

News

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AVERAGE ANNUAL PAY IN IDAHO, 2000

Annual pay in Idaho averaged \$27,709 in 2000, increasing 6.4 percent over the year, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Regional Commissioner Stanley P. Stephenson noted that Idaho's pay level trailed both the national average (\$35,296) and that for the Mountain division¹ (\$32,031). (See table 1.)

Average pay in the Mountain division grew at a 6.4 percent pace in 2000 compared to 5.9 percent nationally. Within the eight-state division, growth in pay ranged from 8.7 percent in Colorado, third highest in the nation, to 3.4 percent in Nevada. Arizona and Idaho also recorded growth rates in the top 10, ranking fifth and ninth, respectively. Colorado at \$37,167 was the sole state in the Mountain division, and one of only twelve states in the country, to record a pay level that exceeded the nationwide average. In the remaining states, annual pay ranged from \$32,606 in Arizona to \$24,264 in Montana, which had the lowest level in the nation as well as the division. (See table 1.)

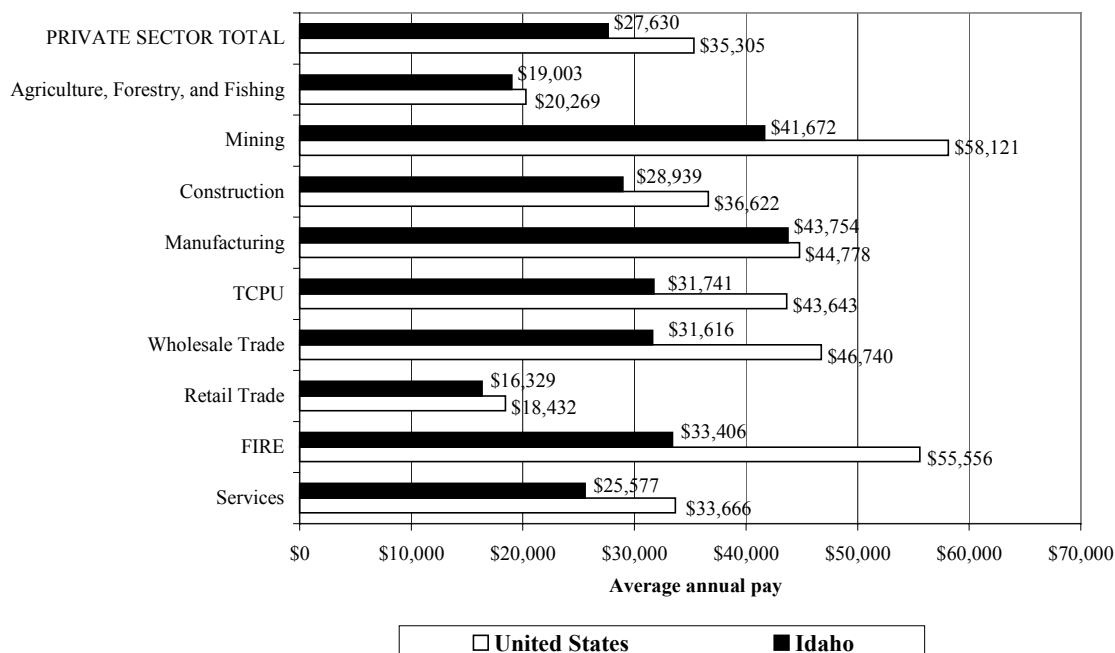
Annual pay data are compiled from reports submitted by employers subject to State and federal Unemployment Insurance (UI) laws covering 129.9 million full- and part-time workers nationwide. Average annual pay is computed by dividing total annual payrolls of employees covered by UI programs by the average monthly number of these employees. (See Technical Note.) Pay differences among states reflect the varying composition of employment by occupation, industry, and hours of work, as well as other factors. Similarly, over-the-year pay changes may reflect shifts in these characteristics, as well as changes in the level of average pay.

¹ The Mountain division referenced in this release corresponds to the Census definition and is comprised of eight states: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

Pay in industries

Overall, 82.2 percent of Idaho's workforce was employed by the private sector. Annual pay for private industry workers (excludes those in government) in Idaho averaged \$27,630 in 2000, \$7,675 less than the national average of \$35,305. (See chart 1.) Over the year, Idaho's pay advanced 7.0 percent, faster than the 6.2 percent increase nationwide. (See table 2.) Among the private industry divisions, the largest over-the-year percentage pay increase was in manufacturing at 16.5 percent followed by finance, insurance, and real estate at 5.8 percent. For the first time since 1975, when the collection of wage data began in Idaho², manufacturing (\$43,754) surpassed mining (\$41,672) as the highest paid industry. Retail trade, reflecting its relatively large share of part-time workers, remained the lowest paid at \$16,329. Statewide pay levels in the private sector were below their respective nationwide averages in all nine industry divisions.

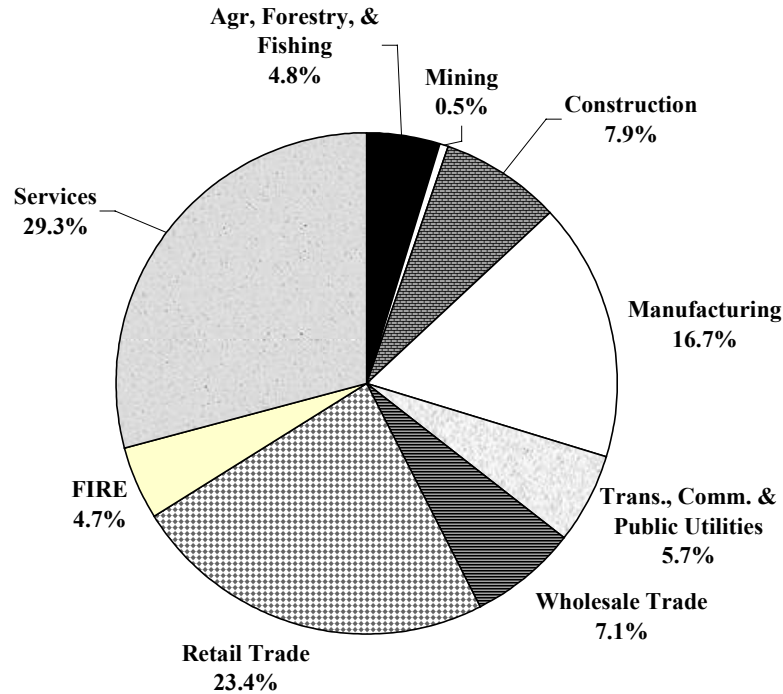
Chart 1. Average annual pay in the United States and Idaho by private industry division, 2000



Services, Idaho's largest industry division, accounted for 29.3 percent of all private sector jobs. (See chart 2.) At the national level, services also made up the largest share of the workforce at 34.3 percent. In Idaho, retail trade made up 23.4 percent of private sector employment, slightly higher than the 21.2 percent for the nation. Manufacturing, the highest paid industry in the State, was the third largest employer comprising 16.7 percent of the workers, virtually identical to the national percentage. At 4.8 percent, the agriculture, forestry, and fishing industry accounted for a larger proportion of the State's workforce than it did the nation's (1.7 percent).

² In 1998, mining data for Idaho did not meet BLS or State agency disclosure standards.

Chart 2. Private sector employment in Idaho by industry division, 2000



Pay in metropolitan areas

Boise City, one of Idaho’s two metropolitan areas³, led the State in pay averaging \$32,480 in 2000, 85th highest among the 318 metropolitan areas nationwide. Annual pay in Pocatello averaged \$24,033, one of the lowest levels in the United States, ranking 304th nationally. However, both of Idaho’s areas had pay levels below the national average for all metropolitan areas at \$37,010. (See table 3.)

The rate of growth in pay from 1999 to 2000 varied greatly between the State’s two metropolitan areas. Boise City’s pay increase, at 8.8 percent, surpassed the national average for all metropolitan areas (6.0 percent) and was 11th highest in the country. Pocatello’s growth rate of 3.0 percent was lower than that for the nation and ranked 243rd among the 318 metropolitan areas nationwide.

Pay in large counties

Idaho had only one large county, Ada, with an employment level of 75,000 or more. In Ada County, annual pay averaged \$34,470 in 2000, growing 10.0 percent over the year. Among the 315 largest counties in the United States, the rate of pay growth in Ada ranked 17th, well above the 5.9 percent pace for the nation. However, Ada County was one of 210 large counties in the United States in 2000 with a pay level below the national average (\$35,296). (See table 4.)

³ The general concept of a metropolitan area is that of a core area containing a large population nucleus, together with adjacent communities that have a high degree of economic and social integration within that core. See Technical Note for criteria used in determining a metropolitan area.

NOTE

Annual average pay data for 2000 are preliminary and subject to revision.

Also, average annual pay by industry in this release are based on the 1987 version of the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system. The data for 2001 will be based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Due to differences in NAICS and SIC structures, data for 2001 will not be comparable to the SIC-based data for earlier years. NAICS focuses on how products and services are created, as opposed to the SIC focus on what is produced. This approach yields significantly different industry groupings than those produced by the SIC approach.

Users interested in more information about NAICS can access the Bureau of the Census Web site at <http://www.census.gov/epcd/www/naics.html>. In addition, the BLS has published two articles on NAICS in the December 2001 Monthly Labor Review ("Implementing the NAICS at BLS" and "A first look at employment and wages using NAICS") which can be accessed on line at <http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/mlrhome.htm>.

TECHNICAL NOTE

Background

These data are the product of a federal-state cooperative program in which State Employment Security Agencies (SESAs) prepare summaries of employment and total pay of workers covered by Unemployment Insurance legislation. The summaries are a by-product of the administration of state unemployment insurance (UI) programs that require most employers to pay quarterly taxes based on the employment and wages of workers covered by UI.

Coverage

Employment and wage data for workers covered by state UI laws and for federal civilian workers covered by the Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) program are compiled from quarterly contribution reports submitted to the SESAs by employers. In addition to the quarterly contribution reports, employers who operate multiple establishments within a state complete a questionnaire, called the "Multiple Worksite Report," which provides detailed information on the location and industry of each of their establishments. Average annual pay data are derived from summaries of employment and wages submitted by states to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. These reports are based on place of employment rather than place of residence.

UI and UCFE coverage is broad and basically comparable from state to state. In 2000, UI and UCFE programs covered workers in 129.9 million jobs. The estimated 124.9 million workers in these jobs (after adjustment for multiple jobholders) represent 99 percent of wage and salary civilian employment. Covered workers received \$4.586 trillion in pay, representing 96.2 percent of the wage and salary component of personal income and 46.0 percent of the gross domestic product.

Major exclusions from UI coverage during 2000 included most agricultural workers on small farms, all members of the Armed Forces, elected officials in most states, most employees of railroads, some domestic workers, most student workers at schools, and employees of certain small nonprofit organizations.

Concepts and methodology

Average annual pay is computed by dividing total annual pay of employees covered by UI programs by the average monthly number of these employees. Included in the annual payroll data are bonuses, the cash value of meals and lodging when supplied, tips and other gratuities, and, in some states, employer contributions to certain deferred compensation plans such as 401(k) plans and stock options. Monthly employment is based on the number of workers who worked during or received pay for the pay period including the 12th of the month. With few exceptions, all employees of covered firms are reported, including production and sales workers, corporation officials, executives, supervisory personnel, and clerical workers. Workers on paid vacations and part-time workers also are included. Percentage changes in average annual pay for 2000 were computed using final 1999 data as a base.

The ratio of full-time to part-time workers as well as the number of individuals in high-paying and low-paying occupations affects average annual pay. When comparing average annual pay levels between industries and/or states, these factors should be taken into consideration. Annual pay data only approximate annual earnings, because an individual may not be employed by the same employer all year or may work for more than one employer. Year-to-year changes in average annual pay can result from a change in the proportion of employment in high- and low- wage jobs, as well as from changes in the level of average annual pay.

Data in table 2 are presented for the private sector only and exclude government workers. Average annual pay for employment in the private sector is presented by industry division as defined in the 1987 Standard Industrial Classification Manual.

Each year, a relatively small number of employers provide insufficient information on the nature of their businesses to assign a specific SIC classification and therefore can not be classified by industry division. The wages for these nonclassifiable establishments, along with data for the agricultural division, are not shown separately, but are included in the averages for state and national totals.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines metropolitan areas for use in federal statistical activities and updates these definitions as needed each summer—data in this release use criteria established in definitions issued June 30, 1999 (OMB Bulletin No. 94-04). The 318 metropolitan areas in the United States are a compilation of a set of areas classified as Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas (PMSAs) and Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Areas (CMSAs). Generally speaking, a MSA consists of one or more counties and meets specified size criteria—either it contains a city of at least 50,000 inhabitants, or it contains an urbanized area of at least 50,000 inhabitants, and has a total population of at least 100,000 (75,000 in New England). An MSA may contain more than one city of 50,000 population and may cross state lines. A CMSA is a metropolitan area that has a population of at least 1 million and has been divided into two or more PMSAs. The CMSA comprises the same geographic area as its constituent PMSAs which are loosely defined as free-standing areas that have a population of at least 100,000.

County definitions are assigned according to Federal Information Processing Standards Publications (FIPS PUBS) as issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, after approval by the Secretary of Commerce pursuant to Section 5131 of the Information Technology Management Reform Act of 1996 and the Computer Security Act of 1987, Public Law 104-106. Areas shown as counties include areas designated as independent cities in some jurisdictions, and, in Alaska, those designated as census areas where counties have not been created. County data are also presented for New England states for comparative purposes even though townships are the more common designation used in New England (and New Jersey).

Additional statistics and other information

Additional average annual pay data (or Covered Employment and Wages data) is available on the BLS Internet site at <http://www.bls.gov/cew/home.htm>. Data can be accessed in two ways, through Selective Access, which allows quick access to particular items or via the special request FTP service, which allows access to extensive collection of flat text files. The San Francisco Information Office can provide assistance accessing these files by calling (415) 975-4350.

This news release, along with other BLS statistics and information, is available via the Internet at the BLS World Wide Web site <http://www.bls.gov/ro9/ro9news.htm>

BLS issues an annual report that provides data from state UI and UCFE programs. The comprehensive bulletin, *Employment and Wages, Annual Averages, 2000*, features information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and individually for each state. The report is available for sale from the Bureau of Labor Statistics Publications Sales Center, P.O. Box 2145, Chicago, Illinois 60690. Telephone orders using a credit card (MasterCard, VISA, Discover/NOVUS) or Government Printing Office Deposit Account are accepted at (312) 353-1880 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. central time.

For personal assistance or further information on Annual Average Pay data as well as other Bureau programs, contact the San Francisco Information Office at (415) 975-4350 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. pacific time.

Table 1. State average annual pay for 1999 and 2000 and percent change in pay for all covered workers¹

	Average annual pay		Percent change 1999-2000
	1999	2000 ²	
UNITED STATES	\$33,340	\$35,296	5.9
Mountain division³	30,093	32,031	6.4
Alabama	28,095	29,037	3.4
Alaska	34,033	35,125	3.2
Arizona	30,525	32,606	6.8
Arkansas	25,371	26,307	3.7
California	37,577	41,194	9.6
Colorado	34,191	37,167	8.7
Connecticut	42,682	45,445	6.5
Delaware	35,157	36,677	4.3
District of Columbia	50,885	53,018	4.2
Florida	28,935	30,549	5.6
Georgia	32,332	34,182	5.7
Hawaii	29,794	30,630	2.8
Idaho	26,044	27,709	6.4
Illinois	36,296	38,044	4.8
Indiana	30,027	31,015	3.3
Iowa	26,953	27,928	3.6
Kansas	28,031	29,357	4.7
Kentucky	27,783	28,829	3.8
Louisiana	27,216	27,877	2.4
Maine	26,887	27,664	2.9
Maryland	34,489	36,373	5.5
Massachusetts	40,352	44,326	9.8
Michigan	35,750	37,016	3.5
Minnesota	33,487	35,418	5.8
Mississippi	24,391	25,197	3.3
Missouri	29,967	31,386	4.7
Montana	23,260	24,264	4.3
Nebraska	26,632	27,662	3.9
Nevada	31,213	32,276	3.4
New Hampshire	32,141	34,731	8.1
New Jersey	41,038	43,691	6.5
New Mexico	26,267	27,498	4.7
New York	42,179	44,942	6.6
North Carolina	29,462	31,077	5.5
North Dakota	23,751	24,678	3.9
Ohio	31,395	32,510	3.6
Oklahoma	25,813	26,980	4.5
Oregon	30,872	32,765	6.1
Pennsylvania	32,696	33,999	4.0
Rhode Island	31,169	32,618	4.6
South Carolina	27,132	28,173	3.8
South Dakota	23,767	24,803	4.4
Tennessee	29,478	30,558	3.7
Texas	32,898	34,948	6.2
Utah	27,895	29,226	4.8
Vermont	27,597	28,920	4.8
Virginia	33,025	35,151	6.4
Washington	35,736	37,059	3.7
West Virginia	26,018	26,887	3.3
Wisconsin	29,607	30,697	3.7
Wyoming	25,647	26,837	4.6

¹ Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

² Data are preliminary.

³ The 8 states comprising the Mountain division are in bold-face type.

Table 2. State and industry average annual pay in the Mountain States for 1999 and 2000 and percent change in pay for all covered workers¹

State and industry ²	Average annual pay		Percent change, 1999-2000
	1999	2000 ³	
United States			
Total Private ²	\$33,244	\$35,305	6.2
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing.....	19,411	20,269	4.4
Mining.....	54,636	58,121	6.4
Construction.....	34,812	36,622	5.2
Manufacturing.....	41,941	44,778	6.8
Transportation, communications, and public utilities.....	41,786	43,643	4.4
Wholesale trade.....	44,185	46,740	5.8
Retail trade.....	17,602	18,432	4.7
Finance, insurance, and real estate.....	50,910	55,556	9.1
Services.....	31,509	33,666	6.8
Arizona			
Total Private ²	30,135	32,428	7.6
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing.....	16,475	17,805	8.1
Mining.....	51,347	47,003	-8.5
Construction.....	30,855	32,467	5.2
Manufacturing.....	44,208	48,541	9.8
Transportation, communications, and public utilities.....	37,828	39,849	5.3
Wholesale trade.....	42,662	45,431	6.5
Retail trade.....	18,416	19,246	4.5
Finance, insurance, and real estate.....	38,595	41,045	6.3
Services.....	28,140	31,059	10.4
Colorado			
Total Private ²	34,318	37,552	9.4
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing.....	21,367	22,654	6.0
Mining.....	67,454	64,721	-4.1
Construction.....	34,568	36,965	6.9
Manufacturing.....	43,630	47,450	8.8
Transportation, communications, and public utilities.....	50,957	54,709	7.4
Wholesale trade.....	46,137	51,984	12.7
Retail trade.....	18,142	19,074	5.1
Finance, insurance, and real estate.....	46,450	52,315	12.6
Services.....	33,270	37,279	12.0

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. State and industry average annual pay in the Mountain States for 1999 and 2000 and percent change in pay for all covered workers¹ (Continued)

State and industry ²	Average annual pay		Percent change, 1999-2000
	1999	2000 ³	
Idaho			
Total Private ²	25,820	27,630	7.0
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing.....	18,146	19,003	4.7
Mining.....	39,708	41,672	4.9
Construction.....	27,901	28,939	3.7
Manufacturing.....	37,558	43,754	16.5
Transportation, communications, and public utilities.....	30,557	31,741	3.9
Wholesale trade.....	30,027	31,616	5.3
Retail trade.....	15,813	16,329	3.3
Finance, insurance, and real estate.....	31,581	33,406	5.8
Services.....	24,392	25,577	4.9
Montana			
Total Private ²	22,323	23,197	3.9
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing.....	17,264	18,567	7.5
Mining.....	45,527	49,034	7.7
Construction.....	28,767	29,023	0.9
Manufacturing.....	30,061	31,396	4.4
Transportation, communications, and public utilities.....	31,728	32,690	3.0
Wholesale trade.....	29,073	30,532	5.0
Retail trade.....	13,980	14,346	2.6
Finance, insurance, and real estate.....	29,889	31,418	5.1
Services.....	20,879	21,911	4.9
Nevada			
Total Private ²	30,381	31,387	3.3
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing.....	21,758	22,557	3.7
Mining.....	55,740	56,713	1.7
Construction.....	38,591	38,913	0.8
Manufacturing.....	36,122	37,937	5.0
Transportation, communications, and public utilities.....	35,549	36,447	2.5
Wholesale trade.....	40,948	42,705	4.3
Retail trade.....	19,995	20,951	4.8
Finance, insurance, and real estate.....	38,919	41,104	5.6
Services.....	29,103	30,266	4.0

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. State and industry average annual pay in the Mountain States for 1999 and 2000 and percent change in pay for all covered workers¹ (Continued)

State and industry ²	Average annual pay		Percent change, 1999-2000
	1999	2000 ³	
New Mexico			
Total Private ²	25,286	26,519	4.9
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing.....	15,136	15,886	4.9
Mining.....	43,523	43,878	0.8
Construction.....	25,740	28,116	9.2
Manufacturing.....	35,166	38,463	9.4
Transportation, communications, and public utilities.....	33,427	34,687	3.8
Wholesale trade.....	32,292	34,021	5.4
Retail trade.....	15,615	16,069	2.9
Finance, insurance, and real estate.....	31,097	31,968	2.8
Services.....	26,336	27,424	4.1
Utah			
Total Private ²	27,588	28,922	4.8
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing.....	17,693	18,936	7.0
Mining.....	46,137	48,533	5.2
Construction.....	28,339	29,720	4.9
Manufacturing.....	33,637	35,464	5.4
Transportation, communications, and public utilities.....	36,191	38,145	5.4
Wholesale trade.....	37,496	39,727	5.9
Retail trade.....	16,677	16,632	-0.3
Finance, insurance, and real estate.....	34,623	36,839	6.4
Services.....	26,955	28,590	6.1
Wyoming			
Total Private ²	35,945	37,212	3.5
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing.....	17,982	19,443	8.1
Mining.....	43,619	46,791	7.3
Construction.....	35,623	37,494	5.3
Manufacturing.....	44,486	47,072	5.8
Transportation, communications, and public utilities.....	43,078	47,596	10.5
Wholesale trade.....	40,665	43,599	7.2
Retail trade.....	19,354	20,877	7.9
Finance, insurance, and real estate.....	41,744	44,430	6.4
Services.....	41,649	40,943	-1.7

¹ Industry data are for private sector employment only and exclude government workers.

² Includes data for industries in addition to those shown separately.

³ Data are preliminary.

Table 3. Average annual pay for 1999 and 2000 for all covered workers¹ in metropolitan areas in the United States and Idaho

Metropolitan area ²	Average annual pay			
	1999	2000 ³	Percent change, 1999-2000	National ranking ⁴ of area by pay level, 2000
All metropolitan areas.....	\$34,900	\$37,010	6.0	-
Metropolitan areas in Idaho				
Boise City, ID MSA	29,865	32,480	8.8	85
Pocatello, ID MSA	23,324	24,033	3.0	304

¹ Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

² Includes data for Metropolitan Statistical Areas and Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas as defined by OMB Bulletin No. 99-04. See Technical Note for definitions of metropolitan areas.

³ Data are preliminary.

⁴ Ranking are based on a comparison of data for 318 metropolitan areas nationwide.

Table 4. Employment and average annual pay in the United States and the largest counties in Idaho for all covered workers¹, 2000

County ²	Employment		Average annual pay			
	2000 ³	Percent change, 1999-2000 ⁴	Level		Percent change	
			2000 ³	National ranking ⁵	1999-2000	National ranking ⁵
United States	129,925,813	2.3	\$35,296	-	5.9	-
Large counties in Idaho						
Ada, ID.....	177,684	6.5	34,470	120	10.0	17

¹ Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs. The 315 largest U.S. counties comprise 70.8% of the total covered workers in the U.S.

² Includes areas not officially designated as counties. See Technical Note.

³ Data are preliminary.

⁴ Percent changes were compiled from annual employment and pay data adjusted from noneconomic county reclassification. See Technical Note.

⁵ Rankings for annual pay in 2000 are based on the 314 counties that are comparable over the year.