STATE OF ARIZONA

Joint Legislative Budget Committee

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FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE March 8, 2007 Senate Hearing Room 1 – 11:30 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RUSSELL K. PEARCE CHAIRMAN 2007 KIRK ADAMS ANDY BIGGS TOM BOONE OLIVIA CAJERO BEDFORD LINDA J. LOPEZ PETE RIOS STEVE YARBROUGH

Members Present: Pete Ewen, Arizona Public Service James Apperson, Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting Georganna Meyer, Department of Revenue Dean Martin, State Treasurer Elliott Pollack, Elliott D. Pollack and Co. Martin Schultz, Arizona Public Service Randie Stein, Stone & Youngberg Marshall Vest, University of Arizona Don Wehbey, Department of Economic Security Research Administration

Mr. Richard Stavneak, Director, JLBC Staff, opened the meeting at 11:45 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting. He provided a brief synopsis of the FAC panel since it began advising the Legislature 30 years ago.

Mr. Stavneak started the JLBC Staff presentation with an overview of state revenues and issues for the panel to consider. (Click here to view.)

Mr. Brian Cary, JLBC Staff, continued the presentation on Sales Tax Collections and Corporate Income Tax. Mr. Hans Olofsson, JLBC Staff, continued the presentation on Individual Income Tax.

Mr. Pollack gave a slide presentation and handout on the national economy. (Click here to view.)

Mr. Stavneak asked Mr. Pollack's perspective relative to the state's economy.

Mr. Pollack said that the state economy will be affected to a lesser degree. The problem is that housing permits are down; however, closings are not. It could be either homebuilders selling their existing inventory or housing starts under construction have not yet been completed. The worst effect on the slowdown in housing is still ahead. The good news is that the worse 2007 is for housing, the quicker the state will get through. The overhang is not huge.

Mr. Marshall Vest gave a presentation on the Arizona economy. (Click here to view.)

ROBERT L. BURNS CHAIRMAN 2008 PAULA ABOUD AMANDA AGUIRRE JAKE FLAKE JORGE LUIS GARCIA JACK W. HARPER THAYER VERSCHOOR JIM WARING

STATE

SENATE

Mr. Stavneak asked Mr. Vest what he attributed his cautious outlook to. Mr. Vest replied that it would be a combination of serious pull back in housing and homebuilding coupled with the slowdown in consumer spending.

Mr. Stavneak asked if the typical timeframe between housing permits and the loss of jobs is 24 months and when that time period would come. Mr. Vest replied that it has been 17 months as of December, so in the first or second quarter, construction employment may turn down, which could be a drag on overall growth.

Mr. Pete Ewen gave a presentation on his views of the economy. (Click here to view.)

Mr. Pollack said that Mr. Ewen had a great analysis. He said that there is a completely different picture if R.L. Browns' data is used as opposed to Jay Butler's data. He asked Mr. Ewen if he has analyzed Jay's data. Mr. Ewen replied that they track the permits against their electric meter sets. There is typically a 6 to 9 month lag, which is well correlated. He does not know if he would get the same data if he did the same with RL Browns' data.

Mr. Stavneak said that from the recession to the moderate growth scenario, Mr. Ewen is closer to the moderate view.

Mr. Cary said that most of the discussion has been focused on the residential housing segment, he asked Mr. Ewen for his perspective on the commercial and industrial side of the business.

Mr. Ewen said that customer growth had held up well. The commercial segment is never approached on the same level as residential. The weight in economic activity differs from the type of facility, which makes is harder to make sense of the growth rate in customer accounts. When looking at the sales growth rate of the electricity consumption, which is tied to the industrial production measure, those rates are in the highest level since the recession of 2001-2002.

Mr. Stavneak asked the panel for their perspective on the economy.

Mr. Jim Apperson said he just received a similar briefing from his advisory group and it is still under review. There are no new updates, but the information is consistent with what was said by the panel.

Mr. Martin Schultz said the electric usage is growing 4 times more than the national average, which means that not only is it residential usage but also the commercial sector. He added that he works closely with the school districts. The school districts know about the meter sets and are trying to figure out their growth and student population. This will ultimately lead to their requests for new schools. The optimistic assessment is an indication that the pressure will continue to be on the growth in schools.

State Treasurer Dean Martin provided a handout illustrating the Office of the State Treasurer's Operating Account Balance. (Click here to view.)

Ms. Randie Stein said that population growth will continue offsetting the housing market. General merchandise sales will mitigate some of the slowdown. The bump in individual income tax estimated payments in December and January may be tied to automatic payments associated with federal taxes. In the end, it would require a refund and may not be here to stay.

Mr. Stavneak said that the challenge in analyzing the estimated payment data is some individuals whose estimated payments are on autopilot from when a return is filed earlier in the year and their accountant estimates their payment. There is some element within individual which is a misnomer to the extent where there are small business contributing through limited liability companies (LLC). Because of this, a

growing share of individual income tax liability might be more varied because it may not be as much on autopilot. It is hard to distinguish wealthy individuals versus LLCs who are making estimated payments.

Mr. Don Wehbey said the January employment figures have been released. The January figures posted mostly losses in all but 2 industries. The losses of about 44,000 jobs are seasonally related. Typically, the losses on a 10-year average basis is 2.6%, the 2007 losses represented 1.6%. This is post-holiday related layoffs which are widespread, with the exception of 2 industries. One of the industries, Other Services, captures jobs not found elsewhere. The employment report is another positive indicator of economic momentum. There were not as many losses as expected. The unemployment rate was 4.1% compared to 4.6% nationally. The benchmark figures for annual growth in 2006 and 2005 came in at 5.4% for each year, which is a slight increase. The pre-benchmark figure of growth was at 4.9% and post-benchmark figure came in a 5.4%. This compares with pre-benchmark numbers of growth of 123,000, now at post-benchmark of 135,000. The labor market continues strong. There are indicators of a moderate slowdown. Forecast figures will be released in mid-April.

Mr. Stavneak asked if the loss of 5,000 construction jobs was typical between December and January.

Mr. Webbey said yes, the construction industry can be affected by modest things such as the weather. In the benchmark changes, there was an upward revision in manufacturing. Manufacturing was the one industry that showed proportionately more for its industry base. Construction in 2006 went down slightly.

Ms. Georganna Meyer agreed with the opinions of the panel. The reports from the school tuition organizations hit \$51 million for 2006 compared with \$42 million last year. This does reflect the last year of the increase in the amount married filing joint donors who can donate from \$825 to \$1,000.

Mr. Stavneak said that this is another challenge in forecasting revenue. It is not just economic growth, but also changes in credits.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Yvette Medina, Secretary

Tim Everill, Revenue Section Chief

NOTE: A full tape recording of this meeting is on file in the JLBC Staff office at 1716 West Adams.

Finance Advisory Committee

March 8, 2007



Finance Advisory Committee

- The FAC has been advising the Legislature on the Arizona economy for more than 30 years.
- 15 members from both the public and private sectors.
- Committee meets 3 times a year.
- Panelists are polled on revenue forecasts

 one of 4 inputs into the consensus
 forecasting process.



Questions for the Committee

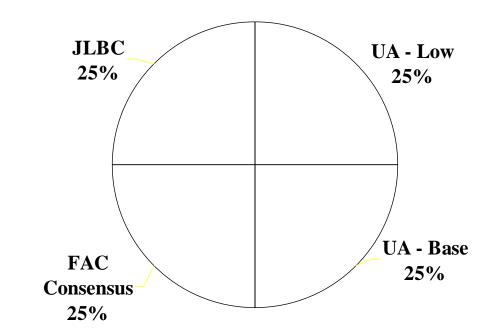
- There are a wide range of forecasts for the next 15 months – ranging from recession to moderate growth – what is your forecast?
- How far will the decline in housing permits ripple through the economy?
- How much has the stock market drop of the last week affected your thinking?



FAC Forecast is a Component of "Big 3" General Fund Revenue Consensus Estimate

Big 3 forecast equally weights:

- FAC average
- UofA model base
- UofA model low
- JLBC Staff forecast
- Remaining revenues (5% of total) are staff forecast





Four-Sector Consensus Process Designed to Incorporate Variety of Opinion and Methodology

- Level of Modeling
 - 2 inputs based on formal econometric models:
 - UA model consisting of over 200 variables and 100 equations.
 - UA Base and Low forecasts incorporated into 4-sector forecast.
 - 2 inputs based primarily on economists' analysis of current data:
 - Survey of FAC panel members.
 - JLBC Staff forecast.
- Level of Risk
 - Inputs designed to span varying levels of risk from a 50% probability of meeting or exceeding forecast to 75%-80%.
- Forecast based on pre-tax law basis for comparability then tax law changes applied to reach final forecast.

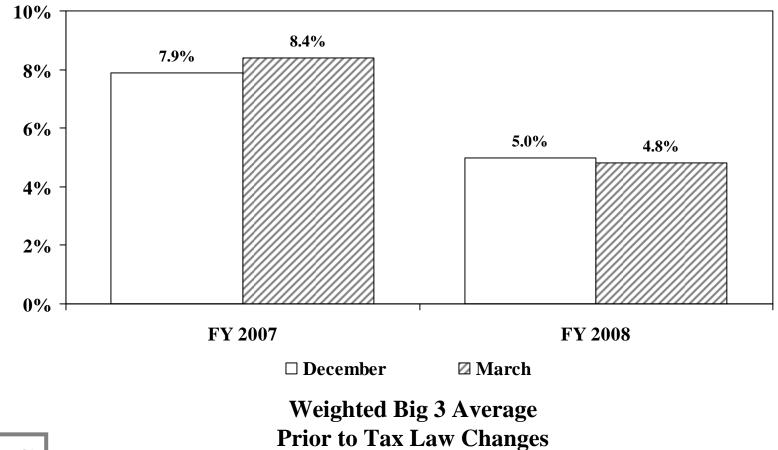


What Has Happened Since our December Meeting?

- While November year-to-date revenue collections were 9.3%, February year-to-date collections are 8.3%.
- Revenue growth will continue to decline in FY '07 as effects of enacted tax law changes take effect:
 - 5% individual income tax reduction and corporate sales factor.
- January retail sales tax collections (reflecting the December holiday period) grew by only 1%.
- Estimated individual income tax payments for the December-January period were up by 8.1% over the prior year.



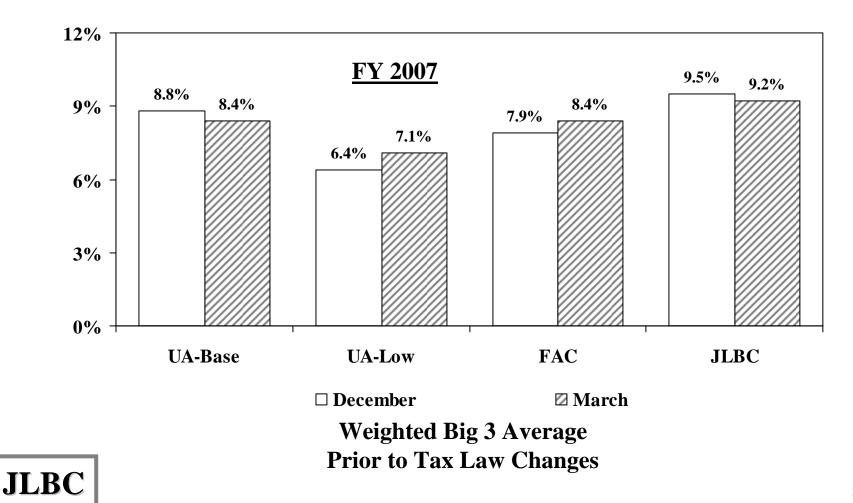
FAC More Optimistic About FY 2007, but More Cautious About FY 2008 - March Panel Forecast Compared to December





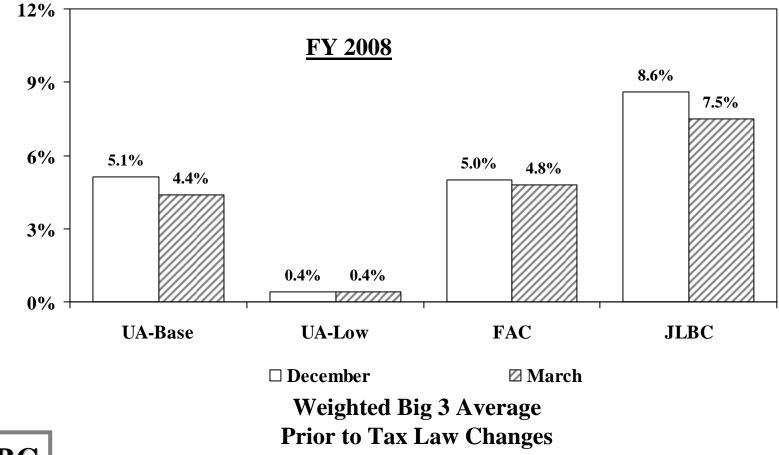
March 4-Sector Consensus Forecast for FY 2007 Compared to December

- Weighted Average Increased Slightly from 8.2% to 8.3%



March 4-Sector Turned More Cautious for FY 2008

Weighted Average Decreased from 4.8% to 4.3%
Executive Has Decreased from 6.4% to 6.0%



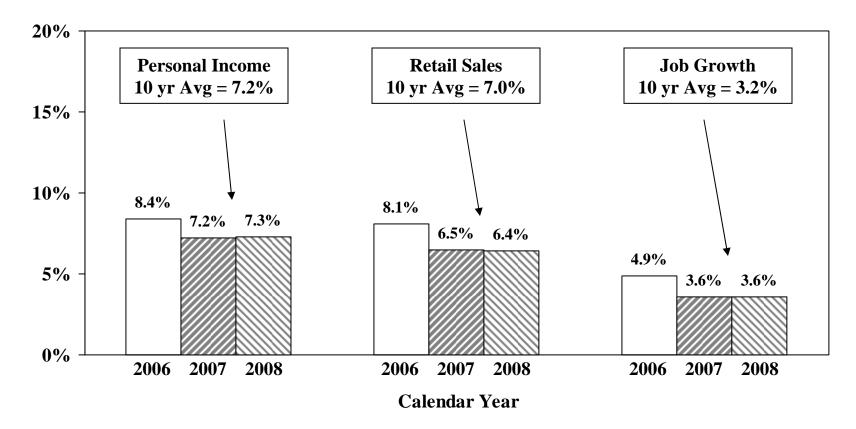
Is 25% Recession Scenario Appropriate?

- UA Low Input at 0.4% Growth is Equivalent to A Recession

- National Blue Chip (January 2007) places the odds of a recession at 25% in the next 12 months
 - Based on responses from 55 panelists
 - 10 most optimistic place odds at average of 15%
 - 10 most pessimistic place odds at average of 38%
- Arizona Blue Chip (January 2007) is more optimistic 16% see next recession by 2008.
 - 8% said prior to 2008
 - 8% said 2008
 - 84% said 2009 or beyond



While UA/FAC Are More Cautious, Blue Chip Continues to Forecast Growth Near Historical Averages



Source: February 2007 Arizona Blue Chip – monthly survey of 18 economists



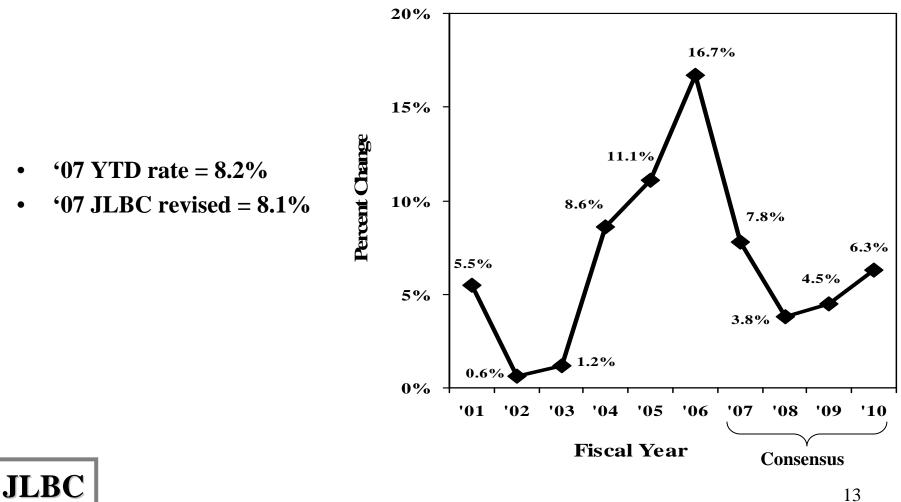
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The Blue Chip "Moderate Growth" Scenario is Not Reflected in UA/FAC Inputs

- Historical revenue growth is 7% annually.
- UA/FAC inputs are at least 2% below historical average growth.
- To reflect the Blue Chip scenario near the historical average, JLBC Staff input is set at 7.5% growth.



Sales Tax Growth Rate Consensus Projects 3.8% for FY 2008 - Executive Projects 7.8%

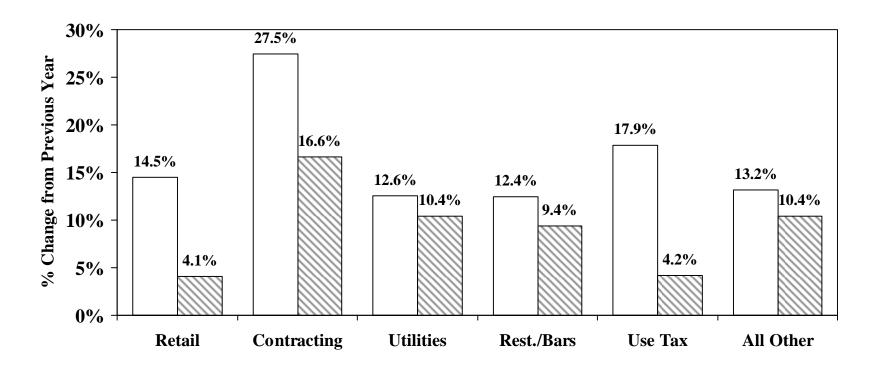


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FY 2007 Sales Tax Collections Have Slowed in All Key Categories

- 1% Growth in Holiday Sales Was Disappointing- When Will Housing Slowdown Affect Contracting?



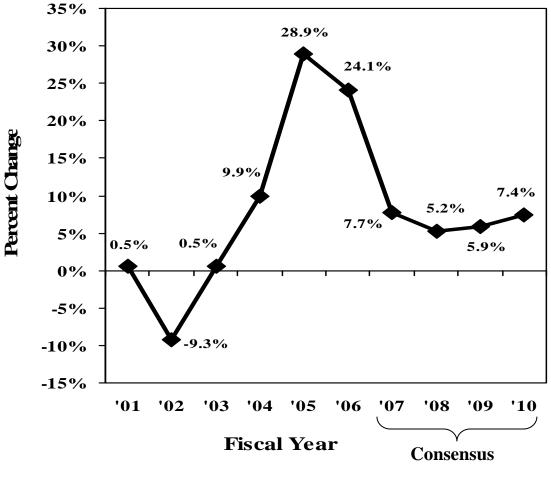
□ '06 Actual

🖾 '07 YTD



Individual Income Tax Growth Rate Consensus Projects 5.2% for FY 2008 - Executive Projects 6.7%

- **'07 YTD rate = 9.5%**
- **'07 JLBC revised = 9.3%**
 - Adjusting for enacted tax law changes in 2nd half of fiscal year, actual collections are estimated to grow by 4.3% over prior year.



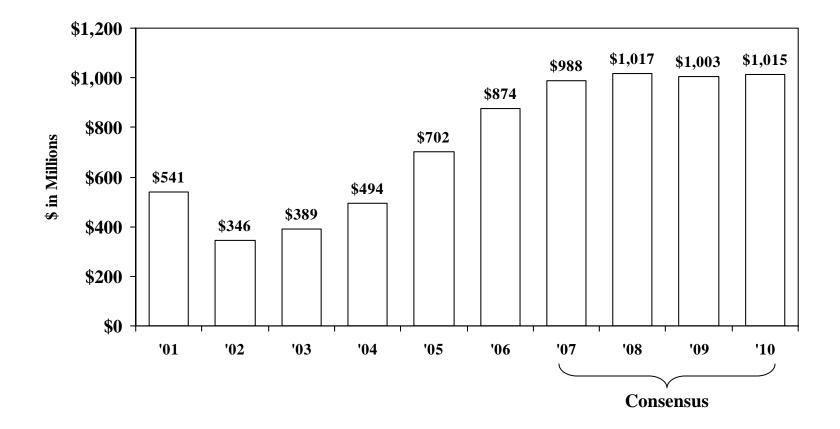
JLBC

Capital Gains Is An Important But Volatile Tax Revenue Source

- In FY05, capital gains made up 7.5% of Arizona Gross Income compared to 71% for wages.
- However, capital gains contributed more than twice as much -- 16% -- to total net income tax collections.
- Unlike federal rates, there is no lower tax rate for capital gains at the state level.
- Based on CBO projections, it is estimated that the growth rate in capital gains realization will decrease from 38% in FY '05 to (4)% in FY '08, which will decrease capital gains' contribution to net income tax collections.



Corporate Income Tax Collections Consensus Projects 2.9% for FY 2008 - Executive Projects (0.8)%





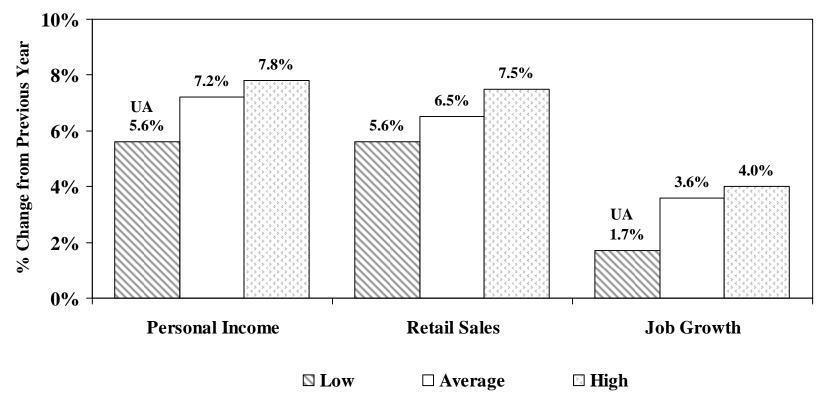
Exceptional Growth in Corporate Profits is Not Expected to Continue

- After growing by 19.1% in 2004 and 12.5% in 2005, U.S. corporate profits increased by an estimated 20.8% in 2006.
- The Global Insight forecasting firm projects corporate profits will grow by 4.6% in 2007 and 6.3% in 2008.
- U.S. Blue Chip Economic Indicators predicts corporate profits will grow by 5.0% in 2007 and by 5.3% in 2008.



Views Vary Widely on Future Economic Growth

- UA Input is Lowest of 18 Blue Chip Panel Members for 2 of 3 Key Categories - UA Models Represent 50% of 4-Sector Consensus Forecast



2007 Arizona Blue Chip Forecast



FY2007-FY 2010 Quartile Forecast Worksheet

	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Sales Tax	8.1%	7.1%	5.5%	6.2%
JLBC Forecast (3/1/07) UA - Low (2/07 revision)	7.6%	0.2%	5.5% 1.9%	5.3%
UA - Base (2/07 revision)	7.8%	0.2 %	4.9%	5.3 <i>%</i> 7.2%
	7.6% 7.6%	2.5% 5.2%		6.3%
FAC (3/8/07 Survey)	7.0%	5.2%	5.6%	0.3%
Average:	7.8%	3.8%	4.5%	6.3%
Individual Income Tax				
JLBC Forecast (3/1/07)	9.3%	7.9%	6.5%	7.0%
UA - Low (2/07 revision) withholding	6.1%	2.6%	4.1%	7.2%
UA - Base (2/07 revision) withholding	7.0%	4.8%	6.7%	8.6%
FAC (3/8/07 Survey)	8.3%	5.5%	6.3%	6.7%
Average:	7.7%	5.2%	5.9%	7.4%
Corporate Income Tax				
JLBC Forecast (3/1/07)	14.5%	7.5%	1.3%	0.2%
UA - Low (2/07 revision)	8.8%	-8.0%	-13.8%	-4.9%
UA - Base (2/07 revision)	16.9%	11.6%	0.6%	2.9%
FAC (3/8/07 Survey)	12.3%	0.5%	6.2%	6.5%
Average:	13.1%	2.9%	-1.4%	1.2%
Consensus Weighted Average:	8.3%	4.3%	4.5%	6.2%
JLBC Weighted Average:	9.2%	7.5%	5.5%	5.9%
UA Low Weighted Average:	7.1%	0.4%	1.4%	5.3%
UA Base Weighted Average:	8.4%	4.4%	5.2%	7.3%
FAC Consensus Weighted Average:	8.4%	4.8%	6.0%	6.5%

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Note: All percentages are prior to enacted tax law changes.

"Slower Growth Ahead"

Prepared for: Finance Advisory Committee

Elliott D. Pollack & Company

March 8th, 2007

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Negatives

- Slowing housing market.
- Consumer spending slowing.
- Inflation an issue?



Weakening economies are more sensitive to shocks.



Examples of Direct Shocks:

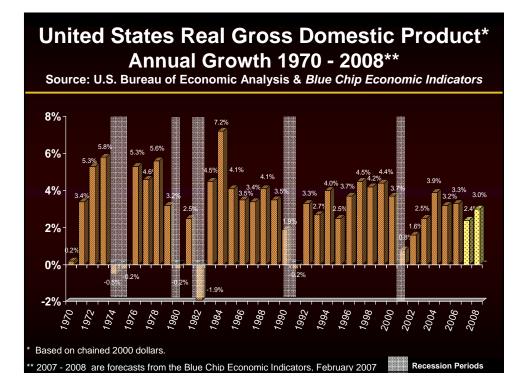
- Unexpected oil price escalation.
- Terrorist event (especially to financial or commerce infrastructure).

Examples of Indirect Shocks:

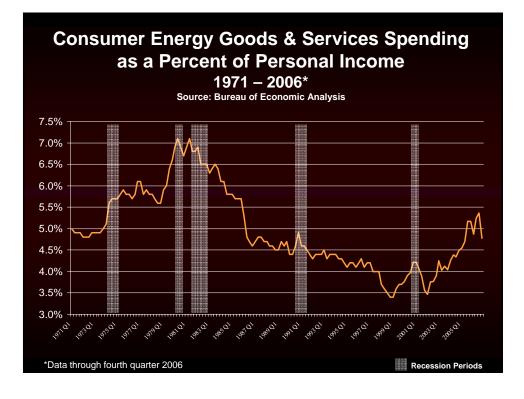
Collapse of housing prices

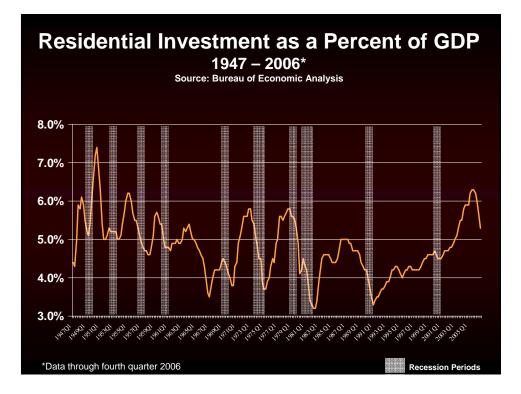
What is the national Blue Chip panel telling us?

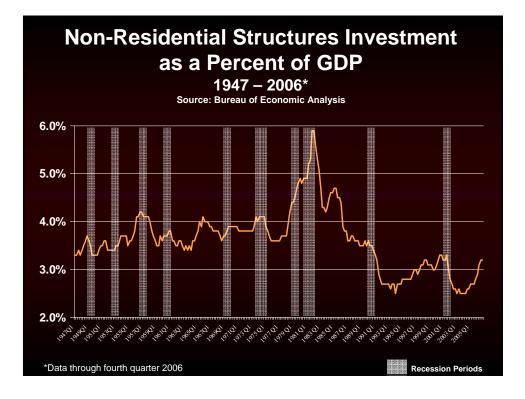


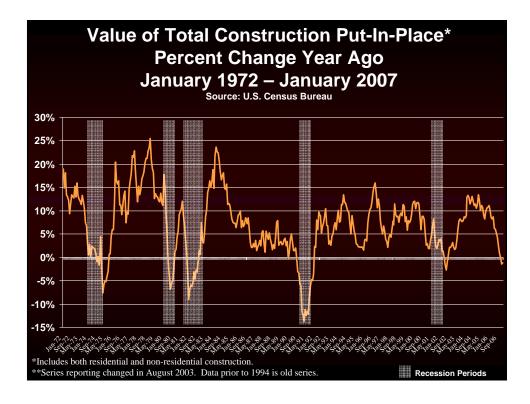


ODDS OF A RECESSION Source: National Blue Chip Panel				
January consensus:	25.4%			
December consensus: November consensus: October consensus:	27.4% 24.8% N/A			

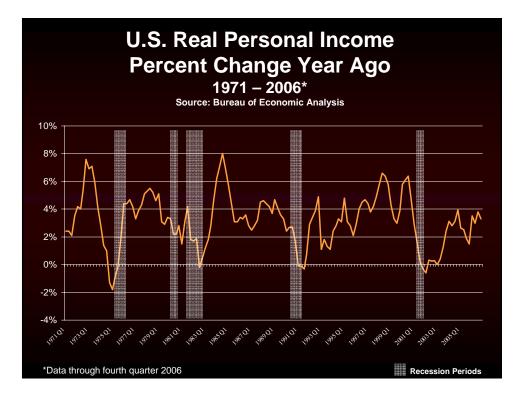


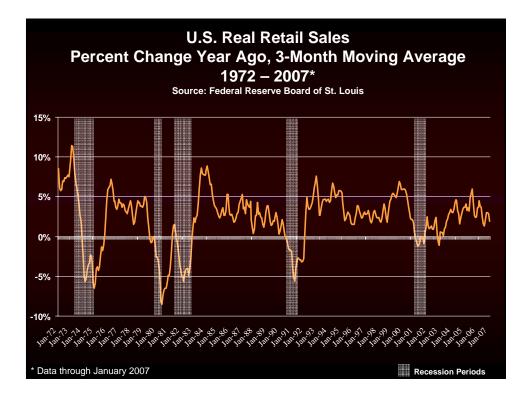


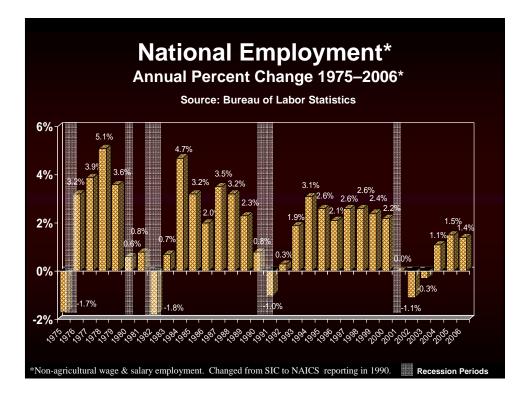


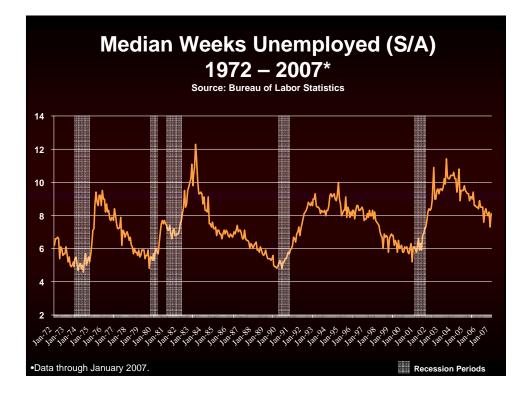






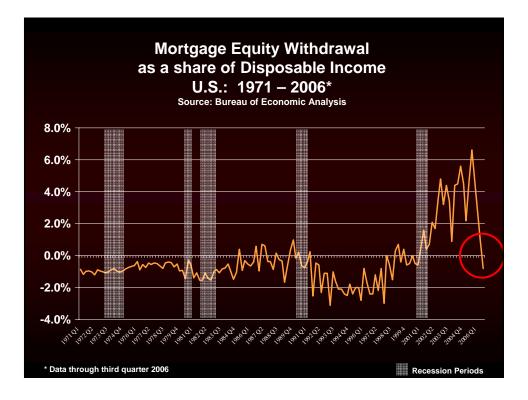


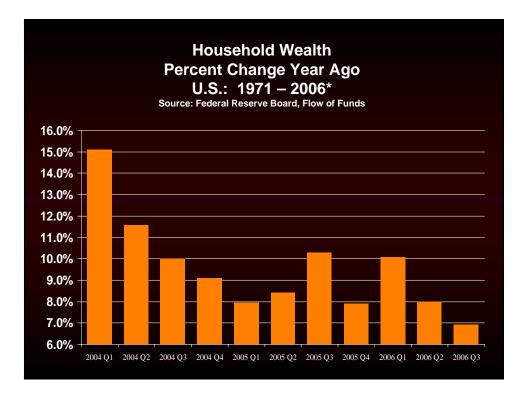


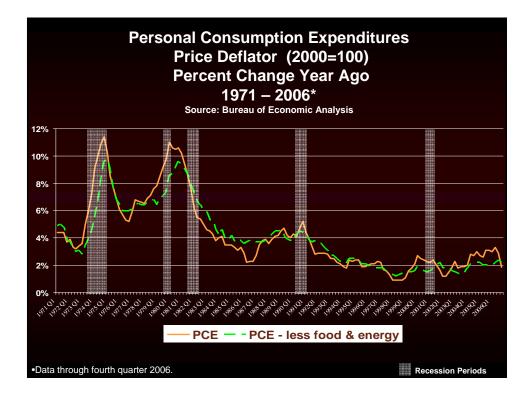


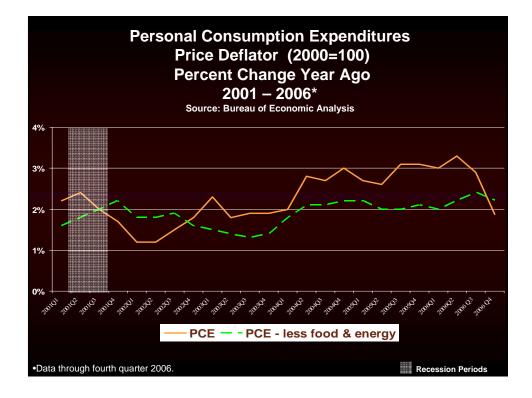
CONSUMER SPENDING Causes of Consumer Caution

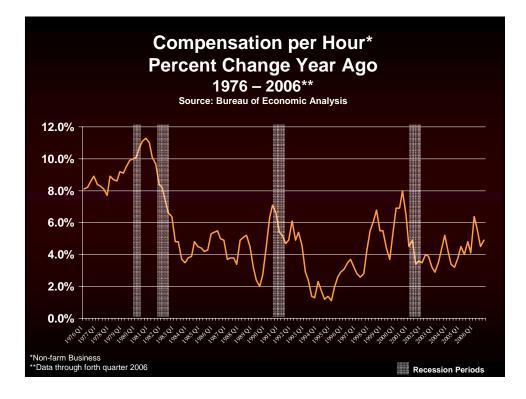
- Reduced home-related spending on home improvement items such as furnishings, appliances, and building materials. (Look at completions not starts)
- Housing-related industries are now cutting jobs.
- Slowing growth in household wealth
- Mortgage equity withdrawal slowing.

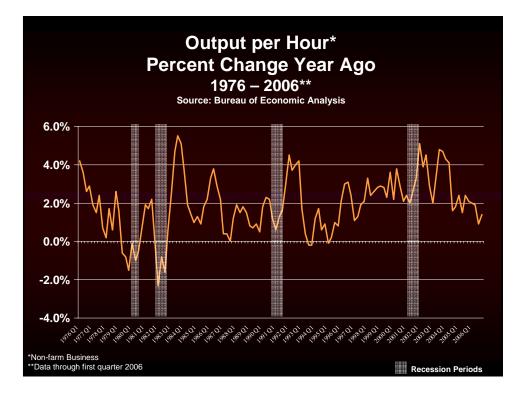


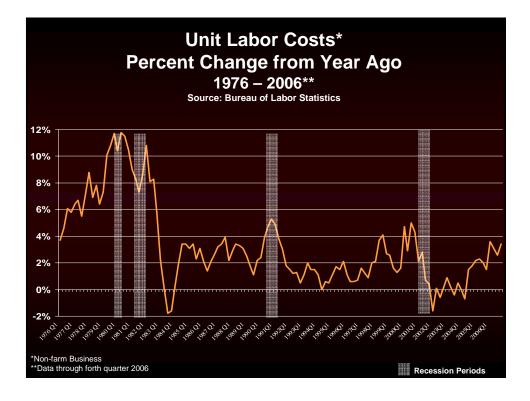


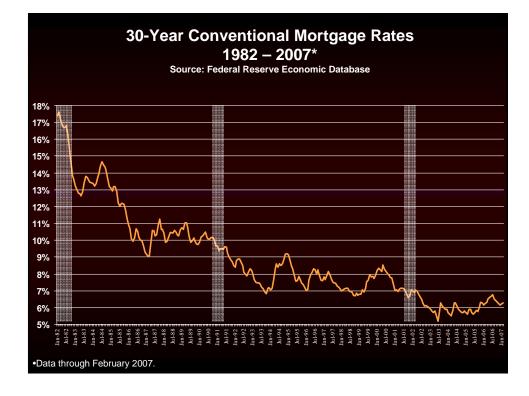


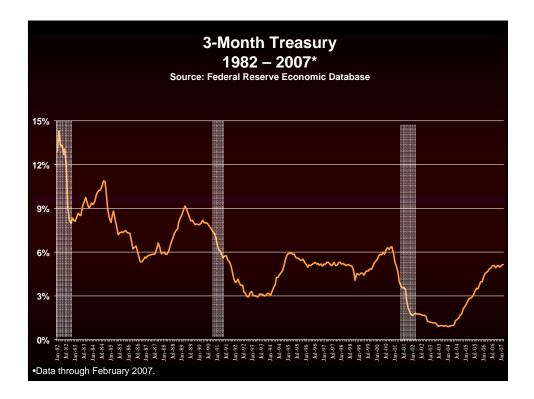


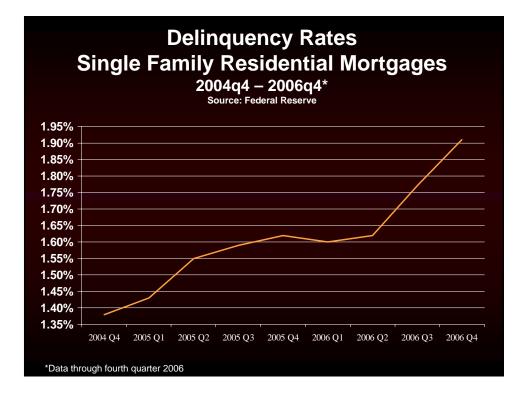


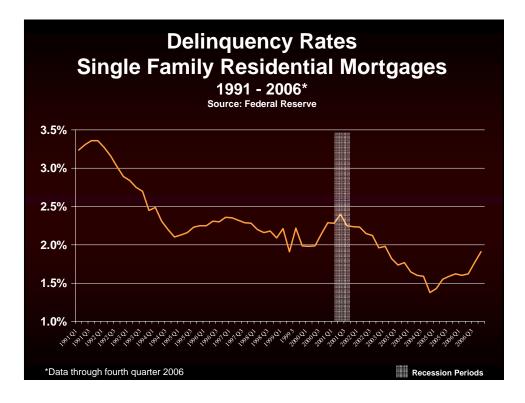




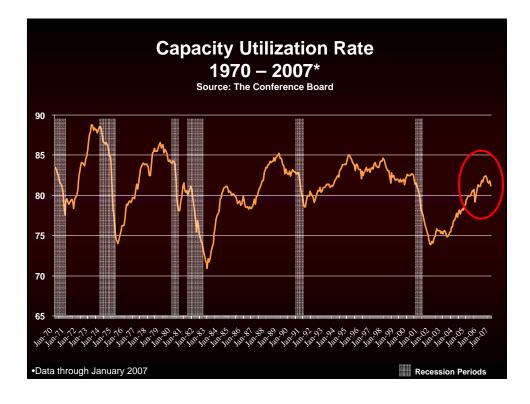


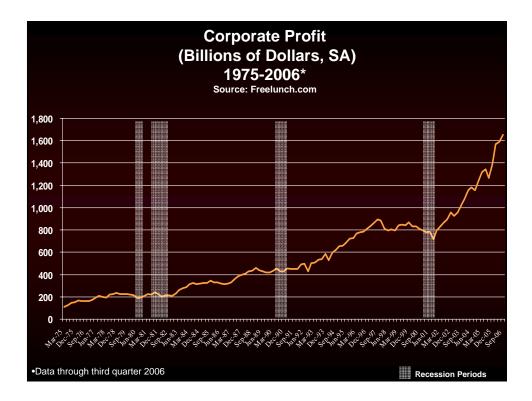


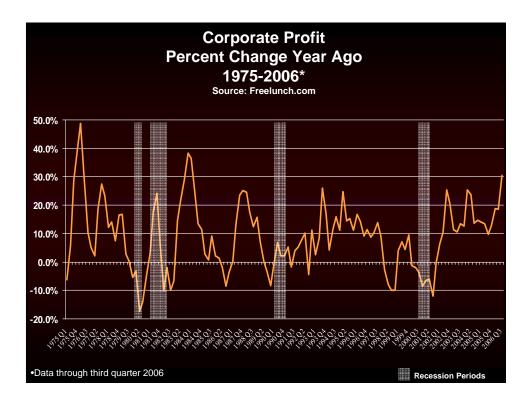


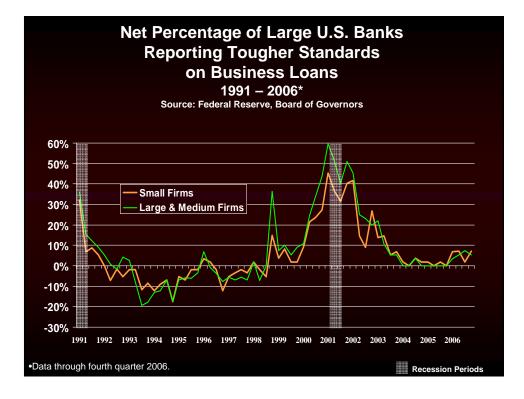


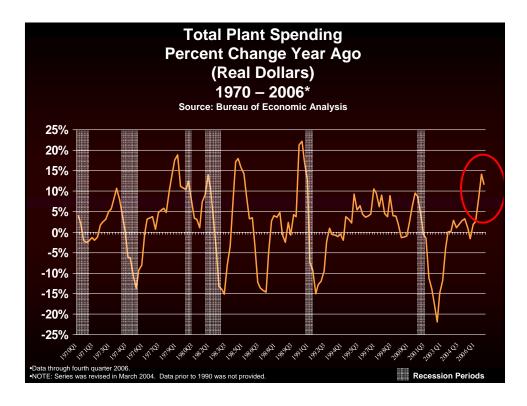


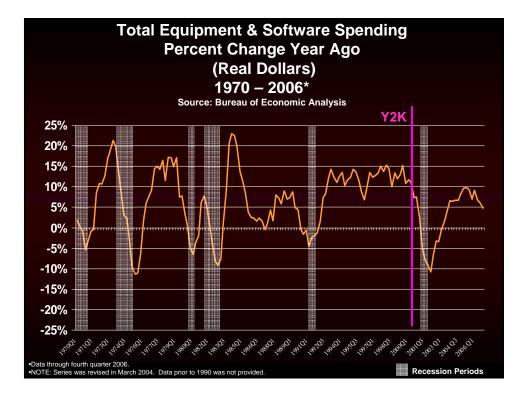






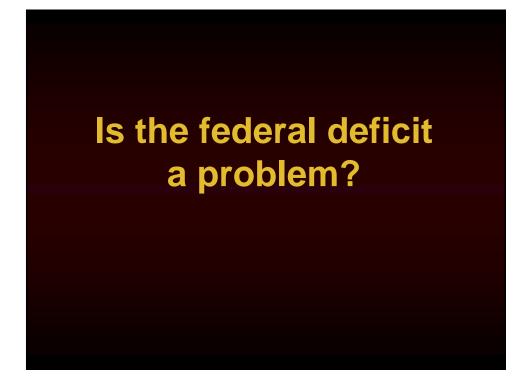


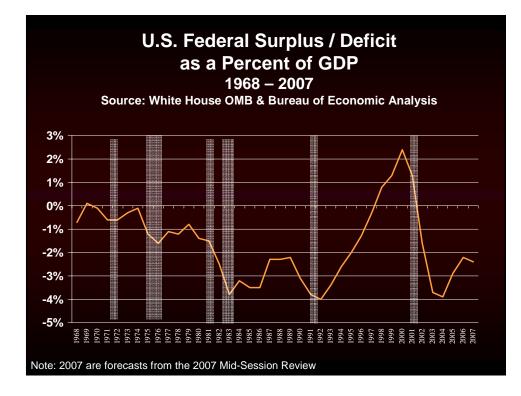


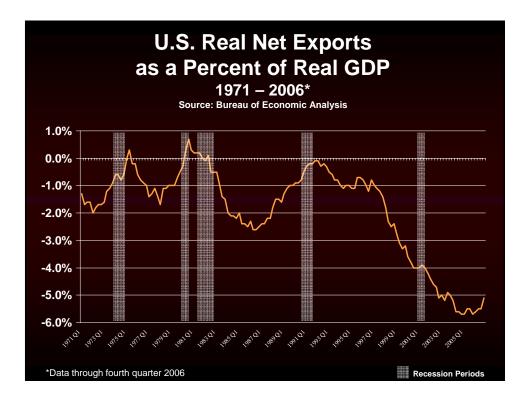


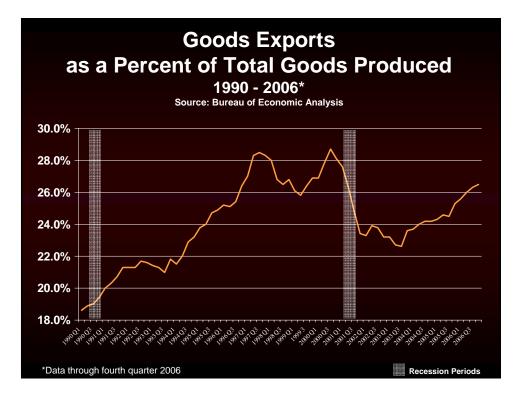


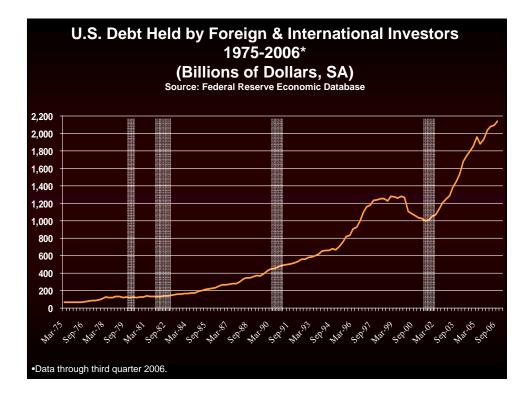








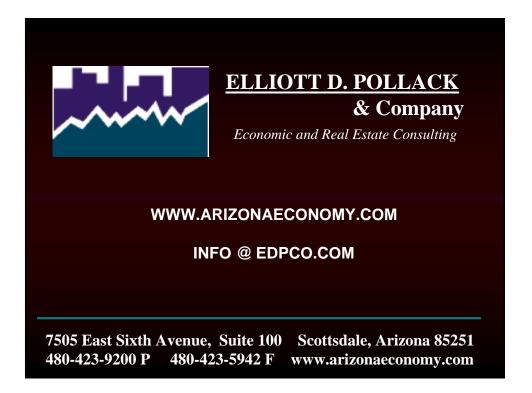






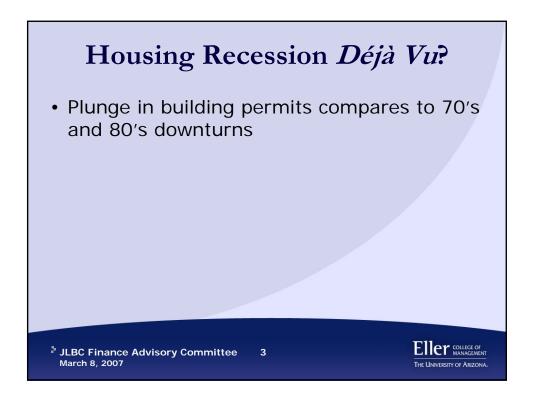
U.S. OUTLOOK - 2007

- Consumer spending (-)
- Housing (-)
- Business spending (+)
- Fiscal stimulus (+/-)
- Monetary stimulus (+ / -)
- Real incomes (+)
- Businesses mean and lean (+)
- Productivity growth slowing (-)
- Job growth (+)
- Inflation (-)
- Low interest rates (-)
- Exports (+)

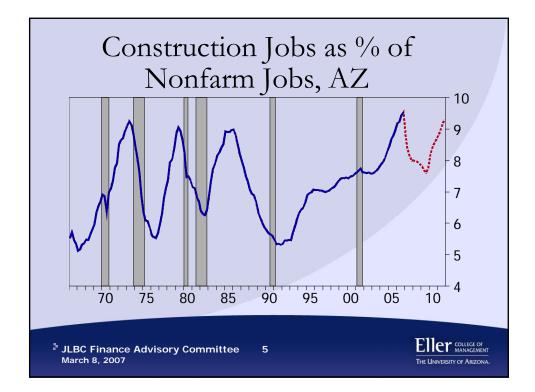












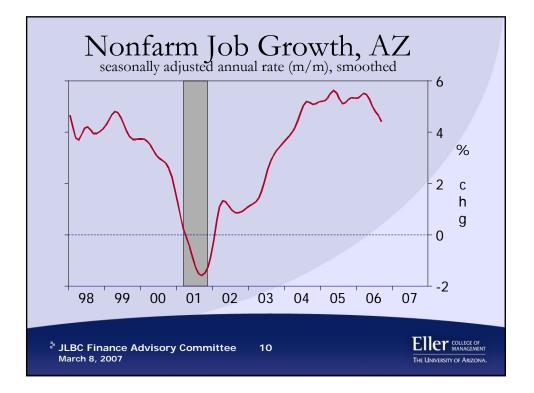


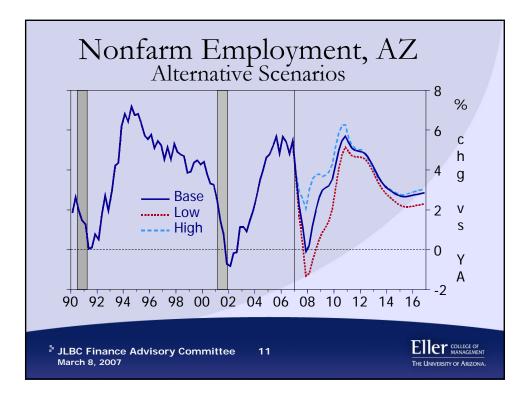


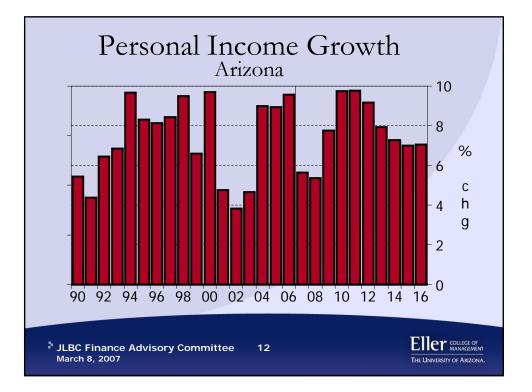


Marshall J. Vest, mvest@eller.arizona.edu Eller College of Management The University of Arizona











Housing Market Implications for Arizona's Economy

JLBC Finance Advisory Committee Pete Ewen, APS March 8, 2007

Is the housing market in recession?

Metro Phx Residential Permits

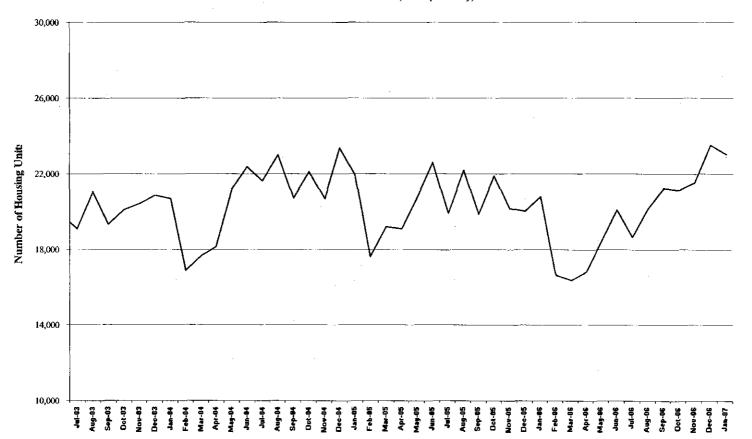
2004	56,000
2005	51,000
2006	38,000

- Annual production rates dropping since 2004
- Most recent months @ 15-year lows

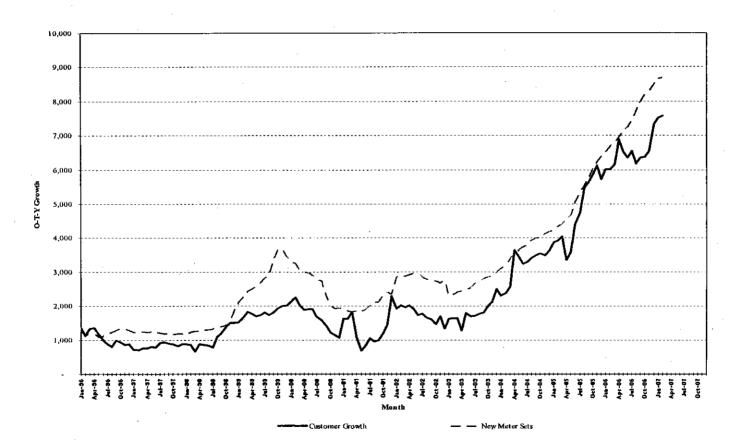
Is the housing market overbuilt? Metro Phx (Maricopa County)

Population Growth	2004-06	~370,000
New Households	2004-06	162,000
Housing Permits	2003-05 2004-06	153,000 145,000

Installed Meters Vs. Occupied Housing Units APS Metro Phoenix (Maricopa County)



APS Southeast Division Residential Customer Growth

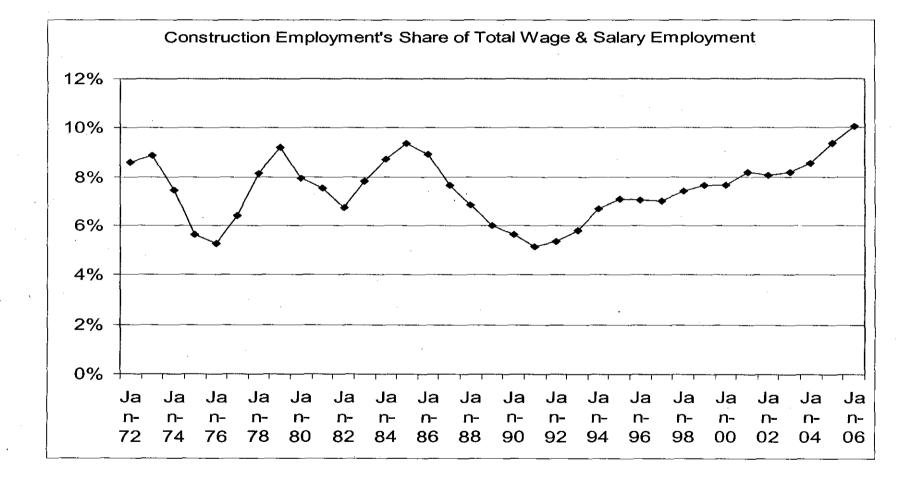


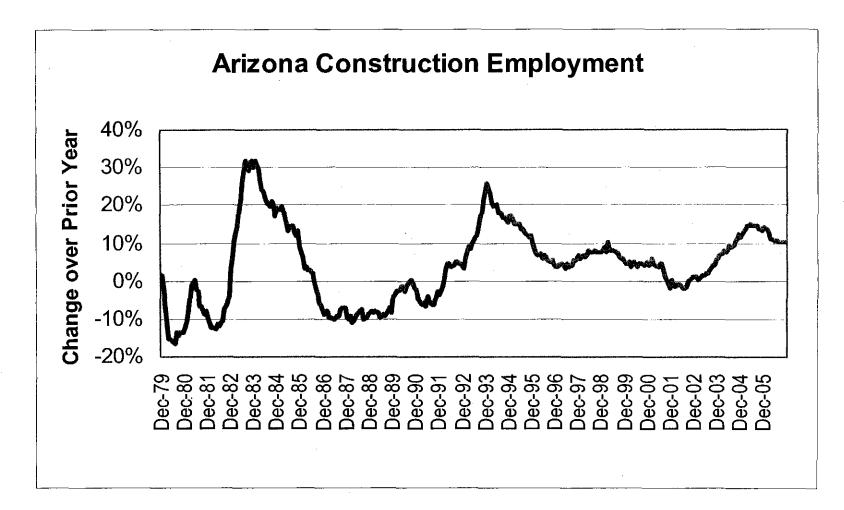
Residential Vacancies @ 2006 YE

APS Metro Territory	23,500
Total Metro Phx APS $= 50\%$	47,000
Multi-Family Vacancies (ASU)	
# of Units	17,000
Total Housing Stock	320,000
% Vacant	5.3
Implied Single Family Vacancies	
# of Units	30,000
Total Housing Stock	1,150,000
% Vacant	2.6

Will housing drag down the rest of the economy?

- Construction employment @ 10% of total jobs very high, so risk is high
- Overall conditions matter
 - National economy relatively healthy
 - Unlike 1974-75 recesssion
 - Unlike 1980, 1981-82 recession
 - Unlike 1990-91 recession
 - Other industries stable or growing
- Current construction trajectory declining, but short-term
 - Substantial non-residential construction
 - Net migration, demand for housing remains strong
 - Excess housing supply appears to have been consumed





Implications

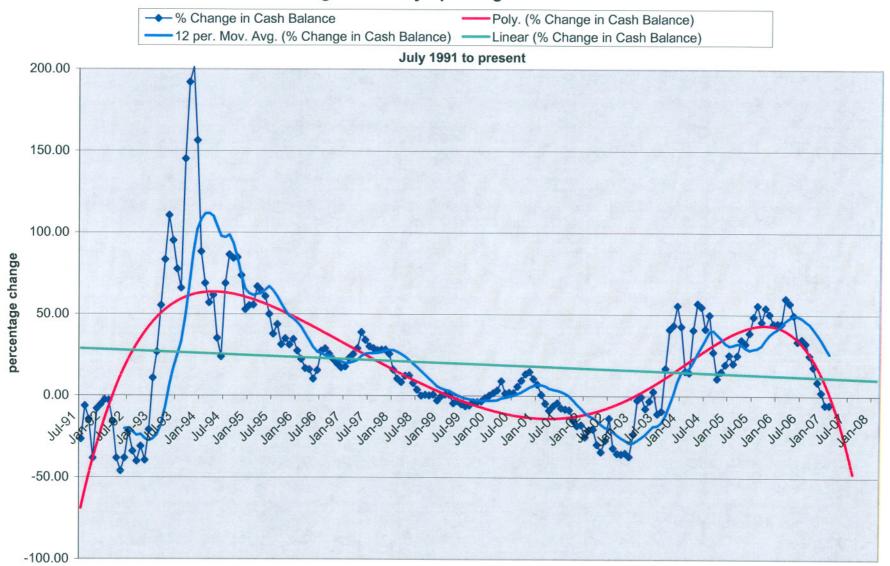
- Significant downturn or slowing in AZ economic growth unlikely
 - Modest moderation to be expected
 - 2007 weaker in the 1st half than the 2nd
- Individual income tax revenues grow 7-10%
 - Job growth, wage and salary gains remain healthy
- Sales tax revenues grow 6-9%
 - Decline in contracting tax spread out over time
 - Income growing 7-9%



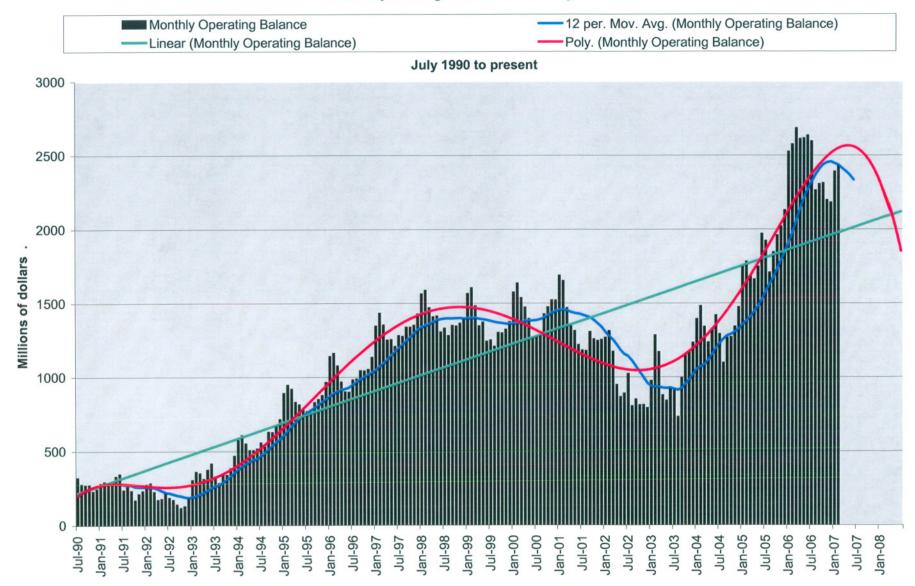


Finance Advisory Committee March 8, 2007

Office of the State Treasurer, Arizona Treasurer Dean Martin



% Change in Monthly Operating Account Balance



Total Operating Account Monthly Balance