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Border Business Indicators

Government Publications
Texas State Documents

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

Vol. 21, No. 8
SEP 22 1997 August 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

Note from the Director

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Indicators of border business activity for the month of June were down. Twelve monthly indicators were down while eleven indicators were up when compared to May. In addition, for the year-to-date (YTD) figures, fifteen indicators were up and eight were down. Selected YTD comparisons to 1996 reported by border cities include the following:

- Southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico were up 29.7 percent. El Paso was up 80.7 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo rose 14.0 percent, Laredo increased 11.5 percent while Brownsville was down 0.1 percent.
- Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were down 2.4 percent. Brownsville was down 12.3 percent, Laredo decreased 7.9 percent and McAllen-Hidalgo fell 6.7 percent. However, El Paso increased 8.2 percent.
- Southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 5.4 percent. McAllen-Hidalgo was up 10.6 percent, El Paso rose 9.0 percent, Brownsville increased 6.6 percent and Laredo was up 4.7 percent.
- Northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 3.0 percent with Brownsville increasing 9.6 percent and El Paso gaining 0.6 percent. However, McAllen-Hidalgo was down 2.7 percent and Laredo fell 2.5 percent YTD.
- Southbound truck shipments into Mexico were up 15.4 percent. Laredo increased 23.5 percent and Brownsville rose 8.8 percent while McAllen-Hidalgo decreased 17.2 percent.
- Northbound truck shipments into Texas were up 3.8 percent with Eagle Pass increasing 16.1 percent and Laredo posted a 1.1 percent increase YTD. However, Brownsville remained unchanged YTD.
- Southbound shipments by rail were up 20.8 percent.
- Northbound shipments by rail were down 2.4 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Customs were up 5.3 percent YTD. Revenues collected by U.S. Bridge operators were up 7.6 percent.
- Building permits issued were down 24.3 percent. Harlingen decreased by 31.9 percent, El Paso declined 28.8 percent and Laredo was down 18.9 percent.
- Building permit values were up with a YTD increase of 12.2 percent. Brownsville increased 137.1 percent, Laredo up 29.8 percent, Harlingen 10.5 was up percent and Eagle Pass reported a 5.5 percent increase.
- Total employment was up 3.4 percent (14,161 jobs gained) YTD. The average unemployment rate in June 1997 was 12.4 percent, down from the 13.8 percent in June 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

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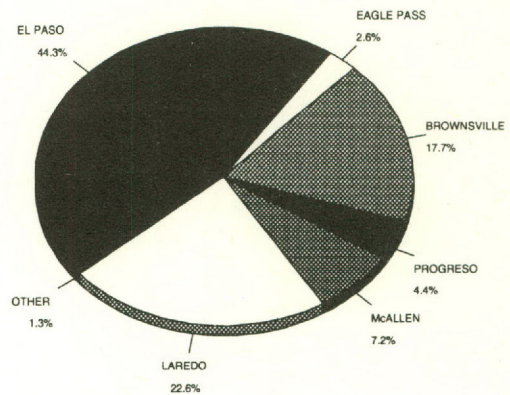
Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	APR 97	MAY 97	JUN 97	JUN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	243,106	270,027	247,566	256,046	1,608,373	1,607,398	-0.1
DEL RIO	5,055	6,663	4,940	4,260	29,862	31,527	5.6
EAGLE PASS	38,480	41,630	36,374	33,362	220,285	237,786	7.9
EL PASO	620,540	714,988	619,606	367,813	2,127,346	3,843,969	80.7
HARLINGEN	71	98	96	89	600	538	-10.3
LAREDO	309,176	336,136	316,335	285,602	1,701,629	1,896,675	11.5
McALLEN-HIDALGO	98,431	110,559	100,628	85,979	579,254	660,481	14.0
PROGRESO	77,010	66,355	61,747	56,799	624,321	693,327	11.1
RIO GRANDE	773	981	688	570	5,022	5,615	11.8
ROMA	13,717	15,812	12,223	13,847	90,608	85,408	-5.7
TOTAL	1,406,359	1,563,249	1,400,203	1,104,367	6,987,300	9,062,724	29.7

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 June were down 10.4 percent compared to May. Rio Grande decreased 29.9 percent, Del Rio was down 25.9 percent, Roma fell 22.7 percent, El Paso declined 13.3 percent, Eagle Pass dipped 12.6 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo posted a decrease of 9.0 percent, Brownsville decreased 8.3 percent, Progreso slid 6.9 percent, Laredo dipped 5.9 percent and Harlingen fell 2.0 percent. YTD, total southbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 29.7 percent. El Paso southbound pedestrian crossings, which make up 44.3 percent of all crossings in June, were up 80.7 percent. Laredo, accounting for 22.6 percent of all crossings, was up 11.5 percent and Brownsville was down 0.1 percent with 17.7 percent of all crossings YTD.

% Share Pedestrians for June 1997



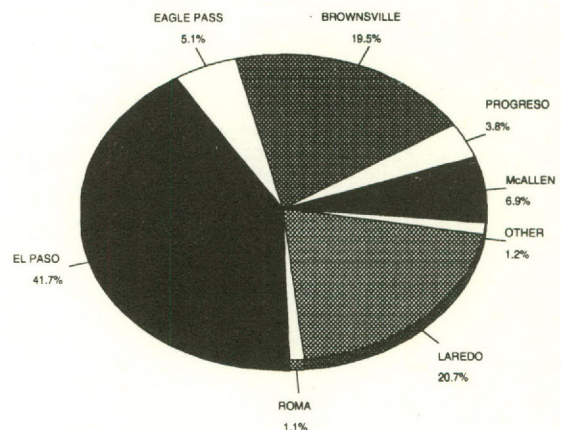
Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	APR 97	MAY 97	JUN 97	JUN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	200,802	222,698	229,414	252,141	1,557,350	1,365,240	-12.3
DEL RIO	9,969	10,243	10,000	7,850	50,007	64,931	29.8
EAGLE PASS	53,104	60,430	59,756	44,014	300,791	331,869	10.3
EL PASO	473,799	535,599	490,133	493,262	2,684,093	2,905,196	8.2
LAREDO	243,819	263,479	243,090	259,952	1,622,425	1,494,926	-7.9
McALLEN-HIDALGO	79,127	85,857	81,070	96,162	612,717	571,422	-6.7
PRESIDIO	3,428	3,563	2,924	1,871	13,869	18,425	32.9
PROGRESO	48,137	40,641	45,251	41,051	424,716	358,603	-15.6
RIO GRANDE	1,196	1,455	1,207	1,223	7,173	7,860	9.6
ROMA	12,556	15,396	13,178	14,693	99,325	74,022	-25.5
TOTAL	1,125,937	1,239,361	1,176,023	1,212,219	7,372,466	7,192,494	-2.4

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 down 5.1 percent in June. Presidio decreased 17.9 percent, Rio Grande fell 17.0 percent, Roma was down 14.4 percent, El Paso declined 8.5 percent, Laredo decreased 7.7 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo was down 5.6 percent, Del Rio dipped 2.4 percent and Eagle Pass decreased slightly by 1.1 percent. However, Progreso gained 11.3 percent and Brownsville increased 3.0 percent. YTD total northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were down 2.4 percent. El Paso, accounting for 41.7 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings in June, was up 8.2 percent YTD. Laredo, with 20.7 percent of all northbound crossings, was down 7.9 percent and Brownsville, with 19.5 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings, had a 12.3 percent decrease in crossings YTD.

% Share Pedestrians for June 1997



Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	APR 97	MAY 97	JUN 97	JUN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	513,952	528,423	497,640	467,026	2,830,271	3,016,766	6.6
DEL RIO	139,703	149,701	142,712	153,812	887,652	845,418	-4.8
EAGLE PASS	212,491	229,370	211,998	215,215	1,293,067	1,278,375	-1.1
EL PASO	451,279	467,602	423,007	390,430	2,431,375	2,649,986	9.0
HARLINGEN	29,693	35,103	33,967	31,921	189,391	198,290	4.7
LAREDO	654,222	684,589	669,065	641,480	3,699,126	3,873,450	4.7
McALLEN-HIDALGO	424,377	458,915	422,619	428,607	2,288,867	2,532,566	10.6
PHARR	95,585	98,969	102,805	85,018	501,673	570,995	13.8
PROGRESO	82,905	87,225	80,370	84,599	546,014	518,762	-5.0
RIO GRANDE	45,690	49,292	45,577	43,796	272,789	279,796	2.6
ROMA	66,529	74,310	68,104	69,863	418,167	419,504	0.3
TOTAL	2,716,426	2,863,499	2,697,864	2,611,767	15,358,392	16,183,908	5.4

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

Southbound vehicle bridge crossings into Mexico decreased 5.8 percent in June from May's figures. El Paso decreased 9.5 percent, Roma was down 8.4 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo and Progreso fell 7.9 percent, Eagle Pass decreased 7.6 percent, Rio Grande declined 7.5 percent, Brownsville posted a 5.8 percent decrease, Del Rio dipped 4.7 percent, Harlingen fell 3.2 percent and Laredo was down 2.3 percent. However, Pharr increased 3.9 percent. YTD total southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 5.4 percent. Laredo,

with 24.8 percent of all southbound traffic in June, was up 4.7 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 18.4 percent of all southbound vehicle bridge crossings, had a 6.6 percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 15.7 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings had a 9.0 percent increase YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 15.7 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, experienced a 10.6 percent increase YTD.

Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	APR 97	MAY 97	JUN 97	JUN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	537,697	527,029	495,626	480,276	2,761,478	3,026,236	9.6
DEL RIO	131,294	144,070	149,608	145,054	726,063	817,518	12.6
EAGLE PASS	202,053	232,463	218,783	193,474	1,202,439	1,243,480	3.4
EL PASO	695,358	701,244	657,094	634,261	3,969,001	3,991,977	0.6
HARLINGEN	36,663	43,864	42,908	40,488	236,330	238,596	1.0
LAREDO	586,855	597,924	589,759	613,202	3,544,239	3,455,486	-2.5
McALLEN-HIDALGO	403,280	424,164	400,756	394,717	2,423,817	2,357,624	-2.7
PRESIDIO	48,630	55,670	54,408	49,081	290,175	307,315	5.9
PROGRESO	82,029	85,488	79,859	82,787	443,681	527,412	18.9
RIO GRANDE	50,055	53,669	49,718	46,778	261,537	307,912	17.7
ROMA	70,708	76,117	71,645	80,370	399,659	465,340	16.4
TOTAL	2,844,622	2,941,702	2,810,164	2,760,488	16,258,419	16,738,896	3.0

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 June were down 4.5 percent since May. Rio Grande was down 7.4 percent, Progreso fell 6.6 percent, El Paso decreased 6.3 percent, Brownsville declined 6.0 percent, Eagle Pass and Roma slid 5.9 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo posted a 5.5 percent decrease, Presidio decreased 2.3 percent, Harlingen was down 2.2 percent and Laredo

decreased slightly by 1.4 percent. However, Del Rio increased 3.8 percent. YTD northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 3.0 percent. El Paso, with 23.4 percent of all crossings in June, was up 0.6 percent YTD. Laredo, with 21.0 percent of all crossings, was down 2.5 percent and Brownsville with 17.6 percent of all crossings, was up 9.6 percent YTD.

Export Shipments by Trucks into Mexico —Number of Trucks

CITY	APR 97	MAY 97	JUN 97	JUN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE+	18,970	18,208	18,507	15,964	98,724	107,423	8.8
DEL RIO+	3,484	3,473	3,183	2,387	17,562	20,304	15.6
EAGLE PASS++	5,258	3,766	3,248	2,664	18,632	23,030	23.6
EL PASO+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	N/A
HARLINGEN+	2,576	2,637	2,932	3,622	21,011	15,448	-26.5
LAREDO++	52,907	52,637	53,189	41,799	242,200	299,091	23.5
McALLEN-HIDALGO+	10,635	9,878	9,408	10,980	69,043	57,189	-17.2
PHARR+	9,748	8,072	8,193	4,027	24,970	49,234	97.2
PROGRESO+	1,824	1,232	703	1,054	10,024	7,233	-27.8
RIO GRANDE+	1,624	2,238	1,614	1,426	7,692	10,367	34.8
ROMA+	887	858	808	699	4,660	4,651	-0.2
TOTAL	107,913	102,999	101,785	84,622	514,518	593,970	15.4

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

+ 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 down 1.2 percent in June. Progreso was down 42.9 percent, Rio Grande decreased 27.9 percent, Eagle Pass fell 13.8 percent, Del Rio registered an 8.4 percent decrease, Roma was down 5.8 percent and McAllen-Hidalgo decreased 4.8 percent. However, Harlingen posted an 11.2 percent increase, Brownsville rose 1.6 percent, Pharr was up 1.5 percent and Laredo gained 1.0 percent. YTD, total southbound

truck traffic had an increase of 15.4 percent. Laredo, with 52.3 percent of all southbound shipments in June, experienced a 23.5 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with 18.2 percent of all southbound shipments, had an 8.8 percent increase YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo with 9.2 percent of all truck traffic, registered a decrease of 17.2 percent and Pharr, with 8.0 percent of all truck crossings, rose 97.2 percent.

Import Shipments by Trucks into Texas —Number of Trucks

CITY	APR 97	MAY 97	JUN 97	JUN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	9,518	9,879	10,758	9,474	57,293	57,281	-0.0
DEL RIO	2,966	2,799	2,589	2,359	14,640	16,377	11.9
EAGLE PASS	3,689	3,523	3,486	2,826	17,156	19,915	16.1
FALCON	8	7	5	7	45	32	-28.9
LAREDO	48,349	46,863	48,220	44,815	269,485	272,324	1.1
McALLEN-HIDALGO	0	0	0	6,826	49,623	N/A	N/A
PHARR	14,045	13,741	13,405	4,212	25,491	80,954	217.6
PROGRESO	1,152	414	554	682	5,315	4,686	-11.8
RIO GRANDE	1,511	2,229	1,169	873	4,463	8,627	93.3
ROMA	596	566	548	462	2,883	2,980	3.4
TOTAL	81,834	80,021	80,734	72,536	446,394	463,176	3.8

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 0.9 percent from May's shipments. Progreso had an increase of 33.8 percent, Brownsville posted an increase of 8.9 percent and Laredo rose 2.9 percent. However, Rio Grande was down 47.6 percent, Falcon dipped 28.6 percent, Del Rio decreased 7.5 percent, Roma declined

3.2 percent, Pharr fell 2.4 percent and Eagle Pass slid 1.1 percent. YTD northbound truck shipments were up 3.8 percent. Laredo, accounting for 59.7 percent of all northbound truck traffic in June, had a 1.1 percent increase YTD. Pharr, with 16.6 percent of shipments, experienced a 217.6 percent increase YTD.

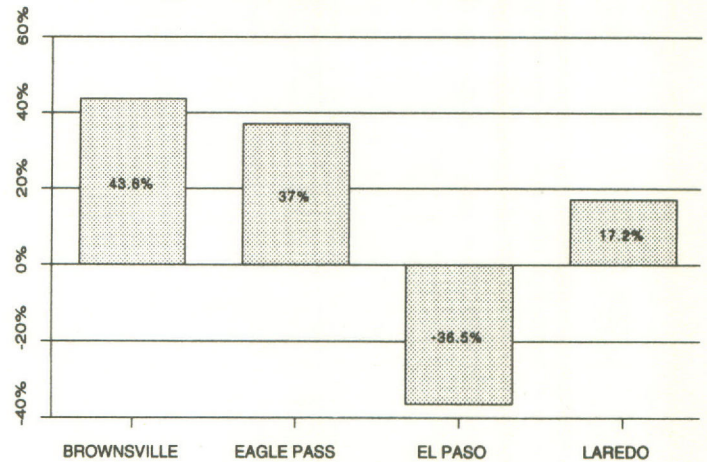
Export Shipments by Rail into Mexico —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	APR 97	MAY 97	JUN 97	JUN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	4,870	4,548	2,198	2,438	12,159	17,464	43.6
EAGLE PASS	4,448	3,500	4,453	2,678	17,190	23,554	37.0
EL PASO	609	598	520	687	5,702	3,621	-36.5
LAREDO	13,811	14,133	12,351	9,980	65,379	76,656	17.2
TOTAL	23,738	22,779	19,522	15,783	100,430	121,295	20.8

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 decreased 14.3 percent in June. Brownsville decreased 51.7 percent, El Paso was down 13.0 percent and Laredo fell 12.6 percent. However, Eagle Pass increased 27.2 percent. YTD, total southbound rail shipments into Mexico from Texas were up 20.8 percent. Laredo, which accounts for 63.3 percent of all southbound rail shipments in June, was up 17.2 percent. Brownsville, accounting for 11.3 percent of all southbound rail shipments, increased 43.6 percent. Eagle Pass, with 22.8 percent of all southbound rail shipments in June, rose 37.0 percent YTD.

Export Rail YTD % Change 96-97



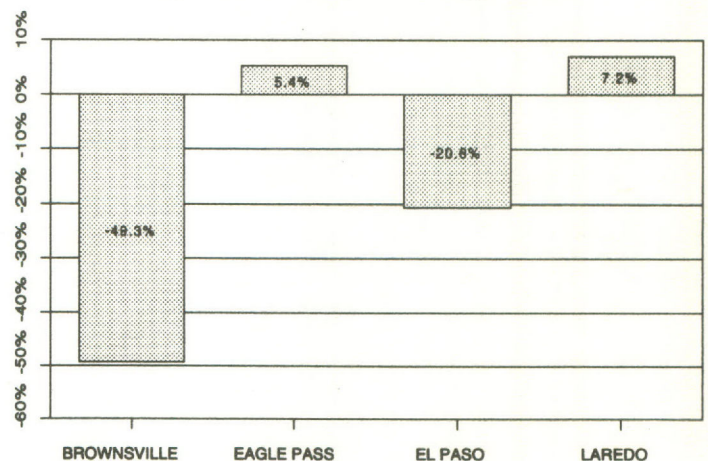
Import Shipments by Rail into Texas —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	APR 97	MAY 97	JUN 97	JUN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	1,061	971	977	1,485	11,558	5,863	-49.3
EAGLE PASS	4,348	3,243	3,118	3,336	18,870	19,881	5.4
EL PASO	210	232	158	153	1,352	1,074	-20.6
LAREDO	7,183	8,115	8,334	8,421	43,636	46,772	7.2
TOTAL	12,802	12,561	12,587	13,395	75,416	73,590	-2.4

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 0.2 percent in June. Laredo increased 2.7 percent and Brownsville was up 0.6 percent. However, El Paso fell 31.9 percent and Eagle Pass declined 3.9 percent. YTD, total northbound rail shipments into Texas from Mexico were down 2.4 percent. Laredo, which accounts for 66.2 percent of all northbound rail shipments in June, was up 7.2 percent. Eagle Pass, accounting for 24.8 percent of all northbound rail shipments in June, increased 5.4 percent. Brownsville, with 7.8 percent of all northbound rail shipments, decreased 49.3 percent.

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
	JUN 97	JUN 97	REVENUE JUN 97	REVENUE JUN 97	REVENUE JUN 96	REVENUE JUN 96	REVENUE JUN 97	
BROWNSVILLE	1,784,332	454,395	235,868	2,474,595	2,602,006	16,497,211	15,910,259	-3.6
DEL RIO	254,653	99,141	14,692	368,486	512,605	2,172,521	2,463,514	13.4
EAGLE PASS	929,327	238,366	2,037,769	3,205,462	2,144,898	12,719,023	14,247,433	12.0
LAREDO	16,640,517	2,388,621	5,471,616	24,500,754	20,438,876	116,838,766	130,692,241	11.9
McALLEN-HIDALGO	4,817,058	521,615	(1,157,151)	4,181,522	10,766,815	35,508,648	30,501,218	-14.1
PROGRESO	9,674	9,711	12,491	31,876	47,768	1,625,671	1,285,446	-20.9
RIO GRANDE	80,490	20,963	3,766	105,219	104,942	644,755	833,703	29.3
ROMA	26,028	12,153	8,353	46,534	52,738	266,666	250,630	-6.0
TOTAL	24,542,079	3,744,965	6,627,404	34,914,448	36,670,648	186,273,261	196,184,444	5.3

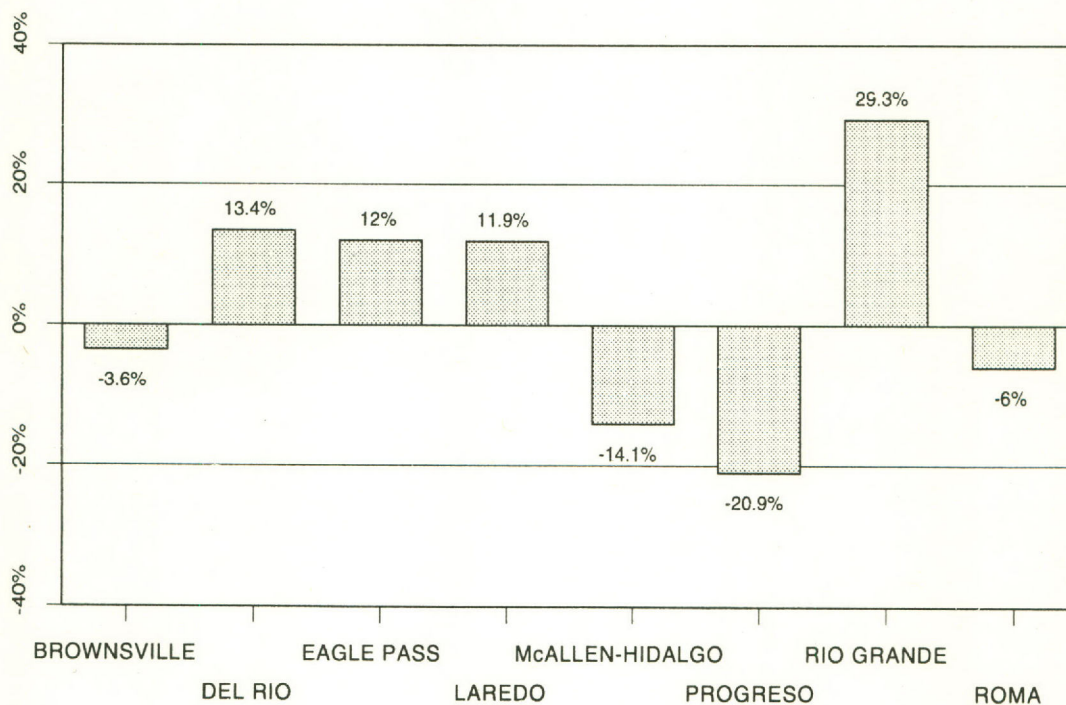
Source: Data provided by U.S. Customs Service, Port of Entry in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

*MPF = Merchandise Processing Fee

Total U.S. Customs revenues for the former District of Laredo decreased 9.3 percent. Progreso decreased 94.6 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo was down 53.6 percent, Rio Grande fell 42.6 percent and Del Rio dipped 15.9 percent. However, Eagle Pass rose 33.5 percent, Roma was up 10.0 percent, Laredo increased 4.7 percent and Brownsville gained 2.0 percent. YTD revenue figures were up

5.3 percent compared to June 1996. Laredo, accounting for 66.6 percent of total District revenues, was up 11.9 percent YTD and McAllen-Hidalgo with 15.5 percent of total revenues, was down 14.1 percent YTD. Eagle Pass with 7.3 percent of all revenues in June, increased 12.0 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 8.1 percent of total revenues in June, decreased 3.6 percent.

% Change Total Revenues YTD 96-97



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

CITY	APR 97	MAY 97	JUN 97	JUN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	487,537	511,780	586,227	495,909	2,927,534	3,047,342	4.1
DEL RIO	170,257	178,734	173,824	171,658	983,273	1,040,228	5.8
EAGLE PASS	384,597	406,984	377,020	358,817	2,197,962	2,292,085	4.3
EL PASO	892,567	942,468	859,825	827,321	5,003,291	5,413,093	8.2
HARLINGEN	57,548	62,991	60,682	66,637	409,964	349,415	-14.8
LAREDO	1,710,627	1,777,533	1,666,464	1,596,776	9,082,128	9,844,339	8.4
McALLEN-HIDALGO	551,199	575,752	536,154	545,808	3,134,312	3,229,714	3.0
PHARR	197,069	193,715	181,439	113,445	704,700	1,081,077	53.4
TOTAL	4,451,401	4,649,957	4,441,635	4,176,371	24,443,164	26,297,293	7.6

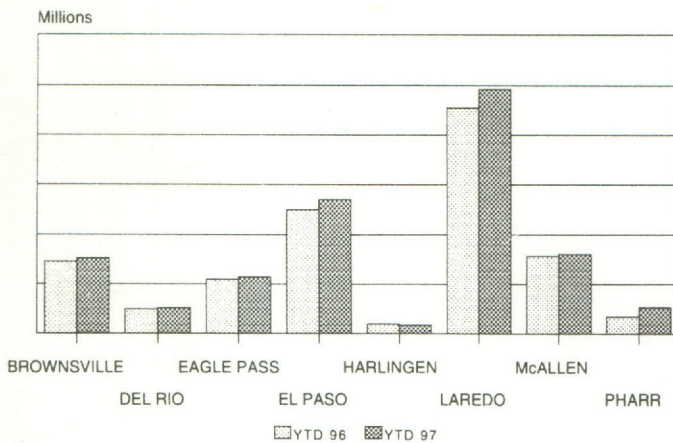
Source: Data provided by U.S. bridge operators in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

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

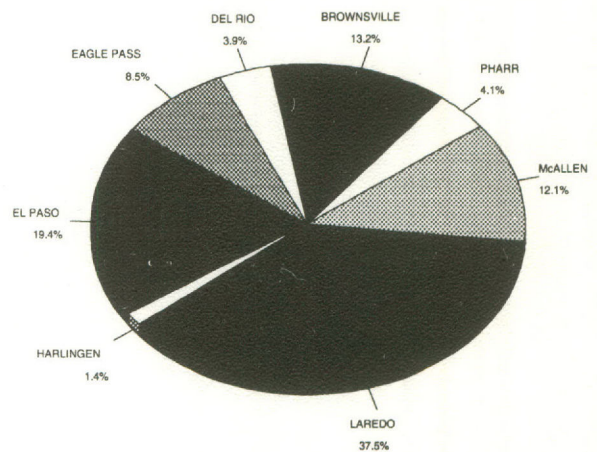
U.S. bridge operators' revenues decreased 4.5 percent in the month of June. El Paso decreased 8.8 percent, Eagle Pass was down 7.4 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo fell 6.9 percent, Pharr dipped 6.3 percent, Laredo decreased 6.2 percent, Harlingen posted a decrease 3.7 percent and Del Rio slid 2.7 percent. However, Brownsville increased 14.5 percent. YTD, U.S. bridge operators' revenues were up 7.6 percent. Laredo, accounting for 37.5 percent of total U.S. bridge operator's revenues collected in June, had an 8.4 percent

increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 19.4 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues, increased 8.2 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 12.1 percent of the total bridge revenues, was up 3.0 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 13.2 percent of total U.S. bridge operator's revenues in June, was up 4.1 percent. Also, Eagle Pass with 8.5 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues in June was up 4.3 percent YTD.

Total Revenues Collected YTD 96-97



% Share Revenues June 1997



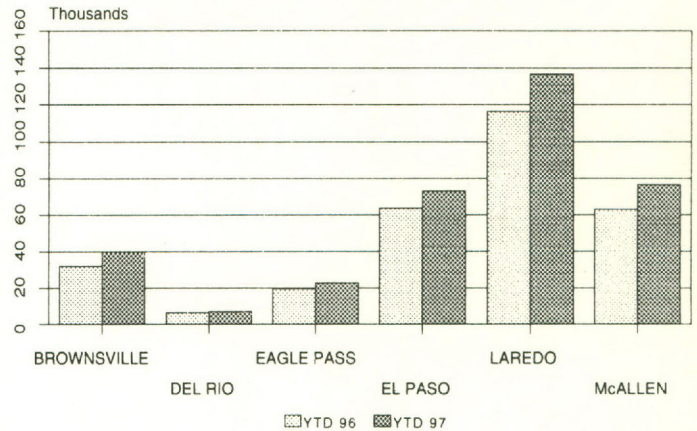
Visas to Tourists from Texas to Mexico

CITY	APR 97	MAY 97	JUN 97	JUN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	%CHG
BROWNSVILLE	4,730	6,603	9,866	7,672	32,144	39,933	24.2
DEL RIO	955	1,248	1,752	1,486	6,494	7,101	9.3
EAGLE PASS	2,921	4,483	4,660	3,988	19,659	22,970	16.8
EL PASO	9,259	14,569	18,693	16,147	63,689	73,470	15.4
LAREDO	16,527	22,203	38,721	30,441	116,545	136,663	17.3
McALLEN	7,753	12,525	14,331	11,905	63,190	76,434	21.0
TOTAL	42,145	61,631	88,023	71,639	301,721	356,571	18.2

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 June were up 42.8 percent. Laredo had a 74.4 percent increase, Brownsville was up 49.4 percent, Del Rio rose 40.4 percent, El Paso posted an increase of 28.3 percent, McAllen increased 14.4 percent and Eagle Pass rose 3.9 percent. YTD, the number of tourist visas issued were up 18.2 percent. Laredo, with 44.0 percent of total visas issued in June was up 17.3 percent. El Paso, with 21.2 percent of total visas issued, had a 15.4 percent increase YTD. McAllen, with 16.3 percent of all visas issued, rose 21.0 percent YTD and Brownsville with 11.2 percent of total visas issued, increased 24.2 percent YTD.

Tourist Visas YTD June 96-97



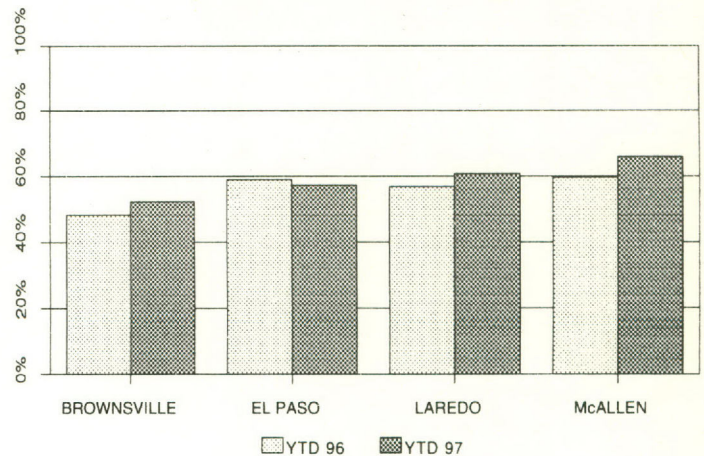
Hotel Occupancy Percentage Rate —Texas Border

CITY	APR 97	MAY 97	JUN 97	JUN 96	% CHG 96-97
BROWNSVILLE	48.6	52.2	63.4	56.0	13.2
EL PASO	72.0	57.3	62.8	65.5	-4.0
LAREDO	63.3	60.8	63.1	57.7	9.3
McALLEN	73.5	66.0	71.9	66.8	7.7
AVERAGE	64.3	59.1	65.3	61.5	6.2

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 June was up 10.4 percent. McAllen had a 71.9 percent rate, Brownsville's rate was at 63.4 percent, El Paso and Laredo had a 63.1 percent rate. The YTD average occupancy rate for the reporting Texas border cities was up 6.2 percent. El Paso was down 4.0 percent. However, Brownsville rose 13.2 percent, Laredo increased 8.9 percent and McAllen was up 7.7 percent.

Hotel Occupancy Percentage June 96-97



Telephones in Service — Texas Border

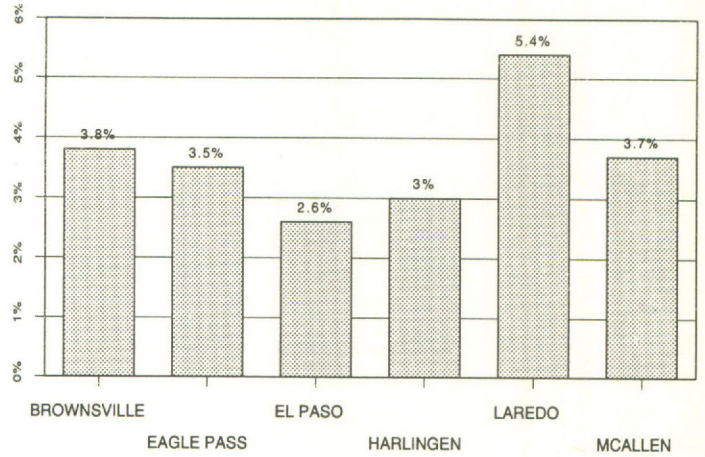
Residential Telephones

CITY	APR 97	MAY 97	JUN 97	JUN 96
BROWNSVILLE	41,730	41,823	41,829	40,315
EAGLE PASS	10,893	10,904	10,876	10,510
EL PASO	206,909	207,283	207,374	202,060
HARLINGEN	25,547	25,535	25,496	24,753
LAREDO	46,373	46,544	46,628	44,254
MCALLEN	34,471	34,541	34,444	33,204
TOTAL	365,923	366,630	366,647	355,096

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 June, the number of residential telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities remained unchanged since May. YTD, the number of residential telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased by 3.3 percent. Laredo experienced the largest increase with 5.4 percent YTD. Brownsville rose 3.8 percent, McAllen was up 3.7 percent. Eagle Pass was up 3.5 percent, Harlingen gained 3.0 percent and El Paso, with 56.5 percent of residential service in June, was up 2.6 percent.

Residential Phones % Change June 96-97



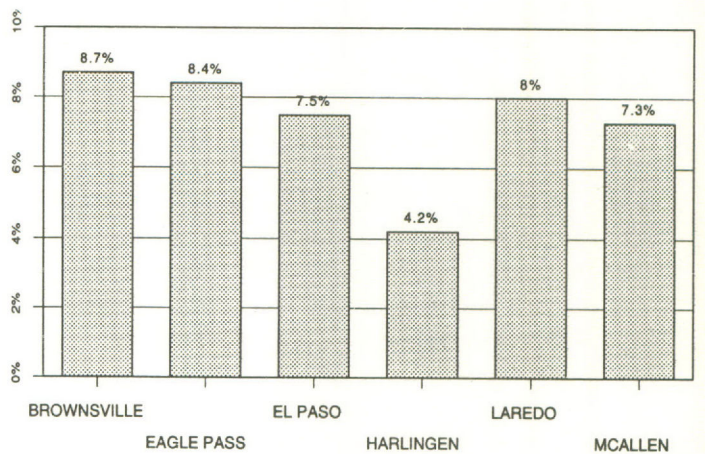
Business Telephones

CITY	APR 97	MAY 97	JUN 97	JUN 96
BROWNSVILLE	19,495	19,336	19,779	18,194
EAGLE PASS	3,626	3,615	3,628	3,346
EL PASO	91,527	90,831	91,750	85,386
HARLINGEN	13,394	13,360	13,310	12,775
LAREDO	27,406	27,221	27,372	25,338
MCALLEN	24,227	24,126	23,995	22,361
TOTAL	179,675	178,489	179,834	167,400

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 June, the number of business telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.75 percent. YTD, the number of phones in service for reporting Texas border cities rose by 7.4 percent. Brownsville had the largest increase with 8.7 percent, Eagle Pass was up 8.4 percent, Laredo rose 8.0 percent and El Paso expanded by 7.5 percent YTD. El Paso secures 50.9 percent of business phones in service during June followed by Laredo at 15.3 percent and McAllen with 13.5 percent of all business telephones in service.

Business Phones % Change June 96-97



Power Connections—Texas Border

Residential Connections

CITY	APR 97	MAY 97	JUN 97	JUN 96
BROWNSVILLE	28,181	28,188	28,264	27,659
DEL RIO	13,378	13,422	13,437	13,172
EAGLE PASS	8,963	8,947	8,934	8,681
EL PASO	251,964	252,366	252,500	247,237
HARLINGEN	20,640	20,247	19,992	19,568
LAREDO	44,180	44,356	44,489	42,993
McALLEN	30,142	29,692	29,486	28,876
TOTAL	397,448	397,218	397,102	388,186

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

June commercial power connections for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.35 percent from May's figures. McAllen increased 0.71 percent, El Paso was up 0.37 percent, Brownsville rose 0.29 percent, Harlingen gained 0.25 percent, Laredo grew 0.24 percent and Del Rio was up slightly at 0.16 percent. However, Eagle Pass fell 0.08 percent. YTD, commercial power connections for reporting border cities increased by 5.4 percent over June 1996. Brownsville increased 49.5 percent YTD, McAllen increased 4.8 percent, Del Rio and Laredo were up 2.7 percent, El Paso rose 2.6 percent, Harlingen gained 2.3 percent and Eagle Pass grew 0.9 percent YTD.

Industrial Connections

CITY	APR 97	MAY 97	JUN 97	JUN 96
BROWNSVILLE	453	455	463	1,635
DEL RIO	31	31	31	30
EAGLE PASS	24	24	24	25
EL PASO	106	106	106	97
HARLINGEN	81	81	81	84
LAREDO	128	128	128	132
McALLEN	47	47	49	53
TOTAL	870	872	882	2,056

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

June residential power connections for all reporting Texas border cities decreased from May's figures by 0.03 percent. YTD, residential power connections for all reporting border cities were up 2.3 percent. Laredo experienced the largest increase by 3.5 percent, followed by Eagle Pass up 2.9 percent. Harlingen and Brownsville had a 2.2 percent increase, followed by El Paso and McAllen with an increase of 2.1 percent. Del Rio grew 2.0 percent YTD.

Commercial Connections

CITY	APR 97	MAY 97	JUN 97	JUN 96
BROWNSVILLE	3,732	3,734	3,745	2,505
DEL RIO	1,861	1,872	1,875	1,826
EAGLE PASS	1,256	1,264	1,263	1,252
EL PASO	25,476	25,545	25,639	24,998
HARLINGEN	3,161	3,170	3,178	3,107
LAREDO	6,597	6,626	6,642	6,468
McALLEN	5,156	5,183	5,220	4,980
TOTAL	47,239	47,394	47,562	45,136

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 1.15 percent from May's figures. McAllen was up 4.26 percent and Brownsville increased 1.76 percent. All other cities remained unchanged. YTD, El Paso had the largest increase with 9.3 percent and Del Rio increased 3.3 percent. However, McAllen was down 7.5 percent YTD, Eagle Pass decreased 4.0 percent and Laredo declined 3.0 percent YTD.

Building Permits —Texas Border

Number of Permits

NUMBER	APR 97	MAY 97	JUN 97	JUN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	263	292	256	254	1,470	1,478	0.5
DEL RIO	132	104	121	128	694	685	-1.3
EAGLE PASS	41	21	22	36	195	178	-8.7
EL PASO	1,077	906	989	1,088	6,221	5,418	-12.9
HARLINGEN	71	71	65	56	464	381	-17.9
LAREDO	345	303	339	320	1,876	1,860	-0.9
MCALLEN	143	142	151	149	777	799	2.8
TOTAL	2,072	1,839	1,943	2,031	11,697	10,799	-7.7

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

June building permits issued by reporting Texas border cities were up 5.7 percent from May. Del Rio increased 16.3 percent, Laredo was up 11.9 percent, El Paso increased 9.2 percent, McAllen rose 6.3 percent and Eagle Pass gained 4.8 percent. However, Brownsville fell 12.3 percent and Harlingen dipped 8.5 percent. YTD, the

number of permits issued were down 7.7 percent. El Paso, accounting for 50.9 percent of all building permits issued in June, had a 12.9 percent decrease YTD. Laredo, with 17.4 percent of building permits issued, was down 0.9 percent YTD. Brownsville was up 0.5 percent and McAllen increased 2.8 percent.

U.S. Dollar Value of Permits

VALUE	APR 97	MAY 97	JUN 97	JUN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	5,824,045	7,367,809	6,547,112	6,496,373	41,028,006	103,842,276	153.1
DEL RIO	2,022,534	2,345,120	1,940,037	2,999,620	13,280,890	12,012,644	-9.5
EAGLE PASS	1,105,846	454,832	305,146	1,083,884	5,122,428	5,711,065	11.5
EL PASO	62,147,595	29,790,060	34,857,420	31,310,982	228,733,953	241,585,122	5.6
HARLINGEN	2,449,012	11,282,751	5,213,951	1,390,974	25,945,463	33,894,720	30.6
LAREDO	9,003,084	10,209,552	7,782,084	7,196,913	74,768,651	104,842,534	40.2
MCALLEN	8,671,020	11,801,807	17,782,612	8,580,554	57,270,378	73,258,713	27.9
TOTAL	91,223,136	73,251,931	74,428,362	59,059,300	446,149,769	575,147,074	28.9

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

June building permit values for reporting Texas border cities were up 1.6 percent from May. McAllen increased 50.7 percent and El Paso gained 17.0 percent. However, Harlingen was down 53.8 percent, Eagle Pass decreased 32.9 percent, Laredo fell 23.8 percent, Del Rio dipped 17.3 percent and Brownsville was down 11.1 percent. YTD, reporting border cities experienced a 28.9

percent increase. El Paso, with 46.8 percent total value for the month of June, was up 5.6 percent YTD. McAllen, with 23.9 percent of total value, had a 27.9 percent YTD increase. Laredo, with 10.5 percent total value, increased 40.2 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 8.8 percent total value, increased 153.1 percent YTD.

Employment/Unemployment Rates —Texas Border

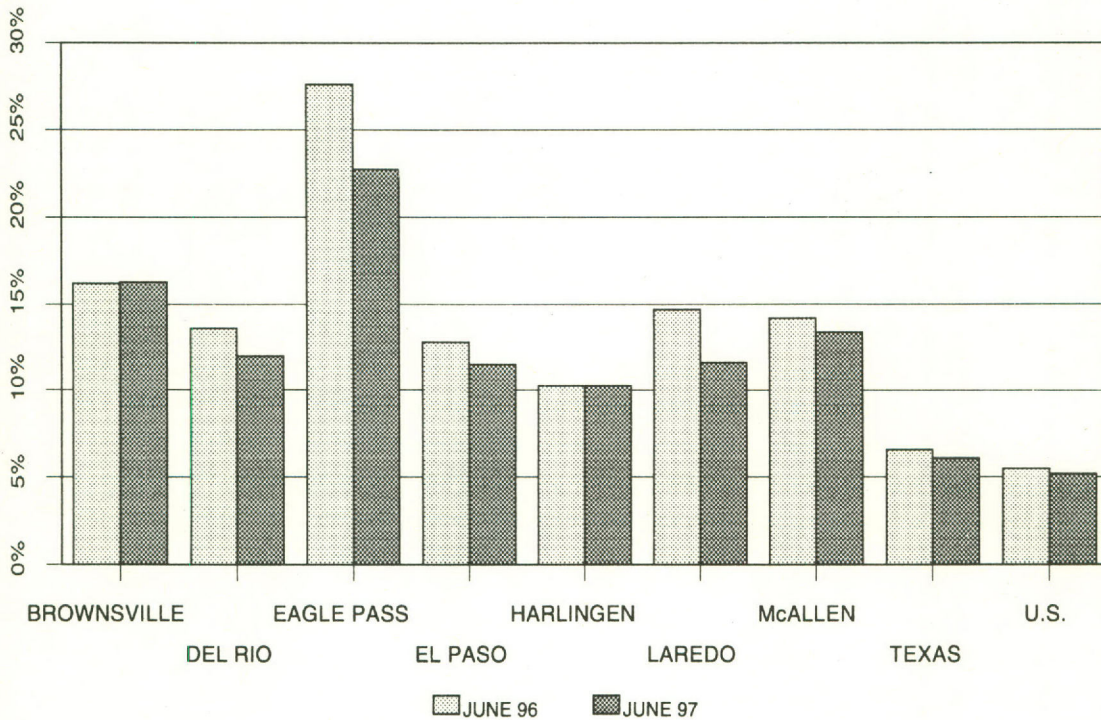
CITY	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED	PERCENT UNEMPLOYED	PERCENT UNEMPLOYED
	JUN 97	JUN 96	JUN 97	JUN 96	JUN 97	JUN 96
BROWNSVILLE	41,205	40,654	8,026	7,866	16.3	16.2
DEL RIO	13,560	14,060	1,857	2,204	12.0	13.6
EAGLE PASS	8,078	8,207	2,375	3,126	22.7	27.6
EL PASO	236,093	228,076	30,634	33,590	11.5	12.8
HARLINGEN	23,672	23,355	2,729	2,675	10.3	10.3
LAREDO	59,678	54,586	7,843	9,386	11.6	14.7
McALLEN	40,959	40,146	6,361	6,655	13.4	14.2
TOTAL	423,245	409,084	59,825	65,502	12.4	13.8
THE TEXAS UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					6.13	6.63
THE NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					5.16	5.46

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 June, total employment in reporting Texas border cities rose 1.1 percent (4,613 jobs gained) from May's figures. Eagle Pass increased 3.9 percent (302 jobs gained), Del Rio increased 2.3 percent (301 jobs gained), Brownsville and Harlingen increased 2.0 percent (800 and 460 jobs gained respectively), Laredo rose 1.6 percent (961 jobs gained) and El Paso was up 1.3 percent (2,961

jobs gained). However, McAllen decreased 2.8 percent (1,172 jobs lost). YTD, the total employment in Texas border cities was up 3.5 percent (14,161 jobs gained) from a year ago. The average unemployment rate for the border was 12.4 percent compared to 6.13 percent for Texas and 5.16 percent for the U.S. in June.

% Unemployed June 96-97



Air Passenger Service Activities — Selected Border Cities

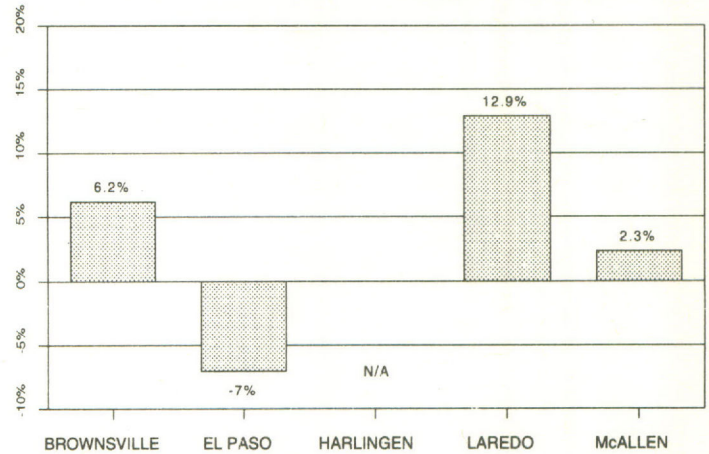
Passenger Arrivals

CITY	APR 97	MAY 97	JUN 97	JUN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	6,327	6,216	6,300	6,034	37,404	39,719	6.2
EL PASO	129,191	137,317	138,966	156,997	850,361	790,438	-7.0
HARLINGEN	33,345	36,999	N/A	40,336	235,650	186,491	N/A
LAREDO	5,196	4,836	5,879	4,588	29,444	33,232	12.9
McALLEN	24,131	25,114	24,943	24,665	154,067	157,621	2.3
TOTAL	191,863	204,266	169,788	226,586	1,269,522	1,167,782	-8.0

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

June air passenger arriving in Texas border cities were down 16.9 percent over May's figures. McAllen was down 0.7 percent. However, Laredo increased 21.6 percent, Brownsville rose 1.4 percent and El Paso gained 1.2 percent. YTD air passenger arrivals were down 8.0 percent. El Paso, with 81.8 percent of arriving air passengers in June, was down 7.0 percent. Brownsville, with 25.3 percent arrivals, was up 6.2 percent. **Harlingen, no longer gives out arrival information.** Laredo increased 12.9 percent YTD and McAllen rose 2.3 percent YTD.

Passenger Arrivals % Change YTD 96-97



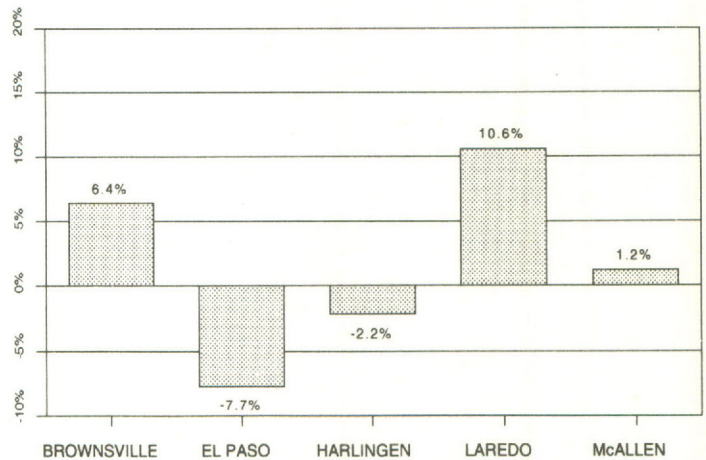
Passenger Departures

CITY	APR 97	MAY 97	JUN 97	JUN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	7,133	6,469	6,593	6,226	39,047	41,531	6.4
EL PASO	131,327	144,132	141,001	163,407	883,935	815,567	-7.7
HARLINGEN	37,063	37,994	40,470	41,245	244,529	239,226	-2.2
LAREDO	5,442	5,349	6,236	4,713	30,398	33,611	10.6
McALLEN	26,301	26,877	26,544	26,115	162,607	164,550	1.2
TOTAL	200,133	214,352	214,251	235,480	1,321,469	1,252,954	-5.2

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

June air passenger departures for reporting Texas border cities were unchanged from May's figures. El Paso decreased 2.2 percent and McAllen was down 1.2 percent. However, Laredo rose 16.6 percent, Harlingen gained 6.5 percent and Brownsville increased 1.9 percent. YTD, air passenger departures were down 5.2 percent from a year ago. El Paso, with 65.8 percent of all passengers departing in June, was down 7.7 percent. Brownsville, with 24.8 percent of all passengers departing, was up 6.4 percent. Harlingen, with 18.9 percent of all passengers departing, decreased 2.2 percent YTD. Laredo rose 10.6 percent and McAllen was up 1.2 percent YTD.

Passenger Departures % Change YTD 96-97



Port Of Corpus Christi

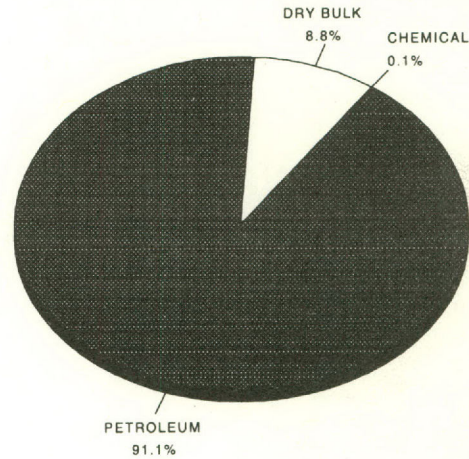
Inbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	APR 97	MAY 97	JUN 97	JUN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BREAK BULK	0	1,409	210	0	2,655	5,428	104.4
DRY BULK	416,048	419,919	330,019	369,380	2,324,484	2,047,008	-11.9
BULK GRAIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
LIQUID	0	0	0	3,194	27,248	18,936	-30.5
PETROLEUM	3,857,547	3,727,687	3,438,493	3,507,795	21,798,531	21,174,713	-2.9
CHEMICAL	22,867	5,740	2,350	24,619	139,360	60,054	-56.9
TOTAL	4,296,462	4,154,755	3,771,072	3,904,988	24,292,278	23,306,139	-4.1

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 9.2 percent decrease in inbound cargo from last month. Petroleum, which makes up 91.1 percent of inbound cargo for June was down 7.8 percent compared to May. Dry bulk, which accounts for 8.8 percent of the port's inbound cargo for June, fell 21.4 percent in June. YTD, inbound cargo tonnage was down 4.1 percent. Dry bulk was down 11.9 percent YTD and petroleum was down 2.9 percent YTD.

% Share June 1997 Inbound Cargo



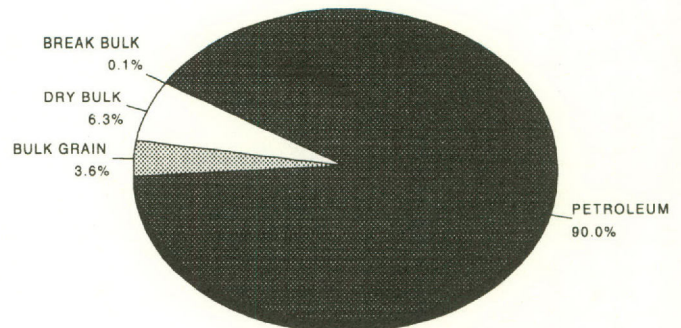
Outbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	APR 97	MAY 97	JUN 97	JUN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BREAK BULK	0	1,256	1,564	514	13,915	5,482	-60.6
DRY BULK	169,782	205,249	158,828	514	150,966	1,285,327	751.4
BULK GRAIN	88,695	53,035	90,632	68,163	273,856	439,033	60.3
LIQUID	0	0	0	0	0	2,865	N/A
PETROLEUM	2,176,634	1,621,853	2,272,767	2,024,834	13,261,793	12,499,506	-5.7
CHEMICAL	174,247	153,503	0	123,246	891,391	804,070	-9.8
TOTAL	2,609,358	2,034,896	2,523,791	2,217,271	14,591,921	15,036,283	3.0

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 24.0 percent increase in outbound cargo tonnage in June. Petroleum, which is 90.0 percent of total outbound cargo for June, increased 40.1 percent compared to May. Dry bulk fell 22.6 percent, Chemicals fell 100.0 percent and Bulk Grain rose 70.9 percent. YTD, total outbound cargo tonnage was up 3.0 percent.

% Share June 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).

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