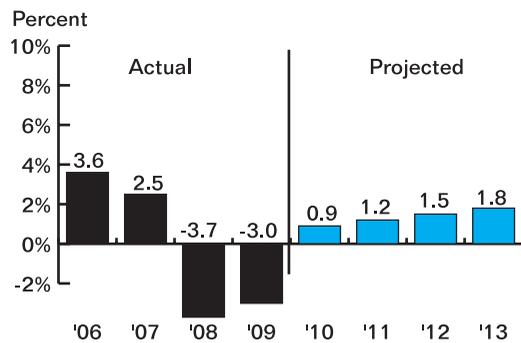


Ravalli County

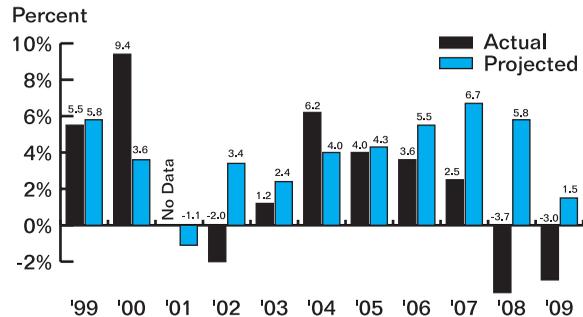
The real estate and construction bubble was not as prominent in Ravalli County as in Gallatin and Flathead counties. Nevertheless, when it burst it was with a bang. Nonfarm labor income turned negative in 2008, and the preliminary data suggest the declines continued in 2009. By mid-2009, Ravalli County construction employment was down by 40 percent (or more than 400 workers) from its peak in 2006 and 2007. In addition, the doldrums in the U.S. housing market significantly impacted the local wood products industry, especially the log home manufacturers who were producing for the high-end market. In addition, the slowdown in nearby Missoula also contributed because of the large number of workers who live in Ravalli County but commute to jobs across the county line. The slight positive growth forecast for 2010 may be too optimistic. The one bright spot is that Hamilton continues to evolve into a regional trade and service center, with the presence of major retailers and growth in selected services.

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



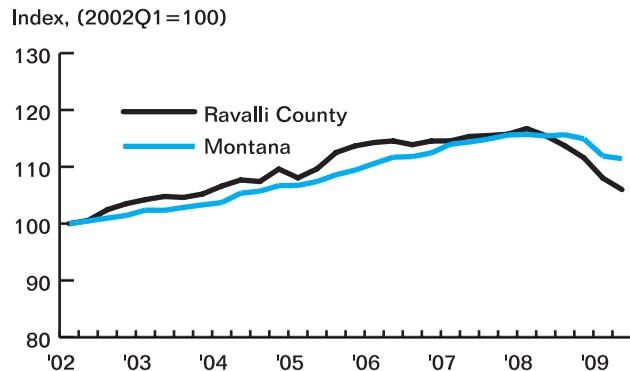
Sources: Bureau of Business and Economic Research, The University of Montana; Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Figure 1
Actual and Projected Percent Change in Nonfarm Labor Income, Ravalli County, 1999-2009



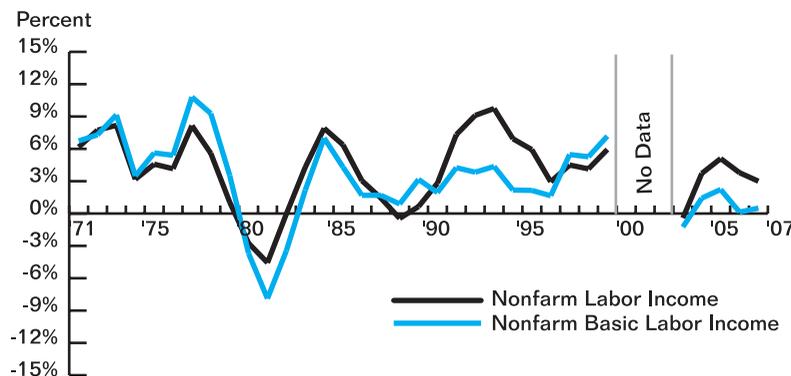
Sources: Bureau of Business and Economic Research, The University of Montana; Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce.

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



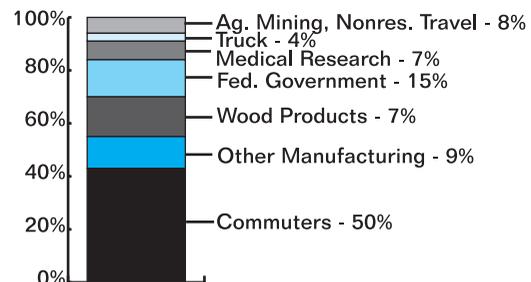
Note: Data seasonally adjusted by BBER. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

Figure 4
Nonfarm Labor Income and Nonfarm Basic Labor Income, Ravalli 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, Ravalli 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.