

NEWS ARTICLES ON KEY ISSUES – OCTOBER 24, 2023

U.S. BORDER PATROL STATISTICS

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2019		
USBP	Demographic	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Alien Child	76,020
	Family Units	473,682
	Single Adult	301,806
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		851,508

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2020		
USBP	Demographic	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Alien Child	30,557
	Family Units	52,230
	Single Adult	317,864
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		400,651

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2021		
USBP	Demographic	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Alien Child	144,834
	Family Units	451,087
	Single Adult	1,063,285
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		1,659,206

Data Sources: <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration/fy-2019> ; <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration/fy2020> ; <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2022

USBP	Demographic	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Alien Child	12,625	13,745	11,704	8,607	11,779	13,892	11,857	14,420	14,929	13,003	10,993	11,539	149,093
	Family Units	41,556	43,279	49,437	30,419	25,165	34,052	37,082	51,166	44,071	42,851	39,305	44,579	482,962
	Single Adult	104,932	109,991	109,461	108,851	122,226	163,237	154,565	158,784	133,399	125,980	131,476	151,479	1,574,381
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		159,113	167,015	170,602	147,877	159,063	211,181	203,504	224,370	192,399	181,834	181,774	207,597	2,206,436

Data Source: <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2023

USBP	Demographic	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Alien Child	11,654	12,780	11,829	9,034	10,418	11,852	11,062	9,442	6,732	10,035	13,527	13,154	131,519
	Family Units	46,745	49,827	60,843	25,829	25,643	33,269	46,555	45,026	31,271	60,165	93,111	103,027	621,311
	Single Adult	146,735	145,073	149,346	94,650	94,460	118,551	126,304	116,914	61,535	62,442	74,416	102,582	1,293,008
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		205,134	207,680	222,018	129,513	130,521	163,672	183,921	171,382	99,538	132,642	181,054	218,763	2,045,838

Data Source: <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>

LATEST NEWS

Operation Lone Star Constructs More Border Wall To Deter Illegal Entry

By the Office of the Texas Governor, Press Release, October 13, 2023

- ❖ As of October 13, Texas has bused:
 - Over 12,500 migrants to Washington, D.C. since April 2022
 - Over 20,000 migrants to New York City since August 2022
 - Over 15,000 migrants to Chicago since August 2022
 - Over 3,200 migrants to Philadelphia since November 2022
 - Over 3,900 migrants to Denver since May 18
 - Over 980 migrants to Los Angeles since June 14

❖ Press Release Source: <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/operation-lone-star-constructs-more-border-wall-to-deter-illegal-entry>

Benedictine Sisters Corporate Responsibility Coalition

Unlawful crossings along southern border reach yearly high as U.S. struggles to contain mass migration

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, October 1, 2023

- ❖ U.S. immigration agents processed more than 200,000 migrants who crossed the southern border unlawfully in September, the highest level recorded in 2023, according to preliminary government data obtained by CBS News. September's apprehension tally is the highest since Dec. 2022, when Border Patrol apprehended 222,000 migrants, the second-highest monthly figure on record. In May 2022, Border Patrol reported 224,000 migrant apprehensions, the current all-time high. For only the second time in U.S. history, the unpublished DHS data shows, annual migrant apprehensions along the U.S. southern border surpassed 2 million. The data pertained to fiscal year 2023, which ended this weekend. The 2.2 million total of migrant apprehensions in fiscal year 2022 remains the highest-ever annual tally. In addition to those apprehended after entering the U.S. illegally, tens of thousands of additional migrants were processed by border officials at ports of entry last month. The Biden administration has been allowing roughly 1,500 prospective asylum-seekers to enter the country each day at those official crossings if they secure an appointment through a smartphone app.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/immigration-unlawful-crossings-along-southern-border-reach-yearly-high/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

A record 400K migrants have crossed the treacherous Darién jungle to reach the U.S.

By Manuel Rueda, NPR, October 5, 2023

- ❖ The Darién Gap, the treacherous stretch of roadless jungle that stands between South America and Central America, is once again experiencing a rise in the number of crossings. Despite a U.S.-backed deal with Colombia and Panama to "end the illicit movement" along this route, numbers of migrants traversing the jungle's trails have spiked to an all-time high. In the first nine months of this year, 400,000 migrants have crossed the Darién on their way to the United States, Panamanian officials recently said, a sharp increase from the nearly 250,000 people who made the journey in all of 2022. The large number of crossings has created a humanitarian crisis that governments in the region are struggling to cope with. Panama has described the situation as a threat to its national security. And farther to the north, neighboring Costa Rica has declared a state of emergency as thousands of migrants in poor health and without money get stranded in its border towns. About a quarter of those making the journey are children, according to UNICEF. And criminals often rob migrants at gunpoint along the way. Doctors Without Borders, a group that is assisting migrants as they emerge from the jungle, says that in the first six months of this year it treated 216 women and girls who were sexually assaulted on the route. Meanwhile, Panamanian health workers say they are overwhelmed with the arrivals. Venezuelans make up about 55% of the migrants who have crossed the Darién jungle this year, followed by Ecuadorians and Haitians, according to Panama's National Immigration Department. Many of the Venezuelans who are making the journey are on the move for the second or third time, after struggling to rebuild their lives in other South American countries. According to Panama's National Immigration Department, 130,000 people — mostly Cubans and Haitians — crossed the Darién in 2021. The number of crossings jumped to 248,000 in 2022, after it became harder for Venezuelans and Ecuadorians to skip the Darién jungle by taking flights to Mexico.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.npr.org/2023/10/05/1203045232/migrants-darien-jungle-panama-to-us>

Texas border cities scramble to shelter thousands of newly-arrived migrants

By Uriel J. García, Texas Tribune, September 21, 2023

- ❖ In Eagle Pass, Mayor Rolando Salinas Jr., signed an emergency declaration on Tuesday night [Sept. 19] to allow the city of about 30,000 to get state resources and funding to handle the number of migrants being released by immigration officials. He told The New York Times that on Wednesday [Sept. 20] as many as 2,500 migrants crossed into Eagle Pass. In July federal agents encountered an average of 817 migrants each day in the Del Rio sector, which includes Eagle Pass, according to government data. On Wednesday, September 20, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which processes people and vehicular traffic at ports of entry, said in a statement that it temporarily closed one of the three international bridges to traffic so agents could help Border Patrol process hundreds of migrants, many of whom were being held under one of the bridges connecting Eagle Pass and Mexico. According to CBS News, which cited unpublished federal government data, immigration officials on average made 6,900 apprehensions per day along the southern border in the first 20 days of September — a 60% increase from the daily average in July. On Wednesday night [Sept. 20], the Biden administration announced it will allow Venezuelans who entered the U.S. on or before July 31 to receive temporary protected status, a program Congress approved in 1990 that allows undocumented people to get a work permit and defer deportation for 18 months. "Temporary protected status provides individuals already present in the United States with protection from removal when the conditions in their home country prevent their safe return," said Department of Homeland Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.texastribune.org/2023/09/21/texas-migrants-border-eagle-pass/>

One Day on the Border: 8,900 Migrants Arrested, and More on the Way

By Miriam Jordan, Jack Healy and Eileen Sullivan, *New York Times*, September 25, 2023

- ❖ They come from Brazil, Burkina Faso, Uzbekistan, India and dozens of other countries, a moving global village of hundreds of thousands of people crossing the Rio Grande and slipping through gaps in the border wall at a pace of nearly 9,000 people a day, one of the highest rates of unlawful crossings in months. Despite new border barriers and thickets of razor wire, risk of deportation and pleas for patience, a resurgent tide of men, women and children is not waiting. Driven by desperation, families and individuals are pushing across the southern border and past new efforts by the Biden administration to keep migrants waiting until they secure hard-to-get appointments to enter the nation with permission. The influx is creating a humanitarian and political crisis that stretches from packed migrant processing facilities in border states to major American cities struggling to house and educate the new families. Though many get through, thousands are being sent back across the border or on flights to their home countries. But from Texas to California, more than two dozen migrants who have entered illegally in recent days said they could not afford to wait. “If you don’t take risks, you cannot win,” said Daniel Soto, 35, who crossed with his mother on Tuesday after they sold their car, restaurant and house in Lima, Peru, betting their entire fortune of \$25,000 on a weeklong journey to the border near Tijuana. Surges in migration at the southern border, while motivated by poverty, violence and hunger, are also tied to weather patterns, policy changes and personal circumstances. The pace of unlawful crossings dropped sharply in the spring amid uncertainty surrounding the end of a pandemic-era measure that allowed the government to quickly deport migrants. But numbers rebounded over the summer, and are now nearly double the 4,900 unlawful crossings a day that were recorded in mid-April. The Biden administration also allowed nearly 500,000 Venezuelan migrants who are already in the country to seek work permits and protection from deportation. The administration yielded to pressure from leaders in New York, where the recent arrival of more than 100,000 migrants in New York City has overwhelmed shelters and strained resources. Though the Biden program doesn’t apply to new arrivals, it touched off debate about whether the action would encourage more people to migrate. Officials in Panama say that even more migrants are now on their way north. Already this year, some 381,000 people bound for the United States have crossed the Darién Gap — a treacherous jungle bottleneck between South and Central America — and there could be a surge in October, the most popular month for crossings there.
- ❖ News Article Source: https://www.nytimes.com/2023/09/22/us/migrant-crisis-border-surge.html?unlocked_article_code=gbz-C_NxtLWorK_fCPYvBylIRDZ4Ohn5EgRgsQgNxxXpiVRyOiwUD5KA3wHfR-K0YhyEYguekhjs8lxc7floJNCK2ftsKjjXirMI_an1W0XNIP4LdyiMLgFaLoKV_DAKDAAldrscxeQPWiErJSVv8PmEDmP01iryxH6DI_Otxvk7QY1jaYm4DX9yKRB9-eOb2WbIPFq33sUnvFLsCyz6U8c0H2O3D1EISC1I0LYomav4q0f0MRY1Q-YSpBVvB51xFW92FiQx2tbobhwJc_G1KKsooF8mL-h7bro8qm16njydhvhda0tpLotDasZ4UUztccQiFnSxs0gl_efYTNAtgQg&smid=url-share

Eagle Pass declares disaster as 4,000 migrants cross in two days

By Benjamin Wermund, *Washington Bureau*, September 20, 2023

- ❖ The city of Eagle Pass issued a disaster declaration as thousands of migrants have crossed into the small border town in recent days. “It has taken a toll on our local resources, specifically our police force and our fire department,” Eagle Pass Mayor Rolando Salinas said. “I’ve been getting a lot of calls from our constituents that they get worried, they see a lot of people in our community.” A Texas Department of Public Safety spokesman said Wednesday morning [Sept. 20] about 4,000 people had crossed the border since Monday [Sept. 18]. Fox News published video showing what appeared to be hundreds more crossing later that day. It is unclear why so many are arriving in Eagle Pass now, but immigration experts say it could be because a growing number of migrants have been hitching rides on trains in Mexico bound for Piedras Negras, the town across the river from Eagle Pass. A Mexican railway operator announced Tuesday [Sept. 19] it is temporarily suspending train runs in the northern part of the country because so many migrants are climbing aboard freight cars and getting hurt in the process. “As people are traveling with more access to connectivity than probably ever before, there is also word of mouth,” said Colleen Putzel-Cavanaugh, a policy analyst at the Migration Policy Institute. “So if this sort of train system seems to be working for people, that message may be passed along.” Putzel-Cavanaugh said more Ecuadorians are headed for the U.S. amid an unprecedented rise in violence in the nation, which has seen multiple politics-related slayings, including that of a presidential candidate. “All of that could point to perhaps a continued trend in Eagle Pass for now,” she said. The city has been among the most heavily trafficked for crossings along the border in recent months, and was the epicenter of Gov. Greg Abbott’s most aggressive border security measures, including separating families, this summer.
- ❖ News Article Source: [https://www.expressnews.com/politics/article/border-migrants-eagle-pass-18378330.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20\(Premium\)&utm_source=share-by-email&utm_medium=email](https://www.expressnews.com/politics/article/border-migrants-eagle-pass-18378330.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20(Premium)&utm_source=share-by-email&utm_medium=email)

Eagle Pass international railway crossing reopens after Texas migrant surge

By Melissa Alonso, Priscilla Alvarez and Ed Lavandera, CNN, September 23, 2023

- ❖ The international railway bridge in Eagle Pass, Texas, reopened Saturday, September 23, after personnel were redirected earlier this week [Sept. 17-23] to assist with a surge in migrant crossings at the US-Mexico border. The bridge was temporarily closed Wednesday, September 20 following the declaration of a state of emergency by Eagle Pass Mayor Rolando Salinas Jr. due to the rising number of migrant apprehensions along the border. US Customs and Border Protection said in a statement that field operations at the international railway crossing bridge in Eagle Pass resumed around midnight after resources had been diverted to “swiftly and safely vetting and processing migrants.” The statement said vehicular processing operations at Bridge One remain suspended. Migrant crossings along the border spiked earlier in the week, surpassing 8,600 over a 24 hour period, a Department of Homeland Security official said Thursday, September 21. In response, the US Defense Department ramped up resources. Some 800 new active-duty personnel were dispatched to the southern border, where 2,500 National Guard members were already serving. By Friday, September 22, however, the number of migrants crossing the Rio Grande into the United States near Eagle Pass had dropped by more than two-thirds compared to two days earlier, according to Salinas. Between 800 and 1,000 migrants were apprehended Friday [September 22], Salinas said. An estimated 3,000 migrants crossed near Eagle Pass on Wednesday [September 20], according to Maverick County Sheriff Tom Schmerber. Salinas said he believed one reason for the drop was the shutdown of train lines running to northern Mexico.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2023/09/23/us/eagle-pass-railway-bridge-reopens/index.html>

Migrant deaths more than doubled in El Paso Sector after scorching heat, Border Patrol data says

By Lauren Villagran, USA TODAY, October 3, 2023

- ❖ Migrant deaths more than doubled this year along the U.S.-Mexico border in El Paso, Texas, reaching the heaviest toll the region has seen since public record-keeping began — 148, compared with 71 in 2022, according to U.S. Border Patrol data obtained by the El Paso Times, part of the USA TODAY Network. The majority of the deaths — more than 100 — occurred between May and September, when El Paso experienced one of its hottest summers on record with 44 consecutive days of triple-digit heat, according to the National Weather Service. Many migrants crossing the border seek to improve their lives, find jobs, and places to seek refuge, be it in shelters, hotels, community centers, airports, bus stops, and even sidewalks, experts said. The U.S.-Mexico border, nearly 2,000 miles across, is considered the deadliest land route for migrants worldwide, with 686 deaths and disappearances recorded last year, according to a report by the United Nation's International Organization for Migration. About half of those deaths were linked to hazardous crossing conditions in the Sonoran and Chihuahuan Deserts, which cross parts of California, Arizona, and Texas, according to the U.N. report. The El Paso sector is expected to record its highest-ever number of migrant encounters this year, on pace to top 400,000 and beat last year's record of nearly 308,000 encounters, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2023/10/03/border-patrol-el-paso-migrant-deaths/71050802007/#>

Mexican border state: costs of 'migrant crisis' reach nearly \$1 bln

By Reuters, October 3, 2023

- ❖ The costs of spiking migration for a key Mexican border state due to a sharp downturn in U.S.-bound cargo trucks total nearly \$1 billion over about two weeks, state officials said Tuesday, October 3, as authorities in both countries struggle with the latest surge. The state government of Chihuahua announced in a statement that its trade-dependent economy lost more than \$947 million between Sept. 18 and Oct. 2, blaming a "migrant crisis" for preventing the usual flow of goods from crossing into the United States. Chihuahua borders the U.S. states of Texas and New Mexico, both of which host major points of entry crucial for trade between the two neighbors. Just on Monday, October 2, the Chihuahua government said related losses totaled about \$77 million. "These impacts stem from the migrant crisis caused by the arrival of thousands of people (crossing through the state)," according to the statement, which also criticized Mexico's federal government for not taking "any action" to mitigate the losses.
- ❖ News Article Source: [https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/mexican-border-state-costs-migrant-crisis-reach-nearly-1-bln-2023-10-04/#:~:text=MEXICO%20CITY%2C%20Oct%203%20\(Reuters,struggle%20with%20the%20latest%20surge.](https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/mexican-border-state-costs-migrant-crisis-reach-nearly-1-bln-2023-10-04/#:~:text=MEXICO%20CITY%2C%20Oct%203%20(Reuters,struggle%20with%20the%20latest%20surge.)

TEXAS BUOY AND RAZOR WIRE BARRIERS IN THE RIO GRANDE

Texas urges US appeals court to allow Rio Grande barrier

By Daniel Wiessner, Reuters, October 5, 2023

- ❖ A lawyer for the state of Texas on Thursday, October 5, told a U.S. appeals court President Joe Biden's administration has no power to force the state to remove a 1,000-foot (305-meter) barrier placed in the Rio Grande river to deter illegal border crossings. Three judges on the New Orleans-based 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments in the state's appeal of a lower court judge's ruling requiring the string of buoys installed in July be moved to an embankment on the Texas side of the river, which forms a border between the U.S. and Mexico. The judge had said concrete anchors weighing up to 3,000 pounds (1,361 kg) used to secure the buoys could damage boats and other vessels. The 5th Circuit last month allowed the barrier to remain in place pending the outcome of the appeal. The Biden administration has faced repeated criticisms from Texas and other Republican-led states over its immigration and border policies. The administration on Thursday said it will add sections to a border wall to stave off record migrant crossings from Mexico, a reversal that embraces a signature policy of Republican former President Donald Trump. At Thursday's arguments [Oct. 5], Lanora Pettit, a lawyer for the state, told the 5th Circuit panel that the portion of the Rio Grande where the barrier was placed is not navigable, so federal law does not bar Texas from installing the barrier. The river is as low as 18 inches deep in that area, and there is little history of commercial use of the waterway, she said. Pettit also said that a structure placed in a river must be permanent to qualify as an unlawful obstruction under U.S. law. The buoys are not permanent because they can be removed at any time, she said. Michael Gray, a lawyer with the U.S. Department of Justice countered that small federal government watercraft, kayaks and ferries all operate in the area. He pointed to cases in which house boats and a schooner were found to be obstructions. "Certainly if ... a house boat is an obstruction, then a 1,000-foot long series of interlocking buoys connected with concrete anchors to the riverbed is also an obstruction," Gray said. The three 5th Circuit judges said little during the 30-minute hearing. Texas authorities began installing the barrier in the middle of the river near Eagle Pass, Texas, in July, as part of Republican Governor Greg Abbott's initiative dubbed Operation Lone Star to deter migrants. The Biden administration sued Texas after the barrier was installed, saying it would disrupt navigation and that the state should have sought permission from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Abbott has said the buoys could prevent hundreds of thousands of people from entering the country illegally. But many migrants have remained undeterred, and nine people died last month while trying to cross the Rio Grande near Eagle Pass.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.reuters.com/legal/texas-urges-us-appeals-court-allow-rio-grande-barrier-2023-10-05/>

AYSLUM SEEKERS

Mexico agrees to deport migrants after El Paso reaches "breaking point"

By Uriel J. García, Texas Tribune, September 25, 2023

- ❖ Mexico will deport certain migrants from some of its northern border cities as part of an agreement with U.S. immigration officials who have reported a sharp increase of migrants attempting to cross the border in recent weeks, according to Mexico's immigration enforcement authority. Mexico's National Migration Institute said that it wants to "depressurize" the border cities of Ciudad Juárez, Piedras Negras, Tijuana and the northern state of Tamaulipas, where large numbers of migrants have recently crossed the border and where U.S. Border Patrol agents have arrested thousands of them. The institute didn't say when the deportations will begin or how long they will last, adding that it will first negotiate with Venezuela, Brazil, Nicaragua, Colombia and Cuba to make sure those countries will receive its citizens. "It should be noted that CBP (U.S. Customs and Border Protection) representatives offered the Mexican authorities all technical assistance to address the immigration issue at airports or other inspection points such as trains to reduce the numbers of people who use these mobility routes," the institute said in a statement. The statement also said Mexican immigration officials will take into custody migrants who have been expelled by the United States at an international bridge connecting El Paso and Juárez. The agreement was announced after Mexican and American officials met in Juárez. Officials with Ferromex, Mexico's largest rail operator, were part of the meeting; hundreds of migrants have arrived at the border after hopping aboard freight cars. The move comes as Eagle Pass and El Paso have scrambled to find shelter for recently arrived migrants, or help them get transportation out of the border cities, after they have been processed and released by immigration officials.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.texastribune.org/2023/09/25/texas-migrants-border-mexico-deport-el-paso/>

As migrants overwhelm a Texas border city, others wait in Mexico for appointments to enter the US

By Valerie Gonzalez, Associated Press, September 22, 2023

- ❖ More than 8,000 migrants turned up this week [Sept. 17-22] at the Texas border city of Eagle Pass, across from Piedras Negras. Migrants were stopped at the border 142,037 times during the first 17 days of September, up 15% from 123,777 the same period last month, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection figures released Thursday by Mexican President Andres Manuel López Obrador. Those figures include up to 1,450 people admitted daily with a mobile app for asylum appointments, called CBP One, but the vast majority are illegal entries. Mexico's top diplomat, Alicia Bárcena, said at a news conference in New York that migrant shelters in Ciudad Juarez, across from El Paso, Texas, are 95% full. She said the Mexican government is "very worried" about the border closures and the increase in migrants. She said more should be done to limit migration through the Darien Gap. The unfolding response in Eagle Pass, where the mayor declared an emergency, illustrates how Border Patrol agents have become overwhelmed in recent days by asylum-seekers on parts of the U.S. border with Mexico. In San Diego and El Paso, officials this week also closed border crossings so agents could help with the influx. In August, the Border Patrol made 181,509 arrests on the Mexican border, up 37% from July but little changed from August 2022 and well below the high of more than 220,000 in December, according to figures released Friday. People in families with children fueled the increase, with 93,999 arrests — the highest on record — up from 60,454 in July and 31,487 in June.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://apnews.com/article/immigration-texas-california-border-asylum-seekers-314698bfb5644be8f8f6085ebe9b9b98>

Mexico sends buses for migrants in south, as thousands reach northern border with US daily

By Jose Cortes and Lizbeth Diaz, Reuters, October 2, 2023

- ❖ Several hundred migrants in southern Mexico awaited buses north on Monday, October 2, under a new government program meant to help manage the numbers arriving, as Mexico's president said 10,000 people have been reaching the northern border with the U.S. daily. Thousands of migrants have crossed into the U.S. from Mexico in recent weeks, alarming officials in U.S. border cities and prompting delays to trade. In the northern city of Tijuana on Monday, opposite San Diego, California, several dozen people scrambled over a part of the U.S. border wall that cuts across the beach at the Pacific Ocean in a video seen by Reuters. More than 3,000 km (1,864 miles) south, at a bus terminal in the city of Juchitan in Oaxaca state, some migrants said they would enter the U.S. with appointments secured via a U.S. government app, CBP One, and request asylum. Oaxaca officials opened the site last week in an effort to reduce risks for migrants, who had been gathering in large numbers at local bus terminals while trying to buy bus tickets north. Jesus Gonzalez, a representative of the local civil protection agency, said 800 to 1,000 migrants pass through the Juchitan site per day. Migrants must pay their own fares, ranging from 386 to 1,500 pesos (about \$22-\$85), and some people said they were awaiting money transfers from relatives, or seeking work, to raise funds. Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador at his morning news conference on Monday, October 2, said about 6,000 people are entering southern Mexico daily, and that last week 10,000 migrants reached the U.S.-Mexico border every day.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://ca.news.yahoo.com/10-000-migrants-reach-us-163843642.html>

U.S. will resume deportation flights to Venezuela

By Eric Bazail-Eimil, Politico, October 5, 2023

- ❖ The U.S. will once again deport migrants to Venezuela as a way to deter migration from the embattled South American country, senior Biden administration officials told reporters on Thursday, October 5. The deportation flights, which came after talks between U.S., Colombian and Mexican officials, will resume in the coming days. Immigration officials have already identified Venezuelans in U.S. custody who will go on these first flights. Senior administration officials say the move is intended to discourage migration via the Darien Gap, a dangerous stretch of jungle in Panama that migrants must cross in order to continue the journey from Colombia into Central America, and encourage would-be migrants to pursue some of the expanded legal pathways available to Venezuelan migrants, including temporary protected status and sponsorship. The return of the flights marks a significant turning point in U.S. immigration policy. For years, the U.S. did not regularly conduct repatriation flights to Venezuela, given Washington's strained relationship with Caracas and concerns about human rights abuses by the government of President Nicolás Maduro. It comes as the Biden administration faces increased political pressure to stem an influx of migrants at the U.S. border with Mexico. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, the U.S. has struggled to stem the flow of migrants fleeing gang violence, political instability and economic malaise in Latin America and other parts of the world. Thousands of migrants, in particular from Venezuela, are apprehended every day by border patrol agents. Since May 2023, 295,000 individuals have been repatriated by the Department of Homeland Security.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.politico.com/news/2023/10/05/biden-deportation-venezuela-migrant-crisis-00120200>

MIGRANT SHELTERS

Migrant tent city company accused of controversial ties

By Michael Loria and Fran Spielman, Chicago Sun-Times, September 22, 2023

- ❖ GardaWorld Federal Services has ties all over — from Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' migrant removal program to allegations of mistreating migrant children at the border and labor trafficking at U.S. military bases overseas. The Virginia-based company's latest tie is to the city of Chicago, where they have a \$29.3 million agreement with the city to build Mayor Brandon Johnson's giant tent cities, or "winterized base camps" for the thousands of migrants currently staying at police stations and airports. The deal, signed Sept. 12, has been condemned by officials and advocates who said investing in Chicago infrastructure and organizations would be better. Ald. Andre Vasquez (40th), chair of the City Council's Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights, said hiring GardaWorld is "not a good look" for Chicago. The company is tied to DeSantis' program of bussing or flying migrants out of Florida, according to the Tampa Bay Times, which Vasquez called a potential conflict of interest. The company is among those allegedly involved in mistreating migrant children at the border in a 2022 report by the Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General, according to research by the American Friends Service Committee. They're also allegedly tied to a migrant labor trafficking scheme at U.S. military bases, according to reports by NBC News.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://chicago.suntimes.com/2023/9/21/23884285/migrant-tent-city-company-accused-of-ties-to-controversies-worldwide>

Chicago is keeping hundreds of migrants at airports while waiting on shelters and tents

By Sophia Tareen and Melissa Perez Winder, Associated Press, October 1, 2023

- ❖ Hundreds of migrants, from babies to the elderly, live inside a shuttle bus center at O'Hare International Airport's Terminal 1. They sleep on cardboard pads on the floor and share airport bathrooms. A private firm monitors their movements. Like New York and other cities, Chicago has struggled to house asylum-seekers, slowly moving people out of temporary spaces and into shelters and, in the near future, tents. But Chicago's use of airports is unusual, having been rejected elsewhere, and highlights the city's haphazard response to the crisis. The practice also has raised concerns about safety and the treatment of people fleeing violence and poverty. Some migrants stay at O'Hare for weeks, then are moved to police stations or manage to get into the few shelters available. Within weeks, Chicago plans to roll out winterized tents, something New York has done. Up to 500 people have lived at O'Hare simultaneously in a space far smaller than a city block, shrouded by a curtain fastened shut with staples. Chicago offers meals, but only at specific times and many foods are unfamiliar to the new arrivals. Most of the 14,000 immigrants who have arrived in Chicago during the last year have come from Texas, largely under the direction of Republican Gov. Greg Abbott. Nearly 3,000 people who have arrived by plane since June have sought shelter. A handful live at Midway International Airport.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/chicago-keeping-hundreds-migrants-airports-waiting-shelters-tents-103634403>

Where the Migrants Who Came to New York Are Living Now

By Todd Heisler, Andy Newman, Raúl Vilchis and Olivia Bensimon, New York Times, September 28, 2023

- ❖ New York City has long been a magnet for new Americans. More than a third of its residents — over three million people — are immigrants. Before the pandemic interrupted migration patterns, the census tallied about 60,000 foreign-born people annually in the city who had been living abroad a year earlier. What's different about the 116,000 migrants who started arriving last year is how many came at once, and how many went straight into the city's homeless shelter system, already near capacity. In normal times, immigrants gravitate to neighborhoods where countrymen have set up social networks, and they are gradually absorbed into the city. The new group came in a rush, after the pandemic worsened violence and poverty in struggling countries. Many came with no communities to join. In the shelters, they are creating them from scratch. For all their numbers, the migrants, in most of the city, are invisible. The ones who sleep in shelters make up less than 1 percent of the city's population. On the street, you may not recognize them as anything other than New Yorkers going about their lives. The city is constantly opening shelters. It has also closed them. Last fall it built a tent city on Randall's Island, an expanse of playing fields and institutional buildings off Manhattan, only to take it down during a lull in border crossings. In August, new tents went up and 2,000 migrant men moved in.
- ❖ News Article Source: https://www.nytimes.com/2023/09/28/nyregion/nyc-migrants-neighborhoods-shelters.html?unlocked_article_code=z3C4OcTg5MC8hDMVHOMyz8PSRvuqPksjl-K2Ay4vLQ4sHggcbLKPdQW2M7cRxuCaLdj9afMdn5z-r3Hv1n8SiZInDGSRawXBXM4tj7-pPfiZq8gHCLtqf47HjzLSjDvT-5KpUTodc4RIXGCi3GaGZO-up4MIOPnFiSIM0jxw5VHZng42crTZk0bQpGIA7Lff2cFDyiS08xldYjZhWnrQj_r6NITqdYGUzUqBC4p2Zfm-ir6lxLNp1POj7N9CZXUH77rvmlmRkRIZ0UFsRtcbDyQW-VOYVkJ7vz7PAjdNp21-wJlzWb5eCbCINHISxs7G5txzR7QM8_sW-QZhwPlbz6N2WvQ2pibtUEkLoAw&smid=url-share

Surge of migrants hits home; San Antonio migrant center at capacity

By Peggy O'Hare, *San Antonio Express-News*, September 21, 2023

- ❖ Catholic Charities' Migrant Resource Center is flooded with a surge of migrants after a deluge of new arrivals at the Texas-Mexico border in recent days. Traffic is "definitely up" at the shelter at 7000 San Pedro, said one police officer providing security at the facility's entry gates. The organization's CEO, Antonio Fernandez, told KENS 5 late Wednesday [September 20] that the center was at full capacity. He estimated that around 6,000 migrants will have approached the facility this week alone, a significant uptick. The city of San Antonio's migrant dashboard shows nearly 25,000 migrants arrived here between Aug. 23 and Wednesday [Sept. 20] — less than one month's time. The biggest one-day influx occurred Tuesday, September 19 when 1,100 new migrants were reported. On Wednesday, September 20, the number slowed to 598 migrants. In San Antonio, the largest share of new migrants came from Venezuela, which accounted for nearly one-third of the latest arrivals, the city's migrant dashboard shows. Venezuela was followed by Cuba and Nicaragua, respectively. The Migrant Resource Center typically served 2,000 to 4,000 people per week throughout this year, but those numbers have been climbing recently, Fernandez told KENS 5.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/news/article/migrants-surge-resource-center-18380326.php>

New York City Moves to Suspend Right-to-Shelter Mandate

By Emma G. Fitzsimmons, *New York Times*, October 4, 2023

- ❖ Mayor Eric Adams is seeking to suspend New York City's longstanding obligation to provide shelter to anyone who asks for it, as officials struggle to find housing for thousands of migrants arriving from the southern border. On Tuesday night [October 3], Mr. Adams asked a judge to allow the city to put aside its legal obligation to provide shelter to single adults, arguing in court that the city should be able to temporarily lift the mandate during an emergency. "With more than 122,700 asylum seekers having come through our intake system since the spring of 2022, and projected costs of over \$12 billion for three years, it is abundantly clear that the status quo cannot continue," Mr. Adams said in a statement. In a letter to Erika Edwards, a New York Supreme Court justice, the city's lawyers asked for the 1981 consent decree that requires the city to provide shelter to be temporarily suspended. They also asked for the rules to be suspended whenever the governor or mayor declares a state of emergency and there is an influx of people seeking shelter. The city's letter comes as Mr. Adams leaves on Wednesday [October 4] for a four-day trip to Latin America to witness the flow of migrants at the Darién Gap and to dissuade asylum seekers from traveling to New York City.
- ❖ News Article Source: https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/04/nyregion/eric-adams-right-to-shelter-migrant-crisis.html?unlocked_article_code=pf8R0n_ABd7fJC4CV1YQIJtwLLwhyG0H9qCFVtrikW2BjLgMQeUnOPqSw9jB6cA9JtEI3Q4XdTxU8hOhjE-ZqunVrLzjLmS-vgx_Wl8rveQIY8_c4li96PZf-TjZEtnVYtYBLDn2SOzbnL5EcYGHqsTyU6H7qRluinAgZaNeg5Cnny1k_seHlpZqMsqlT7qLUUuBOE_ANnVJ6m7wxa3dqf9wNbgmMVlj0Q0non6olp6bHbm7N7A4kui38ZQi7s1-UduFC53a4r5JcZ4OasuwA4Tr9wclajpkFV-JvITozwG46VXJKJrU7rrBKfDrGPb6Nz2vAHA1AGmjnhcRVLJCbCEyVklrRXHk9PP7vD18oONbS7Lpw&smid=url-share

BORDER WALL

Biden, the Border, and Why a New Wall Is Going Up

By Eileen Sullivan and Colbi Edmonds, *New York Times*, October 6, 2023

- ❖ The Biden administration said on Thursday, October 5, that it would build up to 20 miles of border barriers authorized during the Trump administration in Texas' Rio Grande Valley. Alejandro N. Mayorkas, the Homeland Security secretary, says Mr. Biden is building up to 20 miles of border wall because he has to. The administration said that it was bound to build this section of new wall because Congress already appropriated the funding to do so in 2019. It had been unsuccessful in convincing Congress to rescind the funding, Mr. Mayorkas said. Border Patrol agents have made more than two million arrests at the southwest border this year. Some 245,000 of those were in the Rio Grande Valley, according to government data. There are currently 706 noncontiguous miles of border wall — which consists of a variety of barriers — along parts of the nearly 2,000-mile border between the United States and Mexico. Building a continuous border wall has never been a realistic option, because the terrain along the border is so different. There are also natural barriers that slow down crossings the way man-made barriers do.
- ❖ News Article Source: https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/06/us/border-wall-biden.html?unlocked_article_code=kXT6a9klxyGN2j0I0Hy9QEwzftnH4R1so_ISUBMtivrHFVvtFqgZ_K2MyMEVxGuir3DZI_6qo1VTB-h_A9iZZW7HOnsZxrrfRdFf7IbBMTcuDAT9jNLhYrG5xEfXdtRir2SE0xDCOh4anwnKqg7b5QZ9PjTis9TCv0c3F2ODSXO44xPrI-3_ZmpHODA4jZ1VhKy7OP8GjR-UCENI5u1AyTpwKUZmfdHyg6LcAyoR0UGAccOM80WQcbudJNcPfmIbUWNuIUfgZylm7SxSOIYaZUKbzdolx05S43INEPko5AWDJ502n6i-ASmpbo2LiHzRCS1X_sS&smid=url-share

Mexico rejects new border wall plan after talks with U.S. officials

By *Dave Graham, Reuters, October 6, 2023*

- ❖ Mexico on Thursday, October 5, rejected U.S. plans to build new sections of wall at the U.S.-Mexico border as top officials from both countries met in the Mexican capital to discuss immigration and security. Before sitting down with U.S. officials including Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador condemned the latest wall plan as a "step backwards". Amid an increase in the number of people crossing into the U.S. from Mexico, the United States said it would build additional sections of border wall in Starr County, Texas, carrying forward a signature policy of the Trump administration. At the talks, officials pledged to step up cooperation to combat drug trafficking, organized crime and to ease migratory pressures on the border. Afterwards, Mexico's Foreign Minister Alicia Barcena underlined Mexico's opposition to the wall. "We believe in bridges, not in walls," she said, speaking at a press conference alongside Blinken and Mayorkas. Lopez Obrador has praised U.S. President Joe Biden for not building more border wall during his administration. The barrier was a major bone of contention between the United States and Mexico during Donald Trump's presidency. The U.S. government said Thursday's [Oct. 5] action did not deviate from Biden's opposition to the wall because money that was allocated during Trump's term in 2019 had to be spent now. Barcena indicated the U.S. funds would not necessarily be used for erecting walls. "I understand it's not going to be via walls, it'll be via technologies, it'll be via other kinds of installations," she said.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/mexico-rejects-new-border-wall-plan-ahead-talks-with-us-officials-2023-10-05/>

DEVELOPING STORIES

More military personnel head to the US-Mexico border as officials describe an increase in migrant crossings

By *Priscilla Alvarez, Ed Lavandera and Ashley Killough, CNN, September 22, 2023*

- ❖ The Defense Department is ramping up resources at the US-Mexico border as officials describe a surge in border crossings in places including Eagle Pass, Texas, where the mayor has declared a state of emergency. Some 800 new active-duty personnel are being sent to the border, where 2,500 National Guard members already are serving, Department of Homeland Security officials announced Wednesday night [Sept. 20] in a call with reporters. The move comes as migrant crossings along that border are rising, surpassing 8,600 over the last 24 hours, according to a Department of Homeland Security official. That's up from around 3,500 daily border arrests after the expiration in May of Title 42 triggered new consequences for those who cross the border illegally. There were than 8,000 apprehensions on Monday, September 18. The busiest sectors are Del Rio, El Paso, Lower Rio Grande Valley and Tucson – each facing more than 1,000 encounters over the last 24 hours, according to the official. Eagle Pass is in the Del Rio sector. Around 3,000 migrants crossed into the US near Eagle Pass on Wednesday alone [September 20], a source familiar with the situation told CNN. Hundreds waited in the city of around 28,000 about 150 miles southeast of San Antonio for transport to a processing facility and were moved out quickly, the source said. About 2,700 migrants crossed into the US near Eagle Pass on Tuesday, September 19 followed by another 3,000 on Wednesday, September 20, according to the sheriff.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2023/09/21/us/migrant-crossings-eagle-pass-state-of-emergency/index.html>

Governor Hochul announces thousands of jobs for eligible asylum seekers

By *Eyewitness News WABC, October 2, 2023*

- ❖ New York Governor Kathy Hochul announced the state Labor Department has found thousands of jobs for eligible asylum seekers. The New York State Department of Labor identified 18,000 jobs offered by more than 350 employers that are willing to hire work-eligible migrants. The jobs will be available for Venezuelans who are now able to enter the workforce after they were extended Temporary Protective Status (TPS). Once an asylum seeker is able to work and earn a paycheck, they can leave the shelter system and be treated as an immigrant who pays taxes and lives independently, a state official said. "Migrants and asylum seekers came here to work -- so let's put them to work," Governor Hochul said. "Right now, we have a migrant crisis and a workforce crisis. By connecting work-eligible individuals with jobs and opportunity in New York, we can solve them both and secure a brighter future for all New Yorkers." President Joe Biden is granted temporary legal status to hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans who are already in the country last week. New York City Mayor Eric Adams and the governor called the move a game changer. Officials estimate about 40% of the migrants in New York right now are Venezuelan. The New York City's mayor's office says there are currently 62,600 asylum seekers in the city's care and over 118,800 asylum seekers have come through the intake system since spring 2022.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://abc7ny.com/asylum-seekers-kathy-hochul-labor-department-migrants/13854271/>

Scoop: Biden to start giving foreign aid for deportations

By Stef W. Kight, Axios, September 29, 2023

- ❖ The Biden administration plans to direct millions of dollars in foreign aid to help Panama deport more migrants — intended to stop people long before they reach the U.S.-Mexico border, Axios has learned. The unprecedented pilot program has been blocked by Sen. Bob Menendez (D-N.J.) for months, but that has ended now that Menendez has ceded the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee after being indicted on bribery charges. The rapid action on a controversial plan is another indication of the administration's desperation to slow the number of people arriving at the border. The Biden administration plans to notify Congress on Friday that it intends to spend up to \$10 million in foreign aid on a pilot program to help Panama deport more migrants who do not qualify for protections, sources directly familiar tell Axios. It would be a six-month pilot program, involving the State Department and Department of Homeland Security. The funds would initially be used to target single, adult males. The pilot could launch as early as mid-October. Panama has been asking the U.S. for this kind of help, according to internal planning documents viewed by Axios. The Trump administration pursued a similar proposal in 2018, which was also blocked by Menendez. U.S. foreign assistance has specific purposes, and it has never been used to assist a country's deportation efforts. Menendez has long opposed changing that precedent — starting under the Trump administration. Menendez has been one of the loudest pro-immigrant voices in Congress, and has broken with the Biden administration on other immigration policies.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.axios.com/2023/09/29/biden-border-panama-foreign-aid-deportations>

Elon Musk joins Rep. Tony Gonzales in Eagle Pass to call for immigration reform

By Cayla Harris, Austin Bureau, September 29, 2023

- ❖ Live from Eagle Pass: Billionaire Elon Musk and U.S. Rep. Tony Gonzales. Musk, of Tesla and SpaceX fame, joined the San Antonio Republican at the Mexican border on Thursday, September 28, to speak with local officials about the recent surge in migrant crossings. He broadcast his conversations on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter, so his followers “can see the border situation in real time.” He posted three videos from the border — two livestreams and one standalone — which have garnered a combined 113 million views as of 11 a.m. Friday, September 29. The videos mostly feature Musk chatting with Gonzales, who described an overwhelming number of crossings that kept Border Patrol agents from being out in the field and “catching bad actors.” The congressman denounced the Biden administration for, in his view, dismissing the border as a “political problem.” Gonzales represents about two-thirds of the Texas border in a district stretching from San Antonio to El Paso. “It’s a policy issue,” Gonzales said. “We can be humane, and we can be all these things, and we can protect those that qualify for asylum — but we also need to have repercussions for people that don’t.” Musk agreed. “To be clear, we’re both very much in favor of expanding legal immigration to anyone who is hardworking and honest,” Musk said. “It’s really going to ... be a net addition to the economy. I think we should, we should let them in. But I mean, what we’re seeing here are, in some cases, some pretty extreme individuals coming through.” At the end of one livestream, Gonzales led Musk to a group of dozens of migrants sitting in rows under a bridge. There, they awaited processing. “See how orderly it is?” Gonzales said. “It’s like an orderly, chaotic, unruly event that’s happening. And it’s wrong. It’s wrong for everybody involved. We’re not talking one or two people — we’re talking thousands of people every day.” The city of Eagle Pass issued a disaster declaration last week as crossings increased. Political instability and crime in Central American nations are driving thousands to make their way to the U.S. to seek asylum. Eagle Pass Mayor Rolando Salinas said the influx has “taken a toll on our local resources, specifically our police force and our fire department.”
- ❖ News Article Source: [https://www.expressnews.com/politics/article/elon-musk-tony-gonzales-texas-border-18396787.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20\(Premium\)&utm_source=share-by-email&utm_medium=email](https://www.expressnews.com/politics/article/elon-musk-tony-gonzales-texas-border-18396787.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20(Premium)&utm_source=share-by-email&utm_medium=email)

Mexico’s president says 10,000 migrants a day head to US border; he blames US sanctions on Cuba

By the Associated Press, October 2, 2023

- ❖ Mexico’s president said Monday, October 2, that about 10,000 migrants per day are heading to the U.S. border, and he blamed U.S. economic sanctions on countries like Cuba and Venezuela for the influx. President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said the number of migrants reaching Mexico’s northern border with the United States was partly due to about 6,000 migrants per day crossing into Mexico from Guatemala over the past week. He said many of those migrants are traveling on a route through Central America that includes the jungle-clad Darien Gap region between Panama and Colombia. López Obrador seemed to join Colombian President Gustavo Petro in blaming the situation on U.S. sanctions on countries like Venezuela and Cuba, whose citizens make up a large part of the migrant flow. Experts say economic mismanagement and political repression are largely to blame for the tide of migrants leaving those countries.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://apnews.com/article/mexico-migrants-us-border-sanctions-6b9f0cab3afec8680154e7fb9a5e5f82>

Costs mount as migration-related delays stall trucks at US-Mexico border

By Jose Luis Gonzalez and Brendan O'Boyle, Reuters, October 4, 2023

- ❖ Trucks attempting to enter the United States from Mexico queued for miles on Wednesday, October 4, amid delays related to record migration at the U.S.-Mexico border, while an industry group said the value of goods stalled in Mexico had surpassed \$1.5 billion. Thousands of trucks have been stranded on the Mexican side of the border after U.S. authorities shut down crossings and imposed extra security checks amid an increase in migration. In Ciudad Juarez, trucks waited to cross a bridge into Santa Teresa, New Mexico, after cargo processing was temporarily suspended at a bridge connecting the city to El Paso, Texas, to allow customs officers to assist in processing migrants arriving outside official crossings. Local media said the line of trucks extended 20kms (12 miles). Also on Wednesday, October 4, auto transport group CANACAR in a statement expressed "deep concern" over Texas' inspections of trucks crossing the border from Mexico, which it said had kept more than \$1.5 billion in goods from entering the U.S. "This measure has generated a crisis that has resulted in closures, detours, longer crossing times and significant reductions in the export volumes of different products from Mexico to the United States," CANACAR said. CANACAR's statement comes a day after the government of border state Chihuahua said that the costs of a sharp downturn in U.S.-bound cargo trucks had totaled nearly \$1 billion over about two weeks. In addition to the slowdown of trucks and trailers, thousands of railroad cars were also stalled in recent days after border officials temporarily halted processing at the international railway crossing bridge in Eagle Pass, Texas. Some U.S.-bound cargo trains were also disrupted when a major Mexican freight rail operator temporarily suspended operations after migrants died or were hurt jumping on the trains. The moves prompted Mexico's foreign ministry to urge U.S. authorities not to take "unilateral measures" complicating trade.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/costs-mount-migration-related-delays-stall-trucks-us-mexico-border-2023-10-05/>

Mayor Eric Adams wraps up Latin America trip in Colombia

By Jessica Moore, The Associated Press, October 7, 2023

- ❖ Mayor Eric Adams spent his final night in Colombia on Saturday, October 7, capping a four-day trip to Latin America. His message to migrants is New York City is at capacity, but he also met with lawmakers there to try to find solutions to the asylum seeker crisis. The mayor says asylum seekers are being fed misinformation that New York has jobs and shelter, but the city has run out of both. The mayor called on the U.S. government to find pathways for migrants and asylum seekers to work legally in the United States. "When you look at Colombia they have really shown how to absorb individuals into their societies, and one of the most important ways to do it is to allow people to work," Adams told reporters in Necocli. "Nothing is more humane and, nothing is more American than your right to work, and we believe that is a right we should extend." New York City has struggled to provide emergency accommodation to tens of thousands of migrants who have arrived in the city this year, with Adams and other city leaders calling on the federal government to speed up work authorizations for those who are already in the city. A unique rule dating from the 1980s requires New York to provide shelter to anyone in need. Adams has said the cost of supporting migrants could climb to \$12 billion in the following three years, and this week challenged the statute that obliges the city to provide migrants with shelter. There were more than 200,000 apprehensions of migrants who crossed the border illegally in September, the highest level in years. The mayor also went to Ecuador and Mexico during his whistlestop tour, where he visited shelters for migrants and spoke to local legislators. After stopping in Mexico's Puebla state, Adams said his city is "at capacity." "Our hearts are endless, but our resources are not," Adams told reporters. "We don't want to put people in congregate shelters. We don't want people to think they will be employed." In Colombia, Adams said his goal is not to tell migrants what they should do, but to learn about their motives and find solutions to the immigration crisis.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/newyork/news/mayor-eric-adams-colombia-latin-america-trip/>

Number of migrants hospitalized after falling from the border wall has skyrocketed 1,000...

By Nick Allen, Dailymail.com, October 9, 2023

- ❖ Hundreds of wall climbers - half of them women - have been admitted to a San Diego hospital a few miles from the border with injuries including shattered legs and ankles, and traumatic brain injuries. U.S. Customs and Border Protection does not keep figures for how many migrants are found injured near the base of the structure and taken to hospital. But at Scripps Mercy Hospital, a few miles north of Tijuana, Mexico, there has been a surge in admissions. Between 2016 and 2020 it was not uncommon to have a month with no border wall fallers there. In 2020 there were a total of just 34. But the numbers started to rise dramatically at the beginning of 2021 when Biden took office. By September last year it reached 55 in a month, and the total number of seriously injured fallers taken to the hospital in 2022 was 239. Across San Diego County - which has two trauma centers for border wall fallers - the annual number of serious injuries has risen from about 40 to 400 - a 1,000 percent increase.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12610499/Number-migrants-hospitalized-falling-border-wall-skyrocketed-1-000-PERCENT-Joe-Biden-sheer-volume-climbers-trying-America.html?ITO=applenews-us>

‘Absurd’ Inspections Halt 19,000 Trucks at Texas-Mexico Border

By Andrea Navarro, Bloomberg, October 9, 2023

- ❖ Texas Governor Greg Abbott’s border-security crackdown is clogging up commercial crossings, leaving at least 19,000 trucks loaded with \$1.9 billion of goods stuck waiting in Mexico. “Absurd” safety inspections are causing wait times as long as 24 hours in lines that stretch for 23 kilometers (14 miles), Mexico’s biggest trucking group said in a statement Oct. 8. The holdup makes it exceedingly difficult for businesses to manage supply chains, it said. Texas announced a renewed push for cargo-truck inspections last month as part of Abbott’s “Operation Lone Star” plan to deter illegal border crossings and drug smuggling amid what he says is a lack of enforcement by the federal government. His administration did the same in April 2022, prompting protests from business interests on both sides of the border. The inspections were halted a week later after Texas officials said they’d reached security agreements with their Mexican state counterparts across the border. The measure “doesn’t help the region’s development and puts at risk tens of thousands of jobs in Mexico and in the US,” the trucking association said. “We reiterate our call to the ministries of Foreign Affairs and Economy to exhaust all diplomatic channels and spaces for dialogue to demand that the Texas government put an end to this measure.” At mid-morning on Monday, October 9, there was a 240-minute wait time for commercial vehicles to cross the Ysleta bridge in El Paso, according to government figures. About \$443 billion in electronics, fruit, nuts and machinery crossed into the US via Texas-Mexico ports of entry in 2021, according to the Texas Center for Border and Economic Enterprise Development at Texas A&M International University in Laredo. Texas has more than two dozen international bridges that link to the Mexican states of Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon, Coahuila and Chihuahua.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/absurd-inspections-halt-19-000-trucks-at-texas-mexico-border/ar-AA1hVUgQ?cvid=3120b7410e6c4dafbb78caeaacbf7829&ocid=winp2fptaskbar&ei=17>

Lawsuit seeks to stop Chicago from using public buildings to house migrants

By Kade Heather, Chicago Sun-Times, October 4, 2023

- ❖ South Shore residents have re-filed a lawsuit that aims to stop the city from housing asylum-seekers in public buildings such as police stations and schools. The lawsuit, filed Sept. 26 by Natasha Dunn, Jimmy Darnell Jones and other residents, seeks wider relief in addition to their initial case filed in May, which sought to stop the former South Shore High School from being turned into a shelter for migrants. It names the city of Chicago, Mayor Brandon Johnson and Chicago Public Schools as defendants. The residents voluntarily dropped the first lawsuit after learning the former high school wouldn’t be used to house asylum-seekers, who have been arriving by bus from Texas since last year. But after hearing that thousands of migrants would continue to be sent to Chicago, the South Shore residents filed a broader lawsuit in Cook County circuit court, said Frank Avila, an attorney representing the residents. Chicago has scrambled to find housing for more than 17,000 migrants who have arrived in the city since August 2022. Mayor Brandon Johnson plans to establish giant tent cities, or “winterized base camps,” to house new arrivals. The lawsuit argues that the use of public buildings as migrant housing is a nuisance to the community, and also accuses the city of violating zoning ordinances around the former high school and other public areas. The suit calls for an audit of city funding used for migrants and related housing. “The city does not comment on pending litigation,” law department spokesperson Kristen Cabanban said. The new lawsuit adds claims that the move to turn police stations into makeshift shelters, where migrants have been sleeping on floors for months, violates federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards. “They should not be in parks and floors and schools. They should be in residential housing, whether that’s hotels or hostels or apartments or houses or some kind of group living facility,” Avila told the Sun-Times. “It’s not sanitary, it’s not residential living, it’s not humane for the people living there.”
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://chicago.suntimes.com/2023/10/4/23904122/lawsuit-seeks-to-stop-city-from-using-public-buildings-to-house-migrants>

‘Bridge 1’ into Eagle Pass to reopen to traffic on Monday, October 16, CBP says

By Sandra Sanchez, KXAN NBC News Austin, October 16, 2023

- ❖ After nearly a month closure due to a migrant surge in Eagle Pass, Texas, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials said they plan to reopen Bridge 1 to vehicular traffic on October 16. Bridge 1 was closed to vehicular traffic in September so that CBP officers could assist Border Patrol agents and other law enforcement who were processing thousands of migrants per day after they crossed illegally into Eagle Pass. Eagle Pass Mayor Rolando Salinas Jr., said at least \$500,000 was lost in trade and cargo traffic since the bridge shutdown began on September 20.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.kxan.com/border-report/bridge-i-into-eagle-pass-to-reopen-to-traffic-on-monday-cbp-says/>

U.S. reopening facility near southern border to house unaccompanied migrant children

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, October 13, 2023

- ❖ The Biden administration is reopening a former work camp in Carrizo Springs, Texas, to house migrant children who enter the country without their parents as the federal government struggles to accommodate an increase in migration there. The site was equipped to house unaccompanied migrant children in federal custody starting Friday, October 13, U.S. officials said. It will be the second time in less than two months that the Department of Health and Human Services, or HHS, has reopened a so-called "influx care facility" for unaccompanied children, who have been crossing the U.S. southern border in larger numbers in recent weeks. Last month, HHS restarted housing migrant children at another former work camp for oil workers in Pecos, Texas, that was at the center of reports of poor conditions in 2021. HHS received more than 12,000 migrant children in September and 13,000 in August, compared to around 9,400 in July, according to internal HHS data obtained by CBS News. As of Thursday morning, HHS was housing 10,960 unaccompanied minors, a 75% increase from early July, when it had around 6,000 migrant children in its custody, federal figures show.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/immigration-unaccompanied-migrant-children-facility-us-mexico-border-texas/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

Mexico says it has rejected US-funded migrant transit centers

By the Associated Press, October 10, 2023

- ❖ Mexico's president said Tuesday that he rejected a U.S. request to set up migrant transit centers in Mexico. Neighboring Guatemala has set up one such center, where migrants can apply for U.S. work and refugee visas. But President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has so far rejected a U.S. request to set up sites in Mexico, noting he would prefer to have such centers in countries that are the sources of migration, despite the fact that a considerable number of migrants enter the United States from Mexico. López Obrador said that he would raise the subject in a meeting of Latin American leaders he will host later this month, suggesting that the countries might agree to a common plan on such sites. The meeting will be held in the southern Mexico city of Palenque. Among those expected to attend are Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Haiti, Cuba, Costa Rica, Panama and Belize. Migrant transit centers financed by the United States have been set up in Guatemala to receive applications from Central American citizens seeking to apply for work visas, family reunifications or refugee status. The centers are part of a larger migratory strategy aimed at reducing the large number of migrants from Latin American and the Caribbean to the United States.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://apnews.com/article/mexico-migrant-transit-centers-us-a64fe4c26f95a68e6d3b6ddeb3cee49>

Migrant flights to Martha's Vineyard: Political stunt, criminal operation, or humanitarian mission?

By Sharyn Alfonsi, CBS News, October 15, 2023

- ❖ A surge of migrants at the U.S./Mexico border has choked the country's immigration system. Over the last year, about 2 million migrants have been apprehended trying to cross into the U.S. Another 1,500 — seeking asylum — are allowed in every day. Shelters are overflowing, resources are stretched thin and lawmakers seem incapable of fixing it. There is no shortage of dysfunction or drama. But one episode on the border last year caught the attention of law enforcement. You may recall the story of the 50 migrants who were unexpectedly dropped off on the island of Martha's Vineyard, seven miles off the coast of Massachusetts. The migrants all had permission to be in the United States, pending asylum hearings, and were in Texas, but it was Florida officials who arranged the flights north. Tonight, you will hear about the investigation into those flights and why one sheriff says it was more than just a cruel political stunt, he says it was a crime.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/migrant-flights-marthas-vineyard-floride-role-60-minutes-transcript/>
- ❖ Watch the 60 Minutes report: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JXajQOMbSmo>

Some Chicago migrants could end up in St. Louis amid efforts to boost jobs, stem population loss

By Esther Yoon-Ji Kang, Chicago Sun-Times, October 18, 2023

- ❖ As Chicago officials scramble to shelter and find solutions for thousands of migrants who need housing and jobs, groups in St. Louis are looking to move some of those asylum-seekers there, modeling the program on similar efforts in recent years involving Afghan refugees. The nonprofit International Institute of St. Louis is working with unions and philanthropic leaders to resettle possibly thousands of Latin American migrants in their city to bolster St. Louis's workforce and stem its population decline. Since August 2022, thousands of migrants have arrived in Chicago, most of them from Venezuela. The crush of new arrivals has seen many families living temporarily at police stations and O'Hare Airport. The city estimates that it could spend \$343.7 million on migrants by the end of the year, even as buses bringing more migrants continue to arrive.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://chicago.suntimes.com/2023/10/18/23922370/migrants-resettlement-stlouis-chicago-international-institute-st-louis-karlos-ramirez-asylum-seekers>

Latin American Leaders Hold Summit on Migration

By VOA News, October 22, 2023

- ❖ A dozen Latin leaders gathered Sunday in Mexico to discuss how to confront complicated and huge illegal migration flows, mostly to the United States. This year alone, 1.7 million migrants arrived at the Mexican-U.S. border. And the migration is becoming a huge political hot potato in both North American nations, which each have presidential elections next year. September alone saw 60,000 migrants arrive in Mexico from Venezuela, along with 35,000 Guatemalans and 27,000 Hondurans, according to the Mexican government.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.voanews.com/a/latin-american-leaders-hold-summit-on-migration-7322092.html>

Texas installing concertina wire along New Mexico border

By Armando Garcia, ABC News, October 18, 2023

- ❖ Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has ordered the state's National Guard to install a barrier in some parts along the Texas/New Mexico state line. Officials say guard members have been placing concertina wire in an area close to Sunland Park, New Mexico, which shares a border with El Paso, Texas. Abbott says the barrier is meant to deter migrants who cross from Mexico into New Mexico before heading to El Paso. The Texas Military Department, Department of Public Safety, and the governor's office did not answer when asked how much of the planned 18-mile-long wire fencing has been placed and if more is planned.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/texas-installing-concertina-wire-new-mexico-border/story?id=104056805>