

Living

Demographics ♦ Living ♦ Education



*"Built for Business...
Designed for Living"*

The Boise Valley has been discovered and is recognized nationally as a destination for businesses and families to locate. Meridian, strategically located at the center of this metropolitan area, is a developing star in a growing market of opportunity. Progressive, innovative, and responsible are words reflecting our results-oriented achievements driving us to become the **New Star of the West**. While others talk, we work to make things happen. We invite you to visit our city and consider how you can be a part of our vision and achieve your goals in Meridian.

Population:	Approximately 76,510
Male:	49%
Female:	51%
Median Age:	31
Average Median Income:	\$60,230
Median Home Cost	\$190,400
Owner Occupied	81%
Rental Occupied	19%
Average Commute Time:	21.9 minutes

Meridian area households grew 72% from 2000 to 2008. The average income jumped 22% during that period designating Meridian as a 'BoomTown' as described by BusinessWeek Magazine.

Cost of living index shows Meridian at 94% of the national average based on 100%

Education:

Excellence in education is a high priority in Meridian. The continued tradition of success has led to Meridian's "blue ribbon" designation, one of the highest honors in the state. One of the reasons for the award... approx 70% of graduates go on to college. To improve the quality of education, professional technical and medical arts charter schools have been created offering real world education and skills.

Schools:

K-8	3
Elementary	28
Middle	9
High	9
Private	5 Private (2 High Schools, 1 Elementary, 1 Pre K-2, 1 Pre K-K)

94% High School graduation rate makes Meridian 20% higher than the national average
33% of Meridian residents have a college degree compared to 27% nationally

Four-Year Colleges and Universities	Distance
Idaho State University-Meridian	0
University of Phoenix	0
George Fox University	0
Stevens-Henager College	7
Apollo College	7
Brown Mackie College	8
College of Western Idaho	9
University of Idaho - Boise	10
Boise State University	10
Northwest Nazarene University	10
College of Idaho	15
Treasure Valley Community College	18

Entertainment & Recreation



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Meridian and the surrounding area offers a high quality and vibrant lifestyle. Being a premiere place to live and raise a family requires a commitment to maintaining a safe and caring community that values its youth. A commitment that is represented through low crime, a clean city, and being recognized by Newsweek as one of "America's 100 Best Cities for Young People." But a high quality of life isn't complete without fun. An abundance of recreational programs offer organized sports and community festivals provide great family entertainment. The four distinct seasons allow for a variety of outdoor activities. Golfing, skiing, biking, and white water rafting all make the list. We're confident you'll find something to please a variety of ages.



- Meridian Symphony Orchestra
- Golf Courses
- Stock Car Racing at Meridian Speedway
- Meridian's Roaring Springs Water Park and Wahooz Family Fun Center
- 26 miles from Meridian is Bogus Basin Ski Resort
- Sun Valley is a 3-hour drive by car or a 30-minute flight from the Boise Airport
- The surrounding area is home to many musical, theatrical and performance groups, including Ballet Idaho, the Idaho Shakespeare Festival, and Opera Idaho

Meridian maintains a family-centered approach to ensure that youth are a primary focus in our community. Creating an array of wholesome family festivals & events make Meridian a great place to raise a family.

- Annual Mayor's Legacy Award
- Dairy Days Festival
- Meridian Classic Kid's Fun Run
- Annual Salmon Feed, Chili Cook-off, and Pancake Feeds
- Winterland Parade and Christmas Tree Lighting
- Free Family Fishing Day
- National Night Out



	Number
Public Parks (within city limits)	19
State Parks (within 30 miles)	3
National Parks (within 100 miles)	4
Public Golf Courses (within 30 miles)	27
Libraries (within 15 miles)	22
Museums (AAM accredited; within 30 miles)	2
Ski Resorts (within 100 miles)	4
Arts Funding (dollars per person of state funds spent on arts)	1

Business

Business Enterprise Corridors

Four geographic areas in the City have been identified initially for Business Enterprise Corridors. These areas are:

Health Sciences & Technology Corridor - The Health Sciences & Technology is the first area where the City's marketing of the BEC concept is taking hold. This corridor is anchored by Idaho State University's Treasure Valley Campus, the educational leader in health sciences in the State of Idaho, as well as such as St Luke's Hospital, Bodybuilding.com, Blue Cross, Crucial Technology, and Complex Care Hospital. The corridor includes major business parks such as Pinebridge, The Portico, Silverstone, El Dorado, and Gramercy.

To date the City's successful Economic Excellence efforts have connected businesses, developers, and educational/research institutions. The Health Sciences & Technology Corridor will benefit from coordinated marketing efforts, education, and research to support local and anticipated health sciences and technology businesses.

Downtown Corridor – two identities "Gateway" (south of the railroad) and "Old Town" (north of the railroad and consistent with Old Town Zoning). With the recent opening of a new City Hall and several projects planned, downtown Meridian is transforming into a destination point for business and entertainment.

Northwest Corridor – Development anchors within this corridor include visionary lifestyle developments BridgeTower, Tree Farm, and Paramount.

Ten Mile Corridor – Capitalizing on the soon-to-be-completed Ten Mile Interchange, plans for the 2,798-acre area focus on mixed-use neighborhoods with build-in or nearby commercial uses.

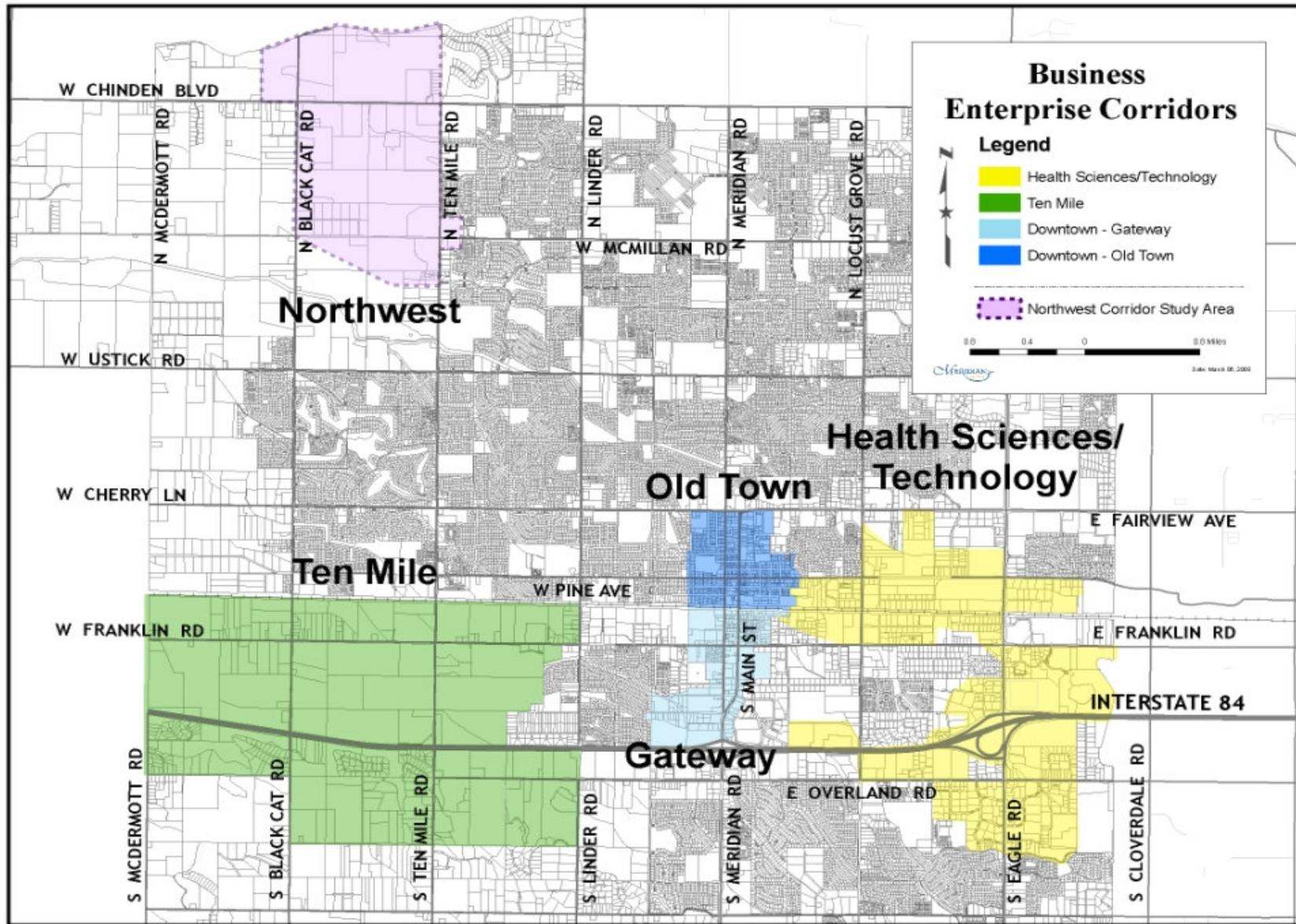
Efforts are ongoing to define industry viability and marketing opportunities for each of these areas in collaboration with key stakeholders.



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Meridian is creating planned and integrated Business Enterprise Corridors, geographic areas where targeted, complimentary businesses are encouraged to develop. The BEC's provide an environment where business can thrive in an atmosphere conducive to attracting and retaining a highly qualified workforce.





Business Corridors Map

Business

Transportation ♦ Utilities



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Transportation

An outstanding business location in the *center of everything*, Meridian is located conveniently in the center of the Boise Valley and offers businesses exceptional transportation with connections both regional and international.

A global market gateway—Idaho companies sold goods and services to more than 140 countries in 2009

Boise Airport

Newly renovated Boise Airport is located only 12 miles from the heart of Meridian and is serviced by 7 major carriers offering daily flights to 22 major cities. Access to markets are simple with over 200 freight flights per day.



Rail

Idaho Northern and Pacific Railroad runs directly through Meridian and Boise and is one of America's leading transportation companies covering 23 states across the western two-thirds of the United States.

Interstate

I-84 is ideally located and quickly accessed from all areas of the city and Boise Valley.

Commuting

Median commute time	21.9 minutes
% Population with commute 45 minutes or longer	4.4%

Utilities

State-of-the-art broadband infrastructure is shaping the future of communications in Meridian. With new infrastructure technologies and free wireless internet access in the downtown core, Meridian is at the forefront of technological advances for communication.

Businesses can rely on superior connections to all the utilities needed to keep operations running smoothly. The City of Meridian has updated and abundant water and sewer capacity, and reliable suppliers of gas and electrical needs to ensure reliable service.

Local Utility Service:

- Electric Idaho Power
- Gas Intermountain Gas
- Cable Cable One
- Phone Qwest
- Water & Sewer City of Meridian

Water: The City provides water services at a rate of \$1.86/1000 gallons plus a \$5.38 administration fee.

Sewer: The City provides sewer services at a rate of \$5.43/1000 gallons of water used plus a \$8.48 administration fee (sewer bills are based upon a users average water usage during the four months of winter).

Electricity: Over half of Idaho's electricity is produced with low-cost hydropower facilities. Industrial rates are lower than most major cities in the nation and about half that of many western cities. Idaho Power provides electricity. Specific rate information can be found at <http://www.idahopower.com/>.

Gas: The State of Idaho has some of the lowest natural gas prices in the country. Intermountain Gas Company provides natural gas. Current rate information can be found at www.intgas.com

Business

Workforce

One of the greatest strengths Meridian has to offer any business is a diverse pool of educated and motivated workers. By bringing programs aimed at workforce development, and creating high-tech business research corridors, Meridian is preparing its workforce for the right jobs in the right regions. The City of Meridian has the commitment of local and regional colleges, universities and vocational institutes to support local business needs. Our programs are helping to put people back to work and making Meridian an attractive place to locate your business.

Quick Facts:

- 33% of Meridian residents have a college degree.
- Meridian has a workforce of more than 32,000 and more than 280,000 in the Boise Valley

Largest Employers

Meridian School District No.2
 Citi Cards
 T-Mobile
 St Lukes Meridian Medical Center & Hospital
 Blue Cross of Idaho
 Western States Equipment
 Albertsons/SuperValue
 Wal-Mart
 Western Electronics
 R.C. Willey Home Furnishings
 Crucial Technology
 Idaho Department of Law Enforcement
 Food Services of America
 Fred Meyer Inc.
 City of Meridian
 MWI, Inc.
 Swire Coca-Cola
 United Heritage Life Insurance



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Workforce Training Incentives:

Idaho Department of Labor

- Customized Recruiting Services
- *Workforce Development Training Fund*
Up to \$2,000 per new job created.



Employment by Occupation

Education & Health Services
 Professional & Business Services
 Construction
 Retail Trade
 Leisure & Hospitality
 Financial Activities
 Manufacturing
 Wholesale Trade
 Natural Resources, Agriculture and Mining
 Transportation & Warehousing

Business INCENTIVES ♦ TAXES



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Incentives

Idaho offers one of the lowest overall costs of doing business in the United States. With a low and stable tax structure, low worker's compensation insurance premiums, business-friendly government that has developed streamlined regulatory processes, you can be sure Meridian is focused on maximizing your bottom line.

The cost of locating and running a business in Meridian offers more opportunity for success, and we're committed to providing strong support for new businesses and current employers.

Businesses locating in the Meridian area may be eligible for local and state incentive programs.

- The Idaho Business Advantage Tax Credit
Businesses that invest \$500,000 in new facilities and 10 new jobs (\$40,000+ annually) may qualify for a variety of packaged tax incentives.
- Capital Investment Property Tax Incentive
- 100% Property Tax Exemption
- 3% Investment Tax Credit
- 3% Broadband Telecom Tax Credit
- Sales and Use Tax Rebate
- New Jobs Income Tax Credit
(\$500-\$1000 per qualifying job)
- 5% R&D Income Tax Credit
- Net Operating Loss Deductions
- 100% Production Sales Tax Exemption
- Idaho Prime Rate Loan Program
- Industrial Revenue Bonds (Up to \$20 Million)
- 100% Good-In-Transit Exemption



Tax	Rates
Corporate	7.6%
Sales & Use	6%
Inventory	0%
2011 Property Tax Rate	.013045745
Idaho Department of Commerce	

Forbes named Idaho the sixth-best state for business.

Milkin Institute determined Idaho the sixth-best state for business.

