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# Border Business Indicators

Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

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Texas State Documents  
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### Note from the Director

Indicators of border business activity for the month of October demonstrated an increase of seventeen indicators while five indicators decreased. In addition, the year-to-date (YTD) figures, thirteen indicators were up and nine decreased. Selected 2002 YTD comparisons to 2001 reported by border cities include the following:

- Southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico were down 1.4 percent. Laredo decreased 0.4 percent, Rio Grande fell 62.3 percent, McAllen registered a decrease of 7.0 percent and El Paso increased 7.7 percent.
- Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 4.1 percent. Laredo gained 1.9 percent. El Paso went up 13.8 percent. McAllen marked a decrease of 6.4 percent.
- Southbound vehicle crossings were down 2.6 percent. Brownsville fell 1.1 percent, and Eagle Pass increased 7.1 percent. El Paso went down 15.0 percent and Pharr increased 5.0 percent. Laredo went down 0.8 percent. McAllen increased 6.3 percent.
- Northbound vehicle crossings were up 0.6 percent. Eagle Pass rose 6.7 percent. Roma increased 3.2 percent, El Paso went down 12.0 percent, Brownsville was up 5.0 percent and Pharr increased 5.2 percent.
- Southbound truck crossings into Mexico gained 2.2 percent. Eagle Pass went down 9.3 percent. Pharr increased 6.8 percent, and Laredo increased 4.1 percent. Del Rio was up 11.7 percent. Progreso rose 3.0 and Rio Grande increased 1.5 percent.
- Northbound truck crossings into Texas went up 4.5 percent, Pharr rose 6.9 percent and Eagle Pass posted an 8.2 percent decrease. Brownsville increased 1.5 percent, Laredo climbed 2.4 percent, Del Rio increased 26.3 percent. Rio Grande had a gain of 0.9 percent. Progreso went up 29.0 percent.
- Southbound shipments by rail were up 7.1 percent.
- Northbound shipments by rail were down 3.1 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Customs went down 1.1 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. bridge operators were up 7.3 percent.
- Total building permits issued were down 5.1 percent. Eagle Pass rose 5.1 percent, while McAllen gained 10.8 percent, and Brownsville registered an increase of 11.3 percent. El Paso showed a 62.2 percent increase.
- Total building permit values increased 3.9 percent. Brownsville rose 1.9 percent. McAllen gained 10.4 percent. El Paso was up 68.7 percent, and Eagle Pass decreased 5.9 percent.
- Total employment was up 0.3 percent, with 1,298 jobs gained. The average unemployment rate for the border in October 2002 was 8.4 percent.

Visit the Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development's new web site at <http://texascenter.tamui.edu/>.

# Border Research Reports

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

## Border Research Reports Vol. I

Contained in this issue are summaries of the research projects funded under the 1999-2000 Texas Center Research Fellows Grant program. The opinions, ideas, and conclusions expressed are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Texas Center or Texas A&M International University.

- Benthic Macroinvertebrates as Monitors of Rio Grande Water Quality, by Dr. Tom Vaughan and Dr. Jose A. Flores.
- A Sociolinguistic Profile of Heritage Spanish Speakers in the Public Schools of Laredo, Tx., by Dr. Kati Pletsch de Garcia.
- Trade and the Environment: Perceptions from a Region on the Border , by Dr. David W. Yoskowitz.
- Language Code-Switching: A Psychological Analysis of Why Bilinguals Mix Spanish and English en la Frontera, by Dr. Roberto R. Heredia.
- Guerrero Archives\*, by Dr. Stanley Green.

## Border Research Reports Vol. II

Contained in this issue are summaries of the research projects funded under the 2000-2001 Texas Center Research Fellows Grant Program. The opinions, ideas, and conclusions expressed are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Texas Center or Texas A&M International University.

- Impoverished Consumers: The Lived Experience of Colonia Residents, by Dr. Jyotsna Mukherji.
- Rio Grande and Manadas Creek Water and Sediment Chronic Toxicity Studies, by Dr. Sushma Krishnamurthy
- The State of Child Care in Laredo, by Dr. Linda Medearis.
- Utilization of Physician Health Care Services in Mexico by Border Residents in Laredo, Texas, by Dr. Michael Landeck and Dr. Cecilia Garza.
- Characteristics of Successful Principals in a Border Town, Dr. Carolyn McCreight and Dr. Claudio Salinas.
- Utilization of Physician Health Care Service in Mexico by Border Residents in Laredo, TX, by Dr. Michael Landeck and Dr. Cecilia Garza.
- "Mi Futuro" : Sexual Abstinence Program (1999-2000) for Laredo Independent School District Middle Schools, by Dr. Sweetie Law.

\*In production.

### 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.

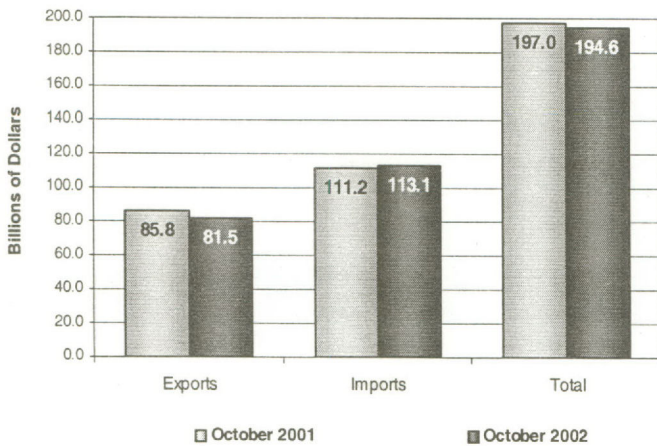
# October Export Figures Down But Import Figures Up in 2002

October 2002 year-to-date trade between the U.S. and Mexico reached \$194.6 billion in total trade dollar value. In comparison to October 2001 year-to-date total, the total trade dollar value contracted by 1.2 percent. Year-to-date, U.S. exports to Mexico declined by 5.0 percent against the same period last year. U.S. imports from Mexico registered an increase of 1.7 percent over the same period. (See Charts 1A & 1B)

In the month of October 2002, U.S. exports fell short by 1.1 percent compared to the same month in 2001, but have shown a continued upward trend since July (See Chart 2). U.S. imports for the month of October 2002 were 6.7 percent above those of the same month in 2001. From July to October 2002, imports have maintained a positive trend over the same period last year (See Chart 3).

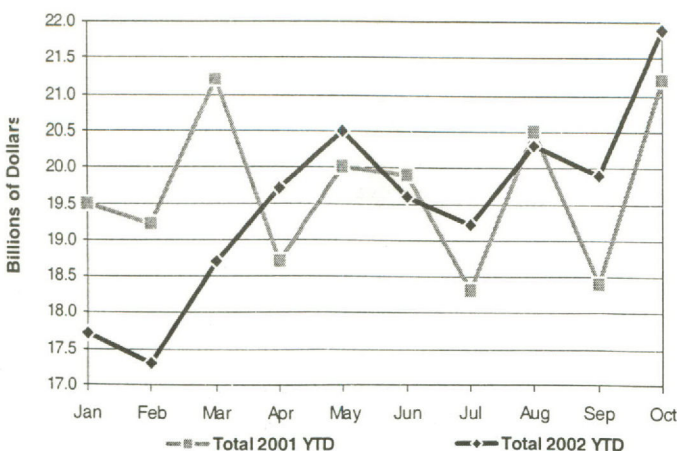
If the current trends continue in both exports and imports, there is a possibility that this year's total trade may match that of 2001. These issues will be reviewed in the next *BBI*. —*B. G. Garcia*

**Chart 1A U.S.-Mexico Trade**  
October 2001 YTD vs. October 2002 YTD



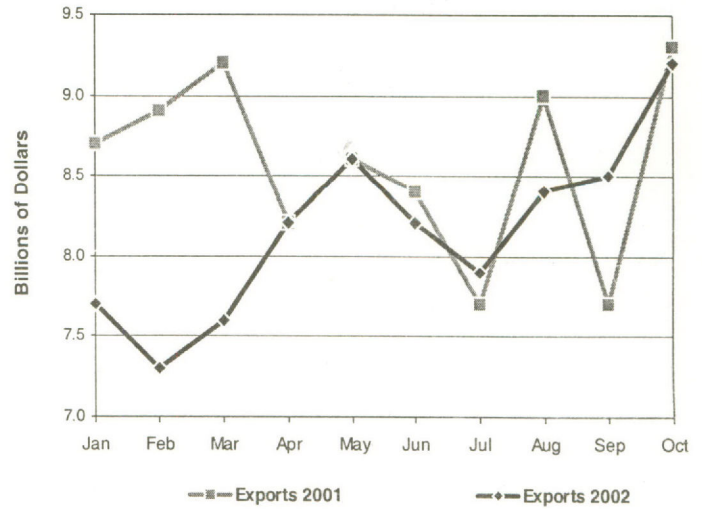
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce data compiled by the Texas Center at Texas A&M International University

**Chart 1B U.S.-Mexico Trade, Monthly Totals**  
October 2001 YTD vs. October 2002 YTD



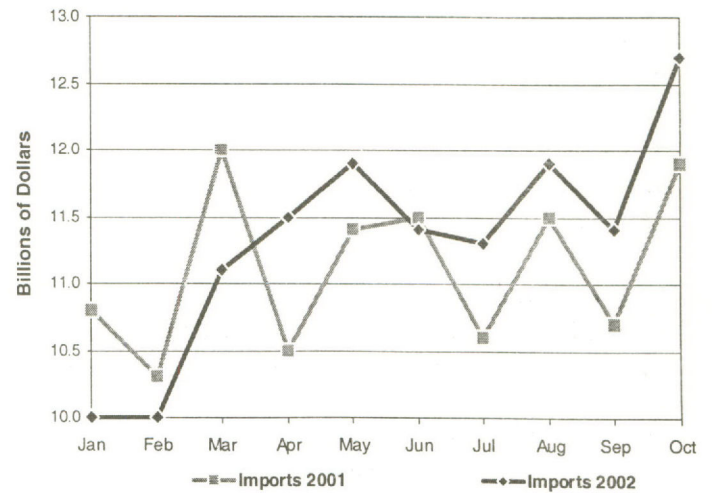
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce data compiled by the Texas Center at Texas A&M International University

**Chart 2 Monthly U.S. Exports to Mexico**  
October 2001 YTD vs. October 2002 YTD



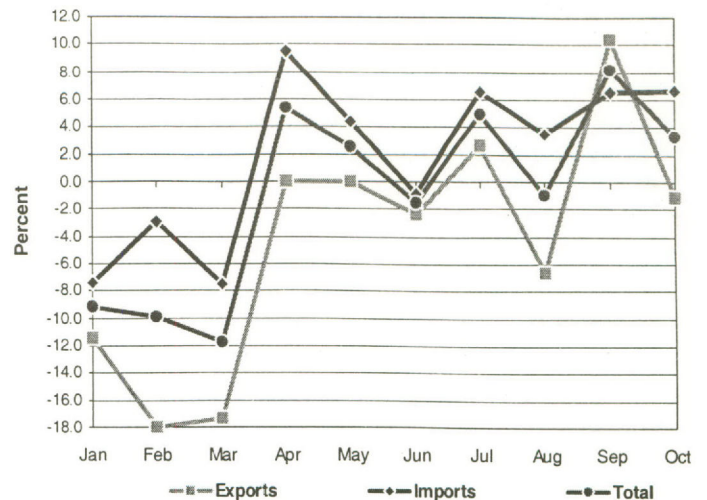
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce data compiled by the Texas Center at Texas A&M International University

**Chart 3 Monthly U.S. Imports from Mexico**  
October 2001 YTD vs. October 2002 YTD



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce data compiled by the Texas Center at Texas A&M International University

**Chart 4 U.S.-Mexico Trade, Monthly Percent Changes**  
October 2001 YTD vs. October 2002 YTD



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce data compiled by the Texas Center at Texas A&M International University

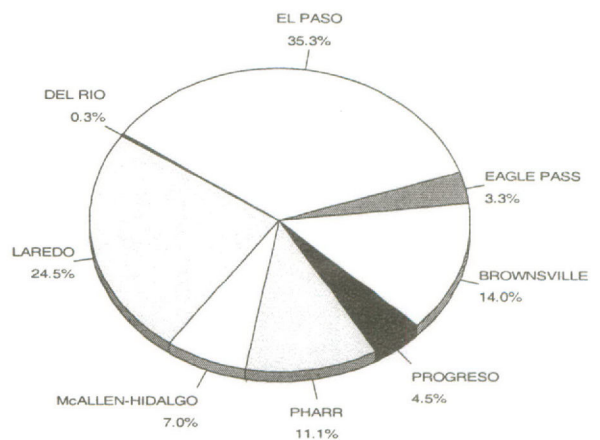
## Pedestrian Bridge Crossings into Mexico

CITY	AUG 02	SEP 02	OCT 02	OCT 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	228,448	200,615	193,216	201,288	2,323,650	2,228,014	-4.1
DEL RIO	3,773	3,964	4,006	5,290	43,876	46,544	6.1
EAGLE PASS	51,824	46,352	46,062	53,416	509,610	490,660	-3.7
EL PASO	545,814	478,809	488,226	461,411	4,563,284	4,915,579	7.7
HARLINGEN	75	50	76	90	782	640	-18.2
LAREDO	368,457	321,153	339,216	289,427	3,458,071	3,443,280	-0.4
McALLEN-HIDALGO	106,016	97,075	96,537	97,458	1,138,769	1,058,513	-7.0
PHARR	392,935	153,928	152,759	294,242	3,509,903	3,269,909	-6.8
PROGRESO	70,521	58,632	61,537	64,181	1,023,110	1,022,803	0.0
RIO GRANDE	268	160	146	305	9,721	3,669	-62.3
ROMA	12,518	11,360	N/A	13,857	129,783	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,780,649</b>	<b>1,372,098</b>	<b>1,381,781</b>	<b>1,480,965</b>	<b>16,710,559</b>	<b>16,479,611</b>	<b>-1.4</b>

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

Southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico for October were up 0.7 percent. Rio Grande dropped 8.8 percent, Brownsville fell 3.7 percent, Eagle Pass was down 0.6 percent, El Paso gained 2.0 percent, and Laredo increased 5.6 percent. Progreso rose 5.0 percent, and McAllen-Hidalgo went down 0.6 percent. Del Rio gained 1.1 percent. YTD southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico decreased 1.4 percent. El Paso's southbound pedestrian crossings, which made up 29.8 percent of all crossings, increased 7.7 percent YTD. Laredo, accounting for 20.9 percent of total crossings, lost 0.4 percent YTD. Brownsville, with a 13.5 percent share, decreased 4.1 percent YTD. Progreso, with 6.2 percent share, showed no change. Del Rio, with 0.3 percent, increased 6.1 percent YTD.

**% Share Pedestrians for October 2002**



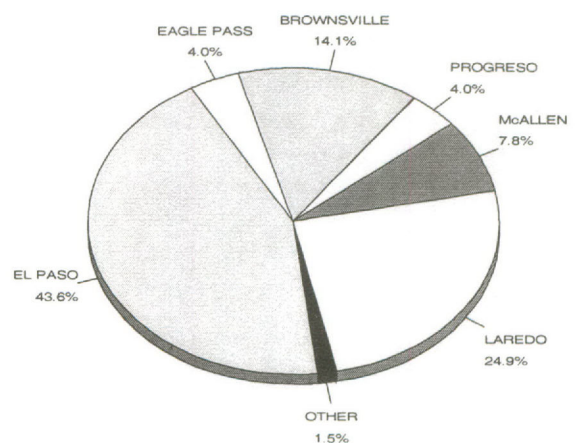
## Pedestrian Bridge Crossings into Texas

CITY	AUG 02	SEP 02	OCT 02	OCT 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	260,100	217,637	216,762	233,657	2,634,701	2,520,117	-4.3
DEL RIO	7,455	6,827	6,491	7,262	78,395	75,226	-4.0
EAGLE PASS	64,021	59,614	61,409	69,625	671,178	634,256	-5.5
EL PASO	746,528	669,825	671,718	639,793	6,006,009	6,835,970	13.8
LAREDO	415,074	363,597	383,933	324,925	3,805,596	3,879,093	1.9
McALLEN-HIDALGO	135,960	123,117	120,560	130,643	1,452,738	1,359,754	-6.4
PRESIDIO	2,231	2,190	1,973	2,174	25,897	21,576	-16.7
PROGRESO	71,026	60,046	61,529	64,452	1,016,542	1,022,026	0.5
RIO GRANDE	1,300	1,162	1,000	1,052	13,081	14,191	8.5
ROMA	15,474	14,134	14,255	17,001	167,642	155,051	-7.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,719,169</b>	<b>1,518,149</b>	<b>1,539,630</b>	<b>1,490,584</b>	<b>15,871,779</b>	<b>16,517,260</b>	<b>4.1</b>

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 1.4 percent in October. Progreso increased 2.5 percent, Brownsville was down 0.4 percent, El Paso rose 0.3 percent, and Laredo gained 5.6 percent. YTD northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 4.1 percent. El Paso, accounting for 41.4 percent of northbound crossings, was up 13.8 percent YTD. Laredo, with 23.5 percent of all northbound crossings, was up 1.9 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 15.3 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings, decreased 4.3 percent over the previous year.

**% Share Pedestrians for October 2002**



## Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	AUG 02	SEP 02	OCT 02	OCT 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	460,796	611,272	617,728	499,744	6,097,957	6,031,795	-1.1
DEL RIO	183,924	168,482	170,896	138,083	1,577,476	1,727,813	9.5
EAGLE PASS	291,060	266,103	276,490	232,197	2,636,304	2,823,440	7.1
EL PASO	394,035	371,753	362,806	332,765	4,465,649	3,794,589	-15.0
HARLINGEN	58,682	52,002	51,342	43,084	478,336	564,120	17.9
LAREDO	739,670	676,613	724,656	640,011	7,187,648	7,133,585	-0.8
McALLEN-HIDALGO	550,355	502,464	504,210	422,929	4,911,583	5,221,026	6.3
PHARR	189,774	176,191	176,538	144,528	1,705,656	1,790,430	5.0
PROGRESO	101,995	88,213	89,477	75,894	939,358	1,005,566	7.0
RIO GRANDE	58,399	54,363	54,713	48,690	510,397	582,493	14.1
ROMA	100,574	93,536	N/A	87,514	968,510	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,129,264</b>	<b>3,060,992</b>	<b>3,028,856</b>	<b>2,665,439</b>	<b>31,478,874</b>	<b>30,674,857</b>	<b>-2.6</b>

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

Southbound vehicle bridge crossings into Mexico were down 1.0 percent in October. Eagle Pass was up 3.9 percent, Del Rio increased 1.4 percent, Rio Grande rose 0.6 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo went up 0.3 percent, and Brownsville gained 1.1 percent. Harlingen fell 1.3 percent, and Laredo was up 7.1 percent. YTD southbound vehicle bridge crossings were down 2.6 percent. Laredo,

with 23.3 percent of all southbound traffic, fell 0.8 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 19.7 percent of all southbound vehicle bridge crossings, had a 1.1 percent decrease YTD. El Paso, accounting for 12.4 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, fell 15.0 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 17.0 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, experienced a 6.3 percent increase YTD.

## Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	AUG 02	SEP 02	OCT 02	OCT 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	424,981	398,589	411,513	319,726	5,921,580	6,218,317	5.0
DEL RIO	185,899	174,318	173,904	142,561	1,626,583	1,774,288	9.1
EAGLE PASS	295,524	279,565	285,094	240,725	2,738,472	2,922,102	6.7
EL PASO	644,972	612,816	575,628	576,608	7,170,542	6,310,343	-12.0
HARLINGEN	72,803	66,741	64,033	62,027	607,530	722,789	19.0
LAREDO	633,677	597,124	621,889	536,997	6,495,029	6,229,773	-4.1
McALLEN-HIDALGO	504,701	476,087	475,048	385,837	4,550,673	4,838,594	6.3
PHARR	236,036	216,347	220,923	186,139	2,138,723	2,249,370	5.2
PRESIDIO	62,746	58,335	55,241	52,274	613,642	625,521	1.9
PROGRESO	102,275	90,881	89,668	79,397	936,518	1,017,985	8.7
RIO GRANDE	59,266	57,397	57,190	50,087	542,546	601,667	10.9
ROMA	99,007	96,527	98,246	88,184	982,084	1,013,989	3.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,321,887</b>	<b>3,124,727</b>	<b>3,128,377</b>	<b>2,720,562</b>	<b>34,323,922</b>	<b>34,524,738</b>	<b>0.6</b>

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 October were up 0.1 percent. Eagle Pass rose 2.0 percent, Progreso was down 1.3 percent, Brownsville gained 3.2 percent, and McAllen-Hidalgo lost 0.2 percent. Presidio was down 5.3 percent, and Laredo increased 4.1 percent. YTD northbound vehicle bridge crossings

into Texas were up 0.6 percent. El Paso, with 18.3 percent of all crossings, was down 12.0 percent YTD. Laredo, with 18.0 percent of all crossings, fell 4.1 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 18.0 percent of all crossings, increased 5.0 percent YTD.

## Truck Crossings into Mexico —Number of Trucks

CITY	AUG 02	SEP 02	OCT 02	OCT 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE+	19,954	17,193	18,482	19,724	182,805	183,600	0.4
DEL RIO+	6,826	6,545	7,256	6,509	59,498	66,486	11.7
EAGLE PASS+	6,858	6,637	7,518	7,320	75,228	68,205	-9.3
EL PASO+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	N/A	N/A	N/A
HARLINGEN+	3,788	3,463	3,373	3,469	37,651	33,545	-10.9
LAREDO+	127,506	112,901	129,282	128,487	1,169,395	1,217,022	4.1
McALLEN-HIDALGO+	2,369	2,083	2,192	2,757	31,430	22,732	-27.7
PHARR+	23,249	22,265	23,779	21,812	219,297	234,138	6.8
PROGRESO+	2,478	2,590	2,652	2,572	21,665	22,319	3.0
RIO GRANDE+	1,647	1,678	1,778	1,553	18,567	18,854	1.5
ROMA+	1,066	829	N/A	1,436	11,689	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>195,741</b>	<b>176,184</b>	<b>196,312</b>	<b>195,639</b>	<b>1,827,225</b>	<b>1,866,901</b>	<b>2.2</b>

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.

Truck crossings into Mexico were up 11.4 percent in October. Harlingen dropped 2.6 percent, Del Rio gained 10.9 percent, and Pharr rose 6.8 percent. Laredo was up 14.5 percent and Brownsville increased 7.5 percent. YTD southbound truck crossings were up 2.2 percent. Laredo, with 65.2 percent of all southbound crossings,

experienced a 4.1 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with 9.8 percent of all southbound crossings, had a 0.4 percent increase YTD. Pharr, with 12.5 percent, registered a gain of 6.8 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, with 3.7 percent of all truck crossings, fell 9 percent YTD.

## Truck Crossings into Texas —Number of Trucks

CITY	AUG 02	SEP 02	OCT 02	OCT 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	23,425	20,502	22,416	22,322	212,554	215,739	1.5
DEL RIO	6,158	6,160	6,919	4,967	49,634	62,696	26.3
EAGLE PASS	8,068	7,542	8,593	8,346	83,437	76,606	-8.2
EL PASO	62,187	58,450	66,541	60,214	557,929	604,591	8.4
FABENS	0	0	0	2	107	0	-100.0
FALCON	51	32	31	28	287	291	1.4
LAREDO	126,671	115,931	131,048	131,992	1,183,777	1,212,603	2.4
McALLEN-HIDALGO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
PHARR	33,796	30,104	34,884	32,070	310,538	332,114	6.9
PRESIDIO	438	408	428	567	5,662	5,447	-3.8
PROGRESO	2,377	2,541	1,864	2,240	15,936	20,550	29.0
RIO GRANDE	2,181	2,304	2,427	1,946	22,026	22,219	0.9
ROMA	815	634	702	1,063	9,938	8,508	-14.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>266,167</b>	<b>244,608</b>	<b>275,853</b>	<b>265,757</b>	<b>2,451,825</b>	<b>2,561,364</b>	<b>4.5</b>

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

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

October northbound truck crossings into Texas were up 12.8 percent. Eagle Pass was up 13.9 percent, Brownsville rose 9.3 percent, Progreso lost 26.6 percent, Pharr went up 15.9 percent, and Laredo gained 13.0 percent. Roma increased 10.7 percent. YTD northbound truck crossings were up 4.5 percent. Laredo, account-

ing for 47.3 percent of all northbound truck crossings, had a 2.4 percent increase YTD. Pharr, with 13.0 percent of all crossings, experienced a 6.9 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with 8.4 percent of all northbound truck crossings, experienced a 1.5 percent gain YTD.

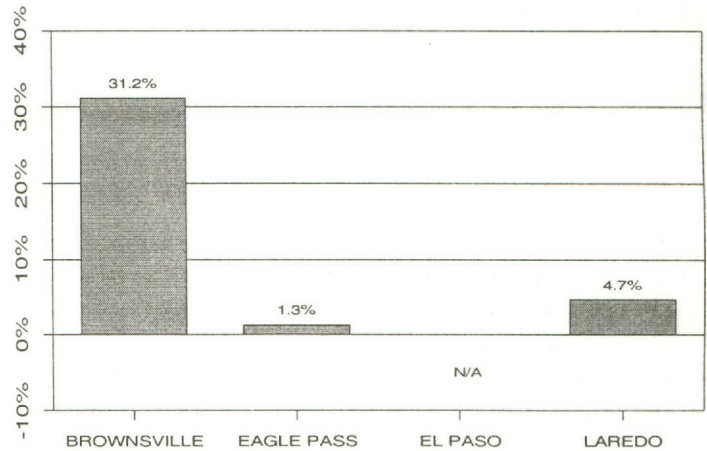
## Export Shipments by Rail into Mexico —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	AUG 02	SEP 02	OCT 02	OCT 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	4,676	3,556	4,866	3,551	32,091	42,088	31.2
EAGLE PASS	6,947	6,092	6,855	7,358	71,303	72,255	1.3
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	17,139	16,647	18,199	16,329	150,661	157,690	4.7
TOTAL	28,762	26,295	29,920	27,238	254,055	272,033	7.1

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 gained 13.8 percent in October. Brownsville rose 36.8 percent, and Laredo increased 9.3 percent. Eagle Pass went up 12.5 percent. YTD southbound rail shipments into Mexico from Texas were up 7.1 percent. Laredo which accounted for 58.0 percent of all southbound rail shipments, was up 4.7 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, accounting for 26.6 percent of all southbound rail shipments, increased 1.3 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 15.5 percent of all southbound rail shipments, showed an increase of 31.2 percent YTD.

### Export Rail YTD % Change 01-02



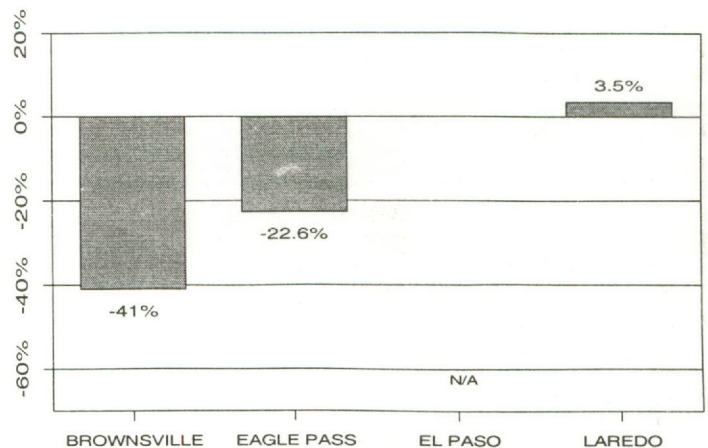
## Import Shipments by Rail into Texas —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	AUG 02	SEP 02	OCT 02	OCT 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	688	697	722	492	10,519	6,203	-41.0
EAGLE PASS	1,703	1,334	1,980	2,681	27,339	21,170	-22.6
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	15,390	14,931	16,518	15,872	142,222	147,210	3.5
TOTAL	17,781	16,962	19,220	19,045	180,080	174,583	-3.1

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

Northbound rail shipments into Texas increased 13.3 percent in October. Laredo increased 10.6 percent, Brownsville gained 3.6 percent, and Eagle Pass gained 48.4 percent. YTD total northbound shipments into Texas from Mexico were down 3.1 percent. Laredo, which accounted for 84.3 percent of all northbound rail shipments, was up 3.5 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, accounting for 12.1 percent of all northbound rail shipments, fell 22.6 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 3.6 percent of all northbound rail shipments, decreased 41.0 percent YTD.

### Import Rail YTD % Change 01-02



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

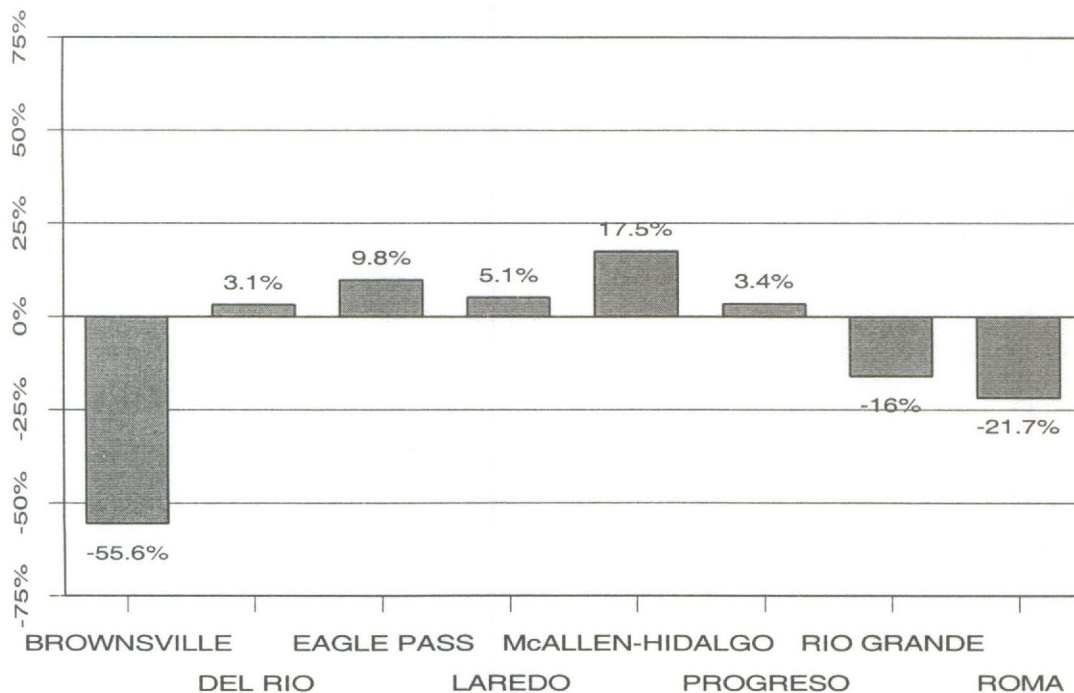
CITY	DUTY	MPF	OTHER	TOTAL	TOTAL	YTD	YTD	YTD % CHG
	OCT 02	OCT 02	REVENUE OCT 02	REVENUE OCT 02	REVENUE OCT 01	REVENUE OCT 01	REVENUE OCT 02	
BROWNSVILLE	1,419,642	167,369	319,043	1,906,055	3,809,000	35,653,739	15,813,152	-55.6
DEL RIO	160,428	33,272	145,384	339,084	230,147	1,701,411	1,754,570	3.1
EAGLE PASS	253,480	14,731	2,078,638	2,346,850	2,516,822	32,209,393	35,355,974	9.8
LAREDO	7,466,666	781,553	11,434,981	19,683,200	16,315,244	183,637,617	192,996,077	5.1
McALLEN-HIDALGO	1,766,944	275,630	271,372	2,313,946	2,169,583	24,683,608	28,993,994	17.5
PROGRESO	26	210	13,553	13,789	19,159	182,582	188,753	3.4
RIO GRANDE	21,962	4,985	6,565	33,512	35,331	642,856	539,806	-16.0
ROMA	7,508	659	7,001	15,168	29,133	280,772	219,857	-21.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,096,657</b>	<b>1,278,409</b>	<b>14,276,537</b>	<b>26,651,603</b>	<b>25,124,419</b>	<b>278,991,977</b>	<b>275,862,182</b>	<b>-1.1</b>

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

In October, total U.S. Customs revenues for the former District of Laredo had a loss of 6.1 percent. McAllen-Hidalgo was down 14.9 percent, Rio Grande decreased 7.7 percent, Progreso decreased 18.8 percent, Roma fell 15.6 percent, Laredo went up 2.8 percent, Eagle Pass decreased 52.0 percent, Brownsville gained 37.0 percent, and Del Rio was up 115.3 percent. YTD revenues for the border were down 1.1 percent compared to October 2001. Laredo,

accounting for 70.0 percent share of the former district's revenue was up 5.1 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 5.7 percent share of total revenues, was down 55.6 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, accounting for 12.8 percent of all revenues, was up 9.8 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 10.5 percent of total revenues, increased 17.5 percent YTD.

**% Change Total Revenues YTD 01-02**





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

CITY	AUG 02	SEP 02	OCT 02	OCT 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	1,091,580	975,799	1,169,888	870,863	9,020,963	10,318,424	14.4
DEL RIO	440,864	409,661	413,814	360,614	3,790,155	4,183,617	10.4
EAGLE PASS	665,419	663,045	685,836	537,314	5,842,286	6,071,269	3.9
EL PASO	865,879	844,896	878,472	831,221	9,466,935	8,542,399	-9.8
HARLINGEN	137,001	124,486	143,628	111,592	1,153,347	1,338,755	16.1
LAREDO	2,792,379	2,565,965	2,828,862	2,286,527	23,870,646	26,783,756	12.2
McALLEN-HIDALGO	881,045	804,095	811,182	689,440	8,055,446	8,371,892	3.9
PHARR	466,927	457,596	504,357	404,747	4,285,533	4,629,544	8.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,341,093</b>	<b>6,845,543</b>	<b>7,436,039</b>	<b>6,092,318</b>	<b>65,485,311</b>	<b>70,239,657</b>	<b>7.3</b>

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 gained 8.6 percent in the month of October. Pharr went up 10.2 percent, Brownsville increased 19.9 percent, Laredo rose 10.2 percent. Del Rio was up 1.0 percent, Harlingen went down 15.4 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo increased 0.9 percent, Eagle Pass gained 3.4 percent, and El Paso went up 4.0 percent. YTD U.S. bridge operators' revenues were up 7.3 percent. Laredo, accounting for 38.1 percent of total U.S. bridge operators'

revenues collected, had a 12.2 percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 12.2 percent of total U.S. bridge revenue, went down 9.8 percent YTD. Brownsville, accounting for 14.7 percent, was up 14.4 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 11.9 percent of the total bridge revenues, increased 3.9 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, with 8.6 percent of the total bridge revenues, rose 3.9 percent YTD.

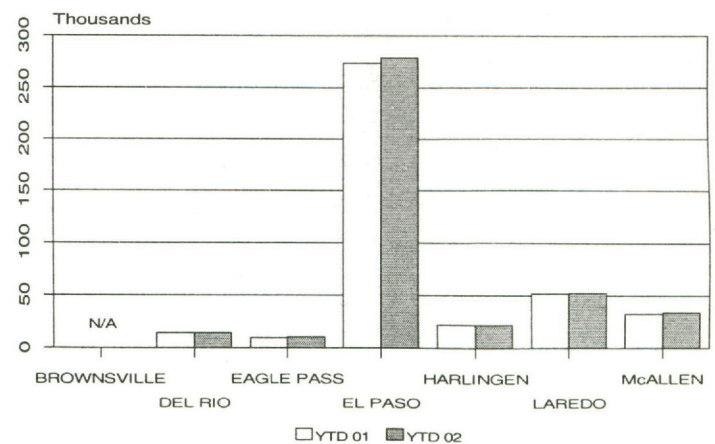
## Power Connections – Texas Border Residential Connections

CITY	AUG 02	SEP 02	OCT 02	OCT 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
DEL RIO	14,242	14,240	14,314	14,086	14,105	14,111	0.0
EAGLE PASS	9,919	9,957	9,961	9,901	9,838	9,933	1.0
EL PASO	280,120	280,578	280,962	275,335	273,619	279,049	2.0
HARLINGEN	21,787	21,801	21,834	21,658	21,810	21,791	-0.1
LAREDO	52,717	52,788	52,825	52,258	51,783	52,336	1.1
McALLEN	33,781	33,761	33,845	33,377	32,872	33,943	3.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>412,566</b>	<b>413,125</b>	<b>413,741</b>	<b>406,615</b>	<b>404,028</b>	<b>411,162</b>	<b>1.8</b>

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

October total residential power connections for cited Texas border cities rose 0.2 percent. YTD residential power connections were up 1.8 percent. Laredo was up 1.1 percent, McAllen increased 3.3 percent, Del Rio showed no change, Harlingen fell 0.1 percent, and Eagle Pass was up 1.0 percent.

**YTD AVG October 01-02**



## Power Connections – Texas Border (Cont'd)

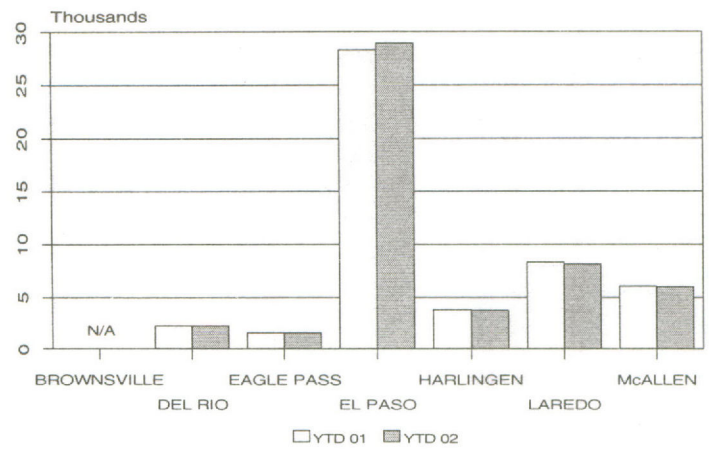
### Commercial Connections

CITY	AUG 02	SEP 02	OCT 02	OCT 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
DEL RIO	2,234	2,213	2,235	2,174	2,152	2,160	0.4
EAGLE PASS	1,534	1,562	1,566	1,566	1,545	1,522	-1.5
EL PASO	29,068	29,067	29,107	28,553	28,303	28,910	2.1
HARLINGEN	3,887	3,850	3,854	3,853	3,844	3,754	-2.3
LAREDO	8,247	8,443	8,438	8,397	8,327	8,143	-2.2
McALLEN	6,173	6,057	6,104	6,149	6,064	6,009	-0.9
TOTAL	51,143	51,192	51,304	50,692	50,234	50,498	0.5

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

October total commercial power connections for cited Texas border cities increased 0.2 percent. YTD averages of commercial power connections increased 0.5 percent. Harlingen was down 2.3 percent, Eagle Pass fell 1.5 percent, Laredo declined 2.2 percent, McAllen was down 0.9 percent, Del Rio gained 0.4 percent, and El Paso gained 2.1 percent.

### YTD AVG October 01-02



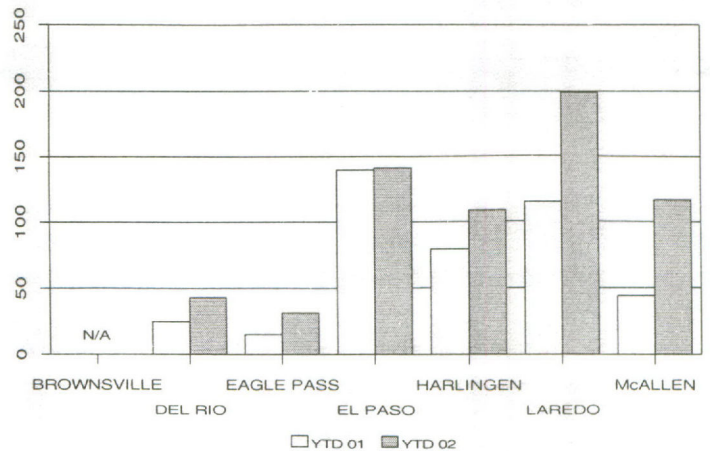
### Industrial Connections

CITY	AUG 02	SEP 02	OCT 02	OCT 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
DEL RIO	45	44	44	24	25	43	72.7
EAGLE PASS	32	32	32	16	15	31	107.9
EL PASO	146	144	144	143	140	141	0.9
HARLINGEN	115	111	117	76	80	109	36.3
LAREDO	216	212	209	112	115	199	73.0
McALLEN	125	135	124	41	44	117	166.7
TOTAL	679	678	670	412	418	640	53.0

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

October total industrial power connections for cited Texas border cities were down 1.2 percent. YTD averages of industrial power connections increased 53.0 percent. El Paso increased 0.9 percent, Harlingen rose 36.3 percent, and Laredo was up 73.0 percent.

### YTD AVG October 01-02



## Building Permits — Texas Border

### Number of Permits

NUMBER	AUG 02	SEP 02	OCT 02	OCT 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	300	286	368	325	3,313	3,686	11.3
DEL RIO	165	124	129	37	564	1,430	153.5
EAGLE PASS	47	49	53	43	455	478	5.1
EL PASO	1,105	978	1,067	614	6,050	9,816	62.2
HARLINGEN	36	29	49	71	659	699	6.1
LAREDO	294	244	N/A	643	6,177	N/A	N/A
MCALLEN	123	157	114	143	1,414	1,567	10.8
TOTAL	2,070	1,867	1,780	1,876	18,632	17,676	-5.1

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

October building permits issued by reporting Texas border cities were down 4.7 percent. Eagle Pass increased 8.2 percent, El Paso went up 9.1 percent. McAllen declined 27.4 percent, and Brownsville rose 28.7 percent. YTD, the number of permits issued dropped 5.1

percent. El Paso, accounting for 55.5 percent of all building permits issued, had an increase of 62.2 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 20.9 percent of building permits issued, increased 11.3 percent YTD.

### U.S. Dollar Value of Permits

VALUE	AUG 02	SEP 02	OCT 02	OCT 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	14,798,964	17,421,165	19,439,483	20,753,314	187,198,176	190,699,757	1.9
DEL RIO	1,304,940	1,867,442	5,547,127	914,820	13,436,109	44,838,723	233.7
EAGLE PASS	1,261,879	1,590,153	3,070,423	1,170,114	26,414,011	24,844,730	-5.9
EL PASO	94,097,308	66,144,938	57,550,292	49,875,157	406,175,517	685,326,415	68.7
HARLINGEN	5,866,687	3,555,085	4,831,094	8,928,771	88,966,913	63,161,819	-29.0
LAREDO	47,206,305	16,766,170	N/A	37,226,432	258,607,340	N/A	N/A
MCALLEN	14,157,388	15,301,941	8,452,132	8,988,386	160,425,137	177,086,777	10.4
TOTAL	178,693,471	122,646,893	98,890,551	127,856,994	1,141,223,203	1,185,958,221	3.9

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

October building permit values for reporting Texas border cities were down 19.4 percent. Harlingen increased 35.9 percent, McAllen decreased 44.8 percent, and El Paso dropped 13.0 percent. Brownsville rose 11.6 percent. Eagle Pass climbed 93.1 percent. YTD reporting border cities experienced a 3.9 percent increase in

building permit values. El Paso, with 57.8 percent of total building permit values, increased 68.7 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 16.1 percent of total building permit values, rose 1.9 percent. Eagle Pass with 2.1 percent of total building permits, decreased 5.9 percent.

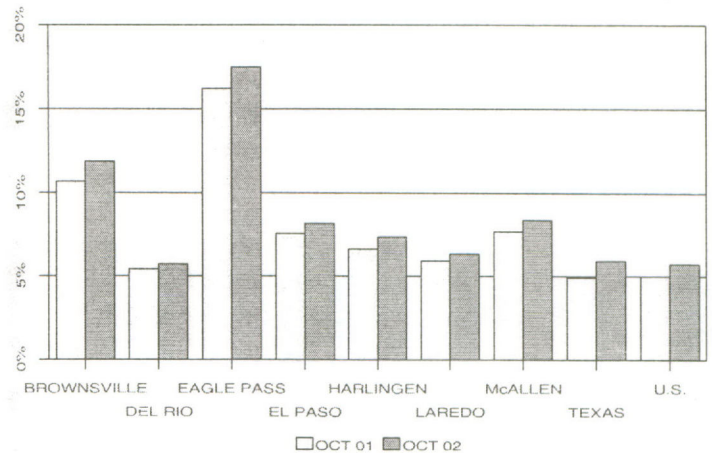
## Employment/Unemployment Rates — Texas Border

CITY	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED	PERCENT UNEMPLOYED	PERCENT UNEMPLOYED
	OCT 02	OCT 01	OCT 02	OCT 01	OCT 02	OCT 01
BROWNSVILLE	45,244	45,357	6,095	5,410	11.9	10.7
DEL RIO	14,554	14,289	876	808	5.7	5.4
EAGLE PASS	8,391	9,319	1,775	1,807	17.5	16.2
EL PASO	237,550	238,204	21,103	19,719	8.2	7.6
HARLINGEN	25,992	26,057	2,073	1,839	7.4	6.6
LAREDO	68,379	67,627	4,580	4,207	6.3	5.9
McALLEN	49,191	47,150	4,510	3,924	8.4	7.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>449,301</b>	<b>448,003</b>	<b>41,012</b>	<b>37,714</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>7.8</b>
THE TEXAS UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					5.90	4.90
THE NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					5.70	5.00

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 October, total employment in reporting Texas border cities increased 0.5 percent (2,186 jobs gained). Eagle Pass employment rose 0.4 percent (33 jobs gained), Del Rio decreased 1.8 percent (259 jobs lost), McAllen went up 2.0 percent (974 jobs gained), and Laredo went up 0.6 percent (410 jobs gained). Brownsville increased 0.5 percent (228 jobs gained). YTD total employment in Texas border cities was up 0.3 percent (1,298 jobs gained) from a year ago. The average unemployment rate for the border was 8.4 percent compared to 5.9 percent for Texas, and 5.7 percent for the U.S. in the month of October.

**% Unemployed October 01-02**



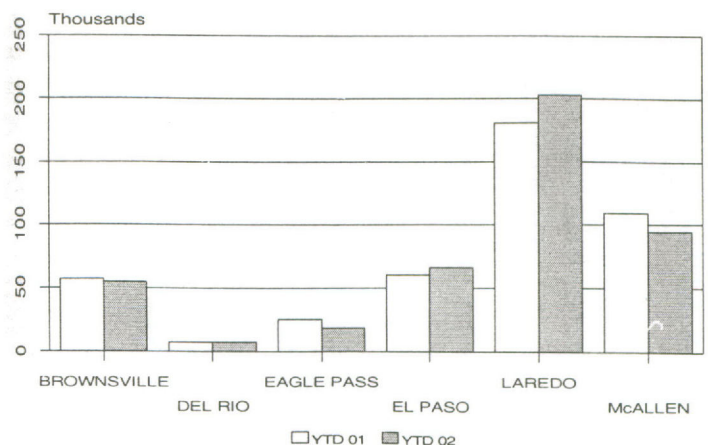
## Visas to Tourists from Texas to Mexico

CITY	AUG 02	SEP 02	OCT 02	OCT 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	%CHG
BROWNSVILLE	6,880	3,716	4,345	3,908	61,031	59,095	-3.2
DEL RIO	822	450	594	652	7,745	7,932	2.4
EAGLE PASS	1,227	1,227	916	2,227	27,473	19,059	-30.6
EL PASO	8,653	4,504	6,248	5,186	65,214	72,375	11.0
LAREDO	23,185	14,471	16,489	14,906	195,317	219,364	12.3
McALLEN	472	7,567	8,428	8,739	117,506	102,667	-12.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41,239</b>	<b>31,935</b>	<b>37,020</b>	<b>35,618</b>	<b>474,286</b>	<b>480,492</b>	<b>1.3</b>

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

In October, visas increased 15.9 percent. Laredo rose 13.9 percent, Eagle Pass lost 25.3 percent, Brownsville increased 16.9 percent, and Del Rio was up 32.0 percent. El Paso gained 38.7 percent. YTD total visas were up 1.3 percent. Brownsville, with 12.3 percent share, fell 3.2 percent. Eagle Pass, with 4.0 percent share, declined 30.6 percent. Del Rio, with 1.7 percent share, increased 2.4 percent. Laredo, with 45.7 percent share, went up 12.3 percent. McAllen, with 21.4 percent share, declined 12.6 percent YTD; and El Paso with 15.1 percent share, gained 11.0 percent YTD.

**Tourist Visas YTD October 01-02**



## Air Passenger Service Activities — Selected Border Cities

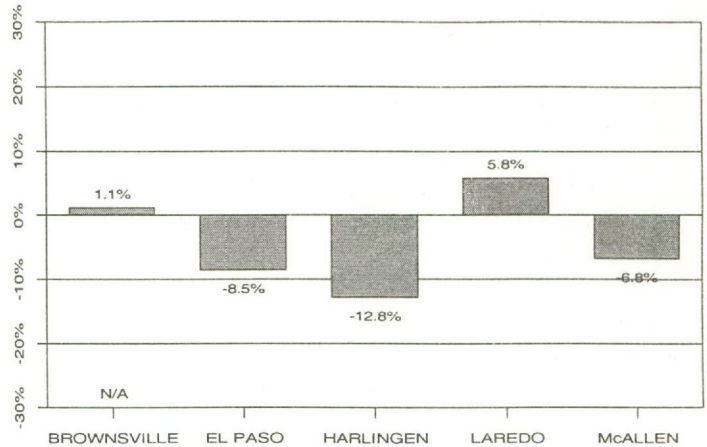
### Passenger Arrivals

CITY	AUG 02	SEP 02	OCT 02	OCT 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	6,217	4,709	5,050	4,273	60,279	60,953	1.1
EL PASO	132,056	102,262	116,984	108,475	1,295,422	1,185,150	-8.5
HARLINGEN	34,678	28,310	31,052	28,416	371,487	324,074	-12.8
LAREDO	7,063	5,732	5,836	4,866	57,488	60,813	5.8
McALLEN	24,121	19,657	21,854	18,953	246,521	229,696	-6.8
TOTAL	204,135	160,670	180,776	164,983	2,031,197	1,860,686	-8.4

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

October air passengers arriving in Texas border cities were up 12.5 percent from September. McAllen increased 11.2 percent, Laredo gained 1.8 percent, and El Paso went up 14.4 percent. Harlingen rose 9.7 percent. YTD air passenger arrivals were down 8.4 percent. El Paso, with 63.7 percent of all arriving passengers, showed a decrease of 8.5 percent YTD. Harlingen, accounting for 17.4 percent of all arrivals, slipped 12.8 percent YTD. McAllen, with 12.3 percent of all arrivals, was down 6.8 percent YTD. Laredo, with 3.3 percent of all arrivals, increased 5.8 percent YTD.

**Passenger Arrivals % Change YTD 01-02**



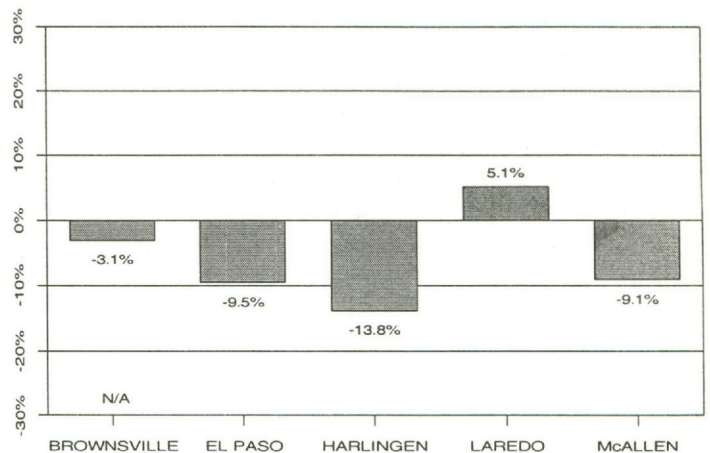
### Passenger Departures

CITY	AUG 02	SEP 02	OCT 02	OCT 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	5,726	4,733	5,109	4,046	63,029	61,105	-3.1
EL PASO	128,243	104,659	119,124	109,254	1,332,815	1,206,419	-9.5
HARLINGEN	34,369	29,448	31,710	28,407	382,668	330,031	-13.8
LAREDO	6,802	5,635	6,004	4,755	58,557	61,518	5.1
McALLEN	23,538	19,909	21,428	17,500	255,393	232,078	-9.1
TOTAL	198,678	164,384	183,375	163,962	2,092,462	1,891,151	-9.6

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

October air passenger departures for reporting Texas border cities were up 11.6 percent. McAllen gained 7.6 percent, Harlingen went up 7.7 percent, Laredo increased 6.5 percent, and El Paso rose 13.8 percent. YTD air passenger departures were down 9.6 percent. El Paso, with 63.8 percent of all departing passengers, was down 9.5 percent YTD. Harlingen, with 17.5 percent of all departing passengers, exhibited a decrease of 13.8 percent YTD. McAllen, with 12.3 percent of all departing passengers, decreased 9.1 percent, YTD. Laredo, with 3.3 percent of all departing passengers, increased 5.1 percent YTD.

**Passenger Departures % Change YTD 01-02**



## Port Of Corpus Christi

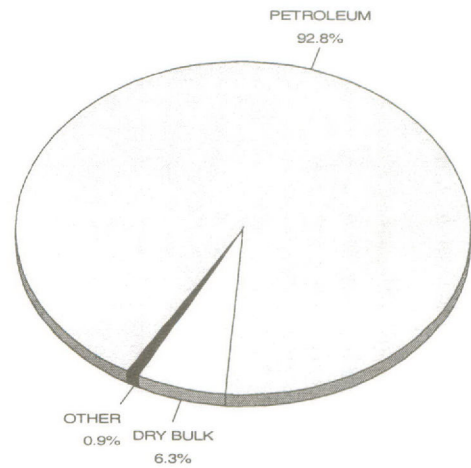
### Inbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	AUG 02	SEP 02	OCT 02	OCT 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BREAK BULK	2,591	6,005	14,836	410	164,043	79,070	-51.8
DRY BULK	394,124	412,219	290,800	376,315	3,428,826	3,607,964	5.2
BULK GRAIN	0	0	1,563	0	0	17,660	N/A
LIQUID	10,054	10,090	23,307	0	212,753	65,538	-69.2
PETROLEUM	4,668,934	3,104,641	4,283,737	4,480,017	41,923,529	39,020,271	-6.9
CHEMICAL	9,819	6,318	2,991	9,359	100,009	97,928	-2.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,085,522</b>	<b>3,539,273</b>	<b>4,617,233</b>	<b>4,866,101</b>	<b>45,829,160</b>	<b>42,888,432</b>	<b>-6.4</b>

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 30.5 percent increase in inbound cargo in October. Petroleum, which made up 92.8 percent of all inbound traffic, was up 38.0 percent compared to September. Dry bulk, which accounted for 6.3 percent of inbound cargo, decreased 29.5 percent. Total inbound cargo tonnage was down 6.4 percent YTD.

### % Share October 2002 Inbound Cargo



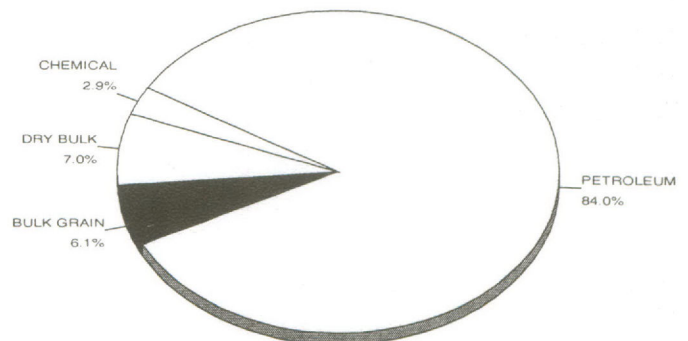
### Outbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	AUG 02	SEP 02	OCT 02	OCT 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BREAK BULK	430	2,442	0	488	27,204	23,613	-13.2
DRY BULK	246,682	257,999	170,619	405,791	2,475,512	2,352,449	-5.0
BULK GRAIN	158,041	152,315	147,583	178,795	1,632,646	1,525,019	-6.6
LIQUID	0	0	0	0	55,630	0	-100.0
PETROLEUM	2,167,854	1,843,413	2,047,087	2,305,507	20,950,522	19,144,684	-8.6
CHEMICAL	86,914	132,805	70,969	106,435	1,582,968	1,201,516	-24.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,659,920</b>	<b>2,388,975</b>	<b>2,436,258</b>	<b>2,997,016</b>	<b>26,724,483</b>	<b>24,247,280</b>	<b>-9.3</b>

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

In October, the Port of Corpus Christi had a 2.0 percent increase in outbound cargo tonnage. Petroleum, which was 84.0 percent of total outbound cargo, gained 11.0 percent. Bulk grain, which accounted for 6.1 percent of cargo, fell 3.1 percent. Dry bulk, which accounted for 7.0 percent of the total outbound cargo for October, lost 33.9 percent. YTD total outbound cargo tonnage was down 9.3 percent.

### % Share October 2002 Outbound Cargo



## Port Of Brownsville

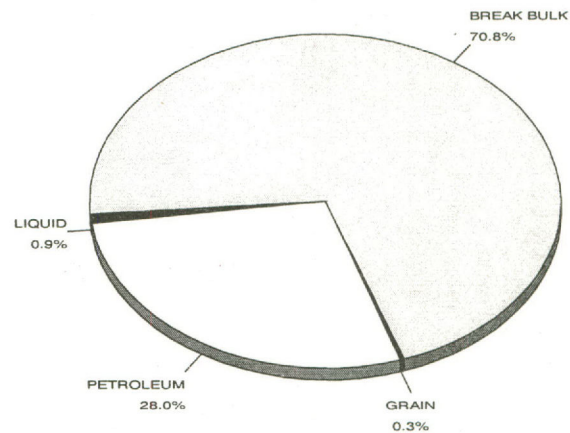
### Total Port Activity (in Metric Tons)

COMMODITY	AUG 02	SEP 02	OCT 02	OCT 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BREAK BULK	101,140	130,143	316,797	166,669	1,778,043	1,914,058	7.6
LIQUID	10,723	4,578	3,962	3,058	43,299	50,297	16.2
PETROLEUM	174,818	221,521	125,328	127,396	1,363,611	1,811,773	32.9
GRAIN	0	0	1,316	0	25,550	19,709	-22.9
CONTAINERS	0	0	0	368	505	2,035	303.0
MACHINERY	197	0	0	0	7,455	2,233	-70.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>286,878</b>	<b>356,242</b>	<b>447,403</b>	<b>297,491</b>	<b>3,218,463</b>	<b>3,800,105</b>	<b>18.1</b>

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

The Port of Brownsville had a gain of 25.6 percent total tonnage in October. Break Bulk, which accounted for 70.8 percent of total tonnage rose 143.4 percent from September. Liquid, with 0.9 percent share of October's total tonnage, fell 13.5 percent. Petroleum, which made up 28.0 percent of the total cargo for October decreased 43.4 percent. YTD figures showed an 18.1 percent increase in total cargo tonnage. Break Bulk tonnage, with 50.4 percent of total tonnage, rose 7.6 percent. Petroleum, with 47.7 percent of total tonnage, increased 32.9 percent. Liquid, with 1.3 percent of total tonnage, increased 16.2 percent.

**% Share October 2002 Total Cargo**



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- Technical Report No. 3: Labor Mobility Under NAFTA: It's Impact on the Border (February 1994)
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