



Safeguarding the Financial Health of Idaho

Idaho Department of Finance
FY 2026 – FY 2030
Strategic Plan

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Idaho Department of Finance FY 2026 – FY 2030 Strategic Plan

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Mission Statement

Safeguarding the financial health of Idahoans through the appropriate oversight of diverse financial institutions, the education and protection of consumers, and by fostering sensible innovation in the financial services market.

Vision Statement

Excelling in supervision, fostering innovation, protecting Idaho's financial health.

Values

The Department of Finance recognizes and embraces the values of Trust, Accountability, Empowerment, Collaboration, Adaptability, and Fairness, to guide how we work, make decisions, and guide our relationships with internal and external stakeholders.



Executive Summary

The Idaho Department of Finance (Department) Strategic Plan (Plan) covers a five-year period from the beginning of Fiscal Year 2026 to the end of Fiscal Year 2030. The Plan is intended to provide our stakeholders with better insight into the Department's current and planned operations, including:

- Qualitative information regarding the Department's mission and how the Department is organized to accomplish that mission.
- Identification of key external and internal factors that may have an impact on the Department's ability to achieve its overall goals and objectives.
- A description of the Department's overall goals and objectives, along with benchmarks used to determine the Department's success in accomplishing its mission.

Each year, the Department reviews and updates its Strategic Plan. In doing so, the Department seeks input from Department employees, representatives of the industries it regulates, legislators, and consumers. The Department also conducts a periodic stakeholder survey to obtain comments and feedback on its goals and priorities. A summary of the Department's 2025 Strategic Stakeholder Planning Survey is attached to this report as an Appendix. The next Strategic Stakeholder Planning Survey will occur in 2030. The Department's Strategic Plan is posted on the Department's website where the public is encouraged to review the document.

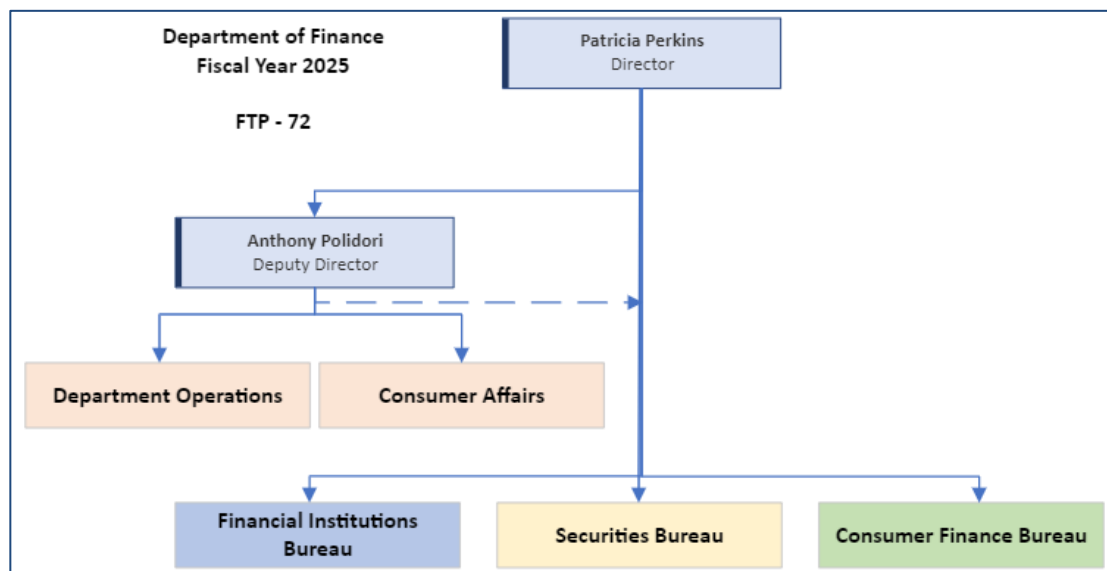
Introduction

The Department is an executive state agency that oversees depository and non-depository financial service providers chartered, licensed, or registered in Idaho. We are dedicated to outstanding public service, professional standards and being a leader in promoting comprehensive financial services in Idaho. Promptness and accuracy are the touchstones of our operations. The Department is committed to providing services to Idaho's citizens, the industries we supervise, the Legislature, the Governor, and our employees, that are timely and of the highest quality.

The Department was created in 1905 to ensure stability of, and public confidence in, the banks organized under a state charter. At that time, the Department administered only one law, the Idaho Bank Act, and licensed only one industry – banks. Today, the Department regulates nearly 240,000 financial service providers and products in 15 industries under 22 statutes. The Department's Director is appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Idaho Senate. The Department receives no general funds or tax revenues but is funded exclusively from fees paid by the regulated industries. For Fiscal Year 2026, the Department has an appropriated budget of \$11,875,400 and 76 full-time positions, along with three Deputy Attorneys General and a paralegal assigned to the Department.

Organizational Structure

The Department is organized into three bureaus tasked with the oversight of various and diverse financial services, the Financial Institutions, Consumer Finance, and Securities Bureaus. All three bureaus are overseen and supported by the Department's Administration section. Each Bureau is further organized within program areas to manage the supervision of various types of financial services entities they oversee.



Administration

The Department's Administration section consists of the Department Director, Deputy Director, staff assigned as operational support for the Department, and staff assigned to special programs that support the Department's mission. Operational support includes the maintenance of the accounting system and records for the Department; preparation and submission of the Department's budget; providing financial, management and statistical reports; coordination of the Department's business services; and maintenance of the Department's vehicles. Special programs include the Department's Consumer Affairs program that manages public outreach and consumer education activities.

Financial Institutions Bureau

The Financial Institutions Bureau is responsible for promoting the safety and soundness of Idaho state-chartered commercial banks, savings banks, credit unions, bank holding companies, credit union service organizations, trust companies, third party technology service providers, and business and industrial development corporations. The Bureau assesses the condition of these institutions so the public can have confidence in the financial system, and so the interests of depositors, creditors, and shareholders are protected. In addition, the Bureau assesses the adequacy of information technology safeguards and the cybersecurity risk of financial institutions to ensure data integrity, confidentiality, and availability. The Bureau works closely with federal and other state regulators to provide regulated industries with seamless supervision, minimal disruption and cost, and effective use of resources. The Bureau also investigates complaints against state-

chartered financial institutions filed with the Department. The Bureau maintains qualified and experienced staff to oversee traditional financial services; however, disruption to these services, resulting from changing technology, requires the Bureau to attract and develop talent with competencies necessary to address emerging technologies.

Securities Bureau

The Securities Bureau regulates the offer or sale of investment securities and those individuals and entities that offer or sell investment opportunities to the public. The Bureau's objectives include promoting the integrity and vitality of state and federal financial markets, protecting the public from fraud and financial crime, and assisting legitimate businesses in their efforts to raise capital in Idaho. The Bureau is also responsible for the licensing and oversight of money transmitters, or money services businesses, which are those businesses engaged in receiving money for transmission and issuing payment instruments to purchasers (e.g., money orders, stored value products). The Bureau regulates independent escrow companies, as well as those providing 1031 exchange accommodation services. Furthermore, the Bureau ensures that endowed care cemeteries properly handle the funds and trust placed with them. Besides its supervisory activities, the Bureau is also responsible for providing consumer education to Idaho citizens on pertinent financial topics and issues.

Consumer Finance Bureau

The Consumer Finance Bureau licenses and supervises financial service providers pursuant to the Idaho Residential Mortgage Practices Act, the Idaho Collection Agency Act, and the Idaho Credit Code. In administering these laws, the Bureau oversees a diverse field of consumer finance and credit services entities. These include mortgage service providers, regulated and payday lenders, collection agencies, credit or debt counselors, credit repair organizations, and debt settlement services. The goal of the Bureau is to assure the availability and quality of consumer financial services and lawful debt collection practices. In addition to the various forms of traditional consumer financial and credit services, the Bureau oversees companies that are currently using innovative technologies to provide services. These include electronic platforms using technology services, rather than individual interactions, to originate, decision, and fund consumer and mortgage loans. Furthermore, the Bureau is responsible for providing consumer education to Idaho citizens on topics related to mortgage lending, the use of credit, consumer fraud, and other consumer finance related topics.

Key External Factors

Over the past fiscal year, the Department has actively tracked and addressed economic conditions shaped by sustained inflation at 2.7%, stable interest rates ranging from 4.25% to 4.5%, and a housing market constrained by high costs and limited activity. These dynamics have tempered expansion in traditional financial services for businesses and consumers. Additionally, the Department has focused on navigating evolving challenges in digital assets, spurred by new federal legislation such as the GENIUS Act and Digital Asset Market Clarity Act, alongside the growing integration of generative artificial intelligence in financial technology

Recent United States Supreme Court rulings from late Fiscal Year 2024 have reshaped the regulatory landscape by altering precedents on federal preemption of state financial regulations, agency enforcement authority, and judicial review standards for statutory interpretations. These decisions prompted the Department to reassess and adjust its enforcement practices throughout the past year, with further refinements ongoing as the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) reinforces its preemption policies in response to legal challenges.

Looking ahead, the Department will continue to adapt its strategies over the next five years to address the following critical influences:

- Unforeseen events that could affect Idahoans' well-being and the stability of financial institutions serving them. Potential disruptions, such as pandemics, severe weather, or infrastructure breakdowns, may impact employment, income, consumer spending, business operations, healthcare, and education. These scenarios challenge the Department to maintain the safety and soundness of regulated institutions while enhancing consumer protection and education in a dynamic environment.
- Evolving federal and state policies that introduce new obligations or restrictions on the financial services sector. The Department may need to reconcile federal mandates, such as those conflicting with state legislative priorities, while ensuring effective oversight. The cryptocurrency and digital asset markets, now subject to emerging federal frameworks like stablecoin regulations and central bank digital currency (CBDC) restrictions, complicate state-level supervision due to the increasing standardization of national policies.
- Technological advancements that present both opportunities and risks for financial services. Innovations like generative AI, blockchain, cloud computing, and biometric systems promise enhanced efficiency and service quality but also introduce vulnerabilities related to data security, integrity, and ethical concerns. The Department must monitor these trends to balance innovation with robust risk management.

These external factors demand a skilled workforce and adequate resources to uphold the Department's mission. The following sections, along with "Key Internal Factors," provide deeper insights into how the Department's bureaus address these challenges.

Financial Institutions Bureau

The escalating cybersecurity landscape, marked by AI-driven attacks, ransomware, and vulnerabilities like SQL injections, requires financial institutions to maintain heightened vigilance to protect sensitive data and operational systems. These threats necessitate increased investments in cybersecurity infrastructure. Attracting and retaining qualified personnel remains challenging for institutions amid competitive labor markets and rising wage pressures. Similarly, the Financial Institutions Bureau struggles to secure and retain staff with expertise in emerging technologies critical to fulfilling the Department's mission.

The prospect of consolidation of Idaho's state-chartered financial institutions continues to pose concerns. Additionally, disruptions driven by generative AI, embedded finance platforms, and nontraditional competitors, such as digital-only banks, heighten risks to the industry. Federal regulators' persistent efforts to preempt state authority further threaten the dual banking system, though recent OCC affirmations reinforce existing preemption frameworks.

Securities Bureau

Advancements in digital technologies and fintech are reshaping the securities landscape, making cybersecurity and innovation central priorities. The adoption of agentic AI and cryptocurrency integration is transforming business models, enabling new ways for firms and consumers to engage in financial markets, ensure compliance, and combat fraud. However, the digitization of financial infrastructure amplifies cyber risks, including sophisticated ransomware and supply chain attacks. To address these trends effectively, the Bureau requires sustained funding to train, recruit, and retain personnel skilled in cybersecurity and fintech oversight.

Financial crimes and fraudulent schemes targeting Idaho consumers remain a persistent challenge. The Bureau prioritizes collaboration with law enforcement to support investigations into financial and cybercrimes. Protecting Idaho's rapidly growing senior population from fraud and exploitation is another key focus, as their accumulated wealth makes them prime targets for bad actors, including exploitative caregivers or family members. The Bureau will leverage partnerships and its limited investigative resources to safeguard seniors.

Federal preemption in the digital asset and fintech arenas, including frameworks under laws like the GENIUS Act, continues to challenge state authority. While recognizing the need for coordinated federal and state policies, the Bureau believes Idaho's oversight is best positioned to address local concerns. The Bureau remains agile, closely monitoring market trends and federal regulatory developments to ensure effective supervision.

Consumer Finance Bureau

The rapid evolution of AI and machine learning in consumer financial services demands a workforce proficient in cybersecurity and fintech. Specialized examiners are essential to support innovative financial products while ensuring robust oversight for Idahoans.

The mortgage and consumer loan markets face ongoing pressures from steady interest rates (4.25-4.5%) and 2.7% inflation, which limit service availability and affordability. Historically, such conditions have spurred smaller lenders to offer costlier products, but stringent federal regulations may deter new entrants, creating gaps in consumer access. The Bureau will monitor these markets closely, seeking ways to enhance access through streamlined supervisory processes and reduced regulatory costs for Idaho operators.

Key Internal Factors

The Department recognizes the value of flexible work arrangements, such as remote and hybrid scheduling, to promote work-life balance and address the critical challenge of staff retention. Financial examination is a specialized field requiring three to five years to develop optimal expertise. To retain talent, the Department will provide resources, competitive compensation, and professional development opportunities, including targeted training in AI, cybersecurity, and digital assets.

Additional internal factors influencing the Department's effectiveness include:

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- The strength of its experienced staff, who possess deep expertise in enforcing financial services laws. However, limited budgets and resources challenge the Department's ability to keep pace with the increasingly complex industries it oversees.
 - A culture rooted in trust and accountability, fostering strong stakeholder relationships. The Department must continually equip its staff with tools and training to address emerging opportunities and challenges effectively.
 - The capacity to build systems that enhance collaboration with other state and federal regulators, ensuring efficient and coordinated oversight

The Department will regularly monitor and evaluate internal factors to ensure they remain relevant. Furthermore, we will learn from our experiences and the feedback we receive to embrace change and innovation that benefits our organization and our stakeholders.

Legislation, Rulemaking, and Policy

Our leadership and staff regularly meet with Legislators and policymakers, consumer representatives, and industry associations, to discuss the existing statutes, rules, policies, and guidance, that apply to the financial services supervised by the Department. Over the Strategic Plan period, the Department anticipates it may receive various proposals from stakeholders seeking changes to policies relative to those industries, whether in the form of legislation or rulemaking.

During the 2025 Legislative Session, the Idaho Legislature's passed House Bill 14 (H0014) which requires state agencies to conduct a review of the titles and chapters of Idaho Code administered by the agencies. The purpose of the review is to identify portions of Idaho Code that are unnecessary, obsolete, and contain outdated provisions. The Department will be submitting a report to the Legislature by September 1, 2025, denoting any portions of the Idaho Code that it administers which meet those categories. Based on the Department's review under the standards of H0014, prior to the submission of its report, the Department will seek approval of four legislative proposals. The proposals would repeal three chapters of Idaho Code, relating to Industrial Corporations, Business and Industrial Development Corporations, and Business Service Corporations. The proposals also include the repeal of one subsection of Idaho Code related to the use of an electronic licensing system.

Additionally, the Department foresees that it may proactively initiate changes to policies, whether through legislative proposals or rulemaking, to address emerging issues within financial services markets. The purpose of any future proposals would be to positively impact consumers' ability to protect their financial assets and the ability of markets to operate efficiently. Furthermore, the Department foresees the potential need to provide formal guidance related to existing policies for the purpose of providing greater transparency to all stakeholders. Such guidance, if necessary, would not have the effect of laws or rules and would only be adopted to provide clarity as to how the Department applies existing laws and regulations, in compliance with the Governor's Order on *Transparency in Agency Guidance*, Executive Order # 2020-02.

The Department also anticipates that legislation related to digital assets and their use in financial services may be introduced by third parties during the 2026 Legislative Session. The Department will closely monitor legislative proposals relative to this issue throughout the Fiscal Year. We will

also continue our involvement with industry associations, consumer groups, and other stakeholders to identify other possible amendments to the laws overseen by the Department that address suitable public purposes.

Key Strategic Measures

To address the external and internal factors discussed above, the Department has developed significant strategic goals and objectives for each functional Bureau, as detailed in “Goals, Objectives, Performance Measures and Benchmarks” section of the Strategic Plan. In addition to those goals, the Department has engaged its staff and stakeholders in enumerating its key organizational values, as listed on page one, and has aligned its priorities with its mission, vision, and values.

Furthermore, the Department has identified several priorities for the Strategic Planning period not captured directly within its Goals and Objectives, but that serve to support each. These include:

- Consistently and successfully implementing statutory requirements by
 - Providing clear guidance to industry and consumers when facing changing financial services landscapes.
 - Seeking opportunities to bring statutes current with today’s financial services and delivery methods.
- Continuously improving process speed, accuracy, and functions by
 - Responding quickly to constituent concerns.
 - Bringing an attitude of excellent customer service into our work culture.
- Continuously developing the Department’s culture by
 - Engaging in meaningful communications internally through our regular meetings and weekly reports.
 - Remaining open to possibilities that not only improve performance, but that provide greater work-life balance for our staff, such as hybrid scheduling.
- Building upon our relationships with our stakeholders by
 - Openly engaging the members and associations that represent the industries the Department oversees.
 - Strengthening our relationships with our sister agencies, our State of Idaho partners, and most importantly, our own staff.

In support of these priorities, the Department maintains accreditation in financial examination competency through the Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS) and the National Association of State Credit Union Supervisors (NASCUS). This occurs every five years and requires that we maintain our examiners’ competencies, update personnel policies, legislation and prepare in many other ways to successfully reaccredit Banking, Credit Union, and Mortgage Sections and requires the substantial involvement of key staff. In October of 2026, the Department will be hosting the CSBS and NASCUS accreditation teams for its next scheduled re-accreditation review. The Department is committed to appropriate planning, preparation, and efficient execution of each of these projects’ milestones to lessen impacts on its general operations.

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 Business Continuity Plan exists which sets forth the details of carrying on day-to-day operations should an emergency occur and was amply tested during recent events. The Business Continuity Plan is posted on the Department's internal website, and all management and staff are required to be familiar with this plan.

Goals, Objectives, Performance Measures and Benchmarks

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 and members of financial institutions.

Objective: Assist financial institutions' management in establishing effective risk management policies and procedures.

Objective: Maintain a sufficient number of professional, experienced, and competent staff by providing competitive compensation, training opportunities and effective management to advance their knowledge and skills.

Performance Measures:

- Idaho state-chartered financial institutions offer products and services that are competitive with those offered by federally chartered financial institutions.

Benchmark: All Idaho state-chartered financial institutions can offer all the financial products and services offered by federally chartered financial institutions.

- Idaho state-chartered financial institutions operate in a safe and sound manner.

Benchmark: Ensure that no financial institution failures result from inadequate regulatory supervision.

- The Financial Institutions Bureau retains experienced, professional examination staff.

Benchmark: No more than 15% of examiner staff separate from the Financial Institutions Bureau primarily to obtain greater compensation or training benefits in the private sector or 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, including emerging security risks.

Objective: Monitor trends in the financial services industry and develop supervisory programs to effectively monitor and examine innovative financial products, services, and technology.

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

Performance Measures:

- Utilize both on- and off-site monitoring and examination programs to increase quality and effectiveness of financial institution supervision and reduce on-site examination time.

Benchmark: On-site examination time minimized and off-site monitoring optimized consistent with financial institution's risk profile.

- Percentage of state-chartered depository institutions examined within statutory time frames.

Benchmark: 100 percent of state-chartered depository institutions examined within statutory timeframes.

- Promote the importance of cybersecurity awareness.

Benchmark: Review financial institutions' governance and monitoring of cybersecurity to ensure they are commensurate with complexity of the institutions and to minimize cyber threat incidents.

- Designate subject matter experts (SMEs) in key areas of the examination process.

Benchmark: All SME designations have been identified and assigned to the examination staff, who are provided the necessary training to effectively evaluate the risks in their area of expertise, specifically trust, information technology, BSA, compliance, capital markets, commercial lending, and agricultural lending.

Goal # 3: Maintain a strong state regulatory system for depository financial institutions, non-depository trust companies, and business and industrial development companies.

Objective: Promote the state chartering system for banks and credit unions.

Objective: Actively oppose federal preemption that results in a reduction of state authority and

consumer protections.

Objective: Provide 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 and federal regulations that adversely affect the ability of Idaho state-chartered financial institutions to be competitive.

Benchmark: Collaborate with other state counterparts to write letters, provide testimony, and educate decision-makers about the negative consequences of federal preemption and overreach.

- Review statutes and rules to ensure requirements continue to be necessary.

Benchmark: Review statutes and rules annually for ways to reduce regulatory burden.

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 conduct related financial business.

Objective: Ensure registration, licensure, and compliance of all entities and persons coming under the jurisdiction of the Idaho Uniform Securities Act, Idaho Endowment Care Cemetery Act, Idaho Money Transmitters Act, and the Idaho Escrow Act.

Objective: Maintain sufficient profession, experienced, and 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 burdens on industry.

Performance measures:

- The number of examinations conducted of broker-dealers registered with the Department to do business in Idaho.

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- Benchmark:* Investigate every complaint involving Idaho registered and unregistered broker-dealers, broker-dealer agents, issuers, and issuer agents.
- Percentage of state-registered investment advisers for which the Department has completed an onsite examination each year. Investment advisers identified through prior examination as higher risk will be subject to more frequent examinations.
- Benchmark:* Examine 20 percent of state-registered investment advisers each year.
- Percentage of endowment care cemeteries for which the Department has completed an on-site examination each year.
- Benchmark:* Examine 100 percent of all endowment care cemeteries each year.
- The number of Idaho-licensed money transmitters which have been examined by Idaho or a signatory to the Money Transmitter Regulators Association (MTRA) Joint Examination MOU each year.
- Benchmark:* Examine 25 percent of Idaho-licensed money transmitters each year.
- The number of authorized delegates of Idaho-licensed money transmitters examined each year.
- Benchmark:* Examine one or more authorized delegates of 25 percent of Idaho-licensed money transmitters reporting agent locations in Idaho each year.
- The number of Idaho-licensed escrow companies examined each year by Idaho or other jurisdictions with a similar or superior examination program.
- Benchmark:* Examine 25 percent of Idaho-licensed escrow companies each year, to include examination reports provided by another competent jurisdiction.
- The number of un-licensed escrow companies against which actions have been taken.
- Benchmark:* Respond to all complaints involving unlicensed activity each year, including but not limited to, internet-only escrow companies. If possible, respond with a public warning.
- The number of examinations and investigations conducted jointly with other state, SRO, and federal regulators.
- Benchmark:* Attend annual joint regulator examination summits and coordinate exams if possible.

Goal #2: Protect the public from fraud, financial crime, and cybercrime through timely enforcement of Idaho's laws.

Objective: Bring appropriate legal action against those violating securities, financial crime, cybercrime, and other laws under the Department's authority.

Objective: Ensure investment offerings fully comply with Idaho law.

Objective: Ensure applicants for broker-dealer, investment adviser 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.

Objective: Assist government partners and stakeholders fight fraud, financial crime, and cybercrime.

Performance Measures:

- Conduct timely investigations of suspected illicit financial activity and violations.

Benchmark: Cases more than six 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: Review registration materials and issue any comment letters within statutory timeframes.

- Conduct investigations of investment advisers, broker-dealers and their branch offices, agents, and issuers when red flags are noted.

Benchmark: Investigate all potential cases of fraud or sales practice abuses and take appropriate action.

- Provide government partners with key expertise and investigative support on fraud, financial crime, and cybercrime cases.

Benchmark: Respond to all government partner financial investigative requests.

Goal #3: Maintain a strong state regulatory system for securities and investment professionals.

Objective: Avoid, mitigate, or work to accommodate 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: Provide necessary information to decision-makers about the negative

consequences of preemption when preemptive laws and rules are identified.

- Review statutes and rules to ensure requirements continue to be necessary.

Benchmark: Review statutes and rules routinely to identify modernization opportunities that will better protect Idahoans and reduce the regulatory burden of stakeholders.

- Develop and modernize the Securities Bureau's regulatory framework to be more responsive to industry innovation.

Benchmark: Use the Department's Financial Innovation Lab to address emerging technology issues and identify opportunities for modernization.

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 by ensuring participants in the financial services industry are properly licensed, where required, and comply with applicable Idaho laws.

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

Objective: Maintain an 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, ensure 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: Routinely conduct compliance examinations of the Department's licensees, engaging a review of new licensees beginning business in the state within 24 months of licensure. Examinations will be based on risk factors, resources, and public interest. The Department will Accept or Leverage another state's examination through the State Examination System (SES) where appropriate to reduce the burden on industry.

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- 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 staff learn of expanded NMLS functionalities as they are introduced.

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

Benchmark: Participate in the auto-renewal process where applicable for licensees utilizing NMLS.

- Examiners participate in continuing education and certification programs.

Benchmark: The Department regularly provides educational opportunities for all examiners in both state and federal regulations.

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 examinations of licensees to ensure compliance with legal requirements.

Performance Measures:

- Conduct timely investigations into consumer complaints and other suspected violations.

Benchmark: Send initial contact on assigned complaints within 14 days from date of assignment to the Bureau. Examiners will follow up with complaint subjects on information requests if not received after two weeks, and review response submissions within two weeks of receipt. When appropriate, a legal referral will be submitted for review by the Bureau Chief.

- Perform a comprehensive and timely review of materials submitted with licensing applications.

Benchmark: Review licensing materials timely and issue any deficiencies, comments, or letters within statutory timeframes.

- Conduct examinations of licensees when risk indicators are present.

Benchmark: Investigations or examinations are scheduled in a timely manner and fraud and other prohibited practices are halted quickly. Conduct new licensee assessments within 24 months of initial license issue.

Goal #3: Maintain a strong state financial services regulatory system.

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.

Benchmark: Participate in the continued development of Networked Supervision and Multistate Enforcement Protocols through regulatory associations and affiliates.

- Review statutes and rules to ensure requirements continue to be necessary.

Benchmark: Review statutes and rules annually for ways to reduce regulatory burden.

- Develop and modernize the Consumer Finance Bureau's regulatory framework to be more responsive to industry innovation.

Benchmark: Participate in a Department-wide emerging technologies committee to address modernization needs. Provide education for examiners on emerging technologies when available.

Administration Section

Goal #1: Protect consumers from financial harm through timely enforcement of financial services laws.

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

Objective: Ensure Department staff are well trained and informed of emerging issues within their area of responsibility.

Performance Measures:

- Conduct regular monitoring of bureau investigations into consumer complaints regarding violations of Idaho banking, credit union, securities, and non-depository consumer finance laws.

Benchmark: Review complaint management processes, complaint investigation assignments, and complete investigative activity within the bureaus no less than quarterly.

- Implement the use of electronic systems in the management of complaint documentation.

Benchmark: Develop and monitor systems used for complaint and investigation case management.

- Conduct regular internal staff training, utilize available external training resources, and promote self-directed training to ensure staff can address emerging issues.

Benchmark: Ensure 100% of staff has satisfied Cyber Security Awareness training requirements and that no less than 75% of staff have received training in advanced programs relative to the Department's area of supervision.

Goal #2: 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 Idahoans at all levels on personal finance basics so those principles can be incorporated into everyday lessons.

Benchmark: Sponsor or participate in financial literacy education programs as available.

- Provide education regarding fraud and financial abuse.

Benchmark: Sponsor, host, or participate in annual professional/social worker elder financial fraud prevention events and programs, if available.

- Provide speakers and consumer information to schools, senior centers, civic groups, and any other interested group to raise awareness of financial issues.

Benchmark: Maintain or increase the number of Idahoans to whom educational presentations are made each year.

- Issue press releases and investor alerts highlighting current investing topics and ways

to avoid fraud.

Benchmark: Issue at least one press release semi-annually that incorporates a financial educational component.

Goal #3: Maintain a strong state financial services regulatory system.

Objective: Actively promote the role of state supervision of financial services to provide better responsiveness to consumer needs.

Objective: Actively defend against federal preemption that results in a reduction of state authority and consumer protections.

Performance Measures:

- Actively promote policy that safeguards the financial health of Idahoans while maximizing the ability of financial services operating in Idaho to be competitive.

Benchmark: Executive staff, including the Director, Deputy Director, and bureau chiefs regularly write letters, provided testimony in legislative and Congressional settings, and meet with members of Idaho's Congressional Delegation or staff no less than annually to educate decision-makers about the negative consequences of federal preemption and overreach.

Description of Performance Benchmarks

The Department uses four general categories of benchmarks 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 percent of state-chartered credit unions [were] examined within statutory timeframes." Benchmarks of this type were selected because (1) a statute mandates a particular result, or (2) 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 us that the Department can adequately regulate all products and services under its jurisdiction.

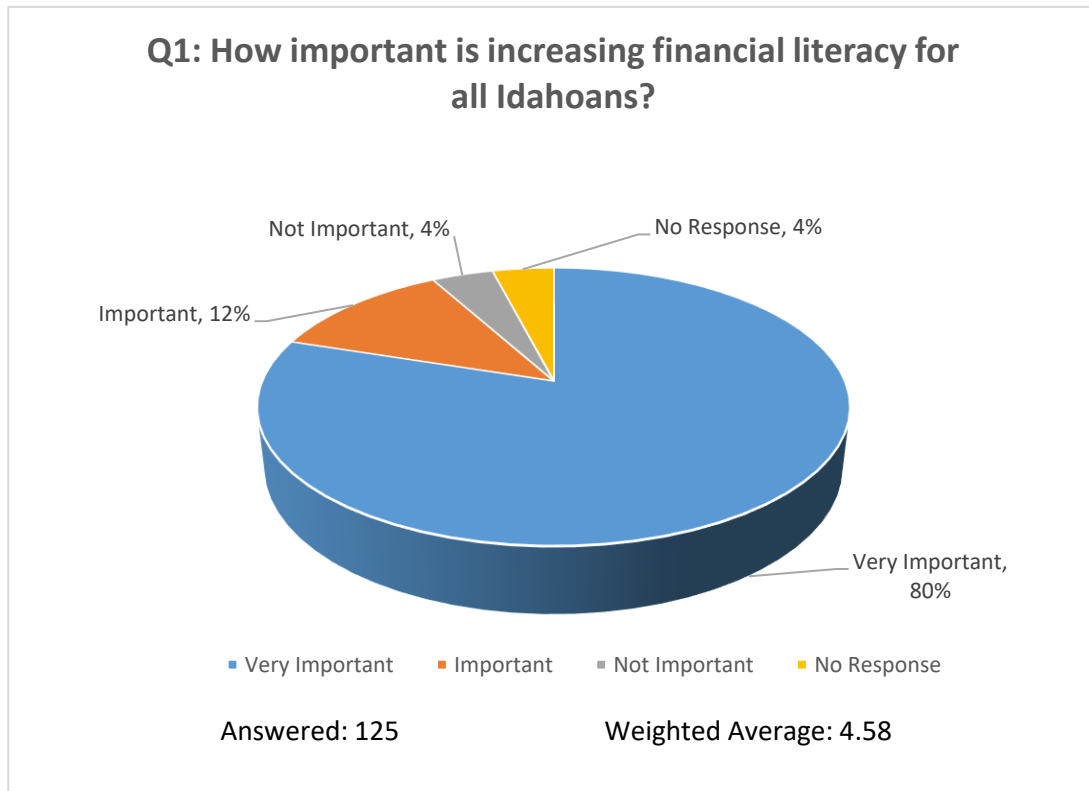
Benchmarks that require some action within a specific timeframe not mandated by statute have been determined based on the Department's own experience, the experience of other regulators and an analysis of the specific resources available to the Department. Similarly, some benchmarks will measure performance 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

2025 Idaho Department of Finance Strategic Planning Stakeholder Survey

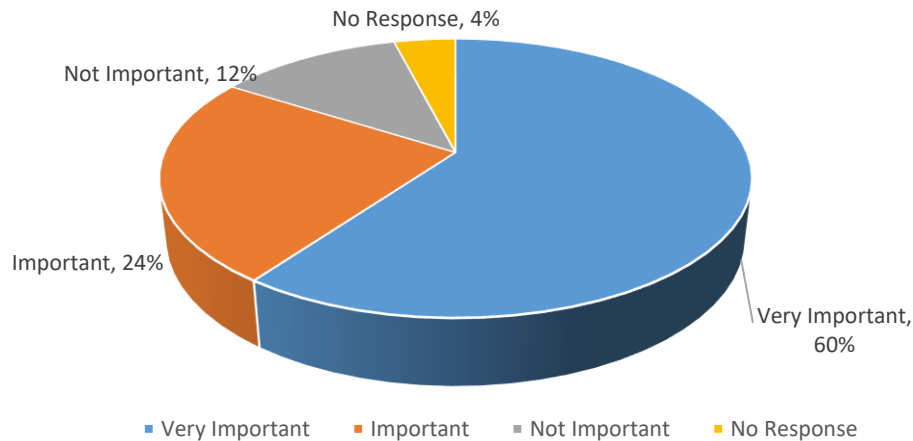
The Department conducted its last periodic Strategic Planning Survey in 2025 results. The Strategic Planning Survey, last conducted in 2025, showed over 95 percent of respondents believe recruiting and retaining knowledgeable staff is an important priority. Working toward pay parity with our federal counterparts will encourage our staff to remain with the Department rather than leaving for the federal agencies. Similarly, providing telecommuting, flexible scheduling, and other options that promote work-life balance will 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. Additionally, most survey respondents viewed various topics that aligned with the Department's goal as important. Notably, increasing financial literacy for Idahoans and adopting technology to automate supervision processes were viewed as important among respondents by 92 and 92 percent, respectively.



Q1 Comments Summary (Financial Literacy)

- Themes:** Strong emphasis on education in schools (high school/early age), protecting consumers from scams/debt, and community/economic benefits. Many noted lack of current education leads to poor decisions.
- Key Quotes:** "It's sad it's actually not taught more in depth in High School." (Multiple similar). "Financial literacy allows Idahoans to make better decisions that will affect their lives and prevent them from being unfairly taken advantage of." "Requirement for HS Graduation perhaps..."
- Overall:** 85 comments; highly positive, with calls for school programs and resources.

Q2: How important is maintaining a state regulatory system for depository and non-depository financial services and avoiding federal preemption over state authority?

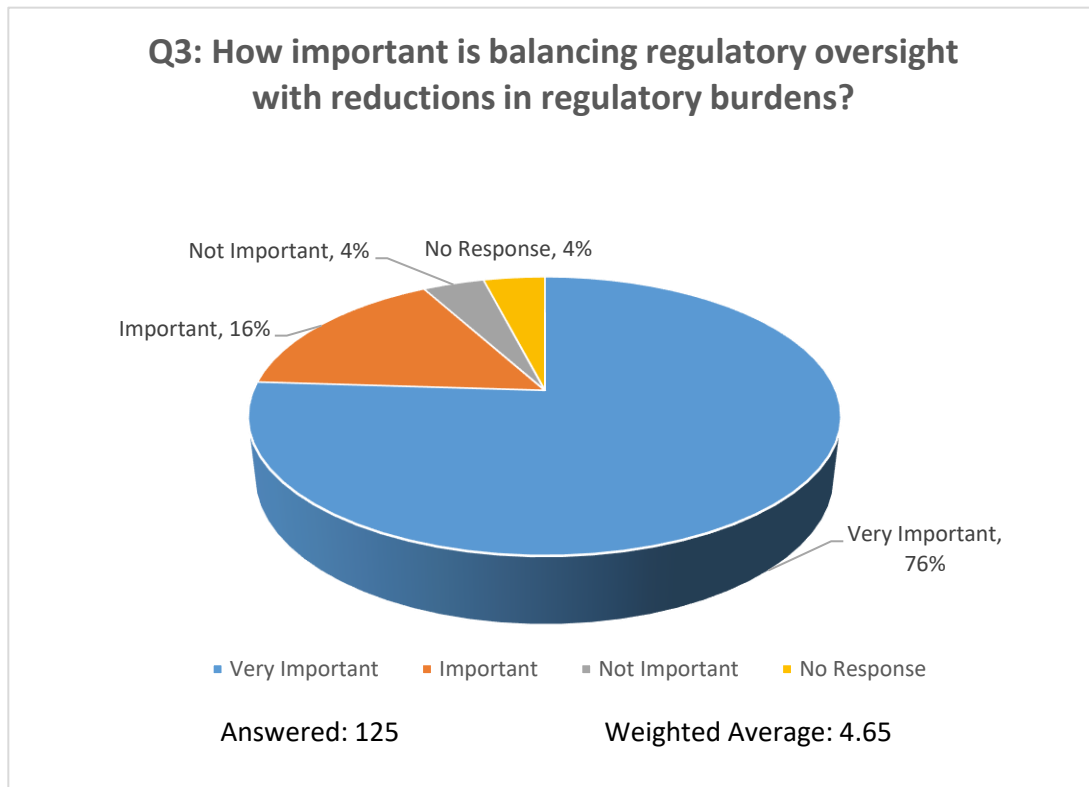


Answered: 125

Weighted Average: 4.19

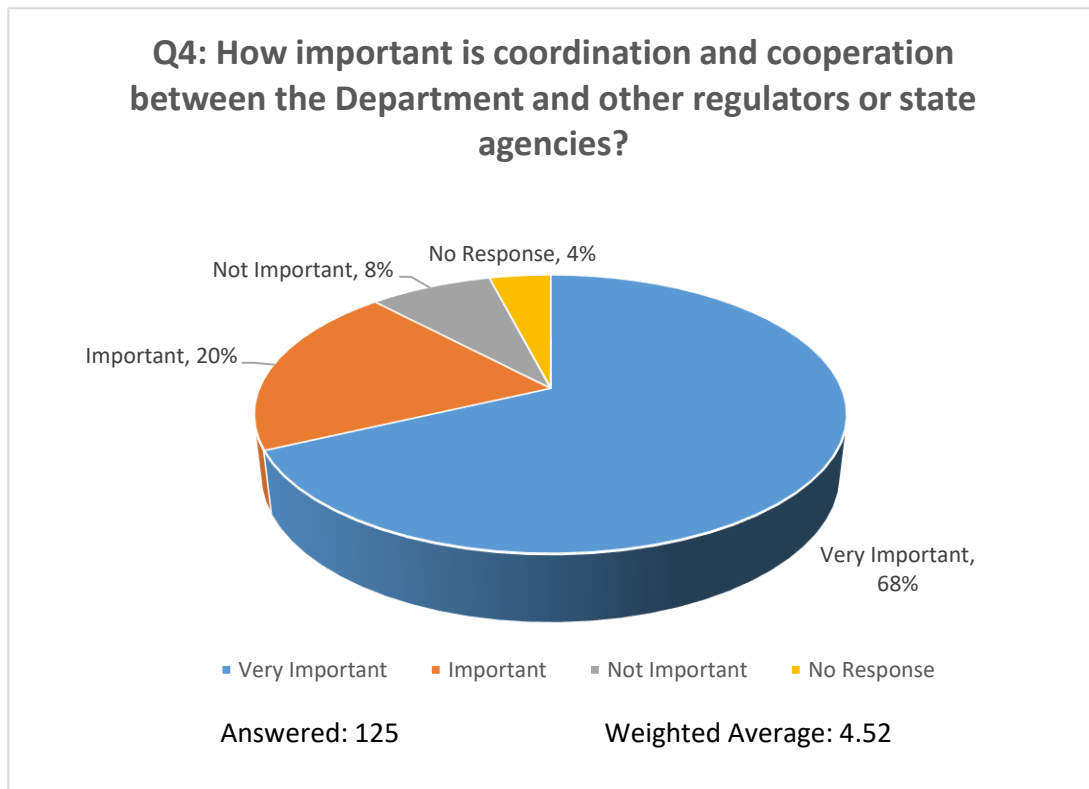
Q2 Comments Summary (State Regulatory System/Avoiding Preemption)

- **Themes:** Preference for local/state control over federal (better responsiveness), concern about overregulation/federal overreach, but need for consistency to protect consumers.
- **Key Quotes:** "States should have more authority than the federal government." "Local knowledge!" "Federal preemption prevents individual states from creating environments where financial institutions are mistreated."
- **Overall:** 65 comments; balanced, with 60% favoring state authority for customization.



Q3 Comments Summary (Balancing Oversight and Burdens)

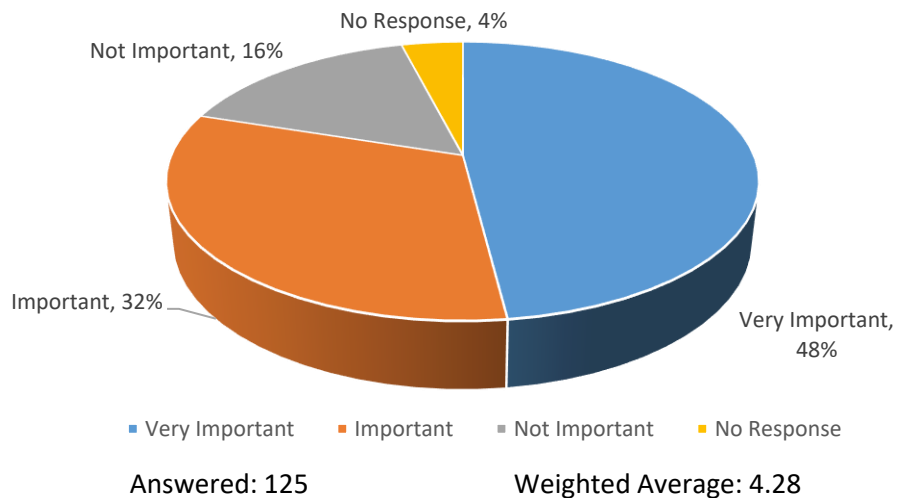
- **Themes:** Need for balance to avoid stifling business/innovation, reduce costs passed to consumers, focus on risk-based regulation; criticism of excessive/duplicative rules.
- **Key Quotes:** "Reducing regulatory burdens should be the primary goal." "Over regulating slows business." "Balance is key. All regulations should be designed to balance with the needs of the consumers."
- **Overall:** 70 comments; 75% stressed reducing burdens without losing protection.



Q4 Comments Summary (Coordination Between Departments/Agencies)

- Themes:** Improves efficiency/consistency, reduces duplication/burden on businesses, essential for multi-state operations; some skepticism about over-coordination leading to more rules.
- Key Quotes:** "Coordination between state regulators will ensure a more streamlined and efficient process." "States design their laws and statutes largely based on the culture of the businesses in the state."
- Overall:** 55 comments; positive on efficiency but calls for uniformity.

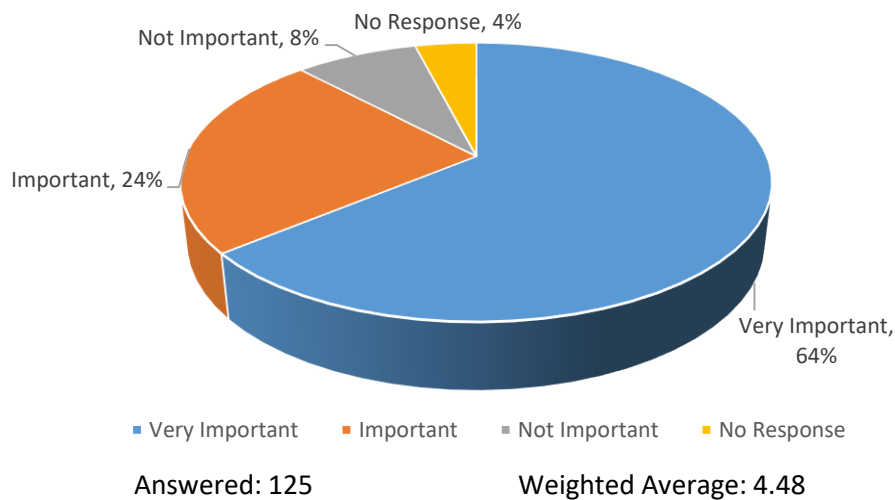
Q5: How important is it for the Department to obtain or retain national accreditation for the purpose of participating in coordinated supervision of depository and non-depository financial institutions?



Q5 Comments Summary (National Accreditation)

- **Themes:** Builds credibility/trust, enables collaboration, but costly/unnecessary for small states; mixed views on value vs. burden.
- **Key Quotes:** "It's how those we regulate know we meet stringent requirements." "Idaho is not a populous state; accreditation is very expensive."
- **Overall:** 40 comments; more divided, with 50% seeing it as important for standards.

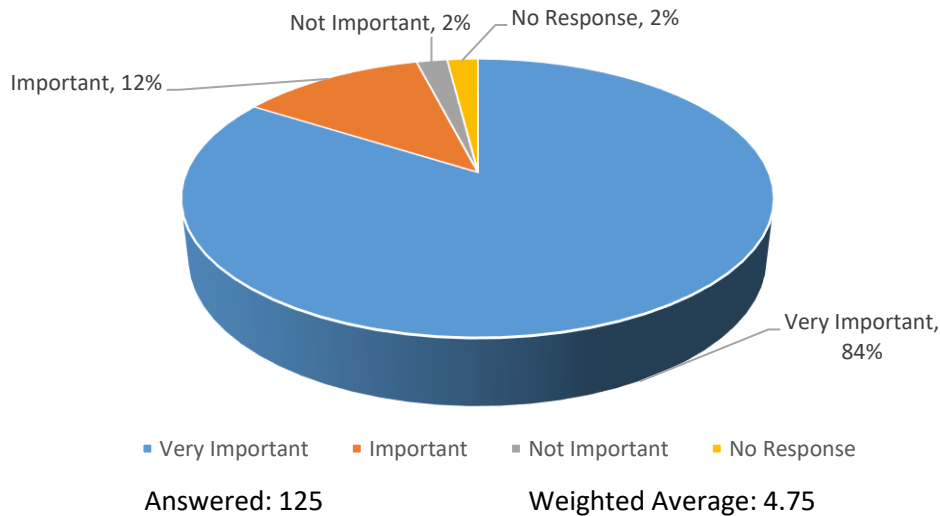
Q6: How important is the appropriate allocation of staff to the supervision of various types financial institutions and the emergence of new technologies used in financial services?



Q6 Comments Summary (Staff Allocation for Institutions/Tech)

- **Themes:** Need for specialized/experienced staff for emerging tech/risks, balance resources without overstaffing; focus on efficiency.
- **Key Quotes:** "Staff should be experienced in the industry they are auditing." "Appropriate allocation of staff is critical."
- **Overall:** 50 comments; emphasis on expertise in tech.

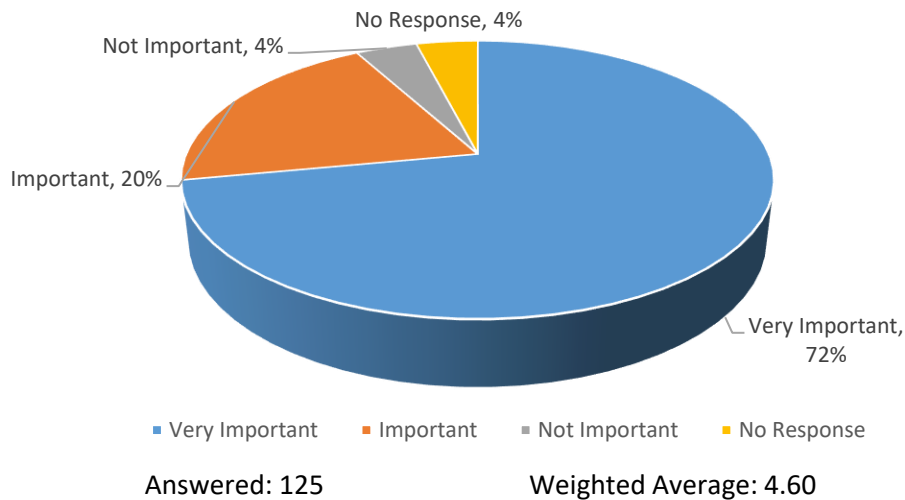
Q7: How important is the Department's retention, recruitment, training and certification of professional staff?



Q7 Comments Summary (Staff Retention/Recruitment/Training)

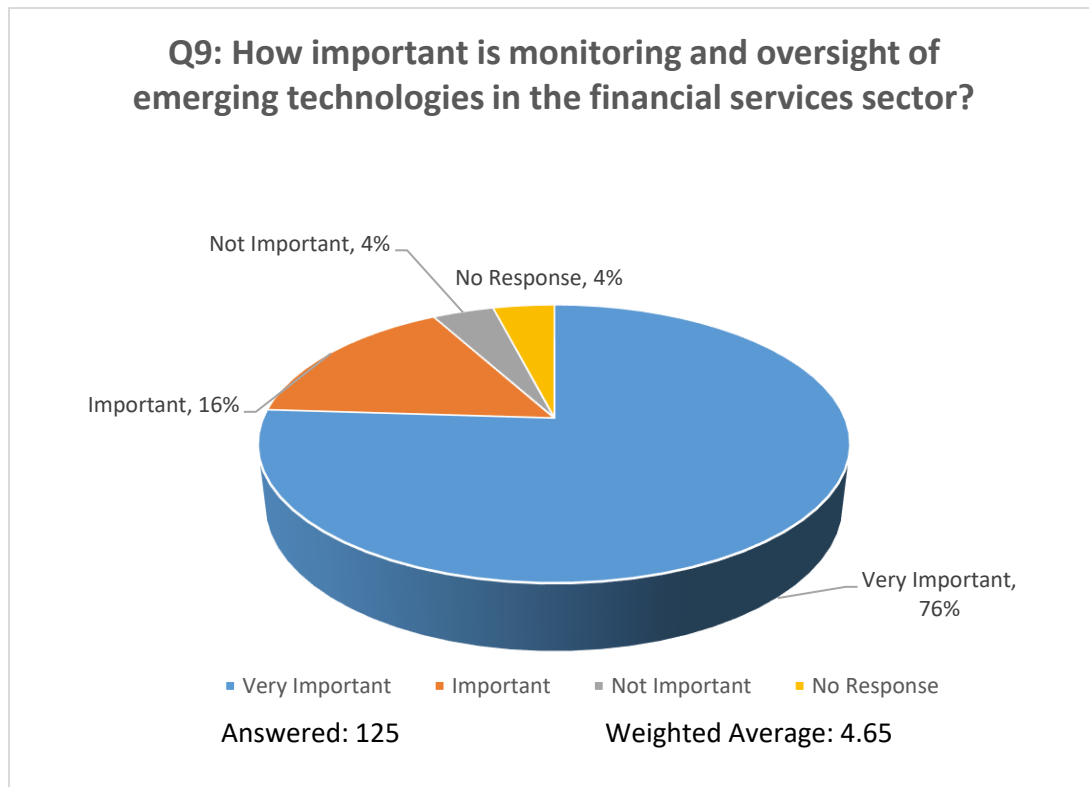
- **Themes:** Critical for consistency/expertise, attract talent with competitive pay/benefits; training keeps up with changes.
- **Key Quotes:** "Retention of key employee is critical." "The strength and credibility of a financial regulatory department depends fundamentally on the quality."
- **Overall:** 60 comments; highest consensus on importance.

Q8: How important is the adoption of technology, such as automated reporting, examination systems, and licensing systems, in the supervision of financial services?



Q8 Comments Summary (Adoption of Technology in Supervision)

- **Themes:** Improves efficiency/reduces burdens but must be user-friendly/secure; concerns about cost/cyber risks.
- **Key Quotes:** "Technology is the future." "Be careful here. With technology comes greater cyber risk."
- **Overall:** 45 comments; positive but cautious.



Q9 Comments Summary (Monitoring Emerging Tech)

- **Themes:** Essential for risk management/innovation, prevent scams; stay ahead without stifling growth.
- **Key Quotes:** "Emerging technologies are reshaping the financial landscape." "Without ongoing monitoring, these issues remain unnoticed."
- **Overall:** 50 comments; strong support for proactive oversight.