

HELENA BUSINESS CLIMATE 6-YEAR TREND REPORT From 2006 through Dec. 2011

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(updated January, 2012)



HELENA - Your Montana Capital City!

- ❖ Historically Most Stable Economy Of The Larger Cities In Montana
- ❖ Higher Median Income Levels
- ❖ Many corporate offices located here
- ❖ 41% of Local Economy is State Govt. Jobs
(62% if add in Fed/Local Govt.)



FACTS TO REMEMBER....

- 82% of L&C County's population lives in the Greater Helena Area
- Helena's share of Lewis & Clark County's employment & income is close to 90%



HOW DO WE MEASURE UP?



Policom Ranking:

OF 577 cities across the nation:

2006: Helena ranked 7th

2007: Helena ranked 23rd

2008: Helena ranked 13th

2009: Helena ranked 9th

2010: Helena ranked 6th

2011: Helena ranked 2nd!!!!

“Economic strength is the long term tendency for an area to consistently grow in both size and quality.”



Employment in Helena Area...

(unemployment rates)

Dec 2006: 2.6%

Dec. 2007: 1.9%

DEC. 2008 4.0%

DEC. 2009 4.6%

DEC. 2010 5.1%

DEC. 2011 5.2%

(Mt. 6.9%)



EMPLOYMENT: Median Wages

Our Facts Your Future (MT.GOV):

HELENA - \$34,467 (median)
\$37,791 (average)
\$38,243 (per capita income)
(highest micropolitan city in MT)



EDUCATION OF WORKFORCE

- In Lewis and Clark County:
 - 25.4% have some college
 - 5.1% have Associate Degree
 - 2.7% have Professional Degree
 - 21.3% have Bachelor's Degree
 - 6.9% have Master's Degree
 - .8% have Doctorate Degree



COST OF LIVING INDEX

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Overall Index =	100%	100%
Food -	112%	108%
Utilities -	94%	92%
Other -	104%	100%

**info from www.BestPlaces.net (Overall UP FROM 93.6 in 2009...)*



ATTRACTIVE TO RETIREES?

- July - 2009

USA Weekend named Helena #1 of the top five places for young retirees (55-60 years old)

Based on: recreation, weather, health resources, crime, and cost of living)



BUSINESS FACTS...

- 78% of all businesses in the Helena Area have 10 or less employees
- There are now approx. 3500 businesses in the entire Helena Valley
- 3000+ Jeff. Co. & 600+ Broadwater County workers travel to Helena to work each day.



Interesting fact:

Helena has the largest population within a 90 minute drive of any city in Montana

226,000 people

(doesn't include Missoula.....10 minutes further away..!)

*From 2005 study done w/Travel Montana,
MDT & Mt. Aeronautics Division*



Residential Permits

- RESIDENTIAL - City of Helena

- 2006 - 241 permits = \$36.5 million
- 2007 - 216 permits = \$31.2 million
- 2008 - 184 permits = \$21.0 million
- 2009 - 226 permits = \$21.5 million
- 2010 - 244 permits = \$29.2 million

2011 - 211 permits = \$26.5 million

- PLUS 198 Septic Permits in valley outside city limits..... (comp. to 332 in '10, 284 -"09 & 08..... & 426 - '07)



HOME PERMIT INFO:

- Of 211 permits = 80 total new residences
- Of the 80 = 51 were spec homes (not owned when permitted) ½ under \$200,000.
- Plus 21 multi-family residences
- Homes: 29 private all but 3 were over \$200,000 - of the upper half - 4 were \$400,000 plus one home was over \$700,000.



Average Home Prices

2006 - \$205,430

2007 - \$225,000

2008 - \$224,888

2009 - \$211,822

2010 - \$213,705

2011 - \$208,486.

(Helena Assoc. of Realtors)



Commercial Building permits

- 2006 - 179 permits - \$59.1 million
- 2007 - 187 permits - \$44.9 million
- 2008 - 175 permits - \$59.8 million
- 2009 - 196 permits - \$64.8 million
- 2010 - 231 permits - \$53.7 million
- 2011 - 215 permits - \$42.0 million



Largest Projects in 2011

Capital City Health Club - 5.22 million

Browning, Kalyacec, Berry, Hoven - 5.11 Million

First Interstate Bank - 5.04 million

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church 3.6 Million

Rencher, Helena Eye, Pediatric Dentistry
Building - 2.79 million

City of Helena Transit Bldg. - \$2.5 million

Rocky Mtn. Church of Christ 1.29 million

St. Peters Hosp. 2.6 million (4 projects)



ALSO:

Yesco - 1.1 million

Alpine Animal Hospital \$700,000

State Warehouse 560,000

Boeing - \$500,000

MacDonalds - \$500,000

UM Helena Airport Project \$500,000.



Other Notables:

2 roof projects for School Dist. \$900,000.

Nicholson - GN Project \$424,000.

Maurices - \$432,000.00

Expansion of J4 Automotive (E. Helena)



Helena Regional Airport

2011 Stats:

Boardings were up 5% in 2011 after
being up 8% in 2010

TOTAL: RECORD YEAR!!! 203,000
(over 100,000 each off and on!)

*Equates to more car rentals and more
parking fees collected!*



Helena Regional Airport (2)

- Gulf Stream (Billings to Helena) decision next month. (1-2X per day)
- About to bid out 2nd TSA Checkpoint
- \$200,000 remodel of Small Fire Station
- \$2.3 million Ramp rehabilitation & de-Ice pad
- Approved for 1 million grant for Semi truck, mobile helicopter, car, haz-mat, structural, and tanker fire training trailers.
- 2 new snow plows



COMING.....

- Anderson Stevenson Wilke Funeral Home
- Town Pump in front of Lowes with Casino
- Helena Community Credit Union
- Possible restaurant near Residence Inn
- Possible new Kia dealership near Costco



MORE COMING:

- Office/retail building on N.Montana where Circus Theatre Bldg. was.
- Engineering Co. Building expansion on Euclid
- LONG AWAITED CUSTER INTERCHANGE PROJECT - to be completed by fall. 40-50 million????
- Possible 60-80 unit Housing Development - 2000 sq. ft. all amenities - Some higher rentals - some Condo-ownership



CHAMBER REQUESTS

Relocation Packets

- ❖ 2500 last year

Tourist Packets

- ❖ Distribute over 30,000 per year



It's **STILL** *great* to live
in Montana's Capital City!



CREDITS.....

- City of Helena Planning Office
- L & C County Planning Office
- Ron Mercer, Helena Airport
- Helena Association of Realtors
- Ourfactsyourfuture.org
- Bestplaces.net
- www.policom.com
- US Census 2000
- Helena Area Chamber of Commerce



The Helena Area Chamber of Commerce

YOUR BUSINESS ADVOCATE

