

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Idaho Wages 84 Percent of National Average in 2012

Estimates from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Employment Survey put the average hourly wage for all occupations statewide at \$18.48, or 84 percent of the national average wage in 2012. In 2011, the Idaho average was 85.2 percent of the national average.

Idaho's median wage, where half the workers make more and half make less, was \$14.58 an hour in 2012, or 87.3 percent, down from 87.6 percent of the national median wage in 2011.

The Pocatello metropolitan area, which covers Bannock and Power counties, was the only metro area of the state's five where the percentage of the national average and median wages increased.

The percentage of the national median wage in the Coeur d'Alene metro area was also up from 2011 by nearly three-quarters of a point, but the average wage was just over a percentage point lower.

A significant decline in the percentage of the national average wage in the Idaho Falls area was the result of a smaller sample and higher margin of error for the surveys in the three previous years.

Idaho's statewide average wage fell from 44<sup>th</sup> in 2011 to 45<sup>th</sup> in 2012 among the states while the median wage remained at 42<sup>nd</sup>.

### Median, Average Wages, All Occupations, US, Idaho, Metro Areas

	Hourly Wages For All Occupations				Percent of National Wage			
	2012		2011		2012		2011	
	Median	Average	Median	Average	Median	Average	Median	Average
U.S.	\$16.71	\$22.01	\$16.57	\$21.74	100%	100%	100%	100%
Idaho	\$14.58	\$18.48	\$14.51	\$18.52	87.3%	84.0%	87.6%	85.2%
Boise Metro	\$15.15	\$19.53	\$15.04	\$19.37	90.7%	88.7%	90.8%	89.1%
Coeur d'Alene Metro	\$14.06	\$17.48	\$13.82	\$17.51	<b>84.1%</b>	79.4%	83.4%	80.5%
Idaho Falls Metro	\$13.36	\$17.15	\$13.57	\$19.12	80.0%	77.9%	81.9%	87.9%
Lewiston Metro	\$15.29	\$18.28	\$15.50	\$18.27	91.5%	83.1%	93.5%	84.0%
Pocatello Metro	\$13.81	\$17.88	\$13.46	\$17.48	<b>82.6%</b>	<b>81.2%</b>	81.2%	80.4%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics Program

In the five metro areas, average wages in the 22 occupational groups were lower than the national average wage for each group except in farming, fishing and forestry, where average wages in Boise, Coeur d'Alene and Lewiston were higher - Lewiston was double - and in Lewiston where the average production wage was 1 percent higher than the national average. In Pocatello, the average wage for installation, maintenance and repair essentially matched the national average.

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## Percentage Difference From National Average Wage

	Boise	Coeur d'Alene	Idaho Falls	Lewiston	Pocatello
All Occupations	-11%	-21%	-22%	-17%	-19%
Management	-24%	-31%	-27%	-34%	-30%
Business, Financial Operations	-14%	-20%	-16%	-18%	-26%
Computer, Mathematical	-19%	-31%	-24%	-41%	-28%
Architecture, Engineering	-5%	-22%	-3%	-21%	No Estimate
Life, Physical, Social Sciences	-18%	-25%	-23%	No Estimate	-32%
Community and Social Service	-12%	-15%	-15%	-5%	-4%
Legal	-18%	-26%	-41%	-31%	-31%
Education, Training, Library	-27%	-38%	-35%	-24%	-18%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, Media	-26%	-37%	-42%	-42%	-35%
Health Care Practitioners, Technicians	-6%	-7%	-11%	-10%	-6%
Health Care Support	-5%	-4%	-13%	-10%	-15%
Protective Service	-10%	-10%	-9%	-4%	-11%
Food Preparation, Serving	-8%	-9%	-11%	-3%	-13%
Building and Grounds Cleaning, Maintenance	-7%	-3%	-14%	-2%	-15%
Personal Care Service	-13%	-13%	-14%	-9%	-18%
Sales	-10%	-20%	-18%	-18%	-21%
Office, Administrative Support	-8%	-13%	-17%	-9%	-19%
Farming, Fishing, Forestry	6%	61%	-16%	104%	No Estimate
Construction, Extraction	-19%	-15%	-19%	-4%	-17%
Installation, Maintenance, Repair	-8%	-11%	-12%	-2%	0%
Production	-10%	-13%	-9%	1%	-5%
Transportation, Material Moving	-8%	-10%	-15%	-2%	-12%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics Program

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