

Valley economic index rose in September



Ray Quintero and Chris Johnson work on sheetrocking newly designed lofts on the 13th floor of the Pacific Southwest Building in the Fulton Mall Friday, Aug. 29, 2014 in Fresno, Calif.

GARY KAZANJIAN — THE FRESNO BEE [Buy Photo](#)

An index of economic indicators for the central San Joaquin Valley increased in September, pointing to economic growth in the next three to six months.

Economist Ernie Goss said the San Joaquin Valley Business Conditions Index, prepared for Fresno State's Craig School of Business, rose to a score of 58.5 in September, compared to 57.6 in August.

This is the 10th consecutive month in which the score stayed above 50, which is considered neutral, suggesting an expansionary economy in the coming months.

The region continues to add jobs, although the pace has slowed, and businesses increased inventories of raw materials and supplies last month while the concerns about the drought slipped, Goss said.

"Even with drought conditions, business activity was healthy for the month, especially for non-durable goods manufacturers including food processors."

Copyright

© 2014 www.fresnobee.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.fresnobee.com>