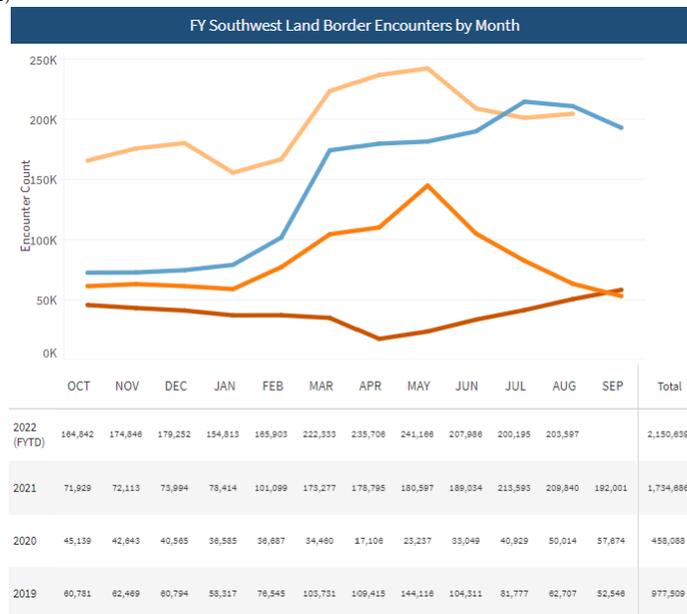


## Drugs/Crime at the Border

### Border Encounters

- U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) encountered 157,921 unique individuals in August 2022 nationwide, which was an increase from the prior month.** “The number of unique individuals encountered nationwide in August 2022 was 157,921, a 2.2 percent increase in the number of unique enforcement encounters compared to the prior month, driven largely by an increased number of asylum seekers fleeing authoritarian regimes in Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua” (“CBP Releases August 2022 Monthly Operational Update,” [U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#), 9/19/22)
  - There were 203,598 total encounters in the month of August at the southwest land border, including migrants who had at least one prior encounter in the last 12 months; that number is a 1.7% increase from the previous month.** “In total, there were 203,598 encounters along the southwest land border in August, a 1.7 percent increase compared to July. Of those, 22 percent involved individuals who had at least one prior encounter in the previous 12 months.” (“CBP Releases August 2022 Monthly Operational Update,” [U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#), 9/19/22)
- As of the end of August 2022, CBP had encountered over 2.1 million people at the Southwest Land Border in FYTD2022, which is already more than FY2021 and more than double what it was in FY2019.** (“Southwest Land Border Encounters,” [U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#), Accessed 9/19/2022)



(“Southwest Land Border Encounters,” [U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#), Accessed 9/19/2022)

- In the first half of FY 2022, CBP encountered just under 1.06 million illegal migrants at the southwest border.** “According to an April filing in *Texas v. Biden*, CBP encountered

221,303 illegal migrants at the Southwest border last month, bringing total encounters there to just fewer than 1.06 million for just the first half of FY 2022.” (Andrew R. Arthur, “Nearly 1.06 Million CBP Encounters at Southwest Border Thus Far in FY 2022,” [Center for Immigration Studies](#), 4/19/22)

- **As of March 2022, the Biden administration has released over 836,000 migrants into the U.S.** “Worse, DHS released more than 80,000 of those migrants into the interior last month, raising the total number of migrant illegal releases under the Biden administration to 836,225.” (Andrew R. Arthur, “Nearly 1.06 Million CBP Encounters at Southwest Border Thus Far in FY 2022,” [Center for Immigration Studies](#), 4/19/22)

## Drugs, Cartels, Crime

- **In 2021, the amount of fentanyl that was seized in South Texas increased by 1,066%, among other drugs that saw increases from 2020.** “During FY 2021, CBP officers at the eight ports of entry extending from Brownsville to Del Rio that comprise the Laredo Field Office seized 87,652 pounds of narcotics that would have commanded a combined estimated street value of \$786 million. Specifically, they seized 41,713 pounds of marijuana; 8,592 pounds of cocaine, up 98 percent from FY 20; 33,777 pounds of methamphetamine; 1,215 pounds of heroin, 588 pounds of fentanyl, up 1,066 percent from FY 2020, \$10.4 million in unreported currency, 463 weapons, up 21 percent from FY 2020 and 84,863 rounds of ammunition.” (Press Release, “CBP Officers at South Texas Ports of Entry Post Significant Increases in Fentanyl, Cocaine Seized in FY 2021,” [U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#), 1/5/2022)
  - **In addition to the increase in drugs, there were also tens of thousands of illegal immigrants that tried to make their way into the US via South Texas.** “CBP officers at Laredo Field Office ports of entry in FY 2021 also determined that more than 20,701 non-U.S. citizens were inadmissible to the U.S. due to violations of immigration law.” (Press Release, “CBP Officers at South Texas Ports of Entry Post Significant Increases in Fentanyl, Cocaine Seized in FY 2021,” [U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#), 1/5/2022)
- **Cartels have allegedly been known to infiltrate Border Patrol forces in the Rio Grande Valley.** “In south Texas, Mexican and South American cartels have been able to infiltrate law enforcement agencies in the U.S. Several former law enforcement officials from an anti-narcotics force in the Rio Grande Valley are currently serving lengthy prison sentences for drug crimes and corruption. In 2016, Border Patrol agent Joel Luna was charged with capital murder for the March 2015 beheading of an undocumented Honduran immigrant. Luna, a south Texas native and Army combat veteran, allegedly decapitated Palacio Paz and left his headless body floating in the bay. Prosecutors claim Luna was part of a cartel drug trafficking conspiracy with his brothers. Luna has pleaded not guilty. In November, Border Patrol agent Eduardo Bazen Jr., also was arrested after being accused of working with a drug trafficking organization. According to the criminal complaint, Bazen said he was paid \$8,000 for falsifying a 2007 drug bust and admitted to lying about suspects being present at the scene.” (Barnini Chakraborty, “‘They come every day’: Border town residents face daily threat from trafficking,” [Fox News](#), 1/17/2017)

- **Texas and D.C. saw the greatest number of increases in 2019 of controlled substances lost in transit.** “Lost in transit describes controlled substances being misplaced while moving from one point to another within the supply chain. There has been a decrease in lost in transit incidents from 2017 through 2019 (See Figure 36). This data is self-reported from any facility that manages CPDs. In 2019, 22 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia experienced increases in the number of incidents, with the greatest increases occurring in the state of Texas and the District of Columbia.” (“2020 National Drug Threat Assessment,” [Drug Enforcement Administration](#), March 2021)
- **Texas and California in 2019 had the largest marijuana seizure levels.** “State-level DEA (net weight) marijuana seizures generally followed previously established patterns. The highest seizures occurred in states with major land border crossings or high traffic seaports, as well as in states with large recreational or medical marijuana state approved markets (See Figure 50). California and Texas had the largest marijuana seizure levels, consistent with previous years, followed by Arizona and Colorado.” (“2020 National Drug Threat Assessment,” [Drug Enforcement Administration](#), March 2021)
- **Texas, California, Arizona, and New York saw the largest amounts of heroin seized in 2019.** “DEA Field Divisions seized 6,951 kilograms of heroin in 2019, a 30 percent increase from 2018, with the largest amounts of heroin seized in Texas, California, Arizona, and New York.” (“2020 National Drug Threat Assessment,” [Drug Enforcement Administration](#), March 2021)
- **Reynosa and Ciudad Victoria lie just across the border in Mexico and are among the top 50 most dangerous cities in the world.** “Across the bridge from Brownsville is Matamoros. While it did not make the list for the most violent cities, other cities not far from us including Reynosa and Ciudad Victoria, ranked in the top 50 cities with the highest murder rates in the world. It is something that happens quite too often along the Texas-Mexico border.” (Karina Vargas, “Violence on the rise near Texas=Mexico Border,” [Local 23 News Valley Central](#), 12/2/2019)
- **The plight of journalists is severe in the area as well.** “Nowhere do journalists face the threat of death more than here in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas, one of four states bordering Texas across from Laredo and the McAllen, Harlingen and Brownsville area.” (Yami Virgin, “Texas cities hit hard by cartel violence targeting Mexican law enforcement,” [Fox 29 News](#), 3/26/2018)

**Along the U.S. – Mexico border, “law enforcement officers are finding increasing amounts of illegal drugs,” and an “uptick in drug trafficking from Mexico:”**

- Per a Fox News headline, border officials are seeing an “uptick in drug trafficking from Mexico.”

# US border officials see uptick in drug trafficking from Mexico

(Joy Addison, "US border officials see uptick in drug trafficking from Mexico," [Fox News](#), 3/10/22)

- **Along the border, "law enforcement officers are finding increasing amounts of illegal drugs."** "As traffic grows at the U.S.-Mexico border with the easing of restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic, law enforcement officers are finding increasing amounts of illegal drugs." (Joy Addison, "US border officials see uptick in drug trafficking from Mexico," [Fox News](#), 3/10/22)

**Human smuggling across the border also appears to be a very profitable business for cartels, who have boasted on TikTok about the millions of dollars they are making doing such things:**

- **Cartels have been boasting on TikTok about the millions of dollars they are making smuggling people across the border.** "Cartels are openly bragging on TikTok about how they make millions of dollars from a migrant border smuggling operation across the Texas border while evading law enforcement, according to three videos obtained by the Washington Examiner... The first video shows millions of dollars stacked on a table along with a currency counting machine. It is set against the backdrop of a Spanish language song with the subtitles 'DRIVERS ASAP.' A second is similar and says, 'Truck drivers needed [Rio Grande Valley] area!! Comment and add me to start working,' and 'DM to make some racks.' A third features a Spanish rap song and shows a driver heading down a freeway with several people stuffed into the back of his car, which has the seats removed. TikTok placed a disclaimer on the video that reads, 'The actions in this video could result in serious injury or adverse health effects.'" (Tori Richards and Anna Giaritelli, "Cartels boast on TikTok how they make millions smuggling migrants across border," [Washington Examiner](#), 6/16/2022)

*Recent CBP Reports of Arrests of Criminals and of Drug Seizures*

**In September 2022, Border Patrol agents on the Laredo Sector arrested multiple subjects who had entered the country illegally, including one subject who is a convicted sex offender after being found guilty of Indecent Liberties with a Child:**

- **In September 2022, Border Patrol agents arrested multiple subjects who had entered the country illegally, including one who had a prior conviction for Indecent Liberties with a Child and is a sex offender.** "LAREDO, Texas - Laredo Sector Border Patrol agents assigned to the Laredo South Station arrested a convicted sex offender in Laredo, Texas. The arrest occurred on September 15, when agents, while working their assigned duties, were alerted to the unlawful entry of a group of unknown subjects. Agents responded to

the area and were able to apprehend a group of individuals in the southern area of the city. After conducting field interviews all subjects were determined to have entered the United States illegally and were placed under arrest. Record checks were conducted on the subjects which positively identified Gerardo Rodriguez-Castro, a 25-year-old Mexican national and convicted sex offender. Gerardo Rodriguez-Castro had a prior arrest and felony conviction for Indecent Liberties with a Child and was sentenced to 13-25 months of confinement.” (Local Media Release, “Laredo Sector Border Patrol agents arrest sex offender,” [U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#), 9/15/2022)

**In September 2022, Border Patrol agents at the Laredo Sector shut down a stash house that had over 20 undocumented immigrants and almost \$130,000 in marijuana inside:**

- **In early September 2022, Border Patrol agents in the Laredo Sector shut down a stash house in Laredo that had over 20 undocumented people inside and almost \$130,000 in marijuana.** “Laredo Sector Border Patrol agents working together with Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) shut down a stash house, rescued 21 individuals, and seize over one hundred pounds of narcotics in Laredo, Texas. The incident occurred on September 6, when agents, while working their assigned duties, assisted DPS with a welfare check at a house located on Cereus Court. Upon entry into the house DPS and agents encountered 22 individuals. After conducting interviews, DPS and agents were able to rescue 21 undocumented non-citizens from the countries of Mexico and Guatemala that were being held inside the house. Additionally, one U.S. citizen, who was identified as being the caretaker of the stash house, was taken into custody. All individuals will be processed accordingly. During a search of the residence, DPS also encountered seven large bundles and a plastic bag that tested positive for marijuana. The marijuana had an approximate weight of 162 lbs. with an estimated street value of \$129,600.00” (Local Media Release, “Laredo Sector Border Patrol agents shut down stash house and seize narcotics,” [U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#), 9/7/2022)

**Over the course of a few days in late August 2022, CBP seized over \$23.5 million worth of cocaine in the Laredo Sector:**

- **On two consecutive days in late August 2022, CBP officers seized about \$23 million worth of cocaine.**
  - “LAREDO, Texas – U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Office of Field Operations (OFO) officers seized cocaine in one enforcement action over the weekend that totaled over \$11,800,000 in street value.” (Local Media Release, “Colombia-Solidarity Bridge CBP Officers Seize Hard Narcotics Worth Over \$11.8 Million,” [U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#), 8/29/2022)
  - “In two more large cocaine interceptions this week, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Office of Field Operations (OFO) officers at Laredo Port of Entry seized cocaine valued at \$7.6 million within tractor trailers in two separate enforcement actions.” (Local Media Release, “World Trade Bridge CBP Officers Seize \$7.6 Million in Cocaine,” [U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#), 9/1/2022)

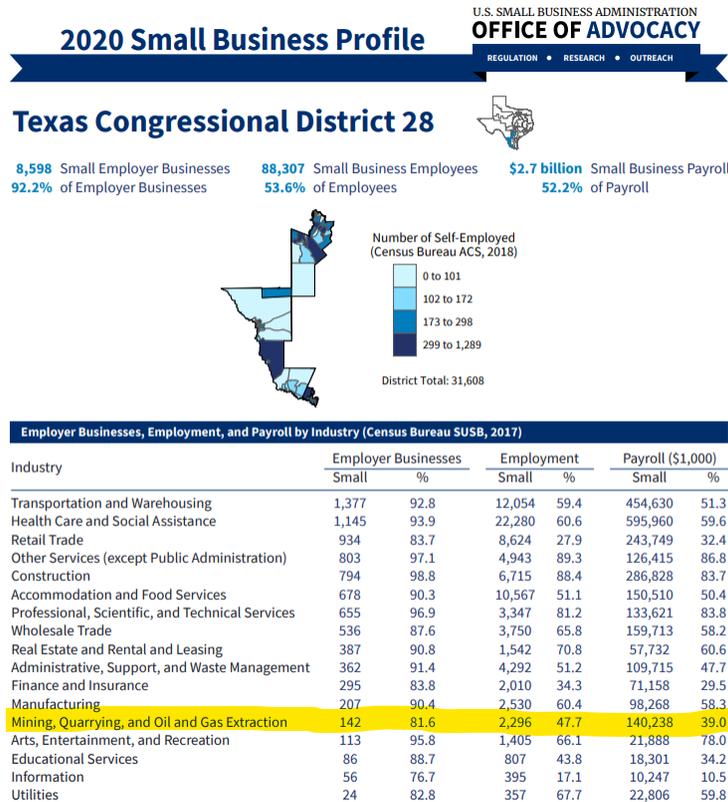
- “In yet another notable cargo enforcement action, the fourth one thus far this week, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Office of Field Operations (OFO) officers at Laredo Port of Entry seized cocaine valued at \$4.2 million within a tractor trailer.” (Local Media Release, “World Trade Bridge CBP Officers Seize \$4.2 Million in Cocaine,” [U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#), 9/1/2022)

## *Oil and Gas*

**The oil and gas industry in Texas is important for the state’s overall economy, handles a significant share of the country’s energy production, provides for hundreds of thousands of jobs, and contributes billions to education:**

- **As of FY 2020, economists estimated that the oil and natural gas industry in Texas represented over 30% of the state’s Gross State Product.** “Economists estimate that oil and natural gas represents 30.5% of Texas’ Gross State Product.” (“FY 2020 Texas Oil and Natural Gas Legislative District Vital Statistics,” [Texas Oil and Gas Association](#), 1/11/2021)
- **Texas is the top crude oil and natural gas in the nation. Last year, Texas had 43% of the country’s crude oil production and 25% of the country’s marketed natural gas production.** “Texas is the top crude oil- and natural gas-producing state in the nation. In 2021, Texas accounted for 43% of the nation's crude oil production and 25% of its marketed natural gas production.” (“Texas State Energy Profile,” [U.S. Energy Information Administration](#), Last Updated May 19, 2022, Accessed 8/17/2022)
- **Texas refineries process a little under 6 million barrels per calendar day, which is almost 1/3 of the country’s refining capacity as of Jan. 2021.** “Texas has the most crude oil refineries and the most refining capacity of any state. The 31 petroleum refineries in Texas can process a combined total of almost 5.9 million barrels of crude oil per calendar day— 32% of the nation's refining capacity as of January 2021.” (“Texas State Energy Profile,” [U.S. Energy Information Administration](#), Last Updated May 19, 2022, Accessed 8/17/2022)
- **According to the Texas Oil and Gas Association, the Texas oil and natural gas industry supports over 422,122 jobs as of Jan. 2022.** (“The Texas Oil and Gas Industry by the Numbers,” [Texas Oil and Gas Association](#), Published January 2022, Accessed 8/17/2022)
- **According to the Texas Oil and Gas Association, the Texas oil and natural gas industry has \$55.6 billion in their Permanent School Fund, which is the “largest educational endowment in the nation,” as of Jan. 2022.** (“The Texas Oil and Gas Industry by the Numbers,” [Texas Oil and Gas Association](#), Published January 2022, Accessed 8/17/2022)
  - **As of Jan. 2022, the oil and natural gas industry has paid \$1.84 billion to “Texas school districts in property taxes from mineral properties producing oil and natural gas, pipelines, and gas utilities.”** (“The Texas Oil and Gas Industry by the Numbers,” [Texas Oil and Gas Association](#), Published January 2022, Accessed 8/17/2022)

- As of Jan. 2022, the oil and natural gas industry has almost \$40 billion in its Permanent University Fund. (“The Texas Oil and Gas Industry by the Numbers,” [Texas Oil and Gas Association](#), Published January 2022, Accessed 8/17/2022)
- According to the 2020 Small Business Profile from the U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy, the Texas’ 28<sup>th</sup> congressional district has 142 small businesses in the mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction industry, employing almost 2,300 people. (Office of Advocacy, “2020 Small Business Profiles for the Congressional Districts – Texas,” [U.S. Small Business Administration](#), 8/25/2020)



(Office of Advocacy, “2020 Small Business Profiles for the Congressional Districts – Texas,” [U.S. Small Business Administration](#), 8/25/2020)

- In 2019, the oil and natural gas industry supported, total, over 48,000 jobs in Texas’ 28<sup>th</sup> congressional district, which is almost 14% of the jobs in the district.

**Table C-44. Economic Impact of the Oil and Natural Gas Industry in Texas, 2019**

State / Congressional District	Employment (Jobs) <sup>(1)</sup>			Labor Income (\$Million) <sup>(2)</sup>			Value Added (\$Million)		
	Direct	Total <sup>(3)</sup>	Total as a % of State / District	Direct	Total <sup>(3)</sup>	Total as a % of State / District	Direct	Total <sup>(3)</sup>	Total as a % of State / District
<b>Texas</b>	<b>620,330</b>	<b>2,508,870</b>	<b>13.9%</b>	<b>\$134,250</b>	<b>\$251,162</b>	<b>21.8%</b>	<b>\$230,946</b>	<b>\$411,557</b>	<b>22.3%</b>
<b>TX-1</b>	25,150	82,590	20.4%	\$4,589	\$7,285	33.5%	\$6,911	\$11,178	32.2%
<b>TX-2</b>	28,090	112,940	17.5%	\$8,405	\$14,949	28.9%	\$14,666	\$24,107	31.0%
<b>TX-3</b>	8,960	55,310	9.9%	\$1,078	\$4,467	12.0%	\$1,909	\$7,058	11.9%
<b>TX-4</b>	12,440	45,450	10.5%	\$827	\$2,333	12.0%	\$1,964	\$4,413	14.0%
<b>TX-5</b>	8,400	35,900	10.5%	\$1,248	\$2,805	14.6%	\$1,847	\$4,416	14.2%
<b>TX-6</b>	6,910	37,920	8.9%	\$759	\$2,453	10.6%	\$1,547	\$4,341	11.5%
<b>TX-7</b>	43,760	152,080	19.8%	\$12,056	\$20,994	33.3%	\$22,223	\$34,862	36.3%
<b>TX-8</b>	16,650	72,820	15.5%	\$4,334	\$7,579	26.6%	\$6,680	\$11,601	26.2%
<b>TX-9</b>	9,270	46,160	11.6%	\$2,027	\$4,686	16.7%	\$3,591	\$7,489	17.7%
<b>TX-10</b>	11,370	61,530	11.8%	\$3,126	\$6,414	18.8%	\$3,966	\$8,946	17.0%
<b>TX-11</b>	82,040	195,310	36.3%	\$19,973	\$25,614	63.9%	\$27,993	\$37,497	58.6%
<b>TX-12</b>	23,350	94,220	17.3%	\$5,500	\$9,374	27.8%	\$7,400	\$13,482	25.1%
<b>TX-13</b>	32,970	85,270	18.9%	\$3,135	\$5,756	24.5%	\$6,566	\$10,966	26.0%
<b>TX-14</b>	17,270	75,200	18.6%	\$2,806	\$5,805	24.7%	\$15,085	\$19,997	38.2%
<b>TX-15</b>	11,840	47,860	11.6%	\$1,105	\$2,523	14.9%	\$2,023	\$4,206	16.6%
<b>TX-16</b>	5,160	34,000	8.2%	\$592	\$1,868	9.4%	\$1,956	\$3,949	13.0%
<b>TX-17</b>	11,040	51,370	9.7%	\$1,034	\$3,392	11.6%	\$1,800	\$5,548	11.9%
<b>TX-18</b>	26,780	107,500	15.6%	\$7,696	\$14,193	24.6%	\$13,583	\$23,121	26.4%
<b>TX-19</b>	25,240	72,130	17.1%	\$2,285	\$4,421	21.9%	\$4,800	\$8,360	24.9%
<b>TX-20</b>	4,750	34,210	8.9%	\$2,046	\$3,648	16.0%	\$2,232	\$4,841	14.1%
<b>TX-21</b>	15,690	96,160	13.4%	\$6,406	\$11,170	24.9%	\$7,292	\$14,669	21.4%
<b>TX-22</b>	11,160	55,950	12.2%	\$2,334	\$4,608	18.3%	\$3,414	\$6,997	16.8%
<b>TX-23</b>	23,510	73,210	15.7%	\$3,580	\$6,068	22.9%	\$5,404	\$9,605	22.4%
<b>TX-24</b>	15,890	104,880	10.1%	\$3,673	\$10,881	14.0%	\$5,415	\$16,191	13.3%
<b>TX-25</b>	13,540	68,200	12.9%	\$4,095	\$7,451	22.8%	\$4,991	\$10,118	20.3%
<b>TX-26</b>	6,760	40,530	9.6%	\$791	\$2,658	12.0%	\$1,282	\$4,149	11.9%
<b>TX-27</b>	21,350	72,370	17.2%	\$2,341	\$4,833	22.2%	\$7,110	\$11,151	27.9%
<b>TX-28</b>	15,020	48,660	13.8%	\$2,018	\$3,388	20.0%	\$3,447	\$5,724	21.0%
<b>TX-29</b>	11,320	53,760	15.3%	\$4,081	\$7,252	24.6%	\$9,996	\$14,802	29.4%

(“Impacts of the Oil and Natural Gas Industry on the US Economy in 2019,” [PricewaterhouseCoopers](#), 7/21)

*Editor’s Note:* The district-specific numbers are not under the new lines that will be used for the upcoming 118<sup>th</sup> Congress.