Border Region Modeling Project

Economics and Finance Department

5-2020

**Borderplex Pandemic Monitor**

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Borderplex Pandemic Monitor
Thomas M. Fullerton, Jr. and Steven L. Fullerton
Memorial Day Air Travel

- 2019 = 17.1 million via TSA checkpoints (5/20/19 – 5/26/19)
- 2020 = 2.1 million via TSA checkpoints (5/21/20 – 5/27/20)

Source: U.S. Transportation Security Administration; UTEP BRMP
Memorial Day Travel

- 2019 = $12.3 Billion Travel Spending
- 2020 = $4.2 Billion Travel Spending
- 8 million of 15.8 million travel workers laid off, furloughed, or terminated

Source: U.S. Travel Association
USA COVID-19 Deaths

- 102,391 deaths through 28 May 2020 C-19
- 58,220 from 1955 through 1975 U.S. casualties during Vietnam War
- 675,000 deaths during 1918-19 Spanish Flu when USA population was 105 million (2020 = 330 million)

Source: Johns Hopkins University; U.S. National Archives; U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
USA Industrial Activity, 2012 = 100

- February 2020 = 109.3
- March 2020 = 104.3
- April 2020 = 92.6

- Monthly declines in excess of 3 points are rare

- Source: Federal Reserve Board of Governors and UTEP BRMP
USA Total Retail & Food Sales

- February 2020 = $527.3 Billion
- March 2020 = $483.5 Billion
- April 2020 = $403.9 Billion

- Monthly declines of more than $13 Billion are rare

- Source: U.S. Census Bureau and UTEP BRMP
Unemployment Data (NSA)

- USA: Feb = 3.8%; Mar = 4.5%; Apr = 14.4%
- Texas: Feb = 3.6%; Mar = 5.1%; Apr = 13%
- El Paso: Feb = 3.8%; Mar = 5.0%; Apr = 14.8%
- ELP Deterioration began in March
- Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and UTEP BRMP
El Paso Household Economic Stress Index

- February 2020 = -0.1
- March 2020 = 0.5
- April 2020 = 8.7
- Jan 2003 – Apr 2020 All-Time Worst Reading: March 2010 = 15.4 (Low Readings = Better)

Source: UTEP BRMP
International Bridge Traffic

- Feb 2020 Cargo Trucks = 62.9 Thousand
- Mar 2020 Cargo Trucks = 43.7 Thousand
  (C-19 Closures & Business Cycle Collapse in Progress)
- Feb 2020 Cars = 891.3 Thousand
- Mar 2020 Cars = 340.3 Thousand
- Feb 2020 Pedestrians = 499.3 Thousand
- Mar 2020 Pedestrians = 103.9 Thousand
  (Non-Essential Border Closure in Effect)

Source: U.S. Customs & Border Protection
Real Exchange Rate Index

- February 2020 = 112.5
- March 2020 = 133.3
- April 2020 = 145.0

Inflation Adjusted, Pesos per $, June 1997 = 100
Historical Large Monthly Change = 4 to 7 Points

Source: UTEP BRMP
Nominal Exchange Rate

- February 2020 = 18.84 Pesos per Dollar
- March 2020 = 22.38 Pesos per Dollar
- April 2020 = 24.27 Pesos per Dollar

Source: Central Bank of Mexico
2020 El Paso Income Simulation

- 2018 = $27.3 Billion, 2012 Base Year
- 2019 = $29.4 Billion if a V-shaped recovery occurs...
- 2020 = $28.3 Billion

All Estimates from UTEP BRMP Model Simulations
First Total Real Income Decline since 1975 OPEC I
Short-Term Outlook to 2021
UTEP Border Region Econometric Modeling Project Corporate and Institutional Sponsors:
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