Increase in number of businesses expanding, moving to Tahoe-Reno area

By Bill O'Driscoll, Reno Gazette-Journal

Signs of life are emerging in the effort to grow existing business and bring new companies to the Reno-Tahoe region.

A report Wednesday by the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada showed marked increases in the number of expanded and relocated businesses and jobs created in the fiscal year ending June 30.

That has EDAWN officials believing recovery could be under way after several years of recession and double-digit unemployment.

"It wasn't a great year, but it's improving … trending back up," said Stan Thomas, vice president of business development.

He said he's especially encouraged by growth in site visits from interested companies — nearly quadrupling from 20 a year earlier to 74.

"They are serious shoppers," Thomas said. "That trend really gets me excited."

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