

U.S. MIGRATION METRICS

Brief written by Natalee Chin, research brief editor, Penn State.

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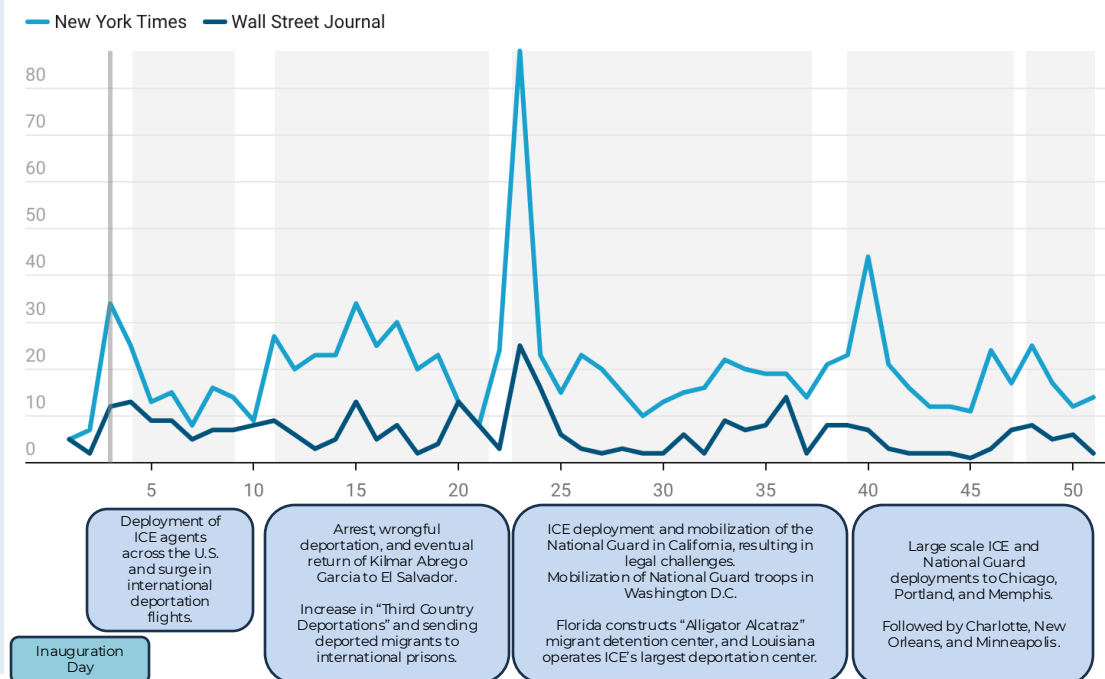
Undocumented Immigration in the Media: 2025 Review

Using Media Coverage to Track the State of Immigration and Enforcement in 2025

Overview:

- Variation in news coverage rates and content between publication sources lends itself to tracking developments in immigration policy, ICE activity, and public engagement.
- Drawing from both The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal, we see a dramatic increase in articles, as well as editorial arguments in the summer of 2025, coinciding with surges of ICE activity in many cities.

Weekly Rates of NYT and WSJ Articles, 2025



Comparing The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal

While The Wall Street Journal maintains a centrist and slightly conservative leaning reputation, The New York Times mirrors similar centrist and liberal leaning articles and op-ed publications. This occasionally yields reports which cover identical developments, but differ in framing, coverage rates, and editorial engagement.

Ice Activity in the News

As Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) engaged in many major U.S. cities in 2025, both The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal published reports of ICE militarization tactics, rates of deportations, employment of the National Guard, and many notable cases of wrongful detainment. Both outlets reported on ICE's mobilization throughout the year, but their framing and attention to key events differed.

The New York Times largely employs public interest and narrative driven articles, many of which center on an individual or community's experiences as a result of immigration enforcement. This is complemented by The Wall Street Journal's strong focus on economic markets, immigration policy, and foreseeing downstream effects of immigration policy and enforcement.

Both journals largely interpret ICE's engagement in 2025 negatively, reflecting an unfavorable reception by readers across a liberal, centrist, and conservative leaning spectrum.

References

The New York Times (2025). Archives. *The New York Times*. <https://www.wsj.com/news/archive/years>
The Wall Street Journal (2025). Archives. *The Wall Street Journal*. <https://www.wsj.com/news/archive/years>