



Border Business Indicators

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 demonstrated an increase of twelve indicators while ten indicators decreased. In addition, the end-of-year (EOY) figures, seventeen indicators were up and five decreased. Selected 2002 EOY comparisons to 2001 reported by border cities include the following:

- Southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico were up 2.5 percent. Laredo increased 1.6 percent, Rio Grande fell 60.9 percent, McAllen registered a decrease of 4.8 percent and El Paso increased 9.7 percent.
- Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 4.3 percent. Laredo gained 3.5 percent. El Paso went up 13.2 percent. McAllen marked a decrease of 4.5 percent.
- Southbound vehicle crossings were up 2.1 percent. Brownsville rose 1.1 percent, and Eagle Pass increased 7.4 percent. El Paso went down 10.9 percent and Pharr increased 6.3 percent. Laredo went up 0.4 percent. McAllen increased 6.8 percent.
- Northbound vehicle crossings were up 1.8 percent. Eagle Pass rose 7.0 percent. Roma increased 3.3 percent, El Paso went down 9.5 percent, Brownsville was up 6.8 percent and Pharr increased 6.1 percent.
- Southbound truck crossings into Mexico gained 2.4 percent. Eagle Pass went down 9.1 percent. Pharr increased 6.4 percent, and Laredo increased 3.8 percent. Del Rio was up 9.6 percent. Progreso rose 1.2 and Rio Grande decreased 1.1 percent.
- Northbound truck crossings into Texas went up 3.8 percent, Pharr rose 5.9 percent and Eagle Pass posted a 8.0 percent decrease. Brownsville decreased 0.3 percent, Laredo climbed 2.7 percent, Del Rio increased 20.2 percent. Rio Grande had a gain of 2.4 percent. Progreso went up 20.4 percent.
- Southbound shipments by rail were up 5.8 percent.
- Northbound shipments by rail were down 2.1 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Customs went up 0.5 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. bridge operators were up 8.1 percent.
- Total building permits issued were up 14.1 percent. Laredo fell 35.6 percent, Eagle Pass rose 3.8 percent, while McAllen gained 6.0 percent, and Brownsville registered an increase of 10.2 percent. El Paso showed a 58.4 percent increase.
- Total building permit values increased 26.4 percent. Laredo gained 12.2 percent, and Brownsville rose 1.2 percent. McAllen gained 7.1 percent. El Paso was up 60.4 percent, and Eagle Pass decreased 12.6 percent.
- Total employment was up 0.4 percent, with 1,946 jobs gained. The average unemployment rate for the border in December 2002 was 8.5 percent.

An error, in calculating Vehicles Bridge Crossing into Mexico for the city of Brownsville, occurred. This has been rectified. Correct totals for previous months may be viewed on-line at the Center's web site.

Visit the Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development's web site at <http://texascenter.tamui.edu>.

Border Research Reports

Reports are freely available for download (<http://texascenter.tamui.edu>) 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.

Border Research Reports Vol. I

Contained in this issue are summaries of the research projects funded under the 1999-2000 Texas Center Research Fellows Grant program. The opinions, ideas, and conclusions expressed are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Texas Center or Texas A&M International University.

- Benthic Macroinvertebrates as Monitors of Rio Grande Water Quality, by Dr. Tom Vaughan and Dr. Jose A. Flores.
- A Sociolinguistic Profile of Heritage Spanish Speakers in the Public Schools of Laredo, Tx., by Dr. Kati Pletsch de Garcia.
- Trade and the Environment: Perceptions from a Region on the Border , by Dr. David W. Yoskowitz.
- Language Code-Switching: A Psychological Analysis of Why Bilinguals Mix Spanish and English en la Frontera, by Dr. Roberto R. Heredia.
- Guerrero Archives*, by Dr. Stanley Green.

Border Research Reports Vol. II

Contained in this issue are summaries of the research projects funded under the 2000-2001 Texas Center Research Fellows Grant Program. The opinions, ideas, and conclusions expressed are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Texas Center or Texas A&M International University.

- Impoverished Consumers: The Lived Experience of Colonia Residents, by Dr. Jyotsna Mukherji.
- Rio Grande and Manadas Creek Water and Sediment Chronic Toxicity Studies, by Dr. Sushma Krishnamurthy
- The State of Child Care in Laredo, by Dr. Linda Medearis.
- Utilization of Physician Health Care Services in Mexico by Border Residents in Laredo, Texas, by Dr. Michael Landeck and Dr. Cecilia Garza.
- Characteristics of Successful Principals in a Border Town, Dr. Carolyn McCreight and Dr. Claudio Salinas.
- Utilization of Physician Health Care Service in Mexico by Border Residents in Laredo, TX, by Dr. Michael Landeck and Dr. Cecilia Garza.
- "Mi Futuro" : Sexual Abstinence Program (1999-2000) for Laredo Independent School District Middle Schools, by Dr. Sweetie Law.

*In production.

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.

Total U.S.-Mexico Trade Finished Down in 2002

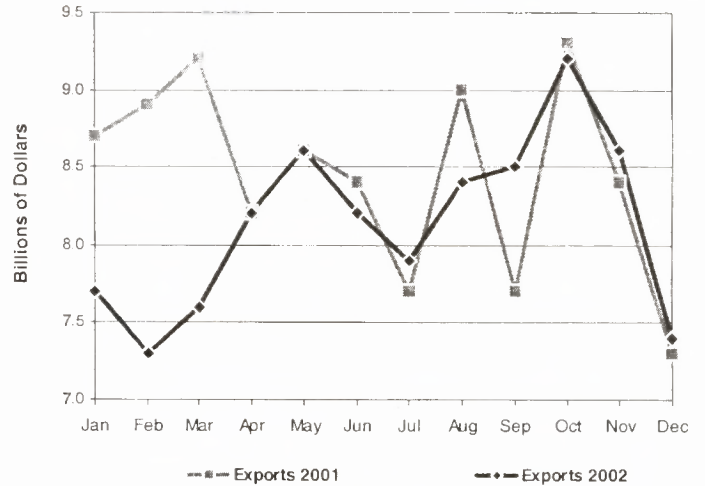
Total trade in dollar value between the U.S. and Mexico reached \$232.2 billion in 2002. In comparison to 2001 (\$232.9 billion), the value for 2002 finished short by 0.3 percent or approximately \$700.0 million. (See Charts 1A & 1B)

The drop in this dollar value was due to a decrease in U.S. exports to Mexico in the first quarter of 2002. Exports rebounded in the middle of the year, but not enough to offset the slow start. (See Chart 2) Total U.S. exports in 2002 ended 3.9 percent behind 2001.

The 2002 total trade figure did not suffer a greater shortfall due to the increase in U.S. imports from Mexico. At the start of April 2002, imports matched or surpassed the month-to-month trend of 2001. (See Chart 3) Total U.S. imports for the year 2002 marked a 2.5 percent increase over 2001.

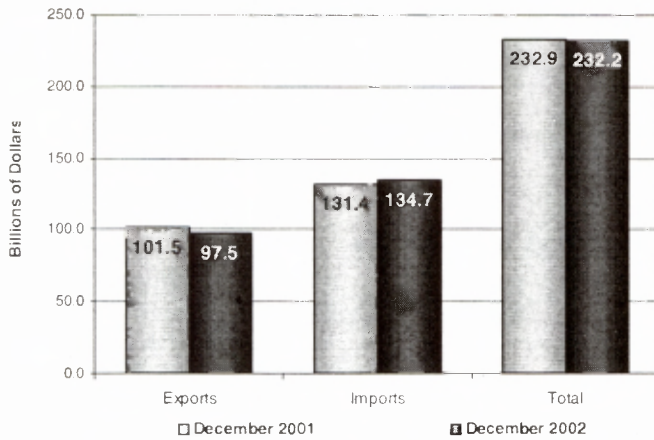
As for the balance of trade, the U.S. finished with a deficit of \$32.7 billion in 2002 with Mexico compared to \$29.9 billion in 2001, an increase of 24.4 percent. This increase was due to U.S. imports out performing U.S. exports. —*B. G. Garcia*

Chart 2 Monthly U.S. Exports to Mexico
December 2001 YTD vs. December 2002 YTD



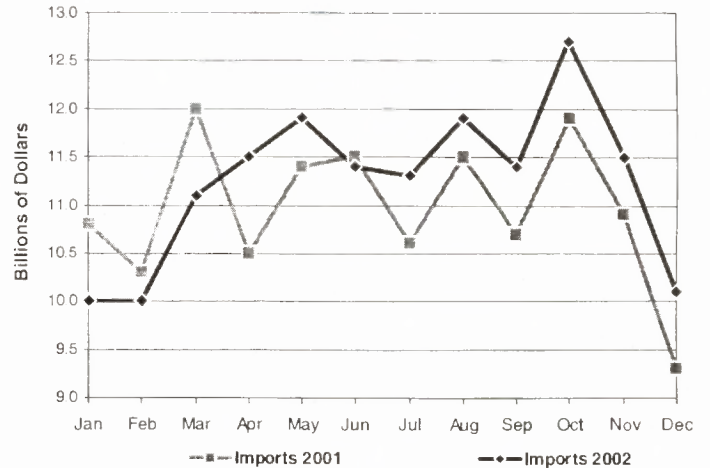
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce data compiled by the Texas Center at Texas A&M International University

Chart 1A U.S.-Mexico Trade
December 2001 YTD vs. December 2002 YTD



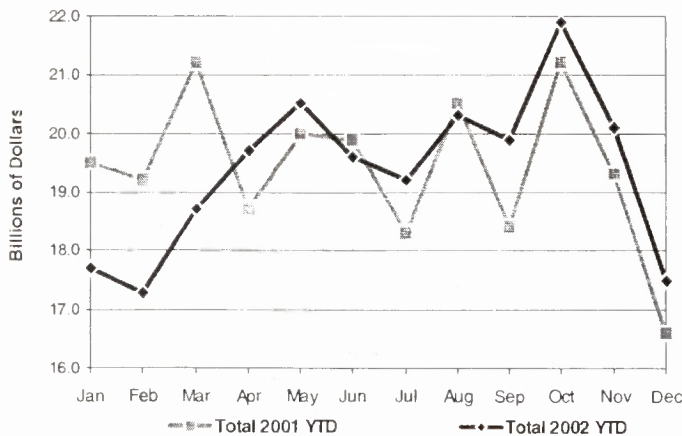
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce data compiled by the Texas Center at Texas A&M International University

Chart 3 Monthly U.S. Imports from Mexico
December 2001 YTD vs. December 2002 YTD



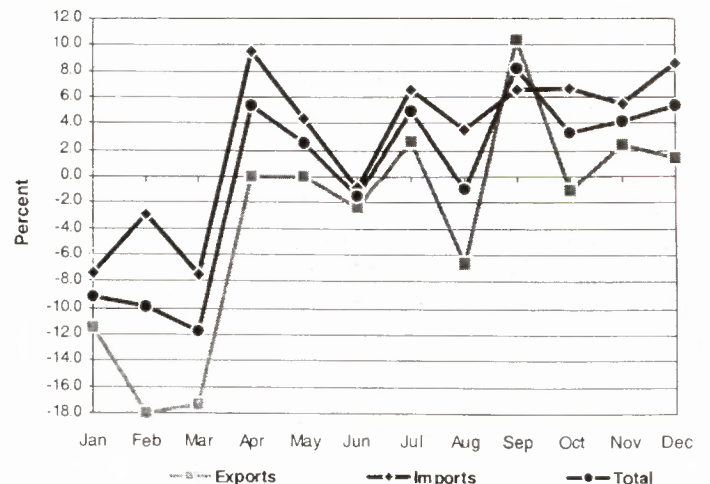
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce data compiled by the Texas Center at Texas A&M International University

Chart 1B U.S.-Mexico Trade, Monthly Totals
December 2001 YTD vs. December 2002 YTD



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce data compiled by the Texas Center at Texas A&M International University

Chart 4 U.S.-Mexico Trade, Monthly Percent Changes
December 2001 YTD vs. December 2002 YTD



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce data compiled by the Texas Center at Texas A&M International University

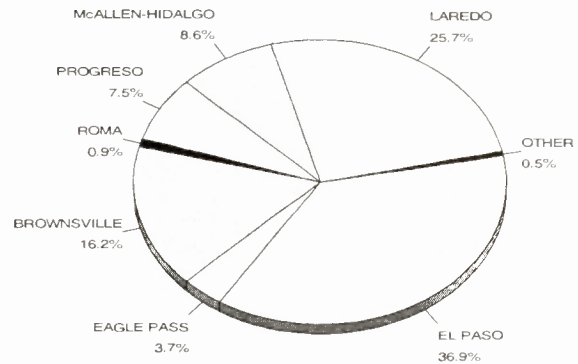
Pedestrian Bridge Crossings into Mexico

CITY	OCT 02	NOV 02	DEC 02	DEC 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	193,216	203,491	265,835	275,969	2,808,312	2,697,340	-4.0
DEL RIO	4,006	4,312	5,133	2,928	49,006	55,989	14.2
EAGLE PASS	46,062	47,858	61,158	67,176	628,353	599,676	-4.6
EL PASO	488,226	519,872	603,941	525,240	5,504,661	6,039,392	9.7
HARLINGEN	76	70	95	69	950	805	-15.3
LAREDO	339,216	360,818	420,910	416,031	4,159,473	4,225,008	1.6
McALLEN-HIDALGO	96,537	111,179	141,084	131,611	1,376,333	1,310,776	-4.8
PROGRESO	61,537	90,202	123,330	122,902	1,235,276	1,236,335	0.1
RIO GRANDE	146	90	250	284	10,258	4,009	-60.9
ROMA	11,849	12,731	15,538	14,932	158,086	151,904	-3.9
TOTAL	1,240,871	1,350,623	1,637,274	1,557,142	15,930,708	16,321,234	2.5

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

Southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico for December were up 21.2 percent. Rio Grande increased 177.8 percent, Brownsville gained 30.6 percent, Eagle Pass was up 27.8 percent, El Paso gained 16.2 percent, and Laredo increased 16.7 percent. Progreso rose 36.7 percent, and McAllen-Hidalgo went up 26.9 percent. Del Rio gained 19.0 percent. EOY southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico increased 2.5 percent. El Paso's southbound pedestrian crossings, which made up 37.0 percent of all crossings, increased 9.7 percent EOY. Laredo, accounting for 25.9 percent of total crossings, gained 1.6 percent EOY. Brownsville, with a 16.5 percent share, decreased 4.0 percent EOY. Progreso, with 7.6 percent share, increased 0.1 percent. Del Rio, with 0.3 percent, increased 14.2 percent EOY.

% Share Pedestrians for December 2002



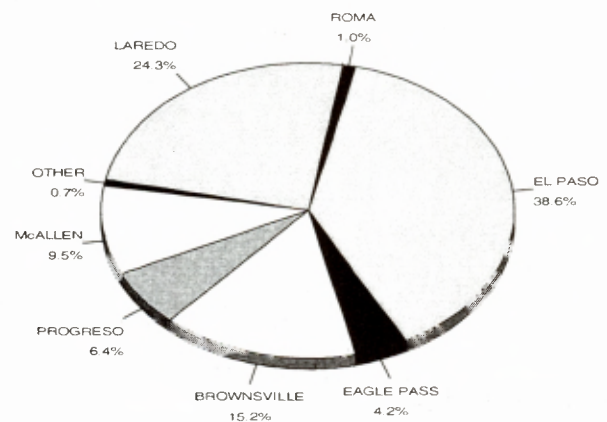
Pedestrian Bridge Crossings into Texas

CITY	OCT 02	NOV 02	DEC 02	DEC 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	216,762	227,147	297,417	320,283	3,198,168	3,044,681	-4.8
DEL RIO	6,491	7,876	8,306	7,757	93,207	91,408	-1.9
EAGLE PASS	61,409	60,606	82,879	87,943	825,665	777,741	-5.8
EL PASO	671,718	679,065	753,956	738,128	7,307,850	8,268,991	13.2
LAREDO	383,933	404,520	473,144	465,379	4,596,023	4,756,757	3.5
McALLEN-HIDALGO	120,560	143,919	185,480	175,619	1,768,897	1,689,153	-4.5
PRESIDIO	1,973	2,142	2,809	2,214	30,329	26,527	-12.5
PROGRESO	61,529	94,760	125,571	122,296	1,228,247	1,242,357	1.1
RIO GRANDE	1,000	1,061	1,595	1,426	15,686	16,847	7.4
ROMA	14,255	15,363	19,791	19,250	204,045	190,205	-6.8
TOTAL	1,539,630	1,636,459	1,950,948	1,940,295	19,268,117	20,104,667	4.3

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

Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 19.2 percent in December. Progreso increased 32.5 percent, Brownsville was up 30.9 percent, El Paso gained 11.0 percent, and Laredo went up 17.0 percent. EOY northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 4.3 percent. El Paso, accounting for 41.1 percent of northbound crossings, was up 13.2 percent EOY. Laredo, with 23.7 percent of all northbound crossings, was up 3.5 percent EOY. Brownsville, with 15.1 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings, decreased 4.8 percent over the previous year.

% Share Pedestrians for December 2002



Vehicle Bridge Crossings into Mexico

CITY	OCT 02	NOV 02	DEC 02	DEC 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	617,728	620,274	645,443	598,043	7,215,436	7,297,512	1.1
DEL RIO	170,896	173,368	183,579	181,849	1,908,268	2,084,760	9.2
EAGLE PASS	276,490	293,321	330,583	315,708	3,209,747	3,447,344	7.4
EL PASO	362,806	396,210	432,840	382,669	5,186,548	4,623,639	-10.9
HARLINGEN	51,342	54,547	61,404	57,193	581,912	680,071	16.9
LAREDO	724,656	717,052	795,472	772,128	8,613,606	8,646,109	0.4
McALLEN-HIDALGO	504,210	508,869	540,246	519,660	5,870,400	6,270,141	6.8
PHARR	176,538	176,198	187,596	172,473	2,026,749	2,154,224	6.3
PROGRESO	89,477	94,817	105,408	101,931	1,125,060	1,205,791	7.2
RIO GRANDE	54,713	57,884	47,816	64,263	628,525	688,193	9.5
ROMA	98,293	105,041	117,390	114,863	1,177,821	1,222,259	3.8
TOTAL	3,127,149	3,197,581	3,447,777	3,280,780	37,544,072	38,320,043	2.1

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 7.8 percent in December. Eagle Pass was up 12.7 percent, Del Rio increased 5.9 percent, Rio Grande fell 17.4 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo went up 6.2 percent, and Brownsville gained 4.1 percent. Harlingen increased 12.6 percent, and Laredo was up 10.9 percent. EOY southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 2.1 percent. Laredo, with 22.6 percent of all southbound traffic, gained 0.4

percent EOY. Brownsville, with 19.0 percent of all southbound vehicle bridge crossings, had a 1.1 percent increase EOY. El Paso, accounting for 12.1 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, fell 10.9 percent EOY. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 16.4 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, experienced a 6.8 percent increase EOY.

Vehicle Bridge Crossings into Texas

CITY	OCT 02	NOV 02	DEC 02	DEC 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	622,783	609,910	635,694	560,517	6,991,739	7,463,921	6.8
DEL RIO	173,904	171,673	178,122	179,421	1,956,960	2,124,083	8.5
EAGLE PASS	285,094	294,192	332,429	313,139	3,315,583	3,548,723	7.0
EL PASO	575,628	626,925	635,382	623,260	8,370,987	7,572,650	-9.5
HARLINGEN	64,033	65,538	75,132	80,050	753,820	863,459	14.5
LAREDO	621,889	607,134	651,669	607,193	7,657,231	7,488,576	-2.2
McALLEN-HIDALGO	475,048	457,724	482,996	459,114	5,401,575	5,779,314	7.0
PHARR	220,923	224,157	229,226	215,014	2,547,896	2,702,753	6.1
PRESIDIO	55,241	57,095	65,934	66,612	736,933	748,550	1.6
PROGRESO	89,668	94,267	106,282	109,872	1,137,123	1,218,534	7.2
RIO GRANDE	57,190	58,616	65,711	64,602	661,918	725,994	9.7
ROMA	98,246	102,036	114,987	113,447	1,191,862	1,231,012	3.3
TOTAL	3,339,647	3,369,267	3,573,564	3,392,241	40,723,627	41,467,569	1.8

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 6.1 percent. Eagle Pass gained 13.0 percent, Progreso was up 12.7 percent, Brownsville increased 4.2 percent, and McAllen-Hidalgo was up 5.5 percent. Presidio was up 15.5 percent, and Laredo increased 7.3 percent. EOY northbound vehicle bridge

crossings into Texas were up 1.8 percent. El Paso, with 18.3 percent of all crossings, was down 9.5 percent EOY. Laredo, with 18.1 percent of all crossings, fell 2.2 percent EOY. Brownsville, with 18.0 percent of all crossings, increased 6.8 percent EOY.

Truck Crossings into Mexico —Number of Trucks

CITY	OCT 02	NOV 02	DEC 02	DEC 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE+	18,482	16,510	15,463	16,429	217,731	215,573	-1.0
DEL RIO+	7,256	6,133	5,335	5,384	71,122	77,954	9.6
EAGLE PASS+	7,518	6,384	5,739	6,129	88,382	80,328	-9.1
EL PASO+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	N/A	N/A	N/A
HARLINGEN+	3,373	2,909	2,842	2,255	42,600	39,296	-7.8
LAREDO+	129,282	122,820	120,935	115,333	1,407,621	1,460,777	3.8
McALLEN-HIDALGO+	2,192	2,224	2,245	2,912	37,244	27,201	-27.0
PHARR+	23,779	21,272	19,558	18,727	258,386	274,968	6.4
PROGRESO+	2,652	1,793	1,912	1,970	25,724	26,024	1.2
RIO GRANDE+	1,778	1,512	1,327	1,774	21,940	21,693	-1.1
ROMA+	966	900	851	945	13,633	12,281	-9.9
TOTAL	197,278	182,457	176,207	171,858	2,184,383	2,236,095	2.4

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

+ 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.

Truck crossings into Mexico were down 3.4 percent in December. Harlingen dropped 2.3 percent, Del Rio lost 13.0 percent, and Pharr fell 8.1 percent. Laredo was down 1.5 percent and Brownsville decreased 6.3 percent. EOY southbound truck crossings were up 2.4 percent. Laredo, with 65.3 percent of all southbound crossings,

experienced a 3.8 percent increase EOY. Brownsville, with 9.6 percent of all southbound crossings, had a 1.0 percent decrease EOY. Pharr, with 12.3 percent, registered a gain of 6.4 percent EOY. Eagle Pass, with 3.6 percent of all truck crossings, fell 9.1 percent EOY.

Truck Crossings into Texas —Number of Trucks

CITY	OCT 02	NOV 02	DEC 02	DEC 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	22,416	17,955	17,175	18,267	251,613	250,869	-0.3
DEL RIO	6,919	5,237	4,109	4,785	59,942	72,042	20.2
EAGLE PASS	8,593	7,111	6,139	6,491	97,658	89,856	-8.0
EL PASO	66,541	58,607	48,001	49,721	665,900	711,199	6.8
FABENS	0	0	0	0	108	0	-100.0
FALCON	31	40	22	47	366	353	-3.6
LAREDO	131,048	118,883	110,167	106,401	1,404,184	1,441,653	2.7
McALLEN-HIDALGO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
PHARR	34,884	30,273	27,895	27,423	368,395	390,282	5.9
PRESIDIO	428	517	641	753	7,114	6,605	-7.2
PROGRESO	1,864	1,601	1,735	1,952	19,844	23,886	20.4
RIO GRANDE	2,427	2,007	2,104	1,850	25,724	26,330	2.4
ROMA	702	603	529	758	11,587	9,640	-16.8
TOTAL	275,853	242,834	218,517	218,448	2,912,435	3,022,715	3.8

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 were down 10.0 percent. Eagle Pass was down 13.7 percent, Brownsville fell 4.3 percent, Progreso gained 8.4 percent, Pharr went down 7.9 percent, and Laredo lost 7.3 percent. Roma decreased 12.3 percent. EOY northbound truck crossings were up 3.8 percent. Laredo, account-

ing for 47.7 percent of all northbound truck crossings, had a 2.7 percent increase EOY. Pharr, with 12.9 percent of all crossings, experienced a 5.9 percent increase EOY. Brownsville, with 8.3 percent of all northbound truck crossings, experienced a 0.3 percent lost EOY.

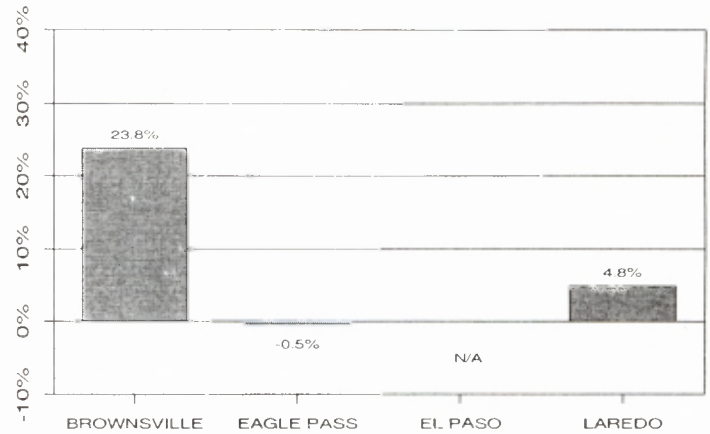
Export Shipments by Rail into Mexico —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	OCT 02	NOV 02	DEC 02	DEC 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	4,866	4,123	4,098	4,097	40,642	50,309	23.8
EAGLE PASS	6,855	6,776	6,605	7,401	86,038	85,636	-0.5
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	18,199	17,501	15,783	14,866	182,244	190,974	4.8
TOTAL	29,920	28,400	26,486	26,364	308,924	326,919	5.8

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 lost 6.7 percent in December. Brownsville fell 0.6 percent, and Laredo decreased 9.8 percent. Eagle Pass went down 2.5 percent. EOY southbound rail shipments into Mexico from Texas were up 5.8 percent. Laredo, which accounted for 58.4 percent of all southbound rail shipments, was up 4.8 percent EOY. Eagle Pass, accounting for 26.2 percent of all southbound rail shipments, decreased 0.5 percent EOY. Brownsville, with 15.4 percent of all southbound rail shipments, showed an increase of 23.8 percent EOY.

Export Rail EOY % Change 01-02



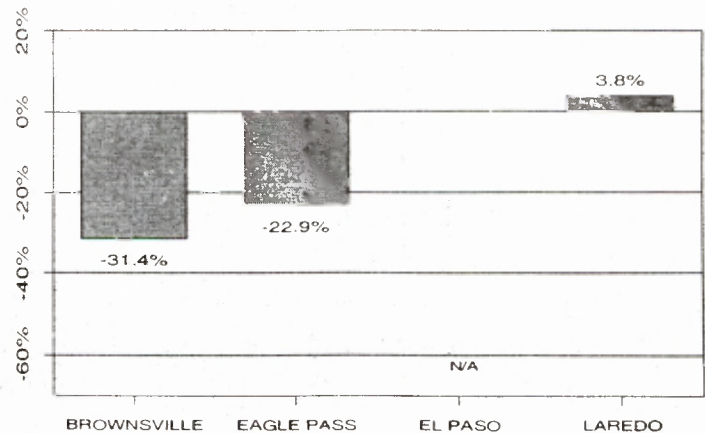
Import Shipments by Rail into Texas —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	OCT 02	NOV 02	DEC 02	DEC 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	722	700	929	452	11,415	7,832	-31.4
EAGLE PASS	1,980	1,743	1,295	1,944	31,392	24,208	-22.9
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	16,518	15,079	12,473	12,339	168,376	174,762	3.8
TOTAL	19,220	17,522	14,697	14,735	211,183	206,802	-2.1

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

Northbound rail shipments into Texas decreased 16.1 percent in December. Laredo decreased 17.3 percent, Brownsville gained 32.7 percent, and Eagle Pass lost 25.7 percent. EOY total northbound shipments into Texas from Mexico were down 2.1 percent. Laredo, which accounted for 84.5 percent of all northbound rail shipments, was up 3.8 percent EOY. Eagle Pass, accounting for 11.7 percent of all northbound rail shipments, fell 22.9 percent EOY. Brownsville, with 3.8 percent of all northbound rail shipments, decreased 31.4 percent EOY.

Import Rail EOY % Change 01-02



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

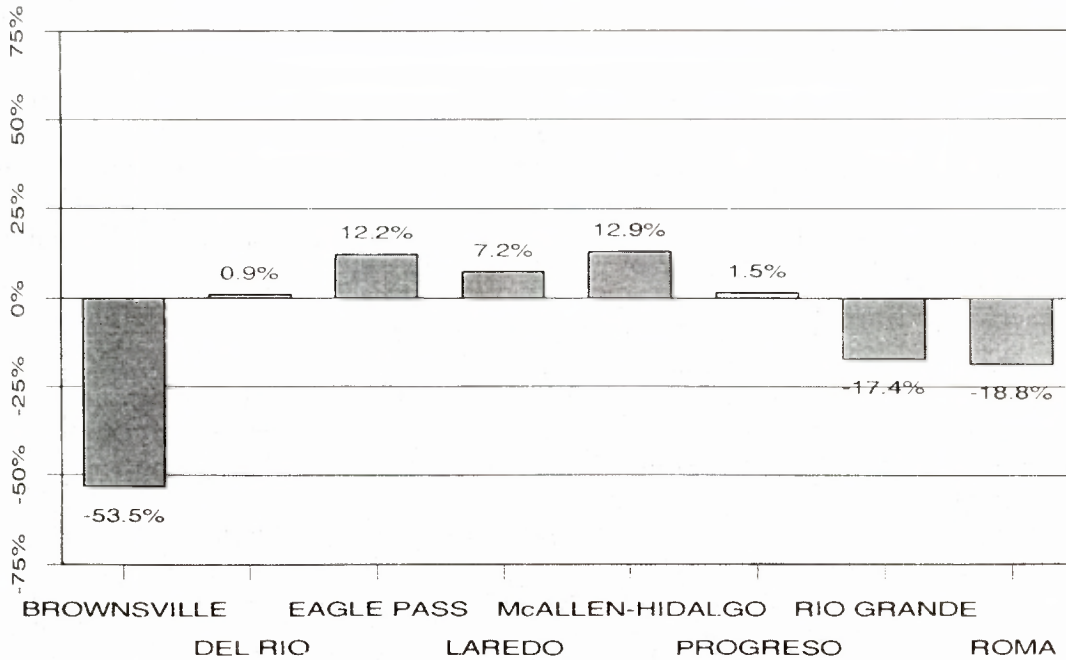
CITY	DUTY	MPF	OTHER	TOTAL	TOTAL	YTD	YTD	YTD % CHG
	DEC 02	DEC 02	REVENUE DEC 02	REVENUE DEC 02	REVENUE DEC 01	REVENUE DEC 01	REVENUE DEC 02	
BROWNSVILLE	1,225,448	147,781	214,126	1,587,355	2,370,899	40,587,406	18,873,296	-53.5
DEL RIO	110,324	32,769	22,699	165,793	281,692	2,287,401	2,307,723	0.9
EAGLE PASS	262,668	11,801	2,294,343	2,568,813	1,510,115	36,310,158	40,755,796	12.2
LAREDO	6,724,091	638,509	7,484,606	14,847,206	13,545,290	213,225,688	228,530,002	7.2
McALLEN-HIDALGO	1,398,378	284,995	183,861	1,867,234	2,358,302	29,128,306	32,889,398	12.9
PROGRESO	0	453	17,073	17,526	17,318	217,256	220,599	1.5
RIO GRANDE	24,296	4,058	7,918	36,272	54,082	734,992	607,084	-17.4
ROMA	4,801	482	23,230	28,513	23,190	326,824	265,433	-18.8
TOTAL	9,750,007	1,120,849	10,247,856	21,118,711	20,160,887	322,818,030	324,449,331	0.5

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

In December, total U.S. Customs revenues for the former District of Laredo had a loss of 23.1 percent. McAllen-Hidalgo was down 7.9 percent, Rio Grande increased 17.0 percent, Progreso increased 22.4 percent, Roma was up 67.1 percent, Laredo went down 28.2 percent, Eagle Pass decreased 9.3 percent, Brownsville gained 7.8 percent, and Del Rio was down 57.2 percent. EOY revenues for the border were up 0.5 percent compared to December 2001. Laredo,

accounting for 70.4 percent share of the former district's revenue was up 7.2 percent EOY. Brownsville, with 5.8 percent share of total revenues, was down 53.5 percent EOY. Eagle Pass, accounting for 12.6 percent of all revenues, was up 12.2 percent EOY. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 10.1 percent of total revenues, increased 12.9 percent EOY.

% Change Total Revenues EOY 01-02



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

CITY	OCT 02	NOV 02	DEC 02	DEC 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	1,169,888	1,143,101	1,202,416	978,181	10,887,212	12,663,941	16.3
DEL RIO	413,814	423,955	431,219	422,522	4,567,540	5,038,791	10.3
EAGLE PASS	685,836	681,766	764,229	671,862	7,093,660	7,517,264	6.0
EL PASO	878,472	872,206	896,932	881,533	11,137,185	10,311,537	-7.4
HARLINGEN	143,628	145,372	164,123	120,837	1,382,384	1,648,251	19.2
LAREDO	2,828,862	2,738,434	2,866,702	2,789,251	28,995,658	32,388,893	11.7
McALLEN-HIDALGO	811,182	819,805	871,763	845,573	9,617,243	10,063,460	4.6
PHARR	504,357	429,314	474,070	427,700	5,087,308	5,532,927	8.8
TOTAL	7,436,039	7,253,952	7,671,455	7,137,459	78,768,189	85,165,063	8.1

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 gained 5.8 percent in the month of December. Pharr went up 10.4 percent, Brownsville increased 5.2 percent, Laredo rose 4.7 percent. Del Rio was up 1.7 percent, Harlingen went up 12.9 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo increased 6.3 percent, Eagle Pass gained 12.1 percent, and El Paso went up 2.8 percent. EOY U.S. bridge operators' revenues were up 8.1 percent. Laredo, accounting for 38.0 percent of total U.S. bridge operators'

revenues collected, had a 11.7 percent increase EOY. El Paso, accounting for 12.1 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues, went down 7.4 percent EOY. Brownsville, accounting for 14.9 percent, was up 16.3 percent EOY. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 11.8 percent of the total bridge revenues, increased 4.6 percent EOY. Eagle Pass, with 8.8 percent of the total bridge revenues, went up 6.0 percent EOY.

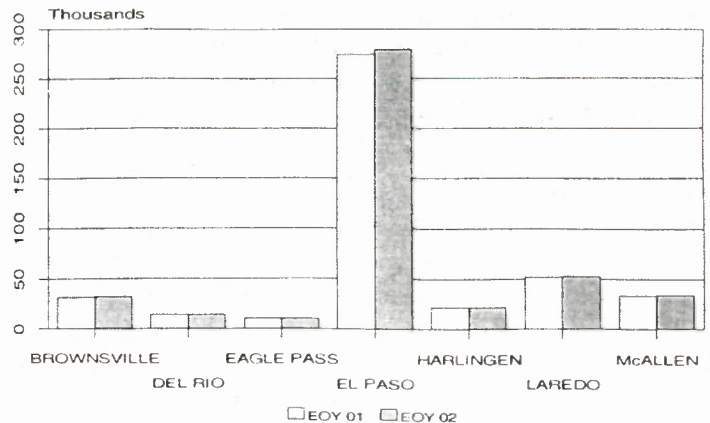
Power Connections—Texas Border Residential Connections

CITY	OCT 02	NOV 02	DEC 02	DEC 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	33,239	31,978	33,109	31,804	31,424	32,244	2.6
DEL RIO	14,314	14,219	14,281	14,141	14,108	14,134	0.2
EAGLE PASS	9,961	10,033	10,051	9,984	9,859	9,951	0.9
EL PASO	280,962	281,425	281,874	276,200	274,017	279,482	2.0
HARLINGEN	21,834	21,911	22,106	22,195	21,852	21,828	-0.1
LAREDO	52,825	52,579	53,020	52,349	51,865	52,413	1.1
McALLEN	33,845	33,842	34,193	34,165	33,063	33,955	2.7
TOTAL	446,980	445,987	448,634	440,838	436,188	444,007	1.8

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 total residential power connections for cited Texas border cities rose 0.6 percent. EOY residential power connections were up 1.8 percent. Laredo was up 1.1 percent, McAllen increased 2.7 percent, Del Rio gained 0.2 percent, Harlingen fell 0.1 percent, Eagle Pass was up 0.9 percent, and Brownsville gained 2.6 percent.

EOY AVG December 01-02



Power Connections – Texas Border (Cont'd)

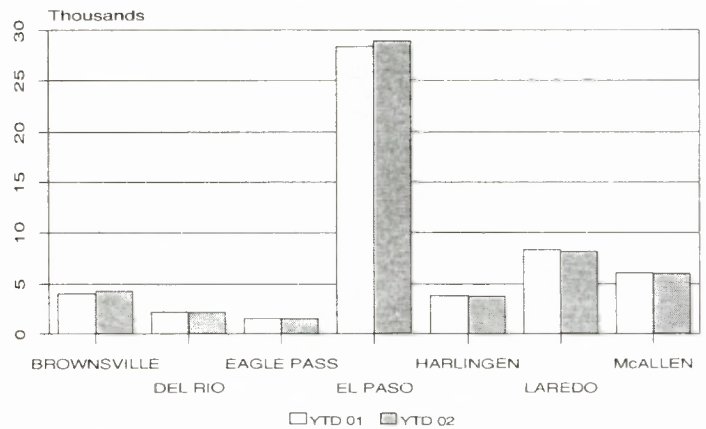
Commercial Connections

CITY	OCT 02	NOV 02	DEC 02	DEC 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	4,614	4,048	4,266	4,118	4,012	4,263	6.3
DEL RIO	2,235	2,203	2,244	2,124	2,152	2,173	1.0
EAGLE PASS	1,566	1,533	1,561	1,585	1,551	1,526	-1.6
EL PASO	29,107	29,160	29,281	28,573	28,346	28,962	2.2
HARLINGEN	3,854	3,810	3,866	3,849	3,845	3,768	-2.0
LAREDO	8,438	8,323	8,375	8,368	8,335	8,177	-1.9
McALLEN	6,104	5,994	6,080	6,076	6,072	6,014	-1.0
TOTAL	55,918	55,097	55,673	54,693	54,313	54,883	1.0

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 total commercial power connections for cited Texas border cities increased 1.1 percent. EOY averages of commercial power connections increased 1.0 percent. Harlingen was down 2.0 percent, Eagle Pass fell 1.6 percent, Laredo declined 1.9 percent, McAllen was down 1.0 percent, Del Rio gained 1.0 percent, El Paso gained 2.2 percent, and Brownsville increased 6.3

EOY AVG December 01-02



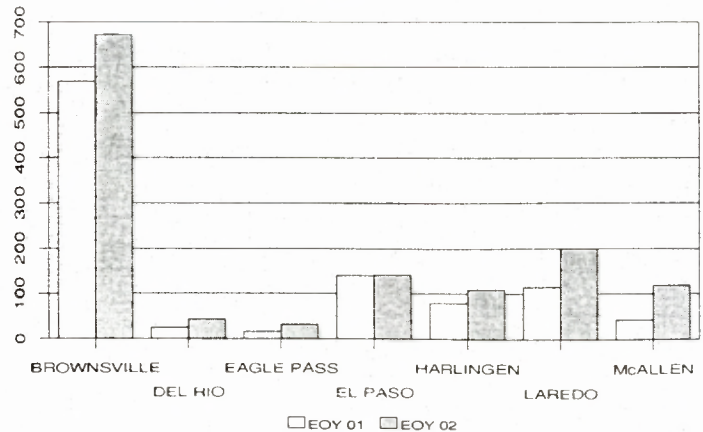
Industrial Connections

CITY	OCT 02	NOV 02	DEC 02	DEC 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	784	769	754	623	570	672	17.9
DEL RIO	44	43	43	24	25	43	73.7
EAGLE PASS	32	29	29	17	15	31	102.2
EL PASO	144	142	141	140	140	141	1.0
HARLINGEN	117	109	109	76	79	109	37.4
LAREDO	209	209	208	108	114	200	76.2
McALLEN	124	133	118	34	43	118	177.7
TOTAL	1,454	1,434	1,402	1,022	985	1,314	33.4

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 total industrial power connections for cited Texas border cities were down 2.2 percent. EOY averages of industrial power connections increased 33.4 percent. El Paso increased 1.0 percent, Harlingen rose 37.4 percent, Laredo was up 76.2 percent, and Brownsville gained 17.9 percent.

EOY AVG December 01-02



Building Permits — Texas Border

Number of Permits

NUMBER	OCT 02	NOV 02	DEC 02	DEC 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	368	261	242	224	3,800	4,189	10.2
DEL RIO	129	83	52	17	598	1,565	161.7
EAGLE PASS	53	44	30	37	532	552	3.8
EL PASO	1,067	608	564	413	6,937	10,988	58.4
HARLINGEN	49	55	71	56	779	825	5.9
LAREDO	314	214	189	435	7,166	4,616	-35.6
MCALLEN	114	93	77	106	1,639	1,737	6.0
TOTAL	2,094	1,358	1,225	1,288	21,451	24,472	14.1

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

December building permits issued by reporting Texas border cities were down 9.8 percent. Eagle Pass decreased 31.8 percent, El Paso went down 7.2 percent, and Laredo lost 11.7 percent. McAllen declined 17.2 percent, and Brownsville fell 7.3 percent. EOY, the number of permits issued climbed 14.1 percent. El Paso, account-

ing for 44.9 percent of all building permits issued, had an increase of 58.4 percent EOY. Laredo, with 18.9 percent of building permits issued, was down 35.6 percent EOY. Brownsville, with 17.1 percent of building permits issued, increased 10.2 percent EOY.

U.S. Dollar Value of Permits

VALUE	OCT 02	NOV 02	DEC 02	DEC 01	YTD 01	YTD 02	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	19,439,483	11,922,458	11,175,385	9,749,419	211,295,408	213,797,600	1.2
DEL RIO	5,547,127	585,265	1,646,486	254,016	13,888,069	47,070,474	238.9
EAGLE PASS	3,070,423	2,004,949	993,167	3,508,970	31,845,133	27,842,846	-12.6
EL PASO	57,550,292	42,870,050	36,334,824	36,941,829	476,629,833	764,531,288	60.4
HARLINGEN	4,831,094	6,556,026	6,900,976	6,375,212	98,328,244	76,618,821	-22.1
LAREDO	25,938,935	21,869,883	15,185,391	17,603,988	300,318,328	337,009,047	12.2
MCALLEN	8,452,132	9,323,486	8,325,951	10,465,475	181,748,182	194,736,214	7.1
TOTAL	124,829,486	95,132,117	80,562,179	84,898,909	1,314,053,197	1,661,606,291	26.4

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

December building permit values for reporting Texas border cities were down 15.3 percent. Harlingen increased 5.3 percent, McAllen decreased 10.7 percent, and El Paso dropped 15.2 percent. Brownsville fell 6.3 percent. Laredo decreased 30.6 percent. Eagle Pass dropped 50.5 percent. EOY reporting border cities experienced a 26.4 percent increase in building permit values. El Paso,

with 46.0 percent of total building permit values, increased 60.4 percent EOY. Laredo, with 20.3 percent of total building permit values, gained 12.2 percent EOY. Brownsville, with 12.9 percent of total building permit values, rose 1.2 percent. Eagle Pass with 1.7 percent of total building permits, decreased 12.6 percent.