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we move into 1987," he said. "Consumers are very optimistic; they feel it's a good time to buy and invest and things are definitely going to start happening."

State and local figures for Oregon also indicated a positive economic trend.

'Since 1982, the economy has been improving.' said Ed Whitelaw, president of ECO Northwest and a professor of economics at the University. "An employment growth rate of 3.7 percent is predicted for Oregon in 1987."

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Duncan agreed. "Much of the economic stress that has characterized Oregon's economy in recent years has run its course," he said. "Efforts to diversify the state's economy have begun to pay off in terms of both in-creases in entrepreneurial activity and decreases in business failures."

New business starts in Oregon showed a gain of 5.5 percent in 1986, especially in retails and services.

The increases in business startups in the services and retailing sectors are key indicators of the growing economic vitality in the state," Duncan said. "They reflect higher levels of spending by both businesses and consumers.

Business failures had also decreased 10.6 percent over the same period.

"The overall trend in business failures in Oregon is quite positive," Duncan said. "Five of the nine major industry sectors showed decreases. Moreover, the gains reported in the remaining four sectors were not dramatic in terms of total numbers."



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