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Border Business Indicators

Government Publications
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College of Business Administration & Graduate School of 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 November demonstrated an increase of eight indicators over fourteen indicators that decreased. In addition, for the year-to-date (YTD) figures, seventeen indicators were up and four were down. Selected YTD comparisons to 1998 reported by border cities include the following:

- Southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico were up 4.2 percent. El Paso gained 10.0 percent, Eagle Pass jumped 7.4 percent, and Laredo increased 6.3 percent.
- Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 5.8 percent. Laredo increased 19.8 percent, Roma rose 15.2 percent, while Eagle Pass jumped 4.2 percent and El Paso gained 4.7 percent.
- Southbound vehicle crossings were up 6.8 percent. Harlingen rose 18.1 percent, Pharr increased 16.3 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo gained 11.3 percent, and Del Rio jumped 7.1 percent.
- Northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 6.8 percent. Harlingen jumped 19.7 percent, Del Rio increased 19.5 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo gained 18.5 percent and Roma posted an increase of 15.5 percent.
- Southbound truck crossings into Mexico were up 6.8 percent. Progreso increased 68.0 percent, Eagle Pass was up 60.9 percent and Roma rose 51.1 percent.
- Northbound truck crossings into Texas were up 13.6 percent, Pharr increased 23.2 percent, Falcon gained 19.7 percent and Rio Grande posted a 17.9 percent increase.
- Southbound shipments by rail were up 13.8 percent.
- Northbound shipments by rail were up 21.3 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Customs were down slightly by 5.1 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Bridge operators were up 15.8 percent.
- Building permits issued were up 10.2 percent. Laredo rose 42.4 percent, Harlingen gained 9.0 percent, Eagle Pass was up 7.1 percent, while McAllen-Hidalgo declined 4.1 percent.
- Building permit values were up with a YTD increase of 21.8 percent. Harlingen increased 63.3 percent, McAllen was up 40.4 percent, Brownsville rose 30.8 percent and El Paso reported a 28.4 percent increase.
- Total employment was down with 296 jobs lost YTD. The average unemployment rate in November 1999 was 8.3 percent for the border.

Changes in the reporting format used by our contributors for truck crossings has required us to alter our format. "Export Shipments by Trucks into Mexico" has been changed to "Truck Crossings into Mexico" and "Import Shipments by Trucks into Texas" has been changed to "Truck Crossings into Texas."

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Technical Reports

Technical Report No. 1:	NAFTA Rules of Origin: An Explanation (March 1994)
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)
Technical Report No. 3:	Labor Mobility Under NAFTA: It's Impact on the Border (February 1994)
Technical Report No. 4:	The Impact of NAFTA on Border Maquiladora and Industrial Activity (April 1994)
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Technical Report No. 8:	Standards as Non-Tariff Barriers: NAFTA's Impact (February 1994)
Technical Report No. 9:	NAFTA Certificate of Origin (May 1994)
Technical Report No. 10:	The Texas Border with Mexico: Opportunities and Challenges (October 1994)
Technical Report No. 12:	NAFTA One Year After Implementation: A Preliminary Assessment of Selected Impacts (March 1995) <i>Hardcopy only</i>

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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.

The Texas Border Region Enjoys a Decade of Strong Growth (Part Three of a Three Part Series)

In part one of our three part series (*see the November 1999 issue of the BBI*), we focused on the strong population, employment, and industry sales experienced in the Texas border region, and in particular, the metropolitan areas of Brownsville, McAllen, Laredo, and El Paso during the 1990s. In part two (*see the December 1999 issue of the BBI*), we looked at the fastest growing sectors in the border metropolitan areas based upon employment and the top job gaining categories. In part three, the final part of our series, we will examine the slowest growing sectors in the border metropolitan areas, pinpointing those industries and job categories that lost jobs in the decade of the 1990s. Also covered in part three is a comparison of the relative changes in public sector employment over the decade.

As we reported in part two of our series, even though all the border metropolitan areas posted net job gains during the 1990s, they also lost close to 17,000 jobs. The job losses however were not shared equally across industries and metropolitan areas. Rather, they were concentrated in the food & kindred products, agricultural products & services, and apparel & other textile products industries, which accounted for 56 percent of the total number of jobs lost. The El Paso and McAllen metropolitan areas suffered the largest job losses (Table 1).

The concentration of job losses in the labor intensive agriculture, food processing, and textile assembly sectors will not be a surprise to NAFTA watchers. These are the sectors where low cost Mexican labor, under free trade, has a competitive advantage over their American counterparts. El Paso has seen several of its larger apparel & other textile products manufacturers shift their operations into Mexico over the past decade, qualifying the city for federal trade adjustment assistance under NAFTA provisions. The sharp decline in agriculture and food processing activity in the Rio Grande Valley (McAllen and Brownsville metropolitan areas) in recent years has also displaced thousands of seasonal workers adding to the area's already high unemployment rate.

Table 1
Job Categories: Top Five Losers 1990-1999

	Job Category	Number of Jobs	Percent Loss
Brownsville Metropolitan Area	1. Food & Kindred Products	-403	-21.8
	2. Industrial Machinery & Equipment	-388	-43.5
	3. Eng. & Management Services	-345	-35.5
	4. Stone, Clay & Glass Products	-246	-33.6
	5. Agricultural Products-Crops	-190	-16.5
McAllen Metropolitan Area	1. Food & Kindred Products	-1,583	-36.1
	2. Agricultural Products-Crops	-1,248	-28.7
	3. Agricultural Services	-631	-15.7
	4. Wholesale Trade-Nondurables	-462	-11.4
	5. Apparel & Other Textile Products	-369	-7.9
Laredo Metropolitan Area	1. Electronic & Other Electric Equip	-243	-100.0
	2. Food & Kindred Products	-186	-82.7
	3. Leather & Leather Products	-159	-100.0
	4. Hotels & Other Lodging Places	-108	-11.6
	5. Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	-64	-22.9
El Paso Metropolitan Area	1. Personal Services	-1,582	-39.2
	2. Food & Kindred Products	-999	-27.5
	3. Apparel & Other Textile Products	-812	-5.2
	4. Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	-761	-29.1
	5. Depository Institutions	-714	-21.2

Source: Texas Workforce Commission

Over the decade of the 1990s, public sector employment, as a percentage of total (public and private) employment, stood at roughly 17.5 percent for the State compared to 22.9 percent for the Brownsville metropolitan area; 24.9 percent for the McAllen metropolitan area; 22.5 percent for the Laredo metropolitan area; and 21.4 percent for the El Paso metropolitan area. Public sector employment in the border metropolitan areas is concentrated in the local school districts, which accounts for roughly 75 percent of total public employment (Table 2).

Table 2
Changes in Private and Public Sector Employment, 1990-1998

	1990	1998	Percent Change
Brownsville Metropolitan Area			
Public	17,300	23,400	35.3
Federal	1,200	1,900	58.3
State	2,100	3,800	80.9
Local	14,000	17,700	26.4
McAllen Metropolitan Area			
Public	26,700	37,800	41.6
Federal	1,800	2,700	50.0
State	3,300	4,800	45.5
Local	21,600	30,300	40.3
Laredo Metropolitan Area			
Public	9,800	14,700	50.0
Federal	900	1,800	100.0
State	800	1,600	100.0
Local	8,100	11,300	39.5
El Paso Metropolitan Area			
Public	44,200	52,300	18.3
Federal	9,300	8,700	-6.5
State	5,000	8,100	62.0
Local	29,900	35,500	18.7

Source: Texas Workforce Commission

The pace of employment growth in border metropolitan area school districts is expected to remain strong over the next decade or two, as new schools come on-line to accommodate the region's exploding population. Federal and state employment in the border region is also expected to continue its sharp rise over the past decade (Table 2) to 1) meet growing manpower needs to facilitate and control the sharp increase in U.S.-Mexico merchandise trade taking place at the border, and 2) expand immigration and drug interdiction activities at the region.

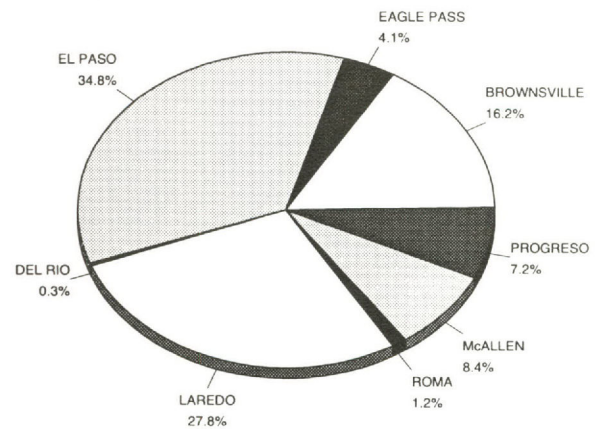
Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	SEP 99	OCT 99	NOV 99	NOV 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	197,279	214,435	216,248	228,814	2,778,380	2,598,482	-6.5
DEL RIO	3,509	4,740	4,626	5,249	54,449	48,202	-11.5
EAGLE PASS	56,017	50,432	54,832	55,573	584,394	627,573	7.4
EL PASO	407,068	439,769	462,635	466,365	4,320,891	4,751,589	10.0
HARLINGEN	118	0	216	148	971	975	0.4
LAREDO	311,694	339,866	369,429	346,087	3,601,509	3,829,548	6.3
McALLEN-HIDALGO	91,366	106,219	112,307	100,492	1,185,118	1,135,383	-4.2
PROGRESO	59,285	68,623	95,664	92,731	1,076,473	1,175,699	9.2
RIO GRANDE	562	443	618	543	7,650	7,670	0.3
ROMA	14,458	15,387	15,606	15,006	161,111	167,732	4.1
TOTAL	1,141,356	1,239,914	1,332,181	1,311,008	13,770,946	14,342,853	4.2

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 November was up 7.4 percent. Rio Grande increased 39.5 percent, Progreso rose 39.4 percent, Laredo grew 8.7 percent, Eagle Pass also gained 8.7 percent, and McAllen-Hidalgo was up 5.7 percent. YTD, total southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico were up 4.2 percent. El Paso southbound pedestrian crossings, which made up 34.7 percent of all crossings in November, increased 10.0 percent, YTD. Laredo, accounting for 27.7 percent of total crossings in November, was up 6.3 percent, YTD and Brownsville, with a 16.2 percent share in November, was down 6.5 percent, YTD.

% Share Pedestrians for November 1999



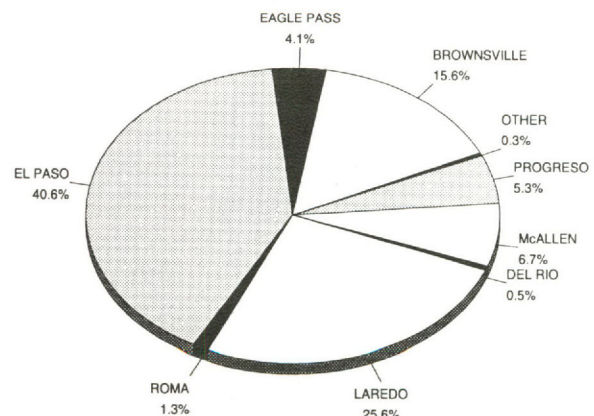
Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	SEP 99	OCT 99	NOV 99	NOV 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	190,543	199,074	222,613	211,782	2,530,338	2,328,544	-8.0
DEL RIO	6,651	6,507	6,667	7,006	109,287	86,203	-21.1
EAGLE PASS	56,584	59,361	58,899	61,350	670,869	699,156	4.2
EL PASO	524,532	552,568	580,913	562,956	5,664,526	5,932,088	4.7
LAREDO	310,031	319,612	366,341	258,967	2,801,850	3,357,587	19.8
McALLEN-HIDALGO	79,273	81,905	95,113	86,046	985,379	1,025,630	4.1
PRESIDIO	1,968	2,234	2,271	2,354	29,512	23,194	-21.4
PROGRESO	49,766	60,140	75,488	57,241	679,682	789,550	16.2
RIO GRANDE	974	883	1,096	907	11,967	11,651	-2.6
ROMA	15,281	16,970	18,218	18,113	164,115	189,060	15.2
TOTAL	1,235,603	1,299,254	1,427,619	1,266,722	13,647,525	14,442,663	5.8

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 5.7 percent in November, Progreso increased 25.5 percent, Rio Grande was up 24.1 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo rose 16.1 percent, Laredo gained 14.6 percent. YTD total northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 5.8 percent. El Paso, accounting for 40.7 percent of northbound crossings in November, was up 4.7 percent, YTD. Laredo, with 25.7 percent of all northbound crossings in November, was up 19.8 percent, YTD and Brownsville, with 15.6 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings in November, declined 8.0 percent in crossings YTD.

% Share Pedestrians for November 1999



Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	SEP 99	OCT 99	NOV 99	NOV 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	598,902	632,099	620,480	559,300	6,322,266	6,779,623	7.2
DEL RIO	151,375	167,250	152,580	154,807	1,701,342	1,821,300	7.1
EAGLE PASS	220,311	258,511	257,306	223,141	2,439,830	2,570,939	5.4
EL PASO	442,861	449,049	451,361	398,167	4,941,052	4,833,356	-2.2
HARLINGEN	43,143	46,917	47,882	41,000	444,530	525,121	18.1
LAREDO	720,944	757,233	715,065	692,942	7,563,497	7,887,096	4.3
McALLEN-HIDALGO	480,839	499,999	461,718	443,979	4,902,918	5,455,719	11.3
PHARR	165,773	177,219	172,923	149,265	1,580,218	1,838,483	16.3
PROGRESO	88,628	95,777	95,967	90,343	969,704	1,102,022	13.6
RIO GRANDE	47,622	50,887	50,034	51,302	539,076	576,725	7.0
ROMA	90,031	96,705	98,291	75,199	793,199	1,003,575	26.5
TOTAL	3,050,429	3,231,646	3,123,607	2,879,445	32,197,632	34,393,959	6.8

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

Southbound vehicle bridge crossings into Mexico was down 3.3 percent in November from October's figures. Del Rio was down 8.8 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo fell 7.7 percent, Laredo dropped 5.6 percent, Pharr decreased 2.4 percent, Brownsville declined 1.5 percent, Rio Grande was down 1.7 percent, and Eagle Pass decreased 0.5 percent. YTD total southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 6.8 percent. Laredo, with 22.9 percent of all south-

bound traffic in November, was up 4.3 percent, YTD. Brownsville, with 19.9 percent of all southbound vehicle bridge crossings in November, had a 7.2 percent increase, YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 14.8 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings in November, experienced a 11.3 percent increase, YTD. El Paso, accounting for 14.4 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings in November, fell 2.2 percent, YTD.

Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	SEP 99	OCT 99	NOV 99	NOV 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	431,322	450,302	446,200	498,998	5,681,996	5,366,512	-5.6
DEL RIO	155,788	163,315	166,280	137,922	1,396,804	1,669,627	19.5
EAGLE PASS	196,767	109,467	98,043	219,187	2,351,740	2,181,910	-7.2
EL PASO	650,230	692,618	673,685	578,950	7,453,927	7,858,791	5.4
HARLINGEN	57,242	60,374	60,347	55,003	587,054	702,943	19.7
LAREDO	705,900	735,908	713,351	667,359	6,984,288	7,647,183	9.5
McALLEN-HIDALGO	471,950	487,281	444,836	451,925	4,478,024	5,304,642	18.5
PRESIDIO	59,481	61,854	63,822	57,847	609,526	696,690	14.3
PROGRESO	82,058	86,369	89,961	84,618	884,699	999,449	13.0
RIO GRANDE	50,723	55,897	55,916	55,955	587,408	619,483	5.5
ROMA	90,448	96,928	97,840	90,667	884,032	1,021,197	15.5
TOTAL	2,951,909	3,000,313	2,910,281	2,898,431	31,899,498	34,068,427	6.8

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

Northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas for November were down 3.0 percent from October. Eagle Pass registered a 10.4 percent decrease, McAllen-Hidalgo was down 8.7 percent, Laredo fell 3.1 percent, El Paso dropped 2.7 percent, and Brownsville declined 0.9 percent. Progreso increased 4.2 percent, Presidio rose 3.2 percent and Del Rio was up 1.8 percent. YTD northbound

vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 6.8 percent. Laredo, with a 24.5 percent of all crossings in November, was up 9.5 percent, YTD. Eagle Pass, with 23.1 percent of all crossings in November, was up 5.4 percent, YTD and Brownsville, with 15.3 percent of all crossings in November, declined 5.6 percent, YTD.

Trucks Crossings into Mexico —Number of Trucks

CITY	SEP 99	OCT 99	NOV 99	NOV 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE+	18,670	19,576	19,010	22,841	268,227	218,694	-18.5
DEL RIO+	5,578	6,320	5,786	5,117	60,560	62,459	3.1
EAGLE PASS++	9,354	9,115	8,519	5,023	45,562	73,332	60.9
EL PASO+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	N/A
HARLINGEN+	6,555	6,781	6,424	5,593	59,092	69,679	17.9
LAREDO+	114,287	115,954	115,166	98,029	1,098,191	1,189,309	8.3
McALLEN-HIDALGO+	4,262	4,152	4,276	3,960	48,332	47,176	-2.4
PHARR+	16,516	18,435	17,813	14,121	166,057	189,334	14.0
PROGRESO+	3,062	2,512	2,303	1,728	14,961	25,127	68.0
RIO GRANDE+	2,045	1,913	1,718	1,496	19,867	22,287	12.2
ROMA+	1,525	1,475	1,422	882	9,552	14,433	51.1
TOTAL	181,854	186,233	182,437	158,790	1,790,401	1,911,830	6.8

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 crossings into Mexico were down 2.0 percent in November. Rio Grande dropped 10.2 percent, Del Rio decreased 8.4 percent, Progreso fell 8.3 percent, Eagle Pass was down 6.5 percent, and Harlingen declined 5.3 percent. YTD southbound truck crossings were up 6.8 percent. Laredo, with 63.1 percent of all southbound crossings in November, experienced an 8.3 percent

increase, YTD. Brownsville, with a 10.4 percent of all southbound crossings in November, had an 18.5 percent decrease, YTD. Pharr, with 9.8 percent in November, registered an increase of 14.0 percent, YTD. Eagle Pass, with 4.7 percent of all truck crossings in November, was up 60.9 percent, YTD.

Trucks Crossings into Texas —Number of Trucks

CITY	SEP 99	OCT 99	NOV 99	NOV 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	25,948	27,215	26,483	22,673	254,065	264,091	3.9
DEL RIO	5,278	5,475	4,369	4,766	49,087	55,278	12.6
EAGLE PASS	8,627	9,756	8,843	8,030	83,290	93,301	12.0
FALCON	38	36	45	35	370	443	19.7
LAREDO	125,254	130,115	125,141	111,977	1,199,060	1,364,212	13.8
McALLEN-HIDALGO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
PHARR	26,515	26,515	29,052	21,986	242,052	298,329	23.2
PROGRESO	1,715	1,206	599	1,129	14,433	16,040	11.1
RIO GRANDE	1,772	1,785	1,660	1,366	16,408	19,352	17.9
ROMA	1,322	1,452	1,371	1,105	12,620	14,675	16.3
TOTAL	196,469	203,555	197,563	173,067	1,871,385	2,125,721	13.6

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 trucks only.

November northbound truck crossings into Texas decreased 2.9 percent over October's crossings. Pharr was up 9.6 percent, Progreso dropped 50.3 percent, Del Rio fell 20.2 percent, Eagle Pass went down 9.4 percent, and Laredo declined 3.8 percent. YTD northbound truck crossings were up 13.6 percent. Laredo, accounting for

63.3 percent of all northbound truck crossings in November, had a 13.8 percent increase, YTD. Pharr, with 14.7 percent of all crossings in November, experienced a 23.2 percent increase, YTD. Brownsville, with a 13.4 percent of all northbound truck crossings in November, experienced a 3.9 percent increase, YTD.

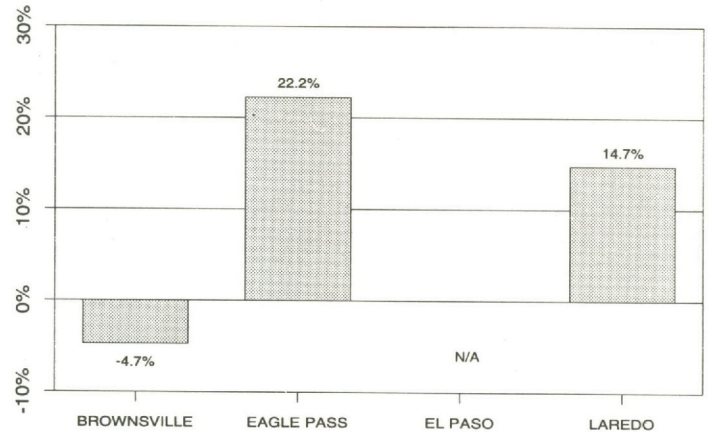
Export Shipments by Rail into Mexico —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	SEP 99	OCT 99	NOV 99	NOV 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	3,002	2,232	2,275	3,445	29,714	28,322	-4.7
EAGLE PASS	5,767	5,045	5,838	5,043	52,286	63,888	22.2
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	14,877	17,043	15,171	13,653	133,512	153,105	14.7
TOTAL	23,646	24,320	23,284	22,141	215,512	245,315	13.8

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

Southbound rail shipments into Mexico decreased 4.3 percent in November compared to October. Eagle Pass increased 15.7 percent, while Laredo showed a decrease of 11.0 percent. YTD, total southbound rail shipments into Mexico from Texas were up 13.8 percent. Laredo which accounts for 65.2 percent of all southbound rail shipments in November, was up 14.7 percent, YTD. Eagle Pass, accounting for 25.1 percent of all southbound rail shipments in November, increased 22.2 percent, YTD. Brownsville, however, with 9.8 percent of all southbound rail shipments in November showed a decrease of 4.7 percent, YTD.

Export Rail YTD % Change 98-99



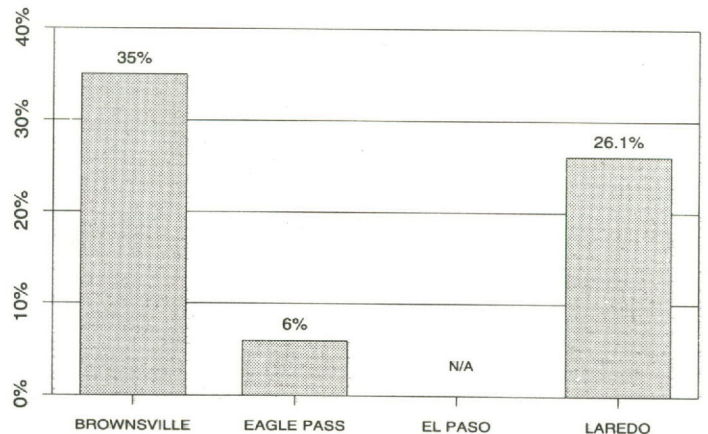
Import Shipments by Rail into Texas —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	SEP 99	OCT 99	NOV 99	NOV 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	1,142	953	882	629	10,826	14,614	35.0
EAGLE PASS	3,846	2,716	2,747	3,645	36,711	38,922	6.0
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	10,370	10,036	8,053	7,857	85,102	107,310	26.1
TOTAL	15,358	13,705	11,682	12,131	132,639	160,846	21.3

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

Northbound rail shipments into Texas decreased 14.8 percent in November. Laredo decreased 19.8 percent, Brownsville was down 7.5 percent, and Eagle Pass was up, 1.1 percent. YTD, total northbound rail shipments into Texas from Mexico were up 21.3 percent. Laredo, which accounts for 68.9 percent of all northbound rail shipments in November, was up 26.1 percent, YTD. Eagle Pass, accounting for 23.5 percent of all northbound rail shipments in November, was up 6.0 percent, YTD and Brownsville, with 7.6 percent of all northbound rail shipments in November, rose 35.0 percent, YTD.

Import Rail YTD % Change 98-99



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

CITY	DUTY	MPF	OTHER	TOTAL	TOTAL	YTD	YTD	YTD % CHG
	NOV 99	NOV 99	REVENUE NOV 99	REVENUE NOV 99	REVENUE NOV 98	REVENUE NOV 98	REVENUE NOV 99	
BROWNSVILLE	4,420,579	168,733	323,860	4,913,172	2,449,138	30,203,938	36,584,221	21.1
DEL RIO	107,580	26,296	20,003	153,879	430,875	4,680,913	3,036,649	-35.1
EAGLE PASS	303,884	12,172	1,432,511	1,748,567	3,953,542	38,128,619	38,555,300	1.1
LAREDO	11,311,486	553,522	6,157,691	18,022,699	19,588,443	216,336,712	206,550,764	-4.5
McALLEN-HIDALGO	2,108,098	162,204	773,289	3,043,591	3,440,347	50,159,970	37,630,849	-25.0
PROGRESO	2,204	2,822	8,365	13,391	23,537	491,595	372,789	-24.2
RIO GRANDE	22,838	5,750	9,799	38,388	66,290	958,878	839,511	-12.4
ROMA	20,928	4,685	17,485	43,098	37,867	543,315	613,736	13.0
TOTAL	18,297,596	936,185	8,743,003	27,976,785	29,990,040	341,503,940	324,183,819	-5.1

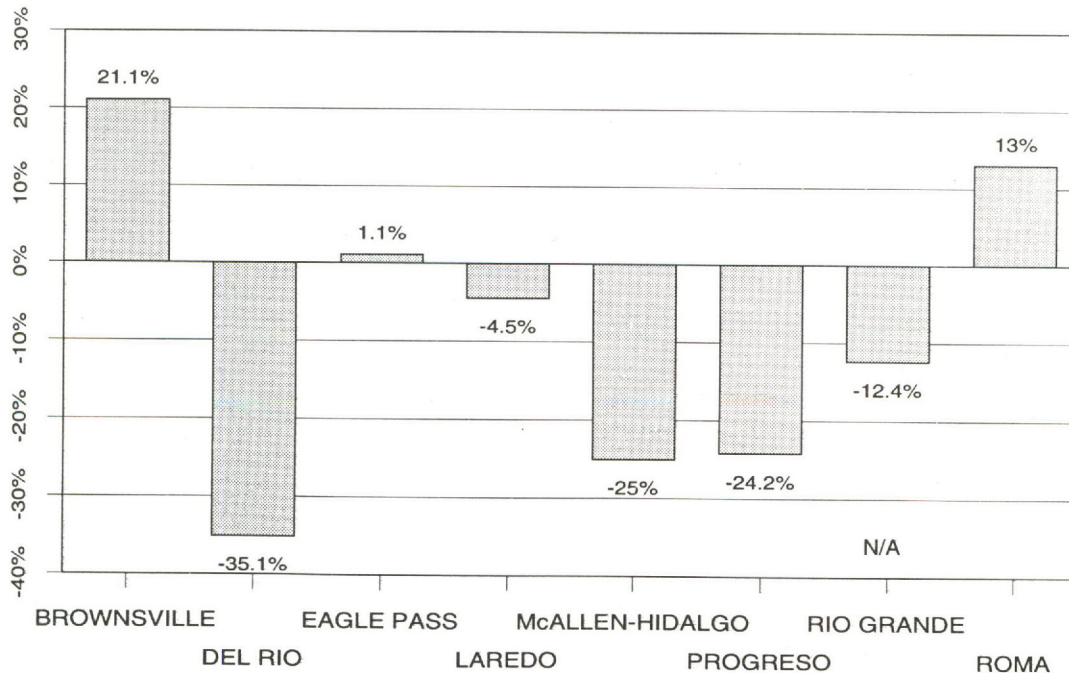
Source: Data provided by the South Texas CMC in Laredo and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

MPF = Merchandise Processing Fee

Total U.S. Customs revenues, for November, for the former District of Laredo, increased 8.2 percent from October's figures. McAllen-Hidalgo was up 43.8 percent, Brownsville increased 12.6 percent, Eagle Pass dropped 37.3 percent. Progreso fell 28.0 percent, Del Rio decreased 22.6 percent and Laredo was up 10.5 percent. YTD revenue figures were down 5.1 percent compared to November

1998 YTD. Laredo, accounting for 63.7 percent share of the former district's year-to-date revenue was down 4.5 percent. Eagle Pass, with 11.9 percent share of total revenues YTD, was up 1.1 percent. McAllen-Hidalgo, accounting for 11.6 percent of all revenues YTD, was down 25.0 percent. Brownsville, with 11.3 percent of total revenues, YTD, increased 21.1 percent.

% Change Total Revenues YTD 98-99



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

CITY	SEP 99	OCT 99	NOV 99	NOV 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	682,930	746,492	728,159	651,371	7,289,558	7,668,612	5.2
DEL RIO	367,696	404,703	384,275	271,123	2,386,943	3,615,183	51.5
EAGLE PASS	560,903	609,528	606,103	478,783	4,966,994	5,747,242	15.7
EL PASO	1,046,656	1,134,459	1,079,857	902,694	10,459,303	11,035,727	5.5
HARLINGEN	113,740	129,212	129,922	105,629	1,100,630	1,298,648	18.0
LAREDO	2,312,427	2,408,549	2,293,539	1,775,155	20,206,071	24,699,809	22.2
McALLEN-HIDALGO	669,454	714,581	667,476	642,316	6,936,737	7,690,300	10.9
PHARR	344,280	352,188	362,311	291,714	3,237,548	3,743,488	15.6
TOTAL	6,098,087	6,499,713	6,251,643	5,118,785	56,583,784	65,499,008	15.8

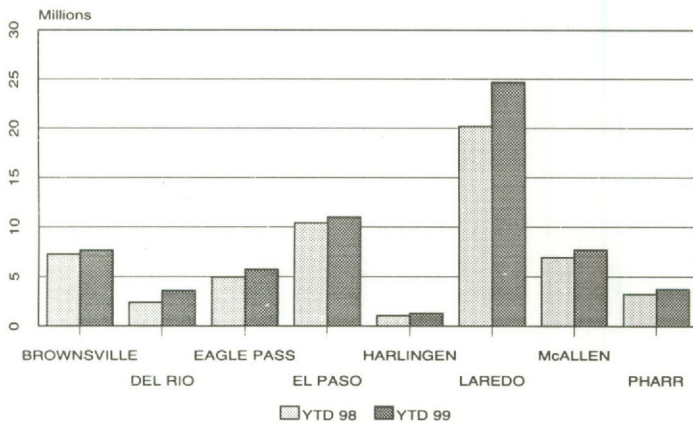
Source: Data provided by U.S. bridge operators in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

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

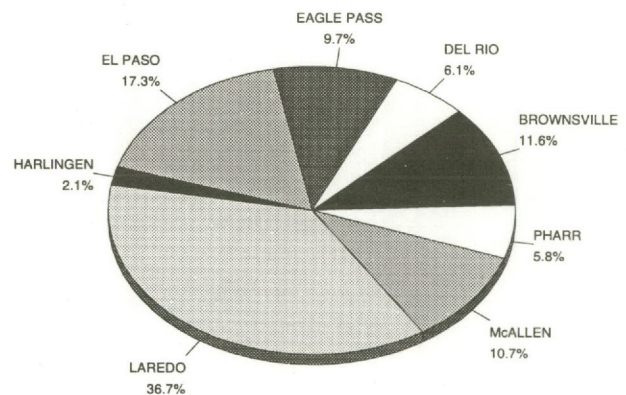
U.S. bridge operators' revenues decreased 3.8 percent in the month of November. McAllen decreased 6.6 percent, Del Rio dropped 5.0 percent, El Paso was down 4.8 percent, and Laredo also fell 4.8 percent. Pharr increased 2.9 percent, and Harlingen was up 0.5 percent. YTD U.S. bridge operators' revenues were up 15.8 percent. Laredo, accounting for 36.7 percent of total U.S. bridge operator's

revenues collected in November, had a 22.2 percent increase, YTD. El Paso, accounting for 17.3 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues in November, increased 5.5 percent, YTD. Brownsville, accounting for 11.6 percent in November, was up 5.2 percent, YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 10.7 percent of the total bridge revenues in November, was up 10.9 percent, YTD.

Total Revenues Collected YTD 98-99



% Share Revenues November 1999



Visas to Tourists from Texas to Mexico

CITY	SEP 99	OCT 99	NOV 99	NOV 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	%CHG
BROWNSVILLE	5,537	6,423	8,764	10,963	84,484	98,070	16.1
DEL RIO	711	1,018	1,729	2,201	13,014	9,635	-26.0
EAGLE PASS	2,559	4,312	5,640	1,980	38,947	39,010	0.2
EL PASO	5,450	6,958	7,291	10,193	122,775	89,221	-27.3
LAREDO	21,087	26,506	32,548	32,830	327,251	352,594	7.7
McALLEN	8,668	12,350	14,822	13,916	145,496	160,232	10.1
TOTAL	44,012	57,567	70,794	72,083	731,967	748,762	2.3

Source: Data provided by Mexico's Instituto Nacional de Migracion and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

The number of tourist visas issued in November were up 23.0 percent. Del Rio increased 69.8 percent, Brownsville jumped 36.4, Eagle Pass gained 30.8, and Laredo was up 22.8 percent. McAllen increased 20.0 and El Paso was up 4.8 percent. YTD, the number of tourist visas issued were up 2.3 percent. Laredo, with 46.0 percent of total visas issued in November, was up 7.7 percent, YTD.

McAllen, with 20.9 percent of total visas issued in November, had a 10.1 percent increase, YTD. Brownsville, with 12.4 percent of all visas issued in November, jumped 16.1 percent, YTD, and El Paso, with 10.3 percent of total visas issued in November, decreased 27.3 percent, YTD.

Power Connections – Texas Border

Residential Connections

CITY	SEP 99	OCT 99	NOV 99	NOV 98
BROWNSVILLE	29,217	29,777	29,854	29,197
DEL RIO	13,880	13,898	13,894	13,667
EAGLE PASS	9,443	9,484	9,516	9,357
EL PASO	265,246	265,767	266,250	260,088
HARLINGEN	20,819	20,936	21,258	20,669
LAREDO	48,609	48,652	48,781	46,998
McALLEN	31,430	31,544	31,848	30,779
TOTAL	418,644	420,058	421,401	410,755

Source: Data provided by CP&L, Brownsville Public Utilities Board, and El Paso Electric Co. and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

November commercial power connections for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.19 percent over October's figures. YTD, commercial power connections increased 5.3 percent. YTD, Harlingen was up 10.7 percent, McAllen increased 7.6 percent, Eagle Pass gained 14.5 percent, Brownsville was up 0.9 percent, El Paso rose 2.6 percent, Laredo gained 11.6 percent, and Del Rio increased 7.3 percent.

Industrial Connections

CITY	SEP 99	OCT 99	NOV 99	NOV 98
BROWNSVILLE	483	476	466	442
DEL RIO	28	28	28	28
EAGLE PASS	14	16	16	16
EL PASO	120	117	123	118
HARLINGEN	81	81	81	80
LAREDO	120	121	116	122
McALLEN	44	44	44	47
TOTAL	890	883	874	853

Source: Data provided by CP&L, Brownsville Public Utilities Board, and El Paso Electric Co. and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

November residential power connections for all reporting Texas border cities increased over October's figures by 0.3 percent. YTD, residential power connections were up 3.0 percent. YTD, Laredo was up 6.6 percent, McAllen increased 3.2 percent, Harlingen gained 2.3 percent, El Paso jumped 2.4 percent, Brownsville rose 2.1 percent, Del Rio increased 4.1 percent and Eagle Pass was also up by 4.4 percent.

Commercial Connections

CITY	SEP 99	OCT 99	NOV 99	NOV 98
BROWNSVILLE	3,859	3,870	3,898	3,872
DEL RIO	2,053	2,060	2,046	2,022
EAGLE PASS	1,479	1,492	1,494	1,437
EL PASO	27,099	27,194	27,199	26,327
HARLINGEN	3,694	3,707	3,730	3,378
LAREDO	7,760	7,761	7,804	7,518
McALLEN	5,808	5,835	5,846	5,474
TOTAL	51,752	51,919	52,017	50,028

Source: Data provided by CP&L, Brownsville Public Utilities Board, and El Paso Electric Co. and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

Industrial power connections for reporting Texas border cities decreased 1.02 percent from October's figures. YTD, McAllen decreased 6.4 percent, Harlingen decreased 2.3 percent, and Laredo fell 0.3 percent. Brownsville increased 3.9 percent, and El Paso was up 2.5 percent, and Del Rio decreased 2.5 percent.

Building Permits — Texas Border

Number of Permits

NUMBER	SEP 99	OCT 99	NOV 99	NOV 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	274	302	221	262	3,198	3,331	4.2
DEL RIO	41	51	205	79	1,005	967	-3.8
EAGLE PASS	27	40	57	45	411	440	7.1
EL PASO	534	563	486	518	6,539	6,666	1.9
HARLINGEN	75	66	70	71	732	798	9.0
LAREDO	533	472	473	251	3,518	5,009	42.4
MCALLEN	123	109	140	151	1,595	1,529	-4.1
TOTAL	1,607	1,603	1,652	1,377	16,998	18,740	10.2

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

November building permits issued by reporting Texas border cities were up 3.1 percent from October. Del Rio increased 302.0 percent, Eagle Pass was up 42.5 percent, and McAllen rose 28.4 percent. Brownsville dropped 26.8 percent, and El Paso decreased 13.7 percent. YTD, the number of permits issued were up 10.2 percent.

El Paso, accounting for 29.4 percent of all building permits issued in November, had an increase of 1.9 percent, YTD. Laredo, with 28.6 percent of building permits issued in November, was up 42.4 percent, YTD. Brownsville, with a 13.4 percent of building permits issued in November, increased 4.2 percent, YTD.

U.S. Dollar Value of Permits

VALUE	SEP 99	OCT 99	NOV 99	NOV 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	9,504,030	22,563,751	5,685,025	7,082,940	135,990,715	177,919,922	30.8
DEL RIO	871,295	1,421,761	5,617,724	1,269,344	44,197,036	18,998,617	-57.0
EAGLE PASS	3,055,145	900,949	1,445,798	3,964,169	34,291,916	21,912,047	-36.1
EL PASO	45,857,358	34,775,337	45,072,793	25,713,588	342,310,455	439,367,813	28.4
HARLINGEN	3,967,507	2,798,481	2,593,635	5,949,262	45,386,992	74,128,824	63.3
LAREDO	15,508,130	20,959,821	16,974,909	8,745,603	169,813,909	186,125,735	9.6
MCALLEN	14,568,908	14,923,295	8,715,224	12,732,104	117,698,390	165,296,511	40.4
TOTAL	93,332,373	98,343,395	86,105,108	65,457,010	889,689,413	1,083,749,469	21.8

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

November building permit values for reporting Texas border cities were down 12.4 percent from October. Brownsville was down 74.8 percent, McAllen decreased 41.6 percent, Laredo declined 19.0 percent, and Harlingen fell 7.3 percent. Del Rio increased 295.1 percent, Eagle Pass gained 60.5 percent and El Paso was up 29.6

percent. YTD, reporting border cities experienced a 21.8 percent increase in building permit values. El Paso, with 52.3 percent total value for the month of November, rose 28.4 percent, YTD. Laredo, with 19.7 percent total value for the month of November, was up 9.6 percent, YTD.

Employment/Unemployment Rates —Texas Border

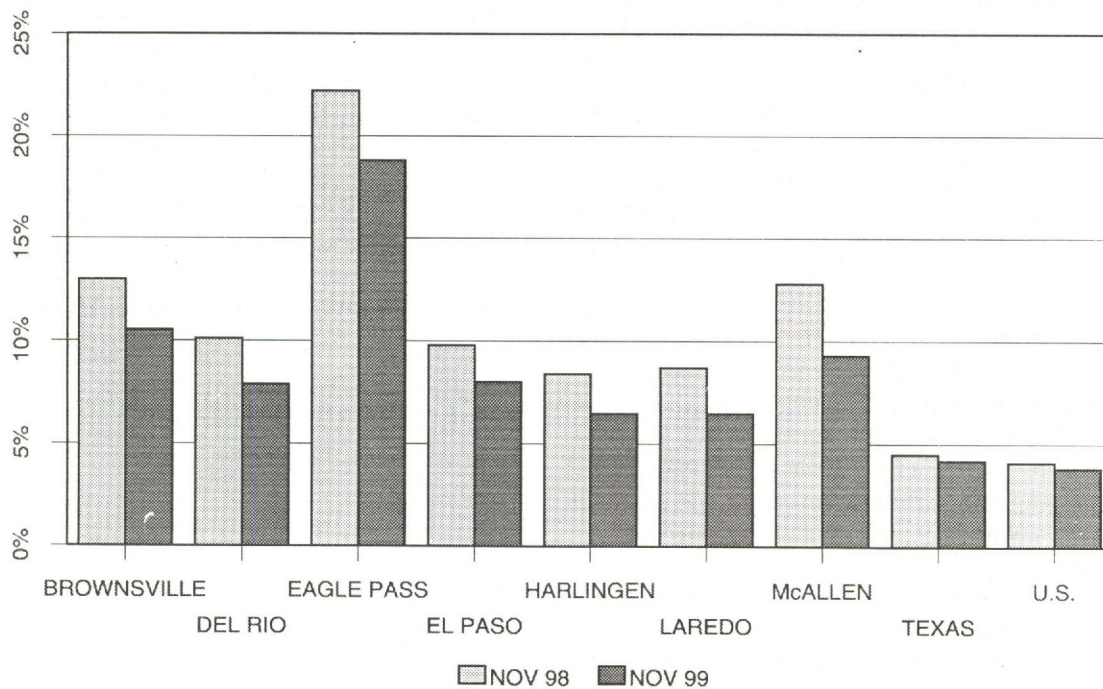
CITY	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED	PERCENT UNEMPLOYED	PERCENT UNEMPLOYED
	NOV 99	NOV 98	NOV 99	NOV 98	NOV 99	NOV 98
BROWNSVILLE	41,631	41,497	4,860	6,225	10.5	13.0
DEL RIO	13,928	13,469	1,188	1,509	7.9	10.1
EAGLE PASS	8,184	8,000	1,899	2,278	18.8	22.2
EL PASO	240,699	236,147	20,963	25,735	8.0	9.8
HARLINGEN	23,916	23,797	1,652	2,179	6.5	8.4
LAREDO	65,513	63,475	4,557	6,081	6.5	8.7
McALLEN	43,062	41,881	4,425	6,138	9.3	12.8
TOTAL	436,933	428,266	39,544	50,145	8.3	10.5
THE TEXAS UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					4.20	4.50
THE NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					3.80	4.10

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

In November, total employment in reporting Texas border cities decreased 0.1 percent (296 jobs lost) over October's figures. Brownsville employment decreased 1.0 percent (435 jobs gained), Harlingen dropped 1.0 percent (250 jobs lost), and El Paso fell 0.2 percent

(368 jobs lost). YTD, the total employment in Texas border cities was up 8.3 percent (296 jobs gained) from a year ago. The average unemployment rate for the border was 8.3 percent compared to 4.2 percent for Texas and 3.8 percent for the U.S. in November.

% Unemployed November 98-99



Air Passenger Service Activities — Selected Border Cities

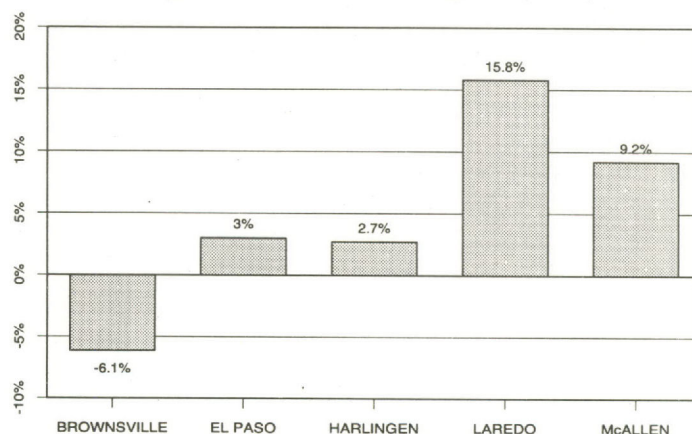
Passenger Arrivals

CITY	SEP 99	OCT 99	NOV 99	NOV 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	5,210	5,368	5,367	4,853	67,635	63,493	-6.1
EL PASO	126,151	136,282	136,756	129,043	1,465,403	1,509,490	3.0
HARLINGEN	32,020	35,988	35,022	33,373	403,641	414,583	2.7
LAREDO	6,034	7,085	6,452	6,109	69,586	80,550	15.8
McALLEN	21,590	25,064	26,088	24,270	265,259	289,696	9.2
TOTAL	191,005	209,787	209,685	197,648	2,271,524	2,357,812	3.8

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

November air passengers arriving in Texas border cities were down 0.05 percent from October's figures. Laredo decreased 8.9 percent, Harlingen fell 2.7 percent, and Brownsville declined 0.02 percent. McAllen increased 4.1 percent, and El Paso gained 0.3 percent. YTD air passenger arrivals were up 3.8 percent. El Paso, with 65.2 percent of all passengers arriving in November, was up 3.0 percent, YTD. Harlingen, accounting for 16.7 percent of all arrivals in November, rose 2.7 percent, YTD. McAllen, with 12.4 percent of all arrivals in November, was up 9.2 percent, YTD. Laredo, with 3.1 percent of all arrivals in November, increased 15.8 percent, YTD. Brownsville, with 2.6 percent of all arrivals in November, dropped 6.1 percent, YTD.

Passenger Arrivals % Change YTD 98-99



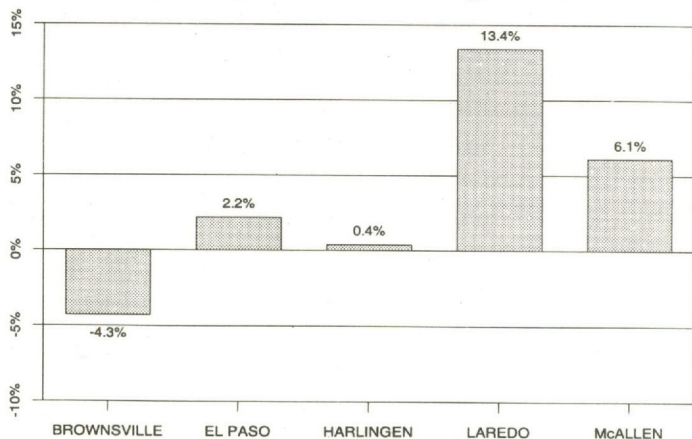
Passenger Departures

CITY	SEP 99	OCT 99	NOV 99	NOV 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	5,153	5,447	5,343	4,819	68,602	65,647	-4.3
EL PASO	127,030	135,208	135,403	130,149	1,495,306	1,528,289	2.2
HARLINGEN	32,302	36,380	35,496	34,455	429,397	431,036	0.4
LAREDO	6,336	7,129	6,679	6,375	72,615	82,367	13.4
McALLEN	22,988	25,274	26,627	25,015	280,877	297,968	6.1
TOTAL	193,809	209,438	209,548	200,813	2,346,797	2,405,307	2.5

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

November air passenger departures for reporting Texas border cities were slightly up 0.1 percent. Laredo decreased 6.3, Harlingen fell 2.4 percent, and Brownsville declined 1.9 percent. McAllen was up 5.4 percent, and El Paso increased 0.1 percent. YTD, air passenger departures were up 2.5 percent from a year ago. El Paso, with 64.6 percent of all passengers departing in November, was up 2.2 percent, YTD. Harlingen, with 16.9 percent of all passengers departing in November, was up slightly 0.4 percent, YTD. McAllen, with a 12.7 percent of all departing passengers in November, increased 6.1 percent, YTD. Laredo, with 3.2 percent of all departing passengers in November, rose 13.4 percent, YTD. Brownsville, with 2.5 percent of all departures in November, was down 4.3 percent, YTD.

Passenger Departures % Change YTD 98-99



Port Of Corpus Christi

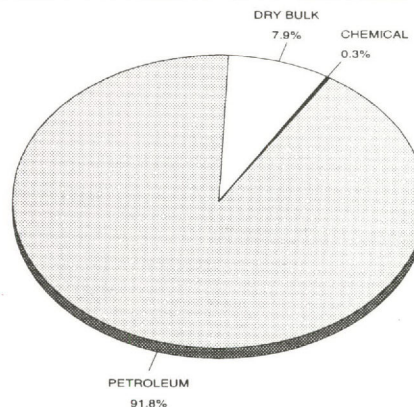
Inbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	SEP 99	OCT 99	NOV 99	NOV 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BREAK BULK	6,926	2,403	6,107	330	8,638	72,491	739.2
DRY BULK	336,021	457,439	357,176	152,357	3,989,155	3,597,821	-9.8
BULK GRAIN	0	0	780	1,826	22,994	26,006	N/A
LIQUID	0	4,386	2,971	3,230	36,399	31,809	-12.6
PETROLEUM	4,242,630	4,573,517	4,133,613	3,839,705	40,679,054	39,777,505	-2.2
CHEMICAL	9,517	10,010	12,273	12,213	94,483	93,507	-1.0
TOTAL	4,595,094	5,047,755	4,512,919	4,009,661	44,830,724	43,599,140	-2.7

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 10.6 percent decrease in inbound cargo from last month. Petroleum, which made up 91.6 percent of all inbound traffic in November, was down 9.6 percent compared to October. Dry bulk, which accounted for 7.9 percent of the port's inbound cargo for November, decreased 9.8 percent, YTD. Total inbound cargo tonnage was down 2.7 percent, YTD.

% Share November 1999 Inbound Cargo



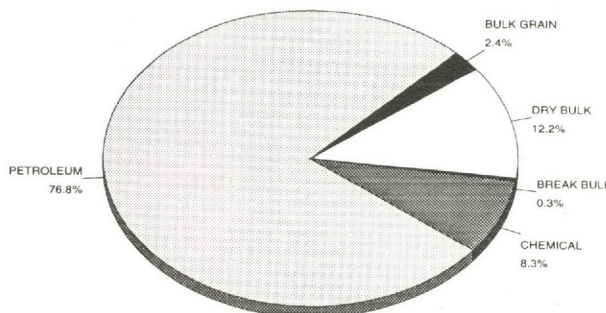
Outbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	SEP 99	OCT 99	NOV 99	NOV 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BREAK BULK	2,549	8,346	8,839	3,917	127,121	83,439	-34.4
DRY BULK	216,967	122,118	319,091	55,546	2,559,203	2,444,366	-4.5
BULK GRAIN	116,129	145,245	63,043	124,200	1,722,883	1,645,257	-4.5
LIQUID	0	0	0	0	9,706	3,183	N/A
PETROLEUM	1,912,463	2,309,582	2,001,236	2,270,053	25,739,780	22,056,281	-14.3
CHEMICAL	9,517	189,662	215,934	206,812	1,723,370	1,760,707	2.2
TOTAL	2,257,626	2,774,953	2,608,143	2,660,529	31,882,063	27,993,233	-12.2

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 6.0 percent decrease in outbound cargo tonnage in November from the previous month. Petroleum, which is 76.7 percent of total outbound cargo for November, decreased 13.4 percent compared to October. Dry bulk, which is 12.2 percent of the total outbound cargo for November, increased 161.3 percent over October. Bulk grain, which is 2.4 percent of total outbound cargo for November, was down 56.6 percent. YTD, total outbound cargo tonnage was down 12.2 percent.

% Share November 1999 Outbound Cargo



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