

Immigration Enforcement Actions: 2014

BRYAN BAKER AND CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS

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 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 enforces immigration laws at and between the ports of entry, ICE is responsible for interior enforcement and for detention and removal operations, and USCIS adjudicates applications and petitions for immigration and naturalization benefits (see **APPENDIX**).¹

INTRODUCTION

Fiscal Year 2014 was notable for the continuing shift in the demographics and purpose of unauthorized migration. Unauthorized migration from Mexico, typically for economic purposes, continued to decline, whereas migration from the Northern Triangle of Central America (El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras) continued to increase. Unauthorized migrants from Northern Triangle countries were more likely to seek asylum upon arrival in the United States and were disproportionately children. These shifts affected the volume of apprehensions on the border, the sections of the border in which the apprehensions took place, and the number of cases referred to an immigration judge. Other resources were also affected, but are beyond the scope of this report. This report focuses on initial enforcement actions (determinations of inadmissibility by CBP Field Operations officers, apprehensions by CBP Border Patrol agents, and arrests by ICE officers), initiation of removal proceedings, intakes into immigration detention, and repatriations (removals and returns).

Key findings:

- Apprehensions by the CBP U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) increased by 16 percent from 2013 and by 33 percent from 2012, marking the third consecutive year of increase.
- Administrative arrests by ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) fell by more than 20 percent for the second year in a row, continuing a downward trend from a peak in 2011.

- Initial book-ins into immigration detention for Mexican nationals decreased by 29 percent from 2013 and by 44 percent from 2012, while book-ins of aliens from Northern Triangle countries increased by 41 percent from 2013 and by 72 percent from 2012.
- Removals of Mexican nationals decreased by 11 percent from 2013, while removals of nationals from Northern Triangle countries increased by 16 percent from 2013 and by 35 percent from 2012.
- Returns decreased by nine percent from 2013 and by 29 percent from 2012; returns of Mexican nationals decreased by 18 percent from 2013 and by 45 percent from 2012.
- Inadmissibility determinations by the CBP Office of Field Operations (OFO) increased by nearly 10 percent from 2013 to 2014; the largest increases were for Mexicans and Cubans and occurred at the San Diego and Laredo land ports.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS PROCESS

Inspection Process

All aliens presenting themselves for admission into or transit through the United States are inspected by OFO. OFO officers determine the admissibility of aliens at designated ports of entry and 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 proceedings², or paroled in. Aliens referred to an

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

² The immigration judge for the removal proceedings may also grant asylum or another form of relief from removal.



Homeland
Security

Office of Immigration Statistics
POLICY DIRECTORATE

immigration judge are issued an I-862 Notice to Appear (NTA) and may be transferred to ICE for a detention and custody determination. 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 Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), unless the alien requests humanitarian protection.

Apprehension Process

DHS apprehensions of aliens in the United States 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, may also be subject to administrative arrest by ICE at the conclusion of the criminal sentence; criminal arrests are excluded from this report.³

Aliens who enter without inspection between ports of entry and are apprehended by USBP may be permitted to return to their country, removed, or issued an NTA to commence proceedings before the immigration court. Aliens issued an NTA are generally transferred to ICE for a detention and custody determination or, in rare circumstances, released on their own recognizance. Beginning in fiscal year 2012 (FY12), USBP implemented the Consequence Delivery System (CDS) across all sectors. CDS guides USBP agents through a process designed to uniquely evaluate each subject and identify the most effective consequences to deliver in order to impede and deter further illegal activity. Examples of CDS consequences include formal removal, detention, criminal charges, and deportation and removal actions.

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 consequences as aliens who are apprehended by USBP.

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 pursuant to 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

³USBP 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.

status, or positive credible fear determination) or, in certain cases, upon the subject's request.⁴

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 for removal or removal proceedings. ICE officers base the determinations on risk to public safety, promoting compliance with removal orders or removal proceedings (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 at or between the ports of entry or in the interior of the United States are considered for repatriation. Repatriations can be classified as removals, which carry penalties in addition to the repatriation itself, and returns, which do not. Removal cases can be further categorized as expedited removals, reinstatements of final orders, administrative removals, or removal orders issued during formal removal proceedings in immigration court. Penalties associated with the four types of removal may include possible fines, imprisonment for up to 10 years, and a bar of at least five years from future lawful admission into the United States. The imposition and extent of these penalties depend upon the individual circumstances of the case.

Removal Proceedings

Aliens who are issued an NTA for an immigration hearing fall 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 in which potentially removable aliens may present evidence before an immigration judge that they are eligible to remain in the United States or may contest whether or not they are removable. Immigration judges may issue an order of removal, grant voluntary departure at the alien's expense (a form of "return"), 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 residence, or the termination or suspension of proceedings. Decisions by immigration judges can be appealed to the Board of Immigration Appeals, also located within DOJ.

⁴If 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

Certain aliens who arrive at a port of entry without proper documentation, or who attempt to gain entry through fraud or misrepresentation, may be subject to removal without further review or formal immigration court proceedings. Similarly, aliens who are apprehended after unlawfully entering the United States may also be subject to expedited removal if they cannot affirmatively demonstrate continuous physical presence in the United States for the preceding two-year period. In practice, aliens may be subjected to expedited removal if they are encountered at the ports of entry during the inspection process, are apprehended within 100 miles of the southwest border and within two weeks of unlawfully entering the United States, or are apprehended within two years after arriving by sea without being admitted or paroled. Notable exceptions include Cuban nationals and aliens who request asylum or express a fear of persecution if repatriated.⁵

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 felony⁶ and does not have U.S. lawful permanent resident status.

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 and seeks asylum or other form of humanitarian protection or unless the alien makes a claim to certain forms of legal status in the United States. The procedures for establishing the right to appear before an immigration judge differ for each of these three removal processes.

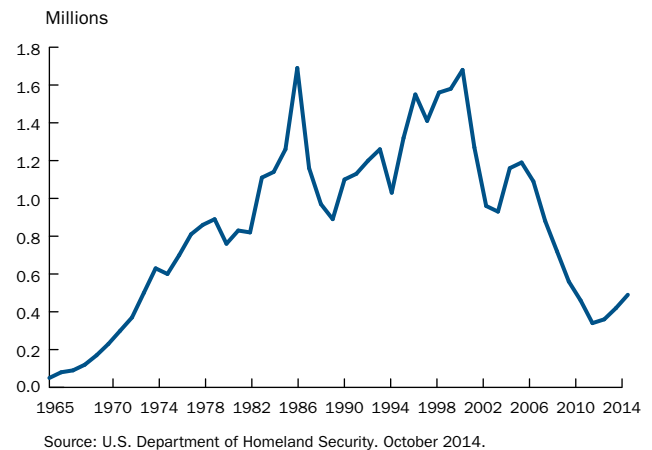
Return

Certain aliens found inadmissible at a port of entry, 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.

⁵See INA section 235 for additional details and exceptions.

⁶The term, “aggravated felony” refers to a broad range of crimes and types of crimes which make an alien removable. The list is not exclusive, and other crimes not considered to be aggravated felonies may also make an alien removable. See the INA sections 101(a)(43) and 237(a)(2)(A)(iii) for additional details.

Figure 1.
Apprehensions by the U.S. Border Patrol: Fiscal Years 1965 to 2014



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.

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.

TRENDS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Apprehensions

In total, DHS made nearly 680,000 apprehensions⁷ in 2014 (see Table 1). Although the total varied slightly from 660,000 in 2013 and 670,000 in 2012, the shares attributable to each agency have changed substantially. Between multiyear increases in USBP apprehensions and multiyear decreases in ERO and HSI apprehensions, the share of apprehensions attributable to USBP increased from 54 percent in 2012 to 72 percent in 2014.

U.S. Border Patrol Apprehensions

USBP apprehensions increased by 16 percent to nearly 490,000 in 2014. This followed a 15 percent increase from 2012 to 2013, marked the third consecutive year of increase, and was the largest number of USBP apprehensions since 2009. USBP apprehensions remained well short of the prerecession peak of nearly 1.2 million in 2005⁸. Similar to the previous 10 years, 99 percent of USBP apprehensions occurred along the southwest border.

The demographics of USBP apprehensions continued to shift significantly through 2014. Apprehensions of Mexican nationals declined by 14 percent from 2013, continuing a decade-long trend of declining numbers. Apprehensions of nationals of Northern Triangle countries, however, increased substantially and more than offset the declining number of apprehensions of Mexican nationals. Specifically, Northern Triangle apprehensions increased by more than 70 percent from 2013 and by more than 170 percent from 2012. Between the decreasing

trend for Mexican nationals and increasing trend for nationals of Northern Triangle countries, Northern Triangle apprehensions increased from fewer than 25 percent of the total in 2012 to nearly 50 percent in 2014.

Unaccompanied children accounted for slightly more than 20 percent of all apprehensions of aliens from Northern Triangle countries, for a total of more than 50,000 (see Figure 2). This was an increase of nearly 150 percent from 2013 and an increase of more than 400 percent from 2012. The changing demographic trends (age and region of citizenship) may reflect a shift in the purpose of migration, from predominantly employment-based migration from Mexico to a larger

⁷ This figure includes UPBP apprehensions and ICE administrative arrests.

⁸ See the Office of Immigration Statistics Yearbook of Immigration Statistics for summary statistics and trends for fiscal years prior to 2012.

Table 1.

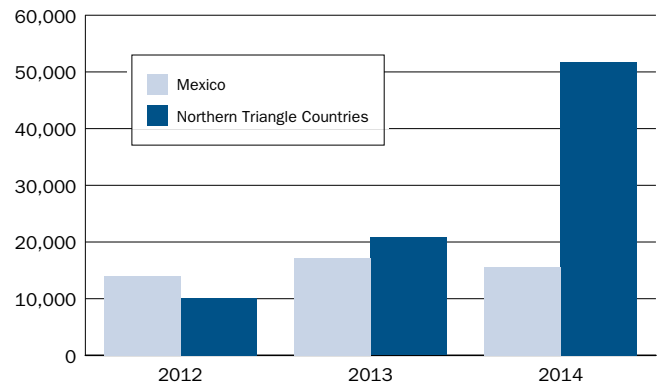
Apprehensions by Program and Country of Nationality: Fiscal Years 2012 to 2014

(Countries ranked by 2014 apprehensions)

Program and country of nationality	2014		2013		2012	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
PROGRAM						
Total	679,996	100.0	662,483	100.0	671,327	100.0
CBP U.S. Border Patrol	486,651	71.6	420,789	63.5	364,768	54.3
Southwest sectors (sub-total)	479,371	70.5	414,397	62.6	356,873	53.2
ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations	181,719	26.7	229,698	34.7	290,622	43.3
ICE Homeland Security Investigations	11,626	1.7	11,996	1.8	15,937	2.4
COUNTRY OF NATIONALITY						
Total	679,996	100.0	662,483	100.0	671,327	100.0
Mexico	350,177	51.5	424,978	64.1	468,766	69.8
Honduras	106,928	15.7	64,157	9.7	50,771	7.6
Guatemala	97,151	14.3	73,208	11.1	57,486	8.6
El Salvador	79,321	11.7	51,226	7.7	38,976	5.8
Ecuador	6,276	0.9	5,680	0.9	4,374	0.7
Dominican Republic	3,455	0.5	3,893	0.6	4,506	0.7
Nicaragua	2,912	0.4	2,712	0.4	2,532	0.4
Cuba	2,872	0.4	2,809	0.4	4,121	0.6
China, People's Republic	2,601	0.4	1,918	0.3	2,350	0.4
India	2,106	0.3	1,791	0.3	1,566	0.2
All other countries, including unknown	26,197	3.9	30,111	4.5	35,879	5.3

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security. October 2014.

Figure 2.
Apprehensions of Unaccompanied Children for Selected Countries: Fiscal Years 2012 to 2014



Note: Apprehensions of unaccompanied children from other countries accounted for less than 3 percent of the annual totals.
Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security. October 2014.

share of humanitarian migration from Central America.

The demographic trends also affected the border patrol sectors in which the apprehensions occurred (see Table 2). Apprehensions in the Rio Grande Valley sector, where the majority of Northern Triangle apprehensions took place, increased by more than 60 percent from 2013 and by more than 160 percent from 2012. Tucson, the most common sector for apprehensions of Mexican nationals, saw nearly 30 percent fewer apprehensions in 2014 than in 2013, reflecting fewer apprehensions there of both Mexican nationals and nationals of Northern Triangle countries. Between the increased apprehensions in the Rio Grande Valley sector and the decline in the Tucson sector, the share of apprehensions accounted for by the Rio Grande Valley sector nearly doubled from about 25 percent in 2012 to more than 50 percent in 2014.

ICE Administrative Arrests

ICE ERO made more than 180,000 administrative arrests in 2014, excluding transfers from CBP. This was about 20 percent fewer than in 2013, nearly 40 percent fewer than in 2013, and the fewest arrests since the peak of about 320,000 in 2011. ICE HSI conducted fewer than 12,000 administrative arrests in 2014, only slightly fewer than in 2013, but 27 percent fewer than in 2012. This slight decline continued a decade-long downward trend from more than 100,000 in 2004, 2005, and 2006.

Inadmissible Aliens

During inspections at the ports of entry in 2014, CBP OFO officers found about 220,000 aliens to be inadmissible, an increase of nearly 10 percent from 2013 (see Table 3). Similar to previous years, slightly more than 50 percent of inadmissibility determinations occurred at land ports, followed by about 25 percent each at air ports and sea ports. The sending countries with the largest increases were Cuba (more than 35 percent) and Mexico (about 13 percent). The ports with the largest increases were the San Diego and Laredo land ports, which both experienced increases of about 25 percent.

Table 2.

Apprehensions by U.S. Border Patrol Sector: Fiscal Years 2012 to 2014

(Sectors ranked by 2014 apprehensions)

U.S. Border Patrol Sector	2014		2013		2012	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	486,651	100.0	420,789	100.0	364,768	100.0
Rio Grande Valley, TX	256,393	52.7	154,453	36.7	97,762	26.8
Tucson, AZ	87,915	18.1	120,939	28.7	120,000	32.9
Laredo, TX	44,049	9.1	50,749	12.1	44,872	12.3
San Diego, CA	29,911	6.1	27,496	6.5	28,461	7.8
Del Rio, TX	24,255	5.0	23,510	5.6	21,720	6.0
El Centro, CA	14,511	3.0	16,306	3.9	23,916	6.6
El Paso, TX	12,339	2.5	11,154	2.7	9,678	2.7
Yuma, AZ	5,902	1.2	6,106	1.5	6,500	1.8
Big Bend, TX*	4,096	0.8	3,684	0.9	3,964	1.1
Miami, FL	2,034	0.4	1,738	0.4	2,509	0.7
All other sectors	5,246	1.1	4,654	1.1	5,386	1.5

* Formerly known as Marfa, TX.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, October 2014.

Table 3.

Aliens Determined Inadmissible by Mode of Travel, Country of Citizenship, and Field Office: Fiscal Years 2012 to 2014

(Ranked by 2014 inadmissible aliens)

Characteristic	2014		2013		2012	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
MODE OF TRAVEL						
Total	223,253	100.0	203,962	100.0	193,609	100.0
Land	118,330	53.0	103,370	50.7	100,342	51.8
Sea	51,850	23.2	51,561	25.3	52,511	27.1
Air	53,073	23.8	49,031	24.0	40,756	21.1
COUNTRY						
Total	223,253	100.0	203,962	100.0	193,609	100.0
Mexico	63,396	28.4	56,187	27.5	58,659	30.3
Canada	28,059	12.6	29,354	14.4	30,731	15.9
Cuba	24,285	10.9	17,679	8.7	12,253	6.3
Philippines	23,978	10.7	23,387	11.5	22,486	11.6
China, People's Republic	14,212	6.4	13,550	6.6	12,888	6.7
India	8,545	3.8	11,814	5.8	6,907	3.6
Honduras	5,906	2.6	2,187	1.1	1,445	0.7
Guatemala	4,614	2.1	1,919	0.9	1,757	0.9
Ukraine	3,398	1.5	2,882	1.4	2,928	1.5
El Salvador	3,147	1.4	2,193	1.1	1,028	0.5
All other countries, including unknown	43,713	19.6	42,810	21.0	42,527	22.0
FIELD OFFICE						
Total	223,253	100.0	203,962	100.0	193,609	100.0
Laredo, TX	38,978	17.5	31,764	15.6	28,005	14.5
San Diego, CA	32,577	14.6	25,698	12.6	26,891	13.9
New Orleans, LA	21,199	9.5	21,012	10.3	20,204	10.4
San Francisco, CA	14,062	6.3	14,949	7.3	9,832	5.1
Buffalo, NY	13,114	5.9	13,422	6.6	14,050	7.3
Miami, FL	12,193	5.5	8,686	4.3	7,593	3.9
Pre-Clearance ¹	10,700	4.8	9,692	4.8	8,559	4.4
Houston, TX	10,447	4.7	10,909	5.3	12,706	6.6
Atlanta, GA	10,439	4.7	8,363	4.1	7,984	4.1
El Paso, TX	10,170	4.6	7,852	3.8	6,955	3.6
All other field offices, including unknown	49,374	22.1	51,615	25.3	50,830	26.3

¹ Refers to field offices abroad.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, October 2014.

Nationality of Inadmissible Aliens

Mexican nationals accounted for 28 percent of inadmissible aliens in 2014, followed by Canada (13 percent), Cuba⁹ (11 percent), and the Philippines (11 percent). Among the top ten countries of nationality, the greatest increases from 2013 to 2014 were for nationals of Honduras (170 percent), Guatemala (140 percent), El Salvador (44 percent), and Cuba (37 percent). Since 2012, inadmissibility determinations increased by nearly 100 percent for Cuba and by more than 200 percent for Northern Triangle countries, collectively.

Notices to Appear

DHS issued more than 270,000 NTAs to initiate removal proceedings before an immigration judge in 2014, an increase of more than 20 percent from 2013. USBP issued about 120,000 NTAs, approximately 180 percent more than in 2013 and nearly 280 percent more than in 2012 (see Table 4). The vast majority of NTAs issued by USBP included a warrant of arrest and resulted in the transfer of the subject into ICE ERO custody. The substantial increases in USBP issuances of NTAs in 2013 and 2014 were largely due to the increase in unauthorized child and family migration from Northern Triangle countries.

⁹Cuban nationals applying for admission at the ports of entry may be paroled into the United States without documentation sufficient for admission.

ICE ERO issuances of NTAs declined more than 20 percent from 2013 and more than 40 percent from 2012. USCIS and CBP OFO issuances of NTAs remained at comparable levels to 2013. Due to the sizeable increases in USBP issuances and declining ERO issuances, the share of NTAs attributable to USBP grew from about 10 percent of the total in 2012 to more than 40 percent in 2014, and the share attributable to ERO declined from 60 percent in 2012 to less than 30 percent in 2014.

Detentions

ICE ERO, the agency responsible for immigration detention, booked nearly 430,000 aliens into detention during 2014, a slight decrease from 2013 (see Table 5). As in 2012 and 2013, detentions of nationals of Mexico and Northern Triangle countries comprised 90 percent of the total, though the trends are different. Detentions of Mexican nationals declined by nearly 30 percent from 2013 and nearly 45 percent from 2012, while detentions of nationals of Northern Triangle countries increased by more than 40 percent from 2013 and more than 90 percent from 2012. Overall, these conflicting demographic trends roughly offset each other, but the Northern Triangle countries accounted for 50 percent of the total in 2014 compared to only about 25 percent in 2012.

Table 4.

Notices to Appear Issued by Homeland Security Office: Fiscal Years 2012 to 2014

(Ranked by 2014 notices to appear)

Homeland Security office	2014		2013		2012	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	274,267	100.0	224,185	100.0	235,687	100.0
CBP U.S. Border Patrol	118,753	43.3	42,078	18.8	31,506	13.4
ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations	78,753	28.7	101,571	45.3	140,707	59.7
United States Citizenship and Immigration Services	57,220	20.9	56,896	25.4	41,778	17.7
CBP Office of Field Operations	19,541	7.1	23,640	10.5	21,696	9.2

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, October 2014.

Table 5.

Initial Admissions to ICE Detention Facilities by Country of Nationality: Fiscal Years 2012 to 2014

(Ranked by 2014 detention admissions)

Country of nationality	2014		2013		2012	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	425,728	100.0	440,557	100.0	477,523	100.0
Mexico	172,560	40.5	244,585	55.5	307,523	64.4
Honduras	76,708	18.0	50,609	11.5	40,469	8.5
Guatemala	74,543	17.5	59,189	13.4	50,723	10.6
El Salvador	59,933	14.1	40,261	9.1	31,286	6.6
Ecuador	5,351	1.3	4,716	1.1	3,856	0.8
Dominican Republic	3,379	0.8	3,537	0.8	4,265	0.9
China, People's Republic	2,444	0.6	1,738	0.4	1,970	0.4
Nicaragua	2,382	0.6	2,323	0.5	2,131	0.4
India	2,306	0.5	4,057	0.9	1,522	0.3
Haiti	2,056	0.5	2,382	0.5	1,609	0.3
All other countries, including unknown	24,066	5.7	27,160	6.2	32,169	6.7

Note: Excludes Office of Refugee Resettlement and Mexican Interior Repatriation Program facilities.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, October 2014.

Repatriations

Removals and returns both declined from 2013 to 2014. These declines may be partly explained by the trends of reduced economic migration from Mexico and increasing humanitarian migration from Central America, as a large share of Central Americans who are apprehended subsequently request asylum and remain in the United States while their cases are adjudicated by an immigration judge. Removal proceedings for asylum seekers can be lengthy, and recent changes in the demographics of the apprehension population have likely contributed to the decline in removals.

Removals

DHS removed about 415,000 aliens in 2014, a small decrease (five percent) from the all-time high of 435,000 in 2013 (see Table 6 and Figure 3). Removals of Mexican nationals declined by about 10 percent from 2013, but continued to comprise the majority (about 65 percent) of all DHS removals. Possibly related to the demographic shift away from Mexico, expedited removals declined by eight percent, and the growth rate for reinstatements of removal slowed from 15 percent between 2012 and 2013 to one percent between 2013 and 2014 (see Table 7). Removals of nationals of Northern Triangle countries increased by more than 15 percent from 2013 and 35 percent from 2012, and their share of total removals grew from about 20 percent in 2012 to about 30 percent in 2014. As in 2012 and 2013, the four leading countries accounted for about 95 percent of all removals.

Table 6.

Aliens Removed by Component: Fiscal Years 2012 to 2014

Component	2014		2013		2012	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	414,481	100.0	435,498	100.0	417,268	100.0
ICE	297,475	71.8	332,213	76.3	345,628	82.8
CBP U.S. Border Patrol	96,006	23.2	81,845	18.8	49,909	12.0
CBP Office of Field Operations	21,000	5.1	21,440	4.9	21,731	5.2

Note: OIS and ICE totals may differ. See footnote 2.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, October 2014.

Table 7.

Trends in Total Removals, Expedited Removals, and Reinstatements of Final Removal Orders: Fiscal Years 2012 to 2014

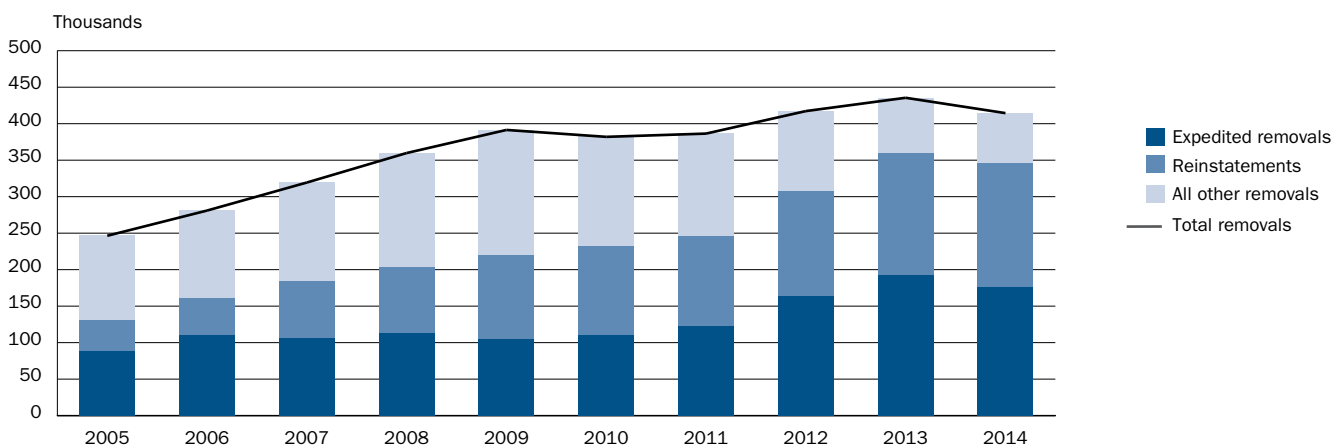
Removals	2014		2013		2012	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	414,481	100.0	435,498	100.0	417,268	100.0
Expedited Removals	176,752	42.6	192,607	44.2	163,253	39.1
Reinstatements	168,929	40.8	166,849	38.3	144,971	34.7
All other removals	68,800	16.6	76,042	17.5	109,044	26.1

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, October 2014.

ICE conducted nearly 300,000 removals in 2014, 10 percent fewer than in 2013. The decline in ICE removals may be attributable in part to the increasing numbers of apprehended aliens seeking asylum and the amount of time immigration proceedings take for asylum cases, as well as declining apprehensions of Mexican nationals and fewer transfers of Mexican nationals from USBP. ICE continues to conduct the majority of DHS removals (about 70 percent), but ICE's share has fallen from nearly 85 percent in 2012.

CBP conducted nearly 100,000 removals of Mexican and Canadian nationals apprehended at or near the border, an increase of more than 15 percent from 2013 and more than 90 percent from 2012. The

Figure 3.
Total Removals, Expedited Removals and Reinstatements: Fiscal Years 2005 to 2014



Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, October 2014.

increases in CBP removals have occurred despite declines in the number of Mexicans apprehended, reflecting a growing USBP focus on the immediate removal of Mexican nationals (i.e., through expedited removal and reinstatements of removal) and contributing to the declining number of removals conducted by ICE.

Most aliens apprehended at or near the border have no prior criminal convictions, and the rise in Border Patrol removals also contributed to a decline in the share of removals that were convicted criminals. In particular, about 40 percent of aliens removed in 2014 had a prior criminal conviction, down from about 45 percent in 2013 (see Table

8).¹⁰ For Northern Triangle countries, only 30 percent of the aliens removed in 2014 had a prior conviction, compared to 40 percent in 2013. Mexico and the Northern Triangle accounted for more than 95 percent of all criminal aliens removed. The most common convictions were for immigration-related offenses (about 30 percent), dangerous drugs (about 15 percent), criminal traffic offenses (about 15 percent), and assault (10 percent) (see Table 9). Removals decreased by 10 to 20 percent from 2013 to 2014 for each of these types of criminal convictions.

¹⁰ Excludes criminals removed by CBP due to limitations of the available data.

Table 8.

Aliens Removed by Criminal Status and Country of Nationality: Fiscal Years 2012 to 2014

(Ranked by 2014 aliens removed)

Country of nationality	2014			2013			2012		
	Total	Criminal ¹	Non-Criminal	Total	Criminal ¹	Non-Criminal	Total	Criminal ¹	Non-Criminal
Total	414,481	167,740	246,741	435,498	198,981	236,517	417,268	200,143	217,125
Mexico	275,911	121,750	154,161	311,286	146,769	164,517	302,619	151,444	151,175
Guatemala	54,153	13,698	40,455	46,948	15,373	31,575	38,899	13,494	25,405
Honduras	40,560	13,980	26,580	36,592	16,625	19,967	31,739	13,815	17,924
El Salvador	26,685	8,961	17,724	20,922	9,451	11,471	18,993	8,674	10,319
Dominican Republic	2,045	1,631	414	2,297	1,811	486	2,868	2,182	686
Ecuador	1,511	558	953	1,510	585	925	1,763	706	1,057
Colombia	1,309	841	468	1,441	961	480	1,591	1,055	536
Nicaragua	1,284	635	649	1,347	695	652	1,400	731	669
Jamaica	1,027	824	203	1,108	997	111	1,319	1,150	169
Brazil	931	278	653	1,449	368	1,081	2,397	424	1,973
All other countries, including unknown . .	9,065	4,584	4,481	10,598	5,346	5,252	13,680	6,468	7,212

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

Note: Excludes criminals removed by Customs and Border Protection (CBP). CBP EID does not identify if aliens removed were criminals.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, October 2014.

Table 9.

Criminal Aliens Removed by Crime Category: Fiscal Years 2012 to 2014

(Ranked by 2014 criminal aliens removed)

Crime Category	2014		2013		2012	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	167,740	100.0	198,981	100.0	200,143	100.0
Immigration ¹	53,087	31.6	62,364	31.3	47,616	23.8
Dangerous Drugs ²	27,581	16.4	30,688	15.4	42,679	21.3
Criminal Traffic Offenses ³	23,754	14.2	29,945	15.0	46,162	23.1
Assault	17,283	10.3	20,244	10.2	13,045	6.5
Burglary	4,623	2.8	5,521	2.8	3,569	1.8
Weapon Offenses	4,511	2.7	5,310	2.7	2,513	1.3
Larceny	4,273	2.5	5,303	2.7	5,428	2.7
Fraudulent Activities	3,860	2.3	5,196	2.6	3,879	1.9
Sexual Assault	2,924	1.7	3,176	1.6	3,353	1.7
Forgery	2,304	1.4	3,045	1.5	2,430	1.2
All other categories, including unknown	23,540	14.0	28,189	14.2	29,469	14.7

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.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, October 2014.

Returns

DHS returned about 160,000 aliens to their home countries without an order of removal in 2014 (see Table 10). This decline of nearly 10 percent from 2013 and nearly 30 percent from 2012 was largely driven by the declining number of returns by ICE in both 2013 and 2014 and a decrease in USBP returns in 2013. Returns by ICE declined by more than 60 percent from 2013 and by nearly 80 percent from 2012. Returns by USBP and CBP OFO were largely unchanged from 2013.

The number of aliens returned to Mexico declined by nearly 20 percent from 2013 and by 45 percent from 2012 (see Table 11). Although

more aliens were returned to Mexico in 2014 than any other country, Mexico's share of the total fell from more than 55 percent in 2012 to less than 45 percent in 2014. The next leading countries were Canada, the Philippines, and China, with each of their shares ranging from about 10 to 15 percent of the total.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

Table 10.

Aliens Returned by Component: Fiscal Years 2012 to 2014

Component	2014		2013		2012	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	162,814	100.0	178,706	100.0	230,373	100.0
CBP Office of Field Operations.	108,814	66.8	104,258	58.3	109,464	47.5
CBP U.S. Border Patrol	40,375	24.8	38,699	21.7	58,188	25.3
ICE	13,625	8.4	35,749	20.0	62,721	27.2

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, October 2014.

Table 11.

Aliens Returned by Country of Nationality: Fiscal Years 2012 to 2014

(Ranked by 2014 aliens returned)

Country of nationality	2014		2013		2012	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	162,814	100.0	178,706	100.0	230,373	100.0
Mexico	72,105	44.3	88,249	49.4	131,970	57.3
Canada	23,254	14.3	23,965	13.4	27,039	11.7
Philippines	22,158	13.6	21,526	12.0	20,903	9.1
China, People's Republic	12,232	7.5	11,688	6.5	11,780	5.1
Ukraine	3,046	1.9	2,609	1.5	2,589	1.1
India	2,792	1.7	2,467	1.4	3,273	1.4
Russia	1,899	1.2	1,997	1.1	2,441	1.1
Burma	1,888	1.2	1,920	1.1	2,337	1.0
Korea, South	1,238	0.8	1,259	0.7	1,191	0.5
Turkey	1,091	0.7	1,033	0.6	1,226	0.5
All other countries, including unknown	21,111	13.0	21,993	12.3	25,624	11.1

Note: Returns are the confirmed movement of an inadmissible or deportable alien out of the United States not based on an order of removal.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, October 2014.