

## Immigration Enforcement Under Obama Returns to Highs of Bush Era

Agency	Prosecutions
<b>Customs and Border Protection</b>	7,822
<b>Immigration and Customs Enforcement</b>	2,119
<b>Citizenship and Immigration Services</b>	165
<b>Other</b>	13
<b>Total</b>	10,119

Table 1: DHS Immigration and Customs  
Criminal Prosecutions, April 2010

The latest available data from the Justice Department show that criminal immigration enforcement by the two largest investigative agencies within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has increased to levels comparable to the highest seen during the Bush Administration.

The government reported that during April 2010 there were 7,822 new prosecutions referred by Customs and Border Protection (CBP), following 7,090 prosecutions in March. The total of 14,912 is the highest two-month total since September and October of 2008, when the combined figure was 16,127.

In addition, there were 2,119 new criminal prosecutions referred by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in April 2010, following a March figure of 2,026. The combined two-month total of 4,145 is the highest recorded since the creation of the agency in 2005. This surpasses previous highs of 3,777 in July and August of 2008 and 3,787 in July and August of 2009.

The comparisons of the number of defendants charged are based on case-by-case information obtained by TRAC under the Freedom of Information Act from the Executive Office for United States Attorneys (see Table 1).

ICE and CBP are the largest investigative agencies within the Department of Homeland Security. Other key units in DHS include the the Transportation and Security Administration (TSA), Secret Service (SS) and United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

The increase in prosecutions for these matters is shown more clearly in Figures 1 and 2. The vertical bars in Figure 1 represent the number of prosecutions referred by CBP since October 2005. The superimposed line on the bars plots a two-month moving average so that natural fluctuations are smoothed out.



		2010	2010	2010	2010	2009	2009	2010
<b>U.S.</b>		7,822	7,090	5,383	4,762	5,443	5,294	45%
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>1</b>	2,547	2,510	1,733	1,729	1,614	2,355	47%
<b>Texas, S</b>	<b>2</b>	2,254	1,826	1,584	1,281	1,896	1,688	42%
<b>Texas, W</b>	<b>3</b>	1,815	1,551	1,197	936	1,288	543	52%
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>4</b>	700	649	454	392	269	307	54%
<b>California, S</b>	<b>5</b>	343	382	321	308	263	275	7%
<b>Southwest Border</b>		7,659	6,918	5,289	4,646	5,330	5,168	45%
<b>Non-SW Border</b>		163	172	94	116	113	126	73%
<b>% Southwest</b>		98%	98%	98%	98%	98%	98%	

Table 2: Top Districts for CBP Prosecution Referrals

In contrast, ICE activity was spread through the U.S. with the southwest border districts accounting for less than half of prosecutions referred by that agency. While the southwest border districts showed a jump of one third, the rest of the nation showed an even larger increase (51%) from the levels seen two months earlier (see Table 3).

Location	District Rank	Number of ICE Prosecutions						Percent Change Feb to Apr 2010
		Apr 2010	Mar 2010	Feb 2010	Jan 2010	Dec 2009	Nov 2009	
<b>U.S.</b>		2,119	2,026	1,495	1,301	1,514	1,422	42%
<b>Texas, S</b>	<b>1</b>	290	242	193	170	153	186	50%
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>2</b>	228	226	174	138	198	104	31%
<b>Texas, W</b>	<b>3</b>	181	184	174	131	213	145	4%
<b>California, S</b>	<b>4</b>	172	167	123	97	99	121	40%
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>5</b>	100	67	72	57	75	56	39%
<b>Southwest Border</b>		971	886	736	593	738	612	32%
<b>Non-SW Border</b>		1,148	1,140	759	708	776	810	51%
<b>% Southwest</b>		46%	44%	49%	46%	49%	43%	

Table 3: Top Districts for ICE Prosecution Referrals