



# Eastern Idaho

April 2012

## Population

Eastern Idaho consists of nine diverse counties – Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison and Teton. The area grew by 44,394 during the decade with Madison, Jefferson and Teton counties experiencing the greatest growth—these three counties comprise three of the five fastest growing counties in the state. In 2000 Bonneville and Jefferson counties were established as the Idaho Falls metropolitan statistical area, which has received national attention for its high growth and low unemployment rates. It is currently one of the fastest-growing metropolitan areas in the nation. Due to a lower cost of living, good workforce and quality recreational opportunities, growth is expected to continue.

## Labor Force & Employment

The unemployment rate for eastern Idaho remained comparatively low between 2009 and 2011 despite the national recession. Economic diversity and the stability provided by the Idaho National Laboratory limit labor force fluctuations, especially when the national economy is suffering. The INL is one of the state's largest employers with workers from throughout the region.

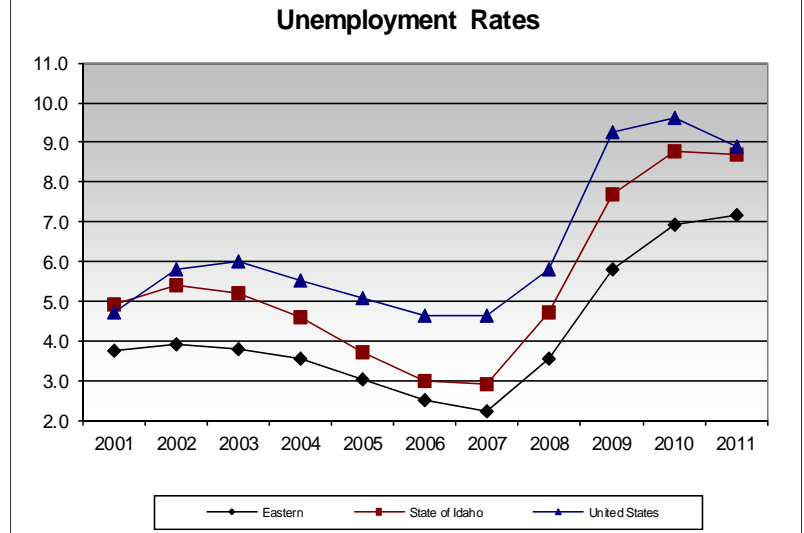
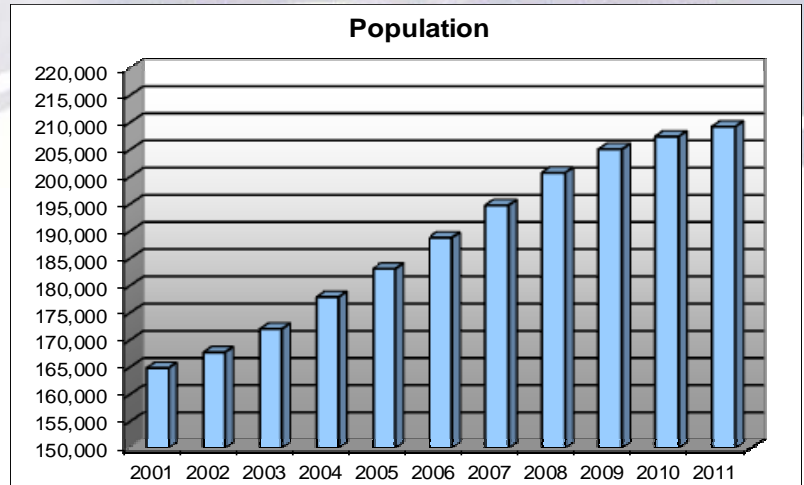
The regional labor force grew by more than 16,000 during the decade, but the number of unemployed increased by almost 5,000 since 2007.

All nine counties are heavily involved in agriculture and related industries like wholesale food and food processing. The city of Idaho Falls is a regional hub for retail and health care. The region is a gateway to popular tourist destinations like Yellowstone National Park, and hundreds of thousands of tourists pass

Labor Force	Mar 11	Mar 12
Civilian Labor Force	99,274	100,303
Total Employment	92,705	93,909
Unemployed	6,569	6,394
Eastern Idaho % Unemployed	6.6	6.4
State of Idaho % Unemployed	8.7	7.9
U.S. % Unemployed	8.9	8.2

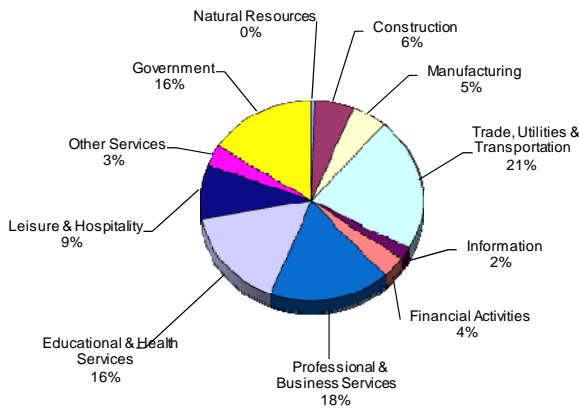
Labor Force	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Civilian Labor Force	83,414	84,908	86,998	88,687	92,823	94,005	96,549	97,771	96,575	98,740	99,495
Unemployment	3,139	3,324	3,298	3,152	2,798	2,342	2,170	3,460	5,623	6,825	7,115
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.0	2.5	2.2	3.5	5.8	6.9	7.2
Employment	80,275	81,584	83,699	85,535	90,026	91,663	94,379	94,311	90,952	91,915	92,380

## Work Force Trends



through it annually on U.S. Highway 20. Henry's Lake, known worldwide for its trout fishery, and Borah Peak, the highest point in the state, are some of the attractions. Butte County is home to the world's first nuclear power plant, EBR-1, and Arco, the first city in the world to be lit by nuclear energy. The inventor of television, Philo Farnsworth, was from Jefferson County. High mountains, deep rivers and fertile valleys underscore the area's beauty.

# Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2010



## Covered Employers

Average employment increased by over 9,300 during the decade and average wages rose by more than \$9,500. The larger industries are trade, health and education, government and professional and business services – most are INL jobs. Government includes the local, state and federal departments operating in the region but also hospitals and correctional facilities operated by these governments. Other significant government employers are the federal departments of Energy and Agriculture and the Bureau of Land Management along with the Idaho Fish and Game Department. Construction, although it has declined due to the recession, and leisure and hospitality are also strong.

Major Employers
Battelle Energy Alliance
Bechtel Bettis
Bechtel BWXT
Brigham Young University Idaho
CH2M-WG Idaho LLC
Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center
Melaleuca, Inc.
Qwest Communications
Wal-Mart

Occupational Wages*	Median Wage
Retail Salespersons	\$9.57
Office Clerks	\$11.63
Truck Drivers, Heavy	\$16.34
General Managers	\$32.72
Cashiers	\$8.12
Customer Service Representatives	\$11.08
Waiters and Waitresses	\$7.97
Registered Nurses	\$25.68
Food Preparation Workers	\$8.50
Construction Laborers	\$12.67
Laborers	\$9.78
Janitors and Cleaners	\$10.23
First-Line Supervisors	\$19.73
Bookkeeping and Accounting Clerks	\$12.34
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	\$9.22

\* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov).

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2000, 2009 & 2010	2000		2009		2010	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
<b>Total Covered Wages</b>	69,854	\$26,333	79,765	\$34,933	79,240	\$35,843
<b>Agriculture</b>	2,818	\$19,023	2,353	\$26,069	2,221	\$25,599
<b>Mining</b>	303	\$40,163	412	\$58,568	458	\$61,187
<b>Construction</b>	4,294	\$27,061	4,654	\$35,183	4,254	\$39,794
<b>Manufacturing</b>	4,360	\$23,580	4,142	\$32,253	3,969	\$33,620
<b>Trade, Utilities &amp; Transportation</b>	15,625	\$20,728	17,364	\$28,335	17,191	\$29,146
<b>Information</b>	1,126	\$27,022	1,581	\$33,792	1,447	\$32,141
<b>Financial Activities</b>	2,178	\$24,068	2,822	\$33,591	2,769	\$35,209
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	13,314	\$42,927	14,359	\$59,306	14,663	\$60,327
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	7,094	\$26,667	10,634	\$34,210	10,800	\$34,733
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	6,016	\$9,100	7,066	\$11,921	7,127	\$12,049
<b>Other Services</b>	1,638	\$17,748	1,808	\$23,248	1,719	\$22,981
<b>Government</b>	11,088	\$27,361	12,571	\$33,555	12,623	\$33,470

Per Capita Income	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>Eastern Idaho</b>	\$21,122	\$22,352	\$22,857	\$23,524	\$24,801	\$26,246	\$27,565	\$28,995	\$29,753	\$28,954
<b>State of Idaho</b>	\$24,683	\$25,642	\$26,007	\$26,438	\$28,414	\$29,594	\$31,585	\$32,734	\$33,062	\$31,857
<b>United States</b>	\$30,318	\$31,145	\$31,461	\$32,271	\$33,881	\$35,424	\$37,698	\$39,461	\$40,674	\$39,635

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



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