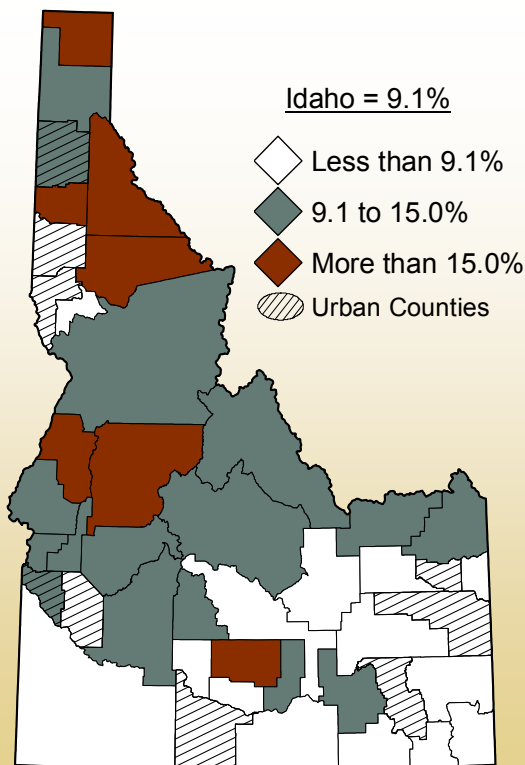


IDAHO AT A GLANCE

Rural Idaho in the Recession February 2010

- Nationwide, the current economic recession officially began in December 2007. The recession didn't hit rural Idaho until about a year later, when some small communities began to experience very steep declines.
- The hardest hit counties in the state – all rural – are located in central and northern Idaho. Rural counties that are more dependent on agriculture, mainly in the south, are weathering the recession better than the state as a whole.
- Though some small communities have been hit hard, employment trends in rural Idaho have generally been more stable than in urban parts of the state. Employment in rural Idaho has tended to grow less during boom times and decline more slowly during recessionary periods.
- Rural Idaho accounts for 30% of the state's population now, down from 33% in 2001. Out-migration from rural Idaho has slowed since the recession began, as it has in rural America as a whole.

Unemployment rate December 2009



UNEMPLOYMENT

- As of December 2009, seven counties in Idaho – all rural – had unemployment rates over 15%: Adams (24%); Valley (19%); Clearwater and Lincoln (both 18%); and Benewah, Boundary and Shoshone (all 17%). At the beginning of the recession, only Adams and Clearwater counties had rates above 10%.
- Among urban counties, Canyon – with 12% – had the highest December unemployment rate.
- Looking at long term trends, unemployment rates are consistently higher in rural Idaho, but the gap has narrowed significantly in recent years.

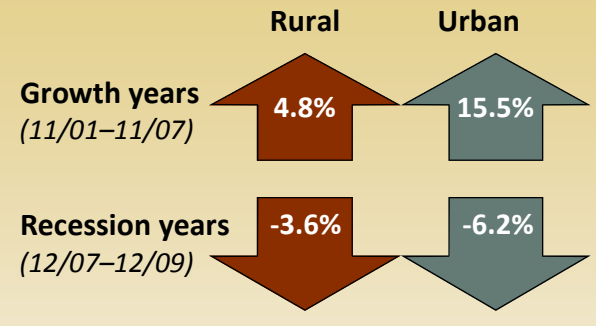
RURAL—counties in which the largest town or city has less than 20,000 residents

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

University of Idaho

EMPLOYMENT & JOB GROWTH

People with jobs:



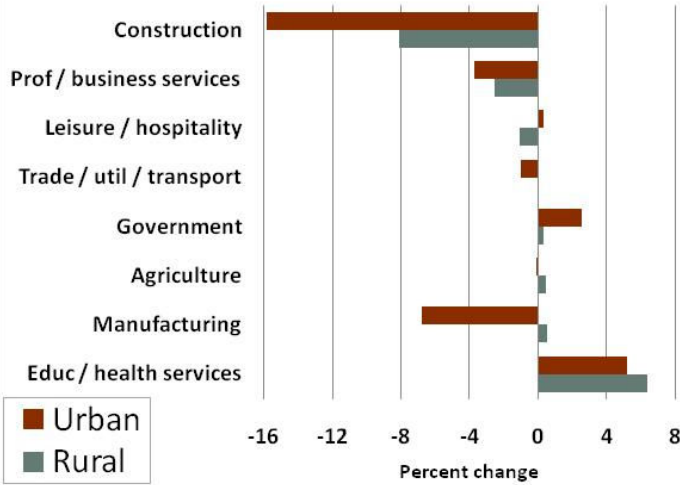
Between Dec 07 & Dec 09:

- Eight counties—all rural—had employment declines of at least 9%: Valley (-13%); Adams, Camas and Blaine (-10%); and Teton, Owyhee, Gem and Boise (-9%).
- Urban Ada and Canyon counties also had large declines at -9%.

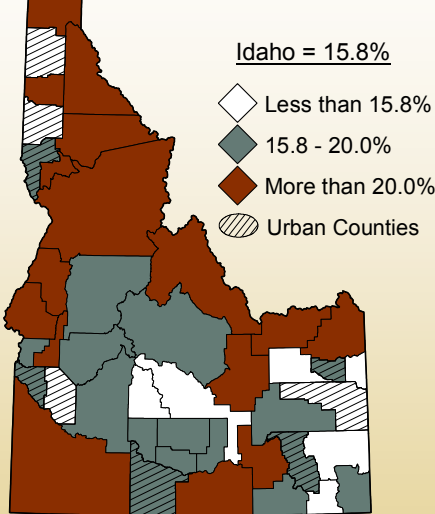
Between 2007 & 2008:

- 6-in-10 rural residents lived in counties that lost jobs, compared to 9-in-10 residents in urban counties.
- The construction industry was hit hardest—for both rural and urban areas—while education and health services continued to grow.

Employment change, selected industries Idaho, 2007-2008



Child poverty rate 2008



POVERTY

- Poverty rates are higher in rural than in urban Idaho – consistent with national trends.
- In Idaho, 1-in-5 rural children (compared to 1-in-7 urban children) lived in a family with income less than the 2008 poverty level – \$21,834 for a family of four.
- In 2008, 6 counties in Idaho – all rural – had child poverty rates of at least 25%: Owyhee, Clark, Lemhi and Shoshone (all 26%); Idaho and Washington counties (each 25%).

SOURCES: Idaho Department of Labor, US Bureau of the Census, US Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service. Additional data available at www.indicators.nwaf.org and lmi.idaho.gov.

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