

February's Creighton index

An economic measure of regional business conditions and consumer confidence.

Based on information released Monday by Creighton University in Omaha, Neb.

OKLAHOMA'S INDEX

The state index for February showed a modest gain.

52.6

January 51.7 December 57.8

The overall index ranges from 0 to 100. An index greater than 50 indicates that the economy should expand over the next three to six months.

KEY COMPONENTS

New orders	52.2 ↑ 1.8
Production	49.4 ↓ 0.8
Inventories	56.4 ↓ 1.9
Employment	55.6 ↑ 2.1

"Firms in Oklahoma linked to energy production are supporting growth in the state, which will clearly outpace that of the region for the next six months. The weak U.S. dollar will push Oklahoma exports to Canada and Mexico above \$2.3 billion for 2008," said Ernie Goss, an economics professor at Creighton.

KEY SECTORS

Energy-related businesses are doing well, such as those in oil and natural gas extraction, and companies that produce equipment for the energy industry.

Also, the telecommunications sector is performing reasonably well in Oklahoma compared with other states in the regional survey.

Food processing is still not doing well, simply because of higher commodity prices. Significant inflationary pressures are increasing costs and cutting into profitability.

CONFIDENCE INDEX

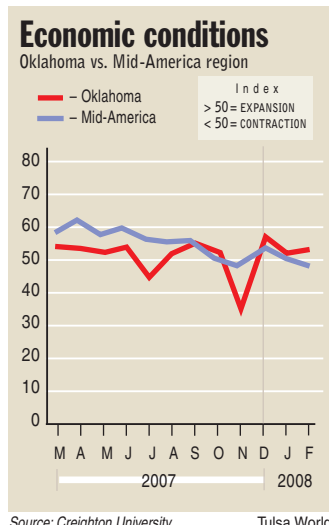
35.7

January 41.7

Mid-America region: Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Nine-state Mid-America index: 49.5

Compiled from a monthly survey of supply managers in the state.



"While Federal Reserve Chairman (Ben) Bernanke has downplayed the probability of a combination of excessive inflationary pressures and negative growth, the likelihood of such an outcome is clearly rising, according to our survey," CREIGHTON PROFESSOR ERNIE GOSS

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Livestock show, sale helps students

By DAVID SCHULTE
World Staff Writer

Sixteen-year-old Samantha Chambers has never lived on a farm, but that didn't stop her from showing livestock.

Thanks to Sapulpa High School's FFA program, students like Chambers raise livestock at a school facility and pursue agriculture-related careers.

From Thursday through Sunday, about 80 FFA and 4-H students in the Sapulpa district showed their livestock at the Creek County Premium Livestock Show & Sale. Animal judging was held Monday.

Chambers had a steer finish high enough to be included in the premium sale, scheduled for Tuesday evening.

The sale is the culmination of the event, said Kathy Gann, agriculture education teacher and FFA adviser at Sapulpa High School.

Nearly 100 animals will be sold, including goats, sheep, pigs and cattle.



DAVID SCHULTE / Tulsa World

Samantha Chambers works on displaying her steer for the Creek County Premium Livestock Show & Sale. About 80 FFA and 4-H students at Sapulpa Public Schools entered an animal this year.

The livestock event is not a typical sale because no animal is actually sold. Businesses and individuals make donations to students, which helps pay for FFA and 4-H projects.

The community has strongly supported the livestock event,

with donations increasing from \$1,785 in 1997 to \$111,250 in 2007, according to records from the Creek County OSU Extension office in Kellyville.

Chambers said her interest in livestock grew from listening to her father tell stories about

growing up and raising pigs on a farm.

"I'm a city girl, but my dad's side of the family sold livestock," she said.

Chambers joined the school district's 4-H and FFA programs so she could raise sheep and cattle, but she soon discovered that the programs offered other opportunities, such as leadership development.

Working with livestock also has helped direct Samantha Chambers to a possible career. After graduating from high school next year, she plans to attend Oklahoma State University, where she wants to pursue a degree in agriculture education.

The livestock show has been held at the Creek County Fairgrounds, four miles west of Sapulpa on Oklahoma 66.

On Tuesday, an adult, buyers-only social event begins at 6 p.m., followed by the premium sale at 7 p.m. Anyone can attend the auction and bid, officials said. More information is available at 224-2192.

Array of federal tax credits available

Dear Action Line: How do I find out if I'm entitled to any tax credits? I'm doing my taxes on FreeFile this year but want to make sure I'm not overlooking any money-saving credits. — W.S., Tulsa.



East Ave., during regular business hours and by calling (800) 829-3676.

Earned Income Tax Credit: This tax credit is a refundable credit for low-income, working individuals and families. Income and family size determine the amount of the credit. See Publication 596, Earned Income Credit, at www.tulsaworld.com/EarnedIncome.

Child and Dependent Care Credit: This is for expenses paid for the care of children under age 13, or for a disabled spouse or dependent, to enable the taxpayer to work or look for work. See Publication 503, Child and Dependent Care Expenses, at www.tulsaworld.com/ChildCareCredit.

Child Tax Credit: This is for

people who had a qualifying child who was under age 17 on the last day of 2007. The maximum credit is \$1,000 for each child. This can be claimed in addition to "credit for child and dependent care" expenses. See Publication 972, Child Tax Credit, at www.tulsaworld.com/ChildTax.

Qualified adoption expenses: Adoptive parents may qualify for a tax credit of up to \$11,390 for qualifying expenses paid to adopt each eligible child. The credit may be allowed for the adoption of a child with special needs even if you do not have any qualifying expenses. See Form 8839, Qualified Adoption Expenses, at www.tulsaworld.com/AdoptionExpenses, and its instructions, www.tulsaworld.com/adoptionexpinst.

Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled: This is available to individuals who are 65 or older or are under age 65 and retired on permanent and total disability and who are U.S. citizens or residents. Income limitations apply. See Publication 524, Credit

for the Elderly or the Disabled, at www.tulsaworld.com/ElderlyDisabled.

Retirement Savings Contribution Credit: You might qualify for a credit up to \$1,000 (\$2,000 filing jointly) if you make eligible contributions to a qualified IRA, 401(k) or certain other retirement plans. See Publication 590, Individual Retirement Accounts, at www.tulsaworld.com/RetirementSavings.

Tax benefits for education: There are a dozen tax benefits for education. See Publication 970, Tax Benefits for Education, at www.tulsaworld.com/EducationExpenses.

Other credits: As many qualifications and limitations apply to these, taxpayers should check instructions for Form 1040 at www.tulsaworld.com/Form1040.

Submit Action Line questions to 699-8888. Action Line pursues consumer complaints submitted with photocopies of documentation to Tulsa World Action Line, P.O. Box 1770, Tulsa, OK 74102-1770.

OKLAHOMA AGRICULTURE

Tulsa Livestock

The state Department of Agriculture reported the following closing prices Monday at the Tulsa Stockyards:

Receipts: 1,113; last week: 1,741; year ago: 2,187.

Compared to last sale: Feeder steers and heifers steady to 2.00 lower. Steer and heifer calves steady. Demand moderate to good for all classes. Weigh-ups average to full. Supply included 39 percent steers, 47 percent heifers, 15 percent bulls and 29 percent over 600 pounds.

Slaughter cows and bulls steady. Total of 139 cows and bulls sold with 60 percent going to packers.

Feeder Steers Medium and Large 1: 335 (335) 141.00 (141.00); 375-384 (380) 130.00-147.00 (139.51); 403-428 (413) 125.00-130.00 (128.47); 453-499 (479) 117.00-122.00 (120.59); 510-530 (513) 113.00-119.00 (116.72); 555-562 (560) 112.00-115.00 (112.74); 603-645 (632) 106.00-109.50 (108.64); 650-696 (690) 103.25-107.00 (103.72); 753 (753) 100.50 (100.50); 802-837 (820) 92.00-94.00 (92.98).

Feeder Steers Medium and Large 2: 285 (285) 127.00 (127.00); 357-360 (358) 122.00-127.00 (123.26); 405-430 (413) 112.00-115.00 (113.26); 450 (450) 104.00-116.00 (110.00); 510-546 (533) 108.00-116.00 (112.99); 550-580 (562) 106.00-110.00 (109.37); 627 (627) 109.00 (109.00); 670-695 (678) 96.00-103.50 (100.94); 742 (742) 96.00-99.00 (97.50); 793 (793) 92.00 (92.00).

Feeder Heifers Medium and Large 1: 307 (307) 114.00 (114.00); 370 (370) 125.00 (125.00); 410-447 (430) 108.00-116.00 (111.97); 453-489 (473) 105.00-116.00 (106.97); 500-547 (515) 101.50-111.50 (105.29); 560-580 (561) 100.00-106.00 (100.72); 600-645 (616) 92.50-96.50 (95.47); 665-697 (683) 92.50-93.50 (93.14); 705-743 (731) 88.00-91.50 (90.02); 758 (758) 91.50 (91.50).

Feeder Heifers Medium and Large 2:

305-340 (317) 100.00-105.00 (101.79); 372 (372) 112.00-112.50 (112.25); 400-445 (431) 92.00-104.00 (98.95); 458-490 (480) 95.00-105.00 (100.66); 505-542 (531) 90.00-101.00 (95.92); 555-588 (572) 90.00-97.00 (94.31); 612-645 (626) 82.50-83.00 (89.77); 658-690 (673) 85.00-90.00 (88.31); 705-740 (725) 83.50-88.50 (85.59); 780 (780) 83.00 (83.00); 823 (823) 82.50 (82.50).

Feeder Bulls Medium and Large 1: 383-385 (384) 121.00-125.00 (123.39); 423-438 (429) 120.00 (120.00); 483 (483) 112.00 (112.00); 500-540 (517) 105.00-115.00 (109.18); 550-565 (558) 106.00-108.00 (106.99); 623-640 (631) 95.50-104.00 (101.55); 665 (665) 95.00 (95.00); 700-725 (710) 89.00-95.00 (90.15); 780-785 (782) 82.00-85.00 (83.50); 805-845 (831) 80.00-88.00 (83.01).

Feeder Bulls Medium and Large 2: 385 (385) 97.00 (97.00); 415-447 (442) 105.00-112.00 (110.90); 460-495 (473) 104.00-110.00 (107.53); 508-540 (512) 106.00-108.00 (106.23); 572-580 (573) 95.00-112.00 (110.77); 617 (617) 105.00 (105.00); 680 (680) 95.00 (95.00); 725-745 (735) 86.00-91.00 (88.53); 765 (765) 88.00 (88.00).

Oklahoma Markets

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The state Department of Agriculture reported the following closing prices Monday.

U.S. No 1 HARD RED WINTER WHEAT: 10 to 12 cents higher. 10.91-11.34.

Shattuck, Weatherford 10.91, Banner, El Reno, Geary, Okarche, Okene, Watonga 10.95, Clinton, Frederick, Lawton 10.96.

Buffalo 10.97, Eldorado, Hooker 11.01, Alva 11.02, Cherokee 11.03, Medford, Ponca City 11.05, Hobart 11.07, Temple 11.10, Davis, Perry, Stillwater 11.09, Manchester 11.13, Keyes 11.14, Miami 11.34, Gulf 12.05.

MILC: 16 to 21 cents higher. 8.07-9.38.

Eldorado 8.07, Shattuck 8.62, Miami 8.92, Ponca City 9.03, Hooker 9.10, Medford 9.11, Keyes 9.14, Manchester 9.16, Weatherford 9.27, Alva, Buffalo 9.38, Gulf 11.01.

SOYBEANS: 19 to 44 cents higher. 14.04-14.50.

Hooker 14.04, Alva, Buffalo 14.31, Shattuck 14.31, Ponca City 14.38, Medford 14.44, Stillwater 14.42, Miami 14.50, Gulf 15.89.

CORN: 5.34-5.58.

Miami 5.34, Manchester 5.44, Keyes 5.46, Ponca City 5.54, Hooker 5.58, Gulf 6.16.

Grade 41, Leaf 4, Staple 34 Cotton in Southwestern Oklahoma averaged 71.50 cents per pound F.O.B. railcar or truck.

Alfalfa hay, 130.00-150.00. Grass hay, 65.00-85.00.

Eggs: Large 1.71, medium 1.50, small 1.16 cents.

Oklahoma Livestock

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Here are Monday's mid-session cattle and closing hog quotations from the Oklahoma National Stockyards.

CATTLE — Estimated receipts: 14,000; last Monday: 14,236; last year: 15,570.

Compared to last week: Feeder cattle and calves mostly 1.00-3.00 lower though calves not fully established yet. Most calves are long weaned and dry wintered and mostly in thin flesh. Heavy thunderstorms yesterday followed by freezing temps and blowing snow today has produced mostly

gaunt weigh-ups.

Feeder Steers Medium and Large 1: 450-500 lbs. 124.00-128.00; 575-600 lbs. 115.00-117.00; 600-675 lbs. 109.50-114.00; 700-750 lbs. 102.50-105.00; 750-800 lbs. 98.00-103.75; 800-875 lbs. 92.50-99.00; few 900-950 lbs. 89.00-92.00.

Medium and Large 1-2: 500-600 lbs. 110.00-115.00; 600-700 lbs. 104.25-112.25.

Holsteins: Large 3: lot 635 lbs. 73.00.

Feeder Heifers Medium and Large 1: 400-425 lbs. 112.00-118.75; thin 120.00; 500-550 lbs. 102.00-108.25; thin 109.50; 600-675 lbs. 97.00-102.50; 700-800 lbs. 90.25-98.25; 800-825 lbs. 89.25-90.75.

Medium and Large 1-2: 500-550 lbs. 101.50-102.50; thin 103.75; 600-700 lbs. 95.00-99.00.

HOGS — 150 head.

Compared to last Wednesday: Barrows and Gilts: 3.00 higher.

U.S. 1-3 220-270 lbs. 35.00.

U.S. 2-3 220-270 lbs.

Sows: Steady.

U.S. 1-3 300-500 lbs. 18.00-26.00.

U.S. 1-3 500-700 lbs. 28.00-30.00.

Boars: 200-250 lbs. 6.00.

Over 250 lbs. 12.00.

DEAL:

Lantec says its operations will remain in Canada.

FROM E-1

been limited to North America.

"As we go forward, future collaboration across the group should be positive," Oden said.

Lantec now joins Tulsa Winch, dp Manufacturing, Greer Co. and Vancouver-based Pullmaster Winch Corp. in the group. The entire group is owned by Dover Corp.

Lantec General Manager Jeff Morfitt predicted that the deal will help his company grow over the long haul. Tulsa Winch Group plans to keep its newest acquisition in Canada.

"We are very excited about the future," Morfitt said. "With the combined resources, the company will be able to develop and provide even more technical solutions for its customers' needs."

Tulsa Winch Group is planning its own extensive

growth project at its Jenks headquarters. The 168,000-square-foot expansion will triple the plant's size and could add 280 jobs to the area.

Oklahoma's Quality Jobs Program could reward Tulsa Winch Group with up to \$1.95 million in payroll tax rebates if it maintains the additional jobs over several years.

Tulsa Winch officials believe the expansion could have a \$39 million impact on the local economy.

California-based Greer Co. and Broken Arrow-based dp Manufacturing are being consolidated to the bigger Jenks facility. Oden is hopeful that the expansion will be completed by September.

Pullmaster, which was acquired in 2000, makes winches for commercial fishing boats, pipe layers and dredges, among other things.

Greer builds indicators and block systems for boom cranes, while dp Manufacturing makes winches, capstans and bumper packages for utility and towing trucks. Tulsa Winch produces planetary and worm-gear winches and swing drives for trucks, derricks and tractor packages.

The original Tulsa Winch was founded in 1929.

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SBA award winners

Several local business owners and individuals will be among those honored with 2008 SBA Oklahoma Awards later this month.

► Oklahoma Women in Business Champion of the Year: Carolyn Marie Marshall, owner of L&M Office Furniture.

► Oklahoma Financial Services Champion of the

Year: Ted A. Cundiff, Spirit-Bank Business Resource Center.

► Oklahoma Home-Based Small Business of the Year: Randy Clay, owner of Randy Clay Cos.

► Oklahoma Small Business Journalist of the Year: Ray Tuttle, with the Tulsa Business Journal.

AWARD:

The winner has 30 years of experience at the stylist's chair.

FROM E-1

opened another in Leawood, Kan. In September, another salon and day spa is scheduled to open in Norman, she said.

Ihloff was named top small business person in the state based on her companies' staying power, growth in

number of employees, increase in sales, innovative products and contributions to community-oriented projects, according to the SBA, Oklahoma District.

At the upcoming awards ceremony, Lt. Gov. Jari Askins will make remarks, followed by keynote speaker Vince Orza, dean of the Meinders School of Business at Oklahoma City University.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$25. For more information or to register, e-mail darla.booker@sba.gov.

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FYI: BUSINESS

Pipeline to Cushing gets backing

The State Department said Monday it intends to issue a permit this month for a \$5.2 billion pipeline that would transport crude oil from Canada through seven states to the hub at Cushing.

The pipeline will be equally owned by Calgary-based TransCanada Corp. and Houston based-ConocoPhillips.

The 2,148-mile pipeline would be capable of carrying 590,000 barrels of oil daily by late 2010.

Canadian authorities have approved the project.

T-bill interest rates lowest since 2004

Interest rates on short-term Treasury bills fell in Mondays' auction to their lowest levels since 2004.

The Treasury Department auctioned \$24 billion in three-month bills at a discount rate of 1.790 percent, down from 2.160 percent last week. Another \$23 billion in six-month bills was auctioned at a discount rate of 1.810 percent, down from 2.070 percent last week.

The three-month rate was the lowest since three-month bills averaged 1.770 percent on Oct. 18, 2004. The six-month rate was the lowest since these bills averaged 1.775 percent on Aug. 30, 2004.

The discount rates reflect that the bills sell for less than face value. For a \$10,000 bill, the three-month price was \$9,954.75 while a six-month bill sold for \$9,908.49.

From Bloomberg, AP and staff reports

Gone Fishing?

CAPTAIN D'S DOES IT DAILY.

For Franchise Information
call today to arrange a meeting with Rick Hedreen here in Tulsa on March 11th - 12th.

(832) 922-3938
(800) 550-4877