IDAHO EMPLOYMENT

IDAHO COMMERCE & LABOR

A monthly newsletter of Idaho Commerce & Labor

Volume 19.3

March-April 2007 Issue/February 2007 Data

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State Overview

IDAHO UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPPED TWO-TENTHS IN FEBRUARY

Idaho employers continued squeezing as much out of the state's labor pool as possible so far this year, driving the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate to a record low 3 percent in January and then down another two–tenths of a percentage point to 2.8 percent in February.

February was the 22nd straight month that Idaho's jobless rate was below 4 percent, the level economists generally call full employment. It was also the 35th month that Idaho's unemployment rate has been below the national rate.

The national unemployment rate in February remained at January's 4.5 percent, down three-tenths of a percent from February 2006

The 2007 jolt to record high employment of 732,700 in February followed a slowing in the state and national economies during the final quarter of 2006, one that kept Idaho's unemployment rate essentially flat at around 3.3 percent.

While January saw the typical seasonal decline in employment, primarily due to fewer retail and construction jobs, February saw the number of workers on the job increase by 4,300 as the economy posted widespread gains.

BENCHMARKING AS AN ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT

Benchmarked nonfarm jobs and employment data for 2006 were recently released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Idaho results are published starting on page 29. The labor force and nonfarm data published in each area report has also been benchmarked and is available upon request.

Benchmarking is an annual adjustment of the final nonfarm jobs and employment estimates collected by survey from January through September to reflect additional information obtained over time. The October through December estimates were revised based on the final September figures. All estimates throughout the year, including annual averages, are subject to two revisions, and the seasonally adjusted series may be revised slightly three additional times. These periodic adjustments are based on how much additional information has been collected. The first results reflect 65 percent of the information, which meets standards for accuracy and reliability. Benchmarked revisions are based on 100 percent of the data and are published each February. For more information, visit http://www.bls.gov/ces/cesmetho.htm#9 on the Web.

Since 1978, Idaho's employment has dropped only five times from January — in 1980, 1981, 1982, 1985 and 1990. The increase this year was second only to the 17,200 increase in 2005.

Only 21,200 people were unemployed across Idaho last month, the fewest since the current jobless calculation began being used in 1978. This number was 1,600 below January.

The movement in the number unemployed as well as employed resulted in a civilian labor force of 753,900 in February, up 2,700 from January.

The changes from a year earlier were more dramatic. The number of people working was up 17,100, and the number of unemployed dropped 5,600. Overall, the labor force increased 1.5 percent, or 11,500, since February 2006. Along with the low unemployment rate, the year-over-year employment growth indicates strong economic growth during 2006.

"Our economy has been one of the strongest in the nation and seems to be picking up steam in 2007," Idaho Commerce & Labor Director Roger B. Madsen said. "We have led the nation in the percentage increase in gross state product, manufacturing investment and creation of new companies, and that's intensifying the demand on our work force.

"Having our unemployment rate driven below 3 percent only underscores the importance of expanding and enhancing our training and education programs to make sure Idaho businesses have the skilled workers they need to grow," Madsen said. "Providing a sufficient pool of qualified workers is the only way we can ensure Idaho remains strong and a national economic leader."

The record-low unemployment rate puts qualified workers at a premium, allowing employees to command higher paychecks and better benefits because of increasing opportunities to showcase their skills. As this trend continues, smaller businesses will struggle to find an adequate work force.

AREA & COUNTY LABOR FORCE HIGHLIGHTS

State Table 1 on page 3 has the current labor force data for the state's 10 labor market areas, 45 counties, including Asotin County, Wash., which is part of the Lewiston Labor Market Area, and the nine largest cities.

- The Grangeville small labor market area in north central Idaho, the state's smallest, reported the highest unemployment rate for the 21st consecutive month at 4.4 percent, down from 5 percent in January.
- The Hailey area had the lowest unemployment rate at 2 percent.
- The state's largest labor market, Boise-Nampa metropolitan area, reported an unemployment rate of 2.5 percent, three-quarters of a percentage point below the February 2006 rate of 3.2 percent.
- February was the first month since November 2006 that no counties reported unemployment rates above 8 percent.
- Clearwater County had the highest rate at 7.6 percent. Benewah County was second at 6.2 percent, and just two other counties had rates over 5 percent – Boundary and Shoshone.
- Unemployment dropped below 2 percent in February in three counties – Teton and Owyhee at 1.7 percent and Camas at 1.6 percent.

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

IDAHO EMPLOYMENT is produced by Idaho Commerce & Labor which is funded at least in part by federal grants from the U.S. Department of Labor. Costs associated with this specific publication are available by contacting Idaho Commerce & Labor. Questions and comments can be directed to Public Affairs by phoning (208) 332-3570, ext. 3220, or by e-mail to:

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- Every county recorded a decrease in unemployment between February 2006 and February 2007.
- Only nine counties have fewer people working than a year earlier. The loss ranged from nearly 300 in Elmore County to only 20 in Lincoln County. The other counties were Lemhi, Custer, Clearwater, Cassia, Minidoka, Butte and Valley.
- Not surprising was the large increases in workers during the past 12 months in Ada, Canyon and Kootenai counties – 7,200 in Ada, 3,000 in Canyon and 1,500 in Kootenai.
- Bingham and Lewis counties experienced the smallest growth from February 2006 with only 10 additional workers each.

HIGHLIGHTS OF NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Job increases so far in 2007 have occurred in nearly all industries. With population growth similar to 2006, the demand for goods and services continues increasing. That coupled with new and expanding business means more jobs and more people working.

In February, there were 636,800 nonfarm jobs in Idaho, up eight-tenths percent, or 4,900 jobs, from January. The service side of the economy added 5,500 jobs, a 3.4 percent increase, while 600 jobs were lost in the goods-producing sector – primarily in wood product manufacturing and retail trade. The wood product decline is seasonal due to weather conditions that prohibit logging along with low lumbers prices that have resulted in intermittent shutdowns at sawmills in northern Idaho.

Retail trade lost 500 jobs in February, dropping to 80,700. The job loss was expected as the holiday shopping season and after-Christmas sales wrapped up and the demand for additional workers slowed. The good news is that there were 4,200 more jobs in February than a year earlier.

Leisure and hospitality businesses added 500 jobs in February, bringing the total to 59,800. About 300 of these were in the arts, entertainment and recreation sector, primarily at the winter ski resorts, and 200 jobs were evenly split between accommodations and eating facilities. While the leisure and hospitality industry has seasonal shifts, the over-the-year change has been significant with 3,400 new jobs. As the economy keeps growing, people will take advantage of the recreational activities across the state and eat out more often, creating a demand for more jobs.

Education was the bright star in Idaho's job picture. The state added 2,000 education jobs while local governments added 1,400. Private schools and educational services added 500. The growth in education is not unusual in February with the new semester just

State Table 1: February 2007 Labor Force (preliminary)

Seasonally Adjusted	Labor Force	Unemp.	% Unemp.	Total Emp.
Lewiston MSA	29,480	1,060	3.6	28,420
Nez Perce County	19,014	572	3.0	18,442
Asotin County, WA	10,466	488	4.7	9,978
Boise City-Nampa MSA	297,485	7,511	2.5	289,974
Ada County	198,017	4,546	2.3	193,471
Boise County	3,381	98	2.9	3,283
Canyon County	82,899	2,529	3.1	80,371
Gem County	7,809	249	3.2	7,560
Owyhee County	5,378	89	1.7	5,289
Pocatello MSA	44,087	1,296	2.9	42,791
Bannock County	39,988	1,156	2.9	38,832
Power County	4,099	140	3.4	3,959
Idaho Falls MSA	58,455	1,353	2.3	57,102
Bonneville County	48,134	1,079	2.2	47,056
Jefferson County	10,320	275	2.7	10,046
Coeur d'Alene MSA*	69,683	2,229	3.2	67,455
Burley MicSA	19,660	690	3.5	18,970
Cassia County	10,142	324	3.2	9,818
Minidoka County	9,518	366	3.8	9,152
Rexburg MicSA	21,451	495	2.3	20,957
Fremont County	6,467	181	2.8	6,285
Madison County	14,985	313	2.1	14,671
Twin Falls MicSA	48,627	1,296	2.7	47,331
Jerome County	10,277	272	2.6	10,005
Twin Falls County	38,349	1,023	2.7	37,326
Grangeville SLMA	8,734	385	4.4	8,349
Idaho County	6,995	334	4.8	6,661
Lewis County	1,739	51	2.9	1,688
Hailey SLMA	15,004	307	2.0	14,696
Blaine County	14,373	298	2.1	14,075
Camas County	631	10	1.6	621
Adams County	2,060	102	4.9	1,958
Bear Lake County	3,058	74	2.4	2,984
Benewah County	4,403	273	6.2	4,130
Blackfoot MicSA (Bingham County)	20,063	566	2.8	19,497
Bonner County	21,183	776	3.7	20,408
Boundary County	4,167	234	5.6	3,934
Butte County	1,129	47	4.2	1,082
Caribou County	3,487	122	3.5	3,365
Clark County	549	16	2.9	533
Clearwater County	3,165	240	7.6	2,925
Custer County	2,377	85	3.6	2,291
Mountain Home MicSA (Elmore County)	10,469	349	3.3	10,120
Franklin County	6,629	141	2.1	6,488
Gooding County	8,893	174	2.0	8,718
Moscow MicSA (Latah County)	20,139	448	2.2	19,691
Lemhi County	3,797	174	4.6	3,623
Lincoln County	2,553	76	3.0	2,477
Oneida County	2,305	48	2.1	2,257
Payette County	10,416	407	3.9	10,010
Shoshone County	5,794	314	5.4	5,480
Teton County	4,969	83	1.7	4,886
Valley County	4,976	177	3.5	4,799
Washington County	5,197	186	3.6	5,011
State of Idaho	753,976	21,242	2.8	732,734
Idaho Cities				
Boise	115,771	2,763	2.4	113,008
Caldwell	22,471	692	3.1	21,779
Coeur d'Alene	27,297	667	2.4	26,630
Idaho Falls	16,149	475	2.9	15,673
Lewiston	36,485	1,091	3.0	35,394
Meridian	29,048	799	2.8	28,249
Nampa	21,431	581	2.7	20,850
Pocatello	29,614	705	2.4	28,909
Twin Falls	17,307	628	3.6	16,679

* Coeur d'Alene MSA includes all of Kootenai County.

starting up at colleges and universities, both public and private. And as funding permits, support staff is hired at local school districts as the new term begins. The growth in education accounted for 80 percent of the new jobs. Statewide, 64,900 jobs were included in the education sector, accounting for more than 10 percent of all nonfarm payroll jobs.

Since February 2006, the service sector added 16,900 jobs while 4,200 more jobs were added by goods-producing industries, over half in construction. Job growth in both sectors over the year was 3.4 percent.

From January to February, professional and business services contributed the most new jobs in the service sector. The 600 in administrative and support services accounted for half the growth. Temporary help agencies also added jobs as did business support services, which includes call centers. There were another 1,600 jobs in professional, scientific and technical services year-over-year with the majority in accounting as the tax season got under way.

Of the 72 industry categories published in February, compared to January:

- 32 reported gains in jobs ranging from 5,500 in the service sector overall to 100 jobs in each of 10 categories.
- 18 reported no change in the number of jobs.
- 22 reported a loss of jobs ranging from 100 in 10 categories to 600 in the goods-producing sector overall.
- State Table 2 on page 5 provides detailed information for those 72 categories.

2005-2006 COMPARISON

Another way of looking at jobs is to consider annual averages. Annual averages even out the seasonality inherent in many Idaho industries. Appendix tables starting on page 29 compares 2006 annual average job levels by industry to those of 2005.

Overall, 28,866 nonfarm payroll jobs were created by Idaho's economy from 2005 to 2006, a 4.7 percent increase. This growth was widespread. The 700-job loss posted in the information sector, particularly telecommunication, only reflects a reclassification of those jobs to administrative and support services.

Construction was again the big job growth leader in 2006, reaching a record 52,600 jobs by adding another 7,400 during the year. Special trade contractors showed a large increase in jobs as the industry shifted from single contractors on a project to many workers with such specialties as excavating, cement work, plumbing, electrical and painting, each requiring a separate company or contractor. When the 21st century began, construction jobs were on the rise. However, during the economic downturn in 2001 and 2002, nearly 1,400 jobs were lost. A slight increase of just over 200 jobs occurred in 2003 with a significant rebound in 2004 of 3,100 jobs. The job growth has continued to boom with an additional 5,300 in 2005 and over 7,400 in 2006. The growth has been fueled by population and improved economic conditions.

Almost every component of the service sector posted job gains from 2005 to 2006 reflecting the continued population growth and a strong economy. Retail trade had the largest increase of over 4,000 jobs. While all components reported job increases, building materials and garden supplies at 900 and motor vehicles at 500 led the way. Six other components added between 300 and 400 jobs.

Administrative and support services also experienced a significant gain of more than 2,300 jobs although 700 involved the reclassification of jobs from the information sector. Janitorial and landscaping services and employment services each added over 600 jobs in 2006.

Leisure and hospitality was the other major growth sector with over 2,300 new jobs in 2006. Nearly two-thirds of them were in food services and drinking establishments.

As the population increases and ages, the demand for health care rises, and that drove the addition of over 2,200 jobs in 2006. The majority of the growth was in the ambulatory care sector, which includes doctors' offices, out-patient clinics and home health services.

Financial services recorded nearly as much growth, adding more than 2,000 jobs during the year. This is not really surprising considering the construction boom across the state. With all of the new homes being built, the purchasers need real estate agents and mortgage brokers.

Beside the job loss in information, federal government is the only other sector that lost jobs in 2006.

Idaho's economy continued to grow in 2006, and 2007 is off to a good start. The magnitude may not be as great as 2006, but growth in all sectors should continue.

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State Table 2: Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

BY PLACE OF WORK	Feb 2007*	Jan 2007	Feb 2006	Last Month	Last Year
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	636,800	631,900	618,200	0.8	3.0
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	117,700	118,300	113,600	-0.5	3.6
Natural Resources & Mining	3,900	4,000	3,800	-2.5	2.6
Logging	1,700	1,800	1,700	-5.6	0.0
Mining	2,200	2,200	2,100	0.0	4.8
Metal Ore Mining	800	800	800	0.0	0.0
Construction	47,700	48,100	45,600	-0.8	4.6
Manufacturing	66,100	66,200	64,200	-0.2	3.0
Durable Goods	43,600	43,600	41,300	0.0	5.6
Wood Product Manufacturing	7,700	8,100	7,900	-4.9	-2.5
Sawmills & Wood Preservation	2,500	2,600	2,300	-3.8	8.7
Veneer & Engineered Products	1,900	2,000	1,800	-5.0	5.6
Other Wood Product Manufacturing	3,300	3,500	3,800	-5.7	-13.2
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	4,300	4,300	4,200	0.0	2.4
Machinery Manufacturing	2,900	2,900	2,800	0.0	3.6
Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	17,200	17,100	16,400	0.6	4.9
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	3,200	3,100	2,900	3.2	10.3
Other Durable Goods	8,300	8,100	7,100	2.5	16.9
Nondurable Goods	22,500	22,600	22,900	-0.4	-1.7
Food Manufacturing	14,200	14,300	14,700	-0.7	-3.4
Fruits & Vegetable Preserving & Specialty	6,800	6,900	7,400	-1.4	-8.1
Paper Manufacturing	1,600	1,600	1,500	0.0	6.7
Printing & Related Support Activities	1,900	1,900	1,800	0.0	5.6
Chemical Manufacturing	2,000	2,000	2,100	0.0	-4.8
Other Nondurable Goods	2,800	2,800	2,800	0.0	0.0
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	519,100	513,600	504,600	1.1	2.9
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	127,700	127,900	123,100	-0.2	3.7
Trade	107,900	108,200	103,400	-0.3	4.4
Wholesale Trade	27,200	27,000	26,500	0.7	2.6
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	12,800	12,600	12,200	1.6	4.9
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	11,800	11,800	11,700	0.0	0.9
Retail Trade	80,700	81,200	76,900	-0.6	4.9
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	11,900	11,900	11,500	0.0	3.5
Building Material and Garden Equipment	9,300	9,200	9,100	1.1	2.2
Food & Beverage Stores	12,300	12,400	12,200	-0.8	0.8
General Merchandise Stores	17,300	17,500	15,600	-1.1	10.9
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	19,800	19,700	19,700	0.5	0.5
Utilities	2,000	2,000	1,900	0.0	5.3
Transportation & Warehousing	17,800	17,700	17,800	0.6	0.0
Rail Transportation	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0	0.0
Truck Transportation	9,200	9,200	9,000	0.0	2.2
Information	10,500	10,500	10,300	0.0	1.9
Telecommunications	3,700	3,700	3,700	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	31,800	32,000	30,900	-0.6	2.9
Finance & Insurance	23,200	23,300	22,700	-0.4	2.2
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	8,600	8,700	8,200	-1.1	4.9
Professional & Business Services	79,300	78,500	77,500	1.0	2.3
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	33,900	33,500	32,600	1.2	4.0
Scientific Research & Development	7,800	7,800	7,700	0.0	1.3
Management of Companies & Enterprises	7,600	7,600	7,700	0.0	-1.3
Administrative & Support & Waste Management	37,800	37,400	37,200	1.1	1.6
Administrative & Support Services	36,700	36,100	35,900	1.7	2.2
Educational & Health Services	72,800	72,100	68,700	1.0	6.0
Educational Services	8,800	8,300	8,200	6.0	7.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	64,000	63,800	60,500	0.3	5.8
Hospitals	15,700	15,700	13,400	0.0	17.2
Leisure & Hospitality	59,800	59,300	56,200	0.8	6.4
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	8,200	7,900	7,400	3.8	10.8
Accommodation & Food Services	51,600	51,400	48,800	0.4	5.7
Accommodation	8,500	8,400	7,800	1.2	9.0
Food Services & Drinking Places	43,100	43,000	41,000	0.2	5.1
Other Services	18,700	18,600	18,400	0.5	1.6
Total Government	118,500	114,700	119,500	3.3	-0.8
Federal Government	11,500	11,600	11,900	-0.9	-3.4
State & Local Government	107,000	103,100	107,600	3.8	-0.6
State Government	30,200	27,800	32,100	8.6	-5.9
State Government Education	14,700	12,700	17,100	15.7	-14.0
State Government Administration	15,500	15,100	15,000	2.6	3.3
Local Government	76,800	75,300	75,500	2.0	1.7
Local Government Education	41,400	40,000	40,300	3.5	2.7
Local Government Administration	32,300	32,200	32,500	0.3	-0.6
Local Government Tribes	3,100	3,100	2,700	0.0	14.8

*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 Table 3: Economic Indicators

	Feb 2007	Mar 2007	Feb 2006	% Change From Last Month	% Change From Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE [1]					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	753,900	751,200	742,400	0.4	1.5
Unemployment	21,200	22,800	26,800	-7.0	-20.9
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	2.8	3.0	3.6		
Total Employment	732,700	728,400	715,600	0.6	2.4
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	749,000	745,800	743,500	0.4	0.7
Unemployment	28,200	31,100	34,200	-9.3	-17.5
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	4.2	4.6		
Total Employment	720,800	714,700	709,300	0.9	1.6
U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE[2]	4.5	4.5	4.9		
U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX[2]					
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	198.5	197.6	194.2	0.5	2.2
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	203.5	202.4	198.7	0.5	2.4
AGRICULTURE					
Agriculture Employment	35,580	34,610	34,580	2.8	2.9
Operators	9,740	9,740	9,740	0.0	0.0
Unpaid Family	360	360	360	0.0	0.0
Hired Workers	25,480	24,510	24,480	4.0	4.1
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Activities					
Initial Claims[3]	7,552	12,248	7,750	-38.3	-2.6
Weeks Claimed[4]	76,514	96,293	75,362	-20.5	1.5
Benefit Payment Activities[5]					
Weeks Compensated	66,633	77,891	63,770	-14.5	4.5
Total Benefit $ Paid	$16,233,431	$18,942,268	$15,109,875	-14.3	7.4
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	$243.62	$243.19	$236.94	0.2	2.8
Covered Employers	50,359	49,992	47,323	0.7	6.4
Total Benefit $ Paid During Last 12 Months[4]	$111,547,835	$110,424,278	$127,653,452	1.0	-12.6

(1) Preliminary Estimate

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

(3) Includes all entitlements/programs on Intrastate and Interstate Agent, New, and Additional Claims

(4) Includes all entitlements/programs, Intrastate and Interstate Agent

(5) Includes all entitlements/programs, Total Liable Activities

Panhandle News

BENEWAH, BONNER, BOUNDARY, KOOTENAI & SHOSHONE COUNTIES

ECONOMIC TRENDS

In early 2006, the Coeur d'Alene Metropolitan Statistical Area was astonished to see its unemployment rate fall below 4 percent, often considered the full employment rate, which is the lowest unemployment can fall without creating inflationary pressure. In 2005 the area's rate had fallen below the U.S. rate for the first time in decades. Now the rate is creeping even closer to another milestone — 3 percent — as February's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.2 percent, the lowest level ever recorded.

Unemployment in the rest of the Panhandle also was low in February. Benewah County's rate, which generally was in the double-digits during most of the 1980s and 1990s, was 6.2 percent, well below the 7.5 percent of February 2006. Bonner County's 3.7 percent was its lowest rate ever and significantly lower than the U.S. rate of 4.5 percent. Boundary County at 5.6 percent was down considerably from the 7.4 percent in the same month one year earlier. Shoshone County's 5.8 percent was the lowest since the early 1980s.

The broad-based job expansion enjoyed by the Panhandle counties continues in the manufacturing, construction, health care, tourism, retail, transportation and service industries. The two major sectors showing job losses were wood product manufacturing, which has seen some downsizing because of low lumber prices, and Information, where jobs have been lost in telecommunications. Despite a slowdown in residential construction, construction activity remains high as many commercial projects come online.

As long as the national economy continues to expand, the Panhandle should grow at a somewhat faster rate than the U.S. As incomes rise nationwide, the region can expect to sell more manufactured goods and host more tourists. In addition, the thriving world economy has put shine back in metal markets, boosting the mining sector in the Panhandle. With manufacturing, mining and tourism creating jobs, incomes are on the rise, boosting jobs at retail stores, restaurants, health care providers and service businesses.

Panhandle Table 1: Coeur d'Alene MSA Labor Force & Employment
Kootenai County

	Feb 2007*	Jan 2007	Feb 2007	% Change From Last Month	% Change From Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	68,680	69,590	68,630	-1.3	0.1
Unemployed	2,230	2,540	2,650	-12.2	-15.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.2	3.6	3.9		
Total Employment	66,450	67,050	65,980	-0.9	0.7
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	67,620	69,320	68,170	-2.5	-0.8
Unemployed	3,270	3,700	3,740	-11.6	-12.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.8	5.3	5.5		
Total Employment	64,350	65,620	64,430	-1.9	-0.1
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs - NAICS**	53,720	53,520	51,630	0.4	4.0
Goods-Producing Industries	10,630	10,790	10,220	-1.5	4.0
Natural Resources & Mining	450	450	420	0.0	7.1
Construction	5,440	5,530	5,220	-1.6	4.2
Manufacturing	4,740	4,810	4,580	-1.5	3.5
Wood Product Manufacturing	970	980	1,000	-1.0	-3.0
Other Manufacturing	3,770	3,830	3,580	-1.6	5.3
Service-Providing Industries	43,090	42,730	41,410	0.8	4.1
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	10,470	10,570	9,600	-0.9	9.1
Wholesale Trade	1,540	1,530	1,420	0.7	8.5
Retail Trade	7,780	7,870	7,180	-1.1	8.4
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	1,150	1,170	1,000	-1.7	15.0
Information	940	950	970	-1.1	-3.1
Financial Activities	3,000	2,980	2,790	0.7	7.5
Professional & Business Services	5,980	5,960	5,850	0.3	2.2
Educational & Health Services	5,300	5,250	5,230	1.0	1.3
Leisure & Hospitality	6,340	6,250	6,030	1.4	5.1
Other Services	1,420	1,420	1,430	0.0	-0.7
Government Education	3,810	3,570	3,770	6.7	1.1
Government Administration	5,090	5,040	5,070	1.0	0.4
Government Tribes	740	740	670	0.0	10.4

* 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

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

BENEWAH COUNTY

- Benewah County's population increased only 1.9 percent from 9,181 in April 2000 to 9,347 in July 2006, according to recently released statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau. Although the

county's population growth was considerably slower than the state's 13.3 percent, it managed to hold its own as the 28th most populated of Idaho's 44 counties. Its net natural increase — births minus deaths – was 84, while net migration — the number of people moving in minus number of people moving out — was 127. Population growth has picked up during the last couple of years.

- Debbie Gregoire recently opened Cat Paw Creations craft store in the mall at Happy's Place in St. Maries. The craft store sells paints, yarns, clay, beads and supplies for crochet and rubber-stamping.

BONNER COUNTY

- From April 2000 to July 2006, Bonner County added 4,440 people to put its population at 41,275, up 12.1 percent. That growth put Bonner County ahead of Nez Perce County as the eighth most populous in Idaho. About 95 percent of the growth was from migration with natural growth accounting for only a fraction of the population increase. About 90 of the county's new residents moved from other countries while the rest came from other states.
- Coldwater Creek Inc., the Sandpoint-based national retailer that employs more than 500 people in Bonner County, reached a milestone last year when it passed the $1 billion mark in annual sales of its women's apparel. The company was founded in 1984 as a small mail-order catalog. In addition to its mail-order operations, Coldwater Creek now has 239 stores across the U.S. and plans to open 65 new stores this year.
- Aerospace giant Northrop Grumman Corp. recently presented an award for excellence to Cygnus Inc. for its quality, costs and schedule performance on the F/A-18 aircraft program. Cygnus, a Ponderay-based firm with about 70 employees, is well-known for the high quality sheet metal and machine parts and assemblies it makes for the aerospace industry.
- Horizon Credit Union recently opened a branch at Sandpoint High School to serve students and school employees. The Bulldog Branch, named for the high school's mascot, is run by the students. Across the U.S., banks and credit unions are opening branches in high schools where they teach youth about money management, handling credit and dealing with checking accounts. The branch is staffed by four student tellers, who are receiving great learning opportunities, and two managers from Horizon's Sandpoint office.

BOUNDARY COUNTY

- Boundary County's population grew 9.7 percent, from 9,871 in April 2000 to 10,831 in July 2006. Although the rate was slower than the state's strong 13.3 percent, it still was fast enough to move Boundary County past Washington County to become Idaho's 26th largest county. Migration accounted for over 80 percent of the growth. Much of that growth reflects Bonner County residents moving in for less expensive houses.

Net natural increase = the number of births minus deaths.

Net migration = the number of people moving in minus number of people moving out.

KOOTENAI COUNTY

- When it comes to population growth, Kootenai County is a powerhouse. Its population grew 21 percent between April 2000 and July 2006, making it the third fastest growing of Idaho's 44 counties, just behind Canyon and Teton counties. Over 82 percent of the growth was from migration.
- Nectar of Life Coffee Co. has contracted to provide coffee for the 2,300 Marshalls and T.J. Maxx stores across the U.S. The four-year-old business based in Coeur d'Alene makes fair trade organic coffee blends. Owner Martin Jennings donates a significant portion of the sales revenue to Catholic Relief Services for improving infrastructure, schools and health care in poor, rural communities around the world where the coffee is grown.
- Heidi's Cottage Classics, a six-year-old business that sells gourmet pancake mixes, recently opened its own manufacturing facility in a 1,400-square-foot commercial kitchen in Coeur d'Alene after years of contracting with packagers. Heidi's sells pancake mixes including whole wheat, sourdough and oats 'n apples varieties.
- GarageTown USA of Coeur d'Alene has turned a great idea into a thriving business. Three years ago, it opened its first condominium storage units in the Coeur d'Alene area. Now GarageTown has more than a dozen storage condo developments in Idaho, Arizona, Texas, Colorado, Alaska and Washington and employs 10 workers at its headquarters in Coeur d'Alene. The condo storage units provide

electricity and are located in gated developments with a clubhouse for members. Prices run from $50,000 to $200,000. The condo storage units are popular with people who store classic cars, high-end boats and RVs.

- Bakery by the Lake, specializing in pastries and artisan breads, opened in March in Coeur d'Alene. The 4,000-square-foot store employs 12.
- Rusty's, a 2,000-square-foot upscale sports bar featuring eight high-definition TVs, recently opened in Marty Fortier's Design Center in Hayden. The bar employs eight. The design center, where construction was recently completed, houses a collection of home décor stores including a window covering and tinting shop, masonry showroom and flooring store. The center also houses the 2b Café, which serves sandwiches, salads and other goodies.
- Hippo Car Wash hired 10 people when it opened in January in Coeur d'Alene. The car wash, owned by Dean Boever and Mike Threadgill, uses large foam brushes with less friction than normal car washes. It also features a special scrubber to shine tires.
- Fisherman's Market and Grill will open in a 3,500-square-foot space in Coeur d'Alene mid-April. Shoppers will be able to pick up fresh seafood in the retail shop while up to 50 diners can enjoy seafood meals in the restaurant. Six people are expected to be hired to work there.
- Thomas Hammer Coffee Roasting Co. recently opened a 1,500-square-foot coffee and pastry shop in Post Falls.
- The Coeur d'Alene Resort's 30,000-square-foot luxury spa that opened last year has received considerable national attention. In February, it led USA Today's list of 10 romantic places to visit. With side-by-side waterbeds, which double as massage tables, a beautiful setting, crackling fireplaces and exquisite service, the spa captured the national newspaper's attention.
- A 1,740-square-foot Starbucks store and a 4,328-square-foot Verizon store are moving into the Cornerstone Plaza building once construction is completed. When it opens on April 20, the Starbucks will employ 25 people. The Verizon store plans to employ 10 when it opens in May.

SHOSHONE COUNTY

- Shoshone County was the only Panhandle county to see population decline between April 2000 and July 2006. Nine other Idaho counties also lost population during that period. Because Shoshone County lost many young families, who moved out after a series of mine closures in the last two decades, its population is significantly older than most Idaho counties. As a result, deaths have exceeded births, something that occurred in only four other Idaho counties, which also have natural resource-based economies that shed jobs in the last decade or more. The Census Bureau also estimates 274 more people moved out of Shoshone County than moved in. The combination resulted in a 4.3 percent population decline for the six years. But job prospects have brightened since 2004 and more people have been moving in than moving out of the county. A 6.6 percent population decline from 2000 to 2004 was followed by a 2.5 percent population increase the past two years.
- High metal prices are increasing the possibility that more mines will reopen, expand or start up in the Silver Valley. After Hecla Mining greatly increased its production and exploration efforts at and around its Lucky Friday Mine near Mullan, one of its neighbors is expanding exploration. Timberline Resources Corp. of Coeur d'Alene plans to spend about $300,000 at the Snowstorm project, which it purchased two years ago from Hecla. The historic Snowstorm Mine produced 800,000 tons of ore averaging 4 percent copper and 6 ounces of silver per ton. The mine opened in the late 1890s, employed about 600 people by 1915 and closed following a fire at its concentrator in 1927. Exploration drilling is expected to begin later this year.

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North Central Idaho News

CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

ECONOMIC TRENDS

February's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased two-tenths of a point from January to 3.8 percent. Other manufacturing, with the metal fabrication sector leading the way, created over 200 new jobs in February. Year-over-year unemployment was also down seven-tenths of a percent from last February's rate of 4.3 percent.

North Central Idaho Table 1: Lewiston MSA Labor Force & Employment
Nez Perce County, Idaho and Asotin County, Washington

	Feb 2007*	Jan 2007	Feb 2006	% Change From Last Month	% Change From Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	29,480	28,950	28,860	1.8	2.1
Unemployment	1,060	1,100	1,230	-3.6	-13.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.6	3.8	4.3		
Total Employment	28,420	27,850	27,640	2.0	2.8
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	29,840	29,330	29,390	1.7	1.5
Unemployment	1,430	1,520	1,620	-5.9	-11.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.8	5.2	5.5		
Total Employment	28,410	27,810	27,770	2.2	2.3
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs - NAICS**	27,310	27,090	26,780	0.8	2.0
Goods-Producing Industries	4,600	4,610	4,440	-0.2	3.6
Natural Resources & Mining	190	190	170	0.0	11.8
Construction	1,320	1,300	1,200	1.5	10.0
Manufacturing	3,090	3,120	3,070	-1.0	0.7
Wood Product Manufacturing	540	540	520	0.0	3.8
Paper Manufacturing	1,090	1,090	1,160	0.0	-6.0
Other Manufacturing	1,460	1,490	1,390	-2.0	5.0
Service-Providing Industries	22,710	22,480	22,340	1.0	1.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,300	5,350	5,310	-0.9	-0.2
Wholesale Trade	690	690	660	0.0	4.5
Retail Trade	3,430	3,470	3,460	-1.2	-0.9
Utilities	90	90	80	0.0	12.5
Transportation & Warehousing	1,090	1,100	1,110	-0.9	-1.8
Information	420	430	400	-2.3	5.0
Financial Activities	2,030	2,020	1,940	0.5	4.6
Professional & Business Services	1,520	1,490	1,560	2.0	-2.6
Education & Health Services	4,520	4,480	4,370	0.9	3.4
Leisure & Hospitality	2,500	2,480	2,410	0.8	3.7
Other Services	1,150	1,160	1,130	-0.9	1.8
Government Education	2,630	2,510	2,540	4.8	3.5
Government Administration	2,010	1,930	2,020	4.1	-0.5
Government Tribes	630	630	660	0.0	-4.5

*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

SPECIAL TOPIC: *Agricultural Manufacturing Growing in North Central Idaho*

Small agricultural manufacturing companies are doing well in north central Idaho. Tough as conditions are on the family farm, small companies making things from discs and hitches to four-wheeler sprayers have found a niche.

Their markets are rural residents, who don't necessarily raise crops, and large farms. Lewiston's Agpro shop foreman, Danny Weiss, points to a 14-gallon tank with a sprayer strapped to the back of an all-terrain vehicle.

"There's a lot of five-acre farmers who use this equipment, and it just grows from there," says Weiss.

Then there are large land holders, who buy Agpro's no-till drills designed to handle the undulating terrain of the Palouse and Camas prairies.

Working both the small and large markets gives companies like AgPro diversification. These manufacturers are a growing sector of the regional economy, rising from 5.3 percent to 7.1 percent of overall manufacturing in just the last three years.

They are mostly owner-operated shops either off the beaten path or sometimes home-based. Greg Stolz of Greencreek, for example, makes harrows on his farm to complement his farming income. Harrows are bars with teeth that are dragged across the ground behind farm equipment to level the field and break up straw for no-till growers. Some horse owners pull small versions behind ATVs to clean up their pastures. Stolz fills orders from January through the end of March at his shop. The rest of the time he raises winter wheat, barley and spring wheat.

"It's been a very good supplement," Stolz says.

Not all of the region's agricultural manufacturers are small. The sector includes large companies like Hillco Technologies, the Nezperce-

based maker of performance improving equipment for farm machinery. Controller Carroll Keith says revenues have grown for the last three years as expanding demand for ethanol pushes corn prices higher and boosts sales of Hillco's leveling systems for combines.

Both small and large manufacturers are cashing in on a couple of trends. The number of farms in the United States has dropped in the last five years while the average size increased, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture statistics. The farmers who remain need the latest technology to cultivate increasingly large areas. And the rural population is growing with people who have a couple cows or a few horses and need equipment to care for them but don't depend on animals or crops as a significant source of income.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

CLEARWATER COUNTY

- More than $11 million will be spent to improve the 24-mile Grangemont Road that snakes out of Orofino into the county's vast forests. Loaded logging trucks travel the two-lane highway daily as do regular automobiles. Most improvements will be concentrated on the first 11 miles that twist uphill from 700 feet in elevation to around 3,000 feet.
- Manufacturers of recoil pads for rifles and shotguns and glasses for marksmen have taken over the remaining space in the Orofino Business Center. Kick-EEZ previously of La Center, Wash., and Post 4 Optics, formerly of Lewiston, have both signed a 10-year lease with the city for the space that was vacated by shutoff-valve maker Seismic Tech a year ago, said Dieter Kaboth, vice president of the two businesses. Post 4 Optics has two employees while Kick-EEZ has four. Architectural Signs and Engraving occupies the rest of the $2.5 million center, built to help revive the Clearwater County economy after the Potlatch Jaype plywood mill closed in 2000. Kick-EEZ and Post 4 Optics might grow to between 10 to 15 employees in five years, Kaboth said. "It's incredibly hard to put numbers on it. We do have a huge potential for growth."

IDAHO AND LEWIS COUNTIES

- Some Camas and Palouse area farmers are contracting crops through 2008 to lock in high wheat prices. Bruce Baldwin, manager of Palouse Grain Growers Inc., said farmers are taking advantage of current market prices for as long as they can. It could be a gamble, considering the price could go even higher than the present rate of $5.26 a bushel.
- "You hope it's the worst marketing move you ever make and that the price will be higher in a few years," said Randy Suess, who farms outside of Colfax. "We've been stuck in $3.50 wheat for so long that it's nice to make a little money."
- Suess said the market has not held prices above $5 since 1996, and even then the prices did not remain high for as long as they have this season. Soft white winter wheat broke the $5 mark in October and has hovered around that level since. Prices consistently were around $3.50 per bushel from 2003 to 2005.
- A prolonged drought in Australia, the region's main competitor in soft white winter wheat production, led to low yields and strengthened the world market. Producers in the Midwest also experienced low yields due to drought. Worldwide wheat production could be up next year, and prices could drop. Suess said a meteorologist recently forecasted more rain for Australia's next growing season, which could result in higher wheat yields.
- "It's a real shooting match," he said. "Farmers are just trying to lock in the best price for their crop. Looking two years into the future is a gamble, but with the current market it could be a wise move."

LATAH COUNTY

- The University of Idaho has unveiled its 'Go Idaho!' program to reward hard-working high school students with college scholarships. The program offers students $6,000 — and possibly as much as $45,000 — to attend the university this fall. It is available to any high school graduate with a minimum 3.5 cumulative grade-point average and home-schooled students scoring at least 25 on the ACT or 1140 on the SAT.

  "I'm very, very excited about the importance of this scholarship to the kind of learning, the kind of college experience that our students have at the University of Idaho," President Tim White said.

  The Go Idaho! Scholarship is intended to ease problems students face when they are distracted by part-time jobs and worried about financing their education. It is meant to give students more time to study and participate in campus life.

  There is one catch. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 grade-point average to remain eligible for the financial aid. Most students will receive $1,500 a year for a total of $6,000, but the deal gets even better for students who become National Merit Scholars. These students will receive full-ride scholarships of approximately $10,000 a year to cover the costs of tuition, fees, room and board.

  University Director of Financial Aid Dan Davenport said the program encourages high school sophomores and juniors to realize "if I study a little bit harder and do well, here is the reward I'll have at the end."

NEZ PERCE AND ASOTIN COUNTIES

- The Nez Perce Tribe will give more than $400,000 to area schools from its gaming revenues. The tribe is mandated through its gaming compact to distribute 5 percent of revenues from the tribe's two casinos to local education programs. Tribal leaders donated $403,607 for 2006, tribal council assistant secretary-treasurer Joel Moffett said. The tribe operates both the Clearwater River Casino east of Lewiston and the It'se Ye Ye Casino in Kamiah. Potlatch Elementary School Principal Hugh Maxwell said the $6,000 received by his school has financed after-school programs in the past. This year's funding will help pay for a reading coach to develop a literacy program. "It's critical to some of the existing things that we need to be able to do with our students," Maxwell said, noting the money makes an even bigger difference because of tighter budgets. Tamara Ledgerwood from Timberline High School in Weippe plans to update her science classroom and the $8,000 will help her and other science teachers get the supplies they need. "I know my kids are going to be enjoying it for years to come," Ledgerwood said.
- Eddie Bauer will open an outlet store May 11 at Nez Perce Plaza in Lewiston. The national retailer targets consumers between 30 and 55 in communities that appreciate and understand the "modern outdoor lifestyle," said Lisa Erickson, a spokeswoman for the company in Redmond, Wash. Sheldon Jackson, an owner of Bedrock LLC in Spokane, called the store unique to the area with products that are “a little more upscale than your usual hunting and outdoor gear that's made a little more for utility than for style." Bedrock LLC owns the 6,500-square-foot building where Eddie Bauer will go. The store will employ five people, according to paperwork submitted with a building permit. The national tenants Bedrock LLC recruits for Nez Perce Plaza are ones that have precise requirements for their building, Jackson said. The facades, loading docks and dimensions are all geared to what corporate executives have found works best, Jackson said. "They usually will not go into an existing building."

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COMMUNITY EMPLOYER COMMITTEE NOW FORMING IN GRANGEVILLE

The Grangeville Idaho Commerce & Labor office seeks community involvement to establish an employer committee. Employer committees throughout the state are comprised of community business owners, human resource professionals, managers and others who form a partnership with Idaho Commerce & Labor to improve the agency’s service to the entire business community. Members meet periodically, providing important information to help local businesses thrive. Participating in these committees is also an opportunity for businesses to have a voice in shaping the services received through tax dollars.

With the support of the local Commerce & Labor office, the committee offers tremendous value to the business community by offering such services as:

- customized business seminars
- resources to assist with work force issues
- help with retention or expansion challenges
- Discussions about daily concerns of operating a business

Idaho Commerce & Labor Grangeville local office, 305 N. State St. in Grangeville.

The vision for this committee is “to allow the business community to help Commerce & Labor identify the needs of area employers,” said Heather Sawyer, manager of the Grangeville local office.

Call today about participating in the Grangeville Community Employer Committee (208) 983-0440.

Southwestern Idaho News

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

ECONOMIC TRENDS

February's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise-Nampa Metropolitan Statistical Area declined a tenth to 2.5 percent, marking the third straight month of declining unemployment in the metropolitan area. This extremely low unemployment rate is a boon to job seekers, who are seeing opportunities expand, pay increase and benefits improve as employers compete for qualified workers Unemployment is almost like a double-edged sword for employers. A good economy means more business but a harder time finding the workers to handle the increased workload. Many area employers, as a result, are turning to employee referral recruitment programs and other nontraditional recruiting techniques to find new workers.

Total nonfarm jobs increased by 0.9 percent, or 2,400 jobs, from January to February for a total of 273,800. February saw the return of many jobs, mostly in public and private education after the seasonal holiday drop, and was a good

Southwestern Idaho Table 2: February 2007 Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for Southwestern Idaho Counties

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unemployed	Percent Unemployed	Number Employed
Ada	198,017	4,546	2.3	193,471
Adams	2,060	102	4.9	1,958
Boise	3,381	98	2.9	3,283
Canyon	82,899	2,529	3.1	80,371
Elmore	10,469	349	3.3	10,120
Gem	7,809	249	3.2	7,560
Owyhee	5,378	89	1.7	5,289
Payette	10,416	407	3.9	10,010
Valley	4,976	177	3.5	4,799
Washington	5,197	186	3.6	5,011
Statewide	753,976	21,242	2.8	732,734

Southwestern Idaho Table 1: Boise City-Nampa MSA Labor Force & Employment (Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem and Owyhee counties)

	Feb 2007*	Jan 2007	Feb 2006	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	297,500	298,700	288,500	-0.4	3.1
Unemployment	7,500	7,800	9,300	-3.8	-19.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.5	2.6	3.2		
Total Employment	290,000	290,900	279,200	-0.3	3.9
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	298,700	299,000	291,900	-0.1	2.3
Unemployment	9,300	10,500	11,100	-11.4	-16.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.1	3.5	3.8		
Total Employment	289,400	288,500	280,800	0.3	3.1
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	273,800	271,400	260,800	0.9	5.0
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	55,800	55,800	52,300	0.0	6.7
Natural Resources & Construction	23,800	23,800	22,100	0.0	7.7
Construction	23,500	23,500	21,800	0.0	7.8
Manufacturing	32,000	32,000	30,200	0.0	6.0
Durable Goods	26,000	25,900	23,900	0.4	8.8
Wood Product Manufacturing	2,600	2,600	2,600	0.0	0.0
Fabricated Metal Products Mfg.	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0	0.0
Machinery Manufacturing	1,300	1,200	1,200	8.3	8.3
Computer & Electronic Manufacturing	15,400	15,300	14,100	0.7	9.2
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	2,300	2,200	2,000	4.5	15.0
Other Durable Goods	2,900	3,100	2,500	-6.5	16.0
Nondurable Goods	6,000	6,100	6,300	-1.6	-4.8
Food Manufacturing	4,300	4,300	4,400	0.0	-2.3
Printing & Related Support Activities	700	700	700	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	1,000	1,100	1,200	-9.1	-16.7
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	218,000	215,600	208,500	1.1	4.6
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	52,500	53,100	49,800	-1.1	5.4
Trade	45,000	45,500	42,700	-1.1	5.4
Wholesale Trade	12,000	12,100	12,100	-0.8	-0.8
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	6,800	6,900	7,200	-1.4	-5.6
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	3,600	3,600	3,600	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	33,000	33,400	30,600	-1.2	7.8
Food & Beverage Stores	4,300	4,400	4,400	-2.3	-2.3
General Merchandise Stores	7,100	7,200	6,100	-1.4	16.4
All Other Retail Trade	21,600	21,800	20,100	-0.9	7.5
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	7,500	7,600	7,100	-1.3	5.6
Utilities	700	700	600	0.0	16.7
Transportation & Warehousing	6,800	6,900	6,500	-1.4	4.6
Information	4,700	4,600	5,500	2.2	-14.5
Telecommunications	1,500	1,500	2,400	0.0	-37.5
Financial Activities	15,000	15,100	14,100	-0.7	6.4
Finance & Insurance	10,700	10,700	10,100	0.0	5.9
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	4,300	4,400	4,000	-2.3	7.5
Professional & Business Services	39,500	39,000	37,300	1.3	5.9
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	11,900	11,800	11,500	0.8	3.5
Management of Companies & Ent.	5,600	5,600	5,800	0.0	-3.4
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt.	22,000	21,600	20,000	1.9	10.0
Educational & Health Services	32,200	31,900	32,500	0.9	-0.9
Educational Services	2,600	2,300	3,700	13.0	-29.7
Health Care & Social Assistance	29,600	29,600	28,800	0.0	2.8
Hospitals	9,700	9,700	9,300	0.0	4.3
Leisure & Hospitality	23,600	23,500	22,400	0.4	5.4
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2,900	2,900	2,900	0.0	0.0
Accommodation & Food Services	20,700	20,600	19,500	0.5	6.2
Accommodation	2,400	2,300	2,200	4.3	9.1
Food Services & Drinking Places	18,300	18,300	17,300	0.0	5.8
Other Services	7,700	7,700	6,500	0.0	18.5
Total Government	42,800	40,700	40,400	5.2	5.9
Federal Government	5,500	5,500	5,500	0.0	0.0
State & Local Government	37,300	35,200	34,900	6.0	6.9
State Government	13,800	12,000	13,600	15.0	1.5
State Government Education	4,600	2,900	4,900	58.6	-6.1
State Government Administration	9,200	9,100	8,700	1.1	5.7
Local Government	23,500	23,200	21,300	1.3	10.3
Local Government Education	15,200	14,900	13,300	2.0	14.3
Local Government Administration	8,300	8,300	8,000	0.0	3.8

* Preliminary Estimate

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

month for job retention in construction, where jobs were steady from January. Durable goods manufacturing added 100 jobs, but the service sector was the big gainer in February with professional and business services leading the way. From February 2006 to February 2007 the metropolitan economy created 13,000 jobs, a 5 percent increase that spanned nearly every industry sector. Notably manufacturing grew by 6 percent over the 12 months. Construction was up 7.8 percent, administrative support 10 percent and retail trade 7.8 percent. February's civilian labor force and total employment figures for all 10 counties in southwestern Idaho are shown in Table 2 on page 13.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

BOISE METROPOLITAN AREA

- The growth in the western part of the metropolitan area is drawing national retailers and restaurants to Canyon County. One of the newest opening in April is the Olive Garden in the Treasure Valley Marketplace in Nampa. Kohl's department store opened a store this month near the Treasure Valley Marketplace.
- The Dressbarn, also a nationally known retailer, and Cost Plus both opened in mid-March, Famous Footwear and Maurices also opened in March.
- The former Simplot Co. ethanol plant in Caldwell that has been empty since October 2004 has been reopened by London-based ED&F Man Holdings Limited. Idaho Ethanol Processing LLC has 14 workers producing ethanol from potato waste.
- The city of Caldwell is gearing up for future growth with an $8 million upgrade to its sewer system that includes new lines and a new pump station. The Caldwell East Urban Development Agency is financing the project. There are approximately 2,000 new homes already in the service area. The system is being beefed up to handle 9,000 more homes.
- Over the next two months, ExpressJet Airline will start offering nonstop flights from Boise to San Diego and Ontario, Calif. ExpressJet began offering flights to Ontario in April. San Diego flights are scheduled to start in mid-May.
- An $11 million school bond was passed for the rapidly growing Vallivue School District with over 75 percent of the vote. The district will build a new elementary school and buy land for two more. District officials predict they will have to build a new elementary school every two years. Over 600 new students enrolled this fall in the district that has been growing by 9 percent a year.
- The city of Marsing is getting a new library. Ninety percent of voters in a recent bond election favored a 21-year, $775,000 bond for a 4,700-square-foot facility that is scheduled to open in early 2008.
- Hampton Inn & Suites recently opened its newest hotel in southwestern Idaho at the BoDo development on Capital Boulevard. The facility has 186 rooms and is one of the larger Hampton Inn & Suites locations.
- The new XL Foods beef plant in Nampa is working its way up to processing 5,000 cattle a week with 400 hourly workers and nearly 100 salaried employees. The plant also does boning and special cutting of meat products. XL Foods plans to produce over $300 million in meat a year at its Nampa plant.
- The Nampa Industrial Corp., which has been active in buying and selling land and recruiting businesses and attracting jobs to Nampa since 1949, will soon be disbanded. Other economic development organizations have moved to the forefront.
- The chief executive of SuperValu recently told community leaders that Boise will continue to be an important location for the company, citing the experience and hard work of Albertsons employees as the reason. The marketing and merchandising departments are being moved to Minneapolis where SuperValu is headquartered, and the information technology, finance, human resources, legal and real estate will remain in Boise.
- The region's latest ethnic food store recently opened in Meridian. British Thing in downtown Meridian stocks many of England's favorite foods such as baked beans and chocolate covered biscuit cookies.
- Boise-based Washington Group International is countering the notion that the construction industry has slowed. The company recently announced it would be adding 1,000 workers to its global work force of 25,000. About 30 of these jobs are expected to be located in Boise. Citing the best industry conditions in 30 years, Washington Group will be looking for workers in engineering, construction and management.
- Micron Technology has announced a hiring freeze affecting over 250 jobs listed on its Web site. Due to anticipated falling NAND product prices, Micron decided vacant positions would be left unfilled.
- Two more hospitals are entering the regional health care market. Ernest Health Inc. just broke

ground on a $16 million, 40-bed long-term care facility near Bishop Kelly High School in Boise that will employ up to 180. A group of area investors plans to build a $60 million, 120,000-square-foot, 50-bed hospital employing 230 in Boise to compete directly with St. Luke's Regional Medical Center and St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center.

- The Snake River Valley, stretching from southeastern Oregon to Twin Falls, has been designated an American Viticultural Area, enabling vintners to use the appellation Snake River Valley in promoting their wines. Idaho grape growers and wineries have been pursuing this designation for four years. According to the Idaho Grape Growers and Wine Producers Commission, Walla Walla, Wash., received a designation 10 years ago and has seen wineries balloon from a handful to over 300 generating $3 billion a year in economic impact.

ELMORE COUNTY

- The Splendid Acres Water Association recently received one of the Department of Environmental Quality's low-interest loans to rebuild a drinking water system so it complies with state and federal drinking water standards. The $170,000 loan must be repaid in 20 years at 3.25 percent interest.
- Alternative Energy Holdings Inc. has signed a $20 million purchase agreement for 4,000 acres of farmland along the Snake River near Bruneau for a 1,500 megawatt nuclear power plant.
- American Legion Boulevard, the major link to Mountain Home from Interstate 84, will be resurfaced this summer for $600,000 ,and new water lines will be installed along the roadway.

PAYETTE COUNTY

- Dickinson Frozen Foods of Fruitland is spending over $6 million to upgrade its inventory control and management maintenance systems and automate several other procedures. The company, which also has a facility in Sugar City in eastern Idaho, hopes to increase productivity with its current staffing levels. Dickinson produces onion, pepper and potato products.
- The Independent Enterprise in Payette recently won the Inland Press Association's award for best non-daily newspaper with less than 5,000 circulation. The Independent Enterprise has been publishing newspapers for the last 109 years and plans to start a free Web site this summer.
- Energy West Corp. of Denver is leasing property throughout Payette County to set up test wells for companies interested in oil and natural gas exploration. Energy West said drilling for gas and oil could start in two years should the wells prove it viable.

VALLEY COUNTY

- The city of Donnelly has approved a rest stop just south of town on the east side of Highway 55. A Gem Community Grant from Idaho Commerce & Labor is being used to cover the $104,000 cost. The rest stop will include a paved parking area, an information kiosk, restrooms and a minimal amount of RV parking.
- Tamarack Resort will be developing the Poison Creek campground near Lake Cascade adjacent to the main entrance to the Resort. The improved campground will include a new marina and a park on the lake and will be for public use with no preference given to resort guests. Tamarack will be responsible for maintenance of the park and marina after the improvements are made.
- The first three of nine affordable homes in McCall should be built by May. Each will sell for $175,000. The homes, being built by Neighborhood Housing Services of Boise, are framed as modular sections and shipped to McCall from SMS Custom Builders in Pocatello.

ADAMS COUNTY

- Brundage Mountain Resort recently announced it will be adding two new chair lifts to the ski hill by mid-December. The resort is investing over $3 million on the lifts, which will open up an addition 160 acres of the mountain to skiers. The new lifts will allow an additional 3,600 skiers an hour to use the mountain.

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South Central Idaho News

BLAINE, CAMAS, CASSIA, GOODING, JEROME, LINCOLN, MINIDOKA & TWIN FALLS COUNTIES

ECONOMIC TRENDS

February's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Twin Falls-Jerome Micropolitan Statistical Area continued its incremental decline, falling to 2.7 percent, just two-tenths of a point below January. The rate was seven-tenths lower than a year earlier, when it was 3.4 percent. The year has started out strong, and continued job growth is anticipated throughout 2007, with nearly all sectors showing year-over-year job increases. However, the financial services industry has cut jobs, mostly from the contraction in residential home sales which are reportedly down 35 percent from last year. The professional and business services sector showed abnormally minimal growth – 30 jobs – year over year. This likely stems from the tight labor market that has created shortages for staffing agencies as well. Workers to fill temporary labor positions have become scarcer due to the increased full-time employment opportunities in the market. Another part of this sector, telemarketing or customer service companies, has seen attrition in Twin Falls due to the competitive labor market, which has made backfilling those jobs difficult. The government sector also took a dip in the Twin Falls area, and while that reflects shrinking government budgets, it could indicate a push by some public policy officials toward less government.

Population estimates for 2006 recently released from the U.S. Census Bureau confirm what has been clogging up Blue Lakes Boulevard, the main street through Twin Falls — the area has grown dramatically since the census. South Central Idaho Table 2 on page 17 compares the 2000 census figures to the new estimates for all the area counties. The region as a whole grew by just under 7 percent. Declines were posted only in Minidoka County where the population dropped 5.6 percent, and Cassia County, which saw a fractional two-tenths of a percent decrease — 51 people over six years. Interestingly, Cassia and Minidoka counties had among the state's highest birth rates since 2000. Cassia County ranked fifth and Minidoka County 13th. Population grew 11.7 percent in Twin Falls, but the highest regional growth rate was in Blaine County, which saw a 13.2 percent population increase, apparently the result of an increasing stock of affordable housing in the state's most expensive housing market. Lincoln County also showed high population growth at 11.8 percent, also due primarily

South Central Idaho Table 1: Twin Falls-Jerome MicSA Labor Force & Employment—Twin Falls and Jerome counties

	Feb 20067*	Jan 2007	Feb 2006	% Change From Last Month	% Change From Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	48,630	49,230	48,280	-1.2	0.7
Unemployment	1,300	1,430	1,660	-9.1	-21.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.7	2.9	3.4		
Total Employment	47,330	47,800	46,620	-1.0	1.5
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	47,900	48,280	47,950	-0.8	-0.1
Unemployment	1,660	1,860	2,050	-10.8	-19.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.5	3.9	4.3		
Total Employment	46,240	46,420	45,900	-0.4	0.7
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	38,360	38,020	37,120	0.9	3.3
Goods-Providing Industries	7,050	6,970	6,380	1.1	10.5
Natural Resources & Mining	30	30	30	0.0	0.0
Construction	2,110	2,120	1,990	-0.5	6.0
Manufacturing	4,910	4,820	4,360	1.9	12.6
Food Manufacturing	2,640	2,620	2,480	0.8	6.5
Other Manufacturing	2,270	2,200	1,880	3.2	20.7
Service-Providing Industries	31,310	31,050	30,740	0.8	1.9
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	9,590	9,740	9,540	-1.5	0.5
Wholesale Trade	1,830	1,800	1,840	1.7	-0.5
Retail Trade	5,440	5,530	5,490	-1.6	-0.9
Utilities	140	200	150	-30.0	-6.7
Transportation & Warehousing	2,180	2,210	2,060	-1.4	5.8
Information	620	630	610	-1.6	1.6
Financial Activities	1,590	1,640	1,670	-3.0	-4.8
Professional & Business Services	4,290	4,140	4,260	3.6	0.7
Educational & Health Services	4,960	4,940	3,240	0.4	53.1
Leisure & Hospitality	3,040	3,010	2,930	1.0	3.8
Other Services	1,440	1,430	1,340	0.7	7.5
Government Education	3,330	3,070	3,300	8.5	0.9
Government Administration	2,450	2,450	3,850	0.0	-36.4

*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 Table 2: Census Comparison, 2000 to 2006 by County, Area							
Geographic Area	Population April 2000	2000 Rank	Population July 2006	2006 Rank	Total Population Change*	Pop. Change Rank	% Change
State	**1,293,953**		**1,466,465**		**172,509**		**13.3%**
Region 4	**162,397**	**4**	**173,626**	**4**	**11,226**	**4**	**6.9%**
Blaine County	18,991	17	21,501	15	2,510	10	13.2%
Camas County	991	44	1,088	43	97	30	9.8%
Cassia County	21,416	13	21,365	16	-51	35	-0.2%
Gooding County	14,155	21	14,404	21	246	26	1.8%
Jerome County	18,342	18	20,130	17	1,788	14	9.7%
Lincoln County	4,044	39	4,522	37	478	22	11.8%
Minidoka County	20,174	15	19,041	18	-1,133	44	-5.6%
Twin Falls County	64,284	6	71,575	6	7,291	5	11.3%

to new affordable housing that is accommodating construction, clerical and landscaping workers commuting to Blaine County for higher wages and stable employment.

Water for the growers, rafters, fishermen and boaters appears promising this season. Snow packs are at 75 percent to 85 percent of normal for most of Idaho. Reservoir storage is at 100 percent to 130 percent of average throughout most of the state. With some continued precipitation, the water users will have sufficient water supply.

AREA DEVELEOPMENTS

CASTLEFORD

- Voters passed a $116,000 supplemental school levy to maintain operations for the next two years. Because of last August's property tax relief from the Legislature, taxpayers should still see a drop in their tax bills even with the new levy.

JEROME

- Jerome's new elementary school is expected to be open in December while the middle school is scheduled to open following spring break next year. The $9.2 million elementary school will handle 600 students and will be nearly full when it opens. The $17.2 million middle school will handle 850 students and will also be nearly full when it opens. Jerome County's population has just topped 20,000, which further reinforces the need for new schools and future planning for school needs. The county's birth rate was also the 12th highest in the state.
- The corridor into the city of Jerome has another attractive building. The new First American Title building had a ribbon-cutting in March.
- St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center has transferred ownership of St. Benedicts Family Medical Center in Jerome to the Benedictine Health System, a Catholic health care organization that specializes in operating rural hospitals and long-term care facilities. Benedictine currently runs Clearwater Valley Hospital and Clinics in Orofino and St. Mary's Hospital and Clinics in Cottonwood. Critical clinical collaboration and necessary administrative services between St. Alphonsus and St. Benedicts will continue. St. Alphonsus will also retain one seat on the St. Benedicts Board of Directors. Serving the Magic Valley since 1953, St. Benedicts is a full-service 25-bed hospital and offers inpatient care, acute care, long-term care, general and laparoscopic surgery, rural health clinics, a 24-hour emergency room, obstetrics, outpatient laboratory, diabetes management, visiting specialists, home health, occupational health and x-ray procedures. In addition, St. Benedicts has an attached long-term care unit licensed for 40 beds.

TWIN FALLS

Smaller business owners must be extremely responsive to changing conditions if they want to survive evolving markets because they do not have the budget contingencies bigger businesses have. In Twin Falls, several long-time businesses celebrated monumental events during March.

- Pioneer Federal Credit Union opened a new branch to serve the Blue Lakes corridor and the retail area spilling over from the mall area.
- Specialty Paint, which has been in business for 20 years, recently celebrated a change in ownership with a ribbon cutting for the new proprietor.
- Sleep Solutions hosted a ribbon cutting at its new business.
- JM Kitchens celebrated 40 years in business with a chamber gathering and ribbon cutting.
- Wal-Mart will be occupying the corner of Poleline and Washington in Twin Falls. The 24-hour store will have a garden center, an automotive servicing center and

a drive-through pharmacy. The giant retailer won a battle against its neighbors when the Twin Falls Planning and Zoning Commission allowed building restrictions in the North Haven Public Utility District agreement to be modified. While Wal-Mart beefs up shopping options in the corridor, critics fear it will compound the traffic congestion that will come with completion of the new high school and hospital in the area.

MINIDOKA AND CASSIA COUNTIES

- Plans continue for Brewster Dairy Inc. to take over the former Kraft plant in April. The city of Rupert has negotiated a compromise on sewage rates that maintains the normal rate for water usage but provides a 25 percent discount for sewage discharge over a period of 19 months. Celebrating its 40th year of production, Brewster is the nation's largest manufacturer of all natural Swiss cheese. The privately held corporation has production facilities in Brewster, Ohio, and Stockton, Ill. Brewster plans to begin production in Idaho on Nov. 1.
- Burley has been selected as the site for Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter's water summit on April 17. This summit was spurred by the controversial Supreme Court decision allowing the Water Resources Board to continue administering junior and senior water rights under conjunctive management rules. Otter believes the summit will be a starting point for discussion on how to comply with the ruling. Many groundwater pumpers, including dairies, hold rights junior to those of surface water users.
- Baraka Hair Supply and Innovative LLC have opened in the Burley-Heyburn Industrial Park. Each expects to hire five new workers with wages ranging from $8 to $15 per hour. These very different businesses are owned by a married couple. Baraka Hair Supply will manufacture hair extensions from imported hair. Innovative LLC retrofits generators and construction equipment, making it portable for use in Third World countries experiencing infrastructure problems. A Gem Grant from Idaho Commerce & Labor assisted this business with infrastructure due to its relocation from Utah.

BLAINE COUNTY

- The Idaho Bounty food cooperative has been organized to work on behalf of organic farmers and ranchers in the Wood River Valley and south central Idaho to market to local consumers. This organization will work as a catalyst to promote a local sustainable and healthy food supply with cooperative members paying an annual fee plus a percentage of sales to cover its costs. The first shipment to 30 consumers in the Wood River Valley included beef, pork, potatoes, eggs, beans and honey.
- The work force in Blaine County has always had affordable housing issues. Now the Blaine County School District is implementing several programs to address the shortage of educational professionals in their area, and one is housing. Ketchum, Carey and Hailey all have secured lots and are building affordable homes and duplexes that will be sold to school district employees and in some cases city employees. The residential construction academies at the community high schools are building these 42 units. The school district intends to work with other agencies to ensure staff has sufficient funds to cover closing costs and down payments for these units. Another short-term fix has the school district providing a monthly rent subsidy with declining payments based on time with the district. The 'Grow Your Own' program enables non-certified staff to take college classes toward teacher certification from Idaho State University and the College of Southern Idaho with the district paying for tuition and books.
- The median average home price in Sun Valley, based on information provided by the Sawtooth Multiple Listing Service, rose by 24 percent, and sales volume dropped 50 percent from 2005 to 2006. This is the most significant slowdown in the past 18 years to affect the resort town. This slowdown has not affected the $2 million dollar plus homes, which indicates that second home ownership is still solid in the Wood River Valley. Home sales nationally are down 13.8 percent, and the decline in Idaho has been 35 percent. Median home prices for Sun Valley, the state and the nation with their year-over-year changes are shown in South Central Idaho Table 3, below.

South Central Table 3: Median Home Price Changes, 2005 to 2006

Area	Median Price 2006	% Change From 2005
Sun Valley	$735,000	+24% Change
Idaho	$245,957	+11% Change
USA	$219,800	-2.5% Change

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Southeastern Idaho News

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA & POWER COUNTIES

ECONOMIC TRENDS

The Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 2.9 percent is the lowest for February in this decade. The same can be said for all but one of the six other counties in southeastern Idaho. The exception is Franklin, where the 2.9 percent rate was still two-tenths above the 2.7 percent rate in February 2000. Five counties had unemployment rates below 3 percent. Three years ago only two had unemployment rates less than 4 percent. The 3.5 percent rate for Caribou County was the region's highest, but that rate is less than half the 7.3 percent unemployment rate in February 2003. That is one of the largest reductions in the state. As shown in Table 2 on page 20, Bear Lake County has experienced the region's largest unemployment rate decline this decade. At the same time, 5,800 more people are working in southeastern Idaho, an increase of 7.5 percent to 77,700.

SPECIAL TOPIC: Story Behind Unemployment Rates

Many economists generally believe a high unemployment rate indicates a struggling economy and a low rate reflects a more vibrant economy. Therefore, it would not be unreasonable to conclude that zero unemployment would be ideal.

But while zero unemployment might seem a worthwhile goal, having a small unemployment rate may be more desirable. To sort through the apparent contradiction, the three types of unemployment need to be analyzed.

Cyclical unemployment occurs when the unemployment rate moves in the opposite direction of growth in the gross domestic product. When the economy slows to limit economic growth, unemployment rises as fewer workers are needed to meet production and service demands This is the most common type of unemployment, and while an economic negative, some economists argue that recessions, when gross domestic product actually declines, are good for the economy because they keep it operating most efficiently by forcing marginal businesses to close, allowing the resources previously used by the businesses to be reallocated to stronger operations

Frictional unemployment occurs when people decide to change employers, careers or locations for personal reasons. Most frictional

Southeastern Idaho Table 1: Pocatello MSA Labor Force & Employment
Bannock and Power counties

	Feb 2007*	Jan 2007	Feb 2006	% Change From Last Month	% Change From Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	44,090	41,040	44,160	7.4	-0.2
Unemployment	1,300	1,480	1,610	-12.2	-19.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.9	3.6	3.6		
Total Employment	42,790	39,560	42,550	8.2	0.6
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	45,080	41,680	45,500	8.2	-0.9
Unemployment	1,680	1,930	2,010	-13.0	-16.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.7	4.6	4.4		
Total Employment	43,400	39,750	43,490	9.2	-0.2
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs - NAICS**	39,630	39,160	39,180	1.2	1.1
Goods-Producing Industries	5,580	5,580	5,520	0.0	1.1
Natural Resources & Mining	30	20	20	50.0	50.0
Construction	1,750	1,790	1,900	-2.2	-7.9
Manufacturing	3,800	3,770	3,590	0.8	5.8
Food Manufacturing	1,290	1,280	1,040	0.8	24.0
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	160	160	170	0.0	-5.9
Machinery Manufacturing	290	290	250	0.0	16.0
Other Manufacturing	2,060	2,040	2,140	1.0	-3.7
Service-Providing Industries	34,050	33,580	33,660	1.4	1.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	7,310	7,310	7,350	0.0	-0.5
Wholesale Trade	1,320	1,330	1,330	-0.8	-0.8
Retail Trade	4,630	4,630	4,550	0.0	1.8
Utilities	50	50	50	50.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,310	1,300	1,420	0.8	-7.7
Information	700	700	680	0.0	2.9
Financial Activities	2,150	2,150	2,060	0.0	4.4
Professional & Business Services	5,680	5,480	5,260	3.6	8.0
Educational & Health Services	3,360	3,330	3,420	0.9	-1.8
Leisure & Hospitality	3,360	3,390	3,320	-0.9	1.2
Other Services	1,160	1,160	1,150	0.0	0.9
Government Education	6,100	5,620	6,130	8.5	-0.5
Government Administration	4,230	4,440	4,290	-4.7	-1.4

*Preliminary Estimate

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

Southeastern Idaho Table 2: Unemployment Rate History			
	Highest rate since 2000	Rate for Feb 2006	Rate Difference
Pocatello MSA	5.8%	2.9%	2.9%
Bannock County	5.8%	2.9%	2.9%
Bear Lake County	6.7%	2.4%	4.3%
Bingham County	4.9%	2.7%	2.2%
Caribou County	7.8%	3.5%	4.3%
Franklin County	4.6%	2.9%	1.7%
Oneida County	4.6%	2.0%	2.6%
Power County	6.5%	3.4%	3.1%

unemployment is short term, and since it is reasonable to assume that people following their dreams and personal desires will be more productive workers, periods of this type of unemployment can be viewed as beneficial.

Structural unemployment occurs when there is no demand for the skills workers have. Most structural unemployment is due to technological changes and advancements in production or processing. Declining demand for telephone operators as computerization advances is an example.

So it would seem clear that a low unemployment rate is a trade-off for advancements in technology and for workers to improve their lives by following their dreams and personal goals.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Alternative energy development in southeastern Idaho has been making headlines recently with the announcement of Hoku Energy's plan to produce chips for solar panels, a $30 million grant to IOGEN to build an ethanol plant and the development of a wind farm in the Wolverine Canyon area of Bingham County. Firms in this industry will likely continue to grow if Washington Congressman Jay Inslee's New Apollo and Energy Act becomes law. The bill would spur development of alternative energy sources such as wind and solar, production of cellulosic ethanol and other bio-based research. The implications of biofuel development on rural Idaho are examined in great depth at http://www.cast-science.org. Additionally, the National Corn Growers Association has posted the results of a similar study on its Web site, http://www.ncga.com. This information is significant for southeastern Idaho and anyone interested in the future of Idaho agriculture.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

BANNOCK COUNTY

- After clearing many funding, zoning and organizational obstacles, the upgrade to the historic Whitman Hotel appears ready to bid. Initial cleanup and construction will begin in May. The project, which will take about 18 months, includes 25 affordable apartments on the upper floors and commercial space on the ground floor.
- The Portneuf Medical Center expansion continued through the coldest part of the winter. But now it appears an Idaho Supreme Court decision may do what the weather could not — delay the project. Building will continue through 2007, but the ability to issue an additional $150 million in construction bonds to finance the remaining work is in question. The high court ruling essentially bars public hospitals from incurring construction debt without a public vote. Hospital administrators have evaluated their options and are asking the Bannock County Commission to convert the hospital to a private nonprofit facility that is not subject to bonding restrictions. The county commissioners are seeking public opinion about how to proceed with funding the expansion.
- AMI Semiconductor announced plans to reduce its work force worldwide by 85, or 3 percent. That would mean a reduction of 15 to 20 positions at the Pocatello facility.
- Hoku Materials recently agreed to sell German-based Solar-Fabrik $175 million in polysilicon chips to be manufactured in Pocatello. Hoku already had a $200 million purchase agreement with Sanyo. Hoku has moved the site of its planned manufacturing plant from near the Pocatello airport to a more suitable location closer to the railroad with most of the infrastructure already in place.
- Lava Hot Springs hosted its first Fire and Ice Festival. The weekend celebration included a chili cook-off, representing the fire, and a Polar Bear Float race in the Portneuf River, representing the ice. There was wine tasting and a barista contest with a Casino Night to end the event. The festival brought in people from around the region, and local businesses benefited from the larger-than-usual crowds in the middle of winter.
- Although not listed as a business, the Lava Lions Club has been doing a lot of business. During the past year, this club sponsored bingo, trap shoots, duck races, boxing, a health fair and a Bulls Only riding fund raiser. The money leverages grants from various sources. In 2006, the combined Lions and Lionesses contributed $50,000 to

help enclose the swimming pool, $40,000 to the Lions Park and greenway, $16,010 to Lava Senior Center and Museum, $5,000 for windows in the Community Center, $3,400 to the Lava fireworks, $5,700 for an advertising billboard in Utah, $1,923 for cemetery lighting and $1,500 to the Fitness Center and several other small projects.

- Health West opened a walk-in clinic in McCammon. It is the sixth clinic operated by Health West in southeastern Idaho. The facility will be open on Tuesdays and Fridays, and hours will be set according to use and needs of the community. Health West is part of the National Preparedness Program, and in the event of health-related emergency it would be a distribution point for vaccines or medications.
- The 29th annual Simplot Games were held in Pocatello in February. Several national age and high school records were broken, and the nation's top track and field athletes got acquainted with southeastern Idaho. The economic impact to the area is estimated at more than $2.5 million.

BEAR LAKE COUNTY

- Bear Lake Memorial Hospital's board of directors approved expanding the hospital from 21 to 25 beds and awarded hospital privileges for obstetrician Robert Degnan and Dorian Gruning, a certified registered nurse anesthetist. The board also discussed recruiting a surgeon to replace Dr. Joseph Decker, who recently retired.
- Bear Lake real estate agents organized a public hearing on concerns with the local Planning and Zoning Commission. People were encouraged to speak up and take part in the planning process. As a result, the commission will more quickly address proposals for smaller lot sizes in areas zoned agricultural.

BINGHAM COUNTY

- IOGEN Biorefinery Partners LLC was awarded an $80 million grant from the Department of Energy to help develop and build a cellulosic ethanol biorefinery in Bingham County. IOGEN uses agricultural residues rather than foods like corn to produce ethanol. IOGEN must still obtain government loan guarantees before proceeding with construction of the $350 million facility.
- Bingham County is evaluating another possibility for producing ethanol by processing more than 25,000 tons of solid waste through a facility operated by Logite International Inc. The county's current million-dollar annual contract with Idaho Waste Systems expires in about three years, and county commissioners anticipate a substantial rate hike on renewal. If Logite's technology and bid proposal are acceptable, the county's cost would be about $525,000 per year.
- Despite personal concerns about high groundwater levels around Springfield Lake, the Bingham County Commission approved the preliminary plat for the 15-acre Lakeside Estates Subdivision. The commissioners debated for more than two hours before deciding to put their trust in the stamp of approval for the subdivision given by the Southeastern Idaho District Health Department.
- Old Town Salon opened a full-service salon in Blackfoot. Partners Teresa Bell and Dana Hudson intend to offer a referral service to cancer patients for make-up kits, wigs, scarves and other styling products. Also proving to be popular are hair extensions for horses.
- Shawn Gardner began providing the convenience of on-site milling for area cattlemen through his D&D Mobile Milling for dairies and feedlots from Ashton to Aberdeen. He charges $1.20 per hundred weight to roll barley and believes he will be very competitive as long as fuel prices do not skyrocket.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

- Long known for its lottery sales and a wide variety of beer products, La Tienda in Franklin will be operating as a new and expanded store in late April. It will have four gasoline pumps and one pump designated as fuel for snowmobiles, watercraft and ATVs. The new store will feature the Border Grill restaurant but will also specialize in take-out items. It will be one of the largest convenience stores in the Cache Valley, employing 25 full- and part-time workers.
- The three-month trial for commuter bus transportation between Preston and Logan has been praised by local residents, but uncertainty over funding threatens the future. However Pocatello Regional Transit is interested in purchasing the rights to the service. Regional Transit would team up with the Cache Valley Transit District to take over the service previously funded by Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to reduce air pollution. Bus ridership has increased from 800 the first month of operation to more than 1,100 in the last month.

- Investigators may never determine the cause of the fire that destroyed Chateau Mill & Supply, but it seems certain the owners will rebuild in the Preston industrial park. Co-owner Jon Bartholomew said cooperation from customers and assistance from other cabinet shops in the area have allowed his business to complete contracts and remain solvent during the transition period.
- The Clifton City Council approved an impact area recommended by Franklin Planning and Zoning. The impact boundaries protect watershed areas and involve the city in future development. The council also requested the city attorney draw up a moratorium on expansion of animal operations within the impact area. The ordinance will be reviewed at a later date.

CARIBOU COUNTY

- The Soda Springs City Council approved Mountain Island Energy's plan for a 50-meter tower to determine the feasibility of wind energy. The study will record wind speed, direction and temperature data. Mountain Island will pay the city for allowing the test and then a monthly amount based on energy production if the project goes forward.
- The Tronox plant in Soda Springs is cutting 13 jobs in response to decreasing demand for the electrolytic and specialty chemical products produced there. The layoff leaves only 11 workers at the site. Idled workers were offered severance packages and have been invited to attend Idaho Commerce & Labor informational meetings.
- The Clements family opened a new restaurant in the building previously occupied by the Crystal Cottage. The new restaurant is called Ravissant to reflect its French/Cajun flare. The menu will change with the seasons, and Chef M.J. Clements is committed to epicurean excellence.

POWER

- Bully Dog Technology announced plans to relocate its manufacturing operation to Highway 39 in American Falls. The company makes chips, which significantly increase the horsepower of trucks. Relocation is already under way, and a grand opening is scheduled for June.
- Power County and American Falls officials are concerned with the plans to replace the Exit 40 interchange on Interstate 86 with a new one 50 feet to the east. There is consensus that a new interchange is needed to address safety concerns and accommodate increased traffic, but there is disagreement over the most acceptable option. Local officials, concerned the proposed interchange will limit access to business sites, have asked the Idaho Transportation Department to consider an underpass option.

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East Central Idaho News

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON & TETON COUNTIES

ECONOMIC TRENDS

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased a tenth of a percentage point in February in the Idaho Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area as seen in East Central Idaho Table 1. There was little change in industry activity and no major business openings, but the pace should pick up as projects in the pipeline come to completion. Year-over-year, however, reflects several changes. Natural resources and mining lost 40 employees to construction when one business shifted its focus from mining to construction and building. In the same vein, professional and business services lost almost 4,000 employees when the location of those workers at the Idaho National Laboratory was correctly reported as Butte County, outside the metro area, instead of Bonneville County. As for real economic movement, education and construction jobs increased primarily due to population growth while wholesale trade decreased due to the timing of demand.

East Central Idaho Table 1: Idaho Falls MSA Labor Force & Employment
Bonneville and Jefferson counties

	Feb 2007*	Jan 2007	Feb 2006	% Change From Last Month	% Change From Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	58,450	58,100	57,890	0.6	1.0
Unemployment	1,350	1,420	1,770	-4.9	-23.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.3%	2.4%	3.1%		
Total Employment	57,100	56,680	56,130	0.7	1.7
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	57,290	57,350	57,240	-0.1	0.1
Unemployment	1,820	1,930	2,280	-5.7	-20.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.2%	3.4%	4.0%		
Total Employment	55,480	55,420	54,960	0.1	0.9
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs - NAICS**	49,890	49,850	53,490	0.1	-6.7
Goods-Producing Industries	7,480	7,580	7,270	-1.3	2.9
Natural Resources & Mining	10	10	50	0.0	-80.0
Construction	4,060	4,130	3,850	-1.7	5.5
Manufacturing	3,410	3,440	3,370	-0.9	1.2
Food Manufacturing	1,090	1,110	1,050	-1.8	3.8
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	240	240	250	0.0	-4.0
Machinery Manufacturing	150	150	150	0.0	0.0
Other Manufacturing	1,930	1,940	1,920	-0.5	0.5
Service-Providing Industries	42,410	42,270	46,220	0.3	-8.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	13,330	13,340	13,470	-0.1	-1.0
Wholesale Trade	3,950	3,950	4,180	0.0	-5.5
Retail Trade	7,600	7,600	7,650	0.0	-0.7
Utilities	60	50	50	20.0	20.0
Transportation	1,720	1,730	1,590	-0.6	8.2
Information	1,230	1,230	1,180	0.0	4.2
Financial Activities	2,210	2,220	2,140	-0.5	3.3
Professional & Business Services	5,500	5,510	9,480	-0.2	-42.0
Educational & Health Services	6,920	6,880	6,790	0.6	1.9
Leisure & Hospitality	4,360	4,310	4,420	1.2	-1.4
Other Services	1,930	1,910	2,040	1.0	-5.4
Government Education	3,740	3,630	3,470	3.0	7.8
Government Administration	3,190	3,250	3,230	-1.8	-1.2

*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

SPECIAL TOPIC: *New County Population Figures*

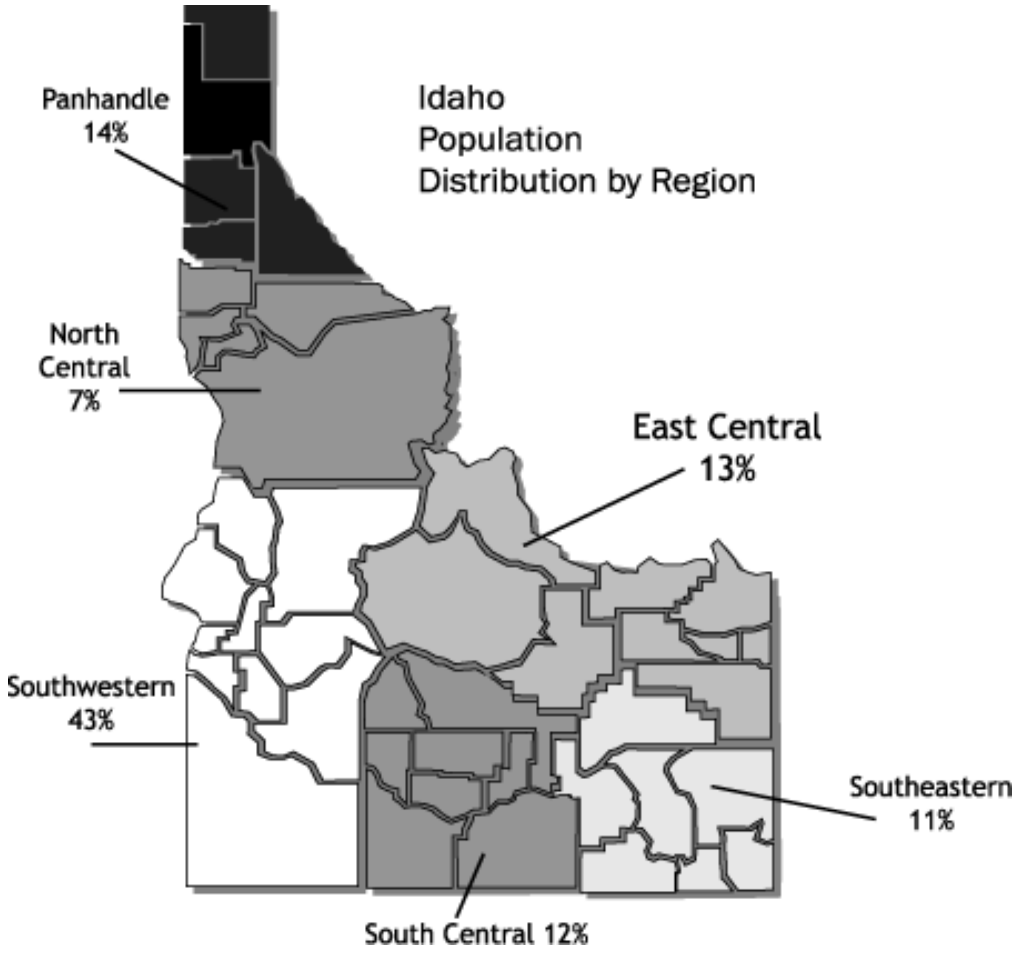
New 2006 county data reflects an overall increase of 4,490 in the population of east central Idaho. Not surprisingly, Bonneville County added almost 3,000 people, and Jefferson County recorded 800 more. Teton County added about 350, and its growth will continue at or above that pace with the explosion of elegant subdivisions currently under development. Three counties in the region placed in the top 10 of all Idaho counties in percent growth – Bonneville at 6 percent, Jefferson at 5 percent and Teton at 3 percent.

Clark and Custer counties actually reversed population declines in 2006 – Custer impressively gaining nearly 100 and Clark essentially stabilizing after seeing its population drop 10 percent since the census. Fremont County stopped a one-year decline with a gain of 145 in 2006. Although Butte County has been on a losing streak since 2003, its population also appeared to stabilize between 2006 and 2005. Chart 1 on page 24 shows population by region with the new 2006 population data. East central Idaho comprises 13 percent of the state's total population and shows no signs

of varying from that level. Steady growth, possibly at a slower pace, will continue for quite some time.

Looking at population changes since 2000, Bonneville County added over 12,000 people and remains the fourth largest county in the state. Madison added just under 4,000 and Jefferson almost 3,200. Madison County ranks 11th and Jefferson County 14th. Butte ranked 42nd and Clark 44th with the other counties in the region falling between those two groups.

East Central Idaho Chart 1: Idaho Population Distribution by Region.



AREA DEVELOPMENTS

BONNEVILLE COUNTY

- Mountain West Senior Housing LLC, headquartered in Oregon, is building a retirement center in Idaho Falls, comprised of an 87-unit independent living wing, a 66-unit assisted living wing and a 20-unit "memory care" facility on 10 acres. Another five duplex cottages will be added later. Mountain West already has 26 facilities in Washington and Oregon.
- Scoot N'Powersports opened in downtown Idaho Falls, offering scooters, gear and accessories. With gas prices rising again, owners Jake and Jana Fuller believe they have a potentially large customer base since motorized scooters get between 80 and 100 miles per gallon.
- Idaho Falls is on another top 10 list — one of the top 10 best, cheapest and safest places to live. The list can be accessed at http://www.bestplaces.net/ as Sperling's BestPlaces study. Idaho Falls is second for the best affordable places to live and work. Being close to Yellowstone National Park and Grand Teton National Park, along with the magnificent scenery and top-notch recreation, helped. The town is "big enough to have everything you need, but small enough to feel personal," one comment from the Web site states.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

- The city of Rigby hired Mike McCowin as a new building official/inspector. Now the city has its own building department after using the county's until now. McCowin used to work for the county so he is already familiar with the job. McCowin is certified to inspect both residential and commercial buildings.

MADISON COUNTY

- Madison County and the cities of Rexburg and Sugar City have agreed to hire Cooper, Roberts and Simonsen and Associates of Salt Lake City to develop the multijurisdictional comprehensive plan's ordinances and make sure they are all up to date with all the new development.

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F.Y.I.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

IDAHO HISPANICS CONTINUE INCREASING SHARE OF TOTAL BUYING POWER

The growth of Idaho's Hispanic population has cooled from the breakneck rates of the early 1990s, but the economic impact of Idaho's largest and fastest growing minority continues to grow faster than Hispanics nationwide.

In 2007 Hispanic buying power is expected to rise 9 percent from 2006 compared to an 8 percent increase in the buying power of Hispanics nationwide, according to the Selig Center for Economic Growth at the University of Georgia.

Within Idaho, the economic influence of Hispanics has also continued to expand much faster than the non-Hispanic population. But the steadily increasing share of total buying power Idaho Hispanics are gaining appears to be driven by their rising population.

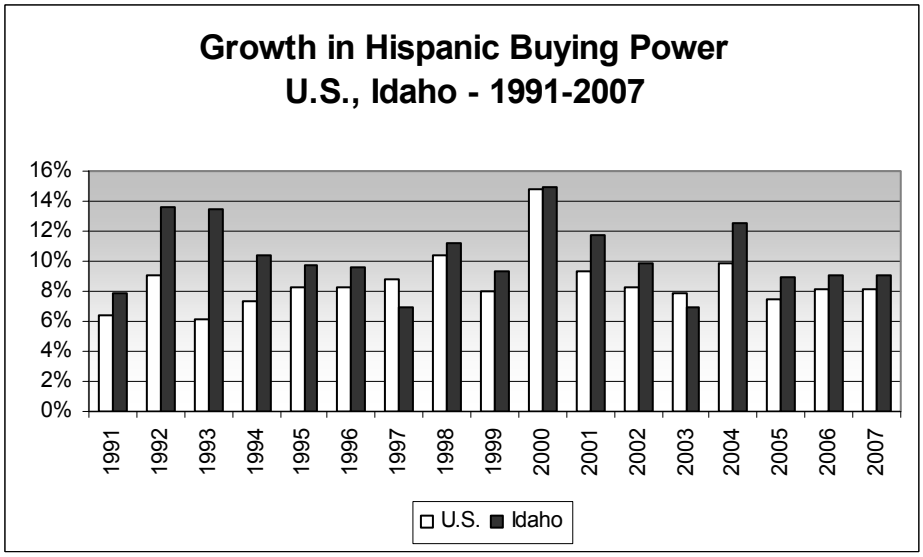
In 2007, Hispanic buying power is expected to near $2.1 billion in Idaho, up 9 percent from 2006, while the buying power of non-Hispanics across the state will rise just 6 percent to $38.8 billion, the Selig Center forecasts.

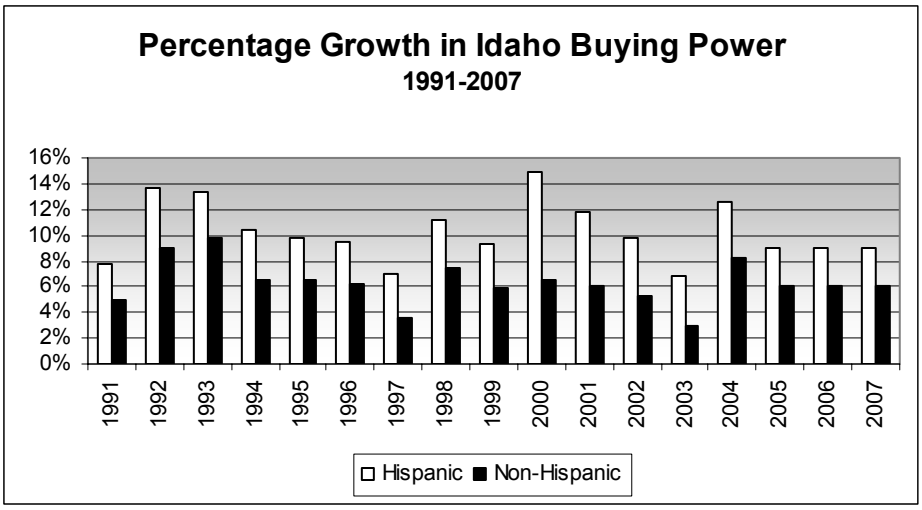
Buying power is the total personal income of residents that is available after taxes for spending on virtually everything that people buy, from necessities like food, clothing and housing to luxuries like recreation equipment and vacations. It does not include money that has been borrowed or that is saved from previous years or that is spent by tourists from other states or countries.

At 4 percent last year – half the rate of 1992 – Idaho's Hispanic population still grew twice as fast as the state overall, but the buying power of Idaho's 133,000 Hispanics rose only 50 percent faster than non-Hispanics.

Based on the Selig Center estimates, the buying power of Idaho's Hispanic population has risen from 2.9 percent of total state buying power in 1990 to just over 5 percent today. During the same period, Idaho's Hispanic population rose from 5.2 percent of total population in 1990 to 9.3 percent now.

Clearly, this growth is diversifying Idaho's consumer markets and creating new business opportunities for entrepreneurs who reach out to this expanding economic bloc. But the fact that Hispanic per capita buying power is only about half that of non-Hispanics would limit the specific markets that would be profitable.





Annual Household Spending

Category	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
Food At Home	10.3%	7.4%
Food Away	5.4%	5.6%
Alcoholic Beverages	0.9%	1.1%
Housing	34.3%	31.9%
Apparel & Services	4.8%	4.1%
Transportation	20.0%	17.8%
Health Care	4.2%	6.1%
Entertainment	3.8%	5.2%
Personal Care Products & Services	1.4%	1.3%
Reading	0.1%	0.3%
Education	1.2%	2.2%
Tobacco Products & Smoking Supplies	0.4%	0.7%
Miscellaneous	1.3%	1.6%
Cash Contributions	1.9%	3.4%
Personal Insurance & Pensions	10.0%	11.2%

Source: Selig Center for Economic Growth, 2004

Annual Real Per Capita Buying Power

Year	Hispanics	Non-Hispanics
1991	-2.90%	-1.90%
1992	2.00%	3.10%
1993	2.10%	3.20%
1994	-0.20%	0.90%
1995	-0.10%	1.00%
1996	0.10%	1.20%
1997	-1.60%	-0.60%
1998	3.10%	4.20%
1999	1.00%	2.10%
2000	4.00%	1.60%
2001	3.70%	1.70%
2002	3.10%	2.20%
2003	0.00%	-0.90%
2004	4.70%	3.80%
2005	1.60%	1.30%
2006	1.80%	1.50%
2007*	*2.90%*	*2.60%*
2008*	*2.70%*	*2.50%*
2009*	*2.80%*	*2.50%*
2010*	*2.80%*	*2.50%*
2011*	*2.70%*	*2.50%*

** indicate estimates*

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Selig Center for Economic Growth, Idaho Commerce & Labor

The issue is whether Hispanics are really becoming better off. One standard analysts use is real per capita buying power. This measure adjusts for population and inflation.

In the 1990s, Idaho Hispanics' real per capita buying power was stagnant as compared to non-Hispanics. Real per capita Hispanic buying power only grew on average 0.3 percent each year while non-Hispanics realized gains of 1.3 percent annually. Since 2000, however, this trend has reversed, and Hispanics on average have experienced 0.9 percent yearly gains to just 0.6 percent for non-Hispanics. Selig Center projections would indicate for the decade through 2009 Hispanics will see further gains of 2.3 percent on average versus an average 1.7 percent for non-Hispanics.

Although Hispanics are becoming better off at a faster rate than non-Hispanics, the income gap remains significant — almost half as compared to non-Hispanic — and closing it will require increasing the education and training available to Hispanics.

This reflects the employment status of Hispanics in general. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 54 percent of Idaho Hispanics over 25 in 2005 did not have a high school diploma compared to 13 percent of the population overall.

As a result, a greater number of Hispanics were holding down lower paying jobs. While service, agriculture, construction, maintenance and repair occupations provide jobs for 30 percent of the Idaho work force, 52 percent of Hispanic workers are employed in those occupations. In contrast, only 13 percent of Hispanics worked in management or professional jobs compared to 31 percent of the overall labor force.

Three of every 10 Hispanic families live at or below the federal poverty line, triple the rate for the state overall, and the median income for an Hispanic family in Idaho is 60 percent the statewide median. That leaves Hispanic consumers with significantly less disposable income.

According to the Selig Center, Hispanic families spent 70 percent of their incomes nationally on food, housing and transportation in 2004 while non-Hispanic families spent less than 63 percent on those necessities.

At the same time, Hispanic families spent just 5.4 percent of their incomes on health care and

education compared to 8.3 percent for non-Hispanic families.

By 2011, the Selig Center estimates that Hispanic buying power in Idaho will jump another 14 percent, 14 points higher than the anticipated growth in Idaho buying power overall. That would give Hispanics nearly 5.7 percent of the buying power in the state.

But the implications of this growth vary significantly across the state because Idaho's Hispanic population is heavily concentrated in the south central and southwestern parts of the state.

Hispanic gains have been significant since 2000, when only five Idaho counties had Hispanic populations over 10 percent, and there was no county where Hispanics controlled over 10 percent of the buying power. In fact, 14 counties recorded Hispanic buying power of less than 1 percent and over half, 24, less than 2 percent.

But today, Hispanics in 10 counties of southern Idaho control 10 percent or more of the buying power, and in small Clark County in eastern Idaho, Hispanics have 27.5 percent of the buying power. Only one county, Nez Perce, records Hispanic buying power at less than 1 percent and just 14 are 2 percent or less.

The significant growth in Idaho's Hispanic population continues to increase its portion of total buying power as compared to the rest of the state, but actual gains in individual economic influence for Idaho Hispanics have so far been limited.

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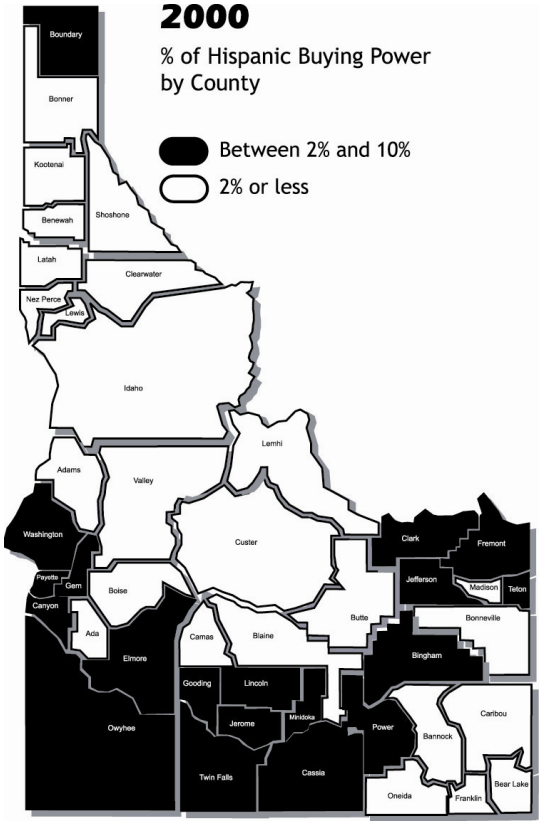

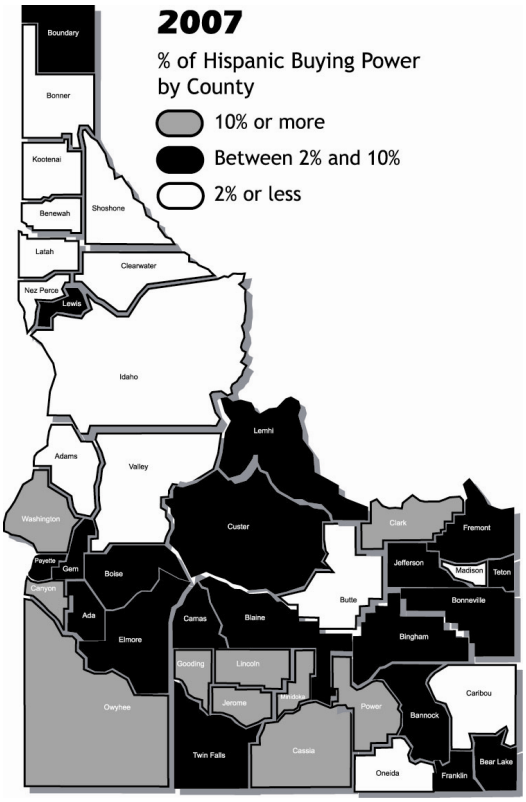

2006-2007 Economic Review and Outlook

A poem on the economy by

John W. Mitchell, Economist, U.S. Bank, Western Region

The duration in August hit the postwar mean,
Fifty-seven months up and the light was still green.
Change was in the air as the cooler fall drew near,
Homes were sitting longer and some prices were less dear.

Energy once more cast its long spell,
As near $80 crude emerged from the wells.
Wars, corrosion, demand and an abundance of fear,
Kept oil prices for a while very dear.

Few storms and inventories that continued to grow,
Had OPEC attempting to turn down the flow.
Ethanol, windmills and some temperature change,
May be the harbingers of new approaches coming
into range.

Saint Al still speaks, but from a different place,
Ben Bernanke now reigns in the Fed's awesome space.
Preventing inflation is the Fed's divine mission,
Seventeen moves have given way to a lasting intermission.

The steroidal 5.6 of 06's opening act,
Was 2.2 in Q4 with housing and inventories sinking back.
Moderation and policy already done,
Is the hope for policy makers to continue this run.

The yield curve goes from flat to rather inverted,
A shape not to be ignored as history has asserted.
Job growth has eased to just about five score,
Housing is cooling and we will see more.

Delinquencies and defaults came like crocuses in spring,
Subprime! Subprime! the alarm bells did ring!
Some lenders imploded and standards did tighten,
The question is how much will decision makers frighten.

'07 will bring year six of this run,
But things could go wrong that would make it less fun.
Adjustables adjust and energy can be disrupted,
With more price pressures, the rate increases
were only interrupted.
The first boomers are 61 and are considering their fate,
Their first payments will be in cyberspace less
than a year from this date.
Pelosi and Reid replaced Hastert and Frist,
In November '06 the R's got really dissed.

The divide may result in groping towards some solutions,
For entitlements and other issues
that have defied resolution.
Iraq, greenhouse gases and more moves on health care,
Raise the minimum wage and save the polar bear.

Doha's impasse is a cause for great concern,
Lessons from the past we will hopefully not unlearn.
The first upturn of the millennium
has downshifted to a lower gear,
It most likely will continue through the rest of the year.

The pace will be slower and the mix will change,
Stretched consumers, more exports and
housing's bottom are in range.
More jobs, more income and business balance sheets
near perfection,
Will hopefully prevent a change in direction.

The Gem state's soaring path was not quite sustainable,
One quarter from construction and not much
labor available.
Population growth was the third out of 50,
Job growth north of four for employees was nifty.

Dirk left for Interior and Jim was Governor for a half year,
A period that included a shift in tax gears.
From property to sales some school functions were shifted,
But the sales tax on food didn't get lifted.

Residential activity has subsided to a more normal pace,
But tech, travel, back office and manufacturing still grow in
this place.
Moderation will be the order of the day,
But the top tier of growth is where Idaho will stay.

Appendix Table 1: STATE OF IDAHO RESIDENT LABOR FORCE

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE	JAN 2006	FEB 2006	MAR 2006	APR 2006	MAY 2006	JUNE 2006	JULY 2006	AUG 2006	SEP 2006	OCT 2006	NOV 2006	DEC 2006	AA 2006
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	740,100	742,300	744,300	746,200	748,000	749,500	751,100	752,200	752,900	753,900	755,000	755,400	
UNEMPLOYMENT	27,000	26,800	26,500	26,200	26,000	25,700	25,500	25,200	25,000	24,800	24,500	24,300	
PERCENT OF LABOR FORCE UNEMPLOYED	3.7	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.3	
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	713,100	715,500	717,800	720,000	722,000	723,800	725,600	727,000	727,900	729,100	730,500	731,100	
UNADJUSTED													
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	730,200	743,500	741,600	745,800	747,400	756,800	754,800	754,800	750,900	754,300	756,300	754,300	749,200
UNEMPLOYMENT	34,300	34,200	32,000	28,500	22,600	23,300	23,700	22,700	19,800	19,300	22,900	24,100	25,600
PERCENT OF LABOR FORCE UNEMPLOYED	4.7	4.6	4.3	3.8	3.0	3.1	3.1	2.9	2.6	2.6	3.0	3.2	3.4
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	695,900	709,300	709,600	717,300	724,800	733,500	731,100	732,100	731,100	735,000	733,400	730,200	723,600
U. S. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED RATE	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.6

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE	JAN 2007	FEB 2007	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AA
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	751,200	753,900											
UNEMPLOYMENT	22,800	21,200											
PERCENT OF LABOR FORCE UNEMPLOYED	3.0	2.8											
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	728,400	732,700											
UNADJUSTED													
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	745,800	749,000											
UNEMPLOYMENT	31,100	28,200											
PERCENT OF LABOR FORCE UNEMPLOYED	4.2	3.8											
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	714,700	720,800											
U. S. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED RATE	4.6	4.5											

Source: Idaho Commerce & Labor. Benchmarked Data - March 2007

Appendix Table 2: 2006 Annual Average Labor Force Data — Idaho Counties, Cities and Labor Market Areas

County / Area	Civilian Labor Force	Unemployment	Percent Unemployed	Total Employment
STATE OF IDAHO	**749,244**	**25,623**	**3.4**	**723,621**
ADA	194,994	5,288	2.7	189,706
ADAMS	2,090	137	6.6	1,952
BANNOCK	40,677	1,412	3.5	39,266
BEAR LAKE	3,091	95	3.1	2,996
BENEWAH	4,340	310	7.1	4,030
BINGHAM	20,695	721	3.5	19,974
BLAINE	14,474	365	2.5	14,109
BOISE	3,819	132	3.5	3,687
BONNER	20,783	938	4.5	19,844
BONNEVILLE	46,843	1,314	2.8	45,529
BOUNDARY	4,248	302	7.1	3,946
BUTTE	1,196	51	4.2	1,145
CAMAS	634	17	2.7	617
CANYON	81,888	2,943	3.6	78,944
CARIBOU	3,432	137	4.0	3,296
CASSIA	10,470	400	3.8	10,069
CLARK	530	20	3.9	510
CLEARWATER	3,322	275	8.3	3,047
CUSTER	2,570	105	4.1	2,465
ELMORE	10,842	447	4.1	10,396
FRANKLIN	6,307	179	2.8	6,128
FREMONT	5,975	222	3.7	5,754
GEM	7,519	293	3.9	7,226
GOODING	8,658	229	2.6	8,430
IDAHO	7,142	440	6.2	6,702
JEFFERSON	10,288	318	3.1	9,970
JEROME	10,785	326	3.0	10,459
KOOTENAI	69,259	2,638	3.8	66,621
LATAH	18,541	554	3.0	17,987
LEMHI	4,014	222	5.5	3,793
LEWIS	1,747	53	3.1	1,693
LINCOLN	2,614	102	3.9	2,512
MADISON	14,708	392	2.7	14,317
MINIDOKA	9,809	442	4.5	9,367
NEZ PERCE	18,886	729	3.9	18,157
ONEIDA	2,226	52	2.3	2,174
OWYHEE	4,936	109	2.2	4,827
PAYETTE	10,371	563	5.4	9,808
POWER	3,825	182	4.8	3,643
SHOSHONE	5,744	417	7.3	5,327
TETON	4,622	104	2.2	4,518
TWIN FALLS	40,263	1,225	3.0	39,038
VALLEY	5,009	199	4.0	4,810
WASHINGTON	5,060	225	4.4	4,835
ASOTIN WA	10,208	498	4.9	9,710

Source: Idaho Commerce & Labor. Benchmarked Data - March 2007

Appendix Table 2 (cont.): 2006 Annual Average Labor Force Data — Idaho Counties, Cities and Labor Market Areas

County / Area	Civilian Labor Force	Unemployment	Percent Unemployed	Total Employment
STATE OF IDAHO	**749,244**	**25,623**	**3.4**	**723,621**
LABOR MARKET AREAS				
BOISE CITY-NAMPA MSA	293,156	8,765	3.0	284,391
BURLEY MICRO AREA	20,279	842	4.2	19,436
COEUR D'ALENE MSA	69,259	2,638	3.8	66,621
GRANGEVILLE SLMA	8,889	494	5.6	8,395
HAILEY SLMA	15,108	382	2.5	14,726
IDAHO FALLS MSA	57,131	1,632	2.9	55,499
LEWISTON MSA	29,094	1,227	4.2	27,867
POCATELLO MSA	44,502	1,594	3.6	42,909
REXBURG MICRO AREA	20,683	613	3.0	20,070
TWIN FALLS MICRO AREA	51,048	1,551	3.0	49,497
IDAHO CITIES				
BOISE	123,974	3,625	2.9	120,349
CALDWELL	15,532	633	4.1	14,898
COEUR D' ALENE	22,306	871	3.9	21,435
IDAHO FALLS	28,850	897	3.1	27,953
LEWISTON	15,888	591	3.7	15,296
MERIDIAN	21,785	427	2.0	21,358
NAMPA	32,047	1,258	3.9	30,789
POCATELLO	28,496	861	3.0	27,634
TWIN FALLS	21,232	654	3.1	20,579

Source: Idaho Commerce & Labor. Benchmarked Data - March 2007

Appendix Table 3: Nonfarm Payroll Jobs 2005 — Final and Benchmarked March 2007

Industry	Jan 2006	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Apr 2006	May 2006	Jun 2006	Jul 2006
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs - NAICS	610,799	618,240	625,659	631,625	640,558	650,860	647,338
Goods Producing	112,583	113,576	115,882	119,073	122,643	127,308	127,993
Natural Resources and Mining	3,877	3,813	3,772	3,471	4,044	4,610	4,696
Logging	1,883	1,747	1,600	1,192	1,537	1,982	2,086
Mining	1,994	2,066	2,172	2,279	2,507	2,628	2,610
Metal Ore Mining	750	753	767	787	767	813	814
Construction	44,728	45,611	47,550	50,448	53,105	56,240	56,303
Manufacturing	63,978	64,152	64,560	65,154	65,494	66,458	66,994
Durable Goods	41,103	41,270	41,583	42,282	42,644	43,248	43,416
Wood Product Manufacturing	7,860	7,940	8,082	8,193	8,259	8,431	8,373
Sawmills & Wood Preservation	2,300	2,277	2,284	2,576	2,623	2,716	2,668
Veneer & Engineered Wood Products	1,802	1,815	1,888	1,691	1,702	1,694	1,709
Other Wood Product Manufacturing	3,758	3,848	3,910	3,926	3,934	4,021	3,996
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	4,194	4,146	4,145	4,220	4,267	4,318	4,426
Machinery Manufacturing	2,781	2,787	2,806	2,859	2,859	2,889	2,888
Computer & Electronic Product Man	16,407	16,418	16,408	16,407	16,465	16,670	16,735
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	2,780	2,857	2,921	3,110	3,221	3,287	3,260
Other Durable Goods	7,081	7,122	7,221	7,493	7,573	7,653	7,734
Non-Durable Goods	22,875	22,882	22,977	22,872	22,850	23,210	23,578
Food Manufacturing	14,730	14,690	14,634	14,367	14,311	14,554	14,886
Fruit & Vegetable Preserving & Specialty Food	7,414	7,444	7,381	7,214	7,221	7,471	7,840
Paper Manufacturing	1,511	1,502	1,488	1,613	1,627	1,642	1,663
Printing and Related Support Activities	1,850	1,818	1,916	1,909	1,907	1,923	1,911
Chemical Manufacturing	2,031	2,073	2,090	2,115	2,107	2,148	2,190
Other Nondurable Goods	2,753	2,799	2,849	2,868	2,898	2,943	2,928
Service-Providing	498,216	504,664	509,777	512,552	517,915	523,552	519,345
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	123,387	123,151	124,254	125,351	126,622	128,262	128,272
Trade	103,744	103,434	104,601	105,439	106,711	107,965	108,049
Wholesale Trade	26,121	26,520	26,788	26,983	27,046	27,277	27,045
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	11,870	12,170	12,288	12,431	12,511	12,772	12,679
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	11,734	11,745	11,843	11,847	11,743	11,704	11,575
Retail Trade	77,623	76,914	77,813	78,456	79,665	80,688	81,004
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	11,503	11,461	11,554	11,827	11,943	12,189	12,193
Building Material and Garden Equipm	8,876	9,105	9,548	9,956	10,426	10,603	10,471
Food and Beverage Stores	12,178	12,189	12,193	12,281	12,426	12,659	12,601
General Merchandise Stores	15,953	15,550	15,856	15,579	15,630	15,588	15,725
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	19,643	19,717	19,653	19,912	19,911	20,297	20,223
Utilities	1,894	1,901	1,924	1,995	2,013	2,057	2,085
Transportation & Warehousing	17,749	17,816	17,729	17,917	17,898	18,240	18,138
Rail Transportation	1,273	1,273	1,273	1,273	1,273	1,273	1,273
Truck Transportation	9,000	8,992	8,891	8,964	8,978	9,206	9,172
Information	10,355	10,278	10,364	10,503	10,578	10,798	10,754
Telecommunications	3,759	3,703	3,782	3,784	3,800	3,856	3,832
Financial Activities	30,673	30,884	31,141	31,382	31,631	31,997	32,257
Finance & Insurance	22,538	22,728	22,833	22,906	22,993	23,171	23,121
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	8,135	8,156	8,308	8,476	8,638	8,826	9,136
Professional and Business Services	76,156	77,472	78,937	80,888	82,623	84,047	83,363
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	32,002	32,534	32,606	32,723	32,533	33,236	33,141
Scientific Research and Development	7,655	7,701	7,478	7,479	7,534	7,650	7,607
Management of Companies & Enterpr	7,656	7,712	7,662	7,675	7,650	7,760	7,796
Administrative & Support & Waste Management	36,498	37,226	38,669	40,490	42,440	43,051	42,426
Administrative and Support Services	35,172	35,928	37,339	39,161	41,086	41,646	41,005
Educational and Health Services	68,025	68,727	69,300	69,202	68,869	68,942	69,964
Educational Services	7,799	8,219	8,377	8,255	7,298	7,113	6,823
Health Care & Social Assistance	60,226	60,508	60,923	60,947	61,571	61,829	63,141
Hospitals	13,345	13,390	13,474	13,417	13,471	13,557	15,126
Leisure and Hospitality	55,857	56,213	57,349	58,143	59,579	62,151	63,553
Arts, Entertainment, &d Recreation	7,115	7,395	7,502	7,972	8,356	9,512	10,046
Accommodation & Food Services	48,742	48,818	49,847	50,171	51,223	52,639	53,507
Accommodation	7,763	7,771	7,965	7,908	8,111	8,930	9,296
Food Services & Drinking Places	40,979	41,047	41,882	42,263	43,112	43,709	44,211
Other Services	18,276	18,449	18,607	18,832	18,973	19,312	19,711
Total Government	115,488	119,491	119,826	118,252	119,041	118,044	111,472
Federal Government	11,945	11,882	12,003	12,213	12,522	13,722	14,346
State & Local Government	103,543	107,609	107,823	106,039	106,519	104,322	97,126
State Government	29,237	32,068	31,950	30,068	29,735	28,105	28,381
State Government Education	14,163	17,039	16,925	14,651	14,192	12,330	12,661
State Government Administration	15,074	15,029	15,025	15,417	15,543	15,775	15,720
Local Government	74,306	75,541	75,873	75,971	76,784	76,217	68,745
Local Government Education	39,095	40,301	40,300	40,261	40,571	38,699	33,038
Local Government Administration	32,439	32,474	32,764	32,516	33,015	34,263	32,368
Local Government Tribes	2,772	2,766	2,809	3,194	3,198	3,255	3,339

Source: Idaho Commerce & Labor — Final and benchmarked March 2007

Appendix Table 3 (cont.): Nonfarm Payroll Jobs 2005 — Final and Benchmarked March 2007

Industry	Aug 2006	Sep 2006	Oct 2006	Nov 2006	Dec 2006	Annual Average 2006
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs - NAICS	651,030	653,570	650,500	650,038	649,209	639,953
Goods Producing	128,542	127,633	125,860	124,369	122,617	122,340
Natural Resources and Mining	4,727	4,802	4,574	4,361	4,281	4,252
Logging	2,141	2,146	2,153	2,074	2,002	1,879
Mining	2,586	2,656	2,421	2,287	2,279	2,374
Metal Ore Mining	825	819	797	820	828	795
Construction	56,741	55,677	54,417	53,684	51,910	52,201
Manufacturing	67,074	67,154	66,869	66,324	66,426	65,886
Durable Goods	43,562	43,286	43,252	43,029	43,254	42,661
Wood Product Manufacturing	8,366	8,244	8,089	8,019	7,886	8,145
Sawmills & Wood Preservation	2,644	2,605	2,571	2,563	2,542	2,531
Veneer & Engineered Wood Products	1,739	1,683	1,609	1,571	1,527	1,703
Other Wood Product Manufacturing	3,983	3,956	3,909	3,885	3,817	3,912
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	4,447	4,456	4,511	4,521	4,551	4,350
Machinery Manufacturing	2,909	2,900	2,872	2,910	2,937	2,866
Computer & Electronic Product Man	16,791	16,788	16,904	16,889	17,058	16,662
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	3,301	3,274	3,257	3,267	3,311	3,154
Other Durable Goods	7,748	7,624	7,619	7,423	7,511	7,484
Non-Durable Goods	23,512	23,868	23,617	23,295	23,172	23,226
Food Manufacturing	14,866	15,284	15,070	14,769	14,654	14,735
Fruit & Vegetable Preserving & Specialty Food	7,836	7,932	7,250	7,332	7,373	7,476
Paper Manufacturing	1,636	1,638	1,614	1,609	1,600	1,595
Printing and Related Support Activities	1,926	1,914	1,928	1,944	1,924	1,906
Chemical Manufacturing	2,166	2,126	2,108	2,110	2,120	2,115
Other Nondurable Goods	2,918	2,906	2,897	2,863	2,874	2,875
Service-Providing	522,488	525,937	524,640	525,669	526,592	517,613
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	129,352	129,685	129,814	132,286	133,474	127,826
Trade	108,854	109,099	109,131	111,572	112,357	107,580
Wholesale Trade	27,036	27,181	27,006	27,262	27,316	26,965
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	12,645	12,558	12,509	12,534	12,574	12,462
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	11,567	11,799	11,657	11,804	11,762	11,732
Retail Trade	81,818	81,918	82,125	84,310	85,041	80,615
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	12,288	12,333	12,237	12,243	12,158	11,994
Building Material and Garden Equipm	10,227	9,913	9,746	9,468	9,185	9,794
Food and Beverage Stores	12,637	12,624	12,646	12,902	12,925	12,522
General Merchandise Stores	16,066	16,457	16,920	18,025	18,327	16,306
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	20,498	20,586	20,683	20,714	21,117	20,246
Utilities	2,067	2,045	2,022	2,004	2,000	2,001
Transportation & Warehousing	18,431	18,541	18,661	18,710	19,117	18,246
Rail Transportation	1,273	1,273	1,275	1,283	1,282	1,275
Truck Transportation	9,262	9,352	9,512	9,446	9,518	9,191
Information	10,780	10,636	10,615	10,714	10,765	10,595
Telecommunications	3,793	3,795	3,814	3,868	3,888	3,806
Financial Activities	32,469	32,335	31,991	32,024	32,384	31,764
Finance & Insurance	23,218	23,217	23,236	23,279	23,530	23,064
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	9,251	9,118	8,755	8,745	8,854	8,700
Professional and Business Services	84,437	83,880	82,027	81,846	81,025	81,392
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	33,367	33,233	33,486	33,749	34,125	33,061
Scientific Research and Development	7,640	7,675	7,647	7,686	7,707	7,622
Management of Companies & Enterpr	7,761	7,740	7,676	7,536	7,539	7,680
Administrative & Support & Waste Management	43,309	42,907	40,865	40,561	39,361	40,650
Administrative and Support Services	41,873	41,483	39,457	39,156	37,994	39,275
Educational and Health Services	70,526	71,763	71,877	72,548	72,482	70,185
Educational Services	6,805	7,935	7,953	8,273	7,983	7,736
Health Care & Social Assistance	63,721	63,828	63,924	64,275	64,499	62,449
Hospitals	15,147	15,253	15,192	15,237	15,416	14,335
Leisure and Hospitality	64,331	62,288	59,100	57,965	58,657	59,599
Arts, Entertainment, &d Recreation	10,221	8,963	7,790	7,488	7,850	8,351
Accommodation & Food Services	54,110	53,325	51,310	50,477	50,807	51,248
Accommodation	9,393	8,816	7,942	7,555	7,443	8,241
Food Services & Drinking Places	44,717	44,509	43,368	42,922	43,364	43,007
Other Services	19,734	19,251	19,021	18,998	19,064	19,019
Total Government	110,860	116,100	120,196	119,289	118,742	117,233
Federal Government	14,206	13,800	13,161	12,577	12,122	12,875
State & Local Government	96,654	102,300	107,035	106,712	106,620	104,359
State Government	27,973	29,372	32,527	32,156	31,772	30,279
State Government Education	12,410	13,915	17,140	16,787	16,566	14,898
State Government Administration	15,563	15,457	15,387	15,369	15,206	15,380
Local Government	68,681	72,928	74,508	74,556	74,848	74,080
Local Government Education	33,156	37,697	39,881	40,038	40,274	38,609
Local Government Administration	32,190	32,043	31,801	31,718	31,811	32,450
Local Government Tribes	3,335	3,188	2,826	2,800	2,763	3,020

Source: Idaho Commerce & Labor — Final and benchmarked March 2007

Appendix Table 4: Nonfarm Payroll Jobs 2005, 2006

Industry	Annual Average 2005	Annual Average 2006*	2004 -2005 Change Number	2004 -2005 Change Percent
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs - NAICS	611,704	639,953	**28,249**	**4.6**
Goods Producing	112,353	122,340	**9,987**	**8.9**
Natural Resources and Mining	4,135	4,252	**117**	**2.8**
Logging	1,970	1,879	**-91**	**-4.6**
Mining	2,166	2,374	**208**	**9.6**
Metal Ore Mining	701	795	**94**	**13.4**
Construction	45,169	52,201	**7,033**	**15.6**
Manufacturing	63,049	65,886	**2,837**	**4.5**
Durable Goods	40,123	42,661	**2,538**	**6.3**
Wood Product Manufacturing	7,631	8,145	**514**	**6.7**
Sawmills & Wood Preservation	2,673	2,531	**-142**	**-5.3**
Veneer & Engineered Wood Products	1,538	1,703	**164**	**10.7**
Other Wood Product Manufacturing	3,420	3,912	**492**	**14.4**
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	3,906	4,350	**444**	**11.4**
Machinery Manufacturing	2,606	2,866	**261**	**10.0**
Computer & Electronic Product Man	16,180	16,662	**482**	**3.0**
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	2,845	3,154	**309**	**10.9**
Other Durable Goods	6,956	7,484	**528**	**7.6**
Non-Durable Goods	22,926	23,226	**299**	**1.3**
Food Manufacturing	14,712	14,735	**22**	**0.2**
Fruit & Vegetable Preserving & Specialty Food	7,255	7,476	**220**	**3.0**
Paper Manufacturing	1,592	1,595	**4**	**0.2**
Printing and Related Support Activities	1,900	1,906	**6**	**0.3**
Chemical Manufacturing	1,936	2,115	**179**	**9.2**
Other Nondurable Goods	2,786	2,875	**88**	**3.2**
Service-Providing	499,351	517,613	**18,262**	**3.7**
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	122,979	127,826	**4,847**	**3.9**
Trade	103,686	107,580	**3,894**	**3.8**
Wholesale Trade	26,879	26,965	**86**	**0.3**
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	12,474	12,462	**-12**	**-0.1**
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	11,934	11,732	**-202**	**-1.7**
Retail Trade	76,807	80,615	**3,808**	**5.0**
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	11,527	11,994	**467**	**4.0**
Building Material and Garden Equipm	9,007	9,794	**787**	**8.7**
Food and Beverage Stores	12,174	12,522	**348**	**2.9**
General Merchandise Stores	15,931	16,306	**376**	**2.4**
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	19,293	20,246	**953**	**4.9**
Utilities	1,932	2,001	**69**	**3.6**
Transportation & Warehousing	17,362	18,246	**884**	**5.1**
Rail Transportation	1,144	1,275	**131**	**11.4**
Truck Transportation	8,773	9,191	**418**	**4.8**
Information	11,072	10,595	**-477**	**-4.3**
Telecommunications	4,515	3,806	**-708**	**-15.7**
Financial Activities	29,658	31,764	**2,106**	**7.1**
Finance & Insurance	21,610	23,064	**1,454**	**6.7**
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	8,047	8,700	**652**	**8.1**
Professional and Business Services	76,913	81,392	**4,478**	**5.8**
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	30,756	33,061	**2,306**	**7.5**
Scientific Research and Development	7,601	7,622	**21**	**0.3**
Management of Companies & Enterpr	7,672	7,680	**8**	**0.1**
Administrative & Support & Waste Management	38,486	40,650	**2,165**	**5.6**
Administrative and Support Services	37,195	39,275	**2,080**	**5.6**
Educational and Health Services	67,990	70,185	**2,195**	**3.2**
Educational Services	7,957	7,736	**-221**	**-2.8**
Health Care & Social Assistance	60,033	62,449	**2,416**	**4.0**
Hospitals	13,146	14,335	**1,189**	**9.0**
Leisure and Hospitality	57,356	59,599	**2,243**	**3.9**
Arts, Entertainment, &d Recreation	7,794	8,351	**557**	**7.2**
Accommodation & Food Services	49,562	51,248	**1,686**	**3.4**
Accommodation	8,105	8,241	**136**	**1.7**
Food Services & Drinking Places	41,457	43,007	**1,550**	**3.7**
Other Services	18,477	19,019	**542**	**2.9**
Total Government	114,907	117,233	**2,327**	**2.0**
Federal Government	13,071	12,875	**-196**	**-1.5**
State & Local Government	101,836	104,359	**2,523**	**2.5**
State Government	28,914	30,279	**1,365**	**4.7**
State Government Education	13,745	14,898	**1,153**	**8.4**
State Government Administration	15,168	15,380	**212**	**1.4**
Local Government	72,922	74,080	**1,158**	**1.6**
Local Government Education	37,529	38,609	**1,080**	**2.9**
Local Government Administration	32,411	32,450	**39**	**0.1**
Local Government Tribes	2,982	3,020	**38**	**1.3**

Source: Idaho Commerce & Labor — March 2007 *Benchmarked data

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): Combinations 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, Boundary, Bonner, Benewah and Shoshone counties.

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.

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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