

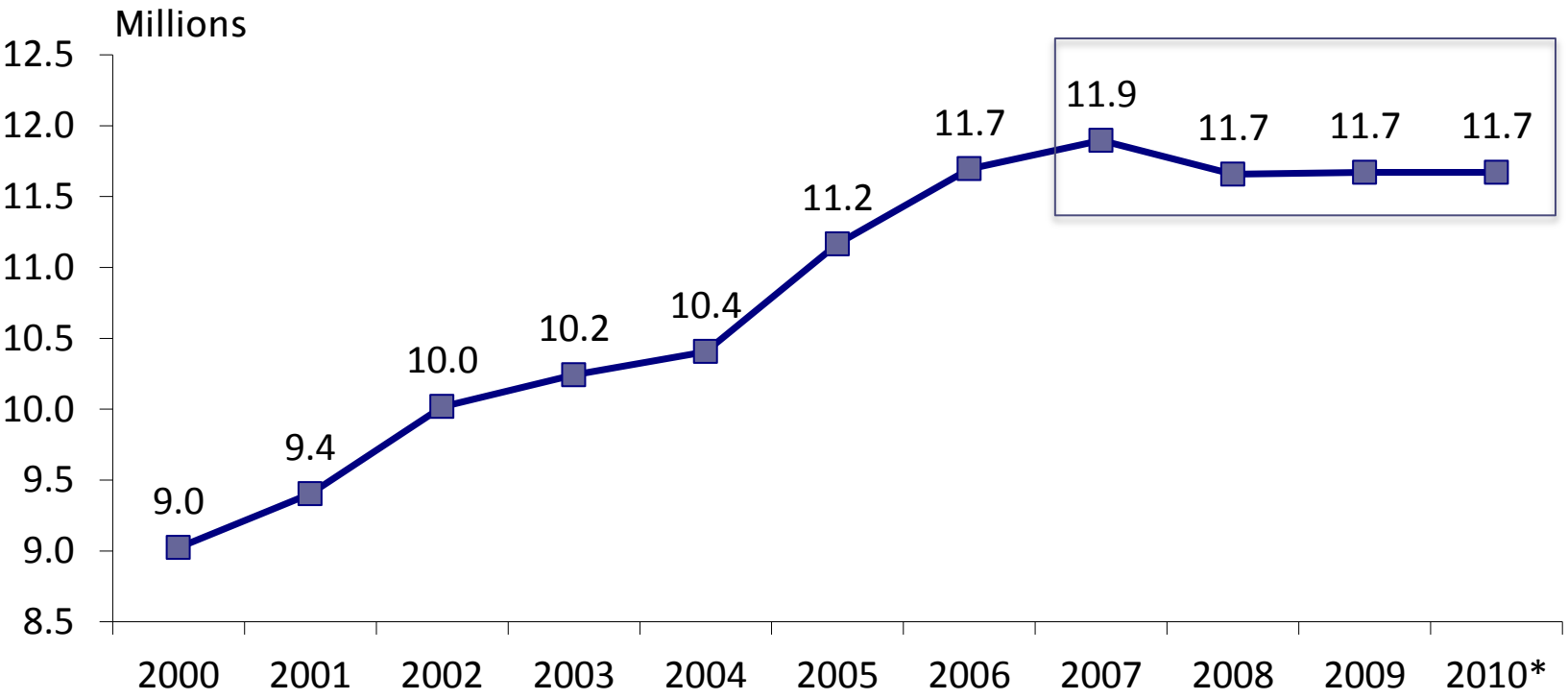
RECENT TRENDS IN MEXICAN MIGRATION TO US



Carlos Galindo

OIM Workshop 12.09.2011

Mexican immigrant population in US, 2000-2010

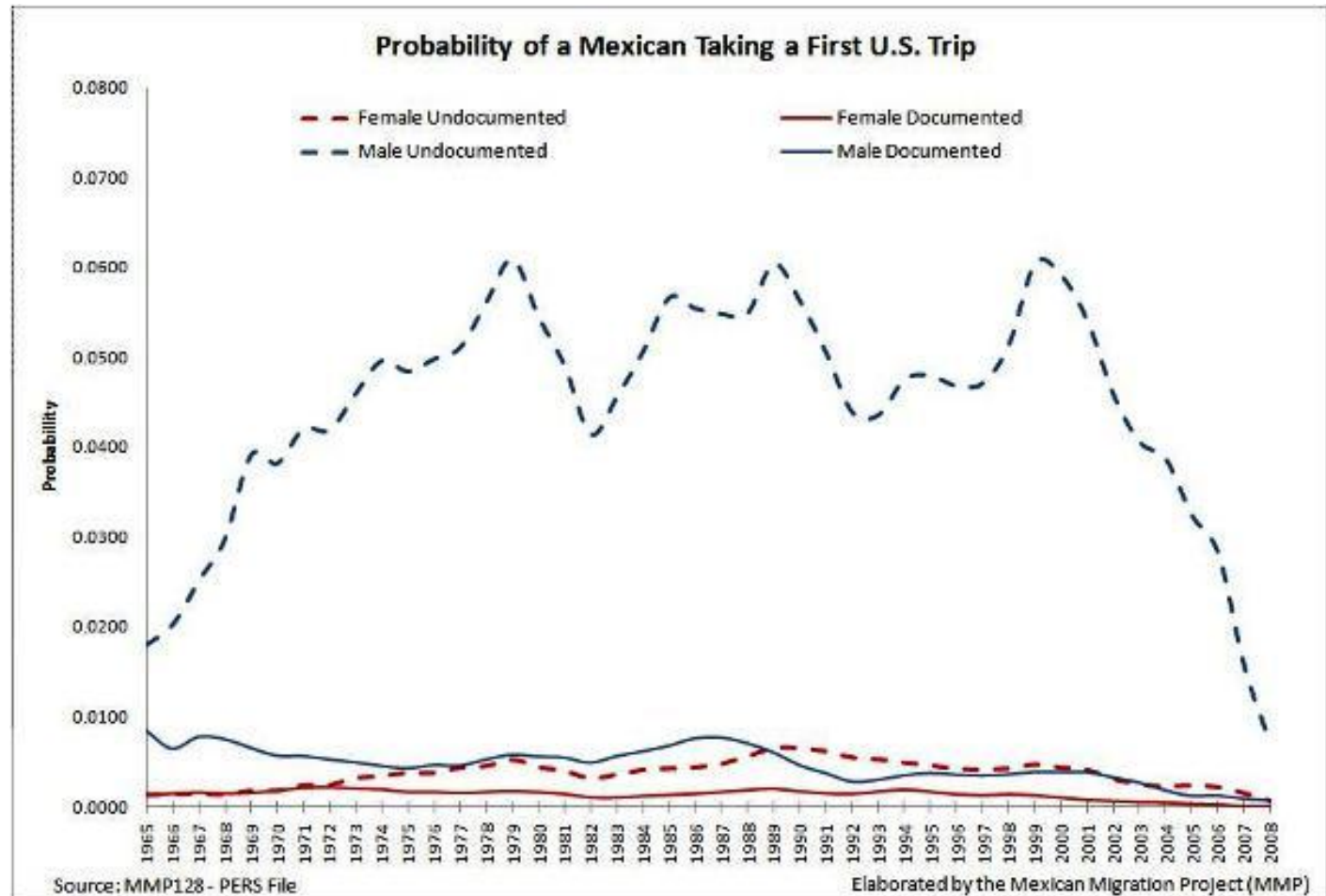


Note * : preliminary figure, US Census Bureau

Source: US Census Bureau, *American Community Survey (ACS)*, 2000-2009.

Mexican population residing in US (long-term immigrants) stopped growing in recent years... as if there were no more Mexican net migration to US

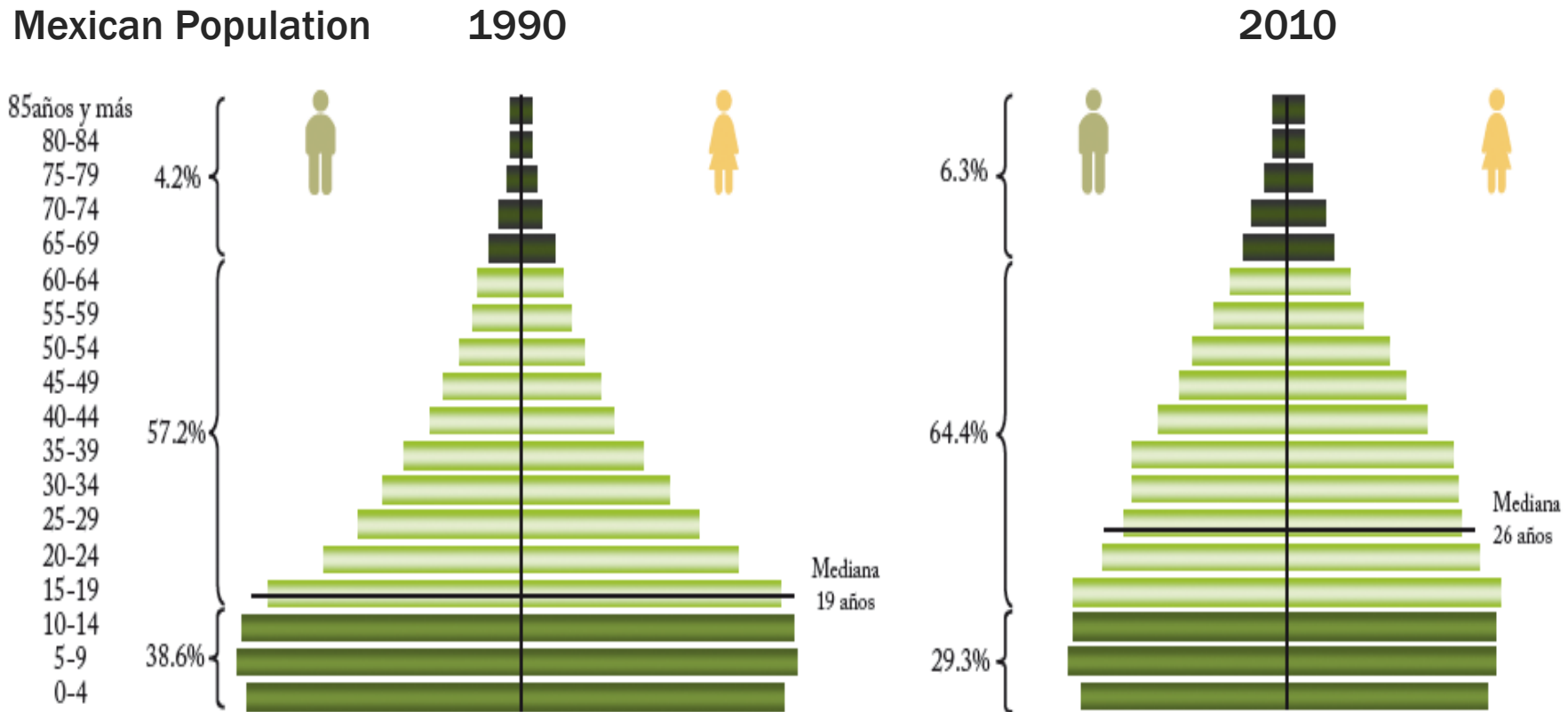
Different sources support this impression



“No one wants to hear it, but the flow has already stopped,” Mr. Massey said, referring to illegal traffic. “For the first time in 60 years, the net traffic has gone to zero and is probably a little bit negative” (*New York Times*, July 2011)

Is demographic pressure coming to an end in Mexico?

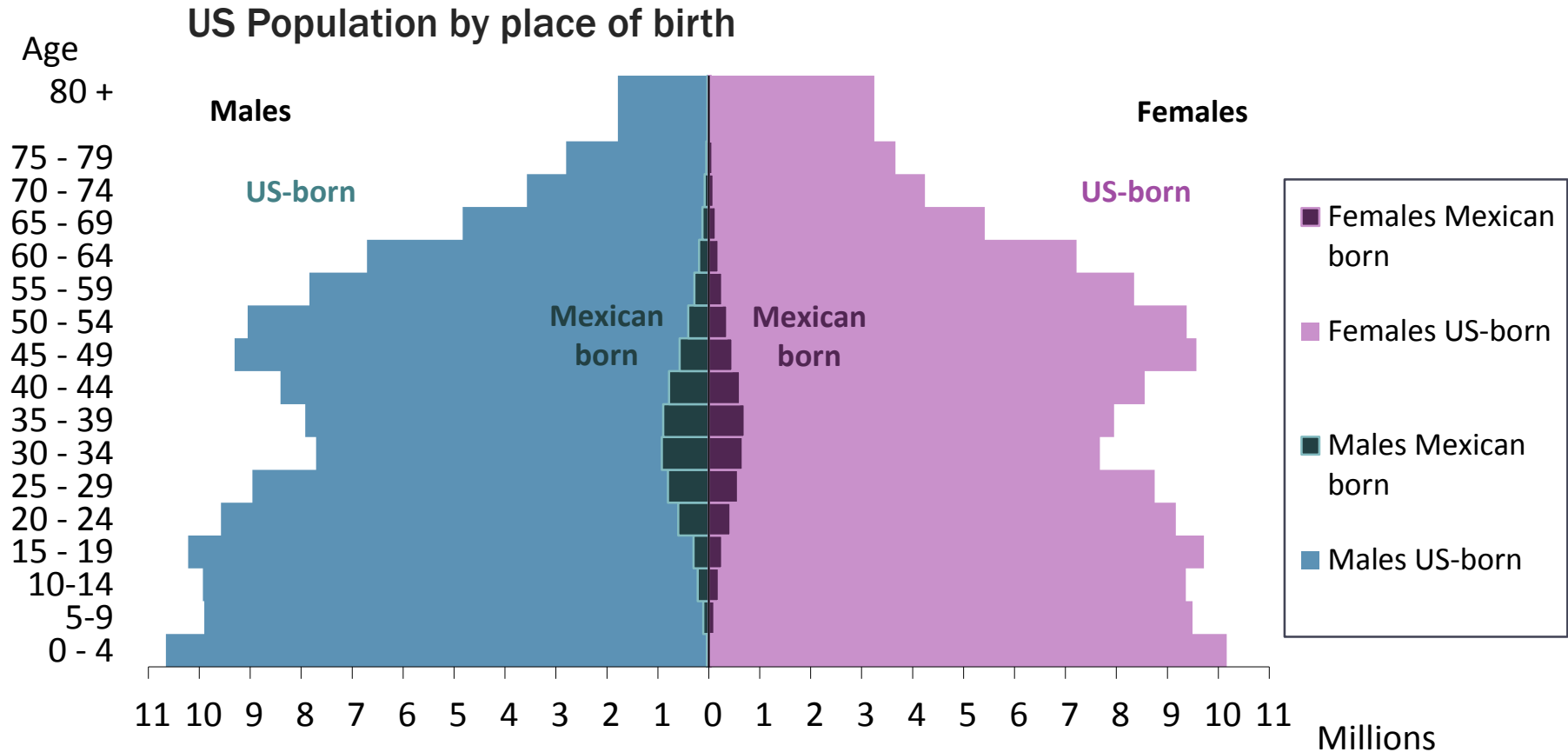
Mexican Population



Source: Insituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía, Censos de Población y Vivienda, 1990 y 2010

“In [Mexican] states with long histories of emigration, the effects of cohort size on emigration are relatively strong...” (Hanson and McIntosh, 2008)

Demographic complementarities among labor forces ended?

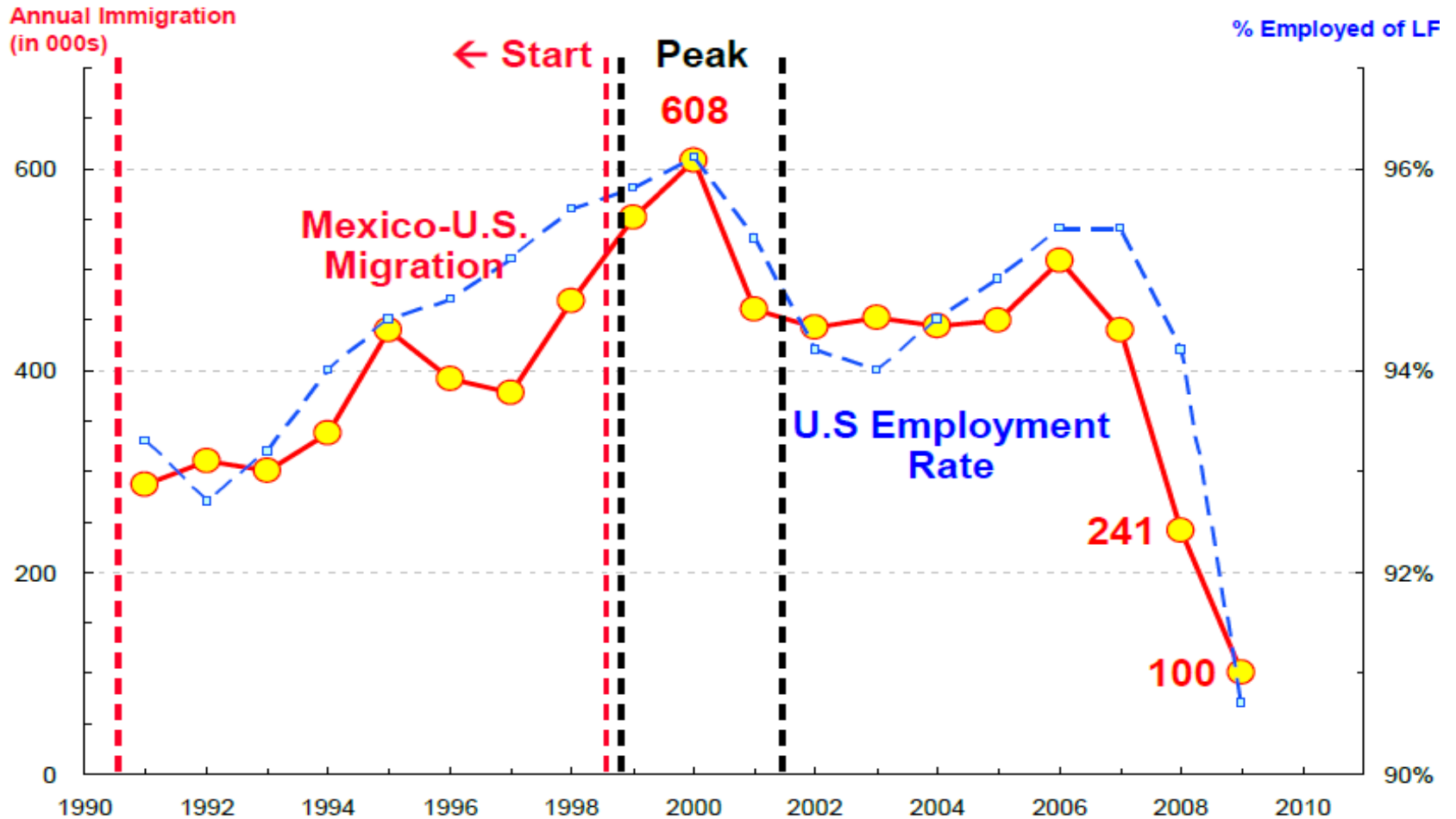


Source: U.S. Census Bureau , *American Community Survey*, 2009.

Mexican immigrants accumulate in age groups where U.S. labor force is diminished

Have economic crisis ended labor market *de facto* integration?

Mexican long-term migration to US and US Employment Rate, 1990-2010



Source: preeliminary figures, J. Passel, Pew Hispanic Center

As surprising as it may be, some researchers had anticipated this change

“High levels of Mexico-US migration between 1995 and 2005 should not obscure the fact that migration may soon diminish for demographic and economic reasons.

A combination of the sharp drop in Mexican fertility in the 1980s and 1990s, economic and job growth, and the near completion of the exodus out of agriculture should reduce Mexico-US migration after 2005, just when the US build-up along the border is nearing completion.

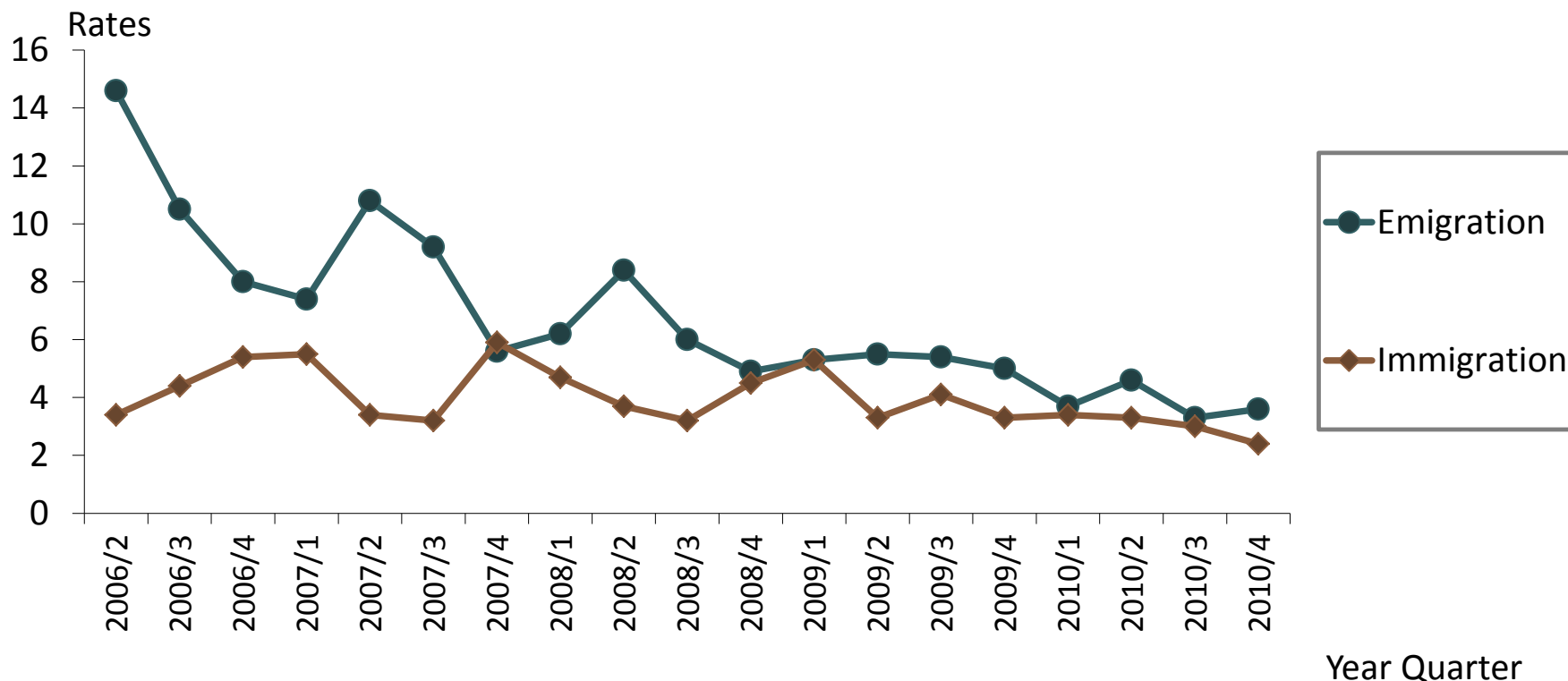
If this occurs, analysts must be careful to credit the demographic and economic factors that reduce migration pressure, not the border controls whose completion happened to coincide with diminished migration flows.”

- Philip Martin (2003) WP, UN University



Even if *net migration* is close to zero, mobility continues

Mexican emigration and immigration rates, 2006-2010



Source: Insituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía, Encuesta Nacional de Ocupación y Empleo 2006-2010

Mexican emigration flows are now mostly composed by authorized traditional migrants. Whereas Immigration flows include all sort of migrants, also deported ones.

So, how can we make the pieces fit?

ECONOMIC INTEGRATION:

- * Is it coming to an end?
- * Will it continue?

PROTECTIONIST CHANGE:

- * *e.g.*, American Workers Act
- * Shall Mexico “protect” its markets too?

TEMPORAL MIGRANTS STILL NEEDED:

“The legislation, introduced this week, would allow up to 500,000 foreign nationals a year to work in the fields, replacing the burdensome and inadequate H-2A visa category”

- FORBES, September 2011

PHILIPPINES EXAMPLE:

- * Shall we implement a Migrant Empowerment Program and other positive examples?

Thank you

carlosglx@gmail.com

cgalindo@segob.gob.mx