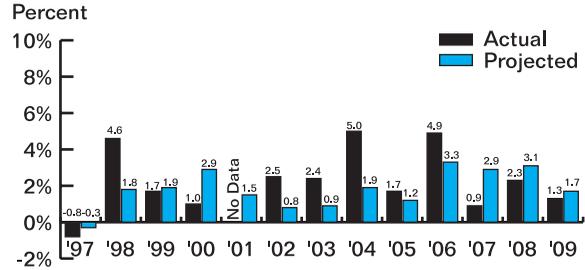


Cascade County

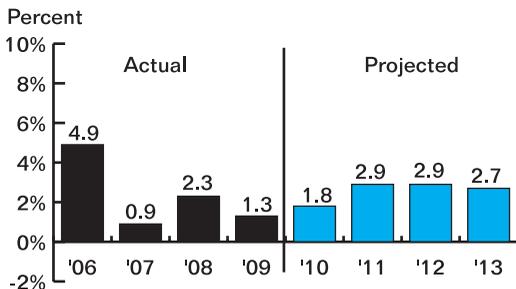
Not even the Great Falls economy will completely escape the current recession. Preliminary 2009 data show weakness in construction, real estate, retail trade, wholesale trade, and transportation (mostly trucking). The 1.3 percent growth for 2009 shown in Figure 2 may be too optimistic. Malmstrom Air Force Base (including both civilian and military workers) accounts for almost one-half of the economic base in Cascade County, and stable or slightly increasing staffing levels lend stability to the local economy. Great Falls continues as the dominant medical center in north central Montana, but recent growth has been moderate. The rapid growth during 2003-2006 was mostly due post-Sept. 11 build up of federal and civilian employment and is not likely to be repeated.

Figure 1
Actual and Projected Percent Change in Nonfarm Labor Income, Cascade County, 1997-2009



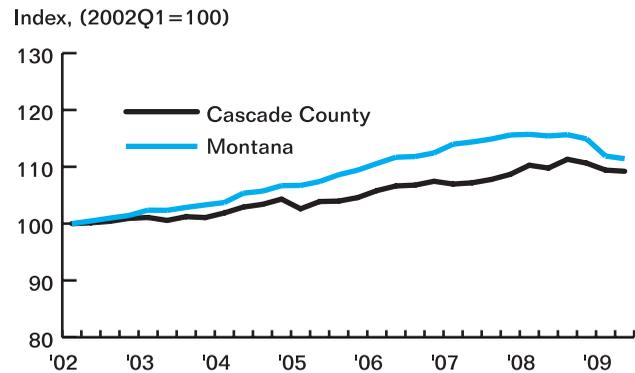
Sources: Bureau of Business and Economic Research, The University of Montana; Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce.

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



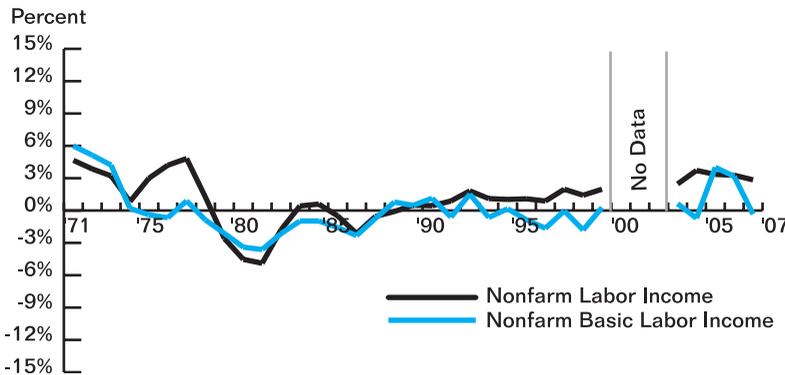
Sources: Bureau of Business and Economic Research, The University of Montana; Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce.

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



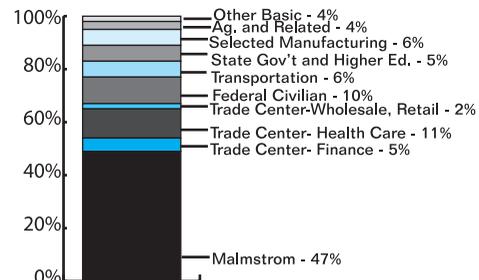
Note: Data seasonally adjusted by BBER. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

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