

<http://www.MSCNews.net/news/index.cfm?nk=50704>

### Study Predicts Slow Economic Growth

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) - A new survey suggests modest economic growth ahead in rural parts of 10 Plains and Western states, but the predicted decline in farm income this year remains a concern.

The overall Rural Mainstreet economic index inched into positive territory in July at 53.4. In June the index registered a neutral score of 50.

The index has risen for four months. Creighton University economist Ernie Goss in Omaha says the trend is encouraging, but the bankers surveyed still aren't very optimistic. The confidence index remained in negative territory at 46.6 after improving from June's 45.9.

The survey indexes range from 0 to 100. Any score below 50 suggests decline in that factor in the months ahead.

Bankers from Colorado, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Wyoming, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota were surveyed.

Associated Press