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Border Business Indicators

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U.S.-Mexico Trade: 2005 Ends with a Record High, 2006 Starts Off Strong

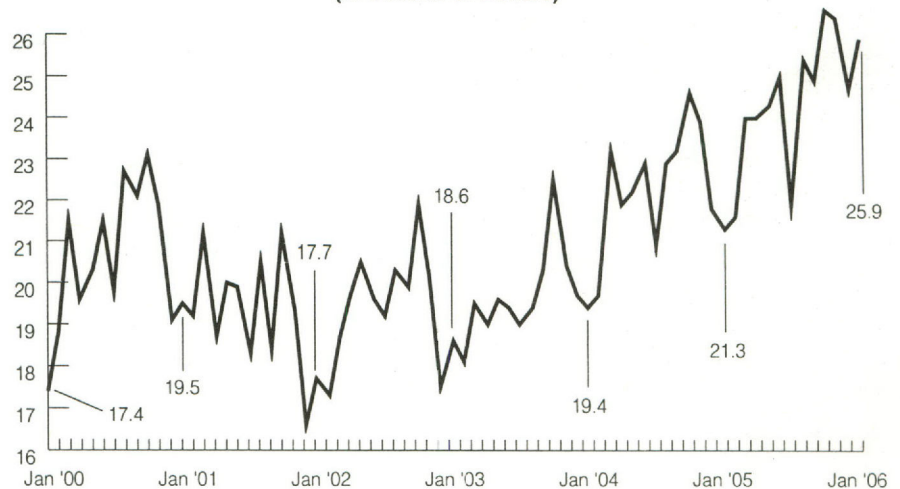
As reported in the February 2006 issue of the *Border Business Indicators*, 2005 ended with the highest figures in the history of trade between the U.S. and Mexico. Final tallies marked a new peak in U.S.-Mexico trade that surpassed the previous one of 2004. After 2000, trade between the countries remained flat but changed in 2004. The 2005 total trade between the trading partners registered an all-time high of \$290.2 billion or a 8.9 percent increase over 2004. U.S. exports to Mexico and U.S. imports from Mexico increased 8.3 percent and 9.2 percent respectively over 2004.

If the current trend of increases in both exports and imports continue, 2006 may very well supplant 2005 as the highest dollar trade volume in the years the two countries have engaged in trade.

As exhibited in Chart 1, seven years of January total trade values are shown. The January 2006 dollar figure registered the highest dollar volume of the past six years, including a 21.6 percent increase over the same period in 2005. If the subsequent months maintain a similar increase over the previous year's figures, 2006 will be the highest in U.S.-Mexico trade history.

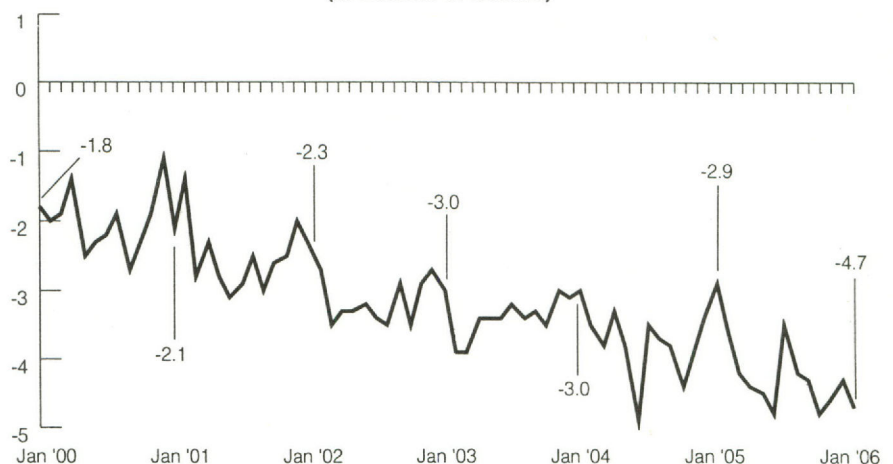
Total trade value has been up the last thirteen months. This has come about due to the continued increases since 2004 in U.S. imports from Mexico which had been flat from 2001-2003. In addition, U.S. exports to Mexico continued increases in 2004. Although exports increased last year, the U.S. continued building a trade deficit with Mexico (See Chart 2). The monthly trade deficits with Mexico for the past six years are exhibited. U.S imports from Mexico continued to outpace U.S. exports to Mexico in 2004.

Chart 1
U.S.-Mexico Total Trade
Jan. 2000 - Jan. 2006
(In Billions of Dollars)



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of the Census, Foreign Trade Division

Chart 2
U.S.-Mexico Balance of Trade
Jan. 2000 - Jan. 2006
(In Billions of Dollars)



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of the Census, Foreign Trade Division

Continued on Back Page

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The Center continues its research tradition with activities spanning those areas involving border trade, business development and economic issues.

New research encompassing areas such as community development, health, culture, education and socioeconomic issues have been added to the series.

Technical Reports are freely available online for download in PDF format, unless otherwise noted.

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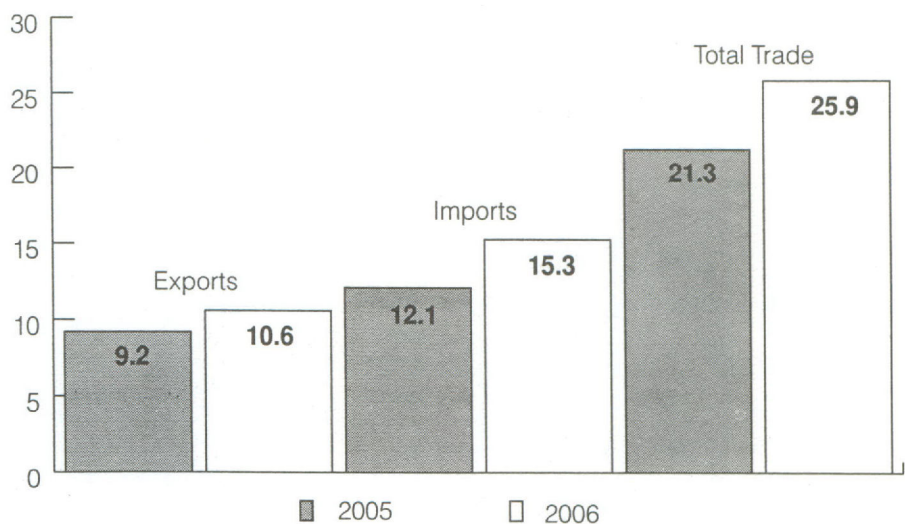
Note from the Director

Indicators of border business activity for January 2006 year-to-date (YTD) demonstrated seventeen indicators increased and five decreased. 2006 YTD comparisons to 2005 reported for the border are listed below:

- Pedestrian bridge crossings into Mexico were up 1.1 percent.
- Pedestrian bridge crossings into Texas were up 2.3 percent.
- Vehicle bridge crossings into Mexico fell 1.8 percent.
- Vehicle bridge crossings into Texas fell 2.3 percent.
- Truck bridge crossings into Mexico rose 6.2 percent.
- Truck bridge crossings into Texas gained 9.4 percent.
- Rail car bridge crossings into Mexico went down 0.7 percent.
- Rail car bridge crossings into Texas went up 36.1 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Customs increased 21.6 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. bridge operators registered a gain of 12.7 percent.
- Tourist visas issued for entry into Mexico were down 4.9 percent.
- Total employment was up 2.8 percent, with 12,976 jobs gained. The average unemployment rate for the border in January 2006 was 6.1 percent.
- Total building permits issued rose 31.6 percent.
- Total building permit values increased 48.8 percent.
- Power connections in service for residential were up 2.9 percent, commercial were up 7.4 percent and industrial were down 1.9 percent.
- Air passenger arrivals were up 3.0 percent, and departures were up 2.4 percent.
- Total cargo for the Port of Brownsville increased 15.3 percent.
- Inbound cargo for the Port of Corpus Christi went up 2.1 percent, and outbound cargo went up 14.2 percent.

U.S.-Mexico Trade at a Glance

January 2006 Year-to-Date
(In Billions of U.S.\$)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Division, Data Dissemination Branch

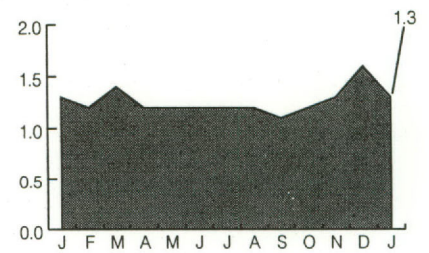
Disclaimer: Please note that the data contained in this and all issues of the *Border Business Indicators* is collected from different government agencies and private sources. Readers should note that different data-collecting agencies use dissimilar, often conflicting, techniques in collecting and compiling 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 from Texas to Mexico

City	Jan 06	%Share	05 vs. 06		YTD		%Chg
			%Chg	YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	
Brownsville	182,938	14.5	8.9	167,918	182,938	14.5	8.9
Del Rio	3,518	0.3	-34.7	5,387	3,518	0.3	-34.7
Eagle Pass	51,647	4.1	6.9	48,334	51,647	4.1	6.9
El Paso	395,724	31.3	-10.9	444,380	395,724	31.3	-10.9
Harlingen	104	0.0	19.5	87	104	0.0	19.5
Laredo	331,680	26.2	4.8	316,606	331,680	26.2	4.8
McAllen-Hidalgo	122,107	9.7	18.4	103,090	122,107	9.7	18.4
Progreso	159,083	12.6	4.1	152,845	159,083	12.6	4.1
Rio Grande	106	0.0	3.9	102	106	0.0	3.9
Roma	18,412	1.5	44.2	12,768	18,412	1.5	44.2
Total	1,265,319	100.0	1.1	1,251,517	1,265,319	100.0	1.1

Source: U.S. bridge operators in cited cities

Pedestrians into Mexico All Cited Cities
Jan. 2005 vs. Jan. 2006: Up 1.1%
(In Millions)

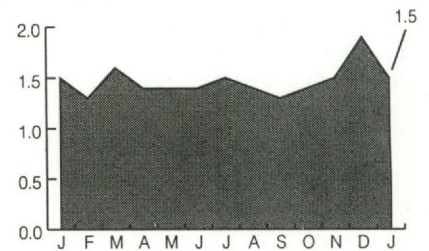


Pedestrian Bridge Crossings from Mexico to Texas

City	Jan 06	%Share	05 vs. 06		YTD		%Chg
			%Chg	YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	
Brownsville	223,627	14.9	7.1	208,820	223,627	14.9	7.1
Del Rio	6,374	0.4	-28.3	8,888	6,374	0.4	-28.3
Eagle Pass	59,676	4.0	7.9	55,317	59,676	4.0	7.9
El Paso	500,141	33.3	-8.6	547,243	500,141	33.3	-8.6
Laredo	374,823	25.0	5.5	355,275	374,823	25.0	5.5
McAllen-Hidalgo	153,687	10.2	27.2	120,829	153,687	10.2	27.2
Presidio	2,359	0.2	-4.1	2,460	2,359	0.2	-4.1
Progreso	157,571	10.5	4.7	150,470	157,571	10.5	4.7
Rio Grande	1,250	0.1	21.1	1,032	1,250	0.1	21.1
Roma	21,322	1.4	26.3	16,876	21,322	1.4	26.3
Total	1,500,830	100.0	2.3	1,467,210	1,500,830	100.0	2.3

Source: Oficina de Caminos y Puentes Federales, Mexico

Pedestrians into Texas All Cited Cities
Jan. 2005 vs. Jan. 2006: Up 2.3%
(In Millions)

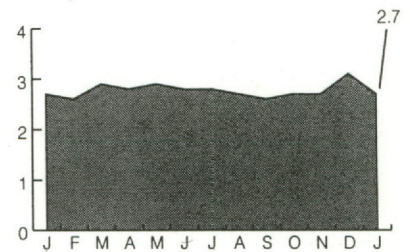


Vehicle Bridge Crossings from Texas to Mexico

City	Jan 06	%Share	05 vs. 06		YTD		%Chg
			%Chg	YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	
Brownsville	562,882	21.1	0.2	561,661	562,882	21.1	0.2
Del Rio	137,875	5.2	-0.6	138,701	137,875	5.2	-0.6
Eagle Pass	245,572	9.2	-4.8	257,989	245,572	9.2	-4.8
El Paso	380,580	14.3	5.5	360,887	380,580	14.3	5.5
Harlingen	55,203	2.1	1.1	54,606	55,203	2.1	1.1
Laredo	487,051	18.3	-7.7	527,422	487,051	18.3	-7.7
McAllen-Hidalgo	438,192	16.4	-1.3	443,851	438,192	16.4	-1.3
Pharr	146,176	5.5	0.2	145,901	146,176	5.5	0.2
Progreso	87,320	3.3	-5.3	92,231	87,320	3.3	-5.3
Rio Grande	46,688	1.8	-4.3	48,786	46,688	1.8	-4.3
Roma	79,946	3.0	-6.2	85,245	79,946	3.0	-6.2
Total	2,667,485	100.0	-1.8	2,717,280	2,667,485	100.0	-1.8

Source: U.S. bridge operators in cited cities

Vehicles into Mexico All Cited Cities
Jan. 2005 vs. Jan. 2006: Down 1.8%
(In Millions)

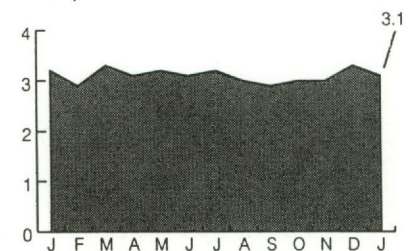


Vehicle Bridge Crossings from Mexico to Texas

City	Jan 06	%Share	05 vs. 06		YTD		%Chg
			%Chg	YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	
Brownsville	583,412	18.9	2.7	568,080	583,412	18.9	2.7
Del Rio	153,371	5.0	0.0	153,375	153,371	5.0	0.0
Eagle Pass	269,585	8.7	-3.6	279,575	269,585	8.7	-3.6
El Paso	564,380	18.3	-4.5	590,805	564,380	18.3	-4.5
Harlingen	65,488	2.1	2.0	64,201	65,488	2.1	2.0
Laredo	535,958	17.3	-6.2	571,273	535,958	17.3	-6.2
McAllen-Hidalgo	430,286	13.9	-2.1	439,609	430,286	13.9	-2.1
Pharr	194,809	6.3	0.8	193,351	194,809	6.3	0.8
Presidio	64,295	2.1	1.5	63,373	64,295	2.1	1.5
Progreso	89,291	2.9	-1.6	90,764	89,291	2.9	-1.6
Rio Grande	55,004	1.8	-5.7	58,336	55,004	1.8	-5.7
Roma	83,781	2.7	-8.0	91,095	83,781	2.7	-8.0
Total	3,089,660	100.0	-2.3	3,163,837	3,089,660	100.0	-2.3

Source: Oficina de Caminos y Puentes Federales, Mexico

Vehicles into Texas All Cited Cities
Jan. 2005 vs. Jan. 2006: Down 2.3%
(In Millions)



Truck Bridge Crossings from Texas to Mexico

City	Jan 06	%Share	05 vs. 06		YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	%Chg
			%Chg					
Brownsville	18,281	7.7	12.1		16,304	18,281	7.7	12.1
Del Rio	5,845	2.5	-71.5		20,520	5,845	2.5	-71.5
Eagle Pass	8,083	3.4	6.8		7,570	8,083	3.4	6.8
El Paso	25,595	10.8	5.4		24,294	25,595	10.8	5.4
Harlingen	2,963	1.3	10.9		2,671	2,963	1.3	10.9
Laredo	135,834	57.4	18.6		114,529	135,834	57.4	18.6
McAllen-Hidalgo	1,784	0.8	9.0		1,637	1,784	0.8	9.0
Pharr	32,083	13.6	7.7		29,802	32,083	13.6	7.7
Progreso	2,626	1.1	26.2		2,081	2,626	1.1	26.2
Rio Grande	2,699	1.1	6.1		2,543	2,699	1.1	6.1
Roma	810	0.3	0.6		805	810	0.3	0.6
Total	236,603	100.0	6.2		222,756	236,603	100.0	6.2

Source: U.S. bridge operators in cited cities

Note: Figures include loaded and empty trucks. El Paso figures do not include Bridge of the Americas.

Truck Bridge Crossings from Mexico to Texas

City	Jan 06	%Share	05 vs. 06		YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	%Chg
			%Chg					
Brownsville	16,510	6.3	9.3		15,112	16,510	6.3	9.3
Del Rio	5,674	2.2	8.7		5,222	5,674	2.2	8.7
Eagle Pass	8,010	3.0	1.6		7,887	8,010	3.0	1.6
El Paso	61,634	23.4	7.9		57,111	61,634	23.4	7.9
Harlingen	3,006	1.1	-6.2		3,205	3,006	1.1	-6.2
Laredo	119,102	45.3	11.6		106,761	119,102	45.3	11.6
Pharr	41,181	15.7	7.7		38,242	41,181	15.7	7.7
Presidio	581	0.2	33.0		437	581	0.2	33.0
Progreso	2,618	1.0	36.8		1,914	2,618	1.0	36.8
Rio Grande	3,918	1.5	6.2		3,691	3,918	1.5	6.2
Roma	630	0.2	-6.1		671	630	0.2	-6.1
Falcon Heights	5	0.0	150.0		2	5	0.0	150.0
Total	262,869	100.0	9.4		240,255	262,869	100.0	9.4

Source: South Texas Customs Management Center, Laredo & U.S. Customs Office of Public Affairs, El Paso

Note: Figures include loaded and empty trucks.

Rail Car Crossings from Texas to Mexico

City	Jan 06	%Share	05 vs. 06		YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	%Chg
			%Chg					
Brownsville	3,518	12.7	15.8		3,038	3,518	12.7	15.8
Eagle Pass	5,935	21.4	21.2		4,898	5,935	21.4	21.2
El Paso	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Laredo	18,334	66.0	-8.5		20,035	18,334	66.0	-8.5
Total	27,787	100.0	-0.7		27,971	27,787	100.0	-0.7

Source: Railroad companies in cited cities

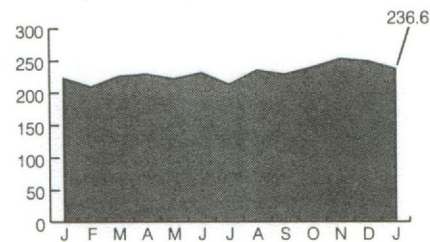
Note: Figures for El Paso are not available.

Rail Car Crossings from Mexico to Texas

City	Jan 06	%Share	05 vs. 06		YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	%Chg
			%Chg					
Brownsville	380	1.6	-31.8		557	380	1.6	-31.8
Eagle Pass	3,838	16.1	149.7		1,537	3,838	16.1	149.7
El Paso	7,640	32.0	61.4		4,733	7,640	32.0	61.4
Laredo	12,048	50.4	12.1		10,743	12,048	50.4	12.1
Total	23,906	100.0	36.1		17,570	23,906	100.0	36.1

Source: Railroad companies in cited cities & U.S. Customs Office of Public Affairs, El Paso

Trucks into Mexico All Cited Cities
Jan. 2005 vs. Jan. 2006: Up 6.2%
(In Thousands)



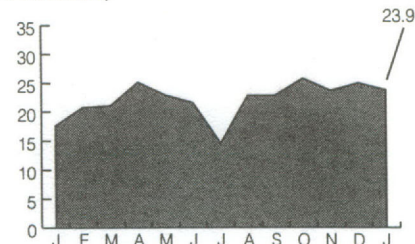
Trucks into Texas All Cited Cities
Jan. 2005 vs. Jan. 2006: Up 9.4%
(In Thousands)



Rail Cars into Mexico All Cited Cities
Jan. 2005 vs. Jan. 2006: Down 0.7%
(In Thousands)



Rail Cars into Texas All Cited Cities
Jan. 2005 vs. Jan. 2006: Up 36.1%
(In Thousands)

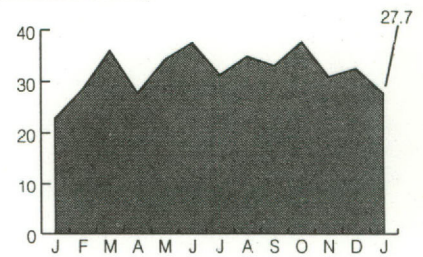


Revenues Collected by U.S. Customs District of Laredo (in U.S.\$)

City	Jan 06	%Share	05 vs. 06		YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	YTD %Chg
			%Chg					
Brownsville	1,889,274	6.8	-20.2		2,366,955	1,889,274	6.8	-20.2
Del Rio	119,209	0.4	24.0		96,169	119,209	0.4	24.0
Eagle Pass	1,234,927	4.5	84.9		667,772	1,234,927	4.5	84.9
McAllen-Hidalgo	3,065,513	11.1	8.2		2,831,959	3,065,513	11.1	8.2
Laredo	21,177,996	76.5	26.7		16,712,562	21,177,996	76.5	26.7
Progreso	29,602	0.1	-13.7		34,313	29,602	0.1	-13.7
Rio Grande	20,939	0.1	-1.6		21,288	20,939	0.1	-1.6
Roma	131,600	0.5	556.6		20,041	131,600	0.5	556.6
Total	27,669,062	100.0	21.6		22,751,060	27,669,062	100.0	21.6

Source: South Texas Customs Management Center, Laredo
 Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Customs Revenues for the District of Laredo
 Jan. 2005 vs. Jan. 2006: Up 21.6%
 (In Millions of U.S.\$)

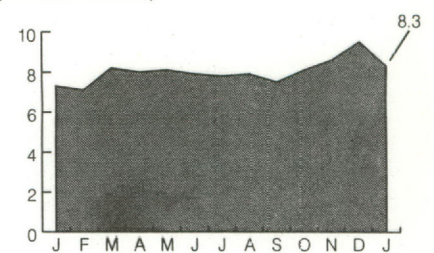


Revenues Collected by U.S. Bridge Operators (in U.S.\$)

City	Jan 06	%Share	05 vs. 06		YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	YTD %Chg
			%Chg					
Brownsville	1,314,448	15.9	14.0		1,152,693	1,314,448	15.9	14.0
Del Rio	276,976	3.4	-1.7		281,637	276,976	3.4	-1.7
Eagle Pass	546,706	6.6	-3.8		568,167	546,706	6.6	-3.8
El Paso	1,139,734	13.8	4.8		1,087,225	1,139,734	13.8	4.8
Harlingen	172,375	2.1	12.8		152,876	172,375	2.1	12.8
Laredo	3,088,928	37.4	20.6		2,561,825	3,088,928	37.4	20.6
McAllen-Hidalgo	926,072	11.2	12.9		820,422	926,072	11.2	12.9
Pharr	568,886	6.9	11.2		511,613	568,886	6.9	11.2
Roma	218,924	2.7	17.3		186,683	218,924	2.7	17.3
Total	8,253,049	100.0	12.7		7,323,140	8,253,049	100.0	12.7

Source: U.S. bridge operators in cited cities
 Note: El Paso figures do not include Bridge of the Americas (Toll-free). Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Bridge Revenues All Cited Cities
 Jan. 2005 vs. Jan. 2006: Up 12.7%
 (In Millions of U.S.\$)

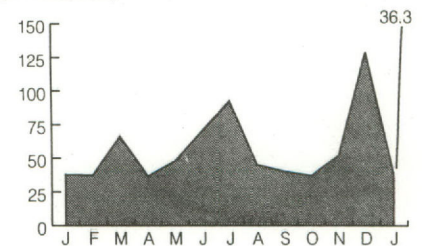


Tourist Visas Issued for Entry into Mexico

City	Jan 06	%Share	05 vs. 06		YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	YTD %Chg
			%Chg					
Del Rio	407	1.1	7.4		379	407	1.1	7.4
El Paso	6,069	16.7	-3.2		6,270	6,069	16.7	-3.2
McAllen-Hidalgo	8,154	22.4	-8.2		8,879	8,154	22.4	-8.2
Brownsville	5,008	13.8	3.4		4,844	5,008	13.8	3.4
Laredo	14,874	40.9	-8.3		16,223	14,874	40.9	-8.3
Eagle Pass	1,837	5.1	13.3		1,621	1,837	5.1	13.3
Total	36,349	100.0	-4.9		38,216	36,349	100.0	-4.9

Source: Instituto Nacional de Migracion, Mexico

Tourist Visas Issued All Cited Cities
 Jan. 2005 vs. Jan. 2006: Down 4.9%
 (In Thousands)

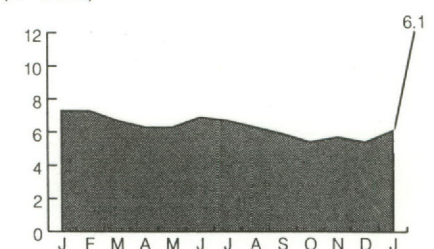


Employment & Unemployment Rates (Texas Border)

City	Employed		%Unemp	Emp Avg		05 vs. 06		Gain/Loss
	Jan 06	Jan 06		YTD 05	YTD 06	Emp %Chg	YTD	
Brownsville	55,882	4,198	7.0	54,293	55,882	2.9	1,589	
Del Rio	14,673	1,027	6.5	14,656	14,673	0.1	17	
El Paso	234,413	15,761	6.3	231,269	234,413	1.4	3,144	
Harlingen	23,302	1,472	5.9	22,640	23,302	2.9	662	
Laredo	79,158	4,498	5.4	75,020	79,158	5.5	4,138	
McAllen	55,139	2,965	5.1	52,663	55,139	4.7	2,476	
Pharr	21,146	1,287	5.7	20,196	21,146	4.7	950	
Total	483,713	31,208	6.1	470,737	483,713	2.8	12,976	
Texas Unemployment Rate			5.3					
U.S. Unemployment Rate			5.1					

Source: Texas Workforce Commission
 Note: Figures are preliminary and subject to revision. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

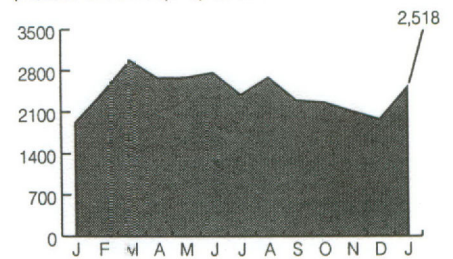
Percent of Unemployment All Cited Cities Combined
 Jan. 2005 vs. Jan. 2006: Down 15.4%
 (In Percent)



Building Permits

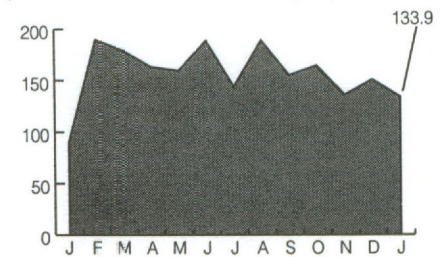
Number City	05 vs. 06			YTD			
	Jan 06	%Share	%Chg	YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	%Chg
Brownsville	263	10.4	4.4	252	263	10.4	4.4
Del Rio	204	8.1	6.8	191	204	8.1	6.8
Eagle Pass	37	1.5	-21.3	47	37	1.5	-21.3
El Paso	796	31.6	20.6	660	796	31.6	20.6
Harlingen	328	13.0	6.5	308	328	13.0	6.5
Laredo	724	28.8	123.5	324	724	28.8	123.5
McAllen	166	6.6	26.7	131	166	6.6	26.7
Total	2,518	100.0	31.6	1,913	2,518	100.0	31.6

Building Permits All Cited Cities
Jan. 2005 vs. Jan. 2006
(Number of Permits): Up 31.6%



Dollar Value City	05 vs. 06			YTD			
	Jan 06	%Share	%Chg	YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	%Chg
Brownsville	18,302,618	13.7	-26.5	24,895,612	18,302,618	13.7	-26.5
Del Rio	1,758,985	1.3	79.9	977,679	1,758,985	1.3	79.9
Eagle Pass	1,646,741	1.2	-56.8	3,809,196	1,646,741	1.2	-56.8
El Paso	51,009,678	38.1	236.6	15,153,581	51,009,678	38.1	236.6
Harlingen	16,999,584	12.7	271.2	4,579,370	16,999,584	12.7	271.2
Laredo	28,175,272	21.0	-0.7	28,381,589	28,175,272	21.0	-0.7
McAllen	16,053,519	12.0	31.6	12,200,662	16,053,519	12.0	31.6
Total	133,946,397	100.0	48.8	89,997,689	133,946,397	100.0	48.8

(Value of Permits In Millions of U.S.): Up 48.8%

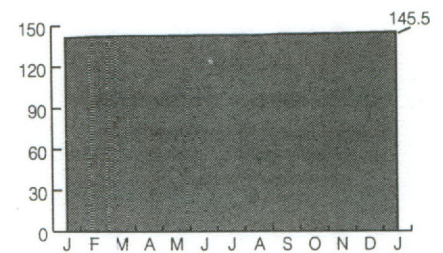


Source: Permit Departments in cited cities
Note: Dollar value totals may not add up due to rounding.

Power Connections (in Service)

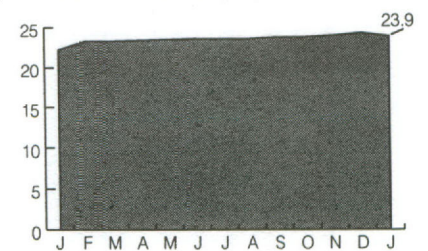
Residential City	05 vs. 06			Average			
	Jan 06	%Share	%Chg	YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	%Chg
Brownsville	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Del Rio	14,754	10.1	1.1	14,599	14,754	10.1	1.1
Eagle Pass	10,911	7.5	2.8	10,614	10,911	7.5	2.8
El Paso	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Harlingen	23,357	16.1	2.3	22,829	23,357	16.1	2.3
Laredo	59,096	40.6	3.9	56,868	59,096	40.6	3.9
McAllen	37,336	25.7	2.4	36,454	37,336	25.7	2.4
Total	145,454	100.0	2.9	141,364	145,454	100.0	2.9

Power Connections All Cited Cities
Jan. 2005 vs. Jan. 2006
(Residential - In Thousands): Up 2.9%



Commercial City	05 vs. 06			Average			
	Jan 06	%Share	%Chg	YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	%Chg
Brownsville	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Del Rio	2,337	9.8	2.2	2,286	2,337	9.8	2.2
Eagle Pass	1,673	7.0	1.2	1,653	1,673	7.0	1.2
El Paso	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Harlingen	4,089	17.1	38.6	2,951	4,089	17.1	38.6
Laredo	9,046	37.9	2.7	8,809	9,046	37.9	2.7
McAllen	6,745	28.2	3.2	6,538	6,745	28.2	3.2
Total	23,890	100.0	7.4	22,237	23,890	100.0	7.4

(Commercial - In Thousands): Up 7.4%



Industrial City	05 vs. 06			Average			
	Jan 06	%Share	%Chg	YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	%Chg
Brownsville	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Del Rio	45	8.9	-6.3	48	45	8.9	-6.3
Eagle Pass	29	5.8	-9.4	32	29	5.8	-9.4
El Paso	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Harlingen	103	20.4	-3.7	107	103	20.4	-3.7
Laredo	202	40.1	-1.5	205	202	40.1	-1.5
McAllen	125	24.8	2.5	122	125	24.8	2.5
Total	504	100.0	-1.9	514	504	100.0	-1.9

(Industrial): Down 1.9%

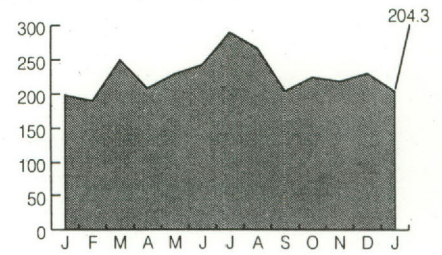


Source: American Electric Power Company, Brownsville Public Utilities Board & El Paso Electric Company
Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Air Passenger Service Activity (Number of Passengers)

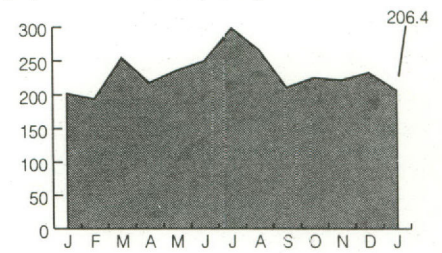
City	05 vs. 06			YTD			
	Jan 06	%Share	%Chg	05	06	%Share	%Chg
Brownsville	7,018	3.4	20.0	5,846	7,018	3.4	20.0
El Paso	125,605	61.5	6.3	118,121	125,605	61.5	6.3
Harlingen	33,069	16.2	-13.9	38,411	33,069	16.2	-13.9
Laredo	7,393	3.6	-6.8	7,936	7,393	3.6	-6.8
McAllen	31,234	15.3	11.4	28,026	31,234	15.3	11.4
Total	204,319	100.0	3.0	198,340	204,319	100.0	3.0

Air Passenger Activity All Cited Cities
Jan. 2005 vs. Jan. 2006
(Arrivals – In Thousands): Up 3.0%



City	05 vs. 06			YTD			
	Jan 06	%Share	%Chg	05	06	%Share	%Chg
Brownsville	7,270	3.5	19.4	6,088	7,270	3.5	19.4
El Paso	126,919	61.5	6.9	118,756	126,919	61.5	6.9
Harlingen	34,762	16.8	-14.6	40,701	34,762	16.8	-14.6
Laredo	7,241	3.5	-8.6	7,918	7,241	3.5	-8.6
McAllen	30,236	14.6	7.5	28,131	30,236	14.6	7.5
Total	206,428	100.0	2.4	201,594	206,428	100.0	2.4

(Departures – In Thousands): Up 2.4%

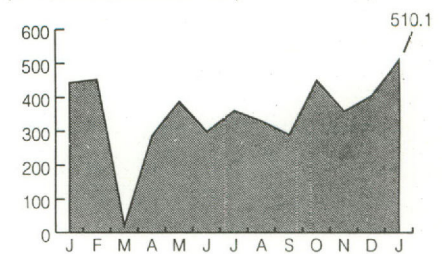


Source: Airports in cited cities

Port of Brownsville (Total Cargo in Metric Tons)

Cargo Type	05 vs. 06			YTD			
	Jan 06	%Share	%Chg	05	06	%Share	%Chg
Break Bulk	345,193	67.7	28.0	269,682	345,193	67.7	28.0
Containers	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Grain Bulk	0	0.0	-100.0	990	0	0.0	-100.0
Liquid	44,322	8.7	23857.7	185	44,322	8.7	23857.7
Machinery	24,724	4.8	-2.9	25,454	24,724	4.8	-2.9
Ores - Minerals	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Other	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Petroleum	95,886	18.8	-34.4	146,068	95,886	18.8	-34.4
Steel - Other Minerals	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Total	510,124	100.0	15.3	442,379	510,124	100.0	15.3

Port of Brownsville Total Cargo
Jan. 2005 vs. Jan. 2006: Up 15.3%
(In Thousands of Metric Tons)

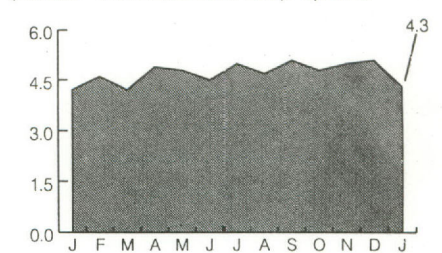


Source: Port of Brownsville

Port of Corpus Christi (Cargo in U.S. Tons)

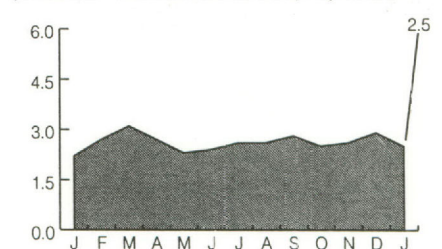
Cargo Type	05 vs. 06			YTD			
	Jan 06	%Share	%Chg	05	06	%Share	%Chg
Break Bulk	18,932	0.4	261.2	5,241	18,932	0.4	261.2
Chemical	17,292	0.4	149.6	6,929	17,292	0.4	149.6
Containers	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Dry Bulk	570,911	13.3	59.7	357,456	570,911	13.3	59.7
Grain Bulk	3,471	0.1	0.0	0	3,471	0.1	0.0
Liquid	44,478	1.0	0.0	0	44,478	1.0	0.0
Petroleum	3,652,385	84.8	-5.1	3,847,319	3,652,385	84.8	-5.1
Total	4,307,469	100.0	2.1	4,216,945	4,307,469	100.0	2.1

Port of Corpus Christi Cargo
Jan. 2005 vs. Jan. 2006
(Inbound – In Millions of U.S. Tons): Up 2.1%



Cargo Type	05 vs. 06			YTD			
	Jan 06	%Share	%Chg	05	06	%Share	%Chg
Break Bulk	1,769	0.1	-84.0	11,034	1,769	0.1	-84.0
Chemical	99,125	4.0	-13.2	114,177	99,125	4.0	-13.2
Containers	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Dry Bulk	212,579	8.6	122.1	95,710	212,579	8.6	122.1
Grain Bulk	156,375	6.3	2.2	152,943	156,375	6.3	2.2
Liquid	20,008	0.8	91.9	10,425	20,008	0.8	91.9
Petroleum	1,992,988	80.3	11.3	1,790,195	1,992,988	80.3	11.3
Total	2,482,845	100.0	14.2	2,174,484	2,482,845	100.0	14.2

(Outbound – In Millions of U.S. Tons): Up 14.2%



Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: Port of Corpus Christi

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Continued from Front Page

In Charts 3 and 4, U.S. exports to Mexico and U.S. imports from Mexico are plotted over the past six-year period.

January 2006 exports (\$10.6 billion) marked a 15.2 percent increase over those of January 2005 (\$9.2 billion). If everything remains constant this year and the increases continue, on the average, the end of 2006 may result in substantial increases.

U.S. imports from Mexico continue to increase. Even after the sluggish years (2001-2003), U.S. imports maintained monthly increases in 2004 and in 2005. The trend may turn out much higher than ever. If the increase in January 2006 is an indicator—26.4 percent over 2005, imports will probably mark a new high.

It may be too early to state, but the strong showing of both exports and imports points toward the possibility of a far more active year in trade between these longtime partners. In subsequent issues of the *Border Business Indicators*, these trade trends will be reviewed and discussed.

—B. Garcia

Chart 3. U.S. Exports to Mexico, Jan. 2000 - Jan. 2006
(In Billions of Dollars)

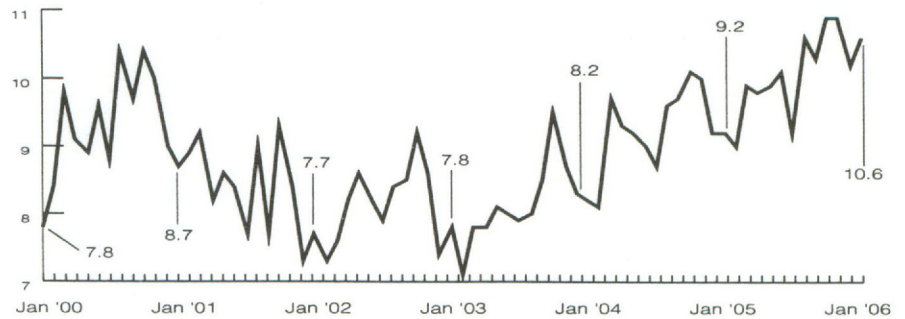
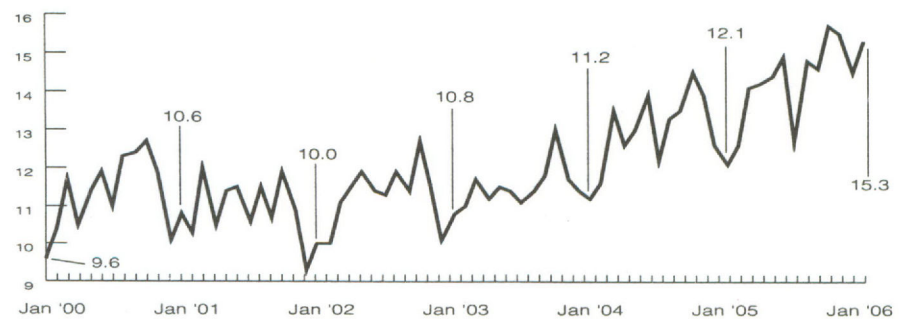


Chart 4. U.S. Imports from Mexico, Jan. 2000 - Jan. 2006
(In Billions of Dollars)



Source: Charts 3 & 4-U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of the Census, Foreign Trade Division

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