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Changing Patterns of Mexican Migration

Jonathan Hiskey
Department of Political Science
Vanderbilt University

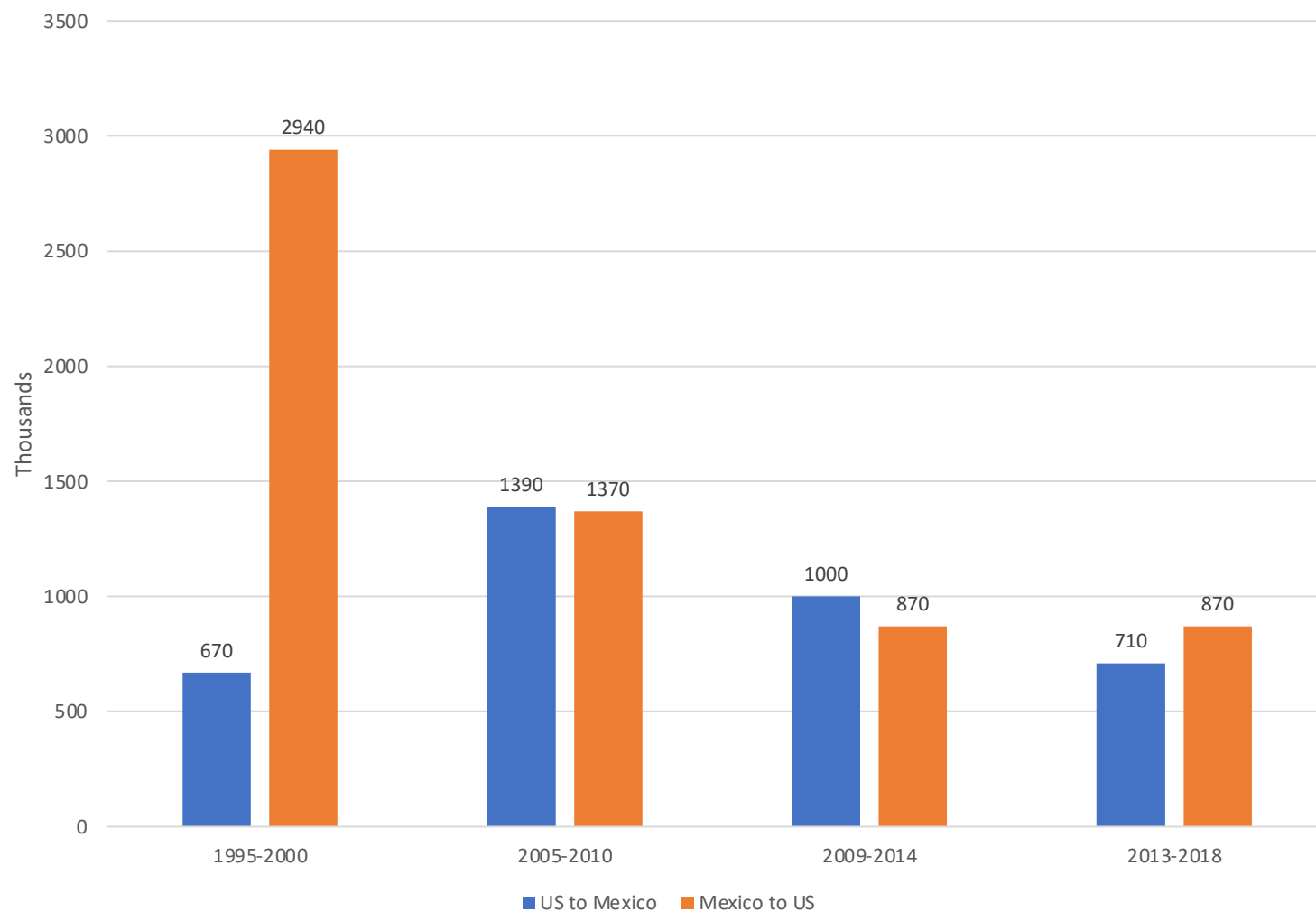
Presentation prepared for FIU Kimberly Green
Latin American and Caribbean Center
"Migration in the Americas"
March 31, 2022

Changing Patterns of Migration in Mexico

- A look at the numbers
- History matters
- Factors driving change since 2000
- Understanding 2021
- Mexico as a receiving country

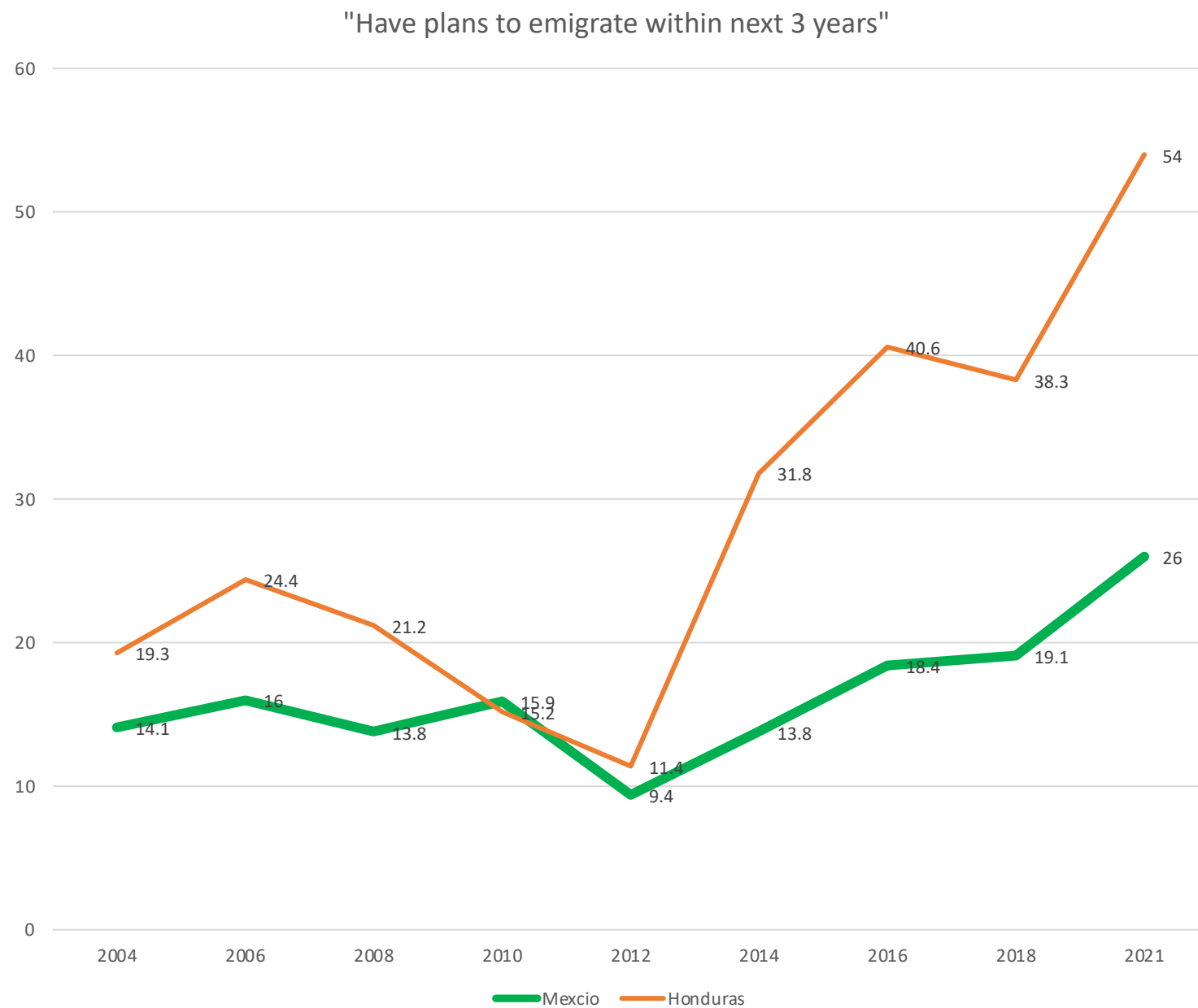
Mexican Migration Flows

Mexico-U.S. Migration Flows, 1995-2018

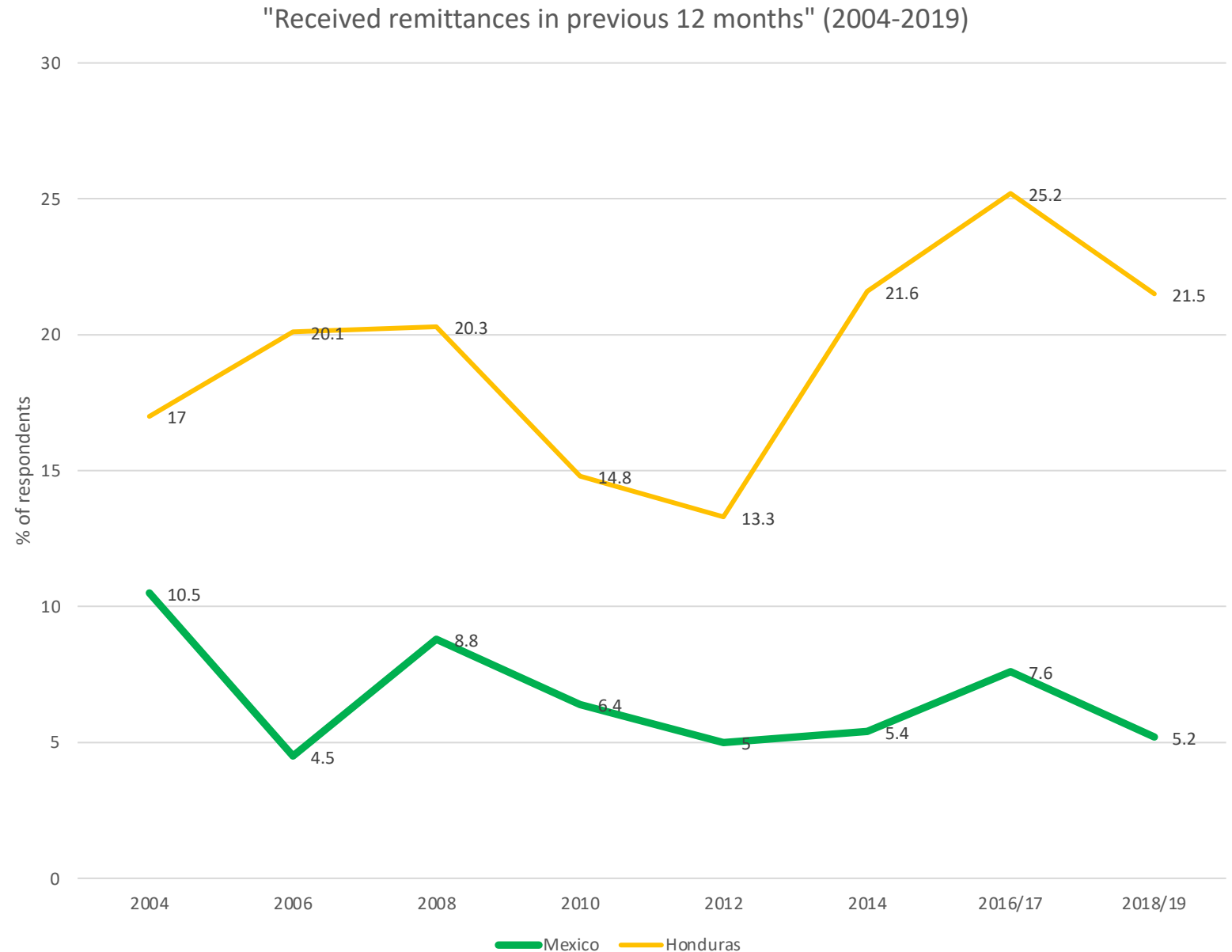


Source: Pew Research Institute (<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/07/09/before-covid-19-more-mexicans-came-to-the-u-s-than-left-for-mexico-for-the-first-time-in-years/>)

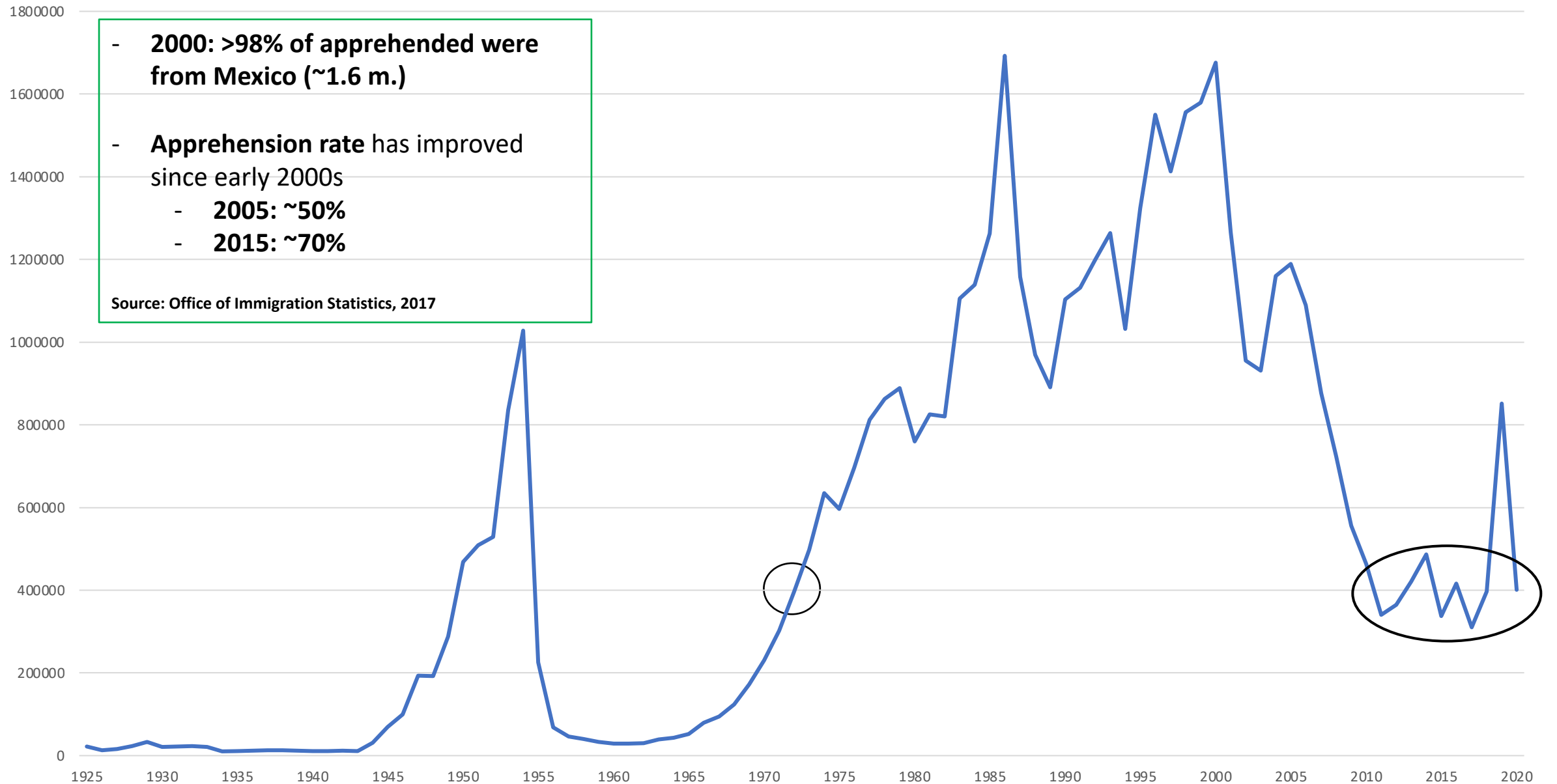
Emigration Intentions in Mexico and Honduras



Remittance Recipients in Mexico and Honduras

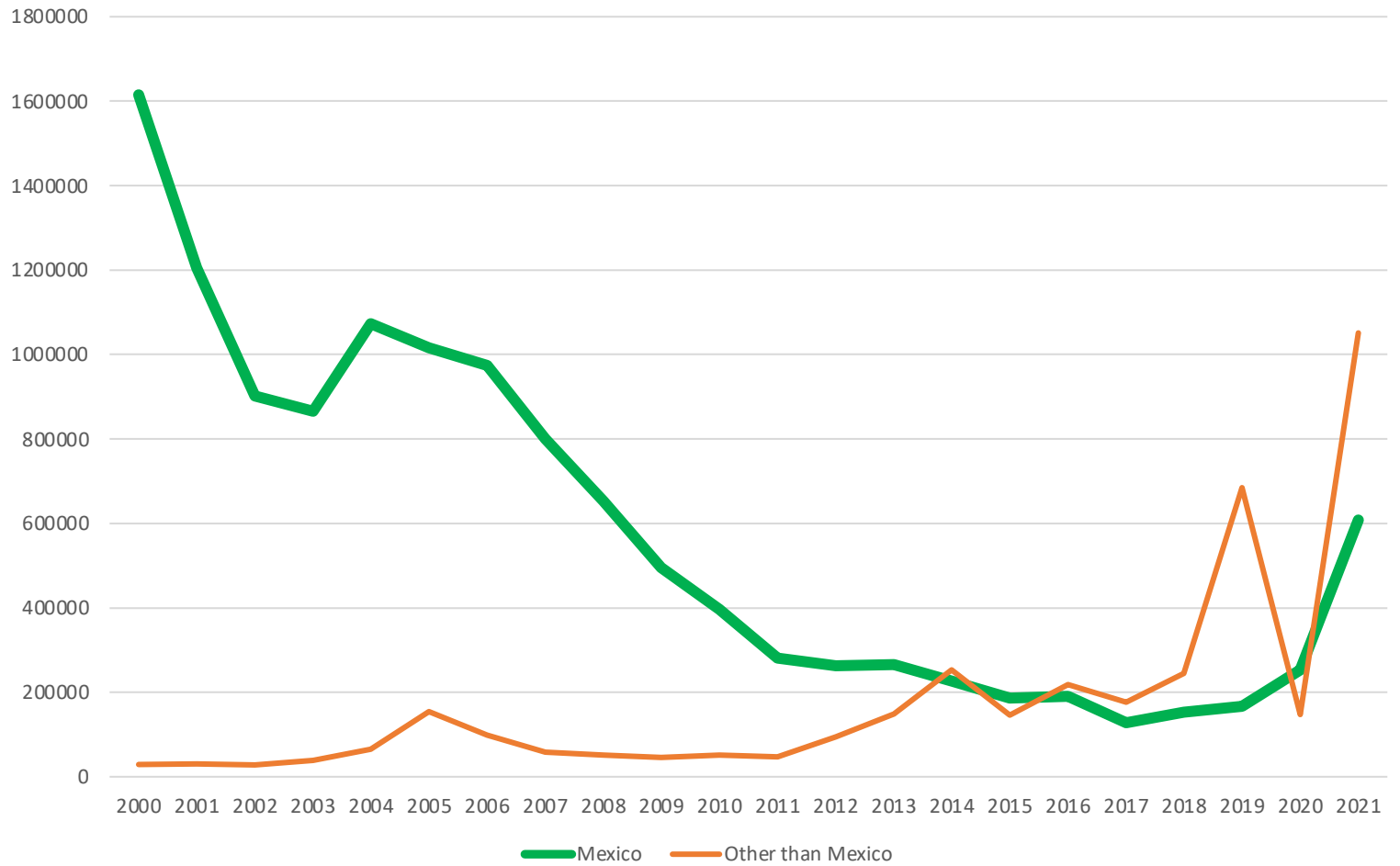


U.S. Border Apprehensions (1925-2020)

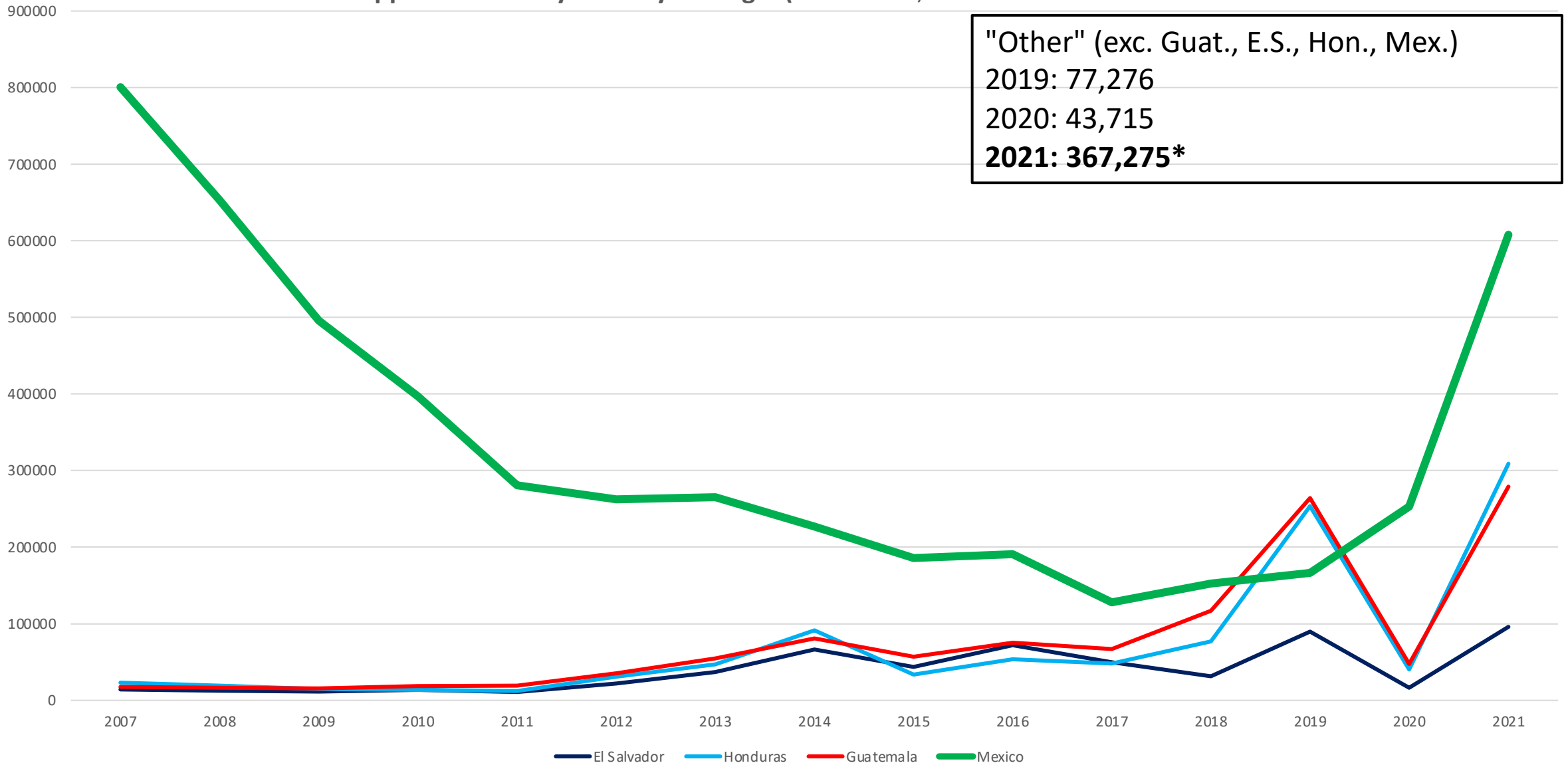


Changing Patterns on the U.S. Southwest Border

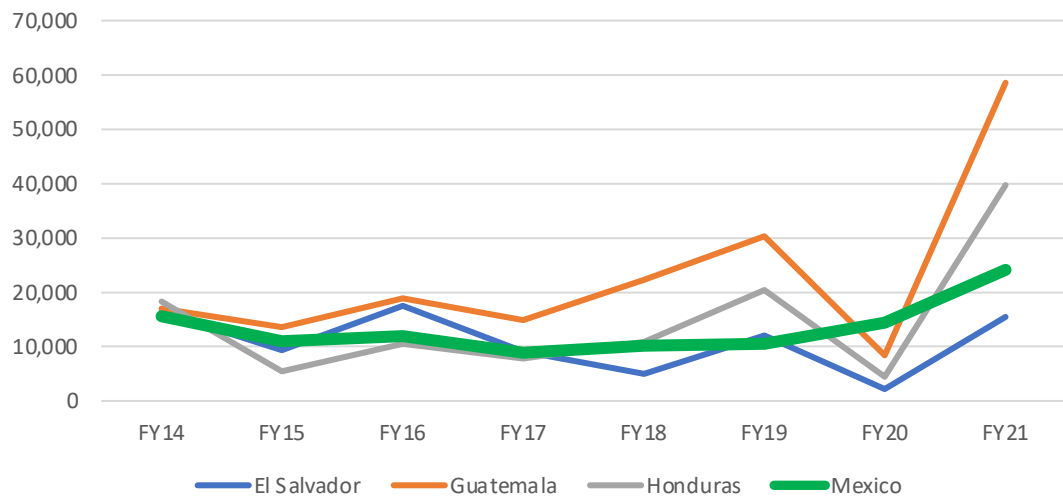
U.S. Southwest Border Apprehensions (2000-2021)



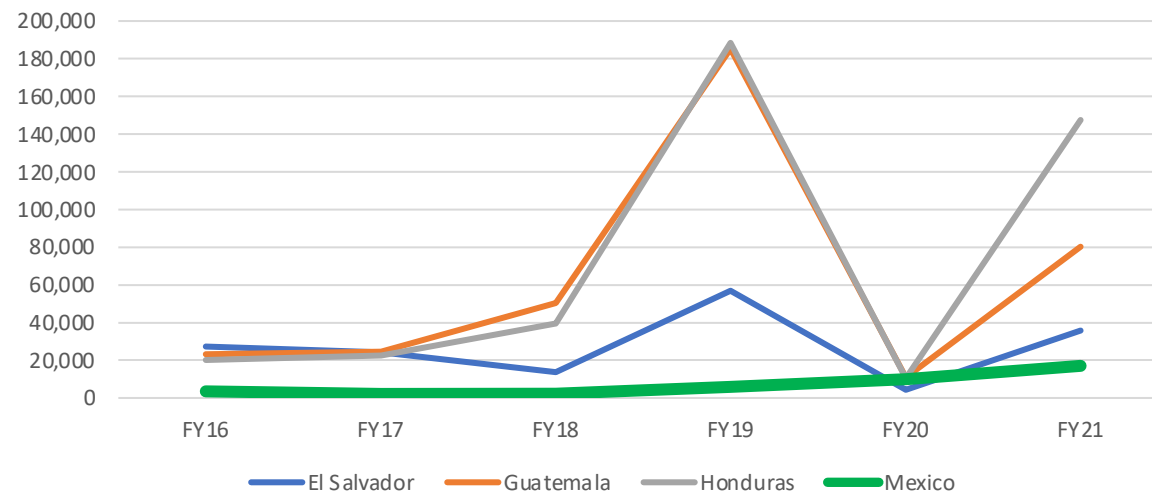
SW Border Apprehensions by Country of Origin (2007-2021)



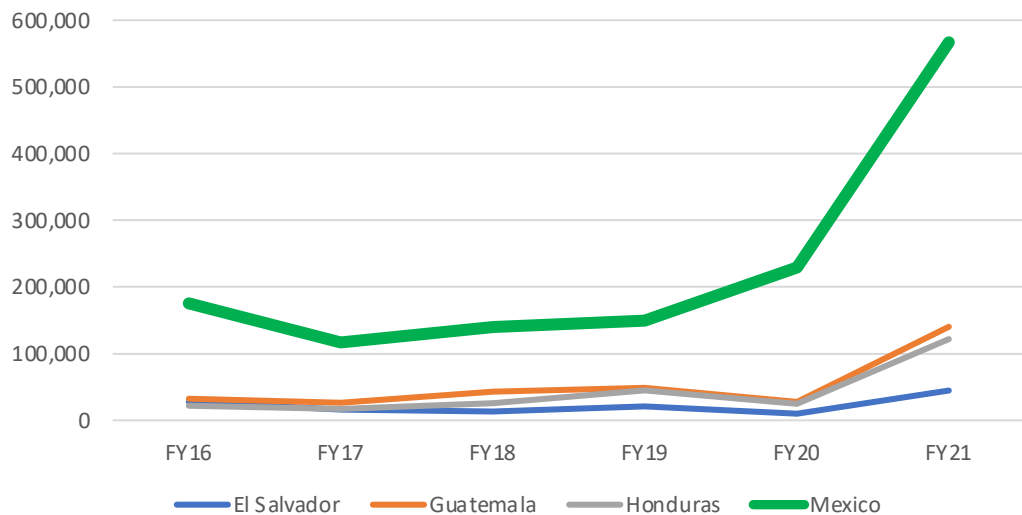
Unaccompanied Children Apprehended at SW Border (2014-2021)



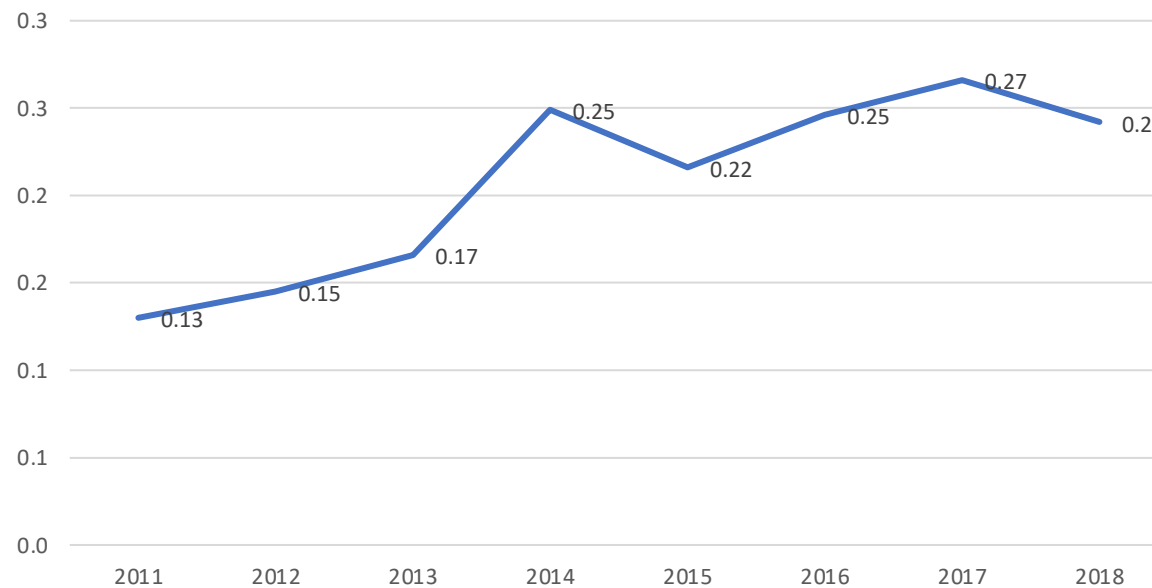
Family Units Apprehended at SW Border (2016-2021)



Single Adult Apprehensions at SW Border (2016-2021)



Southwest Border Female Apprehensions (% of total)



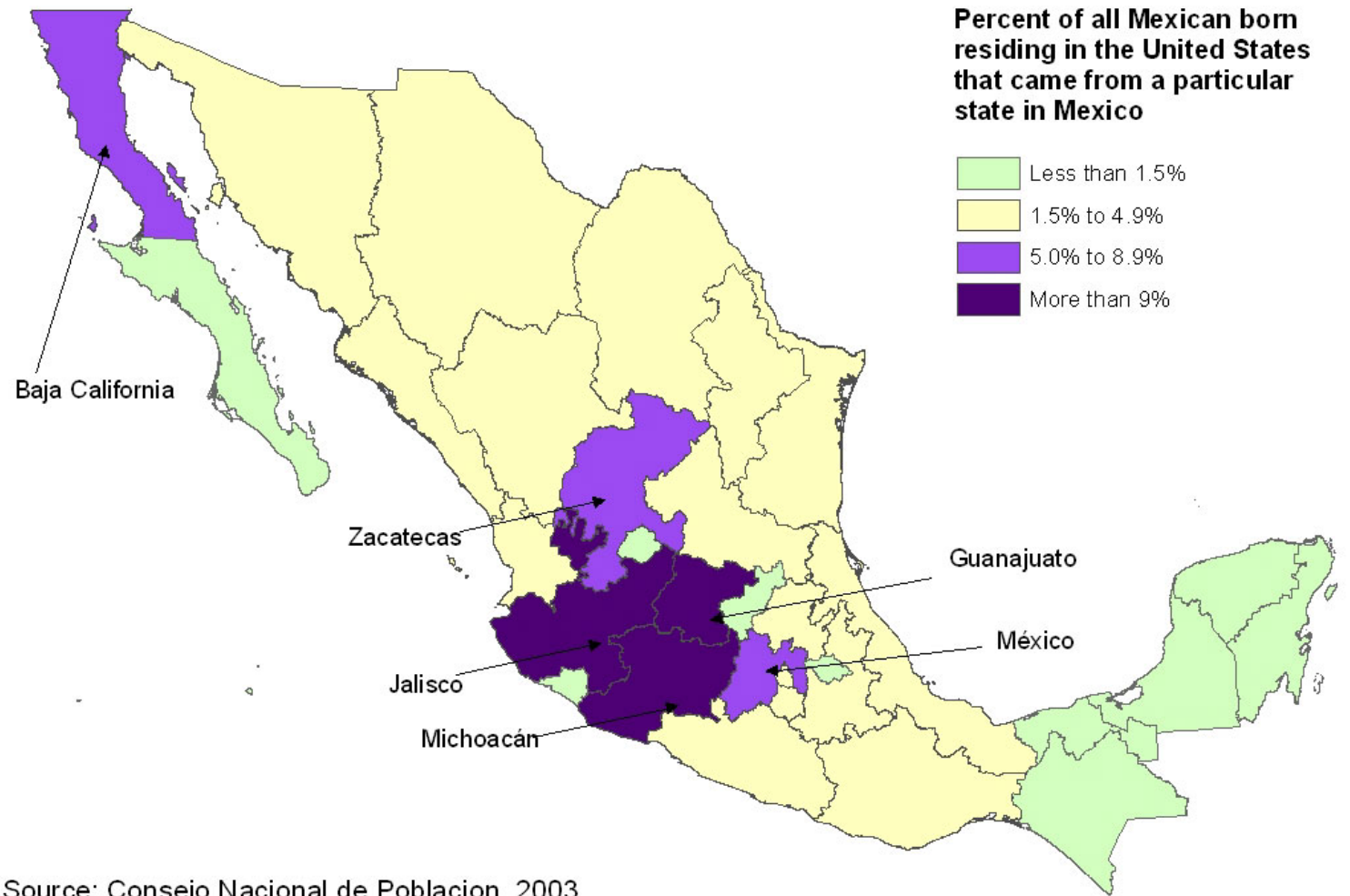
What has changed?

- Prior to 2019, apprehensions down to levels of 1970s
- Annual apprehensions of Mexicans declined from 1.6 million in 2000 to 127,938 in 2017; increased to 608,037 in 2021*
- Apprehensions of Central Americans have increased from 39,000 in 2000 to 683,924 in 2021*
- Fundamental shift in migration at Southwest border in terms of
 - Who is arriving at the border
 - Where they are coming from
 - And why they are coming
 - Until 2021?

Sources of Stability and Change in Mexican Migration

- Macro and Micro Factors
 - U.S. labor needs
 - Macroeconomics
 - Demographics
 - Receiving country policy
 - Individual-level factors
 - Demographics
 - “Friends and family effect”
 - Governance issues
 - Economic/food insecurity

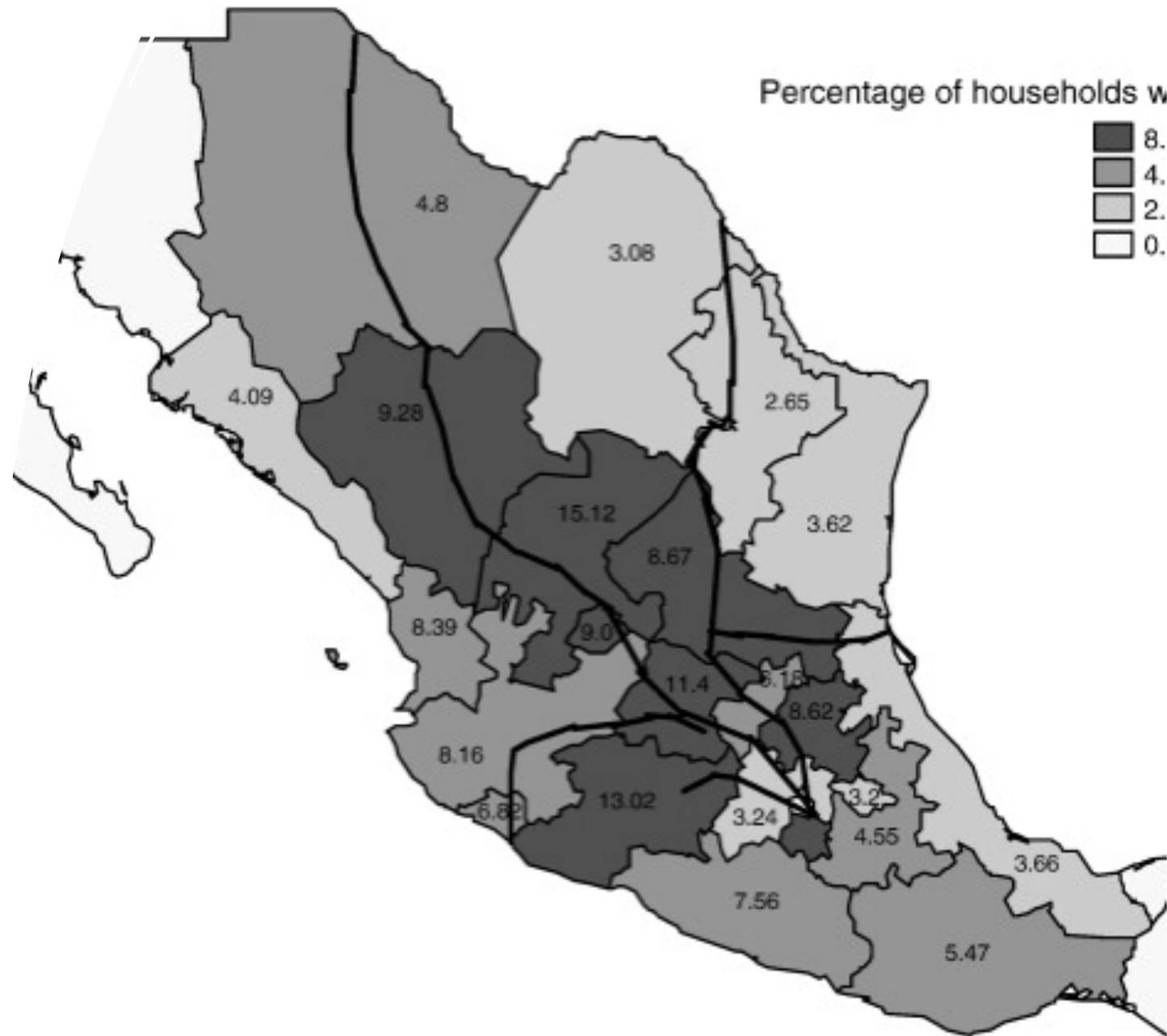
Historical Concentration of Migration



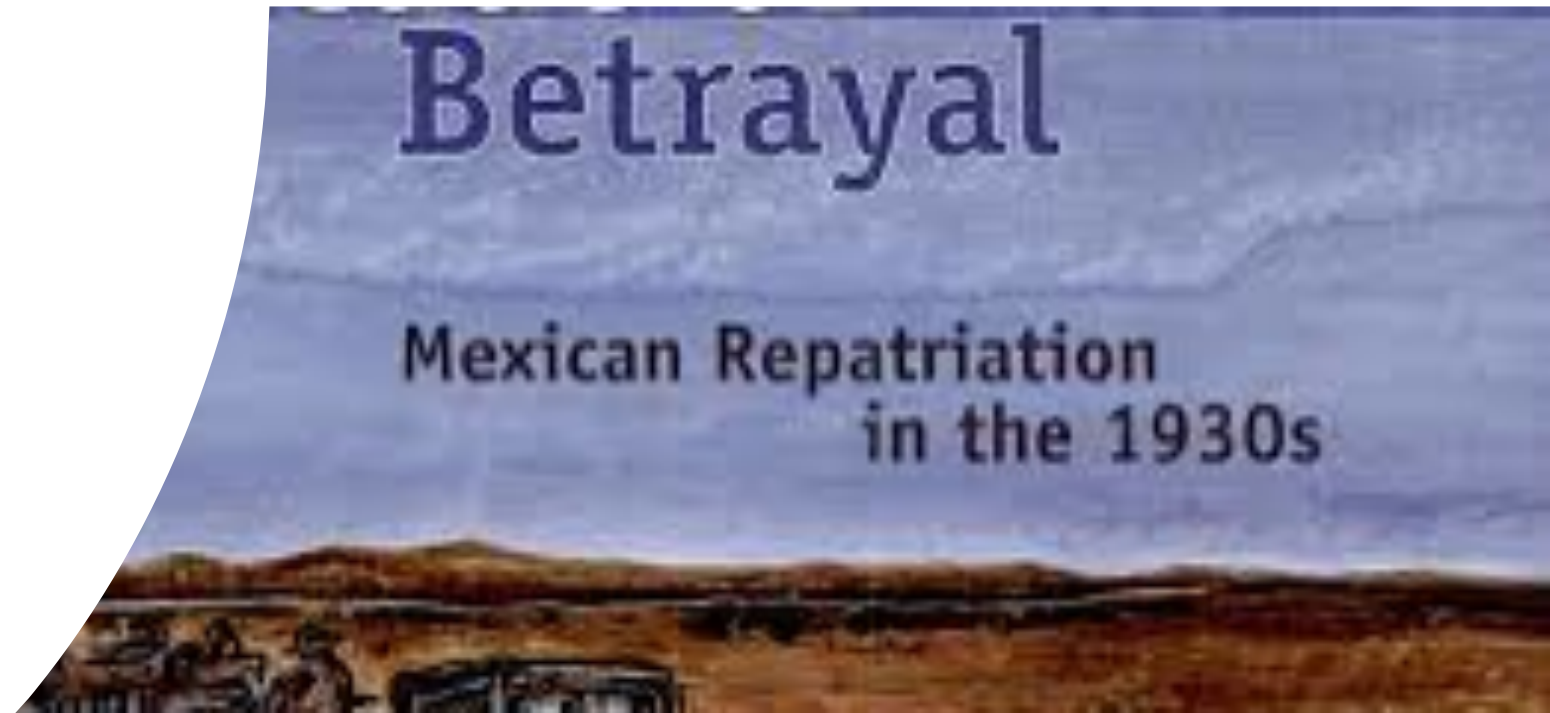
Source: Consejo Nacional de Poblacion, 2003.
Map prepared by the Migration Policy Institute.

U.S. Labor Needs and Mexican Migration (1920s)

- “The placement of the 1920s rail lines and migration rates in Mexican states.” (Source: Demiguc-Kunt, Asli; Ernesto Lopez Cordova; Maria Soledad Martinez Peria; and Christopher Woodruff. 2011. “Remittances and Banking Sector Breadth and Depth: Evidence from Mexico.” *Journal of Development Economics*, 95(2): 229-241.)



U.S. Labor Needs and Mexican Migration (1930s)



U.S. Labor Needs and Mexican Migration (1940s-1960s)



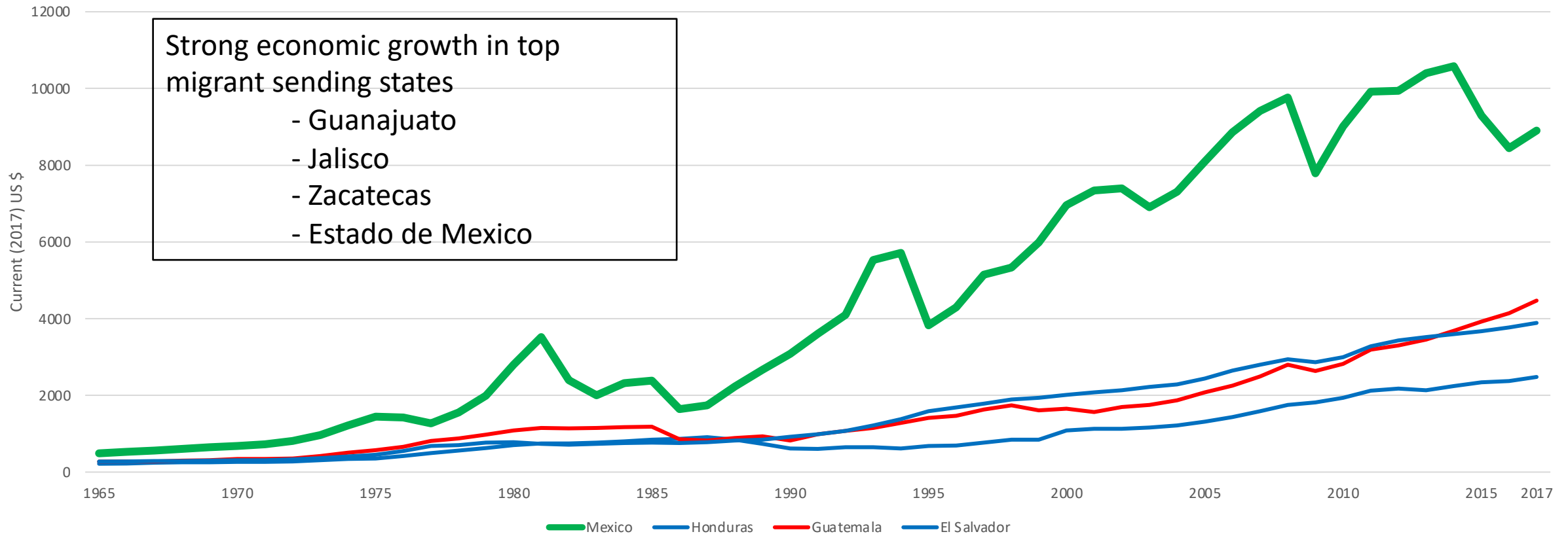
Mexican Workers Wanted in October

Farmers and orchardists in Washington state have placed orders for approximately 6000 imported Mexican workers for the month of October, according to reports sent here 14. A description of the demand for Mexican labor is given in the accompanying article. (Source: Northwest Farm News, September 9, 1943).



Macro-Economic Trends

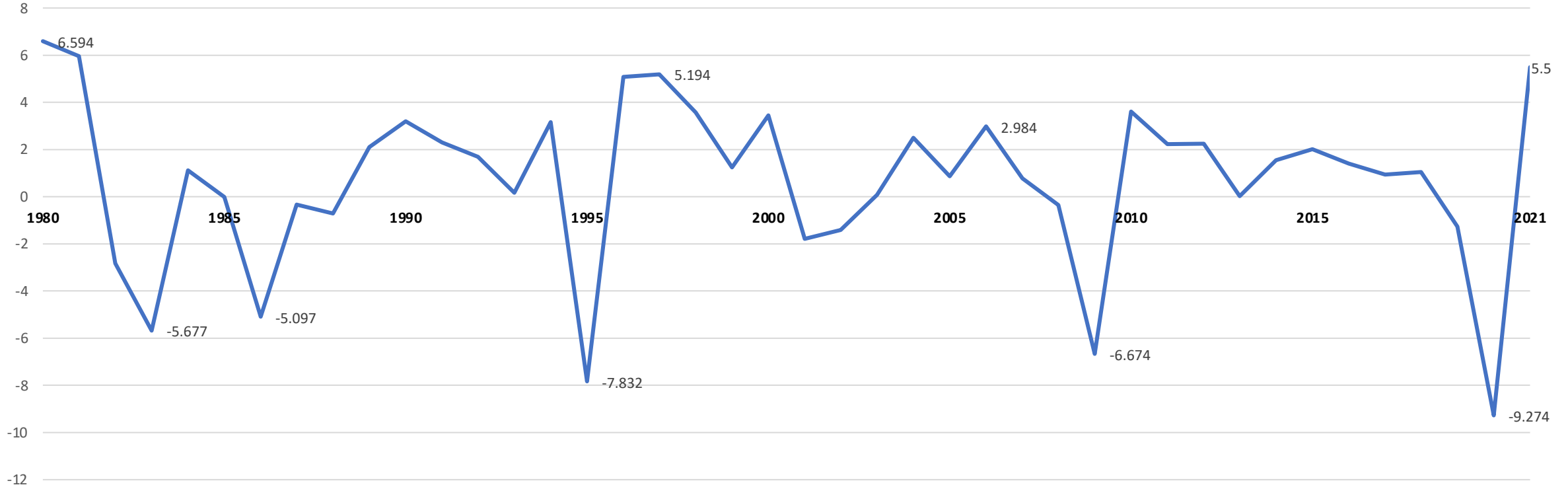
Mexico and Northern Central America GDP per capita, 1965-2017



Macro-Economic Trends

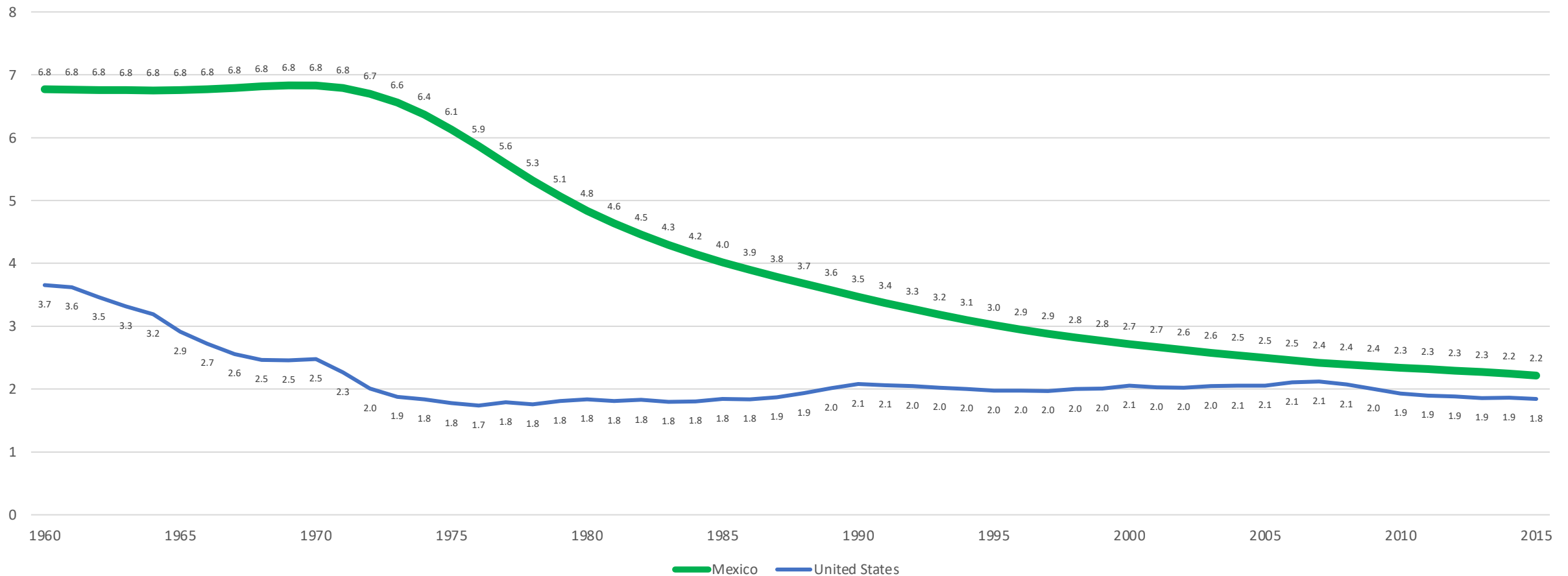


Mexico GDP/capita Growth (%)



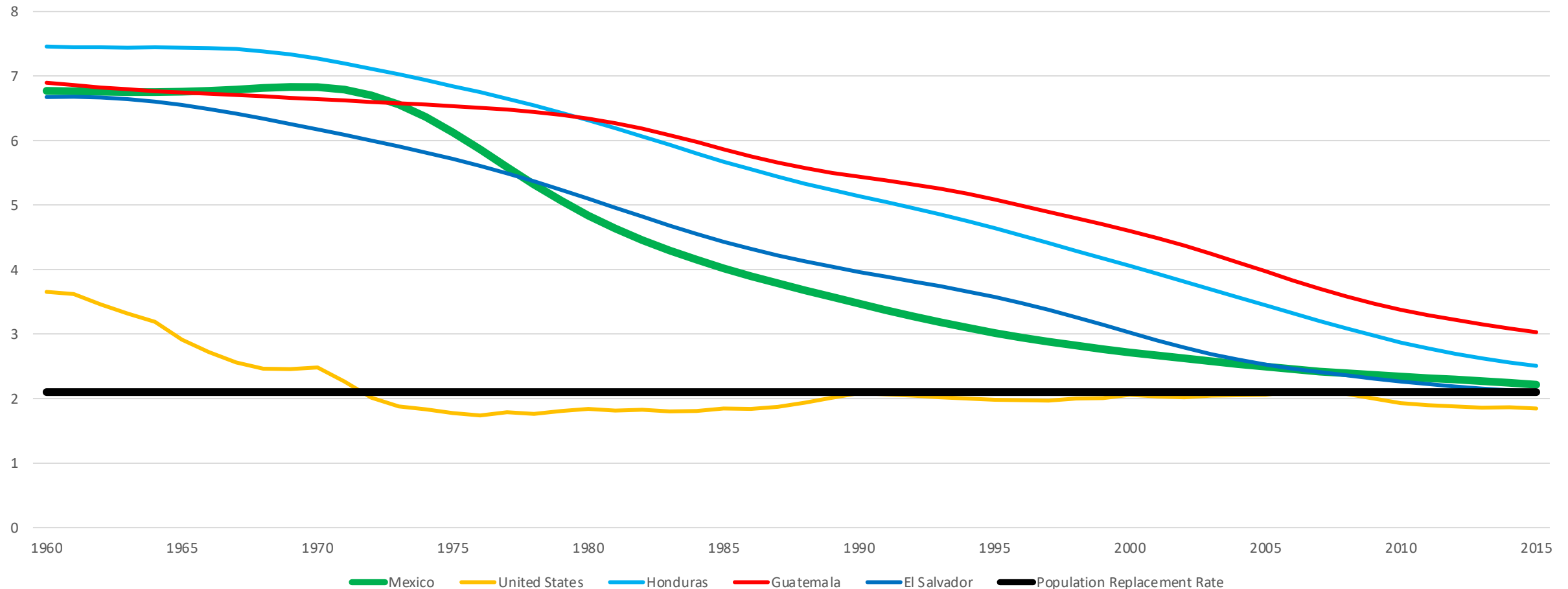
Demographic Trends

Mexico and U.S. Fertility Rates, 1960-2015



Demographic Trends

U.S., Mexico, and Northern Central America Fertility Rates, 1960-2015

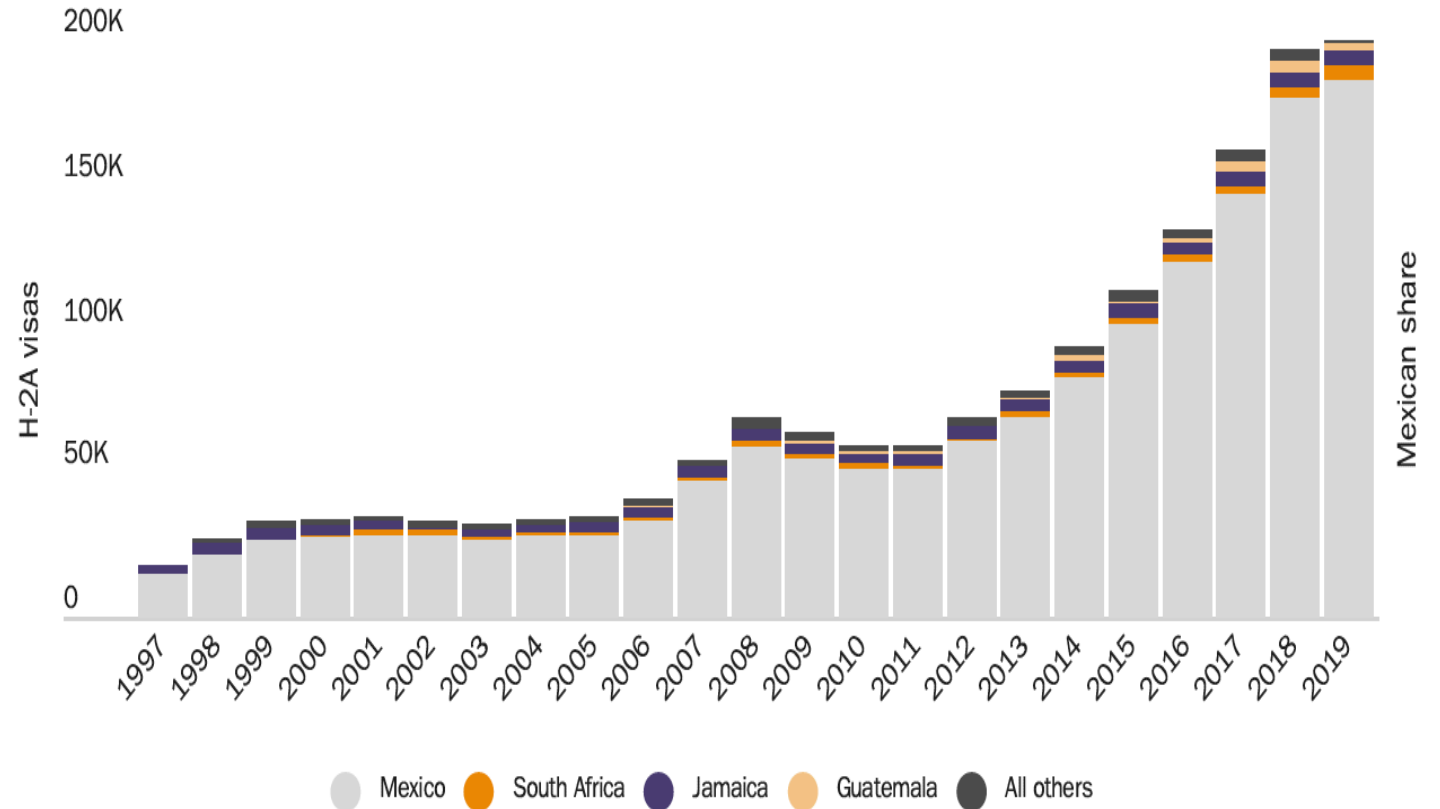


Expansion of H-2A Visa Program (temporary agricultural employment)

- Philip Martin, UC-Davis Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics:
- "The bottom line is that we are replacing aging unauthorized farmworkers with legal Mexican H-2As" (as quoted in *Washington Post*, 4/29/219)

Figure 11

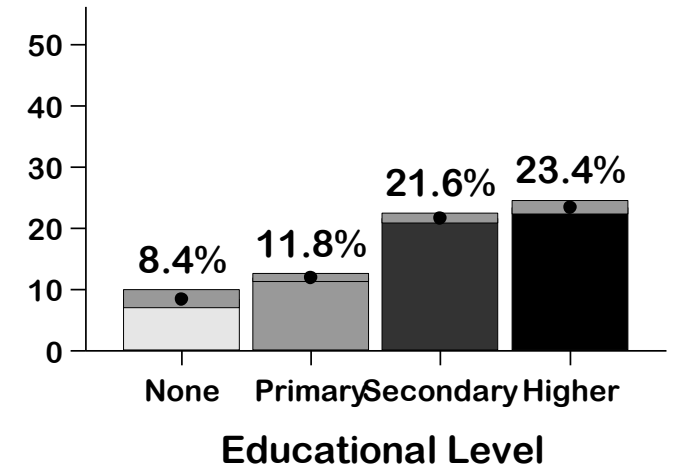
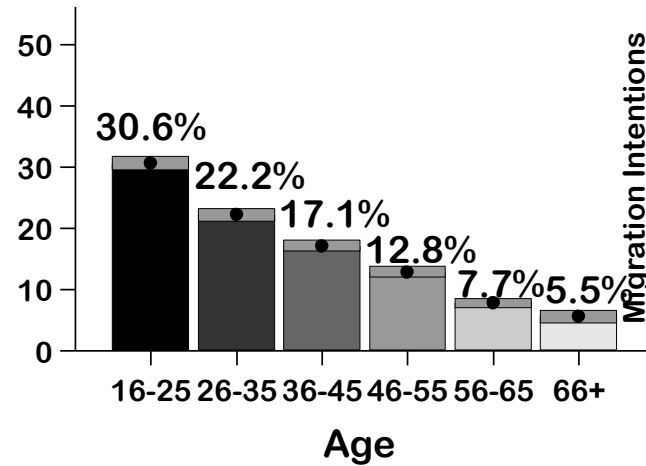
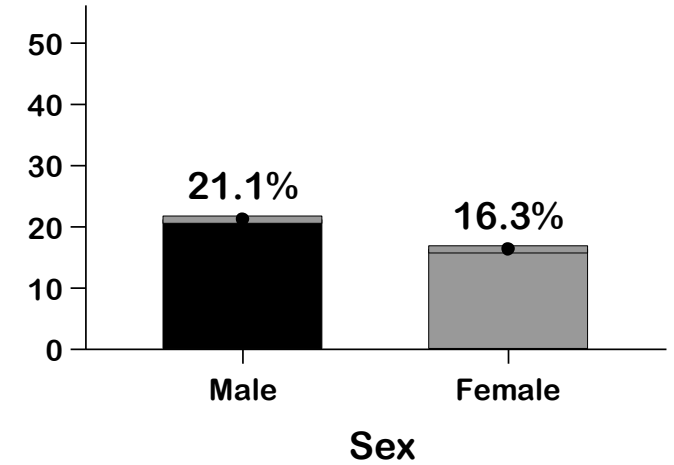
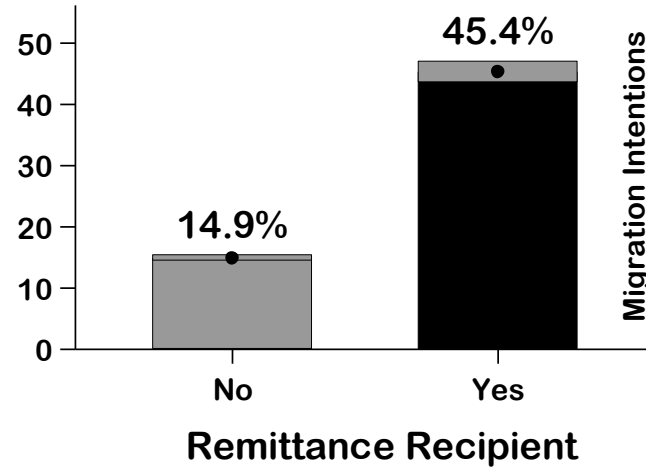
H-2A visas issued by nationality, 1997–2019



Sources: "Nonimmigrant Visa Statistics," Department of State; and Department of Homeland Security, *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics* (Washington: DHS, 2019).

Note: Jamaica reflects admissions from 1997–2015 because visas were not required until 2016.

Who leaves in 2010s?



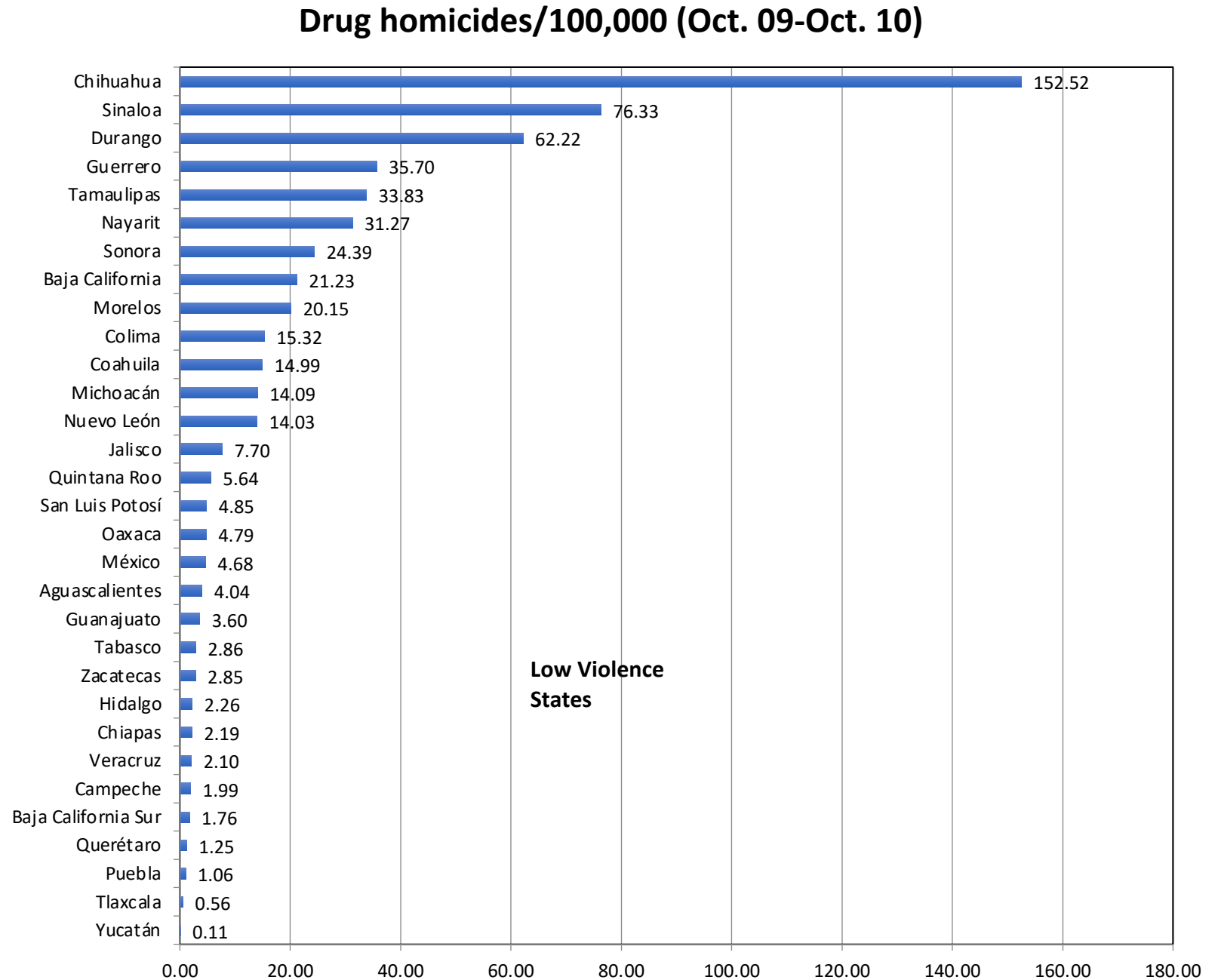
95% Confidence Interval (Design-Effect Based)

Source: © AmericasBarometer by LAPOP

Who leaves in 2021?

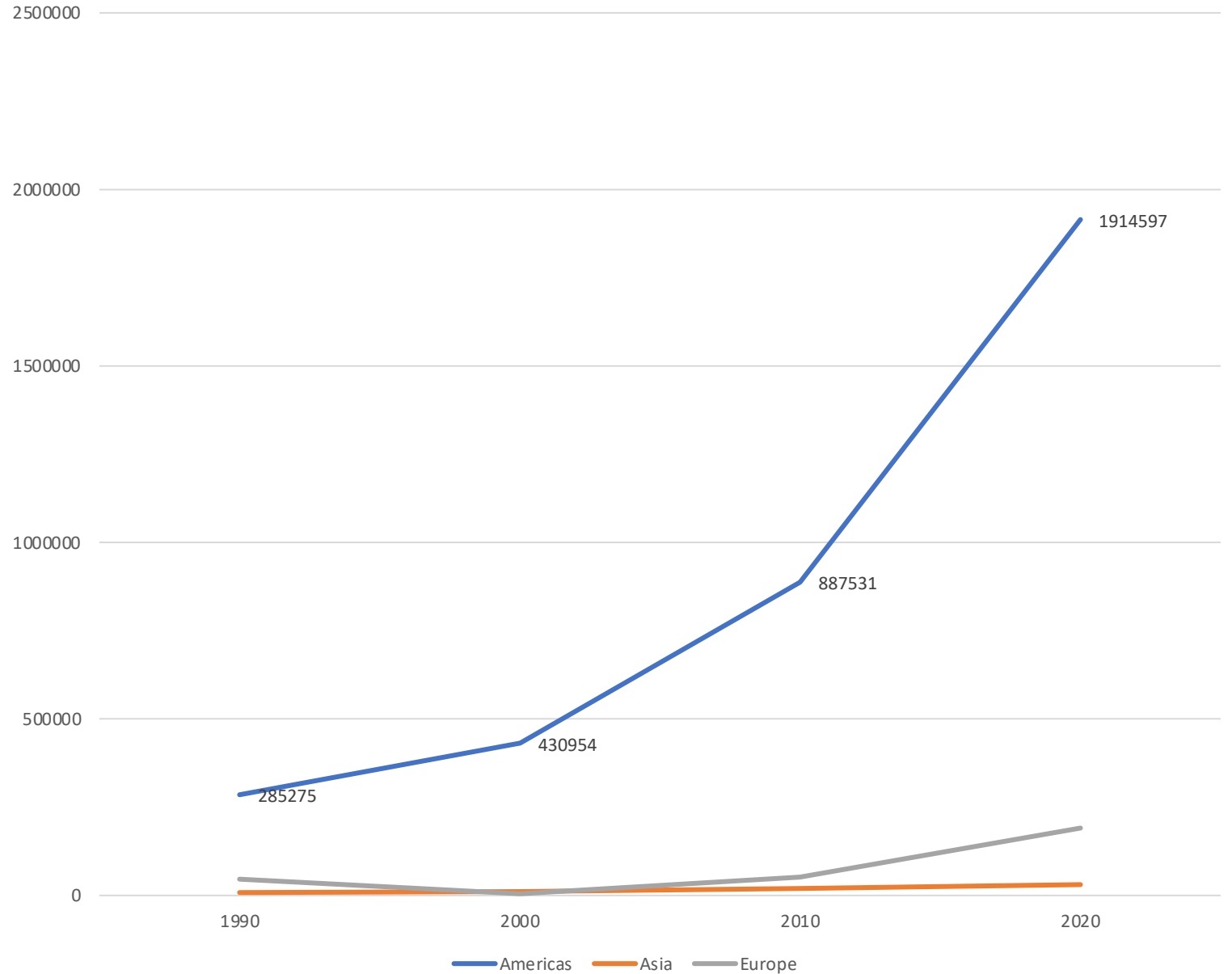
- ❖ Usual suspects
 - ❖ Age (18-25)
 - ❖ Gender (male)
 - ❖ Education (more educated → higher probability of emigration intentions)
- ❖ Migration connections
 - ❖ Have friend or family member abroad
 - ❖ Receive remittances
- ❖ Governance issues
 - ❖ Corruption: Mexico ranks first in AmericasBarometer corruption victimization rate (~25%) in 2021
 - ❖ Crime/Extortion: Close to 20% of respondents reported extortion in 2018
- ❖ Economic/Food insecurity
 - ❖ 9.2% contraction of economy in 2020
 - ❖ 26% of Mexicans survey in 2021 reported incidents of food insecurity
 - ❖ Food insecurity → higher probability of emigration intentions
 - ❖ 56% of survey respondents cited lack of economic opportunity as primary reason for considering emigration

The Drug War: A New Driver?



Immigration to Mexico

Immigration to Mexico, 1990-2020



Lessons from Mexico

- Receiving country policy/economy and migration
- Demographic factors and migration
- The pandemic and the 2021 spike
- Mexican migration flow largely distinct from Central American flow
- Mexico as a receiving country

