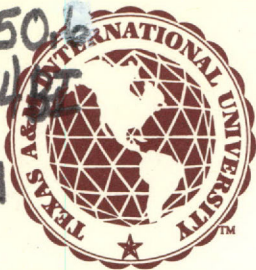


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Border Business Indicators

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

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Note from the Director

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Indicators of border business activity for the month of September were down. Sixteen monthly indicators were down and five were up when compared to August. In addition, for the year-to-date (YTD), eighteen indicators were up and three were down. Selected YTD figures reported by border cities include the following.

- Southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico were up 11.4 percent. Brownsville was up 13.1 percent, Laredo was up 10.0 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo was up 9.3 percent as was El Paso.
- Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 9.3 percent. McAllen-Hidalgo was up 17.1 percent, El Paso increased 18.4 percent, Brownsville increased 7.4, but Laredo was down 2.8 percent.
- Southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 8.5 percent. Laredo was up 17.6 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo was up 3.3 percent, and Brownsville increased 3.3 percent. However, El Paso dipped 0.6 percent.
- Northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 3.6 percent with Brownsville up 11.3 percent, El Paso up 1.3 percent, and McAllen-Hidalgo was up 1.0 percent. Laredo increased 0.6 percent while Eagle Pass decreased 1.4 percent.
- Southbound truck shipments into Mexico were up 15.8 percent. Laredo had a 20.7 percent increase, Brownsville was up 5.6 percent and McAllen-Hidalgo increased 3.7 percent.
- Northbound truck shipments into Texas were up 13.5 percent. Laredo had a 30.1 percent increase and Brownsville was up 1.5 percent. However, McAllen-Hidalgo registered a 30.4 percent decrease.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Customs were up 6.8 percent and revenues collected by U.S. Bridge operators were up 15.0 percent.
- Building permits issued were up 18.9 percent. El Paso increased by 22.2 percent and Laredo was up 6.3 percent.
- Building permit values were up with a YTD increase of 8.2 percent. El Paso increased 14.0 percent. McAllen was up 8.5 percent, but Laredo reported a 16.2 percent decrease.
- Total employment was down by 1.7 percent (6,939 jobs lost) YTD. The average unemployment rate in September 1996 was 11.6 percent, up from the 10.9 percent in September 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 home page 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)
- IIT Technical Report No. 9: NAFTA Certificate of Origin (May 1994)
- IIT Technical Report No. 10: The Texas Border with Mexico: Opportunities and Challenges (October 1994)
- IIT Technical Report No. 12: NAFTA One Year After Implementation: A Preliminary Assessment of Selected Impacts (March 1995)

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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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.

Comparison Between 1st-3rd Quarter 96, 95, and 94 for Border Ports (Exports and Imports)

Port	City	1st-3rd Quarter 96	1st-3rd Quarter 95	1st-3rd Quarter 94	Diff \$ Value 96-95	Diff \$ Value 96-94
2301	Brownsville	\$6,020,776,961	\$5,351,237,662	\$5,608,328,444	\$669,539,299	\$412,448,517
2302	Del Rio	\$1,340,563,552	\$1,199,284,037	\$1,002,478,589	\$141,279,515	\$338,084,963
2303	Eagle Pass	\$4,368,896,051	\$3,369,764,138	\$2,386,445,280	\$999,131,913	\$1,982,450,771
2304	Laredo	\$23,426,047,319	\$21,303,033,741	\$21,285,975,913	\$2,123,013,578	\$2,140,071,406
2305	Hidalgo	\$4,634,297,432	\$4,014,102,886	\$3,503,611,378	\$620,194,546	\$1,130,686,054
2307	Rio Grande City	\$104,128,729	\$110,092,328	\$106,021,589	\$(5,963,599)	\$(1,892,860)
2309	Progreso	\$174,897,758	\$140,307,167	\$170,150,992	\$34,590,591	\$4,746,766
2310	Roma	\$90,707,061	\$67,881,887	\$64,863,885	\$22,825,174	\$25,843,176
District 23 Total		\$40,160,314,863	\$35,555,703,846	\$34,127,876,070	\$4,604,611,017	\$6,032,438,793
2402	El Paso	\$15,789,084,020	\$15,215,791,801	\$13,310,653,076	\$573,292,219	\$2,478,430,944
2403	Presidio	\$67,487,781	\$74,246,404	\$64,561,629	\$(6,758,623)	\$2,926,152
2404	Fabens	\$1,666,261	\$23,666	\$115,766	\$1,642,595	\$1,550,495
Texas Total		\$56,018,552,925	\$50,845,765,717	\$47,503,206,541	\$5,172,787,208	\$8,515,346,384

1st-3rd Quarter 96, 95, 94 Import and Export Analysis

Port	City	% Change 96-95	% Change 96-94	% of US-MX Border 94	% of US-MX Border 95	% of US-MX Border 96
2301	Brownsville	12.51%	7.35%	8.82%	7.76%	7.96%
2302	Del Rio	11.78%	33.72%	1.58%	1.74%	1.77%
2303	Eagle Pass	29.65%	83.07%	3.75%	4.89%	5.77%
2304	Laredo	9.97%	10.05%	33.48%	30.90%	30.96%
2305	Hidalgo	15.45%	32.27%	5.51%	5.82%	6.12%
2307	Rio Grande City	-5.42%	-1.79%	0.17%	0.16%	0.14%
2309	Progreso	24.65%	2.79%	0.27%	0.20%	0.23%
2310	Roma	33.62%	39.84%	0.10%	0.10%	0.12%
District 23 Total		12.95%	17.68%	53.68%	51.58%	53.08%
2402	El Paso	3.77%	18.62%	20.94%	22.07%	20.87%
2403	Presidio	-9.10%	4.53%	0.10%	0.11%	0.09%
2404	Fabens	6940.74%	1339.34%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Texas Total		10.17%	17.93%	74.72%	73.76%	74.03%

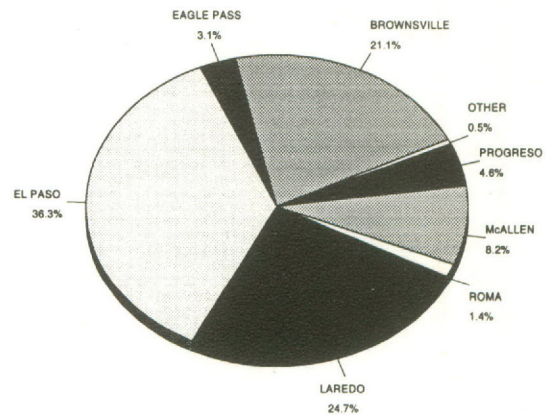
Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	JUL 96	AUG 96	SEP 96	SEP 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	270,659	260,064	230,187	227,045	2,094,702	2,369,283	13.1
DEL RIO	4,728	5,337	4,436	4,462	33,813	44,363	31.2
EAGLE PASS	33,792	35,573	33,634	29,975	278,608	323,284	16.0
EL PASO	405,013	442,976	396,000	342,125	3,083,654	3,371,335	9.3
HARLINGEN	122	98	87	91	694	907	30.7
LAREDO	298,214	283,311	269,399	245,149	2,320,217	2,552,553	10.0
McALLEN-HIDALGO	82,878	88,642	89,793	76,725	768,783	840,567	9.3
PROGRESO	63,395	52,110	50,303	42,426	646,577	790,129	22.2
RIO GRANDE	923	841	998	750	6,408	7,784	21.5
ROMA	13,184	13,631	14,758	14,257	131,055	132,181	0.9
TOTAL	1,172,908	1,182,583	1,089,595	983,005	9,364,511	10,432,386	11.4

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 pedestrian bridge crossings into Mexico for September were down 7.9 percent compared to August. Del Rio decreased 16.9 percent, Brownsville was down 11.5 percent, Harlingen fell 11.2 percent, El Paso dipped 10.6 percent, Eagle Pass posted a decrease of 5.5 percent, Laredo was down 4.9 percent and Progreso fell 3.5 percent. However Rio Grande increased 18.7 percent and Roma rose 8.3 percent. YTD total southbound pedestrian bridge crossings were up 11.4 percent. El Paso southbound pedestrian crossings, 36.3 percent of all crossings were up 9.3 percent. Laredo, accounting for 24.7 percent of all crossings, was up 10.0 percent YTD. Brownsville was up 13.1 percent with 21.1 percent of all crossings in the month of September.

% Share Pedestrians for September 1996



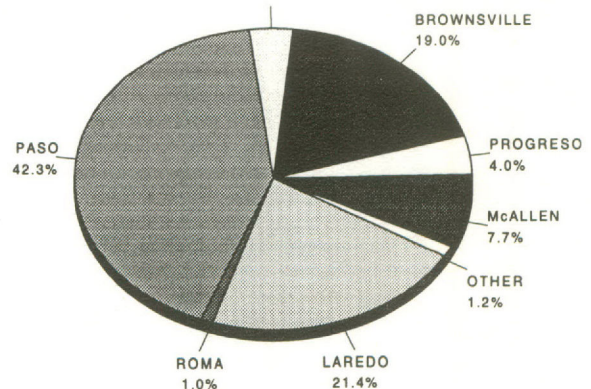
Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	JUL 96	AUG 96	SEP 96	SEP 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	278,150	254,608	223,114	230,986	2,153,888	2,313,222	7.4
DEL RIO	8,108	10,314	10,230	6,727	63,677	78,659	23.5
EAGLE PASS	44,400	46,930	40,314	46,100	425,852	432,435	1.5
EL PASO	537,103	565,203	497,221	410,973	3,618,736	4,283,620	18.4
LAREDO	297,519	283,702	251,237	274,837	2,525,164	2,454,883	-2.8
McALLEN-HIDALGO	97,180	99,125	90,734	76,179	768,100	899,756	17.1
PRESIDIO	2,078	2,543	2,676	2,313	22,465	21,166	-5.8
PROGRESO	60,017	47,570	47,064	33,618	524,443	579,367	10.5
RIO GRANDE	1,222	1,095	1,136	987	9,460	10,626	12.3
ROMA	12,792	13,373	12,174	14,112	149,596	137,664	-8.0
TOTAL	1,338,569	1,324,463	1,175,900	1,096,832	10,261,381	11,211,398	9.3

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 11.2 percent in September. Eagle Pass decreased 14.1 percent, Brownsville fell 12.4 percent, El Paso was down 12.0 percent, Laredo slid 11.4 percent, Roma dipped 9.0 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo was down 8.5 percent, Progreso decreased 1.1 percent and Del Rio declined 0.8 percent. However, Presidio increased 5.2 percent and Rio Grande was up 3.7 percent. YTD total northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 9.3 percent. El Paso, accounting for 42.3 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings, was up 18.4 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 19.0 percent of all northbound crossings, was up 7.4 percent. However, Laredo, with 21.4 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings, had a 2.8 percent decrease in crossings YTD.

% Share Pedestrians for September 1996



Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	JUL 96	AUG 96	SEP 96	SEP 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	507,508	507,826	474,888	458,333	4,181,986	4,320,493	3.3
DEL RIO	149,645	150,721	146,431	133,122	1,193,372	1,334,449	11.8
EAGLE PASS	218,885	220,727	201,011	196,340	1,809,098	1,933,690	6.9
EL PASO	387,252	413,785	422,073	423,002	3,678,214	3,654,485	-0.6
HARLINGEN	34,034	29,889	29,244	26,304	250,257	282,558	12.9
LAREDO	631,725	666,078	646,383	543,266	4,800,448	5,643,312	17.6
McALLEN-HIDALGO	432,011	428,988	424,696	362,793	3,461,961	3,574,562	3.3
PHARR	86,882	82,403	81,171	66,860	523,904	752,129	43.6
PROGRESO	86,311	77,795	72,361	73,941	701,174	782,481	11.6
RIO GRANDE	43,306	43,492	42,221	39,170	358,822	401,808	12.0
ROMA	70,521	68,480	62,119	55,117	523,290	619,287	18.3
TOTAL	2,648,080	2,690,184	2,602,598	2,378,248	21,482,526	23,299,254	8.5

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 3.3 percent in September from August's figures. Roma decreased 9.3 percent, Eagle Pass was down 8.9 percent, Progreso fell 7.0 percent, Brownsville declined 6.5 percent, Laredo dipped 3.0 percent, Rio Grande dropped 2.9 percent and Del Rio decreased 2.8 percent. Harlingen registered a decrease of 2.2 percent, Pharr fell 1.5 percent and McAllen-Hidalgo slid 1.0 percent. YTD total

southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 8.5 percent. Laredo, with 24.8 percent of all traffic, was up 17.6 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 16.3 percent of all southbound vehicle bridge crossings, had a 3.3 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, accounting for 18.2 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings had a 3.3 percent increase YTD. However, El Paso, with 16.2 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, experienced a 0.6 percent decrease YTD.

Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	JUL 96	AUG 96	SEP 96	SEP 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	568,630	494,795	469,996	424,812	3,859,457	4,294,899	11.3
DEL RIO	150,696	148,456	142,484	117,028	1,068,709	1,167,699	9.3
EAGLE PASS	191,671	196,876	177,212	187,680	1,793,796	1,768,198	-1.4
EL PASO	634,381	657,126	634,413	687,552	5,818,576	5,894,921	1.3
HARLINGEN	43,229	37,661	37,337	31,566	289,220	354,557	22.6
LAREDO	627,917	614,285	592,230	591,121	5,345,037	5,378,671	0.6
McALLEN-HIDALGO	404,406	396,801	385,956	376,238	3,573,601	3,610,980	1.0
PRESIDIO	52,811	62,396	46,213	43,805	405,093	451,595	11.5
PROGRESO	85,239	78,357	77,732	63,575	651,457	685,009	5.2
RIO GRANDE	47,342	46,228	46,627	40,105	362,372	401,734	10.9
ROMA	82,679	80,538	80,274	66,162	627,387	643,150	2.5
TOTAL	2,889,001	2,813,519	2,690,474	2,629,644	23,794,705	24,651,413	3.6

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

Northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas for September were down 4.4 percent since August. Presidio was down 25.9 percent, Eagle Pass fell 10.0 percent, Brownsville declined 5.0 percent, Del Rio decreased 4.0 percent, Laredo dipped 3.6 percent, El Paso registered a decrease of 3.5 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo was down 2.7 percent and Harlingen declined slightly by 0.9 percent. Progreso was down 0.8 percent and Roma decreased 0.3 percent.

However, Rio Grande rose 0.9 percent. YTD northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 3.6 percent. El Paso, with 23.6 percent of all crossings, was up 1.3 percent. Laredo, with 22.0 percent of all northbound vehicle bridge crossings, was up slightly by 0.6 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 17.5 percent of all crossings, was up 11.3 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 14.3 percent of all crossings, was up 1.0 percent.

Export Shipments by Trucks into Mexico —Number of Trucks

CITY	JUL 96	AUG 96	SEP 96	SEP 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE+	16,174	17,208	16,079	16,710	140,364	148,185	5.6
DEL RIO+	2,792	3,561	3,022	3,324	25,618	26,937	5.1
EAGLE PASS++	4,417	2,805	3,782	2,430	24,505	29,636	20.9
EL PASO+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	N/A
HARLINGEN+	4,238	3,547	3,878	2,629	26,846	32,674	21.7
LAREDO++	43,940	45,267	42,096	34,947	309,387	373,503	20.7
McALLEN-HIDALGO+	10,447	10,504	9,399	9,072	95,822	99,393	3.7
PHARR+	4,533	4,438	5,118	2,931	20,678	39,059	88.9
PROGRESO+	2,252	1,675	2,199	3,070	18,157	16,150	-11.1
RIO GRANDE+	1,815	1,604	1,533	949	10,773	12,644	17.4
ROMA+	682	708	651	671	5,672	6,701	18.1
TOTAL	91,290	91,317	87,757	76,733	677,822	784,882	15.8

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 3.9 percent in September. Del Rio was down 15.1 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo fell 10.5 percent, Roma decreased 8.1 percent, Laredo declined 7.0 percent, Brownsville dipped 6.6 percent and Rio Grande registered a 4.4 percent decrease. However, Eagle Pass was up 34.8 percent, Progreso increased 31.3 percent and Harlingen rose 9.3 percent.

YTD total truck traffic had an increase of 15.8 percent. Laredo, with 48.0 percent of all southbound shipments, experienced a 20.7 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with 18.3 percent of all southbound shipments, had a 5.6 percent increase YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo with 10.7 percent of all truck traffic, registered a slight increase of 3.7 percent.

Import Shipments by Trucks into Texas —Number of Trucks

CITY	JUL 96	AUG 96	SEP 96	SEP 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	9,996	10,536	11,320	8,865	87,785	89,145	1.5
DEL RIO	2,368	2,526	2,485	2,382	21,475	22,019	2.5
EAGLE PASS	2,883	3,124	2,916	2,707	23,008	26,079	13.3
LAREDO	46,756	48,108	48,612	35,879	317,324	412,961	30.1
McALLEN-HIDALGO	6,486	6,225	0	7,317	89,535	62,334	-30.4
PROGRESO	655	517	365	386	7,873	6,852	-13.0
RIO GRANDE	885	975	979	378	5,415	7,302	34.8
ROMA	393	430	413	527	3,539	4,119	16.4
TOTAL	70,422	72,441	67,090	58,441	555,954	630,811	13.5

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. McAllen-Hidalgo ceased imports by trucks September 1, 1996. Imports now go through the Pharr bridge.

Northbound truck shipments into Texas decreased 7.4 percent from August's shipments. Progreso decreased 29.4 percent, Eagle Pass was down 6.7 percent, Roma fell 4.0 percent and Del Rio slid 1.6 percent. However, Brownsville rose 7.4 percent, Laredo was up 1.0 percent and Rio Grande increased 0.4 percent. YTD, northbound truck shipments were up 13.5 percent. Laredo, accounting for 72.5

percent of all northbound truck traffic, had a 30.1 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with 16.9 percent of shipments, experienced a 1.5 percent increase YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 0.0 percent of all northbound truck shipments into Texas had a 30.4 percent decrease YTD.

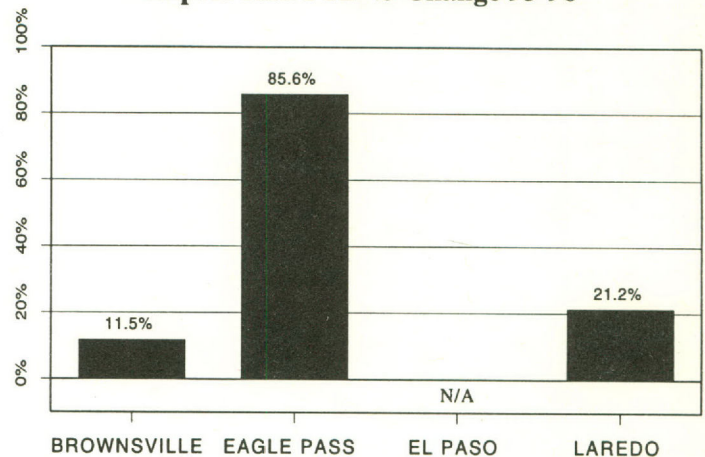
Export Shipments by Rail into Mexico —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	JUL 96	AUG 96	SEP 96	SEP 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	2,140	2,223	1,596	2,461	16,253	18,118	11.5
EAGLE PASS	2,739	3,676	3,876	2,264	13,458	24,975	85.6
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	10,290	10,366	10,011	9,529	79,222	96,046	21.2
TOTAL	15,169	16,265	15,483	14,254	108,933	139,139	27.7

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

Southbound rail shipments into Mexico decreased 4.8 percent in September. It must be noted that this does not include El Paso data. Brownsville had a 28.2 percent decrease over August's shipments. Laredo decreased 3.4 percent. However, Eagle Pass rose by 5.4 percent. YTD total southbound rail shipments into Mexico during the month of September were up 27.7 percent. Laredo, with 64.7 percent of all southbound rail shipments, was up 21.2 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, with 25.0 percent of all southbound shipments, increased 85.6 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 10.3 percent of all southbound rail shipments, was up 11.5 percent YTD.

Export Rail YTD % Change 95-96



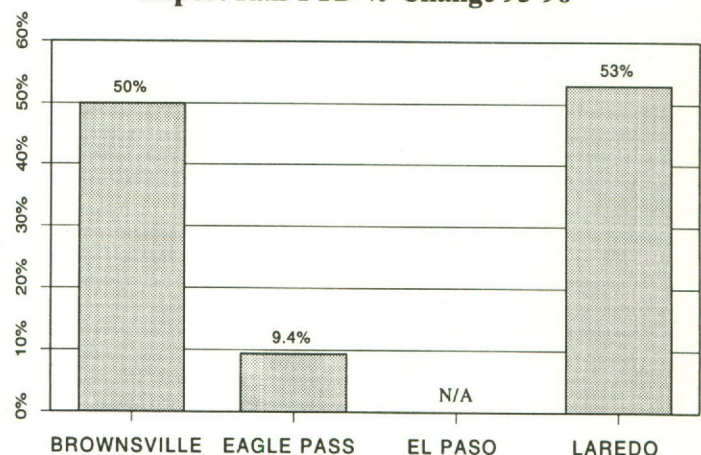
Import Shipments by Rail into Texas —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	JUL 96	AUG 96	SEP 96	SEP 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	1,245	1,608	1,341	1,390	10,499	15,752	50.0
EAGLE PASS	2,198	2,282	2,167	1,487	16,541	18,098	9.4
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	6,681	7,196	6,601	4,949	41,898	64,114	53.0
TOTAL	10,124	11,086	10,109	7,826	68,938	97,964	42.1

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

Northbound rail shipments into Texas decreased 8.8 percent in September. El Paso data is not currently available. Brownsville was down 16.6 percent, Laredo decreased 8.3 percent and Eagle Pass declined 5.0 percent. YTD total northbound rail shipments in Texas were up 42.1 percent. Laredo, with 65.3 percent of all shipments during the month of September was up 53.0 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, accounting for 21.4 percent of all northbound rail shipments, was up 9.4 percent YTD, and Brownsville was up 50.0 percent YTD with a 13.3 percent share of all shipments in September.

Import Rail YTD % Change 95-96



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

CITY	DUTY	MPF	OTHER	TOTAL	TOTAL	YTD	YTD	YTD % CHG
	SEP 96	SEP 96	REVENUE SEP 96	REVENUE SEP 96	REVENUE SEP 95	REVENUE SEP 95	REVENUE SEP 96	
BROWNSVILLE	3,350,111	414,372	(520,333)	3,244,150	2,619,779	28,008,311	25,018,832	-10.7
DEL RIO	265,761	86,872	32,649	385,282	492,781	4,405,710	3,228,955	-26.7
EAGLE PASS	815,734	207,824	2,215,520	3,239,078	3,408,129	21,916,466	21,314,377	-2.7
LAREDO	19,488,433	1,775,590	872,102	22,136,125	20,493,061	170,869,657	183,725,241	7.5
McALLEN-HIDALGO	3,358,999	391,921	151,540	3,902,460	3,659,480	37,599,470	47,744,963	27.0
PROGRESO	9,639	7,388	24,625	41,652	47,545	1,916,693	1,876,851	-2.1
RIO GRANDE	58,306	14,488	3,326	76,120	62,684	1,068,034	859,905	-19.5
ROMA	26,102	10,100	8,067	44,269	42,459	338,413	400,133	18.2
TOTAL	27,373,085	2,908,555	2,787,496	33,069,136	30,825,918	266,122,754	284,169,257	6.8

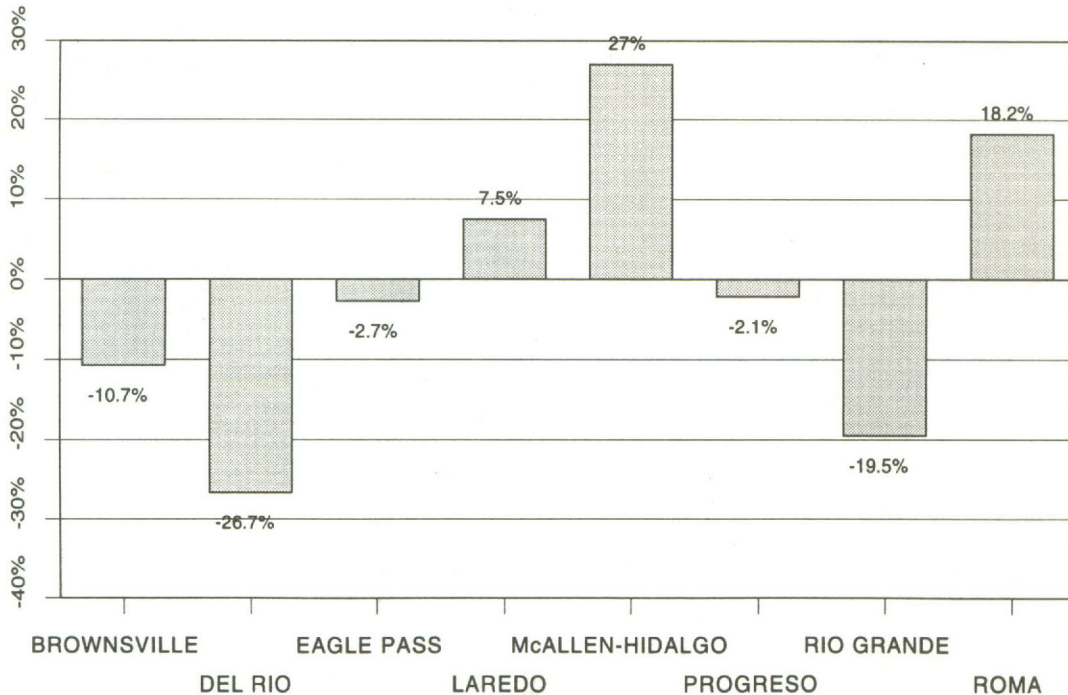
Source: Data provided by U.S. Customs Service, Port of Entry in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

*MPF = Merchandise Processing Fee

Total U.S. Customs revenues for the District of Laredo increased slightly by 0.6 percent in September. Brownsville increased 35.9 percent, Del Rio rose 23.5 percent, Eagle Pass was up 18.4 percent, Roma increased by 6.5 percent and Rio Grande rose 1.2 percent. However, Progreso was down 74.5 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo declined 7.9 percent and Laredo decreased 3.5 percent. YTD

revenue figures were up 6.8 percent compared to September 1995. Laredo, accounting for 66.9 percent of total District revenues, was up 7.5 percent YTD, McAllen-Hidalgo with 11.8 percent of total revenues, was up 27.0 percent YTD, but Brownsville with 9.8 percent of total revenues declined 10.7 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, with 9.8 percent of total revenues, dipped 2.7 percent YTD.

% Change Total Revenues YTD 95-96



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

CITY	JUL 96	AUG 96	SEP 96	SEP 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	514,913	504,996	470,969	469,625	4,216,256	4,418,412	4.8
DEL RIO	169,929	171,387	159,829	146,361	1,328,496	1,484,418	11.7
EAGLE PASS	366,774	369,745	340,414	323,539	3,022,446	3,274,895	8.4
EL PASO	839,440	887,800	1,095,660	846,616	7,275,203	7,826,191	7.6
HARLINGEN	73,411	64,717	65,643	52,592	499,453	613,735	22.9
LAREDO	1,590,560	1,658,794	1,502,130	1,239,740	10,860,589	13,833,613	27.4
McALLEN-HIDALGO	542,430	540,953	531,883	461,637	4,534,451	4,749,578	4.7
PHARR	124,933	131,933	134,939	92,737	703,709	1,096,505	55.8
TOTAL	4,222,390	4,330,325	4,301,467	3,632,847	32,440,603	37,297,347	15.0

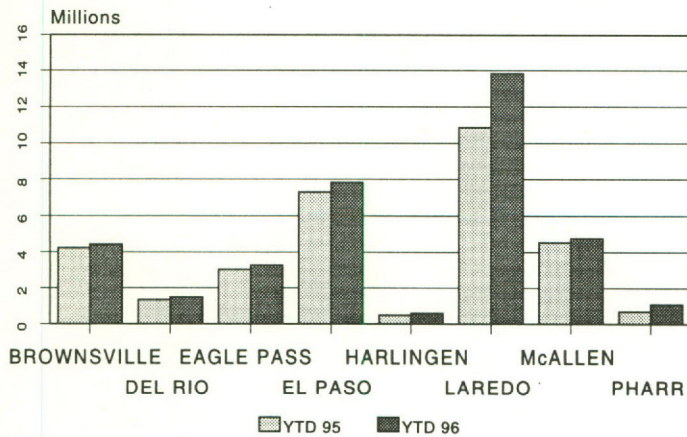
Source: Data provided by U.S. bridge operators in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

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

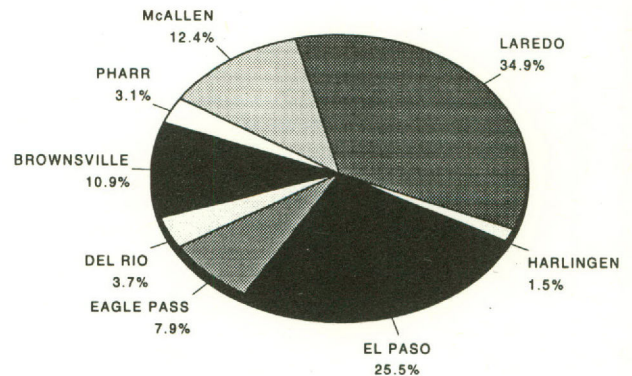
U.S. bridge operators' revenues decreased 0.7 percent in the month of September. Laredo was down 9.4 percent, Eagle Pass fell 7.9 percent, Del Rio and Brownsville decreased 6.7 percent and McAllen-Hidalgo declined 1.7 percent. However, El Paso increased 23.4 percent, Pharr was up 2.3 percent and Harlingen rose 1.4 percent. YTD, U.S. bridge operators' revenues were up 15.0 percent. Laredo, accounting for 34.9 percent of total U.S. bridge

operator's revenues, had a 27.4 percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 25.5 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues, increased 7.6 percent YTD. Brownsville, 10.9 percent of the total bridge revenues, was up 4.8 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, 7.9 percent of total U.S. bridge operator's revenues, was up 8.4 percent. Also, McAllen-Hidalgo which accounts for 12.4 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues in September was up 4.7 percent YTD.

Total Revenues Collected YTD 95-96



% Share Revenues September 1996



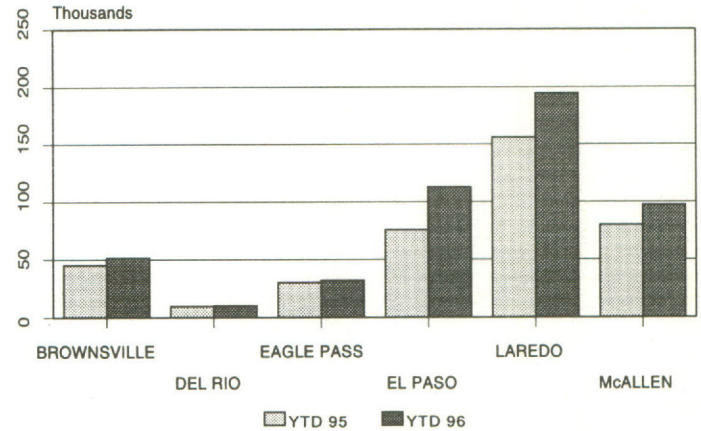
Visas to Tourists from Texas to Mexico

CITY	JUL 96	AUG 96	SEP 96	SEP 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	%CHG
BROWNSVILLE	9,335	6,166	3,865	3,879	45,252	51,510	13.8
DEL RIO	1,623	1,219	815	972	9,542	10,151	6.4
EAGLE PASS	5,060	4,707	2,571	3,298	30,010	31,997	6.6
EL PASO	20,889	18,653	9,713	8,008	75,857	112,944	48.9
LAREDO	36,628	26,059	15,383	15,186	156,415	194,615	24.4
McALLEN	14,796	11,156	8,261	7,543	80,207	97,403	21.4
TOTAL	88,331	67,960	40,608	38,886	397,283	498,620	25.5

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

The number of tourist visas issued in September decreased 40.2 percent. El Paso had a 47.9 percent decrease, Eagle Pass declined 45.4 percent, Laredo was down 41.0 percent. Brownsville fell 37.3 percent, Del Rio was down 33.1 percent and McAllen fell 26.0 percent. YTD, the number of tourist visas issued was up 25.5 percent. Laredo, with 37.9 percent of total visas issued in September, was up 24.4 percent. El Paso, with 23.9 percent of total visas issued, had a 48.9 percent increase YTD, McAllen, with 20.3 percent of all visas issued, rose 21.4 percent YTD, and Brownsville with 9.5 percent of total visas issued, increased 13.8 percent YTD.

Tourist Visas YTD September 95-96



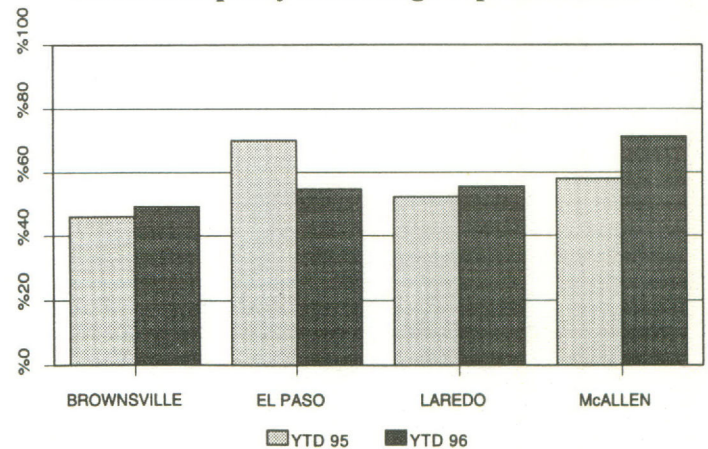
Hotel Occupancy Percentage Rate — Texas Border

CITY	JUL 96	AUG 96	SEP 96	SEP 95	% CHG 95-96
BROWNSVILLE	59.1	52.5	49.2	46.0	7.0
EL PASO	57.7	58.5	54.8	69.9	-21.6
LAREDO	57.5	59.6	55.5	52.3	6.1
McALLEN	68.8	72.3	71.2	58.1	22.4
AVERAGE	60.8	60.7	57.7	56.6	1.9

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

The average hotel occupancy rate of reporting Texas border hotels for September was 57.7 percent. McAllen had a 71.2 percent rate, El Paso had a 54.8 percent rate, Laredo has a 55.5 percent rate, and Brownsville had an occupancy rate of 49.2 percent. The YTD average occupancy rate for the reporting Texas border cities was up 1.9 percent. El Paso declined 21.6 percent. However, Laredo increased by 6.1 percent, Brownsville increased 7.0 percent and McAllen posted an increase of 22.4 percent YTD.

Hotel Occupancy Percentage September 95-96



Power Connections –Texas Border

Residential Connections

CITY	JUL 96	AUG 96	SEP 96	SEP 95
BROWNSVILLE	27,695	27,697	27,832	27,447
DEL RIO	13,156	13,166	13,180	12,981
EAGLE PASS	8,653	8,651	8,668	8,558
EL PASO	247,569	248,179	248,876	244,475
HARLINGEN	19,564	19,594	19,623	19,251
LAREDO	43,003	43,071	43,237	42,005
McALLEN	28,825	28,893	28,953	28,169
TOTAL	388,465	389,251	390,369	382,886

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

September residential power connections for all reporting Texas border cities increased from August's figures by 0.29 percent. YTD, residential power connections for all reporting border cities were up 2.0 percent. Laredo experienced the largest increase by 2.9 percent, followed by McAllen, up 2.8 percent. Harlingen increased 1.9 percent, El Paso increased 1.8 percent, Del Rio was up 1.5 percent, Brownsville increased 1.4 percent and Eagle Pass increased 1.3 percent YTD.

September commercial power connections for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.23 from August's figures. Laredo increased 0.43 percent, Eagle Pass was up 0.40 percent, El Paso rose 0.32 percent, Harlingen was up 0.19 percent and McAllen increased by 0.12 percent. However, Brownsville decreased 0.71 percent and Del Rio fell 0.22 percent. YTD, commercial power connection for reporting border cities increased by 2.3 percent over September 1995. McAllen increased 3.4 percent YTD. Del Rio was up 3.1 percent, El Paso increased 3.0 percent, Harlingen was up 1.7 percent, Eagle Pass rose 1.4 percent, Laredo increased slightly 0.5 percent. However, Brownsville was the only city that registered a decrease YTD with a 0.9 percent decline.

Commercial Connections

CITY	JUL 96	AUG 96	SEP 96	SEP 95
BROWNSVILLE	2,532	2,540	2,522	2,546
DEL RIO	1,840	1,839	1,835	1,779
EAGLE PASS	1,252	1,251	1,256	1,239
EL PASO	25,091	25,137	25,217	24,473
HARLINGEN	3,108	3,123	3,129	3,077
LAREDO	6,508	6,493	6,521	6,491
McALLEN	5,004	5,016	5,022	4,859
TOTAL	45,335	45,399	45,502	44,464

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 Connections

CITY	JUL 96	AUG 96	SEP 96	SEP 95
BROWNSVILLE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
DEL RIO	30	30	30	30
EAGLE PASS	25	26	26	22
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HARLINGEN	85	86	85	84
LAREDO	133	131	132	132
McALLEN	53	53	52	45
TOTAL	326	326	325	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

Industrial power connections for reporting Texas border cities decreased 0.31 percent in September over August's figures. McAllen decreased 1.89 percent and Harlingen was down 1.16 percent. However, Laredo was up 0.76 percent. All other cities reported no change. YTD, Eagle Pass had the largest increase with 18.2 percent and McAllen increased 15.6 percent. Harlingen also showed a modest increase of 1.2 percent while Laredo remained the same. All other cities showed no change YTD.

Building Permits — Texas Border

Number of Permits

NUMBER	JUL 96	AUG 96	SEP 96	SEP 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	278	278	228	181	1,723	2,254	30.8
DEL RIO	101	86	83	57	698	964	38.1
EAGLE PASS	37	29	21	35	285	282	-1.1
EL PASO	1,073	979	923	800	7,753	9,478	22.2
HARLINGEN	80	50	52	65	586	646	10.2
LAREDO	381	331	267	256	2,687	2,855	6.3
MCALLEN	159	110	113	116	1,097	1,159	5.7
TOTAL	2,109	1,863	1,687	1,510	14,829	17,638	18.9

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

September building permits issued by reporting Texas border cities were down 9.4 percent from August. Eagle Pass decreased 27.6 percent, Laredo was down 19.3 percent, Brownsville declined 18.0 percent, El Paso dipped 5.7 percent and Del Rio fell 3.5 percent. However, Harlingen was up 4.0 percent and McAllen showed a 2.7 percent increase. YTD, the number of building permits issued were

up 18.9 percent. El Paso, accounting for 54.7 percent of all building permits issued had a 22.2 percent increase. Laredo, with 15.8 percent of building permits issued, was up 6.3 percent YTD. Brownsville was up 30.8 percent and McAllen increased 5.7 percent as well.

U.S. Dollar Value of Permits

VALUE	JUL 96	AUG 96	SEP 96	SEP 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	13,188,847	17,954,077	5,646,809	5,975,216	67,114,044	77,817,739	15.9
DEL RIO	1,883,705	1,369,458	5,630,481	1,250,822	16,501,893	22,164,434	34.3
EAGLE PASS	663,458	1,273,476	460,776	723,829	8,416,067	7,520,138	-10.6
EL PASO	25,473,232	43,646,047	26,777,330	34,647,004	285,923,777	325,904,850	14.0
HARLINGEN	8,545,090	1,620,874	5,286,123	4,461,833	34,416,856	41,397,550	20.3
LAREDO	9,844,053	6,988,506	7,754,495	10,114,676	118,615,073	99,355,705	-16.2
MCALLEN	10,889,819	5,733,670	13,435,042	13,757,329	80,468,285	87,328,909	8.5
TOTAL	70,488,204	78,586,108	64,991,056	70,930,709	611,455,995	661,489,325	8.2

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

September building permit values for reporting Texas border cities were down 17.3 percent from August. Brownsville decreased 68.5 percent, Eagle Pass registered a decrease of 63.8 percent and El Paso fell 38.6 percent. However, Del Rio increased 311.1 percent, Harlingen increased 226.1 percent, McAllen was up 134.3 percent and Laredo rose 11.0 percent. YTD, reporting border cities expe-

rienced a 8.2 percent increase. El Paso, with 41.2 percent of total value, had a 14.0 percent YTD increase, McAllen with 20.7 percent total value increased 8.5 percent YTD and Brownsville, with 8.7 percent total value, increased 15.9 percent YTD. However, Laredo with 11.9 percent total value, was down 16.2 percent YTD.

Employment/Unemployment Rates —Texas Border

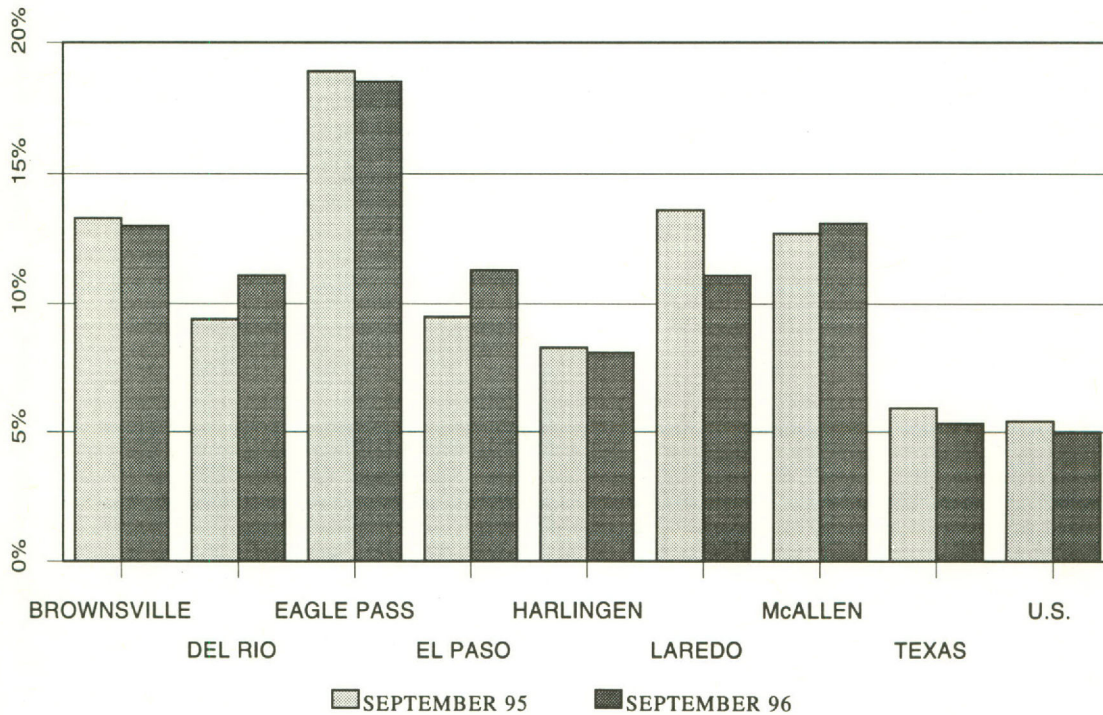
CITY	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED	PERCENT UNEMPLOYED	PERCENT UNEMPLOYED
	SEP 96	SEP 95	SEP 96	SEP 95	SEP 96	SEP 95
BROWNSVILLE	40,283	40,975	6,031	6,264	13.0	13.3
DEL RIO	13,989	13,966	1,753	1,449	11.1	9.4
EAGLE PASS	7,720	7,372	1,749	1,716	18.5	18.9
EL PASO	227,940	233,373	28,940	24,414	11.3	9.5
HARLINGEN	23,142	23,539	2,051	2,130	8.1	8.3
LAREDO	55,202	56,710	6,908	8,956	11.1	13.6
McALLEN	38,415	37,695	5,778	5,481	13.1	12.7
TOTAL	406,691	413,630	53,210	50,410	11.6	10.9
THE TEXAS UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					5.33	5.90
THE NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					4.99	5.42

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

In September, total employment in reporting Texas border cities rose 1.2 percent (4,708 jobs gained) from August's figures. Eagle Pass increased 2.6 percent (197 jobs gained), El Paso increased 2.4 percent (5,412 jobs gained) and Laredo rose 0.6 percent (320 jobs gained), McAllen was up 0.4 percent (165 jobs gained). However, both Brownsville and Harlingen dipped 2.1 percent (856 jobs and

492 jobs lost respectively). Finally, Del Rio declined marginally at 0.3 percent (38 jobs lost). YTD, the total employment in Texas border cities was down 0.71 percent (6,939 jobs lost) from a year ago. The average unemployment rate for the border was 11.6 percent compared to 5.33 percent for Texas and 4.99 percent for the U.S. in September.

% Unemployed September 95-96



Air Passenger Service Activities — Selected Border Cities

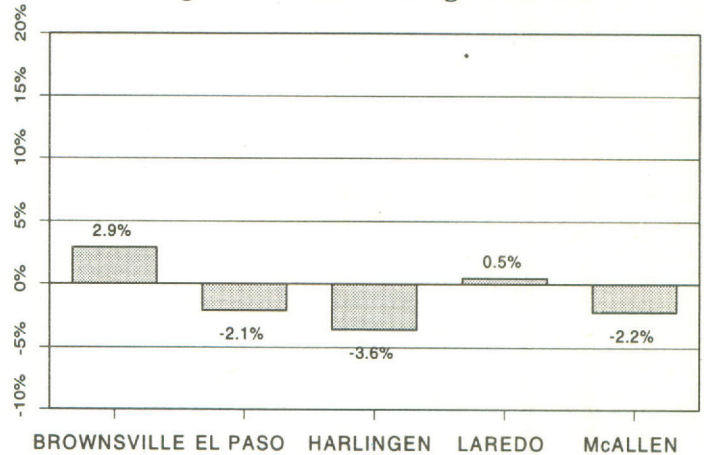
Passenger Arrivals

CITY	JUL 96	AUG 96	SEP 96	SEP 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	6,233	5,985	5,130	5,169	53,233	54,752	2.9
EL PASO	161,181	161,913	146,508	135,582	1,348,081	1,319,963	-2.1
HARLINGEN	40,612	37,472	34,546	34,468	361,469	348,280	-3.6
LAREDO	4,757	4,832	4,309	4,220	43,114	43,342	0.5
McALLEN	25,627	25,331	20,875	22,648	231,583	226,593	-2.2
TOTAL	232,177	229,548	206,238	196,918	1,984,247	1,938,178	-2.3

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

September air passenger arrivals for reporting Texas border cities were down 10.2 percent over August's figures. McAllen was down 17.6 percent, Brownsville decreased 14.3 percent, Laredo slid 10.8 percent, El Paso declined 9.5 percent and Harlingen fell 7.8 percent. YTD air passenger arrivals were down 2.3 percent. El Paso with 71.0 percent of total passengers decreased 2.1 percent YTD, Harlingen with 16.8 percent was down 3.6 percent and McAllen declined 2.2 percent YTD. However, Brownsville rose 2.9 percent YTD and Laredo increased 0.5 percent YTD.

Passenger Arrivals % Change YTD 95-96



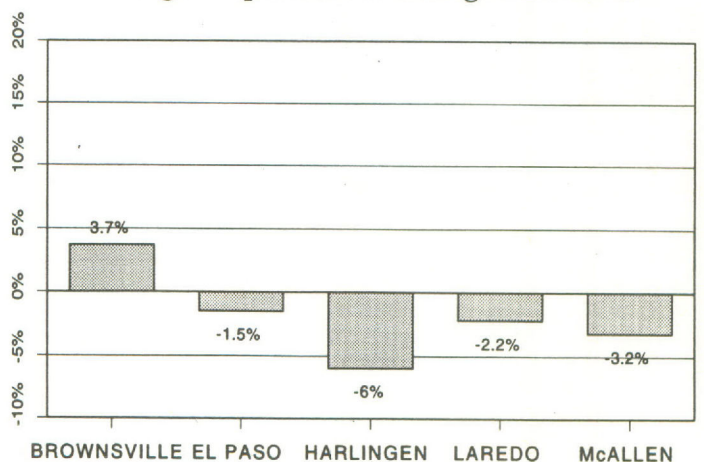
Passenger Departures

CITY	JUL 96	AUG 96	SEP 96	SEP 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	6,143	6,013	5,327	5,457	54,509	56,530	3.7
EL PASO	165,186	164,877	152,258	141,153	1,386,465	1,366,256	-1.5
HARLINGEN	41,056	37,416	36,397	36,224	382,253	359,132	-6.0
LAREDO	4,731	4,936	4,417	4,733	45,476	44,482	-2.2
McALLEN	26,752	25,019	21,570	23,886	244,651	236,799	-3.2
TOTAL	237,725	232,248	214,642	205,996	2,058,845	2,006,669	-2.5

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

September air passenger departures for reporting Texas border cities were down 7.6 percent for August's figures. McAllen fell 13.8 percent, Brownsville decreased 11.4 percent, Laredo dipped 10.5 percent, El Paso declined by 7.7 percent and Harlingen decreased 2.7 percent. YTD, air passenger departures were down 2.5 percent from a year ago. El Paso with 70.9 percent of all passengers declined 1.5 percent YTD. Harlingen with 17.0 percent of all passengers was down 6.0 percent, McAllen decreased 3.2 percent YTD and Laredo fell 2.2 percent YTD. However, Brownsville was up 3.7 percent.

Passenger Departures % Change YTD 95-96



Port Of Corpus Christi

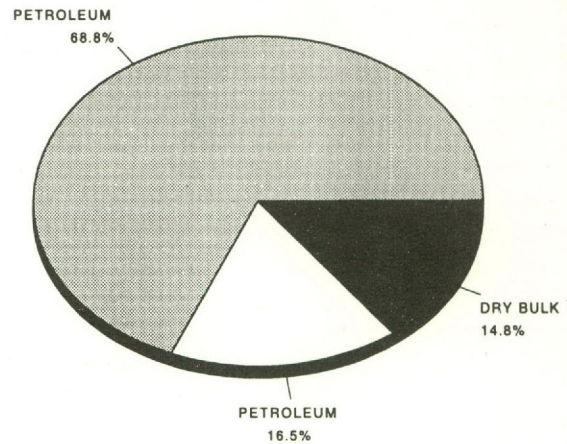
Inbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	JUL 96	AUG 96	SEP 96	SEP 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	312,170	49,274	561,716	344,127	2,461,233	3,180,666	29.2
PETROLEUM	3,022,431	3,135,141	2,611,430	2,665,397	24,508,521	26,814,404	9.4
TOTAL	3,334,601	3,184,415	3,173,146	3,009,524	27,019,817	29,999,893	11.0

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 0.4 percent decrease in inbound cargo tonnage in September. Petroleum which is 82.3 percent of total inbound cargo for September decreased 16.7 percent. Dry bulk which accounted for 17.7 percent of the port's inbound cargo, increased by 1,040.0 percent in September. YTD, inbound cargo tonnage was up 11.0 percent. Dry bulk was up 29.2 percent YTD and petroleum was up 9.4 percent YTD.

% Share September 1996 Inbound Cargo



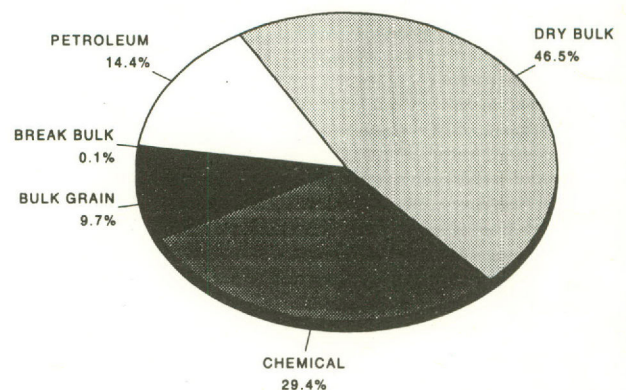
Outbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	JUL 96	AUG 96	SEP 96	SEP 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BREAK BULK	12,834	2,587	578	6,677	123,076	29,400	-76.1
BULK GRAIN	241,851	227,315	68,550	17,520	510,841	811,573	58.9
CHEMICAL	205,873	76,430	208,402	99,493	1,254,049	1,294,157	3.2
CONTAINER	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
DRY BULK	220,637	95,986	329,979	189,082	1,574,654	1,947,497	23.7
PETROLEUM	281,932	131,845	102,321	161,268	994,025	1,105,729	11.2
TOTAL	963,127	534,163	709,830	474,040	4,456,646	5,188,356	16.4

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 32.9 percent increase in outbound cargo tonnage in September. Dry bulk increased 243.8 percent, Chemicals rose 172.7 percent. However, Break bulk was down 77.7 percent, Bulk grain fell 69.8 percent and Petroleum decreased 22.4 percent. YTD, total outbound cargo tonnage was up 16.4 percent.

% Share September 1996 Outbound Cargo



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