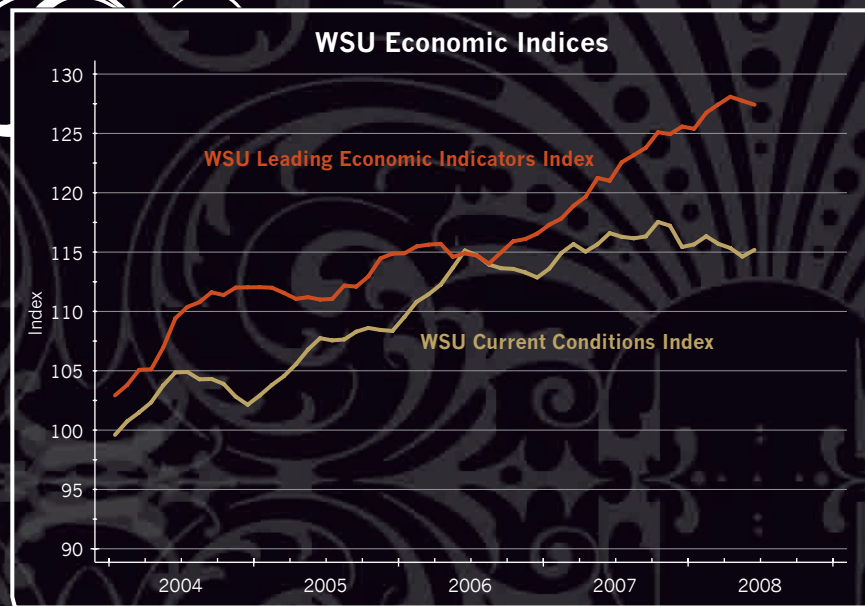


Economic Overview **An Ace in the Hole?**

“The strong local economy has been Wichita's ace in the hole throughout much of the national housing market downturn.”



The strong local economy has been Wichita's ace in the hole throughout much of the national housing market downturn. Now it appears to be more of a wild card. The WSU Current Conditions Index fell slightly over the past year, off 2 percent since its peak in October 2007. Ironically, however, much of this decline has been due to slowing home sales, an important component in the index.

In contrast, the WSU Leading Economic Indicators Index has risen steadily in each of the last five years, although it did decline slightly this summer.

After two stellar years, employment growth in Wichita has slowed in recent months, turning negative this summer. Whether employment rises in the coming year depends in large part on whether the strong backlog of aircraft orders holds firm in the wake of a slowing national economy.

“Ironically, the recent decline in the WSU Current Conditions Index has been due to slowing home sales.”

