ISSUE
DECEMBER 2025

LAREDO IS ON THE RISE!

Border Insight



Featured Article

A LEGACY OF FRIENDSHIP: THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF MEXICO IN LAREDO, TEXAS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

05-13

- A LEGACY OF FRIENDSHIP: THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF MEXICO IN LAREDO, TEXAS
- WE ARE UNITED BY PEOPLE, GEOGRAPHY, AND TRADE
- CELEBRATING PARTNERSHIP: DOS LAREDOS BINATIONAL DIALOGUE
- CONSULTATION MECHANISMS IN THE LAREDOS REGION
- FLOURISHING BINATIONAL CULTURE
- A CLOSER LOOK AT THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF MEXICO IN LAREDO
- OUR SERVICES:
  - COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
  - CONSULAR SERVICES - PROTECTION DEPARTMENT FOR MEXICANS

15-21

- CITY LEADERS SHARE KEY INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES AT THE BREAKFAST WITH THE MAYOR
- LEDC HOSTS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TAMALADA & MEMBERSHIP MIXER
- YEAR-TO-DATE, PORT LAREDO'S TRADE SEPTEMBER 2025
- ECONOMIC DASHBOARD - OCTOBER 2025 YEAR OVER YEAR REPORT
- ECONOMIC DASHBOARD - OCTOBER 2025 YEAR-TO-DATE REPORT
- CELEBRATING COLLABORATION: FRIENDS OF COSTEP HOLIDAY APPRECIATION MIXER

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

23-24

- LET'S WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS
  ASCENDING TECHNOLOGIES, INC. & DOUBLETREE BY HILTON LAREDO
- LEDC MEMBER OF THE MONTH
  UNION PACIFIC

26-31

- MILEONE SPREADS HOLIDAY CHEER AT ANITA T. DOVALINA ELEMENTARY
- EIGHT YEARS OF EMPOWERING ENTREPRENEURS
- M1 MEMBER OF THE MONTH - ERICK YASIEL OLIVARES VARGAS (BUDGET BLINDS OF LAREDO)
- M1 2025 LAUNCHPAD GRADUATES
- NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM LAREDO EDC & MILEONE

32-34

- UPCOMING EVENTS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Border Insight

A publication of the Laredo Economic Development Corporation

Chief Editors & Design:



Yvette Peña

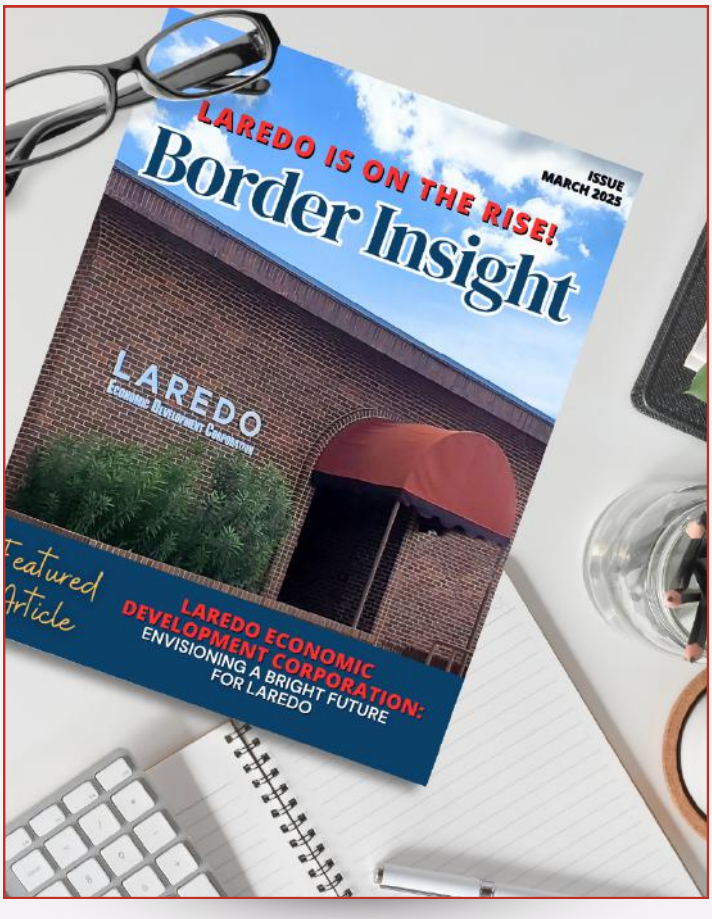


Ana L. Benavides Del Bosque

CONTRIBUTORS FOR THIS EDITION:

- Cesar G. Hernandez
- Maribel Villarreal
- Mexican Consulate Office in Laredo, Texas

Laredo Economic Development Corporation
P.O. Box 2682 (616 Leal St.)
Laredo, Texas 78044-2682
Phone: (956)722-0563
1-800-820-0564
E-mail: info@laredoedc.org
www.laredoedc.org



For Advertising and Graphics:
Ana L. Benavides Del Bosque
(956) 722-0563
abenavides@laredoedc.org

Advertisement Guidelines:

Standard Advertisements:

- **All ads must be submitted in PNG format.**
- **Advertisements should be non-political.**
- **Submissions are required by the designated closing date.**

Exclusive Package:

- **All ads must be provided in PNG format.**
- **This package includes video content and must be non-political.**
- **It must be used within one year of purchase.**
- **All ads are due by the designated closing date.**

A legacy of friendship:
The Consulate General of Mexico in Laredo, Texas



In 1848, Mexico was forced to sign the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo to recover its ports and cities occupied by US troops, ceding its northern territories; as a result, thousands of Mexicans suddenly found themselves in another country: the border crossed them, becoming victims of abuse and dispossession.

To protect the interests of Mexico and Mexicans, as well as to facilitate trade with the United States, on December 9, 1879, by decree of President Porfirio Díaz, the Consulate of Mexico was established in Laredo, Texas, a geographically strategic city. Meanwhile, in the neighboring city of Nuevo Laredo, the first major customs office in northern Mexico had been established in 1865, which would become the most productive. The arrival of the railroad in Nuevo Laredo in 1881 and commercial contacts with Monterrey would encourage more exchanges between Mexico and the United States through Laredo.

Between 1929 and 1930, during the Great Depression, thousands of Mexicans and Americans of Mexican descent were deported because of their appearance. Consul Don Rafael de la Colina Riquelme was responsible for assisting these Mexicans, and he would later become one of the most prominent Mexican diplomats of the 20th century.

Due to the growth of consular activity, on January 24, 1942, the Government of Mexico purchased the current building located at 1612 Farragut Street, with a beautiful and historically listed facade. Amid a commercial boom sparked by the North American Free Trade Agreement, the Consulate of Mexico in Laredo was elevated to Consulate General due to its many activities and the consolidation of the sister cities of Laredo and Nuevo Laredo as the most important logistics platform in the Americas.

We Are United by People, Geography, and Trade

In 1982, Mexico opened its economy to diversify its trade, but interdependence with the United States grew, strengthening value chains and commercial ties. No country has as much impact on the lives of Mexicans as the United States, and Mexico, its strategic partner, also impacts the lives of Americans.

People born in Mexico, plus second- and third-generation Mexican Americans, total nearly 40 million, and 1.5 million Americans live in Mexico. In 2022, Mexican immigrants numbered 10.7 million, of whom 53.7% own their own homes. This large community is served by Mexico's network of 53 consulates in the United States, which provide documentation, protection, and community development services.

Mexican immigrants contribute significantly to the U.S. economy, earning around $337billion in 2022. They form the backbone of the nation’s rapidly growing Hispanic population, which now represents 19% of the country. The 2025 Official LDC U.S. Latino GDP Report™ places the U.S. Latino GDP at $4 trillion -effectively the 5th largest economy in the world.

The Dos Laredos region, where the Consulate General is based, is the most dynamic land commercial border on the planet. It handles 42% of the $800 billion in annual Mexico–U.S. trade equivalent to $1.5 million exchanged every minute.

Far from dividing, the Rio Grande increasingly unites Laredo and Nuevo Laredo. Through cultural and educational initiatives, the Consulate General promotes a shared vision of mutual benefit, regional prosperity, and binational identity. The message is clear: Mexico and the United States are neighbors, friends, and strategic partners. **We are North America!**



Celebrating Partnership: Dos Laredos Binational Dialogue



Ambassador
Juan Carlos Mendoza Sanchez
Consul General

Upon his arrival in Laredo on May 31, 2019, Consul General Juan Carlos Mendoza Sánchez faced a constant request for support as an intermediary from various key actors on both sides of the border.

It was then that he understood the true meaning of the phrase, "To understand the border, you must live on the border". Agreements between Mexico and the United States regulate bilateral relations in general, but every pair of border cities has its own dynamic-one that requires a shared and localized understanding to prevent different stakeholders from only seeing the piece of the puzzle that reflects their own side of the broader regional reality.

In the Dos Laredos region, there are various binational mechanisms in customs, security, preventive health, and repatriation, but these operate as isolated parts focused solely on their specific objectives. This prevented a comprehensive understanding that all issues are part of a single shared reality and that efficient management requires collaboration with other actors.

To address this challenge and avoid duplicated work and efforts, the Consulate General of Mexico convened the Dos Laredos Binational Dialogue in December 2019. It was conceived as an institutional space for dialogue to coordinate, generate, and share first-hand information and clear, precise messages that impact the management of binational issues at the local level.

This Binational Dialogue has been held annually ever since. It brings together local actors and authorities whose participation contributes to a comprehensive understanding of binational challenges. This local binational cooperation allows for coordinated management of shared issues through local actions and decisions that yield mutual benefits.

The six annual meetings of the Dos Laredos Binational Dialogue held to date -sponsored by the Consulate General of Mexico in Laredo- have helped strengthen regional awareness through a more integrated understanding of the binational issues that impact daily life in our region.



Diálogo Binacional Dos Laredos

Consultation Mechanisms in The Laredos Region

Customs Facilitation Committee. Convened by the Nuevo Laredo Customs Administrator. Meets once a month. Attended by the directors of Mexican and US customs, Consuls or their representatives, customs users including customs agents, carriers, and representatives of truck operators, as well as the representative of Nuevo Laredo civil society.

Protocol for Responding to Border Violence Incidents. Convened by CBP/BP and the National Intelligence Center (CNI) of Mexico. It usually meets once a month. Local agencies from both countries involved in security issues and the Mexican and U.S. Consuls participate. It shares information on the results of operations, seizures, and immigration incidents.

COBINA. Los Dos Laredos - Nuevo León Binational Health Council. Convened by the Health Departments of Laredo and Nuevo Laredo. Nuevo León has been included since 2022. It usually meets once a month. Agencies and organizations working in the field of health participate. The Consulate General of Mexico is invited because it has a Health Window (VDS) that is managed by Gateway Community. It exchanges information and best practices in health matters.

Binational Health Advisory Committee. Created during the COVID19 pandemic in 2021 to coordinate health issues involving decision-making with the participation of local binational actors. Participants include the mayors, health directors of Laredo and Nuevo Laredo, the Mexican and U.S. Consuls, and the directors of health institutions appointed by the mayors. It has not held regular meetings, only to make decisions in emergencies.

L**ocal Agreement for the Repatriation of Mexican Nationals.** Establishes local procedures for the orderly, safe, and respectful repatriation of Mexican nationals from the US to Mexico who have violated US immigration laws. Signed on February 16, 2016, by consuls, CBP, Border Patrol, and INAMI.

Laredos Region Binational Group. It began work in 2020 to follow up on the agreements of the Dos Laredos Binational Dialogue convened by the Mexican and U.S. Consuls. Composed of leaders of groups from the productive sector of Laredo and Nuevo Laredo. It became a forum for discussion and the generation of agreements in the productive sector that served as an interlocutor with local authorities.

Flourishing Binational Culture

Despite being located in two different countries, the cities of Laredo and Nuevo Laredo function as a single, interconnected binational community. Their shared history has given rise to a vibrant cultural identity that thrives on both sides of the border. Daily life and the well-being of residents in this region cannot be understood without acknowledging the deep mutual dependence that unites the two cities.

INSTITUTO CULTURAL MEXICANO DE LAREDO



Thousands of members of the same families live on both sides of the border. Many Laredo residents make their homes in Nuevo Laredo while working in Laredo, and a significant portion of the population in both cities is bilingual. This unique reality has allowed the Consulate General to promote a dynamic binational cultural program that strengthens regional identity and highlights the abundant artistic talent found throughout the Dos Laredos.

Located on the second floor of The Outlet Shoppes, the Mexican Cultural Institute of Laredo (ICML) has become the true "Home of Binational Culture." The ICML offers painting and dance classes and, every year, participates alongside the Consulate General in organizing cultural events that contribute to the flourishing of binational culture, like the Binational Mexican Independence Day celebration along the Rio Grande, which features artists from both sides of the border. Among the most emblematic symbols of this shared culture is the Tecolotes Dos Laredos baseball team from the Mexican League, which plays home games alternately in both cities.



In 2025, the Binational Visual Arts Showcase Dos Laredos celebrates its tenth edition, exhibiting the work of painters and sculptors at the Reyes Meza Museum in Nuevo Laredo and later at Texas A&M International University in Laredo. The Binational Altar Competition, sponsored by UNITRADE and entering its sixth year in 2025, fosters creativity and honors Mexican tradition with $3,000 in prizes awarded to participants from both cities.



Through events like its Annual Nuestras Raíces Gala, the ICML also helps raise funds for the IME-Becas program, supporting vulnerable students at TAMIU and Laredo College. Additional activities such as the popular November Loteria Mexicana and the traditional December Christmas Posada underscore the ICML's leading role in cultivating a flourishing binational culture in the Dos Laredos.



A closer look at the Consulate General of Mexico in Laredo

The Consulate General of Mexico in Laredo is staffed by five diplomats and 22 independent professional service providers. Its work is strengthened by strategic partners, authorities, and community organizations that support activities related to documentation, protection of Mexican nationals, community development, international assistance, and the promotion of Mexico's tourism, trade, culture, and image.

The Consulate operates through three main areas:

1. Direct consular services and official events managed by consular staff;
2. Activities organized by the consulate with support from strategic partners;
3. Engagement in third-party initiatives to build collaboration and synergy.

The Documentation Department's most requested services are passports and high-security consular IDs, along with 43 additional procedures such as birth registrations, visas, powers of attorney, wills, household goods, and certifications.

The Protection Department supports Mexicans in immigration, criminal, labor, family, and human rights matters. Staff visit the Border Patrol processing center daily and attend Federal Court during initial hearings from Monday to Friday, and they work through agreements and the External Legal Advisory Program to ensure legal assistance.
The Department of Mexican Communities manages Community Window programs on Health, Educational Opportunities, and Financial Guidance -open to all, regardless of nationality or immigration status- and organizes cultural, civic, and community events throughout the region.

The Consul General and Consuls regularly meet with authorities and visit detention centers, businesses, and organizations, while promoting trade and tourism.

Finally, through its media office, the Consulate General maintains a continuous presence on television, radio, and newspapers on both sides of the border to widely share information on consular requirements and the many events organized throughout the year.

www.reallygreatsite.com

OUR SERVICES

Community Affairs

Health Windows (Ventanillas de Salud): The consulate's Health Window (VDS) offers free preventive health services, including guidance, counseling, early detection, and referrals. We prioritize your physical and mental health by supporting your well-being and enhancing access to primary and preventive services:

- Care is safe, confidential, and free.
- Services available in Spanish, regardless of immigration status.
- Our mission is to boost your well-being. Visit the Health Window for comprehensive preventive care.

Education: For guidance on educational programs in the U.S. and Mexico, visit the Educational Orientation Window (VOE) at the Consulate. Here, you can find information about:

- Scholarships and educational opportunities in Mexico
- Local educational services
- Courses/workshops for parents
- Access for students returning to Mexico
- Educational materials in Spanish
- Navigating the U.S. educational system
- Distance learning options





IME Scholarships 2025: The Consulate General of Mexico in Laredo, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Institute for Mexicans Abroad (IME), calls on educational institutions and social organizations interested in participating in IME-Becas to obtain financial support intended for Mexican individuals or those of Mexican origin enrolled in any of their academic programs.

Financial Education and Inclusion: At the consulate's Financial Advisory Window (VAF), you can receive free, confidential guidance on effective money management, asset growth, savings accounts, tax payments, and small business credit. Schedule an appointment with their specialized staff to navigate the local financial system effectively.

Community Engagement: The community engagement strategy aims to highlight the importance of Mexican communities abroad, gather their proposals, and strengthen ties with local partners and Mexican government entities to empower our diaspora. It also promotes active collaboration, encourages them to help promote Mexico, and involves them in the country's development.

GTSI

Global Tooling Specialties, Inc.

OUR PRODUCTS

Our product line of specialized and quality tools ranges from assembly-line robotics and material handling to cutting tools and safety equipment.

SERVICES & BENEFITS

We supply specialized, quality tools, parts, and machinery while offering costs savings and better lead times, in order to provide world class service to our customers.

OUR COMMITMENT

Customers buy from us because we simplify the procurement process, serving as an industry partner by being more efficient and setting the highest standards in training and education.

Alma Acevedo
President & CEO

Get in Touch with Us Today! 📞 (956) 753-5020

Follow us on

OUR SERVICES

Consular Services



Mexican Passports



Consular ID Card



Voter ID for Mexicans Abroad



Birth Registration



Services for Non-Mexicans



Household Goods Import for Returning Mexicans



Birth Certificate



Death Certificate



OP7 Form
(Passport for Minors)



Military Service Card



Certificate of Identity

Protection Department for Mexicans

- Know Your Rights
- PALE Providers 2024–2027
- Victims of Human Rights Violations by Foreign Authorities
- Immigration Detention
- Detention by Authorities
- Recovery of Personal Belongings
- Search/Location of Individuals
- Repatriation of Remains
- Repatriation of the Ill
- Repatriation of Vulnerable Individuals
- DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)
- Unpaid Wages
- Workplace Accidents
- Minors in the Custody of Foreign Authorities
- Child Support
- Restitution of Minors
- Victims of Abuse and/or Domestic Violence
- Victims of Human Trafficking
- Victims of Hate Crimes
- Transfer of Inmates/Prisoners
- Information and Assistance Center for Mexicans
- Labor Rights Week

33RD ANNIVERSARY

Pathways For Trade

The North American Logistics & Manufacturing Symposium

"Connecting the Americas: Infrastructure, Industry, Innovation"

September 22-24, 2026

Laredo, Texas

SAVE THE DATE

LAREDO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

More information visit us at:

www.pathwaysfortrade.com

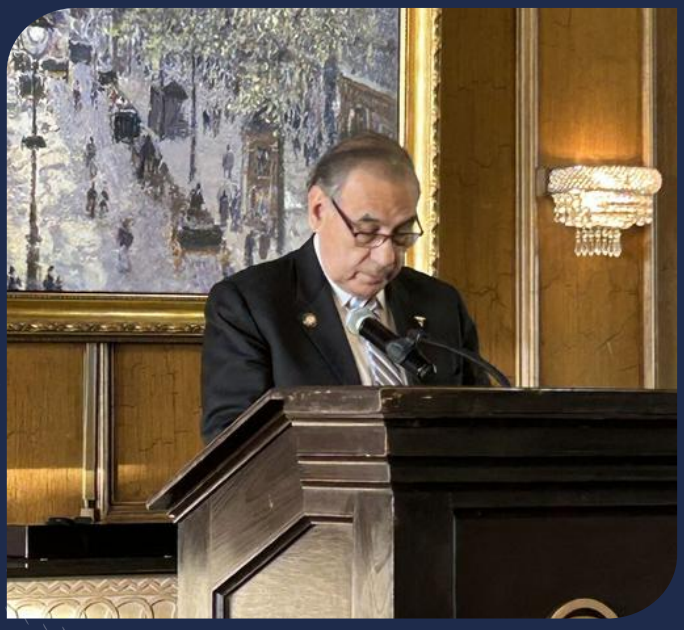
City Leaders Share Key Infrastructure Updates at the Breakfast with the Mayor

On December 10, City of Laredo Mayor Victor D. Treviño, MD, and City Manager Joseph Neeb provided an important update on major infrastructure and development initiatives during the Laredo Chamber of Commerce breakfast.

The presentation highlighted progress and future plans related to the Border Wall, the development of a Regional Sports Complex, and a proposed new Event Center—projects aimed at strengthening Laredo's infrastructure, enhancing quality of life, and supporting continued economic growth in the region.

Attendees had the opportunity to gain insight into how these initiatives will contribute to community development, attract visitors, and create new opportunities for residents and businesses alike.

The Laredo Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) was represented at the event by President and CEO David Stedman, reaffirming the organization's ongoing commitment to collaboration with city leadership and regional partners in advancing strategic development priorities for Laredo.





IBC BANK®

Your Prosperity, Our Priority

VISA® CREDIT CARDS

Cards are issued by First Bankcard®, a division of First National Bank of Omaha.

IBC MORTGAGE

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER NMLS #421821

MEMBER FDIC/INTERNATIONAL BANCSHARES CORPORATION

IBC INSURANCE AGENCY

NOT A DEPOSIT | NOT FDIC INSURED | NOT INSURED BY ANY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY
NOT GUARANTEED BY THE BANK | MAY GO DOWN IN VALUE

IBC Insurance Agency, Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of IBC-Laredo

IBC INVESTMENT SERVICES

Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC. Insurance products offered through LPL Financial or its licensed affiliates. IBC Bank and IBC Investment Services are not registered broker/dealers and are not affiliated with LPL Financial.

NOT A DEPOSIT | NOT FDIC INSURED | NOT INSURED BY ANY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY
NOT GUARANTEED BY THE BANK | MAY GO DOWN IN VALUE

IBC MERCHANT SERVICES

Powered by Bā·sys MEMBER FDIC/INTERNATIONAL BANCSHARES CORPORATION

TREASURY MANAGEMENT

MEMBER FDIC/INTERNATIONAL BANCSHARES CORPORATION

SMALL BUSINESS LOANS

MEMBER FDIC/INTERNATIONAL BANCSHARES CORPORATION EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

ibc.com | Follow us

LEDC Hosts Annual Christmas Tamalada & Membership Mixer

The Laredo Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) hosted a festive and memorable evening at its Annual Christmas Tamalada & Membership Mixer, held yesterday at the DoubleTree by Hilton Laredo.

The members-only celebration brought together LEDC partners and stakeholders for an evening filled with holiday cheer, meaningful networking, and delicious Mexican cuisine, highlighted by the traditional tamales that have become a hallmark of this annual gathering. The warm atmosphere and strong turnout made for a truly enjoyable celebration as members connected and celebrated the season together.



LEDC extends a special thank-you to the generous raffle prize donors who helped make the evening even more exciting: Il Regalo Preferito, SitePro Rentals, Main Event, and Ascending Technologies, Inc. Appreciation is also extended to DoubleTree by Hilton Laredo, the proud sponsor of the event, for providing an excellent venue and outstanding hospitality.

We are grateful to everyone who attended and contributed to the success of this special evening. Your continued support and engagement are what make our LEDC community strong.

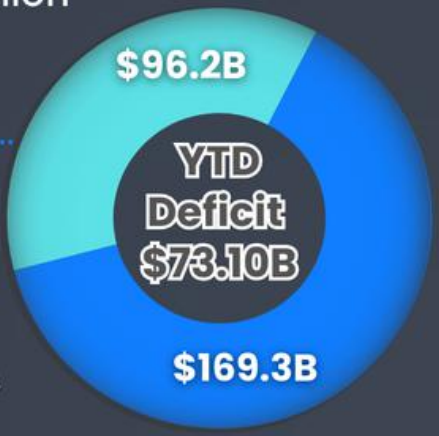
📸 Photos courtesy of Ascending Technologies, Inc., proud members of the LEDC.

YEAR-TO-DATE, PORT LAREDO'S TRADE SEPTEMBER 2025

SEPTEMBER 2025 OVERVIEW

Port Laredo **Exports** totaled **$96.2** billion
+% from September 2024

While **Imports** were valued at **$169.3** billion
+ % from September 2024



TOP TRADE PARTNERS

MEXICO $258.1B
Exports $95.97B Imports $162.18B
Fell 0. 81% Rose 7.17%

CHINA $1.19B
Exports $1.14M Imports $1.19B
Rose 234.94% Fell 15.26%

FRANCE $906.80M
Exports $0 Imports $906.80 M
Rose 12.83%

JAPAN $794.44M
Exports $10.78M Imports $783.66M
Rose 11.7% Rose 62.81%

NICARAGUA $657.86M
Exports $107.27M Imports $550.59M
Rose 2.99% Fell 0.86%

PORT LAREDO EXPORTS

Motor Vehicle Parts fell -7.28% compared to last year
$983.61M

Gasoline, other fuels rose 7.35% compared to last year
$320.92M

Civilian aircraft, parts rose 90.91% compared to last year
$281.30M

Motor Vehicle Engines rose 62.42% compared to last year
$272.88M

Electric Storage Batteries fell -41.1 2% compared to last year
$264.19M

PORT LAREDO IMPORTS

Computers rose 65.61% compared to last year
$3.13B

Motor Vehicle Parts fell -0.11% compared to last year
$2.25B

Passenger vehicles rose -14.3% compared to last year
$1.36B

Cell phones, related equipment fell -7.49% compared to last year
$804.55M

Insulated wire cable rose 16.67% compared to last year
$584.42M

Source: US Trade Numbers-WorldCity

Compiled by Laredo Economic Development Corporation

Economic DASHBOARD
October 2025 Year-over-Year Report

LAREDO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

*Workforce

Employment
▲ + .% from 2024

Labor Force
▲ + % from 2024

Unemployment Rate
% ▲ +% from 2024

Indicator	Oct 2025	Oct 2024	% Change (YoY)	Trend
Employment	Not Available	114,772	%	
Labor Force	Not Available	119,545	%	
Unemployment	Not Available	4,773	%	
Unemployment Rate	Not Available	4.0	%	

*Note: October 2025 data are unavailable due to a lapse in appropriations that halted household survey collection

*Sales Tax

Sales Tax Revenue $5.26M
▲+2.16% from 2024

Indicator	Oct 2025	Oct 2024	% Change (YoY)	Trend
Sales Tax Revenue	$5,268,607	$5,156,991	-2.16%	▲ Increase

*Bridge Traffic Distribution (Southbound)

Indicator	Oct 2025	Oct 2024	% Change (YoY)	Trend
Pedestrians	216,852	206,593	4.97%	▲ Increase
Non Comm. Vehicles	455,764	441,530	3.22%	▲ Increase
Buses	2,402	2,616	-8.18%	▼ Decrease
Commercial Vehicles	261,784	263,595	-0.69%	▼ Decrease
Non Comm. Vehicles (AVI)	168,566	162,048	4.02%	▲ Increase
Total Vehicles	719,950	707,741	1.73%	▲ Increase

Bridge Traffic Distribution (Northbound)

Indicator	Oct 2025	Oct 2024	% Change (YoY)	Trend
*Pedestrians	267,748	250,325	6.96%	▲ Increase
*Non Comm. Vehicles	455,804	442,163	3.09%	▲ Increase
*Buses	0	2,869	-100.0%	▼ Decrease
*Commercial Vehicles	258,802	267,428	-3.23%	▼ 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

Economic DASHBOARD
October 2025 Year-to-Date Report

LAREDO Economic Development Corporation

*Workforce

Employment
▲ + % from 2024

Labor Force
▲ +% from 2024

Unemployment Rate
% ▲ +% from 2024

Indicator	Jan-Oct-2025	Jan-Oct-2024	% Change (YoY)	Trend
Employment	Not Available *	113,482	%	
Labor Force	Not Available *	118,512	%	
Unemployment	Not Available *	5,031	%	
Unemployment Rate	Not Available *	4.2	%	

*Note: October 2025 data are unavailable due to a lapse in appropriations that halted household survey collection

*Sales Tax

Sales Tax Revenue $56.7M
▲ +5.48 % from 2024

Indicator	Jan-Oct-2025	Jan-Oct-2024	% Change (YoY)	Trend
Sales Tax Revenue	$56,778,208	$53,830,908	5.48%	▲ Positive Growth

*Bridge Traffic Distribution (Southbound)

Indicator	Jan-Oct-2025	Jan-Oct-2024	% Change (YoY)	Trend
Pedestrians	1,997,442	1,945,100	2.69%	▲ Increase
Non Comm. Vehicles	4,205,574	4,182,017	0.56%	▲ Increase
Buses	25,584	27,393	-6.60%	▼ Decrease
Commercial Vehicles	2,483,536	2,529,805	-1.83%	▼ Decrease
Non Comm. Vehicles (AVI)	1,535,807	1,488,240	3.20%	▲ Increase
Total Vehicles	6,714,694	6,739,215	-0.36%	▼ Decrease

Bridge Traffic Distribution (Northbound)

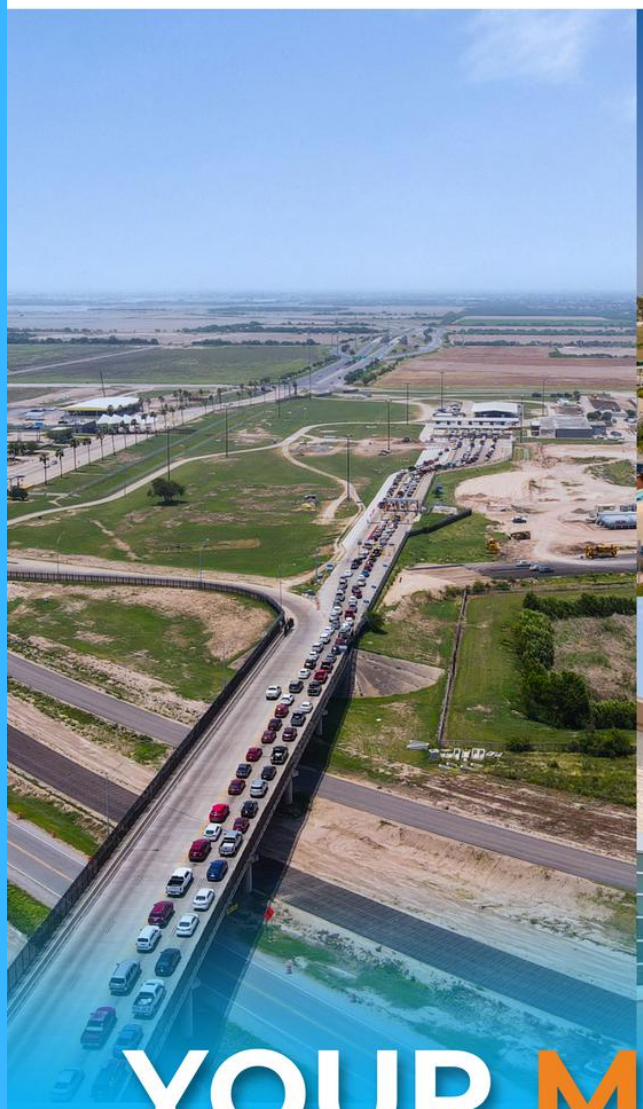
Indicator	Jan-Oct-2025	Jan-Oct-2024	% Change (YoY)	Trend
*Pedestrians	2,483,357	2,392,425	3.80%	▲ Increase
*Non Comm. Vehicles	4,248,582	4,247,316	0.03%	▲ Increase
*Buses	18,410	28,859	-36.21%	▼ Decrease
*Commercial Vehicles	2,496,560	2,563,112	-2.60%	▼ Decrease

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

INDUSTRY / WORKFORCE / INVESTMENT







YOUR MISSION STARTS HERE

MEDC

Mission Economic Development Corporation

801 N BRYAN RD.| MISSION, TX

956.585.0040

MISSIONEDC.COM

Celebrating Collaboration: Friends of COSTEP Holiday Appreciation Mixer

Following the Friends of COSTEP meeting, partners and guests gathered for a Holiday Appreciation Mixer on December 16, creating a warm and festive space to connect, reflect, and celebrate a year of collaboration and progress across the Rio South Texas Region.

The evening brought together partners, stakeholders, and regional leaders for meaningful networking and conversation, reinforcing the relationships that are essential to advancing economic development, binational cooperation, and shared opportunity. Beyond a year-end celebration, the mixer also served as a moment to recognize the collective efforts and leadership that continue to shape the region's growth and future success.

COSTEP extends its sincere appreciation to all Friends of COSTEP for their continued engagement, leadership, and commitment throughout the year. Together, the group looks ahead to a new year filled with opportunity, innovation, and positive impact for the Rio South Texas Region.

Representing the Laredo Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) at the event was Rey Reyes, Vice President of International Business Recruitment, underscoring LEDC's ongoing commitment to regional collaboration and cross-border economic advancement.



Let's Welcome

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!



DOUBLETREE
by Hilton™
LAREDO



TxEDC Holiday Reception Celebrates Partnerships and Progress at the Governor's Mansion

TxEDC investors and partners gathered for a memorable evening at the historic Texas Governor's Mansion during the annual TxEDC Holiday Reception, graciously hosted by Governor Greg Abbott and First Lady Cecilia Abbott on Dec. 18.

The reception served as a celebration of TxEDC's valued investors and strategic partners whose continued support helps ensure Texas remains the No. 1 state for business. Guests enjoyed the opportunity to connect, reflect on shared accomplishments, and strengthen the relationships that drive economic growth across the state.

The event was honored by the presence of TxEDC Board Chair Arun Agarwal, Board Secretary Eddie Margain W., recently appointed Board Member Eric Andresen, and Adriana Cruz, Ex-Officio TxEDC Board Member and Executive Director of the Governor's Texas Economic Development & Tourism Office. David Stedman, President and CEO of the Laredo Economic Development Corporation (LEDC), also attended the reception, representing LEDC.

Together, attendees celebrated the milestones achieved throughout the past year while looking ahead with optimism and excitement to an even greater 2026. TxEDC invites everyone to view and share the photos capturing this special celebration and to join the TxEDC family as we continue building a strong and prosperous future for Texas.



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

UNION PACIFIC

BUILDING AMERICA®

Building America for all generations by connecting our nation's businesses and communities to each other and the world.

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

MILEONE

MILEONE SPREADS HOLIDAY CHEER AT ANITA T. DOVALINA ELEMENTARY









This holiday season, MileOne Inc. had the joy of spreading cheer at Anita T. Dovalina Elementary School through a special toy and technology donation. Thanks to the incredible generosity of the MileOne community, we collected over 100 toys for students, helping make the season brighter for families across Laredo.

In addition to the toy drive, MileOne was honored to donate 10 refurbished laptops, providing young learners with tools to grow, explore, and create. The day became even more memorable with a surprise visit from Santa, reminding everyone what the holidays are truly about! Joy, generosity, and community spirit.

A heartfelt thank you to AT&T for sponsoring the laptops, and to every MileOne member and supporter who helped make this initiative possible. Your kindness continues to uplift our community and create meaningful opportunities for the next generation.

Eight Years of Empowering Entrepreneurs











On December 18, MileOne celebrated eight years of empowering entrepreneurs with an anniversary gathering alongside members, partners, and community supporters. Guided by its vision of ***Building Great Things Through Connection***, MileOne has grown into more than a coworking space — it is a collaborative hub where startups and entrepreneurs access mentorship, education, and resources designed to drive economic development. Through affordable professional workspaces, workshops, and individualized support, MileOne continues its mission of helping businesses launch, grow, and expand locally and internationally as Laredo's International Business Assistance Center. The celebration recognized that impact with an evening of connection, refreshments, and door prizes.

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

ERICK YASIEL OLIVARES VARGAS (BUDGET BLINDS OF LAREDO)

My name is Erick Yasiel Olivares Vargas, and I am the owner of Budget Blinds of Laredo, proudly serving Laredo, Rio Grande City, and surrounding communities with custom window covering solutions.



Budget Blinds of Laredo specializes in custom blinds, shades, shutters, exterior shades, solar screens, and drapery. We provide in-home consultations, professional measurements, and expert installation. What truly sets us apart is our hands-on, educational approach — helping clients naturally see how light control, insulation, privacy, and style come together to improve comfort, energy efficiency, and the way a home feels every single day.

I was born in Reynosa, Tamaulipas, and raised in La Joya, Texas. Even in high school, I somehow knew I would own a business one day, so I began learning — sometimes intentionally, sometimes without realizing it. My first lessons came through customer service at Whataburger, where I learned how to stay calm, listen quickly, and communicate clearly.

> ***"MILEONE WAS MY VERY FIRST STEP HERE."***

Later, while waiting tables and bartending, sales truly entered my life. It became about anticipating needs before they were spoken, handling complaints calmly, and creating experiences people remembered — not just transactions. Once again, leadership followed naturally.

Later, while waiting tables and bartending, sales truly entered my life. It became about anticipating needs before they were spoken, handling complaints calmly, and creating experiences people remembered — not just transactions. Once again, leadership followed naturally.



> ***“THIS IS MY FUTURE AND LAREDO IS MY HOME.”***

Then came the car business: 100% commission. If you don’t sell, you don’t eat. That environment taught me discipline, responsibility, and personal accountability — that was my university. Over more than ten years in the automotive industry, I worked nearly every role inside a dealership and eventually led the Finance Department for the largest independently owned auto group across eight stores in two states: Florida and Texas.

One lesson became crystal clear: it’s easy to sell someone once and never see them again, but it takes something deeper to earn their trust again and again — and with their family and friends. That kind of value only comes from values: treat others the way you would want to be treated, honesty truly is the best policy, and follow-through is everything.

And now, here I am in Laredo — drinking the water, eating the tacos, and calling this place home. MileOne was my very first step here; on my first day in Laredo, the first door I knocked on led me exactly where I needed to be.

Cesar and his team welcomed me in and allowed me to immerse myself into this community naturally and gracefully.



Today, I have the privilege of working alongside my family, and we continue to grow with every new installer and salesperson who joins us. This is my future — and Laredo is my home.

2025

Congratulations!

LAUNCHPAD GRADUATES

LUNA CPA LLC

The Hermit
estd. 2022
COFFEE FOR THE SOUL

J.ESCOTO GROUP
PROPERTY TAX CONSULTANTS

DPX
CARGO SOLUTIONS LLC

TEXAS ELITE ACADEMY
EDUCATION★TRAINING★SERVICE

MILEONE

LAREDO
Economic Development Corporation
59 Years
SERVING LOS DOS LAREDOS

MILEONE

Happy NEW YEAR!

2026

As we welcome the New Year, the Laredo Economic Development Corporation and the International Business Assistance Center – MileOne extend our warmest wishes to our partners, entrepreneurs, and community.

May this year bring peace, happiness, success, inspiration, strength, warm memories, and countless blessings.

We look forward to another year of collaboration, innovation, and shared prosperity.

MILEONE

2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

16 JAN	NEW BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIP WINNER ANNOUNCED
8 MAR	INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: CELEBRATING WOMEN WHO LEAD
19 MAR	2026 NETWORKING KICKOFF: CONNECT AT MILEONE
16 APR	WERS 2026 KICKOFF EVENT
21 MAY	WERS	SESSION 2

GET IN TOUCH

mileoneinc.com

MILEONE

International Women's Day

SAVE THE DATE!

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY IS COMING

MARCH 8

BOOTS 'N BLING

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INDUSTRY (EDI) AWARDS

GALA

LAREDO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

59 Years

SERVING LOS DOS LAREDOS

Boots 'n Bling

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2026

7-12 MIDNIGHT

THE BARN AT LOS PATIOS

4653 Casa Blanca Lake Rd.

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

LAREDO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

For more information contact:
Ana L. Benavides - Del Bosque at
abenavides@laredoedc.org

Looking to Boost Your Visibility?

ADVERTISE WITH US!

BEST DEAL

Inside Front OR Inside Back Cover — **$1500** (1x Rate)
Size 8.5"w x 11"h (Vertical) - full color

2 Page Spread — **$2500** (1x Rate)
Size (2) 8.5"w x 11"h (Vertical) - full color

1 Page — **$750** (1x Rate)
Size 8.5"w x 11"h (Vertical) - full color

1/2 Page — **$500** (1x Rate)
Size 8.5"w x 5.5"h (horizontal) - full color

All ads must be in png format and due by the specified closing date.

UPCOMING ISSUES

Month	Featured Article	Topics	Closing Date
January 2026	Featured Article: LEDC and MileOne Year End Review	• Success Stories • Landed Projects • Outlook	January 18th
February 2026	Featured Article: U.S. Consulate Office in Nuevo Laredo, Tamps.	• Who they are • History • Outlook/Services/ Programs/Projects	February 18th

LAREDO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

59 Years

SERVING
LOS DOS LAREDOS

MILEONE
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CENTER

Pathways For Trade Symposium



LAREDO IS ON THE RISE!

Border Insight

BOOTS 'N BLING
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INDUSTRY (EDI) AWARDS
GALA

~ Follow Us! ~

ACCREDITED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
International Economic Development Council

(956) 722-0563 info@laredoedc.org www.laredoedc.org