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# Forbes names McAllen as top mid-sized city

June 4, 2009 - 7:13 AM

Forbes has named McAllen as the number one mid-sized city in the nation for jobs and population growth, according to a press release from the McAllen Chamber of Commerce.

Forbes based its ranking on on a government study of more than 300 regions, the press release states.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) studied 336 Metropolitan Statistical Areas looking at job growth over the last year as well as the change in employment figures since 1996. The study also takes into consideration the population growth rate of the area. The McAllen area's population is growing and has shown strong job growth, particularly in the education and health care sectors since 2003.

McAllen is surviving the current economic downturn not just because of its job and population growth, it is also the retail center of the area, the chamber said. The city's total population is 15th among Texas cities, yet it is ranked 13th in overall retail sales, and first in Texas in total retail sales per household. The Texas Comptroller ranks McAllen third in the state for sales tax collections per capita.

"Retail sales are the driving force of the economy and McAllen has once again proven it is open for business," President and CEO of the McAllen Chamber Steve Ahlenius said.

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