

# BRAZORIA COUNTY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

## EMPLOYMENT, SALES TAX RECEIPTS, AND BUILDING PERMITS AT RECORD HIGHS

The Brazoria County Index of Leading Economic Indicators increased to 130.91 in May, which is 1.74 percent above the previous month and 6.88 percent above last 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 the last six months (Figure 1). This is significant because if the leading economic index is consistently above the six-month moving average, then the county is likely entering into or currently experiencing a period of economic growth. *Note: The leading index is updated through May as building permits at the county level had not been posted by the Census Bureau for June at the time the newsletter was prepared.*

The Brazoria County Stock Index had posted the largest increase in the leading index through May at 10.30 percent, however the stock index fell 24.60 percent in the month of June. Comparatively, the Dow Jones Industrial Average decreased by 7.29 percent in June (Figure 2). New Single Family Building Permits increased at a pace of 5.53 percent over the last year. The 420 permits filed in the county surpassed the previous record for the month of May of 403 permits set back in 2005 (Figure 3). Manufacturing workers in the region are working 42.20 hours per week, which is 3.50 hours per week more than the 38.70 hours recorded last year. New Retail Auto Sales in the county fell from 2,396 to 1,707 over the last year, which represents a decrease of 28.76 percent.

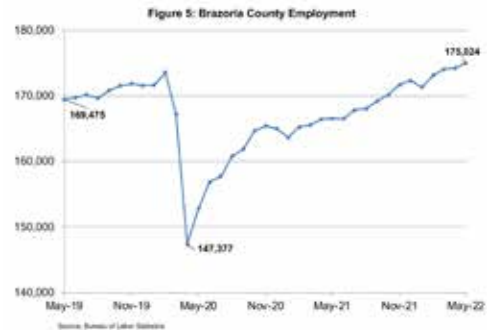
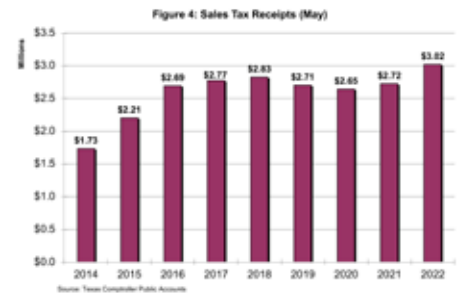
### CURRENT ECONOMIC INDICATORS

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 year by 8.12 percent. Three of the four current economic indicators increased over the last year. The largest increase in the index was in Brazoria County Sales Tax Receipts, which increased by 10.86 percent over the last year. The \$3,017,869 of Sales Tax Receipts is

the highest amount recorded in the month of May (Figure 4). Employment within the county increased by 8,453 over the last year to 175,024, which is the largest number of individuals ever employed in Brazoria County (Figure 5). Brazoria County Hotel/Motel Tax Receipts decreased 4.43 percent when compared to last year and Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land CPI posted an increase of 9.36 percent. The Brazoria County Current Economic Index has been above the six-month moving average for over twelve consecutive months (Figure 6). This is significant because if the current economic index is consistently above the six-month moving average, then the county is currently experiencing a period of economic growth.

### LAGGING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

The Brazoria County Index of Lagging Economic Indicators is used to confirm either the growth or the slowdown in the economy. The lagging economic index increased 11.15 percent over the last year. The lagging indicator having the most significant positive impact on the index is the Brazoria County Unemployment Rate. The unemployment rate in the county peaked at 12.50 percent in April 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The latest figures have unemployment within the county at 4.70 percent. The lagging indicator with the most significant negative impact on the index is Brazoria County Foreclosure Notices, which increased from 18 to 45 notices over the last year. Foreclosure notices had been historically low the last couple of years due to the forbearance and foreclosure protections for homeowners during the COVID-19 pandemic. These protections expired on September 30th, 2021, which has caused the increase in foreclosure notices. The lagging economic index has been above the six-month moving average for over twelve months, which confirms that the county has been experiencing a period of economic growth.



# BRAZORIA COUNTY TEXAS BUSINESS CYCLE INDICATOR

## JULY 2022

<b>Brazoria County Economic Indices:</b>	<b>May 2022</b>	<b>Apr 2022</b>	<b>Mar 2022</b>	<b>Feb 2022</b>	<b>Jan 2022</b>
Leading Economic Index (2003 = 100)	130.91	128.67	129.45	126.04	122.13
Current Economic Index (2003=100)	202.79	203.13	201.26	201.68	200.91
Lagging Economic Index (2003 = 100)	140.97	136.60	132.71	131.99	131.43

<b>Brazoria County Leading Economic Index</b>	<b>May 2022</b>	<b>Apr 2022</b>	<b>May 2021</b>	<b>Apr-2022 to May-2022</b>	<b>May-2021 to May-2022</b>
Leading Economic Index (2003 = 100)	130.91	128.67	122.49	1.74%	6.88%
<b>Components:</b>					
Brazoria County Stock Index (12/31/2003 = 100)	220.15	196.45	199.59	12.07%	10.30%
New Single Family Building Permits (Seasonally Adjusted)	375	379	313	-0.94%	19.90%
<i>New Single Family Building Permits (Unadjusted)</i>	420	375	398	12.00%	5.53%
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land Avg. Wkly. Mfg. Hrs. (Seasonally Adjusted)	41.44	41.26	37.69	0.45%	9.96%
<i>Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land Avg. Wkly. Mfg. Hrs. (Unadjusted)</i>	42.20	42.00	38.70	0.48%	9.04%
New Retail Auto Sales (Seasonally Adjusted)	1,613	1,961	2,164	-17.78%	-25.47%
<i>New Retail Auto Sales (Unadjusted)</i>	1,707	2,024	2,396	-15.66%	-28.76%

\*(Data for the Leading Index is one month behind due to the lag in obtaining the data for building permits at the county level.)

<b>Brazoria County Current Economic Index</b>	<b>May 2022</b>	<b>Apr 2022</b>	<b>May 2021</b>	<b>Apr-2022 to May-2022</b>	<b>May-2021 to May-2022</b>
Current Economic Index (2003 = 100)	202.79	203.13	187.55	-0.17%	8.12%
<b>Components:</b>					
Sales Tax Receipts (Constant 1982-1984 \$'s, Seasonally Adjusted)	1,213,444	1,217,490	1,191,816	-0.33%	1.81%
<i>Sales Tax Receipts (Current \$'s, Unadjusted)</i>	3,017,869	2,936,560	2,722,243	2.77%	10.86%
Household Employment (Seasonally Adjusted)	171,516	170,818	164,724	0.41%	4.12%
<i>Household Employment (Unadjusted)</i>	175,024	174,266	166,571	0.43%	5.07%
Hotel/Motel Tax Receipts (Constant 1982-1984 \$'s, Seasonally Adjusted)	2,608,924	2,640,983	2,251,650	-1.21%	15.87%
<i>Hotel/Motel Tax Receipts (Current \$'s, Unadjusted)</i>	6,937,243	7,022,335	7,258,914	-1.21%	-4.43%
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land CPI	260.27	256.67	237.99	1.40%	9.36%

\*\* (Data for the Current Index is one month behind due to the lag in obtaining the data for county employment.)

<b>Brazoria County Lagging Economic Index</b>	<b>May 2022</b>	<b>Apr 2022</b>	<b>May 2021</b>	<b>Apr-2022 to May-2022</b>	<b>May-2021 to May-2022</b>
Lagging Economic Index (2003 = 100)	140.97	136.60	126.82	3.20%	11.15%
<b>Components:</b>					
Brazoria County Foreclosure Notices (Adjusted)	46	45	26	2.42%	75.41%
<i>Brazoria County Foreclosure Notices (Unadjusted)</i>	45	61	18	-26.23%	150.00%
Prime Rate Charged By Banks	3.94	3.50	3.25	12.57%	21.23%
Unemployment Rate (Adjusted)	4.43%	4.63%	7.78%	-4.29%	-43.04%
<i>Unemployment Rate (Unadjusted)</i>	4.70%	4.54%	6.70%	3.52%	-29.85%

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