

Increasing Numbers of Inadmissible Migrants and Paroled Migrants at Ports of Entry

Published Mar 13, 2026

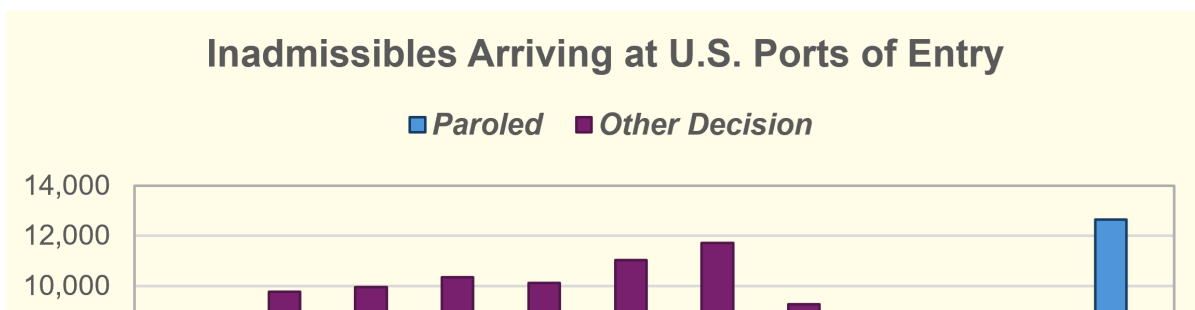
The latest detailed data updated through January 2026 show that ports of entry were encountering an increase in the number of “inadmissibles” – up on average 72 percent during the last 12 months. While numbers are still much lower than during the previous administration, ^[1] the recent trends at ports of entry are noteworthy.

When a noncitizen arrives at a port of entry – whether by air, sea, or land – and does not have a visa or other proper documents allowing them to enter the U.S. (an “inadmissible”), port authorities need to decide how the person should be handled. While the current administration is seeking “mass deportation” and at the border port authorities have the authority to deport the individual directly through expedited removal procedures, the use of expedited removal authority was actually down by 12 percent over the last twelve months. The issuance of Notices to Appear (NTAs) in Immigration Court had also fallen.

Instead, port authorities allowed an increasing number of noncitizens to enter the country through parole. Immigration parole allows noncitizens to temporarily enter and reside in the U.S. without formal admission, usually for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit.^[2] The number of individuals granted immigration parole increased from 3,304 in February 2025 to 12,639 in January 2026.

This latest monthly count has risen above the monthly numbers during the last months of the Biden administration, when the number of noncitizens granted parole was falling. December 2024 saw 5,977 parolees, and January 2025 saw 5,478 as compared with 12,639 a year later under the Trump administration.

Parolees now comprise a record-breaking 61.5 percent of all inadmissibles. Once parolees are subtracted, all other dispositions have actually fallen over the last twelve months. This shift, which became pronounced beginning in October 2025, is shown in Figure 1. Underlying numbers are found in Table 1.



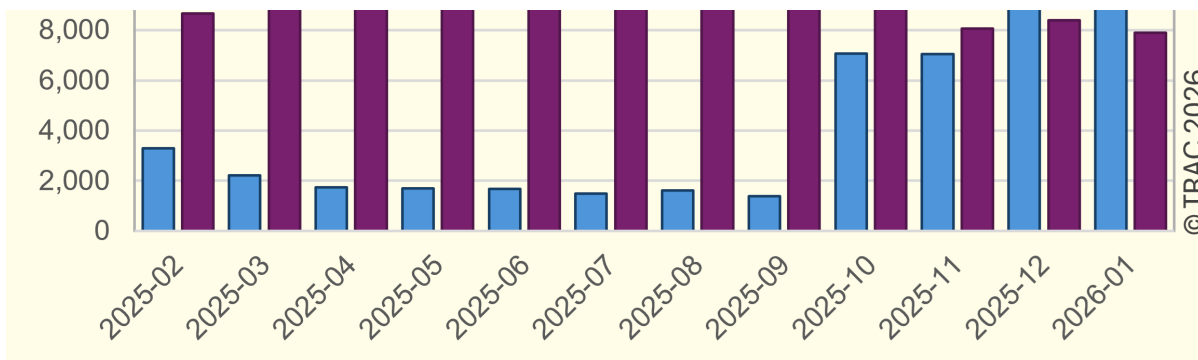


Figure 1. Port Authority Decisions on Inadmissibles Arriving at U.S. Ports of Entry Last 12 Months (Feb 2025 - Jan 2026)

Table 1. Port Authority Decisions on Inadmissibles* Arriving at U.S. Ports of Entry

Month	All Inadmissibles*	Decision		Percent Paroled
		Paroled**	All Other	
2026-01	20,539	12,639	7,900	62%
2025-12	17,308	8,914	8,394	52%
2025-11	15,101	7,042	8,059	47%
2025-10	15,990	7,064	8,926	44%
2025-09	10,655	1,396	9,259	13%
2025-08	13,321	1,611	11,710	12%
2025-07	12,530	1,492	11,038	12%
2025-06	11,799	1,674	10,125	14%
2025-05	12,035	1,697	10,338	14%
2025-04	11,672	1,731	9,941	15%
2025-03	11,979	2,217	9,762	19%
2025-02	11,973	3,304	8,669	28%

*Individuals arriving without adequate documentation to enter. Counts exclude crew members on arriving planes, ships, and vehicles not seeking entry and confined to the port.

**Allows noncitizens to temporarily enter and reside in the U.S. without formal admission, usually for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit.

Grants of Parole by Port Authority Field Offices Vary

The largest number of foreign nationals who sought entry at U.S. ports without proper papers in January 2026 arrived in ports covered by field offices based in New York, Seattle, and San Francisco. Almost every field office experienced growth in the number of inadmissibles. Focusing on just the last three months, only the San Diego field office experienced a decline. At the other extreme, Boston showed the largest increase in inadmissibles of 153 percent. Boston also led rankings in the largest jump in foreign nationals granted immigration parole. The number of parolees at ports under the Boston field office grew by over 600 percent during the last 3 months.

What Countries Are Represented

Not surprisingly, the largest number of individuals who sought to enter the country without adequate documentation came from Mexico and Canada, both of which share a border with the U.S. Together, Mexico and Canada accounted for 40 percent of inadmissibles in January 2026. Individuals from India were in third place, not far behind the number of Canadians. Persons from China were the next largest contributor. No other country accumulated comparable numbers.

The makeup of those who port authorities granted immigration parole for humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit was somewhat different. See Table 1. Topping the list were individuals from India. Eighty-five percent of all individuals from India who sought entry to the U.S. without proper papers were granted parole. Mexico had the second highest number paroled, but they made up less than half of all Mexican inadmissibles. Persons from China had the third largest number who received parole. The percentage of their inadmissibles granted parole was also extremely high – 84 percent.

Table 2. Top 10 Countries on Number of Individuals Granted Parole in January 2026

Citizenship*	Paroled	Total Inadmissibles**	Percent Paroled
All Inadmissibles	12,639	20,539	61.5%
India	2,624	3,086	85.0%
Mexico	2,209	4,860	45.5%
China	2,128	2,519	84.5%
Canada	1,585	3,376	46.9%
Brazil	559	637	87.8%
Colombia	263	419	62.8%
Guatemala	195	269	72.5%
Dominican Republic	187	267	70.0%
United Kingdom	176	321	54.8%
Jamaica	120	149	80.5%

* For numbers for other countries use TRAC's free Inadmissibles web tool.

**Individuals arriving without adequate documentation to enter. Counts exclude crew members on arriving planes, ships, and vehicles not seeking entry and confined to the port.

Conclusion

As the data on decisions made by officials at U.S. ports of entry show, inadmissibility determinations have allowed a growing number of individuals to temporarily enter and reside in the U.S. without formal admission, usually for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. To dig further into all the details, by nationality, time period, age, gender and field

office, use TRAC's online tool, "[Stopping "Inadmissibles" at U.S. Ports of Entry](#)".

Footnotes

[1]^ Earlier TRAC reports provide monthly figures of inadmissibles during previous administrations (see [November 2024](#), [January 2024](#), and [October 2023](#) reports). In this report as in these prior ones, TRAC excludes the crew members since they weren't seeking entry and were confined at the port.

[2]^ Authorized under INA section 212(d)(5)(A), it is a temporary, discretionary status—often lasting 1–3 years — that provides work authorization but does not grant permanent residency. See: https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/humanitarian_parole.

TRAC is a nonpartisan, nonprofit data research project founded in 1989. Its public website has moved from trac.syr.edu to tracreports.org. For more information, contact info@tracreports.org.