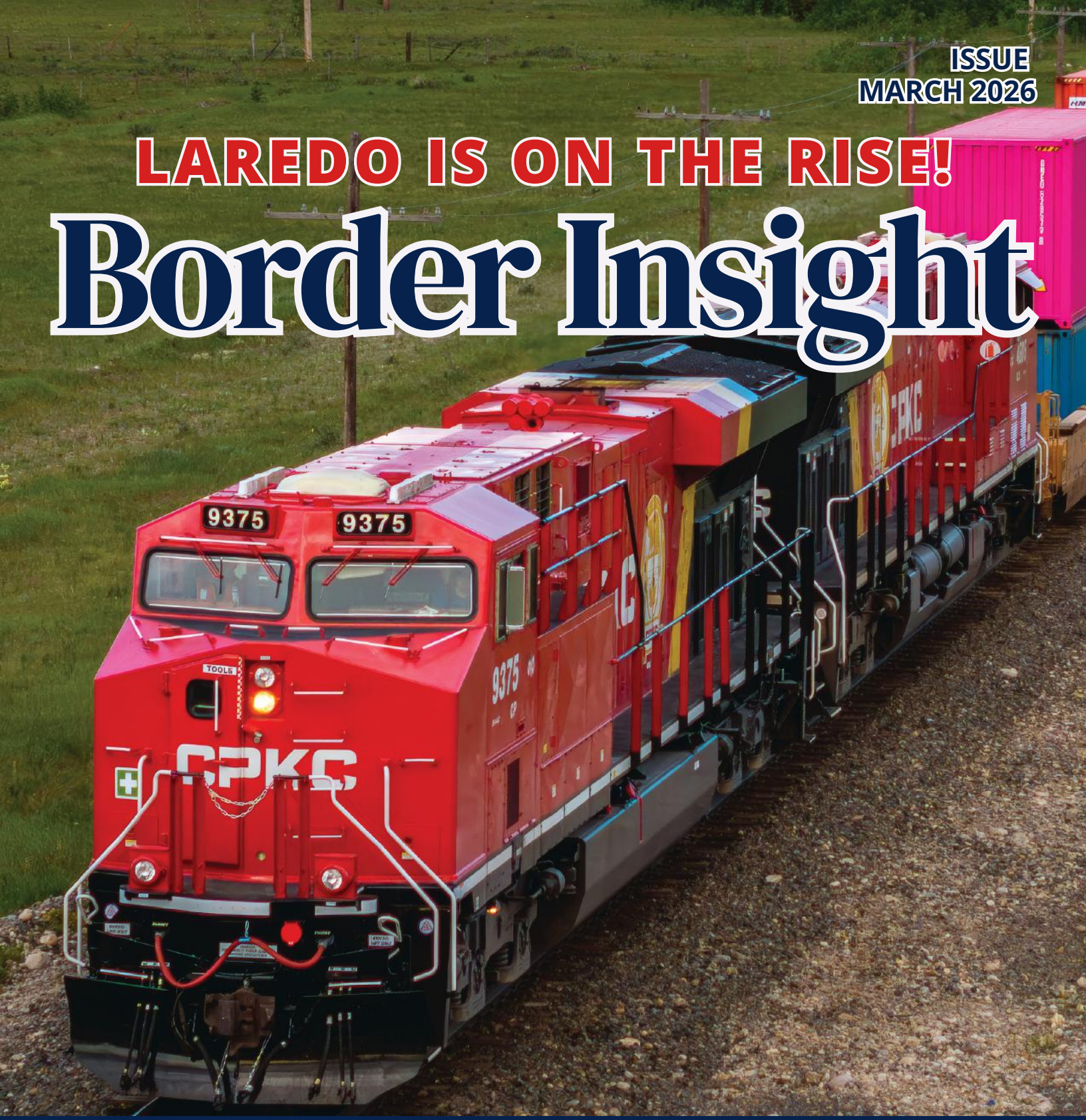
ISSUE
MARCH 2026

LAREDO IS ON THE RISE!

Border Insight



Featured Article

"FREIGHT, INNOVATION, AND GROWTH: INSIDE THE CPKC NETWORK"

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A publication of the Laredo Economic Development Corporation

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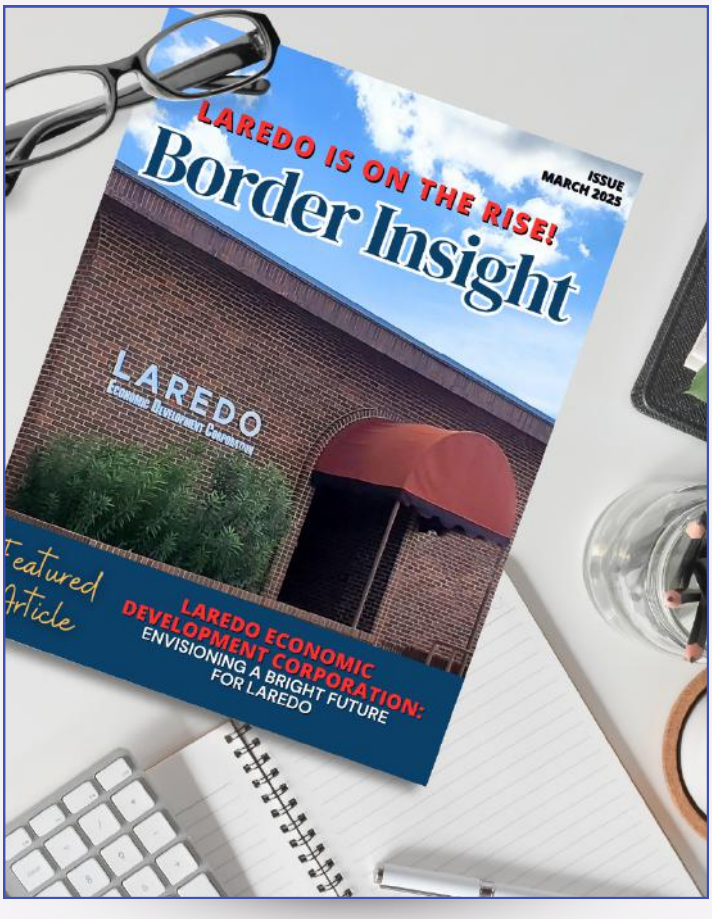


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Driving Growth Through the Laredo Gateway

The formation of CPKC in April 2023 represented a groundbreaking moment in the history of North American logistics. By uniting Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern, CPKC established the first and only single-line transnational railroad network connecting Canada, the United States, and Mexico. This combination, the first of its kind in the rail industry, has redrawn the continent's transportation map. For the Laredo gateway, North America's largest port of entry, CPKC has ushered in an era of enhanced capacity, operational precision, and strategic growth.

CPKC operates a network of approximately 20,000 route miles, staffed by 20,000 railroaders. The company's mandate extends beyond transportation, it is focused on delivering a seamless, integrated supply chain solution that unlocks new market access for its customers. Guided by the principles of Precision Scheduled Railroading, CPKC adheres to a discipline of service excellence, cost control, and asset optimization. This operating model provides the reliability required by industry to move goods efficiently from origin to destination.

The company's reach is comprehensive, accessing more than 30 major ports across the continent. From the Pacific Coast at Vancouver and the deep-water container terminals at Lázaro Cárdenas, to the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts via Saint John, New Orleans, and Port Arthur, CPKC offers unparalleled connectivity to global markets. This geographic diversity allows the company to serve as a critical intermediary in international trade, linking producers and consumers across three nations.



The Laredo Advantage: Capacity and Connectivity

"Laredo is the single largest, busiest transit location for commerce movement into and out of Mexico and the United States on our network. The second span of the bridge across the river has effectively doubled the capacity," said Larry Lloyd, CPKC Assistant Vice President, U.S. Government Affairs.

Within this expansive network, the Laredo gateway holds a position of unique importance. As the premier crossing point for surface trade between the U.S. and Mexico, Laredo is the linchpin of the North American supply chain. CPKC's commitment to this region is exemplified by the completion of the second span of the Patrick J. Ottensmeyer International Railway Bridge in February 2025. This capital investment effectively doubled the company's cross-border capacity, addressing long-term volume growth and reinforcing the fluidity of the corridor.

This infrastructure provides what CPKC terms "The Laredo Advantage." It is a value proposition built on three core pillars:



1. **Single-Line Service:** By eliminating the need for handoffs between separate carriers, CPKC provides a more secure and reliable service. This single-line reach reduces dwell times and simplifies the logistical complexity for shippers moving goods between the industrial heartlands of Mexico and the consumer markets of the U.S. and Canada.
2. **Truck-Competitive Transit:** The company's Mexico Midwest Express (MMX) 180/181 service leverages this infrastructure to offer transit times that compete directly with trucking. The daily MMX 180/181 intermodal service provides the fastest rail transit between Chicago and Central Mexico, capturing a significant share of the long-haul freight market and offering a viable alternative to highway congestion.
3. **Enhanced Security Protocols:** Operating the busiest border crossing demands rigorous security. CPKC has deployed advanced VACIS inspection technology and works in close coordination with U.S. Customs and Border Protection. This collaboration ensures that the corridor remains the most secure and efficient entry point for cross-border freight, protecting the integrity of the supply chain while maintaining velocity.

"We are known for the most secure passageway into and out of Mexico. Security is critically important to our customers. Our systems have allowed companies to shift shipments from truck to rail with confidence reducing supply chain disruptions," said Larry Lloyd, CPKC Assistant Vice President, U.S. Government Affairs.



Service Portfolio and Market Outlook

CPKC's service offering is diversified across key traffic segments to drive sustainable growth. The automotive sector is a primary focus,where the company utilizes a unique closed-loop service model.

Complemented by strategic infrastructure investments, such as the automotive compound in Wylie, Texas, CPKC provides original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) with enhanced reliability and car supply. The intermodal segment continues to expand, driven by both the performance of the MMX service and growth in the domestic refrigerated market.

We are also leveraging our unique cross-border capacity through the Southeast Mexico Express, a new Class 1 connection with CSX connecting Mexico, Texas and the southeast U.S. Through the 50 miles of track from Meridian, Miss., to Myrtlewood, Ala., we have unlocked routing opportunities for our customers, offering efficient shipping options for intermodal, automotive, transload and other commodities. At a time when efficient and predictable supply chains matter more than ever, these direct cross-border services aren't just a bright spot, they're redefining how North America moves.

Looking ahead, CPKC is well-positioned to capitalize on the trend of nearshoring. As manufacturing production shifts closer to end-markets, the company's network—which traverses Mexico's industrial heartland—provides a direct and efficient land bridge to the U.S.

Operational Excellence and Safety

The foundation of CPKC's commercial strategy is its unwavering commitment to safety.

In 2025, for the third consecutive year, CPKC recorded the lowest Federal Railroad Administration-reportable train accident frequency among all Class 1 railroads. This achievement builds upon Canadian Pacific's legacy of 17 consecutive years of industry leadership.

To maintain this standard, CPKC is investing heavily in technology and innovation. The deployment of autonomous inspection systems, cold wheel detectors, and predictive analytics enhances both safety and operational efficiency. These tools allow the company to proactively maintain its assets and infrastructure, ensuring the resilience and reliability of the network that connects Laredo to the continent.

For the Laredo Economic Development Corporation and the broader business community, CPKC represents more than a transportation provider, it is a strategic partner in regional growth. Through historic investments in infrastructure, the introduction of innovative service products like the MMX and SMX, and a disciplined focus on safety and efficiency, CPKC is unlocking the full potential of the Laredo gateway. As North American trade flows continue to evolve, CPKC's single-line transnational network offers the capacity, connectivity, and reliability required to drive long-term, sustainable prosperity.

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TOGETHER

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LEDC Participates in 2026 IEDC Leadership Summit in Washington

From March 1–3, 2026, LEDC participated in the IEDC Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., held at the Capital Hilton. Representing the Laredo EDC was David Stedman, President and CEO, who joined economic development leaders from across the nation and around the world to advocate for key policy priorities and help shape the future of our field.

The IEDC Leadership Summit provides a powerful platform to engage with federal policymakers, share local perspectives, and elevate the issues that matter most to our region. With timely and specialized tracks, attendees gain actionable strategies and forward-thinking insights designed to strengthen communities and drive sustainable growth.

The Laredo Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) is proud to be an Accredited Member of the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), reflecting our commitment to excellence in advancing economic growth.





LEDC Joins City Leadership for Federal Railroad Administration Visit

From March 2–6, 2026, the City of Laredo delegation took part in its annual legislative journey to Washington, D.C., where they advocated for federal assistance on essential infrastructure, trade, workforce, and community priorities affecting the Laredo region.

The Laredo Economic Development Corporation proudly joined the City and partners from Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP for agency meetings with the Federal Railroad Administration.

Representing the LEDC was President and CEO David Stedman, who collaborated with local leaders to advance vital discussions on rail and freight mobility, aiming to enhance safe and efficient trade operations.











This year's Washington agenda featured meetings with various federal agencies and congressional offices, focusing on strengthening partnerships and securing resources to benefit Laredo's transportation systems, economic development, public services, and the traditional Laredo Day Reception.

LAREDO IS ON THE RISE!

Border Insight



Social Media Views
4,204

Flipbook Views
1,971

Emails Opens
2,970

A Year of Growth: Thousands of Views, Endless Opportunities!

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THE JOURNEY OF BORDER INSIGHT: CELEBRATING ONE YEAR OF IMPACT



With the advent of the 'America First Trade Policy', the eyes of the nation are increasingly fixed on the Border Economy, and in response the Laredo Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) has announced the premiere of "Border Insight", a digital magazine celebrating the revitalization and expansion of the Laredo economy.

In talking about the inaugural issue, LEDC President and CEO David Stedman spoke of the importance of the publication as a catalyst for growth, "With the rise of Laredo as the nation's top port, combined with the changes in American trade policy, people are looking for answers. And people want to be involved in the process of diversifying and growing the Laredo market.

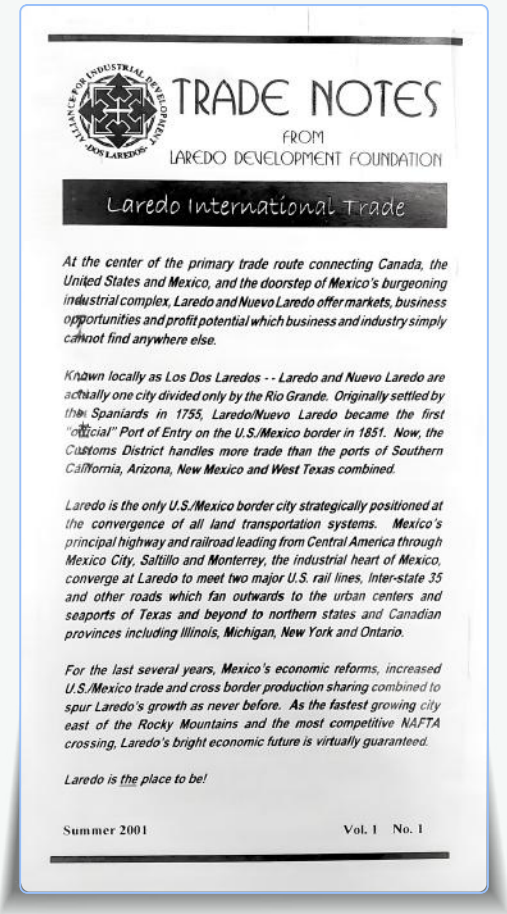
Consequently, we redesigned and transformed some of our previous communication tools into a more dynamic, technology-driven platform.

This new iteration will foster discussions and share insights on economic development, cultural exchanges, and innovations affecting the border region."

Yvette Peña, Chief Administrative and Financial Officer, states "Each edition will bring together voices from various sectors, offering unique perspectives and valuable information to a wider audience in the Dos Laredos region and beyond.

With our dedicated team, Border Insight will persist in fostering connections among community stakeholders to include business leaders, industry experts, and educational institutions—while promoting entrepreneurship to drive job creation, community investment, infrastructure enhancements and more." In 1991, the Laredo Economic Development Corporation, initially known as the Development Foundation, published its first magazine titled "Laredo: The Best of Both Worlds."

This publication aimed to provide the community with diverse information about Laredo's expanding cross-border industrial development and U.S.-Mexico trade. Unfortunately, it was discontinued in the latter part of 1992.


TRADE NOTES
FROM
LAREDO DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Laredo International Trade

At the center of the primary trade route connecting Canada, the United States and Mexico, and the doorstep of Mexico's burgeoning industrial complex, Laredo and Nuevo Laredo offer markets, business opportunities and profit potential which business and industry simply cannot find anywhere else.

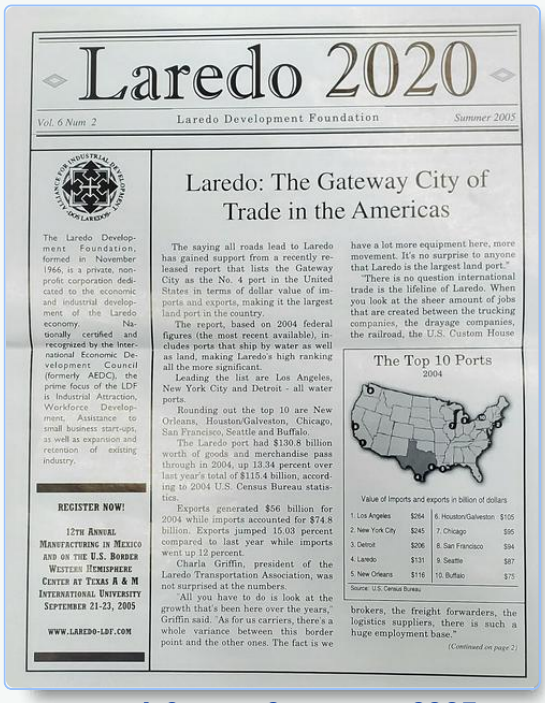
Known locally as Los Dos Laredos -- Laredo and Nuevo Laredo are actually one city divided only by the Rio Grande. Originally settled by the Spaniards in 1755, Laredo/Nuevo Laredo became the first "official" Port of Entry on the U.S./Mexico border in 1851. Now, the Customs District handles more trade than the ports of Southern California, Arizona, New Mexico and West Texas combined.

Laredo is the only U.S./Mexico border city strategically positioned at the convergence of all land transportation systems. Mexico's principal highway and railroad leading from Central America through Mexico City, Saltillo and Monterrey, the industrial heart of Mexico, converge at Laredo to meet two major U.S. rail lines, Inter-state 35 and other roads which fan outwards to the urban centers and seaports of Texas and beyond to northern states and Canadian provinces including Illinois, Michigan, New York and Ontario.

For the last several years, Mexico's economic reforms, increased U.S./Mexico trade and cross border production sharing combined to spur Laredo's growth as never before. As the fastest growing city east of the Rocky Mountains and the most competitive NAFTA crossing, Laredo's bright economic future is virtually guaranteed.

Laredo is the place to be!

Summer 2001 Vol. 1 No. 1



Laredo 2020

Vol. 6 Num. 2 | Laredo Development Foundation | Summer 2005

Laredo: The Gateway City of Trade in the Americas

The saying all roads lead to Laredo has gained support from a recently released report that lists the Gateway City as the No. 4 port in the United States in terms of dollar value of imports and exports, making it the largest land port in the country.

The report, based on 2004 federal figures (the most recent available), includes ports that ship by water as well as land, making Laredo's high ranking all the more significant.

Leading the list are Los Angeles, New York City and Detroit - all water ports.

Rounding out the top 10 are New Orleans, Houston/Galveston, Chicago, San Francisco, Seattle and Buffalo.

The Laredo port had $130.8 billion worth of goods and merchandise pass through in 2004, up 13.34 percent over last year's total of $115.4 billion, according to 2004 U.S. Census Bureau statistics.

Exports generated $56 billion for 2004 while imports accounted for $74.8 billion. Exports jumped 15.03 percent compared to last year while imports went up 12 percent.

Charla Griffin, president of the Laredo Transportation Association, was not surprised at the numbers.

"All you have to do is look at the growth that's been here over the years," Griffin said. "As for us carriers, there's a whole variance between this border point and the other ones. The fact is we have a lot more equipment here, more movement. It's no surprise to anyone that Laredo is the largest land port."

"There is no question international trade is the lifeline of Laredo. When you look at the sheer amount of jobs that are created between the trucking companies, the drayage companies, the railroad, the U.S. Custom House brokers, the freight forwarders, the logistics suppliers, there is such a huge employment base."

The Top 10 Ports 2004

Value of imports and exports in billion of dollars

1. Los Angeles	$264	6. Houston/Galveston	$105
2. New York City	$245	7. Chicago	$95
3. Detroit	$206	8. San Francisco	$94
4. Laredo	$131	9. Seattle	$87
5. New Orleans	$116	10. Buffalo	$75

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

REGISTER NOW!

12th Annual Manufacturing in Mexico and on the U.S. Border Western Hemisphere Center at Texas A & M International University September 21-23, 2005

www.laredo-ldf.com

Vol. 6 Num. 2 Summer 2005

Reviving this concept, a newsletter was launched in the summer of 2000 as the "Laredo 2020" under the leadership of John A. Adams, Jr., PhD in Economics and CEcD. The inaugural article was titled "Viva the New Economy - In a New Age of Change." Dr. Adams established this newsletter to keep members, and the community informed about economic development impacts while encouraging the mantra to "Think Globally, Act Regionally." The newsletter became a vital source of information for local businesses eager to understand the shifting economic landscape.

Following a short period of inactivity, Ms. Olivia Varela-Santos, President & CEO of LEDC in 2013, revitalized and rebranded the newsletter as "Border Insight" in February 2014. This initiative aimed to uphold its mission of keeping the community informed.

Under Ms. Varela-Santos's leadership, "Border Insight" embraced modern communication strategies, leveraging digital tools and social media to reach a broader audience. The newsletter not only covered economic trends but also highlighted LEDC and MileOne events occurring both locally and out of state. By nurturing a sense of community and collaboration, "Border Insight" played a key role in bridging gaps between various sectors, promoting innovative partnerships and sustainable growth.



As we celebrate the one-year anniversary of Border Insight, we reflect on the incredible journey we've had, marked by significant milestones and unforgettable highlights. Our mission to provide valuable insights into border regions has resonated with a diverse audience, expanding our reach and deepening our impact.

Over this past year, we've connected with policymakers, entrepreneurs, and community leaders, fostering conversations that shape the future of border areas. The overwhelmingly positive response to our May 2025 Economic Development Week issue underscored the importance of sustainable growth and innovation in these regions. Meanwhile, the August 2025 Puerto Colombia issue captivated readers with its rich cultural narratives and economic potential, leading the charge in email engagement and online visibility.

Looking ahead, Border Insight is committed to continuing this momentum, exploring new topics, and amplifying voices that are pivotal in transforming border communities. We are excited to embark on another year of discovery, dialogue, and action, with the unwavering support of our readers and partners. Here's to more stories that inspire change and foster understanding across borders!

EXCELLENCE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARDS
2025 BRONZE WINNER
MAGAZINE & NEWSLETTER CATEGORY
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

LEDC Participates in 2026 Guild Spring Conference in Atlanta



The 2026 Guild Spring Conference brought together some of the most influential voices in economic development and site selection, offering a premier platform for collaboration, insight, and strategic connection.

Held March 23–25, 2026, in the dynamic city of Atlanta, this highly anticipated gathering delivered an unparalleled experience for attendees from across the United States and around the globe.

Hosted by the Site Selectors Guild, the event featured panel discussions, roundtables, and high-impact networking opportunities designed to foster collaboration and provide insights into the latest industry trends.

Among those in attendance was David Stedeman, President and CEO of the Laredo Economic Development Corporation, who represented the organization and engaged with key industry leaders to strengthen partnerships and promote regional opportunities.



Attendees experienced a robust agenda filled with dynamic panel discussions, interactive roundtables, and high-impact networking sessions.

Each component of the conference was thoughtfully designed to foster collaboration, generate innovative ideas, and provide actionable insights into the evolving landscape of site selection and economic development.

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2026 Regional Event in Bastrop, Texas Highlights Innovation and Collaboration



The 2026 YTexas Regional Event in Bastrop, Texas, brought together industry leaders, educators, and public officials under the theme "Building a Stronger, More Connected Texas."

The event showcased the state's position as a powerhouse for economic growth, driven by its skilled workforce, leading educational institutions, and thriving business climate.

Representing the Laredo Economic Development Corporation (LEDC), President and CEO David Stedman attended and engaged in discussions on regional collaboration and opportunity.

The day began with a Mayor's Roundtable featuring Bastrop city leadership, setting the tone for series of insightful sessions.



Topics ranged from workforce development and education partnerships to regional growth corridors and infrastructure advancements.

Panels such as *"Made in Texas: Industry, Education & Workforce Development"* and *"Regionalism – A Dynamic Growth Corridor"* emphasized the importance of collaboration between public and private sectors to sustain Texas' rapid expansion.

Attendees also explored emerging industries through sessions like *"Media & Film Production in Texas"* and *"Powering Texas – Data, Intelligence & Infrastructure,"* highlighting innovation across diverse sectors. The event concluded with a fireside chat featuring SpaceX representatives, followed by a networking session that fostered meaningful connections among participants.

Overall, the event reinforced Texas's role as a launchpad for growth and innovation, while underscoring the importance of connectivity and strategic partnerships in shaping the state's future.

EXCELLENCE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARDS
2025 BRONZE WINNER

2023 EXCELLENCE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD WINNER
~SILVER~

2023 EXCELLENCE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEEK

May 4-8, 2026

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MILEONE
A Division of the Laredo Economic Development Corporation

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEEK

EVENTS SCHEDULE

May 4
Proclamation Day

9:00 am -10:00 am
MileOne - IBAC
1312 Houston St.

In Collaboration with

Sponsored by
Terracon

May 7
Spring Membership & Networking Mixer: FIESTA!

6:00 pm - 8:00
La Posada Hotel
1000 Zaragoza St.,
Tesoro Room

Sponsored by

May 5
Small Business Awards and Women Entrepreneurs Rock Series

11:00 am - 1:00 pm
MileOne - IBAC
1312 Houston St.

Sponsored by
PNC BANK

May 8
Business Expo and Job Fair

11:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Haynes Recreation Center
2102 Clarks Crossing Drive

Sponsored by

May 6
Forum Sessions

State of Transportation & Infrastructure

10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Laredo College-Main Campus
Falcon Bank Executive Conf. Room

Sponsored by

Lunch will be provided at 12 noon

State of Economic Development Forum

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 pm
Laredo College-Main Campus
Falcon Bank Executive Conf. Room

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For tickets or how to register, visit us at:

www.laredoedc-edw.org

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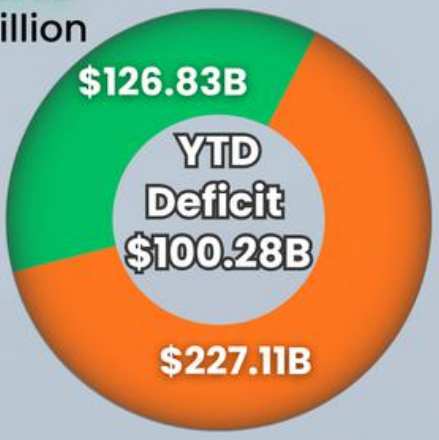
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PORT LAREDO'S TRADE IN 2025

2025 OVERVIEW

Port Laredo **Exports** totaled **$126.83** billion -1.11% from 2024

While **Imports** were valued at **$227.11** billion 7.75% from 2024



TOP TRADING PARTNERS

MEXICO $343.97 B
Exports $126.51 B Fell -1.22%
Imports $217.46 B Rose 7.35%

CHINA $1.55 B
Exports $1.75 M Rose 62.24%
Imports $1.55 B Fell -15.41%

FRANCE $1.33 B
Exports $5,400 Fell -97.19%
Imports $1.33 B Rose 25.29%

JAPAN $1.01 B
Exports $13.11 B Rose 7.89%
Imports $998.30 M Rose 64.78%

NICARAGUA $884.80 M
Exports $136.65 M Rose 5.5%
Imports $748.16 M Rose 8.95%

2025 IN DETAIL (BY VALUE)

PORT LAREDO EXPORTS

Motor Vehicle Parts fell 3.72% compared to last year
$13.49 B

Gasoline, other fuels rose 15.84% compared to last year
$4.50 B

Civilian aircraft, parts rose 95.3% compared to last year
$2.95 B

Diesel Engines fell -16.79% compared to last year
$2.90 B

Motor Vehicle engines rose 42.83% compared to last year
$2.67 B

PORT LAREDO IMPORTS

Computers rose 17.40% compared to last year
$30.83 B

Motor Vehicle Parts fell -17% compared to last year
$25.92 B

Passenger vehicles fell -0.47% compared to last year
$16.48 B

Cell phones, related equipment rose 31.59% compared to last year
$9.53 B

Commercial Vehicles fell -30.82% compared to last year
$7.78 B

Source: US Trade Numbers-WorldCity

Compiled by Laredo Economic Development Corporation

Economic DASHBOARD
January 2026 Year-over-Year Report

LAREDO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

*Workforce

Employment
Not Available
▲+ % from 2025

Labor Force
Not Available
▲ + % from 2025

Unemployment Rate
Not Available
▲ + % from 2025

Indicator	Jan 2026	Jan 2025	% Change (YoY)	Trend
Employment	Not Available	115,654	⊗	-
Labor Force	Not Available	120,905	⊗	-
Unemployment	Not Available	5,251	⊗	-
Unemployment Rate	Not Available	4.3	⊗	-

*Sales Tax

Sales Tax Revenue $5.4M
▲-4.04 % from 2025

Indicator	Jan 2026	Jan 2025	% Change (YoY)	Trend
Sales Tax Revenue	$5,493,435	$5,724,972	-4.04%	▼ Decrease

*Bridge Traffic Distribution (Southbound)

Indicator	Jan 2026	Jan 2025	% Change (YoY)	Trend
Pedestrians	198,252	188,066	5.42%	▲ Increase
Non Comm. Vehicles	408,609	388,155	5.27%	▲ Increase
Buses	2,611	2,860	-8.71%	▼ Decrease
Commercial Vehicles	224,037	235,157	4.73%	▲ Increase
Non Comm. Vehicles (AVI)	154,600	146,520	5.51%	▲ Increase
Total Vehicles	635,257	626,172	1.45%	▲ Increase

Bridge Traffic Distribution (Northbound)

Indicator	Jan 2026	Jan 2025	% Change (YoY)	Trend
*Pedestrians	245,985	233,246	5.46%	▲ Increase
*Non Comm. Vehicles	433,003	416,374	3.99%	▲ Increase
*Buses	2,590	2,935	-11.8%	▼ Decrease
*Commercial Vehicles	225,674	239,825	-5.90%	▼ Decrease

Data Sources:

*Texas Labor Market Information *Texas State Comptroller *City of Laredo Bridge System
*U.S. CBP-Inbound Traveler & Conveyance Data *U.S. DOT-Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Prepared by: Ana Laura Benavides-Del Bosque

Let's Welcome

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

CP
KCS
KCSM
1881
CPKC

PEINADO
CONSTRUCTION



LEDC MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Laredo EDC proudly recognizes a distinguished Member in its monthly Border Insight for:

- The company's commitment to the betterment of the community
- Special Efforts above and beyond the normal scope of job and performance services

CATAMOUNT

CONSTRUCTORS INCORPORATED

COMMIT. RESPOND. DELIVER. NATIONWIDE.

We congratulate CATAMAOUNT as Laredo EDC Member of the Month for their contribution to the development efforts in our region.

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Bringing Purpose, Protection, and Heart to Laredo



Renee Ambrose

First and foremost, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to Cesar and Maribel for giving me the platform to share what Modern Woodmen brings to our community.

My name is Renee Ambrose, born and raised in Laredo, Texas. Small business has always been in my blood. I grew up in a family business that was on the verge of disappearing, but my story — and my purpose — began long before I ever stepped into that role.

My journey starts with my mother. She had me at just 14 years old, and from the very beginning she showed me what it means to work hard, stay resilient, and never make excuses.

"It's not about how hard life hits you, it's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward."

By the time she was 18, she opened her own business, Border Bail Bonds. She did all of this with only a sixth-grade education and without anyone to guide her in financial planning, investments, or life insurance.

During my sophomore year of high school, my mother was diagnosed with stage-four cervical cancer. By the following year, she passed away. Less than a year after that, I found myself homeless — no resources, no safety net, and no roadmap. But I held onto the lessons she taught me: it's not about how hard life hits you, it's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward. Even in the darkest days, I kept going.



Modern Woodmen

FRATERNAL FINANCIAL

I took over the family business, rebuilt connections, got married, and created a family of my own. But I always felt called to do more — to give back, to help others, to prevent families from experiencing what mine went through. That's when I found Modern Woodmen.

Modern Woodmen is a not-for-profit fraternal financial organization with a mission to help members reach their financial goals, protect their quality of life, and strengthen the communities we serve. When I was first introduced to Modern Woodmen, it spoke to me in a way no other company ever had. It was founded to protect widows and orphans — the most vulnerable among us — through life insurance, financial planning, and something truly unique: fraternal benefits.

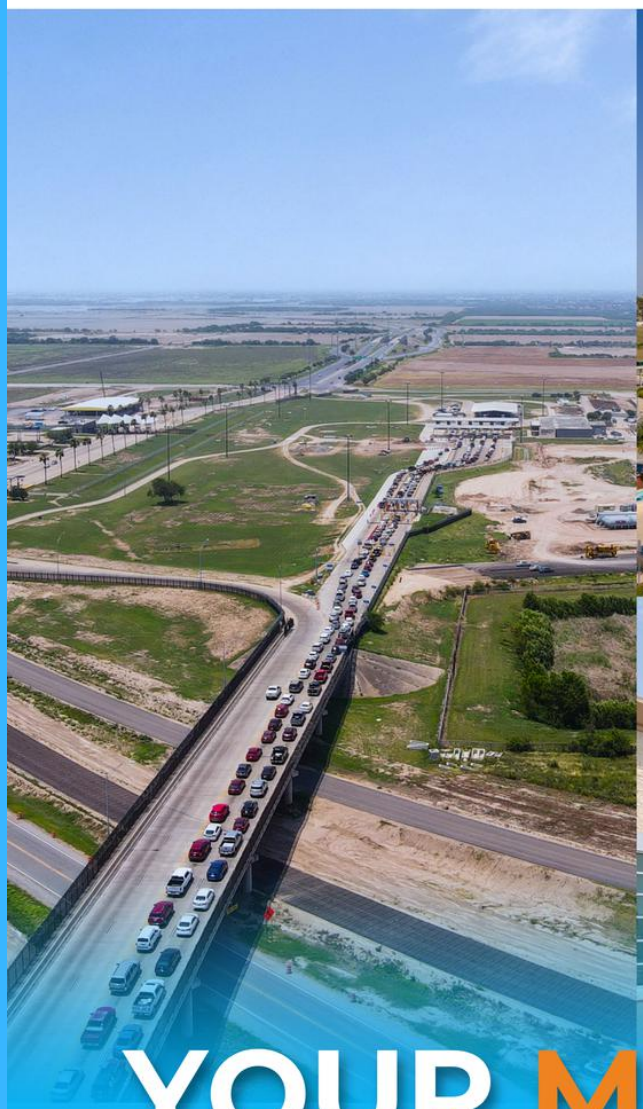
We offer scholarships, community impact grants, and matching funds for local projects. But the benefit that changed everything for me — the one that became my "why" — is our Orphan Support Benefit. If a family's children were ever left without parents, Modern Woodmen sets aside $700 per month per child until age 18, plus a $50,000 grant for higher education.

When I learned this, I knew I had to be part of it. I knew I had to bring it to Laredo. It was bigger than me — it was the chance to change lives in the darkest moments, to give families the protection mine never had.

I can talk about products, but products aren't what matter most. What matters is the why — the ability to help families stay safe, educated, and supported. My mission is to make sure no child, no parent, no family ever has to face what I faced alone.

This is my purpose. This is my passion. This is why I am proud to represent Modern Woodmen in our community.

INDUSTRY / WORKFORCE / INVESTMENT







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CELEBRATING
International Women's Day

Celebrating the women who dream, build, lead, and inspire

This International Women's Day, MileOne proudly honors the strength, creativity, and resilience of women in business and throughout our community. Every day, women in Laredo are making an impact—launching businesses, leading initiatives, and shaping the future.

In partnership with Laredo Main Street, MileOne celebrated at the El Centro de Laredo Farmers Market at The Outlet Shoppes of Laredo, bringing together community, wellness, and entrepreneurship. The event featured yoga, Pilates and cycling classes, a pot painting activity, and live music, creating a vibrant and empowering atmosphere.









More than just a celebration, the event highlighted the importance of supporting and uplifting women in our community. MileOne remains committed to empowering women entrepreneurs and creating spaces where they can grow, connect, and thrive.

Laredo Main Street

The Outlet Shoppes at Laredo

Icuas
Laredo Center for Urban Agriculture & Sustainability

GO TEXAN.

MILEONE

Pot of Gold: Where connections grow

MileOne continues to create intentional spaces where small businesses and entrepreneurs can connect, collaborate, and grow. Last night's Pot of Gold: Where Connections Grow brought together an incredible turnout, filled with energy, meaningful conversations, and new opportunities for local entrepreneurs to build lasting relationships.

These events go beyond traditional networking. They serve as a platform for connection, visibility, and support within the business community. By bringing together entrepreneurs, partners, and community leaders, MileOne is helping strengthen an ecosystem where ideas are shared, partnerships are formed, and businesses are empowered to thrive.

We are grateful to our sponsors and everyone who joined us in making the evening a success. MileOne remains committed to supporting our entrepreneurial community, and we look forward to continuing this momentum at our next networking event this June.















Sharaka.
MILEONE

Sharaka Delegation Networking Breakfast

MileOne had the honor of hosting an exclusive networking breakfast in partnership with the World Affairs Council, welcoming the International Sharaka delegation for a morning of meaningful dialogue and connection. The session focused on Building Cooperation Across Sectors and Communities, bringing together local entrepreneurs, business leaders, and the Laredo Economic Development Corporation.

Conversations centered on innovation, entrepreneurship, and regional prosperity, highlighting how collaboration across borders can drive economic growth and strengthen global relationships. Delegates—including Fatema Al Harbi, Dr. Ahmed Khuzaie, Youssef Elazhari, and Alyssa Annis—shared insights on the role of innovation, culture, and emerging technologies in fostering international partnerships.

Through events like this, MileOne continues to serve as a hub for connection, bringing together local and global leaders to exchange ideas and build impactful relationships that support growth in our region and beyond.

LAREDO
Economic Development Corporation

World Affairs Council

TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
Laredo, TX

MILEONE

2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

16 APR	WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS ROCK SERIES - WOMEN IN LAW
28 APR	BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES: MEXICANA EMPRENDE 2026 MOU SIGNING CEREMONY
5 MAY	WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS ROCK SERIES - WOMEN IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
11 JUNE	GOVERNOR'S SMALL BUSINESS SUMMIT
18 JUNE	WOMEN ENTREORENEURS ROCK SERIES - WOMEN IN HEALTHCARE: LEADERSHIP, WELLNESS & COMMUNITY

MILEONE



Lady Whistledown's Society Papers

Women Entrepreneurs Rock Series proudly presents

Women in Law

Thursday, April 16th, 2026
11:00 am - 1:00 pm
MileOne | 1312 Houston St.



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"Connecting the Americas: Infrastructure, Industry, Innovation"

September 22-24, 2026

Texas A&M International University
Laredo, Texas

SAVE THE DATE

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

in collaboration with

World Affairs Council
TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
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7-12 MIDNIGHT

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Laredo, Texas



SAVE THE DATE

For more information, visit our website at https://ledc-edi-gala.com/ or contact the LEDC staff at (956) 722-0563

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For more information contact:
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All ads must be in png format and due by the specified closing date.

UPCOMING ISSUES

Month	Featured Article	Topics	Closing Date
April 2026	Featured Article: UPRR	• Rail Transportation • History • Outlook/ Services/ Programs/ Projects	April 18th
May 2026	Featured Article: U.S. Customs and Border Protection	• Importing/Exporting • ACE/Automated System • Border Security	May 18 18th

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LAREDO IS ON THE RISE!
Border Insight

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