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Border Business Indicators

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

Government Publications
Texas State Documents Vol. 23, No. 8
August 1999

APR 13 2000

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Note from the Director

Indicators of border business activity for the month of June demonstrated a significant increase of sixteen indicators over eight indicators that decreased. In addition, for the year-to-date (YTD) figures, ten indicators were up and two were down. Selected YTD comparisons to 1998 reported by border cities include the following:

- Southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico were down 2.9 percent. Harlingen dropped 23.8 percent, Del Rio fell 11.5 percent, Brownsville was off 6.8 percent and Rio Grande declined 4.1 percent.
- Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 1.0 percent. Roma increased 29.1 percent, Progreso rose 12.6 percent, while Laredo jumped 8.3 percent and Eagle Pass gained 5.5 percent.
- Southbound vehicle crossings were up 5.7 percent. Roma rose 22.3 percent, Harlingen increased 21.5 percent, Pharr and Progreso gained 15.6 percent, and McAllen-Hidalgo jumped 13.7 percent.
- Northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 9.1 percent. Harlingen jumped 24.5 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo increased 23.0 percent, Progreso gained 16.0 percent and Presidio posted an increase of 15.9 percent YTD.
- Southbound truck shipments into Mexico were up 4.7 percent. Progreso increased 48.0 percent, Roma rose 39.7 percent and Eagle Pass was up 35.7 percent.
- Northbound truck shipments into Texas were up 11.8 percent with Roma increasing 25.3 percent, Pharr gained 21.4 percent and Eagle Pass posted a 19.2 percent increase YTD.
- Southbound shipments by rail were up 8.6 percent.
- Northbound shipments by rail were up 19.8 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Customs were down slightly by 0.5 percent YTD.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Bridge operators were up 13.1 percent.
- Building permits issued were up 8.8 percent. Laredo rose 23.9 percent, Brownsville gained 12.8 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo was up 7.2 percent, while Eagle Pass declined 2.1 percent.
- Building permit values were up with a YTD increase of 30.5 percent. Harlingen increased 115.0 percent, McAllen was up 75.6 percent, El Paso rose 25.3 percent and Laredo reported a 24.2 percent increase.
- Total employment was up with 9,225 jobs lost YTD. The average unemployment rate in June 1999 was 10.6 percent for the border.

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Technical Reports Available

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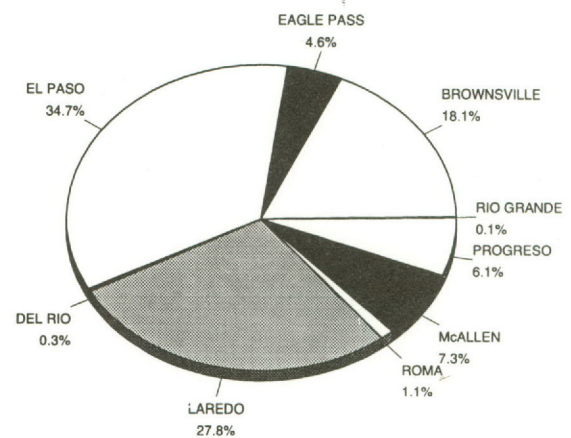
Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	APR 99	MAY 99	JUN 99	JUN 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	247,967	231,958	214,585	236,337	1,626,900	1,515,939	-6.8
DEL RIO	4,661	3,207	3,991	3,478	31,014	27,458	-11.5
EAGLE PASS	58,751	66,277	54,545	43,226	332,728	353,011	6.1
EL PASO	426,042	446,451	411,056	370,956	2,276,859	2,548,871	11.9
HARLINGEN	260	0	162	185	554	422	-23.8
LAREDO	387,958	356,021	328,852	296,720	2,041,835	2,116,989	3.7
McALLEN-HIDALGO	104,622	101,606	86,117	95,927	709,745	628,575	-11.4
PROGRESO	95,281	79,671	72,062	86,221	751,902	806,927	7.3
RIO GRANDE	747	656	668	556	4,941	4,736	-4.1
ROMA	15,767	15,200	12,857	13,652	93,028	95,885	3.1
TOTAL	1,342,056	1,301,047	1,184,895	1,147,258	7,869,506	8,098,813	2.9

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 June were down 8.9 percent compared to May. Eagle Pass declined 17.7 percent, Roma fell 15.4 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo was down 15.2 percent and Progreso dropped 9.6 percent, El Paso was off 7.9 percent, and Laredo fell 7.6 percent. Del Rio, however, increased 24.4 percent. YTD, total southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico were up 2.9 percent. El Paso southbound pedestrian crossings, which made up 34.7 percent of all crossings in June, increased 11.9 percent. Laredo, accounting for 27.8 percent of total crossings, was up 3.7 percent and Brownsville, with an 18.5 percent share YTD, was down 6.8 percent.

% Share Pedestrians for June 1999



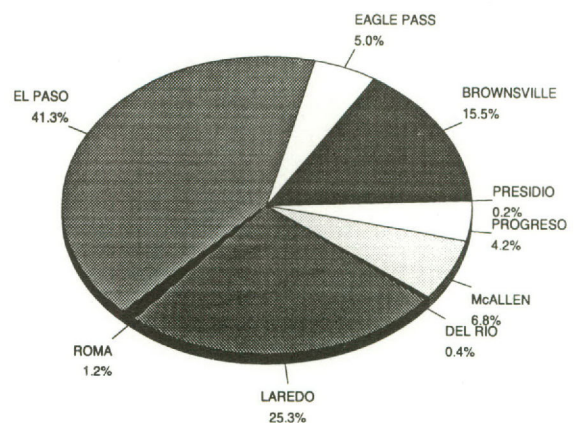
Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	APR 99	MAY 99	JUN 99	JUN 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	191,117	191,117	191,117	212,277	1,523,742	1,312,215	-13.9
DEL RIO	9,787	7,819	4,941	8,369	64,361	53,200	-17.3
EAGLE PASS	64,913	71,455	61,105	55,196	382,114	403,221	5.5
EL PASO	509,664	509,664	509,664	472,670	3,096,108	3,150,229	1.7
LAREDO	264,234	275,686	311,686	247,956	1,557,809	1,687,662	8.3
McALLEN-HIDALGO	91,601	92,689	84,335	83,482	575,996	594,791	3.3
PRESIDIO	1,988	1,965	1,899	1,961	18,111	12,884	-28.9
PROGRESO	61,473	56,315	52,403	47,316	450,773	507,465	12.6
RIO GRANDE	1,134	1,102	932	922	7,065	6,697	-5.2
ROMA	17,554	17,694	15,313	12,259	82,023	105,919	29.1
TOTAL	1,213,465	1,225,506	1,233,395	1,142,408	7,758,102	7,834,283	1.0

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 pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 0.6 percent in June. Del Rio fell 36.8 percent, Rio Grande dropped 15.4 percent, Eagle Pass fell 14.5 percent, Roma was down 13.5 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo was off 9.0 percent, Progreso was down 6.9 percent, and Presidio was off 3.4 percent. YTD total northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 1.0 percent. El Paso, accounting for 41.3 percent of the northbound crossings, was up 1.7 percent YTD. Laredo, with a 25.3 percent of all northbound crossings, was up 8.3 percent and Brownsville, with 15.5 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings, down 13.9 percent in crossings YTD.

% Share Pedestrians for June 1999



Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	APR 99	MAY 99	JUN 99	JUN 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	571,602	640,085	617,083	631,585	3,448,097	3,648,506	5.8
DEL RIO	171,423	181,287	166,028	152,297	950,345	1,010,786	6.4
EAGLE PASS	237,934	236,916	224,404	221,361	1,333,231	1,384,461	3.8
EL PASO	441,029	454,260	448,603	449,691	2,869,498	2,616,096	-8.8
HARLINGEN	49,060	51,179	46,905	40,593	239,339	290,797	21.5
LAREDO	706,984	753,337	736,557	703,984	4,021,335	4,221,633	5.0
McALLEN-HIDALGO	503,304	526,348	502,700	449,446	2,638,822	3,000,395	13.7
PHARR	147,944	150,640	145,539	145,539	842,933	974,505	15.6
PROGRESO	105,702	104,948	94,864	86,609	547,916	633,552	15.6
RIO GRANDE	54,785	56,658	51,534	45,835	297,300	322,538	8.5
ROMA	88,337	99,996	90,231	69,329	435,025	532,026	22.3
TOTAL	3,078,104	3,255,654	3,124,448	2,996,269	17,623,841	18,635,295	5.7

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 down 4.0 percent in June from May's figures. Roma decreased 9.8 percent, Progreso was down 9.0 percent. Rio Grande dropped 9.0 percent, Del Rio fell 8.4 percent, Eagle Pass declined 5.3, McAllen-Hidalgo was off 4.5 percent, Brownsville dropped 3.6 percent, Pharr fell 3.4 percent, Laredo was down 2.2 percent. YTD total southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 5.7 percent. Laredo, with 23.6

percent of all southbound traffic in June, was up 5.0 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 19.8 percent of all southbound vehicle bridge crossings, had a 5.8 percent increase, YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 16.1 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, experienced a 13.7 percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 14.4 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, fell 8.8 percent, YTD.

Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	APR 99	MAY 99	JUN 99	JUN 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	455,478	455,478	455,478	564,013	3,123,194	3,108,146	-0.5
DEL RIO	139,282	166,952	144,912	129,421	767,760	884,405	15.2
EAGLE PASS	220,217	227,296	216,585	211,444	1,282,721	1,330,328	3.7
EL PASO	742,310	742,310	742,310	705,820	4,114,337	4,347,862	5.7
HARLINGEN	66,920	67,442	61,682	52,689	320,687	399,187	24.5
LAREDO	713,422	713,422	713,422	654,661	3,714,435	4,052,554	9.1
McALLEN-HIDALGO	476,576	518,994	497,640	401,611	2,384,755	2,933,794	23.0
PRESIDIO	64,140	68,611	63,379	54,969	331,284	383,793	15.9
PROGRESO	90,526	99,095	88,637	76,595	490,231	568,470	16.0
RIO GRANDE	58,938	61,054	53,180	50,418	324,654	347,659	7.1
ROMA	86,302	99,751	90,820	70,833	466,925	546,961	17.1
TOTAL	3,114,111	3,220,405	3,128,045	2,972,474	17,320,983	18,903,159	9.1

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 June were down 2.9 percent from May. Del Rio registered a 13.2 percent decrease, Rio Grande was down 12.9 percent, Progreso dropped 10.6 percent, Harlingen fell 8.5 percent, Presidio was off 7.6 percent, Eagle Pass was off 4.7 percent, and McAllen-Hidalgo

down 4.1 percent. YTD northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 9.1 percent. El Paso with a 23.7 percent of all crossings in June was up 5.7 percent YTD. Laredo with 22.8 percent of all crossings, was up 9.1 percent and Brownsville with 14.6 percent of all crossings declined 0.5 percent YTD.

Export Shipments by Trucks into Mexico —Number of Trucks

CITY	APR 99	MAY 99	JUN 99	JUN 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE+	17,571	17,146	19,003	26,173	145,371	125,320	-13.8
DEL RIO+	5,484	5,398	5,862	5,450	32,718	33,515	2.4
EAGLE PASS++	5,204	5,034	5,818	4,044	22,775	30,901	35.7
EL PASO+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	N/A
HARLINGEN+	5,487	6,635	7,393	6,764	29,886	35,730	19.6
LAREDO+	100,011	104,473	129,089	100,460	584,749	620,726	6.2
McALLEN-HIDALGO+	4,245	4,044	4,497	4,611	26,470	25,703	-2.9
PHARR+	17,030	15,597	15,398	15,398	93,354	101,369	8.6
PROGRESO+	2,850	2,330	1,617	388	8,950	13,247	48.0
RIO GRANDE+	2,274	2,216	1,829	1,585	11,893	12,647	6.3
ROMA+	1,174	1,315	1,368	868	5,121	7,154	39.7
TOTAL	161,330	164,188	191,874	165,741	961,287	1,006,312	4.7

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

+ Includes both loaded and empty trucks.

++ Includes loaded trucks only.

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

Southbound truck shipments into Mexico were up 16.9 percent in June. Laredo was up 23.6 percent, Eagle Pass increased 15.6 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo gained 11.2 percent, Brownsville rose 10.8 percent, Del Rio increased 8.6 percent, and Roma gained 4.0 percent. Progreso dropped 30.6 percent. Rio Grande decreased 17.5 percent. YTD southbound truck shipments were up 4.7 per-

cent. Laredo, with 67.3 percent of all southbound shipments in June, experienced a 6.2 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with a 9.9 percent of all southbound shipments, had a 13.8 percent decrease YTD. Pharr, with 8.0 percent, registered an increase of 8.6 percent, Harlingen with 3.9 percent of all truck crossings, was up 19.6 percent YTD.

Import Shipments by Trucks into Texas —Number of Trucks

CITY	APR 99	MAY 99	JUN 99	JUN 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	10,565	11,933	8,014	12,426	61,387	57,426	-6.5
DEL RIO	3,103	2,862	3,084	2,977	17,556	18,353	4.5
EAGLE PASS	4,722	4,759	5,129	4,307	23,730	28,275	19.2
FALCON	6	5	2	4	28	21	-25.0
LAREDO	57,727	61,912	67,198	55,547	319,293	358,229	12.2
McALLEN-HIDALGO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
PHARR	19,723	16,845	18,109	14,874	90,555	109,907	21.4
PROGRESO	241	332	788	525	1,873	1,934	3.3
RIO GRANDE	1,430	1,571	1,174	875	6,930	8,397	21.2
ROMA	843	882	915	748	3,987	4,997	25.3
TOTAL	98,360	101,101	104,413	92,283	525,339	587,539	11.8

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.

June northbound truck shipments into Texas increased 11.8 percent over May's shipments. Progreso rose 137.3 percent, Laredo gained 8.5 percent, Del Rio and Eagle Pass increased 7.8 percent, and Pharr was up 7.5 percent. Brownsville fell 32.8 percent, and Rio Grande declined 25.3 percent. YTD northbound truck shipments were up 11.8 percent. Laredo, accounting for 60.2 percent of all

northbound truck traffic in June, had a 12.2 percent increase YTD. Pharr, with 16.1 percent of all shipments in June, experienced a 17.3 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with a 7.7 percent of all northbound truck shipments in June, experienced a 6.5 percent decline YTD.

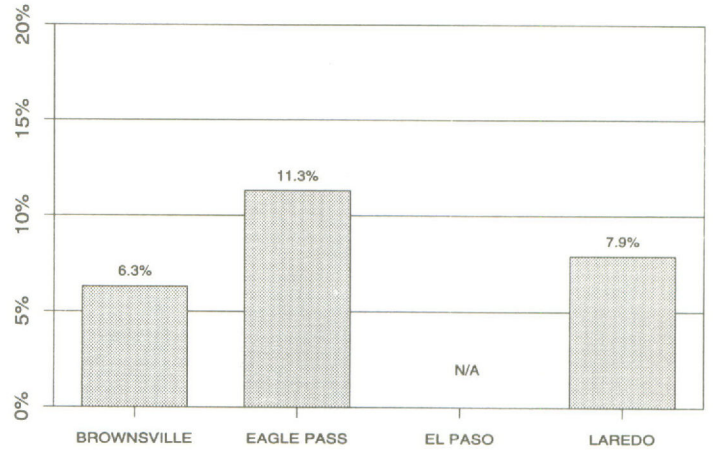
Export Shipments by Rail into Mexico —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	APR 99	MAY 99	JUN 99	JUN 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	2,993	1,879	2,717	2,885	14,663	15,592	6.3
EAGLE PASS	5,995	6,912	6,908	4,369	32,129	35,748	11.3
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	14,215	14,213	13,239	9,681	74,179	80,047	7.9
TOTAL	23,203	23,004	22,864	16,935	120,971	131,387	8.6

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

Southbound rail shipments into Mexico decreased 0.6 percent in June. Laredo decreased 6.9 percent. Eagle Pass fell 0.1 percent, while Brownsville grew by 44.6 percent. YTD, total southbound rail shipments into Mexico from Texas were up 8.6 percent. Laredo which accounts for 57.9 percent of all southbound rail shipments in June, was up 8.6 percent. Laredo, which accounts for 57.9 percent of all southbound rail shipments in June, was up 8.6 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, accounting for 30.2 percent of all southbound rail shipments, increased 11.3 percent. Brownsville, however, with 11.9 percent of all southbound rail shipments in June, rose 6.3 percent.

Export Rail YTD % Change 98-99



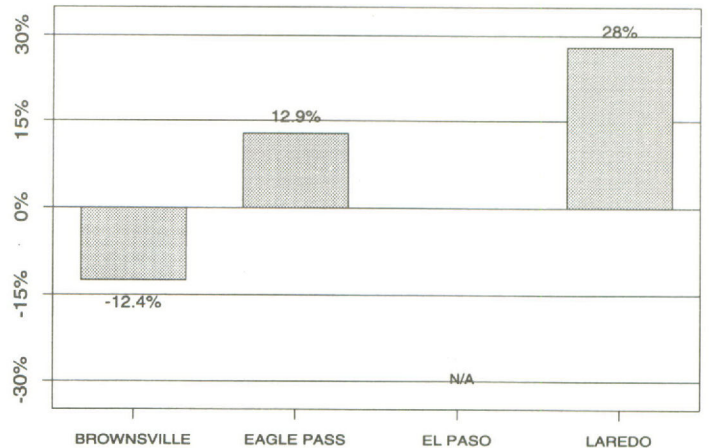
Import Shipments by Rail into Texas —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	APR 99	MAY 99	JUN 99	JUN 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	1,381	938	798	605	7,044	6,173	-12.4
EAGLE PASS	3,496	4,582	3,491	4,018	19,563	22,079	12.9
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LAREDO	9,751	11,145	9,855	7,585	44,592	57,068	28.0
TOTAL	14,628	16,665	14,144	12,208	71,199	85,320	19.8

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

Northbound rail shipments into Texas decreased 15.1 percent in June. Eagle Pass was down 23.8 percent, Brownsville decreased 14.9 percent and Laredo dropped 11.6 percent. YTD, total northbound rail shipments into Texas from Mexico were up 19.8 percent. Laredo, which accounts for 69.7 percent of all northbound rail shipments in June, was up 28.0 percent. Eagle Pass, accounting for 31.1 percent of all northbound rail shipments in June, was up 24.7 percent and Brownsville, with 5.6 percent of all northbound rail shipments, decreased 12.4 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
	JUN 99	JUN 99	REVENUE JUN 99	REVENUE JUN 99	REVENUE JUN 98	REVENUE JUN 98	REVENUE JUN 99	
BROWNSVILLE	1,659,871	658,883	491,983	2,810,736	3,175,043	15,972,930	15,106,399	-5.4
DEL RIO	198,000	131,502	24,470	353,973	502,679	2,374,199	1,997,732	-15.9
EAGLE PASS	481,584	299,070	3,905,284	4,685,937	3,106,662	16,413,183	20,599,107	25.5
LAREDO	9,871,903	3,807,922	9,846,935	23,526,761	20,219,237	109,049,975	111,731,135	2.5
McALLEN-HIDALGO	2,858,558	700,794	1,114,360	4,673,711	4,778,120	30,885,676	24,542,724	-20.5
PROGRESO	6,842	11,892	30,548	49,283	35,635	351,498	252,327	-28.2
RIO GRANDE	70,274	23,360	8,246	101,880	74,337	599,986	570,642	-4.9
ROMA	29,015	22,789	21,318	73,122	47,840	334,277	365,197	9.2
TOTAL	15,176,047	5,656,212	15,443,144	36,275,402	31,939,552	175,981,725	175,165,263	-0.5

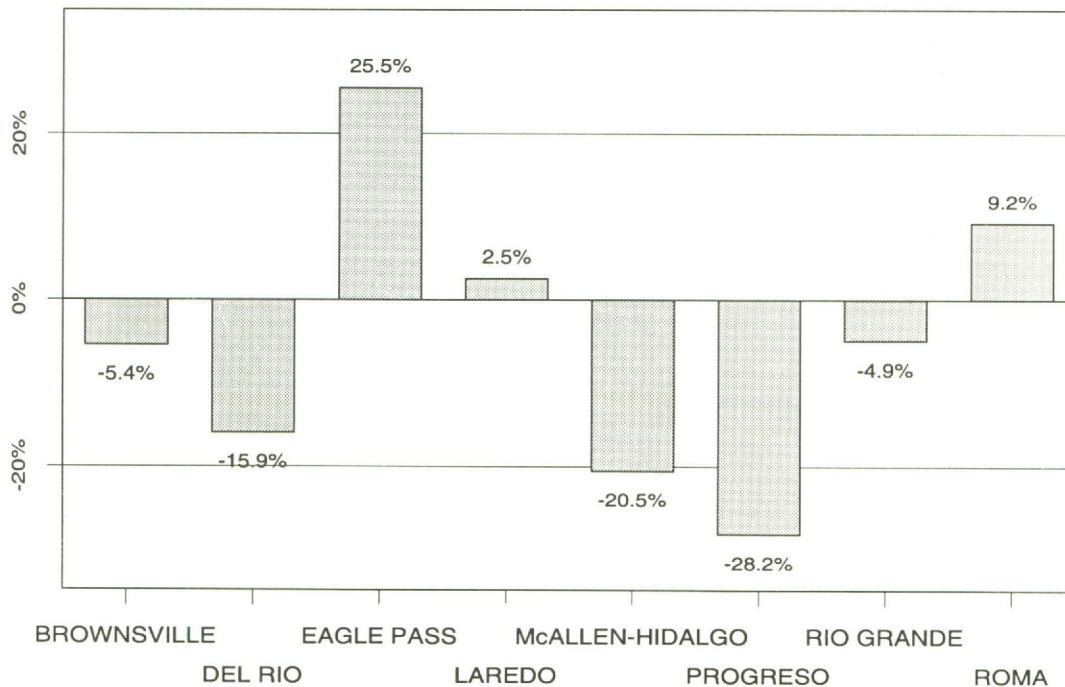
Source: Data provided by U.S. Customs Service, Port of Entry in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

MPF = Merchandise Processing Fee

Total U.S. Customs revenues, for June, for the former District of Laredo, increased 37.9 percent from May's figures. Progreso was up 113.5 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo increased 49.4 percent, Eagle Pass rose 41.8 percent, Laredo gained 38.8 percent, Del Rio increased 24.4 percent, and Brownsville grew 15.0 percent. Rio Grande fell 3.9 percent. YTD revenue figures were down 0.5

percent compared to May 1998. Laredo, accounting for 63.8 percent of the former district's revenue in June was up 2.5 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 14.0 percent of total revenues, was down 20.5 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, accounting for 11.8 percent of all revenues, was up 25.5 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 8.6 percent of total revenues in June declined 5.4 percent YTD.

% Change Total Revenues YTD 98-99



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

CITY	APR 99	MAY 99	JUN 99	JUN 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	585,371	706,222	691,380	685,701	3,946,834	4,074,296	3.2
DEL RIO	294,646	310,411	291,098	185,774	1,160,605	1,761,371	51.8
EAGLE PASS	491,136	534,334	550,834	452,273	2,649,337	3,000,299	13.2
EL PASO	967,654	999,526	986,543	941,201	5,873,033	5,766,816	-1.8
HARLINGEN	113,800	121,178	116,860	104,956	577,545	687,783	19.1
LAREDO	2,162,193	2,300,743	2,281,202	1,838,089	10,848,396	13,082,148	20.6
McALLEN-HIDALGO	711,782	734,338	695,729	632,807	3,768,014	4,222,273	12.1
PHARR	312,799	321,730	304,770	304,770	1,740,661	1,966,367	13.0
TOTAL	5,639,382	6,028,482	5,918,415	5,145,571	30,564,426	34,561,352	13.1

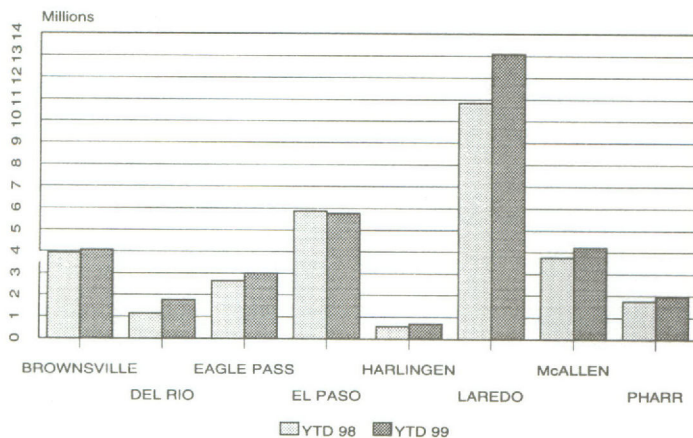
Source: Data provided by U.S. bridge operators in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

Editor's Note: Brownsville's Revenues are for Cameron County Bridge only. Pharr began operations 1/10/95.

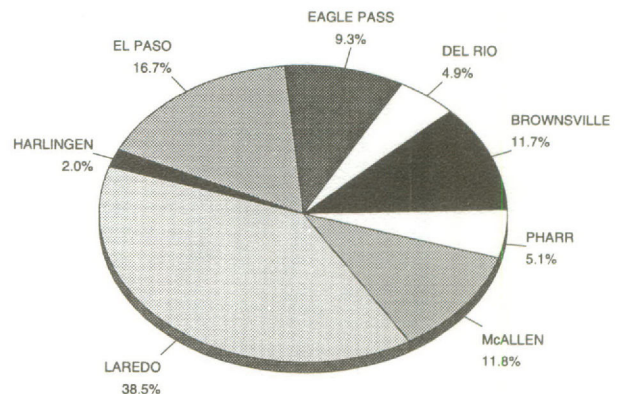
U.S. bridge operators' revenues decreased 1.8 percent in the month of June. Del Rio decreased 6.2 percent, Pharr and McAllen-Hidalgo dropped 5.3 percent, Harlingen fell 3.6 percent, Brownsville fell 2.1 percent, and El Paso was off 1.3 percent. YTD, U.S. bridge operators' revenues were up 13.1 percent. Laredo, accounting for 38.5 percent of total U.S. bridge operator's revenues collected in

June, had a 20.6 percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 16.7 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues, decreased 1.8 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, accounting for 11.8 percent, was up 12.1 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 11.7 percent of the total bridge revenues in June, was up 3.2 percent YTD.

Total Revenues Collected YTD 98-99



% Share Revenues June 1999



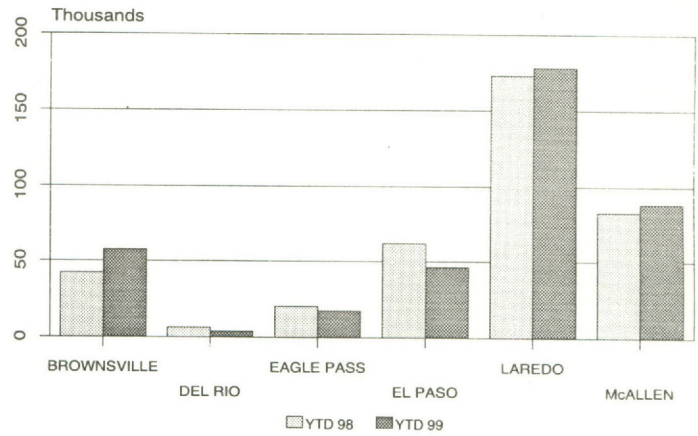
Visas to Tourists from Texas to Mexico

CITY	APR 99	MAY 99	JUN 99	JUN 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	%CHG
BROWNSVILLE	7,507	9,095	11,586	9,631	42,156	57,497	36.4
DEL RIO	470	762	989	1,330	6,321	3,779	-40.2
EAGLE PASS	2,500	3,759	3,914	4,034	20,210	17,179	-15.0
EL PASO	7,840	10,409	10,273	16,259	61,947	46,278	-25.3
LAREDO	23,735	31,074	49,947	40,048	173,084	178,213	3.0
McALLEN	11,475	12,387	17,314	14,669	82,917	88,795	7.1
TOTAL	53,527	67,486	94,023	85,971	386,635	391,741	1.3

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 June were up 39.3 percent. Laredo rose 60.7 percent, McAllen gained 39.8 percent, Del Rio increased 29.8 percent, Brownsville was up 27.4 percent, and Eagle Pass, up 4.1 percent. YTD, the number of tourist visas issued were up 1.3 percent. Laredo, with 53.1 percent of total visas issued in June was up 3.0 percent YTD. McAllen, with 18.4 percent of total visas issued, had a 7.1 percent increase YTD. El Paso, with 10.9 percent of all visas issued, fell 25.3 percent YTD. In contrast, Brownsville with 12.3 percent of total visas issued, increased 36.4 percent YTD.

Tourist Visas YTD June 98-99



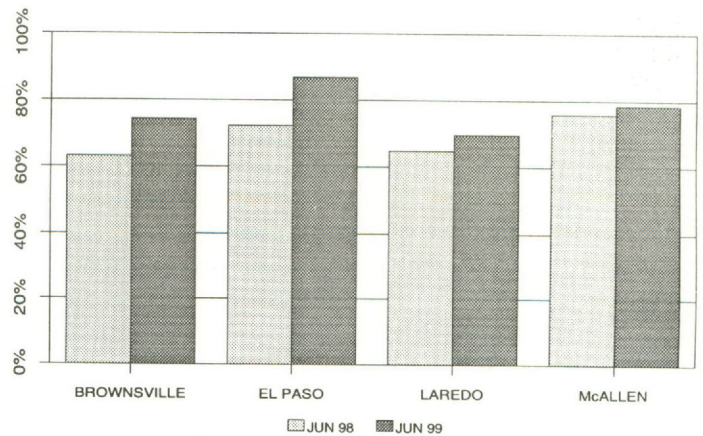
Hotel Occupancy Percentage Rate —Texas Border

CITY	APR 99	MAY 99	JUN 99	JUN 98	% CHG 98-99
BROWNSVILLE	57.3	49.6	74.3	63.1	17.8
EL PASO	66.9	68.0	86.9	72.3	20.2
LAREDO	72.7	60.7	69.7	64.8	7.5
McALLEN	80.3	75.2	78.5	75.9	3.4
AVERAGE	69.3	63.4	77.3	69.0	12.0

Source: Data (preliminary figures subject to revision) provided by selected hotels in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

The average hotel occupancy rate for reporting Texas border hotels for June increased 22.0 percent. McAllen had an occupancy rate of 78.5 percent, Laredo's occupancy was 69.7 percent, El Paso reported a rate of 86.9 percent and Brownsville had a rate of 74.3 percent in June.

Hotel Occupancy Percentage June 98-99



Telephones in Service — Texas Border

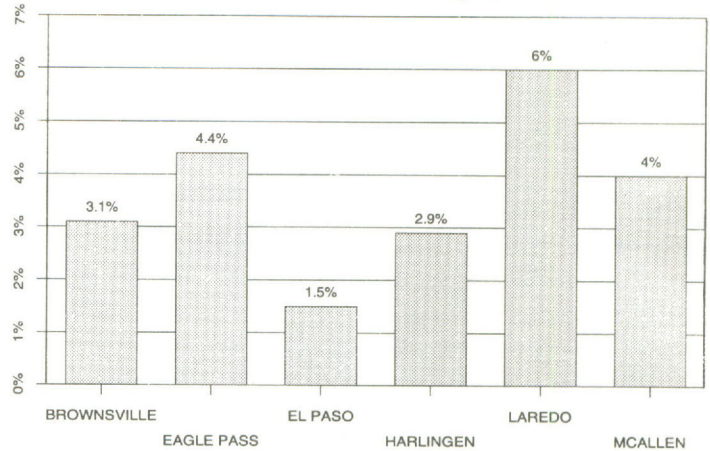
Residential Telephones

CITY	APR 99	MAY 99	JUN 99	JUN 98
BROWNSVILLE	44,806	44,840	44,751	43,422
EAGLE PASS	12,151	12,137	12,076	11,567
EL PASO	218,156	217,456	216,429	213,242
HARLINGEN	27,525	27,509	27,462	26,693
LAREDO	52,516	52,549	52,601	49,633
MCALLEN	37,507	37,617	37,505	36,056
TOTAL	392,661	392,108	390,824	380,613

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 June, the number of residential telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities decreased 0.33 percent since May. YTD, the number of residential telephones in service increased by 2.7 percent. Laredo jumped 6.0 percent, Eagle Pass was up 4.4 percent, McAllen increased 4.0 percent, Harlingen rose 2.9 percent, Brownsville was up 3.1 percent and El Paso gained 1.5 percent YTD.

Residential Phones % Change June 98-99



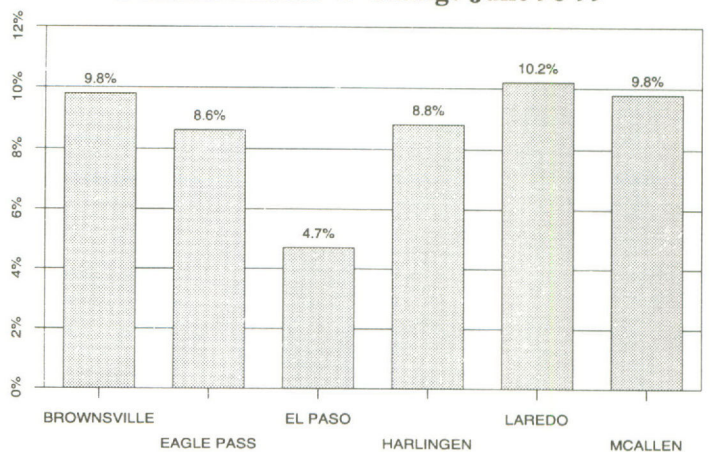
Business Telephones

CITY	APR 99	MAY 99	JUN 99	JUN 98
BROWNSVILLE	23,658	23,750	23,828	21,694
EAGLE PASS	4,269	4,320	4,283	3,945
EL PASO	101,734	102,169	102,066	97,502
HARLINGEN	15,272	15,300	15,570	14,314
LAREDO	32,815	33,132	33,496	30,397
MCALLEN	27,838	28,048	28,214	25,697
TOTAL	205,586	206,719	207,457	193,549

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 June, the number of business telephones in service for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.36 percent. YTD, the number of phones in service rose by 7.2 percent. Laredo had the largest increase with 10.2 percent; Brownsville and McAllen gained 9.8 percent, Harlingen rose 8.8 percent, Eagle Pass jumped 8.6 percent, and El Paso increased 4.7 percent YTD.

Business Phones % Change June 98-99



Power Connections—Texas Border

Residential Connections

CITY	APR 99	MAY 99	JUN 99	JUN 98
BROWNSVILLE	29,651	29,613	29,740	28,922
DEL RIO	14,915	14,928	14,914	13,728
EAGLE PASS	12,816	12,825	12,822	9,187
EL PASO	263,272	263,195	263,415	257,226
HARLINGEN	37,468	37,240	37,196	19,710
LAREDO	50,027	50,200	50,399	46,110
McALLEN	48,864	48,409	48,392	30,234
TOTAL	457,013	456,410	456,878	405,117

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

June residential power connections for all reporting Texas border cities decreased over May's figures by 0.10 percent. YTD, residential power connections were up 12.8 percent. YTD, Laredo was up 9.3 percent, McAllen increased 60.1 percent, Harlingen gained 88.7 percent, Eagle Pass jumped 39.6 percent, El Paso rose 2.4 percent, Brownsville increased 2.8 percent and Del Rio was up 8.6 percent.

June commercial power connections for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.35 percent over May's figures. YTD, commercial power connections increased 17.4 percent. YTD, Harlingen was up 78.5 percent, McAllen increased 63.7 percent, Eagle Pass gained 39.6 percent, Del Rio rose 18.9 percent, Laredo gained 13.7 percent, El Paso increased 2.3 percent and Brownsville was up slightly at 1.4 percent.

Commercial Connections

CITY	APR 99	MAY 99	JUN 99	JUN 98
BROWNSVILLE	3,890	3,869	3,868	3,816
DEL RIO	2,282	2,284	2,294	1,929
EAGLE PASS	1,823	1,821	1,806	1,294
EL PASO	26,854	26,784	26,890	26,295
HARLINGEN	5,923	5,952	5,970	3,344
LAREDO	7,845	7,854	7,901	6,947
McALLEN	8,724	8,724	8,757	5,349
TOTAL	57,341	57,288	57,486	48,974

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	APR 99	MAY 99	JUN 99	JUN 98
BROWNSVILLE	450	455	471	456
DEL RIO	32	32	32	30
EAGLE PASS	33	33	34	16
EL PASO	119	119	119	118
HARLINGEN	183	183	182	86
LAREDO	148	148	148	127
McALLEN	87	87	88	46
TOTAL	1,052	1,057	1,074	879

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 increased 1.61 percent from May's figures. YTD, Eagle Pass had the largest increase with 112.5 percent, Harlingen increased 111.6 percent, McAllen increased 91.3 percent, Laredo grew 16.5 percent and Del Rio climbed 6.7 percent. El Paso rose 0.8 percent and Brownsville was up at 3.3 percent.

Building Permits —Texas Border

Number of Permits

NUMBER	APR 99	MAY 99	JUN 99	JUN 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	365	295	321	312	1,754	1,978	12.8
DEL RIO	97	95	85	94	532	553	3.9
EAGLE PASS	27	42	48	44	242	237	-2.1
EL PASO	675	576	625	596	3,725	3,752	0.7
HARLINGEN	77	79	87	77	401	428	6.7
LAREDO	556	485	586	352	2,004	2,483	23.9
MCALLEN	170	164	210	153	843	904	7.2
TOTAL	1,967	1,736	1,962	1,628	9,501	10,335	8.8

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

June building permits issued by reporting Texas border cities were down 13.0 percent from May. McAllen was up 28.0 percent, Laredo increased 20.8 percent, Eagle Pass rose 14.3 percent, Harlingen gained 10.1 percent, Brownsville increased 8.8 percent and El Paso was up 8.5 percent. YTD, the number of permits issued

were up 8.8 percent. El Paso, accounting for 31.9 percent of all building permits issued in June, had an increase of 0.7 percent YTD. Laredo, with 29.9 percent of building permits issued, was up 23.9 percent YTD. Brownsville was up 12.8 percent, while McAllen rose 7.2 percent YTD.

U.S. Dollar Value of Permits

VALUE	APR 99	MAY 99	JUN 99	JUN 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	24,805,131	10,538,306	15,204,446	10,240,497	69,929,575	95,889,383	37.1
DEL RIO	1,575,678	1,009,265	950,917	5,778,385	12,877,351	8,667,233	-32.7
EAGLE PASS	740,816	2,503,712	2,918,942	11,055,402	25,716,552	9,336,755	-63.7
EL PASO	33,567,114	33,018,181	61,612,836	31,739,472	190,873,271	239,094,218	25.3
HARLINGEN	9,980,510	2,497,821	20,733,867	4,638,655	20,582,696	44,257,522	115.0
LAREDO	16,185,199	14,657,276	24,482,224	11,983,984	78,332,530	97,306,834	24.2
MCALLEN	23,493,361	18,802,566	13,565,859	7,746,675	56,210,736	98,694,488	75.6
TOTAL	110,347,809	83,027,127	139,469,091	83,183,069	454,522,710	593,246,433	30.5

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

June building permit values for reporting Texas border cities were up 68.0 percent from May. Harlingen was up 730.1 percent. El Paso increased 86.6 percent, Laredo grew 67.0 percent, Brownsville gained 44.3 percent, Eagle Pass jumped 16.6 percent. McAllen was off 27.9 percent, and Del Rio fell 5.8 percent. YTD, reporting

border cities experienced a 30.5 percent increase in building permit values. El Paso, with 44.2 percent total value for the month of June, rose 25.3 percent YTD. Laredo with 17.6 percent total value, increased 24.2 percent YTD. Brownsville with 10.9 percent total value for the month of June, was up 37.1 percent YTD.

Employment/Unemployment Rates —Texas Border

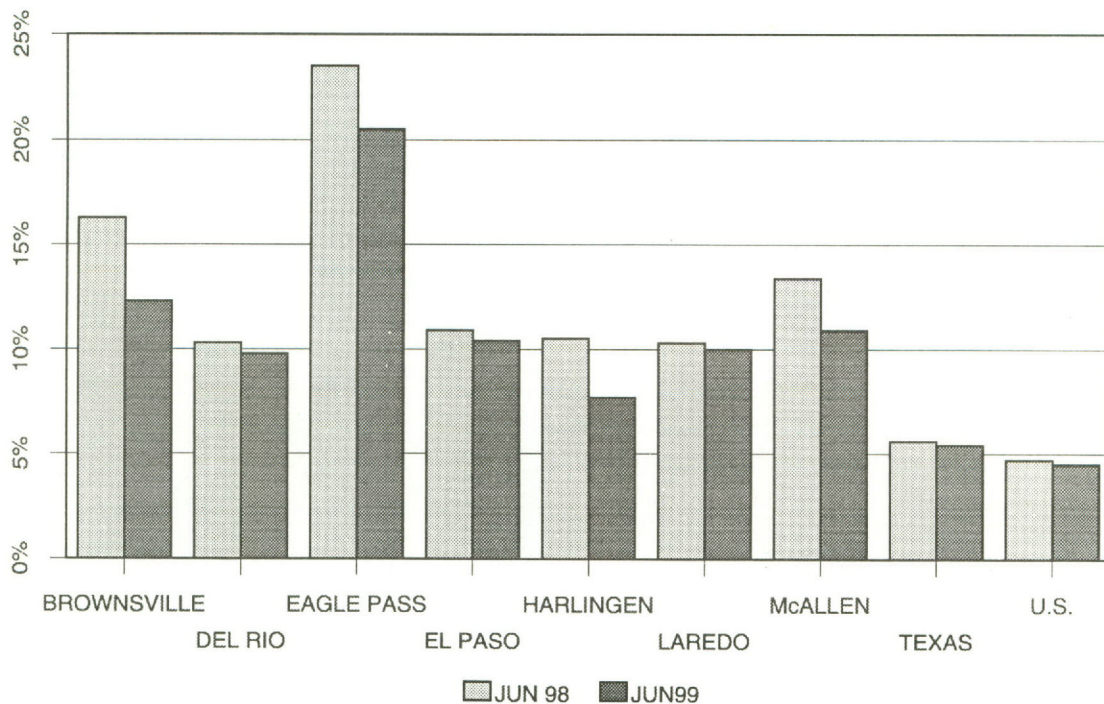
CITY	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED	PERCENT UNEMPLOYED	PERCENT UNEMPLOYED
	JUN 99	JUN 98	JUN 99	JUN 98	JUN 99	JUN 98
BROWNSVILLE	42,143	41,973	5,930	8,177	12.3	16.3
DEL RIO	13,926	13,347	1,515	1,530	9.8	10.3
EAGLE PASS	8,187	7,859	2,113	2,418	20.5	23.5
EL PASO	239,168	234,784	27,654	28,639	10.4	10.9
HARLINGEN	24,211	24,031	2,017	2,815	7.7	10.5
LAREDO	64,811	62,073	7,237	7,139	10.0	10.3
McALLEN	42,841	41,995	5,237	6,479	10.9	13.4
TOTAL	435,287	426,062	51,703	57,197	10.6	11.8
THE TEXAS UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					5.42	5.64
THE NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					4.46	4.71

Source: Data (preliminary figures subject to revision) provided by the Texas Employment Commission and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic & Enterprise Development

In June, total employment in reporting Texas border cities rose 0.4 percent (1,844 jobs gained) over May's figures. Laredo's employment jumped 0.4 percent (271 jobs gained), Brownsville increased 0.6 percent (232 jobs gained), El Paso gained 0.8 percent (1,864 jobs gained). Del Rio gained 1.2 percent (232 jobs gained). YTD,

the total employment in Texas border cities was up 2.1 percent (9,225 jobs gained) from a year ago. The average unemployment rate for the border was 10.6 percent compared to 5.4 percent for Texas and 4.5 percent for the U.S. in June.

% Unemployed June 98-99



Air Passenger Service Activities —Selected Border Cities

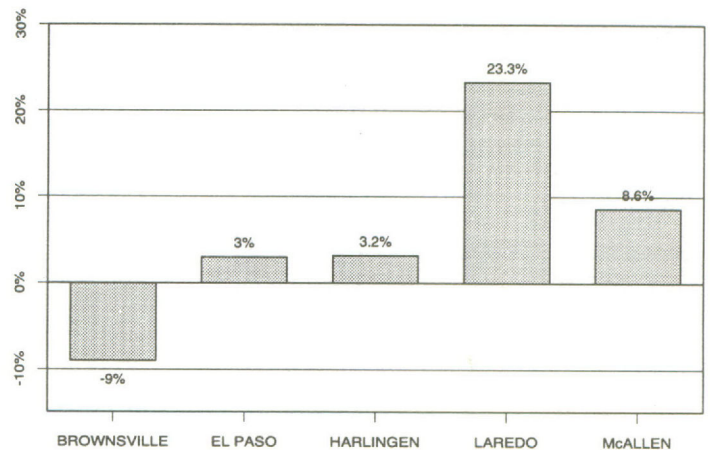
Passenger Arrivals

CITY	APR 99	MAY 99	JUN 99	JUN 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	5,911	5,359	5,595	6,808	39,301	35,763	-9.0
EL PASO	135,560	149,089	155,024	146,421	784,585	807,890	3.0
HARLINGEN	39,145	39,757	40,587	41,835	226,607	233,883	3.2
LAREDO	8,432	6,396	6,458	6,071	38,197	47,090	23.3
McALLEN	25,453	25,299	26,670	24,566	147,961	160,612	8.6
TOTAL	214,501	225,900	234,334	225,701	1,236,651	1,285,238	3.9

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

June air passengers arriving in Texas border cities were up 3.7 percent from May's figures. McAllen increased 5.4 percent, Brownsville gained 4.4 percent, El Paso rose 4.0 percent, Harlingen jumped 2.1 percent, and Laredo was up 1.0 percent. YTD air passenger arrivals were up 3.9 percent. El Paso, with 66.2 percent of all passengers arriving in June, was up 3.0 percent YTD. Harlingen accounting for 17.3 percent of all arrivals in June rose 3.2 percent. McAllen, with 11.4 percent of all arrivals, was up 8.6 percent. Laredo increased 23.3 percent while Brownsville was down 9.0 percent YTD.

Passenger Arrivals % Change YTD 98-99



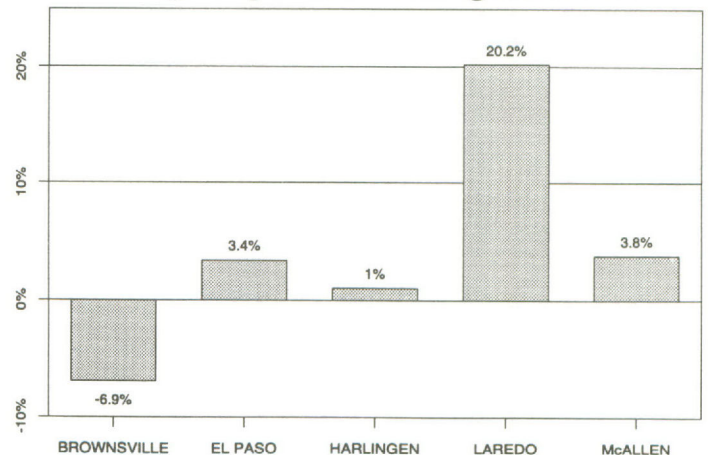
Passenger Departures

CITY	APR 99	MAY 99	JUN 99	JUN 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	6,163	5,542	5,886	6,656	40,594	37,777	-6.9
EL PASO	139,858	150,906	156,111	146,805	803,180	830,312	3.4
HARLINGEN	42,853	40,432	40,993	43,449	245,822	248,380	1.0
LAREDO	8,444	6,269	6,834	6,672	40,042	48,140	20.2
McALLEN	29,189	26,859	26,622	26,131	160,724	166,796	3.8
TOTAL	226,507	230,008	236,446	229,713	1,290,362	1,331,405	3.2

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

June air passenger departures for reporting Texas border cities were up 2.8 percent from May's figures. Laredo increased 9.0 percent, Brownsville rose 6.2 percent, El Paso gained 3.4 and Harlingen jumped 1.4 percent. McAllen fell 0.9 percent. YTD, air passenger departures were up 3.2 percent from a year ago. El Paso, with 66.0 percent of all passengers departing in June, was up 3.4 percent YTD. Harlingen, with 17.3 percent of all passengers departing, was up 1.0 percent. McAllen, with a 11.3 percent of all departing passengers, increased 3.8 percent YTD. Laredo rose 20.2 percent while Brownsville was down 6.9 percent YTD.

Passenger Departures % Change YTD 98-99



Port Of Corpus Christi

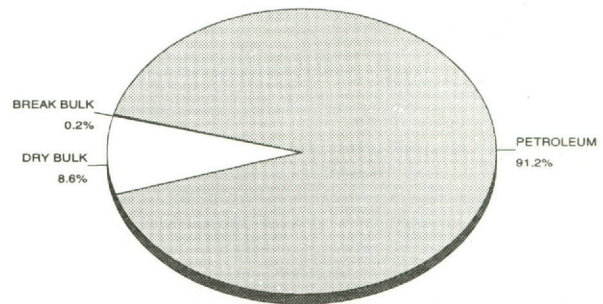
Inbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	APR 99	MAY 99	JUN 99	JUN 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BREAK BULK	150	6,795	11,177	927	3,317	58,673	1668.7
DRY BULK	429,423	313,955	386,390	426,129	2,537,886	2,072,520	-18.3
BULK GRAIN	16,954	3,086	0	0	1,462	26,006	N/A
LIQUID	1,713	0	7,224	0	16,129	18,396	14.1
PETROLEUM	4,130,891	4,113,122	4,080,113	3,920,569	23,698,131	22,829,465	-3.7
CHEMICAL	11,980	6,752	7,951	8,471	57,693	51,254	-11.2
TOTAL	4,591,110	4,443,711	4,492,856	4,356,096	26,314,619	25,056,313	-4.8

Source: Data provided by the Port of Corpus Christi and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

The Port of Corpus Christi had a 1.1 percent increase in inbound cargo from last month. Petroleum, which makes up 90.8 percent of all inbound traffic in June, was down 3.7 percent compared to May. Dry bulk, which accounts for 8.6 percent of the port's inbound cargo for June, decreased 18.3 percent. YTD, total inbound cargo tonnage was down 4.8 percent.

% Share June 1999 Inbound Cargo



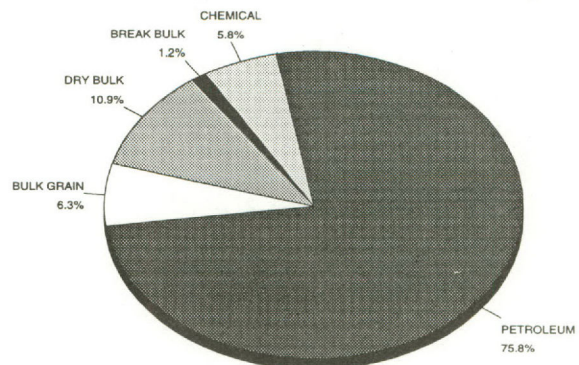
Outbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	APR 99	MAY 99	JUN 99	JUN 98	YTD 98	YTD 99	% CHG
BREAK BULK	2,055	2,761	33,407	822	43,972	47,977	9.1
DRY BULK	143,128	226,465	298,538	359,052	1,582,421	1,378,165	-12.9
BULK GRAIN	164,676	86,384	172,632	160,584	1,052,148	939,646	-10.7
LIQUID	0	0	0	0	9,706	3,183	N/A
PETROLEUM	1,986,785	1,964,920	2,069,331	2,367,115	13,843,543	11,830,807	-14.5
CHEMICAL	378,024	162,751	157,611	149,731	791,146	1,035,779	30.9
TOTAL	2,674,668	2,443,281	2,731,519	3,037,305	17,322,936	15,235,557	-12.0

Source: Data provided by the Port of Corpus Christi and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

The Port of Corpus Christi had an 11.8 percent decrease in outbound cargo tonnage in June. Petroleum, which is 75.8 percent of total outbound cargo for June, decreased 14.5 percent compared to May. Dry bulk increased 31.8 percent and Bulk Grain increased 99.8 percent. YTD, total outbound cargo tonnage was down 12.0 percent.

% Share June 1999 Outbound Cargo



Border Business Indicators

is published monthly by the Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development, at Texas A&M International University (TAMIU).

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