

There might be room for optimism in the local housing market.

From State Bank Financial in La Crosse, senior v-p Wayne Oliver is encouraged by things he sees like the number of businesses that are hiring. Something that always has to happen, he says, before the housing market picks up. Oliver says mortgage applications are growing as hiring picks up in the area.

Biggest movement appears to be in existing homes in the 130 to 170 thousand dollar price range.

Although home sales and prices across the state for June were both down considerably from last year, the consensus is those numbers have been skewed by last year's home buyer tax credits.