



Federal Reserve
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Cracking Down on the Immigration Surge

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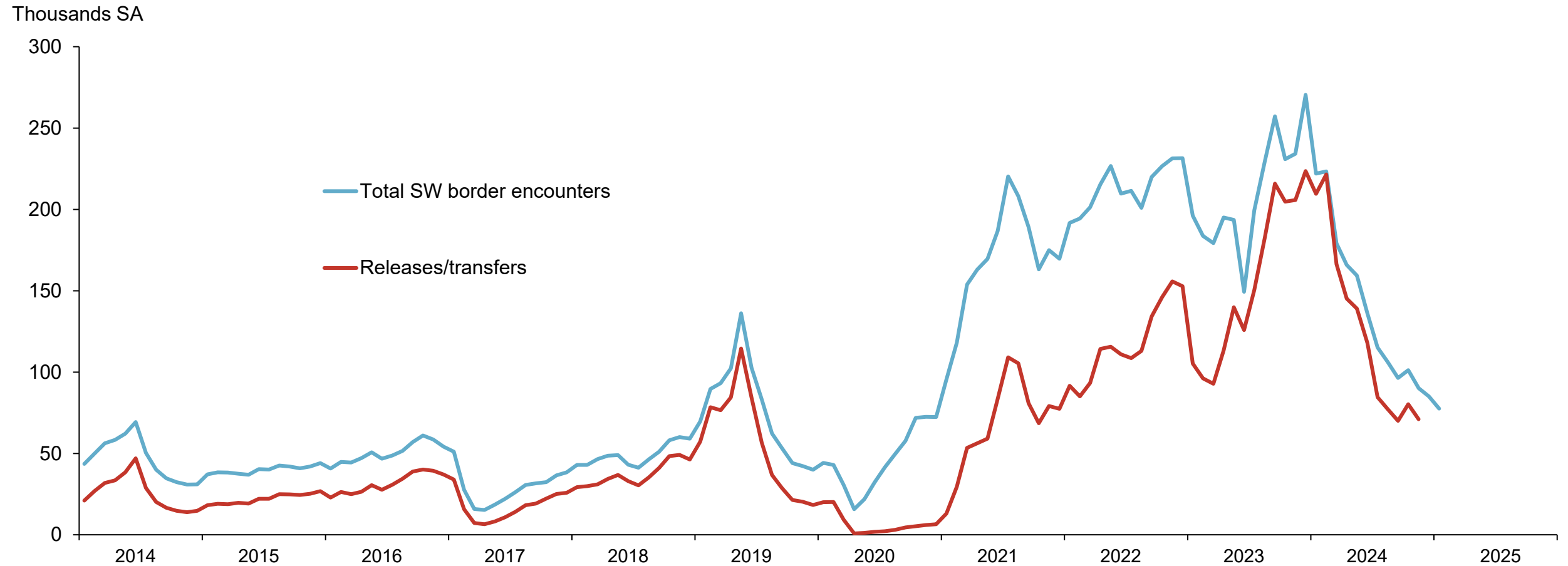
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Overview

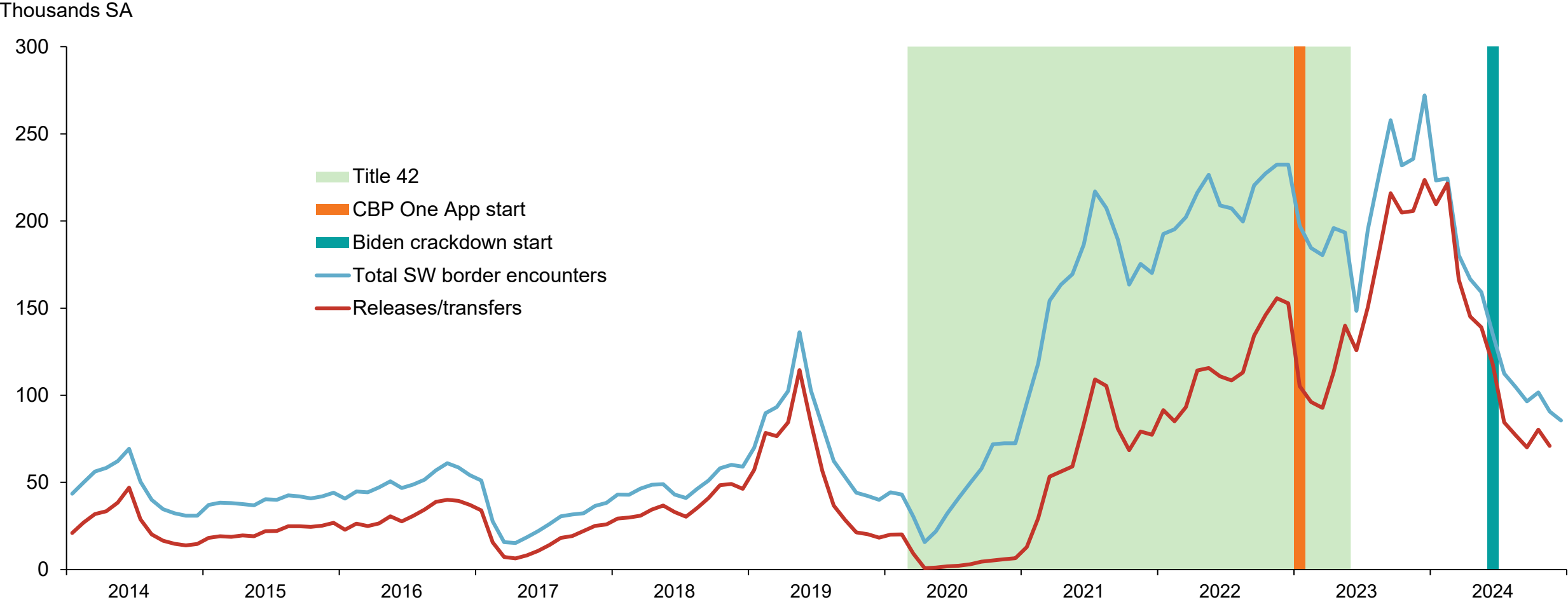
- Post pandemic immigration surge resulted in record-high immigration 2021-24
 - Welcoming US immigration policies played a role
 - But migrant encounters are now down 65 percent
- Surge migrants were unlike prior border migration waves
 - “Legal”: Allowed in under asylum and parole; Issued work permits
 - “New origins”: Relatively large shares from South America and the Caribbean
 - “Lack of networks”: An unusually high share lacked networks, bused to destinations that lacked support structures
- Crackdown on migration began in late 2023 with help from Mexico
 - Biden issues asylum ban in June 2024
 - Trump inauguration: ICE goal 1200-1500 arrests/day
 - So far, ICE arrests are up but still lag expectations

Border immigration surge is largely over after yielding over 5.5 million entries



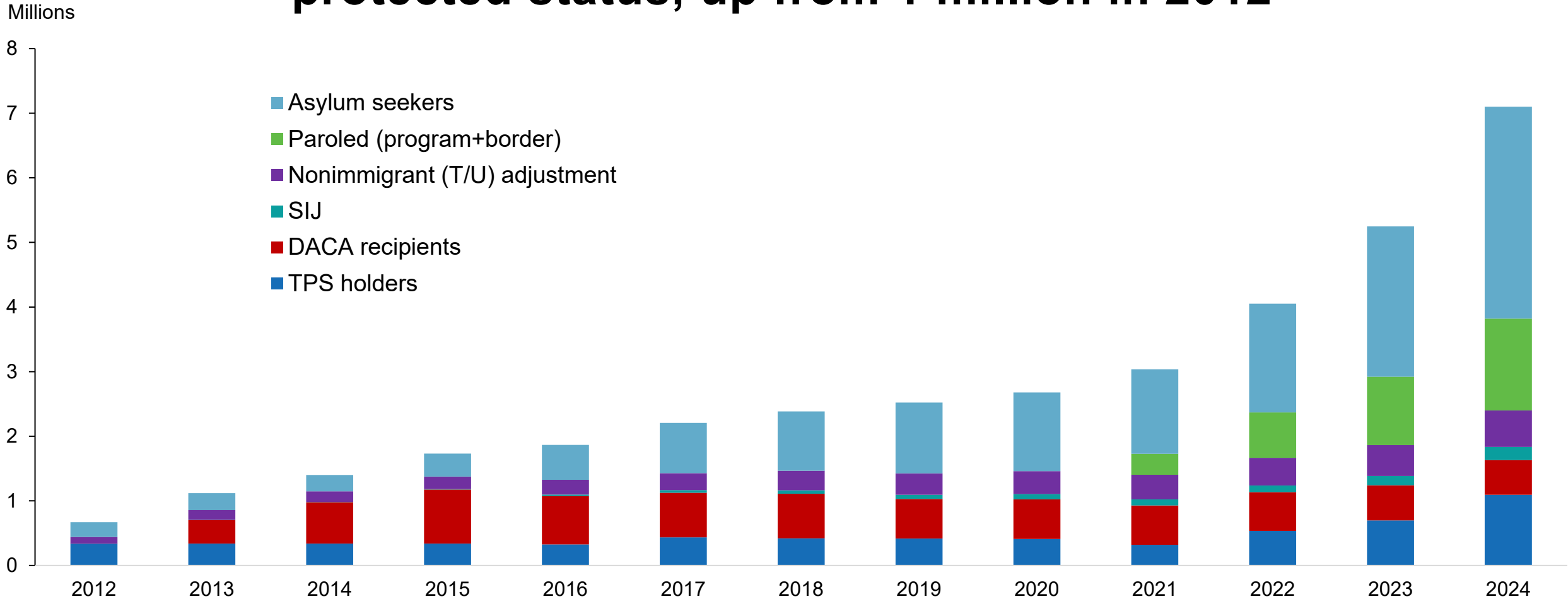
NOTE: Encounters through January 2025, released/transferred data through November 2024. Total encounters include those between ports of entry and those at ports of entry.
SOURCE: Department of Homeland Security.

Several post-pandemic policies facilitated surge migration



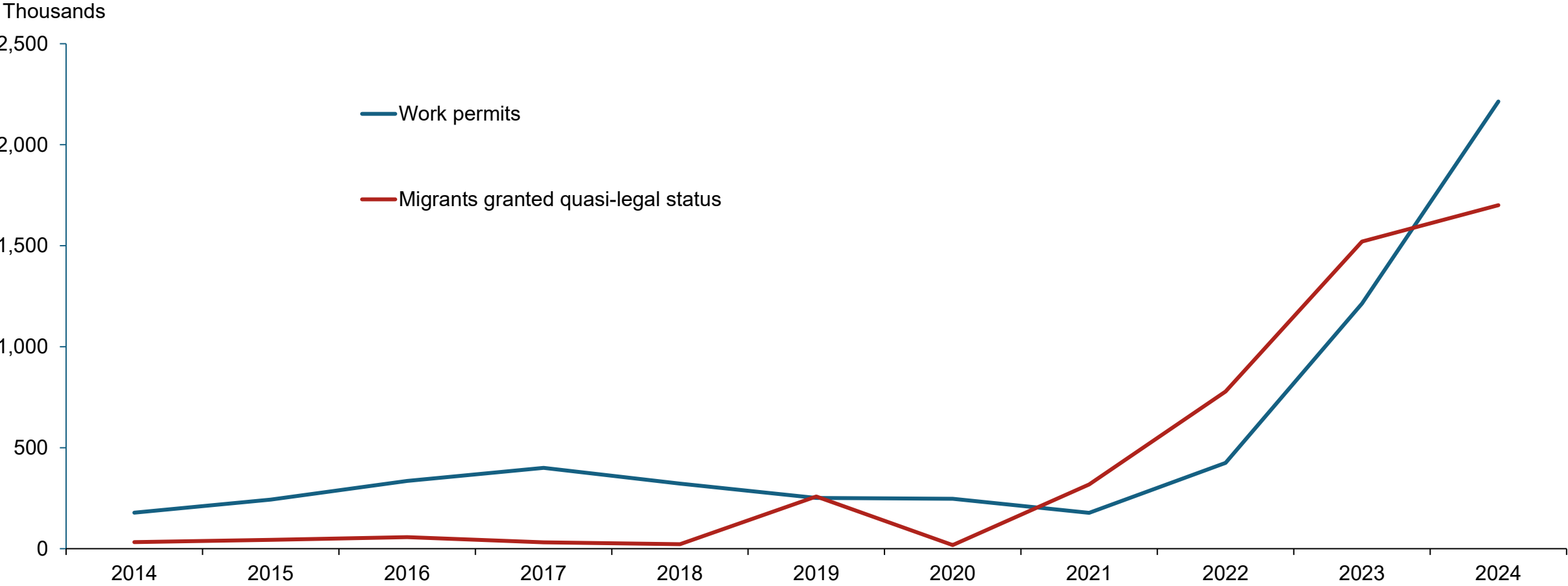
NOTE: Encounters through December 2024, released/transferred data through November 2024. CBP One App shows the introductory month and is in effect through the end of the series. Biden crackdown shows the beginning of the policy, which is in effect through the end of the series. Title 42 ran from March 2020 to May 2023. SOURCE: Department of Homeland Security.

Over 7 million immigrants have some form of temporarily protected status, up from 1 million in 2012



SOURCE: Connor, Phillip. 2024. "Protected yet undocumented: The US case of growing liminal immigration status and the theoretical, advocacy and policy implications for the US and Beyond." *International Migration Review*.

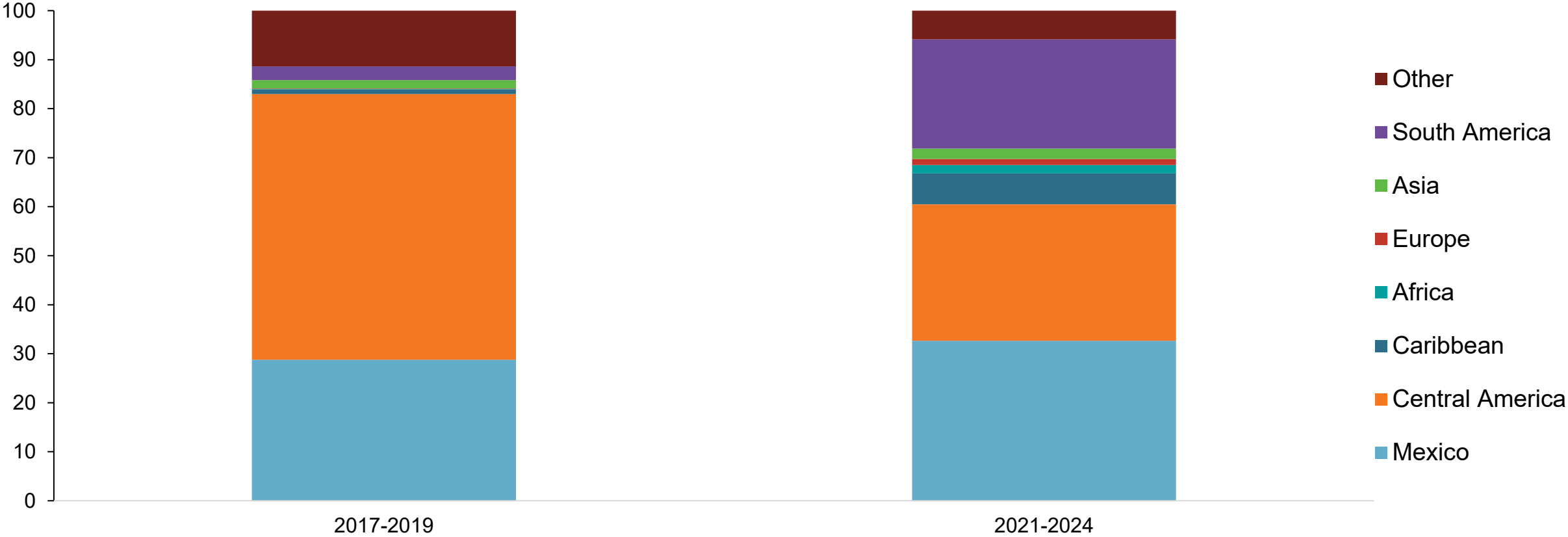
Surge migrants eligible for and issued work permits



NOTE: Data is for the fiscal year. Work permits are first time issuances for parolees, asylum seekers and TPS.
SOURCES: Department of Homeland Security; USCIS.

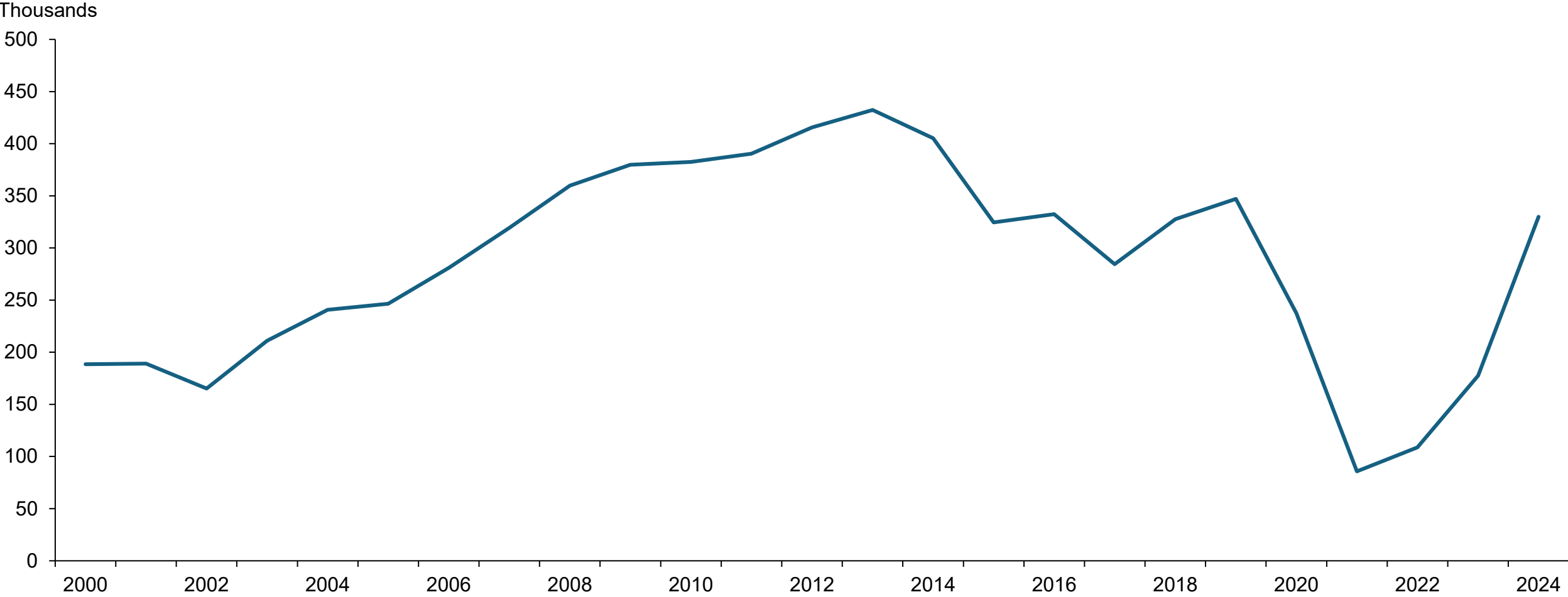
Origins of post-pandemic surge migrants point to greater flows out of South America and the Caribbean

Share of border encounters



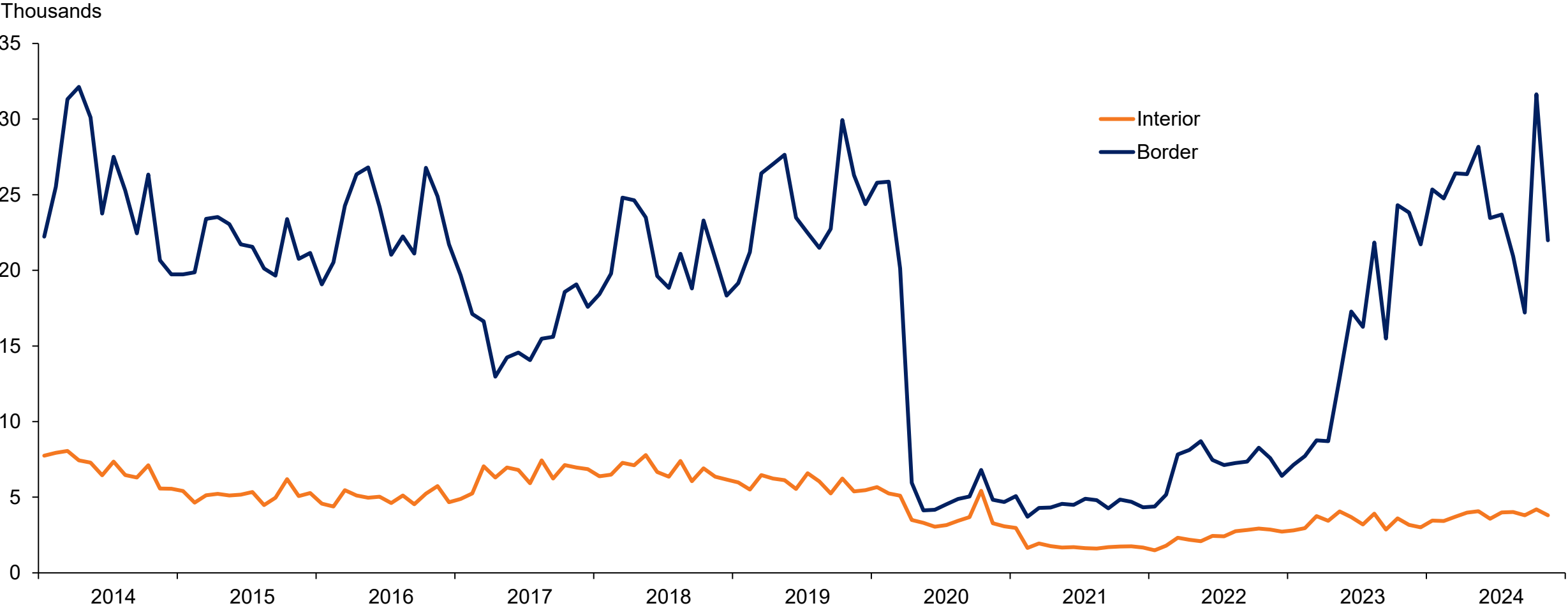
NOTE: Southwest border encounters. Data are for the fiscal year.
SOURCES: Department of Homeland Security

Migrant removals rose in 2024 but remained below the prior peak



NOTE: Data are for the fiscal year.
SOURCES: Department of Homeland Security.

Interior removals low and steady post-pandemic



NOTE: Data are monthly and end in November 2024.

SOURCES: Department of Homeland Security.

ICE arrests spike in January, February 2025



NOTE: Data are monthly ICE book ins and end in February 2025. Data until September 2018 from DHS, data from October 2018 through February 8, 2025, from TRAC. February 2025 monthly number extrapolated based on first 8 days.

SOURCES: Department of Homeland Security, Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC).

Outlook for speed and extent of crackdown

- Hard to find and arrest people
 - Make more people undocumented
 - Allow arrests in schools, churches and immigration courtrooms
 - Pull resources from other agencies; rely on local law enforcement
- Once migrant arrested: no detention space, no funding
 - Use military bases, prisons in other countries; more funding on the way
- Removal proceedings tend to be lengthy, complex
 - Expand expedited removal
 - Encourage self deportation
- Likely outcomes
 - Pace of arrests and removals will increase but likely not to desired levels
 - There will be a larger, more entrenched and shadowy undocumented population
 - More off-the-books employment; less access to schools, healthcare; more victimization



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