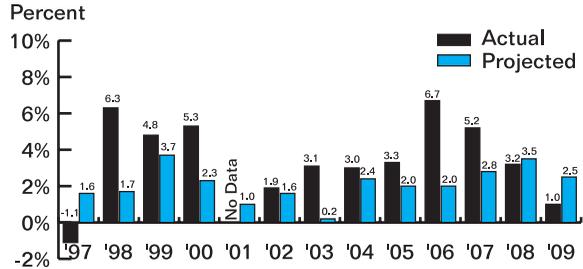


Lewis and Clark County

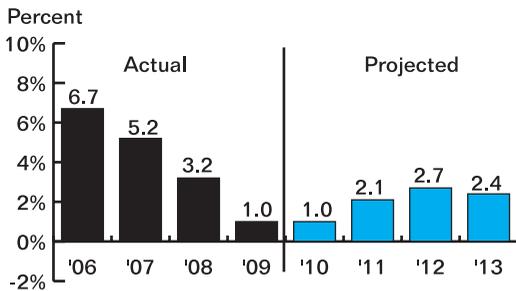
The Helena economy will not totally escape the impacts of the current recession despite it being a “recession proof” government town. The preliminary 2009 data show significant weakness in real estate, construction, and retail trade. Overall, growth in 2009 will be slightly positive. State and federal government workers account for more than 65 percent of the economic base in Lewis and Clark County, and government employment is traditionally less cyclic. The major recession impact will be a state government pay freeze, which will reduce growth rates in 2009, 2010, and 2011. If past trends repeat, there may be accelerated growth in 2012 and later as “catch-up” raises are approved.

Figure 1
Actual and Projected Percent Change in Nonfarm Labor Income, Lewis & Clark County, 1997-2009



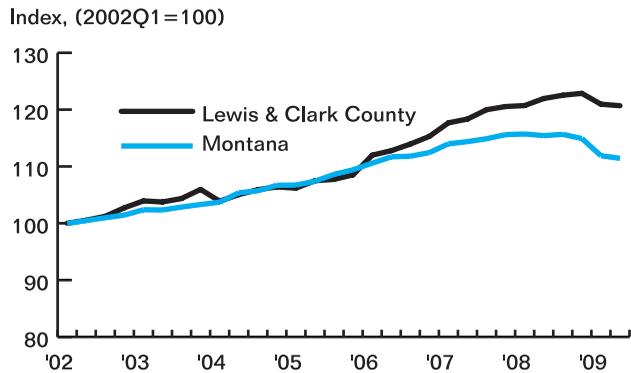
Sources: Bureau of Business and Economic Research, The University of Montana; Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Figure 2
Actual and Projected Percent Change in Nonfarm Labor Income, Lewis & Clark County, 2006-2013



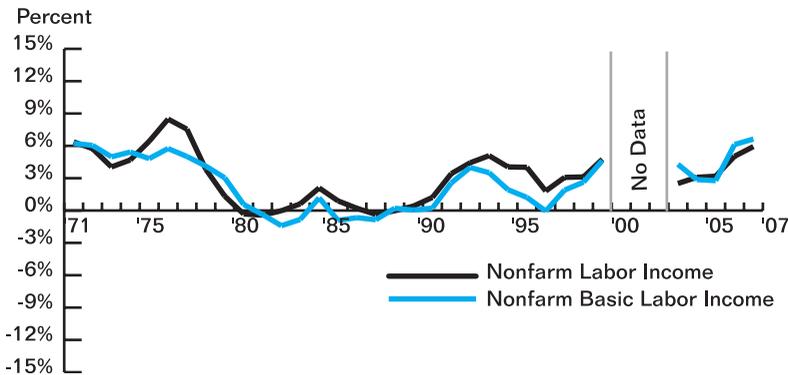
Sources: Bureau of Business and Economic Research, The University of Montana; Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce.

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



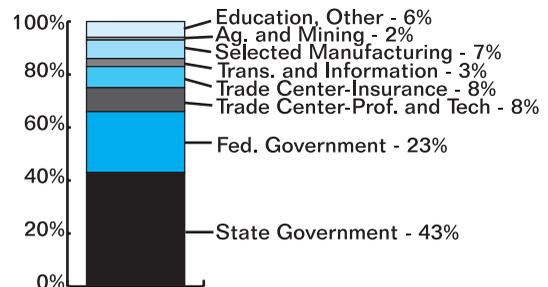
Note: Data seasonally adjusted by BBER. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

Figure 4
Nonfarm Labor Income and Nonfarm Basic Labor Income, Lewis & Clark 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, Lewis & Clark 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.