

Economic Overview

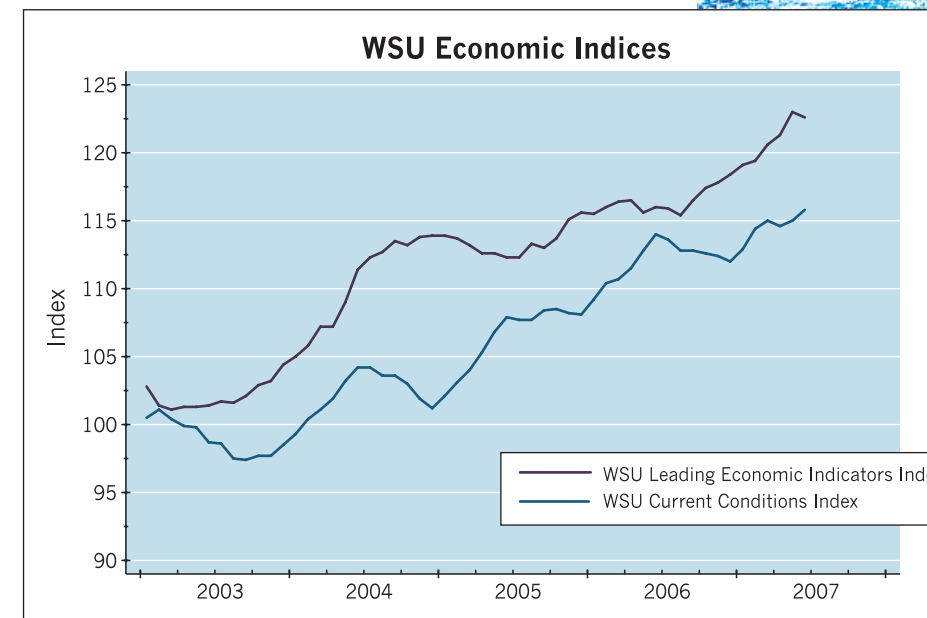
A STEADY BREEZE

The Wichita economy is the wind that fills the "sales" of the local housing market, and right now the market is running with a steady breeze. While employment growth nationally has been slowing over the past year, Wichita employment rose by a remarkable 5.3 percent in July. Aviation manufacturing, in particular, is having a banner year, with continued growth expected into 2008 and beyond.

This positive outlook is confirmed by the WSU Current Conditions Index, which offers a broader perspective on the Wichita economy. This index has trended upward every year since 2003.

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The WSU Leading Economic Indicators Index suggests the favorable winds will continue. The index continues to rise to new records, and its level in the second quarter was up 5.4 percent from the prior year.

Janet Harrah, Director, Center for Economic Development and Business Research

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