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# Border Business Indicators

Government Publications  
Texas State Documents

Vol. 22, No. 7  
July 1998

Institute for International Trade  
Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

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## Note from the Director

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Indicators of border business activity for the month of May were up. Fourteen monthly indicators were up while nine were down when compared to April. In addition, for the year-to-date (YTD) figures, seventeen indicators were up and six were down. Selected YTD comparisons to 1997 reported by border cities include the following:

- Southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico were up 4.6 percent. Eagle Pass rose 43.7 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo increased 9.6 percent, Laredo was up 4.1 percent and Brownsville gained 2.3 percent.
- Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 10.0 percent. Eagle Pass rose 20.1 percent, Brownsville was up 15.5 percent, El Paso increased 8.6 percent and Laredo gained 4.6 percent.
- Southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 8.3 percent. Pharr rose 49.0 percent, Brownsville increased 11.8 percent, El Paso gained 8.7 percent and Laredo was up 5.0 percent.
- Northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 3.0 percent with Laredo increasing 6.8 percent, Eagle Pass gained 4.5 percent, El Paso was up 2.2 percent and McAllen-Hidalgo posted an increase of 1.3 percent YTD.
- Southbound truck shipments into Mexico were up 25.0 percent. Pharr increased 89.9 percent, Brownsville rose 34.1 percent and Laredo gained 25.7 percent.
- Northbound truck shipments into Texas were up 12.2 percent with Eagle Pass increasing 18.2 percent, Laredo gained 15.9 percent and Pharr posted a 12.0 percent increase YTD.
- Southbound shipments by rail were up 5.4 percent.
- Northbound shipments by rail were down 1.8 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Customs were down 10.7 percent YTD. Revenues collected by U.S. Bridge operators were up 14.2 percent.
- Building permits issued were up 17.6 percent. Eagle Pass gained 26.9 percent, El Paso rose 20.6 percent, Brownsville was up 18.0 percent and Laredo increased 17.0 percent.
- Building permit values were down with a YTD decrease of 25.2 percent. Harlingen decreased 44.4 percent, Brownsville was down 38.7 percent, Laredo fell 31.1 percent and El Paso reported a 23.2 percent decrease.
- Total employment was up with 8,979 jobs gained YTD. The average unemployment rate in May 1998 was 9.3 percent.

The current and back issues of the Border Business Indicators can be found at the home page 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)  
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IIT Technical Report No. 9: NAFTA Certificate of Origin (May 1994)  
IIT Technical Report No. 10: The Texas Border with Mexico: Opportunities and Challenges (October 1994)  
IIT Technical Report No. 12: NAFTA One Year After Implementation: A Preliminary Assessment of Selected Impacts (March 1995)

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 78041-1900. Please enclose \$5.00 for each report requested. Make check or money order payable to the Institute for International Trade.

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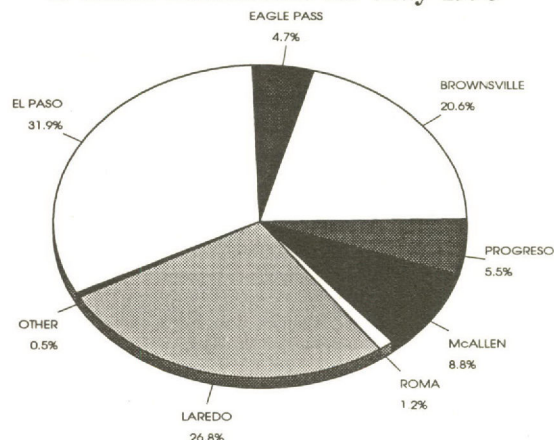
## Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	MAR 98	APR 98	MAY 98	MAY 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	336,892	266,440	263,677	270,027	1,359,832	1,390,563	2.3
DEL RIO	6,716	5,829	4,660	6,663	26,587	27,536	3.6
EAGLE PASS	59,670	59,459	59,943	41,630	201,412	289,502	43.7
EL PASO	382,645	385,378	408,725	414,180	1,890,352	1,905,903	0.8
HARLINGEN	77	74	0	98	442	369	-16.5
LAREDO	261,867	354,155	343,278	336,136	1,580,340	1,645,115	4.1
McALLEN-HIDALGO	127,595	116,191	112,967	110,559	559,853	613,818	9.6
PROGRESO	182,232	88,521	70,575	66,355	631,580	665,681	5.4
RIO GRANDE	802	778	743	981	4,927	4,385	-11.0
ROMA	16,831	15,924	15,708	15,812	73,185	79,376	8.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,375,327</b>	<b>1,292,749</b>	<b>1,280,276</b>	<b>1,262,441</b>	<b>6,328,510</b>	<b>6,622,248</b>	<b>4.6</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 pedestrian bridge crossings into Mexico for May was down 1.0 percent compared to April. Progreso decreased 20.3 percent, Del Rio fell 20.1 percent, Rio Grande was down 4.5 percent, Laredo declined 3.1 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo dipped 2.8 percent, Roma slid 1.4 percent, and Brownsville decreased 1.0 percent. However, El Paso rose 6.1 percent and Eagle Pass was up 0.8 percent. YTD, total southbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 4.6 percent. El Paso southbound pedestrian crossings, which make up 31.9 percent of all crossings in May rose 0.8 percent. Laredo, accounting for 26.8 percent of all crossings, was up 4.1 percent and Brownsville was up 2.3 percent with 20.6 percent of all crossings YTD.

**% Share Pedestrians for May 1998**



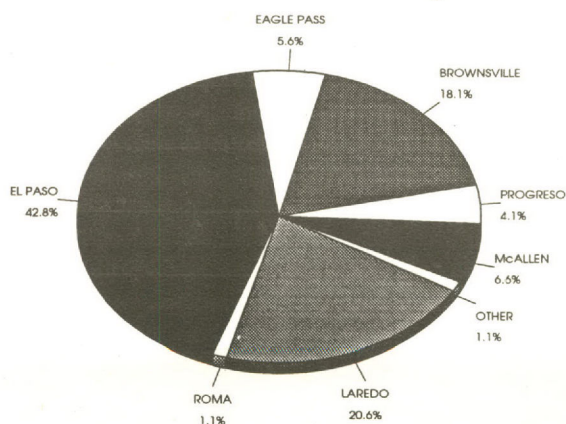
## Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	MAR 98	APR 98	MAY 98	MAY 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	293,282	240,433	231,562	222,698	1,135,826	1,311,465	15.5
DEL RIO	12,159	10,151	10,405	10,243	54,931	55,992	1.9
EAGLE PASS	65,222	62,542	71,441	60,430	272,113	326,918	20.1
EL PASO	536,591	524,599	547,162	535,599	2,415,063	2,623,438	8.6
LAREDO	257,663	264,386	263,150	263,479	1,251,836	1,309,853	4.6
McALLEN-HIDALGO	105,078	93,222	84,776	85,857	490,352	492,514	0.4
PRESIDIO	4,002	2,785	2,479	3,563	15,501	16,150	4.2
PROGRESO	101,755	60,821	52,499	40,641	313,352	403,457	28.8
RIO GRANDE	1,320	1,134	1,084	1,455	6,653	6,143	-7.7
ROMA	14,337	13,719	13,913	15,396	60,844	69,764	14.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,391,409</b>	<b>1,273,792</b>	<b>1,278,471</b>	<b>1,239,361</b>	<b>6,016,471</b>	<b>6,615,694</b>	<b>10.0</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 0.4 percent in May. Eagle Pass rose 14.2 percent, El Paso was up 4.3 percent, Del Rio increased 2.5 percent and Roma gained 1.4 percent. However, Progreso dipped 13.7 percent, Presidio fell 11.0 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo slid 9.1 percent, Rio Grande decreased 4.4 percent, Brownsville declined 3.7 percent and Laredo was down 0.5 percent. YTD total northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 10.0 percent. El Paso, accounting for 42.8 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings in May, was up 8.6 percent YTD. Laredo, with 20.6 percent of all northbound crossings, was up 4.6 percent and Brownsville, with 18.1 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings, had a 15.5 percent increase in crossings YTD.

**% Share Pedestrians for May 1998**



## Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	MAR 98	APR 98	MAY 98	MAY 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	554,502	588,843	641,398	528,423	2,519,126	2,816,512	11.8
DEL RIO	155,485	152,620	163,008	149,701	702,706	754,066	7.3
EAGLE PASS	222,288	218,674	231,485	229,370	1,066,377	1,083,032	1.6
EL PASO	509,604	484,452	523,066	467,602	2,226,979	2,419,807	8.7
HARLINGEN	41,567	40,453	43,732	35,103	164,323	198,746	20.9
LAREDO	700,727	689,414	736,649	684,589	3,204,385	3,365,555	5.0
McALLEN-HIDALGO	447,745	451,577	478,765	458,915	2,109,947	2,189,376	3.8
PHARR	143,424	147,944	150,640	98,969	468,190	697,394	49.0
PROGRESO	98,963	91,430	93,026	87,225	438,392	461,307	5.2
RIO GRANDE	52,244	53,085	53,371	49,292	234,219	251,465	7.4
ROMA	73,835	75,424	78,383	74,310	351,400	365,696	4.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,000,384</b>	<b>2,993,916</b>	<b>3,193,523</b>	<b>2,863,499</b>	<b>13,486,044</b>	<b>14,602,956</b>	<b>8.3</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

Southbound vehicle bridge crossings into Mexico were up 6.7 percent in May from April's figures. Brownsville increased 8.9 percent, Harlingen was up 8.1 percent, El Paso jumped 8.0 percent, Laredo rose 6.9 percent, Del Rio gained 6.8 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo was up 6.0 percent, Eagle Pass increased 5.9 percent, Roma rose 3.9 percent, Pharr gained 1.8 percent, Progreso grew 1.7 percent, and Rio Grande increased 0.5 percent. YTD total southbound vehicle

bridge crossings were up 8.3 percent. Laredo, with 23.1 percent of all southbound traffic in May, was up 5.0 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 20.1 percent of all southbound vehicle bridge crossings, had an 11.8 percent increase YTD. El Paso, with 16.4 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, experienced an 8.7 percent increase YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, accounting for 15.0 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings had a 3.8 percent increase YTD.

## Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	MAR 98	APR 98	MAY 98	MAY 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	537,317	528,727	548,338	527,029	2,530,610	2,559,181	1.1
DEL RIO	132,550	128,837	132,475	144,070	667,910	638,339	-4.4
EAGLE PASS	221,175	216,229	224,583	232,463	1,024,697	1,071,277	4.5
EL PASO	700,055	694,597	718,614	701,244	3,334,883	3,408,517	2.2
HARLINGEN	55,236	53,960	57,554	43,864	195,688	267,998	37.0
LAREDO	629,872	622,377	667,019	597,924	2,865,727	3,059,774	6.8
McALLEN-HIDALGO	404,014	403,364	426,227	424,164	1,956,868	1,983,144	1.3
PRESIDIO	57,526	56,196	58,988	55,670	252,907	276,315	9.3
PROGRESO	89,636	81,905	82,539	85,488	447,553	413,636	-7.6
RIO GRANDE	56,942	57,618	57,679	53,669	258,194	274,236	6.2
ROMA	79,396	76,640	89,973	76,117	393,695	396,092	0.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,963,719</b>	<b>2,920,450</b>	<b>3,063,989</b>	<b>2,941,702</b>	<b>13,928,732</b>	<b>14,348,509</b>	<b>3.0</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 May were up 4.9 percent since April. Roma registered a 17.4 percent increase, Laredo rose 7.2 percent, Harlingen grew 6.7 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo reported an increase of 5.7 percent, Presidio gained 5.0 percent, Eagle Pass jumped 3.9, Brownsville increased 3.7 percent, El Paso was up 3.5 percent, Del Rio increased 2.8 percent, Progreso

gained 0.8 percent and Rio Grande was up slightly at 0.1 percent. YTD northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 3.0 percent. El Paso, with 23.5 percent of all crossings in May was up 2.2 percent YTD. Laredo, with 21.8 percent of all crossings, gained 6.8 percent and Brownsville with 17.9 percent of all crossings, was up 1.1 percent YTD.

## Export Shipments by Trucks into Mexico —Number of Trucks

CITY	MAR 98	APR 98	MAY 98	MAY 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE+	25,162	24,119	24,825	18,208	88,916	119,198	34.1
DEL RIO+	4,499	4,439	4,763	3,473	17,121	22,295	30.2
EAGLE PASS++	3,810	3,632	3,539	3,766	19,782	18,731	-5.3
EL PASO+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	N/A
HARLINGEN+	4,393	4,232	6,011	2,637	12,516	23,122	84.7
LAREDO++	66,823	63,307	62,542	52,637	245,902	309,023	25.7
McALLEN-HIDALGO+	4,735	4,499	4,320	9,878	47,781	21,859	-54.3
PHARR+	17,709	17,030	15,597	8,072	41,041	77,956	89.9
PROGRESO+	1,647	1,725	973	1,232	6,530	8,562	31.1
RIO GRANDE+	2,257	2,420	1,742	2,238	8,753	10,308	17.8
ROMA+	939	812	867	858	3,843	4,253	10.7
TOTAL	131,974	126,215	125,179	102,999	492,185	615,307	25.0

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

+ Includes both loaded and empty trucks.

++ Includes loaded trucks only.

+++ El Paso does not separate loaded trucks from other vehicles and therefore is not reported.

Southbound truck shipments into Mexico were down 0.8 percent in May. Progreso decreased 43.6 percent, Rio Grande fell 28.0 percent, Pharr was down 8.4 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo declined 4.0 percent, Eagle Pass dipped 2.6 percent and Laredo decreased 1.2 percent. However, Harlingen increased 42.0 percent, Roma was up 6.8 percent, Del Rio gained 7.3 percent and Brownsville grew 2.9 percent. YTD, total southbound truck traffic had an increase of 25.0 percent.

Laredo, with 50.0 percent of all southbound shipments in May, experienced a 25.7 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with 19.8 percent of all southbound shipments, had a 34.1 percent increase YTD. Pharr with 12.5 percent of all truck traffic, registered an increase of 89.9 percent and McAllen-Hidalgo, with 3.5 percent of all truck crossings, fell 54.3 percent.

## Import Shipments by Trucks into Texas —Number of Trucks

CITY	MAR 98	APR 98	MAY 98	MAY 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	9,990	10,079	11,395	9,879	46,523	48,961	5.2
DEL RIO	3,085	3,116	2,709	2,799	13,788	14,579	5.7
EAGLE PASS	4,177	4,088	4,032	3,523	16,429	19,423	18.2
FALCON	8	5	2	7	27	24	-11.1
LAREDO	56,349	54,851	54,762	48,011	227,567	263,746	15.9
McALLEN-HIDALGO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
PHARR	17,778	17,422	14,729	13,741	67,549	75,681	12.0
PROGRESO	358	315	259	414	4,132	1,348	-67.4
RIO GRANDE	1,297	1,422	1,037	2,229	7,458	6,055	-18.8
ROMA	709	683	689	566	2,432	3,239	33.2
TOTAL	93,751	91,981	89,614	81,169	385,905	433,056	12.2

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 decreased 2.6 percent from April's shipments. Falcon decreased 60.0 percent, Rio Grande dipped 27.1 percent, Progreso fell 17.8 percent, Pharr was down 15.5 percent, Del Rio was down 13.1 percent, Eagle Pass 1.4 percent and Laredo slid 0.2 percent. However, Brownsville gained 13.1 percent and Roma rose 0.9 percent. YTD northbound truck shipments were up 12.2

percent. Laredo, accounting for 61.1 percent of all northbound truck traffic in May had a 15.9 percent increase YTD. Pharr, with 16.4 percent of shipments, experienced a 12.0 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with 12.7 percent of all northbound truck shipments in May, rose 5.2 percent YTD.

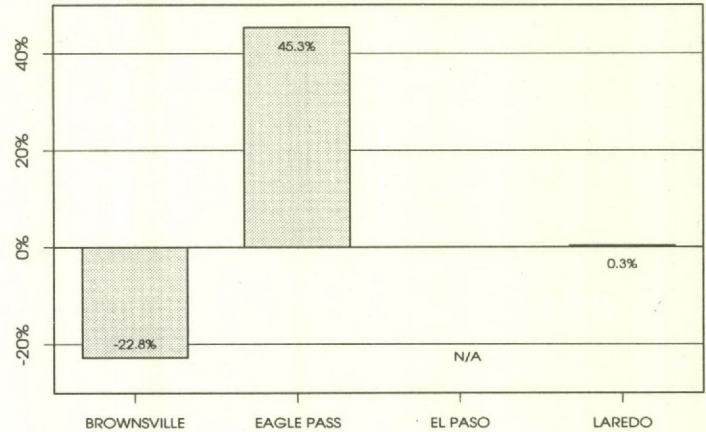
## Export Shipments by Rail into Mexico —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	MAR 98	APR 98	MAY 98	MAY 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	1,993	3,931	2,784	4,548	15,266	11,778	-22.8
EAGLE PASS	4,454	7,258	6,186	3,500	19,101	27,760	45.3
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	14,237	13,017	11,161	14,133	64,305	64,498	0.3
TOTAL	20,684	24,206	20,131	22,181	98,672	104,036	5.4

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

Southbound rail shipments into Mexico decreased 16.8 percent in May. Brownsville was down 29.2 percent, Eagle Pass decreased 14.8 percent, while Laredo fell 14.3 percent. YTD, total southbound rail shipments into Mexico from Texas were up 5.4 percent. Laredo, which accounts for 55.4 percent of all southbound rail shipments in May was up 0.3 percent. Eagle Pass, accounting for 30.7 percent of all southbound rail shipments, increased 45.3 percent. Brownsville, with 13.8 percent of all southbound rail shipments in May, fell 22.8 percent YTD.

### Export Rail YTD % Change 97-98



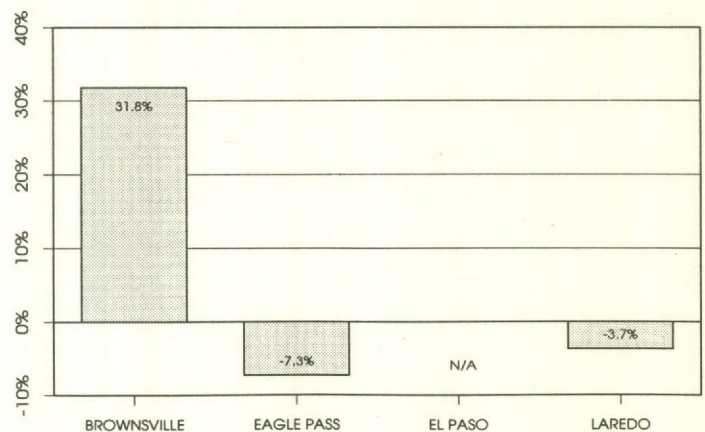
## Import Shipments by Rail into Texas —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	MAR 98	APR 98	MAY 98	MAY 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	1,074	1,909	1,432	971	4,886	6,439	31.8
EAGLE PASS	3,498	3,258	3,301	3,243	16,763	15,545	-7.3
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	8,102	6,577	7,826	8,115	38,438	37,007	-3.7
TOTAL	12,674	11,744	12,559	12,329	60,087	58,991	-1.8

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

Northbound rail shipments into Texas increased 6.9 percent in May. Laredo registered an 19.0 percent increase, Eagle Pass rose 1.3 percent, while Brownsville declined 25.0 percent. YTD, total northbound rail shipments into Texas from Mexico were down 1.8 percent. Laredo, which accounts for 62.3 percent of all northbound rail shipments in May was down 3.7 percent. Eagle Pass, accounting for 26.3 percent of all northbound rail shipments in May, decreased 7.3 percent and Brownsville, with 11.4 percent of all northbound rail shipments, increased 31.8 percent YTD.

### Import Rail YTD % Change 97-98



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

CITY	DUTY MAY 98	MPF MAY 98	OTHER REVENUE MAY 98	TOTAL REVENUE MAY 98	TOTAL REVENUE MAY 97	YTD REVENUE MAY 97	YTD REVENUE MAY 98	YTD % CHG
BROWNSVILLE	1,150,074	490,804	441,645	2,082,524	2,084,871	13,435,669	12,797,887	-4.7
DEL RIO	267,898	112,107	15,145	395,150	342,527	2,095,028	1,871,521	-10.7
EAGLE PASS	588,588	188,304	2,215,405	2,992,297	2,701,475	11,041,970	13,306,521	20.5
LAREDO	9,772,175	2,736,870	7,539,458	20,048,503	21,523,656	106,191,487	88,830,738	-16.3
McALLEN-HIDALGO	2,854,739	542,776	1,212,279	4,609,795	4,099,885	26,319,696	26,107,556	-0.8
PROGRESO	3,942	5,251	14,138	23,331	97,928	1,253,570	315,863	-74.8
RIO GRANDE	99,163	18,343	8,733	126,239	136,822	728,484	525,650	-27.8
ROMA	25,652	9,223	10,433	45,308	45,896	204,096	286,437	40.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,762,231</b>	<b>4,103,677</b>	<b>11,457,238</b>	<b>30,323,146</b>	<b>31,033,060</b>	<b>161,270,000</b>	<b>144,042,173</b>	<b>-10.7</b>

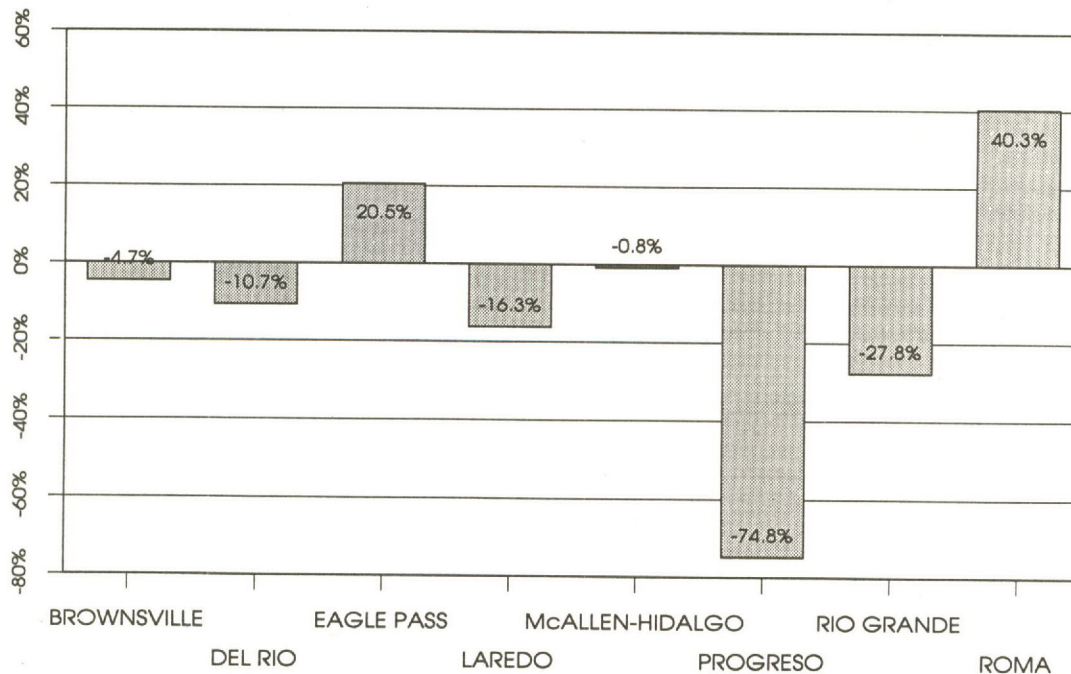
Source: Data provided by U.S. Customs Service, Port of Entry in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

\*MPF = Merchandise Processing Fee

Total U.S. Customs revenues for the former District of Laredo decreased 2.8 percent from April's figures. Progreso dropped 59.8 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo fell 34.1 percent, Brownsville dipped 28.3 percent, Roma decreased 25.6 percent and Del Rio was down 3.8 percent. However, Rio Grande rose 14.2 percent, Laredo increased 12.6 percent and Eagle Pass was up 5.0 percent. YTD revenue figures

were down 10.7 percent compared to May 1997. Laredo, accounting for 61.7 percent of total District revenues, was down 16.3 percent YTD and McAllen-Hidalgo with 18.1 percent of total revenues, was down 0.8 percent YTD. Brownsville with 8.9 percent of all revenues in May decreased 4.7 percent YTD and Eagle Pass, with 9.2 percent of total revenues in May increased 20.5 percent.

**% Change Total Revenues YTD 97-98**



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

CITY	MAR 98	APR 98	MAY 98	MAY 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	707,749	655,092	697,979	511,780	2,461,115	3,261,134	32.5
DEL RIO	193,824	191,823	208,898	178,734	866,404	968,842	11.8
EAGLE PASS	358,040	350,037	364,914	406,984	1,915,065	1,735,244	-9.4
EL PASO	1,067,011	1,014,904	1,017,383	942,468	4,553,268	4,931,833	8.3
HARLINGEN	96,099	91,909	107,376	62,991	288,733	471,534	63.3
LAREDO	1,862,398	1,829,265	1,914,356	1,777,533	8,177,875	9,010,306	10.2
McALLEN-HIDALGO	653,284	642,956	675,035	575,752	2,693,560	3,135,207	16.4
PHARR	294,294	312,799	321,730	193,715	899,638	1,435,891	59.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,232,699</b>	<b>5,088,785</b>	<b>5,307,671</b>	<b>4,649,957</b>	<b>21,855,658</b>	<b>24,949,990</b>	<b>14.2</b>

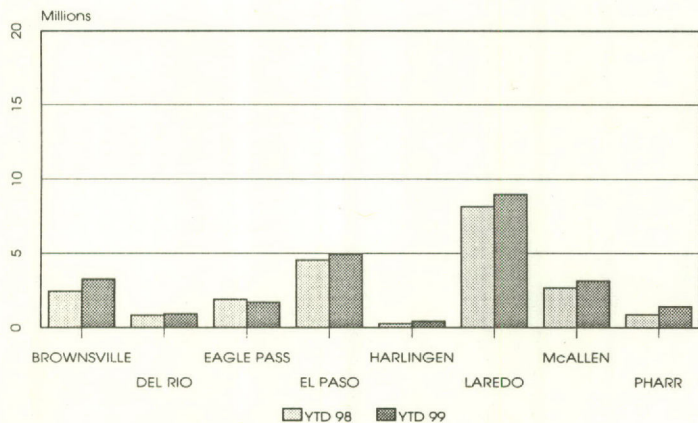
Source: Data provided by U.S. bridge operators in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

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

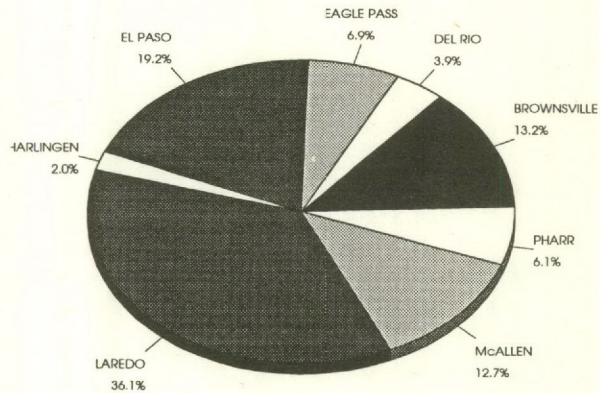
U.S. bridge operators' revenues increased 4.3 percent in the month of May. Harlingen showed an increase of 16.8 percent, Del Rio gained 8.9 percent, Brownsville was up 6.5 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo rose 5.0 percent, Laredo jumped 4.7 percent, Eagle Pass gained 4.3 percent, Pharr rose 2.9 percent and El Paso was up 0.2 percent. YTD, U.S. bridge operators' revenues were up 14.2 percent. Laredo, accounting for 36.1 percent of total U.S. bridge operator's revenues

collected in May, had a 10.2 percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 19.2 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues, increased 8.3 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 12.7 percent of the total bridge revenues, was up 16.4 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 13.2 percent of total U.S. bridge operator's revenues in May, was up 32.5 percent. Harlingen with a 2.0 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues in May was up 63.3 percent YTD.

### Total Revenues Collected YTD 97-98



### % Share Revenues May 1998





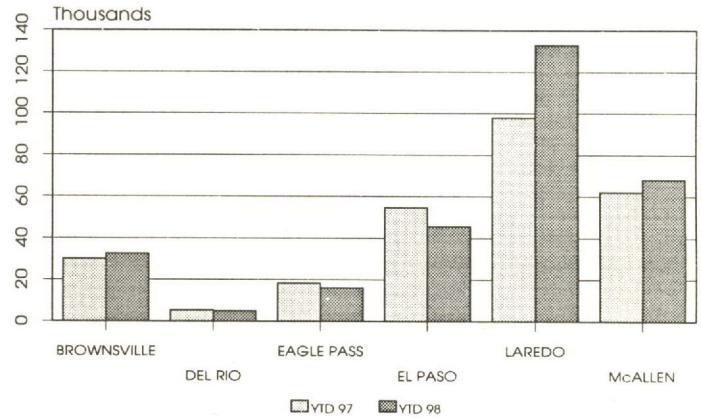
## Visas to Tourists from Texas to Mexico

CITY	MAR 98	APR 98	MAY 98	MAY 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	%CHG
BROWNSVILLE	7,946	6,504	6,596	6,603	30,067	32,525	8.2
DEL RIO	1,193	1,016	1,180	1,248	5,349	4,991	-6.7
EAGLE PASS	3,777	3,274	4,193	4,483	18,310	16,176	-11.7
EL PASO	10,649	9,512	10,276	14,569	54,777	45,688	-16.6
LAREDO	32,580	27,657	31,796	22,203	97,942	133,036	35.8
McALLEN	16,772	11,435	11,436	12,525	62,103	68,248	9.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>72,917</b>	<b>59,398</b>	<b>65,477</b>	<b>61,631</b>	<b>268,548</b>	<b>300,664</b>	<b>12.0</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

The number of tourist visas issued in May were up 10.2 percent. Eagle Pass increased 28.1 percent, Del Rio rose 16.1 percent, Laredo was up 15.0 percent, El Paso gained 8.0 percent, Brownsville showed a 1.4 percent increase and McAllen remained unchanged. YTD, the number of tourist visas issued were up 12.0 percent. Laredo, with 48.6 percent of total visas issued in May was up 35.8 percent. El Paso, with 15.7 percent of total visas issued, had a 16.6 percent decrease YTD. McAllen, with 17.5 percent of all visas issued, rose 9.9 percent YTD and Brownsville with 10.1 percent of total visas issued, increased 8.2 percent YTD.

### Tourist Visas YTD May 97-98



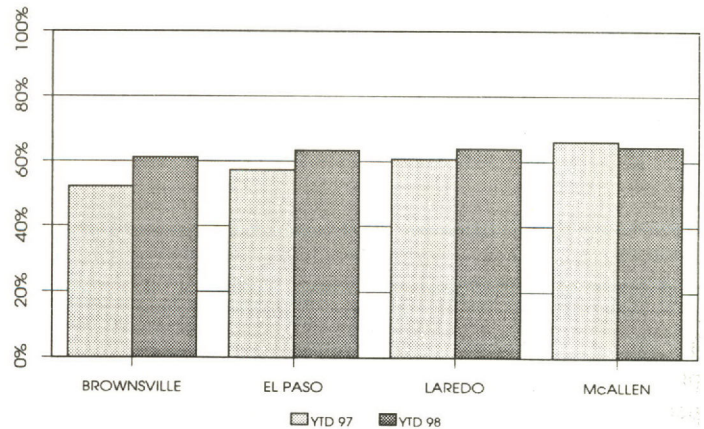
## Hotel Occupancy Percentage Rate —Texas Border

CITY	MAR 98	APR 98	MAY 98	MAY 97	% CHG 97-98
BROWNSVILLE	67.5	68.5	61.0	52.2	16.7
EL PASO	64.6	66.3	63.3	57.3	10.4
LAREDO	71.3	68.0	63.7	60.7	4.9
McALLEN	74.7	82.2	64.4	66.0	-2.4
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>69.5</b>	<b>71.2</b>	<b>63.1</b>	<b>59.1</b>	<b>6.8</b>

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 May was down 10.9 percent. McAllen had an 64.4 percent rate, Laredo had a 63.7 percent rate, El Paso had a rate of 63.3 percent and Brownsville posted a 61.0 percentage rate for the month of May.

### Hotel Occupancy Percentage May 97-98



## Telephones in Service —Texas Border

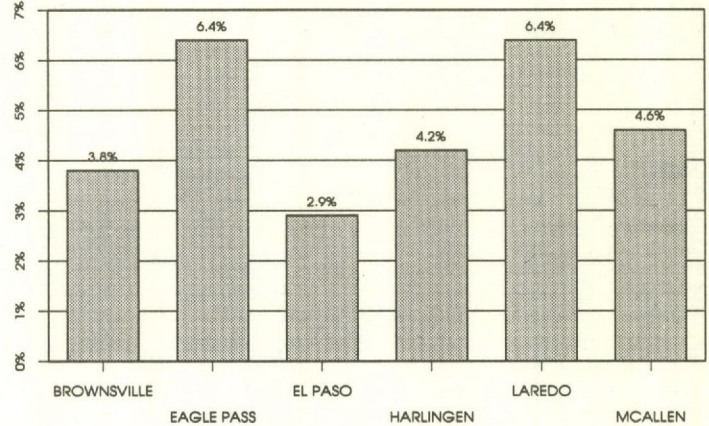
### Residential Telephones

CITY	MAR 98	APR 98	MAY 98	MAY 97
BROWNSVILLE	43,133	43,299	43,416	41,823
EAGLE PASS	11,485	11,552	11,601	10,904
EL PASO	212,523	213,401	213,377	207,283
HARLINGEN	26,656	26,617	26,618	25,535
LAREDO	48,987	49,395	49,521	46,544
MCALLEN	35,977	36,054	36,132	34,541
TOTAL	378,761	380,318	380,665	366,630

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

In May, the number of residential telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.09 percent since April. YTD, the number of residential telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased by 3.8 percent. Laredo and Eagle Pass increased 6.4 percent, McAllen was up 4.6 percent, Harlingen increased 4.2 percent, Brownsville was up 3.8 percent and El Paso rose 2.9 percent YTD.

### Residential Phones % Change May 97-98



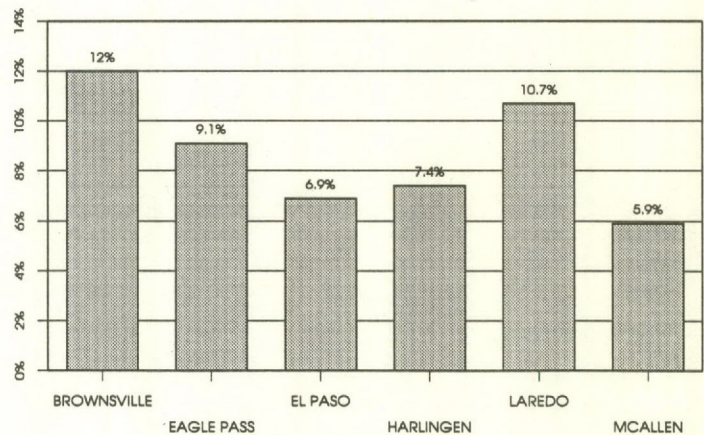
### Business Telephones

CITY	MAR 98	APR 98	MAY 98	MAY 97
BROWNSVILLE	21,263	21,482	21,651	19,336
EAGLE PASS	3,890	3,892	3,945	3,615
EL PASO	96,008	96,478	97,128	90,831
HARLINGEN	14,280	14,279	14,354	13,360
LAREDO	29,709	29,965	30,144	27,221
MCALLEN	25,111	25,303	25,556	24,126
TOTAL	190,261	191,399	192,778	178,489

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

In May the number of business telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.72 percent. YTD, the number of phones in service for reporting Texas border cities rose by 8.0 percent. Brownsville had the largest increase with 12.0 percent, Laredo rose 10.7 percent, Eagle Pass was up 9.1 percent, Harlingen gained 7.4 percent, El Paso increased 6.9 percent and McAllen rose 5.9 percent YTD.

### Business Phones % Change May 97-98



## Power Connections – Texas Border

### Residential Connections

CITY	MAR 98	APR 98	MAY 98	MAY 97
BROWNSVILLE	28,914	28,954	28,872	28,188
DEL RIO	13,673	13,724	13,721	13,422
EAGLE PASS	9,174	9,175	9,184	8,947
EL PASO	255,793	256,396	257,786	252,366
HARLINGEN	20,998	21,019	20,566	20,247
LAREDO	45,573	45,768	45,946	44,356
McALLEN	30,773	30,823	30,396	29,692
TOTAL	404,898	405,859	406,471	397,218

May residential power connections for all reporting Texas border cities increased from April's figures by 0.15 percent. YTD, residential power connections for all reporting border cities were up 2.3 percent. Laredo was up 3.6 percent, Eagle Pass increased 2.6 percent, McAllen and Brownsville gained 2.4 percent, Del Rio rose 2.2 percent, El Paso increased 2.1 percent and Harlingen was up 1.6 percent.

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

May commercial power connections for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.28 percent from April's figures. YTD, commercial power connections for reporting Texas border cities increased 3.0 percent. YTD, Harlingen and Laredo were up 4.3 percent, McAllen increased 3.1 percent, Eagle Pass and El Paso were up 2.6 percent, Brownsville was up 2.4 percent and Del Rio gained 2.3 percent YTD.

### Commercial Connections

CITY	MAR 98	APR 98	MAY 98	MAY 97
BROWNSVILLE	3,838	3,863	3,822	3,734
DEL RIO	1,920	1,923	1,915	1,872
EAGLE PASS	1,279	1,286	1,297	1,264
EL PASO	25,990	26,129	26,218	25,545
HARLINGEN	3,284	3,302	3,307	3,170
LAREDO	6,832	6,859	6,910	6,626
McALLEN	5,317	5,317	5,344	5,183
TOTAL	48,460	48,679	48,813	47,394

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	MAR 98	APR 98	MAY 98	MAY 97
BROWNSVILLE	412	413	435	455
DEL RIO	30	30	30	31
EAGLE PASS	18	17	17	24
EL PASO	113	114	114	106
HARLINGEN	83	83	84	81
LAREDO	128	127	126	128
McALLEN	48	46	46	47
TOTAL	832	830	852	872

Industrial power connections for reporting Texas border cities rose 2.65 percent from April's figures, YTD. Eagle Pass had the largest decrease with 29.2 percent, Brownsville fell 4.4 percent, Del Rio declined 3.2 percent, McAllen slid 2.1 percent and Laredo dipped 1.6 percent. However, El Paso rose 7.5 percent and Harlingen increased 3.7 percent.

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

## Building Permits — Texas Border

### Number of Permits

NUMBER	MAR 98	APR 98	MAY 98	MAY 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	368	288	305	292	1,222	1,442	18.0
DEL RIO	110	98	69	104	564	438	-22.3
EAGLE PASS	43	40	46	21	156	198	26.9
EL PASO	3,103	2,905	3,212	3,090	11,457	13,812	20.6
HARLINGEN	67	74	59	71	316	324	2.5
LAREDO	422	355	349	303	1,521	1,780	17.0
MCALLEN	139	163	177	142	648	690	6.5
TOTAL	4,252	3,923	4,217	4,023	15,884	18,684	17.6

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

May building permits issued by reporting Texas border cities were up 7.5 percent from April. Eagle Pass increased 15.0 percent, El Paso was up 10.6 percent, McAllen rose 8.6 percent and Brownsville gained 5.9 percent. However, Del Rio dipped 29.6 percent, Harlingen was down 20.3 percent and Laredo decreased 1.7 percent. YTD, the

number of permits issued were up 17.6 percent. El Paso, accounting for 76.2 percent of all building permits issued in May, had an increase of 20.6 percent YTD. Laredo, with 8.3 percent of building permits issued, was up 17.0 percent YTD. Brownsville was up 18.0 percent and McAllen rose 6.5 percent YTD.

### U.S. Dollar Value of Permits

VALUE	MAR 98	APR 98	MAY 98	MAY 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	16,925,782	9,832,626	11,446,894	7,367,809	97,295,164	59,689,078	-38.7
DEL RIO	1,937,428	1,288,139	1,388,374	2,345,120	10,072,607	7,098,966	-29.5
EAGLE PASS	893,446	11,142,830	874,492	454,832	5,405,919	14,661,150	171.2
EL PASO	58,457,573	50,835,938	50,249,393	61,091,559	354,895,397	272,420,538	-23.2
HARLINGEN	3,528,040	4,457,649	2,084,278	11,282,751	28,680,769	15,944,041	-44.4
LAREDO	16,023,992	13,508,760	13,699,412	10,209,552	97,060,450	66,831,746	-31.1
MCALLEN	11,845,545	11,303,861	12,183,494	11,801,807	55,476,101	48,464,061	-12.6
TOTAL	109,611,806	102,369,803	91,926,337	104,553,430	648,886,407	485,109,580	-25.2

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

May building permit values for reporting Texas border cities were down 10.2 percent from April. Eagle Pass decreased 92.2 percent, Harlingen fell 53.2 percent and El Paso was down 1.2 percent. However, Brownsville gained 16.4 percent, Del Rio and McAllen increased 7.8 percent and Laredo rose 1.4 percent. YTD, reporting

border cities experienced a 25.2 percent decrease. El Paso, with 54.7 percent total value for the month of May, fell 23.2 percent YTD. Laredo, with 14.9 percent total value, decreased 31.1 percent YTD. McAllen, with 13.3 percent total value for the month of May, was down 12.6 percent YTD.

## Employment/Unemployment Rates —Texas Border

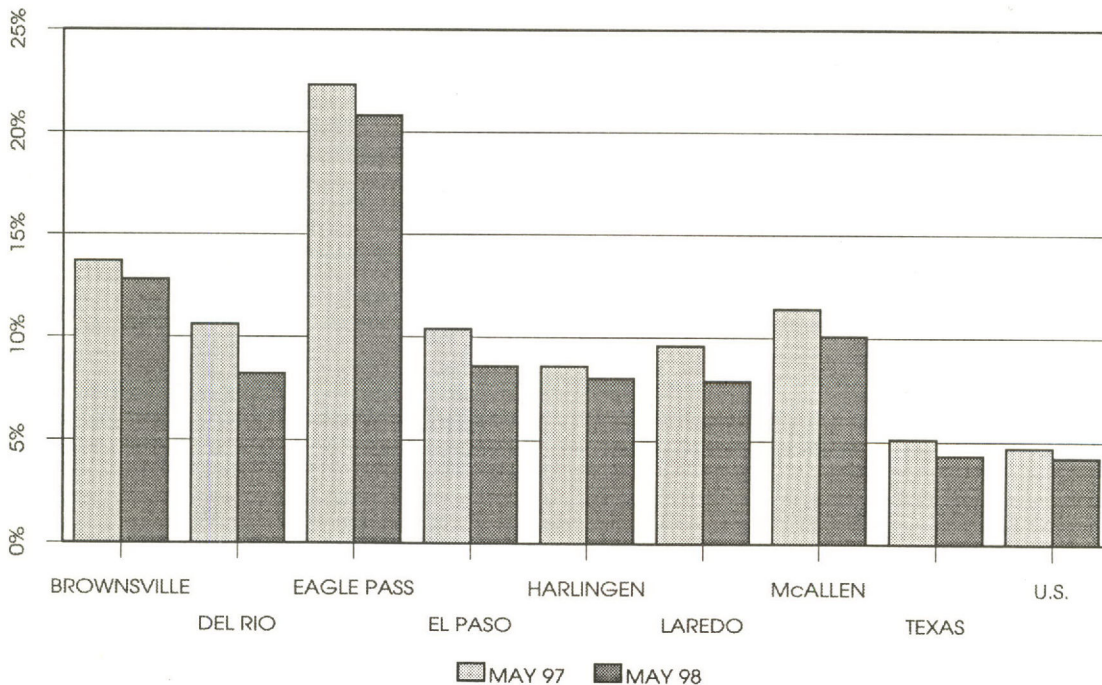
CITY	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED	PERCENT UNEMPLOYED	PERCENT UNEMPLOYED
	MAY 98	MAY 97	MAY 98	MAY 97	MAY 98	MAY 97
BROWNSVILLE	41,848	40,734	6,120	6,445	12.8	13.7
DEL RIO	13,711	13,359	1,223	1,592	8.2	10.6
EAGLE PASS	8,032	7,840	2,111	2,256	20.8	22.3
EL PASO	238,508	234,338	22,380	27,179	8.6	10.4
HARLINGEN	24,041	23,401	2,081	2,191	8.0	8.6
LAREDO	60,862	59,145	5,255	6,266	7.9	9.6
McALLEN	43,149	42,355	4,824	5,465	10.1	11.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>430,151</b>	<b>421,172</b>	<b>43,994</b>	<b>51,394</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>10.9</b>
THE TEXAS UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					4.28	5.11
THE NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					4.20	4.71

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 May, total employment in reporting Texas border cities rose 0.8 percent (3,212 jobs gained) from April's figures. Laredo rose 1.3 percent (767 jobs gained), El Paso and Eagle Pass increased 0.9 percent (2,176 and 72 jobs gained, respectively), Harlingen and Brownsville rose 0.4 percent (92 and 161 jobs gained, respectively) and Del Rio jumped 0.3 percent (42 jobs gained). However, McAllen

decreased 0.2 percent (98 jobs lost). YTD, the total employment in Texas border cities was up 2.1 percent (8,979 jobs gained) from a year ago. The average unemployment rate for the border was 9.3 percent compared to 4.28 percent for Texas and 4.20 percent for the U.S. in May.

**% Unemployed May 97-98**



## Air Passenger Service Activities — Selected Border Cities

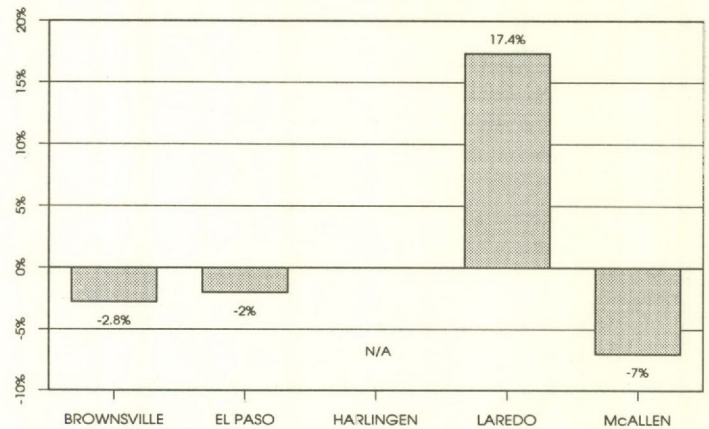
### Passenger Arrivals

CITY	MAR 98	APR 98	MAY 98	MAY 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	7,344	6,931	5,903	6,216	33,419	32,493	-2.8
EL PASO	140,559	136,315	139,007	137,317	651,472	638,164	-2.0
HARLINGEN	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	7,103	6,644	6,892	4,836	27,353	32,126	17.4
McALLEN	25,753	25,940	22,768	25,114	132,678	123,395	-7.0
TOTAL	180,759	175,830	174,570	173,483	844,922	826,178	-2.2

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

May air passengers arriving in Texas border cities were down 0.7 percent over April's figures. Brownsville was down 14.8 percent and McAllen fell 12.2 percent. However, Laredo increased 3.7 percent and El Paso rose 2.0 percent. YTD air passenger arrivals were down 2.2 percent. El Paso, with 79.6 percent of all passengers arriving in May, fell 2.0 percent. McAllen, with 13.0 percent of all arrivals, was down 7.0 percent. **Harlingen, no longer gives out arrival information.** Laredo increased 17.4 percent YTD and Brownsville fell 2.8 percent YTD.

#### Passenger Arrivals % Change YTD 97-98



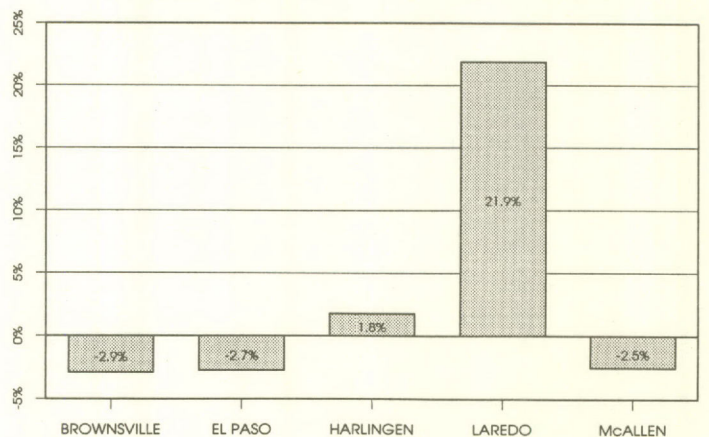
### Passenger Departures

CITY	MAR 98	APR 98	MAY 98	MAY 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	7,787	7,449	6,223	6,469	34,938	33,938	-2.9
EL PASO	141,675	135,643	145,633	144,132	674,566	656,375	-2.7
HARLINGEN	47,560	41,628	39,442	37,994	198,756	202,373	1.8
LAREDO	6,880	7,044	7,310	5,349	27,375	33,370	21.9
McALLEN	27,960	29,992	25,862	26,877	138,006	134,593	-2.5
TOTAL	231,862	221,756	224,470	220,821	1,073,641	1,060,649	-1.2

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

May air passenger departures for reporting Texas border cities were up 1.2 percent from April's figures. El Paso increased 7.4 percent and Laredo rose 3.8 percent. However, Brownsville was down 16.5 percent, McAllen declined 13.8 percent and Harlingen fell 5.3 percent. YTD, air passenger departures decreased 1.2 percent from a year ago. El Paso, with 64.9 percent of all passengers departing in May, was down 2.7 percent YTD. Harlingen, with 17.6 percent of all passengers departing, was up 1.8 percent. McAllen, with 11.5 percent of all passengers departing, decreased 2.5 percent YTD. Laredo rose 21.9 percent while Brownsville was down 2.9 percent YTD.

#### Passenger Departures % Change YTD 97-98



# Port Of Corpus Christi

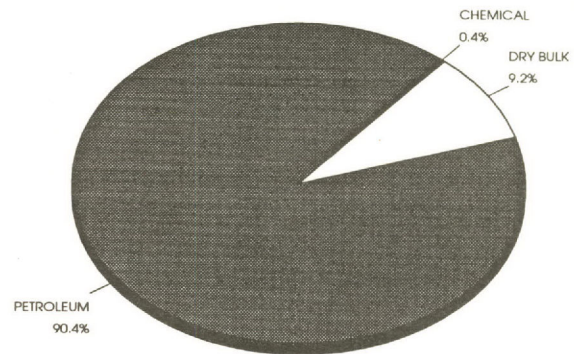
## Inbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	MAR 98	APR 98	MAY 98	MAY 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BREAK BULK	1,069	840	105	1,409	5,218	2,391	-54.2
DRY BULK	483,833	730,278	431,892	419,919	1,716,989	2,111,757	23.0
BULK GRAIN	0	0	1,462	0	0	1,462	N/A
LIQUID	8,318	0	0	0	18,936	16,130	-14.8
PETROLEUM	3,882,061	4,497,745	4,218,162	3,727,687	17,736,220	19,777,562	11.5
CHEMICAL	11,765	1,249	17,982	5,740	57,704	49,222	-14.7
TOTAL	4,387,045	5,230,112	4,669,604	4,154,755	19,535,067	21,958,524	12.4

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 10.7 percent decrease in inbound cargo from last month. Petroleum, which makes up 90.3 percent of all inbound traffic in May, was down 6.2 percent compared to April. Dry bulk, which accounts for 9.2 percent of the port's inbound cargo for May, fell 40.9 percent. YTD, inbound cargo tonnage was up 12.4 percent. Dry bulk was up 23.0 percent YTD and Petroleum was up 11.5 percent YTD.

## % Share May 1998 Inbound Cargo



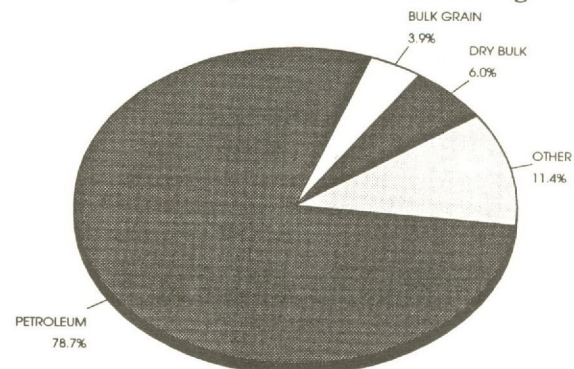
## Outbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	MAR 98	APR 98	MAY 98	MAY 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BREAK BULK	5,816	2,585	32,000	1,256	3,918	43,149	1001.3
DRY BULK	282,508	400,864	191,120	205,249	1,126,499	1,223,369	8.6
BULK GRAIN	73,590	28,110	123,874	53,035	348,401	891,563	155.9
LIQUID	0	0	9,706	0	2,865	9,706	238.8
PETROLEUM	1,861,849	2,543,910	2,488,350	1,621,853	10,226,739	11,476,428	12.2
CHEMICAL	93,965	0	320,642	153,503	804,070	641,415	-20.2
TOTAL	2,317,728	2,975,470	3,165,692	2,034,896	12,512,492	14,285,629	14.2

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 6.4 percent increase in outbound cargo tonnage in May. Petroleum, which is 78.7 percent of total outbound cargo for May, decreased 2.2 percent compared to April. Dry bulk decreased 52.3 percent while Chemicals rose 100.0 percent and Bulk Grain increased 340.7 percent. YTD, total outbound cargo tonnage was up 14.2 percent.

## % Share May 1998 Outbound Cargo



# Border Business Indicators

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