

Immigration Enforcement Actions: 2015

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The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) engages in immigration enforcement actions to prevent unlawful entry into the United States and to apprehend and repatriate aliens within the United States who have violated or failed to comply with U.S. immigration laws. Primary responsibility for the enforcement of immigration law within DHS rests with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). CBP primarily enforces immigration laws along the borders and at ports of entry (POEs), ICE is responsible for interior enforcement and detention and removal operations, and USCIS adjudicates applications and petitions for immigration and naturalization benefits. This report presents information on certain DHS immigration enforcement actions during 2015.¹

INTRODUCTION

The immigration enforcement actions covered in this report include initial enforcement actions (determinations of inadmissibility by CBP Field Operations officers (OFO), apprehensions by CBP Border Patrol agents, and arrests by ICE officers), initiation of removal proceedings, intakes into immigration detention, and repatriations (removals and returns). With the exception of inadmissibility determinations at the ports of entry, all of these actions declined in frequency from 2014 to 2015. The reductions were likely driven by the continued decline in unauthorized migration from Mexico in 2015 and a temporary reversal in the previous trend of increasing unauthorized migration from the Northern Triangle of Central America.² This report provides details on the enforcement actions in 2015 and changes from earlier years.

Key findings:

- Apprehensions by the CBP U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) declined by about 30 percent³ from 2014 to 2015, breaking a trend of increasing apprehensions between 2011 and 2014.
- Administrative arrests by ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) fell by 35 percent, continuing a downward trend from a peak in 2011.
- Apprehensions and arrests of aliens from Northern Triangle countries fell by more than 40 percent from

2014 to 2015, breaking a multi-year trend of rapid increase; apprehensions and arrests of Mexican nationals fell by about 25 percent.

- Initial book-ins into immigration detention declined overall, but increased for Mexican nationals.
- Removals of Mexican nationals declined by nearly 10 percent from 2014 and removals of aliens from Northern Triangle countries fell by nearly 40 percent.
- Returns declined by more than 20 percent between 2014 and 2015 and by almost 75 percent between 2010 and 2015.
- The number of Cuban nationals found to be inadmissible during inspection by CBP OFO at the POEs increased by nearly 80 percent from 2014 to 2015 and by more than 450 percent between 2011 and 2015.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS PROCESS

Inspection Process

All aliens seeking admission at a port of entry are subject to inspection. CBP OFO conducts these inspections at designated ports of entry and at pre-clearance locations at certain foreign ports. Applicants for admission who are determined to be inadmissible may be permitted to voluntarily withdraw their application for admission and return to their home country, processed for expedited removal, referred to an immigration judge for removal proceedings,⁴ processed for a visa waiver refusal, or paroled in. Aliens referred to an immigration

¹In this report, years refer to fiscal years (Oct. 1 to Sept. 30).

²The Northern Triangle of Central America (NTCA) includes El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

³Numbers and percentages in the text are rounded for readability; see tables for unrounded numbers and percentages.

⁴The immigration judge for the removal proceedings may also grant asylum or another form of relief from removal.



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judge for removal proceedings under section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) are issued an I-862 Notice to Appear (NTA) and may be transferred to ICE for a detention and custody determination or paroled from custody depending on the individual facts and circumstances. Aliens who apply under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) who are found to be inadmissible are refused admission without referral to an immigration judge, per Section 217 of the INA, unless the alien requests asylum, withholding of removal, or protection under the U.N. Convention against Torture.

Apprehension Process

DHS apprehensions of aliens for suspected immigration violations include “apprehensions” by USBP and “administrative arrests” by ICE. Aliens who are arrested and convicted for criminal activity, as opposed to immigration violations, might also be subject to administrative arrest by ICE at the conclusion of the criminal sentence; criminal arrests are not included in this report.⁵

Aliens who enter without inspection between POEs and are apprehended by USBP at or near the border are generally subject to removal. Adults from contiguous countries may be permitted to return to their country of origin, removed administratively, or issued an NTA and transferred to ICE for a detention and custody determination, or released on their own recognizance. Adults from non-contiguous countries are transferred to ICE for processing. Unaccompanied alien children (UAC) from contiguous countries may be permitted to return to their country of origin under certain circumstances, while other UAC are processed by ICE and then transferred to the custody of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

Beginning in 2012, USBP implemented the Consequence Delivery System (CDS) across all sectors. The CDS guides USBP agents through a process designed to uniquely evaluate each subject and identify the most effective and efficient consequences to deliver in order to impede and deter further illegal activity. Examples of CDS consequences include expedited removal, lateral repatriation through the Alien Transfer Exit Program, and immigration-related criminal charges, among others.

Aliens unlawfully present in the United States and those lawfully present who are subject to removal may be identified and arrested by ICE within the interior of the United States. The agency’s two primary operating components are Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and ERO. ICE usually identifies potentially removable aliens in the interior by working with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to check the immigration status of people who are arrested or incarcerated, and also conducts operations to detain certain at-large removable aliens. Aliens arrested by ICE are generally subject to the same legal framework as aliens who are apprehended by USBP.

⁵ USBP and OFO also initiate criminal charges against certain aliens who are apprehended or found inadmissible, as well as against certain people who are suspected of non-immigration-related offenses; these criminal arrests are also beyond the scope of this report.

Benefit Denial

USCIS may issue an NTA upon determining that an alien applicant for an immigration or naturalization benefit is inadmissible or has violated immigration law under INA Sections 212 or 237. USCIS will also issue an NTA when required by statute or regulation (e.g., termination of conditional permanent resident status, referral of asylum application, termination of asylum or refugee status, or positive credible fear determination) or, in certain cases, upon the subject’s request.⁶

Detention Process

ICE ERO makes a detention and custody determination for aliens who are arrested by ICE or who are apprehended by CBP and transferred to ICE. ICE officers base the determinations on risk to public safety, promoting compliance with removal proceedings or removal orders (i.e., reducing flight risk), and the availability and prioritization of resources. Options available to ICE include immigration detention, supervised alternatives to detention, release on bond, or release on the subject’s own recognizance, and may change at any point during the course of an alien’s time in the immigration enforcement system.

Repatriation Process

Inadmissible and deportable aliens encountered by DHS may be subject to repatriation. Repatriations include removals, which carry penalties in addition to the repatriation itself, and returns, which generally do not. Removal cases can be further categorized as expedited removals, reinstatements of final orders, administrative removals, or removal orders issued during proceedings in immigration court. Penalties associated with removal may include possible fines and a bar of between five years and life from future lawful admission into the United States, depending upon the individual circumstances of the case. Aliens who reenter following an order of removal may also be subject to criminal charges and imprisonment for up to 10 years.

Removal Proceedings

Aliens who are issued an NTA are provided an immigration hearing under the jurisdiction of the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) within the Department of Justice (DOJ). Removal hearings before an EOIR immigration court are administrative proceedings during which potentially removable aliens may present evidence before an immigration judge that they are eligible to remain in the United States. Immigration judges may issue an order of removal, grant voluntary departure at the alien’s expense (a form of “return”), terminate or suspend proceedings, or grant relief or protection from removal. Forms of relief from removal may include the award of an immigration benefit, such as asylum or lawful permanent resident status. Decisions by immigration judges can generally be appealed to the Board of Immigration Appeals, also within DOJ. Most decisions by the Board of Immigration Appeals can in turn be appealed to the U.S. Courts of Appeal.

⁶ If USCIS finds an alien who has applied for an immigration benefit to be ineligible, the subject may request an appearance before an immigration judge for reconsideration.

Expedited Removal

Expedited removal is a process wherein aliens are removed from the United States administratively by DHS (i.e., without appearing before an EOIR immigration judge). Expedited removal applies to three classes of aliens. First, under INA Section 235(b)(1)(A)(i), DHS can expeditiously remove certain aliens who arrive at a POE without proper documentation and/or attempt to gain entry through fraud or misrepresentation. Second, under INA Section 235(b)(1)(A)(iii), DHS can use expedited removal against aliens apprehended between ports of entry. Although the INA permits DHS to use expedited removal for any alien who cannot prove to an immigration officer's satisfaction that the alien has been physically present in the United States continuously for the two-year period immediately prior, DHS limits this authority to aliens apprehended within 100 miles of the southwest border and within 14 days of unlawfully entering the United States.⁷ Third, regulations also permit DHS to use expedited removal for aliens apprehended within two years after arriving by sea without being admitted or paroled.⁸

Reinstatement of Final Removal Orders

Section 241(a)(5) of the INA permits DHS to reinstate final removal orders, without further hearing or review, for aliens who were removed or departed voluntarily under an order of removal and who subsequently attempted entry into the United States.

Administrative Removal

Section 238(b) of the INA permits DHS to administratively remove an alien if the alien has been convicted of an aggravated felony⁹ and did not have U.S. lawful permanent resident status at the time proceedings under this section commenced.

Aliens subject to expedited removal, reinstatement of removal, or administrative removal generally are not entitled to proceedings before an immigration judge or to consideration for administrative relief unless the alien expresses fear of being persecuted or tortured upon return to his or her home country or the alien makes a claim to certain forms of legal status in the United States. The procedures for establishing the right for review by an immigration judge differ for each of these three removal processes.

Return

Certain aliens found inadmissible at a POE, apprehended near the border, or who are otherwise potentially removable, may be offered the opportunity to voluntarily return to their home country in lieu of formal removal. Generally, aliens waive their right to a hearing, remain in custody, and, if applicable, agree to depart the United States under supervision. Some aliens apprehended within the United States may agree to voluntarily depart (also a form of

“return”). Voluntary departure may be granted by an immigration judge during an immigration hearing or prior to an immigration hearing by certain DHS officials.

DATA AND METHODS

The administrative record data used to compile this report were processed according to a set of defined rules and assumptions. To the extent possible, events were grouped into time periods according to when the event took place, rather than the date on which the case was completed, closed, or updated. Duplicate records were identified and excluded. Multiple removal or administrative arrest records for the same person during the same day were considered to be duplicates or data errors and were excluded. Whenever possible, statistics are presented for each year from 2010 to 2015.

The removal and return numbers included in this report are estimates. For removals, this is largely due to the absence of explicit records on removals performed by CBP. Although CBP data systems indicate which aliens the agency initially intends to remove, they do not confirm the removal or provide a time and date (in contrast with ICE data systems). Returns are also estimates because a return cannot be confirmed for aliens who are returned without supervision until the alien verifies his or her departure with a U.S. consulate. As a result of these limitations, previously reported estimates are routinely updated as new data become available.

Apprehension and inadmissibility data are collected in the Enforcement Integrated Database (EID) using Form I-213, Record of Removable-Inadmissible Alien, and EID Arrest Graphical User Interface for Law Enforcement (EAGLE). Data on individuals detained are collected through the ICE ENFORCE Alien Detention Module (EADM) and the ENFORCE Alien Removal Module (EARM). Data on USCIS NTAs are collected using the USCIS NTA Database. Data on individuals removed or returned are collected through both EARM and EID. All data in this report were current as of October, 2015.

TRENDS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Apprehensions

Total DHS apprehensions declined by more than 30 percent from 2014 to 2015, driven by the continuing decline in apprehensions of Mexican nationals on the southwest border, a temporary reversal of the trend of increasing apprehensions of aliens from Northern Triangle countries that began in 2011,¹⁰ and a multiyear decline in ICE arrests in the interior (see Table 1). Altogether, DHS apprehended 460,000 aliens in 2015, the fewest since 420,000 aliens were apprehended in 1971.¹¹ Apprehensions by USBP and

⁷ Department of Homeland Security Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, “Designating Aliens for Expedited Removal,” *Federal Register*, Vol. 69, No. 154, p. 48877-48881, Aug. 11, 2004

⁸ Department of Justice, “Notice Designating Aliens Subject to Expedited Removal Under §235(b)(1)(A)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act,” *Federal Register*, Vol. 67, No. 219, p. 68924-68926, Nov. 13, 2002.

⁹ The term, “aggravated felony” refers to a broad range of crimes and types of crimes which make an alien removable. See INA sections 101(a)(43) and 237(a)(2)(A)(iii) for additional details.

¹⁰ The increasing trend in Northern Triangle apprehensions began in 2008 for Guatemala, but the rate of increase averaged less than 15 percent annually through 2011; from 2011 to 2014, apprehensions of aliens from Northern Triangle countries increased by 25 to 50 percent per year. After declining in 2015, as discussed in this report, Northern Triangle apprehensions resumed an upward trend in 2016; see 2016 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics (forthcoming), Table 34.

¹¹ See the 2015 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, Table 33.

administrative arrests by ICE both fell by 30 to 35 percent in 2015, leaving the 70 to 75 percent share attributable to USBP relatively unchanged from 2014.

U.S. Border Patrol Apprehensions

In the context of USBP apprehensions, the period from 2010 to 2015 was perhaps most notable for the 2011-2014 surge in unauthorized migration from Northern Triangle countries (see Table 2 and Figure 1). Apprehensions of aliens from the Northern Triangle increased from 40,000 in 2011 to a peak of 240,000 in 2014, before declining by 45 percent to 130,000 in 2015. Apprehensions of Mexican nationals generally declined during the period¹² and fell nearly 20 percent to 190,000 in 2015. The total number of USBP apprehensions fell by more than 30 percent, from 490,000 in 2014 to 340,000 in 2015, roughly matching the number of

¹² Apprehensions of Mexican nationals increased by one percent in 2013, but fell in 2012, 2014, and 2015. In total, the number of Mexican nationals apprehended fell nearly 35 percent from 2011 to 2015.

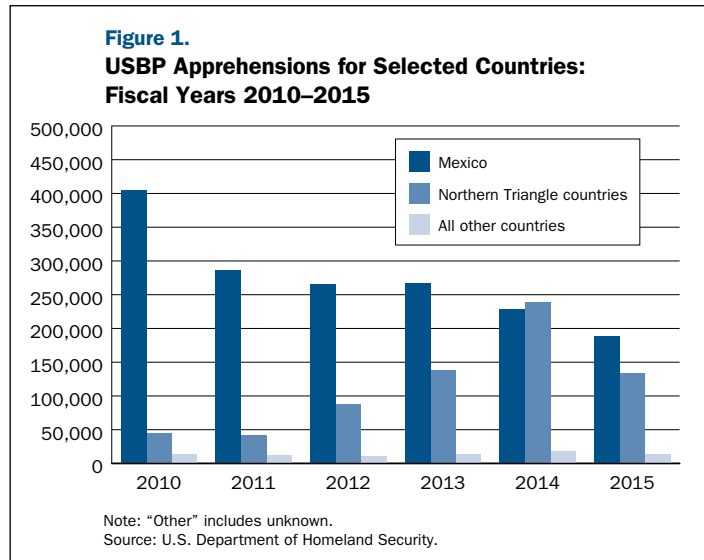


Table 1.

Apprehensions by Program and Country of Nationality: Fiscal Years 2010 to 2015

(Countries ranked by 2015 apprehensions)

Program and country of nationality	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
PROGRAM						
Total	796,587	678,606	671,327	662,483	679,996	462,388
USBP	463,382	340,252	364,768	420,789	486,651	337,117
Southwest sectors (sub-total)	447,731	327,577	356,873	414,397	479,371	331,333
ICE ERO	314,915	322,093	290,622	229,698	181,719	117,983
ICE HSI	18,290	16,261	15,937	11,996	11,626	7,288
COUNTRY OF NATIONALITY						
Total	796,587	678,606	671,327	662,483	679,996	462,388
Mexico	632,034	517,472	468,766	424,978	350,177	267,885
Guatemala	39,050	41,708	57,486	73,208	97,151	66,982
El Salvador	29,911	27,652	38,976	51,226	79,321	51,200
Honduras	32,501	31,189	50,771	64,157	106,928	42,433
Ecuador	3,890	3,298	4,374	5,680	6,276	3,438
India	2,175	3,859	1,566	1,791	2,106	2,967
Dominican Republic	5,274	4,433	4,506	3,893	3,455	2,797
Cuba	4,030	4,801	4,121	2,809	2,872	2,281
Brazil	3,532	3,228	2,433	1,702	1,643	1,911
China, People's Republic	2,709	2,546	2,350	1,918	2,601	1,875
All other countries	41,481	38,420	35,978	31,121	27,466	18,619

Note: "Other" includes unknown.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Table 2.

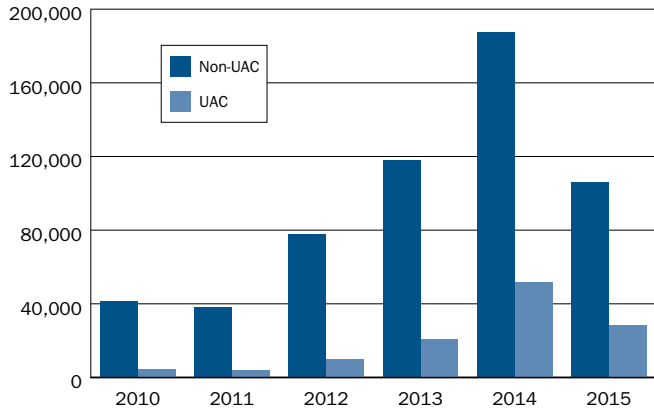
USBP Apprehensions for Selected Countries of Nationality: Fiscal Years 2010 to 2015

Country of Citizenship	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Total	463,382	100.0	340,252	100.0	364,768	100.0	420,789	100.0	486,651	100.0	337,117	100.0
Mexico	404,365	87.3	286,154	84.1	265,755	72.9	267,734	63.6	229,178	47.1	188,122	55.8
Northern Triangle countries	45,709	9.9	42,132	12.4	88,315	24.2	138,706	33.0	239,229	49.2	134,572	39.9
All other countries	13,308	2.9	11,966	3.5	10,698	2.9	14,349	3.4	18,244	3.7	14,423	4.3

Note: "Other" includes unknown.

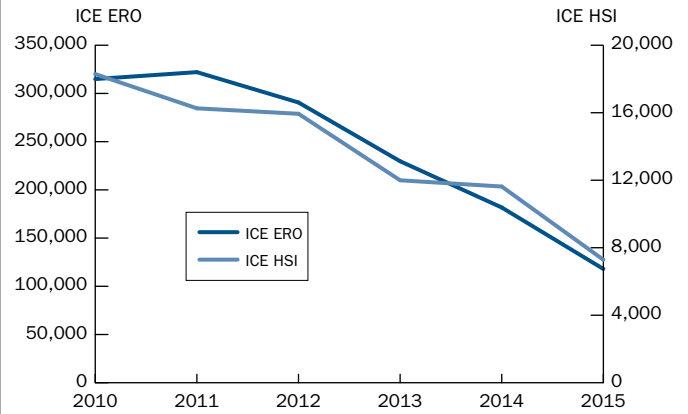
Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Figure 2.
USBP Apprehensions of Aliens from Northern Triangle Countries by UAC Status: Fiscal Years 2010–2015



Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Figure 3.
ICE ERO and HSI Administrative Arrests: Fiscal Years 2010–2015



Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

apprehensions in 2011. Apprehensions within the Rio Grande Valley border sector, where 30 percent of the Mexican apprehensions and more than 75 percent of Northern Triangle apprehensions occurred in 2014, declined by 110,000 (nearly 45 percent) in 2015.¹³ Although aliens from Mexico and the Northern Triangle accounted for more than 95 percent of all USBP apprehensions in each year from 2010–2015, their relative shares changed markedly as Central Americans represented a growing proportion of the total.

Unaccompanied children continued to account for slightly more than 20 percent of all apprehensions of aliens from Northern Triangle countries (see Figure 2). As with apprehensions of all aliens from those countries, the number of UAC from Northern Triangle countries fell by 45 percent from 2014 to 2015, but remained higher than they were in 2011 before the surge began. The largest decline was for Honduras, which fell 65 percent to 35,000 in 2015 after increasing by 95 percent in 2014.

ICE Administrative Arrests

Administrative arrests conducted by ICE ERO and ICE HSI both continued to trend downward (see Figure 3). ICE ERO arrests fell 35 percent to 120,000 from 180,000

Table 3.

Aliens Determined Inadmissible by Mode of Travel, Country of Citizenship, and Field Office: Fiscal Years 2010 to 2015

(Ranked by 2015 inadmissible aliens)

Characteristic	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
MODE OF TRAVEL						
Total	229,406	212,249	193,609	203,962	223,253	253,509
Land	116,970	107,206	100,342	103,370	118,330	139,585
Sea	44,195	38,805	40,756	49,031	53,073	65,137
Air	68,241	66,238	52,511	51,561	51,850	48,787
COUNTRY						
Total	229,406	212,249	193,609	203,962	223,253	253,509
Mexico	75,464	67,410	58,659	56,187	63,396	74,151
Cuba	7,442	7,759	12,253	17,679	24,285	43,158
Canada	33,148	32,142	30,731	29,354	28,059	26,314
Philippines	22,917	25,197	22,486	23,387	23,978	22,495
China	17,173	16,937	12,888	13,550	14,212	15,245
India	6,577	5,983	6,907	11,814	8,545	7,165
Guatemala	1,767	1,612	1,757	1,919	4,614	6,261
Honduras	1,300	1,076	1,445	2,187	5,906	3,207
Ukraine	4,657	4,359	2,928	2,882	3,398	3,062
El Salvador	1,099	853	1,028	2,193	3,147	2,827
All other countries	57,862	48,921	42,527	42,810	43,713	49,624
FIELD OFFICE						
Total	229,406	212,249	193,609	203,962	223,253	253,509
Laredo, TX	24,441	25,790	28,005	31,764	38,978	52,136
San Diego, CA	40,014	33,719	26,891	25,698	32,577	40,432
New Orleans, LA	19,162	20,855	20,204	21,012	21,199	20,550
Miami, FL	9,163	6,896	7,593	8,686	12,193	17,687
San Francisco, CA	6,279	6,957	9,832	14,949	14,062	15,858
El Paso, TX	7,898	6,909	6,955	7,852	10,170	12,071
Buffalo, NY	17,763	15,712	14,050	13,422	13,114	11,871
Houston, TX	18,963	19,532	12,706	10,909	10,447	11,185
Pre-clearance ¹	9,539	8,586	8,559	9,692	10,700	10,788
Tucson, AZ	8,735	7,951	7,612	9,991	8,910	9,349
All other field offices	67,449	59,342	51,202	49,987	50,903	51,582

¹ Refers to field offices abroad.

Note: "Other" includes unknown.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

¹³ See the 2015 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, Table 35, for USBP Apprehensions by Border Patrol Sector.

in 2014 and 65 percent from the previous peak of 290,000 in 2011. Similarly, administrative arrests conducted by ICE HSI declined by 35 percent from 2014 to 2015 (from 12,000 to 7,000) and by 60 percent from 2010 to 2015.

Inadmissible Aliens

During inspection of aliens seeking admission at the POEs in 2015, CBP OFO officers found more than 250,000 aliens inadmissible, an increase of about 30,000, or 14 percent, from 2014 (see Table 3). Much of the increase was attributable to aliens from Mexico and Cuba, the most frequent countries of origin for inadmissible aliens.

Most aliens who are found inadmissible by OFO officers at U.S. POEs fall into one of three main categories. First, a small fraction of persons who present themselves for inspection at a POE are denied for having missing, invalid, or expired documents, for having intentions prohibited by the visa (e.g., presenting a tourist visa but intending to seek employment), or for national security or public safety reasons. Most inadmissible aliens from Mexico, Canada, China, and India fall into this overall category.¹⁴

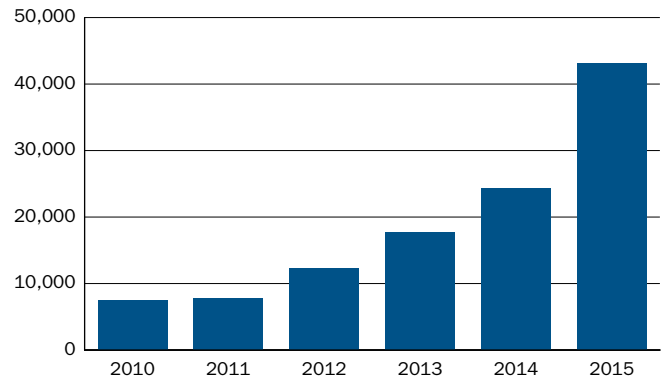
Second, nationals of certain countries are regularly paroled into the United States for humanitarian reasons or as a matter of policy. These individuals may present themselves at a port of entry despite knowing that they are ineligible for lawful admission. Until the former U.S. “Wet Foot – Dry Foot” policy for Cuba was rescinded in January 2017, requesting asylum at a POE was a common method of economic or humanitarian migration for Cuban nationals, whether or not in possession of valid travel documents. The number of Cuban nationals found inadmissible has increased since 2009 and began to surge in 2012; in total, Cuban inadmissibility counts increased by more than 450 percent between 2010 and 2015 (see Figure 4). For every 1,000 Cuban nationals admitted in 2015, another 800 to 900 were found inadmissible. Most of these inadmissible Cubans were paroled into the United States. In 2015 about 50 percent of Cuban nationals found inadmissible entered at the Laredo or Hidalgo land ports in Texas, and 25 percent entered via air in Miami, Florida.

The trend in inadmissibility determinations for nationals from Northern Triangle countries from 2010 to 2015 paralleled apprehensions of Northern Triangle nationals by USBP. Inadmissibility determinations fell slightly from 2014 to 2015,¹⁵ but remained substantially elevated relative to earlier years (see Figure 5). The count in 2015 was more than three times the count in 2011. Aliens traveling to the United States from Northern Triangle countries for humanitarian and/or economic reasons, but without official travel papers (e.g., valid passport and visa), may be found inadmissible, screened for credible fear of persecution or torture if repatriated, and paroled into the United States pending proceedings in immigration court. If an alien asserts a fear of persecution

¹⁴ These four countries are among the top sources of inadmissible aliens largely because they account for a large share of nonimmigrant admissions; in each case only about three or four travelers were found to be inadmissible in 2015 for every 1,000 admitted with a nonimmigrant visa.

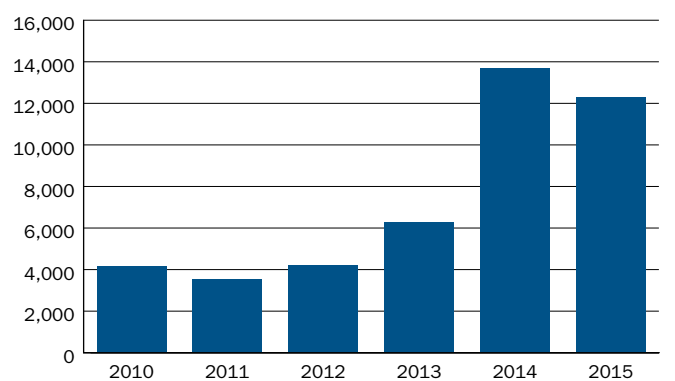
¹⁵ Guatemala was an exception to this trend, as the number of Guatemalans found inadmissible increased by more than 35 percent from 2014 to 2015.

Figure 4.
CBP OFO Inadmissibility Determinations for Cuban Nationals: Fiscal Years 2010–2015



Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Figure 5.
CBP OFO Inadmissibility Determinations for Nationals of Northern Triangle Countries: Fiscal Years 2010–2015



Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

or torture an immigration judge may determine if the alien should be repatriated or granted asylum, withholding of removal, cancellation of removal, or other protection under the INA and international law.

Notices to Appear

DHS issued 180,000 NTAs to initiate removal proceedings before an immigration judge in 2015, a decline of nearly 35 percent from 2014 (see Table 4). Large reductions in NTAs by USBP (45 percent) and ICE ERO (60 percent) were primarily attributable to the greatly reduced number of apprehensions of aliens from Northern Triangle countries.

USBP issued 65,000 NTAs in 2015, compared to 120,000 in 2014. ICE ERO issued 35,000, compared to 80,000 in 2014, continuing a decline of 35,000 per year on average from 2012 to 2015. As a result of the multiyear decline in ICE ERO issuances, the ICE ERO

Table 4.

Notices to Appear Issued by DHS Component or Office: Fiscal Years 2010 to 2015

(Ranked by 2015 notices to appear)

DHS component or office	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	260,143	100.0	250,127	100.0	235,687	100.0	224,185	100.0	273,731	100.0	180,536	100.0
USBP	34,986	13.4	31,739	12.7	31,506	13.4	42,078	17.9	118,753	47.5	64,876	24.9
USCIS	53,820	20.7	44,638	17.8	41,778	17.7	56,896	24.1	56,684	22.7	56,835	21.8
ICE ERO	152,345	58.6	156,208	62.5	140,707	59.7	101,571	43.1	78,753	31.5	32,838	12.6
CBP OFO	18,992	7.3	17,542	7.0	21,696	9.2	23,640	10.0	19,541	7.8	25,987	10.0

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, October 2015.

Table 5.

Initial Admissions to ICE Detention Facilities by Country of Nationality: Fiscal Years 2010 to 2015

(Ranked by 2015 detention admissions)

Country of nationality	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total	358,390	421,312	464,190	440,540	425,728	307,342
Mexico	216,938	283,615	298,973	244,532	172,560	143,834
Guatemala	35,653	38,187	50,068	59,212	74,543	52,562
El Salvador	25,361	23,457	30,808	40,258	59,933	40,263
Honduras	27,742	26,106	39,859	50,622	76,708	34,899
Ecuador	3,627	2,929	3,811	4,717	5,351	3,097
India	1,996	3,388	1,453	4,057	2,306	2,971
Dominican Republic	4,870	3,987	3,954	3,538	3,379	2,757
China	2,370	2,289	1,966	1,729	2,444	1,880
Brazil	2,889	2,467	1,920	1,423	1,376	1,802
Colombia	2,391	2,145	1,880	1,853	1,559	1,495
All other countries	34,553	32,742	29,498	28,599	25,569	21,782

Notes: Excludes Office of Refugee Resettlement and Mexican Interior Repatriation Program facilities. "Other" includes unknown.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

share fell to about 20 percent of all NTAs in 2015, compared to 60 percent in 2012. As in 2013 and 2014, USCIS issued between 55,000 and 60,000. Only CBP OFO saw a substantial increase, rising almost 35 percent from 20,000 in 2014 to 25,000 in 2015. Between the declines by USBP and ICE ERO and the increase by CBP OFO, the share of NTAs issued by CBP OFO and USCIS increased from 25 percent in 2012 to 45 percent in 2015.

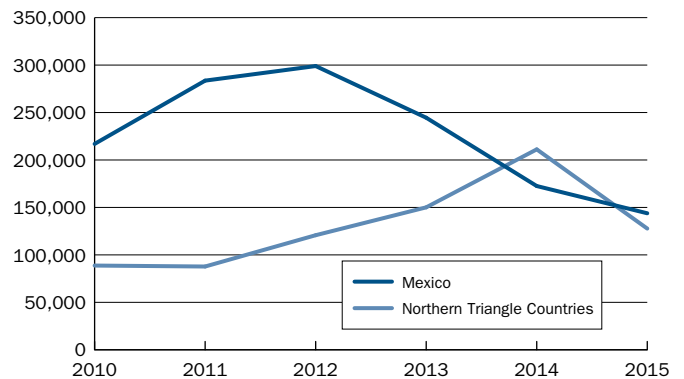
Detentions

ICE ERO, the agency responsible for immigration detention, booked 310,000 aliens into detention during 2015, nearly a 30 percent decline from 430,000 in 2014 (see Table 5). Detentions of Mexican nationals fell by 17 percent in 2015, continuing a multiyear decline from 300,000 in 2012. Detentions of aliens from Northern Triangle countries fell by 40 percent, breaking the increasing trend that started in 2011. As in previous years, detentions of nationals of Mexico and Northern Triangle countries comprised 85 to 90 percent of the total. While Mexicans accounted for the great majority of detainees in 2010 to 2013, Mexico and the Northern Triangle countries comprised roughly equal shares in 2014 and 2015 (see Figure 6).

Repatriations

DHS repatriations include all removals and returns conducted by ICE and CBP. DHS repatriated 440,000 aliens in 2015, a decline of more than 25 percent from 2014. The decline is consistent with

Figure 6.
ICE ERO Initial Detention Book-ins for Selected Countries: Fiscal Years 2010–2015



Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

the downward trend in the apprehension of Mexican nationals and the 2015 reduction in apprehensions of aliens from Northern Triangle countries (see Figure 7). The gap between apprehensions and repatriations for nationals of Northern Triangle countries in recent years is driven by the lengthy immigration court proceedings associated with asylum claims.

Removals

DHS removed about 330,000 aliens in 2015, a substantial reduction from 410,000 in 2014 (see Table 6). Driven by a sudden reduction in apprehensions of aliens from Northern Triangle countries and the smaller multiyear decline in apprehensions of Mexican nationals, ICE ERO removed 25 percent fewer aliens in 2015 than in 2014.¹⁶ USBP removed 85,000 aliens, about the same as in 2014, and CBP OFO removed 25,000, compared to 20,000 in 2014. Consistent with the decline in apprehensions, expedited removals and reinstatements of previous removal orders fell by 20 percent and 15 percent, respectively. As in 2012, 2013, and 2014, Mexico and Northern Triangle countries accounted for about 95 percent of all removals. ICE continued to conduct the majority of DHS removals (nearly 70 percent), but ICE's share was well below its nearly 85 percent share in 2012. The decrease in ICE removals as a share of the total was attributable to a number of factors, including CBP's continued implementation of the CDS (increasing CBP removals) and the Department's implementation of the 2014 Immigration Accountability Executive Actions.¹⁷

About 40 percent of all aliens removed in 2015 had a prior criminal conviction, unchanged from 2014, but following a decreasing trend from nearly 50 percent in 2011 (see Table 7).¹⁸ For Northern Triangle countries, 35 percent of the aliens removed in 2015 had a prior conviction, compared to 30 percent in 2014 and 40 percent in 2012 and 2013. Mexico and the

¹⁶ Removal statistics reported by OIS and ICE vary slightly due to differences in methodology.

¹⁷ See DHS Policy Directive 044-04, "Policies for the Apprehensions, Detention and Removal of Undocumented Immigrants," November 20, 2014.

¹⁸ Excludes criminals removed by CBP due to limitations of the available data.

Table 7.

Aliens Removed by Criminal Status and Country of Nationality: Fiscal Years 2010 to 2015

(Ranked by 2015 aliens removed)

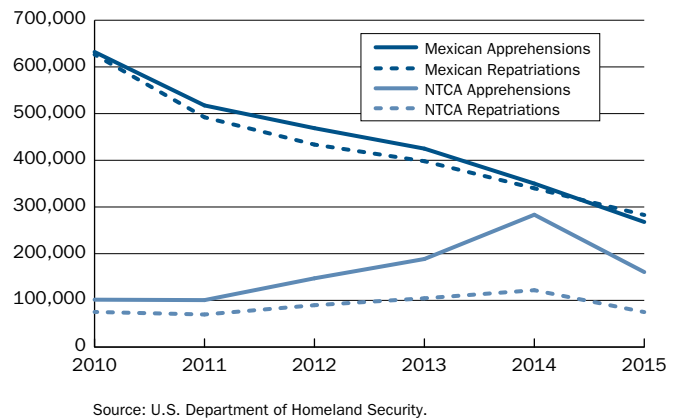
Country of nationality	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Number	Percent Criminal ¹	Number	Percent Criminal ¹	Number	Percent Criminal ¹	Number	Percent Criminal ¹	Number	Percent Criminal ¹	Number	Percent Criminal ¹
Total	381,738	44.4	386,020	49.0	416,324	48.1	434,015	45.8	407,075	41.6	333,341	42.0
Mexico	272,629	47.1	286,972	50.6	301,676	50.2	309,807	47.4	267,649	46.0	242,456	43.8
Guatemala	29,709	31.7	30,343	38.6	38,899	34.7	46,948	32.7	54,247	25.3	33,233	31.5
El Salvador	20,346	41.1	17,379	48.9	18,993	45.7	20,921	45.2	26,895	33.5	21,471	33.1
Honduras	25,121	41.5	22,027	49.1	31,739	43.5	36,591	45.4	40,633	34.5	20,204	42.2
Dominican Republic	3,371	66.5	2,892	74.1	2,867	76.1	2,297	78.8	2,066	79.4	1,865	81.1
Colombia	2,402	51.7	1,899	55.2	1,591	66.3	1,440	66.7	1,349	63.7	1,538	49.6
Ecuador	2,385	29.0	1,716	41.0	1,763	40.0	1,510	38.7	1,528	37.0	1,414	34.0
Brazil	3,533	13.8	3,350	16.4	2,397	17.7	1,449	25.4	953	29.8	992	28.4
Nicaragua	1,903	42.2	1,502	46.3	1,400	52.2	1,346	51.6	1,296	49.2	914	47.7
Jamaica	1,481	78.9	1,473	83.2	1,319	87.2	1,108	90.0	1,035	80.0	852	73.9
All other countries	18,858	34.0	16,467	39.0	13,680	47.3	10,598	50.4	9,424	49.4	8,402	42.1

¹ Refers to persons removed who have a prior criminal conviction.

Notes: Excludes criminals removed by Customs and Border Protection (CBP). CBP EID does not identify if aliens removed were criminals. "Other" includes unknown.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Figure 7.
DHS Apprehensions and Repatriations for Selected Countries: Fiscal Years 2010–2015



Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Table 6.

Aliens Removed by Component and Removal Type: Fiscal Years 2010 to 2015

Characteristic	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
COMPONENT						
Total	381,738	386,020	416,324	434,015	407,075	333,341
ICE	302,169	314,453	345,628	332,213	301,089	223,400
CBP U.S. Border Patrol	47,819	41,899	48,987	80,389	85,215	86,793
CBP Office of Field Operations	31,750	29,668	21,709	21,413	20,771	23,148
REMOVAL TYPE						
Total	381,738	386,020	416,324	434,015	407,075	333,341
Expedited Removals	109,740	122,147	163,212	192,613	176,017	141,007
Reinstatements	122,323	123,759	144,068	165,435	161,273	137,449
All other removals	149,675	140,114	109,044	75,967	69,785	54,885

Note: Statistics reported by OIS and ICE tend to vary slightly due to differences in methodology.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Table 8.

Criminal Aliens Removed by Crime Category: Fiscal Years 2005 to 2015

(Ranked by 2015 criminal aliens removed)

Crime category	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	169,656	100.0	188,964	100.0	200,143	100.0	198,981	100.0	169,253	100.0	139,950	100.0
Immigration ¹	31,828	18.8	37,606	19.9	47,616	23.8	62,364	31.3	53,569	31.7	46,262	33.1
Dangerous Drugs ²	42,890	25.3	43,378	23.0	42,679	21.3	30,688	15.4	27,773	16.4	24,269	17.3
Traffic Offenses ³	31,062	18.3	43,154	22.8	46,162	23.1	29,945	15.0	24,017	14.2	18,578	13.3
Assault	12,175	7.2	12,783	6.8	13,045	6.5	20,244	10.2	17,408	10.3	14,479	10.3
Burglary	4,213	2.5	3,808	2.0	3,569	1.8	5,521	2.8	4,659	2.8	3,795	2.7
Weapon Offenses	2,814	1.7	2,730	1.4	2,513	1.3	5,310	2.7	4,549	2.7	3,752	2.7
Larceny	5,459	3.2	5,728	3.0	5,428	2.7	5,303	2.7	4,327	2.6	3,138	2.2
Fraudulent Activities	3,889	2.3	4,232	2.2	3,879	1.9	5,196	2.6	3,898	2.3	2,938	2.1
Sexual Assault	3,268	1.9	3,576	1.9	3,353	1.7	3,176	1.6	2,952	1.7	2,534	1.8
Robbery	3,646	2.1	3,757	2.0	3,585	1.8	2,613	1.3	2,364	1.4	2,126	1.5
All other categories	28,412	16.7	28,212	14.9	28,314	14.1	28,621	14.4	23,737	14.0	18,079	12.9

¹ Including entry and reentry, false claims to citizenship, and alien smuggling.

² Including the manufacturing, distribution, sale, and possession of illegal drugs.

³ Including hit and run and driving under the influence.

Notes: Data refers to persons removed who have a prior criminal conviction. Excludes criminals removed by Customs and Border Protection (CBP). CBP EID does not identify if aliens removed were criminals. "Other" includes unknown.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Table 9.

Aliens Returned by Component and Country of Nationality: Fiscal Years 2010 to 2015

Characteristic	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
COMPONENT												
Total	474,195	100.0	322,098	100.0	230,360	100.0	178,691	100.0	163,245	100.0	129,122	100.0
CBP OFO	143,543	30.3	130,987	40.7	109,457	47.5	104,247	58.3	108,742	66.6	105,060	81.4
USBP	248,184	52.3	113,869	35.4	58,182	25.3	38,695	21.7	40,349	24.7	16,216	12.6
ICE	82,468	17.4	77,242	24.0	62,721	27.2	35,749	20.0	14,154	8.7	7,846	6.1
COUNTRY												
Total	474,195	100.0	322,098	100.0	230,360	100.0	178,691	100.0	163,245	100.0	129,122	100.0
Mexico	353,813	74.6	205,135	63.7	131,958	57.3	88,236	49.4	72,331	44.3	40,394	31.3
Canada	29,144	6.1	28,273	8.8	27,038	11.7	23,965	13.4	23,258	14.2	22,538	17.5
Philippines	21,413	4.5	23,150	7.2	20,903	9.1	21,526	12.0	22,161	13.6	20,423	15.8
China	16,449	3.5	16,234	5.0	11,780	5.1	11,688	6.5	12,238	7.5	12,782	9.9
Ukraine	4,415	0.9	4,111	1.3	2,589	1.1	2,609	1.5	3,046	1.9	2,659	2.1
India	4,695	1.0	4,136	1.3	3,273	1.4	2,467	1.4	2,803	1.7	2,380	1.8
Burma	3,951	0.8	2,582	0.8	2,337	1.0	1,920	1.1	1,888	1.2	2,012	1.6
Russia	3,189	0.7	3,512	1.1	2,441	1.1	1,997	1.1	1,900	1.2	1,490	1.2
Korea, South	1,561	0.3	1,619	0.5	1,191	0.5	1,259	0.7	1,242	0.8	1,183	0.9
Turkey	1,802	0.4	1,879	0.6	1,226	0.5	1,033	0.6	1,095	0.7	1,093	0.8
All other countries	33,763	7.1	31,467	9.8	25,624	11.1	21,991	12.3	21,283	13.0	22,168	17.2

Note: "Other" includes unknown.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Northern Triangle accounted for 95 percent of all criminal aliens removed. Similar to 2014, 30 to 35 percent of the convictions were for immigration offenses, 15 to 20 percent were for dangerous drugs, 10 to 15 percent were for traffic offenses, and 10 percent were for assault (see Table 8).

Returns

DHS returned 130,000 aliens to their home countries without an order of removal in 2015, compared to 160,000 in 2014 and almost 600,000 in 2009 (see Table 9). Although CBP OFO returns have been stable for

several years, ICE and USBP returns declined each year since DHS began tracking returns separately from removals in 2009.¹⁹ USBP returns fell by 60 percent from about 40,000 in 2014 to about 15,000 in 2015, and ICE returns fell by 45 percent from 15,000 in 2014 to about 8,000 in 2015. The downward trend in returns reflects the continued decline in the apprehension of Mexican nationals on the Southwest Border and USBP's continued focus on attaching

¹⁹ USBP returns actually increased from 2013 to 2014, but the increase was small and was the single exception to the decreasing trend.

immigration consequences to unauthorized entry (see Figure 8). Although more aliens are returned to Mexico each year than any other country, Mexico's share of the total fell from nearly 50 percent in 2013 and 80 percent in 2009, to about 30 percent in 2015. The next leading countries were Canada, the Philippines, and China, with returns roughly unchanged from 2013 and 2014.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about immigration and immigration statistics, visit the Office of Immigration Statistics website at www.dhs.gov/immigration-statistics.

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Figure 8.
Ratios of Removals and Returns to DHS
Apprehensions for Mexico: Fiscal Years 2010–2015

