

Border Business Indicators

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Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

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Note from the Director

Indicators of border business activity for the month of November were down. Thirteen monthly indicators were down while ten indicators were up when compared to October. In addition, for the year-to-date (YTD) figures, eighteen indicators were up and five were down. Selected YTD comparisons to 1996 reported by border cities include the following:

- Southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico were up 28.4 percent. El Paso was up 70.0 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo rose 13.9 percent, Laredo increased 11.9 percent and Brownsville was up 2.0 percent.
- Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were down 0.7 percent. McAllen-Hidalgo fell 11.8 percent, Brownsville was down 6.0 percent and Laredo decreased 3.9 percent. However, El Paso increased 5.9 percent.
- Southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 4.4 percent. El Paso was up 5.1 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo rose 6.4 percent, Brownsville increased 6.1 percent and Laredo was up 4.5 percent.
- Northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 3.4 percent with Brownsville increasing 8.3 percent and El Paso gaining 3.9 percent. However, Laredo was down 1.5 percent and McAllen-Hidalgo fell 1.2 percent YTD.
- Southbound truck shipments into Mexico were up 18.8 percent. Laredo increased 26.1 percent and Brownsville rose 15.8 percent while McAllen-Hidalgo decreased 19.1 percent.
- Northbound truck shipments into Texas were up 4.3 percent with Eagle Pass increasing 14.7 percent, Brownsville gained 3.7 percent and Laredo posted a 0.7 percent increase YTD.
- Southbound shipments by rail were up 16.3 percent.
- Northbound shipments by rail were up 0.4 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Customs were up 8.1 percent YTD. Revenues collected by U.S. Bridge operators were up 8.0 percent.
- Building permits issued were down 4.2 percent. McAllen fell 0.3 percent and Laredo was down 5.7 percent while Brownsville rose 3.1 percent.
- Building permit values were up with a YTD increase of 17.7 percent. Brownsville increased 95.1 percent, McAllen was up 14.4 percent and Laredo gained 45.7 percent while Harlingen reported a 2.5 percent decrease.
- Total employment was up with 20,333 jobs gained YTD. The average unemployment rate in November 1997 was 10.5 percent.

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<http://www.tamui.edu/coba/txcntr/>.

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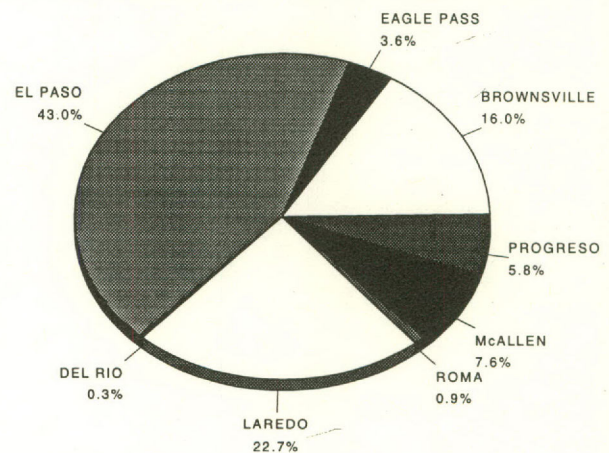
Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	SEP 97	OCT 97	NOV 97	NOV 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	276,693	232,469	243,470	255,322	2,858,900	2,916,428	2.0
DEL RIO	4,268	4,943	4,547	5,270	54,168	55,880	3.2
EAGLE PASS	44,575	52,270	54,287	40,715	401,881	468,509	16.6
EL PASO	606,130	632,987	653,783	389,764	4,157,682	7,069,403	70.0
HARLINGEN	65	92	66	88	1,092	944	-13.6
LAREDO	291,991	307,966	345,286	308,067	3,153,458	3,529,244	11.9
McALLEN-HIDALGO	88,671	104,823	115,556	107,466	1,034,282	1,177,732	13.9
PROGRESO	45,513	54,485	87,679	86,926	931,819	1,015,304	9.0
RIO GRANDE	419	517	581	752	9,386	8,428	-10.2
ROMA	12,942	14,626	13,603	14,458	160,549	152,416	-5.1
TOTAL	1,371,267	1,405,178	1,518,858	1,208,828	12,763,217	16,394,288	28.4

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 bridge crossings into Mexico for November were up 8.1 percent compared to October. Progreso increased 60.9 percent, Rio Grande rose 12.4 percent, Laredo was up 12.1 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo increased 10.2 percent, Brownsville rose 4.7 percent, Eagle Pass was up 3.9 percent and El Paso increased 3.3 percent. However, Harlingen fell 28.3 percent, Del Rio dipped 8.0 percent and Roma was down 7.0 percent. YTD, total southbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 28.4 percent. El Paso southbound pedestrian crossings, which make up 43.0 percent of all crossings in November, was up 70.0 percent. Laredo, accounting for 22.7 percent of all crossings, was up 11.9 percent and Brownsville was up 2.0 percent with 16.0 percent of all crossings YTD.

% Share Pedestrians for November 1997



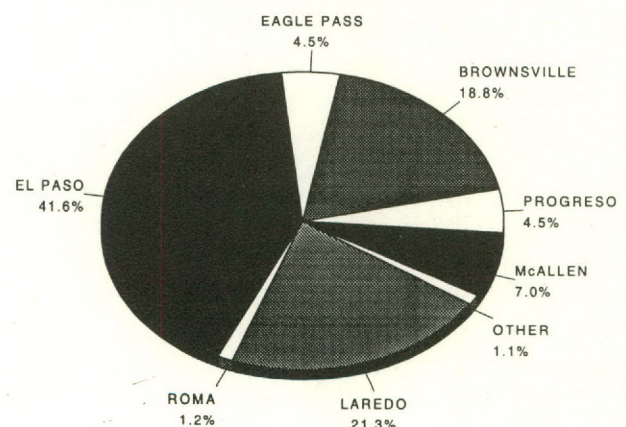
Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	SEP 97	OCT 97	NOV 97	NOV 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	238,574	214,290	237,068	241,262	2,775,741	2,609,118	-6.0
DEL RIO	8,829	8,491	9,379	7,516	95,488	114,144	19.5
EAGLE PASS	48,426	57,574	56,650	47,901	526,596	618,343	17.4
EL PASO	510,102	529,169	523,390	490,046	5,277,362	5,587,727	5.9
LAREDO	263,346	260,258	268,384	255,761	2,974,370	2,857,966	-3.9
McALLEN-HIDALGO	71,249	77,732	88,142	101,011	1,096,290	967,187	-11.8
PRESIDIO	3,280	3,644	3,317	2,571	27,871	34,008	22.0
PROGRESO	34,552	39,694	57,059	58,804	686,179	593,272	-13.5
RIO GRANDE	1,009	1,100	1,290	1,061	12,887	13,611	5.6
ROMA	12,430	13,254	14,665	12,189	160,732	140,882	-12.3
TOTAL	1,191,797	1,205,206	1,259,344	1,218,122	13,633,516	13,536,258	-0.7

Source: Data provided by Mexico's Oficina de Caminos y Puentes and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 4.5 percent in November. Progreso increased 43.7 percent, Rio Grande rose 17.3 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo was up 13.4 percent, Brownsville and Roma both increased 10.6 percent, Del Rio rose 10.5 percent and Laredo marked a 3.1 percent increase. However, Presidio decreased 9.0 percent, Eagle Pass dipped 1.6 percent and El Paso slid 1.1 percent. YTD total northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were down 0.7 percent. El Paso, accounting for 41.6 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings in November, was up 5.9 percent YTD. Laredo, with 21.3 percent of all northbound crossings, was down 3.9 percent and Brownsville, with 18.8 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings, had a 6.0 percent decrease in crossings YTD.

% Share Pedestrians for November 1997



Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	SEP 97	OCT 97	NOV 97	NOV 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	569,312	486,512	496,225	477,273	5,322,194	5,648,127	6.1
DEL RIO	136,334	139,539	149,034	147,626	1,629,120	1,569,947	-3.6
EAGLE PASS	197,132	213,760	212,603	217,923	2,363,880	2,332,283	-1.3
EL PASO	408,306	454,106	431,286	476,353	4,600,280	4,834,319	5.1
HARLINGEN	31,692	31,799	35,859	35,441	348,009	371,660	6.8
LAREDO	661,667	695,379	679,721	664,975	6,980,576	7,295,043	4.5
McALLEN-HIDALGO	413,018	418,297	419,169	415,424	4,394,842	4,676,865	6.4
PHARR	101,647	119,133	120,310	90,810	929,464	1,125,289	21.1
PROGRESO	69,072	70,850	80,934	85,955	944,914	902,220	-4.5
RIO GRANDE	41,159	44,041	47,151	47,237	492,019	502,824	2.2
ROMA	62,761	69,148	73,967	72,783	759,916	765,318	0.7
TOTAL	2,692,100	2,742,564	2,746,259	2,731,800	28,765,214	30,023,895	4.4

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 increased 0.1 percent in November from October's figures. Progreso increased 14.2 percent, Harlingen was up 12.8 percent, Rio Grande rose 7.1 percent, Roma increased 7.0 percent, Del Rio was up 6.8 percent, Brownsville rose 2.0 percent, Pharr marked a 1.0 percent increase and McAllen-Hidalgo was up 0.2 percent. However, El Paso fell 5.0 percent and Laredo dipped 2.3 percent. YTD total southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 4.4 percent. Laredo, with 24.8

percent of all southbound traffic in November, was up 4.5 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 18.1 percent of all southbound vehicle bridge crossings, had an 6.1 percent increase YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 15.3 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, experienced a 6.4 percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 15.7 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings had a 5.1 percent increase YTD.

Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	SEP 97	OCT 97	NOV 97	NOV 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	510,467	506,407	489,128	470,161	5,183,653	5,612,120	8.3
DEL RIO	141,525	133,240	132,225	120,507	1,422,101	1,542,270	8.5
EAGLE PASS	207,607	217,752	217,167	190,599	2,147,679	2,333,234	8.6
EL PASO	672,813	735,839	714,942	629,421	7,183,231	7,459,912	3.9
HARLINGEN	42,599	41,085	49,049	41,844	431,519	470,603	9.1
LAREDO	598,360	612,843	577,905	574,649	6,555,745	6,455,178	-1.5
McALLEN-HIDALGO	392,560	386,473	377,389	376,958	4,392,087	4,337,193	-1.2
PRESIDIO	48,282	49,133	53,326	48,352	546,844	558,016	2.0
PROGRESO	67,343	66,218	74,027	82,648	842,910	896,434	6.3
RIO GRANDE	46,183	48,600	51,997	50,225	498,457	553,535	11.0
ROMA	70,594	70,125	74,641	85,126	810,270	823,437	1.6
TOTAL	2,798,333	2,867,715	2,811,796	2,670,490	30,014,496	31,041,932	3.4

Source: Data provided by Mexico's Oficina de Caminos y Puentes and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

Northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas for November were down 1.9 percent since October. Laredo registered a 5.7 percent decrease, Brownsville fell 3.4 percent, El Paso slid 2.8 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo reported a 2.4 percent decrease, Del Rio decreased 0.8 percent and Eagle Pass fell 0.3 percent. However, Harlingen was up 19.4 percent, Progreso rose 11.8 percent, Presidio

increased 8.5 percent, Rio Grande was up 7.0 percent, and Roma marked a 6.4 percent increase. YTD northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 3.4 percent. El Paso, with 25.4 percent of all crossings in November was up 3.9 percent YTD. Laredo, with 20.6 percent of all crossings, was down 1.5 percent and Brownsville with 17.4 percent of all crossings, was up 8.3 percent YTD.

Export Shipments by Trucks into Mexico —Number of Trucks

CITY	SEP 97	OCT 97	NOV 97	NOV 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE+	21,293	22,114	19,432	16,626	182,281	211,090	15.8
DEL RIO+	3,913	4,501	4,163	3,256	33,808	39,816	17.8
EAGLE PASS++	3,499	4,034	3,790	3,500	36,420	40,813	12.1
EL PASO+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	N/A
HARLINGEN+	4,230	3,993	4,429	3,819	40,454	37,725	-6.7
LAREDO++	57,056	65,566	57,810	46,780	469,136	591,669	26.1
McALLEN-HIDALGO+	9,371	5,289	3,974	9,110	116,874	94,550	-19.1
PHARR+	7,983	13,580	13,686	5,850	51,145	101,293	98.1
PROGRESO+	1,010	1,049	993	951	19,274	11,895	-38.3
RIO GRANDE+	1,820	2,405	1,903	1,619	16,199	19,811	22.3
ROMA+	658	777	732	730	8,153	8,192	0.5
TOTAL	110,833	123,308	110,912	92,241	973,744	1,156,854	18.8

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 shipments into Mexico were down 10.1 percent in November. McAllen-Hidalgo decreased 24.9 percent, Rio Grande fell 20.9 percent, Brownsville was down 12.1 percent, Laredo declined 11.8 percent, Del Rio registered a 7.5 percent decrease, Eagle Pass fell 6.0 percent, Roma decreased 5.8 percent and Progreso slid 5.3 percent. However, Harlingen posted a 10.9 percent increase and Pharr rose 0.8 percent. YTD, total southbound

truck traffic had an increase of 18.8 percent. Laredo, with 52.1 percent of all southbound shipments in November, experienced a 26.1 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with 17.5 percent of all southbound shipments, had a 15.8 percent increase YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo with 3.6 percent of all truck traffic, registered a decrease of 19.1 percent and Pharr, with 12.3 percent of all truck crossings, rose 98.1 percent.

Import Shipments by Trucks into Texas —Number of Trucks

CITY	SEP 97	OCT 97	NOV 97	NOV 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	11,978	12,073	9,681	9,266	110,394	114,453	3.7
DEL RIO	2,824	3,340	2,792	2,596	27,611	30,571	10.7
EAGLE PASS	3,502	3,798	3,286	3,314	32,809	37,638	14.7
FALCON	10	8	5	2	58	86	48.3
LAREDO	57,857	58,867	48,243	52,716	524,466	527,963	0.7
McALLEN-HIDALGO	0	0	0	0	62,334	N/A	N/A
PHARR	12,050	13,552	12,638	11,628	66,591	144,235	116.6
PROGRESO	556	370	400	381	7,655	7,665	0.1
RIO GRANDE	1,125	1,740	1,265	1,148	9,596	14,709	53.3
ROMA	408	498	425	425	4,966	5,299	6.7
TOTAL	90,310	94,246	78,735	81,476	846,480	882,619	4.3

Source: Data provided by U.S. Customs Service, Port of Entry in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

*Editor's Note: Figures represent loaded trucks only.

Northbound truck shipments into Texas decreased 16.5 percent from October's shipments. Falcon decreased 37.5 percent, Rio Grande slid 27.3 percent, Brownsville fell 19.8 percent, Del Rio was down 16.4 percent, Laredo fell 18.0 percent, Roma was down 14.7 percent, Eagle Pass decreased 13.5 percent and Pharr declined

6.7 percent. However, Progreso showed an 8.1 percent increase. YTD northbound truck shipments were up 4.3 percent. Laredo, accounting for 61.3 percent of all northbound truck traffic in November had a 0.7 percent increase YTD. Pharr, with 16.1 percent of shipments, experienced a 116.6 percent increase YTD.

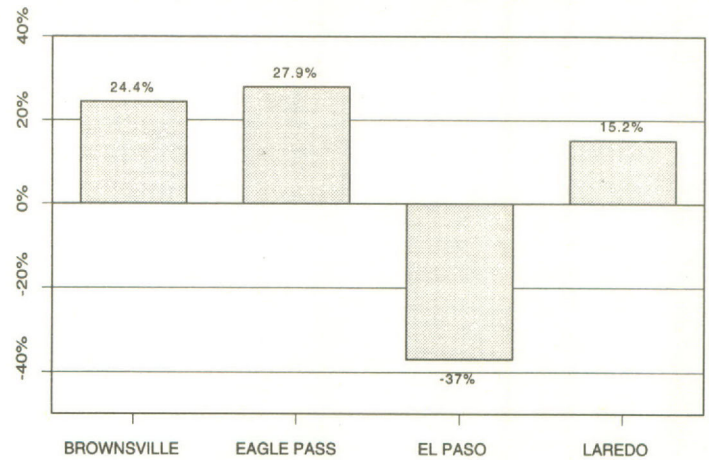
Export Shipments by Rail into Mexico —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	SEP 97	OCT 97	NOV 97	NOV 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	1,852	1,923	3,135	2,314	22,653	28,183	24.4
EAGLE PASS	5,118	4,481	4,803	5,084	37,059	47,410	27.9
EL PASO	324	479	277	728	9,108	5,741	-37.0
LAREDO	11,016	13,472	14,490	12,581	121,074	139,522	15.2
TOTAL	18,310	20,355	22,705	20,707	189,894	220,856	16.3

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 increased 11.5 percent in November. Brownsville was up 63.0 percent, Laredo rose 7.6 percent, and Eagle Pass increased 7.2 percent. However, El Paso was down 42.2 percent. YTD, total southbound rail shipments into Mexico from Texas were up 16.3 percent. Laredo, which accounts for 63.8 percent of all southbound rail shipments in November was up 15.2 percent. Eagle Pass, accounting for 21.2 percent of all southbound rail shipments, increased 27.9 percent. Brownsville, with 13.8 percent of all southbound rail shipments in November, rose 24.4 percent YTD.

Export Rail YTD % Change 96-97



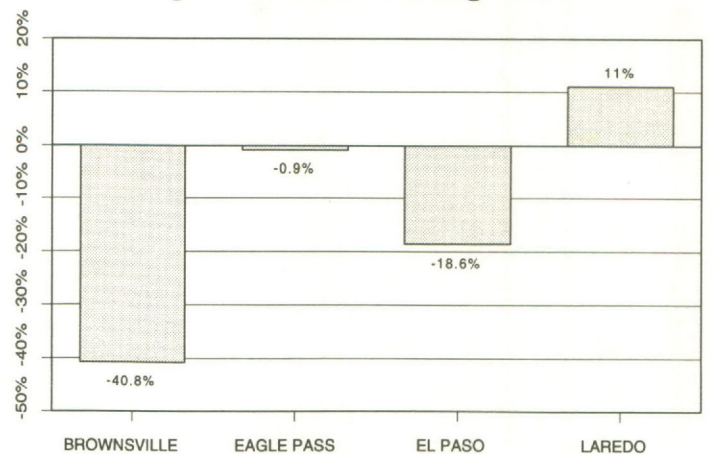
Import Shipments by Rail into Texas —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	SEP 97	OCT 97	NOV 97	NOV 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	923	931	1,062	1,073	18,107	10,722	-40.8
EAGLE PASS	3,657	3,161	2,823	3,462	37,041	36,701	-0.9
EL PASO	165	99	197	196	2,261	1,841	-18.6
LAREDO	7,304	9,197	8,188	7,037	78,654	87,290	11.0
TOTAL	12,049	13,388	12,270	11,768	136,063	136,554	0.4

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 decreased 8.4 percent in November. Laredo registered a 11.0 percent decrease and Eagle Pass fell 10.7 percent. However, El Paso increased 99.0 percent and Brownsville posted an increase of 14.1 percent. YTD, total northbound rail shipments into Texas from Mexico were up 0.4 percent. Laredo, which accounts for 66.7 percent of all northbound rail shipments in November was up 11.0 percent. Eagle Pass, accounting for 23.0 percent of all northbound rail shipments in November, decreased 0.9 percent and Brownsville, with 8.7 percent of all northbound rail shipments, decreased 40.8 percent YTD.

Import Rail YTD % Change 96-97



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

CITY	DUTY		OTHER REVENUE		TOTAL REVENUE		YTD REVENUE		YTD % CHG
	NOV 97	NOV 97	NOV 97	NOV 97	NOV 96	NOV 96	NOV 96	NOV 97	
BROWNSVILLE	1,793,883	510,798	270,245	2,574,926	2,246,058	30,447,672	32,217,290	5.8	
DEL RIO	225,919	112,239	25,236	363,394	486,502	4,163,943	4,456,318	7.0	
EAGLE PASS	799,570	168,253	2,191,146	3,158,969	1,584,318	24,728,420	30,789,614	24.5	
LAREDO	16,511,242	2,429,484	4,794,067	23,734,793	21,989,281	230,553,838	255,535,804	10.8	
McALLEN-HIDALGO	2,345,485	469,714	223,069	3,038,268	3,348,400	54,856,480	50,481,501	-8.0	
PROGRESO	9,298	8,110	14,568	31,976	43,124	1,981,753	1,476,923	-25.5	
RIO GRANDE	49,967	16,632	5,695	72,294	136,803	1,072,675	1,174,851	9.5	
ROMA	26,457	6,753	12,167	45,377	45,528	493,228	545,279	10.6	
TOTAL	21,761,821	3,721,983	7,536,193	33,019,997	29,880,014	348,298,009	376,677,580	8.1	

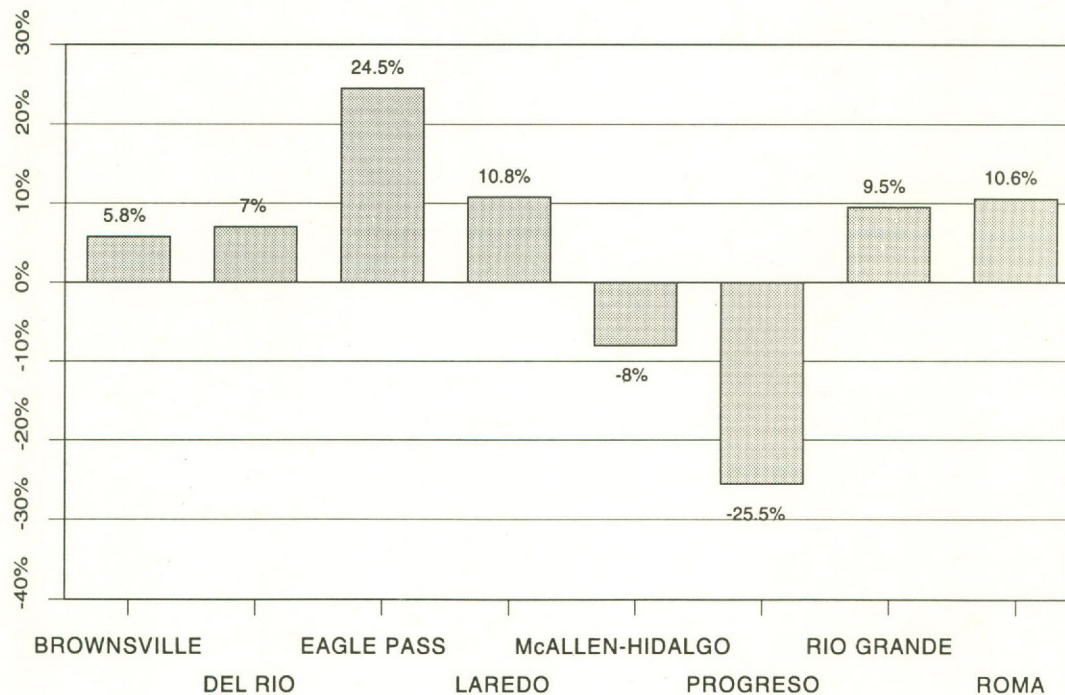
Source: Data provided by U.S. Customs Service, Port of Entry in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

*MPF = Merchandise Processing Fee

Total U.S. Customs revenues for the former District of Laredo decreased 14.9 percent from October's figures. McAllen-Hidalgo decreased 32.9 percent, Brownsville fell 26.4 percent, Del Rio declined 21.9 percent, Rio Grande was down 17.0 percent, Laredo declined 16.0 percent, Progreso dipped 11.2 percent and Roma fell 7.3 percent. However, Eagle Pass increased 70.2 percent. YTD revenue figures were up 8.1 percent compared to November 1996.

Laredo, accounting for 67.8 percent of total District revenues, was up 10.8 percent YTD and McAllen-Hidalgo with 13.4 percent of total revenues, was down 8.0 percent YTD. Brownsville with 8.6 percent of all revenues in November increased 5.8 percent YTD and Eagle Pass, with 8.2 percent of total revenues in November increased 24.5 percent.

% Change Total Revenues YTD 96-97



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

CITY	SEP 97	OCT 97	NOV 97	NOV 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	504,145	499,725	488,583	481,195	5,380,123	5,631,387	4.7
DEL RIO	176,905	184,089	186,121	164,428	1,816,306	1,956,966	7.7
EAGLE PASS	380,418	417,176	410,863	377,826	4,016,480	4,284,561	6.7
EL PASO	881,801	967,835	901,661	987,605	9,584,382	9,970,548	4.0
HARLINGEN	78,887	77,985	89,101	77,550	760,007	757,786	-0.3
LAREDO	1,702,257	1,849,574	1,781,924	1,640,909	17,207,489	18,795,100	9.2
McALLEN-HIDALGO	502,096	613,109	596,227	527,214	5,778,888	6,078,850	5.2
PHARR	180,842	251,653	238,558	150,934	1,402,228	2,154,464	53.6
TOTAL	4,407,351	4,861,146	4,693,038	4,407,661	45,945,903	49,629,662	8.0

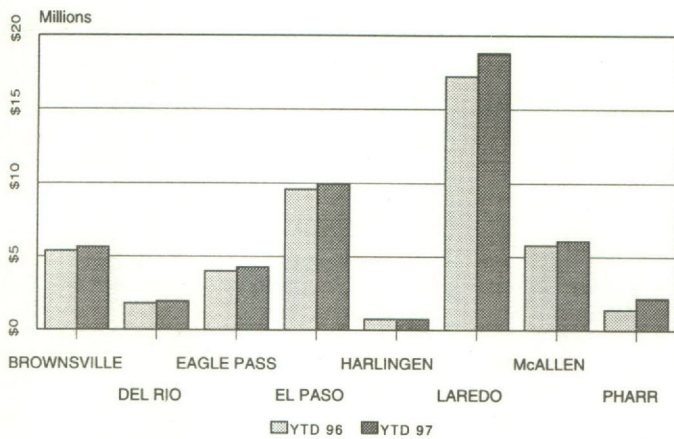
Source: Data provided by U.S. bridge operators in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

*Brownsville's Revenues are for Cameron County Bridge only. **Pharr began operations 1/10/95.

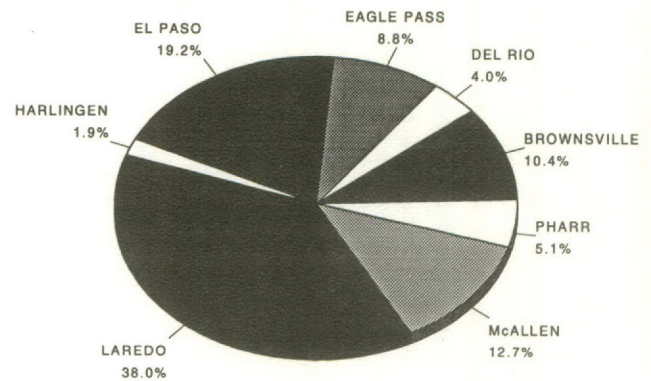
U.S. bridge operators' revenues decreased 3.5 percent in the month of November. El Paso showed a decrease of 6.8 percent, Pharr decreased 5.2 percent, Laredo was down 3.7 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo fell 2.8 percent, Brownsville was down 2.2 percent and Eagle Pass decreased 1.5 percent. However, Harlingen increased 14.3 percent and Del Rio rose 1.1 percent. YTD, U.S. bridge operators' revenues were up 8.0 percent. Laredo, accounting for 38.0 percent of total U.S. bridge operator's revenues collected in

November, had a 9.2 percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 19.2 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues, increased 4.0 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 12.7 percent of the total bridge revenues, was up 5.2 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 10.4 percent of total U.S. bridge operator's revenues in November, was up 4.7 percent. Harlingen with a 1.9 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues in November was down 0.3 percent YTD.

Total Revenues Collected YTD 96-97



% Share Revenues November 1997



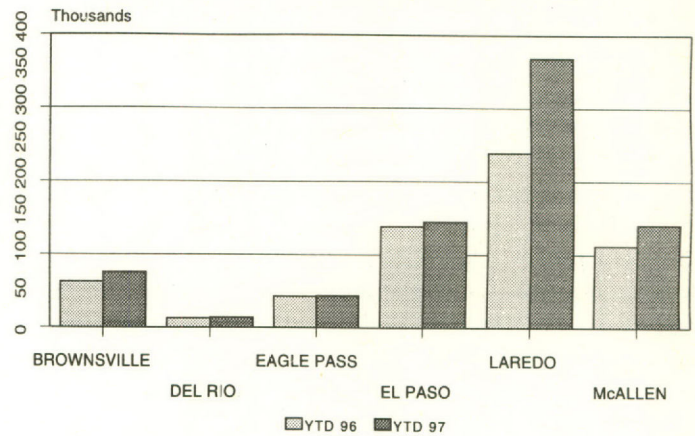
Visas to Tourists from Texas to Mexico

CITY	SEP 97	OCT 97	NOV 97	NOV 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	%CHG
BROWNSVILLE	4,644	4,813	7,307	6,856	63,123	76,205	20.7
DEL RIO	955	1,289	1,551	1,594	12,746	14,256	11.8
EAGLE PASS	2,737	4,000	4,091	7,023	43,397	44,252	2.0
EL PASO	9,034	10,410	11,124	14,493	138,463	145,245	4.9
LAREDO	19,104	21,904	26,154	26,713	238,927	368,732	54.3
McALLEN	8,729	11,228	13,924	5,373	112,309	140,511	25.1
TOTAL	45,203	53,644	64,151	62,052	608,965	789,201	29.6

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 November were up 19.6 percent. Brownsville increased 51.8 percent. McAllen rose 24.0 percent, Del Rio was up 20.3 percent, Laredo showed a 19.4 percent increase, El Paso was up 6.9 percent and Eagle Pass increased slightly at 2.3 percent. YTD, the number of tourist visas issued were up 29.6 percent. Laredo, with 40.8 percent of total visas issued in November was up 54.3 percent. El Paso, with 17.3 percent of total visas issued, had a 4.9 percent increase YTD. McAllen, with 21.7 percent of all visas issued, rose 25.1 percent YTD and Brownsville with 11.4 percent of total visas issued, increased 20.7 percent YTD.

Tourist Visas YTD November 96-97



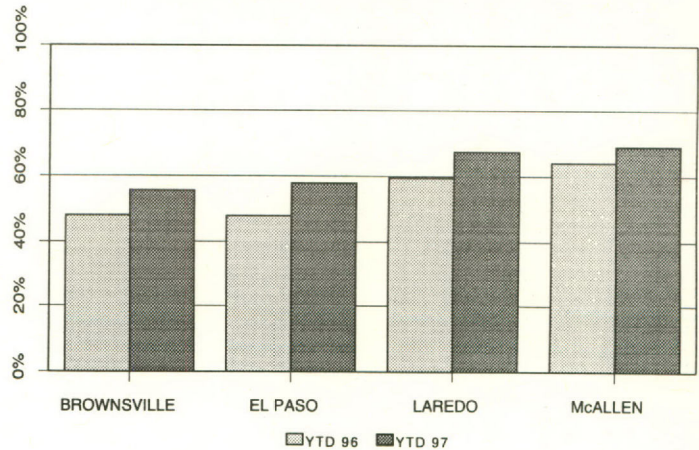
Hotel Occupancy Percentage Rate —Texas Border

CITY	SEP 97	OCT 97	NOV 97	NOV 96	% CHG 96-97
BROWNSVILLE	68.4	62.6	55.6	48.0	15.9
EL PASO	58.6	63.3	57.9	47.9	20.9
LAREDO	61.8	61.8	67.4	59.5	13.3
McALLEN	63.6	65.8	69.1	64.0	7.9
AVERAGE	63.1	63.4	62.5	54.8	14.0

Source: Data (preliminary figures subject to revision) provided by selected hotels in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

The average hotel occupancy rate of reporting Texas border hotels for November was down 1.4 percent. McAllen had a 69.1 percent rate, Laredo had a 67.4 percent rate, El Paso had a rate of 57.9 percent and Brownsville posted a 55.6 percentage rate for the month of November.

Hotel Occupancy Percentage November 96-97



Telephones in Service —Texas Border

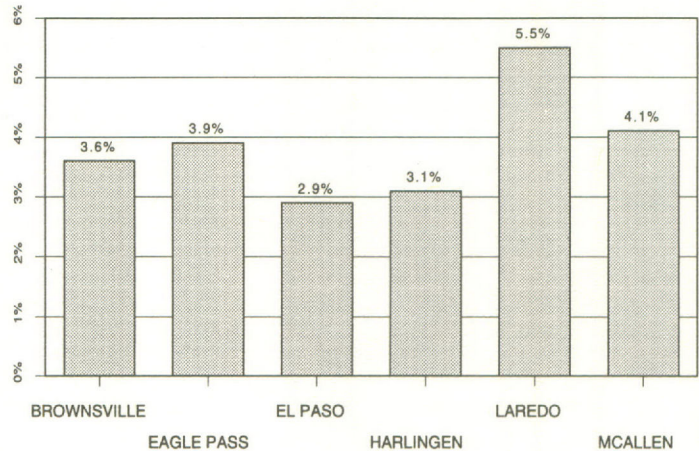
Residential Telephones

CITY	SEP 97	OCT 97	NOV 97	NOV 96
BROWNSVILLE	41,722	41,889	42,060	40,588
EAGLE PASS	10,884	11,015	11,081	10,663
EL PASO	207,987	208,582	208,994	203,202
HARLINGEN	25,434	25,612	25,871	25,098
LAREDO	46,791	46,987	47,188	44,729
MCALLEN	34,637	34,851	35,029	33,643
TOTAL	367,455	368,936	370,223	357,923

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

In November, the number of residential telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.35 since October. YTD, the number of residential telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased by 3.4 percent. Laredo increased 5.5 percent, McAllen was up 4.1 percent, Eagle Pass rose 3.9 percent, Brownsville increased 3.6 percent, Harlingen was up 3.1 percent and El Paso rose 2.9 percent YTD

Residential Phones % Change November 96-97



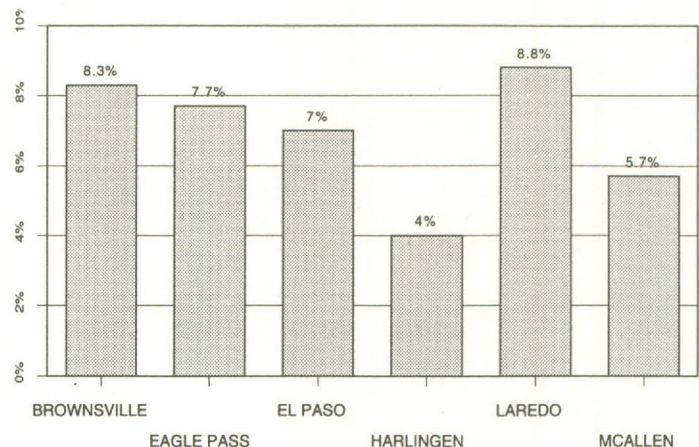
Business Telephones

CITY	SEP 97	OCT 97	NOV 97	NOV 96
BROWNSVILLE	20,679	20,414	20,537	18,962
EAGLE PASS	3,696	3,764	3,785	3,513
EL PASO	93,537	94,448	94,735	88,540
HARLINGEN	13,611	13,712	13,730	13,208
LAREDO	28,155	28,576	28,766	26,428
MCALLEN	24,507	24,729	24,783	23,442
TOTAL	184,185	185,643	186,336	174,093

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

In November the number of business telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.37 percent. YTD, the number of phones in service for reporting Texas border cities rose by 7.0 percent. Laredo had the largest increase with 8.8 percent, Brownsville rose 8.3 percent, Eagle Pass gained 7.7 percent, El Paso was up 7.0 percent, McAllen increased 5.7 percent and Harlingen rose 4.0 percent YTD.

Business Phones % Change November 96-97



Power Connections – Texas Border

Residential Connections

CITY	SEP 97	OCT 97	NOV 97	NOV 96
BROWNSVILLE	28,669	28,804	28,686	27,851
DEL RIO	13,470	13,491	13,532	13,258
EAGLE PASS	8,977	9,024	9,072	8,784
EL PASO	253,438	253,769	254,066	249,843
HARLINGEN	19,983	20,027	20,361	20,088
LAREDO	44,896	44,967	45,107	43,447
McALLEN	29,578	29,642	29,984	29,434
TOTAL	399,011	399,724	400,808	392,705

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

November residential power connections for all reporting Texas border cities increased from October's figures by 0.27 percent. YTD, residential power connections for all reporting border cities were up 2.1 percent. Laredo was up 3.8 percent, Eagle Pass increased 3.3 percent, Brownsville rose 3.0 percent, Del Rio gained 2.1 percent, McAllen was up 1.9 percent, El Paso increased 1.7 percent and Harlingen gained 1.4 percent YTD.

November commercial power connections for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.08 percent from October's figures. Brownsville was up 49.1 percent, McAllen increased 4.3 percent, Del Rio and Harlingen rose 2.9 percent, Laredo gained 2.8 percent, El Paso increased 2.4 percent and Eagle Pass was up 1.3 percent YTD.

Commercial Connections

CITY	SEP 97	OCT 97	NOV 97	NOV 96
BROWNSVILLE	3,758	3,760	3,769	2,527
DEL RIO	1,895	1,910	1,903	1,849
EAGLE PASS	1,278	1,274	1,279	1,263
EL PASO	25,830	25,883	25,888	25,273
HARLINGEN	3,214	3,223	3,227	3,135
LAREDO	6,657	6,679	6,683	6,500
McALLEN	5,232	5,255	5,273	5,057
TOTAL	47,864	47,984	48,022	45,604

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

Industrial Connections

CITY	SEP 97	OCT 97	NOV 97	NOV 96
BROWNSVILLE	478	472	468	1,641
DEL RIO	31	30	30	30
EAGLE PASS	24	23	18	23
EL PASO	117	116	115	99
HARLINGEN	83	83	83	83
LAREDO	126	127	127	129
McALLEN	51	51	51	52
TOTAL	910	902	892	2,057

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

Industrial power connections for reporting Texas border cities declined 1.11 percent from October's figures. Eagle Pass was down 21.74 percent, El Paso fell 0.86 percent and Brownsville decreased 0.85 percent. YTD, Brownsville had the largest decrease with 71.5 percent, Eagle Pass fell 21.7 percent, McAllen declined 1.9 percent and Laredo slid at 1.6 percent. However, El Paso rose 16.2 percent while Harlingen and Del Rio remained the same.

Building Permits — Texas Border

Number of Permits

NUMBER	SEP 97	OCT 97	NOV 97	NOV 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	293	282	181	222	2,692	2,775	3.1
DEL RIO	82	88	63	48	1,062	1,122	5.6
EAGLE PASS	35	27	23	24	326	339	4.0
EL PASO	909	1,011	725	758	10,922	9,946	-8.9
HARLINGEN	58	61	52	55	765	668	-12.7
LAREDO	314	296	243	212	3,339	3,390	1.5
MCALLEN	141	132	95	105	1,402	1,398	-0.3
TOTAL	1,832	1,897	1,382	1,424	20,508	19,638	-4.2

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

November building permits issued by reporting Texas border cities were down 27.1 percent from October. Brownsville decreased 35.8 percent, Del Rio was down 28.4 percent, El Paso fell 28.3 percent, McAllen decreased 28.0 percent, Laredo declined 17.9 percent and both Harlingen and Eagle Pass fell 14.8 percent for the month. YTD, the number of permits issued were down 4.2 percent. El Paso,

accounting for 52.5 percent of all building permits issued in November, had a 8.9 percent decrease YTD. Laredo, with 17.6 percent of building permits issued, was up 1.5 percent YTD. Brownsville was up 3.1 percent and McAllen decreased 0.3 percent.

U.S. Dollar Value of Permits

VALUE	SEP 97	OCT 97	NOV 97	NOV 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	30,291,300	7,580,666	5,171,405	7,182,719	89,958,357	175,478,915	95.1
DEL RIO	1,471,091	1,354,833	1,085,666	1,690,026	28,874,138	19,341,042	-33.0
EAGLE PASS	547,787	565,242	1,184,461	437,091	8,264,734	9,512,645	15.1
EL PASO	32,074,251	26,196,430	20,448,845	25,888,288	407,137,585	407,099,251	-0.0
HARLINGEN	2,250,607	2,148,904	1,886,742	6,972,367	55,024,271	53,637,211	-2.5
LAREDO	10,799,604	16,392,256	11,974,333	6,609,262	114,604,760	166,940,430	45.7
MCALLEN	12,773,786	8,288,860	6,716,046	5,465,928	115,627,035	132,301,419	14.4
TOTAL	90,208,426	62,527,191	48,467,498	54,245,681	819,490,880	964,310,913	17.7

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

November building permit values for reporting Texas border cities were down 22.5 percent from October. Brownsville decreased 31.8 percent, Laredo fell 27.0 percent, El Paso was down 21.9 percent, Del Rio decreased 19.9 percent and McAllen fell 19.0 percent and Harlingen declined 12.2 percent. However, Eagle Pass gained 109.5 percent. YTD, reporting border cities experienced a 17.7

percent increase. Laredo, with 24.7 percent total value for the month of November, was up 45.7 percent YTD. Brownsville, with a 10.7 percent of total value, had a 95.1 percent YTD increase. McAllen, with 13.9 percent total value, increased 14.4 percent YTD.

Employment/Unemployment Rates —Texas Border

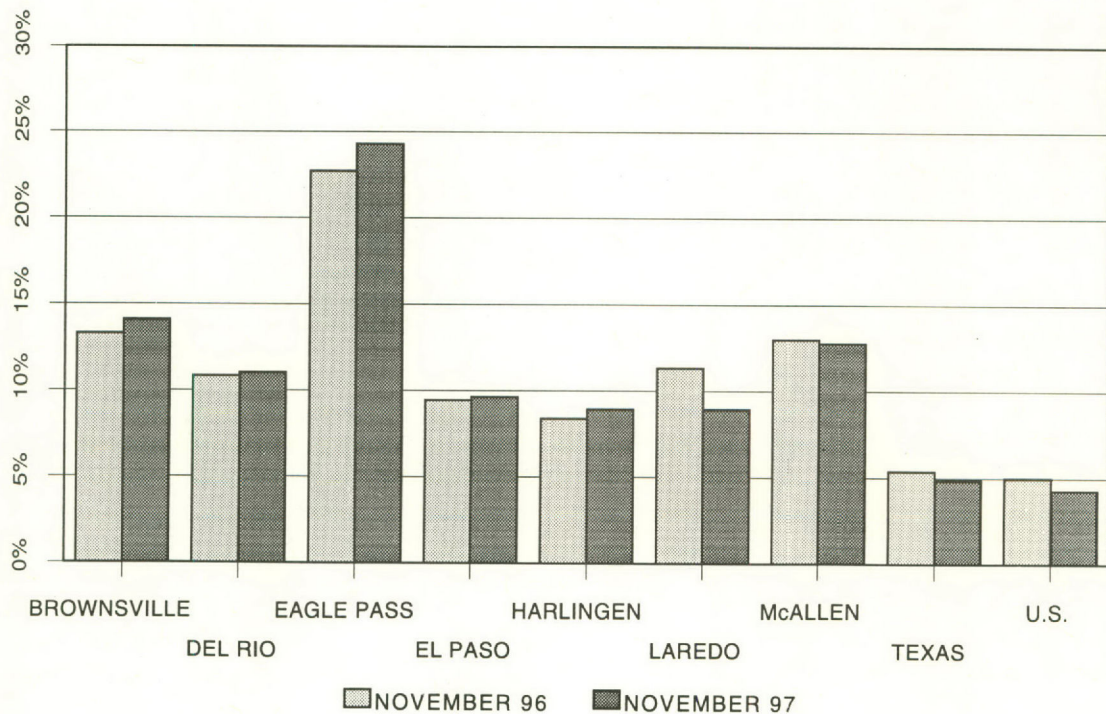
CITY	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED	PERCENT UNEMPLOYED	PERCENT UNEMPLOYED
	NOV 97	NOV 96	NOV 97	NOV 96	NOV 97	NOV 96
BROWNSVILLE	41,709	40,822	6,844	6,284	14.1	13.3
DEL RIO	13,203	14,117	1,626	1,706	11.0	10.8
EAGLE PASS	7,850	8,133	2,520	2,387	24.3	22.7
EL PASO	236,457	229,010	25,196	23,764	9.6	9.4
HARLINGEN	23,962	23,452	2,327	2,137	8.9	8.4
LAREDO	60,738	55,886	5,930	7,098	8.9	11.3
McALLEN	48,683	40,849	6,239	6,113	12.8	13.0
TOTAL	432,602	412,269	50,682	49,489	10.5	10.7
THE TEXAS UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					4.91	5.37
THE NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					4.32	5.05

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 November, total employment in reporting Texas border cities rose 0.4 percent (1,786 jobs gained) from October's figures. McAllen increased 3.6 percent (1,673 jobs gained), Eagle Pass gained 0.4 percent (35 jobs gained), Laredo increased 0.3 percent (165 jobs gained) and Del Rio rose 0.1 percent (16 jobs gained). El Paso changed slightly with only 22 jobs gained. However, Brownsville and Harlingen dipped 0.2 percent (80 and 45 jobs lost

respectively). YTD, the total employment in Texas border cities was up 4.9 percent (20,333 jobs gained) from a year ago. The average unemployment rate for the border was 10.5 percent compared to 4.91 percent for Texas and 4.32 percent for the U.S. in November.

% Unemployed November 96-97



Air Passenger Service Activities —Selected Border Cities

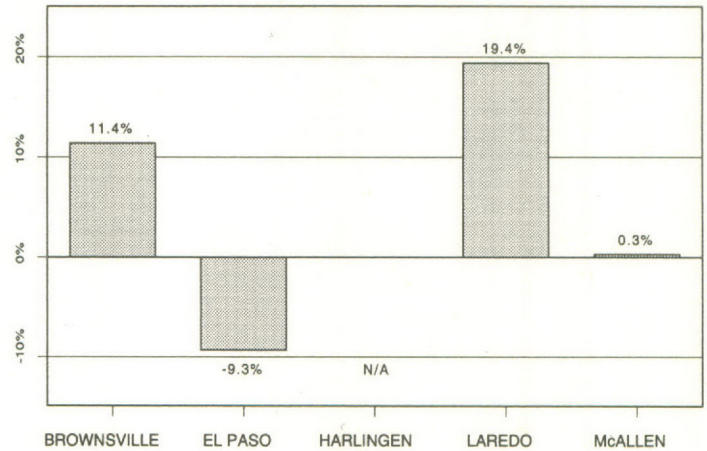
Passenger Arrivals

CITY	SEP 97	OCT 97	NOV 97	NOV 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	6,164	6,274	6,661	5,266	65,263	72,710	11.4
EL PASO	123,259	130,569	124,838	133,300	1,609,453	1,460,280	-9.3
HARLINGEN	0	0	0	31,991	416,239	186,491	N/A
LAREDO	5,642	5,954	5,591	4,719	52,861	63,098	19.4
McALLEN	20,961	22,038	22,805	23,910	273,549	274,502	0.3
TOTAL	156,026	164,835	159,895	199,186	2,417,365	2,057,081	-14.9

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

November air passengers arriving in Texas border cities were down 3.0 percent over October's figures. Laredo was down 6.1 percent and El Paso dropped 4.4 percent. However, Brownsville rose 6.2 percent and McAllen increased 3.5 percent. YTD air passenger arrivals were down 14.9 percent. El Paso, with 78.1 percent of all passengers arriving in November, fell 9.3 percent. McAllen, with 14.3 percent of all arrivals, was up 0.3 percent. **Harlingen, no longer gives out arrival information.** Laredo increased 19.4 percent YTD and Brownsville rose 11.4 percent YTD.

Passenger Arrivals % Change YTD 96-97



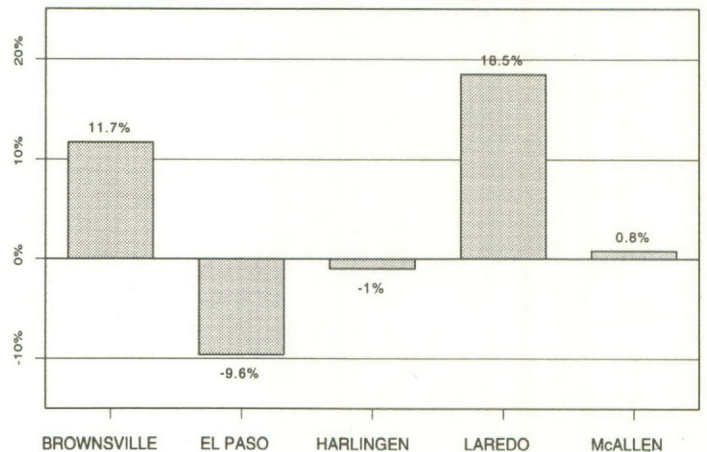
Passenger Departures

CITY	SEP 97	OCT 97	NOV 97	NOV 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	6,316	6,070	6,514	5,076	66,799	74,638	11.7
EL PASO	125,397	133,081	125,059	128,429	1,652,288	1,493,927	-9.6
HARLINGEN	34,386	35,088	34,194	33,134	429,643	425,187	-1.0
LAREDO	5,641	6,045	5,635	4,467	53,992	63,956	18.5
McALLEN	22,212	22,991	23,525	24,052	284,138	286,298	0.8
TOTAL	193,952	203,275	194,927	195,158	2,486,860	2,344,006	-5.7

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

November air passenger departures for reporting Texas border cities were down 4.1 percent from October's figures. Laredo decreased 6.8 percent, El Paso fell 6.0 percent and Harlingen was down 2.5 percent. However, Brownsville increased 7.3 percent and McAllen was up 2.3 percent. YTD, air passenger departures were down 5.7 percent from a year ago. El Paso, with 64.2 percent of all passengers departing in November, was down 9.6 percent. Harlingen, with 17.5 percent of all passengers departing, was down 1.0 percent. McAllen, with 12.1 percent of all passengers departing, increased 0.8 percent YTD. Laredo rose 18.5 percent and Brownsville was up 11.7 percent YTD.

Passenger Departures % Change YTD 96-97



Port Of Corpus Christi

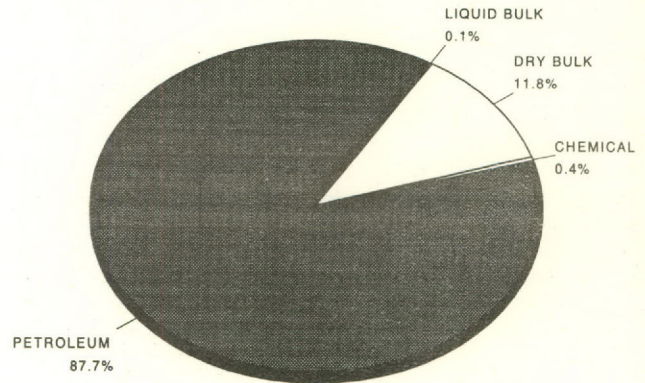
Inbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	SEP 97	OCT 97	NOV 97	NOV 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BREAK BULK	1,939	178	284	0	3,032	9,377	209.3
DRY BULK	420,904	348,672	490,413	245,048	3,788,871	4,047,084	6.8
BULK GRAIN	0	0	0	1,435	1,435	0	N/A
LIQUID	6,136	0	3,688	13,440	60,046	48,888	-18.6
PETROLEUM	4,547,080	4,203,699	3,638,726	3,741,110	40,555,635	41,615,333	2.6
CHEMICAL	7,556	4,108	15,832	6,776	180,071	116,807	-35.1
TOTAL	4,983,615	4,556,657	4,148,943	4,007,809	44,589,090	45,837,489	2.8

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

% Share November 1997 Inbound Cargo

The Port of Corpus Christi had an 8.9 percent decrease in inbound cargo from last month. Petroleum, which makes up 87.7 percent of all inbound traffic in November, was down 13.4 percent compared to October. Dry bulk, which accounts for 11.8 percent of the port's inbound cargo for November, rose 40.7 percent. YTD, inbound cargo tonnage was up 2.8 percent. Dry bulk was up 6.8 percent YTD while petroleum was up 2.6 percent YTD.



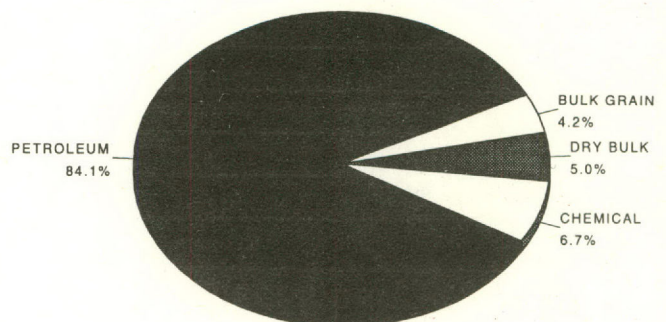
Outbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	SEP 97	OCT 97	NOV 97	NOV 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BREAK BULK	407	6,965	905	2,745	44,053	14,260	-67.6
DRY BULK	127,059	218,810	117,056	2,745	181,104	2,296,791	1168.2
BULK GRAIN	195,675	142,489	99,766	69,834	926,546	1,353,583	46.1
LIQUID	0	0	0	0	0	2,865	N/A
PETROLEUM	2,729,689	2,051,117	1,975,760	1,908,139	23,746,096	23,533,450	-0.9
CHEMICAL	183,253	133,825	158,053	141,713	1,734,327	1,654,024	-4.6
TOTAL	3,236,083	2,553,206	2,351,540	2,125,176	26,632,126	28,854,973	8.3

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

% Share November 1997 Outbound Cargo

The Port of Corpus Christi had a 7.9 percent decrease in outbound cargo tonnage in November. Petroleum, which is 84.0 percent of total outbound cargo for November, decreased 3.7 percent compared to October. Dry bulk decreased 46.5 percent, Chemicals rose 18.1 percent and Bulk Grain decreased 30.0 percent. YTD, total outbound cargo tonnage was up 8.3 percent.



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