

11.2 MILLION ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN U.S. LAST YEAR, REPORT SAYS

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Body

About **11.2 million illegal immigrants** were living in the **United States** in 2010, a number essentially unchanged from the previous **year**, according to a **report** published Tuesday by the Pew Hispanic Center, a nonpartisan research organization in Washington.

Despite continuing high unemployment among American workers, record deportations by the Obama administration and expanding efforts by states to crack down, the number of unauthorized **immigrants** in the work force -- about 8 **million** -- was also unchanged, the Pew **report** found. Those workers were about 5 percent of the **U.S.** work force.

The population of **illegal immigrants** leveled off after peaking in 2007 at 12 **million**, then dropping sharply over two **years** to 11.1 **million** in 2009, according to the **report**, which is based on census data. The declines occurred primarily because fewer people from Mexico and Central America came illegally to the **U.S.**, Pew concluded.

The **report** found no evidence of an exodus of **illegal immigrants** from the country. In particular, there is no sign that Mexicans, the largest group -- 58 percent -- of **illegal immigrants**, are leaving in larger numbers, the **report** finds.

The Pew **report** suggests that the high numbers of unauthorized **immigrants** are confounding enforcement efforts by the Obama administration and also a recent spate of measures by state legislatures to crack down locally.

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