## **Border Business Indicators**

College of Business Administration & Graduate School for International Traces State Docume Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

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#### **Note from the Director**

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Indicators of border business activity for the month of June demonstrated an increase of thirteen indicators over eight indicators that decreased. In addition, for the year-to-date (YTD) figures, eighteen indicators were up and three were down. Selected YTD comparisons to 1999 reported by border cities include the following:

- Southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico were down 1.7 percent. Laredo gained 0.9 percent, Rio Grande jumped 21.3 percent, McAllen registered an increase of 7.8 and El Paso rose 1.2 percent.
- Southbound vehicle crossings were up 2.3 percent. Brownsville grew by 2.6 percent, and Eagle Pass gained 11.8 percent. El Paso went up 7.4 percent and Laredo rose 2.6 percent. Pharr increased 8.2 percent.
- Southbound truck crossings into Mexico were up 11.2 percent. Eagle Pass went up 78.1 percent. Pharr increased 28.9 percent, and Laredo rose 11.5 percent. Harlingen was up 8.0 percent.
- Northbound truck crossings into Texas were up 6.8 percent, Falcon increased 20.5 percent, Pharr gained 16.3 percent and Eagle Pass posted a 9.9 percent increase. Brownsville increased 17.7 percent, Laredo rose 3.0 percent, Del Rio marked an increase of 8.8 percent, as well as Rio Grande with a gain of 9.4 percent.
- Southbound shipments by rail were up 11.8 percent.
- Northbound shipments by rail were up 18.2 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Customs were down by 1.3 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Bridge operators were up 9.9 percent.
- Total building permits issued were up 5.9 percent. Laredo rose 29.3 percent, Eagle Pass gained 21.1 percent, while McAllen-Hidalgo rose 0.7 percent, and Brownsville registered an increase of 12.0 percent.
- Total building permit values increased 7.2 percent. Laredo increased 37.9 percent, and Brownsville rose 49.0 percent.
- Total employment was up 1.2 percent, with 5,248 jobs gained. The average unemployment rate in June 2000 was 9.5 percent for the border.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, north vehicular and pedestrian crossing figures will not be available until further notice. Please excuse any inconvenience this may cause. We will continue our efforts to secure this information.

Visit the Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development's web site at http://www.tamiu.edu/coba/txcntr/.

## **Technical Reports**

Technical Report No. 1: NAFTA Rules of Origin: An Explanation (March 1994) Technical Report No. 2: The Impact of NAFTA on U.S.-Mexico Commercial and Border Zones and the Potential Consequences to the Border (February 1994) Technical Report No. 3: Labor Mobility Under NAFTA: It's Impact on the Border (February 1994) Technical Report No. 4: The Impact of NAFTA on Border Maquiladora and Industrial Activity (April 1994) Technical Report No. 6: U.S.-Mexico Trade Patterns Under NAFTA (March 1994) Technical Report No. 7: Overweights to Pay the Price (March 1994) Technical Report No. 8: Standards as Non-Tariff Barriers: NAFTA's Impact (February 1994) Technical Report No. 9: NAFTA Certificate of Origin (May 1994) Technical Report No. 10: The Texas Border with Mexico: Opportunities and Challenges (October 1994) Technical Report No. 12: NAFTA One Year After Implementation: A Preliminary Assessment of Selected Impacts (March 1995) Hardcopy only

Technical Reports are freely available for download (http://www.tamiu.edu/coba/txcntr) in PDF format, unless otherwise noted. These are also available by writing to: Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development, Texas A&M International University, 5201 University Boulevard, Laredo, Texas 78041-1900. Please enclose \$5.00 for each report requested. Make check or money order payable to the Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development.

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#### Disclaimer:

Please note that the data contained in this and all issues of the Border Business Indicators is collected from different government agencies and private sources. Readers should note that different data-collecting agencies use dissimilar, often conflicting, techniques in collecting and compiling the information they publish. Because of this lack of uniformity, comparing different data could result in erroneous conclusions. While we are most grateful to our sources for their cooperation, we cannot assume responsibility for the comparability of the data.

## Top 3 Imports: Texas-Mexico Border Ports Process an Assortment of Products

In last month's issue (BBI June 2000), we published a table depicting the top three U.S. Exports to Mexico handled through each Texas border port from January to May 2000. Below is a table delineating the top three U.S. Imports from Mexico processed

through the respective ports for the same time period. If you wish to see the top 25 U.S. Exports and Imports for this period, visit our web site and click on the *Border Trade Data* link.

-В. G. Garcia

Port	Rank	SITC	Product Description	Value \$ Millions
Brownsville	1	76211	Radiobroadcast Receivers, Combined With Sound Recording Or Reproducing Apparatus, Operating With An External Power Source As In Motor Vehicles	368.819
	2	78432	Other Parts And Accessories Of Motor Vehicle Bodies Of Headings 8701 To 8705 (Including Cabs)	188.205
	3	78439	Parts And Accessories N.E.S. For Tractors, Motor Cars And Other Motor Vehicles, Trucks, Public-Transport Vehicles And Road Motor Vehicles, N.E.S.	149.887
Del Rio	1	77313	Ignition Wiring Sets And Other Wiring Sets Of A Kind Used In Vehicles, Aircraft Or Ships	145.699
	2	82119	Parts Of Seats, N.E.S.	108.708
	3	74380	Parts For Air Or Vacuum Pumps, Air Or Other Gas Compressors And Fans; Parts Of Ventilating, Recyling Or Cooker Hoods Incorporating A Fan	31.224
Eagle Pass	1	69941	Springs And Leaves For Springs, Of Iron Or Steel	136.920
	2	84140	Trousers, Bib And Brace Overalls, Breeches And Shorts Of Woven Textile Materials, Men'S Or Boys'	126.670
	3	84540	T-Shirts, Singlets (Undershirts), Tank Tops And Similar Garments, Of Knitted Or Crocheted Textile Fabrics	99.822
Hidalgo	1	78432	Other Parts And Accessories Of Motor Vehicle Bodies Of Headings 8701 To 8705 (Including Cabs)	226.796
	2	78439	Parts And Accessories N.E.S. For Tractors, Motor Cars And Other Motor Vehicles, Trucks, Public-Transport Vehicles And Road Motor Vehicles, N.E.S.	216.797
	3	76432	Transmission Apparatus For Radiotelephony, Radiotelegraphy, Radiobroadcasting Or Television, Incorporating Reception Apparatus	134.551
Laredo	1	78120	Motor Vehicles For The Transport Of Persons (Other Than Public Transport), N.E.S.	3,712.395
	2	78219	Motor Vehicles For The Transport Of Goods, N.E.S.	2,142.615
	3	71322	Reciprocating Piston Engines Of A Cylinder Capacity Exceeding 1,000 Cc	463.783
Presidio	1	00119	Bovine Animals, Other Than Purebred Breeding Animals, Live	37.630
	2	78520	Bicycles And Other Cycles (Including Delivery Tricycles), Not Motorized	15.818
	3	05779	Edible Nuts (Excluding Mixtures), Fresh Or Dried, N.E.S., Whether Or Not Shelled Or Peeled	3.643
Progreso	1	64214	Paper Sacks And Bags (Including Cones), N.E.S.	2.339
	2	64213	Paper Sacks And Bags, With A Base Of 40 Cm Or Over In Width	2.138
	3	76499	Parts Of The Apparatus For Sound Recorders Or Reproducers And Parts Of Television Image And Sound Recorders Or Reproducers	1.338
Rio Grande	1	89731	Articles Of Jewelry And Parts Thereof, Of Precious Metal Or Metals Clad With Precious Metals (Except Watches And Watch Cases)	16.602
	2	97103	Gold Waste And Scrap (Including Metal Clad With Gold But Excluding Sweepings Containing Other Precious Metals)	4.446
	3	66331	Articles Of Plaster Or Of Compositions Based On Plaster	3.990
Roma	1	66332	Building Blocks And Bricks, Tiles, Flagstones And Similar Articles Of Cement, Concrete Or Artificial Stone	1.659
	2	29299	Vegetable Materials And Vegetable Products, N.E.S.	1.412
	3	77119	Electric Transformers, N.E.S.	0.597
El Paso	1	77313	Ignition Wiring Sets And Other Wiring Sets Of A Kind Used In Vehicles, Aircraft Or Ships	1,085.356
	2	76110	TV Receivers, Color, Incl Video Monitors & Projectors), Whet Or Nt Incorp Radiobroadcast Receivers Or Sound Or Video Recording Or Reproducing Apparatus	577.029
	3	82119	Parts Of Seats, N.E.S.	574.457

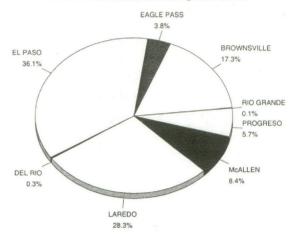
#### **Pedestrian Bridge Crossings into Mexico**

CITY	APR 00	MAY 00	JUN 00	JUN 99	YTD 99	YTD 00	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	223,057	219,974	205,219	214,585	1,515,939	1,383,330	-8.7
DEL RIO	-3,201	3,611	4,059	3,991	27,458	23,829	-13.2
EAGLE PASS	54,715	51,857	45,084	54,545	353,011	308,736	-12.5
EL PASO	426,042	443,852	429,497	411,056	2,548,871	2,578,742	1.2
HARLINGEN	0	123	56	162	422	420	-0.5
LAREDO	377,218	351,348	336,591	328,852	2,116,989	2,136,832	0.9
McALLEN-HIDALGO	109,286	103,500	100,342	86,117	628,575	677,862	7.8
PROGRESO	90,106	69,308	67,574	72,062	806,927	768,406	-4.8
RIO GRANDE	1,077	1,090	713	668	4,736	5,743	21.3
ROMA	15,569	14,707	N/A	12,857	95,885	77,643	N/A
TOTAL	1,300,271	1,259,370	1,189,135	1,184,895	8,098,813	7,961,543	-1.7

Source: Data provided by U.S. bridge operators in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

Southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico for June were down 5.6 percent. Rio Grande decreased 34.6 percent, Brownsville decreased 6.7 percent, Eagle Pass slipped 13.1 percent, El Paso dipped 3.2 percent, and Laredo slid 4.2 percent. Progreso dropped 2.5 percent, and McAllen-Hidalgo was down 3.1 percent. YTD, total southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico slipped 1.7 percent. El Paso southbound pedestrian crossings, which make up 32.4 percent of all crossings, increased a slight 1.2 percent YTD. Laredo, accounting for 26.8 percent of total crossings, increased 0.9 percent YTD. Brownsville, with a 17.4 percent share, decreased 8.7 percent YTD. Progreso, with 9.7 percent share, declined 4.8 percent.

#### % Share Pedestrians for June 2000



#### **Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Mexico**

CITY	APR 00	MAY 00	JUN 00	JUN 99	YTD 99	YTD 00	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	625,432	642,892	620,316	617,083	3,648,506	3,743,202	2.6
DEL RIO	167,632	163,472	156,205	166,028	1,010,786	957,871	-5.2
EAGLE PASS	268,032	261,259	238,047	224,404	1,384,461	1,547,790	11.8
EL PASO	441,029	485,828	479,383	448,603	2,616,096	2,808,415	7.4
HARLINGEN	48,529	48,302	45,969	46,905	290,797	284,656	-2.1
LAREDO	714,997	754,565	750,271	736,557	4,221,633	4,331,255	2.6
McALLEN-HIDALGO	503,227	516,990	486,089	502,700	3,000,395	2,962,028	-1.3
PHARR	175,585	179,557	169,403	145,539	974,505	1,054,276	8.2
PROGRESO	95,364	94,318	86,895	94,864	633,552	582,361	-8.1
RIO GRANDE	53,503	50,825	46,849	51,534	322,538	300,692	-6.8
ROMA	99,756	99,785	N/A	90,231	532,026	490,761	N/A
TOTAL	3,193,086	3,297,793	3079427	3,124,448	18,635,295	19,063,307	2.3

Source: Data provided by U.S. bridge operators in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

Southbound vehicle bridge crossings into Mexico were down 6.6 percent in June from May's figures. Eagle Pass was down 8.9 percent, Del Rio dipped 4.4 percent, Rio Grande slipped 7.8 percent, and McAllen-Hidalgo decreased 6.0 percent, and Brownsville went down 3.5 percent. Harlingen dropped 4.8 percent, and Laredo went down 0.6 percent. YTD total southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 2.3 percent. Laredo, with 22.7 percent of

all southbound traffic, was up 2.6 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 19.6 percent of all southbound vehicle bridge crossings, had a 2.6 percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 14.7 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, rose 7.4 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 15.5 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, experienced a 1.3 percent decrease YTD.

#### Truck Crossings into Mexico —Number of Trucks

CITY	APR 00	MAY 00	JUN 00	JUN 99	YTD 99	YTD 00	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE+	18,082	20,324	20,698	19,003	125,320	119,099	-5.0
DEL RIO+	5,488	3,453	3,094	5,862	33,515	29,938	-10.7
EAGLE PASS+	9,046	10,219	7,831	5,818	30,901	55,033	78.1
EL PASO+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	N/A	N/A
HARLINGEN+	5,438	7,971	8,814	7,393	35,730	38,571	8.0
LAREDO+	104,959	122,209	123,062	129,089	620,681	692,299	11.5
McALLEN-HIDALGO+	3,651	4,004	3,963	4,497	25,703	24,317	-5.4
PHARR+	21,503	22,086	21,250	15,398	101,369	130,646	28.9
PROGRESO+	2,016	2,016	1,333	1,617	13,247	11,612	-12.3
RIO GRANDE+	2,214	1,740	1,630	1,829	12,647	11,282	-10.8
ROMA+	1,223	1,406	N/A	1,368	7,154	6,670	N/A
TOTAL	173,620	195,428	191,675	191,874	1,006,267	1,119,467	11.2

Source: Data provided by U.S. bridge operators in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

- + Includes both loaded and empty trucks.
- ++ Includes loaded trucks only.
- +++ El Paso does not separate loaded trucks from other vehicles and therefore is not reported.

Southbound truck crossings into Mexico were down 1.9 percent in June. Harlingen gained 10.6 percent, Del Rio decreased 10.4 percent, and Pharr went down 3.8 percent. Rio Grande dipped 6.3 percent. Laredo grew 0.7 percent, and Brownsville increased 1.8 percent. YTD southbound truck crossings were up 11.2 percent. Laredo, with 61.8 percent of all southbound crossings, experienced

an 11.5 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with 10.6 percent of all southbound crossings, had a 5.0 percent decrease YTD. Pharr, with 11.7 percent, registered an increase of 28.9 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, with 4.9 percent of all truck crossings, jumped 78.1 percent YTD.

### Truck Crossings into Texas —Number of Trucks

CITY	APR 00	MAY 00	JUN 00	JUN 99	YTD 99	YTD 00	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	24,993	27,771	27,756	17,280	133,800	157,518	17.7
DEL RIO	4,768	5,420	5,436	5,023	28,864	31,409	8.8
EAGLE PASS	8,549	9,876	8,941	8,616	49,515	54,413	9.9
FALCON	44	48	31	37	224	270	20.5
LAREDO	112,419	131,385	131,162	127,863	723,494	745,422	3.0
McALLEN-HIDALGO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
PHARR	30,726	32,856	31,603	28,186	164,038	190,796	16.3
PROGRESO	815	1,043	1,062	1,947	8,754	5,749	-34.3
RIO GRANDE	2,205	1,931	1,860	1,523	10,869	11,893	9.4
ROMA	981	1,268	1,050	1,393	7,764	6,736	-13.2
TOTAL	185,500	211,598	208,901	191,868	1,127,322	1,204,206	6.8

Source: Data provided by the South Texas CMC in Laredo and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

Editor's Note: Figures represent loaded and empty trucks.

June northbound truck crossings into Texas decreased 1.3 percent over May's crossings. Eagle Pass was down 9.5 percent, Brownsville slipped 0.1 percent, Progreso rose 1.8 percent, Pharr slid 3.8 percent. Laredo decreased 0.2 percent. Roma fell 17.2 percent, Falcon dove 35.4 percent, and Del Rio went up 0.3 percent. Rio Grande dropped 3.7 percent. YTD northbound truck crossings

were up 6.8 percent. Laredo, accounting for 61.9 percent of all northbound truck crossings, had a 3.0 percent increase YTD. Pharr, with 15.8 percent of all crossings, experienced a 16.3 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with a 13.1 percent of all northbound truck crossings, experienced a 17.7 percent increase YTD.

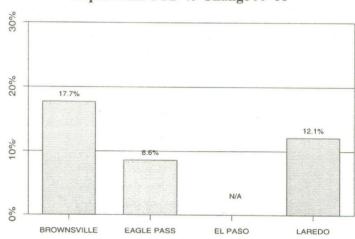
## Export Shipments by Rail into Mexico —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	APR 00	MAY 00	JUN 00	JUN 99	YTD 99	YTD 00	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	2,415	2,885	3.164	2.717	15.592	18,352	17.7
EAGLE PASS	6,409	6,333	4,973	6,908	35,748	38.806	8.6
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	14,998	16,777	15,094	13,239	80,047	89,715 *	12.1
TOTAL	23,822	25,995	23,231	22,864	131,387	146,873	11.8

Source: Data provided by railroad companies serving cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

Southbound rail shipments into Mexico decreased 10.6 percent in June compared to May. Brownsville gained 9.7 percent, while Laredo dropped 10.0 percent. Eagle Pass slipped 21.5 percent. YTD total southbound rail shipments into Mexico from Texas were up 11.8 percent. Laredo which accounted for 61.1 percent of all southbound rail shipments, was up 12.1 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, accounting for 26.4 percent of all southbound rail shipments, increased 8.6 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 12.5 percent of all southbound rail shipments, showed an increase of 17.7 percent YTD.

#### **Export Rail YTD % Change 99-00**



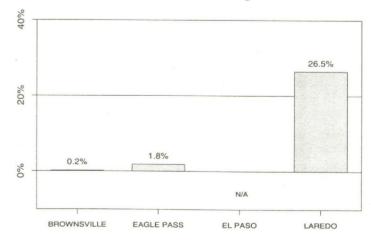
### Import Shipments by Rail into Texas —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	APR 00	MAY 00	JUN 00	JUN 99	YTD 99	YTD 00	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	1,114	1,188	1,056	798	6,173	6,187	0.2
EAGLE PASS	3,648	4,261	4,188	3,491	22,079	22,473	1.8
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	12,921	11,835	13,171	9,855	57,068	72.193	26.5
TOTAL	17,683	17,284	18,415	14,144	85,320	100,853	18.2

Source: Data provided by railroad companies serving cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

Northbound rail shipments into Texas increased 6.5 percent in June. Laredo increased 11.3 percent, Brownsville was down 11.1 percent and Eagle Pass dropped 1.7 percent. YTD total northbound shipments into Texas from Mexico were up 18.2 percent. Laredo, which accounted for 71.6 percent of all northbound rails shipments, was up 26.5 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, accounting for 22.3 percent of all northbound rail shipments, grew 1.8 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 6.1 percent of all northbound rail shipments, gained 0.2 percent YTD.

#### Import Rail YTD % Change 99-00



# Revenues (in U.S. Dollars) Collected by U.S. Customs District of Laredo

			OTHER	TOTAL	TOTAL	YTD	YTD	
	DUTY	MPF	REVENUE	REVENUE	REVENUE	REVENUE	REVENUE	YTD
CITY	JUN 00	JUN 00	JUN 00	JUN 00	JUN 99	JUN 99	JUN 00	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	4,832,749	218,007	275,765	5,326,520	2,810,736	15,106,399	27,946,020	85.0
DEL RIO	205,842	33,838	72,524	312,204	353,973	1,997,732	1,213,187	-39.3
EAGLE PASS	275,337	10,706	2,881,779	3,167,821	4,685,937	20,599,107	17,249,790	-16.3
LAREDO	10,343,943	696,994	8,813,592	19,854,530	23,526,761	111,731,135	109,046,293	-2.4
McALLEN-HIDALGO	2,052,293	191,676	269,784	2,513,752	4,673,711	24,542,724	16,550,151	-32.6
PROGRESO	895	3,479	12,003	16,378	49,283	252,327	114,068	-54.8
RIO GRANDE	56,770	6,096	10,247	73,113	101,880	570,642	441,190	-22.7
ROMA	26,547	2,926	19,044	48,517	73,122	365,197	270,115	-26.0
TOTAL	17,794,377	1,163,722	12,354,739	31,312,837	36,275,402	175,165,263	172,830,813	-1.3

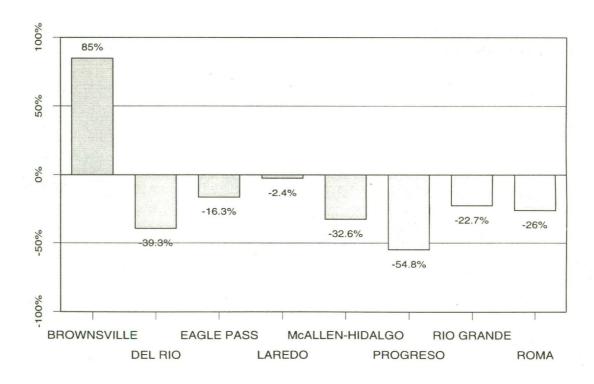
Source: Data provided by the South Texas CMC in Laredo and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

MPF = Merchandise Processing Fee

Total U.S. Customs revenues, for June, for the former District of Laredo, increased 1.8 percent from May's figures. McAllen-Hidalgo dropped 5.4 percent, Rio Grande decreased 21.5 percent, Progreso gained 23.7 percent, Roma declined 21.8 percent, Laredo grew 3.8 percent, Eagle Pass went down 4.9 percent, Brownsville increased 1.0 percent, and Del Rio jumped 65.6 percent. YTD revenue figures

were down 1.3 percent compared to June 1999, YTD. Laredo, accounting for 63.1 percent share of the former district's revenue was down 2.4 percent. Brownsville, with 16.2 percent share of total revenues, was up 85.0 percent. Eagle Pass, accounting for 10.0 percent of all revenues, was down 16.3 percent. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 9.6 percent of total revenues, decreased 32.6 percent.

#### % Change Total Revenues YTD 99-00



# Revenues (in U.S. Dollars) Collected by U.S. Bridge Operators

	D 00 % CHO
VNSVILLE	9,750 17.
RIO	9,860 31.
E PASS	4,617 21.
SO	1,392 2.
INGEN	0,363 7.
DO	5,319 7.
LEN-HIDALGO	7,970 -1.
R	
L	
	7,075 7,346

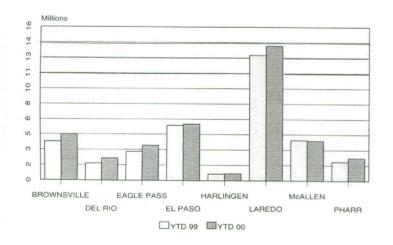
Source: Data provided by U.S. bridge operators in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

Brownsville's Revenues are for Cameron County Bridge only.

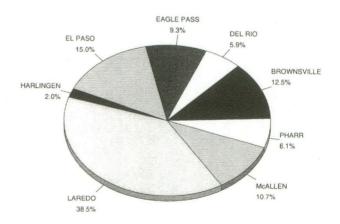
U.S. bridge operators' revenues decreased 1.6 percent in the month of June. Pharr went down 4.9 percent, Brownsville declined 2.1 percent, Laredo grew 3.2, Del Rio declined 2.4 percent, Harlingen decreased 2.3 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo went down 4.8 percent, Eagle Pass marked a decrease of 6.9 percent, and El Paso registered a drop of 5.5 percent. YTD U.S. bridge operators' revenues were up 9.9 percent. Laredo, accounting for 37.0 percent of total U.S bridge

operator's revenues collected, had a 7.3 percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 15.5 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues, increased 2.2 percent YTD. Brownsville, accounting for 12.6 percent, was up 17.8 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 11.0 percent of the total bridge revenues, slipped 1.3 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, with 9.6 percent of the total bridge revenues, rose 21.8 percent YTD.

#### **Total Revenues Collected YTD 99-00**



#### % Share Revenues June 2000



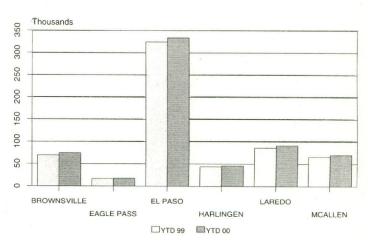
#### Telephones in Service —Texas Border

CITY	APR 00	MAY 00	JUN 00	JUN 99	YTD 99	YTD 00	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	75,166	75,195	75,302	70,016	69.521	74,701	7.5
EAGLE PASS	17,589	17,589	17,514	16,649	16,599	17.464	5.2
EL PASO	335,812	334,628	335,678	324,723	324,542	333.889	2.9
HARLINGEN	45,571	45,723	45,839	43,880	43,709	45,694	4.5
LAREDO	92,537	92,404	92,397	87,991	86.692	91.748	5.8
MCALLEN	70,344	71,297	71,668	66,938	66,404	70,364	6.0
TOTAL	637,019	636,836	638,398	610,197	607,466	633,860	4.3

Source: Data (preliminary figures subject to revision) provided by Southwestern Bell and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

Total percent changes for telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities registered a gain of 0.25 percent for the month of June. YTD the average number of total telephones in service increased by 4.3 percent. YTD figure showed Laredo rose 5.8 percent, Eagle Pass was up 5.2 percent, McAllen increased 6.0 percent, Brownsville jumped 7.5 percent, Harlingen was up 4.5 percent and El Paso grew 2.9 percent YTD.

#### YTD AVG June 99-00



#### Power Connections – Texas Border

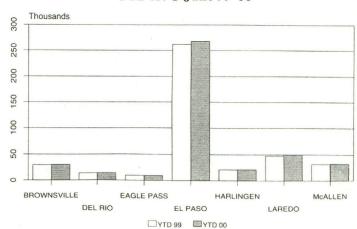
#### **Residential Connections**

CITY	APR 00	MAY 00	JUN 00	JUN 99	YTD 99	YTD 00	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	30,163	30,274	30,323	29,740	29,540	30,171	2.1
DEL RIO	14,053	14,078	14,059	13,834	13,804	14,026	1.6
EAGLE PASS	9,653	9,664	9,663	9,459	9,450	9,647	2.1
EL PASO	269,102	269,402	269,651	263,415	262,286	268,573	2.4
HARLINGEN	21,437	21,266	21,256	20,671	21,055	21,516	2.2
LAREDO	49,809	49,959	50,158	48,110	47,659	49,683	4.2
McALLEN	32,130	32,085	32,086	31,204	31,345	32,279	3.0
TOTAL	426,347	426,728	427,196	416,433	415,139	425,896	2.6

Source: Data provided by CP&L, Brownsville Public Utilities Board, and El Paso Electric Co. and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

June's total residential power connections for cited Texas border cities increased over May's figures by 0.11 percent. YTD residential power connections were up 2.6 percent. Laredo was up 4.2 percent, McAllen increased 3.0 percent, Del Rio gained 1.6 percent, Harlingen jumped 2.2 percent, El Paso rose 2.4 percent, Brownsville increased 2.1 percent, and Eagle Pass was up by 2.1 percent.

#### YTD AVG June 99-00



#### Power Connections - Texas Border

**Commercial Connections** 

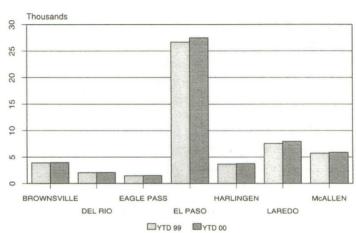
CITY	APR 00	MAY 00	JUN 00	JUN 99	YTD 99	YTD 00	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	3,952	3,950	3,959	3,868	3,868	3,936	1.7
DEL RIO	2,064	2,087	2,101	2,045	2,046	2,073	1.3
EAGLE PASS	1,517	1,524	1,519	1,449	1,450	1,507	3.9
EL PASO	27,562	27,651	27,691	26,890	26,669	27,503	3.1
HARLINGEN	3,776	3,786	3,795	3,684	3,652	3,767	3.1
LAREDO	7,979	8,051	8,065	7,654	7,581	7,964	5.1
McALLEN	5,887	5,888	5,910	5,767	5,717	5,894	3.1
TOTAL	52,737	52,937	53,040	51,357	50,984	52,643	3.3

Source: Data provided by CP&L, Brownsville Public Utilities Board, and El Paso Electric Co. and compiled by Texas A&M International University,

Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

June's total commercial power connections for cited Texas border cities increased 0.19 percent over May's figures. YTD averages of commercial power connections increased 3.3 percent. Harlingen was up 3.1 percent, Eagle Pass increased 3.9 percent, Laredo gained 5.1 percent, McAllen was up 3.1 percent, Del Rio rose 1.3 percent, El Paso gained 3.1 percent, and Brownsville increased 1.7 percent.

#### YTD AVG June 99-00



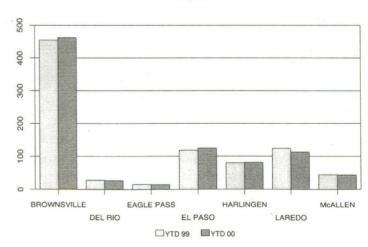
#### **Industrial Connections**

CITY	APR 00	MAY 00	JUN 00	JUN 99	YTD 99	YTD 00	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	464	478	437	471	455	462	1.6
DEL RIO	27	27	27	28	28	27	-3.0
EAGLE PASS	14	13	15	16	16	15	-5.4
EL PASO	125	125	125	119	119	125	5.5
HARLINGEN	81	81	81	81	80	81	1.7
LAREDO	113	113	115	125	125	114	-8.8
McALLEN	43	43	44	44	44	44	-0.8
TOTAL	867	880	844	884	866	868	0.2

Source: Data provided by CP&L, Brownsville Public Utilities Board, and El Paso Electric Co. and compiled by Texas A&M International University,
Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

June's total industrial power connections for cited Texas border cities in decreased 4.09 percent from May's figures. YTD averages of industrial power connections increased 0.2 percent. El Paso increased 5.5 percent, Harlingen grew 1.7 percent, Brownsville went up 1.6 percent, and Laredo declined 8.8 percent.

#### YTD AVG June 99-00



#### **Building Permits**—Texas Border

#### **Number of Permits**

NUMBER	APR 00	MAY 00	JUN 00	JUN 99	YTD 99	YTD 00	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	347	362	412	321	1,978	2,216	12.0
DEL RIO	49	65	68	85	530	356	-32.8
EAGLE PASS	50	45	50	48	237	287	21.1
EL PASO	582	540	617	625	3,752	3,495	-6.8
HARLINGEN	60	76	65	87	428	423	-1.2
LAREDO	326	675	685	586	2,562	3,313	29.3
MCALLEN	171	154	166	210	904	910	0.7
TOTAL	1,585	1,917	2,063	1,962	10,391	11,000	5.9

Source: Data provided by cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic & Enterprise Development

June building permits issued by reporting Texas border cities were up 7.6 percent from May. Del Rio increased 4.6 percent, El Paso gained 14.3 percent, and Laredo gained 1.5 percent. McAllen showed an increase of 7.8 percent, and Brownsville went up 13.8 percent. YTD the number of permits issued were up 5.9 percent. El

Paso, accounting for 31.8 percent of all building permits issued, had a decrease of 6.8 percent YTD. Laredo, with 30.1 percent of building permits issued, was up 29.3 percent YTD. Brownsville, with a 20.1 percent of building permits issued, increased 12.0 percent YTD.

#### U.S. Dollar Value of Permits

VALUE	APR 00	MAY 00	JUN 00	JUN 99	YTD 99	YTD 00	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	19,596,389	16,032,013	35,092,468	15,204,446	95,889,383	142,910,703	49.0
DEL RIO	791,957	855,472	651,608	950,917	8,541,369	5,395,966	-36.8
EAGLE PASS	1,522,383	1,536,253	1,186,039	2,918,942	9,336,755	9,031,880	-3.3
EL PASO	46,885,912	31,063,158	45,794,163	61,612,836	239,094,218	218,876,374	-8.5
HARLINGEN	4,089,847	3,485,890	10,526,236	20,733,867	44,257,522	32,786,843	-25.9
LAREDO	22,158,942	15,686,595	29,213,529	24,482,224	97,410,401	134,330,819	37.9
MCALLEN	19,785,512	17,799,146	14,731,578	13,565,859	98,694,488	92,639,614	-6.1
TOTAL	114,830,942	86,458,527	137,195,621	139,469,091	593,224,136	635,972,199	7.2

Source: Data provided by cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic & Enterprise Development

June building permit values for reporting Texas border cities were up 58.7 percent from May. Harlingen rose 202.0 percent, McAllen decreased 17.2 percent, and El Paso was up 47.4 percent. Brownsville gained 118.9 percent. Laredo increased 86.2 percent and Del Rio dropped 23.8 percent. YTD reporting border cities experienced a 7.2 percent increase in building permit values. El Paso, with 34.4

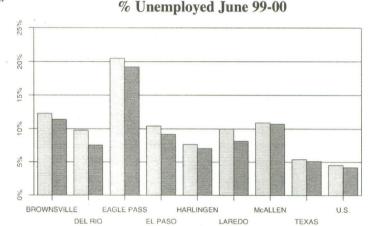
percent of total building permit value, slipped 8.5 percent YTD. Laredo, with 21.1 percent of total building permit values, leapt 37.9 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 22.5 percent of total building permit values, increased 49.0 percent. Eagle Pass, with 1.4 percent of total building permit values, dipped 3.3 percent.

#### Employment/Unemployment Rates —Texas Border

		The second second second				
	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	PERCENT	PERCENT
	<b>EMPLOYED</b>	<b>EMPLOYED</b>	UNEMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED
CITY	JUN 00	JUN 99	JUN 00	JUN 99	JUN 00	JUN 99
BROWNSVILLE	44,513	42,143	5,717	5,930	11.4	12.3
DEL RIO	14,543	13,926	1,197	1,515	7.6	9.8
EAGLE PASS	8,866	8,187	2,102	2,113	19.2	20.5
EL PASO	237,620	239,168	24,219	27,654	9.2	10.4
HARLINGEN	25,572	24,211	1,944	2,017	7.1	7.7
LAREDO	64,133	64,811	5,758	7,237	8.2	10.0
McALLEN	45,288	42,841	5,428	5,237	10.7	10.9
TOTAL	440,535	435,287	46,365	51,703	9.5	10.6
THE TEXAS UNEMPLOYM	MENT RATE				5.10	5.40
THE NATIONAL UNEMPLO	DYMENT RATE			8.	4.20	4.50

Source: Data (preliminary figures subject to revision) provided by the Texas Employment Commission and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic & Enterprise Development

In June, total employment in reporting Texas border cities increased 1.6 percent (7,092 jobs gained) over May's figures. Eagle Pass employment increased 9.1 percent (743 jobs gained), Del Rio gained 5.6 percent (777 jobs gained), and McAllen jumped 3.6 percent (1,566 jobs gained). Brownsville grew 6.2 percent (2,602 jobs gained). YTD total employment in Texas border cities was up 1.2 percent (5,248 jobs lost) from a year ago. The average unemployment rate for the border was 9.5 percent compared to 5.1 percent for Texas and 4.2 percent for the U.S in the month of June.



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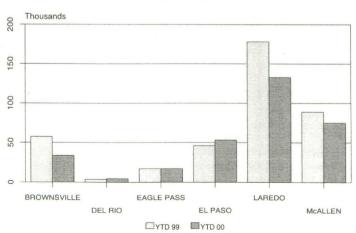
#### Visas to Tourists from Texas to Mexico

					,		
CITY	APR 00	MAY 00	JUN 00	JUN 99	YTD 99	YTD 00	%CHG
BROWNSVILLE	3,062	5,729	9,469	11,586	57,497	33,630	-41.5
DEL RIO	615	888	1,309	989	3,779	4,783	26.6
EAGLE PASS	2,698	3,102	3,789	3,914	17,179	17,102	-0.4
EL PASO	9,613	9,040	13,584	10,273	46,278	53,262	15.1
LAREDO	20,591	23,508	36,697	49,947	178,213	132,708	-25.5
McALLEN	10,893	10,323	15,807	17,314	88,795	75,020	-15.5
TOTAL	47,472	52,590	80,655	94,023	391,741	316,505	-19.2

Source: Data provided by Mexico's Instituto Nacional de Migracion and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

The number of tourist visas issued in June was up 53.4 percent. El Paso increased 50.3 percent, Laredo gained 56.1, Del Rio grew 47.4, and McAllen-Hidalgo went up 53.1 percent. Eagle Pass climbed 22.1 and Brownsville rose 65.3 percent. YTD the number of tourist visas issued was down 19.2 percent. Laredo, with 41.9 percent of total visas issued, slid 25.5 percent YTD. McAllen, with 23.7 percent of total visas issued, had a 15.5 percent decrease YTD. Brownsville, with 10.6 percent of all visas issued, plunged 41.5 percent YTD. El Paso, with 16.8 percent of total visas issued, increased 15.1 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, with 5.4 percent of total visas issued, dipped 0.4 percent YTD.

#### Tourist Visas YTD June 99-00



#### Air Passenger Service Activities —Selected Border Cities

**Passenger Arrivals** 

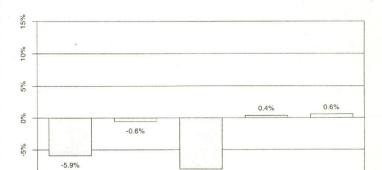
CITY	APR 00	MAY 00	JUN 00	JUN 99	YTD 99	YTD 00	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	5,335	5,243	5,595	5,595	35,763	33,662	-5.9
EL PASO	134,476	146,013	151,320	155,024	807,890	802,802	-0.6
HARLINGEN	39,122	37,589	41,288	44,623	261,748	240,784	-8.0
LAREDO	7,862	6,245	6,367	6,458	47,093	47,297	0.4
McALLEN	24,989	25,509	24,832	26,670	160,612	161,645	0.6
TOTAL	211,784	220,599	229,402	238,370	1,313,106	1,286,190	-2.0

Source: Data provided by cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic & Enterprise

Development

Passenger Arrivals % Change YTD 99-00

June air passengers arriving in Texas border cities were up 4.0 percent from May's figures. McAllen decreased 2.7 percent, Laredo rose 2.0 percent, Brownsville increased 6.7 percent, and El Paso grew 3.6 percent. Harlingen gained 9.8 percent. YTD air passenger arrivals were down 2.0 percent. El Paso, with 62.4 percent of all arriving passengers, was down 0.6 percent YTD. Harlingen, accounting for 18.7 percent of all arrivals, slipped 8.0 percent YTD. McAllen, with 12.6 percent of all arrivals, was up 0.6 percent YTD. Laredo, with 3.7 percent of all arrivals, increased 0.4 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 2.6 percent of all arrivals, fell 5.9 percent YTD.



HARLINGEN

LAREDO

McALLEN

#### **Passenger Departures**

10%

15%

BROWNSVILLE

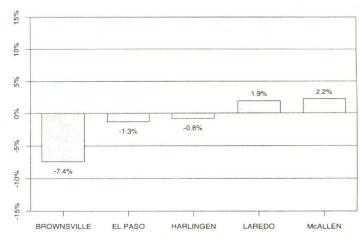
EL PASO

APR 00	MAY 00	JUN 00	JUN 99	YTD 99	YTD 00	% CHG
5,984	5,290	5,657	5,886	37,777	34,963	-7.4
135,316	148,508	152,847	156,111	830,312	819,543	-1.3
41,735	38,307	42,138	40,993	248,380	246,371	-0.8
8,196	6,562	6,631	6,834	48,140	49,058	1.9
27,717	27,132	26,425	26,622	166,796	170,473	2.2
218,948	225,799	233,698	236,446	1,331,405	1,320,408	-0.8
	5,984 135,316 41,735 8,196 27,717	5,984 5,290 135,316 148,508 41,735 38,307 8,196 6,562 27,717 27,132	5,984     5,290     5,657       135,316     148,508     152,847       41,735     38,307     42,138       8,196     6,562     6,631       27,717     27,132     26,425	5,984     5,290     5,657     5,886       135,316     148,508     152,847     156,111       41,735     38,307     42,138     40,993       8,196     6,562     6,631     6,834       27,717     27,132     26,425     26,622	5,984       5,290       5,657       5,886       37,777         135,316       148,508       152,847       156,111       830,312         41,735       38,307       42,138       40,993       248,380         8,196       6,562       6,631       6,834       48,140         27,717       27,132       26,425       26,622       166,796	5,984     5,290     5,657     5,886     37,777     34,963       135,316     148,508     152,847     156,111     830,312     819,543       41,735     38,307     42,138     40,993     248,380     246,371       8,196     6,562     6,631     6,834     48,140     49,058       27,717     27,132     26,425     26,622     166,796     170,473

Source: Data provided by cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic & Enterprise Development

June air passenger departures for reporting Texas border cities were up 3.5 percent. McAllen decreased 2.6 percent, Harlingen gained 10.0 percent, Laredo went up 1.1 percent, and El Paso grew 2.9 percent. YTD air passenger departures were down 0.8 percent from a year ago. El Paso, with 62.1 percent of all departing passengers, was down 1.3 percent YTD. Harlingen, with 18.7 percent of all departing passengers in June, declined 0.8 percent YTD. McAllen, with 12.9 percent of all departing passengers, increased 2.2 percent, YTD. Laredo, with 3.7 percent of all departing passengers, rose 1.9 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 2.6 percent of all departing passengers, declined 7.4 percent YTD.

#### Passenger Departures % Change YTD 99-00



#### **Port Of Corpus Christi**

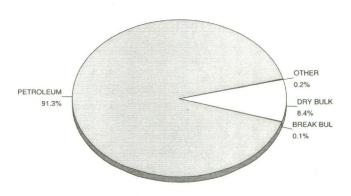
**Inbound Cargo (in Tons)** 

COMMODITY	APR 00	MAY 00	JUN 00	JUN 99	YTD 99	YTD 00	% CHG
BREAK BULK	1,510	2,810	4,582	11,177	58,673	15,795	-73.1
DRY BULK	411,017	264,815	406,786	386,390	2,072,520	2,192,070	5.8
<b>BULK GRAIN</b>	0	0	0	0	26,006	0	N/A
LIQUID	0	0	0	7,224	18,396	10,929	-40.6
PETROLEUM	4,255,269	4,216,505	4,409,103	4,080,113	22,829,465	24,146,352	5.8
CHEMICAL	10,115	13,552	11,211	7,951	51,254	69,296	35.2
TOTAL	4,677,911	4,497,683	4,831,683	4,492,856	25,056,313	26,434,441	5.5

Source: Data provided by the Port of Corpus Christi and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

The Port of Corpus Christi had a 7.4 percent increase in inbound cargo from last month. Petroleum, which made up 91.3 percent of all inbound traffic in June, was up 4.6 percent compared to May. Dry bulk, which accounted for 8.4 percent of the port's inbound cargo for June, increased 53.6 percent from May. Total inbound cargo tonnage was up 5.5 percent YTD.

#### % Share June 2000 Inbound Cargo



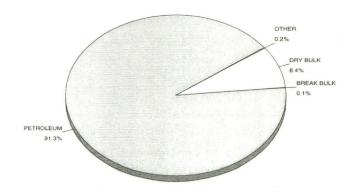
#### **Outbound Cargo (in Tons)**

APR 00	MAY 00	JUN 00	JUN 99	YTD 99	YTD 00	% CHG
3,383	2,810	4,582	33,407	47,977	28,710	-40.2
233,943	264,815	406,786	298,538	1,378,165	1,550,588	12.5
147,211	0	0	172,632	939,646	426,326	-54.6
0	0	0	0	3,183	0	N/A
2,152,673	4,216,505	4,409,103	2,069,331	11,830,807	16,839,888	42.3
197,236	248,446	11,211	157,611	1,035,779	1,005,251	-2.9
2,734,446	4,732,577	4,831,683	2,731,519	15,235,557	19,850,764	30.3
	3,383 233,943 147,211 0 2,152,673 197,236	3,383 2,810 233,943 264,815 147,211 0 0 0 2,152,673 4,216,505 197,236 248,446	3,383 2,810 4,582 233,943 264,815 406,786 147,211 0 0 0 0 0 2,152,673 4,216,505 4,409,103 197,236 248,446 11,211	3,383     2,810     4,582     33,407       233,943     264,815     406,786     298,538       147,211     0     0     172,632       0     0     0     0       2,152,673     4,216,505     4,409,103     2,069,331       197,236     248,446     11,211     157,611	3,383     2,810     4,582     33,407     47,977       233,943     264,815     406,786     298,538     1,378,165       147,211     0     0     172,632     939,646       0     0     0     0     3,183       2,152,673     4,216,505     4,409,103     2,069,331     11,830,807       197,236     248,446     11,211     157,611     1,035,779	3,383     2,810     4,582     33,407     47,977     28,710       233,943     264,815     406,786     298,538     1,378,165     1,550,588       147,211     0     0     172,632     939,646     426,326       0     0     0     3,183     0       2,152,673     4,216,505     4,409,103     2,069,331     11,830,807     16,839,888       197,236     248,446     11,211     157,611     1,035,779     1,005,251

Source: Data provided by the Port of Corpus Christi and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

The Port of Corpus Christi had a 2.1 percent increase in outbound cargo tonnage in June from the previous month. Petroleum, which was 91.3 percent of total outbound cargo for June, increased 4.6 percent compared to May. Dry bulk, which accounted for 8.4 percent of the total outbound cargo for June, increased 53.6 percent from May. Chemical, which was 0.2 percent of total outbound cargo for June, was down 95.5 percent. YTD total outbound cargo tonnage was up 30.3 percent.

#### % Share June 2000 Outbound Cargo



#### Port Of Brownsville

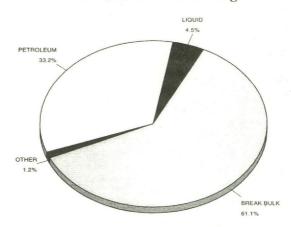
#### **Inbound Cargo (in Metric Tons)**

COMMODITY	APR 00	MAY 00	JUN 00	JUN 99	YTD 99	YTD 00	% CHG
BREAK BULK	149,334	136,462	134,861	157,834	715,277	1,003,767	40.3
LIQUID	2,022	23,274	9,836	1,011	24,335	58,348	139.8
PETROLEUM	85,874	442,531	73,105	93,659	637,472	874,175	37.1
GRAIN	0	42,310	1,339	0	77,456	76,436	-1.3
CONTAINERS	2	397	66	145	160	1,005	528.1
MACHINERY	129	448	1,224	200	1,696	2,451	44.5
TOTAL	237,361	645,422	220,431	252,849	1,456,396	2,016,182	38.4

Source: Data provided by the Port of Brownsville and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

The Port of Brownsville had a decrease of 65.8 percent in total cargo tonnage over the previous month. Break Bulk, which accounted for 61.2 percent of the total cargo tonnage for June decreased 1.2 percent from May's figures. Petroleum, which made up 33.2 percent of the total cargo for June dropped 83.5 percent from the previous month. YTD figures showed a 40.3 percent increase in Break Bulk tonnage—49.8 percent of total tonnage. Grain –3.8 percent of total tonnage—had a YTD decrease of 1.3 percent. Petroleum—43.4 percent of total tonnage—grew 37.1 percent. YTD total tonnage was up 38.4 percent.

#### % Share June 2000 Total Cargo



#### **Web Information**

Health and human service issues are one of the most important items for any government's agenda, as well as a challenge. The state and national government offices service their public through a number of outreach programs, and keep track of a wealth of information through demographics and statistics. The services provided by these organizations are of tremendous importance for the research, classification, and information on various types of diseases, and greatly benefit the public in general. These organizations have have made it possible to easily access an innumerable amount of information through the Internet.

At the state level, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission's web page provides an array of information that covers such issues as the Colonia Initiative program, news and events. The Texas Department of Health offers demographics and statistics for the state of Texas ranging from the economy, to the number of persons without insurance (by counties).

The U.S.'s National Center for Disease Control has many data set and information for the avid researcher, or read up on the latest topics related to diabetes, which is a major health concern on the Texas-Mexico border region, as well as HIV, teen pregnancy, and news to name a few.

Mexico and Canada have an impressive network of health related topics as well as their own demographic and statistical information. Mexico counts on its *Secretaría de Salud*, while Canada has the Population and Public Health Branch (formerly the Laboratory Centre for Disease Control).

Visit these sites at their respective links:

Texas Health and Human Services Commission (TX)
Texas Department of Health (TX)
National Center for Disease Control (U.S.)
National Center for Health Statistics, Center for Disease Control (U.S)
Canada Population and Public Health Branch (Canada)
Secretaría de Salud (Mexico)

http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/ http://www.tdh.texas.gov/ http://www.cdc.gov/ http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpb/lcdc/ http://cenids.ssa.gob.mx/

-J. Benavides

The links in this section are meant to inform our readers of available sources of information. The Texas Center is in no part associated with any of the organizations whose links are featured, and is not responsible for their content.

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