

# **The Impact of U.S. Migrant Returnees on Socioeconomic Conditions in Latin American Countries of Origin**

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## **Abstract**

While changes in U.S. deportation policies have remained a key component of scholarly discussion in the field of migration, the impact of these shifts on countries of origin has received significantly less attention. In the last 15 years, Latin American migrants have accounted for over 90% of individuals removed from the United States. Furthermore, from 1997 to 2016, 5.7 million people were deported from the U.S.— twice the total of all deportations from the United States previously. Accordingly, this study examines the challenges that Latin American countries of origin face in receiving migrant returnees from the United States. Using a mixed methods approach, the research examines observable impacts on socioeconomic indicators such as employment, education, crime, and remittances. First, through quantitative analysis of U.S. Department of Homeland Security data on removals alongside key socioeconomic indicators from the University of Gothenburg’s Quality of Governance dataset, the study examines possible correlations between U.S. removals and changes in socioeconomic conditions in Latin American countries of origin from 2003 to 2022. The qualitative portion consists of interviews conducted in Mexico City with individuals working in and around returnee reintegration about their observations of the challenges associated with reintegrating returnees into socioeconomic systems. This study contributes to a more accurate narrative on the experiences of returnees, reintegration professionals, and countries of origin, lending additional nuance to scholarly discussion on U.S.-Latin American migration dynamics.