

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

University of Montana News Releases, 1928,
1956-present

University Relations

7-13-2009

Housing costs strain Montanans' budget

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Housing costs strain Montanans' budget" (2009). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 21763.
<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/21763>

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Relations at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.



NEWS RELEASE

July 13, 2009

Contact: Patrick Barkey, executive director, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-243-5113, patrick.barkey@business.umt.edu.

HOUSING COSTS STRAIN MONTANANS' BUDGETS

MISSOULA –

Housing costs are pushing the limits of Montanans' pocketbooks, with four markets – Kalispell, Bozeman, Missoula and Hamilton – failing the housing affordability criterion, according to an article published in the latest issue of the Montana Business Quarterly.

In each of these communities, median-income households cannot afford the payment on a median-priced home without devoting a higher proportion of their income to housing, authors Patrick Barkey and James Sylvester wrote in the article titled "Housing Affordability and Montana's Real Estate Markets."

"Housing prices in the last 20 years have surged ahead much faster than the income used to pay them," the article said. "Over the span of time that the median price for a Montana home grew by 96 percent, the per capita income of Montanans rose by about a quarter as much, or 26 percent."

Throughout Montana, the article said, substantial numbers of households pay more than 30 percent of their incomes toward housing, which makes them housing-stressed according to HUD standards.

While the current recession has caused housing price growth to slow throughout Montana, it hasn't made housing more affordable because income growth has stalled at the

same time, the authors wrote. Furthermore, it will take more than a few years of tepid price declines to significantly alter the effects of almost a decade of rapid price growth.

Other articles in the summer Montana Business Quarterly include "The Economic Cost of Alcohol Abuse in Montana," "Pre-Existing Health Conditions Limit Job Flexibility," "Four Wheeling: Off-Highway Vehicle Use Growing" and "Long-Term Care Insurance: Could Montana's New Partnership Plan Have Helped the Smiths?"

The Montana Business Quarterly is published by The University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research and is partially supported by the Missoula Federal Credit Union. Annual subscriptions are available for \$35. For more information or to subscribe, go to <http://www.bber.umt.edu> or call 406-243-5113.

###

CBS
Local, state papers
071309bber