

Regional economic indicators released

MANKATO — Each month Greater Mankato Growth, together with communities and counties that make up the Regional Economic Development Alliance, looks at key metrics to measure the economic vitality of the region. The Greater Mankato regional marketplace includes the Mankato-North Mankato Metropolitan Statistical Area, which includes all of Blue Earth and Nicollet counties.

Key measures for the Greater Mankato regional marketplace in the second quarter of 2011 include:

- As of June 30, there were 71 new building or renovation projects planned, started or completed in 2011. Of these, 37 were brand new businesses, who either built or renovated an existing location.
- Monthly job numbers for businesses in the marketplace in the second quarter increased by just 27 jobs, from a three-month average of 52,346 in 2010 to 52,373 in 2011.
- Monthly employment for residents living in the two counties averaged 55,725 in the second quarter, up 1,220 from the same period last year.
- In June, Mankato was named 25th in the nation on Forbes 2011 list of "Best Small Places for Business and Careers," which included cities with populations less than 245,000. Forbes based the ranking on the entire MSA's performance in variety of areas, including job growth, costs (business and living), income growth, educational attainment, projected economic growth and quality of life.

More information on the region's business environment is available at greatermankatobusiness.com.

com.