

Mankato down 1 percent in jobs report

MANKATO — The Mankato area was down 1 percent in jobs in July compared to a year ago, state job figures released Thursday show, while the number of jobs in the state as a whole grew 1.1 percent over that time.

The Department of Employment and Economic Development said Minnesota added 29,100 jobs over the past 12 months, the best year-to-year showing in four years.

The Mankato- North Mankato Metropolitan Statistical Area, which is comprised of Nicollet and Blue Earth counties, lost 504 jobs from July of 2009. Other MSAs gained jobs, including St. Cloud (up .9 percent), Rochester (up 1.7 percent) and Minneapolis- St. Paul (up .5 percent). The Duluth-Superior MSA was down .1 percent.

Greater Mankato Growth issued a press release saying there's reason to believe more jobs will be added yet this year.

“ The number of jobs at present is similar to a year ago; however, the region's economic diversity, relative stability, and prior year's history of employers adding jobs in the second half of the year provides reason to be optimistic,” said Jonathan Zierdt, president and CEO.