



HELENA

Area Chamber of Commerce

**HELENA BUSINESS
CLIMATE
5-YEAR TREND REPORT
From 2015 through Dec.
2019**

*Cathy Burwell, President/CEO
(updated January, 2020)*



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HELENA FACTS-

- ❖ Historically Most Stable Economy Of The Larger Cities In Montana
- ❖ Higher Median Income Levels
- ❖ 60% of workforce is connected to State government positions.



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MORE 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%
- ▶ As of Dec. 2019 Lewis and Clark county had a total of 34,596 employed in our Labor Force up 494 from last year; resulting in approx. 738 unemployed. 3% unemployment



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Helena and Surrounding Area Trends



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Policom Ranking for Economic Strength.....

Of 550 cities across the nation under 50,000 People

2012 - 2013: Helena ranked 2nd!!!!

2014: Helena ranked 3rd!!!

2015: Helena ranked 14th (ND oil towns....!)

2016: Helena ranks 8th (back in top 10)

2017 - 38th

2018 - 54th

2019 - 49th

2020 - 24th Top 5% of 550

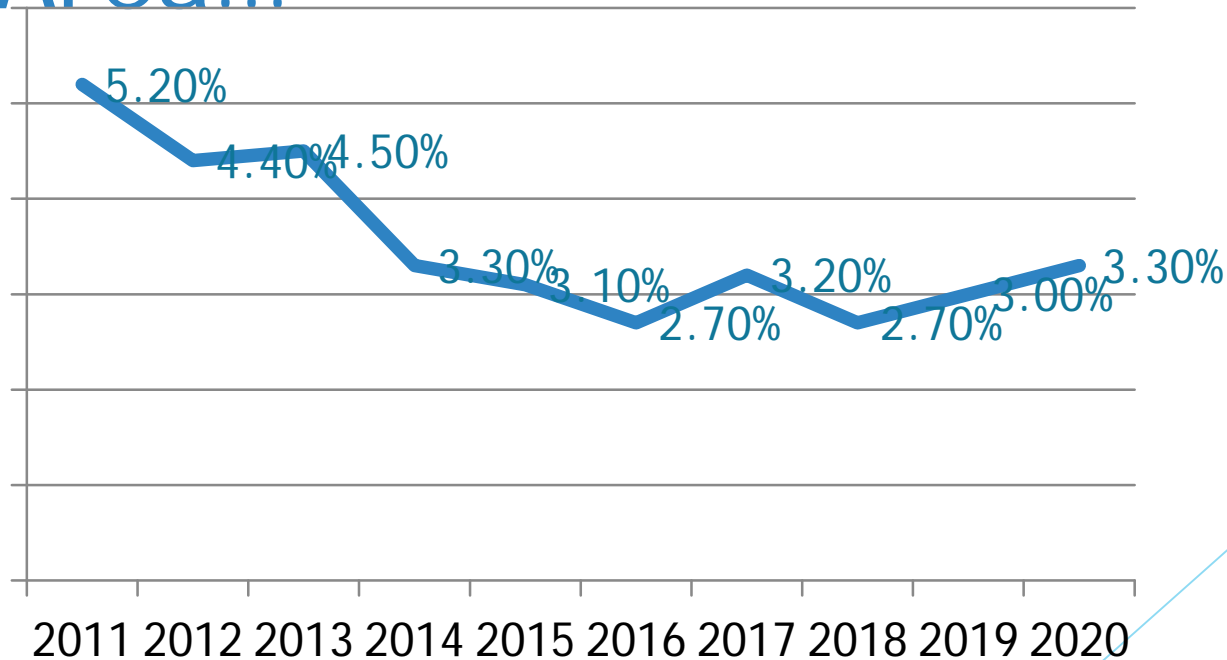
“Economic strength is the long term tendency for an area to consistently grow in both size and quality.”

Helena has been in the top rankings since 2010



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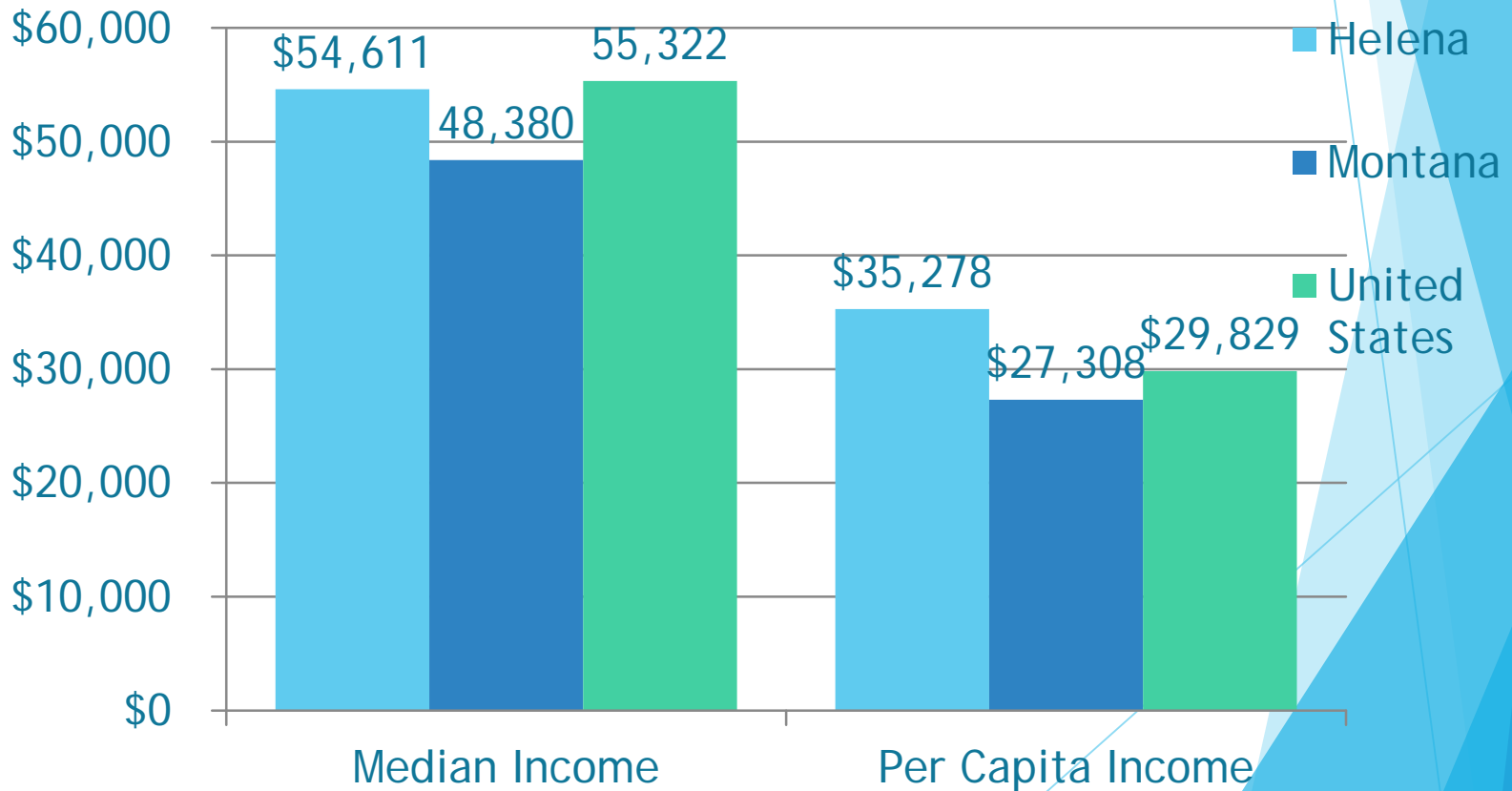
Employment in Helena Area...





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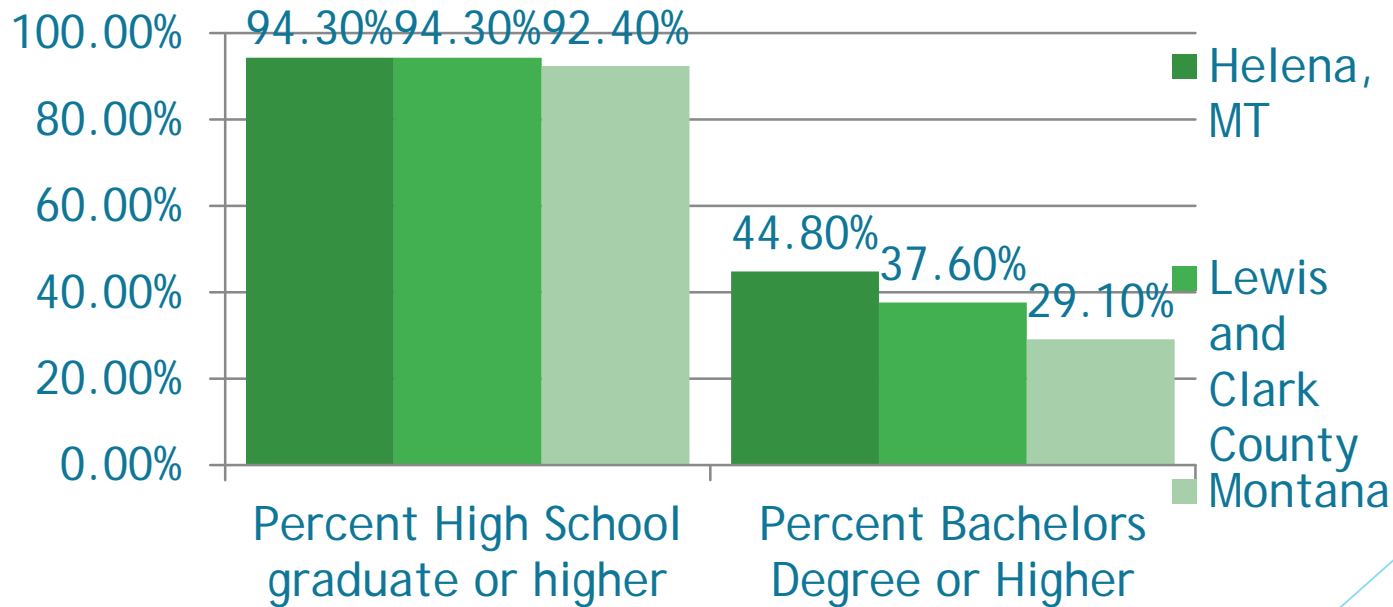
Income Comparisons





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Education Rates (Lewis and Clark County)

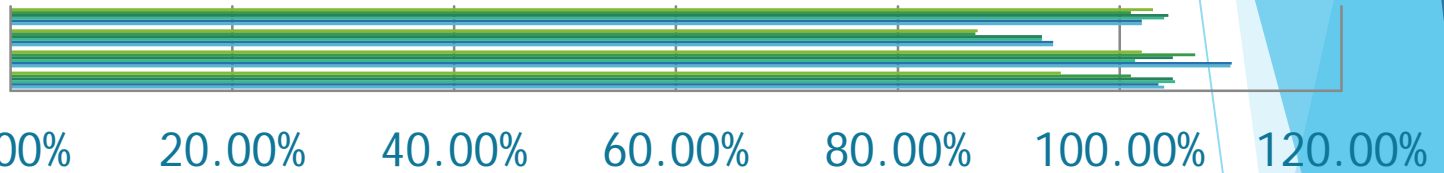




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COST OF LIVING INDEX



	Overall Index	Food	Utilities	Other
■ 2019	94.70%	102.00%	87.20%	103.00%
■ 2018	101.00%	106.80%	87.00%	101.00%
■ 2017	104.80%	104.80%	93.00%	104.40%
■ 2016	105.00%	101.40%	93.00%	104.00%
■ 2015	103.50%	110.10%	94.00%	102.00%
■ 2014	104.00%	110.00%	94.00%	102.00%

*Based on US cost of living average of 100. Above 100 is more expensive and below 100 is less expensive than US average

*info from www.BestPlaces.net BOZEMAN 118.5%, Montana Overall - 94%



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BUSINESS FACTS...

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



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Residential Permits

▶ RESIDENTIAL - City of Helena

- ▶ 2015 - 301 permits = \$33.3 million
- ▶ 2016 - 217 permits = \$94.8 million
- ▶ 2017 - 232 permits = \$28.9 million
- ▶ 2018 - 364 permits = \$43.65 million
- ▶ **2019 - 316 permits = \$42.3 million**

PLUS 181 permits for new septic systems in the valley
outside city limits

**HOUSING STARTS IN CITY OF HELENA: 64 per
MBIA**



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CITY: HOME PERMIT INFO

- ▶ Of 316 Residential permits = 64 total new residences Single Family Dwellings (within city limits)

Home Cost Analysis:

- ▶ 31 - under \$200,000
- ▶ 19 - \$200,000 - \$350,000
- ▶ 8 - \$350,001 - \$499,000
- ▶ 4 - \$500,001 - \$1 million



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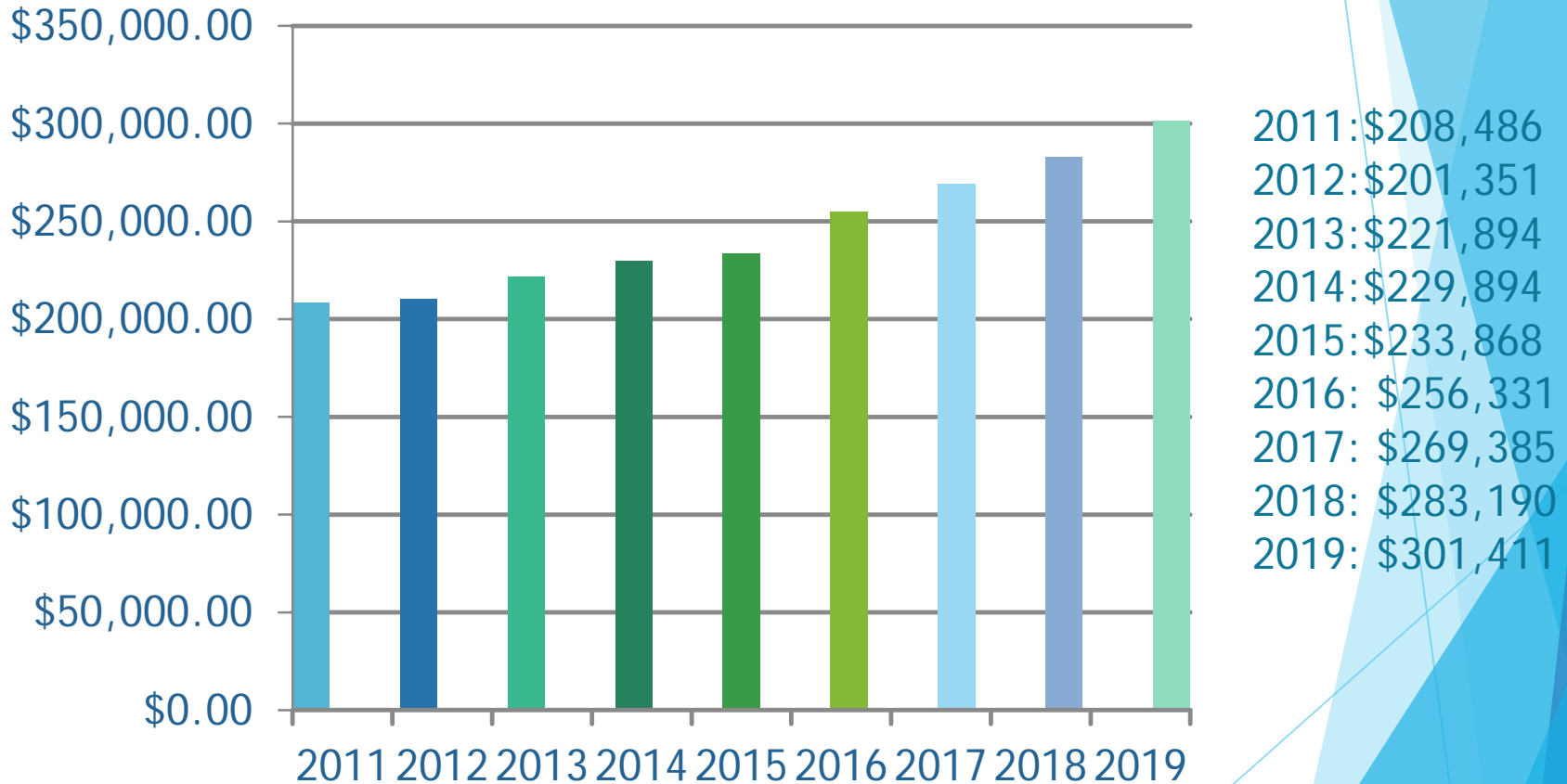
MORE Residential

- Of 316 Residential permits =
46 new multi-family
Dwellings (within city limits)
(duplexes, tri-plexes, four-plex, etc.)



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Average Home Sale Prices



* **_796_** homes sold in 2019 -
Ave D.O.M. - 53 (comp. to 94 in '18)



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Housing Starts

Lewis and Clark County: Housing Starts:

2013 - 257	- Up 28.9%
2014 - 203	- Down 21%
2015 - 182	- Down 10%
2016 - 212	- up 16.5%
2017 - 225	- up 6.1%
2018 - 183	- down
2019 - 208	- up 13.5% (note down 23% over 2013)

FROM : Mt. Building Industry Association



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Commercial Building permits in the City

- ▶ 2014 - 229 permits - 49.3 million
- ▶ 2015 - 261 permits - 68.9 mill
- ▶ 2016 - 217 permits - 67.2 mill
- ▶ 2017 - 196 permits - 47.1 mill
- ▶ 2018 - 169 permits - 99.4 mill
- ▶ **2019 - 156 permits - 46.2 mill**
- ▶ PLUS 29.5 million *E.Helena H.S.*



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Larger Projects permitted in 2019:

- E. Helena High School - 29.5 million
- Helena Regional Airport Terminal - 11 Million
- L&C County Jail - Demolition and build/remodel - 8.8 million
- St. Peters Health - Operating Room Reno, Parking lot, and Pharmacy renos - 7.41 Million
- Farmers State Bank - Demo of property & New Bank - 5.23 million
- Lewis and Clark Library - 4.5 million



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More permitted in 2019

- ▶ Carroll College - Anthrozoology Building 1.7 million
Plus PE Center: 921,445. 2.6 million total
- ▶ Helena School District 1 - (Kessler, Broadwater, Smith, Bryant, Capitol HS) 2.08 million
- ▶ U=Haul project at K-Mart - 1.29Million
- ▶ 2 new buildings on Bozeman Ave. - Monarch Taxidermy & Krone bldg. = 1.08 million total
- ▶ High Country Outfitters Rifle Range - \$900,000+
- ▶ Heidi's Casino - \$950,000
- ▶ CVS (Elm Street) \$895,000
- ▶ Salvation Army - \$845,000
- ▶ Cottonwood LLC on Road Runner - \$811,700.



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Smaller Notable Projects

- First Security Bank Renov. \$329,500
- Fritzie's Casino - \$269,000
- Vanilla Bean Bakery - \$265,000
- Mt. Playwrights - \$250,000
- Verizon Remodel - \$248,495
- Mt. Helena Motorsports -
\$249,000 (2.Phase 2?)



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Notable
Project
Coming:

Greenway bike path between E.
Helena and Montana City - 3.2 million
*(ASARCO funds through Prickly Pear
Land Trust)*



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Projects Coming and possible....

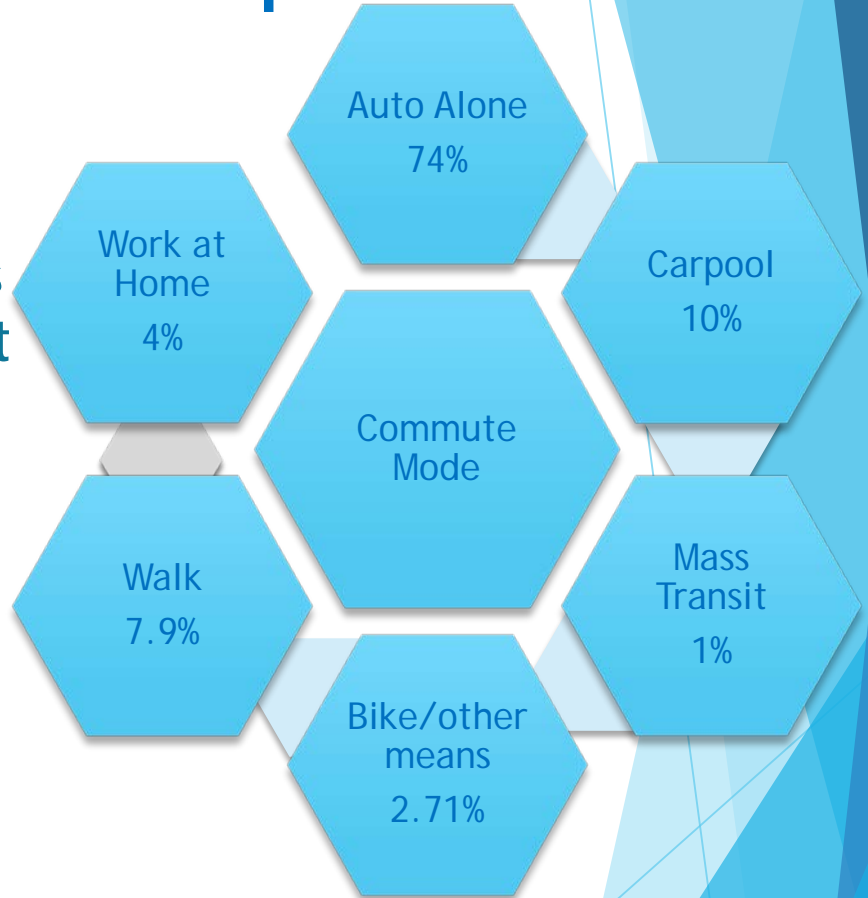
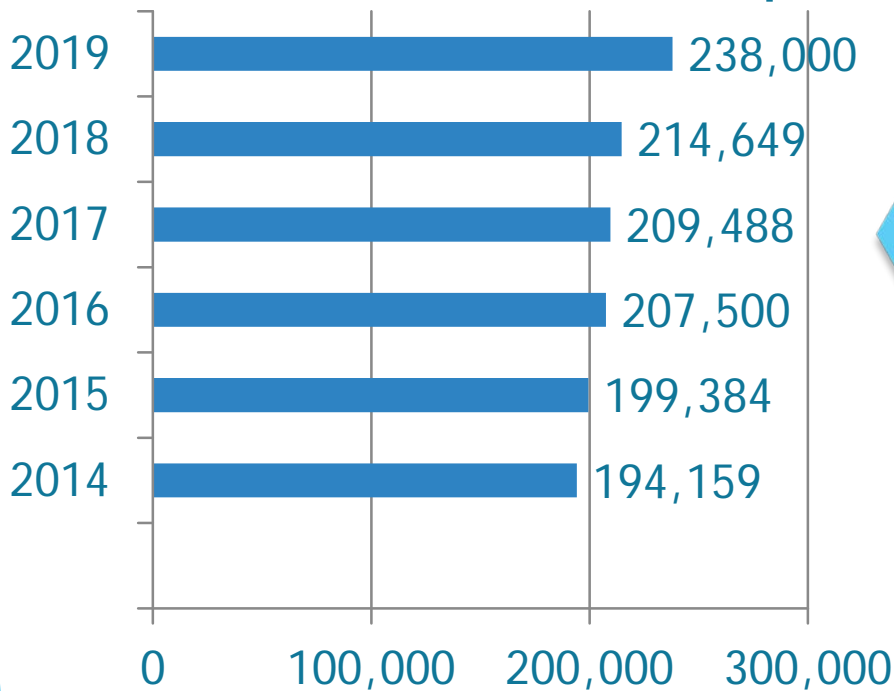
- Flying Giant Adventure Zone 15,000 sq. ft.
- Airport terminal building expansion completion
- Projects at the mall site..... Some residential, possibly a hotel, a restaurant, a bank, a professional office building, etc.
- Further development at Trinity Center including a potential bank, restaurant, shopping.



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Transportation

Total Flight Passengers
In & Out of HLN Airport





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Helena Regional Airport Update

- Passenger Traffic
- Up 1.78% from 2018 (over 238,000)
- Flights are Full
- Increased Services - Delta using bigger planes (50 seat to 75 seat)
- United 2nd flight to Denver in last July, adding 2nd flight to Seattle in May, 2020





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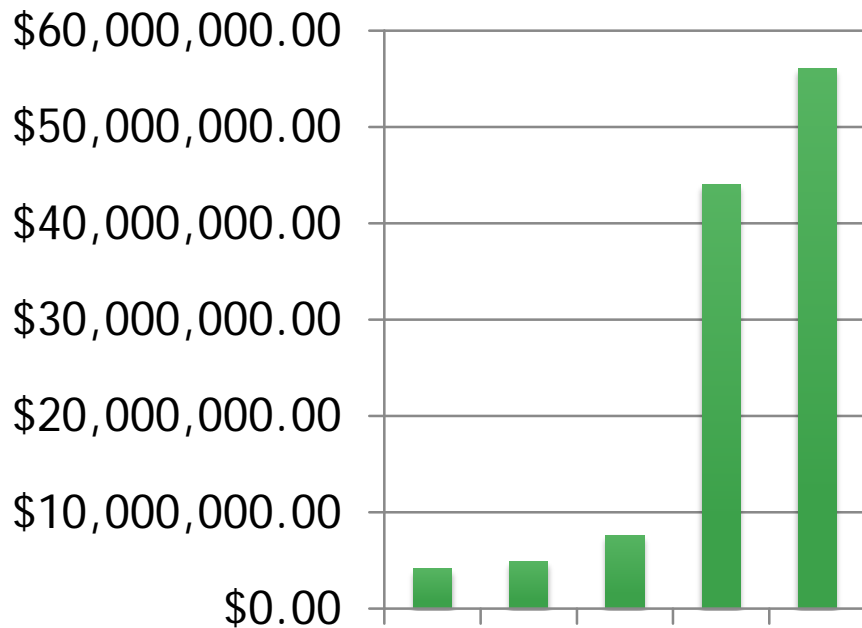
Helena Regional Airport Update

- ▶ Future Projects
- ▶ 7 Year Capital Improvement Program
(over the years of 2016-2022) 23 Million Dollar Project
- ▶ Terminal Expansion -Phase II complete,
projected finish 2020
- ▶ Main Runway Re-Construction
- ▶ Replacement of Pavement on Airfield
Infrastructure



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MT Dept. of Military Affairs Economic Impact



National Guard: Local Impact

- Butte: \$4,116,717
- Missoula: \$4,913,378
- Billings: \$7,658,678
- Helena: \$44,006,067
- Great Falls: \$56,080,023



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CREDITS.....

- ▶ City of Helena * L & C County * Helena Chamber CVB
- ▶ Helena Airport Authority * Helena Association of Realtors
- ▶ City-Data.com * US Census 2000
- ▶ www.policom.com * Smith Travel and Research
- ▶ Ourfactsyourfuture.org * Bestplaces.net
- ▶ Montana Building Industry Assoc.
- ▶ MT National Guard - Department of Military Affairs
- ▶ Helena Area Chamber of Commerce
& Convention & Visitor Bureau

THANKS TO MY STAFF for their help with this presentation!



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The Helena Area Chamber of Commerce

YOUR BUSINESS ADVOCATE