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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 March demonstrated an increase of nineteen indicators while three indicators decreased. In addition, the year to date (YTD) figures, eight indicators were up and fourteen decreased. Selected 2002 YTD comparisons to 2001 reported by border cities include the following:

- Southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico were down 0.2 percent. Laredo decreased 0.3 percent, Rio Grande fell 66.7 percent, McAllen registered a decrease of 5.4 percent and El Paso rose 4.9 percent.
- Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 4.9 percent. Laredo fell 0.5 percent. El Paso went up 15.4 percent. McAllen marked a decrease of 1.8 percent.
- Southbound vehicle crossings were down 1.4 percent. Brownsville fell 3.2 percent, and Eagle Pass increased 5.3 percent. El Paso went down 17.9 percent and Pharr decreased 1.0 percent. Laredo went down 0.3 percent. McAllen increased 3.1 percent.
- Northbound vehicle crossings were down 1.7 percent. Eagle Pass rose 5.2 percent. Roma increased 2.9 percent, El Paso went down 11.3 percent, Brownsville gained 0.2 percent and Pharr decreased 1.5 percent.
- Southbound truck crossings into Mexico fell 1.2 percent. Eagle Pass went down 16.8 percent. Pharr increased 2.7 percent, and Laredo decreased 0.2 percent. Del Rio was up 30.5 percent. Progreso lost 16.1 and Rio Grande decreased 13.5 percent.
- Northbound truck crossings into Texas went up 2.0 percent, Pharr rose 3.7 percent and Eagle Pass posted an 18.7 percent decrease. Brownsville decreased 0.6 percent, Laredo climbed 1.3 percent, Del Rio increased 24.7 percent. Rio Grande had a loss of 14.5 percent. Progreso went up 35.9 percent.
- Southbound shipments by rail were up 0.5 percent.
- Northbound shipments by rail were down 6.6 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Customs went down 6.1 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. bridge operators were down 0.3 percent.
- Total building permits issued were down 7.0 percent. Laredo fell 40.5 percent, Eagle Pass gained 25.6 percent, while McAllen rose 14.1 percent, and Brownsville registered an increase of 12.6 percent. El Paso showed a 6.1 percent increase.
- Total building permit values decreased 4.6 percent. Laredo decreased 9.5 percent, and Brownsville gained 4.8 percent. McAllen declined 52.6 percent. El Paso was up 14.3 percent, and Eagle Pass jumped 260.7 percent.
- Total employment was down 0.4 percent, with 1,748 jobs lost. The average unemployment rate for the border in March 2002 was 8.4 percent.

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

Technical Reports

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

Technical Reports are freely available for download (<http://www.tamui.edu/coba/txcntr>) in PDF format, unless otherwise noted. These are also available by writing to: Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development, Texas A&M International University, 5201 University Boulevard, Laredo, Texas 78041-1900. Please enclose \$5.00 for each report requested. Make check or money order payable to the Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development.

Special Announcement

The Texas Center is pleased to announce the following forthcoming Technical reports:

- Benthic Macroinvertebraes as Monitors of Rio Grande Water Quality (2000)
- Trade and the Environment: Perceptions from a Region on the Border (2000)
- Language Code Switching: A Psychological Analysis of Why Bilinguals Mix Spanish and English en la Frontera (2000)
- A Sociolinguistic Profile of Heritage Spanish Speakers in the Public Schools in Laredo, Texas (2000)
- Guerrero Archives—Introduction (2000)*
- "Mi Futuro": Sexual Abstinence Program (199-2000) for Laredo Independent School Districts Middle Schools (2000)
- Impoverished Consumers: The Lived Experience of Colonia Residents (2001)
- The State of Child Care in Laredo (2001)
- Rio Grande and Manadas Creek Water and Sediment Chronic Toxicity Studies (2001)
- Characteristics of Successful Principals in a Border Town (2001)

If you would like more information, you can direct your questions by e-mail to texascenter@tamui.edu, or by calling 956-326-2546.

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.

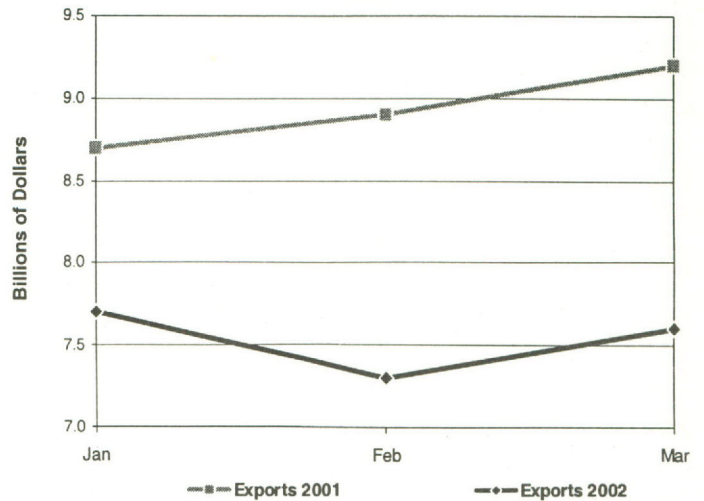
U.S.-Mexico Trade Down Despite March Gains Over February

U.S.-Mexico trade figures continue down in March 2002 year-to-date compared to same period in 2001. The total U.S.- Mexico trade dollar value of \$53.7 billion, down 10.4 percent for March 2002 YTD. In 2001, total trade had been \$59.9 billion (See Chart 1A).

Chart 1B, 2 and 3 exhibit respectively the current trends for Total Trade, U.S. exports to Mexico and U.S. import from Mexico. March 2002 recorded increases over the month of February 2002 in all three. Yet compared to the same period last year, March 2001, all three were down. U.S. exports to Mexico were down 15.7 percent or \$22.6 billion for March 2002 YTD. U.S. imports from Mexico were down 6.0 percent or \$31.1 billion for the same period.

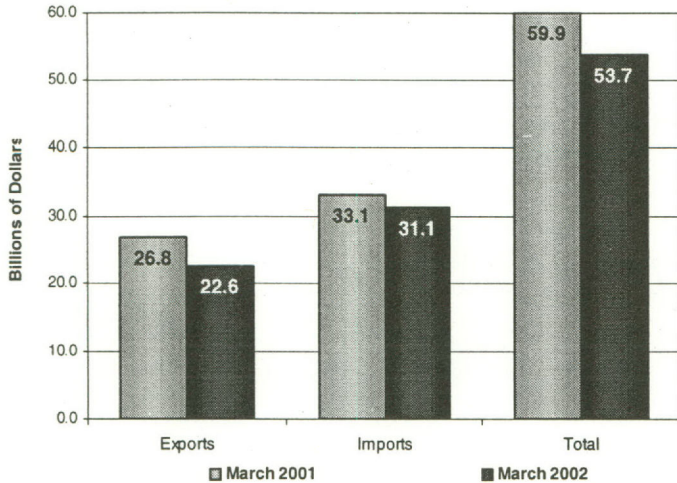
Chart 4 shows the percent change between January through March 2001 vs. January through March 2002 for U.S. exports (Jan. -11.5 % Feb. -18.0% and Mar. 17.4%), U.S. imports (Jan. -7.4%, Feb. -2.9% and Mar. -7.5%) and total trade (Jan. -9.2, Feb. -9.9% and Mar. -11.8%). In the next issue, individual port data will be reviewed. —B. G. Garcia

Chart 2 U.S. Exports to Mexico
March 2001 YTD vs. March 2002 YTD



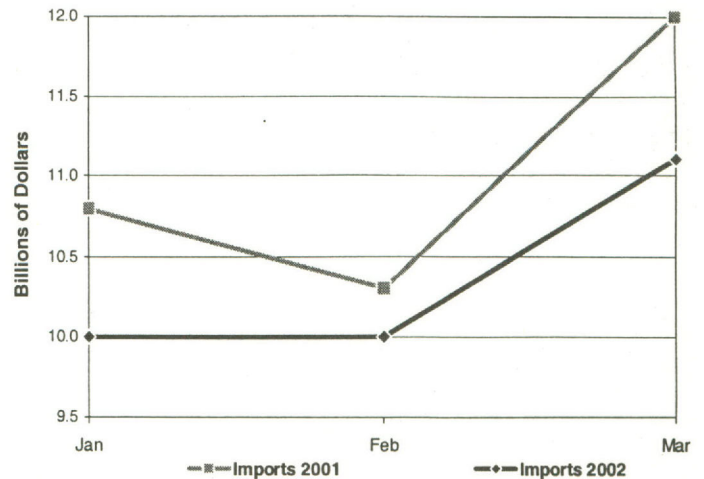
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce data compiled by the Texas Center at Texas A&M International University

Chart 1A U.S.-Mexico Trade
March 2001 YTD vs. March 2002 YTD



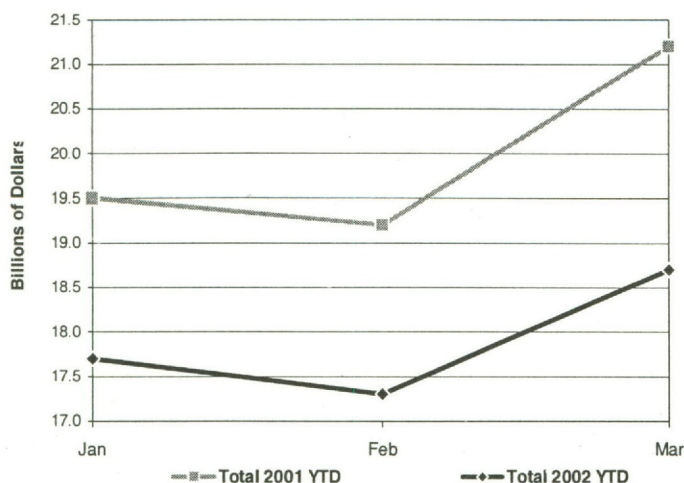
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce data compiled by the Texas Center at Texas A&M International University

Chart 3 U.S. Imports from Mexico
March 2001 YTD vs. March 2002 YTD



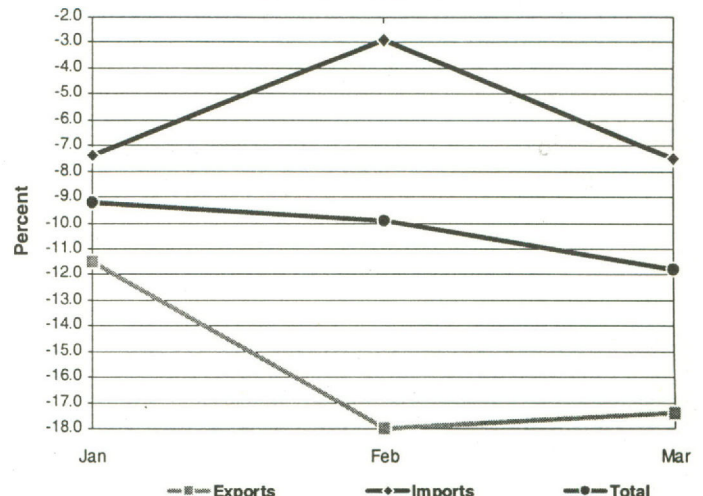
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce data compiled by the Texas Center at Texas A&M International University

Chart 1B U.S.-Mexico Trade
March 2001 YTD vs. March 2002 YTD



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce data compiled by the Texas Center at Texas A&M International University

Chart 4 U.S.-Mexico Trade Percent Changes
2001 YTD vs. 2002 YTD



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce data compiled by the Texas Center at Texas A&M International University

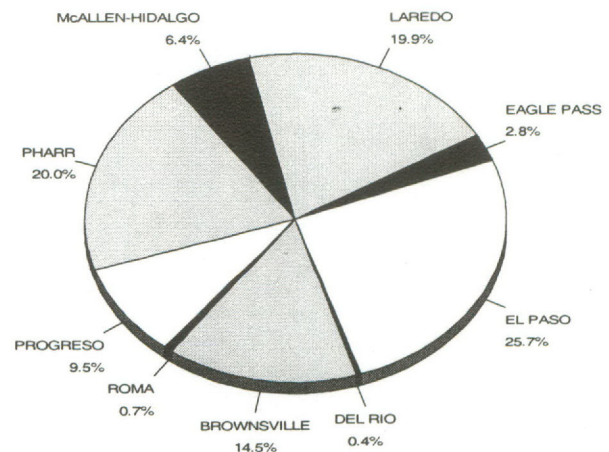
Pedestrian Bridge Crossings into Mexico

CITY	JAN 02	FEB 02	MAR 02	MAR 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	205,130	203,030	282,620	299,927	735,557	690,780	-6.1
DEL RIO	3,807	3,660	7,660	7,167	13,724	15,127	10.2
EAGLE PASS	47,316	46,980	54,780	55,154	146,892	149,076	1.5
EL PASO	453,097	425,930	501,478	479,540	1,315,913	1,380,505	4.9
HARLINGEN	58	48	77	52	211	183	-13.3
LAREDO	319,428	315,779	388,228	371,695	1,020,403	1,023,435	0.3
McALLEN-HIDALGO	102,106	102,788	124,000	131,753	347,632	328,894	-5.4
PHARR	339,757	336,592	389,551	391,244	1,069,645	1,065,900	-0.4
PROGRESO	153,255	166,953	184,932	191,835	515,591	505,140	-2.0
RIO GRANDE	350	554	469	1,615	4,124	1,373	-66.7
ROMA	12,816	12,376	14,201	15,127	40,347	39,393	-2.4
TOTAL	1,637,120	1,614,690	1,947,996	1,945,109	5,210,039	5,199,806	-0.2

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

Southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico for March were up 20.6 percent. Rio Grande declined 15.3 percent, Brownsville gained 39.2 percent, Eagle Pass went up 16.6 percent, El Paso was up 17.7 percent, and Laredo rose 22.9 percent. Progreso gained 10.8 percent, and McAllen-Hidalgo went up 20.6 percent. Del Rio jumped 109.3 percent. YTD southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico declined 0.2 percent. El Paso's southbound pedestrian crossings, which made up 26.5 percent of all crossings, increased 4.9 percent YTD. Laredo, accounting for 19.7 percent of total crossings, gained 0.3 percent YTD. Brownsville, with a 13.3 percent share, decreased 6.1 percent YTD. Progreso, with 9.7 percent share, lost 2.0 percent. Del Rio, with 0.3 percent, increased 10.2 percent YTD.

% Share Pedestrians for March 2002



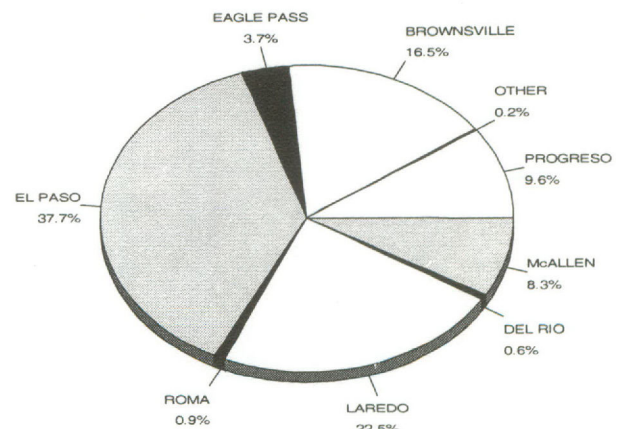
Pedestrian Bridge Crossings into Texas

CITY	JAN 02	FEB 02	MAR 02	MAR 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	239,323	231,058	315,802	330,346	808,780	786,183	-2.8
DEL RIO	6,897	5,841	11,429	10,286	24,891	24,167	-2.9
EAGLE PASS	61,382	58,664	69,958	66,279	184,185	190,004	3.2
EL PASO	615,518	594,479	722,225	613,173	1,674,994	1,932,222	15.4
LAREDO	364,795	348,111	430,537	412,061	1,137,502	1,143,443	0.5
McALLEN-HIDALGO	132,995	131,487	158,845	162,593	431,243	423,327	-1.8
PRESIDIO	2,180	1,864	2,376	3,005	8,194	6,420	-21.6
PROGRESO	152,467	166,282	183,739	188,177	508,657	502,488	-1.2
RIO GRANDE	1,290	1,522	1,931	1,579	4,447	4,743	6.7
ROMA	15,821	14,803	18,066	18,916	50,479	48,690	-3.5
TOTAL	1,592,668	1,554,111	1,914,908	1,806,415	4,833,372	5,061,687	4.7

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

Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 23.2 percent in March. Progreso increased 10.5 percent, Brownsville was up 36.7 percent, El Paso rose 21.5 percent, and Laredo fell 23.7 percent. YTD northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 4.7 percent. El Paso, accounting for 38.2 percent of northbound crossings, was up 15.4 percent YTD. Laredo, with 22.6 percent of all northbound crossings, was up 0.5 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 15.5 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings, decreased 2.8 percent over the previous year.

% Share Pedestrians for March 2002



Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	JAN 02	FEB 02	MAR 02	MAR 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	583,619	593,886	644,932	671,880	1,881,855	1,822,437	-3.2
DEL RIO	157,286	156,575	185,336	171,695	462,599	499,197	7.9
EAGLE PASS	264,845	260,663	305,890	285,190	789,902	831,398	5.3
EL PASO	360,962	353,298	412,695	488,559	1,373,272	1,126,955	-17.9
HARLINGEN	51,455	51,149	64,703	51,969	139,857	167,307	19.6
LAREDO	668,817	644,056	735,309	742,949	2,054,341	2,048,182	-0.3
McALLEN-HIDALGO	495,360	481,225	545,012	523,087	1,475,845	1,521,597	3.1
PHARR	164,981	163,276	189,419	191,976	522,932	517,676	-1.0
PROGRESO	99,753	100,862	118,534	115,057	315,421	319,149	1.2
RIO GRANDE	55,846	55,585	65,731	54,964	149,502	177,162	18.5
ROMA	94,629	95,864	111,821	107,706	297,585	302,314	1.6
TOTAL	2,997,553	2,956,439	3,379,382	3,405,032	9,463,111	9,333,374	-1.4

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

Southbound vehicle bridge crossings into Mexico were up 14.3 percent in March. Eagle Pass was up 17.4 percent, Del Rio gained 18.4 percent, Rio Grande increased 18.3 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo went up 13.3 percent, and Brownsville climbed 8.6 percent. Harlingen rose 26.5 percent, and Laredo was up 14.2 percent. YTD southbound vehicle bridge crossings were down 1.4 percent. Laredo, with 21.9 percent of all southbound traffic, was down 0.3 percent

YTD. Brownsville, with 19.5 percent of all southbound vehicle bridge crossings, had a 3.2 percent decrease YTD. El Paso, accounting for 12.1 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, fell 17.9 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 16.3 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, experienced a 3.1 percent increase YTD.

Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	JAN 02	FEB 02	MAR 02	MAR 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	567,533	566,197	645,206	628,471	1,774,914	1,778,936	0.2
DEL RIO	167,120	160,218	187,913	173,598	484,523	515,251	6.3
EAGLE PASS	284,863	269,856	313,211	291,151	824,754	867,930	5.2
EL PASO	652,603	601,403	654,696	765,542	2,152,450	1,908,702	-11.3
HARLINGEN	71,415	67,720	83,380	62,531	172,045	222,515	29.3
LAREDO	617,531	559,460	642,073	689,973	1,958,060	1,819,064	-7.1
McALLEN-HIDALGO	472,847	440,370	497,089	480,184	1,376,609	1,410,306	2.4
PHARR	208,037	203,970	224,495	240,087	646,382	636,502	-1.5
PRESIDIO	62,851	57,746	69,308	65,455	184,816	189,905	2.8
PROGRESO	103,882	102,301	119,311	110,360	303,090	325,494	7.4
RIO GRANDE	60,057	56,210	67,407	59,003	166,243	183,674	10.5
ROMA	102,576	97,102	111,484	107,883	302,414	311,162	2.9
TOTAL	3,371,315	3,182,553	3,615,573	3,674,238	10,346,300	10,169,441	-1.7

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

Northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas for March were up 13.6 percent. Eagle Pass went up 16.1 percent, Progreso gained 16.6 percent, Brownsville rose 14.0 percent, and McAllen-Hidalgo jumped 12.9 percent. Presidio was up 20.0 percent, and Laredo increased 14.8 percent. YTD northbound vehicle bridge crossings

into Texas were down 1.7 percent. El Paso, with 18.8 percent of all crossings, was down 11.3 percent YTD. Laredo, with 17.9 percent of all crossings, fell 7.1 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 17.5 percent of all crossings, increased 0.2 percent YTD.

Truck Crossings into Mexico —Number of Trucks

CITY	JAN 02	FEB 02	MAR 02	MAR 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE+	17,977	16,607	18,110	18,592	53,153	52,694	-0.9
DEL RIO+	6,322	10,194	6,390	6,017	16,964	22,906	35.0
EAGLE PASS+	6,908	6,417	6,575	8,226	23,904	19,900	-16.8
EL PASO+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	N/A	0	N/A
HARLINGEN+	2,553	2,530	2,808	3,674	11,217	7,891	-29.7
LAREDO+	119,463	113,592	116,982	124,275	350,785	350,037	-0.2
McALLEN-HIDALGO+	2,435	2,105	2,333	3,506	10,602	6,873	-35.2
PHARR+	21,722	22,033	25,376	25,919	67,338	69,131	2.7
PROGRESO+	2,295	2,095	2,194	2,826	7,851	6,584	-16.1
RIO GRANDE+	1,996	1,868	1,898	2,165	6,660	5,762	-13.5
ROMA+	1,267	1,032	1,104	1,225	3,322	3,403	2.4
TOTAL	182,938	178,473	183,770	196,425	551,796	545,181	-1.2

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

+ 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.

Truck crossings into Mexico were up 3.0 percent in March. Harlingen increased 11.0 percent, Del Rio decreased 37.3 percent, and Pharr gained 15.2 percent. Laredo was up 3.0 percent and Brownsville gained 9.1 percent. YTD southbound truck crossings were down 1.2 percent. Laredo, with 64.2 percent of all southbound crossings,

experienced a 0.2 percent decrease YTD. Brownsville, with 9.7 percent of all southbound crossings, had a 0.9 percent decline YTD. Pharr, with 12.7 percent, registered a gain of 2.7 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, with 3.7 percent of all truck crossings, fell 16.8 percent YTD.

Truck Crossings into Texas —Number of Trucks

CITY	JAN 02	FEB 02	MAR 02	MAR 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	20,766	19,798	20,941	21,043	61,871	61,505	-0.6
DEL RIO	5,487	5,529	5,716	3,967	13,420	16,732	24.7
EAGLE PASS	7,345	6,967	7,041	8,921	26,265	21,353	-18.7
EL PASO	58,110	56,861	60,141	58,833	167,355	175,112	4.6
FABENS	0	0	0	15	31	0	-100.0
FALCON	38	22	25	22	76	85	11.8
LAREDO	115,684	112,661	118,762	121,363	342,592	347,107	1.3
McALLEN-HIDALGO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
PHARR	31,424	30,365	35,351	35,311	93,635	97,140	3.7
PRESIDIO	741	770	796	793	2,029	2,307	13.7
PROGRESO	2,128	1,788	1,747	1,677	4,166	5,663	35.9
RIO GRANDE	2,275	2,099	2,193	2,496	7,685	6,567	-14.5
ROMA	844	955	929	1,028	2,801	2,728	-2.6
TOTAL	244,842	237,815	253,642	255,469	721,926	736,299	2.0

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

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

March northbound truck crossings into Texas were up 6.7 percent. Eagle Pass was up 1.1 percent, Brownsville gained 5.8 percent, Progreso fell 2.3 percent, Pharr went up 16.4 percent, and Laredo increased 5.4 percent. Roma went down 2.7 percent. YTD northbound truck crossings were up 2.0 percent. Laredo, accounting for

47.1 percent of all northbound truck crossings, had a 1.3 percent increase YTD. Pharr, with 13.2 percent of all crossings, experienced a 3.7 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with 8.4 percent of all northbound truck crossings, experienced a 0.6 percent decrease YTD.

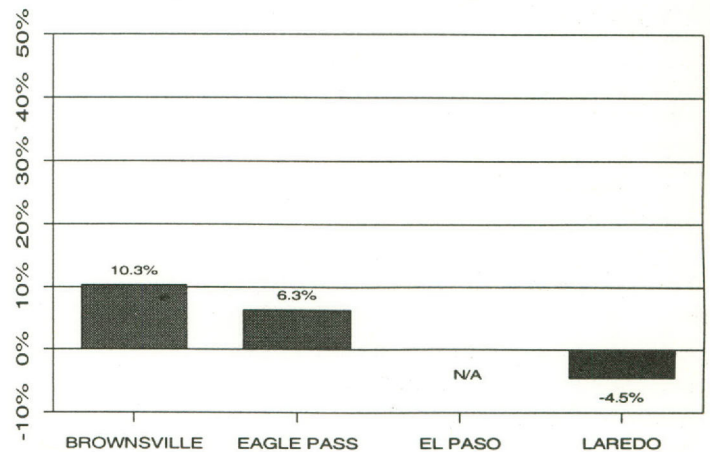
Export Shipments by Rail into Mexico —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	JAN 02	FEB 02	MAR 02	MAR 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	4,775	3,404	4,268	5,029	11,281	12,447	10.3
EAGLE PASS	6,220	6,719	8,941	8,374	20,578	21,880	6.3
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
LAREDO	14,716	13,507	15,793	16,865	46,093	44,016	-4.5
TOTAL	25,711	23,630	29,002	30,268	77,952	78,343	0.5

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 gained 22.7 percent in March. Brownsville rose 25.4 percent, and Laredo increased 16.9 percent. Eagle Pass rose 33.1 percent. YTD southbound rail shipments into Mexico from Texas were up 0.5 percent. Laredo which accounted for 56.2 percent of all southbound rail shipments, was down 4.5 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, accounting for 27.9 percent of all southbound rail shipments, increased 6.3 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 15.9 percent of all southbound rail shipments, showed an increase of 10.3 percent YTD.

Export Rail YTD % Change 01-02



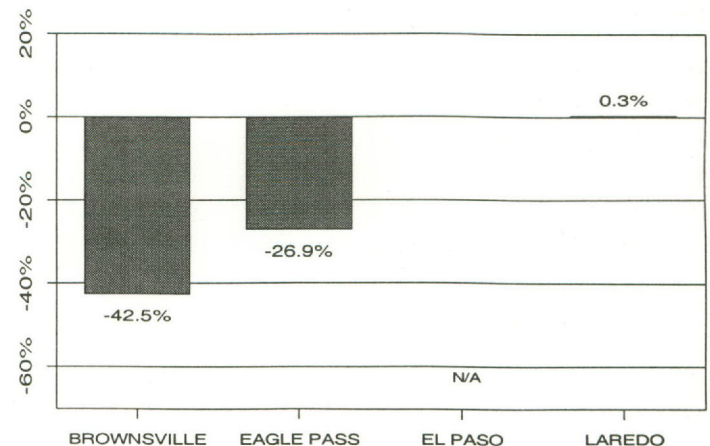
Import Shipments by Rail into Texas —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	JAN 02	FEB 02	MAR 02	MAR 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	475	385	686	937	2,691	1,546	-42.5
EAGLE PASS	2,134	1,936	2,188	2,881	8,566	6,258	-26.9
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A
LAREDO	12,072	12,084	15,371	14,958	39,393	39,527	0.3
TOTAL	14,681	14,405	18,245	18,776	50,650	47,331	-6.6

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

Northbound rail shipments into Texas increased 26.7 percent in March. Laredo gained 27.2 percent, Brownsville increased 78.2 percent, and Eagle Pass climbed 13.0 percent. YTD total northbound shipments into Texas from Mexico were down 6.6 percent. Laredo, which accounted for 83.5 percent of all northbound rail shipments, was up 0.3 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, accounting for 13.2 percent of all northbound rail shipments, fell 26.9 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 3.3 percent of all northbound rail shipments, decreased 42.5 percent YTD.

Import Rail YTD % Change 01-02



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

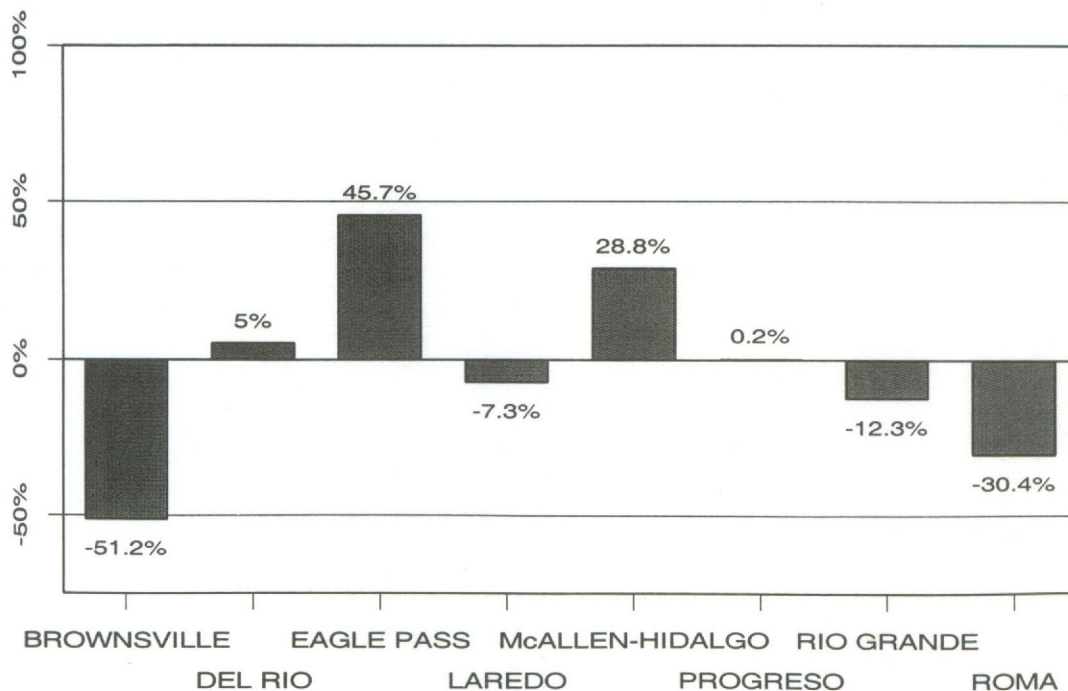
CITY	DUTY	MPF	OTHER	TOTAL	TOTAL	YTD	YTD	YTD % CHG
	MAR 02	MAR 02	REVENUE MAR 02	REVENUE MAR 02	REVENUE MAR 01	REVENUE MAR 01	REVENUE MAR 02	
BROWNSVILLE	776,521	113,817	294,261	1,184,599	3,515,019	12,516,041	6,101,624	-51.2
DEL RIO	123,395	37,996	30,705	192,096	207,860	486,937	511,483	5.0
EAGLE PASS	124,195	14,307	5,356,985	5,495,487	2,884,030	6,917,221	10,076,421	45.7
LAREDO	7,986,057	761,104	12,165,616	20,912,777	20,679,072	52,936,519	49,077,414	-7.3
McALLEN-HIDALGO	2,604,998	285,708	598,680	3,489,386	3,357,050	7,710,359	9,929,794	28.8
PROGRESO	52	1,741	21,405	23,198	23,314	60,350	60,476	0.2
RIO GRANDE	49,151	5,628	14,544	69,323	81,051	193,852	169,922	-12.3
ROMA	13,133	539	9,292	22,964	41,171	90,534	63,052	-30.4
TOTAL	11,677,502	1,220,840	18,491,488	31,389,830	30,788,565	80,911,811	75,990,186	-6.1

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

Total U.S. Customs revenues, for March, for the former District of Laredo, had a gain of 2.0 percent. McAllen-Hidalgo was up 3.9 percent, Rio Grande decreased 14.5 percent, Progreso fell 0.5 percent, Roma declined 44.2 percent, Laredo went up 1.1 percent, Eagle Pass jumped 90.5 percent, Brownsville lost 66.3 percent, and Del Rio was down 7.6 percent. YTD revenues for the border were down 6.1 percent compared to March 2001. Laredo, accounting for

64.6 percent share of the former district's revenue was down 7.3 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 8.0 percent share of total revenues, was down 51.2 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, accounting for 13.3 percent of all revenues, was up 45.7 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 13.1 percent of total revenues, increased 28.8 percent YTD.

% Change Total Revenues YTD 01-02



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

CITY	JAN 02	FEB 02	MAR 02	MAR 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	955,984	394,578	1,061,113	966,649	2,656,168	2,411,675	-9.2
DEL RIO	382,962	383,929	439,649	404,980	1,110,405	1,206,540	8.7
EAGLE PASS	593,780	571,628	580,905	639,197	1,781,905	1,746,313	-2.0
EL PASO	819,577	778,920	903,043	1,014,588	2,845,610	2,501,540	-12.1
HARLINGEN	114,512	116,326	141,211	122,790	347,508	372,049	7.1
LAREDO	2,533,808	2,423,727	2,661,224	2,786,669	7,221,203	7,618,759	5.5
McALLEN-HIDALGO	801,764	776,372	881,468	864,636	2,435,675	2,459,604	1.0
PHARR	410,355	416,646	485,879	464,078	1,280,765	1,312,880	2.5
TOTAL	6,612,742	5,862,126	7,154,492	7,263,587	19,679,239	19,629,360	-0.3

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

Brownsville's Revenues are for Cameron County Bridge only.

U.S. bridge operators' revenues increased 22.0 percent in the month of March. Pharr went up 16.6 percent, Brownsville jumped 168.9 percent, Laredo gained 9.8 percent. Del Rio increased 14.5 percent, Harlingen went up 21.4 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo was up 13.5 percent, Eagle Pass climbed 1.6 percent, and El Paso went up 15.9 percent. YTD U.S. bridge operator's revenues were down 0.3 percent. Laredo, accounting for 38.8 percent of total U.S. bridge

operator's revenues collected, had a 5.5 percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 12.7 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues, went down 12.1 percent YTD. Brownsville, accounting for 12.3 percent, was down 9.2 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 12.5 percent of the total bridge revenues, increased 1.0 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, with 8.9 percent of the total bridge revenues, fell 2.0 percent YTD.

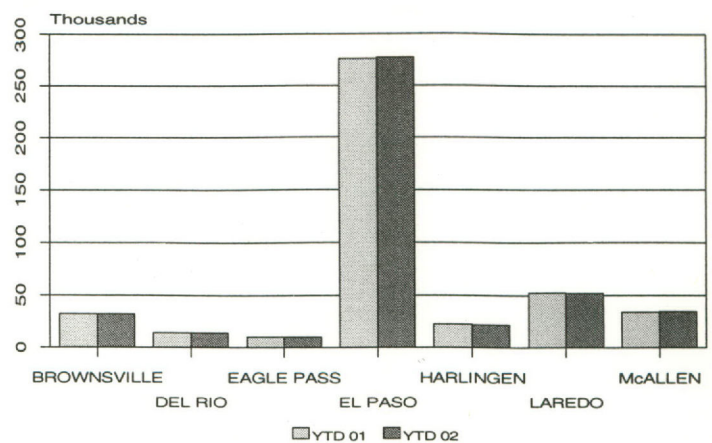
Power Connections – Texas Border Residential Connections

CITY	JAN 02	FEB 02	MAR 02	MAR 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	31,929	31,885	32,031	31,134	31,804	31,948	0.5
DEL RIO	14,055	13,496	14,146	14,094	14,141	13,899	-1.7
EAGLE PASS	9,911	9,932	9,978	9,823	9,984	9,940	-0.4
EL PASO	276,528	277,074	279,140	272,838	276,200	277,581	0.5
HARLINGEN	22,203	20,418	22,262	22,165	22,195	21,628	-2.6
LAREDO	51,970	50,392	52,505	51,430	52,349	51,622	-1.4
McALLEN	33,985	34,405	34,424	33,278	34,165	34,271	0.3
TOTAL	440,581	437,602	444,486	434,762	440,838	440,890	0.01

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

March total residential power connections for cited Texas border cities increased 1.6 percent. YTD residential power connections were up 0.01 percent. Laredo was down 1.4 percent, McAllen increased 0.3 percent, Del Rio lost 1.7 percent, Harlingen fell 2.6 percent, Brownsville increased 0.5 percent, and Eagle Pass was down 0.4 percent.

YTD AVG March 01-02



Power Connections – Texas Border (Cont'd)

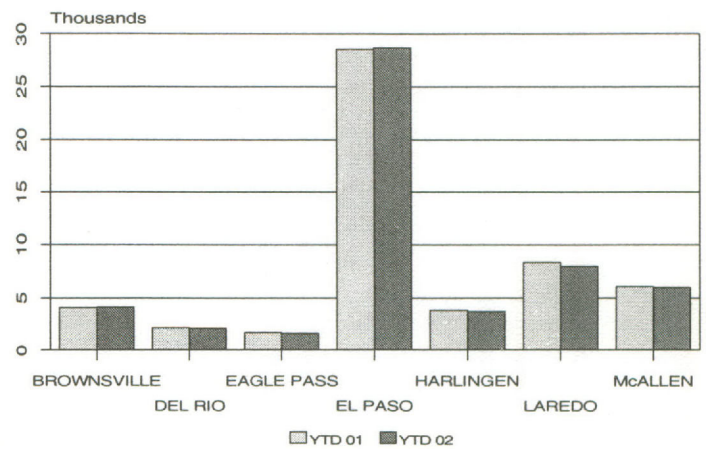
Commercial Connections

CITY	JAN 02	FEB 02	MAR 02	MAR 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	4,152	4,147	4,254	3,999	4,118	4,184	1.6
DEL RIO	2,107	1,997	2,147	2,129	2,124	2,084	-1.9
EAGLE PASS	1,586	1,493	1,496	1,530	1,585	1,525	-3.8
EL PASO	28,577	28,640	28,790	28,143	28,573	28,669	0.3
HARLINGEN	3,847	3,558	3,704	3,820	3,849	3,703	-3.8
LAREDO	8,295	7,673	8,014	8,291	8,368	7,994	-4.5
McALLEN	6,053	5,978	5,930	6,030	6,076	5,987	-1.5
TOTAL	54,617	53,486	54,335	53,942	54,693	54,146	-1.0

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

March total commercial power connections for cited Texas border cities increased 1.6 percent. YTD averages of commercial power connections decreased 1.0 percent. Harlingen was down 3.8 percent, Eagle Pass fell 3.8 percent, Laredo declined 4.5 percent, McAllen was down 1.5 percent, Del Rio decreased 1.9 percent, El Paso gained 0.3 percent, and Brownsville rose 1.6 percent.

YTD AVG March 01-02



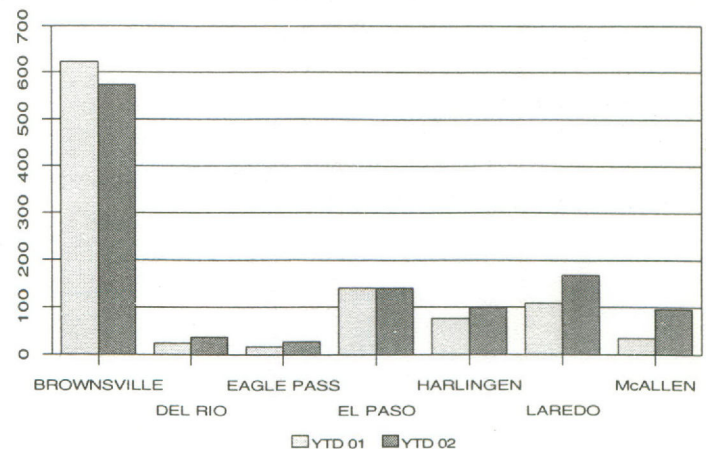
Industrial Connections

CITY	JAN 02	FEB 02	MAR 02	MAR 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	622	621	480	517	623	574	-7.8
DEL RIO	24	45	44	25	24	38	56.9
EAGLE PASS	17	33	32	15	17	27	60.8
EL PASO	140	139	139	142	140	139	-0.5
HARLINGEN	73	112	112	80	76	99	30.3
LAREDO	103	196	207	116	108	169	56.2
McALLEN	34	129	126	44	34	96	183.3
TOTAL	1,013	1,275	1,140	939	1,022	1,143	11.8

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

March total industrial power connections for cited Texas border cities were down 10.6 percent. YTD averages of industrial power connections increased 11.8 percent. El Paso decreased 0.5 percent, Harlingen rose 30.3 percent, Brownsville was down 7.8 percent, and Laredo was up 56.2 percent.

YTD AVG March 01-02



Building Permits — Texas Border

Number of Permits

NUMBER	JAN 01	FEB 01	MAR 02	MAR 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	453	308	351	378	988	1,112	12.6
DEL RIO	59	35	52	99	213	146	-31.5
EAGLE PASS	42	57	63	49	129	162	25.6
EL PASO	604	536	720	654	1,753	1,860	6.1
HARLINGEN	76	86	76	35	154	238	54.5
LAREDO	662	193	216	763	1,799	1,071	-40.5
MCALLEN	180	169	160	145	446	509	14.1
TOTAL	2,076	1,384	1,638	2,123	5,482	5,098	-7.0

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

March building permits issued by reporting Texas border cities were up 18.4 percent. Eagle Pass rose 10.5 percent, El Paso went up 34.3 percent, and Laredo gained 11.9 percent. McAllen declined 5.3 percent, and Brownsville increased 14.0 percent. YTD, the number of permits issued declined 7.0 percent. El Paso, accounting

for 36.5 percent of all building permits issued, had an increase of 6.1 percent YTD. Laredo, with 21.0 percent of building permits issued, was down 40.5 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 21.8 percent of building permits issued, increased 12.6 percent YTD.

U.S. Dollar Value of Permits

VALUE	JAN 01	FEB 01	MAR 02	MAR 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	20,167,945	14,617,701	19,655,199	19,379,114	51,950,466	54,440,845	4.8
DEL RIO	9,502,050	18,686,600	1,110,828	991,895	2,719,149	29,299,478	977.5
EAGLE PASS	2,544,657	8,678,794	1,356,885	770,486	3,487,321	12,580,336	260.7
EL PASO	28,873,490	58,527,362	55,693,382	38,169,047	125,139,281	143,094,234	14.3
HARLINGEN	4,709,754	3,831,961	4,119,725	7,767,233	19,913,885	12,661,440	-36.4
LAREDO	17,941,751	14,423,956	31,896,200	22,692,974	71,011,330	64,261,907	-9.5
MCALLEN	18,617,077	20,552,164	14,902,625	59,236,669	114,143,690	54,071,866	-52.6
TOTAL	102,356,724	139,318,538	128,734,844	149,007,417	388,365,122	370,410,106	-4.6

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

March building permit values for reporting Texas border cities were down 7.6 percent. Harlingen increased 7.5 percent, McAllen decreased 27.5 percent, and El Paso fell 4.8 percent. Brownsville gained 34.5 percent. Laredo jumped 121.1 percent. Eagle Pass declined 84.4 percent. YTD reporting border cities experienced a 4.6 percent decrease in building permit values. El Paso, with 38.6

percent of total building permit values, increased 14.3 percent YTD. Laredo, with 17.3 percent of total building permit values, decreased 9.5 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 14.7 percent of total building permit values, gained 4.8 percent. Eagle Pass with 3.4 percent of total building permits, increased 260.7 percent.

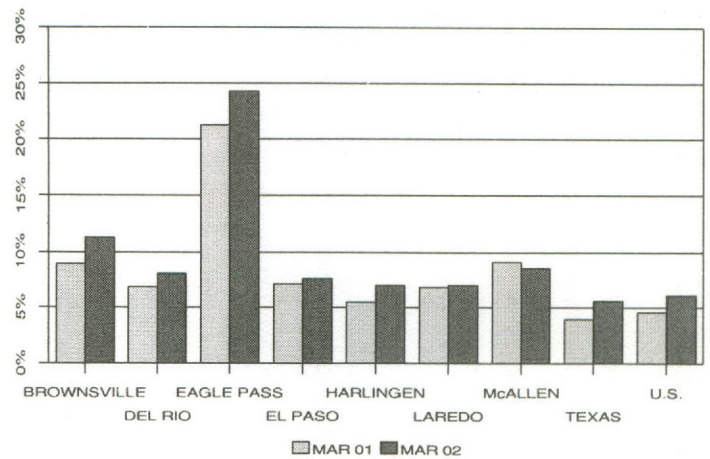
Employment/Unemployment Rates —Texas Border

CITY	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED	PERCENT UNEMPLOYED	PERCENT UNEMPLOYED
	MAR 02	MAR 01	MAR 02	MAR 01	MAR 02	MAR 01
BROWNSVILLE	45,254	44,958	5,759	4,414	11.3	8.9
DEL RIO	14,377	14,189	1,251	1,031	8.0	6.8
EAGLE PASS	8,383	9,229	2,693	2,495	24.3	21.3
EL PASO	233,445	236,061	19,136	18,043	7.6	7.1
HARLINGEN	25,998	25,828	1,958	1,501	7.0	5.5
LAREDO	66,727	66,486	5,000	4,850	7.0	6.8
McALLEN	49,178	48,359	4,575	4,849	8.5	9.1
TOTAL	443,362	445,110	40,372	37,183	8.5	7.8
THE TEXAS UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					5.60	4.00
THE NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					6.10	4.60

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

In March, total employment in reporting Texas border cities increased 0.2 percent (1,062 jobs gained). Eagle Pass employment lost 0.5 percent (40 jobs lost), Del Rio increased 0.3 percent (43 jobs gained), McAllen went up 1.7 percent (814 jobs gained), and Laredo gained 0.1 percent (44 jobs gained). Brownsville increased 1.0 percent (426 jobs gained). YTD total employment in Texas border cities was down 0.4 percent (1,748 jobs lost) from a year ago. The average unemployment rate for the border was 8.4 percent compared to 5.6 percent for Texas, and 6.1 percent for the U.S. in the month of March.

% Unemployed March 01-02



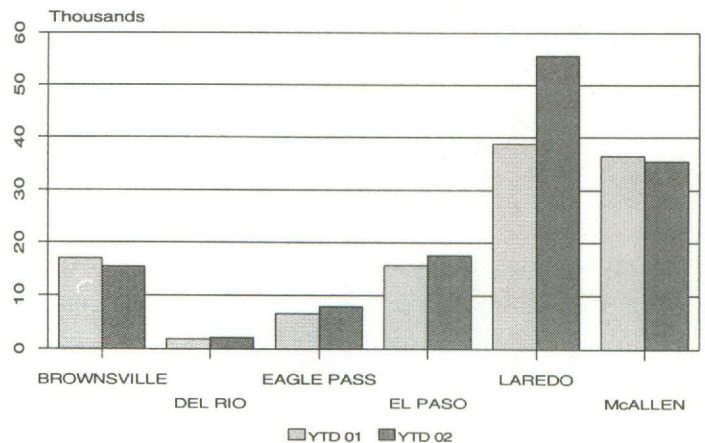
Visas to Tourists from Texas to Mexico

CITY	JAN 02	FEB 02	MAR 02	MAR 01	YTD 00	YTD 01	%CHG
BROWNSVILLE	4,391	3,389	7,661	7,224	16,967	15,441	-9.0
DEL RIO	532	463	1,086	868	1,832	2,081	13.6
EAGLE PASS	1,818	1,976	4,134	3,647	6,680	7,928	18.7
EL PASO	4,923	4,318	8,437	6,956	15,764	17,678	12.1
LAREDO	14,551	13,845	27,197	11,967	38,772	55,593	43.4
McALLEN	9,281	10,538	15,692	15,177	36,439	35,511	-2.5
TOTAL	35,496	34,529	64,207	45,839	116,454	134,232	15.3

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

In March, visas increased 86.0 percent. Laredo gained 96.4 percent, Eagle Pass rose 109.2, Brownsville climbed 126.1 percent, and Del Rio increased 134.6 percent. El Paso rose 95.4 percent. YTD total visas were up 15.3 percent. Brownsville, with a 11.5 percent share, fell 9.0 percent. Eagle Pass, with 5.9 percent share, rose 18.7 percent. Del Rio, with 1.6 percent share, increased 13.6 percent. Laredo, with 41.4 percent share, went up 43.4 percent. McAllen, with 26.5 percent share, declined 2.5 percent YTD; and El Paso with 13.2 percent share, gained 12.1 percent YTD.

Tourist Visas YTD March 01-02



Air Passenger Service Activities — Selected Border Cities

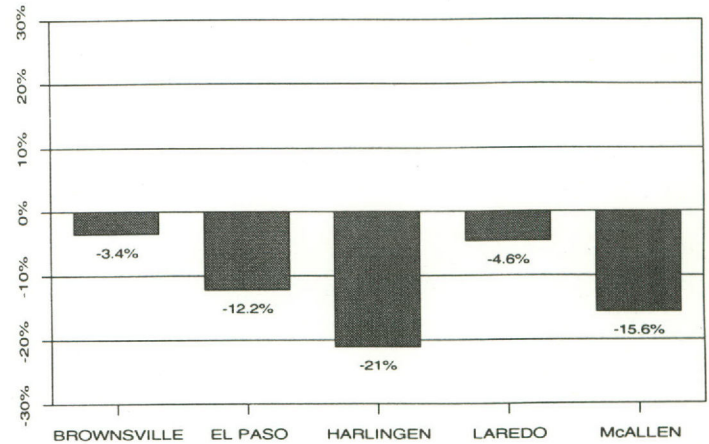
Passenger Arrivals

CITY	JAN 02	FEB 02	MAR 02	MAR 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	5,683	6,935	8,121	7,761	21,466	20,739	-3.4
EL PASO	99,813	93,603	126,250	138,208	364,263	319,666	-12.2
HARLINGEN	26,789	29,208	35,477	44,572	115,726	91,474	-21.0
LAREDO	5,240	4,475	6,324	6,015	16,820	16,039	-4.6
McALLEN	22,990	22,555	25,821	30,889	84,601	71,366	-15.6
TOTAL	160,515	156,776	201,993	227,445	602,876	519,284	-13.9

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

March air passengers arriving in Texas border cities were up 28.8 percent from February. McAllen rose 14.5 percent, Laredo gained 41.3 percent, and El Paso went up 34.9 percent. Harlingen increased 21.5 percent. YTD air passenger arrivals were down 13.9 percent. El Paso, with 61.6 percent of all arriving passengers, showed a decrease of 12.2 percent YTD. Harlingen, accounting for 17.6 percent of all arrivals, slipped 21.0 percent YTD. McAllen, with 13.7 percent of all arrivals, was down 15.6 percent YTD. Laredo, with 3.1 percent of all arrivals, decreased 4.6 percent YTD.

Passenger Arrivals % Change YTD 01-02



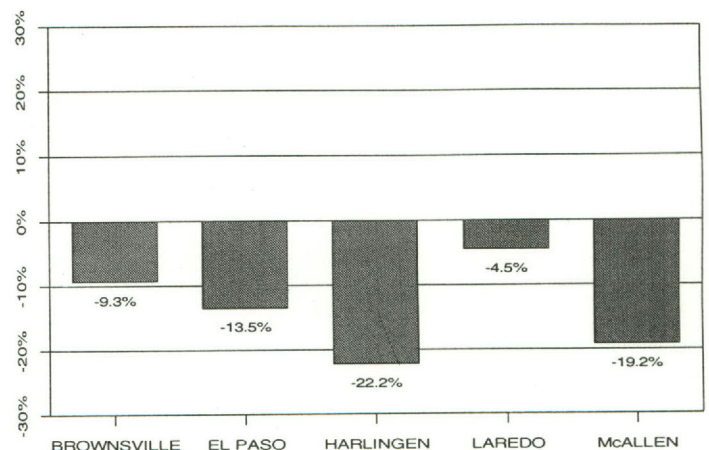
Passenger Departures

CITY	JAN 02	FEB 02	MAR 02	MAR 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	5,715	6,669	7,655	8,447	22,101	20,039	-9.3
EL PASO	103,046	95,146	128,236	142,699	377,544	326,428	-13.5
HARLINGEN	27,316	29,309	35,795	45,435	118,840	92,420	-22.2
LAREDO	5,504	4,593	6,529	6,212	17,408	16,626	-4.5
McALLEN	22,281	22,251	26,534	32,824	87,944	71,066	-19.2
TOTAL	163,862	157,968	204,749	235,617	623,837	526,579	-15.6

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

March air passenger departures for reporting Texas border cities were up 29.6 percent. McAllen gained 19.2 percent, Harlingen went up 22.1 percent, Laredo was up 42.2 percent, and El Paso rose 34.8 percent. YTD air passenger departures were down 15.6 percent. El Paso, with 62.0 percent of all departing passengers, was down 13.5 percent YTD. Harlingen, with 17.6 percent of all departing passengers, exhibited a decrease of 22.2 percent YTD. McAllen, with 13.5 percent of all departing passengers, decreased 19.2 percent, YTD. Laredo, with 3.2 percent of all departing passengers, fell 4.5 percent YTD.

Passenger Departures % Change YTD 01-02



Port Of Corpus Christi

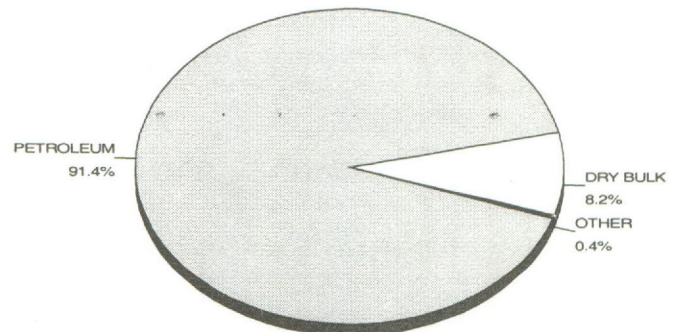
Inbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	JAN 02	FEB 02	MAR 02	MAR 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BREAK BULK	1,131	2,882	2,837	2,287	25,465	6,849	-73.1
DRY BULK	328,001	470,382	385,550	79,295	642,687	1,183,933	84.2
BULK GRAIN	0	0	1,344	0	0	1,344	0
LIQUID	1,228	20,859	0	36,061	91,160	22,086	-75.8
PETROLEUM	2,917,015	3,930,673	4,326,735	3,680,403	10,951,778	11,174,423	2.0
CHEMICAL	11,851	7,119	12,008	3,774	18,180	30,978	70.4
TOTAL	3,259,224	4,431,914	4,728,474	3,801,820	11,729,270	12,419,613	5.9

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 6.7 percent increase in inbound cargo in March. Petroleum, which made up 91.5 percent of all inbound traffic, was up 10.1 percent compared to February. Dry bulk, which accounted for 8.2 percent of inbound cargo, decreased 18.0 percent. Total inbound cargo tonnage was up 5.9 percent YTD.

% Share March 2002 Inbound Cargo



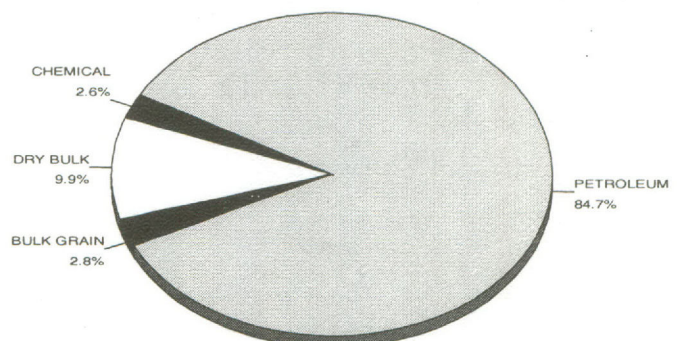
Outbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	JAN 02	FEB 02	MAR 02	MAR 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BREAK BULK	11,037	126	0	14,227	19,862	11,164	-43.8
DRY BULK	323,155	185,971	238,772	142,860	568,791	747,898	31.5
BULK GRAIN	174,394	215,491	67,500	1,743,166	2,048,293	457,385	-77.7
LIQUID	0	0	0	16,090	23,223	0	-100.0
PETROLEUM	2,038,337	1,692,627	2,052,352	2,078,725	5,950,022	5,783,316	-2.8
CHEMICAL	115,261	107,014	61,736	143,668	461,063	284,011	-38.4
TOTAL	2,662,184	2,201,230	2,420,359	4,138,735	9,071,255	7,283,773	-19.7

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

The Port of Corpus Christi had a 10.0 percent drop in outbound cargo tonnage in March. Petroleum, which was 84.8 percent of total outbound cargo, gained 21.3 percent. Bulk grain, which accounted for 2.8 percent of cargo, declined 68.7 percent. Dry bulk, which accounted for 9.9 percent of the total outbound cargo for March, increased 28.4 percent. YTD total outbound cargo tonnage was down 19.7 percent.

% Share March 2002 Outbound Cargo



Port Of Brownsville

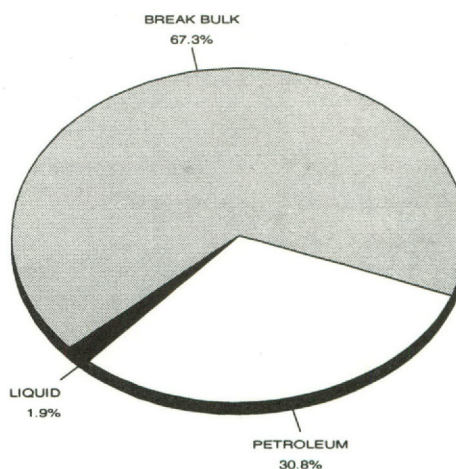
Total Port Activity (in Metric Tons)

COMMODITY	JAN 02	FEB 02	MAR 02	MAR 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BREAK BULK	136,431	249,633	270,950	179,884	681,861	625,679	-8.2
LIQUID	2,111	14,331	7,776	3,635	22,052	16,602	-24.7
PETROLEUM	178,418	105,213	123,867	87,866	278,052	456,615	64.2
GRAIN	16,918	25,988	0	798	31,204	16,918	-45.8
CONTAINERS	2,020	90	15	245	335	2,035	507.5
MACHINERY	627	0	0	0	0	627	0
TOTAL	336,525	395,255	402,608	272,428	1,013,504	1,118,476	10.4

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

The Port of Brownsville had an increase of 1.9 percent total tonnage in March. Break Bulk, which accounted for 67.3 percent of total tonnage increased 8.5 percent from February. Liquid, with 1.9 percent share of March's total tonnage, fell 45.7 percent. Petroleum, which made up 30.8 percent of the total cargo for March gained 17.7 percent. YTD figures showed a 10.4 percent increase in total cargo tonnage. Break Bulk tonnage, with 55.9 percent of total tonnage, fell 8.2 percent. Petroleum, with 40.8 percent of total tonnage, increased 64.2 percent. Liquid, with 1.5 percent of total tonnage, fell 24.7 percent.

% Share March 2002 Total Cargo



Web Page Information

Since the conclusion of the Census 2000, the U.S. Census Bureau has been releasing data as it becomes available for each state. The link below directs you to the Census 2000 Gateway. There you will find links to the latest data, the American Fact Finder, future data release dates, and a variety of maps, briefs and special reports.

<http://www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.html>

-B. Garcia

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