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BRAZOSPORT COLLEGE ECONOMIC FORECASTING CENTER

GROWTH CONTINUES; STOCK INDEX LAGS

The Brazoria County Index of Leading Economic Indicators decreased to 116.90 over 0.19 percent higher than last year. All four current economic indicators were at record the last year, which is 6.25 percent below the previous year. The Leading Economic Index, which is designed to forecast the economic performance of the county

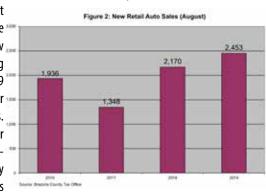
over the next three to six months, has been above the six-month moving average for five of the last seven months. This is significant because if the 1... leading economic index is consistently above the six-month moving average the county is likely entering into or



currently experiencing a period of positive economic growth (Figure 1).

Three of the four leading economic indicators increased over the last year. The largest increase in the index was in the Brazoria County New Retail Auto Sales, which

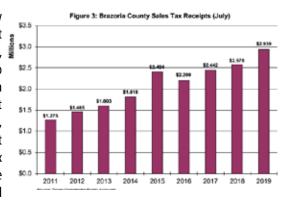
increased 13.04 percent over the last year (Figure 2). Brazoria County New Single Family Building Permits increased 3.09 percent over the last year from 194 to 200 permits. The preliminary figure for Houston-The Woodlands-Sugarland Average Weekly Manufacturing Hours is



47.40 hours per week compared to 46.10 hours per week last year, which represents an increase of 2.82 percent. The only indicator to decrease was The Brazoria County Stock Index. The stock index, which is made up of the six largest publicly traded manufacturers in the county, decreased by 29.37 percent over the last year.

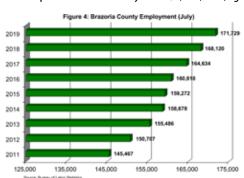
CURRENT ECONOMIC INDICATORS

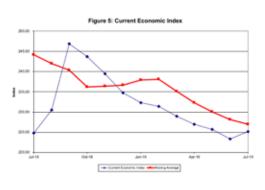
The Brazoria County Index of Current Economic Indicators, which is designed to provide information about the current status of the economy, increased over the last vear to 225.19. The index is 0.83 percent above the previous month and



setting amounts for the month of July. The largest increase in the index was in Sales Tax Receipts, which increased 14.01 percent over the last year to \$2,939,101 (Figure

3). County employment improved from 168,120 last July to 171,729 in July of this year, which represents an increase of 2.15 percent (Figure 4). Hotel/Motel Tax Receipts increased 1.68 percent in July to \$7,265,661 and the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria CPI posted an increase of 1.11 percent over the last year. The **Brazoria County Current** Economic Index has been below the sixmonth moving average for eight of the last eleven months. This is significant because if the current economic index is consistently below the





six-month moving average then the county is likely experiencing a current decline in economic activity (Figure 5).

LAGGING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

The Brazoria County Index of Lagging Economic Indicators is used to confirm the growth or slowdown in the economy. The lagging economic index is 1.18 percent below the previous year. Brazoria County Foreclosure Notices decreased from 68 last

July to 66 in July of this year, which represents a decrease of 2.94 percent. The unemployment rate in the county was 4.48 percent in July, which is the lowest unemployment rate ever recorded in the month of July. The lagging



economic index has been above the six-month moving average for the eleven of the last twelve months, which indicates the economy has been experiencing a period of economic growth (Figure 6).

BRAZORIA COUNTY, TEXAS BUSINESS CYCLE INDICATORS OCTOBER 2019

Brazoria County Economic Indices:	Aug <u>2019</u>	Jul <u>2019</u>	Jun <u>2019</u>	May <u>2019</u>	Apr <u>2019</u>
Leading Economic Index (2003 = 100)	116.90	118.03	117.70	113.75	119.22
Current Economic Index (2003=100)	-	225.19	223.33	225.73	226.93
Lagging Economic Index (2003 = 100)	-	149.88	152.08	151.67	150.84

razoria County Leading Economic Index	Aug <u>2019</u>	Jul <u>2019</u>	Aug 2018	Jul-2019 to <u>Aug-2019</u>	Aug-2018 to Aug-2019
Leading Economic Index (2003 = 100)	116.90	118.03	124.69	-0.95%	-6.25%
Components: Brazoria County Stock Index (12/31/2003 = 100)	145.98	158.36	206.69	-7.81%	-29.37%
New Single Family Building Permits (Seasonally Adjusted) New Single Family Building Permits (Unadjusted)	206 200	212 185	232 194	-3.23% 8.11%	-11.26% 3.09%
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugarland Avg. Wkly. Mfg. Hrs. (Seasonally Adjusted) Houston-The Woodlands-Sugarland Avg. Wkly. Mfg. Hrs. (Unadjusted)	46.26 47.40	46.05 45.80	45.68 46.10	0.45% 3.49%	1.28% 2.82%
New Retail Auto Sales (Seasonally Adjusted) New Retail Auto Sales (Unadjusted)	2,143 2,453	2,086 2,249	1,957 2,170	2.71% 9.07%	9.49% 13.04%
razoria County Current Economic Index	Jul <u>2019</u>	Jun <u>2019</u>	Jul <u>2018</u>	Jun-2019 to <u>Jul-2019</u>	Jul-2018 to <u>Jul-2019</u>
Current Economic Index (2003 = 100)	225.19	223.33	224.77	0.83%	0.19%
Components: Sales Tax Receipts (Constant 1982-1984 \$'s, Seasonally Adjusted)	1,240,904	1,204,750			
Sales Tax Receipts (Current \$'s, Unadjusted)	2,939,101	2,787,642	1,267,715 2,577,899	3.00% 5.43%	-2.11% 14.01%
Sales Tax Receipts (Current \$'s, Unadjusted) Household Employment (Seasonally Adjusted) Household Employment (Unadjusted)	, ,				
Household Employment (Seasonally Adjusted)	2,939,101 170,371	2,787,642 170,142	2,577,899 166,470	5.43% 0.13%	14.01% 2.34%
Household Employment (Seasonally Adjusted) Household Employment (Unadjusted) Hotel/Motel Tax Receipts (Constant 1982-1984 \$'s, Seasonally Adjusted)	2,939,101 170,371 171,729 2,658,607	2,787,642 170,142 171,762 2,657,134	2,577,899 166,470 168,120 2,643,765	5.43% 0.13% -0.02% 0.06%	14.01% 2.34% 2.15% 0.56%

Brazoria County Lagging Economic Index	Jul <u>2019</u>	Jun <u>2019</u>	Jul <u>2018</u>	Jun-2019 to <u>Jul-2019</u>	Jul-2018 to <u>Jul-2019</u>
Lagging Economic Index (2003 = 100)	149.88	152.08	151.67	-1.44%	-1.18%
Components: Brazoria County Foreclosure Notices (Seasonally Adjusted) Brazoria County Foreclosure Notices (Unadjusted)	73 66	72 65	72 68	0.34% 1.54%	1.51% -2.94%
Prime Rate Charged By Banks	5.50	5.50	5.00	0.00%	10.00%
Unemployment Rate (Adjusted) Unemployment Rate (Unadjusted)	4.23% 4.48%	3.93% 4.17%	4.78% 4.77%	7.43% 7.43%	-11.59% -6.08%

**(Data for the Lagging Index is two months behind due to lag in obtaining unemployment data.)