Representative Troy,

This email is in response to your question about the 200 job decrease in Leisure from November 2019 to November 2020 and whether the number is understating the current challenges of people who find themselves unemployed in this sector.

This statistic references jobs with employers which is separate from workers. The change in the number of employed or unemployed in an industry can be different from an increase or decrease of jobs. The loss of 200 jobs also represents the change from November of 2019 to November of 2020. A comparison of how leisure and hospitality has performed between October and November, and from February’s pre-pandemic level may help.

The number of people unemployed in the Leisure and Hospitality is determined from information gained as people file for unemployment insurance benefits.

* The weekly average number of workers who lost jobs while working in the Leisure and Hospitality sector is about 1,102 people. This total is an aggregate of two sub-industries that comprise this sector including:
  + - 920 unemployed from Accommodations and Food Services; and
    - 182 unemployed from the Arts, Entertainment and Recreation.
  + Details can be found on our Unemployment Claimant Characteristics report for November: <https://lmi.idaho.gov/publications/2020/UI/UICC202011.pdf>
* Caveats:
  + These numbers only include people who are covered under regular state unemployment insurance; and
  + There may be more unemployment associated with these industries, but our system relies on claimants to identify the industry from which they are laid off.

The estimated number of jobs in Idaho’s Leisure and Hospitality sector is based on a monthly count of jobs by industry as estimated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics via its survey of businesses.

* The decline of 200 jobs represents the difference from where this sector was a year ago.
* Chart 1 in the attached shows the rebound this sector has experienced since April seems to have stalled between October and November. During that timeframe, Leisure and Hospitality declined by a seasonally adjusted 400 jobs due to a *decrease* of 600 jobs in Accommodations and Food Services, which was offset by an *increase* of 200 jobs in Arts, Entertainment and Recreation.
* Chart 2 in the attached Excel file shows that as of November, this sector is still 1,600 below its March 2020 pre-pandemic level of 84,600.
* The aggregate of the two sub-industries shows that
  + Arts, Entertainment and Recreation is 2,300 jobs below February’s pre-pandemic level; and
  + Accommodations and Food Services is 700 above February’s pre-pandemic level, but slipped from being 1,300 above in October.
* Referencing Chart 2 in the attached Excel file, November’s year-to-year decline was the same as October’s.

It should be noted these numbers are subject to revision with the release of December’s employment situation on January 15, and the annual benchmark in March.

I hope this resolves any confusion or concern with the estimates. Please don’t hesitate to call if you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance.

Thank you,

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