

Idaho Department of Labor Underemployment Rates

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Statewide	16.5%	15.5%	12.4%	11.0%	10.9%	12.3%
Southwestern Idaho						
Ada County	14.4%	12.8%	9.6%	9.9%	10.1%	14.3%
Adams County	20.8%	15.4%	9.7%	15.9%	13.6%	27.1%
Boise County	9.2%	15.8%	6.6%	17.3%	5.3%	18.4%
Canyon County	19.6%	17.4%	13.8%	11.4%	13.8%	11.9%
Elmore County	17.3%	14.9%	11.4%	10.3%	12.5%	7.0%
Gem County	41.0%	32.3%	15.6%	20.9%	10.8%	7.5%
Owyhee County	17.1%	13.9%	11.8%	14.5%	8.8%	0.5%
Payette County	25.8%	24.9%	22.6%	16.1%	26.8%	10.8%
Valley County	24.6%	25.0%	15.9%	15.5%	17.4%	15.3%
Washington County	17.5%	17.1%	14.8%	11.7%	14.0%	7.5%
South Central Idaho						
Blaine County	21.8%	11.2%	20.6%	17.6%	12.9%	17.2%
Camas County	50.4%	0.5%	23.1%	1.0%	0.3%	0.3%
Cassia County	12.6%	11.9%	10.1%	12.2%	8.6%	11.8%
Gooding County	10.9%	6.3%	7.2%	9.5%	10.0%	0.4%
Jerome County	16.0%	14.1%	3.8%	27.8%	6.0%	7.8%
Lincoln County	23.8%	17.5%	6.1%	2.0%	4.6%	0.7%
Minidoka County	53.8%	36.8%	39.3%	25.7%	35.0%	37.1%
Twin Falls County	16.1%	13.3%	16.0%	8.3%	9.2%	8.4%
Southeastern Idaho						
Bannock County	13.3%	11.6%	11.2%	8.7%	8.5%	6.9%
Bear Lake County	0.2%	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%
Bingham County	13.8%	30.6%	23.4%	14.9%	16.4%	21.1%
Caribou County	11.3%	10.7%	21.5%	1.9%	12.1%	12.4%
Franklin County	13.1%	0.3%	0.2%	4.7%	5.2%	0.3%
Oneida County	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%
Power County	12.1%	12.1%	21.9%	7.0%	5.6%	11.1%
North Central Idaho						
Clearwater County	9.8%	9.4%	10.2%	10.1%	14.1%	9.6%
Idaho County	17.0%	20.1%	20.3%	17.3%	10.6%	12.7%
Latah County	15.3%	15.9%	11.6%	8.7%	8.2%	7.3%
Lewis County	21.6%	11.2%	26.0%	21.9%	9.1%	4.0%
Nez Perce County	18.6%	21.9%	18.1%	18.4%	12.3%	15.9%

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Northern Idaho						
Benewah County	13.2%	4.4%	12.6%	8.2%	14.5%	8.6%
Bonner County	14.4%	10.5%	8.9%	10.7%	9.9%	11.1%
Boundary County	20.6%	18.0%	15.9%	27.6%	30.6%	16.3%
Kootenai County	8.0%	8.2%	8.0%	7.0%	5.4%	9.9%
Shoshone County	10.5%	53.0%	7.4%	7.5%	6.6%	6.4%
East Central Idaho						
Bonneville County	13.0%	11.5%	8.8%	6.8%	7.2%	5.8%
Butte County	13.7%	36.2%	1.3%	11.8%	0.5%	0.3%
Clark County	0.6%	11.5%	2.0%	56.0%	8.5%	0.2%
Custer County	8.4%	6.1%	3.0%	23.8%	9.7%	10.3%
Fremont County	36.2%	18.0%	10.8%	17.0%	30.4%	17.1%
Jefferson County	28.3%	19.5%	9.0%	16.7%	13.4%	12.5%
Lemhi County	40.2%	33.0%	16.1%	26.9%	27.7%	29.4%
Madison County	11.3%	12.8%	10.7%	17.2%	9.6%	10.1%
Teton County	25.4%	1.4%	35.4%	11.8%	2.2%	5.8%

Source: Idaho Department of Labor

Updated: February 11, 2009

Assumptions and Methodology:

Total county employment by residence as calculated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics is the starting point. The total labor force figure was not used because it includes those who are unemployed, and this model attempts to measure only underemployment.

It is assumed that the job orders and applicant data received by the 24 local offices are representative of the mix of the local economy's part-time and full-time jobs and the qualifications of the local work force in each of Idaho's 44 counties.

Job orders that were part-time, temporary or full-time lasting for less than 150 days were presumed to be filled by workers taking these jobs involuntarily because they felt nothing else was available, thus making them underemployed and considered involuntary part time workers.

The model assumes that people working part-time jobs for over 150 days are doing so voluntarily because they knew going in that it was a long-term part-time job.

Currently employed people who have associate degrees or higher and have filed job applications are also considered underemployed because they are looking for a new or better job in terms of wages or benefits or a job in their field of training, thus making them underemployed.

Using total county employment as a basis, the job orders received by the local offices were split into full-time jobs lasting over 150 days and part-time jobs over 150 days coupled with part-time and full-time temporary jobs lasting less than 150 days.

People working the part-time jobs or full-time temporary jobs lasting less than 150 days are assumed to want permanent good-paying full-time jobs or jobs in their areas of training and therefore are deemed underemployed and are the involuntary part time workers mentioned earlier.

Next are the current employment status and educational level of the job seekers themselves.

Any employed job seekers with an associate degree or higher is considered underemployed under the broad definition of underemployed adopted by the model.

People with education or training, who have jobs but are looking for new jobs are underemployed whether based on pay, working conditions, benefits or the challenge of the current job. Although this definition is broad, this pool of workers is an available labor force for new and existing businesses.

The number of people with jobs and education who are still looking for work and the number of involuntarily part-time workers are a county's underemployed. That total divided by the total number of people working in the county provides the underemployment rate.

Caveats and Miscellaneous Information:

Holiday and Seasonal Workers: This model does not try to measure these workers because they are not considered underemployed since this is all they wish to work. The model attempts to measure the underemployment rate of the workers who are in the labor force all year, not just for a few months at a time.

In a few counties that are a long distance from a local Labor Department office, the data and model do not work as well. Those counties are Bear Lake, Oneida, Franklin, Camas Caribou, Butte and Clark.

Because underemployment is subjective, no wage data was used to avoid the likelihood that an extremely high rate of people would claim underemployment if wages were the only variable used. Even without specific wage data, however, it is believed the model captures the effect of lower wages in the components of involuntary part-time workers and educated employed job seekers looking for work since wages are likely to be a factor in both situations.

In addition, the number of employed job seekers with education who are looking for work is underestimated. Only those who have come through a Labor Department local office are counted, and clearly other employed workers with degrees are looking for better jobs but not through the Labor Department system.