

Z
L2508
B64401
21:18



Border Business Indicators

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

Government Publications Vol. 21, No. 12
Texas State Documents December 1997

IN THIS ISSUE...

Note from the Editor 1

Border Crossings

Pedestrians 3

Vehicles 4

Trucks 5

Rail 6

Visas 9

Border Crossing Revenues

U.S. Customs District of Laredo 7

U.S. Border Bridge Revenues 8

Border Cities: Infrastructure Statistics

Hotels 9

Telephones 10

Power Connections 11

Building Permits 12

Employment Figures 13

Airport Activities: Selected Border Cities

Passenger 14

Sea Ports

Corpus Christi 15

APR 15 1998

Depository
Dallas Public Library

Note from the Director

Indicators of border business activity for the month of October were up. Twenty monthly indicators were up while three indicators were down when compared to September. In addition, for the year-to-date (YTD) figures, seventeen indicators were up and six were down. Selected YTD comparisons to 1996 reported by border cities include the following:

- Southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico were up 28.7 percent. El Paso was up 70.3 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo rose 14.6 percent, Laredo increased 11.9 percent and Brownsville was up 2.7 percent.
- Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were down 1.1 percent. McAllen-Hidalgo fell 11.7 percent, Brownsville was down 6.4 percent, and Laredo decreased 4.7 percent. However, El Paso increased 5.8 percent.
- Southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 4.8 percent. El Paso was up 6.8 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo rose 7.0 percent, Brownsville increased 6.3 percent and Laredo was up 4.7 percent.
- Northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 3.2 percent with Brownsville increasing 8.7 percent and El Paso gaining 2.9 percent. However, Laredo was down 1.7 percent and McAllen-Hidalgo fell 1.4 percent YTD.
- Southbound truck shipments into Mexico were up 18.7 percent. Laredo increased 26.4 percent and Brownsville rose 15.7 percent while McAllen-Hidalgo decreased 15.9 percent.
- Northbound truck shipments into Texas were up 5.1 percent with Eagle Pass increasing 16.5 percent, Brownsville gained 3.6 percent and Laredo posted a 1.7 percent increase YTD.
- Southbound shipments by rail were up 17.1 percent.
- Northbound shipments by rail were unchanged.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Customs were up 7.9 percent YTD. Revenues collected by U.S. Bridge operators were up 8.2 percent.
- Building permits issued were down 14.3 percent. Brownsville decreased by 6.4 percent, McAllen fell 9.7 percent and Laredo was down 8.8 percent.
- Building permit values were up with a YTD increase of 11.5 percent. Brownsville increased 96.6 percent, McAllen was up 6.5 percent, Laredo gained 28.3 percent and Harlingen reported a 3.2 percent increase.
- Total employment was up with 19,576 jobs gained YTD. The average unemployment rate in October 1997 was 10.7 percent, matching that of October 1996.

The current and back issues of the Border Business Indicators can be found at the home page of the Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development at <http://www.tamui.edu/coba/txcntr/>.

IIT Technical Reports Available

- IIT Technical Report No. 1: NAFTA Rules of Origin: An Explanation (March 1994)
IIT Technical Report No. 2: The Impact of NAFTA on U.S.-Mexico Commercial and Border Zones and the Potential Consequences to the Border (February 1994)
IIT Technical Report No. 3: Labor Mobility Under NAFTA: It's Impact on the Border (February 1994)
IIT Technical Report No. 4: The Impact of NAFTA on Border Maquiladora and Industrial Activity (April 1994)
IIT Technical Report No. 5: The Impact of NAFTA on U.S.-Mexico Agriculture (April 1994)
IIT Technical Report No. 6: U.S.-Mexico Trade Patterns Under NAFTA (March 1994)
IIT Technical Report No. 7: Overweights to Pay the Price (March 1994)
IIT Technical Report No. 8: Standards as Non-Tariff Barriers: NAFTA's Impact (February 1994)
IIT Technical Report No. 9: NAFTA Certificate of Origin (May 1994)
IIT Technical Report No. 10: The Texas Border with Mexico: Opportunities and Challenges (October 1994)
IIT Technical Report No. 12: NAFTA One Year After Implementation: A Preliminary Assessment of Selected Impacts (March 1995)

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

Subscribe to the *NAFTA Digest*

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

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

NAFTA Digest

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

Texas A&M International University

5201 University Boulevard

Laredo, TX 78041-1900

Name _____
Title _____
Affiliation/Co. _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Country _____
Telephone () _____

Disclaimer:

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

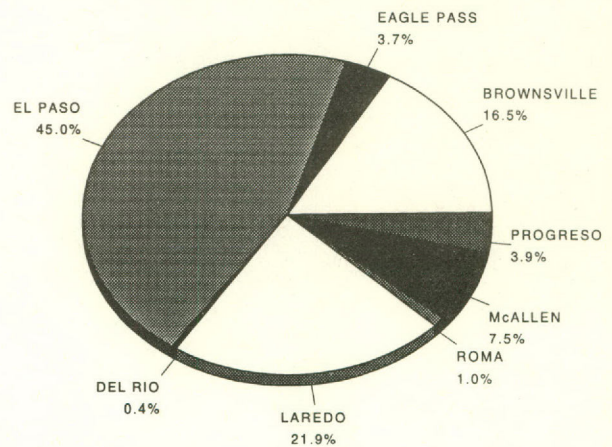
Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	AUG 97	SEP 97	OCT 97	OCT 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	277,669	276,693	232,469	234,295	2,603,578	2,672,958	2.7
DEL RIO	5,420	4,268	4,943	4,535	48,898	51,333	5.0
EAGLE PASS	42,493	44,575	52,270	37,882	361,166	414,222	14.7
EL PASO	693,455	606,130	632,987	396,583	3,767,918	6,415,620	70.3
HARLINGEN	100	65	92	97	1,004	878	-12.5
LAREDO	337,846	291,991	307,966	292,838	2,845,391	3,183,958	11.9
McALLEN-HIDALGO	105,892	88,671	104,823	89,793	926,816	1,062,176	14.6
PROGRESO	62,230	45,513	54,485	54,764	844,893	927,625	9.8
RIO GRANDE	598	419	517	850	8,634	7,847	-9.1
ROMA	13,395	12,942	14,626	13,910	146,091	138,813	-5.0
TOTAL	1,539,098	1,371,267	1,405,178	1,125,547	11,554,389	14,875,430	28.7

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

Southbound pedestrian bridge crossings into Mexico for October were up 2.5 percent compared to September. Harlingen increased 41.5 percent, Rio Grande rose 23.4 percent, Progreso was up 19.7 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo increased 18.2 percent, Eagle Pass rose 17.3 percent and Del Rio was up 15.8 percent. Roma increased 13.0 percent, Laredo registered a 5.5 percent increase and El Paso was up 4.4 percent. However, Brownsville fell 16.0 percent. YTD, total southbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 28.7 percent. El Paso southbound pedestrian crossings, which make up 45.0 percent of all crossings in October, were up 70.3 percent. Laredo, accounting for 21.9 percent of all crossings, was up 11.9 percent and Brownsville was up 2.7 percent with 16.5 percent of all crossings YTD.

% Share Pedestrians for October 1997



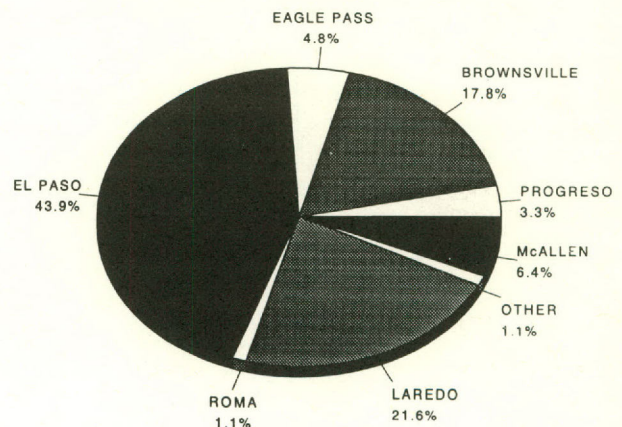
Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	AUG 97	SEP 97	OCT 97	OCT 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	252,837	238,574	214,290	221,257	2,534,479	2,372,050	-6.4
DEL RIO	11,168	8,829	8,491	9,313	87,972	104,765	19.1
EAGLE PASS	60,190	48,426	57,574	46,260	478,695	561,693	17.3
EL PASO	572,483	510,102	529,169	503,696	4,787,316	5,064,337	5.8
LAREDO	279,330	263,346	260,258	263,726	2,718,609	2,589,582	-4.7
McALLEN-HIDALGO	79,411	71,249	77,732	95,523	995,279	879,045	-11.7
PRESIDIO	2,828	3,280	3,644	4,134	25,300	30,691	21.3
PROGRESO	44,606	34,552	39,694	48,008	627,375	536,213	-14.5
RIO GRANDE	1,263	1,009	1,100	1,200	11,826	12,321	4.2
ROMA	13,511	12,430	13,254	10,879	148,543	126,217	-15.0
TOTAL	1,317,627	1,191,797	1,205,206	1,203,996	12,415,394	12,276,914	-1.1

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 1.1 percent in October. Eagle Pass increased 18.9 percent, Progreso rose 14.9 percent, Presidio was up 11.1 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo increased 9.1 percent, Rio Grande rose 9.0 percent, Roma was up 6.6 percent and El Paso marked a 3.7 percent increase. However, Brownsville decreased 10.2 percent, Del Rio dipped 3.8 percent and Laredo slid 1.2 percent. YTD total northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were down 1.1 percent. El Paso, accounting for 43.9 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings in October, was up 5.8 percent YTD. Laredo, with 21.6 percent of all northbound crossings, was down 4.7 percent and Brownsville, with 17.8 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings, had a 6.4 percent decrease in crossings YTD.

% Share Pedestrians for October 1997



Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	AUG 97	SEP 97	OCT 97	OCT 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	537,640	569,312	486,512	524,428	4,844,921	5,151,902	6.3
DEL RIO	150,899	136,334	139,539	147,045	1,481,494	1,420,913	-4.1
EAGLE PASS	214,730	197,132	213,760	212,267	2,145,957	2,119,680	-1.2
EL PASO	445,520	408,306	454,106	469,442	4,123,927	4,403,033	6.8
HARLINGEN	37,214	31,692	31,799	30,010	312,568	335,801	7.4
LAREDO	703,000	661,667	695,379	672,289	6,315,601	6,615,322	4.7
McALLEN-HIDALGO	457,216	413,018	418,297	424,696	3,979,418	4,257,696	7.0
PHARR	105,063	101,647	119,133	86,525	838,654	1,004,979	19.8
PROGRESO	80,475	69,072	70,850	76,478	858,959	821,286	-4.4
RIO GRANDE	46,449	41,159	44,041	42,974	444,782	455,673	2.4
ROMA	70,936	62,761	69,148	67,846	687,133	691,351	0.6
TOTAL	2,849,142	2,692,100	2,742,564	2,754,000	26,033,414	27,277,636	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

Southbound vehicle bridge crossings into Mexico increased 1.9 percent in October from September's figures. Pharr increased 17.2 percent, El Paso was up 11.2 percent, Roma rose 10.3 percent, Eagle Pass increased 8.4 percent, Rio Grande was up 7.0 percent, Laredo rose 5.1 percent, Progreso marked a 2.6 percent increase, Del Rio was up 2.4 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo rose 1.3 percent and Harlingen rose slightly at 0.3 percent. However, Brownsville fell 14.5 percent. YTD total southbound vehicle bridge crossings were

up 4.8 percent. Laredo, with 25.4 percent of all southbound traffic in October, was up 4.7 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 17.7 percent of all southbound vehicle bridge crossings, had a 6.3 percent increase YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 15.3 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, experienced a 7.0 percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 16.6 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings had a 6.8 percent increase YTD.

Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	AUG 97	SEP 97	OCT 97	OCT 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	543,762	510,467	506,407	418,593	4,713,492	5,122,992	8.7
DEL RIO	156,908	141,525	133,240	133,895	1,301,594	1,410,045	8.3
EAGLE PASS	224,796	207,607	217,752	188,882	1,957,080	2,116,067	8.1
EL PASO	725,483	672,813	735,839	658,889	6,553,810	6,744,970	2.9
HARLINGEN	49,627	42,599	41,085	35,118	389,675	421,554	8.2
LAREDO	611,609	598,360	612,843	602,425	5,981,096	5,877,273	-1.7
McALLEN-HIDALGO	416,994	392,560	386,473	404,149	4,015,129	3,959,804	-1.4
PRESIDIO	52,530	48,282	49,133	46,897	498,492	504,690	1.2
PROGRESO	79,571	67,343	66,218	75,253	760,262	822,407	8.2
RIO GRANDE	50,225	46,183	48,600	46,498	448,232	501,538	11.9
ROMA	72,565	70,594	70,125	81,994	725,144	748,796	3.3
TOTAL	2,984,070	2,798,333	2,867,715	2,692,593	27,344,006	28,230,136	3.2

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

Northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas for October were up 2.5 percent since September. El Paso was up 9.4 percent, Rio Grande rose 5.2 percent, Eagle Pass increased 4.9 percent, Laredo was up 2.4 percent, and Presidio marked a 1.8 percent increase. However, Del Rio registered a 5.9 percent decrease, Harlingen fell 3.6 percent, Progreso slid 1.7 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo reported

a 1.6 percent decrease, Brownsville decreased 0.8 percent and Roma fell 0.7 percent. YTD northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 3.2 percent. El Paso, with 25.7 percent of all crossings in October was up 2.9 percent YTD. Laredo, with 21.4 percent of all crossings, was down 1.7 percent and Brownsville with 17.7 percent of all crossings, was up 8.7 percent YTD.

Export Shipments by Trucks into Mexico —Number of Trucks

CITY	AUG 97	SEP 97	OCT 97	OCT 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE+	20,123	21,293	22,114	17,470	165,655	191,658	15.7
DEL RIO+	3,773	3,913	4,501	3,615	30,552	35,653	16.7
EAGLE PASS++	2,977	3,499	4,034	3,284	32,920	37,023	12.5
EL PASO+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	N/A
HARLINGEN+	5,014	4,230	3,993	3,961	36,635	33,296	-9.1
LAREDO++	55,832	57,056	65,566	48,853	422,356	533,859	26.4
McALLEN-HIDALGO+	9,229	9,371	5,289	9,399	107,764	90,576	-15.9
PHARR+	8,218	7,983	13,580	6,236	45,295	87,607	93.4
PROGRESO+	1,043	1,010	1,049	2,173	18,323	10,902	-40.5
RIO GRANDE+	1,516	1,820	2,405	1,936	14,580	17,908	22.8
ROMA+	649	658	777	722	7,423	7,460	0.5
TOTAL	108,374	110,833	123,308	97,649	881,503	1,045,942	18.7

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 11.3 percent in October. Pharr increased 70.1 percent, Rio Grande rose 32.1 percent, Roma was up 18.1 percent, Eagle Pass gained 15.3 percent, Del Rio registered a 15.0 percent increase, Laredo rose 14.9 and Brownsville and Progreso increased 3.9 percent. However, McAllen fell 43.6 percent. Harlingen posted a 5.6 percent decrease. YTD, total southbound truck traffic had an increase of 18.7 percent.

Laredo, with 53.2 percent of all southbound shipments in October, experienced a 26.4 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with 17.9 percent of all southbound shipments, had a 15.7 percent increase YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo with 4.3 percent of all truck traffic, registered a decrease of 15.9 percent and Pharr, with 11.0 percent of all truck crossings, rose 93.4 percent.

Import Shipments by Trucks into Texas —Number of Trucks

CITY	AUG 97	SEP 97	OCT 97	OCT 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	11,889	11,978	12,073	11,983	101,128	104,772	3.6
DEL RIO	2,709	2,824	3,340	2,996	25,015	27,779	11.0
EAGLE PASS	3,711	3,502	3,798	3,416	29,495	34,352	16.5
FALCON	22	10	8	2	56	81	44.6
LAREDO	40,626	57,857	58,867	58,789	471,750	479,720	1.7
McALLEN-HIDALGO	0	0	0	0	62,334	N/A	N/A
PHARR	12,149	12,050	13,552	12,523	54,963	131,597	139.4
PROGRESO	836	556	370	422	7,274	7,265	-0.1
RIO GRANDE	781	1,125	1,740	1,146	8,448	13,444	59.1
ROMA	473	408	498	422	4,541	4,874	7.3
TOTAL	73,196	90,310	94,246	91,699	765,004	803,884	5.1

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 4.4 percent from September's shipments. Rio Grande increased 54.7 percent, Roma had an increase of 22.1 percent, Del Rio rose 18.3 percent, Pharr was up 12.5 percent, Eagle Pass rose 8.5 percent, Laredo was up 1.7 percent and Brownsville had a slight increase of 0.8 percent. However, Progreso showed a 33.5 percent decrease and Falcon

dipped 20.0 percent. YTD northbound truck shipments were up 5.1 percent. Laredo, accounting for 62.5 percent of all northbound truck traffic in October had a 1.7 percent increase YTD. Pharr, with 14.4 percent of shipments, experienced a 139.4 percent increase YTD.

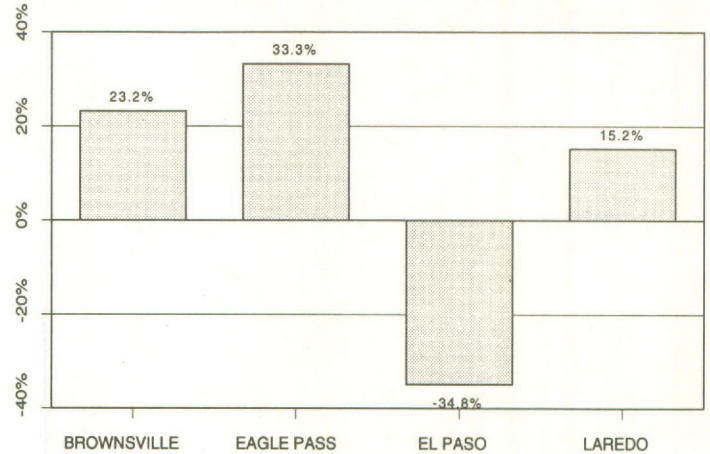
Export Shipments by Rail into Mexico —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	AUG 97	SEP 97	OCT 97	OCT 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	1,896	1,852	1,923	2,221	20,339	25,048	23.2
EAGLE PASS	4,652	5,118	4,481	3,926	31,975	42,607	33.3
EL PASO	451	324	479	675	8,380	5,464	-34.8
LAREDO	11,206	11,016	13,472	12,447	108,493	125,032	15.2
TOTAL	18,205	18,310	20,355	19,269	169,187	198,151	17.1

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 11.2 percent in October. El Paso was up 47.8 percent, Laredo rose 22.3 percent, and Brownsville had a slight increase of 3.8 percent. However, Eagle Pass was down 12.4 percent. YTD, total southbound rail shipments into Mexico from Texas were up 17.1 percent. Laredo, which accounts for 66.2 percent of all southbound rail shipments in October was up 15.2 percent. Eagle Pass, accounting for 22.0 percent of all southbound rail shipments, increased 33.3 percent. Brownsville, with 9.4 percent of all southbound rail shipments in October, rose 23.2 percent YTD.

Export Rail YTD % Change 96-97



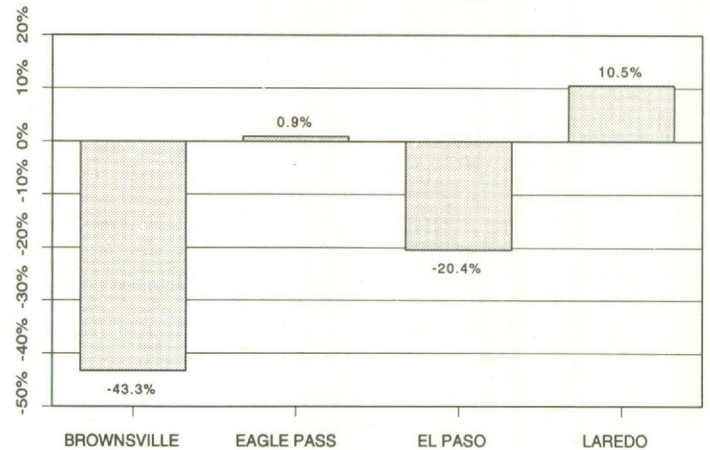
Import Shipments by Rail into Texas —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	AUG 97	SEP 97	OCT 97	OCT 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	1,121	923	931	1,282	17,034	9,660	-43.3
EAGLE PASS	3,247	3,657	3,161	3,671	33,579	33,878	0.9
EL PASO	162	165	99	157	2,065	1,644	-20.4
LAREDO	7,733	7,304	9,197	7,503	71,617	79,102	10.5
TOTAL	12,263	12,049	13,388	12,613	124,295	124,284	-0.0

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 11.1 percent in October. Laredo registered a 25.9 percent increase and Brownsville rose 0.9 percent. However, El Paso declined 40.0 percent and Eagle pass posted a decrease of 13.6 percent. YTD, total northbound rail shipments into Texas from Mexico were down 0.0 percent. Laredo, which accounts for 68.7 percent of all northbound rail shipments in October was up 10.5 percent. Eagle Pass, accounting for 23.6 percent of all northbound rail shipments in October, increased 0.9 percent and Brownsville, with 7.0 percent of all northbound rail shipments, decreased 43.3 percent YTD.

Import Rail YTD % Change 96-97



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

CITY	DUTY OCT 97	MPF OCT 97	OTHER REVENUE OCT 97	TOTAL REVENUE OCT 97	TOTAL REVENUE OCT 96	YTD REVENUE OCT 96	YTD REVENUE OCT 97	YTD % CHG
BROWNSVILLE	2,454,515	649,044	397,108	3,500,667	3,182,782	28,201,614	29,642,364	5.1
DEL RIO	319,017	131,061	15,357	465,435	448,486	3,677,441	4,092,924	11.3
EAGLE PASS	1,263,262	219,281	373,583	1,856,126	1,829,725	23,144,102	27,630,645	19.4
LAREDO	20,165,565	3,008,550	5,094,051	28,268,166	24,839,316	208,564,557	231,801,011	11.1
McALLEN-HIDALGO	3,634,381	556,878	337,017	4,528,276	3,763,117	51,508,080	47,443,233	-7.9
PROGRESO	12,302	9,111	14,609	36,022	61,778	1,938,629	1,444,947	-25.5
RIO GRANDE	59,804	19,851	7,409	87,064	75,967	935,872	1,102,557	17.8
ROMA	26,711	7,873	14,383	48,967	47,567	447,700	499,902	11.7
TOTAL	27,935,557	4,601,649	6,253,517	38,790,723	34,248,738	318,417,995	343,657,583	7.9

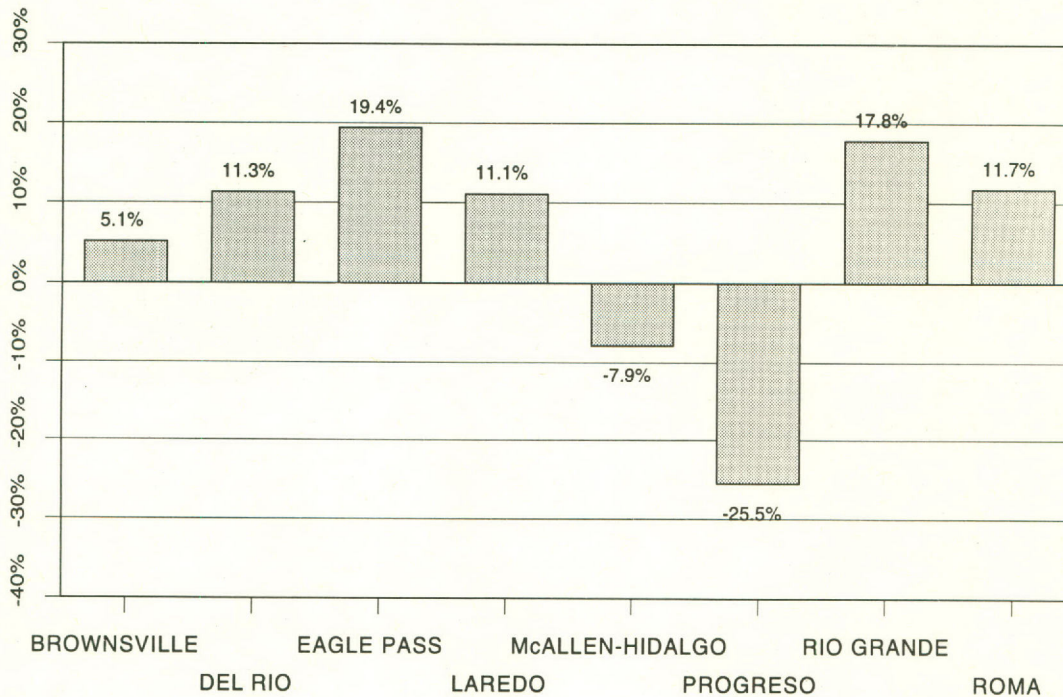
Source: Data provided by U.S. Customs Service, Port of Entry in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

*MPF = Merchandise Processing Fee

Total U.S. Customs revenues for the former District of Laredo increased 4.6 percent from September's figures. Rio Grande increased 26.6 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo rose 25.1 percent, Del Rio gained 22.8 percent and Laredo was up 18.1 percent. However, Eagle Pass fell 62.7 percent, Roma declined 41.8 percent, Brownsville fell 11.9 percent and Progreso registered a 8.7 percent decrease. YTD revenue figures were up 7.9 percent compared to

October 1996. Laredo, accounting for 67.5 percent of total District revenues, was up 11.1 percent YTD and McAllen-Hidalgo with 13.8 percent of total revenues, was down 7.9 percent YTD. Brownsville with 8.6 percent of all revenues in October increased 5.1 percent YTD and Eagle Pass, with 8.0 percent of total revenues in October increased 19.4 percent.

% Change Total Revenues YTD 96-97



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

CITY	AUG 97	SEP 97	OCT 97	OCT 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	560,658	504,145	499,725	480,516	4,898,928	5,142,804	5.0
DEL RIO	189,734	176,905	184,089	167,460	1,651,878	1,770,845	7.2
EAGLE PASS	397,483	380,418	417,176	363,759	3,638,654	3,873,698	6.5
EL PASO	913,305	881,801	967,835	981,519	8,596,777	9,068,887	5.5
HARLINGEN	87,193	78,887	77,985	68,722	682,457	668,685	-2.0
LAREDO	1,812,860	1,702,257	1,849,574	1,732,967	15,566,580	17,013,176	9.3
McALLEN-HIDALGO	577,271	502,096	613,109	531,883	5,251,674	5,482,623	4.4
PHARR	194,601	180,842	251,653	154,789	1,251,294	1,915,906	53.1
TOTAL	4,733,105	4,407,351	4,861,146	4,481,615	41,538,242	44,936,624	8.2

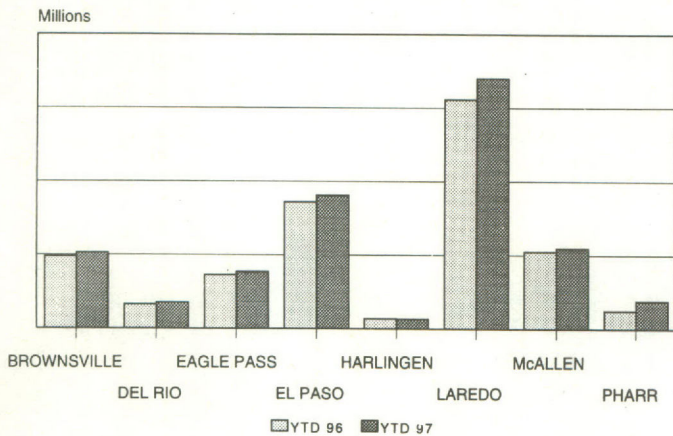
Source: Data provided by U.S. bridge operators in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

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

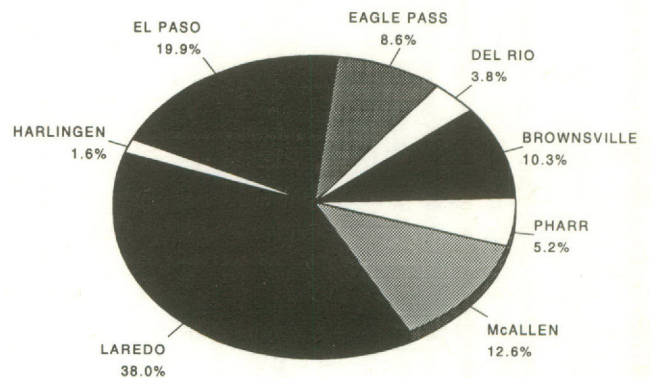
U.S. bridge operators' revenues increased 10.3 percent in the month of October. Pharr showed a mark up of 39.2 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo increased 22.1 percent, El Paso was up 9.8 percent, Eagle Pass rose 9.7 percent, Laredo was up 8.7 percent and Del Rio increased 4.1 percent. However, Brownsville decreased 0.9 percent and Harlingen fell 1.1 percent. YTD, U.S. bridge operators' revenues were up 8.2 percent. Laredo, accounting for 38.0 percent of total U.S. bridge operator's revenues collected in

October, had a 9.3 percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 19.9 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues, increased 5.5 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 12.6 percent of the total bridge revenues, was up 4.4 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 10.3 percent of total U.S. bridge operator's revenues in October, was up 5.0 percent. Harlingen with a 1.6 percent decline of total U.S. bridge revenues in October was down 2.0 percent YTD.

Total Revenues Collected YTD 96-97



% Share Revenues October 1997



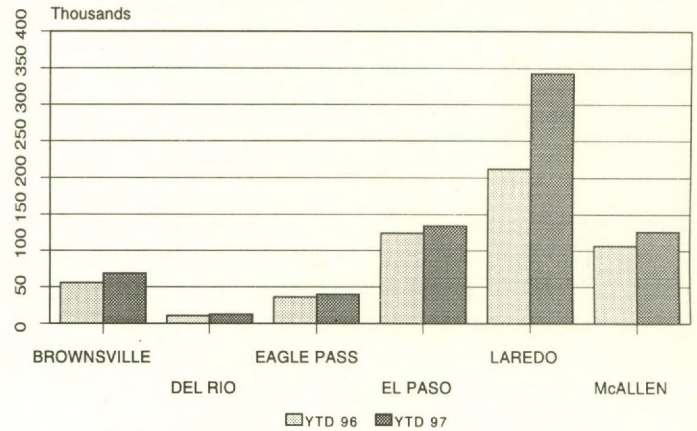
Visas to Tourists from Texas to Mexico

CITY	AUG 97	SEP 97	OCT 97	OCT 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	%CHG
BROWNSVILLE	8,170	4,644	4,813	4,757	56,267	68,898	22.4
DEL RIO	1,349	955	1,289	1,001	11,152	12,705	13.9
EAGLE PASS	3,992	2,737	4,000	4,377	36,374	40,161	10.4
EL PASO	16,142	9,034	10,410	11,026	123,970	134,121	8.2
LAREDO	114,456	19,104	21,904	17,599	212,214	342,578	61.4
McALLEN	12,920	8,729	11,228	9,533	106,936	126,587	18.4
TOTAL	157,029	45,203	53,644	48,293	546,913	725,050	32.6

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

Tourist Visas YTD October 96-97

The number of tourist visas issued in October were up 18.7 percent. Eagle Pass increased 46.1 percent. Del Rio rose 35.0 percent, McAllen was up 28.6 percent, El Paso showed a 15.2 percent increase, Laredo was up 14.7 percent and Brownsville increased slightly at 3.6 percent. YTD, the number of tourist visas issued were up 32.6 percent. Laredo, with 40.8 percent of total visas issued in October was up 61.4 percent. El Paso, with 19.4 percent of total visas issued, had a 8.2 percent increase YTD. McAllen, with 20.9 percent of all visas issued, rose 18.4 percent YTD and Brownsville with 9.0 percent of total visas issued, increased 22.4 percent YTD.



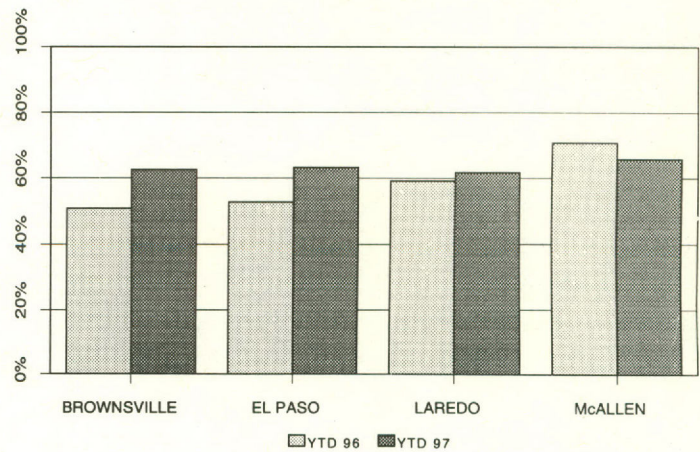
Hotel Occupancy Percentage Rate — Texas Border

CITY	AUG 97	SEP 97	OCT 97	OCT 96	% CHG 96-97
BROWNSVILLE	75.1	68.4	62.6	50.8	23.2
EL PASO	55.8	58.6	63.3	52.8	19.9
LAREDO	66.4	61.8	61.8	59.2	4.4
McALLEN	75.6	63.6	65.8	70.8	-7.0
AVERAGE	68.2	63.1	63.4	58.4	8.5

Source: Data (preliminary figures subject to revision) provided by selected hotels in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

The average hotel occupancy rate of reporting Texas border hotels for October was up 0.5 percent. Brownsville had a 62.6 percent rate, McAllen's rate was 65.8 percent, Laredo had a 61.8 percent rate and El Paso's had a rate of 63.3 percent for the month of October.

Hotel Occupancy Percentage October 96-97



Telephones in Service — Texas Border

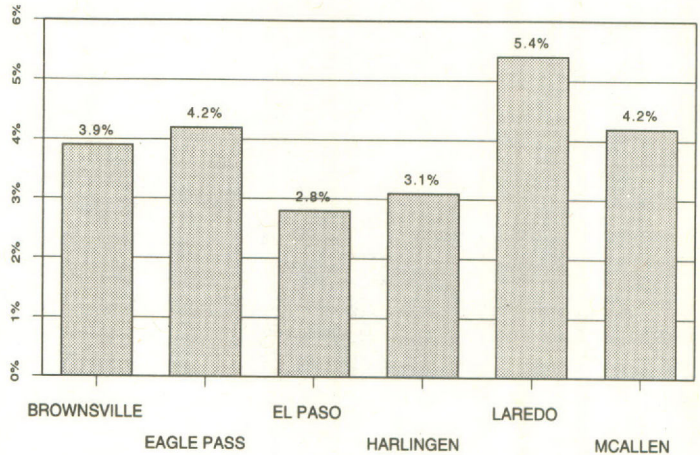
Residential Telephones

CITY	AUG 97	SEP 97	OCT 97	OCT 96
BROWNSVILLE	41,739	41,722	41,889	40,300
EAGLE PASS	10,886	10,884	11,015	10,575
EL PASO	207,817	207,987	208,582	202,804
HARLINGEN	25,443	25,434	25,612	24,831
LAREDO	46,809	46,791	46,987	44,560
MCALLEN	34,549	34,637	34,851	33,453
TOTAL	367,243	367,455	368,936	356,523

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

In October, the number of residential telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.40 percent since September. YTD, the number of residential telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased by 3.5 percent. Eagle Pass experienced the largest increase with 1.2 percent for the month. Harlingen gained 0.70 percent, McAllen rose 0.62 percent, Laredo marked a 0.42 percent increase and Brownsville was up 0.40 percent.

Residential Phones % Change October 96-97



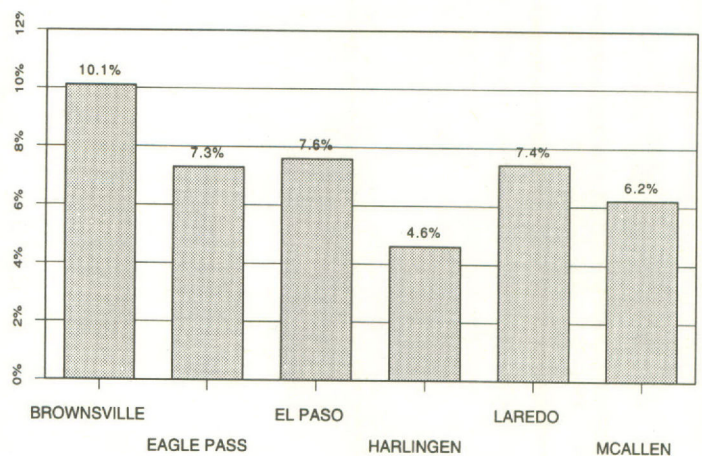
Business Telephones

CITY	AUG 97	SEP 97	OCT 97	OCT 96
BROWNSVILLE	19,705	20,679	20,414	18,893
EAGLE PASS	3,688	3,696	3,764	3,496
EL PASO	93,142	93,537	94,448	87,824
HARLINGEN	13,560	13,611	13,712	13,109
LAREDO	27,932	28,155	28,576	26,308
MCALLEN	24,499	24,507	24,729	23,331
TOTAL	182,526	184,185	185,643	172,961

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

In October the number of business telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.79 percent. YTD, the number of phones in service for reporting Texas border cities rose by 7.3 percent. Eagle Pass had the largest increase with 1.84 percent, Laredo expanded 1.50 percent and El Paso gained 0.97 percent. McAllen marked a 0.91 percent increase and it was followed by Harlingen at 0.74 percent of business phones in service during the month of October. Brownsville was the only city that declined with 1.28 percent of all business telephones in service.

Business Phones % Change October 96-97



Power Connections – Texas Border

Residential Connections

CITY	AUG 97	SEP 97	OCT 97	OCT 96
BROWNSVILLE	28,479	28,669	28,804	27,754
DEL RIO	13,442	13,470	13,491	13,209
EAGLE PASS	8,953	8,977	9,024	8,715
EL PASO	253,101	253,438	253,769	249,274
HARLINGEN	19,965	19,983	20,027	19,725
LAREDO	44,789	44,896	44,967	43,320
McALLEN	29,513	29,578	29,642	29,068
TOTAL	398,242	399,011	399,724	391,065

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

October residential power connections for all reporting Texas border cities increased from September's figures by 0.18 percent. YTD, residential power connections for all reporting border cities were up 2.2 percent. Laredo and Brownsville experienced the largest increase by 3.8 percent, followed by Eagle Pass up 3.5 percent and Del Rio with 2.1 percent. McAllen had a 2.0 percent increase followed by El Paso with a 1.8 percent and Harlingen with an increase of 1.5 percent YTD.

October commercial power connections for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.25 percent from September's figures. Del Rio increased 0.79 percent, McAllen was up 0.44 percent, Laredo rose 0.33 percent, Harlingen gained 0.28 percent, El Paso was up 0.21 percent and Brownsville increased 0.05 percent. However, Eagle Pass declined 0.31 percent. YTD, commercial power connections for reporting border cities increased by 5.4 percent over October 1996. Brownsville increased 49.4 percent YTD, McAllen increased 4.7 percent, Del Rio was up 3.6 percent, Harlingen grew 3.0 percent, El Paso and Laredo were up with 2.5 percent and Eagle Pass gained 1.5 percent YTD.

Commercial Connections

CITY	AUG 97	SEP 97	OCT 97	OCT 96
BROWNSVILLE	3,743	3,758	3,760	2,516
DEL RIO	1,888	1,895	1,910	1,843
EAGLE PASS	1,278	1,278	1,274	1,255
EL PASO	25,748	25,830	25,883	25,263
HARLINGEN	3,216	3,214	3,223	3,130
LAREDO	6,645	6,657	6,679	6,513
McALLEN	5,230	5,232	5,255	5,021
TOTAL	47,748	47,864	47,984	45,541

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

Industrial Connections

CITY	AUG 97	SEP 97	OCT 97	OCT 96
BROWNSVILLE	471	478	472	1,652
DEL RIO	31	31	30	30
EAGLE PASS	25	24	23	26
EL PASO	111	117	116	99
HARLINGEN	83	83	83	83
LAREDO	127	126	127	133
McALLEN	50	51	51	52
TOTAL	898	910	902	2,075

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

Industrial power connections for reporting Texas border cities declined 0.88 percent from September's figures. El Paso was down 4.17 percent, Del Rio fell 3.23 percent, Brownsville decreased 1.26 percent and El Paso declined 0.85 percent. Harlingen and McAllen reported no change for the month. YTD, Brownsville had the largest decrease with 71.4 percent, Eagle Pass fell 11.5 percent, Laredo declined 4.5 percent and McAllen slid at 1.9 percent. However, El Paso rose 17.2 percent. Harlingen and Del Rio remained the same.

Building Permits —Texas Border

Number of Permits

NUMBER	AUG 97	SEP 97	OCT 97	OCT 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	272	293	282	216	2,470	2,312	-6.4
DEL RIO	103	82	88	50	1,014	971	-4.2
EAGLE PASS	27	35	27	20	302	289	-4.3
EL PASO	930	909	1,011	981	10,164	8,210	-19.2
HARLINGEN	53	58	61	64	710	555	-21.8
LAREDO	328	314	296	272	3,127	2,851	-8.8
MCALLEN	113	141	132	138	1,297	1,171	-9.7
TOTAL	1,826	1,832	1,897	1,741	19,084	16,359	-14.3

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

October building permits issued by reporting Texas border cities were up 3.5 percent from September. El Paso increased 11.2 percent, Del Rio was up 7.3 percent and Harlingen grew 5.2 percent. However, Eagle Pass had the biggest decline with 22.9 percent, Mcallen followed with 6.4 percent, Laredo fell 5.7 percent and Brownsville fell 3.8 percent. YTD, the number of permits

issued were down 14.3 percent. El Paso, accounting for 53.3 percent of all building permits issued in October, had a 19.2 percent decrease YTD. Laredo, with 15.6 percent of building permits issued, was down 8.8 percent YTD. Brownsville was down 6.4 percent and McAllen decreased 9.7 percent.

U.S. Dollar Value of Permits

VALUE	AUG 97	SEP 97	OCT 97	OCT 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	23,191,701	30,291,300	7,580,666	4,957,899	82,775,638	162,726,844	96.6
DEL RIO	1,597,907	1,471,091	1,354,833	5,019,578	27,184,112	16,900,543	-37.8
EAGLE PASS	512,195	547,787	565,242	307,505	7,827,643	7,762,942	-0.8
EL PASO	28,916,634	32,074,251	26,196,430	56,730,850	381,249,297	360,453,976	-5.5
HARLINGEN	4,473,331	2,250,607	2,148,904	6,654,354	48,051,904	49,601,565	3.2
LAREDO	13,141,515	10,799,604	16,392,256	8,639,793	107,995,498	138,573,841	28.3
MCALLEN	7,768,399	12,773,786	8,288,860	22,832,198	110,161,107	117,296,513	6.5
TOTAL	79,601,682	90,208,426	62,527,191	105,142,177	765,245,199	853,316,224	11.5

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

October building permit values for reporting Texas border cities were down 30.7 percent from September. Brownsville decreased 75.0 percent, McAllen fell 35.1 percent, El Paso was down 18.3 percent, Del Rio decreased 7.9 percent and Harlingen fell 4.5 percent. However, Laredo gained 51.8 percent and Eagle Pass marked a 3.2 percent increase. YTD, reporting border cities expe-

rienced an 11.5 percent increase. Laredo, with 26.2 percent total value for the month of October, was up 28.3 percent YTD. Brownsville, with a 12.1 percent of total value, had an 96.6 percent YTD increase. McAllen, with 13.3 percent total value, increased 6.5 percent YTD. However, El Paso with a 41.9 percent increase, slid 5.5 percent.

Employment/Unemployment Rates — Texas Border

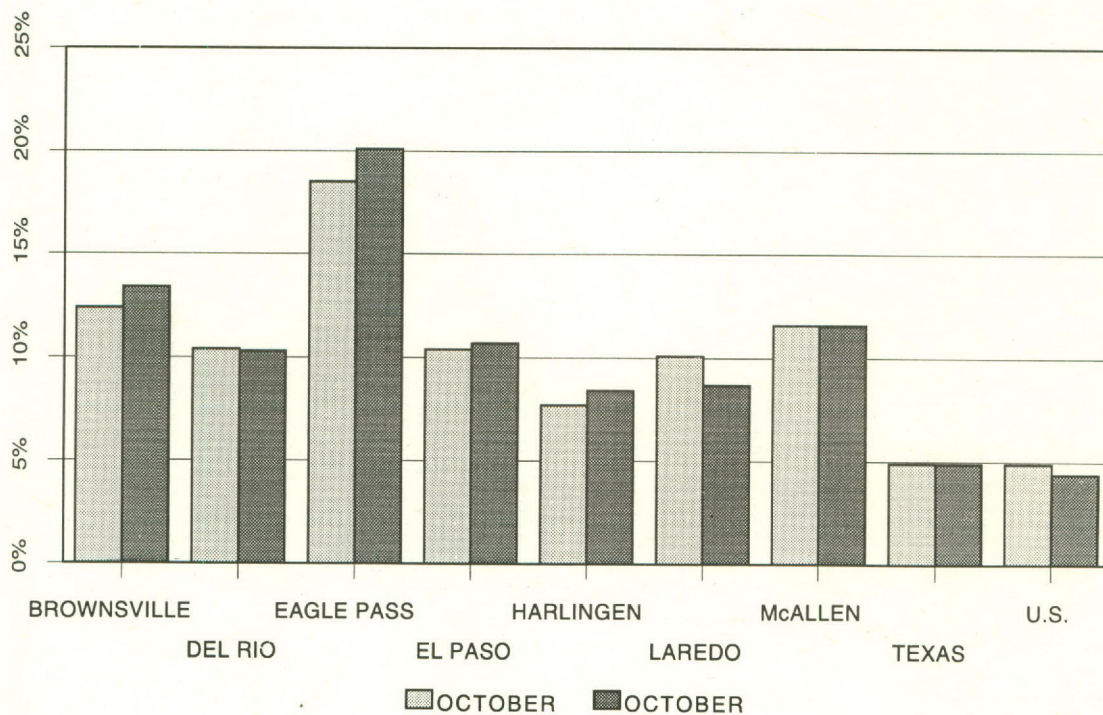
CITY	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED	PERCENT UNEMPLOYED	PERCENT UNEMPLOYED
	OCT 97	OCT 96	OCT 97	OCT 96	OCT 97	OCT 96
BROWNSVILLE	41,789	40,560	6,465	5,728	13.4	12.4
DEL RIO	13,187	14,091	1,513	1,638	10.3	10.4
EAGLE PASS	7,815	8,130	1,964	1,847	20.1	18.5
EL PASO	236,435	229,278	28,256	26,507	10.7	10.4
HARLINGEN	24,007	23,301	2,199	1,948	8.4	7.7
LAREDO	60,573	55,816	5,744	6,304	8.7	10.1
McALLEN	47,010	40,064	5,475	5,270	11.6	11.6
TOTAL	430,816	411,240	51,616	49,242	10.7	10.7
THE TEXAS UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					4.91	4.87
THE NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					4.39	4.87

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

In October, total employment in reporting Texas border cities rose 1.1 percent (4,835 jobs lost) from September's figures. Eagle Pass increased 3.8 percent (288 jobs gained), McAllen gained 2.3 percent (1,038 jobs gained), Brownsville, El Paso and Harlingen rose 1.0 percent (403, 2,280 and 231 jobs gained respectively), Laredo increased 0.9 percent (567 jobs gained) and Del Rio grew

0.2 percent (28 jobs gained). YTD, the total employment in Texas border cities was up 4.8 percent (19,576 jobs gained) from a year ago. The average unemployment rate for the border was 10.7 percent compared to 4.91 percent for Texas and 4.39 percent for the U.S. in October.

% Unemployed October 96-97



Air Passenger Service Activities —Selected Border Cities

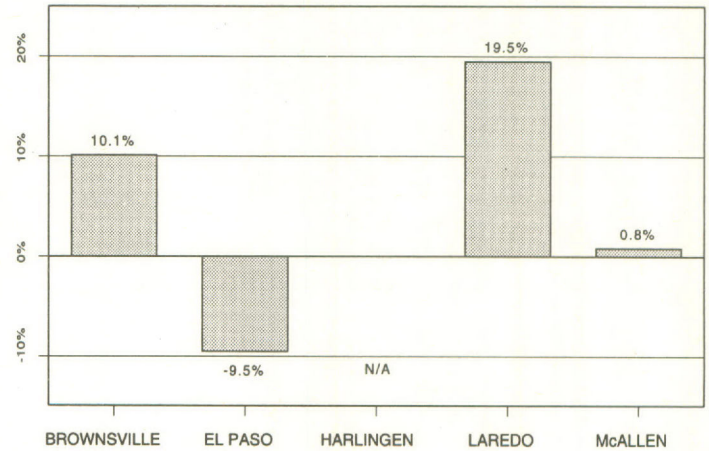
Passenger Arrivals

CITY	AUG 97	SEP 97	OCT 97	OCT 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	7,059	6,164	6,274	5,245	59,997	66,049	10.1
EL PASO	142,771	123,259	130,569	156,190	1,476,153	1,335,442	-9.5
HARLINGEN	0	0	0	35,968	384,248	186,491	N/A
LAREDO	6,348	5,642	5,954	4,800	48,142	57,507	19.5
McALLEN	24,828	20,961	22,038	23,739	249,639	251,697	0.8
TOTAL	181,006	156,026	164,835	225,942	2,218,179	1,897,186	-14.5

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

October air passenger arriving in Texas border cities were up 5.6 percent over September's figures. El Paso was up 5.9 percent, Laredo rose 5.5 percent, McAllen increased 5.1 percent and Brownsville was up 1.8 percent. YTD air passenger arrivals were down 14.5 percent. El Paso, with 79.2 percent of all passengers arriving in October, fell 9.5 percent. McAllen, with 13.4 percent of all arrivals, was up 0.8 percent. **Harlingen, no longer gives out arrival information.** Laredo increased 19.5 percent YTD and Brownsville rose 10.1 percent YTD.

Passenger Arrivals % Change YTD 96-97



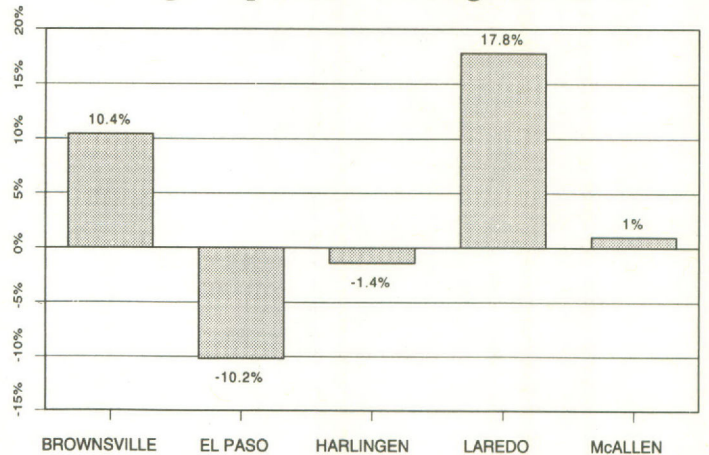
Passenger Departures

CITY	AUG 97	SEP 97	OCT 97	OCT 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	7,018	6,316	6,070	5,193	61,723	68,124	10.4
EL PASO	142,295	125,397	133,081	157,603	1,523,859	1,368,868	-10.2
HARLINGEN	39,694	34,386	35,088	36,978	396,509	390,993	-1.4
LAREDO	6,370	5,641	6,045	5,043	49,525	58,321	17.8
McALLEN	25,398	22,212	22,991	24,138	260,086	262,773	1.0
TOTAL	220,775	193,952	203,275	228,955	2,291,702	2,149,079	-6.2

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

October air passenger departures for reporting Texas border cities were up 4.8 percent from September's figures. Laredo increased 7.2 percent, El Paso rose 6.1 percent, McAllen was up 3.5 percent and Harlingen increased 2.0 percent. However, Brownsville dipped 3.9 percent. YTD, air passenger departures were down 6.2 percent from a year ago. El Paso, with 65.5 percent of all passengers departing in October, was down 10.2 percent. Harlingen, with 17.3 percent of all passengers departing, was down 1.4 percent. McAllen, with 11.3 percent of all passengers departing, increased 1.0 percent YTD. Laredo rose 17.8 percent and Brownsville was up 10.4 percent YTD.

Passenger Departures % Change YTD 96-97



Port Of Corpus Christi

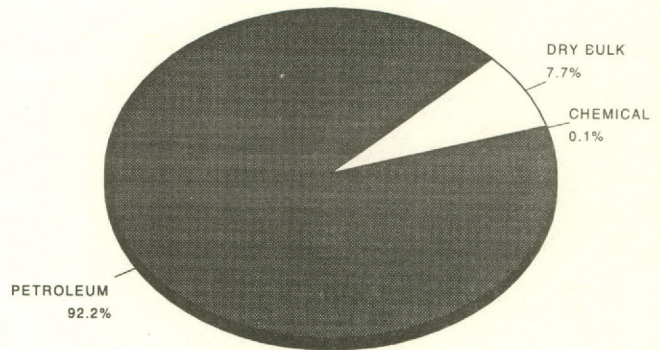
Inbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	AUG 97	SEP 97	OCT 97	OCT 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BREAK BULK	1,127	1,939	178	0	3,032	9,093	199.9
DRY BULK	333,931	420,904	348,672	289,898	3,543,823	3,556,671	0.4
BULK GRAIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
LIQUID	15,116	6,136	0	5,356	46,606	45,200	-3.0
PETROLEUM	3,360,830	4,547,080	4,203,699	4,180,983	36,814,525	37,976,607	3.2
CHEMICAL	7,956	7,556	4,108	1,281	173,295	100,975	-41.7
TOTAL	3,718,960	4,983,615	4,556,657	4,477,518	40,581,281	41,688,546	2.7

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 8.6 percent decrease in inbound cargo from last month. Petroleum, which makes up 92.3 percent of all inbound traffic in October, was down 7.6 percent compared to September. Dry bulk, which accounts for 7.7 percent of the port's inbound cargo for October, fell 17.2 percent. YTD, inbound cargo tonnage was up 2.7 percent. Dry bulk was up 0.4 percent YTD while petroleum was up 3.2 percent YTD.

% Share October 1997 Inbound Cargo



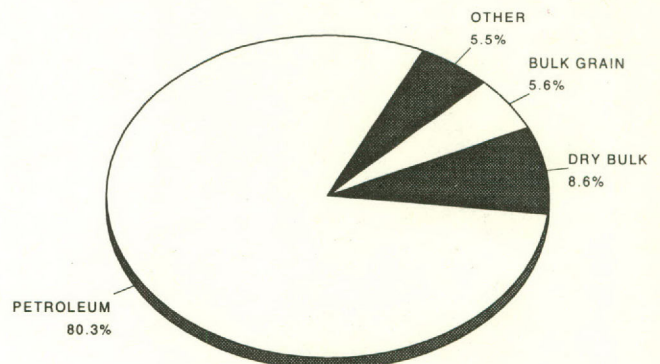
Outbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	AUG 97	SEP 97	OCT 97	OCT 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BREAK BULK	501	407	6,965	11,294	41,308	13,355	-67.7
DRY BULK	306,271	127,059	218,810	11,294	178,359	2,179,735	1122.1
BULK GRAIN	245,916	195,675	142,489	45,140	856,712	1,253,817	46.4
LIQUID	0	0	0	0	0	2,865	N/A
PETROLEUM	1,926,169	2,729,689	2,051,117	2,452,927	21,837,957	21,557,690	-1.3
CHEMICAL	135,708	183,253	133,825	176,172	1,592,614	1,495,971	-6.1
TOTAL	2,614,565	3,236,083	2,553,206	2,696,827	24,506,950	26,503,433	8.1

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 21.1 percent decrease in outbound cargo tonnage in October. Petroleum, which is 80.3 percent of total outbound cargo for October, decreased 24.9 percent compared to September. Dry bulk increased 72.2 percent, Chemicals fell 27.0 percent and Bulk Grain decreased 27.2 percent. YTD, total outbound cargo tonnage was up 8.1 percent.

% Share October 1997 Outbound Cargo



Border Business Indicators

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

Dr. J. Charles Jennett
President, TAMIU

Dr. Khosrow Fatemi
Dean, COBA/GSITBA

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

Further information may be obtained by calling TEL. (956) 326-2545 FAX (956) 326-2544 or by writing to the address shown below.

Printed by TAMIU Print Shop on Recycled Paper

Subscribe Now To This Informative Publication

Either copy or cut out the form below to subscribe to the *BBI*.

Please mail to *Border Business Indicators* at address listed below.

Border Business Indicators



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

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

- Check
 Money Order

Make payable to: Border Business Indicators

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

Name _____

Title _____

Affiliation/Co. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Telephone () _____

**TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
TEXAS CENTER FOR BORDER ECONOMIC
AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT
5201 UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD
LAREDO, TX 78041-1900**

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

