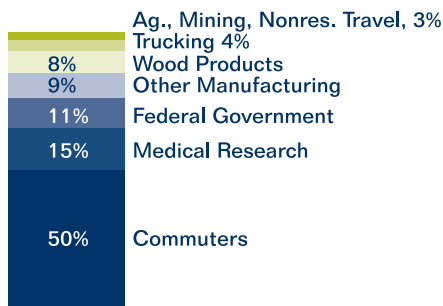


Ravalli County

Slowly Coming Out of Recession

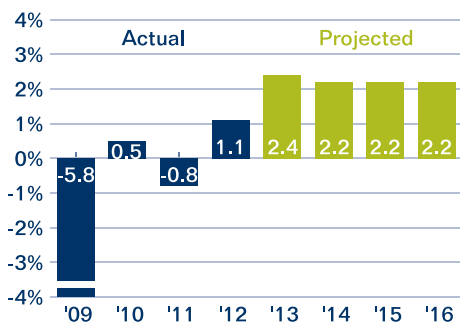
James T. Sylvester, Director of Survey Operations, Bureau of Business and Economic Research

Figure 1
Earnings in Basic Industries, Ravalli County, 2010-2012, Percent of Total



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 Change in Nonfarm Earnings, Ravalli County, 2009-2016



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

Ravalli County's economy appears to be coming out of the Great Recession, albeit slowly. The real estate market has stabilized with the number of residential real estate sales in 2012 increasing over 2011 levels. Prices are about the same, but days on market increased slightly over 2011 levels.

The weak real estate market is affecting Ravalli County household mobility. The latest American Community Survey data show that 14 percent of Ravalli County households live in a different house compared to one year ago. In 2007, 20 percent of households changed homes. In 2010, the latest data available, more people from Ravalli County moved to Missoula County than the reverse. Migration between Missoula and Ravalli counties is influenced by gasoline prices and comparative real estate prices.

Housing construction, a mainstay of the Ravalli economy in the past decade, continues to lag, with employment levels about half what they were in 2007. A return to 2007 levels is not in the foreseeable future.

Metal manufacturing, including small arms manufacturing, is the largest manufacturing sector, replacing the

wood products industry. Recovery in the wood products industry, primarily log home manufacturing, depends on a recovery in the national housing market. Wood supply remains a concern, but poor markets for building materials dominate the decline.

Glaxo-Smith-Kline, a major pharmaceutical company and the U.S. Center for Disease Control's Rocky Mountain Lab, employs medical researchers with average annual wages more than double the county average of \$23,000 per year. If the national housing market rebounds, Ravalli County's nonfarm earnings should increase about 2.2 percent per year through 2016. ¹³

Ravalli County Profile	
Total Population, 2011	40,450
Percent Change in Population, 2000-2010	11.5%
Median Age, 2011	45.6
Percent 65 or Older, 2011	18.7%
Percent of Population with Bachelor's Degree or Higher, 2011	25.0%
Median Household Income, 2011	\$43,512
Percent of Population without Health Insurance Coverage, 2011	18.9%
Unemployment Rate, 2012	8.3%

Sources: American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau; Research and Analysis Bureau, Montana Department of Labor and Industry.

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