

NEW RECORD HIGHS FOR CURRENT INDICATORS

The Brazoria County Index of Leading Economic Indicators increased in March to 112.41, which is 1.37 percent above the previous month's index and 13.15 percent below March 2015. The Leading Economic Index, which is designed to forecast the economic performance of the county over the next three to six months, has been below the six-month moving average for the last four months. This is significant because if the leading economic index is consistently below the six-month moving average the county is likely entering into or currently experiencing a period of slow or negative economic growth (Figure 1).

Two of the three leading economic indicators increased over the month, while only one of the three leading indicators increased over the last year. The largest decrease in the index was in the Brazoria County Stock Index. The stock index, which is made up of the eight largest publicly traded manufacturers in the county, increased 3.80 percent over the last month, but posted a decrease of 25.94 percent over the last year. By comparison the Dow Jones Industrial Average increased 2.12 percent over the last month and increased 2.65 percent over the last year (Figure 2). New Single Family Building Permits (adjusted) increased over the last month by 0.27 percent and increased by 3.22 percent over the last year. Houston-The Woodlands-Sugarland Average Weekly Manufacturing Hours (adjusted) decreased by 0.73 percent over the last month and 5.40 percent over the last year.

CURRENT ECONOMIC INDICATORS

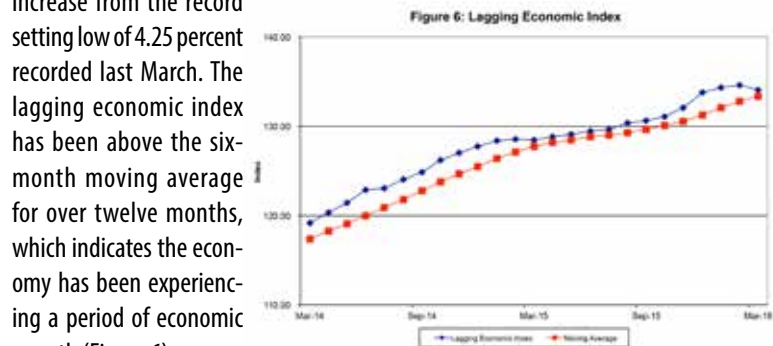
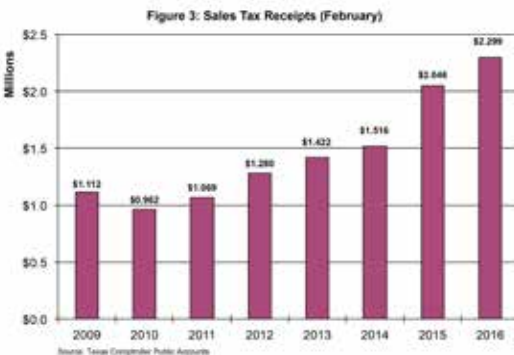
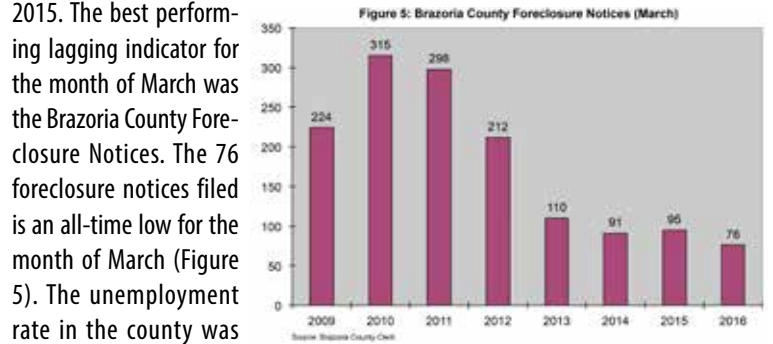
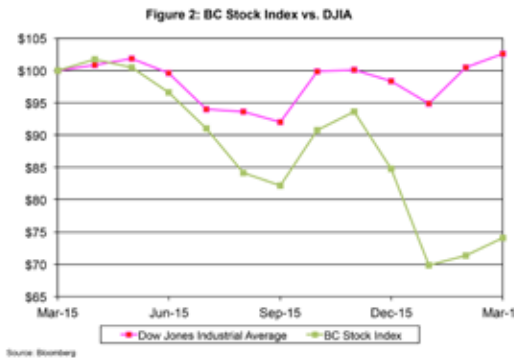
The Brazoria County Index of Current Economic Indicators, which is designed to provide information about the current status of the economy, increased to 206.21 in February. The index is 0.04 percent higher than the previous month and 6.62

percent higher than last February. Brazoria County Sales Tax Receipts, Hotel/Motel Tax Receipts, and Employment were all at the highest amounts ever posted for the month of February. The largest increase was in Sales Tax Receipts, which increased by 12.40 percent over the last year to \$2,299,393 (Figure 3). Brazoria County Hotel/Motel Tax Receipts increased by 0.71 percent to \$5,000,900 and Brazoria County Employment increased by 0.37 percent to 160,167 individuals employed in the county. The Brazoria County Current Economic Index has been above the six-month moving average for eleven of the last twelve months. This is significant because if the current economic index is consistently above the six-month moving average then the county is likely experiencing a period of economic growth (Figure 4).



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 4.39 percent above March 2015. The best performing lagging indicator for the month of March was the Brazoria County Foreclosure Notices. The 76 foreclosure notices filed is an all-time low for the month of March (Figure 5). The unemployment rate in the county was 4.78 percent, which is an increase from the record setting low of 4.25 percent recorded last March. The lagging economic index has been above the six-month moving average for over twelve months, which indicates the economy has been experiencing a period of economic growth (Figure 6)



BRAZORIA COUNTY, TEXAS BUSINESS CYCLE INDICATORS

MAY 2016

Brazoria County Economic Indices:	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Jan 2016	Dec 2015	Nov 2015
Leading Economic Index (2003 = 100)	112.41	110.89	110.49	120.33	125.79
Current Economic Index (2003=100)	-	206.21	206.13	203.91	204.94
Lagging Economic Index (2003 = 100)	134.08	134.60	134.35	133.81	132.07

Brazoria County Leading Economic Index*	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2015	Feb-2016 to Mar-2016	Mar-2015 to Mar-2016
Leading Economic Index (2003 = 100)	112.41	110.89	129.43	1.37%	-13.15%
Components:					
Brazoria County Stock Index (12/31/2003 = 100)	137.78	132.73	186.04	3.80%	-25.94%
New Single Family Building Permits (Seasonally Adjusted)	242	241	234	0.27%	3.22%
<i>New Single Family Building Permits (Unadjusted)</i>	279	217	305	28.57%	-8.52%
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugarland Avg. Wkly. Mfg. Hrs. (Seasonally Adjusted)	43.05	43.37	45.51	-0.73%	-5.40%
<i>Houston-The Woodlands-Sugarland Avg. Wkly. Mfg. Hrs. (Unadjusted)</i>	41.30	42.50	44.00	-2.82%	-6.14%

*(Data for the Leading Index is one month behind due to the lag in obtaining building permits)

Brazoria County Current Economic Index**	Feb 2016	Jan 2016	Feb 2015	Jan-2016 to Feb-2016	Feb-2015 to Feb-2016
Current Economic Index (2003 = 100)	206.21	206.13	193.41	0.04%	6.62%
Components:					
Sales Tax Receipts (Constant 1982-1984 \$'s, Seasonally Adjusted)	1,156,300	1,146,994	1,000,255	0.81%	15.60%
<i>Sales Tax Receipts (Current \$'s, Unadjusted)</i>	2,299,393	2,603,433	2,045,674	-11.68%	12.40%
Household Employment (Seasonally Adjusted)	159,396	159,271	158,601	0.08%	0.50%
<i>Household Employment (Unadjusted)</i>	160,167	159,248	159,582	0.58%	0.37%
Texas Consumer Confidence Index	116.41	117.66	119.93	-1.06%	-2.93%
Hotel/Motel Tax Receipts (Constant 1982-1984 \$'s, Seasonally Adjusted)	2,468,921	2,471,415	2,301,610	-0.10%	7.27%
<i>Hotel/Motel Tax Receipts (Current \$'s, Unadjusted)</i>	5,000,900	4,444,206	4,965,404	12.53%	0.71%

** (Data for the Current Index is two months behind due to the lag in obtaining the data for hotel/motel tax receipts)

Brazoria County Lagging Economic Index***	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2015	Feb-2016 to Mar-2016	Mar-2015 to Mar-2016
Lagging Economic Index (2003 = 100)	134.08	134.60	128.45	-0.38%	4.39%
Components:					
Brazoria County Foreclosure Notices (Seasonally Adjusted)	67	65	87	3.99%	-23.02%
<i>Brazoria County Foreclosure Notices (Unadjusted)</i>	76	50	95	52.00%	-20.00%
Prime Rate Charged By Banks	3.50	3.50	3.25	0.00%	7.69%
Unemployment Rate (Adjusted)	4.68%	4.66%	4.77%	0.57%	-1.93%
<i>Unemployment Rate (Unadjusted)</i>	4.78%	4.56%	4.25%	4.82%	12.47%

*** (Data for the Lagging Index is one month behind due to lag in obtaining unemployment data)