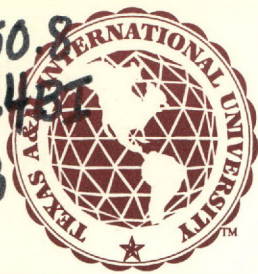


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Border Business Indicators

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Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

Vol. 21, No. 3
March 1997

JUN 11 1997

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Note from the Director

Indicators of border business activity for the month of January were down. Ten monthly indicators were down and nine were up when compared to December. In addition, for the year-to-date (YTD), sixteen indicators were up and three were down. Selected YTD comparisons to 1996 reported by border cities include the following.

Southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico were up 24.3 percent. El Paso was up 75.8 percent, Laredo rose 12.3 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo increased 3.7 percent although Brownsville was down 2.1 percent.

Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were down 6.4 percent. Laredo decreased 16.7 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo fell 11.2 percent, Brownsville decreased 10.4, but El Paso was up 10.0 percent.

Southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 5.8 percent. McAllen-Hidalgo was up 16.2 percent, Laredo was up 8.4 percent, Brownsville increased 5.6 percent and El Paso increased slightly at 4.4 percent.

Northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 1.7 percent with Brownsville up 15.4 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo increased 0.3 percent, but El Paso decreased 7.9 percent and Laredo dipped 1.3 percent.

Southbound truck shipments into Mexico were up 18.0 percent. Laredo had a 27.0 percent increase, Brownsville was up 8.6 percent while McAllen-Hidalgo decreased 16.3 percent.

Northbound truck shipments into Texas were up 11.5 percent. Eagle Pass had a 25.9 percent increase, Brownsville rose 14.3 percent and Laredo was up 8.6 percent.

Revenues collected by U.S. Customs were up 1.1 percent and revenues collected by U.S. Bridge operators were up 9.8 percent.

Building permits issued were down 3.1 percent. El Paso decreased by 11.2 percent while Laredo was up 14.4 percent.

Building permit values were up with a YTD increase of 55.3 percent. El Paso increased 123.8 percent, McAllen was up 37.7 percent, but Laredo reported a 0.6 percent decrease.

Total employment was up 1.5 percent (6,420 jobs gained) YTD. The average unemployment rate in January 1997 was 12.6 percent, down from the 13.3 percent in January 1996.

The current and back issues of the Border Business Indicators can be found at the home page of the Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development at <http://www.tamui.edu/coba/txcntr/>.

IIT Technical Reports Available

- IIT Technical Report No. 1: NAFTA Rules of Origin: An Explanation (March 1994)
IIT Technical Report No. 2: The Impact of NAFTA on U.S.-Mexico Commercial and Border Zones and the Potential Consequences to the Border (February 1994)
IIT Technical Report No. 3: Labor Mobility Under NAFTA: It's Impact on the Border (February 1994)
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Texas' Top 10 Export Markets, 1996
ranked by value of 1996 exports (in millions)

Rank	Country	1995	1996	Pct. Chg. 1995-96
1	Mexico	21,863.5	27,376.1	25.2%
2	Canada	6,931.5	7,442.6	7.4%
3	Japan	3,132.2	2,954.5	-5.7%
4	United Kingdom	2,409.6	2,257.0	-6.3%
5	Singapore	2,139.3	1,932.9	-9.6%
6	Korea, South	2,031.8	1,923.2	-5.3%
7	Taiwan	2,398.8	1,917.3	-20.1%
8	Brazil	1,405.8	1,690.0	20.2%
9	Netherlands	1,469.8	1,479.6	0.7%
10	Venezuela	1,508.7	1,442.4	-4.4%
	Top 10 Countries	45,291.0	50,415.6	11.3%
	All Other Countries	23,527.6	23,796.5	1.1%
	All Texas Exports	68,818.6	74,212.1	7.8%

Top Exporting Industries in Texas, 1996
ranked by value of 1996 exports (in millions)

Rank	Standard Industrial Classification	1995	1996	Pct. Chg. 1995-96
1	Electronic Equipment & Components	14,023.5	15,332.4	9.3%
2	Industrial Machinery & Computer Equipment	12,731.8	14,538.6	14.2%
3	Chemicals & Allied Products	14,621.5	12,872.5	-12.0%
4	Transportation Equipment	4,901.6	6,057.4	23.6%
5	Agricultural Production (Crops)	3,387.4	3,396.0	0.3%
6	Fabricated Metal Products	2,295.4	2,977.9	29.7%
7	Petroleum Refining & Related Industries	2,176.7	2,913.6	33.9%
8	Scientific Instruments	2,642.1	2,800.6	6.0%
9	Primary Metal Industries	2,149.3	2,422.8	12.7%
10	Food & Kindred Products	2,418.6	2,317.2	-4.2%
11	Rubber & Misc. Plastics Products	1,415.1	1,729.5	22.2%
12	Apparel	1,155.0	1,332.6	15.4%
13	Paper & Allied Products	1,098.4	1,079.6	-1.7%
14	Leather and Leather Products	250.6	741.4	195.8%
15	Textile Mill Products	489.6	585.5	19.6%
	Top 15 Countries	65,756.6	71,097.6	8.1%
	All Other Countries	3,062.0	3,114.5	1.7%
	All Texas Exports	68,818.6	74,212.1	7.8%

Source: Massachusetts Institute for Social and Economic Research and the U.S. Bureau of the Census (based on "origin of movement to port" state-level export data series) ---Texas Department of Commerce

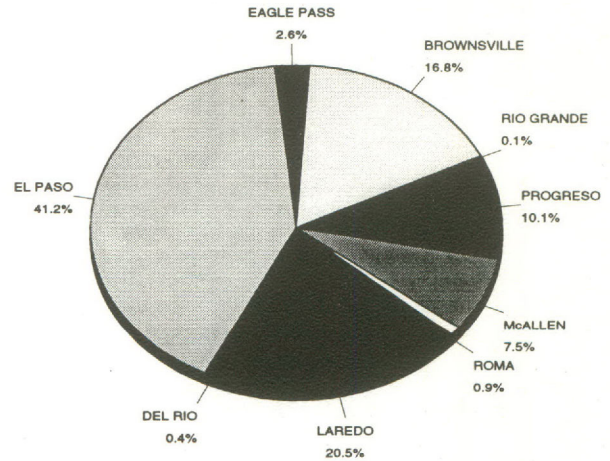
Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	NOV 96	DEC 96	JAN 97	JAN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	255,322	297,706	232,894	237,894	237,894	232,894	-2.1
DEL RIO	5,270	4,237	5,403	4,548	4,548	5,403	18.8
EAGLE PASS	40,715	56,848	35,981	34,716	34,716	35,981	3.6
EL PASO	389,764	457,727	570,479	324,413	324,413	570,479	75.8
HARLINGEN	88	269	92	72	72	92	27.8
LAREDO	308,067	405,389	283,770	262,551	262,551	283,770	8.1
McALLEN-HIDALGO	107,466	133,605	104,295	100,539	100,539	104,295	3.7
PROGRESO	86,926	118,481	139,660	135,078	135,078	139,660	3.4
RIO GRANDE	752	615	902	871	871	902	3.6
ROMA	14,458	18,446	12,680	14,120	14,120	12,680	-10.2
TOTAL	1,208,828	1,493,323	1,386,156	1,114,802	1,114,802	1,386,156	24.3

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

Southbound pedestrian bridge crossings into Mexico for January were down 7.2 percent compared to December. Harlingen decreased 65.8 percent, Eagle Pass was down 36.7 percent, Roma fell 31.3 percent, Laredo decreased 30.0 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo posted a decrease of 21.9 percent and Brownsville decreased 21.8 percent. However, Rio Grande increased 46.7 percent, Del Rio rose 27.5 percent, El Paso was up 24.6 percent and Progreso increased 17.9 percent. YTD total southbound pedestrian bridge crossings were up 24.3 percent. El Paso southbound pedestrian crossings, 41.2 percent of all crossings were up 75.8 percent. Laredo, accounting for 20.5 percent of all crossings, was up 8.1 percent YTD. Brownsville was down 2.1 percent with 16.8 percent of all crossings in the month of January.

% Share Pedestrians for January 1997



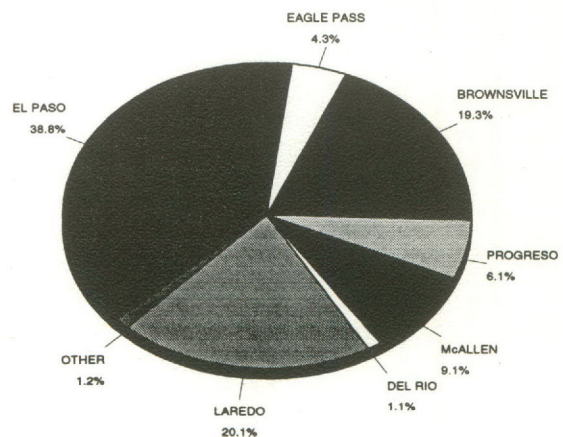
Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	NOV 96	DEC 96	JAN 97	JAN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	241,262	269,382	213,180	237,962	237,962	213,180	-10.4
DEL RIO	7,516	8,372	11,644	7,319	7,319	11,644	59.1
EAGLE PASS	47,901	74,027	47,842	46,462	46,462	47,842	3.0
EL PASO	490,046	548,412	429,441	390,241	390,241	429,441	10.0
LAREDO	255,761	303,959	222,283	266,983	266,983	222,283	-16.7
McALLEN-HIDALGO	101,011	119,477	100,807	113,458	113,458	100,807	-11.2
PRESIDIO	2,571	2,784	2,724	2,479	2,479	2,724	9.9
PROGRESO	58,804	66,855	67,145	99,348	99,348	67,145	-32.4
RIO GRANDE	1,061	1,263	1,278	1,117	1,117	1,278	14.4
ROMA	12,189	14,353	9,542	16,469	16,469	9,542	-42.1
TOTAL	1,218,122	1,408,884	1,105,886	1,181,838	1,181,838	1,105,886	-6.4

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 down 21.5 percent in January. Eagle Pass decreased 35.4 percent, Roma fell 33.5 percent, Laredo was down 26.9 percent, El Paso dipped 21.7 percent, Brownsville decreased 20.9 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo was down 15.6 percent and Presidio fell 2.2 percent. However, Del Rio increased 39.1 percent, Rio Grande posted a 1.2 percent increase and Progreso rose 0.4 percent. YTD total northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were down 6.4 percent. El Paso, accounting for 38.8 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings, was up 10.0 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 19.3 percent of all northbound crossings, was down 10.4 percent and Laredo, with 20.1 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings, had a 16.7 percent decrease in crossings YTD.

% Share Pedestrians for January 1997



Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	NOV 96	DEC 96	JAN 97	JAN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	477,273	507,849	483,115	457,436	457,436	483,115	5.6
DEL RIO	147,626	170,217	130,620	137,411	137,411	130,620	-4.9
EAGLE PASS	217,923	242,184	200,745	202,320	202,320	200,745	-0.8
EL PASO	476,353	491,668	415,267	397,783	397,783	415,267	4.4
HARLINGEN	35,441	41,461	30,396	28,013	28,013	30,396	8.5
LAREDO	664,975	694,489	608,222	561,052	561,052	608,222	8.4
McALLEN-HIDALGO	415,424	452,295	403,039	354,758	354,758	403,039	13.6
PHARR	90,810	98,734	86,821	74,722	74,722	86,821	16.2
PROGRESO	85,955	95,447	80,931	87,922	87,922	80,931	-8.0
RIO GRANDE	47,237	52,806	44,158	42,666	42,666	44,158	3.5
ROMA	72,783	85,057	67,694	66,732	66,732	67,694	1.4
TOTAL	2,731,800	2,932,207	2,551,008	2,410,815	2,410,815	2,551,008	5.8

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 decreased 13.0 percent in January from December's figures. Harlingen decreased 26.7 percent, Del Rio was down 23.3 percent, Roma fell 20.4 percent, Eagle Pass dipped 17.1 percent, Rio Grande decreased 16.4 percent, El Paso slid 15.5 percent, Progreso fell 15.2 percent, Laredo decreased 12.4 percent, Pharr was down 12.1 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo fell 10.9 percent and Brownsville decreased slightly by 4.9 percent. YTD total southbound vehicle bridge

crossings were up 5.8 percent. Laredo, with 23.8 percent of all traffic, was up 8.4 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 15.8 percent of all southbound vehicle bridge crossings, had a 13.6 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, accounting for 18.9 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings had a 5.6 percent increase YTD. El Paso, with 16.3 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, experienced a 4.4 percent increase YTD.

Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	NOV 96	DEC 96	JAN 97	JAN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	470,161	513,232	485,604	422,072	422,072	485,604	15.1
DEL RIO	120,507	129,869	125,532	111,922	111,922	125,532	12.2
EAGLE PASS	190,599	213,191	193,406	199,325	199,325	193,406	-3.0
EL PASO	629,421	682,455	607,092	659,408	659,408	607,092	-7.9
HARLINGEN	41,844	46,779	28,641	36,372	36,372	28,641	-21.3
LAREDO	574,649	579,933	562,201	569,794	569,794	562,201	-1.3
McALLEN-HIDALGO	376,958	401,666	377,611	376,624	376,624	377,611	0.3
PRESIDIO	48,352	55,204	48,771	46,003	46,003	48,771	6.0
PROGRESO	82,648	93,774	84,523	73,623	73,623	84,523	14.8
RIO GRANDE	50,225	57,324	50,199	41,737	41,737	50,199	20.3
ROMA	85,126	99,695	86,638	67,948	67,948	86,638	27.5
TOTAL	2,670,490	2,873,122	2,650,218	2,604,828	2,604,828	2,650,218	1.7

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 January were down 7.8 percent since December. Harlingen was down 38.8 percent, Roma fell 13.1 percent, Rio Grande decreased 12.4 percent, Presidio dipped 11.7 percent, El Paso decreased 11.0 percent, Progreso fell 9.9 percent, Eagle Pass registered a decrease of 9.3 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo was down 6.0 percent, Brownsville slid 5.4 percent, Del Rio decreased 3.3 percent and Laredo decreased

3.1 percent. YTD northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 1.7 percent. El Paso, with 22.9 percent of all crossings, was down 7.9 percent. Laredo with 21.2 percent of all northbound vehicle bridge crossings, was down slightly by 1.3 percent YTD. However Brownsville, with 18.3 percent of all crossings, was up 15.1 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 14.2 percent of all crossings, was up 0.3 percent.

Export Shipments by Trucks into Mexico —Number of Trucks

CITY	NOV 96	DEC 96	JAN 97	JAN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE+	16,626	15,336	17,680	16,286	16,286	17,680	8.6
DEL RIO+	3,256	2,862	3,467	3,123	3,123	3,467	11.0
EAGLE PASS++	3,500	3,327	3,467	3,231	3,231	3,467	7.3
EL PASO+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	N/A
HARLINGEN+	3,819	3,700	2,718	2,528	2,528	2,718	7.5
LAREDO++	46,780	47,654	48,194	37,962	37,962	48,194	27.0
McALLEN-HIDALGO+	9,110	8,112	8,660	10,347	10,347	8,660	-16.3
PHARR+	5,850	5,718	6,810	3,411	3,411	6,810	99.6
PROGRESO+	951	726	691	1,048	1,048	691	-34.1
RIO GRANDE+	1,619	1,706	1,830	987	987	1,830	85.4
ROMA+	730	758	792	985	985	792	-19.6
TOTAL	92,241	89,899	94,309	79,908	79,908	94,309	18.0

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

+ 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 4.9 percent in January. Del Rio was up 21.1 percent, Pharr increased 19.1 percent, Brownsville grew 15.3 percent, Rio Grande registered a 7.3 percent increase, McAllen-Hidalgo rose 6.8 percent, Roma gained 4.5 percent, Eagle Pass was up 4.2 percent and Laredo was up slightly at 1.1 percent. However, Harlingen was down 26.5 percent and

Progreso decreased 4.8 percent. YTD total truck traffic had an increase of 18.0 percent. Laredo, with 51.1 percent of all southbound shipments, experienced a 27.0 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with 18.7 percent of all southbound shipments, had a 8.6 percent increase YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo with 9.2 percent of all truck traffic, registered a decrease of 16.3 percent.

Import Shipments by Trucks into Texas —Number of Trucks

CITY	NOV 96	DEC 96	JAN 97	JAN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	9,266	7,777	9,757	8,695	8,695	9,757	12.2
DEL RIO	2,596	2,114	2,717	2,286	2,286	2,717	18.9
EAGLE PASS	3,314	2,804	3,051	2,424	2,424	3,051	25.9
FALCON	2	3	4	1	1	4	300.0
LAREDO	52,716	51,420	44,067	40,579	40,579	44,067	8.6
McALLEN-HIDALGO	0	0	0	7,806	7,806	N/A	N/A
PHARR	11,628	10,803	12,004	3,231	3,231	12,004	271.5
PROGRESO	381	456	400	414	414	400	-3.4
RIO GRANDE	1,148	1,208	1,516	484	484	1,516	213.2
ROMA	425	442	389	389	389	389	0.0
TOTAL	81,476	77,027	73,905	66,309	66,309	73,905	11.5

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

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

Northbound truck shipments into Texas decreased 4.1 percent from December's shipments. Laredo was down 14.3 percent, Progreso fell 12.3 percent and Roma decreased 12.0 percent. However, Falcon was up 33.3 percent, Del Rio posted an increase of 28.5 percent, Rio Grande and Brownsville gained 25.5 percent, Pharr

rose 11.1 percent and Eagle Pass was up 8.8 percent. YTD northbound truck shipments were up 11.5 percent. Laredo, accounting for 59.6 percent of all northbound truck traffic, had a 8.6 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with 13.2 percent of shipments, experienced a 12.2 percent increase YTD.

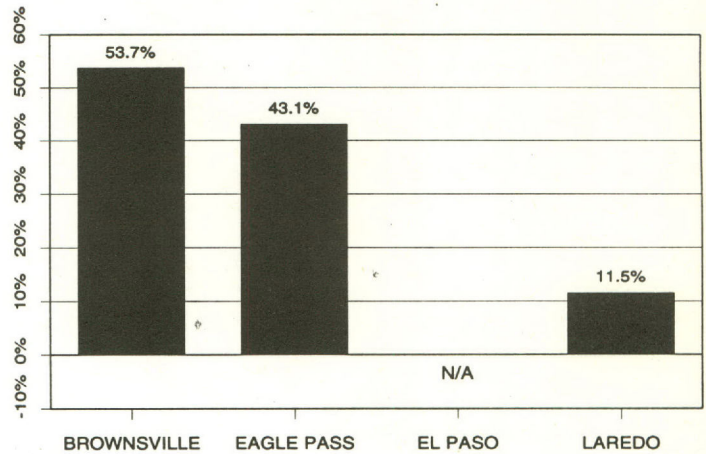
Export Shipments by Rail into Mexico —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	NOV 96	DEC 96	JAN 97	JAN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	2,314	2,736	1,924	1,252	1,252	1,924	53.7
EAGLE PASS	3,896	3,676	3,368	2,354	2,354	3,368	43.1
EL PASO	1,566	1,521	0	1,907	1,907	0	-100.0
LAREDO	12,581	12,240	11,912	10,686	10,686	11,912	11.5
TOTAL	20,357	20,173	17,204	16,199	16,199	17,204	6.2

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

Export Rail YTD % Change 96-97

Southbound rail shipments into Mexico decreased 29.7 percent in January for Brownsville and 10.4 percent for Laredo. El Paso data was unavailable. YTD total southbound rail shipments into Mexico from Brownsville were up 53.7%. Last year at this time, 1,252 railcars left southbound through Brownsville compared to 1,924 railcars passing south in January 1997. YTD total southbound rail shipments into Mexico from Laredo were up 11.5% from a year ago. Last year, 15,349 railcars exited Laredo into Mexico compared to 17,453 for the month of January 1997.



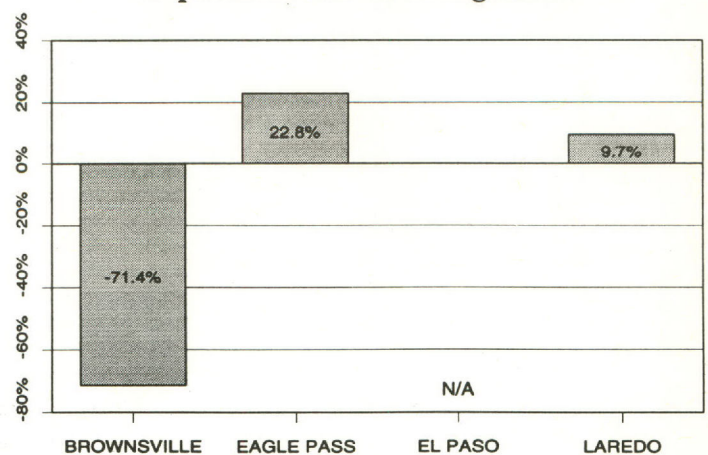
Import Shipments by Rail into Texas —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	NOV 96	DEC 96	JAN 97	JAN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	1,073	1,051	913	3,195	3,195	913	-71.4
EAGLE PASS	2,142	1,877	2,582	2,103	2,103	2,582	22.8
EL PASO	613	617	0	820	820	0	-100.0
LAREDO	7,037	6,938	7,139	6,509	6,509	7,139	9.7
TOTAL	10,865	10,483	10,634	12,627	12,627	10,634	-15.8

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

Import Rail YTD % Change 96-97

Northbound rail shipments into Texas decreased 13.1 percent in January for Brownsville while they increased 2.9 percent for Laredo. El Paso data was unavailable. YTD total southbound rail shipments into Brownsville from Mexico were down 71.4%. Last year at this time, 3,195 railcars left Mexico northbound through Brownsville compared to 913 railcars passing north in January 1997. YTD total northbound rail shipments into Laredo from Mexico were up 9.7% from a year ago. Last year, 6,590 railcars exited Mexico into Laredo compared to 7,139 for the month of January 1997.



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

CITY	DUTY JAN 97	MPF JAN 97	OTHER REVENUE JAN 97	TOTAL REVENUE JAN 97	TOTAL REVENUE JAN 96	YTD REVENUE JAN 96	YTD REVENUE JAN 97	YTD % CHG
BROWNSVILLE	2,062,961	366,273	256,099	2,685,333	2,673,666	2,673,666	2,685,333	0.4
DEL RIO	152,339	60,587	42,168	255,094	357,674	255,094	428,952	68.2
EAGLE PASS	695,443	157,342	1,549,966	2,402,751	1,781,882	2,402,751	1,960,905	-18.4
LAREDO	12,530,941	1,486,522	2,743,697	16,761,160	16,549,132	16,761,160	16,986,440	1.3
McALLEN-HIDALGO	2,606,372	337,320	645,371	3,589,063	2,492,280	3,589,063	3,853,641	7.4
PROGRESO	22,585	7,992	19,844	50,421	35,857	50,421	80,934	60.5
RIO GRANDE	66,086	13,032	11,218	90,336	118,706	90,336	116,845	29.3
ROMA	18,357	6,635	16,855	41,847	37,141	41,847	43,573	4.1
TOTAL	18,155,084	2,435,703	5,285,218	25,876,005	24,046,338	25,864,338	26,156,623	1.1

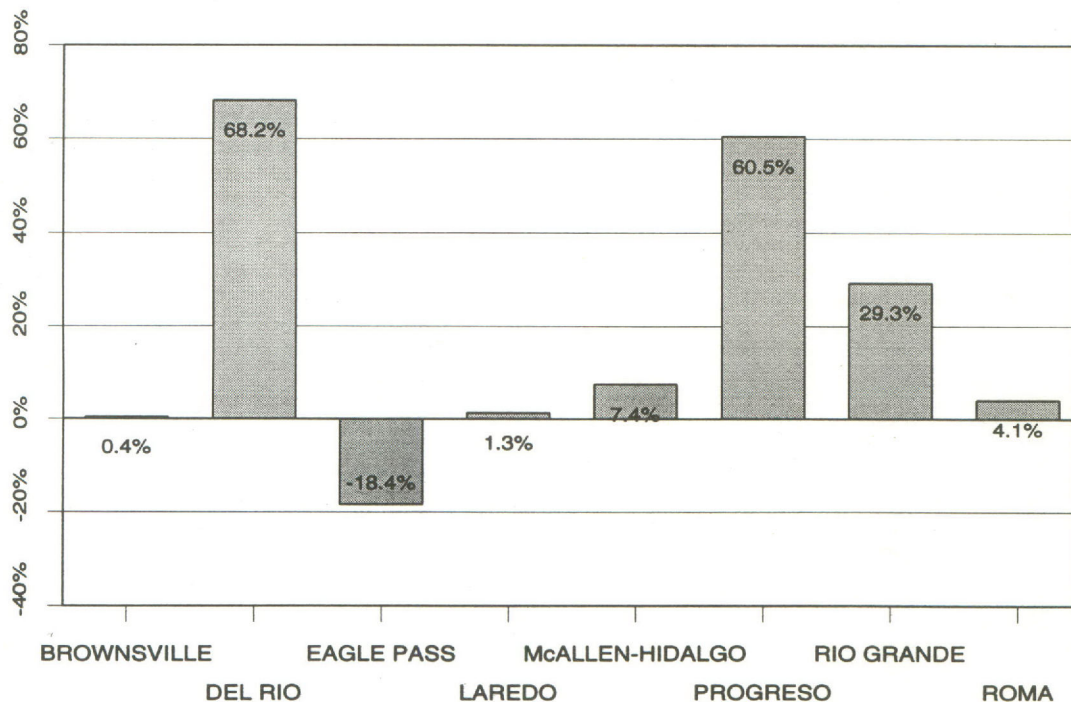
Source: Data provided by U.S. Customs Service, Port of Entry in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

*MPF = Merchandise Processing Fee

Total U.S. Customs revenues for the District of Laredo decreased 23.0 percent in January. Del Rio decreased 55.9 percent, Laredo was down 30.9 percent. Rio Grande fell 12.3 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo was down 10.7 percent, Eagle Pass decreased 3.7 percent and Roma fell 1.5 percent. However, Brownsville increased 28.7 percent and Progreso rose 25.2 percent. YTD revenue figures were

up 1.1 percent compared to January 1996. Laredo, accounting for 64.8 percent of total District revenues, was up 1.3 percent YTD and McAllen-Hidalgo with 13.9 percent of total revenues, was up 7.4 percent YTD. Eagle Pass with 9.3 percent of share revenues declined 18.4 percent and Brownsville, with 10.4 percent of total revenues, increased slightly by 0.4 percent YTD.

% Change Total Revenues YTD 96-97



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

CITY	NOV 96	DEC 96	JAN 97	JAN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	481,195	492,755	480,992	468,906	468,906	480,992	2.6
DEL RIO	164,428	184,141	163,968	153,065	153,065	163,968	7.1
EAGLE PASS	377,826	419,660	366,767	350,198	350,198	366,767	4.7
EL PASO	987,605	989,126	895,705	831,209	831,209	895,705	7.8
HARLINGEN	77,550	82,890	59,422	54,994	54,994	59,422	8.1
LAREDO	1,640,909	1,775,348	1,534,772	1,339,792	1,339,792	1,534,772	14.6
McALLEN-HIDALGO	527,214	567,496	504,340	488,117	488,117	504,340	3.3
PHARR	150,934	170,696	158,771	105,431	105,431	158,771	50.6
TOTAL	4,407,661	4,682,112	4,164,737	3,791,712	3,791,712	4,164,737	9.8

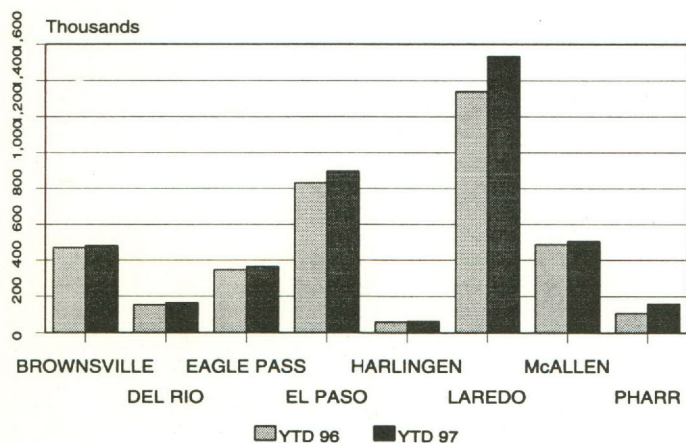
Source: Data provided by U.S. bridge operators in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

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

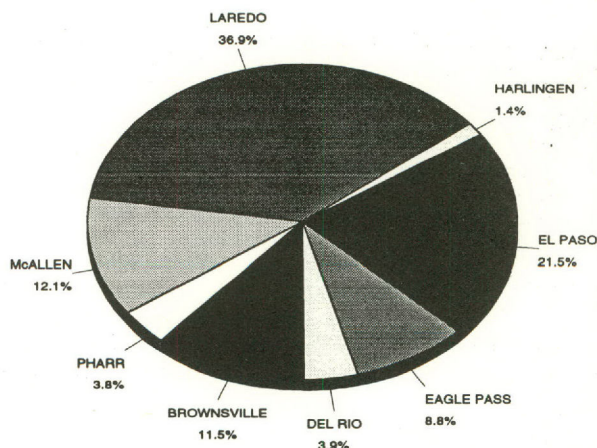
U.S. bridge operators' revenues decreased 11.1 percent in the month of January. Harlingen decreased 28.3 percent, Laredo was down 13.6 percent, Eagle Pass fell 12.6 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo slid 11.1 percent, Del Rio declined 11.0 percent, El Paso posted a 9.4 percent decrease, Pharr fell 7.0 percent and Brownsville dipped 2.4 percent. YTD, U.S. bridge operators' revenues were up 9.8 percent. Laredo, accounting for 36.9 percent of total U.S. bridge

operator's revenues, had a 14.6 percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 21.5 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues, increased 7.8 percent YTD. Brownsville, 11.5 percent of the total bridge revenues, was up 2.6 percent YTD. Eagle Pass, 8.8 percent of total U.S. bridge operator's revenues, was up 4.7 percent. Also, McAllen-Hidalgo which accounts for 12.1 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues in January was up 3.3 percent YTD.

Total Revenues Collected YTD 96-97



% Share Revenues January 1997



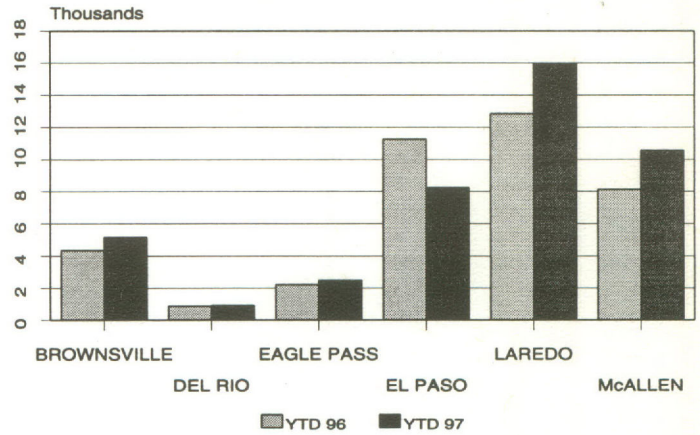
Visas to Tourists from Texas to Mexico

CITY	NOV 96	DEC 96	JAN 97	JAN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	%CHG
BROWNSVILLE	6,856	15,080	5,155	4,355	4,355	5,155	18.4
DEL RIO	1,594	3,720	930	879	879	930	5.8
EAGLE PASS	7,023	12,081	2,471	2,226	2,226	2,471	11.0
EL PASO	14,493	45,187	8,260	11,275	11,275	8,260	-26.7
LAREDO	26,713	56,901	15,975	12,850	12,850	15,975	24.3
McALLEN	5,373	21,980	10,574	8,119	8,119	10,574	30.2
TOTAL	62,052	154,949	43,365	39,704	39,704	43,365	9.2

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 January decreased 72.0 percent. El Paso had a 81.7 percent decrease, Eagle Pass was down 79.5 percent, Del Rio fell 75.0 percent, Laredo posted a decrease of 71.9 percent, Brownsville decreased 65.8 percent and McAllen fell 51.9 percent. YTD, the number of tourist visas issued was up 9.2 percent. Laredo, with 36.8 percent of total visas issued in January was up 24.3 percent. El Paso, with 19.0 percent of total visas issued, had a 26.7 percent decrease YTD. McAllen, with 24.4 percent of all visas issued, rose 30.2 percent YTD and Brownsville with 11.9 percent of total visas issued, increased 18.4 percent YTD.

Tourist Visas YTD January 96-97



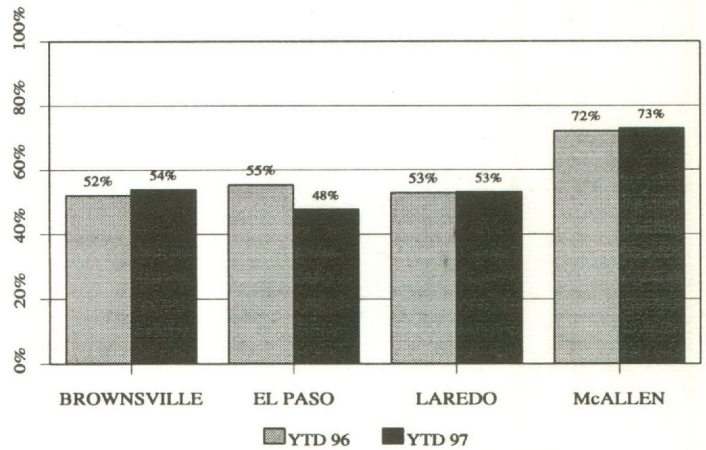
Hotel Occupancy Percentage Rate — Texas Border

CITY	NOV 96	DEC 96	JAN 97	JAN 96	% CHG 96-97
BROWNSVILLE	48.0	49.9	53.9	52.0	3.6
EL PASO	47.9	49.5	47.7	55.3	-13.9
LAREDO	59.5	55.4	53.1	52.8	0.5
McALLEN	64.0	66.4	73.0	72.2	1.1
AVERAGE	54.8	55.3	56.9	58.1	-2.0

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 of reporting Texas border hotels for January was 56.9 percent. McAllen had a 73.0 percent rate, El Paso had a 47.7 percent rate, Laredo had a 53.1 percent rate and Brownsville had a 53.9 percent occupancy rate. The YTD average occupancy rate for the reporting Texas border cities was down 2.0 percent. Brownsville increased 3.6 percent, McAllen increased 1.1 percent and Laredo was up 0.5 percent. However, El Paso decreased 13.9 percent YTD.

Hotel Occupancy Percentage January 96-97



Power Connections – Texas Border

Residential Connections

CITY	NOV 96	DEC 96	JAN 97	JAN 96
BROWNSVILLE	27,851	27,921	27,928	27,921
DEL RIO	13,258	13,315	13,327	13,315
EAGLE PASS	8,784	8,859	8,902	8,859
EL PASO	249,843	250,209	250,541	250,209
HARLINGEN	20,088	20,393	20,549	20,393
LAREDO	43,447	43,595	43,667	43,595
McALLEN	29,434	29,757	29,987	29,757
TOTAL	392,705	394,049	394,901	394,049

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

January residential power connections for all reporting Texas border cities increased from December's figures by 0.22 percent. YTD, residential power connections for all reporting border cities were up 0.2 percent. McAllen and Harlingen experienced the largest increase by 0.8 percent, followed by Eagle Pass up 0.5 percent. Laredo had a 0.2 percent increase. El Paso and Del Rio increased 0.1 percent. Brownsville reported no change YTD.

January commercial power connections for reporting Texas border cities increased 2.72 percent from December's figures. Brownsville increased 47.51 percent, McAllen was up 0.36 percent, Harlingen rose 0.19 percent, Del Rio increased 0.16 percent, El Paso gained 0.12 percent and Laredo rose slightly at 0.09 percent. However, Eagle Pass was down 0.24 percent. YTD, commercial power connection for reporting border cities increased by 4.7 percent over January 1996. Brownsville increased 45.6 percent YTD, Del Rio increased 4.0 percent, El Paso was up 2.8 percent, Eagle Pass rose 1.8 percent and McAllen was up 1.7 percent, Harlingen gained 1.6 percent and Laredo was up slightly by 0.3 percent YTD.

Commercial Connections

CITY	NOV 96	DEC 96	JAN 97	JAN 96
BROWNSVILLE	2,527	2,490	3,673	2,523
DEL RIO	1,849	1,860	1,863	1,791
EAGLE PASS	1,263	1,268	1,265	1,243
EL PASO	25,273	25,304	25,334	24,652
HARLINGEN	3,135	3,141	3,147	3,096
LAREDO	6,500	6,501	6,507	6,487
McALLEN	5,057	5,067	5,085	4,999
TOTAL	45,604	45,631	46,874	44,791

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	NOV 96	DEC 96	JAN 97	JAN 96
BROWNSVILLE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
DEL RIO	30	30	30	30
EAGLE PASS	23	23	23	17
EL PASO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HARLINGEN	83	83	83	86
LAREDO	129	129	128	130
McALLEN	52	53	54	47
TOTAL	317	318	318	310

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 2.6 percent in January over December's figures. Del Rio, Eagle Pass and Harlingen remained unchanged. McAllen was up 1.89 percent while Laredo decreased 0.78 percent. YTD, Eagle Pass had the largest increase with 35.3 percent and McAllen increased 14.9 percent. Harlingen remained at a 3.5 percent decline and Laredo decreased 1.5 percent. All other cities showed no change YTD.

Building Permits — Texas Border

Number of Permits

NUMBER	NOV 96	DEC 96	JAN 97	JAN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	222	189	186	197	197	186	-5.6
DEL RIO	48	42	117	73	73	117	60.3
EAGLE PASS	24	19	21	26	26	21	-19.2
EL PASO	758	700	683	769	769	683	-11.2
HARLINGEN	55	60	57	64	64	57	-10.9
LAREDO	212	251	239	209	209	239	14.4
MCALLEN	105	96	106	116	116	106	-8.6
TOTAL	1,424	1,357	1,409	1,454	1,454	1,409	-3.1

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

January building permits issued by reporting Texas border cities were up 3.8 percent from December. Del Rio increased 178.6 percent, Eagle Pass was up 10.5 percent and McAllen increased 10.4 percent. However, Harlingen fell 5.0 percent, Laredo was down 4.8 percent, El Paso slid 2.4 percent and Brownsville dipped 1.6 percent. YTD, the number of building permits issued were

down 3.1 percent. El Paso, accounting for 48.5 percent of all building permits issued had a 11.2 percent decrease. Laredo, with 17.0 percent of building permits issued, was up 14.4 percent YTD. Brownsville was down 5.6 percent and McAllen decreased 8.6 percent.

U.S. Dollar Value of Permits

VALUE	NOV 96	DEC 96	JAN 97	JAN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	7,182,719	4,648,520	4,708,784	7,531,601	7,531,601	4,708,784	-37.5
DEL RIO	1,690,026	855,288	1,080,296	1,833,319	1,833,319	1,080,296	-41.1
EAGLE PASS	437,091	222,410	741,449	771,608	771,608	741,449	-3.9
EL PASO	25,888,288	29,820,674	61,123,747	27,312,016	27,312,016	61,123,747	123.8
HARLINGEN	6,972,367	2,558,892	6,230,828	4,700,595	4,700,595	6,230,828	32.6
LAREDO	6,609,262	10,405,023	11,809,015	11,879,716	11,879,716	11,809,015	-0.6
MCALLEN	5,465,928	10,407,519	13,985,477	10,158,853	10,158,853	13,985,477	37.7
TOTAL	54,245,681	58,918,326	99,679,596	64,187,708	64,187,708	99,679,596	55.3

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

January building permit values for reporting Texas border cities were up 69.2 percent from December. Eagle Pass increased 233.4 percent, Harlingen rose 143.5 percent, El Paso was up 105.0 percent, McAllen increased 34.4 percent, Del Rio gained 26.3 percent, Laredo was up 13.5 percent and Brownsville gained 1.3 percent. YTD, reporting border cities experienced a 55.3 percent

increase. El Paso, with 61.3 percent of total value, had a 123.8 percent YTD increase, McAllen with 14.0 percent total value increased 37.7 percent YTD. However Brownsville, with 4.7 percent total value, decreased 37.5 percent YTD and Laredo with 11.8 percent total value, was down 0.6 percent YTD.

Employment/Unemployment Rates —Texas Border

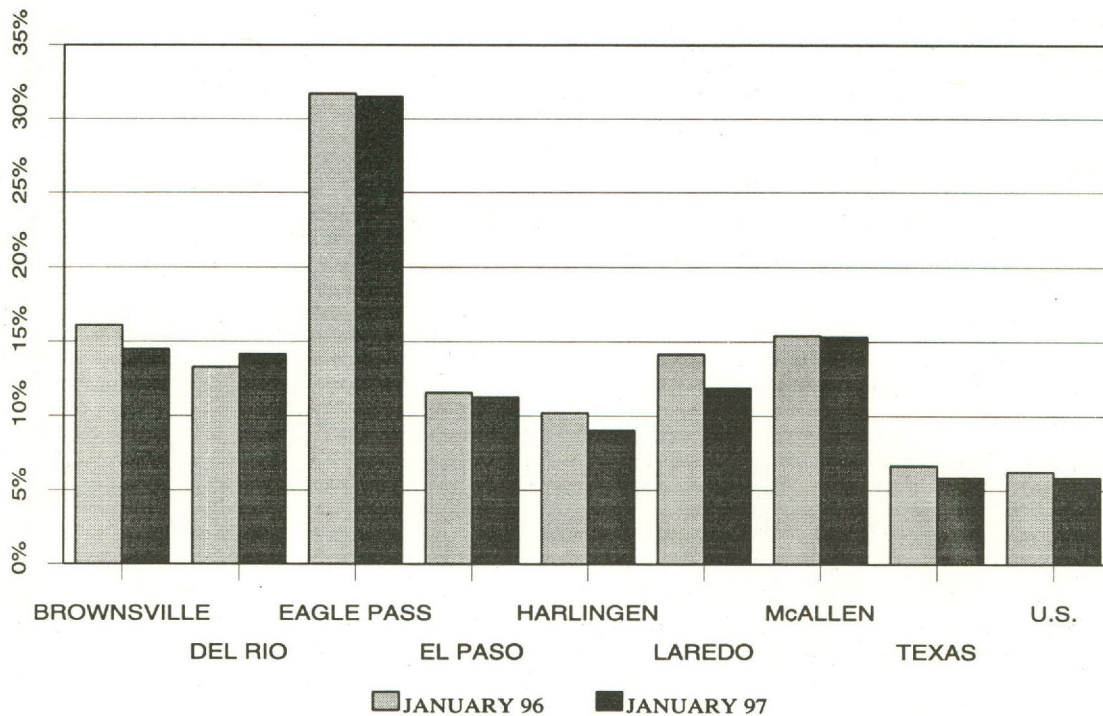
CITY	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED	PERCENT UNEMPLOYED	PERCENT UNEMPLOYED
	JAN 97	JAN 96	JAN 97	JAN 96	JAN 97	JAN 96
BROWNSVILLE	40,502	39,951	6,866	7,666	14.5	16.1
DEL RIO	13,183	13,876	2,176	2,135	14.2	13.3
EAGLE PASS	7,759	7,946	3,565	3,680	31.5	31.7
EL PASO	232,717	229,626	29,762	30,080	11.3	11.6
HARLINGEN	23,268	22,951	2,335	2,607	9.1	10.2
LAREDO	57,566	55,190	7,741	9,103	11.9	14.2
McALLEN	40,539	39,574	7,313	7,224	15.3	15.4
TOTAL	415,534	409,114	59,758	62,495	12.6	13.3
THE TEXAS UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					5.87	6.67
THE NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					5.91	6.29

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 January, total employment in reporting Texas border cities rose 0.3 percent (1,097 jobs gained) from December's figures. Laredo increased 1.8 percent (1,019 jobs gained) and El Paso increased 1.3 percent (3,084 jobs gained). However, Del Rio decreased 7.3 percent (1,045 jobs lost), Eagle Pass was down 6.1 percent (508 jobs lost) and McAllen fell 1.5 percent (606 jobs lost). Both

Brownsville and Harlingen decreased 1.3 percent (538 and 309 jobs lost respectively). YTD, the total employment in Texas border cities was up 1.6 percent (6,420 jobs gained) from a year ago. The average unemployment rate for the border was 12.6 percent compared to 5.87 percent for Texas and 5.91 percent for the U.S. in January.

% Unemployed January 96-97



Air Passenger Service Activities — Selected Border Cities

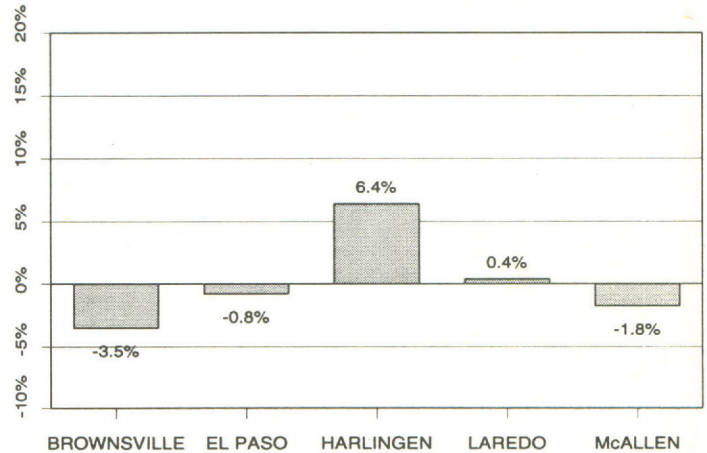
Passenger Arrivals

CITY	NOV 96	DEC 96	JAN 97	JAN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	5,266	6,181	5,649	5,854	5,854	5,649	-3.5
EL PASO	133,300	149,603	126,413	127,434	127,434	126,413	-0.8
HARLINGEN	31,991	38,653	35,638	33,496	33,496	35,638	6.4
LAREDO	4,719	5,374	5,085	5,067	5,067	5,085	0.4
McALLEN	23,910	25,539	25,759	26,243	26,243	25,759	-1.8
TOTAL	193,920	219,169	192,895	192,240	192,240	192,895	0.3

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

January air passenger arrivals for reporting Texas border cities were down 12.0 percent over December's figures. El Paso was down 15.5 percent, Brownsville decreased 8.6 percent, Harlingen fell 7.8 percent and Laredo was down 5.4 percent. However, McAllen was up 0.9 percent. YTD air passenger arrivals were up 0.3 percent. Harlingen, with 18.5 percent was up 6.4 percent and Laredo, with 2.6 percent of air passenger arrivals, was up 0.4 percent. However, El Paso with 65.5 percent of total passengers decreased 0.8 percent YTD, Brownsville fell 3.5 percent YTD and McAllen decreased 1.8 percent YTD.

Passenger Arrivals % Change YTD 96-97



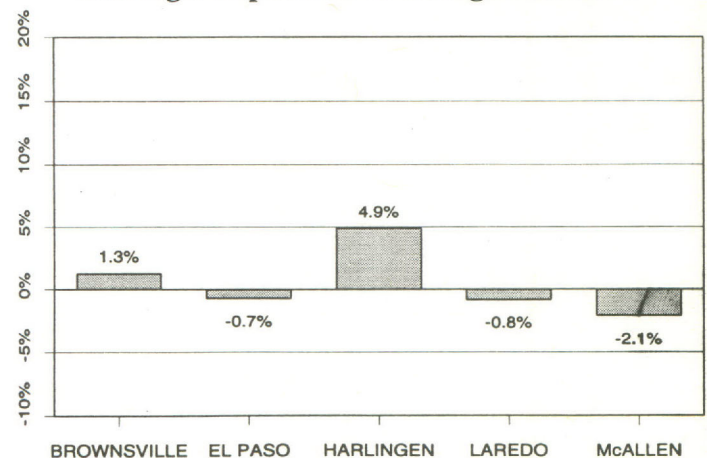
Passenger Departures

CITY	NOV 96	DEC 96	JAN 97	JAN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	5,076	6,204	6,033	5,956	5,956	6,033	1.3
EL PASO	128,429	147,253	133,813	134,750	134,750	133,813	-0.7
HARLINGEN	33,134	38,673	37,830	36,075	36,075	37,830	4.9
LAREDO	4,467	5,481	5,506	5,552	5,552	5,506	-0.8
McALLEN	24,052	26,650	26,809	27,373	27,373	26,809	-2.1
TOTAL	190,082	218,057	203,958	203,750	203,750	203,958	0.1

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

January air passenger departures for reporting Texas border cities were down 6.5 percent from December's figures. El Paso decreased 9.1 percent, Brownsville was down 2.8 percent and Harlingen fell 2.2 percent. However, McAllen rose 0.6 percent and Laredo was up 0.5 percent. YTD, air passenger departures were up 0.1 percent from a year ago. Harlingen with 18.5 percent of all passengers was up 4.9 percent and Brownsville with 22.5 percent of all passengers departing was up 1.3 percent. However El Paso, with 65.6 percent of all passengers, declined 0.7 percent YTD. McAllen was down 2.1 percent YTD and Laredo fell 0.8 percent YTD.

Passenger Departures % Change YTD 96-97



Port Of Corpus Christi

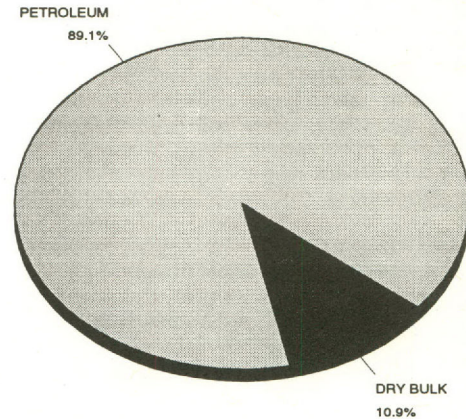
Inbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	NOV 96	DEC 96	JAN 97	JAN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BREAK BULK	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
BULK GRAIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
CHEMICAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
DRY BULK	238,713	286,086	331,351	496,179	496,179	331,351	-33.2
PETROLEUM	3,212,310	3,649,987	2,716,489	2,629,751	2,629,751	2,716,489	3.3
TOTAL	3,451,023	3,936,073	3,047,840	3,125,930	3,125,930	3,047,840	-2.5

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 22.6 percent decrease in inbound cargo tonnage in January. Petroleum which is 89.1 percent of total inbound cargo for January decreased 25.6 percent. Dry bulk which accounted for 10.9 percent of the port's inbound cargo, increased by 15.8 percent in January. YTD, inbound cargo tonnage was down 2.5 percent. Dry bulk was down 33.2 percent YTD while petroleum was up 3.3 percent YTD.

% Share January 1997 Inbound Cargo



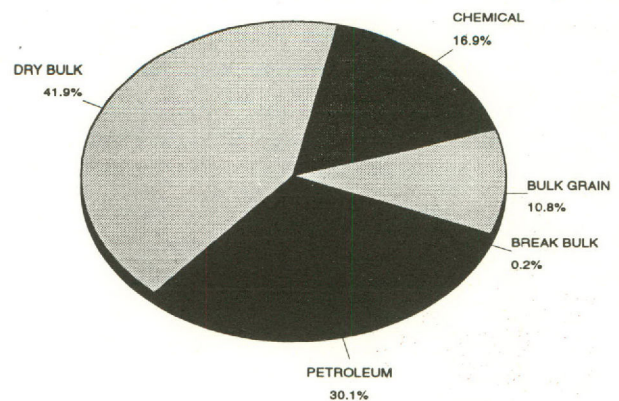
Outbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	NOV 96	DEC 96	JAN 97	JAN 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BREAK BULK	2,745	276	1,356	0	0	1,356	N/A
BULK GRAIN	69,834	46,837	65,098	68,422	68,422	65,098	-4.9
CHEMICAL	140,172	187,122	101,623	154,431	154,431	101,623	-34.2
CONTAINER	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
DRY BULK	142,493	232,565	251,751	249,322	249,322	251,751	1.0
PETROLEUM	216,176	246,584	181,137	102,443	102,443	181,137	76.8
TOTAL	571,420	713,384	600,965	574,618	574,618	600,965	4.6

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 15.8 percent increase in outbound cargo tonnage in January. Dry bulk increased 63.2 percent, Chemicals rose 8.2 percent, Break bulk gained 391.3 percent and Bulk grain increased 32.9 percent. However, Petroleum fell 26.5 percent. YTD, total outbound cargo tonnage was up 4.6 percent.

% Share January 1997 Outbound Cargo



Border Business Indicators

is published monthly by the Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development, a division of the College of Business Administration (COBA) at Texas A&M International University (TAMIU).

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