

# Deportation of Venezuelans Spiked After January 3

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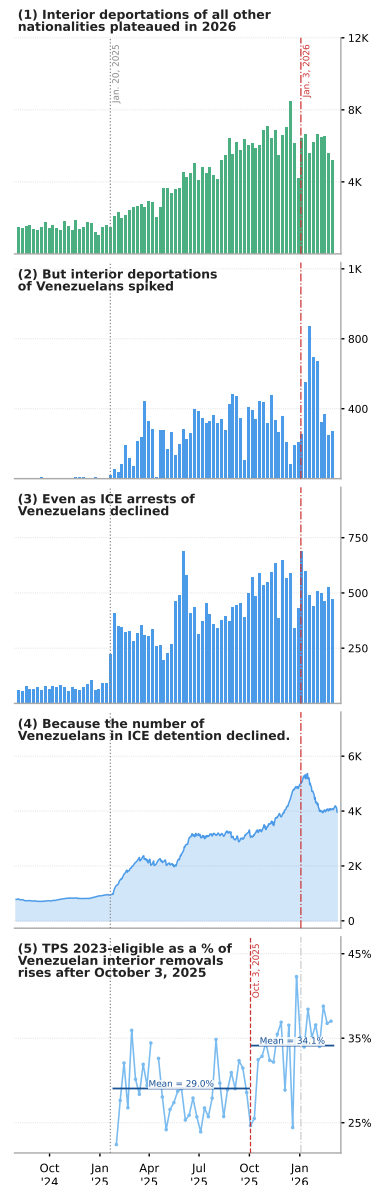
The [Deportation Data Project](#) reported this week that deportations from the interior of the United States leveled off in 2026, after a steep climb throughout 2025 [[Blair and Hausman, 2026, Fig. 1](#)].<sup>1</sup>

But interior deportations of Venezuelans spiked. Between January 16, the date of the [first deportation flight to Venezuela following the January 3 removal of Nicolás Maduro](#), and March 10, the last day available in the data, ICE deported 3,783 Venezuelans from the interior of the United States: 38% more per day than in the latter half of 2025 (Fig. 2).<sup>2</sup> In the three weeks following January 16, interior deportations of Venezuelans reached an average of 110 per day, 58% higher than the peak three-week period in all of 2025.

The recent uptick in interior deportations of Venezuelans does not appear to be driven by a surge in arrests, which have not increased (Fig. 3), but rather by removals of Venezuelans who were already detained, meaning that the number of Venezuelans in ICE detention has declined (Fig. 4). There is no indication that voluntary departures account for the differential increase in removals of Venezuelans, according to immigration-court data also published by the [Deportation Data Project](#).<sup>3</sup>

Venezuelan President Delcy Rodríguez agreed to accept three deportation flights per week, while her predecessor Maduro accepted only two. But more chartered flights to Caracas appear to account for only part of the increase in interior deportations of Venezuelans; there were also more Venezuelans removed to third countries (deportations to Venezuela via commercial flight stayed about the same).<sup>4</sup>

Relative to ICE deportations of Venezuelans ineligible for 2023 Temporary Protected Status (TPS) because they entered the United States too late, ICE deportation of TPS-eligible Venezuelans did increase last fall, following the [October 3 Supreme Court order](#) that allowed DHS to terminate TPS for Venezuelans (Fig. 5).<sup>5</sup> After January 3, in contrast, the data reveal no change in the trend of ICE deportation of TPS-eligible Venezuelans (relative to ineligible Venezuelans), despite recent DHS statements focused on former TPS holders.<sup>6</sup>



<sup>1</sup> By “interior deportations,” I mean deportations beginning in the interior of the United States, excluding border removals conducted by CBP, following [Blair and Hausman \[2026\]](#).

<sup>2</sup> Because deportation flights to Venezuela were paused on December 10, I exclude the December 10–31 period from this calculation. Were I to include it, the latter-half-of-2025 daily average would be even lower and the increase even larger: a 47% increase rather than a 38% increase.

<sup>3</sup> In the immigration-court data, voluntary departures of Venezuelans follow the trend of voluntary departures of Mexicans and other groups: a huge increase in the summer of 2025, with continued (but slower) growth through the end of the data.

<sup>4</sup> The ICE data themselves do not report whether a given deportee was flown on a chartered flight, but the data do include port of departure. Human Rights Foundation’s ICE Flight Monitor reports the number  $N$  of chartered flights to Venezuela per month. Within each month, I rank port–departure-days in descending order by number of removals to Venezuela, then flag the top  $N$  as charters.

<sup>5</sup> By “TPS eligible,” I mean Venezuelans eligible for the 2023 TPS cohort, the group affected by the October 2025 Supreme Court decision.

<sup>6</sup> For example, [Tricia McLaughlin said that](#) “The great news for those who are here from Venezuela on temporary protected status is that now they can go home with hope for their country—a country that they love—that there is going to be peace, prosperity and stability.”

*References*

Graeme Blair and David Hausman. [One Year of Immigration Enforcement Under the Second Trump Administration](#). Deportation Data Project, 2026.