

Midwest Economic Index Inches Up

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A monthly economic index for nine Midwestern and Plains states inched up in May, suggesting healthy economic growth is coming over the next three to six months, according to a report released Monday.

The overall Mid-America Business Conditions Index rose to 60.5 in May from 60.4 in April.

"This is the highest overall reading that we have recorded in more than three years," said Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the report. "Strong growth in new orders over the past two months was the prime factor pushing the overall index higher."

The survey results from supply managers are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests growth, while a score below that suggests decline. The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Economic optimism, as captured by the May business confidence index, dropped to a still healthy 62.5 from April's 64.2.

"Improvements in the national and regional job market supported supply managers' business outlook for the month," Goss said.

After weather restrained job growth in the first quarter of 2014, Goss said, businesses expanded employment at a brisk pace for April and May. The employment index surged to 60.0, its highest level in more than a year, compared with April's 54.2.

Aberdeen Child Drowns At Wylie Park

ABERDEEN (AP) — Police in Aberdeen say a child accidentally drowned at Wylie Park Lake.

Authorities on Monday said emergency personnel responded to the scene around 3:30 p.m. Sunday for a report of a child who was non-responsive and possibly had drowned.

Police say people in the area started CPR on the child until paramedics arrived. The child was then transported to a local hospital.

Authorities interviewed witnesses and the Brown County coroner later ruled the child's death an accident.

Man Found Dead In Burned SD Shed

RAPID CITY (AP) — Authorities in Rapid City say they are investigating the death of a man whose body was found inside a burned shed.

Police say a Pennington County Sheriff's Deputy noticed smoke coming from a shed around 11:15 p.m. Sunday. Firefighters responded to the scene and found the deceased man after extinguishing the blaze.

Police say the man is not a resident at the home.

Authorities say the man has not been identified and his cause of death is being investigated.

Well Field Near Missouri River Proposed

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A long-term master plan for supplying Lincoln with water 50 years from now suggests the city develop a well field near the Missouri River more than 40 miles away.

Buying and developing the well field, building water treatment plants and laying pipes to Lincoln could cost \$1.2 billion by 2044, the *Lincoln Journal Star* reported.

Lincoln's more than 265,000 residents have been getting their water from a well field on the Platte River, but officials say the city should diversify its water supply to meet its future needs. The city develops a comprehensive master plan every 10 years, and the one being prepared for two hearings later this month looks at water needs for up to 50 years in the future, when the city is expected to have around 500,000 residents.

A well field near the Missouri River would be less susceptible than the Platte to low flow during summers, when demands for water are highest, according to the plan.

Police: SD Man Held Woman Captive

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A Sioux Falls man accused of keeping a woman captive for more than a month is being held on a \$100,000 cash-only bond.

A judge in Minnehaha County set the bond for Daniel James Armstrong Sr. on Monday, the *Argus Leader* reported. Armstrong was arrested Friday after a brief standoff with police and was charged with two counts of aggravated assault domestic, second-degree rape, first-degree kidnapping and false imprisonment.

Authorities on Friday removed the 25-year-old woman and a baby from the home. The woman told police she had been held against her will since April 12 because Armstrong feared she would tell police he was staying at that home. Armstrong, 35, had various warrants out for his arrest in connection with another incident.

The newspaper reported that the woman told police Armstrong regularly threatened to kill her. Police spokesman Sam Clemens said Armstrong assaulted the woman and raped her Friday before police arrived.

Man Shot By Police Hadn't Loaded Gun

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A Lincoln man was armed with an unloaded rifle when he was fatally shot by deputies who forced their way into a house to remove him, the police chief said Monday.

Doug DaMoude, 64, had barricaded himself in his former residence on Friday afternoon, Chief Jim Peschong said. DaMoude had broken back into the home after he was evicted.

Two locksmiths accompanied deputies and disabled the locks before the deputies rammed into the house's entryway, where they were confronted by DaMoude, Peschong said. One deputy grabbed the rifle and struggled with DaMoude, as two other deputies fired five shots, striking DaMoude four times, Peschong said. He was pronounced dead at the scene from a bullet to the head, Peschong said.

South Dakota

Candidates Set For Primary Day

BY DIRK LAMMERS AND REGINA GARCIA CANO
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — A former governor, two state lawmakers and two political newcomers are making their final pitches to South Dakota voters as they vie for the GOP nomination for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by retiring Democrat Tim Johnson.

Former Gov. Mike Rounds, state Sen. Larry Rhoden, state Rep. Stace Nelson, attorney and Army Reserves Maj. Jason Ravnsborg and physician Annette Bosworth will face off in Tuesday's Republican primary.

A winner with at least 35 percent of the vote earns the nomination. Otherwise, a runoff between the winner and second-place finisher will be scheduled.

South Dakota Secretary of State Jason Gant is predicting that turnout will be about 50 percent, which is slightly above average. Gant said a crowded Republican field in the U.S. Senate race and competition for the Democratic nomination for governor has drawn voters' attention.

Rounds, who has raised about \$2.8 million for his U.S. Senate campaign, is widely considered the favorite in that race. His fundraising has far outpaced three of his competi-

Neb.: Ricketts Places Lt. Gov. Heidemann On GOP ticket

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Republican Pete Ricketts has picked Lt. Gov. Lavon Heidemann as his running mate in the Nebraska governor's race.

Heidemann, an Elk Creek farmer and former state senator, will join the campaign to replace Gov. Dave Heineman, who is leaving office next year because of term limits. Ricketts made the announcement Monday and praised Heidemann as a man of great character, experience and collaborative skill.

Heidemann was appointed lieutenant governor in 2013, after winning election to the University of Nebraska Board of Regents. He previously served in the Legislature, where he was chairman of the budget-writing Appropriations Committee.

Ricketts says he chose Heidemann in part because of that experience and the time he has spent as a farmer and school board member.

tors, with Rhoden raising about \$136,000, Nelson raising about \$131,000 and Ravnsborg bringing in less than \$11,000. Bosworth raised more than \$1.1 million through March, but she has spent the majority of what she raised on direct mail marketing and her campaign fell deeper in debt.

Jon Schaff, a Northern State University political science professor, said Rounds' financial edge has allowed him to dominate on media buys, and his GOP opponents have been showing desperation by scheduling a wave of last-

minute news conferences.

"They have to do something to shake up the dynamics of the race," Schaff said.

The June 3 GOP primary winner will join Democratic business owner Rick Weiland and two independents on the Nov. 4 ballot. Running without party affiliation are former Republican U.S. Sen. Larry Pressler and former state lawmaker Gordon Howe.

The South Dakota U.S. Senate race is one of three involving a seat now held by a Democrat — also including West Virginia and Montana —

where Republicans believe they have the best chance to win because President Barack Obama lost those states in the 2012 election. Republicans need to make a net gain of six seats to take over the majority in the U.S. Senate.

In the Republican primary for governor, Gov. Dennis Daugaard is facing former state Rep. Lora Hubbel. The Democratic battle for the gubernatorial nomination pits former state wildfire agency head Joe Lowe against state Rep. Susan Wismer.

Schaff said neither Lowe nor Wismer have raised a ton of money and it's anyone's guess on who will prevail.

"You have kind of two stealth candidates in a way," he said.

The race for South Dakota's lone seat in the U.S. House will wait for November. Both Republican U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem and Democratic challenger Corinna Robinson are unopposed within their parties.

Of South Dakota's more than 510,000 registered voters at the end of May, nearly 237,000 listed themselves as Republicans and about 175,000 classified themselves as Democrats, according to records from the South Dakota Secretary of State's office. About 83,000 are listed as independents.

Carbon Plan Impacts SD And Neb.

WASHINGTON (AP) — South Dakota will need to reduce its carbon emissions from power plants by nearly 35 percent by 2030 as part of a sweeping national proposal unveiled by the Obama administration Monday that is designed to reduce pollutants blamed for global warming.

Overall carbon emissions for the country would be reduced by 17 percent nationwide from 2012 levels under the proposal, which is expected to be finalized in 2015. But the plan sets individual targets for the Environmental Protection Agency for each state, allowing some states to emit more pollutants than others. And it would give states until 2017, and possibly 2018 if they join with other states, to submit plans for how they will comply.

Though South Dakota produces a lot of electricity from Missouri River dams and a growing number of wind farms, it consumes more fossil fuels.

Brian Rounds, a staff analyst with the state Public Utilities Commission, said the state's electricity sources are roughly 65 percent from coal, 16.5 percent hydroelectric, 8 percent nuclear, 6.5 percent wind, 3 percent natural gas and less than 1 percent from other sources.

State Republicans immediately pushed back on the plan. Sen. John Thune said it would amount to an "energy tax" for state residents.

The proposal "will be yet another

sucker punch to middle-class families throughout South Dakota struggling to get by in the Obama economy," Thune said.

"These regulations, which will increase electricity costs, will especially hurt low-income families and seniors who live on fixed incomes and already devote a large share of their income to electricity bills."

Gov. Dennis Daugaard is very concerned that the new regulations will cause an increase in energy prices, spokesman Tony Venhuizen said in an email. The governor also wants to understand the degree to which the federal government can reject a state plan or impose a federal plan, he said.

South Dakota would be required to reduce its carbon emissions by 34.2 percent from 2012 levels. The state had more than 3 million tons of carbon pollution in 2012.

NEBRASKA: EXPENSIVE CHANGES?

Nebraska utilities might be forced to make expensive changes to comply with new proposed restrictions on carbon dioxide emissions because they rely heavily on coal power.

But utility and state officials said Monday the potential impact of the new rules won't be clear until after they've had a chance to study the details.

The plan calls for Nebraska to reduce its carbon emissions by 26 percent by 2030. That's less than the 30 percent re-

duction nationwide the Obama administration is seeking, but it's still ambitious.

"We're going through this carefully to see what the potential ramifications are for Nebraska," said Brian McManus, spokesman for the state Department of Environmental Quality.

Nebraska has long relied heavily on coal because, with Wyoming's mines not far away, it has been cheaper than most other options.

These new regulations could change that cost calculation, which is important because state law requires Nebraska's public utilities to deliver the cheapest power possible. Nebraska is the only state served entirely by publicly owned utilities.

That low-cost mandate in state law has helped limit how much utilities have been willing to invest in wind power even though experts have said Nebraska has the potential to generate a significant amount of electricity from wind.

"We don't anticipate major changes in the early years, but NPPD will have a solid strategy in place to meet the long-term requirement," said Mark Becker, spokesman for the Nebraska Public Power District.

Troy Breckenkamp with the Nebraska Rural Electric Association said the rules will likely require some expensive updates to power plants.

"These costs get passed on to our membership and the consumer," he said.

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