



# 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. Fourteen monthly indicators increased while six decreased when compared to November. In addition, for the year-to-date (YTD) figures, sixteen indicators were up and four were down. Selected YTD comparisons to 1997 reported by border cities include the following:

- Southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico were up 2.0 percent. Eagle Pass rose 21.4 percent, El Paso increased 7.1 percent while Laredo was down 0.6 percent and Brownsville declined 5.1 percent.
- Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 1.2 percent. Eagle Pass rose 8.6 percent, El Paso was up 2.5 percent while Brownsville decreased 3.7 percent and Laredo dipped 1.1 percent.
- Southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 7.4 percent. Pharr rose 39.0 percent, Brownsville increased 13.0 percent, Laredo gained 4.7 percent and El Paso was up 1.7 percent.
- Northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 3.0 percent with Laredo increasing 8.6 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo gained 4.2 percent, Eagle Pass was up 0.8 percent while El Paso posted a decrease of 1.0 percent YTD.
- Southbound truck shipments into Mexico were up 19.3 percent. Pharr increased 58.0 percent, Brownsville rose 26.5 percent and Laredo gained 18.5 percent.
- Northbound truck shipments into Texas were up 9.1 percent with Eagle Pass increasing 20.8 percent, Laredo gained 12.7 percent and Pharr posted a 6.7 percent increase YTD.
- Southbound shipments by rail were unchanged.
- Northbound shipments by rail were up 0.1 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Customs were down 9.3 percent YTD. Revenues collected by U.S. Bridge operators were up 14.5 percent.
- Building permits issued were up 22.3 percent. El Paso rose 26.7 percent, Eagle Pass gained 20.0 percent, Brownsville was up 17.6 percent and Laredo increased 11.0 percent.
- Building permit values were up with a YTD increase of 0.4 percent. Eagle Pass increased 245.6 percent, Del Rio was up 125.0 percent, Laredo rose 7.6 percent while Brownsville reported a 16.3 percent decrease.
- Total employment was up with 8,554 jobs gained YTD. The average unemployment rate in December 1998 was 10.1 percent for the border.

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 78041-1900. Please enclose \$5.00 for each report requested. Make check or money order payable to the Institute for International Trade.

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Texas A&M International University

5201 University Boulevard

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### **Disclaimer:**

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

## 1998 Trade in Review

by Duane W. Burdorf, Director

The Year 1998 marked the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the North American Free Trade Agreement. With the end of 1998, the Texas Center at Texas A&M International University recently received the final trade data from the U.S. Department of Commerce for that 5<sup>th</sup> year. The results were as follows:

- ✓ In 1993, the last year before the implementation of the NAFTA, U.S. exports to Mexico reached \$41,635,000,000. In 1998, U.S. exports to Mexico rose to \$79,010,000,000.
- ✓ In 1993, the last year before the implementation of the NAFTA, U.S. imports to Mexico were \$39,930,000,000. In 1998, U.S. imports to Mexico increased to \$94,709,000,000.
- ✓ Imports along the U.S.- Mexico border ports (former U.S. Customs Districts 23, 24, 25 and 26) increased 101.58% from 1994 when compared to 1998.
- ✓ Exports along the U.S. - Mexico border ports (former U.S. Customs Districts 23, 24, 25 and 26) increased 53.84% since 1994 when matched up with 1998.
- ✓ Combined trade (imports and exports) along the U.S. - Mexico border ports increased 76.78% from 1994 data when compared to 1998 data.
- ✓ According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, 68.0% of U.S. merchandise trade with NAFTA partners by dollar value was handled by truck in 1997. Rail as a mode of transportation came in at 14.7% while air attained 5.8%.
- ✓ According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, 36.1% of U.S. merchandise trade with NAFTA partners by tonnage was handled by water in 1997. Truck as a mode of transportation moved 33.4% of the tonnage while rail handled 16.0% of the tonnage.
- ✓ In 1994, exports through the Port of Laredo (the largest exporting port on the U.S.-Mexico border) were \$19,389,787,953. In 1998, exports through the Port of Laredo reached \$28,429,559,339.
- ✓ In 1994, imports through the Port of Laredo (the largest importing port on the U.S.-Mexico border) were \$10,055,444,119. In 1998, imports through the Port of Laredo reached \$27,374,962,572.
- ✓ In 1994, exports through the Port of El Paso (the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest exporting port on the U.S.-Mexico border) were \$7,347,306,351. In 1998, exports through the Port of El Paso reached \$11,246,880,751.
- ✓ In 1994, imports through the Port of El Paso (the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest importing port on the U.S.-Mexico border) were \$10,820,672,238. In 1998, imports through the Port of El Paso reached \$17,429, 643,610.

The Year 1998 trade data is now available on the border trade web site. If one needs more U.S-Mexico trade information, please visit:

<http://www.tamui.edu/coba/bti>

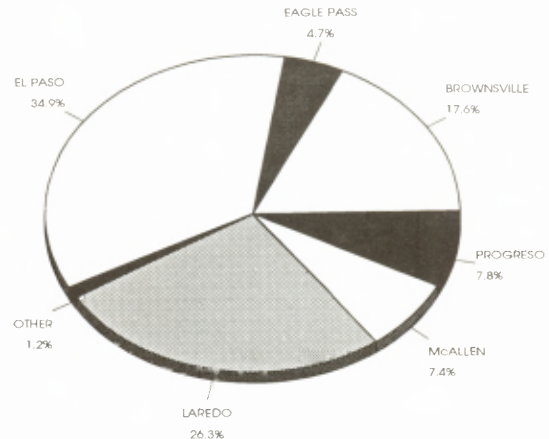
## Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	OCT 98	NOV 98	DEC 98	DEC 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	226,332	228,814	289,307	314,796	3,231,224	3,067,687	-5.1
DEL RIO	2,341	5,249	3,100	5,753	61,633	56,540	-8.3
EAGLE PASS	51,708	55,573	77,528	76,664	545,173	661,922	21.4
EL PASO	400,325	466,365	574,576	447,662	4,573,153	4,898,467	7.1
HARLINGEN	0	148	111	153	1,097	1,082	-1.4
LAREDO	301,575	346,087	431,768	426,597	3,955,841	3,933,277	-0.6
McALLEN-HIDALGO	97,851	100,492	121,887	150,967	1,328,699	1,307,005	-1.6
PROGRESO	57,752	92,731	128,159	122,450	1,137,754	1,204,632	5.9
RIO GRANDE	409	543	625	655	9,083	8,275	-8.9
ROMA	14,941	15,006	17,030	17,237	169,653	178,141	5.0
TOTAL	1,153,234	1,311,008	1,644,091	1,562,934	15,013,310	15,317,028	2.0

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 pedestrian bridge crossings into Mexico for December was up 25.4 percent compared to November. Eagle Pass increased 39.5 percent, Progreso rose 38.2 percent, Brownsville was up 26.4 percent, Laredo gained 24.8 percent, El Paso increased 23.2 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo rose 21.3 percent, Rio Grande was up 15.1 percent and Roma jumped 13.5 percent. However, Del Rio fell 40.9 percent. YTD, total southbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 2.0 percent. El Paso southbound pedestrian crossings, which make up 34.9 percent crossings in December rose 7.1 percent. Laredo, accounting for 26.3 percent of all crossings, was down 0.6 percent and Brownsville was up 17.6 percent with a 5.1 percent decrease YTD.

**% Share Pedestrians for December 1998**



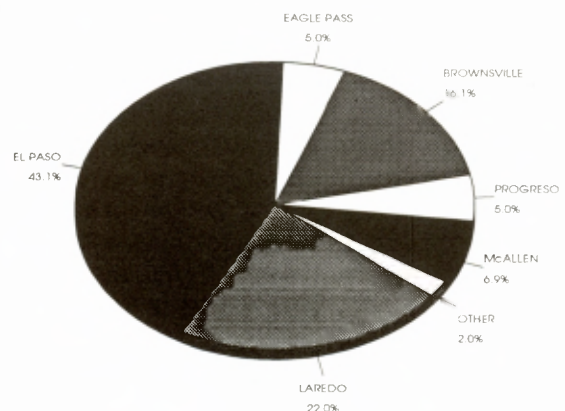
## Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	OCT 98	NOV 98	DEC 98	DEC 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	187,658	211,782	253,908	281,422	2,890,540	2,784,246	-3.7
DEL RIO	6,463	7,006	7,297	9,108	123,252	116,584	-5.4
EAGLE PASS	57,241	61,350	78,791	72,094	690,437	749,660	8.6
EL PASO	497,083	562,956	680,818	605,808	6,193,535	6,345,344	2.5
LAREDO	233,076	258,967	347,773	325,567	3,183,533	3,149,623	-1.1
McALLEN-HIDALGO	84,885	86,046	109,171	114,884	1,082,071	1,094,550	1.2
PRESIDIO	2,273	2,354	2,636	3,338	37,346	32,148	-13.9
PROGRESO	43,581	57,241	78,520	74,333	667,605	758,202	13.6
RIO GRANDE	752	907	1,120	1,270	14,881	13,087	-12.1
ROMA	16,594	18,113	20,196	16,789	157,671	184,311	16.9
TOTAL	1,129,606	1,266,722	1,580,230	1,504,613	15,040,871	15,227,755	1.2

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 24.7 percent in December. Progreso rose 37.2 percent, Laredo was up 34.3 percent. Eagle Pass increased 28.4 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo gained 26.9 percent, Rio Grande rose 23.5 percent, El Paso was up 20.9 percent, Brownsville increased 19.9 percent, Presidio was up 12.0 percent, Roma jumped 11.5 percent and Del Rio was up slightly at 4.2 percent. YTD total northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 1.2 percent. El Paso, accounting for 43.1 percent of the northbound crossings, was up 2.5 percent YTD. Laredo, with 22.0 percent of all northbound crossings, was down 1.1 percent and Brownsville with 16.1 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings, had a 3.7 percent decrease in crossings YTD.

**% Share Pedestrians for December 1998**



## Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	OCT 98	NOV 98	DEC 98	DEC 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	571,163	559,300	628,936	504,674	6,152,801	6,951,202	13.0
DEL RIO	147,917	146,908	166,247	157,442	1,727,389	1,771,584	2.6
EAGLE PASS	224,604	223,141	251,141	238,581	2,580,808	2,690,971	4.3
EL PASO	429,130	398,167	432,325	449,706	5,284,025	5,373,377	1.7
HARLINGEN	40,223	41,000	53,588	43,637	415,297	498,118	19.9
LAREDO	731,241	692,483	770,238	709,796	8,004,839	8,378,191	4.7
McALLEN-HIDALGO	455,023	443,979	519,035	456,832	5,133,697	5,421,953	5.6
PHARR	148,578	149,265	178,332	139,774	1,265,063	1,758,550	39.0
PROGRESO	82,113	90,343	104,532	93,878	996,098	1,074,236	7.8
RIO GRANDE	48,952	51,302	59,388	54,466	557,290	598,464	7.4
ROMA	72,117	75,199	94,856	85,733	851,051	888,050	4.3
TOTAL	2,951,061	2,871,087	3,258,618	2,934,519	32,968,358	35,404,696	7.4

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

Southbound vehicle bridge crossings into Mexico were up 13.5 percent in December from November's figures. Harlingen increased 30.7 percent, Roma was up 26.1 percent, Pharr rose 19.5 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo increased 16.9 percent, Rio Grande jumped 15.8 percent and Progreso gained 15.7 percent. Del Rio posted an increase of 13.2 percent, Brownsville and Eagle Pass rose 12.5 percent, Laredo was up 11.2 percent and El Paso gained 8.6 percent. YTD total southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up

7.4 percent. Laredo, with 23.6 percent of all southbound traffic in December, was up 4.7 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 19.3 percent of all southbound vehicle bridge crossings, had a 13.0 percent increase YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 15.9 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, experienced a 5.6 percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 13.3 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings had a 1.7 percent increase YTD.

## Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	OCT 98	NOV 98	DEC 98	DEC 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	513,023	498,998	533,577	491,428	6,103,548	6,215,573	1.8
DEL RIO	135,274	137,922	139,851	132,441	1,674,711	1,536,655	-8.2
EAGLE PASS	211,280	219,187	225,945	224,584	2,557,818	2,577,685	0.8
EL PASO	689,827	578,950	640,912	714,728	8,174,640	8,094,839	-1.0
HARLINGEN	50,571	55,003	66,538	57,728	528,331	653,592	23.7
LAREDO	656,667	667,359	658,505	579,401	7,034,579	7,642,793	8.6
McALLEN-HIDALGO	412,694	451,925	463,455	407,072	4,744,265	4,941,479	4.2
PRESIDIO	54,719	57,847	64,800	55,390	613,406	674,326	9.9
PROGRESO	79,684	84,618	94,200	85,999	982,433	978,899	-0.4
RIO GRANDE	52,146	55,955	60,927	56,717	610,252	648,335	6.2
ROMA	86,753	90,667	100,792	83,581	907,018	984,824	8.6
TOTAL	2,942,638	2,898,431	3,049,502	2,889,069	33,931,001	34,949,000	3.0

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 5.2 percent since November. Harlingen registered a 21.0 percent increase, Presidio was up 12.0 percent, Progreso jumped 11.3 percent, Roma reported an increase of 11.2 percent, El Paso gained 10.7 percent, Rio Grande increased 8.9 percent, Brownsville rose 6.9 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo was up 2.6 percent, Eagle Pass was up 3.1 percent and Del Rio reported a 1.4 percent increase.

However, Laredo decreased 1.3 percent. YTD northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 3.0 percent. Laredo with 21.6 percent of all crossings in December was up 8.6 percent YTD. El Paso, with 21.0 percent of all crossings, was down 1.0 percent and Brownsville with 17.5 percent of all crossings, was up 1.8 percent YTD.

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

CITY	OCT 98	NOV 98	DEC 98	DEC 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE+	25,448	22,841	22,519	18,698	229,788	290,746	26.5
DEL RIO+	5,072	4,187	4,609	3,763	43,579	53,617	23.0
EAGLE PASS++	5,317	5,023	3,450	3,603	42,293	49,012	15.9
EL PASO+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	N/A
HARLINGEN+	6,016	5,593	5,821	4,482	42,207	64,913	53.8
LAREDO++	71,085	65,808	64,270	59,143	650,812	771,236	18.5
McALLEN-HIDALGO+	4,484	3,960	4,049	4,090	98,640	52,381	-46.9
PHARR+	15,047	14,121	14,114	12,715	114,008	180,171	58.0
PROGRESO+	1,822	1,728	1,873	2,113	14,008	16,834	20.2
RIO GRANDE+	1,756	1,496	1,694	1,984	21,795	21,561	-1.1
ROMA+	917	882	1,004	784	8,976	10,556	17.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>136,964</b>	<b>125,639</b>	<b>123,403</b>	<b>111,375</b>	<b>1,266,106</b>	<b>1,511,027</b>	<b>19.3</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

+ Includes both loaded and empty trucks.

++ Includes loaded trucks only, **Laredo** figure is an estimate since Laredo has stopped distinguishing between loaded and unloaded trucks.

+++ El Paso does not separate loaded trucks from other vehicles and therefore is not reported.

Southbound truck shipments into Mexico were down 1.8 percent in December. Eagle Pass decreased 31.3 percent, Laredo declined 2.3 percent, Brownsville fell 1.4 percent and Pharr remained unchanged. However, Roma increased 13.8 percent, Rio Grande was up 13.2 percent, Del Rio increased 10.1 percent, Progreso gained 8.4 percent, Harlingen rose 4.1 percent and McAllen-Hidalgo increased 2.2 percent. YTD, southbound truck shipments were up

19.3 percent. Laredo with 52.1 percent of all southbound shipments in December, experienced an 18.5 percent increase. Brownsville, with 18.2 percent of all southbound shipments, had a 26.5 percent increase YTD. Pharr with 11.4 percent, registered an increase of 58.0 percent and Harlingen, with 4.7 percent of all truck crossings, was up 53.8 percent.

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

CITY	OCT 98	NOV 98	DEC 98	DEC 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	10,864	9,283	8,282	8,430	122,883	121,255	-1.3
DEL RIO	3,438	3,004	2,675	2,471	33,042	35,456	7.3
EAGLE PASS	4,630	4,266	4,003	2,990	40,628	49,072	20.8
FALCON	5	3	3	3	89	47	-47.2
LAREDO	58,568	52,970	53,609	48,130	577,804	650,907	12.7
McALLEN-HIDALGO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
PHARR	13,582	13,315	12,130	12,281	156,516	167,077	6.7
PROGRESO	269	157	160	329	7,994	3,741	-53.2
RIO GRANDE	1,006	981	928	1,208	15,917	12,546	-21.2
ROMA	759	655	438	448	5,747	7,895	37.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>93,121</b>	<b>84,634</b>	<b>82,228</b>	<b>76,290</b>	<b>960,620</b>	<b>1,047,996</b>	<b>9.1</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

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

Northbound truck shipments into Texas decreased 2.8 percent from November's shipments. Roma decreased 33.1 percent, Del Rio was down 11.0 percent, Brownsville declined 10.8 percent, Pharr was down 8.9 percent, Eagle Pass slid 6.2 percent, Rio Grande was down 5.4 percent. However, Progreso was up 1.9 percent, Laredo increased 1.2 percent and Falcon remained unchanged. YTD north-

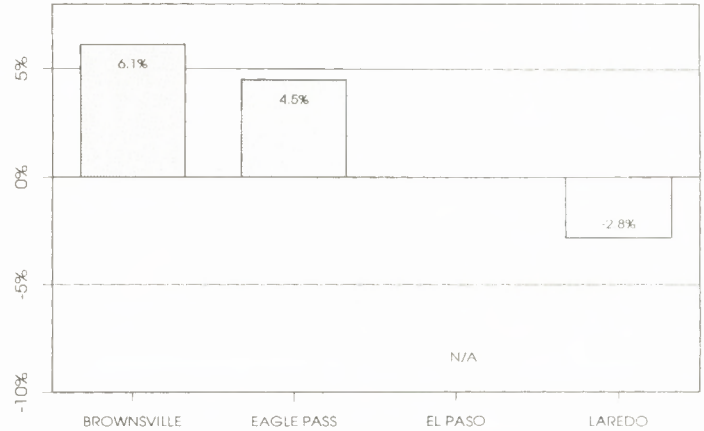
bound truck shipments were up 9.1 percent. Laredo, accounting for 65.2 percent of all northbound truck traffic in December had a 12.7 percent increase YTD. Pharr, with 14.8 percent of all shipments in December, experienced a 6.7 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with 10.1 percent of all northbound truck shipments in December, dipped 1.3 percent YTD.

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

CITY	OCT 98	NOV 98	DEC 98	DEC 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	2,975	3,445	3,003	2,659	30,842	32,717	6.1
EAGLE PASS	5,260	5,043	4,383	5,033	52,443	54,788	4.5
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	12,274	13,653	14,497	12,708	152,230	148,009	-2.8
TOTAL	20,509	22,141	21,883	20,400	235,515	235,514	-0.0

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

### Export Rail YTD % Change 97-98



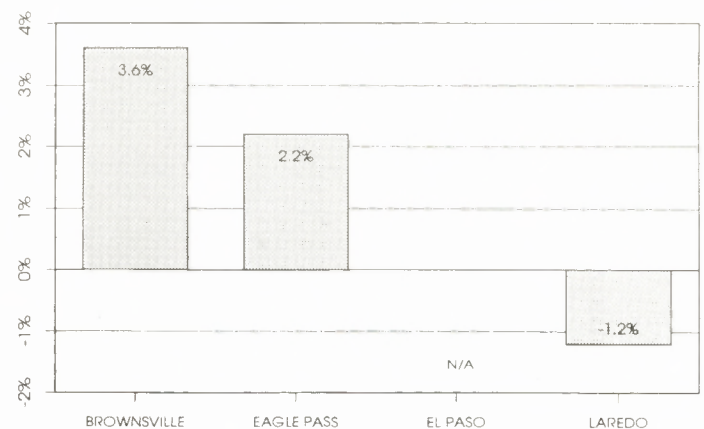
Southbound rail shipments into Mexico decreased 1.2 percent in December. Eagle Pass was down 13.1 percent and Brownsville decreased 12.8 percent. However, Laredo was up 6.2 percent. YTD, total southbound rail shipments into Mexico from Texas remained unchanged. Laredo, which accounts for 66.2 percent of all southbound rail shipments in December was down 2.8 percent. Eagle Pass, accounting for 20.0 percent of all southbound rail shipments, increased 4.5 percent. Brownsville, with 13.7 percent of all southbound rail shipments in December, rose 6.1 percent YTD.

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

CITY	OCT 98	NOV 98	DEC 98	DEC 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	824	629	1,308	985	11,707	12,134	3.6
EAGLE PASS	3,961	3,645	3,603	2,737	39,438	40,314	2.2
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	8,945	7,857	7,727	6,677	93,967	92,829	-1.2
TOTAL	13,730	12,131	12,638	10,399	145,112	145,277	0.1

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

### Import Rail YTD % Change 97-98



Northbound rail shipments into Texas increased 4.2 percent in December. Brownsville was up 107.9 percent. However, Laredo dipped 1.7 percent and Eagle Pass decreased 1.2 percent. YTD, total northbound rail shipments into Texas from Mexico were up 0.1 percent. Laredo, which accounts for 61.1 percent of all northbound rail shipments in December was down 1.2 percent. Eagle Pass, accounting for 28.5 percent of all northbound rail shipments in December was up 2.2 percent and Brownsville, with 10.3 percent of all northbound rail shipments, increased 3.6 percent YTD.

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

CITY	DUTY DEC 98	MPF DEC 98	OTHER REVENUE DEC 98	TOTAL REVENUE DEC 98	TOTAL REVENUE DEC 97	YTD REVENUE DEC 97	YTD REVENUE DEC 98	YTD % CHG
BROWNSVILLE	1,666,257	562,688	351,055	2,580,000	2,861,252	32,217,290	30,203,938	-6.2
DEL RIO	191,892	118,794	178,317	489,004	389,351	4,456,318	4,680,913	5.0
EAGLE PASS	909,804	249,073	1,182,203	2,341,081	2,786,201	30,789,614	38,128,619	23.8
LAREDO	11,625,000	3,164,132	4,567,073	19,356,205	23,606,167	255,535,804	216,336,712	-15.3
McALLEN-HIDALGO	2,807,977	602,712	840,226	4,250,915	3,451,037	50,481,501	50,159,970	-0.6
PROGRESO	8,079	5,262	32,853	46,194	52,818	1,476,923	491,595	-66.7
RIO GRANDE	45,354	18,702	9,584	73,640	81,268	1,174,851	958,878	-18.4
ROMA	36,398	10,505	13,921	60,823	61,504	545,279	543,315	-0.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,290,761</b>	<b>4,731,869</b>	<b>7,175,232</b>	<b>29,197,862</b>	<b>33,289,598</b>	<b>376,677,580</b>	<b>341,503,940</b>	<b>-9.3</b>

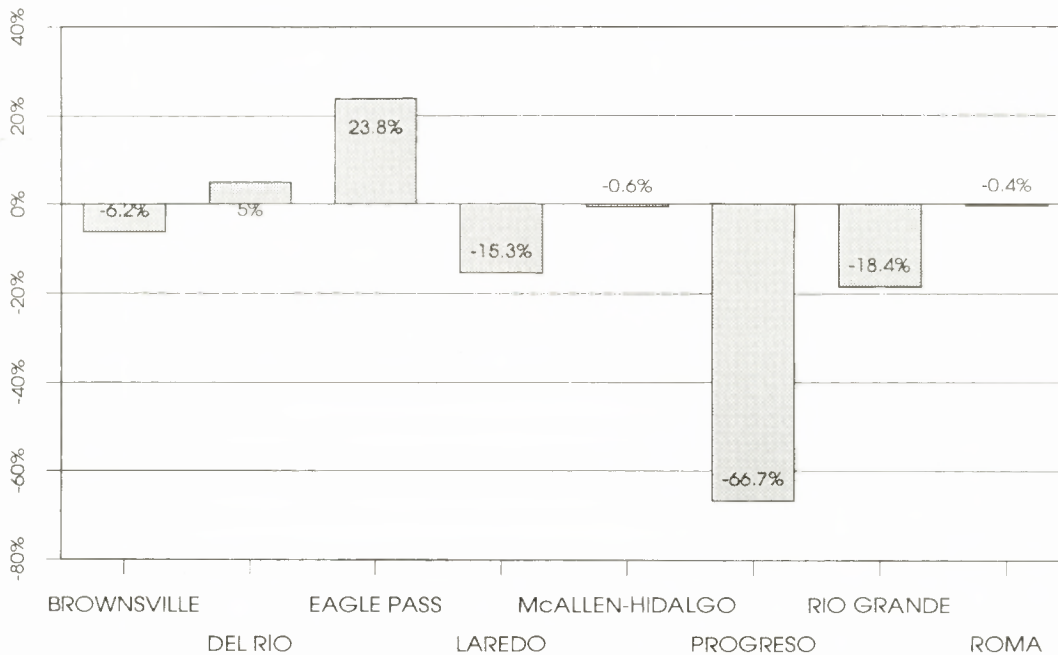
Source: Data provided by U.S. Customs Service, Port of Entry in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

\*MPF = Merchandise Processing Fee

Total U.S. Customs revenues for the former District of Laredo decreased 2.6 percent from November's figures. Eagle Pass was down 40.8 percent, Laredo decreased 1.2 percent. However, Progreso was up 96.3 percent, Roma increased 60.6 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo rose 23.6 percent, Del Rio gained 13.5 percent, Rio Grande increased 11.1 percent and Brownsville jumped 5.3 percent. YTD revenue figures were down 9.3 percent compared to

December 1997. Laredo, accounting for 63.3 percent of the former district's revenue, was down 15.3 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo with 14.7 percent of total revenues, was down 0.6 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, accounting for 11.2 percent of all revenues YTD, was up 23.8 percent. Brownsville, with 8.8 percent of total revenues, declined 6.2 percent YTD.

**% Change Total Revenues YTD 97-98**





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

CITY	OCT 98	NOV 98	DEC 98	DEC 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	659,213	651,371	722,727	552,251	6,183,638	8,012,285	29.6
DEL RIO	201,321	271,123	297,793	191,945	2,148,911	2,561,687	19.2
EAGLE PASS	488,039	478,783	510,566	447,837	4,895,412	5,477,560	11.9
EL PASO	971,735	902,694	1,267,727	939,721	10,910,269	11,727,030	7.5
HARLINGEN	105,093	105,629	125,847	101,328	859,114	1,226,477	42.8
LAREDO	1,988,973	1,775,155	2,355,982	1,854,982	20,650,082	22,562,070	9.3
McALLEN-HIDALGO	649,845	642,316	738,854	660,452	6,739,302	7,675,591	13.9
PHARR	296,512	291,714	335,300	299,366	2,453,830	3,572,848	45.6
TOTAL	5,360,731	5,118,785	6,354,797	5,047,882	54,840,558	62,815,548	14.5

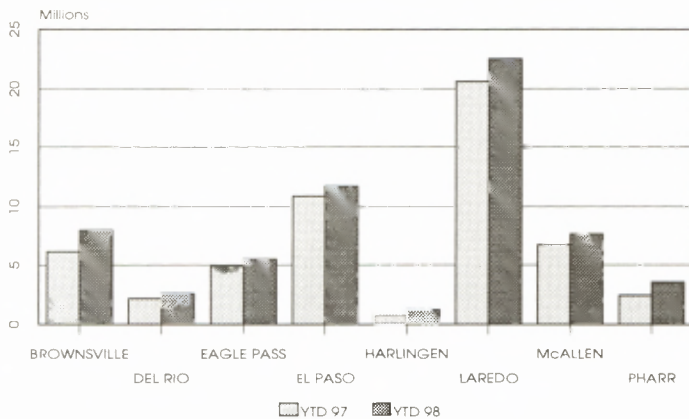
Source: Data provided by U.S. bridge operators in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

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

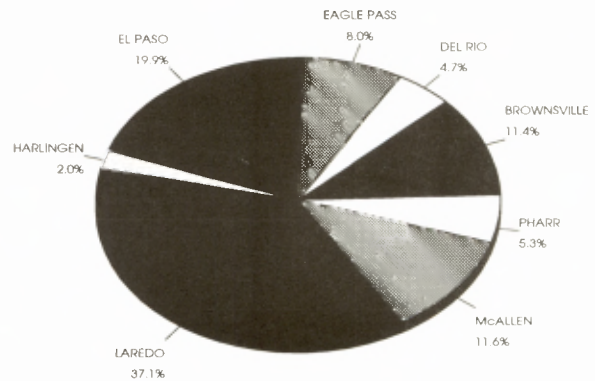
U.S. bridge operators' revenues increased 24.1 percent in the month of December. El Paso showed an increase of 40.4 percent, Laredo increased by 32.7 percent, Harlingen rose 19.1 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo jumped 15.0 percent, Pharr gained 14.9 percent, Brownsville was up 11.0 percent, Del Rio gained 9.8 percent and Eagle Pass increased 6.6 percent. YTD, U.S. bridge operators' revenues were up 14.5 percent. Laredo, accounting for 37.1 percent

of total U.S. bridge operator's revenues collected in December, had a 9.3 percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 19.9 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues, increased 7.5 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo accounting for 11.6 percent, was up 13.9 percent. Brownsville, with 11.4 percent of the total bridge revenues, was up 29.6 percent YTD.

**Total Revenues Collected YTD 97-98**



**% Share Revenues December 1998**



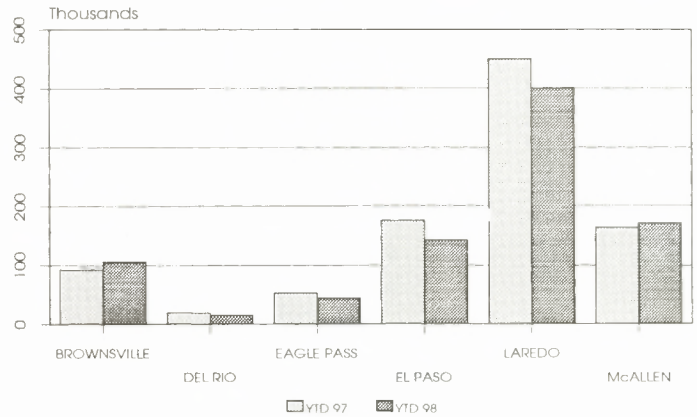
## Visas to Tourists from Texas to Mexico

CITY	OCT 98	NOV 98	DEC 98	DEC 97	YTD 97	YTD 98	%CHG
BROWNSVILLE	7,137	10,963	21,803	16,265	92,470	106,287	14.9
DEL RIO	1,069	2,201	1,748	3,831	18,087	14,762	-18.4
EAGLE PASS	3,200	1,980	4,908	7,883	52,135	43,855	-15.9
EL PASO	10,607	10,193	20,451	30,878	176,123	143,226	-18.7
LAREDO	23,187	32,830	73,203	80,264	448,996	400,454	-10.8
McALLEN	11,626	13,916	25,311	23,273	163,784	170,807	4.3
TOTAL	56,826	72,083	147,424	162,394	951,595	879,391	-7.6

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 were up 104.5 percent. Eagle Pass increased 147.9 percent, Laredo rose 123.0 percent, El Paso was up 100.6 percent, Brownsville gained 98.9 percent and McAllen jumped 81.9 percent. However, Del Rio fell 20.6 percent. YTD, the number of tourist visas issued were down 7.6 percent. Laredo, with 49.7 percent of total visas issued in December was down 10.8 percent YTD. McAllen, with 17.2 percent of total visas issued, had a 4.3 percent increase YTD. Brownsville with 14.8 percent of total visas issued, increased 14.9 percent YTD. El Paso, with 13.9 percent of all visas issued, fell 18.7 percent YTD.

### Tourist Visas YTD December 97-98



## Hotel Occupancy Percentage Rate — Texas Border

CITY	OCT 98	NOV 98	DEC 98	DEC 97	% CHG 97-98
BROWNSVILLE	43.9	41.1	42.9	53.4	-19.7
EL PASO	61.4	61.1	54.6	61.1	-10.6
LAREDO	67.2	71.1	71.3	63.6	12.1
McALLEN	62.6	69.9	72.0	65.8	9.3
AVERAGE	58.8	60.8	60.2	61.0	-1.3

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 down 1.0 percent. McAllen had a rate of 72.0 percent, Laredo's occupancy was 71.3 percent, El Paso reported a rate of 54.6 percent and Brownsville had a rate of 42.9 percent for December.

### Hotel Occupancy Percentage December 97-98

