

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.

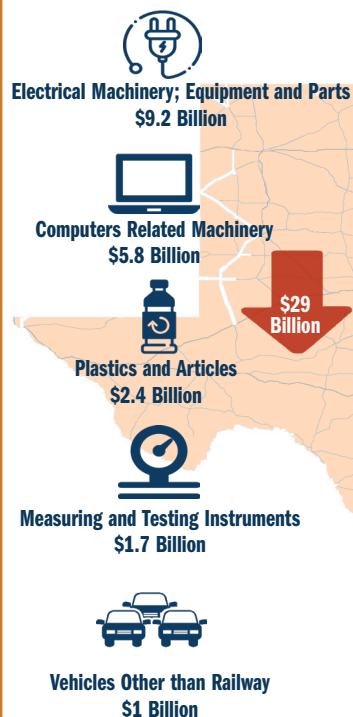
Union Pacific Rail Bridge

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.

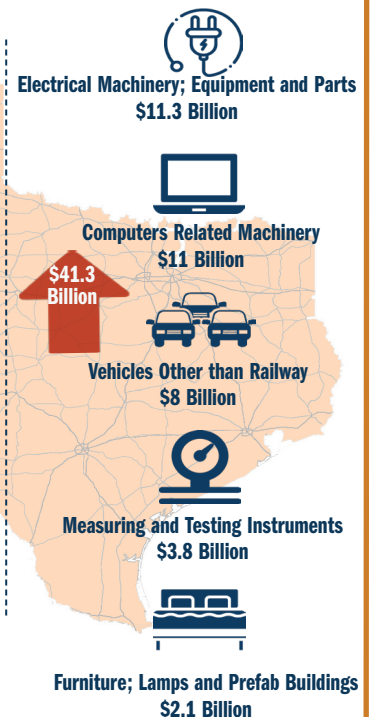
BNSF Rail Bridge

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.

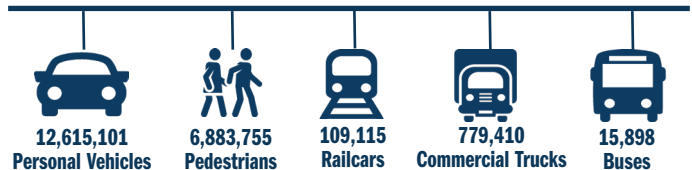
2017 Top 5 Exports



2017 Top 5 Imports



2017 Northbound Crossings



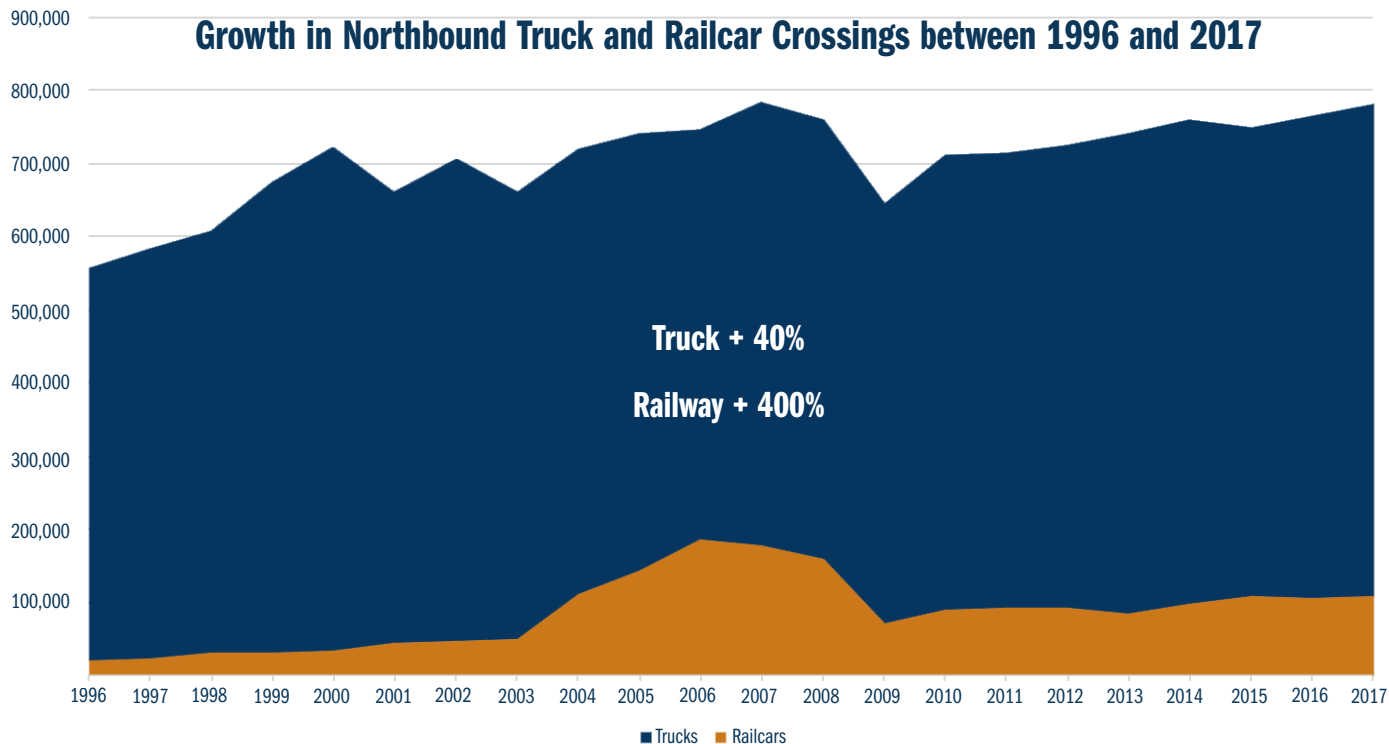
2017 Southbound Crossings



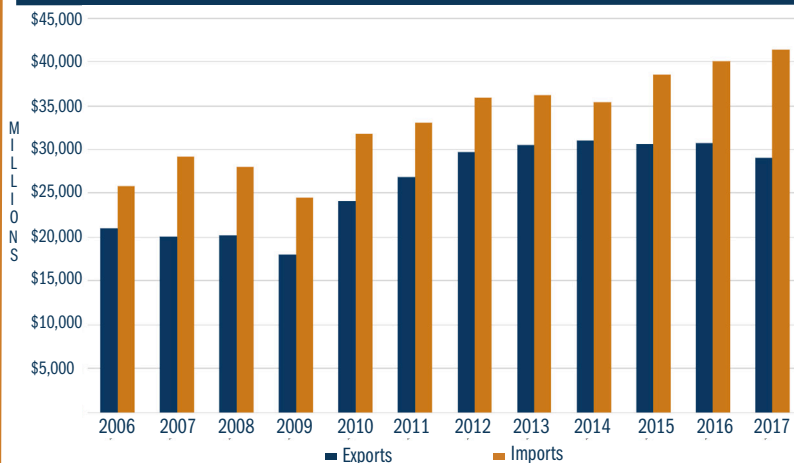
Note: These counts do not include southbound crossings at the Bridge of the Americas.
Note: Southbound rail counts are not available. Bus counts were not provided

El Paso, Texas

Growth in Northbound Truck and Railcar Crossings between 1996 and 2017



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.



2017 Cross-Border Trade by Surface Transportation Mode



71% of Imports

90% of Exports



17% of Imports

7% of Exports

12% of imports entered free-trade zones. 2% of exports move by pipeline and 1% by air.

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.

