

Is Dane County recession-proof? Stats are promising

QUESTIONS? Contact Professor Bill Pinkovitz, Center for Community and Economic Development, UW-Extension at bill.pinkovitz@ces.uwex.edu.

Economic Snapshot is a weekly feature provided by the



Some of the recent news items announcing that the U.S. economy is officially in recession were followed by comments about the recession-proof nature of the local economy.

Local home builders, retailers, car dealers and manufacturers likely do not agree.

For example, housing starts are down more than 40 percent over last year and a recent survey of Madison area business leaders concluded that sales and profits are lower

The recession
Week Two:
The local recovery

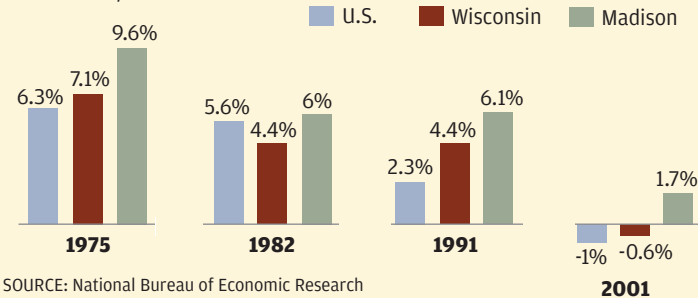
this year.

While the Madison area is certainly not immune to economic downturns, we have recovered from past downturns more quickly than Wisconsin and the nation as a whole.

Dane County's ability to recover from recession is illustrated in the following chart that shows the percentage increase in employment during the two calendar years following the bottom of each recession since 1973.

Post-recession job growth

Percentage increase in employment in the two years following the bottom of a recession:



SOURCE: National Bureau of Economic Research
State Journal