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Border Business Indicators

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Texas State Documents

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

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Note from the Director

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Indicators of border business activity for the month of September were down. Twelve monthly indicators decreased while eleven increased when compared to August. In addition, for the year-to-date (YTD) figures, fifteen indicators were up and eight 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 31.8 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo increased 3.1 percent while Laredo was down 0.8 percent and Brownsville declined 4.8 percent.
- Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 1.6 percent. Eagle Pass rose 9.6 percent, El Paso was up 1.5 percent while Brownsville decreased 1.2 percent and Laredo dipped 0.8 percent.
- Southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 7.2 percent. Pharr rose 44.8 percent, Brownsville increased 11.3 percent, Laredo gained 4.5 percent and El Paso was up 4.2 percent.
- Northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 2.7 percent with Laredo increasing 7.5 percent, El Paso gained 2.9 percent, Eagle Pass was up 1.2 percent and McAllen-Hidalgo posted an increase of 1.1 percent YTD.
- Southbound truck shipments into Mexico were up 22.2 percent. Pharr increased 84.9 percent, Brownsville rose 29.7 percent and Laredo gained 21.7 percent.
- Northbound truck shipments into Texas were up 10.8 percent with Eagle Pass increasing 18.4 percent, Laredo gained 15.0 percent and Pharr posted a 8.5 percent increase YTD.
- Southbound shipments by rail were down 1.1 percent.
- Northbound shipments by rail were down 2.4 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Customs were down 9.7 percent YTD. Revenues collected by U.S. Bridge operators were up 14.3 percent.
- Building permits issued were up 19.3 percent. El Paso rose 23.7 percent, Eagle Pass gained 14.2 percent, Brownsville was up 14.0 percent and Laredo increased 11.4 percent.
- Building permit values were down with a YTD decrease of 12.1 percent. Brownsville decreased 34.7 percent, Harlingen was down 27.5 percent, El Paso fell 11.0 percent while Laredo reported a 3.8 percent increase.
- Total employment was up with 10,023 jobs gained YTD. The average unemployment rate in September 1998 was 10.7 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)
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IIT Technical Report No. 10: The Texas Border with Mexico: Opportunities and Challenges (October 1994)
IIT Technical Report No. 12: NAFTA One Year After Implementation: A Preliminary Assessment of Selected Impacts (March 1995)

Technical Reports are available by writing to: IIT Technical Report Series, The College of Business Administration and The Graduate School of International Trade & Business Administration, Texas A&M International University, 5201 University Boulevard, Laredo, Texas 78041-1900. Please enclose \$5.00 for each report requested. Make check or money order payable to the Institute for International Trade.

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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.

International Trade Through the Port of Hidalgo 1997: An Update

By Duane W. Burdorf, Director of the Texas Center
Texas A&M International University

The Texas Center at Texas A&M International University in Laredo recently received more trade information from our various databases for 1997. We were able to correlate two different government databases into one very detailed border database. We would like to take this opportunity to inform you of some of the information we discovered for the Port of Hidalgo.

In 1997, exports through the Port of Hidalgo totaled \$3,255,986,112. Of this, about 96.79% of these exports went via truck or \$3,151,373,025. According to governmental databases, \$82,557,539 or 2.54% were in other modes of transportation. If one adds the percentages together, one can conclude that 99.21% of Hidalgo's exports are accounted for using two different government databases. This 99.21% accountability is as good as it gets in the statistics world.

Of all the exports that passed through the Port of Hidalgo in 1997, the Mexican State of Tamaulipas received the bulk of the goods, about 74.41% of the goods or \$2,422,812,129. What this means is that the Port of Hidalgo is basically a "Maquila Port" meaning exports through Hidalgo feed the cross border maquiladora industry. Mexico D.F. is the next largest recipient of goods crossing from Hidalgo. Mexico D.F. received 4.93% of goods exported through Hidalgo or \$160,482,657. Estado de Mexico is a distant third in goods coming from the Port of Hidalgo. Approximately 3.70% of goods passing southbound through Hidalgo were destined for Estado de Mexico or \$120,346,739.

On the importation side of the house in 1997, imports through the Port of Hidalgo equaled \$4,407,385,755 making Hidalgo a net minus port of entry (net minus means more goods are imported by dollar value than exported). Of the total amount imported by dollar value, about 96.58% of the goods went by truck or \$4,256,818,377. This leaves about 3.42% of goods that were imported through the Port of Hidalgo by some other method of transportation.

The top U.S. state receiving goods after they pass through Hidalgo is the State of Texas which received \$2,919,935,784 of products or 66.25% in 1997. These are probably goods returning to the State of Texas after assembly in some of the estimated 99 maquilas in Reynosa or other maquilas and factories located in the interior of Mexico. The State of Indiana was the next state which received goods through Hidalgo with the dollar value equaling \$517,553,539 or 11.74%. The third highest state which received goods through Hidalgo was the State of Michigan which received \$144,562,992 or 3.28%.

In 1997, it has been estimated that approximately 1,445,351,475 kilograms (1kg = 2.25 lbs) worth of goods were imported through the Port of Hidalgo. The State of Texas received the most cargo by weight with 1,171,040,439 kg or 81.02% of all the weight destined for the United States. The State of Indiana was next on the list concerning weight and received 46,673,247 kg or 3.23% of all the weight destined for the United States in 1997. The State of Minnesota was the third highest state by weight through the Port of Hidalgo with 27,739,687 kg or 1.92%.

The Texas Center at Texas A&M International University expects to receive 1998 trade information in a couple of weeks. Once we have the data compiled, we will be sending updates on trade activity through the Port of Hidalgo. If anyone has any questions, feel free to call the Texas Center in Laredo at (956) 326-2546 or via e-mail at dburdorf@tamiu.edu. Or, check out our website at:

www.tamiu.edu/coba/bti

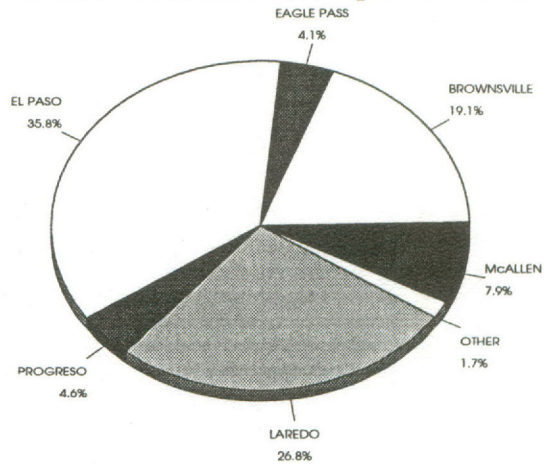
Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	JUL 98	AUG 98	SEP 98	SEP 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	257,006	239,348	199,980	276,693	2,440,489	2,323,234	-4.8
DEL RIO	3,790	5,430	5,616	4,268	46,390	45,850	-1.2
EAGLE PASS	49,755	51,810	42,820	44,575	361,952	477,113	31.8
EL PASO	393,858	411,668	374,816	355,216	3,373,358	3,457,201	2.5
HARLINGEN	77	0	192	65	786	823	4.7
LAREDO	324,595	307,152	280,265	291,991	2,875,992	2,853,847	-0.8
McALLEN-HIDALGO	99,106	95,090	82,834	88,671	957,353	986,775	3.1
PROGRESO	69,812	56,367	47,909	45,513	873,140	925,990	6.1
RIO GRANDE	541	658	558	419	7,330	6,698	-8.6
ROMA	12,669	13,721	11,746	12,942	124,187	131,164	5.6
TOTAL	1,211,209	1,181,244	1,046,736	1,120,353	11,060,977	11,208,695	1.3

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 September was down 11.4 percent compared to August. Eagle Pass decreased 17.4 percent, Brownsville fell 16.4 percent, Rio Grande was down 15.2 percent and Progreso declined 15.0 percent, Roma slid 14.4 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo dipped 12.9 percent, El Paso decreased 9.0 percent and Laredo fell 8.8 percent. However, Del Rio gained 3.4 percent. YTD, total southbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 1.3 percent. El Paso southbound pedestrian crossings, which make up 35.8 percent of all crossings in September rose 2.5 percent. Laredo, accounting for 26.8 percent of all crossings, was down 0.8 percent and Brownsville was down 4.8 percent with 19.1 percent of all crossings YTD.

% Share Pedestrians for September 1998



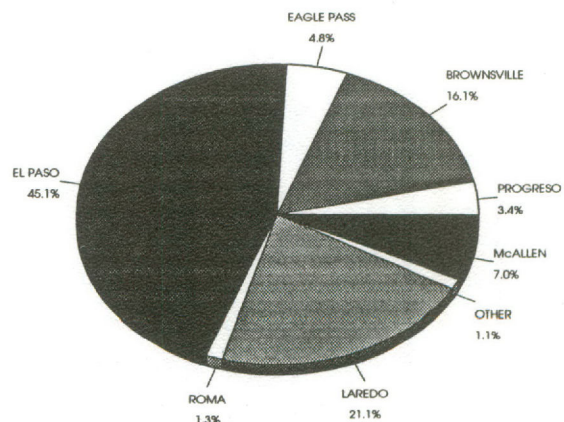
Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	JUL 98	AUG 98	SEP 98	SEP 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	226,204	208,959	171,993	238,574	2,157,760	2,130,898	-1.2
DEL RIO	9,088	13,524	8,845	8,829	96,274	95,818	-0.5
EAGLE PASS	58,112	61,016	51,036	48,426	504,119	552,278	9.6
EL PASO	504,751	523,301	480,327	510,102	4,535,168	4,604,487	1.5
LAREDO	277,150	250,185	224,663	263,346	2,329,324	2,309,807	-0.8
McALLEN-HIDALGO	82,961	80,681	74,810	71,249	801,313	814,448	1.6
PRESIDIO	2,229	2,275	2,270	3,280	27,047	24,885	-8.0
PROGRESO	50,897	40,984	36,206	34,552	496,519	578,860	16.6
RIO GRANDE	1,127	1,157	959	1,009	11,221	10,308	-8.1
ROMA	15,672	17,388	14,325	12,430	112,963	129,408	14.6
TOTAL	1,228,191	1,199,470	1,065,434	1,191,797	11,071,708	11,251,197	1.6

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 11.2 percent in September. Del Rio fell 34.6 percent, Brownsville was down 17.7 percent, Roma decreased 17.6 percent, Rio Grande dipped 17.1 percent, Eagle Pass slid 16.4 percent, Progreso fell 11.7 percent, Laredo was down 10.2 percent, El Paso decreased 8.2 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo slid 7.3 percent and Presidio dropped 0.2 percent. YTD total northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 1.6 percent. El Paso, accounting for 45.1 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings in September, was up 1.5 percent YTD. Laredo, with 21.1 percent of all northbound crossings, was down 0.8 percent and Brownsville, with 16.1 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings, had a 1.2 percent decrease in crossings YTD.

% Share Pedestrians for September 1998



Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	JUL 98	AUG 98	SEP 98	SEP 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	624,441	599,817	519,448	569,312	4,665,390	5,191,803	11.3
DEL RIO	157,828	128,510	126,427	136,334	1,281,374	1,310,512	2.3
EAGLE PASS	231,867	220,241	206,746	197,132	1,915,864	1,992,085	4.0
EL PASO	433,968	436,157	374,132	408,306	3,948,927	4,113,755	4.2
HARLINGEN	44,602	43,152	36,214	31,692	304,002	363,307	19.5
LAREDO	734,768	682,030	697,892	661,667	5,919,943	6,184,229	4.5
McALLEN-HIDALGO	471,827	472,809	420,458	413,018	3,839,399	4,003,916	4.3
PHARR	151,971	151,602	135,869	101,647	885,846	1,282,375	44.8
PROGRESO	88,439	85,263	75,630	69,072	750,436	797,248	6.2
RIO GRANDE	47,964	48,631	44,927	41,159	411,632	438,822	6.6
ROMA	72,837	71,740	66,276	62,761	622,203	645,878	3.8
TOTAL	3,060,512	2,939,952	2,704,019	2,692,100	24,545,016	26,323,930	7.2

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 vehicle bridge crossings into Mexico were down 8.0 percent in September from August's figures. Harlingen decreased 16.1 percent, El Paso was down 14.2 percent, Brownsville fell 13.4 percent, Progreso declined 11.3 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo dipped 11.1 percent, Pharr slid 10.4 percent, Roma and Rio Grande decreased 7.6 percent, Eagle Pass was down 6.1 percent and Del Rio dropped 1.6 percent. However, Laredo increased 2.3 percent. YTD total southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 7.2 per-

cent. Laredo, with 25.8 percent of all southbound traffic in September, was up 4.5 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 19.2 percent of all southbound vehicle bridge crossings, had an 11.3 percent increase YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 15.5 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, experienced a 4.3 percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 13.8 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings had a 4.2 percent increase YTD.

Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	JUL 98	AUG 98	SEP 98	SEP 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	533,390	532,472	480,919	510,467	4,616,585	4,669,975	1.2
DEL RIO	138,640	100,651	116,557	141,525	1,276,805	1,123,608	-12.0
EAGLE PASS	218,770	218,950	200,832	207,607	1,898,315	1,921,273	1.2
EL PASO	716,550	707,904	646,359	672,813	6,009,131	6,185,150	2.9
HARLINGEN	58,717	55,319	46,757	42,599	380,469	481,480	26.5
LAREDO	654,676	618,767	672,384	598,360	5,264,430	5,660,262	7.5
McALLEN-HIDALGO	408,707	431,456	388,487	392,560	3,573,331	3,613,405	1.1
PRESIDIO	55,331	57,041	53,304	48,282	455,557	496,960	9.1
PROGRESO	77,018	79,270	73,878	67,343	756,189	720,397	-4.7
RIO GRANDE	51,894	53,639	49,120	46,183	452,938	479,307	5.8
ROMA	76,697	82,962	80,028	70,594	678,671	706,612	4.1
TOTAL	2,990,390	2,938,431	2,808,625	2,798,333	25,362,421	26,058,429	2.7

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 September were down 4.4 percent since August. Harlingen registered a 15.5 percent decrease, McAllen-Hidalgo fell 10.0 percent, Brownsville dipped 9.7 percent, El Paso reported a decrease of 8.7 percent, Rio Grande slid 8.4 percent, Eagle Pass was down 8.3 percent, Progreso fell 6.8 percent, Presidio declined 6.6 percent and Roma decreased

3.5 percent. However, Del Rio increased 15.8 percent and Laredo grew 8.7 percent. YTD northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 2.7 percent. Laredo with 23.9 percent of all crossings in September was up 7.5 percent YTD. El Paso, with 23.0 percent of all crossings, gained 2.9 percent and Brownsville with 17.1 percent of all crossings, was up 1.2 percent YTD.

Export Shipments by Trucks into Mexico —Number of Trucks

CITY	JUL 98	AUG 98	SEP 98	SEP 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE+	24,941	24,157	25,469	21,293	169,544	219,938	29.7
DEL RIO+	4,716	3,816	4,510	3,913	31,152	39,749	27.6
EAGLE PASS++	3,897	4,182	4,368	3,499	30,866	35,222	14.1
EL PASO+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	N/A
HARLINGEN+	6,008	5,650	5,939	4,230	29,303	47,483	62.0
LAREDO++	66,788	61,390	67,049	57,056	468,293	570,073	21.7
McALLEN-HIDALGO+	4,578	4,465	4,375	9,371	85,287	39,888	-53.2
PHARR+	14,901	14,633	14,001	7,983	74,027	136,889	84.9
PROGRESO+	446	700	1,315	1,010	9,853	11,411	15.8
RIO GRANDE+	1,477	1,593	1,652	1,820	15,503	16,615	7.2
ROMA+	915	895	822	658	6,683	7,753	16.0
TOTAL	128,667	121,481	129,500	110,833	920,511	1,125,021	22.2

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

+ 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 6.6 percent in September. Progreso increased 87.9 percent, Del Rio gained 18.2 percent, Laredo rose 9.2 percent, Brownsville grew 5.4 percent, Harlingen was up 5.1 percent, Eagle Pass increased 4.4 percent and Rio Grande gained 3.7 percent. However, Roma fell 8.2 percent, Pharr dipped 4.3 percent and McAllen-Hidalgo decreased 2.0

percent. YTD, Laredo with 51.8 percent of all southbound shipments in September, experienced a 21.7 percent increase. Brownsville, with 19.7 percent of all southbound shipments, had a 29.7 percent increase YTD. Pharr with 10.8 percent of all truck traffic, registered an increase of 84.9 percent and McAllen-Hidalgo, with 3.4 percent of all truck crossings, fell 53.2 percent.

Import Shipments by Trucks into Texas —Number of Trucks

CITY	JUL 98	AUG 98	SEP 98	SEP 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	10,885	10,506	10,048	11,978	92,699	92,826	0.1
DEL RIO	2,782	2,740	3,261	2,824	24,439	26,339	7.8
EAGLE PASS	4,074	4,096	4,273	3,502	30,554	36,173	18.4
FALCON	0	3	5	10	73	36	-50.7
LAREDO	57,254	51,078	58,135	56,099	422,564	485,760	15.0
McALLEN-HIDALGO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
PHARR	12,579	12,691	12,225	12,050	118,045	128,050	8.5
PROGRESO	510	421	351	556	6,895	3,155	-54.2
RIO GRANDE	877	981	843	1,125	11,704	9,631	-17.7
ROMA	703	639	714	408	4,376	6,043	38.1
TOTAL	89,664	83,155	89,855	88,552	711,349	788,013	10.8

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 8.1 percent from August's shipments. Falcon increased 66.7 percent, Del Rio rose 19.0 percent, Laredo gained 13.8 percent, Roma was up 11.7 percent and Eagle Pass grew 4.3 percent. However, Progreso decreased 16.6 percent, Rio Grande declined 14.1 percent, Brownsville fell 4.4 percent and Pharr was down 3.7 percent. YTD

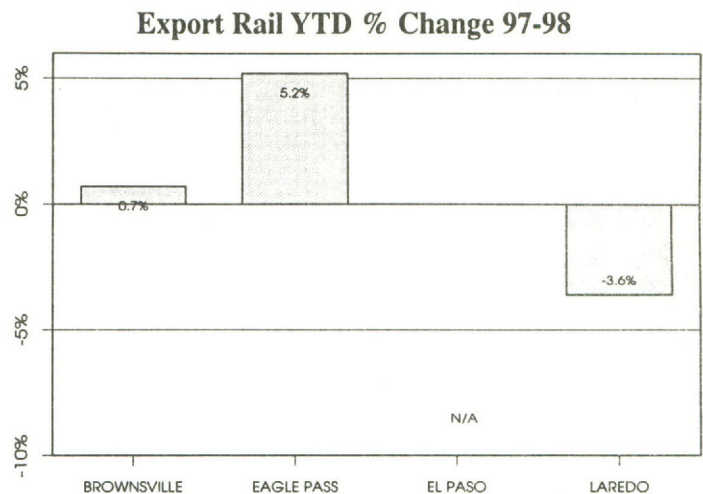
northbound truck shipments were up 10.8 percent. Laredo, accounting for 64.7 percent of all northbound truck traffic in September had a 15.0 percent increase YTD. Pharr, with 13.6 percent of shipments, experienced an 8.5 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with 11.2 percent of all northbound truck shipments in September, rose 0.1 percent YTD.

Export Shipments by Rail into Mexico —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	JUL 98	AUG 98	SEP 98	SEP 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	2,817	2,693	3,121	1,852	23,125	23,294	0.7
EAGLE PASS	3,283	-3,456	3,115	5,118	38,126	40,102	5.2
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	10,363	11,322	11,721	11,016	111,560	107,585	-3.6
TOTAL	16,463	17,471	17,957	17,986	172,811	170,981	-1.1

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

Southbound rail shipments into Mexico increased 2.8 percent in September. Brownsville was up 15.9 percent and Laredo increased 3.5 percent. However, Eagle Pass dipped 9.9 percent. YTD, total southbound rail shipments into Mexico from Texas were down 1.1 percent. Laredo, which accounts for 65.3 percent of all southbound rail shipments in September was down 3.6 percent. Eagle Pass, accounting for 17.3 percent of all southbound rail shipments, increased 5.2 percent. Brownsville, with 17.4 percent of all southbound rail shipments in September, rose 0.7 percent YTD.

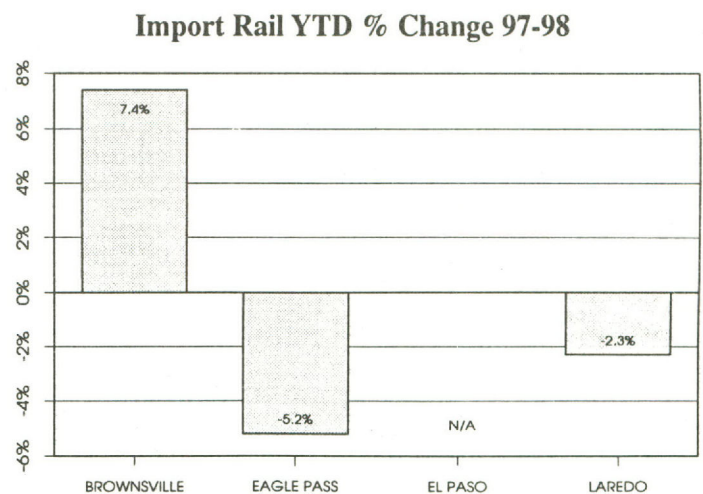


Import Shipments by Rail into Texas —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	JUL 98	AUG 98	SEP 98	SEP 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	806	680	843	923	8,729	9,373	7.4
EAGLE PASS	2,488	3,356	3,698	3,657	30,717	29,105	-5.2
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	7,290	8,637	7,781	7,304	69,905	68,300	-2.3
TOTAL	10,584	12,673	12,322	11,884	109,351	106,778	-2.4

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 decreased 2.8 percent in September. Laredo fell 9.9 percent. However, Brownsville registered a 24.0 percent increase and Eagle Pass rose 10.2 percent. YTD, total northbound rail shipments into Texas from Mexico were down 2.4 percent. Laredo, which accounts for 63.1 percent of all northbound rail shipments in September was down 2.3 percent. Eagle Pass, accounting for 30.0 percent of all northbound rail shipments in September, decreased 5.2 percent and Brownsville, with 6.8 percent of all northbound rail shipments, increased 7.4 percent YTD.



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

CITY	DUTY	MPF	OTHER	TOTAL	TOTAL	YTD	YTD	YTD % CHG
	SEP 98	SEP 98	REVENUE SEP 98	REVENUE SEP 98	REVENUE SEP 97	REVENUE SEP 97	REVENUE SEP 98	
BROWNSVILLE	2,743,097	573,962	217,346	3,534,405	3,974,012	26,141,697	24,499,392	-6.3
DEL RIO	162,815	115,378	210,072	488,265	378,969	3,627,489	3,718,079	2.5
EAGLE PASS	993,252	260,136	3,209,690	4,463,078	4,981,399	25,774,519	29,346,709	13.9
LAREDO	10,782,405	3,009,485	6,673,605	20,465,495	23,928,081	203,532,845	172,993,992	-15.0
McALLEN-HIDALGO	2,932,044	611,554	423,212	3,966,810	3,620,983	42,914,957	43,104,845	0.4
PROGRESO	5,494	4,958	22,766	33,217	39,434	1,408,925	434,117	-69.2
RIO GRANDE	38,061	18,106	7,696	63,864	68,795	1,015,493	829,943	-18.3
ROMA	18,013	8,965	7,998	34,976	84,128	450,935	460,919	2.2
TOTAL	17,675,180	4,602,545	10,772,385	33,050,110	37,075,801	304,866,860	275,387,996	-9.7

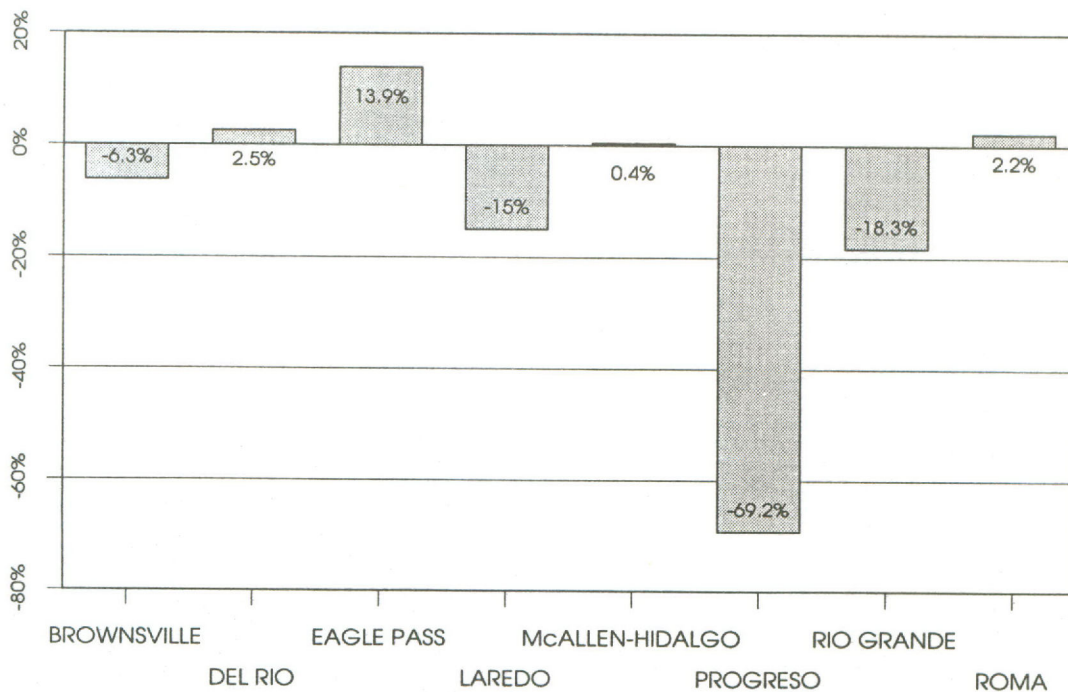
Source: Data provided by U.S. Customs Service, Port of Entry in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

*MPF = Merchandise Processing Fee

Total U.S. Customs revenues for the former District of Laredo increased 2.8 percent from August's figures. Brownsville rose 56.4 percent, Progreso increased 46.6 percent, Del Rio gained 26.6 percent and Eagle Pass grew 16.8 percent. However, Roma dipped 23.6 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo slid 18.8 percent, Rio Grande fell 10.0 percent and Laredo was down 1.0 percent. YTD revenue

figures were down 9.7 percent compared to September 1997. Laredo, accounting for 62.8 percent of total District revenues, was down 15.0 percent YTD and McAllen-Hidalgo with 15.7 percent of total revenues, was up 0.4 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, accounting for 10.7 percent of all revenues YTD, was up 13.9 percent. Brownsville, with 8.9 percent of total revenues, declined 6.3 percent YTD.

% Change Total Revenues YTD 97-98



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

CITY	JUL 98	AUG 98	SEP 98	SEP 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	713,583	690,069	628,487	504,145	4,643,079	5,978,974	28.8
DEL RIO	198,032	228,504	210,296	176,905	1,586,756	1,791,449	12.9
EAGLE PASS	462,862	451,696	436,277	380,418	3,619,535	4,000,172	10.5
EL PASO	906,683	935,950	869,207	881,801	8,101,052	8,584,874	6.0
HARLINGEN	107,333	106,135	98,895	78,887	590,700	889,908	50.7
LAREDO	1,928,982	1,779,941	1,884,642	1,702,257	15,163,602	16,441,960	8.4
McALLEN-HIDALGO	665,113	672,068	539,381	502,096	4,869,514	5,644,576	15.9
PHARR	306,524	301,126	301,012	180,842	1,664,253	2,649,323	59.2
TOTAL	5,289,113	5,165,490	4,968,198	4,407,351	40,238,492	45,981,236	14.3

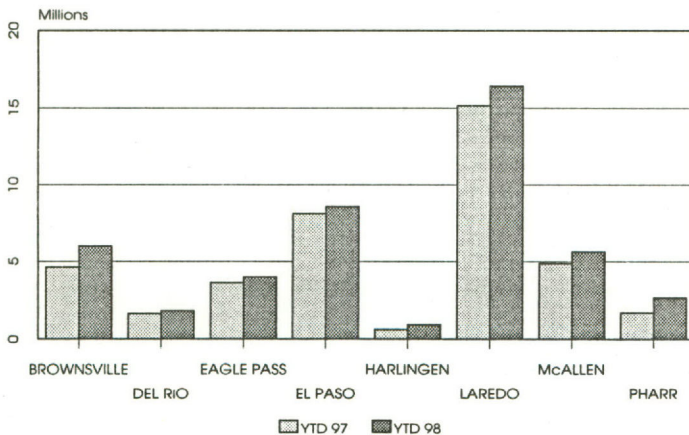
Source: Data provided by U.S. bridge operators in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

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

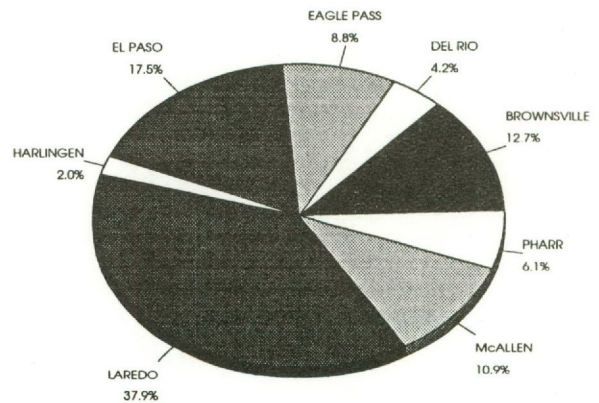
U.S. bridge operators' revenues decreased 3.8 percent in the month of September. McAllen-Hidalgo showed a decrease of 19.7 percent, Brownsville dipped 8.9 percent, Del Rio declined 8.0 percent, El Paso slid 7.1 percent and Harlingen was down 6.8 percent. However, Laredo showed an increase of 5.9 percent, Eagle Pass gained 3.4 percent and Pharr remained unchanged. YTD, U.S. bridge operators' revenues were up 14.3 percent. Laredo, account-

ing for 37.9 percent of total U.S. bridge operator's revenues collected in September, had an 8.4 percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 17.5 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues, increased 6.0 percent YTD. Brownsville accounting for 12.7 percent, was up 28.8 percent. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 10.9 percent of the total bridge revenues, was up 15.9 percent YTD.

Total Revenues Collected YTD 97-98



% Share Revenues September 1998



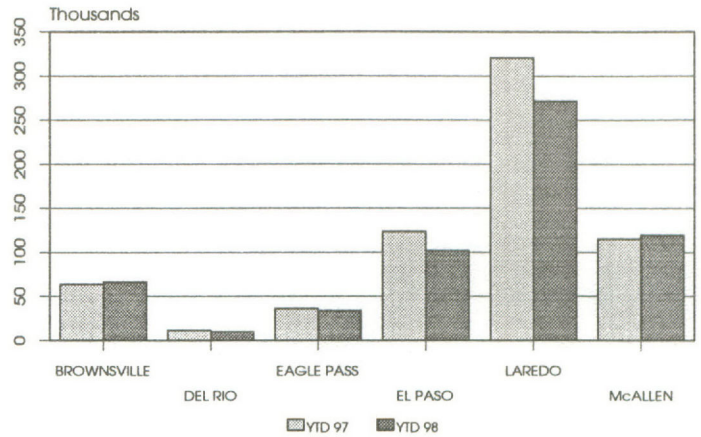
Visas to Tourists from Texas to Mexico

CITY	JUL 98	AUG 98	SEP 98	SEP 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	%CHG
BROWNSVILLE	11,331	7,342	5,555	4,644	64,085	66,384	3.6
DEL RIO	1,704	929	790	955	11,416	9,744	-14.6
EAGLE PASS	5,690	5,023	2,844	2,737	36,161	33,767	-6.6
EL PASO	16,739	15,358	7,931	9,034	123,711	101,975	-17.6
LAREDO	49,665	27,741	20,744	19,104	320,674	271,234	-15.4
McALLEN	17,631	9,328	10,078	8,729	115,359	119,954	4.0
TOTAL	102,760	65,721	47,942	45,203	671,406	603,058	-10.2

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 September were down 27.1 percent. El Paso decreased 48.4 percent, Eagle Pass fell 43.4 percent, Laredo was down 25.2 percent, Brownsville dipped 24.3 percent and Del Rio decreased 15.0 percent. However, McAllen increased 8.0 percent. YTD, the number of tourist visas issued were down 10.2 percent. Laredo, with 43.3 percent of total visas issued in September was down 15.4 percent. McAllen, with 21.0 percent of total visas issued, had a 4.0 percent increase YTD. El Paso, with 16.5 percent of all visas issued, fell 17.6 percent YTD and Brownsville with 11.6 percent of total visas issued, increased 3.6 percent YTD.

Tourist Visas YTD September 97-98



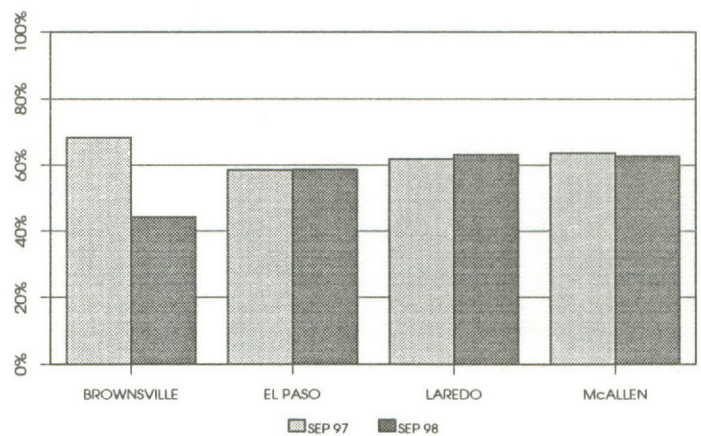
Hotel Occupancy Percentage Rate — Texas Border

CITY	JUL 98	AUG 98	SEP 98	SEP 97	% CHG 97-98
BROWNSVILLE	78.5	47.9	44.3	68.4	-35.3
EL PASO	69.6	63.7	58.7	58.6	0.2
LAREDO	71.8	65.3	63.2	61.8	2.3
McALLEN	77.2	74.5	62.8	63.6	-1.2
AVERAGE	74.3	62.9	57.2	63.1	-9.3

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 September was down 9.0 percent from August. Laredo had a 63.2 percent rate, McAllen had a 62.8 percent rate, El Paso had a rate of 58.7 percent and Brownsville posted a 44.3 percentage rate for the month of September.

Hotel Occupancy Percentage September 97-98



Telephones in Service —Texas Border

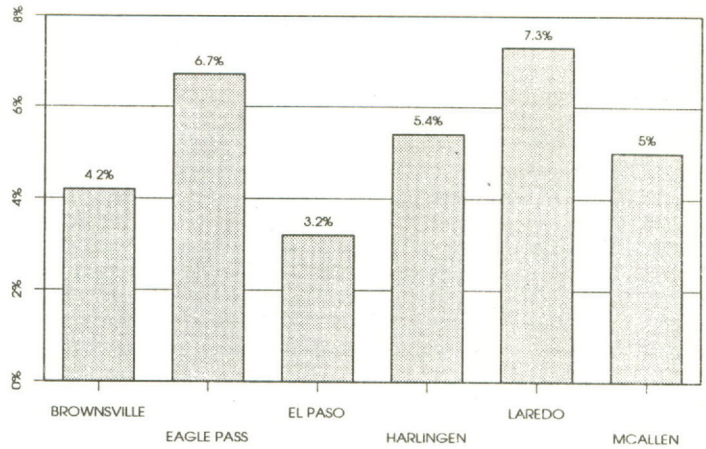
Residential Telephones

CITY	JUL 98	AUG 98	SEP 98	SEP 97
BROWNSVILLE	43,390	43,296	43,483	41,722
EAGLE PASS	11,599	11,588	11,612	10,884
EL PASO	213,696	213,960	214,702	207,987
HARLINGEN	26,731	26,677	26,800	25,434
LAREDO	49,848	49,965	50,222	46,791
MCALLEN	36,207	36,242	36,362	34,637
TOTAL	381,471	381,728	383,181	367,455

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 September, the number of residential telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.38 percent since August. YTD, the number of residential telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased by 4.3 percent. Laredo jumped 7.3 percent, Eagle Pass was up 6.7 percent, Harlingen increased 5.4 percent, McAllen rose 5.0 percent. Brownsville was up 4.2 percent and El Paso gained 3.2 percent YTD.

Residential Phones % Change September 97-98



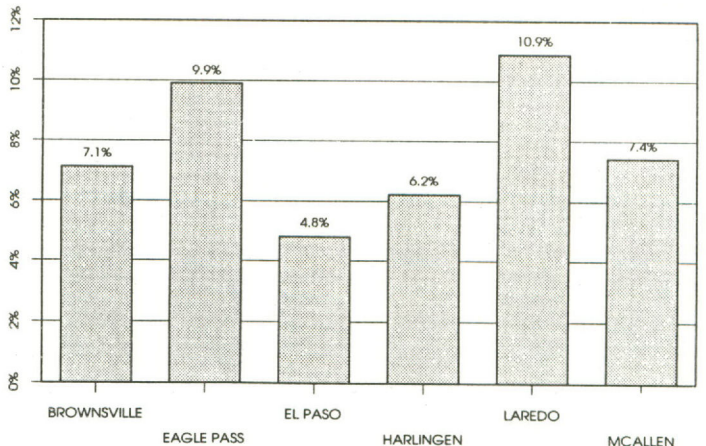
Business Telephones

CITY	JUL 98	AUG 98	SEP 98	SEP 97
BROWNSVILLE	21,728	21,684	22,153	20,679
EAGLE PASS	3,994	4,042	4,061	3,696
EL PASO	97,607	98,152	98,068	93,537
HARLINGEN	14,388	14,365	14,456	13,611
LAREDO	30,677	31,044	31,230	28,155
MCALLEN	25,888	26,075	26,332	24,507
TOTAL	194,282	195,362	196,300	184,185

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 September the number of business telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.48 percent. YTD, the number of phones in service for reporting Texas border cities rose by 6.6 percent. Laredo had the largest increase with 10.9 percent, Eagle Pass rose 9.9 percent, McAllen was up 7.4 percent, Brownsville gained 7.1 percent, Harlingen increased 6.2 percent and El Paso rose 4.8 percent YTD.

Business Phones % Change September 97-98



Building Permits —Texas Border

Number of Permits

NUMBER	JUL 98	AUG 98	SEP 98	SEP 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	344	314	224	293	2,312	2,636	14.0
DEL RIO	78	46	155	82	971	811	-16.5
EAGLE PASS	33	32	23	35	289	330	14.2
EL PASO	3,143	2,735	2,658	909	20,425	25,273	23.7
HARLINGEN	63	72	54	58	555	590	6.3
LAREDO	424	312	280	314	2,851	3,176	11.4
MCALLEN	173	149	116	141	1,171	1,281	9.4
TOTAL	4,258	3,660	3,510	1,832	28,574	34,097	19.3

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

September building permits issued by reporting Texas border cities were down 4.1 percent from August. Brownsville lost 28.7 percent, Eagle Pass fell 28.1 percent, Harlingen dipped 25.0 percent, McAllen declined 22.1 percent, Laredo slid 10.3 percent and El Paso decreased 2.8 percent. However, Del Rio was up 237.0 percent. YTD, the number of permits issued were up 19.3 percent. El Paso,

accounting for 75.7 percent of all building permits issued in September, had an increase of 23.7 percent YTD. Laredo with 8.0 percent of building permits issued, was up 11.4 percent YTD. Brownsville was up 14.0 percent and McAllen rose 9.4 percent YTD.

U.S. Dollar Value of Permits

VALUE	JUL 98	AUG 98	SEP 98	SEP 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	13,438,327	15,984,193	6,827,753	30,291,300	162,726,844	106,179,848	-34.7
DEL RIO	1,673,055	1,121,946	2,092,513	1,471,091	16,900,543	17,764,865	5.1
EAGLE PASS	661,522	2,353,608	820,584	547,787	7,762,942	29,552,265	280.7
EL PASO	63,357,860	68,876,558	54,418,433	32,074,251	581,903,100	517,141,985	-11.1
HARLINGEN	2,344,132	8,641,691	4,394,283	2,250,607	49,601,565	35,962,802	-27.5
LAREDO	18,974,944	9,921,922	36,001,097	10,799,604	138,573,841	143,861,718	3.8
MCALLEN	12,788,401	11,683,734	13,273,680	12,773,786	117,296,513	93,956,551	-19.9
TOTAL	113,238,241	118,583,651	117,828,342	90,208,426	1,074,765,348	944,420,034	-12.1

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

September building permit values for reporting Texas border cities were down 0.6 percent from August. Eagle Pass dipped 65.1 percent, Brownsville declined 57.3 percent, Harlingen fell 49.2 percent and El Paso decreased 21.0 percent. However, Laredo increased 262.8 percent, Del Rio rose 86.5 percent and McAllen was up 13.6 percent. YTD, reporting border cities experienced a

12.1 percent decrease in building permit values. El Paso, with 46.2 percent total value for the month of September, fell 11.1 percent YTD. Laredo, with 30.6 percent total value, increased 3.8 percent YTD. McAllen, with 11.3 percent total value for the month of September, was down 19.9 percent YTD.

Employment/Unemployment Rates —Texas Border

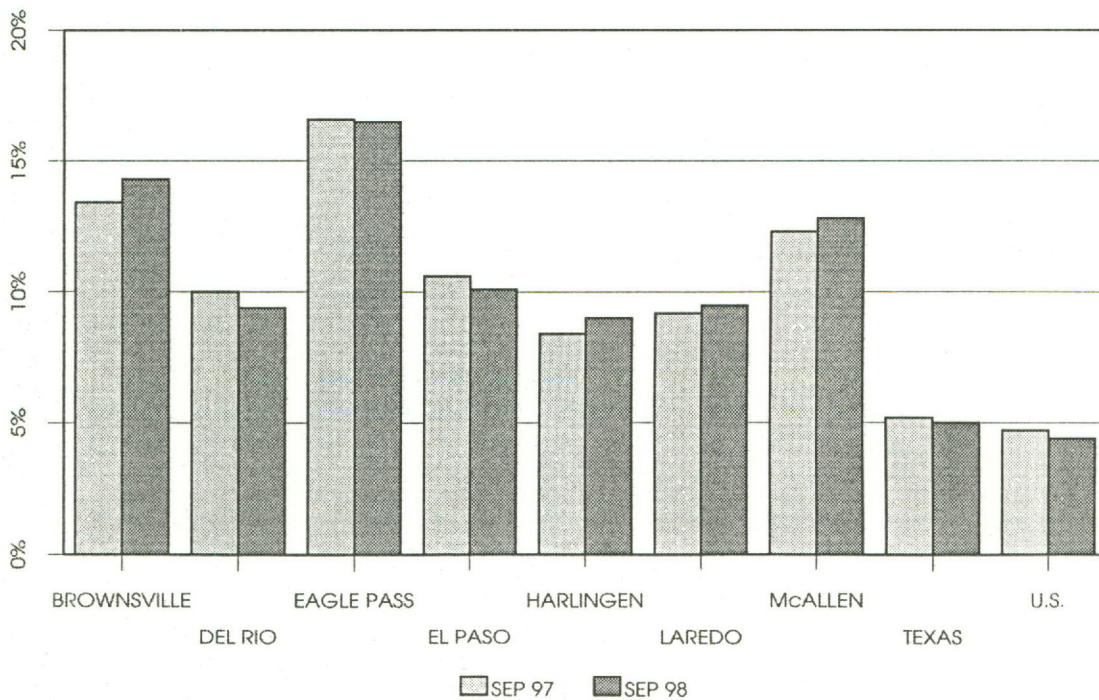
CITY	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED	PERCENT UNEMPLOYED	PERCENT UNEMPLOYED
	SEP 98	SEP 97	SEP 98	SEP 97	SEP 98	SEP 97
BROWNSVILLE	41,340	41,386	6,887	6,379	14.3	13.4
DEL RIO	13,562	13,159	1,409	1,468	9.4	10.0
EAGLE PASS	7,749	7,527	1,534	1,502	16.5	16.6
EL PASO	242,882	234,155	27,166	27,899	10.1	10.6
HARLINGEN	23,749	23,776	2,342	2,169	9.0	8.4
LAREDO	60,365	60,006	6,322	6,088	9.5	9.2
McALLEN	40,682	40,297	5,988	5,675	12.8	12.3
TOTAL	430,329	420,306	51,648	51,180	10.7	10.9
THE TEXAS UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					4.96	5.15
THE NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					4.38	4.70

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 September, total employment in reporting Texas border cities rose 0.2 percent (862 jobs gained) from August's figures. Eagle Pass rose 2.7 percent (206 jobs gained), Laredo increased 1.2 percent (702 jobs gained), McAllen grew 0.5 percent (205 jobs gained), Del Rio and El Paso were up 0.2 percent (30 and 595 jobs gained, respectively). However, Brownsville and Harlingen de-

creased 1.3 percent (556 and 320 jobs lost, respectively). YTD, the total employment in Texas border cities was up 2.4 percent (10,023 jobs gained) from a year ago. The average unemployment rate for the border was 10.7 percent compared to 4.96 percent for Texas and 4.38 percent for the U.S. in September.

% Unemployed September 97-98



Air Passenger Service Activities — Selected Border Cities

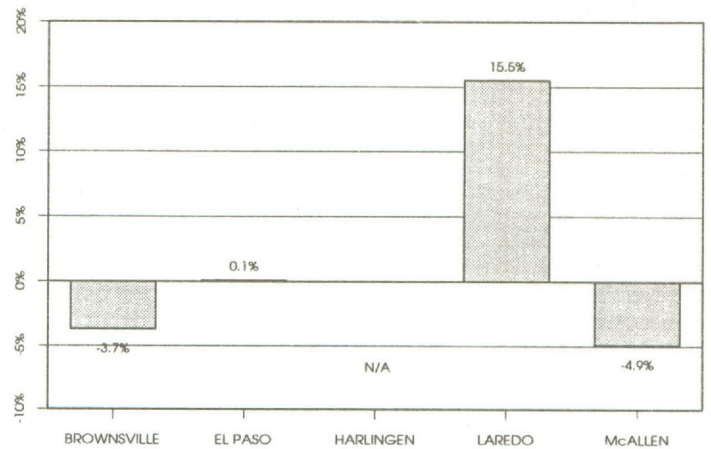
Passenger Arrivals

CITY	JUL 98	AUG 98	SEP 98	SEP 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	6,887	6,321	5,056	6,164	59,775	57,565	-3.7
EL PASO	154,656	143,485	123,246	123,259	1,204,873	1,205,972	0.1
HARLINGEN	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	6,548	6,472	8,322	5,642	51,553	59,539	15.5
McALLEN	26,099	24,097	20,140	20,961	229,659	218,297	-4.9
TOTAL	194,190	180,375	156,764	156,026	1,545,860	1,541,373	-0.3

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

September air passengers arriving in Texas border cities were down 13.1 percent over August's figures. Brownsville was down 20.0 percent, McAllen fell 16.4 percent and El Paso declined 14.1 percent. However, Laredo increased 28.6 percent. YTD air passenger arrivals were down 0.3 percent. El Paso, with 78.6 percent of all passengers arriving in September, was up 0.1 percent. McAllen, with 12.8 percent of all arrivals, was down 4.9 percent. **Harlingen, no longer gives out arrival information.** Laredo increased 15.5 percent while Brownsville fell 3.7 percent YTD.

Passenger Arrivals % Change YTD 97-98



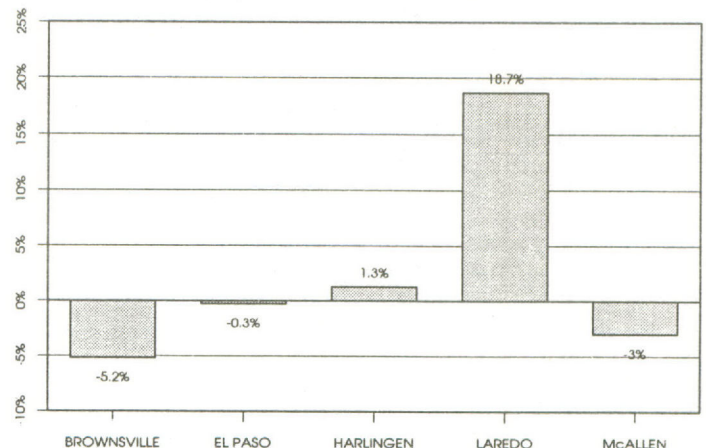
Passenger Departures

CITY	JUL 98	AUG 98	SEP 98	SEP 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	6,877	6,408	4,951	6,316	62,054	58,830	-5.2
EL PASO	159,526	143,781	125,729	125,397	1,235,787	1,232,216	-0.3
HARLINGEN	44,158	37,729	32,841	34,386	355,905	360,550	1.3
LAREDO	6,907	6,658	8,449	5,641	52,276	62,056	18.7
McALLEN	27,306	23,867	20,700	22,212	239,782	232,597	-3.0
TOTAL	244,774	218,443	192,670	193,952	1,945,804	1,946,249	0.0

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

September air passenger departures for reporting Texas border cities were down 11.8 percent from August's figures. Brownsville decreased 22.7 percent, McAllen was down 13.3 percent, Harlingen fell 13.0 percent and El Paso dipped 12.6 percent. However, Laredo increased 26.9 percent. YTD, air passenger departures remained unchanged from a year ago. El Paso, with 65.3 percent of all passengers departing in September, was down 0.3 percent YTD. Harlingen, with 17.0 percent of all passengers departing, was up 1.3 percent. McAllen, with 10.7 percent of all passengers departing, decreased 3.0 percent YTD. Laredo rose 18.7 percent while Brownsville was down 5.2 percent YTD.

Passenger Departures % Change YTD 97-98



Port Of Corpus Christi

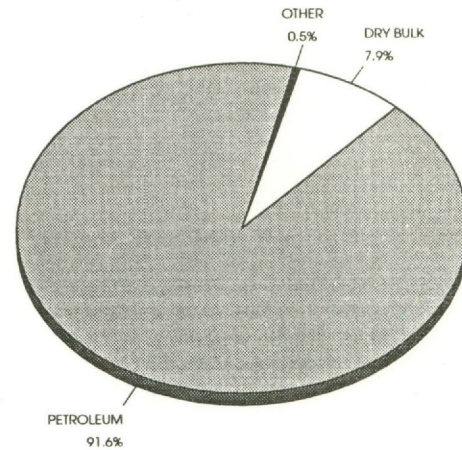
Inbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	JUL 98	AUG 98	SEP 98	SEP 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BREAK BULK	4,274	0	975	1,939	8,915	8,566	-3.9
DRY BULK	262,098	339,598	393,059	420,904	3,207,999	3,532,640	10.1
BULK GRAIN	(1,462)	0	9,024	0	0	9,024	N/A
LIQUID	4,410	13,642	0	6,136	45,200	34,182	-24.4
PETROLEUM	4,749,011	3,799,014	4,583,650	4,547,080	33,772,908	36,829,806	9.1
CHEMICAL	12,970	4,396	16,602	7,556	96,867	91,661	-5.4
TOTAL	5,031,301	4,156,650	5,003,309	4,983,615	37,131,889	40,505,880	9.1

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 20.4 percent increase in inbound cargo from last month. Petroleum, which makes up 91.6 percent of all inbound traffic in September, was up 20.7 percent compared to August. Dry bulk, which accounts for 7.9 percent of the port's inbound cargo for September, increased 15.7 percent. YTD, inbound cargo tonnage was up 9.1 percent. Dry bulk was up 10.1 percent YTD and Petroleum was up 9.1 percent YTD.

% Share September 1998 Inbound Cargo



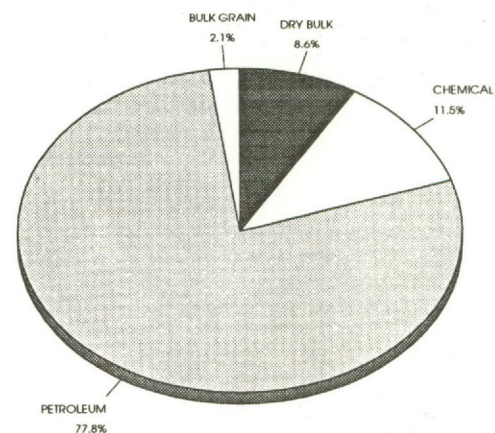
Outbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	JUL 98	AUG 98	SEP 98	SEP 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BREAK BULK	14,756	0	1,165	407	6,390	59,892	837.3
DRY BULK	251,493	159,252	288,781	127,059	1,960,925	2,281,947	16.4
BULK GRAIN	203,282	149,968	71,362	195,675	1,111,328	1,476,759	32.9
LIQUID	0	0	0	0	2,865	9,706	238.8
PETROLEUM	2,581,551	2,155,808	2,616,724	2,729,689	19,506,573	21,197,626	8.7
CHEMICAL	156,751	0	386,006	183,253	1,362,146	1,333,902	-2.1
TOTAL	3,207,833	2,465,028	3,364,038	3,236,083	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 36.5 percent increase in outbound cargo tonnage in September. Petroleum, which is 77.8 percent of total outbound cargo for September, increased 21.4 percent compared to August. Dry bulk increased 81.3 percent and Bulk Grain decreased 52.4 percent. YTD, total outbound cargo tonnage was up 10.1 percent.

% Share September 1998 Outbound Cargo



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