



media release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

contact: Shelly Megaw, 507.381.2767
smegaw@greatermankato.com

Regional Economic Development Organization’s Take on Latest Job Figures

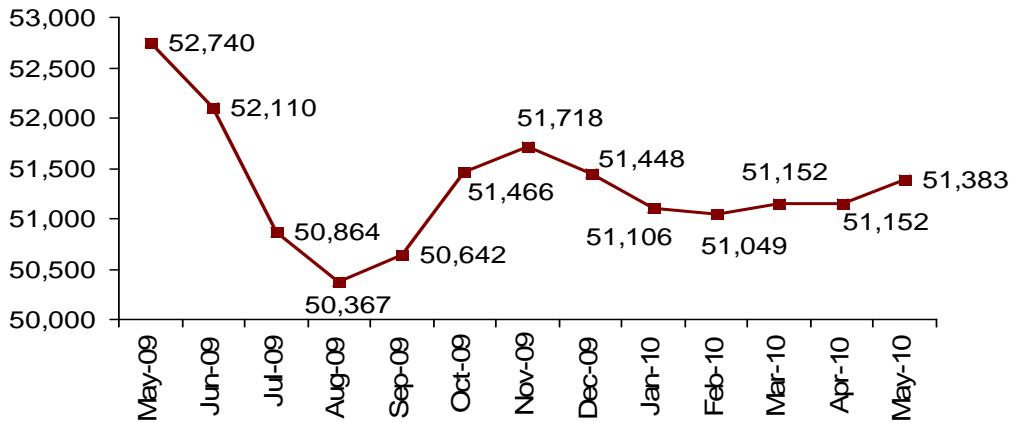
Mankato, MINN (June 17, 2010) – The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) today released its latest job figures and the news is good for Greater Mankato. “It’s great that DEED provides this and other information that allows us to gauge our progress as an individual region and compare it to other areas,” says Jonathan Zierdt, President & CEO of Greater Mankato Growth, the Economic Development and Chamber of Commerce organization that serves the Greater Mankato regional marketplace.

DEED jobs information comes from two primary reports: **Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)** and **Current Employment Statistics (CES)**.

CES data measures the number of jobs (both filled and unfilled) in a particular area, excluding self-employment and farm jobs. In the case of the Mankato-North Mankato Metropolitan Statistical Area (including all of Blue Earth and Nicollet counties), since the August 2009 four-year job number low of 50,367 the number of jobs has grown to 51,383 in May 2010 (an increase of 1016 jobs). “Since the beginning of the year our employment numbers have also remained steady or risen modestly, and that speaks to Greater Mankato’s consistency, where we don’t experience significant highs, nor do we see dramatic lows in economic figures,” says Zierdt.

Greater Mankato Jobs May 2009 – May 2010

(Mankato-North Mankato MSA, which includes all of Blue Earth and Nicollet Counties)



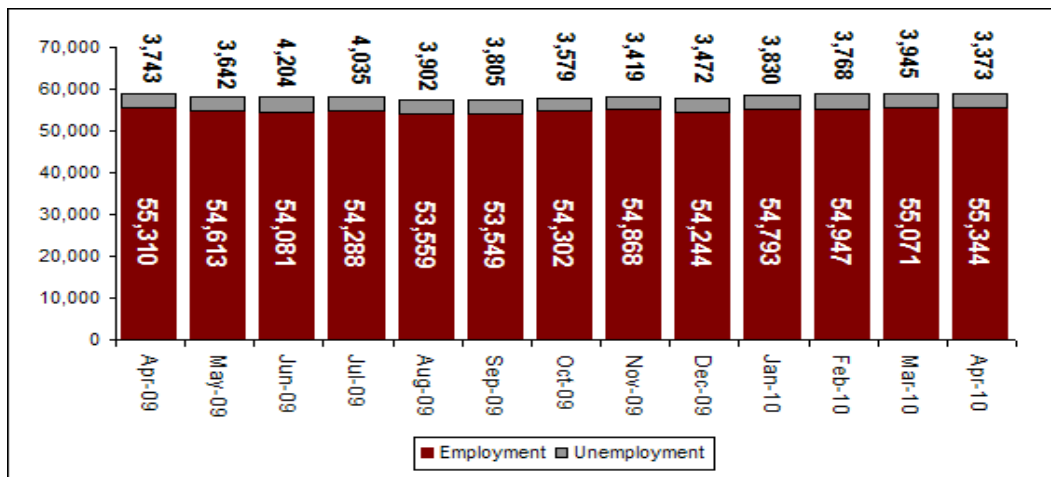
Source: CES, Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED)
Compiled by: Greater Mankato Growth, Inc. | greatermankato.com | 507.385.6640 | info@greatermankato.com

LAUS data measures the total number of people who live in a particular region who are employed. “As a regional center, many individuals commute into Greater Mankato who do not live in Blue Earth and Nicollet counties and their employment wouldn’t be counted here, because it’s based on the place of residence,” explains Zierdt. According to the April 2010 LAUS report, the number of people unemployed in the region dropped 9.9% from April 2009 to April 2010, with the unemployment rate shifting from 6.3% last April to 5.7% this April. Also, when compared to other areas of the state and country, Greater Mankato fares quite well in terms of low unemployment (for detailed comparisons visit <http://www.positivelyminnesota.com/apps/lmi/laus/Graph.aspx?geog=2721031860&adjust=0>).

Greater Mankato Employment Statistics April 2009 - April 2010

(Mankato-North Mankato, MN MSA, which includes all of Blue Earth and Nicollet Counties)

| Month | Employment | Unemployment | Unemployment Rate |
|--------|------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Apr-09 | 55,310 | 3,743 | 6.3 |
| May-09 | 54,613 | 3,642 | 6.3 |
| Jun-09 | 54,081 | 4,204 | 7.2 |
| Jul-09 | 54,288 | 4,035 | 6.9 |
| Aug-09 | 53,559 | 3,902 | 6.8 |
| Sep-09 | 53,549 | 3,805 | 6.6 |
| Oct-09 | 54,302 | 3,579 | 6.2 |
| Nov-09 | 54,868 | 3,419 | 5.9 |
| Dec-09 | 54,244 | 3,472 | 6.0 |
| Jan-10 | 54,793 | 3,830 | 6.5 |
| Feb-10 | 54,947 | 3,768 | 6.4 |
| Mar-10 | 55,071 | 3,945 | 6.7 |
| Apr-10 | 55,344 | 3,373 | 5.7 |



Source: LAUS, Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED)

Compiled by: Greater Mankato Growth, Inc. | greatermankato.com | 507.385.6640 | info@greatermankato.com

“Greater Mankato’s stability doesn’t mean we’ve been able to go through the past year unscathed economically, but it has enabled us to weather the storm somewhat better than others and come out on the other side in a much stronger position,” concludes Zierdt. For more information and data on Greater Mankato’s business climate visit greatermankato.com-business.php

About Greater Mankato Growth

Greater Mankato Growth (GMG) is committed to advancing business for a stronger community through existing business support, new business growth, business promotion, talent development, public affairs, community marketing, visitor attraction & servicing and civic engagement.