Recent Migration to the US: Trends & Characteristics of Unauthorized Immigration

Task Force on Immigration and US Economic Competitiveness
The Chicago Council on Global Affairs
Chicago, IL, 15 Dec 2011
Overview

• **How Many Immigrants?**
  -- Foreign-Born Population (Stock)
  -- In-Flows (Legal & Unauthorized)

• **Where are They From? Going To?**
  -- Origins in Latin American, Asia
  -- New Destinations Emerge

• **Who Are They?**
  -- Unauthorized Differ from Others
  -- More Established in U.S.
  -- Young, Working Families
Migration Flows to U.S.

- Large, Increasing Population
- New Flows—Were Mostly Unauthorized
- Responsive to Origin & Destination
  -- Job Availability in U.S.
  -- Conditions in Mexico & Elsewhere
- New Destinations have Emerged
  -- Southeastern, Midwest & Mountain
- Decline from ‘99–’00 Peak Flows
  -- ’04 Increase w/ Economic Upturn
  -- Large Drops in Flows w/ Recession
Late 20th Century: Unauthorized Migration BOOMS

Millions of Immigrants

Europe/Canada (Legal)
All Other (Legal)
Additional*

* Additional immigrants are mostly illegals and legalized aliens

14-16+ (est.) 15+?

0.1 0.6 1.7 2.3 2.8 3.7 4.1 0.5 1.0 2.5 3.8 7 10 15+?
21st Century: Immigration Rates Below Highs

Immigrants during Decade per 1,000 Population at Beginning of Decade

- Legal Immigrants per 1,000 population
- Undocumented per 1,000 population

**Immigration Rates Below Highs**

- 1820s: 1.3
- 1840s: 4.2
- 1860s: 6.6
- 1880s: 10.5
- 1900s: 11.1
- 2000s: 5.2

- Undocumented:
  - 1820s: 1.3
  - 1840s: 0.6
  - 1860s: 0.6
  - 1880s: 1.6
  - 1900s: 2.2
  - 2000s: 5.2
Immigrant Numbers at Peak -- Percentage is Near Peak

- Foreign-Born Population (millions)
- Percent Foreign-Born of Total

Source: Compilation from Decennial Censuses, 1850-2000; Pew Hispanic Center, 2000-2010 (Passel & Cohn 2011).
Latin Americans & Asians Dominate Foreign-Born

Mexico -- 31%  
12.4 million

Other Latin America -- 23%  
9.4 million

Asia/Mid-East  
27% --  
11.0 million

Europe & Canada -- 14%  
5.7 million

Africa & Other -- 4%  
1.8 million

40.2 Million Foreign-Born in 2010

Source: Pew Hispanic Center based on augmented 2010 March CPS (Passel & Cohn 2011).
Legal Status of Immigrants

- Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) Aliens: 12.4 million (31%)
- Unauthorized Migrants: 11.2 million (28%)
- Temporary Legal Residents: ~1.5 million (4%)
- Naturalized Citizens (former LPRs): 14.9 million (37%)

40.2 Million Foreign-Born in 2010

Source: Pew Hispanic Center based on augmented 2010 March CPS (Passel & Cohn 2011).
Unauthorized Grew Rapidly Thru 2007 – Declines Since

Millions of Unauthorized Immigrants Living in the U.S.

Source: Compilation from various sources; Pew Hispanic Center, 2000-2010 (Passel & Cohn 2011).
Unauthorized immigrant population (millions)

Unauthorized Numbers Peak in ’07; Drop thru ‘09; Unchanged in ‘10

* Change from previous year significant at 90%
Underlined figures show no significant change.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center based on augmented 2000-2010 March CPS (Passel & Cohn 2011).
Mexican Unauthorized Peaked in '07

Unauthorized Mexicans (millions)

* Change from previous year significant at 90%
Underlined figures show no significant change.
Estimate for 2010 is preliminary; please do not cite without permission.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center based on augmented 2000-2010 March CPS (Passel & Cohn 2011).
Mexico is Largest Source of Unauthorized, by Far

- Mexico -- 58% (6.5 million)
- Other Latin America -- 23% (2.6 million)
- Europe & Canada -- 4% (0.5 million)
- Africa & Other -- 3% (0.3 million)
- Mid-East -- 1% (0.1 million)
- Asia (S & E) -- 11% (1.1 million)

11.2 Million Unauthorized in 2010

Source: Pew Hispanic Center based on augmented 2010 March CPS (Passel & Cohn 2011).
Legals—Growing Numbers—New Origins

Average Annual Legal Immigrants

- Europe & Canada
- Mexico
- Asia
- Other Latin America
- All Other

1,050,000

* Excludes IRCA legalizations

- 1951 to 1960
- 1961 to 1970
- 1971 to 1980
- 1981 to 1990*
- 1991 to 2000*
- 2001 to 2010

- 1,050,000
- 770,000
- 600,000
- 450,000
- 330,000
- 250,000

- 9%
- 25%
- 16%
- 25%
- 35%
- 10%

- 10%
- 12%
- 14%
- 6%
- 14%
- 13%

- 1951 to 1960
- 1961 to 1970
- 1971 to 1980
- 1981 to 1990*
- 1991 to 2000*
- 2001 to 2010

* Excludes IRCA legalizations
“Green Cards” routinely exceed 1 million
No declines since ‘00 (except ‘03)

Legal Admissions (in 000s)
Fiscal years

Average Admissions, ‘00-‘10
1,032

Source: Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, Office of Immigration Statistics, DHS
Mexico is Largest Country for Legal Immigrants, Too

- **Mexico** -- 20%  
  5.8 million
- **Other Latin America** -- 23%  
  6.7 million
- **Europe & Canada** -- 18%  
  5.2 million
- **Africa & Other** -- 5%  
  1.4 million
- **Mid-East** -- 6%  
  1.6 million
- **Asia (South & East)** -- 28%  
  8.1 million

28.9 Million Legals in 2010

Source: Pew Hispanic Center based on augmented 2010 March CPS (Passel & Cohn 2011).
Unauthorized Spreading Away From Big 6 States

Percent of Total Unauthorized Migrant Population

- CA: 42%
- TX: 13%
- NY: 10%
- FL: 7%
- IL: 6%
- NJ: 5%
- All Other: 40%

Source: Pew Hispanic Center (Passel & Cohn 2011)
Dispersal of Undocumented Population

Unauthorized Immigrants 2010
(11.2 million)

1,650,000 – 2,550,000
(2)

140,000 – 325,000
(11)

400,000 – 825,000
(6)

55,000 – 120,000
(16)

Less than 45,000
(16)

Source: Pew Hispanic Center (Passel & Cohn 2011).
Dispersal of Undocumented Population

New Growth -->
High %
Undocumented

2010 Composition Categories (US=28%)

- Highest % Undocumented (40-56% of foreign-born) (19)
- High % Undocumented (30-38%) (9)
- Lower % Undocumented (21-28%) (11)
- Lowest % Undocumented (<20%) (12)

Source: Pew Hispanic Center (Passel & Cohn 2011).
Focus on Mexico
Key Features of Migration

• **Mexican Population in U.S.**
  -- Rapid Build-Up begins in 1970s through 2007
  -- Growth Stops after 2007
  -- Possible Increase in Late 2010
  -- Unauthorized Numbers Peak in 2007

• **Flows into U.S.**
  -- Upward Trend in Late ‘90s; Peak ca. ’99-’01
  -- Drop and Increase Tied to Employment
  -- Flows Plummet After ’07
  -- Slight Rebound in 2010 (?)

• **Other Features**
  -- Role of Enforcement Uncertain
  -- Return Flows Have **NOT** Increased
  -- Family & Geographic Options Keep Folks in US
HUGE Share of Mexicans Now in U.S.

Mexican-Born Population in the U.S. (000s)
- Percent Mexican of Foreign-Born Population
- Percent of Mexican Population in U.S.

Millions of Mexican Migrants in U.S.

12,400,000
(2010 CPS--Adjusted)

31%
9.9%
9.5
6.7
4.5
8%
16%
20.0%
25.0%
30.0%
35.0%
40.0%
Annual Flows, the Economy & Enforcement
Annual In-Flows Peak in ‘00 then Plummet; ‘10 is 20% of Peak; Tracks US Employment

Annual Immigration from Mexico to U.S. (in 000s)

Mexico-U.S. Migration

Peak

Decline

Rise

Source: Pew Hispanic Center, based on American Community Survey and CPS.
**Border Apprehensions & Mexican Departures Track Flows Estimates**

Apprehensions of Mexicans at the Southern Border (000s)

- 1,637
- 1,523
- 1,169
- 1,000
- 760
- 882
- 981
- 662
- 340
- 150

Total Apprehensions at the Southern Border (000s)

- 1,171
- 1,085

Annual Mexican Immigration, (000s)

- 370

**Source:** Pew Hispanic Center for arrivals; DHS for apprehensions.
Apprehension Rate is Up, BUT... Virtually Everyone Gets In

- Pre-1986: 98%, 28%
- 1986-1993: 95%, 27%
- 1994-2001: 100%, 31%
- 2002-2009: 97%, 41%

Eventually Succeeded

Apprehended at Least Once

Source: Mexican Migration Project.
Are MORE Mexicans Going Home? Why? Or Why Not?
Mexican Data—Dropping Flows Out of Mexico BUT Return Flows are Down, Too

Annual Migration Rate (per 1,000)
Out of and Into Mexico

Source: Encuesta Nacional de Ocupacion y Empleo INEGI (Mexican “Census Bureau”)
Why Aren’t More Leaving the US?

• **Fear of Losing U.S. Job**

• **Situation in Mexico is No Better**

• **Border Enforcement**
  -- Costly & Risky to Re-enter U.S.

• **Integration into U.S. Society**
  -- **Families** Increasingly Rooted in US
  -- U.S.-Born Children in School
  -- Social Networks in the U.S.
  -- Geographic Diversity gives Options
Unauthorized Mexican Men Work More; Women Work Much Less Than Others

Percent in Labor Force, 2010

- Unauthorized Mexicans: Adult Men (93%), Adult Women (54%)
- Legal Mexican-Born: Adult Men (84%), Adult Women (56%)
- All Natives: Adult Men (81%), Adult Women (72%)

Source: Pew Hispanic Center based on augmented 2010 March CPS (Passel & Cohn 2011).
Unauthorized Well-Established in US; Many “New” Immigrants in 2000

Source: Pew Hispanic Center based on augmented 2010 March CPS (Passel & Cohn 2011).

Years in US for Adults (18+)

- 10+ years in US
- 5-9 years
- <5 years in US
Unauthorized Immigrants More Likely To Be Couples with Children

- Unauthorized Immigrant Households: 46%
- Legal Immigrant Households: 34%
- U.S. Native Households: 21%

Source: Pew Hispanic Center based on augmented 2010 March CPS (Passel & Cohn 2011).
A Majority of Unauthorized (Men) Are Married or Have Children

Persons in Unauthorized Migrant Families, 2010 (millions)

- **Men without Partners or Children**: 2.9
  - Without Children: 2.4
  - With Children: 0.5

- **Men with Partners or Children**: 0.9
  - Without Children: 0.8
  - With Children: 0.1

- **Women without Partners or Children**: 0.7
  - Without Children: 0.7
  - With Children: 0.0

- **Women with Partners or Children**: 2.6
  - Without Children: 2.6
  - With Children: 0.0

Source: Pew Hispanic Center based on augmented 2010 March CPS (Passel & Cohn 2011).
Children with at Least One Unauthorized Immigrant Parent, by Status, 2000-2010 (in millions)

- Unauthorized Immigrant Children: 1.5 million
- U.S-Born Children of Unauthorized Parent(s): 2.1 million
- Source: March 2000-2010 CPS, augmented by Pew Hispanic Center.
1-in-15 of K-12 Students is the Child of an Unauthorized Immigrants

Source: Pew Hispanic Center (Passel & Cohn 2011).
% of K-12 Students w/ Unauthorized Parent(s)

Source: Pew Hispanic Center (Passel & Cohn 2011).
What About the Future?

• Flows Down—Respond to Economy
• Enforcement May be Working
  -- Border Effectiveness Uncertain for Now
  -- Interior Laws Make Life Risky/Unpleasant
• Changing Age Structure in Mexico
  -- Smaller Birth Cohorts of ‘90s
  -- Fewer Labor Force Entrants Begin Now
  -- Lessening Pressure to Migrate
• Scale is Large (11+ mil.) & Dispersed
• Networks & Culture Facilitate Flow
• Families, Not Just Individuals
Thank You
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