

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** [Border Crossings Aren't What They Used To Be](#)

**Article Link:** <https://www.briefingbook.info/p/border-crossings-arent-what-they>

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**Tweet:** Illegal immigration may not be at a record high. @kevinrinz argues that apprehension statistics reflect a change in behavior as illegals seek out government authorities to take advantage of the asylum system.

**Summary:** Consider 2021, which at the time was the year with the most apprehensions on record. That year, DHS data suggest that nearly 72% of people crossing the border were apprehended (including Title 42 expulsions), while more than 650,000 people entered without inspection. That brings the total number of border crossings for the year to just over 2.3 million. Rather than being the most border crossings on record, this total ranked eighth to that point since 2000 (the earliest year for which estimates of entries without inspection are available). Applying the 2021 apprehension rate to data for 2022 and 2023 suggests that, while high, those years are also not record-setting even since 2000. Using the average apprehension rate for 2000 through 2010 to impute entries without inspection prior to 2000 suggests several additional years in which total border crossing may have been higher than they are now, including periods in the late 1990s and mid-1980s.

**Related Articles:** Illegal US Border Crossings Aren't Really Breaking Records and Immigration and the U.S. Economy Since the Pandemic: An Accounting Exercise and The Demographic Outlook: 2024 to 2054

**Primary Topic:** Immigration

**Topics:** Demographics, Immigration, Op-Ed/Blog Post, Politics, Workforce

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