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# Border Business Indicators

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Vol. 20, No. 10

October 1996

Institute for International Trade

Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

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## Note from the Director

Indicators of border business activity for the month of August were up moderately. Eleven monthly indicators were up and ten were down when compared to July. In addition, for the year-to-date (YTD), seventeen indicators were up and four were down. Selected YTD figures reported by border cities include the following.

- Southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico were up 11.5 percent. Brownsville was up 14.5 percent, Laredo was up 10.0 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo was up 8.5 percent as was El Paso.
- Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 9.5 percent. McAllen-Hidalgo was up 16.9 percent, El Paso increased 18 percent, Brownsville increased 8.7 percent, but Laredo was down 2.1 percent.
- Southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 8.3 percent. Laredo was up 17.3 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo was up 1.6 percent, and Brownsville increased 3.3 percent. However, El Paso dipped 0.7 percent.
- Northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 3.8 percent with Brownsville up 11.4 percent, El Paso up 2.5 percent, and McAllen-Hidalgo 0.9 percent. Laredo increased 0.7 percent while Eagle Pass decreased 0.9 percent.
- Southbound truck shipments into Mexico were up 16.0 percent. Laredo had a 20.8 percent increase, Brownsville was up 6.8 percent and McAllen-Hidalgo increased 3.7 percent.
- Northbound truck shipments into Texas were up 13.3 percent. Laredo had a 29.5 percent increase. However, McAllen-Hidalgo registered a 24.2 percent decrease and Brownsville slid as well 1.4 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Customs were up 6.7 percent and revenues collected by U.S. Bridge operators were up 14.5 percent.
- Building permits issued were up 19.8 percent. El Paso increased by 23.0 percent and Laredo was up 6.5 percent.
- Building permit values were up with a YTD increase of 10.4 percent. El Paso increased 19.0 percent. McAllen was up 10.8 percent, but Laredo reported a 15.6 percent decrease.
- Total employment was down by 2.3 percent (9,279 jobs lost) YTD. The average unemployment rate in August 1996 was 13.3 percent, up from the 11.3 percent in August 1995.

Due to incomplete data, El Paso rail data for north and south bound have not been included for this issue.

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

## IIT Technical Reports Available

- IIT Technical Report No. 1: NAFTA Rules of Origin: An Explanation (March 1994)  
IIT Technical Report No. 2: The Impact of NAFTA on U.S.-Mexico Commercial and Border Zones and the Potential Consequences to the Border (February 1994)  
IIT Technical Report No. 3: Labor Mobility Under NAFTA: It's Impact on the Border (February 1994)  
IIT Technical Report No. 4: The Impact of NAFTA on Border Maquiladora and Industrial Activity (April 1994)  
IIT Technical Report No. 5: The Impact of NAFTA on U.S.-Mexico Agriculture (April 1994)  
IIT Technical Report No. 6: U.S.-Mexico Trade Patterns Under NAFTA (March 1994)  
IIT Technical Report No. 7: Overweights to Pay the Price (March 1994)  
IIT Technical Report No. 8: Standards as Non-Tariff Barriers: NAFTA's Impact (February 1994)  
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Technical Reports are available by writing to: IIT Technical Report Series, The College of Business Administration and The Graduate School of International Trade & Business Administration, Texas A&M International University, 5201 University Boulevard, Laredo, Texas 78041-1999. Please enclose \$5.00 for each report requested. Make check or money order payable to the Institute for International Trade.

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### Disclaimer:

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

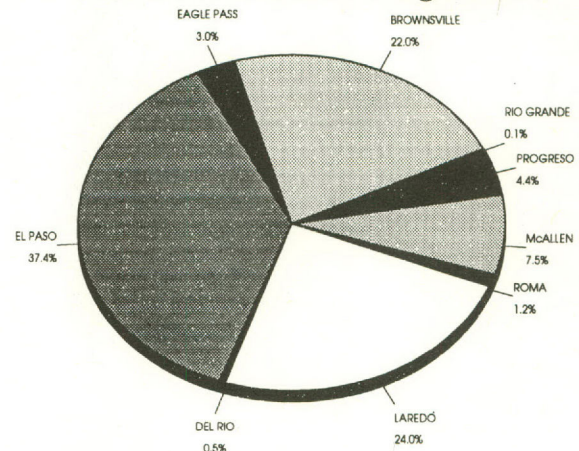
## Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	JUN 96	JUL 96	AUG 96	AUG 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	256,046	270,659	260,064	235,374	1,867,657	2,139,096	14.5
DEL RIO	4,260	4,728	5,337	3,743	29,351	39,927	36.0
EAGLE PASS	33,362	33,792	35,573	29,962	248,633	289,650	16.5
EL PASO	367,813	405,013	442,976	345,497	2,741,529	2,975,335	8.5
HARLINGEN	89	122	98	133	603	820	36.0
LAREDO	285,602	298,214	283,311	261,556	2,075,068	2,283,154	10.0
McALLEN-HIDALGO	85,979	82,878	88,642	79,084	692,058	750,774	8.5
PROGRESO	56,799	63,395	52,110	30,258	604,151	739,826	22.5
RIO GRANDE	570	923	841	883	5,658	6,786	19.9
ROMA	13,847	13,184	13,631	13,590	116,798	117,423	0.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,104,367</b>	<b>1,172,908</b>	<b>1,182,583</b>	<b>1,000,080</b>	<b>8,381,506</b>	<b>9,342,791</b>	<b>11.5</b>

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

Southbound pedestrian bridge crossings into Mexico for August were up 0.8 percent compared to July. Del Rio was up 12.9 percent, El Paso was up 9.4 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo increased 7.0 percent, Eagle Pass increased 5.3 percent, and Roma posted an increase of 3.4 percent. However, Harlingen decreased 19.7 percent, Progreso was down 17.8 percent, Rio Grande decreased 8.9 percent, Laredo was down 5.0 percent and Brownsville dipped 3.9 percent. YTD total southbound pedestrian bridge crossings were up 11.5 percent. El Paso southbound pedestrian crossings, 37.5 percent of all crossings, were up 8.5 percent. Laredo, accounting for 24.0 percent of all crossings, was up 10.0 percent YTD. Brownsville was up 14.5 percent with 22.0 percent of all crossings in the month of August.

**% Share Pedestrians for August 1996**



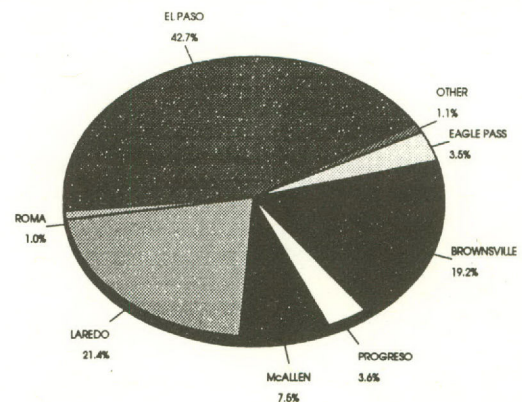
## Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	JUN 96	JUL 96	AUG 96	AUG 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	252,141	278,150	254,608	234,939	1,922,902	2,090,108	8.7
DEL RIO	7,850	8,108	10,314	7,581	56,950	68,429	20.2
EAGLE PASS	44,014	44,400	46,930	44,337	379,752	392,121	3.3
EL PASO	493,262	537,103	565,203	419,930	3,207,763	3,786,399	18.0
LAREDO	259,952	297,519	283,702	279,259	2,250,327	2,203,646	-2.1
McALLEN-HIDALGO	96,162	97,180	99,125	77,521	691,921	809,022	16.9
PRESIDIO	1,871	2,078	2,543	2,482	20,152	18,490	-8.2
PROGRESO	41,051	60,017	47,570	32,445	490,825	532,303	8.5
RIO GRANDE	1,223	1,222	1,095	1,107	8,473	9,490	12.0
ROMA	14,693	12,792	13,373	16,938	135,484	125,490	-7.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,212,219</b>	<b>1,338,569</b>	<b>1,324,463</b>	<b>1,116,539</b>	<b>9,164,549</b>	<b>10,035,498</b>	<b>9.5</b>

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

Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were down 1.1 percent in August. Progreso decreased 20.7 percent, Rio Grande decreased 10.4 percent, Brownsville fell 8.5 percent and Laredo dipped 4.6 percent. However, Del Rio increased 27.2 percent, Presidio increased 22.4 percent, Eagle Pass increased 5.7 percent, El Paso was up 5.2 percent, Roma grew 4.5 percent and McAllen-Hidalgo increased 2.0 percent. YTD total northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 9.5 percent. El Paso, accounting for 42.7 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings, was up 18.0 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 19.2 percent of all northbound crossings, was up 8.7 percent. However, Laredo, with 21.4 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings, had a 2.1 percent decrease in crossings YTD.

**% Share Pedestrians for August 1996**



## Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	JUN 96	JUL 96	AUG 96	AUG 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	467,026	507,508	507,826	484,645	3,723,653	3,845,605	3.3
DEL RIO	153,812	149,645	150,721	134,890	1,060,250	1,188,018	12.1
EAGLE PASS	215,215	218,885	220,727	201,118	1,612,758	1,732,679	7.4
EL PASO	390,430	387,252	413,785	445,247	3,255,212	3,232,412	-0.7
HARLINGEN	31,921	34,034	29,889	26,432	223,953	253,314	13.1
LAREDO	641,480	631,725	664,344	544,387	4,257,182	4,995,195	17.3
McALLEN-HIDALGO	428,607	432,011	428,988	385,276	3,099,168	3,149,866	1.6
PHARR	85,018	86,882	82,403	66,503	457,044	670,958	46.8
PROGRESO	84,599	86,311	77,795	71,309	627,233	710,120	13.2
RIO GRANDE	43,796	43,306	43,492	37,619	319,652	359,587	12.5
ROMA	69,863	70,521	68,480	56,028	468,173	557,168	19.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,611,767</b>	<b>2,648,080</b>	<b>2,688,450</b>	<b>2,453,454</b>	<b>19,104,278</b>	<b>20,694,922</b>	<b>8.3</b>

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

Southbound vehicle bridge crossings into Mexico increased 1.5 percent in August from July's figures. El Paso increased 6.9 percent, Laredo registered an increase of 5.2 percent, Eagle Pass increased 0.8 percent, Del Rio was up 0.7 percent, Rio Grande increased 0.4 percent and Brownsville was up slightly at 0.1 percent. However, Harlingen registered a decrease of 12.2 percent, Progreso declined 9.9 percent, Pharr fell 5.2 percent, Roma dipped 2.9 percent and McAllen-Hidalgo slid 0.7 percent. YTD total

southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 8.3 percent. Laredo, with 24.7 percent of all traffic, was up 17.3 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 16.0 percent of all southbound vehicle bridge crossings, had a 1.6 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, accounting for 18.9 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings had a 3.3 percent increase YTD. However, El Paso, with 15.4 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, experienced a 0.7 percent decrease YTD.

## Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	JUN 96	JUL 96	AUG 96	AUG 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	480,276	568,630	494,795	438,876	3,434,645	3,824,903	11.4
DEL RIO	145,054	150,696	148,456	120,643	951,681	1,025,215	7.7
EAGLE PASS	193,474	191,671	196,876	189,307	1,606,116	1,590,986	-0.9
EL PASO	634,261	634,381	657,126	683,014	5,131,024	5,260,508	2.5
HARLINGEN	40,488	43,229	37,661	39,922	257,654	317,220	23.1
LAREDO	613,202	627,917	614,285	590,718	4,753,916	4,786,441	0.7
McALLEN-HIDALGO	394,717	404,406	396,801	397,209	3,197,363	3,225,024	0.9
PRESIDIO	49,081	52,811	62,396	47,439	361,288	405,382	12.2
PROGRESO	82,787	85,239	78,357	73,538	587,882	607,277	3.3
RIO GRANDE	46,778	47,342	46,228	38,795	322,267	355,107	10.2
ROMA	80,370	82,679	80,538	61,479	561,225	562,876	0.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,760,488</b>	<b>2,889,001</b>	<b>2,813,519</b>	<b>2,680,940</b>	<b>21,165,061</b>	<b>21,960,939</b>	<b>3.8</b>

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

Northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas for August were down 2.6 percent since July. Brownsville was down 13.0 percent, Harlingen registered a decrease of 12.9 percent, Progreso was down 8.1 percent, Roma decreased 2.6 percent, Rio Grande decreased 2.4 percent, Laredo fell 2.2 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo posted a 1.9 percent decrease and Del Rio decreased 1.5 percent. However, Presidio rose 18.1 percent, El Paso increased 3.6 percent

and Eagle Pass was up 2.7 percent. YTD northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 3.8 percent. El Paso, with 23.4 percent of all crossings, was up 2.5 percent. Laredo with 21.7 percent of all northbound vehicle bridge crossings, was up slightly by 0.7 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 17.6 percent of all crossings, was up 11.4 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 14.1 percent of all crossings, was up 0.9 percent.

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

CITY	JUN 96	JUL 96	AUG 96	AUG 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE+	15,964	16,174	17,208	18,496	123,654	132,106	6.8
DEL RIO+	2,387	2,792	3,561	3,243	22,294	23,915	7.3
EAGLE PASS++	2,664	4,417	2,805	2,542	22,075	25,854	17.1
EL PASO+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	N/A
HARLINGEN+	3,622	4,238	3,547	2,884	24,217	28,796	18.9
LAREDO++	41,799	43,940	45,267	35,147	274,440	331,407	20.8
McALLEN-HIDALGO+	10,980	10,447	10,504	9,410	86,750	89,994	3.7
PHARR+	4,027	4,533	4,438	3,101	17,747	33,941	91.2
PROGRESO+	1,054	2,252	1,675	2,276	15,087	13,951	-7.5
RIO GRANDE+	1,426	1,815	1,604	1,436	9,824	11,111	13.1
ROMA+	699	682	708	717	5,001	6,050	21.0
TOTAL	84,622	91,290	91,317	79,252	601,089	697,125	16.0

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 remained even in August. Del Rio was up 27.5 percent, Brownsville increased 6.4 percent, Roma increased 3.8 percent, Laredo was up 3.0 percent and McAllen-Hidalgo increased slightly by 0.5 percent. However, Eagle Pass was down 36.5 percent, and Progreso decreased 25.6 percent, Harlingen decreased 16.3 percent, Rio Grande declined

11.6 percent and Pharr fell 2.1 percent. YTD, total truck traffic had an increase of 16.0 percent. Laredo, with 49.6 percent of all southbound shipments, experienced a 20.8 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with 18.8 percent of all southbound shipments, had a 6.8 percent increase YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo with 11.5 percent of all truck traffic, registered a slight increase of 3.7 percent.

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

CITY	JUN 96	JUL 96	AUG 96	AUG 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	9,474	9,996	10,536	11,869	78,920	77,825	-1.4
DEL RIO	2,359	2,368	2,526	2,508	19,093	19,534	2.3
EAGLE PASS	2,826	2,883	3,124	3,126	20,301	23,163	14.1
LAREDO	44,815	46,756	48,108	37,466	281,445	364,349	29.5
McALLEN-HIDALGO	6,826	6,486	6,225	7,854	82,218	62,334	-24.2
PROGRESO	682	655	517	528	7,487	6,487	-13.4
RIO GRANDE	873	885	975	522	5,037	6,323	25.5
ROMA	462	393	430	416	3,012	3,706	23.0
TOTAL	68,317	70,422	72,441	64,289	497,513	563,721	13.3

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

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

Northbound truck shipments into Texas increased 2.9 percent from July's shipments. Northbound shipments through Rio Grande gained 10.2 percent, Roma increased 9.4 percent, Eagle Pass increased 8.4 percent, Del Rio was up 6.7 percent, Brownsville rose by 5.4 percent and Laredo increased 2.9 percent. However, Progreso decreased 21.1 percent and McAllen-Hidalgo was down 4.0 per-

cent. YTD, northbound truck shipments were up 13.3 percent. Laredo, accounting for 66.4 percent of all northbound truck traffic, had a 29.5 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with 14.5 percent of shipments, experienced a 1.4 percent decrease YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 8.6 percent of all northbound truck shipments into Texas, had a 24.2 percent decrease YTD.

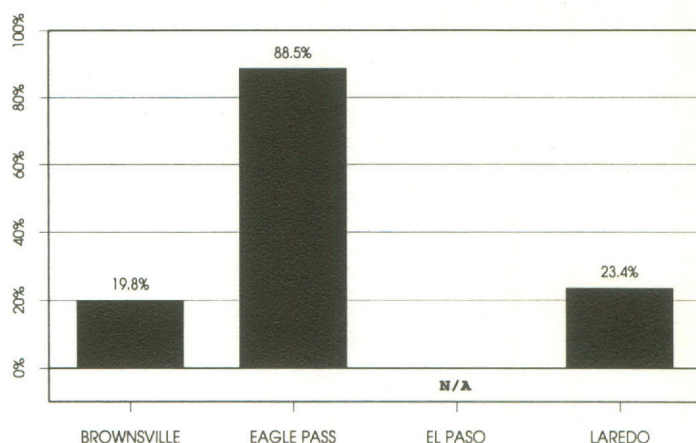
## Export Shipments by Rail into Mexico —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	JUN 96	JUL 96	AUG 96	AUG 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	2,438	2,140	2,223	958	13,792	16,522	19.8
EAGLE PASS	2,343	2,739	3,676	1,343	11,194	21,099	88.5
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	9,980	10,290	10,366	9,248	69,693	86,035	23.4
TOTAL	14,761	15,169	16,265	11,549	94,679	123,656	30.6

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

Southbound rail shipments into Mexico increased 7.2 percent in August. It must be noted that this does not include El Paso data. Eagle Pass had a 34.2 percent increase over July's shipments. Brownsville rose by 3.9 percent and Laredo rose slightly by 0.7 percent. YTD total southbound rail shipments into Mexico during the month of August were up 30.6 percent. Laredo, with 63.7 percent of all southbound rail shipments, was up 23.4 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, with 22.6 percent of all southbound shipments, increased 88.5 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 13.7 percent of all southbound rail shipments, was up 19.8 percent YTD.

### Export Rail YTD % Change 95-96



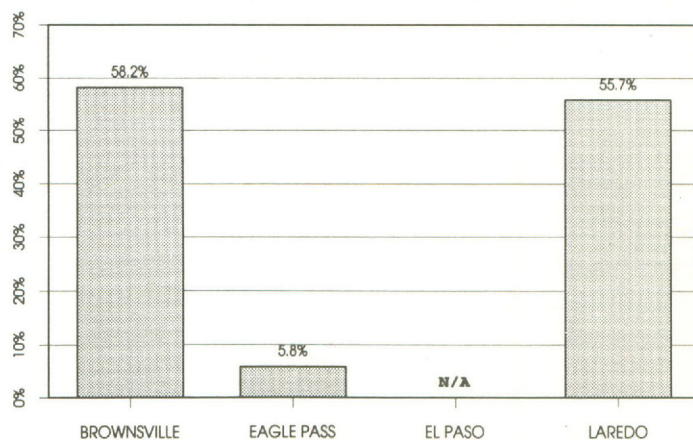
## Import Shipments by Rail into Texas —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	JUN 96	JUL 96	AUG 96	AUG 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	1,485	1,245	1,608	1,376	9,109	14,411	58.2
EAGLE PASS	2,120	2,198	2,282	2,044	15,054	15,931	5.8
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	8,421	6,681	7,196	5,224	36,949	57,513	55.7
TOTAL	12,026	10,124	11,086	8,644	61,112	87,855	43.8

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

Northbound rail shipments into Texas increased 9.5 percent in August. El Paso data is not currently available. Brownsville was up 29.2 percent, Laredo increased 7.7 percent and Eagle Pass gained 3.8 percent. YTD total northbound rail shipments into Texas were up 43.8 percent. Laredo, with 64.9 percent of all shipments during the month of August was up 55.7 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, accounting for 20.6 percent of all northbound rail shipments, was up 5.8 percent YTD, and Brownsville was up 58.2 percent YTD with a 14.5 percent share of all shipments in August.

### Import Rail YTD % Change 95-96



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

CITY	DUTY AUG 96	MPF AUG 96	OTHER REVENUE AUG 96	TOTAL REVENUE AUG 96	TOTAL REVENUE AUG 95	YTD REVENUE AUG 95	YTD REVENUE AUG 96	YTD % CHG
BROWNSVILLE	2,256,826	422,153	211,178	2,890,157	3,339,875	25,388,532	21,774,682	-14.2
DEL RIO	258,439	92,739	8,069	359,247	474,836	3,912,929	2,843,673	-27.3
EAGLE PASS	937,594	204,547	1,477,915	2,620,056	2,529,096	18,508,337	18,075,299	-2.3
LAREDO	15,999,848	1,674,284	4,145,824	21,819,956	21,484,202	150,376,596	161,589,116	7.5
McALLEN-HIDALGO	3,580,546	407,484	110,918	4,098,948	4,076,722	33,939,990	43,842,503	29.2
PROGRESO	9,988	11,261	24,779	46,028	44,936	1,869,148	1,835,199	-1.8
RIO GRANDE	41,863	14,474	7,494	63,831	70,439	1,005,350	783,785	-22.0
ROMA	27,826	9,203	10,607	47,636	31,344	295,954	355,864	20.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,112,930</b>	<b>2,836,145</b>	<b>5,996,784</b>	<b>31,945,859</b>	<b>32,051,450</b>	<b>235,296,836</b>	<b>251,100,121</b>	<b>6.7</b>

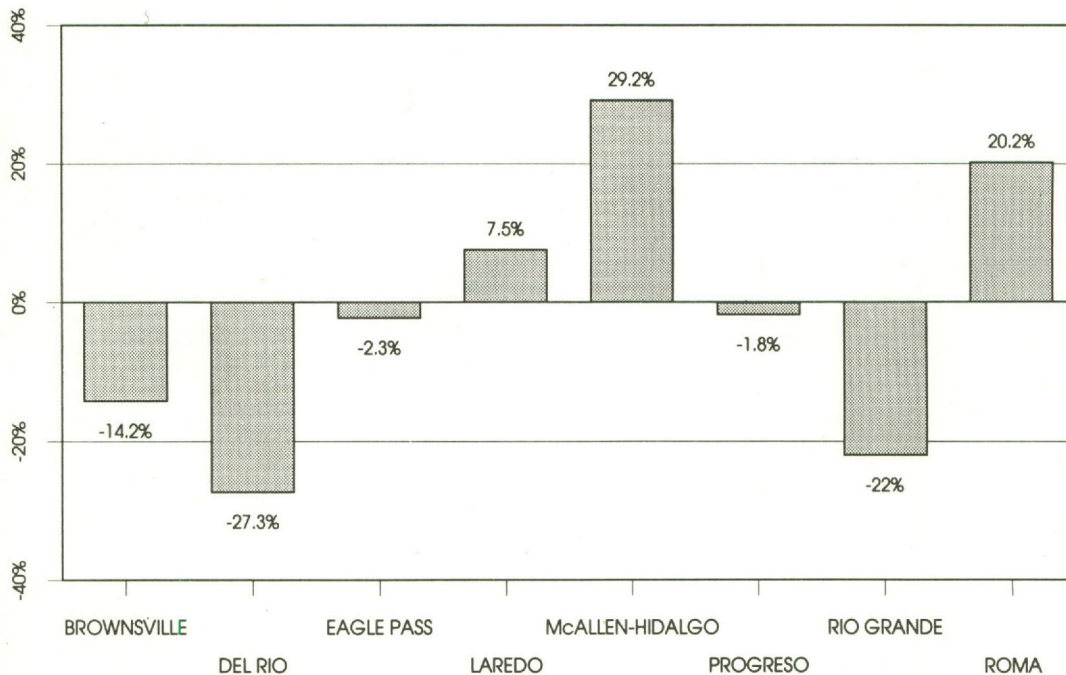
Source: Data provided by U.S. Customs Service, Port of Entry in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

\*MPF = Merchandise Processing Fee

Total U.S. Customs revenues for the District of Laredo decreased 2.8 percent in August. Progreso decreased 71.8 percent, Rio Grande was down 15.1 percent, Laredo slid 4.8 percent, Eagle Pass declined 4.2 percent and McAllen-Hidalgo dipped 3.2 percent. However, Brownsville was up 21.1 percent, Del Rio rose 15.2 percent and Roma gained 14.6 percent. YTD revenue figures were up 6.7

percent compared to August 1995. Laredo, accounting for 68.3 percent of total District revenues, was up 7.5 percent YTD, McAllen-Hidalgo with 12.8 percent of total revenues, was up 29.2 percent YTD, but Brownsville with 9.0 percent of total revenues declined 14.2 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, with 8.2 percent of total revenues, dipped 2.3 percent YTD.

**% Change Total Revenues YTD 95-96**



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

CITY	JUN 96	JUL 96	AUG 96	AUG 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	495,909	514,913	504,996	486,524	3,746,631	3,947,443	5.4
DEL RIO	171,658	169,929	171,387	152,267	1,182,135	1,324,589	12.1
EAGLE PASS	358,817	366,774	369,745	320,925	2,698,907	2,934,481	8.7
EL PASO	827,321	839,440	887,800	870,604	6,428,587	6,730,531	4.7
HARLINGEN	66,637	73,411	64,717	54,219	446,861	548,092	22.7
LAREDO	1,596,776	1,590,560	1,658,794	1,254,402	9,620,849	12,331,483	28.2
McALLEN-HIDALGO	545,808	542,430	540,953	491,520	4,072,814	4,217,695	3.6
PHARR	113,445	124,933	131,933	86,942	610,972	961,566	57.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,176,371</b>	<b>4,222,390</b>	<b>4,330,325</b>	<b>3,717,403</b>	<b>28,807,756</b>	<b>32,995,880</b>	<b>14.5</b>

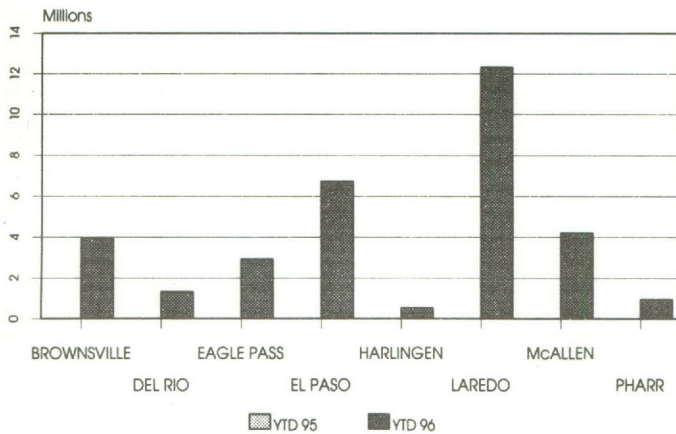
Source: Data provided by U.S. bridge operators in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

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

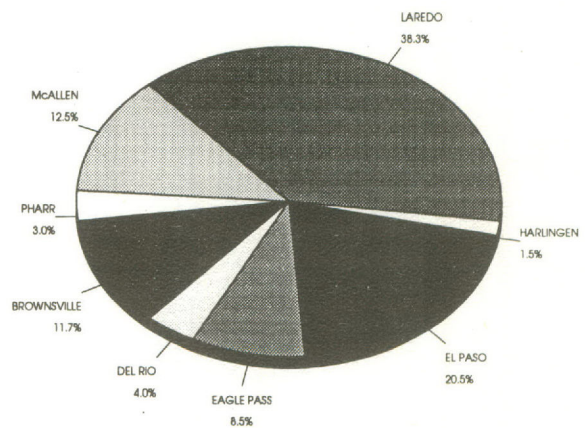
U.S. bridge operators' revenues increased 2.6 percent in the month of August. El Paso was up 5.8 percent, Pharr increased 5.6 percent, Laredo gained by 4.3 percent, Del Rio was up 0.9 percent, and Eagle Pass rose 0.8 percent. However, Harlingen declined 11.8 percent, Brownsville decreased 1.9 percent and McAllen-Hidalgo fell 0.3 percent. YTD, U.S. bridge operators' revenues were up 14.5 percent. Laredo, accounting for 38.3 percent of total U.S. bridge

operators' revenues, had a 28.2 percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 20.5 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues, increased 4.7 percent YTD. Brownsville, 11.7 percent of the total bridge revenues, was up 5.4 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, 8.5 percent of total U.S. bridge operators' revenues, was up 8.7 percent. Also, McAllen-Hidalgo which accounts for 12.5 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues in August was up 3.6 percent YTD.

**Total Revenues Collected YTD 95-96**



**% Share Revenues August 1996**





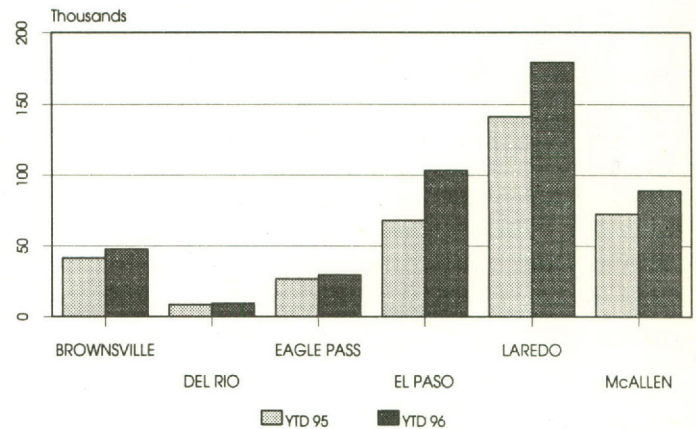
## Visas to Tourists from Texas to Mexico

CITY	JUN 96	JUL 96	AUG 96	AUG 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	%CHG
BROWNSVILLE	7,672	9,335	6,166	5,019	41,373	47,645	15.2
DEL RIO	1,486	1,623	1,219	1,060	8,570	9,336	8.9
EAGLE PASS	3,988	5,060	4,707	3,204	26,712	29,426	10.2
EL PASO	16,147	20,889	18,653	11,290	67,849	103,231	52.1
LAREDO	30,441	36,628	26,059	19,798	141,229	179,232	26.9
McALLEN	11,905	14,796	11,156	8,329	72,664	89,142	22.7
TOTAL	71,639	88,331	67,960	48,700	358,397	458,012	27.8

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 August decreased 23.1 percent. Brownsville had a 33.9 percent decrease, Laredo decreased 28.9 percent, Del Rio was down 24.9 percent. McAllen was down 24.6 percent, El Paso was down 10.7 percent and Eagle Pass fell 7.0 percent. YTD, the number of tourist visas issued was up 27.8 percent. Laredo, with 38.3 percent of total visas issued in August, was up 26.9 percent. El Paso, with 27.4 percent of total visas issued, had a 52.1 percent increase YTD, McAllen, with 16.4 percent of all visas issued, rose 22.7 percent YTD, and Brownsville with 9.1 percent of total visas issued, increased 15.2 percent YTD.

### Tourist Visas YTD August 95-96



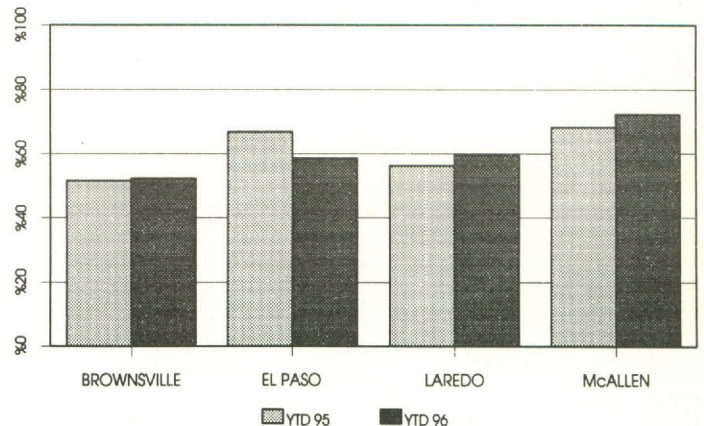
## Hotel Occupancy Percentage Rate —Texas Border

CITY	JUN 96	JUL 96	AUG 96	AUG 95	% CHG 95-96
BROWNSVILLE	56.0	59.1	52.5	51.8	1.3
EL PASO	65.5	57.7	58.5	66.9	-12.6
LAREDO	57.7	57.5	59.6	56.3	6.0
McALLEN	66.8	68.8	72.3	68.2	5.9
AVERAGE	61.5	60.8	60.7	60.8	-0.2

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 August was 60.7 percent. McAllen had a 72.3 percent rate, El Paso had a 58.5 percent rate, Laredo had a 56.3 percent rate, and Brownsville had an occupancy rate of 51.8 percent. The YTD average occupancy rate for the reporting Texas border cities was down at 0.2 percent. El Paso declined 12.6 percent. However, Laredo increased by 6.0 percent, Brownsville increased slightly by 1.3 percent and McAllen posted an increase of 5.9 percent YTD.

### Hotel Occupancy Percentage August 95-96



## Telephones in Service —Texas Border

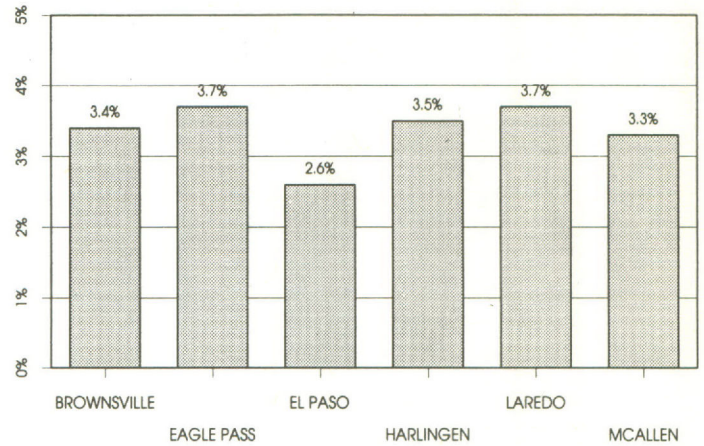
### Residential Telephones

CITY	JUN 96	JUL 96	AUG 96	AUG 95
BROWNSVILLE	40,315	40,197	40,182	38,867
EAGLE PASS	10,510	10,443	10,468	10,092
EL PASO	202,060	201,764	202,370	197,286
HARLINGEN	24,753	24,763	24,728	23,882
LAREDO	44,254	44,168	44,276	42,688
MCALLEN	33,204	33,136	33,247	32,186
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>355,096</b>	<b>354,471</b>	<b>355,271</b>	<b>345,001</b>

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

In August, the number of residential telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.23 percent over July's figures. YTD, the number of residential telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased by 3.0 percent. Eagle Pass and Laredo experienced the largest increases with 3.7 percent. Harlingen was up 3.5 percent and Brownsville was up 3.4 percent. El Paso, with 56.9 percent of residential service, was up 2.6 percent.

### Residential Phones % Change August 95-96



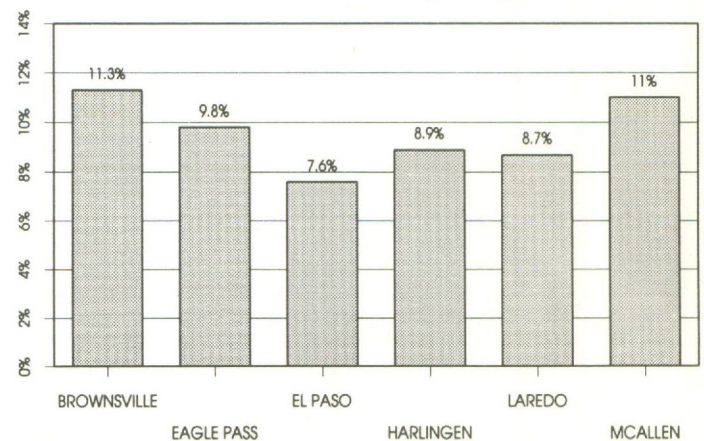
### Business Telephones

CITY	JUN 96	JUL 96	AUG 96	AUG 95
BROWNSVILLE	18,194	18,334	18,558	16,679
EAGLE PASS	3,346	3,405	3,424	3,117
EL PASO	85,416	85,884	86,490	80,393
HARLINGEN	12,776	12,880	13,025	11,958
LAREDO	25,341	25,514	25,918	23,852
MCALLEN	22,361	22,547	22,869	20,603
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>167,434</b>	<b>168,564</b>	<b>170,284</b>	<b>156,602</b>

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

In August, the number of business telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased by 1.02 percent over July's figures. YTD, the number of business telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased by 8.7 percent. Brownsville had the largest increase with 11.3 percent. McAllen was up 11.0 percent, Laredo was up 8.7 percent YTD and El Paso increased 7.6 percent with 51.0 percent of business phones in service.

### Business Phones % Change August 95-96



## Power Connections – Texas Border

### Residential Connections

CITY	JUN 96	JUL 96	AUG 96	AUG 95
BROWNSVILLE	27,659	27,695	27,697	27,381
DEL RIO	13,172	13,156	13,166	12,943
EAGLE PASS	8,681	8,653	8,651	8,538
EL PASO	247,237	247,569	248,179	243,887
HARLINGEN	19,568	19,564	19,594	19,208
LAREDO	42,993	43,003	43,071	41,890
McALLEN	28,876	28,825	28,893	28,110
TOTAL	388,186	388,465	389,251	381,957

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

August commercial power connections for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.14 from July's figures. Harlingen increased 0.48 percent, Brownsville was up 0.32 percent, McAllen increased 0.24 percent and El Paso was up 0.18 percent. However, Laredo decreased 0.23 percent, Eagle Pass decreased 0.08 percent and Del Rio fell 0.05 percent. YTD commercial power connections for reporting border cities increased by 2.1 percent over August 1995. El Paso and Del Rio increased 2.9 percent YTD. McAllen was up 2.8 percent, and Harlingen increased 1.6 percent. However, Laredo, was the only city that registered a decrease YTD with a 0.4 percent decline.

### Industrial Connections

CITY	JUN 96	JUL 96	AUG 96	AUG 95
BROWNSVILLE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
DEL RIO	30	30	30	30
EAGLE PASS	25	25	26	22
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HARLINGEN	84	85	86	84
LAREDO	132	133	131	132
McALLEN	53	53	53	45
TOTAL	324	326	326	313

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

August residential power connections for all reporting Texas border cities increased from July's figures by 0.2 percent. YTD, residential power connections for all reporting border cities were up 1.9 percent. Laredo and McAllen experienced the largest increase by 2.8 percent, followed by Harlingen, up 2.0 percent. El Paso increased 1.8 percent, Del Rio increased 1.7 percent, Eagle Pass was up 1.3 percent, and Brownsville increased 1.2 percent YTD.

### Commercial Connections

CITY	JUN 96	JUL 96	AUG 96	AUG 95
BROWNSVILLE	2,505	2,532	2,540	2,530
DEL RIO	1,826	1,840	1,839	1,788
EAGLE PASS	1,252	1,252	1,251	1,248
EL PASO	24,998	25,091	25,137	24,433
HARLINGEN	3,107	3,108	3,123	3,075
LAREDO	6,468	6,508	6,493	6,519
McALLEN	4,980	5,004	5,016	4,881
TOTAL	45,136	45,335	45,399	44,474

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 remained unchanged in August over July's figures. Eagle Pass increased 4.0 percent and Harlingen was up 1.8 percent. However, Laredo declined 1.5 percent. All other cities reported no change. YTD, Eagle Pass had the largest increase with 18.2 percent and McAllen increased 17.8 percent. Harlingen also showed a modest increase of 2.4 percent while Laredo fell 0.8 percent. All other cities showed no change YTD.

## Building Permits — Texas Border

### Number of Permits

NUMBER	JUN 96	JUL 96	AUG 96	AUG 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	254	278	278	160	1,542	2,026	31.4
DEL RIO	128	101	86	93	641	881	37.4
EAGLE PASS	36	37	29	28	250	261	4.4
EL PASO	1,094	1,073	979	946	6,953	8,555	23.0
HARLINGEN	56	80	50	72	521	594	14.0
LAREDO	320	381	331	311	2,431	2,588	6.5
MCALLEN	149	159	110	117	981	1,046	6.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,037</b>	<b>2,109</b>	<b>1,863</b>	<b>1,727</b>	<b>13,319</b>	<b>15,951</b>	<b>19.8</b>

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

August building permits issued by reporting Texas border cities were down 11.7 percent from July. Harlingen decreased 37.5 percent, McAllen was down 30.8 percent, Eagle Pass decreased 21.6 percent, Del Rio decreased 14.9 percent, Laredo fell 13.1 percent and El Paso dipped 8.8 percent. However, Brownsville remained unchanged. YTD, the number of building permits issued

were up 19.8 percent. El Paso, accounting for 52.5 percent of all building permits issued, had a 23.0 percent increase. Laredo, with 17.8 percent of building permits issued, was up 6.5 percent YTD. Brownsville was up 31.4 percent and McAllen increased 6.6 percent as well.

### U.S. Dollar Value of Permits

VALUE	JUN 96	JUL 96	AUG 96	AUG 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	6,496,373	13,188,847	17,954,077	4,307,500	61,138,828	72,170,930	18.0
DEL RIO	2,999,520	1,883,705	1,369,458	2,613,672	15,251,071	16,533,953	8.4
EAGLE PASS	1,083,884	663,458	1,273,476	479,339	7,692,238	7,059,362	-8.2
EL PASO	31,583,678	25,473,232	43,646,047	33,397,212	251,276,773	299,127,520	19.0
HARLINGEN	1,390,974	8,545,090	1,620,874	4,603,064	29,955,023	36,111,427	20.6
LAREDO	7,196,913	9,844,053	6,988,506	13,470,816	108,500,397	91,601,210	-15.6
MCALLEN	8,580,554	10,889,819	5,733,670	8,839,140	66,710,956	73,893,867	10.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59,331,896</b>	<b>70,488,204</b>	<b>78,586,108</b>	<b>67,710,743</b>	<b>540,525,286</b>	<b>596,498,269</b>	<b>10.4</b>

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

August building permit values for reporting Texas border cities were up 11.5 percent from July. Eagle Pass increased 91.9 percent, El Paso registered an increase of 71.3 percent and Brownsville was up 36.1 percent. However, Harlingen decreased 81.0 percent, McAllen declined 47.3 percent, Del Rio fell 27.3 percent and Laredo dipped 29.0 percent. YTD, reporting border cities experi-

enced a 10.4 percent increase. El Paso, with 55.5 percent of total value, had a 19.0 percent YTD increase, McAllen, with 7.3 percent total value, increased 10.8 percent YTD, and Brownsville, with 22.8 percent total value, increased 18.0 percent YTD. However, Laredo, with 8.9 percent total value, was down 15.6 percent YTD.

## Employment/Unemployment Rates — Texas Border

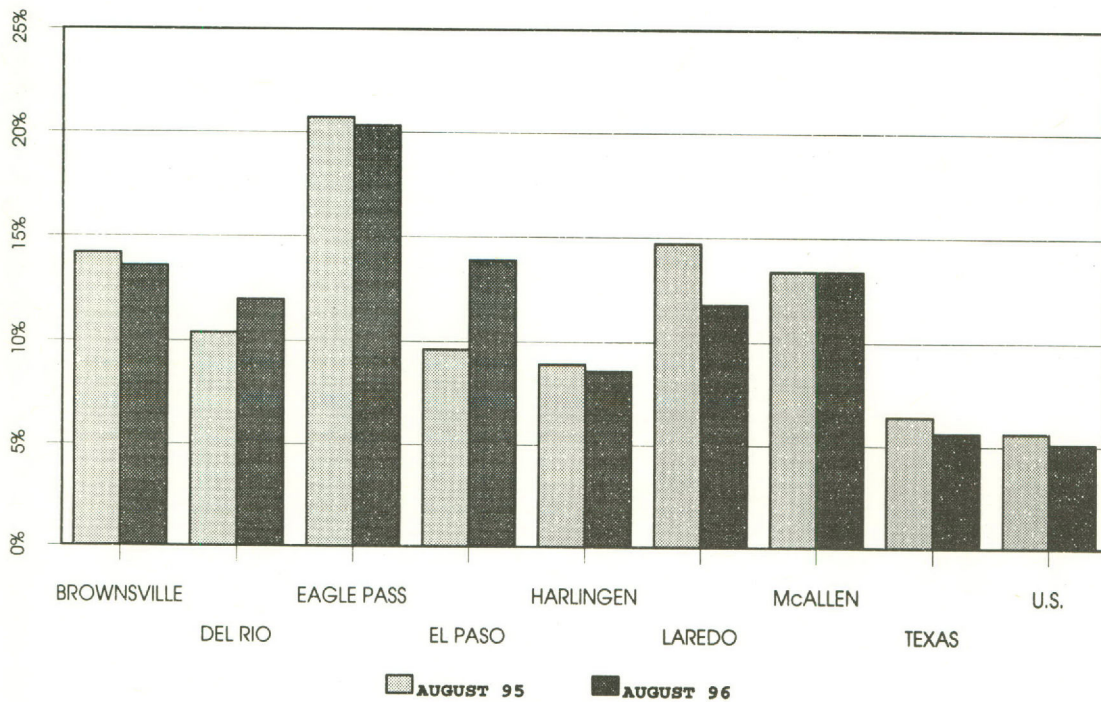
CITY	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED	PERCENT UNEMPLOYED	PERCENT UNEMPLOYED
	AUG 96	AUG 95	AUG 96	AUG 95	AUG 96	AUG 95
BROWNSVILLE	41,139	40,664	6,499	6,704	13.6	14.2
DEL RIO	14,027	13,901	1,918	1,605	12.0	10.4
EAGLE PASS	7,523	7,180	1,921	1,875	20.3	20.7
EL PASO	222,528	232,700	35,939	24,618	13.9	9.6
HARLINGEN	23,634	23,361	2,210	2,280	8.6	8.9
LAREDO	54,882	56,195	7,324	9,714	11.8	14.7
McALLEN	38,250	37,261	5,907	5,758	13.4	13.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>401,983</b>	<b>411,262</b>	<b>61,718</b>	<b>52,554</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>11.3</b>
THE TEXAS UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					5.60	6.37
THE NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					5.10	5.59

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 August, total employment in reporting Texas border cities fell 1.7 percent (7,048 jobs lost) from July's figures. Eagle Pass decreased 3.0 percent (231 jobs lost), El Paso decreased 2.9 percent (6,713 jobs lost) and Laredo fell 0.8 percent (444 jobs lost), McAllen slid 0.7 percent (263 jobs lost) and Del Rio dipped 0.2 percent (32 jobs lost). However, Brownsville and Harlingen in-

creased 1.0 percent (403 jobs gained and 232 gained respectively). YTD, the total employment in Texas border cities was down 0.49 percent (9,279 jobs lost) from a year ago. The average unemployment rate for the border was 13.3 percent compared to 5.6 percent for Texas and 5.1 percent for the U.S. in August.

**% Unemployed August 95-96**



## Air Passenger Service Activities —Selected Border Cities

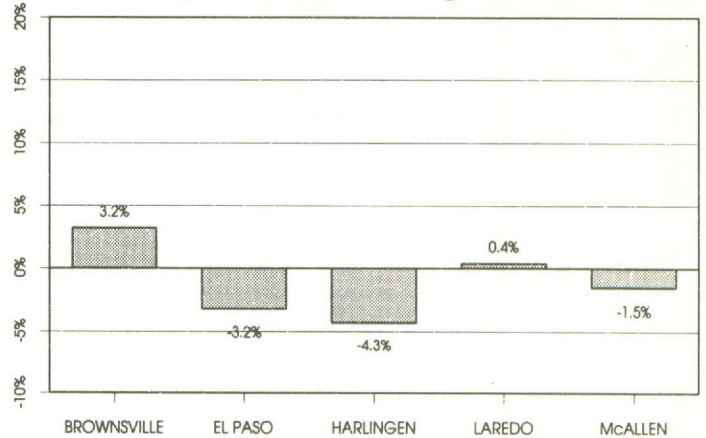
### Passenger Arrivals

CITY	JUN 96	JUL 96	AUG 96	AUG 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	6,034	6,233	5,985	5,683	48,064	49,622	3.2
EL PASO	156,997	161,181	161,913	164,367	1,212,499	1,173,455	-3.2
HARLINGEN	40,263	40,182	37,166	39,690	327,001	312,925	-4.3
LAREDO	4,588	4,757	4,832	5,059	38,894	39,033	0.4
McALLEN	24,665	25,627	25,331	25,875	208,935	205,718	-1.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>226,513</b>	<b>231,747</b>	<b>229,242</b>	<b>234,991</b>	<b>1,787,329</b>	<b>1,731,131</b>	<b>-3.1</b>

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

August air passenger arrivals for reporting Texas border cities were down 1.1 percent over July's figures. Harlingen was down 7.5 percent, Brownsville decreased 4.0 percent and McAllen was down 1.2 percent. However, Laredo increased 1.6 percent and El Paso was up 0.5 percent. YTD air passenger arrivals were down 3.1 percent. El Paso, with 70.6 percent of total passengers, decreased 3.2 percent YTD, Harlingen, with 16.2 percent, was down 4.3 percent and McAllen was down 1.5 percent YTD. However, Brownsville rose 3.2 percent YTD and Laredo increased 0.4 percent YTD.

**Passenger Arrivals % Change YTD 95-96**



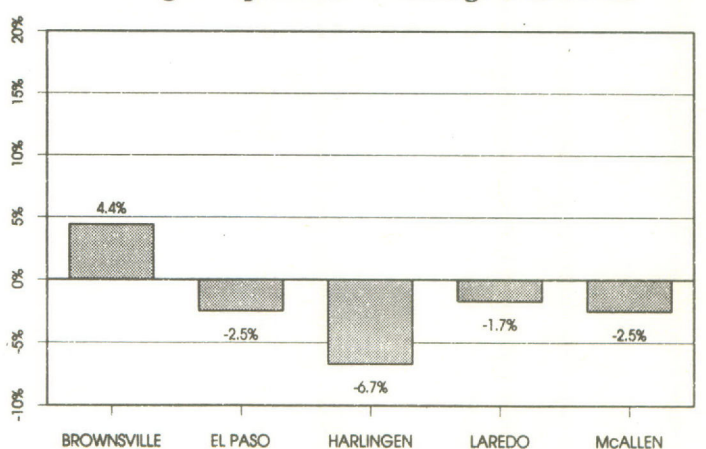
### Passenger Departures

CITY	JUN 96	JUL 96	AUG 96	AUG 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	6,226	6,143	6,013	6,030	49,052	51,203	4.4
EL PASO	163,407	165,186	164,877	166,383	1,245,312	1,213,998	-2.5
HARLINGEN	41,112	41,056	37,416	42,388	346,029	322,735	-6.7
LAREDO	4,713	4,731	4,936	5,256	40,743	40,065	-1.7
McALLEN	26,115	26,752	25,019	27,121	220,765	215,229	-2.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>235,347</b>	<b>237,725</b>	<b>232,248</b>	<b>241,148</b>	<b>1,852,849</b>	<b>1,792,027</b>	<b>-3.3</b>

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

August air passenger departures for reporting Texas border cities were down 2.3 percent from July's figures. Harlingen fell 8.9 percent, McAllen decreased 6.5 percent, Brownsville dipped 2.1 percent and El Paso declined slightly by 0.2 percent. However, Laredo was up 4.3 percent. YTD, air passenger departures were down 3.3 percent from a year ago. El Paso, with 71.0 percent of all passengers, was down 2.5 percent YTD, Harlingen, with 16.1 percent of all passengers was down 6.7 percent, McAllen decreased 2.5 percent YTD and Laredo was down 1.7 percent YTD. However, Brownsville was up 4.4 percent.

**Passenger Departures % Change YTD 95-96**



## Port Of Corpus Christi

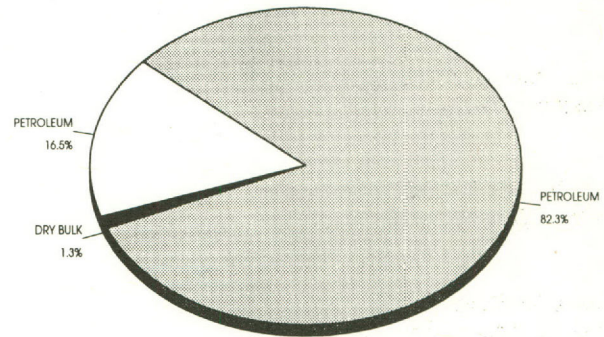
### Inbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	JUN 96	JUL 96	AUG 96	AUG 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BREAK BULK	0	0	0	0	0	1,545	N/A
CONTAINER	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
CHEMICAL	0	0	0	0	50,064	3,278	-93.5
DRY BULK	355,437	312,170	49,274	215,180	2,117,106	2,618,950	23.7
PETROLEUM	2,838,788	3,022,431	3,135,141	2,784,080	21,843,124	24,202,974	10.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,194,225</b>	<b>3,334,601</b>	<b>3,184,415</b>	<b>2,999,260</b>	<b>24,010,293</b>	<b>26,826,747</b>	<b>11.7</b>

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 4.5 percent decrease in inbound cargo tonnage in August. Petroleum, 98.5 percent of total inbound cargo for August increased 3.7 percent. Dry bulk, which accounted for 1.5 percent of the Port's inbound cargo, decreased by 84.2 percent in August. YTD, inbound cargo tonnage was up 11.7 percent. Dry bulk was up 23.7 percent YTD and petroleum was up 10.8 percent YTD.

### % Share August 1996 Inbound Cargo



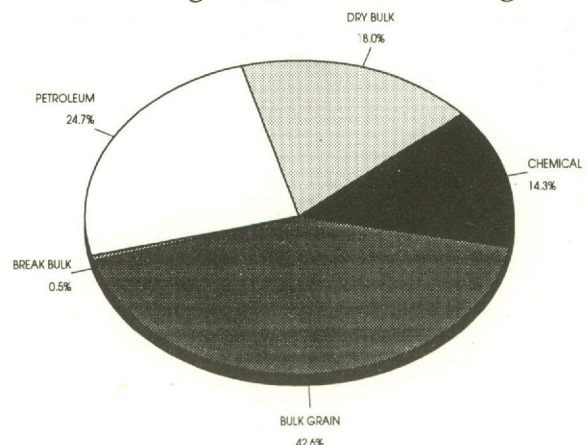
### Outbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	JUN 96	JUL 96	AUG 96	AUG 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BREAK BULK	0	12,834	2,587	67,304	116,399	28,822	-75.2
BULK GRAIN	68,163	241,851	227,315	56,318	493,321	743,023	50.6
CHEMICAL	101,315	205,873	76,430	132,112	1,154,556	1,085,755	-6.0
CONTAINER	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
DRY BULK	239,986	220,637	95,986	289,756	1,385,572	1,617,518	16.7
PETROLEUM	100,357	281,932	131,845	60,216	832,757	1,003,408	20.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>509,821</b>	<b>963,127</b>	<b>534,163</b>	<b>605,706</b>	<b>3,982,606</b>	<b>4,478,526</b>	<b>12.5</b>

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 44.5 percent decrease in outbound cargo tonnage in August. Break bulk decreased 79.8 percent, bulk grain was down 6.0 percent, chemicals decreased 62.9 percent, and dry bulk was down 56.5 percent. Petroleum decreased 53.2 percent. YTD, total outbound cargo tonnage was up 12.5 percent.

### % Share August 1996 Outbound Cargo



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