

Economic indicators give good, bad news

Note:

This look at the main indicators of the Springs economy appears each month in The Business Edge. The information comes from local economist David Bamberger.

The Colorado Springs monthly economic indicators for September show a mix of good and bad news, once again. For the past several months the message has been mostly mixed. September is no exception.

Six of the monthly indicators for September signal good news, and two signal bad news.

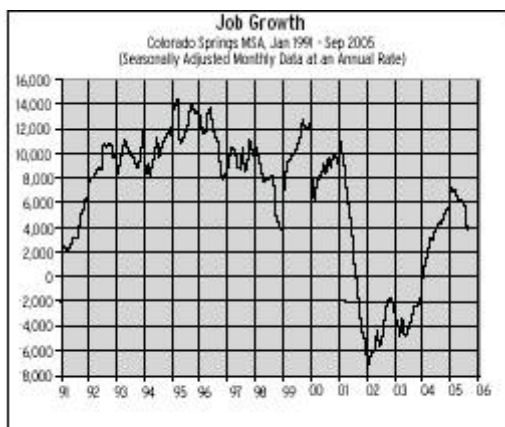
Comparing the latest September 2005 data for the eight indicators with September a year ago shows the following:

THE GOOD NEWS

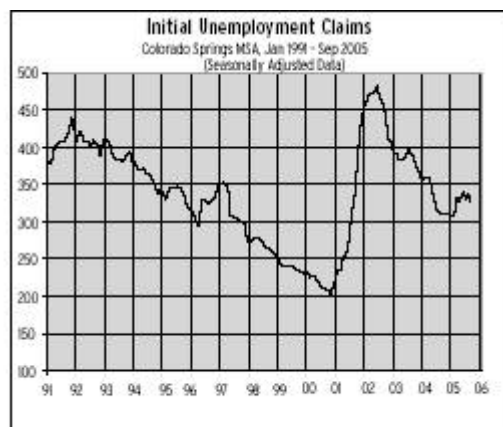
- Wage and salary jobs: up 1.6 percent
- Unemployment rate: down to 5.2 percent
- Initial claims for unemployment: down 34.3 percent
- Single-family construction: up 13.4 percent
- Taxable retail sales: up 5 percent
- Hotel occupancy rate: up to 68.9 percent

BAD NEWS -

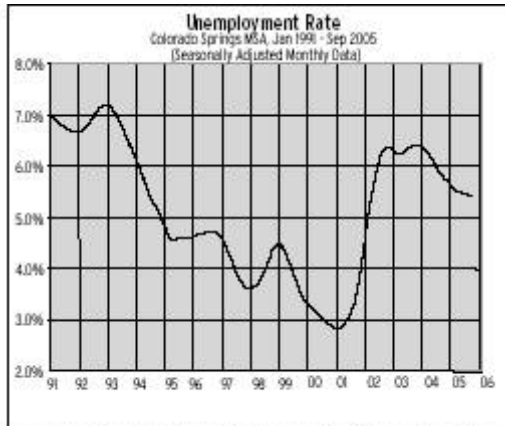
New auto and truck registrations: down 12.3 percent - Foreclosures: up 8.6 percent



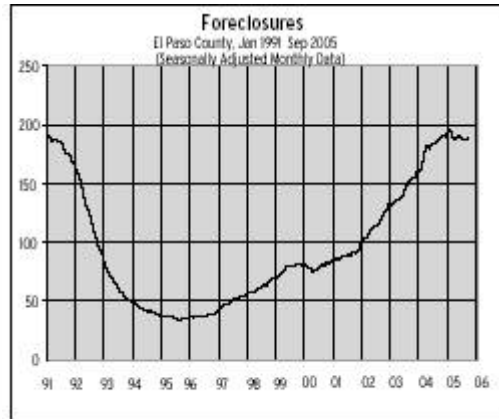
Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and David Bamberger & Associates



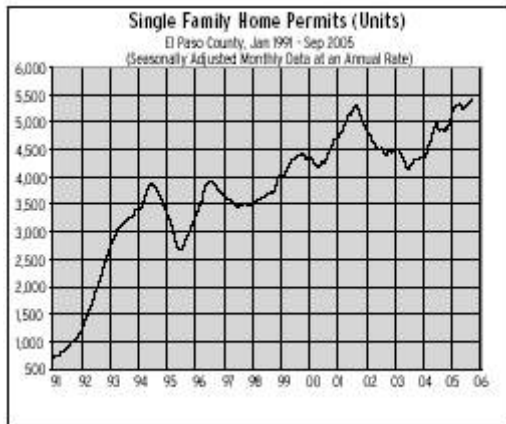
Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and David Bamberger & Associates



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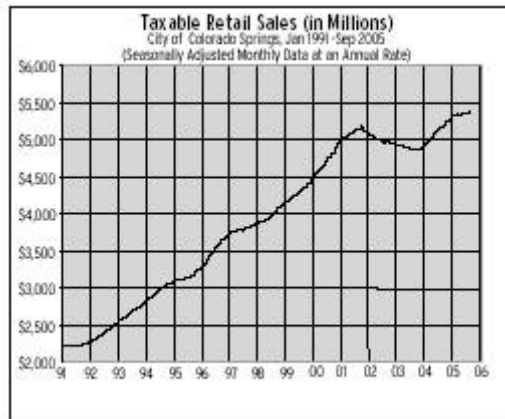
Source: El Paso County Trustee and David Bamberger & Associates



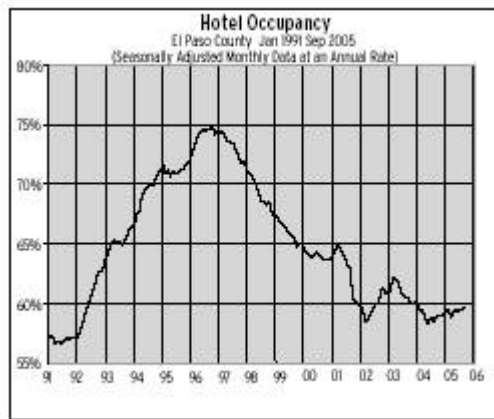
Source: Regional Building Department and David Bamberger & Associates



Source: El Paso County Clerk and Recorder and David Bamberger & Associates



Source: City of Colorado Springs Sales Tax Office and David Bamberger & Associates



Source: Rocky Mountain Lodging Report and David Bamberger & Associates