

Immigration Enforcement Actions: 2011

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Each year, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) undertakes immigration enforcement actions involving hundreds of thousands of foreign nationals. These actions include the apprehension or arrest, detention, return, and removal from the United States of foreign nationals who are removable under U.S. immigration law (see Box 1). Foreign nationals may be removable from the United States for violations including failure to abide by the terms and conditions of admission or engaging in crimes such as violent crimes, document and benefit fraud, terrorist activity, and drug smuggling. 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 is generally responsible for immigration enforcement at and between the ports of entry and ICE is generally responsible for interior enforcement (see **APPENDIX**).

This Office of Immigration Statistics (OIS) Annual Report presents information on foreign nationals found inadmissible, apprehended, arrested, detained, returned, and removed during 2011.¹ Key findings in this report include the following:

- CBP found 212,000 foreign nationals inadmissible for entry into the United States.
- DHS made 642,000 apprehensions of foreign nationals; 76 percent were natives of Mexico.
- ICE detained approximately 429,000 foreign nationals, an all-time high.
- DHS returned 324,000 foreign nationals to their home countries without a removal order.
- DHS removed 392,000 foreign nationals from the United States.² The leading countries of origin of those removed were Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.
- Reinstatements of final orders accounted for 130,000, or 33 percent, of all removals.
- Expedited removals accounted for 123,000, or 31 percent, of all removals.
- ICE removed 188,000 known criminal aliens from the United States, an all-time high.³

¹In this report, years refer to fiscal years (October 1 to September 30).

²Includes removals, counted in the year the events occurred, by both ICE and CBP. Removals and returns are reported separately.

³Refers to persons removed who have a prior criminal conviction.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS PROCESS

Inspection Process

CBP determines the admissibility of aliens who are applying for admission to the United States at designated ports of entry. Applicants for admission found to be inadmissible may be permitted to voluntarily withdraw their application for admission and return to their home country, processed for expedited removal, or referred to an immigration judge for removal proceedings. An expedited removal order issued by a DHS officer is equivalent to a removal order issued by an immigration judge. Foreign nationals who apply under the Visa Waiver Program 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).

Apprehension Process

Aliens who enter illegally between ports of entry and are apprehended by U.S. Border Patrol or CBP may be removed, permitted to return to their country, or issued a Notice to Appear (NTA) before the immigration court and either transferred to ICE for detention pending a hearing or released on their own recognizance.

Aliens illegally within the interior of the United States may be identified and apprehended by ICE. The agency's two primary operating components are Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO). ICE may identify illegal aliens



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for removal while they are incarcerated, during worksite enforcement as a result of specialized operations, or through other means. Aliens apprehended by ICE are generally subject to the same consequences as aliens who are apprehended by U.S. Border Patrol.

Detention Process

Following arrest, ICE ERO makes custody determinations, which may result in detention or in releases on bond, orders of supervisions, or orders of own recognizance. If an alien is ordered removed, the alien may be detained pending repatriation.

Removal Process

Removal proceedings include the administrative process that leads to the removal of an alien pursuant to sections 237 or 212 of the INA.

The three most common dispositions for aliens found within the United States, including between the ports of entry, are returns, expedited removals, and reinstatements of final orders.

Return. Apprehended aliens who appear to be inadmissible may be offered the opportunity to return to their home country in lieu of formal removal proceedings before an immigration judge. This procedure is common with non-criminal aliens who are apprehended at the border. Aliens agree that their entry was illegal, waive their right to a hearing, remain in custody, and are returned under supervision. Return is also available for non-criminal aliens who appear to be inadmissible at ports of entry. Some aliens apprehended within the United States may agree to voluntarily depart and pay the expense of departing. These departures may be granted by an immigration judge, during an immigration hearing or prior to an immigration hearing by certain DHS officials. In many instances, aliens who have agreed to a return may be legally admitted in the future without penalty.

Expedited Removal. DHS officers may order the expedited removal of certain aliens who are inadmissible because they do not possess valid entry documents or are inadmissible for fraud or misrepresentation of material fact. Aliens placed in expedited removal proceedings are not generally placed in immigration proceedings before an immigration judge but have the opportunity to seek asylum or may claim to have legal status in the United States.

Reinstatement of Final Removal Orders. Section 241(a)(5) of the INA permits DHS to reinstate final removal orders, without further hearing or review, against aliens previously removed from the United States.

Aliens not immediately processed for removal by a DHS officer may be issued an NTA for an immigration hearing or transferred to ICE to determine whether the individual should be detained or released and the appropriate conditions of release. Removal hearings before the court may result in a variety of outcomes including an order of removal; a grant of voluntary departure at alien expense (considered a “return”); a grant of certain forms of relief or protection from removal which could include adjustment to lawful permanent resident status; or termination of proceedings. Decisions of immigration judges can be appealed to the Board of Immigration Appeals.

BOX 1.

Definitions of Immigration Enforcement Terms

Administrative Removal: The removal of an alien not admitted for permanent residence or an alien admitted for permanent residence on a conditional basis, under a DHS order based on the determination that the individual has been convicted of an aggravated felony (INA § 238(b)(1)). The alien may be removed without a hearing before an immigration court.

Alien: Person who is not a citizen or national of the United States (Note that for purposes of this report, alien and foreign national are used interchangeably).

Deportable Alien: An alien who has been admitted into the United States but who is subject to removal under INA § 237.

Detention: The seizure and incarceration of an alien in order to hold him/her while awaiting judicial or legal proceedings or return transportation to his/her country of citizenship.

Expedited Removal: The removal of an alien who is inadmissible because the individual does not possess valid entry documents or is inadmissible for fraud or misrepresentation of material fact (INA § 235(b)(1)(B)(iii)). The alien may be removed without a hearing before an immigration court.

Inadmissible Alien: An alien seeking admission into the United States who is ineligible to be admitted according to the provisions of INA § 212.

Reinstatement of Final Removal Orders: The removal of an alien based on the reinstatement of a prior removal order, where the alien departed the United States under an order of removal and illegally attempted to enter or is at any time found in the United States (INA § 241(a)(5)). The alien may be removed without a hearing before an immigration court.

Removable Alien: An alien who is inadmissible or deportable (INA § 240(e)(2)).

Removal: The compulsory and confirmed movement of an inadmissible or deportable alien out of the United States based on an order of removal. An alien who is removed has administrative or criminal consequences placed on subsequent reentry owing to the fact of the removal.

Return: The confirmed movement of an inadmissible or deportable alien out of the United States not based on an order of removal.

The penalties associated with removal include not only the removal itself but also possible fines, imprisonment for up to ten years for aliens who do not appear at hearings or who fail to depart, and a bar to future legal entry.⁴ The imposition and extent of these penalties depend upon the circumstances of the case.

DATA⁵

Apprehension and inadmissible data are collected in the Enforcement Integrated Database (EID) using Form I-213, TECS, and ICE Integrated Decision Support (IIDS). Data on individuals detained are collected

⁴The bar is permanent for aggravated felons and up to 20 years for certain other aliens.

⁵CBP data (apprehensions, inadmissibles, removals, and returns) are current as of December 2011. ICE ERO apprehension data are current as of May 2012. ICE HSI data are current as of June 2012. ICE removal and return data are current as of January 2012.

through the ICE ENFORCE Alien Detention Module (EADM) and the ENFORCE Alien Removal Module (EARM). Data on individuals removed or returned are collected through both EARM and EID. The data provided on aliens found inadmissible, apprehended, detained, removed, or returned all relate to events. For example, an alien may be apprehended more than once, and each apprehension would count as a separate record. Removals and returns are reported separately and counted in the years the events occurred. Data appearing for a given year may change in subsequent years due to updating of the data series.

TRENDS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Apprehensions

DHS made 641,633 apprehensions in 2011 (see Table 1). The U.S. Border Patrol was responsible for 340,252 or 53 percent of all apprehensions, the lowest number reported since 1971 (see Figure 1). Ninety-six percent of Border Patrol apprehensions occurred along the Southwest border. ICE ERO made 285,085 administrative arrests and ICE HSI made 16,296 administrative arrests.⁶

Nationality of Apprehended Aliens. Mexican nationals accounted for 76 percent of all aliens apprehended in 2011. The next leading countries were Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. These four countries accounted for 91 percent of all apprehensions.

⁶An administrative arrest refers to the arrest of an alien who is charged with an immigration violation. Administrative arrests are included in the DHS apprehension totals.

Table 1.

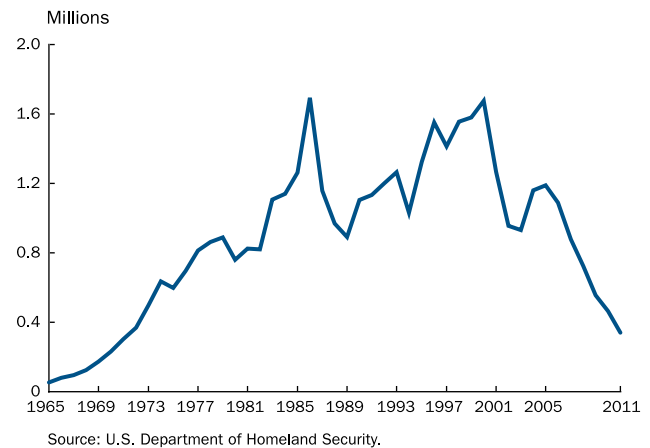
Apprehensions by Program and Country of Nationality: Fiscal Years 2009 to 2011

(Countries ranked by 2011 apprehensions)

Program and country of nationality	2011		2010		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
PROGRAM						
Total	641,633	100.0	752,329	100.0	869,857	100.0
U.S. Border Patrol	340,252	53.0	463,382	61.6	556,032	63.9
Southwest sectors (sub-total)	327,577	51.1	447,731	59.5	540,851	62.2
ICE Homeland Security Investigations	16,296	2.5	18,312	2.4	21,280	2.4
ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations	285,085	44.4	270,635	36.0	292,545	33.6
COUNTRY OF NATIONALITY						
Total	641,633	100.0	752,329	100.0	869,857	100.0
Mexico	489,547	76.3	598,004	79.5	715,914	82.3
Guatemala	39,153	6.1	36,230	4.8	33,882	3.9
Honduras	29,122	4.5	29,942	4.0	31,822	3.7
El Salvador	25,594	4.0	27,539	3.7	26,778	3.1
Cuba	4,691	0.7	3,947	0.5	4,701	0.5
Dominican Republic	4,405	0.7	5,241	0.7	5,129	0.6
India	3,838	0.6	2,144	0.3	1,145	0.1
Ecuador	3,237	0.5	3,819	0.5	3,462	0.4
Brazil	3,107	0.5	3,421	0.5	3,321	0.4
Jamaica	2,755	0.4	2,965	0.4	3,057	0.4
Colombia	2,646	0.4	2,891	0.4	3,429	0.4
China, People's Republic	2,537	0.4	2,688	0.4	2,922	0.3
Nicaragua	2,150	0.3	2,417	0.3	2,674	0.3
Peru	1,599	0.2	1,608	0.2	2,016	0.2
Vietnam	1,368	0.2	1,255	0.2	1,360	0.2
All other countries, including unknown	25,884	4.0	28,218	3.8	28,245	3.2

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Enforcement Integrated Database (EID), TECS, ICE Integrated Decision Support (IIDS); U.S. Border Patrol data for 2011 are current as of December 2011, 2010 are current as of December 2010, 2009 are current as of December 2009; ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations data are current as of May 2012, Homeland Security Investigations data are current as of June 2012.

Figure 1.
U.S. Border Patrol Apprehensions: Fiscal Years 1965 to 2011



Southwest Border Apprehensions. Apprehensions by the U.S. Border Patrol along the Southwest border decreased 27 percent from 447,731 in 2010 to 327,577 in 2011. In 2011, there were more apprehensions in the Tucson, AZ sector than in any other sector (123,285) (see Table 2). Tucson also had the largest decrease in apprehensions between 2010 and 2011 (42 percent). The next leading sectors in 2011 were Rio Grande Valley, TX (59,243), San Diego (42,447), Laredo, TX (36,053), and El Centro, CA (30,191).

Inadmissible Aliens

CBP Office of Field Operations (OFO) found 212,234 foreign nationals arriving at a port of entry inadmissible in 2011, down 7 percent from 229,403 in 2010 (See Table 3). Fifty-one percent of all inadmissible aliens were processed at land ports, followed by 31 percent at sea ports, and 18 percent at airports.

Nationality of Inadmissible Aliens. Mexican nationals accounted for 32 percent of inadmissible aliens, followed by Canada (15 percent), the Philippines (12 percent) and China (8 percent). These four countries accounted for 67 percent of all inadmissible aliens in 2011.

Criminal Alien Program

The Criminal Alien Program (CAP) is responsible for investigating and arresting at-large criminals as well as identifying, processing,

and removing aliens incarcerated in Federal, State, and local prisons and jails throughout the United States. In 2011, CAP issued 212,744 charging documents, the initial step toward removal.

Detentions

ICE detained an all-time high of 429,247 aliens during 2011, an increase of 18 percent from 2010 (See Table 4). Mexican nationals accounted for 67 percent of total detainees. The next leading countries were Guatemala (9 percent), Honduras (6.2 percent) and El Salvador (5.5 percent). These four countries accounted for 88 percent of all detainees in 2011.

Removals and Returns

Total Removals. The number of removals increased from 385,100 in 2010 to 391,953 in 2011 (see Table 5 and Figure 2). Mexican

Table 2.

Apprehensions by U.S. Border Patrol Sector: Fiscal Years 2009 to 2011

(Sectors ranked by 2011 apprehensions)

Border Patrol sector	2011		2010		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Apprehensions	340,252	100.0	463,382	100.0	556,032	100.0
Southwest sectors	327,577	96.3	447,731	96.6	540,851	97.3
Tucson, AZ	123,285	36.2	212,202	45.8	241,667	43.5
Rio Grande Valley, TX	59,243	17.4	59,766	12.9	60,992	11.0
San Diego, CA	42,447	12.5	68,565	14.8	118,712	21.3
Laredo, TX	36,053	10.6	35,287	7.6	40,571	7.3
El Centro, CA	30,191	8.9	32,562	7.0	33,520	6.0
Del Rio, TX	16,144	4.7	14,694	3.2	17,082	3.1
El Paso, TX	10,345	3.0	12,251	2.6	14,998	2.7
Yuma, AZ	5,833	1.7	7,116	1.5	6,952	1.3
Marfa, TX	4,036	1.2	5,288	1.1	6,357	1.1
All other sectors	12,675	3.7	15,651	3.4	15,181	2.7

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) U.S. Border Patrol (BP), Enforcement Integrated Database (EID).

Table 3.

Aliens Found Inadmissible by Mode of Travel and Country of Citizenship: Fiscal Years 2009 to 2011

(Modes/Countries ranked by 2011 aliens found inadmissible)

Characteristic	2011		2010		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
MODE OF TRAVEL						
Total	212,234	100.0	229,403	100.0	224,402	100.0
Land	107,205	50.5	116,970	51.0	115,481	51.5
Sea	66,227	31.2	68,238	29.7	64,646	28.8
Air	38,802	18.3	44,195	19.3	44,275	19.7
COUNTRY						
Total	212,234	100.0	229,403	100.0	224,402	100.0
Mexico	67,410	31.8	75,464	32.9	75,322	33.6
Canada	32,141	15.1	33,148	14.4	30,511	13.6
Philippines	25,197	11.9	22,917	10.0	20,216	9.0
China, People's Republic	16,931	8.0	17,173	7.5	16,007	7.1
Cuba	7,759	3.7	7,442	3.2	7,047	3.1
India	5,983	2.8	6,577	2.9	5,858	2.6
Ukraine	4,359	2.1	4,657	2.0	4,927	2.2
Russia	3,905	1.8	3,676	1.6	3,778	1.7
Burma	2,642	1.2	4,043	1.8	3,881	1.7
United Kingdom	2,093	1.0	2,549	1.1	3,139	1.4
All other countries, including unknown	43,814	20.6	51,757	22.6	53,716	23.9

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection, Office of Field Operations. Enforcement Integrated Database (EID). Data as of December 2011.

nationals accounted for 75 percent of all aliens removed in 2011. The next leading countries were Guatemala (7.7 percent), Honduras (5.6 percent) and El Salvador (4.4 percent). These four countries accounted for 93 percent of all removals in 2011 (see Table 6).

Expedited Removals. Expedited removals represented 31 percent of all removals in 2011, up from 29 percent in 2010 but down from an all-time high of 49 percent in 1999. Aliens from Mexico accounted for 83 percent of expedited removals in 2011. The next leading countries were Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. Nationals from these four countries accounted for 96 percent of all expedited removals in 2011.

Reinstatements. Reinstatements of previous removal orders accounted for 33 percent of all removals in 2011. The number of removals based on a reinstatement of final orders increased every year between 2005 and 2011. In 2011, aliens from Mexico accounted for 82 percent of all reinstatements. Other leading countries included Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. These four countries accounted for 98 percent of all reinstatements in 2011.

Criminal Activity. Approximately 188,000 aliens removed in 2011 had a prior criminal conviction⁷. The most common

⁷ Excludes criminals removed by CBP; CBP EID data do not identify if aliens removed were criminals.

Table 4.

Initial Admissions to ICE Detention Facilities by Country of Nationality: Fiscal Years 2009 to 2011

(Countries ranked by 2011 admissions to detention)

Country of nationality	2011		2010		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	429,247	100.0	363,064	100.0	383,524	100.0
Mexico	288,581	67.2	219,858	60.6	239,925	62.6
Guatemala	38,450	9.0	35,744	9.8	34,135	8.9
Honduras	26,416	6.2	27,879	7.7	30,570	8.0
El Salvador	23,792	5.5	25,589	7.0	25,991	6.8
Dominican Republic	4,201	1.0	5,003	1.4	4,849	1.3
India	3,438	0.8	2,024	0.6	1,120	0.3
Ecuador	2,957	0.7	3,635	1.0	3,322	0.9
Jamaica	2,597	0.6	2,636	0.7	2,536	0.7
Brazil	2,525	0.6	2,906	0.8	3,073	0.8
Cuba	2,358	0.5	2,423	0.7	2,768	0.7
All other countries, including unknown	33,932	7.9	35,367	9.7	35,235	9.2

Note: Excludes Office of Refugee Resettlement and Mexican Interior Repatriation Program facilities.
Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, ENFORCE Alien Detention Module (EADM).

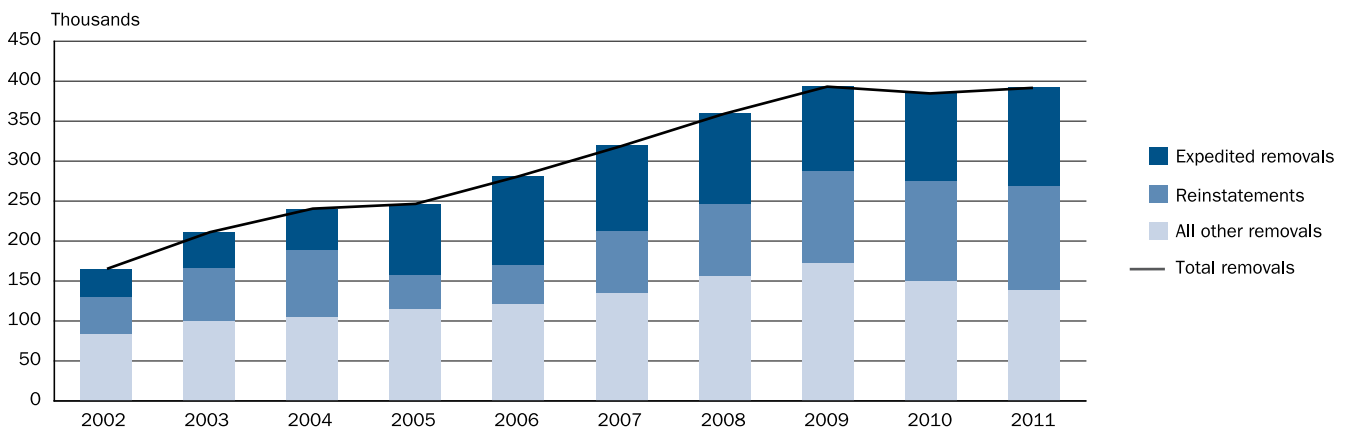
Table 5.

Trends in Total Removals, Expedited Removals, and Reinstatements of Final Removal Orders: Fiscal Years 2009 to 2011

Removals	2011		2010		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	391,953	100.0	385,100	100.0	393,457	100.0
Expedited Removals	123,180	31.4	110,288	28.6	105,787	26.9
Reinstatements	130,006	33.2	125,034	32.5	115,448	29.3
All other removals	138,767	35.4	149,778	38.9	172,222	43.8

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, ENFORCE Alien Removal Module (EARM), reported as of January 2012; Enforcement Integrated Database (EID), reported as of December 2011.

Figure 2.
Total Removals, Expedited Removals and Reinstatements: Fiscal Years 2002 to 2011



Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

categories of crime were illegal drug activity, criminal traffic offenses, and immigration-related offenses. These three categories accounted for 66 percent of all criminal alien removals in 2011 (see Table 7).

Returns. In 2011, 323,542 aliens were returned to their home countries without an order of removal, a decline of 32 percent from 2010 and the lowest number since 1970 (see Table 8). 2011 was the seventh consecutive year in which returns declined, primarily due to decreases in Southwest border apprehensions.

Seventy-two percent of returns in 2011 involved Mexican or Canadian aliens, down from 81 percent in 2010. The next leading countries of nationality in 2011 were the Philippines (7.2 percent) and China (5 percent).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

Table 6.

Aliens Removed by Criminal Status and Country of Nationality: Fiscal Years 2009 to 2011

(Countries ranked by 2011 aliens removed)

Country of nationality	2011			2010			2009		
	Total	Criminal*	Non-Criminal	Total	Criminal*	Non-Criminal	Total	Criminal*	Non-Criminal
Total	391,953	188,382	203,571	385,100	169,656	215,444	393,457	131,837	261,620
Mexico	293,966	144,745	149,221	275,831	128,396	147,435	278,568	99,616	178,952
Guatemala	30,313	11,700	18,613	29,736	9,432	20,304	29,652	6,547	23,105
Honduras	21,963	10,801	11,162	25,131	10,420	14,711	27,290	6,998	20,292
El Salvador	17,308	8,486	8,822	20,361	8,368	11,993	20,849	6,344	14,505
Brazil	3,012	541	2,471	3,535	487	3,048	3,726	388	3,338
Ecuador	1,699	700	999	2,386	692	1,694	2,383	602	1,781
Canada	1,289	412	877	1,345	457	888	1,329	418	911
Colombia	1,857	1,037	820	2,409	1,241	1,168	2,720	1,124	1,596
Nicaragua	1,495	694	801	1,906	804	1,102	2,175	620	1,555
China, People's Republic	987	214	773	1,068	166	902	970	135	835
All other countries, including unknown . .	18,064	9,052	9,012	21,392	9,193	12,199	23,795	9,045	14,750

*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, ENFORCE Alien Removal Module (EARM), January 2012, Enforcement Integrated Database (EID), December 2011.

Table 7.

Criminal Aliens Removed by Crime Category: Fiscal Years 2009 to 2011

(Crime categories ranked by 2011 criminal aliens removed)

Crime category	2011		2010		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	188,382	100.0	169,656	100.0	131,837	100.0
Dangerous Drugs*	43,262	23.0	42,890	25.3	38,940	29.5
Criminal Traffic Offenses**	43,022	22.8	31,062	18.3	20,877	15.8
Immigration†	37,458	19.9	31,828	18.8	20,491	15.5
Assault	12,755	6.8	12,175	7.2	9,675	7.3
Larceny	5,705	3.0	5,459	3.2	4,331	3.3
Fraudulent Activities	4,218	2.2	3,889	2.3	2,997	2.3
Burglary	3,795	2.0	4,213	2.5	3,893	3.0
Robbery	3,745	2.0	3,646	2.1	3,359	2.5
Sexual Assault	3,572	1.9	3,268	1.9	2,886	2.2
Family Offenses‡	2,961	1.6	3,330	2.0	2,685	2.0
All other categories, including unknown . .	27,889	14.8	27,896	16.4	21,703	16.5

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

** Including hit and run and driving under the influence.

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

‡ Including child and domestic abuse.

Note: 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, ENFORCE Alien Removal Module (EARM), reported as of January 2012.

Table 8.

Aliens Returned by Country of Nationality: Fiscal Years 2009 to 2011

(Countries ranked by 2011 aliens returned)

Country of nationality	2011		2010		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	323,542	100.0	475,613	100.0	584,436	100.0
Mexico	205,811	63.6	354,507	74.5	469,610	80.4
Canada	28,285	8.7	29,148	6.1	25,378	4.3
Philippines	23,180	7.2	21,432	4.5	18,837	3.2
China, People's Republic	16,259	5.0	16,460	3.5	15,159	2.6
India	4,227	1.3	4,738	1.0	4,250	0.7
Ukraine	4,114	1.3	4,420	0.9	4,669	0.8
Russia	3,524	1.1	3,195	0.7	3,526	0.6
Guatemala	3,001	0.9	2,317	0.5	1,866	0.3
Burma	2,582	0.8	3,951	0.8	3,784	0.6
Turkey	1,881	0.6	1,815	0.4	1,550	0.3
All other countries, including unknown . . .	30,678	9.5	33,630	7.1	35,807	6.1

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, ENFORCE Alien Removal Module (EARM), January 2012, Enforcement Integrated Database (EID), December 2011.

APPENDIX

ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM OFFICES

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

Office of Field Operations

CBP's Office of Field Operations (OFO) is responsible for securing the U.S. border at ports of entry while facilitating lawful trade and international travel. CBP officers determine the admissibility of aliens who are applying for admission to the United States at designated ports of entry.

U.S. Border Patrol

The primary mission of CBP's U.S. Border Patrol is to secure approximately 7,000 miles of international land border with Canada and Mexico and 2,600 miles of coastal border of the United States. Its major objectives are to deter, detect, and interdict the illegal entry of aliens, terrorists, terrorist weapons, and other contraband into the United States. Border Patrol operations are divided into geographic regions referred to as sectors.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

Homeland Security Investigations

ICE Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) conducts criminal investigations involving the enforcement of immigration-related statutes. Special agents conduct investigations of organizations and individuals subject to the administrative and criminal provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and other sections of the United States Code. HSI conducts worksite enforcement operations that are focused on the criminal prosecution of employers who knowingly hire illegal workers.

Enforcement and Removal Operations

Officers and agents of ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) serve as the primary enforcement arm within ICE for the identification, apprehension, and removal of illegal aliens from the United States. ERO transports removable aliens, manages aliens in custody or in an alternative detention program, and removes individuals ordered to be deported from the United States.