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## **Borderplex Pandemic Monitor**

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# 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

This business report is a publication of the Border Region Modeling Project and the Department of Economics & Finance at the University of Texas at El Paso. For additional **Border Region** information, please visit the <https://www.utep.edu/business/border-region-modeling-project/> section of the UTEP web site.

Please send comments to Border Region Modeling Project - CBA 236, Department of Economics & Finance, 500 West University, El Paso, TX 79968-0543.

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