

Southwest Border Unaccompanied Alien Children | U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Southwest Border Unaccompanied Alien Children

Beginning last year and specifically in the last few months, CBP has seen an overall increase in the apprehension of Unaccompanied Alien Children from Central America at the Southwest Border, specifically in the Rio Grande Valley. While overall border apprehensions have only slightly increased during this time period, and remain at historic lows, the apprehension and processing of these children present unique operational challenges for CBP and HHS. Addressing the rising flow of unaccompanied alien children crossing our southwest border is an important priority of this Administration and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and [Secretary Johnson has already taken a number of steps to address this situation.](#)

Southwest Border Unaccompanied Alien Children (0-17 yr old) Apprehensions

Comparisons below reflect Fiscal Year 2015 (October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015) compared to the same time period for Fiscal Year 2014.

Sector	Fiscal Year 2014	Fiscal Year 2015	% Change
Big Bend Sector	256	839	228%
Del Rio Sector	3,268	2,285	-30%
El Centro Sector	662	668	1%
El Paso Sector	1,029	1,662	62%
Laredo Sector	3,800	2,459	-35%
Rio Grande Sector	49,959	23,864	-52%
San Diego Sector	954	1084	14%
Tucson Sector	8,262	6,019	-27%
Yuma Sector	351	1,090	211%
Southwest			

Border Total	68,541	39,970	-42%
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Southwest Border Family Unit Apprehensions*

Comparisons below reflect Fiscal Year 2015 (October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015) compared to the same time period for Fiscal Year 2014.

Sector	Fiscal Year 2014	Fiscal Year 2015	% Change
Big Bend Sector	176	807	359%
Del Rio Sector	4,950	2,141	-57%
El Centro Sector	630	675	7%
El Paso Sector	562	1,220	117%
Laredo Sector	3,591	1,372	-62%
Rio Grande Sector	52,326	27,409	-48%
San Diego Sector	1,723	1,550	-10%
Tucson Sector	3,812	2,930	-23%
Yuma Sector	675	1,734	157%
Southwest Border Total	68,445	39,838	-42%

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border and Rio Grande Valley Sector Other Than Mexicans

Comparisons below reflect Fiscal Year 2015 (October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015)

Sector	FY2015
Rio Grande Valley	99,084
Southwest Border	145,316

Unaccompanied Alien Children Encountered by Fiscal Year

Fiscal Years 2009-2015

Country	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
El Salvador	1,221	1,910	1,394	3,314	5,990	16,404	9,389
Guatemala	1,115	1,517	1,565	3,835	8,068	17,057	13,589
Honduras	968	1,017	974	2,997	6,747	18,244	5,409
Mexico	16,114	13,724	11,768	13,974	17,240	15,634	11,012

Family Unit Apprehensions Encountered by Fiscal Year*

Fiscal Year 2015 (October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015)

Country	FY 2015
El Salvador	10,872
Guatemala	12,820
Honduras	10,671
Mexico	4,276

***Note:** (Family Unit represents the number of individuals (either a child under 18 years old, parent or legal guardian) apprehended with a family member by the U.S. Border Patrol.)

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