

# HELENA BUSINESS CLIMATE 5-YEAR TREND REPORT From 2009 through Dec. 2013

*Cathy Burwell*

*President/CEO*

*Helena Area Chamber of Commerce*

*(updated January, 2014)*





# HELENA – Your Montana Capital City!

- ❖ Historically Most Stable Economy Of The Larger Cities In Montana
- ❖ Higher Median Income Levels
- ❖ Many corporate offices located here
- ❖ 46% of Local Economy is State Govt. Jobs (71% 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 for Economic Strength.....

**OF 577 cities across the nation:**

**2009: Helena ranked 9<sup>th</sup>**

**2010: Helena ranked 6<sup>th</sup>**

**2011: Helena ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>!!!!**

**2012: Helena ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>!!!!**

**2013: Helena ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>!!!!**

***"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. 2009 4.6%**

**DEC. 2010 5.1%**

**DEC. 2011 5.2%**

**DEC. 2012 4.4%**

**Nov 2013 3.8%**

**(Montana - NOV '13 - 5%)**





# EMPLOYMENT: Median Wages

Our Facts Your Future (MT.GOV):

**HELENA - \$34,114 (median)**  
**\$38,149 (average)**  
**\$39,407 (per capita income)**

(highest micropolitan city in MT -  
under 50,000 people)



# 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>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
Overall Index =	100%	106%	105.5%
Food –	108%	108%	108%
Utilities -	92%	92%	92%
Other –	100%	103%	103%

*(Overall UP FROM 93.6 in 2009...)*

**HELENA:** “Rapidly growing, highly educated workforce with 200+ days of sunshine!” description from Sperling’s Best Places





# 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.





## 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**
    - 2009 – 226 permits = \$21.5 million
    - 2010 – 244 permits = \$29.2 million
    - 2011 – 211 permits = \$26.5 million
    - 2012- 195 permits = \$27.4 million
    - **2013 – 215 permits = \$26.5 million**
- PLUS 232 permits for septic in the valley outside city limits....(comp. to 254 in '12**





# CITY: HOME PERMIT INFO:

- Of 215 Residential permits = 61 total new residences (within city limits)

## Home Cost Analysis:

- 23 – under \$200,000.
- 19 - \$200,000+
- 2 - \$300,000+
- 4 - \$400,000+
- 2 - \$500,000+
- 2 - \$800,000





# Average Home Prices

**2007 - \$225,000**

**2008 - \$224,888**

**2009 - \$211,822**

**2010 - \$213,705**

**2011 - \$208,486**

**2012 - \$210,351**

**2012 - \$221,821**

*835 homes sold in 2013*

*(Helena Assoc. of Realtors)*

**(Includes single family, condo and townhomes)**





# Housing Starts

**Lewis and Clark County:**

**Housing Starts:**

**2012 – 159**

**2013 - 205      Up 28.9%**





# Commercial Building permits in the City

- 2009 – 196 permits - \$64.8 million
- 2010 – 231 permits - \$53.7 million
- 2011 – 215 permits - \$42.0 million
- 2012 - 209 permits - \$50.4 million
- 2013 – 215 permits – 48.1 million







# Projects finished in 2013

## \*Town Pump & Magic Diamond Casino

on Sanders St. 2.26 million

## \*Waterford/Touchmark New units

\$5.03 million

## \*Great Divide Dental - \$750,000.

## \*Staples – 1.6 million

## \*Natural Grocers - 1.7 million

## \*Shodair - home & services 1.4 million





## Large Projects finished in 2013

Intermountain building on Dredge Dr.

5.2 million

Helena Community Credit Union Branch

2.37 million

St. Petes Med. Office (Broadway)

just under 1 million (finish top floor)

Summit Optical - \$726,000.





## Large Projects Started in 2013:

- Cinemark Expansion – 2.3 million
- Early Learning Center - 1.1 million
- TJ Max Build out - \$700,000
- Carroll College Dorms – (2) 4.4 million
- Panda Express – 1.1 million
- HAC Investments – 1.3 million
- Mt. Hospital Assoc. - 3.5 million





## MORE 2013 Starts:

- Super One Grocery – 5.53 million
- L&C County transitional housing building on 16<sup>th</sup> – 1.2 million
- L&C County Cooperative Health (9<sup>th</sup>) - 4 .0 million





# 2014 Large Projects

## In progress:

Pioneer Aero Structures 18 million

Boeing Helena Expansion 35 million

*(these two are buildings + high tech equipment)*

Mt. Hospital Assoc. - 3.5 million

## IN THE FUTURE?

Major project on the Capital Interchange in 2016





# Helena Regional Airport Update

- **Completed 1.3 million runway lighting and signage system**
- **Boeing announced \$35 million expansion adds 25 jobs**
- **Pioneer Aero Structures began \$18 million new facility 20-25 jobs**





# More from Helena Regional Airport

- **Fed Ex donated Boeing 727 jet freighter to Rocky Mtn. Fire Training Center**
- **Air service remained strong with above 90% load factors (which makes airlines successful and retains air service here!)**





# **TOURISM – Helena Hotels – 2013**

## **TOURISM – Helena Hotels – 2013**

- **Occupancy was slightly down – 0.8%**
- **Average Daily Rate was up \$1.80**
- **Revenue per available room – up \$.64  
(Rev PAR)**
- **Room occupancy – down slightly – 1%**
- **Revenue up \$309,662.**

*Smith Travel Research Report*







# CHAMBER REQUESTS

## Relocation Packets

❖ 2000+ last year

## Tourist Packets

❖ Distribute over 20,000 per year





# The Helena Area Chamber.....

## *“Building for the Future”*





# CREDITS.....

- City of Helena
- L & C County
- Helena Airport Authority
- Helena Association of Realtors
- [www.policom.com](http://www.policom.com)
- US Census 2000
- Helena Area Chamber of Commerce
- Smith Travel and Research

[Ourfactsyourfuture.org](http://Ourfactsyourfuture.org)

[Bestplaces.net](http://Bestplaces.net)

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# The Helena Area Chamber of Commerce

YOUR BUSINESS ADVOCATE

