

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [Why So Many Middle-Class Chinese Migrants Take Risky, Illegal Route To U.S.](#)

Article Link: <https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/The-Big-Story/Why-so-many-middle-class-Chinese-migrants-take-risky-illegal-route-to-U.S>

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Publication	Nikkei Asia
Publication Date	May 22, 2024

Tweet: 37,000 largely middle-class Chinese migrants were detained at the US border with Mexico last year, 10x the pre-pandemic level. UN data estimates total annual emigration from China rose to over 300,000 in 2023. @ZhouMarrian

Summary: The number of Chinese migrants crossing the U.S.-Mexico border skyrocketed in 2023. Although the actual total is elusive, over 37,000 Chinese nationals were detained on the border with Mexico last year, according to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. This figure is 10 times greater than in pre-pandemic years. Among those arriving, families with children are a particularly fast-growing group. U.S. border patrol agents encountered Chinese migrant families 6,645 times in the 2023 fiscal year from Oct. to Sept., and 7,081 times so far since Oct 2023, CBP data shows. That compares to 1,151 encounters in fiscal year 2022. Data compiled by the United Nations shows that in 2022 and 2023 total annual emigration rose to over 300,000, measured in net outflow, compared to an average of about 190,000 annually for the decade through 2019. Emigration plunged in 2020 when the COVID pandemic hit.

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Primary Topic: China

Topics: China, Immigration, News article, Workforce

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