

McAllen Area ECONOMIC PULSE

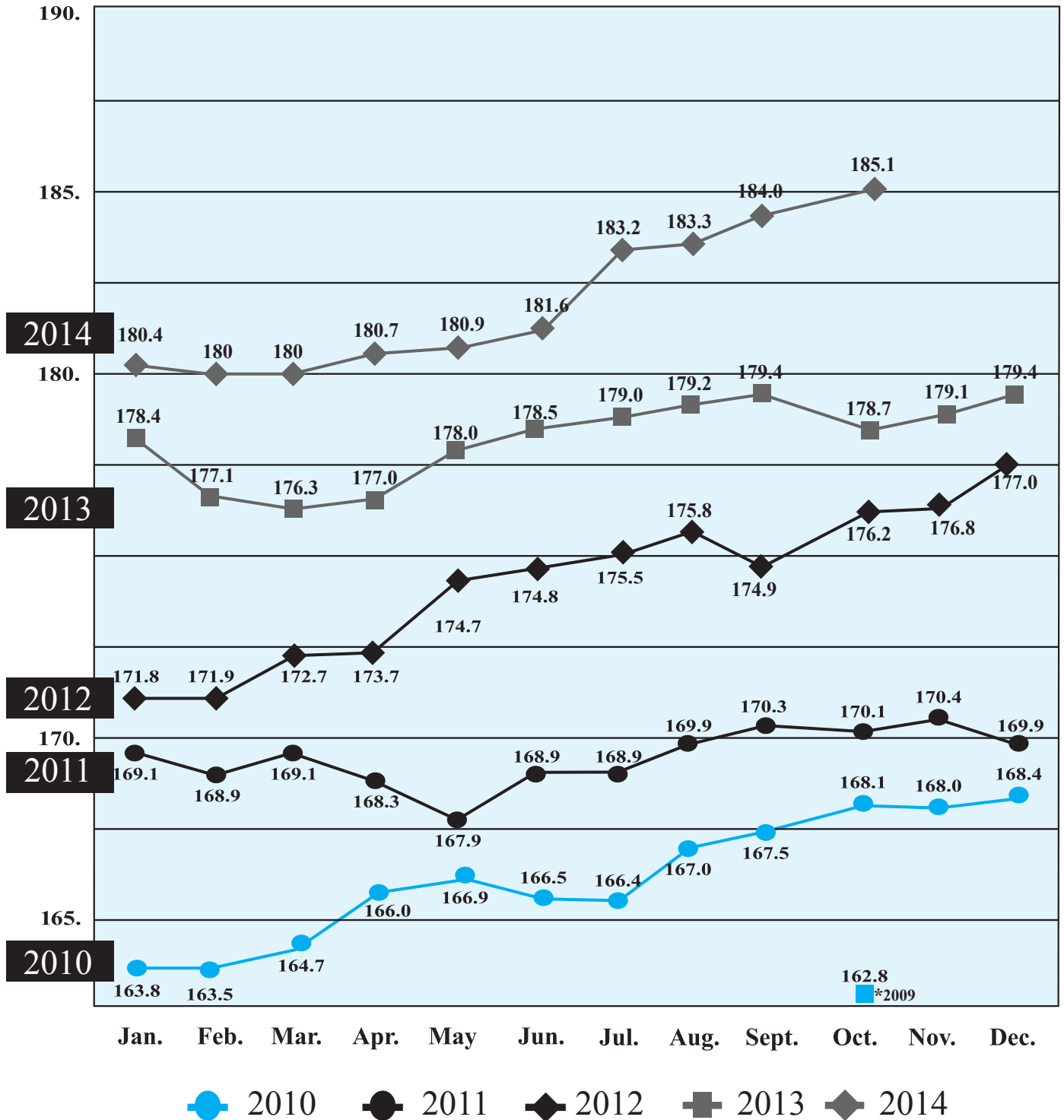
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October 2014 Economic Pulse

The McAllen Chamber of Commerce Economic Index

INDEX (Base=100 Jan 1996)

The economic indicators on pg. 2 are used to formulate the overall economic pulse.



ECONOMIC INDICATORS	THIS YEAR October 2014	LAST YEAR October 2013	% CHANGE 2013 - 2014
Retail Sales (\$000's - October in 1995\$)	\$295,291	\$293,495	0.6%
Retail Sales (\$000's - Year-to-Date)	\$3,188,907	\$3,106,613	2.6%
Dollars Spent on Auto Purchases (\$000's - Oct. in 1995\$)*	\$140,012	\$121,955	14.8%
Dollars Spent on Auto Purchases (\$000's - YTD)*	\$1,277,432	\$1,183,205	8.0%
Lodging Tax Receipts (October)	\$336,955	\$317,338	6.2%
Lodging Tax Receipts (YTD)	\$3,463,433	\$3,162,227	9.5%
Airline Boardings (October)	30,716	27,008	13.7%
Airline Boardings (YTD)	326,463	295,345	10.5%
Value All Construction Permits (October)	\$32,688,739	\$30,111,309	8.6%
Value All Construction Permits (YTD)	\$448,923,544	\$424,316,934	5.8%
New Home Permits (October)	108	88	22.7%
New Home Permits (YTD)	1,057	936	12.9%
Home Sales (October)	202	203	-0.5%
Home Sales (YTD)	2,013	1,897	6.1%
Average Home Sale Price (October)	\$132,987	\$142,533	-6.7%
Average Home Sale Price (YTD)	\$135,255	\$132,855	1.8%
Hidalgo Bridge Crossings (October)	443,462	440,381	0.7%
Hidalgo Bridge Crossings (YTD)	4,363,590	4,400,765	-0.8%
Peso Exchange Rate (October)	13.65	13.25	3.0%
Employment			
Wage & Salary Employment (October)	243,100	235,400	3.3%
Wage & Salary Employment (YTD Avg)	237,400	232,950	1.9%
Unemployment Rate (October)	7.9	10.2	-22.5%
Unemployment Rate (YTD Average)	9.3	10.9	-14.3%
INDEX - October (Base=100 Jan 1996)	185.1	178.7	3.6%

*Adjusted for Inflation by Re-Stating in Year 1995 Dollars

- The McAllen Economic Index continues to reflect the steady improvement and expansion in the McAllen metro area economy, rising by over a full point in October to 185.1 up from 184.0 in September, and up 3.6% from the October 2013 MEI of 178.7. The index continues to close the gap on its all-time high of 190.6 achieved in January 2008. The 3.6% rate of year-over-year improvement is the strongest since mid-2007 and the unemployment rate remains sharply on the decline.

- Auto sales, travel & tourism, construction, and home building powered the October increase, and the rate of year-over-year employment growth is the highest thus far in 2014. General spending was flat for the month, as was residential housing sales activity.

- McAllen metro area payroll employment was up by 3.3% in October compared to October of a year ago, with an estimated 7,700 jobs added over the last 12 months. The unemployment rate dipped below 8% in October to 7.9% compared to 10.2% in October of a year ago.

- Auto sales activity remains very strong with inflation-adjusted spending on new and used motor vehicles up by nearly 15% year-over-year, and up by 8% for the year-to-date compared to the first ten months of a year ago. General real spending per October sales tax receipts was up by a scant .6% compared to October of last year, but remains 2.6% improved for the year-to-date.

- Construction remains generally stronger in the metro area with the valuation of all building permits up by a solid 8.6% in October (year-over-year), and nearly 6% for the year-to-date. Home building remains on the rise as well with the number of new single-family residence construction permits up by nearly 23% for the month and 13% for the year.

- Existing home sales were flat for the month, but remain a respectable 6.1% improved for the year-to-date. Average price growth has slowed in recent months, and was down by 6.7% in October compared to October of a year ago. The year-to-date average is up by 1.8% compared to the YTD through October 2013 period, which in turn was up by over 4% compared to the average for the first ten months of the prior year.

- Travel & tourism indicators continue to post strong numbers in 2014 with both monthly and year-to-date totals for airport activity and hotel/motel tax receipts posting significant improvements compared to year-ago levels.