

## Key Takeaways

### Employment

- Total non-farm employment increased in March 2022 on a year-over-year basis in El Paso (8,200 jobs or 2.6%), Las Cruces (4,700 jobs or 6.6%), and Ciudad Juárez (24,800 jobs or 5.2%).
- On a monthly basis, non-farm employment across the Paso del Norte region increased marginally in March, with El Paso adding 100 jobs (0.03%), Las Cruces adding 300 jobs (0.4%), and Ciudad Juárez adding 3,200 jobs (0.6%).

### Bankruptcies

- Total bankruptcy filings in El Paso dropped during the January to April 2022 period by 23 cases (-6.6%) on a year-over-year basis.
- With 326 bankruptcy filings in the first four months of 2022, total bankruptcy filings in El Paso County remain below levels from 2019, 2020, and 2021.
- There were 86 bankruptcy filings in April of 2022 in El Paso, four fewer filings (-4.4%) on a month-to-month basis.

### Trade

- Total trade during the first three months of 2022 among the top ten ports of entry (PoE) along the U.S.-Mexico border was \$154.1 billion, an increase of \$20.3 billion (15.2%) over the previous year.
- Imports through the top six PoE along the U.S.-Mexico border reached \$81.9 billion in the first quarter of 2022. This is a year-over-year increase of \$11.3 billion (16.1%) when compared to 2021.
- Exports reached a total of \$52.6 billion across the top six PoE, an increase of \$6.5 billion (14.1%) in a year-over-year comparison with the first quarter of 2021.

## Employment

### Post-pandemic Job Gains Continue Unabated

Non-farm employment in the Paso del Norte region continues its post-pandemic rise.

March 2022 marked the 12th consecutive month of year-over-year non-farm employment gains for El Paso and Las Cruces: El Paso added 8,200 jobs (2.6%) and Las Cruces added 4,700 jobs (6.6%). Non-farm employment gains continued for the 20th consecutive month in Ciudad Juárez, with year-over-year job gains of 24,800 jobs (5.2%).

The Hunt Institute tracks five non-farm employment sectors in the Paso del Norte region.<sup>1</sup> Las Cruces and Ciudad Juárez added jobs in each of the five sectors in a year-over-year comparison for

<sup>1</sup>The five employment sectors that the Hunt Institute tracks for comparison of non-farm employment in the Paso del Norte region are Mining and Construction, Manufacturing, Services, Transportation and Utilities, and Trade.

## Facts at Your Finger Tips

One-page roundups on Crossings and Trade



### Border Crossings through U.S. Border Ports of Entry, 2021

The Paso del Norte region ranks **#2** in noncommercial crossings through all U.S. border ports of entry.

[View the full factsheet](#)



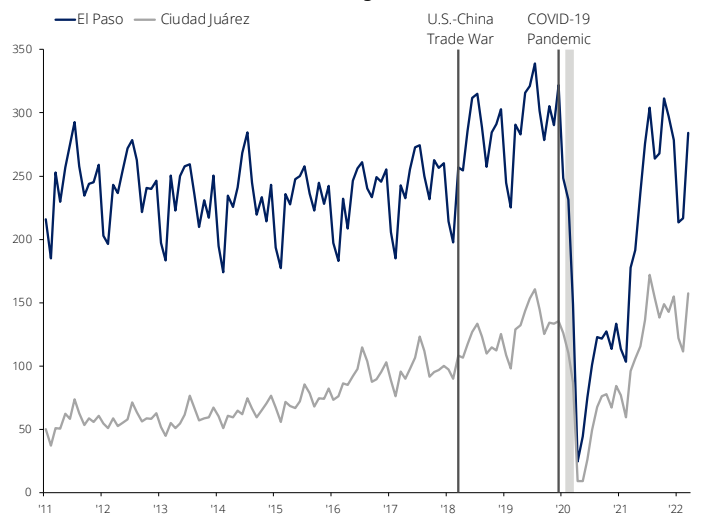
### Trade through U.S. Border Ports of Entry, 2021

The Paso del Norte region ranks **#3** in total trade value through all U.S. border ports of entry.

[View the full factsheet](#)

## Quick-Glance Indicators

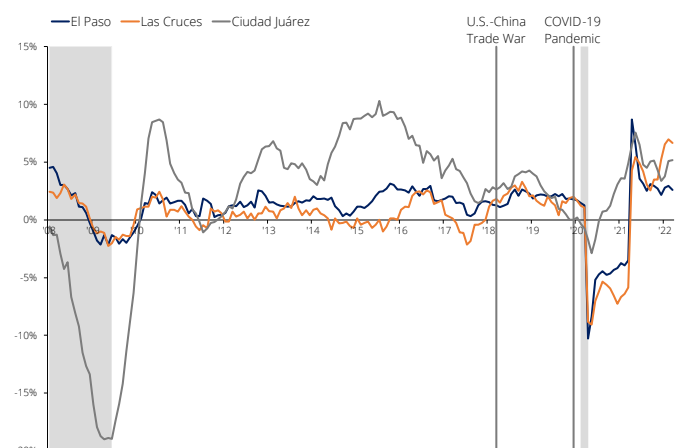
### El Paso and Ciudad Juárez Air Passengers, Thousands



**Note:** Data as of March 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.

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



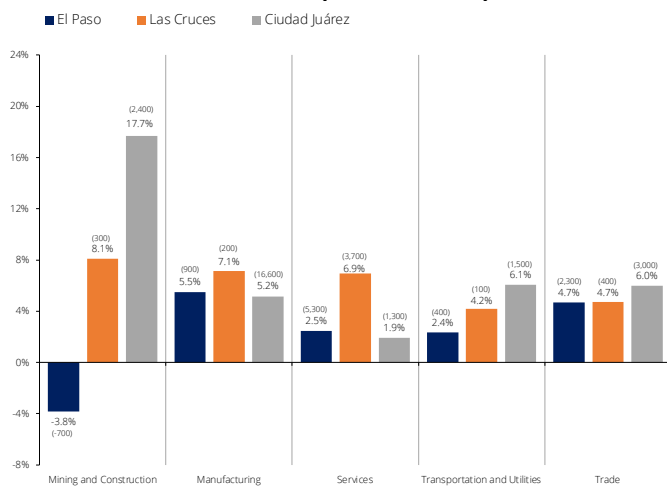
**Note:** Preliminary data for March 2022. Shaded area indicates recession as defined by the National Bureau of Economic Research (2020 recession began in February and ended in April).

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

March 2022. In this comparison, jobs in El Paso increased in all but one sector. The Manufacturing sector grew by 900 jobs (5.5%), the Transportation and Utilities sector by 400 jobs (2.4%), the Trade sector by 2,300 jobs (4.7%), and the Services sector by 5,300 jobs (2.5%). However, the Mining and Construction sector in El Paso decreased by 700 jobs (-3.8%). In Las Cruces, non-farm employment increased in the Services sector by 3,700 jobs (6.9%), the Trade sector by 400 jobs (4.7%), the Transportation and Utilities sector by 100 jobs (4.2%), the Manufacturing sector by 200 jobs (7.1%), and in the Mining and Construction sector by 300 jobs (8.1%). Ciudad Juárez recorded increases in the Trade sector with 2,900 jobs (6.0%), the Manufacturing sector with 16,600 jobs (5.2%), the Mining and Construction sector with 2,400 jobs (17.7%), the Transportation and Utilities sector with 1,500 jobs (6.1%), and the Services sector with 1,300 jobs (1.9%).

Total non-farm employment in the Paso del Norte region increased marginally in March on a month-over-month basis as well: El Paso added 100 jobs (0.03%), Las Cruces added 300 jobs (0.4%), and Ciudad Juárez added 3,200 jobs (0.6%).

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



**Note:** Preliminary data for March 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.

El Paso's non-farm employment gains in a month-over-month comparison occurred in two of the five sectors. The city's Manufacturing sector gained 100 jobs (0.6%) while the Services sector added 1,200 jobs (0.5%). El Paso lost jobs in the other employment sectors: Trade by 500 jobs (-1.0%), Transportation and Utilities by 400 jobs (-2.2%), and Mining and Construction by 300 jobs (-1.7%). Las Cruces also recorded job growth in only two sectors on a monthly basis. The Mining and Construction sector grew by 100 jobs (2.6%) and the Services sector by 300 jobs (0.5%). However, the Trade sector decreased by 100 jobs (-1.1%), while the Manufacturing, and Transportation and Utilities sectors stagnated. Ciudad Juárez recorded modest relative job gains in three of the key sectors in March 2022 on a monthly basis. The Manufacturing sector added 3,400 jobs (1.0%); the

Transportation and Utilities sector grew by 90 jobs (0.3%), and the Trade sector added 40 jobs (0.1%). Meanwhile, the Mining and Construction sector shrank by 30 jobs (-0.2%) and the Services sector lost 280 jobs (-0.4%).

## Bankruptcies

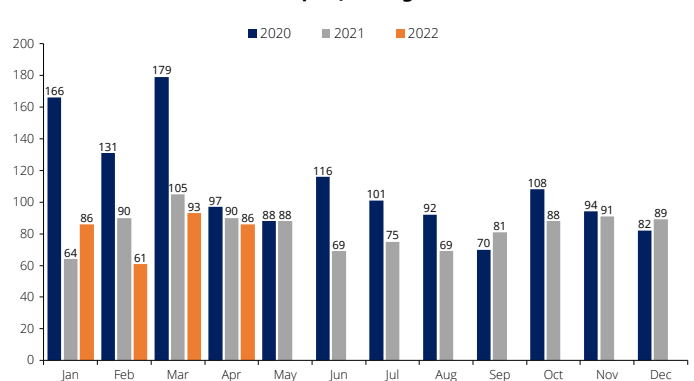
### New Zenith on the Horizon

El Paso recorded fewer bankruptcies in the first four months of 2022 than it had in the same period of 2021.

The El Paso Office of the Western District of Texas U.S. Bankruptcy Court recorded 326 bankruptcies—including Chapter 7, Chapter 11, and Chapter 13 cases—from January 2022 to April 2022. This is a decrease of 23 total bankruptcy filings (-6.6%) on a year-to-year basis. The El Paso Office also recorded 403 fewer bankruptcies (-55.3%) in the same period of 2022 than it had in 2019.

In April 2022, businesses in El Paso filed for 86 bankruptcies, representing a four-case decline in filings (-4.4%) on a year-to-year basis. The number of bankruptcies filed in April decreased by seven filings (-7.5%) compared to the previous month. For the third month in a row, the El Paso Office recorded fewer total monthly bankruptcy filings than it had in the corresponding months of 2019, 2020, and 2021. So far this year, the only month with increased filings in a year-over-year comparison is January by 22 cases (34.4%).

**Total Bankruptcy Filings in El Paso**



**Note:** Numbers include Chapter 7, Chapter 11, and Chapter 13 cases for the El Paso Office of the Western District of Texas U.S. Bankruptcy Court.  
**Source:** Hunt Institute using data from the Western District of Texas U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

## Trade

### More Trade Value Flows through U.S.-Mexico Border in 2022

Total trade value has fully rebounded from the depressed values of the COVID-19 era.

Total trade across the top ten U.S.-Mexico border ports of entry (PoE)<sup>2</sup> increased during the first quarter of 2022 on a year-over-year basis when compared to the same periods in 2019 and 2021. The Hunt Institute excludes 2020 from this comparison to give

<sup>2</sup>The top ten PoE on the U.S.-Mexico border based on 2021 total trade value are Laredo, El Paso, Otay Mesa, Hidalgo, Eagle Pass, Santa Teresa, Nogales, Brownsville, Calexico-East and Del Rio.

a better understanding of long-term trends in border trade. All trade indicators dropped significantly during 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic economic losses.

During the first three months of 2022, the top ten border PoE registered \$154.1 billion in total trade, an increase of \$26.3 billion (20.6%) compared to the same quarter of 2019. The only PoE that exhibited a decrease in total trade in this comparison was Del Rio PoE, with \$17.0 million (-1.3%) less merchandise traded. Laredo, El Paso, and Otay Mesa remain the busiest PoE along the U.S.-Mexico border in 2022.

On a year-over-year basis, the period of January to March 2022 registered a less pronounced increase for the top ten when compared to the same period in 2021, with a difference of almost \$20.4 billion (15.9%). All top ten PoE registered an increase in total trade. Otay Mesa, Laredo, and Nogales experienced the largest relative increases in trade with 27.7% for Otay Mesa (\$3.2 billion), 16.9% for Laredo (\$9.8 billion), and 16.9% for Nogales (\$1.1 billion).

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

Port of Entry	A		B		C		C-A	C-A (Δ%)	C-B	C-B (Δ%)	March 2022	
	Jan-Mar 2019		Jan-Mar 2021		Jan-Mar 2022						MoM	YoY
Laredo, TX	\$56,603.0	\$58,315.0	\$68,191.7	\$11,588.7	20.5%	\$9,876.7	16.9%	\$4,172.9	\$3,677.1			
El Paso, TX	\$18,992.8	\$20,752.5	\$23,925.0	\$4,932.3	26.0%	\$3,172.5	16.7%	\$1,415.2	\$1,034.2			
Otay Mesa, CA	\$11,587.6	\$12,035.9	\$15,244.3	\$3,656.7	31.6%	\$3,208.4	27.7%	\$964.0	\$1,272.2			
Hidalgo, TX	\$9,292.5	\$11,216.5	\$11,760.9	\$2,468.4	26.6%	\$544.4	5.9%	\$64.3	\$526.0			
Eagle Pass, TX	\$6,700.6	\$7,865.8	\$8,155.6	\$1,455.1	21.7%	\$289.8	4.3%	\$562.1	\$119.2			
Santa Teresa, NM	\$7,180.7	\$6,566.9	\$7,318.6	\$137.8	1.9%	\$751.6	10.5%	\$576.7	\$207.2			
Nogales, AZ	\$7,012.9	\$6,309.0	\$7,491.1	\$478.1	6.8%	\$1182.0	16.9%	\$490.9	\$394.8			
Brownsville, TX	\$4,639.7	\$5,196.0	\$5,664.2	\$1,024.5	22.1%	\$468.2	10.1%	\$327.0	\$336.7			
Calexico-East, CA	\$4,437.0	\$4,347.7	\$5,044.1	\$607.1	13.7%	\$696.3	15.7%	\$352.7	\$332.7			
Del Rio, TX	\$1,337.3	\$1,156.5	\$1,320.4	-\$17.0	-1.3%	\$163.9	12.3%	\$99.2	\$55.7			

Note: Top ten in 2020. 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.

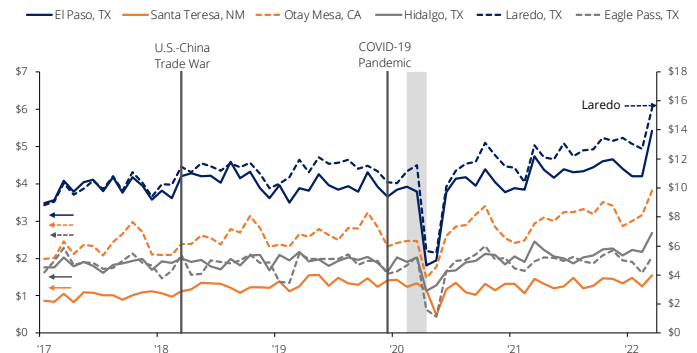
During the first quarter of 2022, the top six ports<sup>3</sup> registered \$81.9 billion of imports, an increase of \$15.5 billion (23.3%) when compared to the same period in 2019. Comparing the first quarters of 2022 and 2021, the import increase was of \$11.3 billion (16.1%).

On a year-over-year basis, the top six U.S.-Mexico border ports of entry for imports recorded gains in March 2022 relative to March 2021. Otay Mesa PoE (\$881.4 million or 30.0%) and Laredo PoE (\$2,547.9 million or 19.7%) led with the largest relative increases.

Compared to March 2019, each of the top six ports also increased with the largest relative gains in imports recorded at Otay Mesa (\$1.1 billion or 43.5%) and El Paso PoE (\$1.5 billion or 39.6%).

<sup>3</sup> The top ten PoE on the U.S.-Mexico border based on 2021 total trade value are Laredo, El Paso, Otay Mesa, Hidalgo, Eagle Pass, Santa Teresa, Nogales, Brownsville, Calexico-East and Del Rio.

### Top U.S.-Mexico Border PoE for Imports from the World, Billion USD



Note: Data as of March 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).

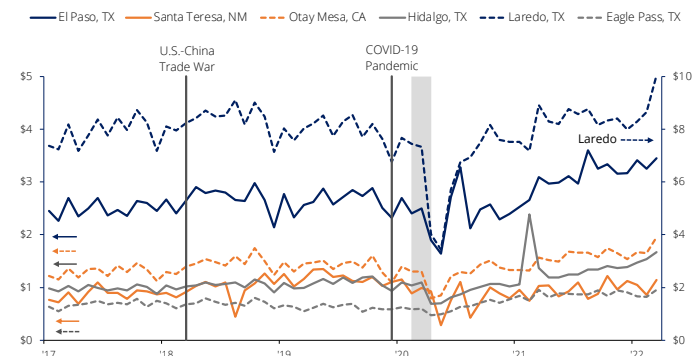
Source: Hunt Institute calculations using data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

The top six PoE along the U.S.-Mexico border recorded more exports in the first quarter of 2022 than in the same quarter of 2021 and 2019. The ports exported \$8.8 billion (20.0%) more goods in the first quarter of 2022 than in 2019; exports increased by \$6.5 billion (14.1%) between 2022 and 2021.

Five of the top six ports increased exports processed on a year-over-year basis in March 2022. Otay Mesa had the largest relative increase in exports at 25.0% (\$390.8 million). Eagle Pass suffered a slight decrease of -0.2% (\$2.0 million).

Compared to March 2019, Eagle Pass PoE experienced the largest relative increase in exports at 73.2% (\$401.7 million). Exports through Santa Teresa lag March 2019 levels by 2.0% (\$23.4 million).

### Top U.S.-Mexico Border PoE for Exports to the World, Billion USD



Note: Data as of March 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.