

## INDEXES INDICATE GROWTH CONTINUES

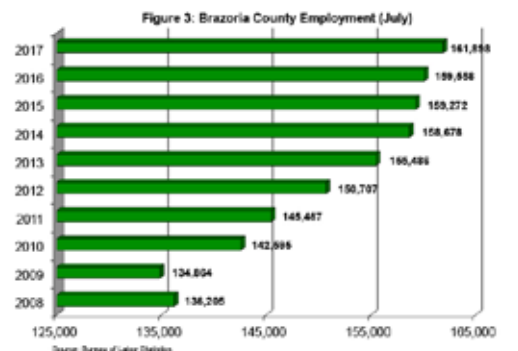
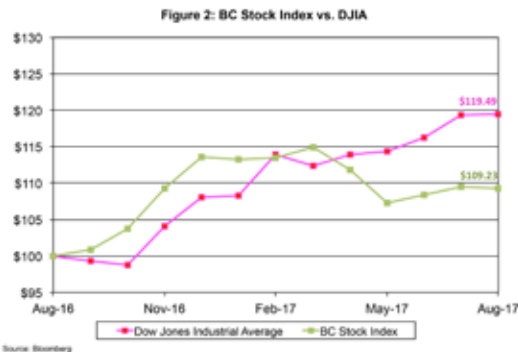
The Brazoria County Index of Leading Economic Indicators increased over the last year to 132.12, which is 4.58 percent above the previous year. The Leading Economic Index, which is designed to forecast the economic performance of the county over the next three to six months, has been above the six-month moving average for nine of the last twelve months. This is significant because if the 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).

Two of the three leading economic indicators increased in the month of August. The largest annual increase in the index was in the Brazoria County Stock Index. The stock index, which is made up of the six largest publicly traded companies within the county, increased 9.23 percent over the last year. Comparatively the Dow Jones Industrial Average increased 19.49 percent over this same time period (Figure 2).

The preliminary figure for Houston-The Woodlands-Sugarland Average Weekly Manufacturing Hours in August is 43.50 hours per week compared to 42.40 hours per week last year, which represents an increase of 2.59 percent. The indicator to decrease over the last year was Brazoria County New Single Family Building Permits, which decreased 31.39 percent over the last year from 309 to 212 permits.

## 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 to 172.69. The index is 0.22 percent below the previous month and 3.92 percent higher



than last year. Sales Tax Receipts were 11.02 percent higher than the last year. The county recorded 161,898 individuals employed in July, which is the largest ever reported for the month of July (Figure 3). The highest number of individuals ever employed in the county is 162,092, which occurred in April 2017. Houston-Galveston-Brazoria CPI posted an increase of 1.88 percent over the last year, while Hotel/Motel Tax Receipts in the county decreased by 8.82 percent. The Brazoria County Current Economic Index has been above the six-month moving average for ten 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 3.16 percent above the previous year. There were 48 foreclosure notices filed in August, which is the same number of notices filed last year. This is the lowest number of foreclosure notices ever reported in the month of August. The unemployment rate in the county was 5.62 percent compared to 5.66 percent in August of last year (Figure 5). The lagging economic index has been above the six-month moving average for the last twelve months, which indicates the economy has been experiencing a period of economic growth (Figure 6).



Note: Hurricane Harvey made landfall on August 25th which impacted many of the indicators.

# BRAZORIA COUNTY, TEXAS BUSINESS CYCLE INDICATORS

## OCTOBER 2017

<b>Brazoria County Economic Indices:</b>	<b>Aug 2017</b>	<b>Jul 2017</b>	<b>Jun 2017</b>	<b>May 2017</b>	<b>Apr 2017</b>
Leading Economic Index (2003 = 100)	132.12	133.72	132.95	132.15	134.05
Current Economic Index (2003=100)	-	172.69	173.06	172.39	171.71
Lagging Economic Index (2003 = 100)	137.65	137.06	136.50	135.25	134.40

<b>Brazoria County Leading Economic Index</b>	<b>Aug 2017</b>	<b>Jul 2017</b>	<b>Aug 2016</b>	<b>Jul-2017 to Aug-2017</b>	<b>Aug-2016 to Aug-2017</b>
Leading Economic Index (2003 = 100)	132.12	133.72	126.33	-1.20%	4.58%
<b>Components:</b>					
Brazoria County Stock Index (12/31/2003 = 100)	192.41	192.78	176.15	-0.19%	9.23%
New Single Family Building Permits (Seasonally Adjusted)	247	258	251	-4.05%	-1.42%
<i>New Single Family Building Permits (Unadjusted)</i>	212	305	309	-30.49%	-31.39%
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugarland Avg. Wkly. Mfg. Hrs. (Seasonally Adjusted)	44.07	44.17	43.00	-0.23%	2.49%
<i>Houston-The Woodlands-Sugarland Avg. Wkly. Mfg. Hrs. (Unadjusted)</i>	43.50	45.40	42.40	-4.19%	2.59%

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

<b>Brazoria County Current Economic Index</b>	<b>Jul 2017</b>	<b>Jun 2017</b>	<b>Jul 2016</b>	<b>Jun-2017 to Jul-2017</b>	<b>Jul-2016 to Jul-2017</b>
Current Economic Index (2003 = 100)	172.69	173.06	166.18	-0.22%	3.92%
<b>Components:</b>					
Sales Tax Receipts (Constant 1982-1984 \$'s, Seasonally Adjusted)	1,282,480	1,289,682	1,200,560	-0.56%	6.82%
<i>Sales Tax Receipts (Current \$'s, Unadjusted)</i>	2,442,438	3,543,149	2,200,027	-31.07%	11.02%
Hotel/Motel Tax Receipts (Constant 1982-1984 \$'s, Seasonally Adjusted)	2,472,672	2,500,478	2,509,574	-1.11%	-1.47%
<i>Hotel/Motel Tax Receipts (Current \$'s, Unadjusted)</i>	6,335,582	7,154,688	6,948,664	-11.45%	-8.82%
Household Employment (Seasonally Adjusted)	160,916	160,755	159,558	0.10%	0.85%
<i>Household Employment (Unadjusted)</i>	161,898	161,262	160,103	0.39%	1.12%
Houston-Galveston-Brazoria County CPI	221.03	220.81	216.94	0.10%	1.88%

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

<b>Brazoria County Lagging Economic Index</b>	<b>Aug 2017</b>	<b>Jul 2017</b>	<b>Aug 2016</b>	<b>Jul-2017 to Aug-2017</b>	<b>Aug-2016 to Aug-2017</b>
Lagging Economic Index (2003 = 100)	137.65	137.06	133.43	0.43%	3.16%
<b>Components:</b>					
Brazoria County Foreclosure Notices (Seasonally Adjusted)	66	70	65	-5.47%	2.62%
<i>Brazoria County Foreclosure Notices (Unadjusted)</i>	48	53	48	-9.43%	0.00%
Prime Rate Charged By Banks	4.25	4.25	3.50	0.00%	21.43%
Unemployment Rate (Adjusted)	5.46%	5.06%	5.50%	7.90%	-0.71%
<i>Unemployment Rate (Unadjusted)</i>	5.62%	5.36%	5.66%	4.85%	-0.71%

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