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

Cathy Burwell
President/CEO
Helena Area Chamber of Commerce
(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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall Index</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>112%</td>
<td>108%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>104%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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