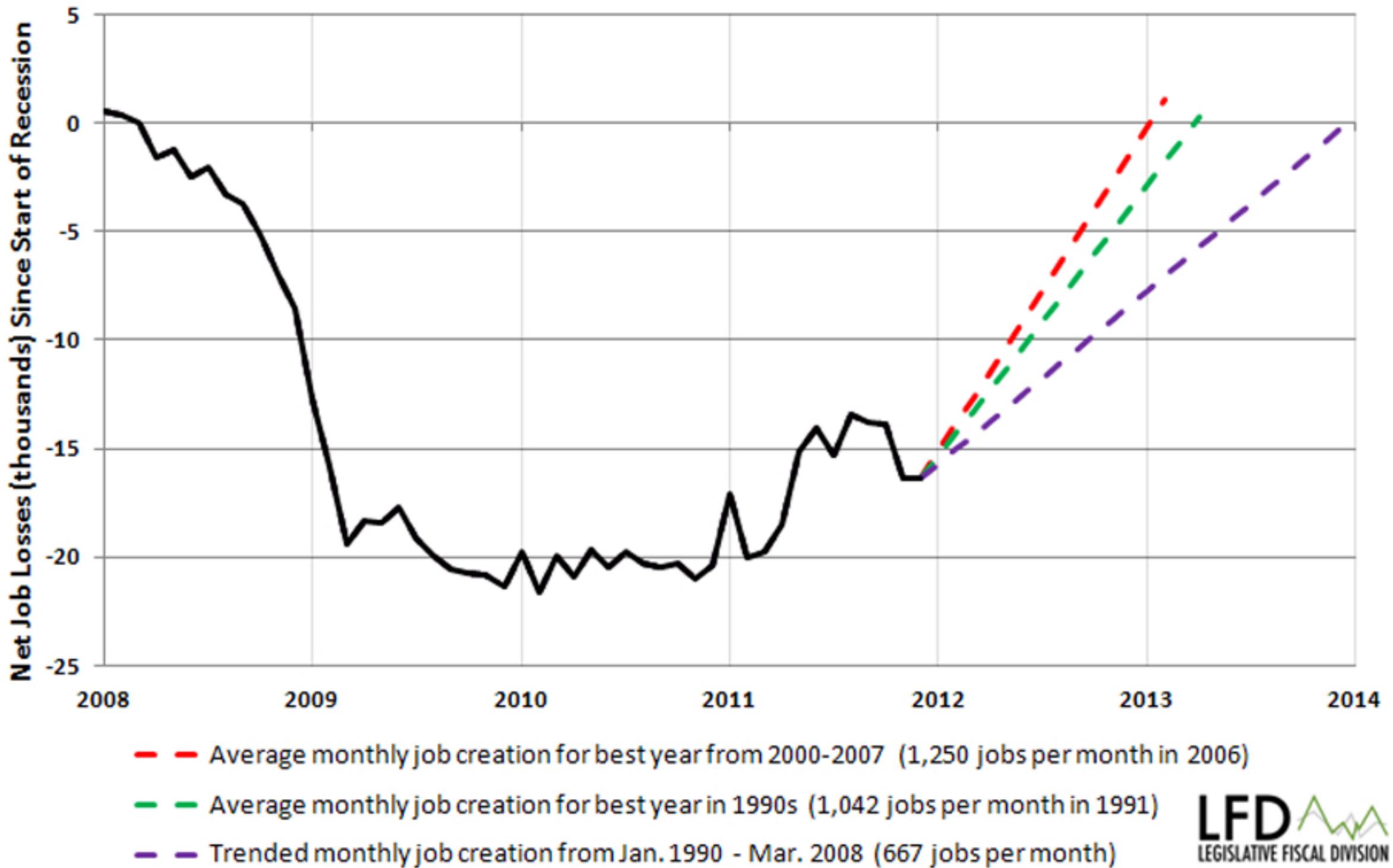


The Evolution of the Job Gap To Date and in the Future Under Different Rates of Job Creation



Montana's Job Gap is the reduction, or gap, in employment since peak employment in March 2008. The black line illustrates the history of the Job Gap that began with the Great Recession, and continues today. Currently, the Job Gap is just over 16,000. The three colored/dashed lines illustrate historical job growth rates that Montana has experienced, and how those different growth rates could shrink and eliminate the Job Gap. The **red line** is the average monthly job creation for the best year from 2000 through 2007, at 1,250 jobs per month in 2006. At 1,250 jobs per month, Montana would return to 2008 peak employment by the end of 2012. The **green line** is the average monthly job creation for the best year in the 1990s, 1,042 jobs per month in 1991. Adding 1,042 jobs per month would return Montana to the pre-recession peak by April 2013. The **purple line** is the trend job growth from 1990 through March of 2008, 667 jobs per month. At 667 jobs added per month, Montana would not return to 2008 peak employment until the end of 2013. Note that the preceding scenarios return employment to the pre-recession levels, but do not take into account any additional jobs needed to return to the long-term employment growth trend. Source: Montana Bureau of Statistics