

Z  
L250.8

# Border Business Indicators

Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

Vol. 30 No. 9 • September 2006

## U.S.-Mexico Trade: 2006 Figures Outpaced Those of 2005

Government Publications  
Texas State Documents

MAY 21 2007

Depository  
Dallas Public Library

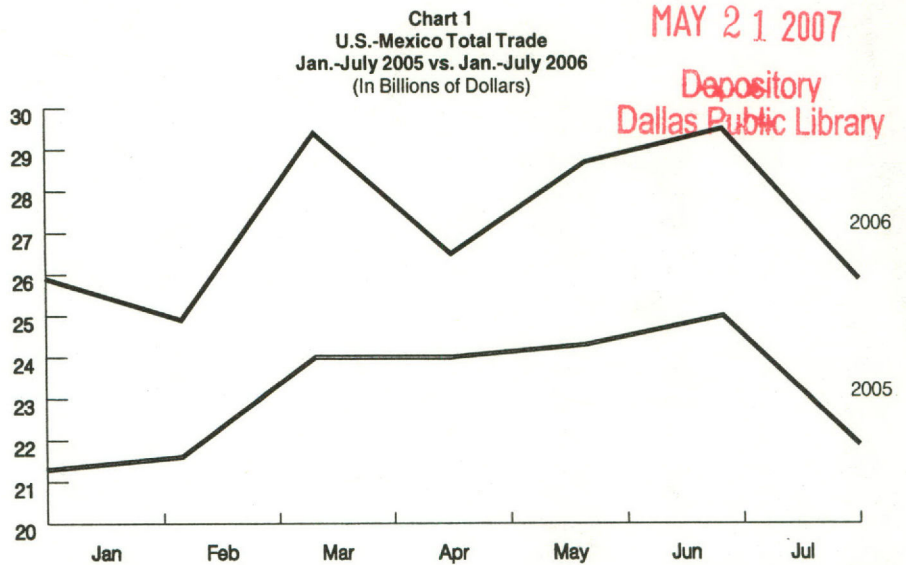
In the March 2006 issue of the *Border Business Indicators*, it was pointed out that trade figures for January 2006 was outpacing those of the same period in 2005. The speculation was made that if that trend continued throughout 2006, the final trade figures in 2006 between the U.S. and Mexico would most probably set another record high at the end of the year.

Trade figures from January to July of 2006 bared this ongoing trend. In comparison, 2006 year-to-date (YTD) trade values marked an increase of 17.7 percent. 2006 YTD total trade figure registered \$190.8 billion as opposed to \$162.1 billion in 2005 (See Chart 1).

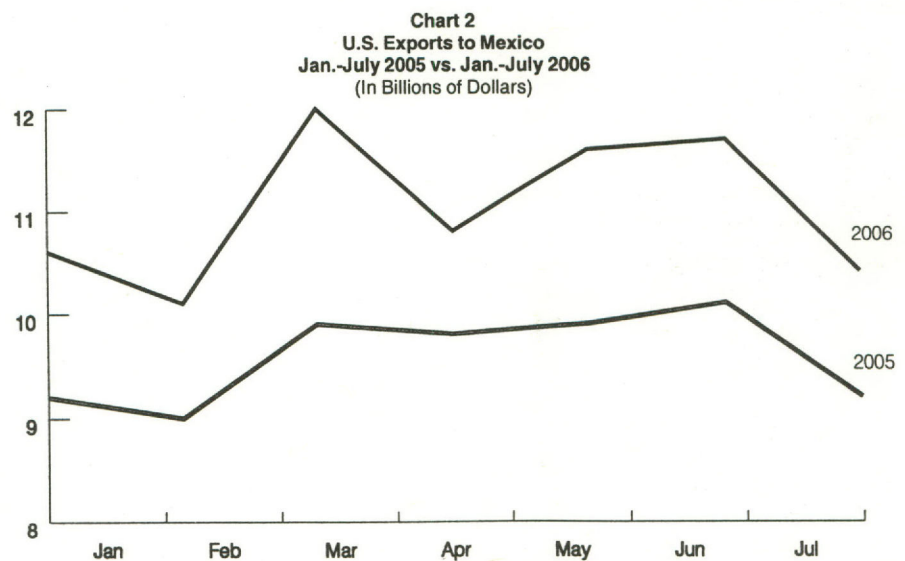
In Chart 1, total trade figures exhibited double-digit increases in each month versus the corresponding ones of the previous year. The highest increase being that of March 2006 over 2005. The lowest increase being that of May 2006 over 2005. The total trade figures in Chart 1 are composed from the sums of U.S. exports to Mexico dollar value figures and those of U.S. imports from Mexico.

In Chart 2, the monthly dollar figures for U.S. export to Mexico are presented for 2005 and 2006 for comparison. As noted, the recorded monthly dollar values for 2006 were higher than those for 2005. As with the total trade dollar values for 2006, the export values increased by double-digits, with March 2006 registering the highest increase, 21.2 percent. The overall increase for 2006 YTD was 15.1 percent over that of 2005. The cumulative exports dollar value for 2006 was \$77.2 billion as compared to \$67.1 billion for the same period last year.

As with the export trade figures, the 2006 dollar value figures for U.S. imports



Total Trade	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	YTD
2005	21.3	21.6	24.0	24.0	24.3	25.0	21.9	162.1
2006	25.9	24.9	29.4	26.5	28.7	29.5	25.9	190.8
% Change 2005 vs. 2006	21.6	15.3	22.5	10.4	18.1	18.0	18.3	17.7



Exports	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	YTD
2005	9.2	9.0	9.9	9.8	9.9	10.1	9.2	67.1
2006	10.6	10.1	12.0	10.8	11.6	11.7	10.4	77.2
% Change 2005 vs. 2006	15.2	12.2	21.2	10.2	17.2	15.8	13.0	15.1

Continued on Back Page



**Need More Detailed Information?**

For more detailed information regarding border crossings, economic indicators and trade activity, visit the Center's web site:

<http://texascenter.tamui.edu>

**Technical Reports**

The Texas Center's research activities have resulted in a series of technical reports on border economic issues ranging from infrastructure needs and environmental issues to the impact of NAFTA on Texas-Mexico trade relations and future business opportunities.

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

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

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

The *Border Business Indicators* (ISSN 1091-9104) is published by the Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development, at Texas A&M International University in Laredo, Texas.

Dr. Ray M. Keck, III  
President, Texas A&M International University

Dr. J. Michael Patrick  
Director, Texas Center

Baldomero G. Garcia  
Program Manager, Texas Center

Jacqueline O. Benavides  
Data & Information Specialist, Texas Center

Leo Lozano  
Database Specialist, Texas Center

Jesus Araiza  
Student Research Assistant, Texas Center

Further information may be obtained by calling:  
TEL. (956) 326-2546  
FAX (956) 326-2544

or by writing to the addresses below:

E-mail: [texascenter@tamui.edu](mailto:texascenter@tamui.edu)  
Texas A&M International University  
Texas Center  
5201 University Boulevard  
Laredo, TX 78041-1900

Produced by the TAMUI Print Shop  
on Recycled Paper



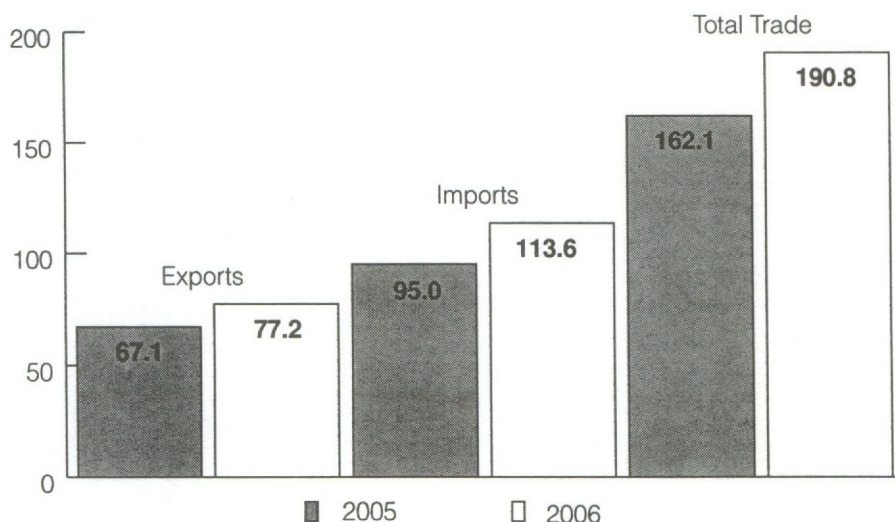
**Note from the Director**

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

- Pedestrian bridge crossings into Mexico were up 0.7 percent.
- Pedestrian bridge crossings into Texas were up 3.5 percent.
- Vehicle bridge crossings into Mexico fell 3.0 percent.
- Vehicle bridge crossings into Texas fell 2.8 percent.
- Truck bridge crossings into Mexico gained 9.6 percent.
- Truck bridge crossings into Texas gained 6.2 percent.
- Rail car bridge crossings into Mexico went down 1.2 percent.
- Rail car bridge crossings into Texas went up 25.4 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Customs increased 4.9 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. bridge operators registered a gain of 8.9 percent.
- Tourist visas issued for entry into Mexico were up 3.2 percent.
- Total employment was up 3.1 percent, with 14,598 jobs gained. The average unemployment rate for the border in July 2006 was 6.6 percent.
- Total building permits issued rose 12.7 percent.
- Total building permit values decreased 2.3 percent.
- Power connections in service for residential were up 2.7 percent, commercial were up 1.9 percent and industrial were down 0.5 percent.
- Air passenger arrivals were down 1.4 percent, and departures were down 1.1 percent.
- Total cargo for the Port of Brownsville increased 23.7 percent.
- Inbound cargo for the Port of Corpus Christi went up 0.3 percent, and outbound cargo went down 2.8 percent.

**U.S.-Mexico Trade at a Glance**

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



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

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

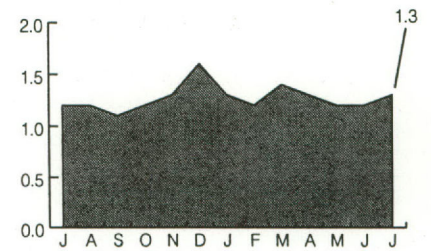


**Pedestrian Bridge Crossings from Texas to Mexico**

City	Jul 06	%Share	05 vs. 06		YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	YTD %Chg
			%Chg					
Brownsville	194,121	15.3	9.2		1,260,387	1,338,795	15.1	6.2
Del Rio	3,340	0.3	-22.5		31,806	26,111	0.3	-17.9
Eagle Pass	48,639	3.8	0.5		352,987	348,523	3.9	-1.3
El Paso	441,625	34.8	-1.1		3,241,555	2,921,366	33.0	-9.9
Harlingen	36	0.0	-65.0		686	568	0.0	-17.2
Laredo	349,083	27.5	7.4		2,234,768	2,360,408	26.7	5.6
McAllen-Hidalgo	124,802	9.8	14.8		759,977	876,734	9.9	15.4
Progreso	92,596	7.3	12.4		815,841	854,872	9.7	4.8
Rio Grande	28	0.0	-68.2		1,235	563	0.0	-54.4
Roma	15,424	1.2	38.1		86,129	118,118	1.3	37.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,269,694</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.4</b>		<b>8,785,371</b>	<b>8,846,058</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.7</b>

Source: U.S. bridge operators in cited cities

**Pedestrians into Mexico All Cited Cities**  
Jul. 2005 vs. Jul. 2006: Up 5.4%  
(In Millions)

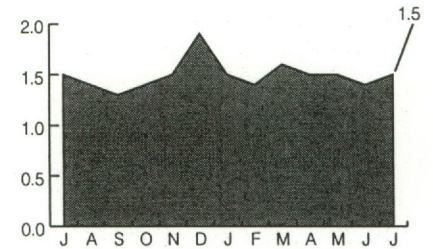


**Pedestrian Bridge Crossings from Mexico to Texas**

City	Jul 06	%Share	05 vs. 06		YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	YTD %Chg
			%Chg					
Brownsville	234,150	15.2	6.3		1,524,065	1,590,933	15.2	4.4
Del Rio	5,572	0.4	-17.7		49,793	39,773	0.4	-20.1
Eagle Pass	58,637	3.8	5.1		399,216	404,417	3.9	1.3
El Paso	571,199	37.2	-0.3		3,852,685	3,750,658	35.7	-2.6
Laredo	393,020	25.6	7.3		2,470,945	2,616,799	24.9	5.9
McAllen-Hidalgo	161,611	10.5	18.1		901,358	1,084,084	10.3	20.3
Presidio	1,761	0.1	-15.5		14,118	12,731	0.1	-9.8
Progreso	91,360	5.9	11.6		808,013	849,066	8.1	5.1
Rio Grande	1,102	0.1	16.5		6,618	8,912	0.1	34.7
Roma	18,901	1.2	24.0		115,003	137,211	1.3	19.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,537,313</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.4</b>		<b>10,141,814</b>	<b>10,494,584</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3.5</b>

Source: Oficina de Caminos y Puentes Federales, Mexico

**Pedestrians into Texas All Cited Cities**  
Jul. 2005 vs. Jul. 2006: Up 5.4%  
(In Millions)

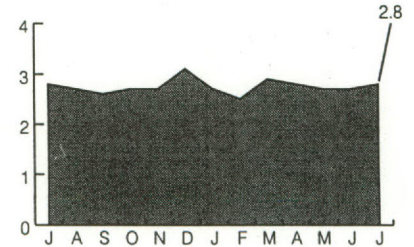


**Vehicle Bridge Crossings from Texas to Mexico**

City	Jul 06	%Share	05 vs. 06		YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	YTD %Chg
			%Chg					
Brownsville	570,410	20.7	1.9		3,950,779	3,945,817	20.7	-0.1
Del Rio	146,045	5.3	1.0		995,760	994,947	5.2	-0.1
Eagle Pass	252,918	9.2	-7.4		1,867,070	1,767,921	9.3	-5.3
El Paso	399,659	14.5	-1.9		2,727,361	2,787,346	14.7	2.2
Harlingen	65,803	2.4	3.8		411,048	418,717	2.2	1.9
Laredo	510,968	18.6	-6.3		3,850,359	3,487,710	18.3	-9.4
McAllen-Hidalgo	447,357	16.2	-1.1		3,174,765	3,051,661	16.0	-3.9
Pharr	149,680	5.4	-3.1		1,053,699	1,044,690	5.5	-0.9
Progreso	86,385	3.1	4.4		611,103	608,788	3.2	-0.4
Rio Grande	45,335	1.6	-9.1		356,870	335,556	1.8	-6.0
Roma	79,650	2.9	-5.9		605,923	575,616	3.0	-5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,754,210</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-2.3</b>		<b>19,604,737</b>	<b>19,018,769</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-3.0</b>

Source: U.S. bridge operators in cited cities

**Vehicles into Mexico All Cited Cities**  
Jul. 2005 vs. Jul. 2006: Down 2.3%  
(In Millions)

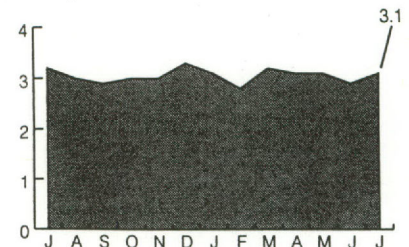


**Vehicle Bridge Crossings from Mexico to Texas**

City	Jul 06	%Share	05 vs. 06		YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	YTD %Chg
			%Chg					
Brownsville	577,562	18.5	3.0		3,968,163	3,999,063	18.7	0.8
Del Rio	159,483	5.1	2.1		1,066,472	1,080,913	5.1	1.4
Eagle Pass	267,103	8.5	-5.5		1,943,952	1,857,958	8.7	-4.4
El Paso	617,039	19.7	-0.9		4,111,227	4,060,772	19.0	-1.2
Harlingen	71,750	2.3	1.2		460,110	461,343	2.2	0.3
Laredo	525,154	16.8	-4.4		3,902,284	3,564,562	16.7	-8.7
McAllen-Hidalgo	414,600	13.3	-0.5		3,067,110	2,899,260	13.6	-5.5
Pharr	205,511	6.6	0.8		1,364,991	1,396,409	6.5	2.3
Presidio	66,312	2.1	1.5		435,859	443,952	2.1	1.9
Progreso	89,996	2.9	6.4		608,948	620,279	2.9	1.9
Rio Grande	52,310	1.7	-5.0		398,386	375,647	1.8	-5.7
Roma	79,944	2.6	-6.2		612,747	574,317	2.7	-6.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,126,764</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-0.8</b>		<b>21,940,249</b>	<b>21,334,475</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-2.8</b>

Source: Oficina de Caminos y Puentes Federales, Mexico

**Vehicles into Texas All Cited Cities**  
Jul. 2005 vs. Jul. 2006: Down 0.8%  
(In Millions)





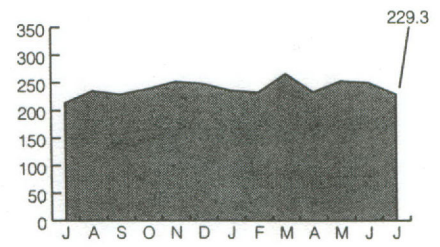
**Truck Bridge Crossings from Texas to Mexico**

City	Jul 06	%Share	05 vs. 06		YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	%Chg
			%Chg					
Brownsville	18,465	8.1	16.0		118,106	128,797	7.6	9.1
Del Rio	5,362	2.3	11.1		53,271	41,580	2.4	-21.9
Eagle Pass	7,404	3.2	0.5		55,077	56,580	3.3	2.7
El Paso	24,441	10.7	8.0		175,979	186,290	10.9	5.9
Harlingen	1,117	0.5	-65.8		24,542	21,410	1.3	-12.8
Laredo	133,931	58.4	8.4		845,662	976,584	57.3	15.5
McAllen-Hidalgo	591	0.3	-64.9		11,935	7,969	0.5	-33.2
Pharr	32,849	14.3	10.8		230,867	242,733	14.2	5.1
Progreso	1,744	0.8	20.9		12,968	16,279	1.0	25.5
Rio Grande	2,541	1.1	6.9		20,485	20,287	1.2	-1.0
Roma	890	0.4	21.8		5,844	6,248	0.4	6.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>229,335</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7.4</b>		<b>1,554,736</b>	<b>1,704,757</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9.6</b>

Source: U.S. bridge operators in cited cities

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

Trucks into Mexico All Cited Cities  
Jul. 2005 vs. Jul. 2006: Up 7.4%  
(In Thousands)



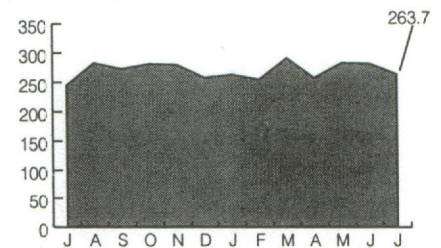
**Truck Bridge Crossings from Mexico to Texas**

City	Jul 06	%Share	05 vs. 06		YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	%Chg
			%Chg					
Brownsville	16,346	6.2	11.3		108,326	120,013	6.3	10.8
Del Rio	4,804	1.8	6.1		36,128	39,175	2.1	8.4
Eagle Pass	7,393	2.8	1.2		56,932	56,594	3.0	-0.6
El Paso	65,348	24.8	17.1		419,294	448,552	23.7	7.0
Falcon Heights	0	0.0	-100.0		45	24	0.0	-46.7
Harlingen	3,332	1.3	8.9		25,286	25,051	1.3	-0.9
Laredo	123,523	46.8	4.9		810,716	876,051	46.2	8.1
Pharr	35,866	13.6	-0.7		280,349	276,754	14.6	-1.3
Presidio	502	0.2	62.5		2,933	3,508	0.2	19.6
Progreso	2,202	0.8	40.2		12,511	17,804	0.9	42.3
Rio Grande	3,632	1.4	15.9		28,001	27,187	1.4	-2.9
Roma	743	0.3	19.3		5,033	4,976	0.3	-1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>263,691</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7.7</b>		<b>1,785,554</b>	<b>1,895,689</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6.2</b>

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

Note: Figures include loaded and empty trucks.

Trucks into Texas All Cited Cities  
Jul. 2005 vs. Jul. 2006: Up 7.7%  
(In Thousands)



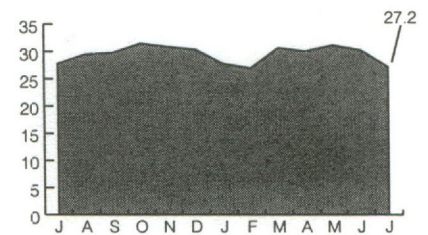
**Rail Car Crossings from Texas to Mexico**

City	Jul 06	%Share	05 vs. 06		YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	%Chg
			%Chg					
Brownsville	4,100	15.1	87.0		22,180	28,900	14.1	30.3
Eagle Pass	5,502	20.2	-21.1		43,507	41,381	20.3	-4.9
El Paso	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Laredo	17,612	64.7	-5.4		141,026	134,034	65.6	-5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,214</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-2.1</b>		<b>206,713</b>	<b>204,315</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-1.2</b>

Source: Railroad companies in cited cities

Note: Figures for El Paso are not available.

Rail Cars into Mexico All Cited Cities  
Jul. 2005 vs. Jul. 2006: Down 2.1%  
(In Thousands)

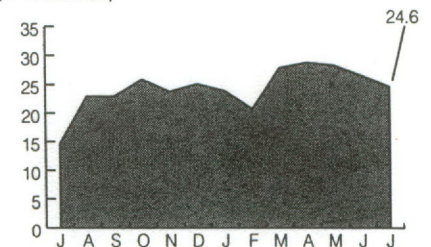


**Rail Car Crossings from Mexico to Texas**

City	Jul 06	%Share	05 vs. 06		YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	%Chg
			%Chg					
Brownsville	277	1.1	-44.3		4,623	3,205	1.8	-30.7
Eagle Pass	3,397	13.8	77.4		12,637	26,732	14.8	111.5
El Paso	8,737	35.5	0.0		31,288	58,104	32.2	85.7
Laredo	12,171	49.5	0.0		95,413	92,539	51.2	-3.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,582</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>68.5</b>		<b>143,961</b>	<b>180,580</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>25.4</b>

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

Rail Cars into Texas All Cited Cities  
Jul. 2005 vs. Jul. 2006: Up 68.5%  
(In Thousands)



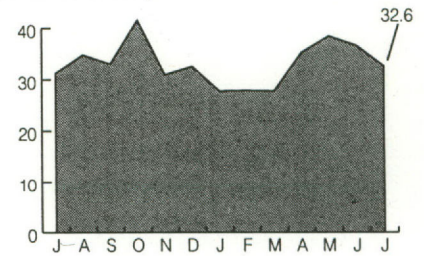


**Revenues Collected by U.S. Customs District of Laredo (in U.S.\$)**

City	Jul 06	%Share	05 vs. 06		YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	YTD %Chg
			%Chg					
Brownsville	1,668,501	5.1	-25.6		14,529,009	12,018,375	5.3	-17.3
Del Rio	185,432	0.6	66.3		838,903	1,208,673	0.5	44.1
Eagle Pass	1,570,629	4.8	-7.6		9,102,205	11,517,153	5.1	26.5
McAllen-Hidalgo	3,902,375	12.0	8.3		28,073,404	26,057,372	11.5	-7.2
Laredo	25,192,450	77.3	7.2		162,459,427	174,437,934	77.2	7.4
Progreso	25,905	0.1	13.9		196,598	235,388	0.1	19.7
Rio Grande	24,565	0.1	18.7		170,786	184,987	0.1	8.3
Roma	34,053	0.1	13.3		144,852	315,432	0.1	117.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,603,911</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4.4</b>		<b>215,515,184</b>	<b>225,975,313</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4.9</b>

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

Customs Revenues for the District of Laredo  
 Jul. 2005 vs. Jul. 2006: Up 4.4%  
 (In Millions of U.S.\$)

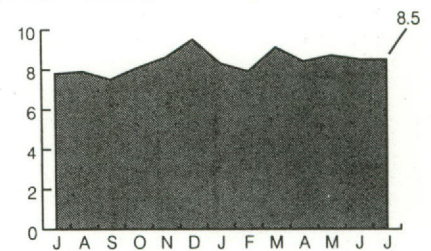


**Revenues Collected by U.S. Bridge Operators (in U.S.\$)**

City	Jul 06	%Share	05 vs. 06		YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	YTD %Chg
			%Chg					
Brownsville	1,338,583	15.7	14.8		8,235,959	9,203,547	15.5	11.7
Del Rio	294,280	3.5	0.7		2,015,946	2,006,368	3.4	-0.5
Eagle Pass	557,810	6.6	-5.0		4,097,813	3,889,694	6.6	-5.1
El Paso	1,157,721	13.6	0.2		7,974,611	8,259,710	14.0	3.6
Harlingen	171,525	2.0	-2.9		1,209,282	1,300,305	2.2	7.5
Laredo	3,245,284	38.2	19.6		19,068,062	22,449,432	37.9	17.7
McAllen-Hidalgo	933,712	11.0	-1.7		6,448,667	6,414,259	10.8	-0.5
Pharr	589,221	6.9	8.0		3,968,855	4,120,386	7.0	3.8
Roma	210,934	2.5	14.5		1,326,420	1,564,737	2.6	18.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,499,069</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9.4</b>		<b>54,345,615</b>	<b>59,208,437</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8.9</b>

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

Bridge Revenues All Cited Cities  
 Jul. 2005 vs. Jul. 2006: Up 9.4%  
 (In Millions of U.S.\$)

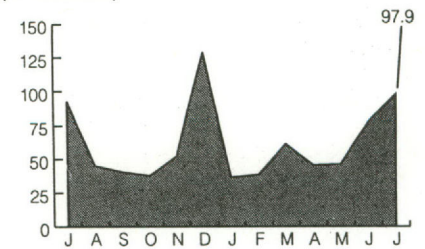


**Tourist Visas Issued for Entry into Mexico**

City	Jul 06	%Share	05 vs. 06		YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	YTD %Chg
			%Chg					
Del Rio	1,226	1.3	-1.3		4,663	4,748	1.2	1.8
El Paso	18,159	18.5	-3.9		73,853	71,510	17.8	-3.2
McAllen-Hidalgo	16,993	17.4	0.2		83,616	83,253	20.7	-0.4
Brownsville	11,698	11.9	1.3		49,491	50,094	12.5	1.2
Laredo	45,180	46.1	15.5		158,357	172,973	43.0	9.2
Eagle Pass	4,643	4.7	-2.8		19,636	19,641	4.9	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>97,899</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.8</b>		<b>389,616</b>	<b>402,219</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3.2</b>

Source: Instituto Nacional de Migracion, Mexico

Tourist Visas Issued All Cited Cities  
 Jul. 2005 vs. Jul. 2006: Up 5.8%  
 (In Thousands)

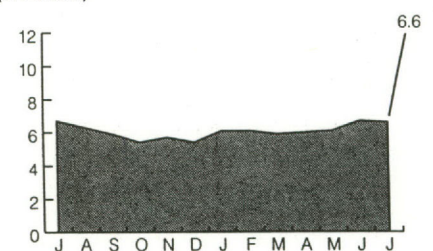


**Employment & Unemployment Rates (Texas Border)**

City	Employed		Unemployed		%Unemp Jul 06	Emp Avg		Emp Avg		05 vs. 06		Gain/Loss	
	Jul 06	Jul 06	Jul 06	Jul 06		YTD 05	YTD 06	Emp %Chg	YTD				
Brownsville	57,443	4,428	7.2	54,777	56,542	3.2	1,764						
Del Rio	15,083	1,433	8.7	14,837	14,870	0.2	33						
El Paso	239,506	18,081	7.0	233,236	237,384	1.8	4,148						
Harlingen	23,953	1,688	6.6	22,842	23,577	3.2	736						
Laredo	81,186	4,914	5.7	75,658	80,229	6.0	4,571						
McAllen	55,737	3,255	5.5	53,133	55,552	4.6	2,419						
Pharr	21,375	1,396	6.1	20,376	21,304	4.6	928						
<b>Total</b>	<b>494,283</b>	<b>35,195</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>474,859</b>	<b>489,457</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>14,598</b>						
Texas Unemployment Rate					5.5								
U.S. Unemployment Rate					5.0								

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

Percent of Unemployment All Cited Cities Combined  
 Jul. 2005 vs. Jul. 2006: Down 1.5%  
 (In Percent)

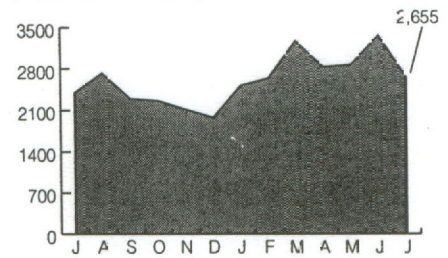




**Building Permits**

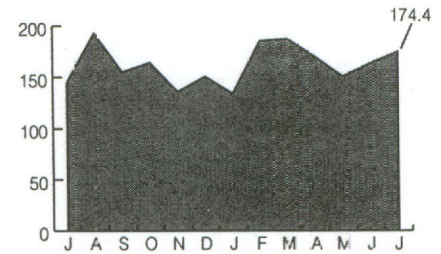
Number City	05 vs. 06			YTD			
	Jul 06	%Share	%Chg	YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	%Chg
Brownsville	249	9.4	-5.3	2,202	2,000	9.9	-9.2
Del Rio	185	7.0	-27.7	1,635	1,625	8.1	-0.6
Eagle Pass	37	1.4	-35.1	358	272	1.3	-24.0
El Paso	1,094	41.2	-2.3	7,814	7,053	35.0	-9.7
Harlingen	253	9.5	17.1	1,915	2,291	11.4	19.6
Laredo	594	22.4	93.5	2,591	5,259	26.1	103.0
McAllen	243	9.2	38.9	1,379	1,659	8.2	20.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,655</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>17,894</b>	<b>20,159</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12.7</b>

Building Permits All Cited Cities  
Jul. 2005 vs. Jul. 2006  
(Number of Permits): Up 10.9%



Dollar Value City	05 vs. 06			YTD			
	Jul 06	%Share	%Chg	YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	%Chg
Brownsville	16,343,130	9.4	-31.9	162,863,984	145,817,494	12.5	-10.5
Del Rio	1,219,685	0.7	-1.5	15,325,356	18,495,416	1.6	20.7
Eagle Pass	2,117,740	1.2	42.6	35,478,375	14,093,973	1.2	-60.3
El Paso	64,153,648	36.8	-23.4	491,418,544	465,965,485	40.0	-5.2
Harlingen	3,934,480	2.3	29.2	42,426,036	67,826,492	5.8	59.9
Laredo	27,971,632	16.0	59.5	247,015,888	256,011,873	22.0	3.6
McAllen	58,655,838	33.6	337.4	197,778,794	196,352,238	16.9	-0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>174,396,153</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>1,192,306,977</b>	<b>1,164,562,971</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-2.3</b>

(Value of Permits in Millions of U.S.): Up 20.7%

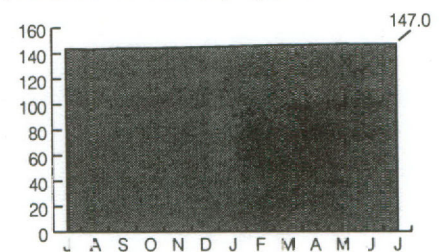


Source: Permit Departments in cited cities  
Note: Dollar value totals may not add up due to rounding.

**Power Connections (in Service)**

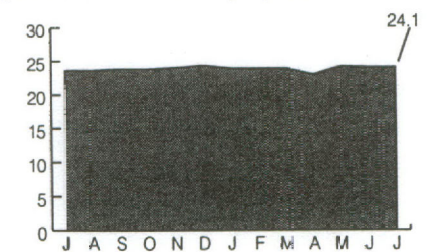
Residential City	05 vs. 06			Average		YTD	
	Jul 06	%Share	%Chg	YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	%Chg
Brownsville	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Del Rio	14,864	10.1	1.2	14,670	14,827	10.1	1.1
Eagle Pass	10,972	7.5	1.8	10,717	10,958	7.5	2.3
El Paso	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Harlingen	23,533	16.0	1.7	23,073	23,535	16.1	2.0
Laredo	60,081	40.9	3.2	57,714	59,800	40.8	3.6
McAllen	37,578	25.6	2.5	36,599	37,456	25.6	2.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>147,028</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>142,772</b>	<b>146,575</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.7</b>

Power Connections All Cited Cities  
Jul. 2005 vs. Jul. 2006  
(Residential - In Thousands): Up 2.5%



Commercial City	05 vs. 06			Average		YTD	
	Jul 06	%Share	%Chg	YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	%Chg
Brownsville	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Del Rio	2,344	9.7	1.9	2,303	2,343	9.8	1.7
Eagle Pass	1,705	7.1	0.6	1,682	1,703	7.1	1.2
El Paso	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Harlingen	4,023	16.7	0.4	3,992	4,039	16.9	1.2
Laredo	9,226	38.3	3.2	8,863	9,014	37.8	1.7
McAllen	6,808	28.2	2.9	6,572	6,765	28.3	2.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,106</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>23,412</b>	<b>23,863</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.9</b>

(Commercial - In Thousands): Up 2.3%



Industrial City	05 vs. 06			Average		YTD	
	Jul 06	%Share	%Chg	YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	%Chg
Brownsville	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Del Rio	43	8.7	-2.3	45	44	8.8	-1.0
Eagle Pass	27	5.5	-12.9	30	28	5.6	-7.5
El Paso	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Harlingen	103	20.8	2.0	103	103	20.6	0.0
Laredo	201	40.6	-0.5	204	202	40.5	-1.0
McAllen	121	24.4	0.8	120	122	24.5	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-0.5</b>

(Industrial): Down 0.6%



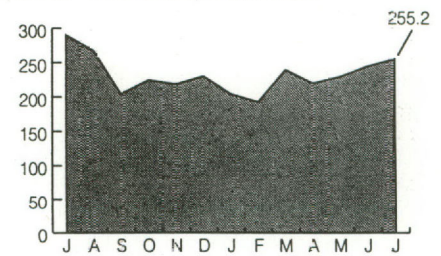
Source: American Electric Power Company, Brownsville Public Utilities Board & El Paso Electric Company  
Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.



**Air Passenger Service Activity (Number of Passengers)**

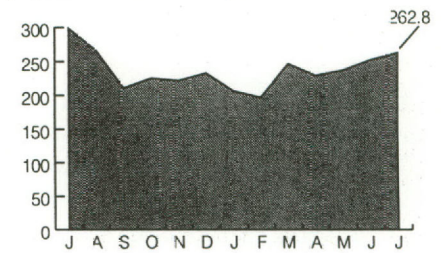
City	Jul 06	%Share	05 vs. 06		YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	%Chg
			%Chg					
Brownsville	7,924	3.1	-78.9		75,098	53,064	3.3	-29.3
El Paso	163,102	63.9	-2.0		970,431	987,016	62.3	1.7
Harlingen	36,468	14.3	-16.5		298,179	253,345	16.0	-15.0
Laredo	9,273	3.6	5.5		55,696	54,142	3.4	-2.8
McAllen	38,393	15.0	15.3		208,623	237,780	15.0	14.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>255,160</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-11.9</b>		<b>1,608,027</b>	<b>1,585,347</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-1.4</b>

**Air Passenger Activity All Cited Cities**  
Jul. 2005 vs. Jul. 2006  
(Arrivals - in Thousands): Down 11.9%



City	Jul 06	%Share	05 vs. 06		YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	%Chg
			%Chg					
Brownsville	8,326	3.2	-79.0		78,476	54,876	3.4	-30.1
El Paso	166,599	63.4	-1.7		990,494	1,009,416	61.9	1.9
Harlingen	39,026	14.8	-14.1		309,801	267,520	16.4	-13.6
Laredo	9,331	3.6	5.2		54,730	54,464	3.3	-0.5
McAllen	39,544	15.0	14.0		216,565	245,280	15.0	13.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>262,826</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-11.8</b>		<b>1,650,066</b>	<b>1,631,556</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-1.1</b>

(Departures - in Thousands): Down 1.8%

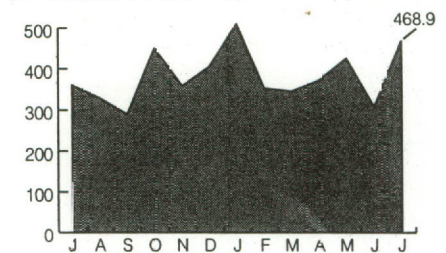


Source: Airports in cited cities

**Port of Brownsville (Total Cargo in Metric Tons)**

Cargo Type	Jul 06	%Share	05 vs. 06		YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	%Chg
			%Chg					
Break Bulk	280,328	59.8	0.0		1,003,467	1,717,817	61.7	71.2
Containers	0	0.0	0.0		0	0	0.0	0.0
Grain Bulk	0	0.0	0.0		13,070	0	0.0	-100.0
Liquid	49,460	10.5	-29.8		166,720	200,808	7.2	20.4
Machinery	1,186	0.3	N/A		50,717	36,945	1.3	-27.2
Ores - Minerals	0	0.0	-100.0		32,713	0	0.0	-100.0
Other	22,306	4.8	72.6		22,336	22,941	0.8	2.7
Petroleum	115,660	24.7	-36.2		861,883	804,118	28.9	-6.7
Steel - Other Minerals	0	0.0	-100.0		98,448	0	0.0	-100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>468,939</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>30.1</b>		<b>2,249,355</b>	<b>2,782,629</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>23.7</b>

**Port of Brownsville Total Cargo**  
Jul. 2005 vs. Jul. 2006: Up 30.1%  
(In Thousands of Metric Tons)



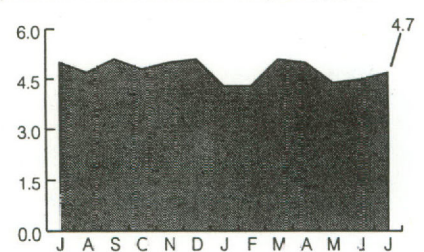
Source: Port of Brownsville

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

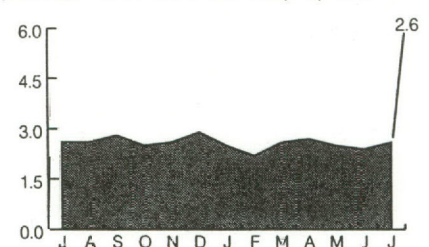
Cargo Type	Jul 06	%Share	05 vs. 06		YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	%Chg
			%Chg					
Break Bulk	2,342	0.0	-87.6		204,252	93,565	0.3	-54.2
Chemical	6,623	0.1	-41.4		86,616	79,351	0.2	-8.4
Containers	0	0.0	0.0		0	0	0.0	0.0
Dry Bulk	398,216	8.4	32.4		2,942,238	3,000,506	9.3	2.0
Grain Bulk	2,790	0.1	N/A		7,882	9,521	0.0	20.8
Liquid	10,148	0.2	-67.5		168,642	84,526	0.3	-49.9
Petroleum	4,317,586	91.1	-6.6		28,750,034	28,994,325	89.9	0.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,737,705</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-5.0</b>		<b>32,159,665</b>	<b>32,261,795</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.3</b>

**Port of Corpus Christi Cargo**  
Jul. 2005 vs. Jul. 2006  
(Inbound - In Millions of U.S. Tons): Down 5.0%



Cargo Type	Jul 06	%Share	05 vs. 06		YTD 05	YTD 06	%Share	%Chg
			%Chg					
Break Bulk	6,985	0.3	52.5		87,959	39,335	0.2	-55.3
Chemical	95,831	3.7	-13.1		941,176	867,047	5.0	-7.9
Containers	0	0.0	0.0		0	0	0.0	0.0
Dry Bulk	110,570	4.3	-65.0		2,478,383	1,367,962	7.9	-44.8
Grain Bulk	117,436	4.5	-36.3		1,039,834	973,126	5.6	-6.4
Liquid	0	0.0	-100.0		120,585	20,008	0.1	-83.4
Petroleum	2,250,766	87.2	17.9		13,231,994	14,135,666	81.2	6.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,581,589</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.7</b>		<b>17,899,931</b>	<b>17,403,144</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-2.8</b>

(Outbound - In Millions of U.S. Tons): Up 0.7%



Source: Port of Corpus Christi

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.



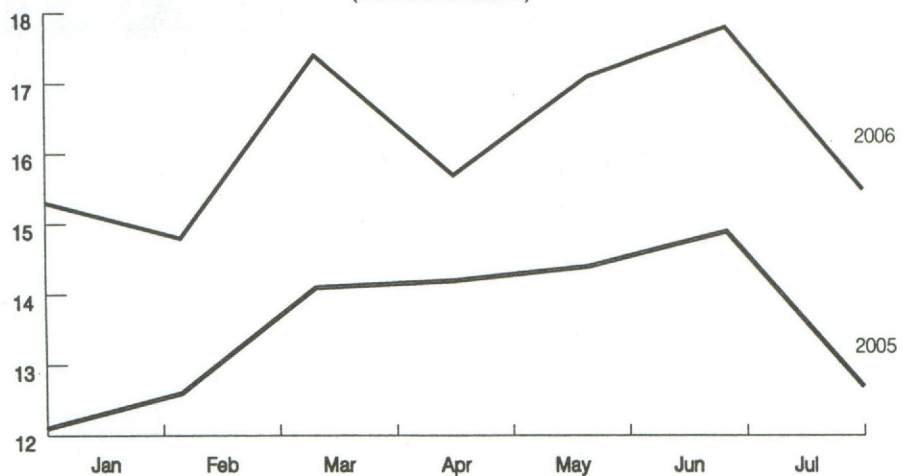
Continued from Front Page

from Mexico marked increases over 2005. In Chart 3, U.S. imports from Mexico dollar values for the period January to July 2006 are exhibited, marking the monthly increases of this year over the last. The highest percent increase was noted in January 2006 with a 26.4. As in the case of U.S. exports, U.S. imports showed double-digit increase throughout the period of January to July of 2006. The year-to-date dollar value for imports in this period was \$113.6 billion compared to \$95.0 billion for the same period in 2005, translating into a 19.6 percent increase.

In the case of balance of trade between the trading partners, the U.S. continued its deficit with Mexico. In 2006 year-to-date, the trade deficit was \$36.4 billion. The deficit for the same period last year was \$27.9 billion, an increase of 30.5 percent. This deficit trend has continued, since the last time the U.S. registered a surplus with Mexico in 1994 prior to the start of the NAFTA in 1995.

With only five months of trade values forthcoming, the only question left re-

**Chart 3**  
**U.S. Imports from Mexico**  
**Jan.-July 2005 vs. Jan.-July 2006**  
 (In Billions of Dollars)



Imports	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	YTD
2005	12.1	12.6	14.1	14.2	14.4	14.9	12.7	95.0
2006	15.3	14.8	17.4	15.7	17.1	17.8	15.5	113.6
% Change 2005 vs. 2006	26.4	17.5	23.4	10.6	18.8	19.5	22.0	19.6

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of the Census, Foreign Trade Division data compiled by the Texas Center at Texas A&M International University (Charts 1-3)

garding U.S.-Mexico trade in 2006 will be the magnitude of the increase over 2005. In the following issues of the *BBI*, those trends will be monitored. —B. Garcia

Subscribe now to *Border Business Indicators*! Annual subscription rate is \$36.00 (12 monthly issues). Enclose this subscription form or photocopy with payment. Payable in U.S. funds only.

Type of Subscription:

- New  
 Renewal

Check Method of Payment:

- Check  
 Money Order

Payable to:

Texas A&M International University

Send subscription to:

Texas A&M International University  
 Border Business Indicators  
 Texas Center  
 5201 University Boulevard  
 Laredo, TX 78041-1900

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation/Co. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_



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

Non-Profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage Paid  
 Laredo, Texas  
 78041  
 Permit 231