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# Borderplex Economic Outlook: 2006-2008

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**BUSINESS REPORT SR06-2**

# **BORDERPLEX ECONOMIC OUTLOOK: 2006-2008**





# **The University of Texas at El Paso**

## **Borderplex Economic Outlook: 2006-2008**

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UTEP Border Region Modeling Project

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# BORDERPLEX ECONOMIC OUTLOOK: ECONOMIC 2006 – 2008

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## Executive Overview

A wide variety of measures such as real output, retail receipts, and personal incomes show how the borderplex economy continues to expand (Table 1). Although employment growth is expected to subside, local labor market strength will be sufficiently robust to hold the El Paso unemployment rate well below its 32-year average of greater than 10 percent. Similarly, even though residential construction activity is expected to moderate slightly, overall housing activity is projected to remain high by historical standards. Expansion at Fort Bliss is the source for much of the heightened business activity as the arrivals of new troops translate into greater demand for housing, retail, and other services. By 2008, more than 13 thousand businesses are expected to be registered in El Paso. Per capita personal income is projected to exceed \$26,200 that year. Additional detail obtained from simulations of the UTEP Borderplex Econometric Forecasting Model is presented below.

## El Paso Demographics

Population growth in El Paso continues to be determined primarily by natural increase (Table 2). Net migration, however, is expected to lead to much smaller demographic losses in coming years. That forecast is based on several distinct factors. Relatively better labor market conditions in El Paso will induce fewer persons to relocate to other metropolitan areas. International migration from Mexico is expected to remain positive. Strategic decisions by the Base Realignment

and Closure Commission (BRAC) will add large numbers of troops to Fort Bliss for several years to come. The latter development has already increased construction activity at the base and will further translate into higher rates of household and business formation than would otherwise be the case. Given these trends, automobile registrations in El Paso County are projected to increase to more than 550 thousand by 2008.

## Employment & the El Paso Labor Market

Job creation is projected to remain healthy during the next few years (Table 3). Growth in the employment base has translated into a lower metropolitan jobless rate that is forecast to remain in place through 2008. Although higher interest rates cause levels of fixed investment to taper off in 2007 and beyond, construction payrolls should remain above 20 thousand workers. By 2008, manufacturing employment is forecast to continue to decline to roughly 50 percent of what it was in 1998. By next year, however, the BRAC process is forecast to cause federal military jobs to exceed 14 thousand in El Paso for the first time since 1994. Although that will help business vitality, questions remain with respect to the timing of the eventual relocation of the Air Defense Artillery School to Fort Sill. Service sectors of the economy are also likely to continue to expand at above average rates. Health care, retail, business services, telecommunications, and transportation are among the specific sectors anticipated to do well. As the labor market becomes increasingly services-oriented, improved high school graduation rates plus greater enrollment levels in post-secondary

educational programs will play key roles in securing stronger border region jobs and income performance.

### **El Paso Personal Income**

Real per capita gains are projected for every year in the forecast period. As shown in Table 4, wage and salary disbursements increase along with employment levels in El Paso. Not surprisingly, good labor market conditions also cause unemployment transfers to hold steady just below the levels observed in 2004 and 2005. Greater corporate profitability, higher money market yields, and fairly healthy real estate markets permit dividends, interest, and rental payments to increase to more than \$2 billion by 2008. Transfer payments to retirees are expected to surpass \$2.9 billion in 2007. El Paso will also continue to draw workers from surrounding counties in Texas and New Mexico, as well as from Ciudad Juárez. Consequently, residence adjustments are anticipated to exceed \$600 million per year during the forecast period.

### **El Paso Retail Sales**

Following two years of above growth, retail sales in El Paso are projected to expand at more moderate rates (Table 5). Contributing to that outlook are three categories that will likely experience flat or negative growth in 2006. For hardware stores and miscellaneous retail sales, the decelerations occur after years in which double-digit growth rates were registered and represent temporary slowdowns. Food stores also experienced strong sales performances in 2005, but that was an exception to the general trend for that category. Higher interest rates plus relatively heavy consumer indebtedness combine to slow automobile sales in coming years. Two categories are forecast to consistently outperform the metropolitan El Paso averages, furniture and appliances as well as dining establishments. Furniture and appliance sales benefit from a relatively strong construction outlook. Restaurants continue to profit from long-run demographic and labor market trends. During the past 5 decades, the percentage of household food budgets spent eating out has increased steadily.

### **El Paso Residential Construction & Real Estate**

Higher mortgage rates caused affordability to erode in 2005 in El Paso and reduced the pool of qualified borrowers in 2006. Because of that, the local housing market is expected to moderate somewhat relative to 2005 (Table 6). The degree of moderation is not predicted to be nearly as consequential as some of the regional market retrenchments emerging in other areas of the United States. Along these lines, single-family starts retreat slightly and hold steady at roughly 4 thousand units per year. Multi-family starts defy this pattern due to the anticipated new troop arrivals and reduced levels of net out-migration from El Paso. Median prices for both new and previously built units continue to increase, but at rates that are noticeably lower than those observed in 2005. The combination of higher mortgage rates and higher prices is partially offset by positive income gains, but not by enough to allow affordability to recover to pre-2004 levels. In spite of the latter, sales of existing homes are projected to remain in excess of 22 thousand units per year throughout the forecast period.

### **El Paso Air Transportation**

As shown in Table 8, domestic air passenger traffic recovered to pre-9/11 levels in 2005. Additional increases are projected over the course of the forecast period, albeit at slower paces than those observed in recent years. International passenger volumes have never really rebounded from declines that began to emerge prior to the 2001 recession and terrorist attacks later that year. During 2006, all international air carrier activity ceased at El Paso International Airport (EPIA). That situation is expected to be reversed in 2007. Steady growth is forecast for in-bound and out-bound air freight flows at EPIA. The latter is due to ongoing healthy business conditions in the maquiladora sectors in Ciudad Juárez. Airmail volumes will probably remain well below historical performance levels due to strong competition from rapidly expanding electronic communications and alternative delivery options available to customers.

## **International Bridge Activity**

Northbound automobile and pedestrian traffic into El Paso have yet to return to their pre-9/11 levels (Table 9). In the case of pedestrians, the volume of people traversing the Bridge of the Americas by foot has returned to normal levels. For the downtown Paso del Norte and more easterly Ysleta bridges, the numbers of pedestrians remain high by historical standards. Personal vehicle traffic flows across all three bridges is still below pre-9/11 levels, although that is partially attributable to the dedicated commuter lanes operating in Central and East El Paso. Cargo vehicle traffic patterns across the Bridge of the Americas and Ysleta Bridge are closer to what history indicates for both arteries. Growth in maquiladora activities should lead to more than 800 thousand trucks using these bridges in 2008.

## **El Paso Hotel Trends**

The number of hotels operating in El Paso County is forecast to reach 78 by 2008 (Table 10). By then, the number of room nights available should increase to just over 2.9 million. The average price per room is projected to surpass \$66 per night by late 2008. Because room nights sold are projected to remain at historically high levels, the occupancy rate should average more than 66 percent per year during the forecast period. Given the above trends, total county hotel revenues should climb from approximately \$114.4 million in 2005 to nearly \$131 million by 2008.

## **El Paso Water Consumption**

The decision to deliberately allow water rates to decline in real terms in 2005 translated into higher per customer consumption for the first time in El Paso since 1994 (Table 11). Greater than average rainfall in August and September helped reduce outdoor water usage during those months, causing aggregate consumption levels to be more moderate than would have otherwise been the case. Relatively rapid growth rates are still projected for the numbers of hook-ups in future years. Given those trends, the policy of deliberately allowing rates to lag behind the overall rate of inflation carries with it substantial risks for a semi-arid region. By 2008, total municipal water consumption is forecast to exceed 34.2

billion gallons for the first time since 2002.

## **Ciudad Juárez Economic Activity**

Total employment growth accelerated again in Ciudad Juárez in 2005. A similar jump forward is forecast for 2006 as good economic conditions in the United States translate into increased orders for the maquiladora sector and substantial increases in the numbers of workers hired (Table 13). By early 2008, in-bond assembly payrolls are expected to have finally erased the losses that occurred between 2001 and 2003. Strong labor demand combines with a relatively stable peso outlook in real terms to raise maquiladora hourly earnings to just over \$4.50 dollars per hour by 2008. Whether additional erosion in competitiveness relative to Central American and Far East Asian countries such as China occurs will depend on the outcomes of policy efforts designed to deregulate the Mexican economy via market-oriented reforms. For the time being, the maquiladora sector will continue to operate at less than full capacity. In spite of that, population growth is projected to accelerate in Ciudad Juárez as new workers migrate from other regions within the country (Table 12). That, plus incomes growth, cause the demand for municipal water service to remain very high. Consequently, the number of hook-ups is expected to approach 389 thousand in 2008 with aggregate water consumption exceeding 186 million cubic meters that year. Retail sales are also forecast to expand at robust rates during the balance of the forecast period (Table 13).

## **Ciudad Chihuahua Economic Activity**

Although they took longer to materialize, healthy gains in maquiladora payrolls are also forecast for the Chihuahua City metropolitan economy (Table 15). A steady peso combines with greater demand for labor to push average hourly wages in the in-bond assembly sector to more than \$5 per hour by the end of the forecast period. Simulations with the borderplex model indicate that formal sector employment should exceed its previous peak level by 2007. Commercial conditions in the state capital are expected to remain strong, allowing retail payrolls and sales to expand at solid rates through the end of the outlook. Population growth is projected to accelerate relative to what was



observed in recent years as in-migration responds to good labor market conditions (Table 14). That development combines with improved income performance to increase the demand for municipal water services. As a consequence, the number of water customers is expected to exceed 240 thousand by 2008. Real rate increases are expected to lower per capita consumption, but not by enough to prevent total water usage from growing to nearly 66 million cubic meters in 2008.

### **Las Cruces Economic Conditions**

Similar to El Paso, improved business conditions raised the rate of business formation as Las Cruces emerged from the most recent national recession (Table 16). Declines in both business and personal bankruptcies are also forecast in this metropolitan economy. Relatively rapid rates of in-migration, especially by retirees, cause the rate of population growth in Doña Ana County to remain above 2 percent per year through 2008. That allows residential real estate to avoid most of the problems emerging in other regional housing markets. In response, construction payrolls are projected to remain at record levels (Table 17). Buoyed by stable public finances, state and local government payrolls are expected to also continue expanding. The fastest rates of jobs growth are projected for service segments in this region of Southern New Mexico. Total employment is projected to exceed 94.6 thousand jobs by 2008. Given the outlook for employment, wages and proprietor incomes are estimated to increase substantially, with average growth rates of more than 6 percent per year (Table 18). Given the large influx of senior citizens, retirement transfers are expected to expand at rates in excess of 8 percent per year. In general, most income categories exhibit healthy performances in Las Cruces and total personal income is projected to surpass \$5.3 billion by 2008.

### **Forecast Risks**

National economic conditions in the United States and Mexico are forecast to moderate slightly in 2007, but not collapse into cyclical downturns. Historically high levels of corporate and household indebtedness represent important weak points hampering economic performance in the United States, especially as higher interest rates begin to grip markets throughout the country. Political uncertainty exists in Mexico as a

tight presidential election slowly gives way to executive and legislative branch transitions. Export earnings and federal tax revenues in Mexico are also vulnerable to lower oil prices. If recessions emerge in either macroeconomy, or both, the negative impacts would quickly hurt the borderplex economy. Closer to home, El Paso continues to face difficulties associated with low educational attainment and physical infrastructure investment. The private sector in Ciudad Juárez continues to struggle with complex business licensing requirements and both cities face ongoing risks associated with heightened security requirements at the border. Also critical to the accuracy of this outlook is the manner in which the BRAC decisions are implemented, particularly the timing of the relocation of the Air Defense Artillery School to Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

### **Historical and Forecast Data**

Tables 1 through 18 summarize the numerical results from the short-term forecast simulation to 2008 using the UTEP Borderplex Econometric Forecasting Model. Forecasts for El Paso and Las Cruces income, employment, and business establishments in the current edition begin in 2005. Forecasts for all other data series begin in 2006. At present, the model is comprised by 208 equations covering all of the categories listed in the tables. Suggestions and requests for next year's volume are welcome. Please send them to Border Region Modeling Project - CBA 236, UTEP Department of Economics & Finance, 500 West University, El Paso, TX 79968-0543.

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**Table 1: Major Indicators for El Paso**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
El Paso Population	671.25	675.397	681.508	687.635	693.682	702.507	712.617	721.598	731.246	741.273	751.694
% change	0.9	0.6	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4
Net Migration	-4.463	-5.904	-4.227	-4.027	-3.777	-1.014	-0.169	-1.319	-0.843	-0.651	-0.448
El Paso Personal Income	11399.7	11741.1	12649.9	13510.5	14200.5	14641.3	15555.6	16479.9	17507.7	18557.5	19709.9
% change	5.8	3	7.7	6.8	5.1	3.1	6.2	5.9	6.2	6	6.2
El Paso Labor & Proprietor Earnings	8435.6	8820.2	9512.9	10342.7	10941.3	11372.7	12112.6	12828.1	13613.1	14386.1	15176.7
% change	5.6	4.6	7.9	8.7	5.8	3.9	6.5	5.9	6.1	5.7	5.5
El Paso Real GMP	14.018	14.457	14.42	14.265	14.9	15.45	15.981	16.465	17.017	17.548	18.106
% change	3.8	3.1	-0.3	-1.1	4.5	3.7	3.4	3	3.3	3.1	3.2
El Paso Businesses	12.409	12.379	12.31	12.214	12.403	12.355	12.556	12.6	12.769	12.922	13.075
% change	1.7	-0.2	-0.6	-0.8	1.5	-0.4	1.6	0.4	1.3	1.2	1.2
El Paso Total Jobs	314.796	319.893	326.272	325.114	331.676	335.469	340.167	348.929	355.903	362.779	369.991
% change	2.2	1.6	2	-0.4	2	1.1	1.4	2.6	2	1.9	2
El Paso Jobless Rate	10.2	9.4	8.2	8.2	8.7	9.6	7.8	7	7.1	7.1	7.1
El Paso Housing Starts	3.47	4.01	3.53	3.915	3.786	5.173	3.699	5.007	4.926	4.862	4.786
% change	21.3	15.6	-12	10.9	-3.3	36.6	-28.5	35.4	-1.6	-1.3	-1.6
El Paso New House Prices	90.618	92.778	94.213	99.204	101.1	104.591	108.791	117.871	124.114	128.514	133.027
% change	1.8	2.4	1.5	5.3	1.9	3.5	4	8.3	5.3	3.5	3.5
El Paso Retail Sales	5309.2	5885	6343.5	6354.1	6655.1	6904.4	7325.3	7915	8141.4	8436.4	8814.7
% change	5.1	10.8	7.8	0.2	4.7	3.7	6.1	8	2.9	3.6	4.5
International Bridges	15.212	15.996	16.696	16.184	13.053	13.698	14.816	15.958	15.972	16.224	16.529
% change	0.5	5.2	4.4	-3.1	-19.3	4.9	8.2	7.7	0.1	1.6	1.9
El Paso Water Consumption	35.071	35.771	36.022	35.387	35.372	33.898	32.042	32.565	33.409	33.742	34.232
% change	1.5	2	0.7	-1.8	0	-4.2	-5.5	1.6	2.6	1	1.5

Notes:

1. El Paso population in thousands.
2. El Paso net migration in thousands.
3. All income and earnings data are expressed in millions of nominal dollars.
4. Real gross metropolitan product data are expressed in billions of 1996 dollars.
5. Total El Paso business establishments in thousands.
6. Total El Paso employment in thousands.
7. El Paso unemployment rate in percentage terms.
8. Total El Paso housing starts in thousands.
9. El Paso median new single-family house prices in thousands of nominal dollars.
10. El Paso total retail sales reported in millions of nominal dollars.
11. Total northbound international bridge crossings are in millions of personal vehicles.
12. Total El Paso water consumption in billion gallons.

**Table 2: El Paso Demographics**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Population	671.25	675.397	681.508	687.635	693.682	702.507	712.617	721.598	731.246	741.273	751.694
% change	0.9	0.6	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4
Resident Births	14.481	13.981	14.285	14.189	14.058	14.201	14.422	14.6	14.806	15.033	15.26
% change	0.1	-3.5	2.2	-0.7	-0.9	1	1.6	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.5
Resident Deaths	3.834	3.93	3.947	4.035	4.234	4.362	4.143	4.3	4.314	4.354	4.392
% change	1.8	2.5	0.4	2.2	4.9	3	-5	3.8	0.3	0.9	0.9
Net Migration	-4.463	-5.904	-4.227	-4.027	-3.777	-1.014	-0.169	-1.319	-0.843	-0.651	-0.448
Domestic Migration	-8.363	-10.319	-9.715	-9.111	-8.976	-5.968	-4.249	-5.54	-5.42	-5.325	-5.23
International Migration	3.9	4.415	5.488	5.084	5.199	4.954	4.08	4.221	4.577	4.674	4.782
Households	205.503	207.805	210.725	213.088	215.566	218.921	222.093	225.194	228.117	230.984	233.873
% change	1.6	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3
Civilian Labor Force	337.251	340.418	342.706	341.106	350.016	357.441	355.818	360.999	368.169	375.119	382.248
% change	1.2	0.9	0.7	-0.5	2.6	2.1	-0.5	1.5	2	1.9	1.9
Business Establishments	12.409	12.379	12.31	12.214	12.403	12.355	12.556	12.6	12.769	12.922	13.075
% change	1.7	-0.2	-0.6	-0.8	1.5	-0.4	1.6	0.4	1.3	1.2	1.2
Retail Outlets	10.257	10.336	10.092	9.781	10.268	10.345	10	9.6	9.8	9.971	10.119
% change	1	0.8	-2.4	-3.1	5	0.7	-3.3	-4	2.1	1.7	1.5
Business Bankruptcies	94	80	75	94	82	104	93	114	105	115	109
% change	-32.9	-14.9	-6.3	25.3	-12.8	26.8	-10.6	22.6	-7.9	9.5	-5.2
Personal Bankruptcies	2259	2642	2678	3153	3050	3218	3160	3045	3036	3091	3054
% change	-10.5	17	1.4	17.7	-3.3	5.5	-1.8	-3.6	-0.3	1.8	-1.2
UTEP Fall Enrollment	14.677	14.695	15.224	16.22	17.232	18.542	18.918	19.269	19.842	20.332	20.782
% change	-3.3	0.1	3.6	6.5	6.2	7.6	2	1.9	3	2.5	2.2
EPCC Fall Enrollment	19.184	18.897	18.001	18.561	19.859	23.016	24.74	25.16	24.839	25.306	25.757
% change	-3.5	-1.5	-4.7	3.1	7	15.9	7.5	1.7	-1.3	1.9	1.8

**Notes:**

1. Business and personal bankruptcy data reported in actual units.
2. All other data are reported in thousands.

**Table 3: El Paso Labor Force and Employment**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Civilian Labor Force	337.251	340.418	342.706	341.106	350.016	357.441	355.818	360.999	368.169	375.119	382.248
% change	1.2	0.9	0.7	-0.5	2.6	2.1	-0.5	1.5	2	1.9	1.9
Unemployment Rate	10.2	9.4	8.2	8.2	8.7	9.6	7.8	7	7.1	7.1	7.1
Total Employment	314.796	319.893	326.272	325.114	331.676	335.469	340.167	348.929	355.903	362.779	369.991
% change	2.2	1.6	2	-0.4	2	1.1	1.4	2.6	2	1.9	2
El Paso Construction	17.692	18.72	18.613	18.351	18.246	18.877	18.996	20.5	20.878	20.875	21.024
% change	-1	5.8	-0.6	-1.4	-0.6	3.5	0.6	7.9	1.8	0	0.7
Manufacturing	44.603	41.404	39.496	36.432	32.398	28.349	25.834	24.81	24.148	23.529	22.997
% change	-0.9	-7.2	-4.6	-7.8	-11.1	-12.5	-8.9	-4	-2.7	-2.6	-2.3
Local Government	37.032	38.644	39.778	40.459	40.623	41.48	42.056	42.55	43.309	44.153	44.98
% change	2.5	4.4	2.9	1.7	0.4	2.1	1.4	1.2	1.8	1.9	1.9
State Government	7.321	7.46	7.606	7.745	7.914	7.857	7.646	7.62	7.706	7.801	7.897
% change	1.1	1.9	2	1.8	2.2	-0.7	-2.7	-0.3	1.1	1.2	1.2
Federal Civilian Govt.	8.631	8.507	8.818	8.478	8.475	8.61	8.824	8.8	8.926	9.058	9.193
% change	-0.9	-1.4	3.7	-3.9	0	1.6	2.5	-0.3	1.4	1.5	1.5
Military Employment	11.945	11.474	11.668	11.979	12.111	12.342	12.103	13.2	13.795	14.419	15.041
% change	3	-3.9	1.7	2.7	1.1	1.9	-1.9	9.1	4.5	4.5	4.3
Not Elsewhere Classified	187.572	193.684	200.293	201.67	211.909	217.954	224.708	231.449	237.14	242.944	248.859
% change	3.4	3.3	3.4	0.7	5.1	2.9	3.1	3	2.5	2.4	2.4

Notes:

1. Labor force data are in thousands.
2. Unemployment rate data are in percentages.
3. Employment data are in thousands.
4. Not Elsewhere Classified includes communications, services, retail, financial and other employment categories.

**Table 4: El Paso Personal Income**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total Personal Income	11399.7	11741.1	12649.9	13510.5	14200.5	14641.3	15555.6	16479.9	17507.7	18557.5	19709.9
% change	5.8	3	7.7	6.8	5.1	3.1	6.2	5.9	6.2	6	6.2
Wages and Salaries	6459.7	6704.9	7047	7205.2	7510.8	7715.4	8073.4	8533.6	9021.4	9520.2	10044.1
% change	6.5	3.8	5.1	2.2	4.2	2.7	4.6	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.5
Other Labor Income	961.1	1004.1	1074.1	1151.5	1328.5	1473.2	1622.3	1722.9	1848.3	1939.4	2006.8
% change	5	4.5	7	7.2	15.4	10.9	10.1	6.2	7.3	4.9	3.5
Proprietor Incomes	1014.8	1111.2	1391.8	1985.9	2102	2184.1	2416.9	2571.6	2743.4	2926.5	3125.7
% change	0.4	9.5	25.3	42.7	5.8	3.9	10.7	6.4	6.7	6.7	6.8
Social Ins. Cntrbns.	458.7	476.6	496.5	534.4	568.7	585.2	618.6	654.7	693.7	736.7	778.3
% change	4.7	3.9	4.2	7.6	6.4	2.9	5.7	5.8	5.9	6.2	5.7
Residence Adjustments	-477.6	-493.6	-515	-539.7	-560.3	-566.1	-575.6	-592.9	-605.2	-617	-629.2
% change	-6.6	-3.4	-4.3	-4.8	-3.8	-1	-1.7	-3	-2.1	-2	-2
Dividends, Int., Rent	1816.8	1751.3	1881.1	1771.5	1674.4	1521.2	1567.5	1653.7	1749.6	1860.8	2037.3
% change	10.1	-3.6	7.4	-5.8	-5.5	-9.2	3	5.5	5.8	6.4	9.5
Retirement Transfers	1659.6	1701.8	1827	2022.9	2198.3	2303.3	2423.5	2571.4	2741.2	2918.1	3107.3
% change	4.3	2.5	7.4	10.7	8.7	4.8	5.2	6.1	6.6	6.5	6.5
Inc. Maint. Transfers	410.6	423.3	427.7	433.6	496.3	573.5	630.1	658.4	687.5	731.1	781
% change	-1	3.1	1	1.4	14.5	15.6	9.9	4.5	4.4	6.3	6.8
Unemployment Transfers	13.4	14.7	12.8	13.9	19.3	21.8	16.2	16	15.1	15.1	15.2
% change	-3.6	9.6	-13.3	9	38.5	13.2	-26	-0.9	-5.7	0.3	0.5

## Notes:

1. All income data are expressed in millions of dollars.
2. Social insurance contributions are deducted from total regional income estimates.
3. Retirement transfer payments include social security and other retirement payments.
4. Income maintenance transfers include aid to families with dependent children and other payments.
5. Unemployment transfer payments include unemployment insurance payments to individuals.

**Table 5: El Paso Gross Retail Activity**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	5309.2	5885	6343.5	6354.1	6655.1	6904.4	7325.3	7915	8141.4	8436.4	8814.7
% change	5.1	10.8	7.8	0.2	4.7	3.7	6.1	8	2.9	3.6	4.5
Hardware Stores	335.6	336.1	329.5	338.4	360.8	379.7	445.9	493.9	484.2	509.6	538.2
% change	11.6	0.1	-2	2.7	6.6	5.2	17.4	10.7	-2	5.2	5.6
General Merchandise	624.7	960.8	1022.2	1113.1	1180.9	1238.2	1332.9	1433.5	1512	1581.2	1663.7
% change	1	53.8	6.4	8.9	6.1	4.8	7.7	7.5	5.5	4.6	5.2
Food Stores	945.4	892.8	907.1	868.2	864.3	876.7	893.6	975.4	960.4	964	964.5
% change	-3	-5.6	1.6	-4.3	-0.4	1.4	1.9	9.2	-1.5	0.4	0
Automobiles and Fuel	1216.7	1360.3	1531.9	1604.1	1716.7	1820.8	1982.8	2142.3	2224.1	2282.1	2366.4
% change	11	11.8	12.6	4.7	7	6.1	8.9	8	3.8	2.6	3.7
Apparel & Accessories	422.4	464.9	511.6	492.7	496.1	490.2	496.9	494.8	519.3	537.6	562.4
% change	11.5	10.1	10	-3.7	0.7	-1.2	1.4	-0.4	5	3.5	4.6
Furniture & Appliances	378.7	389.2	429.8	423.9	428.3	435.8	456.1	478.4	500.4	521.4	551.4
% change	0.5	2.8	10.4	-1.4	1	1.7	4.7	4.9	4.6	4.2	5.8
Dining Establishments	540.5	555.9	593.4	603.4	630.9	656.4	701.1	742.9	789.2	831.9	886.9
% change	8.8	2.9	6.7	1.7	4.6	4	6.8	6	6.2	5.4	6.6
Miscellaneous Retail	845.2	924.9	1018.1	910.2	977	1006.6	1016	1153.8	1151.9	1208.5	1281.1
% change	4.6	9.4	10.1	-10.6	7.3	3	0.9	13.6	-0.2	4.9	6

Notes:

1. All sales figures are expressed in millions of dollars.
2. Hardware stores include hardware, garden supply, and building materials stores, plus mobile home dealers.
3. General merchandise stores include department, variety, and miscellaneous dry goods stores.
4. Food stores include grocery stores, seafood markets, vegetable stands, candy stores, bakeries, and dairy outlets.
5. Automobiles and fuel includes car and motorcycle dealers, auto parts stores, gasoline service stations, water and rec. vehicle dealers.
6. Dining establishments include restaurants, caterers, ice cream parlors, cafes, bars and nightclubs.
7. Miscellaneous includes pharmacies, liquor, sporting good, book, jewelry, luggage, toy, camera, optical, florist, and souvenir stores.

**Table 6: El Paso Residential Construction & Real Estate**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total Housing Starts	3.47	4.01	3.53	3.915	3.786	5.173	3.699	5.007	4.926	4.862	4.786
% change	21.3	15.6	-12	10.9	-3.3	36.6	-28.5	35.4	-1.6	-1.3	-1.6
Single-Family Starts	3.31	3.67	3.13	3.762	3.602	4.888	3.401	4.312	4.093	4.061	3.983
% change	30.3	10.9	-14.7	20.2	-4.3	35.7	-30.4	26.8	-5.1	-0.8	-1.9
Multi-Family Starts	0.16	0.34	0.4	0.153	0.184	0.285	0.298	0.695	0.832	0.801	0.804
% change	-50	112.5	17.6	-61.8	20.3	54.9	4.6	133.2	19.7	-3.8	0.4
Total Housing Stock	239.7	242.6	245.4	248.1	251.2	255.6	260.7	265	269.7	274.4	279.2
% change	1	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.8	2	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8
Single-Family Stock	175.3	178.2	181.1	183.7	186.6	190.9	195.8	199.6	203.8	208	212.2
% change	1.2	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.6	2.3	2.6	2	2.1	2	2.1
Multi-Family Stock	64.4	64.4	64.4	64.4	64.6	64.7	64.9	65.4	65.9	66.5	67
% change	0.4	0	0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.8
Median New Price	90.618	92.778	94.213	99.204	101.1	104.591	108.791	117.871	124.114	128.514	133.027
% change	1.8	2.4	1.5	5.3	1.9	3.5	4	8.3	5.3	3.5	3.5
Median Resale Price	78.05	78.75	80.64	86.25	88.958	92.678	94.557	108.683	114.325	117.627	120.654
% change	2.9	0.9	2.4	7	3.1	4.2	2	14.9	5.2	2.9	2.6
Average Monthly Payment	528	541	580	559	553	540	570	620	671	712	741
% change	-1.9	2.4	7.2	-3.6	-1	-2.4	5.5	8.9	8.2	6.1	4
Affordability Index	221.5	235.5	227	241.9	248.1	257.3	250.6	233.6	232.3	232.7	235.6
% change	2.1	6.3	-3.6	6.6	2.5	3.7	-2.6	-6.8	-0.6	0.2	1.2
Existing Units Sold	12.677	15.244	14.102	14.901	15.464	19.181	21.145	22.085	22.536	22.686	22.88
% change	21.5	20.2	-7.5	5.7	3.8	24	10.2	4.4	2	0.7	0.9

**Notes:**

1. Housing start and stock data are in thousands.
2. Affordability index increases as household income strengthens relative to mortgage payments.
3. Average monthly mortgage payment is in current dollars.
4. Existing housing units sold includes both stand-alone and multi-family units.
5. Median new and existing home prices are for stand-alone units and quoted in thousands of dollars.



**Table 7: El Paso Nonresidential Construction**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total Nonresidential Space	216.249	263.768	305.734	278.392	335.159	257.311	304.491	408.271	376.469	343.536	368.625
% change	-25.1	22	15.9	-8.9	20.4	-23.2	18.3	34.1	-7.8	-8.7	7.3
Industrial Space Permits	12.646	13.392	11.861	1.923	0	1.918	5.959	1.901	10.188	8.507	10.654
% change	-66.6	5.9	-11.4	-83.8	-100		210.7	-68.1	436.1	-16.5	25.2
Office Space Permit Values	12.915	11.475	10.222	10.971	23.8	15.16	20.535	20.308	18.669	19.705	17.956
% change	-44	-11.1	-10.9	7.3	116.9	-36.3	35.5	-1.1	-8.1	5.5	-8.9
Other Commercial Space	158.018	191.797	195.371	206.246	224.125	169.274	179.3	186.341	229.735	208.419	224.717
% change	-10.5	21.4	1.9	5.6	8.7	-24.5	5.9	3.9	23.3	-9.3	7.8
Miscellaneous Nonres.	32.67	47.104	88.281	59.251	87.234	70.959	98.697	199.721	117.877	106.904	115.298
% change	-36.2	44.2	87.4	-32.9	47.2	-18.7	39.1	102.4	-41	-9.3	7.9

## Notes:

1. All nonresidential construction permits data are quoted in millions of dollars.
2. Other commercial permits include service stations, retail stores, parking garages, warehouses, and public utilities.
3. Miscellaneous includes port facilities, recreational buildings, sports stadiums, swimming pools, and health care facilities.

**Table 8: El Paso International Airport**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Passenger Arrivals	1605.7	1648	1624.6	1527.3	1425.8	1446.7	1591.8	1673.8	1706.6	1766.9	1861.7
% change	0.3	2.6	-1.4	-6	-6.7	1.5	10	5.1	2	3.5	5.4
Domestic Arrivals	1590.1	1631	1611.7	1516.6	1414.8	1441.7	1588.6	1670.4	1706.4	1763.2	1851.8
% change	0.5	2.6	-1.2	-5.9	-6.7	1.9	10.2	5.1	2.2	3.3	5
International Arrivals	15.542	16.974	12.847	10.726	10.928	4.975	3.18	3.349	0.208	3.679	9.991
% change	-12.6	9.2	-24.3	-16.5	1.9	-54.5	-36.1	5.3	-93.8	1666.8	171.6
Passenger Departures	1635.3	1691.6	1688.1	1564.4	1450	1464	1612.6	1697.7	1729	1789.1	1886.8
% change	0.1	3.4	-0.2	-7.3	-7.3	1	10.2	5.3	1.8	3.5	5.5
Domestic Departures	1619.9	1674.7	1676.3	1554	1439.5	1459.2	1609.7	1694.4	1728.8	1785.4	1876.8
% change	0.2	3.4	0.1	-7.3	-7.4	1.4	10.3	5.3	2	3.3	5.1
International Departures	15.351	16.947	11.843	10.345	10.426	4.727	2.955	3.258	0.217	3.714	9.988
% change	-11.6	10.4	-30.1	-12.6	0.8	-54.7	-37.5	10.3	-93.3	1608.5	168.9
In-Bound Freight	47.396	55.6	55.204	46.013	51.637	45.366	46.747	48.095	50.424	51.854	53.864
% change	20.7	17.3	-0.7	-16.6	12.2	-12.1	3	2.9	4.8	2.8	3.9
Out-Bound Freight	35.316	38.811	41.697	33.599	35.106	36.557	35.911	38.14	38.589	39.599	40.695
% change	11	9.9	7.4	-19.4	4.5	4.1	-1.8	6.2	1.2	2.6	2.8
In-Bound Mail	3.657	4.096	4.337	3.378	1.784	1.61	1.505	1.648	1.807	1.952	2.116
% change	-0.6	12	5.9	-22.1	-47.2	-9.8	-6.5	9.5	9.6	8	8.4
Out-Bound Mail	1.744	2.307	2.331	1.362	0.346	0.529	0.621	0.337	0.236	0.271	0.289
% change	1.7	32.2	1.1	-41.6	-74.6	52.8	17.4	-45.7	-30.1	14.7	6.8

## Notes:

1. El Paso International Airport passenger data are in thousands.
2. El Paso International Airport freight data are in thousand tons.
3. El Paso International Airport mail data are in thousand tons.

**Table 9: Northbound International Bridge Traffic**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Pedestrians, All Bridges	5.204	5.666	5.84	7.198	9.301	8.899	8.453	7.639	7.026	6.615	6.301
% change	12.6	8.9	3.1	23.3	29.2	-4.3	-5	-9.6	-8	-5.8	-4.8
Cars, All Bridges	15.212	15.996	16.696	16.184	13.053	13.698	14.816	15.958	15.972	16.224	16.529
% change	0.5	5.2	4.4	-3.1	-19.3	4.9	8.2	7.7	0.1	1.6	1.9
Trucks, All Bridges	0.606	0.672	0.729	0.666	0.704	0.66	0.72	0.746	0.771	0.785	0.804
% change	1.6	10.9	8.4	-8.6	5.8	-6.3	9.1	3.6	3.3	1.9	2.4
Cordova Bridge											
BOTA Pedestrians	0.675	0.534	0.605	0.769	1.208	1.021	0.785	0.612	0.542	0.537	0.546
% change	-1.1	-20.8	13.3	27	57	-15.4	-23.1	-22.1	-11.4	-1	1.8
BOTA Personal Vehicles	7.553	8.196	8.168	7.295	4.708	4.68	6.125	8.066	8.367	8.576	8.842
% change	1.8	8.5	-0.3	-10.7	-35.5	-0.6	30.9	31.7	3.7	2.5	3.1
BOTA Cargo Vehicles	0.312	0.343	0.363	0.335	0.375	0.346	0.383	0.399	0.384	0.387	0.393
% change	1.4	9.9	5.9	-7.8	12	-7.8	10.6	4.1	-3.7	0.9	1.5
Paso del Norte Bridge											
PDN Pedestrians	4.198	4.798	4.858	5.927	7.252	7.08	6.919	6.345	5.82	5.429	5.116
% change	16.3	14.3	1.2	22	22.4	-2.4	-2.3	-8.3	-8.3	-6.7	-5.8
PDN Personal Vehicles	4.413	4.179	4.672	4.632	3.658	4.173	3.91	3.447	3.304	3.328	3.337
% change	-4.1	-5.3	11.8	-0.9	-21	14.1	-6.3	-11.8	-4.1	0.7	0.3
DCL Personal Vehicles	UN	UN	UN	0.386	1.138	1.475	1.451	1.244	1.103	1.112	1.122
% change	UN	UN	UN	UN	194.7	29.7	-1.6	-14.3	-11.4	0.8	0.9
Ysleta Zaragoza Bridge											
Ysleta Pedestrians	0.332	0.334	0.377	0.502	0.841	0.797	0.748	0.682	0.664	0.649	0.638
% change	0.6	0.7	12.9	33.3	67.4	-5.2	-6.2	-8.8	-2.6	-2.3	-1.7
Ysleta Personal Vehicles	3.246	3.621	3.856	3.871	3.55	3.37	3.33	3.2	3.198	3.208	3.229
% change	4.1	11.5	6.5	0.4	-8.3	-5.1	-1.2	-3.9	-0.1	0.3	0.6
Ysleta Cargo Vehicles	0.294	0.329	0.365	0.331	0.329	0.314	0.337	0.347	0.387	0.398	0.411
% change	1.8	12	11.1	-9.4	-0.6	-4.6	7.4	3.1	11.4	2.9	3.2
DYL Personal Vehicles	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	0.07	0.072	0.073	0.075
% change	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	UN	2.3	2.1	2.1

**Notes:**

1. All bridge data are for northbound traffic categories into the City of El Paso.
2. Pedestrian, personal vehicle (cars, light trucks, mini-vans), and cargo vehicle data are reported in millions.
3. DCL and DYL are acronyms for Stanton Dedicated Commuter Lane and Ysleta Dedicated Commuter Lane, respectively.

**Table 10: El Paso County Hotel Activity**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Hotels in Operation	70	70	71	72	73	74	74	75	76	77	78
% change	1.4	0	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	0	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3
Room Nights Available	2701.6	2732.9	2767.6	2687.7	2714	2769.3	2792.6	2820.8	2849.2	2879.8	2910.3
% change	1.2	1.2	1.3	-2.9	1	2	0.8	1	1	1.1	1.1
Room Nights Sold	1617.3	1678	1711.5	1655	1677.3	1700.6	1885.4	1873.7	1875.3	1926.9	1979.9
% change	1.1	3.8	2	-3.3	1.3	1.4	10.9	-0.6	0.1	2.7	2.8
Hotel Occupancy Rate	59.9	61.4	61.8	61.6	61.8	61.4	67.5	66.4	65.8	66.9	68
Hotel Room Price	51.34	53.06	54.41	54.52	55.7	55.97	57.73	62.95	62.54	64.09	66.15
% change	1.1	3.3	2.5	0.2	2.2	0.5	3.1	9.1	-0.7	2.5	3.2
Actual Revenue per Room	30.74	32.58	33.65	33.57	34.42	34.37	38.97	45.68	41.16	42.88	45
% change	0.9	6	3.3	-0.2	2.5	-0.2	13.4	17.2	-9.9	4.2	4.9
Total Revenues	83.04	89.036	93.124	90.233	93.425	95.179	108.835	114.443	117.277	123.489	130.966
% change	2.2	7.2	4.6	-3.1	3.5	1.9	14.3	5.2	2.5	5.3	6.1

## Notes:

1. El Paso County hotel room night data are reported in thousands.
2. El Paso County hotel pricing data are reported in nominal dollars.
3. Total hotel revenues are reported in million nominal dollars.

**Table 11: El Paso Water Consumption**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total Water Customers	155,555	159,038	163,949	167,448	171,87	176,327	181,248	185,801	189,846	194,169	198,73
% change	3.1	2.2	3.1	2.1	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.3
Single-Family Meters	127,307	130,51	133,879	136,286	139,396	142,68	147,134	151,115	154,293	157,712	161,326
% change	1.5	2.5	2.6	1.8	2.3	2.4	3.1	2.7	2.1	2.2	2.3
Multi-Family Meters	4,755	4,765	4,758	4,73	4,725	4,737	4,739	4,754	4,765	4,774	4,784
% change	0.7	0.2	-0.1	-0.6	-0.1	0.3	0	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Commercial Business Meters	8,651	8,663	8,828	8,973	9,114	9,215	8,675	8,494	8,583	8,665	8,742
% change	5.5	0.1	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.1	-5.9	-2.1	1	1	0.9
Industrial Business Meters	0,199	0,188	0,207	0,206	0,195	0,194	0,191	0,185	0,184	0,182	0,183
% change	2.1	-5.5	10.1	-0.5	-5.3	-0.5	-1.5	-3.1	-0.5	-1.3	0.9
Other Meter Connections	14,643	14,912	16,277	17,253	18,44	19,501	20,509	21,253	22,022	22,836	23,695
% change	18.8	1.8	9.2	6	6.9	5.8	5.2	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.8
Total Water Consumed	35,071	35,771	36,022	35,387	35,372	33,898	32,042	32,565	33,409	33,742	34,232
% change	1.5	2	0.7	-1.8	0	-4.2	-5.5	1.6	2.6	1	1.5
Single-Family Gallons	19,852	20,187	20,338	19,932	19,999	19,383	18,184	18,491	18,992	19,297	19,676
% change	3.9	1.7	0.7	-2	0.3	-3.1	-6.2	1.7	2.7	1.6	2
Multi-Family Gallons	3,594	3,721	3,699	3,525	3,486	3,324	3,205	3,13	3,15	3,127	3,121
% change	2.9	3.5	-0.6	-4.7	-1.1	-4.7	-3.6	-2.3	0.6	-0.7	-0.2
Commercial Gallons Cons.	4,329	4,484	4,574	4,37	4,215	4,094	3,927	3,823	3,882	3,911	3,932
% change	3.8	3.6	2	-4.5	-3.5	-2.9	-4.1	-2.7	1.5	0.8	0.5
Industrial Gallons Consumed	0,906	0,729	0,714	0,496	0,408	0,349	0,4	0,454	0,435	0,414	0,406
% change	-30.7	-19.5	-2.1	-30.6	-17.7	-14.3	14.4	13.6	-4.2	-4.8	-2
Other Water Consumption	6,39	6,65	6,697	7,064	7,264	6,748	6,326	6,667	6,95	6,993	7,097
% change	-1.2	4.1	0.7	5.5	2.8	-7.1	-6.2	5.4	4.2	0.6	1.5

## Notes:

1. Water customer meter connections are reported in thousands.
2. El Paso water consumption data are reported in billion gallons.
3. Other water accounts include schools, parks, churches, and government agencies.

**Table 12: Ciudad Juarez Demographic Indicators**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Ciudad Juarez Population	1154.6	1206.6	1218.8	1297.4	1338.6	1379.6	1420.3	1460.7	1510.1	1558.5	1608.3
% change	4.5	4.5	1	6.4	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.8	3.4	3.2	3.2
Resident Births	26.113	30.851	30.124	33.42	29.5	27.423	27.035	27.75	29.052	30.215	31.227
% change	4.6	18.1	-2.4	10.9	-11.7	-7	-1.4	2.6	4.7	4	3.4
Resident Deaths	5.235	5.345	5.616	5.822	5.981	6.214	6.004	6.2	6.393	6.575	6.749
% change	-4.6	2.1	5.1	3.7	2.7	3.9	-3.4	3.3	3.1	2.8	2.6
Net Migration	28.842	26.452	-12.265	50.964	17.726	19.756	19.642	18.848	26.814	24.703	25.316
Domestic Migration	32.742	30.867	-6.777	56.048	22.925	24.71	23.722	23.069	31.39	29.377	30.098
International Migration	-3.9	-4.415	-5.488	-5.084	-5.199	-4.954	-4.08	-4.221	-4.577	-4.674	-4.782
Juarez Water Meters	226.773	242.089	257.151	273.954	292.597	309.768	328.582	340	355.909	372.255	388.964
% change	5.5	6.8	6.2	6.5	6.8	5.9	6.1	3.5	4.7	4.6	4.5
Total Water Consumption	145.45	148.4	155.631	160.205	149.59	151.348	161.81	166.5	172.968	179.558	186.191
% change	4.5	2	4.9	2.9	-6.6	1.2	6.9	2.9	3.9	3.8	3.7

**Notes:**

1. All Ciudad Juarez population data are reported in thousands.
2. Ciudad Juarez water meter connections are expressed in thousands.
3. Ciudad Juarez water consumption is reported in million cubic meters.

**Table 13: Ciudad Juarez Economic Indicators**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total Maquiladora Emp.	206.623	218.456	249.38	228.445	200.891	194.642	204.542	218.349	230.169	242.07	254.559
% change	8.5	5.7	14.2	-8.4	-12.1	-3.1	5.1	6.8	5.4	5.2	5.2
Juarez Maquiladora Plants	258	271	308	307	279	271	286	291	294	297	300
% change	-8.8	5	13.7	-0.3	-9.1	-2.9	5.5	1.7	1	1	1
Average Hourly Wages	2.52	2.95	3.38	3.86	4.2	3.92	3.87	4.15	4.35	4.44	4.53
% change	4.5	17	14.7	14.1	8.8	-6.8	-1.2	7.3	4.9	2	2.1
Total Value Added	2098.3	2575.9	3267.4	3535.2	3603.1	3411.2	3435.3	3818.1	4164.9	4491.5	4841.6
% change	9.1	22.8	26.8	8.2	1.9	-5.3	0.7	11.1	9.1	7.8	7.8
Total Formal Sector Emp.	355.763	390.622	411.485	375.988	340.966	325.212	331.521	347.801	381.954	404.937	427.531
% change	11.2	9.8	5.3	-8.6	-9.3	-4.6	1.9	4.9	9.8	6	5.6
Total Mfg. Employment	240.528	262.283	284.675	248.757	215.605	202.376	204.93	218.346	239.069	252.528	266.591
% change	10	9	8.5	-12.6	-13.3	-6.1	1.3	6.5	9.5	5.6	5.6
Commerce Employment	32.5	35.727	38.204	40.2	38.972	37.669	38.258	39.317	42.08	44.688	47.171
% change	11.1	9.9	6.9	5.2	-3.1	-3.3	1.6	2.8	7	6.2	5.6
Regulated Industry Emp.	8.998	10.659	11.675	11.851	11.443	11.264	11.145	11.436	11.92	12.576	13.349
% change	19	18.5	9.5	1.5	-3.4	-1.6	-1.1	2.6	4.2	5.5	6.1
Services & Other Emp.	73.737	81.953	76.931	75.18	74.946	73.903	77.188	78.702	88.885	95.145	100.42
% change	14.6	11.1	-6.1	-2.3	-0.3	-1.4	4.4	2	12.9	7	5.5
Retail Sales Activity	104.4	106.1	113.6	95.4	93.6	100	104.8	122.9	126.1	135.5	142.8
% change	7.3	1.6	7.1	-16	-1.9	6.8	4.8	17.3	2.6	7.4	5.4
Wholesale Activity	98.3	108.2	118.4	114	105.8	100	104.2	87.9	101.5	110.8	117.2
% change	10.6	10.1	9.4	-3.7	-7.2	-5.5	4.2	-15.6	15.5	9.2	5.8

Notes:

1. Ciudad Juarez employment data are reported in thousands.
2. Ciudad Juarez maquiladora hourly wages are reported in nominal dollar equivalents and include benefits.
3. The maquiladora industry standard work week is 45 hours.
4. Ciudad Juarez maquiladora value-added data are expressed in millions of nominal dollars.
5. Ciudad Juarez formal sector jobs are those covered by the social security system in Mexico.
6. Regulated sectors include transportation, communications, and public utilities.
7. Inflation adjusted retail index and wholesale index base years are 2003 = 100.

**Table 14: Chihuahua Demographic & Commercial Indicators**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Cd. Chihuahua Population	653.8	662.7	671.8	694.4	703.4	712.1	720.5	728.6	740.1	752.8	765.9
% change	1.4	1.4	1.4	3.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.6	1.7	1.7
Cd. Chihuahua Water Meters	130.564	132.665	160.621	186.026	202.785	204.707	215.178	217.425	225.402	233.438	241.639
% change	1.6	1.6	21.1	15.8	9	0.9	5.1	1	3.7	3.6	3.5
Total Water Consumption	58.788	59.935	62.97	64.149	67.816	66.104	63.522	59.698	61.721	63.847	65.967
% change	3	2	5.1	1.9	5.7	-2.5	-3.9	-6	3.4	3.4	3.3
Retail Activity Index	95.7	97.6	103.9	99.2	97.5	100	114.5	122.9	128.7	134	140
% change	6.5	2	6.5	-4.5	-1.7	2.6	14.5	7.3	4.7	4.1	4.5
Wholesale Activity Index	88.8	110.3	113.9	97.2	94.8	100	86	87.9	104.4	106.7	109.4
% change	12.8	24.2	3.3	-14.7	-2.5	5.5	-14	2.2	18.8	2.2	2.5

## Notes:

1. Chihuahua City population and water meter data are reported in thousands.
2. Chihuahua City water consumption data are reported in million cubic meters.
3. Chihuahua City inflation adjusted retail and wholesale index base years are 2003 = 100.



**Table 15: Chihuahua City Economic Indicators**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total Maquiladora Emp.	40.661	47.289	51.17	42.99	40.584	43.627	42.908	42.937	45.864	49.048	52.615
% change	8.9	16.3	8.2	-16	-5.6	7.5	-1.6	0.1	6.8	6.9	7.3
Cd. Chih. Maq. Plants	77	82	84	81	74	76	76	74	76	78	80
% change	4.1	6.5	2.4	-3.6	-8.6	2.7	0	-2.6	2.7	2.6	2.6
Average Hourly Wages	2.54	2.97	3.66	4.65	5.14	4.37	4.16	4.64	4.83	4.93	5.04
% change	0.8	16.9	23.4	26.9	10.6	-14.9	-4.8	11.4	4.1	2.2	2.1
Total Value Added	499.3	650.2	859.9	991.4	934.5	961.3	849.3	958.6	1,057.60	1,162.70	1,280.50
% change	13.9	30.2	32.3	15.3	-5.7	2.9	-11.6	12.9	10.3	9.9	10.1
Total Formal Sector Emp.	162.605	175.087	185.538	180.359	173.481	168.778	169.441	173.57	183.931	194.832	206.482
% change	7.7	7.7	6	-2.8	-3.8	-2.7	0.4	2.4	6	5.9	6
Total Mfg. Employment	68.805	79.297	88.86	80.755	74.223	67.044	65.498	66.732	71.43	76.318	81.667
% change	10.5	15.2	12.1	-9.1	-8.1	-9.7	-2.3	1.9	7	6.8	7
Commerce Employment	25.193	26.466	30.455	32.982	33.944	35.059	34.954	34.765	36.915	39.379	42.151
% change	4.8	5.1	15.1	8.3	2.9	3.3	-0.3	-0.5	6.2	6.7	7
Regulated Industry Emp.	8.917	8.983	9.199	9.001	8.438	8.302	8.666	8.851	9.187	9.553	9.939
% change	-5	0.7	2.4	-2.2	-6.3	-1.6	4.4	2.1	3.8	4	4
Services & Other Emp.	59.69	60.341	57.024	57.621	56.876	58.373	60.323	63.222	66.398	69.582	72.725
% change	7.9	1.1	-5.5	1	-1.3	2.6	3.3	4.8	5	4.8	4.5

**Notes:**

1. Chihuahua City employment data are reported in thousands.
2. Chihuahua City maquiladora hourly wages are reported in nominal dollars and include benefits.
3. The maquiladora industry standard work week is 45 hours.
4. Chihuahua City maquiladora value-added data are expressed in millions of nominal dollars.
5. Chihuahua City formal sector jobs are those covered by the social security system in Mexico.
6. Regulated sectors include transportation, communications, and public utilities.

**Table 16: Las Cruces Demographic & Other Indicators**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Population	172,057	173,889	174,989	176,598	178,556	182,539	185,524	189,444	193,536	197,793	202,215
% change	1.8	1.1	0.6	0.9	1.1	2.2	1.6	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2
Business Establishments	3,183	3,26	3,211	3,226	3,245	3,331	3,422	3,5	3,573	3,649	3,722
% change	0.8	2.4	-1.5	0.5	0.6	2.7	2.7	2.3	2.1	2.1	2
Business Bankruptcies	32	46	30	65	61	78	80	73	67	69	69
% change	-15.8	43.8	-34.8	116.7	-6.2	27.9	2.6	-8.8	-8.2	3	0
Personal Bankruptcies	643	606	512	626	648	756	747	946	906	914	910
% change	22.5	-5.8	-15.5	22.3	3.5	16.7	-1.2	26.6	-4.3	1	-0.4
NMSU Fall Enrollment	15,409	15,449	14,958	15,224	15,243	16,174	16,428	16,072	16,264	16,625	16,974
% change	2.3	0.3	-3.2	1.8	0.1	6.1	1.6	-2.2	1.2	2.2	2.1
DABCC Fall Enrollment	4,299	4,471	4,64	4,717	5,178	5,59	6,083	6,57	6,921	7,257	7,571
% change	2.5	4	3.8	1.7	9.8	8	8.8	8	5.3	4.9	4.3
Personal Income	2909.6	2998.3	3120	3460	3580.1	3746.3	4021.7	4289.9	4651.9	4978	5341
% change	8.3	3	4.1	10.9	3.5	4.6	7.4	6.7	8.4	7	7.3
Labor & Proprietor Earnings	1782.6	1845.8	1891.6	2068.1	2201.8	2352.7	2552.5	2725.3	2944.5	3136.6	3340.9
% change	9.1	3.5	2.5	9.3	6.5	6.9	8.5	6.8	8	6.5	6.5
Real GMP	2.58	2,688	2,705	2,686	2,901	3,047	3,196	3,387	3,576	3,728	3,917
% change	4.7	4.2	0.7	-0.7	8	5	4.9	6	5.6	4.2	5.1
Total Employment	70,506	72,977	75,557	76,905	79,267	82,045	83,882	86,418	89,725	91,996	94,613
% change	2.6	3.5	3.5	1.8	3.1	3.5	2.2	3	3.8	2.5	2.8

## Notes:

1. The Las Cruces metropolitan economy is comprised by Dona Ana County.
2. Population, college enrollment, and business establishment data are in thousands.
3. All income and earnings data are expressed in millions of dollars.
3. Labor and proprietor earnings encompass wage and salary disbursements, other labor income, and proprietor earnings.
4. Real gross metropolitan product data are expressed in billions of 1996 dollars.
5. Employment data are expressed in thousands.

**Table 17: Las Cruces Employment**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Las Cruces Total Emp.	70.506	72.977	75.557	76.905	79.267	82.045	83.882	86.418	89.725	91.996	94.613
% change	2.6	3.5	3.5	1.8	3.1	3.5	2.2	3	3.8	2.5	2.8
Construction Employment	4.412	4.737	4.599	4.515	4.71	5.179	5.453	5.728	6.053	6.147	6.319
% change	-1.6	7.4	-2.9	-1.8	4.3	10	5.3	5	5.7	1.5	2.8
Manufacturing	3.262	3.43	3.481	3.368	3.682	3.765	3.782	3.818	3.936	3.957	4.035
% change	5.7	5.2	1.5	-3.2	9.3	2.3	0.5	1	3.1	0.5	2
State Government	7.687	7.627	7.972	8.603	8.451	8.555	8.771	8.999	9.185	9.357	9.522
% change	5.8	-0.8	4.5	7.9	-1.8	1.2	2.5	2.6	2.1	1.9	1.8
Local Government	7.072	6.92	6.938	7.039	7.5	7.487	7.993	8.188	8.358	8.526	8.703
% change	-13.4	-2.1	0.3	1.5	6.5	-0.2	6.8	2.4	2.1	2	2.1
Federal Civilian Govt.	3.607	3.439	3.538	3.349	3.407	3.422	3.392	3.407	3.421	3.426	3.43
% change	-4.6	-4.7	2.9	-5.3	1.7	0.4	-0.9	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.1
Military Employment	0.661	0.661	0.639	0.631	0.623	0.627	0.603	0.612	0.623	0.634	0.644
% change	-6.5	0	-3.3	-1.3	-1.3	0.6	-3.8	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.6
Not Elsewhere Classified	43.805	46.163	48.39	49.4	50.894	53.01	53.888	55.666	58.149	59.95	61.961
% change	6.2	5.4	4.8	2.1	3	4.2	1.7	3.3	4.5	3.1	3.4

## Notes:

1. Employment data are expressed in thousands.
2. Not Elsewhere Classified includes communications, services, retail, financial and other employment categories.

**Table 18: Las Cruces Personal Income**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total Personal Income	2909.6	2998.3	3120	3460	3580.1	3746.3	4021.7	4289.9	4651.9	4978	5341
% change	8.3	3	4.1	10.9	3.5	4.6	7.4	6.7	8.4	7	7.3
Wages and Salaries	1301	1360.1	1451.6	1509	1641.7	1745.1	1849.9	1969.1	2123.2	2258.5	2407.3
% change	7.9	4.5	6.7	4	8.8	6.3	6	6.4	7.8	6.4	6.6
Other Labor Income	219.3	223.1	237	251.6	293.3	320.8	365.3	391	425.7	451.8	473.4
% change	4.7	1.8	6.2	6.2	16.6	9.4	13.9	7	8.9	6.1	4.8
Proprietor Incomes	262.3	262.5	203.1	307.5	266.8	286.8	337.3	365.3	395.6	426.3	460.2
% change	20.2	0.1	-22.7	51.4	-13.3	7.5	17.6	8.3	8.3	7.8	7.9
Social Ins. Cntrbns.	97.7	104.3	107.6	114.6	123.2	131.3	140	149.4	161.8	173.4	185.2
% change	8.6	6.7	3.3	6.4	7.5	6.6	6.6	6.7	8.3	7.1	6.8
Residence Adjustments	167.2	186.5	202.4	217.5	214	214.4	228.2	242.5	258.1	274.8	292.5
% change	8.4	11.6	8.5	7.5	-1.6	0.2	6.4	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.5
Dividends, Int., Rent	545.8	524.6	547.4	612.5	536.5	512.4	515	546	598.6	644.1	703.8
% change	6.9	-3.9	4.4	11.9	-12.4	-4.5	0.5	6	9.6	7.6	9.3
Retirement Transfers	418.6	438.9	483.1	571.9	630.6	665.3	723.2	775.6	851.8	923.6	1004.8
% change	8.2	4.9	10.1	18.4	10.3	5.5	8.7	7.2	9.8	8.4	8.8
Inc. Maint. Transfers	84	93.5	92.9	94.4	106.1	117.6	130.3	137.3	149.2	159.9	172.2
% change	0.2	11.3	-0.6	1.6	12.4	10.9	10.7	5.4	8.6	7.2	7.7
Unemployment Transfers	9.1	13.3	10.3	10.2	14.3	15.2	12.5	12.4	11.6	12.5	12
% change	31.5	45.4	-22.8	-1.1	41.3	5.7	-17.3	-0.8	-6.7	7.2	-4

## Notes:

1. All Las Cruces income data are expressed in millions of dollars.
2. Social insurance contributions are deducted from total regional income estimates.
3. Retirement transfer payments include social security and other retirement payments.
4. Income maintenance transfers include aid to families with dependent children and other payments.
5. Unemployment transfer payments include unemployment insurance payments to individuals.
6. The Las Cruces metropolitan economy is comprised by Dona Ana County.

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