

## Valley business index continues run of positive indications

A Valleywide economic index jumped by almost three points last month, pointing for the 17th straight month to continuing improvement in business conditions in the coming months.

The San Joaquin Valley Business Conditions Index, compiled by Fresno State research economist Ernie Goss, rose to a score of 59.9 in April from the March score of 57.2. An index of 50 is considered neutral, and anything above that indicates a growing economy for the region over the next three to six months. The index is produced from a survey of purchasing executives from companies in Fresno, Kings, Madera and Tulare counties.

“The end of the West Coast dock dispute has had a very positive impact on the regional economy, especially for wholesale trade firms,” Goss said.

The survey assesses executives’ responses on employment plans, wholesale prices, business confidence, inventory, imports, exports, new orders, production or sales, and delivery lead time.