



Border Business Indicators

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Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

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IN THIS ISSUE...

Commentary

Note from the Editor 1

Border Crossings

Pedestrians 3

Vehicles 4

Trucks 5

Rail 6

Visas 9

Border Crossing Revenues

U.S. Customs District of
Laredo 7

U.S. Border Bridge
Revenues 8

Border Cities:

Infrastructure Statistics

Hotels 9

Telephones 10

Power Connections 11

Building Permits 12

Employment Figures 13

Airport Activities:

Selected Border Cities

Passenger 14

Sea Ports

Corpus Christi 15

Note from the Editor

Indicators of border business activity for the month of December were up overall with 15 indicators up and 8 down when compared to the previous month. For the year-to-date (YTD), 17 indicators were up and 6 were down. Selected YTD figures reported by border cities include the following.

- Southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico were down 2.2 percent with Laredo down 5.5 percent, Brownsville down 3.5 percent, and El Paso down 0.3 percent. However, McAllen was up 3.7 percent.
- Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were down 3.4 percent. El Paso was down 5.5 percent and Brownsville was down 7.8 percent. Laredo remained up at 2.8 percent.
- Southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 3.8 percent. Harlingen had an increase of 34.3 percent, followed by Brownsville with a 11.3 percent increase, and El Paso up 4.7 percent.
- Northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 4.4 percent with Harlingen increasing 28.1 percent. Laredo increased 8.1 percent, and Brownsville was up 4.4 percent.
- Southbound truck shipments into Mexico were up 13.2 percent. Laredo had a 14.6 percent increase, Brownsville was up 2.7 percent, and McAllen-Hidalgo increased 7.5 percent.
- Northbound truck shipments into Texas were up 27.1 percent, led by Laredo with a 40.7 percent increase. Brownsville was up 22.8 percent.
- Southbound rail shipments into Mexico were up 12.8 percent.
- Northbound rail shipments into Texas were up by 10.2 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Customs were down 21.3 percent, but revenues collected by U.S. Bridge operators were up 6.0 percent.
- Building permits issued were up 12.5 percent, led by Brownsville with a 25.0 percent increase.
- Building permit values were also up with a YTD increase of 18.9 percent. El Paso had a 26.3 percent increase.
- Total employment was up 5.1 percent YTD. However, the average unemployment rate increased from the previous month to 9.1 percent in December.

It should be noted that the number of export shipments by truck into Mexico reported for the Port of Laredo includes loaded trucks only. The August through January issues of the BBI erroneously indicated that the figure included both loaded and empty trailers.

IIT Technical Reports Available

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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.

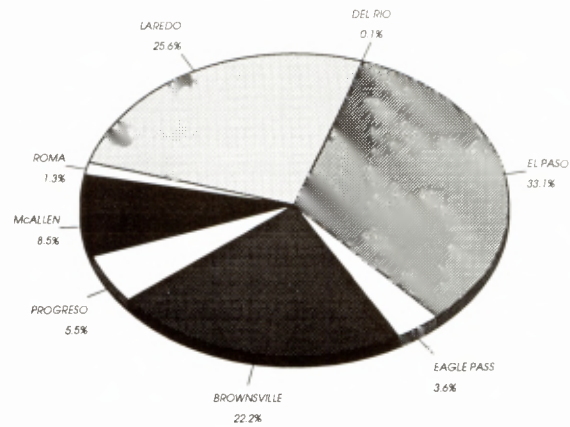
Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	OCT 94	NOV 94	DEC 94	DEC 93	YTD 93	YTD 94	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	258,804	263,000	337,406	346,958	3,429,082	3,309,484	-3.5
DEL RIO	4,087	2,405	1,706	8,092	83,207	61,061	-26.6
EAGLE PASS	31,405	34,970	54,702	54,235	417,585	398,355	-4.6
EL PASO	404,969	377,496	503,302	466,298	4,835,609	4,822,217	-0.3
HARLINGEN	140	1	185	112	494	1,646	233.2
LAREDO	290,891	299,176	388,533	415,068	3,871,503	3,658,531	-5.5
McALLEN-HIDALGO	90,396	97,296	129,304	126,879	1,161,814	1,204,284	3.7
PROGRESO	41,036	61,246	83,486	82,688	772,981	801,313	3.7
RIO GRANDE	569	517	535	591	9,490	7,757	-18.3
ROMA	16,639	17,654	19,174	21,836	223,489	212,076	-5.1
TOTAL	1,138,936	1,153,761	1,518,333	1,522,757	14,805,254	14,476,724	-2.2

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 bridge crossings into Mexico for December were up 31.6 percent compared to November. Eagle Pass had the largest increase —56.4 percent. Progreso increased 36.3 percent. El Paso was up 33.3 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo increased 32.9 percent, Laredo increased 29.9 percent, and Brownsville was up 28.3 percent. However, Del Rio was down 29.1 percent. The bridge at Harlingen is not normally used by pedestrians. YTD total southbound pedestrian bridge crossings were down 2.2 percent. Laredo southbound pedestrian crossings, 25.6 percent of all crossings, were off 5.5 percent. El Paso crossings, accounting for 33.1 percent of all crossings, were down 0.3 percent.

% Share Pedestrians for December 1994



Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Texas

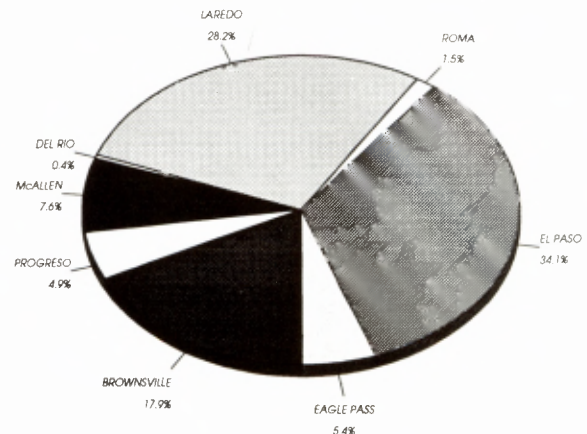
CITY	OCT 94	NOV 94	DEC 94	DEC 93	YTD 93	YTD 94	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	252,095	248,919	262,429	332,877	3,460,917	3,189,878	-7.8
DEL RIO	6,130	5,178	5,430	6,993	73,030	72,262	-1.1
EAGLE PASS	53,002	54,996	79,258	71,514	614,243	627,849	2.2
EL PASO	432,444	401,441	500,725	501,586	5,355,673	5,060,474	-5.5
HARLINGEN	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
LAREDO	318,272	329,820	414,114	401,064	3,731,530	3,837,723	2.8
McALLEN-HIDALGO	75,781	81,088	112,157	129,011	1,162,008	1,101,400	-5.2
PRESIDIO	2,568	2,556	2,741	2,048	21,301	30,511	43.2
PROGRESO	29,354	46,578	72,454	75,658	713,980	689,126	-3.5
RIO GRANDE	1,363	1,410	1,248	1,094	13,191	16,054	21.7
ROMA	19,471	19,824	21,934	22,935	240,608	238,718	-0.8
TOTAL	1,190,480	1,191,810	1,472,490	1,544,780	15,386,481	14,863,995	-3.4

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

*N/A Pedestrians do not use this bridge.

Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 23.6 percent in December. Progreso had the largest increase, up 55.6 percent. Eagle Pass was up 44.1 percent; McAllen-Hidalgo was up 38.3 percent; Laredo, up 25.6 percent; El Paso increased 24.7 percent; and Roma increased 10.6 percent. Brownsville was up 5.4 percent, and Del Rio increased 4.9 percent. YTD total northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were down 3.4 percent. El Paso, accounting for 34.0 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings, was down 5.5 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 17.8 percent of all northbound crossings, was down 7.8 percent. Laredo, with 28.1 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings, had a 2.8 percent increase in crossings YTD.

% Share Pedestrians for December 1994



Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	OCT 94	NOV 94	DEC 94	DEC 93	YTD 93	YTD 94	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	501,483	513,939	541,579	492,854	5,561,228	6,190,321	11.3
DEL RIO	134,803	134,558	153,889	141,743	1,479,734	1,539,674	4.1
EAGLE PASS	223,540	217,435	252,062	251,743	2,599,415	2,656,612	2.2
EL PASO	464,249	456,930	467,752	471,119	5,094,451	5,332,618	4.7
HARLINGEN	28,374	31,681	39,029	31,328	265,610	356,702	34.3
LAREDO	605,973	560,958	613,923	697,341	7,268,017	7,289,017	0.3
McALLEN-HIDALGO	474,625	469,155	492,985	510,834	5,380,375	5,407,500	0.5
PROGRESO	73,946	76,434	88,316	93,387	956,208	958,034	0.2
RIO GRANDE	40,203	40,229	48,744	48,821	464,412	499,748	7.6
ROMA	61,850	63,360	80,135	80,519	784,331	770,572	-1.8
TOTAL	2,609,046	2,564,679	2,778,414	2,819,689	29,853,781	31,000,798	3.8

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

Southbound vehicle bridge crossings into Mexico were up in December with a 8.3 percent increase from November. Roma was up 26.5 percent, Harlingen increased 23.2 percent, Eagle Pass increased 15.9 percent, and Laredo increased 9.4 percent. Brownsville increased 5.4 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo was up 5.1 percent, and El Paso increased 2.4 percent. YTD total southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 3.8 percent. Laredo, with 22.1

percent of all traffic, was up 0.3 percent YTD. Brownsville, accounting for 19.5 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings had a 11.3 percent increase YTD. El Paso, with 16.8 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, experienced a 4.7 percent increase YTD. Harlingen, with 1.4 percent of all southbound vehicle bridge crossings, had a 34.3 percent increase YTD.

Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	OCT 94	NOV 94	DEC 94	DEC 93	YTD 93	YTD 94	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	450,604	439,275	491,533	443,660	5,180,624	5,409,042	4.4
DEL RIO	120,847	113,158	127,609	112,578	1,275,774	1,331,629	4.4
EAGLE PASS	214,301	207,117	231,472	231,332	2,486,079	2,535,037	2.0
EL PASO	587,998	486,801	649,272	560,319	6,616,155	6,759,007	2.2
HARLINGEN	31,227	33,907	40,619	39,648	313,835	401,907	28.1
LAREDO	643,673	623,720	672,064	637,893	6,885,699	7,441,134	8.1
McALLEN-HIDALGO	467,773	453,964	468,340	478,217	5,317,443	5,533,567	4.1
PRESIDIO	43,107	43,419	50,769	50,856	537,436	538,646	0.2
PROGRESO	68,918	69,179	81,977	79,954	889,689	884,543	-0.6
RIO GRANDE	38,008	36,743	43,317	41,483	452,270	471,733	4.3
ROMA	73,875	71,713	84,591	85,536	913,633	915,873	0.2
TOTAL	2,740,331	2,578,996	2,941,563	2,761,476	30,868,637	32,222,118	4.4

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

Northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas for December were up 14.1 percent since November. El Paso had a 33.4 percent increase. Harlingen was up 19.8 percent, Brownsville increased 11.9 percent, Laredo was up 7.8 percent, and McAllen-Hidalgo was up 3.2 percent. YTD northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 4.4 percent. Laredo northbound vehicle bridge

crossings, 22.8 percent of all crossings, were up 8.1 percent YTD. El Paso, with 22.1 percent of all crossings, was up 2.2 percent. Brownsville crossings, with 16.7 percent of all crossings, were up 4.4 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo crossings, 15.9 percent of all crossings, were up 4.1 percent.

Export Shipments by Trucks into Mexico

CITY	OCT 94	NOV 94	DEC 94	DEC 93	YTD 93	YTD 94	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE+	15,937	17,003	14,721	15,997	199,331	204,794	2.7
DEL RIO+	1,988	2,626	2,157	2,498	34,759	33,622	-3.3
EAGLE PASS++	3,353	5,880	5,469	3,682	37,130	44,575	20.1
EL PASO+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	N/A
HARLINGEN+	3,273	3,084	3,372	3,448	22,249	57,085	156.6
LAREDO++	49,076	49,632	47,179	44,834	478,458	548,409	14.6
McALLEN-HIDALGO+	15,800	15,957	14,104	12,085	158,828	170,704	7.5
PROGRESO+	2,171	1,664	1,450	1,466	21,139	24,357	15.2
RIO GRANDE++	584	569	527	1,267	16,030	11,462	-28.5
ROMA+	749	776	775	558	6,093	7,402	21.5
TOTALS	92,931	97,191	89,754	85,835	974,017	1,102,410	13.2

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.

Southbound truck shipments into Mexico decreased in December by 7.7 percent over November shipments. Del Rio decreased 17.9 percent, and Brownsville declined 13.4 percent. Progreso had a 12.9 percent decrease, McAllen-Hidalgo was down 11.6 percent, and Laredo decreased 4.9 percent. Harlingen, meanwhile, had a 9.3 percent increase. YTD, southbound truck shipments were up 13.2

percent. Laredo, accounting for 52.6 percent of all southbound truck traffic, had a 14.6 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with 16.4 percent of shipments, experienced a 2.7 percent increase YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 15.7 percent of all southbound truck shipments into Mexico, had a 7.5 percent increase YTD.

Import Shipments by Trucks into Texas

CITY	OCT 94	NOV 94	DEC 94	DEC 93	YTD 93	YTD 94	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	10,806	10,405	8,971	8,763	102,928	126,441	22.8
DEL RIO	2,245	2,356	1,818	1,659	24,118	23,983	-0.6
EAGLE PASS	2,297	2,326	1,872	1,532	20,606	24,882	20.8
LAREDO	30,911	27,404	30,357	26,952	252,066	354,682	40.7
McALLEN-HIDALGO	8,028	8,625	8,085	6,650	90,370	98,882	9.4
PROGRESO	651	530	321	397	9,031	8,592	-4.9
RIO GRANDE	606	511	531	442	6,228	6,222	-0.1
ROMA	485	309	282	285	4,130	3,822	-7.5
TOTALS	56,029	52,466	52,237	46,680	509,477	647,506	27.1

Source: Data provided by U.S. Customs Service, Inspection and Control Division, Laredo, Texas 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 were down 0.4 percent in December. Progreso decreased 39.4 percent, Del Rio declined 22.8 percent, and Eagle Pass had a decrease of 19.5 percent over November shipments. Brownsville was also down 13.8 percent, as was McAllen-Hidalgo, down 6.3 percent. Laredo increased 10.8

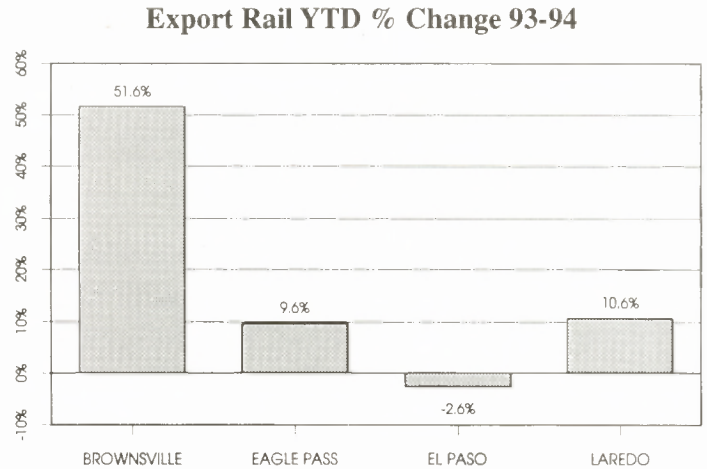
percent. YTD traffic had an increase of 27.1 percent. Laredo, with 58.1 percent of all northbound shipments, experienced a 40.7 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, 17.2 percent of all truck traffic, increased 22.8 percent. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 15.5 percent of all northbound shipments, had a 9.4 percent increase.

Export Shipments by Rail into Mexico —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	OCT 94	NOV 94	DEC 94	DEC 93	YTD 93	YTD 94	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	4,389	3,422	3,252	1,095	20,531	31,119	51.6
EAGLE PASS	1,271	1,466	1,514	1,440	17,171	18,818	9.6
EL PASO	2,611	2,314	2,350	2,406	32,366	31,519	-2.6
LAREDO	11,421	10,556	10,565	8,529	109,574	121,166	10.6
TOTALS	19,692	17,758	17,681	13,470	179,642	202,622	12.8

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

Southbound rail shipments into Mexico decreased 0.4 percent in December. Brownsville had a 5.0 percent decrease from November's shipments. However, Eagle Pass was up 3.3 percent, El Paso increased 1.6 percent, and Laredo had a slight increase of 0.1 percent. YTD total southbound rail shipments into Mexico were up 12.8 percent. Laredo, with 59.8 percent of all southbound rail shipments YTD, was up 10.6 percent. Brownsville, with 18.4 percent of all southbound shipments, increased 51.6 percent. Eagle Pass, with 8.6 percent of all southbound rail shipments into Mexico during the month of December, was up 9.6 percent YTD. El Paso, accounting for 13.3 percent of all southbound shipments, was down 2.6 percent YTD.

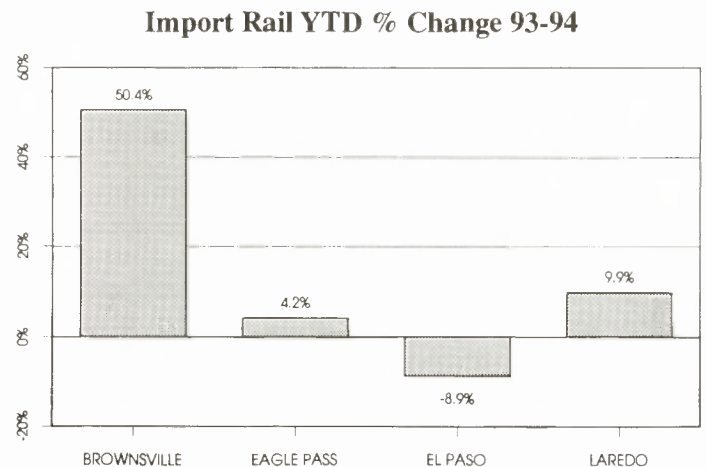


Import Shipments by Rail into Texas —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	OCT 94	NOV 94	DEC 94	DEC 93	YTD 93	YTD 94	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	965	1,547	843	668	7,882	11,854	50.4
EAGLE PASS	1,056	1,303	1,251	1,302	14,571	15,177	4.2
EL PASO	871	787	807	955	11,306	10,297	-8.9
LAREDO	3,578	3,832	4,217	3,085	36,286	39,867	9.9
TOTALS	6,470	7,469	7,118	6,010	70,045	77,195	10.2

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 4.7 percent in December. Brownsville was down 45.5 percent, and Eagle Pass decreased 4.0 percent. El Paso was up 2.5 percent, and Laredo increased 10.0 percent. YTD total northbound rail shipments into Texas were up 10.2 percent. Laredo, with 59.2 percent of all shipments during the month of December, was up 9.9 percent YTD. Brownsville was up 50.4 percent YTD with an 11.8 percent share of all shipments in December. Eagle Pass, accounting for 17.6 percent of all northbound rail shipments, was up 4.2 percent YTD, and El Paso with 11.3 percent of all shipments, was down 8.9 percent.



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

CITY	DUTY	MPF	OTHER	TOTAL	TOTAL	YTD	YTD	YTD
	DEC 94	DEC 94	REVENUE DEC 94	REVENUE DEC 94	REVENUE DEC 93	REVENUE DEC 93	REVENUE DEC 94	
BROWNSVILLE	2,931,017	434,084	281,903	3,647,004	5,217,770	55,429,515	44,213,038	-20.2
DEL RIO	452,618	70,035	29,275	551,928	1,165,693	12,057,723	7,172,867	-40.5
EAGLE PASS	1,392,754	118,554	290,163	1,801,471	3,038,382	39,190,527	20,908,698	-46.6
LAREDO	12,213,281	1,250,406	1,738,471	15,202,158	21,163,346	248,538,689	182,694,013	-26.5
McALLEN-HIDALGO	1,867,778	237,502	37,024,452	39,129,732	5,595,028	67,778,531	78,486,178	15.8
PROGRESO	19,002	9,315	15,622	43,939	64,641	2,301,832	1,862,577	-19.1
RIO GRANDE	101,356	10,534	8,210	120,100	106,807	2,002,170	1,423,535	-28.9
ROMA	24,005	4,947	10,489	39,441	59,688	1,296,655	498,946	-61.5
TOTALS	19,001,811	2,135,377	39,398,585	60,535,773	36,411,355	428,595,642	337,259,852	-21.3

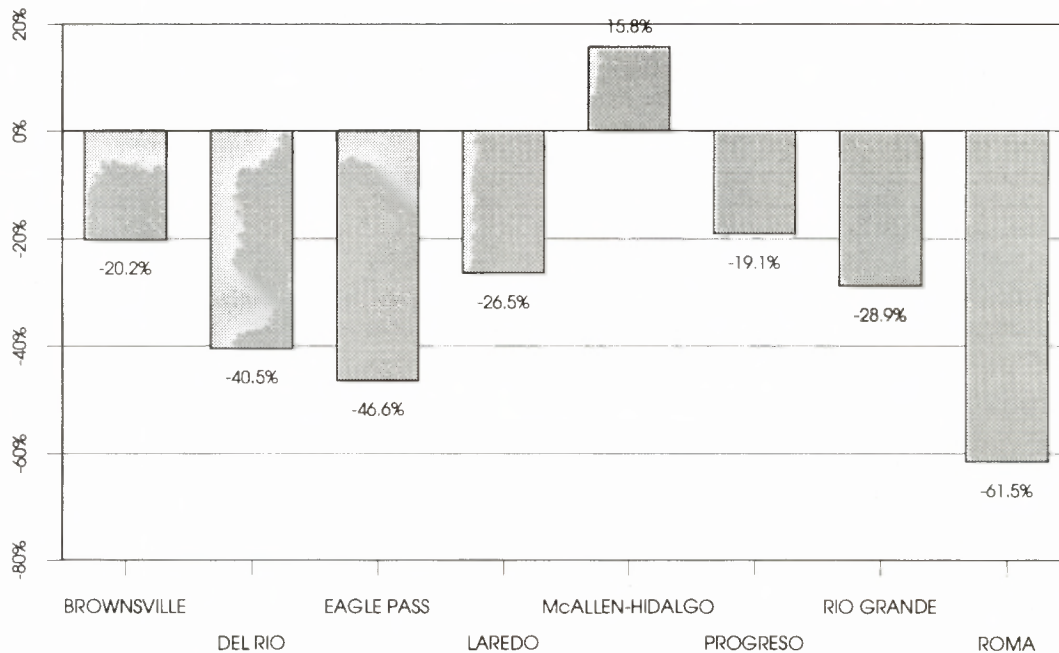
Source: Data provided by U.S. Customs District of Laredo office and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

*MPF = Merchandise Processing Fee

Total U.S. Customs revenues for the District of Laredo increased 147.5 percent in December. McAllen-Hidalgo had an exceptional increase of 1,680.9 percent over November's amount. This increase was a result of a \$35,000,000 increase in the "other revenue" category over the monthly average of \$3.5 million for McAllen. The McAllen office confirmed the figures. Roma was up 39.4 percent, and Rio Grande increased 19.8 percent. However, Laredo

decreased 2.2 percent, Eagle Pass declined 6.9 percent, Brownsville was down 8.8 percent, and Del Rio fell 10.2 percent. YTD revenue figures were down 21.3 percent compared to 1993. McAllen, producing 64.6 percent of total U.S. Customs revenues in the Laredo District for the month of December, increased 15.8 percent YTD. Laredo, accounting for 25.1 percent of total District revenues, was down 26.5 percent.

% Change Total Revenues YTD 93-94



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

CITY	OCT 94	NOV 94	DEC 94	DEC 93	YTD 93	YTD 94	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	474,745	479,544	503,644	504,992	5,784,285	5,782,743	-0.0
DEL RIO	151,221	152,137	162,048	141,494	1,478,556	1,587,242	7.4
EAGLE PASS	286,297	389,102	435,080	431,525	3,841,947	4,538,512	18.1
EL PASO	766,148	810,247	956,927	769,262	8,524,675	9,073,916	6.4
HARLINGEN	60,063	65,907	78,594	50,864	405,162	769,574	89.9
LAREDO	1,491,192	1,460,037	1,511,686	1,591,827	16,600,432	17,497,604	5.4
McALLEN-HIDALGO	568,199	566,295	525,412	614,381	6,682,477	6,673,804	-0.1
TOTAL	3,797,865	3,923,269	4,173,391	4,104,345	43,317,534	45,923,395	6.0

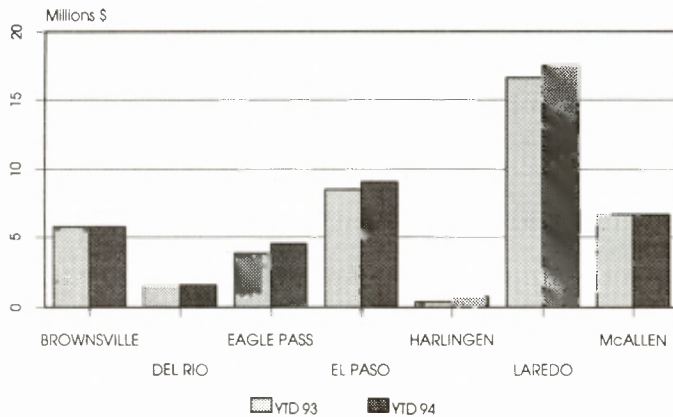
Source: Data provided by U.S. bridge operators in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

*Brownsville's Revenues are for Cameron County Bridge only.

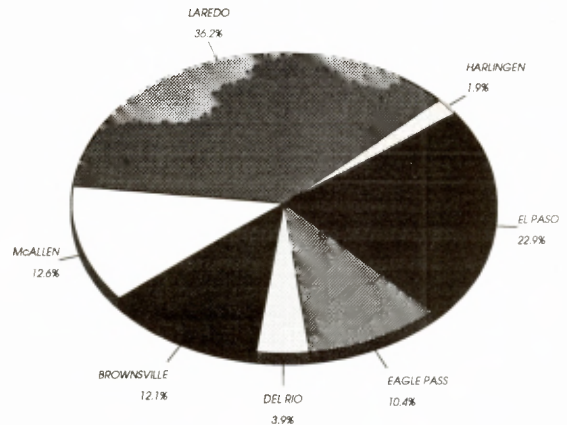
U.S. bridge operators' revenues increased for the month of December, up 6.4 percent from November figures. Harlingen increased 19.2 percent, El Paso was up 18.1 percent, Eagle Pass increased 11.8 percent, and Brownsville increased 5.0 percent. Laredo increased 3.5 percent, but McAllen-Hidalgo decreased 7.2 percent. YTD, U.S. bridge operators' revenues were up 6.0 percent. Laredo, accounting for 36.2 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues, increased

5.4 percent YTD. El Paso, accounting for 22.9 percent of total U.S. bridge operators' revenues, had a 6.4 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, which accounts for 12.1 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues in December, had a very slight negative change YTD. Eagle Pass, 10.4 percent of total U.S. bridge operators' revenues, was up 18.1 percent.

Total Revenues Collected YTD 93-94



% Share Revenues December 1994



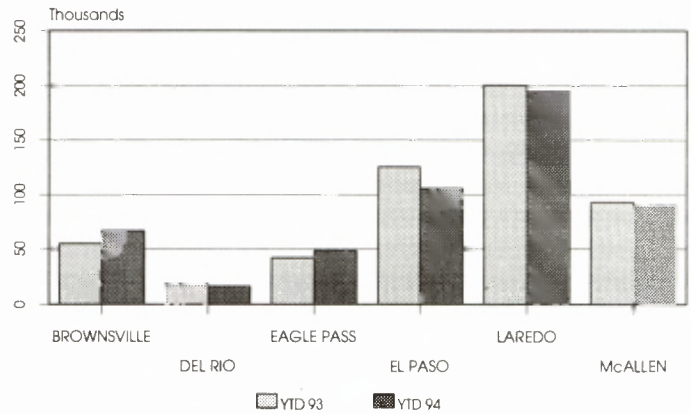
Visas to Tourists from Texas to Mexico

CITY	OCT 94	NOV 94	DEC 94	DEC 93	YTD 93	YTD 94	%CHG
BROWNSVILLE	6,373	5,037	11,833	9,556	54,699	66,591	21.7
DEL RIO	1,046	1,290	3,803	4,800	18,116	15,904	-12.2
EAGLE PASS	3,545	4,410	9,819	8,508	41,853	48,259	15.3
EL PASO	8,817	8,578	23,453	24,201	125,516	105,782	-15.7
LAREDO	13,518	18,703	44,454	38,890	200,302	194,621	-2.8
McALLEN	6,413	3,915	14,353	12,748	93,298	90,381	-3.1
TOTALS	39,712	41,933	107,715	98,703	533,784	521,538	-2.3

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

The number of tourist visas issued in December increased 156.9 percent. McAllen was up 266.6 percent over November, Del Rio increased 194.8 percent, and El Paso was up 173.4 percent. Brownsville increased 134.9 percent, and Laredo was up 137.7 percent. YTD, the number of tourist visas issued was down 2.3 percent. Laredo, with 41.3 percent of all visas issued, was down 2.8 percent YTD, El Paso, with 21.8 percent of all visas issued, was down 15.7 percent YTD, and McAllen, with 13.3 percent of total visas, was down 3.1 percent. Eagle Pass had a 15.3 percent increase YTD, and Brownsville increased 21.7 percent YTD in the number of tourist visas issued.

Tourist Visas YTD December 93-94



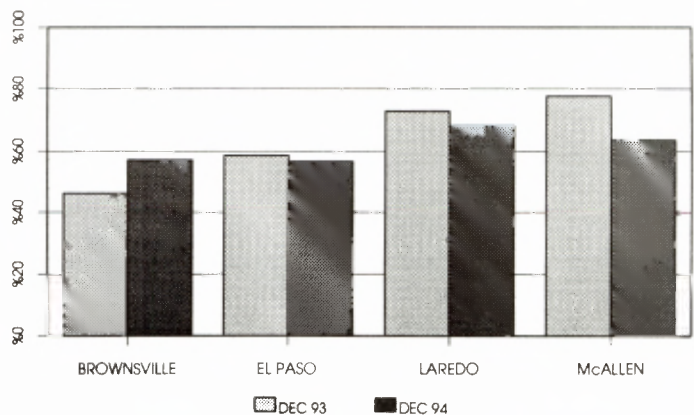
Hotel Occupancy Percentage Rate —Texas Border

CITY	OCT 94	NOV 94	DEC 94	DEC 93	% CHG 93-94
BROWNSVILLE	47.6	51.3	57.2	46.3	23.4
EL PASO	67.7	64.6	56.7	58.6	-3.2
LAREDO	59.7	62.8	67.9	72.7	-6.6
McALLEN	65.1	69.7	63.5	77.4	-17.9
AVERAGE	60.0	62.1	61.3	63.8	-3.8

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 December was 61.3 percent. Laredo had an occupancy rate of 67.9 percent, followed by McAllen with 63.5 percent. Brownsville had a 57.2 percent rate. The YTD average occupancy rate for the reporting Texas border cities was down 3.8 percent. Brownsville hotels reported a 23.4 percent increase in occupancy YTD. McAllen was down 17.9 percent YTD, Laredo hotels reported a 6.6 percent decrease in YTD occupancy, and El Paso declined 3.2 percent YTD.

Hotel Occupancy Percentage December 93-94



Telephones in Service —Texas Border

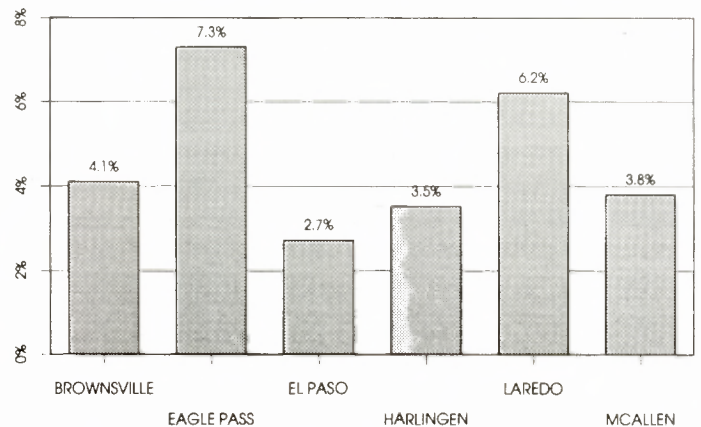
Residential Telephones

CITY	OCT 94	NOV 94	DEC 94	DEC 93
BROWNSVILLE	38,038	38,199	38,429	36,926
EAGLE PASS	9,734	9,814	9,894	9,221
EL PASO	192,339	192,974	193,276	188,264
HARLINGEN	23,166	23,346	23,572	22,784
LAREDO	41,305	41,490	41,693	39,266
MCALLEN	31,512	31,642	31,816	30,642
TOTAL	336,094	337,465	338,680	327,103

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 December, the number of residential telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.36 percent over November figures. YTD, the number of residential telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased by 3.5 percent. Eagle Pass experienced the largest increase —7.3 percent, followed by Laredo, up 6.2 percent, Brownsville, up 4.1 percent, McAllen, up 3.8 percent, and El Paso, with 57.2 percent of phones in service, was up 2.7 percent.

Residential Phones % Change December 93-94



Business Telephones

CITY	OCT 94	NOV 94	DEC 94	DEC 93
BROWNSVILLE	15,558	15,651	15,748	14,559
EAGLE PASS	2,920	2,945	2,964	2,732
EL PASO	74,727	75,247	76,421	71,066
HARLINGEN	11,164	11,202	11,275	10,676
LAREDO	22,210	22,347	22,489	20,580
MCALLEN	19,230	19,407	19,547	18,210
TOTALS	145,809	146,799	148,444	137,823

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 December, the number of business telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased by 1.12 percent over November figures. YTD, the number of business telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased by 7.7 percent. Laredo had the largest increase —9.3 percent, followed by Eagle Pass, up 8.5 percent; Brownsville, up 8.2 percent; El Paso, up 7.5 percent, and McAllen, up 7.3 percent YTD.

Business Phones % Change December 93-94

