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#### Economy Improvement Continues in Area States

(KLZA) A monthly survey of bankers says that strong farm income continues to boost the economy in Kansas, Missouri and eight other Midwest states.

The overall economic index for the region grew to 58.3 in April from March's 56.9.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss oversees the survey from Omaha, Nebraska. He says agricultural businesses and energy-producing firms continue to thrive in the region.

But the continued growth in farmland price index that hit 66.9 in April remains a concern for smaller farmers.

The index ranges from 0 to 100, with 50 representing growth neutral. Any score above 50 suggests economic growth in the months ahead.

Associated Press