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Economist Points To Slight Upswing At Quarterly Business Analysis

By Rob Keys

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Buoyed by moderate upswings in the stock market and consumer confidence, economist Kathy Deck said better days are ahead at Friday morning's Quarterly Business Analysis Breakfast.

"It's a cycle," Deck said with a small smile. "This, too, shall pass."

Deck was referring to the current recession as she addressed a crowd of roughly 100 at the Holiday Inn Northwest Arkansas and Convention Center. The presentation was sponsored by the University of Arkansas' Center for Business and Economic Research and local chambers of commerce.

Using more than 30 slides to show an array of charts, graphs and other statistics, Deck covered a wide variety of topics. They included retail sales, employment and housing numbers.

And while she agreed in part with the "less bad" stance many economists have taken of late, Deck leaned toward a more positive approach.

"When we expect things to get better," she said, "they will get better."



Kathy Deck, Director of the University of Arkansas' Center for Business and Economic Research, says moderate upswings in the stock market are encouraging.

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Other than a shrinking workforce, Deck said Arkansas generally has fared better than most parts of the country during the recession. Deck added the key to complete recovery is the kind of improved consumer confidence that leads to businesses expanding through employment.

Deck also said the nation as a whole is just beginning to feel the impact of government stimulus packages, and that more significant improvement could be around the corner.

"Even though the stimulus plan was announced some time ago, the good effects were always going to come in late 2009 or early 2010," Deck said.

"The thing to take out of this is this is a cycle, and we're on the upswing."

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