



# Border Business Indicators

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 December were up. Seventeen monthly indicators were up and five were down when compared to November. In addition, for the year-to-date (YTD), twenty indicators were up and two were down. Selected YTD figures reported by border cities include the following.

- Southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico were up 12.3 percent. Laredo was up 13.3 percent, Brownsville rose 12.3 percent, El Paso increased 10.0 percent and McAllen-Hidalgo was up 10.9 percent.
- Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 7.6 percent. El Paso increased 17.5 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo rose 13.5 percent, Brownsville increased 3.1, but Laredo was down 3.2 percent.
- Southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 9.0 percent. Laredo was up 15.8 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo was up 6.4 percent, and Brownsville increased 4.2 percent and El Paso increased slightly at 2.1 percent.
- Northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 3.8 percent with Brownsville up 10.4 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo up 2.4 percent and Laredo increased 1.3 percent. Eagle Pass decreased 1.3 percent and El Paso fell 0.1 percent.
- Southbound truck shipments into Mexico were up 17.0 percent. Laredo had a 22.2 percent increase, Brownsville was up 6.9 percent and McAllen-Hidalgo increased 1.3 percent.
- Northbound truck shipments into Texas were up 25.1 percent. Laredo had a 33.9 percent increase, Eagle Pass rose 14.3 percent, Brownsville was up 2.9 percent.
- Southbound rail shipments into Mexico were up 17.7 percent.
- Northbound rail shipments into Mexico were up 26.7 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Customs were up 7.4 percent and revenues collected by U.S. Bridge operators were up 14.7 percent.
- Building permits issued were up 14.7 percent. El Paso increased by 16.6 percent and Laredo was up 5.2 percent.
- Building permit values were up with a YTD increase of 1.5 percent. El Paso increased 4.4 percent, McAllen was up 17.7 percent, but Laredo reported a 16.3 percent decrease.
- Total employment was up 0.9 percent (3,633 jobs gained) YTD. The average unemployment rate in December 1996 was 10.9 percent, down from the 12.1 percent in December 1995.

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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.

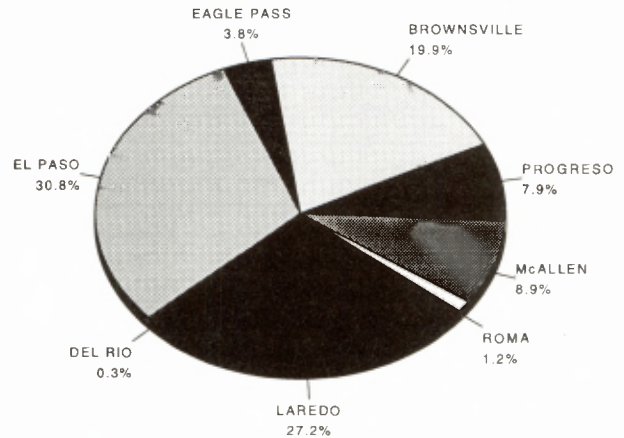
## Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	OCT 96	NOV 96	DEC 96	DEC 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	234,295	255,322	297,706	273,627	2,810,029	3,156,606	12.3
DEL RIO	4,535	5,270	4,237	5,664	47,027	58,405	24.2
EAGLE PASS	37,882	40,715	56,848	49,795	395,933	458,729	15.9
EL PASO	396,583	389,764	457,727	415,169	4,196,671	4,615,409	10.0
HARLINGEN	97	88	269	91	950	1,361	43.3
LAREDO	292,838	308,067	405,389	313,339	3,141,985	3,558,847	13.3
McALLEN-HIDALGO	89,793	107,466	133,605	112,372	1,052,767	1,167,887	10.9
PROGRESO	54,764	86,926	118,481	99,719	859,386	1,050,300	22.2
RIO GRANDE	850	752	615	738	8,670	10,001	15.4
ROMA	13,910	14,458	18,446	15,981	176,544	178,995	1.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,125,547</b>	<b>1,208,828</b>	<b>1,493,323</b>	<b>1,286,495</b>	<b>12,689,962</b>	<b>14,256,540</b>	<b>12.3</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 pedestrian bridge crossings into Mexico for December were up 23.5 percent compared to November. Harlingen increased 205.7 percent, Eagle Pass was up 39.6 percent, Progreso rose 36.3 percent, Laredo increased 31.6 percent, Roma gained 27.6 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo posted an increase of 24.3 percent, El Paso increased 17.4 percent and Brownsville was up 16.6 percent. However, Del Rio decreased 19.6 percent and Rio Grande decreased 18.2 percent. YTD total southbound pedestrian bridge crossings were up 12.3 percent. El Paso southbound pedestrian crossings, 30.8 percent of all crossings were up 10.0 percent. Laredo, accounting for 27.2 percent of all crossings, was up 13.3 percent YTD. Brownsville was up 12.3 percent with 19.9 percent of all crossings in the month of December.

**% Share Pedestrians for December 1996**



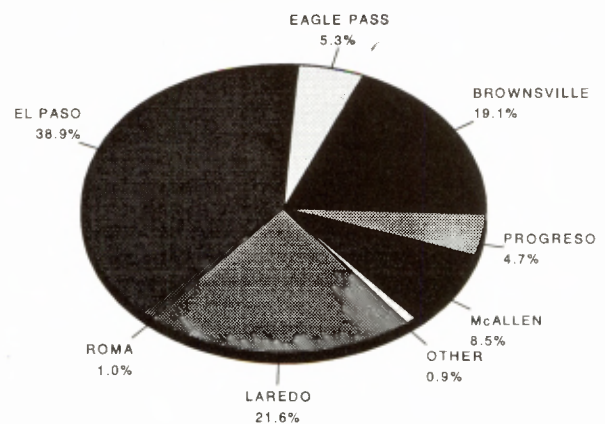
## Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	OCT 96	NOV 96	DEC 96	DEC 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	221,257	241,262	269,382	353,545	2,953,747	3,045,123	3.1
DEL RIO	9,313	7,516	8,372	6,798	84,685	103,860	22.6
EAGLE PASS	46,260	47,901	74,027	63,143	582,212	600,623	3.2
EL PASO	503,696	490,046	548,412	485,136	4,957,288	5,825,774	17.5
LAREDO	263,726	255,761	303,959	322,184	3,387,789	3,278,329	-3.2
McALLEN-HIDALGO	95,523	101,011	119,477	122,411	1,071,601	1,215,767	13.5
PRESIDIO	4,134	2,571	2,784	2,491	29,676	30,655	3.3
PROGRESO	48,008	58,804	66,855	79,755	694,725	753,034	8.4
RIO GRANDE	1,200	1,061	1,263	988	12,705	14,150	11.4
ROMA	10,879	12,189	14,353	17,995	200,507	175,085	-12.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,203,996</b>	<b>1,218,122</b>	<b>1,408,884</b>	<b>1,454,446</b>	<b>13,974,935</b>	<b>15,042,400</b>	<b>7.6</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 up 15.7 percent in December. Eagle Pass increased 54.5 percent, Rio Grande rose 19.0 percent, Laredo was up 18.8 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo gained 18.3 percent, Roma increased 17.8 percent and Progreso was up 13.7 percent. El Paso increased 11.9 percent, Brownsville posted an 11.7 percent increase, Del Rio rose 11.4 percent and Presidio was up 8.3 percent. YTD total northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 7.6 percent. El Paso, accounting for 38.9 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings, was up 17.5 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 19.1 percent of all northbound crossings, was up 3.1 percent. However, Laredo, with 21.6 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings, had a 3.2 percent decrease in crossings YTD.

**% Share Pedestrians for December 1996**



## Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	OCT 96	NOV 96	DEC 96	DEC 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	524,428	477,273	507,849	495,131	5,592,958	5,830,043	4.2
DEL RIO	147,045	147,626	170,217	157,140	1,625,917	1,799,337	10.7
EAGLE PASS	212,267	217,923	242,184	240,725	2,448,440	2,606,064	6.4
EL PASO	469,442	476,353	491,668	444,031	4,988,008	5,091,948	2.1
HARLINGEN	30,010	35,441	41,461	36,557	343,192	389,470	13.5
LAREDO	672,289	664,975	694,489	655,643	6,626,142	7,675,065	15.8
McALLEN-HIDALGO	424,696	415,424	452,295	388,185	4,557,338	4,847,137	6.4
PHARR	86,525	90,810	98,734	82,759	750,360	1,028,198	37.0
PROGRESO	76,478	85,955	95,447	94,408	941,522	1,040,361	10.5
RIO GRANDE	42,974	47,237	52,806	49,793	489,357	544,825	11.3
ROMA	67,846	72,783	85,057	81,335	730,222	844,973	15.7
TOTAL	2,754,000	2,731,800	2,932,207	2,725,707	29,093,456	31,697,421	9.0

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

Southbound vehicle bridge crossings into Mexico increased 7.3 percent from in December from November's figures. Harlingen increased 17.0 percent, Roma was up 16.9 percent, Del Rio rose 15.3 percent, Rio Grande gained 11.8 percent, Eagle Pass increased 11.1 percent, Pharr rose 11.0 percent, Brownsville gained 6.4 percent, Laredo increased 4.4 percent and El Paso was up 3.2 percent. YTD total southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up

9.0 percent. Laredo, with 23.7 percent of all traffic, was up 15.8 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 15.4 percent of all southbound vehicle bridge crossings, had a 6.4 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, accounting for 17.3 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings had a 4.2 percent increase YTD. El Paso, with 16.8 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, experienced a 2.1 percent increase YTD.

## Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	OCT 96	NOV 96	DEC 96	DEC 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	418,593	470,161	513,232	462,047	5,161,274	5,696,885	10.4
DEL RIO	133,895	120,507	129,869	118,084	1,419,015	1,551,970	9.4
EAGLE PASS	188,882	190,599	213,191	214,525	2,391,578	2,360,870	-1.3
EL PASO	658,889	629,421	682,455	682,275	7,872,293	7,865,686	-0.1
HARLINGEN	35,118	41,844	46,779	41,026	396,020	478,298	20.8
LAREDO	602,425	574,649	579,933	594,020	7,040,687	7,135,678	1.3
McALLEN-HIDALGO	404,149	376,958	401,666	379,658	4,682,605	4,793,753	2.4
PRESIDIO	46,897	48,352	55,204	51,618	544,845	602,048	10.5
PROGRESO	75,253	82,648	93,774	73,945	850,481	936,684	10.1
RIO GRANDE	46,498	50,225	57,324	44,554	488,139	555,781	13.9
ROMA	81,994	85,126	99,695	74,203	841,786	909,965	8.1
TOTAL	2,692,593	2,670,490	2,873,122	2,735,955	31,688,723	32,887,618	3.8

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 7.6 percent since November. Roma was up 17.1 percent, Presidio rose 14.2 percent, Rio Grande increased 14.1 percent, Progreso increased 13.5 percent, Eagle Pass increased 11.9 percent, Harlingen rose 11.8 percent, Brownsville registered an increase of 9.2 percent, El Paso was up 8.4 percent, Del Rio was up 7.8 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo increased 6.6 percent and Laredo

increased 0.9 percent. YTD northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 3.8 percent. El Paso, with 23.8 percent of all crossings, was down 0.1 percent. However, Laredo with 20.2 percent of all northbound vehicle bridge crossings, was up slightly by 1.3 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 17.9 percent of all crossings, was up 10.4 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 14.0 percent of all crossings, was up 2.4 percent.

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

CITY	OCT 96	NOV 96	DEC 96	DEC 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE+	17,470	16,626	15,336	14,603	184,848	197,617	6.9
DEL RIO+	3,615	3,256	2,862	2,545	34,529	36,670	6.2
EAGLE PASS++	3,284	3,500	3,327	2,849	34,918	39,747	13.8
EL PASO+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	N/A
HARLINGEN+	3,961	3,819	3,700	2,479	35,316	44,154	25.0
LAREDO++	48,853	46,780	47,654	36,684	422,916	516,790	22.2
McALLEN-HIDALGO+	9,399	9,110	8,112	8,450	123,426	124,986	1.3
PHARR+	6,236	5,850	5,718	3,457	30,981	56,863	83.5
PROGRESO+	2,173	951	726	724	21,109	20,000	-5.3
RIO GRANDE+	1,936	1,619	1,706	863	13,513	17,905	32.5
ROMA+	722	730	758	616	7,710	8,911	15.6
TOTAL	97,649	92,241	89,899	73,270	909,266	1,063,643	17.0

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 were down 2.5 percent in December. Progreso was down 23.7 percent, Del Rio decreased 12.1 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo declined 11.0 percent, Brownsville registered a 7.8 percent decrease, Eagle Pass fell 4.9 percent, Harlingen dipped 3.1 percent, and Pharr fell 2.3 percent. However, Rio Grande was up 5.4 percent, Roma increased 3.8 percent and

Laredo increased 1.9 percent. YTD total truck traffic had an increase of 17.0 percent. Laredo, with 53.0 percent of all southbound shipments, experienced a 22.2 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with 17.1 percent of all southbound shipments, had a 6.9 percent increase YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo with 9.0 percent of all truck traffic, registered a slight increase of 1.3 percent.

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

CITY	OCT 96	NOV 96	DEC 96	DEC 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	11,983	9,266	7,777	7,999	114,843	118,171	2.9
DEL RIO	2,996	2,596	2,114	1,957	28,826	29,725	3.1
EAGLE PASS	3,416	3,314	2,804	2,335	31,169	35,613	14.3
FALCON	2	2	3	N/A	N/A	61	N/A
LAREDO	58,789	52,716	51,420	33,816	430,046	575,886	33.9
McALLEN-HIDALGO	0	0	0	7,245	112,732	62,334	-44.7
PHARR	12,523	11,628	10,803	N/A	N/A	77,394	N/A
PROGRESO	422	381	456	393	9,157	8,111	-11.4
RIO GRANDE	1,146	1,148	1,208	514	6,817	10,804	58.5
ROMA	422	425	442	357	4,722	5,408	14.5
TOTAL	91,699	81,476	77,027	54,616	738,312	923,507	25.1

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 decreased 5.5 percent from November's shipments. Del Rio was down 18.6 percent, Brownsville fell 16.1 percent, Eagle Pass decreased 15.4 percent, Pharr was down 7.1 percent and Laredo posted a decrease of 2.5 percent. However, Falcon gained 50.0 percent, Progreso increased 19.7

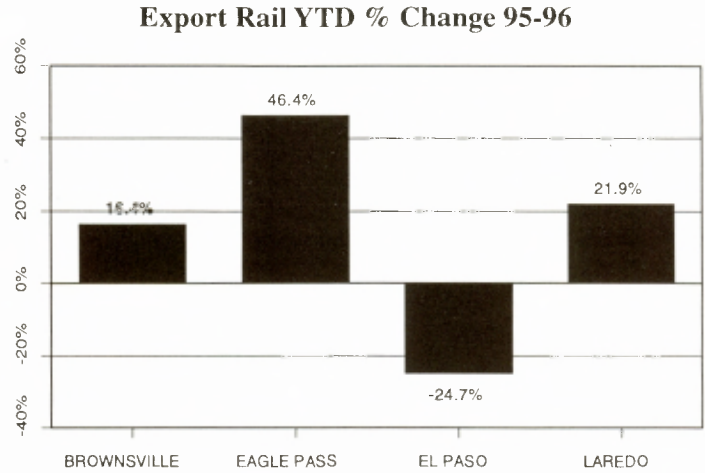
percent, Rio Grande was up 5.2 percent and Roma was up 4.0 percent. YTD northbound truck shipments were up 25.1 percent. Laredo, accounting for 66.8 percent of all northbound truck traffic, had a 33.9 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with 10.1 percent of shipments, experienced a 2.9 percent increase YTD.

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

CITY	OCT 96	NOV 96	DEC 96	DEC 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	2,221	2,314	2,736	2,608	21,820	25,389	16.4
EAGLE PASS	3,638	3,896	3,676	4,139	24,713	36,185	46.4
EL PASO	1,591	1,566	1,521	1,735	26,663	20,088	-24.7
LAREDO	12,447	12,581	12,240	9,649	109,385	133,314	21.9
TOTAL	19,897	20,357	20,173	18,131	182,581	214,976	17.7

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 0.9 percent in December. Eagle Pass had a 5.6 percent decrease over November's shipments, El Paso fell 2.9 percent and Laredo decreased 2.7 percent. However, Brownsville increased 18.2 percent over last month. YTD total southbound rail shipments into Mexico during the month of December were up 17.7 percent. Laredo, with 60.7 percent of all southbound rail shipments, was up 21.9 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, with 18.2 percent of all southbound shipments, increased 46.4 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 13.6 percent of all southbound rail shipments, was up 16.4 percent YTD. El Paso accounting for 7.5 percent of all southbound shipments declined 24.7 percent YTD.

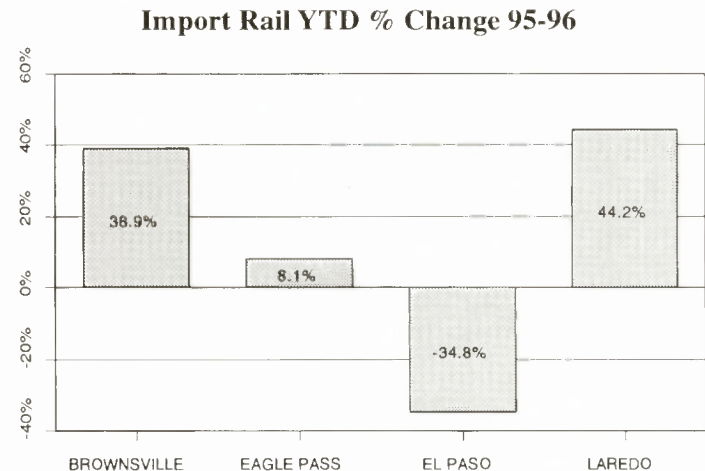


## Import Shipments by Rail into Texas —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	OCT 96	NOV 96	DEC 96	DEC 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	1,282	1,073	1,051	1,331	13,789	19,158	38.9
EAGLE PASS	2,022	2,142	1,877	1,705	22,331	24,139	8.1
EL PASO	628	613	617	631	12,903	8,418	-34.8
LAREDO	7,503	7,037	6,938	5,738	59,377	85,592	44.2
TOTAL	11,435	10,865	10,483	9,405	108,400	137,307	26.7

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

Northbound rail shipments into Texas decreased 3.5 percent in December. Eagle Pass was down 12.4 percent, Brownsville decreased 2.1 percent and Laredo dipped 1.4 percent. However, El Paso increased 0.7 percent. YTD total northbound rail shipments in Texas were up 26.7 percent. Laredo, with 66.2 percent of all shipments during the month of December was up 44.2 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, accounting for 17.9 percent of all northbound rail shipments, was up 8.1 percent YTD. Brownsville was up 38.9 percent YTD with an 10.0 percent share of all shipments in December. El Paso, with 5.9 percent of all rail shipments fell 34.8 percent YTD.



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

CITY	DUTY	MPF	OTHER	TOTAL	TOTAL	YTD	YTD	YTD % CHG
	DEC 96	DEC 96	REVENUE DEC 96	REVENUE DEC 96	REVENUE DEC 95	REVENUE DEC 95	REVENUE DEC 96	
BROWNSVILLE	1,598,742	410,210	76,927	2,085,879	2,163,288	35,913,202	32,533,551	-9.4
DEL RIO	461,637	100,800	15,781	578,218	521,355	5,992,478	4,742,161	-20.9
EAGLE PASS	694,894	232,484	1,568,102	2,495,480	2,462,570	28,526,200	27,223,900	-4.6
LAREDO	18,365,757	1,991,829	3,892,686	24,250,272	18,060,163	230,452,179	254,804,110	10.6
McALLEN-HIDALGO	3,368,533	449,560	203,252	4,021,345	3,232,646	50,832,857	58,877,825	15.8
PROGRESO	13,107	12,150	15,014	40,271	46,846	2,040,182	2,022,024	-0.9
RIO GRANDE	74,183	5,633	23,161	102,977	78,786	1,282,996	1,175,652	-8.4
ROMA	20,966	11,185	10,325	42,476	39,529	455,206	535,704	17.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24,597,819</b>	<b>3,213,851</b>	<b>5,805,248</b>	<b>33,616,918</b>	<b>26,605,183</b>	<b>355,495,300</b>	<b>381,914,927</b>	<b>7.4</b>

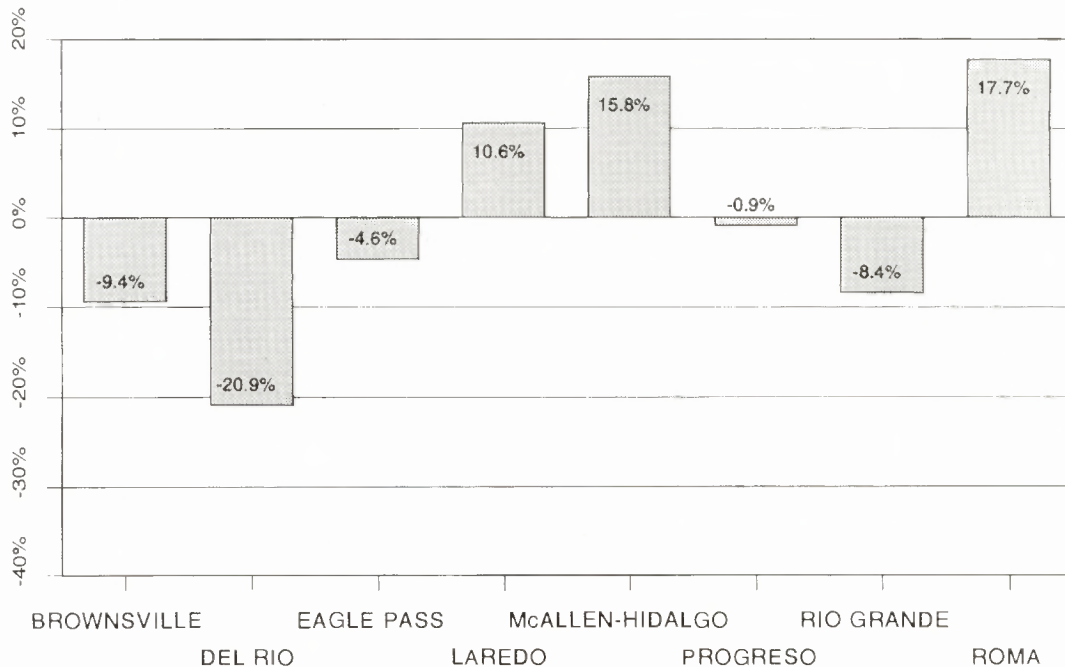
Source: Data provided by U.S. Customs Service, Port of Entry in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

\*MPF = Merchandise Processing Fee

Total U.S. Customs revenues for the District of Laredo increased 12.5 percent in December. Eagle Pass increased 57.5 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo increased 20.1 percent. Del Rio rose 18.9 percent and Laredo was up 10.3 percent. However, Rio Grande decreased 24.7 percent, Brownsville fell 7.1 percent, Roma was down 6.7 percent and Progreso declined 6.6 percent. YTD revenue

figures were up 7.4 percent compared to December 1995. Laredo, accounting for 72.1 percent of total District revenues, was up 10.6 percent YTD and McAllen-Hidalgo with 12.0 percent of total revenues, was up 15.8 percent YTD. Eagle Pass with 7.4 percent of share revenues declined 4.6 percent and Brownsville, with 6.2 percent of total revenues, decreased 9.4 percent YTD.

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



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

CITY	OCT 96	NOV 96	DEC 96	DEC 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	480,516	481,196	492,755	488,215	5,524,798	5,872,879	6.3
DEL RIO	167,460	164,428	184,141	172,867	1,812,749	2,000,447	10.4
EAGLE PASS	363,759	377,826	419,660	402,244	4,112,298	4,436,140	7.9
EL PASO	981,519	987,605	989,126	857,616	9,849,778	10,573,508	7.3
HARLINGEN	68,722	77,550	82,890	66,234	685,822	842,897	22.9
LAREDO	1,732,967	1,640,909	1,775,348	1,592,109	15,174,692	18,982,837	25.1
McALLEN-HIDALGO	531,883	527,214	567,496	493,885	5,951,109	6,346,384	6.6
PHARR	154,789	150,934	170,696	116,111	1,026,503	1,572,924	53.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,481,615</b>	<b>4,407,662</b>	<b>4,682,112</b>	<b>4,189,281</b>	<b>44,137,749</b>	<b>50,628,016</b>	<b>14.7</b>

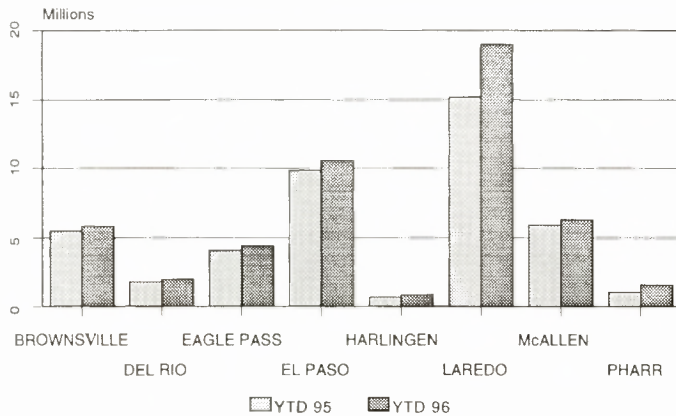
Source: Data provided by U.S. bridge operators in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

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

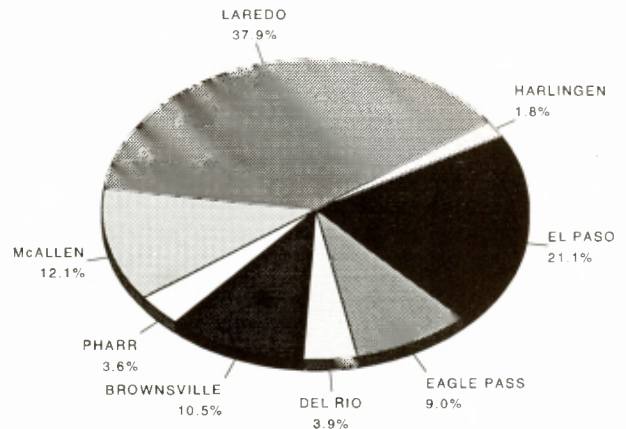
U.S. bridge operators' revenues increased 6.2 percent in the month of December. Pharr increased 13.1 percent, Del Rio was up 12.0 percent, Eagle Pass rose 11.1 percent, Laredo increased 8.2 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo gained 7.6 percent, Harlingen posted a 6.9 percent increase, Brownsville was up 2.4 percent and El Paso increased slightly by 0.2 percent. YTD, U.S. bridge operators' revenues were up 14.7 percent. Laredo, accounting for 37.9 percent

of total U.S. bridge operator's revenues, had a 25.1 percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 21.1 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues, increased 7.3 percent YTD. Brownsville, 10.5 percent of the total bridge revenues, was up 6.3 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, 9.0 percent of total U.S. bridge operator's revenues, was up 7.9 percent. Also, McAllen-Hidalgo which accounts for 12.1 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues in December was up 6.6 percent YTD.

**Total Revenues Collected YTD 95-96**



**% Share Revenues December 1996**





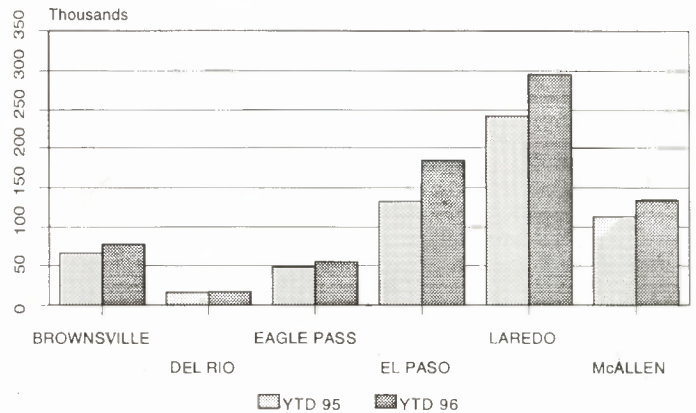
## Visas to Tourists from Texas to Mexico

CITY	OCT 96	NOV 96	DEC 96	DEC 95	YTD 95	YTD 96	%CHG
BROWNSVILLE	4,757	6,856	15,080	12,431	66,702	78,203	17.2
DEL RIO	1,001	1,594	3,720	3,716	15,616	16,466	5.4
EAGLE PASS	4,377	7,023	12,081	10,369	48,103	55,478	15.3
EL PASO	11,026	14,493	45,187	37,131	132,649	183,650	38.4
LAREDO	17,599	26,713	56,901	50,736	242,233	295,828	22.1
McALLEN	9,533	5,373	21,980	16,575	113,426	134,289	18.4
TOTAL	48,293	62,052	154,949	130,958	618,729	763,914	23.5

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 December increased 149.7 percent. McAllen had a 309.1 percent increase, El Paso was up 211.8 percent, Del Rio rose 133.4 percent, Brownsville posted an increase of 120.0 percent, Laredo increased 113.0 percent and Eagle Pass rose 72.0 percent. YTD, the number of tourist visas issued was up 23.5 percent. Laredo, with 36.7 percent of total visas issued in December was up 22.1 percent. El Paso, with 29.2 percent of total visas issued, had a 38.4 percent increase YTD, McAllen, with 14.2 percent of all visas issued, rose 18.4 percent YTD and Brownsville with 9.7 percent of total visas issued, increased 17.2 percent YTD.

### Tourist Visas YTD December 95-96



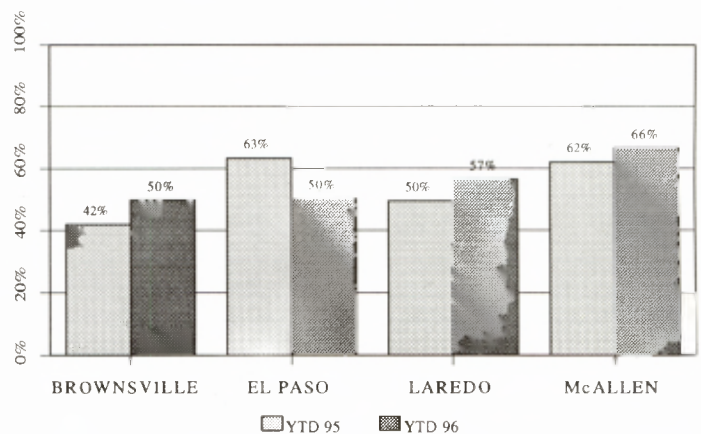
## Hotel Occupancy Percentage Rate —Texas Border

CITY	OCT 96	NOV 96	DEC 96	DEC 95	% CHG 95-96
BROWNSVILLE	50.8	48.0	49.9	42.0	18.9
EL PASO	54.0	48.7	50.3	63.2	-20.4
LAREDO	59.6	60.5	56.5	49.6	13.8
McALLEN	70.8	64.0	66.4	61.9	7.4
AVERAGE	58.8	55.3	55.8	54.2	3.0

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 55.8 percent. McAllen had a 66.4 percent rate, El Paso had a 50.3 percent rate, Laredo had a 56.5 percent rate, and Brownsville had a 49.9 percent occupancy rate. The YTD average occupancy rate for the reporting Texas border cities was up 3.0 percent. Laredo increased 13.8 percent, Brownsville increased 18.9 percent, and McAllen was up 7.4 percent. However, El Paso decreased 20.4 percent YTD.

### Hotel Occupancy Percentage December 95-96



## Telephones in Service —Texas Border

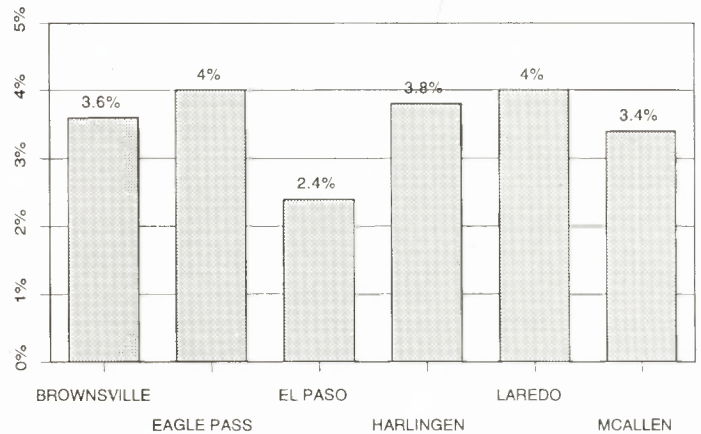
### Residential Telephones

CITY	OCT 96	NOV 96	DEC 96	DEC 95
BROWNSVILLE	40,300	40,588	40,681	39,258
EAGLE PASS	10,575	10,663	10,697	10,284
EL PASO	202,804	203,202	202,802	197,995
HARLINGEN	24,831	25,098	25,362	24,428
LAREDO	44,560	44,729	44,756	43,043
MCALLEN	33,453	33,643	33,868	32,752
TOTAL	356,523	357,923	358,166	347,760

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 0.07 percent over November's figures. YTD, the number of residential telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased by 3.0 percent. Laredo and Eagle Pass experienced the largest increases with 4.0 percent. Harlingen was up 3.8 percent, Brownsville rose 3.6 percent and McAllen increased 3.4 percent. El Paso, with 56.8 percent of residential service, was up 2.4 percent.

### Residential Phones % Change December 95-96



### Business Telephones

CITY	OCT 96	NOV 96	DEC 96	DEC 95
BROWNSVILLE	18,893	18,962	19,043	17,223
EAGLE PASS	3,496	3,513	3,564	3,217
EL PASO	87,824	88,540	88,905	82,220
HARLINGEN	13,109	13,208	13,251	12,316
LAREDO	26,308	26,428	26,531	24,356
MCALLEN	23,331	23,442	23,591	21,274
TOTAL	172,961	174,093	174,885	160,606

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 0.45 percent over November's figures. YTD, the number of business telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased by 8.9 percent. McAllen had the largest increase with 10.9 percent. Eagle Pass was up 10.8 percent, Brownsville was up 10.6 percent, Laredo was up 8.9 percent, and El Paso increased 8.1 percent with 50.9 percent of business phones in service and Harlingen increased 7.6 percent.

### Business Phones % Change December 95-96

