



IDAHO
DEPT. OF LABOR

Idaho Department of Labor Update

Idaho Economic Development Association
Director Melinda S. Smyser
Nov. 7, 2018



Welcome



- Idaho's Economy
- Idaho's Workforce Challenges
- Labor Priorities
- Meeting Idaho's Workforce Needs

A woman with blonde, wavy hair is focused on her work at a sewing machine in a factory. She is wearing a black and white patterned top. The machine is green and white, with a large orange spool of thread. The background shows a well-lit factory floor with other sewing machines and workers. A blue banner in the top left corner contains the text 'IDAHO DEPT. OF LABOR'. The text 'Idaho's Economy' is overlaid in the center of the image.

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Idaho's Economy



Idaho Economic Indicators

- Idaho's unemployment rate is 2.7%. *(Bureau of Labor Statistics – September)*
- Number of Idaho businesses is up 6% to 55,000
(Idaho Department of Labor)
- Top six states in the nation for job growth @ 2.7%
(Bureau of Labor Statistics – September)
- 6th lowest poverty rate in the nation
(Sept., 2018 - U.S. Census Bureau)
- 13th lowest cost of living
(Council for Community & Economic Research)





What They're Saying About Idaho

- 9th-best economy in the U.S. *(24/7 Wall Street)*
- 5th in the nation for college-ready students *(US News & World Report, July 2018)*
- First in the nation for teacher pay increases *(NEA 2018 Estimates)*
- 7th best in the country for fiscal balance *(FY17; Pew Research)*
- 5th safest state in America *(U.S. News & World Report; McKinsey & Co., Sept. 2018)*
 - 8th for lowest property crime rate;
 - 6th for lowest violent crime rate





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Labor Priorities

Honor
Safety
Profit



Our Priorities

- Keep Idaho's Unemployment Insurance Taxes Low
- Serve Idaho Businesses
- Expand Apprenticeship Idaho
- Meet the Demand for Filling STEM Jobs
- Strengthen Veterans' Services



A photograph of a worker operating a Bendi forklift in a warehouse. The worker is wearing a grey t-shirt, blue jeans, and a white hairnet. The forklift is orange and black, with "Bendi" written on the mast and "B40" on the side. The warehouse has high ceilings, green metal shelving units, and various goods including boxes and blue barrels. A blue banner in the top left corner contains the text "IDAHO DEPT. OF LABOR". A white horizontal bar across the middle of the image contains the text "Meeting Idaho's Workforce Needs".

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Meeting Idaho's Workforce Needs



Meeting the Demand



- CNA Education Collaboration - McCall
- Northwest Intermountain Metal Manufacturing – Lewiston
- Idaho Business Educator Exchange - Statewide
- Youth Outside Job Fair – Magic Valley
- YourFit (Future in Technology) - Pocatello / Idaho Falls
- Construction Combine - Statewide



Thank You

