

ECONOMIC INDICATORS	THIS YEAR September 2015	LAST YEAR September 2014	% CHANGE 2014 - 2015
Retail Sales (\$000's - September in 1995\$)	\$298,067	\$292,125	2.0%
Retail Sales (3rd Quarter)	\$933,247	\$916,894	1.8%
Retail Sales (Year-To-Date)	\$2,918,509	\$2,893,616	0.9%
Dollars Spent on Auto Purchases (September)	\$137,139	\$132,205	3.7%
Dollars Spent on Auto Purchases (3rd QTR)	\$403,212	\$394,966	2.1%
Dollars Spent on Auto Purchases (YTD)	\$1,190,648	\$1,137,420	4.7%
Lodging Tax Receipts (September)	\$306,472,	\$322,522	-5.0%
Lodging Tax Receipts (3rd QTR)	\$1,019,582	\$1,078,454	-5.5%
Lodging Tax Receipts (YTD)	\$3,167,944	\$3,126,478	1.3%
Airline Boardings (September)	29,042	29,095	-0.2%
Airline Boardings (3rd QTR)	107,777	103,708	3.9%
Airline Boardings (YTD)	304,934	295,655	3.1%
Value All Construction Permits (September)	\$46,303,213	\$30,939,824	49.7%
Value All Construction Permits (3rd QTR)	\$128,424,368	\$195,609,099	-34.3%
Value All Construction Permits (YTD)	\$350,647,434	\$416,234,805	-15.8%
New Home Permits (September)	116	98	18.4%
New Home Permits (3rd QTR)	394	302	30.5%
New Home Permits (YTD)	1,023	957	6.9%
Home Sales (September)	237	203	16.7%
Home Sales (3rd QTR)	723	639	13.1%
Home Sales (YTD)	1,976	1,811	9.1%
Average Home Sale Price (September)	\$144,331	\$144,962	-0.4%
Average Home Sale Price (3rd QTR)	\$142,778	\$141,748	0.7%
Average Home Sale Price (YTD)	\$136,814	\$135,508	1.0%
Dollar Volume Residential Real Estate Sales (September)*	\$21,216,942	\$18,669,398	13.6%
Dollar Volume Residential Real Estate Sales (3rd QTR)*	\$64,135,152	\$57,603,017	11.3%
Dollar Volume Residential Real Estate Sales (YTD)*	\$168,680,223	\$156,979,988	7.5%
Hidalgo Bridge Crossings (September)	450,378	415,931	8.3%
Hidalgo Bridge Crossings (3rd QTR)	1,368,091	1,317,128	3.8%
Hidalgo Bridge Crossings (YTD)	4,012,166	3,920,128	2.3%
Peso Exchange Rate (per one US dollar - Septmeber)	17.10	13.65	25.3%
Employment			
Wage & Salary Employment (September)	249,600	241,500	
Wage & Salary Employment (3rd Quarter Average)	246,635	239,235	3.4%
Wage & Salary Employment (YTD Average)	247,365	240,690	3.1%
Unemployment Rate (September)	4.9	5.4	2.8%
Unemployment Rate (3rd Quarter Average)	5.0	5.9	-9.3%
Unemployment Rate (YTD Average)	4.8	5.9	-14.2%
INDEX - September (Base=100 Jan 1996)	190.6	185.8	-18.2%
*Adjusted for Inflation by Re-Stating in Year 1995 Dollars			2.6%

- The McAllen Economic Index posted its largest monthly gain thus far in 2015 rising by more than a full point to 190.6 in September, up from 189.5 in August, and up 2.6% from the September 2014 MEI of 185.8. That pulls the McAllen Economic Index to within half a point of its all-time high of 191.1 achieved in January 2008. The McAllen Economic Index expanded at an annualized rate of 2.3% in the third quarter 2015.

- The housing indicators helped to propel the index upward in September, along with continued modest improvement in general spending and auto spending. Employment growth remains stout in the McAllen metro area, and the McAllen city unemployment rate continues to shrink relative to year-ago levels.

- General real (inflation-adjusted) taxable spending improved only at a moderate pace in September and the third quarter, posting a 2% year-over-year increase in September and 1.8% in the third quarter. For the year-to-date general real spending is up by less than a percent compared to the first nine months of a year ago. Real auto spending fared some better; not only were rates of year-over-year growth slightly higher, but the 2014 numbers exhibited strong growth compared to the prior year. September auto spending was up by a solid 3.7% compared to September of a year ago, which in turn was up by nearly 16% compared to the previous year. Third quarter 2015 real auto spending was up by 2.1% compared to the third quarter 2014, which in turn was up by 6.5% compared to the prior year. Through September real auto spending is up by 4.7% compared to the year-to-date through September total, which in turn was up by over 7% compared to the first nine months of the prior year.

- The 3.4% rate of year-over-year employment growth is the highest of 2015 thus far, reflected the addition of over 8,000 jobs to the McAllen metro area economy over the 12 months ending September 2015. That's in the top tier of Texas metro areas in terms of the rate of job growth. Employment growth averaged over three percent in the third quarter, and stands at 2.8% on average for the first nine months of the year. The September 2015 McAllen city unemployment rate of 4.9% is the lowest for the month of September since September 2007 in advance of the recession of 2008-2009.

- Home sales in McAllen were up sharply in September and the third quarter with year-over-year increases of 17% and 13%, respectively. The average sale price was generally flat compared to year-ago levels, however. The inflation-adjusted total dollar volume of residential real estate sales activity was up by over 11% in the third quarter compared to the third quarter 2014, which in turn was up by over 16% compared to the previous year.

- Permits for new housing construction were up sharply for the month and quarter as well, with the number of new single-family residence building permits up by over 30% in the third quarter. Total construction was up by 50% in September (year-over-year) but remains lower for the third quarter and year-to-date compared to year-ago levels.

- The value of the Mexican peso to the US dollar continues to weaken; however, unlike the past in which a weaker peso has been the catalyst for a surge in inflation in Mexico, inflation remains very much in check, which offers valuable protection for the Mexican consumer. This may help to partly explain the surge in border crossings (which are always linked to economic activity of one sort or another on the US side) which were up by nearly 4% for the quarter and over 8% in September. Bridge crossing activity through September is at its highest level since 2010.