

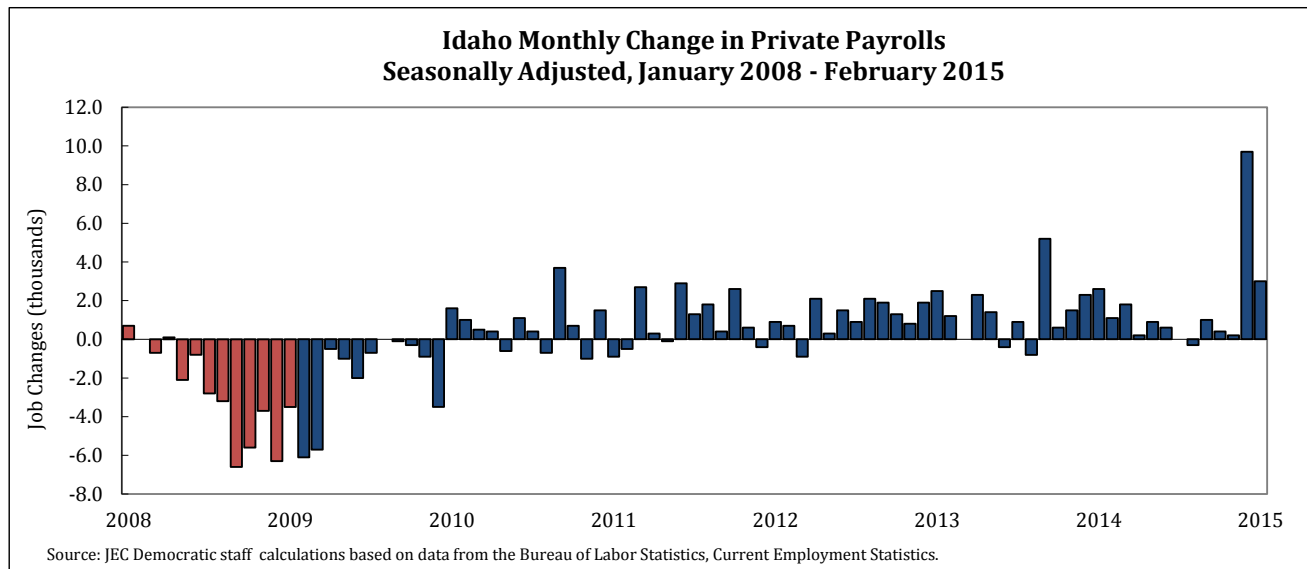


## ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT: IDAHO

*\*\*Includes Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs and unemployment data through February 2015\*\**

### JOBS

- In February, private-sector employment in Idaho grew by 3,000 jobs. Over the past year, the Idaho private sector has added 18,600 jobs. This compares with an increase of 16,800 jobs over the 12 months ending in February 2014.
- Idaho private-sector employers have added 69,100 jobs (an increase of 14.3 percent) since February 2010, the national low point for private-sector employment.
- In Idaho, the following sectors have posted the largest job gains since February 2010: trade, transportation and utilities (14,200 jobs), education and health services (13,500 jobs) and leisure and hospitality (11,400 jobs).
- The Idaho sectors with the greatest job gains in percentage terms since February 2010 are: construction (24.6 percent), leisure and hospitality (19.8 percent) and financial activities (16.9 percent).



### UNEMPLOYMENT

- The unemployment rate in Idaho was 3.9 percent in February 2015, down 0.2 percentage point from January. The rate is down 1.1 percentage points from one year earlier and is below its recent peak of 9.7 percent in July 2009.
- 30,700 Idaho residents were unemployed during February 2015, down from a recent high of 73,700 in June 2009. There are still 7,100 more people unemployed in Idaho than when the recession began.
- In Idaho, initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits totaled 5,726 during February, down 12.5 percent from the previous month. Total initial claims over the past 12 months are down 22.7 percent from their level over the 12 months before that.

### EXPORTS

- In Idaho, exports totaled \$368 million in January and \$4.8 billion over the past year, down 14.3 percent from the 12 months ending in January 2014 (inflation-adjusted dollars).
- Idaho exports over the past 12 months are down 11.6 percent from their level in the same 12-month period four years earlier (inflation-adjusted dollars).

### HOUSING

- Home prices in Idaho increased by 5.0 percent from the fourth quarter of 2013 to the fourth quarter of 2014 (the most recent quarter for which data are available). They are up 30.2 percent since their recent low in the second quarter of 2011 but remain 11.4 percent below their pre-housing-crash peak.
- Housing starts in Idaho totaled 7,200 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in February 2015, a decrease of 1.4 percent from January.
- Within the West census region, which includes Idaho, sales of new single-family homes totaled 126,000 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in February 2015, a decrease of 6.0 percent from January. Sales of existing single-family homes increased by 7.7 percent to 980,000 units (at seasonally adjusted annual rates) from January to February 2015.

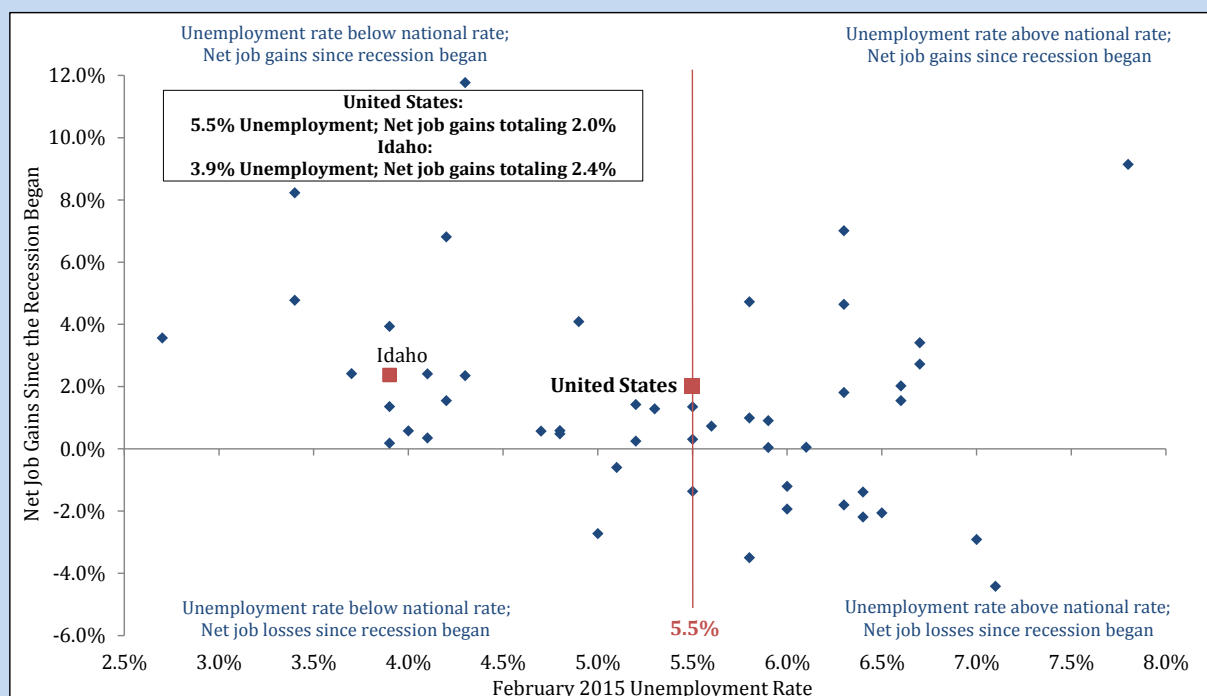
\* For Idaho-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Idaho office:  
<http://labor.idaho.gov/dnn/Default.aspx?tabid=696&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

## How Does Idaho Compare to Other States?

Workers across the country were hit hard during the recent recession. Since then, employment in some states has returned to pre-recession levels, while employment in other states remains below pre-recession levels. The chart below allows for a comparison of Idaho to other states using two metrics.

The unemployment rate (measured along the horizontal axis) serves as a gauge of current labor-market conditions in Idaho, while net job gains since the recession began (current nonfarm jobs as a share of jobs prior to the recession) measures progress toward labor-market recovery (vertical axis).

States falling in the upper left quadrant have net job gains since the start of the recession and unemployment rates lower than the national unemployment rate. States falling in the lower right quadrant have higher unemployment rates than the United States overall and are still experiencing net job losses relative to pre-recession levels.



Note: The figure above excludes North Dakota, which has a current unemployment rate of 2.9% and net job gains totaling 30.2% since the start of the recession.

### STATE QUICK FACTS

		Idaho	United States
<b>Unemployment Rate</b> .....	February 2015	3.9%	5.5%
	February 2014	5.0%	6.7%
	February 2013	6.4%	7.7%
	February 2012	7.5%	8.3%
<b>Percent of Population Who Are Veterans</b> .....	2014	10.9%	8.9%
<b>All Veterans' Unemployment Rate</b> .....	2014	2.3%	5.3%
<b>Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate</b> .....	2014	4.0%	7.2%
<b>Median Household Income (2013 \$)</b> .....	2013	\$ 51,767	\$ 51,939
	(CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement) 2007	\$ 55,257	\$ 56,436
<b>Poverty Rate</b> .....	2013	12.9%	14.5%
	(CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement) 2007	9.9%	12.5%
<b>Percentage Without Health Insurance</b> .....	2013	16.2%	14.5%
(American Community Survey)			