

L250.8  
B644A1  
22:12



# Border Business Indicators

Government Publications  
Texas State Documents

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

MAY 26 1999

Vol. 22, No. 12  
December 1998

## IN THIS ISSUE...

Note from the Director ..... 1

### Border Crossings

Pedestrians .....	3
Vehicles .....	4
Trucks .....	5
Rail .....	6
Visas .....	9

### Border Crossing Revenues

Customs Management Center Laredo .....	7
U.S. Border Bridge Revenues .....	8

### Border Cities: Infrastructure Statistics

Hotels .....	9
Telephones .....	10
Power Connections .....	11
Building Permits .....	12

Employment Figures ..... 13

### Airport Activities: Selected Border Cities

Passenger .....	14
-----------------	----

### Sea Ports

Corpus Christi .....	15
----------------------	----

## Note from the Director

Depository  
Dallas Public Library

Indicators of border business activity for the month of October were up. Twenty-two monthly indicators increased while one decreased when compared to September. In addition, for the year-to-date (YTD) figures, fourteen indicators were up and nine were down. Selected YTD comparisons to 1997 reported by border cities include the following:

- Southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico were up 1.3 percent. Eagle Pass rose 27.7 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo increased 2.1 percent while Laredo was down 0.9 percent and Brownsville declined 4.6 percent.
- Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 0.8 percent. Eagle Pass rose 8.5 percent, El Paso was up 0.7 percent while Brownsville decreased 2.3 percent and Laredo dipped 1.8 percent.
- Southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 7.3 percent. Pharr rose 42.4 percent, Brownsville increased 11.9 percent, Laredo gained 4.5 percent and El Paso was up 3.2 percent.
- Northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 2.7 percent with Laredo increasing 7.5 percent, El Paso gained 1.9 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo was up 1.7 percent and Eagle Pass posted an increase of 0.8 percent YTD.
- Southbound truck shipments into Mexico were up 20.9 percent. Pharr increased 73.4 percent, Brownsville rose 28.0 percent and Laredo gained 20.1 percent.
- Northbound truck shipments into Texas were up 9.4 percent with Eagle Pass increasing 18.8 percent, Laredo gained 13.1 percent and Pharr posted a 7.6 percent increase YTD.
- Southbound shipments by rail were down 0.6 percent.
- Northbound shipments by rail were down 1.7 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Customs were down 9.4 percent YTD. Revenues collected by U.S. Bridge operators were up 13.4 percent.
- Building permits issued were up 17.3 percent. El Paso rose 20.6 percent, Eagle Pass gained 15.8 percent, Brownsville was up 13.2 percent and Laredo increased 11.2 percent.
- Building permit values were down with a YTD decrease of 8.0 percent. Brownsville decreased 24.3 percent, Harlingen was down 23.8 percent, El Paso fell 11.3 percent while Laredo reported a 4.5 percent increase.
- Total employment was up with 9,967 jobs gained YTD. The average unemployment rate in October 1998 was 10.2 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)  
IIT Technical Report No. 5: The Impact of NAFTA on U.S.-Mexico Agriculture (April 1994)  
IIT Technical Report No. 6: U.S.-Mexico Trade Patterns Under NAFTA (March 1994)  
IIT Technical Report No. 7: Overweights to Pay the Price (March 1994)  
IIT Technical Report No. 8: Standards as Non-Tariff Barriers: NAFTA's Impact (February 1994)  
IIT Technical Report No. 9: NAFTA Certificate of Origin (May 1994)  
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.

## Subscribe to the *NAFTA Digest*

The NAFTA Digest provides an analysis of current U.S.-Mexico and hemispheric economic relations, with particular emphasis on the North American Free Trade Agreement. The *NAFTA Digest* is published monthly by the Office for the Study of U.S.-Mexico Trade Relations, a division of The Graduate School of International Trade and Business Administration at Texas A&M International University.

Subscribe now to the NAFTA Digest! Annual subscription rate is \$30.00 (12 monthly issues). Enclose this subscription form or a photocopy with check or money order, payable to Texas A&M International University (U.S. funds only). Send subscription to:

*NAFTA Digest*

Office for the Study of U.S.-Mexico Trade Relations

Texas A&M International University

5201 University Boulevard

Laredo, TX 78041-1900

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation/Co. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

### **Disclaimer:**

Please note that the data contained in this and all issues of the Border Business Indicators is collected from different government agencies and private sources. Readers should note that different data-collecting agencies use dissimilar, often conflicting, techniques in collecting and compiling the information they publish. Because of this lack of uniformity, comparing different data could result in erroneous conclusions. While we are most grateful to our sources for their cooperation, we cannot assume responsibility for the comparability of the data.



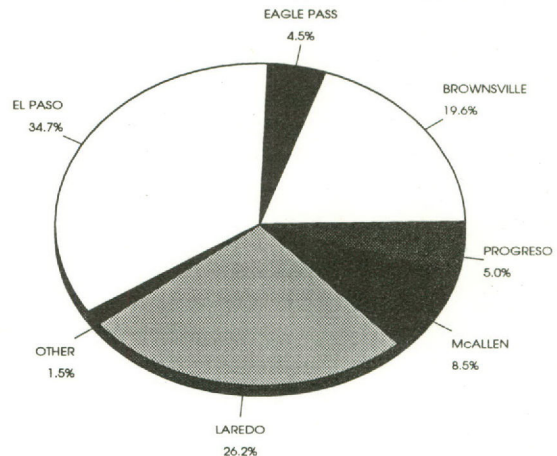
## Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	AUG 98	SEP 98	OCT 98	OCT 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	239,348	199,980	226,332	232,469	2,672,958	2,549,566	-4.6
DEL RIO	5,430	5,616	2,341	4,943	51,333	48,191	-6.1
EAGLE PASS	51,810	42,820	51,708	52,270	414,222	528,821	27.7
EL PASO	411,668	374,816	400,325	370,591	3,743,949	3,857,526	3.0
HARLINGEN	0	192	0	92	878	823	-6.3
LAREDO	307,152	280,265	301,575	307,966	3,183,958	3,155,422	-0.9
McALLEN-HIDALGO	95,090	82,834	97,851	104,823	1,062,176	1,084,626	2.1
PROGRESO	56,367	47,909	57,752	54,485	927,625	983,742	6.0
RIO GRANDE	658	558	409	517	7,847	7,107	-9.4
ROMA	13,721	11,746	14,941	14,626	138,813	146,105	5.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,181,244</b>	<b>1,046,736</b>	<b>1,153,234</b>	<b>1,142,782</b>	<b>12,203,759</b>	<b>12,361,929</b>	<b>1.3</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 pedestrian bridge crossings into Mexico for October was up 10.2 percent compared to September. Roma increased 27.2 percent, Eagle Pass rose 20.8 percent, Progreso was up 20.5 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo gained 18.1 percent, Brownsville increased 13.2 percent, Laredo rose 7.6 percent and El Paso was up 6.8 percent. However, Del Rio fell 58.3 percent and Rio Grande dipped 26.7 percent. YTD, total southbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 1.3 percent. El Paso southbound pedestrian crossings, which make up 34.7 percent of all crossings in October rose 3.0 percent. Laredo, accounting for 26.2 percent of all crossings, was down 0.9 percent and Brownsville was down 4.6 percent with 19.6 percent of all crossings YTD.

**% Share Pedestrians for October 1998**



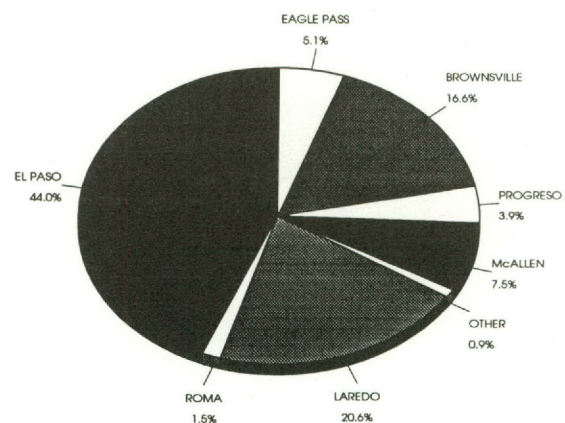
## Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	AUG 98	SEP 98	OCT 98	OCT 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	208,959	171,993	187,658	214,290	2,372,050	2,318,556	-2.3
DEL RIO	13,524	8,845	6,463	8,491	104,765	102,281	-2.4
EAGLE PASS	61,016	51,036	57,241	57,574	561,693	609,519	8.5
EL PASO	523,301	480,327	497,083	529,169	5,064,337	5,101,570	0.7
LAREDO	250,185	224,663	233,076	260,258	2,589,582	2,542,883	-1.8
McALLEN-HIDALGO	80,681	74,810	84,885	77,732	879,045	899,333	2.3
PRESIDIO	2,275	2,270	2,273	3,644	30,691	27,158	-11.5
PROGRESO	40,984	36,206	43,581	39,694	536,213	622,441	16.1
RIO GRANDE	1,157	959	752	1,100	12,321	11,060	-10.2
ROMA	17,388	14,325	16,594	13,254	126,217	146,002	15.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,199,470</b>	<b>1,065,434</b>	<b>1,129,606</b>	<b>1,205,206</b>	<b>12,276,914</b>	<b>12,380,803</b>	<b>0.8</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 6.0 percent in October. Progreso rose 20.4 percent, Roma was up 15.8 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo increased 13.5 percent, Eagle Pass gained 12.2 percent, Brownsville rose 9.1 percent, Laredo was up 3.7 percent, El Paso increased 3.5 percent and Presidio was up slightly at 0.1 percent. However, Del Rio decreased 26.9 percent and Rio Grande fell 21.6 percent. YTD total northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 0.8 percent. El Paso, accounting for 44.0 percent of the northbound crossings, was up 0.7 percent YTD. Laredo, with 20.6 percent of all northbound crossings, was down 1.8 percent and Brownsville with 16.6 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings, had a 2.3 percent decrease in crossings YTD.

**% Share Pedestrians for October 1998**





## Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	AUG 98	SEP 98	OCT 98	OCT 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	599,817	519,448	571,163	486,512	5,151,902	5,762,966	11.9
DEL RIO	128,510	126,427	147,917	139,539	1,420,913	1,458,429	2.6
EAGLE PASS	220,241	206,746	224,604	213,760	2,129,624	2,216,689	4.1
EL PASO	436,157	374,132	429,130	454,106	4,403,033	4,542,885	3.2
HARLINGEN	43,152	36,214	40,223	31,799	335,801	403,530	20.2
LAREDO	682,030	697,892	731,241	695,379	6,615,322	6,915,470	4.5
McALLEN-HIDALGO	472,809	420,458	455,023	418,297	4,257,696	4,458,939	4.7
PHARR	151,602	135,869	148,578	119,133	1,004,979	1,430,953	42.4
PROGRESO	85,263	75,630	82,113	70,850	821,286	879,361	7.1
RIO GRANDE	48,631	44,927	48,952	44,041	455,673	487,774	7.0
ROMA	71,740	66,276	72,117	69,148	691,351	717,995	3.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,939,952</b>	<b>2,704,019</b>	<b>2,951,061</b>	<b>2,742,564</b>	<b>27,287,580</b>	<b>29,274,991</b>	<b>7.3</b>

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

Southbound vehicle bridge crossings into Mexico were up 9.1 percent in October from September's figures. Del Rio increased 17.0 percent, El Paso was up 14.7 percent, Harlingen rose 11.1 percent, Brownsville gained 10.0 percent, Pharr jumped 9.4 percent, Rio Grande posted an increase of 9.0 percent, Roma increased 8.8 percent, Eagle Pass was up 8.6 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo rose 8.2 percent and Laredo gained 4.8 percent. YTD total southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 7.3 percent. Laredo, with 24.8

percent of all southbound traffic in October, was up 4.5 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 19.4 percent of all southbound vehicle bridge crossings, had an 11.9 percent increase YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 15.4 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, experienced a 4.7 percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 14.5 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings had a 3.2 percent increase YTD.

## Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	AUG 98	SEP 98	OCT 98	OCT 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	532,472	480,919	513,023	506,407	5,122,992	5,182,998	1.2
DEL RIO	100,651	116,557	135,274	133,240	1,410,045	1,258,882	-10.7
EAGLE PASS	218,950	200,832	211,280	217,752	2,116,067	2,132,553	0.8
EL PASO	707,904	646,359	689,827	735,839	6,744,970	6,874,977	1.9
HARLINGEN	55,319	46,757	50,571	41,085	421,554	532,051	26.2
LAREDO	618,767	672,384	656,667	612,843	5,877,273	6,316,929	7.5
McALLEN-HIDALGO	431,456	388,487	412,694	386,473	3,959,804	4,026,099	1.7
PRESIDIO	57,041	53,304	54,719	49,133	504,690	551,679	9.3
PROGRESO	79,270	73,878	79,684	66,218	822,407	800,081	-2.7
RIO GRANDE	53,639	49,120	52,146	48,600	501,538	531,453	6.0
ROMA	82,962	80,028	86,753	70,125	748,796	793,365	6.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,938,431</b>	<b>2,808,625</b>	<b>2,942,638</b>	<b>2,867,715</b>	<b>28,230,136</b>	<b>29,001,067</b>	<b>2.7</b>

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

Northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas for October were up 4.8 percent since September. Del Rio registered a 16.1 percent increase, Roma rose 8.4 percent, Harlingen jumped 8.2 percent, Progreso reported an increase of 7.9 percent, Brownsville and El Paso gained 6.7 percent, Rio Grande increased 6.2 percent, Eagle Pass rose 5.2 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo was up 6.2 percent and

Presidio was up slightly at 2.7 percent. However, Laredo decreased 2.3 percent. YTD northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 2.7 percent. Laredo with 22.3 percent of all crossings in October was up 7.5 percent YTD. El Paso, with 23.4 percent of all crossings, gained 1.9 percent and Brownsville with 17.4 percent of all crossings, was up 1.2 percent YTD.



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

CITY	AUG 98	SEP 98	OCT 98	OCT 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE+	24,157	25,469	25,448	22,114	191,658	245,386	28.0
DEL RIO+	3,816	4,510	5,072	4,501	35,653	44,821	25.7
EAGLE PASS++	4,182	4,368	5,317	4,034	34,900	40,539	16.2
EL PASO+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	N/A
HARLINGEN+	5,650	5,939	6,016	3,993	33,296	53,499	60.7
LAREDO++	61,390	67,049	71,085	65,566	533,859	641,158	20.1
McALLEN-HIDALGO+	4,465	4,375	4,484	5,289	90,576	44,372	-51.0
PHARR+	14,633	14,001	15,047	13,580	87,607	151,936	73.4
PROGRESO+	700	1,315	1,822	1,049	10,902	13,233	21.4
RIO GRANDE+	1,593	1,652	1,756	2,405	17,908	18,371	2.6
ROMA+	895	822	917	777	7,460	8,670	16.2
TOTAL	121,481	129,500	136,964	123,308	1,043,819	1,261,985	20.9

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 up 5.8 percent in October. Progreso increased 38.6 percent, Eagle Pass gained 21.7 percent, Del Rio rose 12.5 percent, Roma grew 11.6 percent, Pharr was up 7.5 percent, Rio Grande increased 6.3 percent, Laredo gained 6.0 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo rose 2.5 percent and Harlingen jumped 1.3 percent. However, Brownsville decreased 0.1 percent. YTD, southbound truck shipments were up 20.9 percent. Laredo

with 51.9 percent of all southbound shipments in October, experienced a 20.1 percent increase. Brownsville, with 18.6 percent of all southbound shipments, had a 28.0 percent increase YTD. Pharr with 11.0 percent registered an increase of 73.4 percent and McAllen-Hidalgo, with 3.3 percent of all truck crossings, fell 51.0 percent.

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

CITY	AUG 98	SEP 98	OCT 98	OCT 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	10,506	10,048	10,864	12,073	104,772	103,690	-1.0
DEL RIO	2,740	3,261	3,438	3,340	27,779	29,777	7.2
EAGLE PASS	4,096	4,273	4,630	3,798	34,352	40,803	18.8
FALCON	3	5	5	8	81	41	-49.4
LAREDO	51,078	58,135	58,568	58,867	481,431	544,328	13.1
McALLEN-HIDALGO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
PHARR	12,691	12,225	13,582	13,552	131,597	141,632	7.6
PROGRESO	421	351	269	370	7,265	3,424	-52.9
RIO GRANDE	981	843	1,006	1,740	13,444	10,637	-20.9
ROMA	639	714	759	498	4,874	6,802	39.6
TOTAL	83,155	89,855	93,121	94,246	805,595	881,134	9.4

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 increased 3.6 percent from September's shipments. Rio Grande increased 19.3 percent, Pharr rose 11.1 percent, Eagle Pass gained 8.4 percent, Brownsville was up 8.1 percent, Roma grew 6.3 percent, Del Rio jumped 5.4 percent, Laredo was up slightly at 0.7 percent and Falcon remained unchanged. However, Progreso decreased 23.4 percent. YTD north-

bound truck shipments were up 9.4 percent. Laredo, accounting for 62.9 percent of all northbound truck traffic in October had a 13.1 percent increase YTD. Pharr, with 14.6 percent of shipments, experienced an 7.6 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with 11.7 percent of all northbound truck shipments in October, dipped 1.0 percent YTD.



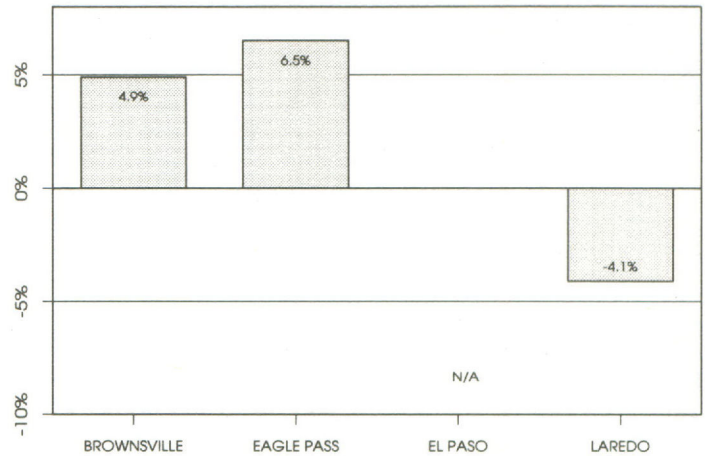
## Export Shipments by Rail into Mexico —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	AUG 98	SEP 98	OCT 98	OCT 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	2,693	3,121	2,975	1,923	25,048	26,269	4.9
EAGLE PASS	3,456	3,115	5,260	4,481	42,607	45,362	6.5
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	11,322	11,721	12,274	13,472	125,032	119,859	-4.1
TOTAL	17,471	17,957	20,509	19,876	192,687	191,490	-0.6

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

Southbound rail shipments into Mexico increased 14.2 percent in October. Eagle Pass was up 68.9 percent and Laredo increased 4.7 percent. However, Brownsville dipped 4.7 percent. YTD, total southbound rail shipments into Mexico from Texas were down 0.6 percent. Laredo, which accounts for 59.8 percent of all southbound rail shipments in October was down 4.1 percent. Eagle Pass, accounting for 25.6 percent of all southbound rail shipments, increased 6.5 percent. Brownsville, with 14.5 percent of all southbound rail shipments in October, rose 4.9 percent YTD.

Export Rail YTD % Change 97-98



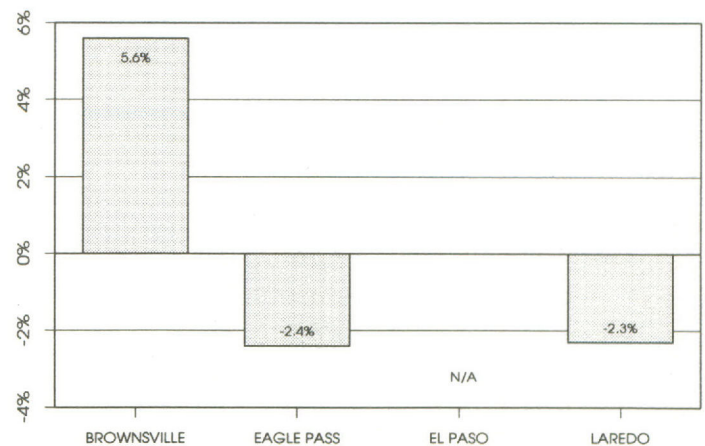
## Import Shipments by Rail into Texas —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	AUG 98	SEP 98	OCT 98	OCT 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	680	843	824	931	9,660	10,197	5.6
EAGLE PASS	3,356	3,698	3,961	3,161	33,878	33,066	-2.4
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	8,637	7,781	8,945	9,197	79,102	77,245	-2.3
TOTAL	12,673	12,322	13,730	13,289	122,640	120,508	-1.7

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

Northbound rail shipments into Texas increased 11.4 percent in October. Laredo rose 15.0 percent and Eagle Pass increased 7.1 percent. However, Brownsville registered a 2.3 percent decrease. YTD, total northbound rail shipments into Texas from Mexico were down 1.7 percent. Laredo, which accounts for 65.1 percent of all northbound rail shipments in October was down 2.3 percent. Eagle Pass, accounting for 28.8 percent of all northbound rail shipments in October, decreased 2.4 percent and Brownsville, with 6.0 percent of all northbound rail shipments, increased 5.6 percent YTD.

Import Rail YTD % Change 97-98





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

CITY	DUTY	MPF	OTHER	TOTAL	TOTAL	YTD	YTD	YTD % CHG
	OCT 98	OCT 98	REVENUE OCT 98	REVENUE OCT 98	REVENUE OCT 97	REVENUE OCT 97	REVENUE OCT 98	
BROWNSVILLE	2,123,284	530,338	601,786	3,255,408	3,500,667	29,642,364	27,754,800	-6.4
DEL RIO	224,371	132,724	174,864	531,959	465,435	4,092,924	4,250,038	3.8
EAGLE PASS	923,113	247,269	3,657,986	4,828,367	1,856,126	27,630,645	34,175,077	23.7
LAREDO	13,075,016	3,290,106	7,389,155	23,754,277	28,268,166	231,801,011	196,748,269	-15.1
McALLEN-HIDALGO	2,449,431	573,481	591,867	3,614,778	4,528,276	47,443,233	46,719,623	-1.5
PROGRESO	6,600	5,498	21,842	33,941	36,022	1,444,947	468,058	-67.6
RIO GRANDE	33,478	18,141	11,026	62,645	87,064	1,102,557	892,587	-19.0
ROMA	23,145	10,183	11,201	44,530	48,967	499,902	505,448	1.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,858,438</b>	<b>4,807,740</b>	<b>12,459,727</b>	<b>36,125,905</b>	<b>38,790,723</b>	<b>343,657,583</b>	<b>311,513,900</b>	<b>-9.4</b>

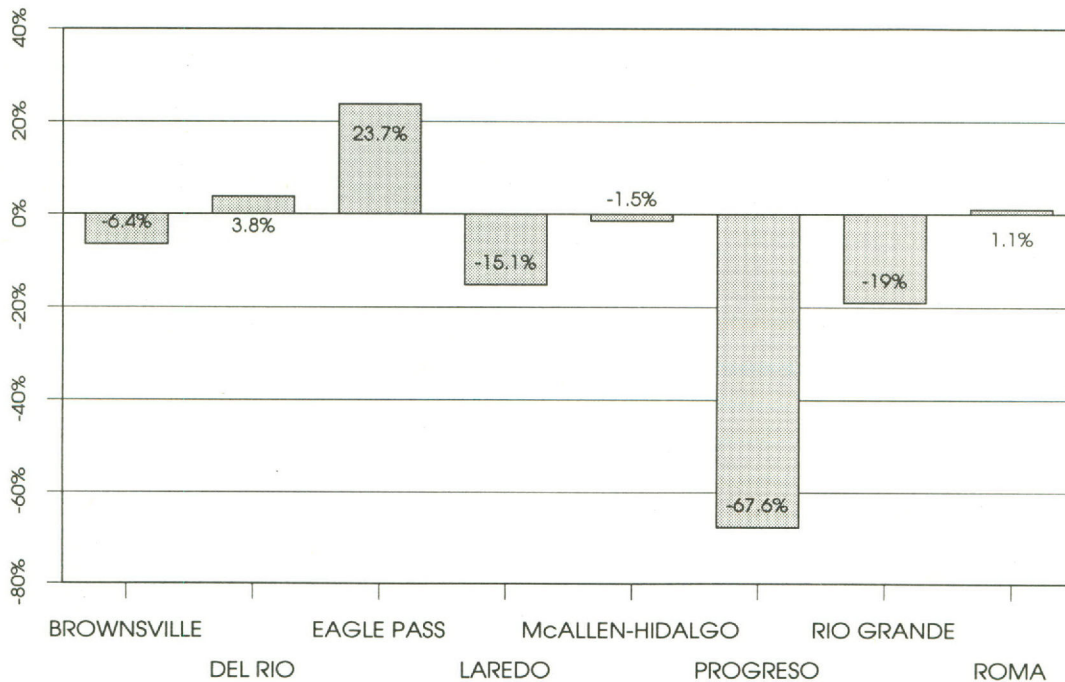
Source: Data provided by U.S. Customs Service, Port of Entry in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

\*MPF = Merchandise Processing Fee

Total U.S. Customs revenues for the former District of Laredo increased 9.3 percent from September's figures. Roma rose 27.3 percent, Laredo increased 16.1 percent, Del Rio gained 8.9 percent, Eagle Pass grew 8.2 percent and Progreso was up 2.2 percent. However, McAllen-Hidalgo dipped 8.9 percent, Brownsville slid 7.9 percent and Rio Grande fell 1.9 percent. YTD revenue figures were down 9.4 percent compared to October 1997. Laredo, ac-

counting for 63.2 percent of the former district's revenue, was down 15.1 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo with 15.0 percent of total revenues, was down 1.5 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, accounting for 11.1 percent of all revenues YTD, was up 23.7 percent. Brownsville, with 8.9 percent of total revenues, declined 6.4 percent YTD.

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





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

CITY	AUG 98	SEP 98	OCT 98	OCT 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	690,069	628,487	659,213	499,725	5,142,804	6,638,187	29.1
DEL RIO	228,504	210,296	201,321	184,089	1,770,845	1,992,770	12.5
EAGLE PASS	451,696	436,277	488,039	417,176	4,036,711	4,488,211	11.2
EL PASO	935,950	869,207	971,735	967,835	9,068,887	9,556,609	5.4
HARLINGEN	106,135	98,895	105,093	77,985	668,685	995,001	48.8
LAREDO	1,779,941	1,884,642	1,788,976	1,849,574	17,013,176	18,230,936	7.2
McALLEN-HIDALGO	672,068	539,381	649,845	613,109	5,482,623	6,294,421	14.8
PHARR	301,126	301,012	296,512	251,653	1,915,906	2,945,835	53.8
TOTAL	5,165,490	4,968,198	5,160,734	4,861,146	45,099,638	51,141,970	13.4

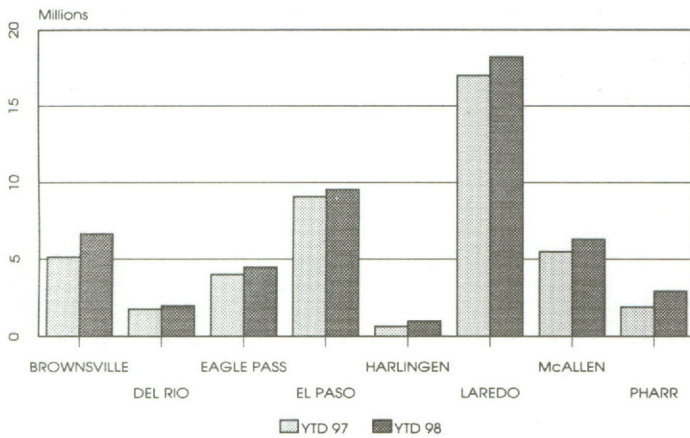
Source: Data provided by U.S. bridge operators in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

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

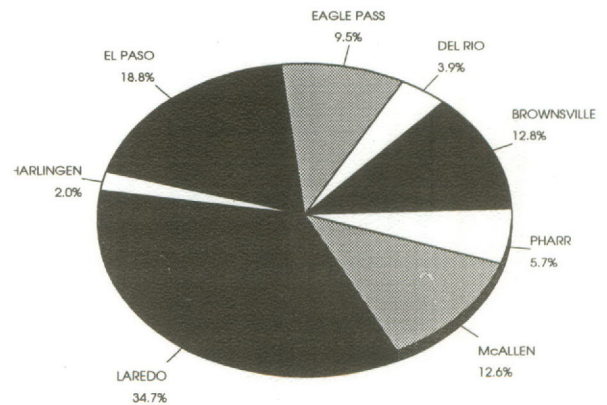
U.S. bridge operators' revenues increased 3.9 percent in the month of October. McAllen-Hidalgo showed an increase of 20.5 percent, Eagle Pass gained 11.9 percent, El Paso jumped 11.8 percent, Harlingen jumped 6.3 percent and Brownsville rose 4.9 percent. However, Laredo showed a decrease of 5.1 percent, Del Rio fell 4.3 percent and Pharr declined 1.5 percent. YTD, U.S. bridge operators' revenues were up 13.4 percent. Laredo, accounting for 34.7

percent of total U.S. bridge operator's revenues collected in October, had a 7.2 percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 18.8 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues, increased 5.4 percent YTD. Brownsville accounting for 12.8 percent, was up 29.1 percent. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 12.6 percent of the total bridge revenues, was up 14.8 percent YTD.

**Total Revenues Collected YTD 97-98**



**% Share Revenues October 1998**





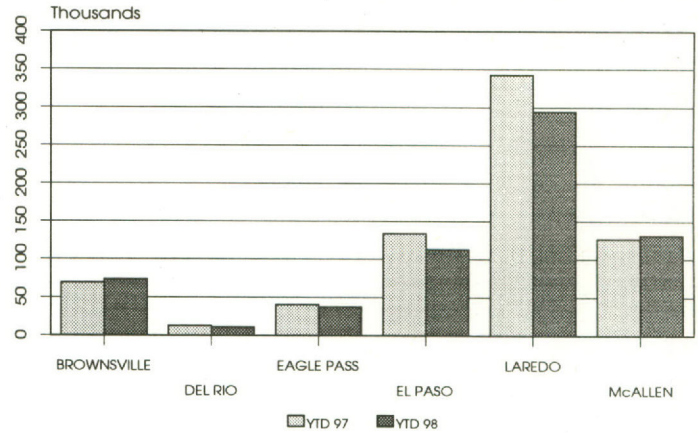
## Visas to Tourists from Texas to Mexico

CITY	AUG 98	SEP 98	OCT 98	OCT 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	%CHG
BROWNSVILLE	7,342	5,555	7,137	4,813	68,898	73,521	6.7
DEL RIO	929	790	1,069	1,289	12,705	10,813	-14.9
EAGLE PASS	5,023	2,844	3,200	4,000	40,161	36,967	-8.0
EL PASO	15,358	7,931	10,607	10,410	134,121	112,582	-16.1
LAREDO	27,741	20,744	23,187	21,904	342,578	294,421	-14.1
McALLEN	9,328	10,078	11,626	11,228	126,587	131,580	3.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>65,721</b>	<b>47,942</b>	<b>56,826</b>	<b>53,644</b>	<b>725,050</b>	<b>659,884</b>	<b>-9.0</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 October were up 18.5 percent. Del Rio increased 35.3 percent, El Paso rose 33.7 percent, Brownsville was up 28.5 percent, McAllen gained 15.4 percent, Eagle Pass grew 12.5 percent and Laredo increased 11.8 percent. YTD, the number of tourist visas issued were down 9.0 percent. Laredo, with 40.8 percent of total visas issued in October was down 14.1 percent. McAllen, with 20.5 percent of total visas issued, had a 3.9 percent increase YTD. El Paso, with 18.7 percent of all visas issued, fell 16.1 percent YTD and Brownsville with 12.6 percent of total visas issued, increased 6.7 percent YTD.

### Tourist Visas YTD October 97-98



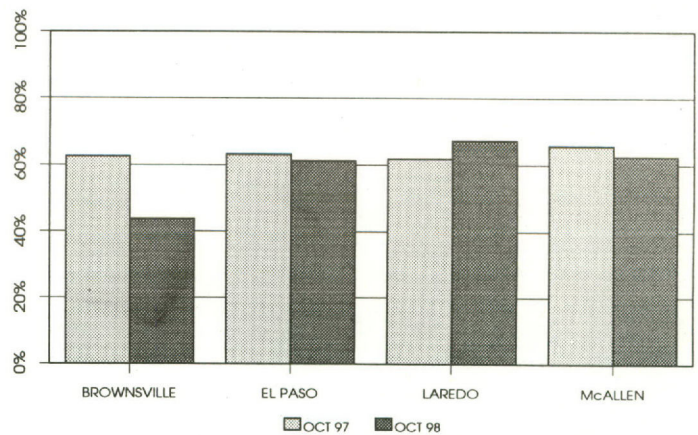
## Hotel Occupancy Percentage Rate — Texas Border

CITY	AUG 98	SEP 98	OCT 98	OCT 97	% CHG 97-98
BROWNSVILLE	47.9	44.3	43.9	62.6	-29.9
EL PASO	63.7	58.7	61.4	63.3	-3.0
LAREDO	65.3	63.2	67.2	61.8	8.8
McALLEN	74.5	62.8	62.6	65.8	-4.9
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>62.9</b>	<b>57.2</b>	<b>58.8</b>	<b>63.4</b>	<b>-7.3</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 October was up 2.7 percent. Laredo had a 67.2 percent rate, McAllen had a 62.6 percent rate, El Paso had a rate of 61.4 percent and Brownsville posted a 43.9 percentage rate for the month of October.

### Hotel Occupancy Percentage October 97-98





# Telephones in Service — Texas Border

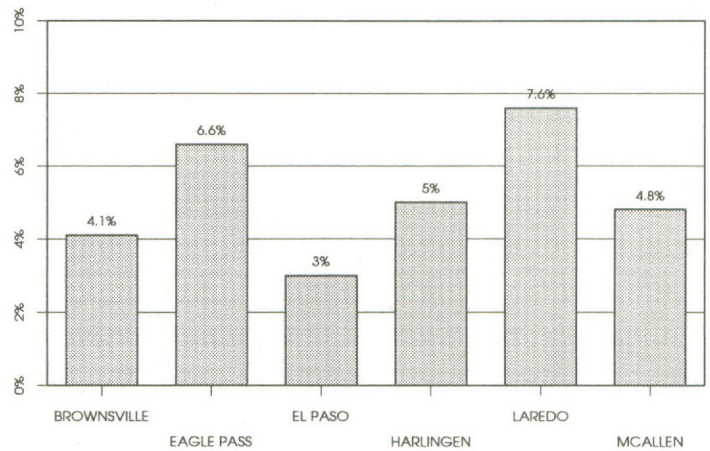
## Residential Telephones

CITY	AUG 98	SEP 98	OCT 98	OCT 97
BROWNSVILLE	43,296	43,483	43,613	41,889
EAGLE PASS	11,588	11,612	11,741	11,015
EL PASO	213,960	214,702	214,816	208,582
HARLINGEN	26,677	26,800	26,902	25,612
LAREDO	49,965	50,222	50,535	46,987
MCALLEN	36,242	36,362	36,510	34,851
TOTAL	381,728	383,181	384,117	368,936

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 October, the number of residential telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.24 percent since September. YTD, the number of residential telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased by 4.1 percent. Laredo jumped 7.6 percent, Eagle Pass was up 6.6 percent, Harlingen increased 5.0 percent, McAllen rose 4.8 percent, Brownsville was up 4.1 percent and El Paso gained 3.0 percent YTD.

### Residential Phones % Change October 97-98



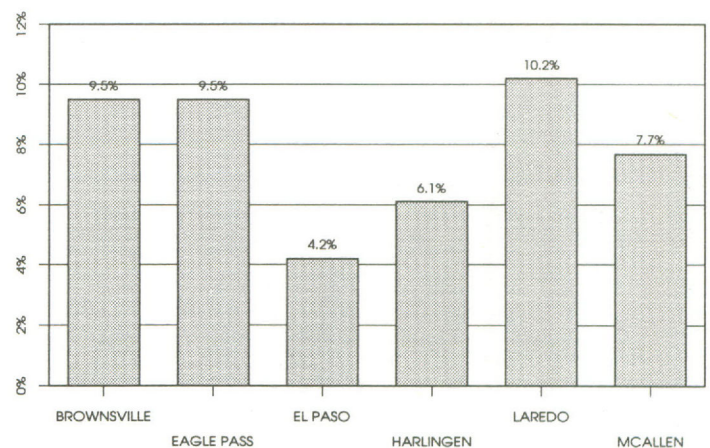
## Business Telephones

CITY	AUG 98	SEP 98	OCT 98	OCT 97
BROWNSVILLE	21,684	22,153	22,351	20,414
EAGLE PASS	4,042	4,061	4,123	3,764
EL PASO	98,152	98,068	98,404	94,448
HARLINGEN	14,365	14,456	14,543	13,712
LAREDO	31,044	31,230	31,493	28,576
MCALLEN	26,075	26,332	26,645	24,729
TOTAL	195,362	196,300	197,559	185,643

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 October the number of business telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.64 percent. YTD, the number of phones in service for reporting Texas border cities rose by 6.4 percent. Laredo had the largest increase with 10.2 percent, Eagle Pass and Brownsville rose 9.5 percent, McAllen was up 7.7 percent, Harlingen increased 6.1 percent and El Paso rose 4.2 percent YTD.

### Business Phones % Change October 97-98





## Power Connections – Texas Border

### Residential Connections

CITY	AUG 98	SEP 98	OCT 98	OCT 97
BROWNSVILLE	28,978	29,129	29,189	28,804
DEL RIO	13,728	9,515	13,638	13,491
EAGLE PASS	9,198	7,689	9,346	9,024
EL PASO	258,342	259,325	260,025	253,769
HARLINGEN	20,323	20,319	20,370	20,027
LAREDO	46,436	35,787	46,879	44,967
McALLEN	30,244	30,314	30,426	29,642
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>407,249</b>	<b>392,078</b>	<b>409,873</b>	<b>399,724</b>

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

October residential power connections for all reporting Texas border cities increased from September's figures by 4.5 percent. YTD, residential power connections for all reporting border cities were up 2.5 percent. Laredo rose 4.3 percent, Eagle Pass increased 3.6 percent, McAllen gained 2.6 percent, El Paso increased 2.5 percent, Harlingen grew 1.7 percent, Brownsville jumped 1.3 percent and Del Rio was up 1.1 percent.

October commercial power connections for reporting Texas border cities increased 6.35 percent from September's figures. YTD, commercial power connections for reporting Texas border cities increased 4.2 percent. YTD, Eagle Pass rose 12.7 percent, Laredo was up 12.6 percent, Del Rio gained 5.9 percent, Harlingen increased 4.5 percent, McAllen was up 3.9 percent, Brownsville grew 2.9 percent and El Paso rose 1.7 percent YTD.

### Commercial Connections

CITY	AUG 98	SEP 98	OCT 98	OCT 97
BROWNSVILLE	3,825	3,864	3,869	3,760
DEL RIO	1,935	1,533	2,022	1,910
EAGLE PASS	1,295	946	1,436	1,274
EL PASO	26,360	26,242	26,318	25,883
HARLINGEN	3,376	3,371	3,368	3,223
LAREDO	6,983	5,628	7,518	6,679
McALLEN	5,391	5,424	5,460	5,255
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49,165</b>	<b>47,008</b>	<b>49,991</b>	<b>47,984</b>

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

Industrial power connections for reporting Texas border cities rose 3.9 percent from September's figures. YTD, Eagle Pass had the largest decrease with 30.4 percent, McAllen fell 7.8 percent, Del Rio declined 6.7 percent, Brownsville slid 1.9 percent and Laredo dipped 1.6 percent. However, El Paso rose 1.7 percent and Harlingen remained unchanged.

### Industrial Connections

CITY	AUG 98	SEP 98	OCT 98	OCT 97
BROWNSVILLE	471	469	463	472
DEL RIO	30	19	28	30
EAGLE PASS	16	16	16	23
EL PASO	117	118	118	116
HARLINGEN	83	83	83	83
LAREDO	125	95	125	127
McALLEN	46	47	47	51
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>902</b>

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



## Building Permits — Texas Border

### Number of Permits

NUMBER	AUG 98	SEP 98	OCT 98	OCT 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	314	224	300	282	2,594	2,936	13.2
DEL RIO	46	155	115	88	1,059	926	-12.6
EAGLE PASS	32	23	36	27	316	366	15.8
EL PASO	2,735	2,658	2,685	2,761	23,186	27,958	20.6
HARLINGEN	72	54	71	61	616	661	7.3
LAREDO	312	280	325	296	3,147	3,501	11.2
MCALLEN	149	116	163	132	1,303	1,444	10.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,660</b>	<b>3,510</b>	<b>3,695</b>	<b>3,647</b>	<b>32,221</b>	<b>37,792</b>	<b>17.3</b>

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

October building permits issued by reporting Texas border cities were up 5.3 percent from September. Eagle Pass increased 56.5 percent, McAllen rose 40.5 percent, Brownsville gained 33.9 percent, Harlingen grew 31.5 percent, Laredo was up 16.1 percent and El Paso was up slightly at 1.0 percent. However, Del Rio fell 25.8 percent. YTD, the number of permits issued were up 17.3

percent. El Paso, accounting for 72.7 percent of all building permits issued in October, had an increase of 20.6 percent YTD. Laredo with 8.8 percent of building permits issued, was up 11.2 percent YTD. Brownsville was up 13.2 percent and McAllen rose 10.8 percent YTD.

### U.S. Dollar Value of Permits

VALUE	AUG 98	SEP 98	OCT 98	OCT 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	15,984,193	6,827,753	22,727,927	7,580,666	170,307,510	128,907,775	-24.3
DEL RIO	1,121,946	2,092,513	25,162,827	1,354,833	18,255,376	42,927,692	135.2
EAGLE PASS	2,353,608	820,584	775,482	565,242	8,328,184	30,327,747	264.2
EL PASO	68,876,558	54,418,433	57,485,954	65,749,727	647,652,827	574,627,939	-11.3
HARLINGEN	8,641,691	4,394,283	3,474,928	2,148,904	51,750,469	39,437,730	-23.8
LAREDO	9,921,922	36,001,097	18,115,613	16,392,256	154,966,097	161,977,331	4.5
MCALLEN	11,683,734	13,273,680	11,009,735	8,288,860	125,585,373	104,966,286	-16.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>118,583,651</b>	<b>117,828,342</b>	<b>138,752,466</b>	<b>102,080,488</b>	<b>1,176,845,836</b>	<b>1,083,172,499</b>	<b>-8.0</b>

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

October building permit values for reporting Texas border cities were up 17.8 percent from September. Del Rio increased 1,102.5 percent, Brownsville rose 232.9 percent and El Paso was up 5.6 percent. However, Laredo decreased 49.7 percent, Harlingen declined 20.9 percent and Eagle Pass fell 5.5 percent and McAllen fell 17.1 percent. YTD, reporting border cities experienced an 8.0

percent decrease in building permit values. El Paso, with 41.4 percent total value for the month of October, fell 11.3 percent YTD. Del Rio, with 18.1 percent total value, increased 135.2 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 16.4 percent total value for the month of October, was down 24.3 percent YTD.



## Employment/Unemployment Rates —Texas Border

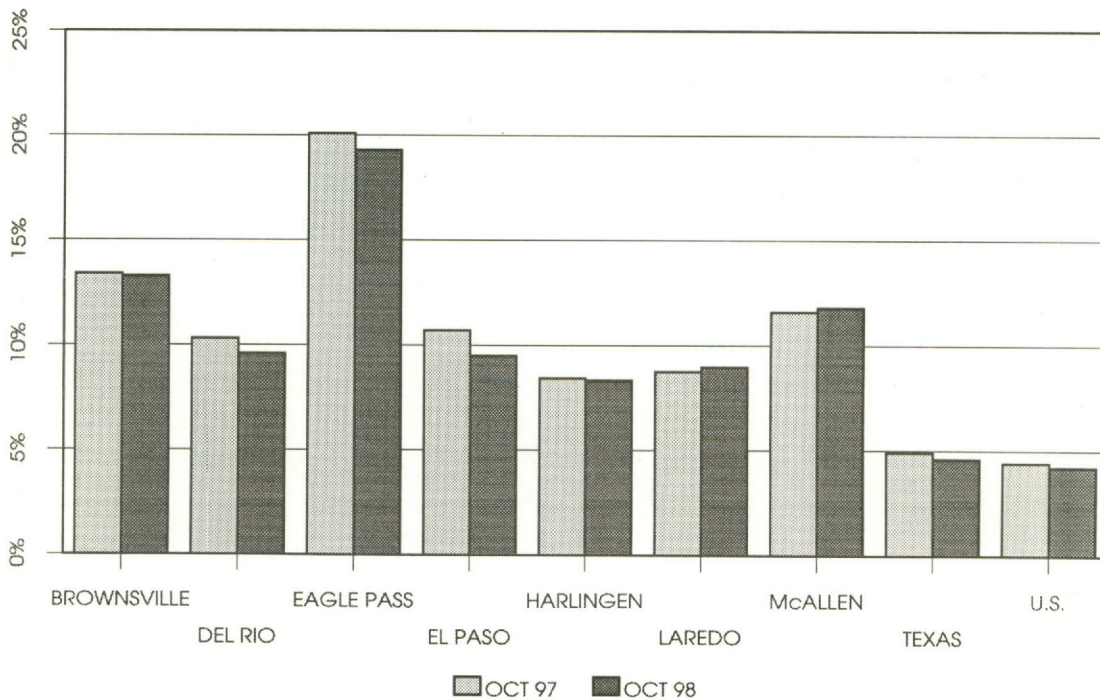
CITY	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	PERCENT	PERCENT
	EMPLOYED	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED
	OCT 98	OCT 97	OCT 98	OCT 97	OCT 98	OCT 97
BROWNSVILLE	41,933	41,789	6,415	6,465	13.3	13.4
DEL RIO	13,612	13,187	1,439	1,513	9.6	10.3
EAGLE PASS	8,000	7,815	1,908	1,964	19.3	20.1
EL PASO	244,570	236,435	25,817	28,256	9.5	10.7
HARLINGEN	24,090	24,007	2,181	2,199	8.3	8.4
LAREDO	61,180	60,573	5,995	5,744	8.9	8.7
McALLEN	41,923	41,535	5,586	5,475	11.8	11.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>435,308</b>	<b>425,341</b>	<b>49,341</b>	<b>51,616</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>10.8</b>
THE TEXAS UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					4.57	4.92
THE NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					4.22	4.39

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

In October, total employment in reporting Texas border cities rose 1.2 percent (4,979 jobs gained) from September's figures. Eagle Pass rose 3.2 percent (251 jobs gained), McAllen increased 3.1 percent (1,241 jobs gained), Brownsville, Harlingen and Laredo grew 1.4 percent (593,341 and 815 jobs gained respectively), El Paso was up 0.7 percent (1,688 jobs gained) and Del Rio grew 0.4

percent (50 jobs gained). YTD, the total employment in Texas border cities was up 2.3 percent (9,967 jobs gained) from a year ago. The average unemployment rate for the border was 10.2 percent compared to 4.57 percent for Texas and 4.22 percent for the U.S. in October.

**% Unemployed October 97-98**





## Air Passenger Service Activities — Selected Border Cities

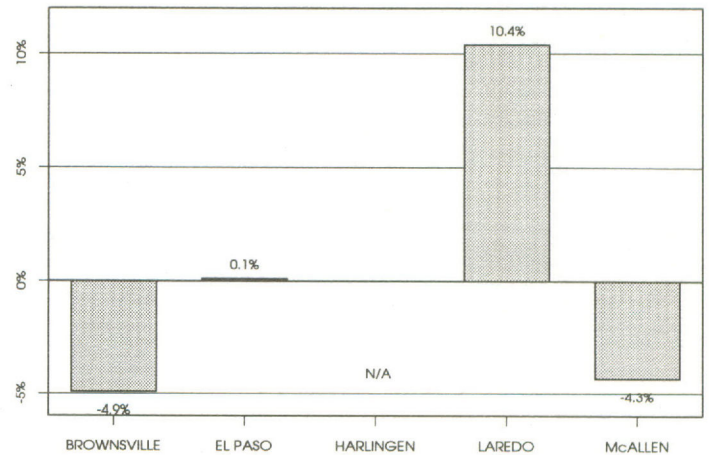
### Passenger Arrivals

CITY	AUG 98	SEP 98	OCT 98	OCT 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	6,321	5,056	5,217	6,274	66,049	62,782	-4.9
EL PASO	143,485	123,246	130,388	130,569	1,335,442	1,336,360	0.1
HARLINGEN	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	6,472	6,322	5,938	5,954	57,507	63,477	10.4
McALLEN	24,097	20,140	22,692	22,038	251,697	240,989	-4.3
TOTAL	180,375	154,764	164,235	164,835	1,710,695	1,703,608	-0.4

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

October air passengers arriving in Texas border cities were up 6.1 percent over September's figures. McAllen was up 12.7 percent, El Paso rose 5.8 percent and Brownsville increased 3.2 percent. However, Laredo decreased 6.1 percent. YTD air passenger arrivals were down 0.4 percent. El Paso, with 79.4 percent of all passengers arriving in October, was up 0.1 percent. McAllen, with 13.8 percent of all arrivals, was down 4.3 percent. **Harlingen, no longer gives out arrival information.** Laredo increased 10.4 percent while Brownsville fell 4.9 percent YTD.

### Passenger Arrivals % Change YTD 97-98



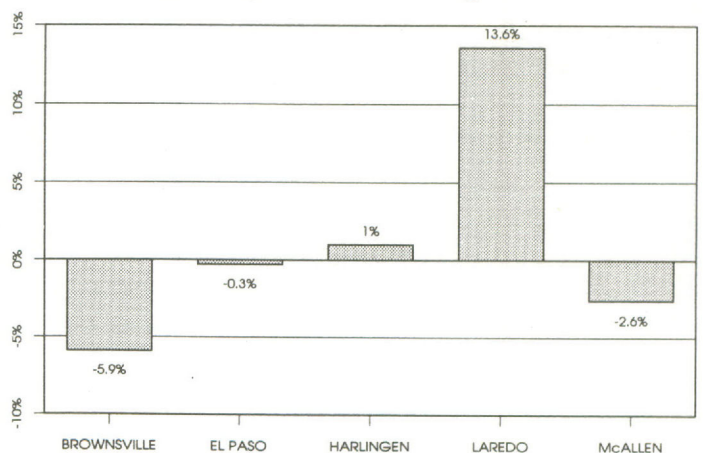
### Passenger Departures

CITY	AUG 98	SEP 98	OCT 98	OCT 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	6,408	4,951	5,253	6,070	68,124	64,083	-5.9
EL PASO	143,781	125,729	132,941	133,081	1,368,868	1,365,157	-0.3
HARLINGEN	37,729	32,841	34,392	35,088	390,993	394,942	1.0
LAREDO	6,656	6,449	6,186	6,045	58,321	66,240	13.6
McALLEN	23,867	20,700	23,265	22,991	262,773	255,862	-2.6
TOTAL	218,441	190,670	202,037	203,275	2,149,079	2,146,284	-0.1

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

October air passenger departures for reporting Texas border cities were up 6.0 percent from September's figures. McAllen increased 12.4 percent, Brownsville was up 6.1 percent, El Paso rose 5.7 percent and Harlingen gained 4.7 percent. However, Laredo decreased 4.1 percent. YTD, air passenger departures were down 0.1 percent from a year ago. El Paso, with 65.8 percent of all passengers departing in October, was down 0.3 percent YTD. Harlingen, with 17.0 percent of all passengers departing, was up 1.0 percent. McAllen, with 11.5 percent of all passengers departing, decreased 2.6 percent YTD. Laredo rose 13.6 percent while Brownsville was down 5.9 percent YTD.

### Passenger Departures % Change YTD 97-98





# Port Of Corpus Christi

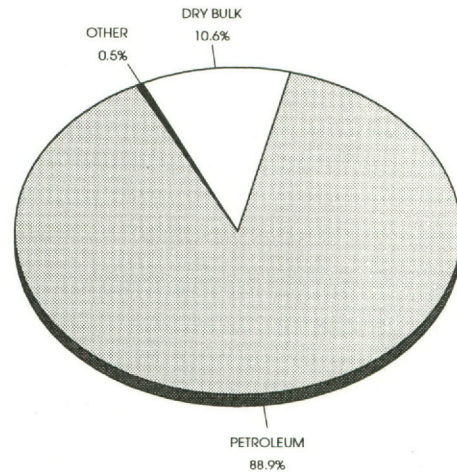
## Inbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	AUG 98	SEP 98	OCT 98	OCT 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BREAK BULK	0	975	72	178	9,093	8,638	-5.0
DRY BULK	339,598	393,059	456,515	348,672	3,556,671	3,989,155	12.2
BULK GRAIN	0	9,024	13,970	0	0	22,994	N/A
LIQUID	13,642	0	2,218	0	45,200	36,400	-19.5
PETROLEUM	3,799,014	4,583,650	3,849,248	4,203,699	37,976,607	40,679,054	7.1
CHEMICAL	4,396	16,602	2,822	4,108	100,975	94,483	-6.4
TOTAL	4,156,650	5,003,309	4,324,845	4,556,657	41,688,546	44,830,725	7.5

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

The Port of Corpus Christi had a 13.6 percent decrease in inbound cargo from last month. Petroleum, which makes up 89.0 percent of all inbound traffic in October, was down 16.0 percent compared to September. Dry bulk, which accounts for 10.6 percent of the port's inbound cargo for October, increased 16.1 percent. YTD, inbound cargo tonnage was up 7.5 percent. Dry bulk was up 12.2 percent YTD and Petroleum was up 7.1 percent YTD.

## % Share October 1998 Inbound Cargo



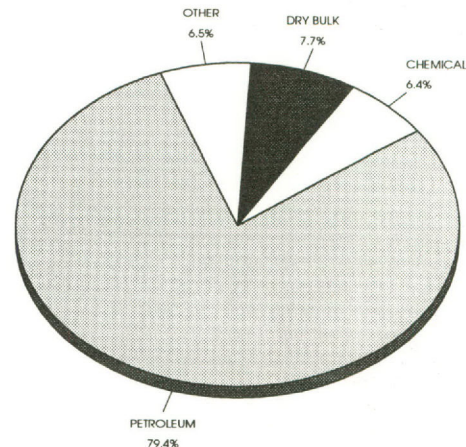
## Outbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	AUG 98	SEP 98	OCT 98	OCT 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BREAK BULK	0	1,165	63,312	6,965	6,390	59,892	837.3
DRY BULK	159,252	288,781	221,710	218,810	1,960,925	2,281,947	16.4
BULK GRAIN	149,968	71,362	121,923	142,489	1,111,328	1,476,759	32.9
LIQUID	0	0	0	0	2,865	9,706	238.8
PETROLEUM	2,155,808	2,616,724	2,272,100	2,051,117	19,506,573	21,197,626	8.7
CHEMICAL	0	386,006	182,655	133,825	1,362,146	1,333,902	-2.1
TOTAL	2,465,028	3,364,038	2,861,700	2,553,206	23,950,227	26,359,833	10.1

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 14.9 percent decrease in outbound cargo tonnage in October. Petroleum, which is 79.4 percent of total outbound cargo for October, decreased 13.2 percent compared to September. Dry bulk decreased 23.2 percent and Bulk Grain increased 70.9 percent. YTD, total outbound cargo tonnage was up 10.1 percent.

## % Share October 1998 Outbound Cargo





# Border Business Indicators

is published monthly by the Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development, a division of the College of Business Administration (COBA) at Texas A&M International University (TAMIU).

Dr. J. Charles Jennett  
President, TAMIU

Dr. Kamal Fatehi  
Interim Dean,  
COBA/GSITBA

Duane W. Burdorf  
Director, Texas Center for  
Border Economic and  
Enterprise Development

Luz Esqueda  
Research Assistant

Further information may  
be obtained by calling  
TEL. (956) 326-2546  
FAX (956) 326-2544  
or by writing to the  
address shown below.

Printed by TAMIU Print Shop  
on Recycled Paper

## Subscribe Now To This Informative Publication

Either copy or cut out the form below to subscribe to the *BBI*.  
Please mail to *Border Business Indicators* at address listed below.

### Border Business Indicators



Texas A&M International University  
Texas Center for Border Economic  
and Enterprise Development  
5201 University Boulevard  
Laredo, TX 78041-1900

Check Method of Payment: (Please enclose this form with payment.)

- Check  
 Money Order

Make payable to: Border Business Indicators

**Payable in U.S. funds ONLY. Subscription fee is \$36 for 12 monthly issues.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation/Co. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
TEXAS CENTER FOR BORDER ECONOMIC  
AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT  
5201 UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD  
LAREDO, TX 78041-1990

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Laredo, Texas  
78041  
Bulk Mail Permit  
231

