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# Border Business Indicators

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Texas State Documents

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

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## Note from the Director

Indicators of border business activity for the month of September were up. Thirteen monthly indicators were up while eleven indicators were down when compared to August. In addition, for the year-to-date (YTD) figures, nineteen indicators were up and four were down. Selected YTD comparisons to 1996 reported by border cities include the following:

- Southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico were up 29.2 percent. El Paso was up 71.5 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo rose 14.4 percent, Laredo increased 12.7 percent and Brownsville was up 3.0 percent.
- Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were down 1.2 percent. McAllen-Hidalgo fell 10.9 percent Brownsville was down 6.7 percent, and Laredo decreased 5.1 percent. However, El Paso increased 5.9 percent.
- Southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 5.4 percent. El Paso was up 8.1 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo rose 8.0 percent, Brownsville increased 8.0 percent and Laredo was up 4.9 percent.
- Northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 2.9 percent with Brownsville increasing 7.5 percent and El Paso gaining 1.9 percent. However, Laredo was down 2.1 percent and McAllen-Hidalgo fell 1.0 percent YTD.
- Southbound truck shipments into Mexico were up 17.7 percent. Laredo increased 25.4 percent and Brownsville rose 14.4 percent while McAllen-Hidalgo decreased 13.3 percent.
- Northbound truck shipments into Texas were up 5.4 percent with Eagle Pass increasing 17.2 percent, Brownsville gained 4.0 percent and Laredo posted a 1.9 percent increase YTD.
- Southbound shipments by rail were up 18.6 percent.
- Northbound shipments by rail were down 0.7 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Customs were up 7.3 percent YTD. Revenues collected by U.S. Bridge operators were up 8.1 percent.
- Building permits issued were up 4.6 percent. Brownsville increased by 14.1 percent, McAllen rose 12.0 percent and Laredo was up 10.2 percent.
- Building permit values were up with a YTD increase of 42.8 percent. Brownsville increased 125.5 percent, McAllen was up 58.7 percent, Laredo gained 51.3 percent and Harlingen reported a 37.4 percent increase.
- Total employment was up with 19,290 jobs gained YTD. The average unemployment rate in September 1997 was 10.7 percent, down from the 11.6 percent in September 1996.

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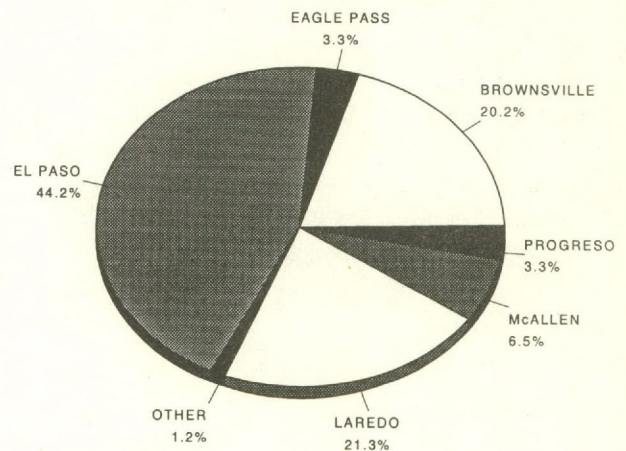
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## Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	JUL 97	AUG 97	SEP 97	SEP 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	278,729	277,669	276,693	230,187	2,369,283	2,440,489	3.0
DEL RIO	5,175	5,420	4,268	4,436	44,363	46,390	4.6
EAGLE PASS	37,098	42,493	44,575	33,634	323,284	361,952	12.0
EL PASO	639,079	693,455	606,130	396,000	3,371,335	5,782,633	71.5
HARLINGEN	83	100	65	87	907	786	-13.3
LAREDO	349,480	337,846	291,991	269,399	2,552,553	2,875,992	12.7
McALLEN-HIDALGO	102,309	105,892	88,671	86,249	837,023	957,353	14.4
PROGRESO	72,070	62,230	45,513	50,303	790,129	873,140	10.5
RIO GRANDE	698	598	419	998	7,784	7,330	-5.8
ROMA	12,442	13,395	12,942	14,758	132,181	124,187	-6.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,497,163</b>	<b>1,539,098</b>	<b>1,371,267</b>	<b>1,086,051</b>	<b>10,428,842</b>	<b>13,470,252</b>	<b>29.2</b>

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

### % Share Pedestrians for September 1997



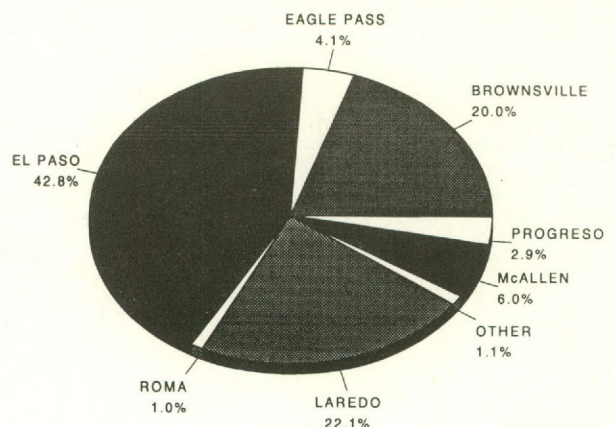
Southbound pedestrian bridge crossings into Mexico for September were down 10.9 percent compared to August. Harlingen decreased 35.0 percent, Rio Grande declined 29.9 percent, Progreso was down 26.9 percent and Del Rio fell 21.3 percent. McAllen-Hidalgo declined 16.3 percent, Laredo was down 13.6 percent, El Paso fell 12.6 percent, Roma decreased 3.4 percent and Brownsville fell 0.4 percent. However, Eagle Pass increased 4.9 percent. YTD, total southbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 29.2 percent. El Paso southbound pedestrian crossings, which make up 44.2 percent of all crossings in September were up 71.5 percent. Laredo, accounting for 21.3 percent of all crossings, was up 12.7 percent and Brownsville was up 3.0 percent with 20.2 percent of all crossings YTD.

## Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	JUL 97	AUG 97	SEP 97	SEP 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	301,109	252,837	238,574	223,114	2,313,222	2,157,760	-6.7
DEL RIO	11,346	11,168	8,829	10,230	78,659	96,274	22.4
EAGLE PASS	63,634	60,190	48,426	40,314	432,435	504,119	16.6
EL PASO	547,387	572,483	510,102	497,221	4,283,620	4,535,168	5.9
LAREDO	291,722	279,330	263,346	251,237	2,454,883	2,329,324	-5.1
McALLEN-HIDALGO	79,231	79,411	71,249	90,734	899,756	801,313	-10.9
PRESIDIO	2,514	2,828	3,280	2,676	21,166	27,047	27.8
PROGRESO	58,758	44,606	34,552	47,064	579,367	496,519	-14.3
RIO GRANDE	1,089	1,263	1,009	1,136	10,626	11,221	5.6
ROMA	13,000	13,511	12,430	12,174	137,664	112,963	-17.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,369,790</b>	<b>1,317,627</b>	<b>1,191,797</b>	<b>1,175,900</b>	<b>11,211,398</b>	<b>11,071,708</b>	<b>-1.2</b>

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

### % Share Pedestrians for September 1997



Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were down 9.5 percent in September. Progreso decreased 22.5 percent, Del Rio fell 20.9 percent, Rio Grande declined 20.1 percent, Eagle Pass dipped 19.5 percent and El Paso slid 10.9 percent. McAllen-Hidalgo decreased 10.3 percent, Roma fell 8.0 percent, Laredo declined 5.7 percent and Brownsville slid 5.6 percent. However, Presidio increased 16.0 percent. YTD total northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were down 1.2 percent. El Paso, accounting for 42.8 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings in September, was up 5.9 percent YTD. Laredo, with 22.1 percent of all northbound crossings, was down 5.1 percent and Brownsville, with 20.0 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings, had a 6.7 percent decrease in crossings YTD.

## Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	JUL 97	AUG 97	SEP 97	SEP 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	541,672	537,640	569,312	474,888	4,320,493	4,665,390	8.0
DEL RIO	148,723	150,899	136,334	146,431	1,334,449	1,281,374	-4.0
EAGLE PASS	215,683	214,730	197,132	201,011	1,933,690	1,905,920	-1.4
EL PASO	445,115	445,520	408,306	422,073	3,654,485	3,948,927	8.1
HARLINGEN	36,806	37,214	31,692	29,244	282,558	304,002	7.6
LAREDO	681,826	703,000	661,667	646,383	5,643,312	5,919,943	4.9
McALLEN-HIDALGO	436,599	457,216	413,018	404,856	3,554,722	3,839,399	8.0
PHARR	108,141	105,063	101,647	81,171	752,129	885,846	17.8
PROGRESO	82,127	80,475	69,072	72,361	782,481	750,436	-4.1
RIO GRANDE	44,228	46,449	41,159	42,221	401,808	411,632	2.4
ROMA	69,002	70,936	62,761	62,119	619,287	622,203	0.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,809,922</b>	<b>2,849,142</b>	<b>2,692,100</b>	<b>2,582,758</b>	<b>23,279,414</b>	<b>24,535,072</b>	<b>5.4</b>

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

Southbound vehicle bridge crossings into Mexico decreased 5.5 percent in September from August's figures. Harlingen decreased 14.8 percent, Progreso was down 14.2 percent, Roma fell 11.5 percent and Rio Grande declined 11.4 percent. Del Rio and McAllen-Hidalgo both fell 9.7 percent, El Paso was down 8.4 percent, Eagle Pass decreased 8.2 percent, Laredo dipped 5.9 percent and Pharr slid 3.3 percent. However, Brownsville had a 5.9 percent increase. YTD total southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 5.4 per-

cent. Laredo, with 24.6 percent of all southbound traffic in September, was up 4.9 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 21.1 percent of all southbound vehicle bridge crossings, had an 8.0 percent increase YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 15.3 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, experienced an 8.0 percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 15.2 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings had an 8.1 percent increase YTD.

## Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	JUL 97	AUG 97	SEP 97	SEP 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	536,120	543,762	510,467	469,996	4,294,899	4,616,585	7.5
DEL RIO	160,854	156,908	141,525	142,484	1,167,699	1,276,805	9.3
EAGLE PASS	222,432	224,796	207,607	177,212	1,768,198	1,898,315	7.4
EL PASO	618,858	725,483	672,813	634,413	5,894,921	6,009,131	1.9
HARLINGEN	49,647	49,627	42,599	37,337	354,557	380,469	7.3
LAREDO	598,975	611,609	598,360	592,230	5,378,671	5,264,430	-2.1
McALLEN-HIDALGO	406,153	416,994	392,560	385,956	3,610,980	3,573,331	-1.0
PRESIDIO	47,430	52,530	48,282	46,213	451,595	455,557	0.9
PROGRESO	81,863	79,571	67,343	77,732	685,009	756,189	10.4
RIO GRANDE	48,618	50,225	46,183	46,627	401,734	452,938	12.7
ROMA	70,172	72,565	70,594	80,274	643,150	678,671	5.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,841,122</b>	<b>2,984,070</b>	<b>2,798,333</b>	<b>2,690,474</b>	<b>24,651,413</b>	<b>25,362,421</b>	<b>2.9</b>

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

Northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas for September were down 6.2 percent since August. Progreso was down 15.4 percent, Harlingen fell 14.2 percent, Del Rio decreased 9.8 percent, Presidio declined 8.1 percent, Rio Grande dipped 8.0 percent and Eagle Pass slid 7.6 percent. El Paso was down 7.3 percent, Brownsville registered a 6.1 percent decrease, McAllen-Hidalgo

fell 5.9 percent, Roma slid 2.7 percent and Laredo reported a 2.2 percent decrease. YTD northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 2.9 percent. El Paso, with 24.0 percent of all crossings in September was up 1.9 percent YTD. Laredo, with 21.4 percent of all crossings, was down 2.1 percent and Brownsville with 18.2 percent of all crossings, was up 7.5 percent YTD.

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

CITY	JUL 97	AUG 97	SEP 97	SEP 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE+	20,705	20,123	21,293	16,079	148,185	169,544	14.4
DEL RIO+	3,162	3,773	3,913	3,022	26,937	31,152	15.6
EAGLE PASS++	3,483	2,977	3,499	3,782	29,636	32,989	11.3
EL PASO+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	N/A
HARLINGEN+	4,611	5,014	4,230	3,878	32,674	29,303	-10.3
LAREDO++	56,314	55,832	57,056	42,096	373,503	468,293	25.4
McALLEN-HIDALGO+	9,498	9,229	9,371	8,371	98,365	85,287	-13.3
PHARR+	8,592	8,218	7,983	5,118	39,059	74,027	89.5
PROGRESO+	567	1,043	1,010	2,199	16,150	9,853	-39.0
RIO GRANDE+	1,800	1,516	1,820	1,533	12,644	15,503	22.6
ROMA+	725	649	658	651	6,701	6,683	-0.3
TOTAL	109,457	108,374	110,833	86,729	783,854	922,634	17.7

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 2.3 percent in September. Rio Grande increased 20.1 percent, Eagle Pass rose 17.5 percent, Brownsville was up 5.8 percent, Del Rio gained 3.7 percent, Laredo registered a 2.2 percent increase, McAllen-Hidalgo rose 1.5 percent and Roma was up 1.4 percent. However, Harlingen posted a 15.6 percent decrease, Progreso fell 3.2 percent and Pharr was down 2.9 percent. YTD, total southbound truck traffic had an

increase of 17.7 percent. Laredo, with 51.5 percent of all southbound shipments in September, experienced a 25.4 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with 19.2 percent of all southbound shipments, had a 14.4 percent increase YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo with 8.5 percent of all truck traffic, registered a decrease of 13.3 percent and Pharr, with 7.2 percent of all truck crossings, rose 89.5 percent.

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

CITY	JUL 97	AUG 97	SEP 97	SEP 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	11,551	11,889	11,978	11,320	89,145	92,699	4.0
DEL RIO	2,529	2,709	2,824	2,485	22,019	24,439	11.0
EAGLE PASS	3,426	3,711	3,502	2,916	26,079	30,554	17.2
FALCON	9	22	10	5	54	73	35.2
LAREDO	50,046	40,626	57,857	48,612	412,961	420,853	1.9
McALLEN-HIDALGO	NA	N/A	N/A	N/A	62,334	N/A	N/A
PHARR	12,892	12,149	12,050	10,027	42,440	118,045	178.1
PROGRESO	817	836	556	365	6,852	6,895	0.6
RIO GRANDE	1,171	781	1,125	979	7,302	11,704	60.3
ROMA	515	473	408	413	4,119	4,376	6.2
TOTAL	82,956	73,196	90,310	77,122	673,305	709,638	5.4

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

McAllen-Hidalgo no longer processes trucks going south. Trucks now cross through the Pharr bridge.

\*Editor's Note: Figures represent loaded trucks only.

Northbound truck shipments into Texas increased 23.4 percent from August's shipments. Rio Grande increased 44.0 percent, Laredo had an increase of 42.4 percent, Del Rio rose 4.2 percent and Brownsville was up 0.7 percent. However, Falcon showed a 54.5 percent decrease, Progreso was down 33.5 percent, Roma fell 13.7

percent, Eagle Pass dipped 5.6 percent and Pharr declined 0.8 percent. YTD northbound truck shipments were up 5.4 percent. Laredo, accounting for 64.1 percent of all northbound truck traffic in September, had a 1.9 percent increase YTD. Pharr, with 13.3 percent of shipments, experienced a 178.1 percent increase YTD.

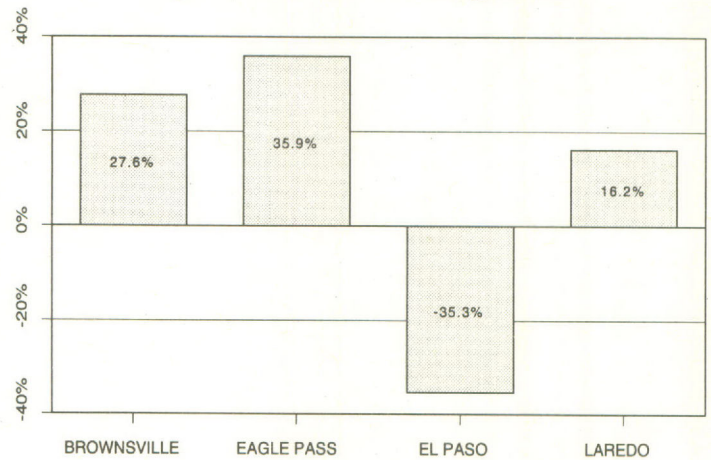
## Export Shipments by Rail into Mexico —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	JUL 97	AUG 97	SEP 97	SEP 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	1,913	1,896	1,852	1,596	18,118	23,125	27.6
EAGLE PASS	4,802	4,652	5,118	3,410	28,049	38,126	35.9
EL PASO	589	451	324	552	7,705	4,985	-35.3
LAREDO	12,682	11,206	11,016	10,011	96,046	111,560	16.2
TOTAL	19,986	18,205	18,310	15,569	149,918	177,796	18.6

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 0.6 percent in September. Eagle Pass was up 10.0 percent. However, El Paso was down 28.2 percent, Brownsville fell 2.3 percent and Laredo decreased 1.7 percent. YTD, total southbound rail shipments into Mexico from Texas were up 18.6 percent. Laredo, which accounts for 60.2 percent of all southbound rail shipments in September, was up 16.2 percent. Eagle Pass, accounting for 28.0 percent of all southbound rail shipments, increased 35.9 percent. Brownsville, with 10.1 percent of all southbound rail shipments in September, rose 27.6 percent YTD.

### Export Rail YTD % Change 96-97



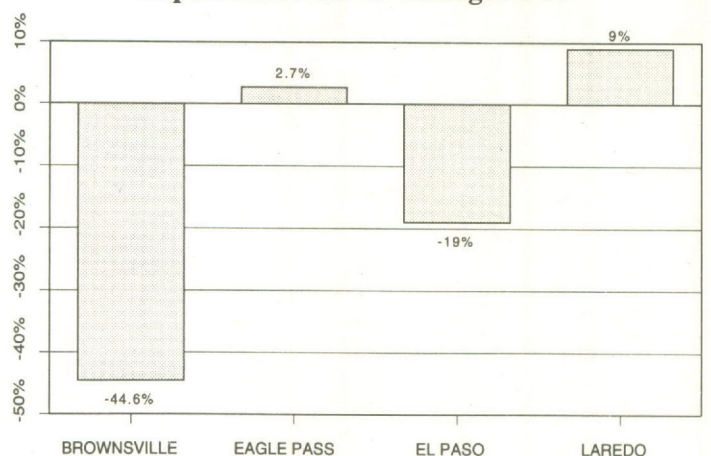
## Import Shipments by Rail into Texas —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	JUL 97	AUG 97	SEP 97	SEP 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	822	1,121	923	1,341	15,752	8,729	-44.6
EAGLE PASS	3,932	3,247	3,657	3,714	29,908	30,717	2.7
EL PASO	144	162	165	151	1,908	1,545	-19.0
LAREDO	8,096	7,733	7,304	6,601	64,114	69,905	9.0
TOTAL	12,994	12,263	12,049	11,807	111,682	110,896	-0.7

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 decreased 1.7 percent in September. Brownsville registered a 17.7 percent decrease and Laredo fell 5.5 percent. However, Eagle Pass was up 12.6 percent and El Paso posted an increase of 1.9 percent. YTD, total northbound rail shipments into Texas from Mexico were down 0.7 percent. Laredo, which accounts for 60.6 percent of all northbound rail shipments in September, was up 9.0 percent. Eagle Pass, accounting for 30.4 percent of all northbound rail shipments in September, increased 2.7 percent and Brownsville, with 7.7 percent of all northbound rail shipments, decreased 44.6 percent YTD.

### Import Rail YTD % Change 96-97



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

CITY	DUTY	MPF	OTHER	TOTAL	TOTAL	YTD	YTD	YTD % CHG
	SEP 97	SEP 97	REVENUE SEP 97	REVENUE SEP 97	REVENUE SEP 96	REVENUE SEP 96	REVENUE SEP 97	
BROWNSVILLE	3,014,309	582,042	377,661	3,974,012	3,244,150	25,018,832	26,141,697	4.5
DEL RIO	256,451	108,667	13,851	378,969	385,282	3,228,955	3,627,489	12.3
EAGLE PASS	1,227,025	185,056	3,569,318	4,981,399	3,239,078	21,314,377	25,774,519	20.9
LAREDO	16,203,526	2,531,886	5,192,669	23,928,081	22,136,125	183,725,241	203,532,845	10.8
McALLEN-HIDALGO	2,478,692	483,488	658,803	3,620,983	3,902,460	47,744,963	42,914,957	-10.1
PROGRESO	9,467	10,246	19,721	39,434	41,652	1,876,851	1,408,925	-24.9
RIO GRANDE	41,560	22,130	5,105	68,795	76,120	859,905	1,015,493	18.1
ROMA	66,753	7,640	9,735	84,128	44,269	400,133	450,935	12.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,297,783</b>	<b>3,931,155</b>	<b>9,846,863</b>	<b>37,075,801</b>	<b>33,069,136</b>	<b>284,169,257</b>	<b>304,866,860</b>	<b>7.3</b>

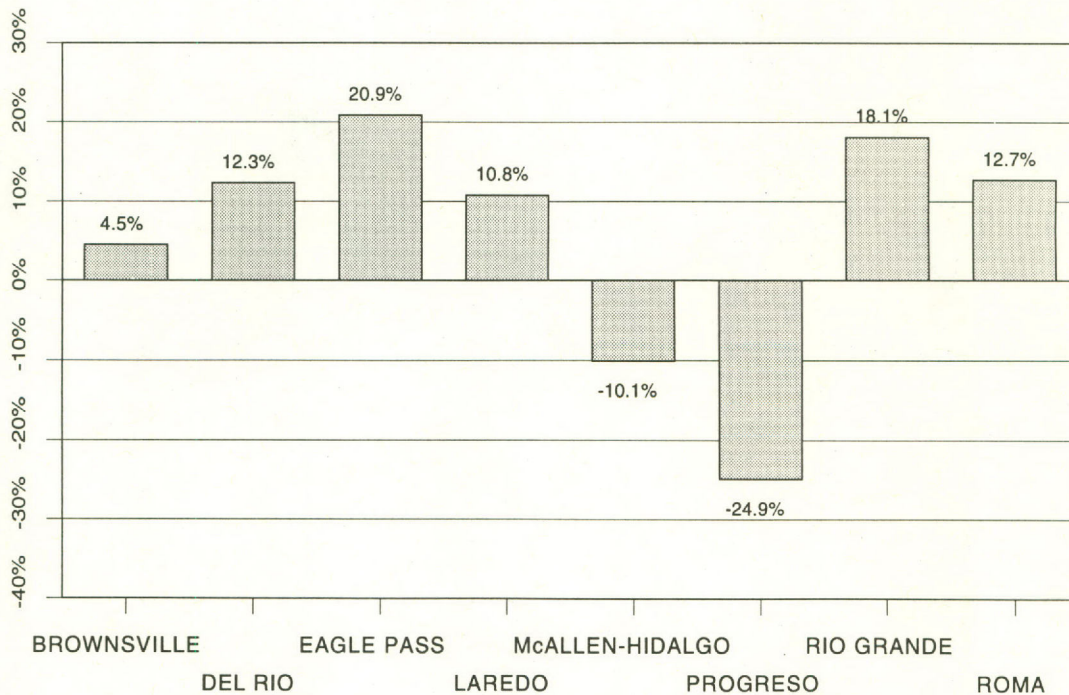
Source: Data provided by U.S. Customs Service, Port of Entry in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

\*MPF = Merchandise Processing Fee

Total U.S. Customs revenues for the former District of Laredo increased 4.6 percent from August's figures. Rio Grande increased 78.7 percent, Eagle Pass rose 48.7 percent, Roma gained 23.1 percent, Brownsville was up 14.9 percent, Del Rio rose 7.1 percent and Progreso registered a 6.6 percent increase. However, McAllen-Hidalgo decreased 8.7 percent and Laredo declined 1.1 percent. YTD revenue figures were up 7.3 percent compared to September

1996. Laredo, accounting for 66.8 percent of total District revenues, was up 10.8 percent YTD and McAllen-Hidalgo with 14.1 percent of total revenues, was down 10.1 percent YTD. Brownsville with 8.6 percent of all revenues in September, increased 4.5 percent YTD and Eagle Pass, with 8.5 percent of total revenues in September, increased 20.9 percent.

**% Change Total Revenues YTD 96-97**



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

CITY	JUL 97	AUG 97	SEP 97	SEP 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	530,934	560,658	504,145	470,969	4,418,412	4,643,079	5.1
DEL RIO	179,889	189,734	176,905	159,829	1,484,418	1,586,756	6.9
EAGLE PASS	386,536	397,483	380,418	340,414	3,274,895	3,456,522	5.5
EL PASO	892,853	913,305	881,801	884,727	7,615,258	8,101,052	6.4
HARLINGEN	75,205	87,193	78,887	65,643	613,735	590,700	-3.8
LAREDO	1,804,147	1,812,860	1,702,257	1,502,130	13,833,614	15,163,602	9.6
McALLEN-HIDALGO	560,433	577,271	502,096	502,096	4,719,791	4,869,514	3.2
PHARR	207,733	194,601	180,842	134,939	1,096,505	1,664,253	51.8
TOTAL	4,637,730	4,733,105	4,407,351	4,060,747	37,056,628	40,075,478	8.1

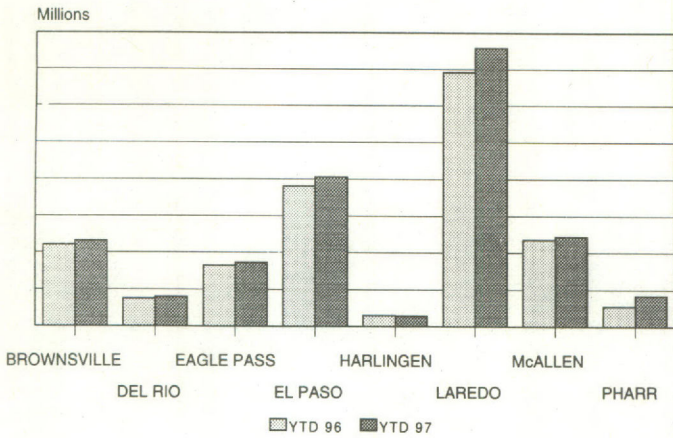
Source: Data provided by U.S. bridge operators in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

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

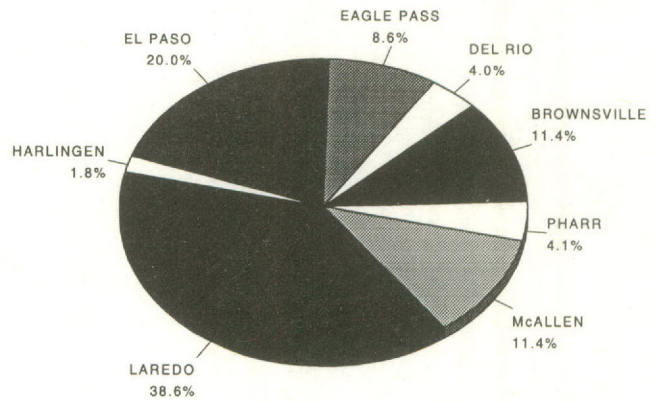
U.S. bridge operators' revenues decreased 6.9 percent in the month of September. McAllen-Hidalgo decreased 13.0 percent, Brownsville was down 10.1 percent, Harlingen fell 9.5 percent, Pharr slid 7.1 percent, Del Rio declined 6.8 percent, Laredo posted a decrease of 6.1 percent, Eagle Pass declined 4.3 percent and El Paso was down 3.4 percent. YTD, U.S. bridge operators' revenues were up 8.1 percent. Laredo, accounting for 38.6 percent of total U.S. bridge operator's revenues collected in September, had a 9.6

percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 20.0 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues, increased 6.4 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 11.4 percent of the total bridge revenues, was up 3.2 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 11.4 percent of total U.S. bridge operator's revenues in September, was up 5.1 percent. Also, Eagle Pass with 8.6 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues in September was up 5.5 percent YTD.

**Total Revenues Collected YTD 96-97**



**% Share Revenues September 1997**





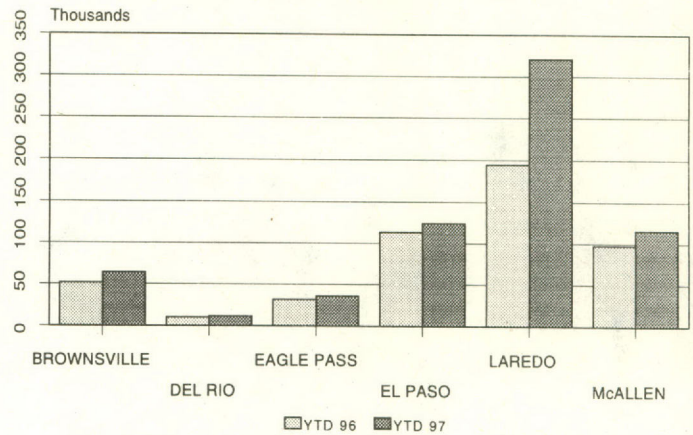
## Visas to Tourists from Texas to Mexico

CITY	JUL 97	AUG 97	SEP 97	SEP 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	%CHG
BROWNSVILLE	11,338	8,170	4,644	3,865	51,510	64,085	24.4
DEL RIO	2,011	1,349	955	815	10,151	11,416	12.5
EAGLE PASS	6,462	3,992	2,737	2,571	31,997	36,161	13.0
EL PASO	25,065	16,142	9,034	9,713	112,944	123,711	9.5
LAREDO	50,451	114,456	19,104	15,383	194,615	320,674	64.8
McALLEN	17,276	12,920	8,729	8,261	97,403	115,359	18.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>112,603</b>	<b>157,029</b>	<b>45,203</b>	<b>40,608</b>	<b>498,620</b>	<b>671,406</b>	<b>34.7</b>

Source: Data provided by Mexico's Instituto Nacional de Migracion and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

The number of tourist visas issued in September were down 71.2 percent. Laredo decreased 83.3 percent. El Paso declined 44.0 percent, Brownsville dipped 43.2 percent, McAllen was down 32.4 percent, Eagle Pass fell 31.4 percent and Del Rio decreased 29.2 percent. YTD, the number of tourist visas issued were up 34.7 percent. Laredo, with 42.3 percent of total visas issued in September was up 64.8 percent. El Paso, with 20.0 percent of total visas issued, had a 9.5 percent increase YTD. McAllen, with 19.3 percent of all visas issued, rose 18.4 percent YTD and Brownsville with 10.3 percent of total visas issued, increased 24.4 percent YTD.

### Tourist Visas YTD September 96-97



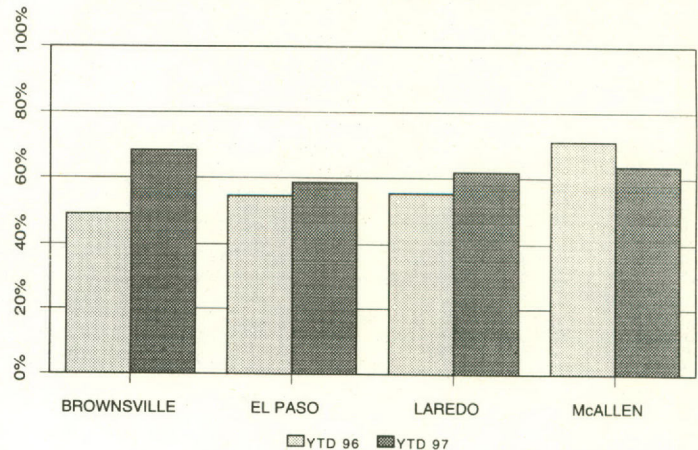
## Hotel Occupancy Percentage Rate — Texas Border

CITY	JUL 97	AUG 97	SEP 97	SEP 96	% CHG 96-97
BROWNSVILLE	76.3	75.1	68.4	49.2	39.2
EL PASO	57.9	55.8	58.6	54.8	6.8
LAREDO	70.2	66.4	61.8	55.5	11.3
McALLEN	78.5	75.6	63.6	71.2	-10.6
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>70.7</b>	<b>68.2</b>	<b>63.1</b>	<b>57.7</b>	<b>9.4</b>

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

The average hotel occupancy rate of reporting Texas border hotels for September was down 7.5 percent. Brownsville had a 68.4 percent rate, McAllen's rate was 63.6 percent, Laredo had a 61.8 percent rate and El Paso's rate was 58.6.

### Hotel Occupancy Percentage September 96-97



## Telephones in Service — Texas Border

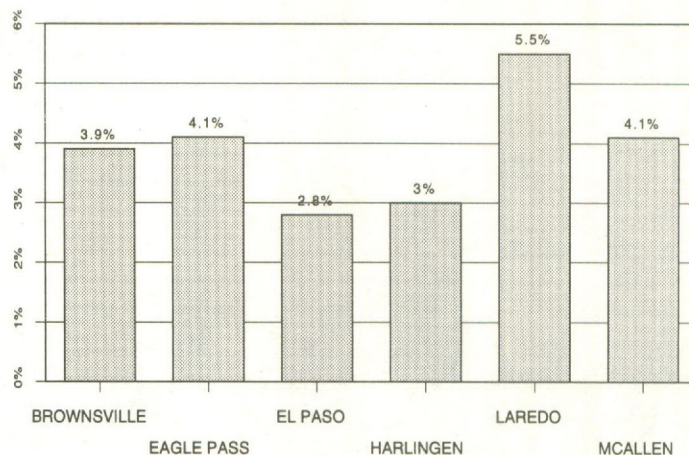
### Residential Telephones

CITY	JUL 97	AUG 97	SEP 97	SEP 96
BROWNSVILLE	41,813	41,739	41,722	40,147
EAGLE PASS	10,848	10,886	10,884	10,454
EL PASO	207,543	207,817	207,987	202,245
HARLINGEN	25,486	25,443	25,434	24,702
LAREDO	46,712	46,809	46,791	44,371
MCALLEN	34,439	34,549	34,637	33,276
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>366,841</b>	<b>367,243</b>	<b>367,455</b>	<b>355,195</b>

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

In September, the number of residential telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.06 since August. YTD, the number of residential telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased by 3.5 percent. Laredo experienced the largest increase with 5.5 percent YTD. Eagle Pass and McAllen were up 4.1 percent, Brownsville rose 3.9 percent, Harlingen gained 3.0 percent and El Paso increased 2.8 percent.

**Residential Phones % Change September 96-97**



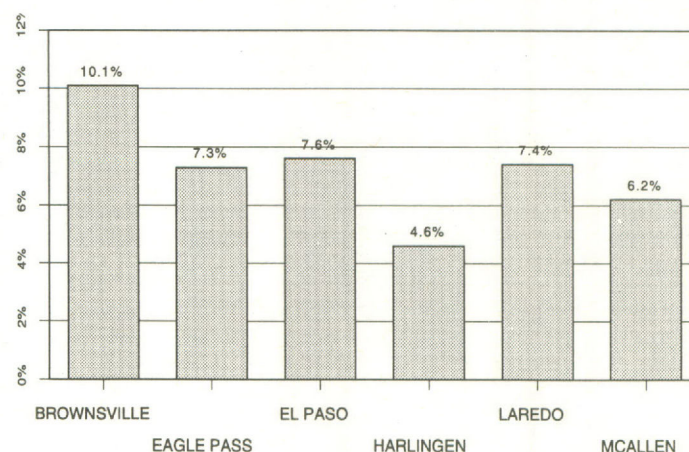
### Business Telephones

CITY	JUL 97	AUG 97	SEP 97	SEP 96
BROWNSVILLE	19,480	19,705	20,679	18,776
EAGLE PASS	3,648	3,688	3,696	3,445
EL PASO	92,443	93,142	93,537	86,965
HARLINGEN	13,522	13,560	13,611	13,008
LAREDO	27,608	27,932	28,155	26,213
MCALLEN	24,451	24,499	24,507	23,067
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>181,152</b>	<b>182,526</b>	<b>184,185</b>	<b>171,474</b>

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

In September, the number of business telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.91 percent. YTD, the number of phones in service for reporting Texas border cities rose by 7.4 percent. Brownsville had the largest increase with 10.1 percent, El Paso gained 7.6 percent and Laredo expanded by 7.4 percent YTD. El Paso secures 51.0 percent of business phones in service during September followed by Laredo at 15.3 percent and McAllen with 13.4 percent of all business telephones in service.

**Business Phones % Change September 96-97**



## Power Connections – Texas Border

### Residential Connections

CITY	JUL 97	AUG 97	SEP 97	SEP 96
BROWNSVILLE	28,424	28,479	28,669	27,832
DEL RIO	13,446	13,442	13,470	13,180
EAGLE PASS	8,929	8,953	8,977	8,668
EL PASO	252,792	253,101	253,438	248,876
HARLINGEN	19,975	19,965	19,983	19,623
LAREDO	44,677	44,789	44,896	43,237
McALLEN	29,445	29,513	29,578	28,953
TOTAL	397,688	398,242	399,011	390,369

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

September commercial power connections for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.24 percent from August's figures. Brownsville increased 0.40 percent, Del Rio was up 0.37 percent, El Paso rose 0.32 percent, Laredo gained 0.18 percent and McAllen was up 0.04 percent. However, Eagle Pass remained unchanged. YTD, commercial power connections for reporting border cities increased by 5.2 percent over September 1996. Brownsville increased 49.0 percent YTD, McAllen increased 4.2 percent, Del Rio was up 3.3 percent, Harlingen grew 2.7 percent, El Paso rose 2.4 percent, Laredo gained 2.1 percent and Eagle Pass was up 1.8 percent YTD.

### Industrial Connections

CITY	JUL 97	AUG 97	SEP 97	SEP 96
BROWNSVILLE	472	471	478	1,652
DEL RIO	31	31	31	30
EAGLE PASS	25	25	24	26
EL PASO	108	111	117	99
HARLINGEN	82	83	83	85
LAREDO	127	127	126	132
McALLEN	50	50	51	52
TOTAL	895	898	910	2,076

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

September residential power connections for all reporting Texas border cities increased from August's figures by 0.19 percent. YTD, residential power connections for all reporting border cities were up 2.2 percent. Laredo experienced the largest increase by 3.8 percent, followed by Eagle Pass up 3.6 percent and Brownsville with 3.0 percent. Del Rio and McAllen had a 2.2 percent increase followed by El Paso and Harlingen with an increase of 1.8 percent YTD.

### Commercial Connections

CITY	JUL 97	AUG 97	SEP 97	SEP 96
BROWNSVILLE	3,757	3,743	3,758	2,522
DEL RIO	1,876	1,888	1,895	1,835
EAGLE PASS	1,265	1,278	1,278	1,256
EL PASO	25,678	25,748	25,830	25,217
HARLINGEN	3,203	3,216	3,214	3,129
LAREDO	6,646	6,645	6,657	6,521
McALLEN	5,241	5,230	5,232	5,022
TOTAL	47,666	47,748	47,864	45,502

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 gained 1.34 percent from August's figures. El Paso was up 5.41 percent, McAllen grew 2.00 percent and Brownsville increased 1.49 percent. However, Eagle Pass fell 4.00 percent and Laredo declined 0.79 percent. All other cities reported no change for the month. YTD, El Paso had the largest increase with 18.2 percent and Del Rio was up 3.3 percent. However, Brownsville fell 71.1 percent, Eagle Pass dipped 7.7 percent, Laredo declined 4.5 percent and Harlingen slid 2.4 percent.

## Building Permits — Texas Border

### Number of Permits

NUMBER	JUL 97	AUG 97	SEP 97	SEP 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	269	272	293	228	2,254	2,312	2.6
DEL RIO	101	103	82	83	964	971	0.7
EAGLE PASS	49	27	35	21	282	289	2.5
EL PASO	953	930	909	921	9,183	8,210	-10.6
HARLINGEN	63	53	58	52	646	555	-14.1
LAREDO	349	328	314	267	2,855	2,851	-0.1
MCALLEN	118	113	141	113	1,159	1,171	1.0
TOTAL	1,902	1,826	1,832	1,685	17,343	16,359	-5.7

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

September building permits issued by reporting Texas border cities were up 0.3 percent from August. Eagle Pass increased 29.6 percent, McAllen was up 24.8 percent, Harlingen grew 9.4 percent and Brownsville gained 7.7 percent. However, Del Rio declined 20.4 percent, Laredo decreased 4.3 percent and El Paso dipped 2.3

percent. YTD, the number of permits issued were down 5.7 percent. El Paso, accounting for 49.6 percent of all building permits issued in September, had a 10.6 percent decrease YTD. Laredo, with 17.1 percent of building permits issued, was down 0.1 percent YTD. Brownsville was up 2.6 percent and McAllen increased 1.0 percent.

### U.S. Dollar Value of Permits

VALUE	JUL 97	AUG 97	SEP 97	SEP 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	5,401,567	23,191,701	30,291,300	5,646,809	77,817,739	162,726,844	109.1
DEL RIO	1,818,901	1,597,907	1,471,091	5,630,481	22,164,534	16,900,543	-23.7
EAGLE PASS	991,895	512,195	547,787	460,776	7,520,138	7,762,942	3.2
EL PASO	57,877,969	28,916,634	32,074,251	26,422,844	324,518,447	360,453,976	11.1
HARLINGEN	8,982,907	4,473,331	2,250,607	5,286,123	41,397,550	49,601,565	19.8
LAREDO	9,790,188	13,141,515	10,799,604	7,754,495	99,355,705	138,573,841	39.5
MCALLEN	23,495,615	7,768,399	12,773,786	13,435,042	87,328,909	117,296,513	34.3
TOTAL	108,359,042	79,601,682	90,208,426	64,636,570	660,103,022	853,316,224	29.3

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

September building permit values for reporting Texas border cities were up 13.3 percent from August. McAllen increased 64.4 percent, Brownsville rose 30.6 percent, El Paso was up 10.9 percent and Eagle Pass gained 6.9 percent. However, Harlingen was up 49.7 percent, Laredo decreased 17.8 percent and Del Rio declined 7.9 percent. YTD, reporting border cities experienced a 29.3

percent increase. El Paso, with 35.6 percent total value for the month of September, was up 11.1 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 33.6 percent of total value, had an 109.1 percent YTD increase. McAllen, with 14.2 percent total value, increased 34.3 percent YTD. Laredo, with 12.0 percent total value in September, increased 39.5 percent YTD.

## Employment/Unemployment Rates —Texas Border

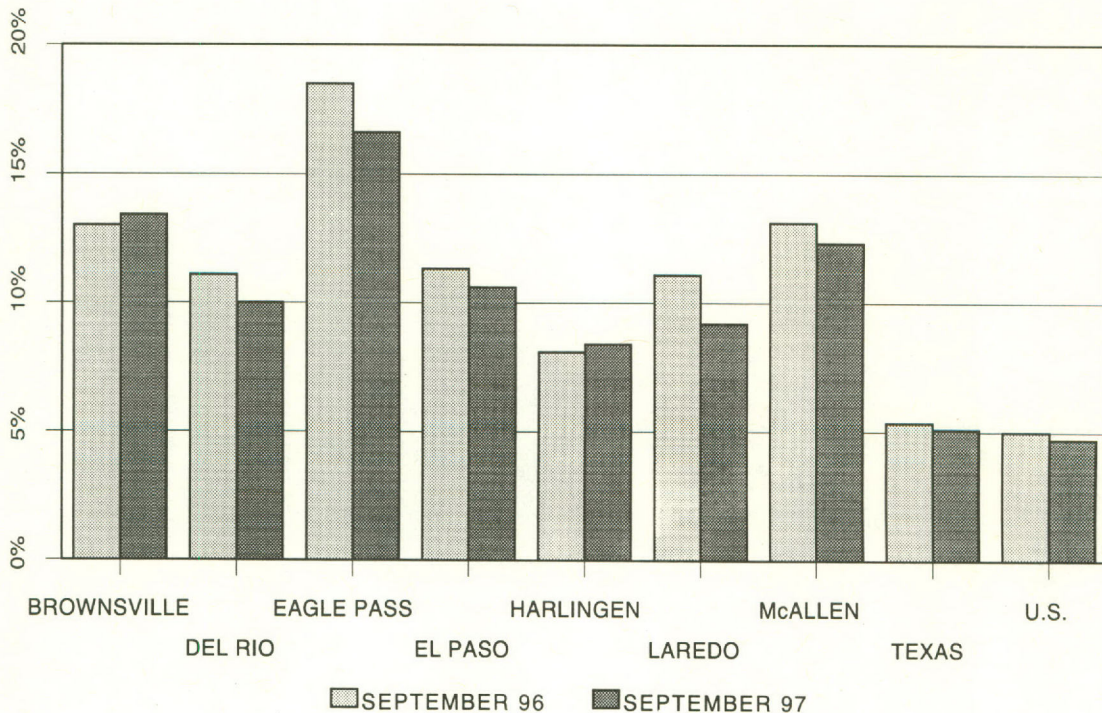
CITY	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED	PERCENT UNEMPLOYED	PERCENT UNEMPLOYED
	SEP 97	SEP 96	SEP 97	SEP 96	SEP 97	SEP 96
BROWNSVILLE	41,386	40,283	6,379	6,031	13.4	13.0
DEL RIO	13,159	13,989	1,468	1,753	10.0	11.1
EAGLE PASS	7,527	7,720	1,502	1,749	16.6	18.5
EL PASO	234,155	227,940	27,899	28,940	10.6	11.3
HARLINGEN	23,776	23,142	2,169	2,051	8.4	8.1
LAREDO	60,006	55,202	6,088	6,908	9.2	11.1
McALLEN	45,972	38,415	5,675	5,778	12.3	13.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>425,981</b>	<b>406,691</b>	<b>51,180</b>	<b>53,210</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>11.6</b>
THE TEXAS UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					5.14	5.33
THE NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					4.70	4.99

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

In September, total employment in reporting Texas border cities fell 0.5 percent (2,218 jobs lost) from August's figures. El Paso and Del Rio decreased 1.1 percent (2,564 and 152 jobs lost respectively), Brownsville and Harlingen declined 0.5 percent (228 and 131 jobs lost respectively). However, Eagle Pass rose 2.5 percent (184 jobs gained), McAllen increased 1.2 percent (530 jobs

gained) and Laredo grew 0.2 percent (143 jobs gained). YTD, the total employment in Texas border cities was up 4.7 percent (19,290 jobs gained) from a year ago. The average unemployment rate for the border was 10.7 percent compared to 5.14 percent for Texas and 4.70 percent for the U.S. in September.

**% Unemployed September 96-97**



# Air Passenger Service Activities — Selected Border Cities

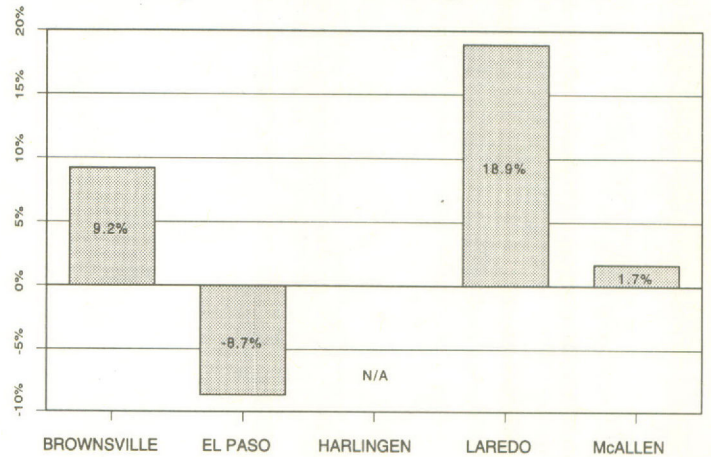
## Passenger Arrivals

CITY	JUL 97	AUG 97	SEP 97	SEP 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	6,833	7,059	6,164	5,130	54,752	59,775	9.2
EL PASO	148,405	142,771	123,259	146,508	1,319,963	1,204,873	-8.7
HARLINGEN	N/A	N/A	N/A	34,546	348,280	186,491	N/A
LAREDO	6,331	6,348	5,642	4,309	43,342	51,553	18.9
McALLEN	26,249	24,828	20,961	20,875	225,900	229,659	1.7
TOTAL	187,818	181,006	156,026	211,368	1,992,237	1,732,351	-13.0

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

September air passenger arriving in Texas border cities were down 13.8 percent over August's figures. McAllen was down 15.6 percent, El Paso fell 13.7 percent, Brownsville declined 12.7 percent and Laredo dipped 11.1 percent. YTD air passenger arrivals were down 13.0 percent. El Paso, with 79.0 percent of all passengers arriving in September, fell 8.7 percent. McAllen, with 13.4 percent of all arrivals, was up 1.7 percent. **Harlingen, no longer gives out arrival information.** Laredo increased 18.9 percent YTD and Brownsville rose 9.2 percent YTD.

Passenger Arrivals % Change YTD 96-97



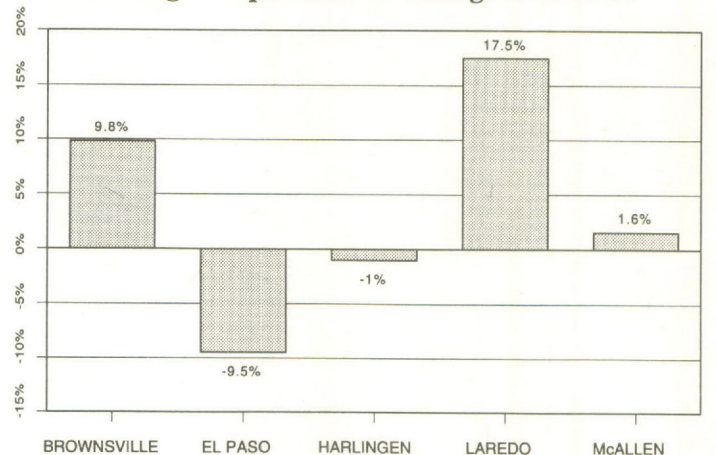
## Passenger Departures

CITY	JUL 97	AUG 97	SEP 97	SEP 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	7,189	7,018	6,316	5,327	56,530	62,054	9.8
EL PASO	152,528	142,295	125,397	152,258	1,366,256	1,235,787	-9.5
HARLINGEN	42,599	39,694	34,386	36,530	359,531	355,905	-1.0
LAREDO	6,654	6,370	5,641	4,417	44,482	52,276	17.5
McALLEN	27,622	25,398	22,212	21,570	235,948	239,782	1.6
TOTAL	236,592	220,775	193,952	220,102	2,062,747	1,945,804	-5.7

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

September air passenger departures for reporting Texas border cities were down 12.1 percent from August's figures. Harlingen decreased 13.4 percent, McAllen fell 12.5 percent, El Paso was down 11.9 percent, Laredo declined 11.4 percent and Brownsville dipped 10.0 percent. YTD, air passenger departures were down 5.7 percent from a year ago. El Paso, with 64.7 percent of all passengers departing in September, was down 9.5 percent. Harlingen, with 17.7 percent of all passengers departing, was down 1.0 percent. McAllen, with 11.5 percent of all passengers departing, increased 1.6 percent YTD. Laredo rose 17.5 percent and Brownsville was up 9.8 percent YTD.

Passenger Departures % Change YTD 96-97



# Port Of Corpus Christi

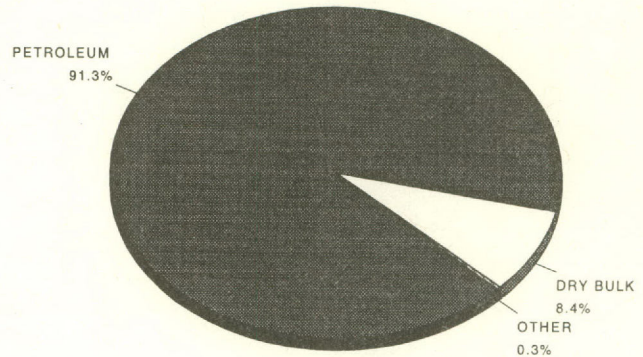
## Inbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	JUL 97	AUG 97	SEP 97	SEP 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BREAK BULK	421	1,127	1,939	236	3,032	8,915	194.0
DRY BULK	406,156	333,931	420,904	563,293	3,253,925	3,207,999	-1.4
BULK GRAIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
LIQUID	5,012	15,116	6,136	14,002	41,250	45,200	9.6
PETROLEUM	4,690,285	3,360,830	4,547,080	3,335,572	32,633,542	33,772,908	3.5
CHEMICAL	21,301	7,956	7,556	7,330	172,014	96,867	-43.7
TOTAL	5,123,175	3,718,960	4,983,615	3,920,433	36,103,763	37,131,889	2.8

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 34.0 percent increase in inbound cargo from last month. Petroleum, which makes up 91.3 percent of all inbound traffic in September, was up 35.3 percent compared to August. Dry bulk, which accounts for 8.4 percent of the port's inbound cargo for September, rose 26.0 percent. YTD, inbound cargo tonnage was up 2.8 percent. Dry bulk was down 1.4 percent YTD while petroleum was up 3.5 percent YTD.

## % Share September 1997 Inbound Cargo



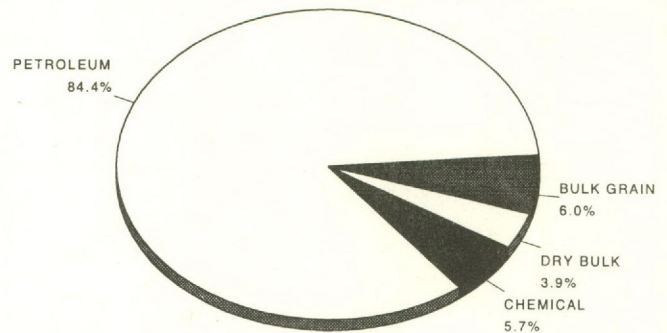
## Outbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	JUL 97	AUG 97	SEP 97	SEP 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BREAK BULK	0	501	407	578	30,014	6,390	-78.7
DRY BULK	242,269	306,271	127,059	578	167,065	1,960,925	1073.7
BULK GRAIN	230,704	245,916	195,675	68,550	811,572	1,111,328	36.9
LIQUID	0	0	0	0	0	2,865	N/A
PETROLEUM	2,351,209	1,926,169	2,729,689	1,917,013	19,385,030	19,506,573	0.6
CHEMICAL	239,115	135,708	183,253	215,533	1,416,442	1,362,146	-3.8
TOTAL	3,063,297	2,614,565	3,236,083	2,202,252	21,810,123	23,950,227	9.8

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 23.8 percent increase in outbound cargo tonnage in September. Petroleum, which is 84.4 percent of total outbound cargo for September, increased 41.7 percent compared to August. Dry bulk fell 58.5 percent, Chemicals rose 35.0 percent and Bulk Grain decreased 20.4 percent. YTD, total outbound cargo tonnage was up 9.8 percent.

## % Share September 1997 Outbound Cargo



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