

## Key Takeaways

### Employment

- In June 2023, year-over-year (YoY) non-farm employment gains continued for twenty-seven consecutive months in the U.S., El Paso, and Las Cruces, and for thirty-five consecutive months in Ciudad Juárez.
- Las Cruces was the only MSA from the Paso del Norte region that experienced mixed YoY employment results across sectors. Employment declines were registered in the Trade sector with a decrease of 200 jobs (-2.2%).

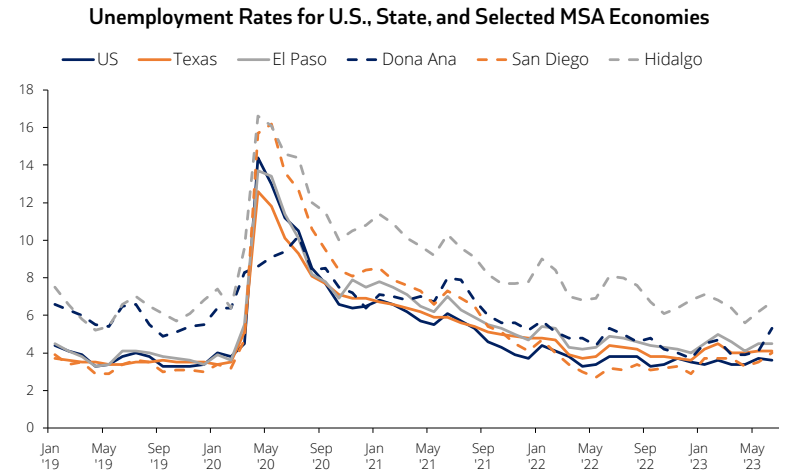
### Bankruptcies

- Total bankruptcy filings in El Paso increased by 28.0% (98 cases) YoY during the April to July 2023, the second largest in the Western District of Texas.<sup>1</sup> Austin had the largest relative increase at 37.2% (102 cases).
- In the aforementioned district, Midland was the only region that recorded a YoY decrease in bankruptcy filings during the April to July period (-12.1%).

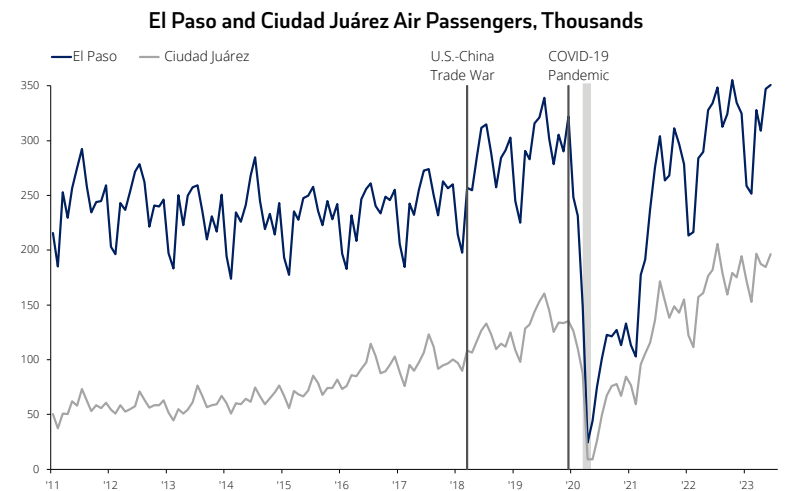
### Border Apprehensions

- Most sectors on the Southwest Border experienced a decrease in apprehensions when comparing the first half of 2023 to the same period in 2022. This reduction in apprehensions could indicate potential changes in migration patterns, enforcement efforts, or other factors.
- Apprehensions along the Southwest Border decreased by 12.8%, from approximately 1.2 million to about 1.1 million in the first half of 2022 and 2023, respectively. However, the national apprehensions increased by 2.3% over the same period.
- Apprehensions from certain countries have recorded substantial increases. Notably, citizens of China, Ecuador, and other countries have experienced significant upticks in the U.S.-Mexico southwest border.

## Quick-Glance Indicators



Note: Data as of June 2023.  
Source: Hunt Institute calculations using data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



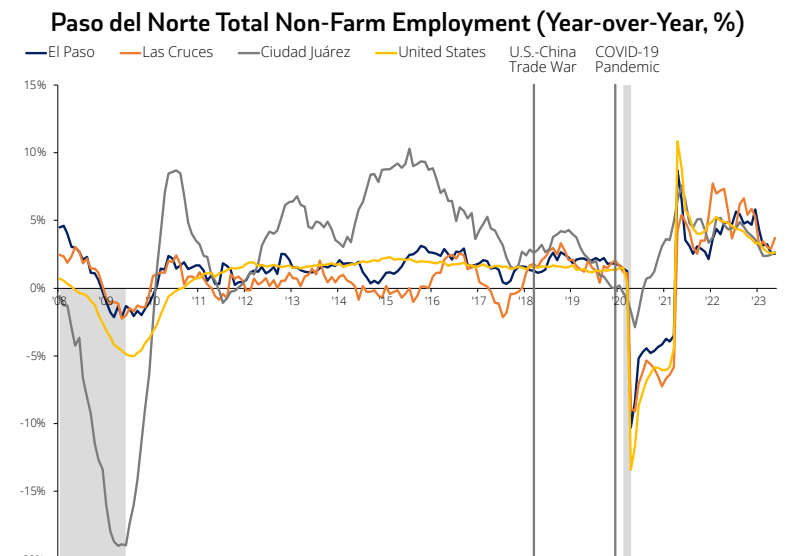
Note: Data as of June 2023. Shaded area indicates recession as defined by the National Bureau of Economic Research (2020 recession began in February and ended in April).  
Source: Hunt Institute using El Paso International Airport and Grupo OMA data.

### Employment

## Uninterrupted Job Growth in the Paso del Norte Region

Non-farm employment in June 2023 for the Paso del Norte region exceeded that of June 2022.

June 2023 marked the twenty-seventh consecutive month of year-over-year (YoY) non-farm employment gains in the U.S., El Paso, and Las Cruces, and the thirty-fifth consecutive month in Ciudad Juárez. At the national level, YoY gains of 3,746,000 jobs (2.4%) were observed in June 2023. Total non-farm employment also increased in El Paso by 10,000 jobs (3.0%), in Las Cruces by 3,700 jobs (5.1%), and in Ciudad Juárez by 12,750 jobs (2.5%). In a month-over-month comparison, however, the outlook is mixed. While non-farm employment increased in the



Note: Preliminary data for June 2023. 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.

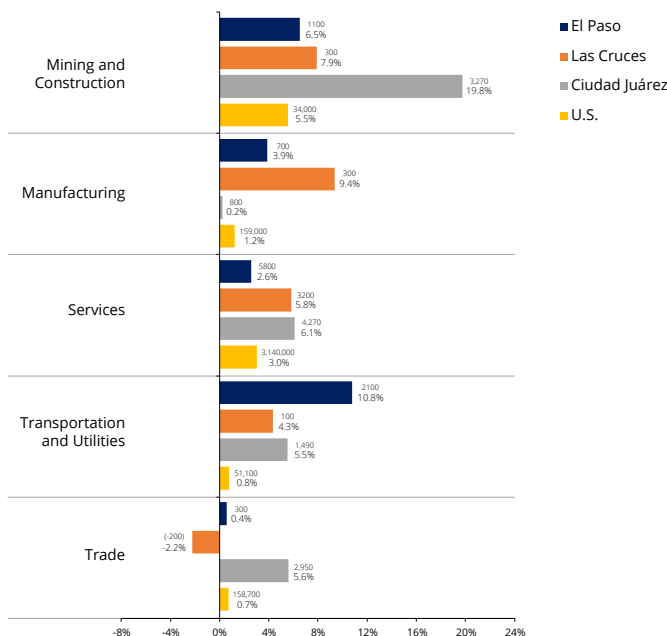
<sup>1</sup> The Western District of Texas is conformed by El Paso, Midland, Austin, San Antonio, and Waco.

U.S. by 697,000 (0.4%), the Paso del Norte region recorded losses; Ciudad Juárez lost 350 (-0.1%) non-farm positions, Las Cruces by 1,700 jobs (-2.2%), and El Paso by 300 jobs (-0.1%).

The Hunt Institute tracks five non-farm employment sectors in the Paso del Norte region. In June 2023, the U.S., El Paso, and, Ciudad Juárez added jobs in all five sectors on a YoY basis. In contrast, Las Cruces experienced growth in four out of five sectors. The Services sector, in particular, drove YoY job growth in the Paso del Norte region and the U.S. In El Paso, the following sectors experienced employment growth: Services sector by 5,800 jobs (2.6%), Manufacturing sector by 700 jobs (3.9%), Transportation and Utilities sector by 2,100 jobs (10.8%), Mining and Construction sector by 1,100 jobs (6.5%), and the Trade sector by 300 jobs (0.6%). In Las Cruces, non-farm employment increased in the Services sector by 3,200 jobs (5.8%), the Manufacturing sector by 300 jobs (9.4%), the Mining and Construction sector by 300 jobs (7.9%), the Transportation and Utilities sector by 100 jobs (4.3%), while the Trade sector experienced a modest decline of 200 jobs (-2.2%). Ciudad Juárez recorded increases in all five sectors: 800 jobs (0.2%) in Manufacturing, 2,950 jobs (5.6%) in Trade, 3,270 jobs (19.8%) in Mining and Construction, 1,490 jobs (5.5%) in Transportation and Utilities, and 4,270 jobs (6.1%) in Services.

In a month-over-month comparison, El Paso's non-farm employment increased in three out of five sectors. The Mining and Construction sector increased by 400 jobs (2.3%), the Manufacturing sector by 200 (1.1%), the Transportation and Utilities sector by 300 (1.4%), while the Services sector decreased by 1,200 jobs (-0.5%); the Trade sector remained stagnant. Las Cruces exhibited employment growth in two of the five sectors in a month-over-month comparison as the Transportation and Utilities sector grew by 100 jobs (4.3%), and the Manufacturing sector gained 100 jobs (2.9%), while the Services sector and the Trade sector lost jobs by 1,800 (-3.0%) and 100 (-1.1%), respectively; the Mining and Construction sector remained stagnant. Ciudad Juárez demonstrated moderate job gains in three out of five sectors in a month-over-month comparison. Services increased by 280 jobs (0.4%), the Trade sector by 490 jobs (0.9%), and the Transportation and Utilities sector by 50 jobs (0.2%). The Manufacturing sector lost 1,070 jobs (-0.3%), and Mining and Construction decreased by 90 jobs (-0.4%).

**Paso del Norte Total Non-Farm Employment by Sector, June 2023 (Year-over-Year)**



**Note:** Preliminary data for June 2023. 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.

## Bankruptcies

### Bankruptcies Surge in El Paso City

El Paso recorded a larger number of bankruptcies during the period of April to July in 2023 on a YoY basis.

The El Paso Office of the Western District of Texas Bankruptcy Court recorded 448 bankruptcies – including Chapter 7, Chapter 11, and Chapter 13 cases – from April 2023 to July 2023. This is an increase of 98 total bankruptcy filings (28.0%) on a YoY basis. The Austin Region recorded the largest relative increase (37.2%); Midland was the only city that had a YoY decrease in bankruptcy filings during the same period (-12.1%).

**Total Bankruptcy Filings in Austin, El Paso, Midland, and San Antonio (Year-over-Year)**

City	A April-July 2022	B April-July 2023	B-A	B-A (Δ%)
Austin, TX	274	376	102	37.2%
El Paso, TX	350	448	98	28.0%
San Antonio, TX	522	662	140	26.8%
Midland, TX	58	51	-7	-12.1%

**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.

## Border Apprehensions

### Southwest Border Apprehensions Reverse Trend in First Half of 2023

Southwest Border Apprehensions reached over 1.1 million in the first half of 2023, a decrease of 12.8% compared to the same period in 2022.

Apprehensions along the Southwest Border decreased by 12.8%, from approximately 1.2 million to about 1.1 million in the first half of 2022 and 2023, respectively. However, national apprehensions increased by 2.3% over the same period. Laredo and Big Bend sectors recorded the largest relative decline in apprehensions at 64.0% and 63.8%, respectively. However, El Paso, San Diego, and Tucson sectors recorded an increase in apprehensions, with San Diego experiencing a significant increase of 32.2%.

For the first half of 2023 along the Southwest Border, 66.8% of the apprehensions were single adults, 27.5% were family unit apprehensions, and 5.7% were unaccompanied children apprehensions. The reduction in apprehensions could indicate potential changes in migration patterns, enforcement efforts, or other factors affecting border crossings.

#### Southwest Border Apprehensions by Sector

Sector	Jan-June 2023			Total		B-A	B-A (Δ%)
	FMU	UC	SA	A Jan-June 2022	B Jan-June 2023		
Big Bend, TX	264	376	5,633	17,338	6,273	(11,065)	-63.8%
Del Rio, TX	32,652	6,791	111,251	234,876	150,694	(84,182)	-35.8%
El Centro, CA	5,553	606	15,417	37,635	21,576	(16,059)	-42.7%
El Paso, TX	35,315	10,684	139,002	155,025	185,001	29,976	19.3%
Laredo, TX	1,090	1,655	20,613	64,821	23,358	(41,463)	-64.0%
Rio Grande, TX	36,750	24,420	74,027	240,747	135,197	(105,550)	-43.8%
San Diego, CA	24,800	2,581	89,262	88,239	116,643	28,404	32.2%
Tucson, AZ	48,494	9,577	108,111	138,653	166,182	27,529	19.9%
Yuma, AZ	22,667	1,868	49,104	161,167	73,639	(87,528)	-54.3%
<b>Southwest Border Total</b>	<b>294,112</b>	<b>61,246</b>	<b>713,850</b>	<b>1,226,799</b>	<b>1,069,208</b>	<b>(157,591)</b>	<b>-12.8%</b>
<b>National Total</b>	<b>381,131</b>	<b>61,606</b>	<b>998,918</b>	<b>1,409,749</b>	<b>1,441,655</b>	<b>31,906</b>	<b>2.3%</b>

**Note:** Numbers in parenthesis indicate negative numbers. Numbers are by calendar years; USBP reports by fiscal year that goes from October to September. FMU are family unit apprehensions, UC are unaccompanied children apprehensions, and SA are single adult apprehensions.

**Source:** Hunt Institute calculations using data from U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Apprehensions from certain countries have recorded significant increases. Apprehensions of Chinese citizens surged by an astounding 1666.6%, while apprehensions of Ecuadorian citizens increased by 306.1%. Meanwhile, apprehensions from several South American countries such as Peru, Venezuela, and Colombia have risen, albeit with varying magnitudes. While apprehensions from Peru rose by 51.9%, those from Venezuela and Colombia exhibited more modest increments of 49.2% and 5.5%, respectively.

Conversely, there has been a noticeable decrease in apprehensions from Mexico and Central American countries. Apprehensions from Mexico decreased by 22.8%, and countries like Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador experienced significant declines ranging from 25.9% to 47.1%. Furthermore, apprehensions from Eastern European countries like Romania and Ukraine have experienced significant reductions, with apprehensions from Ukraine plummeting by 93.8%. Moreover, there have been drastic declines in apprehensions from Caribbean countries like Cuba, Nicaragua, and Haiti, ranging from 93.9% to 94.7%. The table below shows Southwest border apprehensions by citizenship.

#### Southwest Border Apprehensions by Citizenship

Citizenship	A Jan-June 2022	B Jan-June 2023	B-A	B-A (Δ%)
Mexico	425,854	328,716	(97,138)	-22.8%
Guatemala	117,938	78,558	(39,380)	-33.4%
Venezuela	52,200	77,906	25,706	49.2%
Colombia	73,665	77,745	4,080	5.5%
Other	23,296	73,966	50,670	217.5%
Honduras	96,204	71,286	(24,918)	-25.9%
Ecuador	10,038	40,763	30,725	306.1%
Peru	23,880	36,276	12,396	51.9%
India	10,312	25,055	14,743	143.0%
El Salvador	45,876	24,268	(21,608)	-47.1%
Brazil	16,726	13,001	(3,725)	-22.3%
China	722	12,755	12,033	1666.6%
Turkey	9,731	9,329	(402)	-4.1%
Cuba	134,703	8,171	(126,532)	-93.9%
Nicaragua	83,568	4,997	(78,571)	-94.0%
Russia	2,834	2,231	(603)	-21.3%
Romania	4,212	1,166	(3,046)	-72.3%
Haiti	19,282	1,017	(18,265)	-94.7%
Ukraine	596	37	(559)	-93.8%

**Note:** Apprehensions involving Canadian, Philippine, and Burmese citizenship were excluded due to availability of data.

**Source:** Hunt Institute calculations using data from U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

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#### 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.

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