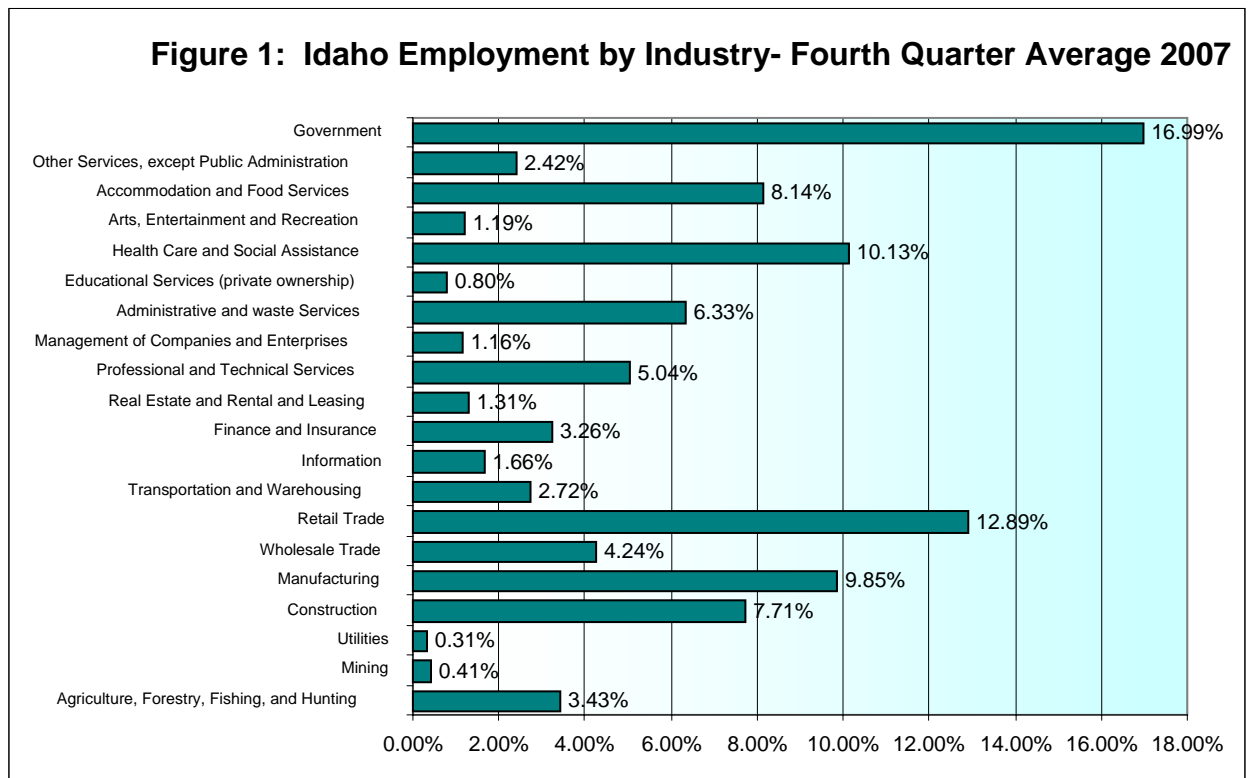


IDAHO EMPLOYMENT, WAGE ACTIVITY – 4TH QUARTER 2007

Idaho fourth quarter employment covered by unemployment insurance decreased 10,363 to 664,713 from the previous quarter. That was down 1.6 percent following a third quarter increase of 1.3 percent. Private employment accounted for over 83 percent, or 551,768, of average employment in the final three months of the year. In contrast, government employment including educational services averaged 112,722, up 2 percent from the summer quarter's 110,554. This sector has shown the usual seasonal increase of over 2,000 jobs with the return to school after the summer break.

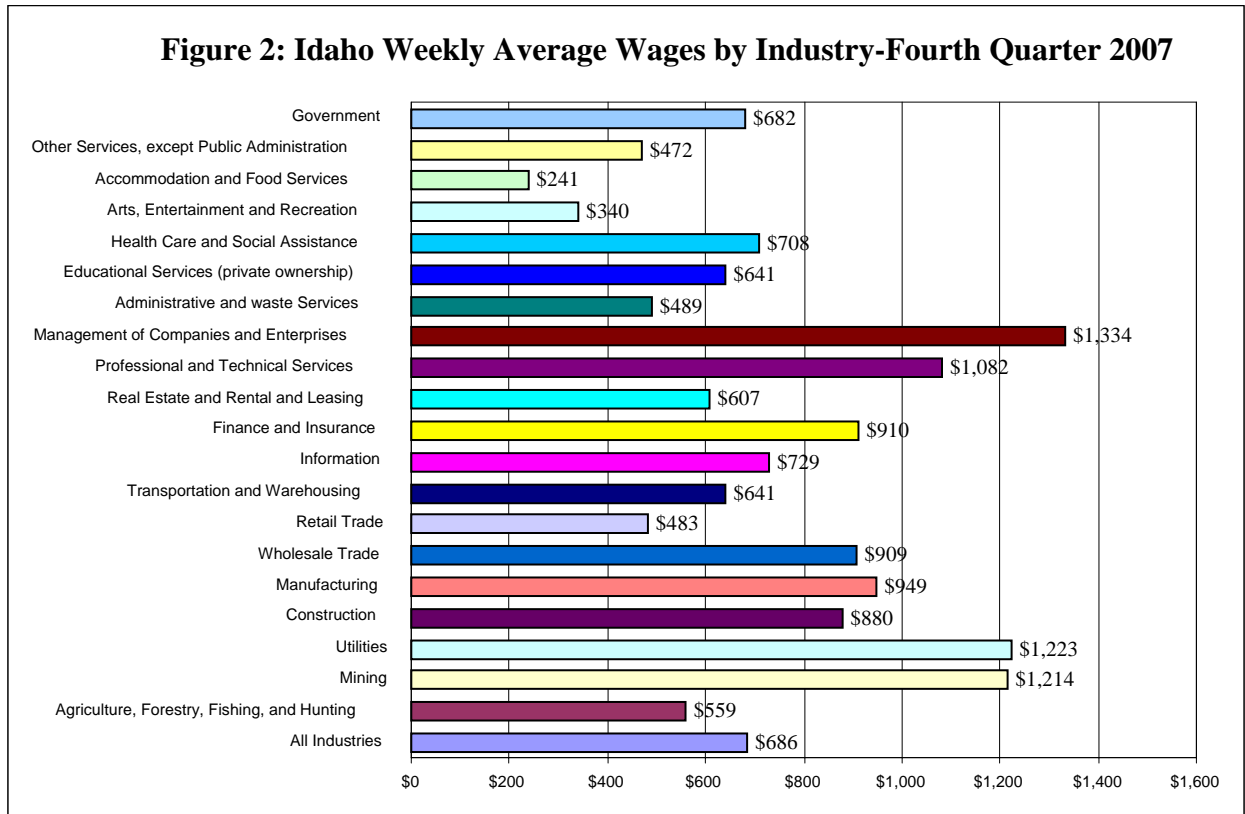
Government was the leading sector in Idaho, employing 112,722 in the fourth quarter. Retail trade accounted for over 12 percent of total employment at 85,678 followed by health care and social assistance with 67,360, or just over 10 percent of total employment. See Figure 1 below.



Manufacturing was the third largest industry sector with 65,473 jobs. Nevertheless, a decline of 1.9 percent in manufacturing marked the third consecutive quarter of job losses in that sector. Half of all employment in Idaho remained in these four industries during the fourth quarter. Mining and utilities employed the fewest workers at 2,736 and 2,054, respectively.

The average weekly wage for all industries in Idaho was \$686 in the fourth quarter of 2007. The highest average weekly wage of \$1,334 was in management of companies and enterprises followed by utilities at \$1,223 and professional and technical

services at \$1,082. Leisure and hospitality services offered the lowest weekly wage at \$253. See Figure 2 below.



Government added the most jobs from the third to fourth quarters at 2,187 followed closely by retail trade at 1,738. Health care and social assistance had the highest job increase year over year at 3,313. Alternatively, professional and technical services for the first time in seven years reported its third consecutive quarterly decrease in employment, and construction and real estate showed more than the usual seasonal decline in employment from the previous quarter. With the housing market slowing significantly, construction shed 4,719 jobs, breaking 2001's record of 4,071 fewer jobs in the fourth quarter.

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