Mexican Migration to the U.S.: Recent Trends (and Reversals)

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Mexico-U.S. Migration: Past, Present, and Future Trends
—and, Are There Other Mexicos in Our Future?
Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM)
Washington, DC—6 November 2013
Mexican Immigration Patterns

• Demographic Background
  – Historical Patterns
  – How Many? To Where?
  – What Status?

• New Trends In Flows
  – How Many Come Each Year
  – Two-Way Flows
  – Recent Turnarounds

• What Are They Like
  – Family Nature of Migration
  – Workers and Children
  – Who is Going to Mexico
**BIG Changes Recently**

- **Unauthorized Immigration has STOPPED**
  - Unauthorized Numbers Down Since ’07
    - Almost No New Unauthorized are Coming
  - Mexican *Flows* have REVERSED
  - Lull or Fundamental Change?
  - Legal Immigration Unchanged

- **Unauthorized is Largely Families w/ Kids**
  - LFPR: High for Men, Low for Women
  - Almost Half of Adults are Parents

- **Geographic Dispersal Stopped by ‘07**
  - New Destinations Emerged in ‘90s
  - Bulk of Growth Due to Unauthorized
Immigrant Population
Legal Status of Immigrants 2012

- **Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) Aliens**: 10.9 million (26%)
- **Temporary Legal Residents**: 1.7 million (4%)
- **Unauthorized Immigrants**: 11.7 million (28%)
- **Naturalized Citizens (former LPRs)**: 17.3 million (42%)

*41.7 Million Foreign-Born in 2012*

Mexico is Largest Source of Unauthorized, by Far

Mexico -- 52%
6.0 million

Other
Latin America -- 24%
2.7 million

Africa, Other -- 4%
0.4 million

Europe & Canada -- 7%
0.8 million

Asia -- 11%
1.3 million

Mid-East -- 3%
0.3 million

11.7 Million Unauthorized in 2012

Mexico is Largest Single Source of Legal Foreign-Born, Also

Mexico -- 20%
6.0 million

Mid-East -- 4%
1.2 million

Asia -- 31%
9.2 million

Europe & Canada -- 16%
4.9 million

Africa, Other -- 5%
1.6 million

Other Latin America -- 24%
7.1 million

30.0 Million Legal Immigrants in 2012

Mexican Immigrant Population Living in the U.S.
Mexicans Grow Rapidly from ‘70-’06 (many unauthorized); Growth in US Stops and then Reverses ‘07-’11; HUGE Share of World-wide Mexican Population in U.S. Now

Total Unauthorized Dropped’07-’09; Essentially No Change ‘09 to ‘12

Unauthorized population (millions)

Source: Pew Hispanic Trends, Passel, Cohn and Gonzalez-Barrera 2013.
Mexican Unauthorized Peaked in ‘07; Decreases Continue through ‘11

Shaded area represents 90% confidence interval
White Circle -- Change from previous year significant at 90%
Tan Circle -- Change from two years before significant at 90%
Dark Circle – Neither 1-year or 2-year change is significant at 90%
2012 is preliminary

Source: Pew Hispanic Trends, Passel, Cohn and Gonzalez-Barrera 2013.
Where Do the Mexicans Live?
Historic Core of Mexican Immigrants → CA, TX, IL, AZ; Most Growth after 2000 in AZ and “New Destination Areas”

Source: Pew Hispanic Trends based on Mexican sources, Passel, Cohn & Gonzalez-Barrera 2012.
Hispanic Trends Project

New Destinations for Mexicans

Mexican-Born Population
% Growth ‘90–'11 (US=172% or 4.9%/year)

- >2000% or >15%/year (10)
- 980-1500% or 12-14.1%/year (9)
- 350%-750% or 7.5-10.7%/year (13)
- 71%-275 or 2.6-6.5%/year (7)
- Fewer than 10,000 in 2011 (12)

Source: Based on IPUMS for 1990,2011.
Immigration Flows Between Mexico and the U.S.
**Mexican In-Flows Follow US Employment Patterns; Current Flow (Largely Legal) is ~20% of ‘00 Peak (Largely Unauthorized)**

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

- **Mexico-U.S. Migration**
  - 370
  - 470
  - 570
  - 770

- **U.S. Employment Rate**
  - 670
  - 580

- **Rise**
  - 1990
  - 1992
  - 1994
  - 1996
  - 1998
  - 2000

- **Peak**
  - 2002

- **Decline**
  - 2004
  - 2006
  - 2008
  - 2010

% Employed of Labor Force In U.S.

- 1990: 89%
- 1992: 90%
- 1994: 91%
- 1996: 92%
- 1998: 93%
- 2000: 94%
- 2002: 95%
- 2004: 96%
- 2006: 95%
- 2008: 94%
- 2010: 92%

Major Shifts for ‘95–’00 to ‘05–’10; Flows to US ↓ 50%; Flows to Mexico ↑ >100%

Source: Pew Hispanic Trends based on various sources, Passel, Cohn & Gonzalez-Barrera 2012.
When Did the Flows Turn Around? ’07-’08 based on “In US 5 Years Ago”

Persons in Mexico at Census/Survey and in U.S. Five Years Earlier (thousands)

- 1990 Census: 129
- 2000 Census: 337
- 2005 Conteo: 246
- 2006 ENADID: 274
- 2009 ENADID: 667
- 2010 Census: 985

Source: Pew Hispanic Trends based on Mexican sources, Passel, Cohn & Gonzalez-Barrera 2012.
Illustrative Estimates Point to Large Return Flows for 2008-2010

Estimated Annual Movement (in 000s)

- Mexico to U.S. Flow Estimate:
  - 2005-06: 150
  - 2006-07: 160
  - 2007-08: 265
  - 2008-09: 325
  - 2009-10: 455

- U.S. to Mexico Illustrative (ENADID):
  - 2005-06: 130
  - 2006-07: 195
  - 2007-08: 350
  - 2008-09: 550

Source: Pew Hispanic Trends based on various sources, Passel, Cohn & Gonzalez-Barrera 2012.
Who is Going Back to Mexico?

1.4 Million U.S. to Mexico Migrants, 2005-2010

- Long-Term Mexican Migrants (5+ years in US) 825,000 (59%)
- U.S.-Born Children of Mexicans (Under 5) 210,000 (15%)
- U.S.-Born Children (>5) 110,000 (8%)
- Other Adults 53,000 (4%)
- Short-Term Mexican Migrants 200,000 (15%)

Characteristics of (Unauthorized) Mexican Immigrants in the U.S.
Unauthorized Immigrants More Likely To Be Couples with Children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Percent of Group’s Households that are Couples with Children, 2011</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Native Households</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Immigrant Households</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unauthorized Immigrant Households</td>
<td>44%</td>
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</tbody>
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Unauthorized Mexican Population Is More “Settled” in the U.S.

Share of Unauthorized Mexicans Who Have Lived in the US 10 Years or More

Unauthorized Men Work More; Women Work Much Less Than Others

Percent in Labor Force, 2011

- **Unauthorized Immigrants**
  - Adult Men (18-64): 92%
  - Adult Women (18-64): 80%

- **Legal Foreign-Born**
  - Adult Men (18-64): 85%
  - Adult Women (18-64): 65%

- **All Natives**
  - Adult Men (18-64): 71%
  - Adult Women (18-64): 40%

A Majority of Mexican Unauthorized Are Married or Have Children

Adult Unauthorized Immigrants, from Mexico 2011 (millions)

US-Born Children of Unauthorized Up but Unauthorized Children Decrease

Children with at Least One Unauthorized Mexican Immigrant Parent, by Status, 2000-2011 (in millions)

Unauthorized Mexican Families Have a Very Mixed Composition

Unauthorized Men
3.3 million
58% of Adults

Unauthorized Women
2.3 million
42% of Adults

Unauthorized Children
475,000
Only 8% of All Unauthorized

U.S. Citizen Children
3.3 million
87% of Kids

Other Adults
585,000

10 Million in Unauthorized Mexican Families, 2011

What About the Future?

• Flows Down—Response to Economy
  – Enforcement May Be Working
    • Border Effectiveness and Interior Laws

• Changes in Mexico Affect Flows
  – Smaller Birth Cohorts Lessens Demographic Pressure to Migrate
  – Break in Flows May Weaken Networks

• Key Features of Population
  – Families, Not Just Individuals
  – Networks and Culture Have Enhanced Flows
  – Scale is Large and Dispersed
Thank You!