[Coordinates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system): [45°N 114°W](https://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Idaho&amp;params=45_N_114_W_region%3AUS-ID_type%3Aadm1st_scale%3A3000000)

**Idaho**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Idaho** | |
| [**State**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._state) | |
| **State of Idaho** | |
| [Flag](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Idaho) | [Seal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seal_of_Idaho) |
| [Nickname(s):](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_nicknames) Gem State | |
| [Motto(s):](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_and_territory_mottos) [*Esto perpetua*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esto_perpetua) ([Latin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin_(language)) for "Let it be perpetual")  [Anthem:](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_songs) "[Here We Have Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Here_We_Have_Idaho)" | |
| Map of the United States with Idaho highlighted | |
| **Country** | [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) |
| **Before statehood** | [Oregon Territory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oregon_Territory), |
|  | [Washington Territory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_Territory), |
|  | [Idaho Territory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Territory) |
| [**Admitted to the**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_by_date_of_admission_to_the_Union#List_of_U.S._states) | July 3, 1890 (43rd) |
| [**Union**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_by_date_of_admission_to_the_Union#List_of_U.S._states) |  |
| [**Capital**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_capitals_in_the_United_States)  ([and largest city](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._states%27_largest_cities_by_population)) | [Boise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boise%2C_Idaho) |
| [**Largest metro**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Metropolitan_Statistical_Areas) | [Boise metropolitan area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boise_metropolitan_area) |
| **Government** | |
| * [**Governor**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Governor_of_Idaho) | [Brad Little](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Little_(politician)) ([R](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States))) |
| * [**Lieutenant Governor**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lieutenant_Governor_of_Idaho) | [Janice McGeachin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Janice_McGeachin) (R) |
| [**Legislature**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legislature) | [Legislature](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Legislature) |
| * [**Upper house**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upper_house) | [Senate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Senate) |
| * [**Lower house**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lower_house) | [House of Representatives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_House_of_Representatives) |
| [**U.S. senators**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_United_States_senators_from_Idaho) | [Mike Crapo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_Crapo) (R) [Jim Risch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jim_Risch) (R) |
| [**U.S. House delegation**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_House_of_Representatives) | 1. [Russ Fulcher](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russ_Fulcher) (R) 2. [Mike Simpson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_Simpson) (R) ([list](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_congressional_delegations_from_Idaho)) |
| **Area** | |
| * **Total** * **Land** | 83,569 [1] sq mi  (216,443 km2)  82,643 sq mi |

**Idaho** (/ˈaɪdəhoʊ/ ( [listen](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f7/En-us-Idaho.ogg))) is a [state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._state) in the [Pacific Northwest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Northwest) region of the [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States). It borders the state of [Montana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montana) to the east and northeast, [Wyoming](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wyoming) to the east, [Nevada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nevada) and [Utah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utah) to the south, and [Washington](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_(state)) and [Oregon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oregon) to the west. To the north, it shares a small [portion of the Canadian border with the province of British](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Columbia)

[Columbia. With a population of approximately 1.7 million and an](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Columbia) area of 83,569 square miles (216,440 km2), Idaho is the [14th largest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_and_territories_by_area), the [12th least populous](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_and_territories_by_population) and the [7th least densely populated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_by_population_density) of the 50

U.S. states. The state's capital and largest city is [Boise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boise%2C_Idaho).

[Idaho prior to European settlement was inhabited by Native American peoples, some of whom still live in the area. In the early](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States) 19th century, Idaho was considered part of the [Oregon Country](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oregon_Country), an area disputed between the U.S. and the [United Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom). It officially became U.S. territory with the signing of the [Oregon Treaty of 1846](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oregon_Treaty), but a separate [Idaho Territory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Territory) was not organized until 1863, instead [being included for periods in Oregon Territory and Washington Territory. Idaho was eventually](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_Territory) [admitted to the Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Admission_to_the_Union) [on July 3,](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_Territory) 1890, becoming the 43rd state.

[Forming part of the Pacific Northwest (and the associated Cascadia bioregion), Idaho is divided into several distinct geographic and](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cascadia_(bioregion)) [climatic regions. The state's north, the relatively isolated Idaho Panhandle, is closely linked with](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Panhandle) [Eastern Washington](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Washington) [with which it](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Panhandle) [shares the Pacific Time Zone—the rest of the state uses the Mountain Time Zone. The state's south includes the](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountain_Time_Zone) [Snake River Plain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snake_River_Plain) [(which](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountain_Time_Zone) has most of the population and agricultural land). The state's south- east incorporates part of the [Great Basin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Basin). Idaho is quite mountainous, [and contains several stretches of the Rocky Mountains. The United States Forest Service holds about 38% of Idaho's land, the highest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Forest_Service) proportion of any state.[8]

Industries significant for the state economy include manufacturing, agriculture, mining, forestry, and tourism. A number of science and technology firms are either headquartered in Idaho or have factories there, and the state also contains the [Idaho National Laboratory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_National_Laboratory), which is the country's largest [Department of Energy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Energy) facility. Idaho's agricultural sector supplies many products, but the state is best known for its [potato](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Potato) crop, which comprises around one-third of the nationwide yield. The [official state nickname](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_nicknames) is the "Gem State", which references Idaho's natural beauty.[9]

# Contents

### Etymology Geography

Climate Lakes/rivers

### History Demographics

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * **Water Area rank** | (214,044 km2)  926 sq mi (2,398 km2)  1.11%  [14th](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_and_territories_by_area) |
| **Dimensions** | |
| * **Length** * **Width** | 479 mi (771 km)  305 mi (491 km) |
| **Elevation** | 5,000 ft (1,520 m) |
| **Highest elevation** | 12,662 ft (3,859 m) |
| ([Borah Peak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borah_Peak)[2][3][4]) |  |
| **Lowest elevation** | 713 ft (217 m) |
| (Confluence of [Snake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snake_River) |  |
| and [Clearwater River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clearwater_River_(Idaho)); |  |
| [Lewiston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewiston%2C_Idaho)[3][4]) |  |
| **Population** (2019[6]) | |
| * **Total** | 1,787,065 |
| * **Rank** | [39th](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_states_and_territories_of_the_United_States_by_population) |
| * **Density** | 21.6/sq mi (8.33/km2) |
| * **Density rank** | [44th](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_states_and_territories_of_the_United_States_by_population_density) |
| * [**Median household**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Household_income_in_the_United_States#Income_by_state) | $52,225[5] |
| [**income**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Household_income_in_the_United_States#Income_by_state) |  |
| * **Income rank** | 41st |
| [**Demonym(s)**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demonym) | Idahoan |
| **Language** | |
| * [**Official language**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Languages_of_the_United_States) | [English](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_language)[7] |
| [**Time zones**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_zone) | |
| **primary** | UTC−07:00 |
|  | ([Mountain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountain_Time_Zone)) |
| * **Summer (**[**DST**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daylight_saving_time)**)** | UTC−06:00 ([MDT](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountain_Daylight_Time)) |
| [**Idaho Panhandle**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Panhandle) | UTC−08:00 ([Pacific](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Time_Zone)) |
| * **Summer (**[**DST**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daylight_saving_time)**)** | UTC−07:00 ([PDT](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Daylight_Time)) |
| [**USPS abbreviation**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_abbreviations#Postal_codes) | ID |
| [**ISO 3166 code**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_3166) | US-ID |
| **Latitude** | [42° N](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/42nd_parallel_north) to [49° N](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/49th_parallel_north) |
| **Longitude** | 111°03′ W to 117°15′ W |
| **Website** | [www.idaho.gov (http:// www.idaho.gov)](http://www.idaho.gov/) |

Population Religion Language

### Economy

Taxation

### Energy Transportation

Highways Airports Railroads Ports

### Law and government

State constitution

Idaho Code and Statutes State government

Executive branch

Legislative branch Judicial branch Counties

Politics

### Cities and towns Protected areas

National parks, reserves, monuments and historic sites National recreation areas

National wildlife refuges and Wilderness Areas National conservation areas

State parks

### Education

K–12

Colleges and universities

### Sports

**Official state emblems In popular culture**

|  |
| --- |
| [**Idaho state symbols**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Idaho_state_symbols) |
| The [Flag of Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Idaho) |
|  |

**See also References External links**

**Etymology**

[The name's origin remains a mystery.[10] In the early 1860s, when the U.S. Congress was considering organizing a new territory in the](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Congress) [Rocky Mountains](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rocky_Mountains)[,](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Congress) the name "Idaho" was suggested by [George M. Willing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_M._Willing), a politician posing as an unrecognized delegate from the unofficial [Jefferson Territory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jefferson_Territory).[11] Willing claimed that the name was derived from a [Shoshone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shoshone_language) term meaning "the sun comes from the mountains" or "gem of the mountains"[12], but it was revealed later that there was no such term and Willing claimed that he had been inspired to coin the name when he met a little girl named "Ida".[13] Since the

name appeared to be fabricated, the U.S. Congress ultimately decided to name the area [Colorado Territory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colorado_Territory) instead when it was created in February 1861, but by the time this decision was made, the town of [Idaho Springs, Colorado](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Springs%2C_Colorado) had already been named after Willing's proposal.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The [Seal of Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seal_of_Idaho) | |
| **Living insignia** | |
| [**Amphibian**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_amphibians)[Tiger salamander](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiger_salamander)  (*Ambystoma tigrinum*) | |
| [**Bird**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_birds) | [Mountain bluebird](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountain_bluebird) |
|  | (*Sialia currucoides*) |
|  | **Raptor:** [Peregrine falcon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peregrine_falcon) |
|  | (*Falco peregrinus*) |
| [**Fish**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_fish) | [Cutthroat trout](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cutthroat_trout) (*Oncorhynchus clarkii*) |
| [**Flower**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_flowers) | Syringa ([*Philadelphus lewisii*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philadelphus_lewisii)) |
| [**Horse breed**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_mammals) | [Appaloosa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Appaloosa) |
| [**Insect**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_insects) | [Monarch butterfly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monarch_butterfly) (*Danaus plexippus*) |
| [**Tree**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_trees) | [Western white pine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_white_pine) (*Pinus monticola*) |
| **Inanimate insignia** | |
| [**Dance**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_dances) | [Square dance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Square_dance) |
| [**Food**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_foods) | **Fruit:** [Huckleberry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Huckleberry)  **Vegetable:** [Potato](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Potato) |
| [**Fossil**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_fossils) | [Hagerman horse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hagerman_horse) (*Equus simplicidens*) |
| [**Gemstone**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_minerals%2C_rocks%2C_stones_and_gemstones) | [Star garnet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star_garnet) |
| [**Slogan**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state%2C_district%2C_and_territorial_nicknames) | "Great Potatoes. Tasty Destinations." |
| [**Soil**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_soils) | [Threebear](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Threebear_(soil)) |
| [**State route marker**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Numbered_highways_in_the_United_States#State_highways) | |
|  | |
| [**State quarter**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/50_State_Quarters) | |
| Released in 2007 | |
| [Lists of United States state symbols](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lists_of_United_States_state_symbols) | |

[The same year Congress created Colorado Territory, a county called Idaho County was created in eastern](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_County%2C_Idaho) [Washington Territory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_Territory)[. The county was named](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_County%2C_Idaho) after a [steamship](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steamboat) named Idaho, which was launched on the [Columbia River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbia_River) in 1860. It is unclear whether the steamship was named before or after Willing's claim was revealed. Regardless, part of Washington Territory, including Idaho County, was used to create Idaho Territory in 1863.[14] Eventually, the name was given to the [Idaho Territory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Territory), which would later become the U.S. state.

Despite this lack of evidence for the origin of the name, many textbooks well into the 20th century repeated as fact Willing's account the name "Idaho" derived from the Shoshone term "ee-da-how". A 1956 Idaho history textbook says:

"Idaho" is a [Shoshoni](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shoshoni) Indian exclamation. The word consists of three parts. The first is "Ee", which in English conveys the idea of "coming down". The second is "dah" which is the Shoshoni stem or root for both "sun" and "mountain". The third syllable, "how", denotes the exclamation and stands for the same thing in Shoshoni that the exclamation mark (!) does in English. The Shoshoni word is "Ee-dah-how", and the Indian thought thus conveyed when translated into English means, "Behold! the sun coming down the mountain.[15]

An alternative etymology attributes the name to the [Plains Apache](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plains_Apache_language) word "ídaahę́" (enemy) that was used in reference to the [Comanche](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comanche).[16]

# Geography

Idaho borders six U.S. states and one Canadian province. The states of [Washington](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_(state)) and [Oregon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oregon) are to the west, [Nevada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nevada) and [Utah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utah) are to the south, and [Montana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montana) and [Wyoming](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wyoming) are to the east. Idaho also shares a short border with the Canadian province of [British Columbia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Columbia) to the north.

The landscape is rugged with some of the largest unspoiled natural areas in [the United States. For example, at 2.3 million acres (930,000 ha), the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Area is the largest contiguous area of](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Church-River_of_No_Return_Wilderness_Area) [protected wilderness in the continental United States. Idaho is a Rocky Mountain state with abundant natural resources and scenic areas. The state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rocky_Mountains) has snow-capped mountain ranges, rapids, vast lakes and steep canyons. The waters of the [Snake River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snake_River) run through [Hells Canyon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hells_Canyon), the deepest gorge in the United States. [Shoshone Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shoshone_Falls) falls down cliffs from a height greater than [Niagara Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niagara_Falls).

[The most important river in Idaho is the major tributary of the Columbia River, the](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbia_River) [Snake River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snake_River)[, which flows out from](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbia_River) [Yellowstone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yellowstone) [in northwestern](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbia_River) [Wyomoing](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Wyomoing&amp;action=edit&amp;redlink=1) through the [Snake River Plain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snake_River_Plain) in southern Idaho before turning north, leaving the state at [Lewiston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewiston%2C_Idaho) before joining the Columbia in [Kennewick](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kennewick). Other major rivers are the [Clark Fork](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clark_Fork_(river))/[Pend Oreille River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pend_Oreille_River), the [Spokane River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spokane_River), and major tributaries of the Snake river, including the

[Clearwater River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clearwater_River_(Idaho)), the [Salmon River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salmon_River_(Idaho)), the [Boise River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boise_River), and the [Payette River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Payette_River). The Salmon River empties into the Snake in

Hells Canyon and forms the southern boundary of Nez Perce County on its north shore, of which Lewiston is the county seat. The Port of [Lewiston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewiston%2C_Idaho), at the confluence of the [Clearwater](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clearwater_River_(Idaho)) and the [Snake Rivers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snake_River) is the farthest inland [seaport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seaport) on the West Coast at 465 [river miles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_mile) from the Pacific at [Astoria, Oregon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Astoria%2C_Oregon).[17]

The vast majority of Idaho's population lives in the [Snake River Plain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snake_River_Plain), a valley running from across the entirety of southern Idaho from east to west. The valley [contains the major cities of Boise, Meridian, Nampa, Caldwell, Twin Falls, Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Falls) [Falls, and Pocatello. The plain served as an easy pass through the Rocky Mountains for westward-bound settlers on the](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rocky_Mountains) [Oregon Trail](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oregon_Trail)[, and many settlers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rocky_Mountains) [chose to settle the area rather than risking the treacherous route through the Blue Mountains and the](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_Mountains_(Pacific_Northwest)) [Cascade Range](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cascade_Range) [to the west[18]. The western region of the plain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_Mountains_(Pacific_Northwest))



Map of Idaho

is known as the [Treasure Valley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treasure_Valley), bound between the [Owyhee Mountains](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Owyhee_Mountains) to the southwest and the [Boise Mountains](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boise_Mountains) to the northeast. The central region of the Snake River Plain is known as the [Magic Valley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magic_Valley).

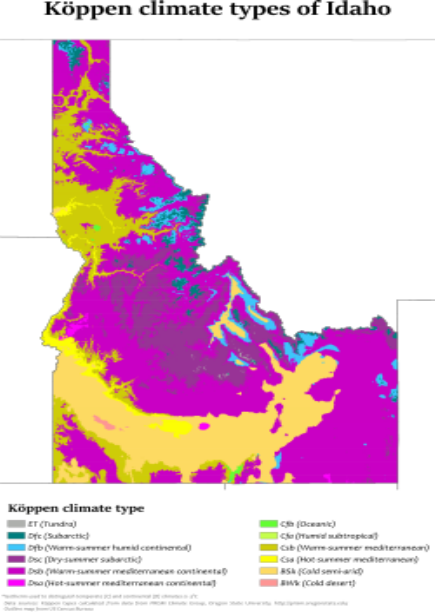
Idaho's highest point is [Borah Peak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borah_Peak), 12,662 ft (3,859 m), in the [Lost River Range](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lost_River_Range) north of [Mackay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mackay%2C_Idaho). Idaho's lowest point, 710 ft (216 m), is in [Lewiston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewiston%2C_Idaho), where the [Clearwater River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clearwater_River_(Idaho)) joins the [Snake River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snake_River) and continues into [Washington](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_(state)). The [Sawtooth Range](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sawtooth_Range_(Idaho)) is often considered Idaho's most famous mountain range.[19] Other mountain ranges in Idaho include the [Bitterroot Range, the White Cloud Mountains, the Lost River Range, the Clearwater Mountains, and the Salmon River Mountains.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salmon_River_Mountains)

Idaho has two [time zones](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_in_the_United_States), with the dividing line approximately midway between Canada and [Nevada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nevada). Southern Idaho, including the [Boise metropolitan area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boise_metropolitan_area), [Idaho Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Falls%2C_Idaho), [Pocatello](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pocatello%2C_Idaho), and [Twin Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twin_Falls%2C_Idaho), are in the [Mountain Time Zone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountain_Time_Zone). A legislative error ([15 U.S.C.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Title_15_of_the_United_States_Code) [ch. 6 (https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/15/chapter-6)](https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/15/chapter-6) §264) theoretically placed this region in the [Central Time Zone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Time_Zone), but this was corrected with a 2007 amendment.[20] Areas north of the [Salmon River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salmon_River_(Idaho)), including [Coeur d'Alene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coeur_d%27Alene%2C_Idaho), [Moscow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moscow%2C_Idaho), [Lewiston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewiston%2C_Idaho), and [Sandpoint](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandpoint%2C_Idaho), are in the [Pacific Time Zone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Time_Zone), which contains less than a quarter of the state's population and land area.

## Climate

Idaho's [climate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate) varies widely. Although the state's western border is about 350 miles (560 km) from the Pacific Ocean, the maritime influence is still felt in Idaho, especially in the winter when cloud cover, [humidity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humidity), and [precipitation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Precipitation_(meteorology)) are at their maximum extent. This influence has a moderating effect in the winter where temperatures are not as low as would otherwise be expected for a northern state with predominantly high elevations.[21] The maritime influence is least prominent in the state's eastern part where the precipitation patterns are often reversed, with wetter summers and drier winters, and seasonal temperature differences are more extreme, showing a more semi-arid [continental climate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Continental_climate).[22]

Idaho can be hot, although extended periods over 98 °F (37 °C) are rare, except for the lowest point in elevation, Lewiston, which correspondingly sees little snow. Hot summer days are tempered by the low relative humidity and cooler evenings during summer months since, for most of the state, the highest [diurnal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Day) difference in temperature is often in the summer.[23] Winters can be cold, although extended periods of bitter cold weather below zero are unusual. Idaho's all-time highest temperature of 118 °F (48 °C) was recorded at [Orofino](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orofino%2C_Idaho) on July 28, 1934; the all-time lowest temperature of −60 °F (−51 °C) was recorded at [Island Park Dam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Island_Park_Dam) on January 18, 1943.



[Köppen-Geiger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/K%C3%B6ppen-Geiger_climate_classification) climate types in Idaho

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Monthly normal high and low temperatures for various Idaho cities. (°F) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **City** | **Jan** | **Feb** | **Mar** | **Apr** | **May** | **Jun** | **Jul** | **Aug** | **Sep** | **Oct** | **Nov** | **Dec** |
| **Boise** | 38/24 | 45/27 | 55/33 | 62/38 | 72/46 | 81/53 | 91/59 | 90/59 | 79/50 | 65/40 | 48/31 | 38/23 |
| **Lewiston** | 42/30 | 47/31 | 55/36 | 62/41 | 71/47 | 79/54 | 89/60 | 89/60 | 78/51 | 63/41 | 48/34 | 40/28 |
| **Pocatello** | 33/16 | 38/19 | 49/27 | 59/33 | 68/40 | 78/46 | 88/52 | 88/51 | 76/42 | 62/33 | 45/24 | 33/16 |
| **Orofino** | 38/25 | 46/28 | 55/32 | 64/38 | 72/44 | 80/50 | 89/54 | 90/53 | 79/45 | 63/36 | 46/31 | 37/26 |
| [24] | | | | | | | | | | | | |

## Lakes/rivers

[Alturas Lake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alturas_Lake) [Brush Lake](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Brush_Lake_(Idaho)&amp;action=edit&amp;redlink=1) [Bear River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bear_River_(Great_Salt_Lake))

[Bear Lake (Idaho-Utah)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bear_Lake_(Idaho-Utah)) [Boise River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boise_River) [Clearwater River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clearwater_River_(Idaho)) [Dawson Lake](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Dawson_Lake&amp;action=edit&amp;redlink=1)

[Dierkes Lake](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Dierkes_Lake&amp;action=edit&amp;redlink=1) [Hayden Lake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hayden_Lake) [Henry's Lake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry%27s_Lake) [Hidden Lake](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Hidden_Lake_(Idaho)&amp;action=edit&amp;redlink=1) [Kootenai River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kootenai_River) [Lake Cascade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Cascade) [Lake Cleveland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Cleveland) [Lake Coeur d'Alene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Coeur_d%27Alene) [Lake Lowell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Lowell)

[Lake Walcott](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Walcott) [Pend Oreille](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Pend_Oreille)

[Little Redfish Lake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_Redfish_Lake) [Lucky Peak Lake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucky_Peak_Lake) [Moyie River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moyie_River)

[North Fork Clearwater River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Fork_Clearwater_River) [Pack River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pack_River)

[Payette Lake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Payette_Lake), (McCall) [Pettit Lake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pettit_Lake)

[Priest Lake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Priest_Lake) [Perkins Lake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perkins_Lake) [Portneuf River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portneuf_River_(Idaho)) [Redfish Lake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Redfish_Lake) River of No Return [Sawtooth Lake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sawtooth_Lake) [Smith Lake](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Smith_Lake_(Idaho)&amp;action=edit&amp;redlink=1) [Snake River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snake_River) [Stanley Lake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanley_Lake) [Warm Lake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warm_Lake)

[Williams Lake](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Williams_Lake_(Idaho)&amp;action=edit&amp;redlink=1) ([Salmon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salmon_River_(Idaho)))

# History



[Lake Coeur d'Alene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Coeur_d%27Alene) in North Idaho



[Redfish Lake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Redfish_Lake) in central Idaho



[Priest River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Priest_River) winding through Whitetail Butte

Humans may have been present in the Idaho area as long as 14,500 years ago. Excavations at [Wilson Butte Cave](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilson_Butte_Cave) near [Twin Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twin_Falls%2C_Idaho) in 1959 revealed evidence of human activity, including arrowheads, that rank among the oldest dated artifacts in North America. [American Indian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States) peoples predominant in the area included the [Nez Percé](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nez_Perce_people) in the north and the Northern and Western [Shoshone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shoshone) in the south.

A Late [Upper Paleolithic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upper_Paleolithic) site was identified at Cooper's Ferry in western Idaho near the town of [Cottonwood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cottonwood%2C_Idaho) by archaeologists in 2019. Based on evidence found at the site, first people lived in this area 15,300 to 16,600 years ago, predating the [Beringia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beringia) land bridge by about a thousand years. The discoverers, anthropology professor Loren Davis and colleagues, emphasized that they possess similarities with tools and artifacts discovered in [Japan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japan) that date from 16,000 to [13,000 years ago.[25][26][27][28][29] The discovery also showed that the first people might not have come to North America by land, as previously theorized. On the contrary, they probably came through the water, using a](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_America) [Pacific](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Ocean) [coastal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_America) road.[28]

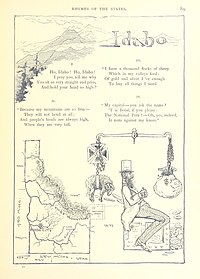
The most parsimonious explanation we think is that people came down the Pacific Coast, and as they encountered the mouth of the Columbia River, they essentially found an off-ramp from this coastal migration and also found their first viable interior route to the areas that are south of the ice sheet.

— Davis

An early presence of French-Canadian trappers is visible in names and [toponyms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toponym): Nez Percé, Cœur d'Alène, Boisé, Payette, some preexisting the [Lewis and Clark](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis_and_Clark) and Astorian expeditions which themselves included significant numbers of French and Métis guides recruited for their familiarity with the terrain.

Idaho, as part of the [Oregon Country](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oregon_Country), was claimed by both the United States and Great Britain until the United States gained undisputed jurisdiction in 1846. From 1843 to 1849, present-day Idaho was under the de facto jurisdiction of the [Provisional Government of Oregon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provisional_Government_of_Oregon). When Oregon became a state, what is now Idaho was in what remained of the original Oregon Territory not part of the new state, and designated as the Washington Territory.

Between then and the creation of the [Idaho Territory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Territory) on March 4, 1863, at Lewiston, parts of the present-day state were included in the [Oregon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oregon_Territory), [Washington](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_Territory), and [Dakota](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dakota_Territory) Territories. The new territory included present-day Idaho, [Montana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montana), and most of [Wyoming](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wyoming). The Lewis and Clark expedition crossed Idaho in 1805 on the way to the Pacific and in 1806 on the return, largely following the [Clearwater River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clearwater_River_(Idaho)) both directions. The first non-indigenous settlement was [Kullyspell House](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kullyspell_House), [established on the shore of Lake Pend Oreille for fur trading in 1809 by David Thompson of the North West Company.[30][31] In 1812](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_West_Company) [Donald Mackenzie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald_Mackenzie_(explorer))[, working for the](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_West_Company) [Pacific Fur Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Fur_Company) [at the time, established a post on the](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_West_Company) lower Clearwater River near present-day Lewiston. This post, known as "MacKenzie's Post" or "Clearwater", operated until the Pacific Fur Company was bought out by the North West Company in 1813, after which it was abandoned.[32][33] The first attempts at organized communities, within the present borders of Idaho, were established in 1860.[34][35] The first permanent, substantial incorporated community was Lewiston in 1861.

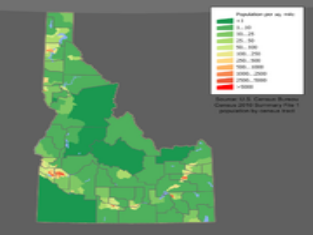
After some tribulation as a territory, including the chaotic transfer of the territorial capital from [Lewiston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewiston%2C_Idaho) to [Boise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boise%2C_Idaho),[36] [disenfranchisement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disenfranchisement) of [Mormon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mormon) [polygamists](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polygamist) upheld by the [U.S. Supreme Court](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Supreme_Court) in 1877,[37] and a federal attempt to split the territory between Washington Territory which gained statehood in 1889, a year before Idaho, and the state of [Nevada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nevada) which had been a state since 1864, Idaho achieved statehood in 1890.[38]

[Idaho was one of the hardest hit of the Pacific Northwest states during the Great Depression.[39] Prices plummeted for Idaho's major crops: in 1932 a bushel of potatoes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Depression) brought only ten cents compared to $1.51 in 1919, while Idaho farmers saw their annual income of $686 in 1929 drop to $250 by 1932.[40]

In recent years, Idaho has expanded its commercial base as a tourism and agricultural state to include science and technology industries. Science and technology have become the largest single economic center (over 25% of the state's total revenue) within the state and are greater than agriculture, forestry and mining combined.[41]

# Demographics

## Population

The [United States Census Bureau](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Census_Bureau) estimates Idaho's population was 1,754,208 on July 1, 2018, an 11.91% increase since [2010](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_United_States_Census).[43]

Idaho had an estimated population of 1,754,208 in 2018, which was an increase of 37,265, from the prior year and an increase of 186,626, or 11.91%, since 2010. This includes a natural increase since the last census of 58,884 (111,131 births minus 52,247 deaths) and an increase due to net [migration](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_migration) of 75,795 people into the state. There are large numbers of Americans of English and German ancestry in Idaho. [Immigration](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immigration_to_the_United_States) from outside the United States resulted in a net increase of 14,522 people, and migration within the country produced a net increase of 61,273 people.

This made Idaho the tenth [fastest-growing state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_by_population_growth_rate) after [District of Columbia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington%2C_D.C) (+16.74%), [Utah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utah) (+14.37%), [Texas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas) (+14.14%), [Florida](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Florida) (+13.29%), [Colorado](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colorado)

Idaho population density map

**Historical population**

(+13.25%), [North Dakota](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Dakota) (+13.01%), [Nevada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nevada) (+12.36%), [Arizona](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arizona) (+12.20%) and [Washington](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_(state)). From 2017 to 2018, Idaho grew the second-fastest, surpassed only by Nevada.

[Nampa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nampa%2C_Idaho), about 20 miles (30 km) west of downtown Boise, became the state's second largest city in the late 1990s, passing [Pocatello](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pocatello%2C_Idaho) and [Idaho Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Falls%2C_Idaho). Nampa's population was under 29,000 in 1990 and grew to over 81,000 by 2010. Located between Nampa and Boise, [Meridian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meridian%2C_Idaho) also experienced high growth, from fewer than 10,000 residents in 1990 to more than 75,000 in 2010 and is now Idaho's third largest city. Growth of 5% or more over the same period has also been observed in [Caldwell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caldwell%2C_Idaho), [Coeur d'Alene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coeur_d%27Alene%2C_Idaho), [Post Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post_Falls%2C_Idaho), and [Twin Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twin_Falls%2C_Idaho).[44]

[From 1990 to 2010, Idaho's population increased by over 560,000 (55%). The Boise metropolitan area (officially known as the Boise City-Nampa, ID Metropolitan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boise_metropolitan_area) Statistical Area) is Idaho's largest metropolitan area. Other metropolitan areas in order of size are [Coeur d'Alene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coeur_d%27Alene%2C_Idaho), [Idaho Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Falls%2C_Idaho), [Pocatello](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pocatello%2C_Idaho) and [Lewiston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewiston%2C_Idaho).

The table below shows the racial composition of Idaho's population as of 2016.

**Census Pop. %±** [**1870**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1870_United_States_Census)14,999 —

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [**1880**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1880_United_States_Census) | 32,610 | 117.4% |
| [**1890**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1890_United_States_Census) | 88,548 | 171.5% |
| [**1900**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1900_United_States_Census) | 161,772 | 82.7% |
| [**1910**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1910_United_States_Census) | 325,594 | 101.3% |
| [**1920**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1920_United_States_Census) | 431,866 | 32.6% |
| [**1930**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1930_United_States_Census) | 445,032 | 3.0% |
| [**1940**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1940_United_States_Census) | 524,873 | 17.9% |
| [**1950**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1950_United_States_Census) | 588,637 | 12.1% |
| [**1960**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1960_United_States_Census) | 667,191 | 13.3% |
| [**1970**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1970_United_States_Census) | 712,567 | 6.8% |
| [**1980**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1980_United_States_Census) | 943,935 | 32.5% |
| [**1990**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1990_United_States_Census) | 1,006,749 | 6.7% |
| [**2000**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2000_United_States_Census) | 1,293,953 | 28.5% |
| [**2010**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_United_States_Census) | 1,567,582 | 21.1% |
| **Est. 2019** | 1,787,065 | 14.0% |

Source: 1910–2010[42]

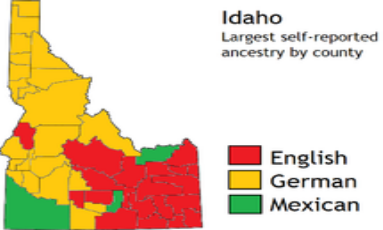
2019 estimate[6]

**Idaho racial composition of population**[45]

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Race** | **Population (2016 est.)** | **Percentage** |
| *Total population* | *1,635,483* | *100%* |
| [White](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_American) | 1,493,155 | 91.3% |
| [Black or African American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_American) | 10,433 | 0.6% |
| [American Indian and Alaska Native](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States) | 21,454 | 1.3% |
| [Asian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian_American) | 21,630 | 1.3% |
| [Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Islander_American) | 2,003 | 0.1% |
| [Some other race](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Race_and_ethnicity_in_the_United_States_Census) | 44,758 | 2.7% |
| [Two or more races](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multiracial_American) | 42,050 | 2.6% |

**Idaho historical racial composition**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Racial composition** | **1970**[46] | **1990**[46] | **2000**[47] | **2010**[48] |
| [White](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_American) | 98.1% | 94.4% | 90.1% | 89.1% |
| [Native](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States) | 0.9% | 1.4% | 1.4% | 1.4% |
| [Asian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian_American) | 0.5% | 0.9% | 0.9% | 1.2% |
| [Black](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_American) | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.6% |
| [Native Hawaiian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_Hawaiian) and [other Pacific Islander](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Islander) | — | — | 0.1% | 0.1% |
| [Other race](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Race_and_ethnicity_in_the_United_States_Census) | 0.2% | 3.0% | 4.2% | 5.1% |
| [Two or more races](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multiracial_American) | — | — | 2.0% | 2.5% |



According to the 2016 [American Community Survey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Community_Survey), 12.0% of Idaho's population were of [Hispanic or Latino](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hispanic_and_Latino_Americans) origin (of any race): [Mexican](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexican_American) (10.4%), [Puerto Rican](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puerto_Ricans) (0.2%), [Cuban](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuban_American) (approx. 0.0%), and other Hispanic or Latino origin

There are large numbers of Americans of German and English ancestry in Idaho.

(1.3%).[45] The five largest ancestry groups were: [German](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_American) (17.5%), [English](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_American) (16.4%), [Irish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_American) (9.3%), [American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_ancestry) (8.1%), and

[Scottish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_American) (3.2%).[49]

### Birth data

*Note: Births in table don't add up, because Hispanics are counted both by their ethnicity and by their race, giving a higher overall number.*

Live Births by Single Race/Ethnicity of Mother

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [**Race**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Race_and_ethnicity_in_the_United_States_Census) | **2013**[50] | **2014**[51] | **2015**[52] | **2016**[53] | **2017**[54] | **2018**[55] |
| [White](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_Americans): | 21,246  (94.9%) | 21,696  (94.8%) | 21,618  (94.7%) | ... | ... | ... |
| [> Non-Hispanic White](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-Hispanic_whites) | 17,951  (80.2%) | 18,188  (79.5%) | 18,087  (79.2%) | 17,543  (78.0%) | 17,151  (77.3%) | 16,574  (77.4%) |
| [Asian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian_Americans) | 491 (2.2%) | 501 (2.2%) | 516 (2.3%) | 363 (1.6%) | 366 (1.7%) | 348 (1.6%) |
| [American Indian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States) | 421 (1.9%) | 429 (1.9%) | 406 (1.8%) | 261 (1.2%) | 337 (1.5%) | 285 (1.3%) |
| [Black](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_Americans) | 225 (1.0%) | 250 (1.1%) | 287 (1.2%) | 217 (1.0%) | 243 (1.1%) | 233 (1.1%) |
| [*Hispanic*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hispanic_and_Latino_Americans) (of any race) | *3,422*  (15.3%) | *3,651*  (16.0%) | *3,645*  (16.0%) | *3,614*  (16.1%) | *3,598*  (16.2%) | *3,549*  (16.6%) |
| **Total Idaho** | **22,383**  (100%) | **22,876**  (100%) | **22,827**  (100%) | **22,482**  (100%) | **22,181**  (100%) | **21,403**  (100%) |

Since 2016, data for births of [White Hispanic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_Hispanic_and_Latino_Americans) origin are not collected, but included in one *Hispanic* group; persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

## Religion

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Denomination** | **2008**[57] | **2014**[58][59] |
| [**Christian**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity)**, including:** | **81%** | **67%** |
| \* [Evangelical Protestant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evangelical_Protestant) | 22% | 21% |
| \* [Mainline Protestant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mainline_Protestant) | 16% | 16% |
| \* [Catholic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholic_Church) | 18% | 10% |
| \* [Eastern Orthodox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Orthodox) | < 0.5% | 1% |
| \* [Historically Black Protestant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_church) | < 0.5% | < 1% |
| [\* The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-day_Saints) | 23% | 19% |
| \* [Jehovah's Witnesses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s_Witnesses) | 1% | < 1% |
| \* Other Christian | < 0.5% | < 1% |
| [**Unaffiliated**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irreligion)**, including:** | **18%** | **27%** |
| \* Nothing in particular | n/d | 22% |
| \* [Agnostic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agnostic) | n/d | 3% |
| \* [Atheist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atheist) | n/d | 2% |
| **Non-Christian faiths, including:** | **n/d** | **4%** |
| \* [Muslim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam) | < 0.5% | 1% |
| \* [Jewish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judaism) | < 0.5% | < 1% |
| \* [Buddhist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhist) | < 0.5% | < 1% |
| \* [Hindu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hindu) | < 0.5% | < 1% |
| \* Other World religions | < 0.5% | < 1% |
| \* Other faiths ([New Age](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Age), [Native American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_American_religion), etc.) | n/d | 2% |
| **Don't know/refused** | **< 0.5%** | **1%** |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| According to the [Pew Research Center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pew_Research_Center) on Religion & Public Life,  the self-identified religious affiliations of Idahoans over the age of |  | **Religion in Ida**  Religion | **ho as of 2014**[56 | ]  Percent |
| 18 in 2008 and 2014 were: |  | [Unaffiliated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irreligion) |  | 27% |
|  |  | [Evangelical Protestant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evangelical_Protestant) |  | 21% |
|  |  | [Mormons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-day_Saints) |  | 19% |
|  |  | [Mainline Protestant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mainline_Protestant) |  | 13% |
|  |  | [Catholic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholic) |  | 10% |
|  |  | Other Non-christian |  | 4% |
|  |  | [Eastern Orthodox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Orthodox) |  | 1% |
|  |  | [Muslim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim) |  | 1% |
|  |  | The [Id](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Falls_Idaho_Temple) [The C Latter-](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-day_Saints) 2006 | [aho Falls Idaho T](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Falls_Idaho_Temple) [hurch of Jesus Ch day Saints, Nove](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-day_Saints) | [emple](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Falls_Idaho_Temple) of [rist of mber](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-day_Saints) |

According to the [Association of Religion Data Archives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Association_of_Religion_Data_Archives), the largest denominations by number of members in 2010 were [The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-day_Saints) with 409,265; the [Catholic Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholic_Church) with 123,400; the non-denominational [Evangelical Protestant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evangelical_Protestant) with 62,637; and the [Assemblies of God](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assemblies_of_God_USA) with 22,183.[60]

## Language

[English is the state's predominant language. Minority languages include Spanish [2] (http://www.city-data.com/states/Ida ho-Languages.html) and various](http://www.city-data.com/states/Idaho-Languages.html) [Native American languages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_American_languages_of_Idaho)[.](http://www.city-data.com/states/Idaho-Languages.html)

# Economy

Total employment 2016

562,282

Total employer establishments



[Idaho state quarter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/50_State_quarters)

45,826[61]

[Gross state product](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gross_state_product) for 2015 was $64.9 billion,[62] and the per capita income based on 2015 GDP and 2015 population estimates was $39,100.[62][63]

Idaho is an important agricultural state, producing nearly one- third of the [potatoes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Potato) grown in the United States. All three varieties of [wheat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wheat), dark northern spring, hard red, and soft white are grown in the state. [Nez Perce County](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nez_Perce_County) is considered a



[American Falls Dam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Falls_Dam)

premier soft white growing locale.

Important industries in Idaho are food processing, lumber and wood products, machinery, chemical products, paper products, electronics manufacturing, silver and other mining, and tourism. The world's largest factory for barrel cheese, the raw product for [processed cheese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Processed_cheese) is in [Gooding, Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gooding%2C_Idaho). It has a capacity of 120,000 metric tons per year of barrel cheese and belongs to the [Glanbia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glanbia) group.[64] The [Idaho National Laboratory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_National_Laboratory) (INL) is the largest Department of Energy facility in the country by area. INL is an important part of the eastern Idaho economy. Idaho also is home to three facilities of [Anheuser-Busch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anheuser-Busch) which provide a large part of the malt for [breweries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breweries) across the nation.

A variety of industries are important. Outdoor recreation is a common example ranging from numerous [snowmobile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snowmobile) and downhill and [cross-country ski](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross-country_ski) areas in winter to the evolution of [Lewiston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewiston%2C_Idaho) as a retirement community based on mild winters, dry, year-round climate and one of the lowest median wind velocities anywhere, combined with the rivers for a wide variety of activities. Other examples would be ATK Corporation, which operates three ammunition and ammunition components plants in Lewiston. Two are sporting and one is defense contract. The Lewis-Clark valley has an additional independent ammunition components manufacturer and the Chipmunk rifle factory until it was purchased in 2007 by Keystone Sporting Arms and production was moved to [Milton, Pennsylvania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milton%2C_Pennsylvania). Four of the world's six welded aluminum jet boat (for running river rapids) manufacturers are in the Lewiston-Clarkston, WA valley. [Wine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wine) grapes were grown between [Kendrick](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kendrick%2C_Idaho) and Juliaetta in the [Idaho Panhandle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Panhandle) by the French [Rothschilds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rothschilds) until [Prohibition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prohibition). In keeping with this, while there are no large wineries or breweries in Idaho, there are numerous and growing numbers of award-winning boutique wineries and microbreweries in the northern part of the state.

Today, Idaho's largest industry is the science and technology sector. It accounts for over 25% of the state's revenue and over 70% of the state's exports. Idaho's industrial economy is growing, with high-tech products leading the way. Since the late 1970s, [Boise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boise) has emerged as a center for [semiconductor manufacturing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Semiconductor_manufacturing). Boise is the home of [Micron Technology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Micron_Technology), the only U.S. manufacturer of [dynamic random-access memory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dynamic_random-access_memory) (DRAM) chips. Micron at one time manufactured desktop computers, but with very limited success. [Hewlett-Packard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hewlett-Packard) has operated a large plant in Boise since the 1970s, which is devoted primarily to [LaserJet printers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HP_LaserJet) production.[65] Boise-based [Clearwater Analytics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clearwater_Analytics) is another rapidly [growing investment accounting and reporting software firm, reporting on over $1 trillion in assets.[66] ON Semiconductor, whose worldwide headquarters is in](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ON_Semiconductor) [Pocatello](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pocatello%2C_Idaho)[, is a widely recognized innovator of modern integrated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ON_Semiconductor) mixed-signal semiconductor products, mixed-signal foundry services, and structured digital products. [Coldwater Creek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coldwater_Creek), a women's clothing retailer, is headquartered in [Sandpoint](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandpoint%2C_Idaho). [Sun Microsystems](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sun_Microsystems) (now a part of [Oracle Corporation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oracle_Corporation)) has two offices in Boise and a parts depot in Pocatello. Sun brings $4 million in annual salaries and over $300 million of revenue to the state each year.

A number of [Fortune 500](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fortune_500) companies started in or trace their roots to Idaho, including [Safeway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Safeway_Inc) in [American Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Falls%2C_Idaho), [Albertsons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albertsons_(SuperValu)) in Boise, [JR Simplot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JR_Simplot) across southern Idaho, and [Potlatch Corp.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Potlatch_Corp) in Lewiston. Zimmerly Air Transport in Lewiston-Clarkston was one of the five companies in the merger centered around [Varney Air Lines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Varney_Air_Lines) of [Pasco, Washington](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pasco%2C_Washington), which became [United Airlines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Airlines) and subsequently Varney Air Group which became [Continental Airlines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Continental_Airlines).

In 2014, Idaho emerged as the second most small business friendly state, ranking behind Utah, based on a study drawing upon data from more than 12,000 small business owners.[67]

Wheat harvest on the [Palouse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palouse)

[Idaho has a state gambling lottery which contributed $333.5 million in payments to all Idaho public schools and Idaho higher education from 1990 to 2006.[68]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_colleges_and_universities_in_Idaho)

## Taxation

Tax is collected by the [Idaho State Tax Commission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_State_Tax_Commission).[69]

[The state personal income tax ranges from 1.6% to 7.8% in eight income brackets. Idahoans may apply for state tax credits for taxes paid to other states, as well as for donations to Idaho state educational entities and some nonprofit youth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tax_credit) and rehabilitation facilities.

The state [sales tax](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sales_tax) is 6% with a very limited, selective local option up to 6.5%. Sales tax applies to the sale, rental or lease of tangible personal property and some services. Food is taxed, but [prescription drugs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prescription_drug) are not. Hotel, [motel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motel), and [campground](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Campground) accommodations are taxed at a higher rate (7% to 11%). Some jurisdictions impose local option sales tax.

The [sales tax](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sales_tax) was introduced at 3% in 1965, easily approved by voters,[70] where it remained at 3% until 1983.[71]

# Energy

As of 2017, the primary energy source in Idaho was hydropower, and the energy companies had a total retail sales of 23,793,790 megawatthours (MWh).[72] As of [2017, Idaho had a regulated electricity market, with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission regulating the three major utilities of](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Public_Utilities_Commission) [Avista Utilities](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avista)[,](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Public_Utilities_Commission) [Idaho Power](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Power)[,](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Public_Utilities_Commission) and [Rocky Mountain Power](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PacifiCorp).[73]

Idaho's energy landscape is favorable to the development of [renewable energy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Renewable_energy) systems. The state is rich in renewable energy resources but has limited fossil fuel resources. The [Snake River Plain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snake_River_Plain) and smaller river basins provide Idaho with some of the nation's best [hydroelectric power](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydroelectric_power) resources and its geologically active mountain areas have significant [geothermal power](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geothermal_power) and [wind power](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wind_power) potential. These realities have shaped much of the state's energy landscape.

Average Fuel Mix (2011–2015)

Idaho imports most of the energy it consumes. Imports account for more than 80% of energy consumption, including all of Idaho's natural gas and petroleum supplies and more than half of its electricity. Of the electricity consumed in Idaho in 2005, 48% came from hydroelectricity, 42% was generated by burning coal and 9% was generated by burning natural gas. The remainder came from other renewable sources such as wind.[74]

The state's numerous river basins allow hydroelectric power plants to provide 556,000 MWh, which amounts to about three-fourths of Idaho's electricity generated in the state. Washington State provides most of the natural gas used in Idaho through one of the two major pipeline systems supplying the state. Although the state relies on out-of-state sources for its entire natural gas supply, it uses natural gas-fired plants to generate 127,000 MWh, or about ten percent of its output. Coal-fired generation and the state's small array of wind turbines supplies the remainder of the state's electricity output. The state produces 739,000 MWh but still needs to import half of its electricity from out-of-state to meet demand.[75]

While Idaho's 515 [trillion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1000000000000_(number)) [British thermal units](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_thermal_unit) (151 [TWh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Watt-hour)) total energy consumption is low compared with other states and represents just 0.5% of United States consumption, the state also has the nation's 11th smallest population,

1.5 million, so its per capita energy consumption of 352 million BTU (103 MWh) is just above the national average of 333 million BTU (98 MWh).[75] As the 13th‑largest state in terms of land area of 83,570 square miles (53,480,000 acres; 216,400 km2), distance creates the additional problem of "line loss". When the length of an electrical transmission line is doubled, the resistance to an electric current passing through it is also doubled.

In addition, Idaho also has the 6th fastest growing population in the United States with the population expected to increase by 31% from 2008 to 2030.[76] This projected increase in population will contribute to a 42% increase in demand by 2030, further straining Idaho's finite hydroelectric resources.[77]

Idaho has an upper-boundary estimate of development potential to generate 44,320 GWh/year from 18,076 MW of wind power, and 7,467,000 GWh/year from [solar power](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar_power_in_Idaho) using 2,061,000 MW of photovoltaics (PV), including 3,224 MW of rooftop photovoltaics, and 1,267,000 MW of [concentrated solar power](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concentrated_solar_power).[78]

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | **Idaho Wind Generation (GWh, Million kWh)** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Year** | **Capacity (MW)** | **Total** | **Jan** | **Feb** | **Mar** | **Apr** | **May** | **Jun** | **Jul** | **Aug** | **Sept** | **Oct** | **Nov** | **Dec** |
| 2009 | 147 | 313 | 21 | 18 | 25 | 24 | 22 | 17 | 14 | 19 | 21 | 33 | 34 | 38 |
| 2010 | 353 | 441 | 29 | 24 | 35 | 43 | 36 | 28 | 24 | 26 | 26 | 57 | 69 | 78 |
| 2011 | 618 | 1,308 | 90 | 120 | 132 | 140 | 120 | 112 | 83 | 78 | 71 | 118 | 145 | 105 |
| 2012 |  |  | 191 | 133 | 197 | 155 | 148 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Source:[79][80][81] |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Idaho Grid-Connected PV Capacity (MW)**[82][83] | | | |
| **Year** | **Capacity** | **Installed** | **% Growth** |
| 2010 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 100% |
| 2011 | 0.4 | 0 | 0% |

# Transportation

The [Idaho Transportation Department](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Transportation_Department) is the [government agency](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_agency) responsible for Idaho's transportation infrastructure, including [operations and maintenance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maintenance%2C_repair_and_operations) as well as planning for future needs. The agency is also responsible for overseeing the disbursement of [federal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Administration_of_federal_assistance_in_the_United_States), state, and [gran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grant_(money))t [funding](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Funding) for the transportation programs of the state.[84]

## Highways

Idaho is among the few states in the nation without a major freeway linking its two largest metropolitan areas, [Boise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boise%2C_Idaho) in the south and [Coeur d'Alene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coeur_d%27Alene%2C_Idaho) in the north. [US-95](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Route_95_in_Idaho) links the two ends of the state, but like many other highways in Idaho, it is badly in need of repair and upgrade. In 2007, the [Idaho Transportation Department](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Transportation_Department) stated the state's highway infrastructure faces a $200 million per year shortfall in maintenance and upgrades. [I-84](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interstate_84_in_Idaho) is the main highway linking the southeast and southwest portions of the state, along with [I-86](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interstate_86_(Idaho)) and [I-15](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interstate_15_in_Idaho). Major federal aid highways in Idaho:



* 1. shield

### North/South

[US-89](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Route_89_in_Idaho) [US-91](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Route_91_in_Idaho) [US-93](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Route_93_in_Idaho) [US-95](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Route_95_in_Idaho)



### West/East

[US-2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Route_2_in_Idaho) [US-12](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Route_12_in_Idaho) [US-20](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Route_20_in_Idaho) [US-26](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Route_26_in_Idaho) [US-30](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Route_30_in_Idaho)



### Interstates

[I-15](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interstate_15_in_Idaho) [I-84](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interstate_84_in_Idaho) [I-86](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interstate_86_(Idaho)) [I-90](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interstate_90_in_Idaho)



[I-184](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interstate_184)

[US-95 shield](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Route_95_in_Idaho)

## Airports

[Major airports include the Boise International Airport which serves the southwest region of Idaho and the Spokane International Airport (in](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spokane_International_Airport) [Spokane, Washington](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spokane%2C_Washington)[) which serves northern Idaho. Other airports with scheduled service are](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spokane_International_Airport) the [Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pullman-Moscow_Regional_Airport) serving the [Palouse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palouse); the [Lewiston-Nez Perce County Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewiston-Nez_Perce_County_Airport), serving the Lewis- [Clark Valley and north central and west central Idaho; The Magic Valley Regional Airport in Twin Falls; the Idaho Falls Regional Airport; and the](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Falls_Regional_Airport) [Pocatello Regional Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pocatello_Regional_Airport)[.[85]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Falls_Regional_Airport)

## Railroads

[Idaho is served by three transcontinental railroads. The Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) connects the Idaho Panhandle with](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Panhandle) [Seattle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seattle)[,](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Panhandle) [Portland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portland%2C_Oregon)[, and](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Panhandle) [Spokane](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spokane%2C_Washington) [to the west, and](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Panhandle) [Minneapolis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minneapolis) [and Chicago to the east. The](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Panhandle) [BNSF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BNSF) [travels](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Panhandle) through [Kootenai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kootenai_County%2C_Idaho), [Bonner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bonner_County%2C_Idaho), and [Boundary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boundary_County%2C_Idaho) counties. The [Union Pacific Railroad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_Pacific_Railroad) crosses North Idaho entering from [Canada through Boundary and Bonner, and proceeding to Spokane. Canadian Pacific Railway uses Union Pacific Railroad tracks in North Idaho carrying products from](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_Pacific_Railroad) [Alberta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alberta%2C_Canada) [to](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_Pacific_Railroad) [Spokane](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spokane%2C_Washington) [and](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_Pacific_Railroad) [Portland, Oregon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portland%2C_Oregon)[.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_Pacific_Railroad) [Amtrak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amtrak)['s Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_Pacific_Railroad) [Builder crosses northern Idaho, with its only stop being in Sandpoint. Montana Rail Link also operates between Billings, Montana and](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billings%2C_Montana) [Sandpoint, Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandpoint%2C_Idaho)

The [Union Pacific Railroad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_Pacific_Railroad) also crosses southern Idaho traveling between Portland, Oregon, Green River, [Wyoming](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wyoming), and [Ogden, Utah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ogden%2C_Utah) and serves [Boise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boise%2C_Idaho), [Nampa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nampa%2C_Idaho), [Twin Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twin_Falls%2C_Idaho), and [Pocatello](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pocatello%2C_Idaho).

## Ports

The Port of [Lewiston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewiston%2C_Idaho) is the farthest inland Pacific port on the west coast. A series of dams and locks on the [Snake River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snake_River) and [Columbia River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbia_River) facilitate barge travel from Lewiston to [Portland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portland%2C_Oregon), where goods are loaded on ocean-going vessels.

# Law and government

## State constitution

The constitution of Idaho is roughly modeled on the national constitution with several additions. The constitution defines the form and functions of the state government, and may be amended through [plebiscite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plebiscite). Notably, the state constitution presently requires the state government to maintain a balanced budget. As result, Idaho has limited debt (construction bonds, etc.).[86]

## Idaho Code and Statutes

All of Idaho's state laws are contained in the Idaho Code and Statutes. The code is amended through the legislature with the approval of the governor. Idaho still operates under its original (1889) state constitution.[86]

## State government

The constitution of Idaho provides for three branches of government: the

The [Idaho State Capitol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_State_Capitol) in [Boise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boise%2C_Idaho)

executive, legislative and judicial branches. Idaho has a [bicameral](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bicameral) legislature, elected from 35 legislative districts, each represented by one senator and two representatives.

Since 1946, statewide elected constitutional officers have been elected to four-year terms. They include: [Governor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Governors_of_Idaho), [Lieutenant Governor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lieutenant_Governor_of_Idaho), [Secretary of State](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secretary_of_State_of_Idaho), [Idaho state controller](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_state_controller) (Auditor before 1994), Treasurer, [Attorney General](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Attorney_General), and Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Last contested in 1966, Inspector of Mines was an originally elected constitutional office. Afterward it was an appointed position and ultimately done away with entirely in 1974.

Idaho's government has an [alcohol monopoly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alcoholic_beverage_control_state).

### Executive branch

The governor of Idaho serves a four-year term, and is elected during what is nationally referred to as midterm elections. As such, the governor is not elected in the same election year as the president of the United States. The current governor is [Republica](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States))n [Brad Little](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Little_(politician)), who was elected in 2018.

### Legislative branch

Idaho's [legislature](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_legislature_(United_States)) is part-time. However, the session may be extended if necessary, and often is. Because of this, Idaho's legislators are considered "citizen legislators", meaning their position as a legislator is not their main occupation.

Terms for both the [Senate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Senate) and [House of Representatives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_House_of_Representatives) are two years. Legislative elections occur every even numbered year.

The Idaho Legislature has been continuously controlled by the Republican Party since the late 1950s, although Democratic legislators are routinely elected from [Boise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boise%2C_Idaho), [Pocatello](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pocatello%2C_Idaho), [Blaine County](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blaine_County%2C_Idaho) and the northern Panhandle.



Chamber of the House of Representatives in 2018

### Judicial branch

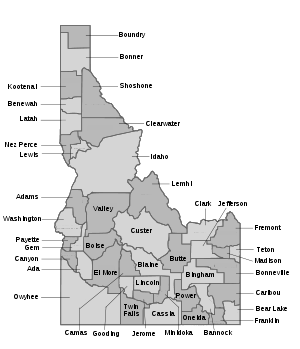
[The highest court in Idaho is the Idaho Supreme Court. There is also an intermediate appellate court, the Idaho Court of Appeals, which hears cases assigned to it from the Supreme Court. The state's District Courts serve seven judicial](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Court_of_Appeals) districts.[87]

### Counties

Idaho is divided into political jurisdictions designated as [*counties*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/County_(United_States)). Since 1919 there are 44 counties in the state, ranging in size from 410 to 8,502 square miles (1,060 to 22,020 km2).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **County** | **County seat** | **License Plate Code** | **Year founded** | **Population (2017 est.)** | **Population Percentage** | **Area (sq. mi.)** | **Area %** |
| [Ada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ada_County%2C_Idaho) | [Boise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boise%2C_Idaho) | 1A | 1864 | 456,849 | 25.00% | 1,060 | 1.21% |
| [Adams](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adams_County%2C_Idaho) | [Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council%2C_Idaho) | 2A | 1911 | 4,147 | 0.23% | 1,370 | 1.57% |
| [Bannock](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bannock_County%2C_Idaho) | [Pocatello](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pocatello%2C_Idaho) | 1B | 1893 | 85,269 | 05.30% | 1,147 | 1.31% |
| [Bear Lake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bear_Lake_County%2C_Idaho) | [Paris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris%2C_Idaho) | 2B | 1893 | 6,028 | 00.38% | 1,049 | 1.20% |
| [Benewah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benewah_County%2C_Idaho) | [St. Maries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Maries%2C_Idaho) | 3B | 1915 | 9,184 | 00.61% | 784 | 0.90% |
| [Bingham](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bingham_County%2C_Idaho) | [Blackfoot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blackfoot%2C_Idaho) | 4B | 1885 | 45,927 | 02.88% | 2,120 | 2.42% |
| [Blaine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blaine_County%2C_Idaho) | [Hailey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hailey%2C_Idaho) | 5B | 1895 | 22,024 | 01.43% | 2,661 | 3.04% |
| [Boise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boise_County%2C_Idaho) | [Idaho City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_City%2C_Idaho) | 6B | 1864 | 7,290 | 00.49% | 1,907 | 2.18% |
| [Bonner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bonner_County%2C_Idaho) | [Sandpoint](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandpoint%2C_Idaho) | 7B | 1907 | 43,560 | 02.70% | 1,920 | 2.19% |
| [Bonneville](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bonneville_County%2C_Idaho) | [Idaho Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Falls%2C_Idaho) | 8B | 1911 | 114,595 | 06.51% | 1,901 | 2.17% |
| [Boundary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boundary_County%2C_Idaho) | [Bonners Ferry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bonners_Ferry%2C_Idaho) | 9B | 1915 | 11,922 | 00.72% | 1,278 | 1.46% |
| [Butte](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Butte_County%2C_Idaho) | [Arco](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arco%2C_Idaho) | 10B | 1917 | 2,602 | 00.18% | 2,234 | 2.55% |
| [Camas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camas_County%2C_Idaho) | [Fairfield](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fairfield%2C_Idaho) | 1C | 1917 | 1,102 | 00.07% | 1,079 | 1.23% |
| [Canyon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canyon_County%2C_Idaho) | [Caldwell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caldwell%2C_Idaho) | 2C | 1891 | 216,699 | 12.07% | 604 | 0.69% |
| [Caribou](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caribou_County%2C_Idaho) | [Soda Springs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soda_Springs%2C_Idaho) | 3C | 1919 | 7,034 | 00.45% | 1,799 | 2.06% |
| [Cassia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cassia_County%2C_Idaho) | [Burley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burley%2C_Idaho) | 4C | 1879 | 23,664 | 01.40% | 2,580 | 2.95% |
| [Clark](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clark_County%2C_Idaho) | [Dubois](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dubois%2C_Idaho) | 5C | 1919 | 873 | 00.06% | 1,765 | 2.02% |
| [Clearwater](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clearwater_County%2C_Idaho) | [Orofino](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orofino%2C_Idaho) | 6C | 1911 | 8,546 | 00.54% | 2,488 | 2.84% |
| [Custer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Custer_County%2C_Idaho) | [Challis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Challis%2C_Idaho) | 7C | 1881 | 4,172 | 00.28% | 4,937 | 5.64% |
| [Elmore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elmore_County%2C_Idaho) | [Mountain Home](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountain_Home%2C_Idaho) | E | 1889 | 26,823 | 01.90% | 3,101 | 3.54% |
| [Franklin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franklin_County%2C_Idaho) | [Preston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preston%2C_Idaho) | 1F | 1913 | 13,564 | 00.82% | 668 | 0.76% |
| [Fremont](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fremont_County%2C_Idaho) | [St. Anthony](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Anthony%2C_Idaho) | 2F | 1893 | 13,094 | 00.82% | 1,896 | 2.17% |
| [Gem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gem_County%2C_Idaho) | [Emmett](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmett%2C_Idaho) | 1G | 1915 | 17,379 | 01.08% | 566 | 0.65% |
| [Gooding](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gooding_County%2C_Idaho) | [Gooding](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gooding%2C_Idaho) | 2G | 1913 | 15,124 | 00.94% | 734 | 0.84% |
| [Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_County%2C_Idaho) | [Grangeville](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grangeville%2C_Idaho) | I | 1861/1864 | 16,369 | 01.01% | 8,502 | 9.71% |
| [Jefferson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jefferson_County%2C_Idaho) | [Rigby](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rigby%2C_Idaho) | 1J | 1913 | 28,446 | 01.57% | 1,106 | 1.26% |
| [Jerome](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerome_County%2C_Idaho) | [Jerome](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerome%2C_Idaho) | 2J | 1919 | 23,627 | 01.34% | 602 | 0.69% |
| [Kootenai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kootenai_County%2C_Idaho) | [Coeur d'Alene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coeur_d%27Alene%2C_Idaho) | K | 1864 | 157,637 | 09.02% | 1,316 | 1.50% |
| [Latah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latah_County%2C_Idaho) | [Moscow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moscow%2C_Idaho) | 1L | 1888 | 39,333 | 02.36% | 1,077 | 1.23% |
| [Lemhi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lemhi_County%2C_Idaho) | [Salmon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salmon%2C_Idaho) | 2L | 1869 | 7,875 | 00.51% | 4,570 | 5.22% |
| [Lewis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis_County%2C_Idaho) | [Nezperce](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nezperce%2C_Idaho) | 3L | 1911 | 3,887 | 00.24% | 480 | 0.55% |
| [Lincoln](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lincoln_County%2C_Idaho) | [Shoshone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shoshone%2C_Idaho) | 4L | 1895 | 5,318 | 00.30% | 1,206 | 1.38% |
| [Madison](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madison_County%2C_Idaho) | [Rexburg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rexburg%2C_Idaho) | 1M | 1914 | 39,141 | 02.46% | 473 | 0.54% |
| [Minidoka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minidoka_County%2C_Idaho) | [Rupert](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rupert%2C_Idaho) | 2M | 1913 | 20,729 | 01.22% | 763 | 0.87% |
| [Nez Perce](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nez_Perce_County%2C_Idaho) | [Lewiston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewiston%2C_Idaho) | N | 1861/1864 | 40,385 | 02.56% | 856 | 0.98% |
| [Oneida](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oneida_County%2C_Idaho) | [Malad City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malad_City%2C_Idaho) | 1O | 1864 | 4,427 | 00.27% | 1,202 | 1.37% |
| [Owyhee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Owyhee_County%2C_Idaho) | [Murphy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murphy%2C_Idaho) | 2O | 1863 | 11,628 | 00.71% | 7,697 | 8.79% |
| [Payette](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Payette_County%2C_Idaho) | [Payette](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Payette%2C_Idaho) | 1P | 1917 | 23,215 | 01.51% | 410 | 0.47% |
| [Power](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Power_County%2C_Idaho) | [American Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Falls%2C_Idaho) | 2P | 1913 | 7,600 | 00.50% | 1,443 | 1.65% |
| [Shoshone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shoshone_County%2C_Idaho) | [Wallace](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wallace%2C_Idaho) | S | 1861/64 | 12,542 | 0.85% | 2,636 | 3.01% |
| [Teton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teton_County%2C_Idaho) | [Driggs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Driggs%2C_Idaho) | 1T | 1915 | 11,381 | 0.58% | 451 | 0.52% |
| [Twin Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twin_Falls_County%2C_Idaho) | [Twin Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twin_Falls%2C_Idaho) | 2T | 1907 | 85,124 | 4.87% | 1,928 | 2.20% |

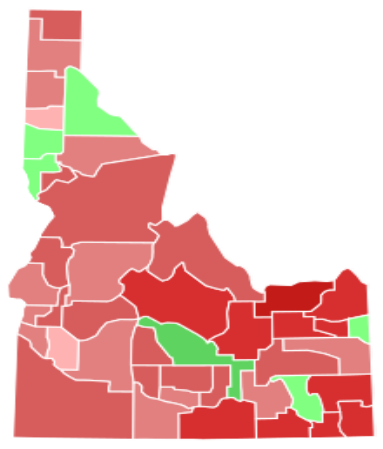
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [Valley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valley_County%2C_Idaho) | [Cascade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cascade%2C_Idaho) | V | 1917 | 10,687 | 0.58% | 3,734 | 4.27% |
| [Washington](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_County%2C_Idaho) | [Weiser](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weiser%2C_Idaho) | W | 1879 | 10,121 | 0.67% | 1,474 | 1.68% |

Total Counties: 44. Total 2018 Population Est.: 1,754,208. Total Area: 87,530 square miles (226,700 km2).

Three counties were first designated as such by the Washington Territorial Legislature in 1861;[88] they were subsequently redesignated as Idaho counties in 1864. The 1861 Nez Percé county has since been broken up into Nez Percé, Lewis, Boundary, Benewah, Latah, Kootenai, and Clearwater counties.

Idaho license plates begin with a county designation based on the first letter of the county's name. Where a letter is at the beginning of more than one name, a number accompanies precedingly in alphabetical order. This reflects an anomalous coincidental situation wherein 10 counties begin with B, seven with C and four with L, which is 21 of the 44 counties.

### Politics

Voter Registration Totals as of September 3, 2019[89]

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Party** | | **Number of Voters** | **Percentage** |
|  | [Republican](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States)) | 435,246 (+10,390) | 50.74% |
|  | [Unaffiliated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independent_(politician)) | 302,335 (+15,197) | 35.24% |
|  | [Democratic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States)) | 109,068 (+12,196) | 12.71% |
|  | [Libertarian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Libertarian_Party_(United_States)) | 8,045 (+1,291) | 0.94% |
|  | [Constitution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_Party_(United_States)) | 3,142 (+243) | 0.37% |
| **Total** | | **857,836 (+39,317)** | **100%** |
| \*Added Between September 5, 2018, and September 3, 2019 | | | |

After the [Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Civil_War), many Midwestern and Southern [Democrats](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States)) moved to the Idaho Territory. As a result, the early territorial legislatures were solidly Democrat-controlled. In contrast, most of the territorial governors were appointed by [Republican](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States)) presidents and were Republicans. This led to sometimes-bitter clashes between the two parties, including a range war with the Democrats backing the sheepherders and the Republicans the cattlemen. That ended with the ["Diamondfield" Jack Davis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_Davis_(prospector)) murder trial. In the 1880s, Republicans became more prominent in local politics.

In 1864, Clinton DeWitt Smith removed the territorial seal and the state constitution from a locked safe, and took them to Boise. This effectively moved the capital from where they were stored ([Lewiston, Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewiston%2C_Idaho)) to the current capital Boise.[90]

Since statehood, the Republican Party has usually been the dominant party in Idaho. At one time, Idaho had two Democratic parties, one being the mainstream and the other called the Anti-Mormon Democrats, lasting into the early 20th

Party registration by county (December 2018):

Republican >= 40%

Republican >= 50%

Republican >= 60%

Republican >= 70%

Republican >= 80%

Unaffiliated>= 40%

Unaffiliated>= 50%

century. In the 1890s and early 1900s, the [Populist Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Populist_Party_(United_States)) enjoyed prominence while the Democratic Party maintained a brief dominance in the 1930s during the [Great Depression](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Depression). Since World War II most statewide-elected officials have been Republicans, though the Democrats did hold the majority in the House (by one seat) in 1958 and the governorship from 1971 to 1995.

Idaho Congressional delegations have also been generally Republican since statehood. Several Idaho Democrats have had electoral success in the [House](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_House_of_Representatives) over the years, but the [Senate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Senate) delegation has been a Republican stronghold for decades. [Several Idaho Republicans, including current Senator Mike Crapo, have won reelection to the Senate, but only Frank](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Church) [Church has won reelection as a Democrat. Church was the last Idaho Democrat to win a U.S. Senate race, in 1974. Walt Minnick's 2008 win in the](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walt_Minnick) [First Congressional District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho%27s_1st_congressional_district) [was the state's first Democratic Congressional victory in 16 years.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walt_Minnick)

In modern times, Idaho has been a reliably Republican state in presidential politics. It has not supported a Democrat for [president](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_the_United_States) since [1964](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1964_United_States_presidential_election). Even in that election, [Lyndon Johnson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyndon_Johnson) defeated [Barry Goldwater](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barry_Goldwater) in the state by fewer than two percentage points, compared to a landslide nationally. In [2004](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2004_United_States_presidential_election), Republican [George W. Bush](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_W._Bush) carried Idaho by a margin of 38 percentage points and with 68.4% of the vote, winning in 43 of 44 counties. Only [Blaine County](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blaine_County%2C_Idaho), which contains the [Sun Valley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sun_Valley%2C_Idaho) ski resort, supported [John Kerry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Kerry), who owns a home in the area. In [2008](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008_United_States_presidential_election) [Barack Obama](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barack_Obama)'s 36.1 percent[91] showing was the best for a Democratic presidential candidate in Idaho since [1976](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1976_United_States_presidential_election). However, Republican margins were narrower in [1992](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1992_United_States_presidential_election) and [1976](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1976_United_States_presidential_election).

In the 2006 elections, Republicans, led by gubernatorial candidate [CL "Butch" Otter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C._L._Otter), won all the state's constitutional offices and retained both of the state's seats in the [United States House of Representatives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_House_of_Representatives). However, Democrats picked up several seats in the Idaho Legislature, notably in the Boise area.[92]

Republicans lost one of the House seats in 2008 to Minnick, but Republican [Jim Risch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jim_Risch) retained [Larry Craig](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Larry_Craig)'s Senate seat [for the GOP by a comfortable margin.[93] Minnick lost his seat in the 2010 election to Republican State Rep. Raul Labrador.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raul_Labrador)

# Cities and towns

### Population > 100,000 (urbanized area)

226,570 [Boise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boise%2C_Idaho), state capital

99,926 [Meridian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meridian%2C_Idaho), suburb of Boise, fastest growing city in Idaho

### Population > 50,000 (urbanized area)

93,590 [Nampa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nampa%2C_Idaho), home of [Northwest Nazarene University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northwest_Nazarene_University)

[61,076 Idaho Falls, location of the main offices of the Idaho National Laboratory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_National_Laboratory)

55,193 [Pocatello](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pocatello%2C_Idaho), home of [Idaho State University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_State_University) 54,660 [Caldwell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caldwell%2C_Idaho), home of the [College of Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/College_of_Idaho)

50,665 [Coeur d'Alene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coeur_d%27Alene%2C_Idaho), home of [North Idaho College](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Idaho_College), major tourist hub 49,202 [Twin Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twin_Falls%2C_Idaho), home of [College of Southern Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/College_of_Southern_Idaho), [BASE jumping](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BASE_jumping)

### Population > 30,000 (urbanized area)

33,290 [Post Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post_Falls%2C_Idaho)

32,820 [Lewiston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewiston%2C_Idaho), home of [Lewis-Clark State College](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis-Clark_State_College), [inland port](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inland_port)

### Population > 10,000 (urbanized area)



Sunset in [Coeur d'Alene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coeur_d%27Alene%2C_Idaho)



[Idaho Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Falls%2C_Idaho)

28,337 [Rexburg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rexburg%2C_Idaho), home of [Brigham Young University–Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brigham_Young_University%E2%80%93Idaho) 26,089 [Eagle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eagle%2C_Idaho), suburb of Boise

25,146 [Moscow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moscow%2C_Idaho), home of the [University of Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Idaho) 19,200 [Kuna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kuna%2C_Idaho), suburb of Boise

15,540 [Ammon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ammon%2C_Idaho), suburb of Idaho Falls

14,869 [Chubbuck, Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chubbuck%2C_Idaho), suburb of Pocatello 14,693 [Hayden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hayden%2C_Idaho)

14,224 [Mountain Home](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountain_Home%2C_Idaho), [U.S. Air Force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Air_Force) Base

11,922 [Blackfoot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blackfoot%2C_Idaho), home of the [Idaho Potato Museum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Potato_Museum) 11,890 [Garden City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garden_City%2C_Idaho), suburb of Boise



[Pocatello](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pocatello%2C_Idaho)

11,636 [Jerome](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerome%2C_Idaho)

10,474 [Burley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burley%2C_Idaho)

9,076 [Star, Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star%2C_Idaho), suburb of Boise

### Smaller towns and cities

[American Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Falls%2C_Idaho), first town to be entirely relocated

[Arco](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arco%2C_Idaho), first city to be lit by electricity generated from a nuclear power plant

[Bonners Ferry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bonners_Ferry%2C_Idaho), northernmost major town in Idaho [Buhl](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buhl%2C_Idaho), "trout capital of the world"

[Bone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bone%2C_Idaho), population 2, but still has a gas station [Cascade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cascade%2C_Idaho), [Lake Cascade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Cascade) and dam [Craigmont](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Craigmont%2C_Idaho)

[Cottonwood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cottonwood%2C_Idaho)

[Driggs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Driggs%2C_Idaho), skiing ([Grand Targhee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Targhee_Resort)) [Eden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eden%2C_Idaho)

[Emmett](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmett%2C_Idaho)

[Grangeville](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grangeville%2C_Idaho), Idaho County seat [Greenleaf](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greenleaf%2C_Idaho)

[Ferdinand](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ferdinand%2C_Idaho) [Firth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Firth%2C_Idaho) [Fruitland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fruitland%2C_Idaho)

[Filer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filer%2C_Idaho), suburb of Twin Falls [Hazelton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hazelton%2C_Idaho)

[Homedale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homedale%2C_Idaho), "gateway to the Owyhees"

[Island Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Island_Park%2C_Idaho), snowmobiling, world-class fishing [Kimberly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kimberly%2C_Idaho), suburb of Twin Falls

[Kellogg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kellogg%2C_Idaho), skiing ([Silver Mountain Ski Resort](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silver_Mountain_(Idaho)))

[Lapwai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lapwai%2C_Idaho), business headquarters of the Nez Perce Tribe ("Lep'wey") [Malad City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malad_City%2C_Idaho), where Utah buys lottery tickets

[Mackay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mackay%2C_Idaho)

[McCall, skiing (Brundage Mountain Resort) and recreation (Payette Lake)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Payette_Lake)

[Melba, Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melba%2C_Idaho), south of Nampa, Idaho [Middleton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middleton%2C_Idaho), small town

[Montpelier](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montpelier%2C_Idaho), bank robbed by the [Wild Bunch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Butch_Cassidy%27s_Wild_Bunch) [Mullan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mullan%2C_Idaho), silver/lead/zinc mining

[New Meadows](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Meadows%2C_Idaho), at the [45th parallel north](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/45th_parallel_north)

[New Plymouth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Plymouth%2C_Idaho), first planned community in Idaho and third west of the Rocky Mountains

[Nezperce](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nezperce%2C_Idaho), Lewis County seat [Notus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Notus%2C_Idaho)

[Oakley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oakley%2C_Idaho), famous pioneer town, home of many historic buildings

[Orofino](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orofino%2C_Idaho), site of [Dworshak Dam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dworshak_Dam), highest straight-axis dam in Western Hemisphere

[Paris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris%2C_Idaho), Bear Lake County seat [Parma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parma%2C_Idaho), site of Old Fort Boise [Payette](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Payette%2C_Idaho), Payette County seat

[Pierce](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pierce%2C_Idaho), location of the first discovery of gold in Idaho [Plummer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plummer%2C_Idaho), CDA tribal headquarters

[Preston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preston%2C_Idaho), location of the 2004 film [*Napoleon Dynamite*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Napoleon_Dynamite) and the annual International Bed Races



[Post Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post_Falls%2C_Idaho)

[Rigby](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rigby%2C_Idaho), television birthplace

[Riggins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riggins%2C_Idaho), near the [Seven Devils Mountains](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Devils_Mountains) [Reubens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reubens%2C_Idaho)

[Rupert](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rupert%2C_Idaho), Minidoka County seat

[Salmon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salmon%2C_Idaho), gateway to "River of No Return" ([Salmon River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salmon_River_(Idaho)))

[Sandpoint](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandpoint%2C_Idaho), skiing ([Schweitzer Mountain Ski Resort](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schweitzer_Mountain)) and recreation ([Lake Pend Oreille](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Pend_Oreille))

[Shelley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shelley%2C_Idaho), home of the [russet potato](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russet_potato) [Soda Springs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soda_Springs%2C_Idaho), U.S.'s only captive geyser

[St. Anthony](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Anthony%2C_Idaho), sand dunes and several [lava tubes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lava_tube) [St. Maries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Maries%2C_Idaho), Benewah County seat

[Stanley, Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanley%2C_Idaho), heart of the [Sawtooth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sawtooth_Range_(Idaho)) mountains [Sun Valley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sun_Valley%2C_Idaho), year-round resort with world-class skiing [Wallace](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wallace%2C_Idaho), historic district and Shoshone County seat

[Weippe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weippe%2C_Idaho), where the Lewis and Clark Expedition first met the Nez Perce tribe

[Weiser, Washington County seat, home of the National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Oldtime_Fiddlers%27_Contest)

[Wilder](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilder%2C_Idaho), hometown of former governor [Phil Batt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phil_Batt) [Winchester](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winchester%2C_Idaho)

[Worley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Worley%2C_Idaho), casino

# Protected areas

## National parks, reserves, monuments and historic sites



[California National Historic Trail](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_National_Historic_Trail) [City of Rocks National Reserve](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_of_Rocks_National_Reserve)

[Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Craters_of_the_Moon_National_Monument_and_Preserve) [Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hagerman_Fossil_Beds_National_Monument)

[Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis_and_Clark_National_Historic_Trail) [Minidoka National Historic Site](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minidoka_National_Historic_Site)

[Nez Perce National Historical Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nez_Perce_National_Historical_Park) [Oregon National Historic Trail](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oregon_National_Historic_Trail) [Yellowstone National Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yellowstone_National_Park)

[Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Northwest_National_Scenic_Trail)

## National recreation areas

[Hells Canyon National Recreation Area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hells_Canyon_National_Recreation_Area) [Sawtooth National Recreation Area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sawtooth_National_Recreation_Area)

## National wildlife refuges and Wilderness Areas

[Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bear_Lake_National_Wildlife_Refuge) [Camas National Wildlife Refuge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camas_National_Wildlife_Refuge) [Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deer_Flat_National_Wildlife_Refuge)

[Frank Church—River of No Return Wilderness Area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Church%E2%80%93River_of_No_Return_Wilderness) [Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grays_Lake_National_Wildlife_Refuge)

[Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kootenai_National_Wildlife_Refuge) [Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minidoka_National_Wildlife_Refuge)

## National conservation areas

[Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snake_River_Birds_of_Prey_National_Conservation_Area)

## State parks

[Bear Lake State Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bear_Lake_State_Park_(Idaho)) [Bruneau Dunes State Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bruneau_Dunes_State_Park) [Castle Rocks State Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castle_Rocks_State_Park)

[City of Rocks National Reserve](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_of_Rocks_National_Reserve) [Coeur d'Alene Parkway State Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coeur_d%27Alene_Parkway_State_Park) [Dworshak State Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dworshak_State_Park)

[Eagle Island State Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eagle_Island_State_Park_(Idaho)) [Farragut State Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Farragut_State_Park) [Harriman State Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harriman_State_Park_(Idaho)) [Hells Gate State Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hells_Gate_State_Park) [Henrys Lake State Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henrys_Lake_State_Park) [Heyburn State Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heyburn_State_Park) [Lake Cascade State Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Cascade_State_Park) [Lake Walcott State Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Walcott_State_Park)

[Land of the Yankee Fork State Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land_of_the_Yankee_Fork_State_Park) [Lucky Peak State Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucky_Peak_State_Park)

[Massacre Rocks State Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massacre_Rocks_State_Park) [McCroskey State Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McCroskey_State_Park)

[Old Mission State Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Mission_State_Park) [Ponderosa State Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ponderosa_State_Park) [Priest Lake State Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Priest_Lake_State_Park) [Round Lake State Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Round_Lake_State_Park)

[Thousand Springs State Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thousand_Springs_State_Park) [Three Island Crossing State Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three_Island_Crossing_State_Park) [Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trail_of_the_Coeur_d%27Alenes) [Winchester Lake State Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winchester_Lake_State_Park)

# Education



[Bear Lake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bear_Lake_(Idaho%E2%80%93Utah)) viewed from [Bear Lake State Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bear_Lake_State_Park_(Idaho))

## K–12

As of January 2020, the State of Idaho contains 105 [school districts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/School_districts)[95] and 62 [charter schools](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charter_schools).[96] The school districts range in enrollment from 2 to 39,507 students.[97]

Idaho school districts are governed by elected school boards, which are elected in November of odd years,[98] except for the Boise School District, whose elections are held in September.[99]

## Colleges and universities

The Idaho State Board of Education oversees three comprehensive universities. The [University of Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Idaho) in [Moscow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moscow%2C_Idaho) was the first university in the state (founded in 1889). It opened its doors in 1892 and is the [land-grant institution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land-grant_university) and primary research university of the state. [Idaho State University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_State_University) in [Pocatello](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pocatello%2C_Idaho) opened in 1901 as the Academy of Idaho, attained

four-year status in 1947 and university status in 1963. [Boise State University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boise_State_University) is the most recent school to attain university status in Idaho. The school opened in 1932 as [Boise Junior College and became Boise State University in 1974. Lewis-Clark State College in](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis-Clark_State_College) [Lewiston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewiston%2C_Idaho) [is the only public, non-university four-year college in Idaho. It](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis-Clark_State_College) opened as a [normal school](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Normal_school) in 1893.

Idaho has four regional community colleges: [North Idaho College](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Idaho_College) in [Coeur d'Alene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coeur_d%27Alene%2C_Idaho); [College of Southern Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/College_of_Southern_Idaho) in [Twin Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twin_Falls%2C_Idaho); [College of Western Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/College_of_Western_Idaho) in [Nampa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nampa%2C_Idaho), which opened in 2009, [College of Eastern Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/College_of_Eastern_Idaho) in [Idaho Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Falls%2C_Idaho), which transitioned from a [technical college](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technical_college) in 2017.

Private institutions in Idaho are [Boise Bible College](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boise_Bible_College), affiliated with congregations of the [Christian churches and churches of Christ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_churches_and_churches_of_Christ); [Brigham Young University-Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brigham_Young_University-Idaho) in [Rexburg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rexburg%2C_Idaho), which is affiliated with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and a [sister college](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sister_college) to [Brigham Young University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brigham_Young_University); The [College of Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/College_of_Idaho) in [Caldwell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caldwell%2C_Idaho), [which still maintains a loose affiliation with the Presbyterian Church; Northwest Nazarene University in](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northwest_Nazarene_University) [Nampa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nampa%2C_Idaho)[; and](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northwest_Nazarene_University) [New Saint Andrews College](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Saint_Andrews_College) [in](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northwest_Nazarene_University) [Moscow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moscow%2C_Idaho)[, of](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northwest_Nazarene_University) reformed Christian theological background. [McCall College](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McCall_College) is a non-affiliated 2- year private college in [McCall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McCall), which was founded in 2011 and later opened in 2013.

[Boise Bible College](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boise_Bible_College) [Boise State University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boise_State_University)

[Brigham Young University-Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brigham_Young_University-Idaho) (formerly Ricks College) [College of Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/College_of_Idaho) (formerly Albertson College of Idaho) [College of Southern Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/College_of_Southern_Idaho)

[College of Western Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/College_of_Western_Idaho) [College of Eastern Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/College_of_Eastern_Idaho) [Idaho State University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_State_University) [Lewis-Clark State College](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis-Clark_State_College) [McCall College](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McCall_College)

[New Saint Andrews College](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Saint_Andrews_College) [North Idaho College](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Idaho_College) [Northwest Nazarene University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northwest_Nazarene_University) [University of Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Idaho)

# Sports

Central Idaho is home to one of North America's oldest [ski resorts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ski_resorts), [Sun Valley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sun_Valley%2C_Idaho), where the world's first [chairlift](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chairlift) was installed in 1936.[100] Other noted outdoor sites include [Hells Canyon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hells_Canyon), the [Salmon River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salmon_River_(Idaho)), and its embarkation point of [Riggins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riggins%2C_Idaho).



The Jacob Spori Building at [Brigham Young University-Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brigham_Young_University-Idaho) in Rexburg



[Idaho State University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_State_University) in [Pocatello](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pocatello%2C_Idaho)



[University of Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Idaho) [Arboretum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Idaho_Arboretum_and_Botanical_Garden) in [Moscow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moscow%2C_Idaho)



[Albertsons Stadium at Boise State University in Boise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boise_State_University)

[The Boise Open professional golf tournament is played at Hillcrest Country Club since 1990 as part of the Web.com Tour.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web.com_Tour)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Club** | **Sport** | **League** |
| [Boise Hawks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boise_Hawks) | [Baseball](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minor_League_Baseball) | [Northwest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northwest_League), [(Class A)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Class_A-Short_Season) |
| [Boise State Broncos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boise_State_Broncos) | [NCAA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Collegiate_Athletic_Association) | [Div I FBS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_Bowl_Subdivision), [MWC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountain_West_Conference) |
| [Idaho Vandals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Vandals) | [NCAA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Collegiate_Athletic_Association) | [Div I FCS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_Championship_Subdivision), [Big Sky](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Sky_Conference) |
| [Idaho State Bengals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_State_Bengals) | [NCAA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Collegiate_Athletic_Association) | [Div I FCS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_Championship_Subdivision), [Big Sky](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Sky_Conference) |
| [Idaho Falls Chukars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Falls_Chukars) | [Baseball](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minor_League_Baseball) | [Pioneer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pioneer_League_(baseball)), [(Rookie)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rookie_League) |
| [Idaho Steelheads](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Steelheads) | [Ice hockey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minor_league_ice_hockey) | [ECHL](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ECHL) |

High school sports are overseen by the [Idaho High School Activities Association](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_High_School_Activities_Association) (IHSAA).

In 2016, [Meridian's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meridian%2C_Idaho) Michael Slagowski ran 800 meters in 1:48.70. That is one of the 35 fastest 800-meter times ever run by a high school boy in the United States.[101] Weeks later, he would become only the ninth high school boy to complete a mile in under four minutes, running 3:59.53.

# Official state emblems

State amphibian: [Idaho Giant Salamander](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Giant_Salamander) (*Dicamptodon aterrimus*)[102]

State bird: [mountain bluebird](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountain_bluebird) (*Sialia currucoides*) State dance: [square dance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Square_dance)

State fish: [cutthroat trout](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cutthroat_trout) (*Oncorhynchus clarkii*) State flower: [syringa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philadelphus_lewisii) (*Philadelphus lewisii*)

State fossil: [Hagerman horse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hagerman_horse) (*Equus simplicidens*) State fruit: [huckleberry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Huckleberry)

State gem: [star garnet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star_garnet) State horse: [Appaloosa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Appaloosa)

State motto: [*Esto perpetua*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esto_perpetua) ("Let it be perpetual")[103] State insect: [monarch butterfly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monarch_butterfly) (*Danaus plexippus*) State raptor: [peregrine falcon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peregrine_falcon) (*Falco peregrinus*) State song: "[Here We Have Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Here_We_Have_Idaho)"

State tree: [western white pine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_white_pine) (*Pinus monticola*) State vegetable: [potato](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Potato)

# In popular culture

[Judy Garland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judy_Garland) performed the elaborate song-and-dance routine "Born in a Trunk in the Princess Theater in Pocatello, Idaho" in the 1954 version of the film [*A Star is Born*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Star_Is_Born_(1954_film)).[104]

The 1985 film [*Pale Rider*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pale_Rider) was primarily filmed in the [Boulder Mountains](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boulder_Mountains_(Idaho)) and the [Sawtooth National Recreation Area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sawtooth_National_Recreation_Area) in central Idaho, just north of [Sun Valley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sun_Valley%2C_Idaho).[105]

The 1988 film [*Moving*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moving_(1988_film)), starring [Richard Pryor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Pryor), has the main character take a promotion in Idaho.[106]

[River Phoenix](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Phoenix) and [Keanu Reeves](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keanu_Reeves) starred in the 1991 movie [*My Own Private Idaho*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/My_Own_Private_Idaho), portions of which take place in Idaho.[107][108]

The 1996 film, [Dante's Peak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dante%27s_Peak) was filmed in Wallace.

[The 2004 cult film *Napoleon Dynamite* takes place in Preston, Idaho. The director, Jared Hess, attended Preston High School.[109]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preston_High_School_(Idaho))

# See also

[Index of Idaho-related articles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Index_of_Idaho-related_articles) [Outline of Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outline_of_Idaho)

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