Border Business Indicators

The Border Business Indicators (BBI), a Texas Center publication from 1990 to the present, has been in existence in a variety of formats and areas of coverage since the 1980s. In its present configuration, the BBI covers twenty-two economic indicators for cities along the Rio Grande from Brownsville to El Paso, Texas.

On March 2003, the Border Business Indicators was reformatted to provide a more concise and “fast read” of the economic indicators for those cities on the Texas-Mexico border. In this current iteration, U.S.-Mexico trade information was incorporated as part of the monthly offerings in the BBI. Along with the inclusion of trade data, the fifteen indicators in the BBI publication were synchronized to the searchable data sets available on the on the Texas Center web site: http://texascenter.tamiu.edu.

In the future, acquisition, capture and maintenance of new area economic data will be chronicled in the Border Business Indicators and will be reflected on the Texas Center web site to provide the most up-to-date data available.

Vision Economic Outlook Report

The Texas Center’s ongoing work with business and community organizations may result in a variety of collaborative publications and materials. One such publication is the Vision Economic Outlook Report.

The Vision Economic Outlook Report is a joint publication which is prepared in cooperation with the Laredo Chamber of Commerce and has been in publication since the 1980s. The publication is distributed at the Vision Conferences held annually. Like its parent publication, the Vision Report provides a view of the City of Laredo’s economic indicators, trade data and a timely point of the interest that may affect the community. It is published once a year and is freely available at the Center’s web site: http://texascenter.tamiu.edu.

Texas Center Web Site

Since it first came on-line in 1998, the Texas Center’s web site has been available to the public and has provided economic and trade data. From 2001, the Center has added searchable data directly from our data sets. In addition, links to other resources were included to guide users to other sites with valuable data and information. Subsequently, speciality publications were added to the site providing insight into the region.

As the new decade approaches, the Center staff is working on plans to offer new data searches, filters, and reports. Along with more refined search tools and reports, the Center will add new data sets for the area. If you have not visited our site recently, do so as we start to upgrade our site http://texascenter.tamiu.edu.
Saber es poder: Knowledge Gives the Power to Act

Saber es poder. Knowledge is Power. This well-known Spanish proverb is repeated everywhere in border communities, whatever one visits classrooms, hospital waiting rooms, city council meetings or corporate boardrooms. In Laredo, we attest to the fact that knowledge and the city’s unique geographic location has brought tremendous power and impetus to almost all sectors of its economy.

For years, Texas A&M International University’s Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development (TCBEED) has provided leadership and support to Texas border communities through research and activities that focus on economic development. Texas Center offerings have included the development and maintenance of a U.S.-Mexico border socio-economic database as well as research related to border economic and business development. Training, education and technical assistance to border industrial, commercial and government entities are also among Center activities.

What I consider one of the most important aspects of all is that the Center shares research and data with both border communities and the Quarterly Report will serve to be informed about economic issues that can affect our nation, as well as, changes to the Center's staff, modifications such as new additions to the production line, ongoing research, additional procedures to improve the data, information and research. An inventory of the current data sets was conducted, and a listing of new data to acquire was generated in order to provide clearer observations of the area's activities.

More practical research of the City of Laredo, Webb County and the surrounding areas will help foster economic development and growth. The Center has several projects in various stages of planning or progression. Upon their completion, these studies will provide clearer observations of the area’s activities.

These studies are in the very capable hands of the Center’s staff. Herbert A. Molina, Director of the Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development, who brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise of more than 26 years of senior management experience in transferring technology domestically and internationally. Jacqueline Benavides, Data and Information Specialist, is the first point of contact for research and data questions, and has worked with various state and federal agencies to acquire and maintain these data sets during her 18 years of service with the university. Heliodoro (Leo) Lozano, Database Specialist, provides technical and programming development to the Center for data and information dissemination. He draws from eight years of professional experience at the Center. Baldomero G. Garcia, Jr., Program Manager, draws from almost 20 years of data management and data dissemination at Texas A&M International University under the TCBEED, and the Office for the Study of Mexico-U.S. Trade Relations, and the NAFTA Information Center.

The Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development working alongside you today for a better tomorrow.

Dr. Ray M. Keck III
President, TAMU

Herbert A. Molina
Director of the TCBEED

William H. Gruben, Ph.D., is the Director of the A.R. Sanchez, Jr. School of Business Ph.D. Program in International Business at Texas A&M International University.

Gruben served at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas as vice president, chief international economist and director of the Latin American Center for Latin American Economics. His research focuses on international trade, capital flows, financial development and capital flows. Gruben also serves as the director of the International Center for Latin American Economics.

Pablo Camacho Gutiérrez, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor of Economics at Texas A&M International University. Camacho has worked as a policy analyst with the Consumers Union Southwest. He served as a deputy director at the Mexican Secretariat of Commerce. He also served as head of the Electricity Rates Department at the Mexican Secretariat of the Treasury. His research is driven by applied econometrics and includes international economics, finance and fiscal federalism.

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Current Activities

With a change in directorship comes changes in the focus of the Center. The TCBEED Quarterly Report seeks to inform readers about the Texas Center, its activities and new research. It is a promising publication given the fact that there are needs, which are border and can benefit from research tailored to its geographic area. Once we have knowledge and information, we can use it to impact our communities.

As competition for funding and business development grows in these lean economic times, there is clearly a need to be informed about economic issues that can affect our communities and the very results we seek. The Texas Center will provide research closely related to border communities and the Quarterly Report will serve as its message conduit.

Saber es poder. The proverb resonates even louder today as we also operate in a global economy and a smaller world. What we know will give us the power to act, if not more.

—Dr. Ray M. Keck III, President, TAMU

Directors Briefing

The Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development (TCBEED) Quarterly Report is our newest addition to the items produced by the Center's staff. The report's purpose is to keep the community informed as to the activities being undertaken by the TCBEED such as new additions to the production line, ongoing research, additional procedures to the Center's staff, modifications to current channels of data dissemination, as well as, changes to the Center's web site.

Since my arrival, the Center's staff and I have worked non-stop to prioritize activities to ensure that all facets of the Center are addressed during the remodeling stage. The changes to come will be extensive, and the addition of new information and data sets are being secured.

The Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development Quarterly Report will be the publication to keep you informed of any new services and changes to familiar sites and products.

We look forward to the challenges, but we also look forward to providing you with an enhanced TCBEED.

—Herbert A. Molina, Director of the TCBEED

The Mission

To marshal the knowledge and expertise of Texas A&M International University’s faculty, students, and staff to provide effective leadership and support Laredo and the surrounding area in their economic development efforts.
Saber es poder: Knowledge Gives the Power to Act

Saber es poder. Knowledge is Power. This well-known Spanish proverb is repeated everywhere in border communities. It is an encouragement to use our knowledge to act on issues we care about, to influence public policy, and to benefit from research tailored to its geographic area. Once we have knowledge and information, we can use it to impact our communities.

As competition for funding and business development grows in these lean economic times, there is clearly a need to be informed about economic issues that can affect our communities and the very results we seek. The Texas Center will work to provide information to the border communities and the Quarterly Report will serve as its message conduit.

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What I consider one of the most important aspects of all is that the Center shares research and data with both public and private entities so that through knowledge, one can make informed decisions about issues or projects he or she is about to undertake. The knowledge to power transfers happens at this stage, where one can turn study and groundwork into action. Action, for its part, becomes a catalyst for power.

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Current Activities

With a change in directorship comes changes in the focus of the Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development (TCBEED). With the departure of Herbert A. Molina, the Center’s new director, Dr. Ray M. Keck III, has launched a new era of research and development.

An inventory of the current data sets was conducted, and a listing of new data to acquire was generated in order to augment the data already available at the Texas Center. This data will include more regional and binational data.

More practical research of the City of Laredo, Webb County and the surrounding areas will help foster economic development and growth. The Center has several projects in various stages of planning or progression. Upon their completion, these studies will provide clearer observations of the area’s activities.

These studies are in the very capable hands of the Center’s staff: Herbert A. Molina, Director of the Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development, who brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise of more than 26 years of senior management experience in transferring technology domestically and internationally. Jacqueline Benavides, Data and Information Specialist, is the first point of contact for research and data questions, and he has worked with various state and federal agencies to acquire and maintain these data sets during her 18 years of service with the university. Heliodoro (Leo) Lozano, Database Specialist, provides technical and programming development to the Center for data and information dissemination.

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