

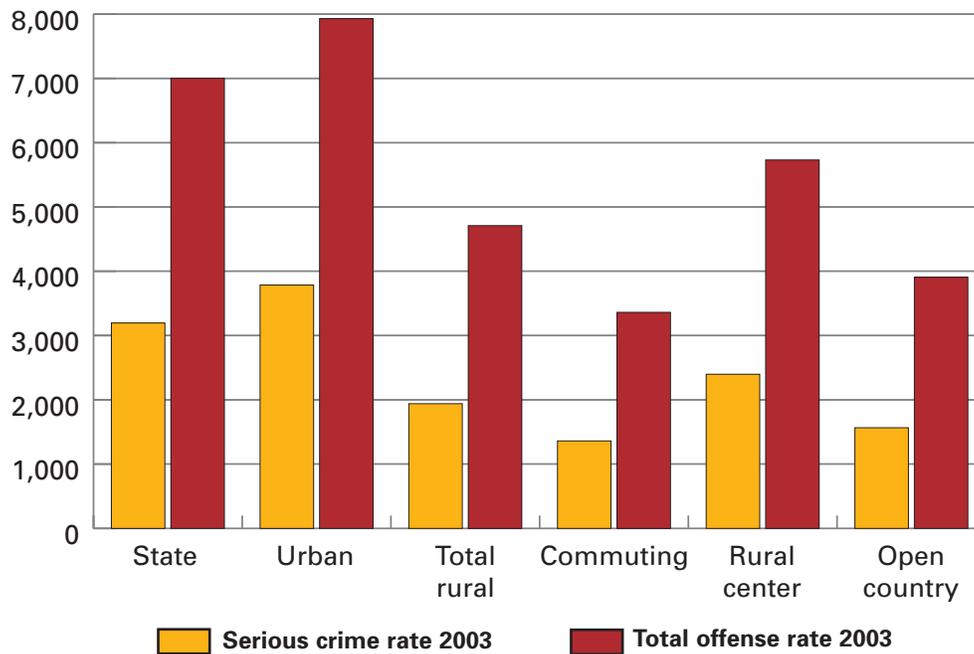
## QUALITY OF LIFE

Idaho has over 80 mountain ranges, large tracts of federally managed land and great geographic diversity. But that has not denied relatively isolated rural areas a rich cultural tradition. The majority of the state's museums are located in rural communities providing information on Idaho's history, geology, industry and people—settlers and American Indians alike. Communities such as Montpelier, Salmon, Glenns Ferry, Challis, Sandpoint and Weippe have recognized that what makes them unique culturally and historically can make their town more vibrant. The arts, entertainment and recreation industries in Idaho communities large and small are creating a higher quality of life that can help attract an excellent and skilled workforce in other industries.

The rugged beauty of rural Idaho offers a variety of incredible outdoor recreation opportunities. World famous whitewater, fishing and big game hunting, skiing, hiking and rock climbing opportunities abound. Easy public access to thousands of areas of unique natural beauty is part of daily life in rural Idaho.

Idaho has the lowest serious crime rate of the 13 western states. Feeling safer in a rural area is more than a perception because the crime rate is 39 percent lower than the already low statewide average. Peace of mind and a sense of community add immeasurably to everyday activities.

**Crime rate per 100,000 population**



There are other advantages. Idaho has the fifth highest home ownership rate in the country. The average commute times to work are much shorter than in more urban western states. The major energy sources are clean, and the air and water quality is high. Idaho has a balanced four-season climate, and extreme storms are rare.