

**THE GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY
OF THE UNITED STATES AND MÉXICO,
WITH A FOCUS ON THE BORDER AREA**

**VOLUME I IN THE UNITED STATES-MÉXICO SERIES
OF BACKGROUND REPORTS**

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INTRODUCTION

As part of Arizona State University's United States-México Initiative, the L. William Seidman Research Institute, in conjunction with ASU's McCain Institute for International Leadership Policy Analysis, has undertaken a project to analyze potential bi-national, national and regional policies in order to facilitate decision making. A web-based decision-making tool — the United States-México Policy Analysis Tool (USMexPAT) — is under development to quantify the impacts of potential policies. This tool also will be designed to operate at Arizona State University's Decision Theaters in Tempe, Arizona and Washington, D.C. For more information on this project, see the website USMexPAT.com.

A five-volume series of reports provides background information on the demography and economy of the United States and México, with a focus on the border area — the portion of each country near their international border. A summary of the five volumes also is available.

Background Reports

While numbered sequentially, the reports need not be read in order. However, most users will want to refer to the first part of Volume I in order to understand the geography of the border area. In order to fully understand Volume V, Volumes II through IV may need to be consulted.

A short description of each of the five volumes follows:

Volume I: The Geography and History of the United States and México, With a Focus on the Border Area

This introductory report presents two definitions of the U.S.-México border area — border states and border region — and also identifies urban areas along the international border. A brief history of the two nations and the border area is included.

Volume II: Demographic and Socioeconomic Profile of the United States and México, With a Focus on the Border Area

Most of this report presents the demographic and socioeconomic data collected from the 2010 decennial census of each country and from the American Community Survey. The historical and projected population of the two nations and of the geographies of the border area also are examined in this report.

Volume III: Economic Profile of the United States and México, Including an Economic Base Study of the Border Area

Economic data from a variety of sources other than the 2010 decennial census of each country and the American Community Survey are presented in this report. Economic base studies for the border states and the border region counties and municipios are reviewed in this report.

Volume IV: Trade Between the United States and México, With a Focus on the Border Area

U.S. international trade, trade between the United States and México, and the traffic crossing the international border between the two countries are examined in this report. Information is presented for various geographies: national, state, metropolitan area, customs district, and port.

Volume V: A Description of Each State, County and Municipio in the United States-México Border Area

Information from each of the prior volumes is incorporated in this report, which is organized by geographic area rather than by topic as in the other volumes. A summary of the geography, history, population, trade, and economy of each state, county and municipio in the border area is presented.

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GEOGRAPHY

The United States is much larger than México: its land area is 4.7 times as large (9.1-versus-2.0 million square kilometers) and its population in 2010 was 2.7 times higher (309 million versus 112 million). Population density is 70 percent higher in México. The land border between México and the United States is about 1,950 miles (3,150 kilometers) long.¹

The border *area* of the United States and México is defined in two ways in this study:

- The border *states*: Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas in the United States and Baja California, Coahuila de Zaragoza (commonly shortened to Coahuila), Chihuahua, Nuevo León, Sonora, and Tamaulipas in México.²
- The border *region*, defined as the land area within 100 kilometers of the international border, is a subset of the border states. The border region consists of 37 counties in the United States and 78 municipios (municipalities, the Mexican counterpart to counties) in México. This geography more accurately depicts conditions in the border area than does the border states geography, but some data that are available by state are not produced for counties and/or municipios.

Border States

The border states are displayed in Map 1. The approximate length of the international border by state, as measured in kilometers from west to east, follows:

- United States: 220 for California, 570 for Arizona, 340 for New Mexico, and 2,020 for Texas. Texas accounts for 64 percent of the total.
- México: 260 for Baja California, 600 for Sonora, 910 for Chihuahua, 820 for Coahuila, 20 for Nuevo León, and 540 for Tamaulipas. In addition to its short international border, Nuevo León differs from the other Mexican border states in a variety of other characteristics.

In order to identify the major population centers in each state, a “metropolis” is defined as any county or municipio with at least 100,000 residents in 2010. Counties and municipios with fewer than 100,000 residents also are considered to be part of the metropolis population if they are part of the official metropolitan area definition.³

With 37.3 million residents in 2010, California accounted for more than half of the population of the four U.S. border states and was nearly twice as populous as the six Mexican border states combined. Only 9 percent of California’s residents lived in the border region, even though San Diego was the most populous of the border region’s metropolises. San Diego’s population of 3.1 million was dwarfed by the 17.9 million in the Los Angeles consolidated area and the 8.2 million

¹ Multiple estimates of the length of the border exist, presumably since the twisting, turning Río Grande (Río Bravo to Mexicans), which makes up so much of the international border, creates measurement difficulties.

² Until 2010, “Ch” was considered a separate letter in Spanish, alphabetized after “C.” Since various Mexican agencies including INEGI (Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía) — the primary source of economic and demographic data for México — continue to list Chihuahua after Coahuila, that convention has been followed in this document.

³ As discussed in the “Urban Areas” subsection on page 11, metropolitan areas are defined differently in the United States and México.

**MAP 1
BORDER STATES**



in the San Francisco consolidated area. The entire border region in California is defined as metropolis.

Arizona was more populous in 2010 than any of the six Mexican border states, but was much less populous than California and Texas. Its largest metropolis, Phoenix (4.2 million residents), is not within the border region. Of the state's other six metropolises, three are located in the border region, including the populous Tucson area (1.0 million residents). While only 21 percent of the state's residents lived in the border region, this was the highest share of the four U.S. border states; the share was higher in four of the six Mexican states. The entire border region in Arizona is defined as metropolis.

New Mexico was the least populous of the 10 border states, with 2.1 million residents in 2010. Less than 15 percent of its residents lived in the border region, as the state's dominant metropolis — Albuquerque, with 1.1 million residents — is located at some distance from the border. The Las Cruces metropolis (about 200,000 residents) is located in the border region, but the other three border region counties are not part of a metropolis.

The 25.1 million residents in Texas exceeded the population of the six Mexican border states combined in 2010. Four moderately populous metropolises (each with between 250,000 and 850,000 residents) are located in the border region, but their combined population was only 10 percent of the state's metropolis total. Among the state's numerous metropolises outside the border region are Dallas-Fort Worth (6.8 million residents), Houston (6.1 million), San Antonio (2.1 million), and Austin (1.7 million). Most of the state's lengthy border with México that is not part of one of the four border metropolises is sparsely populated.

The six Mexican states ranged from 2.7-to-4.7 million residents in 2010. All of Baja California's 3.2 million residents are considered to live in metropolises within the border region, though Ensenada is not located directly along the border. Tijuana (1.75 million residents) was the most populous of the Mexican border region metropolises and Mexicali (0.9 million residents) ranked third.

Less than 17 percent of Coahuila's 2.7 million residents in 2010 lived in the border region. While this share was similar to the shares in the United States, it was the second lowest of the Mexican border states. A relatively high share (31 percent) of Coahuila's border region residents did not live in a metropolis. Its two metropolises along the border, Acuña and Piedras Negras, each had fewer than 200,000 residents. Four metropolises are located outside the border region, including Saltillo (nearly 825,000 residents) and Torreón-Matamoros (nearly 750,000 residents within Coahuila).

Juárez, across the border from El Paso, was the largest metropolis in Chihuahua, with its 1.3 million residents accounting for nearly 40 percent of the state's 3.4 million in 2010. A total of 43 percent of the state's population lived in the border region. The state's other large metropolis (located outside the border region) is Chihuahua, with about 850,000 residents.

Nuevo León was the most populous of the six border states with nearly 4.7 million residents in 2010, but most of its residents (4.1 million) lived in the Monterrey metropolis, which is at some

distance from the border. The entire border region population barely exceeded 100,000, just 2 percent of the state's total.

Almost 30 percent of Sonora's nearly 2.7 million residents in 2010 lived in the border region, even though the border region's two metropolises of Nogales and San Luis Río Colorado each had roughly only 200,000 residents each. The state's two largest metropolises were Hermosillo, with close to 800,000 residents, and Cajeme (about 400,000 residents).

In Tamaulipas (3.3 million residents in 2010), three metropolises are located in the border region and three outside the border region. The combined population of the border region's metropolises —Matamoros (close to 500,000 residents), Nuevo Laredo (more than 375,000), and Reynosa-Río Bravo (about 725,000) — was greater than that of the other three metropolises, of which Tampico was the largest with about 850,000 residents. More than half of the state's residents lived in the border region.

Border Region

The definition of the border region as being the area within 100 kilometers of the border comes from the La Paz Agreement signed by the United States and México in 1983. The focus of the La Paz Agreement is the "protection and improvement of the environment in the border area." This geographic definition has been used for other purposes, such as by the United States-México Border Health Commission.

As an approximation of the area within 100 kilometers of the border, a set of 37 counties in the United States and 78 municipios in México have been defined (see Table 1 and Maps 2 through 4). Any municipio or county with more than one-fourth of its land area within 100 kilometers of the border has been included. One additional municipio — Ensenada, Baja California — has been included even though only about 10 percent of its land area is near the border. The land area of the Ensenada municipio is far larger than that of any other county or municipio and a high percentage of the residents of the municipio live in the city of Ensenada, which is within 100 kilometers of the border.

The western two-thirds of the border region is part of an alpine system of widely spaced mountains, with the valleys ranging from low elevation in the west to mid-elevation. At its eastern edge, this alpine region transitions into a hilly area in places. Otherwise, the eastern portion of the border region consists of plains with the elevation dropping to the east and towards the Rio Grande. Outside of the developed areas, ranching is the primary economic activity; farming is present near rivers. Despite the low precipitation over most of the region, the mountains receive more rainfall, such that rivers, though small and often intermittent, are relatively numerous. Most of the region is sparsely settled.

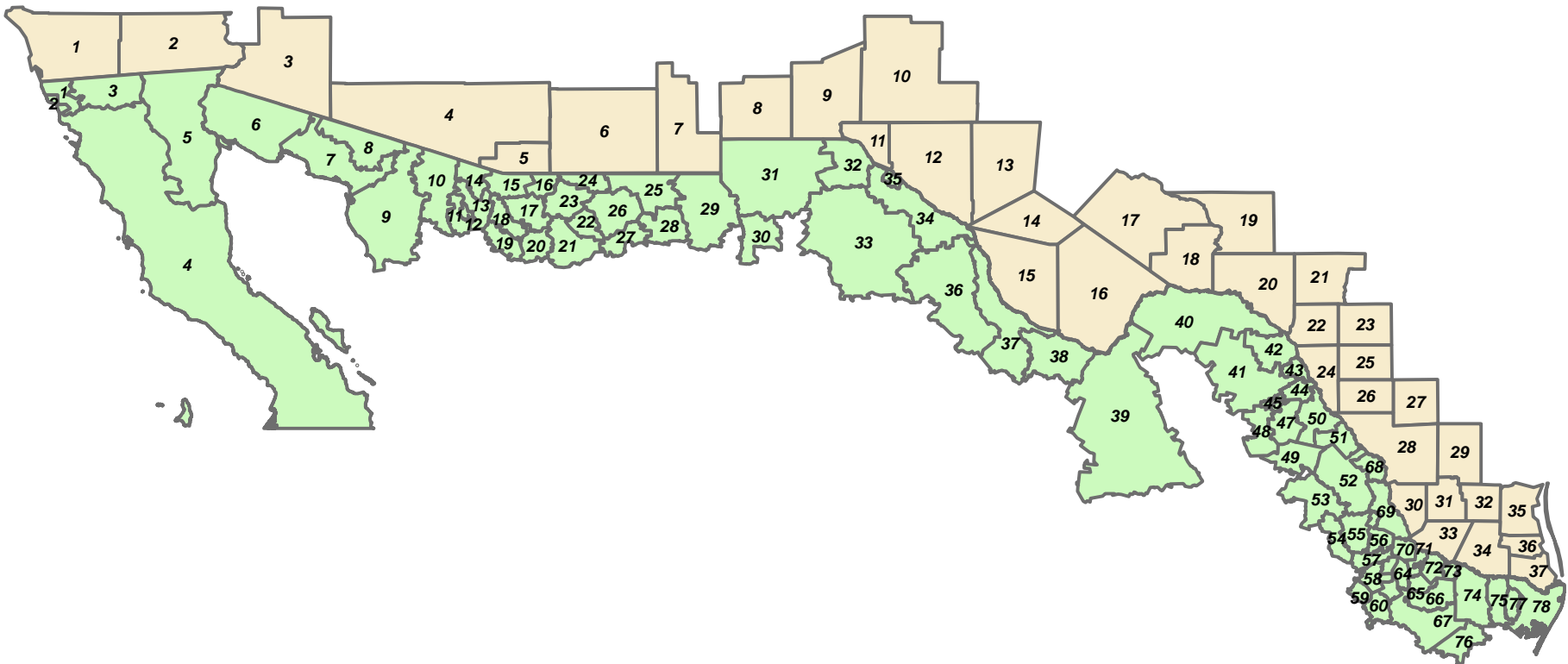
Near the Pacific Coast, the border region has a Mediterranean climate. Though semiarid, the mild summers allow for more vegetation to grow than in other semiarid regions. Otherwise, the border region (except in the higher mountains) experiences hot summers and mild winters. Much of the border region is a subtropical desert — the Sonoran Desert in Arizona and Sonora and the Chihuahuan Desert in New Mexico, western Texas, Chihuahua, and Coahuila. Except for mountain peaks, the deserts receive less than 50 centimeters of precipitation per year, with an

TABLE 1
BORDER REGION COUNTIES AND MUNICIPIOS IN THE UNITED STATES AND
MÉXICO, WITH 2010 POPULATION (IN THOUSANDS)

U.S. COUNTIES			
Arizona		Texas	Texas (continued)
Cochise	131	Brewster	9
Pima	980	Brooks	7
Santa Cruz	47	Cameron	406
Yuma	196	Crockett	4
		Culberson	2
California		Dimmit	10
Imperial	175	Duval	12
San Diego	3,095	Edwards	2
		El Paso	801
New Mexico		Hidalgo	775
Doña Ana	209	Hudspeth	3
Hidalgo	5	Jeff Davis	2
Luna	25	Jim Hogg	5
Otero	64	Kenedy	<1
			4
			7
			54
			16
			8
			61
			1
			26
			49
			250
			22
			14
			12
MEXICAN MUNICIPIOS			
Baja California		Chihuahua (continued)	Sonora (continued)
Ensenada	467	Ojinaga	26
Mexicali	937	Praxedis G. Guerrero	5
Playas de Rosarito	91	Nuevo León	
Tecate	101	Aguaaleguas	3
Tijuana	1,560	Anáhuac	18
Coahuila		Cerralvo	8
Acuña	137	China	11
Allende	23	Doctor Coss	2
Guerrero	2	Doctor González	3
Hidalgo	2	General Bravo	6
Jiménez	10	General Treviño	1
Juárez	2	Lampazos de Naranjo	5
Morelos	8	Los Aldamas	1
Nava	28	Los Herreras	2
Ocampo	11	Los Ramones	5
Piedras Negras	153	Melchor Ocampo	1
Sabinas	61	Parás	1
Villa Unión	6	Sabinas Hidalgo	35
Zaragoza	13	Vallecillo	2
Chihuahua		Sonora	
Ahumada	11	Agua Prieta	79
Ascensión	24	Altar	9
Coyame del Sotol	2	Arizpe	3
Guadalupe	6	Atil	1
Janos	11	Bacoachi	2
Juárez	1,332	Bavispe	1
Manuel Benavides	2	Caborca	81
Nuevo Casas Grandes	59	Cananea	33
			1
			9
			16
			12
			30
			6
			13
			220
			<1
			57
			178
			16
			2
			3
			2
			15
			4
			16
			489
			5
			5
			27
			384
			609
			118
			63

Sources: Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía and U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (2010 decennial censuses).

MAP 2 BORDER REGION COUNTIES AND MUNICIPIOS



See next page for the key. For a close-up of the municipios in Sonora, see Map 3. For a close-up of Nuevo León and Tamaulipas, see Map 4.

KEY TO MAPS 2, 3 AND 4: BORDER REGION COUNTIES AND MUNICIPIOS

UNITED STATES COUNTIES

- CALIFORNIA
 1. San Diego
 2. Imperial
 ARIZONA
 3. Yuma
 4. Pima
 5. Santa Cruz
 6. Cochise
 NEW MEXICO
 7. Hidalgo
 8. Luna
 9. Doña Ana
 10. Otero
 TEXAS
 11. El Paso
 12. Hudspeth
 13. Culberson
 14. Jeff Davis
 15. Presidio
 16. Brewster
 17. Pecos
 18. Terrell
 19. Crockett
 20. Val Verde
 21. Edwards
 22. Kinney
 23. Uvalde
 24. Maverick
 25. Zavala
 26. Dimmit
 27. La Salle
 28. Webb
 29. Duval
 30. Zapata
 31. Jim Hogg
 32. Brooks
 33. Starr
 34. Hidalgo
 35. Kenedy
 36. Willacy
 37. Cameron

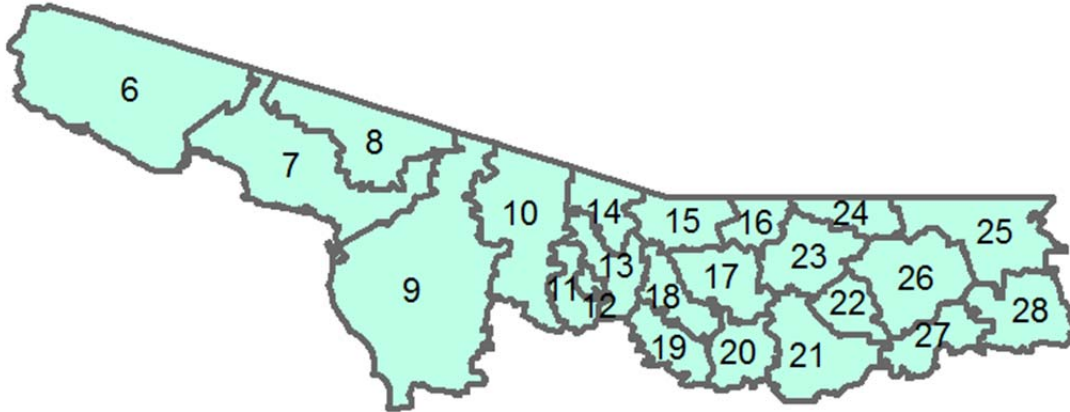
- BAJA CALIFORNIA
 1. Tijuana
 2. Playas de Rosarito
 3. Tecate
 4. Ensenada
 5. Mexicali
 SONORA
 6. San Luis Río Colorado
 7. Puerto Peñasco
 8. General Plutarco Elías Calles
 9. Caborca
 10. Altar
 11. Oquitoa
 12. Atil
 13. Tubutama
 14. Sáric
 15. Nogales
 16. Santa Cruz
 17. Imuris
 18. Magdalena
 19. Santa Ana
 20. Cucurpe
 21. Arizpe
 22. Bacoachi
 23. Cananea
 24. Naco
 25. Agua Prieta
 26. Fronteras
 27. Nacozari de García
 28. Bavispe
 CHIHUAHUA
 29. Janos
 30. Nuevo Casas Grandes
 31. Ascensión
 32. Juárez
 33. Ahumada
 34. Guadalupe
 35. Praxedis G. Guerrero
 36. Coyame del Sotol
 37. Ojinaga
 38. Manuel Benavides

MÉXICO MUNICIPIOS

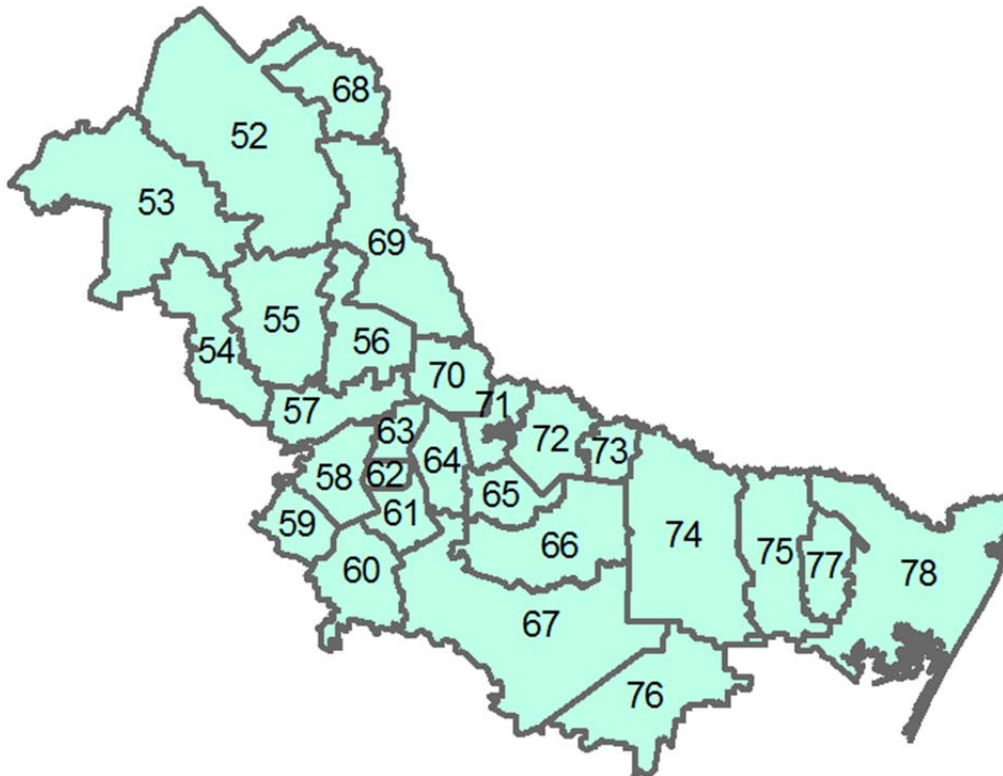
- COAHUILA
 39. Ocampo
 40. Acuña
 41. Zaragoza
 42. Jiménez
 43. Piedras Negras
 44. Nava
 45. Morelos
 46. Allende
 47. Villa Unión
 48. Sabinas
 49. Juárez
 50. Guerrero
 51. Hidalgo
 NUEVO LEÓN
 52. Anáhuac
 53. Lampazos De Naranjo
 54. Sabinas Hidalgo
 55. Vallecillo
 56. Parás
 57. Agualeguas
 58. Cerralvo
 59. Doctor González
 60. Los Ramones
 61. Los Herreras
 62. Melchor Ocampo
 63. General Treviño
 64. Los Aldamas
 65. Doctor Coss
 66. General Bravo
 67. China

- TAMAULIPAS
 68. Nuevo Laredo
 69. Guerrero
 70. Mier
 71. Miguel Alemán
 72. Camargo
 73. Gustavo Díaz Ordaz
 74. Reynosa
 75. Río Bravo
 76. Méndez
 77. Valle Hermosa
 78. Matamoros

**MAP 3
BORDER REGION MUNICIPIOS IN SONORA**



**MAP 4
BORDER REGION MUNICIPIOS IN NUEVO LEÓN AND TAMAULIPAS**



See the prior page for the key.

extensive portion receiving less than 25 centimeters per year.⁴ The vegetation in this area consists of desert scrub or semidesert grasslands. The eastern portion of the border region is a subtropical steppe. The most easterly portion receives more than 50 centimeters of annual precipitation and is classified as a low-grass savannah.

The border area sometimes is envisioned as one of open spaces. Indeed, the least populated one-third of the border region had a population density of only 1 person per square kilometer in the United States and 2 persons per square kilometer in México in 2010. Of the 115 total counties and municipios in the border region, 69 (60 percent) had a population of less than 20,000 in 2010. Many counties or municipios in the border region of Nuevo León, Sonora, and Texas had fewer than 5,000 residents.

Yet the total population of the 115 counties and municipios in the border region was 15.2 million. The 13 counties and municipios with at least 250,000 residents (11 percent of the 115 total) accounted for 80 percent of the border region's population. Thus, the border region is highly urbanized.

Comparison of the Border Region to the Border States

The number of people living in the border region in 2010 was considerably less than the number living in the border states, particularly in the United States, as seen in Table 2. A similar number of people — about 7.5 million in the United States and 7.7 million in México — lived within 100 kilometers of the border in each country. In contrast, 70.9 million lived in the U.S. border states (23 percent of the U.S. total) while the Mexican border state population was 19.9 million. The difference in population between the state total and the state's border region was particularly large in California and Texas. In México, the population of Nuevo León was more than 1 million greater than any of the other Mexican border states, yet barely more than 100,000 residents of Nuevo León lived in the border region in 2010, the least of the six states.

The differences in land area also are substantial between the border state and border region geographies, particularly in the United States. The 275,300 square kilometer land area in the border region of the United States jumps to 1.7 million square kilometers in the border states. In México, the land area increases from around 300,000 square kilometers in the border region to nearly 800,000 square kilometers in the border states.⁵

California and Texas are geographically large and populous, with much of the land area and population at a considerable distance from the border. Arizona and New Mexico also are larger in land area than any of the six Mexican border states. The four U.S. states rank second, third, fifth and sixth among the 50 U.S. states in land area. The number of residents in the four U.S. states was more than 3.5 times as many as in the six Mexican states and the land area of the four U.S. states is more than twice that of the six Mexican states.

⁴ One centimeter equals 0.3937 inches; 1 inch equals 2.54 centimeters. Thus, 25 centimeters equals just less than 10 inches.

⁵ The larger land area shown to be within the border region of México relative to the United States in Table 2 is due to the very large size of the Ensenada municipio (which accounts for nearly three-fourths of the area of the state of Baja California). If three-fourths of the land area of this municipio were excluded, the border region land area would be identical in the two countries.

**TABLE 2
BORDER REGION POPULATION AND LAND AREA IN THE UNITED STATES AND MÉXICO**

	UNITED STATES			MÉXICO	
	2010 Population	Land Area (Square Km*)		2010 Population	Land Area (Square Km*)
NATION	308,745,538	9,147,593	NATION	112,336,538	1,959,248
STATE TOTALS			STATE TOTALS		
California	37,253,956	403,466	Baja California	3,155,070	71,446
Arizona	6,392,017	294,207	Sonora	2,662,480	179,503
New Mexico	2,059,179	314,161	Chihuahua	3,406,465	247,455
Texas	25,145,561	676,587	Coahuila	2,748,391	151,563
			Nuevo León	4,653,458	64,220
			Tamaulipas	3,268,554	80,175
Border State Total	70,850,713	1,688,421	Border State Total	19,894,418	791,362
Share of Nation	22.9%	18.5%	Share of Nation	17.7%	40.4%
BORDER REGION			BORDER REGION		
California	3,269,841	21,712	Baja California	3,155,070	71,446
Arizona	1,354,780	57,248	Sonora	774,545	65,312
New Mexico	303,019	43,569	Chihuahua	1,478,696	73,257
Texas	2,562,958	152,782	Coahuila	454,677	60,281
			Nuevo León	105,157	25,126
			Tamaulipas	1,735,038	19,332
Border Region Total	7,490,598	275,311	Border Region Total	7,703,183	314,754
Share of Nation	2.4%	3.0%	Share of Nation	6.9%	16.1%
BORDER REGION SHARE OF STATE			BORDER REGION SHARE OF STATE		
California	8.8%	5.4%	Baja California	100.0%	100.0%
Arizona	21.2	19.5	Sonora	24.5	36.4
New Mexico	14.7	13.9	Chihuahua	43.4	29.6
Texas	10.2	22.6	Coahuila	16.5	39.8
			Nuevo León	2.3	39.1
			Tamaulipas	53.1	24.1
Border Region Total	10.6	16.3	Border Region Total	38.7	39.8

* Km: kilometers

Sources: Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía and U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (2010 decennial censuses).

Urban Areas

In the United States, metropolitan statistical areas are defined as urbanized areas (densely developed territory) of at least 50,000 residents and adjacent territory that is socially and economically integrated. Micropolitan areas are similarly defined, except that the core densely developed territory has between 10,000 and 49,999 residents. Metro and micro areas consist of one or more whole counties. Based on the latest delineations from February 2013, 58 percent of all U.S. counties are included in 381 metro areas and 536 micro areas; 94 percent of U.S. residents lived in these areas. Ten metro areas and six micro areas are in the border region.

Adjacent micro and/or metro areas in the United States that are somewhat integrated are grouped into combined statistical areas (CSAs). There are four CSAs in the border region: three consist of a micro area and a metro area and one is made up of two metro areas.

Metropolitan areas also are defined in México, but the concept of micropolitan areas is not used. While there are similarities between the metro criteria in the United States and México — a core area of at least 50,000 plus adjacent integrated territory based on whole counties/municipios — significant differences exist. The most important is that metropolitan areas in México must consist of at least two municipios, unless a single municipio has a population of at least 1 million or a single municipio with a population of at least 250,000 is located along the border adjacent to an urban area in the United States. As a result, some highly populous areas such as Ensenada (with a municipio population of about 467,000 in 2010) are not considered to be metro areas in México. Only 59 metro areas are defined, seven of which are in the border region.

Using the U.S. definitions of metro and micro areas and the Mexican definition of metro areas, 11 urban areas with significant population centers on each side of the border have been identified, listed in Table 3 in order of the two-nation combined population. These 11 areas include all of the defined metro areas in the border region of the two countries. Six of the urban areas include a defined metro area in each country, three consist of a U.S. metro area and a Mexican municipio (each of which has a population of more than 75,000), one is made up of a Mexican metro area and a U.S. micro area, and one consists of a U.S. micro area and a municipio of more than 125,000 residents. Four of the U.S. micro areas that are within the border region are not included in an urban area: two do not border México and two have a combined U.S.-México population of less than 50,000.

Each of the 11 urban areas with a population center on each side of the border had a two-nation population of at least 175,000 in 2010. The total number of people living in these 11 urban areas was 13.7 million — 90 percent of the border region total. On the U.S. side, the 11 urban areas had a population of 7.26 million, 97 percent of the border region total. On the Mexican side, the population of 6.42 million living in the urban areas accounted for 83 percent of the border region total. Residents of México accounted for 47 percent of those living in the 11 urban areas, compared to a 51 percent share of the total border region population. Across the 11 urban areas, the Mexican share varied from less than 20 percent in Tucson-Nogales to more than 80 percent in Calexico-Mexicali.

The San Diego-Tijuana urban area dominates the border region with its 4.85 million residents — nearly one-third of the border region's residents. Nearly 80 percent of the residents of the border

**TABLE 3
URBAN AREAS ALONG THE UNITED STATES AND MÉXICO BORDER**

Combined U.S.-México Area U.S. Area	2010 Population			México Share	Combined U.S.-México Area México Area
	United States	U.S. & México Total	México		
San Diego-Tijuana	3,095,313	4,846,743	1,751,430	36.1%	San Diego-Tijuana
San Diego-Carlsbad MSA	3,095,313		1,751,430		Tijuana MA
San Diego County, California	3,095,313		1,559,683		Tijuana Municipio, Baja California
			90,668		Playas de Rosarito Municipio, Baja California
			101,079		Tecate Municipio, Baja California
El Paso-Juárez	1,013,356	2,345,487	1,332,131	56.8	El Paso-Juárez
El Paso-Las Cruces CSA	1,013,356		1,332,131		Juárez MA
El Paso MSA	804,123		1,332,131		Juárez Municipio, Chihuahua
El Paso County, Texas	800,647				
Hudspeth County, Texas	3,476				
Las Cruces MSA	209,233				
Doña Ana County, New Mexico	209,233				
McAllen-Reynosa	835,737	1,562,887	727,150	46.5	McAllen-Reynosa
McAllen-Edinburg CSA	835,737		727,150		Reynosa-Río Bravo MA
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission MSA	774,769		608,891		Reynosa Municipio, Tamaulipas
Hidalgo County, Texas	774,769		118,259		Río Bravo Municipio, Tamaulipas
Rio Grande City Micro	60,968				
Starr County, Texas	60,968				
Tucson-Nogales	1,027,683	1,247,975	220,292	17.7	Tucson-Nogales
Tucson-Nogales CSA	1,027,683		220,292		Nogales Municipio, Sonora
Tucson MSA	980,263				
Pima County, Arizona	980,263				
Nogales Micro	47,420				
Santa Cruz County, Arizona	47,420				
Calexico-Mexicali	174,528	1,111,354	936,826	84.3	Calexico-Mexicali
El Centro MSA	174,528		936,826		Mexicali MA
Imperial County, California	174,528		936,826		Mexicali Municipio, Baja California

(continued)

TABLE 3 (continued)

	2010 Population				México Share	Combined U.S.-México Area México Area
	United States	U.S. & México Total	México			
Combined U.S.-México Area U.S. Area						
Brownsville-Matamoros	428,354	917,547	489,193	53.3	Brownsville-Matamoros	
Brownsville-Harlingen-Raymondville CSA	428,354		489,193		Matamoros MA	
Brownsville-Harlingen MSA	406,220		489,193		Matamoros Municipio, Tamaulipas	
Cameron County, Texas	406,220					
Raymondville Micro	22,134					
Willacy County, Texas	22,134					
Laredo-Nuevo Laredo	250,304	634,337	384,033	60.5%	Laredo-Nuevo Laredo	
Laredo MSA	250,304		384,033		Nuevo Laredo MA	
Webb County, Texas	250,304		384,033		Nuevo Laredo Municipio, Tamaulipas	
Yuma-San Luis Río Colorado	195,751	374,131	178,380	47.7	Yuma-San Luis Río Colorado	
Yuma MSA	195,751		178,380		San Luis Río Colorado Municipio, Sonora	
Yuma County, Arizona	195,751					
Eagle Pass-Piedras Negras	54,258	234,992	180,734	76.9	Eagle Pass-Piedras Negras	
Eagle Pass Micro	54,258		180,734		Piedras Negras MA	
Maverick County, Texas	54,258		152,806		Piedras Negras Municipio, Coahuila	
			27,928		Nava Municipio, Coahuila	
Douglas-Agua Prieta	131,346	216,885	85,539	39.4	Douglas-Agua Prieta	
Sierra Vista-Douglas MSA	131,346		79,138		Agua Prieta Municipio, Sonora	
Cochise County, Arizona	131,346		6,401		Naco Municipio, Sonora	
Del Río-Acuña	48,879	185,634	136,755	73.7	Del Río-Acuña	
Del Río Micro	48,879		136,755		Acuña Municipio, Coahuila	
Val Verde County, Texas	48,879					
Total of 11 Urban Areas	7,255,509	13,677,972	6,422,463	47.0	Total of 11 Urban Areas	

MA: metropolitan area (México)

MSA: metropolitan statistical area (United States)

CSA: consolidated statistical area (United States)

Micro: micropolitan area (United States)

Sources: Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía and U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (2010 decennial censuses).

region live in San Diego-Tijuana or the five other urban areas of more than 900,000 residents: El Paso-Juárez, McAllen-Reynosa, Tucson-Nogales, Calexico-Mexicali, and Brownsville-Matamoros.

HISTORY

When Europeans first reached North America, the continent was populated by a large number of Native American groups, living in all of the ecological niches. These groups varied significantly from one another on the bases of language, culture, lifestyle, etc. Many of the tribes were peaceful, coexisting with their neighbors and engaging in trade. Others were hostile to their neighbors, participating in a raiding economy and/or forcibly taking over the territories of other tribes.

These differences between the Native American groups extended to their response to the arrival of Europeans. Some groups, at least initially, peacefully coexisted with the new settlers. Some of the more peaceful groups sought out the Europeans as allies against the more warlike Native American tribes. The latter tribes battled with the Europeans, in some cases for centuries.

Three European powers — Britain, France, and Spain — explored, claimed, and settled much of North America, beginning in the late 1400s. British claims included portions of what became Canada and the eastern portion of what became the United States, with the exception of Florida and the Gulf Coast, which was controlled by the Spanish. The Spanish claimed much of the Caribbean, Central America, what became México and the southwestern United States, as well as most of South America. Among the French possessions were portions of what became Canada and the area of what became the United States between the British and Spanish territories. Russia claimed Alaska and other places along the Pacific Coast of North America as far south as northern California.

France lost most of its possessions in eastern North America to the British during the 1700s, particularly in 1763 at the conclusion of the French and Indian War. The British then lost much of the recently gained French territory as well as much of its original territory in the American Revolution, which ended in 1783. Spain began to lose its New World territories in 1809 with declarations of independence in some areas of South America. México followed with its declaration of independence in 1810, becoming an independent country in 1821. The United States gained the Gulf Coast and Florida from Spain in 1819. Russia sold its claims to the United States by 1867.

While conflicts in the New World among these European nations helped shape today's border area, the role of the Spanish is by far of most importance. Various explorers during the 15th and 16th centuries claimed land in the New World for Spain, which was the first of the European nations to settle the area, starting in 1500 in the Caribbean. The Spanish began their domain over what became México with the arrival of Hernán Cortés in 1519 and his defeat of the Aztecs in what was to become central México in 1521.

The viceroyalty of New Spain was created in 1535, controlling the northern portion of the Spanish Empire in the Americas. While the spread of New Spain was wide, including Florida, the main body stretched from what was to become Costa Rica through México into the western

United States. Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah, southwest Wyoming, western Colorado, and most of New Mexico and Texas were part of New Spain.

Settlement of the northern portion of New Spain (what is now northern México and the United States) began in the 1500s. Spanish settlement was geographically spotty and rarely in large number in the border area. Some places can trace European influence back to the 1500s, but other, sometimes nearby, areas remained unsettled by Europeans well into the 1800s. While the presence of natural resources — water, arable land, minerals, etc. — was partially responsible for this erratic pattern, the presence of hostile Native Americans hampered, if not precluded, the settlement of some places for centuries.

In parts of the border area, the Spanish mission system was used to settle a place. Initially, a small number of Catholic priests and Spanish soldiers would establish a mission to convert the local Native Americans to the Catholic faith and more generally to introduce European culture. In some cases, a presidio (fort) would be built nearby, with a larger number of soldiers stationed there. This stage of development sometimes would be followed by the establishment of ranches and/or villages. Other areas were settled without the prior establishment of a mission. Most of these early settlements were due to the discovery of mineral deposits or ores, the presence of a water supply and arable lands, or conditions favorable to cattle ranching.

Gradually, most of the native peoples of Mesoamerica were subdued by the Spanish, though this process was not substantially complete until the middle of the 17th century. In the border area, a few tribes still were hostile when Spain lost control in 1821; indeed, conflicts between these tribes and the United States and México continued into the 1880s.

México

México rebelled against Spain in 1808 and declared independence in 1810, but fighting continued until Spain formally withdrew in 1821, with the Treaty of Córdoba. México assumed control over what was later to become the southwestern United States — from Texas to the Pacific Ocean, extending as far north as southern Wyoming.

México lost territory, eventually to the United States, three times between the 1830s and 1850s. This loss of the northern portion of México occurred during the early decades of Mexican independence — a chaotic period marked by 75 changes in the presidency between 1821 and 1876. This instability contributed not only to its loss of territory but to a general decline in prosperity throughout México.

During the early years of Mexican independence, México adopted a policy of encouraging the immigration of Americans to the far northern portion of the country, in order to populate it. This policy backfired in the 1830s, when the American settlers were largely responsible for instigating a revolution. The Texas War of Independence from México was fought from October 1835 to April 1836. During the war, the Alamo in San Antonio was captured by the Texans but then lost to México. However, the Republic of Texas gained independence in 1836. It included future eastern New Mexico and a strip of Colorado and Wyoming but not far northern Texas. The border between the Republic of Texas and México was disputed, with neither country exerting control over an area that included what became the border region of New Mexico and west

Texas. Due to this lack of control, outlaws roamed the area and Native Americans increased their attacks on settlers. Texas was independent until 1845, when its petition to join the United States was granted.

Prompted by the presence of U.S. troops in the disputed area after Texas joined the United States, the Mexican-American War was fought between 1846 and 1848. It was terminated by the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Under its terms, the United States paid México \$15 million plus the claims of U.S. citizens against México for up to \$3.25 million in return for what was to become California, Nevada, Utah, southwest Wyoming, western Colorado, the northern portion of Arizona, and most of New Mexico.

The current international border was put into place in 1853 with the Gadsden Purchase, in which the United States paid México \$10 million for southwestern New Mexico and the portion of Arizona south of the Gila River. The United States purchased this land in order to acquire the route for a southern transcontinental railroad. In part due to the U.S. Civil War, this railroad was not completed until 1881.

The political instability in México was compounded in 1861 when France invaded México. Initially, the French were defeated at the Battle of Puebla, which is today marked by the Cinco de Mayo celebration. France subsequently installed Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian of Austria as Emperor Maximilian I of Mexico. However, the legitimate Mexican government continued to function under Benito Juárez, who was president of México from before the French intervention until his death in 1872. Napoleon III, the ruler of France, withdrew from México in 1865 under U.S. pressure, but Maximilian remained in place until 1867.

The period of political instability ended when Porfirio Díaz took control of México in 1876. Though Díaz subsequently was elected president eight times, he is described as a dictator who rigged elections in order to remain in control. He promoted order by creating a stable central government and modernized society and the economy, but the poorest Mexicans did not fare well under his control. The Mexican revolution began in 1910, ending the rule of Díaz. Peace returned in 1920, but instability resumed from 1926 through 1929 with the Cristero War, a counterrevolution against President Plutarco Elías Calles and his persecution of the Catholic Church.

Formed by Calles, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI: Partido Revolucionario Institucional) began a period of one-party rule that at the federal level lasted until 2000. This long period was marked first by “El Milagro Mexicano” (“milagro” translates as “miracle”), a period of strong economic growth from the 1930s until about 1970. The development of the country was aided by its transformation under President Lázaro Cárdenas during the 1930s, during which the army was removed from power and the oil industry was nationalized.

Several economic crises, with peso devaluations and high inflation, marked the period from the 1970s through 1994. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which went into effect in 1994, initially contributed to the last of these financial crises. The Mexican economy has been much more stable since 1995.

United States

When the United States became an independent country in 1783, it had possession of all of the area east of the Mississippi River except for the Gulf Coast and Florida. It greatly expanded its land area with the Louisiana Purchase from France in 1803, taking in a large area west of the Mississippi River, including what was to become north Texas and northeastern New Mexico. In 1819, Spain ceded Florida, the Gulf Coast and some area west of the Mississippi River to the United States. When Texas joined the United States in 1845, the United States gained a large area west of the Mississippi River in the southern part of the country, particularly most of current Texas and the southeastern-to-north central portions of New Mexico. In 1846, the United States gained the Oregon territory (Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and parts of Montana and Wyoming) from Great Britain. México ceded most of what became the rest of the western United States in 1848. The Gadsden Purchase completed the acquisition of the continental 48 states in 1853.

The Border Region

The entire border region, indeed nearly all of the border states of México and the United States, share a common history. Native American groups ranged across what was to become the international border. With the arrival of the Spanish in the New World, the entire border region became part of an extensive Spanish territory. When México gained independence, the entire border region became part of México.

The settlement of the border region, whether by the Spanish, Mexicans, or Americans, was plagued by hostilities of various Native American tribes. In particular, the territory from what was to become eastern Arizona through much of Texas was controlled by the Apaches and by a few of the Plains tribes such as the Comanche, who periodically would raid the isolated European settlements within their territories.

After the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the United States began to exert its influence over the border region of the United States, particularly through the establishment of a number of U.S. Army forts. However, during the U.S. Civil War from 1861 to 1865, these forts were abandoned by the United States as the border region became part of the Confederacy. Most of the forts were not manned by the Confederates, leading to an increase in attacks by Native Americans and a continuation of the period of lawlessness in parts of the border region that had begun with the Texas independence movement.

After the end of the Civil War, it took from several years to two decades before the rule of law was firmly established in what had been disputed territory between the United States and México. Attacks by Native Americans were not quelled until the 1880s.

In much of the border region, relations between the Mexicans who remained within the United States after the adjustments to the border and Anglo settlers from the United States remained harmonious for a few decades. Many of the Anglos and Hispanics intermarried and many Hispanics maintained their status in the community. However, when more American settlers entered the border region — particularly after the arrival of the railroad between the late 1870s and 1881 — the relationships between Mexican descendants and Americans deteriorated. In parts of the border region, an influx of Mexicans during the 1910s due to the instabilities of the Mexican Revolution further inflamed Anglo biases against Mexicans.

Those living in northern México during the 19th century faced many challenges. The remoteness of the area, its arid-to-semiarid climate, continuing hostilities with Native Americans, the Texas Revolution, lesser-scale revolts around 1840, and the instabilities of the Mexican central government made for a difficult life for many of the residents. A number of conflicts occurred in the region during the Mexican revolution between 1910 and 1920.