



# Border Business Indicators

College of Business Administration & Graduate School of International Trade  
Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

Vol. 24, No. 2  
February 2000

## IN THIS ISSUE...

Note from the Director ..... 1

### Border Crossings

Pedestrians .....	3
Vehicles .....	4
Trucks .....	5
Rail .....	6
Visas .....	9

### Border Crossing Revenues

Customs Management Center 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 Director

Indicators of border business activity for the month of December demonstrated an increase of seventeen indicators over six indicators that decreased. In addition, for the year-to-date (YTD) figures, eighteen indicators were up and four were down. Selected YTD comparisons to 1998 reported by border cities include the following:

- Southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico were up 3.6 percent. El Paso gained 10.0 percent, El Paso and Progreso both registered an 8.3 percent increase.
- Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 6.3 percent. Laredo increased 20.6 percent, Progreso rose 17.7 percent, Roma jumped 13.0 percent and Laredo gained 4.7 percent.
- Southbound vehicle crossings were up 6.8 percent. Roma rose 26.1 percent, Harlingen increased 16.4 percent, Pharr gained 14.9 percent, and Progreso jumped 12.4 percent.
- Northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 6.3 percent. Del Rio jumped 20.0 percent, Harlingen increased 17.5 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo gained 17.2 percent and Roma posted an increase of 15.0 percent.
- Southbound truck crossings into Mexico were up 7.6 percent. Progreso increased 64.1 percent, Eagle Pass was up 63.2 percent and Roma rose 49.4 percent.
- Northbound truck crossings into Texas were up 13.2 percent, Falcon increased 28.2 percent, Pharr gained 23.9 percent and Roma posted an 18.4 percent increase.
- Southbound shipments by rail were up 13.5 percent.
- Northbound shipments by rail were up 19.0 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Customs were down slightly by 5.1 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Bridge operators were up 14.8 percent.
- Total building permits issued were up 9.5 percent. Laredo rose 42.9 percent, Eagle Pass gained 9.4 percent, Harlingen was up 8.5 percent, while McAllen-Hidalgo declined 5.3 percent.
- Total building permit values increased 22.5 percent. Harlingen increased 60.4 percent, McAllen was up 36.8 percent, El Paso rose 32.1 percent and Brownsville reported a 23.2 percent increase.
- Total employment was up, with 1,849 jobs gained. The average unemployment rate in December 1999 was 8.4 percent for the border.

Visit the Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development's website at <http://www.tamui.edu/coba/txcntr/>.

## Technical Reports

Technical Report No. 1:	NAFTA Rules of Origin: An Explanation (March 1994)
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)
Technical Report No. 3:	Labor Mobility Under NAFTA: It's Impact on the Border (February 1994)
Technical Report No. 4:	The Impact of NAFTA on Border Maquiladora and Industrial Activity (April 1994)
Technical Report No. 6:	U.S.-Mexico Trade Patterns Under NAFTA (March 1994)
Technical Report No. 7:	Overweights to Pay the Price (March 1994)
Technical Report No. 8:	Standards as Non-Tariff Barriers: NAFTA's Impact (February 1994)
Technical Report No. 9:	NAFTA Certificate of Origin (May 1994)
Technical Report No. 10:	The Texas Border with Mexico: Opportunities and Challenges (October 1994)
Technical Report No. 12:	NAFTA One Year After Implementation: A Preliminary Assessment of Selected Impacts (March 1995) <i>Hardcopy only</i>

Technical Reports are freely available for download(<http://www.tamtu.edu/coba/txcntr>) in PDF format, unless otherwise noted. These are also available by writing to: Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development, 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 Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development.

## Subscribe to the *NAFTA Digest*

The NAFTA Digest provides an analysis of current U.S.-Mexico and hemispheric economic relations, with particular emphasis on the North American Free Trade Agreement. The *NAFTA Digest* is published monthly by the Office for the Study of U.S.-Mexico Trade Relations, a division of The Graduate School of International Trade and Business Administration at Texas A&M International University.

Subscribe now to the NAFTA Digest! Annual subscription rate is \$30.00 (12 monthly issues). Enclose this subscription form or a photocopy with check or money order, payable to Texas A&M International University (U.S. funds only). Send subscription to:

*NAFTA Digest*  
Office for the Study of U.S.-Mexico Trade Relations  
Texas A&M International University  
5201 University Boulevard  
Laredo, TX 78041-1900

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation/Co. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (      ) \_\_\_\_\_

### **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.

## What Impact Has NAFTA Had On South Texas Border Communities?

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has been in force for five years, yet we know little about how NAFTA has affected U.S.-Mexico border communities. The results of a Texas Center survey of public officials, community leaders, academics, and the media in the Brownsville, McAllen, and Laredo metropolitan areas designed to measure perceptions of the impact of NAFTA on their community/county and recent trends that have influenced local economic conditions and policies are provided below. Surveys were mailed to a non-random sample of 208 individuals in Brownsville, McAllen, and Laredo. The individuals were chosen based upon their direct involvement and knowledge of economic development activities in their communities. Forty (40) surveys were returned. Individuals were asked to give their perceptions of the impact of NAFTA and recent trends on the economy, infrastructure, and the environment of their community.

The general impression gleaned from the perceptions of the survey respondents is that overall: 1) NAFTA has had a positive economic impact on the south Texas border region; 2) NAFTA has brought increased pressures to bear on the region's already overtaxed infrastructure (housing, water, and solid waste systems as well as transportation); and, 3) NAFTA has had a slightly negative environmental impact on the region's air and water quality. The perceptions, however, tend to vary somewhat between metropolitan areas. In terms of NAFTA's economic impact, all three metropolitan areas believe NAFTA has brought new firms and new jobs to their community. McAllen respondents credit NAFTA with bringing higher "value added" jobs to their community. All three communities believe NAFTA has contributed to increased cross border cooperation for economic development in the region.

Respondents from the three communities were unanimous in their concern over the increase in traffic congestion and waiting time to cross the border. They also expressed concern over the mounting pressures being placed on the community's infrastructure. They agreed, however, that the trade agreement has led to increased federal, state, and local funding for border infrastructure improvements. Brownsville respondents had the best overall perception of the impact of NAFTA on the quality of their infrastructure, followed by McAllen and Laredo.

Respondents from the three communities also expressed concern over NAFTA's apparent negative impact on their air and water quality, and water availability. Laredo respondents expressed the greatest concern on environmental issues, followed by Brownsville and McAllen. Respondents from the three communities, nevertheless, expressed satisfaction with the attention being given to the problem, noting that cooperation between local, state, and national (U.S. and Mexican) environmental agencies was good.

For copies of the complete report, "Texas Border Communities in the NAFTA Era," contact Jacqueline Benavides at (956) 326-2545.

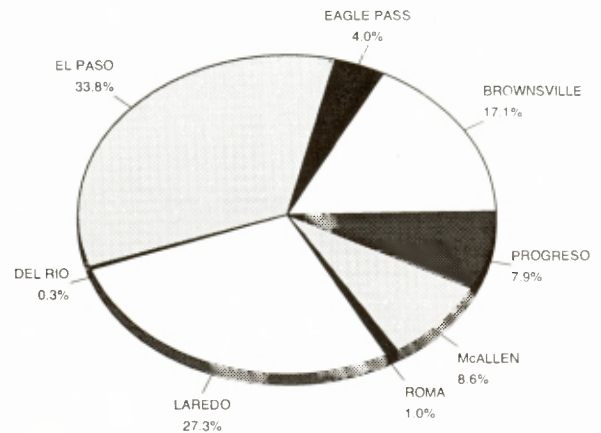
## Pedestrian Bridge Crossings into Mexico

CITY	OCT 99	NOV 99	DEC 99	DEC 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	214,435	216,248	279,036	289,307	3,067,687	2,877,518	-6.2
DEL RIO	4,740	4,626	4,593	3,100	57,549	52,795	-8.3
EAGLE PASS	50,432	54,832	65,893	77,528	661,922	693,466	4.8
EL PASO	439,769	462,635	551,118	574,576	4,895,467	5,302,707	8.3
HARLINGEN	0	216	86	111	1,082	1,061	-1.9
LAREDO	339,866	369,429	444,675	431,768	4,033,277	4,274,223	6.0
McALLEN-HIDALGO	106,219	112,307	139,919	121,887	1,307,005	1,275,302	-2.4
PROGRESO	68,623	95,664	129,513	128,159	1,204,632	1,305,212	8.3
RIO GRANDE	443	618	556	625	8,275	8,226	-0.6
ROMA	15,387	15,606	16,035	17,030	178,141	183,767	3.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,239,914</b>	<b>1,332,181</b>	<b>1,631,424</b>	<b>1,644,091</b>	<b>15,415,037</b>	<b>15,974,277</b>	<b>3.6</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 crossings into Mexico for December were up 22.5 percent. Progreso increased 35.4 percent, Brownsville rose 29.0 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo grew 24.6 percent, Laredo also gained 20.4 percent, and Eagle Pass was up 20.2 percent. YTD, total southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico were up 3.6 percent. El Paso southbound pedestrian crossings, which make up 33.2 percent of all crossings, increased 8.3 percent YTD. Laredo, accounting for 26.8 percent of total crossings, was up 6.0 percent YTD. Brownsville, with an 18.0 percent share, was down 6.2 percent YTD.

**% Share Pedestrians for December 1999**



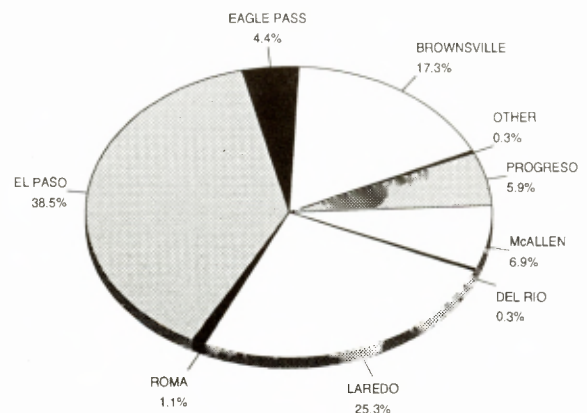
## Pedestrian Bridge Crossings into Texas

CITY	OCT 99	NOV 99	DEC 99	DEC 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	199,074	222,613	301,794	253,908	2,784,246	2,630,338	-5.5
DEL RIO	6,507	6,667	5,642	7,297	116,584	91,845	-21.2
EAGLE PASS	59,361	58,899	76,906	78,791	749,660	776,062	3.5
EL PASO	552,568	580,913	670,265	680,818	6,345,344	6,602,353	4.1
LAREDO	319,612	366,341	441,129	347,773	3,149,623	3,798,716	20.6
McALLEN-HIDALGO	81,905	95,113	120,753	109,171	1,094,550	1,146,383	4.7
PRESIDIO	2,234	2,271	2,949	2,636	32,148	26,143	-18.7
PROGRESO	60,140	75,488	102,605	78,520	758,202	892,155	17.7
RIO GRANDE	883	1,096	1,256	1,120	13,087	12,907	-1.4
ROMA	16,970	18,218	19,294	20,196	184,311	208,354	13.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,299,254</b>	<b>1,427,619</b>	<b>1,742,593</b>	<b>1,580,230</b>	<b>15,227,755</b>	<b>16,185,256</b>	<b>6.3</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 22.1 percent in December, Progreso increased 35.9 percent, Brownsville was up 35.6 percent, El Paso rose 30.6 percent, and Laredo gained 20.4 percent. YTD total northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 6.3 percent. El Paso, accounting for 40.8 percent of northbound crossings, was up 4.1 percent YTD. Laredo, with 23.5 percent of all northbound crossings, was up 20.6 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 16.3 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings, declined 5.5 percent in crossings YTD.

**% Share Pedestrians for December 1999**



## Vehicle Bridge Crossings into Mexico

CITY	OCT 99	NOV 99	DEC 99	DEC 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	632,099	620,480	679,248	628,936	6,951,202	7,458,871	7.3
DEL RIO	167,250	152,580	179,205	174,625	1,875,967	2,000,505	6.6
EAGLE PASS	258,511	257,306	305,205	251,141	2,690,971	2,876,144	6.9
EL PASO	449,049	451,361	476,320	432,325	5,373,377	5,309,676	-1.2
HARLINGEN	46,917	47,882	54,604	53,588	498,118	579,725	16.4
LAREDO	757,233	715,065	798,007	770,238	8,333,735	8,685,103	4.2
McALLEN-HIDALGO	506,480	468,309	519,723	519,035	5,421,953	5,988,514	10.4
PHARR	177,219	172,923	182,156	178,332	1,758,550	2,020,639	14.9
PROGRESO	95,777	95,967	105,675	104,532	1,074,236	1,207,697	12.4
RIO GRANDE	50,887	50,034	56,570	59,388	598,464	633,295	5.8
ROMA	96,705	98,291	116,244	94,856	888,055	1,119,819	26.1
TOTAL	3,238,127	3,130,198	3,472,957	3,266,996	35,464,628	37,879,988	6.8

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 was up 11.0 percent in December from November's figures. Eagle Pass was up 18.6 percent, Roma rose 18.3 percent, Del Rio increased 17.4 percent, Harlingen grew 14.0 percent, Rio Grande climbed 13.1 percent, Laredo jumped 11.6 percent, and McAllen-Hidalgo was up 11.0 percent. YTD total southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 6.8 percent. Laredo, with 22.9 percent of all southbound

traffic, was up 4.2 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 19.7 percent of all southbound vehicle bridge crossings, had a 7.3 percent increase YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 15.8 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, experienced a 10.4 percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 14.0 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, fell 1.2 percent YTD.

## Vehicle Bridge Crossings into Texas

CITY	OCT 99	NOV 99	DEC 99	DEC 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	450,302	446,200	492,199	533,577	6,215,573	5,858,711	-5.7
DEL RIO	163,315	166,280	174,549	139,851	1,536,655	1,844,176	20.0
EAGLE PASS	109,467	98,043	109,113	225,945	2,577,685	2,291,023	-11.1
EL PASO	692,618	673,685	684,340	640,912	8,094,839	8,543,131	5.5
HARLINGEN	60,374	60,347	64,852	66,538	653,592	767,795	17.5
LAREDO	735,908	713,351	737,538	658,505	7,642,793	8,384,721	9.7
McALLEN-HIDALGO	487,281	444,836	484,644	463,455	4,941,479	5,789,286	17.2
PRESIDIO	61,854	63,822	69,289	64,800	674,326	765,979	13.6
PROGRESO	86,369	89,961	99,712	94,200	978,899	1,099,161	12.3
RIO GRANDE	55,897	55,916	59,648	60,927	648,335	679,131	4.8
ROMA	96,928	97,840	110,987	100,792	984,824	1,132,184	15.0
TOTAL	3,000,313	2,910,281	3,086,871	3,049,502	34,949,000	37,155,298	6.3

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 vehicle bridge crossings into Texas for December were up 6.1 percent from November. Roma registered a 13.4 percent increase, Eagle Pass was up 11.3 percent, Progreso climbed 10.8 percent, Brownsville jumped 10.3 percent, and McAllen-Hidalgo grew 8.9 percent, Presidio increased 8.6 percent, and Laredo was up 3.4 percent. YTD northbound vehicle

bridge crossings into Texas were up 6.3 percent. El Paso, with a 23.0 percent of all crossings, was up 5.5 percent YTD. Laredo, with 22.6 percent of all crossings, was up 9.7 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 15.8 percent of all crossings, declined 5.7 percent YTD.

## Truck Crossings into Mexico —Number of Trucks

CITY	OCT 99	NOV 99	DEC 99	DEC 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE+	19,576	19,010	18,495	22,519	290,746	237,189	-18.4
DEL RIO+	6,320	5,786	5,329	5,626	66,186	67,788	2.4
EAGLE PASS++	9,115	8,519	8,536	4,605	50,167	81,868	63.2
EL PASO+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	N/A
HARLINGEN+	6,781	6,424	5,154	5,820	64,912	74,833	15.3
LAREDO+	115,954	115,166	117,301	94,163	1,192,354	1,306,610	9.6
McALLEN-HIDALGO+	4,152	4,276	4,282	4,049	52,381	51,458	-1.8
PHARR+	18,435	17,813	16,964	14,114	180,171	206,298	14.5
PROGRESO+	2,512	2,303	2,500	1,873	16,834	27,627	64.1
RIO GRANDE+	1,913	1,718	1,600	1,694	21,561	23,887	10.8
ROMA+	1,475	1,422	1,334	1,004	10,556	15,767	49.4
TOTAL	186,233	182,437	181,495	155,467	1,945,868	2,093,325	7.6

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 crossings into Mexico were down 0.5 percent in December. Harlingen dropped 19.8 percent, Del Rio decreased 7.9 percent, Rio Grande fell 6.9 percent, Roma was down 6.2 percent, and Pharr declined 4.8 percent. YTD southbound truck crossings were up 7.6 percent. Laredo, with 62.4 percent of all

southbound crossings, experienced a 9.6 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with an 11.3 percent of all southbound crossings, had an 18.4 percent decrease YTD. Pharr, with 9.9 percent, registered an increase of 14.5 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, with 3.9 percent of all truck crossings, was up 63.2 percent YTD.

## Truck Crossings into Texas —Number of Trucks

CITY	OCT 99	NOV 99	DEC 99	DEC 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	27,215	26,483	23,871	21,596	275,661	287,962	4.5
DEL RIO	5,475	4,369	4,565	4,536	53,623	59,843	11.6
EAGLE PASS	9,756	8,843	7,941	7,532	90,822	101,242	11.5
FALCON	36	45	66	27	397	509	28.2
LAREDO	130,115	125,141	122,299	116,009	1,315,069	1,486,511	13.0
McALLEN-HIDALGO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
PHARR	26,515	29,052	27,023	20,641	262,693	325,352	23.9
PROGRESO	1,206	599	548	1,066	15,499	16,588	7.0
RIO GRANDE	1,785	1,660	1,594	1,463	17,871	20,946	17.2
ROMA	1,452	1,371	1,310	881	13,501	15,985	18.4
TOTAL	203,555	197,563	189,217	173,751	2,045,136	2,314,938	13.2

Source: Data provided by the South Texas CMC in Laredo and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

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

December northbound truck crossings into Texas decreased 4.2 percent over November's crossings. Eagle Pass was down 10.2 percent, Brownsville dropped 9.9 percent, Progreso fell 8.5 percent, Pharr went down 7.0 percent, and Laredo declined 2.3 percent. YTD northbound truck crossings were up 13.2 percent.

Laredo, accounting for 64.2 percent of all northbound truck crossings, had a 13.0 percent increase YTD. Pharr, with 14.1 percent of all crossings, experienced a 23.9 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with a 12.4 percent of all northbound truck crossings, experienced a 4.5 percent increase YTD.

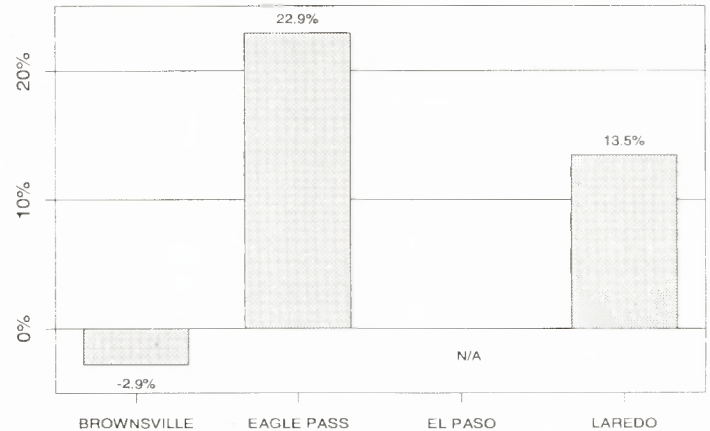
## Export Shipments by Rail into Mexico —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	OCT 99	NOV 99	DEC 99	DEC 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	2,232	2,275	3,458	3,003	32,717	31,780	-2.9
EAGLE PASS	5,045	5,838	5,773	4,383	56,669	69,661	22.9
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	17,043	15,171	14,858	14,497	148,009	167,963	13.5
TOTAL	24,320	23,284	24,089	21,883	237,395	269,404	13.5

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

Southbound rail shipments into Mexico increased 3.5 percent in December compared to November. Brownsville increased 52.0 percent, while Laredo showed a decrease of 2.1 percent. YTD total southbound rail shipments into Mexico from Texas were up 13.5 percent. Laredo which accounts for 62.3 percent of all southbound rail shipments, was up 13.5 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, accounting for 25.9 percent of all southbound rail shipments, increased 22.9 percent YTD. Brownsville, however, with 11.8 percent of all southbound rail shipments showed a decrease of 2.9 percent YTD.

### Export Rail YTD % Change 98-99



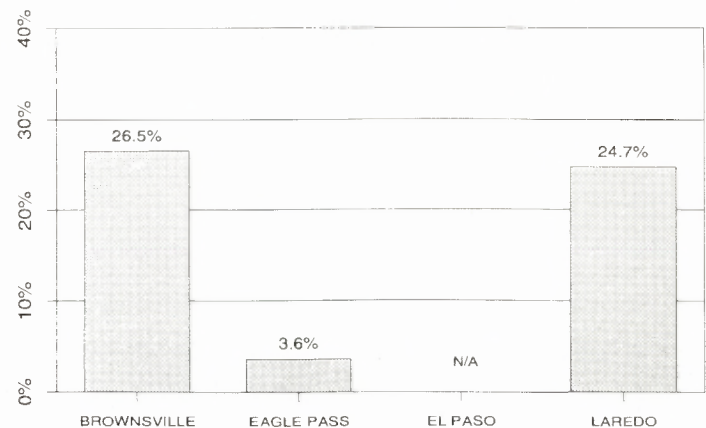
## Import Shipments by Rail into Texas —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	OCT 99	NOV 99	DEC 99	DEC 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	953	882	740	1,308	12,134	15,354	26.5
EAGLE PASS	2,716	2,747	2,827	3,603	40,314	41,749	3.6
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	10,036	8,053	8,461	7,727	92,829	115,771	24.7
TOTAL	13,705	11,682	12,028	12,638	145,277	172,874	19.0

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

Northbound rail shipments into Texas increased 3.0 percent in December. Laredo increased 5.1 percent, Eagle Pass was up 2.9 percent, and Brownsville was down 16.1 percent. YTD total northbound rail shipments into Texas from Mexico were up 19.0 percent. Laredo, which accounts for 67.0 percent of all northbound rail shipments, was up 24.7 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, accounting for 24.1 percent of all northbound rail shipments, was up 3.6 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 8.9 percent of all northbound rail shipments, rose 26.5 percent YTD.

### Import Rail YTD % Change 98-99



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

CITY	DUTY	MPF	OTHER	TOTAL	TOTAL	YTD	YTD	YTD % CHG
	DEC 99	DEC 99	REVENUE DEC 99	REVENUE DEC 99	REVENUE DEC 98	REVENUE DEC 98	REVENUE DEC 99	
BROWNSVILLE	4,799,332	154,931	393,259	5,347,522	2,580,000	32,783,938	41,931,743	27.9
DEL RIO	107,580	35,843	54,047	197,470	489,004	5,169,917	3,234,119	-37.4
EAGLE PASS	318,372	9,967	1,949,741	2,278,080	2,341,081	40,469,699	40,833,380	0.9
LAREDO	10,877,051	577,028	5,774,436	17,228,515	19,356,205	235,692,917	223,779,279	-5.1
McALLEN-HIDALGO	1,886,769	180,457	368,529	2,435,756	4,250,915	54,410,886	40,066,605	-26.4
PROGRESO	1,915	2,723	1,386	6,024	46,194	537,790	378,813	-29.6
RIO GRANDE	37,841	5,551	15,657	59,050	73,640	1,032,518	898,561	-13.0
ROMA	45,265	4,124	21,223	70,612	60,823	604,138	684,348	13.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,074,126</b>	<b>970,624</b>	<b>8,578,279</b>	<b>27,623,028</b>	<b>29,197,862</b>	<b>370,701,802</b>	<b>351,806,847</b>	<b>-5.1</b>

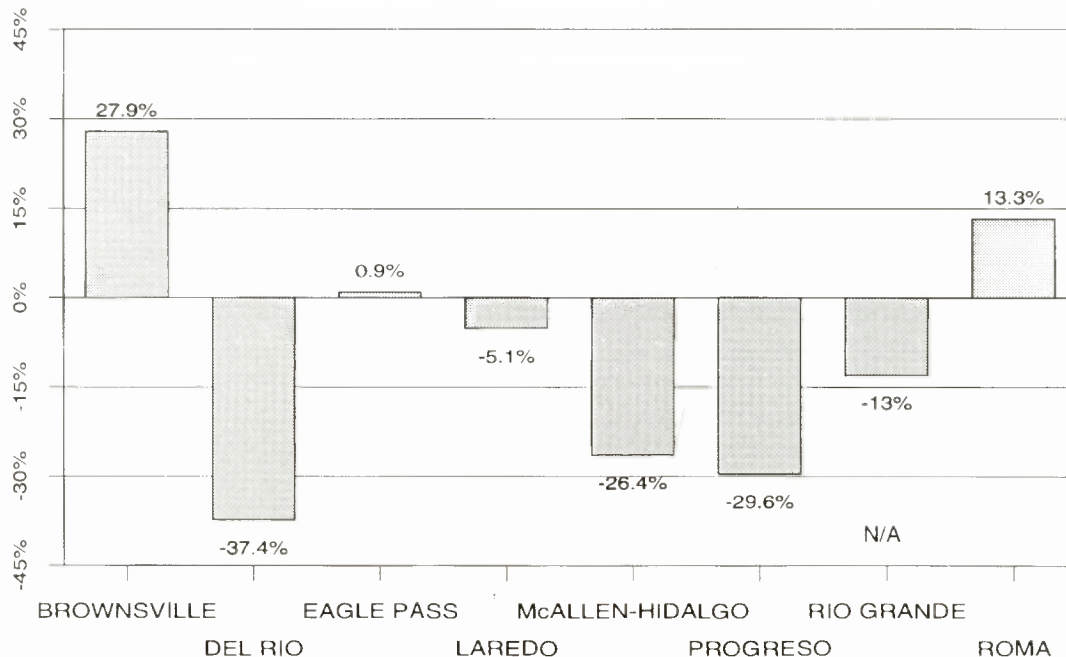
Source: Data provided by the South Texas CMC in Laredo and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

\*MPF = Merchandise Processing Fee

Total U.S. Customs revenues, for December, for the former District of Laredo, decreased 1.3 percent from November's figures. Progreso was down 55.0 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo decreased 20.0 percent, and Laredo dropped 4.4 percent. Roma increased 63.8 percent, Rio Grande rose 53.8 percent and Eagle Pass was up 30.3 percent. YTD revenue figures were down 5.1

percent compared to December 1998, YTD. Laredo, accounting for 63.6 percent share of the former district's revenue was down 5.1 percent. Brownsville, with 11.9 percent share of total revenues, was up 27.9 percent. Eagle Pass, accounting for 11.6 percent of all revenues, was up 0.9 percent. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 11.4 percent of total revenues, increased 26.4 percent.

**% Change Total Revenues YTD 98-99**





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

CITY	OCT 99	NOV 99	DEC 99	DEC 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	746,492	728,159	816,951	722,727	8,012,285	8,485,562	5.9
DEL RIO	404,703	384,275	415,190	297,793	2,684,736	4,030,372	50.1
EAGLE PASS	609,528	606,103	677,887	510,566	5,477,560	6,425,129	17.3
EL PASO	1,024,517	978,091	1,025,002	976,688	11,435,991	11,747,253	2.7
HARLINGEN	129,212	129,922	129,386	125,841	1,226,471	1,428,034	16.4
LAREDO	2,408,549	2,293,539	2,541,136	2,355,982	22,562,053	27,240,945	20.7
McALLEN-HIDALGO	714,581	667,476	738,617	738,854	7,675,591	8,428,917	9.8
PHARR	352,188	362,311	383,690	335,300	3,572,848	4,127,178	15.5
TOTAL	6,389,770	6,149,876	6,727,858	6,063,752	62,647,536	71,913,391	14.8

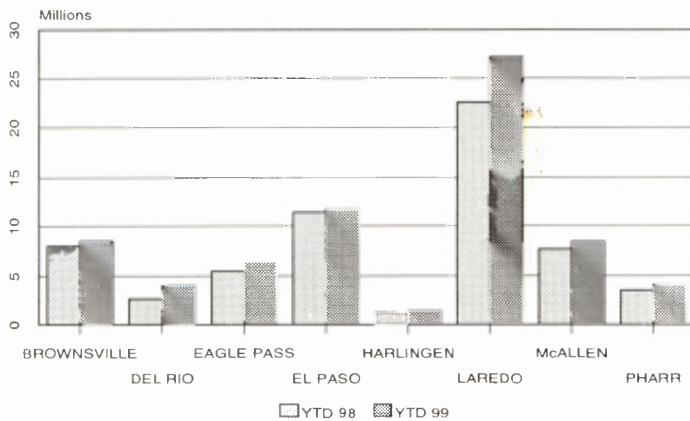
Source: Data provided by U.S. bridge operators in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

\*Brownsville's Revenues are for Cameron County and Veteran's International Bridge.

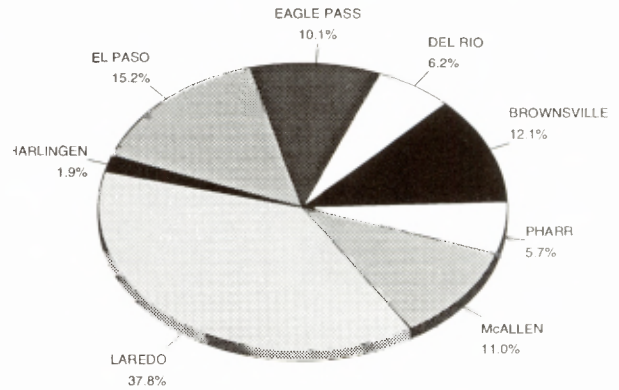
U.S. bridge operators' revenues increased 9.4 percent in the month of December. Brownsville went up 12.2 percent, Eagle Pass climbed 11.8 percent, Laredo grew 10.8 percent, and McAllen-Hidalgo gained 10.7 percent. YTD U.S. bridge operators' revenues were up 14.8 percent. Laredo, accounting for 37.9 percent of total U.S. bridge operator's revenues collected, had a 20.7

percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 16.3 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues, increased 2.7 percent YTD. Brownsville, accounting for 11.8 percent, was up 5.9 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 11.7 percent of the total bridge revenues, was up 9.8 percent YTD.

**Total Revenues Collected YTD 98-99**



**% Share Revenues December 1999**



## Visas to Tourists from Texas to Mexico

CITY	OCT 99	NOV 99	DEC 99	DEC 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	%CHG
BROWNSVILLE	6,423	8,764	8,441	21,803	106,287	106,511	0.2
DEL RIO	1,018	1,729	2,384	1,748	14,762	12,019	-18.6
EAGLE PASS	4,312	5,640	4,766	4,908	43,855	43,776	-0.2
EL PASO	6,958	7,291	15,726	20,451	143,226	104,947	-26.7
LAREDO	26,506	32,548	58,982	73,203	400,454	411,576	2.8
McALLEN	12,350	14,822	16,988	25,311	170,807	177,220	3.8
TOTAL	57,567	70,794	107,287	147,424	879,391	856,049	-2.7

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 51.5 percent. El Paso increased 115.7 percent, Laredo jumped 81.2, Del Rio gained 37.9, and McAllen-Hidalgo was up 14.6 percent. Eagle Pass decreased 15.5 and Brownsville was down 3.7 percent. YTD the number of tourist visas issued were up 2.7 percent. Laredo,

with 48.1 percent of total visas issued, was up 2.8 percent YTD. McAllen, with 20.7 percent of total visas issued, had a 3.8 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with 12.4 percent of all visas issued, jumped 0.2 percent YTD. El Paso, with 12.3 percent of total visas issued, decreased 26.7 percent YTD.

# Telephones in Service —Texas Border

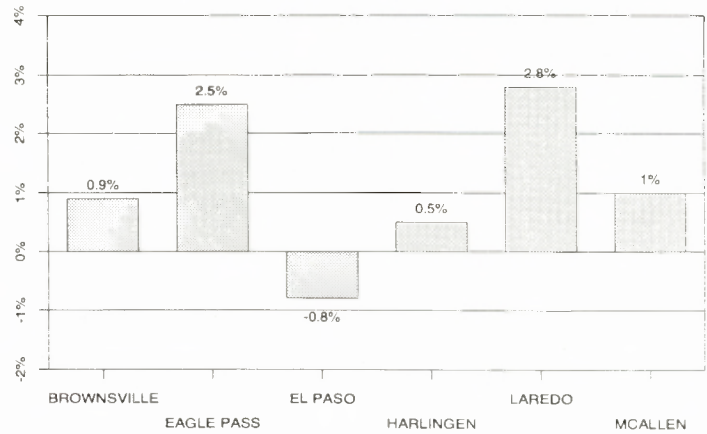
## Residential Telephones

CITY	OCT 99	NOV 99	DEC 99	DEC 98
BROWNSVILLE	44,451	44,450	44,374	43,979
EAGLE PASS	12,093	12,135	12,184	11,882
EL PASO	214,360	213,922	213,254	214,991
HARLINGEN	27,158	27,324	27,570	27,445
LAREDO	52,429	52,300	52,346	50,904
MCALLEN	37,273	37,286	37,390	37,002
TOTAL	387,764	387,417	387,118	386,203

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 decreased 0.08 percent since November. YTD the number of residential telephones in service increased by 0.2 percent. Laredo jumped 2.8 percent, Eagle Pass was up 2.5 percent, McAllen increased 1.0 percent, Brownsville rose 0.9 percent, Harlingen was up 0.5 percent and El Paso decreased 0.8 percent YTD.

## Residential Phones % Change December 98-99



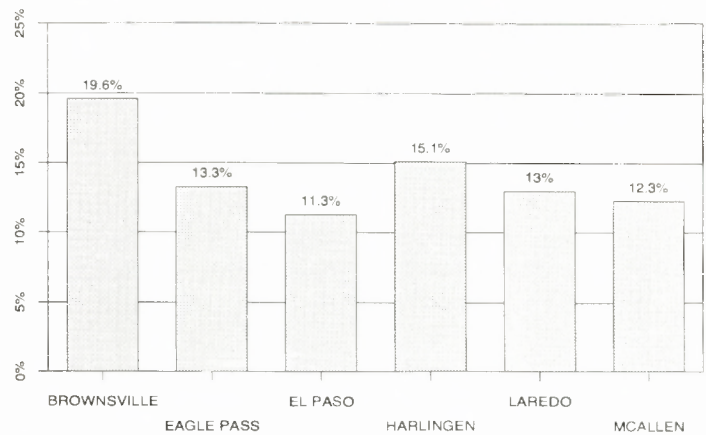
## Business Telephones

CITY	OCT 99	NOV 99	DEC 99	DEC 98
BROWNSVILLE	26,286	26,628	27,161	22,710
EAGLE PASS	4,584	4,672	4,707	4,155
EL PASO	107,961	109,080	110,480	99,240
HARLINGEN	16,386	16,721	16,920	14,694
LAREDO	35,846	36,273	35,890	31,753
MCALLEN	29,349	29,594	30,221	26,914
TOTAL	220,412	222,968	225,379	199,466

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 1.08 percent. YTD the number of phones in service rose by 13.0 percent. Brownsville had the largest increase with 19.6 percent; Harlingen gained 15.1 percent, Eagle Pass rose 13.3 percent, Laredo jumped 13.0 percent, and McAllen increased 12.3 percent YTD.

## Business Phones % Change December 98-99



## Power Connections –Texas Border

### Residential Connections

CITY	SEP 99	OCT 99	NOV 99	NOV 98
BROWNSVILLE	29,217	29,777	29,854	29,197
DEL RIO	13,880	13,898	13,894	13,667
EAGLE PASS	9,443	9,484	9,516	9,357
EL PASO	265,246	265,767	266,250	260,088
HARLINGEN	20,819	20,936	21,258	20,669
LAREDO	48,609	48,652	48,781	46,998
McALLEN	31,430	31,544	31,848	30,779
TOTAL	418,644	420,058	421,401	410,755

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

December residential power connections for all reporting Texas border cities increased over November's figures by 0.25 percent. YTD residential power connections were up 2.9 percent. Laredo was up 5.6 percent, McAllen increased 4.3 percent, Del Rio gained 3.2 percent, Harlingen jumped 2.5 percent, El Paso rose 2.4 percent, Brownsville increased 2.1 percent, and Eagle Pass was also up by 1.1 percent.

December commercial power connections for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.33 percent over November's figures. YTD commercial power connections increased 5.2 percent. Harlingen was up 11.6 percent, Eagle Pass increased 11.0 percent, Laredo gained 10.2 percent, McAllen was up 8.8 percent, Del Rio rose 5.6 percent, El Paso gained 2.6 percent, and Brownsville increased 0.9 percent.

### Commercial Connections

CITY	OCT 99	NOV 99	DEC 99	DEC 98
BROWNSVILLE	3,870	3,898	3,895	3,868
DEL RIO	2,060	2,046	2,046	2,276
EAGLE PASS	1,492	1,494	1,501	1,803
EL PASO	27,194	27,199	27,274	26,396
HARLINGEN	3,707	3,730	3,736	3,046
LAREDO	7,761	7,804	7,857	8,041
McALLEN	5,835	5,846	5,878	4,783
TOTAL	51,919	52,017	52,187	50,213

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	OCT 99	NOV 99	DEC 99	DEC 98
BROWNSVILLE	476	466	461	440
DEL RIO	28	28	28	32
EAGLE PASS	16	16	16	33
EL PASO	117	123	124	117
HARLINGEN	81	81	81	103
LAREDO	121	116	115	146
McALLEN	44	44	44	56
TOTAL	883	874	869	927

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 0.57 percent from November's figures. YTD Eagle Pass decreased 14.3 percent, McAllen dropped 7.9 percent, Harlingen fell 4.2 percent, Del Rio went down 3.5 percent, and Laredo declined 2.3 percent.