400	12,000	-1.0%	-14.2%
Building Material & Garden Equipment	7,600	7,700	8,600	-1.3%	-11.6%
Food & Beverage Stores	12,700	12,700	13,300	0.0%	-4.5%
Grocery Stores	10,900	11,000	11,600	-0.9%	-6.0%
General Merchandise Stores	17,000	16,900	17,100	0.6%	-0.6%
Department Stores	5,200	5,200	5,600	0.0%	-7.1%
Other General Merchandise Stores	11,700	11,700	11,500	0.0%	1.7%
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	20,200	20,600	21,400	-1.9%	-5.6%
Utilities	2,200	2,200	2,300	0.0%	-4.3%
Transportation & Warehousing	18,000	18,300	19,100	-1.6%	-5.8%
Truck Transportation	8,700	8,800	9,300	-1.1%	-6.5%
General Freight Transportation	6,100	6,100	6,400	0.0%	-4.7%
Information	10,000	10,100	12,100	-1.0%	-17.4%
Telecommunications	3,400	3,500	4,900	-2.9%	-30.6%

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State of Idaho Data — Nonfarm Payroll Jobs					% change from	
BY PLACE OF WORK	Sept 2009*	Aug 2009	Sept 2008	Last Month	Last Year	
Total Nonfarm Jobs**	610,500	608,800	657,500	0.3%	-7.1%	
<i>Financial Activities</i>	29,200	29,600	31,800	-1.4%	-8.2%	
Finance & Insurance	22,100	22,400	23,300	-1.3%	-5.2%	
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	11,000	11,100	11,500	-0.9%	-4.3%	
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	9,600	9,600	9,900	0.0%	-3.0%	
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	7,100	7,300	8,500	-2.7%	-16.5%	
<i>Professional & Business Services</i>	76,300	77,500	82,500	-1.5%	-7.5%	
Professional, Scientific & Technical Svcs.	32,200	32,100	33,000	0.3%	-2.4%	
Architectural, Engineering & Related Services	5,600	5,700	6,400	-1.8%	-12.5%	
Scientific Research & Development	7,700	7,800	7,400	-1.3%	4.1%	
Management of Companies & Enterprises	6,700	6,800	7,100	-1.5%	-5.6%	
Administrative & Support & Waste Management	37,300	38,700	42,400	-3.6%	-12.0%	
Administrative & Support Services	35,000	36,300	39,900	-3.6%	-12.3%	
Employment Services	11,600	11,600	15,800	0.0%	-26.6%	
Business Support Services	11,100	11,300	10,100	-1.8%	9.9%	
Services to Buildings & Dwellings	8,200	8,700	9,400	-5.7%	-12.8%	
Educational & Health Services	80,100	78,700	78,200	1.8%	2.4%	
Educational Services	8,800	7,000	8,300	25.7%	6.0%	
Health Care & Social Assistance	71,300	71,400	69,900	-0.1%	2.0%	
Ambulatory Health Care Services	28,300	28,300	27,900	0.0%	1.4%	
Hospitals	18,800	18,900	17,400	-0.5%	8.0%	
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	16,500	16,500	15,500	0.0%	6.5%	
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	12,300	12,300	12,600	0.0%	-2.4%	
Social Assistance	12,000	12,100	12,000	-0.8%	0.0%	
<i>Leisure & Hospitality</i>	62,400	63,900	65,700	-2.3%	-5.0%	
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	9,500	10,700	9,600	-11.2%	-1.0%	
Amusement, Gambling & Recreation Industries	8,300	9,600	8,400	-13.5%	-1.2%	
Other Amusement & Recreation Industries	6,800	7,400	7,200	-8.1%	-5.6%	
Accommodation & Food Services	52,900	53,300	56,200	-0.8%	-5.9%	
Accommodation	9,100	9,500	10,000	-4.2%	-9.0%	
Food Services & Drinking Places	43,800	43,700	46,100	0.2%	-5.0%	
Full Service Restaurants	20,300	20,200	21,900	0.5%	-7.3%	
Limited Service Restaurants	19,500	19,900	19,900	-2.0%	-2.0%	
<i>Other Services</i>	20,800	21,000	20,800	-1.0%	0.0%	
Repair & Maintenance	6,000	6,000	6,300	0.0%	-4.8%	
Automotive Repair & Maintenance	4,500	4,500	4,800	0.0%	-6.3%	
<i>Government</i>	116,000	110,400	119,700	5.1%	-3.1%	
Federal Government	13,700	14,500	13,800	-5.5%	-0.7%	
State Government	27,900	26,900	29,600	3.7%	-5.7%	
State Government Educational Services	12,700	10,700	13,700	18.7%	-7.3%	
Local Government	74,300	69,200	76,300	7.4%	-2.6%	
Local Government Educational Services	39,500	33,800	38,900	16.9%	1.5%	

*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

	Sept 2009	Aug 2009	Sept 2008	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE ⁽¹⁾					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	751,300	754,500	756,800	-0.4%	-0.7%
Unemployment	66,300	66,700	39,200	-0.6%	69.1%
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	8.8	8.8	5.2		
Total Employment	685,000	687,800	717,600	-0.4%	-4.5%
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	756,200	764,200	760,800	-1.0%	-0.6%
Unemployment	63,600	63,500	38,200	0.2%	66.5%
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	8.4	8.3	5.0		
Total Employment	692,600	700,700	722,600	-1.2%	-4.2%

U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE⁽²⁾

	9.9	9.7	6.2
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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Claims Activities

Initial Claims ⁽³⁾	11,208	12,521	8,195	-10.5	36.8
Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾	96,168	115,544	63,418	-16.8	51.6

Benefit Payment Activities⁽⁵⁾

Weeks Compensated	98,886	89,944	51,566	9.9	91.8
Total Benefit \$ Paid	25,088,199	22,645,908	13,147,085	10.8	90.8
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$253.71	\$251.78	\$254.96	0.8	-0.5
Covered Employers	49,649	50,036	51,247	-0.8	-3.1
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾	\$390,018,133	\$378,077,019	\$188,860,882	3.2	106.5

U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX⁽²⁾

	Sep 2009	Aug 2009	Sep 2008	% Change Month	% Change Year
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	211.3	211.2	214.9	.05	-1.6
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	216.0	215.8	218.8	.09	-1.3

(1) Preliminary estimate

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

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

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

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

Panhandle Data

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

	Sept 2009*	Aug 2009	Sept 2008	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	71,213	72,150	71,055	-1.3%	0.2%
Unemployed	7,418	7,369	4,516	0.7%	64.3%
% of Labor Force Unemployed	10.4	10.2	6.4		
Total Employment	63,795	64,781	66,539	-1.5%	-4.1%
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	71,341	72,822	71,475	-2.0%	-0.2%
Unemployed	6,237	6,568	3,647	-5.0%	71.0%
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.7	9.0	5.1		
Total Employment	65,104	66,254	67,828	-1.7%	-4.0%
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Total Nonfarm Jobs**	54,900	55,850	58,400	-1.7%	-6.0%
Total Private	46,190	47,170	48,750	-2.1%	-5.3%
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	10,120	10,170	10,660	-0.5%	-5.1%
Mining & Logging	310	310	410	0.0%	-24.4%
Construction	5,310	5,370	5,510	-1.1%	-3.6%
Manufacturing	4,500	4,490	4,740	0.2%	-5.1%
Wood Products	710	710	810	0.0%	-12.3%
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	44,780	45,680	47,740	-2.0%	-6.2%
Private Service Providing	36,070	37,000	38,090	-2.5%	-5.3%
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	10,520	10,620	11,010	-0.9%	-4.5%
Wholesale Trade	1,490	1,490	1,560	0.0%	-4.5%
Retail Trade	7,980	8,080	8,310	-1.2%	-4.0%
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	1,050	1,050	1,140	0.0%	-7.9%
Information	900	900	910	0.0%	-1.1%
Financial Activities	3,100	3,120	3,180	-0.6%	-2.5%
Professional & Business Services	5,590	5,610	6,310	-0.4%	-11.4%
Educational & Health Services	6,210	6,210	6,070	0.0%	2.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	8,450	9,140	9,140	-7.5%	-7.5%
Other Services	1,300	1,400	1,470	-7.1%	-11.6%
Government	8,710	8,680	9,650	0.3%	-9.7%
Federal Government	610	620	590	-1.6%	3.4%
State Government	730	730	860	0.0%	-15.1%
Local Government	7,370	7,330	8,200	0.5%	-10.1%
Government Education	3,330	2,720	3,320	22.4%	0.3%
Government Administration	5,380	5,960	6,330	-9.7%	-15.0%

* Preliminary estimate

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

North Central Idaho Data

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

	Sept 2009*	Aug 2009	Sept 2008	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	30,731	30,705	29,565	0.1%	3.9%
Unemployment	2,078	2,172	1,407	-4.3%	47.7%
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.8	7.1	4.8		
Total Employment	28,653	28,533	28,158	0.4%	1.8%
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	30,633	30,626	29,457	0.0%	4.0%
Unemployment	1,961	2,136	1,301	-8.2%	50.7%
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.4	7.0	4.4		
Total Employment	28,672	28,490	28,156	0.6%	1.8%
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Total Nonfarm Jobs**	28,140	27,760	29,330	1.4%	-4.1%
Total Private	21,690	21,820	23,100	-0.6%	-6.1%
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>					
Natural Resources & Mining	220	210	220	4.8%	0.0%
Construction	1,350	1,360	1,470	-0.7%	-8.2%
Manufacturing	3,140	3,140	3,170	0.0%	-0.9%
Wood Products Mnfct	380	390	440	-2.6%	-13.6%
Paper Mnfct	1,020	1,020	1,080	0.0%	-5.6%
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>					
Private Service Providing	16,980	17,110	18,240	-0.8%	-6.9%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,710	5,720	5,510	-0.2%	3.6%
Wholesale Trade	610	610	670	0.0%	-9.0%
Retail Trade	4,080	4,090	3,690	-0.2%	10.6%
Transportation & Warehousing	1,020	1,020	1,150	0.0%	-11.3%
Information	390	390	380	0.0%	2.6%
Financial Activities	1,800	1,810	2,040	-0.6%	-11.8%
Professional & Business Services	1,440	1,460	1,460	-1.4%	-1.4%
Education & Health Services	4,680	4,700	5,110	-0.4%	-8.4%
Leisure & Hospitality	2,230	2,280	2,660	-2.2%	-16.2%
Other Services	730	750	1,080	-2.7%	-32.4%
Government	6,450	5,940	6,230	8.6%	3.5%
Federal Government	270	280	230	-3.6%	17.4%
State Government	1,740	1,620	1,570	7.4%	10.8%
Local Government	4,440	4,040	4,430	9.9%	0.2%
Government Education	2,090	1,870	2,100	11.8%	-0.5%
Government Administration	4,360	4,070	4,130	7.1%	5.6%

*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.

Southwestern Idaho Data

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

	Sept 2009*	Aug 2009	Sept 2008	% Change	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	288,706	289,320	293,989	-0.2%	-1.8%
Unemployment	27,843	28,642	16,701	-2.8%	66.7%
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.6	9.9	5.7		
Total Employment	260,863	260,678	277,287	0.1%	-5.9%
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	288,133	290,070	292,660	-0.7%	-1.5%
Unemployment	27,291	28,671	15,707	-4.8%	73.8%
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.5	9.9	5.4		
Total Employment	260,842	261,399	276,953	-0.2%	-5.8%
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Total Nonfarm Jobs**	251,240	253,090	271,840	-0.7%	-7.6%
Total Private	209,290	211,250	228,050	-0.9%	-8.2%
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES					
<i>Mining, Logging & Construction</i>	17,090	17,370	18,820	-1.6%	-9.2%
Construction	13,830	14,060	18,400	-1.6%	-24.8%
Construction of Buildings	3,110	3,110	3,490	0.0%	-10.9%
Specialty Trade Contractors	11,300	11,500	11,880	-1.7%	-4.9%
Foundation, Structure & Bldg Contractors	2,170	2,240	2,820	-3.1%	-23.0%
<i>Manufacturing</i>	23,560	23,740	27,990	-0.8%	-15.8%
Non-Durable Goods	6,950	7,030	6,880	-1.1%	1.0%
Food Manufacturing	4,980	5,020	4,830	-0.8%	3.1%
Durable Goods	16,610	16,710	21,110	-0.6%	-21.3%
Wood Product Manufacturing	1,360	1,380	2,030	-1.4%	-33.0%
Fabricated Metal Products	1,390	1,390	1,500	0.0%	-7.3%
Machinery Manufacturing	1,000	990	1,160	1.0%	-13.8%
Computer & Electronic Mfg.	9,470	9,550	12,520	-0.8%	-24.4%
Computer & Peripheral Mfg.	2,900	2,940	3,190	-1.4%	-9.1%
Semiconductor & Other Mfg.	6,300	6,360	9,100	-0.9%	-30.8%
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	1,500	1,520	1,900	-1.3%	-21.1%
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES					
Private Service Providing	168,640	170,140	181,240	-0.9%	-7.0%
<i>Trade, Transportation & Utilities</i>	49,800	49,920	53,080	-0.2%	-6.2%
Wholesale Trade	11,610	11,720	12,020	-0.9%	-3.4%
Merchant Wholesalers (Durable Goods)	6,460	6,580	6,620	-1.8%	-2.4%
Retail Trade	30,390	30,260	32,720	0.4%	-7.1%
Food & Beverage Stores	4,930	4,890	4,960	0.8%	-0.6%
Grocery Stores	3,710	3,770	3,760	-1.6%	-1.3%
General Merchandise Stores	6,280	6,500	6,780	-3.4%	-7.4%
Other General Merch. Stores	4,360	4,460	4,620	-2.2%	-5.6%
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	7,800	7,940	8,340	-1.8%	-6.5%
<i>Information</i>	5,620	5,650	5,860	-0.5%	-4.1%
Telecommunications	1,530	1,540	2,270	-0.6%	-32.6%
<i>Financial Activities</i>	13,330	13,450	14,190	-0.9%	-6.1%
Finance & Insurance	10,200	10,300	10,470	-1.0%	-2.6%
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	4,720	4,770	4,930	-1.0%	-4.3%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3,130	3,150	3,720	-0.6%	-15.9%
<i>Professional & Business Services</i>	34,710	35,720	40,320	-2.8%	-13.9%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Svcs.	11,580	12,210	12,290	-5.2%	-5.8%

Continued on next page.

Southwestern Idaho Data *(continued)*

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

	Sept 2009*	Aug 2009	Sept 2008	% Change	
				Last Month	Last Year
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Total Nonfarm Jobs**	251,240	253,090	271,840	-0.7%	-7.6%
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises	4,660	4,710	5,180	-1.1%	-10.0%
Administrative / Support & Waste Mgmt.	18,470	18,800	22,850	-1.8%	-19.2%
Employment Services	7,020	7,060	7,960	-0.6%	-11.8%
Business Support Services	6,480	6,450	6,330	0.5%	2.4%
Services to Bldg and Dwellings	4,710	4,850	4,780	-2.9%	-1.5%
Educational & Health Services	33,390	33,190	34,900	0.6%	-4.3%
Educational Services	2,350	2,190	2,560	7.3%	-8.2%
Health Care & Social Assistance	31,040	31,000	32,340	0.1%	-4.0%
Ambulatory Health Care Service	12,350	12,350	11,780	0.0%	4.8%
Hospitals	9,760	9,740	10,620	0.2%	-8.1%
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	8,860	8,790	9,130	0.8%	-3.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	23,760	24,100	24,870	-1.4%	-4.5%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	3,130	3,420	3,460	-8.5%	-9.5%
Accommodation & Food Services	20,630	20,680	21,410	-0.2%	-3.6%
Food Services & Drinking Places	18,500	18,470	19,250	0.2%	-3.9%
Full-Service Restaurants	8,340	8,440	9,470	-1.2%	-11.9%
Limited-Service Eating Places	7,410	7,560	7,690	-2.0%	-3.6%
Other Services	8,030	8,110	8,020	-1.0%	0.1%
Government	41,950	41,840	43,790	0.3%	-4.2%
Federal Government	6,320	6,460	6,310	-2.2%	0.2%
State Government	13,550	13,670	14,300	-0.9%	-5.2%
State Government Educational Services	4,490	4,410	4,530	1.8%	-0.9%
Local Government	22,080	21,710	23,180	1.7%	-4.7%
Local Government Educational Services	15,410	13,100	14,080	17.6%	9.4%

* 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.

South Central Idaho Data

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

	<u>% Change From</u>				
	Sept 2009*	Aug 2009	Sept 2008	Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	49,397	49,496	49,588	-0.2%	-0.4%
Unemployment	3,468	3,373	2,090	2.8%	66.0%
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.0	6.8	4.2		
Total Employment	45,929	46,124	47,498	-0.4%	-3.3%
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	49,477	49,731	49,625	-0.5%	-0.3%
Unemployment	3,264	3,337	1,887	-2.2%	73.0%
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.6	6.7	3.8		
Total Employment	46,213	46,394	47,738	-0.4%	-3.2%
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Total Nonfarm Jobs**	40,040	39,740	41,420	0.8%	-3.3%
Total Private	34,680	34,740	35,830	-0.2%	-3.2%
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>					
Construction	1,980	2,000	2,330	-1.0%	-15.0%
Manufacturing	4,800	4,740	5,140	1.3%	-6.6%
Food Manufacturing	3,100	3,020	3,120	2.6%	-0.6%
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>					
Private Service Providing	27,870	27,970	28,290	-0.4%	-1.5%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	9,620	9,620	10,020	0.0%	-4.0%
Wholesale Trade	1,930	1,950	1,970	-1.0%	-2.0%
Retail Trade	5,460	5,510	5,710	-0.9%	-4.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	2,230	2,160	2,340	3.2%	-4.7%
Information	660	680	660	-2.9%	0.0%
Financial Activities	1,780	1,800	1,740	-1.1%	2.3%
Professional & Business Services	5,170	5,070	5,620	2.0%	-8.0%
Educational & Health Services	5,880	5,850	5,290	0.5%	11.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	3,260	3,380	3,420	-3.6%	-4.7%
Other Services	1,500	1,570	1,540	-4.5%	-2.6%
Government	5,360	5,000	5,590	7.2%	-4.1%
Government Education	3,040	2,660	3,140	14.3%	-3.2%
Government Administration	2,320	2,340	2,450	-0.9%	-5.3%

*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

	Sept 2009*	Aug 2009	% Change From		
			Sept 2008	Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	45,727	43,000	46,555	6.3%	-1.8%
Unemployment	3,860	3,422	2,236	12.8%	72.7%
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.4	8.0	4.8		
	41,867	39,578	44,320	5.8%	-5.5%
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	43,704	42,655	44,392	2.5%	-1.5%
Unemployment	3,620	3,281	2,008	10.3%	80.3%
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.3	7.7	4.5		
Total Employment	40,084	39,374	42,384	1.8%	-5.4%
JOB BY PLACE OF WORK					
Total Nonfarm Jobs**	36,770	36,260	38,840	1.4%	-5.3%
Total Private	27,290	27,310	28,900	-0.1%	-5.6%
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>					
Natural Resources & Mining	1,730	1,760	2,090	-1.7%	-17.2%
Manufacturing	3,580	3,580	3,680	0.0%	-2.7%
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg	260	260	240	0.0%	8.3%
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>					
Private Service Providing	21,980	21,970	23,130	0.0%	-5.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	6,750	6,770	7,500	-0.3%	-10.0%
Wholesale Trade	1,370	1,390	1,300	-1.4%	5.4%
Retail Trade	4,180	4,180	4,730	0.0%	-11.6%
Transportation & Warehousing	1,200	1,200	1,470	0.0%	-18.4%
Information	540	550	540	-1.8%	0.0%
Financial Activities	2,190	2,180	2,120	0.5%	3.3%
Professional & Business Services	4,130	4,120	4,470	0.2%	-7.6%
Educational & Health Services	3,670	3,630	3,600	1.1%	1.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	3,800	3,820	3,770	-0.5%	0.8%
Other Services	900	900	1,130	0.0%	-20.4%
Government	9,480	8,950	9,940	5.9%	-4.6%
Federal Government	590	610	620	-3.3%	-4.8%
State Government	3,420	3,530	4,250	-3.1%	-19.5%
Local Government	5,470	4,810	5,070	13.7%	7.9%
Government Education	4,420	4,070	4,500	8.6%	-1.8%
Government Administration	5,060	4,880	5,440	3.7%	-7.0%

*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.

East Central Idaho Data

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

	Oct 2009*	Sept 2009	Oct 2008	<u>% Change From</u>	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	62,401	61,531	62,443	1.4%	-0.1%
Unemployment	4,218	4,067	2,783	3.7%	51.6%
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.8	6.6	4.5		
Total Employment	58,182	57,464	59,660	1.3%	-2.5%
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	62,195	62,429	62,241	-0.4%	-0.1%
Unemployment	3,748	3,954	2,377	-5.2%	57.7%
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.0	6.3	3.8		
Total Employment	58,447	58,475	59,864	0.0%	-2.4%
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Total Nonfarm Jobs**	50,530	50,540	52,480	0.0	-3.7
Total Private	43,310	43,990	45,330	-1.5	-4.5
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	7,860	7,990	8,600	-1.6	-8.6
Construction	3,640	3,710	4,490	-1.9	-18.9
Manufacturing	3,400	3,440	3,260	-1.2	4.3
Food Manufacturing	820	840	850	-2.4	-3.5
Fabricated Metal Product Manfct	250	250	290	0.0	-13.8
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	42,670	42,550	43,880	0.3	-2.8
Private Service Providing	35,450	36,000	36,730	-1.5	-3.5
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	12,020	12,200	13,420	-1.5	-10.4
Wholesale Trade	3,230	3,300	3,600	-2.1	-10.3
Retail Trade	7,390	7,480	7,570	-1.2	-2.4
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,400	1,420	2,250	-1.4	-37.8
Transportation	1,550	1,540	1,580	0.6	-1.9
Information	1,280	1,290	1,410	-0.8	-9.2
Financial Activities	1,970	1,990	2,110	-1.0	-6.6
Professional & Business Services	4,940	5,010	5,080	-1.4	-2.8
Educational & Health Services	7,290	7,320	7,420	-0.4	-1.8
Leisure & Hospitality	5,420	5,520	5,250	-1.8	3.2
Other Services	2,530	2,670	2,040	-5.2	24.0
Government	7,220	6,550	7,150	10.2	1.0
Federal Government	950	1000	910	-5.0	4.4
State Government	960	920	870	4.3	10.3
Local Government	5310	4630	5370	14.7	-1.1
Government Education	3630	2920	3490	24.3	4.0
Government Administration	3590	3630	3660	-1.1	-1.9

*Preliminary estimate

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

Glossary of Labor Market Terms

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Glossary of Labor Market Terms (cont.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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