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## **Idaho Projected to See Strong Job Growth through 2024**

Idaho's projected job growth rate is expected to be the sixth fastest in the nation through 2024.

The Gem State's job market is forecast to grow by 20 percent from 2014 through 2024, according to new long-term industry and occupational projections released today by the Idaho Department of Labor. Annually, the projected rate is 1.8 percent per year – three times the national projection of 0.6 percent growth over the same time period.

Utah, Nevada, Colorado, Arizona and Texas are projected to have the fastest job growth over the next decade.

Growth in STEM occupations – Science, Technology, Engineering and Math – is expected to be particularly strong at a rate of 2.1 percent, compared with 1.8 percent for non-STEM occupations. According to the department's research analysts, the projected increase is encouraging for Idaho's future, as historically, Idaho's growth in STEM occupations has fallen below national average growth rates.

Educational attainment by occupation reveals that by 2024, 61 percent of Idaho's new jobs will require an education level greater than a high school diploma with 29 percent requiring a bachelor's degree or higher.

Projected job growth by industry mirrors Idaho's projected population makeup and its associated needs. The consumption of services expected from aging and retiring Baby Boomers, as well as expansion of a gig economy,\* contributes to other services being listed as the fastest growing industry from 2014 to 2024. Construction follows with a projected 2.5 percent annual growth rate and an additional 43,300 jobs, but still 13,200 short of the industry's peak of 56,500 in August 2006, the height of Idaho's housing boom.

\*A gig economy is defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics as an economy of contingent or alternative employment arrangements, or both. Contingent workers are those who don't have an implicit or explicit contract for long-term employment. Alternative employment arrangements include independent contractors, freelancers or consultants, on-call workers and workers provided by temporary help agencies or contract firms. Gig workers may also be included in counts of workers who are part-time, self-employed, or hold multiple jobs.

Idaho's projected hot jobs - jobs that are numerous, fast-growing and well-paying - reinforce the strong growth and demand for occupations that require education beyond high school and/or are a STEM occupation. Half of the top 20 hot jobs are STEM occupations and all but two require a bachelor's degree or higher. Software developers top the list followed by lawyers, management analysts, accountants and auditors, and civil engineers. Demand for health care occupations is expected to remain strong and make up 13 percent of the state's top 100 jobs, with registered nurses claiming the 11<sup>th</sup> position.

Idaho's long-term projections are updated and released biennially, on every even year under the guidance of the U.S. Department of Labor. Projections are developed for jobs by industry and occupations with the primary goal of providing the public with valuable career information for sound decision-making. These employment projections are not a prediction of the future, but a model-based projection of what the economy will look like if it were running at full steam by 2024.

Details for the department's most recent projections can be accessed at [lmi.idaho.gov/projections](http://lmi.idaho.gov/projections).

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**Table 1: Industry Projections by Sector**

Industry Title	2014 Employment	2024 Projection	Net Growth	Annual Growth Rate
<b>Total Employment</b>	<b>693,716</b>	<b>831,024</b>	<b>137,308</b>	<b>1.8%</b>
Ag, Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting	23,461	27,755	4,294	1.7
Mining	2,425	2,379	-46	-0.2
Construction	33,845	43,315	9,470	2.5
Manufacturing	59,831	65,669	5,838	0.9
<b>Total Goods Producing</b>	<b>119,562</b>	<b>139,118</b>	<b>19,556</b>	<b>1.5</b>
Utilities	2,941	3,171	230	0.8
Wholesale Trade	28,693	32,619	3,926	1.3
Retail Trade	79,757	92,896	13,139	1.5
Transportation and Warehousing	20,189	22,282	2,093	1.0
Information	9,202	10,154	952	1.0
Financial Activities	27,989	34,057	6,068	2.0
Professional & Business Services	77,919	93,028	15,109	1.8
Educational Services	56,470	65,752	9,282	1.5
Healthcare & Social Assistance	29,238	32,340	3,102	2.0
Leisure & Hospitality	65,636	82,604	16,968	2.3
Other Services	15,891	23,201	7,310	3.9
Public Administration	53,882	62,480	8,598	1.5
<b>Total Service Producing</b>	<b>526,988</b>	<b>630,143</b>	<b>103,155</b>	<b>1.8%</b>

**Table 2: Occupational Projections by Occupation Group**

<b>Occupational Group</b>	<b>2014 Employment</b>	<b>2024 Projection</b>	<b>Net Growth</b>	<b>Annual Openings</b>
Architecture & Engineering	11,935	14,355	2,420	5,294
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media	10,315	13,046	2,738	5,305
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	25,916	29,951	4,046	9,207
Business & Financial Operations	25,857	32,450	6,593	11,955
Community & Social Service	12,516	15,501	2,985	5,632
Computer & Mathematical	14,017	18,354	4,337	6,337
Construction & Extraction	36,414	45,726	9,331	14,924
Education, Training, & Library	39,465	46,613	7,148	15,664
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	17,504	20,360	2,856	7,287
Food Preparation & Serving Related	55,969	69,226	13,257	33,684
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	35,377	42,358	6,986	14,646
Healthcare Support	18,170	22,421	4,284	8,322
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	28,831	34,610	5,813	12,600
Legal	4,513	5,615	1,102	1,884
Life, Physical, & Social Science	10,078	12,855	2,777	5,936
Management	54,542	67,319	12,785	24,449
Office & Administrative Support	103,053	116,941	14,388	35,773
Personal Care & Service	23,607	31,955	8,356	13,145
Production	42,452	47,472	5,320	14,992
Protective Service	12,994	14,923	1,934	5,221
Sales & Related	68,196	80,204	12,032	32,508
Transportation & Material Moving	43,546	51,093	7,614	17,470

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