



**Give Me Your Poor,
Your Tired, Your
Homeless
(Some Restrictions
May Apply):
Immigration to the United
States in the 21st Century**

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Prof of Econ, Emeritus

National Economic Education
Delegation

Northwestern University OLLI
Evanston, IL
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Course Schedule

Inequality and Public Policy

- Week 1 (10/14): The New Inequality, Geoffrey Woglom, Amherst College
- **Week 2 (10/21): Economics of Immigration, Robert Gitter, Ohio Wesleyan University**
- Week 3 (10/28): Trade and Inequality Geoffrey Woglom, Amherst College
- Week 4 (11/04): The Black-White Wealth Gap, Jon Haveman, Exec. Director, NEED
- Week 5 (11/11): Climate Change Economics Sarah Jacobson, Williams College
- Week 6 (11/18): AI and Inequality Geoffrey Woglom, Amherst College

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Submitting Questions

There will be time for a Q&A after the presentation

Slides will be available from the
NEED website tonight or
tomorrow
https://needecon.org/delivered_presentations.php.

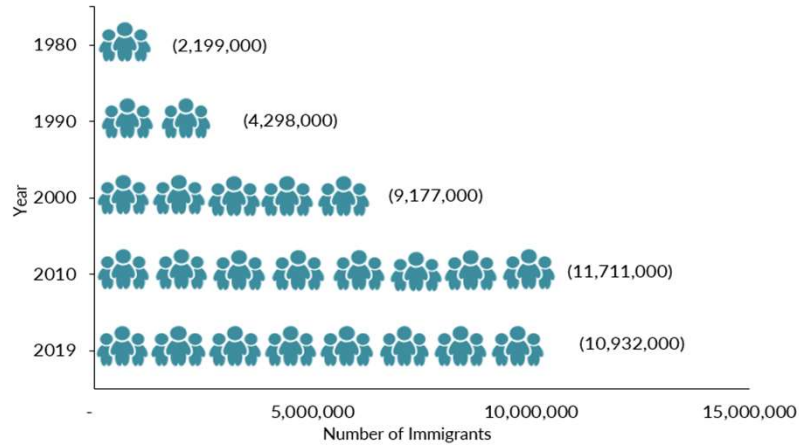
Migration to the US

Difficult to Measure How Many

- Legal Immigrants - easy
- Undocumented Immigrants
- Return Immigrants – no record if return



Mexican-Born People in the US



About 10.9 million in 2023 (Latest data)

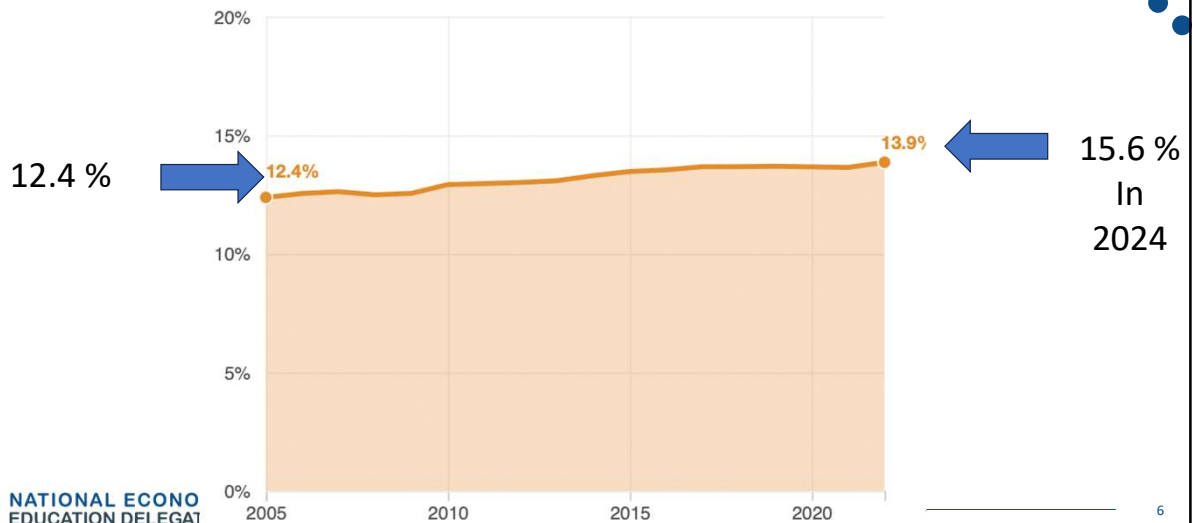
1 in 14 people born in Mexico currently lives in the US



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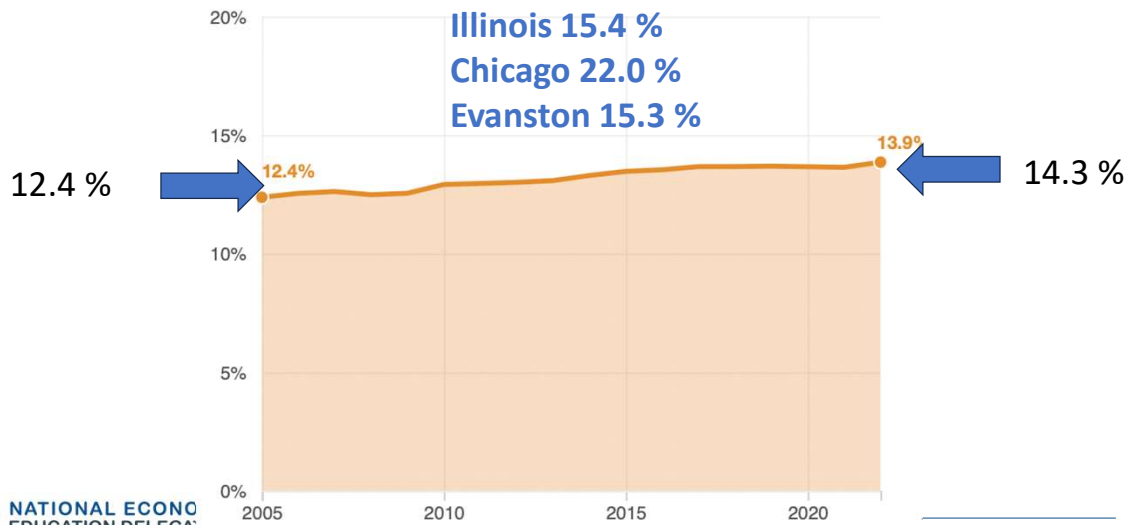
Immigrant Share of US Population



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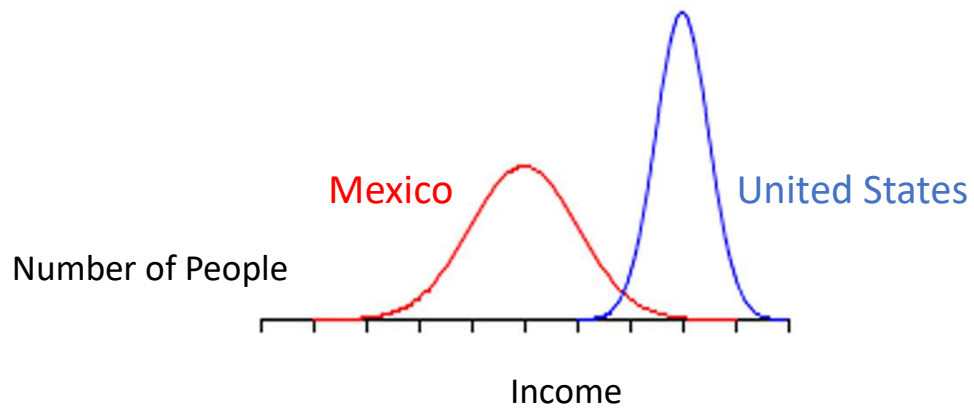
Immigrant Share of US Population



The Migration Decision

- **Benefit of Migrating**
- **Benefit of Staying**
- **Cost of Migrating**

Distribution of Income



The Dangers of Border Crossing



Key Laws

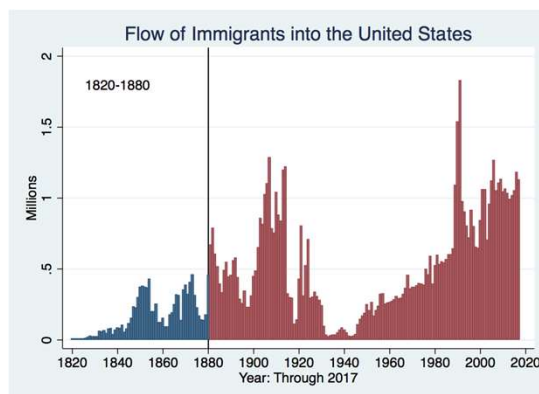
- Quota and Immigrations Acts (1921 and 1924)
- Bracero Program(1942-1964)
- Immigration and Nationality Act (1965)
- Immigration and Control Act (1986)



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U.S. Immigration 1820-1880



Source Country	1820-1880
Germany	3,000,000
Ireland	2,800,000
Britain	2,000,000
Austro-Hungarian Empire	1,000,000
Canada	750,000
China	230,000
Africa	50,000

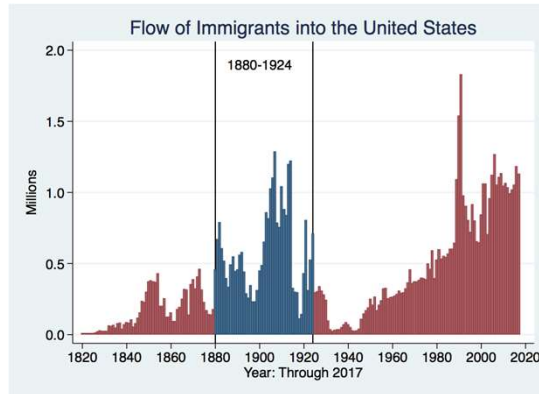
<https://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/immigration-timeline>



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U.S. Immigration 1880-1924



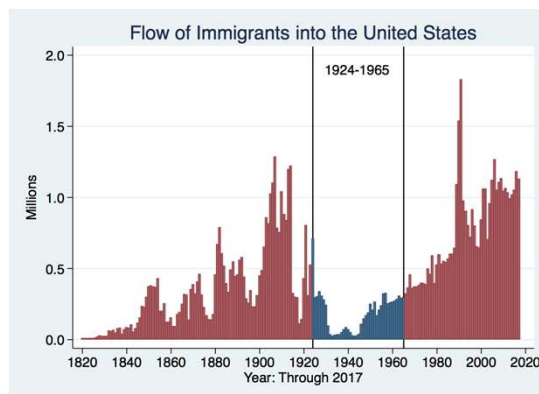
Source Country	1880-1930
Italy	4,600,000
Austro-Hungarian Empire	4,000,000
Russian Empire	3,300,000
German Empire	2,800,000
Britain	2,300,000
Canada	2,300,000
Ireland	1,700,000



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U.S. Immigration 1924-1965



Source Country	1930-1965
Germany	940,000
Canada	900,000
Mexico	610,000
Britain	480,000
Italy	390,000
Caribbean/ West Indies	310,000

<https://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/immigration-timeline>



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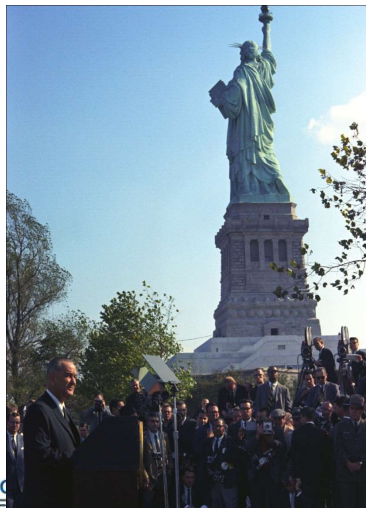
Signing up for Bracero Program



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LBJ Signs Immigration and Nationality Act (1965)



- Abolished Quotas
- Limits immigration to about 1 million/year
- Family reunification most important consideration



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NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS BY TYPE OF ADMISSION: FISCAL YEAR 2022

Family-sponsored preferences	594,223	165,642
Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens		428,581
Employment-based preferences ³		270,206
Diversity		43,175
Refugees		29,407
Asylees		53,662
Other		27,331
TOTAL		1,018,004



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H1B Applications Quota Reached on First Day 2017



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H2A Program



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Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986



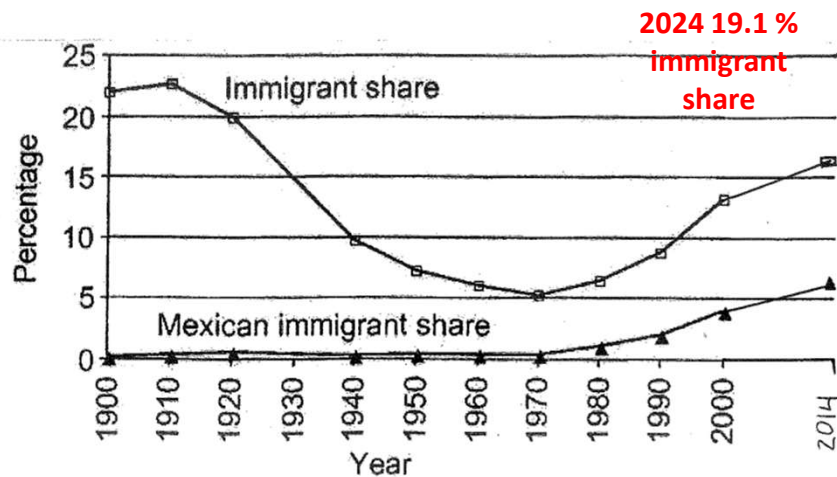
- Grants amnesty to undocumented individuals in US since 1982
- Must pay penalty and back taxes
- Amnesty granted for being undocumented
- Path to citizenship
- Two million people took advantage, mostly Mexican
- Illegal to knowingly hire undocumented workers



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Immigrant Share of US Workforce



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Immigration to Chicago Metro Area

Immigrants tend to be of working age. More so than the U.S. Born

Age	Foreign Born	United States Born
0-15	4.0 %	22.4 %
16-64	76.7%	61.6 %
65+	19.3%	16.1%



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Immigration to Chicago Metro Area

Country of Origin	Percent of Immigrants
Mexico	33.2 %
India	8.5 %
Poland	6.5 %
Philippines	5.3 %
China	3.8 %



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Immigration to Chicago Metro Area

Education Level	Foreign Born Population	U.S. Born Population
Less than High School	23.8 %	5.5 %
High School & Some College	40.2 %	50.2 %
Bachelor's Degree	19.9 %	26.8 %
Graduate Degree	16.0 %	17.5 %



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Immigration to Chicago Metro Area

Top Occupations with Highest Share of Immigrant Workers

Occupation	Share of Workers Immigrants
Construction	32.4 %
Manufacturing	31.6 %
Transp. & Warehousing	28.6 %
General Services	25.7 %
Arts, Entertainment, Hospitality & Food Service	24.9 %

Characteristics of Native and Latin Amer. Born Population (Age 16 & up)

	<u>Native Born</u>	<u>Foreign Born</u>	<u>Lat. Amer. Born</u>
Labor Force	136 Mil.	32.3 Mil	15.7 Mil
< H.S. Educ	5.3 %	21.2 %	32.9 %
Poor English	2%	21 %	33 %
Employed	59.3 %	63.7 %	65.4 %
Unem. Rate	4.0%	4.2 %	4.7%
Med. Wk. Earn	\$1,190	\$1001	\$997
 Poverty Rate	12 %	14 %	17%

Recent Changes - Increase in Deportations

Effects of Increases in Deportations on Inequality

- **Loss of income to deportees**
- **Loss to deported families who remain in the United States**
- **Increase in prices hurts lower income families**
- **Reduced payroll taxes, e.g., Social Security**
- **Enforcement is costly**
- **Some native-born workers will get increased wages**



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Recent Changes - Increase in Cost of H1B Visa

Effects of \$100,000 Fee for H1B Visa

- **Tighter labor supply**
- **Innovation, productivity, job creation may suffer**
- **Larger firms can afford to pay \$100,000 for an H1B visa, smaller ones less likely**



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Impact of Latin American Immigration

- Low-skill, low-wage jobs.
- Competition for less skilled native-born
- More GDP & lower prices
- Helps upper income native-born, hurts lower
- Little impact on federal budget but raises costs for state and local (schooling)

Recent Immigration Issues

- DACA
- The Northern Triangle
- Asylees and Refugees
- The Venezuelan Wave
- Bussing of Undocumented
- Temp. Prot. Status
- Recent Exec. Orders



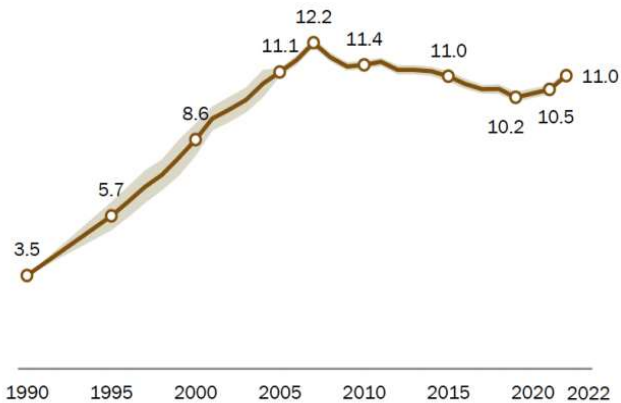
Undocumented Immigrants in the U S

The number of unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. grew from 2019 to 2022

Unauthorized immigrant population in the U.S., in millions

The Pew Foundation estimates 14 M undocumented in 2023 and dropped in 2024. 2025???

Source: PEW Foundation.



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DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)

- Entered U.S. before age 16, now in U.S.
- Entered before June 2007
- Currently in school, high school grad or honorable discharge from military
- No felony conviction or threat to security
- Renewable every 2 years
- Executive Order by Obama, Trump ended, Biden restored, in court now
- **63,200 in Illinois**



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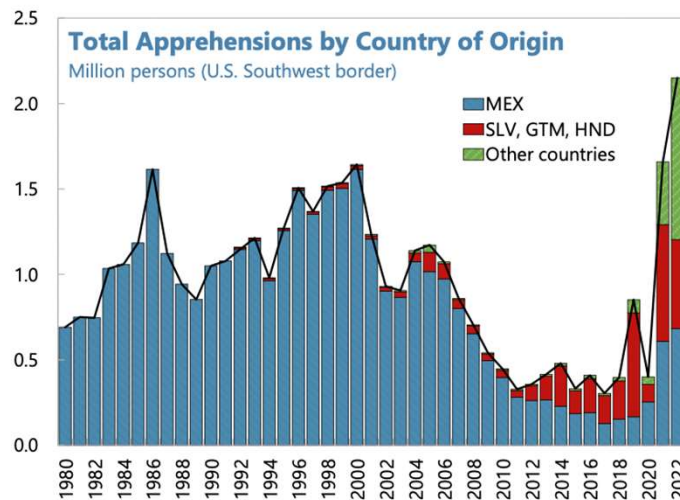
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The Northern Triangle



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Northern Triangle Apprehensions (Northern Triangle Countries in Red)



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Estimated Unauthorized Immigrant Population

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2000</u>
Total	11,000,000	11,200,000	8,600,000
Mexico	4,050,000	5,850,000	4,450,000
El Salvador	750,000	675,000	500,000
India	725,000	450,000	240,000
Guatemala	675,000	525,000	200,000
Honduras	525,000	350,000	140,000
China	375,000	325,000	325,000
Venezuela	275,000	70,000	45,000
Brazil	230,000	100,000	90,000
Dominican Republic	230,000	170,000	180,000
Colombia	190,000	160,000	150,000



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Asylees and Refugees

- Refugees are usually outside the United States when they are screened for resettlement in US
- Asylum seekers submit their applications while physically present in the United States or at a U.S. port of entry

Reason to grant – (US & UNCOR) unable to return because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution based on: race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. (Not economic hardship!)



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The Surge of Venezuelans



- Almost 8 million Venezuelans have left
- Caused by economic mismanagement, hyperinflation, unrest, violence
- Largest national group arrested for entering US
- Temporary Protected Status



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The Bussing of Migrants



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Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

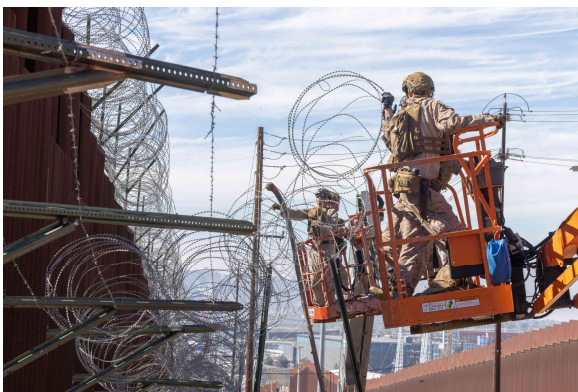
- The Secretary of Homeland Security can grant
- Can be granted to foreign-born persons who can't return to home country safely due to their country unable to handle their return
- Acceptable reasons
 - Conflict
 - epidemic
 - Hurricane or earthquake
 - Other temporary conditions
- Temporary status but can be extended
- Can work and travel within the United States
- May be eligible for welfare such as TANF, SNAP, Medicaid



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Executive Orders by President Trump (2025)



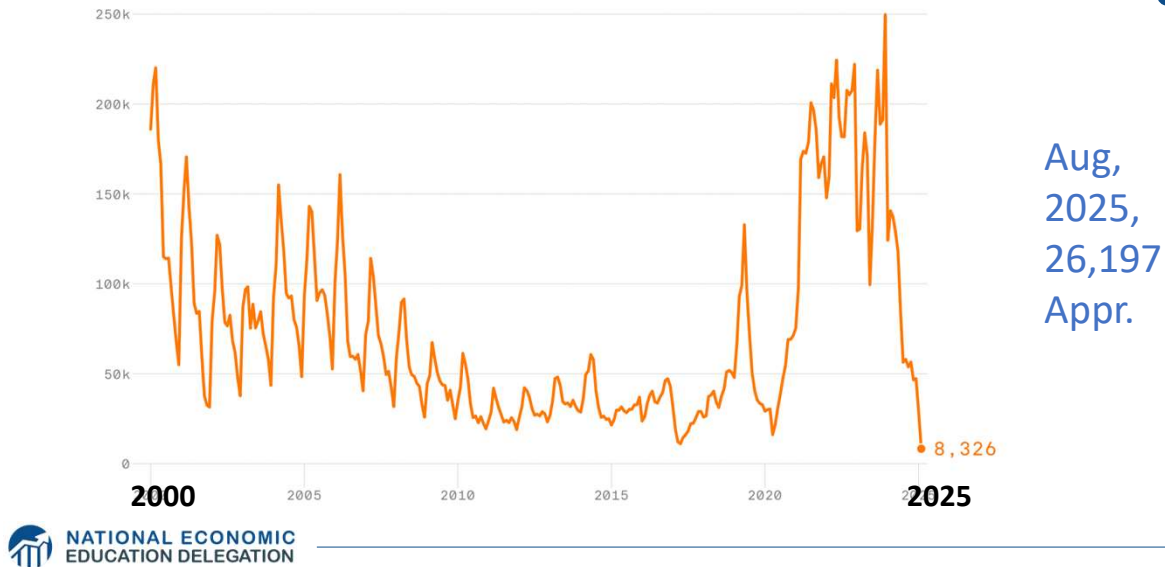
- Declared National Emergency at the Border
- Suspended Temporary Protected Status for Some Venezuelans – Court Order Put IT on Hold
- Ended “Catch and Release”
- Third Country Asylum (El Salvador)
- Expedited Removal.
- Troops at the Border
- Build Barriers



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Monthly Border Patrol Apprehensions



Final Thoughts



- Building a wall might not be effective
- Going through the desert is dangerous
- Illegal to hire undocumented workers but still done
- Undocumented are not eligible for welfare
- Maybe a points system like Canada

Thank you!



Questions?

Robert Gitter

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