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Border Business Indicators

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College of Business Administration & Graduate School for International Trade
Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

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IN THIS ISSUE...

Note from the Director 1

Border Employment in the 90s 3

Border Crossings

Pedestrians 4

Vehicles 5

Trucks 6

Rail 7

Border Crossing Revenues

Customs Management Center Laredo 8

U.S. Border Bridge Revenues 9

Border Cities: Infrastructure Statistics

Power Connections 10-11

Building Permits 11-12

Employment Figures 12

Airport Activities: Selected Border Cities

Passenger 13

Sea Ports

Corpus Christi 14

Brownsville 15

Web Information 15

Note from the Director

Indicators of border business activity for the month of March demonstrated an increase of eighteen indicators while three indicators decreased. In addition, year-to-date (YTD) figures, thirteen indicators were up and eight decreased. Selected 2001 YTD comparisons to 2000 reported by border cities include the following:

- Southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico were up 17.2 percent. Laredo fell 4.8 percent, Rio Grande jumped 44.0 percent, McAllen registered a decrease of 4.7 percent and El Paso rose 2.9 percent.
- Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 3.6 percent. Laredo fell 2.5 percent. El Paso went up 6.3 percent. Brownsville dropped 1.4. Mcallen marked an increase of 43.4 percent.
- Southbound vehicle crossings were down 3.4 percent. Brownsville fell 1.5 percent, and Eagle Pass rose 1.1 percent. El Paso went down 2.1 percent and Pharr decreased 1.3 percent. Laredo dropped 2.4 percent. McAllen gained 2.4 percent.
- Northbound vehicle crossings were down 1.9 percent. Eagle Pass fell 0.1 percent. Del Rio dropped 2.2 percent. Roma increased 1.6 percent, El Paso went down 2.1 percent, Brownsville gained 1.5 percent and Pharr increased 6.2 percent.
- Southbound truck crossings into Mexico were down 1.5 percent. Eagle Pass went down 8.9 percent. Pharr increased 2.5 percent, and Laredo rose 2.5 percent. Del Rio was down 5.2 percent. Progreso gained 25.7 and Rio Grande grew 16.9 percent.
- Northbound truck crossings into Texas went down 7.6 percent, Pharr lost 2.1 percent and Eagle Pass posted a 2.9 percent decrease. Brownsville decreased 19.6 percent, Laredo fell 7.5 percent, Del Rio marked a drop of 15.0 percent. Rio Grande had a gain of 30.3 percent. Progreso went up 47.3 percent.
- Southbound shipments by rail were up 5.6 percent.
- Northbound shipments by rail were up 6.7 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Customs went up by 0.5 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Bridge operators were up 4.8 percent.
- Total building permits issued were up 0.5 percent. Laredo rose 9.2 percent, Eagle Pass fell 9.2 percent, while McAllen-Hidalgo rose 6.4 percent, and Brownsville registered a decrease of 9.8 percent. Del Rio gained 22.4 percent. El Paso showed a 0.2 percent drop.
- Total building permit values increased 30.5 percent. Laredo increased 5.6 percent, and Brownsville fell 28.0 percent. Del Rio was down 12.2 percent. McAllen increased 183.1 percent. El Paso was up 31.5 percent.
- Total employment was up 1.9 percent, with 8,432 jobs gained. The average unemployment rate in March 2001 was 7.7 percent for the border.

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

Technical Reports

Technical Report No. 1:	NAFTA Rules of Origin: An Explanation (March 1994)
Technical Report No. 2:	The Impact of NAFTA on U.S.-Mexico Commercial and Border Zones and the Potential Consequences to the Border (February 1994)
Technical Report No. 3:	Labor Mobility Under NAFTA: It's Impact on the Border (February 1994)
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Technical Report No. 12:	NAFTA One Year After Implementation: A Preliminary Assessment of Selected Impacts (March 1995) <i>Hardcopy only</i>

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Border Employment in the 90s

COMPOSITION AND RATE OF GROWTH. Texas border counties experienced strong employment growth in the 1990s, adding roughly 70,000 new jobs. Explosive population growth and NAFTA were the major factors shaping the composition and rate of growth in employment during the decade. Population in the border region grew 26.3 percent between 1990 and 1999, compared to 17.3 percent for the State. The border metropolitan counties of Cameron (Brownsville MSA), Hidalgo (McAllen MSA), Webb (Laredo MSA), and El Paso (El Paso MSA), comprising 90.1 percent of the regions population in 1999, grew 27.0 percent compared to 19.7 percent for the non-metropolitan counties. The Laredo MSA had highest growth rate at 48.9 percent. Employment in the border metropolitan areas increased 13.4 percent between 1994 and 1999, compared to 18.1 percent for the State (Table 1). Not all sectors enjoyed employment gains, however. A few sectors lost jobs. During the period, the border metropolitan areas gained 68,014 jobs and lost 11,759, for a net gain of 56,255 jobs. The fastest gaining sectors included construction (36.4 percent), services (32.4 percent), and transportation and public utilities (27.9 percent). The slowest growing sectors were mining (-38.2 percent), agriculture (-20.6 percent), and manufacturing (-10.1 percent) (Table 1).

GAINERS AND LOSERS. Specific job gaining and job losing categories for the period are presented in Table 2. The pattern of job gains and losses reflects the changes taking place in the region. The sharp increase in population growth during the 1990s sparked a strong demand for health services and social services, in general. The increase in population also gave a strong boost to the construction industry, as additional schools, hospitals, and homes have been built to accommodate growing demand.

The impact of NAFTA is also clearly reflected in the numbers. The increase in demand for transportation services, trucking and warehousing, as well as business services, has been in response to the sharp increase in trade between the two countries. NAFTA has also given an added boost to the construction industry as new bridges, port facilities, roads, and warehousing have been built to handle the triple-fold increase in merchandise trade in the 1990s flowing through the region.

As expected, NAFTA has had a negative impact on certain job categories, particularly those that are labor intensive and subject to wage competition, such as agriculture, apparels, food & kindred products, and other manufactured goods.

The border region has long lagged the state in terms of employment and income opportunities. NAFTA and strong population growth has fueled new economic activity in the region, helping to narrow the gap. Nevertheless, much remains to be done. For example, in 1999, after a decade of strong economic growth, unemployment in the border region was roughly twice that of the state (10.6 percent vs. 4.6 percent); average weekly wages (\$388.05) in the border region were only 64.2 percent of the state average (\$604.48); and border per capita income was roughly 56 percent of the state (\$14,234 vs. \$25,369).

In summary, notwithstanding the important employment gains in the border region in the 1990s, wages and incomes remain substantially below state averages. One could suggest a number of contributing factors including a surplus of labor pool and a mix of

low-paying industries in the region. Low levels of education attainment, however, is probably a more important factor. Education specialists estimate in 1999 that roughly 57 percent of adults 25 years of age and older in the border region graduated from high school compared to 75 percent for the state; and, only 14 percent had graduated from college compared to 22 percent for the state. Why are these graduation rates so important? According to 1999 figures published by the U.S. Census Bureau, the mean annual earnings for a high school graduate was \$29,310, a little more than half of that of college graduate (\$51,403). Notwithstanding the significant progress that many educators and communities in the region have achieved in raising educational attainment levels in the past, much remains to be done.

—J. Michael Patrick, Director, Texas Center and Professor of Economics, Texas A&M International University

Table 1
Texas Border MSAs* Employment

	1994	1999	Number	Change Percent
Agriculture	13,486	10,709	-2,777	-20.6
Mining	3,743	2,315	-1,428	-38.2
Construction	19,557	26,685	7,128	36.4
Manufacturing	74,500	67,000	-7,500	-10.1
Transportation & Pub. Util.	29,400	37,600	8,200	27.9
Wholesale Trade	24,600	27,500	2,900	11.8
Retail Trade	108,000	114,000	6,000	5.6
Fin. Serv. & Real Est	18,400	21,500	3,100	16.8
Services	103,000	136,400	33,400	32.4
Government	114,400	133,400	19,000	16.7
Total	509,086	577,100	68,014	13.4

* Brownsville, McAllen, Laredo, and El Paso MSAs

Table 2

1994 - 1999

Leading Job Categories in Fastest Growing Sectors (Estimates)

Sector/Job Category	Increase in Number of Jobs
Services	
Health Services	9,933
Business Services	7,701
Eating & Drinking Establishments	4,857
Social Services	2,555
Construction	
Special Trade Contractors	1,678
Heavy Construction, Ex. Bldg	728
Transportation & Public Utilities	
Transportation Services	2,356
Trucking & Warehousing	1,615

1994 - 1999

Losing Job Categories in Slowest Growing Sectors (Estimates)

Sector/Job Category	Decrease in Number of Jobs
Agriculture	
Production & Ranching	1,299
Agricultural Services	2,087
Mining	
Oil & Gas Exploration	1,282
Manufacturing	
Apparel & Other Textile Products	5,760
Food & Kindred Products	602
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	251
Electronic & Other Electric Equipment	215
Furniture & Fixtures	203
Leather & Leather Products	162
Fabricated Metal Products	155
Chemicals & Allied Products	115

Source: Texas Workforce Commission, <http://www.twc.state.tx.us>

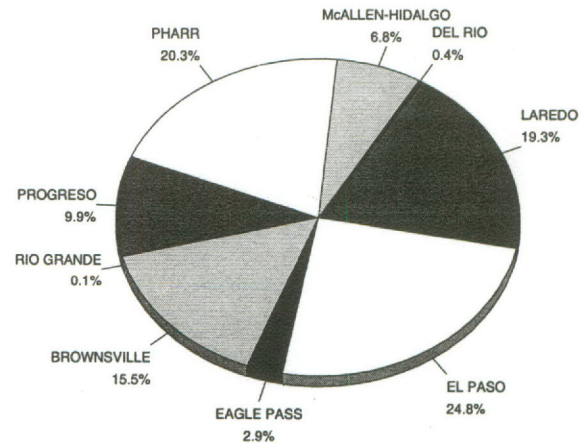
Pedestrian Bridge Crossings into Mexico

CITY	JAN 01	FEB 01	MAR 01	MAR 00	YTD 00	YTD 01	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	203,321	232,309	299,927	299,330	735,080	735,557	0.1
DEL RIO	4,122	2,435	7,167	5,897	12,958	13,724	5.9
EAGLE PASS	43,944	47,794	55,154	56,999	157,080	146,892	-6.5
EL PASO	417,221	419,151	479,540	453,422	1,279,351	1,315,912	2.9
HARLINGEN	90	69	52	73	241	211	-12.4
LAREDO	324,529	324,179	371,695	388,166	1,071,675	1,020,403	-4.8
McALLEN-HIDALGO	108,020	107,859	131,753	124,323	364,734	347,632	-4.7
PHARR	346,853	337,221	391,244	383,954	1,095,718	1,075,318	-1.9
PROGRESO	150,088	173,668	191,835	183,505	541,418	515,591	-4.8
RIO GRANDE	1,119	1,390	1,615	1,197	2,863	4,124	44.0
ROMA	N/A	N/A	N/A	16,804	47,367	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	1,599,307	1,646,075	1,929,982	1,913,670	5,308,485	5,175,364	-2.5

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

Southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico for March were up 17.2 percent. Rio Grande increased 16.2 percent, Brownsville rose 29.1 percent, Eagle Pass increased 15.4 percent, El Paso gained 14.4 percent, and Laredo jumped 14.7 percent. Progreso gained 10.5 percent, and McAllen-Hidalgo was up 22.2 percent. Del Rio jumped 194.3 percent. YTD southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico fell 2.5 percent. El Paso's southbound pedestrian crossings, which made up 25.4 percent of all crossings, increased 2.9 percent YTD. Laredo, accounting for 19.7 percent of total crossings, decreased 4.8 percent YTD. Brownsville, with a 14.2 percent share, increased 0.1 percent YTD. Progreso, with 10.0 percent share, declined 4.8 percent. Del Rio, with 0.3 percent, increased 5.9 percent YTD.

% Share Pedestrians for March 2001



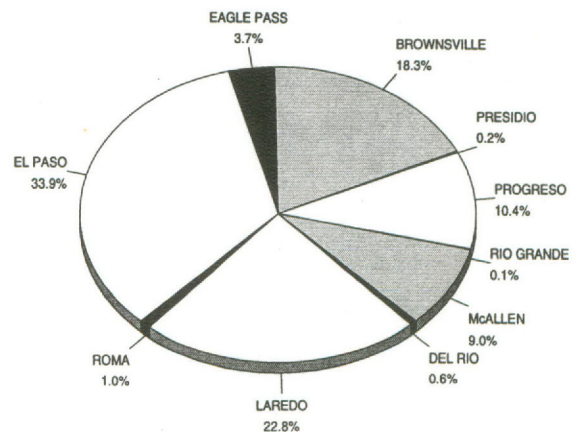
Pedestrian Bridge Crossings into Texas

CITY	JAN 01	FEB 01	MAR 01	MAR 00	YTD 00	YTD 01	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	235,018	243,416	330,346	326,229	820,520	808,780	-1.4
DEL RIO	7,253	7,352	10,286	11,374	28,007	24,891	-11.1
EAGLE PASS	58,257	59,649	66,279	71,612	197,308	184,185	-6.7
EL PASO	531,896	529,925	613,173	563,619	1,575,595	1,674,994	6.3
LAREDO	373,315	352,126	412,061	426,497	1,166,176	1,137,502	-2.5
McALLEN-HIDALGO	131,610	137,040	162,593	103,244	300,782	431,243	43.4
PRESIDIO	2,570	2,619	3,005	3,007	7,889	8,194	3.9
PROGRESO	149,203	171,277	188,177	176,931	509,168	508,657	-0.1
RIO GRANDE	1,410	1,458	1,579	1,376	3,736	4,447	19.0
ROMA	15,136	16,427	18,916	19,517	55,696	50,479	-9.4
TOTAL	1,505,668	1,521,289	1,806,415	1,703,406	4,664,877	4,833,372	3.6

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 up 18.7 percent in March. Progreso increased 9.9 percent, Brownsville was up 35.7 percent, El Paso rose 15.7 percent, and Laredo jumped 17.0 percent. YTD northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 3.6 percent. El Paso, accounting for 34.7 percent of northbound crossings, was up 6.3 percent YTD. Laredo, with 23.5 percent of all northbound crossings, was down 2.5 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 16.7 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings, decreased 1.4 percent YTD.

% Share Pedestrians for March 2001



Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	JAN 01	FEB 01	MAR 01	MAR 00	YTD 00	YTD 01	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	618,634	591,341	671,880	640,399	1,854,562	1,881,855	1.5
DEL RIO	143,067	147,837	171,695	180,767	483,697	462,599	-4.4
EAGLE PASS	254,605	250,107	285,190	278,065	781,308	789,902	1.1
EL PASO	453,390	431,323	488,559	486,866	1,402,175	1,373,272	-2.1
HARLINGEN	44,581	43,307	51,969	49,760	141,856	139,857	-1.4
LAREDO	679,571	595,514	786,184	745,617	2,111,422	2,061,269	-2.4
McALLEN-HIDALGO	485,871	466,887	523,087	505,990	1,441,914	1,475,845	2.4
PHARR	167,930	163,026	191,976	186,828	529,731	522,932	-1.3
PROGRESO	99,542	100,822	115,057	106,867	305,784	315,421	3.2
RIO GRANDE	46,405	48,133	54,964	52,347	149,515	149,502	0.0
ROMA	N/A	N/A	N/A	102,118	291,220	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	2,993,596	2,838,297	3,340,561	3,335,624	9,493,184	9,172,454	-3.4

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

Southbound vehicle bridge crossings into Mexico were up 17.7 percent in March from February's figures. Eagle Pass was up 14.0 percent, Del Rio rose 16.1 percent, Rio Grande increased 14.2 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo rose 12.0 percent, and Brownsville gained 13.6 percent. Harlingen decreased 20.0 percent, and Laredo jumped 32.0 percent. YTD southbound vehicle bridge crossings decreased 3.4 percent. Laredo, with 22.5 percent of all southbound

traffic, was down 2.4 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 20.5 percent of all southbound vehicle bridge crossings, had a 1.5 percent decrease YTD. El Paso, accounting for 15.0 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, fell 2.1 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 16.1 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, experienced a 2.4 percent increase YTD.

Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	JAN 01	FEB 01	MAR 01	MAR 00	YTD 00	YTD 01	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	591,738	554,705	628,471	544,659	1,748,889	1,774,914	1.5
DEL RIO	159,301	151,624	173,598	172,825	495,293	484,523	-2.2
EAGLE PASS	274,475	259,128	291,151	286,683	825,425	824,754	-0.1
EL PASO	699,755	687,153	765,542	744,113	2,199,369	2,152,450	-2.1
HARLINGEN	56,406	53,108	62,531	60,387	176,169	172,045	-2.3
LAREDO	653,281	614,806	689,973	717,749	2,131,157	1,958,060	-8.1
McALLEN-HIDALGO	457,492	438,933	480,184	490,978	1,419,308	1,376,609	-3.0
PHARR	206,444	199,851	240,087	212,885	608,486	646,382	6.2
PRESIDIO	62,488	56,873	65,455	63,857	190,779	184,816	-3.1
PROGRESO	96,392	96,338	110,360	100,923	288,391	303,090	5.1
RIO GRANDE	55,008	52,232	59,003	57,700	168,022	166,243	-1.1
ROMA	99,363	95,168	107,883	101,829	297,785	302,414	1.6
TOTAL	3,412,143	3,259,919	3,674,238	3,554,588	10,549,073	10,346,300	-1.9

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 March were up 12.7 percent from February. Roma registered a 13.4 percent increase, Eagle Pass went up 12.4 percent, Progreso rose 14.6 percent, Brownsville increased 13.3 percent, and McAllen-Hidalgo climbed 9.4 percent. Presidio was up 15.1 percent, and Laredo

increased 12.2 percent. YTD northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were down 1.9 percent. El Paso, with 20.8 percent of all crossings, was down 2.1 percent YTD. Laredo, with 18.9 percent of all crossings, fell 8.1 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 17.2 percent of all crossings, gained 1.5 percent YTD.

Truck Crossings into Mexico —Number of Trucks

CITY	JAN 01	FEB 01	MAR 01	MAR 00	YTD 00	YTD 01	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE+	17,710	16,851	18,592	21,645	59,995	53,153	-11.4
DEL RIO+	5,645	5,302	6,017	6,313	17,903	16,964	-5.2
EAGLE PASS+	8,388	8,196	8,861	10,150	27,937	25,445	-8.9
EL PASO+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	N/A	N/A	N/A
HARLINGEN+	3,927	3,616	3,674	6,014	16,348	11,217	-31.4
LAREDO+	115,056	111,454	124,275	122,721	342,069	350,785	2.5
McALLEN-HIDALGO+	4,006	3,091	3,506	4,531	12,699	10,603	-16.5
PHARR+	21,272	20,243	25,919	25,249	65,807	67,434	2.5
PROGRESO+	2,703	2,322	2,826	2,328	6,247	7,851	25.7
RIO GRANDE+	2,349	2,146	2,165	1,960	5,698	6,660	16.9
ROMA+	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,567	4,041	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	181,056	173,221	195,835	202,478	558,744	550,112	-1.5

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

+ Includes both loaded and empty trucks.

++ Includes loaded trucks only.

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

Southbound truck crossings into Mexico were up 13.1 percent in March. Harlingen rose 1.6 percent, Del Rio increased 13.5 percent, and Pharr went up 28.0 percent. Rio Grande gained 0.9 percent. Laredo was up 13.5 percent and Brownsville rose 10.3 percent. YTD southbound truck crossings were down 1.5 percent. Laredo, with 63.8 percent of all southbound crossings, experi-

enced a 2.5 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with a 9.7 percent of all southbound crossings, had an 11.4 percent decrease YTD. Pharr, with 12.3 percent, registered an increase of 2.5 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, with 4.6 percent of all truck crossings, fell 8.9 percent YTD.

Truck Crossings into Texas —Number of Trucks

CITY	JAN 01	FEB 01	MAR 01	MAR 00	YTD 00	YTD 01	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	20,748	20,080	21,043	26,860	76,998	61,871	-19.6
DEL RIO	4,927	4,526	3,967	5,689	15,785	13,420	-15.0
EAGLE PASS	9,034	8,310	8,921	9,481	27,047	26,265	-2.9
FALCON	25	29	22	45	147	76	-48.3
LAREDO	115,366	105,863	121,363	133,952	370,456	342,592	-7.5
McALLEN-HIDALGO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
PHARR	30,323	28,001	35,311	36,420	95,611	93,635	-2.1
PROGRESO	1,354	1,135	1,677	1,147	2,829	4,166	47.3
RIO GRANDE	2,785	2,404	2,496	2,139	5,897	7,685	30.3
ROMA	888	885	1,028	1,302	3,437	2,801	-18.5
TOTAL	185,450	171,233	195,828	217,035	598,207	552,511	-7.6

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

Editor's Note: Figures represent loaded and empty trucks.

March northbound truck crossings into Texas were up 14.4 percent over February's crossings. Eagle Pass was up 7.4 percent, Brownsville increased 4.8 percent, Progreso rose 47.8 percent, Pharr jumped 26.1 percent, and Laredo went up 14.6 percent. Roma gained 16.2 percent. YTD northbound truck crossings were

down 7.6 percent. Laredo, accounting for 62.0 percent of all northbound truck crossings, had a 7.5 percent decrease YTD. Pharr, with 16.9 percent of all crossings, experienced a 2.1 percent decrease YTD. Brownsville, with 11.2 percent of all northbound truck crossings, experienced an 19.6 percent decrease YTD.

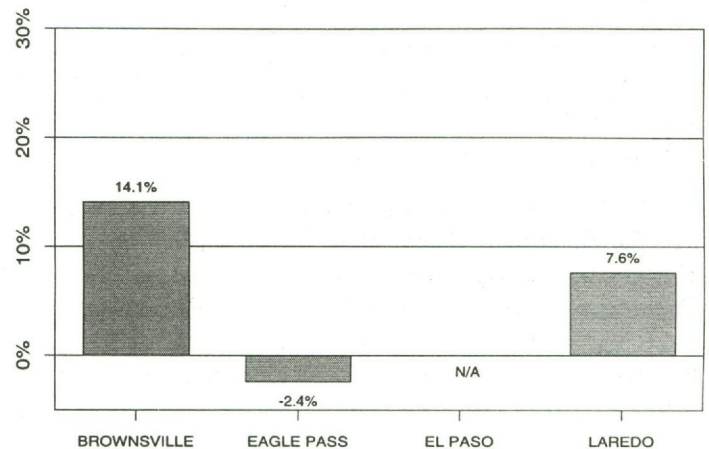
Export Shipments by Rail into Mexico —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	JAN 01	FEB 01	MAR 01	MAR 00	YTD 00	YTD 01	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	3,348	2,904	5,029	3,483	9,888	11,281	14.1
EAGLE PASS	6,266	5,938	8,374	7,380	21,091	20,578	-2.4
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	14,035	15,193	16,865	16,157	42,846	46,093	7.6
TOTAL	23,649	24,035	30,268	27,020	73,825	77,952	5.6

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 25.9 percent in March compared to February. Brownsville jumped 73.2 percent, while Laredo gained 11.0 percent. Eagle Pass rose 41.0 percent. YTD southbound rail shipments into Mexico from Texas were up 5.6 percent. Laredo which accounted for 59.1 percent of all southbound rail shipments, was up 7.6 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, accounting for 26.4 percent of all southbound rail shipments, decreased 2.4 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 14.5 percent of all southbound rail shipments, showed an increase of 14.1 percent YTD.

Export Rail YTD % Change 00-01



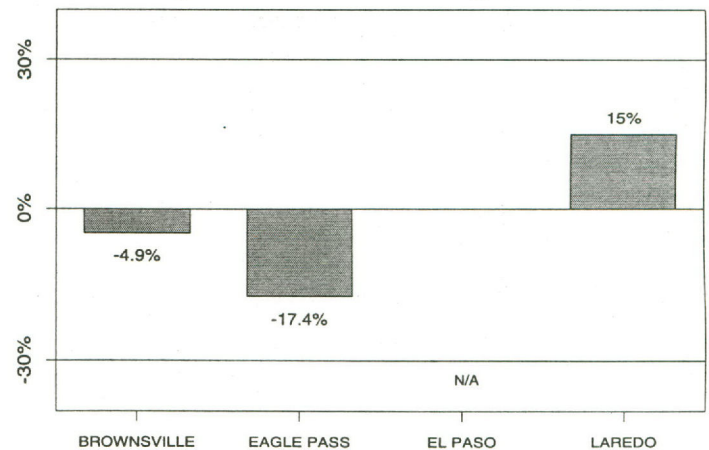
Import Shipments by Rail into Texas —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	JAN 01	FEB 01	MAR 01	MAR 00	YTD 00	YTD 01	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	1,118	636	937	1,432	2,829	2,691	-4.9
EAGLE PASS	2,692	2,993	2,881	3,995	10,376	8,566	-17.4
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	11,173	13,262	14,958	12,696	34,266	39,393	15.0
TOTAL	14,983	16,891	18,776	18,123	47,471	50,650	6.7

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 11.2 percent in March. Laredo rose 12.8 percent, Brownsville was up 47.3 percent, and Eagle Pass dropped 3.7 percent. YTD total northbound shipments into Texas from Mexico were up 6.7 percent. Laredo, which accounted for 77.8 percent of all northbound rail shipments, were up 15.0 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, accounting for 16.9 percent of all northbound rail shipments, fell 17.4 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 5.3 percent of all northbound rail shipments, decreased 4.9 percent YTD.

Import Rail YTD % Change 00-01



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

CITY	DUTY	MPF	OTHER	TOTAL	TOTAL	YTD	YTD	YTD % CHG
	MAR 01	MAR 01	REVENUE MAR 01	REVENUE MAR 01	REVENUE MAR 00	REVENUE MAR 00	REVENUE MAR 01	
BROWNSVILLE	3,234,266	129,304	151,448	3,515,019	5,027,441	13,033,151	12,516,041	-4.0
DEL RIO	136,850	38,539	32,472	207,860	186,919	496,917	486,937	-2.0
EAGLE PASS	155,819	12,863	2,715,348	2,884,030	2,938,463	6,999,975	6,917,221	-1.2
LAREDO	10,573,050	763,506	9,342,516	20,679,072	20,806,181	51,489,189	52,936,519	2.8
McALLEN-HIDALGO	2,476,873	253,803	626,373	3,357,050	4,149,349	8,138,750	7,710,359	-5.3
PROGRESO	11	1,435	21,868	23,314	32,669	69,043	60,350	-12.6
RIO GRANDE	61,806	6,437	12,807	81,051	89,320	184,298	193,852	5.2
ROMA	28,120	3,078	9,972	41,171	48,488	119,677	90,534	-24.4
TOTAL	16,666,796	1,208,965	12,912,804	30,788,565	33,278,831	80,531,001	80,911,811	0.5

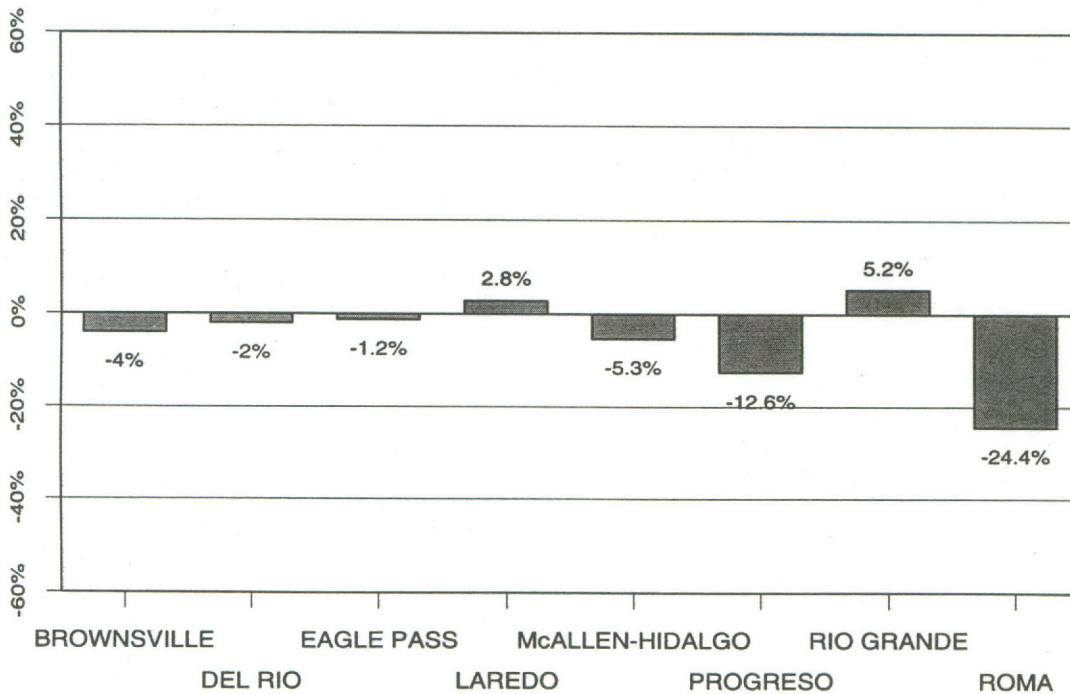
Source: Data provided by the South Texas CMC in Laredo and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

MPF = Merchandise Processing Fee

Total U.S. Customs revenues, for March, for the former District of Laredo, increased 22.8 percent from February figures. McAllen-Hidalgo was up 60.6 percent, Rio Grande rose 40.9 percent, Progreso went up 4.4 percent, Roma increased 61.5 percent, Rio Grande rose 40.9 percent, Laredo increased 26.1 percent, Eagle Pass went up 29.1 percent, Brownsville decreased 15.8 percent, and Del Rio was up 25.9 percent. YTD revenues for the border

were up 0.5 percent compared to March 2000. Laredo, accounting for 65.4 percent share of the former district's revenue was up 2.8 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 15.5 percent share of total revenues, was down 4.0 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, accounting for 8.5 percent of all revenues, was down 1.2 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 9.5 percent of total revenues, decreased 5.3 percent YTD.

% Change Total Revenues YTD 00-01



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

CITY	JAN 01	FEB 01	MAR 01	MAR 00	YTD 00	YTD 01	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	862,887	826,632	966,649	855,300	2,393,902	2,656,168	11.0
DEL RIO	356,989	348,437	404,980	406,312	1,162,896	1,110,405	-4.5
EAGLE PASS	575,189	567,519	639,197	620,534	1,809,466	1,781,905	-1.5
EL PASO	934,581	896,468	1,014,588	1,021,141	2,950,252	2,845,637	-3.5
HARLINGEN	115,031	109,687	122,790	128,523	357,157	347,508	-2.7
LAREDO	2,266,121	2,168,413	2,786,669	2,490,894	6,892,539	7,221,203	4.8
McALLEN-HIDALGO	801,074	769,965	864,636	716,607	2,064,895	2,435,675	18.0
PHARR	409,745	406,943	464,078	420,687	1,154,029	1,280,765	11.0
TOTAL	6,321,616	6,094,063	7,263,587	6,659,997	18,785,136	19,679,266	4.8

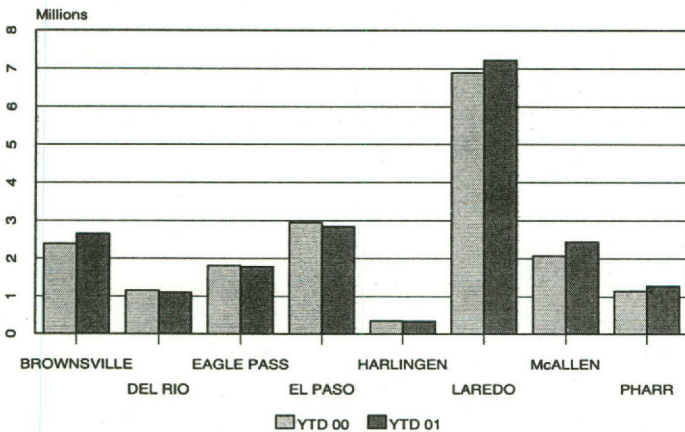
Source: Data provided by U.S. bridge operators in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

Brownsville's Revenues are for Cameron County Bridge only.

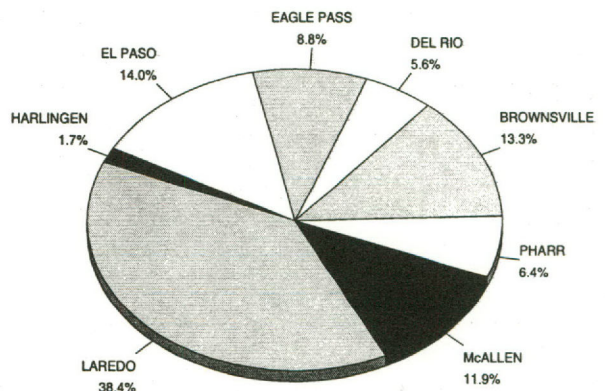
U.S. Bridge operators' revenues increased 19.2 percent in the month of March. Pharr went up 14.0 percent, Brownsville jumped 16.9 percent, Laredo went up 28.5. Del Rio increased 16.2 percent, Harlingen rose 11.9 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo gained 12.3 percent, Eagle Pass increased 12.6 percent, and El Paso registered a jump of 13.2 percent. YTD U.S bridge operator's revenues were up 4.8 percent. Laredo, accounting for 36.7 percent of total U.S.

Bridge operator's revenues collected, had a 4.8 percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 14.5 percent of total U.S. Bridge revenues, decreased 3.5 percent YTD. Brownsville, accounting for 13.5 percent, was up 11.0 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 12.4 percent of the total bridge revenues, increased 18.0 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, with 9.1 percent of the total bridge revenues, fell 1.5 percent YTD.

Total Revenues Collected YTD 00-01



% Share Revenues March 2001



Power Connections – Texas Border

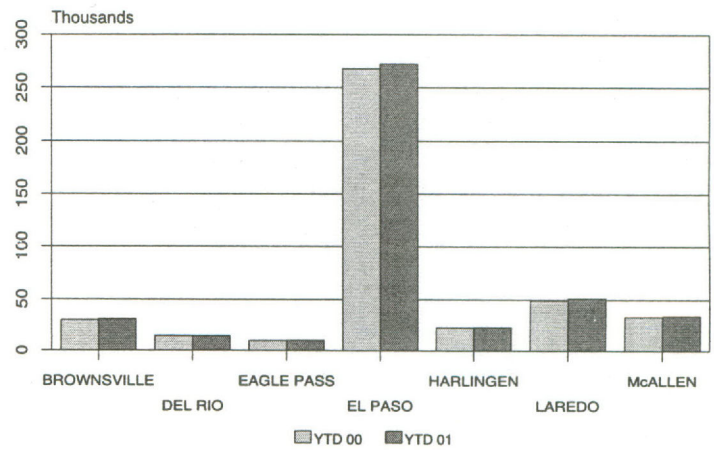
Residential Connections

CITY	JAN 01	FEB 01	MAR 01	MAR 00	YTD 00	YTD 01	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	30,997	30,991	31,134	30,164	30,089	31,041	3.2
DEL RIO	14,085	14,107	14,094	14,017	13,989	14,095	0.8
EAGLE PASS	9,822	9,802	9,823	9,632	9,603	9,816	2.2
EL PASO	271,588	272,280	272,838	268,440	267,760	272,235	1.7
HARLINGEN	22,117	22,126	22,165	21,784	21,713	22,136	1.9
LAREDO	51,086	51,203	51,430	49,592	49,391	51,240	3.7
McALLEN	33,248	33,297	33,278	32,507	32,458	33,274	2.5
TOTAL	432,943	433,806	434,762	426,136	425,004	433,837	2.1

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

March's total residential power connections for cited Texas border cities increased over February's figures by 0.22 percent. YTD residential power connections were up 2.1 percent. Laredo was up 3.7 percent, McAllen increased 2.5 percent, Del Rio gained 0.8 percent, Harlingen jumped 1.9 percent, Brownsville increased 3.2 percent, and Eagle Pass was up by 2.2 percent.

YTD AVG March 00-01



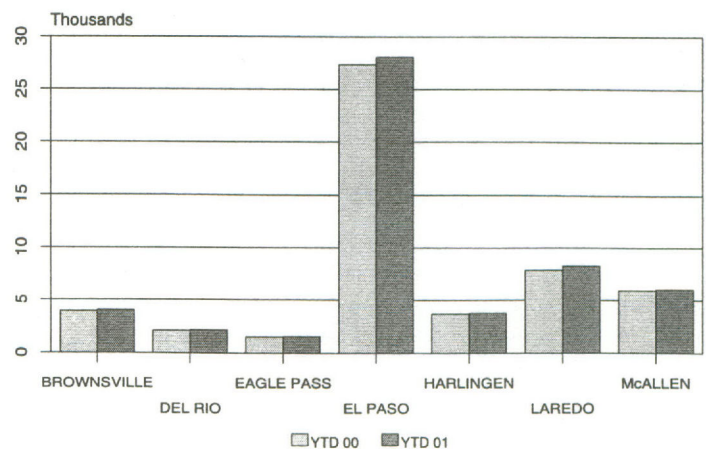
Commercial Connections

CITY	JAN 01	FEB 01	MAR 01	MAR 00	YTD 00	YTD 01	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	4,006	4,003	3,999	3,930	3,918	4,003	2.2
DEL RIO	2,127	2,130	2,129	2,061	2,061	2,129	3.3
EAGLE PASS	1,525	1,517	1,530	1,507	1,494	1,524	2.0
EL PASO	27,947	28,107	28,143	27,455	27,371	28,066	2.5
HARLINGEN	3,828	3,824	3,820	3,756	3,748	3,824	2.0
LAREDO	8,246	8,292	8,291	7,908	7,897	8,276	4.8
McALLEN	6,002	6,021	6,030	5,900	5,892	6,018	2.1
TOTAL	53,681	53,894	53,942	52,517	52,381	53,839	2.8

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

March's total commercial power connections for cited Texas border cities increased 0.09 percent over February's figures. YTD averages of commercial power connections increased 2.8 percent. Harlingen was up 2.0 percent, Eagle Pass increased 2.0 percent, Laredo gained 4.8 percent, McAllen was up 2.1 percent, Del Rio rose 3.3 percent, El Paso gained 2.5 percent, and Brownsville increased 2.2 percent.

YTD AVG March 00-01



Power Connections – Texas Border (Cont'd)

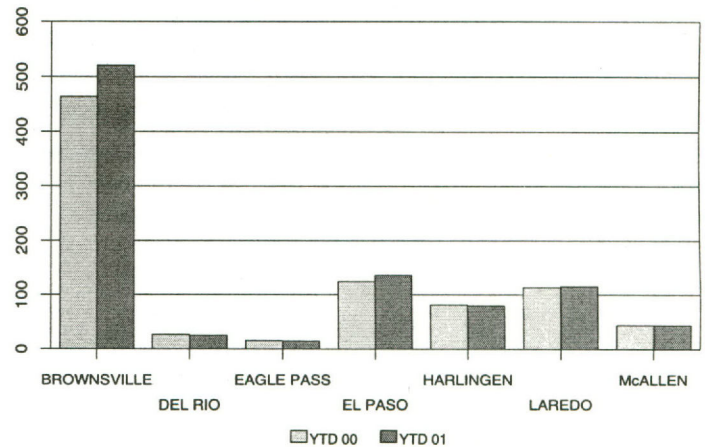
Industrial Connections

CITY	JAN 01	FEB 01	MAR 01	MAR 00	YTD 00	YTD 01	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	520	527	517	467	464	521	12.3
DEL RIO	25	25	25	27	27	25	-7.4
EAGLE PASS	15	15	15	15	15	15	-2.2
EL PASO	133	134	142	125	125	136	9.1
HARLINGEN	80	80	80	81	82	80	-2.0
LAREDO	115	115	116	113	114	115	1.2
McALLEN	44	44	44	44	44	44	0.0
TOTAL	932	940	939	872	871	937	7.5

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

March's total industrial power connections for cited Texas border cities were down 0.11 percent from February's figures. YTD averages of industrial power connections increased 7.5 percent. El Paso increased 9.1 percent, Harlingen fell 2.0 percent, Brownsville was up 12.3 percent.

YTD AVG March 00-01



Building Permits — Texas Border

Number of Permits

NUMBER	JAN 01	FEB 01	MAR 01	MAR 00	YTD 00	YTD 01	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	298	312	378	449	1,095	988	-9.8
DEL RIO	55	59	99	81	174	213	22.4
EAGLE PASS	39	41	49	50	142	129	-9.2
EL PASO	651	448	654	632	1,756	1,753	-0.2
HARLINGEN	59	60	35	70	222	154	-30.6
LAREDO	426	588	763	698	1,627	1,777	9.2
McALLEN	137	164	145	149	419	446	6.4
TOTAL	1,665	1,672	2,123	2,129	5,435	5,460	0.5

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

March's building permits issued by reporting Texas border cities were up 27.0 percent from February. Del Rio increased 67.8 percent, Eagle Pass grew 19.5 percent, El Paso went up 46.0 percent, and Laredo rose 29.8 percent. McAllen decreased 11.6 percent, and Brownsville jumped 21.2 percent. YTD, the number

of permits issued rose 0.5 percent. El Paso, accounting for 32.1 percent of all building permits issued, had a decrease of 0.2 percent YTD. Laredo, with 32.5 percent of building permits issued, was up 9.2 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 18.1 percent of building permits issued, decreased 9.8 percent YTD.

Building Permits — Texas Border (Cont'd)

U.S. Dollar Value of Permits

VALUE	JAN 01	FEB 01	MAR 01	MAR 00	YTD 00	YTD 01	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	13,717,575	18,853,777	19,379,114	34,494,171	72,189,833	51,950,466	-28.0
DEL RIO	832,856	894,398	991,895	1,556,873	3,096,930	2,719,149	-12.2
EAGLE PASS	706,968	2,009,868	770,486	1,604,738	4,787,205	3,487,321	-27.2
EL PASO	56,639,596	30,330,638	38,169,047	32,680,679	95,133,141	125,139,281	31.5
HARLINGEN	2,715,012	9,431,640	7,767,233	3,140,820	14,684,870	19,913,885	35.6
LAREDO	27,013,352	21,305,004	22,692,974	28,245,777	67,271,753	71,011,330	5.6
MCALLEN	19,616,133	35,290,888	59,236,669	12,607,406	40,323,378	114,143,690	183.1
TOTAL	121,241,492	118,116,213	149,007,417	114,330,464	297,487,110	388,365,122	30.5

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

March building permit values for reporting Texas border cities were up 26.2 percent from February. Harlingen fell 17.6 percent, McAllen rose 67.9 percent, and El Paso gained 25.8 percent. Brownsville rose 2.8 percent. Laredo was up 6.5 percent and Del Rio increased 10.9 percent. YTD reporting border cities experienced a 30.5 percent increase in building permit values. El Paso,

with 32.2 percent of total building permit values, increased 31.5 percent YTD. Laredo, with 18.3 percent of total building permit values, gained 5.6 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 13.4 percent of total building permit values, decreased 28.0 percent. Del Rio, with 0.7 percent of total building permit values, fell 12.2 percent YTD.

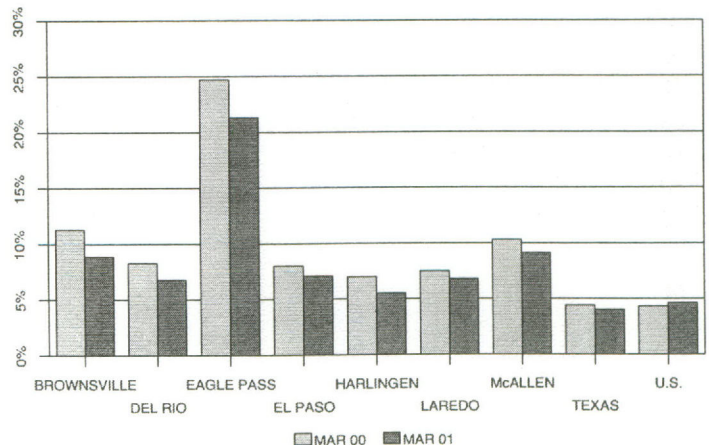
Employment/Unemployment Rates — Texas Border

CITY	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	PERCENT	PERCENT
	EMPLOYED	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED
	MAR 01	MAR 01	MAR 01	MAR 00	MAR 01	MAR 00
BROWNSVILLE	44,958	43,285	4,414	5,520	8.9	11.3
DEL RIO	14,189	14,253	1,031	1,283	6.8	8.3
EAGLE PASS	9,229	8,652	2,495	2,834	21.3	24.7
EL PASO	236,061	236,536	18,043	20,693	7.1	8.0
HARLINGEN	25,828	24,867	1,501	1,877	5.5	7.0
LAREDO	66,486	63,405	4,850	5,168	6.8	7.5
McALLEN	48,359	45,680	4,849	5,257	9.1	10.3
TOTAL	445,110	436,678	37,183	42,632	7.7	8.9
THE TEXAS UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					4.00	4.40
THE NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					4.60	4.30

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 March, total employment in reporting Texas border cities increased 0.6 percent (2,758 jobs gained) over February's figures. Eagle Pass employment gained 1.6 percent (145 jobs gained), Del Rio increased 1.0 percent (143 jobs lost), and McAllen went up 2.0 percent (9344 jobs gained), and Laredo rose 0.6 percent (404 jobs gained). Brownsville rose 1.0 percent (447 jobs gained). YTD total employment in Texas border cities was up 1.9 percent (8,432 jobs gained) from a year ago. The average unemployment rate for the border was 7.7 percent compared to 4.0 percent for Texas, and 4.6 percent for the U.S. in the month of March.

% Unemployed March 00-01



Air Passenger Service Activities — Selected Border Cities

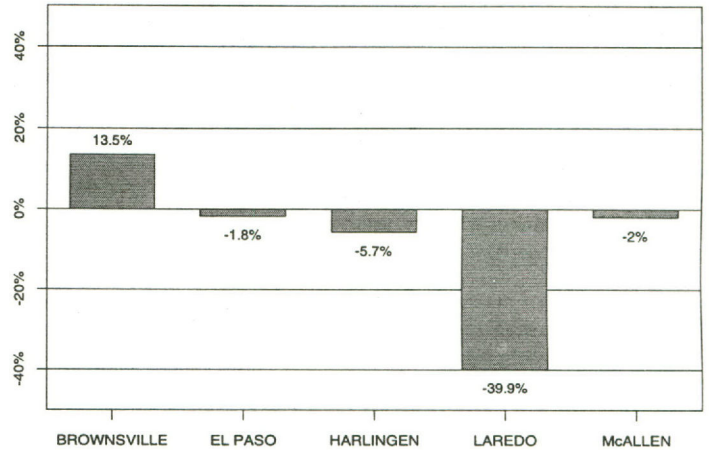
Passenger Arrivals

CITY	JAN 01	FEB 01	MAR 01	MAR 00	YTD 00	YTD 01	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	5,649	6,433	7,761	6,640	17,489	19,843	13.5
EL PASO	117,412	108,643	138,208	139,427	370,993	364,263	-1.8
HARLINGEN	33,933	37,221	44,572	46,172	122,785	115,726	-5.7
LAREDO	6,041	5,063	5,015	10,498	26,823	16,119	-39.9
McALLEN	27,153	26,559	30,889	30,689	86,315	84,601	-2.0
TOTAL	190,188	183,919	226,445	233,426	624,405	600,552	-3.8

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

March's air passengers arriving in Texas border cities were up 23.1 percent from February's figures. McAllen increased 16.3 percent, Laredo decreased 0.9 percent, Brownsville rose 20.6 percent, and El Paso was up 27.2 percent. Harlingen increased 19.7 percent. YTD air passenger arrivals were down 3.8 percent. El Paso, with 60.7 percent of all arriving passengers, showed a decrease of 1.8 percent YTD. Harlingen, accounting for 19.3 percent of all arrivals, slipped 5.7 percent YTD. McAllen, with 14.1 percent of all arrivals, was down 2.0 percent YTD. Laredo, with 2.7 percent of all arrivals, decreased 39.9 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 3.3 percent of all arrivals, rose 13.5 percent YTD.

Passenger Arrivals % Change YTD 00-01



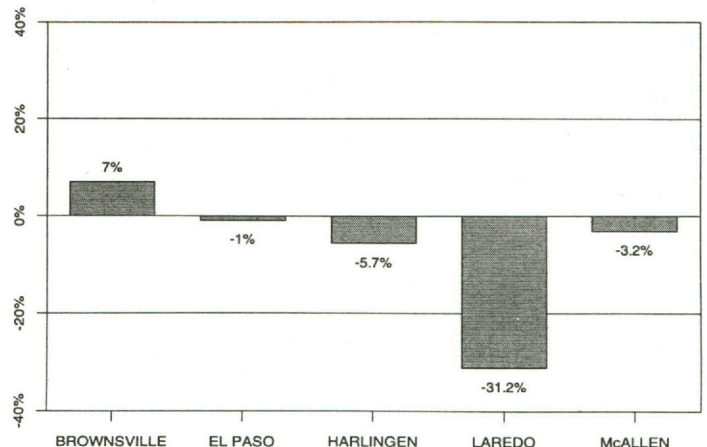
Passenger Departures

CITY	JAN 01	FEB 01	MAR 01	MAR 00	YTD 00	YTD 01	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	5,816	6,215	8,447	6,788	11,244	12,031	7.0
EL PASO	121,997	112,848	142,699	145,651	237,221	234,845	-1.0
HARLINGEN	35,678	37,727	45,435	46,331	77,860	73,405	-5.7
LAREDO	6,118	5,377	6,212	10,966	16,703	11,495	-31.2
McALLEN	27,287	27,833	32,824	32,280	56,919	55,120	-3.2
TOTAL	196,896	190,000	235,617	242,016	399,947	386,896	-3.3

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

March air passenger departures for reporting Texas border cities were up 24.0 percent. McAllen increased 17.9 percent, Harlingen rose 20.4 percent, Laredo went up 15.5 percent, and El Paso gained 26.5 percent. YTD air passenger departures were down 3.3 percent. El Paso, with 60.7 percent of all departing passengers, was down 1.0 percent YTD. Harlingen, with 19.0 percent of all departing passengers, exhibited a decrease of 5.7 percent YTD. McAllen, with 14.2 percent of all departing passengers, decreased 3.2 percent, YTD. Laredo, with 3.0 percent of all departing passengers, fell 31.2 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 3.1 percent of all departing passengers, increased 7.0 percent YTD.

Passenger Departures % Change YTD 00-01



Port Of Corpus Christi

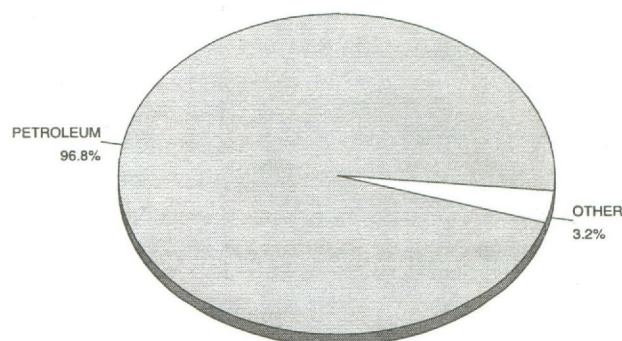
Inbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	JAN 01	FEB 01	MAR 01	MAR 00	YTD 00	YTD 01	% CHG
BREAK BULK	13,500	9,678	2,287	2,091	6,892	25,465	269.5
DRY BULK	300,389	263,004	79,295	395,256	1,109,452	642,687	-42.1
BULK GRAIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
LIQUID	30,878	24,222	36,061	2,645	10,929	91,160	734.1
PETROLEUM	3,371,824	3,899,551	3,680,403	4,301,429	11,265,475	10,951,778	-2.8
CHEMICAL	7,273	7,133	3,774	13,124	34,417	18,180	-47.2
TOTAL	3,723,863	4,203,587	3,801,820	4,714,545	12,427,164	11,729,270	-5.6

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 9.6 percent decrease in inbound cargo from last month. Petroleum, which made up 96.8 percent of all inbound traffic in March, was down 5.6 percent compared to February. Break bulk, which accounted for 0.1 percent of the port's inbound cargo for March, dropped 76.4 percent. Dry bulk, which accounted for 2.1 percent inbound cargo for March, fell 69.9 percent. Total inbound cargo tonnage was up 5.6 percent YTD.

% Share March 2001 Inbound Cargo



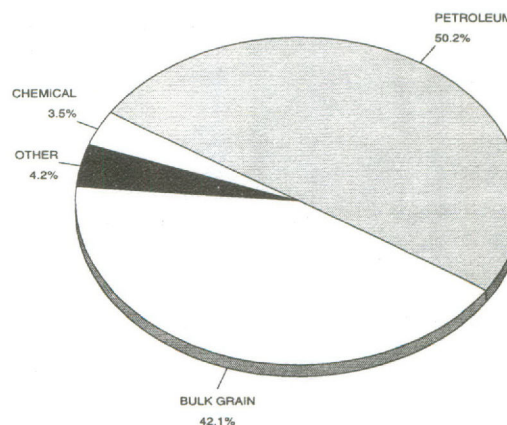
Outbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	JAN 01	FEB 01	MAR 01	MAR 00	YTD 00	YTD 01	% CHG
BREAK BULK	56	5,580	14,227	9,713	17,935	19,862	10.7
DRY BULK	257,075	168,856	142,860	251,922	645,043	568,791	-11.8
BULK GRAIN	172,199	132,929	1,743,166	170,498	279,115	2,048,293	633.9
LIQUID	1,497	5,636	16,090	0	0	23,223	N/A
PETROLEUM	2,110,520	1,760,777	2,078,725	2,207,163	6,061,607	5,950,022	-1.8
CHEMICAL	105,709	211,686	143,668	204,146	548,358	461,063	-15.9
TOTAL	2,647,056	2,285,464	4,138,735	2,843,442	7,552,058	9,071,255	20.1

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 an 81.1 percent increase in outbound cargo tonnage in March from the previous month. Petroleum, which was 50.2 percent of total outbound cargo for March, gained 18.1 percent. Petroleum, which accounted for 22.6 percent of outbound cargo for March, increased 633.9 percent. Dry bulk, which accounted for 3.5 percent of the total outbound cargo for March, dropped 15.4 percent from February. YTD total outbound cargo tonnage was up 20.1 percent.

% Share March 2001 Outbound Cargo



Port Of Brownsville

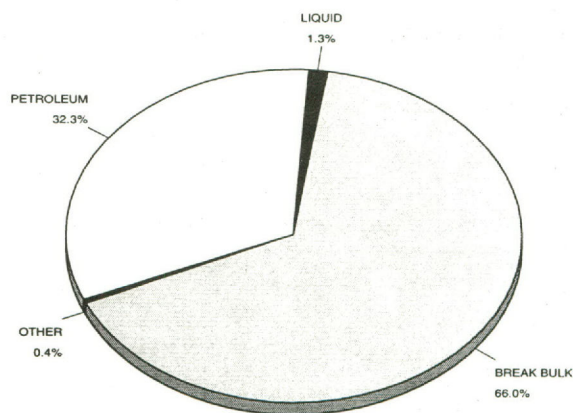
Total Port Activity (in Metric Tons)

COMMODITY	JAN 01	FEB 01	MAR 01	MAR 00	YTD 00	YTD 01	% CHG
BREAK BULK	252,344	249,633	179,884	176,890	583,110	681,861	16.9
LIQUID	4,086	14,331	3,635	4,465	23,216	22,052	-5.0
PETROLEUM	84,973	105,213	87,866	87,866	272,665	278,052	2.0
GRAIN	4,418	25,988	798	799	32,787	31,204	-4.8
CONTAINERS	0	90	245	245	540	335	-38.0
MACHINERY	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
TOTAL	345,821	395,255	272,428	270,265	912,318	1,013,504	11.1

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

The Port of Brownsville had a decrease of 31.1 percent in total cargo tonnage over the previous month. Break Bulk, which accounted for 66.0 percent of the total cargo tonnage for March slipped 27.9 percent from February's figures. Petroleum, which made up 32.3 percent of the total cargo for March declined 16.5 percent. YTD figures showed a 16.9 percent increase in Break Bulk tonnage -67.3 percent of total tonnage. Grain -3.1 percent of total tonnage- had a YTD decrease of 4.8 percent. Petroleum -27.4 percent of total tonnage- rose 2.0 percent. YTD total tonnage was up 11.1 percent.

% Share March 2001 Total Cargo



Web Information

The Texas Geographic Information Council is the geographic data planning and coordination body serving state and regional government agencies in the State of Texas. TGIC addresses issues concerning geographic data development, exchange, standards, and policies, as well as geographic information systems (GIS) implementation.

<http://www.tgic.state.tx.us/>

Texas Natural Resources Information System (TNRIS), a division of the Texas Water Development Board, is the state's clearing-house for natural resources data. TNRIS serves as a distribution center for U.S. Geological Survey maps and has numerous other map collections available for in-house use or reproduction. Digital data available through TNRIS pertain to water resources, geology, Census, and other natural resources spatial data.

<http://www.tnr.is.state.tx.us/>

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