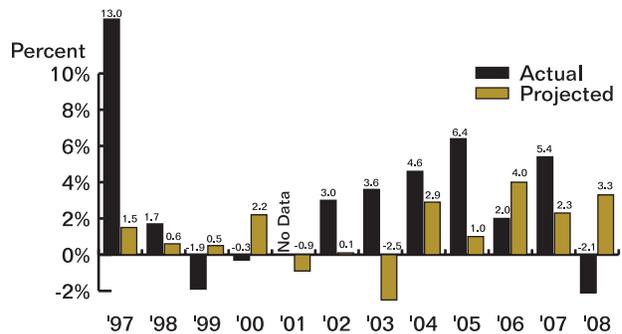


Butte-Silver Bow County

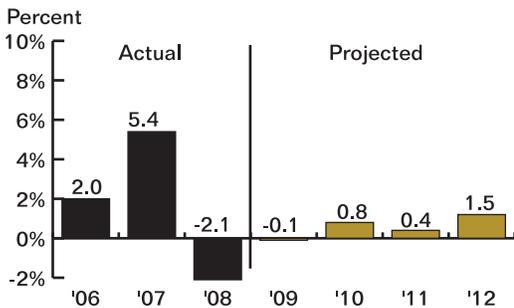
The worldwide energy/commodity boom had significant impacts on the Butte-Silver Bow economy, as illustrated by the 5 to 6 percent growth during the 2004 to 2007 period. Future economic trends depend crucially on events in the mining industry. Our forecast assumes that the Montana Resources mine will remain open but that the employee bonuses will decline as lower prices for copper reduce profits. If there are mining layoffs or the mine itself closes, our forecasts for 2009 and beyond are probably too optimistic. The good news is that the trade center components (retail and services) continue to grow, reflecting Butte's continued development as a regional trade and service center.

Figure 1
Actual and Projected Percent Change in Nonfarm Labor Income, Silver Bow County, 1997-2008



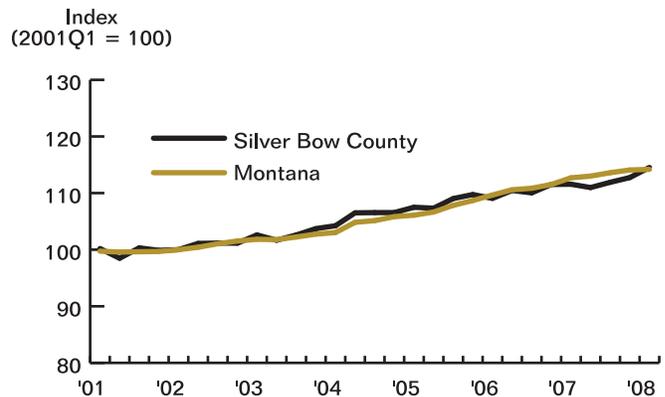
Sources: Bureau of Business and Economic Research, The University of Montana-Missoula; Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Figure 2
Actual and Projected Percent Change in Nonfarm Labor Income, Silver Bow County, 2006-2012



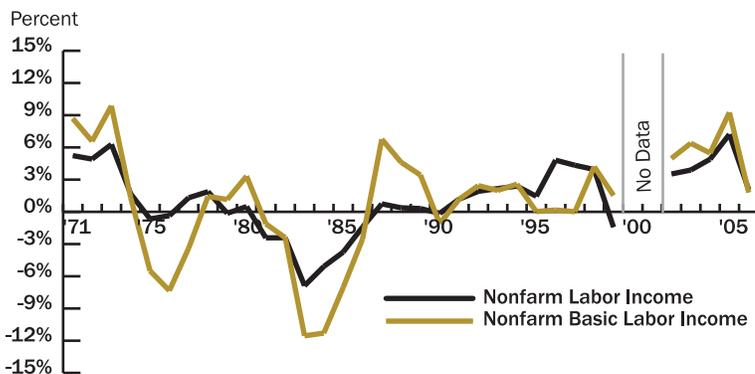
Sources: Bureau of Business and Economic Research, The University of Montana-Missoula; Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Figure 3
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment, Montana & Silver Bow County, 2001 Q1 to 2008 Q1



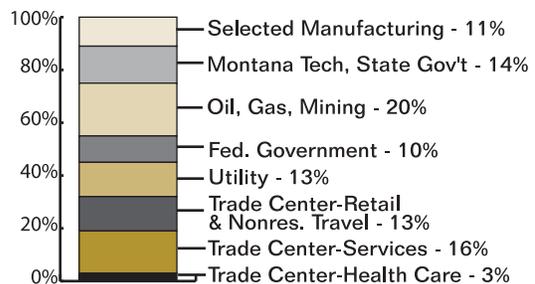
Note: Data seasonally adjusted by BBER. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Figure 4
Nonfarm Labor Income and Nonfarm Basic Labor Income, Silver Bow County, Percent Change, [in constant dollars]



Note: 1971-1999 are three-year averages. Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Figure 5
Labor Income in Basic Industries, Silver Bow County, 2006-2008 [percent of total]



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