



September 26, 2014

## GDB RELEASES AUGUST 2014 ECONOMIC ACTIVITY INDEX

San Juan, P.R. – Today, the Government Development Bank for Puerto Rico published the Economic Activity Index (“GDB-EAI”) for August 2014. During this period, the index was 124.2, reflecting a 1.1% year-over-year decline.

Highlights include:

- Private employment grew for the 6th consecutive month, demonstrating that the private sector is leading the recovery.
- Construction employment registered its 5th consecutive month of growth. In August, employment in construction grew 6.6%.
- Employment in the public sector has been decreasing since early 2013. Such decrease in public sector employment was primarily driven by policy decision to reduce the fiscal deficit.
- Cement sales for August 2014 totaled 1.07 million bags, a year-over-year decrease of 22.4%.
- Electric power generation for August 2014 totaled 1,869.5 million kWh, a year-over-year decrease of 4.1%.
- The preliminary number for gasoline consumption in August 2014 was 75.0 million gallons, a 0.3% decrease from August 2013.
- Total non-farm payroll employment for August 2014 averaged 911,600, an annual increase of 0.4%.

The GDB publishes the EAI on a monthly basis along with a qualitative economic comment in order to provide a clear understanding of the trends and current state of the local economy. The EAI index is developed following a methodology similar to that used by The Conference Board in their coincident index. The EAI has a high correlation to Puerto Rico’s real Gross National Product (GNP).