

The Texas Border Region Enjoys a Decade of Strong Growth

Presented by
Michael Patrick, Director
Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development
Texas A&M International University

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- During the 1990s, the Texas border region enjoyed strong growth in population, employment, and industry sales.

Table 1
Growth in Population, Employment, and Industry Sales, 1990-99

	Population		Employment		Industry Sales	
	1999 (thousands)	Chg. 90-99 (percent)	1999 (thousands)	Chg. 90-99 (percent)	1999 (\$ millions)	Chg. 90-99 (percent)
Metropolitan Area						
Brownsville	317.8	22.2	101.9	33.6	4,374.5	9.1
McAllen	527.7	37.6	147.5	44.9	7,761.4	61.6
Laredo	198.3	48.8	68.4	52.3	3,610.6	32.9
El Paso	694.7	17.4	256.6	22.8	16,824.0	91.1
State	19,925.6	17.3	9,383.0	32.2	773,126.8	72.4

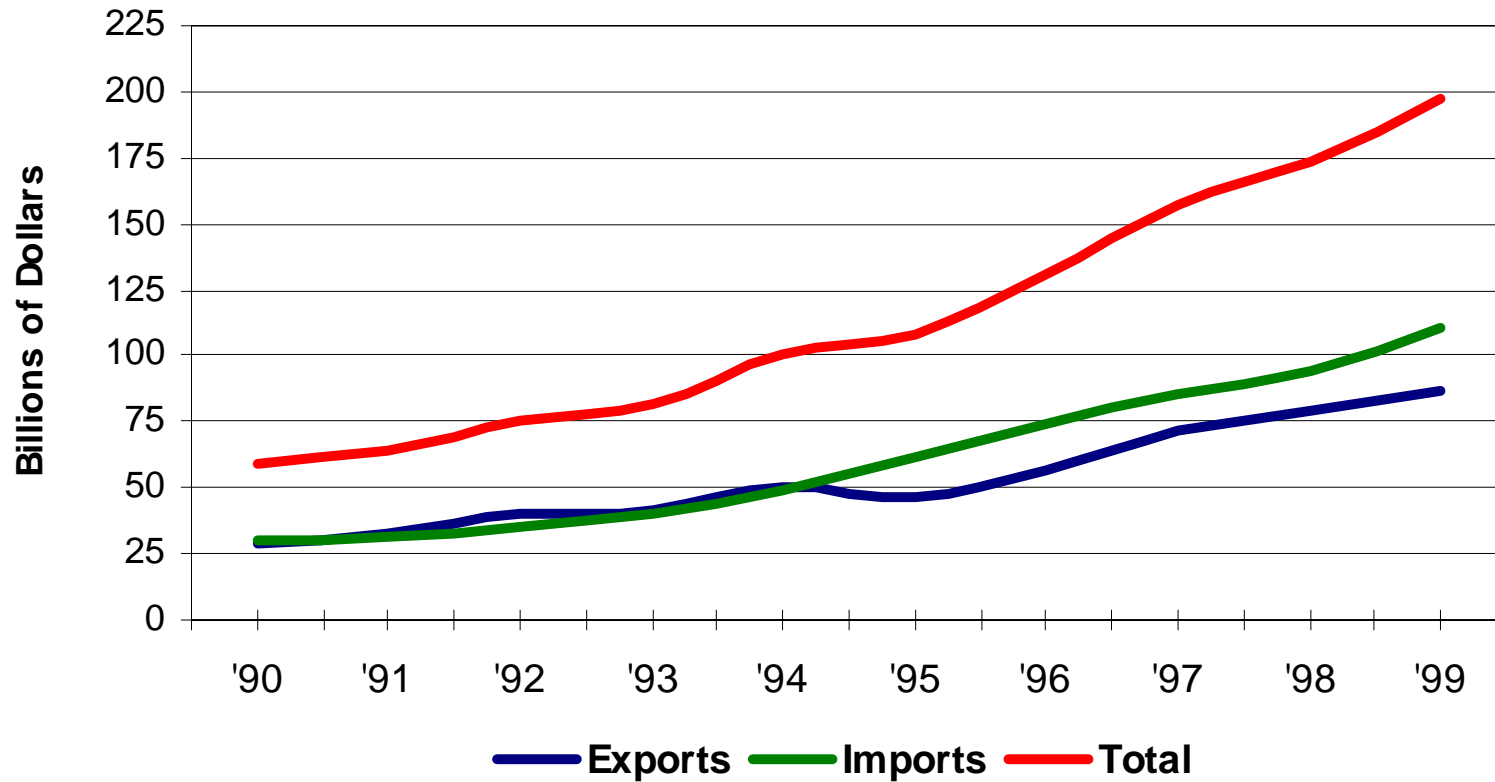
Source: Texas State Data Center, Texas A&M University; Texas Workforce Commission; Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

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- Growth in the Texas border region has been fueled by the strong surge in U.S.-Mexico trade, cross-border commerce, and construction.



Chart 1
U.S.-Mexico Trade, 1990-1999
(Billions of Dollars)



**Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Division,
Data Dissemination Branch, Washinton, D.C.**



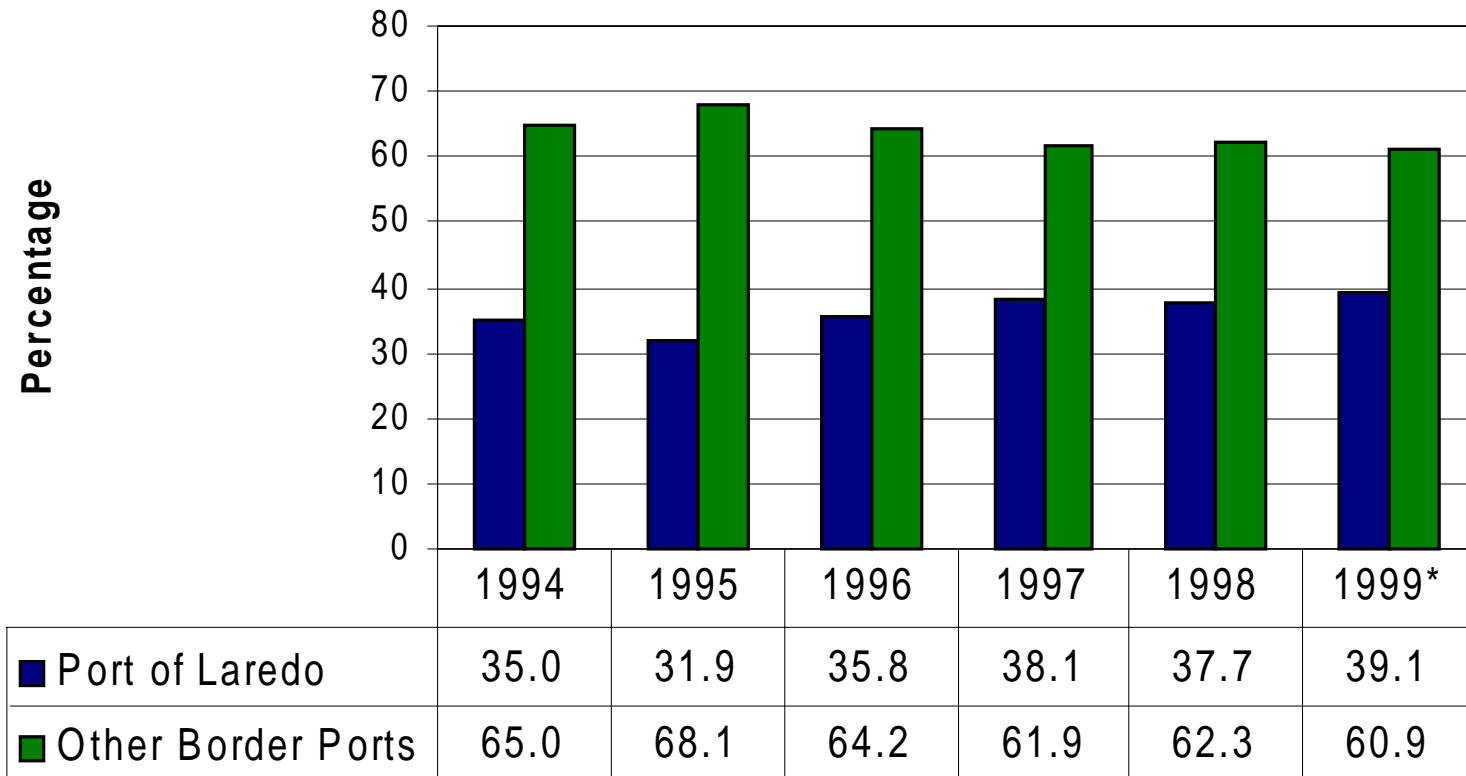
Table 2
Total Import/Export Trade Value for Selected Border Ports, 1999
(U.S. Dollars)

Laredo, TX	65,092,223,334
El Paso, TX	32,752,333,459
Otay Mesa Station, CA	14,859,002,130
Nogales, AZ	10,505,242,680
Brownsville, TX	10,065,870,638

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



Chart 2
Laredo's Share of Overland Trade, 1994-1999*
(Percentage)

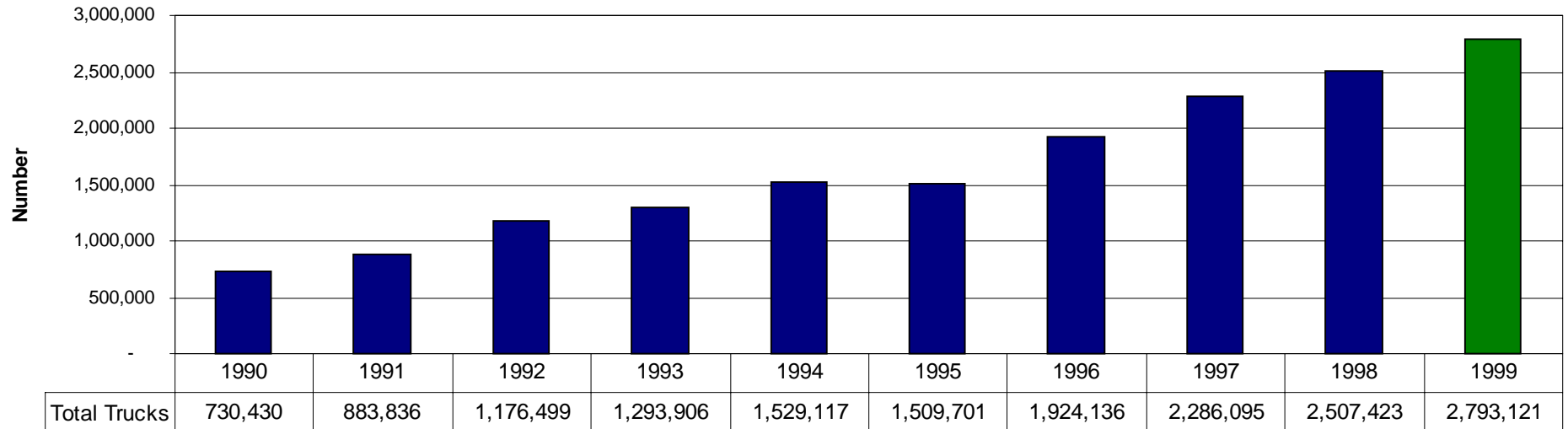


Source: U.S. Department of Commerce data compiled by the Texas Center at Texas A&M International University.

*Estimate



Chart 3
Total Truck Crossings at Laredo
(North and South)



Source: U.S. Bridge Operators and U.S. Customs Service's data compiled by the Texas Center at Texas A&M International University.

Table 3
Growth in Trade, Commerce, and Construction, 1990-99

	Trade (1)		Commerce (2)		Construction	
	1999 (thousands)	Chg. 90-99 (percent)	1999 (\$ millions)	Chg. 90-99 (percent)	1999 (\$ millions)	Chg. 90-99 (percent)
Metropolitan Area						
Brownsville	708.5	93.9	3,007.1	29.1	153.2	136.8
McAllen	587.1	85.6	5,435.7	48.0	389.6	123.8
Laredo	2,744.5	231.2	2,890.0	38.0	88.0	175.0
El Paso	NA	NA	10,117.9	67.6	772.1	154.6

(1) Includes truck and rail crossings for Brownsville and Laredo; only truck crossings for McAllen. Data not available for El Paso.

(2) Includes wholesale and retail trade

Source: Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development, Texas A&M International University; Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

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- Overall, the Texas border region experienced net job gains in the 1990s. Not all sectors, however, enjoyed job gains, some experienced losses.

Table 4
Net Job Creation 1990-1999

	Jobs Created	Jobs Lost	Net Jobs Gained	Jobs Created per Jobs Lost
Texas	1,613,445	48,547	1,564,898	33.2
El Paso MA	37,095	7,739	29,357	4.8
McAllen MA	30,158	4,771	25,386	6.3
Brownsville MA	18,133	3,019	15,115	6.0
Laredo MA	15,726	1,148	14,578	13.7

Source: Texas Workforce Commission

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- The fastest growing sectors in the Texas border region during the 1990s include transportation, construction, and services.

Table 5
Fastest Growing Sectors, 1990-1999

	Sector	Jobs Added (Number)	Chg. '90-'99 (Percent)
Brownsville MA	Services	9,404	54.5
	Transportation, Communications, Utilities	1,389	43.4
	Construction	959	40.7
McAllen MA	Services	13,935	81.1
	Transportation, Communications, Utilities	2,203	74.1
	Construction	2,566	58.1
Laredo MA	Transportation, Communications, Utilities	4,767	77.0
	Construction	917	65.6
	Services	4,581	64.0
El Paso MA	Construction	3,310	39.7
	Transportation, Communications, Utilities	3,321	34.0
	Services	13,308	32.6

Source: Texas Workforce Commission

Table 6
Job Categories: Top Five Gainers 1990-1999

	Job Category	Number of Jobs (Number)	Percent Gain (Percent)
Brownsville MA	1. Health Services	5,901	76.7
	2. Business Services	1,583	130.7
	3. Social Services	1,578	95.1
	4. Eating & Drinking Places	1,463	28.7
	5. Transportation Equipment	1,103	108.2
McAllen MA	1. Health Services	9,522	135.6
	2. Eating & Drinking Places	4,284	67.6
	3. Special Trade Contractors	1,769	69.5
	4. Business Services	1,464	69.4
	5. General Merchandise Stores	1,216	32.5
Laredo MA	1. Transportation Services	2,990	99.7
	2. Health Services	2,681	94.4
	3. Trucking & Warehousing	1,210	54.5
	4. Eating & Drinking Places	1,055	34.3
	5. Oil & Gas Extraction	765	48.9
El Paso MA	1. Business Services	6,560	68.8
	2. Health Services	4,063	32.1
	3. Eating & Drinking Places	3,206	22.9
	4. Trucking & Warehousing	2,085	56.7
	5. Special Trade Contractors	1,772	34.1

Source: Texas Workforce Commission

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- The slowest growing sectors in the Texas border region during the 1990s include agriculture, manufacturing, and trade.

Table 7
Slowest Growing Sectors, 1990-1999

	Sector	Jobs Added (Number)	Chg. '90-'99 (percent)
Brownsville Metropolitan Area	Agriculture	-397	-20.9
	Fin.,Ins.,&R.E.	118	3.4
	Manufacturing	545	4.6
McAllen Metropolitan Area	Agriculture	-1,917	-22.3
	Manufacturing	-1,119	-8.8
	Wholesale Trade	491	7.8
Laredo Metropolitan Area	Manufacturing	-757	-60.3
	Retail Trade	1,865	15.9
	Wholesale Trade	731	28.8
El Paso Metropolitan Area	Wholesale Trade	1,283	10.6
	Fin.,Ins.,& R.E.	989	12.6
	Retail Trade	5,166	12.8

Source: Texas Workforce Commission

Table 8
Job Categories: Top Five Losers 1990-1999

	Job Category	Number of Jobs (Number)	Percent Loss (Percent)
Brownsville Metropolitan Area	1. Food & Kindred Products	-403	-21.8
	2. Industrial Machinery & Equipment	-388	-43.5
	3. Eng. & Management Services	-345	-35.5
	4. Stone, Clay & Glass Products	-246	-33.6
	5. Agricultural Products-Crops	-190	-16.5
McAllen Metropolitan Area	1. Food & Kindred Products	-1,583	-36.1
	2. Agricultural Products-Crops	-1,248	-28.7
	3. Agricultural Services	-631	-15.7
	4. Wholesale Trade-Nondurables	-462	-11.4
	5. Apparel & Other Textile Products	-369	-7.9
Laredo Metropolitan Area	1. Electronic & Other Electric Equip	-243	-100.0
	2. Food & Kindred Products	-186	-82.7
	3. Leather & Leather Products	-159	-100.0
	4. Hotels & Other Lodging Places	-108	-11.6
	5. Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	-64	-22.9
El Paso Metropolitan Area	1. Personal Services	-1,582	-39.2
	2. Food & Kindred Products	-999	-27.5
	3. Apparel & Other Textile Products	-812	-5.2
	4. Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	-761	-29.1
	5. Depository Institutions	-714	-21.2

Source: Texas Workforce Commission

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Conclusions:

- The pattern of employment gains and losses in the Texas border region in the 1990s reflects the demographics of the region (i.e., rapid population growth, rising per-capita incomes), increased trade and commerce between the U.S. and Mexico, and the concomitant growth in infrastructure and services.
- The loss of jobs in labor-intensive agriculture production, food processing, apparel/textiles, and electronics assembly operations is consistent with the NAFTA predictions for employment in the region.

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Conclusions:

- Barring any significant long term downturn in Mexico's economy, expansion of U.S.-Mexico trade and commerce, the driving force behind the Texas border region's strong growth in the 1990s, is forecast to continue well into the 21st century.
- The Texas border region has not yet, in any significant way, been able to plug into the rapidly expanding industrial base of Mexico's northern border states.