

# Report indicates Valley economy continues growing

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Fresno State research economist Ernie Goss says the central San Joaquin Valley's economy is "is expanding, is doing real well," according to a regional economic indicator.

The San Joaquin Valley Business Conditions Index, prepared by Goss for the Craig School of Business at Fresno State, was 57.3, ticking upward from a score of 57 in June.

A score of 50 is considered neutral, and anything higher suggests economic expansion in the region over the next three to six months.

While the number of construction jobs in the region remains below pre-recession levels, growth in building activity is a major factor for the economic forecast, Goss said.

The index is based on a survey of company purchasing managers in Fresno, Madera, Kings and Tulare counties, and evaluates employment, wholesale prices, business confidence, inventories, imports and exports, business confidence, production and delivery lead time.

July was the eighth straight month, and the 19th month out of the last 20, in which the index was higher than the neutral 50 score.