

The economy is improving if a majority of the indicators are better than the year before. Pluses and minuses are assigned based on whether the numbers improved, not the direction the numbers moved.

⊕ Positive indication ⊖ Negative indication ○ Not available NC No change

| INDICATORS | 2007 | | | | | | | | 2008 | | | | | APR |
|---------------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|
| | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MAR | | |
| Jobless rate | ⊕ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ○ | |
| Mfg. employment | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | NC | NC | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ○ | |
| Total employed | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊖ | ⊕ | ○ | ○ | |
| Housing starts | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ○ | ○ | |
| Major construction | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ○ | |
| Sales-tax revenue | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | |
| Hotel occupancy | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ○ | |
| Bankruptcy filings | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊕ | ⊖ | ⊕ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊕ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ○ | |
| Cargo freight | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊖ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊕ | ⊖ | ○ | |
| Star 60 | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊕ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | ⊖ | |
| OVERALL SCORE | 0 | -2 | -2 | -4 | -2 | -3 | -1 | +2 | +2 | -7 | -3 | -5 | -1 | |

Notes: Jobless rate, manufacturing employment, total employed and housing starts are for Winnebago and Boone counties. Major construction is for Winnebago, Boone, Ogle, Stephenson, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Lee, Whiteside and Carroll counties. Sales tax is for Winnebago, Boone and Ogle counties. Hotel occupancy and cargo freight reflect Winnebago County only. Bankruptcy filings are for Winnebago, Boone, Ogle and Stephenson counties. The Star 60 tracks 60 publicly traded companies based in the Rock River Valley or with significant local operations. Sales tax and major construction are calculated quarterly.