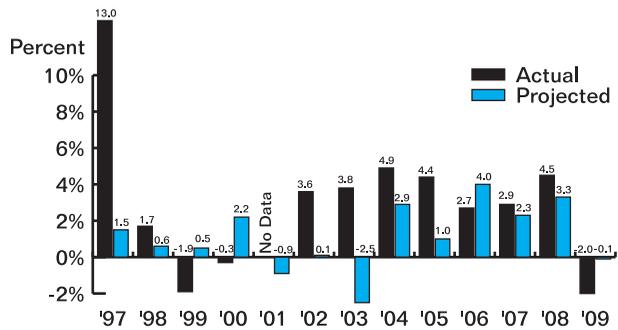


Butte-Silver Bow County

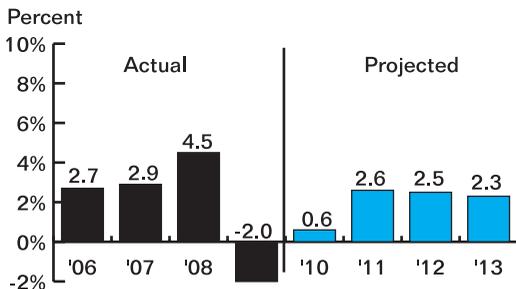
The continued worldwide energy/commodity boom appeared at first to insulate the Butte economy from the current recession. The 4.5 percent growth in 2008 was the highest among Montana's major urban areas. The figures for late-2008 indicated a distinct softening, and the preliminary data for 2009 show an overall decline. The final numbers are not yet in, but there appears to have been declines in mining, transportation (mostly trucking), real estate, construction, and retail trade. Our forecast assumes that the Montana Resources mine remains open and operating at about current levels, but that employee bonuses reflect changes in the price of copper. The trade center components of Butte's economic base (retail trade and services) continue to grow, reflecting the city's development as a regional trade and service center.

Figure 1
Actual and Projected Percent Change in Nonfarm Labor Income, Silver Bow County, 1997-2009



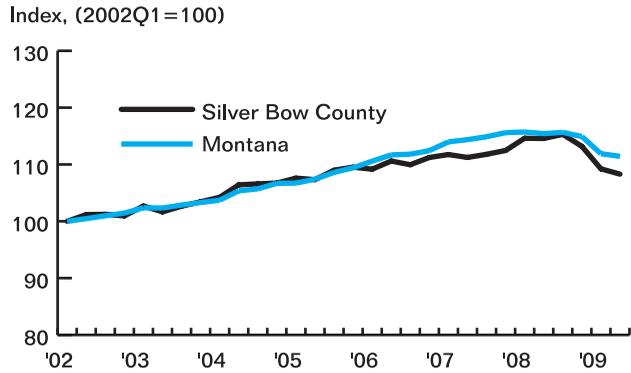
Sources: Bureau of Business and Economic Research, The University of Montana; Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Figure 2
Actual and Projected Percent Change in Nonfarm Labor Income, Silver Bow County, 2006-2013



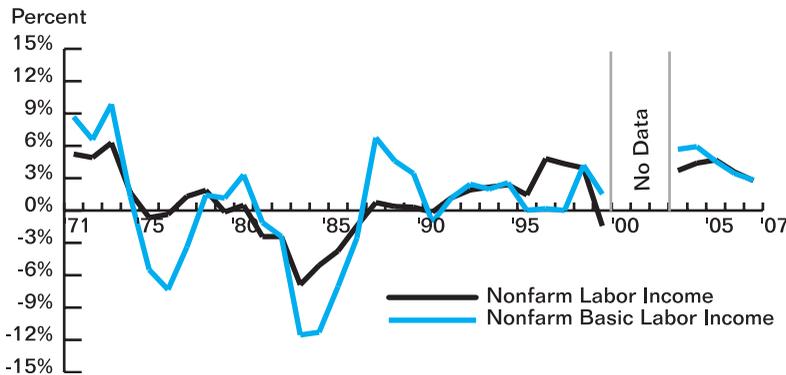
Sources: Bureau of Business and Economic Research, The University of Montana; Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Figure 3
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment, Montana & Silver Bow County, 2002 Q1 to 2009 Q2



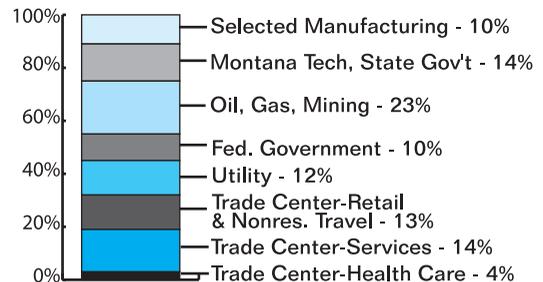
Note: Data seasonally adjusted by BBER. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

Figure 4
Nonfarm Labor Income and Nonfarm Basic Labor Income, Silver Bow County, Percent Change, 1971-2007 (In Constant Dollars)



Note: 1971-1999 are three-year averages. 2002-2007 are two-year averages. Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Figure 5
Labor Income in Basic Industries, Silver Bow County, 2007-2009 (Percent of Total)



Sources: Bureau of Business and Economic Research, The University of Montana; Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce.