

Border Business Indicators

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U.S.-Mexico Trade: Negative Growth Continues in 2009—Jan. Figures Below Par

As reported in the February 2009 issue of the *Border Business Indicators*, 2008 ended with the highest figures in the history of trade between the U.S. and Mexico. Final tallies marked yet another high point in U.S.-Mexico trade surpassing the previous one of 2007. After 2000, trade between the countries remained flat but changed in 2004. The 2008 total trade between the trading partners registered an all-time high of \$367.4 billion or a 5.8 percent increase over 2007. U.S. exports to Mexico and U.S. imports from Mexico increased 11.0 percent and 2.4 percent respectively over 2007.

In previous years, the January trade dollar figures have been good indicators as to how the trade trend would fair for the remainder of the respective year. In comparing those monthly values, each registered increases over the previous years monthly figures. In January 2009, these figures may not be as indicative as previous years due to the housing subprime crisis, the global financial crisis fueled by some major institutions going bankrupt or closing, the U.S. automakers trading in dangerous waters and the Mexican peso's devaluation which all began to occur in or around the latter part of 2008.

As exhibited in Chart 1, ten years of January U.S. exports to Mexico values are shown. The January 2009 dollar figure decreased by 17.6 percent over the same period in 2008, but in comparison, there had been an increase of 11.2 percent in 2007. Furthermore for the first time in 2008, there had been a drop in the exports dollar value in November, but no change in value December of 2008.

On the other hand, U.S. imports from Mexico in January 2009 did not fair as

well either. For the first time in many years, U.S. imports recorded several consecutive negative percent changes. Those months were October (0.5 percent), No-

vember (21.3 percent), December 2008 (15.0 percent) culminated with the reported figure for January 2009—26.5 percent (See Chart 2).

Continued on Back Page

Chart 1
U.S. Exports to Mexico
Jan. 2000 - Jan. 2009
(In Billions of Dollars)

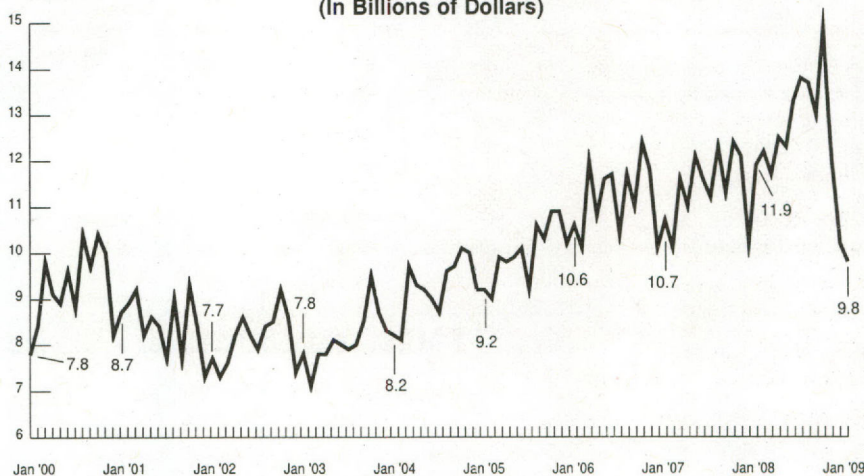
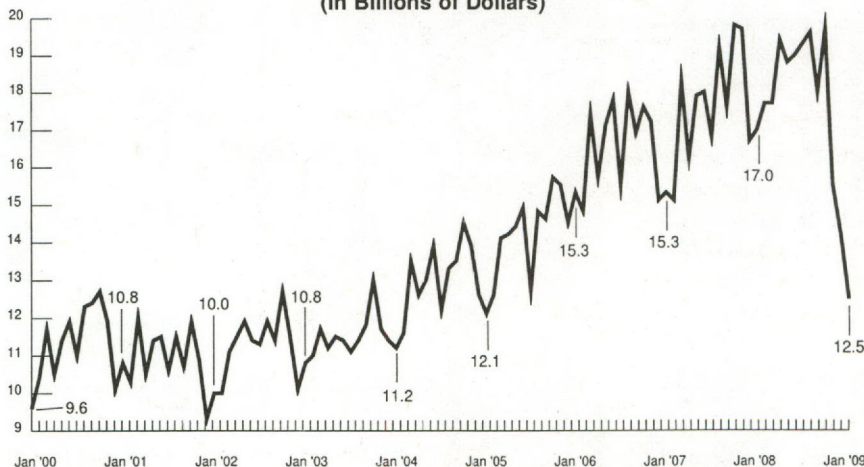


Chart 2
U.S. Imports from Mexico
Jan. 2000 - Jan. 2009
(In Billions of Dollars)



Source: Charts 1 & 2 - U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of the Census, Foreign Trade Division

Need More Detailed Information?

For more detailed information regarding border crossings, economic indicators and trade activity, visit the Center's web site:

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New research encompassing areas such as community development, health, culture, education and socioeconomic issues have been added to the series.

Technical Reports are freely available online for download in PDF format, unless otherwise noted.

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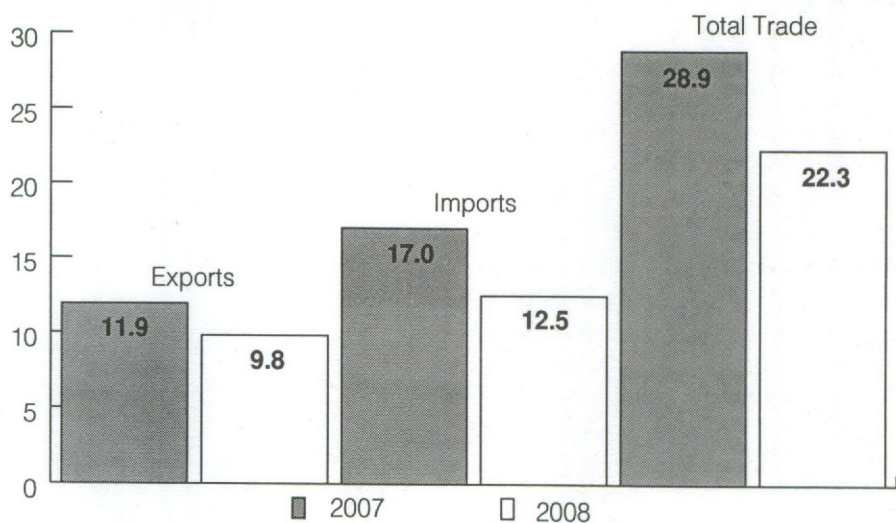
Note from the Director

Indicators of border business activity that were reported for January 2009 year-to-date (YTD) demonstrated six indicators increased and fourteen decreased. 2009 YTD comparisons to 2008 reported for the border are listed below:

- Pedestrian bridge crossings into Mexico were up 3.7 percent.
- Pedestrian bridge crossings into Texas were up 4.8 percent.
- Vehicle bridge crossings into Mexico fell 7.4 percent.
- Vehicle bridge crossings into Texas fell 2.8 percent.
- Truck bridge crossings into Mexico lost 19.0 percent.
- Truck bridge crossings into Texas lost 24.7 percent.
- Rail car bridge crossings into Mexico went down 36.5 percent.
- Rail car bridge crossings into Texas went down 24.4 percent.
- Revenues data collected by U.S. Customs was not available at press time.
- Revenues collected by U.S. bridge operators registered a loss of 11.8 percent.
- Tourist visas issued for entry into Mexico data was not available at press time.
- Total employment was up 0.7 percent, with 3,636 jobs gained. The average unemployment rate for the border in January 2009 was 7.7 percent.
- Total building permits issued fell 19.1 percent.
- Total building permit values decreased 29.1 percent.
- Power connections in service for residential were up 0.9 percent, commercial were up 0.2 percent and industrial were down 1.5 percent.
- Air passenger arrivals were down 15.2 percent, and departures were down 13.9 percent.
- Total cargo for the Port of Brownsville increased 3.8 percent.
- Inbound cargo for the Port of Corpus Christi went down 8.0 percent, and outbound cargo went down 3.8 percent.

U.S.-Mexico Trade at a Glance

January 2009 Year-to-Date
(In Billions of U.S.\$)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Division, Data Dissemination Branch

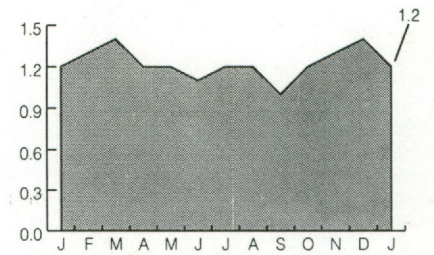
Disclaimer: Please note that the data contained in this and all issues of the *Border Business Indicators* is collected from different government agencies and private sources. Readers should note that different data-collecting agencies use dissimilar, often conflicting, techniques in collecting and compiling 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.

Pedestrian Bridge Crossings from Texas to Mexico

City	Jan 09	%Share	08 vs. 09		YTD 08	YTD 09	%Share	YTD %Chg
			%Chg					
Brownsville	161,134	13.0	7.9		149,305	161,134	13.0	7.9
Del Rio	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eagle Pass	52,739	4.3	4.5		50,488	52,739	4.3	4.5
El Paso	400,472	32.3	-0.7		403,146	400,472	32.3	-0.7
Harlingen	29	0.0	52.6		19	29	0.0	52.6
Laredo	345,666	27.9	5.1		328,934	345,666	27.9	5.1
McAllen-Hidalgo	121,851	9.8	7.7		113,102	121,851	9.8	7.7
Progreso	137,530	11.1	4.1		132,122	137,530	11.1	4.1
Rio Grande	29	0.0	45.0		20	29	0.0	45.0
Roma	20,736	1.7	10.7		18,736	20,736	1.7	10.7
Total	1,240,186	100.0	3.7		1,195,872	1,240,186	100.0	3.7

Source: U.S. bridge operators in cited cities

Pedestrians into Mexico All Cited Cities
Jan. 2008 vs. Jan. 2009: Up 3.7%
(In Millions)

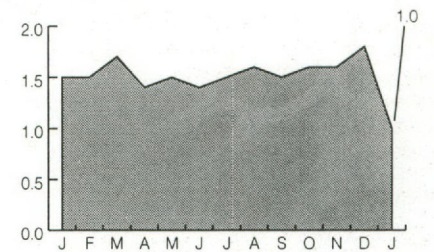


Pedestrian Bridge Crossings from Mexico to Texas

City	Jan 09	%Share	08 vs. 09		YTD 08	YTD 09	%Share	YTD %Chg
			%Chg					
Brownsville	203,226	20.5	4.9		193,658	203,226	20.5	4.9
Del Rio	8,695	0.9	29.8		6,698	8,695	0.9	29.8
Eagle Pass	58,524	5.9	5.3		55,554	58,524	5.9	5.3
El Paso	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Laredo	401,068	40.5	4.0		385,610	401,068	40.5	4.0
McAllen-Hidalgo	157,867	15.9	7.5		146,874	157,867	15.9	7.5
Presidio	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Progreso	138,072	13.9	4.9		131,585	138,072	13.9	4.9
Rio Grande	1,800	0.2	33.1		1,352	1,800	0.2	33.1
Roma	21,689	2.2	-9.7		24,010	21,689	2.2	-9.7
Total	990,941	100.0	4.8		945,341	990,941	100.0	4.8

Source: Oficina de Caminos y Puentes Federales, Mexico

Pedestrians into Texas All Cited Cities
Jan. 2008 vs. Jan. 2009: Up 4.8%
(In Millions)

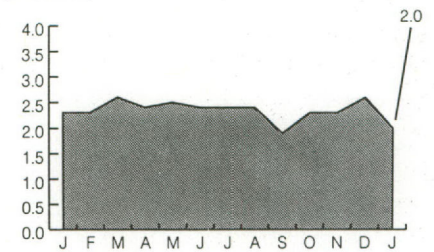


Vehicle Bridge Crossings from Texas to Mexico

City	Jan 09	%Share	08 vs. 09		YTD 08	YTD 09	%Share	YTD %Chg
			%Chg					
Brownsville	399,943	19.8	-13.5		462,468	399,943	19.8	-13.5
Del Rio	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eagle Pass	218,710	10.8	-0.5		219,756	218,710	10.8	-0.5
El Paso	270,931	13.4	-17.0		326,275	270,931	13.4	-17.0
Harlingen	49,672	2.5	4.0		47,773	49,672	2.5	4.0
Laredo	394,788	19.5	-7.7		427,586	394,788	19.5	-7.7
McAllen-Hidalgo	381,874	18.9	-2.8		392,928	381,874	18.9	-2.8
Pharr	117,639	5.8	-7.8		127,622	117,639	5.8	-7.8
Progreso	74,608	3.7	7.1		69,648	74,608	3.7	7.1
Rio Grande	44,439	2.2	9.7		40,501	44,439	2.2	9.7
Roma	68,989	3.4	1.7		67,825	68,989	3.4	1.7
Total	2,021,593	100.0	-7.4		2,182,382	2,021,593	100.0	-7.4

Source: U.S. bridge operators in cited cities

Vehicles into Mexico All Cited Cities
Jan. 2008 vs. Jan. 2009: Down 7.4%
(In Millions)

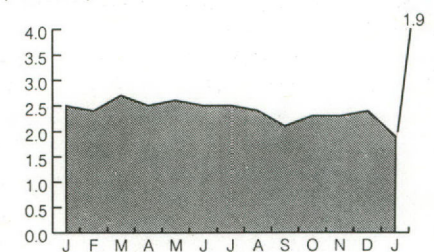


Vehicle Bridge Crossings from Mexico to Texas

City	Jan 09	%Share	08 vs. 09		YTD 08	YTD 09	%Share	YTD %Chg
			%Chg					
Brownsville	380,979	20.0	-18.6		468,071	380,979	20.0	-18.6
Del Rio	125,297	6.6	-5.1		132,018	125,297	6.6	-5.1
Eagle Pass	236,874	12.4	-1.7		240,988	236,874	12.4	-1.7
El Paso	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Harlingen	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Laredo	430,539	22.6	9.0		394,912	430,539	22.6	9.0
McAllen-Hidalgo	372,022	19.5	0.4		370,507	372,022	19.5	0.4
Pharr	160,524	8.4	-1.3		162,632	160,524	8.4	-1.3
Presidio	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Progreso	79,354	4.2	6.1		74,805	79,354	4.2	6.1
Rio Grande	50,405	2.6	6.4		47,390	50,405	2.6	6.4
Roma	72,338	3.8	1.7		71,124	72,338	3.8	1.7
Total	1,908,332	100.0	-2.8		1,962,447	1,908,332	100.0	-2.8

Source: Oficina de Caminos y Puentes Federales, Mexico

Vehicles into Texas All Cited Cities
Jan. 2008 vs. Jan. 2009: Down 2.8%
(In Millions)



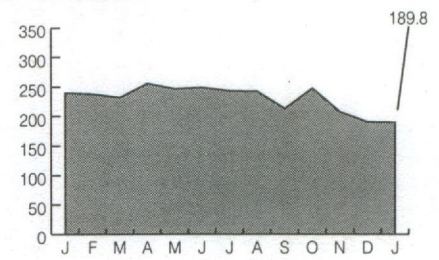
Truck Bridge Crossings from Texas to Mexico

City	Jan 09	08 vs. 09		YTD 08	YTD 09	YTD	
		%Share	%Chg			%Share	%Chg
Brownsville	13,418	7.1	-22.6	17,342	13,418	7.1	-22.6
Del Rio	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eagle Pass	6,192	3.3	-27.2	8,510	6,192	3.3	-27.2
El Paso	22,632	11.9	-23.7	29,672	22,632	11.9	-23.7
Harlingen	1,619	0.9	-29.7	2,303	1,619	0.9	-29.7
Laredo	106,939	56.3	-19.3	132,473	106,939	56.3	-19.3
McAllen-Hidalgo	297	0.2	-9.7	329	297	0.2	-9.7
Pharr	33,216	17.5	-11.9	37,685	33,216	17.5	-11.9
Progreso	2,802	1.5	-9.6	3,099	2,802	1.5	-9.6
Rio Grande	2,058	1.1	0.7	2,043	2,058	1.1	0.7
Roma	608	0.3	-20.1	761	608	0.3	-20.1
Total	189,781	100.0	-19.0	234,217	189,781	100.0	-19.0

Source: U.S. bridge operators in cited cities

Note: Figures include loaded and empty trucks. El Paso figures do not include Bridge of the Americas.

Trucks into Mexico All Cited Cities
Jan. 2008 vs. Jan. 2009: Down 19.0%
(In Thousands)



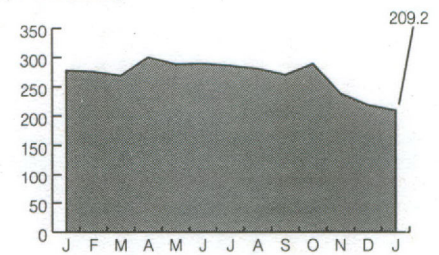
Truck Bridge Crossings from Mexico to Texas

City	Jan 09	08 vs. 09		YTD 08	YTD 09	YTD	
		%Share	%Chg			%Share	%Chg
Brownsville	12,168	5.8	-23.9	15,983	12,168	5.8	-23.9
Del Rio	3,860	1.8	-5.0	4,062	3,860	1.8	-5.0
Eagle Pass	6,669	3.2	-38.4	10,826	6,669	3.2	-38.4
El Paso	39,454	18.9	-37.7	63,371	39,454	18.9	-37.7
Falcon Heights	10	0.0	150.0	4	10	0.0	150.0
Harlingen	2,234	1.1	-24.2	2,949	2,234	1.1	-24.2
Laredo	103,888	49.7	-21.7	132,744	103,888	49.7	-21.7
Pharr	34,097	16.3	-15.5	40,331	34,097	16.3	-15.5
Presidio	515	0.2	-3.7	535	515	0.2	-3.7
Progreso	3,708	1.8	-0.2	3,716	3,708	1.8	-0.2
Rio Grande	2,051	1.0	-17.0	2,472	2,051	1.0	-17.0
Roma	510	0.2	-16.8	613	510	0.2	-16.8
Total	209,164	100.0	-24.7	277,606	209,164	100.0	-24.7

Source: South Texas Customs Management Center, Laredo & U.S. Customs Office of Public Affairs, El Paso

Note: Figures include loaded and empty trucks.

Trucks into Texas All Cited Cities
Jan. 2008 vs. Jan. 2009: Down 24.7%
(In Thousands)



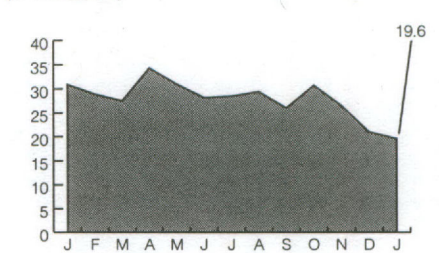
Rail Car Crossings from Texas to Mexico

City	Jan 09	08 vs. 09		YTD 08	YTD 09	YTD	
		%Share	%Chg			%Share	%Chg
Brownsville	2,585	13.2	-29.4	3,660	2,585	13.2	-29.4
Eagle Pass	5,682	29.0	-17.9	6,922	5,682	29.0	-17.9
El Paso	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Laredo	11,339	57.8	-44.1	20,272	11,339	57.8	-44.1
Total	19,606	100.0	-36.5	30,854	19,606	100.0	-36.5

Source: Railroad companies in cited cities

Note: Figures for El Paso are not available.

Rail Cars into Mexico All Cited Cities
Jan. 2008 vs. Jan. 2009: Down 36.5%
(In Thousands)

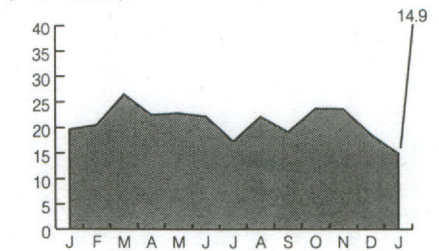


Rail Car Crossings from Mexico to Texas

City	Jan 09	08 vs. 09		YTD 08	YTD 09	YTD	
		%Share	%Chg			%Share	%Chg
Brownsville	858	5.8	194.8	291	858	5.8	194.8
Eagle Pass	4,086	27.5	26.2	3,238	4,086	27.5	26.2
El Paso	5,149	34.7	-24.2	6,791	5,149	34.7	-24.2
Laredo	4,764	32.1	-48.9	9,324	4,764	32.1	-48.9
Total	14,857	100.0	-24.4	19,644	14,857	100.0	-24.4

Source: Railroad companies in cited cities & U.S. Customs Office of Public Affairs, El Paso

Rail Cars into Texas All Cited Cities
Jan. 2008 vs. Jan. 2009: Down 24.4%
(In Thousands)



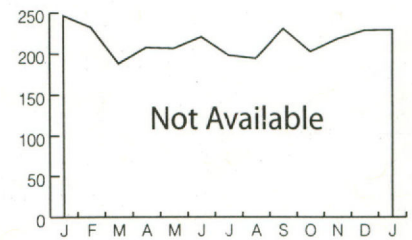
Revenues Collected by U.S. Customs District of Laredo (in U.S.\$)

City	Jan 09	%Share	08 vs. 09		YTD 08	YTD 09	YTD	
			%Chg				%Share	%Chg

Data was not available at press time.
Check our website, <http://texascenter.tamiu.edu>, for updates.

Source: South Texas Customs Management Center, Laredo
Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Customs Revenues for the District of Laredo
Jan. 2008 vs. Jan. 2009: **N/A**
(In Millions of U.S.\$)

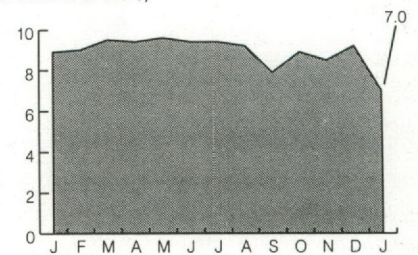


Revenues Collected by U.S. Bridge Operators (in U.S.\$)

City	Jan 09	%Share	08 vs. 09		YTD 08	YTD 09	YTD	
			%Chg				%Share	%Chg
Brownsville	919,176	13.0	-15.6		1,089,347	919,176	13.0	-15.6
Del Rio	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eagle Pass	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
El Paso	1,071,959	15.2	-18.6		1,317,326	1,071,959	15.2	-18.6
Harlingen	144,078	2.0	-5.5		152,430	144,078	2.0	-5.5
Laredo	3,118,442	44.3	-14.7		3,654,844	3,118,442	44.3	-14.7
McAllen-Hidalgo	932,418	13.2	-2.2		953,692	932,418	13.2	-2.2
Pharr	632,386	9.0	0.1		631,506	632,386	9.0	0.1
Roma	225,485	3.2	19.3		189,061	225,485	3.2	19.3
Total	7,043,943	100.0	-11.8		7,988,206	7,043,943	100.0	-11.8

Source: U.S. bridge operators in cited cities
Note: El Paso figures do not include Bridge of the Americas (Toll-free). Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Bridge Revenues All Cited Cities
Jan. 2008 vs. Jan. 2009: **Down 11.8%**
(In Millions of U.S.\$)



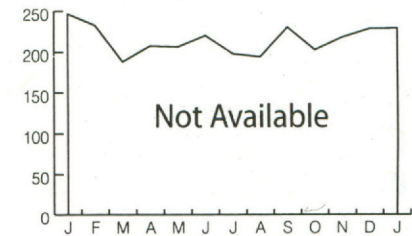
Tourist Visas Issued for Entry into Mexico

City	Jan 09	%Share	08 vs. 09		YTD 08	YTD 09	YTD	
			%Chg				%Share	%Chg

Data was not available at press time.
Check our website, <http://texascenter.tamiu.edu>, for updates.

Source: Instituto Nacional de Migracion, Mexico

Tourist Visas Issued All Cited Cities
Jan. 2008 vs. Jan. 2009: **N/A**
(In Thousands)



Employment & Unemployment Rates (Texas Border)

City	Employed		%Unemp	Emp Avg		08 vs. 09		Gain/Loss
	Jan 09	Jan 09		YTD 08	YTD 09	Emp %Chg	YTD	
Brownsville	57,596	6,219	9.7	57,992	57,596	-0.7	-396	
Del Rio	15,022	1,370	8.4	15,605	15,022	-3.7	-583	
El Paso	237,744	19,691	7.6	238,061	237,744	-0.1	-317	
Harlingen	23,365	1,956	7.7	23,569	23,365	-0.9	-204	
Laredo	83,341	6,220	6.9	80,070	83,341	4.1	3,271	
McAllen	56,533	4,017	6.6	55,694	56,533	1.5	839	
Pharr	23,049	2,050	8.2	22,023	23,049	4.7	1,026	
Total	496,650	41,523	7.7	493,014	496,650	0.7	3,636	
Texas Unemployment Rate			6.8					
U.S. Unemployment Rate			8.5					

Source: Texas Workforce Commission
Note: Figures are preliminary and subject to revision. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

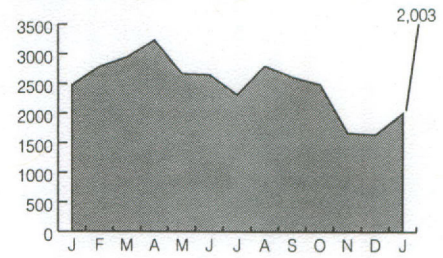
Percent of Unemployment All Cited Cities Combined
Jan. 2008 vs. Jan. 2009: **Up 43.1%**
(In Percent)



Building Permits

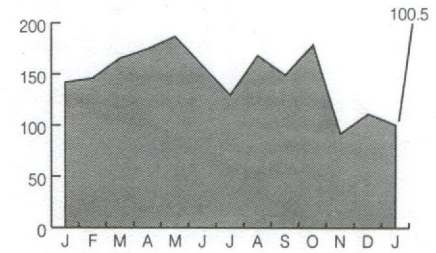
Number City	08 vs. 09			YTD			
	Jan 09	%Share	%Chg	YTD 08	YTD 09	%Share	%Chg
Brownsville	191	9.5	35.5	141	191	9.5	35.5
Del Rio	32	1.6	-83.5	194	32	1.6	-83.5
Eagle Pass	27	1.3	-6.9	29	27	1.3	-6.9
El Paso	920	45.9	-37.7	1,476	920	45.9	-37.7
Harlingen	218	10.9	-27.1	299	218	10.9	-27.1
Laredo	331	16.5	276.1	88	331	16.5	276.1
McAllen	284	14.2	14.5	248	284	14.2	14.5
Total	2,003	100.0	-19.1	2,475	2,003	100.0	-19.1

Building Permits All Cited Cities
Jan. 2008 vs. Jan. 2009
(Number of Permits): Down 19.1%



Dollar Value City	08 vs. 09			YTD			
	Jan 09	%Share	%Chg	YTD 08	YTD 09	%Share	%Chg
Brownsville	22,836,061	22.7	92.1	11,886,518	22,836,061	22.7	92.1
Del Rio	1,590,063	1.6	21.9	1,304,178	1,590,063	1.6	21.9
Eagle Pass	662,768	0.7	-38.7	1,082,046	662,768	0.7	-38.7
El Paso	51,769,002	51.5	-39.1	85,030,121	51,769,002	51.5	-39.1
Harlingen	2,249,226	2.2	-50.8	4,567,716	2,249,226	2.2	-50.8
Laredo	10,163,957	10.1	-39.4	16,763,270	10,163,957	10.1	-39.4
McAllen	11,249,835	11.2	-46.9	21,194,957	11,249,835	11.2	-46.9
Total	100,520,912	100.0	-29.1	141,828,806	100,520,912	100.0	-29.1

(Value of Permits In Millions of U.S.S.): Down 29.1%



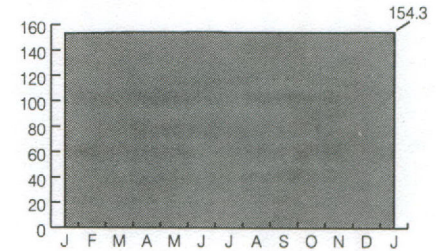
Source: Permit Departments in cited cities

Note: Dollar value totals may not add up due to rounding.

Power Connections (in Service)

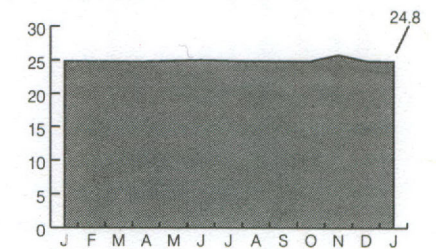
Residential City	08 vs. 09			Average			YTD	
	Jan 09	%Share	%Chg	YTD 08	YTD 09	%Share	%Chg	
Brownsville	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Del Rio	15,363	10.0	0.7	15,253	15,363	10.0	0.7	
Eagle Pass	11,358	7.4	0.9	11,261	11,358	7.4	0.9	
El Paso	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Harlingen	24,554	15.9	0.6	24,412	24,554	15.9	0.6	
Laredo	63,611	41.2	1.1	62,941	63,611	41.2	1.1	
McAllen	39,416	25.5	0.9	39,075	39,416	25.5	0.9	
Total	154,302	100.0	0.9	152,942	154,302	100.0	0.9	

Power Connections All Cited Cities
Jan. 2008 vs. Jan. 2009
(Residential - In Thousands): Up 0.9%



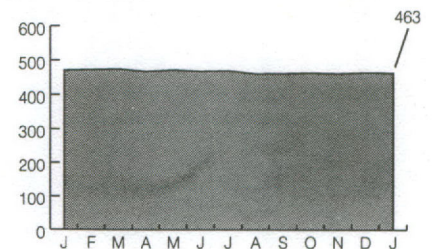
Commercial City	08 vs. 09			Average			YTD	
	Jan 09	%Share	%Chg	YTD 08	YTD 09	%Share	%Chg	
Brownsville	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Del Rio	2,395	9.7	-0.9	2,416	2,395	9.7	-0.9	
Eagle Pass	1,668	6.7	0.3	1,663	1,668	6.7	0.3	
El Paso	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Harlingen	4,131	16.6	0.0	4,132	4,131	16.6	0.0	
Laredo	9,494	38.3	-0.2	9,512	9,494	38.3	-0.2	
McAllen	7,124	28.7	1.3	7,036	7,124	28.7	1.3	
Total	24,812	100.0	0.2	24,759	24,812	100.0	0.2	

(Commercial - In Thousands): Up 0.2%



Industrial City	08 vs. 09			Average			YTD	
	Jan 09	%Share	%Chg	YTD 08	YTD 09	%Share	%Chg	
Brownsville	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Del Rio	43	9.3	-4.4	45	43	9.3	-4.4	
Eagle Pass	24	5.2	-17.2	29	24	5.2	-17.2	
El Paso	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Harlingen	94	20.3	-2.1	96	94	20.3	-2.1	
Laredo	184	39.7	-0.5	185	184	39.7	-0.5	
McAllen	118	25.5	2.6	115	118	25.5	2.6	
Total	463	100.0	-1.5	470	463	100.0	-1.5	

(Industrial): Down 1.5%



Source: American Electric Power Company, Brownsville Public Utilities Board & El Paso Electric Company

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

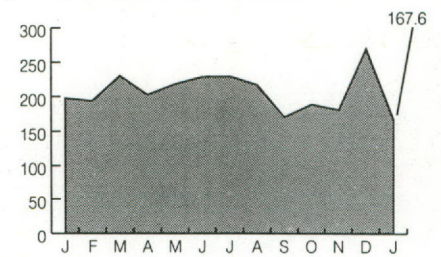
Air Passenger Service Activity (Number of Passengers)

Arrivals City	Jan 09	%Share	08 vs. 09		YTD		%Chg
			%Chg	YTD 08	YTD 09	%Share	
Brownsville	5,263	3.1	-12.6	6,023	5,263	3.1	-12.6
El Paso	99,101	59.1	-13.5	114,533	99,101	59.1	-13.5
Harlingen	29,121	17.4	-16.1	34,690	29,121	17.4	-16.1
Laredo	7,529	4.5	-12.7	8,624	7,529	4.5	-12.7
McAllen	26,578	15.9	-21.2	33,715	26,578	15.9	-21.2
Total	167,592	100.0	-15.2	197,585	167,592	100.0	-15.2

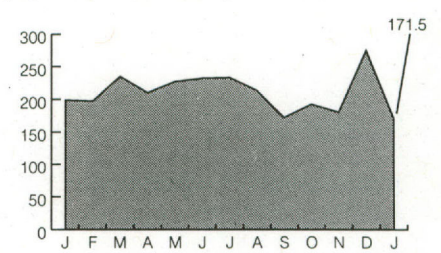
Departures City	Jan 09	%Share	08 vs. 09		YTD		%Chg
			%Chg	YTD 08	YTD 09	%Share	
Brownsville	5,902	3.4	-7.8	6,401	5,902	3.4	-7.8
El Paso	99,979	58.3	-13.0	114,984	99,979	58.3	-13.0
Harlingen	30,841	18.0	-13.0	35,453	30,841	18.0	-13.0
Laredo	7,750	4.5	-8.5	8,474	7,750	4.5	-8.5
McAllen	26,979	15.7	-20.0	33,711	26,979	15.7	-20.0
Total	171,451	100.0	-13.9	199,023	171,451	100.0	-13.9

Source: Airports in cited cities

Air Passenger Activity All Cited Cities
Jan. 2008 vs. Jan. 2009
(Arrivals – In Thousands): Down 15.2%



(Departures – In Thousands): Down 13.9%



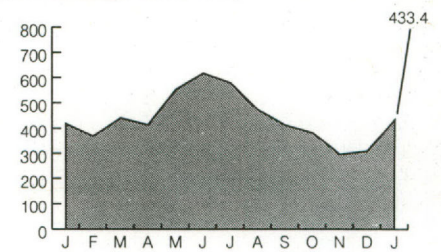
Port of Brownsville (Total Cargo in Metric Tons)

Cargo Type	Jan 09	%Share	08 vs. 09		YTD		%Chg
			%Chg	YTD 08	YTD 09	%Share	
Break Bulk	33,310	7.7	-78.9	158,038	33,310	7.7	-78.9
Container	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Grain Bulk	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Liquid	224,215	51.7	379.5	46,758	224,215	51.7	379.5
Machinery	0	0.0	-100.0	3,352	0	0.0	-100.0
Ores - Minerals	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Other	1,409	0.3	62.3	868	1,409	0.3	62.3
Petroleum	174,457	40.3	-16.3	208,534	174,457	40.3	-16.3
Steel - Other Materials	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Total	433,391	100.0	3.8	417,549	433,391	100.0	3.8

Source: Port of Brownsville

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Port of Brownsville Total Cargo
Jan. 2008 vs. Jan. 2009: Up 3.8%
(In Thousands of Metric Tons)



Port of Corpus Christi (Cargo in U.S. Tons)

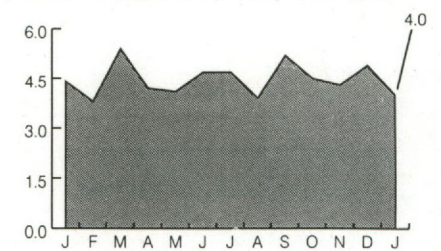
Inbound Cargo Type	Jan 09	%Share	08 vs. 09		YTD		%Chg
			%Chg	YTD 08	YTD 09	%Share	
Break Bulk	8,999	0.2	-18.8	11,089	8,999	0.2	-18.8
Chemical	11,948	0.3	-29.9	17,044	11,948	0.3	-29.9
Containers	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Dry Bulk	337,827	8.4	-41.7	579,090	337,827	8.4	-41.7
Grain Bulk	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Liquid	5,609	0.1	-87.9	46,526	5,609	0.1	-87.9
Petroleum	3,658,131	90.9	-1.7	3,720,258	3,658,131	90.9	-1.7
Total	4,022,515	100.0	-8.0	4,374,007	4,022,515	100.0	-8.0

Outbound Cargo Type	Jan 09	%Share	08 vs. 09		YTD		%Chg
			%Chg	YTD 08	YTD 09	%Share	
Break Bulk	19,600	0.8	56.6	12,514	19,600	0.8	56.6
Chemical	38,038	1.5	-61.9	99,963	38,038	1.5	-61.9
Containers	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Dry Bulk	136,710	5.4	-22.3	176,021	136,710	5.4	-22.3
Grain Bulk	442,902	17.4	-12.1	503,719	442,902	17.4	-12.1
Liquid	0	0.0	-100.0	11,096	0	0.0	-100.0
Petroleum	1,907,462	75.0	3.6	1,841,728	1,907,462	75.0	3.6
Total	2,544,713	100.0	-3.8	2,645,041	2,544,713	100.0	-3.8

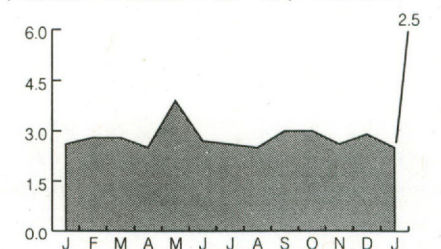
Source: Port of Corpus Christi

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Port of Corpus Christi Cargo
Jan. 2008 vs. Jan. 2009
(Inbound – In Millions of U.S. Tons): Down 8.0%



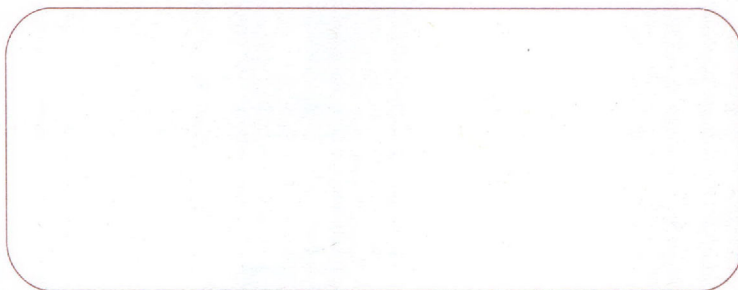
(Outbound – In Millions of U.S. Tons): Down 3.8%





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Continued from Front Page

In Chart 3, the trend line for total trade is shown. Evident is the upward trend for the most part of the first three quarters of 2008 and the dramatic dip which are evident in Charts 1 and 2.

Even though U.S exports had averaged double-digit growth for the most part of 2008, and U.S. imports had been robust throughout most of that year. The fact remains that the drop in U.S. imports in the 4th quarter and U.S. exports did not sustain its double-digit increases in the last two months. This in turn allowed the U.S. to register a small increase over the 2007.

The year 2009 may not turn out to be a record setting year, but it may reach trade levels of 2005 which was right after the recession of 2002-2004. By comparing figures, January 2005 total trade figure registered total trade with Mexico at \$21.3 billion while the January 2009 figure was \$22.3 billion. If 2009 trade follows the that of 2005, the total trade for the whole year of 2009 should be in the vicinity of

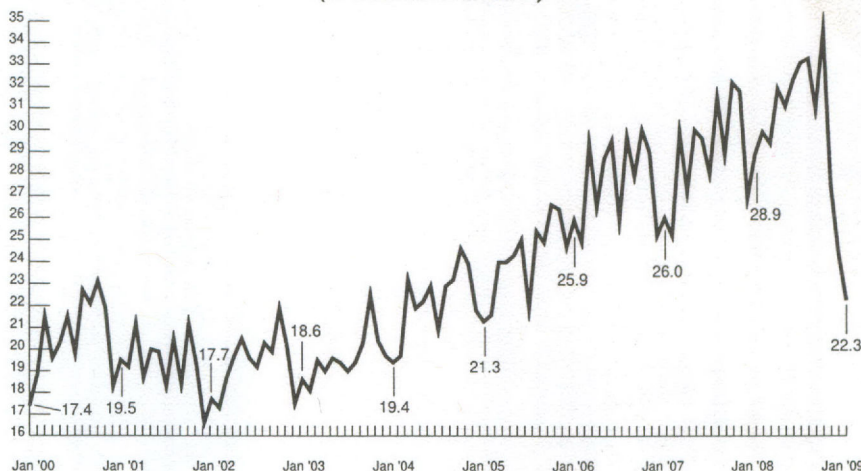
\$91.2 billion. This is provided that what fuels U.S.-Mexico trade gets back on track.

If the U.S. comes out of the recession within the year as stated, trade could

bounce back at the rate of 2005. In the next *Border Business Indicators*, these trade trends will be reviewed and discussed.

—B. Garcia

Chart 3
U.S.-Mexico Total Trade
Jan. 2000 - Jan. 2009
(In Billions of Dollars)



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of the Census, Foreign Trade Division