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# Border Business Indicators

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Texas State Documents

Institute for International Trade  
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 August were down. Thirteen monthly indicators were down while ten indicators were up when compared to July. In addition, for the year-to-date (YTD) figures, seventeen indicators were up and six were down. Selected YTD comparisons to 1996 reported by border cities include the following:

- Southbound pedestrian crossings into Mexico were up 29.5 percent. El Paso was up 74.0 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo rose 15.7 percent, Laredo increased 13.2 percent and Brownsville was up 1.2 percent.
- Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were down 1.6 percent. Brownsville was down 8.2 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo fell 9.8 percent and Laredo decreased 6.2 percent. However, El Paso increased 6.3 percent.
- Southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 5.5 percent. El Paso was up 9.5 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo rose 8.8 percent, Brownsville increased 6.5 percent and Laredo was up 5.2 percent.
- Northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 2.7 percent with Brownsville increasing 7.4 percent and El Paso gaining 1.4 percent. However, Laredo was down 2.5 percent and McAllen-Hidalgo fell 1.4 percent YTD.
- Southbound truck shipments into Mexico were up 16.4 percent. Laredo increased 24.1 percent and Brownsville rose 12.2 percent while McAllen-Hidalgo decreased 15.6 percent.
- Northbound truck shipments into Texas were up 3.9 percent with Eagle Pass increasing 16.8 percent, Laredo posted a 0.4 percent decrease and Brownsville gained 3.7 percent YTD.
- Southbound shipments by rail were up 18.7 percent.
- Northbound shipments by rail were down 1.0 percent.
- Revenues collected by U.S. Customs were up 6.6 percent YTD. Revenues collected by U.S. Bridge operators were up 8.1 percent.
- Building permits issued were down 7.2 percent. Harlingen decreased by 16.3 percent, El Paso declined 11.6 percent and Laredo was down 2.0 percent.
- Building permit values were up with a YTD increase of 28.2 percent. Brownsville increased 82.5 percent, McAllen was up 41.4 percent, Laredo gained 39.5 percent and Harlingen reported a 31.1 percent increase.
- Total employment was up 6.5 percent (26,216 jobs gained) YTD. The average unemployment rate in August 1997 was 11.1 percent, down from the 13.3 percent in August 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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IIT Technical Report No. 10: The Texas Border with Mexico: Opportunities and Challenges (October 1994)  
IIT Technical Report No. 12: NAFTA One Year After Implementation: A Preliminary Assessment of Selected Impacts (March 1995)

Technical Reports are available by writing to: IIT Technical Report Series, The College of Business Administration and The Graduate School of International Trade & Business Administration, 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 Institute for International Trade.

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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.

# Public Law 104-88 and House Bill 1487, Freight Forwarding Seminar Sponsored by the Texas Center at Texas A&M International University

by Duane W. Burdorf, Director

Did you know that under federal and state Law, freight forwarders have to register with the government? Under the ICC Termination Act, a **freight forwarder** is considered a “**carrier**.” Under Public Law 104-88, the definition of a carrier is “(3) *Carrier* - The term ‘carrier’ means a motor carrier, a water carrier, and a **freight forwarder**.” If one is considered a freight forwarder, one needs operating authority.

Did you also know that under federal law if you receive, store, break bulk, warehouse and use interstate or foreign motor carriers or a drayage motor carrier, **you may be considered a freight forwarder**. The Texas Center at Texas A&M International University recently held a seminar covering the ICC Termination Act and House Bill 1487 on October 29<sup>th</sup> that provided information on how freight forwarders can register at both the state and federal level.

The seminar was opened by Dr. Larry Boyd, Provost of Texas A&M International University and Dr. Khosrow Fatemi, Dean of the College of Business Administration. Dr. James R. Giermanski, Director of Transportation & Logistics, Center for the Study of Western Hemispheric Trade, Texas A&M International University started the seminar with an overview and background of freight forwarding regulations. He then talked about current federal and state laws (Public Law 104-88 and House Bill 1487) concerning registration of freight forwarders. Dr. Giermanski ended his presentation with a discussion of liability for freight forwarders, particularly with respect to potential Carmack implications.

The next speaker was Liborio Canales, Attorney-at-Law, on the Carmack Amendment. He was followed by Flavio Munoz de Leon, Attorney-at-Law from Monterrey, covering possible scenarios in U.S.-Mexican Freight Movement. Liborio Canales finished up his segment with Federal/State Jurisdiction and Enforcement/ Rights & Remedies.

The next portion of the seminar was covered by Nat Jackson, U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Motor Carriers, who explained the federal registration process. Each participant was provided a booklet with federal registration material inside. Mr. Jackson went step-by-step through the federal registration which benefitted the freight forwarders in attendance.

The final speakers came from the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. Henry Molina, Deputy Executive Director and Investigator Bob Roda explained the state registration process. They were accompanied by State Representative Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo, the sponsor of House Bill 1487. Mr. Molina passed out state registration material during his presentation and attempted to “clear the waters” in a lot of the gray areas of the bill. An example discussed at the seminar is where the state bill reads under Section 9 Qualifications (b) “*The department may refuse to grant a certificate of registration to a person, other than an individual, or may suspend or revoke the person’s certificate if: (2) the person owes delinquent taxes to any local, state, or federal taxing entity.*” To an average reader of the law, this appears that if one owes back Webb County taxes, one may be refused a registration certificate. Representative Cuellar and Bob Roda assured the audience that the State of Texas does not have any intention to shut down businesses. The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation officials said they would work with freight forwarders who might be delinquent on back taxes in order to facilitate state registration as freight forwarders.

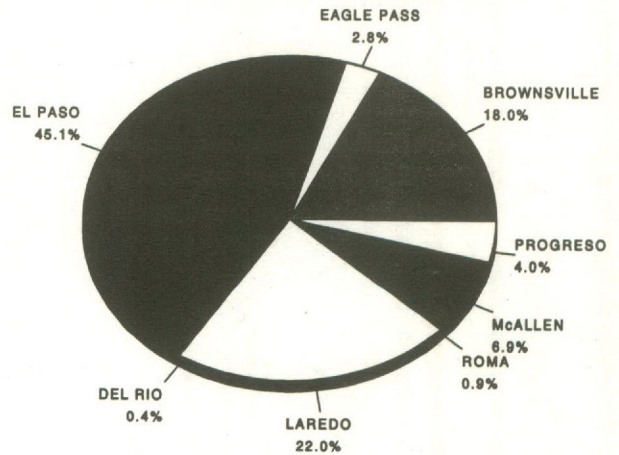
## Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	JUN 97	JUL 97	AUG 97	AUG 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	247,566	278,729	277,669	260,064	2,139,096	2,163,796	1.2
DEL RIO	4,940	5,175	5,420	5,337	39,927	42,122	5.5
EAGLE PASS	36,374	37,098	42,493	35,573	289,650	317,377	9.6
EL PASO	619,606	639,079	693,455	442,976	2,975,335	5,176,503	74.0
HARLINGEN	96	83	100	98	820	721	-12.1
LAREDO	316,335	349,480	337,846	283,311	2,283,154	2,584,001	13.2
McALLEN-HIDALGO	100,628	102,309	105,892	88,642	750,774	868,682	15.7
PROGRESO	61,747	72,070	62,230	52,110	739,826	827,627	11.9
RIO GRANDE	688	698	598	841	6,786	6,911	1.8
ROMA	12,223	12,442	13,395	13,631	117,423	111,245	-5.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,400,203</b>	<b>1,497,163</b>	<b>1,539,098</b>	<b>1,182,583</b>	<b>9,342,791</b>	<b>12,098,985</b>	<b>29.5</b>

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

Southbound pedestrian bridge crossings into Mexico for August were up 2.8 percent compared to July. Harlingen increased 20.5 percent, Eagle Pass was up 14.5 percent, El Paso gained 8.5 percent, Roma rose 7.7 percent, Del Rio grew 4.7 percent and McAllen-Hidalgo posted an increase of 3.5 percent. However, Rio Grande fell 14.3 percent, Progreso declined 13.7 percent, Laredo was down 3.3 percent and Brownsville dipped 0.4 percent. YTD, total southbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were up 29.5 percent. El Paso southbound pedestrian crossings, which make up 45.1 percent of all crossings in August, were up 74.0 percent. Laredo, accounting for 22.0 percent of all crossings, was up 13.2 percent and Brownsville was up 1.2 percent with 18.0 percent of all crossings YTD.

**% Share Pedestrians for August 1997**



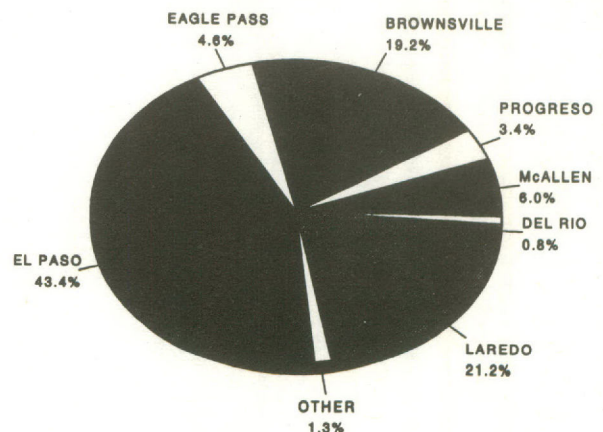
## Pedestrian Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	JUN 97	JUL 97	AUG 97	AUG 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	229,414	301,109	252,837	254,608	2,090,108	1,919,186	-8.2
DEL RIO	10,000	11,346	11,168	10,314	68,429	87,445	27.8
EAGLE PASS	59,756	63,634	60,190	46,930	392,121	455,693	16.2
EL PASO	490,133	547,387	572,483	565,203	3,786,399	4,025,066	6.3
LAREDO	243,090	291,722	279,330	283,702	2,203,646	2,065,978	-6.2
McALLEN-HIDALGO	81,070	79,231	79,411	99,125	809,022	730,064	-9.8
PRESIDIO	2,924	2,514	2,828	2,543	18,490	23,767	28.5
PROGRESO	45,251	58,758	44,606	47,570	532,303	461,967	-13.2
RIO GRANDE	1,207	1,089	1,263	1,095	9,490	10,212	7.6
ROMA	13,178	13,000	13,511	13,373	125,490	100,533	-19.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,176,023</b>	<b>1,369,790</b>	<b>1,317,627</b>	<b>1,324,463</b>	<b>10,035,498</b>	<b>9,879,911</b>	<b>-1.6</b>

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

Northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were down 3.8 percent in August. Progreso decreased 24.1 percent, Brownsville fell 16.0, Eagle Pass declined 5.4 percent, Laredo fell 4.2 percent and Del Rio dipped 1.6 percent. However, Rio Grande increased 16.0 percent, Presidio rose 12.5 percent, El Paso was up 4.6 percent, Roma grew 3.9 percent and McAllen-Hidalgo posted a slight increase of 0.2 percent. YTD total northbound pedestrian crossings into Texas were down 1.6 percent. El Paso, accounting for 43.4 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings in August, was up 6.3 percent YTD. Laredo, with 21.2 percent of all northbound crossings, was down 6.2 percent and Brownsville, with 19.2 percent of all northbound pedestrian crossings, had an 8.2 percent decrease in crossings YTD.

**% Share Pedestrians for August 1997**



## Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Mexico

CITY	JUN 97	JUL 97	AUG 97	AUG 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	497,640	541,672	537,640	507,826	3,845,605	4,096,078	6.5
DEL RIO	142,712	148,723	150,899	150,721	1,188,018	1,145,040	-3.6
EAGLE PASS	211,998	215,683	214,730	220,727	1,732,679	1,708,788	-1.4
EL PASO	423,007	445,115	445,520	413,785	3,232,412	3,540,621	9.5
HARLINGEN	33,967	36,806	37,214	29,889	253,314	272,310	7.5
LAREDO	669,065	681,826	703,000	666,078	4,996,929	5,258,276	5.2
McALLEN-HIDALGO	422,619	436,599	457,216	428,988	3,149,866	3,426,381	8.8
PHARR	102,805	108,141	105,063	82,403	670,958	784,199	16.9
PROGRESO	80,370	82,127	80,475	77,795	710,120	681,364	-4.0
RIO GRANDE	45,577	44,228	46,449	43,492	359,587	370,473	3.0
ROMA	68,104	69,002	70,936	68,480	557,168	559,442	0.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,697,864</b>	<b>2,809,922</b>	<b>2,849,142</b>	<b>2,690,184</b>	<b>20,696,656</b>	<b>21,842,972</b>	<b>5.5</b>

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

Southbound vehicle bridge crossings into Mexico increased 1.4 percent in August from July's figures. Rio Grande increased 5.0 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo was up 4.7 percent, Laredo rose 3.1 percent, Roma increased 2.8 percent, Del Rio gained 1.5 percent, Harlingen posted a 1.1 percent increase and El Paso rose slightly at 0.1 percent. However, Pharr decreased 2.8 percent, Progreso fell 2.0 percent and Brownsville had a 0.7 percent decline. YTD total southbound vehicle bridge crossings were up 5.5 percent. Laredo,

with 24.7 percent of all southbound traffic in August, was up 5.2 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 18.9 percent of all southbound vehicle bridge crossings, had a 6.5 percent increase YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 16.0 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings, experienced an 8.8 percent increase YTD. El Paso, accounting for 15.6 percent of all southbound vehicle crossings had a 9.5 percent increase YTD.

## Vehicle Bridge-Crossings into Texas

CITY	JUN 97	JUL 97	AUG 97	AUG 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	495,626	536,120	543,762	494,795	3,824,903	4,106,118	7.4
DEL RIO	149,608	160,854	156,908	148,456	1,025,215	1,135,280	10.7
EAGLE PASS	218,783	222,432	224,796	196,876	1,590,986	1,690,708	6.3
EL PASO	657,094	618,858	725,483	657,126	5,260,508	5,336,318	1.4
HARLINGEN	42,908	49,647	49,627	37,661	317,220	337,870	6.5
LAREDO	589,759	598,975	611,609	614,285	4,786,441	4,666,070	-2.5
McALLEN-HIDALGO	400,756	406,153	416,994	396,801	3,225,024	3,180,771	-1.4
PRESIDIO	54,408	47,430	52,530	62,396	405,382	407,275	0.5
PROGRESO	79,859	81,863	79,571	78,357	607,277	688,846	13.4
RIO GRANDE	49,718	48,618	50,225	46,228	355,107	406,755	14.5
ROMA	71,645	70,172	72,565	80,538	562,876	608,077	8.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,810,164</b>	<b>2,841,122</b>	<b>2,984,070</b>	<b>2,813,519</b>	<b>21,960,939</b>	<b>22,564,088</b>	<b>2.7</b>

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

Northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas for August were up 5.0 percent since July. El Paso was up 17.2 percent, Presidio gained 10.8 percent, Roma increased 3.4 percent and Rio Grande rose 3.3 percent. McAllen-Hidalgo was up 2.7 percent, Laredo gained 2.1 percent, Brownsville rose 1.4 percent and Eagle Pass reported a 1.1 percent increase. However, Progreso posted a 2.8 percent decrease, Del Rio declined 2.5 percent and Harlingen

remained unchanged for the month. YTD northbound vehicle bridge crossings into Texas were up 2.7 percent. El Paso, with 24.3 percent of all crossings in August, was up 1.4 percent YTD. Laredo, with 20.5 percent of all crossings, was down 2.5 percent and Brownsville with 18.2 percent of all crossings, was up 7.4 percent YTD.

## Export Shipments by Trucks into Mexico —Number of Trucks

CITY	JUN 97	JUL 97	AUG 97	AUG 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE+	18,507	20,705	20,123	17,208	132,106	148,251	12.2
DEL RIO+	3,183	3,162	3,773	3,561	23,915	27,239	13.9
EAGLE PASS++	3,248	3,483	2,977	2,805	25,854	29,490	14.1
EL PASO+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	N/A
HARLINGEN+	2,932	4,611	5,014	3,547	28,796	25,073	-12.9
LAREDO++	53,189	56,314	55,832	45,267	331,407	411,237	24.1
McALLEN-HIDALGO+	9,408	9,498	9,229	10,504	89,994	75,916	-15.6
PHARR+	8,193	8,592	8,218	4,438	33,941	66,044	94.6
PROGRESO+	703	567	1,043	1,675	13,951	8,843	-36.6
RIO GRANDE+	1,614	1,800	1,516	1,604	11,111	13,683	23.1
ROMA+	808	725	649	708	6,050	6,025	-0.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>101,785</b>	<b>109,457</b>	<b>108,374</b>	<b>91,317</b>	<b>697,125</b>	<b>811,801</b>	<b>16.4</b>

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

+ 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 down 1.0 percent in August. Rio Grande decreased 15.8 percent, Eagle Pass fell 14.5 percent, Roma declined 10.5 percent, Pharr was down 4.4 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo and Brownsville registered a 2.8 percent decline and Laredo dipped 0.9 percent. However, Progreso posted an 84.0 percent increase, Del Rio rose 19.3 percent and Harlingen was up 8.7 percent. YTD, total southbound truck traffic had an increase of

16.4 percent. Laredo, with 51.5 percent of all southbound shipments in August, experienced a 24.1 percent increase YTD. Brownsville, with 18.6 percent of all southbound shipments, had a 12.2 percent increase YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo with 8.5 percent of all truck traffic, registered a decrease of 15.6 percent and Pharr, with 7.6 percent of all truck crossings, rose 94.6 percent.

## Import Shipments by Trucks into Texas —Number of Trucks

CITY	JUN 97	JUL 97	AUG 97	AUG 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	10,758	11,551	11,889	10,536	77,825	80,721	3.7
DEL RIO	2,589	2,529	2,709	2,526	19,534	21,615	10.7
EAGLE PASS	3,486	3,426	3,711	3,124	23,163	27,052	16.8
FALCON	5	9	22	3	49	63	28.6
LAREDO	48,220	50,046	40,626	48,108	364,349	362,996	-0.4
McALLEN-HIDALGO	0	0	0	6,225	62,334	N/A	N/A
PHARR	13,405	12,892	12,149	4,787	32,413	105,995	227.0
PROGRESO	554	817	836	517	6,487	6,339	-2.3
RIO GRANDE	1,169	1,171	781	975	6,323	10,579	67.3
ROMA	548	515	473	430	3,706	3,968	7.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>80,734</b>	<b>82,956</b>	<b>73,196</b>	<b>77,231</b>	<b>596,183</b>	<b>619,328</b>	<b>3.9</b>

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 11.8 percent from July's shipments. Rio Grande decreased 33.3 percent, Laredo had a decline of 18.8 percent, Roma fell 8.2 percent and Pharr slipped 5.8 percent. However, Falcon showed a 144.4 percent increase, Eagle Pass was up 8.3 percent, Del Rio rose 7.1 percent,

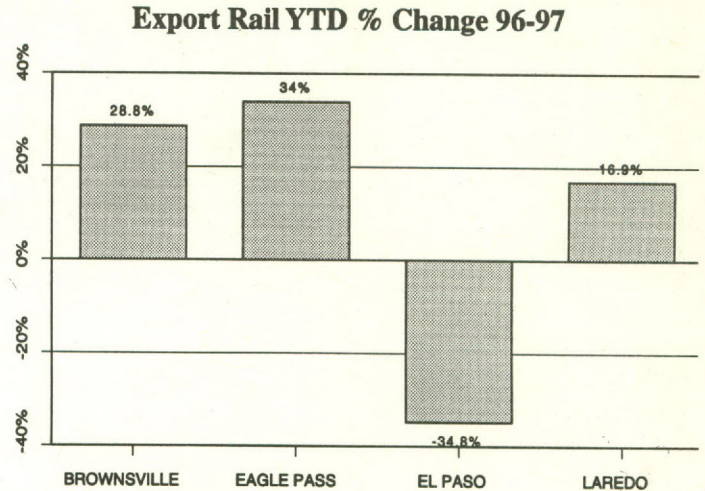
Brownsville increased 2.9 percent and Progreso gained 2.3 percent. YTD northbound truck shipments were up 3.9 percent. Laredo, accounting for 55.5 percent of all northbound truck traffic in August, had a 0.4 percent decrease YTD. Pharr, with 16.6 percent of shipments, experienced a 227.0 percent increase YTD.

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

CITY	JUN 97	JUL 97	AUG 97	AUG 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	2,198	1,913	1,896	2,223	16,522	21,273	28.8
EAGLE PASS	4,453	4,802	4,652	4,716	24,639	33,008	34.0
EL PASO	520	589	451	856	7,153	4,661	-34.8
LAREDO	12,351	12,682	11,206	10,366	86,035	100,544	16.9
TOTAL	19,522	19,986	18,205	18,161	134,349	159,486	18.7

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 8.9 percent in August. El Paso declined 23.4 percent, Laredo was down 11.6 percent, Eagle Pass fell 3.1 percent and Brownsville decreased 0.9 percent. YTD, total southbound rail shipments into Mexico from Texas were up 18.7 percent. Laredo, which accounts for 61.6 percent of all southbound rail shipments in August, was up 16.9 percent. Eagle Pass, accounting for 25.6 percent of all southbound rail shipments, increased 34.0 percent. Brownsville, with 10.4 percent of all southbound rail shipments in August, rose 28.8 percent YTD.

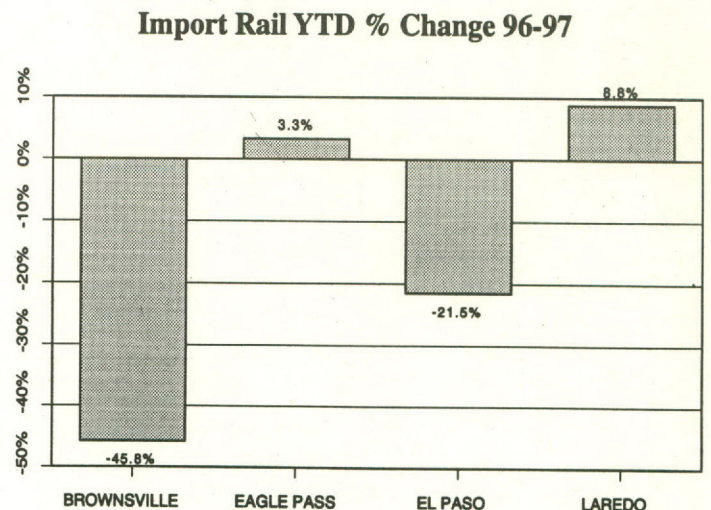


## Import Shipments by Rail into Texas —Number of Rail Cars

CITY	JUN 97	JUL 97	AUG 97	AUG 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	977	822	1,121	1,608	14,411	7,806	-45.8
EAGLE PASS	3,118	3,932	3,247	4,122	26,194	27,060	3.3
EL PASO	158	144	162	229	1,757	1,380	-21.5
LAREDO	8,334	8,096	7,733	7,196	57,513	62,601	8.8
TOTAL	12,587	12,994	12,263	13,155	99,875	98,847	-1.0

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

Northbound rail shipments into Texas decreased 5.6 percent in August. Eagle Pass registered a 17.4 percent decrease and Laredo fell 4.5 percent. However, Brownsville was up 36.4 percent and El Paso posted an increase of 12.5 percent. YTD, total northbound rail shipments into Texas from Mexico were down 1.0 percent. Laredo, which accounts for 63.1 percent of all northbound rail shipments in August, was up 8.8 percent. Eagle Pass, accounting for 26.5 percent of all northbound rail shipments in August, increased 3.3 percent and Brownsville, with 9.1 percent of all northbound rail shipments, decreased 45.8 percent YTD.



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

CITY	DUTY	MPF	OTHER	TOTAL	TOTAL	YTD	YTD	YTD % CHG
	AUG 97	AUG 97	REVENUE AUG 97	REVENUE AUG 97	REVENUE AUG 96	REVENUE AUG 96	REVENUE AUG 97	
BROWNSVILLE	2,715,319	531,752	210,829	3,457,900	2,890,157	21,774,682	22,167,685	1.8
DEL RIO	211,505	103,129	39,360	353,994	359,247	2,843,673	3,248,520	14.2
EAGLE PASS	1,068,848	198,620	2,081,797	3,349,265	2,620,056	18,075,299	20,793,120	15.0
LAREDO	16,708,931	2,392,115	5,087,669	24,188,715	21,819,956	161,589,116	179,604,764	11.1
McALLEN-HIDALGO	3,302,537	476,851	187,745	3,967,133	4,098,948	43,842,503	39,293,974	-10.4
PROGRESO	8,262	11,807	16,923	36,992	46,028	1,835,199	1,369,491	-25.4
RIO GRANDE	23,706	11,534	3,247	38,487	63,831	783,785	946,698	20.8
ROMA	51,115	8,979	8,236	68,330	47,636	355,864	366,807	3.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24,090,223</b>	<b>3,734,787</b>	<b>7,635,806</b>	<b>35,460,816</b>	<b>31,945,859</b>	<b>251,100,121</b>	<b>267,791,059</b>	<b>6.6</b>

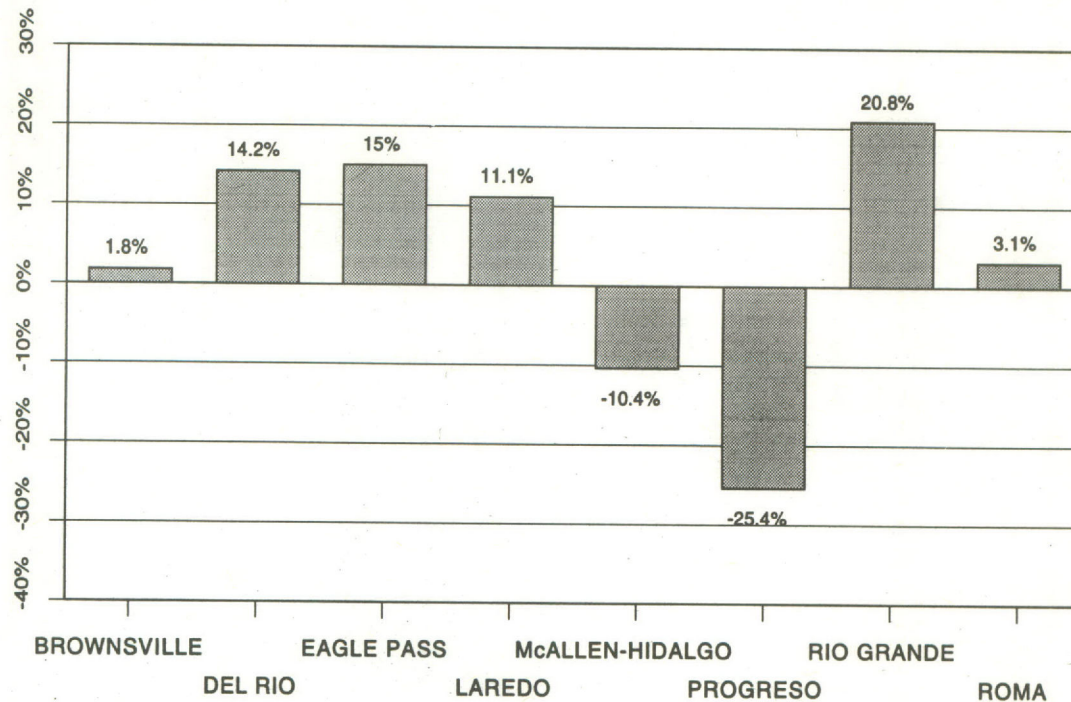
Source: Data provided by U.S. Customs Service, Port of Entry in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

\*MPF = Merchandise Processing Fee

Total U.S. Customs revenues for the former District of Laredo decreased 1.9 percent from July's figures. Rio Grande decreased 48.3 percent, Progreso fell 21.4 percent, Del Rio declined 17.9 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo dipped 17.8 percent and Laredo slid 2.2 percent. However, Roma increased 42.8 percent, Brownsville rose 23.5 percent, and Eagle Pass posted a 4.8 percent increase. YTD revenue figures were up 6.6 percent compared to August 1996.

Laredo, accounting for 67.1 percent of total District revenues, was up 11.1 percent YTD and McAllen-Hidalgo with 14.7 percent of total revenues, was down 10.4 percent YTD. Brownsville with 8.3 percent of all revenues in August, increased 1.8 percent YTD and Eagle Pass, with 7.8 percent of total revenues in August, increased 15.0 percent.

**% Change Total Revenues YTD 96-97**





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

CITY	JUN 97	JUL 97	AUG 97	AUG 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	586,227	530,934	560,658	504,996	3,947,443	4,138,934	4.9
DEL RIO	173,824	179,889	189,734	171,387	1,324,589	1,409,851	6.4
EAGLE PASS	377,020	386,536	397,483	369,745	2,934,481	3,076,104	4.8
EL PASO	859,825	892,853	913,305	887,800	6,730,531	7,219,251	7.3
HARLINGEN	60,682	75,205	87,193	64,717	548,092	511,813	-6.6
LAREDO	1,666,464	1,804,147	1,812,860	1,658,794	12,331,483	13,461,345	9.2
McALLEN-HIDALGO	536,154	560,433	577,271	540,953	4,217,695	4,367,418	3.5
PHARR	181,439	207,733	194,601	131,933	961,566	1,483,411	54.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,441,635</b>	<b>4,637,730</b>	<b>4,733,105</b>	<b>4,330,325</b>	<b>32,995,880</b>	<b>35,668,127</b>	<b>8.1</b>

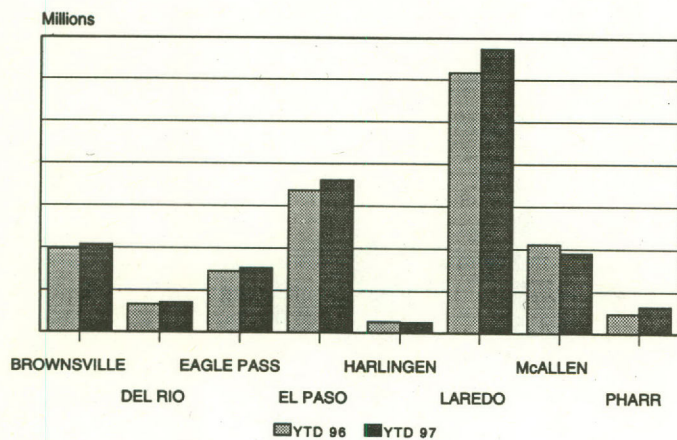
Source: Data provided by U.S. bridge operators in cited cities and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

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

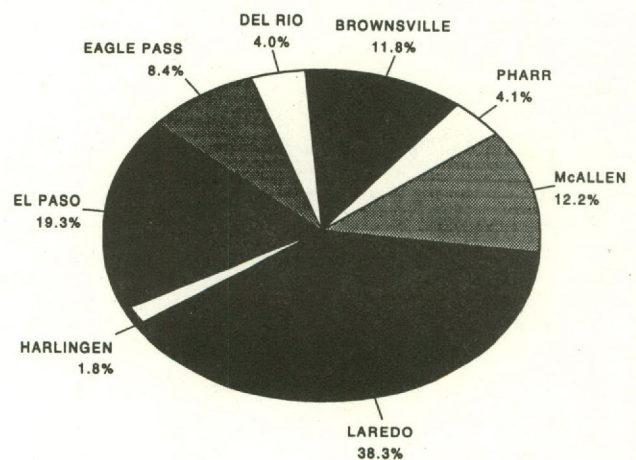
U.S. bridge operators' revenues increased 2.1 percent in the month of August. Harlingen increased 15.9 percent, Brownsville was up 5.6 percent, Del Rio rose 5.5 percent, McAllen-Hidalgo gained 3.0 percent, Eagle Pass grew 2.8 percent, El Paso posted an increase of 2.3 percent and Laredo rose 0.5 percent. However, Pharr decreased 6.3 percent. YTD, U.S. bridge operators' revenues were up 8.1 percent. Laredo, accounting for 38.3 percent of total U.S. bridge operator's revenues collected in August, had a 9.2 percent increase

YTD. El Paso, accounting for 19.3 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues, increased 7.3 percent YTD. McAllen-Hidalgo, with 12.2 percent of the total bridge revenues, was up 3.5 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 11.8 percent of total U.S. bridge operator's revenues in August, was up 4.9 percent. Also, Eagle Pass with 8.4 percent of total U.S. bridge revenues in August was up 4.8 percent YTD.

**Total Revenues Collected YTD 96-97**



**% Share Revenues August 1997**



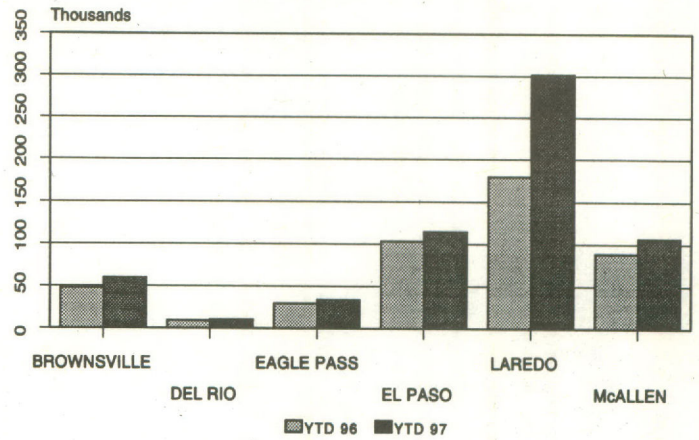
## Visas to Tourists from Texas to Mexico

CITY	JUN 97	JUL 97	AUG 97	AUG 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	%CHG
BROWNSVILLE	9,866	11,338	8,170	6,166	47,645	59,441	24.8
DEL RIO	1,752	2,011	1,349	1,219	9,336	10,461	12.1
EAGLE PASS	4,660	6,462	3,992	4,707	29,426	33,424	13.6
EL PASO	18,693	25,065	16,142	18,653	103,231	114,677	11.1
LAREDO	38,721	50,451	114,456	26,059	179,232	301,570	68.3
McALLEN	14,331	17,276	12,920	11,156	89,142	106,630	19.6
TOTAL	88,023	112,603	157,029	67,960	458,012	626,203	36.7

Source: Data provided by Mexico's Instituto Nacional de Migracion and compiled by Texas A&M International University, Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

The number of tourist visas issued in August were up 39.5 percent. Laredo, with a 126.9 percent increase, was the only city that showed a increase for the month. Eagle Pass decreased 38.2 percent, El Paso was down 35.6 percent, Del Rio declined 32.9 percent and Brownsville fell 27.9 percent while McAllen decreased 25.2 percent. YTD, the number of tourist visas issued were up 36.7 percent. Laredo, with 72.9 percent of total visas issued in August was up 68.3 percent. El Paso, with 10.3 percent of total visas issued, had a 11.1 percent increase YTD. McAllen, with 8.2 percent of all visas issued, rose 19.6 percent YTD and Brownsville with 5.2 percent of total visas issued, increased 24.8 percent YTD.

### Tourist Visas YTD August 96-97



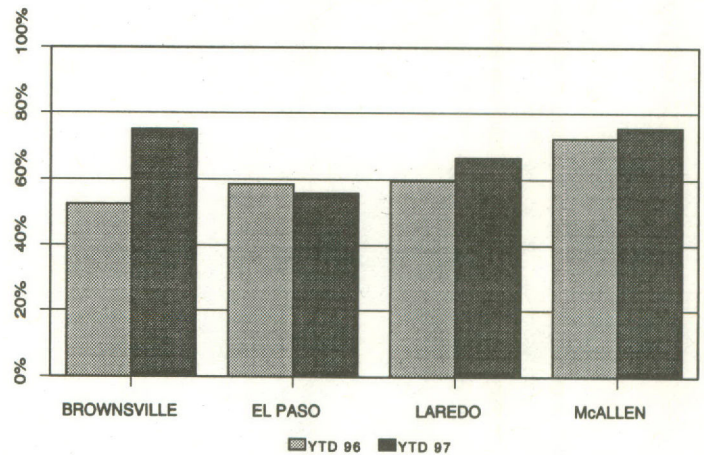
## Hotel Occupancy Percentage Rate — Texas Border

CITY	JUN 97	JUL 97	AUG 97	AUG 96	% CHG 96-97
BROWNSVILLE	63.4	76.3	75.1	52.5	43.1
EL PASO	62.8	57.9	55.8	58.5	-4.6
LAREDO	62.8	70.2	66.4	59.6	11.3
McALLEN	71.9	78.5	75.6	72.3	4.7
AVERAGE	65.2	70.7	68.2	60.7	12.4

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 August was down 3.5 percent. McAllen had a 75.6 percent rate, Brownsville's rate was 75.1 percent, Laredo had a 66.4 percent rate and El Paso's rate was 55.8. The YTD average occupancy rate for the reporting Texas border cities was up 12.4 percent. Laredo rose 11.3 percent, McAllen increased 4.7 percent and El Paso fell 4.6 percent.

### Hotel Occupancy Percentage August 96-97



## Power Connections—Texas Border

### Residential Connections

CITY	JUN 97	JUL 97	AUG 97	AUG 96
BROWNSVILLE	28,264	28,424	28,479	27,697
DEL RIO	13,437	13,446	13,442	13,166
EAGLE PASS	8,934	8,929	8,953	8,651
EL PASO	252,500	252,792	253,101	248,179
HARLINGEN	19,992	19,975	19,965	19,594
LAREDO	44,489	44,677	44,789	43,071
McALLEN	29,486	29,445	29,513	28,893
TOTAL	397,102	397,688	398,242	389,251

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

August commercial power connections for reporting Texas border cities increased 0.17 percent from July's figures. Eagle Pass increased 1.03 percent, Del Rio was up 0.64 percent, Harlingen rose 0.41 percent and El Paso gained 0.27 percent. However, Brownsville fell 0.37 percent, McAllen decrease 0.21 percent and Laredo was down slightly at 0.02 percent. YTD, commercial power connections for reporting border cities increased by 5.2 percent over August 1996. Brownsville increased 47.4 percent YTD, McAllen increased 4.3 percent, Harlingen was up 3.0 percent, Del Rio grew 2.7 percent, El Paso rose 2.4 percent, Laredo gained 2.3 percent and Eagle Pass was up 2.2 percent YTD.

### Industrial Connections

CITY	JUN 97	JUL 97	AUG 97	AUG 96
BROWNSVILLE	463	472	471	1,648
DEL RIO	31	31	31	30
EAGLE PASS	24	25	25	26
EL PASO	106	108	111	99
HARLINGEN	81	82	83	86
LAREDO	128	127	127	131
McALLEN	49	50	50	53
TOTAL	882	895	898	2,073

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

August residential power connections for all reporting Texas border cities increased from July's figures by 0.14 percent. YTD, residential power connections for all reporting border cities were up 2.3 percent. Laredo experienced the largest increase by 4.0 percent, followed by Eagle Pass up 3.5 percent and Brownsville with 2.8 percent. Del Rio and McAllen had a 2.1 percent increase followed by El Paso with an increase of 2.0 percent YTD and Harlingen up 1.9 percent YTD.

### Commercial Connections

CITY	JUN 97	JUL 97	AUG 97	AUG 96
BROWNSVILLE	3,745	3,757	3,743	2,540
DEL RIO	1,875	1,876	1,888	1,839
EAGLE PASS	1,263	1,265	1,278	1,251
EL PASO	25,639	25,678	25,748	25,137
HARLINGEN	3,178	3,203	3,216	3,123
LAREDO	6,642	6,646	6,645	6,493
McALLEN	5,220	5,241	5,230	5,016
TOTAL	47,562	47,666	47,748	45,399

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 gained 0.34 percent from July's figures. El Paso was up 2.78 percent and Harlingen increased 1.22 percent. However, Brownsville fell 0.21 percent. All other cities reported no change for the month. YTD, El Paso had the largest increase with 12.1 percent and Del Rio was up 3.3 percent. However, Brownsville fell 71.4 percent, McAllen dipped 5.7 percent, Eagle Pass declined 3.8 percent and Harlingen slid 3.5 percent.

## Building Permits —Texas Border

### Number of Permits

NUMBER	JUN 97	JUL 97	AUG 97	AUG 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	256	269	272	278	2,026	2,019	-0.3
DEL RIO	121	101	103	86	881	889	0.9
EAGLE PASS	22	49	27	29	261	254	-2.7
EL PASO	989	953	930	971	8,262	7,301	-11.6
HARLINGEN	65	63	53	50	594	497	-16.3
LAREDO	339	349	328	331	2,588	2,537	-2.0
MCALLEN	151	118	113	110	1,046	1,030	-1.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,943</b>	<b>1,902</b>	<b>1,826</b>	<b>1,855</b>	<b>15,658</b>	<b>14,527</b>	<b>-7.2</b>

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

August building permits issued by reporting Texas border cities were down 4.0 percent from July. Eagle Pass decreased 44.9 percent, Harlingen was down 15.9 percent, Laredo declined 6.0 percent, McAllen dipped 4.2 percent and El Paso slid 2.4 percent. However, Del Rio gained 2.0 percent and Brownsville increased 1.1 percent. YTD, the number of permits issued were down 7.2

percent. El Paso, accounting for 50.9 percent of all building permits issued in August, had a 11.6 percent decrease YTD. Laredo, with 18.0 percent of building permits issued, was down 2.0 percent YTD. McAllen decreased 1.5 percent and Brownsville was down 0.3 percent.

### U.S. Dollar Value of Permits

VALUE	JUN 97	JUL 97	AUG 97	AUG 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG.
BROWNSVILLE	6,547,112	5,401,567	23,191,701	17,954,077	72,170,930	132,435,544	83.5
DEL RIO	1,940,037	1,818,901	1,597,907	1,369,458	16,534,053	15,429,452	-6.7
EAGLE PASS	305,146	991,895	512,195	1,273,476	7,059,362	7,215,155	2.2
EL PASO	34,857,420	57,877,969	28,916,634	43,804,054	298,095,603	328,379,725	10.2
HARLINGEN	5,213,951	8,982,907	4,473,331	1,620,874	36,111,427	47,350,958	31.1
LAREDO	7,782,084	9,790,188	13,141,515	6,988,506	91,601,210	127,774,237	39.5
MCALLEN	17,782,612	23,495,615	7,768,399	5,733,670	73,893,867	104,522,727	41.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74,428,362</b>	<b>108,359,042</b>	<b>79,601,682</b>	<b>78,744,115</b>	<b>595,466,452</b>	<b>763,107,798</b>	<b>28.2</b>

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

August building permit values for reporting Texas border cities were down 26.5 percent from July. McAllen decreased 66.9 percent, Harlingen fell 50.2 percent, El Paso was down 50.0 percent, Eagle Pass declined 48.4 percent and Del Rio decreased 12.1 percent. However, Brownsville was up 329.4 percent and Laredo increased 34.2 percent. YTD, reporting border cities experienced a

28.2 percent increase. El Paso, with 36.3 percent total value for the month of August, was up 10.2 percent YTD. Brownsville, with 29.1 percent of total value, had an 83.5 percent YTD increase. Laredo, with 16.5 percent total value, increased 39.5 percent YTD. McAllen, with 9.8 percent total value in August, increased 41.4 percent YTD.

## Employment/Unemployment Rates — Texas Border

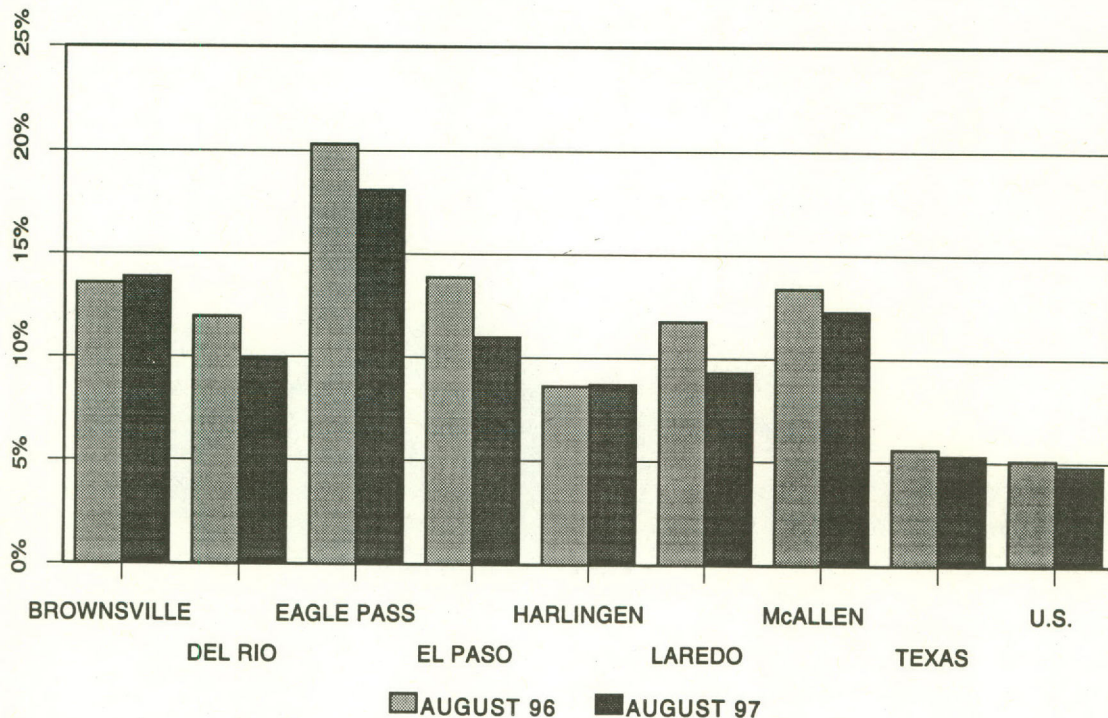
CITY	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED	TOTAL UNEMPLOYED	PERCENT UNEMPLOYED	PERCENT UNEMPLOYED
	AUG 97	AUG 96	AUG 97	AUG 96	AUG 97	AUG 96
BROWNSVILLE	41,614	41,139	6,714	6,499	13.9	13.6
DEL RIO	13,311	14,027	1,457	1,918	9.9	12.0
EAGLE PASS	7,343	7,523	1,625	1,921	18.1	20.3
EL PASO	236,719	222,528	29,361	35,939	11.0	13.9
HARLINGEN	23,907	23,634	2,283	2,210	8.7	8.6
LAREDO	59,863	54,882	6,167	7,324	9.3	11.8
McALLEN	45,442	38,250	5,604	5,907	12.3	13.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>428,199</b>	<b>401,983</b>	<b>53,211</b>	<b>61,718</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>13.3</b>
THE TEXAS UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					5.34	5.62
THE NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					4.80	5.09

*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 August, total employment in reporting Texas border cities fell 0.3 percent (1,472 jobs lost) from July's figures. Eagle Pass decreased 3.0 percent (226 jobs lost), Laredo declined 0.6 percent (363 jobs lost), El Paso and McAllen fell 0.4 percent (1,048 and 182 jobs lost respectively) and Del Rio dipped 0.2 percent (30 jobs lost). However, both Brownsville and Harlingen rose 0.6 percent (239

and 138 jobs gained respectively). YTD, the total employment in Texas border cities was up 6.5 percent (26,216 jobs gained) from a year ago. The average unemployment rate for the border was 11.1 percent compared to 5.34 percent for Texas and 4.80 percent for the U.S. in August.

**% Unemployed August 96-97**



## Air Passenger Service Activities — Selected Border Cities

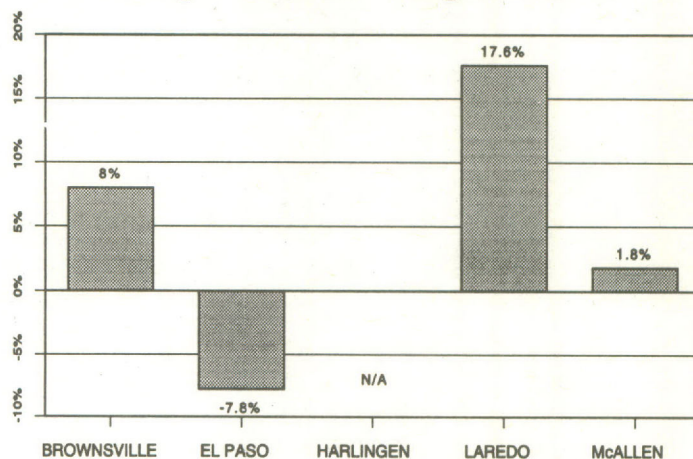
### Passenger Arrivals

CITY	JUN 97	JUL 97	AUG 97	AUG 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	6,300	6,833	7,059	5,985	49,622	53,611	8.0
EL PASO	138,966	148,405	142,771	161,913	1,173,455	1,081,614	-7.8
HARLINGEN		0	0	37,472	313,734	186,491	N/A
LAREDO	5,879	6,331	6,348	4,832	39,033	45,911	17.6
McALLEN	24,943	26,249	24,828	25,331	205,025	208,698	1.8
TOTAL	176,088	187,818	181,006	235,533	1,780,869	1,576,325	-11.5

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

August air passenger arriving in Texas border cities were down 3.6 percent over July's figures. McAllen was down 5.4 percent and El Paso fell 3.8 percent. However, Brownsville rose 3.3 percent and Laredo increased 0.3 percent. YTD air passenger arrivals were down 11.5 percent. El Paso, with 78.9 percent of all passenger arriving in August, fell 7.8 percent. McAllen, with 13.7 percent of all arrivals, was up 1.8 percent. **Harlingen, no longer gives out arrival information.** Laredo increased 17.6 percent YTD and Brownsville rose 8.0 percent YTD.

**Passenger Arrivals % Change YTD 96-97**



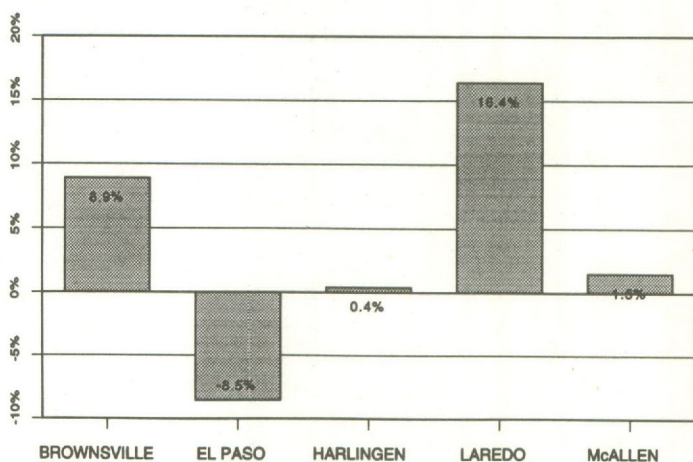
### Passenger Departures

CITY	JUN 97	JUL 97	AUG 97	AUG 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BROWNSVILLE	6,593	7,189	7,018	6,013	51,203	55,738	8.9
EL PASO	141,001	152,528	142,295	164,877	1,213,998	1,110,390	-8.5
HARLINGEN	40,470	42,599	39,694	37,416	323,001	321,519	-0.5
LAREDO	6,236	6,654	6,370	4,936	40,065	46,635	16.4
McALLEN	26,544	27,622	25,398	25,019	214,378	217,570	1.5
TOTAL	220,844	236,592	220,775	238,261	1,842,645	1,751,852	-4.9

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

August air passenger departures for reporting Texas border cities were down 6.7 percent from July's figures. McAllen decreased 8.1 percent, Harlingen fell 6.8 percent, El Paso was down 6.7 percent, Laredo declined 4.3 percent and Brownsville dipped 2.4 percent. YTD, air passenger departures were down 4.9 percent from a year ago. El Paso, with 64.5 percent of all passengers departing in August, was down 8.5 percent. Harlingen, with 18.0 percent of all passengers departing, was down 0.5 percent. McAllen, with 11.5 percent of all passengers departing, increased 1.5 percent YTD. Laredo rose 16.4 percent and Brownsville was up 8.9 percent YTD.

**Passenger Departures % Change YTD 96-97**



# Port Of Corpus Christi

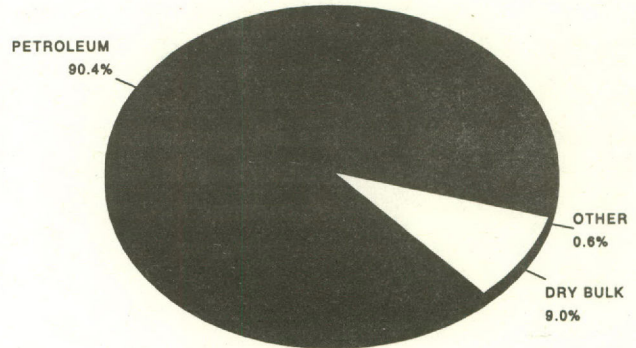
## Inbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	JUN 97	JUL 97	AUG 97	AUG 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BREAK BULK	210	421	1,127	0	2,796	6,976	149.5
DRY BULK	330,019	406,156	333,931	53,978	2,690,632	2,787,095	3.6
BULK GRAIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
LIQUID	0	5,012	15,116	0	27,248	39,064	43.4
PETROLEUM	3,438,493	4,690,285	3,360,830	3,794,943	29,297,970	29,225,828	-0.2
CHEMICAL	2,350	21,301	7,956	13,961	164,684	89,311	-45.8
TOTAL	3,771,072	5,123,175	3,718,960	3,862,882	32,183,330	32,148,274	-0.1

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

## % Share August 1997 Inbound Cargo

The Port of Corpus Christi had a 27.4 percent decrease in inbound cargo from last month. Petroleum, which makes up 90.4 percent of all inbound traffic in August, was down 28.3 percent compared to July. Dry bulk, which accounts for 9.0 percent of the port's inbound cargo for August, fell 17.8 percent. YTD, inbound cargo tonnage was down 0.1 percent. Dry bulk was up 3.6 percent YTD while petroleum was down 0.2 percent YTD.



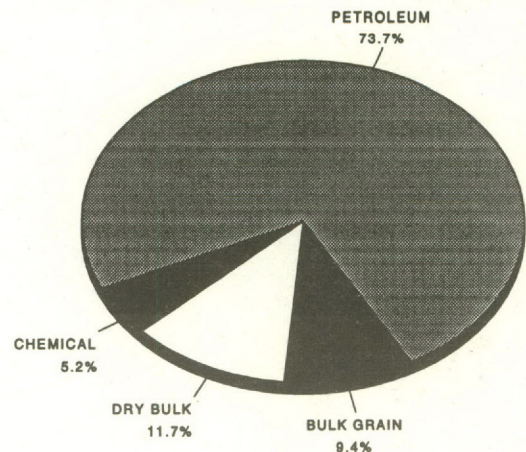
## Outbound Cargo (in Tons)

COMMODITY	JUN 97	JUL 97	AUG 97	AUG 96	YTD 96	YTD 97	% CHG
BREAK BULK	1,564	0	501	2,587	29,436	5,983	-79.7
DRY BULK	158,827	242,269	306,271	2,587	166,487	1,833,866	1001.5
BULK GRAIN	90,632	230,704	245,916	227,315	743,022	915,653	23.2
LIQUID	0	0	0	0	0	2,865	N/A
PETROLEUM	2,272,767	2,351,209	1,926,169	2,201,365	17,468,017	16,776,884	-4.0
CHEMICAL	0	239,115	135,708	91,499	1,200,909	1,178,893	-1.8
TOTAL	2,523,790	3,063,297	2,614,565	2,525,353	19,607,871	20,714,144	5.6

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

## % Share August 1997 Outbound Cargo

The Port of Corpus Christi had a 14.6 percent decrease in outbound cargo tonnage in August. Petroleum, which is 73.7 percent of total outbound cargo for August, decreased 18.1 percent compared to July. Dry bulk rose 26.4 percent, Chemicals fell 43.2 percent and Bulk Grain increased 6.6 percent. YTD, total outbound cargo tonnage was up 5.6 percent.



# Border Business Indicators

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