**Data: Who gets caught on the U.S./Mexico border?**

For much of recent history, northbound undocumented immigrant migration across the U.S. southern border has followed a surprisingly stable pattern. Border Patrol apprehension data shows that, year after year, crossings spike in January and drop slowly throughout the spring before getting a bump again in August.

STABLE GRAPHIC

However, in 2014, the pattern completely fell apart. Since then, the only consistency in southern border migration has been its lack of consistency.

UNSTABLE GRAPHIC

Here’s all the data from 2000-2017 together:

ALL GRAPHIC

There are likely a number of that led to the disruption of the pattern, yet the most obvious is the combination of decrease in the number of Mexican seasonal labor migrants coupled with the increase of Central American immigrants reacting to instability in the region. Two factors that overlap each other in 2014.

MEXICAN VS NON GRAPHIC

The San Antonio has written at length about these changes in migrant patterns, including Jason Buch’s in-depth 2016 analysis of gang violence on San Salvador’s streets:  
  
JASON’S STORY

In general, northbound crossing of the U.S./Mexico border have been on a slow decline for over a decade since highs around 1985 and 2000.

1960 BY SECTOR GRAPHIC

However, despite this trend, in the Rio Grande Valley specifically, crossings have been on the rise since 2011 and it seems that today, the vast majority of undocumented immigrants, from Mexico or elsewhere, are entering the country right beneath San Antonio.

2000 BY SECTOR GRAPHIC