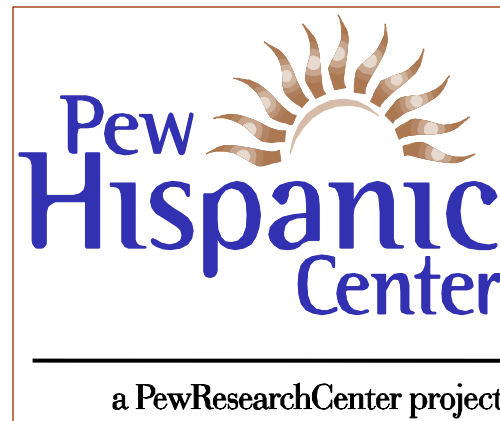


Jeffrey S. Passel
Pew Hispanic Center
Washington, DC

Recent Trends in Mexico-U.S. Migration: Measures Through 2010



Dealing with the Causes: Mexico's Economic Policy and Migration
Center for Strategic and International Studies
Panel 1: The Current State of Mexican Migration to the United States
Washington, DC — 11 January 2011

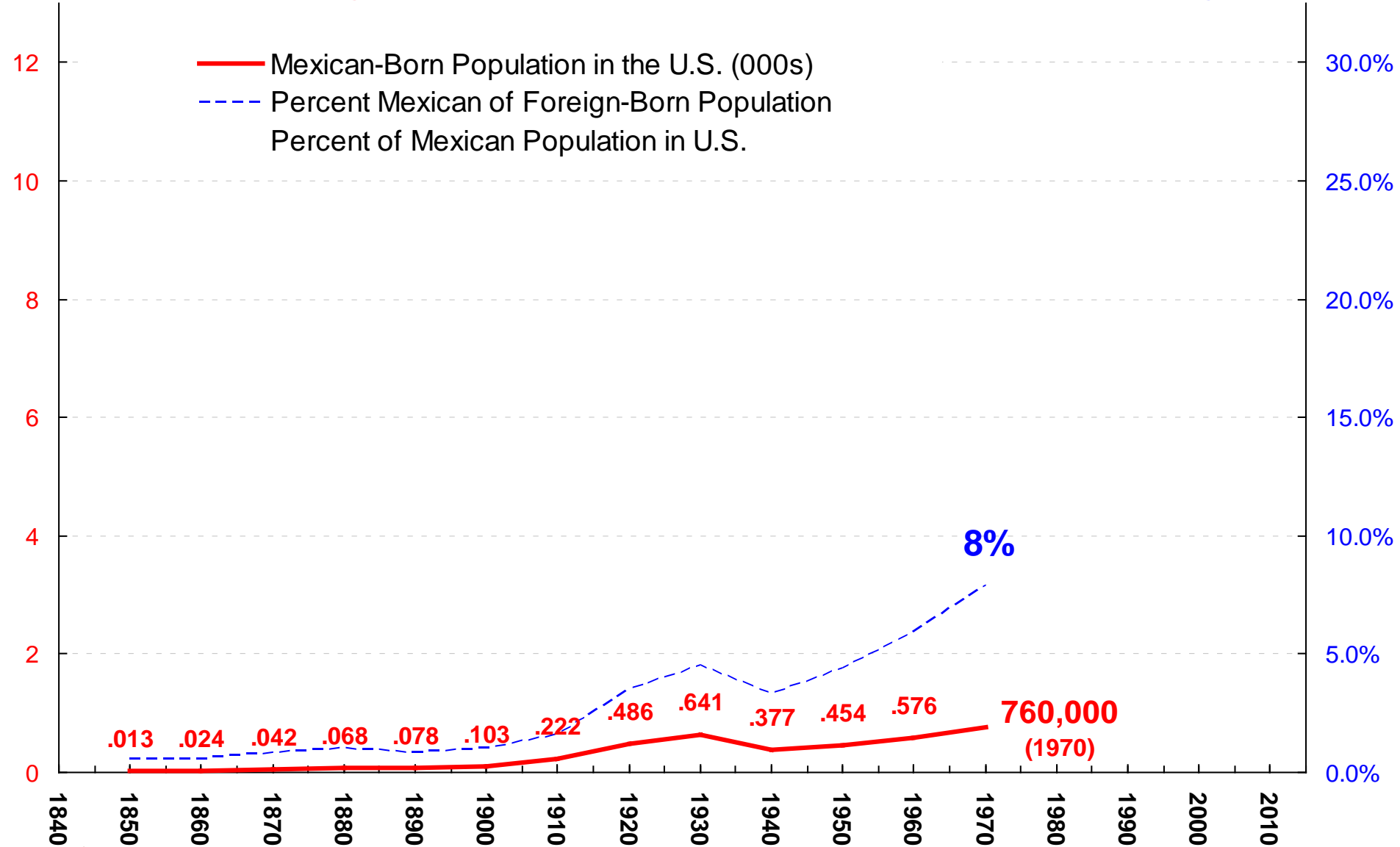
Key Features of Migration

- ***Mexican Population in U.S.***
 - Rapid Build-Up begins in 1970s through 2007
 - Growth Stops after 2007
 - Possible Increase in Late 2010
 - Unauthorized Numbers Peak in 2007
- ***Flows into U.S.***
 - Upward Trend in Late '90s; Peak ca. '99-'01
 - Drop and Increase Tied to Employment
 - Flows Plummet After '07
 - Slight Rebound in 2010 (?)
- ***Other Features***
 - Role of Enforcement Uncertain
 - Return Flows Have **NOT** Increased
 - Family & Geographic Options Keep Folks in US

In 1970, about 760,000 Mexicans in U.S.

Millions of Mexican Migrants in U.S.

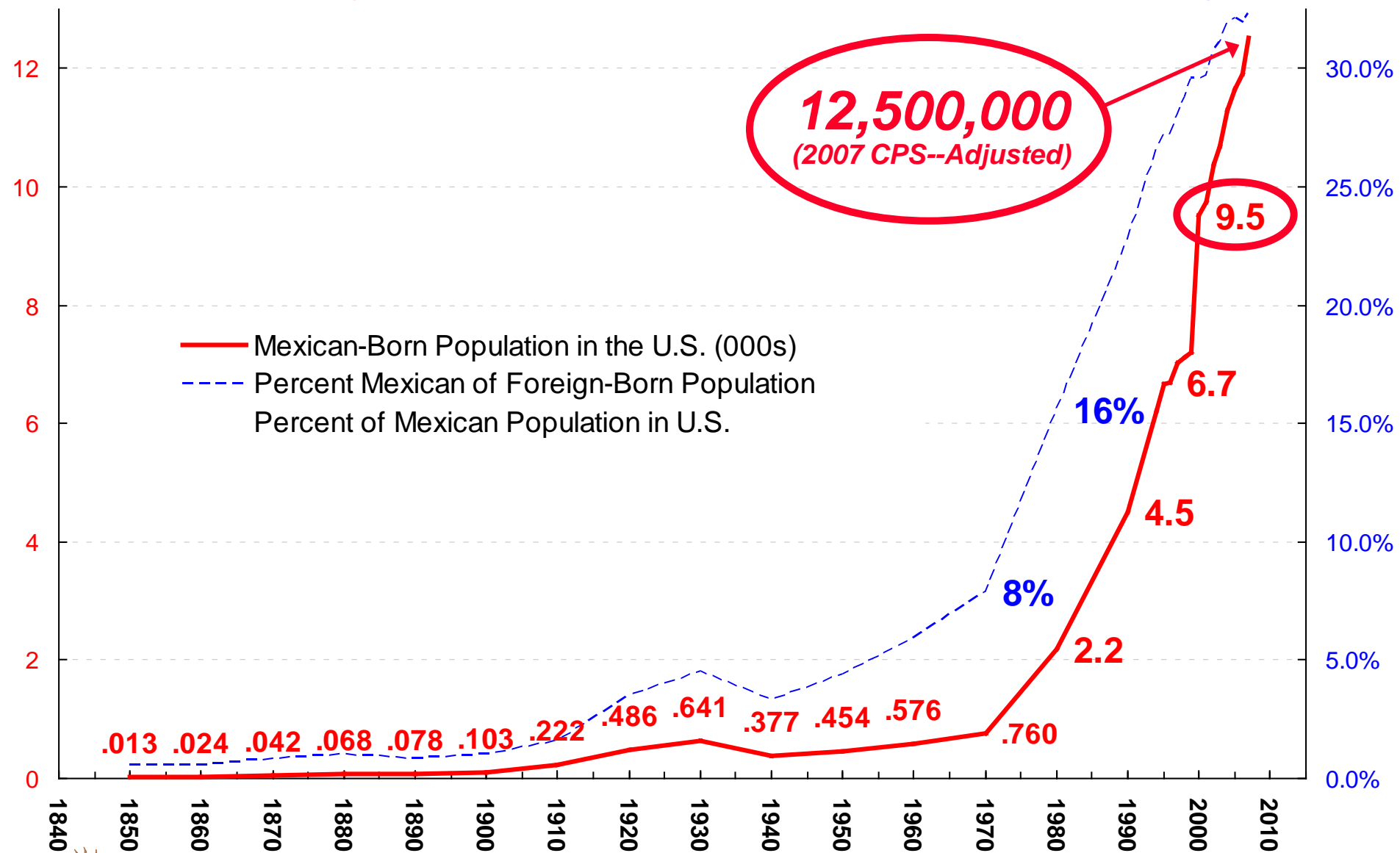
Percent Mexican of Foreign-Born



Rapid Growth of Mexicans in US to 2007

Millions of Mexican Migrants in U.S.

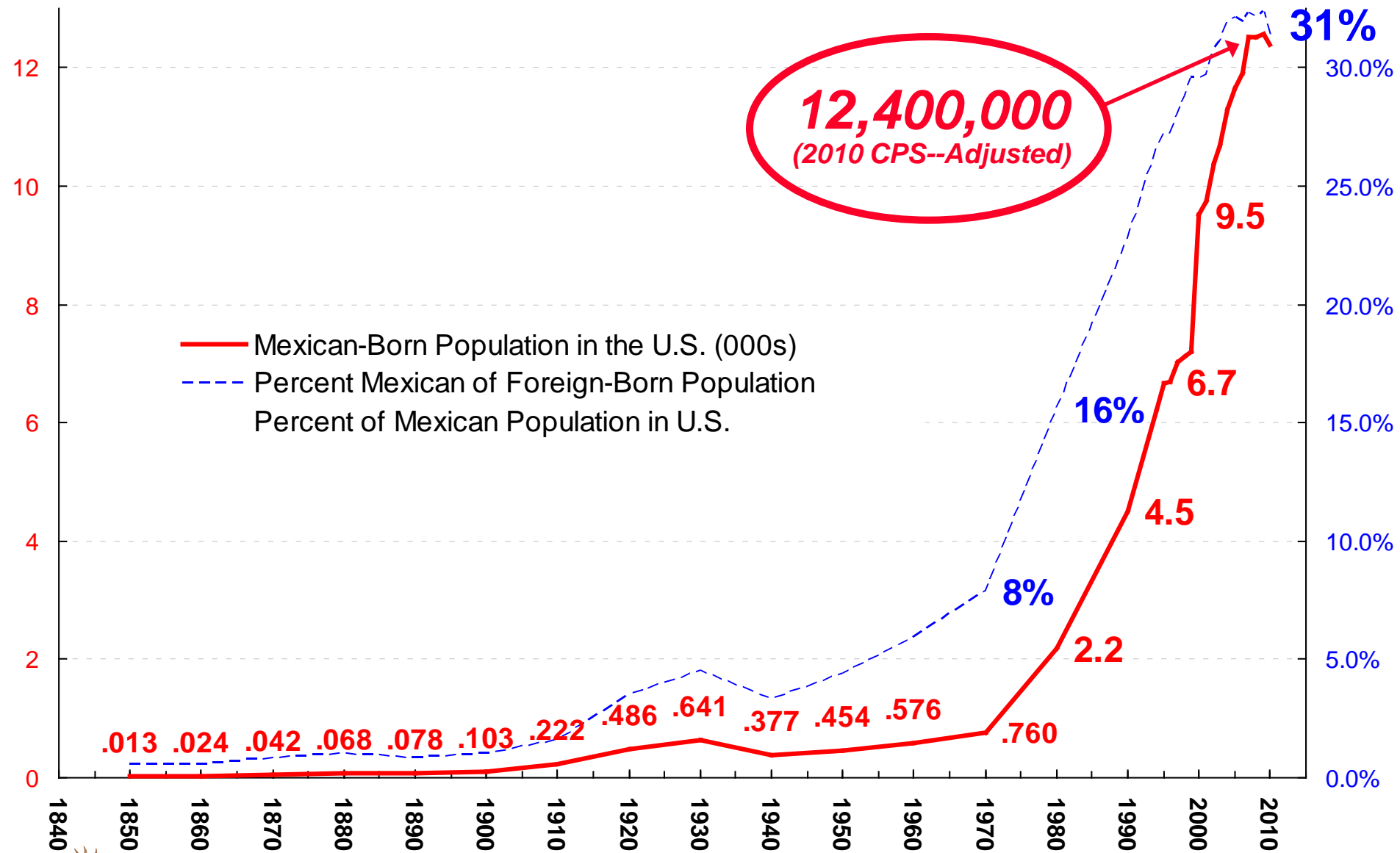
Percent Mexican of Foreign-Born



Growth Stops, 2007-2010

Millions of Mexican Migrants in U.S.

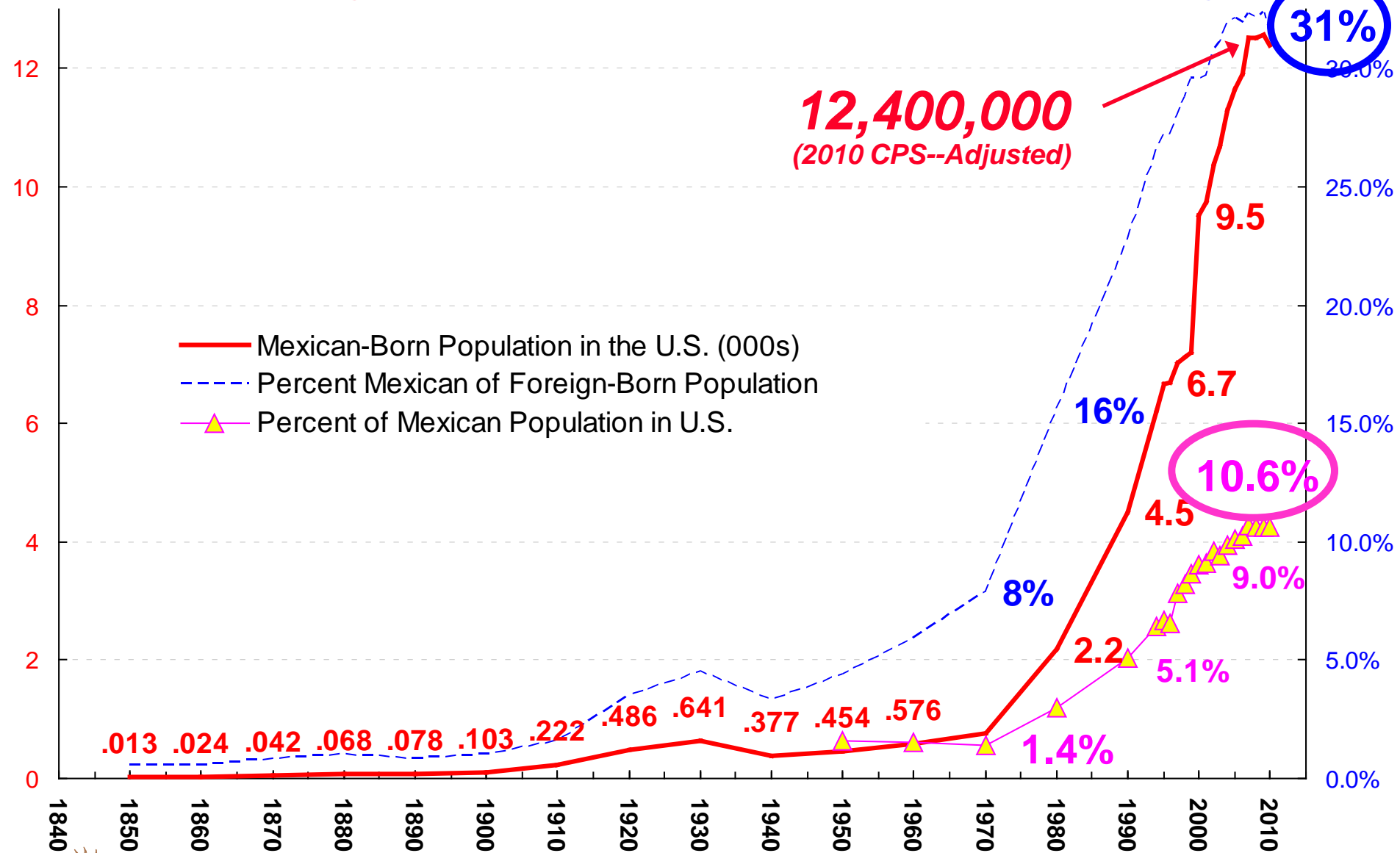
Percent Mexican of Foreign-Born



HUGE Share of Mexicans Now in U.S.

Millions of Mexican Migrants in U.S.

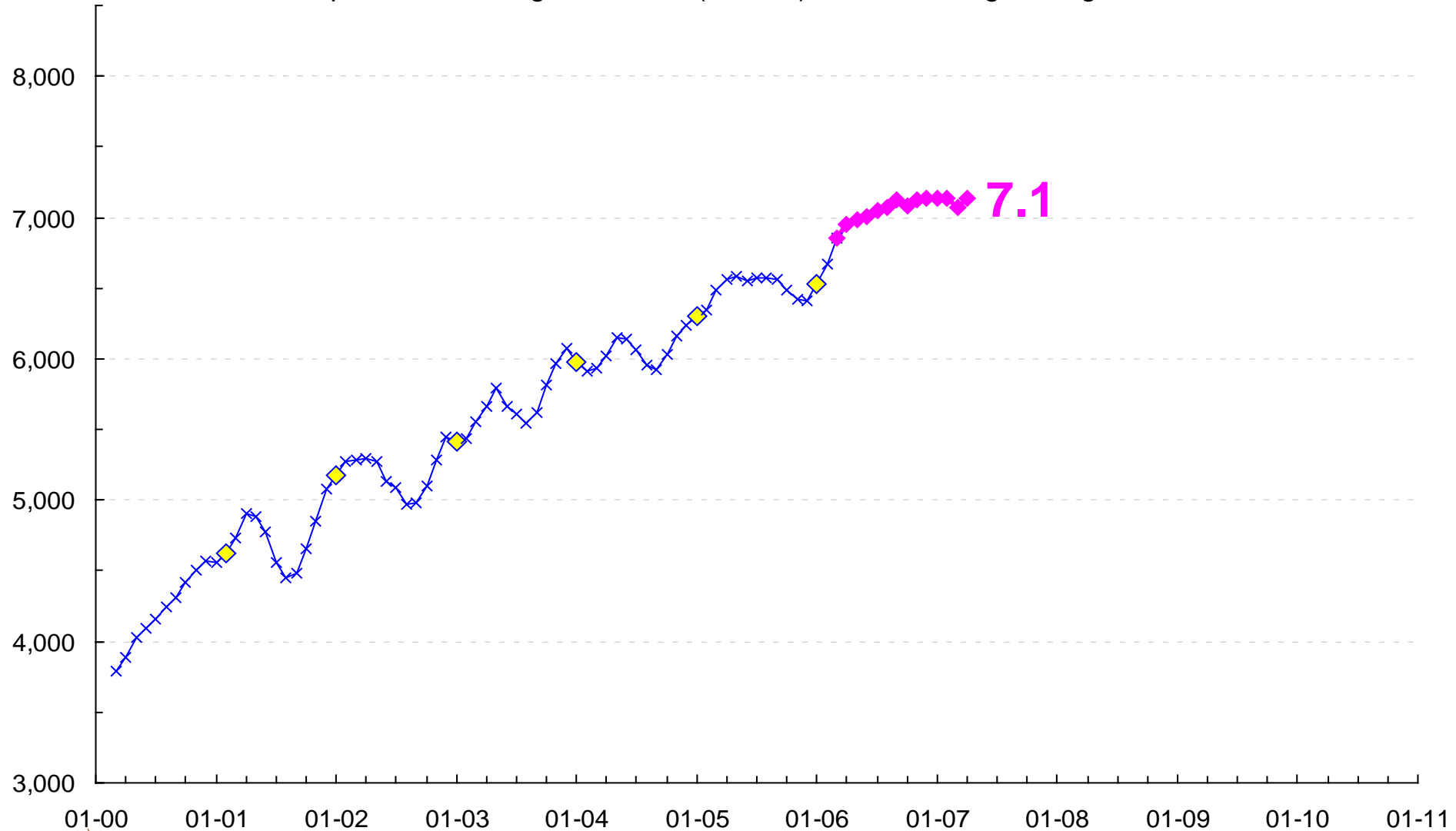
Percent Mexican of Foreign-Born



A More Detailed Look...

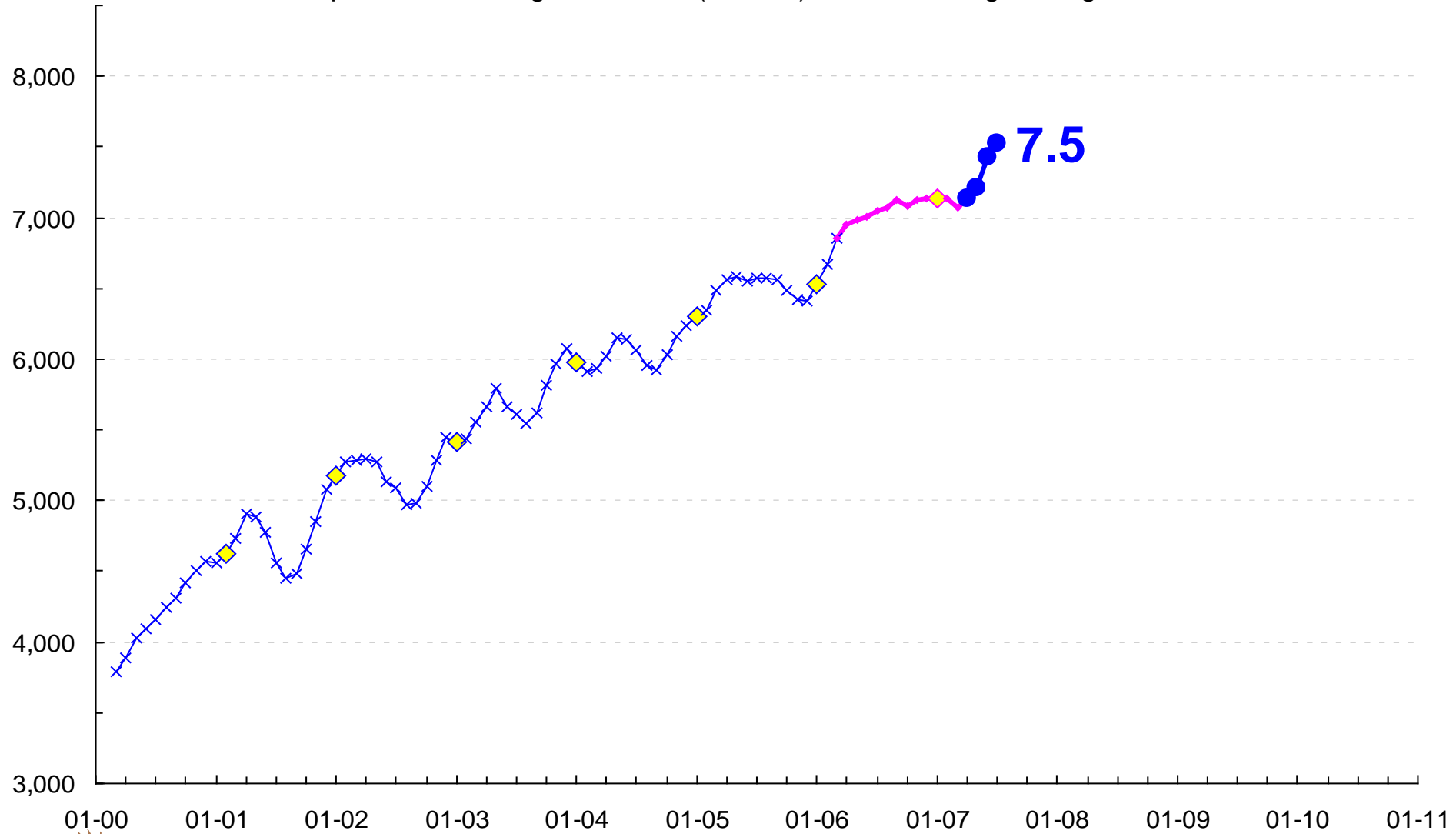
Mexican Numbers in US Plateau -- March 2006-April 2007

Mexican-Born Population Entering '90 or later (in 000s)—3 mo Moving Average



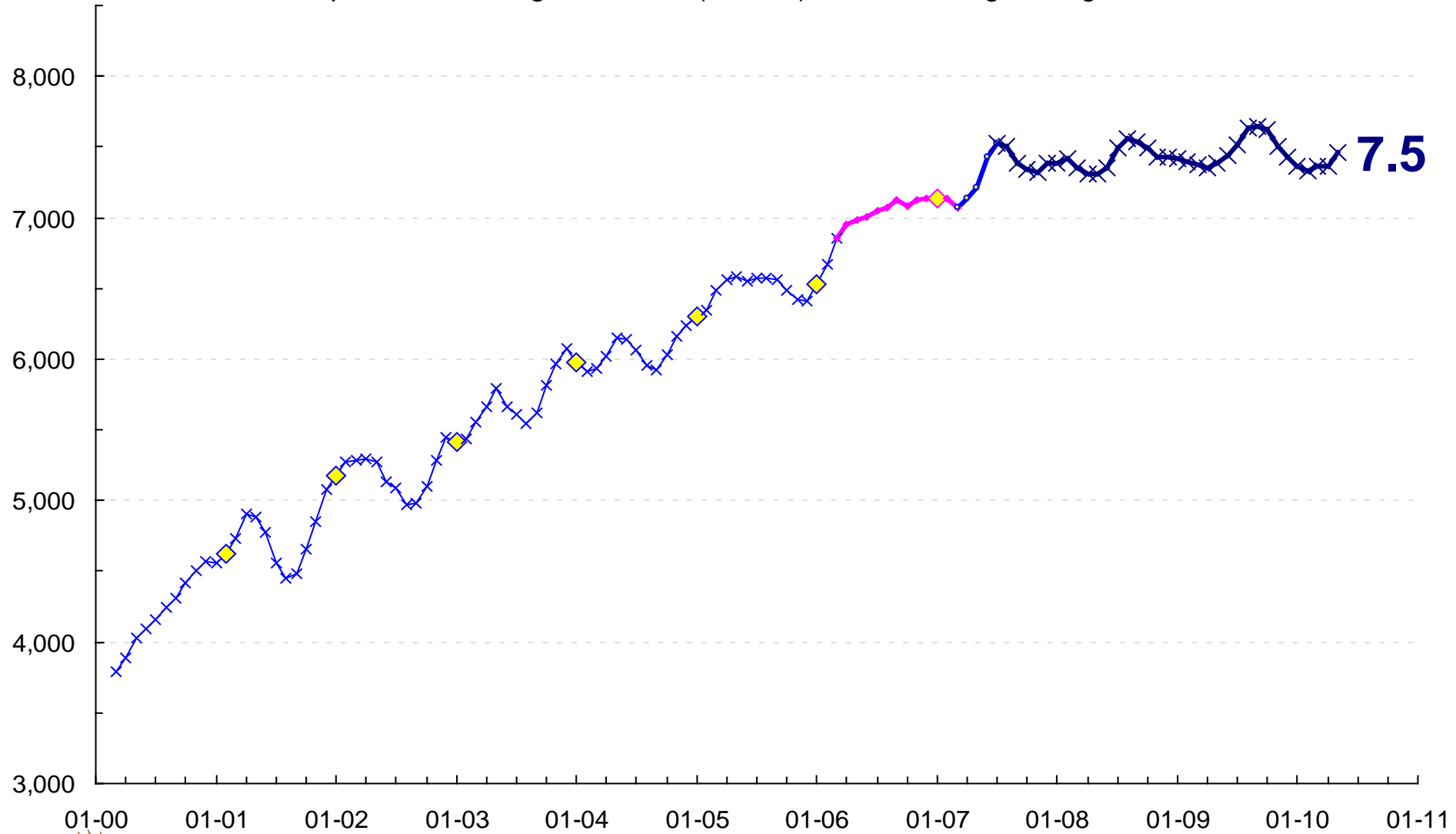
Mexican Numbers Surge to 7.5 Million -- New Inflows April-July 2007

Mexican-Born Population Entering '90 or later (in 000s)—3 mo Moving Average



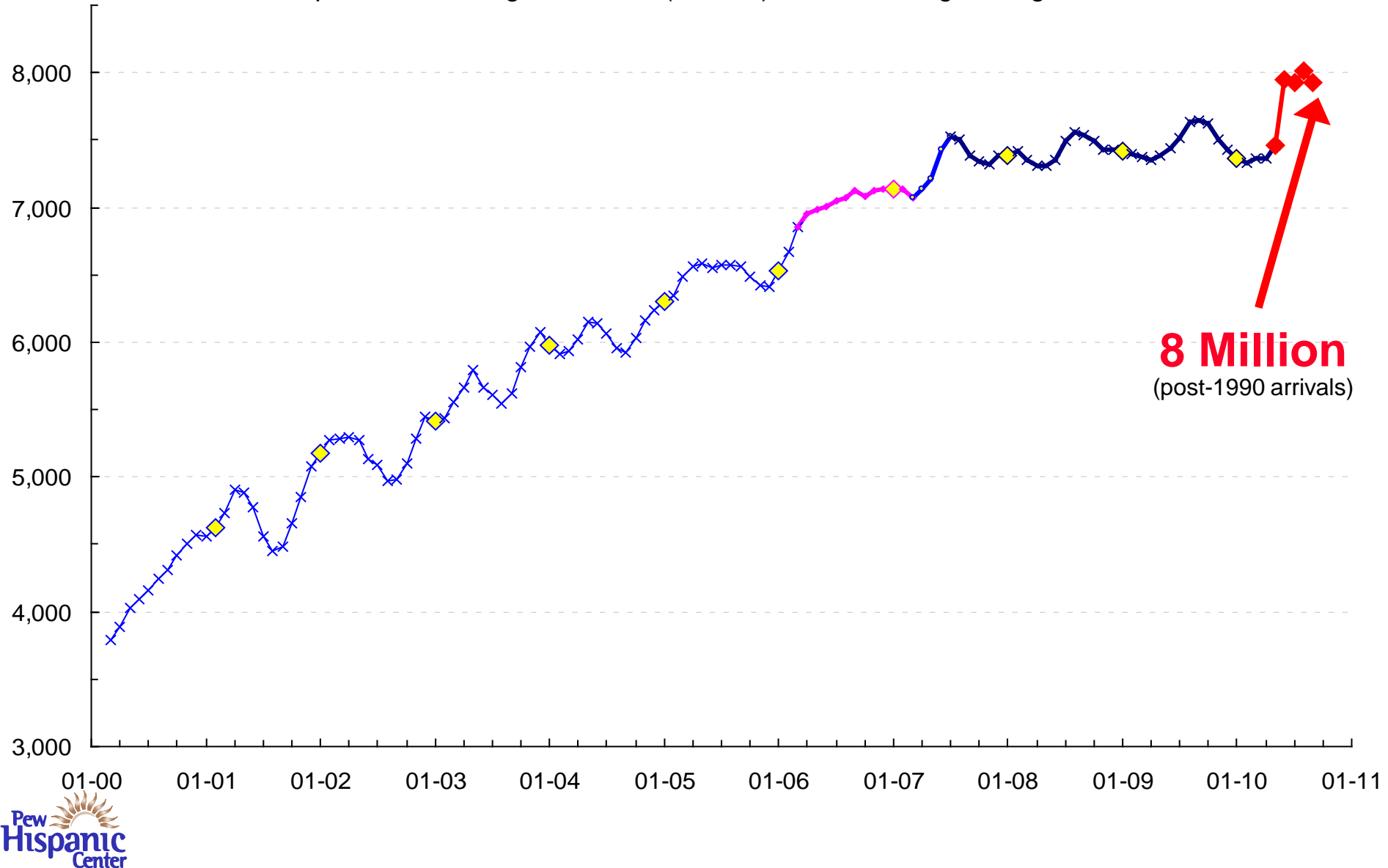
Mexican Numbers in US Plateau Again-- June 2007-May 2010

Mexican-Born Population Entering '90 or later (in 000s)—3 mo Moving Average



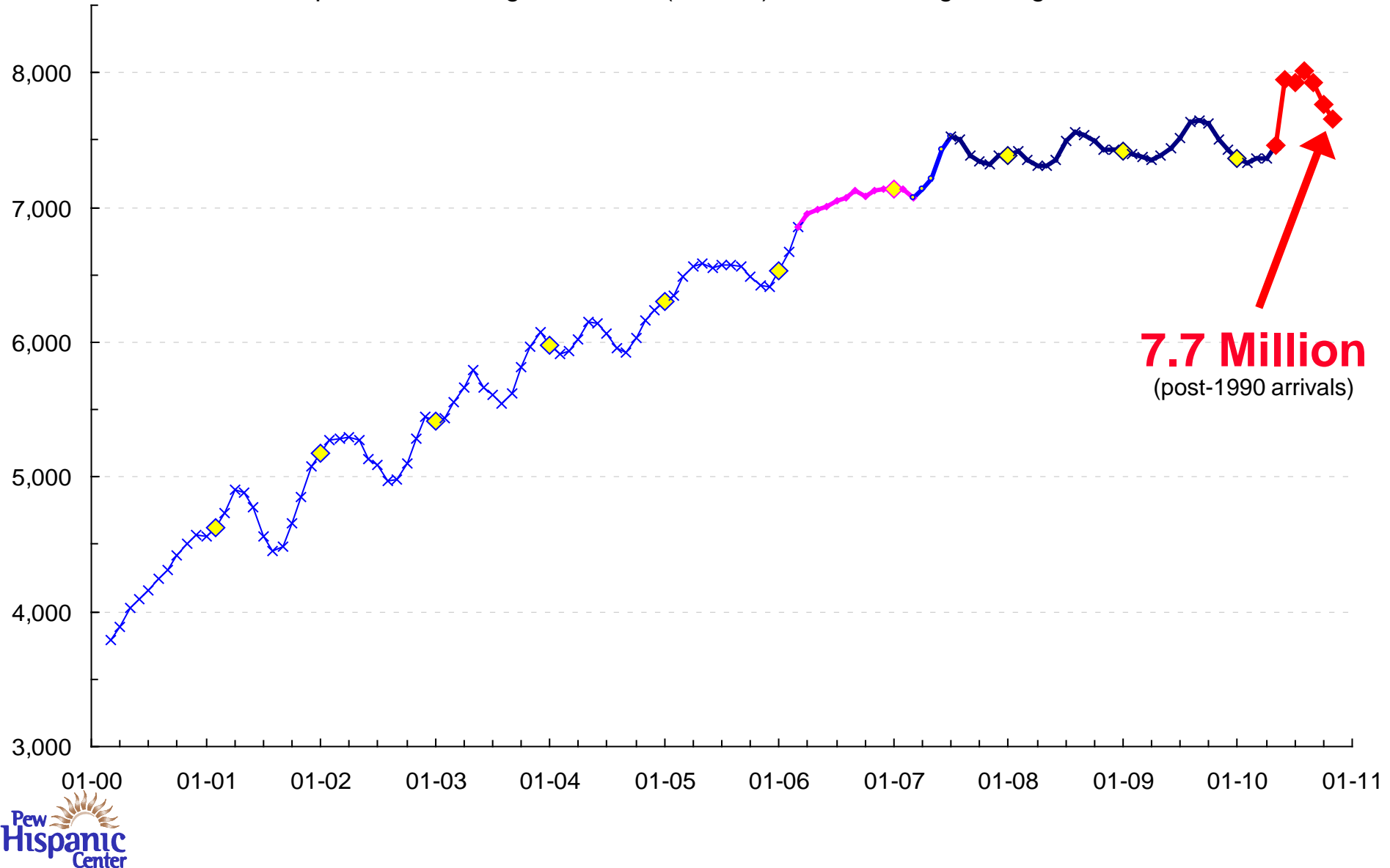
Numbers Surge Again – New Inflows (?) ***June 2010-September 2010***

Mexican-Born Population Entering '90 or later (in 000s)—3 mo Moving Average



Numbers Surge Again – New Inflows (?) October-November 2010 Above Last Year

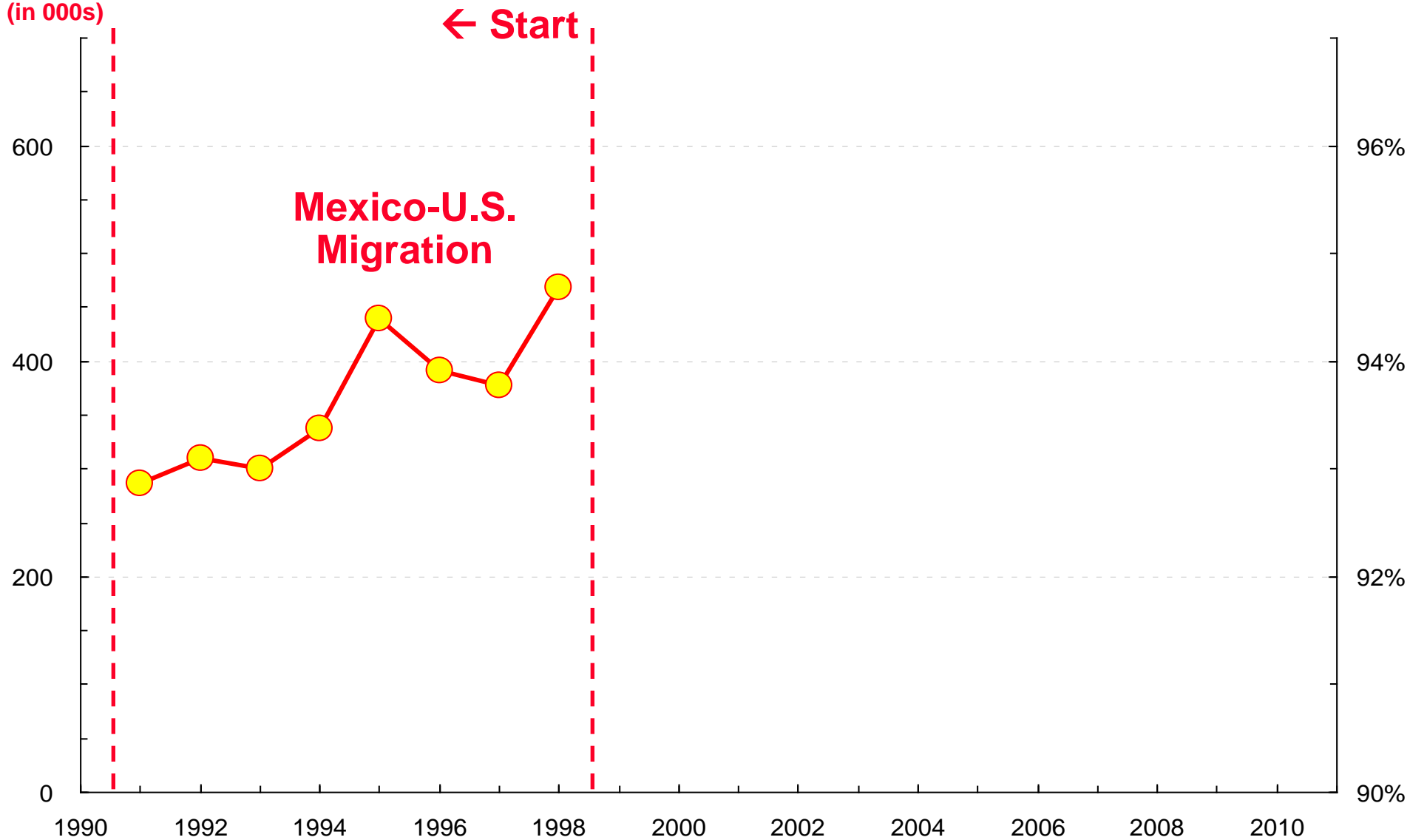
Mexican-Born Population Entering '90 or later (in 000s)—3 mo Moving Average



Annual Flows, the Economy & Enforcement

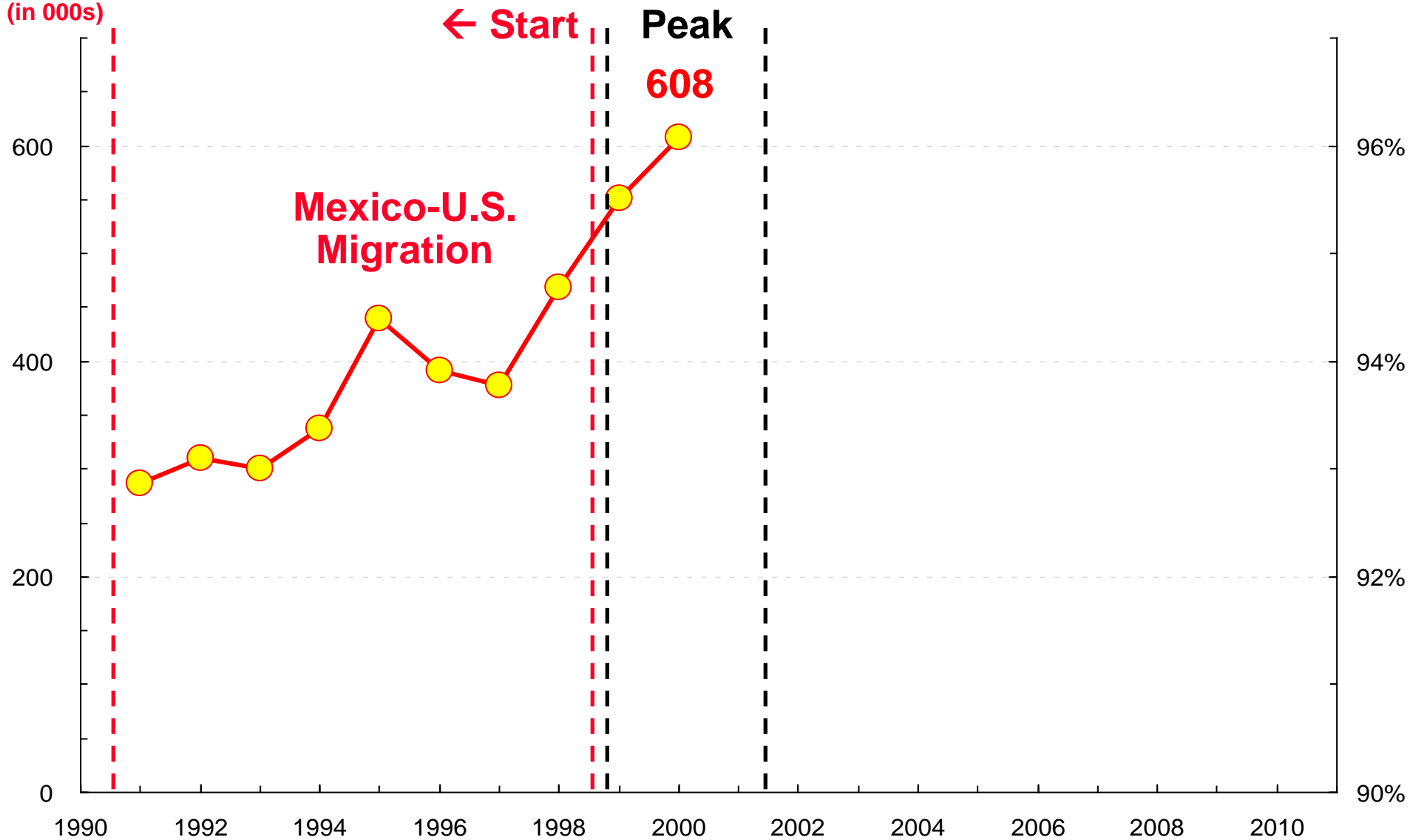
Mexican Annual Flows Up Slowly In '90s, Following IRCA Influx

Annual Immigration
(in 000s)



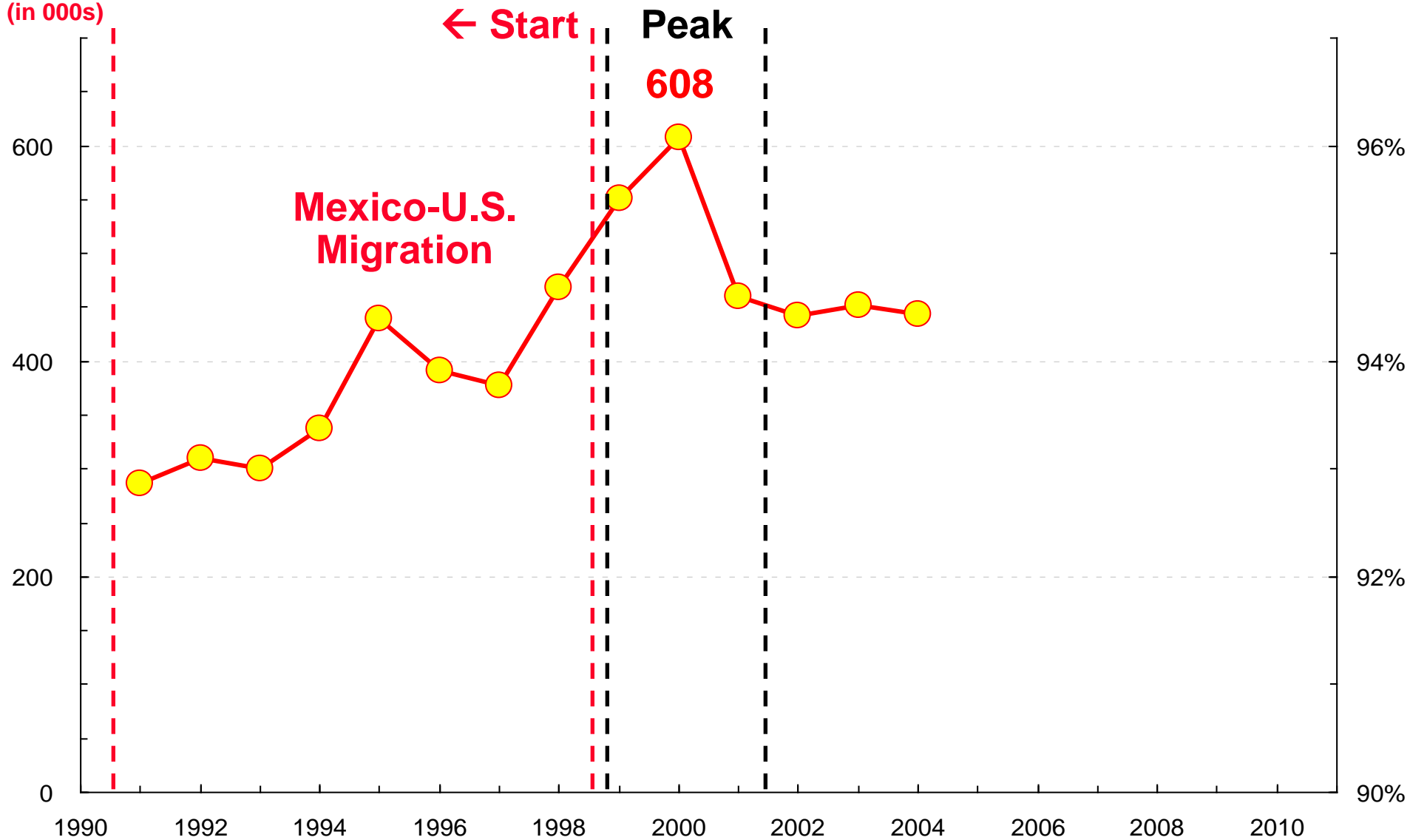
Mexican In-Flows Peak ca. 2000; Almost 90% Above '90s Base

Annual Immigration
(in 000s)



Mexican In-Flows Drop 20-25%; Recession of 2002-2004

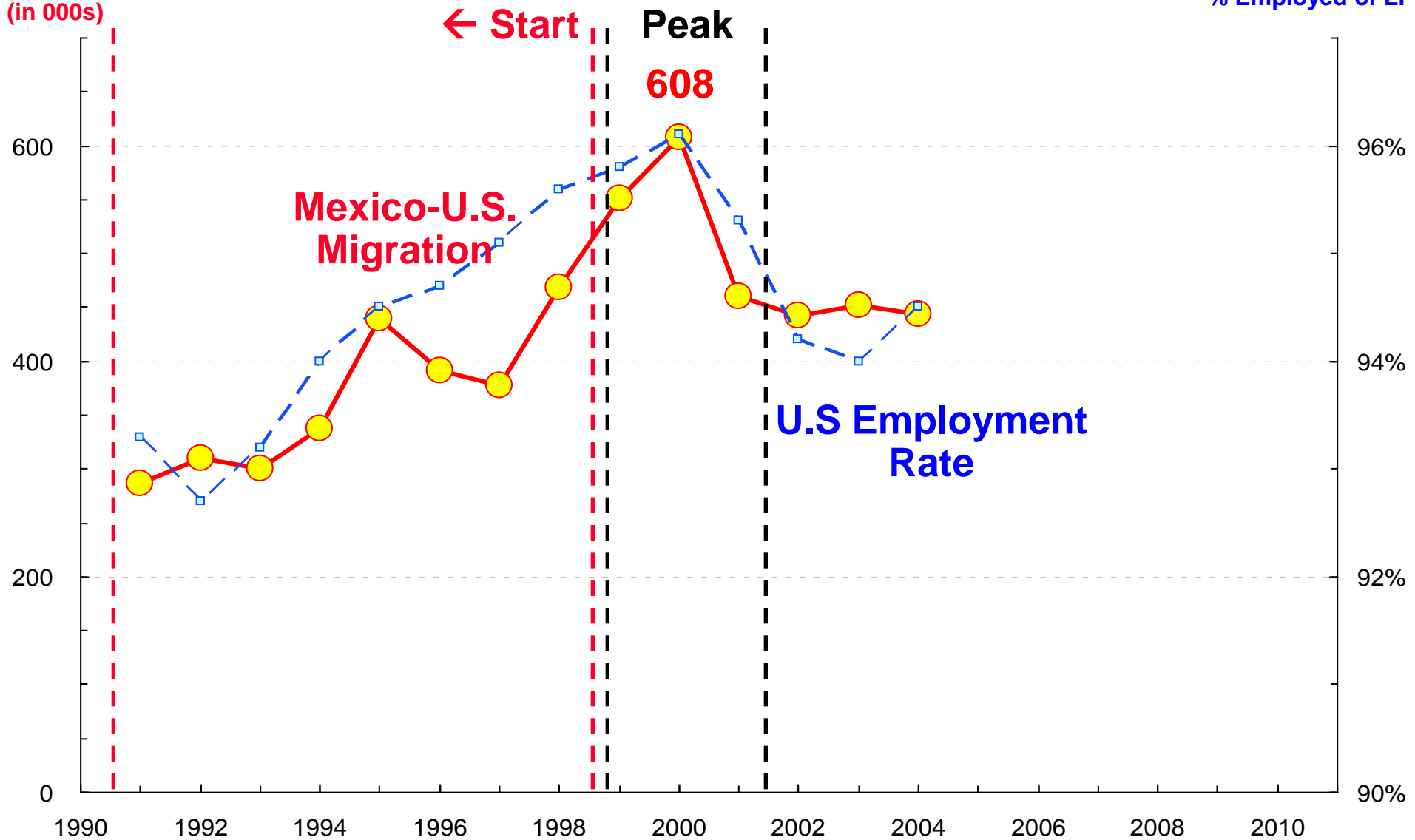
Annual Immigration
(in 000s)



Mexican In-Flows Follow U.S. Employment Patterns

Annual Immigration
(in 000s)

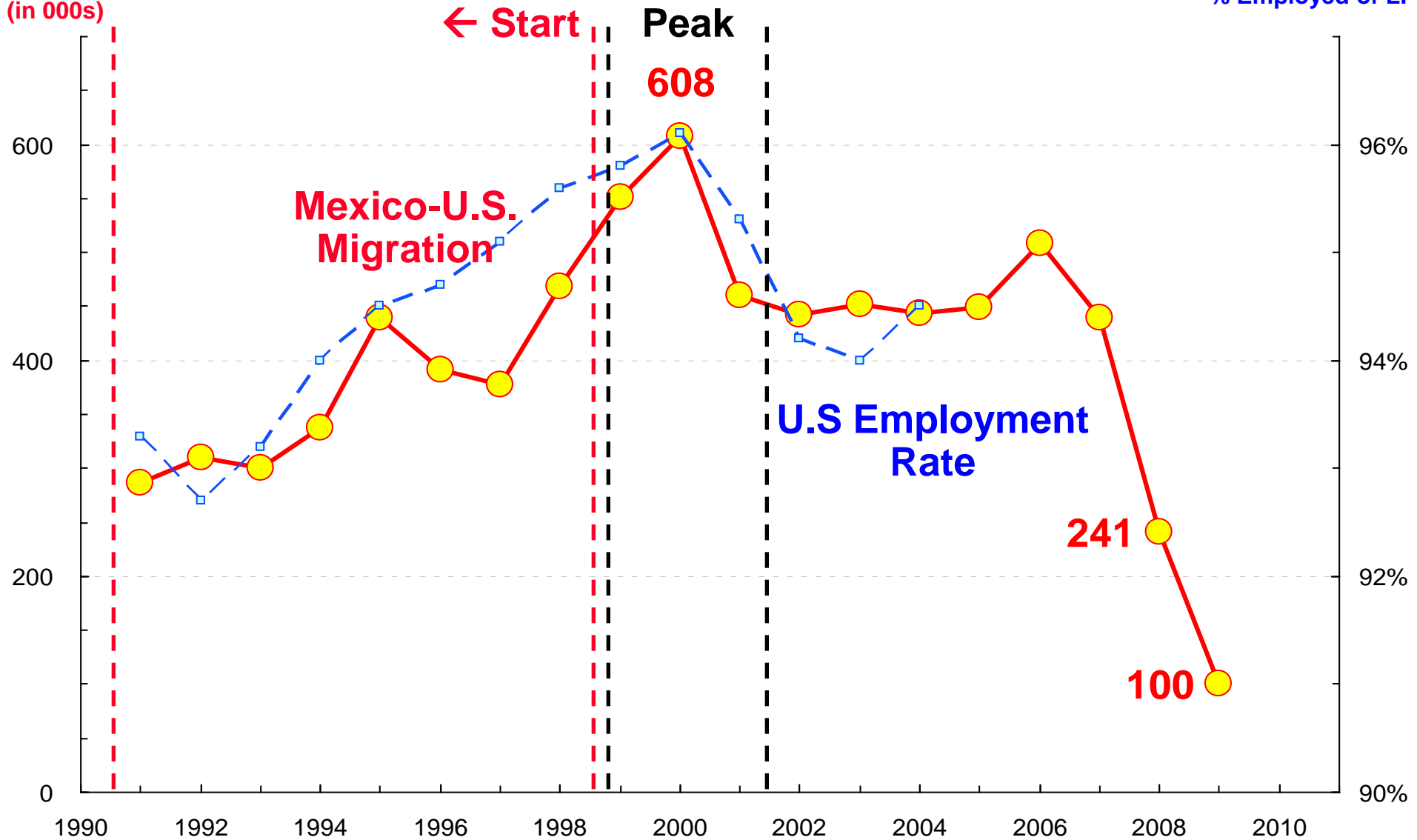
% Employed of LF



Mexican In-Flows Go Up & Then Down; 2009 Less Than One-Sixth of Peak!

Annual Immigration
(in 000s)

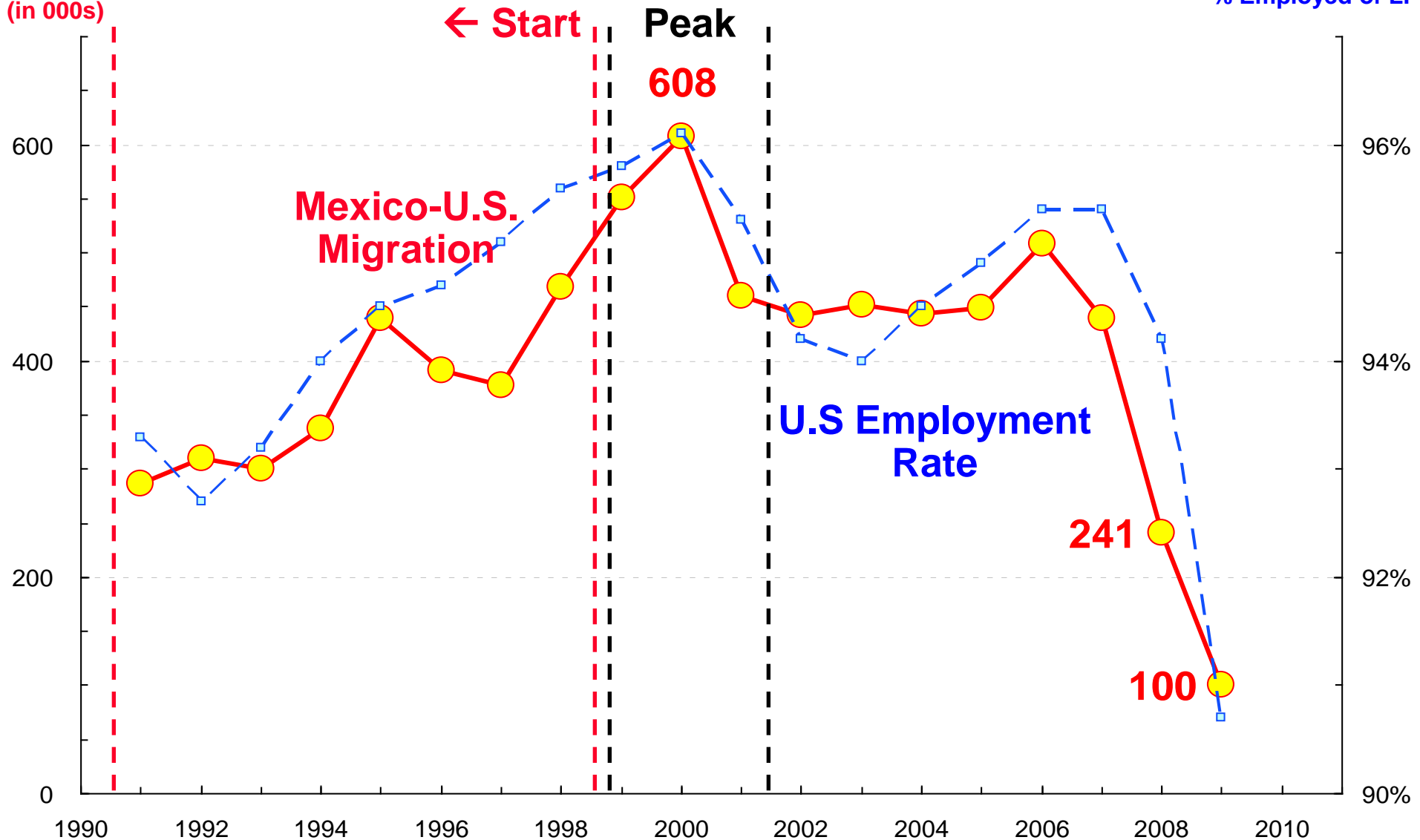
% Employed of LF



Link to Employment is Still Strong; Suggests Economic Motivation

Annual Immigration
(in 000s)

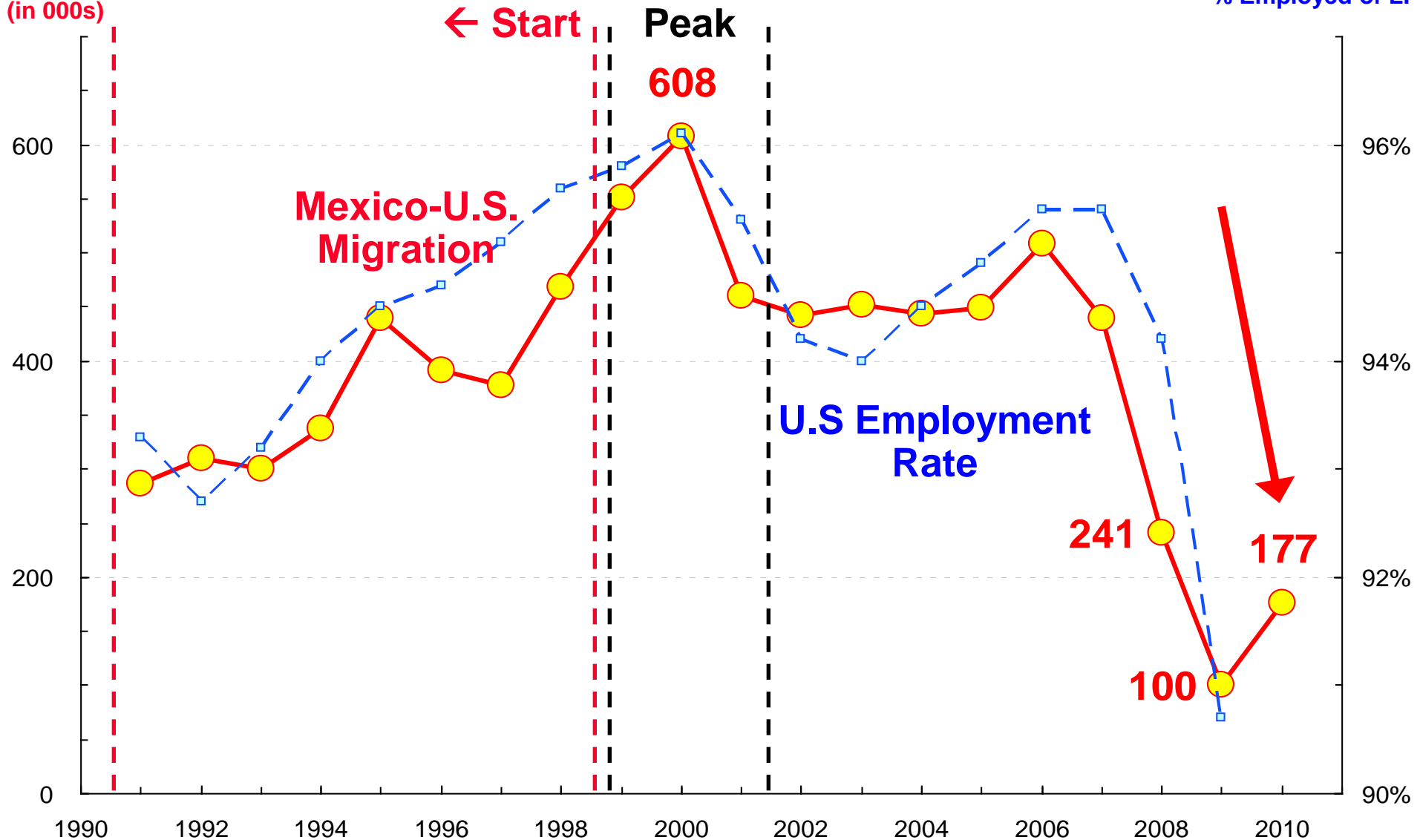
% Employed of LF



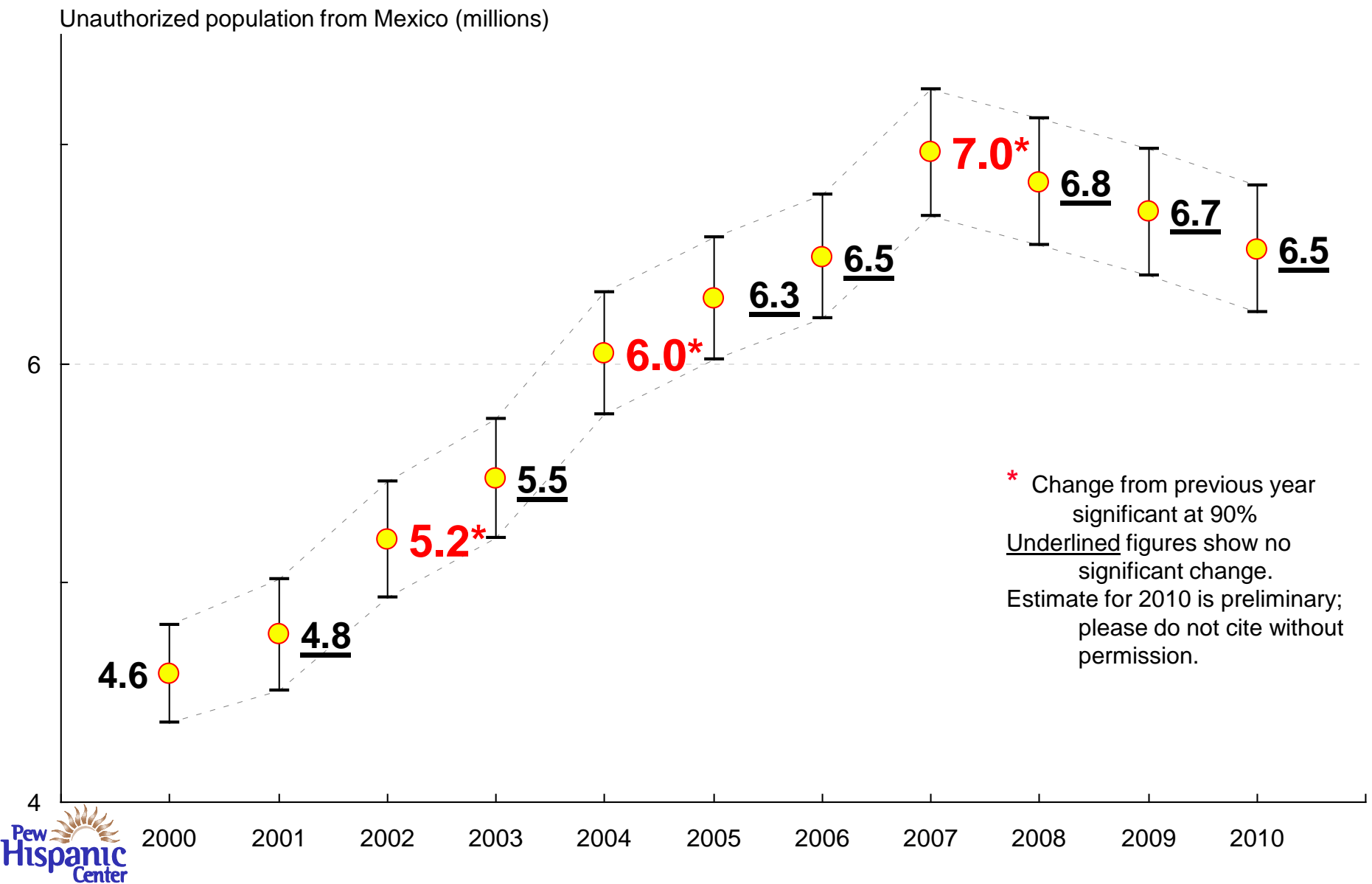
In-Flows of Mexicans May Be Up Slightly in 2010 with Economy

Annual Immigration
(in 000s)

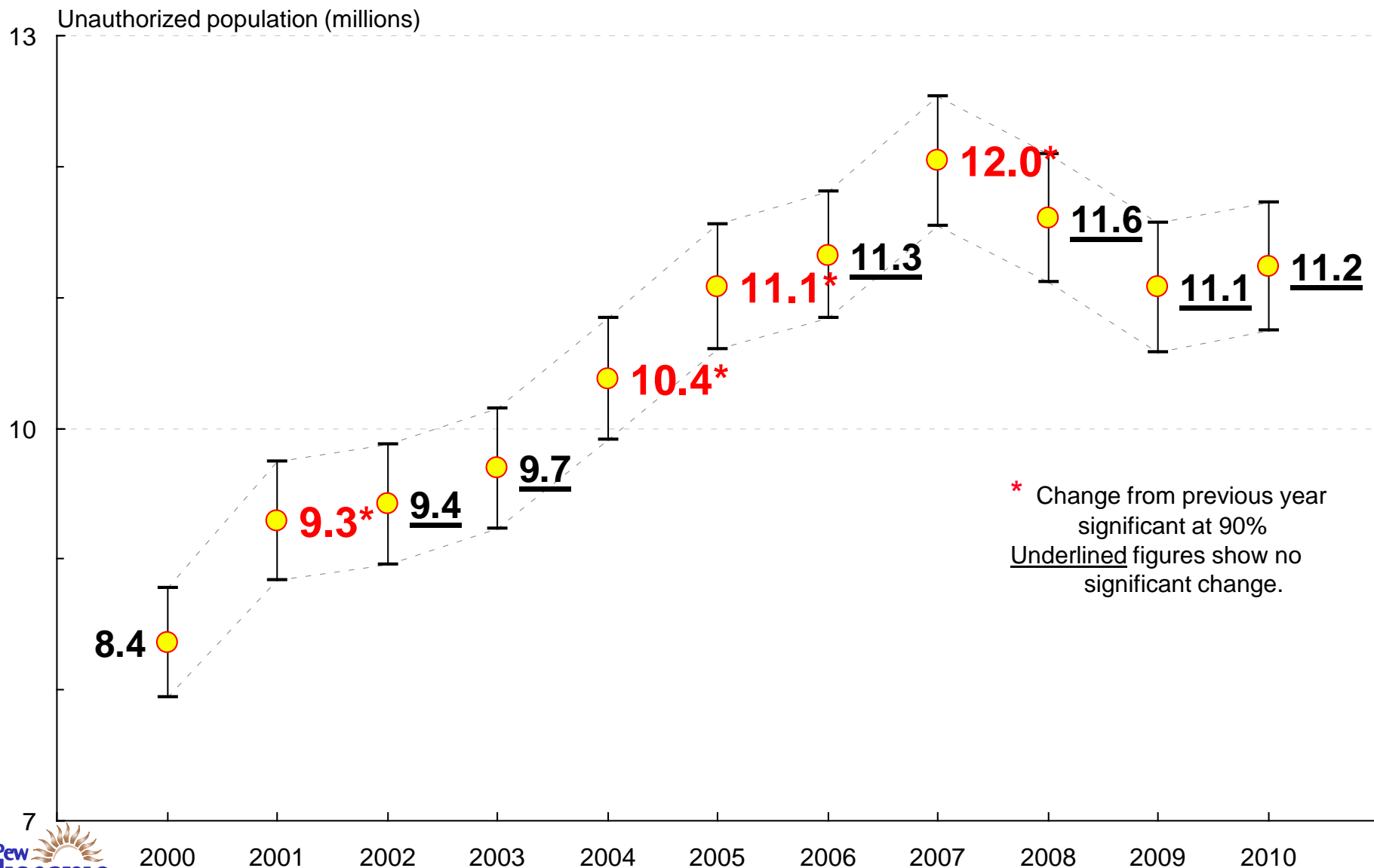
% Employed of LF



Mexican Unauthorized Peaked in '07; No Sharp Decline, but Downward Drift

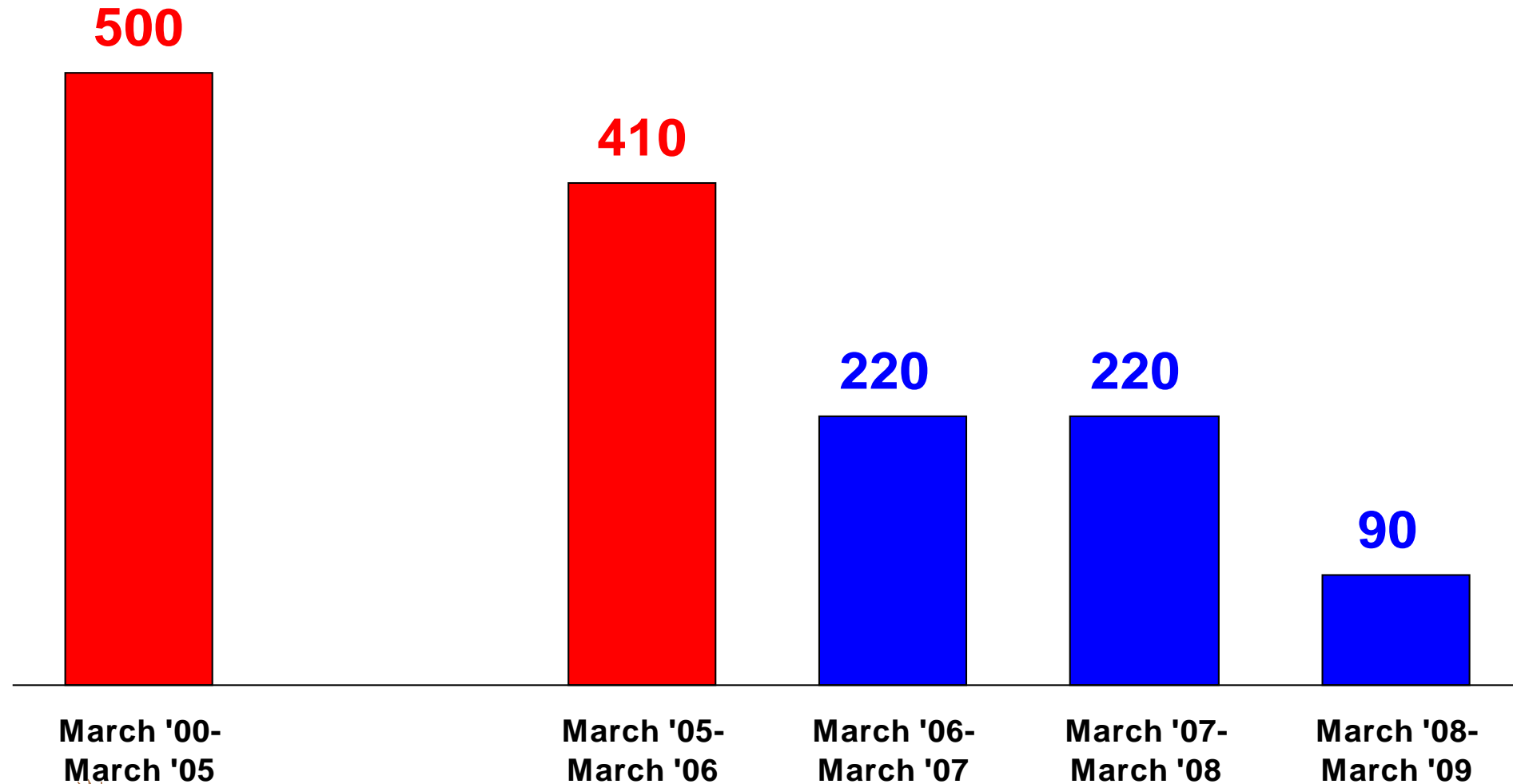


Total Unauthorized Peaked in '07; Downward Trend Established in '09



Inflow of Unauthorized Mexicans Drops Dramatically After '05

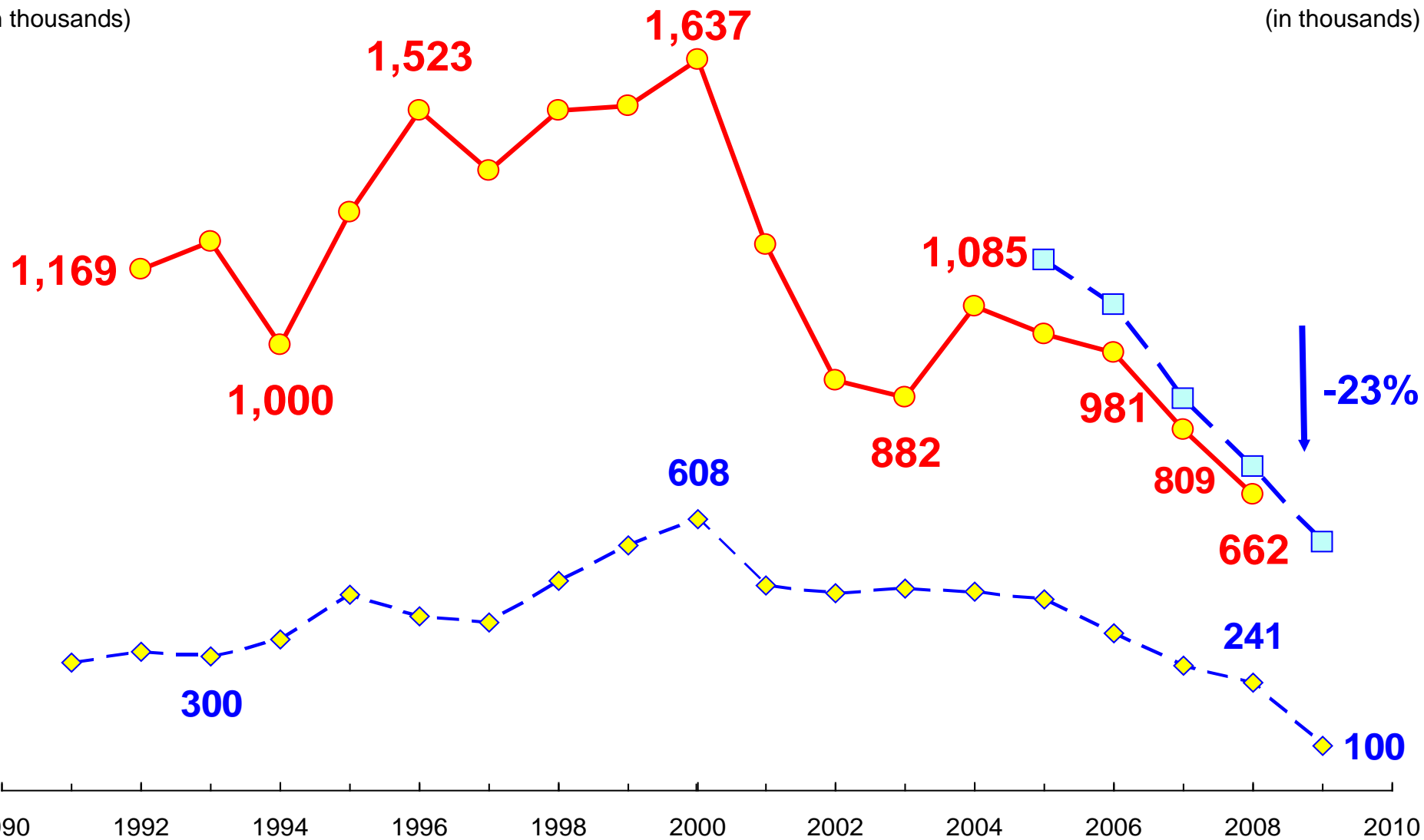
Average Annual Inflow of Unauthorized Mexicans (000s)



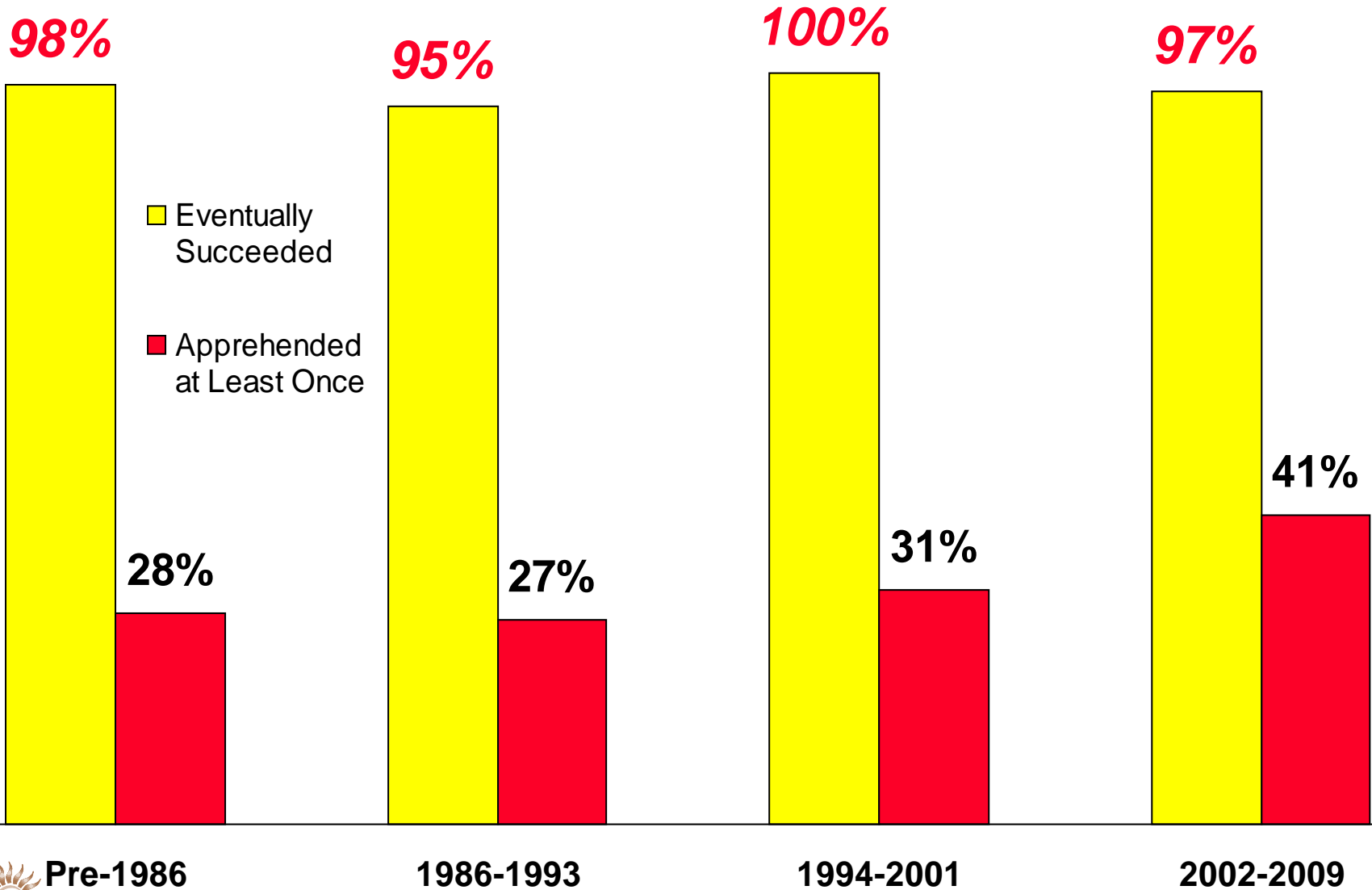
Border Apprehensions of Mexicans Track Flows, but at Higher Levels; Total Border Apprehensions Drop 23% in '09; Flows Down, too

Annual Mexican Immigration,
from ACS Year of Arrivals
(in thousands)

Apprehensions of Mexicans
at the Southern Border
(in thousands)



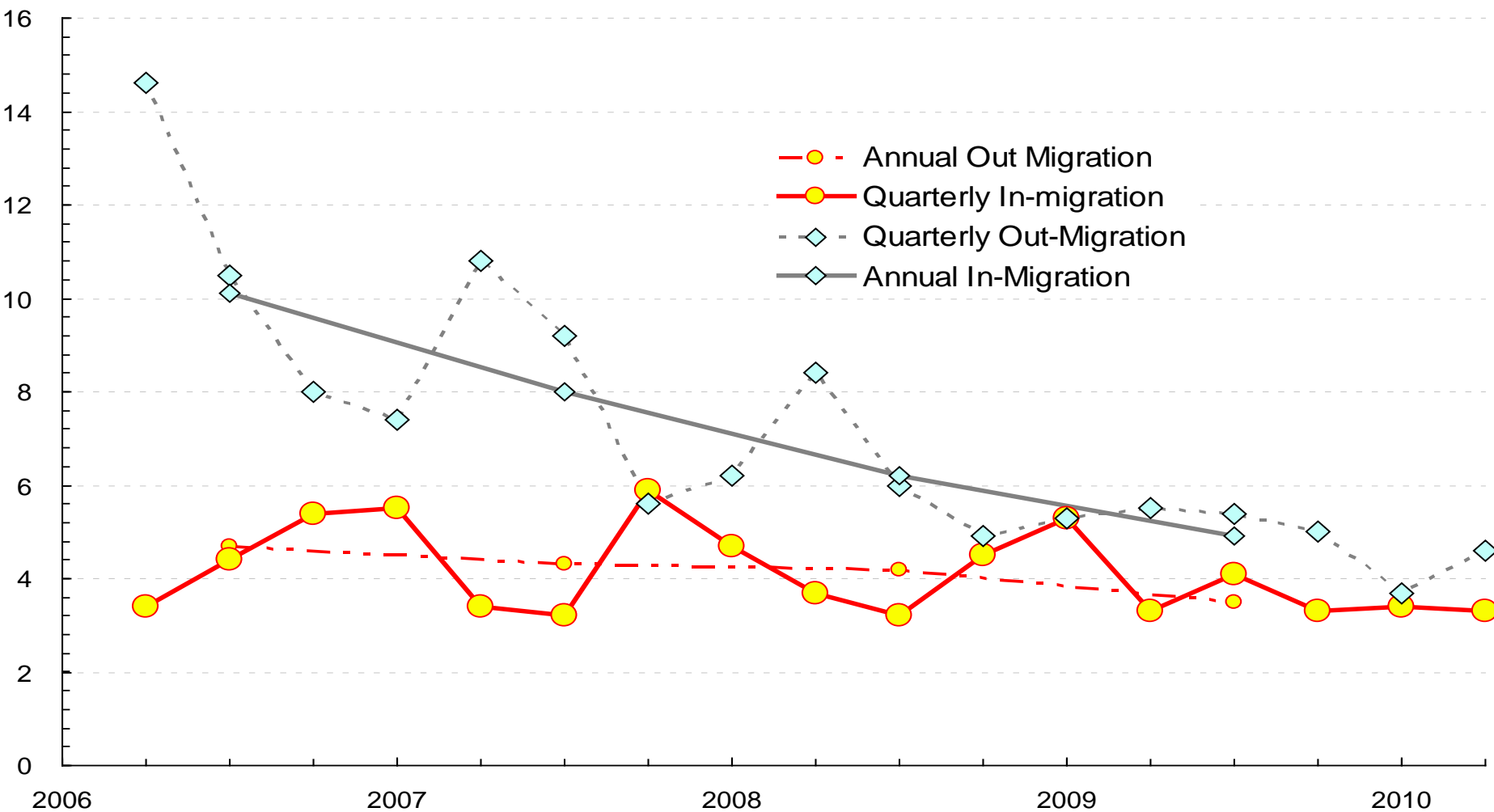
Apprehension Rate is Up, BUT... Virtually Everyone Gets In



***Are MORE Mexicans
Going Home?
Why? Or Why Not?***

ENOE Shows Dropping Flows Out of Mexico ***BUT Return Flows are Down, Too***

Annual Migration Rate (per 1,000)
Out of and Into Mexico

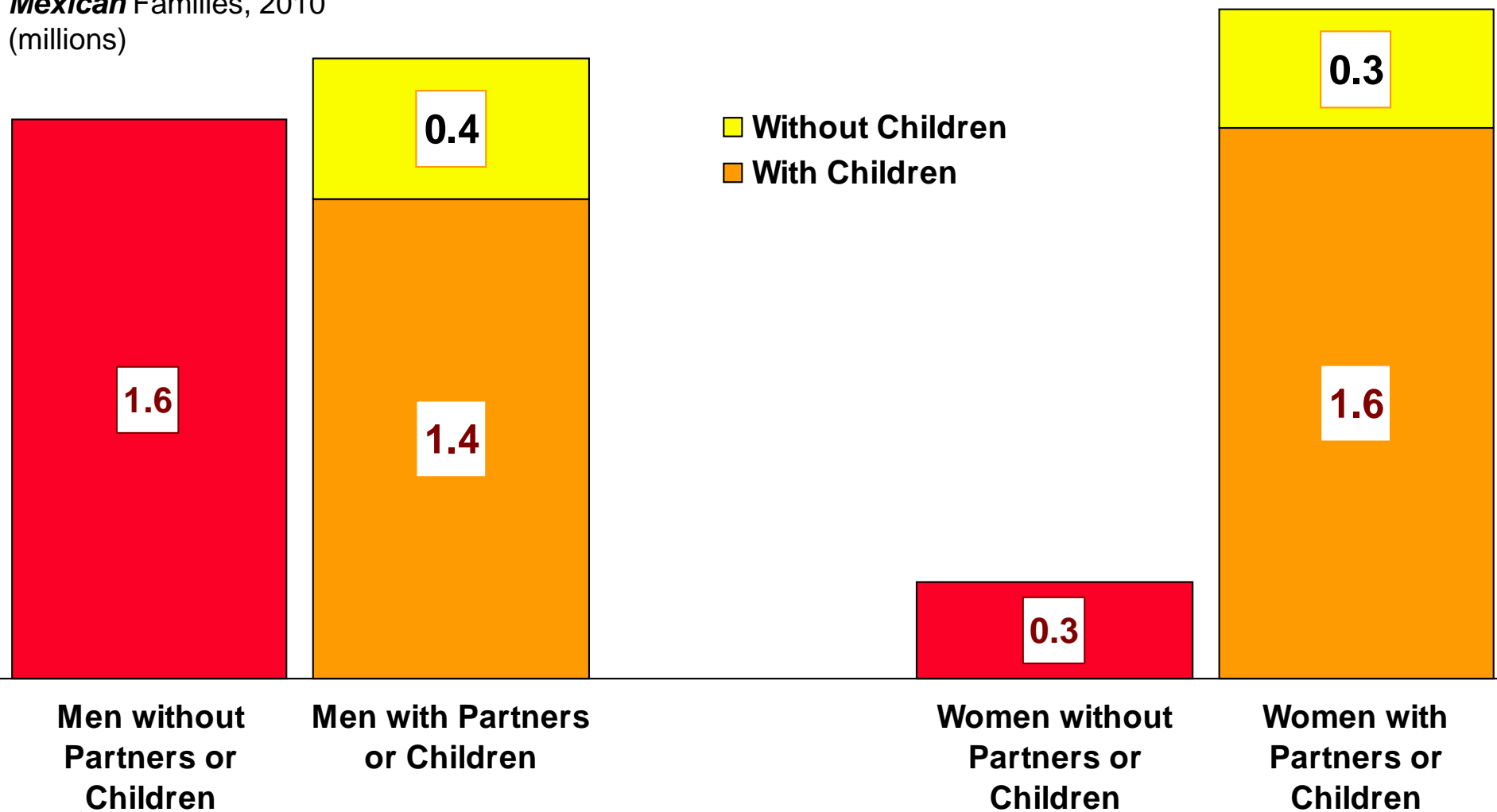


Why Aren't More Leaving the US?

- ***Fear of Losing U.S. Job***
- ***Situation in Mexico is No Better***
- ***Border Enforcement***
 - Costly & Risky to Re-enter U.S.
- ***Integration into U.S. Society***
 - **Families** Increasingly Rooted in US
 - U.S.-Born Children in School
 - Social Networks in the U.S.
 - Geographic Diversity gives Options

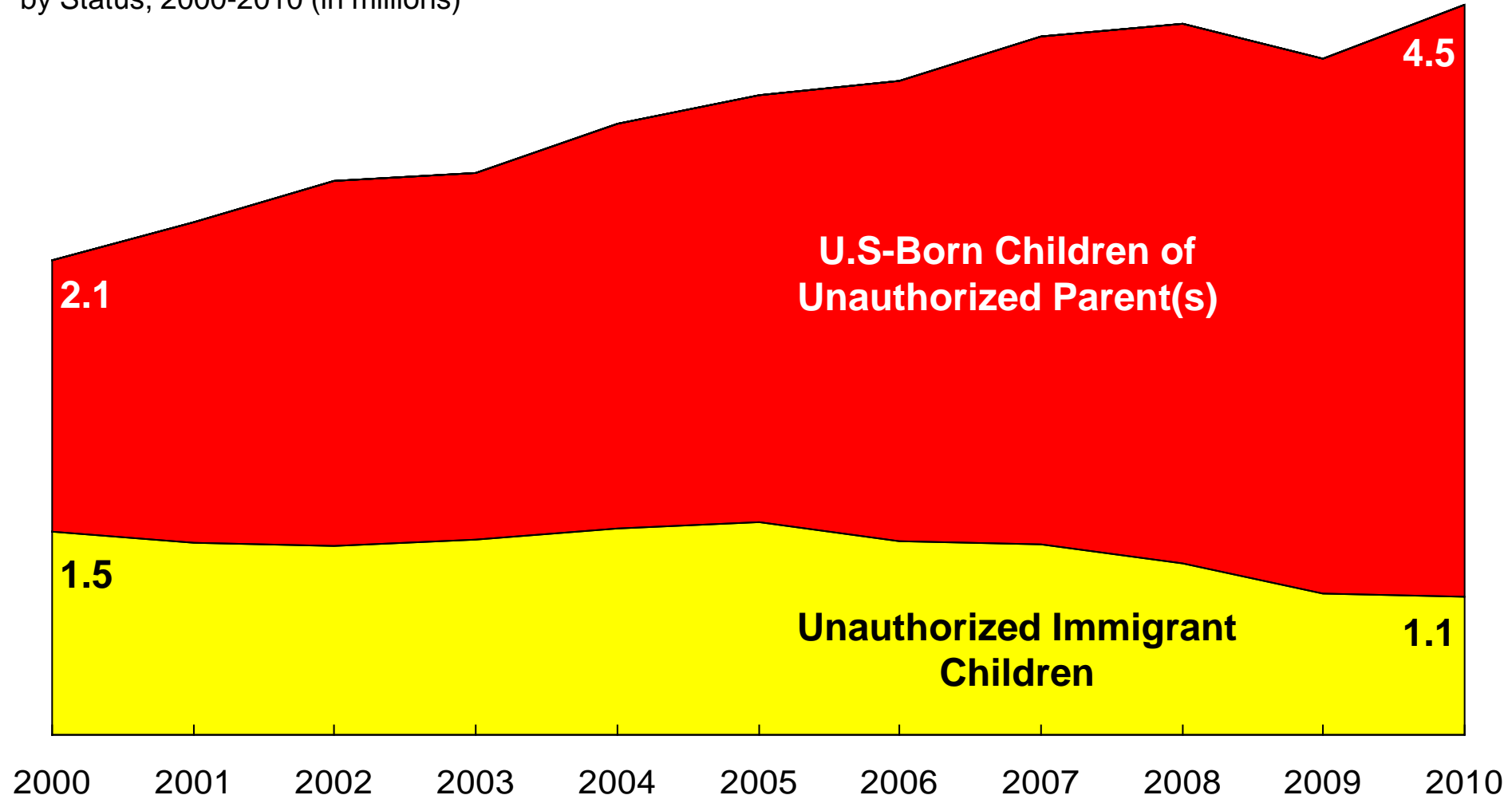
Most Unauthorized Mexicans Are Married or Have Children (Even Men)

Persons in Unauthorized
Mexican Families, 2010
(millions)



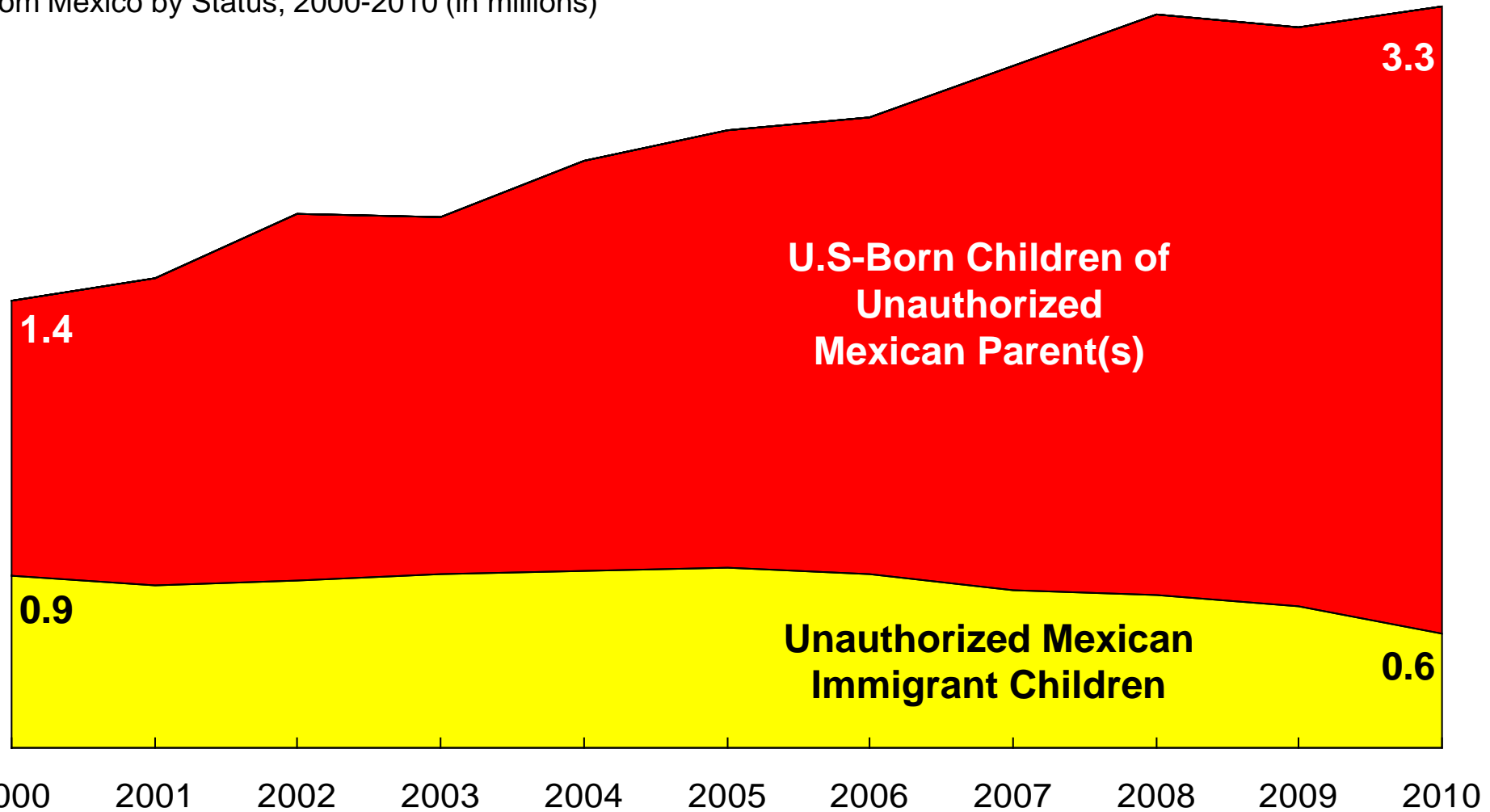
US-Born Children of Unauthorized Up but Unauthorized Decrease

Children with at Least One Unauthorized Immigrant Parent,
by Status, 2000-2010 (in millions)



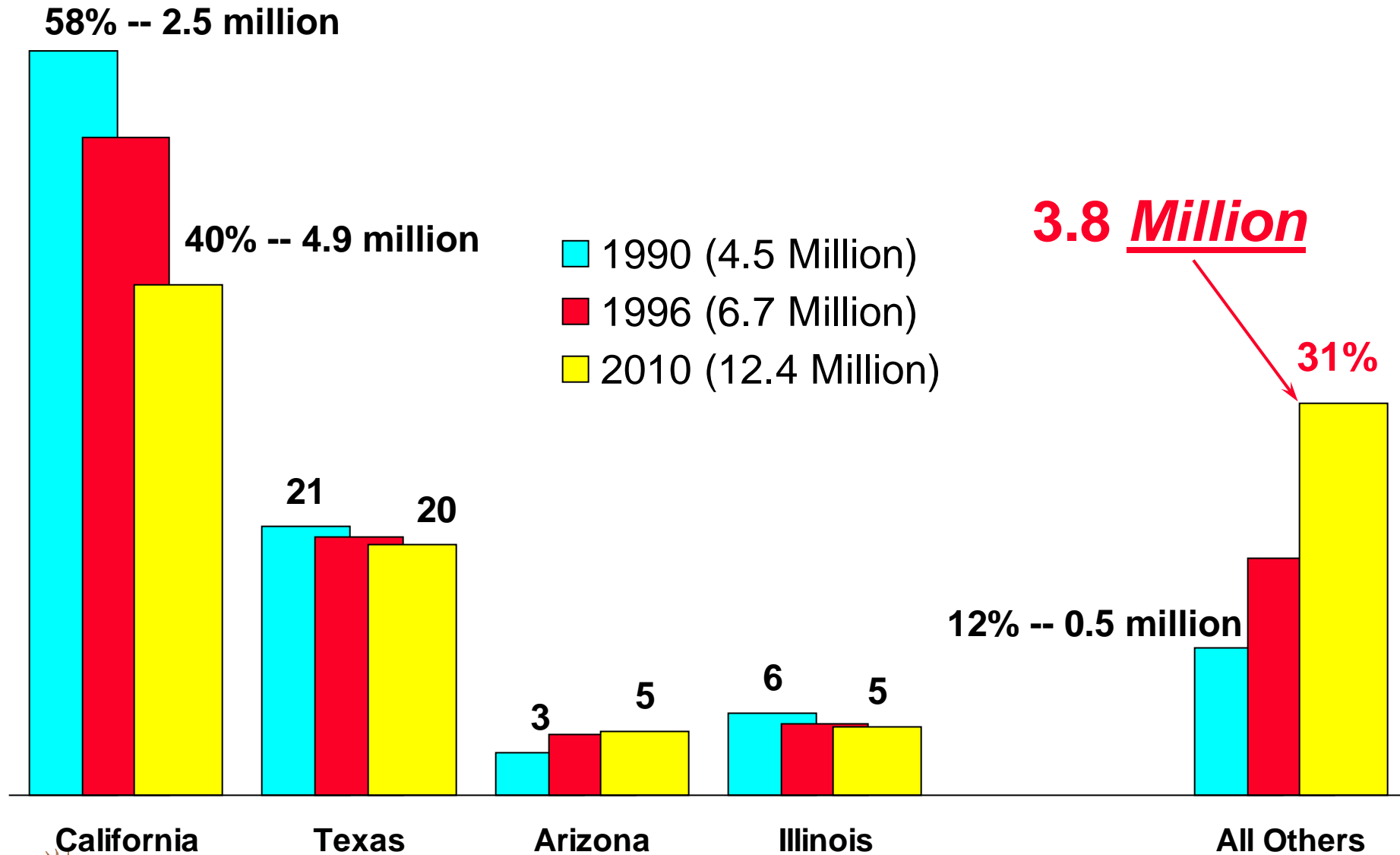
Mexicans Are 70% of Children of Unauthorized; US-born Doubled

Children with at Least One Unauthorized Immigrant Parent, from Mexico by Status, 2000-2010 (in millions)



Mexicans Lead Diversification

Percent of U.S. Mexicans



What About the Future?

- ***Flows to US Respond to Economics***
- ***Enforcement May be Working***
 - Border Effectiveness Uncertain for Now
 - Interior Laws Make Life Risky/Unpleasant
- ***Changing Age Structure in Mexico***
 - Smaller Birth Cohorts of '90s
 - Fewer Labor Force Entrants Begin Now
 - Lessening Pressure to Migrate
- ***Networks & Culture Facilitate Flows***
- ***Continued Movement but Less (?)***

Thank You

**Please E-mail or
Call Me at:**

jpassel@pewhispanic.org

(202) 419-3625

www.pewhispanic.org

Jeffrey S. Passel, Ph.D.
Pew Hispanic Center
Pew Research Center
1615 L St., N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20036