

## Key Takeaways

### Employment

- Total non-farm employment increased in December 2022 on a year-over-year basis in the U.S. (4,997,000 jobs, 3.3%), El Paso (9,500 jobs, 2.9%), Las Cruces (3,200 jobs, 4.3%), and Ciudad Juárez (17,400 jobs, 3.6%).
- On a monthly basis, mixed changes in total non-farm employment were observed across the Paso del Norte region and the U.S. in December: increasing in El Paso by 1,800 jobs (0.5%); decreasing in Ciudad Juárez by 10,600 jobs (-2.1%) and the U.S. by 293,000 jobs (-0.2%); and remaining stagnant in Las Cruces.

### Remittances

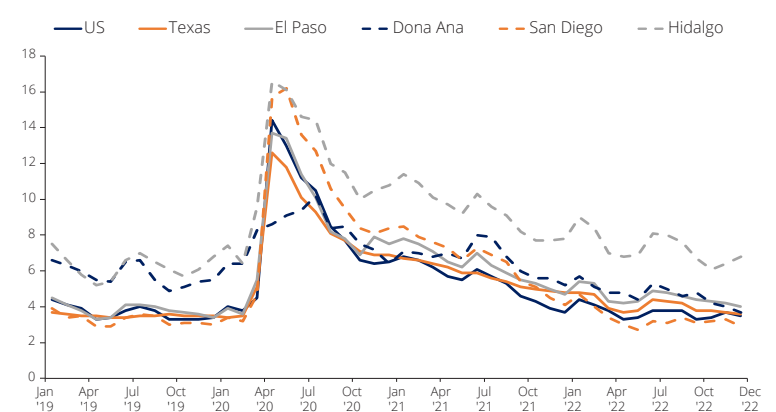
- Remittances from the U.S. to Mexico have increased by \$6,912 million (13.4%) from \$51,856 million in 2021 to \$58,497 million in 2022, reaching their highest levels since 2003.
- In 2022, Tijuana accounted for 27.8% of total remittances received in the top ten border cities, while Ciudad Juárez accounted for 18.6%. Remittances to Tijuana and Ciudad Juárez make up 46.3% of remittances to the top ten border cities.

### Trade

- Total trade at the top ten ports of entry (PoE) increased by \$89,211 million (15.7%) in 2022 compared to 2021.
- The Laredo and El Paso PoE experienced the most growth during the year, with an increase of \$51,105 million (20.6%) and \$14,726 million (16.6%), respectively in 2022 compared to 2021.
- Although total trade increased in 2022 when compared to the previous year at the top ten PoE, total exports decreased in December when compared to November. The El Paso PoE experienced a significant decrease in total exports and imports during this time of \$410 million (-11.4%) and \$639 million (-11.8%), respectively.

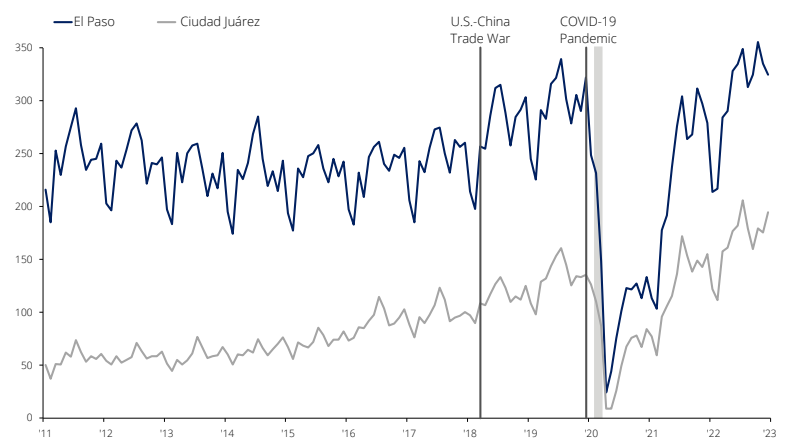
## Quick-Glance Indicators

Unemployment Rates for U.S., State, and Selected MSA Economies



Note: Data as of December 2022.  
Source: Hunt Institute calculations using data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

El Paso and Ciudad Juárez Air Passengers, Thousands



Note: Data as of December 2022. Shaded area indicates recession as defined by the National Bureau of Economic Research (2020 recession began in February and ended in April).  
Source: Hunt Institute using El Paso International Airport and Grupo OMA data.

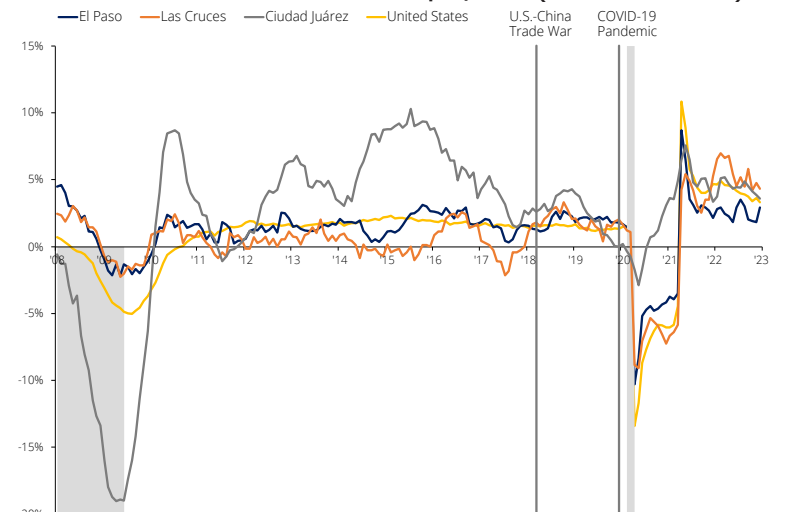
## Employment

### Job Growth Still Rising

Non-farm employment in December 2022 for the Paso del Norte region exceeded that of December 2021. In a month-over-month comparison, however, the outlook is mixed.

In 2022, December marked the twenty-first consecutive month of year-over-year non-farm employment gains in El Paso and Las Cruces, and the twenty-ninth consecutive month in Ciudad Juárez. The U.S. also registered its twenty-first consecutive month of non-farm employment gains. At the national level, year-over-year gains of 4,997,000 jobs (3.3%) were observed in December 2022. Total non-farm employment also increased in El Paso by 9,500 jobs (2.9%), in Las Cruces by 3,200 jobs (4.3%), and in Ciudad Juárez by 17,400 jobs (3.6%). In a month-over-month comparison, however, El Paso gained 1,800 jobs (0.5%), while the U.S. lost 293,000 jobs (-0.2%), and Ciudad Juárez 10,600 jobs (-2.1%). Las Cruces remained stagnant.

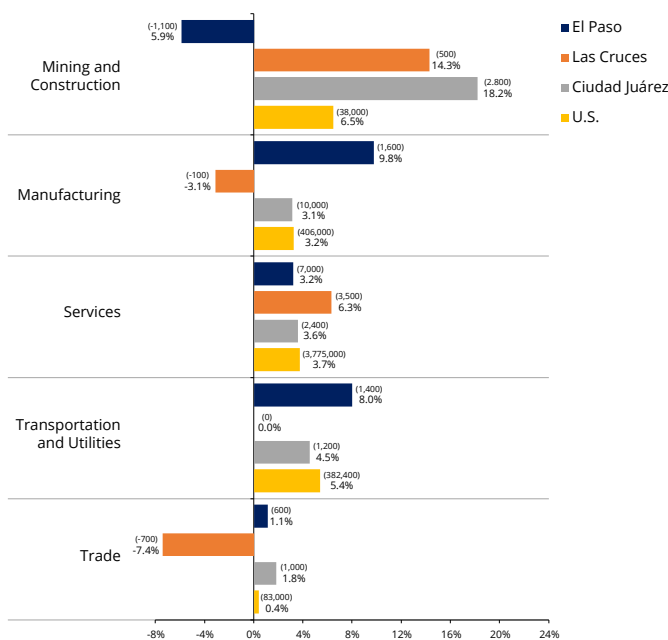
Paso del Norte Total Non-Farm Employment (Year-over-Year, %)



Note: Preliminary data for December 2022. Shaded area indicates recession as defined by the National Bureau of Economic Research (2020 recession began in February and ended in April).  
Source: Hunt Institute calculations using data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social.

The Hunt Institute tracks five non-farm employment sectors in the Paso del Norte region.<sup>1</sup> El Paso exhibited job growth in four out of the five sectors on a year-over-year basis for December 2022, while Las Cruces experienced growth in two of the five sectors. Ciudad Juárez and the U.S. added jobs in all five sectors. The Services sector drove year-over-year job growth in El Paso, Las Cruces, and the U.S., while the Manufacturing sector drove growth in Ciudad Juárez. In El Paso, the Services sector grew by 7,000 jobs (3.2%), the Transportation and Utilities sector by 1,400 jobs (8.0%), the Manufacturing sector by 200 jobs (1.1%), and the Trade sector by 800 jobs (1.5%); the Mining and Construction sector decreased by 1,100 jobs (-5.9%). In Las Cruces, non-farm employment increased in the Services sector by 3,500 jobs (6.3%), and in the Mining and Construction sector by 500 jobs (14.3%); the Trade sector decreased by 700 jobs (-7.4%), the Manufacturing sector lost 100 jobs (-3.1%), while the Transportation and Utilities sector remained stagnant. Ciudad Juárez recorded increases in all five sectors: 10,000 jobs (3.1%) in Manufacturing, 1,000 jobs (1.8%) in Trade, 2,800 jobs (18.2%) in Mining and Construction, 1,200 jobs (4.5%) in Transportation and Utilities, and 2,400 jobs (3.6%) in Services. The U.S. added jobs in all five sectors: 406,000 jobs (3.2%) in Manufacturing, 382,400 jobs (5.4%) in Transportation and Utilities, 83,000 jobs (0.4%) in Trade, 1,600 jobs (9.8%) in Manufacturing, and 1,600 jobs (3.7%) in Services.

**Paso del Norte Total Non-Farm Employment by Sector, December 2022 (Year-over-Year)**



**Note:** Preliminary data for December 2022. Services excludes Transportation and Utilities, and Trade. Numbers are rounded to the nearest hundred.

**Source:** Hunt Institute calculations using data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social.

Month-over-month, El Paso's non-farm employment grew in four out of five sectors: Services increased by 800 jobs (0.4%), Transportation and Utilities by 300 jobs (1.6%), Manufacturing by 200 jobs (1.1%), and Trade by 800 jobs (1.5%). Mining and Construction lost 300 jobs (-1.7%). Las Cruces exhibited no month-over-month movement, with all five sectors being stagnant.

<sup>1</sup> The non-farm employment sectors tracked include Mining and Construction, Manufacturing, Service, Transportation and Utilities, and Trade.

Ciudad Juárez demonstrated negative job gains in all five sectors in a month-over-month comparison: Mining and Construction decreased by 800 jobs (-4.3%), Services by 1,300 jobs (-1.8%), Transportation and Utilities by 300 jobs (-1.0%), and Trade by 400 jobs (-0.8%). Manufacturing decreased by 7,800 jobs (-2.3%).

## Remittances

### Remittances Reach Historic Levels in 2022

Remittances to Mexico continued to rise in 2022 reaching highest levels since data are available.

In 2022, non-border Mexican states continued to be the primary recipients in Mexico of remittances from the U.S. Remittances in these states increased by \$6,544.4 million (14.5%), while remittances in border states increased by \$367.2 million (5.8%), when compared to the previous year.<sup>2</sup> Coahuila registered the largest year-over-year percentage increase in remittances with an increase of 16.0%, or \$145.1 million. Chihuahua experienced an increase of \$41.9 million (2.6%) in 2022 when compared to the previous year.

**Remittances to Mexican States, Million USD**

Region	A 2021	B 2022	B-A	B-A (Δ%)
Chihuahua	\$1,588.2	\$1,630.1	\$41.9	2.6%
Nuevo León	\$1,314.8	\$1,455.2	\$140.4	10.7%
Baja California	\$1,398.2	\$1,428.3	\$30.2	2.2%
Tamaulipas	\$1,128.6	\$1,138.3	\$ 9.7	0.9%
Coahuila	\$904.2	\$1,049.3	\$145.1	16.0%
Sonora	\$865.9	\$905.1	\$39.2	4.5%
Border States	\$6,334.0	\$6,701.2	\$367.2	5.8%
Non-Border States	\$45,251.8	\$51,796.2	\$6,544.4	14.5%
Mexico	\$51,585.9	\$58,497.4	\$6,911.6	13.4%

**Note:** Top six in 2022 on Mexico's northern border.

**Source:** Hunt Institute calculations using data from Banco de México.

**Top 10 Mexican Border Cities in Remittances, Million USD**

Region	A 2021	B 2022	B-A	B-A (Δ%)
Tijuana	\$731.8	\$753.3	\$21.4	2.9%
Ciudad Juárez	\$518.1	\$504.5	-\$13.6	-2.6%
Mexicali	\$291.0	\$296.1	\$5.1	1.7%
Matamoros	\$197.1	\$182.0	-\$15.1	-7.7%
Reynosa	\$139.5	\$156.7	\$17.1	12.3%
Nuevo Laredo	\$135.8	\$129.6	-\$6.3	-4.6%
San Luis Río Colorado	\$120.9	\$109.7	-\$11.1	-9.2%
Piedras Negras	\$98.7	\$105.3	\$6.6	6.7%
Acuña	\$87.6	\$97.3	\$9.7	11.1%
Nogales	\$99.8	\$93.2	-\$6.6	-6.6%

**Note:** Top ten in 2022 on Mexico's northern border.

**Source:** Hunt Institute calculations using data from Banco de México.

<sup>2</sup> Mexico northern border states include Baja California, Coahuila, Chihuahua, Nuevo León, Sonora, and Tamaulipas.

In 2022, Tijuana, Ciudad Juárez, and Mexicali were the top three municipalities receiving remittances in Mexican border states. Remittances in both Tijuana and Mexicali increased by \$21.4 million (2.9%) and \$5.1 million (1.7%), respectively, while remittances in Ciudad Juárez decreased by \$13.6 million (-2.6%). In 2022, remittances to Tijuana and Ciudad Juárez were 46.3% of remittances to border cities.

## Trade Trade continues to grow in 2022

Total trade at the top then ports of entry continued to grow in 2022, although exports decreased significantly in December compared to the previous month.

Total trade through the U.S. - Mexico border at the top ten ports of entry (PoE)<sup>3</sup> increased by \$89,211 million (15.7%) from \$569,877 million in 2021 to \$659,088 million in 2022. The PoE that experienced the largest growth was Laredo and El Paso with an increase in total trade of \$51,105 million (20.6%) and \$14,726 million (16.6%), respectively. However, in December 2022, total trade decreased through all the top ten PoE when compared to the previous month. The El Paso and San Diego PoE experienced the largest decreases of \$1,049 million (-11.7%) and \$241 million (-34.2%), respectively.

### Top Ten U.S.-Mexico Border Ports of Entry for Total Trade with World, Million USD

Port of Entry	A 2021	B 2022	B-A	B-A (Δ%)	December 2022	
					MoM	YoY
Laredo, TX	\$248,341	\$299,446	\$51,105	20.6%	-0.3%	14.4%
El Paso, TX	\$88,916	\$103,642	\$14,726	16.6%	-11.7%	5.2%
Otay Mesa, CA	\$55,396	\$62,492	\$7,096	12.8%	-9.5%	6.4%
Hidalgo, TX	\$41,683	\$46,437	\$4,754	11.4%	-8.8%	-2.8%
Eagle Pass, TX	\$33,827	\$34,018	\$191	0.6%	-2.8%	-3.7%
Santa Teresa, NM	\$27,372	\$31,536	\$4,164	15.2%	-5.9%	-13.5%
Nogales, AZ	\$25,103	\$29,169	\$4,066	16.2%	-2.5%	4.9%
Brownsville, TX	\$22,774	\$23,402	\$628	2.8%	-1.2%	-0.6%
Calexico-East, CA	\$19,391	\$21,085	\$1,694	8.7%	-3.1%	0.5%
San Diego, CA	\$7,074	\$7,861	\$787	11.1%	-34.2%	-33.0%

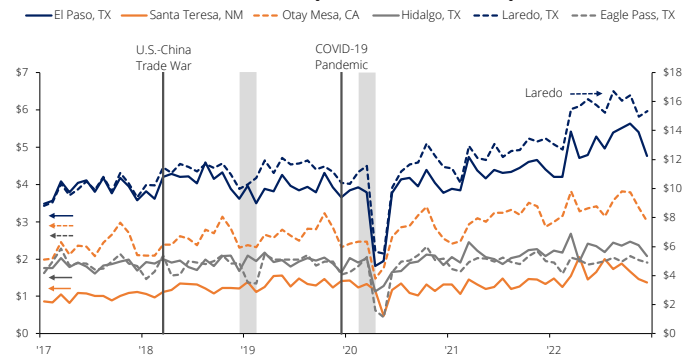
Note: Top ten in 2022. El Paso PoE includes Ysleta PoE. YoY denotes year-over-year; MoM denotes month-over-month.

Source: Hunt Institute calculations using data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

In 2022, total imports through the U.S. - Mexico border at the top six PoE increased by \$52,222 million (17.3%) from \$302,656 million in 2021 to \$354,878 million in 2022. On a year-over-year basis, only Hidalgo and Eagle Pass recorded a decrease in imports of \$2.9 million (-0.1%) and \$37.3 million (-1.9%), respectively. On a month-over-month basis, only Laredo recorded an increase of \$392 million (2.6%) while all other PoE suffered losses.

<sup>3</sup> The top then PoE on the U.S. - Mexico border based on 2022 total trade value are Laredo, El Paso, Otay Mesa, Hidalgo, Eagle Pass, Santa Teresa, Nogales, Brownville, Calexico, and San Diego.

### Top U.S.-Mexico Border PoE for Imports from the World, Billion USD (Year-over-Year, %)

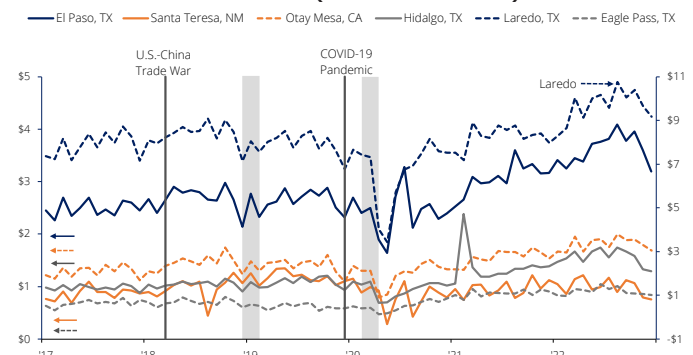


Note: Data as of December 2022. Top six ports in total trade. El Paso PoE includes Ysleta PoE. Shaded area indicates recession as defined by the National Bureau of Economic Research (2020 recession began in February and ended in April).

Source: Hunt Institute calculations using data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

In 2022, total exports through the U.S. - Mexico border at the top six PoE increased by \$29,482 million (15.3%) from \$193,211 million in 2021 to \$222,692 million in 2022. The El Paso PoE recorded a gain of only \$26 million (0.8%), while the Laredo and Otay Mesa PoE recorded gains of \$1,198 million (15.0%) and \$152 million (9.9%), respectively, in December 2022 when compared to December 2021. On a month-over-month basis, the top six PoE recorded a loss, and the El Paso PoE suffered the greatest loss of \$410 million (-11.4%) in December 2022 when compared to the previous month.

### Top U.S.-Mexico Border PoE for Exports to the World, Billion USD (Year-over-Year, %)



Note: Data as of December 2022. Top six ports in total trade. El Paso PoE includes Ysleta PoE. Shaded area indicates recession as defined by the National Bureau of Economic Research (2020 recession began in February and ended in April).

Source: Hunt Institute calculations using data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

### About Hunt Institute for Global Competitiveness

Since 2014, the Hunt Institute for Global Competitiveness at The University of Texas at El Paso has provided economic analysis of the Paso del Norte Region that includes the binational communities of El Paso, Texas; Las Cruces, N.M.; and Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. The mission of the Hunt Institute is to produce high-quality market analysis tools that strengthen regional and binational cross-border social and economic development.