

To engage in all activities, of whatever nature or kind, necessary, useful, expedient, or appropriate to further public education in the fields of art & science by establishing, operating, managing, owning and supervising an Art & Science museum; to schedule exhibits and activities in the Arts and Science areas; to be responsible for becoming a living museum through the activities of communication and education; to endeavor to make programs a living experience; to be a teaching museum that conducts special tours and experiences for school classes.

The museum is conceived as a community center where activities and exhibits in the Arts & Sciences can be meaningful, educational, and available to the public.

The museum's purpose as an educational institution is to preserve the past, record

The present, and provide perspective for the future through the collection and care of objects of scientific and artistic value for research, publication, programs and exhibition.

To promote the quality of life by providing for the educational and self-enrichment needs of the greater McAllen area through the International Museum of Art & Science.

The mission of the Education Department of the International Museum of Art and Science is to enrich, strengthen and sensitize the community through the cultivation of unique art and science programs.

IMAS was developed through the efforts of the McAllen Junior League, community leaders and the City of McAllen. The present facility is located at 1900 Nolana Ave.

The Museum's audience is bi-cultural, with mostly Hispanic citizens of all ages. IMAS is located on the border with Mexico. Nearly half of the museum's visitors are children.

The American Association of Museums (AAM) accredited IMAS in 1972 and reaccredited the Museum in 1985. IMAS is the 21st non-profit museum in the United States to take part in the Smithsonian's Affiliation Program. The Museum currently has over 20,930 square feet of exhibit space and 37 years of providing quality educational and cultural programs. The South Texas Historical Museum in Edinburg and the Mission Historical Museum are sister organizations to IMAS.

Economic Development

McAllen Economic Development Corporation

"Creating wealth by investing in tomorrow"

MEDC stands for the McAllen Economic Development Corporation. It is a not-for-profit corporation under contract with the City of McAllen to create jobs for McAllen by attracting new industry and helping existing companies to expand. The MEDC team works with prospective industrial clients, handles marketing and public affairs, and provides corporate support to existing manufacturing and supplier companies. Industrial clients are individuals who represent companies or industries looking for a site to expand or relocate their plant or service operation. They include the full realm from suppliers to manufacturers.

Does MEDC promote business location in Mexico?

Labor availability and cost, strategic location for distribution, turn-key operations and land availability have promoted companies around the world to view Mexico as an attractive alternative in their relocation decision-making. Many of the companies that have moved to Reynosa, Mexico have also established offices in McAllen and almost all of them have key employees who live on the U.S. side of the US/Mexico border. This location decision creates a win-win situation for both Reynosa and McAllen. MEDC offers information and assistance for industrial relocations to Reynosa, Mexico. There is no charge for the services provided by the McAllen Economic Development Corporation.

MEDC Staff Directory

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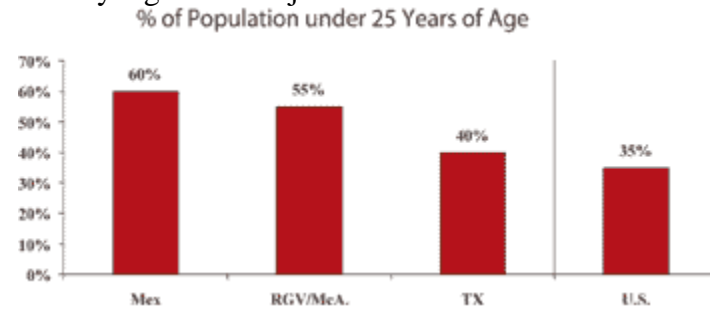
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The McAllen MSA is outpacing the rest of the nation in population and job growth. A very large, young, trainable labor force and extraordinary business opportunities created by the city's growth are just a few of the reasons McAllen/Reynosa has become the primary sites for companies setting up operations on the United States/Mexico border.



Most companies are striving for market leadership and profitability in a very dynamic environment. A site location that will give them access to new markets and a globally competitive cost structure is an important part of this equation. McAllen, Texas provides such a location . . . centrally located in the largest trading block in the world. With the implementation of NAFTA and the continued integration of the maquilas operations, many companies are recognizing the McAllen MSA as an excellent location for their regional and corporate-support facilities. McAllen provides companies with close proximity to their principal manufacturing plants and the emerging new markets in Mexico, Central and South America. The McAllen MSA is home to nearly 100 Fortune 500 company operations.

McAllen, Texas truly makes “cents” to those companies with the foresight to lead the competition in a rapidly growing global marketplace. Consider these factors:

Excellent quality of life

High-tech medical facilities

Comprehensive financial services community

Demonstrated logistics advantage necessary to reach existing and new markets, and Bicultural/bilingual population

The McAllen Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) provides companies with turnkey location assistance. With its array of locally available services, the MEDC facilitates the location process from:

Project feasibility to site selection

Construction of offices and manufacturing plants, production, and

Finding the right service providers to meet a company's needs in logistics, transportation, accounting, legal, financial services, employee selection and training.

By 2008, the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates the U.S. economy will create 161 millions jobs but will have a labor pool of just 154 million American workers to fill them. In this world of labor shortages, the McAllen MSA has an abundant labor pool of young, eager job candidates at globally competitive wage rates and world-class production capability. The efforts of the MEDC and its Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) have contributed to the success of the city of McAllen in the field of economic development. A number of important factors indicative of this success are:

Between January 1988 and September 2001, 168 new companies have set up operations in McAllen and 210 have set up operations in Reynosa (this figure includes approximately 30 shelter operations), for a total of 378 new facilities.

When combined with expansions of these facilities, the MEDC was involved in the creation of over 65,000 new jobs.

Maquiladoras

A maquiladora is a U.S. or foreign-owned manufacturing facility that processes or assembles components into finished or semi-finished products for export to other countries. Some of the more well-known U.S.-based companies located in Reynosa are:

Corning Scientific	Whirlpool
R. R. Donnelly & Sons	Maersk Medical
Eaton Corporation	Austin Sculptures
Kimball Electronics	Black & Decker
Delphi Automation Systems	C. R. Bard
Emerson Electric	Seagate Technologies
General Electric	Wells Manufacturing
Hoffman Engineering	Tenneco Automotive
Converse, Inc.	Kohler
Johnson Controls, Inc.	Nibco
TRW, Inc.	Corning Cable Systems
West Bend	Vanity Fair

As can be seen on page 35, a number of foreign-owned facilities have located manufacturing and support operations in Reynosa and McAllen. It is important to note that most of these companies have located new facilities in the McAllen MSA due to the ratification of NAFTA. If there is any one clear indication that NAFTA has benefited the McAllen-Reynosa area, this is it.

The maquiladoras in Reynosa are producing a wide assortment of goods including (but not limited to) televisions, automotive seat belts and components, electric motors, women's intimate apparel, books, ceramic goods, brass and steel valves, office furniture, radios, computer chips, fiber optic cable, circuit boards, control valves, cellular telephones, computer hard drives and computer monitors.

Strong leadership, an aggressive business environment and diverse cultural opportunities are just a few of the reasons why the McAllen MSA has become so successful. Add to this the young and trainable labor force (median age is 26 in the McAllen MSA and 21 throughout Mexico) the city's opportunity for growth is astounding.

Foreign-Trade Zone

The McAllen Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) is located south of McAllen between McAllen and Reynosa. Commissioned in 1973, it was the first inland FTZ in the United States and continuously ranks among the most active FTZs in the nation. The original McAllen FTZ encompassed 80 acres of developed land that contains more than 575,000 square-feet of warehouse and office space. There is also a Foreign-Trade Zone designation site at the McAllen-Miller International Airport to facilitate air cargo needs. Under U.S. and Mexican laws and NAFTA provisions, the FTZ designation offers specific cost-saving opportunities to manufacturers. To enhance the original site, the McAllen FTZ has added 695 acres in the new 900-acre Class-A Business Park being developed by Hunt Valley Development, a subsidiary of Hunt Oil Company.

Products can be brought into the FTZ duty-free. While in the FTZ, components can be manipulated or stored in a variety of ways. The FTZ services are extremely important to Just-In-Time (JIT) manufacturing. Services have recently extended to include full logistic support services including public warehouse services including pick & pack, order processing, inventory control, incoming/outgoing quality inspection and kitting. The FTZ offers:

Warehousing / Storage - Full-service public warehousing - In-bond storage of goods in fenced, secured buildings with 24-hour security, and entry/exit regulated by U.S. Customs, with flexible spaces at competitive rates. Leasing ranges from 64 cubic foot bins to 50,000+ square-foot warehouses and include time schedules to accommodate specific needs; daily, weekly and annual terms with the flexibility to adjust to seasonal market demands.

Material Handling / Manipulation - Load and unload, verify and label all shipments to client's specifications - paying for labor on a per shipment basis, re-label, repackage, inventory, manipulate or ready product for distribution using trained, in-bond MFTZ personnel.

Tailor-Made Services - Administration and preparation of in-bond documentation and Customs forms as well as training and supervision of personnel, traffic control and coordination, computerized inventory/activity reporting, and shipment scheduling.

For more information on the McAllen Foreign-Trade Zone, go to <http://www.medc.org>.

McAllen MSA Business Development

The MEDC has been particularly successful in the recruitment of companies to locate on the United States side of the border. Due to the location of McAllen, coupled with the location of Hunt Valley Development's Sharyland Business Park, McAllen has gained international recognition in the relocation process and is a site that is virtually unbeatable anywhere in the world. The MEDC has specialists who work with companies to provide the expertise in locating facilities to this rapidly growing area. Many reasons help to account for this tremendous surge in relocation/expansion of corporations.

Labor availability

Land costs

Utility credits

Potential property tax abatements

Enterprise Zone designation

Freeport exemption

Foreign-Trade Zone

Texas tax saving program

Employee training incentives

Incubator program

Partnership for Business and Industry Training

Center for Advanced and Applied Technology

Among them are:

In addition to the successful recruitment of industrial facilities, the MEDC has successfully placed several major call center operations in the area. West TeleServices, Convergys, TicketMaster and Western Wireless are some of the more recognizable new arrivals.