El Paso, TX

Texas Border Facts
Fall 2018

Customs Port - El Paso
There are six border crossings in the El Paso region that allow the cross-border movement of privately operated vehicles, pedestrians, buses, commercial trucks, or rail cars. Each of these bridges connect El Paso to its sister city, Ciudad Juárez, in the Mexican state of Chihuahua.

Ysleta-Zaragoza Bridge
The Ysleta-Zaragoza Bridge consists of two structures. One structure is a four-lane facility that exclusively serves commercial vehicles and the other structure is a five-lane bridge for non-commercial traffic, including pedestrians. The original bridge was built in 1938 and the current structures were completed in 1990.

Bridge of the Americas
The Bridge of the Americas is a federally owned and operated bridge located in central El Paso. Locally known as the “BOTA”, it is also referred to as the “Free Bridge” since it is the only crossing in El Paso that does not charge users a toll. The Bridge of the Americas handles commercial and non-commercial vehicles, as well as pedestrians. It connects US 54 (and indirectly IH 10) to MX 45, which traverses south to Chihuahua City.

Good Neighbor Bridge
Also known as the Stanton Bridge, the Good Neighbor Bridge serves central Ciudad Juárez. It has three lanes for southbound non-commercial traffic and one northbound lane for Secure Electronic Network for Travelers Rapid Inspection (SENTRI) commuters. Commercial vehicles are not permitted on this facility.

Paso del Norte Bridge
Frequently called the Santa Fe Bridge, the Paso del Norte Bridge serves downtown El Paso and only permits non-commercial vehicles. It has four northbound lanes and serves pedestrians traveling in both directions.

Union Pacific Rail Bridge
Union Pacific’s rail bridge in El Paso is a single-track crossing located due east of the Paso del Norte Bridge. In El Paso, it connects to a Union Pacific rail switching yard, while on the Mexican side it connects to Ferromex track that serves the interior of the country.

BNSF Rail Bridge
BNSF’s rail bridge in El Paso is a single-track crossing located due west of the Paso del Norte Bridge. In El Paso, it connects to a BNSF intermodal rail facility, while in Mexico it connects to the Ferromex Railroad.

Note: These counts do not include southbound crossings at the Bridge of the Americas. Note: Southbound rail counts are not available. Bus counts were not provided.

2017 Top 5 Exports
- Electrical Machinery; Equipment and Parts: $11 Billion
- Measuring and Testing Instruments: $2 Billion
- Vehicles Other than Railway: $1 Billion
- Furniture; Lamps and Prefab Buildings: $2.1 Billion
- Plastics and Articles: $3.5 Billion

2017 Top 5 Imports
- Electrical Machinery; Equipment and Parts: $11.3 Billion
- Measuring and Testing Instruments: $3.8 Billion
- Vehicles Other than Railway: $8 Billion
- Furniture; Lamps and Prefab Buildings: $2.1 Billion
- Computers Related Machinery: $5.8 Billion

2017 Northbound Crossings
- 12,615,101 Personal Vehicles
- 6,883,755 Pedestrians
- 109,115 Railcars
- 779,410 Commercial Trucks
- 15,898 Buses

2017 Southbound Crossings
- 3,976,015 Personal Vehicles
- 4,184,944 Pedestrians
- 472,634 Commercial Trucks

Note: These counts do not include southbound crossings at the Bridge of the Americas.
El Paso, Texas

Growth in Northbound Truck and Railcar Crossings between 1996 and 2017

Truck + 40%
Railway + 400%

In 2017, total U.S.-Mexico trade was valued at $557 billion. Of that amount $336 billion worth of trade crossed at the Texas-Mexico border. Within the El Paso region, $70.4 billion of goods crossed the Texas-Mexico border, with the volume of imports exceeding exports over the past ten years. The top commodity (imports and exports) that crossed at the El Paso customs port during 2017 was electrical machinery, equipment, and parts, which were valued at $20.4 billion. Other important exports included computer related machinery and parts; plastics; measuring and testing instruments; and automobiles or parts. Key import commodities were computer related machinery and parts; automobiles or parts; measuring and testing instruments; and furniture.

Maintaining and expanding trade with Mexico is critical to the United States’s current and long-term economic prosperity. Texas’s trade transportation system has an essential role in maintaining the efficient flow of goods between the two nations. Texas’s Border Trade Advisory Committee, in conjunction with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), is providing the state’s elected officials with information and insight for key policy, planning, and funding decisions to facilitate future binational trade.

All data in this fact sheet are from the U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics’ Transborder Freight Data and Border Crossing/Entry Data, and the City of El Paso.