

RURAL IDAHO

AT A GLANCE 2008

- Roughly 3-in-10 Idahoans now live in rural areas, compared to 4-in-10 in 1990
- Rural Idaho has continued to grow since 2000, though not as fast as urban parts of the state
- The rural population increased an average of one percent a year from 2000 to 2006; the urban population increased about three percent per year
- The more remote a county is, the more slowly it is likely to grow. In contrast, rural counties with strong commuting ties to large cities are growing the fastest (about two percent a year since 2000)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Where Do Rural Idahoans Live? (trends since 2000)

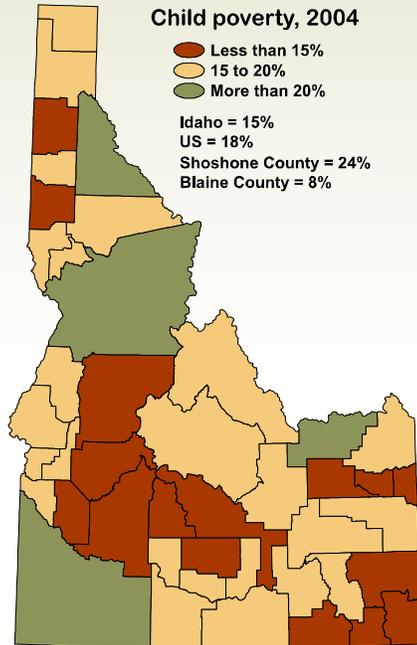
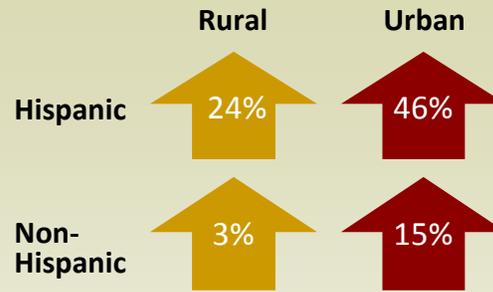
- 25% live in counties that have lost population
- 60% live in counties that have grown less than the state as a whole
- 15% live in counties that grew faster than the state as a whole
- 25% live in recreation-based counties, which have grown three times as fast as other rural counties

RURAL—counties in which the largest town or city has less than 20,000 residents
URBAN—counties in which the largest town or city has 20,000 residents or more

Hispanics contribute to rural growth:

In rural areas nationwide, Hispanics have accounted for a large share of population growth in recent years. The same is true in rural Idaho, where the increasing Hispanic population has accounted for almost half of all growth since 2000. About 12 percent of Idaho's rural population is Hispanic. Rural counties that have added the largest number of Hispanics since 2000 have large dairy farms or a large tourism sector, including Jerome, Blaine, Bingham, and Gooding.

Rural & urban population increase, Hispanic & Non-Hispanic, 2000-2006



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

About 20,000 rural children are poor:

1-in-6 rural children live in households with incomes below the federal poverty threshold (which is \$20,444 for a family of four). Rural child poverty rates are slightly higher than those in urban areas, although the gap is narrowing over time.

Four counties have child poverty rates of more than 20 percent:

Shoshone, Owyhee, Clark and Idaho

Selected social and economic indicators, rural and urban Idaho

| | RURAL | URBAN | IDAHO |
|---|--------|--------|--------|
| Population | | | |
| 2000 (thousands) | 431 | 863 | 1,294 |
| 2006 (thousands) | 453 | 1,013 | 1,466 |
| Hispanic origin (2006, %) | 11.8 | 8.4 | 9.5 |
| Median age (2000, years) | 36.5 | 31.7 | 33.2 |
| 4-year college degree holders (2000, %) | 15.8 | 24.7 | 21.7 |
| Civilian unemployment rate (2006, %) | 4.1 | 3.1 | 3.4 |
| Average annual real wage per job (2004, \$) | 28,110 | 31,433 | 30,586 |
| Change in number of jobs (2000-2005, %) | 6.3 | 11.8 | 10.2 |
| Per capita income (2005, \$) | 25,175 | 29,987 | 28,478 |
| Poverty | | | |
| Overall (2004, %) | 12.3 | 11.1 | 11.5 |
| Among children (2004, %) | 16.8 | 14.4 | 15.1 |
| Among adults 65 and over (1999, %) | 9.7 | 7.4 | 8.3 |

Sources: US Bureau of the Census, US Bureau of Economic Analysis, US Bureau of Labor Statistics

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For information on your county, visit the Indicators Website, www.indicators.nwaf.org