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

Cathy Burwell, President/CEO
(updated January, 2020)
Historically Most Stable Economy Of The Larger Cities In Montana

Higher Median Income Levels

60% of workforce is connected to State government positions.
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
Helena and Surrounding Area Trends
Of 550 cities across the nation under 50,000 People

2012 - 2013: Helena ranked 2^{nd}!!!!
2014: Helena ranked 3^{rd}!!!
2015: Helena ranked 14^{th}  (ND oil towns....!)
2016: Helena ranks 8^{th} (back in top 10)
2017 - 38^{th}
2018 - 54^{th}
2019 - 49^{th}
2020 - 24^{th} 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
Employment in Helena Area...
Income Comparisons

Median Income:
- Helena: $54,611
- Montana: $48,380
- United States: $55,322

Per Capita Income:
- Helena: $35,278
- Montana: $27,308
- United States: $29,829
Education Rates
(Lewis and Clark County)

Percent High School graduate or higher:
- Helena, MT: 94.30%
- Lewis and Clark County: 94.30%
- Montana: 92.40%

Percent Bachelors Degree or Higher:
- Helena, MT: 44.80%
- Lewis and Clark County: 37.60%
- Montana: 29.10%
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](http://www.BestPlaces.net)  BOZEMAN 118.5%,  Montana Overall - 94%
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.
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
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
• Of 316 Residential permits = 46 new multi-family Dwellings (within city limits) (duplexes, tri-plexes, four-plex, etc.)
## Average Home Sale Prices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$208,486</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$201,351</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$221,894</td>
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<td>2016</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>$283,190</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$301,411</td>
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*796 homes sold in 2019 - Ave D.O.M. - 53 (comp. to 94 in ‘18)*
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
Commercial Building permits in the City

- 2014 - 229 permits - 49.3 million
- 2015 - 261 permits - 68.9 million
- 2016 - 217 permits - 67.2 million
- 2017 - 196 permits - 47.1 million
- 2018 - 169 permits - 99.4 million
- 2019 - 156 permits - 46.2 million
- PLUS 29.5 million E.Helena H.S.
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
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 - 1.29 Million
- 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.
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 - $249,0002. Phase 2?)
Notable Project Coming:

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

Commute Mode

- Auto Alone 74%
- Carpool 10%
- Mass Transit 1%
- Bike/other means 2.71%
- Walk 7.9%
- Work at Home 4%

Average Commute Time 13.5 Minutes

Total Flight Passengers In & Out of HLN Airport

- 2019: 238,000
- 2018: 214,649
- 2017: 209,488
- 2016: 207,500
- 2015: 199,384
- 2014: 194,159

0 100,000 200,000 300,000


Total Flight Passengers In & Out of HLN Airport
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**
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
MT Dept. of Military Affairs
Economic Impact

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<th>City</th>
<th>Impact</th>
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<td>Butte</td>
<td>$4,116,717</td>
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THANKS TO MY STAFF for their help with this presentation!
The Helena Area Chamber of Commerce

YOUR BUSINESS ADVOCATE