

US in the WORLD

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES TO ENSURE A HEALTHY PLANET

Idaho

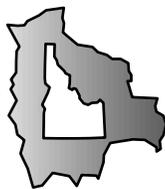


Largest metropolitan areas by population (1998): Boise City (395,953), Pocatello (74,866)

Bolivia



Largest urban areas by population (2000): La Paz (1,480,000), Santa Cruz (1,065,000)



Comparison at same scale

Idaho
Area: 83,574 sq. miles
Population: 1.3 million

Bolivia
Area: 424,164 sq. miles
Population: 8.3 million

Native Indian heritage, potato growing, gold and silver mining, and geographic similarities link Idaho and Bolivia, although Idaho's economy is booming and Bolivia remains one of the poorest and least developed countries in Latin America.

At the time of European contact, several American Indian tribes occupied what is now Idaho. Today, some of their descendants, members of the Nez Perce and Coeur d'Alene tribes, still live in the state. Caucasians, nevertheless, make up 90 percent of the state's 1.3 million residents, with Indians accounting for just 1 percent. Hispanics, 7 percent of the population and growing, are bringing additional diversity to the state.

In contrast, native Indians still predominate among Bolivia's 8 million citizens. Approximately 55 percent of

all Bolivians are Indian, with another 30 percent of mixed race. The remaining 15 percent are Caucasian, mainly of Spanish descent.

South American Indian tribes, including the native inhabitants of Bolivia's high plateaus, were the first to grow potatoes for food. Today, the potato is still one of the major crops grown in Bolivia and is Idaho's leading crop.

Mining has been important to both Idaho and Bolivia. Gold and silver attracted tens of thousands of prospectors to Idaho beginning in the 1860s and continuing through the turn of the century. Spain, when it colonized Bolivia, developed silver mines there that generated wealth for Spain for 200 years.

Landlocked in the west of their respective continents, Idaho and Bolivia are characterized by rugged mountains,

arid plateaus and plains, and densely forested lowlands. Idaho is one of the most mountainous and forested of the western states, with the only significant areas of flat land found in the arid Snake River Plain. The Owyhee Canyonlands lie to the south of the plain, and to the north are the peaks of central Idaho, which reach nearly 13,000 feet. Northern Idaho's panhandle is lower in elevation with dense forest cover and large lakes such as Pend Oreille and Coeur d'Alene. Forests cover 41 percent of the state; wildfires that broke out in the western United States in the summer of 2000 affected hundreds of thousands of acres.

Like Idaho, Bolivia can be divided into three geographical regions: the Altiplano, or plateau region; a series of well-watered valleys on the eastern slope of the Andes; and the Amazon-

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IDAHO

Demographic and Health Trends

■ Idaho's 1.7 percent growth rate between 1998 and 1999 tied it with Texas as the fifth fastest growing state. During the 1990s, the "Gem State" grew by 24.3 percent—the third fastest rate in the country after Nevada and Arizona.

■ Of the 245,000 increase in Idaho's population from 1990 to 1999, 56 percent (136,000) has been the result of net in-migration from other states.

■ Between 1991 and 1997, the rate of births to teens ages 15 to 19 dropped by nearly 20 percent.

Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

■ Idaho's daily water consumption—more than 13,000 gallons per capita—is the second highest in the country after Wyoming.

■ The federal government owns 64 percent of the land in Idaho. This fact occasionally produces conflict with residents when the use of local resources clashes with federal regulations—for example, when federal law prevents a new logging operation.

■ The Snake River physa snail, the bald eagle, and the woodland caribou are among Idaho's 18 endangered or threatened animals. MacFarlane's four-o'clock is one of the state's three endangered or threatened plants.

■ Since 1996, Idaho has worked to locate many inactive mines, primarily in the northern part of the state. In addition to the physical danger to unwary explorers, byproducts from many of these old mines often contaminate water and soil, affecting humans, livestock, and wildlife.

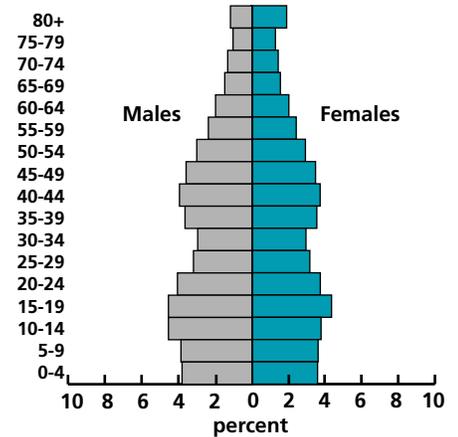
■ Long a major producer of minerals such as gold, silver, and lead, Idaho now uses its mineral wealth to produce building materials for the state's growing residential areas. Sand and gravel dominate the state's mineral production.

Socioeconomic Factors

■ Idaho has one of the nation's fastest growing economies—between 1990 and 1996, overall employment in the state increased by 18 percent. In addition to being the national leader in potato production (with about one-third of the total U.S. crop), Idaho is home to growing high-tech, lumber, and service industries.

■ Tourism—mainly to the state's parks and other recreational facilities—generated \$1.7 billion to the Idaho economy in 1997. The travel industry supported 24,000 jobs and generated \$134 million in local and state tax revenue.

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX

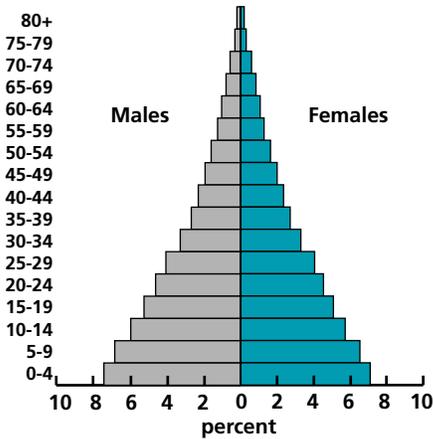


IDAHO FACTS

Population, 1999: 1.3 million
Projected population, 2025: 1.7 million
Annual growth rate: 1.7%
Doubling time (at current rate): 41 years
Average number of children per woman: 2.3
Infant deaths per 1,000 live births: 6.8
Life expectancy: 74 (male), 80 (female)
Persons per square mile: 15
Percent urban: 57
Endangered/threatened animals: 18 species
Endangered/threatened plants: 3 species
Percent of land protected: 8
Wetlands loss, 1780-1980: 56%
Daily water use per capita: 13,016 gallons
Water use for domestic purposes: 4%
Water use for agriculture: 96%
Water use for industry: 1%
Water use for energy production: 0%
Cropland per capita: 29.8 acres
Energy use per capita: 71.0 barrels of oil equiv.
Persons per motor vehicle: 1.1
Adults who are high school graduates: 85%
Elected officials who are women: 24%
Labor force in agriculture: 8%
Labor force in industry: 20%
Labor force in services: 72%
Gross State Product, 1997: \$24,085

BOLIVIA

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX



BOLIVIA FACTS

Population, 2000: 8.3 million

Projected population, 2025: 12.2 million

Annual growth rate: 1.9%

Doubling time (at current rate): 37 years

Average number of children per woman: 4.2

Infant deaths per 1,000 live births: 67

Life expectancy: 59 (male), 62 (female)

Persons per square mile: 20

Percent urban: 62

Threatened animals: 55 species

Threatened plants: 49 species

Percent of land protected: 16.2

Wetlands loss, through 1980s: n.a.

Percent with access to safe water: 80

Percent with adequate sanitation: 65

Daily water use per capita: 145 gallons

Water use for domestic purposes: 10%

Water use for agriculture: 85%

Water use for industry: 5%

Cropland per capita: 0.7 acres

Energy use per capita: 2.8 barrels of oil equiv.

Persons per motor vehicle: 19

Percent of girls in secondary school: 34

Percent of boys in secondary school: 40

Women as % of national legislature: 10

Labor force in agriculture: 47%

Labor force in industry: 17%

Labor force in services: 36%

GDP per capita, 1998: US\$1,076

Demographic and Health Trends

■ The graph at left, where each age group is somewhat larger than the one above it, suggests that it will take several decades for the population size to stabilize.

■ Bolivia's rate of infant mortality is twice the regional average. One in every 15 Bolivian infants dies before reaching its first birthday.

■ Immunization rates for diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, and measles are much lower in Bolivia than for the region. But 85 percent of Bolivian children under 1 year old are immunized against tuberculosis, a rate that compares more favorably with the regional average of 92 percent.

Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

■ Of the country's 16,500 known plant species, nearly one-quarter are found only in Bolivia. Sixteen bird species also are found only in Bolivia.

■ Cattle ranching, mechanized agriculture, and logging are reducing habitat such as tropical rainforest and thereby depleting migratory and native species. The spectacled bear, bush dog, and giant river otter are endangered in Bolivia.

■ Bolivia has abundant freshwater resources, 10 million gallons per per-

son per year compared with 2.4 million gallons per person per year in the United States.

■ In biological terms, Bolivia's Amoro National Park is one of the richest places on Earth. Encompassing nearly 1,700 square miles, the park is located in central Bolivia—near the city of Santa Cruz and one of the areas of most rapid growth. The park provides habitat for at least 818 species of birds, 145 species of mammals, 105 species of reptiles, and 73 species of amphibians.

Socioeconomic Factors

■ Official development assistance from other countries accounted for 9 percent of Bolivia's gross national product in 1997, down from 12 percent at the start of the 1990s.

■ Adult literacy rates in Bolivia have improved since 1980, when 80 percent of men and 59 percent of women could read and write. In 1995, the rates were 90 percent and 75 percent, respectively. The current

rate for men is slightly greater than for the region, but the rate for women is 10 percentage points lower than the regional average.

■ Income disparity in Bolivia is similar to that in the United States. In both countries, the richest 20 percent of the population receives almost half of the country's income, while the poorest 40 percent receives less than one-sixth.

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Chaco lowlands. Bolivia's famous Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world, is located at the northern end of the Altiplano and extends into neighboring Peru.

Despite its mountains, Idaho has more than 7.8 million acres, or almost 15 percent of its land, planted with crops or orchards. Another 22 million acres, 41 percent of the land, are devoted to grazing domestic livestock. Most of the state's crops rely on irrigation, which consumes 96 percent of the state's water. Withdrawals of water for irrigation have dewatered streams and contributed to unsafe levels of nutrients, pesticides, and sediments that threaten many of the state's aquatic organisms including fish, and have even polluted some supplies of domestic drinking water.

Bolivia's biologically diverse forested lowlands provide critical habitat for many species. Increased logging of these forests now threatens numerous species. Logging also contributes to global warming by releasing carbon bound up in forested ecosystems.

Responding to Challenges

A consortium of local and federal authorities is working together with

citizens to protect Idaho's Rock Creek, a major tributary of the Snake River. High sediment loads, excessive phosphorus and nitrogen from fertilizer use, and animal wastes are clogging and polluting the tributary. To control sediment, members of the consortium have planted vegetation strips on all fields in the Rock Creek watershed. Sediment retention in turn captures and filters pollutants. Monitoring of the creek has indicated improved fishery populations, partly as a result of a 75 percent decrease in sediment loading and 68 percent decrease in phosphorus loading.

Bolivia is also working to protect more of its tropical forests. Recently, three U.S. corporations—American Electric Power, BP America, and PacifiCorp—joined with The Nature Conservancy in a pollution reduction plan that will help add 2.1 million acres of tropical rainforest to Noel Kempff Mercado

National Park, doubling its size. The park's expansion is intended to absorb large quantities of carbon emitted by industry, while protecting critical habitat for many wildlife species. Working with the Bolivian government and nongovernmental organizations, the

People in Idaho and Bolivia, along with all other living creatures, need clean and healthy air, water, and land, and a stable climate. But as people strive to meet these fundamental needs and improve their lives, they make demands on Earth's resources—and leave footprints. No species demands as much and leaves as many footprints as humans do. The number of people on the planet has a direct impact on the environment and how resources are used. But the level of consumption and the ways in which natural resources are used also directly affect the health of the planet—locally, regionally, globally.

No matter where one lives, the activities of *all* humans will ultimately determine the well-being of *all* humans.

U.S. Agency for International Development has supported efforts to protect 4.5 million hectares of some of Bolivia's most biologically rich areas. Since 1962, the Peace Corps has sent over 2,200 volunteers to Bolivia. ■

DEFINITIONS: **Doubling Time:** The number of years it will take for a population to double, assuming a *constant* rate of natural increase. **Average Number of Children Per Woman:** Known as the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) or the average number of children a woman would have in her lifetime, assuming that birth rates remained constant throughout her childbearing years. **Endangered Species:** Any species in danger of extinction throughout all, or a significant portion, of its habitat. **Threatened Species:** Any species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all, or a significant portion, of its habitat. **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** The value of all goods and services produced within a nation in a given year. **Gross State Product (GSP):** The value of all goods and services produced within a state. It is the state counterpart of the nation's GDP. **Commercial energy** includes energy from solid, liquid, and gaseous fuels, plus primary electricity. **Traditional energy** includes fuelwood, charcoal, bagasse, and animal and vegetal wastes.

SOURCES: Major sources are International Labour Organization; National Center for Health Statistics; UNICEF; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; U.S. Department of Agriculture; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Geological Survey; The World Conservation Union (IUCN); and World Resources Institute. For a complete list of sources, contact PRB.

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