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Border Business Indicators

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Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

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Note from the Editor

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Indicators of border business activity for the month of April were down. Sixteen monthly indicators were down and six were up when compared to March. However, for the year-to-date (YTD), sixteen indicators were up and six were down. Selected YTD figures reported by border cities include the following.

- Southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico were up 12.6 percent. Brownsville was up 22.2 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo was up 11.2 percent, Laredo was up 9.2 percent, and El Paso increased 6.7 percent.
- Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 7.4 percent. McAllen-Hidalgo was up 21.4 percent, El Paso was up 13.3 percent, Brownsville increased 9.0 percent, but Laredo was down 3.1 percent.
- Southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 6.7 percent. Laredo was up 14.5 percent, El Paso was up 4.1 percent, and Brownsville increased 2.1 percent. However, McAllen-Hidalgo decreased 8.2 percent.
- Northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 3.4 percent with El Paso up 9.4 percent, Brownsville up 8.1 percent, and McAllen-Hidalgo was up 0.2 percent. Laredo decreased 1.1 percent, and Eagle Pass decreased 0.3 percent.
- Southbound truck shipments into Mexico were up 12.8 percent. Laredo had a 17.5 percent increase, Brownsville was up 9.6 percent, but McAllen-Hidalgo decreased 4.8 percent.
- Northbound truck shipments into Texas were up 14.2 percent. Laredo had a 31.0 percent increase, Brownsville increased 3.5 percent, but McAllen-Hidalgo was down 23.0 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Customs were up 1.9 percent, and revenues collected by U.S. Bridge operators were up 12.4 percent.
- Building permits issued were up 23.6 percent. El Paso increased by 32.2 percent, and Laredo was up 4.5 percent.
- Building permit values were up with a YTD increase of 16.2 percent. El Paso increased 20.5 percent. Laredo was up 3.6 percent, and McAllen increased 6.0 percent.
- Total employment was down by 2.1 percent (8,500 jobs lost) YTD. The average unemployment rate in April 1996 was 12.5 percent, up from the 10.4 percent in April 1995.

Due to incomplete data, El Paso rail data for north and south bound have not been included for this issue.

The current and back issues of the Border Business Indicators can be found at the homepage of the Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development at <http://www.tamui.edu/coba/txcntr/>.

IIT Technical Reports Available

- IIT Technical Report No. 1: NAFTA Rules of Origin: An Explanation (March 1994)
IIT 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)
IIT Technical Report No. 3: Labor Mobility Under NAFTA: It's Impact on the Border (February 1994)
IIT Technical Report No. 4: The Impact of NAFTA on Border Maquiladora and Industrial Activity (April 1994)
IIT Technical Report No. 5: The Impact of NAFTA on U.S.-Mexico Agriculture (April 1994)
IIT Technical Report No. 6: U.S.-Mexico Trade Patterns Under NAFTA (March 1994)
IIT Technical Report No. 7: Overweights to Pay the Price (March 1994)
IIT Technical Report No. 8: Standards as Non-Tariff Barriers: NAFTA's Impact (February 1994)
IIT Technical Report No. 9: NAFTA Certificate of Origin (May 1994)
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Technical Reports are available by writing to: IIT Technical Report Series, The College of Business Administration and The Graduate School of International Trade & Business Administration, Texas A&M International University, 5201 University Boulevard, Laredo, Texas 78041-1999. Please enclose \$5.00 for each report requested. Make check or money order payable to the Institute for International Trade.

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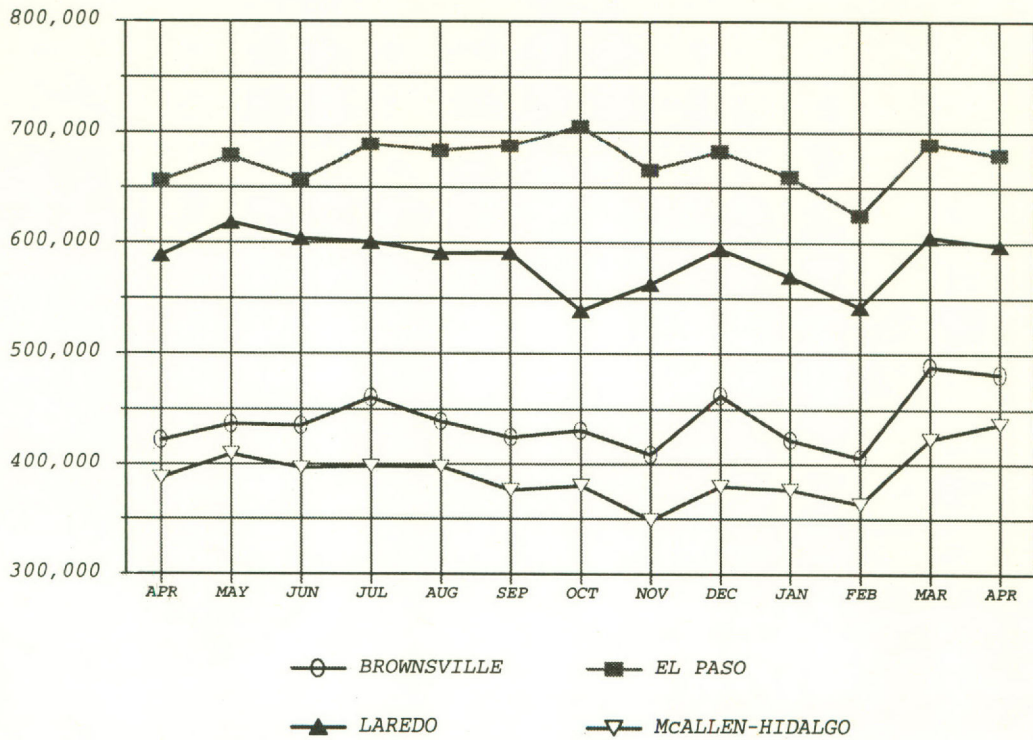
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Please note that the data contained in this and all issues of the Border Business Indicators is collected from different government agencies and private sources. Readers should note that different data-collecting agencies use dissimilar, often conflicting,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

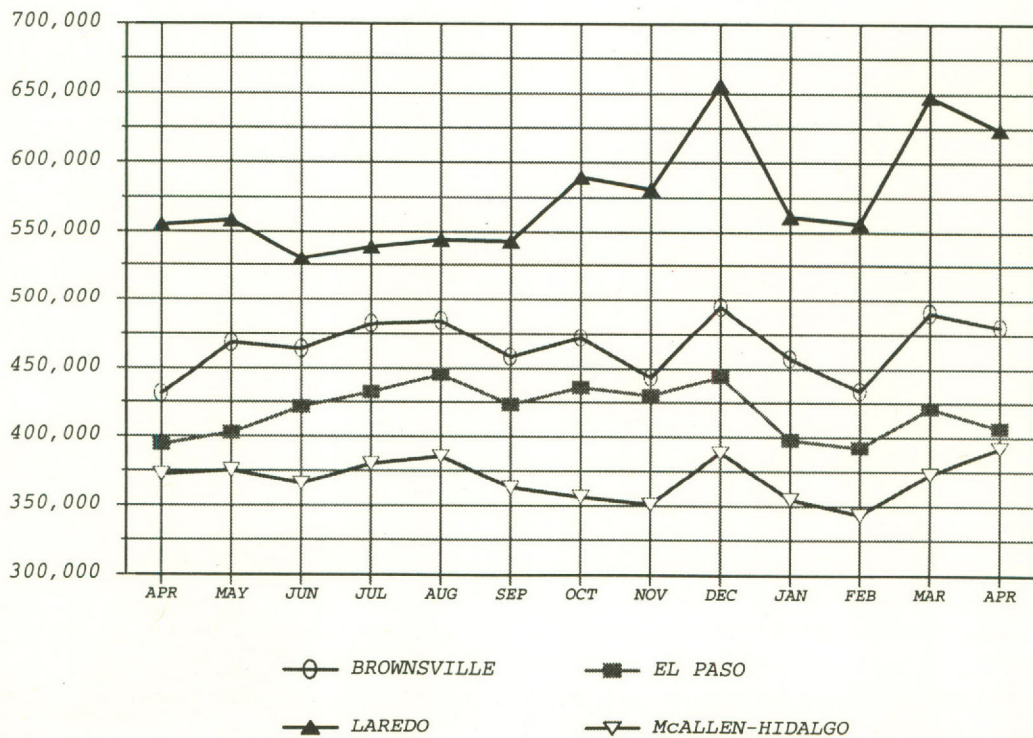
Total Vehicles Northbound

April 1995 - 1996



Total Vehicles Southbound

April 1995 - 1996



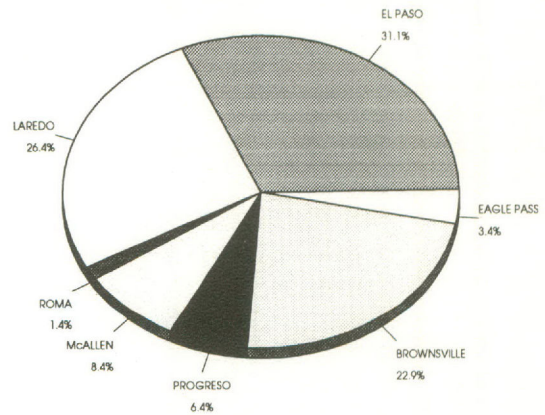
Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	FEB 96	MAR 96	APR 96	APR 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	236,591	356,438	255,144	234,421	888,655	1,086,067	22.2
DEL RIO	3,181	6,682	4,705	4,292	12,738	19,116	50.1
EAGLE PASS	33,889	41,489	38,334	33,210	125,584	148,428	18.2
EL PASO	342,266	397,319	344,859	311,925	1,320,736	1,408,857	6.7
HARLINGEN	103	133	90	92	235	398	69.4
LAREDO	255,963	310,047	293,174	274,846	1,027,004	1,121,735	9.2
McALLEN-HIDALGO	94,691	108,310	92,930	91,816	356,378	396,470	11.2
PROGRESO	150,187	158,109	71,943	65,472	432,569	515,317	19.1
RIO GRANDE	1,309	882	714	594	2,641	3,776	43.0
ROMA	14,141	17,078	15,936	16,210	60,784	61,275	0.8
TOTAL	1,132,321	1,396,487	1,117,829	1,032,878	4,227,324	4,761,439	12.6

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 April were down 20.0 percent compared to March. Progreso was down 54.5 percent, Harlingen was down 32.3 percent, Del Rio decreased 29.6 percent, and Brownsville decreased 28.4 percent. Rio Grande decreased 19.0 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo was down 14.2 percent, El Paso was down 13.2 percent, Eagle Pass decreased 7.6 percent, Roma decreased 6.7 percent, and Laredo was down 5.4 percent. YTD total southbound pedestrian bridge crossings were up 12.6 percent. El Paso southbound pedestrian crossings, 30.9 percent of all crossings, were up 6.7 percent. Laredo, accounting for 26.2 percent of all crossings, was up 9.2 percent YTD. Brownsville was up 22.2 percent with 22.8 percent of all crossings in the month of April.

% Share Pedestrians for April 1996



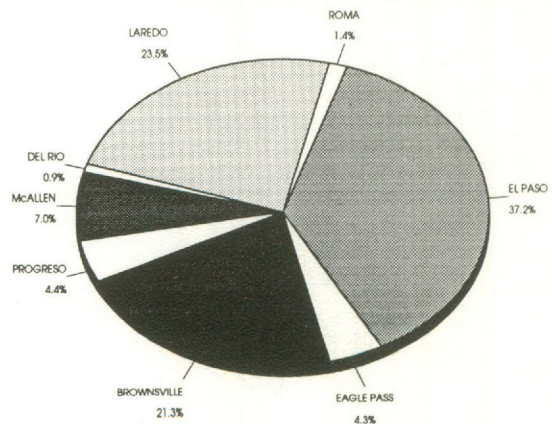
Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	FEB 96	MAR 96	APR 96	APR 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	228,134	309,580	253,352	233,089	944,083	1,029,028	9.0
DEL RIO	6,409	9,100	10,539	8,141	27,721	33,367	20.4
EAGLE PASS	49,582	58,234	51,893	51,139	187,321	206,171	10.1
EL PASO	405,169	477,495	443,821	403,318	1,515,118	1,716,726	13.3
LAREDO	250,101	290,914	280,181	296,317	1,123,516	1,088,179	-3.1
McALLEN-HIDALGO	103,629	121,631	83,760	92,295	348,065	422,478	21.4
PRESIDIO	2,520	2,655	2,354	2,577	10,935	10,008	-8.5
PROGRESO	95,047	90,341	52,435	54,312	347,622	337,171	-3.0
RIO GRANDE	1,097	1,272	1,274	1,054	4,169	4,760	14.2
ROMA	16,103	18,434	17,203	18,240	69,494	68,209	-1.8
TOTAL	1,157,791	1,379,656	1,196,812	1,160,482	4,578,044	4,916,097	7.4

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 pedestrian crossings into Texas were down 13.3 percent in April. Progreso decreased 42.0 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo decreased 31.1 percent, Brownsville was down 18.2 percent, Presidio decreased 11.3 percent, and Eagle Pass decreased 10.9 percent. El Paso was down 7.1 percent, Roma decreased 6.7 percent, and Laredo decreased 3.7 percent. However, Del Rio increased 15.8 percent, and Rio Grande was up 0.2 percent. YTD total northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 7.4 percent. El Paso, accounting for 37.1 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings, was up 13.3 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 21.2 percent of all northbound crossings, was up 9.0 percent. However, Laredo, with 23.4 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings, had a 3.1 percent decrease in crossings YTD.

% Share Pedestrians for April 1996



Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	FEB 96	MAR 96	APR 96	APR 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	433,674	490,957	480,911	430,956	1,824,205	1,862,978	2.1
DEL RIO	134,384	154,741	150,773	138,032	514,168	577,309	12.3
EAGLE PASS	199,610	227,661	219,366	201,419	796,447	848,957	6.6
EL PASO	392,157	420,909	406,405	394,259	1,553,750	1,617,254	4.1
HARLINGEN	28,712	34,896	31,632	28,095	107,367	123,253	14.8
LAREDO	555,897	647,528	623,625	554,613	2,085,474	2,388,102	14.5
McALLEN-HIDALGO	343,484	372,870	391,751	372,201	1,593,056	1,462,863	-8.2
PHARR	74,115	92,086	86,582	57,689	207,532	327,505	57.8
PROGRESO	89,240	102,385	91,474	83,615	323,627	371,021	14.6
RIO GRANDE	41,767	49,094	48,255	43,762	162,587	181,782	11.8
ROMA	65,885	71,099	70,420	61,663	236,891	274,136	15.7
TOTAL	2,358,925	2,664,226	2,601,194	2,366,304	9,405,104	10,035,160	6.7

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 vehicle bridge crossings into Mexico decreased 2.4 percent in April from March's figures. Progreso was down 10.7 percent, Harlingen decreased 9.4 percent, and Pharr decreased 6.0 percent. Laredo was down 3.7 percent, Eagle Pass decreased 3.6 percent, El Paso was down 3.4 percent, Del Rio decreased 2.6 percent, Brownsville was down 2.0 percent, Rio Grande decreased 1.7 percent, and Roma was down 1.0 percent. However, McAllen-Hidalgo increased 5.1 percent. YTD total southbound vehicle

bridge crossings were up 6.7 percent. Laredo, with 24.0 percent of all traffic, was up 14.5 percent YTD. El Paso, 15.6 percent of all southbound vehicle bridge crossings, had a 4.1 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, accounting for 18.5 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings had a 2.1 percent increase YTD. However, McAllen-Hidalgo, with 15.1 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, experienced an 8.2 percent decrease YTD.

Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	FEB 96	MAR 96	APR 96	APR 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	406,144	488,445	481,834	421,912	1,663,210	1,798,495	8.1
DEL RIO	106,960	116,705	123,395	119,158	456,438	458,982	0.6
EAGLE PASS	188,011	210,233	206,816	203,625	807,092	804,385	-0.3
EL PASO	624,805	689,089	678,844	655,789	2,424,927	2,652,146	9.4
HARLINGEN	34,524	43,384	40,451	32,955	116,956	154,731	32.3
LAREDO	542,179	605,041	597,406	588,691	2,340,166	2,314,420	-1.1
McALLEN-HIDALGO	363,049	423,084	436,987	386,805	1,596,788	1,599,744	0.2
PRESIDIO	42,790	48,976	49,692	43,138	170,734	187,461	9.8
PROGRESO	71,335	74,557	67,538	75,895	296,814	287,053	-3.3
RIO GRANDE	39,539	46,451	43,790	42,579	163,717	171,517	4.8
ROMA	60,640	65,630	61,840	78,815	296,320	256,058	-13.6
TOTAL	2,479,976	2,811,595	2,788,593	2,649,362	10,333,162	10,684,992	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 April were down 0.8 percent since March. Progreso was down 9.4 percent, Harlingen decreased 6.8 percent, Roma decreased 5.8 percent, Rio Grande decreased 5.7 percent, Eagle Pass decreased 1.6 percent, El Paso was down 1.5 percent, Brownsville was down 1.4 percent, and Laredo decreased 1.3 percent. However, Del Rio was up 5.7 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo increased 3.3 percent, and Presidio rose

1.5 percent. YTD northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 3.4 percent. El Paso, with 24.3 percent of all crossings, was up 9.4 percent. However, Laredo northbound vehicle bridge crossings, 21.4 percent of all crossings, were down 1.1 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 17.3 percent of all crossings, was up 8.1 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 15.7 percent of all crossings, was up 0.2 percent.

Export Shipments by Trucks into Mexico —Number of Trucks

CITY	FEB 96	MAR 96	APR 96	APR 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE+	15,613	15,622	16,766	14,466	58,678	64,287	9.6
DEL RIO+	2,841	2,975	2,982	2,822	11,190	11,921	6.5
EAGLE PASS++	3,205	3,522	2,940	2,114	12,438	12,898	3.7
EL PASO+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	N/A
HARLINGEN+	2,807	4,401	4,301	2,219	11,123	14,037	26.2
LAREDO++	39,655	40,509	38,631	29,356	133,381	156,757	17.5
McALLEN-HIDALGO+	11,233	12,799	12,278	10,974	49,017	46,657	-4.8
PHARR+	4,488	4,853	4,087	1,625	6,670	16,839	152.5
PROGRESO+	1,383	2,559	2,224	2,425	7,595	7,214	-5.0
RIO GRANDE+	448	500	608	1,128	4,920	1,942	-60.5
ROMA+	714	817	693	635	2,537	3,209	26.5
TOTAL	82,387	88,557	85,510	67,764	297,549	335,761	12.8

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 decreased 3.4 percent from March shipments. Eagle Pass was down 16.5 percent, Pharr decreased 15.8 percent, Roma was down 15.2 percent, Progreso decreased 13.1 percent, Laredo decreased 4.6 percent, and McAllen-Hidalgo was down 4.1 percent. However, Rio Grande increased 21.6 percent, Brownsville was up 7.3 percent, and Del Rio increased 0.2 percent. YTD, southbound truck shipments were up

12.8 percent. Laredo, accounting for 45.2 percent of all southbound truck traffic, had a 17.5 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with 19.6 percent of shipments, experienced a 9.6 percent increase YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 14.4 percent of all southbound truck shipments into Mexico, had a 4.8 percent decrease YTD.

Import Shipments by Trucks into Texas —Number of Trucks

CITY	FEB 96	MAR 96	APR 96	APR 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	9,105	11,089	9,365	8,576	36,966	38,254	3.5
DEL RIO	2,323	2,409	2,622	2,370	9,520	9,640	1.3
EAGLE PASS	2,719	2,868	3,040	2,303	9,198	11,051	20.1
LAREDO	43,570	45,244	46,382	32,851	134,211	175,775	31.0
McALLEN-HIDALGO	7,965	8,918	9,495	10,815	44,413	34,184	-23.0
PROGRESO	610	1,390	1,443	1,256	4,218	3,857	-8.6
RIO GRANDE	558	712	741	668	2,570	2,495	-2.9
ROMA	572	484	439	272	1,563	1,884	20.5
TOTAL	67,422	73,114	73,527	59,111	242,659	277,140	14.2

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 were up 0.6 percent in April. Del Rio was up 8.8 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo increased 6.5 percent, Eagle Pass increased 6.0 percent, and Rio Grande was up 4.1 percent. Progreso increased 3.8 percent, and Laredo was up 2.5 percent. However, Brownsville decreased 15.5 percent, and Roma decreased 9.3 percent. YTD, total truck traffic had an increase of

14.2 percent. Laredo, with 63.1 percent of all northbound shipments, experienced a 31.0 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with 12.7 percent of all northbound shipments, had a 3.5 percent increase YTD. However, McAllen-Hidalgo, 12.9 percent of all truck traffic, decreased 23.0 percent.

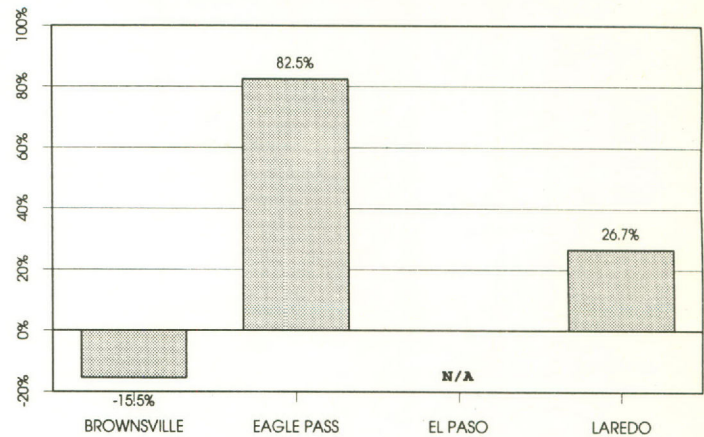
Export Shipments by Rail into Mexico —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	FEB 96	MAR 96	APR 96	APR 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	2,503	908	2,352	981	8,306	7,015	-15.5
EAGLE PASS	2,740	2,399	2,336	1,588	5,385	9,829	82.5
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	10,509	11,449	11,195	8,239	34,594	43,839	26.7
TOTAL	15,752	14,756	15,883	10,808	48,285	60,683	25.7

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 7.6 percent in April. It must be noted that this does not include El Paso data. Brownsville had a 159.0 percent increase over March's shipments. However, Eagle Pass decreased 2.6 percent, and Laredo was down 2.2 percent. YTD total southbound rail shipments into Mexico during the month of April were up 25.7 percent. Laredo, with 70.5 percent of all southbound rail shipments YTD, was up 26.7 percent. Eagle Pass, with 14.7 percent of all southbound shipments, increased 82.5 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 14.8 percent of all southbound rail shipments, was down 15.5 percent YTD.

Export Rail YTD % Change 95-96



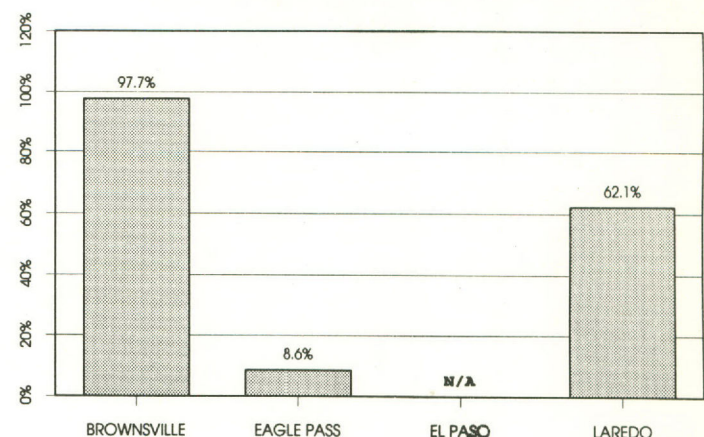
Import Shipments by Rail into Texas —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	FEB 96	MAR 96	APR 96	APR 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	1,580	2,299	1,633	906	4,404	8,707	97.7
EAGLE PASS	1,968	1,694	1,661	1,582	6,840	7,426	8.6
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	6,605	7,411	6,958	4,386	16,952	27,483	62.1
TOTAL	10,153	11,404	10,252	6,874	28,196	43,616	54.7

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 10.1 percent in April. El Paso data is not currently available. Brownsville was down 29.0 percent, Laredo decreased 6.1 percent, and Eagle Pass decreased 1.9 percent. YTD total northbound rail shipments into Texas were up 54.7 percent. Laredo, with 67.9 percent of all shipments during the month of April, was up 62.1 percent YTD. Brownsville, accounting for 15.9 percent of all northbound rail shipments, was up 97.7 percent YTD, and Eagle Pass was up 8.6 percent YTD with a 16.2 percent share of all shipments in April.

Import Rail YTD % Change 95-96



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

CITY	DUTY APR 96	MPF APR 96	OTHER REVENUE APR 96	TOTAL REVENUE APR 96	TOTAL REVENUE APR 95	YTD REVENUE APR 95	YTD REVENUE APR 96	YTD % CHG
BROWNSVILLE	2,203,363	358,144	132,240	2,693,747	3,207,273	12,950,884	11,032,414	-14.8
DEL RIO	240,220	77,094	19,264	336,578	719,484	2,186,252	1,275,527	-41.7
EAGLE PASS	763,173	181,946	993,624	1,938,743	2,116,347	8,658,444	8,093,424	-6.5
LAREDO	15,076,347	1,734,443	3,106,038	19,916,828	19,732,049	71,158,295	75,016,668	5.4
McALLEN-HIDALGO	5,589,282	447,515	164,954	6,201,751	5,579,274	17,137,620	19,211,525	12.1
PROGRESO	823,253	35,270	26,128	884,651	852,656	1,655,200	1,434,997	-13.3
RIO GRANDE	77,942	15,030	9,368	102,340	181,603	591,033	400,500	-32.2
ROMA	23,637	9,766	13,929	47,332	33,072	126,584	163,513	29.2
TOTAL	24,797,217	2,859,208	4,465,545	32,121,970	32,421,758	114,464,312	116,628,568	1.9

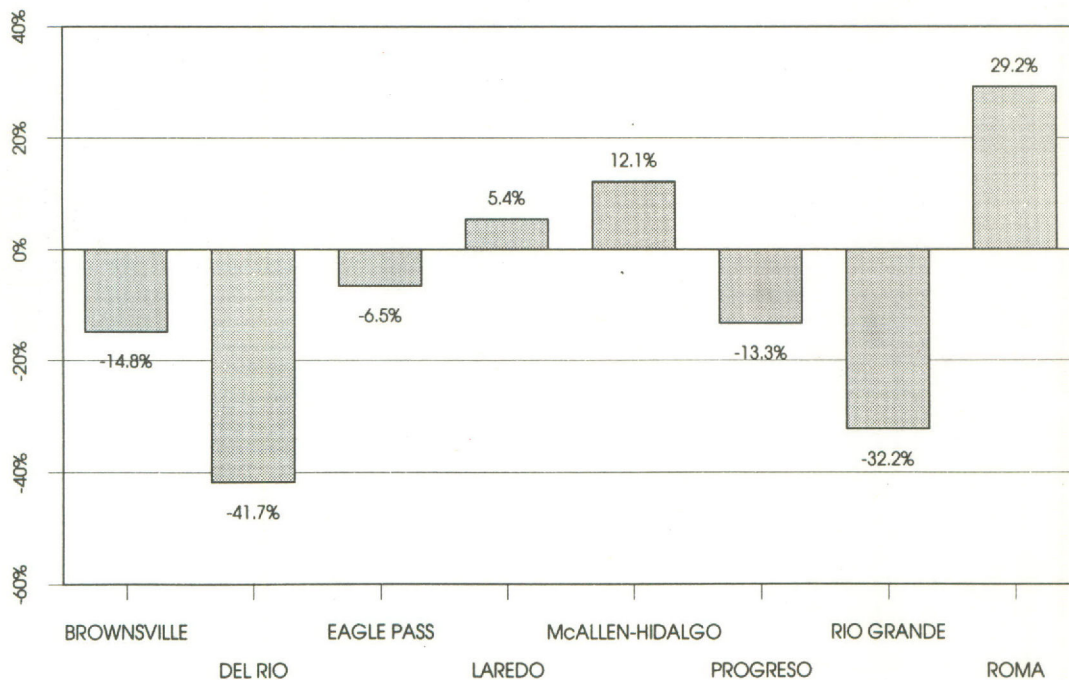
Source: Data provided by U.S. Customs Service, Port of Entry in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

*MPF = Merchandise Processing Fee

Total U.S. Customs revenues for the District of Laredo decreased 5.9 percent in April. Eagle Pass decreased 25.6 percent, Rio Grande was down 13.2 percent, Laredo was down 10.8 percent, Brownsville was down 6.9 percent, and Del Rio decreased 5.3 percent. However, Progreso increased 111.9 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo was up 15.7 percent, and Roma increased 4.0 percent. YTD revenue

figures were up 1.9 percent compared to April 1995. Laredo, accounting for 62.0 percent of total District revenues, was up 5.4 percent YTD, McAllen-Hidalgo with 19.3 percent of total revenues, was up 12.1 percent YTD, but Brownsville, with 8.4 percent of total revenues, decreased 14.8 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, with 1.0 percent of total revenues, was down 41.7 percent YTD.

% Change Total Revenues YTD 95-96



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

CITY	FEB 96	MAR 96	APR 96	APR 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	452,809	502,749	493,476	456,907	1,814,850	1,917,940	5.7
DEL RIO	149,094	170,350	166,943	152,322	565,800	639,452	13.0
EAGLE PASS	348,580	383,850	368,101	329,464	1,373,749	1,450,729	5.6
EL PASO	784,578	855,195	825,282	752,557	3,099,776	3,296,264	6.3
HARLINGEN	58,950	82,774	77,140	53,984	211,155	273,858	29.7
LAREDO	1,412,962	1,601,240	1,496,738	1,225,233	4,706,906	5,850,732	24.3
McALLEN-HIDALGO	470,160	523,478	538,461	503,585	2,119,728	2,020,216	-4.7
PHARR	116,873	121,825	125,330	75,337	264,806	469,459	77.3
TOTAL	3,794,006	4,241,461	4,091,471	3,549,389	14,156,771	15,918,650	12.4

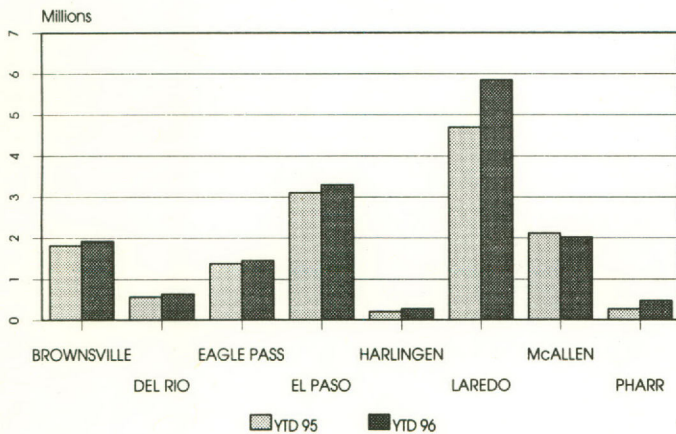
Source: Data provided by U.S. bridge operators in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

*Brownsville's Revenues are for Cameron County Bridge only.

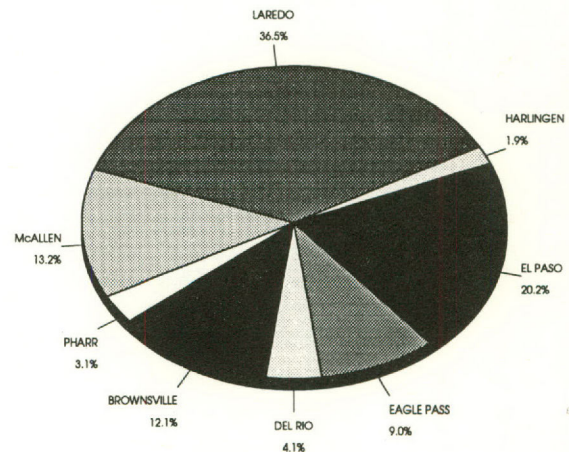
U.S. bridge operators' revenues decreased 3.5 percent in the month of April. Harlingen was down 6.8 percent, Laredo decreased 6.5 percent, and Eagle Pass decreased 4.1 percent. El Paso was down 3.5 percent, Del Rio was down 2.0 percent, and Brownsville decreased 1.8 percent. However, McAllen-Hidalgo and Pharr both increased 2.9 percent. YTD, U.S. bridge operators' revenues were up 12.4 percent. Laredo, accounting for 36.6 percent of total U.S. bridge operators' revenues, had a 24.3 percent increase YTD. El

Paso, accounting for 20.2 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues, increased 6.3 percent YTD. Brownsville, 12.1 percent of the total bridge revenues, was up 5.7 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, 9.0 percent of total U.S. bridge operators' revenues, was up 5.6 percent. However, McAllen-Hidalgo, which accounts for 13.2 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues in April, was down 4.7 percent YTD.

Total Revenues Collected YTD 95-96



% Share Revenues April 1996



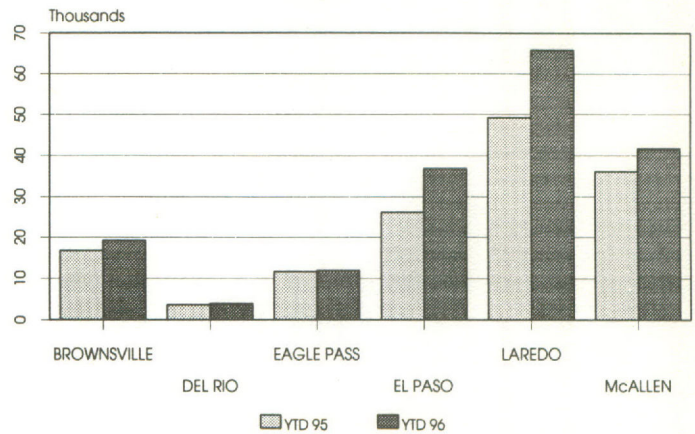
Visas to Tourists from Texas to Mexico

CITY	FEB 96	MAR 96	APR 96	APR 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	%CHG
BROWNSVILLE	4,274	6,271	4,390	4,382	16,817	19,290	14.7
DEL RIO	702	1,338	981	1,049	3,615	3,900	7.9
EAGLE PASS	2,672	4,000	2,931	2,746	11,647	11,829	1.6
EL PASO	7,717	12,063	5,722	7,475	26,100	36,777	40.9
LAREDO	12,491	23,881	16,670	10,925	49,194	65,892	33.9
McALLEN	11,106	14,709	7,691	7,025	36,068	41,625	15.4
TOTAL	38,962	62,262	38,385	33,602	143,441	179,313	25.0

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 April decreased 38.3 percent. El Paso had a 52.6 percent decrease, McAllen decreased 47.7 percent, Laredo was down 30.2 percent, and Brownsville was down 30.0 percent. Del Rio and Eagle Pass were both down 26.7 percent. YTD, the number of tourist visas issued was up 25.0 percent. Laredo, with 43.4 percent of total visas issued in April, was up 33.9 percent. McAllen, with 20.0 percent of total visas issued, had a 15.4 percent increase YTD, El Paso, with 14.9 percent of all visas issued, was up 40.9 percent YTD, and Brownsville increased 14.7 percent YTD in the number of tourist visas issued.

Tourist Visas YTD April 95-96



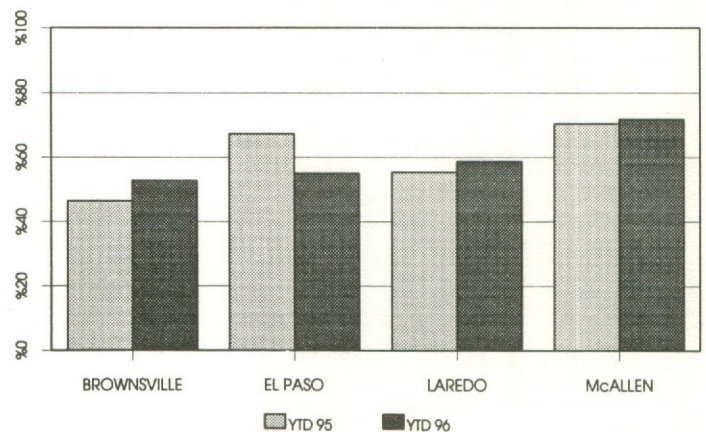
Hotel Occupancy Percentage Rate —Texas Border

CITY	FEB 96	MAR 96	APR 96	APR 95	% CHG 95-96
BROWNSVILLE	62.4	68.8	52.7	46.5	13.3
EL PASO	55.7	59.4	55.0	67.2	-18.2
LAREDO	52.1	57.3	58.7	55.3	6.0
McALLEN	83.3	78.3	71.6	70.3	1.8
AVERAGE	63.4	65.9	59.5	59.8	-0.6

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 April was 59.5 percent. McAllen had a 71.6 percent rate, Laredo had a 58.7 percent rate, El Paso had a 55.0 percent rate, and Brownsville had an occupancy rate of 52.7 percent. The YTD average occupancy rate for the reporting Texas border cities was down 0.6 percent. Brownsville was up 13.3 percent, Laredo increased 6.0 percent, and McAllen increased 1.8 percent YTD. El Paso hotels reported an 18.2 percent decrease YTD.

Hotel Occupancy Percentage April 95-96



Power Connections—Texas Border

Residential Connections

CITY	FEB 96	MAR 96	APR 96	APR 95
BROWNSVILLE	27,581	27,635	27,667	27,425
DEL RIO	13,122	13,142	13,162	12,947
EAGLE PASS	8,680	8,689	8,678	8,595
EL PASO	245,690	246,183	246,778	242,302
HARLINGEN	20,220	20,278	20,281	19,926
LAREDO	42,319	42,501	42,633	41,389
McALLEN	29,102	29,193	29,266	28,870
TOTAL	386,714	387,621	388,465	381,454

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

cities increased slightly over March figures by 0.22 percent. YTD, residential power connections for all reporting border cities were up 1.8 percent. Laredo experienced the largest increase—3.0 percent, followed by El Paso and Harlingen, up 1.8 percent. Del Rio increased 1.7 percent, McAllen increased 1.4 percent, Eagle Pass was up 1.0 percent, and Brownsville increased 0.9 percent YTD.

April commercial power connections for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.09 in April from March figures. Eagle Pass increased 0.90 percent, Brownsville was up 0.48 percent, Del Rio increased 0.45 percent, Harlingen increased 0.16 percent, El Paso was up 0.10 percent, and Laredo increased 0.08 percent. However, McAllen decreased 0.49 percent. YTD commercial power connections for reporting border cities increased by 1.1 percent over April 1995. El Paso was up 2.3 percent, and Del Rio increased 1.2 percent YTD. McAllen and Harlingen were both up 0.9 percent. However, Laredo, Brownsville, and Eagle Pass decreased YTD.

Commercial Connections

CITY	FEB 96	MAR 96	APR 96	APR 95
BROWNSVILLE	2,475	2,496	2,508	2,538
DEL RIO	1,796	1,797	1,805	1,784
EAGLE PASS	1,245	1,226	1,237	1,254
EL PASO	24,674	24,700	24,725	24,170
HARLINGEN	3,088	3,091	3,096	3,069
LAREDO	6,426	6,437	6,442	6,559
McALLEN	4,922	4,942	4,918	4,876
TOTAL	44,626	44,689	44,731	44,250

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	FEB 96	MAR 96	APR 96	APR 95
BROWNSVILLE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
DEL RIO	30	30	30	30
EAGLE PASS	17	17	17	22
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HARLINGEN	86	86	85	85
LAREDO	130	130	130	133
McALLEN	47	48	46	48
TOTAL	310	311	308	318

Source: Data provided by CP&L, 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 decreased 0.96 percent in April over March's figures. McAllen decreased 4.17 percent, and Harlingen was down 1.16 percent. All other cities showed no change for the month. YTD, industrial power connections decreased 3.1 percent. Eagle Pass had the largest decrease—22.7 percent. McAllen decreased 4.2 percent, and Laredo had a 2.3 percent decrease. Del Rio and Harlingen showed no change YTD.

Building Permits — Texas Border

Number of Permits

NUMBER	FEB 96	MAR 96	APR 96	APR 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	174	257	247	203	703	875	24.5
DEL RIO	131	125	123	83	299	452	51.2
EAGLE PASS	28	37	36	28	121	127	5.0
EL PASO	1,228	1,143	1,095	864	3,243	4,288	32.2
HARLINGEN	77	83	111	57	257	335	30.4
LAREDO	277	350	325	296	1,111	1,161	4.5
MCALLEN	104	117	133	120	500	470	-6.0
TOTAL	2,019	2,112	2,070	1,651	6,234	7,708	23.6

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

April building permits issued by reporting Texas border cities were down 2.0 percent from March. Laredo decreased 7.1 percent, El Paso was down 4.2 percent, Brownsville decreased 3.9 percent, Eagle Pass decreased 2.7 percent, and Del Rio was down 1.6 percent. However, Harlingen increased 33.7 percent, and McAllen was up 13.7 percent. YTD, the number of building permits issued

were up 23.6 percent. El Paso, accounting for 52.9 percent of all building permits issued, had a 32.2 percent increase. Laredo, with 15.7 percent of building permits issued, was up 4.5 percent YTD. Brownsville was up 24.5 percent, but McAllen was down 6.0 percent.

U.S. Dollar Value of Permits

VALUE	FEB 96	MAR 96	APR 96	APR 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	5,984,400	5,748,327	5,489,597	6,221,084	26,474,523	24,753,925	-6.5
DEL RIO	1,362,792	1,628,873	3,524,608	958,401	4,823,505	8,349,592	73.1
EAGLE PASS	853,226	868,753	570,093	3,145,623	5,021,301	3,063,680	-39.0
EL PASO	40,428,358	42,976,123	38,753,301	32,200,172	124,817,536	150,455,599	20.5
HARLINGEN	6,857,081	6,195,152	3,986,852	1,885,340	10,093,649	21,739,680	115.4
LAREDO	9,842,952	15,792,770	12,170,415	14,614,308	47,980,081	49,685,853	3.6
MCALLEN	7,238,068	8,242,925	9,090,632	10,647,310	32,777,273	34,730,478	6.0
TOTAL	72,566,877	81,452,923	73,585,498	69,672,238	251,987,868	292,778,807	16.2

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

April building permit values for reporting Texas border cities were down 9.7 percent from March. Harlingen decreased 35.6 percent, Eagle Pass decreased 34.4 percent, and Laredo was down 22.9 percent. El Paso was down 9.8 percent, and Brownsville was down 4.5 percent. However, Del Rio increased 116.4 percent, and McAllen was up 10.3 percent. YTD, reporting border cities experienced a

16.2 percent increase. El Paso, with 52.7 percent of total value, had a 20.5 percent YTD increase, Laredo, with 16.5 percent total value, was up 3.6 percent YTD, and McAllen, with 12.4 percent total value, increased 6.0 percent YTD. However, Brownsville, with 7.5 percent total value, decreased 6.5 percent YTD.

Employment/Unemployment Rates —Texas Border

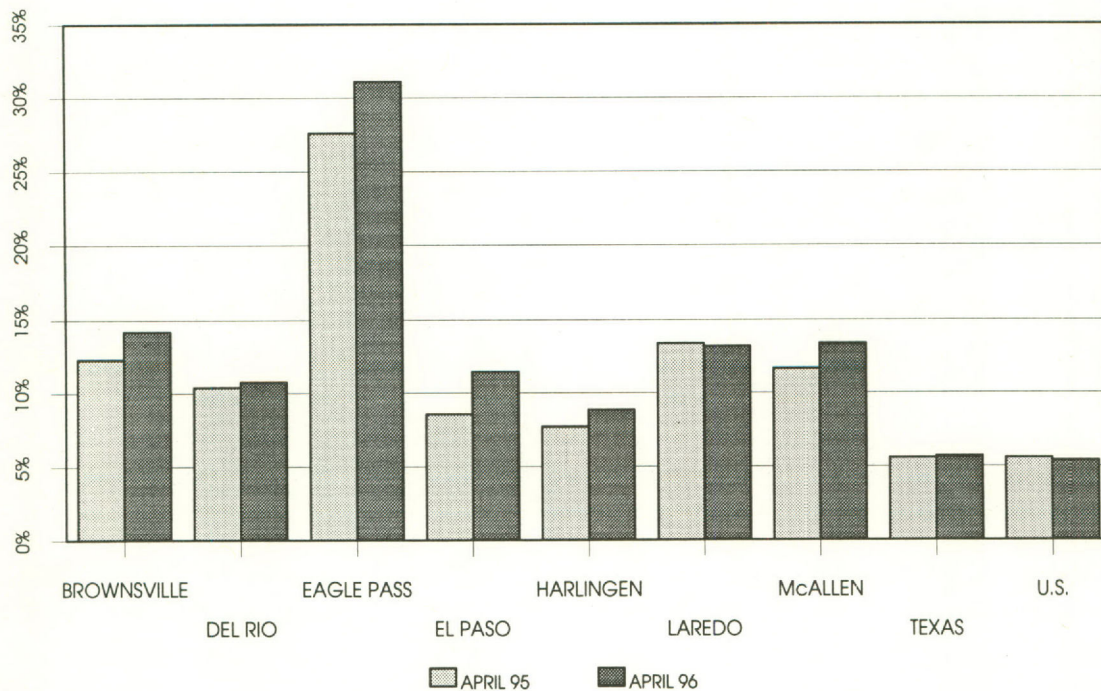
CITY	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	PERCENT	PERCENT
	EMPLOYED	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED
	APR 96	APR 95	APR 96	APR 95	APR 96	APR 95
BROWNSVILLE	40,527	40,418	6,686	5,681	14.2	12.3
DEL RIO	13,850	13,823	1,677	1,606	10.8	10.4
EAGLE PASS	7,806	7,505	3,521	2,859	31.1	27.6
EL PASO	226,088	234,317	29,496	22,079	11.5	8.6
HARLINGEN	23,282	23,220	2,274	1,932	8.9	7.7
LAREDO	54,453	56,494	8,295	8,710	13.2	13.4
McALLEN	40,996	39,725	6,336	5,280	13.4	11.7
TOTAL	407,002	415,502	58,285	48,147	12.5	10.4
THE TEXAS UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					5.71	5.62
THE NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					5.38	5.60

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 April, total employment in reporting Texas border cities decreased 0.1 percent (582 jobs lost) from March figures. Eagle Pass decreased 1.1 percent (86 jobs lost), El Paso decreased 0.5 percent (1,115 jobs lost), and Laredo decreased 0.3 percent (174 jobs lost). However, McAllen was up 1.1 percent (437 jobs gained), Brownsville and Harlingen both had a 0.6 percent increase (224

and 129 jobs gained, respectively), Del Rio increased slightly (3 jobs gained). YTD, the total employment in Texas border cities was down 2.1 percent (8,500 jobs lost) from a year ago. The average unemployment rate for the border was 12.5 percent compared to 5.7 percent for Texas and 5.4 percent for the U.S. in April.

% Unemployed April 95-96



Air Passenger Service Activities —Selected Border Cities

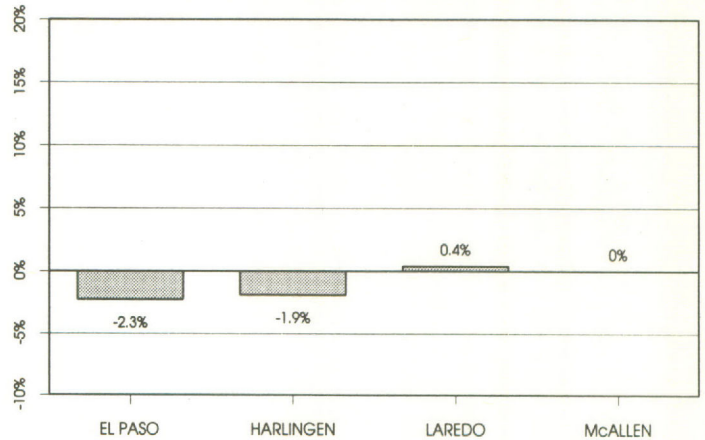
Passenger Arrivals

CITY	FEB 96	MAR 96	APR 96	APR 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
EL PASO	124,833	155,146	137,718	146,638	558,212	545,131	-2.3
HARLINGEN	38,507	45,602	38,614	40,239	159,289	156,219	-1.9
LAREDO	4,792	5,241	4,938	4,667	19,953	20,038	0.4
McALLEN	26,512	28,699	24,836	24,595	106,280	106,290	0.0
TOTAL	194,644	234,688	206,106	216,139	843,734	827,678	-1.9

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

April air passenger arrivals for reporting Texas border cities were down 12.2 percent from March figures. Harlingen was down 15.3 percent, McAllen decreased 13.5 percent, El Paso was down 11.2 percent, and Laredo decreased 5.8 percent. YTD air passenger arrivals were down 1.9 percent. El Paso, with 66.8 percent of total passengers, decreased 2.3 percent YTD, Harlingen was down 1.9 percent, and McAllen showed no change. Laredo increased 0.4 percent in air passenger arrivals YTD.

Passenger Arrivals % Change YTD 95-96



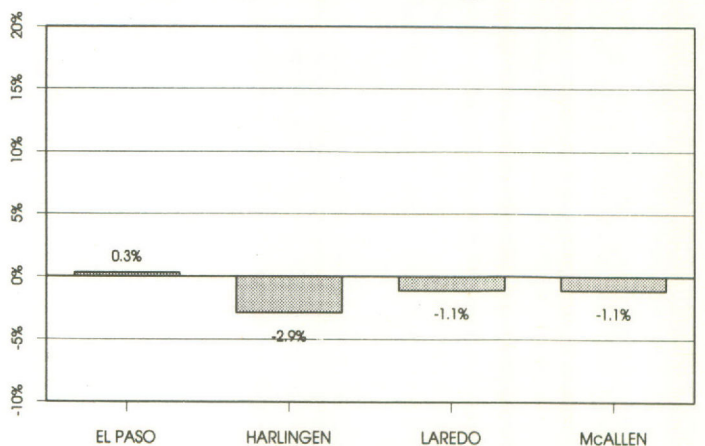
Passenger Departures

CITY	FEB 96	MAR 96	APR 96	APR 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
EL PASO	128,894	161,913	141,665	147,259	424,338	425,557	0.3
HARLINGEN	39,439	46,651	41,458	43,095	125,843	122,165	-2.9
LAREDO	4,822	5,467	4,941	4,836	16,015	15,841	-1.1
McALLEN	27,491	29,540	27,281	27,026	85,350	84,404	-1.1
TOTAL	200,646	243,571	215,345	222,216	651,546	647,967	-0.5

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

April air passenger departures for reporting Texas border cities were down 11.6 percent from March figures. El Paso was down 12.5 percent, Harlingen decreased 11.1 percent, Laredo was down 9.6 percent, and McAllen was down 7.6 percent. YTD, air passenger departures were down 0.5 percent from a year ago. Harlingen was down 2.9 percent in air passenger departures YTD. Laredo and McAllen were both down 1.1 percent YTD. However, El Paso, with 65.8 percent of all departures, was up 0.3 percent.

Passenger Departures % Change YTD 95-96



Port Of Corpus Christi

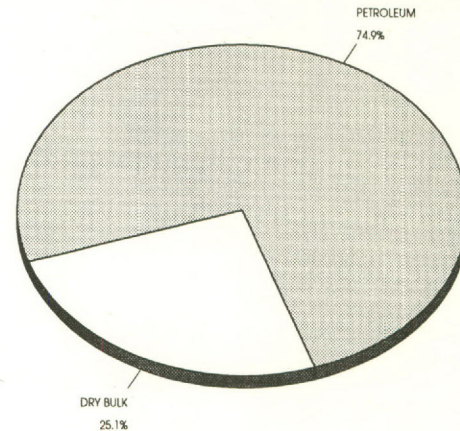
Inbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	FEB 96	MAR 96	APR 96	APR 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BREAK BULK	0	1,545	0	0	0	1,545	N/A
CONTAINER	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
CHEMICAL	1,623	1,655	0	2,311	40,137	3,278	-91.8
DRY BULK	44,169	38,783	983,336	303,211	1,077,998	1,562,467	44.9
PETROLEUM	2,828,770	3,153,945	2,931,518	2,330,963	10,070,404	11,543,984	14.6
TOTAL	2,874,562	3,195,928	3,914,854	2,636,485	11,188,538	13,111,274	17.2

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 22.5 percent increase in inbound cargo tonnage in April. Dry bulk, 25.1 percent of total inbound cargo for April, increased 2,435.5 percent. Petroleum, which accounted for 74.9 percent of the Port's inbound cargo, decreased by 7.1 percent in April. YTD, inbound cargo tonnage was up 17.2 percent. Dry bulk was up 44.9 percent YTD, and petroleum was up 14.6 percent YTD.

% Share April 1996 Inbound Cargo



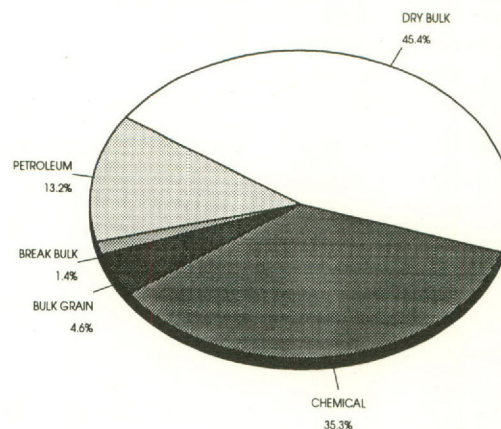
Outbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	FEB 96	MAR 96	APR 96	APR 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BREAK BULK	813	0	11,623	14,358	36,568	12,436	-66.0
BULK GRAIN	72,999	11,581	37,259	50,064	242,546	190,261	-21.6
CHEMICAL	105,467	0	286,237	205,071	583,166	546,135	-6.4
CONTAINER	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
DRY BULK	135,497	0	367,758	270,126	668,318	752,577	12.6
PETROLEUM	154,762	16,129	106,917	165,863	399,828	380,251	-4.9
TOTAL	469,538	27,710	809,794	705,482	1,930,427	1,881,660	-2.5

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 2,822.4 percent increase in outbound cargo tonnage in April. There were shipments of break bulk, chemical, and dry bulk. Petroleum increased 562.9 percent, and bulk grain increased 221.7 percent. YTD, total outbound cargo tonnage was down 2.5 percent.

% Share April 1996 Outbound Cargo



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