

2023

The Political Situation in Nicaragua and International Migration from the Crisis

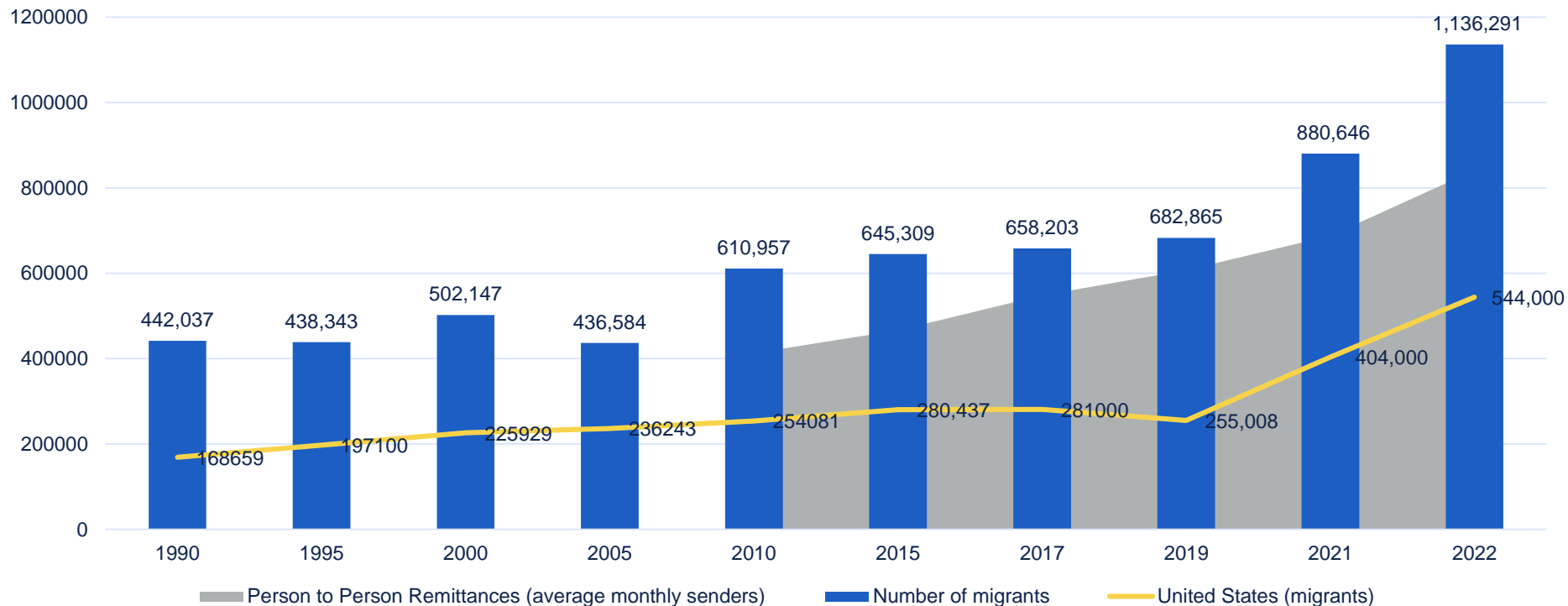
Manuel Orozco





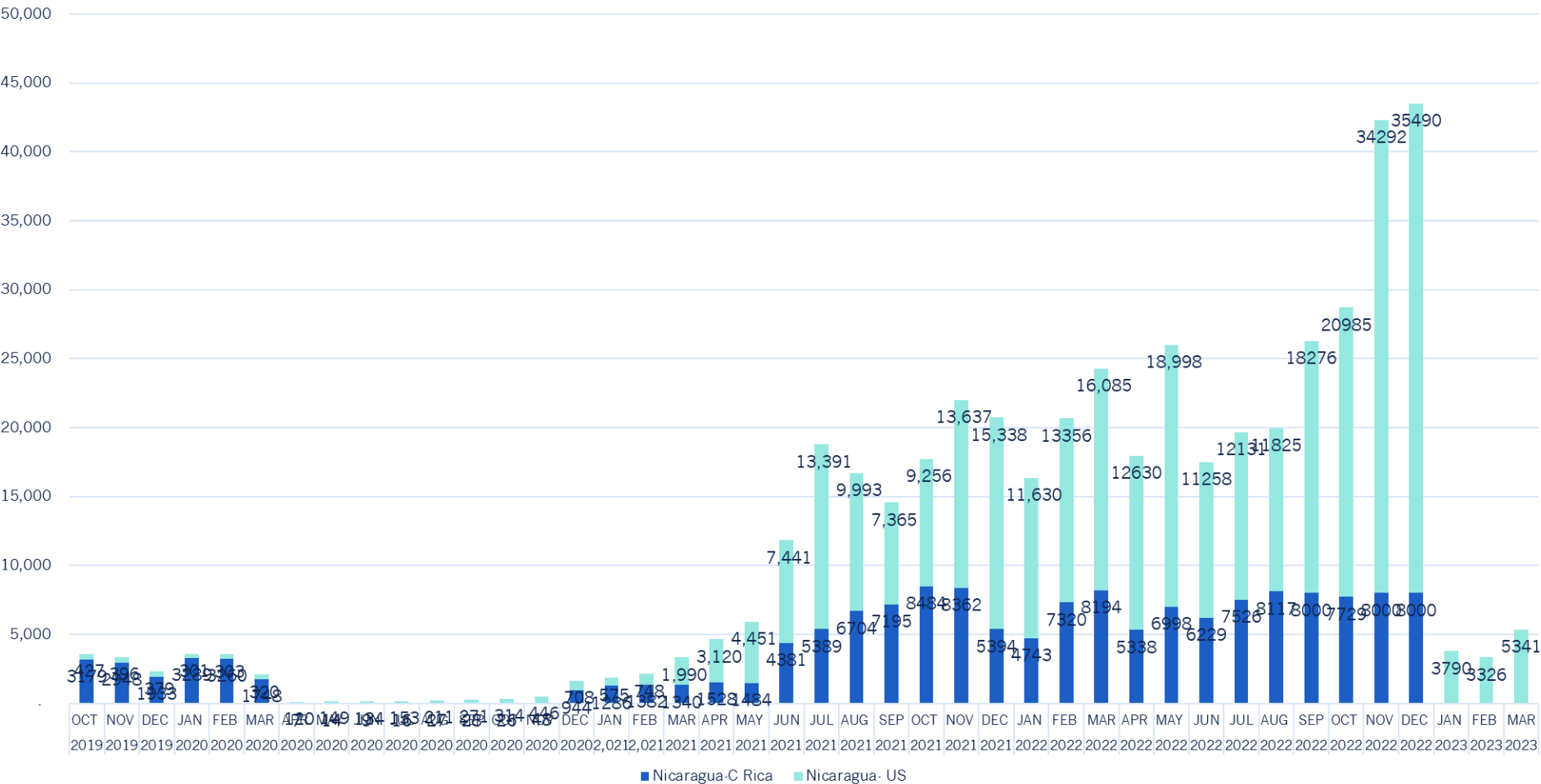
Nicaraguan Migration

Migration Remittance Transactions and Number of Migrants



Source: Nicaragua's Central Bank [remittance flows]; Money transfer companies and surveys of senders

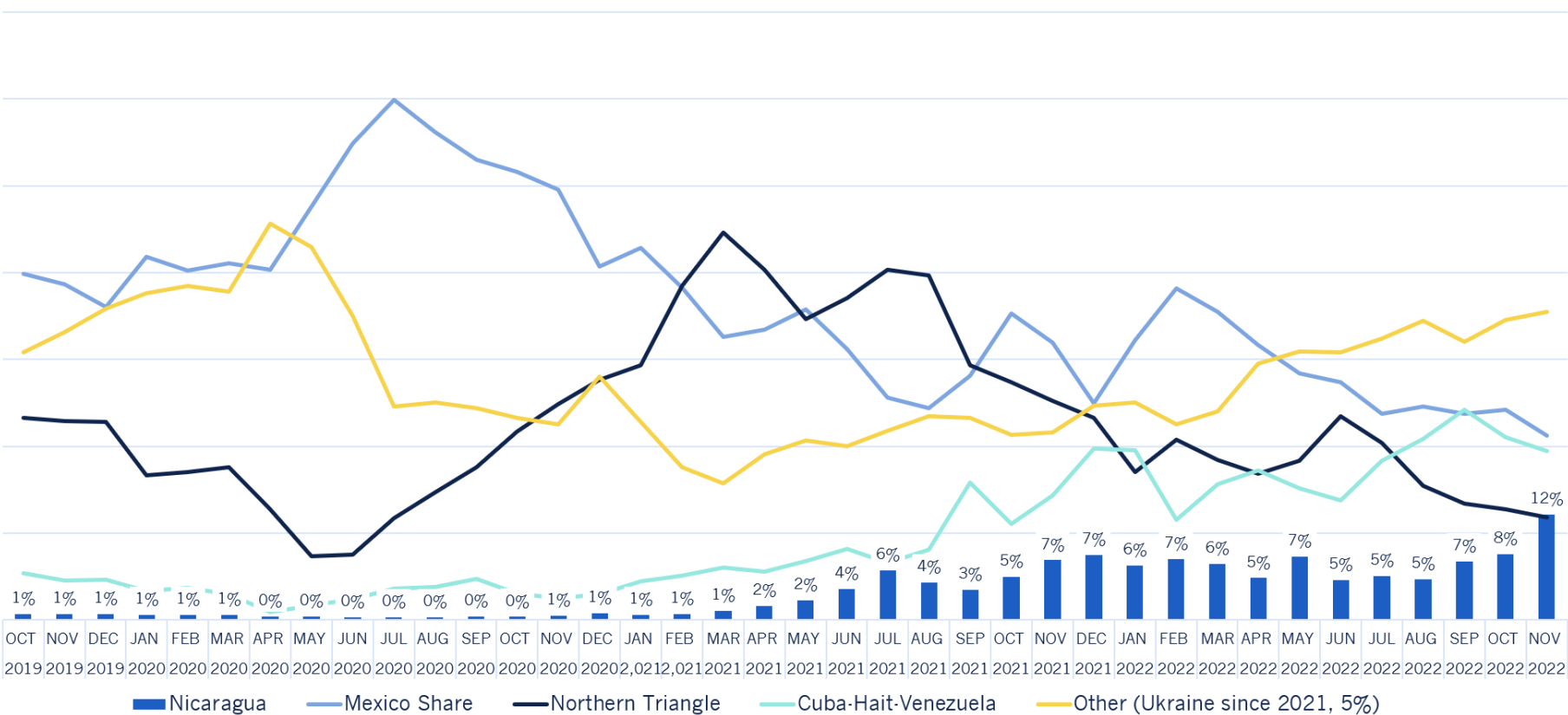
Migration from Nicaragua: apprehensions in the US and refugee applications in Costa Rica



Source: Department of Homeland Security and Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería de Costa Rica

Changing composition of migration: the increase is from Fragile States (as share of total)

Migration to the US-Mexico Border



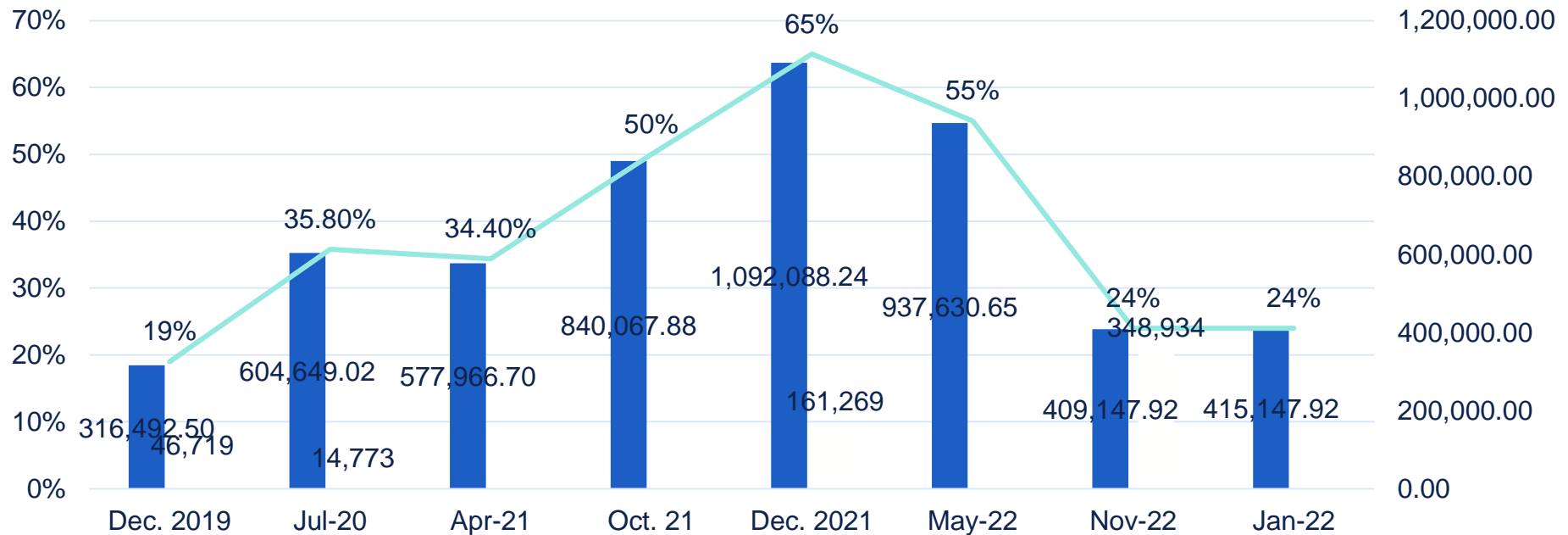
Source: Department of Homeland Security

Migration in Four Years

Year	Costa Rica	United States	Other countries	World	Nicaraguan population	Share of pop.
2019	39,423	1,202	6,094	46,719	6,663,000	0.7%
2020	9,416	3,430	1,927	14,773	6,755,855	0.2%
2021	52,929	87,305	21,035	161,269	6,720,543	2.4%
2022	86,465	216,956	45,513	348,934	6,819,132	5.1%
2019 to 2022	207,056	308,893	74,569	590,518	6,819,132	8.7%

Source: World Bank, DHS, Migracion Costa Rica

Percent of people with an intention to migrate



Source: A Push for Freedom, IAD, 2022

Intention to Migrate in April 2021

- The wish to migrate is a result of the Nicaraguan political crisis and the economic economic deterioration in the country
- Nicaraguan personal income persists at 2017 levels.
- Intention to migrate grew from 19 percent in 2019 to 34 percent in April 2021 to 50 percent in October 2021.
- Determinants of this intention in April 2021 include: unemployment, informally employed, thinking that the economic crisis is the main problem in the country, and not having anything to eat*
- Additionally, thinking there will be fraud in the next elections, and that the poor governance and human rights abuses are the main problems in the country increases the probability of migrating**
- *The odd of migrating increase 2, 1.5, 1.2, and 6 times over these respective economic issues.
- **The odds of migrating among them are 1.5, 2 and 1.4 times over those who think otherwise.

Source: IAD phone opinion survey April 2021 to 1,000 Nicaraguans

Those with less income consider emigrating

	WANT TO MIGRATE	DO NOT WANT TO MIGRATE
Income in córdobas that covers food costs	15,585	16,726
Income in córdobas that does not cover food costs	9438	9863

Source: IAD phone opinion survey April 2021 to 1,000 Nicaraguans

Intention of migrating in October 2021

- Intention of migrating increases positively when:
 - People think that the country is going in the wrong direction,
 - When they don't believe in charges brought by the police against prisoners (+),
 - When they feel the weight of the cost of (+) and
 - When they have less than a university education (+)
 - Being a woman, young, or from the opposition does not positively correlate with the intention of migrating
 - The odds ratios are: cost of living (1.5), unjust charges (2.6), wrong direction (1.9)

Source: CID Gallup opinion survey

Determinants of the Intention of Migrating in January 2023

- Factors that determine the intention of migrating at the end of 2022 are predominantly economic:
 1. Not having as much income to save 1.9 times;
 2. Having money saved increases the intention 4.3 times;
 3. Having a bank account increases the intention 2.3 times;
 4. Thinking that the economic situation is worse in 2022 increases the intention 2 times.
 5. Working for the private sector increases the intention five times, and being unemployed does not.

Source: IAD Online opinion survey January 2023 to 1,000 Nicaraguans



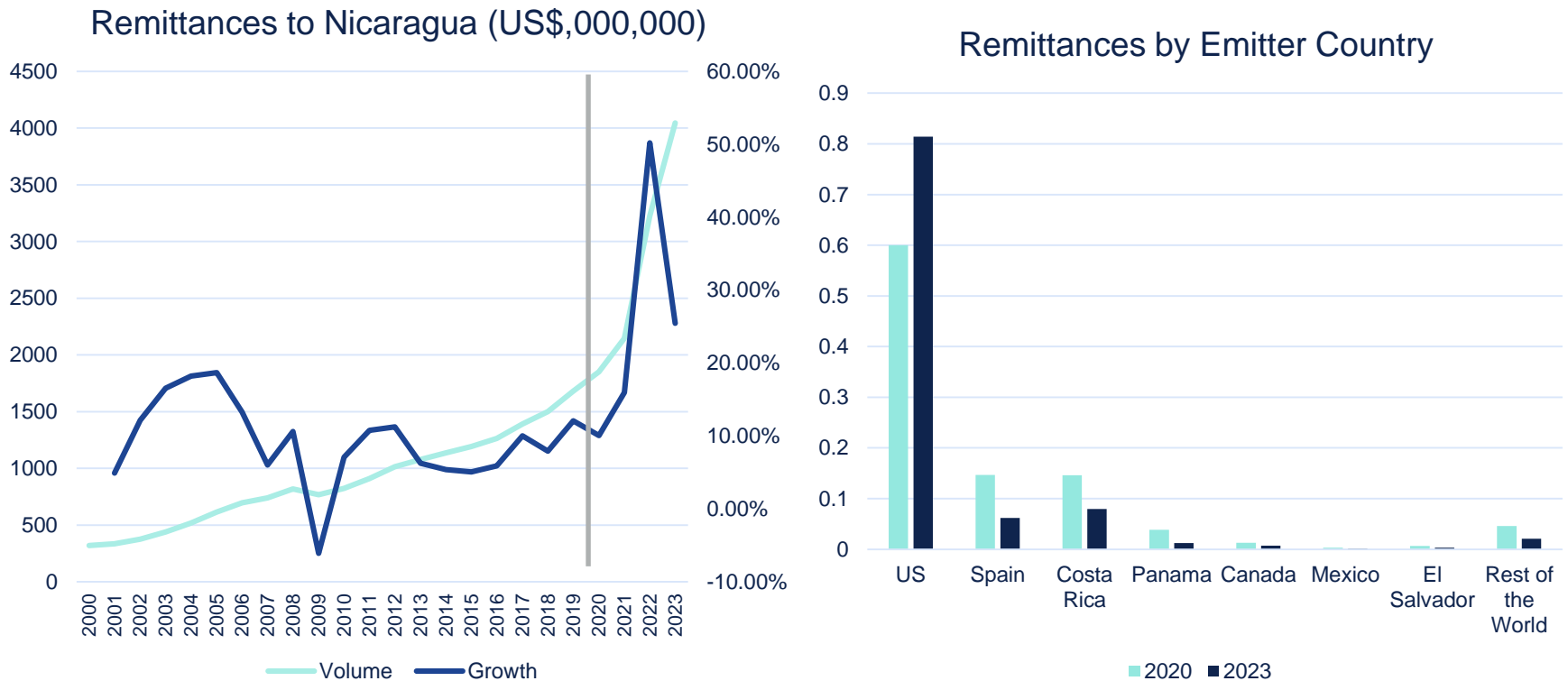
Remittances to Nicaragua

A rapid income dependence on remittances, doubling in 12 years

Country Name	1990	2000	2010	2015	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Argentina	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Belize	3.4	2.2	4.5	3.8	4.0	4.0	5.8	5.4	
Bolivia	0.1	1.5	4.9	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.1	3.5	3.5
Brazil	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	
Colombia	1.0	1.6	1.4	1.7	2.0	2.2	2.6	2.7	2.8
Costa Rica	0.2	0.9	1.4	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.0
Dominican Republic	4.5	7.6	7.2	7.3	8.0	8.3	10.6	11.4	10.3
Ecuador	0.3	7.2	3.7	2.4	2.8	3.0	3.4	4.1	4.2
El Salvador	7.6	15.0	18.8	18.2	20.7	21.0	24.1	26.1	26.7
Guatemala	1.6	3.1	10.4	10.4	12.9	13.8	14.7	17.9	20.0
Guyana	..	3.8	10.7	7.1	7.0	7.4	7.8	6.8	6.8
Haiti	..	8.5	12.4	14.8	18.0	20.5	23.8	20.0	15.9
Honduras	1.3	6.6	16.5	17.5	19.8	21.5	23.5	25.3	28.8
Jamaica	5.0	9.7	15.3	16.6	15.9	16.2	22.2	25.3	25.6
Mexico	1.2	1.1	2.1	2.2	2.9	3.1	3.9	4.3	4.6
Nicaragua	..	6.3	9.4	9.4	11.6	13.4	14.7	15.3	22.2
Panama	1.7	0.1	1.4	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9
Paraguay	0.6	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.3
Peru	0.3	1.4	1.7	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.7
Suriname	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.5	2.4	4.3	4.9	4.9
Trinidad and Tobago	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.9	1.0	1.0
Uruguay	..	..	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Venezuela, RB	0.0	0.0	0.0	..	..	..	..	..	5.3

Source: World Bank

Remittances to Nicaragua



Source: Central Bank of Nicaragua

Concerning Remittance Recipients

- Number of transaction estimated: 850,000
- Number of households estimated by survey method: 756,000
- By volume: United States (80 percent); Spain (6 percent); Costa Rica (8 percent)
- Little capacity to generate wealth:
 - Dependent and cost of living

Partner/Spouse	12.60%
Parents	19.90%
Children	23.60%
Aunts/Uncles	9.90%
Grandparents	2.10%
Brothers/Sisters	19.40%
Others (friends, other relatives)	11.60%

	Years
Average	1.5
Median	0.7
Mode	2
Range	19.9
Standard Deviation	2.2
25th Percentile	0.4
75th Percentile	2
95th Percentile	5
5th Percentile	0.1

Do you save?

Yes	18.30%
No	81.70%



Migration, Remittances, and Economics

An economy that depends on remittances for subsistence but not the creation of wealth

YEAR	2021		2022		2023 est.	
	US\$,000,000	(%)	US\$,000,000	(%)	US\$,000,000	(%)
GDP (US\$,000,000)	14,001.00	10%	14,618.69	4.4%	14,888.81	1.8%
Export-Import	(1,755.84)		(2,300.00)	31.0%	(2,533.64)	10.2%
Consumption	10,463	19%	11,781	12.6%	12,075.25	2%
Consumption (excluding remittances)	8,243.57	6%	8,833.26	7.2%	8,833.03	0.0%
Gov. exp.	1,993.21	-4%	1,941.32	-2.6%	1,980.15	2.0%
Public invest	1,138.87	4%	1,164.70	2.3%	1,222.93	5.0%
Private Inv.	1,922.78	14%	2,042.02	6.2%	2,144.12	5.0%
Remittances	2,336.20	40%	3,102.60	32.8%	4,012.86	20.0%
External borrowing	1,162.24	28%	533.81	-117.1%	480.00	-11.2%
Tourism	185.00	18%	300.00	62.2%	350.00	16.7%

Economic stagnation from personal consumption is conducive to migration:

- * There is no growth without the money that relatives sent from abroad.
- * Income per capita stays at 2017 levels despite 600,000 people leaving

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
External Debt (US\$,000,000)								
Bilateral Debt	1,675	1,732	1,758	1,800	1,852	1,831	1,850	1,870
Multilateral Debt	3,333	3,775	4,141	4,427	5,053	5,927	6,519	7,000
Total Public External Debt	5,042	5,546	5,950	6,279	6,957	7,806	8,416	8,870
Debt/GDP	87%	88%	94%	96%	98%	99%	101%	101%
Service/GDP	1.30%	1.40%	1.80%	2.40%	2.90%	3.30%	3.70%	3.00%
Macroeconomic Indicators								
GDP	\$13,286,083,645	\$13,785,909,906	\$13,025,239,912	\$12,596,636,042	\$12,586,941,393	\$14,013,022,092	\$14,401,438,799	\$14,895,281,963
Growth	4.6	4.6	-3.4	-3.8	-1.8	10.3	3.0	3.0
Exports	\$5,165,892,177	\$5,698,964,091	\$5,506,699,796	\$5,680,173,421	\$5,309,751,005	\$6,888,617,753	6,719,030,576	\$ 7,054,982,105
Imports	\$7,293,700,000	\$7,579,600,000	\$6,754,200,000	\$6,251,500,000	\$5,938,200,000	\$8,366,152,322	8,253,716,035	\$8,666,401,836
Remittances	\$1,268,100,000	\$1,394,700,000	\$1,504,800,000	\$1,686,400,000	\$1,855,400,000	\$2,146,000,000	\$3,218,120,000	\$4,010,838,000
Income per Capita	\$2,108	\$2,159	\$2,015	\$1,924	\$1,900	\$2,091	\$2,115	\$2,136
Population								
Population	6,303,970	6,384,843	6,465,502	6,545,503	6,624,554	6,702,379	6,836,427	6,973,155
Annual Emigration				70,000		180,000	250,000	150,000
Migration	646,000		658,203	682,865		880,646	1,100,000	1,150,000

Source: Banco Central de Nicaragua

Some of the consequences of migration resulting from political matters:

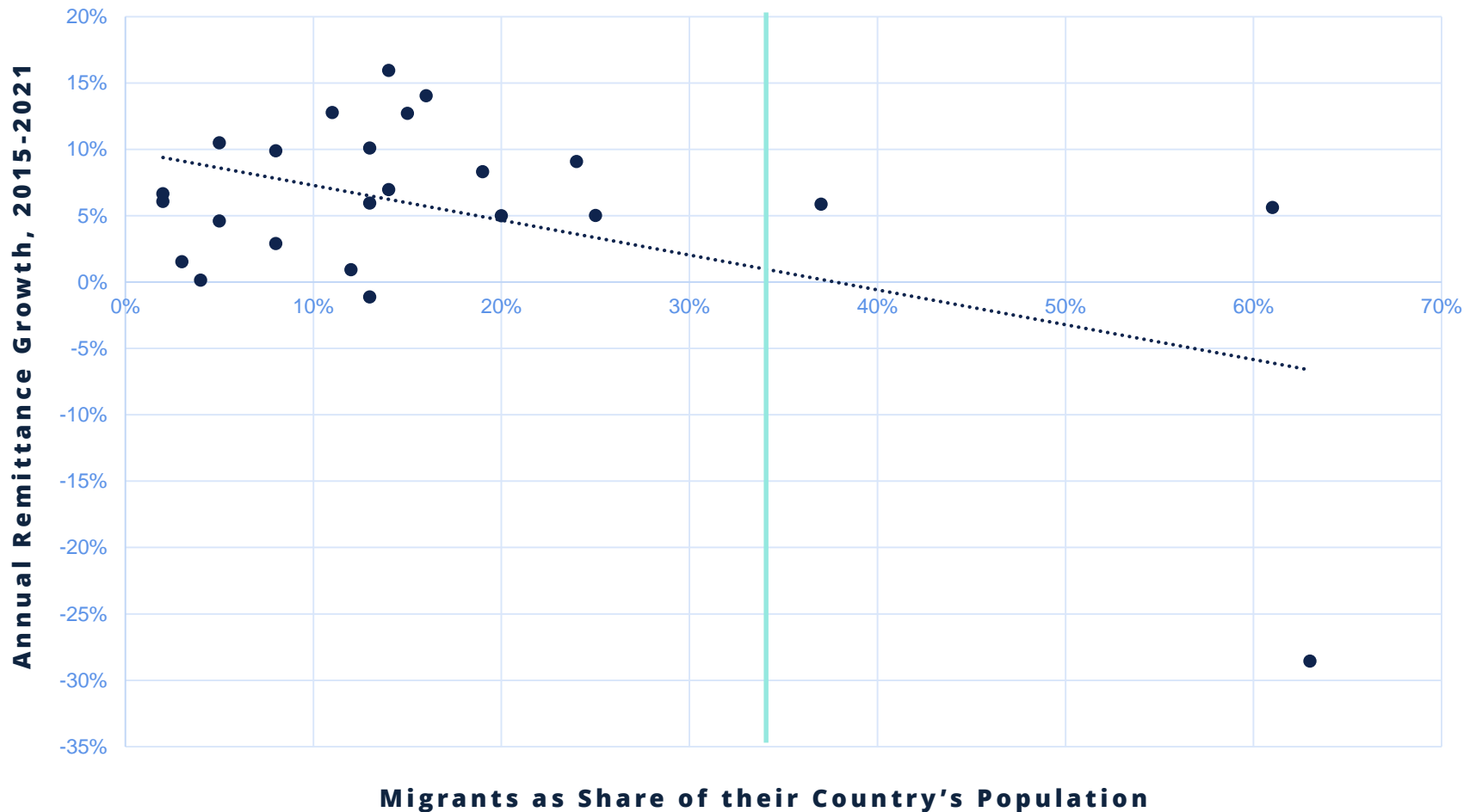
- reduced productivity,
- less workers

Year	Labor Force	Labor Force (excl. migr.)	Formal Workers	Growth of Formal Workers without crisis	Informal Workers	Growth of Informal Workers	Migration	Wages	Market Basket
2017	2,905,597	2,877,597	914,196	915,553	1,963,401	68%	28,000	\$341	\$437
2018	2,952,156	2,872,156	818,396	947,311	2,053,760	72%	80,000	\$345	\$420
2019	2,998,413	2,898,413	735,236	971,739	2,163,177	75%	100,000	\$347	\$422
2020	2,968,394	2,943,394	714,465	964,482	2,228,929	76%	25,000	\$315	\$417
2021	3,042,491	2,881,222	757,548	983,560	2,123,674	74%	161,269	\$311	\$459
2022	3,088,128	2,738,128	787,428	1,001,156	1,950,700	71%	350,000	\$301	\$518
2023	3,134,450	2,934,450	795,000		2,139,450	73%	150,000	\$315	

Remittance Transfer Five Year Annual Growth and Migrants as share of Population

Country Name	Growth 2001-2005	2005-2010	2010-2015	2015-2022	Migr./Pop.
Argentina	18%	8%	-5%	7%	2%
Belize	9%	12%	-7%	8%	19%
Bolivia	20%	23%	11%	3%	8%
Brazil	14%	2%	-2%	6%	1%
Colombia	10%	4%	11%	11%	5%
Costa Rica	16%	5%	3%	2%	3%
Cuba	3%	2%	5%	-1%	14%
Dominican Republic	7%	7%	11%	10%	13%
Ecuador	12%	1%	8%	10%	8%
El Salvador	9%	3%	9%	9%	24%
Guatemala	37%	7%	12%	16%	13%
Guyana	55%	13%	0%	6%	61%
Haiti	10%	8%	13%	6%	13%
Honduras	24%	8%	11%	13%	13%
Jamaica	11%	3%	1%	6%	37%
Mexico	18%	-1%	11%	13%	11%
Nicaragua	13%	6%	9%	14%	17%
Panama	12%	26%	6%	0%	4%
Paraguay	3%	21%	7%	1%	12%
Peru	14%	12%	5%	5%	5%
Suriname	81%	2%	-127%	-29%	63%
Trinidad and Tobago	18%	0%	-7%	5%	25%
Uruguay	562%	10%	14%	7%	14%
Venezuela				5%	25%
LAC (24 countries)	15%	3%	12%	11%	

Growth of Remittances, 2015-2021 and Share of Migrants relative to Population (2021):
Remittance flows slow down during normal times across countries with large diasporas
and decades long migration



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Considerations Regarding Parole

Parole and its consequences

- People with legal status in the United States and with a relative in Nicaragua with the intention of migrating
- 20 percent of 250,000 Nicaraguans with legal status, 50,000
- Advantage is for those who are in less risk

	No One	Relative	Other (neighbor, friend, acquaintance)
Legal Status	0.4%	16.3%	18.8%

Source: Los Nicaraguenses en Estados Unidos, Abril 2022. Confidencial

Nicaraguans in the United States

Year	Foreign born	Legally admitted	Share of legally admitted	Relative with legal status and living in Nicaragua or knows someone
2000	156,000			
2010	236,000			
2015	245,000			
2017	255,000	206,550.00		
2018	259,161	209,920.49		
2019	270,195	211,681.66	78%	
2020	272,460	212,521.74	78%	
2021	362,511	212,815.27	59%	
2022	587,481	213,724.76	36%	39,138-84,038

Intention of Migrating and Relatives Abroad in 2023

	November 2022	January 2023
Intention of Migrating	23.2%	23.5
Relatives Abroad	36%	42%

	November 2022		January 2023	
	Has relative	Does not have relative	Has relative	Does not have relative
Has thought of leaving	38.50%	15.10%	36.60%	13.60%
Has not thought of leaving	61.20%	84.70%	63.40%	86.40%

	Has relative	Does not have relative	Table N %
Has thought of leaving	14.60%	8.80%	23.40%
Has not thought of leaving	24.20%	52.30%	76.50%
Adults with the intention of emigrating	470,026.56	283,304	753,330.24
Those with legal status in the US	58,753.32		

Source: Los Nicaraguenses en Estados Unidos, Abril 2022. Confidencial. Encuesta a Nicaraguenses en Nicaragua, Noviembre 2022 y Enero 2023, IAD.

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Thank you

Recent Nicaraguan Migration to the US

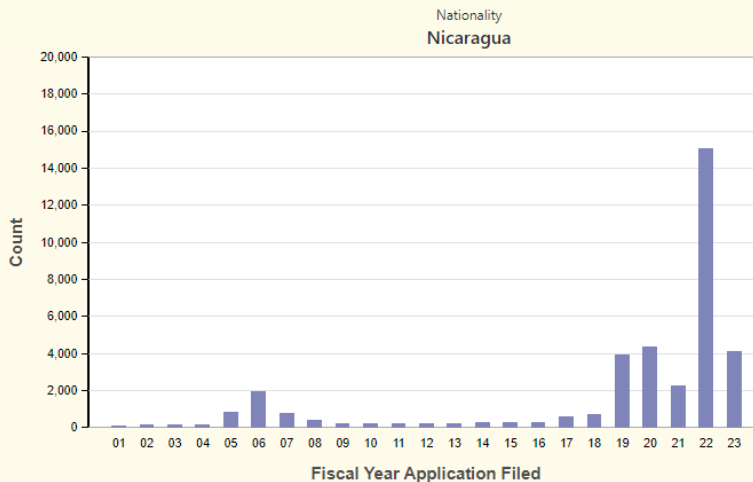
Nicaragua	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
A. Legal permanent status arrivals	1,972	2,248	1,077	500	2,250
B&C. Irregular entry estimates (18% irregular border crossers; 22% of apprehended were released following administrative procedures)	1,800	8,400	960	89,051	222,315
D. Apprehensions	3,000	14,000	3,000	87,305	217,956
E. Visa Overstayers***	389	386	228	500	405
Total Migration	4,161	11,034	2,265	90,051	224,970
Deportations	879	2,240	1,416	1,828	1,622
Net change (migrant replenishment)	6,282	22,794	3,849	114,415	223,348

US Asylum requests by Nicaraguans (2000-2023)

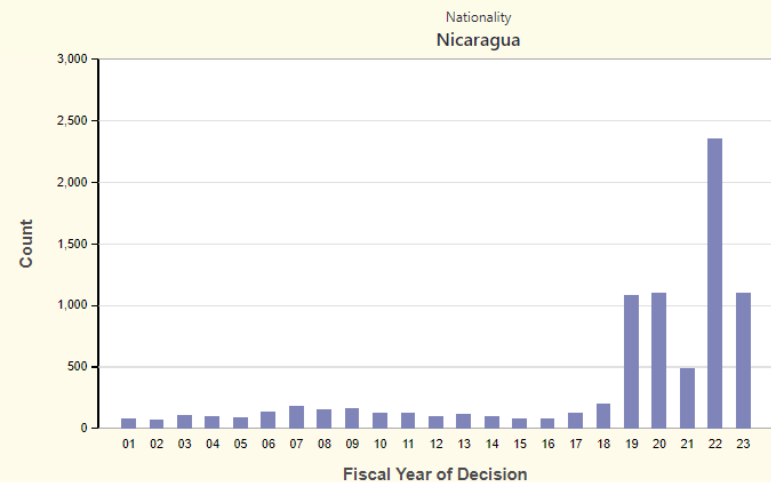
38,069 requests; 8,327 decisions; 2,312 granted

Custody		Represented	
All-Nicaragua	38,069	All-Nicaragua, Never Detained	21,984
Never Detained	21,984	Represented	15,792
Released	11,790	Not Represented	6,192
Detained	4,293		
Not Known	2		

Asylum Filings



Asylum Decisions



Source: <https://trac.syr.edu/phptools/immigration/asyfile/>



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