

# Idaho population growth concentrates in big cities

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By William L. Spence of the Lewiston Tribune

Idaho's largest cities are growing at about three times the pace of its smaller communities, according to new population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau.

As of July 1, 2011, Idaho's estimated population was 1,584,985, up 13,883 or 0.9 percent from the year before.

The state's 10 largest cities accounted for 9,541 of that increase, according to the agency. They grew at the rate of 1.4 percent, compared to a 0.48 percent growth rate for the 190 smaller communities it tracks.

The bureau released its 2011 city and town population estimates for all states Thursday. Idaho doesn't try to provide more up-to-date estimates. Washington, which tracks population data independently, released its 2012 population estimates last week.

Huetter, a tiny community on the outskirts of Coeur d'Alene, had the highest population growth in the state last year, according to the census estimates. It grew by 2 percent, or two people.

Boise and Meridian both grew by 1.9 percent, as did Star and Garden City. Boise had the largest numeric population growth, adding 3,893 people.

Lewiston, the state's ninth-largest community, had an estimated population of 32,119 last year, up 183 or 0.6 percent from the year before. That was the slowest growth rate of any of the Top 10 cities.

Moscow, Idaho's 12th-largest city, grew by 1 percent or 238 people, to 24,080.

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*How the towns and cities stack up:*

The 2010-2011 census population estimates for communities in north central Idaho include:

Bovill: 261-263

Cottonwood: 901-910

Craigmont: 501-502

Culdesac: 380-384

Deary: 507-512

Genesee: 958-968

Grangeville: 3,146-3,176

Juliaetta: 580-587

Kamiah: 1,296-1,295

Kendrick: 304-307

Kooskia: 608-614

Lapwai: 1,138-1,144

Lewiston: 31,936-32,119

McCall: 2,968-2,924

Moscow: 23,842-24,080

Nezperce: 466-465

Onaway: 187-190

Orofino: 3,139-3,124

Pierce: 506-505

Potlatch: 805-815

Riggins: 420-424

Troy: 863-874

Weippe: 432-429

Idaho: 1,571,102-1,584,985

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Top 10 cities: 669,219-678,760

Bottom 190 cities: 901,883-906,225

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