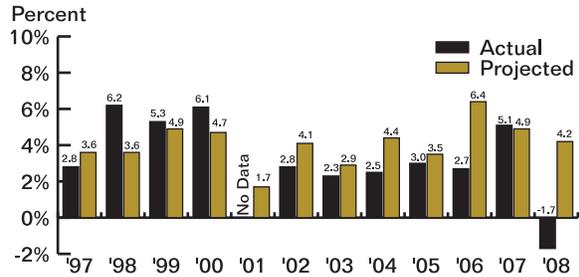


Missoula County

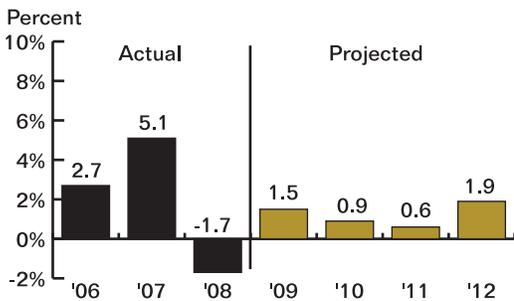
The economic slowdown began earlier in Missoula than in other counties and is likely to last longer. The shutdown of the Stimson plywood plant in mid-2007 blunted the positive impacts of the Direct TV call center opening. The delayed impacts of the plywood plant closure, combined with the further closing of the Stimson sawmill and other events, led to the small decline in Missoula's economy during 2008. The bad news was not confined to wood products. Missoula continues as the dominant trade and service center in western Montana, but the opening of chain stores and other establishments in nearby communities has meant that retail trade is no longer a significant contributor to Missoula's economic growth. Even health care and professional services are not growing at their historic rates. Missoula is the only Montana metro area to experience house price declines (Page 7, Table 1). Wood products jobs will not return, and the outcome of the competition with other communities is uncertain. Missoula's economy is projected to grow about 1 to 2 percent per year, well below 2 to 3 percent between 2002 and 2005.

Figure 1
Actual and Projected Percent Change in Nonfarm Labor Income, Missoula County, 1997-2008



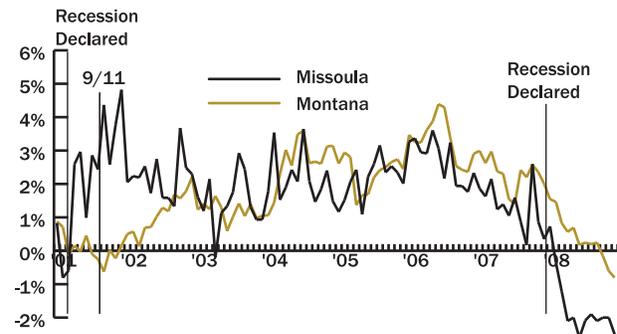
Sources: Bureau of Business and Economic Research, The University of Montana-Missoula; Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Figure 2
Actual and Projected Percent Change in Nonfarm Labor Income, Missoula County, 2006-2012



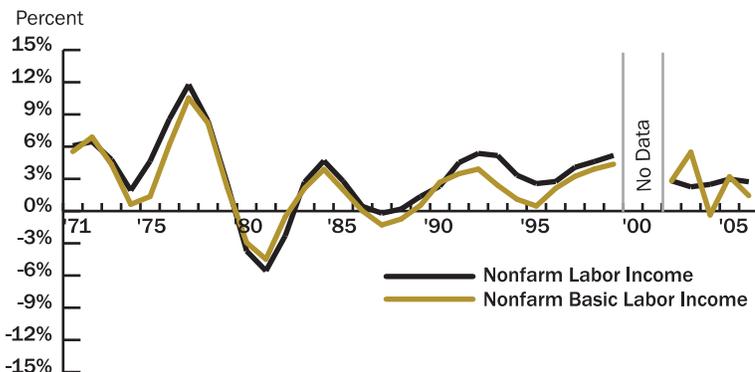
Sources: Bureau of Business and Economic Research, The University of Montana-Missoula; Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Figure 3
Annual Percent Change in Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment, January 2001 to November 2008



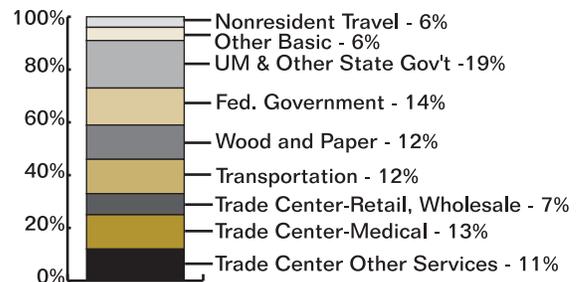
Source: Research and Analysis Bureau, Montana Department of Labor and Industry.

Figure 4
Nonfarm Labor Income and Nonfarm Basic Labor Income, Missoula County, Percent Change, [in constant dollars]



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

Figure 5
Labor Income in Basic Industries, Missoula County, 2006-2008 [percent of total]



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