



POPULATION BRIEF

Trends in the Western U.S.

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Idaho

The population of the State of Idaho has grown rapidly in recent years, increasing from less than one million in 1980 to nearly 1.6 million in 2010, a 66.1 percent boost. From 2000 to 2010, Idaho gained 273,629 residents, an increase of 21.1 percent. In the entire United States, only Nevada, Arizona and Utah had higher growth rates than Idaho during the first decade of the 21st century.

Table 1 shows that population change patterns varied widely in Idaho counties. In the 30 years from 1980 to 2010, the population more than doubled in six Idaho counties (Ada, Blaine, Boise, Canyon, Kootenai, and Teton). The population more than tripled in Teton County, increasing from 2,897 in 1980 to 10,170 in 2010. The greatest numerical increases from 1980 to 2010 were in Ada County (219,329) and Canyon County (105,167). Both of these counties are in the Boise-Nampa Metropolitan Area. From 2000 to 2010, the largest percentage population increase was in Teton County (69.5 percent), while the largest numerical increases were in Ada (91,461) and Canyon (57,482) Counties. In contrast, six Idaho counties (Bear Lake, Butte, Caribou, Clearwater, Lewis, and Shoshone) had smaller populations in 2010 than in 1980. Further, eight counties experienced population declines in the first decade of the 21st century. All of the counties experiencing negative population growth were nonmetropolitan.

Figure 1 graphically presents the distribution of the Idaho population from 1980 to 2010. By 2010, about two-thirds of Idaho's residents were living in metropolitan counties. The proportion of the population living in the state's 32 nonmetropolitan counties has steadily declined from 43.2 percent in 1980 to 34.4 percent in 2010. At the same time, the proportion of the population living in the Boise-Nampa Metropolitan Area has increased from 29.7 percent to 39.3 percent. In addition to Boise-Nampa, Idaho has seven other metropolitan counties comprising the Idaho Falls, Logan (Utah), Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, and Pocatello Metropolitan Areas. The proportion of the state's residents living in these other metropolitan counties has remained relatively constant. Figure 2 indicates that the population

of the Boise-Nampa Metropolitan area increased by 102.2 percent from 1980 to 2010. In comparison, the other metro areas grew by 61.1 percent while the nonmetro counties grew by 32.1 percent. Nonmetro population patterns varied widely from one county to another. While some counties had population declines, others (especially high amenity counties such as Blaine and Teton) experienced very rapid growth.

Racial/Ethnic Composition of the Idaho Population

As presented in Table 2, 84 percent of the Idaho population was White in 2010. Only Montana and Idaho had a smaller proportion of minority residents than Idaho. The percentage of Idaho residents that are minority has steadily increased from 6.1 percent in 1980 to 16 percent in 2010 (Figure 3). Growth of the Hispanic population has been especially rapid, and in 2010 Hispanics represented 11.2 percent of the Idaho population. Hispanics comprise more than one-fourth of the population in Clark, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Owyhee, and Power Counties. In 19 counties more than 90 percent of the residents are White.

Educational Attainment in Idaho

Nearly 90 percent (87.7) of Idaho residents' age 25 and older had at least a high school degree in 2009, while 23.7 percent of these individuals had at least a college degree (Table 3). In eight western states, the proportion of adults with a high school degree is higher than in Idaho, and only Nevada and Wyoming have a smaller proportion of adults with a college degree. In 12 Idaho counties, more than 90 percent of adults have a high school degree, while this proportion is only 69.5 percent in Clark County. While more than 40 percent of adults in Latah (42.1) and Blaine (40.7) Counties have college degrees, only 7.6 percent of Clark County adults have a college degree.

Educational attainment varies widely for different segments of the Idaho population. Especially significant are variations by race/ethnicity. As is evident from Figure 4, more than 90 percent of White and Black adults have completed high school compared to only 56.1 percent of Hispanics. Similarly, 41.2 percent

of Asians and 32.3 percent of Blacks have completed college compared to 8.0 percent of Hispanics and 8.4 percent of Native Americans. Figure 5 shows that educational attainment levels for the residents of metro counties exceeded educational level for the residents of nonmetro counties.

Income and Poverty in Idaho

The median household income in Idaho in 2009 was \$44,644 (Table 3). This was lower than for all but two of the 13 states in the western region. Incomes varied widely by county. The median household income in Blaine County was \$62,717. In comparison, in 15 counties the median household income was less than \$40,000. Table 3 also shows that 14.4 percent of Idaho residents were living in poverty in 2009. Three states in the western region had a higher percent of residents living in poverty than Idaho. Again, there were substantial variations in poverty rates by county. While 8.0 percent of Blaine County residents were living in poverty, this proportion was 28.9 percent in Madison County. Table 3 also shows that the median value of owner-occupied homes in Idaho in 2009 was \$166,700. These values ranged from \$501,300 in Blaine County to \$76,300 in Clark County.

Incomes and poverty levels also varied widely for people with different characteristics. Figure 6A shows that while household incomes averaged \$49,608 for Asians and \$45,208 for Whites, they were only \$30,420 for Hispanics. Similarly, Figure 6B shows that while 10.5 percent of Whites were living in poverty, this proportion was 25.4 percent for Blacks and 19.5 percent for Hispanics. Figures 7A and 7B shows that incomes were higher and poverty rates lower for metro as opposed to nonmetro residents. ✂

Figure 1. Distribution of Idaho Population, 1980-2010

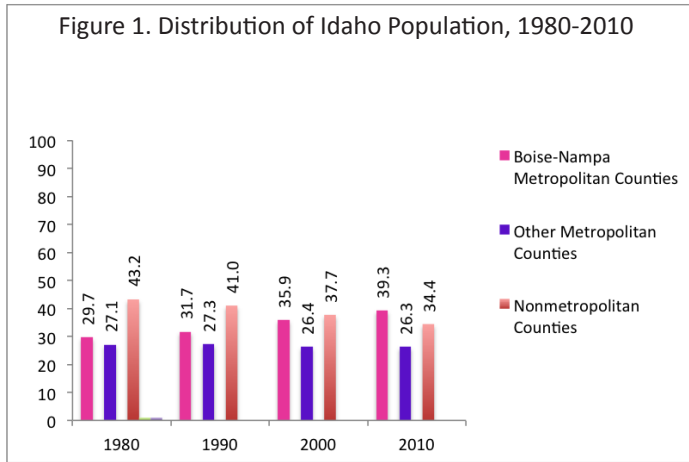


Figure 4. Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity in Idaho, 2009

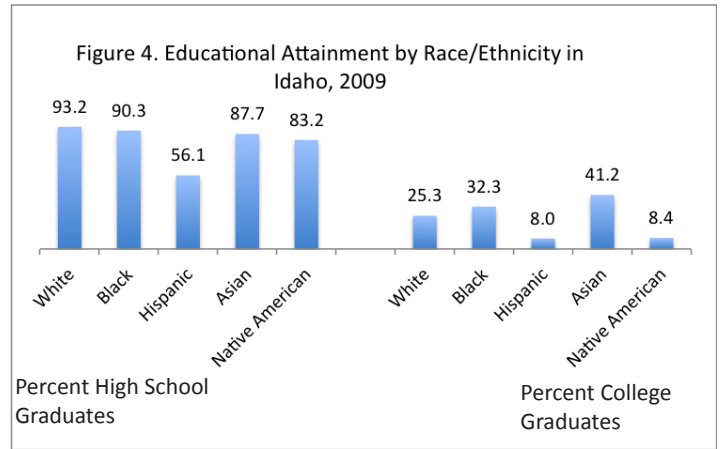


Figure 2. Percent Population Change in Idaho, 1980-2010

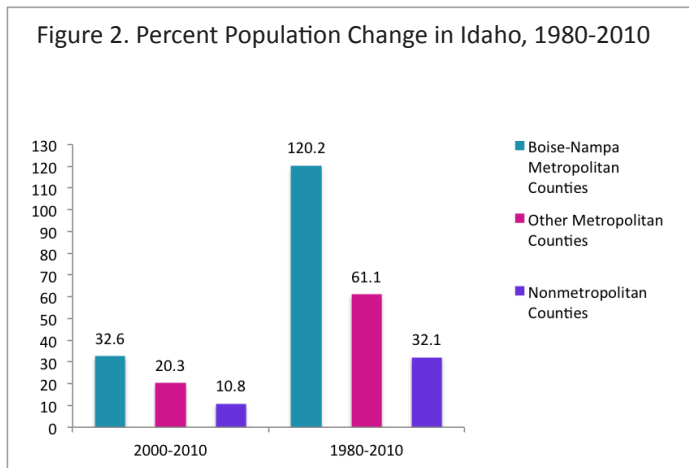


Figure 5. Educational Attainment by Residence in Idaho, 2009

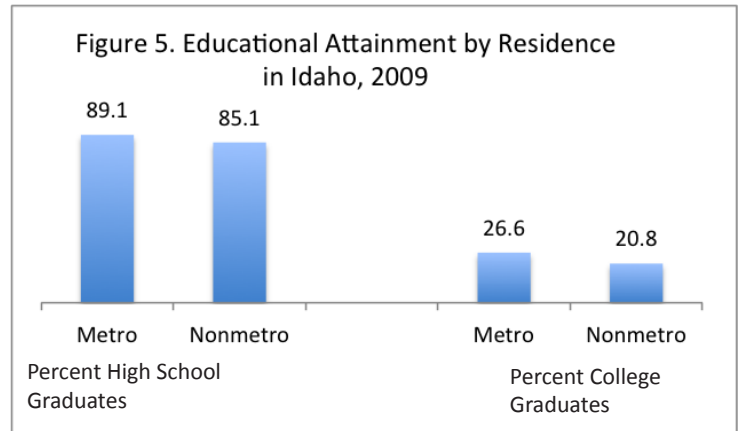


Figure 3. Racial/Ethnic Composition of the Idaho Population (Percent) 1980-2010

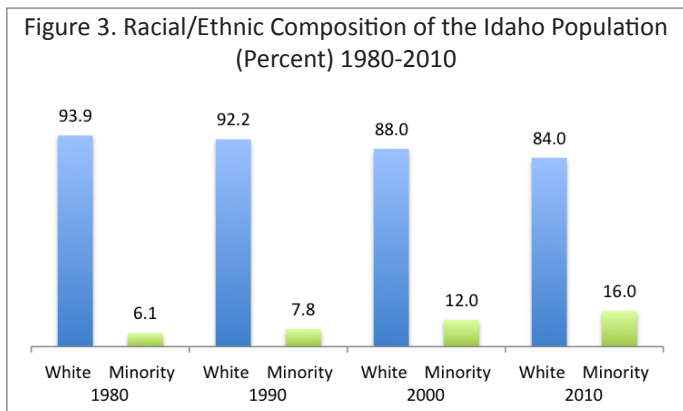
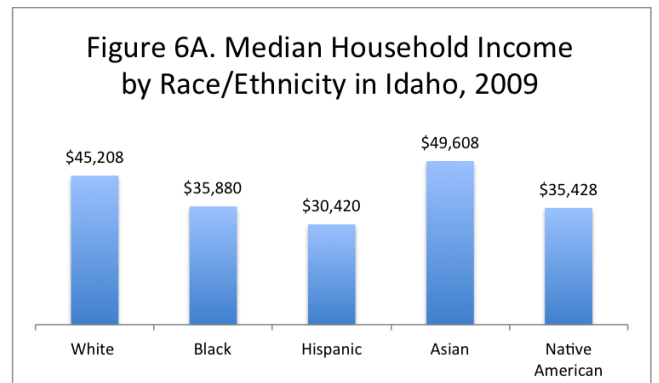


Figure 6A. Median Household Income by Race/Ethnicity in Idaho, 2009



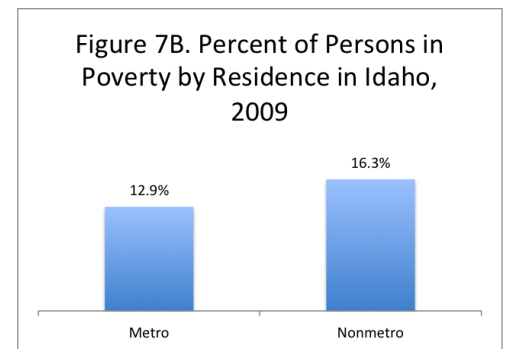
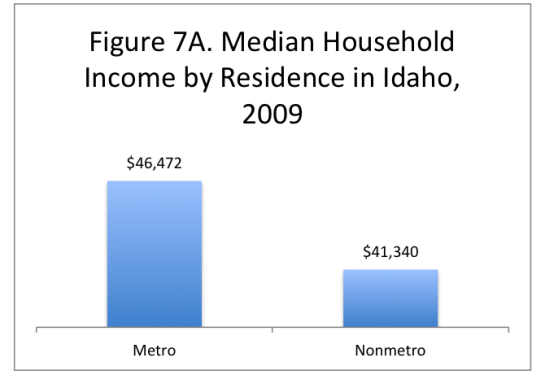
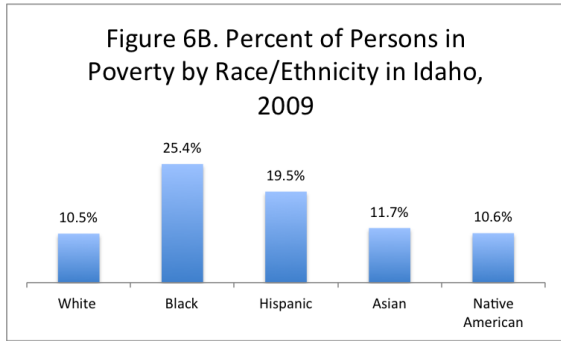


Table 1. Population Change in Idaho Counties, 1980-2010

County	1980 - 2010				Change			
	1980	1990	2000	2010	2000 - 2010		1980 - 2010	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Ada	173,036	205,775	300,904	392,365	91,461	30.4	219,329	126.8
Adams	3,347	3,254	3,476	3,976	500	14.4	629	18.8
Bannock	65,421	66,026	75,565	82,839	7,274	9.6	17,418	26.6
Bear Lake	6,931	6,084	6,411	5,986	-425	-6.6	-945	-13.6
Benewah	8,292	7,937	9,171	9,285	114	1.2	993	12.0
Bingham	36,489	37,583	41,735	45,607	3,872	9.3	9,118	25.0
Blaine	9,841	13,552	18,991	21,376	2,385	12.6	11,535	117.2
Boise	2,999	3,509	6,670	7,028	358	5.4	4,029	134.3
Bonner	24,163	26,622	36,835	40,877	4,042	11.0	16,714	69.2
Bonneville	65,980	72,207	82,522	104,234	21,712	26.3	38,254	58.0
Boundary	7,289	8,332	9,871	10,972	1,101	11.2	3,683	50.5
Butte	3,342	2,918	2,899	2,891	-8	-0.3	-451	-13.5
Camas	818	727	991	1,117	126	12.7	299	36.7
Canyon	83,756	90,076	131,441	188,923	57,482	43.7	105,167	125.6
Caribou	8,695	6,963	7,304	6,963	-341	-4.7	-1,732	-19.9
Cassia	19,427	19,532	21,416	22,952	1,536	7.2	3,525	18.1
Clark	798	762	1,022	982	-40	-3.9	184	23.1
Clearwater	10,390	8,505	8,930	8,761	-169	-2.0	-1,629	-15.7
Custer	3,385	4,133	4,342	4,368	26	0.6	983	29.0
Elmore	21,565	21,205	29,130	27,038	-2,092	-7.2	5,473	25.4
Franklin	8,895	9,232	11,329	12,786	1,457	12.9	3,891	43.7
Fremont	10,813	10,937	11,819	13,242	1,423	12.0	2,429	22.5
Gem	11,972	11,844	15,181	16,719	1,538	10.1	4,747	39.7
Gooding	11,874	11,633	14,155	15,464	1,309	9.2	3,590	30.2
Idaho	14,769	13,783	15,511	16,267	756	4.9	1,498	10.1
Jefferson	15,304	16,543	19,155	26,140	6,985	36.5	10,836	70.8
Jerome	14,840	15,138	18,342	22,374	4,032	22.0	7,534	50.8
Kootenai	59,770	69,795	108,685	138,494	29,809	27.4	78,724	131.7
Latah	28,749	30,617	34,935	37,244	2,309	6.6	8,495	29.5
Lemhi	7,460	6,899	7,806	7,936	130	1.7	476	6.4
Lewis	4,118	3,516	3,747	3,821	74	2.0	-297	-7.2
Lincoln	3,436	3,308	4,044	5,208	1,164	28.8	1,772	51.6
Madison	19,480	23,674	27,467	37,536	10,069	36.7	18,056	92.7
Minidoka	19,718	19,361	20,174	20,069	-105	-0.5	351	1.8
Nez Perce	33,220	33,754	37,410	39,265	1,855	5.0	6,045	18.2
Oneida	3,258	3,492	4,125	4,286	161	3.9	1,028	31.6
Owyhee	8,272	8,392	10,644	11,526	882	8.3	3,254	39.3
Payette	15,722	16,434	20,578	22,623	2,045	9.9	6,901	43.9
Power	6,844	7,086	7,538	7,817	279	3.7	973	14.2
Shoshone	19,226	13,931	13,771	12,765	-1,006	-7.3	-6,461	-33.6
Teton	2,897	3,439	5,999	10,170	4,171	69.5	7,273	251.1
Twin Falls	52,927	53,580	64,284	77,230	12,946	20.1	24,303	45.9
Valley	5,604	6,109	7,651	9,862	2,211	28.9	4,258	76.0
Washington	8,803	8,550	9,977	10,198	221	2.2	1,395	15.8
State Total	943,935	1,006,749	1,293,953	1,567,582	273,629	21.1	623,647	66.1

Table 2. Percentage of Population by Race/Ethnicity for Idaho Counties, 2010

County	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Native American
Ada	86.5	1.1	7.1	2.4	0.7
Adams	94.8	0.1	2.4	0.4	1.0
Bannock	86.4	0.8	6.7	1.3	3.2
Bear Lake	94.7	0.1	3.6	0.4	0.5
Benewah	85.3	0.3	2.5	0.3	8.7
Bingham	74.9	0.2	17.2	0.6	6.5
Blaine	78.0	0.2	20.0	0.9	0.6
Boise	93.2	0.2	3.5	0.4	0.8
Bonner	94.4	0.1	2.2	0.5	0.8
Bonneville	85.3	0.6	11.4	0.8	0.8
Boundary	92.1	0.3	3.7	0.6	1.7
Butte	93.8	0.2	4.1	0.2	0.4
Camas	90.2	0.3	6.7	0.1	0.5
Canyon	72.3	0.6	23.9	0.8	1.1
Caribou	93.1	0.1	4.8	0.2	0.3
Cassia	72.9	0.3	24.9	0.5	0.8
Clark	56.8	0.7	40.5	0.5	1.0
Clearwater	92.0	0.2	3.1	0.7	2.2
Custer	94.0	0.2	4.0	0.0	0.6
Elmore	75.1	2.7	15.2	2.8	1.0
Franklin	91.8	0.2	6.6	0.1	0.4
Fremont	85.1	0.3	12.8	0.2	0.7
Gem	89.1	0.1	8.0	0.5	0.6
Gooding	69.6	0.2	28.1	0.5	0.8
Idaho	92.4	0.3	2.6	0.4	3.0
Jefferson	87.7	0.2	10.1	0.4	0.8
Jerome	66.9	0.3	31.0	0.3	1.3
Kootenai	92.0	0.3	3.8	0.7	1.3
Latah	90.6	0.8	3.6	2.1	0.6
Lemhi	95.0	0.2	2.3	0.4	0.7
Lewis	88.9	0.4	3.3	0.4	4.7
Lincoln	69.3	0.4	28.3	0.4	0.7
Madison	91.2	0.5	5.9	0.9	0.3
Minidoka	65.2	0.4	32.4	0.4	1.2
Nez Perce	88.7	0.3	2.8	0.7	5.6
Oneida	95.0	0.2	2.9	0.5	0.5
Owyhee	68.3	0.2	25.8	0.5	4.3
Payette	81.3	0.2	14.9	0.8	1.1
Power	66.1	0.3	29.8	0.4	2.3
Shoshone	93.5	0.2	3.0	0.4	1.4
Teton	81.5	0.2	16.9	0.5	0.3
Twin Falls	82.7	0.4	13.7	1.2	0.8
Valley	94.1	0.1	3.9	0.4	0.7
Washington	80.1	0.2	16.8	0.9	1.0
State Total	84.0	0.6	11.2	1.2	1.4

Table 3. Economic Conditions and Education for Idaho Counties, 2009

County	Median Household Income	Percent of Persons in Poverty	Median Value of Owner-Occupied Homes	Percent of Persons 25+ with High School Degree	Percent of Persons 25+ with College Degree
Ada	\$53,828	11.8	\$207,800	92.5	34.2
Adams	\$35,932	14.9	\$192,300	87.4	19.9
Bannock	\$44,451	14.5	\$126,000	89.6	27.0
Bear Lake	\$42,199	13.0	\$126,500	89.6	15.6
Benewah	\$36,635	16.3	\$121,000	87.3	11.0
Bingham	\$43,262	15.9	\$120,000	85.0	16.3
Blaine	\$62,717	8.0	\$501,300	92.0	40.7
Boise	\$49,056	12.8	\$180,200	86.8	23.0
Bonner	\$41,270	15.8	\$226,500	90.4	20.6
Bonneville	\$49,446	11.9	\$144,500	90.1	26.0
Boundary	\$38,618	15.9	\$173,300	80.5	14.4
Butte	\$40,650	14.4	\$103,200	88.2	18.4
Camas	\$47,758	10.3	\$209,100	84.9	21.4
Canyon	\$39,457	18.2	\$147,500	81.5	16.0
Caribou	\$51,060	10.9	\$111,300	87.2	18.2
Cassia	\$40,389	16.3	\$105,500	80.0	16.1
Clark	\$41,580	16.1	\$76,300	69.5	7.6
Clearwater	\$39,800	16.5	\$119,300	84.7	15.4
Custer	\$41,773	13.4	\$131,400	92.6	25.0
Elmore	\$41,922	13.8	\$140,100	85.4	13.2
Franklin	\$45,404	10.6	\$154,500	89.3	16.2
Fremont	\$41,316	14.9	\$116,700	84.8	20.8
Gem	\$42,396	14.8	\$159,000	81.6	10.3
Gooding	\$36,298	16.5	\$123,700	76.6	12.9
Idaho	\$34,778	21.0	\$130,200	83.1	12.9
Jefferson	\$50,649	11.1	\$145,300	83.4	16.5
Jerome	\$39,636	15.4	\$130,600	74.0	11.9
Kootenai	\$47,196	13.8	\$213,000	90.8	22.0
Latah	\$38,817	18.4	\$173,200	92.5	42.1
Lemhi	\$34,890	18.5	\$171,400	92.2	23.8
Lewis	\$38,737	15.2	\$109,700	91.3	14.1
Lincoln	\$46,100	12.2	\$116,300	78.7	12.3
Madison	\$35,400	28.9	\$162,800	94.1	31.1
Minidoka	\$42,051	14.9	\$96,800	76.1	10.6
Nez Perce	\$42,989	13.7	\$147,600	88.2	18.7
Oneida	\$43,057	12.8	\$120,900	91.2	16.1
Owyhee	\$33,753	17.4	\$127,800	74.2	10.6
Payette	\$45,974	15.5	\$125,600	82.1	14.5
Power	\$38,509	16.6	\$112,600	79.7	20.4
Shoshone	\$35,168	14.8	\$134,900	81.1	11.9
Teton	\$57,999	10.3	\$289,900	87.1	27.9
Twin Falls	\$41,194	12.5	\$139,400	83.6	16.7
Valley	\$47,457	10.4	\$287,600	91.6	31.5
Washington	\$36,152	16.6	\$139,800	80.0	17.4
State Total	\$43,056	13.2	\$166,700	87.7	23.7



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About the WRDC

The Western Rural Development Center (WRDC) is one of four regional centers competitively funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture to strengthen the capacity of local citizens to guide the future of their rural communities. Each of the four Centers link the research and extension capacity of regional land-grant universities with local decision-makers to enhance rural prosperity, create thriving communities, and support a sustainable and competitive agricultural system.

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