

**CUBANS IN MEXICO.
INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY AND
SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC AND
LABOR PARTICIPATION
PATTERNS.**

THE CUBAN DIASPORA IN THE WORLD. A SYMPOSIUM
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March 28, 2013

General Objective

To characterize the presence of Cubans in Mexico today, and their mobility in a context of greater connectivity and immigration flexibility between the two Nations.

Data sources

- Population censuses, Mexico
- Administrative records of the National Institute of Migration, Mexico
- Academic articles and press

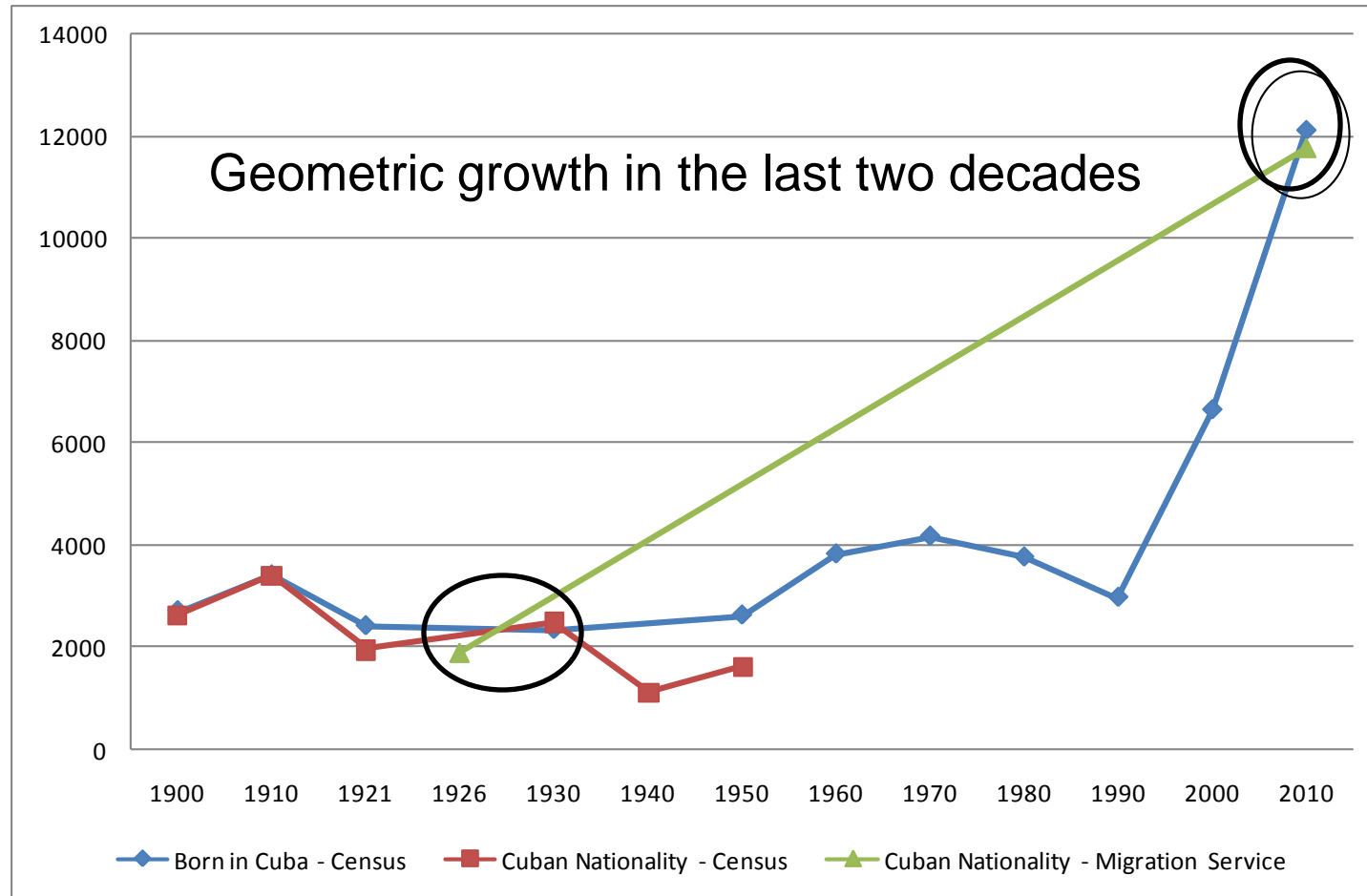


Historical background

- Group of small magnitude, but constant presence in Mexico since the mid-19th century.
- Temporary flows recurrent with some peaks, very much linked to the wars of independence and political conflicts in Cuba, but also to the economic and cultural dynamics.
- Since the 19th century, constant presence of professionals and students.
- Until the 60's, arrival of traders to the major cities of the country, as well as entrepreneurs, settlers and workers, linked to cane sugar, tobacco and coffee, who settled in areas of the Gulf and the Mexican Southeast.
- Temporary and permanent presence of individuals linked to artistic, cultural, sport and studies activities since the 20's - 30's decades.
- Link with migration of Spaniards to Mexico.
- Constant flows of arrival and return.
- Mexico as a country of transit for Cuban emigration since 60's decade.
- Strong family component. Bi-national families.

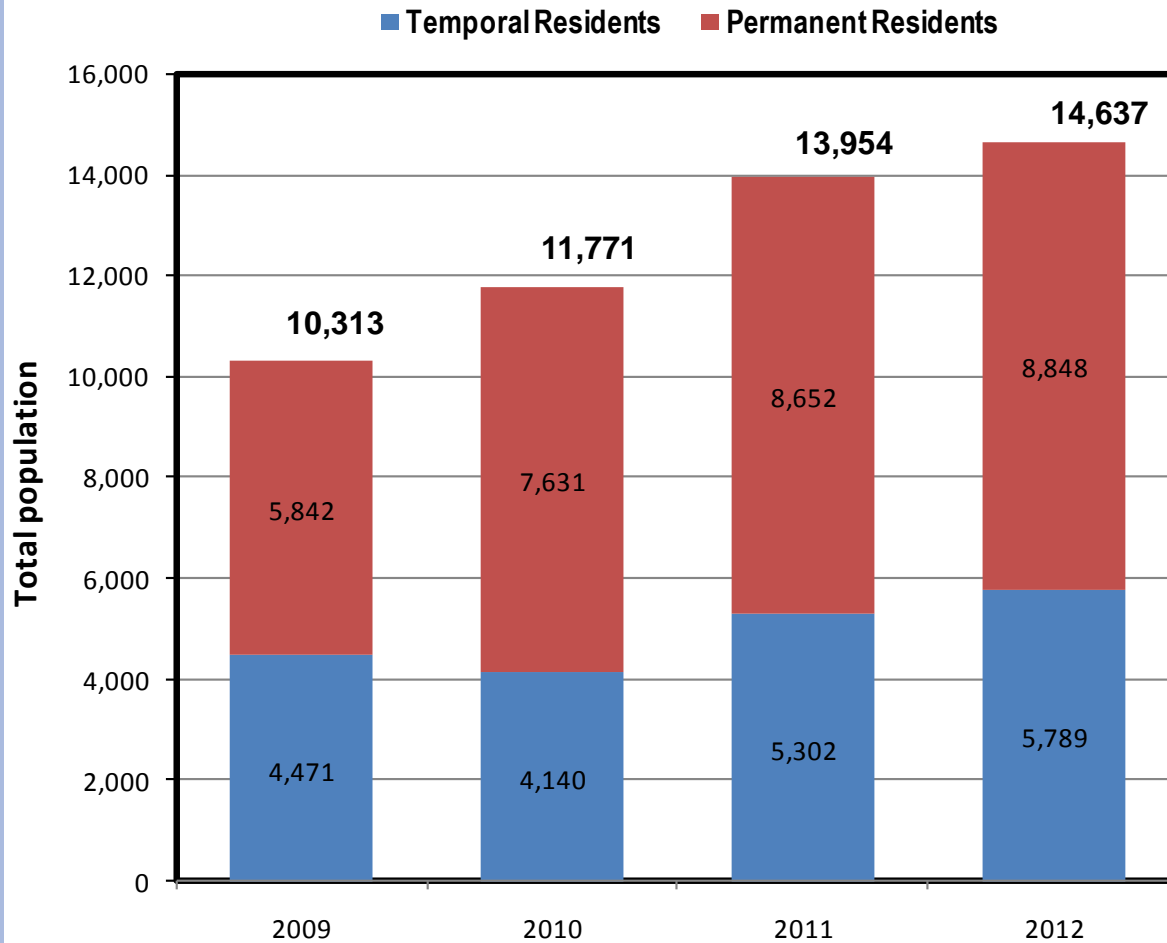


Cuban Immigration in Mexico, 1900-2010



Source: Compilation based on Delia Salazar (1996), *La población extranjera en México (1895-1990)* by Census 1900 to 1980; INEGI. Census of Population and Housing of Mexico, 1990, 2000 y 2010 (total data); Andrés Landa y Piña (1930), *El servicio de migración en México*. México (count of the Migration Service of Mexico in 1926) and estimates based on the administrative records of the National Institute of Migration of Mexico, Center of Migration Studies.

Increased immigration of Cubans to Mexico kept in recent years



✓ Sixth group among foreign-born in México.

✓ Fourth group of foreign newcomers

✓ Prevalence of the permanent residents, 60%

✓ Prevalence of family ties for new permanent residents and labor ties for temporary residents.



The increased presence of Cubans in Mexico in the last two decades, is associated with:

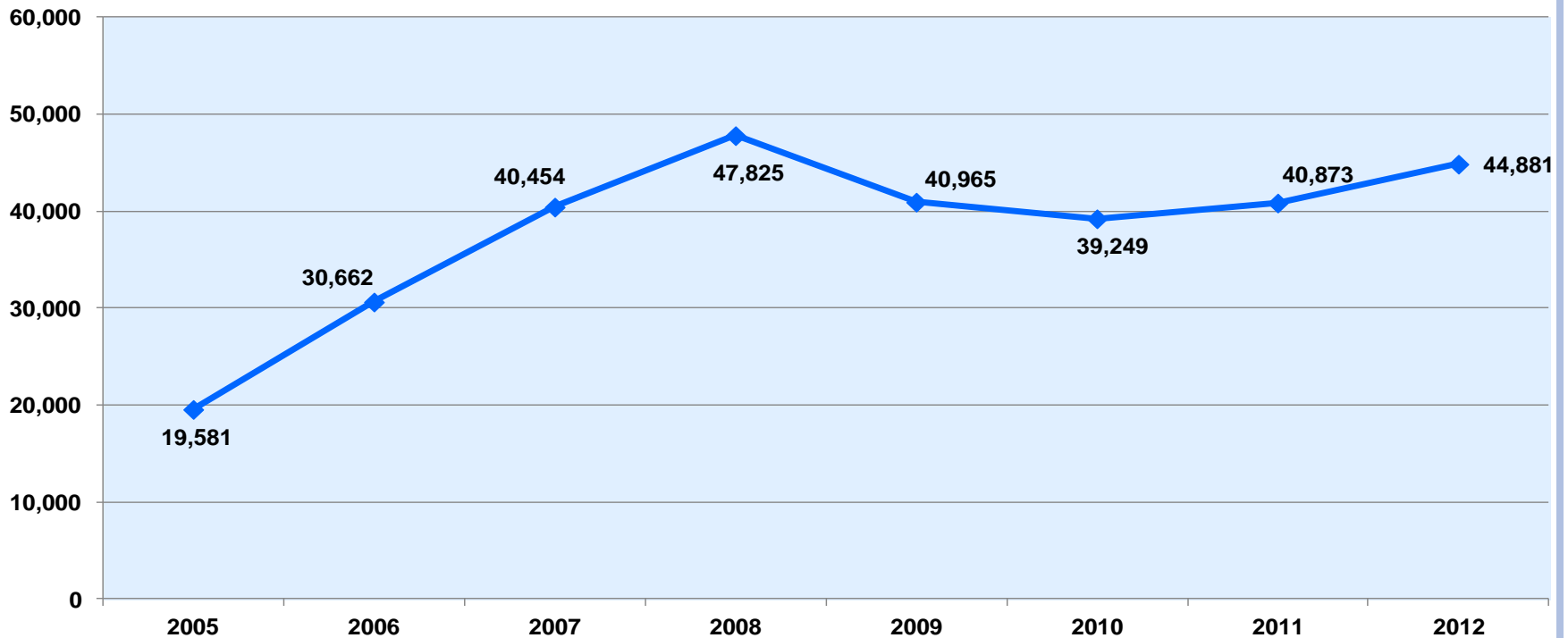
1. Crisis of the Cuban economy since early 90's ("Special Period")
2. Gradual flexibilization of immigration rules in Cuba from 90's
 - Possibility of personal travel for work, study or family
 - Special residence policy for foreign artists and intellectuals
3. Facilities in Mexican regulations for their settlement in the country even if they live in Cuba, and the acquisition of Mexican citizenship. This happens regardless of the restrictions that exist for new immigrants
4. Mexican tourists presence in Cuba.
5. Increase of intergovernmental agreements and in certain sectors. (federal and state level)



**Increase of the traditional relationship
between the people of Cuba and Mexico**



Cuban citizens entries to Mexico by air, 2005-2012

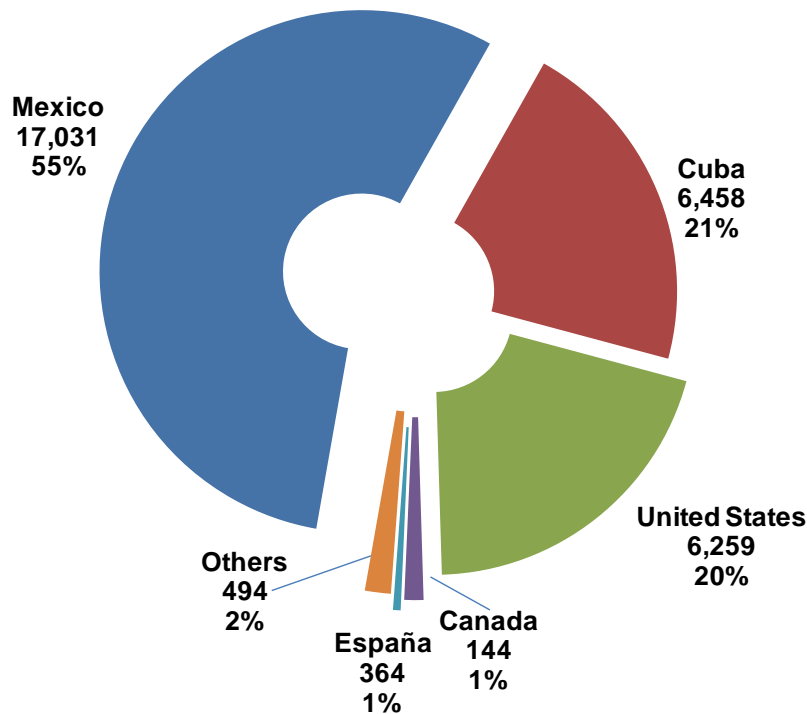


NOTE: Includes Cubans living in Cuba, Mexico and other countries. These are people who came to Mexico with Cuban passport.

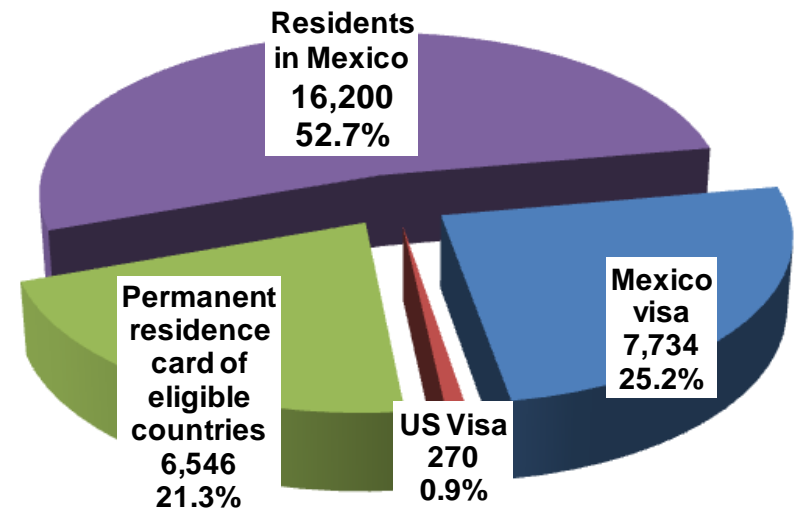


Cuban Citizens Entries to Mexico by Air, January – August 2012

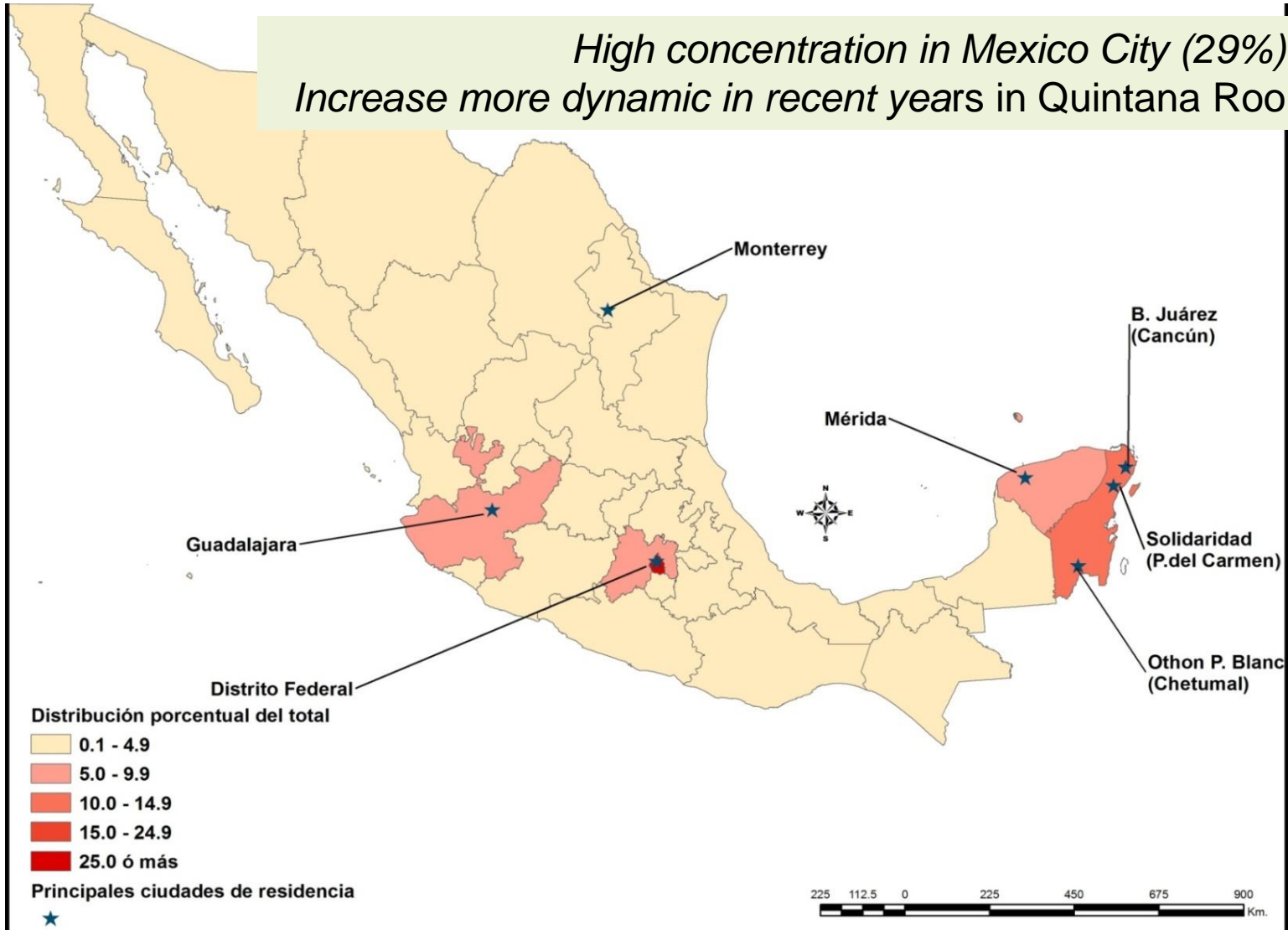
By country of residence



By document type




Geographical Distribution of Persons Born in Cuba in Mexico, Census 2010



Source: Compilation based on INEGI. Census of Population and Housing of Mexico, 2010 (total data).

Socio-demographic and Labor Characterization of Cuban Residents in Mexico, Census 2010.

- Balance in gender distribution. Female (49%)
- Prevalence of adults. Mean age of 46 years. Younger women
 - Population 16 years and over (95%)
 - Population 45 years and over (43%)
- Population essentially married (69%). Among women, 64%.
- High level of education (25 years or more).
 - 61% with bachelor's degree or more. Women 54%
 - Of the total: 49% BA, 7% Master, 5% Ph.D.
- High participation in the labor market, 66% for those aged 16 years and over.
- Prevalence of professionals, technicians and managers, 64%. 

CUBANS IN MEXICO

Employed Population Born in Cuba Resident in Mexico, Census 2010

Occupation

• Professionals	33 %
• Technical and administratives	21 %
• Sales and office ocupations	21 %
• Skilled and operative	14 %
• Managers	10 %

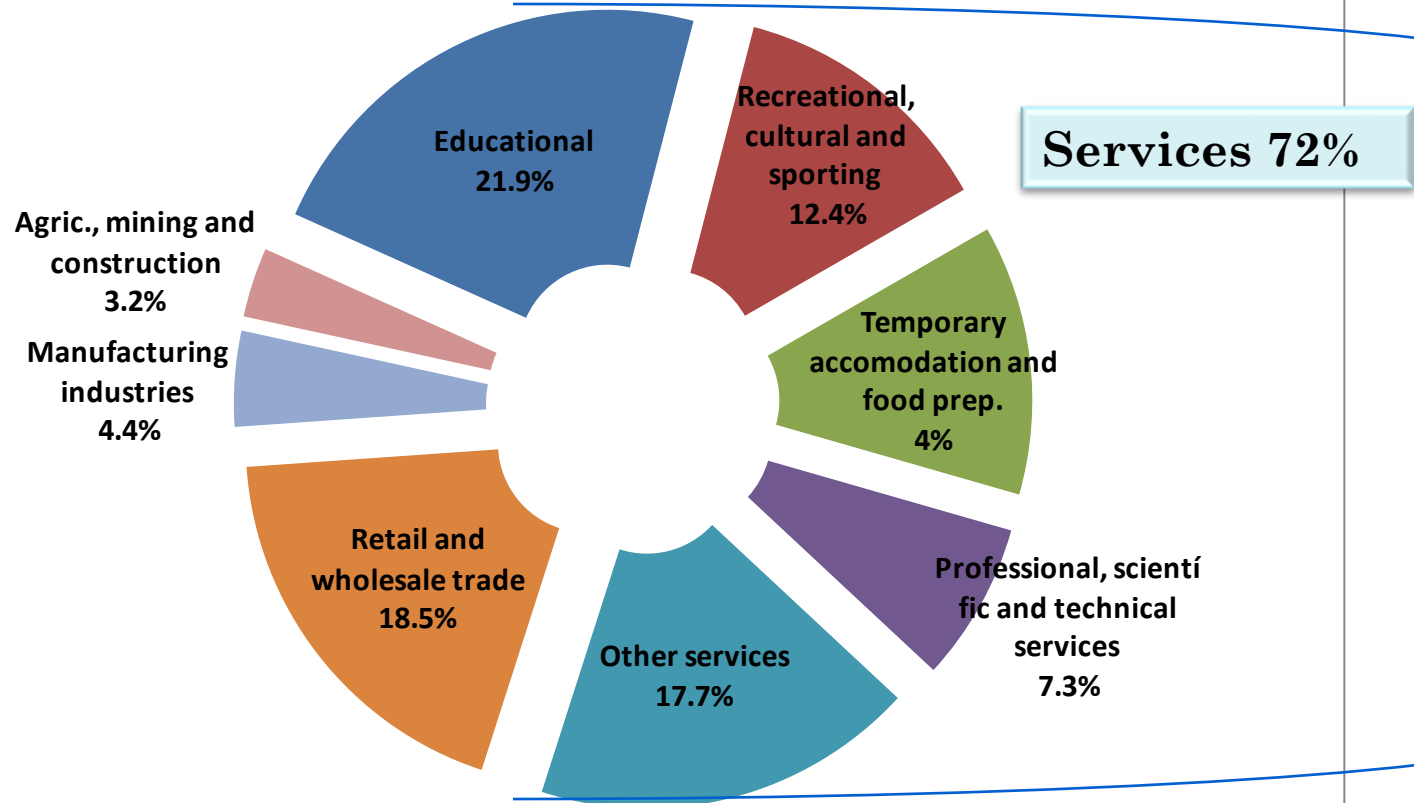
Working position

Salaried worker	62%
Self employed	26%
Owner	9%

Related to:

1. Very selective immigration policy
2. Role of professional and family networks
3. Presence of immigrants with more time in Mexico
4. High level of education of migrants in the last two decades

Employed Population Born in Cuba Resident in Mexico by Economic Sector, Census 2010



Direct relationship with:

- High education level
- Presence of professionals with long and short stay in Mexico
- Occupational distribution
- Specific government relations

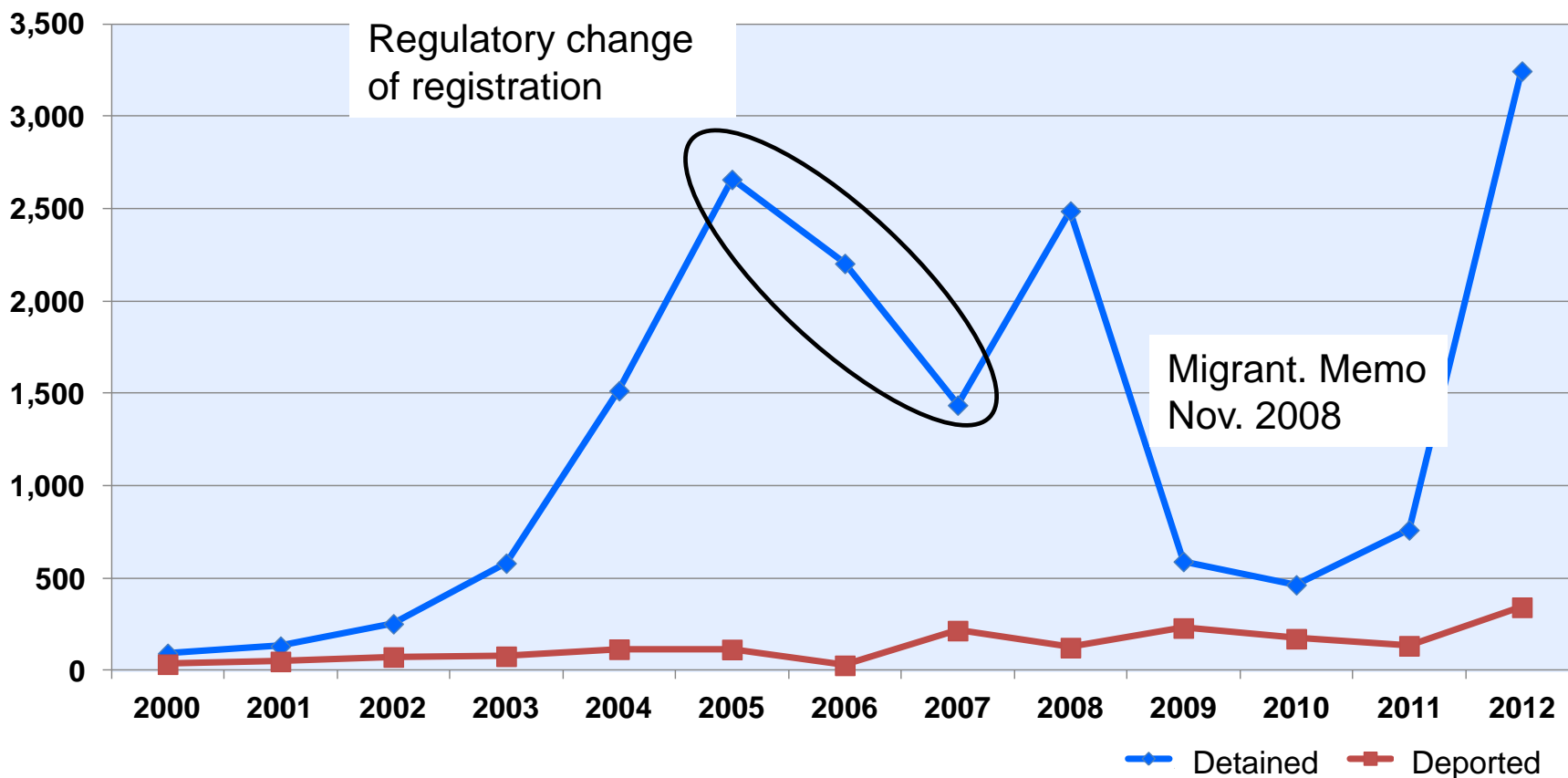
SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ASPECTS

- Few Cubans organizations in Mexico (3), with low participation.
- Concentrated in Mexico city, but without a community life.
- Nevertheless, national solidarity works for job placement.
- Integrated to the dynamics of Mexican society in media, cultural, business and academia.
- Regardless of the cause or reason for the departure from Cuba, there is not or very little political activism respect of Cuba.
- Impact of the Mexican government's policy toward Cuba and solidarity groups with the Cuban revolution.



Mexico: Transit Country for Cuban Emigration

Events of detention and return of Cubans by Mexican immigration authorities ,1995-2012



(2012) 90.5% detected in Chiapas – SOUTH ROUTE

Source: Compilation based in administrative records of the National Institute of Migration of Mexico, Center of Migration Studies. UPM-SEGOB.

CONCLUSIONS

- ❖ High mobility in different forms over the past decade, either as visitors or residents (temporaries or permanents).
- ❖ Family and professionals networks are essential in the process of mobility and migration. No open migration or refugee routes.
- ❖ More important qualitative than quantitative because of their employment patterns.
- ❖ Strong impact on public dimensions in Mexican society.
- ❖ Incidence of government relations and institutional (federal and state level) links between Mexico and Cuba on migration flows and labor insertion in specific sectors: sport, research, education, tourism, trade, etc.
- ❖ Impact of political and regulatory framework in Mexico and U.S. shape migration strategies of Cubans. Mexico as a transit and destination country.

