

Immigration Enforcement Actions: 2019

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INTRODUCTION

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. The primary responsibility for the enforcement of immigration law within DHS rests with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). CBP primarily enforces immigration laws along the borders and at ports of entry (POEs) and ICE is responsible for interior enforcement and most detention and removal operations. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) adjudicates applications and petitions for immigration and naturalization benefits.

The 2019 *Immigration Enforcement Actions Annual Flow Report*, authored by the DHS Office of Immigration Statistics (OIS), presents information on DHS immigration enforcement actions during 2019.¹ This includes determinations of inadmissibility by CBP Office of Field Operations (OFO) officers, apprehensions by CBP U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) agents, and ICE administrative arrests, initiations of removal proceedings, intakes into immigration detention, and repatriation through removal or return.²

Key findings:

- DHS made 77 percent more apprehensions in 2019 than in 2018, largely driven by increases in apprehensions of El Salvadoran, Guatemalan, and Honduran nationals along the Southwest Border. DHS made 77 percent more family units apprehensions in 2019 than in 2018.
- In 2019, OFO made 2.1 percent more determinations of inadmissibility than in 2018.
- DHS issued nearly 110 percent more Notices to Appear (NTAs) in 2019 than in 2018, largely driven by increases in USBP actions.

¹ In this report, “years” refer to fiscal years, which run from October 1 to September 30.

² Data in this report are event-based data rather than person-centric, meaning an alien may be counted more than once within a table if that alien has been subject to an action more than once. For this reason, this report discusses numbers of actions performed rather than numbers of aliens subject to such actions.

- ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) initiated 29 percent more intakes into immigration detention, with detentions of aliens from Mexico and the Northern Triangle of Central America accounting for 82 percent of all detentions.
- DHS performed 9.5 percent more removals in 2019 than in 2018, with about 43 percent of removals involving aliens who had a prior criminal conviction.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS PROCESSES

Determinations of Inadmissibility

All aliens seeking admission at a POE are subject to inspection. OFO officers conduct these inspections at designated POEs 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 (IJ) for removal proceedings, processed for a visa waiver refusal, or paroled into the United States. Aliens referred to an IJ for removal proceedings under section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) are issued a form I-862, *Notice to Appear*, and may be transferred to ICE for a custody determination. Aliens who apply under the Visa Waiver Program who are found to be inadmissible are refused admission without referral to an IJ unless the alien requests asylum, withholding of removal, or protection under the United Nations Convention Against Torture.

DHS Apprehensions

DHS apprehensions of aliens for suspected immigration violations include “apprehensions” by USBP and “administrative arrests” by ICE. CBP and ICE agents and officers also initiate criminal charges against certain inadmissible or deportable aliens, as well as against certain individuals who are suspected of non-immigration-related offenses. While criminal arrests are beyond the scope of this report, aliens who are arrested (by any law enforcement agency) and convicted of criminal activity also may be potentially removable and subject to administrative arrest upon release from criminal custody.



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USBP Apprehensions

Aliens whom USBP apprehends entering without inspection between POEs are generally subject to removal proceedings. Adults may be permitted to voluntarily return to their country of origin, removed administratively, or processed for expedited removal and referred to an asylum officer for a credible fear interview if they express a fear of persecution in their country of origin or placed in removal proceedings before an IJ (e.g., issued an NTA). Adults from non-contiguous (to the United States) countries and all adults who are processed for expedited removal and referred to an asylum officer or issued an NTA are generally transferred to ICE for a custody determination. Unaccompanied alien children (UAC) from contiguous countries to the United States may be permitted to return to their country of origin under certain circumstances, while other UAC are processed by CBP and then transferred to the custody of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement. Historically, DHS has separated alien minors from adults claiming to be a parent or legal guardian in certain limited circumstances, such as if DHS is unable to confirm a custodial relationship, when DHS determines the minor may be at risk with the adult, for urgent medical issues, or when the adult is transferred to criminal detention as the result of a criminal charge or conviction. Under current DHS and CBP policy, family units are separated only consistent with the preliminary injunction in *Ms. L v. ICE* (Ms. L).³

Beginning in 2012, USBP implemented the Consequence Delivery System (CDS). 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 violations of immigration law. Examples of CDS consequences include expedited removal, lateral repatriation through the Alien Transfer Exit Program, and immigration-related criminal charges.

ICE Administrative Arrests

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. ICE usually identifies potentially removable aliens in the interior by working with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to verify the immigration status of arrested or incarcerated individuals, as well as by conducting operations to detain certain at-large removable aliens. Aliens arrested by ICE may be permitted to depart voluntarily, removed administratively, or referred to an IJ for removal proceedings.

Benefit Denial

USCIS may issue an NTA upon determining that the alien beneficiary of an application for an immigration or naturalization benefit is inadmissible under INA section 212 or removable under section 237. USCIS will also issue an NTA when required by statute or regulation (e.g., upon termination of conditional permanent resident status, referral of an asylum application, termination of asylum or refugee status, or following a positive credible fear determination) or, in certain cases, upon the subject's request.⁴

Detention Process

ERO makes a custody determination for aliens whom ICE arrests or CBP apprehends and transfers to ICE. ICE officers base determinations on whether the alien is subject to mandatory detention, the alien's risk to public safety, the effort to promote 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, parole, or release on the alien's own recognizance. ICE may redetermine custody at any point while the alien is in removal proceedings.

Repatriation Process

Inadmissible and deportable aliens may be subject to repatriation. Repatriations include execution of removal orders, which carry penalties such as bars to reentry, and returns, which generally do not carry such penalties. Removal orders can include expedited removal orders, reinstatements of removal orders, administrative removals, or removal orders issued pursuant to proceedings in immigration court. Depending upon the individual circumstances of the case, penalties associated with removal may include a bar of between five years and life from future admission into the United States. Aliens who unlawfully reenter the United States following an execution of a removal order may also be subject to criminal charges and imprisonment for up to 20 years.

Returns

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 accepting an offer of voluntary return 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 have the opportunity to agree to voluntarily depart (also a form of "return"). Certain DHS officials may grant an alien voluntary departure prior to an immigration hearing, or an IJ may do so during or at the conclusion of an immigration hearing.

³ *Ms. L v. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement*, 310 F. Supp. 3d 1133 (S.D. Cal. June 26, 2019). For a more detailed discussion of family separations and related issues see *DHS Family Unit Actions Report*, July 2019.

⁴ Aliens may request that USCIS issue an NTA allowing them to seek relief in removal proceedings. If USCIS determines that an alien has not established a credible fear or reasonable fear, the subject may request an appearance before an IJ for reconsideration of that determination.

Removal Proceedings

Aliens issued an NTA are provided an immigration hearing under the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice (DOJ) Executive Office for Immigration Review. Removal hearings before an immigration court are administrative proceedings during which potentially removable aliens may present evidence before an IJ that they are not removable from the United States and/or eligible for relief or protection from removal. IJs 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 or protection from removal may include the grant of an application for asylum, adjustment of status, or cancellation of removal. Aliens can file a petition for review of a Board of Immigration Appeals decision to the U.S. Courts of Appeals.

Expedited Removal

Expedited removal is a process wherein DHS removes aliens from the United States administratively (i.e., through standardized functions when meeting certain criteria and without appearing before an EOIR IJ, except to the extent that alien expresses a fear of persecution and if found not to have a credible fear, requests review of such determination by an IJ). Expedited removal applies to three classes of aliens:

- 1) certain aliens who arrive at a POE without proper documentation or who attempt to gain entry through fraud or misrepresentation;⁵
- 2) aliens apprehended between POEs and within 100 miles of the land border who cannot establish to the officer's satisfaction that they have been continuously physically present in the United States for the 14-day period immediately prior to the date of encounter;⁶ and
- 3) aliens apprehended within 2 years after arriving by sea without being admitted or paroled.⁷

Reinstatement of Final Removal Orders

DHS may administratively reinstate final removal orders without further hearing or review for aliens who unlawfully reenter the United States after DHS has previously removed them or after they have departed voluntarily under an order of removal.⁸

⁵ See INA § 235(b)(1)(A)(i).

⁶ Regulations enacted in 2004 limit authority granted in INA § 235(b)(1)(A)(iii) to focus enforcement resources upon unlawful entries that have a close spatial and temporal nexus to the border. See DHS CBP, "Designating Aliens for Expedited Removal," *Federal Register*, Vol. 69, No. 154, p. 48877-48881, Aug. 11, 2004. On July 23, 2019, DHS published a Notice in the *Federal Register* announcing a significant expansion of expedited removal. Under the expanded policy, most undocumented persons who have not been admitted or paroled into the United States and who cannot prove they have resided in the United States for more than 2 years potentially will be subject to expedited removal. The 2019 regulation was challenged in federal court and its implementation was subject to a preliminary injunction on September 27, 2019.

⁷ See DOJ, "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.

⁸ See INA § 241(a)(5).

DHS reinstates the prior order of removal from its original date, and the alien is generally ineligible and may not apply for relief under the INA.⁹ Aliens who are subject to a reinstatement of a final removal order are typically ineligible for any type of relief under the INA unless the alien expresses a fear of returning to his or her country of nationality. Typically, after an alien expresses a fear, they are referred to USCIS for a reasonable fear screening to determine if they have a fear of torture upon their return to his or her country of nationality.

Administrative Removal

DHS may administratively remove aliens convicted of an aggravated felony who did not have U.S. lawful permanent resident status at the commencement of removal proceedings.¹⁰

Aliens subject to expedited removal, reinstatement of a prior order of removal, or administrative removal generally are not entitled to proceedings before an IJ or consideration for relief or protection unless the alien expresses a fear of persecution or torture upon return to his or her country of nationality or makes a claim to certain forms of legal status in the United States. The specific procedures for establishing the right for review by an IJ differ for each administrative removal process.

DATA AND METHODS

This report uses administrative record data processed according to a set of defined rules. To the extent possible, these rules group events into time periods according to when the event took place, rather than the date of case completion, closure, or update. Whenever possible, this report presents statistics for each year from 2011 to 2019.

The removal and return numbers included here are estimates. This is largely due to the absence of explicit records on CBP-performed removals and 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. Due to these limitations, OIS updates previously reported estimates as new data become available.

Apprehension and inadmissibility data are collected in the Enforcement Integrated Database (EID) using Form I-213, *Record of Deportable-Inadmissible Alien*, and EID Arrest Graphical User Interface for Law Enforcement. 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. OIS' and ICE's methodologies for reporting immigration enforcement statistics differed slightly prior to 2016, resulting in small discrepancies between historic ICE and OIS numbers.

⁹ See INA § 241(a)(5).

¹⁰ See INA § 238(b). See also INA § 101(a)(43) (defining "aggravated felony").

Table 1.

Apprehensions by Program and Country of Nationality: Fiscal Years 2011 to 2019

(Countries ranked by 2019 apprehensions)

Program and country of nationality	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
PROGRAM									
Total	678,606	671,327	662,483	679,996	462,388	530,250	461,540	572,566	1,013,539
USBP	340,252	364,768	420,789	486,651	337,117	415,816	310,531	404,142	859,501
Southwest sectors (sub-total)	327,577	356,873	414,397	479,371	331,333	408,870	303,916	396,579	851,508
ICE ERO	322,093	290,622	229,698	181,719	117,983	110,104	143,470	158,581	143,099
ICE Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)	16,261	15,937	11,996	11,626	7,288	4,330	7,539	9,843	10,939
COUNTRY OF NATIONALITY									
Total	678,606	671,327	662,483	679,996	462,388	530,250	461,540	572,566	1,013,539
Guatemala	41,708	57,486	73,208	97,151	66,982	84,649	81,909	135,354	285,067
Honduras	31,189	50,771	64,157	106,928	42,433	61,222	60,169	91,141	268,992
Mexico	517,472	468,766	424,978	350,177	267,885	265,747	220,138	252,267	254,595
El Salvador	27,652	38,976	51,226	79,321	51,200	78,983	59,687	42,132	99,750
Brazil	3,228	2,433	1,702	1,643	1,911	3,738	3,699	2,810	19,168
Ecuador	3,298	4,374	5,680	6,276	3,438	3,472	2,568	2,708	14,503
Nicaragua	2,278	2,532	2,712	2,912	1,577	1,756	1,721	4,014	14,248
Cuba	4,801	4,121	2,809	2,872	2,281	3,061	2,432	2,321	14,136
India	3,859	1,566	1,791	2,106	2,967	4,123	3,682	9,953	8,926
China, People's Republic	2,604	2,435	1,992	2,631	1,894	3,219	2,378	2,339	3,006
All other countries	40,517	37,867	32,228	27,979	19,820	20,280	23,157	27,527	31,148

Note: "All other countries" includes unknown. Statistics reported by OIS and ICE tend to vary slightly due to differences in methodology.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

TRENDS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Apprehensions

DHS made 1,000,000 apprehensions in 2019, up 77 percent from 570,000 in 2018 (Table 1).¹¹ Apprehensions of nationals from the Northern Triangle largely drove this change with a 140 percent increase from 2018. Brazilian nationals experienced the largest proportional growth in apprehensions among leading countries, increasing by 580 percent from 2018, with 19,000 apprehensions in 2019.

U.S. Border Patrol Apprehensions

USBP apprehensions increased 110 percent from 400,000 in 2018 to 860,000 in 2019, mostly due to the increase in apprehensions along the Southwest Border, where 99 percent of USBP apprehensions occurred. Mexican nationals accounted for an average of 96 percent of USBP apprehensions between 1970 and 2009, but their share dropped from 84 percent in 2011 to 38 percent in 2018 and continued to decline to 20 percent in 2019. Meanwhile, the share of USBP apprehensions involving nationals from Northern Triangle countries kept rising, from 12 percent in 2011 and 48 percent in 2016, to a record high of 71 percent in 2019. The 610,000 apprehensions of Northern Triangle nationals represented the highest total ever for that region. For the first time ever, Mexico (170,000) was not the leading country of nationality for apprehensions, as both Guatemala (270,000) and Honduras (250,000) accounted for larger numbers (Table 2, Figure 1).

Continuing a trend since at least 2012 when USBP began fully tracking the family status of apprehensions,¹² the share of single adults as a proportion of apprehensions fell to 35 percent in 2019, down from 60 percent in 2018 and 87 percent in 2013 (Figure 2). USBP apprehensions of UAC increased from 50,000 to 76,000 and accounted for 8.9 percent of the total (down from 13 percent in 2018); and apprehensions of parents or legal guardians and minor children traveling together, known as family unit aliens, increased from 110,000 to 470,000, accounting for 56 percent of the total, also an all-time high.

ICE Administrative Arrests

Administrative arrests conducted by ERO and HSI decreased from 170,000 in 2018 to 150,000 in 2019 (Figure 3). ERO administrative arrests decreased 10 percent from 160,000 in 2018 to 140,000 in 2019. Conversely, HSI administrative arrests rose 11 percent from 9,800 in 2018 to 11,000 in 2019.

Inadmissible Aliens

During inspection of aliens seeking admission at POEs in 2019, OFO officers made 290,000 inadmissibility determinations,¹³ an increase of 2.1 percent from 2018 (Table 3). This increase was driven by a 140 percent increase in inadmissibility determinations for nationals of Cuba and a 100 percent increase for nationals of Venezuela.

¹²USBP has tracked UACs since 2008 and aliens arriving in family units since 2012; OFO has tracked UACs since 2013 and family unit aliens since 2017.

¹³Does not capture inadmissibility determinations made by DOS with input from ICE through the visa security program.

Table 2.

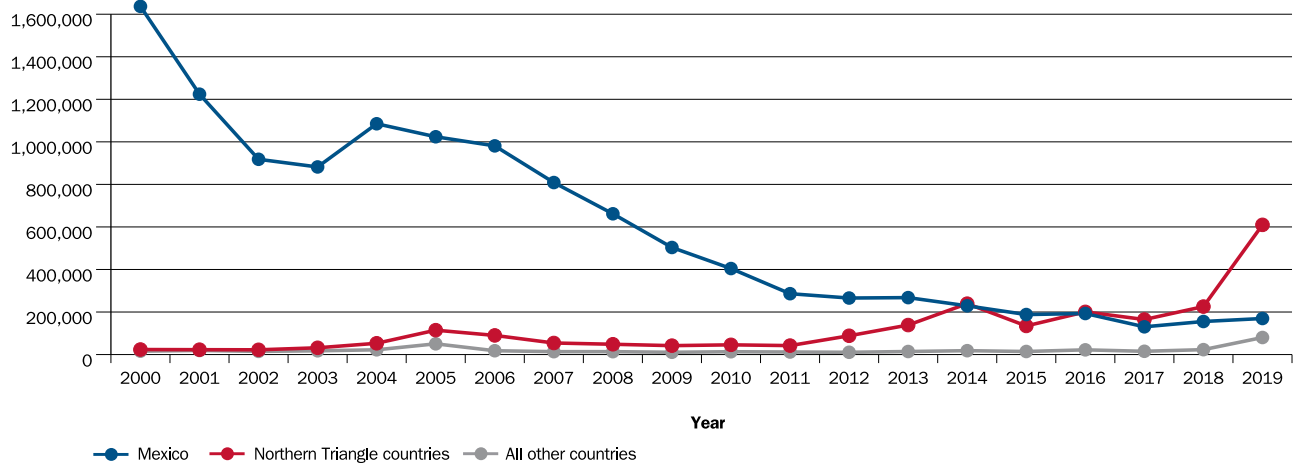
USBP Apprehensions by Selected Countries of Nationality: Fiscal Years 2011 to 2019
(Countries ranked by 2019 apprehensions)

	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	340,252	100.0	364,768	100.0	420,789	100.0	486,651	100.0	337,117	100.0	415,816	100.0	310,531	100.0	404,142	100.0	859,501	100.0
Guatemala	19,061	5.6	35,204	9.7	54,692	13.0	81,116	16.7	57,160	17.0	75,246	18.1	66,807	21.5	116,808	28.9	265,129	30.8
Honduras	12,197	3.6	30,953	8.5	46,865	11.1	91,475	18.8	33,848	10.0	53,402	12.8	47,900	15.4	77,128	19.1	254,561	29.6
Mexico	286,154	84.1	265,755	72.9	267,734	63.6	229,178	47.1	188,122	55.8	192,969	46.4	130,454	42.0	155,452	38.5	169,536	19.7
El Salvador	10,874	3.2	22,158	6.1	37,149	8.8	66,638	13.7	43,564	12.9	72,018	17.3	50,011	16.1	31,636	7.8	90,085	10.5
All other countries	11,966	3.5	10,698	2.9	14,349	3.4	18,244	3.7	14,423	4.3	22,181	5.3	15,359	4.9	23,118	5.7	80,190	9.3

Note: "All other countries" includes unknown.
Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Figure 1.

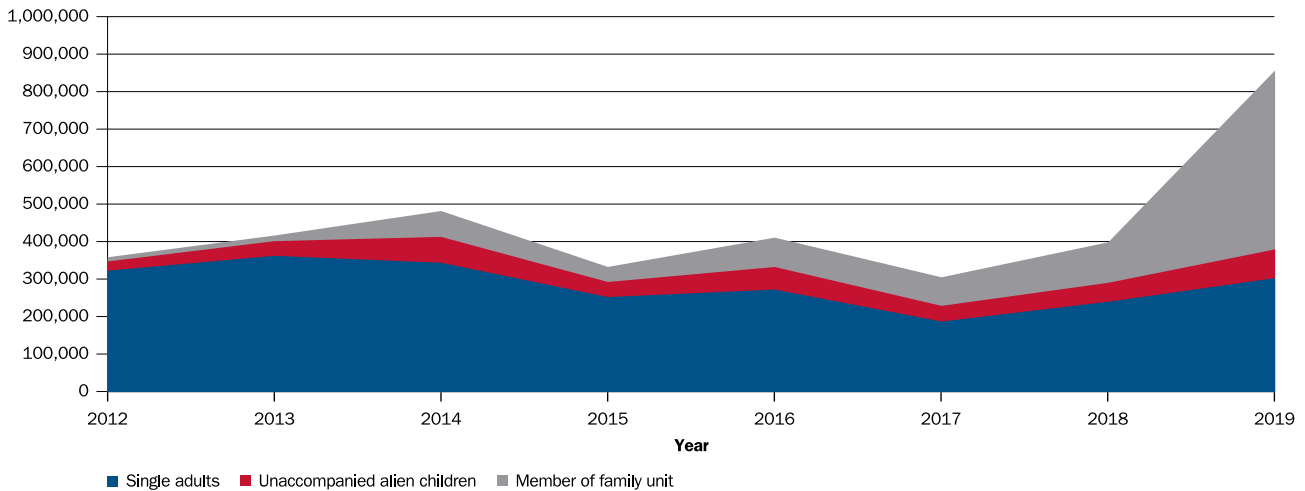
USBP Apprehensions by Selected Countries: Fiscal Years 2000 to 2019



Note: "All other countries" includes unknown.
Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Figure 2.

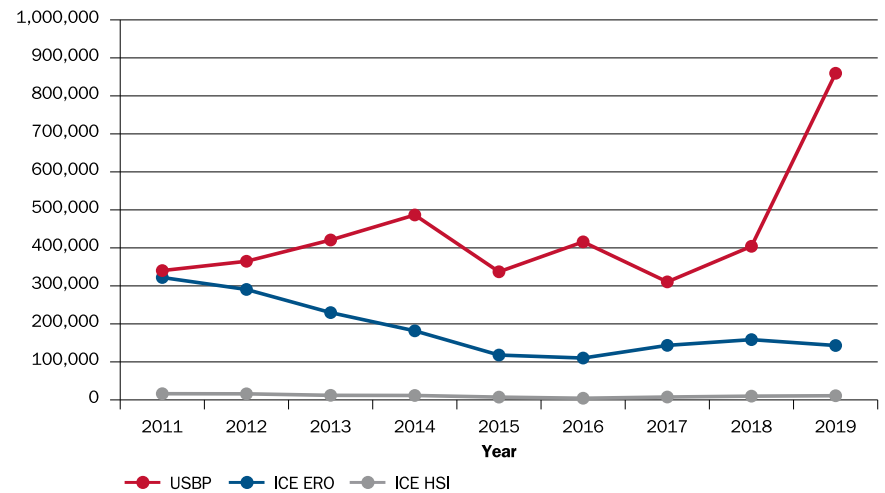
USBP Southwest Border Apprehensions of Aliens by Family Unit Status: Fiscal Years 2012 to 2019



Note: USBP started tracking Family Unit Aliens in FY 2012.
Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Figure 3.

Apprehensions by Program: Fiscal Years 2011 to 2019



Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Table 3.

Alien Inadmissibility Determinations by Mode of Travel, Country of Citizenship, and Field Office: Fiscal Years 2011 to 2019

(Ranked by 2019 alien inadmissibility determinations)

Characteristic	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
MODE OF TRAVEL									
Total	213,345	195,804	205,623	225,016	254,714	274,617	216,257	281,928	287,977
Land	107,385	100,592	103,642	118,662	139,884	174,868	136,477	156,431	157,153
Sea	66,538	53,774	52,326	52,695	49,672	35,327	19,778	71,935	77,575
Air	39,422	41,438	49,655	53,659	65,158	64,422	59,803	53,456	53,237
Unknown	-	-	-	-	94	-	199	106	12
COUNTRY									
Total	213,345	195,804	205,623	225,016	254,714	274,617	216,257	281,928	287,977
Mexico	67,590	58,945	56,504	63,805	74,473	73,338	62,439	77,570	78,888
Philippines	25,305	22,893	23,722	24,313	22,731	15,842	8,988	31,432	31,002
Canada	32,182	30,786	29,403	28,100	26,347	22,120	22,353	23,917	24,696
Cuba	7,794	12,290	17,717	24,301	43,146	54,226	20,263	9,415	22,367
China, People's Republic of.	17,175	13,346	13,812	14,601	15,640	12,180	9,151	18,575	20,295
Honduras	1,084	1,457	2,197	5,922	3,235	7,996	7,327	13,270	8,609
India	5,998	6,947	11,864	8,585	7,207	7,115	5,644	8,597	8,531
Venezuela	347	367	408	500	961	1,715	2,146	4,042	8,178
Guatemala	1,627	1,783	1,934	4,637	6,278	13,490	11,700	18,669	7,116
Ukraine	4,368	2,968	2,915	3,415	3,123	2,612	1,345	4,383	4,985
All other countries	49,875	44,022	45,147	46,837	51,573	63,983	64,901	72,058	73,310
FIELD OFFICE									
Total	213,345	195,804	205,623	225,016	254,714	274,617	216,257	281,928	287,977
Laredo	25,847	28,212	32,149	39,699	52,795	68,014	49,596	49,160	49,804
San Diego	33,746	26,914	25,636	32,563	40,446	48,161	31,720	35,931	35,127
El Paso	6,942	6,981	7,870	10,185	12,063	23,552	17,738	23,612	26,485
Houston	19,573	12,786	10,958	10,492	11,224	9,820	8,931	22,628	25,232
New Orleans	20,857	20,241	21,039	21,223	20,563	14,600	3,521	17,669	17,282
Tucson	7,986	7,674	10,041	9,014	9,423	11,835	13,675	17,344	16,805
Buffalo	15,725	14,066	13,445	13,125	11,916	11,993	11,276	11,903	11,294
Miami	7,038	7,776	8,836	12,307	17,705	18,755	10,760	11,958	11,058
Los Angeles	6,766	4,031	4,095	4,193	5,752	5,472	6,358	8,533	10,768
Boston	5,223	4,862	4,996	4,547	5,093	3,593	4,789	10,839	9,962
All other field offices	63,642	62,261	66,558	67,668	67,734	58,822	57,893	72,351	74,160

- Represents zero.

Note: "All other countries" and "All other field offices" include unknown. Statistics reported by OIS and CBP OFO tend to vary slightly due to differences in methodology.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Inadmissibility determinations dropped for nationals of Guatemala after surging in 2018.

In 2019, 55 percent of the inadmissibility determinations occurred at land ports, 18 percent at air ports, and 27 percent at sea ports; these proportions are comparable to 2018; however, not comparable to 2016 and 2017 due to a temporary policy change in how crew members detained aboard were categorized in those 2 years.¹⁴ The leading ports were Laredo (where OFO found 50,000 aliens inadmissible), San Diego (35,000), El Paso (26,000), and Houston (25,000).

Most aliens found inadmissible by OFO at POEs fall into one of three main categories:

First, most inadmissible aliens from the leading countries of nonimmigrant admissions—including Mexico, Canada, People’s Republic of China (China), and India—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 reasons. These denials of admission constitute a small fraction of persons who present themselves for inspection at a POE.

Second, certain inadmissible aliens present themselves at a POE despite knowing that they are inadmissible in order to seek some form of humanitarian relief or protection. Historically, a large share of these aliens was paroled into the United States for humanitarian reasons or as a matter of policy.

Citizens of Cuba were generally exempted from the provisions of section 235(b)(1) of the INA under the former “Wet Foot – Dry Foot” policy, and many Cubans requested asylum at a POE, including many inadmissible Cubans not in possession of valid travel documents. With the rescission of this rule on January 12, 2017, the number of Cubans found inadmissible fell from 20,000 in 2017 to 9,400 in 2018; however, the trend of Cubans found inadmissible reversed and increased to 22,000 in 2019.

An increasing number of nationals from the Northern Triangle also sought asylum at POEs and were found inadmissible in each year from 2013 to 2018, but all three countries had decreases in these determinations in 2019.

¹⁴For a period in 2016 and 2017, detained crew members were not counted as inadmissible.

Inadmissibility determinations of Northern Triangle nationals totaled 19,000 in 2019, a 50 percent decrease from 2018 (Figure 4). Inadmissible nationals from Northern Triangle countries who claim a fear of persecution or torture or who indicate their intention to apply for asylum may be placed in removal proceedings and either detained or released into the United States depending on available resources and other factors.¹⁵

The third main category of inadmissible alien consists of crew members of foreign vessels who may be required to remain aboard their ships. Cargo operations can require visits to multiple ports, or multiple docks within a single port, and can take longer than the 29 days permitted by a D-1 nonimmigrant crew member visa. In such cases, crew members initially granted shore leave may be re-coded as inadmissible once the shore leave expires, regardless of whether the crew members intended or attempted to disembark the vessel. Most inadmissible nationals from the Philippines and China are in this category.

Notices to Appear

DHS issued 790,000 NTAs to initiate removal proceedings before an IJ in 2019, a 110 percent increase over 2018 and a 180 percent increase over the 5-year average from 2014 to 2018 (Table 4). USBP issued 520,000 NTAs in 2019, a 350 percent increase over 2018 and a 440 percent increase over the 5-year average from 2014 to 2018. OFO issued 62,000 NTAs in 2019, a 29 percent increase over 2018, an 85 percent increase over the 2014 –2018 average, and the highest number of OFO NTAs since at least 2005 when data began being collected. ERO issued 70,000 in 2019, down 14 percent from 2018 but up 7.1 percent from the 2014 – 2018 average. And USCIS issued 140,000 NTAs in 2019, a slight increase from 2018.

Detentions

ICE ERO, the agency responsible for immigration detention, initiated 510,000 detention book-ins in 2019, a 29 percent increase over 2018 (Table 5, Figure 5).

¹⁵Beginning in January 2019, under the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP), certain aliens (other than Mexican nationals) entering or seeking admission to the United States from Mexico – illegally or without proper documentation – may be returned to Mexico and wait outside of the United States for the duration of their removal proceedings.

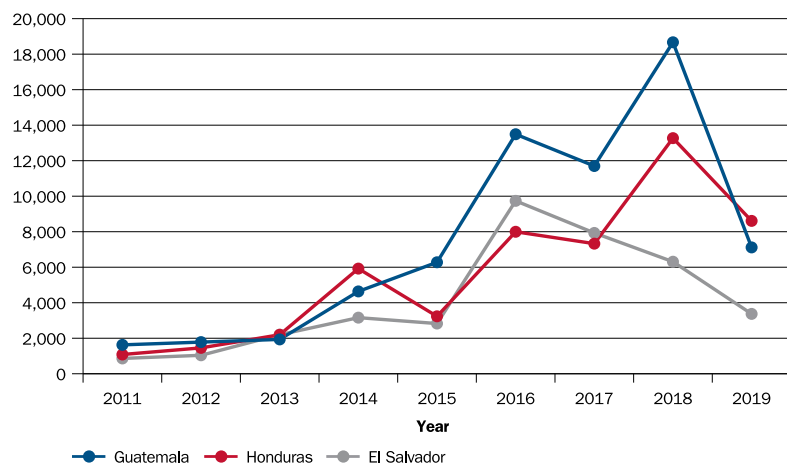
Table 4.
Notices to Appear Issued by DHS Component: Fiscal Years 2011 to 2019
(Ranked by 2019 notices to appear)

Component	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	256,546	100.0	241,788	100.0	228,398	100.0	277,085	100.0	194,392	100.0	273,901	100.0	281,413	100.0	385,942	100.0	793,912	100.0
USBP	31,739	12.4	31,506	13.0	42,078	18.4	118,753	42.9	64,775	33.3	93,146	34.0	88,315	31.4	116,428	30.2	521,894	65.7
USCIS	44,638	17.4	41,778	17.3	56,896	24.9	56,684	20.5	56,835	29.2	92,229	33.7	91,711	32.6	140,246	36.3	140,396	17.7
ICE ERO	162,627	63.4	146,808	60.7	105,791	46.3	82,111	29.6	46,274	23.8	45,980	16.8	69,910	24.8	81,332	21.1	69,730	8.8
CBP OFO	17,542	6.8	21,696	9.0	23,633	10.3	19,537	7.1	26,508	13.6	42,546	15.5	31,477	11.2	47,936	12.4	61,892	7.8

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Figure 4.

Alien Inadmissibility Determinations by Selected Countries: Fiscal Years 2011 to 2019



Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Detentions of Mexican nationals decreased 13 percent to 120,000 in 2019, while Mexicans accounted for just 24 percent of ICE detentions, marking its lowest share since at least 2008 when data began being collected. Detentions of aliens from Northern Triangle countries increased from 200,000 in 2018 to 300,000 in 2019—marking the fourth year in a row that Northern Triangle detentions surpassed those of Mexicans, and the first year in which Guatemala (150,000) surpassed Mexico (120,000) as the single largest source of detentions. As in previous years, nationals of Mexico and the Northern Triangle comprised over 80 percent of total detentions. Among other top countries for detention in 2019, detentions of Cuban, Ecuadorian, and Nicaraguan nationals all more than doubled from 2018 figures.

Repatriations

DHS repatriations include removals and returns conducted by ICE and CBP. DHS made 530,000 alien repatriations in 2019, an 8.7 percent increase over 2018.

Removals

DHS performed 360,000 removals of aliens in 2019, a 9.5 percent increase from 2018 (Table 6). ERO completed 69 percent of DHS removals, USBP accounted for 23 percent, and OFO completed the remaining 8 percent. Expedited removals accounted for 46 percent of all removals while 39 percent were based on the reinstatement of prior removal orders. Removals of nationals from Mexico made up 60 percent of removals while removals of aliens from the Northern Triangle countries made up 31 percent.

Over 68 percent of all removals resulted from a USBP apprehension in 2019 (Figure 6). ICE administrative arrests led to the next-largest share of removals (21 percent), and OFO determinations of inadmissibility led to 11 percent.

Forty-three percent of removals in 2019 were of aliens with prior criminal convictions, similar to the average for the entire 2011–2018 period.¹⁶ Thirty-nine percent of the removals of Mexican nationals, 44 percent of the removals of those from the Northern Triangle countries, and 67 percent of removals of nationals from other countries involved those with prior criminal convictions (Table 7). As in previous years, a majority of prior criminal convictions involved immigration violations, traffic offenses, and drug offenses (Table 8).

Returns

DHS performed 170,000 returns of aliens to their home countries without an order of removal in 2019, a 7.2 percent increase from 2018 (Table 9). USBP returns jumped by 54 percent, OFO returns increased by 1.8 percent, and ERO returns rose by 9.5 percent in 2019. Forty percent of returns involved Mexican or Canadian nationals. Crew member detentions made up 40 percent of returns, while withdrawals of applications for admission voluntary returns and voluntary departure made up 30 percent, 15 percent, and 9.1 percent of total returns, respectively.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

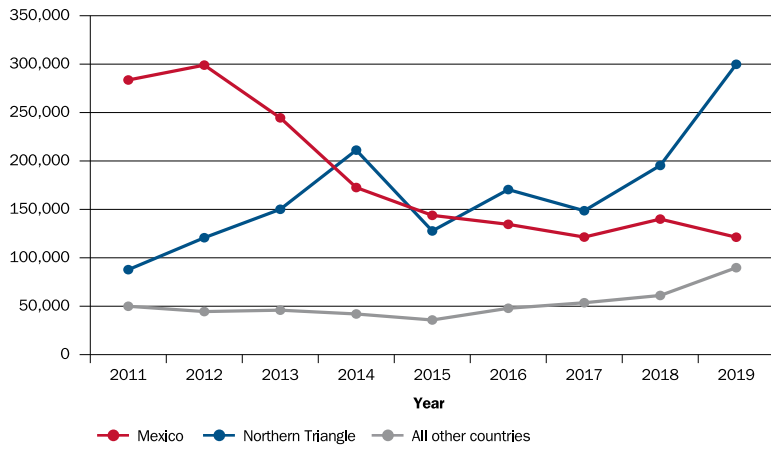
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U.S. Department of Homeland Security, forthcoming. “2019 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics,” Office of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, <https://www.dhs.gov/immigration-statistics/yearbook/2019>.

¹⁶Beginning in January 2019, under the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP), certain aliens (other than Mexican nationals) entering or seeking admission to the United States from Mexico – illegally or without proper documentation – may be returned to Mexico and wait outside of the United States for the duration of their removal proceedings.

Figure 5.

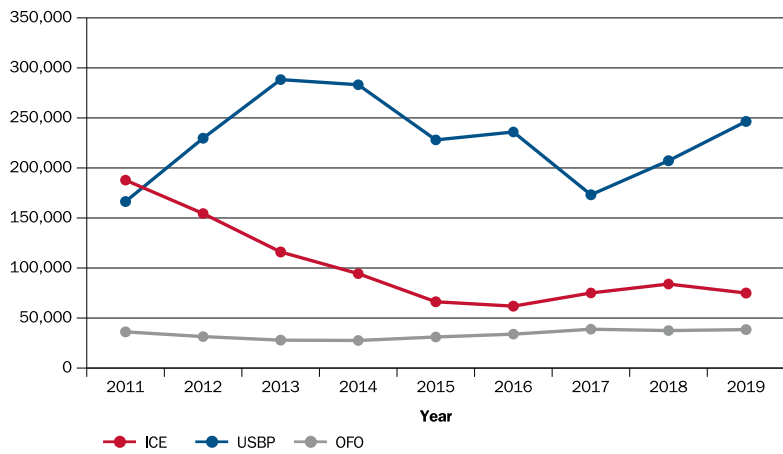
Initial Admissions to ICE Detention Facilities by Country of Nationality: Fiscal Years 2011 to 2019



Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Figure 6.

Alien Removals by Initial Apprehending Component: Fiscal Years 2011 to 2019



Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Table 5.

Initial Admissions to ICE Detention Facilities by Country of Nationality: Fiscal Years 2011 to 2019

(Ranked by 2019 detention admissions)

Country of nationality	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	421,312	464,190	440,540	425,728	307,342	352,882	323,591	396,448	510,854
Guatemala	38,187	50,068	59,212	74,543	52,562	65,757	62,741	99,746	152,249
Mexico	283,615	298,973	244,532	172,560	143,834	134,546	121,405	139,967	121,258
Honduras	26,106	39,859	50,622	76,708	34,899	46,753	43,w411	62,461	104,166
El Salvador	23,457	30,808	40,258	59,933	40,263	57,953	42,457	33,169	43,408
Cuba	2,149	1,904	1,455	1,111	1,132	1,271	3,755	8,514	23,706
Brazil	2,467	1,920	1,423	1,376	1,802	4,056	4,791	5,477	10,093
India	3,388	1,453	4,057	2,306	2,971	4,088	3,656	9,818	8,447
Nicaragua	1,975	2,055	2,323	2,382	1,469	1,544	1,514	3,428	7,893
Ecuador	2,929	3,811	4,717	5,351	3,097	3,196	2,455	2,548	6,710
China, People's Republic of . .	2,321	2,001	1,753	2,468	1,897	3,037	2,273	2,400	3,400
All other countries	34,718	31,338	30,188	26,990	23,416	30,681	35,133	28,920	29,524

Notes: Excludes Office of Refugee Resettlement and Mexican Interior Repatriation Program facilities. "All other countries" includes unknown. Statistics reported by OIS and ICE tend to vary slightly due to differences in methodology.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Table 6.

Alien Removals by Component and Removal Type: Fiscal Years 2011 to 2019

Component and Removal Type	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
APPREHENDING COMPONENT																			
Total	390,423	100	415,607	100	432,228	100	405,090	100	325,328	100	331,717	100	287,093	100	328,716	100	359,885	100	
CBP U.S. Border Patrol	166,425	43	229,700	55	288,296	67	283,153	70	228,024	70	235,942	71	173,198	60	207,243	63	246,466	68	
ICE	187,811	48	154,445	37	116,032	27	94,356	23	66,252	20	61,875	19	75,062	26	83,984	26	74,982	21	
CBP Office of Field Operations . .	36,187	9	31,462	8	27,900	6	27,581	7	31,052	10	33,900	10	38,833	14	37,489	11	38,437	11	
REMOVING COMPONENT																			
Total	390,423	100	415,607	100	432,228	100	405,090	100	325,328	100	331,717	100	287,093	100	328,716	100	359,885	100	
ICE	319,212	82	345,608	83	332,028	77	301,914	75	228,627	70	232,472	70	213,932	75	238,699	73	248,222	69	
CBP U.S. Border Patrol	41,568	11	48,325	12	78,847	18	82,517	20	73,923	23	73,696	22	48,710	17	63,994	19	83,757	23	
CBP Office of Field Operations . .	29,643	8	21,674	5	21,353	5	20,659	5	22,778	7	25,549	8	24,451	9	26,023	8	27,906	8	
REMOVAL TYPE																			
Total	390,423	100	415,607	100	432,228	100	405,090	100	325,328	100	331,717	100	287,093	100	328,716	100	359,885	100	
Expedited Removals	124,563	32	165,606	40	197,603	46	188,409	47	152,742	47	155,742	47	121,942	42	143,664	44	164,296	46	
Reinstatements	123,747	32	143,090	34	162,379	38	158,497	39	129,116	40	134,243	40	112,988	39	124,231	38	139,349	39	
All other removals	142,113	36	106,911	26	72,246	17	58,184	14	43,470	13	41,732	13	52,163	18	60,821	19	56,240	16	

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

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Table 7.

Alien Removals by Criminal Status and Country of Nationality: Fiscal Years 2011 to 2019

(Ranked by 2019 alien removals)

Country of nationality	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Total	Percent Criminal ¹	Total	Percent Criminal ¹	Total	Percent Criminal ¹	Total	Percent Criminal ¹	Total	Percent Criminal ¹	Total	Percent Criminal ¹	Total	Percent Criminal ¹	Total	Percent Criminal ¹	Total	Percent Criminal ¹
Total	390,423	48.6	415,607	48.1	432,228	45.9	405,090	41.8	325,328	37.1	331,717	34.8	287,093	38.2	328,716	45.1	359,885	43.3
Mexico	287,462	50.6	300,496	50.4	306,902	47.6	265,086	46.5	233,222	37.2	236,205	34.6	184,106	40.3	209,334	43.2	215,205	39.2
Guatemala	30,871	38.1	38,885	34.7	47,013	32.8	54,405	25.2	33,379	31.5	33,886	31.3	33,049	33.6	49,135	40.3	53,180	43.3
Honduras	22,675	48.0	31,724	43.6	36,635	45.3	40,877	34.4	20,298	42.2	22,015	39.0	22,163	41.9	28,451	44.8	40,751	44.0
El Salvador	17,945	47.6	18,910	45.8	21,130	44.8	26,671	33.6	21,899	33.0	20,264	33.2	18,448	35.2	14,877	47.1	18,190	48.4
Colombia	2,138	49.7	1,607	65.8	1,468	63.3	1,375	63.7	1,596	49.8	2,086	36.6	2,059	31.1	2,638	86.5	2,951	88.6
Ecuador	1,783	39.8	1,766	40.1	1,509	38.4	1,569	36.4	1,430	34.1	1,427	32.6	1,397	36.3	1,428	62.2	2,494	59.3
Brazil	3,483	15.8	2,738	15.6	1,573	23.8	980	28.7	1,016	28.3	1,501	22.0	1,724	23.6	2,130	55.6	2,401	61.7
Nicaragua	1,571	45.3	1,426	51.1	1,339	51.7	1,318	48.8	930	47.3	882	44.4	906	41.8	964	58.9	2,268	46.6
Dominican Republic	2,919	73.7	2,896	75.5	2,322	78.4	2,072	79.2	1,883	80.8	1,979	75.0	2,031	74.6	1,863	80.2	2,210	73.8
India	754	21.5	587	27.8	458	29.5	445	24.0	523	25.6	712	14.5	695	23.0	841	54.6	1,815	34.7
All other countries	18,822	40.6	14,572	51.1	11,879	53.0	10,292	52.5	9,152	45.1	10,760	38.1	20,515	24.4	17,055	67.6	18,420	69.5

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. "All other countries" includes unknown. 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 Alien Removals by Crime Category: Fiscal Years 2011 to 2019

(Ranked by 2019 criminal crime category)

Crime Category	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	189,702	100.0	200,039	100.0	198,488	100.0	169,459	100.0	120,846	100.0	115,301	100.0	109,697	100.0	148,352	100.0	155,788	100.0
Immigration ¹	37,697	19.9	47,559	23.8	62,033	31.3	53,810	31.8	37,047	30.7	36,728	31.9	28,870	26.3	42,043	28.3	54,055	34.7
Traffic Offenses ²	43,334	22.8	46,141	23.1	29,966	15.1	24,019	14.2	15,532	12.9	14,795	12.8	15,810	14.4	17,475	11.8	16,521	10.6
Dangerous Drugs ³	43,535	22.9	42,738	21.4	30,692	15.5	27,728	16.4	22,216	18.4	21,491	18.6	19,871	18.1	18,069	12.2	15,990	10.3
Assault	12,835	6.8	12,993	6.5	20,192	10.2	17,391	10.3	13,213	10.9	12,035	10.4	12,439	11.3	12,295	8.3	11,796	7.6
Weapon Offenses	2,742	1.4	2,510	1.3	5,277	2.7	4,561	2.7	3,501	2.9	3,441	3.0	3,262	3.0	3,205	2.2	2,876	1.8
Burglary	3,824	2.0	3,557	1.8	5,504	2.8	4,667	2.8	3,404	2.8	3,063	2.7	3,073	2.8	2,790	1.9	2,425	1.6
Larceny	5,749	3.0	5,419	2.7	5,329	2.7	4,314	2.5	2,818	2.3	2,460	2.1	2,590	2.4	2,576	1.7	2,392	1.5
Sexual Assault	3,592	1.9	3,363	1.7	3,168	1.6	2,937	1.7	2,506	2.1	2,481	2.2	2,475	2.3	2,411	1.6	2,345	1.5
Fraudulent Activities	4,271	2.3	3,870	1.9	5,186	2.6	3,916	2.3	2,620	2.2	2,158	1.9	2,951	2.7	2,703	1.8	2,335	1.5
Sex Offenses	2,097	1.1	2,063	1.0	2,594	1.3	2,404	1.4	1,954	1.6	1,960	1.7	2,133	1.9	2,080	1.4	1,866	1.2
All other	30,026	15.8	29,826	14.9	28,547	14.4	23,712	14.0	16,035	13.3	14,689	12.7	16,223	14.8	42,705	28.8	43,187	27.7

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

² Including hit and run and driving under the influence.

³ Including the manufacturing, distribution, sale, and possession of illegal drugs.

Notes: Data refers to removal of persons who have a prior criminal conviction. Excludes criminals removed by CBP. CBP EID does not identify if aliens removed were criminals.

"All other categories" includes unknown. Statistics reported by OIS and ICE tend to vary slightly due to differences in methodology.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Table 9.

Alien Returns by Component, Country of Nationality, and Type: Fiscal Years 2011 to 2019

Characteristic	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
COMPONENT																			
Total	322,047	100.0	231,107	100.0	178,976	100.0	163,843	100.0	129,661	100.0	106,458	100.0	100,695	100.0	159,940	100.0	171,445	100.0	
CBP OFO	130,977	40.7	109,440	47.4	104,235	58.2	108,719	66.4	105,036	81.0	82,651	77.6	75,449	74.9	128,552	80.4	130,878	76.3	
USBP	113,845	35.4	58,160	25.2	38,671	21.6	40,327	24.6	16,158	12.5	16,024	15.1	13,059	13.0	14,002	8.8	21,531	12.6	
ICE	77,225	24.0	63,507	27.5	36,070	20.2	14,797	9.0	8,467	6.5	7,783	7.3	12,187	12.1	17,386	10.9	19,036	11.1	
COUNTRY OF NATIONALITY																			
Total	322,047	100.0	231,107	100.0	178,976	100.0	163,843	100.0	129,661	100.0	106,458	100.0	100,695	100.0	159,940	100.0	171,445	100.0	
Mexico	205,050	63.7	132,448	57.3	88,385	49.4	72,724	44.4	40,662	31.4	37,302	35.0	39,803	39.5	42,154	26.4	49,633	28.9	
Philippines	23,161	7.2	20,904	9.0	21,533	12.0	22,164	13.5	20,434	15.8	13,604	12.8	6,564	6.5	28,275	17.7	27,618	16.1	
Canada	28,271	8.8	27,041	11.7	23,962	13.4	23,268	14.2	22,542	17.4	18,415	17.3	18,538	18.4	18,141	11.3	18,527	10.8	
China, People's Republic . .	16,331	5.1	11,854	5.1	11,753	6.6	12,324	7.5	12,865	9.9	8,693	8.2	5,246	5.2	16,546	10.3	17,845	10.4	
India	4,113	1.3	3,288	1.4	2,480	1.4	2,806	1.7	2,391	1.8	2,426	2.3	2,350	2.3	5,443	3.4	5,437	3.2	
Ukraine	4,112	1.3	2,589	1.1	2,606	1.5	3,052	1.9	2,660	2.1	2,062	1.9	890	0.9	3,893	2.4	4,366	2.5	
Burma	2,582	0.8	2,337	1.0	1,920	1.1	1,888	1.2	2,012	1.6	1,444	1.4	625	0.6	2,603	1.6	3,122	1.8	
Guatemala	3,010	0.9	2,346	1.0	1,390	0.8	1,141	0.7	813	0.6	899	0.8	1,338	1.3	2,211	1.4	2,681	1.6	
Russia	3,514	1.1	2,444	1.1	1,994	1.1	1,908	1.2	1,492	1.2	886	0.8	516	0.5	2,815	1.8	2,617	1.5	
Turkey	1,880	0.6	1,229	0.5	1,036	0.6	1,096	0.7	1,097	0.8	982	0.9	438	0.4	2,233	1.4	2,125	1.2	
All other countries	30,023	9.3	24,627	10.7	21,917	12.2	21,472	13.1	22,693	17.5	19,745	18.5	24,387	24.2	35,626	22.3	37,474	21.9	
RETURN TYPE																			
Total	322,047	100.0	231,107	100.0	178,976	100.0	163,843	100.0	129,661	100.0	106,458	100.0	100,695	100.0	159,940	100.0	171,445	100.0	
Crew member detained	60,910	18.9	47,373	20.5	44,716	25.0	45,670	27.9	43,242	33.4	30,347	28.5	15,075	15.0	65,055	40.7	69,332	40.4	
Withdrawal	62,300	19.3	55,260	23.9	51,650	28.9	55,440	33.8	54,171	41.8	46,322	43.5	51,909	51.6	54,058	33.8	51,221	29.9	
Voluntary Return	169,728	52.7	103,246	44.7	64,536	36.1	48,770	29.8	20,230	15.6	19,112	18.0	17,454	17.3	18,783	11.7	25,972	15.1	
Voluntary Departure	23,634	7.3	19,593	8.5	11,905	6.7	8,084	4.9	5,814	4.5	5,461	5.1	8,551	8.5	13,904	8.7	15,561	9.1	
All other returns	5,475	1.7	5,635	2.4	6,169	3.4	5,879	3.6	6,204	4.8	5,216	4.9	7,706	7.7	8,140	5.1	9,359	5.5	

Note: "All other countries" and "All other returns" include unknown. Statistics reported by OIS and ICE tend to vary slightly due to differences in methodology.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.