



IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

STRATEGIC PLAN

Fiscal Year 2016 - 2021

June 2015

Idaho Department of Finance 2016 – 2021 Strategic Plan

Introduction

Each year, the Idaho Department of Finance (IDOF or Department) prepares a Performance Plan and a five year Strategic Plan. Through the planning process, input from the Department's employees, representatives of the industries it regulates, legislators and consumers is gathered periodically and reviewed. A summary of the Department's 2015 Strategic Stakeholder Planning Survey is attached to this report as an Appendix. The final Performance Plan and Strategic Plan are posted on the Department's website and all employees are encouraged to review both documents.

Part of the preparation of the annual performance plan is reviewing and updating the strategic plan. Among the items considered in the strategic planning process are economic conditions, industry trends, human resources, and financial constraints. Responsibility for completion of the strategic actions outlined in the plans is assigned to each respective bureau and its bureau chief.

During the preparation of this Strategic Plan, the Department is also preparing the FY2017 budget. We underwent a significant analysis of priorities while enacting Governor Otter's Zero Based Budgeting Initiative (ZBB) during the FY 2014 budget process.

In Fiscal Year 2016, the IDOF will plan to spend \$7,750,000 and employ approximately 64 individuals. The IDOF adjusts its budget annually to take inflation and workload into consideration. The IDOF continues to refine its processes to become more efficient, proactive, and effective in its operations.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Department is to aggressively promote access to vigorous, healthy and comprehensive financial services for Idaho citizens. This is accomplished through prudent and efficient oversight of financial institutions, investment opportunities, and credit transactions. Through administration of laws enacted by the Idaho Legislature, legitimate financial transactions are encouraged, while fraud, unsafe practices, and unlawful conduct are detected and appropriate enforcement action is taken.

Vision Statement

We envision innovation by the markets in response to greater public demand for services, and a financial marketplace that will be greatly affected by national and international events. We foresee the continuing development and implementation of advanced computer technology and telecommunications by industry and government. The industries that we regulate will become more complex as new products and technologies are developed.

We believe that the corresponding complexity in financial services regulation will lead many financial institutions to seek a state charter because of the responsiveness, flexibility and accessibility local regulation offers. State regulators will also continue to assume increasing responsibility for local enforcement actions as federal resources are directed at national problems. To this end, we are committed to providing our employees with the knowledge and skills necessary to meet these new challenges.

History

The IDOF was created in 1905 to ensure the stability of and public confidence in the banks organized under a state charter. Today the IDOF consists of three functional areas, the Financial Institutions Bureau, the Securities Bureau and the Consumer Finance Bureau. A fourth bureau, the Supporting Services Bureau, provides IT, human resources, fiscal, and other asset management for the Department.

The IDOF regulates in excess of 165,000 financial service providers and products including banks, credit unions, broker-dealers and investment advisers and their agents, securities offerings, securities issuers, money transmitters, endowed care cemeteries, mortgage brokers/lenders and their loan originators, finance companies, collection agencies, regulated lenders, and escrow companies.

External Factors Affecting the Department

During the next five years, several external factors may impact the ability of the Department to meet its goals. Among these factors are the continuing concerns about national and international economies, usurpation of state regulation by the federal agencies and accelerating competitive and perhaps structural changes within the financial services industry. The pace of technological changes within the financial service industries as well as the development of non-traditional financial services business models will present challenges to both traditional providers and their regulators.

The strength of the economy directly affects the financial services industries' performance and recent economic news remains positive for the Idaho economy.. While the financial services sector has now clearly emerged from the economic stresses of the recession which officially ended in June 2009, some challenges remain. Notably, an increasingly large burden and cost of complying with anti-terrorism, privacy and corporate governance laws, largely dictated by the federal government continue to be felt. We fear some smaller firms will close simply because they cannot afford to comply or they will be forced to operate with reduced staff. Better economic times may also increase consumer confidence, perhaps resulting in less scrutiny of potentially fraudulent investment schemes. As a result, enforcement and investor education also remain high priority areas for the Department.

In addition, preemption of state laws by the federal government increasingly hampers the Department's ability to protect its citizens. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) created by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 has authority to supervise certain activities of banks and other financial institutions; it also has authority over nonbanks, regardless of their size, if the CFPB has reasonable cause to determine they are "engaging, or have engaged, in conduct that poses risks to consumers with regard to the offering or providing consumer financial products or services." This extensive authority appears to extend to most of the industries overseen by the Department.

One emerging area that has recently seen explosive growth is the use of prepaid cards, smart cards, smartphones and other online and electronic payment processes. Alternative money transfer technologies and digital/crypto currencies continue to evolve, requiring thoughtful regulatory responses and structure. This area deserves significant scrutiny because of the potential for money laundering and terrorist financing, in addition to general consumer protection concerns. In 2012, the Department began upgrading its money transmitter program so it can keep pace with these developments. Staffing assignment changes were enacted at the beginning of FY2013 as a result of this increased workload. Additionally, the 2013 Legislature approved a new position for the Department to hire an Examiner/Investigator for this program.

Whether the economy is booming or sagging, it is essential that the Department focus its efforts toward those areas and entities that present the greatest risks to both the financial institution/firm and its

customers. Department staff in all bureaus will increasingly emphasize the identification and management of these risks.

Internal Factors Affecting the Department

At present, the most pressing workforce issues facing the Department are our ability to recruit and retain a knowledgeable professional staff, succession planning for staff retirements, and maintain IT capabilities.

Like many organizations, the Department is faced with an aging workforce. By the end of 2015, 39% percent of our staff will be eligible for retirement (age 55 +), increasing to 54% percent within five years (59% in 7 years). 39% percent of the IDOF staff has more than 10 years of regulatory experience. As a result, the IDOF must ensure that it continues to have the managerial and technical resources to effectively fulfill its mission and goals as those employees leave or elect to retire.

The Strategic Planning Survey conducted this year showed 99 percent of respondents believe recruiting and retaining a knowledgeable staff is a high priority. Working toward pay parity with our federal counterparts will encourage our staff to remain with the Department rather than leaving for the federal agencies. Similarly, providing “phased retirement” and other family-friendly programs would assist the Department in retaining experienced employees; the federal agencies and private sector already offer such options. Maintaining experienced staff is good for both Idaho’s financial institutions as well as their customers. The Department wishes to express its appreciation to the Governor, Division of Financial Management and the Legislature for their efforts to address this issue.

The enormous growth in electronic payment processes used by consumers and businesses created a significant void in the Department’s oversight structure. The 2013 legislature authorized a new position to help the Department address this gap. Supervision of electronic commerce particularly in the money transmission and escrow areas is expected to continue to require more and more resources as virtual/digital/crypto currencies become more mainstream and “smart” product innovation evolves. This is a significant risk area for both businesses and consumers and it is critical that the Department have adequate staffing to address this rapidly developing area.

The third critical internal factor for the Department is maintaining its information technology capabilities. Much of the work performed by the Department is dependent upon communication with the public, the industries we oversee and other regulators. The use of electronic examination tools and databases is key to properly performing the Department’s functions. The IT systems, which handle highly sensitive information, must be reliable and secure. As well, the IT employees must be responsive and knowledgeable so regulatory processes are compatible with those with whom we collaborate.

Business Continuity and Leadership Succession

The Department's mission will be carried out by leaders who focus on results, collaborate with industry, other regulators and other stakeholders, cooperate internally, and continually strive for excellence. To create a solid foundation for capable leadership in the future, the Department focuses on building successive levels of management within each bureau and section, rather than simply developing individuals. This is done consistent with the Department’s evolving needs and strategic goals. The result will be a stable, capable management culture: one that provides opportunities for movement, development, and challenging assignments, in which an individual can demonstrate high levels of performance and ability and can make productive contributions to the Department’s goals.

Each member of the Department is familiar with the strategic goals of the Department as well as the steps necessary to achieve these goals. A specific business continuity plan exists which sets forth the details of carrying on day-to-day operations should an emergency occur. The business continuity plan is posted on the Department’s website and all management and staff is required to be familiar with this plan.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS BUREAU

Goal #1: Promote public and industry confidence in the banking and credit union systems through timely, reasonable and effective supervision and regulation.

- Objective:** Implement sound regulatory policies and programs to safeguard deposits and protect the customers of financial institutions.
- Objective:** Assist each financial institution's management in establishing effective risk management policies and procedures.
- Objective:** Maintain a sufficient number of experienced and professionally competent staff by providing competitive compensation and training opportunities to keep skills current.

Performance Measures:

- Idaho state-chartered financial institutions offer products and services that are competitive with those offered by federally-chartered financial institutions.
Benchmark: 100% of the financial products and services offered by federally-chartered financial institutions may also be offered in Idaho by Idaho state-chartered institutions.
- Idaho state-chartered financial institutions are operated in a safe and sound manner.
Benchmark: Make every effort to avoid state-chartered financial institution failures.
- Financial Institutions Bureau retains experienced, professional examination staff.
Benchmark: No employee leaves the Financial Institutions Bureau primarily to obtain greater compensation or training benefits with a federal or other state government financial regulator, as determined through an exit interview.
- Retain national accreditation of both the banking and credit union sections of the Financial Institutions Bureau.
Benchmark: Banking and credit union sections re-accredited each time the section is reviewed.

Goal # 2: Enhance the examination process to monitor and evaluate internal and external conditions, address industry trends and ensure fiscal integrity.

- Objective:** Utilize monitoring and examination processes that focus resources on discovering and evaluating risks.
- Objective:** Monitor trends in the financial services industry and develop expertise in new financial products, services and technology, including electronic commerce and banking.
- Objective:** Coordinate and cooperate with other regulators to increase regulatory efficiency and reduce regulatory burden on industry.

Performance Measures:

- Utilize both on- and off-site monitoring systems to increase quality of financial institution surveillance and reduce on-site examination time.
Benchmark: On-site examination time minimized and off-site surveillance optimized consistent with financial institution's risk profile.

- **Percentage of state-chartered banks examined each year.**
Benchmark: 100% of state-chartered banks examined within statutory timeframes.
- **Percentage of state-chartered credit unions examined each year.**
Benchmark: 100% of state-chartered credit unions examined within statutory timeframes.
- **Examiners are familiar with new products and technologies being used in the financial institutions.**
Benchmark: At least one examiner has sufficient expertise in each significant product, service and technology used or offered by a financial institution to evaluate its risks and benefits.

Goal #3: Maintain a strong state regulatory system for depository financial institutions.

Objective: Promote the dual banking system.

Objective: Avoid further federal preemption that results in a reduction of state authority and consumer protections.

Objective: Provide excellent accessibility, responsiveness and value added services to Idaho state-chartered financial institutions.

Objective: Permit Idaho state-chartered financial institutions to innovate and exercise new powers consistent with the principles of safety and soundness.

Objective: Reduce regulatory burden to the extent possible without compromising safety and soundness or consumer protections.

Performance Measures:

- **Actively oppose further federal preemption efforts.**
Benchmark: Write letters, provide testimony and educate decision-makers about the negative consequences of preemption as opportunities present themselves.
- **Review statutes and rules to ensure requirements continue to be necessary.**
Benchmark: Review statutes and rules annually for ways to reduce regulatory burden.
- **Demonstrate the benefits to financial institutions of choosing the state-charter.**
Benchmark: Maintain or increase the number of financial institutions that choose a state, as opposed to a federal, charter each year.

SECURITIES BUREAU

Goal # 1: Promote public and industry confidence in the securities markets, Idaho investment professionals, endowment care cemeteries, escrow companies and money transmitters through the registration and examination processes.

Objective: Promote Idaho as a desirable place in which to invest and do business.

Objective: Ensure endowment care cemeteries properly account for trust funds so cemeteries are well-maintained in perpetuity.

Objective: Ensure that all businesses required to register under the Idaho Money Transmitters Act (IMTA), I.C. 26-2901, et seq., have done so and are operating in compliance with the IMTA.

Objective: Ensure that all businesses required to register under the Idaho Escrow Act (IEA), I.C. 30-901, et seq., have done so and are operating in compliance with the IEA.

Objective: Maintain a sufficient number of experienced and professionally competent staff by providing competitive compensation and training opportunities, including access to certification programs.

Objective: Coordinate and cooperate with other regulators to increase regulatory efficiency and reduce regulatory burden on industry.

Performance measures:

- **Number of individuals and entities registering with the Department to do business in Idaho.**
Benchmark: Maintain or increase the number of registrants and securities offerings in Idaho in all years with a positive national economy.
- **Number of examinations conducted of broker-dealers registered with the Department to do business in Idaho.**
Benchmark: Investigate (by examination as needed) every complaint involving Idaho registered and unregistered broker-dealers, broker-dealer home or branch offices, and broker-dealer agents.
- **Percentage of state-registered investment advisers for which the Department has completed an onsite examination each year. A risk based examination program is to be developed by 2016 to ensure that higher risk advisors are seen more frequently.**
Benchmark: Examine 25% of state-registered investment advisers each year until such time as the new risk based examination program is instituted.
- **Percentage of endowment care cemeteries for which the Department has completed an on-site examination each year.**
Benchmark: Examine 100% of all endowment care cemeteries each year.
- **Number of Idaho-licensed money transmitters which have been examined by Idaho or a signator to the Money Transmitter Regulators Association (MTRA) Joint Examination MOU each year.**
Benchmark: Examine 25% of Idaho-licensed money transmitters each year.
- **Number of authorized delegates of Idaho-licensed money transmitters which have been examined each year.**
Benchmark: Examine one or more authorized delegates of 25% of Idaho-licensed money transmitters for remitters reporting agent locations in Idaho each year.
- **Number of Idaho-licensed escrow companies which have been examined each year by Idaho or other jurisdictions with a similar or superior examination program.**
Benchmark: Examine 25% of Idaho-licensed escrow companies each year, to include examination reports provided by another competent jurisdiction.
- **Number of un-licensed escrow companies against which actions have been taken.**
Benchmark: Respond to 100% of complaints involving unlicensed activity each year, including but not limited to, internet-only escrow companies, with some type of public warning, if legally possible.
- **Assure sufficient staffing to properly oversee all industries under Bureau's authority.**
Benchmark: Staff meets performance measures each year.

- Number of examinations and investigations conducted jointly with other state, SRO and federal regulators.
Benchmark: Attend annual joint regulator examination summit and coordinate exams to extent possible.

Goal #2: Protect investors from investment fraud through timely enforcement of Idaho's securities laws.

Objective: Bring appropriate legal action against those violating securities and other laws under Department's authority.

Objective: Ensure investment offerings fully comply with Idaho law.

Objective: Ensure applicants for broker-dealer, investment advisor and agent registration fully meet qualification standards of Idaho law.

Objective: Conduct on-site examinations of firms and applicants to ensure compliance with legal requirements.

Performance Measures:

- Conduct timely investigations of suspected violations.
Benchmark: Cases more than 6 months old are: being actively investigated, closed or have been referred for legal action.
- Perform a comprehensive and timely review of materials submitted with securities registration applications.
Benchmark: Registration materials are reviewed and any comments letters issued within statutory timeframes.
- Conduct investigations of investment advisors, broker-dealers and their branch offices and agents when red flags are noted.
Benchmark: On-going frauds or sales practice abuses are halted quickly.

Goal #3: Increase the financial literacy of all Idahoans.

Objective: Give Idahoans the financial knowledge base needed to wisely use credit, save, invest and avoid fraud.

Performance Measures:

- Educate Idaho teachers at all levels on personal finance basics so those principles can be incorporated into everyday lessons.
Benchmark: Sponsor or participate in yearly teacher financial literacy education programs, if available.
- Educate Idaho professionals and social workers about signs of elder fraud and financial abuse.
Benchmark: Sponsor or participate in yearly professional/social worker elder financial fraud prevention programs if available.
- Provide speakers and consumer information to schools, senior centers, civic groups and any other interested group to raise awareness of personal finance issues.
Benchmark: Maintain or increase each year the number of Idahoans to whom educational presentations are made.
- Issue press releases and investor alerts highlighting current frauds and ways to avoid fraud.

Benchmark: Issue at least one press release each month that incorporates a financial educational component.

Goal #4: Maintain a strong state regulatory system for securities and investment professionals.

Objective: Avoid federal preemption of state laws that results in a reduction of state authority and consumer protections.

Objective: Reduce regulatory burden to the extent possible without compromising safety and soundness or consumer protections.

Performance Measures:

- **Actively oppose further federal preemption efforts.**
Benchmark: Write letters, provide testimony and educate decision-makers about the negative consequences of preemption as opportunities present themselves.
- **Review statutes and rules to ensure requirements continue to be necessary.**
Benchmark: Review statutes and rules annually for ways to reduce regulatory burden and update as needed.

CONSUMER FINANCE BUREAU

Goal #1: Promote public and industry confidence in Idaho consumer financial services through the licensing and examination process.

Objective: Promote a healthy, competitive financial services industry in Idaho.

Objective: Ensure that all participants in the financial services industry are properly licensed, where required, and comply with applicable Idaho laws.

Objective: Coordinate and cooperate with other regulators to increase regulatory efficiency and reduce regulatory burden on industry.

Objective: Maintain a sufficient number of experienced and professionally competent staff by providing competitive compensation and training opportunities to keep skills current.

Performance measures:

- **Idahoans have access to a sufficient array of competitive financial products.**
Benchmark: Through the Department's licensing and examination processes, financial service products that comply with federal and state laws are available to Idahoans.
- **Licensees under the Idaho Credit Code, Idaho Residential Mortgage Practices Act, and the Idaho Collection Agency Act, are examined by the Department to determine compliance with governing laws and rules.**
Benchmark: Annually conduct compliance examinations of 20 percent of the Department's mortgage licensees;

Subject to priorities based on risk factors, resources, and the public interest, annually conduct routine compliance examinations of 10 percent

of the Department's licensees under the Idaho Credit Code and the Idaho Collection Agency Act.

- Applicants and licensees under the Idaho Credit Code, Idaho Residential Mortgage Practices Act, and the Idaho Collection Agency Act use the Nationwide Multistate Licensing System (NMLS) for license applications and annual license renewals and learn of expanded NMLS functionalities as they are introduced.

Benchmark: Department regularly contributes information to and extracts information from the NMLS and communicates expanded NMLS tools and functionalities to licensees when introduced.

Goal #2: Protect consumers from financial fraud through timely enforcement of Idaho's mortgage, collection agency, and consumer credit laws.

Objective: Bring appropriate legal action against those violating mortgage and consumer credit laws.

Objective: Ensure consumers obtain appropriate redress for violations, to the extent possible.

Objective: Ensure applicants for licensing under consumer finance laws fully meet qualification standards of Idaho law.

Objective: Conduct on-site examinations of licensees to ensure compliance with legal requirements.

Performance Measures:

- Conduct timely investigations into consumer complaints and other suspected violations.
Benchmark: Cases/complaints more than 6 months old are: being actively investigated, closed or have been referred for legal action.
- Perform a comprehensive and timely review of materials submitted with licensing applications.
Benchmark: Licensing materials are reviewed and any comments / letters issued within statutory timeframes.
- Conduct "for cause" examinations of licensees when red flags are noted.
Benchmark: Fraudulent and other prohibited practices are halted quickly.

Goal #3: Promote the financial literacy of all Idahoans.

Objective: Provide Idahoans with financial information, tools, and opportunities to learn how to use credit wisely, save money, and avoid fraud.

Performance Measures:

- Provide speakers and consumer information to schools, senior centers, civic groups, and other interested groups to promote personal financial literacy.
Benchmark: Ensure that financial literacy information is up to date and accurate and made available through various mediums including, but not limited to, the Department's website, printed materials, and in-person presentations.
- Issue press releases or consumer alerts highlighting consumer protection issues in financial services.

Benchmark: Issue a minimum of four press releases or consumer alerts each year that incorporate a financial educational component relating to mortgage lending, collections, or consumer finance.

Goal #4: Maintain a strong state regulatory system financial services.

Objective: Avoid federal preemption of state laws that results in a reduction of state authority and consumer protections.

Objective: Reduce regulatory burden to the extent possible without compromising consumer protections.

Performance Measures:

- **Actively oppose federal preemption of state laws relating to financial services.**
Benchmark: Write letters, provide testimony and educate decision-makers about the negative consequences of preemption as opportunities present themselves.
- **Review statutes and rules to ensure requirements continue to be necessary.**
Benchmark: Review statutes and rules annually for ways to reduce regulatory burden.

DESCRIPTION OF PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS
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Four general categories of benchmarks are used by the Department in its Strategic Plan. The most frequently used benchmarks are those that dictate that a certain percentage of the time a particular result will occur. Example: “100% of state-chartered credit unions [were] examined within statutory timeframes.” Benchmarks of this type were selected because:

- a. a statute mandates a particular result, or
- b. the benchmark represents the Department’s expected, planned or intended result. This result is based on the Department’s own experience, the experience of other regulators and an analysis of the specific resources available to the Department.

Other benchmarks set minimum targets that must be achieved. Example: “[A]t least one examiner has sufficient expertise in each significant product, service and technology used or offered by a financial institution to evaluate its risks and benefits.” This type of benchmark assures that the Department is able to adequately regulate all products and services under its jurisdiction.

Benchmarks that require some action within a specific timeframe not mandated by statute have been determined based on the Department’s own experience, the experience of other regulators and an analysis of the specific resources available to the Department. Similarly, some benchmarks will measure performance by comparing the number of times an action was taken versus the number of opportunities the Department had to take that action. Example: “Write letters, provide testimony and educate decision-makers about the negative consequences of preemption as opportunities present themselves.”

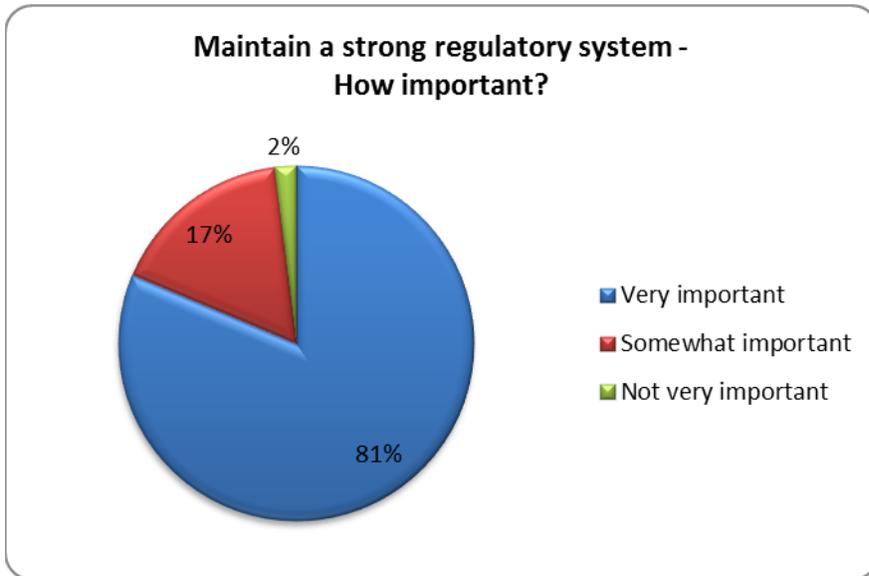
The final type of benchmark is one that requires the Department to review the financial services marketplace or other non-numeric set of items or events to determine if the benchmark has been met. Example: “Idahoans are able to obtain financial services at a competitive price.”

Appendix

Question 1:

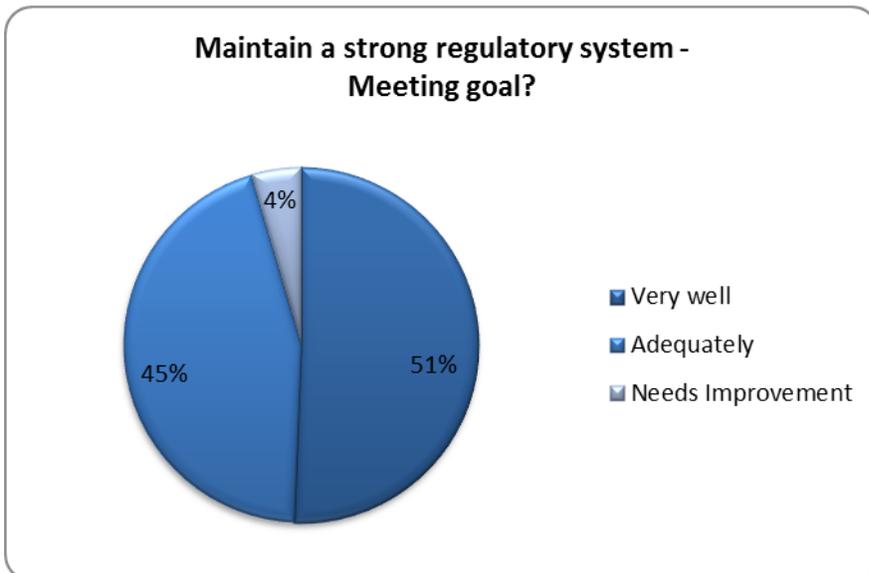
Maintain a strong state regulatory system for depository and non-depository financial institutions, mortgage brokering and banking services, and securities and investment providers.

Very important	209	No opinion	11*
Somewhat important	43	No response	1*
Not very important	5		



How well is the Department meeting this goal?

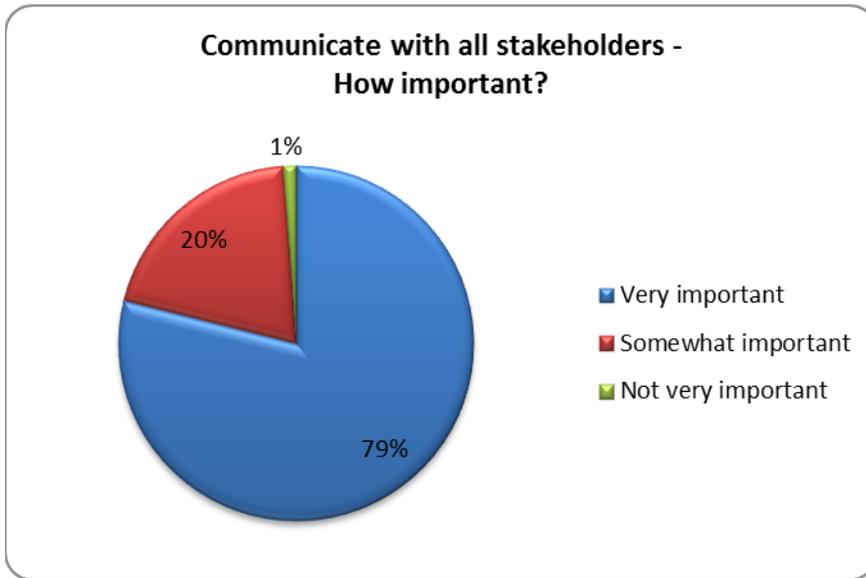
Very well	122	No opinion	26*
Adequately	108	No response	2*
Needs Improvement	11		



Question 2:

Effectively communicate with all stakeholders (the regulated industries, the Legislature and the public).

Very important	202	No opinion	3*
Somewhat important	51	No response	10*
Not very important	3		



How well is the Department meeting this goal?

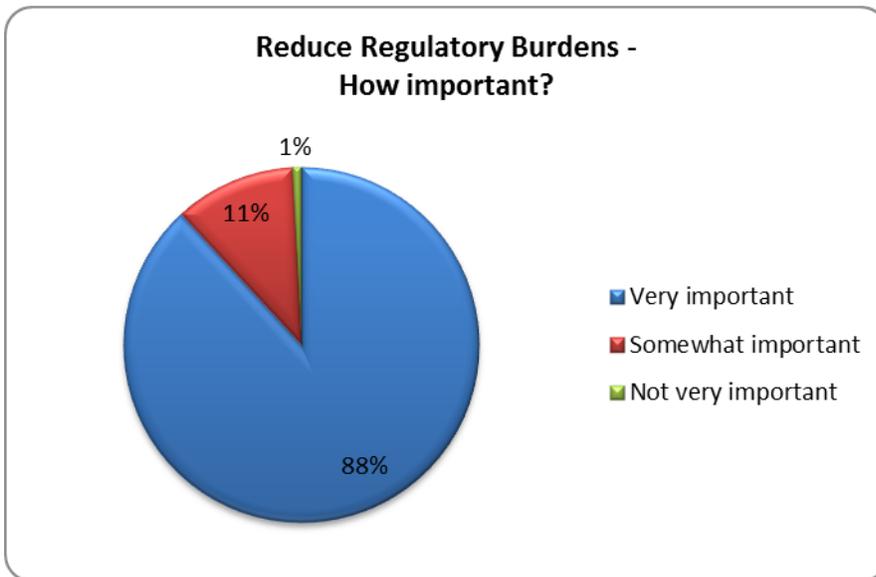
Very well	98	No opinion	15*
Adequately	111	No response	10*
Needs Improvement	35		



Question 3:

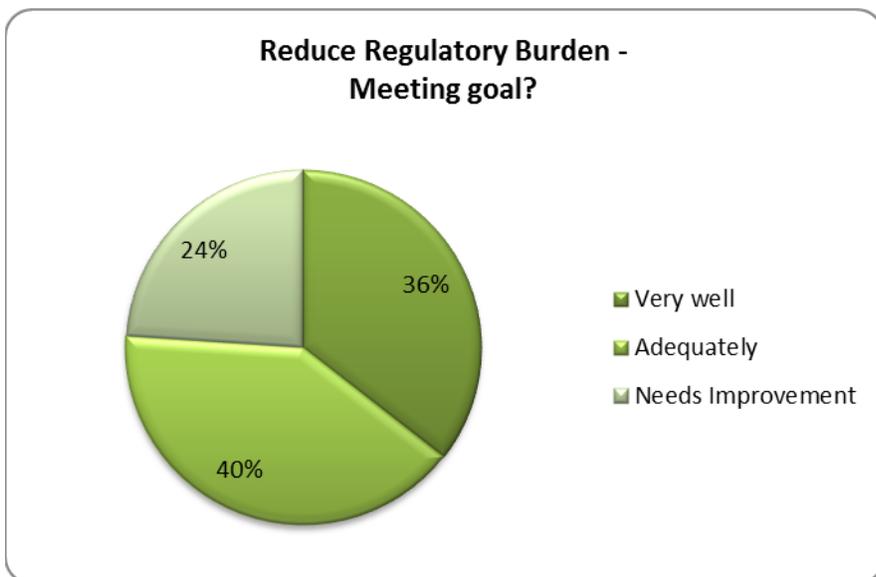
Study and support methods to reduce regulatory burdens for depository and non-depository financial institutions, mortgage brokering and banking services, and securities and investment providers.

Very important	231	No opinion	4*
Somewhat important	29	No response	3*
Not very important	2		



How well is the Department meeting this goal?

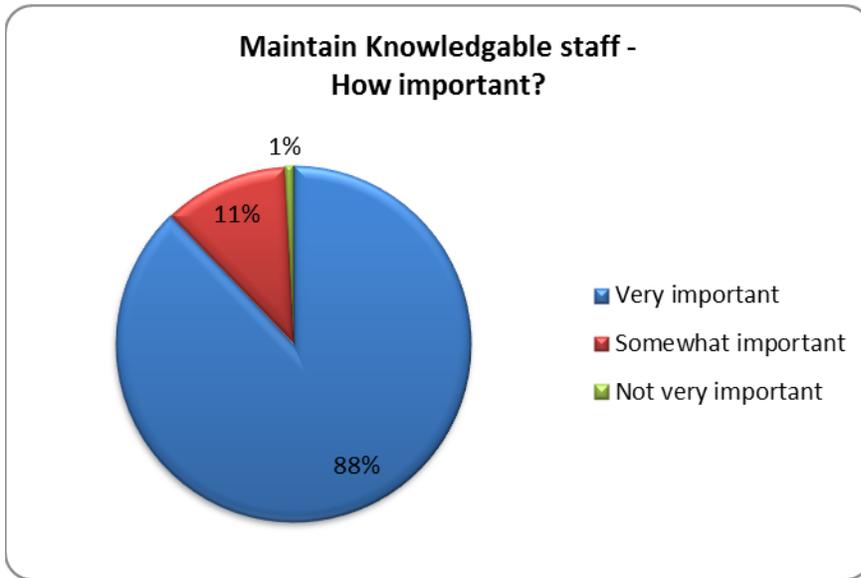
Very well	86	No opinion	21*
Adequately	98	No response	6*
Needs Improvement	58		



Question 4:

Retain and recruit a knowledgeable, well-trained, professional staff.

Very important	224	No opinion	9*
Somewhat important	29	No response	5*
Not very important	2		



How well is the Department meeting this goal?

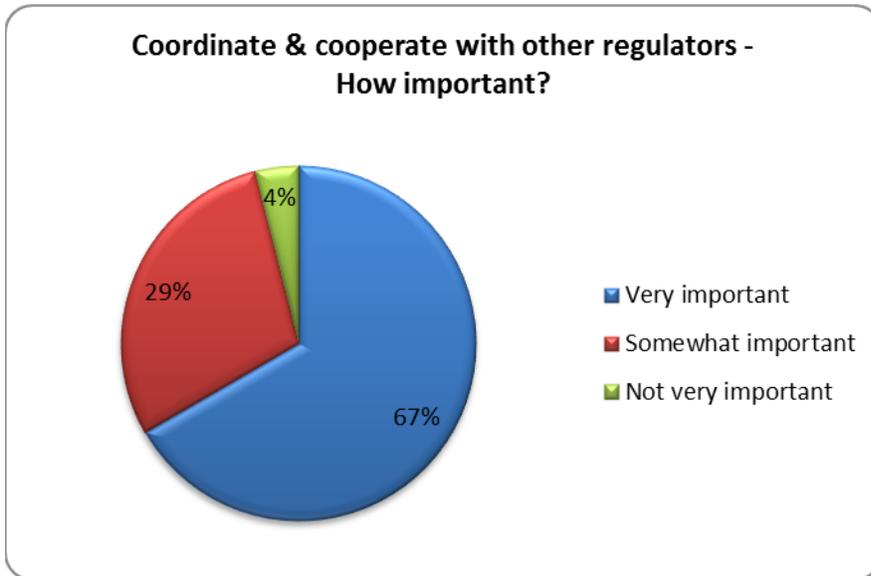
Very well	100	No opinion	38*
Adequately	98	No response	5*
Needs Improvement	28		



Question 5

Increase our coordination and cooperation with other regulators

Very important	168	No opinion	14*
Somewhat important	74	No response	3*
Not very important	10		



How well is the Department meeting this goal?

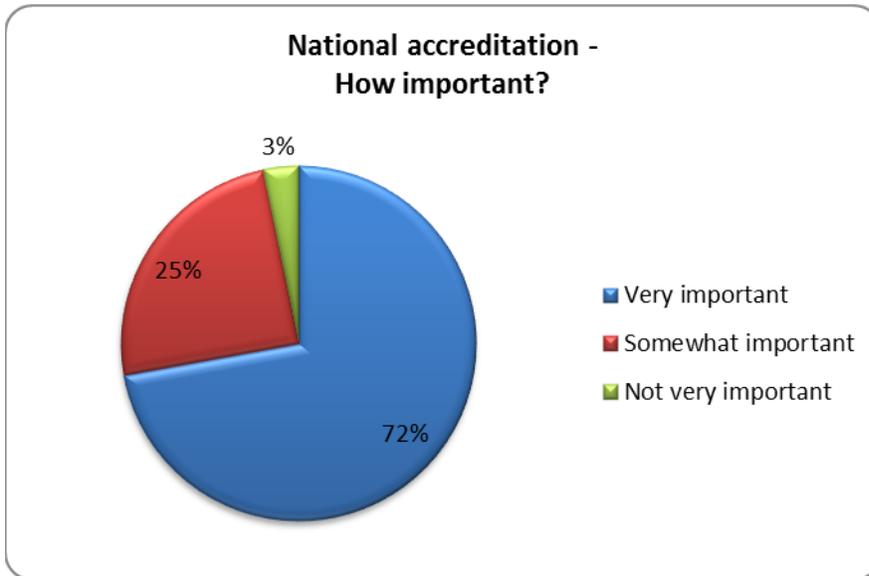
Very well	86	No opinion	61*
Adequately	98	No response	3*
Needs Improvement	21		



Question 6

Retain national accreditation of the Department's banking, credit union and mortgage sections

Very important	158	No opinion	43*
Somewhat important	54	No response	7*
Not very important	7		



How well is the Department meeting this goal?

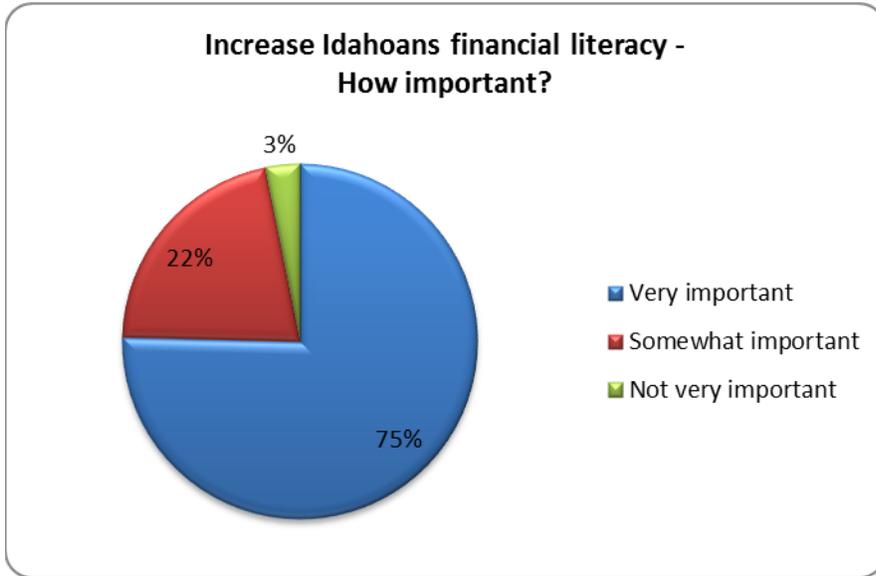
Very well	106	No opinion	67*
Adequately	79	No response	8*
Needs Improvement	9		



Question 7

Increase the financial literacy of all Idahoans

Very important	190	No opinion	12*
Somewhat important	54	No response	5*
Not very important	8		



How well is the Department meeting this goal?

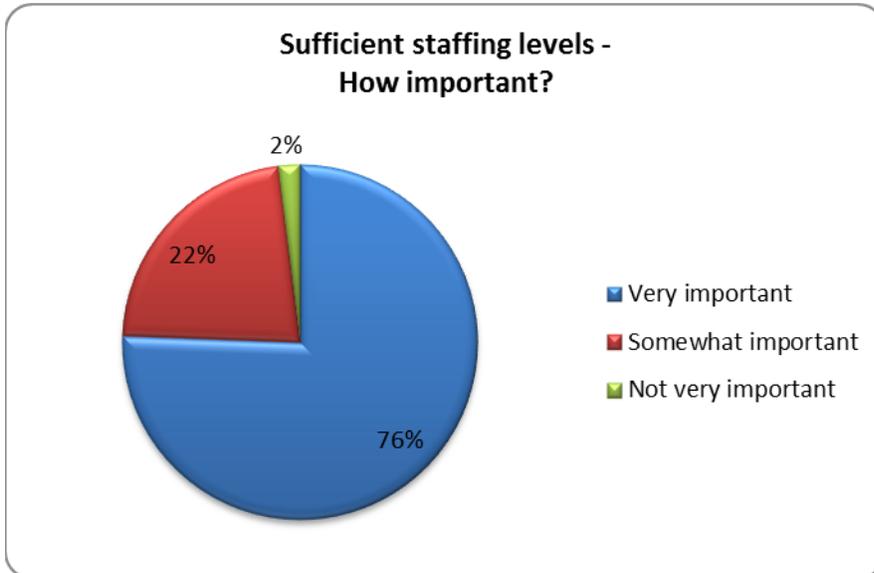
Very well	76	No opinion	38*
Adequately	85	No response	5*
Needs Improvement	65		



Question 8

Maintain sufficient staffing levels to provide adequate oversight of the increasing number of regulated entities

Very important	192	No opinion	12*
Somewhat important	57	No response	3*
Not very important	5		



How well is the Department meeting this goal?

Very well	84	No opinion	43*
Adequately	92	No response	4*
Needs Improvement	46		

