



# Border Business Indicators

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## Note from the Director

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Indicators of border business activity for the month of April were balanced. Twelve monthly indicators decreased while eleven increased. In addition, for the year-to-date (YTD) figures, seventeen indicators were up and six were down. Selected YTD comparisons to 1998 reported by border cities include the following:

- Southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico were down 14.7 percent. McAllen-Hidalgo dropped 12.0 percent, Del Rio fell 11.4 percent, Brownsville was off 5.1 percent and Laredo increased 2.2 percent.
- Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were down 0.3 percent. Presidio dropped 34.0 percent, Brownsville was off 16.1 percent, while Roma increased 30.5 percent and Progreso rose 13.6 percent.
- Southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 7.2 percent. Harlingen rose 24.3 percent, Pharr increased 24.1 percent, Roma gained 14.6 percent, while El Paso was down 9.7 percent.
- Northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 10.9 percent. Harlingen jumped 28.3 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo increased 23.1 percent, Roma gained 16.4 percent and Presidio posted an increase of 15.9 percent YTD.
- Southbound truck shipments into Mexico were up 2.8 percent. Eagle Pass and Roma increased 32.0 percent, Harlingen rose 26.8 percent and Progreso was up 22.5 percent.
- Northbound truck shipments into Texas were up 11.2 percent with Roma increasing 25.5 percent, Pharr gained 23.0 percent, and Eagle Pass posted an 19.5 percent increase YTD.
- Southbound shipments by rail were up 1.9 percent.
- Northbound shipments by rail were up 17.4 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Customs were down slightly by 1.0 percent YTD. Revenues collected by U.S. Bridge operators were up 13.0 percent.
- Building permits issued were up 10.8 percent. El Paso rose 17.1 percent, Brownsville gained 19.8 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo was up 3.3 percent, Laredo was up 2.8 percent, while Eagle Pass declined 3.3 percent.
- Building permit values were up with a YTD increase of 27.8 percent. McAllen increased 82.8 percent, Harlingen was up 53.9 percent, Brownsville rose 23.1 percent and El Paso reported a 20.7 percent increase.
- Total employment was up with 8,293 jobs lost YTD. The average unemployment rate in April 1999 was 8.9 percent for the border.

Visit the Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development's website at <http://www.tamui.edu/coba/txcntr/>.



## Technical Reports Available

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)
Technical Report No. 5:	The Impact of NAFTA on U.S.-Mexico Agriculture (April 1994)
Technical Report No. 6:	U.S.-Mexico Trade Patterns Under NAFTA (March 1994)
Technical Report No. 7:	Overweights to Pay the Price (March 1994)
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)

Technical Reports are 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.

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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.



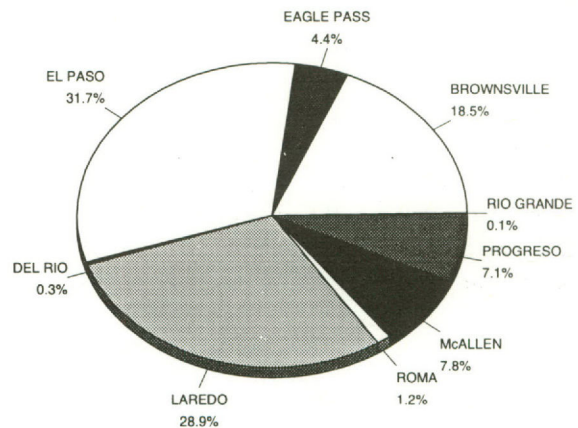
## Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	FEB 99	MAR 99	APR 99	APR 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	245,606	339,212	247,967	266,440	1,126,886	1,069,396	-5.1
DEL RIO	3,700	5,803	4,661	5,829	22,876	20,260	-11.4
EAGLE PASS	55,550	61,878	58,751	59,459	229,559	232,189	1.1
EL PASO	401,938	455,015	426,042	385,378	1,497,178	1,691,364	13.0
HARLINGEN	0	0	260	74	369	260	-29.5
LAREDO	320,448	372,529	387,958	354,155	1,401,837	1,432,116	2.2
McALLEN-HIDALGO	109,405	118,904	104,622	116,191	500,851	440,852	-12.0
PROGRESO	193,940	199,305	95,281	88,521	595,106	655,194	10.1
RIO GRANDE	988	844	747	778	3,642	3,412	-6.3
ROMA	18,037	18,925	15,767	15,924	63,668	67,828	6.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,349,612</b>	<b>1,572,415</b>	<b>1,342,056</b>	<b>1,292,749</b>	<b>5,441,972</b>	<b>5,612,871</b>	<b>3.1</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 April were down 14.7 percent compared to March. Progreso declined 52.2 percent, Brownsville fell 26.9 percent, Del Rio was down 19.7 percent, Roma dropped 16.7 percent, Rio Grande was off 11.5 percent, and McAllen-Hidalgo fell 12.0 percent. Laredo, however, increased 4.1 percent. YTD, total southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico were up 3.1 percent. El Paso southbound pedestrian crossings, which made up 31.7 percent of all crossings in April, increased 13.0 percent. Laredo, accounting for 28.9 percent of total crossings, was down 2.2 percent and Brownsville, with an 18.5 percent share YTD, was down 5.1 percent.

**% Share Pedestrians for April 1999**



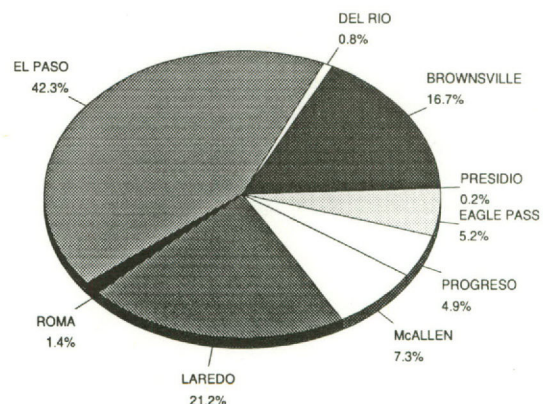
## Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	FEB 99	MAR 99	APR 99	APR 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	213,582	267,822	208,593	240,433	1,079,903	906,167	-16.1
DEL RIO	8,347	11,775	9,787	10,151	45,587	40,440	-11.3
EAGLE PASS	64,945	73,481	64,913	62,542	255,477	270,661	5.9
EL PASO	493,290	569,355	527,688	524,599	2,076,276	2,100,043	1.1
LAREDO	263,960	287,525	264,234	264,386	1,046,703	1,100,290	5.1
McALLEN-HIDALGO	106,479	107,703	91,601	93,222	407,738	417,767	2.5
PRESIDIO	2,246	2,368	1,988	2,785	13,671	9,020	-34.0
PROGRESO	109,348	121,091	61,473	60,821	350,958	398,747	13.6
RIO GRANDE	1,254	1,240	1,134	1,134	5,059	4,663	-7.8
ROMA	17,803	19,116	17,554	13,719	55,851	72,912	30.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,281,254</b>	<b>1,461,476</b>	<b>1,248,965</b>	<b>1,273,792</b>	<b>5,337,223</b>	<b>5,320,710</b>	<b>-0.3</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 down 14.5 percent in April. Progreso fell 49.2 percent, Brownsville dropped 22.1 percent, Del Rio fell 16.9 percent, Presidio was down 16.0 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo was off 15.0 percent, Laredo was down 8.1 percent, Rio Grande was off 8.5 percent, and El Paso was down 7.3 percent. YTD total northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were down 0.3 percent. El Paso, accounting for 42.3 percent of the northbound crossings, was up 1.1 percent YTD. Laredo, with 21.2 percent of all northbound crossings, was up 5.1 percent and Brownsville, with 16.7 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings, down 16.1 percent in crossings YTD.

**% Share Pedestrians for April 1999**





## Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	FEB 99	MAR 99	APR 99	APR 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	561,305	646,858	571,602	588,843	2,175,114	2,391,338	9.9
DEL RIO	152,075	176,116	171,423	161,677	625,891	663,471	6.0
EAGLE PASS	217,062	243,567	237,934	224,640	874,552	923,141	5.6
EL PASO	394,211	473,475	441,029	484,452	1,896,741	1,713,233	-9.7
HARLINGEN	45,783	52,019	49,060	40,453	155,014	192,713	24.3
LAREDO	643,398	721,850	706,984	689,414	2,580,702	2,731,739	5.9
McALLEN-HIDALGO	460,779	521,741	503,304	451,577	1,710,611	1,971,347	15.2
PHARR	168,239	194,096	147,944	147,944	546,754	678,326	24.1
PROGRESO	104,523	118,014	105,702	91,430	368,281	433,740	17.8
RIO GRANDE	49,978	56,385	54,785	53,085	198,094	214,346	8.2
ROMA	81,702	90,524	75,926	75,424	287,313	329,388	14.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,879,055</b>	<b>3,294,645</b>	<b>3,065,693</b>	<b>3,008,939</b>	<b>11,419,067</b>	<b>12,242,782</b>	<b>7.2</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

Southbound vehicle bridge crossings into Mexico were down 6.9 percent in April from March's figures. Pharr decreased 23.8 percent, Brownsville was down 11.6 percent, Roma dropped 16.1 percent, Progreso fell 10.4 percent, El Paso declined 6.9, Harlingen was off 5.7 percent, Del Rio dropped 2.7 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo fell 3.5 percent, Rio Grande was down 2.8 percent, Laredo dropped 2.1 percent, and Eagle Pass fell 2.3 percent. YTD total southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 7.2 percent. Laredo,

with 23.1 percent of all southbound traffic in April, was up 5.9 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 18.6 percent of all southbound vehicle bridge crossings, had a 9.9 percent increase, YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 16.4 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, experienced a 15.2 percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 14.4 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, fell 9.7 percent decrease YTD.

## Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	FEB 99	MAR 99	APR 99	APR 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	507,061	576,577	552,577	528,727	2,010,843	2,183,905	8.6
DEL RIO	140,466	147,382	139,282	128,837	505,864	572,541	13.2
EAGLE PASS	208,570	230,446	220,217	216,229	846,694	886,447	4.7
EL PASO	659,308	778,941	735,994	694,597	2,689,903	2,846,010	5.8
HARLINGEN	63,362	74,562	66,920	53,960	210,444	270,063	28.3
LAREDO	618,280	690,587	653,656	622,377	2,392,755	2,612,909	9.2
McALLEN-HIDALGO	457,753	525,880	476,576	403,364	1,556,917	1,917,160	23.1
PRESIDIO	57,743	66,683	64,140	56,196	217,327	251,803	15.9
PROGRESO	96,633	104,953	90,526	81,905	331,097	380,738	15.0
RIO GRANDE	53,816	61,164	58,938	57,618	216,557	233,425	7.8
ROMA	85,653	90,548	86,302	76,640	306,119	356,390	16.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,948,645</b>	<b>3,347,723</b>	<b>3,145,128</b>	<b>2,920,450</b>	<b>11,284,520</b>	<b>12,511,391</b>	<b>10.9</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 April were down 6.1 percent from March. Progreso registered a 13.7 percent decrease, Harlingen was down 10.2 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo dropped 9.4 percent, Del Rio and El Paso fell 5.5 percent, Laredo was off 5.3 percent, Eagle Pass was off 4.2 percent, Brownsville was down 4.2 percent, Presidio fell 3.8 percent and Roma declined

4.7 percent. YTD northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 10.9 percent. El Paso with 23.4 percent of all crossings in April was up 5.8 percent YTD. Laredo, with 20.8 percent of all crossings, was up 9.2 percent and Brownsville with 17.6 percent of all crossings was, up 8.6 percent YTD.



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

CITY	FEB 99	MAR 99	APR 99	APR 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE+	22,924	26,295	17,571	24,119	94,373	89,171	-5.5
DEL RIO+	5,319	5,911	5,484	5,495	21,446	22,255	3.8
EAGLE PASS++	4,825	5,183	5,204	3,632	15,192	20,049	32.0
EL PASO+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	N/A
HARLINGEN+	5,619	5,494	5,487	4,232	17,111	21,702	26.8
LAREDO+	93,308	100,973	100,011	98,648	385,047	387,164	0.5
McALLEN-HIDALGO+	4,130	4,719	4,245	4,499	17,539	17,162	-2.1
PHARR+	16,230	22,022	17,030	17,030	62,359	70,374	12.9
PROGRESO+	1,914	2,637	2,850	1,725	7,589	9,300	22.5
RIO GRANDE+	1,963	2,315	2,274	2,420	8,566	8,602	0.4
ROMA+	1,086	1,319	1,174	812	3,386	4,471	32.0
TOTAL	157,318	176,868	161,330	162,612	632,608	650,250	2.8

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

+ Includes both loaded and empty trucks.

++ Includes loaded trucks only.

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

Southbound truck shipments into Mexico were down 8.8 percent in April. Brownsville was down 33.2 percent, Pharr dropped 22.7 percent, Roma fell 11.0 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo dropped 10.0 percent, Progreso was off 8.1 percent, Del Rio declined 7.2 percent and Rio Grande fell 1.8 percent. Laredo dropped 1.0 percent. Harlingen decreased 0.1 percent. YTD southbound truck ship-

ments were up 2.8 percent. Laredo, with 62.0 percent of all southbound shipments in April, experienced a 0.5 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with a 10.9 percent of all southbound shipments, had a 5.5 percent decrease YTD. Pharr, with 10.6 percent, registered an increase of 12.9 percent, Harlingen with 3.4 percent of all truck crossings, was up 26.8 percent YTD.

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

CITY	FEB 99	MAR 99	APR 99	APR 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	9,634	7,830	10,565	10,079	37,566	37,479	-0.2
DEL RIO	2,963	3,375	3,103	3,116	11,870	12,407	4.5
EAGLE PASS	4,289	5,366	4,722	4,088	15,391	18,387	19.5
FALCON	3	3	6	5	22	14	-36.4
LAREDO	53,656	67,325	57,727	54,851	208,984	229,119	9.6
McALLEN-HIDALGO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
PHARR	17,079	22,947	19,723	17,422	60,952	74,953	23.0
PROGRESO	179	262	241	315	1,089	814	-25.3
RIO GRANDE	1,404	1,448	1,430	1,422	5,018	5,652	12.6
ROMA	752	912	843	683	2,550	3,200	25.5
TOTAL	89,959	109,468	98,360	91,981	343,442	382,025	11.2

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.

April northbound truck shipments into Texas dropped 10.1 percent over March's shipments. Laredo dropped 14.3 percent, Pharr was down 14.0 percent, Eagle Pass fell 12.0 percent, Del Rio dropped 8.1 percent, Progreso fell 8.0 percent, and Roma declined 7.6 percent. Brownsville, however, increased 34.9 percent. YTD northbound truck shipments were up 11.2 percent. Laredo, accounting

for 58.7 percent of all northbound truck traffic in April, had a 9.6 percent increase YTD. Pharr, with 20.1 percent of all shipments in April, experienced a 23.0 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with a 10.7 percent of all northbound truck shipments in April, experienced a 0.2 percent decline YTD.



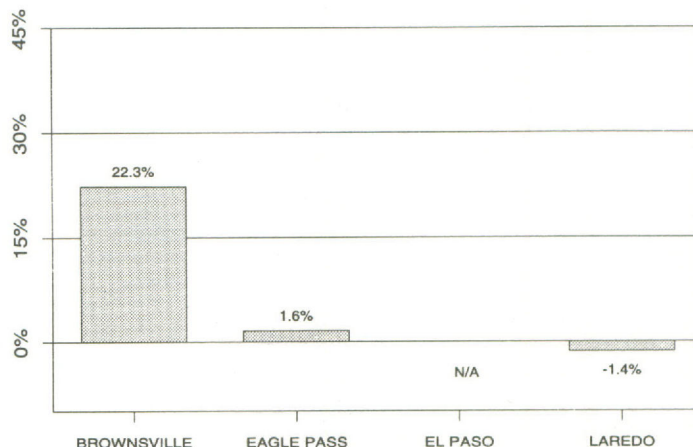
## Export Shipments by Rail into Mexico —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	FEB 99	MAR 99	APR 99	APR 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	2,081	2,715	2,993	3,931	8,994	10,996	22.3
EAGLE PASS	5,227	6,081	5,995	7,258	21,574	21,928	1.6
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	12,828	14,478	14,215	13,017	53,337	52,595	-1.4
TOTAL	20,136	23,274	23,203	24,206	83,905	85,519	1.9

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 0.3 percent in April. Laredo decreased 1.8 percent. Eagle Pass fell 1.4 percent, while Brownsville grew by 10.2 percent. YTD, total southbound rail shipments into Mexico from Texas were up 1.9 percent. Laredo, which accounts for 61.3 percent of all southbound rail shipments in April, was down 1.4 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, accounting for 25.8 percent of all southbound rail shipments, increased 1.6 percent. Brownsville, however, with 12.9 percent of all southbound rail shipments in April, rose 22.3 percent.

### Export Rail YTD % Change 98-99



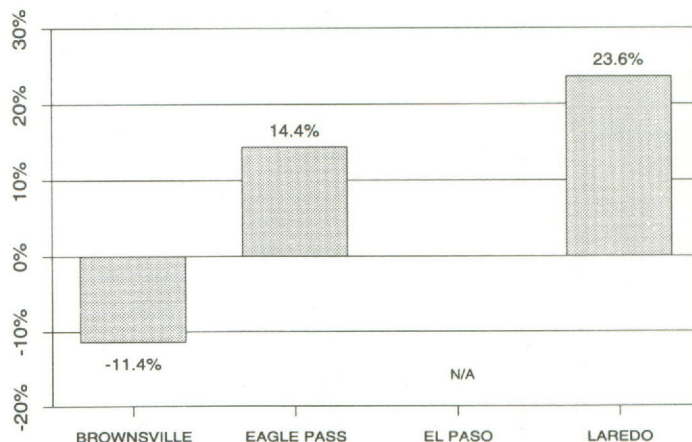
## Import Shipments by Rail into Texas —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	FEB 99	MAR 99	APR 99	APR 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	1,119	1,094	1,381	1,909	5,007	4,437	-11.4
EAGLE PASS	3,795	3,360	3,496	3,258	12,244	14,006	14.4
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	8,657	9,585	9,751	6,577	29,181	36,068	23.6
TOTAL	13,571	14,039	14,628	11,744	46,432	54,511	17.4

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

Northbound rail shipments into Texas increased 4.2 percent in April. Brownsville was up 26.2 percent. Eagle Pass grew 4.0 percent, and Laredo posted a gain of 1.7 percent. YTD, total northbound rail shipments into Texas from Mexico were up 17.4 percent. Laredo, which accounts for 66.7 percent of all northbound rail shipments in April, was up 23.6 percent. Eagle Pass, accounting for 23.9 percent of all northbound rail shipments in April, was up 14.4 percent and Brownsville, with 9.4 percent of all northbound rail shipments, decreased 11.4 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
	APR 99	APR 99	REVENUE APR 99	REVENUE APR 99	REVENUE APR 98	REVENUE APR 98	REVENUE APR 99	
BROWNSVILLE	1,489,912	548,832	619,088	2,657,833	2,911,937	10,715,364	9,852,183	-8.1
DEL RIO	128,979	123,926	32,104	285,009	386,531	1,476,371	1,359,123	-7.9
EAGLE PASS	590,156	269,999	3,903,161	4,763,316	2,450,947	10,314,224	12,609,240	22.3
LAREDO	8,543,362	3,250,049	7,657,148	19,450,559	19,685,839	68,782,235	71,259,726	3.6
McALLEN-HIDALGO	3,681,515	735,717	95,032	4,512,265	7,546,518	21,497,762	16,740,963	-22.1
PROGRESO	23,114	6,580	26,891	56,585	136,746	292,532	179,966	-38.5
RIO GRANDE	73,887	30,745	17,434	122,066	102,920	399,410	362,701	-9.2
ROMA	25,870	17,134	21,524	64,528	55,299	241,129	221,217	-8.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,556,797</b>	<b>4,982,981</b>	<b>12,372,382</b>	<b>31,912,160</b>	<b>33,276,737</b>	<b>113,719,027</b>	<b>112,585,119</b>	<b>-1.0</b>

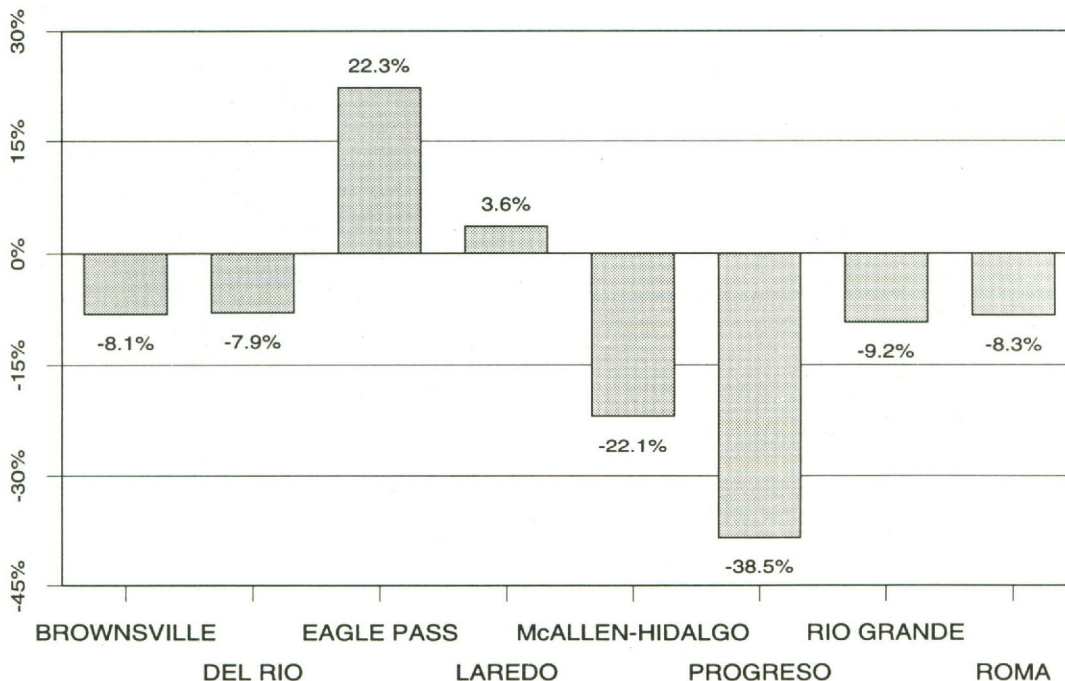
Source: Data provided by U.S. Customs Service, Port of Entry in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

MPF = Merchandise Processing Fee

Total U.S. Customs revenues, for April, for the former District of Laredo, increased 24.5 percent from March's figures. Eagle Pass was up 134.0 percent, Rio Grande increased 58.7 percent, Progreso rose 53.4 percent, Brownsville gained 25.4 percent, Roma increased 23.5 percent, Laredo grew 17.3 percent, and McAllen-Hidalgo rose 2.7 percent. Del Rio fell 15.0 percent. YTD revenue figures were down 1.0 percent compared to April 1998. Laredo,

accounting for 63.3 percent of the former district's revenue in April, was up 3.6 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 14.9 percent of total revenues, was down 22.1 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, accounting for 11.2 percent of all revenues, was up 22.3 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 8.8 percent of total revenues in April declined 8.1 percent YTD.

**% Change Total Revenues YTD 98-99**





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

CITY	FEB 99	MAR 99	APR 99	APR 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	646,187	765,730	585,371	655,092	2,563,155	2,676,694	4.4
DEL RIO	261,711	311,270	294,646	197,823	765,944	1,159,862	51.4
EAGLE PASS	453,892	515,252	491,136	447,381	1,733,417	1,915,132	10.5
EL PASO	887,156	1,025,930	967,654	1,014,904	3,914,449	3,780,748	-3.4
HARLINGEN	111,034	119,005	113,800	92,280	364,900	449,744	23.3
LAREDO	2,020,129	2,294,085	2,162,193	1,829,265	7,095,950	8,500,203	19.8
McALLEN-HIDALGO	657,672	740,070	711,782	642,956	2,460,172	2,792,206	13.5
PHARR	316,176	386,678	312,799	312,799	1,114,161	1,339,867	20.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,353,957</b>	<b>6,158,020</b>	<b>5,639,382</b>	<b>5,192,499</b>	<b>20,012,147</b>	<b>22,614,455</b>	<b>13.0</b>

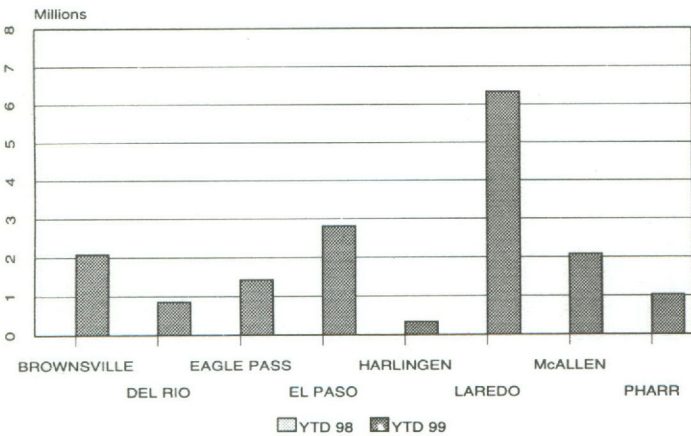
Source: Data provided by U.S. bridge operators in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

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

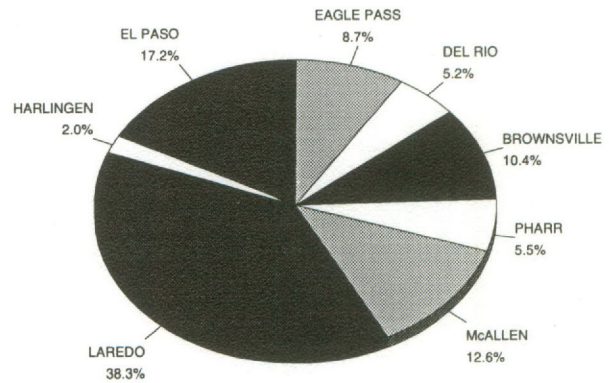
U.S. bridge operators' revenues decreased 8.4 percent in the month of April. Brownsville decreased 23.6 percent, Pharr fell 19.1 percent, El Paso and Laredo dropped 5.7 percent, Del Rio fell 5.3 percent, Eagle Pass was off 4.7 percent. Harlingen fell 4.4 percent and McAllen-Hidalgo dropped 3.8 percent. YTD, U.S. bridge operators' revenues were up 13.0 percent. Laredo, accounting for

38.3 percent of total U.S. bridge operator's revenues collected in April, had a 19.8 percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 17.2 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues, decreased 3.4 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, accounting for 12.6 percent, was up 13.5 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 10.4 percent of the total bridge revenues in April, was up 4.4 percent YTD.

**Total Revenues Collected YTD 98-99**



**% Share Revenues April 1999**





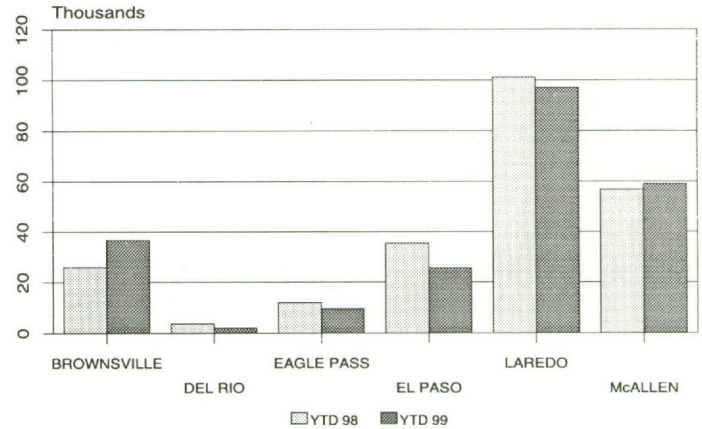
## Visas to Tourists from Texas to Mexico

CITY	FEB 99	MAR 99	APR 99	APR 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	%CHG
BROWNSVILLE	7,687	11,705	7,507	6,504	25,929	36,816	42.0
DEL RIO	406	692	470	1,016	3,811	2,028	-46.8
EAGLE PASS	1,992	3,512	2,500	3,274	11,983	9,506	-20.7
EL PASO	5,017	8,016	7,840	9,512	35,412	25,596	-27.7
LAREDO	19,480	33,856	23,735	27,657	101,240	97,192	-4.0
McALLEN	16,034	19,412	11,475	11,435	56,812	59,094	4.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50,616</b>	<b>77,193</b>	<b>53,527</b>	<b>59,398</b>	<b>235,187</b>	<b>230,232</b>	<b>-2.1</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 April were down 30.7 percent. McAllen dropped 40.9 percent, Brownsville fell 35.9 percent and Del Rio declined 32.1 percent, Laredo fell 29.9 percent, followed by Eagle Pass, down 28.8. El Paso was off 2.2 percent. YTD, the number of tourist visas issued were down 2.1 percent. Laredo, with 44.3 percent of total visas issued in April was down 4.0 percent YTD. McAllen, with 21.4 percent of total visas issued, had a 27.7 percent decrease YTD. El Paso, with 14.6 percent of all visas issued, fell 27.7 percent YTD. In contrast, Brownsville with 14.0 percent of total visas issued, increased 42.0 percent YTD.

### Tourist Visas YTD April 98-99



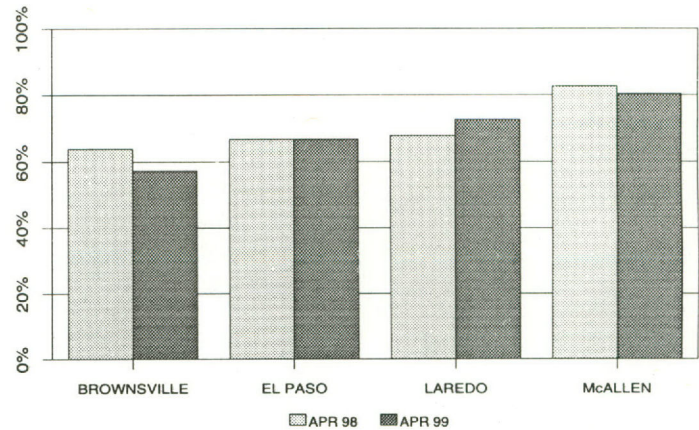
## Hotel Occupancy Percentage Rate — Texas Border

CITY	FEB 99	MAR 99	APR 99	APR 98	% CHG 98-99
BROWNSVILLE	63.6	70.4	57.3	63.9	-10.3
EL PASO	64.4	69.3	66.9	66.8	0.2
LAREDO	69.6	72.7	72.7	68.0	7.0
McALLEN	84.9	83.9	80.3	82.6	-2.8
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>70.6</b>	<b>74.1</b>	<b>69.3</b>	<b>70.3</b>	<b>-1.4</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 for reporting Texas border hotels for April declined 6.4 percent. McAllen had an occupancy rate of 80.3 percent, Laredo's occupancy was 72.7 percent, El Paso reported a rate of 66.9 percent and Brownsville had a rate of 57.3 percent in April.

### Hotel Occupancy Percentage April 98-99





# Telephones in Service —Texas Border

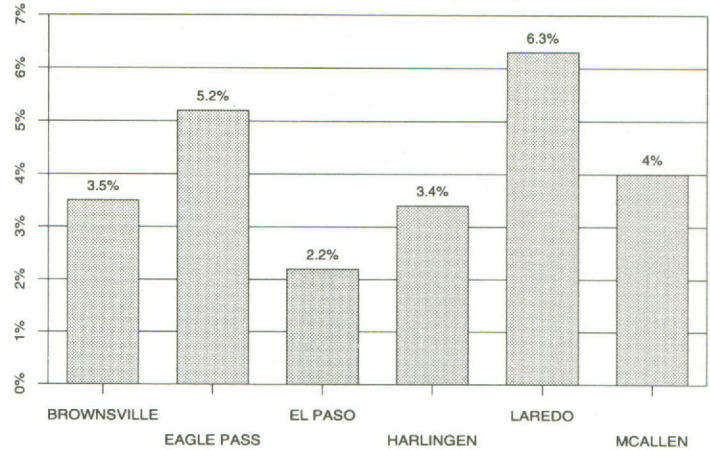
## Residential Telephones

CITY	FEB 99	MAR 99	APR 99	APR 98
BROWNSVILLE	44,510	44,648	44,806	43,299
EAGLE PASS	12,007	12,083	12,151	11,552
EL PASO	216,778	217,683	218,156	213,401
HARLINGEN	28,049	27,615	27,525	26,617
LAREDO	51,633	52,185	52,516	49,395
MCALLEN	37,568	37,491	37,507	36,054
TOTAL	390,545	391,705	392,661	380,318

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 April, the number of residential telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.24 percent since March. YTD, the number of residential telephones in service increased by 3.2 percent. Laredo jumped 6.3 percent, Eagle Pass was up 5.2 percent, McAllen increased 4.0 percent, Harlingen rose 3.4 percent, Brownsville was up 3.5 percent and El Paso gained 2.2 percent YTD.

### Residential Phones % Change April 98-99



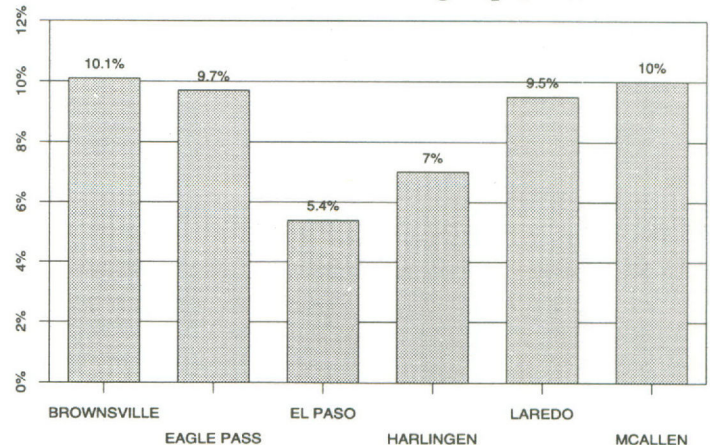
## Business Telephones

CITY	FEB 99	MAR 99	APR 99	APR 98
BROWNSVILLE	23,150	23,304	23,658	21,482
EAGLE PASS	4,201	4,237	4,269	3,892
EL PASO	100,602	101,283	101,734	96,478
HARLINGEN	14,930	15,235	15,272	14,279
LAREDO	32,295	32,579	32,815	29,965
MCALLEN	27,300	27,539	27,838	25,303
TOTAL	202,478	204,177	205,586	191,399

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 April, the number of business telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.69 percent. YTD, the number of phones in service rose by 7.4 percent. Brownsville had the largest increase with a 10.1 percent; McAllen 10.0 percent, Laredo rose 9.5 percent, Eagle Pass jumped 9.7 percent, Harlingen increased 7.0 percent and El Paso rose 5.4 percent YTD.

### Business Phones % Change April 98-99





## Power Connections — Texas Border

### Residential Connections

CITY	FEB 99	MAR 99	APR 99	APR 98
BROWNSVILLE	29,420	29,478	29,651	28,954
DEL RIO	14,846	14,877	14,915	13,724
EAGLE PASS	12,765	12,802	12,816	9,175
EL PASO	261,232	261,907	263,272	256,396
HARLINGEN	38,066	38,063	37,468	21,019
LAREDO	49,708	49,880	50,027	45,768
McALLEN	50,246	50,256	48,864	30,823
TOTAL	456,283	457,263	457,013	405,859

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

April residential power connections for all reporting Texas border cities decreased over March's figures by 0.05 percent. YTD, residential power connections were up 12.9 percent. YTD, Laredo was up 9.3 percent, McAllen increased 58.5 percent, Harlingen gained 78.3 percent, Eagle Pass jumped 39.7 percent, El Paso rose 2.7 percent, Brownsville increased 2.4 percent and Del Rio was up 8.8 percent.

April commercial power connections for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.64 percent over March's figures. YTD, commercial power connections increased 17.8 percent. YTD, Harlingen was up 79.4 percent, McAllen increased 64.1 percent, Eagle Pass gained 41.8 percent, Del Rio rose 18.7 percent, Laredo gained 14.4 percent, El Paso increased 2.8 percent and Brownsville was up slightly at 0.7 percent.

### Commercial Connections

CITY	FEB 99	MAR 99	APR 99	APR 98
BROWNSVILLE	3,869	3,871	3,890	3,863
DEL RIO	2,272	2,276	2,282	1,923
EAGLE PASS	1,804	1,816	1,823	1,286
EL PASO	26,510	26,558	26,854	26,129
HARLINGEN	5,905	5,927	5,923	3,302
LAREDO	7,795	7,801	7,845	6,859
McALLEN	8,696	8,729	8,724	5,317
TOTAL	56,851	56,978	57,341	48,679

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

### Industrial Connections

CITY	FEB 99	MAR 99	APR 99	APR 98
BROWNSVILLE	447	447	450	413
DEL RIO	32	32	32	30
EAGLE PASS	34	33	33	17
EL PASO	119	119	119	114
HARLINGEN	180	181	183	83
LAREDO	148	148	148	127
McALLEN	87	86	87	46
TOTAL	1,047	1,046	1,052	830

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 increased 0.57 percent from April's figures. YTD, Harlingen had the largest increase with 120.5 percent, Eagle Pass increased 94.1 percent, McAllen increased 89.1 percent, Laredo grew 16.5 percent and Del Rio climbed 6.7 percent. El Paso rose 4.4 percent and Brownsville was up at 9.0 percent.



## Building Permits — Texas Border

### Number of Permits

NUMBER	FEB 99	MAR 99	APR 99	APR 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	338	383	365	288	1,137	1,362	19.8
DEL RIO	92	119	97	98	369	373	1.1
EAGLE PASS	40	55	27	40	152	147	-3.3
EL PASO	630	725	675	626	2,178	2,551	17.1
HARLINGEN	67	71	77	74	265	262	-1.1
LAREDO	277	362	564	334	1,410	1,449	2.8
MCALLEN	110	134	170	163	513	530	3.3
TOTAL	1,554	1,849	1,975	1,623	6,024	6,674	10.8

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

April building permits issued by reporting Texas border cities were up 6.8 percent from March. Laredo was up 55.8 percent, McAllen increased 26.9 percent, Harlingen rose 8.6 percent. Eagle Pass fell 50.9 percent, Del Rio declined 18.5 percent and Brownsville fell 4.7 percent. YTD, the number of permits issued were up 10.8

percent. El Paso, accounting for 34.2 percent of all building permits issued in April, had an increase of 7.1 percent YTD. Laredo, with 28.6 percent of building permits issued, was up 2.8 percent YTD. Brownsville was up 19.8 percent, while McAllen rose 3.3 percent YTD.

### U.S. Dollar Value of Building Permits

VALUE	FEB 99	MAR 99	APR 99	APR 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	14,353,912	20,157,614	24,805,131	9,832,626	48,242,184	70,146,631	45.4
DEL RIO	1,234,292	1,583,332	1,575,678	1,288,139	5,710,592	6,707,051	17.4
EAGLE PASS	1,197,415	1,301,005	740,816	11,142,830	13,786,658	3,914,101	-71.6
EL PASO	45,560,565	37,565,824	33,567,114	33,022,048	119,645,000	144,463,202	20.7
HARLINGEN	5,485,225	3,395,436	9,980,510	4,457,649	13,859,763	21,325,834	53.9
LAREDO	16,441,896	13,025,846	16,247,766	13,508,760	53,132,334	58,270,901	9.7
MCALLEN	15,368,142	19,413,380	23,493,361	11,303,861	36,280,567	66,326,063	82.8
TOTAL	99,641,447	96,442,437	110,410,376	84,555,913	290,657,098	371,153,783	27.7

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

April building permit values for reporting Texas border cities were up 14.5 percent from March. Harlingen was up 193.9 percent, Laredo increased 24.7 percent, McAllen grew 21.0 percent, Brownsville gained 23.1 percent. Eagle Pass declined 43.1 percent, Del Rio was off 0.5 percent, and El Paso fell 10.6 percent. YTD, reporting border cities experienced a 27.7 percent increase in

building permit values. El Paso, with 30.4 percent total value for the month of April, rose 30.4 percent YTD. Laredo with 14.7 percent total value, increased 9.7 percent YTD. Brownsville with 22.5 percent total value for the month of April, was up 45.4 percent YTD.



## Employment/Unemployment Rates — Texas Border

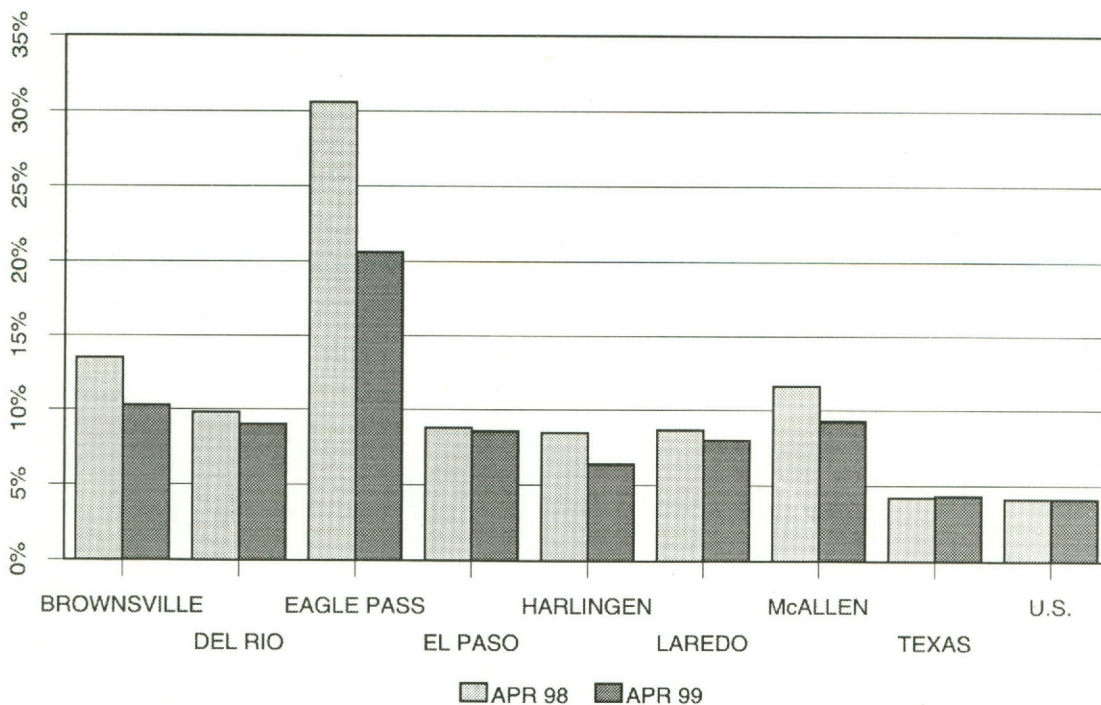
CITY	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	PERCENT	PERCENT
	EMPLOYED	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED
	APR 99	APR 98	APR 99	APR 98	APR 99	APR 98
BROWNSVILLE	41,991	41,279	4,825	6,450	10.3	13.5
DEL RIO	13,677	13,116	1,349	1,419	9.0	9.8
EAGLE PASS	8,047	7,880	2,089	3,479	20.6	30.6
EL PASO	236,156	233,454	22,103	22,537	8.6	8.8
HARLINGEN	24,124	23,714	1,641	2,193	6.4	8.5
LAREDO	64,452	61,841	5,618	5,900	8.0	8.7
McALLEN	43,421	42,291	4,453	5,562	9.3	11.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>431,868</b>	<b>423,575</b>	<b>42,078</b>	<b>47,540</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>10.1</b>
THE TEXAS UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					4.28	4.22
THE NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					4.11	4.14

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

In April, total employment in reporting Texas border cities rose 0.6 percent (2,440 jobs gained) over March's figures. Laredo's employment jumped 0.9 percent (602 jobs gained), McAllen increased 0.8 percent (338 jobs gained), El Paso gained 0.7 percent (1,558 jobs gained). Brownsville gained 0.3 percent (106 jobs gained).

YTD, the total employment in Texas border cities was up 1.9 percent (8,291 jobs gained) from a year ago. The average unemployment rate for the border was 8.9 percent compared to 4.3 percent for Texas and 4.1 percent for the U.S. in April.

**% Unemployed April 98-99**





## Air Passenger Service Activities —Selected Border Cities

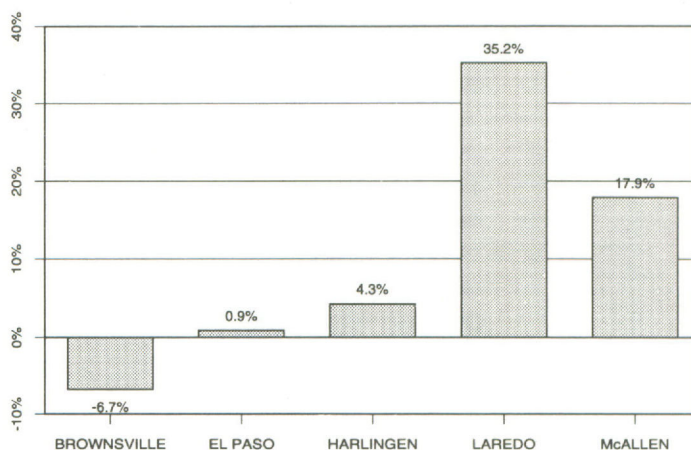
### Passenger Arrivals

CITY	FEB 99	MAR 99	APR 99	APR 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	6,352	7,495	5,911	6,931	26,590	24,809	-6.7
EL PASO	111,361	141,550	135,560	136,315	499,157	503,777	0.9
HARLINGEN	38,080	42,956	39,145	38,232	147,200	153,539	4.3
LAREDO	7,680	10,374	8,432	6,644	25,234	34,113	35.2
McALLEN	25,772	31,094	35,453	25,940	100,627	118,643	17.9
TOTAL	189,245	233,469	224,501	214,062	798,808	834,881	4.5

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

April air passengers arriving in Texas border cities were off 3.8 percent from March's figures. Brownsville dropped 21.1 percent, Laredo fell 18.7 percent, Harlingen fell 8.9 percent, and El Paso was down 4.2 percent. McAllen, however, rose 14.0 percent. YTD air passenger arrivals were up 4.5 percent. El Paso, with 60.4 percent of all passengers arriving in April, was up 0.9 percent YTD. Harlingen accounting for 17.4 percent of all arrivals in April rose 4.3 percent. McAllen, with 15.8 percent of all arrivals, was up 17.9 percent. Laredo increased 35.2 percent while Brownsville was down 6.7 percent YTD.

### Passenger Arrivals % Change YTD 98-99



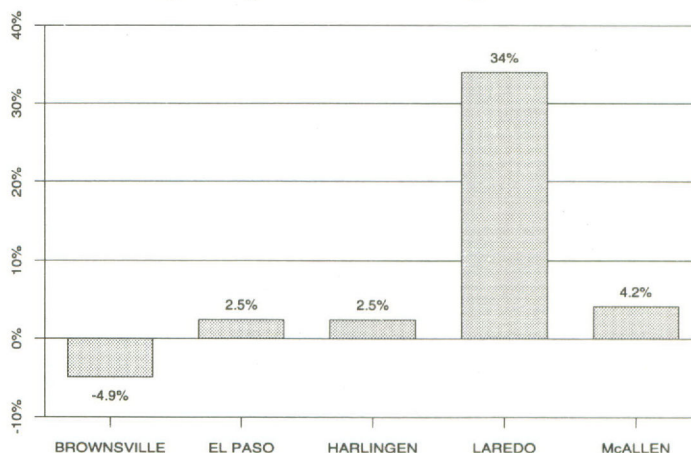
### Passenger Departures

CITY	FEB 99	MAR 99	APR 99	APR 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	6,400	7,872	6,163	7,449	27,715	26,349	-4.9
EL PASO	113,674	146,944	139,858	135,643	510,742	523,295	2.5
HARLINGEN	40,037	47,165	42,853	41,628	162,931	166,955	2.5
LAREDO	7,647	10,609	8,444	7,044	26,060	34,914	34.0
McALLEN	25,163	31,829	29,189	29,992	108,731	113,315	4.2
TOTAL	192,921	244,419	226,507	221,756	836,179	864,828	3.4

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

April air passenger departures for reporting Texas border cities were down 7.3 percent from March's figures. Brownsville decreased 20.7 percent, Laredo declined 20.4 percent, Harlingen fell 9.1 percent. McAllen was off 8.3, and El Paso fell 4.8 percent. YTD, air passenger departures were up 3.4 percent from a year ago. El Paso, with 61.7 percent of all passengers departing in April, was up 2.5 percent YTD. Harlingen, with 18.9 percent of all passengers departing, was up 2.5 percent. McAllen, with a 12.9 percent of all departing passengers, increased 4.2 percent YTD. Laredo rose 34.0 percent while Brownsville was down 4.9 percent YTD.

### Passenger Departures % Change YTD 98-99





## Port Of Corpus Christi

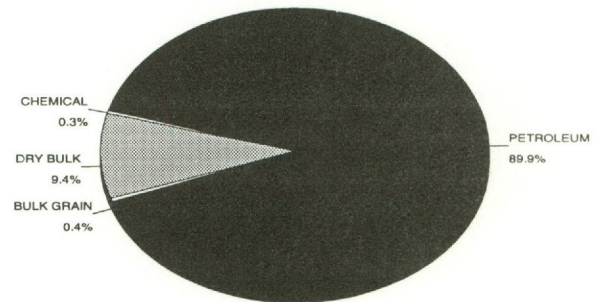
### Inbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	FEB 99	MAR 99	APR 99	APR 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BREAK BULK	6,556	18,387	150	840	2,285	40,700	1681.1
DRY BULK	374,826	156,572	429,423	730,278	1,679,865	1,372,174	-18.3
BULK GRAIN	0	5,966	16,954	0	0	22,920	N/A
LIQUID	0	0	1,713	0	16,129	11,172	-30.7
PETROLEUM	2,964,877	4,277,871	4,130,891	4,497,745	15,559,400	14,636,230	-5.9
CHEMICAL	10,126	5,593	11,980	1,249	31,240	36,550	17.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,356,384</b>	<b>4,464,388</b>	<b>4,591,110</b>	<b>5,230,112</b>	<b>17,288,920</b>	<b>16,119,746</b>	<b>-6.8</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 2.8 percent increase in inbound cargo from last month. Petroleum, which makes up 90.0 percent of all inbound traffic in April, was down 3.4 percent compared to March. Dry bulk, which accounts for 9.4 percent of the Port's inbound cargo for April, increased 174.3 percent YTD. Total inbound cargo tonnage was down 6.8 percent YTD.

### % Share April 1999 Inbound Cargo



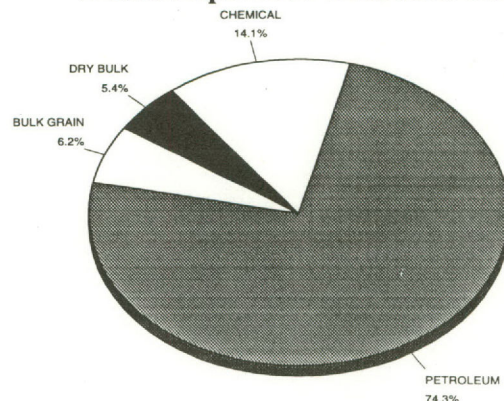
### Outbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	FEB 99	MAR 99	APR 99	APR 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BREAK BULK	0	9,754	2,055	2,585	8,564	9,754	13.9
DRY BULK	216,570	222,305	143,128	400,864	631,385	710,035	12.5
BULK GRAIN	165,675	157,290	164,676	28,110	739,579	515,953	-30.2
LIQUID	0	3,183	0	0	0	3,183	N/A
PETROLEUM	1,854,195	2,068,410	1,986,785	2,543,910	6,444,168	5,809,772	-9.8
CHEMICAL	190,939	0	378,024	0	320,774	337,393	5.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,427,377</b>	<b>2,460,942</b>	<b>2,674,668</b>	<b>2,975,470</b>	<b>8,144,469</b>	<b>7,386,090</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

The Port of Corpus Christi had an 8.7 percent increase in outbound cargo tonnage in April. Petroleum, which is 74.3 percent of total outbound cargo for April, decreased 9.8 percent compared to March. Dry bulk decreased 35.6 percent and Bulk grain increased 4.7 percent. YTD, total outbound cargo tonnage was down 4.5 percent.

### % Share April 1999 Outbound Cargo





# Border Business Indicators

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