Treasure Valley State of the Region: Progress Report 2008

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Treasure Valley State of the Region: Progress Report 2008

The original Treasure Valley State of the Region Report (2006) describes the Boise-Nampa MSA using 49 indicators on social, economic, fiscal and environmental aspects of the region. Comparisons using the indicators are also made with peer regions in the Western United States. The rapid increase in growth in the Treasure Valley warrants a comprehensive look at the region. The Public Policy Center in the College of Social Science and Public Affairs at Boise State University initiated the production of this report to meet this need.

This report was assembled by faculty and graduate students in an effort to produce a fact based report using region wide data. It was also assembled as a starting point for understanding some of the issues and opportunities we face now and in the future.

The Progress Report 2008 is an effort to update many of the indicators presented in the Preliminary Report, and add new indicators based on feedback we received from the community. In the Progress Report, we include all of the original graphs, tables and indicator information, as well as updated graphs, tables and discussion where we found relevant data.[1] More importantly, the Progress Report is designed to present to the readers an opportunity to evaluate the changes the region has made over time, and provide opportunity for dialogue on the effects of these changes.

The information contained in this report was compiled with the help of the following public and private organizations and staff:

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*The style and format of this report was adapted from the University of Buffalo and the East/West Gateway's "Where We Stand" report.

[1] Unfortunately, as this is a secondary data collection process, we were constrained in collecting updated data for a variety of reasons.

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[2] Indicators with the * next to them indicate an update since the last report. In the Economy section, the Real Estate indicator is new to the report. Indicators that were not updated either did not provide updated data or the results were not significantly different to warrant inclusion, but will be included in the online version. In an effort to stay consistent and accurate in our reporting, all data were drawn from the same sources unless otherwise noted.

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Boise and Our Peer Regions

How does Boise compare to other regions in the West? To answer this question indicators of economic, social, and fiscal well being are considered. Fifteen metropolitan regions are compared on several indicators. Each of these metropolitan areas are depicted in the map on page 6 and have approximately 2 million people or less, are located in the West, and are places firms and families look to for a desirable lifestyle.

The Boise Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is referred to throughout the report as a peer region, region, or metro area. The boundaries of the MSA are used by the Census and are determined by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). These boundaries are designated by the connectivity of social and economic activity of surrounding areas with a larger central core rather than exclusively on population or land area. The OMB designates larger areas of social and economic activity as Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas (PMSA) or Consolidate Metropolitan Statistical Areas (CMSA). In the case of Boulder, Portland, and San Jose, PMSAs or CMSAs as defined by the OMB have been used in the peer region comparisons.

As illustrated below, the regions range from 2 million to just over 100,000 people. Boise ranks seventh of the 15 regions and slightly less than average in terms of population with 530,300 people in 2005. Boise ranks first in terms of land area within the MSA but least in terms of population density with just 45 people per square mile. This is the case because the population is just slightly below average while the amount of its metro land area surpasses all of the other peer regions. Subsequently, the Boise region is the most sparsely populated among its peer metro areas.

METRO AREA POPULATION
2005

1	Portland, OR	2,082,000
2	Sacramento, CA	2,023,500
3	San Jose, CA	1,764,100
4	Salt Lake City, UT	1,023,400
5	Albuquerque, NM	782,900
	Average	747,900
6	Colorado Springs, CO	581,400
7	Boise-Nampa, ID	530,300
8	Spokane, WA	436,600
9	Reno, NV	388,900
10	Salem, OR	369,400
11	Eugene, OR	334,900
12	Boulder, CO	279,900
13	Fort Collins, CO	270,400
14	Yakima, WA MSA	229,100
15	Coeur d'Alene, ID,	121,800

Source: Demographics USA

LAND AREA
In square miles, 2005

1	Boise-Nampa, ID	11,788
2	Salt Lake City, UT	9,538
3	Albuquerque, NM	9,288
4	Portland, OR	6,684
5	Reno, NV	6,605
6	Sacramento, CA	5,094
	Average	4,766
7	Eugene, OR	4,554
8	Yakima, WA	4,296
9	Colorado Springs, CO	2,683
10	San Jose, CA	2,680
11	Fort Collins, CO	2,601
12	Salem, OR	1,925
13	Spokane, WA	1,764
14	Coeur d'Alene, ID	1,245
15	Boulder, CO	742

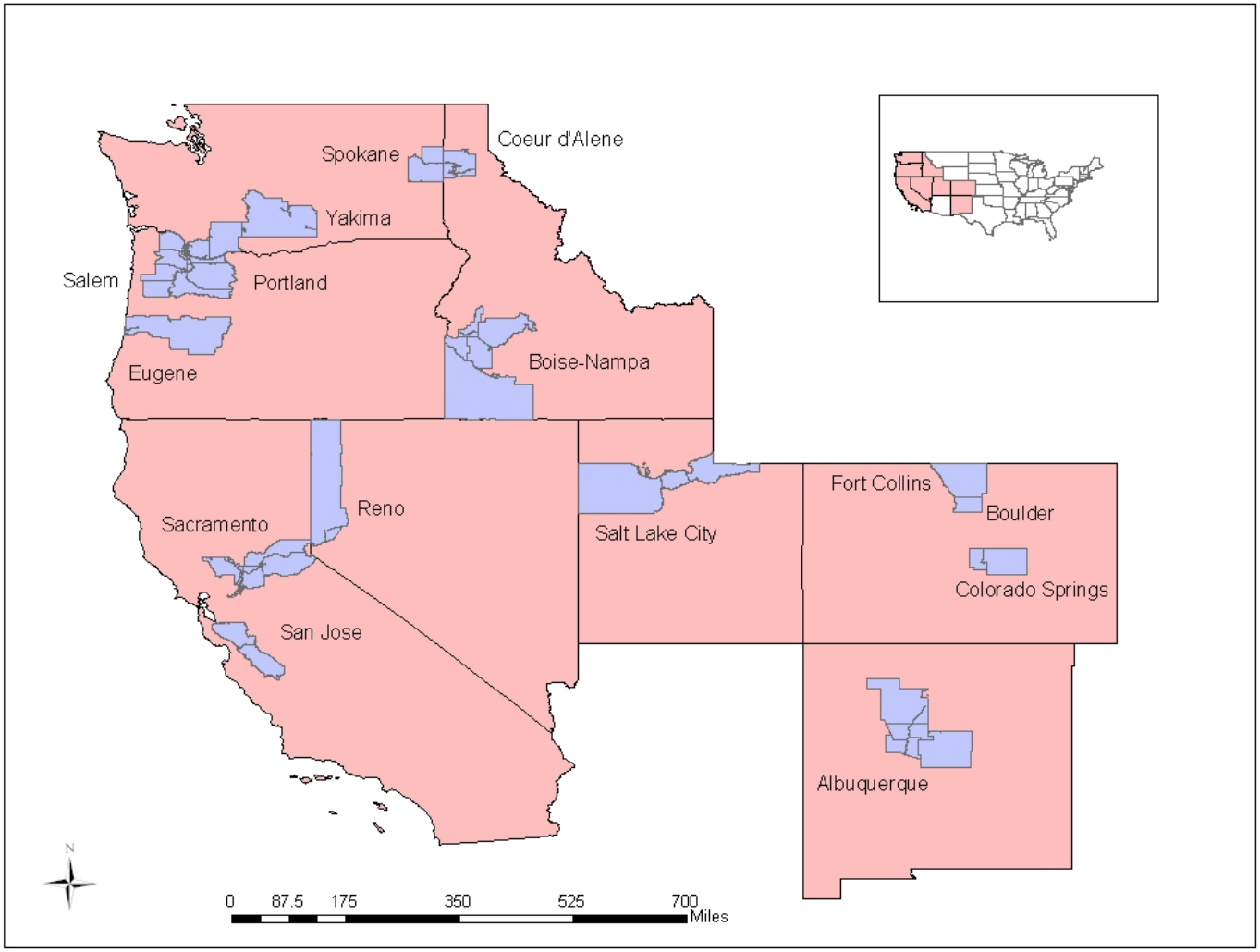
Source: U.S. Census

POPULATION DENSITY
Persons per square mile, 2005

1	San Jose, CA	658
2	Sacramento, CA	397
3	Boulder, CO	384
4	Portland, OR	311
5	Spokane, WA	248
6	Colorado Springs, CO	217
	Average	202
7	Salem, OR	192
8	Salt Lake City, UT	107
9	Fort Collins, CO	104
10	Coeur d'Alene, ID	98
11	Albuquerque, NM	84
12	Eugene, OR	74
13	Reno, NV	59
14	Yakima, WA	53
15	Boise-Nampa, ID	45

Source: Demographics USA

2005 Western Peer Metropolitan Regions



Metro Area Change 1990-2000

The Boise MSA has changed considerably over the years as can been seen in the tables on this page and the next as well as in the map of the region on page 5. Some of the major cities in Idaho experienced remarkable population growth between 1990 and 2000. Boise's population skyrocketed by 110 percent and Coeur d'Alene's population has more than doubled at 56 percent. San Jose in comparison to Boise (which is also a region with a notable amount of high technology employment) grew by only 12 percent for the same period.

As illustrated by the charts below and the following map, Boise doubled in size growing by 56 percent in terms of land area, second only to Albuquerque which experienced a 410 percent change in land area. Even with the expansion in land area from 1990 to 2000 Boise still ranks third and maintained one of the highest percentage increases in persons per square mile at 34.8 percent.

POPULATION CHANGE

By percent, 1990-2000

1	Boise-Nampa, ID	110.1
2	Coeur d'Alene, ID	55.7
3	Albuquerque, NM	48.3
4	Fort Collins, CO	35.1
	Average	34.0
5	Reno, NV	33.3
6	Colorado Springs, CO	30.2
7	Portland, OR	29.8
8	Boulder, CO	29.3
9	Salem, OR	24.9
10	Salt Lake City, UT	24.4
11	Sacramento, CA	21.3
12	Yakima, WA	17.9
13	Spokane, WA	15.7
14	Eugene, OR	14.2
15	San Jose, CA	12.4

Source: U.S. Census

LAND AREA CHANGE

By percent of square miles, 1990-2000

1	Albuquerque, NM	409.7
2	Boise-Nampa, ID	55.9
	Average	32.0
3	Portland, OR	15.0
4	Boulder, CO	0.0
5	Coeur d'Alene, ID	0.0
6	Colorado Springs, CO	0.0
7	Eugene, OR	0.0
8	Fort Collins, CO	0.0
9	Reno, NV	0.0
10	Sacramento, CA	0.0
11	Salem, OR	0.0
12	Salt Lake City, UT	0.0
13	San Jose, CA	0.0
14	Spokane, WA	0.0
15	Yakima, WA	0.0

Source: U.S. Census

POPULATION DENSITY CHANGE

By percent of persons per square mile, 1990-2000

1	Coeur d'Alene, ID	55.6
2	Fort Collins, CO	35.0
3	Boise-Nampa, ID	34.8
4	Reno, NV	33.2
5	Colorado Springs, CO	30.2
6	Boulder, CO	29.3
7	Salem, OR	24.9
8	Salt Lake City, UT	24.4
9	Sacramento, CA	21.3
	Average	19.6
10	Yakima, WA	17.8
11	Portland, OR	15.8
12	Spokane, WA	15.6
13	Eugene, OR	14.2
14	San Jose, CA	12.3
15	Albuquerque, NM	-70.9

Source: U.S. Census

Metro Area Change 2001-2005

The census is only a snapshot of particular points in time. Turning to another source for demographic information we can see more recent trends on population change among the peer regions.

In the years between 2001 and 2005 the Sacramento region topped the list in population change with a 23 percent growth rate. Boise followed closely behind with a 20 percent increase in population. At the other end of the scale the Salt Lake City region experienced the largest decline in population of 24 percent and the Boulder metro area ranked second to last with a 6 percent decrease in population. The two charts to the right of the population chart highlight the change in land area and density. In 2003 the Boise metro area grew to include Boise, Gem, and Owyhee counties explaining the enormous increase (1017.4 percent) in the metro land area as depicted in the map. This resulted in making Boise's metro area decrease in density one of the most dramatic, -498 percent, and second only to Salt Lake City with -683 percent.

POPULATION CHANGE
By percent, 2001-2005

1	Sacramento, CA	22.6
2	Boise-Nampa, ID	19.8
3	Reno, NV	12.5
4	Colorado Springs, CO	10.6
	Average	9.4
5	Coeur d'Alene, ID	9.1
6	Albuquerque, NM	8.4
7	Portland, OR	6.9
8	Fort Collins, CO	5.5
9	Salem, OR	4.8
10	San Jose, CA	4.0
11	Spokane, WA	3.4
12	Eugene, OR	2.7
13	Yakima, WA	1.8
14	Boulder, CO	-5.5
15	Salt Lake City, UT	-24.4

Source: Demographics USA

LAND AREA CHANGE
By percent of square miles, 2001-2005

1	Boise-Nampa, ID	1017.4
2	Albuquerque, NM	696.6
3	Salt Lake City, UT	489.9
4	San Jose, CA	107.6
	Average	77.9
5	Portland, OR	52.9
6	Colorado Springs, CO	26.2
7	Reno, NV	4.2
8	Boulder, CO	0.0
9	Coeur d'Alene, ID	0.0
10	Eugene, OR	0.0
11	Fort Collins, CO	0.0
12	Sacramento, CA	0.0
13	Salem, OR	0.0
14	Spokane, WA	0.0
15	Yakima, WA	0.0

Source: U.S. Census

POPULATION DENSITY CHANGE
By percent of persons per square mile, 2001-2005

1	Coeur d'Alene, ID	8.2
2	Reno, NV	6.8
3	Fort Collins, CO	4.8
4	Salem, OR	4.7
5	Spokane, WA	3.6
6	Eugene, OR	2.7
7	Yakima, WA	1.9
8	Sacramento, CA	-1.8
9	Boulder, CO	-3.9
10	Colorado Springs, CO	-13.8
11	Portland, OR	-24.8
12	Albuquerque, NM	-44.1
	Average	-89.0
13	San Jose, CA	-99.7
14	Boise-Nampa, ID	-497.8
15	Salt Lake City, UT	-682.2

Source: Demographics USA

Since Last Report

Population Change

The change in population in the peer regions was factored using the difference in population between 2000 and 2007. As the table shows, the range in population growth was broad, from just over 3% to nearly a 25% increase in population. Note that in all regions, population change was positive. The greatest change in population occurred in Idaho; Coeur d'Alene at 23.5% and Boise City-Nampa at 22.2%, while the smallest increase occurred in San Jose, at just over 3%.

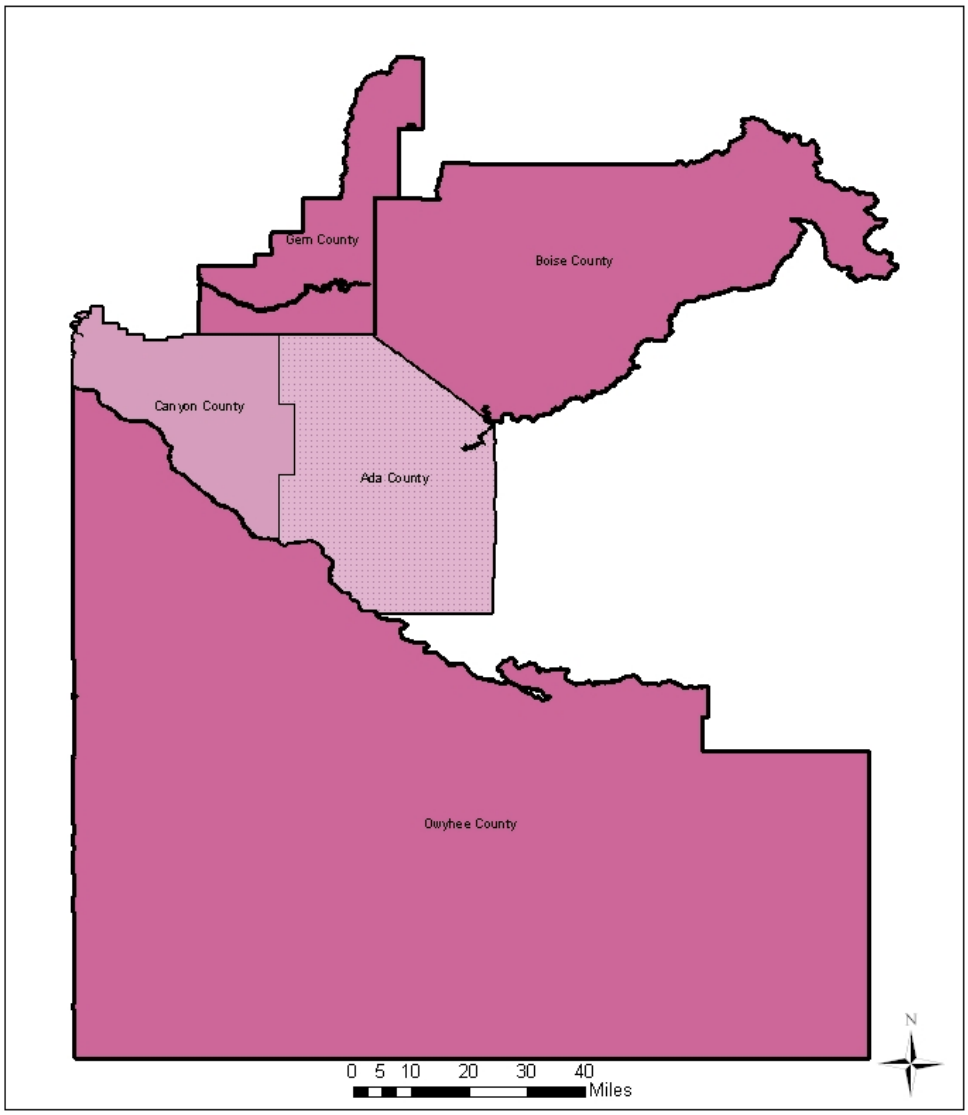
Population	Population 2007	% Change 2000-2007
Coeur d'Alene, ID	134,200	23.5
Boise City-Nampa, ID	568,100	22.2
Reno, NV	408,700	19.2
Sacramento, CA	2,102,200	17.0
Albuquerque, NM	819,900	12.4
Portland, OR	2,138,500	10.9
Colorado Springs, CO	595,400	10.8
Fort Collins, CO	275,600	9.6
Salem, OR	379,400	9.3
Salt Lake City, UT	1,055,100	8.9
Spokane, WA	446,000	6.7
Boulder, CO	284,200	5.4
Eugene, OR	340,300	5.4
Yakima, WA	233,600	5.0
San Jose, CA	1,795,300	3.4

Population Density Change

We see similar results in population density change from 2005-2007. Coeur d'Alene and Boise City-Nampa MSAs have the greatest percent change in density, while Boulder and Eugene have the smallest percent change in density. Again, note that all regions had a positive change in density (meaning more people/square mile), which is not surprising given the increase in population without a change in MSA borders.

Population Density	2005	2007	% Change
Coeur d'Alene, ID	98	108	10.2
Boise City-Nampa, ID	**45**	**48**	**6.7**
Reno, NV	59	62	5.1
Albuquerque, NM	84	88	4.8
Sacramento, CA	397	413	4.0
Salt Lake City, UT	107	111	3.7
Portland, OR	311	320	2.9
Salem, OR	192	197	2.6
Colorado Springs, CO	217	222	2.3
Spokane, WA	248	253	2.0
Fort Collins, CO	104	106	1.9
Yakima, WA	53	54	1.9
San Jose, CA	658	670	1.8
Boulder, CO	384	390	1.6
Eugene, OR	74	75	1.4

Boise Metropolitan Statistical Area



The map reflects the changing definition of the Boise MSA. In 1980 Ada County was the entire MSA. Ada and Canyon counties comprised the MSA from 1993-2003. Since 2003 the five counties of Ada, Boise, Canyon, Gem and Owyhee are designated as the Boise-Nampa MSA.

Legend

1980

1993

2003

Race and Ethnicity

In 2005, Boise ranked fifth in the percentage of its population that is white. At opposite ends of the table are Coeur d'Alene ranks first with 95.3 percent of its population being white, San Jose is the most diverse with 50.4 percent of its population being white.

The Boise region's population is less than one percent Black and 1.7 percent Asian. Hispanics, who can be of any race, comprise 10 percent of the Boise region's population.

WHITE POPULATION
Percent of total, 2005

1	Coeur d'Alene, ID	95.3
2	Spokane, WA	90.7
3	Fort Collins, CO	90.1
4	Eugene, OR	89.4
5	Boise City-Nampa, ID	88.4
6	Boulder, CO	86.6
7	Salt Lake City, UT	84.9
8	Portland, OR	82.4
9	Salem, OR	80.6
10	Colorado Springs, CO	80.2
	Average	79.8
11	Reno, NV	79.6
12	Albuquerque, NM	68.2
13	Sacramento, CA	67.2
14	Yakima, WA	63.4
15	San Jose, CA	50.4

Source: Demographics USA

BLACK POPULATION
Percent of total, 2005

1	Sacramento, CA	7.2
2	Colorado Springs, CO	6.5
3	Portland, OR	2.8
4	Albuquerque, NM	2.6
5	San Jose, CA	2.5
	Average	2.1
6	Reno, NV	1.6
7	Spokane, WA	1.6
8	Salt Lake City, UT	1.2
9	Yakima, WA	1.0
10	Boulder, CO	0.9
11	Fort Collins, CO	0.9
12	Salem, OR	0.9
13	Eugene, OR	0.8
14	Boise City-Nampa, ID	0.6
15	Coeur d'Alene, ID	0.3

Source: Demographics USA

ASIAN POPULATION
Percnet of total, 2005

1	San Jose, CA	28.6
2	Sacramento, CA	10.4
3	Portland, OR	5.6
	Average	4.9
4	Reno, NV	4.3
5	Salt Lake City, UT	4.0
6	Boulder, CO	3.9
7	Colorado Springs, CO	3.0
8	Eugene, OR	2.7
9	Salem, OR	2.1
10	Spokane, WA	2.1
11	Albuquerque, NM	1.9
12	Fort Collins, CO	1.9
13	Boise City-Nampa, ID	1.7
14	Yakima, WA	1.0
15	Coeur d'Alene, ID	0.7

Source: Demographics USA

HISPANIC POPULATION
Percent of total, 2005

1	Albuquerque, NM	43.4
2	Yakima, WA	39.3
3	San Jose, CA	25.6
4	Reno, NV	19.2
5	Salem, OR	18.7
6	Sacramento, CA	17.4
	Average	16.1
7	Salt Lake City, UT	13.5
8	Boulder, CO	12.2
9	Colorado Springs, CO	11.8
10	Boise City-Nampa, ID	10.3
11	Fort Collins, CO	9.2
12	Portland, OR	9.1
13	Eugene, OR	5.3
14	Spokane, WA	3.2
15	Coeur d'Alene, ID	2.7

Source: Demographics USA

Since Last Report

Ethnicity

The Hispanic population is the only ethnic group that experienced positive growth in each of the peer regions during the two year period (2005-2007). Boise City-Nampa MSA saw either decreased growth (Asian population) or stable growth (White and Black populations) among the other ethnic groups.

White Population	2005	2007	% Change
Colorado Springs, CO	80.2	80.3	0.1
Coeur d'Alene, ID	95.3	95.3	0.0
Boise City-Nampa, ID	**88.4**	**88.3**	**-0.1**
Fort Collins, CO	90.1	89.9	-0.2
Spokane, WA	90.7	90.4	-0.3
Portland, OR	82.4	82.1	-0.4
Eugene, OR	89.4	88.9	-0.6
Albuquerque, NM	68.2	67.8	-0.6
Salt Lake City, UT	84.9	84.4	-0.6
Boulder, CO	86.6	86.0	-0.7
Salem, OR	80.6	79.7	-1.1
Yakima, WA	63.4	62.6	-1.3
Sacramento, CA	67.2	65.8	-2.1
Reno, NV	79.6	77.2	-3.0
San Jose, CA	50.4	48.6	-3.6

Black Population	2005	2007	% Change
Reno, NV	1.6	2.2	37.5
Salem, OR	0.9	1.1	22.2
Boulder, CO	0.9	1.0	11.1
Sacramento, CA	7.2	7.2	0.0
Albuquerque, NM	2.6	2.6	0.0
San Jose, CA	2.5	2.5	0.0
Spokane, WA	1.6	1.6	0.0
Salt Lake City, UT	1.2	1.2	0.0
Yakima, WA	1.0	1.0	0.0
Fort Collins, CO	0.9	0.9	0.0
Eugene, OR	0.8	0.8	0.0
Boise City-Nampa, ID	**0.6**	**0.6**	**0.0**
Coeur d'Alene, ID	0.3	0.3	0.0
Portland, OR	2.8	2.7	-3.6
Colorado Springs, CO	6.5	6.0	-7.7

Ethnicity-continued

Hispanic Population	2005	2007	% Change
Coeur d'Alene, ID	2.7	3.1	14.8
Salt Lake City, UT	13.5	14.9	10.4
Eugene, OR	5.3	5.8	9.4
Spokane, WA	3.2	3.5	9.4
Colorado Springs, CO	11.8	12.7	7.6
Boulder, CO	12.2	13.1	7.4
Reno, NV	19.2	20.5	6.8
Portland, OR	9.1	9.7	6.6
Fort Collins, CO	9.2	9.7	5.4
Salem, OR	18.7	19.6	4.8
Boise City-Nampa, ID	**10.3**	**10.6**	**2.9**
Sacramento, CA	17.4	17.9	2.9
Yakima, WA	39.3	40.0	1.8
San Jose, CA	25.6	25.9	1.2
Albuquerque, NM	43.4	43.5	0.2

Asian Population	2005	2007	% Change
Reno, NV	4.3	5.3	23.3
Yakima, WA	1.0	1.2	20.0
Spokane, WA	2.1	2.3	9.5
Sacramento, CA	10.4	11.3	8.7
Eugene, OR	2.7	2.9	7.4
San Jose, CA	28.6	30.1	5.2
Salem, OR	2.1	2.2	4.8
Fort Collins, CO	1.9	1.9	0.0
Portland, OR	5.6	5.6	0.0
Boulder, CO	3.9	3.8	-2.6
Salt Lake City, UT	4.0	3.8	-5.0
Albuquerque, NM	1.9	1.8	-5.3
Boise City-Nampa, ID	**1.7**	**1.6**	**-5.9**
Colorado Springs, CO	3.0	2.8	-6.7
Coeur d'Alene, ID	0.7	0.6	-14.3

Age

Populations across the country are aging as the baby boomers near retirement. At the metropolitan area level Boise ranks somewhat younger than the composite average age of 34.9 for the peer regions.

Median Age
2005

1	Eugene, OR	37.6
2	Coeur d'Alene, ID	37.1
3	San Jose, CA	36.3
4	Reno, NV	36.2
5	Spokane, WA	36.2
6	Albuquerque, NM	36.0
7	Portland, OR	35.9
8	Sacramento, CA	35.0
	Average	34.9
9	Boulder, CO	34.6
10	Salem, OR	34.5
11	Colorado Springs, CO	34.1
12	Fort Collins, CO	34.1
13	Boise City-Nampa, ID	33.6
14	Yakima, WA	31.8
15	Salt Lake City, UT	29.8

Source: Demographics USA

The two charts on youth indicate that Boise's pre-school and school age population is larger than average, ranking third in both categories among the regions.

The working age population from 18-64 is slightly below the average of metro areas ranking 11 of 15. This reflects that the current labor pool is smaller than the average as is the Boise region's percentage of adults over 65. Together these charts explain why Boise's median age is below average.

CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN 5
Percent of total, 2005

1	Salt Lake City, UT	11.0
2	Yakima, WA	10.3
3	Boise City-Nampa, ID	9.2
4	Colorado Springs, CO	9.1
5	San Jose, CA	8.7
6	Salem, OR	8.6
	Average	8.4
7	Albuquerque, NM	8.3
8	Reno, NV	8.2
9	Portland, OR	8.1
10	Sacramento, CA	7.9
11	Coeur d'Alene, ID	7.8
12	Spokane, WA	7.4
13	Boulder, CO	7.3
14	Fort Collins, CO	7.2
15	Eugene, OR	6.6

Source: Demographics USA

CHILDREN AND YOUTH YOUNGER THAN 18
Percent of total, 2005

1	Yakima, WA	30.6
2	Salt Lake City, UT	30.1
3	Boise City-Nampa, ID	27.5
4	Colorado Springs, CO	27.3
5	Salem, OR	26.1
	Average	25.5
6	Sacramento, CA	25.5
7	Albuquerque, NM	25.5
8	Coeur d'Alene, ID	25.4
9	San Jose, CA	24.9
10	Reno, NV	24.8
11	Portland, OR	24.7
12	Spokane, WA	24.1
13	Fort Collins, CO	22.6
14	Boulder, CO	22.2
15	Eugene, OR	21.3

Source: Demographics USA

ADULTS AGED 18-64
Percent of total, 2005

1	Boulder, CO	69.5
2	Fort Collins, CO	67.5
3	Eugene, OR	65.0
4	Portland, OR	64.9
5	San Jose, CA	64.8
6	Reno, NV	64.0
7	Colorado Springs, CO	63.7
	Average	63.6
8	Spokane, WA	63.5
9	Sacramento, CA	63.4
10	Albuquerque, NM	62.9
11	Boise City-Nampa, ID	62.4
12	Salt Lake City, UT	61.7
13	Coeur d'Alene, ID	61.5
14	Salem, OR	61.4
15	Yakima, WA	58.2

Source: Demographics USA

ADULTS AGED 65 AND OLDER
Percent of total, 2005

1	Eugene, OR	13.7
2	Coeur d'Alene, ID	13.1
3	Salem, OR	12.6
4	Spokane, WA	12.5
5	Albuquerque, NM	11.6
6	Sacramento, CA	11.3
7	Yakima, WA	11.2
8	Reno, NV	11.2
	Average	10.9
9	Portland, OR	10.4
10	San Jose, CA	10.3
11	Boise City-Nampa, ID	10.1
12	Fort Collins, CO	9.9
13	Colorado Springs, CO	9.0
14	Boulder, CO	8.3
15	Salt Lake City, UT	8.2

Source: Demographics USA

Since Last Report

Age

The change in age over the past two years has been minimal. The median age in the Treasure Valley has dropped slightly from 34.6 to 34.1 years, or down 1.4%. Compared to the peer regions, the Boise/Nampa MSA has seen relatively little change. Changes have been as drastic as a 10% increase (Eugene and Coer d'Alene) and a 10% decrease in median age (Colorado Springs). The working age population (18-64 years) has increased slightly (1.4%), which is on the high end when comparing to the other peer regions.

Median Age	2005	2007	% Change
Eugene, OR	34.1	37.8	10.9
Coeur d'Alene, ID	34.1	37.7	10.6
Salt Lake City, UT	29.8	30.8	3.4
Portland, OR	35.9	36.7	2.2
Albuquerque, NM	36.0	36.8	2.2
Yakima, WA	31.8	32.2	1.3
Reno, NV	36.2	36.6	1.1
Spokane, WA	36.2	36.5	0.8
San Jose, CA	36.3	36.6	0.8
Salem, OR	34.5	34.6	0.3
Sacramento, CA	35.0	35.0	0.0
Boise City-Nampa, ID	**34.6**	**34.1**	**-1.4**
Fort Collins, CO	35.0	34.1	-2.6
Boulder, CO	37.1	35.2	-5.1
Colorado Springs, CO	37.6	33.8	-10.1

Adults Aged 18-64	2005	2007	% Change
Salt Lake City, UT	61.7	63.0	2.1
Albuquerque, NM	62.9	63.9	1.6
Boise City-Nampa, ID	**62.4**	**63.3**	**1.4**
Spokane, WA	63.5	64.1	1.0
Yakima, WA	58.2	58.7	0.8
Salem, OR	61.4	61.8	0.7
Portland, OR	64.9	65.3	0.6
Colorado Springs, CO	63.7	63.8	0.2
Eugene, OR	65.0	65.1	0.2
Fort Collins, CO	67.5	67.1	-0.5
Sacramento, CA	63.4	63.0	-0.6
Reno, NV	64.0	63.6	-0.7
Boulder, CO	69.5	68.8	-1.0
San Jose, CA	64.8	64.0	-1.2
Coeur d'Alene, ID	61.5	58.3	-5.2

Age (Continued)

The two age groups that had significant percentage decreases over the past two years were younger than 5 (2.4%) and younger that 18 (3.7%). While comparatively speaking, the Boise City-Nampa MSA is roughly in the middle of the pack, we may infer from the change that we are seeing a potential for long-term effects on the workforce and planning for the elderly, particularly when combining these findings with the slight increase of percentage of population over 65 (1.5%).

Younger than 5	2005	2007	% Change
San Jose, CA	8.7	9.1	4.4
Sacramento, CA	7.9	8.2	3.9
Yakima, WA	10.3	10.4	1.0
Fort Collins, CO	7.2	7.3	1.0
Boulder, CO	7.3	7.3	0.1
Reno, NV	8.2	8.2	0.1
Colorado Springs, CO	9.1	9.0	-1.0
Spokane, WA	7.4	7.3	-1.7
Salem, OR	8.6	8.4	-1.8
Eugene, OR	6.6	6.4	-2.3
Boise City-Nampa, ID	**9.2**	**9.0**	**-2.4**
Salt Lake City, UT	11.0	10.7	-2.7
Albuquerque, NM	8.3	8.0	-3.3
Portland, OR	8.1	7.7	-4.5
Coeur d'Alene, ID	7.8	7.3	-6.3

Adults Aged over 65	2005	2007	% Change
Coeur d'Alene, ID	13.1	21.4	63.1
Colorado Springs, CO	9.0	13.2	46.3
Yakima, WA	11.2	16.1	44.0
Boulder, CO	8.3	9.0	8.4
Fort Collins, CO	9.9	10.4	5.1
Portland, OR	10.4	10.7	3.0
San Jose, CA	10.3	10.6	2.9
Eugene, OR	13.7	14.1	2.7
Salt Lake City, UT	8.2	8.3	1.6
Albuquerque, NM	11.6	11.8	1.5
Boise City-Nampa, ID	**10.1**	**10.2**	**1.5**
Spokane, WA	12.5	12.6	1.2
Salem, OR	12.6	12.6	0.3
Sacramento, CA	11.3	11.3	0.2
Reno, NV	11.2	10.4	-6.8

Younger than 18	2005	2007	% Change
Reno, NV	24.8	26.0	4.8
San Jose, CA	24.9	25.4	1.9
Sacramento, CA	25.5	25.7	0.8
Boulder, CO	22.2	22.2	0.0
Fort Collins, CO	22.6	22.5	-0.6
Salem, OR	26.1	25.6	-1.9
Eugene, OR	21.3	20.8	-2.3
Portland, OR	24.7	24.0	-2.8
Spokane, WA	24.1	23.3	-3.2
Boise City-Nampa, ID	**27.5**	**26.5**	**-3.7**
Albuquerque, NM	25.5	24.3	-4.7
Salt Lake City, UT	30.1	28.7	-4.8
Colorado Springs, CO	27.3	23.0	-15.8
Yakima, WA	30.6	25.2	-17.6
Coeur d'Alene, ID	25.4	20.3	-20.0

Households

Households are defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as an individual or group of individuals that occupy the same housing unit. The Boise region is below the average of the composite for this variable in terms of the number of households. However, between the years of 1990 and 2000 the number of households increased by more than 100 percent compared to the average increase of only 25 percent among the peer regions. The increase in households (104.5) is only slightly less than the previously noted increase in population (110.1 percent).

HOUSEHOLDS
2000

1	Portland, OR	741,776
2	Sacramento, CA	665,298
3	San Jose, CA	565,863
4	Salt Lake City, UT	432,040
5	Albuquerque, NM	275,028
	Average	260,589
6	Colorado Springs, CO	192,409
7	Spokane, WA	163,611
8	Boise City-Nampa, ID	158,426
9	Reno, NV	132,084
10	Eugene, OR	130,453
11	Salem, OR	124,699
12	Boulder, CO	114,680
13	Fort Collins, CO	97,164
14	Yakima, WA	73,993
15	Coeur d'Alene, ID	41,308

Source: US Census

GROWTH IN HOUSEHOLDS
Percent Change 1990-2000

1	Boise City-Nampa, ID	104.5
2	Coeur d'Alene, ID	53.3
3	Albuquerque, NM	48.2
4	Fort Collins, CO	37.9
5	Colorado Springs, CO	30.9
6	Boulder, CO	29.7
7	Reno, NV	29.1
8	Portland, OR	28.9
	Average	25.4
9	Salt Lake City, UT	24.3
10	Salem, OR	22.7
11	Sacramento, CA	19.6
12	Eugene, OR	17.7
13	Spokane, WA	15.5
14	Yakima, WA	12.1
15	San Jose, CA	8.8

Source: US Census

Households (continued)

Family households are one type of household and are comprised of two or more people who are related by blood, marriage, or adoption. Family households comprise more than 70 percent of the households in the Boise region. In terms of family households headed by single parents Boise ranks below average at 11th with only 12 percent of its households being headed by a single mother or father.

FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS
Percent of all households, 2000

1	Salt Lake City, UT	74.7
2	Yakima, WA	73.8
3	Coeur d'Alene, ID	71.8
4	Boise City-Nampa, ID	70.3
5	San Jose, CA	69.9
6	Colorado Springs, CO	69.6
7	Salem, OR	69.4
	Average	67.8
8	Sacramento, CA	67.0
9	Albuquerque, NM	66.3
10	Fort Collins, CO	65.0
11	Portland, OR	65.0
12	Spokane, WA	64.8
13	Reno, NV	63.4
14	Eugene, OR	63.0
15	Boulder, CO	60.0

Source: US Census

FAMILIES HEADED BY SINGLE PARENTS
Percent of all households, 2000

1	Albuquerque, NM	16.1
2	Yakima, WA	15.9
3	Sacramento, CA	15.3
4	Spokane, WA	15.0
5	Reno, NV	14.2
6	Eugene, OR	14.0
7	Salem, OR	13.5
	Average	12.9
8	Colorado Springs, CO	12.9
9	Coeur d'Alene, ID	12.5
10	Portland, OR	12.5
11	Boise City-Nampa, ID	12.3
12	Boulder, CO	11.6
13	Salt Lake City, UT	10.9
14	Fort Collins, CO	10.1
15	San Jose, CA	9.9

Source: U.S. Census

Adults caring for grandchildren represents only one percent of Boise households. When considering non-family households Boise ranks at the average number for its peer regions with 7.5 percent of its households with persons aged 65 or older living alone.

ADULTS CARING FOR GRANDCHILDREN
Percent of adults in households aged 30 and older, 2000

1	Yakima, WA	2.1
2	Albuquerque, NM	2.0
3	Salt Lake City, UT	1.6
4	Salem, OR	1.5
5	Sacramento, CA	1.5
6	Reno, NV	1.4
	Average	1.3
7	Colorado Springs, CO	1.3
8	San Jose, CA	1.2
9	Coeur d'Alene, ID	1.2
10	Boise City-Nampa, ID	1.0
11	Portland, OR	1.0
12	Eugene, OR	0.9
13	Spokane, WA	0.9
14	Fort Collins, CO	0.7
15	Boulder, CO	0.6

Source: US Census

PERSONS AGED 65 AND OLDER LIVING ALONE
Percent of all households, 2000

1	Spokane, WA	10.0
2	Yakima, WA	9.7
3	Salem, OR	9.6
4	Eugene, OR	9.2
5	Coeur d'Alene, ID	8.3
6	Sacramento, CA	8.0
7	Portland, OR	7.9
8	Reno, NV	7.9
9	Albuquerque, NM	7.9
	Average	7.5
10	Boise City-Nampa, ID	7.5
11	Fort Collins, CO	6.7
12	Colorado Springs, CO	6.4
13	Salt Lake City, UT	6.3
14	San Jose, CA	6.0
15	Boulder, CO	5.8

Source: US Census

Since Last Report

Households

Boise Nampa MSA leads all peer regions in the percent increase of total households from 2000 to 2007. In 2000, the total number of households was 158,426. By 2007, that number had increased by nearly 33% to 210, 200. The Boise Nampa MSA was nearly a third as great as then next highest MSA (Reno) who saw a percent increase of nearly 19%.

Total Households	2000	2007	% Change
Boise City-Nampa, ID	**158,426**	**210,200**	**32.7**
Reno, NV	132,084	157,100	18.9
Albuquerque, NM	275,028	324,100	17.8
Colorado Springs, CO	192,409	225,400	17.1
Sacramento, CA	665,298	777,400	16.8
Fort Collins, CO	97,164	110,000	13.2
Portland, OR	741,776	829,900	11.9
Salem, OR	124,699	135,700	8.8
Spokane, WA	163,611	177,400	8.4
Eugene, OR	130,453	139,300	6.8
San Jose, CA	565,863	593,300	4.8
Yakima, WA	73,993	76,000	2.7
Boulder, CO	114,680	113,800	-0.8
Salt Lake City, UT	432,040	345,700	-20.0

*Coeur d'Alene MSA statistics unavailable

Housing Opportunity

The indicators on this page deal with just one aspect of household wealth: homeownership. For many Americans the affordability of homes is a relative measure of quality of life and wealth since homeownership is often a personal goal as well as a person's primary investment. The data reflect that the Boise metro area ranks tenth in terms of household income out of the13 metro areas with data on the housing opportunity indicators. The Boise area was below average in terms of the median sales price for homes at $205,000 in the third quarter (July-September) of 2005 according to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) data.

In terms of housing affordability Boise faired better than average with 51 percent of the regions homes being affordable across the metropolitan area. At the opposite ends of the spectrum, Salem had the greatest percentage at 68 and Sacramento the least with only 7 percent of their homes being considered affordable based on the metropolitan area's median income.

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME
In dollars, 2005

1	San Jose, CA	93,900
2	Boulder, CO	82,000
3	Fort Collins, CO	69,200
4	Portland, OR	65,900
	Average	64,400
5	Reno, NV	63,750
6	Colorado Springs, CO	63,550
7	Sacramento, CA	63,400
8	Salt Lake City, UT	61,550
9	Salem, OR	56,500
10	Boise City-Nampa, ID	56,400
11	Eugene, OR	54,200
12	Albuquerque, NM	53,500
13	Spokane, WA	52,950

Source: NAHB

MEDIAN SALES PRICE
In dolars, 2005

1	San Jose, CA	645,000
2	Sacramento, CA	413,000
3	Reno, NV	343,000
4	Boulder, CO	282,000
	Average	266,000
5	Portland, OR	240,000
6	Fort Collins, CO	217,000
7	Salt Lake City, UT	215,000
8	Boise City-Nampa, ID	205,000
9	Colorado Springs, CO	197,000
10	Eugene, OR	195,000
11	Albuquerque, NM	184,000
12	Salem, OR	169,000
13	Spokane, WA	150,000

Source: NAHB

HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
Percent of homes affordable for median income, 2005

1	Salem, OR	68.2
2	Fort Collins, CO	67.9
3	Colorado Springs, CO	67.6
4	Spokane, WA	66.9
5	Albuquerque, NM	58.5
6	Boulder, CO	58.5
7	Salt Lake City, UT	58.1
8	Boise City-Nampa, ID	51.4
9	Eugene, OR	51.4
10	Portland, OR	50.7
	Average	49.2
11	Reno, NV	18.7
12	San Jose, CA	14.8
13	Sacramento, CA	7.4

Source: NAHB

Since Last Report

Housing Opportunities

While the MSA was well below average in terms of median household income in 2005, the change in median household income is near the tope of the peer regions, going from $56,400 in 2005to $58,000 in 2007. However, when comparing the change in median household income to the change in median home price, the results are expressive. While median income increased by 3.7%, median home price increased by an astonishing 14%.

Median Household Income	2005	2007	% Change
Spokane, WA	52,950	57,600	8.8
Sacramento, CA	63,400	67,200	6.0
Albuquerque, NM	53,500	55,900	4.5
Boise City-Nampa, ID	**56,400**	**58,500**	**3.7**
Colorado Springs, CO	63,550	65,500	3.1
San Jose, CA	93,900	94,500	0.6
Boulder, CO	82,000	82,500	0.6
Reno, NV	63,750	64,000	0.4
Fort Collins, CO	69,200	68,200	-1.4
Salt Lake City, UT	61,550	60,100	-2.4
Portland, OR	65,900	63,800	-3.2
Eugene, OR	54,200	52,200	-3.7
Salem, OR	56,500	54,200	-4.1

* Coeur d'Alene statistics unavailable

Median Sales Price	2005	2007	% Change
Salem, OR	169,000	201,000	18.9
Salt Lake City, UT	215,000	255,000	18.6
Eugene, OR	195,000	225,000	15.4
Boise City-Nampa, ID	**205,000**	**234,000**	**14.1**
Spokane, WA	150,000	170,000	13.3
Portland, OR	240,000	270,000	12.5
Albuquerque, NM	184,000	205,000	11.4
Boulder, CO	282,000	302,000	7.1
Fort Collins, CO	217,000	220,000	1.4
Colorado Springs, CO	197,000	199,000	1.0
San Jose, CA	645,000	605,000	-6.2
Reno, NV	343,000	285,000	-16.9
Sacramento, CA	413,000	304,000	-26.4

*Coeur d'Alene statistics unavailable

Housing Opportunities (Continued)

The percentage of affordable housing, as can be logically drawn from the data above, dropped significantly, from a robust 51% to 34% in two years; a drop of 33.9%. Comparatively speaking, only Sacramento, Reno, and San Jose saw an increase in the percentage of affordable homes in their Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

Housing Opportunity	2005	2007	% Change
Sacramento, CA	7.4	27.2	267.6
Reno, NV	18.7	24.4	30.5
San Jose, CA	14.8	15.5	4.7
Colorado Springs, CO	67.6	65.1	-3.7
Spokane, WA	66.9	60.8	-9.1
Fort Collins, CO	67.9	59.4	-12.5
Boulder, CO	58.5	50.2	-14.2
Albuquerque, NM	58.5	46.7	-20.2
Boise City-Nampa, ID	**51.4**	**34.0**	**-33.9**
Salt Lake City, UT	58.1	35.4	-39.1
Salem, OR	68.2	41.2	-39.6
Eugene, OR	51.4	30.0	-41.6
Portland, OR	50.7	28.8	-43.2

*Coeur d'Alene statistics unavailable

Crime Indicators

How does Boise compare with other regions with regard to crime? The first chart illustrates the total number of crimes reported on persons and property. Boise ranks 13th of the 15 metro areas, well below the average with more than a thousand fewer crimes per 100,000 people. Yakima with 6,402 crimes per 100,000 persons ranks the highest while San Jose ranked the lowest with only 2,785 crimes per 100,000 people in the region.

Although there is variation when examining specific types of crime such as murder and aggravated assault, Boise remains below average in terms of even these particular types of crime against persons. Albuquerque maintains the highest crime rate in these two categories while Coeur d'Alene has the lowest murder rate and Salem reports the least number of aggravated assaults of all the peer regions.

METRO CRIME RATE

Per 100,000 population, 2003

1	Yakima, WA	6402
2	Salem, OR	6288
3	Salt Lake City, UT	5941
4	Spokane, WA	5926
5	Albuquerque, NM	5718
6	Portland, OR	5321
7	Eugene, OR	5284
8	Reno, NV	5035
	Average	4905
9	Sacramento, CA	4731
10	Fort Collins, CO	4713
11	Colorado Springs, CO	4244
12	Coeur d'Alene, ID	3849
13	Boise City-Nampa, ID	3745
14	Boulder, CO	3587
15	San Jose, CA	2786

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Report

MURDER RATE

Per 100,000 population, 2003

1	Albuquerque, NM	8.1
2	Reno, NV	5.6
3	Sacramento, CA	5.2
4	Yakima, WA	4.4
5	Salt Lake City, UT	3.9
6	Colorado Springs, CO	3.7
7	Spokane, WA	3.7
	Average	3.3
8	San Jose, CA	2.8
9	Boise City-Nampa, ID	2.6
10	Salem, OR	2.2
11	Portland, OR	2.0
12	Fort Collins, CO	1.6
13	Eugene, OR	1.5
14	Boulder, CO	1.4
15	Coeur d'Alene, ID	0.9

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Report

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

Per 100,000 population, 2003

1	Albuquerque, NM	592
2	Reno, NV	307
3	Sacramento, CA	296
4	Coeur d'Alene, ID	251
	Average	244
5	Spokane, WA	239
6	Boulder, CO	230
7	Colorado Springs, CO	224
8	Fort Collins, CO	219
9	San Jose, CA	216
10	Salt Lake City, UT	216
11	Portland, OR	210
12	Boise City-Nampa, ID	207
13	Yakima, WA	165
14	Eugene, OR	151
15	Salem, OR	144

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Report

Crime Indicators (continued)

Similar to reported violent crimes, the Boise metro area ranks substantially lower than the average for property crimes. The first chart demonstrates that the Boise region has more than a thousand crimes less per 100,000 people than the average for the region. Yakima has the most property crimes at 6,086 per 100,000 people. San Jose remains at the bottom for property crime rates as they did with violent crimes with only 2,469 per 100,000 people.

In the second chart, Boise is below the average at 655 per 100,000 people burglarized. This places Boise at two times less than Yakima, which ranks first with 1,511 burglaries, but twice as much as the lowest region, San Jose. Motor vehicle theft displayed in the third chart shows Boise as below the average and ranking 12th with only 250 per 100,000 persons having their vehicles stolen. Alternatively, Sacramento has double the average of the peer regions motor theft with 908 per 100,000 people. Boulder, CO ranks last in terms thefts with 45 fewer motor vehicle thefts than the Boise metro area.

METRO PROPERTY CRIME RATE
Per 100,000 population, 2003

1	Yakima, WA	6086
2	Salem, OR	6042
3	Salt Lake City, UT	5577
4	Spokane, WA	5543
5	Eugene, OR	5022
6	Portland, OR	4960
7	Albuquerque, NM	4903
	Average	4526
8	Reno, NV	4518
9	Fort Collins, CO	4385
10	Sacramento, CA	4226
11	Colorado Springs, CO	3892
12	Coeur d'Alene, ID	3519
13	Boise City-Nampa, ID	3458
14	Boulder, CO	3285
15	San Jose, CA	2469

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Report

BURGLARY RATE
Per 100,000 population, 2003

1	Yakima, WA	1511
2	Spokane, WA	1089
3	Albuquerque, NM	1005
4	Eugene, OR	928
5	Salem, OR	921
6	Reno, NV	900
7	Sacramento, CA	890
8	Salt Lake City, UT	854
	Average	845
9	Coeur d'Alene, ID	792
10	Portland, OR	785
11	Colorado Springs, CO	729
12	Fort Collins, CO	675
13	Boise City-Nampa, ID	655
14	Boulder, CO	542
15	San Jose, CA	399

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Report

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT RATE
Per 100,000 population, 2003

1	Sacramento, CA	908
2	Salem, OR	836
3	Albuquerque, NM	661
4	Portland, OR	628
5	Yakima, WA	607
6	Reno, NV	582
7	Eugene, OR	563
8	Spokane, WA	527
9	Salt Lake City, UT	514
	Average	495
10	Colorado Springs, CO	375
11	San Jose, CA	322
12	Boise City-Nampa, ID	250
13	Fort Collins, CO	240
14	Coeur d'Alene, ID	210
15	Boulder, CO	206

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Report

Since Last Report
Crime

Boise Nampa MSA saw a slight percent increase in murder rates from 2003-2006. The MSA was however, very close to the middle when comparing to our peer regions, with only Reno increasing by more than 1 murder per 100,000 people.

Murder Rate	2003	2006	% Change
Eugene, OR	1.5	2.3	76.8%
Salem, OR	2.2	3.7	68.2%
Reno, NV	5.6	7.4	32.1%
Colorado Springs, CO	3.7	3	18.9%
Portland, OR	2.0	2.3	15.0%
Fort Collins, CO	1.6	1.8	12.5%
Albuquerque, NM	8.1	8.9	9.9%
Boise City-Nampa, ID	**2.6**	**2.7**	**3.8%**
Sacramento, CA	5.2	5.4	3.8%
Spokane, WA	3.7	3.8	2.7%
Boulder, CO	1.4	1.4*	0.0%
Yakima, WA	4.4	4.2	-4.5%
Coeur d'Alene, ID	0.9	0.8	-11.1%
San Jose, CA	2.8	2.3	-17.9%
Salt Lake City, UT	3.9	2.2	-43.6%

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Report (Boulder MSA not included)

All other crime indicators in the MSA decreased as a percentage change over the 3 years reported, with property crime rates showing the largest decrease, at over 21%. Burglary and motor vehicle theft rates also showed significant decreases, while aggravated assault stayed essentially stable. There is great variation in the regions related to crime change rates. For example, San Jose's property crime rate has seen an increase of 10%, but overall is still lower than Boise's, by four crimes per 100,000. We also an increase of an astounding 79% in San Jose's Motor Vehicle Theft rate, while Salem reports the greatest decrease of 53%.

Aggravated Assault Rate	2003	2006	% Change
Colorado Springs, CO	224	382	70.9
Salem, OR	144	191	33.1
Sacramento, CA	296	386	30.4
Eugene, OR	151	173	14.2
Spokane, WA	239	264	10.7
Coeur d'Alene, ID	251	264	5.3
Boulder, CO	230	230*	0.0
Boise City-Nampa, ID	**207**	**206**	**-0.5**
Yakima, WA	165	164	-0.7
Reno, NV	307	303	-1.2
Salt Lake City, UT	216	211	-2.1
San Jose, CA	216	208	-3.7
Albuquerque, NM	592	543	-8.3
Fort Collins, CO	219	195	-11.0
Portland, OR	210	183	-12.8

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Report (Boulder MSA not included)

Property Crime Rate	2003	2006	% Change
San Jose, CA	2,469	2,717	10.1
Yakima, WA	6,086	6,357	4.5
Boulder, CO	3,285	3,285*	0.0
Albuquerque, NM	4,903	4,825	-1.6
Colorado Springs, CO	3,892	3,735	-4.0
Sacramento, CA	4,226	3,931	-7.0
Eugene, OR	5,022	4,487	-10.6
Reno, NV	4,518	4,013	-11.2
Salt Lake City, UT	5,577	4,850	-13.0
Coeur d'Alene, ID	3,519	2,901	-17.6
Boise City-Nampa, ID	**3,458**	**2,721**	**-21.3**
Spokane, WA	5,543	4,111	-25.8
Portland, OR	4,960	3,645	-26.5
Fort Collins, CO	4,385	3,044	-30.6
Salem, OR	6,042	3,985	-34.0

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Report (Boulder MSA not included)

Burglary Rate	2003	2006	% Change
San Jose, CA	399	518	29.8
Albuquerque, NM	1,005	1,109	10.4
Sacramento, CA	890	931	4.7
Eugene, OR	928	963	3.8
Colorado Springs, CO	729	747	2.5
Boulder, CO	542	542*	0.0
Reno, NV	900	889	-1.2
Yakima, WA	1,511	1,493	-1.2
Boise City-Nampa, ID	**655**	**590**	**-9.9**
Salt Lake City, UT	854	744	-12.9
Coeur d'Alene, ID	792	667	-15.7
Portland, OR	785	619	-21.1
Fort Collins, CO	675	500	-25.9
Spokane, WA	1,089	791	-27.4
Salem, OR	921	574	-37.7

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Report (Boulder MSA not included)

Motor Vehicle Theft Rate	2003	2006	% Change
San Jose, CA	322	576	79.0
Yakima, WA	607	924	52.3
Spokane, WA	527	734	39.2
Albuquerque, NM	661	830	25.7
Salt Lake City, UT	514	570	10.9
Eugene, OR	563	603	7.0
Colorado Springs, CO	375	376	0.4
Boulder, CO	206	206*	0.0
Sacramento, CA	908	900	-0.9
Reno, NV	582	570	-2.1
Coeur d'Alene, ID	210	194	-7.8
Boise City-Nampa, ID	**250**	**214**	**-14.2**
Fort Collins, CO	240	186	-22.5
Portland, OR	628	450	-28.3
Salem, OR	836	391	-53.2

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Report (Boulder MSA not included)

Transportation

This set of indicators describes the commute time and availability of public transportation services in the peer regions. The first chart reveals the Boise region is above average with 79 percent of its workers over 16 having a 30 minute or less commute time to work. At the top of the scale is the Reno region with 84.4 of workers commuting to work in 30 minutes or less. On the opposite end of the scale, only 61.9 percent San Jose's workers experiencing a commute time of 30 minutes or less.

TRAVEL TIME

Percent of workers whose commute is 30 minutes or less, 2000

1	Reno, NV	84.4
2	Yakima, WA	81.2
3	Eugene, OR	80.9
4	Boise City, ID	79.0
5	Spokane, WA	76.5
6	Fort Collins, CO	76.4
7	Colorado Springs, CO	75.3
8	Coeur d'Alene, ID	74.6
9	Salt Lake City, UT	72.8
10	Boulder, CO	72.1
11	Albuquerque, NM	72.0
12	Salem, OR	71.5
	Average	70.0
13	Portland, OR	66.3
14	Sacramento, CA	65.7
15	San Jose, CA	61.9

Source: U.S. Census

Transportation (continued)

These three charts provide a snapshot of the transit service and use. The first chart describes the number of square miles of transit service provided. Salt Lake City is at the top providing 1,412 square miles and Boise ranks second to last with only 66 square miles. The average among the regions is 331 square miles of transit service area. The second chart reveals Boise is ranked last in terms of annual transit service revenue per 100,000 vehicle miles. Additionally, in terms of transit use the Boise region ranks second to last with only 4,600,000 annual passenger miles which is considerably less than the average passenger miles of 92,700,000 for the peer regions.

TRANSIT SERVICE AREA
In square miles, 2004

1	Salt Lake City, UT	1,412
2	Portland, OR*	825
3	Sacramento, CA*	388
	Average	331
4	San Jose, CA	326
5	Eugene, OR	241
6	Fort Collins, CO*	177
7	Spokane, WA	142
8	Albuquerque, NM	124
9	Reno, NV	102
10	Colorado Springs, CO	100
11	Boise-Nampa, ID	66
12	Salem, Or	65

Source: NTD

TRANSIT SERVICE
Annual vehicle revenue miles per 100,000 miles, 2004

1	Portland, OR*	416
2	Salt Lake City, UT	285
3	San Jose, CA	239
4	Sacramento, CA*	164
	Average	118
5	Spokane, WA	76
6	Albuquerque, NM	50
7	Reno, NV	45
8	Eugene, OR	42
9	Colorado Springs, CO	37
10	Salem, OR	34
11	Fort Collins, CO*	13
12	Boise-Nampa, ID	13

Source: NTD

TRANSIT USE
Annual passenger miles per 100,000 miles, 2004

1	Portland, OR*	4,736
2	Salt Lake City, UT	1,711
3	San Jose, CA	1,695
4	Sacramento, CA*	1,416
	Average	927
5	Spokane, WA	407
6	Eugene, OR	331
7	Reno, NV	257
8	Albuquerque, NM	215
9	Salem, Or	170
10	Colorado Springs, CO	105
11	Boise-Nampa, ID	46
12	Fort Collins, CO**	43

Source: NTD

* More than 1 public transportation system provider

**More than one provider and includes one provider's estimates

Local Government Employment

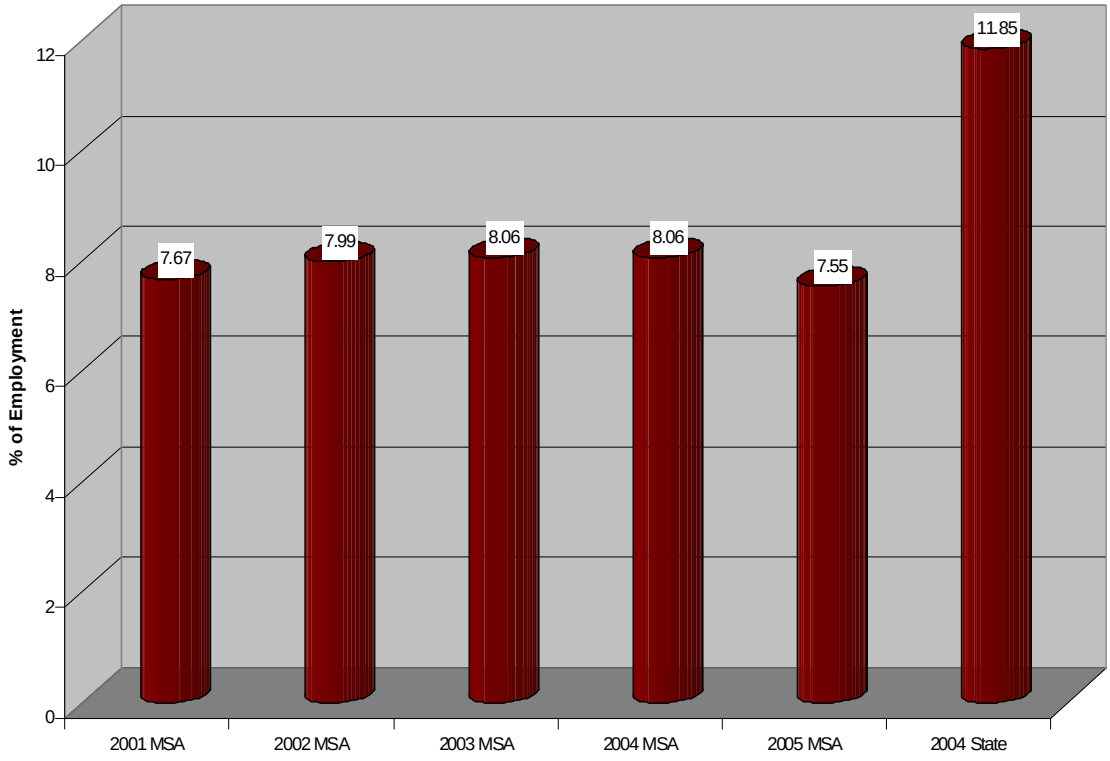
Why it matters

Local governments provide vital services and stable sources of employment for the region. The chart showing the local government percentage of total employment indicates the region's relative dependence on the public sector. A high percentage reliance on local government for economic stability could be problematic; that is obviously not the case in the Boise-Nampa MSA.

About the indicator

This indicator tracks local government jobs in the MSA since 2001 and reflects local government jobs as a percentage of total employment. Local governments include cities, counties, school districts and a wide range of special purpose districts (highway, fire, library, water and sewer, etc.). In the Boise-Nampa MSA, there are 129 local governments (property taxing districts). There are 5 counties, 18 cities, 20 school districts, and 86 special purpose districts. The data come from the US Census Bureau, Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor, and the Associated Taxpayers of Idaho.

Local Government Employment's Percentage of Total Employment



Note: Based on Covered Employment

Regional performance

The chart shows considerable stability in local government employment as a percentage of total employment in the MSA. That stability is largely determined by Ada County and the fact that Ada County's employment base is more diversified than the rest of the MSA and the state. Ada County school districts and city and county governments are the largest in Idaho though relatively less important in local government employment share compared to the remainder of the state. Ada County local government was only 6.5% of the county's employment. Canyon County local government employment was 12% in 2004; despite its large population size, Canyon County is more in keeping with the statewide average, while percentages in the rural counties are much higher at roughly 20% in Boise County, 24% in Gem County and 23% in Owyhee County. Due to a lack of economic diversification or other large businesses in these rural counties, local governments play a much larger role in the employment base.

Local Government Revenue Sources

Why it matters

The mix of local government revenue sources can have a significant impact on taxpayers and the services they receive. Greater reliance on non-tax revenue sources, such as user fees and service charges, may be more efficient but also may be more regressive, hurting lower income people and limiting access to needed services.

The local property tax is the most important broad-based local tax supporting many essential services such as education, public safety and roads. But it is a controversial tax – a stable source of revenue but not always based on ability to pay. Frustration with the property tax is evident as reported in several Boise State University *Public Policy Surveys*.

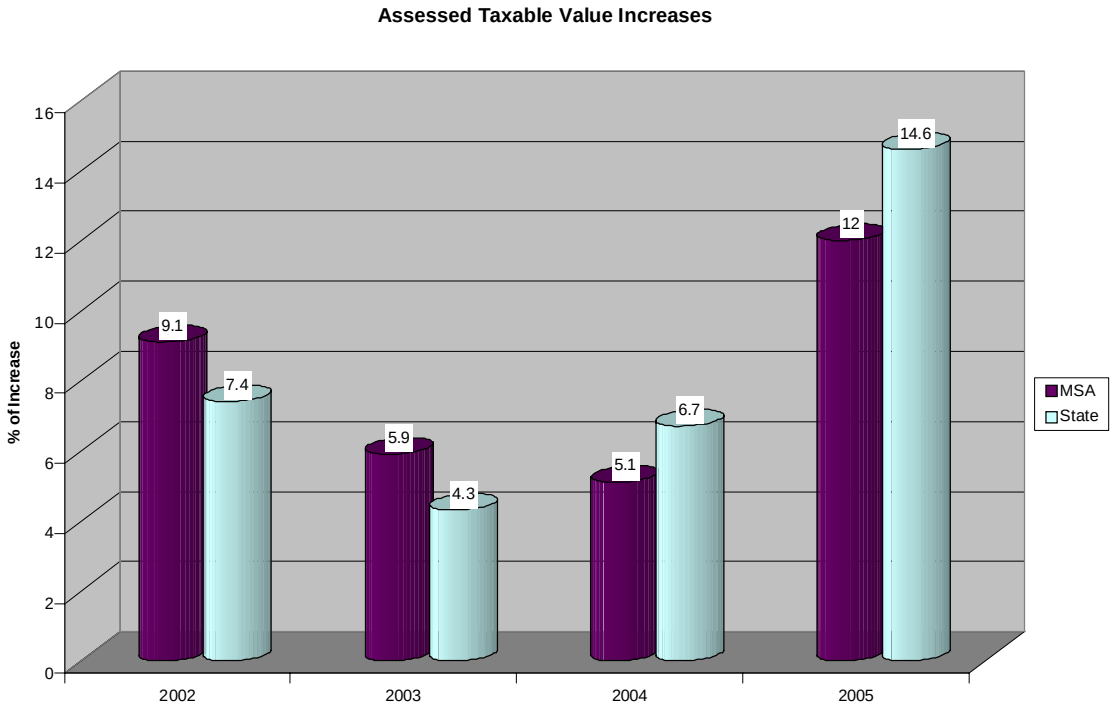
Because local governments provide services that the state would have to provide if they did not, local governments, particularly schools, cities and counties receive a significant amount of state-shared revenues – which provides some relief to property taxpayers but may mean less discretion for local government decisionmakers.

About the indicator

The primary sources of local revenue are: property taxes, intergovernmental aid (both state and federal, though most of the reliance is on state shared revenues), and user charges and service fees. Data for this indicator are drawn from the Associated Taxpayers of Idaho, the Idaho State Tax Commission, Idaho Legislature's Legislative Services Office, and the US Census. All local governments including school districts are included in this analysis.

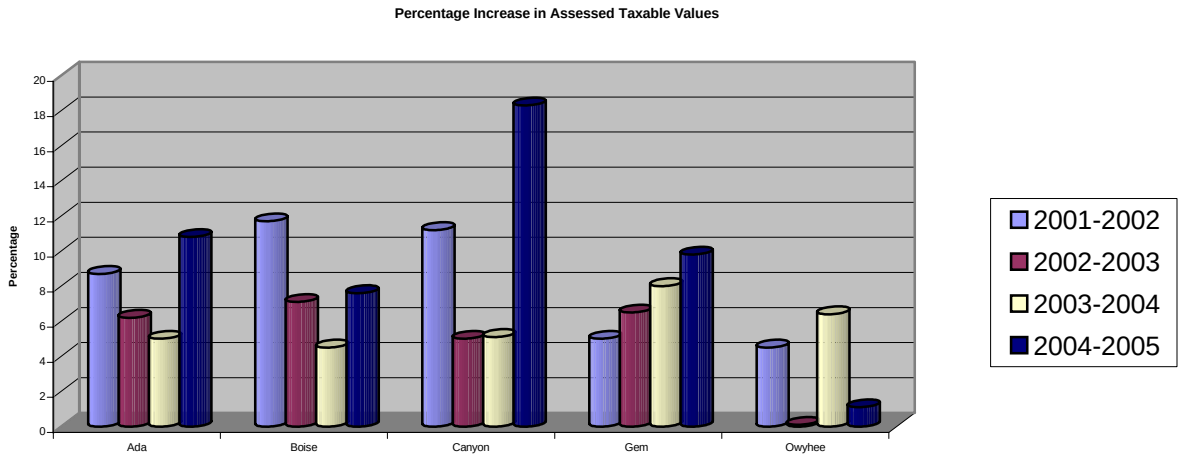
Regional performance

Local governments still rely heavily on the property tax to fund local services.
That has led to considerable controversy as property valuations have risen especially with the volatile housing market and escalating out-of-state investor speculation in some areas of the state including the Treasure Valley. The growth in property tax valuations in the MSA compared to the rest of the state is illustrated in the following chart. It is interesting to note how the valuation increases in the MSA led the state in 2002 and 2003 but has lagged behind in 2004 and 2005.



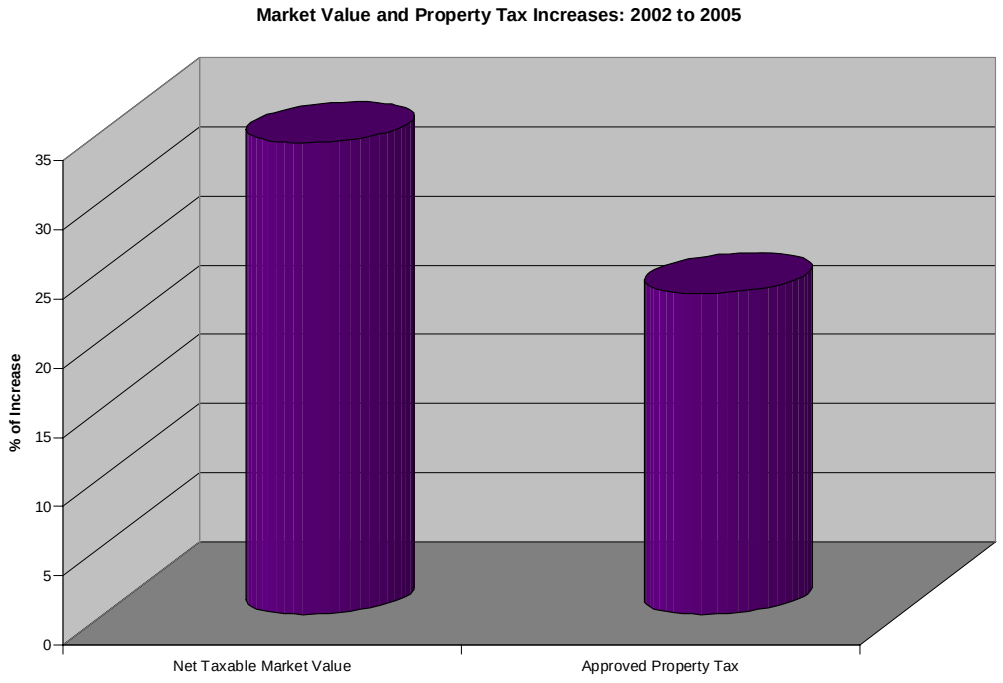
Note: This report does not include previous year's subroll

How the growth in valuations fluctuates within and between counties over recent years is shown in the next chart. Even though there has been some significant changes in valuations in the MSA, most of the major changes have occurred in resort communities.

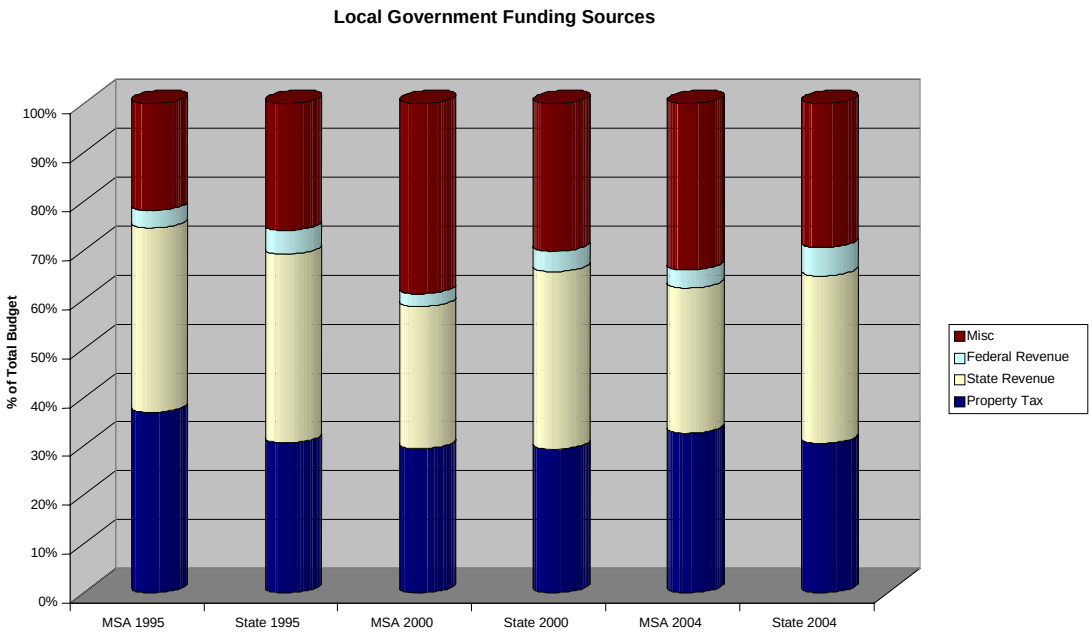


Note: This report does not include previous year's subroll

Despite the somewhat common assumption that valuation increases automatically result in property tax increases, the following chart shows that local government property tax charges have actually lagged behind assessment increases. For non-school taxing districts, this record of restraint is due to the 3% property tax limitation on local budget increases. However, the major school levy, the maintenance and operations levy, is virtually fixed. Tax charges rise with valuation increases. Despite increases in state aid to education, the largest producers of property tax charges in the MSA are the schools.



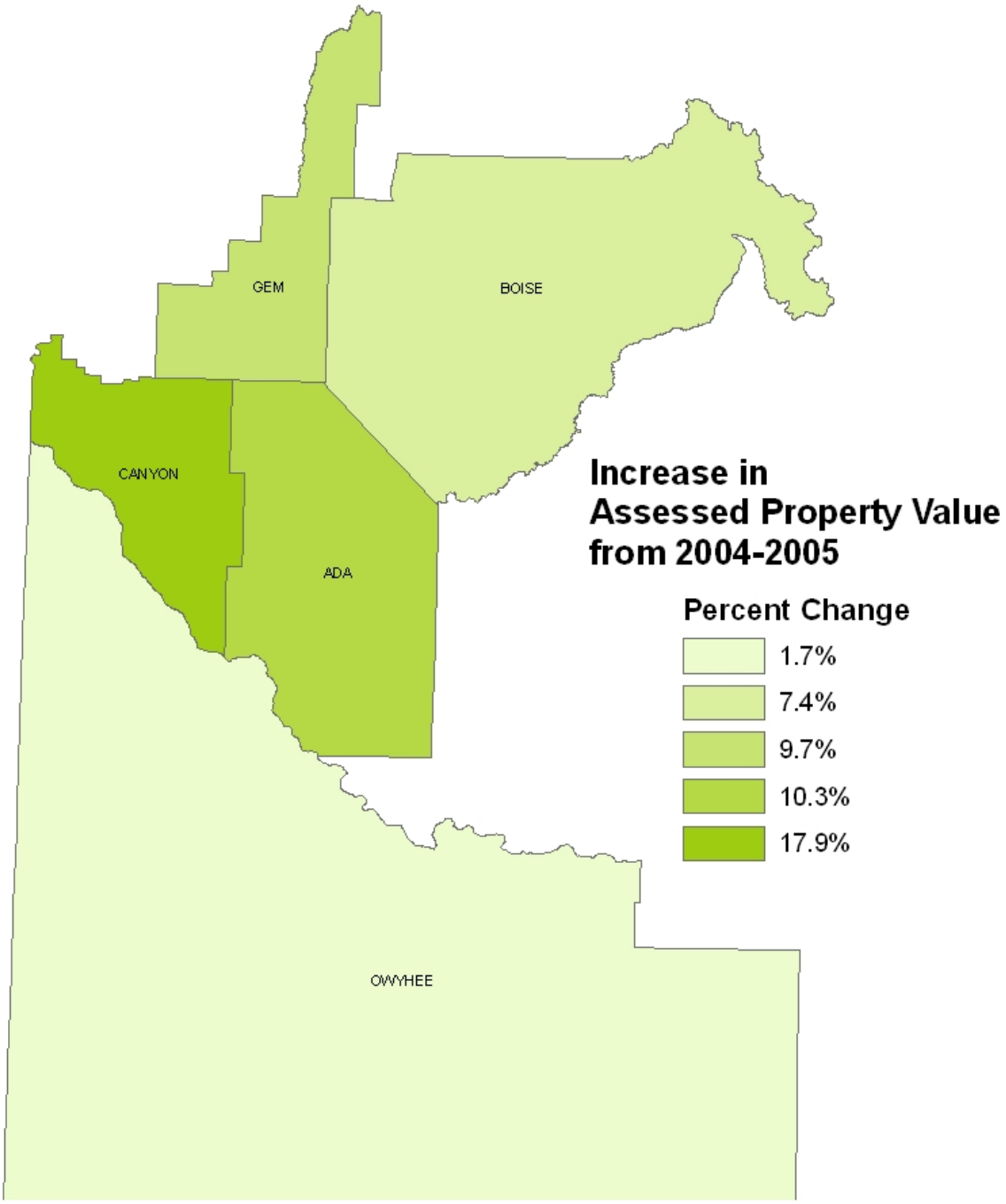
Non-school governments' reliance on state shared revenues is mixed, with some of the rural areas relying more heavily on state shared revenues as a percentage of their total budgets than in urban areas. The increase in the miscellaneous category can be attributed to revenue increases to finance water, sewer, sanitation, and other services. Referred to as enterprise funds, these services are operated much like private business enterprises and are intended to be self-supporting through user fees and service charges. Note, however, that the chart below shows variations but no real dramatic changes in sources of revenue. Clearly, the property tax portion of local budgets was lower in 2004 than in 1995. The miscellaneous category has grown as reliance on non-tax sources has increased.



Assessed Property Value in Boise Metro Area

The map below illustrates the increase in assessed property values between 2004 and 2005 in the Boise Metropolitan Area. This map reveals that every county in Boise's MSA saw an increase in the total assessed value of their residential, commercial and other properties. Ada County posted a respectable ten percent increase in land values, but the year's biggest gains were in Canyon County, where on average a parcel's value went up almost eighteen dollars for every hundred it was initially worth. So it seems that Canyon County may have benefited more from Boise City's growth than Boise's home county did. This could expose a "ripple effect" in which the growth at Boise's outskirts, due to land prices and availability, has begun to outpace that of the city's core.

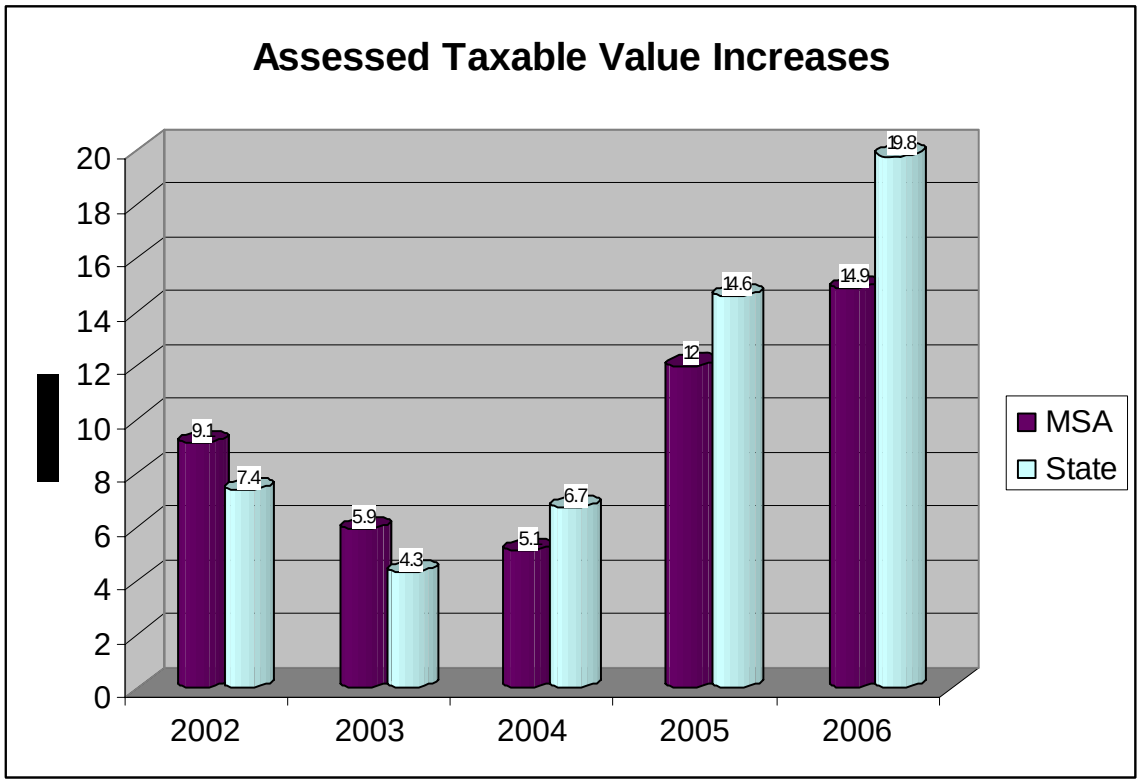
Assessed Property Value in Boise Metro Area



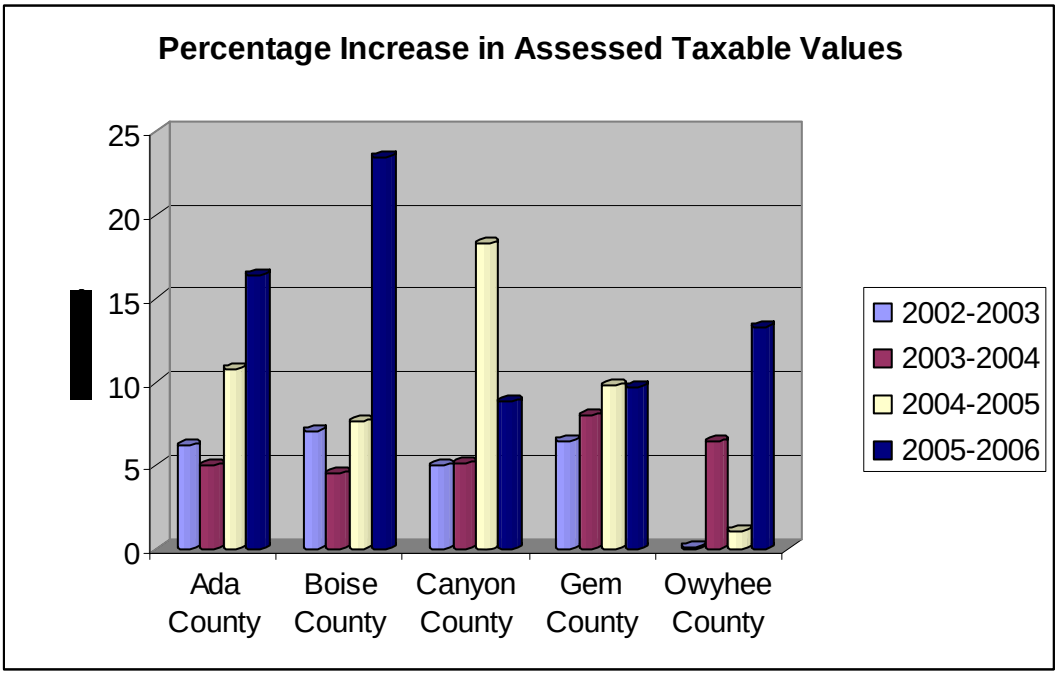
Since Last Report

Local Government Revenue Sources

The growth in property tax valuations in the MSA compared to the rest of the state is illustrated in the following chart. It is interesting to note that the valuation increases in the MSA led the state in 2002 and 2003 but has lagged behind in 2004, 2005, and in 2006. The trend shows a significant increase in both state and MSA increases



When comparing the percent increases in assessed taxable values over the past four years, it is interesting to note the significant increases in Ada, Boise, and Owyhee counties. Gem County remained fairly constant from 2005-2006, and Canyon County saw a significantly lower percentage increase.



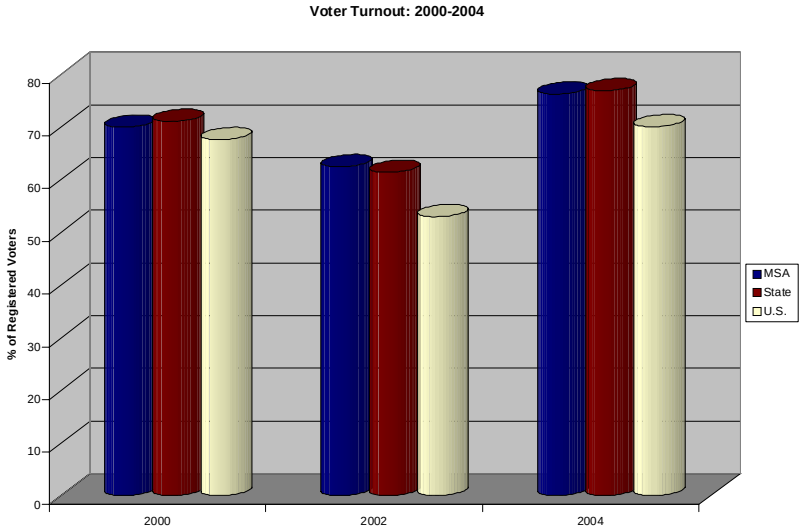
Voter Registration and Turnout

Why it matters

The level of voter participation is an indicator of civic health. It tells us how engaged the citizenry is and whether they believe their vote makes a difference.

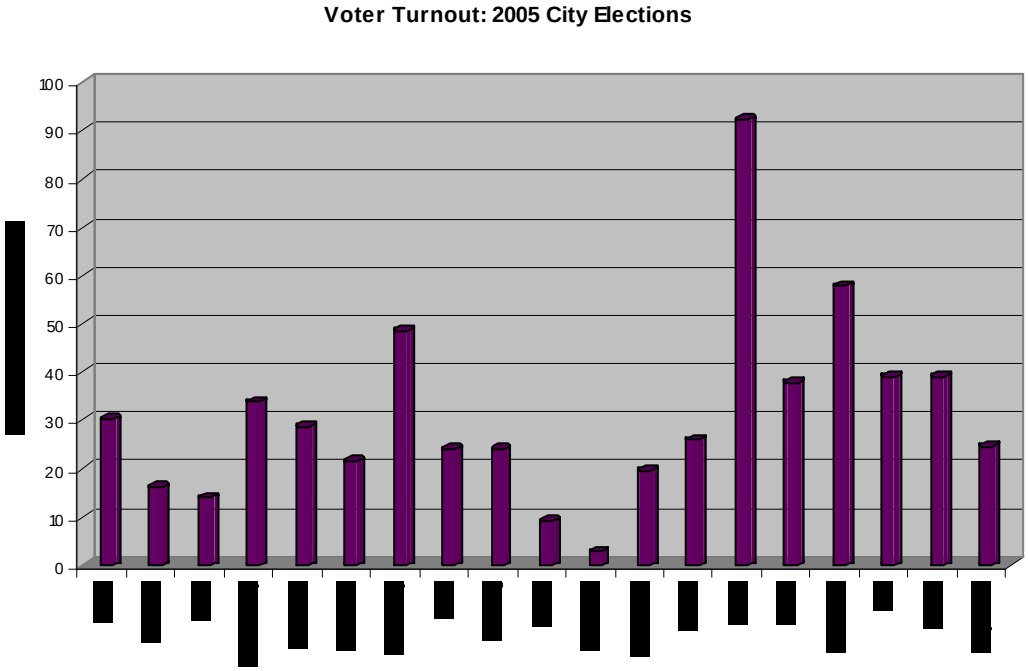
About the Indicator

The data are from the Secretary of State's Office, U. S. Federal Elections Commission, and MSA city clerks offices. Percentage of voter registration rather than percentage of eligible voters is used to compare voter turnout across the board – national, state and local.



Regional Performance

Historically, Idaho has been among the nation's leaders in voter turnout in general elections, particularly in presidential elections. This trend seems to hold up when looking at current election data. In 2004, over 76% of the registered voters in the MSA turned out to vote. This was slightly lower than the statewide turnout but was above the national average. Thus, voter participation in the MSA exceeds national averages and compares favorably with statewide averages. Less attention is given to voter participation in local government elections. We know, according to Boise State public opinion surveys, that local governments are more highly trusted than state and federal



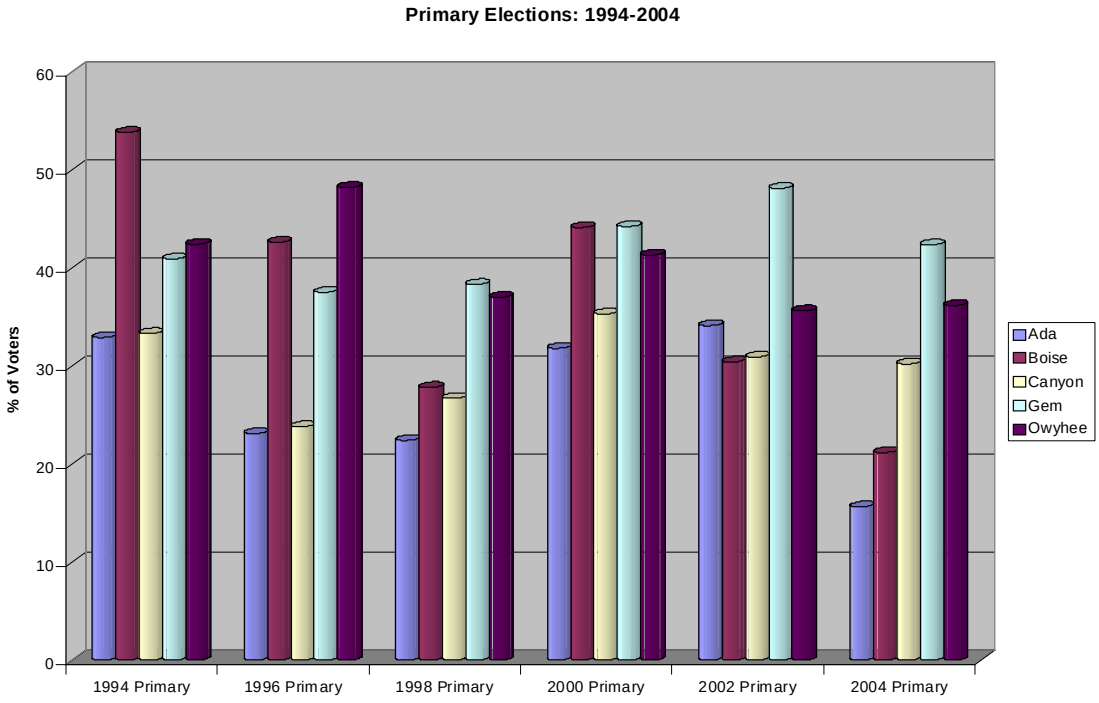
Note: *Uncontested

governments but, ironically, participation in local elections typically lags behind state and

national turnout. The voter turnout for the larger cities was approximately 30% or less. The largest percentage participation was higher in smaller cities. In addition, very low turnout occurred in the Meridian election where city candidates ran unopposed. The average turnout for cities in the MSA was 25%.

A Closer look

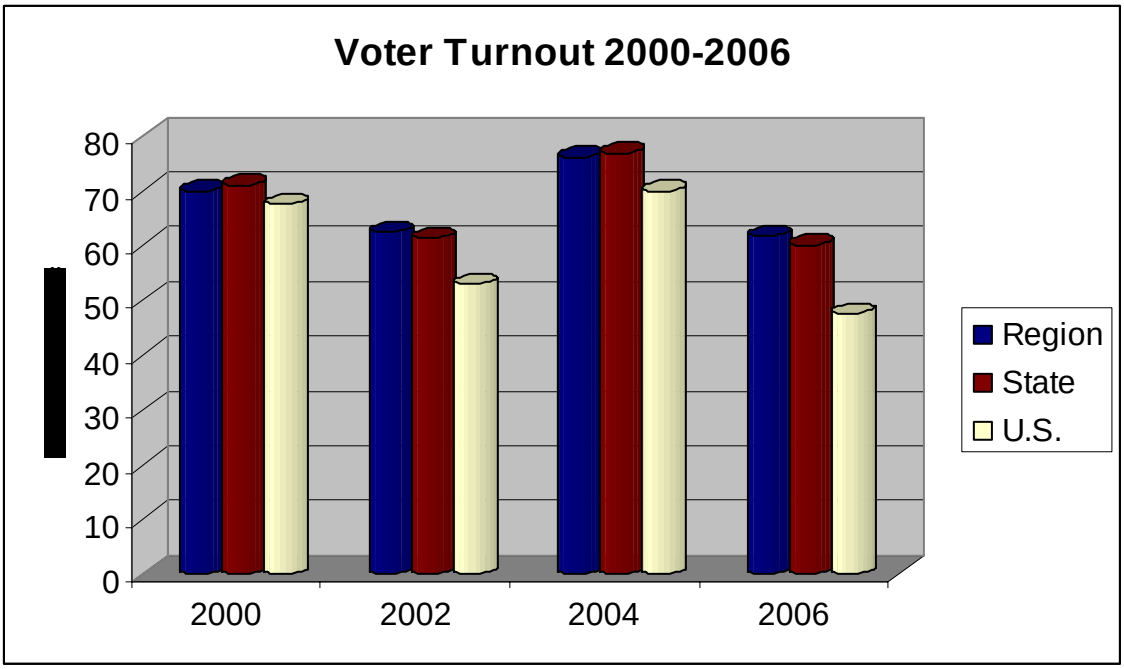
Another interesting trend is the low turnout in primary elections. In a state that is so heavily dominated by one party, primary elections in many instances become de facto general elections. The chart shows that over a 10 year period only in one county did voter turnout exceed 50%.

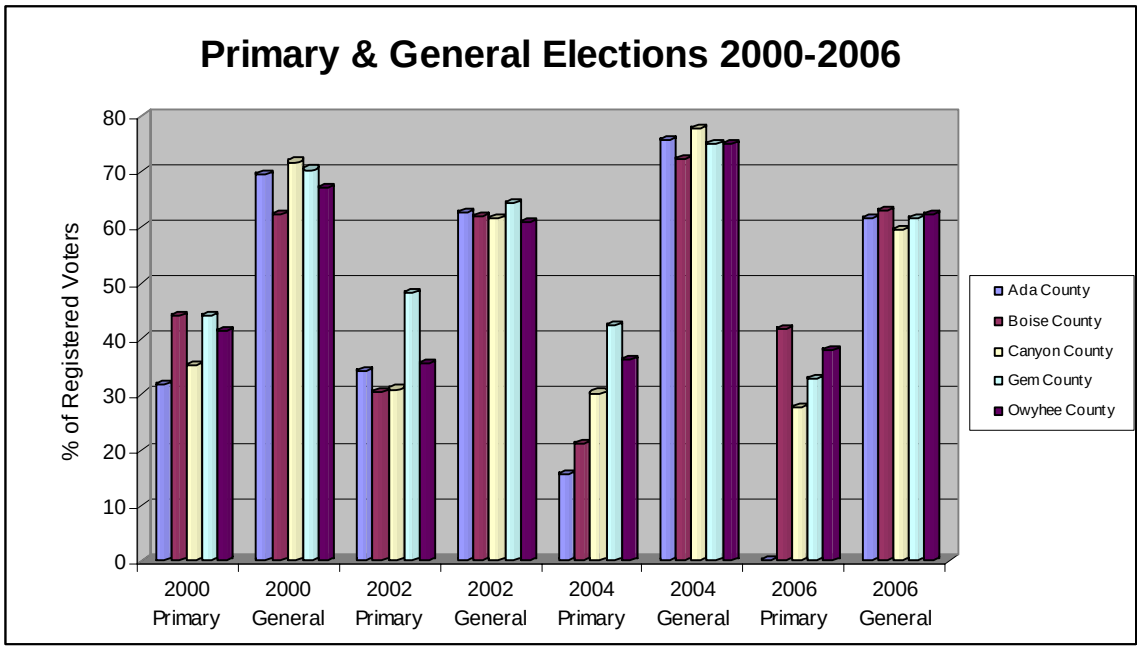


Since Last Report

Voter Registration and Turnout

This chart illustrates that the MSA region, and the state of Idaho certainly follow the trends of low voter turnout during non-presidential elections. However, the region continues to stay ahead of the state and national voter turnout percentages in other general election years.





Economy

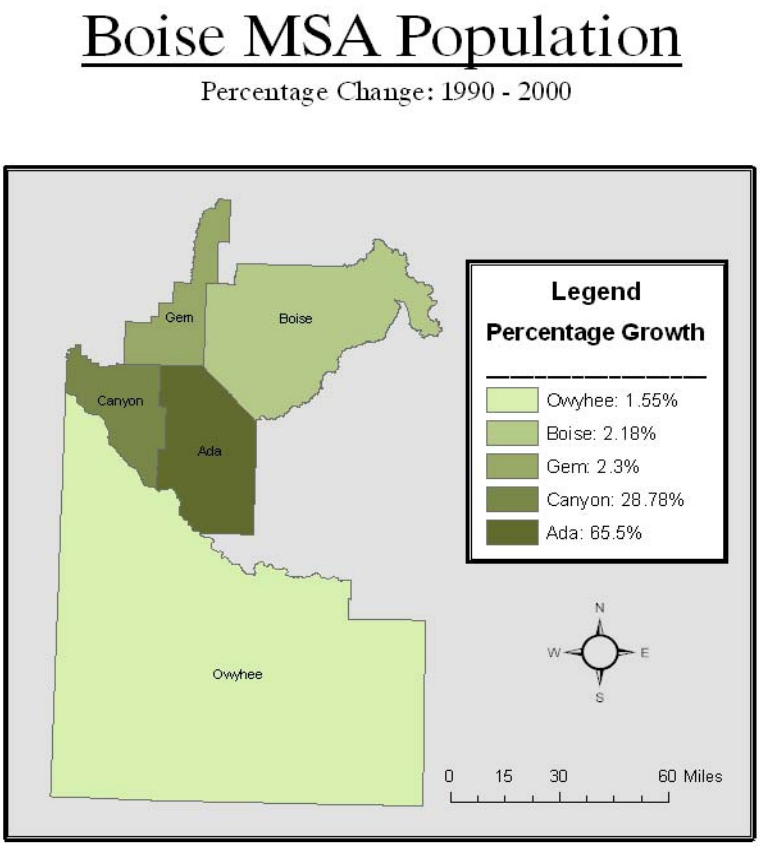
The Boise metropolitan region's economy has a rich history beginning with French-Canadian trappers and gold and silver mining in the early 1800s. Thereafter, much of its economic history was based in agriculture and today farming remains one of its many economic engines. More recently the economic climate is changing with the Boise region becoming a hub for large companies to headquarter and high technology to expand. The Boise region is also experiencing urban reinvestment in many of its cities as well as changing demographics with an unprecedented influx of newcomers to the area.

What the Economy Measures

The State of the Region report illustrates the strength of the regional economy through indicators on the labor market, costs of living and doing business in the region, and economic equity to name a few of the measures. There is a relationship between economy and changes in regional population. Thus, this section begins by first referencing the regional population change from 1990 to 2000 as illustrated in the map below.

Population Change

The map represents the percentage change in the Boise MSA counties in terms of population growth from the years 1990 to 2000. Ada County experienced the most significant population increase of 65.5 percent of total area growth. Growth in Owyhee County constituted a more modest 1.55 percent of total regional population increase.



Driver Licenses

Why it matters

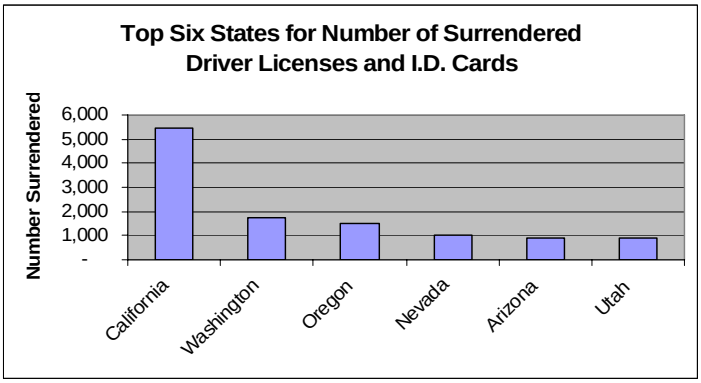
The surrender of driver licenses can provide an indication of where new entrants to the region originate. This type of comparative data can identify potential reasons why particular groups of people may choose to move to the Boise region.

About the indicator

The data on interstate driver licenses and identification cards surrendered by county are from the Idaho Department of Transportation.

Regional performance

The graph below presents the top six states in terms of the number of interstate driver licenses and state identification cards surrendered in 2005. Considering this data in conjunction with the peer region housing opportunity information it appears that people who are moving to the region from California, Oregon and Nevada may be motivated to do so because the housing is more affordable. People migrating to the area from the metro areas identified in this report in the states of Colorado, Washington, and Utah may be influenced to move to the Boise region by other factors such as quality of life or job opportunities. Indicators through out this report suggest reasons why moving to the Boise region may be more or less compelling.



Closer look

A closer look at the data reveal that one percentage change in surrendered driver licenses and state I.D.s has increased for California and Washington but has remained mostly the same for Oregon from 2003 to 2005. There have been a considerable number of surrendered cards for people from Nevada and Arizona and Utah. There was a 91 percent increase for Nevada, 60 percent increase from Arizona and although only a 6 percent increase, in Utah 800 to 900 Utah cards have been surrendered annually between 2003 and 2005. Surrendered cards have grown over the period for both Montana and Colorado but the actual number of surrendered cards remains relatively low.

Driver Licenses and State Identification Cards Surrendered to Idaho

	2003	2004	2005	Percentage Change, 2003-2005
California	2766	3,838	5,448	97
Washington	1,408	1,413	1,721	22
Oregon	1,515	1,545	1,502	-.86
Nevada	527	723	1,007	91
Arizona	555	670	892	61
Utah	823	829	876	6
Montana	16	12	26	63
Colorado	7	8	9	29
TOTAL	7,617	9,038	11,481	51

Source: Idaho Transportation Department - http://itd.idaho.gov

Since Last Report

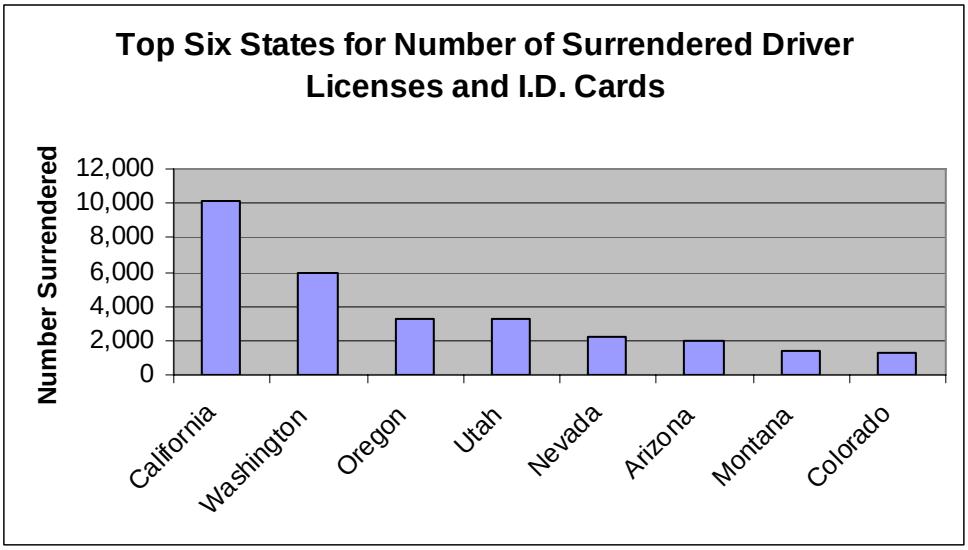
Driver Licenses

The updated version allows for a more complete profile of the State of the Region, and for us to fix any errors we came across. In the driver licenses section, the updated chart appears to be more accurate than the original, but we include both charts in the report for comparative purposes. While the numbers differ, the trend remains unchanged, that is, the MSA is still seeing a very large number of Drivers licenses and ID cards being surrendered. California continues to lead with a nearly 70% increase in surrendered licenses from 2002-2006. Nevada and Arizona also saw large increases, while Colorado, Montana, Oregon, and Utah showed a slight decrease in over the 5 year period. We can see, then, that people are still immigrating into Idaho at varying rates from the neighboring Western states.

Drivers License's Surrendered to Idaho (2002-2006):

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	% Change 2002-2006
California	10,138	10,955	8,560	6,629	5,997	**69.05%**
Washington	5,931	5,655	5,112	5,075	5,823	**1.85%**
Oregon	3,307	3,157	3,223	3,249	3,541	**-6.61%**
Utah	3,300	3,148	3,208	3,142	3,351	**-1.52%**
Nevada	2,254	2,120	1,751	1,395	1,580	**42.66%**
Arizona	2,032	1,868	1,590	1,365	1,374	**47.89%**
Montana	1,374	1,416	1,468	1,431	1,472	**-6.66%**
Colorado	1,266	1,375	1,500	1,342	1,457	**-13.11%**
TOTAL	29,602	29,694	26,412	23,628	24,595	**20.36%**

The graph below represents the top 6 states in terms of immigration to Idaho when state ID cards is included in the total.



Job Growth

Why it matters

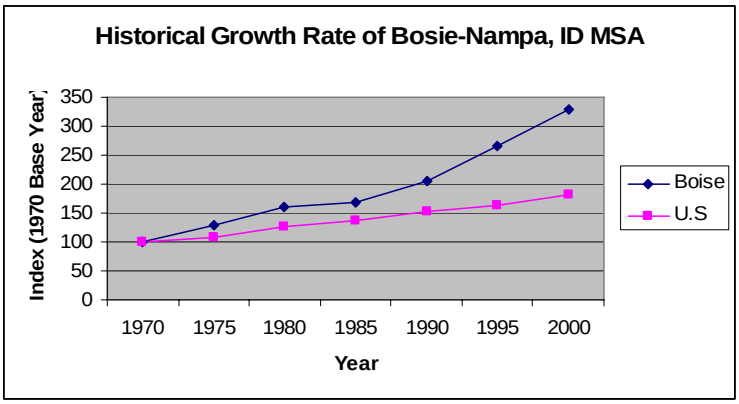
Population and job growth are related. One reason people move to a different place is for a job. If the economy was declining one would not expect to see large numbers of people moving to the region. A region with a healthy economy can support as well as attract and maintain existing and new entrants to the regional workforce.

About the indicator

The job growth data reflect the change in the number of jobs. Presented in this section are data from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis for the region, nation, and counties.

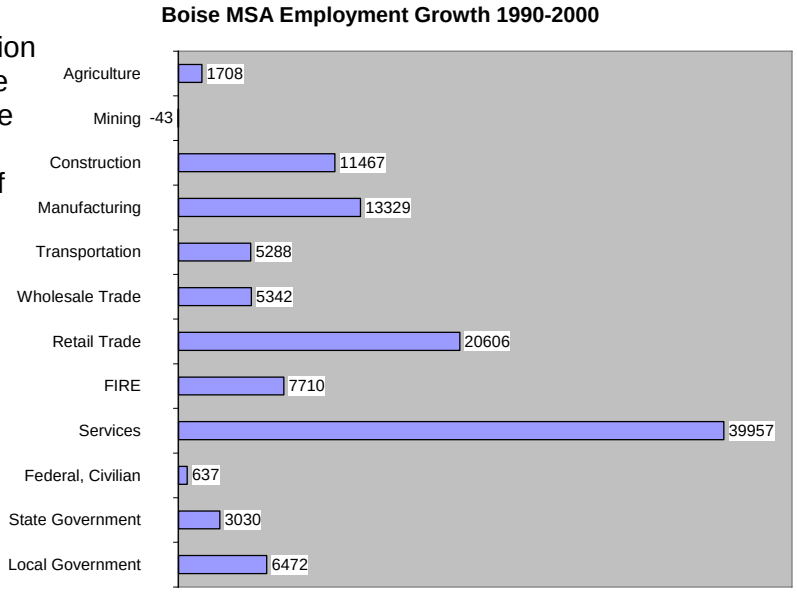
Regional performance

The data reveal the counties that comprise the current Boise metro area have seen rapid employment growth over the years, particularly since the 1990s. In each year the Boise employment growth rate has exceed that of the U.S. as a whole. The employment growth depicted in the figure is indexed to the base year of 1970. Indexing rates of growth is helpful because it puts numbers in context making the relative differences from the base year and other regions directly comparable. In terms of comparison from 1970 to 1985, the rate of growth for Boise employment was 68 percent while for the U.S. it was only 36 percent. By 2000 the Boise employment had grown a whopping 330 percent since 1970 while the U.S. had grown by 183 percent.



Closer look

Boise, not unlike the nation as a whole, has seen the greatest job growth in the services industry. However, unlike some of the other regions across the country, Boise has experienced job growth in every sector, with exception of mining, during the past decade.



Closer look (continued)

The Boise metropolitan area gained an estimated 116,725 jobs between 1990 and 2000. As the table illustrates, that reflects nearly a 61 percent increase in full and part-time employment. Intra-regional differences show that population and jobs by county closely parallel one another (see the change in population map earlier in this section). Every county that is part of the currently defined metro area has experienced considerable growth in jobs ranging from 23 percent in Owyhee County to 65 percent in Ada County.

Boise Metro Area Full and Part-time Employment Change, 1990-2000

County	1990 Jobs	2000 Jobs	Difference	% Change
Ada	138,874	230,281	91,407	66.8
Boise	1,429	2,259	830	58.1
Canyon	43,793	66,140	22,347	51.0
Gem	4,520	5,925	1,405	31.1
Owyhee	3,191	3,927	736	23.1
Total	191,807	308,532	116,725	60.9

More recent data on jobs show that the Boise region gained an estimated 1,443 jobs between 2001 and 2003. This period is the largest time span available for the most recent data because of a change in they way jobs by industry are now reported. The table below shows an half of one percent increase in the number of jobs over the period. Over such a short period the data reflect a snapshot rather an established a trend. There were greater gains in the number of jobs in Ada County but both Canyon and Boise counties experienced higher percentage changes in employment than Ada County. Canyon and Gem show losses in jobs but over a two year period this may not be consequential.

Boise Metro Area Full and Part-time Employment Change, 2001-2003

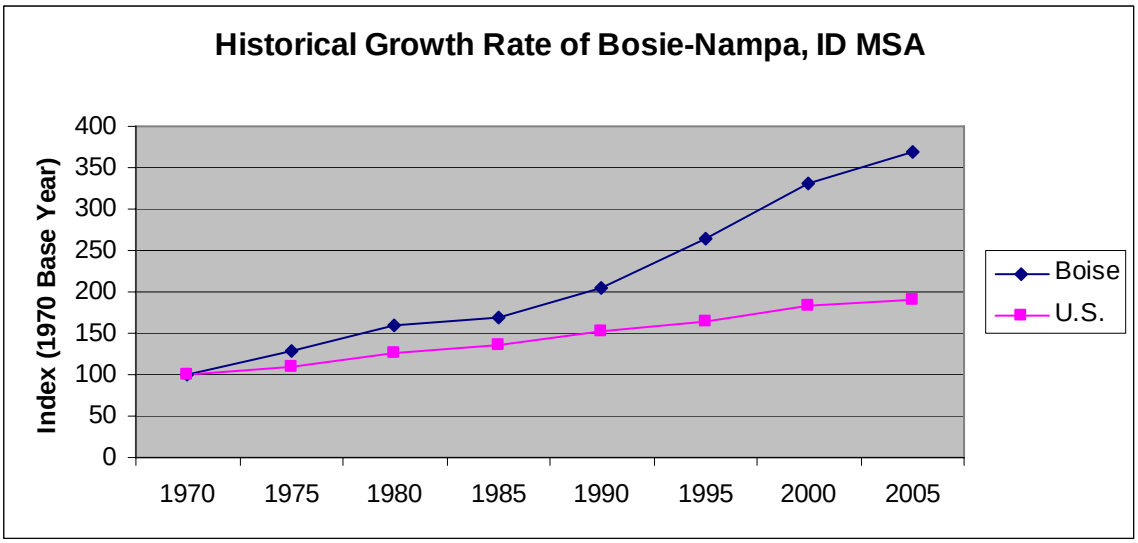
County	2001 Jobs	2003 Jobs	Difference	% Change
Ada	235,108	237,177	2,069	.9
Boise	2,398	2,523	125	5.2
Canyon	68,393	67,703	-690	-1.0
Gem	5,798	5,687	-111	-1.9
Owyhee	4045	4,095	50	1.2
Total	31,5742	31,7185	1,443	.5

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder -http://factfinder.census.gov/
Regional Economic Information System 1969-2004, 2001-2003 -
http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/reis/

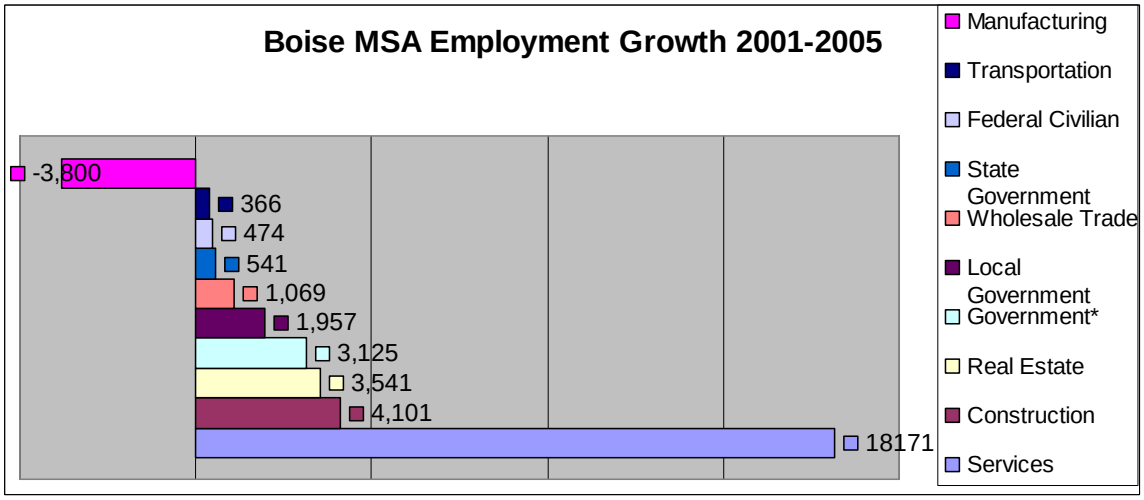
Since Last Report

Job Growth

As this graph indicates, the trend for the Boise-Nampa MSA is consistently on the rise. As of 2005, the MSA job growth rate is rising, and is growing faster compared to the US average.



Employment growth from the last report shows that the clear majority of the growth seen in the MSA is in the service provision industry, followed by construction, real estate, and government. Manufacturing has seen a decrease in job by nearly 4000 jobs, or 10%.

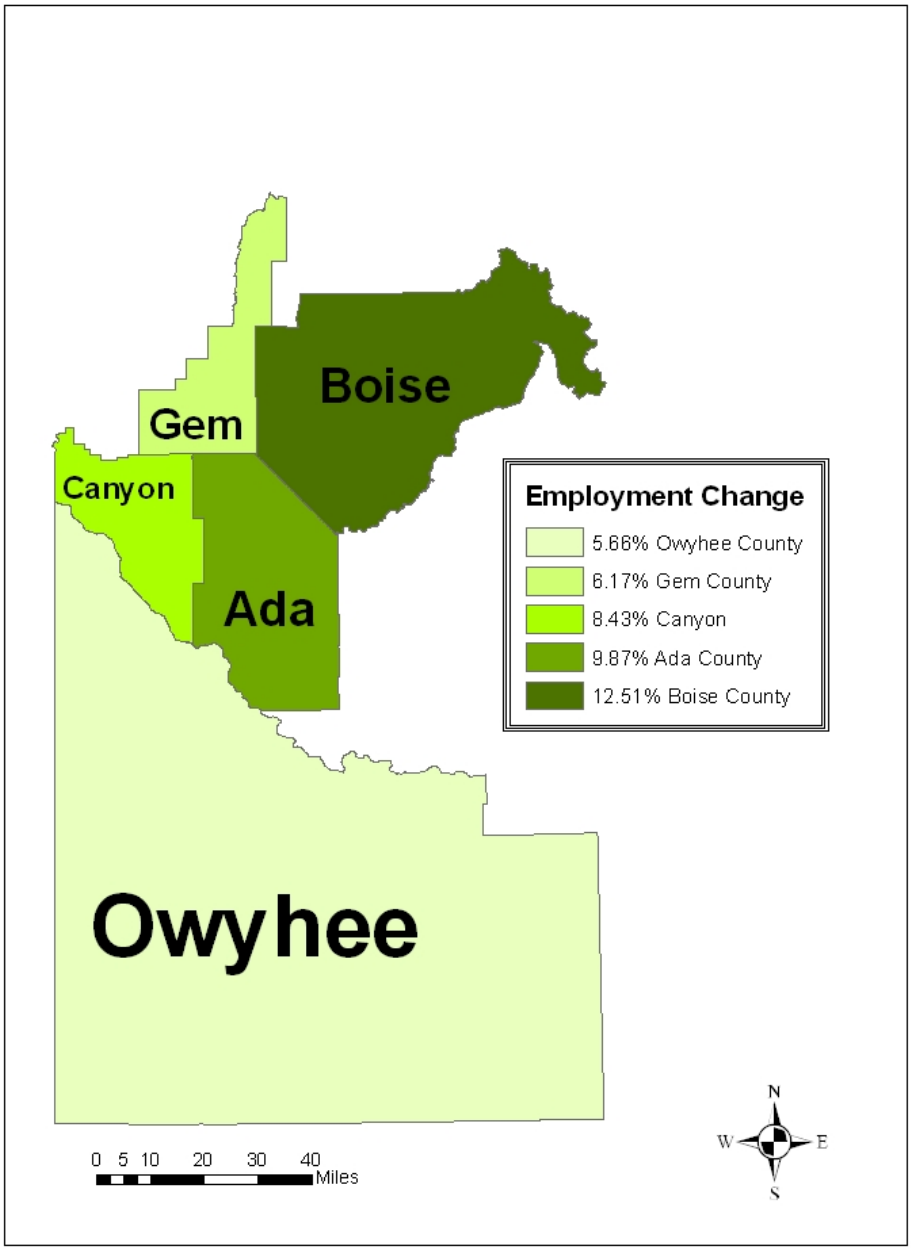


Finally, the full and part-time employment in the Boise-Nampa MSA has seen a consistent and steady increase from 2001-2005. The largest increase in terms of change in employment is seen in Boise County, with a 12.5% increase, a difference of 300 jobs. Owyhee County showed the slowest increase, although an increase, of 5.66%. The data are presented in both the table and the map below.

Boise Metro Area Full and Part-time Employment Change, 2001-2005

County	2001	2003	2004	2005	Difference	% Change
Ada	235,108	237,177	247,201	258,314	23,206	9.87%
Boise	2,398	2,523	2,628	2,698	300	12.51%
Canyon	68,393	67,703	70,534	74,161	5,768	8.43%
Gem	5,798	5,687	5,842	6156	358	6.17%
Owyhee	4045	4,095	4,143	4,274	229	5.66%
Total	315,742	317,185	330,348	345,603	29,861	9.46%

Percent of Employment Change By County 2001-2005



Labor Force Participation

Why it matters

Labor force participation rates provide a sense of economic health for regions because they are used to calculate the unemployment rate. Higher unemployment rates are associated with weaker economies.

About the indicator

The U.S. Bureau of the Census conducts a monthly survey of households called the Current Population Survey for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Most commonly this data is reported as unemployment rates. The table below depicts the components used to determine the unemployment rate. The civilian labor force refers to all people 16 years or older that are working or actively seeking work and are neither in the military nor institutionalized.

The labor force is broken down into two categories, employed and unemployed. The unemployment rate is calculated by dividing the number of unemployed by the number employed. The data in the table are seasonally adjusted and for the month of January in 2005. Seasonally adjusting data eliminates fluctuations caused by factors such as the weather. This makes it easier to compare data over time.

Regional performance

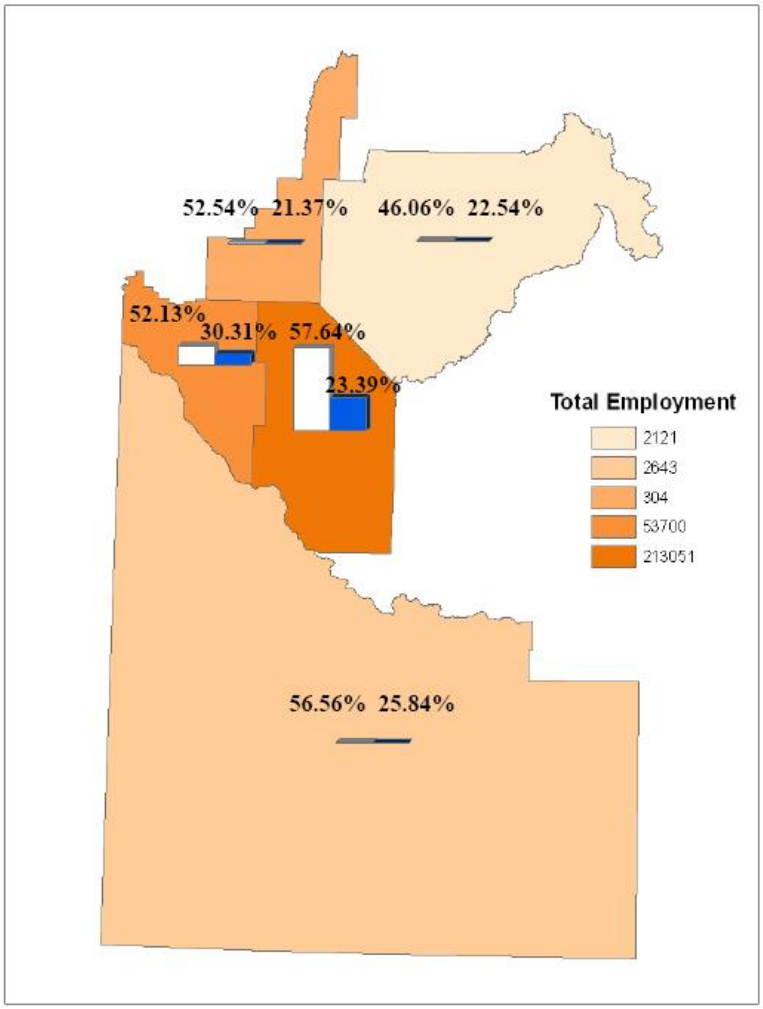
Although there are interregional differences each county in the region had a lower unemployment rate than the state or the nation as whole for January 2005.

January 2005 Labor Force Participation Differences

Area	Civilian Labor Force	Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Ada	183,058	176,734	6,325	3.5
Boise	3,216	3,054	163	5.1
Canyon	75,053	71,696	3,357	4.5
Gem	7,434	7,062	372	5.0
Owyhee	5,376	5,267	109	2.0
State of Idaho	709,790	670,928	38,862	5.5
Nation	147,125,000	138682,000	8,444,000	5.7

Closer look

The map to the right illustrates employment by blue and white collar occupations. Blue collar occupations are typically those associated with factories and the trades that require less formal education. Examples of blue collar jobs include laborers and vehicle operators. White collar occupations are those that typically require a formal education and are often thought of as work that is conducted behind a desk. Examples of white collar jobs include managers, marketing and sales associates, as well administrative clerical work. Not depicted in the map, but a third and growing category of workers are in the services. Examples of services work include food preparation, and jobs in the health and professional services. The total employment in each of the five counties in the Boise region ranged from 2,121 jobs in Boise County to 213,051 in Ada County in 2005. White collar employment is predominate throughout the region with the percentage of white collar workers in each county ranging from the low of 46.06 percent in Boise County to a high of 57.64 percent in Ada County. Blue collar work represents a smaller portion employment with the percentage of blue collar workers in each county ranging from 21.37 percent in Gem County 30.31 percent in Canyon County. Except for the cases of Boise and Gem counties where services represent 31 and 26 percent of employment, respectively, the services jobs actually represent the smallest percentage of jobs among the three categories of blue collar, white collar, and services. One explanation for the higher share of services in Boise and Gem counties is that categorization for services includes agricultural, fishing, forestry and their related services. Ada County services employment represents19 percent of their total employment while Canyon, and Owhyee each have 18 percent employment in service jobs.



Sources:
US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics -http://www.bls.gov
Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor - http://lmi.idaho.gov
Demographics USA

Since Last Report

Labor Force Participation
The most striking feature of this chart is that the unemployment rate for all counties and the state has decreased, while the national unemployment rate has stayed stable. The labor force increased (most significantly in Canyon County), employment increased in all counties, and the both county and statewide unemployment was down. These are all indications of a healthy economy.

2007 Annual MSA averages versus Idaho and Nation

	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment %
Ada County	200,726	196,259	4,467	2.20%
Boise County	3431	3265	166	4.80%
Canyon County	84127	81672	2456	2.90%
Gem County	7706	7476	231	3%
Owyhee County	5079	4994	85	1.70%
Idaho	758,789	738,869	19,920	2.6%
Nation	147,125,000	138,682,000	8,444,000	5.70%

Distribution of Poverty

Why it matters

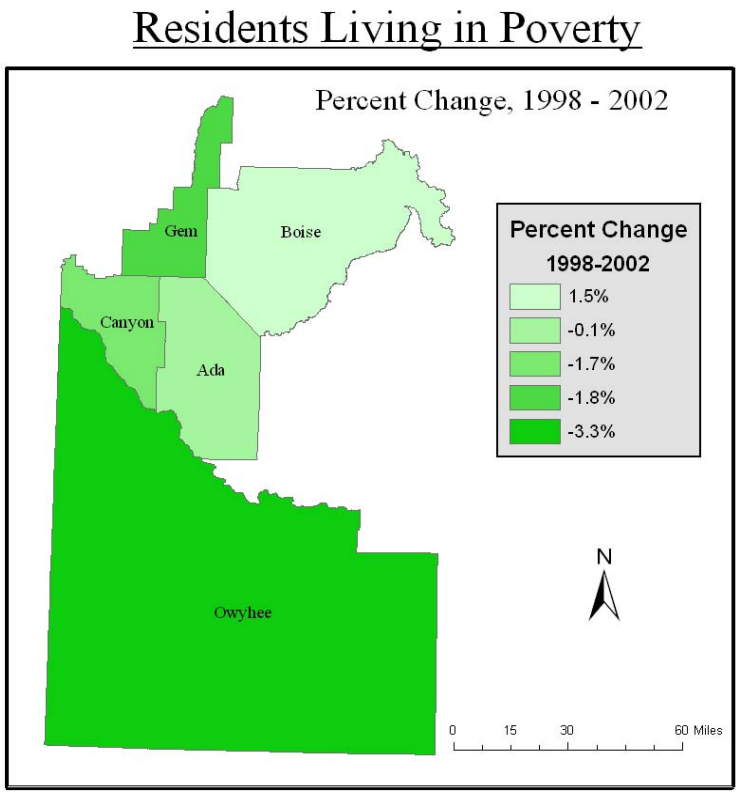
Poverty is one measure of the health of an economy. Higher poverty rates may reflect the number of potential workers that are not counted in the unemployment rate because they are discouraged and are no longer even trying to find work and therefore are not counted in the unemployment statistics. The poverty rate could just as equally represent persons that are working but earning wages less than those needed to meet one criteria for income sufficient that do not meet the guidelines for living above the poverty line. The distribution of poverty provides an indication of where regionally and inter-regionally these residents are located and what areas may need additional assistance to for improving the health of the entire region.

About the indicator

The poverty rate is the percentage of people living below the poverty level as established by the Office of Management and Budget each year. In 2002 the poverty threshold for a family of four was just over $18,000.

Regional performance

The map indicates the change in the percentage of Boise area residents living in poverty from 1998 to 2002. In all counties with the exception of one (Boise County), the percentage of residents in poverty decreased. Owyhee County experienced the most substantial decrease in percentage of residents in poverty of 3.3 percent, while Ada County experienced a more modest decrease .1 percent.



Closer look

Poverty is still a concern in the region even though it has been declining in most of the region's counties, with the exception of Boise county where the poverty rate increased by 1.5 percent. Ada and Boise counties had a lower poverty rate than the average rate for the counties in the state or the region. Canyon, Gem and Owyhee counties had higher rates of poverty and exceeded the rates of the State of Idaho overall.

Poverty Rates by County, 2002

County	Number of Residents	Poverty Rate %
Ada	27,199	8.6
Boise	789	11.0
Canyon	19,958	13.4
Gem	1,928	12.3
Owyhee	2,032	18.2
Idaho	156,519	11.7

Sources:
Northwest Area Indicator Foundation Website -http://www.indicators.nwaf.org/
U.S. Census –wwwl.census.gov

Since Last Report

Poverty
While the Region has seen an increase in the labor force and decrease in unemployment, it is also seeing an increase in poverty rates from 2002-2005, both at the county level and at the state level. The largest percent increase in poverty rate by county is Owyhee and Canyon Counties.

Poverty Rates by County, 2005		
County	Number of Residents	Poverty Rate %
Ada County	31,468	9.40%
Boise County	865	11.70%
Canyon County	25,368	15.80%
Gem County	2,275	14.20%
Owyhee County	2,031	18.50%
Region	62,007	13.90%
Idaho	186,454	13.40%

Entrepreneurship

Why it matters

Entrepreneurship is integral to growing and maintaining a healthy regional economy. Businesses that innovate ensure their own survival and create the need for new businesses and jobs. Without innovation local economies would stagnate because their industries would become obsolete. New businesses and patents are two indicators of entrepreneurship.

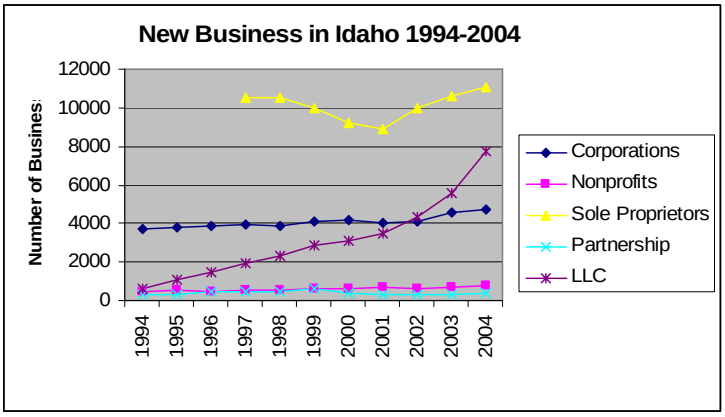
New Businesses

About the indicator

One measure of entrepreneurship is the number of new businesses registering with the State of Idaho each year. These include corporations, nonprofit corporations, sole proprietors, partnerships and Limited Liability Companies (LLC) which could be owned by an individual.

Statewide performance

As seen in the table to the right the number of new businesses has been increasing over the years. The largest increases are reflected in categories of sole proprietorships and LLCs which reached 11,097 and 7,772 respectively. This represents more than half of the total 30,681 new businesses registered in Idaho for 2004.



Closer look

The Boise region contributed nearly 5,940 new businesses or 20 percent of all the new businesses registered in the state of Idaho in 2004. The table below reveals the number of businesses created each year with each county reporting more new businesses generated between 2003 and 2005.

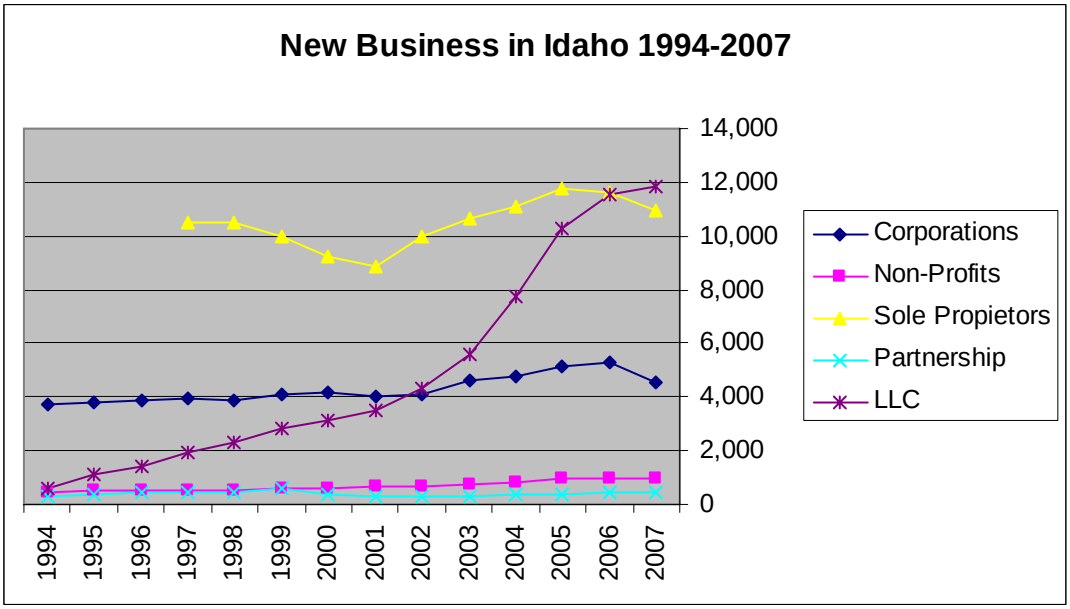
Boise Region New Businesses Registered, 2003-2005

County	2003	2004	2005
Ada	3494	4260	5825
Boise	89	83	118
Canyon	1243	1353	1948
Gem	169	214	217
Owyhee	23	30	33
Region Total	5018	5940	8141

Since Last Report

Entrepreneurship

While the data are only available at the state level, the clear indication is that, with the exception of corporations and sole proprietors, Idaho is seeing steady, if not increased activity in the formation of new businesses. Leading the way is Limited Liability Corporations at nearly 12,000.



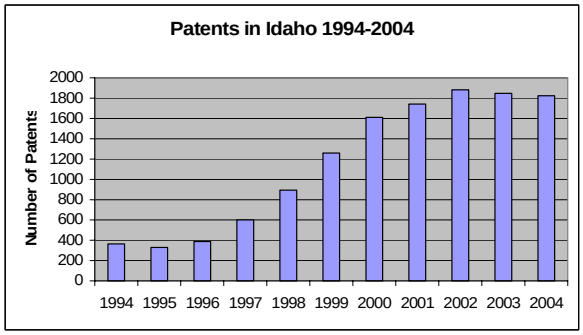
Patents

About the indicator

Patents are another measure of entrepreneurship. Patents protect the rights of ownership of creative ideas and products that can foster job growth and efficiency. The greater number of patents reflects more innovation.

Statewide performance

The number of patents generated in Idaho grew considerably from 1994-2004. Many of the patents from Idaho businesses and individuals were launched in the high technology industries and large corporations. In 1999, 1,263 patents were recorded as being from Idaho. Of those 1,073 were from the companies listed in the table below, mostly large corporations.



Idaho Invention Patents 1999

Patent Holder	Number of Patents
MICRON TECHNOLOGY, INC.	835
HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY	67
~Individually Owned Patent	48
MICRON ELECTRONICS, INC.	61
MICRON DISPLAY TECHNOLOGY, INC.	13
MICRON COMMUNICATIONS, INC.	26
BEACON LIGHT PRODUCTS, INC.	3
MCMS, INC.	13
EXTENDED SYSTEMS, INC.	3
BOISE CASCADE CORPORATION	1
ZILOG, INC.	3
Total	1,073

Closer look

Many of the large businesses and entrepreneurs are located in the Boise metropolitan region. One measure of the Boise region's contribution to the state's entrepreneurial development is presented in the number of patents and percentage of the total number of patents generated in the state that are attributed to businesses and individuals in the five county region. These two points are illustrated in the chart below which provides a snapshot of patent activity from 1990-1996. In1990 the Boise region generated 84 patents or 50.6 percent of all of the patents in the state and by 1996 the region was credited with 274 patents or 74.9 percent of all of Idaho's patents in that year.

Boise Metro Area Patent Activity 1990-1996

Area	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Ada	74	116	166	236	235	213	255
Boise	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Canyon	8	7	4	11	10	7	16
Gem	1	3	0	4	1	2	1
Owyhee	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total (Above 5)	84	126	171	251	246	222	274
TOTAL (all counties)	166	206	239	334	332	306	366
% of State	50.60%	61.17%	71.55%	75.15%	74.10%	72.55%	74.86%

Sources: Idaho Secretary of State New Business Filing statistics -http://www.sos.idaho.gov/
United States Patent and Trademark Office -
http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/cio/cis/prodsvc.htm

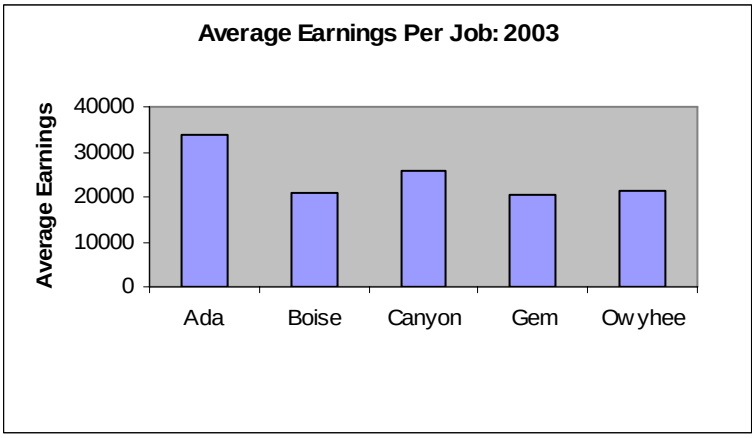
Earnings

Why it matters

Both individuals and businesses are interested in earnings because it is important that they can meet their financial needs and goals.

About the indicator

Earnings are the sum of the wages, salaries, and other income obtained from labor such as benefits and proprietors' income.



Regional performance

The chart to the above right shows jobs with the highest average earnings were located in Ada County. Although noted previously that Canyon County had one the lowest rates of employment growth in recent years it boasts the second highest average earnings of the five counties.

Closer look

The occupations in demand can give us some sense of projected earnings. The table to the right lists the 25 occupational categories with the greatest projected number of job openings in the Boise metropolitan area from 2002-2012 and their hourly wages or salaries. In general the top 25 jobs in most demand are low paying and in the service sector. This is consistent with the previously noted fact that the service industry is the sector with greatest job growth in the region. Of the top 25 jobs with the highest number of projected openings, ten of them command wages greater than $15.00. The average wage for all occupations in the Boise region is $17.24 for 2006. Only seven of the 25 occupations have average annual wages above the regional average.

Occupations with the Most Projected Job Openings in the Boise Metro Area

Occupation	Average Hourly Wage and Salary
Retail Salespersons	10.47
Cashiers	8.21
Waiters and Waitresses	6.62
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	6.83
Registered Nurses	23.03
General and Operations Managers	29.00
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	9.00
Office Clerks, General	11.27
Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Vocational Education	43,628
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	9.44
Customer Service Representatives	11.22
Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	15.18
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants	9.01
Elementary and Middle School Teachers, Except Special Education	43,727
Carpenters	15.61
Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing, Except Technical & Scientific Products	18.64
Receptionists and Information Clerks	10.24
Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers	10.10
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	12.64
Teacher Assistants	20,410
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Retail Sales Workers	15.62
Other Food Preparation and Serving Related Workers	6.84
Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse	8.52
Electricians	20.21
Social and Human Service Assistants	10.29

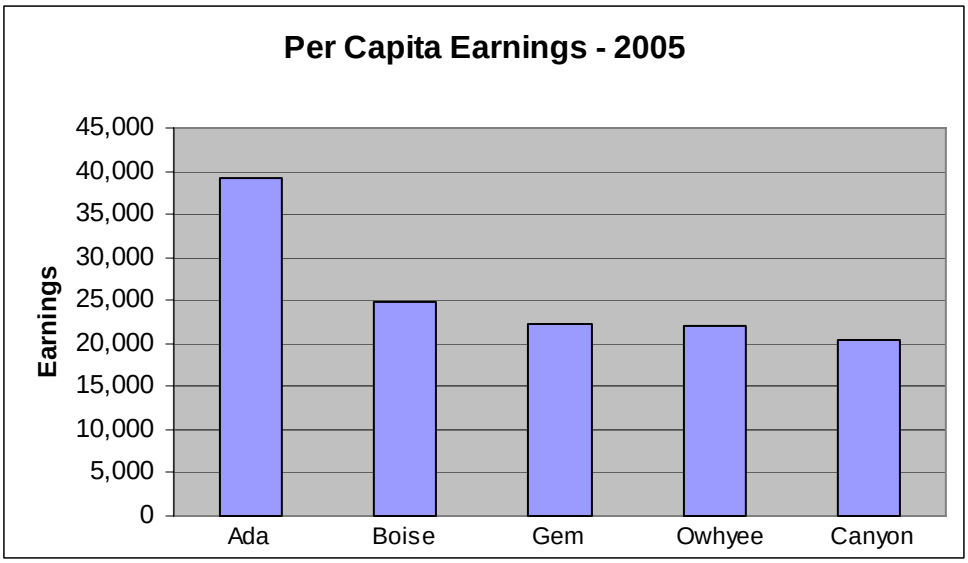
Occupations listed in order of projected demand for jobs 2002-2012

Sources:
Idaho Commerce and Labor Department -http://lmi.idaho.gov/
Regional Economic Information System 1969-2004 - http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/reis/

Since Last Report

Earnings

In the update, we have included a table on per capita earnings in each county. Clearly, the per capita earning in Ada County is highest, at nearly $40,000/year, while, surprisingly, Canyon County is barely half of that at just over $20,000/year. Not only is Canyon County earning the least, the percent change over the past 5 years has been the slowest, at only 3%, compared to Ada County, which increased at 17%.



Cost of Living

Why it matters

The cost of living is another factor that individuals and businesses consider when they choose to move to or from an area.

About the indicator

Several factors go into determining the cost of living. These include the cost of groceries, housing, utilities, transportation, health care as well as miscellaneous items sundries, haircuts and clothing. As illustrated in the table below the composite index for cost of living is a measure of the prices of the goods and services listed.

The cost of living index is a weighted average of costs. As noted before, indexing information makes relative comparisons possible. The cost of living index average is set at 100 for the nation. A score of 104 means the cost living for that area is 4 percent more than the national average. A score of 98 indicates that the cost of living in the region is 2 percent less than the national average.

Regional performance

The data in the table are from the *America's Top-Rated Cities 2005* and reveal that the ACCRA cost of living composite index for Boise metro area overall is below the average cost of living for metro areas in 2002, 2003, and 2004.

Cost of Living Index and its Components for the Boise Region
(fourth-quarter averages)

Year	Composite Index	Groceries	Housing	Utilities	Transportation	Health Care	Misc. Goods/ Services
2002	96.6	86.2	93.9	92.2	99.5	106.1	102.7
2003	96.8	89.0	91.1	94.2	103.6	108.5	102.3
2004	97.2	87.8	93.6	95.5	103.6	110.3	101.1

Closer look

The costs for groceries, housing and utilities are helping to keep the region's cost of living below the national average. While miscellaneous goods and services have gone down, transportation costs have crept up but held steady in 2004. Health care costs have risen more than any other category and their continued rise could threaten the region's the overall below costs of living outcome.

Source:
America's Top-Rated Cities 2005, 12th edition, A Statistical Handbook, Grey House Publishing

Since Last Report

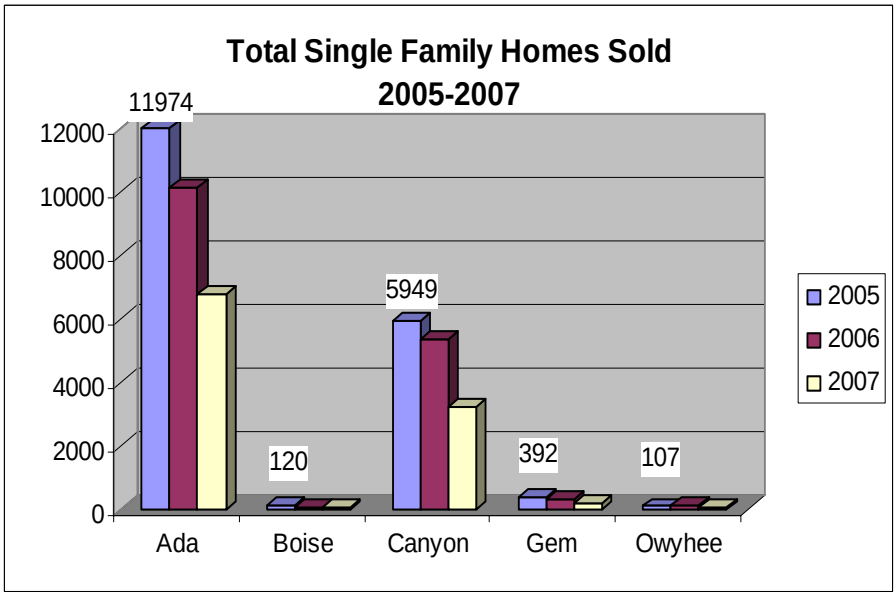
Real Estate

Why it matters

One of Idaho's greatest assets is its affordability. In fact, Idaho has oft been listed as one of the most desirable places to live, work, and raise a family. The addition of a section on real estate is designed to provide information on the ever-unpredictable market of home ownership, and the trends over the past 3 years, since the last report.

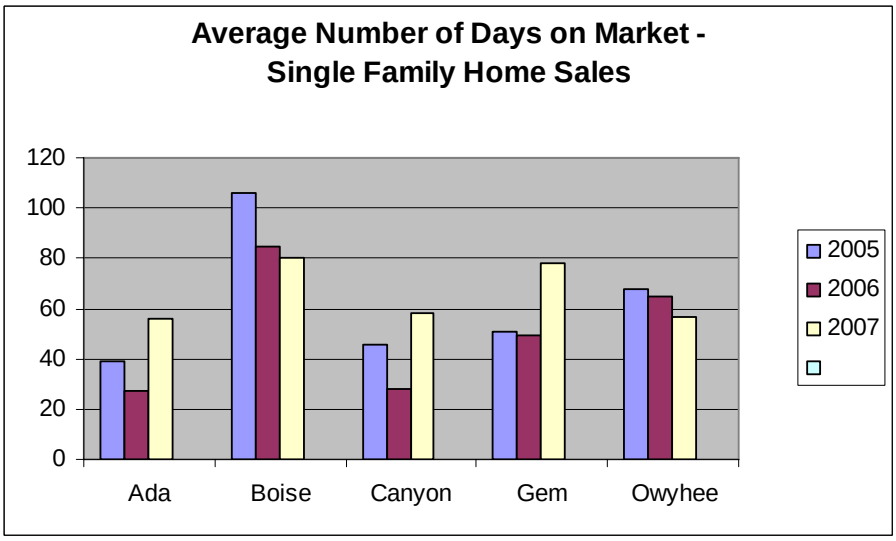
About the indicator

Home ownership itself is not being examined here. Rather, the indicator is showing the fluidity of homes on the market. Included in the indicator are the total number of homes sold in the MSA in each year (2005-2007), and the average number of the days a home sits on the market. The indicator (days on the market) is measured in terms of all home, existing homes, and new construction.



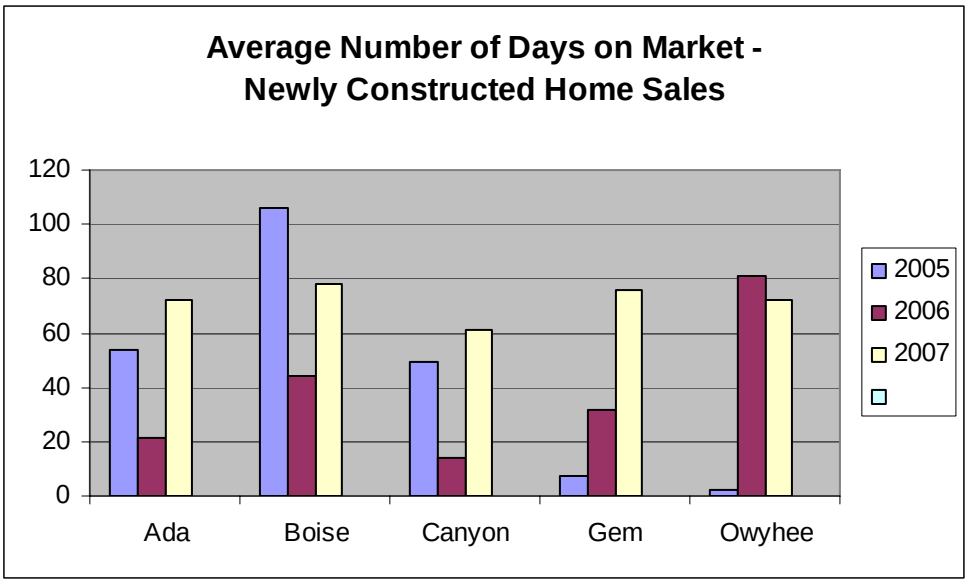
Regional performance

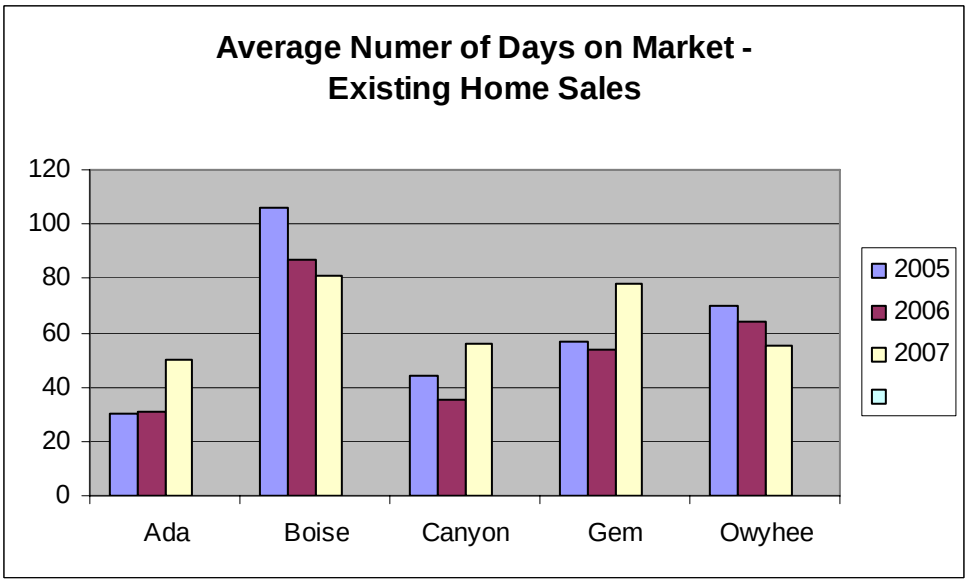
The data on total houses sold is not surprising. Ada and Canyon counties show significant drops, as might be expected. Interestingly, the data show great variation across counties in terms of day on the market. For example, Boise and Owyhee counties show yearly decreases, while Ada, Canyon, and Gem counties all show that 2006 was clearly the year to sell your house.



Closer look

Housing trends are an important measure when determining the economic well-being of a community. The Treasure Valley MSA's ability to weather its current housing crisis should be an indication of how well the valley can adjust to new and changing economic conditions.





Summary

Combined, the indicators bode well for the overall health and vitality of the Boise metropolitan region. The diverse industry sectors and job growth give the region some resiliency to economic shocks. The number of new business and patent growth for the recent years are evidence of the health of the regional economy. These factors coupled with low cost of living make the region attractive to families and employers alike. Labor force participation rates are high. Projected job growth is in the service sector where there are lower wages than the projected regional average wage of $17.74 in 2006.

Interregional differences indicate that the more rural counties experienced gains in the number of new businesses similar to the more urbanized counties. However, the rate of change has not been as dramatic as seen in Ada and Canyon county but the other counties in the region have also not witnessed the same population growth. Boise and Gem have experienced the highest unemployment rates in the region and Owyhee the lowest. However, even the highest unemployment rates in the region of 5.1 percent in Boise and 5 percent in Gem in January 2005 are still lower than state and national averages of 5.5 and 5.7 percent for that month, respectively. Poverty has declined in virtually every county in the region. Owyhee county's poverty rate declined the most by 3.3 percent but it still maintained a higher poverty rate than the rest of the counties. Boise county's poverty rate grew by 1.5 percent from 1998-2002.

Education

Idaho Standards Achievement Test

Why it Matters

As required by Federal Law, Idaho schools administer a comprehensive exam to assess the achievement levels of their students. These measures indicate the relative success of the MSA's public education system and indicate the prioritization of education as a whole. Educational test scores also correlate with future economic growth and development.

-About the Indicator

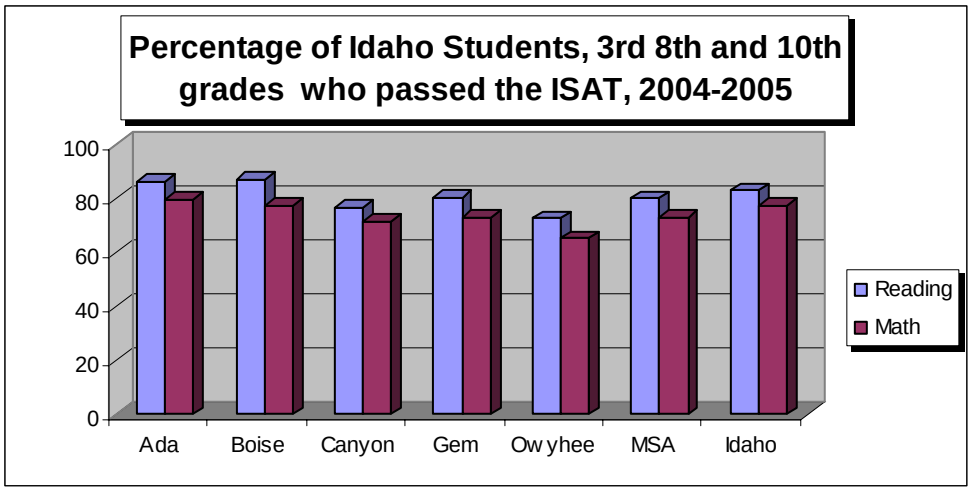
Idaho's comprehensive assessment system begins with kindergarten and continues through high school. The focus of the state assessment program is primarily on math, reading, and language usage skills. The Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) is a comprehensive assessment of reading and math skills that students take in the fall and spring. The data are gathered by each district and here it is examined on county levels. This education indicator demonstrates both the rate at which students pass the exam and how that rate has changed over the last three years.

Students pass the test at the "proficiency level." This level requires that the student demonstrates mastery of knowledge and skills that allow them to function independently on all major concepts and skills related to their educational level.

- The student demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of all information relevant to the topic, at level.
- The student can perform skills or processes independently without any significant errors.

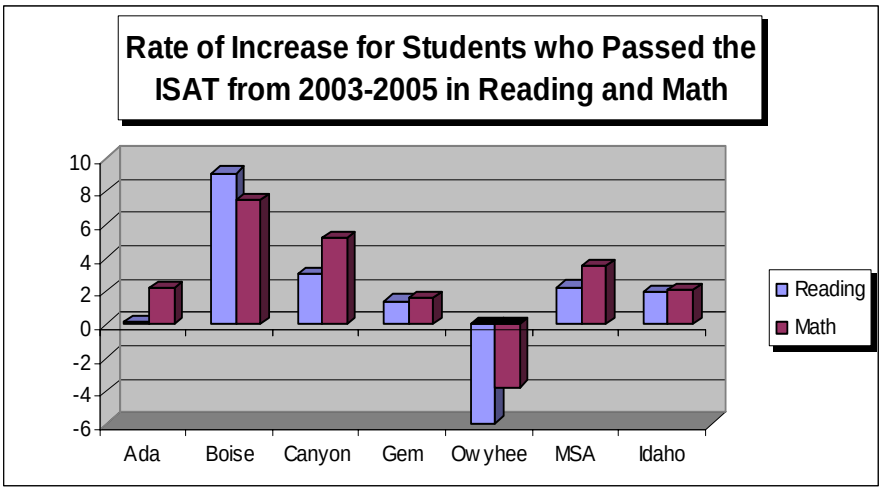
Regional Performance

All counties in the metropolitan region have a pass rate over 65%. The average pass rate for the MSA is 80% in Reading and 73% in Math. Reading scores are higher than Math scores across all counties in the region, as well as in the state as a whole. Owyhee County has the lowest Reading and Math scores at 73% and 65% respectively. Boise County had the highest Reading score at 87% and Ada County has the highest Math score at 80%.



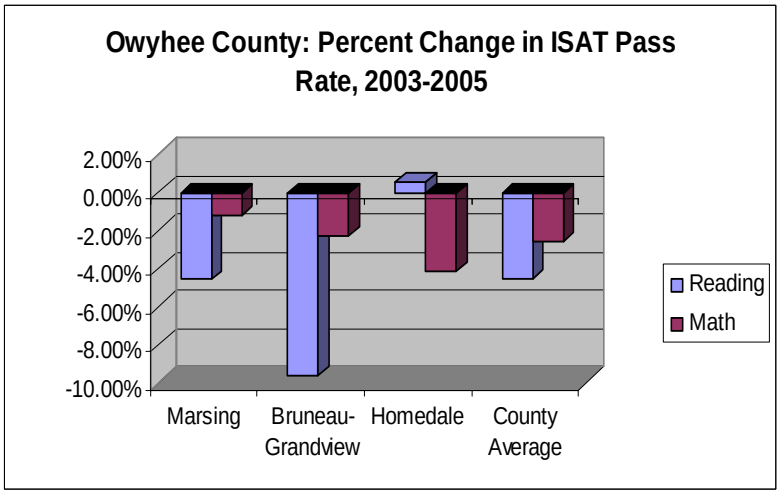
A Closer Look

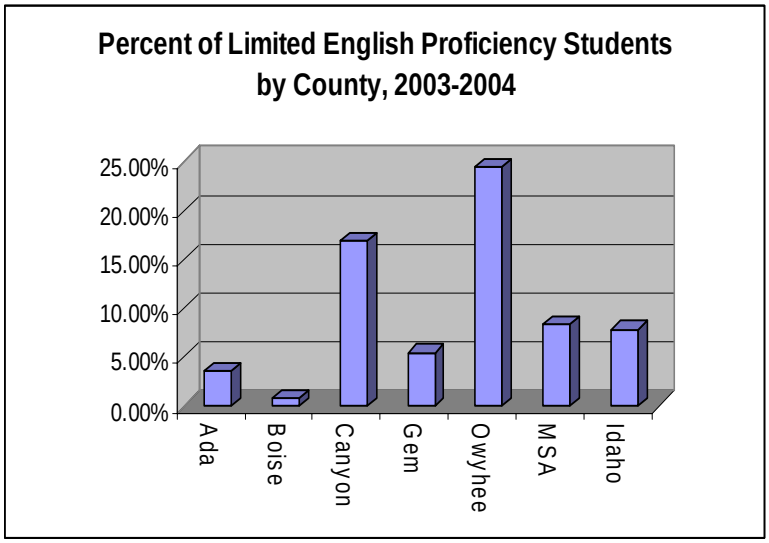
Pass rates increased in every county except Owyhee County. Boise County increased their pass rates by 9% for reading and 7% for Math between the 2003-2004 school year and the 2004-2005 school year. In order to make "adequate yearly progress" each school has been given criteria from the Department of Education. The goal is to achieve a 200% pass rate by the year 2014.



In Depth in Owyhee County

There is concern over the nearly 6% decrease in the Reading pass rate for Owyhee County, primarily due to reduced performances in both Marsing and Bruneau Districts; each district had a slight decline in Math performance. One possible explanation for this is that there is a high percentage of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Students in Owyhee County, as demonstrated by the following graph. Canyon County also has a high rate of LEP students, and while their pass rates lag behind the regional average, (77% to 80% in Reading and 71% to 73% in Math), they did not experience the decline that Owyhee County did between the 2003-2004 and the 2004-2005 school year.

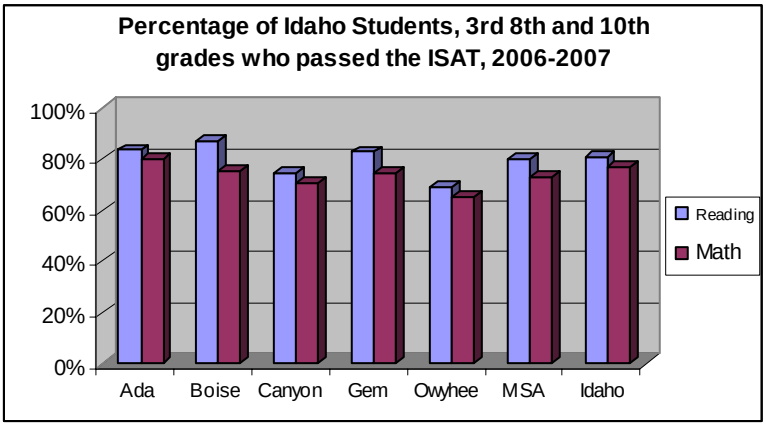


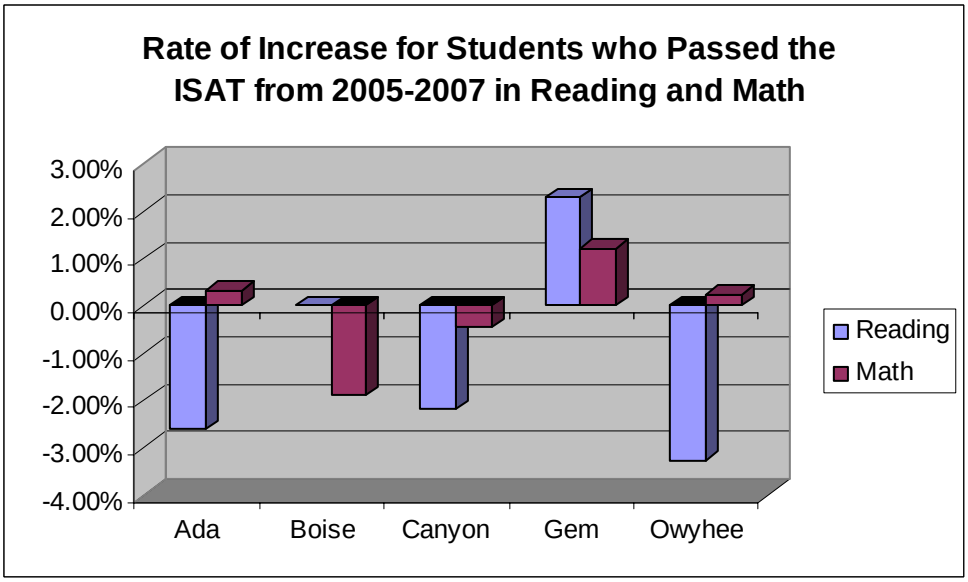


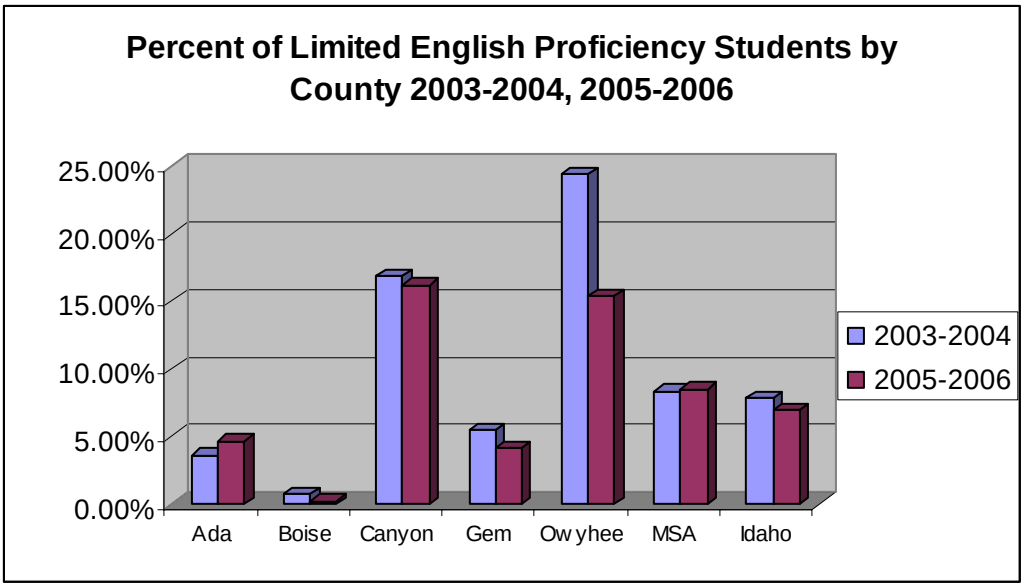
Since Last Report
Idaho Standard Achievement Test

Similar to the results reported in 2004-2005, the percentage of students who pass the reading portion of the ISAT is higher than those who passed the math section. All counties continue to report at least 65% of their students passing each section of the test. Furthermore, the average pass rate for the MSA has remained constant at 73% of students passing math, and 80% passing reading. However, these figures are at a lower percentage compared to the entire state of Idaho as 81% of students passed reading, while 77% passed math.

Since the 2005 report, the rate of students passing the ISAT has decreased in either the math or reading sections in all counties except Gem County. In the 2005 report, a possible explanation for decreasing test scores was the high number of Limited English Proficiency students per school district in Idaho. However, since 2003 the percentage of LEP students has decreased in every county in the MSA region except Ada County, which increased slightly.






Percent of Limited English Proficiency Students by County 2003-2004, 2005-2006
25.00%
20.00%
15.00%
10.00%
5.00%
0.00%
Ada
Boise
Canyon
Gem
Owyhee
MSA
Idaho
2003-2004
2005-2006

School District Revenue Sources

Why it matters

School district financing has been a major issue in Idaho for decades. Citizen responses regionally and statewide to Boise State University *Public Policy Surveys* indicate a strong support for education and its enhanced funding.

The three major sources of revenue for school districts are federal funds, property taxes and state shared revenues. Though they have been a consistent source of revenue, federal funds have typically been less than 10% of total revenues. The statewide range has been from 5.8% to 9.4%.

Property tax is a major revenue source typically constituting more than 40% of most taxpayers' property tax bill. Property taxes are valued because of their stability and potential for promoting local control in school board decision-making. They are also despised because they are not based on ability to pay or level of service.

State aid is used to enhance the equity of educational funding so that there is comparable funding support for each student regardless of the student's school district. But state aid can be an unstable source of revenue if legislators decide to cut or cap increases. Unlike most other taxing districts, schools do not have significant fee authority, including growth impact fee authority.

About the indicator

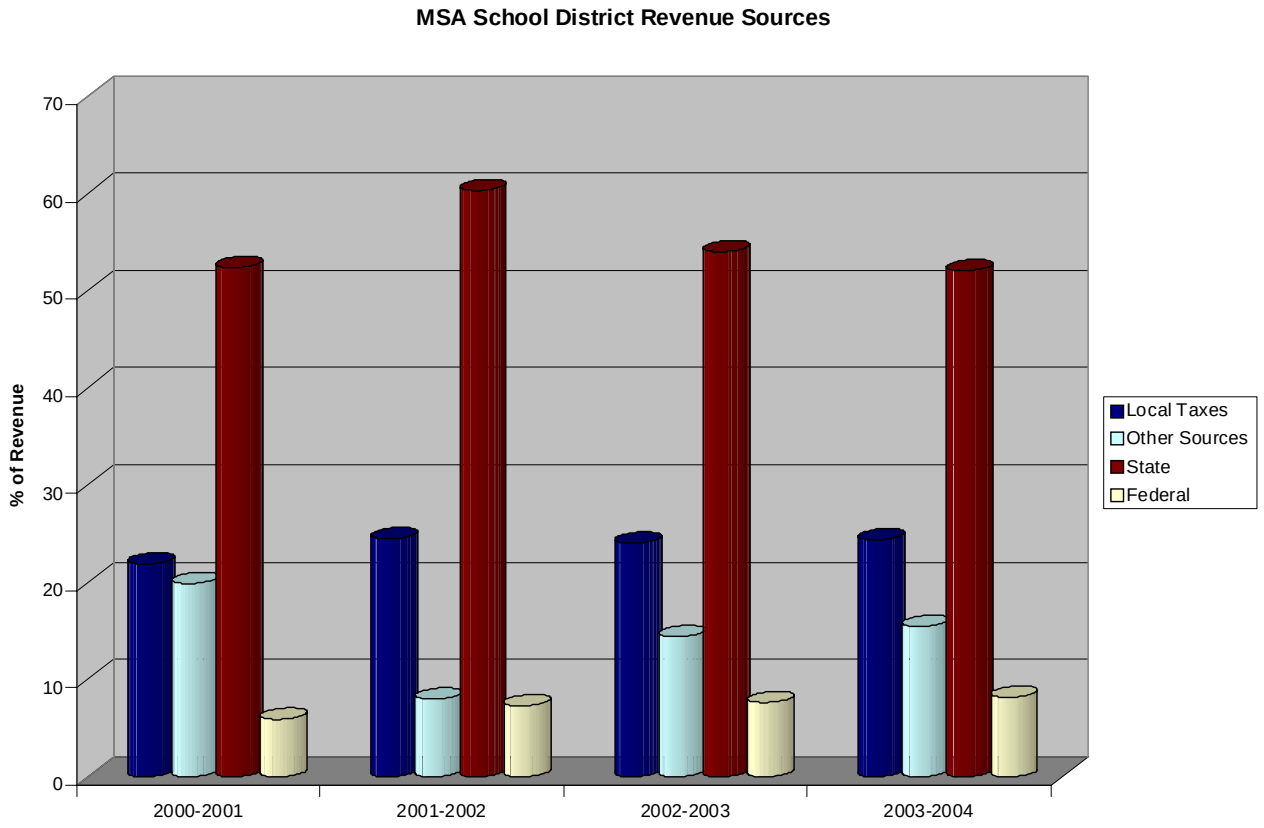
The indicator focuses on the percentage of local (mostly property tax) versus state revenues. From the 1960s to the present, the relationship between the two major sources of revenue has flip-flopped – from approximately 60% "local" to 30% "state" in the 1960s and from 30% "local" to 60% "state" reliance in recent years. The data are from the State Department of Education, US Census, and the State Tax Commission.

Regional performance

As shown in the following chart, the MSA's performance is close to the statewide ratio of approximately 30% from local sources and 60% from state sources. However, national percentages are quite different at 40% local and 49% state. In addition to the federal, state, and local sources, there is an "other" category which can fluctuate substantially based upon capital spending and bond sales.

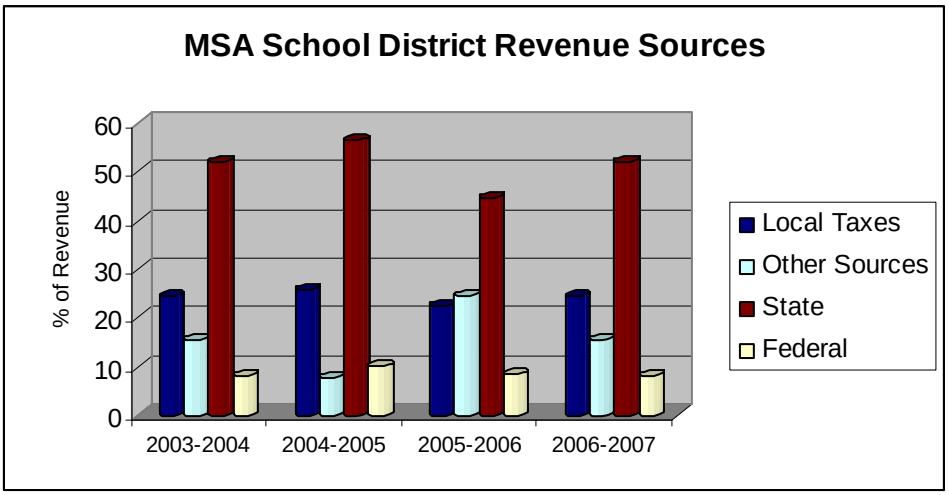
Closer look

If the property tax becomes even more controversial, the pressure for replacing more property tax revenues with state aid is likely to continue. Proposals in the 2006 legislative session would have mandated such a major shift. If future legislatures decide to replace the school maintenance and operations property tax levy with state general fund revenues, the adequacy of school funding could be compromised in tight budgetary years.


MSA School District Revenue Sources
% of Revenue
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
2000-2001
2001-2002
2002-2003
2003-2004
Local Taxes
Other Sources
State
Federal

Since Last Report
School District Revenue Sources

The ratio of state sources to local sources has remained relatively constant in the MSA with the state ratio at about 60% revenue from state sources to 30% coming from local sources.



Educational Attainment

Why it Matters

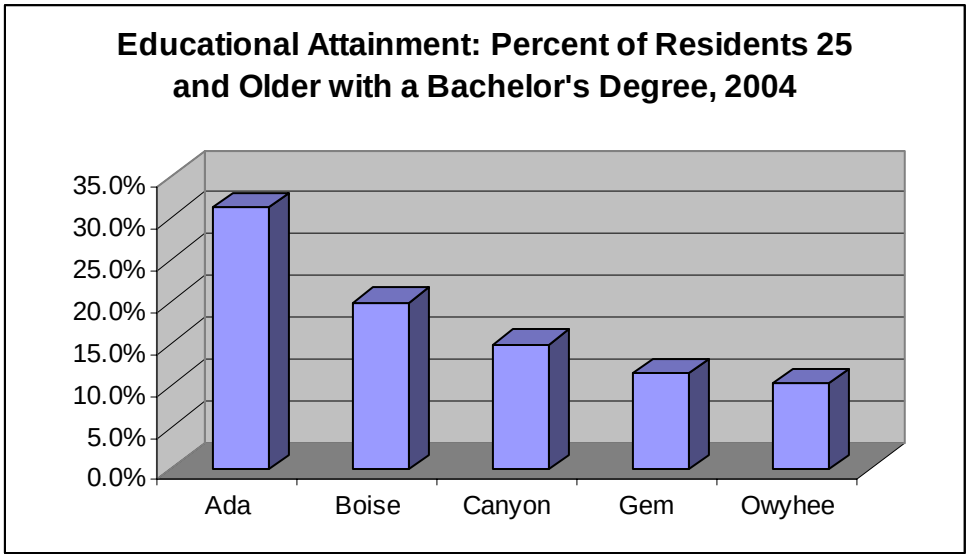
This estimator is considered to be an indicator of economic health, as educational attainment has been linked with increased income and further economic development opportunities. A recent Census Bureau report stated, "Better educated people tend to be better off economically and stay healthier longer."

About the Indicator

This educational attainment indicator is taken from U.S. Census data and is a 2004 estimate[i]. It measures the percent of people, 25 years of age and over, with a bachelor's degree.

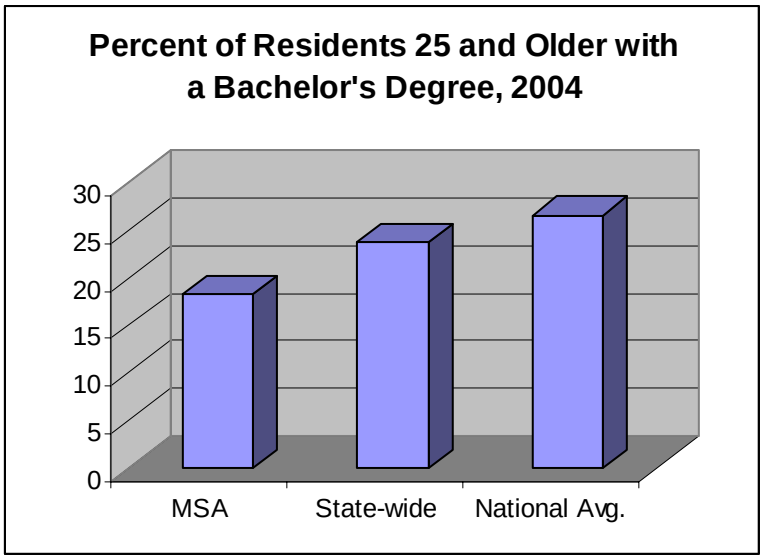
Regional Performance

There is a high degree of variability among the counties for this measure. Ada County, the state capital and population center, has a substantially higher percent of individuals with a bachelor's degree. Ada County is also home to Boise State University, Idaho's largest bachelor's degree granting institution.



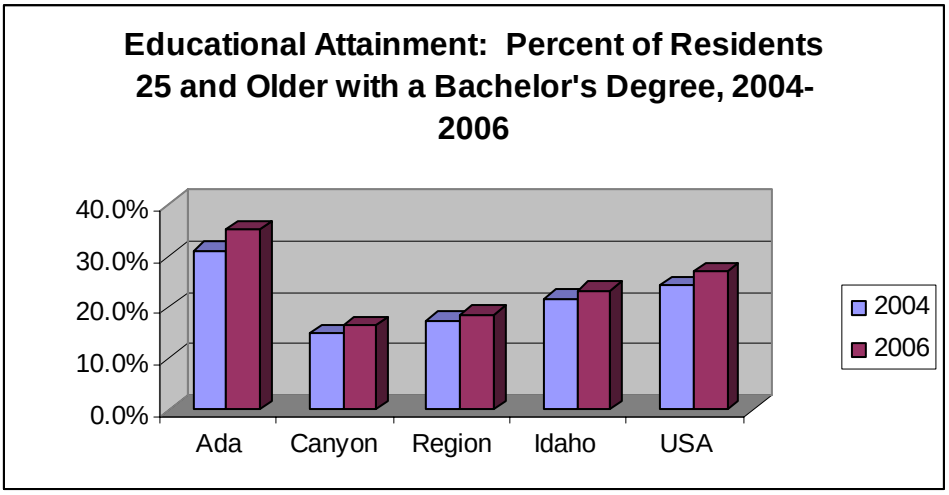
A Closer Look

Idaho ranks 38th nationally for this indicator. The MSA has a lower overall percentage than does the state as a whole. In 1990, however, residents with a bachelor's degree made up 12.4% of the population of the state. Additionally, in 2000, residents with bachelor's degrees made up 14.8% of the population. Therefore, there is increasing evidence to expect this number to continue to rise.



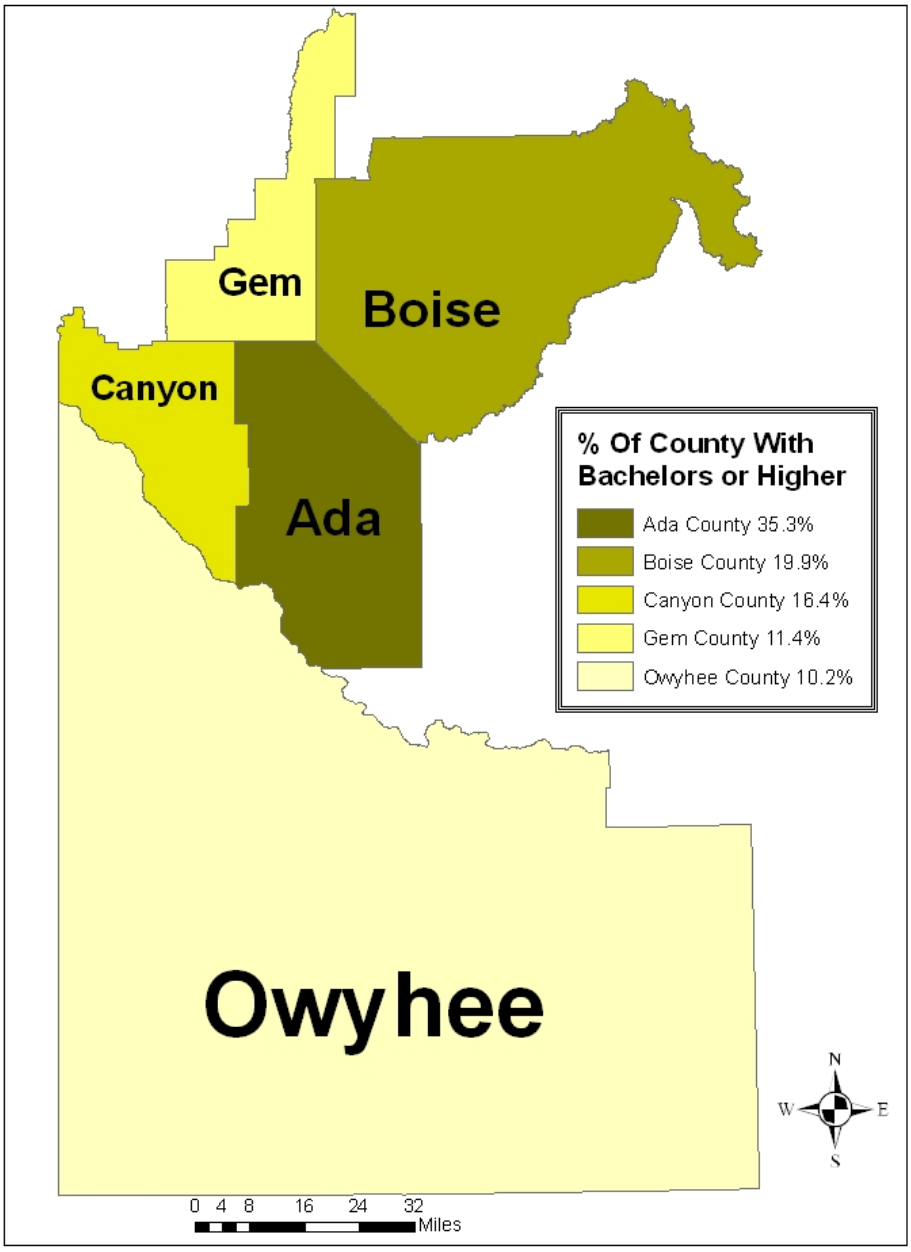
Since Last Report
Educational Attainment

Idaho's rank remains 38th in the United States for Educational Attainment. However, numbers continue to rise in both Ada and Canyon County. From 2004-2006, the number of residents in Ada County with at least a Bachelor's Degree grew by 22.2%, representing a total of 35.3% of the population. In Canyon County, they experienced a growth of 20.1%, which represents 16.4% of the population. The map below provides a graphic representation of current educational attainment.



*Data for Gem, Boise, and Owyhee Counties unavailable in 2006. For Region statistics, 2000 Census Data was used for Gem, Owyhee, and Boise Counties.

Percent With Bachelors or Higher 25 yrs and Up



Education and Poverty

Why it matters

By examining the number of children who are affected by poverty, it is possible to discover a sense of the region's economic and social health. Poverty indicators are important tools for assessing where social service dollars as well as educational assistance dollars should be concentrated in a region.

About the indicator

There are two indicators used in this data: the percent of students living in poverty in each county and students who are receiving reduced or free lunches at school. Since poverty is usually measured based on the number of adults and children under 18 living in a household. The U.S. Census bureau provides a weighted average based on the size of the family unit without regard to the number of children under 18 in the household.

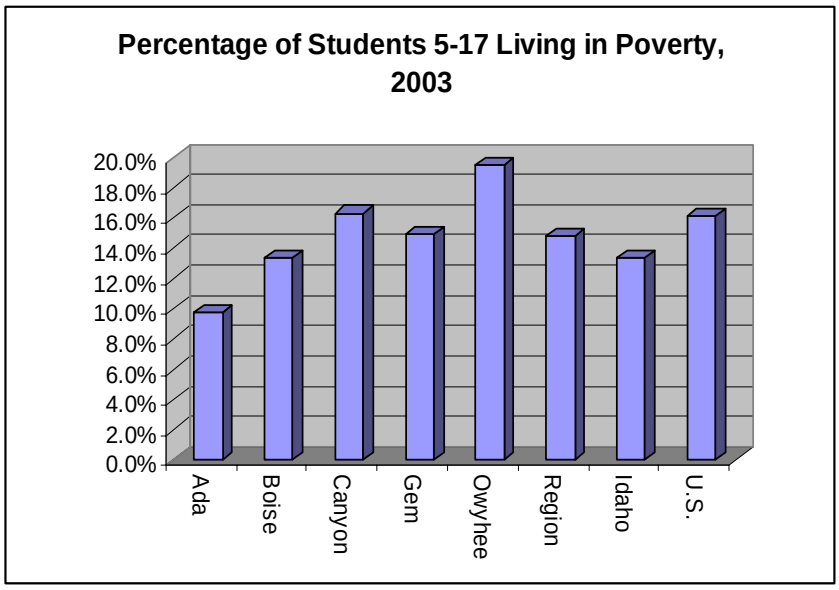
U.S. Census Definitions of Poverty, 2003

Size of family unit	*Weighted Average Threshold*
One person	9,393
Two persons	12,015
Three persons	14,680
Four persons	18,810
Five persons	22,245
Six persons	25,122
Seven persons	28,544
Eight persons	31,589
Nine persons+	37,656

Federal guidelines also determine the eligibility for reduced and free lunches. Families whose income is up to 130% of the poverty line are eligible for free lunches for their students. Families whose income ranges from 131%-185% of federal poverty guidelines are eligible for a reduced-price lunch.

Regional Performance

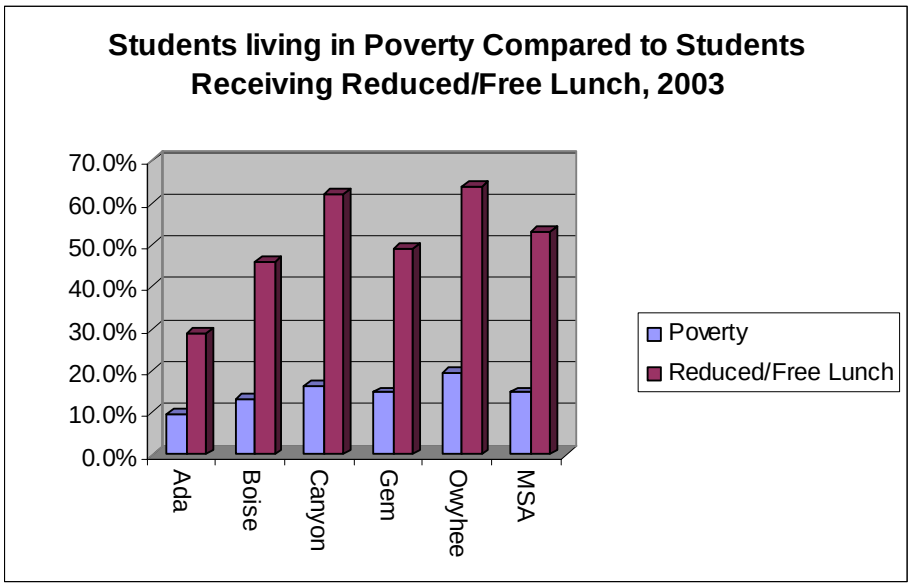
The percent of poverty-stricken students is relatively low, with no county reaching above 20% of the total population of students. The region boasts a lower percent of students living in poverty (14.8%) than in the nation as a whole (16.1%), but still has a higher percent than the state (13.4%).

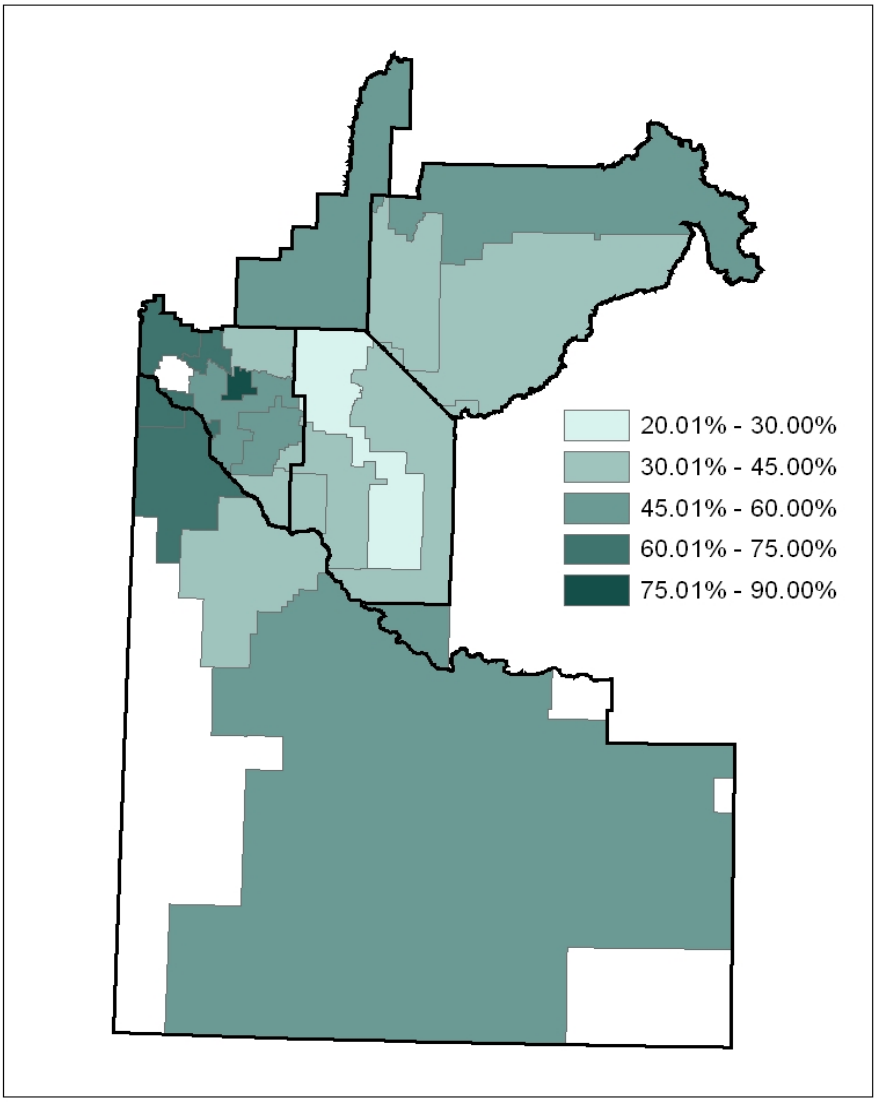


A closer look

Owyhee County's disproportionately high poverty rate creates an adverse impact on the region's performance. When Owyhee County is excluded from the analysis, the region's poverty rate decreases from 14.8% to 13.6%, making it closer to the state-wide average of 13.4%. Further analysis indicates that the region is providing assistance to students living below the poverty line in very real ways, including providing reduced/free lunches at a significantly higher rate than that of the poverty rate.

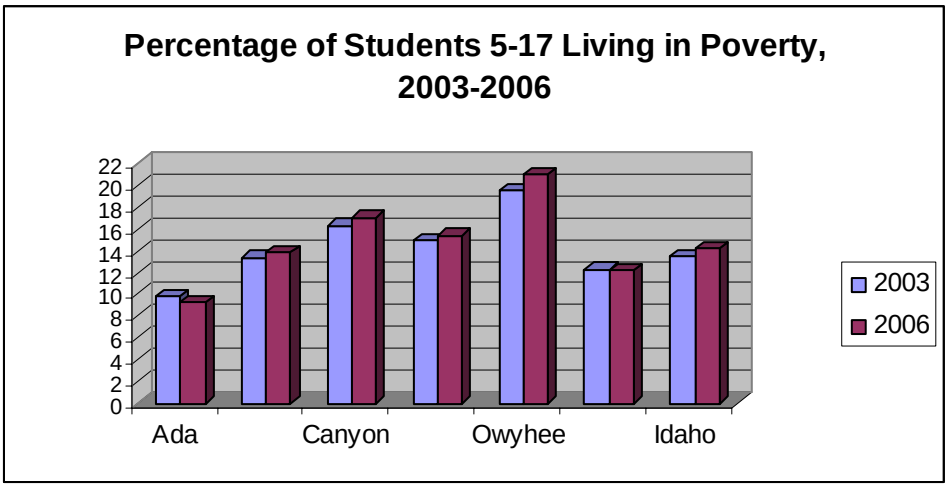
Percent of Students Receiving Free or Reduced Lunches. School districts in Southwest Idaho displayed a wide range in the percentages of students in primary and secondary schools receiving free or reduced lunches. While only 21.3 percent of the students in the Meridian School District received free or reduced lunches in 2005, 91.4 percent of the students enrolled in the Wilder School District received free or reduced lunches.

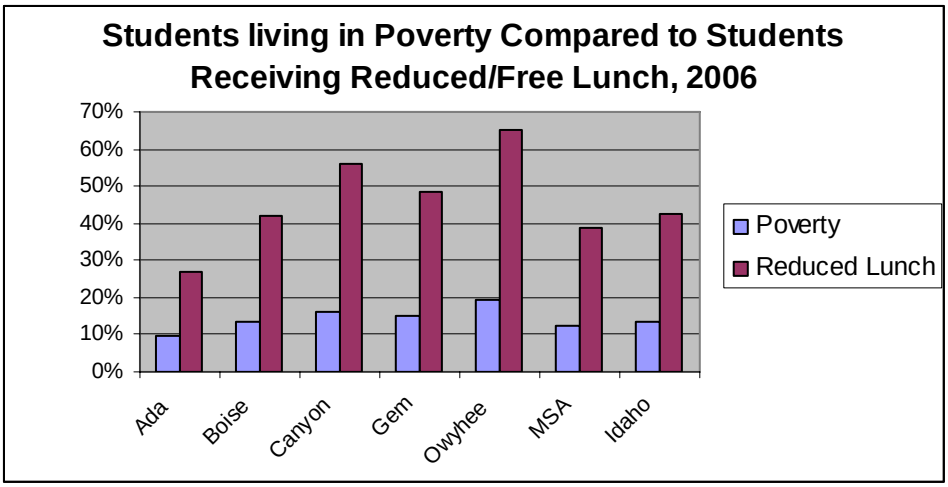




Since Last Report
Education and Poverty

As the two graphs below represent, the percentage of school age students living in poverty in 2006 has increased slightly from 2003. Further, the students living in poverty compared to those receiving reduced or free lunches has stayed relatively constant.





Dropout Rates

Why it matters

It is presumed that the gap between earnings of those who dropout and those who do not will continue to rise as employers seek more skilled labor. In addition, it has been shown that students who dropout of school have more problems later in life than those who do not dropout. Clearly, lower dropout rates would indicate a more effective and sustainable education system and a stable community. Lastly, global competition requires an educated workforce.

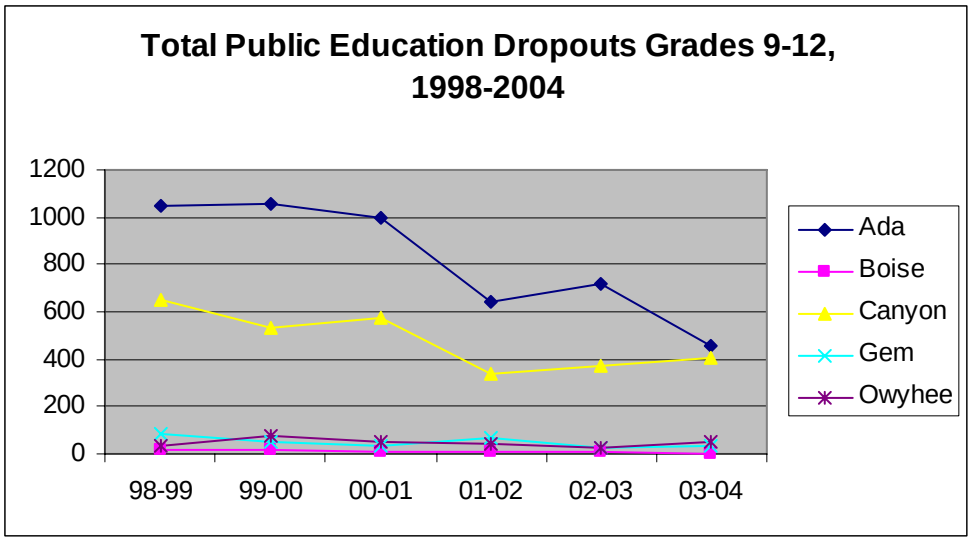
About the indicator

This indicator identifies the total number of students who dropout per county as well as dropouts as a percent of enrollment. A dropout is a student in grades 9 through 12 who:

- was enrolled some time during the current school year but was not enrolled at the end of the current regular school year; or
- was enrolled at the end of the prior regular school year and was expected to be part of the membership (i.e., was not reported as a dropout the year before) of the current school year but did not enroll in the current school year; and
- has not graduated from high school or completed a district-approved educational program, and does not meet any of the following exclusionary conditions:
    1. Transfer to another public school district, private school, or other state or district approved program;
    2. Transfer to another country;
    3. Temporary school-recognized absentee due to suspension or illness; or
    4. Death.

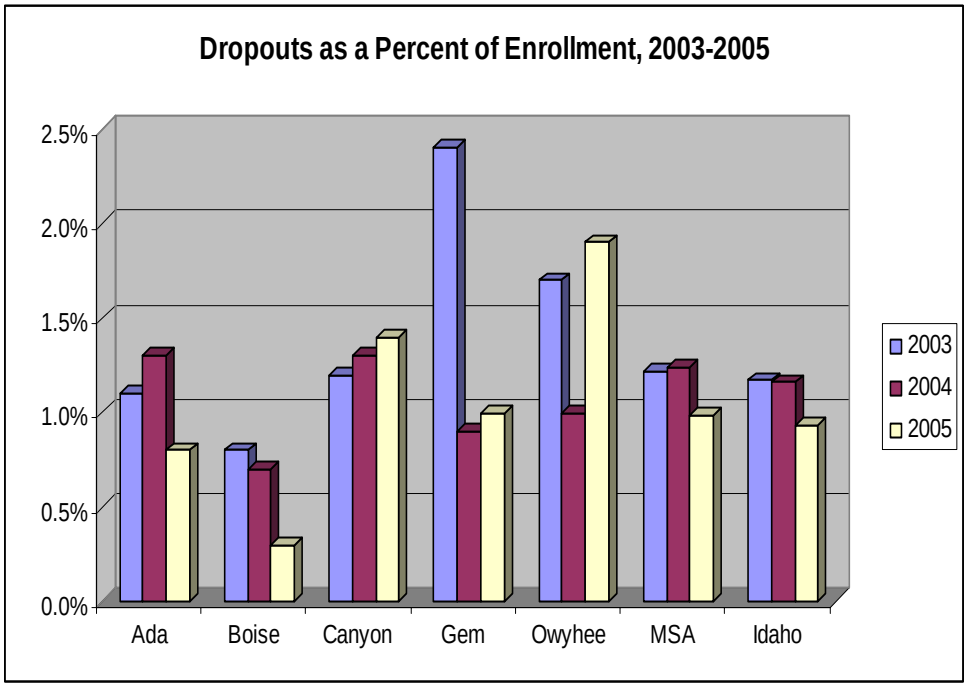
Regional Performance

Viewed as a time series, the dropout rate in Ada and Canyon Counties appear to be significantly higher than the remaining counties in the region. There has been a reduced dropout rate among those counties, however, over the six year period in question.



A Closer Look

Boise, Owyhee and Gem County have all stayed below fifty dropouts per year. While the previous time series graph demonstrates a declining number of dropouts, a more appropriate way to examine this information is as a percent of total enrollment. Viewed in this way, it is clear that dropout rates are an extremely low percent of total school enrollment and are fairly consistent across the MSA. While a few of the counties have seen recent increases in the rates of dropouts over the last three years, the rate consistently stays below 3%. The MSA also has a similar rate to that of the rest of the state. For instance, in 2005, dropouts for the region were about .99% of total enrollment, while the state dropout rate was .93%. Because states often define dropouts differently, it is difficult to compare across the country. However, most studies place the national dropout rate around 10%.



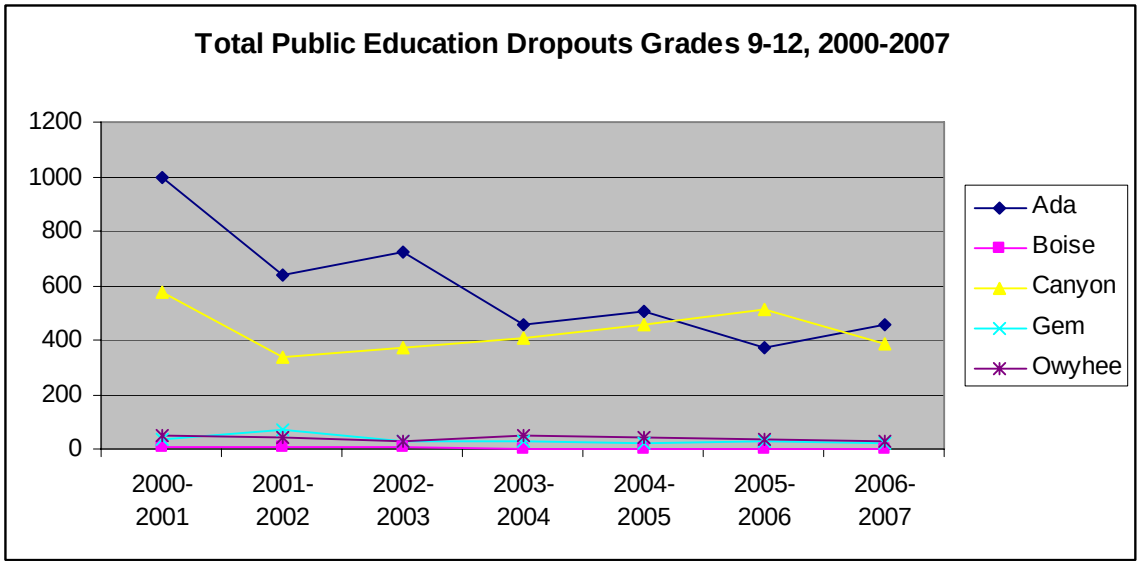
All data for this indicator are from the Idaho Department of Education at http://www.sde.state.id.us/dept/

Idaho Department of Education website. Defined, Feb. 2005. http://www.sde.state.id.us/dept/documents/FAQGrad.doc

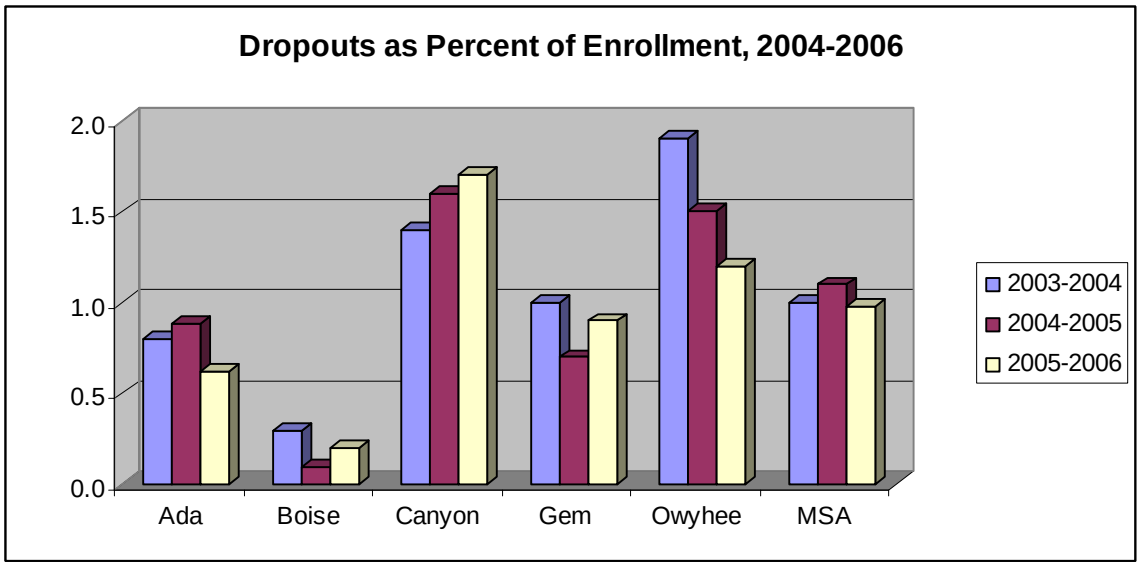
See www.childtrendsdatabank.org and www.nces.ed.gov

Since Last Report
Dropout Rates

Since 2000, total dropouts for the region, particularly in Ada and Canyon Counties have seen a dramatic drop. One interesting trend from the chart below is that from the first time in recent history, Canyon County reported more dropouts than Ada County in 2005-2006.



Dropout rates continue to be extremely low, with an estimated 1% average among all schools in the region. The only county seeing continued increase in dropouts as a percent of enrollment is Canyon County. As shown in the table above, total number of dropouts increased every year since 2001, before seeing a decline in 2006-2007.



Health and Human Services

A vital indicator for any community or region is the overall health of the citizens as well as the services that are available to them. In every population, there are groups that require special needs, for example, children, the elderly, or underrepresented groups. We intend, in this section, to provide an overall look at both health indicators and service indicators, in order to present a representation of the overall image of these two vitally important sectors.

There are many factors that contribute to the health of the region, as well as the services the region provides. Our list of indicators in this section is diverse. It starts with services, and then moves to general health. The following is a list of indicators included in this section:
-Quality child care facilities
-Quality elderly care
-Marriage and divorce rates
-Death rates
-Types of deaths
-Infant Care and Infant Mortality
-Statewide immunization results

The order of the indicators is intentional. We begin with a discussion on services. The population group that is expected to grow the fastest over the next 25 years is the 65 and older group. Even when we compare Boise/Nampa MSA's 65 and older group to our peer regions we come in below the average, the projections of growth by the census are quite staggering, thus, some discussion of their care and long-term planing is important to the region.

We move from services to health to provide an overall view of the quality of health services in the region. We see that overall, marriage and divorce rates are both higher in the MSA than they are at the national level, yet death rates are lower, and, when broken down by type, are lower in almost all categories.

Quality Child Care

Why it matters

Children are a valuable asset to the health and vibrancy of a community, and as such, quality child care not only offers safety for the children, but also has an influence on developing social skills and early educational development. Furthermore, accredited child care facilities provide families, child care professionals, and others concerned about the health and welfare of children a vehicle through which they can compare and evaluate individual and regional performance.

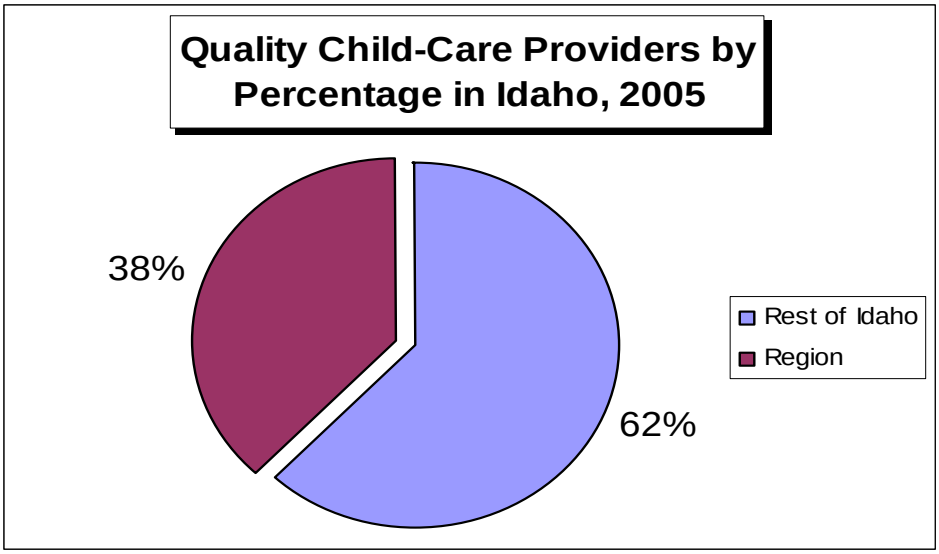
About the Indicator

Quality child care providers are defined as the number of providers that have become accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). NAEYC, according to its mission statement, "is dedicated to improving the well-being of all young children, with particular focus on the quality of educational and developmental services for all children from birth through age 8." The providers that voluntarily join this organization do so in hopes of improving early childhood education at a national standard of quality. This indicator ONLY includes providers accredited by this national organization. Accredited programs allow families to compare and evaluate child care providers. Clearly, both the region and the state have many additional, non-accredited child care providers.

Regional Performance

The Boise region does substantially well with 38 percent of the states accredited providers.

The Boise region is fortunate to have so many quality providers in the area.



A closer look

The volunteer providers that strive to go above the standards and provide more for the developing youth are without a doubt an asset to the region. Additionally, there are many more quality providers within the state that meet an Idaho exceptional standard, with a large percentage of those in the Region. For more information visit the NAEYC website - http://www.naeyc.org or the Idaho Department of

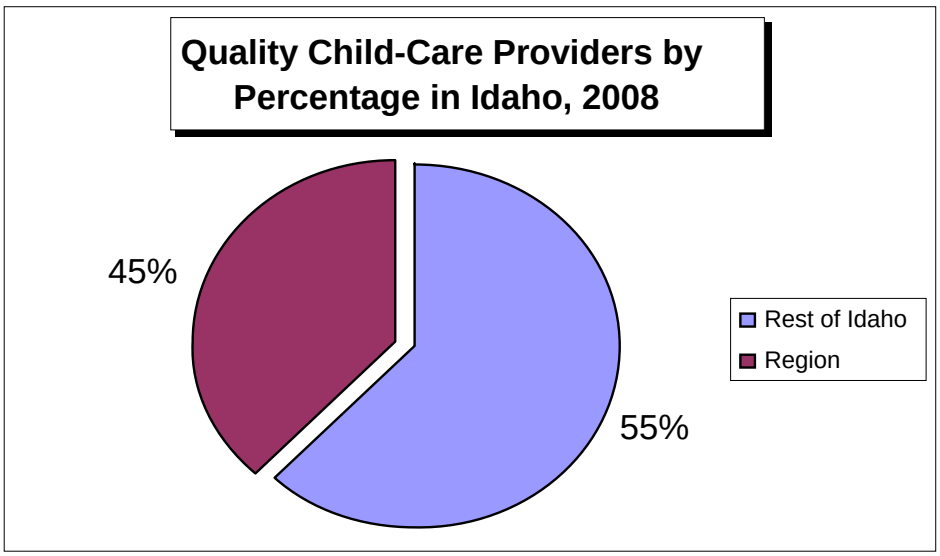
Health & Welfare to see Idaho-Stars providers at the following website - http://idahostars.org/.

Source: National Association for the Education of Young Children- www.naeyc.org

Since Last Report

Quality Child Care

Over the past three years, there has been a slight increase in the overall number of childcare facilities in the Treasure Valley MSA in relation to the rest of the state.



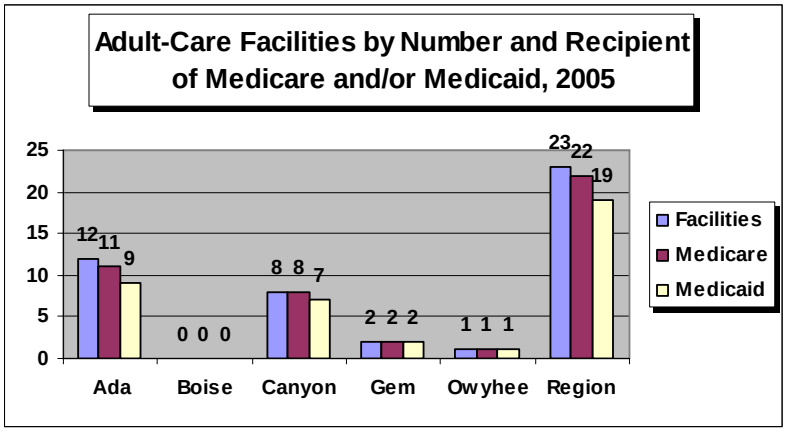
Quality Elderly Care

Why it matters

At both the regional and state level, a growing percentage of Idaho's population is aging. Elderly care should be carefully considered and looked into prior to a decision. There are many options available to choose from including if the provider will accept insurance coverage such as Medicare and Medicaid; is there a bed to sleep in; and what type of entity is providing the services; profit, non-profit, or government.

About the indicator

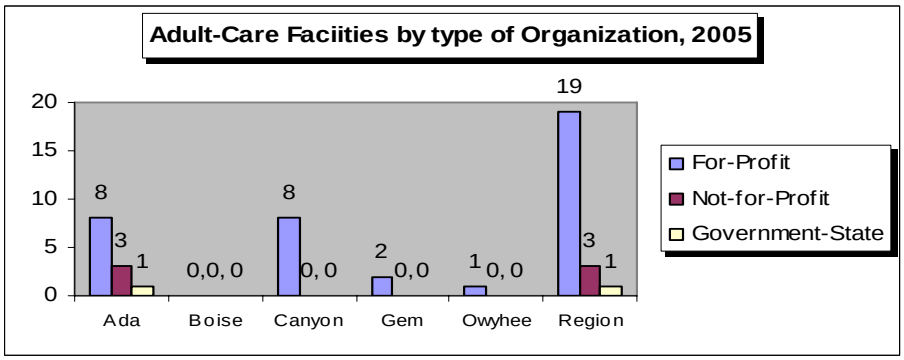
When examining elderly care we looked at whether or not the provider accepted Medicare and/or Medicaid, as well as the number of beds and the type of entity. Providers included are separate institutions excluding in-home caregivers.



Regional performance

The Boise Region has 23 elderly-care providers with 22 accepting Medicare and 19 accepting Medicaid. The chart below also indicates that Boise County provides no caregivers and Gem and Owyhee counties only provide for 2 and 1 caregivers respectively. This chart also indicates that the larger the population is the more providers there will be.

The second chart pertains to the capability of the provider to make a profit. The chart clearly shows that all but 4 providers are for profit. The 3 non-profit and 1 government provider are both located in Ada County.



Number of Beds by County, 2005

County →	Ada	Boise	Canyon	Gem	Owyhee	Boise Region
Number of Beds →	1179	0	657	135	49	2020

Sources: Idaho Health Care Association-www.ihca-net.org
U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services-Medicare Division-www.medicare.gov

Marriage and Divorce

Why it matters

High marriage rates and low divorce rates can be good indicators of healthy societies and happy families. Additionally as good marriages increase the number of divorce rates will decrease over time.

About the indicator

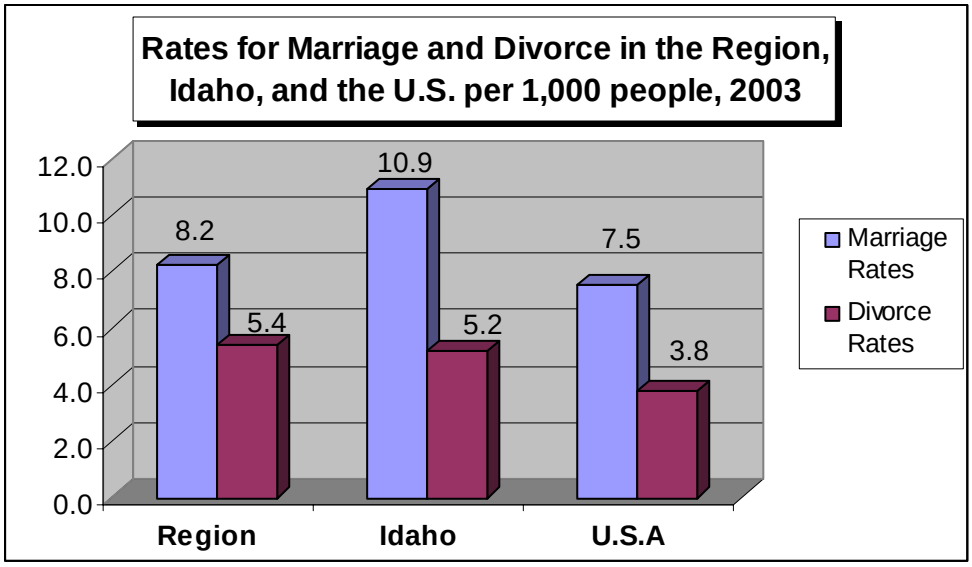
This indicator is defined as the rate at which a marriage or a divorce is to occur for every 1,000 people in the given population.

Regional performance

The marriage rates at both the MSA level and the state level are higher than the national level. The rate of marriage at the state level is overwhelmingly higher. Interestingly, the divorce rate, while constant across MSA and state, are both significantly higher than the national rate.

A closer look

Similar to the State and the U.S. the Boise region has a higher rate for marriage than for divorce with 8.2 people getting married per 1,000 and 5.4 getting divorced per 1,000 people. It should be noted that the national average of marriages that end in divorce is roughly half. The state and the U.S. both have marriage rates at about twice that of divorce, as can be calculated in the chart below. Furthermore, the Boise region has a divorce rate of 5.4 which is almost identical to Idaho's at 5.2, but the marriage rate is down by nearly three points. Clearly, then, while marriage rates are between the national and state average, divorce rate in the MSA is considerably higher.

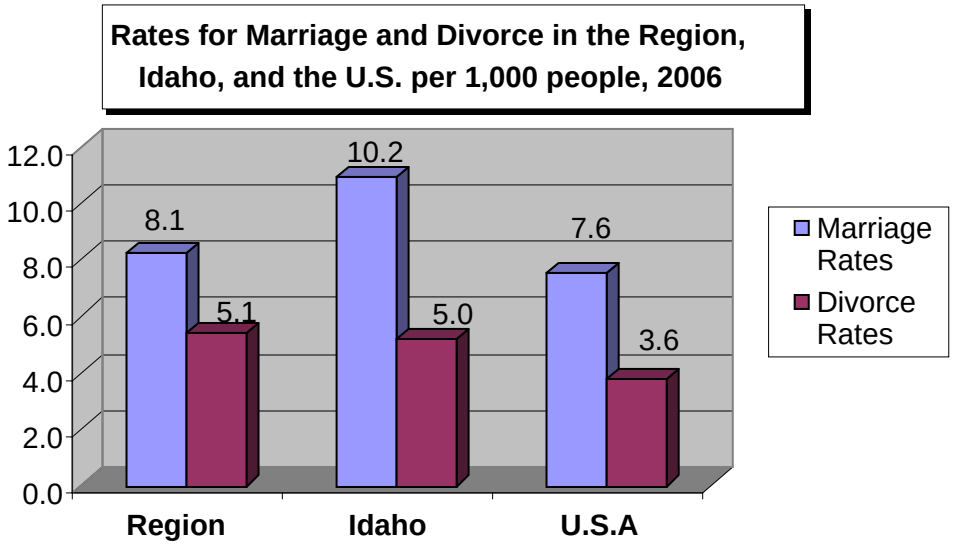


Source: Idaho Department of Health and Welfare- http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/

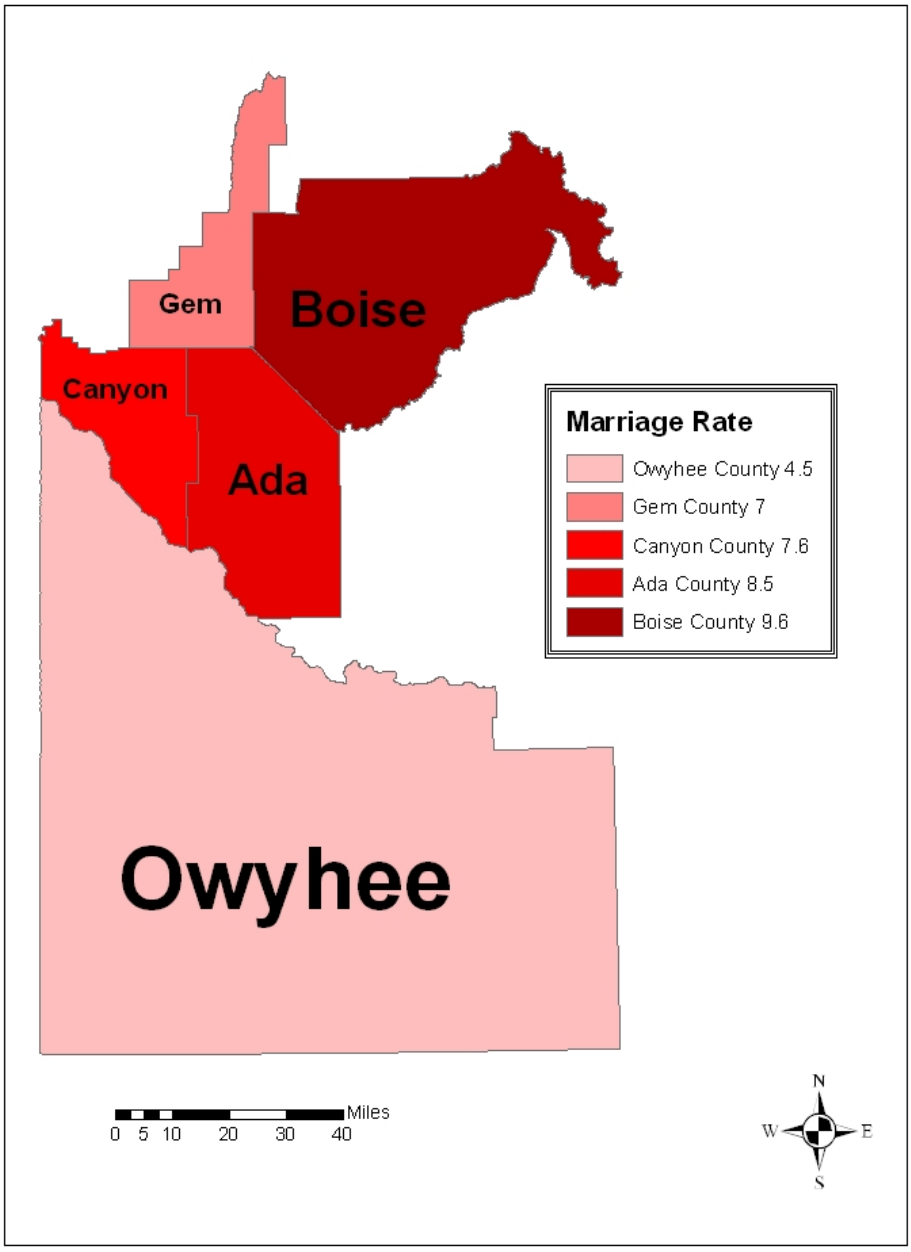
Since Last Report

Marriage and Divorce Rates

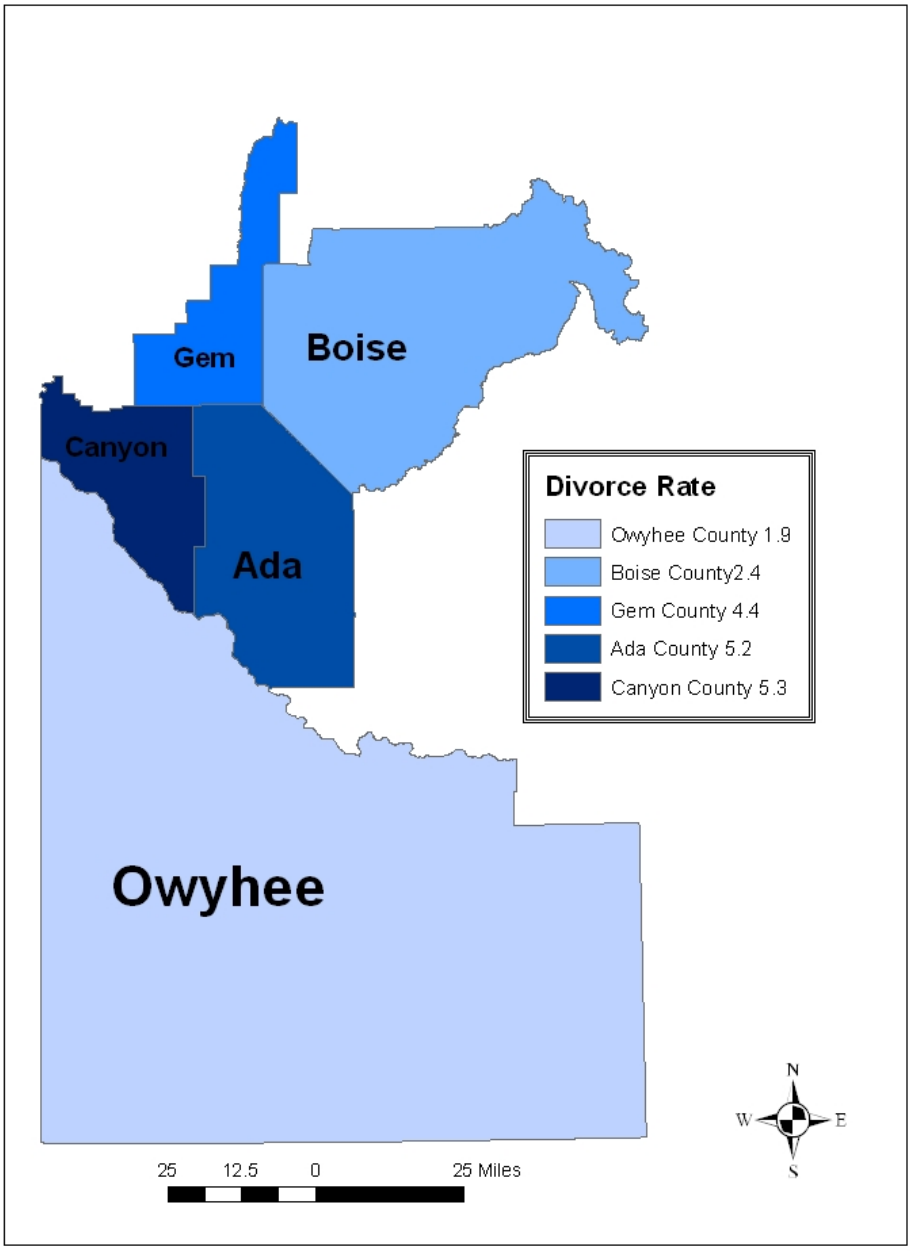
Marriages and divorces, in terms of rates, have stayed relatively constant over the past three years. The two maps that follow provide a county-level representation of marriage and divorce rates. Note that the highest divorce rate is in Canyon County, and the lowest is in Owyhee County. Owyhee County also has the lowest marriage rate of the 5 county MSA.



2006 Marriage Rate Per County



Divorce Rate Per County 2006



Types of Death

Why it matters

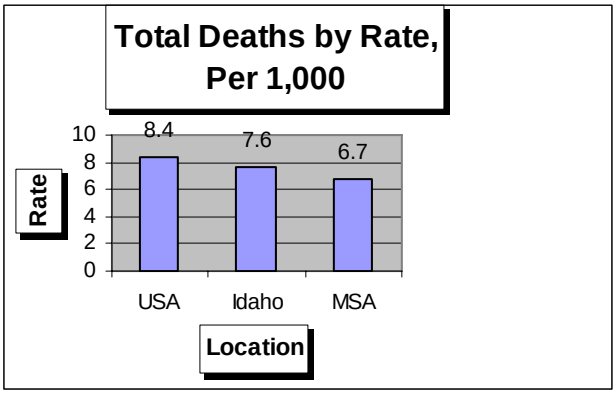
Type and rate of death relies upon many factors, one of which may be the environment in which you live and work. We do not attempt to draw a correlation between the death rate and good living per se, but to present the death rates in the MSA as they are related to the state and the nation, particularly due to the fact that Idaho's fastest growing population group is projected to be those 65 and older.

About the indicator

The indicator is defined as number of deaths per 1,000 people. The most recent data we have is from 2003, the first year of the newly defined MSA. Also included are death rates broken down by type, including heart disease, malignant neoplasms, chronic lower respiratory diseases, accidents, and motor vehicle accidents.

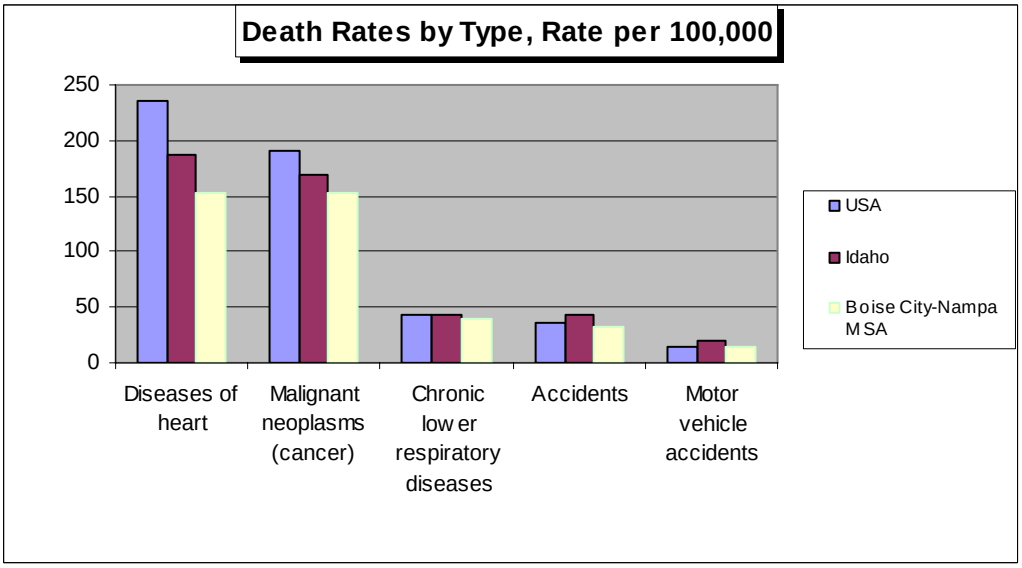
Regional performance

The total death rate in the MSA is 6.7/1,000, which is almost two deaths per 1,000 fewer than the national rate and almost one death per 1,000 fewer than Idaho's rate. We see a similar pattern when the deaths are broken down by type. The Boise/Nampa MSA is always lower than either the state or the national death rate. The state of Idaho is higher than the national level only in terms of accidents, both motor vehicle and accidents generally.



Closer look

It appears that the general health of the citizens in the Boise/Nampa Metropolitan Statistical Area is better than both the state and national numbers, at least in terms of the health indicators we present. This is likely to be encouraging to those looking for a vibrant healthy community.



Source: Idaho Department of Health and Welfare- http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/

Infant Care and Infant Mortality

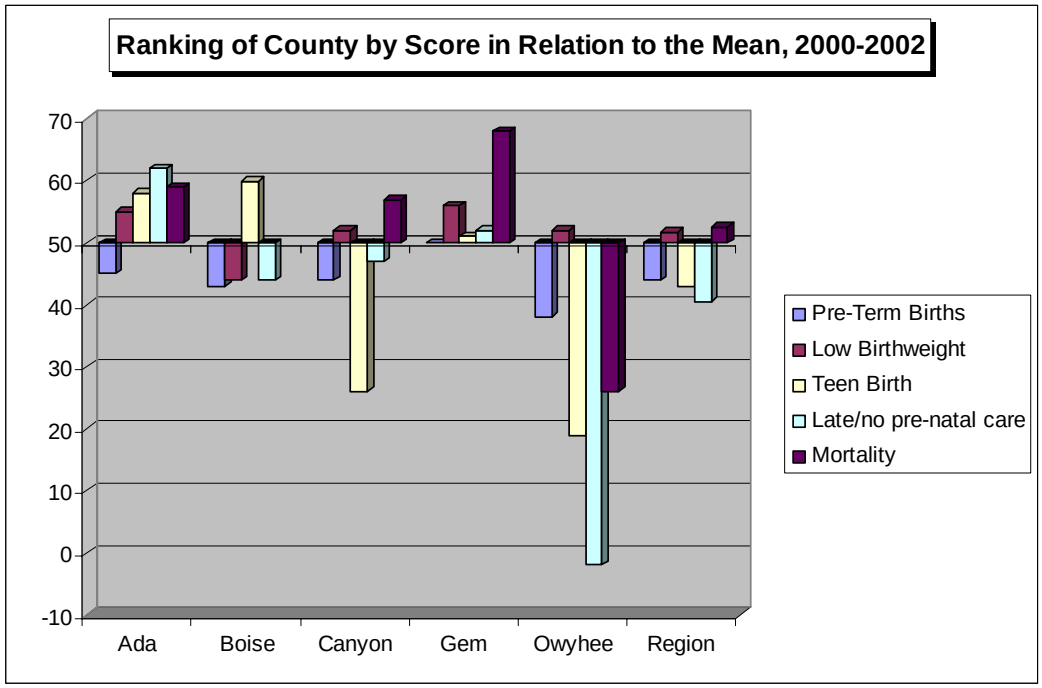
Why it matters

Pre- and neonatal care are indicators not only of healthy babies, but can also be related to health care accessibility. For example, underweight newborns are associated with birth defects, and caring for underweight newborns or newborns with birth defects can add substantial costs to health care provision. Also, teens who give birth are less likely to finish school, are likely to cause a financial burden on the extended family in terms of assistance in care and raising the child, and the child is more likely to be raised in a low-income environment. The social ramifications are apparent.

About the indicator

The indicator is made up of five (5) potential indicators that relate to early infant childbirth and health. We employ the definitions used in Idaho Kids Count. They are pre-term births, defined as the percentage of babies born with a gestational age less than 37 weeks. The second indicator is low birth weight, which is defined as the percentage of live births weighing less than 5.5 pounds. Third, we use teen births which are the number of births to females between 15-17 years of age per 1000. Fourth, we define late/no prenatal care as percent of babies born to mothers who received prenatal care only in their 3rd trimester or not at all. Finally, we define infant mortality as the number of deaths of children under the age of 1 per 1000 live births. We use the most recent data available, from 2000-2002.

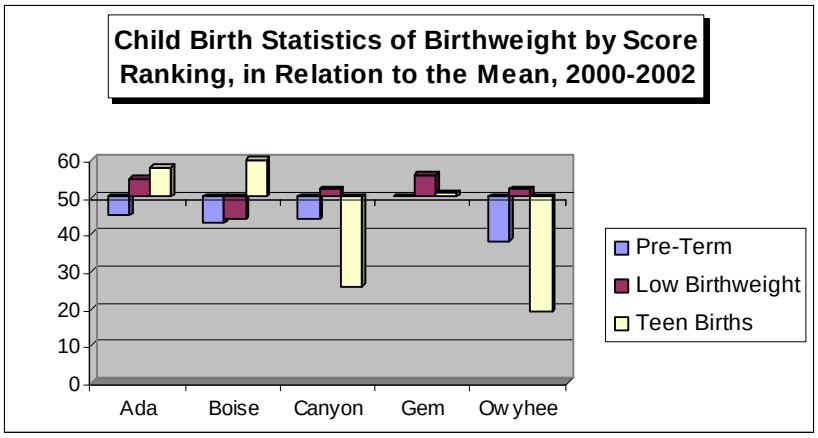
Again, Idaho Kids Count employs a scoring system which we present here. The score is based on a mean value of 50. Thus, any value above 50 is above average (better) and any value below the mean is below the average, or worse. For more information on the development of each score, see www.idahokidscount.org.



Regional performance

We see that at the county level, there is considerable variation across the 5 indicators, but at the MSA level, we see that low birth weight and infant mortality score above the 50% threshold, or are better than average, meaning the Boise/Nampa MSA generally has healthy babies that survive through their first year. However, pre-term births, teen births and pre-natal care are below the average, meaning that, in the MSA, the rates of these three indicators are higher than across the state as a whole.

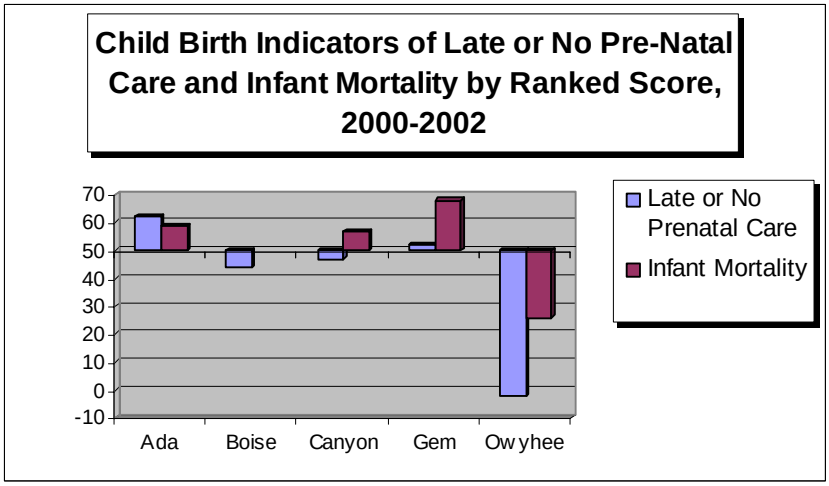
When we look only at the three indicators related to birth weight (pre-term, low birth weight, and teen births), we see considerable variation again. It is difficult from these data to imply any correlation between the three indicators other than to say that only Gem County is at or above the mean in all three categories.



Finally, a look at the pre-natal care and infant mortality scores show that for the most part, infant mortality in the MSA is low compared to the rest of the state, with the exception of Owyhee County, which is below the mean in both categories.

Closer look

The graphic above, presented as a numeric value, is in actuality, comparing very small numbers, yet is an effective way to put into context the county performance in relation to the state as a whole. For example, we see that the score for Owyhee County in the late or no pre-natal care case is -2, which is a very low ranking. The actual numbers were 26, or 15.8%. The state, on the other hand was merely 3.7%. Thus, the scoring system employed by Idaho Kids Count and presented in this analysis puts into context the relative rank of the health of the children being born in our communities.



There is also a lack of a definitive pattern between pre-term births and infant mortality, which may be an indication of exceptional neo-natal care facilities in the region.

Sources: Idaho Kids Count-www.idahokidscount.org
Idaho Department of Health and Welfare- http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/

Statewide Immunizations

Why it Matters

Immunized children help reduce the number of diseases and promote a healthy society for current and future generations. By immunizing children at early ages and at recommended ages, the number of diseases that lead to serious medical conditions and even death are drastically reduced. Additionally, infants and younger children are more susceptible to the affects of diseases and results are more likely to be fatal if the administration of immunizations is postponed until children reach school-age.

About the indicator

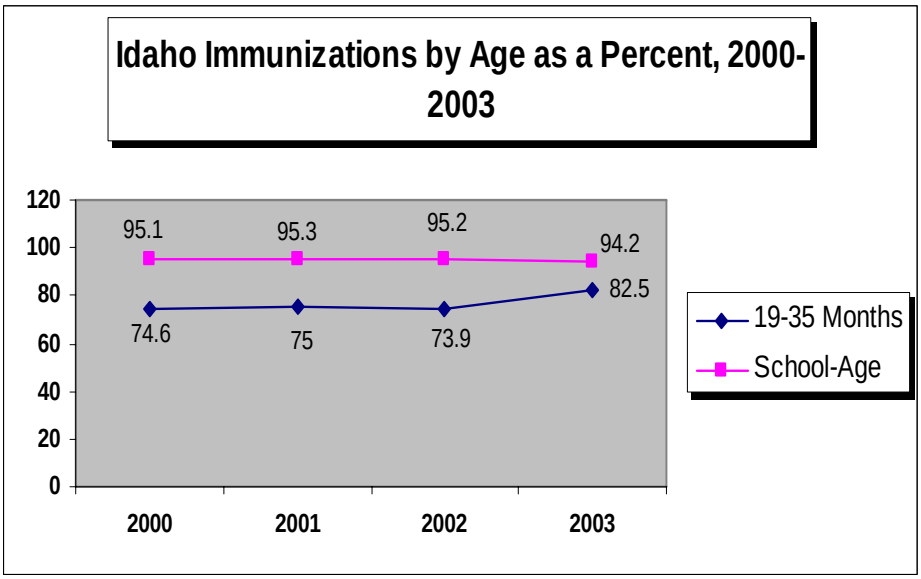
Immunizations of children can be classified into two separate categories: 19-35 months of age and school-age children, up to 18 years of age. Due to data constraints, we provide information on immunizations at the State level rather than the regional level.

Statewide Performance

Since 2000 the state of Idaho has maintained a steady level of children being immunized at the school-age level with a slight decrease of 1 percent from 95.2 to 94.2 percent from 2002 to 2003. The steady level of school-age children being immunized can be attributed to the requirement for children to have their immunization records in order to enroll in public school. The remaining 5 percent of children without immunizations may be attributable to a variety of factors, such as home-schooled children and religion.

Closer Look

The number of children aged 19 to 35 months saw a increase in immunizations from 2002 to 2003. The percentage of infant children becoming immunized jumped from 73.9 percent to 82.5 percent. This increase may be due, in part, to the publicity on the issue and endorsement by Governor Kempthorne's Immunization Initiative, and the help of many Idaho physicians and medical providers.

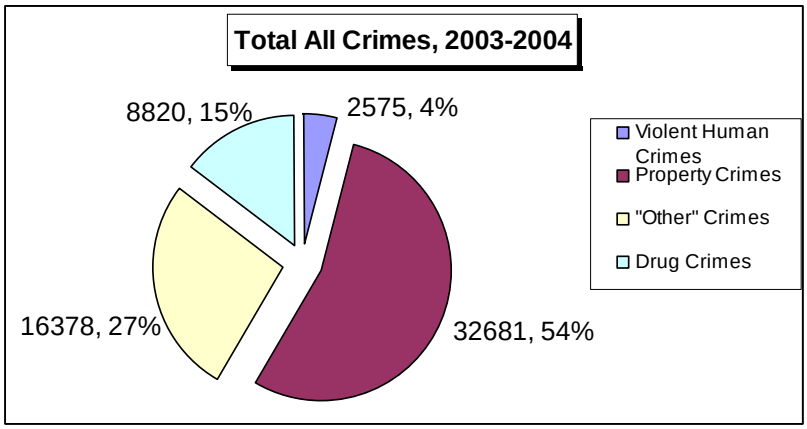


Source: Idaho Department of Health and Welfare- http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/

Public Safety

Public safety is an important indicator to the state of any region as a measure of the quality of life. If the region is viewed as a safe place to live, work and recreate, the more likely the citizens within and outside of the region will want to participate in activities in and around the MSA. Conversely, systemic occurrences of one crime or another can be an indication of where public safety officials or the community as a whole can work towards alleviating problems with public safety. Public safety data are difficult to collect, analyze and interpret. As such, they can be subject to measurement problems. We have made every attempt to portray in an accurate matter the data that we were able to obtain.

In this section, we include a host of indicators defined broadly into four categories. They are:
Violent Human Crimes
Property Crimes
"Other" Crimes
Drug Offenses
We also provide some information on the number of law enforcement employees in the region.



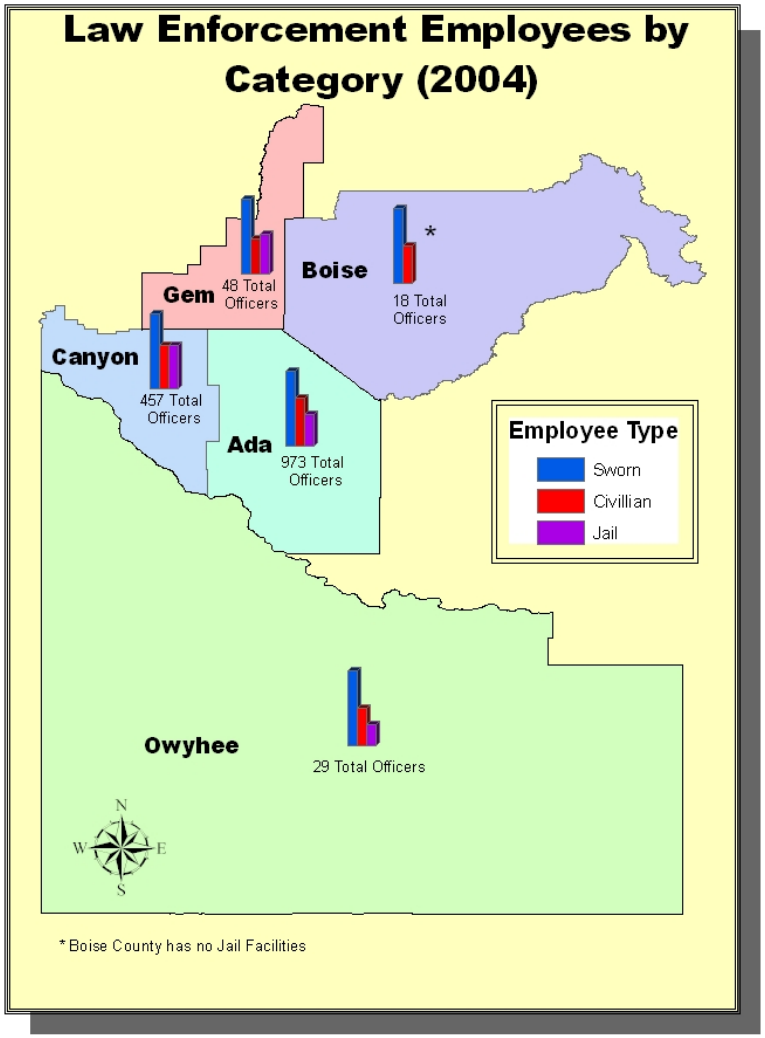
Within each category are multiple indicators that further compare the counties within the Metropolitan Statistical Area, the state, and on occasion, at the national level. Clearly, from an overall perspective, property crimes make up the majority of the crimes reported in the MSA, with violent human crimes making up a very small proportion, only 4%. We find trends within each indicator which we highlight as well. Also included is a map presenting the number and type of law enforcement officers in the 5-county MSA.

The following is a list of tables, which were presented in the peer region section as well,t show where we stand in relation to our peer regions. Clearly, the state of public safety is good in relation to the other regions of comparable size and location to our MSA, based on 2003 FBI crime data (refer to Peer Region section).

It is clear that in each of the categories listed, the Boise-Nampa MSA is significantly below the average. Indeed, only the Murder rate, which is 2.6 per 100,000, is close to the average, and that value is considerably lower than any of the values above the average rate. The remainder of the section will discuss these indicators in greater detail.

Law Enforcement Employees by Category (2004)

This map demonstrates how law enforcement employees are broken down by type in the Boise MSA. The categories include sworn officers, civilian employees and officers assigned to jail duties. Each county also shows the total number of law enforcement employees within its boundaries. It is noted that Boise County has no employees under "Jail" as it lacks such facilities.



Source: Idaho State Police-http://www.isp.state.id.us/identification/ucr/documents/03-CrimeInIdaho.pdf

Violent Crimes

Why it matters

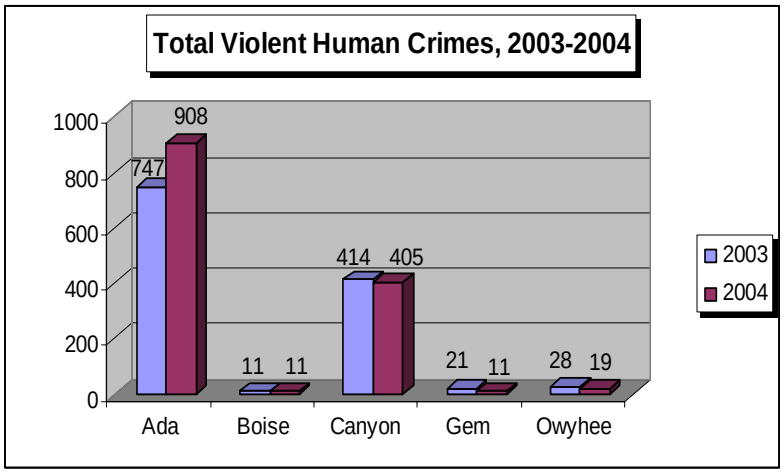
Violent crimes can be an indication of community health and safety, as they relate to the feelings of safety and security that many citizens value. Also, violent crimes can be related to other aspects of crime, such as property crimes and class "B" crimes. Clearly, low violent crime rates in a community would indicate better health and a safer environment.

About the indicator

Violent crimes are defined as reported crimes of aggravated assaults, murders, and robbery, known collectively as "violent human crimes." Presented here are both the most recent data for total violent crimes (2003 and 2004) in the MSA, broken down by county. When the data are presented as the percentage of change over time from 2000-2003 (see table below), "murder" is defined as murders and willful, non-negligent manslaughter.

Regional performance

Aggravated assaults account for most of the violent crimes reported in the region, at 89% of the total violent crimes. Robberies account for the 10%, and murders account for 1% of all reported violent human crimes since the MSA was defined. Broken down by county, Ada and Canyon counties, due to their role as population centers, account for the majority of all violent crimes.



The change over time in the violent crime trends indicate that while the rate of change for these violent crimes have tended to stay relatively constant at the national level, both murder rates and robbery rates have seen a significant increase in the MSA, while aggravated assault has only increased slightly.

Violent Human Crimes
Totals for Region, State, and USA

	Murder-2000	Murder-2003	Aggravated Assault-2000	Aggravated Assault-2003	Robbery-2000	Robbery-2003	Total % change 00-03
Region	4	17	1032	1064	98	143	7.7
Idaho	16	31	2627	2547	221	248	-1.5
U.S.A	15,586	16,503	911,706	857,921	408,016	413,402	-3.6

Closer look

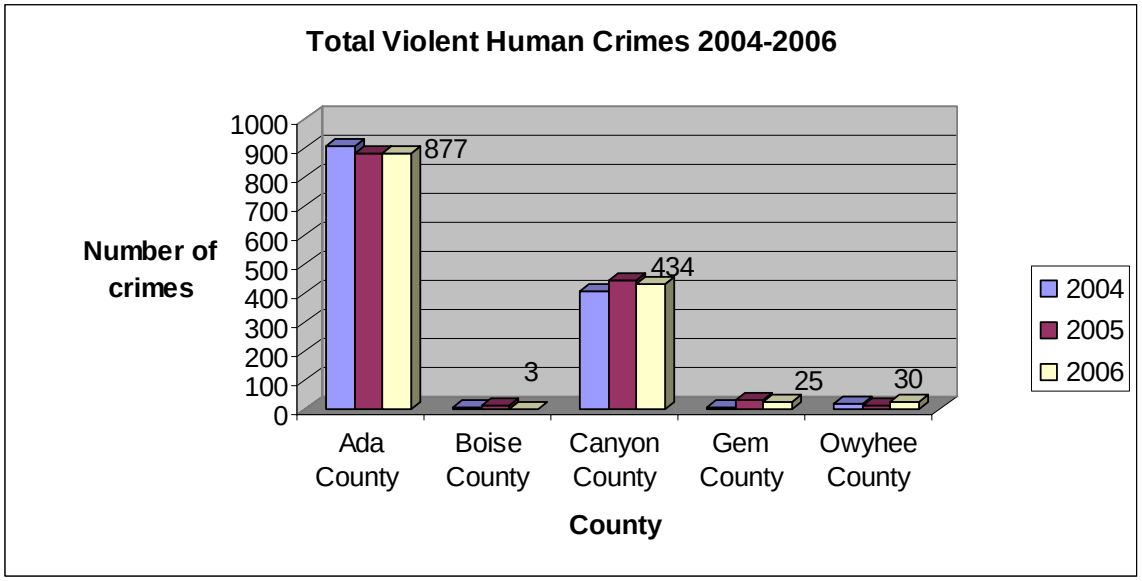
A closer look at the percentage change table, while presenting a shocking graphic at first glance, should be qualified with the fact that the number of murders in the MSA in 2003, for example, was merely 2.6 per 100,000 citizens, significantly lower than comparable regions (see peer regions). Indeed, when the data are presented in relation to population size, we see, the murder rate increase from .97 per 100,000 in 2000 to 2.6 per 100,000 in 2004, or a rate increase of approximately 1.6 per 100,000. Given the size of the population in the region and the low violent human crime rates, the Boise-Nampa MSA compares well to the peer regions.

Since Last Report
Violent Crimes

The data presented below show that the number of violent crimes in Idaho and the Boise region have increased fairly significantly over the past seven years while violent crime has remained relatively constant at the national level. As the number of crimes has gone up in the Boise MSA, however, the crime rates have remained stable. For example, the murder rate in 2003 was 2.6 and it has only to 2.7 is 2006 (see peer region section).

Violent Human Crimes
Totals for Region, State and USA
2000-2007

	Murder-2000	Murder-2006	Aggravated Assault-2000	Aggravated Assault-2006	Robbery-2000	Robbery-2006	Total % Change 00-06
Region	4	15	1,088	1,155	99	184	13.7
Idaho	16	31	2,627	2,686	221	296	5.2
USA	15,586	17,034	911,706	860,853	408,016	447,403	-0.76



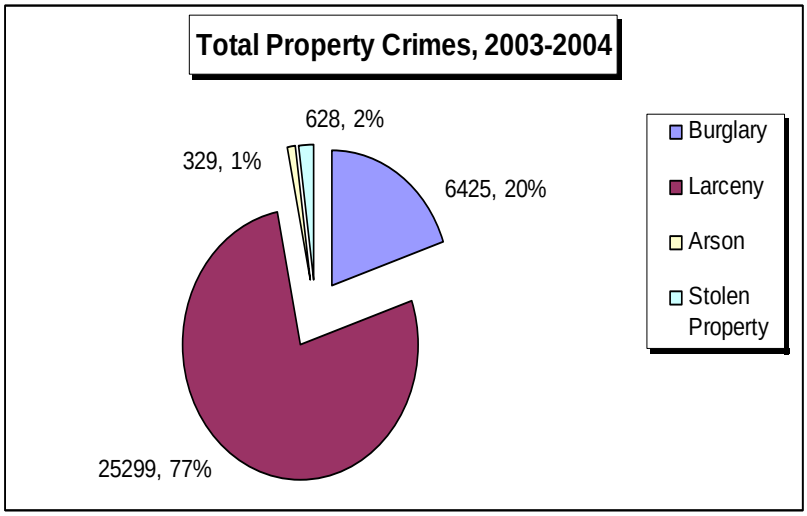
Property Crimes

Why it matters

Property crimes, while not necessarily harming individuals directly can cause irreplaceable damage to public and personal property, which can, over time, decrease property values and increase insurance premiums and rates. These deleterious effects can chip away at a sense of personal safety and security in a community.

About the indicator

Property crimes are defined as reported crimes of burglary, larceny, arson, and stolen property. Presented in this section are the most recent data for total property crimes (2003 and 2004) in the MSA, as well as data broken down by county.

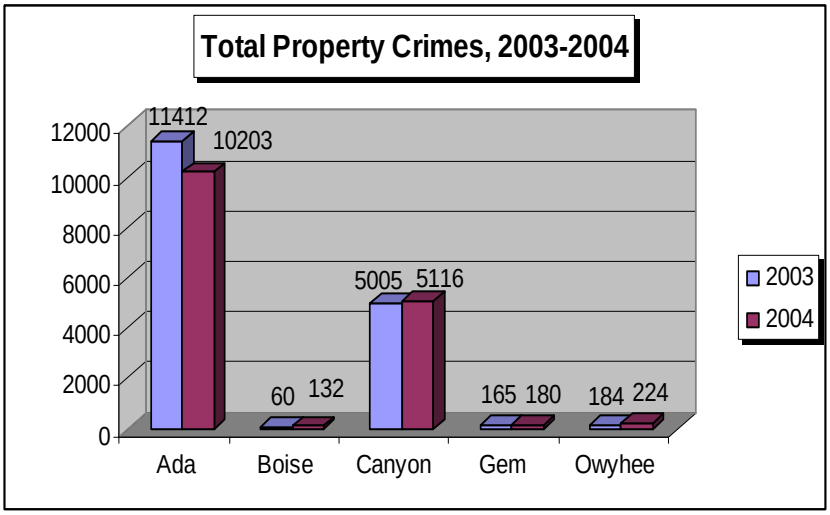


Regional performance

Total property crimes throughout the MSA center in both Ada and Canyon counties, likely an indication of the two counties being the population centers. Also, in most counties, the reported crimes are relatively consistent, with only Boise county showing significant increase in the number of reported property crimes.

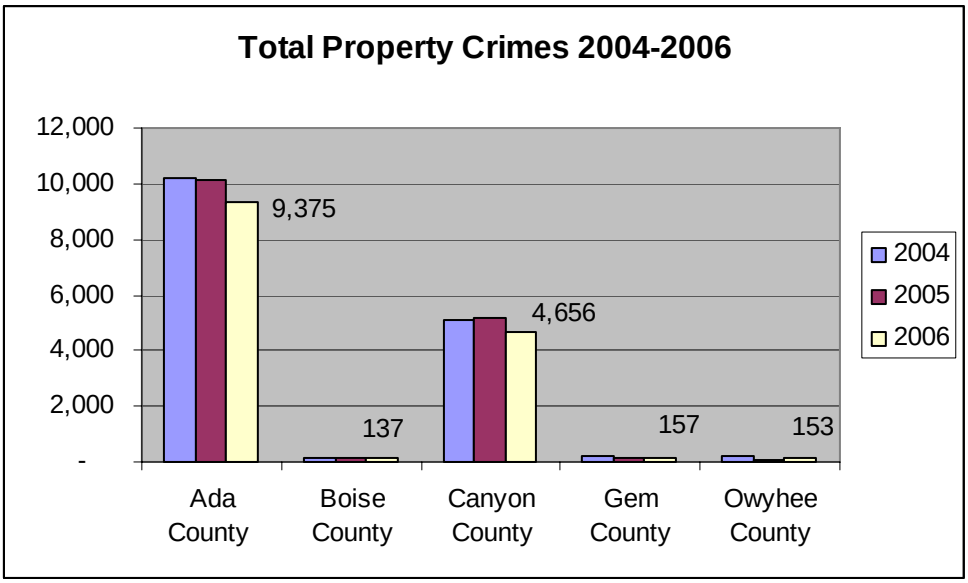
A Closer look

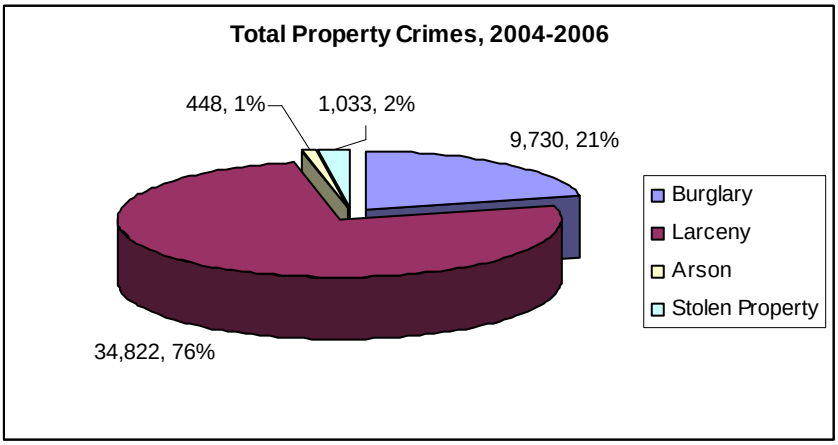
The clear majority of reported property crimes are larceny, at 77%, with burglary at 20%, followed by stolen property (2%) and arson (1%). We see that property crimes are very low, with larceny being around 4.7 reported crimes per 100,000 and burglary at around 1.2 reported crimes per 100,000.

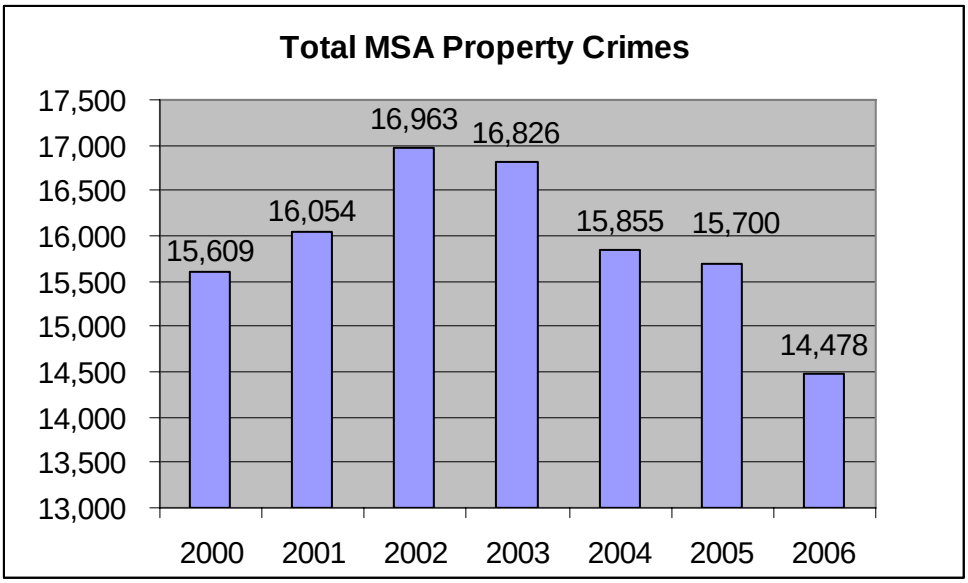


Since Last Report
Property Crime

The majority of property crimes have remained consistent over the past several years with larceny accounting for 76% of crimes, burglary 21%, stolen property 2%, and arson 1%. These statistics remained constant from the last State of the Region report conducted in 2005. Property Crime has decreased fairly significantly since 2002.






Total MSA Property Crimes
17,500
17,000
16,500
16,000
15,500
15,000
14,500
14,000
13,500
13,000
15,609
16,054
16,963
16,826
15,855
15,700
14,478
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006

Drug Offenses

Why it matters

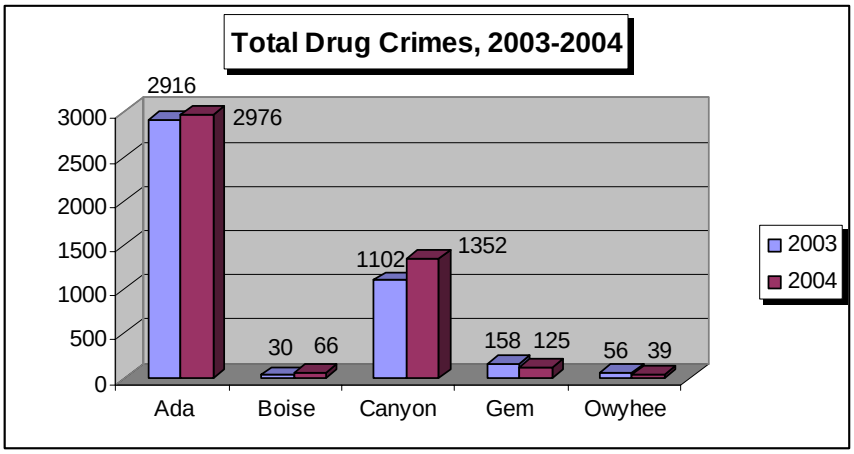
Reports of high drug equipment use or trafficking can be an indication of high drug use in the community. The sale and use of drugs can also be linked to other crimes, violent or otherwise.

About the indicator

Drug offenses are defined as reported narcotics use and reported drug equipment offenses. The values are reported as total number of offenses in 2003 and 2004.

Regional performance

The breakout between reported narcotics use and reported drug equipment is approximately 50/50 in the MSA. Interestingly, there is a slight increase in drug offenses in both Ada and Canyon counties, and a slight decrease in offenses in Gem and Owyhee counties. Again, the largest percentage increase was in Boise County going from 30 reported offenses to 66.

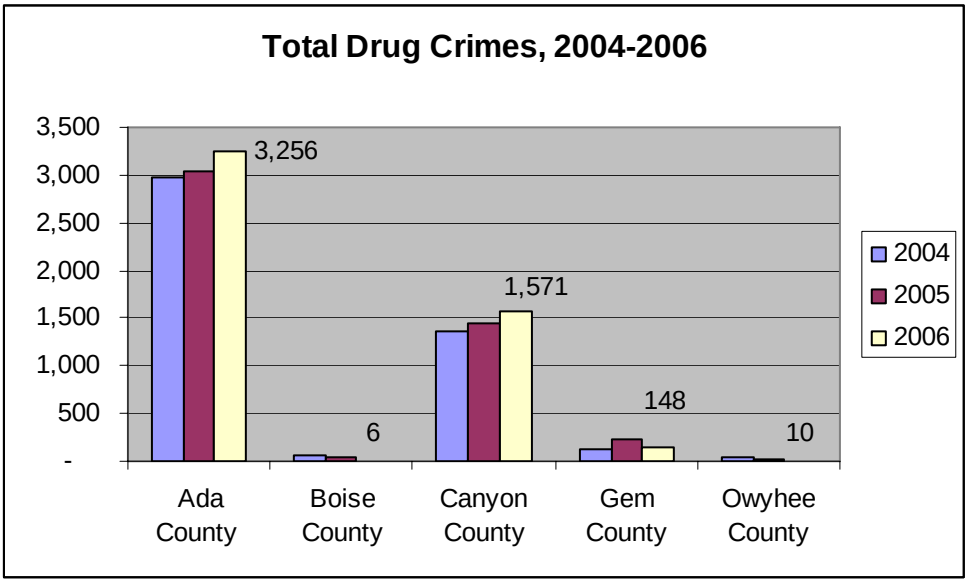


Closer look

Over time, this indicator will provide us with much more information as we will be able to track long-term the amount of reported drug use and equipment violations, both by county and as an MSA. We know that the reported drug use in the MSA in 2004 is less than 1 report per 100,000 citizens, which is a very small proportion of the population. Time will provide us with extremely useful information to compare these data to.

Since Last Report
Drug Offenses

The 2005 State of the Region reported a decrease in drug and narcotic use in both Ada and Canyon counties, while showing an increase in Boise and Gem County. The trend has reversed as drug use has increased in both Ada and Canyon counties over the past three years.



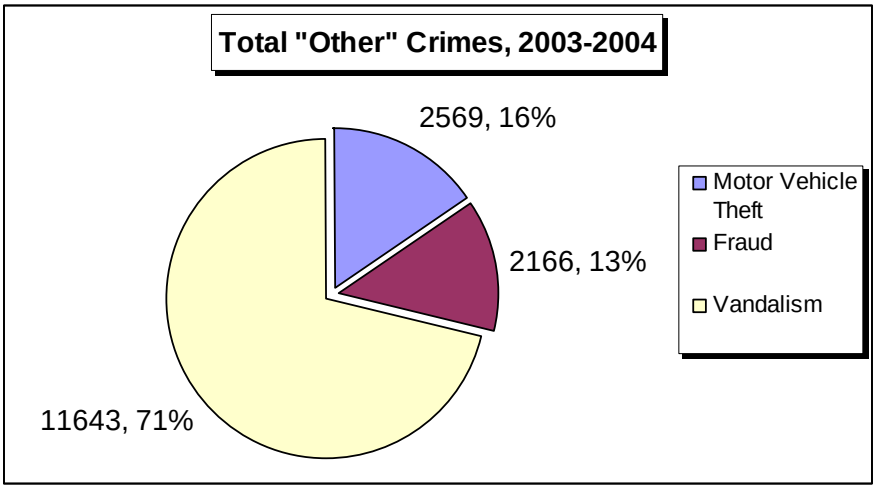
Other Crimes

Why it matters

We have presented both violent crimes and property crimes in this report. To provide the most comprehensive picture of the crime in the Boise MSA, we will also present the indicators that did not necessarily fit into the previous two categories. These three types of crime-motor vehicle theft, fraud, and vandalism-affect the overall feeling of safety much the way property crimes do.

About the indicator

"Other crimes" are defined in this reported as reported incidents of motor vehicle theft, fraud, and vandalism. Presented in this section are the total "other" crime indicators for 2003 and 2004, as well as how each indicator is related to the other indicators.

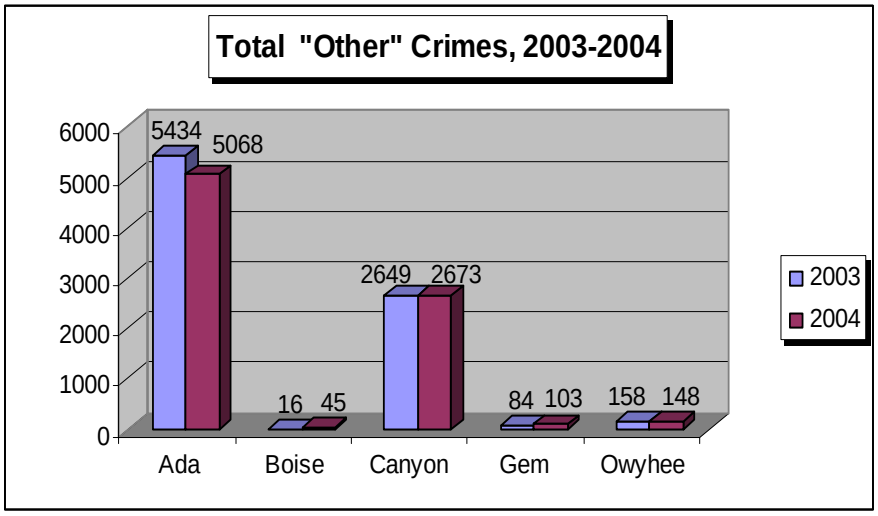


Regional performance

The same pattern exists with these crime indicators as with the others, namely Ada and Canyon counties have the highest number of reported crimes, however Boise County sees the largest percentage of increase from 2003 to 2004. All of the other counties stay relatively constant, with Ada and Owyhee Counties dropping in reported incidents.

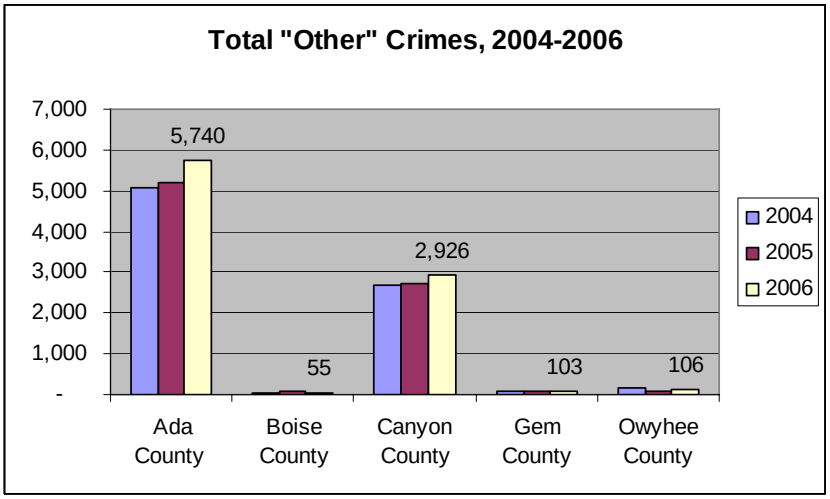
Closer look

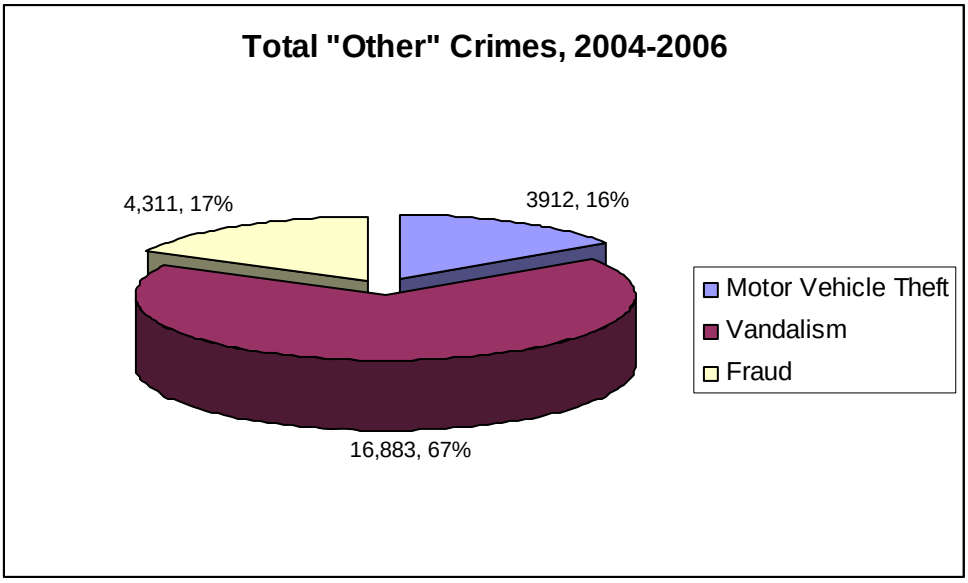
In the MSA, vandalism makes up the majority of these crimes, with 71% of the total, followed by motor vehicle theft (16%) and fraud (13%). The MSA is 12th out of 15th in our peer regions relative to motor vehicle theft, which puts into perspective the relatively low numbers of thefts (2569 over a two-year period) of motor vehicles.



Since Last Report
Other Crimes

The 2005 State of the Region report demonstrated that out of all other crimes, 71% were vandalism, 16% were motor vehicle theft, and 13% were fraud. Measuring reported crimes from 2004-2006 shows that those numbers are beginning to change as 67% of other crimes are classified as Vandalism, 17% fraud, and 16% motor vehicle theft. The trend analysis below shows that "Other" crimes are steadily increasing in Ada and Canyon counties.





Environment

Drinking Water

Why It Matters

A safe and dependable drinking water supply is critical to the health and prosperity of every community. The availability and purity of drinking water can effect land use decisions, economic development, public health and safety – all having a direct impact on the quality of life. Contaminated drinking water can cause acute and chronic health problems such as illness, cancer and birth defects. Contaminated drinking water is especially harmful to infants, children, the elderly and people with compromised immune systems. Approximately 95% of the state's drinking water comes from ground water. Surface waters, such as streams, rivers, reservoirs, and springs, supply the remaining 5%.

About the Indicator

Drinking water safety in Idaho is regulated by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and the Idaho Rules for Public Drinking Water Systems (IDAPA 58.01.08). The SDWA, first passed by the U.S. Congress in 1974, was amended in 1986 and 1996. The 1996 amendments set national limits on the levels of contaminants in drinking water to ensure that the water is safe for human consumption. These limits are known as maximum contaminant levels (MCLs). The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is the state agency delegated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to implement the safe drinking water program in Idaho.

In order to ensure the public health, DEQ monitors public water systems to ensure that drinking water standards are being met. Information on violations of federal and state drinking water regulations by public water systems in Idaho are reported in Annual Compliance Reports. The report provides a general yearly overview of public drinking water in Idaho, as well as PDWS violations. Violations include maximum contaminant limit (MCL), and surface water treatment technique and monitoring violations. The report does not include private wells, which serve a significant portion Idaho.

Individual drinking water systems are required to provide a Consumer Confidence Report annually. This provides customers with specific data on the performance of their drinking water purveyors.

Regional Performance

The region compromises 296 (14%) of the total number of PDWS in the state. In comparison to the State's performance, the region has almost 85% more violations per public drinking water system than the State. In this region, the majority of systems are non-municipal and are usually very small systems serving few customers. That is, these water systems may or may not have governing boards, are usually not-for-profit, and many have less than ideal administrative capacities to keep up with the increasing complexity of the legal requirements. Resistance to annexation leads to systems being established independently. This may be financially attractive at first, but as regulations become more complex, these systems lack the economies of scale to finance needed improvements.

In 2004, for the 296 public drinking water systems present in the region, there were 44 MCL violations and 508 surface water treatment technique and monitoring violations. Of the regional MCL violations 9% are attributed to arsenic, 9% to fluoride, 7% to nitrates,

and 75% to coliform bacteria. The presence of these bacteria in drinking water is usually a result of a problem with the treatment system or the pipes which distribute water, and indicates that the water may be contaminated with germs that can cause disease.

When looking at the 508 surface water treatment and monitoring violations, the majority of these are likely to be monitoring violations. This is because the great majority of water systems in the region use groundwater as their source.

What Does This Mean?

A violation may not necessarily be caused by human activities. Drinking water can also become contaminated by naturally occurring contaminants such as arsenic and fluoride. While fluoride is a compound that is added to many communities drinking water to enhance dental health, excess consumption of fluoride can contribute to bone disease over time.

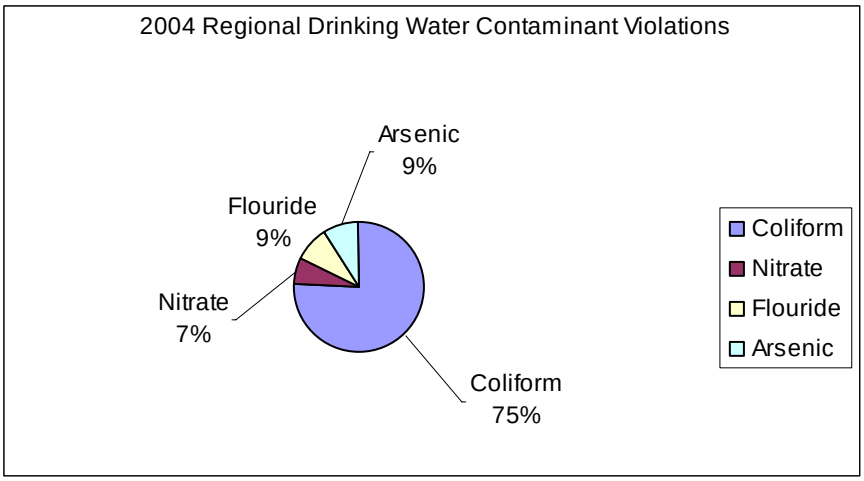
Other sources of contamination result from human activities such as industrial and agricultural practices. The primary source of nitrates, for example, result from human sewage, livestock manure (especially from feedlots), as well as inorganic nitrate fertilizers. The source of coliform bacteria in drinking water comes from human and animal waste.

The high number of surface water treatment and monitoring violations is of interest. If one assumes that the majority of those 508 violations are for monitoring violations, then the issue has two facets. The first is that violating monitoring requirements is an administrative capacity issue. Secondly, if proper monitoring does not occur, then the detection of contaminants – or the confirmation that the water is safe to drink – isn't confirmed. Monitoring violations must be reduced if customers are to know the condition of their drinking water.

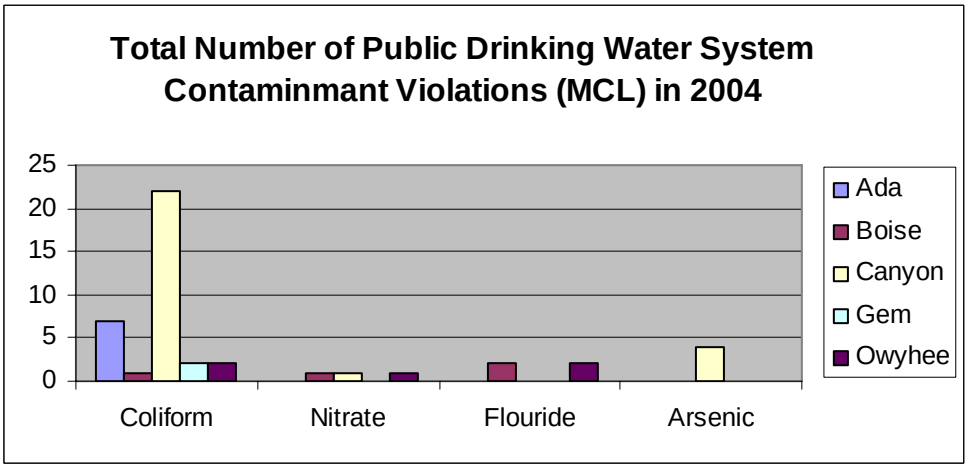
Closer Look

Of the contaminants of interest described earlier, the presence of coliform bacteria represents 75% of the contaminant violations in the region. Since coliform bacteria is an indicator that germs causing illness may be present in the distribution systems, water systems in violation are directed to take swift action to correct the situation. Aging water systems or systems that have not updated their treatment and distribution capital facilities – sometimes due to customer resistance to fund capital improvement – will be more likely to have additional challenges in the future.

While arsenic contaminant violations are 9% of the total, arsenic problems in drinking water are not as severe as in other parts of the state. Nitrate contaminant violations – 7% of the total – are less of a problem with public drinking water systems which tend to have deeper wells. Private wells, which are predominant in the region, are usually shallow groundwater wells. However, these are not regulated under SDWA. Nitrate contamination should be watched carefully over time given the economic activities in the region that may contribute to the problem.



The following table shows where MCL violations occurred by county in the region. Coliform bacteria MCL violations were the highest in Canyon and Ada Counties respectively. Arsenic MCLs violations occurred in Canyon County. Fluoride MCL violations were a problem in Boise and Owyhee Counties.



Source: DEQ's website - Water Quality: Drinking Water Program Overview http://www.deq.state.id.us/water/prog_issues/drinking_water/overview.cfm#info and 2004 Idaho Public Water System Annual Compliance Report http://www.deq.state.id.us/water/data_reports/drinking_water/acr_04.pdf 4/7/2006

Since Last Report

DRINKING WATER

MCL

Water quality data for Boise Gem and Owyhee Counties showed slightly increasing MCL violations over 2004, 2005, and 2006. Owyhee County continued on this upward trend for 2007 while Boise and Gem County violations dropped slightly.

Compared to other counties, Canyon County Violations were 2-3 times greater than other counties. MCL violations in Canyon County nearly doubled in 2006 compared to the previous year (26 in 2005, and 49 in 2006); violations dropped to 34 in 2007.

Total Treatment Technique and Monitoring

Ada, Boise, and Canyon County had 147, 159, and 161Treatment Technique and Monitoring violations in 2004. Gem and Owyhee counties had 24 and 17 violations respectively.

2005 saw drastic reduction in Treatment Technique and Monitoring violations in Ada Boise and Canyon County (15, 25, and 35 respectively). Gem and Owyhee County violations also decreased by roughly half (15, and 8 respectively).

2006 and 2007 Violations appeared to level off with Ada County showing a slight increase followed by a decrease in violations for 2006 and 2007.

Statewide violations reduced to nearly one third of total violations after 2004 1917, averaging 710 violations over the 2005-2007period.

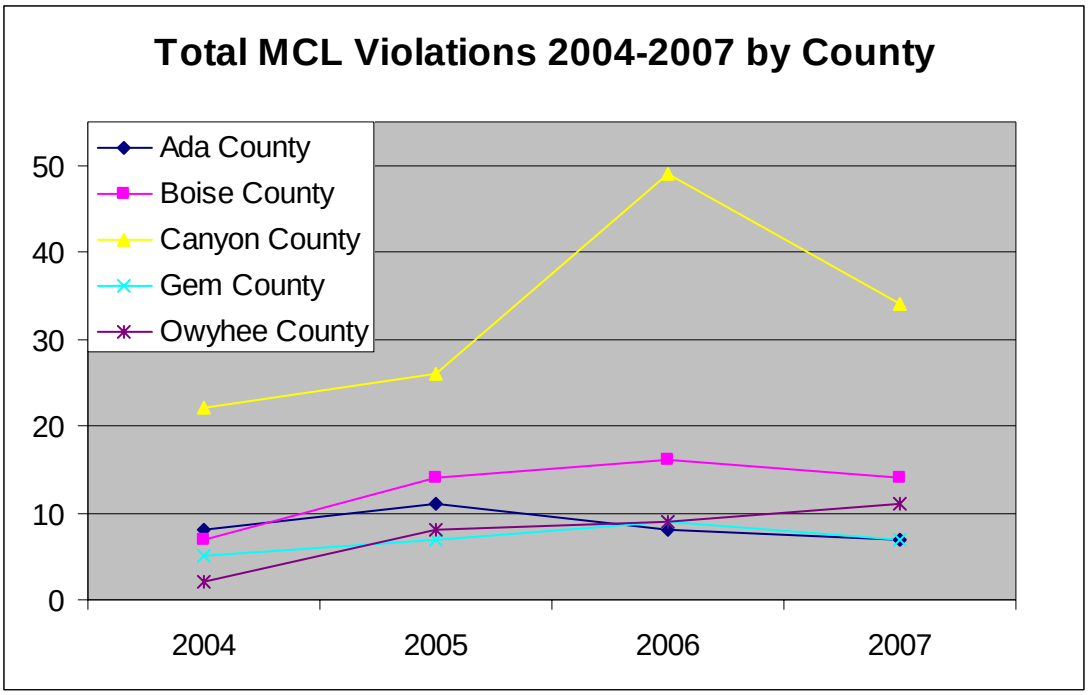
Total Violations

Data on total violations include Maximum Containment level and Total Treatment and Monitoring, therefore should follow Data Provided earlier.

Owyhee and Gem County had the lowest number of violations averaging 18.25 and 25 violations over the 2004-2007 period.

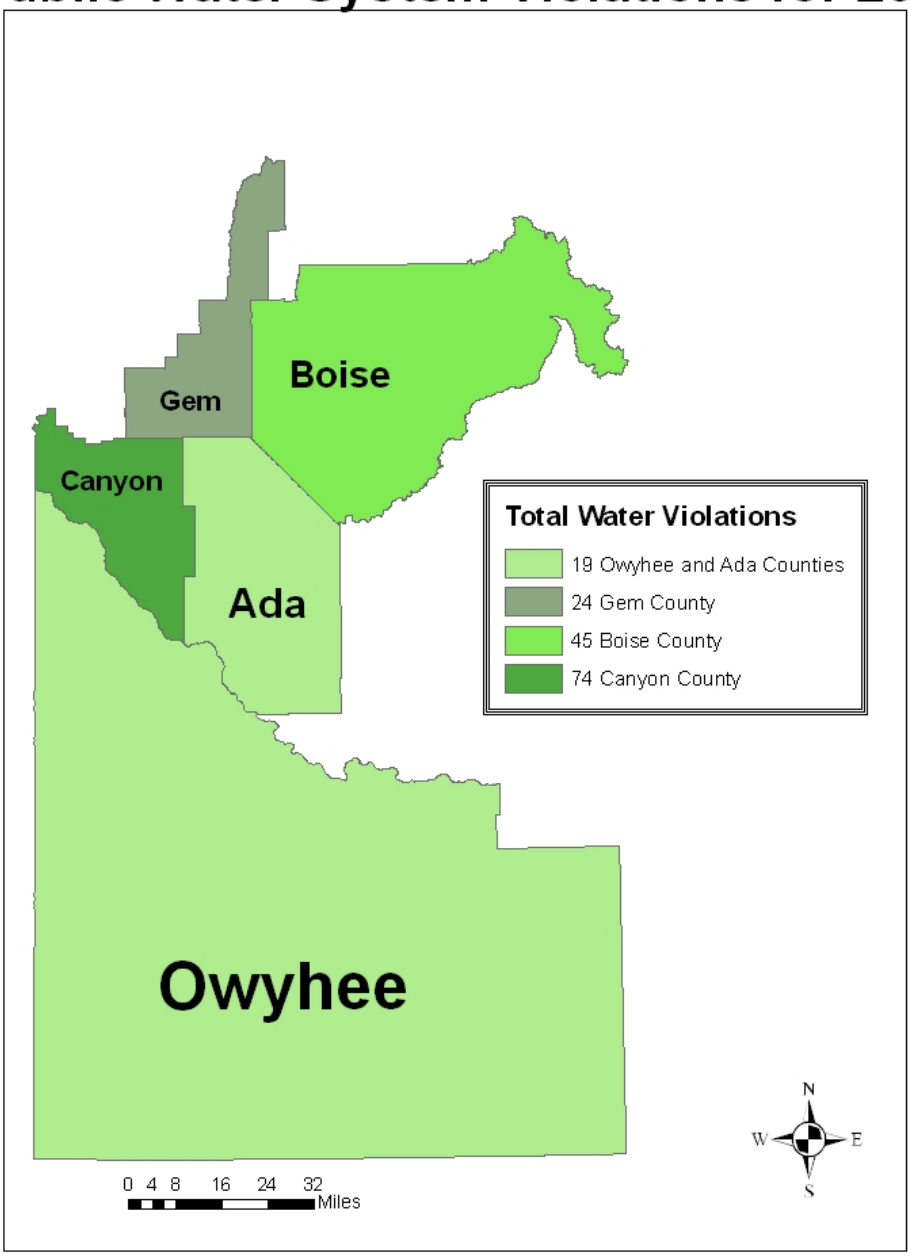
Ada and Boise Counties showed a major reduction of violations in 2005 with 26 and 39 violations respectively (down from 155 and 166 violations in 2004). Boise county exhibited an increase in violations in 2006 with 69 violations, while Ada county violations increased by 7 (33 total)

Canyon County has exhibited the highest violations with an average 104 violations over the last four years. Much like Boise County, Canyon County violations increased by 37 in 2006 (98 total violations).

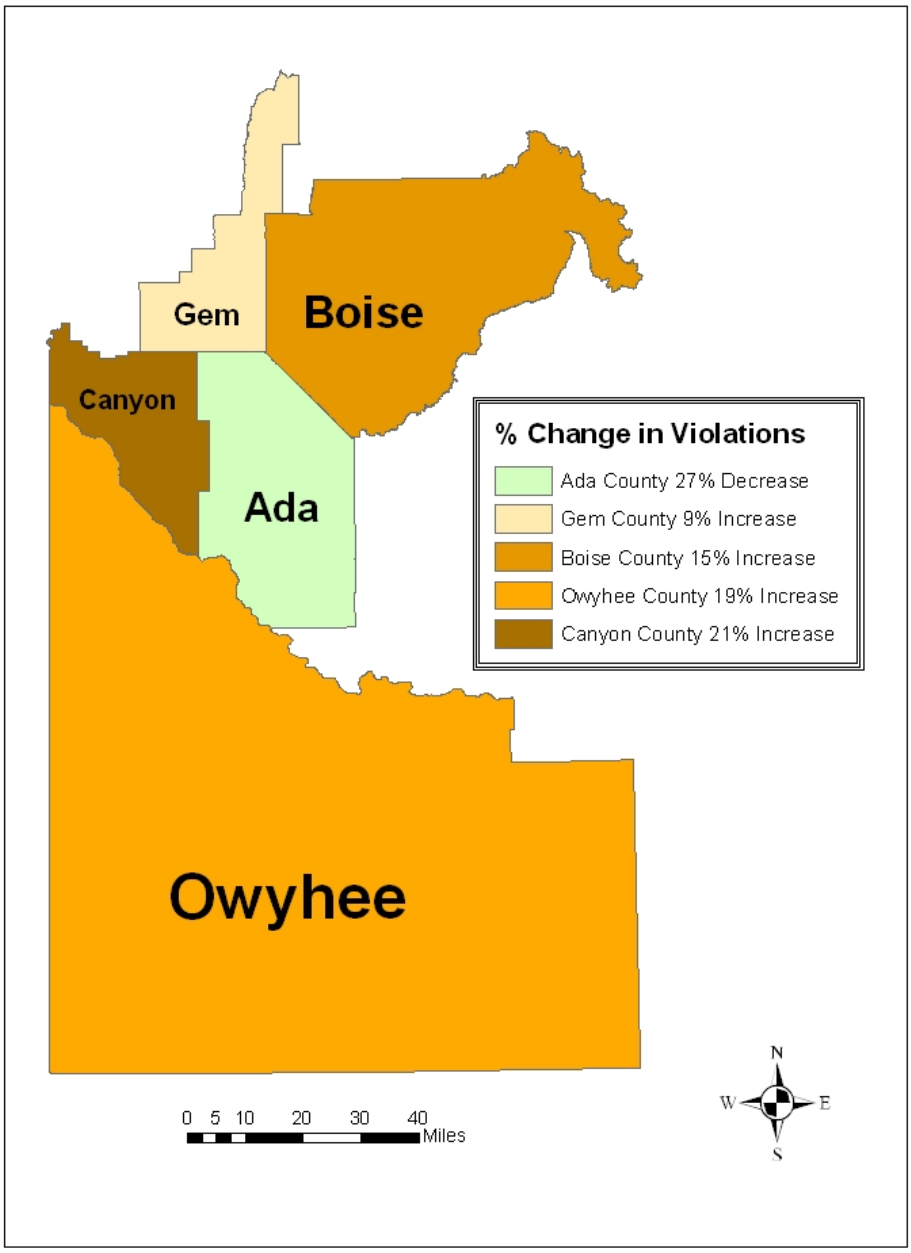

Total MCL Violations 2004-2007 by County
Ada County
Boise County
Canyon County
Gem County
Owyhee County
50
40
30
20
10
0
2004
2005
2006
2007

The two maps below provide a county-level represtation of water violations. The first map shows the total number of violations per county in 2007, while the second shows a percentage change from the last report. Clearly, all counties increased in violations, with the exception of Ada County.

Public Water System Violations for 2007



Percent Change in Water Violations From 2005-2007



Arsenic in Groundwater

Why it matters

Arsenic is a tasteless, order less semi-metallic element that is hazardous to humans if consumed at high levels. Elevated levels of arsenic can cause skin damage, problems with the circulatory system, and increase the risk of cancer.

Arsenic occurs in groundwater, which supplies 95% of the states drinking water. The presence of arsenic in groundwater can be attributed to natural deposits, as well as agricultural and industrial practices. To protect human health the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set the drinking water standard for arsenic at 10 parts per billion (ppb).

About the indicator

Idaho's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is responsible for protecting the quality of drinking water in Idaho. The DEQ gathered arsenic data between 1995 and 2002 from public and private wells used primarily for drinking water, irrigation, and groundwater monitoring. This information was published in DEQ's Ground Water Technical Report. Although this report provides valuable information into the quality of groundwater in Idaho, only 1.9% of all private wells in the state and 46.5% of all public wells in the state were sampled.

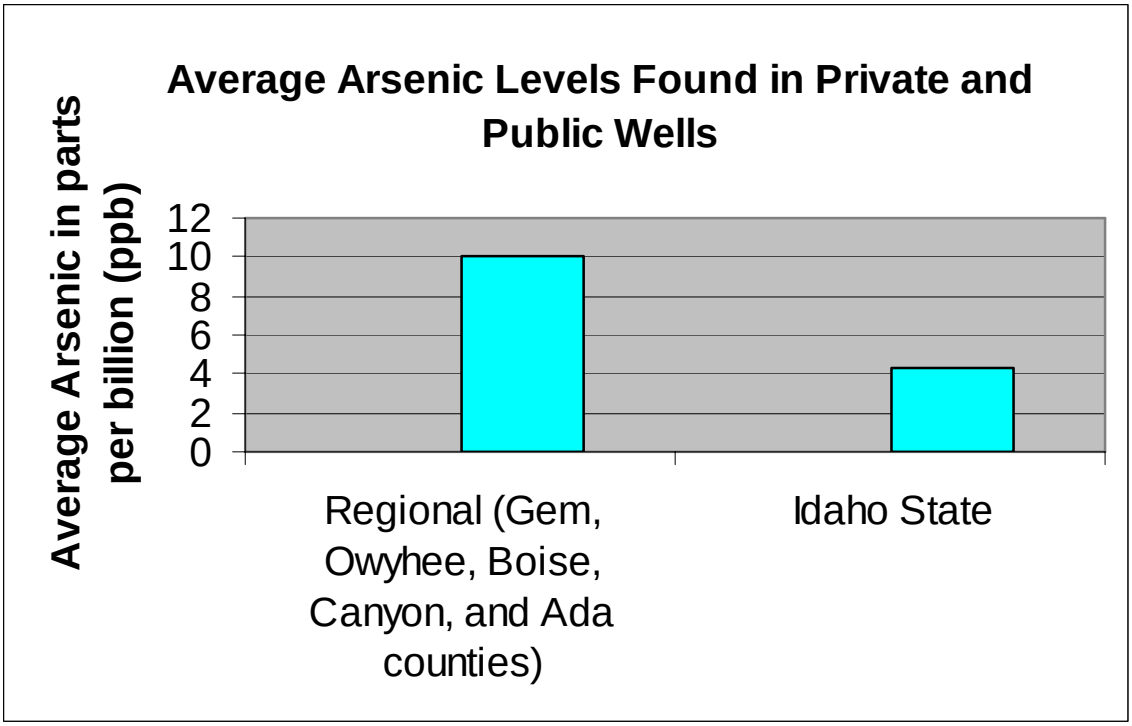
Regional performances

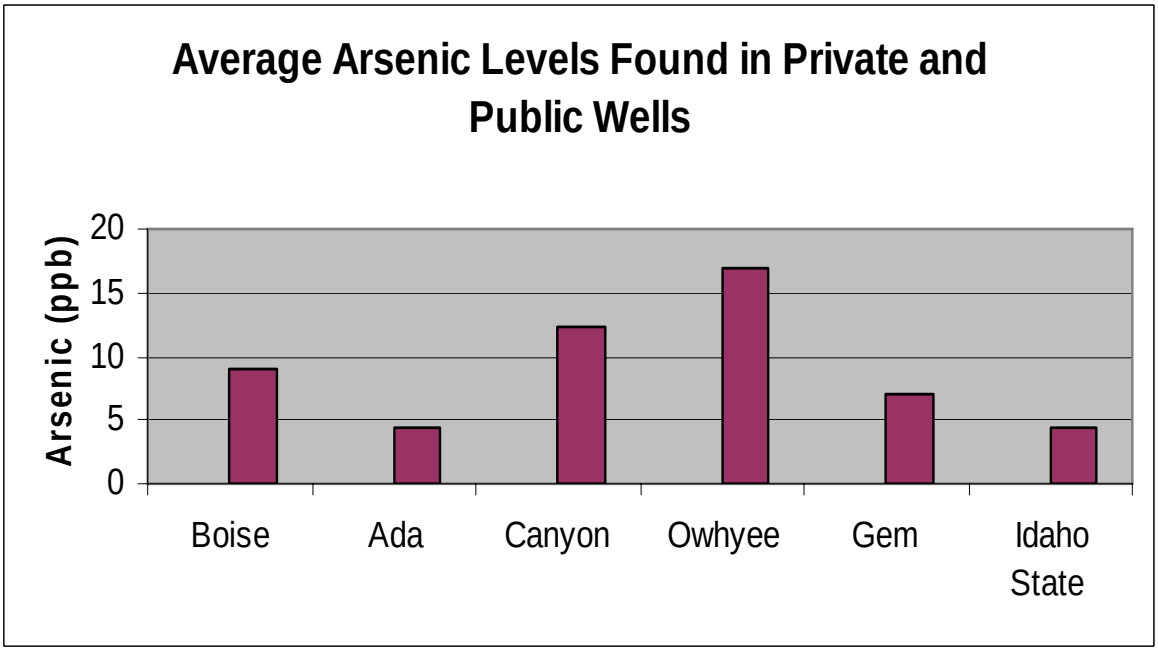
Southwest Idaho, in general, tends to have higher levels of arsenic in the groundwater. Owyhee County has the second highest average arsenic level in the state. Canyon County has the fifth highest average arsenic level in the state. The average of both counties exceed the EPA's arsenic limit. The State's average at 4.3 ppb is less than half that of the region's, which is 10.08 ppb.

Closer look

Much about arsenic is unknown, including the reason higher levels of arsenic are found in the region. Neither the geologic sources nor the complex geochemical processes by which arsenic is transported, stored, and released to ground water are well understood.

The <u>average</u> arsenic levels are higher for the region compared to the state, however, it should be noted that both averages are at or below the MCL of 10ppb. Canyon and Owyhee counties have the highest average arsenic levels in the region. Ada County has the lowest average.





Source: DEQ's Groundwater Technical Report #23
http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/data_reports/ground_water/arsenic_county_level.pdf

Since Last Report

Drinking Water Arsenic
Ada County had zero drinking water arsenic violations over the 2005-2007 reporting period

Boise County showed increased drinking water arsenic violations over the 2005-2007 reporting period with (3, 5, and 5 violations respectively). In 2004 Boise County reported zero arsenic violations.

Canyon County showed a marked increase in drinking water arsenic violations over the 2005-2007 reporting period (0, 22, and 18 respectively). In 2004 Canyon County reported four arsenic violations.

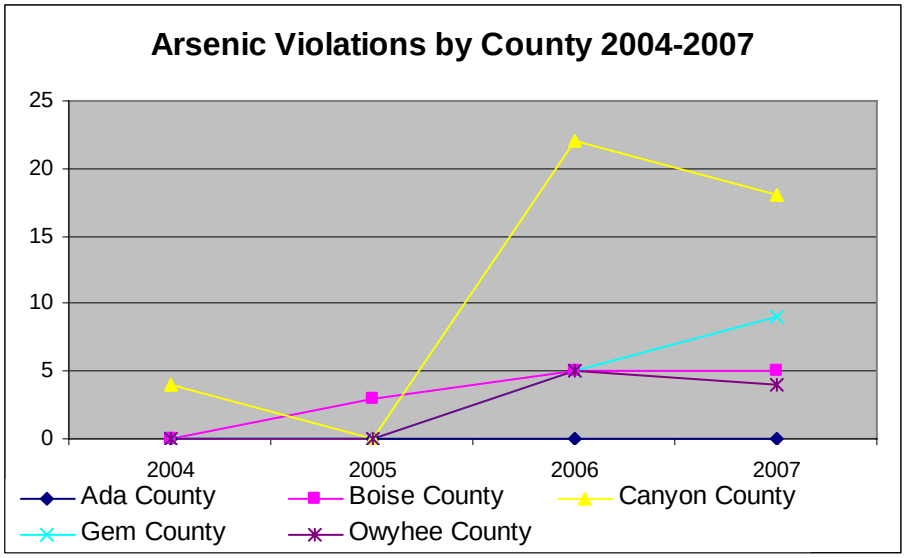
Gem County showed a slight increase in drinking water arsenic violations over the 2005-2007 reporting period (0, 5, and 9 respectively). In 2004 Canyon County reported zero arsenic violations.

Like Gem County, Owyhee County showed a slight increase in drinking water arsenic violations over the 2005-2007 reporting period (0, 5, and 4 respectively). In 2004 Owyhee County reported zero arsenic violations.

Fluoride
Region wide Fluoride violations remained level in Ada, Canyon and Gem Counties with zero violations over the 2005-2007 reporting period.

Boise County experienced the highest Fluoride levels with an increase from two violations in 2004, to eight violations in 2005 and 2006. Fluoride violations decreased slightly in 2007 with six total violations.

Owyhee County experienced only a slight increase in Fluoride Violations during the 2005-2007 reporting period (4, 3, and 3 violations respectively). In 2004 Owyhee County reported two Fluoride violations.



Air Quality

Why it matters

Degradation of air quality affects public health. It also impacts the economy and development of the region. Larger cities, such as Denver and Los Angeles, have a reputation for having "smog," which is a measure of quality of life for most of their citizens and visitors. Recreation and other normal physical activity can be restricted when air quality is unhealthy. The development of communities that exceed air pollution limits – reaching a state of "non-attainment" with pollution standards – can be hampered through restrictions on how and when transportation funding can be used.

About the indicator

Pursuant to the Federal Clean Air Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to monitor the air quality. The EPA created the Air Quality Index (AQI) to help the public better interpret and understand air quality in their area. Each day, ground-level ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide (the five major air pollutants) are measured across the State and compared to the federal standard. Based on the standard, the AQI associates a numerical value and a health category with each day's air pollution levels (see table).

Air Quality	Protect Your Health	AQI
Good	**None**	**1 - 50**
Moderate	**Sensitive* people should consider limiting prolonged outdoor exertion.**	**51 - 100**
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	**Everyone should limit exertion outdoors.**	**101 - 150**
Unhealthy	**Everyone should limit exertion.**	**151 - 200**
Very Unhealthy	**Limit any exertion.**	**201 - 300**
Hazardous	**Stay indoors and avoid any exertion**	**301 - 500**

** Sensitive groups include children, the elderly, those with existing health conditions, and people who have high exposure (those who work, exercise, or spend extensive time outdoors).*

Source: Chart taken from DEQ's website http://www.deq.idaho.gov

Regional performance

The largest threat to air quality in the region occurs in Ada and Canyon Counties, where the highest rate of growth has occurred. The rapid growth, topography and weather patterns of the region make it highly susceptible to air quality problems.

In 2001 and 2002 Ada and Canyon Counties had several days where the AQI was above 100, a violation of EPA's standard. During the summer months the unhealthy AQI ratings were due to elevated ozone levels detected by air monitors. In the winter months both counties exceeded the fine particulate matter (PM2.5) standard.

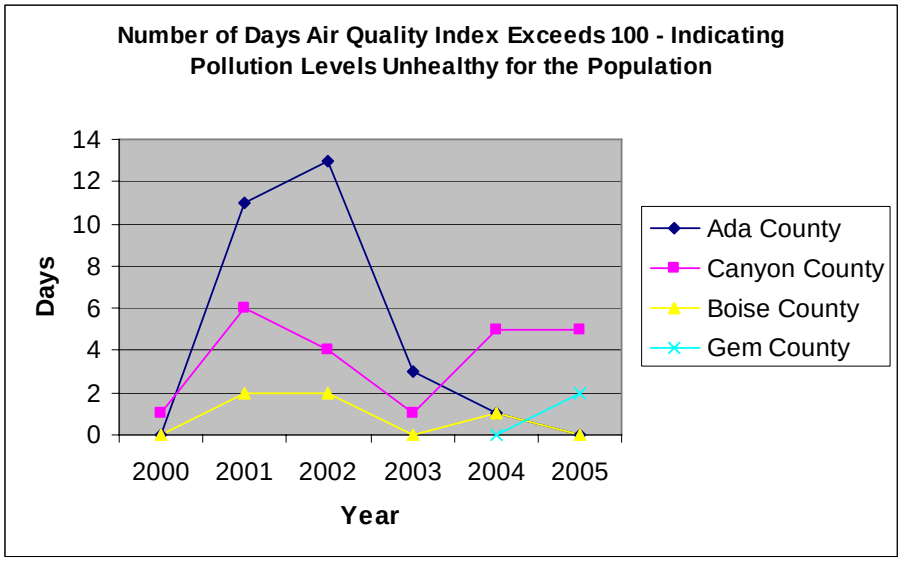
Since 2002, Ada County's performance has improved. In 2005 there were no AQI days above 100. Canyon County's performance also improved in 2003, dropping to only one AQI day. However, in 2004 and 2005 Canyon County had increased to 5 AQI days over 100.

Closer look

The region has experienced rapid growth, which can make air quality problems more severe. However, certain pollutants such as carbon monoxide (CO) (main pollutant associated with vehicle exhaust) have not exceeded air quality standards since 1991. No violations in coarse particulate matter (PM10) have been recorded since 2002. These improvements, in spite of growth, can be attributed to DEQ air quality program, which has implemented greater pollutant control measures.

Ozone and PM2.5 are responsible for all air quality violations since 2002 and continue to be pollutants of concern in the region. Winter months are especially susceptible to elevated levels of PM2.5 and PM10 due to inversions that occur in the region. Summer months are more vulnerable to ozone standard violations, attributed to the stagnant air conditions, heat, and intense sunlight. Larger numbers of industrial air pollution and increases in the number of drivers can exacerbate these problems.

Air pollution levels are a function of contaminants, but weather has a great effect on whether pollutants become concentrated or are dispersed. Performance in recent years could be related to good weather patterns as much as anything, given the continued high rate of growth in population and traffic in the region.



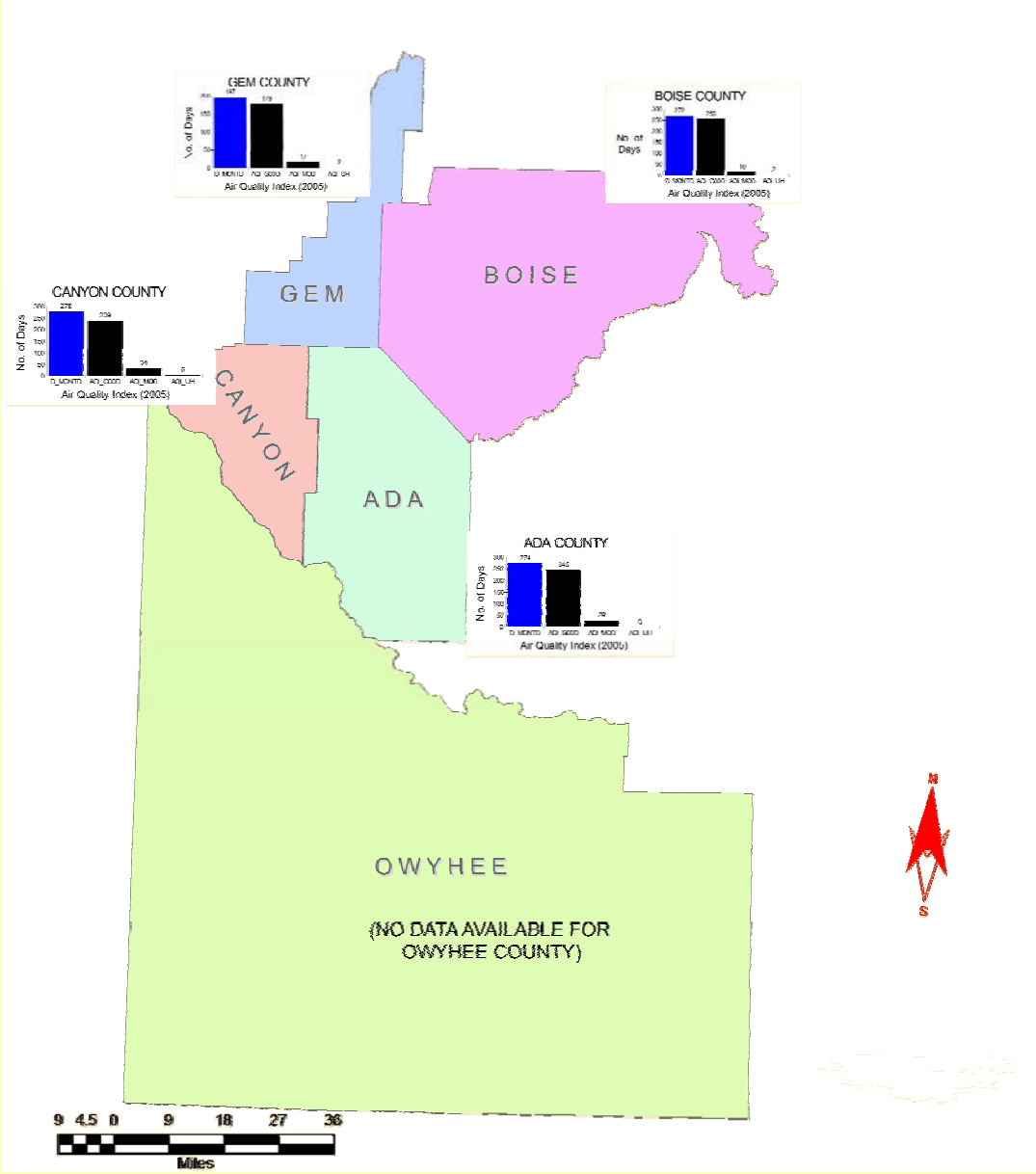
Data not available for Owyhee Co.
Data for Gem Co. is only available for 2004 and 2005

Source: EPA's Air data website Air Quality Index Chart 2/13/2006 and DEQ's AQI website http://www.deq.idaho.gov/air/data_reports/monitoring/aqi.cfm

Boise Region Air Shed Quality Index

The map on the following page depicts the recent air quality of four counties in the treasure valley air shed within the Boise region. The counties included are Ada, Boise, Canyon and Gem. One of the parameters that control the air quality is our vehicle use. It is followed closely by the natural contribution of weather conditions like air inversions, wind, industrial, manufacturing and farm activities and even the sanding icy roads in the winter.

Data obtained, to make the map were collected from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) from January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005, of the Air Quality Index (AQI). It includes data for the AQI, the number of days monitored, and the percent of days categorized as good, moderate and unhealthy for sensitive populations.



FOUR COUNTY AIR QUALITY INDEX FOR 2005

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Violations

Why it matters

Facilities that discharge wastewater run a risk of polluting the receiving surface waters. Legally limiting the amount of a particular pollutant(s) that is discharged helps ensure that surface water quality standards will be met. If facilities are not complying with the permit and have received a violation, water bodies may be negatively impacted. Water body degradation from pollutants can harm human health, aesthetic value, recreational opportunities, and fish and wildlife. The Boise River, a prominent feature of the region, is subjected to numerous discharges as it courses to the Snake River.

About the indicator

The Federal Clean Water Act requires industrial, municipal, and other wastewater dischargers that fall under point sources of pollution (pollution from discrete conveyance or pipe) to be permitted. In Idaho, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issues and enforces all permits under the Nation Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The NPDES permit limits the amount of pollutant(s) that may be discharged to surface water by a facility during a certain time frame.

There are two types of permits: general and individual. General permits cover multiple facilities within the same industry. Concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), aquaculture, and storm water all fall under general permits. Individual permits usually cover publicly owned treatment works and private industrial facilities that produce wastewater.

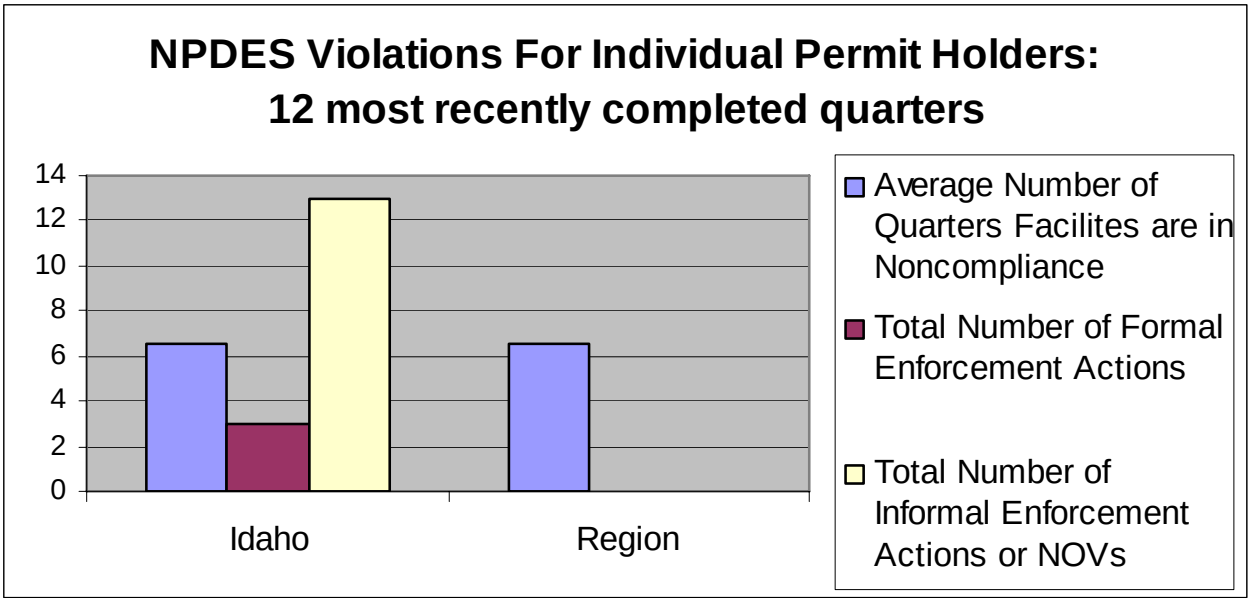
The EPA conducts inspections of permitted facilities and issues informal enforcement actions or notice of violations (NOVs), for less significant violations and formal enforcement actions, for significant violations. A formal enforcement action can result from an NOV when the violation persists and/or is deemed significant by the EPA. In addition, the EPA tracks quarterly the number of facilities that have been in violation.

Regional performance

There are six individually permitted facilities in the region. On average, within the last 3 years or 12 quarters, those 6 facilities have been in violation for 6.5 quarters. Neither NOVs nor formal actions have been issued within the last three years in the region. Facilities in the region range from 1 to 12 quarters in violation.

Closer look

The average number of quarters that facilities are in noncompliance in the region is similar to those of the state. However, there have been no formal enforcement actions reported in the region over the past 12 quarters. This is also true for the number of informal enforcement actions or NOVs for the region.



Source: EPA's Echo (NPDES Compliance Tracking Database)http://www.epa.gov/echo/compliance_report_water.html

Brownfields

Why it matters

A Brownfield is any property, where redevelopment or reuse is complicated by the presence or perceived presence of pollutant(s) or contaminant(s). Common examples of sites include: municipal dumps, old dry cleaner sites, old mill sites, mine-scarred lands, properties with leaking tanks, and illegal drug labs. Property that cannot be redeveloped or reused because of the presence or perceived presence of contaminants can inhibit economic growth as well as hinder the abilities to make improvements to communities. When Brownfield properties are avoided, undeveloped properties – usually on the outskirts of communities— are used. This can contribute to urban sprawl.

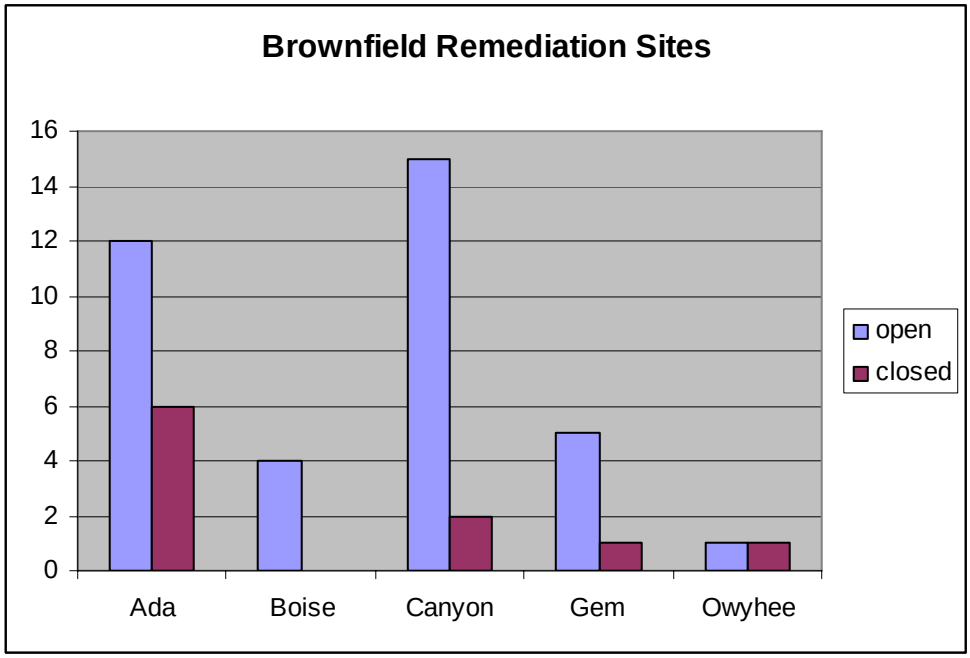
About the indicator

Idaho's Department of Environmental Quality's State Response program oversees remediation of sites contaminated by metals, petroleum leaking from underground storage tanks, and solvents entering soils and groundwater caused by these different activities. The presence of a closed brownfield indicates it has been remediated. An open brownfield is still contaminated and has not been remediated.

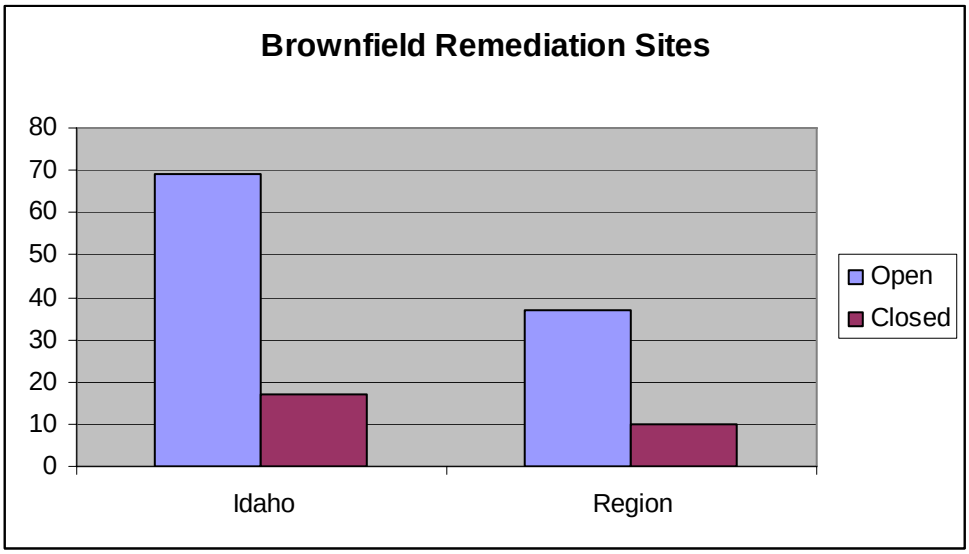
Regional performance

There are approximately 37 identified Brownfield sites open and 10 closed in the region. Seventy three percent of the open regional brownfields are within Ada and Canyon counties. In addition, eighty percent of closed brownfields are in Ada and Canyon Counties.

In comparison to the State, 35% of all open brownfields and 37% of all closed brownfields are in the region.



Reflects data collected on Feb. 12, 2006

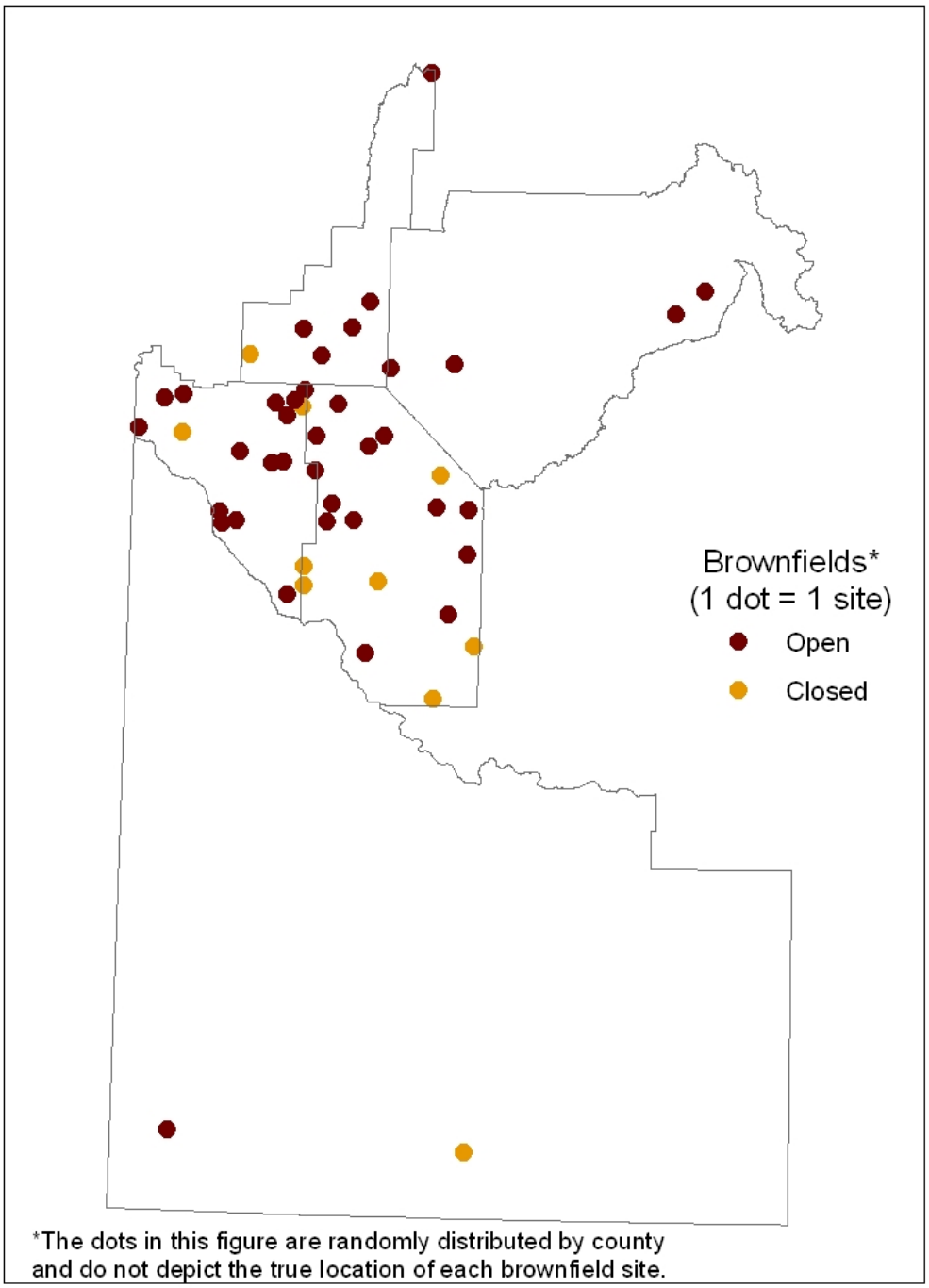


Reflects data collected on Feb. 12, 2006

These number reflect only those brownfield sites which the DEQ has entered into their mapping program, the actual number of brownfield sites is greater than depicted by the graphs.

Sources: DEQ's Brownfields Program
http://www.deq.idaho.gov/Applications/Brownfields/index.cfm?site=brownfields.htm

Brownfields by County. Canyon and Ada Counties contained the most brownfield sites in Southwest Idaho in 2005, with 15 and 12 open sites respectively. Ada County had 6 closed brownfields, and Canyon County has 2 closed sites. Owyhee County had only 1 open brownfield and 1 closed brownfield.



Surface Water Quality

Why it matters

Our rivers, lakes, streams, and wetlands not only provide great natural beauty, they supply the water necessary for drinking, recreation, industry, agriculture, and aquatic life. Poor water quality in the region can have a large negative impact on the environment, quality of life and economy.

About the indicator

Pursuant to the Federal Clean Water Act, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) must monitor and assess the surface water quality of the state through DEQ's Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program. Every two years the DEQ completes an Integrated Water Quality Report. This report details which water bodies in the state are not meeting the state water quality standards. The data were collected from the DEQ's 2002 Integrated Water Quality Report (the most recent report available).

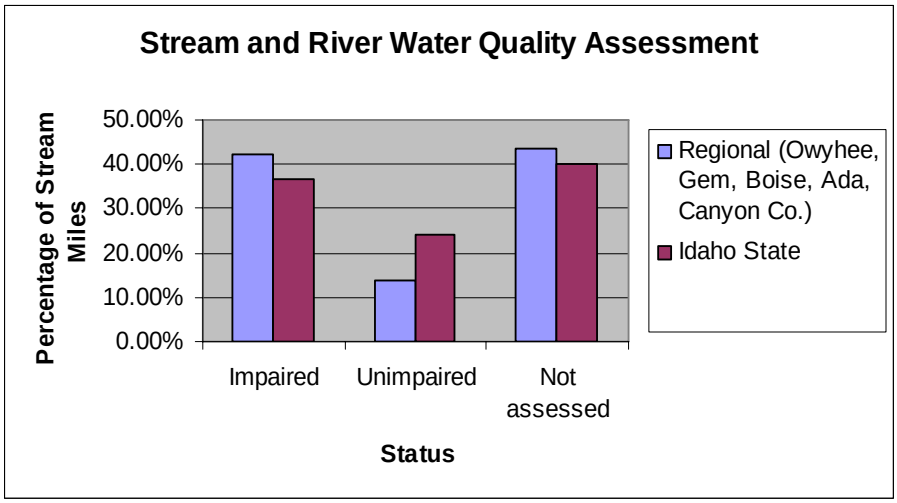
Unimpaired waters are waters in the state that are fully meeting the water quality standards. Impaired water bodies are not meeting one or more of the water quality standards criteria. Waters not assessed are water bodies that have not been monitored, and therefore cannot be categorized either way. The data shown only depict the water quality of streams and rivers, and does not include lakes and other large water bodies.

Regional performance

The region contains 13% of the State's streams and rivers. Almost half of the rivers and streams in the region have not been assessed. Of the total, 42.3% of the streams and rivers in the region are not meeting the State's water quality standards and 13.9% are fully meeting the State's water quality standards.

- Closer Look

There is a concern about the large numbers of rivers and streams still unassessed. The Clean Water Act requires that the designated beneficial use of these water ways be achieved. If when assessed, the water body fails to meet state water quality standards, DEQ's Surface Water Program must determine the causes and sources of pollutants and set maximum pollutant levels for that water body, called total maximum daily loads (TMDLs). If TMDLs are set, an implementation plan must be developed to identify actions of how the pollution will be reduced. Depending on the pollution reduction required, the local economy could be affected as the benefits of cleaner streams and rivers are realized.



Source: DEQ's 2002 Integrated Water Quality Assessment Report http://www.deq.idaho.gov/

Land Use

Land use is important to the long term sustainability of the quality of life in Boise. This is especially pertinent as Boise balances the most recent growth with demands on the land in the region. The State of the Region report presents several indicators on land use such as farms and farmland, office and industrial space and market value of land.

Farms and Farmland

Why it matters

The loss of farmland is often associated with sprawl. In metro areas were there is little population growth overall or population decline, then the loss of farmland is often considered evidence of sprawl. In metro areas experiencing rapid growth it may also be function of accommodating needs for housing for new entrants. In either case, the change in farms and farmland provide an indicator of the changing landscape of the region.

About the Indicator

The agricultural census has been taken every five years since 1982, prior to that it was taken as part of the decennial census of population and mid decade census began in 1925. Since 1982 the agricultural census is collected in 5 year cycles for years ending in 2 and 7, providing a detailed picture of U.S. farms for every state and county in the U.S. The census definition of a farm is any place from which a $1,000 or more of agricultural products are produced and sold.

Regional performance

Owyhee, Canyon and Ada counties top the list, and in that order, for the number of acres of farmland. From 1987 to 2002 Boise County witnessed the greatest decrease in farmland by 25 percent followed by Owyhee with a 20 percent decrease and Canyon with a 17 percent reduction in acres of farmland. The change in Ada County was roughly a 10 percent loss while Gem County's change was negligible by comparison at less than one percent reduction.

Overall the loss of farmland in the region was remarkably similar the State as a whole at approximately a 15 percent decrease. Thus, the actual amount of farmland in the region as percent of the all the farmland in the state was the same in 2002 and 1987.

Change in Farmland Acres by County, Region, and State, 1987-2002

County	1987	1992	1997	2002	% Change
Ada	247084	232879	231188	223388	-9.6
Boise	66811	80333	45461	50074	-25.1
Canyon	327869	391050	354919	271992	-17.0
Gem	222950	197176	182981	221200	-.8
Owyhee	716637	752032	682860	571051	-20.0
Region Total	1581351	1653470	1497409	1337705	-15.0
Idaho	13931875	13468992	11830167	11767294	-15.5
Acres in the Region as a % of Acres in the State of Idaho	11	12	13	11	

Closer look

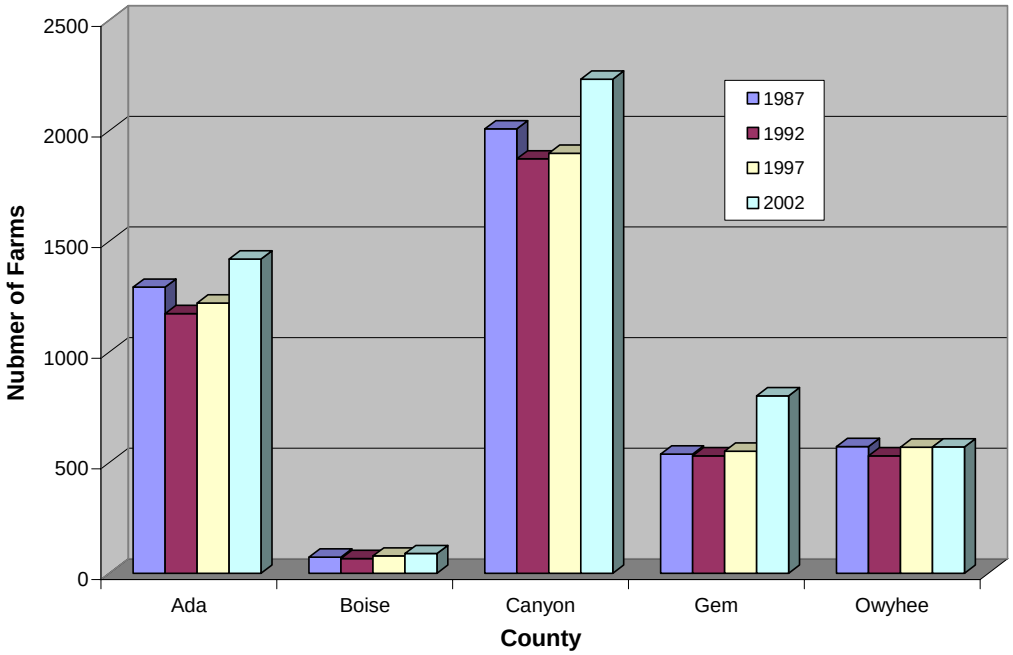
The number of acres in farmland has clearly gone down but the actual number of active farms has actually increased in the region and as a total of all farms in the state. In 1987, the region accounts for 18.6% of all the farms in the state but by 2002 that percentage grew by 20.5%

Change in the Number of Farms in the Boise Region

	1987	1992	1997	2002	%Change
Total Farms in the Region	4,487	4,176	4,319	5,115	14
Total in Idaho	24,124	22,124	22,314	25,017	3.7
Farms in the Region as a % of all Farms in the State of Idaho	18.60	18.88	19.36	20.45	

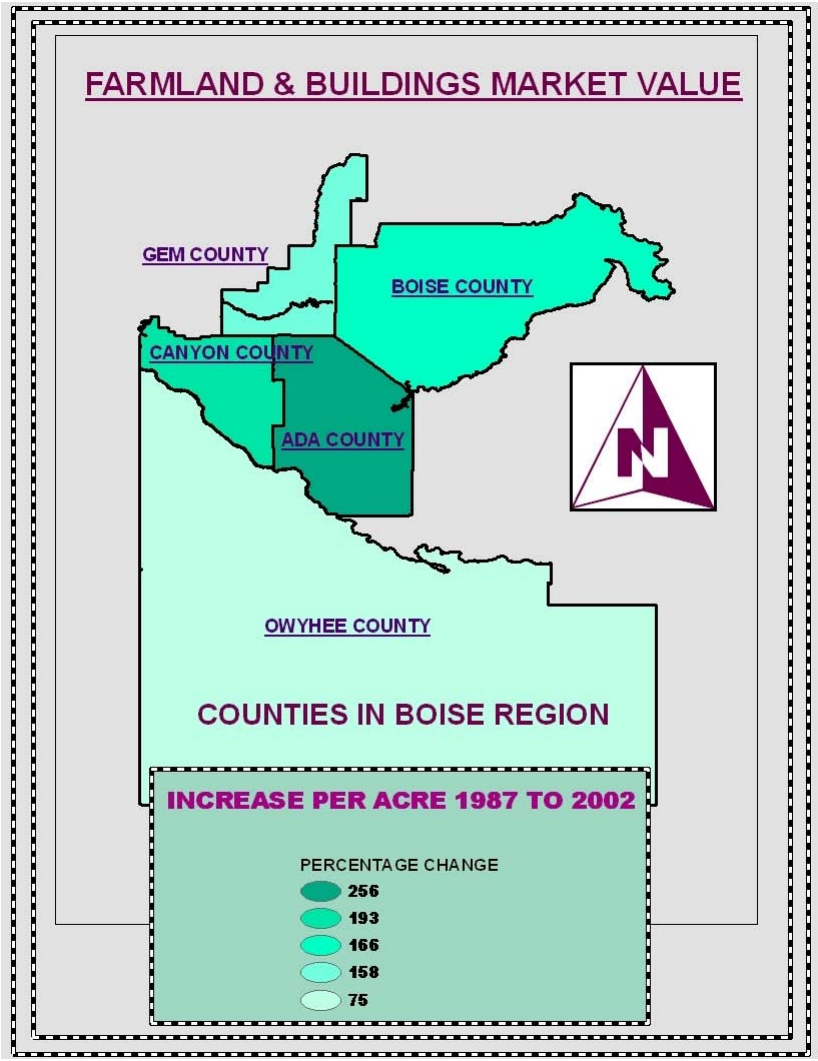
An even closer look at the county level data in the chart below show the number of farms grew the most in Gem County but growth in the urbanized counties of Ada and Canyon is also notable. Combined the data on farms and farmland suggests that smaller and perhaps even “hobby” farms may be contributing to the greater number of farms in the region since the total number of acres of farmland have declined both state and region-wide.

Farms by County, 1987-2002



Finally, the map below reveals that while there are fewer acres of farmland and more farms, the estimated average market value of farms and buildings has increased in all counties in the region over the15 year time period from 1987 to 2002. The largest

percentage increase in the average estimated value of farms and buildings was in Ada County with a 256 percent increase followed by Canyon with 193 percent increase. Boise and Gem county experienced comparable increases in their estimated farm and building value of 166 percent and 158 percent, respectively while Owyhee increased by 75 percent.



Sources:
U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Census of Agriculture data - http://www.nass.usda.gov/Census_of_Agriculture

Residential Development

Why it matters

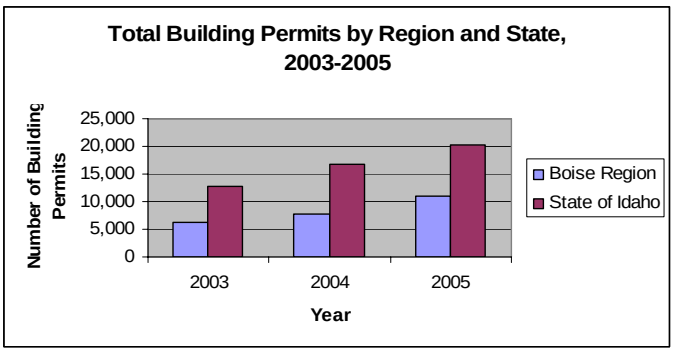
Simply put residential development is a measure of housing construction. The supply and demand for housing has consequences for the price and overall affordability of housing in the region. Residential development also provides information about the types, single or multi-family construction. This information is important for understanding the land use and density of development patterns in the region.

About the indicator

Data on building permits for residential construction come from the Housing and Urban Development's State of the Cities Data System. This data is from the Census Bureau's Building Permits Survey and is collected monthly for the Boise-Nampa MSA and State of Idaho.

Regional performance

The Boise region accounts for nearly one-half of the building permits for residential construction in the State. In 2003 the Boise region accounted for 48 percent of the permits issued in the state, 47 percent in 2004, and 55 percent in 2005.



Closer look

The data presented in the chart shows a marked increase in single family housing permits of 79 percent while multi-family structure permits have decreased by 39 percent. However, the data reveal varied differences in multi-family unit housing permits by type over the years. Multiple family housing with five or more units decreased dramatically over the three year period by 88 percent. However, two, three, and four multi-family structure permits increased in 2004 and then declined in 2005, however not to the lower levels found in 2003.

Building Permits by Housing Unit Type
Boise Region, 2003-2005

Housing Unit Type	2003	2004	2005	% Change
Units in Single-Family Structures	6,129	7,852	10,993	79
Units in All Multi-Family Structures	1,013	1,058	620	-39
Units in 2-unit Multi-Family Structures	102	192	160	57
Units in 3- and 4-unit Multi-Family Structures	361	786	392	9
Units in 5+ Unit Multi-Family Structures	550	80	68	-88
Total Units	7,142	8,910	11,613	63

Source: Housing and Urban Development (HUD), State of the Cities Data System - http://socds.huduser.org/permits/index.html

Since Last Report

Residential Development

The inclusion of the 2006 and 2007 data present an interesting story. In 2005, the number of building permits for single family structures peaked and nearly 11,000. Since then, a steady decline in permits shows that in 2007, the MSA has dropped to nearly half the number of permits allocated in 2003, at 3781. The drop from the peak in 2005 to its current low number seems reasonable given the current mortgage and foreclosure environment the country finds itself in. However, note also that the MSA still makes up nearly half of the total unit permits for the state.

Building Permits by Housing Unit Type Boise Region, 2003-2007

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	% Change
Units in Single-Family Structures	6,129	7,852	10,993	7,439	3,781	**-38.31%**
Units in All Multi-Family Structures	1,013	1,038	620	912	1,112	**9.77%**
Units in 2-Unit Multi-Family Structures	102	192	160	104	148	**45.10%**
Units in 3- and 4-Unit Multi-Family Structures	361	786	392	547	789	**118.56%**
Units in 5+ Unit Multi-Family Structures	550	80	68	261	175	**-68.18%**
Total Units for the Boise Region	**7,142**	**8,910**	**11,613**	**9,263**	**6,005**	**-15.92%**
Total Units for all of Idaho	**15,199**	**18,108**	**21,578**	**17,207**	**12,890**	**-15.19%**
Boise MSA Permits as % of all of Idaho	**46.99%**	**49.20%**	**53.82%**	**53.83%**	**46.59%**	

Office and Industrial Space

Why it matters

The business appeal of a region's central downtown core is particular to the region's reputation. One reason the Boise metro area may be so attractive to large businesses and entrepreneurs is the relative low cost of office and industrial space for business activities.

About the indicator

The data for this indicator are from Colliers International, a research firm that specializes in tracking trends and factors that effect commercial real estate markets. They reported data in 2004 for years 1999, 2000 and 2003.

Regional performance

One way to look at this land use indicator is consider the commercial space in the Boise area in comparison to the average of regions across the country. The 2004 Colliers International data reflect Boise is doing better than the average of regions across the country. The Boise area has a slightly higher than one percent occupancy rate when compared to the nation's regions and almost half of the cost per square foot of commercial space.

Occupancy and Cost

	Occupancy Rate (%) 2004	Cost/Sq. Foot ($) 2004
Boise	88.33	18.84
U.S.	83.7	33.25
Boise Status (+ or -)	+	+

Closer look

The table to the right shows a slight increase in vacancies in the downtown area and industrial space while the suburban vacancies ultimately were pretty much the same at the beginning and end of the time period. Collier's indicates that a number of new office developments will increase the vacancy rate but they project that the vacancy rates will diminish as the region and its economy grow.

Percent of Vacancy Rates

	Downtown	Suburban	Industrial
1999	8.9	15.3	2.3
2000	9.1	12.6	1.5
2001	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003	18.9	15.6	10.1

Source: Colliers International. 2004. Colliers International US Real Estate Review United State 2004 and Colliers representative.

Transportation

The long term quality of life in the region is determined by the decisions and choices made with regard to land use and transportation patterns. This section of the report focuses specifically on transportation indicators such as modes of transportation and roads.

Mode of Transportation

Why it matters

As noted previously in the peer region section Boise ranked 4th with 79 percent of residents 16 years or older having a commute to work of 30 minutes or less. Information about the means people take to work can provide information about where resources or incentives can be allocated so that they can be beneficial to the region and its transportation users.

About the Indicator

Every ten years the U.S. Census Bureau conducts a survey to collect data to generate statistics to help people understand what is happening and to plan for growth. In the decennial census there are four questions specifically on mode of transportation and travel time from which the Census draws the data.

Regional performance

Interregional differences show that the most popular means of transportation is by private vehicle and that car pooling is more often used than public transportation to get to work. In nearly every county the number of people who walk or ride a bicycle to work exceeds those that use public transportation.

Mode of Transportation to Work for People 16 Years and Older, 2000

Type	Ada County, Idaho	Boise County, Idaho	Canyon County, Idaho	Gem County, Idaho	Owyhee County, Idaho
Total:	155,666	3,050	58,983	6,227	4,314
Car, truck, or van:	141,896	2,714	53,925	5,611	3,671
Drove alone	125,987	2,020	45,411	4,772	2,988
Carpooled	15,909	694	8,514	839	683
Public transportation:	1,291	10	171	6	9
Bus or trolley bus	1,162	4	130	0	6
Streetcar or trolley car	21	0	22	0	0
Railroad	0	3	7	0	0
Other means*	108	3	12	6	3
Motorcycle	177	2	101	0	16
Bicycle	1,876	0	255	9	3
Walked	2,938	151	1,756	167	260
Other means	861	21	523	50	38
Worked at home	6,627	152	2,252	384	317

*Other means includes Ferryboat, Subway or elevated, and Taxicab

Closer look

Have there been any changes in the modes of transportation used in the region from 1990-2000? Although the numbers may not be surprising in terms of the quantity of people going to work given the job and population growth the regions has experienced, the change in the uses of modes of transportation to get to work is somewhat unexpected. The data in the following table reveal that although the number of people traveling to work has increased by 51 percent, the percentage of workers that travel in a three person carpool has gone up by 66.3 percent. Traveling to work by motorcycle is the only mode of transportation that has decreased in use and it did so by 58 percent. Although more people rode bicycles or walked to work than used public transportation in 2000, public transportation demonstrated a larger percentage increase of 56 percent as compared to 48 percent in bike use or 16 percent in walking.

Differences in the Mode of Transportation to Work for People 16 Years and Older: 1990-2000

	1990	2000	% Change
Total:	151571	228240	50.6
Car, truck, or van:	136699	207817	52.0
Drove alone	118929	181178	52.3
Carpooled	17770	26639	49.9
In 2-person carpool	14509	21723	49.7
In 3-person carpool	1926	3202	66.3
In 4-person carpool	682	940	37.8
In 5 or 6-person carpool	385	474	23.1
In 7-or-more person carpool	268	300	11.9
Public transportation:	954	1487	55.9
Bus or trolley bus	892	1302	46.0
Streetcar or trolley car	10	43	330.0
Railroad	0	10	100.0
Other means*	118	132	11.9
Motorcycle	709	296	-58.3
Bicycle	1445	2143	48.3
Walked	4530	5272	16.4
Other means	906	1493	64.8
Worked at home	6328	9732	53.8

*Other means includes Ferryboat, Subway or elevated, and Taxicab

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder -http://factfinder.census.gov/

Motor Vehicle Accidents

Why it matters

Motor vehicle crashes can have devastating affects on the individuals involved. They also have economic costs and delay travel.

About the indicator

The Idaho Department of Transportation, Office of Traffic and Highway Safety, provides comprehensive annual data on collisions in Idaho. The data for this indicator are from the 2004 collisions reports completed by law enforcement officers in Idaho. This indicator represents only reports of collisions that resulted injury to person or property that exceed $750 are included.

Regional performance

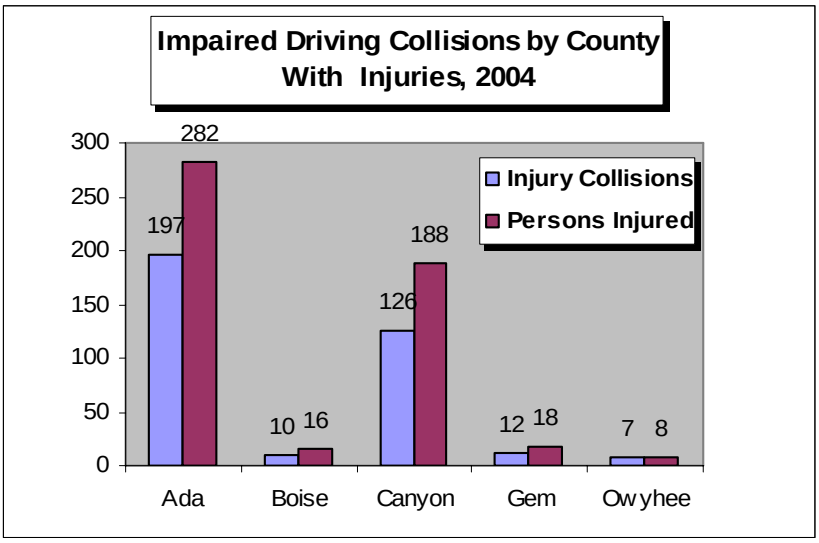
Of the counties in the region, Ada and Canyon counties have the largest number of motor vehicle accidents. Ada and Canyon County also have the second and third largest percentage increases in motor vehicle accidents. Ada and Canyon counties also have the most population and paved roads. In contrast, Owyhee County is the only county that has had decreased motor vehicle accidents from 2002 to 2004 of 16 percent. Gem County actually had fewer accidents than Boise County in 2004 but the percentage change in accidents for Gem County increased by 20 percent from 2002 to 2004, the most of any county in the region. As a region the percent of accidents increased by 11 percent while the percent of total accidents in the state, increased by only one percent for the same period.

Non-Fatal Collisions by County, 2002-2004

Area	2002	2003	2004	% change
Ada County	6198	6482	6985	13
Boise County	223	211	237	6
Canyon County	2654	2793	2893	9
Gem County	151	176	181	20
Owyhee County	143	111	120	-16
State of Idaho	26247	26439	28092	7
Boise Region	9369	9773	10416	11
Accidents in Region as % of State	36	37	37	

Closer look

The actual number of collisions resulting from impaired driving is presented in the chart below. In every county more people were injured than the actual number of accidents cause by impaired drivers. Ada and Canyon counties with the most population and roads had more collisions than the comparably more rural counties.



Additional data reveal that self-reported seat belt use has been on the rise in every county with the exception of Owyhee and Boise counties. The average restraint use for the region suggests that in 2004 nearly 69% of drivers in the region were using their seat-belts.

Self-Reported Seat Belt Use in Fatal and Serious Injury Crashes, 2000-2004

Area	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	% Change
Ada County	70.4	70.3	77.0	75.5	83.2	10.2
Boise County	65.9	72.7	64.0	64.1	61.4	-4.3
Canyon County	60.7	69.4	62.2	69.5	73.5	5.7
Gem County	34.6	43.5	58.3	71.4	72.7	1.8
Owyhee County	65.0	26.7	46.3	23.5	53.1	125.8
State of Idaho	58.3	60.7	65.7	67.6	72.1	6.6
Average Restraint Use for the Region	59.3	56.5	61.6	60.8	68.8	

Source:
Idaho Department of Transportation, Office of Traffic and Highway Safety I*daho Traffic Collisions 2004* -http://itd.idaho.gov/ohs/2004Data/Analysis2004.pdf

Since Last Report
Motor Vehicle Accidents

Non-Fatal By County

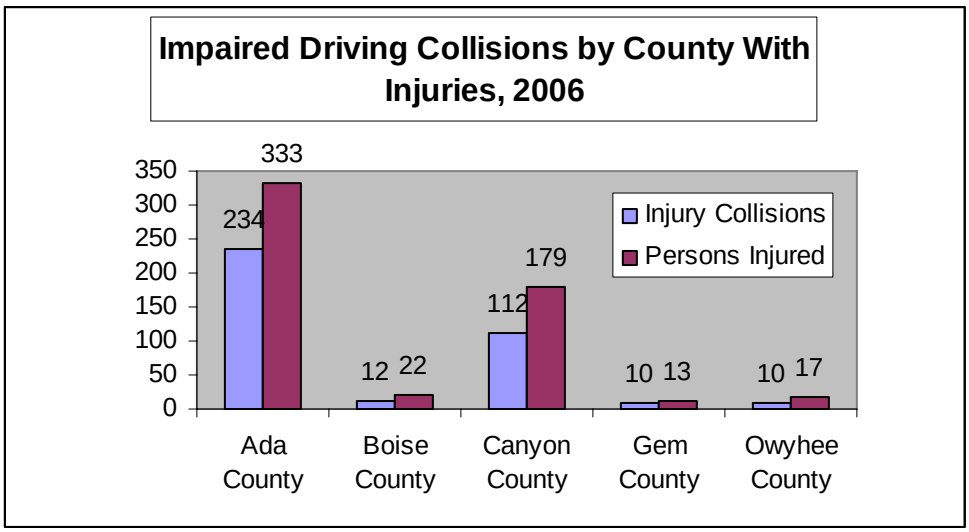
Of the counties in the region, Ada and Canyon counties have the largest number of motor vehicle accidents. Owyhee County is the only county to have a percentage increases in motor vehicle accidents. Ada and Canyon counties have the most population and paved roads. Gem County had fewer accidents than Boise County in 2006. As a region the percent of accidents decreased by 8 percent while the percent of total accidents in the state, for the same period, increased by 3 percent.

Non-Fatal Collisions by County, 2004-2006

Area	2004	2005	2006	% Change
Ada County	6985	7072	6231	-11
Boise County	237	225	194	-18
Canyon	2893	3156	2831	-2
Gem	181	165	156	-14
Owyhee	120	152	141	18
State of Idaho	28092	27995	23986	-15
Boise Region	10416	10770	9553	-8
Accidents in Region as % of State	37	39	40	

Impaired Driving

The actual number of collisions resulting from impaired driving is presented in the chart below. In every county more people were injured than the actual number of accidents caused by impaired drivers. Ada and Canyon counties with the most population and roads had more collisions than the comparably more rural counties.



Seat Belt Usage

Additional data reveal that self-reported seat belt use has been on the rise in every county with the exception of Ada County. The average restraint usage for the region suggests that in 2004 nearly 73.1% of drivers in the region were using their seat-belts.

Self-Reported Seat Belt Use in Fatal and Serious Injury Crashes 2002-2006

Area	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	% Change 05-06
Ada County	77	75.5	83.2	85	84.8	-.2
Boise County	64	64.1	61.4	59.1	75	26.9
Canyon County	62.2	69.5	73.5	79.1	79.7	.8
Gem County	58.3	71.4	72.7	60	61.5	2.5
Owyhee County	46.3	23.5	53.1	32.6	64.5	97.9
State of Idaho	65.7	67.6	72.1	72.2	73.5	1.8
Average Restraint Use for the Region	61.5	60.8	68.8	63.2	73.1	

Revenue to Local Governments for Roads

Why it matters

These resources are distributed throughout the region for the maintenance and improvement of local roads. These funds are the primary resource for roads within the region's local communities.

About the indicator

Revenue to local governments for roads is actually the payments to local governments from the Idaho Transportation Department highway distribution account. The sources of funds for this account include fuel taxes, driving licenses, permits, vehicle registrations, penalties, and fines. The amount of revenue distributed to local government cities is based on several factors. The Idaho Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) received .326 percent of funds distributed to the local governments to help cities, counties, and highway districts to manage and operate the local highway system throughout the state. The other 99.6 percent of the funds are distributed directly to local governments and their highway districts. Thirty percent of these funds go to cities based on their population. Of the remaining 70 percent, ten percent is divided equally among the counties and highway districts. Forty-five percent of the funds are disbursed to areas based on motor vehicle registration revenue and the other 45 percent are distributed based upon the number of road miles the counties and highway districts have improved.

Closer look

The table below illustrates that Ada and Canyon counties received the most revenue for roads. Given the sources of revenues and that these are the most populated counties in the region this is as expected. Owyhee County received the third largest portion of the revenues (10 percent) of the region. Although Owyhee is more sparsely populated it has a considerable amount of roads, of which 70 percent are unpaved (see Paved and Unpaved Roads later in this section). While Gem and Boise have both the least amount of roads and population they received 6 and 5 percent of revenues in the region.

Revenue for Roads by County and Highway District, Fiscal Year 2005

County and Highway Districts	Revenue in $	Revenue as a percentage of region total
Ada		
Ada County Highway District	**8,868,708.89**	**49**
Boise	**836,121.32**	**5**
Canyon		
Canyon Highway District	1,670,374.56	
Golden Gate Highway District	729,276.08	
Nampa Highway District	2,552,434.62	
Notus-Parma Highway District	684,252.00	
Canyon Total	**5,636,337.26**	**31**
Gem	**1,128,020.69**	**6**
Owyhee		
Owyhee	937,517.52	
Gem Highway District	305,554.44	
Homedale Highway District	375,943.83	
Three Creeks Highway District	216,114.26	
Owyhee Total	**1,835,130.05**	**10**
Regional Total	**18,304,318.21**	**100**

*May not equal 100% due to rounding.

Sources:
Idaho Transportation Department - http://itd.idaho.gov
Local Highway Technical Assistance Council - http://www.lhtac.org/

Since Last Report
Revenue

The table below illustrates that Ada and Canyon counties received the most revenue for roads. Given the sources of revenues and that these are the most populated counties in the region this is as expected. Owhyee County received the third largest portion of the revenues (10 percent) of the region. Although Owyhee is more sparsely populated it has a considerable amount of roads, of which 70 percent are unpaved (see Paved and Unpaved Roads later in this section). While Gem and Boise have both the least amount of roads and population they received 6.2 and 4.6 percent of revenues in the region.

*May not equal 100% due to rounding.

Sources:
Idaho Transportation Department - http://itd.idaho.gov
Local Highway Technical Assistance Council - http://www.lhtac.org/

Revenue for Roads by County and Highway District, Fiscal Year 2006

County and Highway Districts	Revenue in $	Revenue as a percentage of region total
Ada		
Ada County Highway District	**9,107,037.00**	**48.9**
Boise	**854,022.00**	**4.6**
Canyon		
Canyon Highway District	1,670,375.00	
Golden Gate Highway District	729,276.00	
Nampa Highway District	2,552,435.00	
Notus-Parma Highway District	684,252.00	
Canyon Total	**5,636,338.00**	**30.3**
Gem	**1,154,487.00**	**6.2**
Owyhee		
Owyhee	952,997.00	
Gem Highway District	310,873.00	
Homedale Highway District	388,707.00	
Three Creeks Highway District	219,861.00	
Owyhee Total	**1,872,438.00**	**10.1**
Regional Total	**18,624,322.00**	**100**

Paved and Unpaved Roads

Why it matters

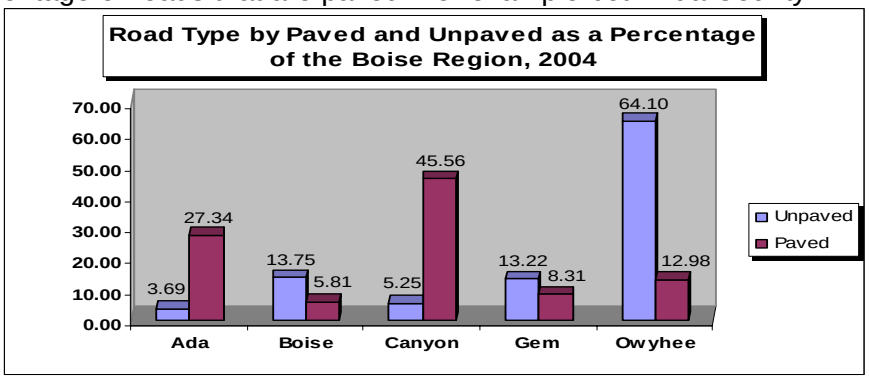
This indicator provides a sense of where are the resources for roads are being spent.

About the indicator

The data from the Idaho Transportation Department is reported by county and surface type. The data in this report have been aggregated to two categories of surface types, paved and unpaved roads.

Regional performance

Land Area, density, and land ownership are correlated with the road surface for the region. Generally speaking as the density (i.e., persons per square mile), becomes larger so does the percentage of roads that are paved. For example both Ada County and Canyon County have the largest share of paved roads at nearly 95 percent. The Census data reveal that these two counties have the highest densities of 285 (Ada) and 223 (Canyon) persons per square mile. The chart above reveals the inverse relationship of less density and more unpaved roads holds true as well. The more rural counties in the region of Owyhee with 1.4, Boise 3.5, and Gem with 27 people per square mile collectively account for 91percent of the regions unpaved roads.



Closer look

The two largest counties by land-area have both the smallest densities as well as the largest percentage of public owned lands. Owyhee County is 7,678 square miles and is 82.5 percent public owned (See Parks under Regional Assets), while Boise County is 1,902 square miles and is 81 percent publicly owned. Furthermore, both counties contain large portions of Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service lands, not allowed for road development. This is especially true in Boise County as according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Forest Service, Boise County lies almost entirely in the Boise National Forest, with a large portion of Inventoried roadless areas and potential wilderness lands. This is contrasted by Canyon County which has 94 percent private lands and 95 percent of its roads are paved.

Miles of Road Paved and Unpaved, 2004

County	Unpaved roads	% of county roads	Paved roads	% of county roads	Total
Ada	41	6	646	94	686
Boise	152	53	137	48	288
Canyon	58	5	1,076	95	1,133
Gem	146	43	196	57	342
Owyhee	706	70	307	30	1,013
Region Total	1,102	32	2,361	68	3,463

Sources: Idaho Transportation Department - http://itd.idaho.gov, U.S. Census Bureau - http://www.census.gov, Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor - http://cl.idaho.gov
U.S. Department of Agriculture; Forest Service - http://roadless.fs.fed.us/states/id/state3.shtml
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis - http://www.bea.gov

Regional Assets
Parks and Green Space

Why it matters

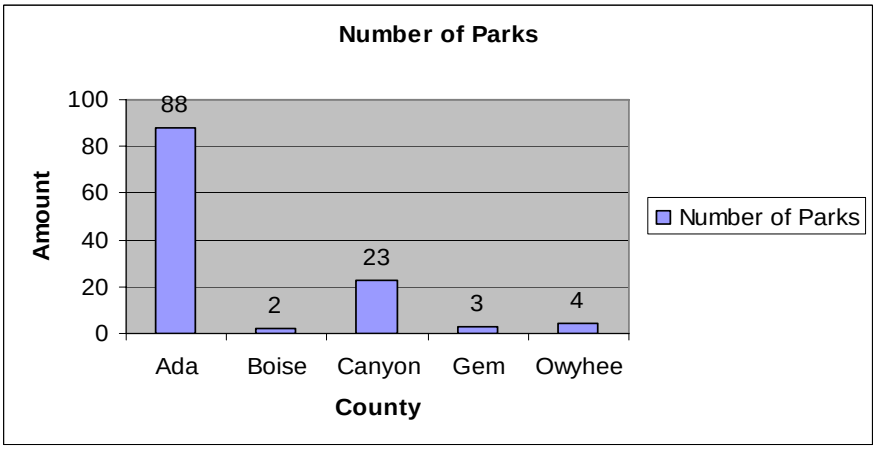
Neighborhood parks and public lands are a key ingredient in the recreational assets of any community. In particular, the focus here is on the number of parks and green space, which may become more important as traditional home lots become smaller and smaller.

About the indicator

The Parks and Green Space indicator is a collection of indicators. It is defined as the number of parks in the MSA, the number of park acres, the percentage of publicly and privately owned land in both the MSA and at the state and federal level.

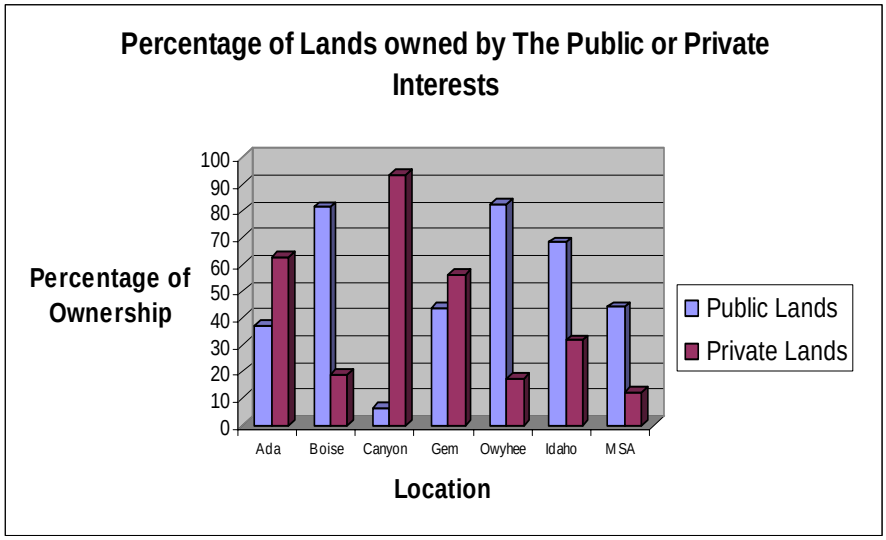
Regional performance

The Boise-Nampa MSA has 120 parks and 3938 acres of park land. Also, there are 20 golf courses in the MSA. The majority of the parks are located in Ada County, while the majority of the acreage is located in Owyhee County. The majority of land ownership in each county varies, with Boise and Owyhee counties having primarily public lands, and Ada, Canyon, and Gem counties with more private than public land. This is consistent with the density discussion in the Peer Regions section.



Closer look

The distribution of land in Idaho is diverse. The percentage of ownership varies by county, but the ownership between the MSA and the state of Idaho is nearly identical. In the MSA, 66% of land ownership is federal, 6.4% is state owned, and 27% is privately owned. At the state level, 63% is federal, 5.1% is state, and nearly 32% is privately owned.



Source: Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor

Cost of Family Outings

Why it matters

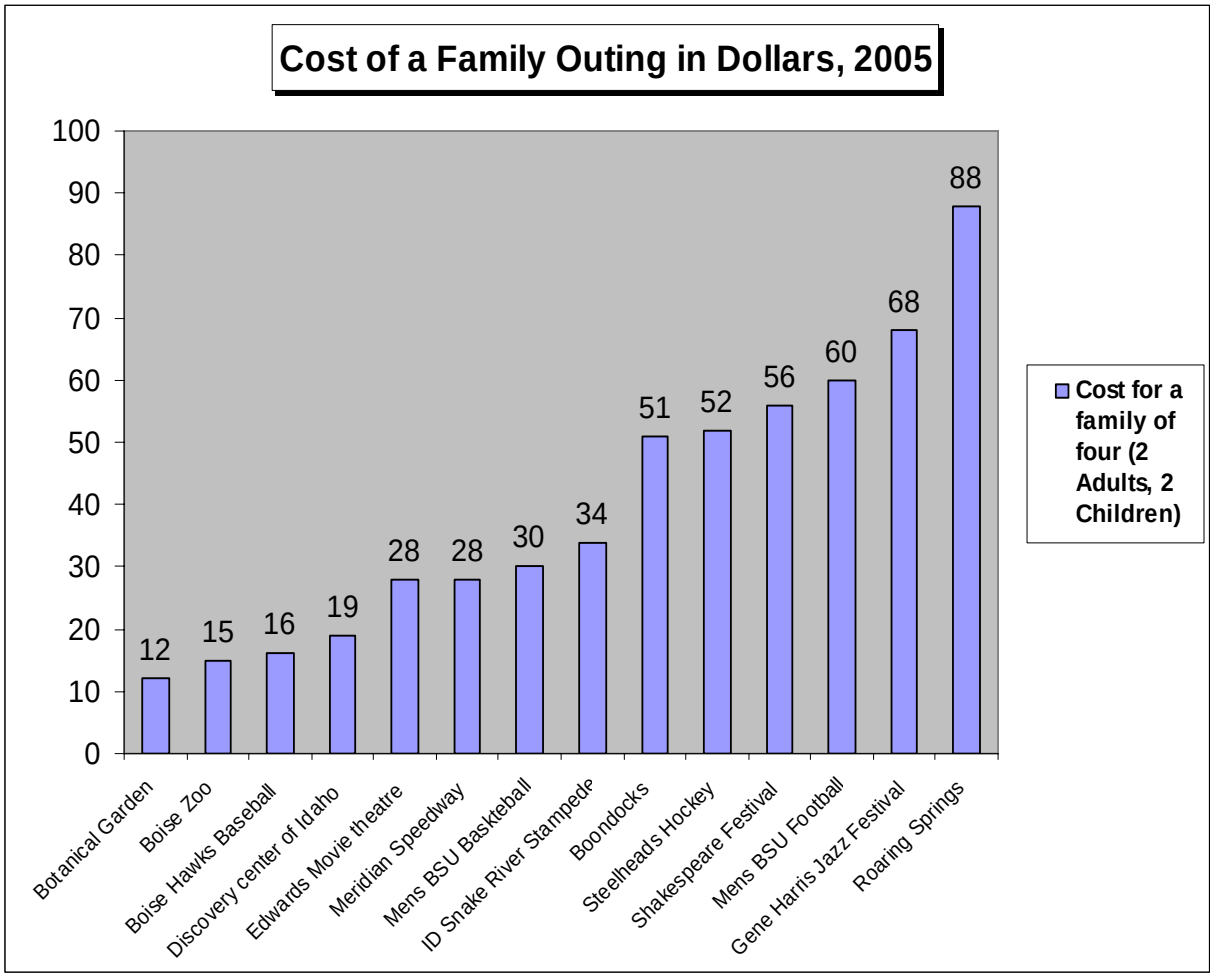
Families of any size rely on the ability to provide themselves entertainment. This is important for families to spend quality time together outside of the home. The cost factor can be a determinant to some families and exclude them from enjoying some of the regions entertainment.

About the indicator

The cost for a family to leave the home and enjoy quality entertainment is measured using a family of four. This includes 2 adults and 2 children, assuming that none of the children are able to participate for free. Activities that can be done for free were excluded from this study and the list is only a portion of the region's potential entertainment. All prices exclude tax.

Regional performance

The Boise Region provides many exciting opportunities for families of all sizes and entertainment of all types. The options range from $12 for the Idaho Botanical Gardens to $88 for Roaring Springs Water Park. In the middle of the chart lie primarily athletic events that a family can attend. For example Men's Boise State Basketball costs $30 while Idaho Steelhead Hockey can cost a family $52.



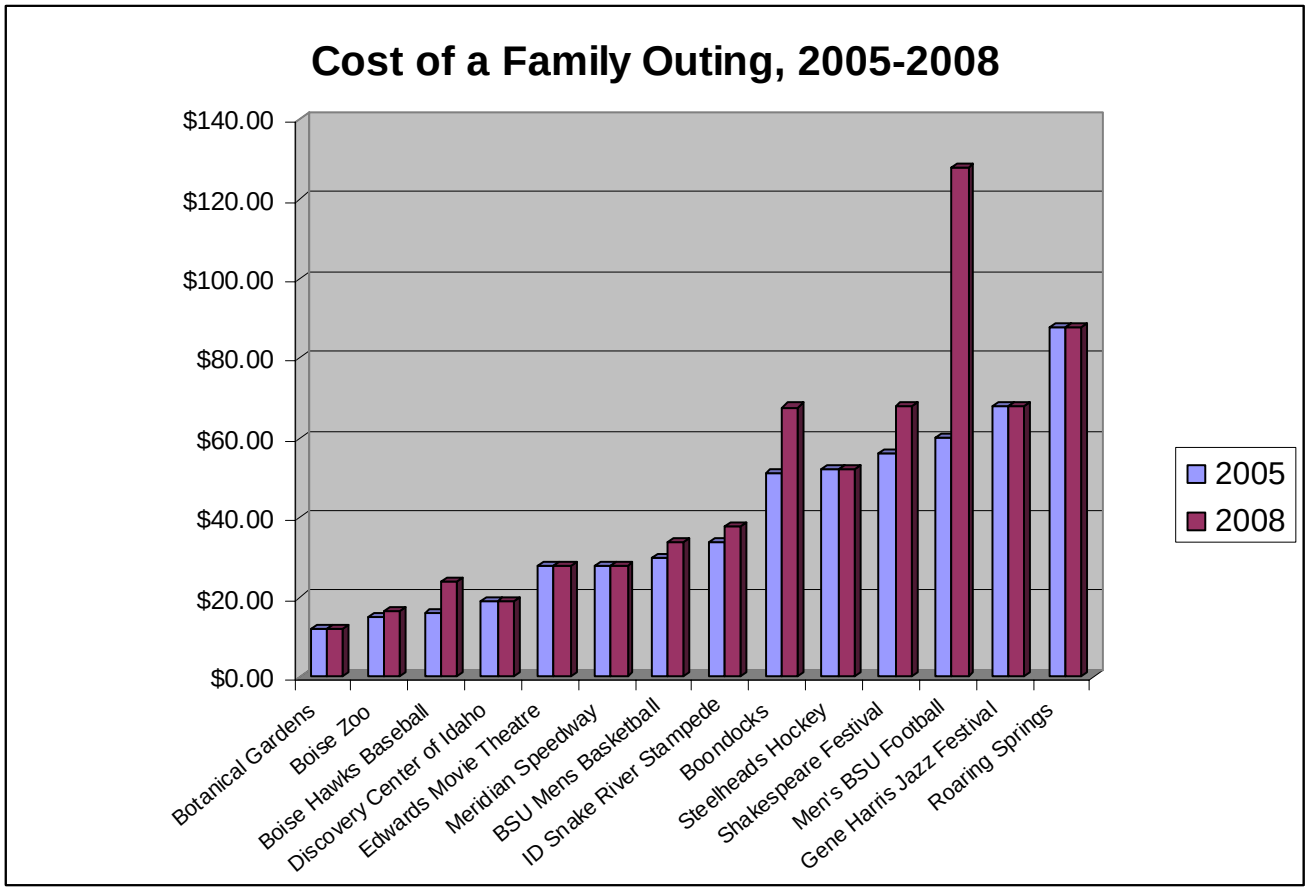
Closer look

The region has a wide variety of options to consider when deciding what events to partake in. Families can choose to go to the movies, watching semi-professional baseball with the Hawks, attending educational activities at the Discovery Center and witnessing an Idaho favorite of the Snake River Stampede all for less than $35 an event.

Sources:
Idaho Botanical Garden - http://www.idahobotanicalgarden.org/; Boise Zoo - http://www.zooboise.com/; Boise Hawks Baseball - http://www.boisehawks.com/; http://www.scidaho.org/; Edwards Cinema - http://www.regalcinemas.com/; Meridian Speedway - http://www.meridianspeedway.com/; Men's Boise State University Athletics - http://www.broncosports.com/; Snake River Stampede - http://www.snakeriverstampede.com/; Boondocks Family Fun Center - http://www.boondocksfuncenter.com/Meridian/meridianIndex.asp; Idaho Steelheads Hockey - http://www.idahosteelheads.com/; Idaho Shakespeare Festival - http://www.idahoshakespeare.org/; Gene Harris Jazz Festival - http://www.geneharris.org/; Roaring Springs Water Park - http://www.roaringsprings.com/;

Since Last Report
Cost of Family Outings

The majority of Boise's entertainment remained relatively stable from 2005-2008 with only a few exceptions. First, general seating tickets to a Boise State Football game increased 113%, increasing $60 in 2005 to $113 in 2008. The recent success of the football team and the limited number of seats in Bronco Stadium obviously contribute to this significant increase. An outing at Boondocks increased 50% over the last four years, going from $51 in 2005 to $67.80 in 2008. Other entertainment venues increasing over 20% in cost include the Shakespeare Festival, and the Boise Hawks.



Boise Municipal Airport Passengers

Why it Matters

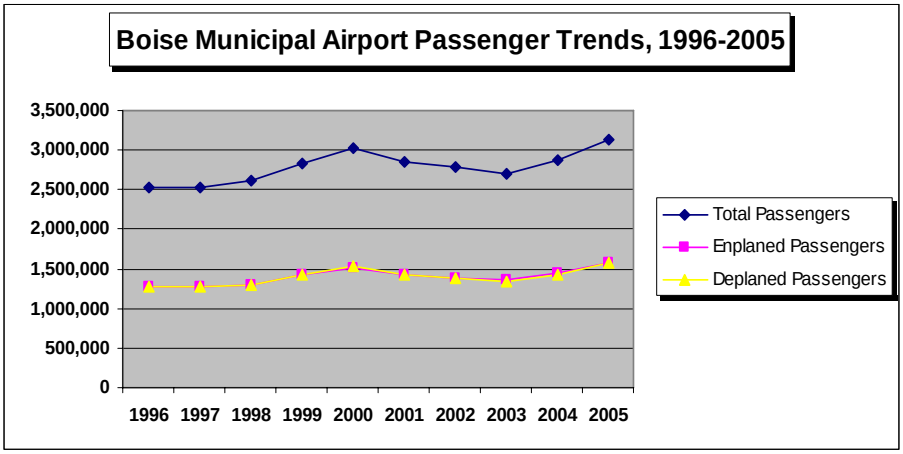
A successful regional airport can be a good indicator of a prosperous economy and tourist activities. It is important for an airport to maintain a healthy increase in passengers, especially as the population for the region increases. Airport success can also be examined by the amounts of cargo: freight and mail that are imported and exported from the airport.

About the Indicator

Airport success can be defined as the number of passengers that enplane or deplane, the total number of landings, and/or by the freight and mail transportation that pass through the hub. This indicator focuses on two types of airport success. The first being passenger relations by the amount enplaned and deplaned as well as by the amount of landings for the past ten years. The second focus is placed on the material transport of freight.

Regional performance

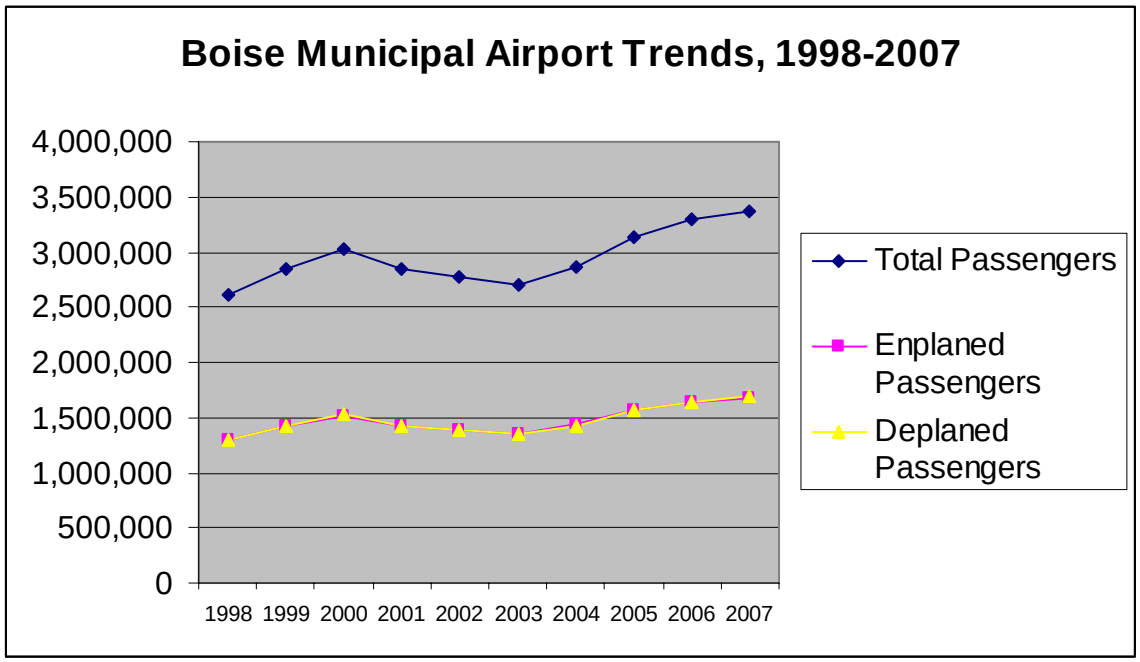
The Boise Municipal Airport (BOI) for the past decade has seen a steady increase in total passengers, as indicated in the chart below. The total amount of passengers has increased from about 2.5 million in 1996 to just above 3.1 million in 2005. Similarly, as the number of passengers travel through the airport the number of landings have maintained a relatively steady trend at about 30,000 a year. In addition the Boise Municipal Airport ranked 7th in the world in the J.D. Power and Associates 2004 Global Airport Satisfaction Index Study.

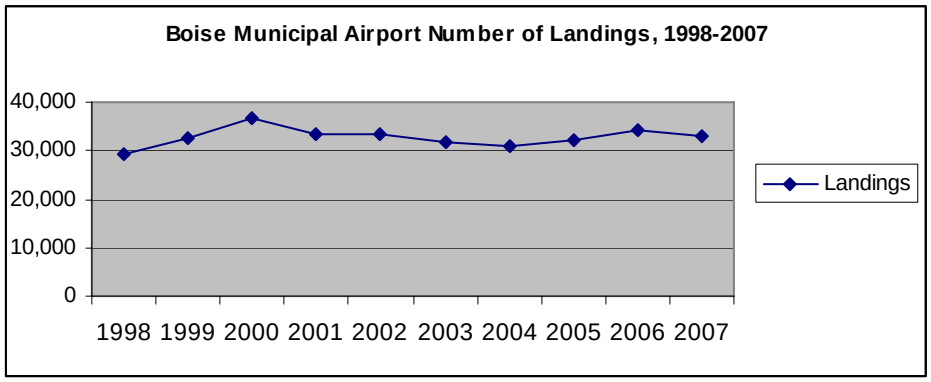


Source: City of Boise Municipal Airport (BOI) - http://www.cityofboise.org/transportation/airport/

Since Last Report
Boise Municipal Airport Passengers

The total number of passengers coming through Boise Municipal Airport continues to experience growth at a rate of approximately 2% a year since 2005. Although the airport experienced a decrease in total landings since 2006, the total number of passengers has increased since 2005 at a rate of 2.5%.

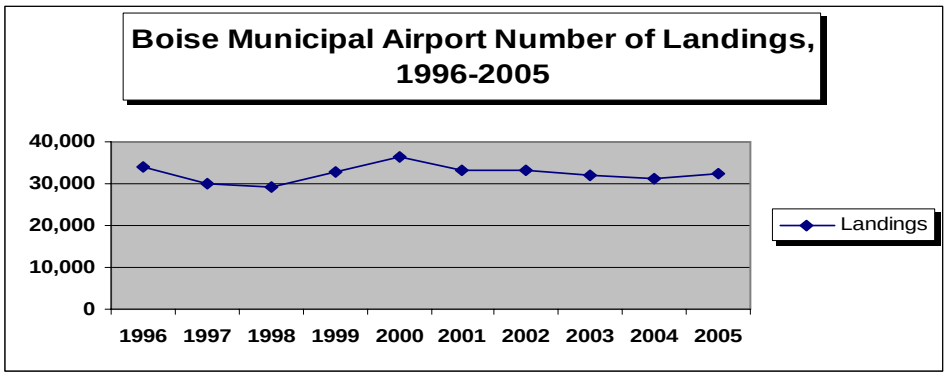




Boise Municipal Airport Freight

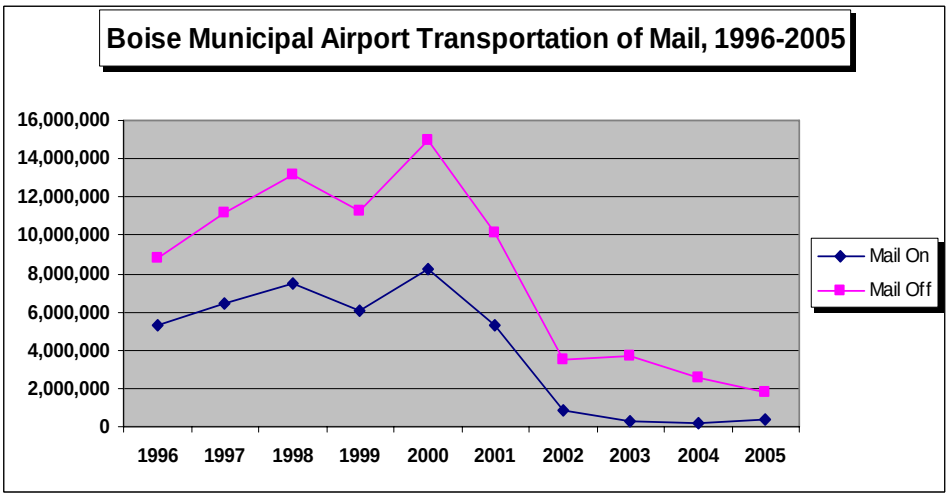
Why it matters

When evaluating the success of an airport in relation to the economy of the region, the amounts of freight that travel through the airport can portray just as important detail as the amount of passengers can.



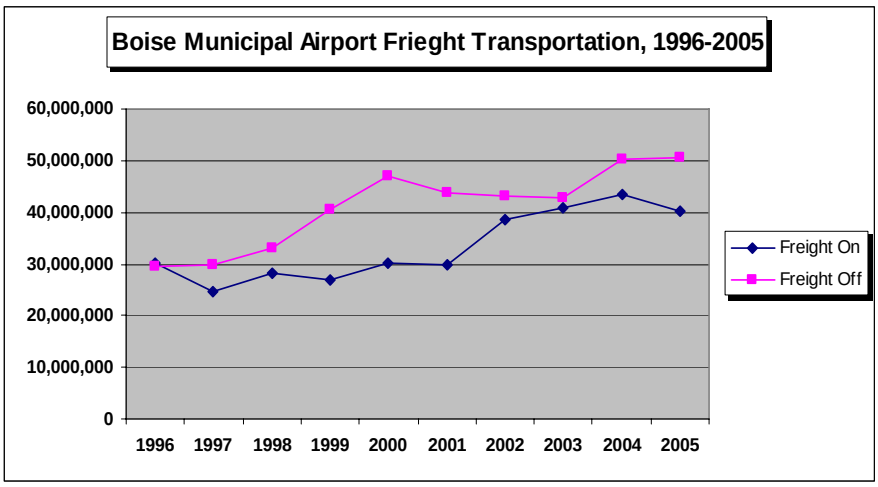
Regional performance

In this study we focused on the number of parcels of mail freight and transported for the past decade. According to the graph below we found that the mail that travels through BOI peaked in 2000 at just under 15 million pieces landing in Boise and about half that with 8 million taking off from Boise. From 2000 to 2002 this dropped dramatically and since then has maintained a steady flow for mail leaving the region the mail coming in is still continuing to drop. This can be attributed in part to the increase in postage but more importantly to the increase in electronic mail or e-mail usage.



A Closer Look

A more positive look at the regional performance in relation to the economy can better be observed by calculating the amount of freight parcels that have been loaded and unloaded at BOI. In the past decade the imports of freight has surpassed the exports only once in 1996. Since that time the exports have been substantially increasing in numbers while the amount of imported packages appears to be declining. This can be seen in the chart as the number of imported packages decreased by about 325,000 less freight parcels.

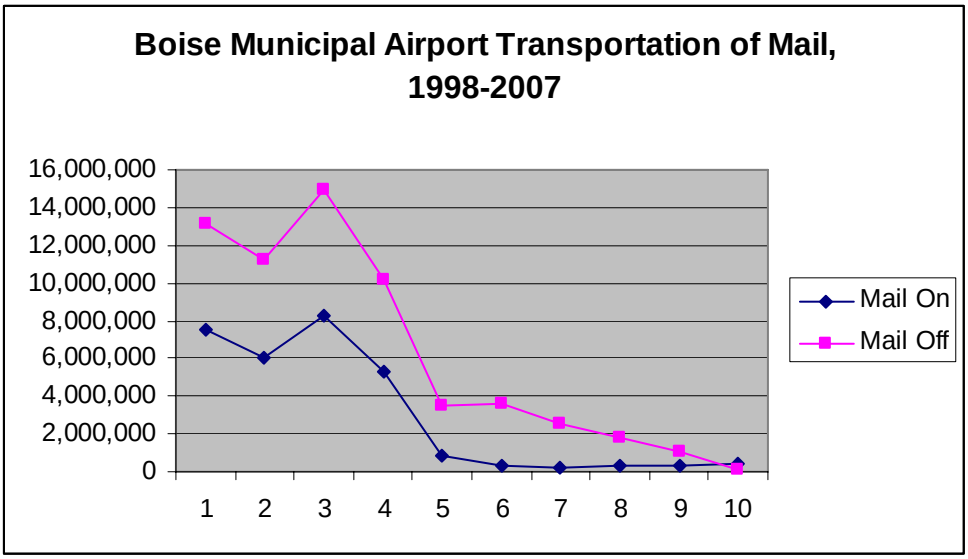


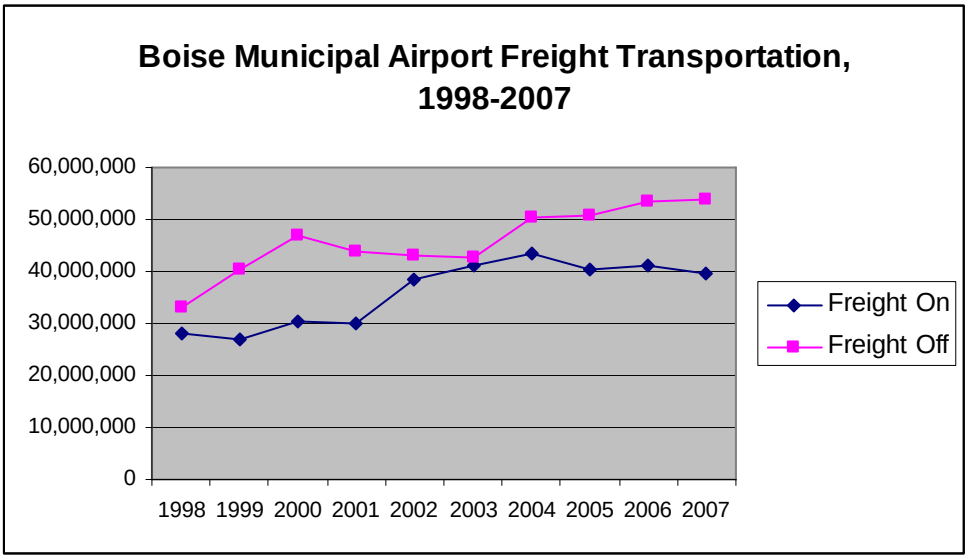
Sources: City of Boise Municipal Airport (BOI) - http://www.cityofboise.org/transportation/airport/
U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Aviation Analysis - http://ostpxweb.dot.gov/aviation/domfares/web033.pdf

Since Last Report
Boise Municipal Airport Freight

The increased use of electronic communication and rising costs of postage continue to be portrayed by the huge decline of airport transportation of mail since 2000. In 2007, the amount of mail carried on to Boise flights was greater than the mail being taken off. This is the first time this has happened in recorded history. The amount of mail taken off of Boise flights declined by 88% from 2006 to 2007.

Imports into BOI continue to exceed exports. The disparity has increased by approximately 26% since 2003 when they were nearly equal.





Libraries

Why it matters

Libraries have traditionally been known for providing educational resources and provoking intellectual thoughts and conversations within society. These institutions are viewed as positive attributes to a community. The Boise State 17th Annual Idaho Public Policy Survey found that 77.2% Idahoans believes that libraries are very important to the state and 20.5% somewhat important, leaving only 2.2% of Idahoans believing that libraries are a waste of taxpayer dollars.

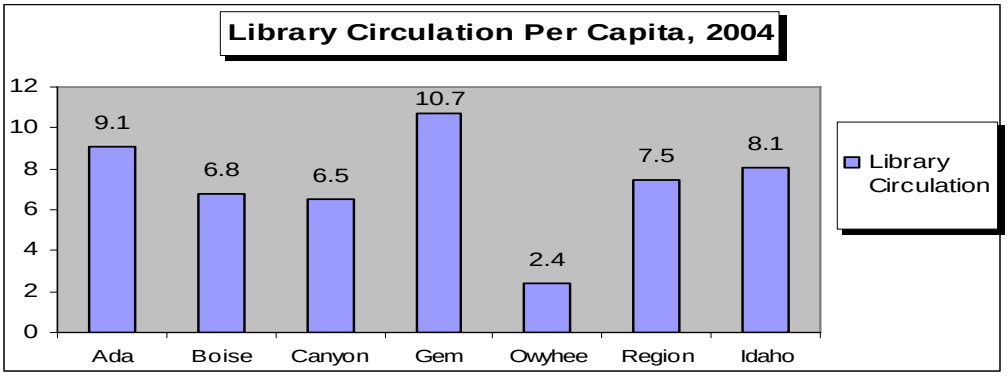
About the indicator

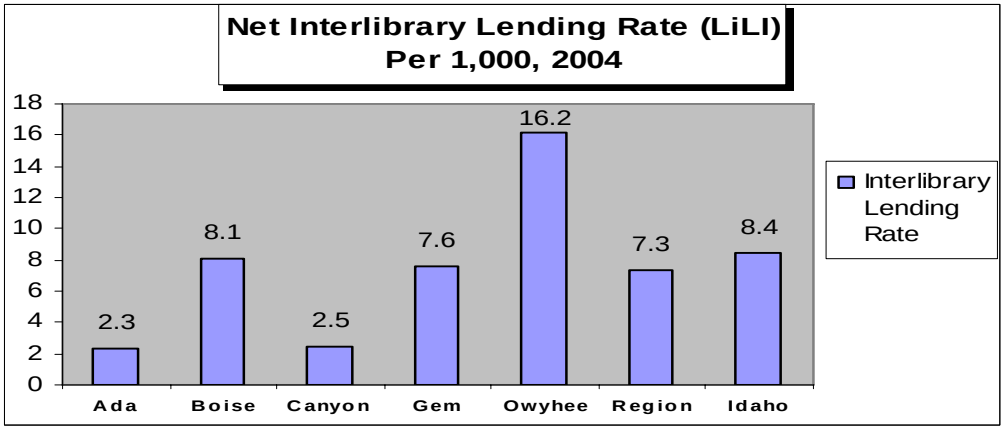
This indicator measures the number of books circulated by county within the Boise region. Additionally it looks at the number of resources that are lent between libraries.

Regional Performance

The Boise region checks out on average, about 7.5 books a year as depicted in the chart below. Ada and Gem both exceed the regional average with 9.1 books per year for Ada and 10.7 books per year for Gem County. Both rates exceed the state rate of 8.1 books per capita.

Knowledge of the interlibrary lending system known as LiLI may explain library usage rates. The public Policy Survey also asked the question of how familiar are Idahoan's with the LiLI Database. 60% of the respondents were not very or not at all familiar with the LiLI system. The more populated counties of Ada and Canyon have the lowest LiLI lending rates with 2.3 and 2.5 books per 1,000.





Source: Idaho State Library-http://www.lili.org/forlibs/pub-lib-stats/2004/2004-table-1.pdf

Non-Profit and Governmental Arts Organizations In the Boise MSA

Why it Matters

A diverse offering of arts and entertainment are a vital part of a healthy community. Furthermore, non-profit and government art agencies reflect a commitment by the community to provide the most diverse opportunities for the most people.

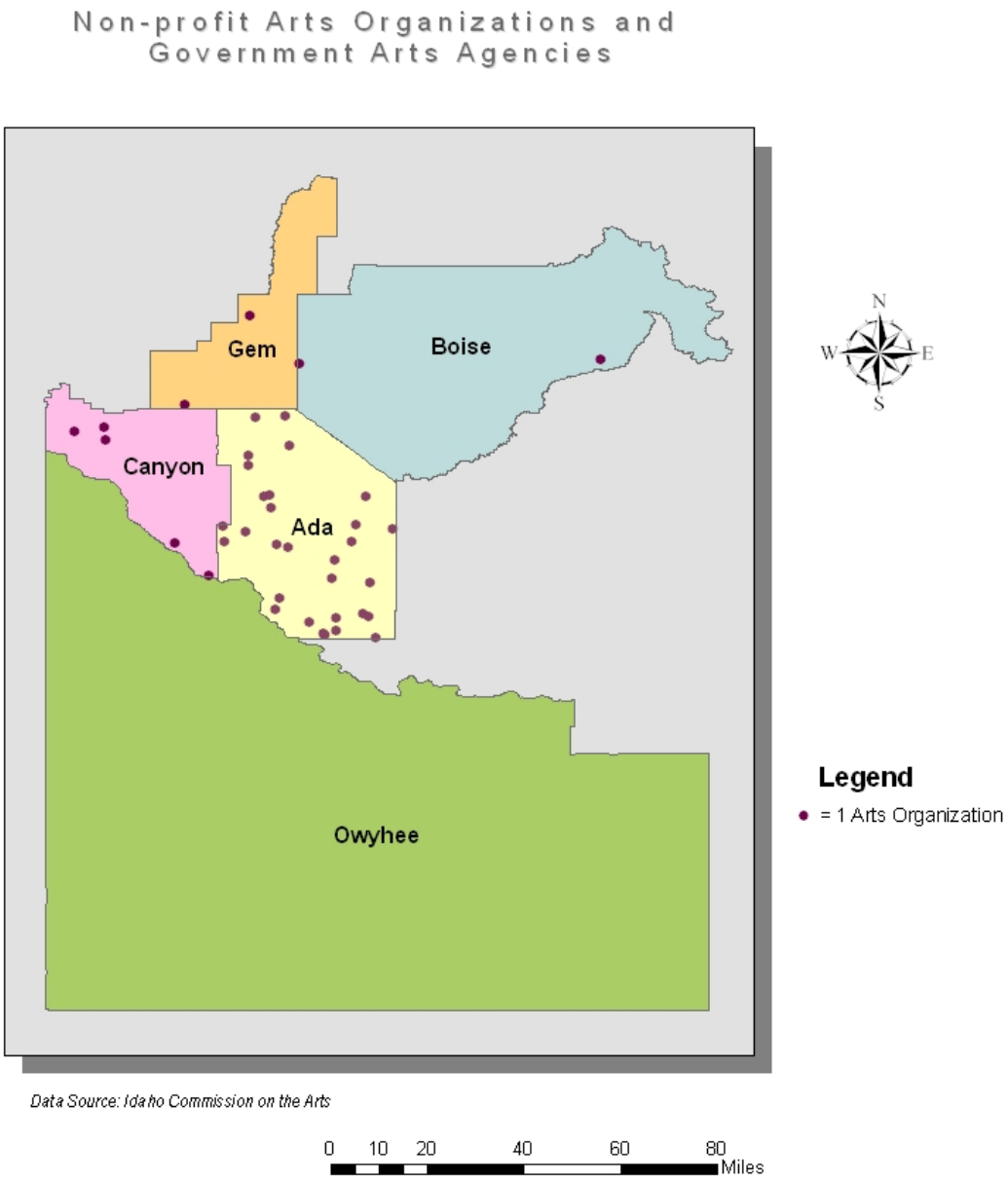


Figure 1

Regional Performance

Idaho Commission on the Arts maintains a database of non-profit arts organizations and government arts agencies in the state of Idaho. Of the five adjacent counties there is a greater concentration of arts organizations in Ada County (thirty in total). Canyon County comes in a distant second with five organizations. Gem and Boise County tie for third as they each have two. Owyhee County has the fewest with no registered non-profits or governmental arts organizations. The symbolized data in the Figure below reveal that in the Boise region counties with a predominantly rural population do not have a heavily organized arts community. Ada County, which has the most urbanized concentration out of the five counties, has more arts organizations.

Non-Profit and Governmental Arts Organizations

Ada	30
Canyon	5
Boise	2
Gem	2
Owyhee	0

Source: Idaho Commission on the Arts - http://www.arts.idaho.gov/

[i] Census Bureau data, www.census.gov