Boise Metro Area

January 2017

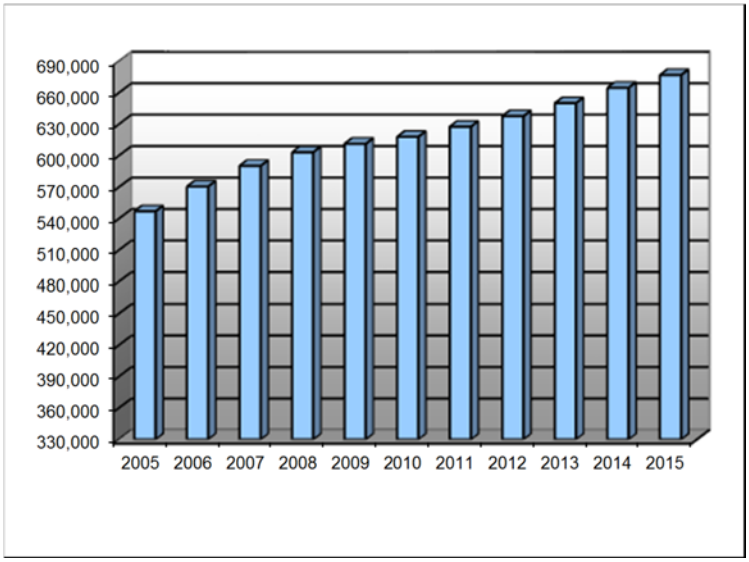
Workforce Trends

IDAHO DEPT. OF LABOR

Population

The Boise metropolitan area encompasses Ada, Boise, Canyon, Gem and Owyhee counties. The area covers 11,738 square miles, 14.2 percent of the state, and varies from high desert to beautiful forests on rugged mountains to deep river canyons. Over 41 percent of Idahoans live in the metro area. It also holds the state's capital, Boise.

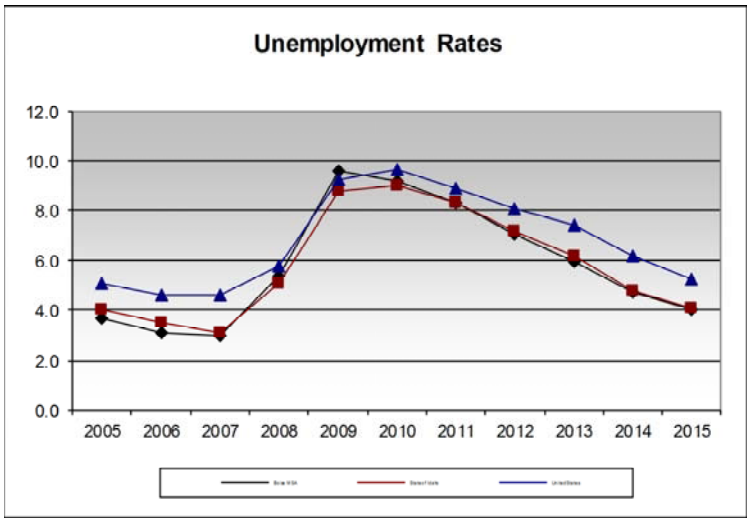
While population growth was as slow as 1.1 percent per year immediately following the recession, the growth rate has increased and now the area ranks in the top 50 fastest growing metro areas nationally. Population growth continued to increase between 2014 and 2015, with a gain of 1.8 percent. This improved growth rate is still considerably below the 2006 rate of 4.3 percent, the highest rate since the early 1990s. Since 2005, the metro area has grown by almost 130,000 or 24 percent. The state's two largest counties—Ada County and Canyon County—contribute 95 percent of the metro area's 676,929 people.



Labor Force & Employment

The Boise metropolitan area's labor force grew by over 10,000 from 2005 to 2006 before slowing considerably in 2007. The labor force began to regain strength in 2010 and is now 42,508—15 percent—above 2005 levels. The unemployment rate also improved to 4.4 percent in 2014, down 1.6 points from the year before.

The area continues to experience a strong recovery and added 9,088 covered jobs in 2015. Construction, which was devastated during the recession, recorded its first year over year gains in 2012 with an increase of almost 600 jobs. This growth has continued through 2015 with the industry adding almost 1,050 more jobs. Manufacturing, another sector that has had a rough decade, continues its year over year growth with an addition of 638 jobs in 2015. The winner for the most jobs added over the decade though goes to private education and health services, with 12,655 new jobs since 2004. From 2014 to 2015, Trade, utilities and transportation saw the most growth, adding 2,200 jobs.



In 2015, mining and manufacturing industries recorded the largest gains in earnings per worker with gains of 12,240 and 10,370 respectively . Only one industry, construction, registered a decline in wages.

Labor Force	Dec 15	Dec 16
Civilian Labor Force	328,190	328,190
Total Employment	316,047	321,411
Unemployed	12,143	11,315
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.7	3.4
State of Idaho % Unemployed	3.9	3.7
U.S. % Unemployed	5.0	4.7

Labor Force	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Civilian Labor Force	281,558	292,161	295,165	295,413	296,317	297,428	301,302	306,930	310,261	316,872	324,066
Unemployment	10,347	8,983	8,804	15,892	28,400	27,313	25,085	21,797	18,496	14,925	13,104
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.7	3.1	3.0	5.4	9.6	9.2	8.3	7.1	6.0	4.7	4.0
Employment	271,210	283,178	286,361	279,521	267,917	270,116	276,217	285,133	291,765	301,947	310,962

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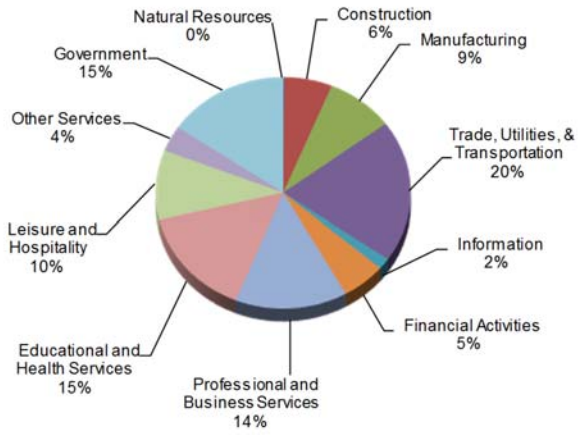
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2015



Major Private Employers
Albertsons
Amalgamated Sugar
Blue Cross of Idaho Health Services
DirecTV
Fred Meyer
Hewlett Packard
Idaho Power Co.
J R Simplot
Micron Technology, Inc.
Century Link
St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center
St. Lukes Health Systems
Wal-Mart
WDS Global

Per Capita Income & Employment

The Boise metro area's per capita income continued its climb in 2015 to $39,956, growing 3.4 percent over the previous year. This put the metro area 4 percent over the state but only 83 percent of national per capita income.

The region's nonfarm employment landscape is led by trade, utilities and transportation making up 20 percent of the areas employment. Professional and business services and education and health services make up the next largest piece with 14 and 15 percent respectively.

Occupational Wages*	Entry Level Wage
Medical Assistants	$12.11
Waiters and Waitresses	$7.82
Structural Metal Fabricators and Fitters	$13.90
Customer Service Representatives	$9.83
Electricians	$15.25
Construction Laborers	$10.65
Team Assemblers	$9.03
Registered Nurse	$23.32
Exec Secretaries & Admin Assistants	$13.15
Welders	$12.32
Retail Salespersons	$8.14

* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at *lmi.idaho.gov*.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2005, 2014 & 2015	2005		2014		2015	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	255,651	$34,556	274,204	$41,977	283,292	$42,415
Agriculture	4,806	$23,998	5,132	$30,926	5,610	$30,725
Mining	232	$38,025	240	$87,538	195	$69,916
Construction	19,967	$35,543	15,744	$41,966	16,794	$42,287
Manufacturing	30,452	$49,971	24,198	$78,313	24,836	$69,338
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	48,212	$32,515	54,374	$39,062	56,573	$40,575
Information	4,476	$43,590	4,312	$49,265	4,385	$48,057
Financial Activities	13,212	$41,993	13,398	$53,561	13,876	$55,476
Professional and Business Services	37,798	$41,993	38,727	$42,020	39,213	$44,373
Educational and Health Services	30,618	$34,036	41,678	$41,808	43,273	$43,553
Leisure and Hospitality	22,172	$12,253	27,273	$14,885	28,258	$15,647
Other Services	6,347	$22,899	7,233	$26,731	7,617	$27,782
Government	37,358	$35,436	41,894	$41,810	42,662	$43,202

Per Capita Income	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Boise MSA	$34,702	$35,181	$34,828	$33,179	$33,274	$34,491	$35,883	$36,965	$38,631	$39,956
State of Idaho	$31,357	$32,580	$33,031	$31,436	$31,727	$33,296	$34,691	$35,703	$37,153	$38,392
United States	$38,144	$39,821	$41,082	$39,376	$40,277	$42,453	$44,267	$44,462	$46,414	$48,112

Information provided by Bureau of Economic Analysis

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