**Slow Growth Expected for 2012, Recession Unlikely**

*By Robert Karofsky*

Despite slower growth this spring, economic growth should improve somewhat during the third and fourth quarters of 2012, according to a recent report on <Kiplinger.com>. However, the total growth is unlikely to exceed 2 percent.   
  
A number of economic factors continue to cause concern among experts. These include flat job creation, weak consumer spending, and low industrial output. At the same time, however, few experts predict another recession on the horizon, assuming the absence of a war in the Middle East, which could cause gasoline prices to spike above $5 a gallon.  
  
In addition, consumers, investors, and business managers remain cautiously optimistic about 2013. Corporate profits continue to post strong returns, and small business owners anticipate increased sales and hiring toward the end of 2012.   
  
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