

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For Immediate Release: Aug. 21, 2015

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Idaho's Unemployment Rate Edges Up to 4.1%, Labor Force Expands

An increase of 1,200 people looking for work nudged Idaho's labor force up to just under 800,000 and July's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate up to 4.1 percent.

July was the third consecutive month Idaho's unemployment rate increased by one-tenth of one percent and the seventh month in a row for a labor force increase.

Year-to-date, Idaho's labor force has added almost 23,000 people, an increase of 2.7 percent - the largest gain in nearly 10 years.

Idaho's labor force participation rate - the percentage of people 16 years and older with jobs or looking for work - remained unchanged at 64.1 percent for the first time in six months.

A seasonal decline in public education jobs offset month-to-month payroll gains in construction, manufacturing and service sector jobs by 2,800 for a 0.4 percent decrease which is slightly higher than a five-year average decline of 0.2 percent.

Year-over-year, an across-the-board gain of 28,200 nonfarm jobs resulted in an annual 2.9 percent increase, with the biggest gains in the construction, trade, professional service and manufacturing industries.

There was just one unemployed worker for every job opening in Idaho's tight labor market in July, according to estimates by The Conference Board, a Washington D.C. think-tank.

Nationally, July's unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.3 percent.

Annually, unemployment benefit payments were down nearly 17 percent - from \$1.75 million a year ago to \$1.46 million for July of this year - while the number of claimants receiving benefits dropped by 21 percent from a weekly average of 6,708 a year ago to 5,293.

Twenty-six of Idaho's 44 counties had seasonally adjusted unemployment rates higher than the state rate, an increase of five counties from June. Thirty counties experienced rate increases with Clearwater County the highest at 7.8 percent and Franklin County the lowest at 3.1 percent.

Despite climbing from 3.6 percent to 3.7 percent, the Idaho Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area had the lowest unemployment rate among the MSAs. The Boise MSA climbed from 3.7 to 3.8 percent, and the Coeur d'Alene MSA climbed to 4.9 percent, the highest unemployment rate reported by all Idaho MSAs.

Visit <http://labor.idaho.gov/publications/econsitrep.pdf> for a PowerPoint containing insight from this release, or lmi.idaho.gov for other labor market insights.

| Seasonally Adjusted Data | 7/15 | 6/15 | 7/14 |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 799,200 | 798,000 | 778,600 |
| Unemployment | 33,000 | 32,000 | 38,000 |
| % Labor Force Unemployed | 4.1 | 4.0 | 4.9 |
| Total Employment | 766,200 | 766,000 | 740,600 |

| Unadjusted Forecast Data | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 810,500 | 808,300 | 789,900 |
| Unemployment | 31,500 | 30,400 | 35,800 |
| % Labor Force Unemployed | 3.9 | 3.8 | 4.5 |
| Total Employment | 779,000 | 777,900 | 754,100 |

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