

U.S. border security in the Southwest

June 13, 2017

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Roadmap

Understanding the United States Southwestern border:

Southwestern Border Patrol sectors and personnel

Fencing and the question of a full Southwestern border wall

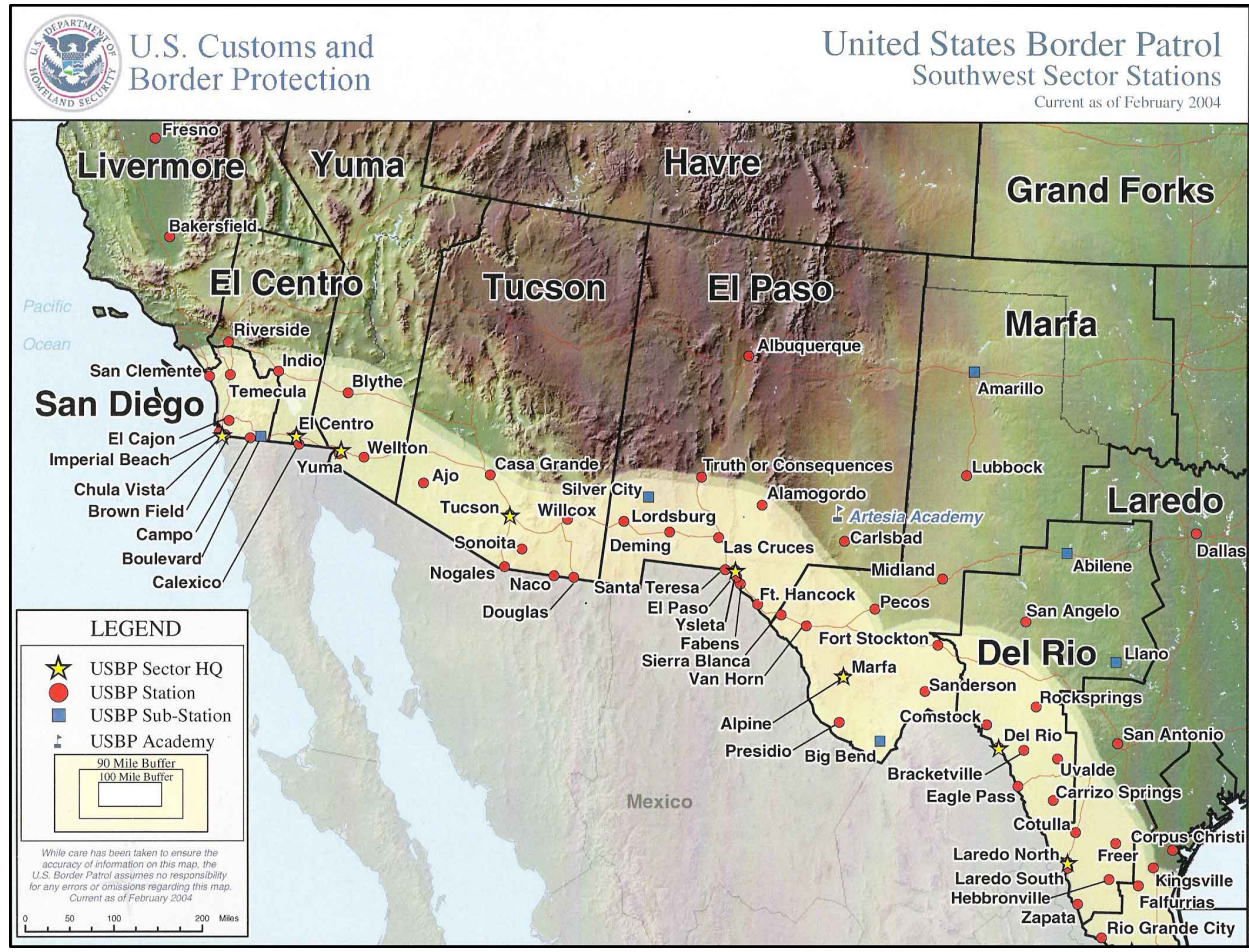
Total Customs and Border Patrol apprehensions on the Southwest border

Border patrol budget

Comparing Mexico's GDP and U.S. apprehensions of illegal border crossings by Mexicans

The border between the U.S. and Mexico is monitored by 9 sectors of U.S. Border Patrol

Where U.S. Border Patrol personnel are located



There are 9 border patrol sectors along the U.S./Mexico border

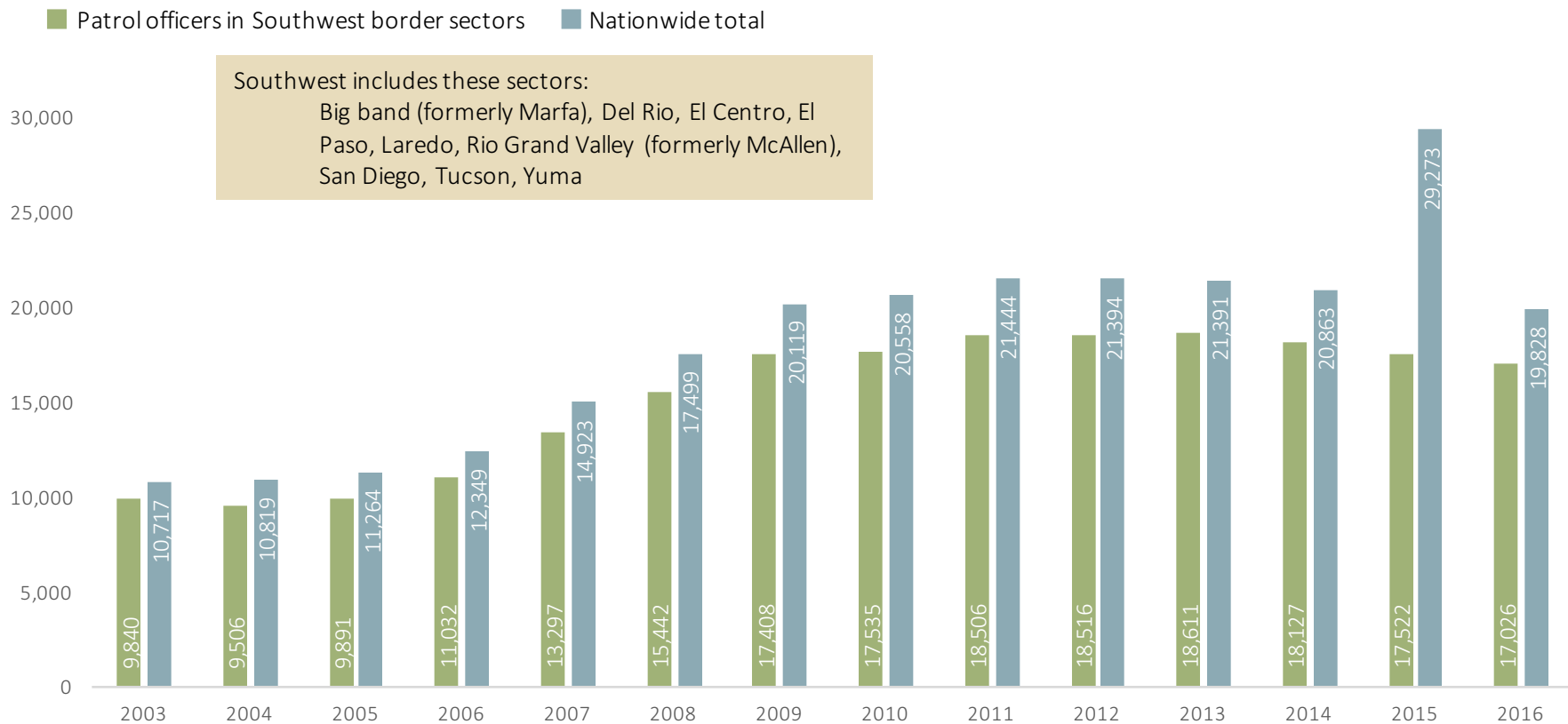
Within these sectors are 73 border patrol stations

Sources: National Journal research, 2017.

The number of Border Patrol agents increased under the Obama administration

U.S. Border Patrol agents

FY 2003-2016



Source: "Border patrol agent nationwide staffing by fiscal year," United States border patrol, October 1, 2016.

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The border between the U.S. and Mexico is 2000 miles long, of which 700 miles are already fenced

The current state of the wall

■ Where fencing exists

In 2006, President George W. Bush signed the Secure Fence Act, which mandated the creation of hundreds of miles of fencing, more vehicle barriers and more check points.

In 2009, the Government Accountability Office estimated the cost of the tallest portions of fencing at \$3.9 million a mile.

Sources: National Journal research, 2017.

Trump issued an executive order intended to increase security on the United States' Southwestern border

“Border security and immigration enforcement improvements”

January 25, 2017

- The order:**
- Orders the **immediate construction of a physical wall** along the Mexican border
 - Ends the “catch and release” policy
 - **Creates more detention facilities** at the border to ensure rapid repatriation of detainees
 - Calls for the **hiring of 5,000** more Border Patrol agents
 - Designates criminal prosecution near the southern border as a high priority
 - Enacts federal-state partnerships to enforce federal immigration priorities



The logistics of a wall

Cost	<u>Trump administration estimate:</u> \$8-12 billion <u>Private sector estimate:</u> up to \$25 billion (not including the cost of purchasing private land) <u>Department of Homeland Security estimate:</u> \$21.6 billion <u>Senate Democrat report estimate:</u> \$70 billion to build and \$150 million annually to maintain
Height	35-50 feet
Length	1,000 – 1,300 miles
Material	~19 million tons of concrete
Funding method	Taxing remittance payments from illegal wages, which invokes section 326 of the Patriot Act mandating financial institutions to verify the identity and immigration status of customers attempting to open accounts and expanding the definition of accounts to include wire transfers. While Mexico does receive \$24 billion a year in remittances, it is unclear how much of that money is sent by undocumented immigrants.

Sources: National Journal research, 2017; Ron Nixon, “Border wall could cost 3 times estimates, Senate Democrats’ report says,” NY Times, April 18, 2017; Whitehouse.gov, 2017.

Funds for Trump’s border wall are a sticking point for Democrats and will likely not be appropriated this year

Progress to date and continuing timeline



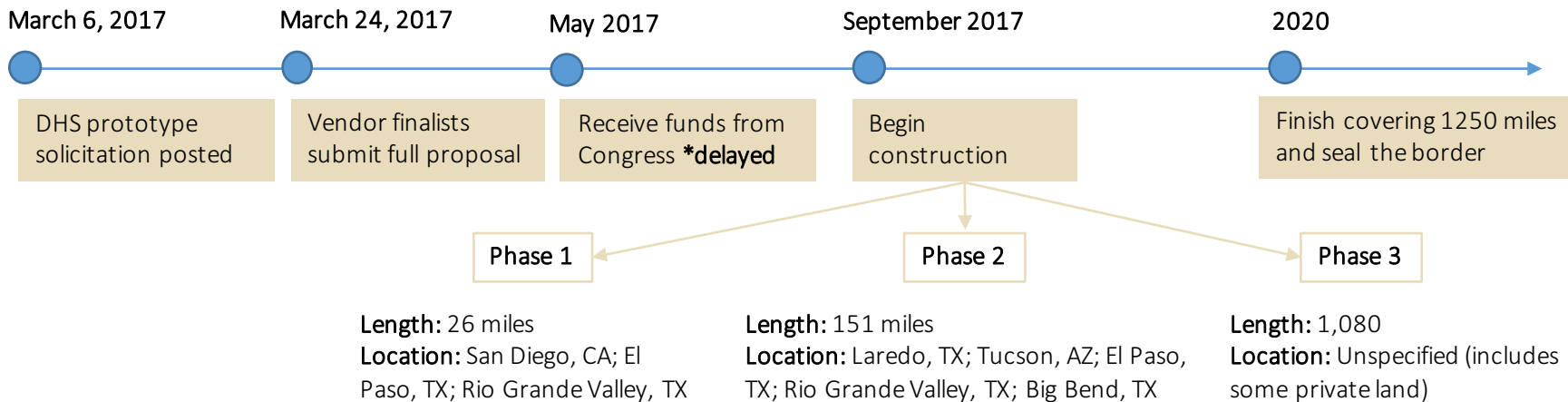
In progress:

- The government has begun seeking waivers to environmental laws that apply to construction in certain areas of the border
- Plans for steel purchases and deals with contractors are in negotiation
- DHS has diverted \$20 million from existing funds and resources to begin construction
- 230 companies submitted proposals to build border wall prototypes



Potential problems:

- Portions of the wall will need to be built on private land, so the Trump administration will have to go to court to seek eminent domain to acquire the land
- The U.S. and Mexico have a pact over shared waters that the government would have to abide by, which could bring the cost up from \$11 million per mile to \$15 million
- Secretary of Homeland Security John F. Kelly told members of Congress that the creation of a full wall on the border is unlikely



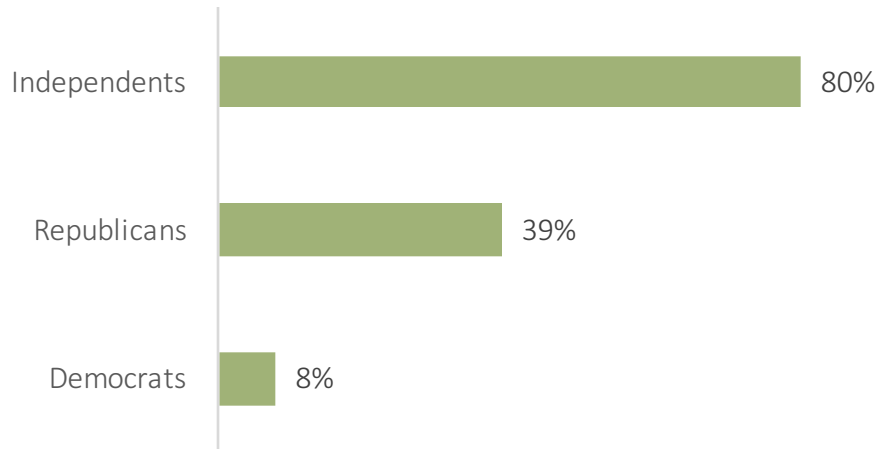
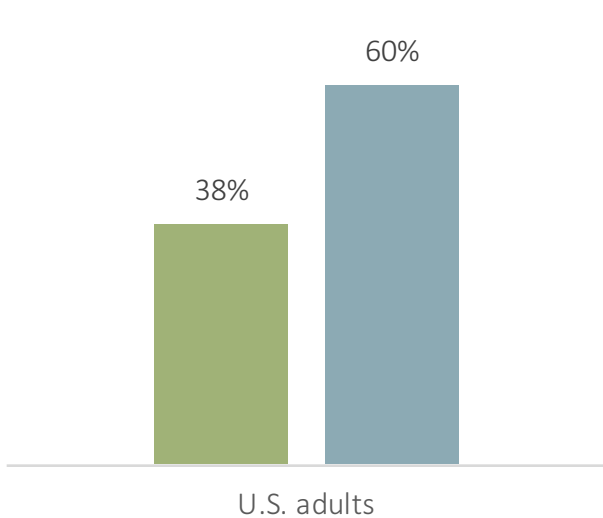
Sources: Julia Edwards Ainsley, "Exclusive - Trump border 'wall' to cost \$21.6 billion, take 3.5 years to build: internal report," Reuters, February 9, 2017; Ron Nixon, "Border wall could cost 3 times estimates, Senate Democrats' report says," NY Times, April 18, 2017.

60% of Americans oppose building a Mexico border wall, while 52% disapprove of Trump’s performance

Opinions on building a wall along the entire U.S.-Mexico border

Gallup, January 30–31

■ Approve ■ Disapprove



Analysis:

- Tourists, workers, students and business owners cross the border daily; the expansion of walls and fencing could make this much more difficult and negatively impact the US economy
- It isn't possible to build walls on some of the rough terrain between the United States and Mexico, which might entice migrants to travel through more dangerous areas, potentially increasing the already high death toll

Sources: "About half of Americans say Trump moving too fast," Gallup, February 2, 2017; Chris Isidore and Jeanne Sahadi, "Here's how much Trump's border wall will cost," CNN Money, January 25, 2017.

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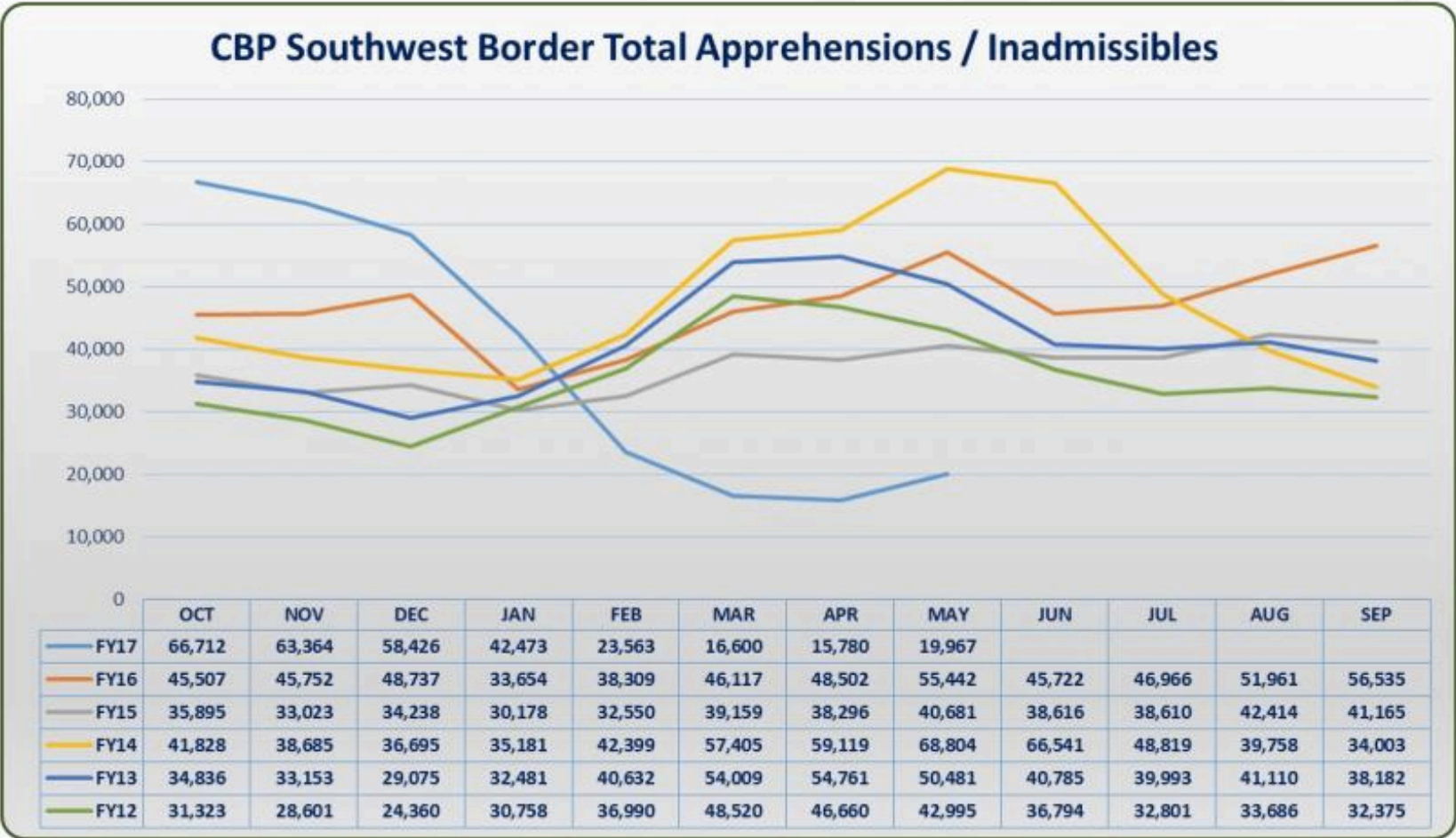
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FY2017 border apprehensions by CBP in the Southwest have dropped significantly since Trump's election

Customs and Border Patrol Southwest region apprehensions



Source: "Southwest border migration," U.S. Customs and Border Control, June 8, 2017.

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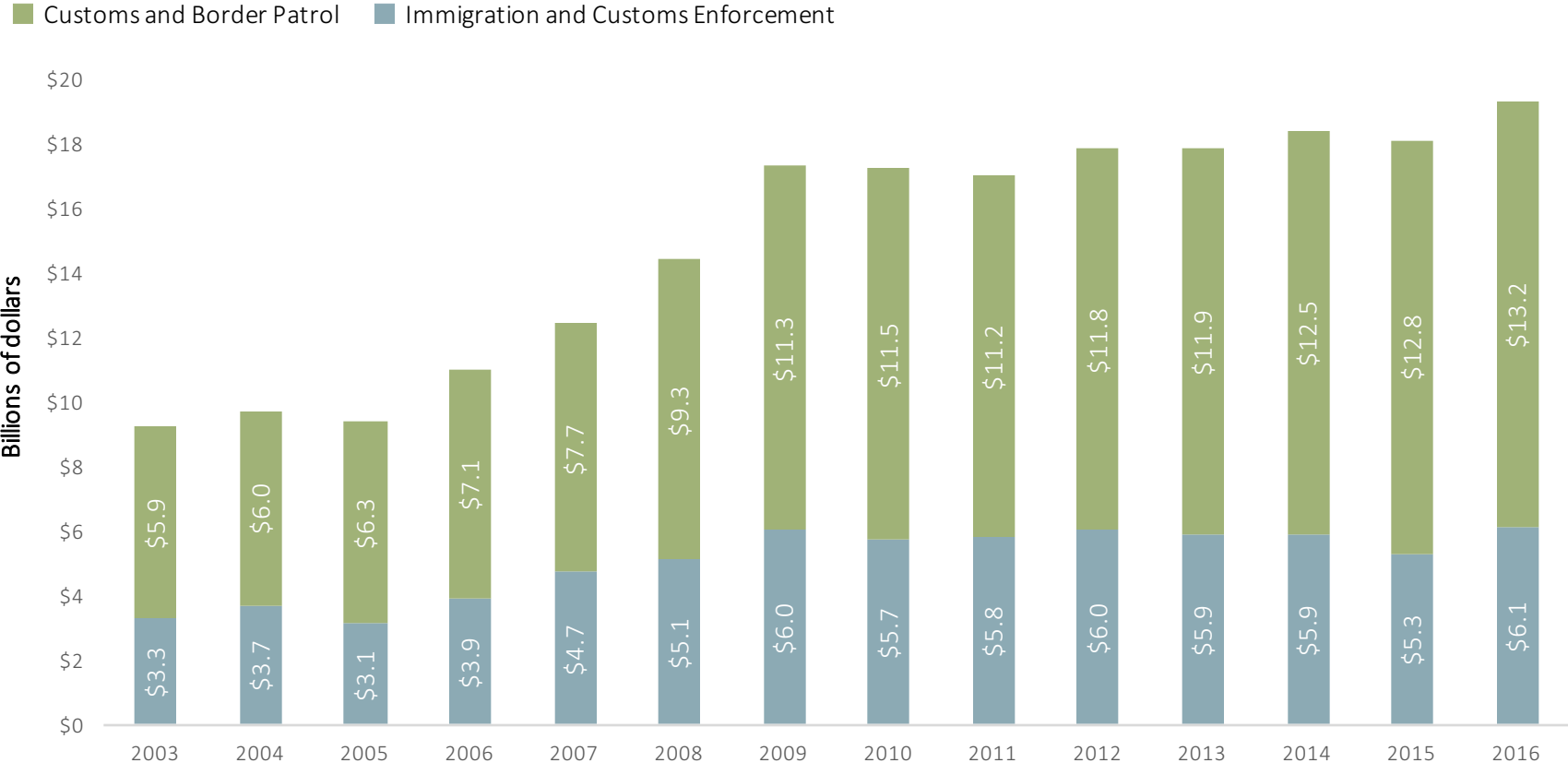
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Costs at ICE and CBP have been growing since 2003

Budget of U.S. Border Patrol agencies

In billions of dollars, FY 2005-2017



Source: "Southwest border migration," U.S. Customs and Border Control, June 8, 2017.

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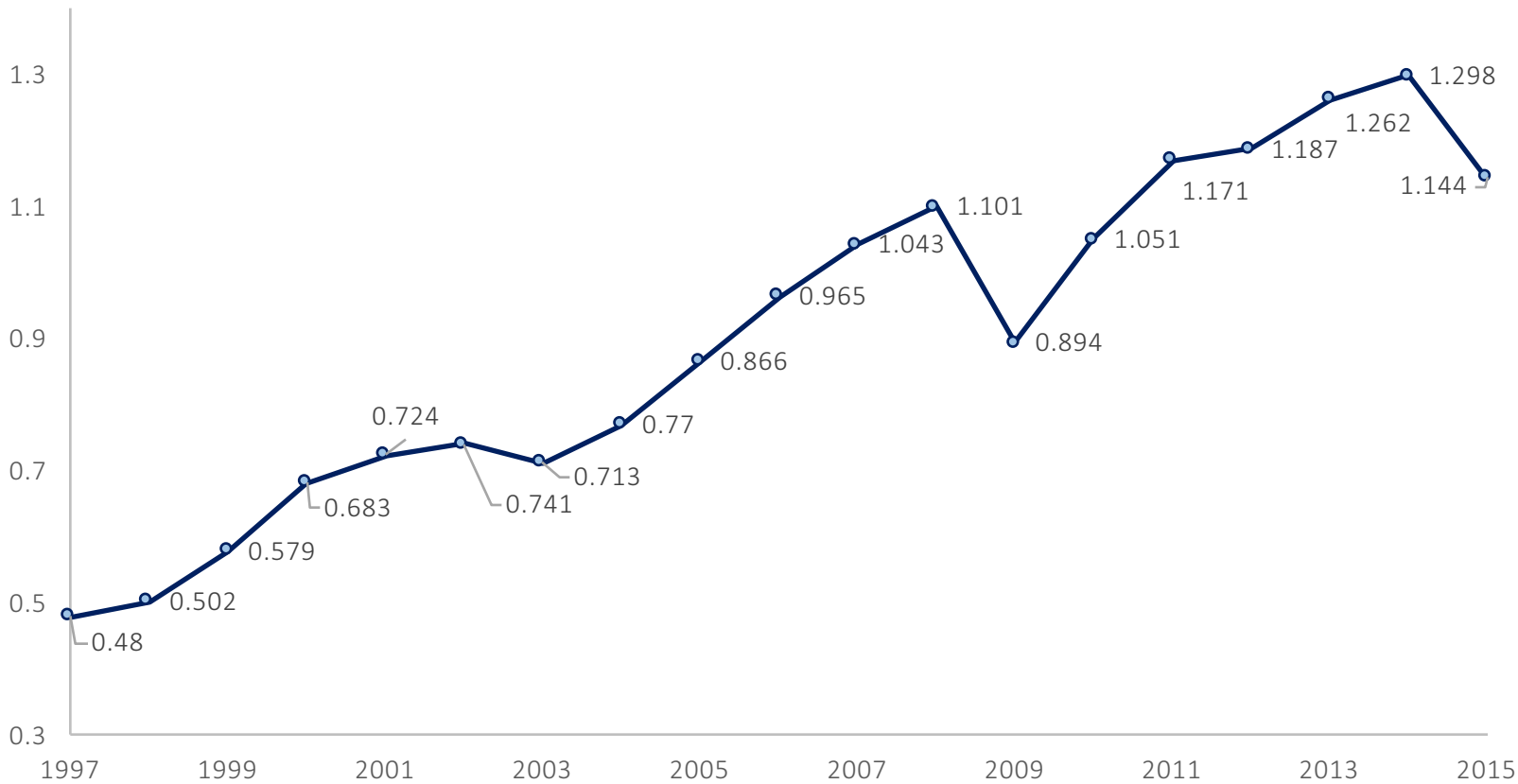
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Despite ups and downs, Mexico's GDP has broadly trended upwards in recent years

Mexico's annual GDP

Trillions of dollars, 1997-2015

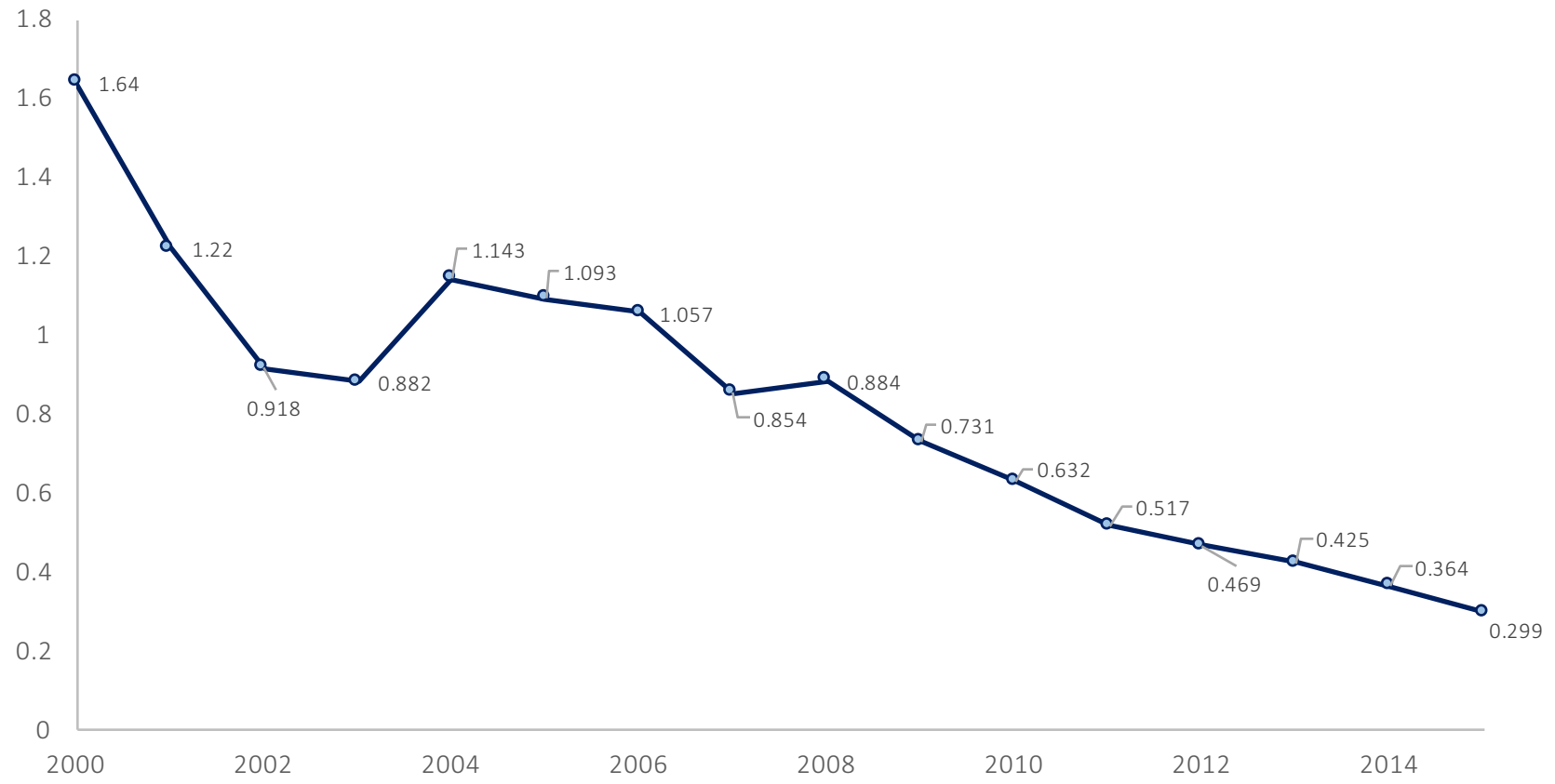


Source: OECD data, 2017.

As Mexico's economy improved, the U.S. apprehended fewer Mexicans trying to cross the border illegally

U.S. Border Patrol apprehensions of Mexicans

Millions of apprehensions, 2000-2015



Source: Ana Campoy, "Shared border, shared future," Atlas, September 25, 2016.