



*Working together to plan for the future*

**News Release**

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## ***COMPASS Board Accepts Annual Population Estimates: City of Boise Tops 250,000***

*Meridian, ID* – The Board of Directors of the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) accepted the 2024 population estimates for Ada and Canyon Counties in its Board meeting on April 15, 2024. The total population for Ada and Canyon Counties combined is estimated at 822,890 – an increase of nearly 100,000 since the 2020 Census.

COMPASS updates its population estimates as of April 1 each year using the most recent decennial Census count as the base. Building from the Census count, COMPASS calculates the population estimates using local building construction permits, current household sizes and vacancy rates, and recent annexations (expansions of city limits).

Combined, that information not only allows COMPASS to estimate annual population growth, but also to reflect changes in how it is distributed among the cities and counties. “For example,” explains COMPASS Planning Team Lead Austin Miller, “as the population of the cities in the Treasure Valley has grown, the population in the unincorporated areas of both Ada and Canyon Counties has decreased.”

Key takeaways from the 2024 population estimates include:

- The City of Meridian has grown by over 25,000 since the 2020 Census – about one quarter of the total growth in the valley.
- The City of Nampa has grown by over 19,000 since the 2020 Census – second only to Meridian in the two-county area.
- The City of Boise’s population has exceeded 250,000 for the first time.
- The City of Star has had the greatest percentage increase since 2020 at 83%.

“While these annual estimates support COMPASS’ planning, they are equally important to the individual jurisdictions,” states Miller. “They provide vital data that local agencies can use for infrastructure planning, grant applications, supporting economic development, and more.”

The 2024 population estimates, including comparisons to past years, can be found on the COMPASS website at [https://compassidaho.org/wp-content/uploads/Population\\_estimates\\_2024.pdf](https://compassidaho.org/wp-content/uploads/Population_estimates_2024.pdf).

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