



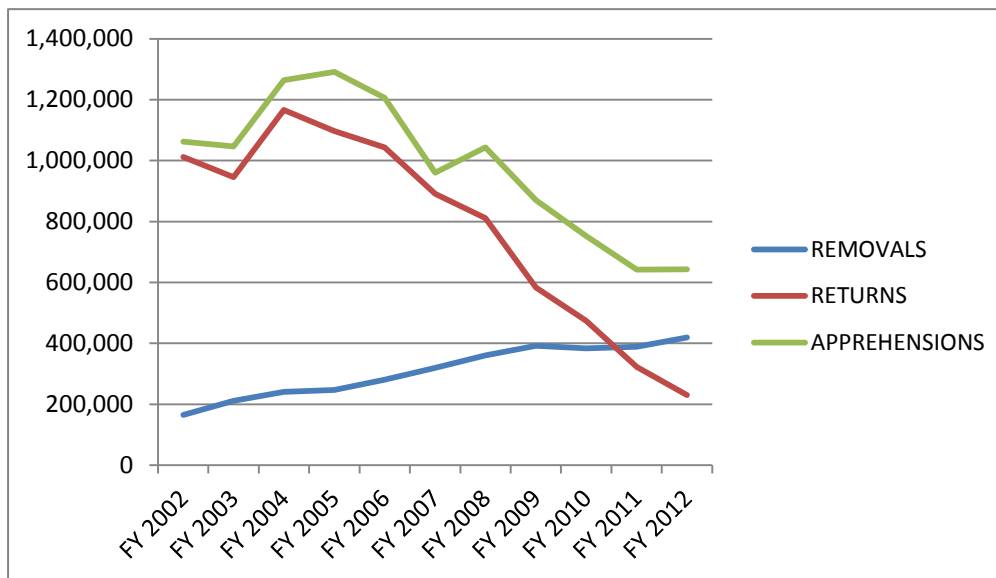
AILA Analysis of Deportation Numbers

There are two key statistics regarding the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) deportation numbers. First are returns, individuals apprehended by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) or Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) who are then returned to their country without a removal on their record. Second are removals, which carry more severe consequences, such as a bar on the person returning to the United States for five or more years. In the past decade the use of returns has dropped significantly, while removal numbers have steadily risen, and are at a historic high mark. *See chart below.*

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What do the return and removal statistics mean?

One reason for the drop in returns is the dramatic decrease in illegal immigration since the recession, which resulted in an almost 70 percent decline in the total number of border apprehensions since 2005. Thus the pool of undocumented immigrants that DHS encounters is smaller and DHS has fewer people to deport.



Additionally, in 2005, in order to impose more severe consequences on illegal immigration, DHS shifted away from the use of returns toward removals. In this respect, agency policy has become tougher and more punitive. The fact that removals have increased during a time of overall decline in illegal immigration is an indication that DHS is using more robust enforcement measures.

DHS has also been aggressively using summary removal processes—like expedited removal and reinstatement—that bypass immigration court. More than 70 percent of all removals in fiscal year 2013 did not take place before an immigration judge, but instead were the decision of an immigration officer. This increased use of summary removals means more people are being removed quickly, without due process.

*YEAR	REMOVALS	RETURNS	APPREHENSIONS
FY 2002	165,168	1,012,116	1,062,270
FY 2003	211,098	945,294	1,046,422
FY 2004	240,665	1,166,576	1,264,232
FY 2005	246,431	1,096,920	1,291,065
FY 2006	280,974	1,043,381	1,206,412
FY 2007	319,382	891,390	960,772
FY 2008	359,795	811,263	1,043,774
FY 2009	391,932	582,648	869,828
FY 2010	383,031	474,275	752,307
FY 2011	388,409	322,164	641,601
FY 2012	419,384	229,968	643,474

* From data in DHS Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2012