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Borderplex Business Barometer, Volume 7, Number 6

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Borderplex Business Barometer 7(6), 1-68.



BORDERPLEX BUSINESS BAROMETER

June 2023

Border Region Modeling Project

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Border Commerce & Economics

Borderplex Business Barometer, Volume 7, Number 6

Labor Force Quality Gains in El Paso

Labor force quality is an essential component of economic achievement. Because the importance of labor force quality is widely recognized, close attention is paid to educational attainment. The U.S. Census Bureau publishes educational profiles of adults aged 25 years and older for all 3,007 counties in the nation every year as part of the American Community Survey (ACS).

The most recent year for which complete ACS data are available is 2021. The 2021 El Paso County data indicate that local educational attainment has improved substantially since 2012. Prior Border Region Modeling Project studies have quantified the income improvements associated with greater educational attainment. The recent gains are very encouraging.

One of the notable areas of progress is high school completion. In 2012, 26.7 percent of El Paso adults aged 25 years or older were high school dropouts. By 2021, that figure declined to 20.2 percent. In 2012, the percentage of adults whose maximum educational attainment was earning a high school diploma was 24.1 percent. By 2021, that category declined slightly to 23.8 percent.

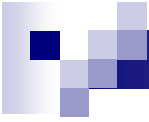
Fewer high school dropouts and fewer high school-only graduates mean more El Paso County adults are enrolling in post-secondary education and training programs. The percentage of adults aged 25 or older that attended some college without completing a degree did not change from 22.3 percent. The percentage of the adult labor force who received an Associate's Degree rose from 6.7 percent in 2012 to 9.0 percent in 2021.

Greater community college enrollments also translate into greater college and university attendance. The percentage of El Paso County adults over the age of 25 who attended college but did not receive a Bachelor's degree rose from 29.0 percent in 2012 to 31.3 percent in 2021. The percentages of college graduates also increased.

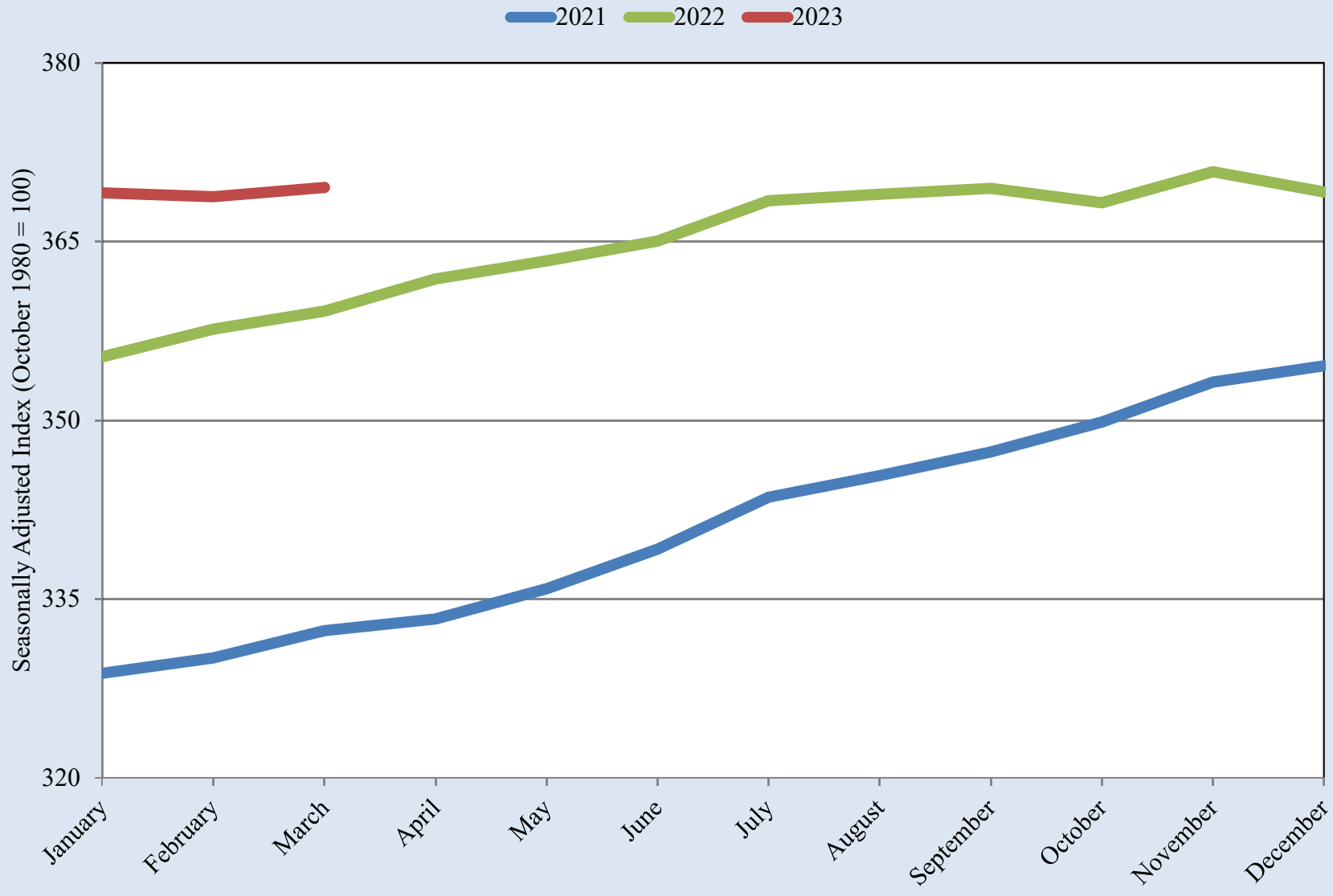
In 2012, adults over the age of 25 who held a Bachelor's Degree represented 13.6 percent of the workforce in El Paso County. By 2021, that figure rose to 16.6 percent. The percentage of adults older than 25 who held Graduate or Professional Degrees was 6.6 percent in 2012. It grew to 8.1 percent by 2021.

Gains in educational attainment are strongly correlated with improved labor force quality. The latter is associated with greater regional productivity. Greater productivity translates into higher incomes and a more prosperous business sector. The latest ACS data underscore welcome progress for El Paso County in recent years.

Thomas M. Fullerton, Jr., Steven L. Fullerton, and Brianna A. Perez



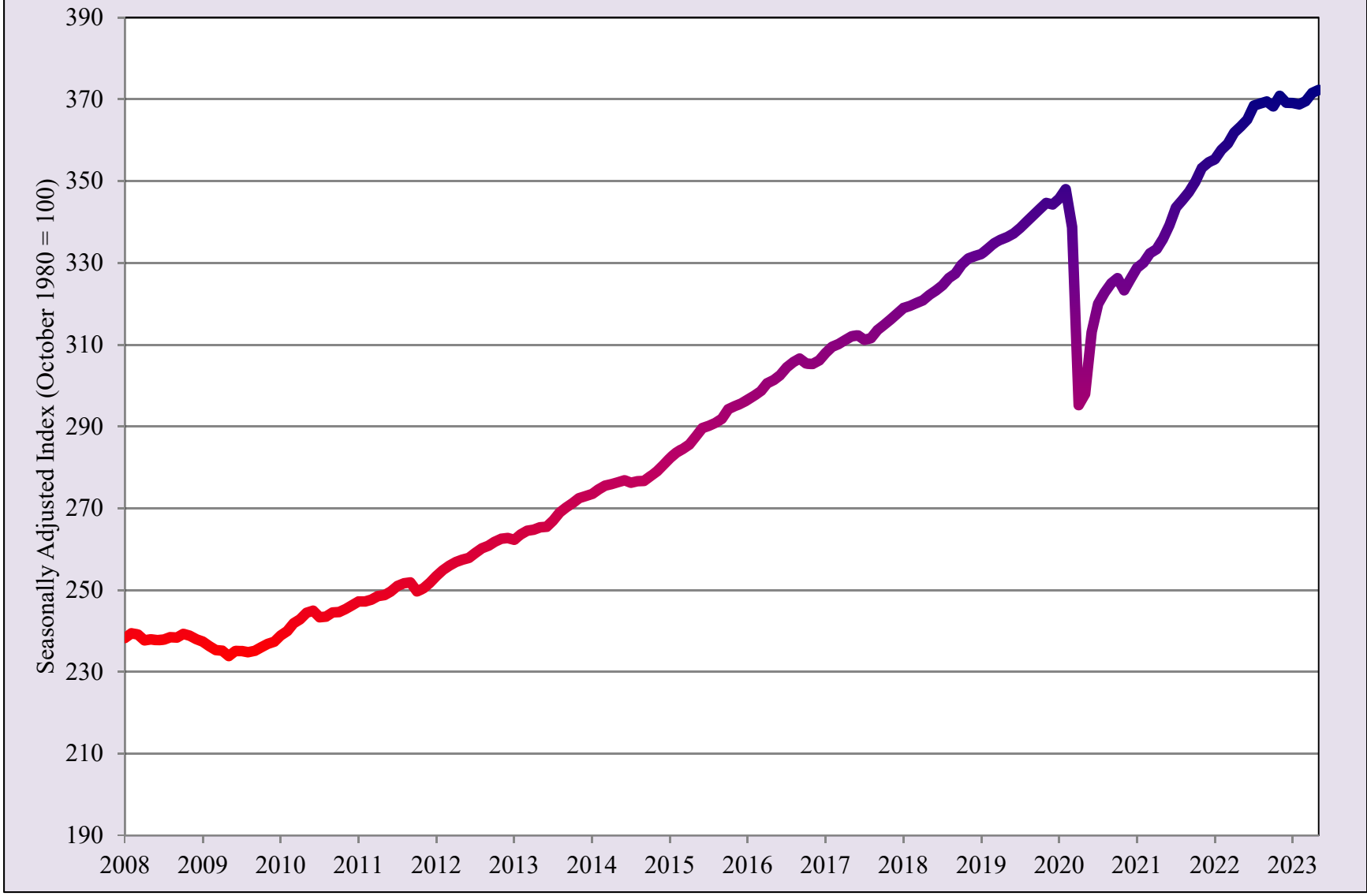
El Paso Metropolitan Business Cycle Index



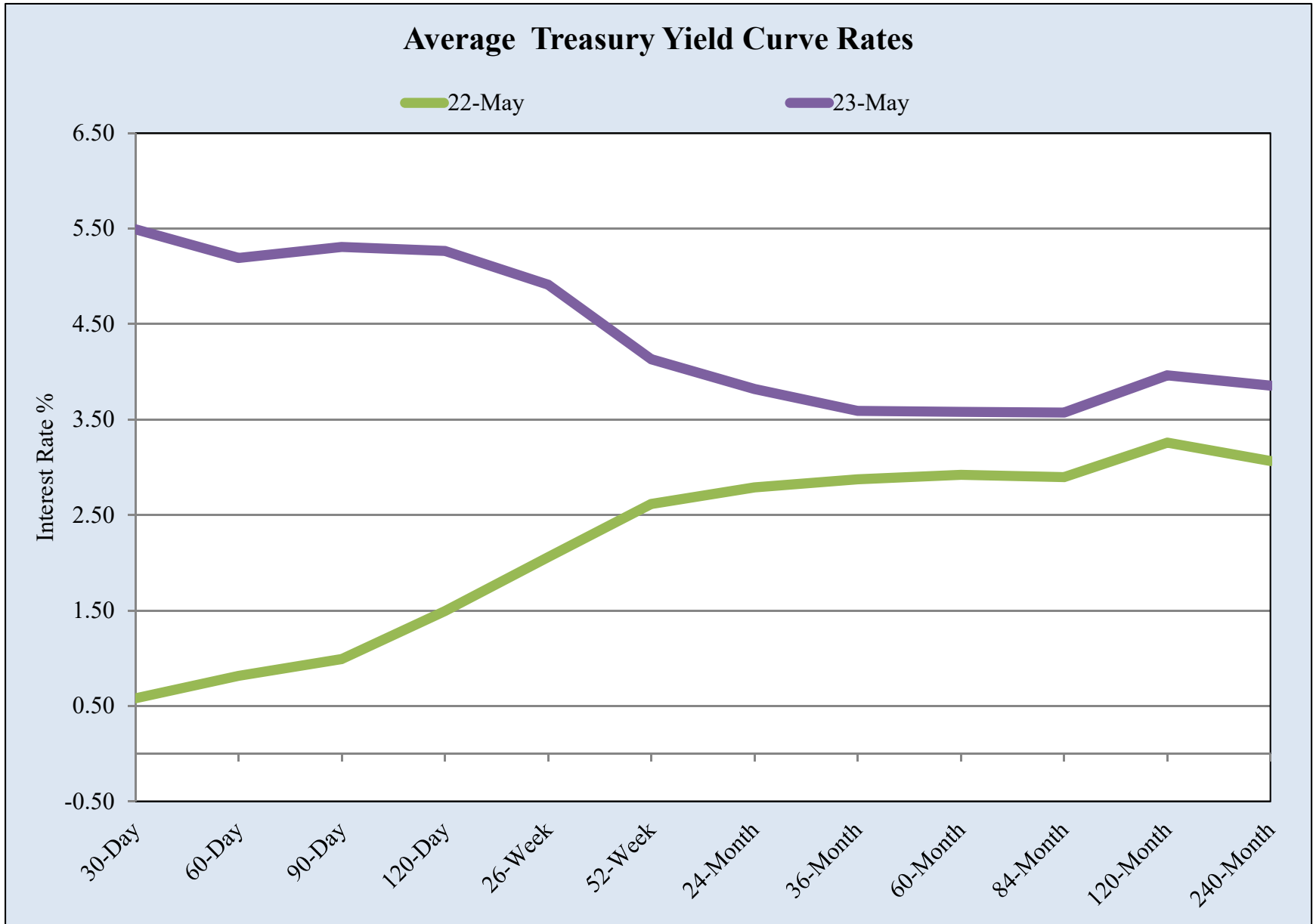
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas Data



El Paso Metropolitan Business Cycle Index



Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas Data

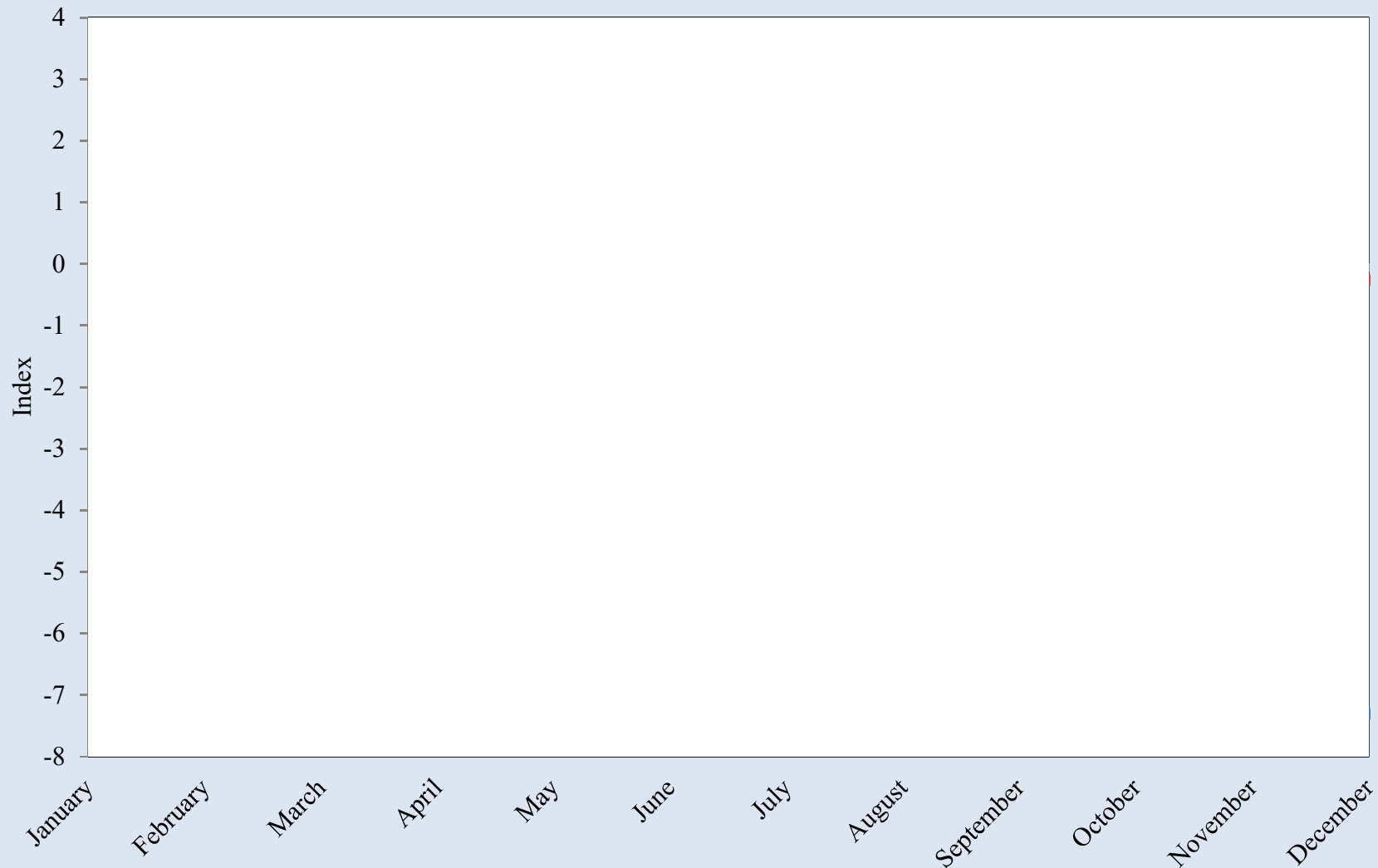


Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using US Treasury, Daily Treasury Yield Curve Rates Data

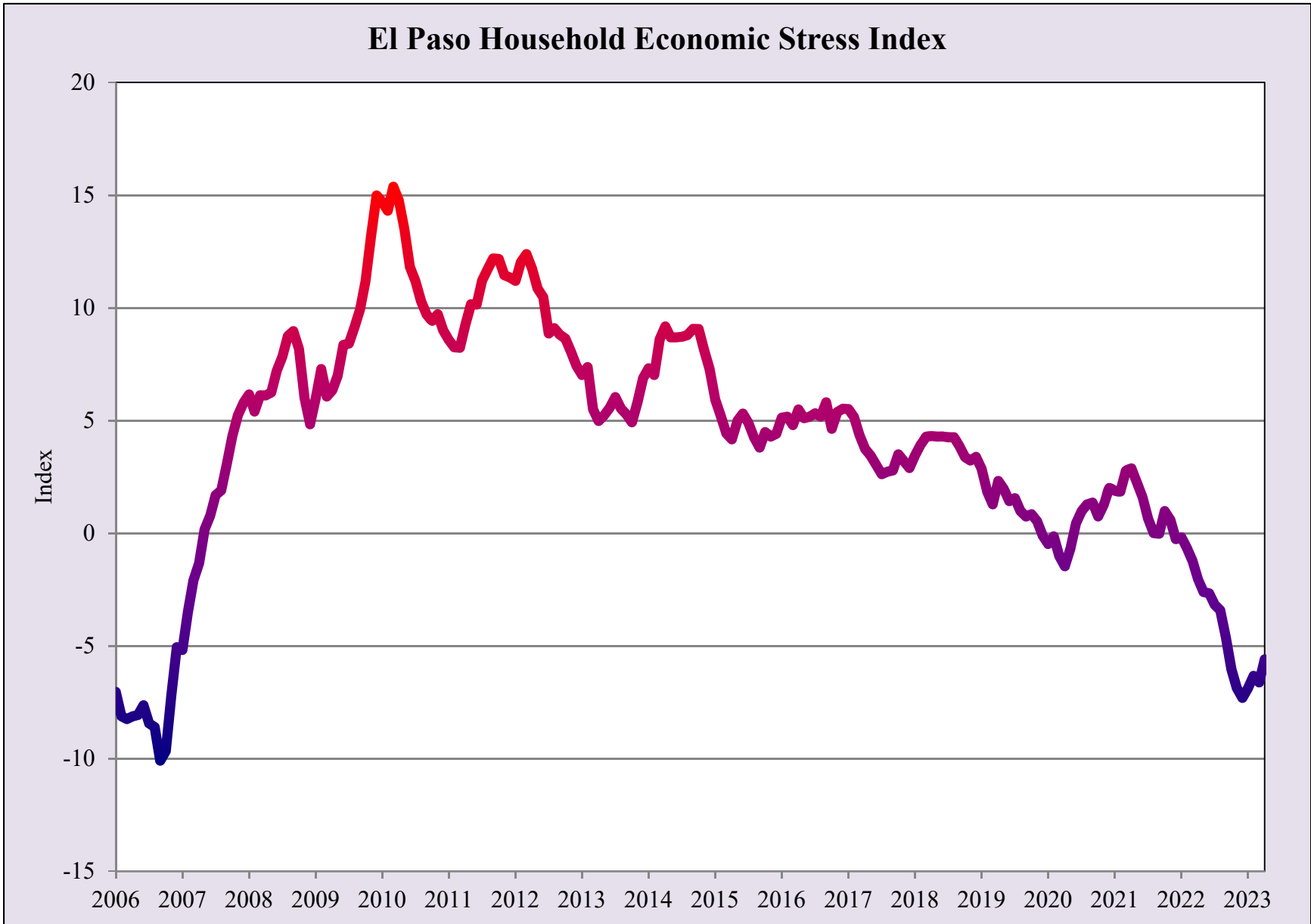


El Paso Household Economic Stress Index

— 2021 — 2022 — 2023



Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project

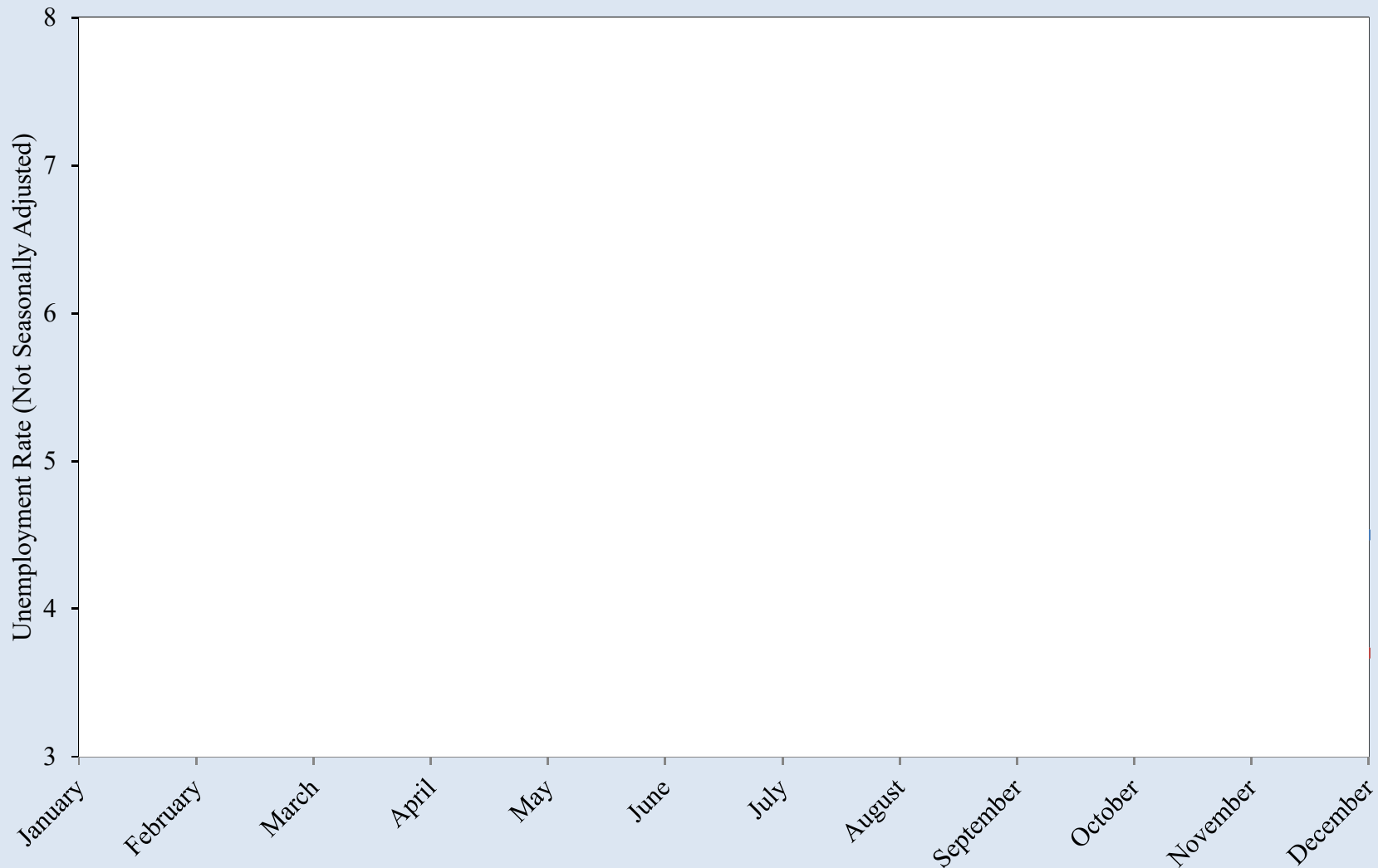


Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project

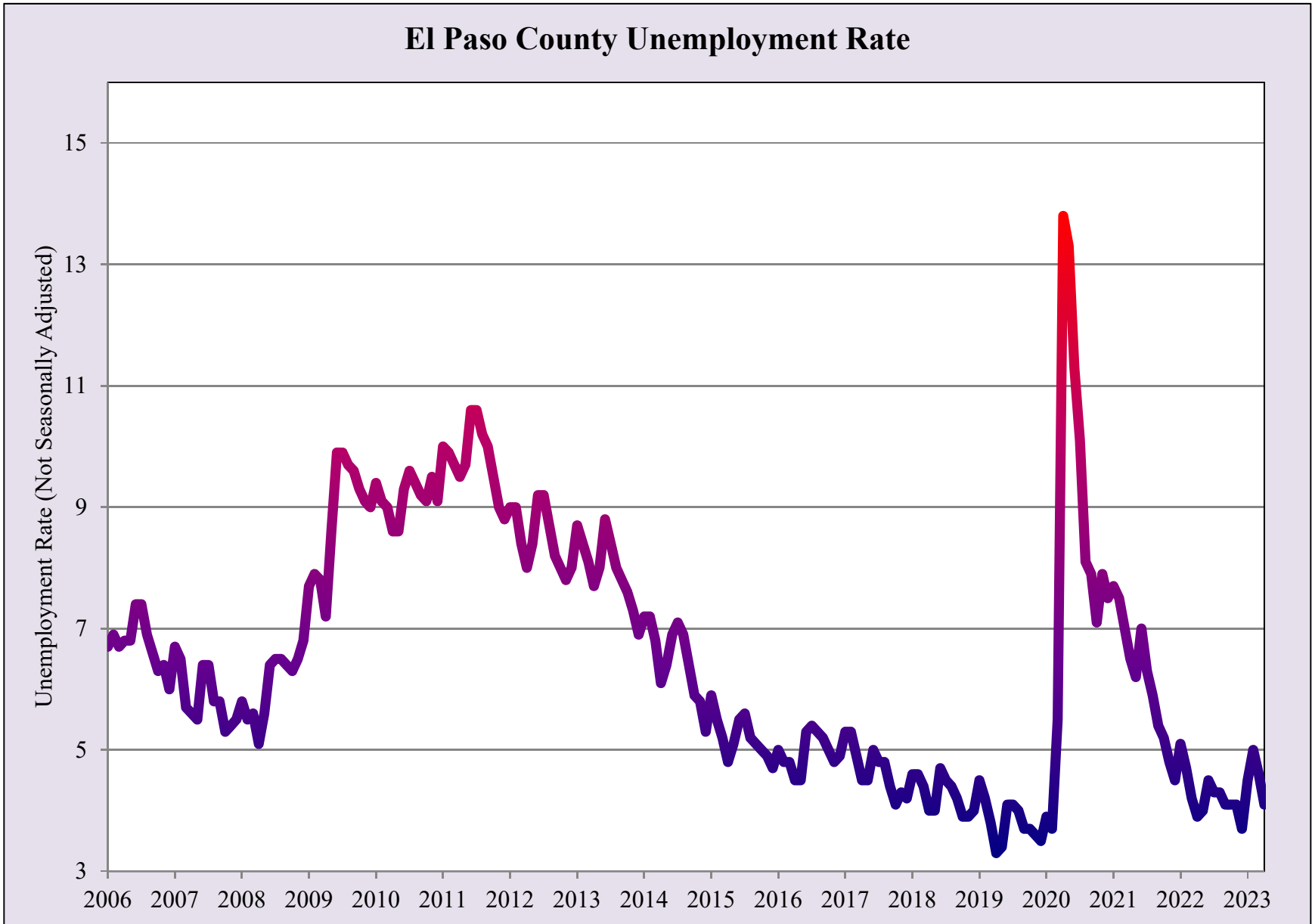


El Paso County Unemployment Rate

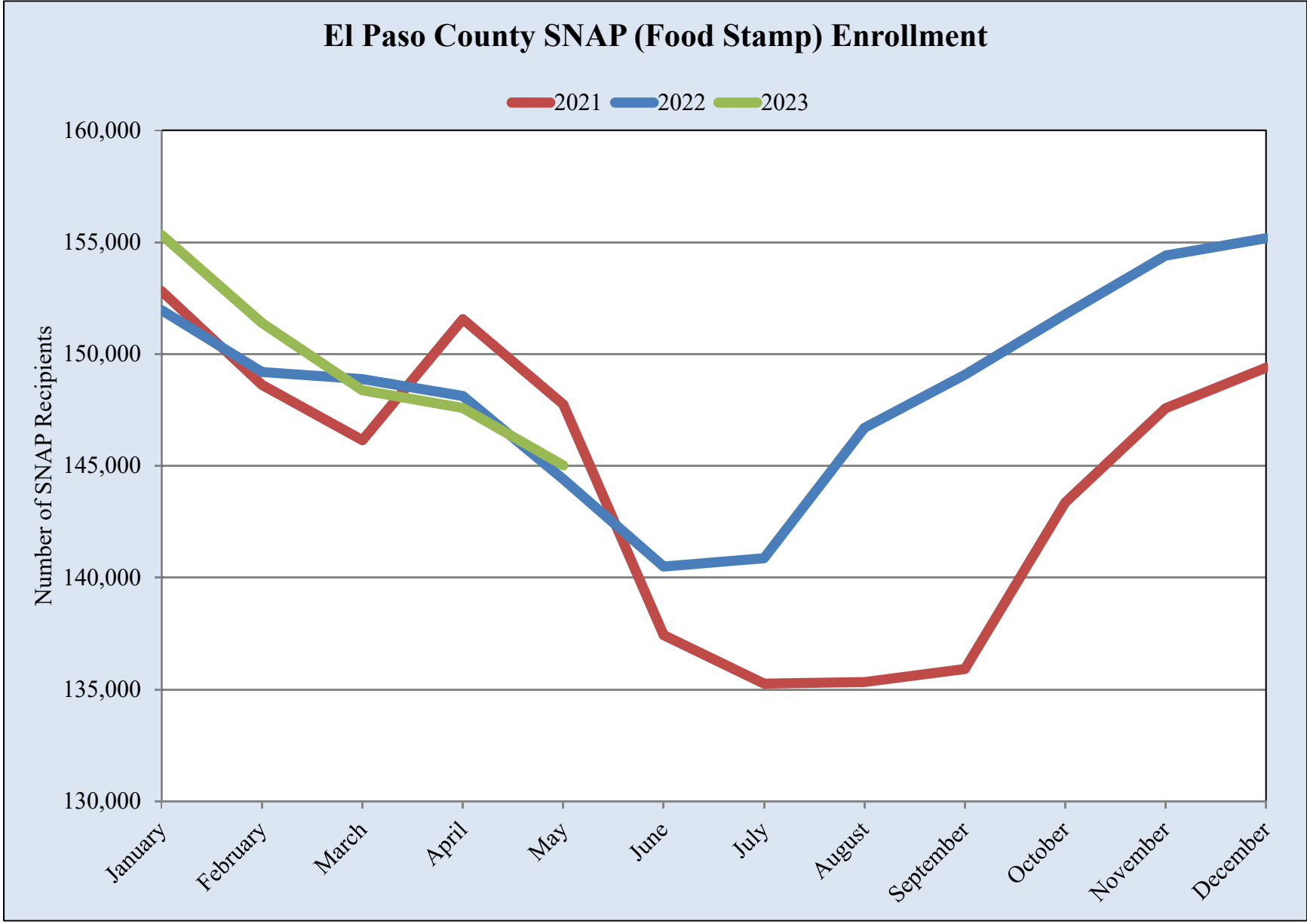
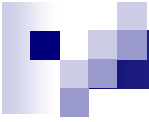
— 2021 — 2022 — 2023



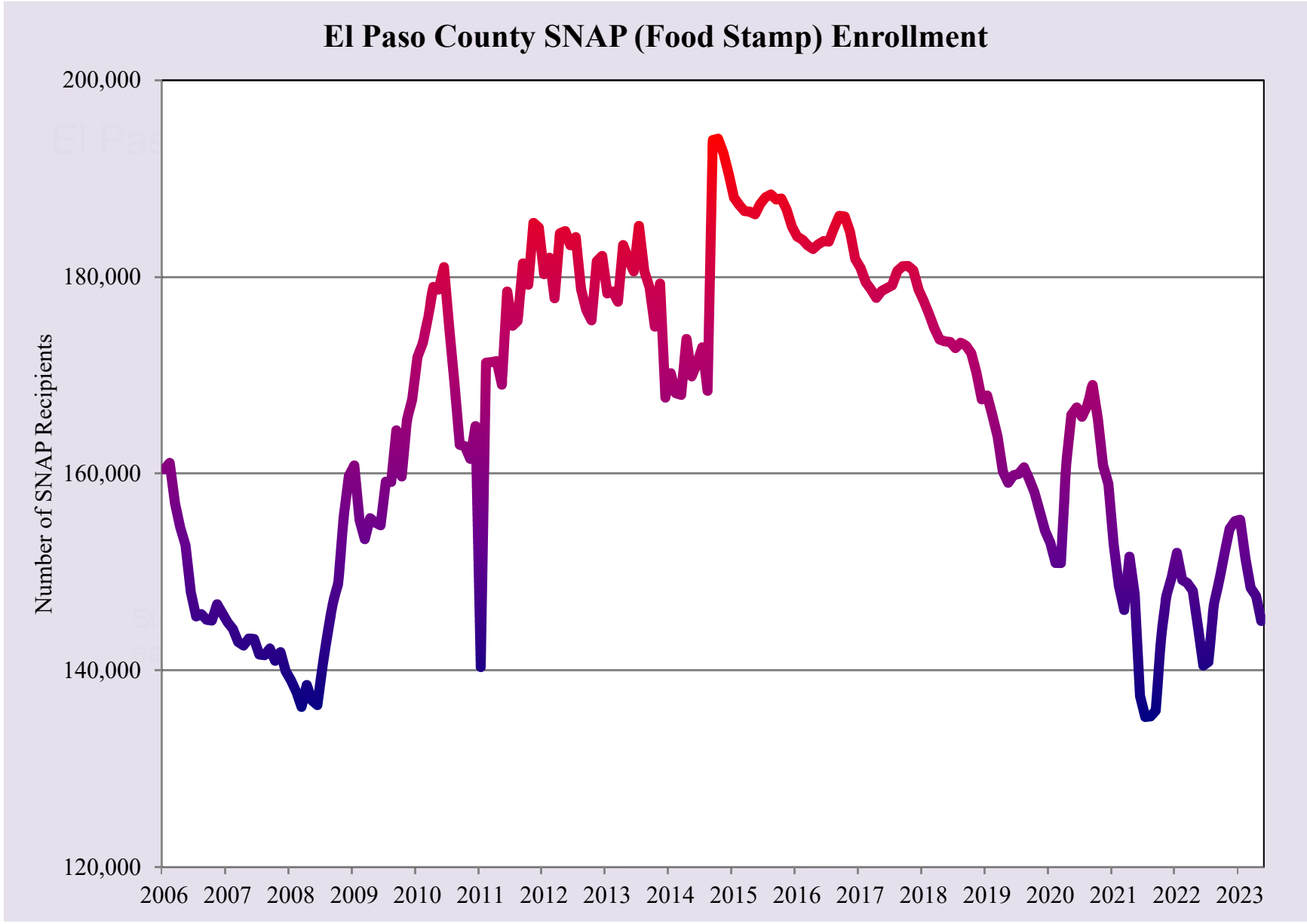
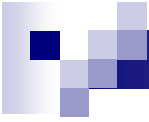
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using Bureau of Labor Statistics Data



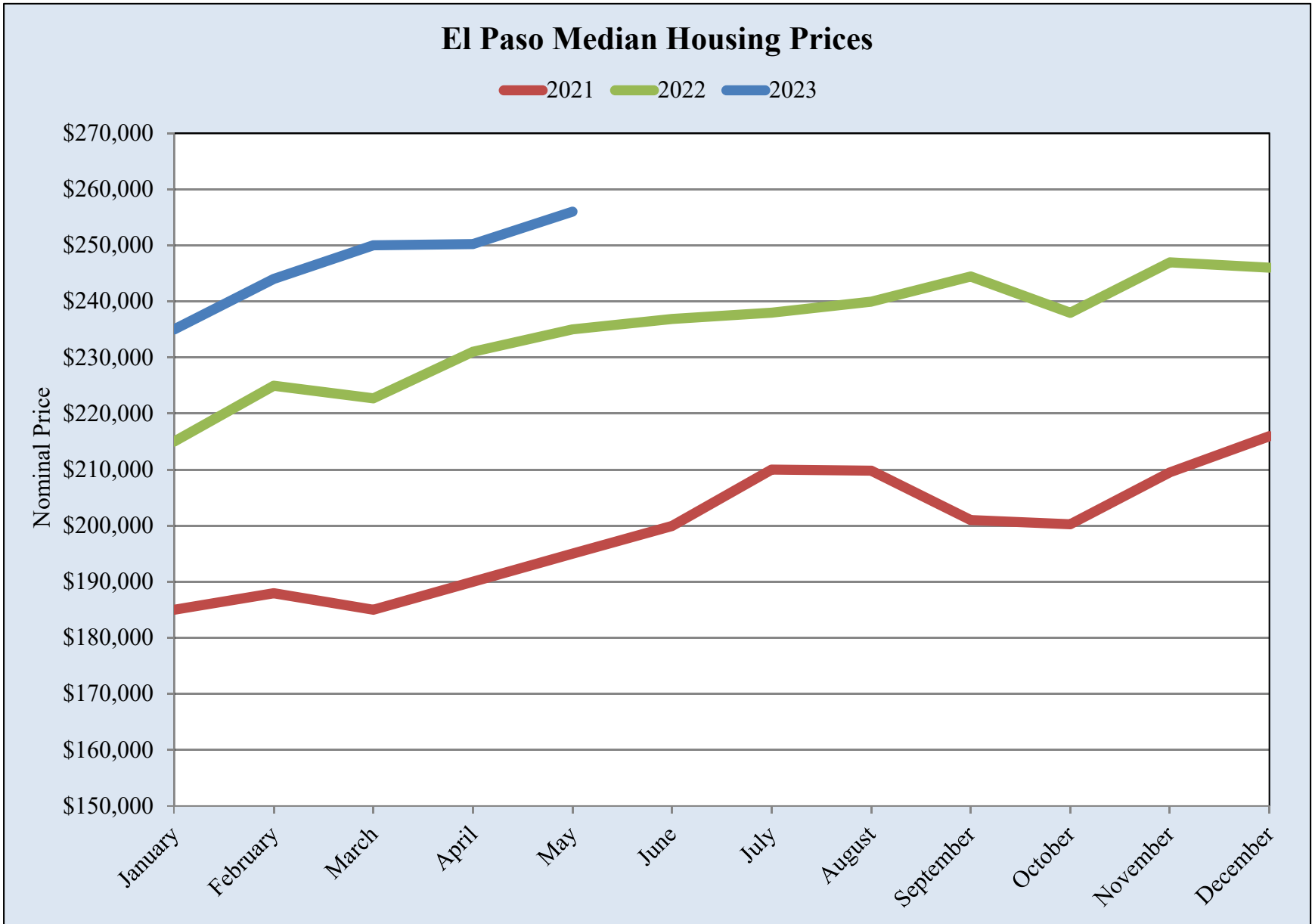
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using Bureau of Labor Statistics Data



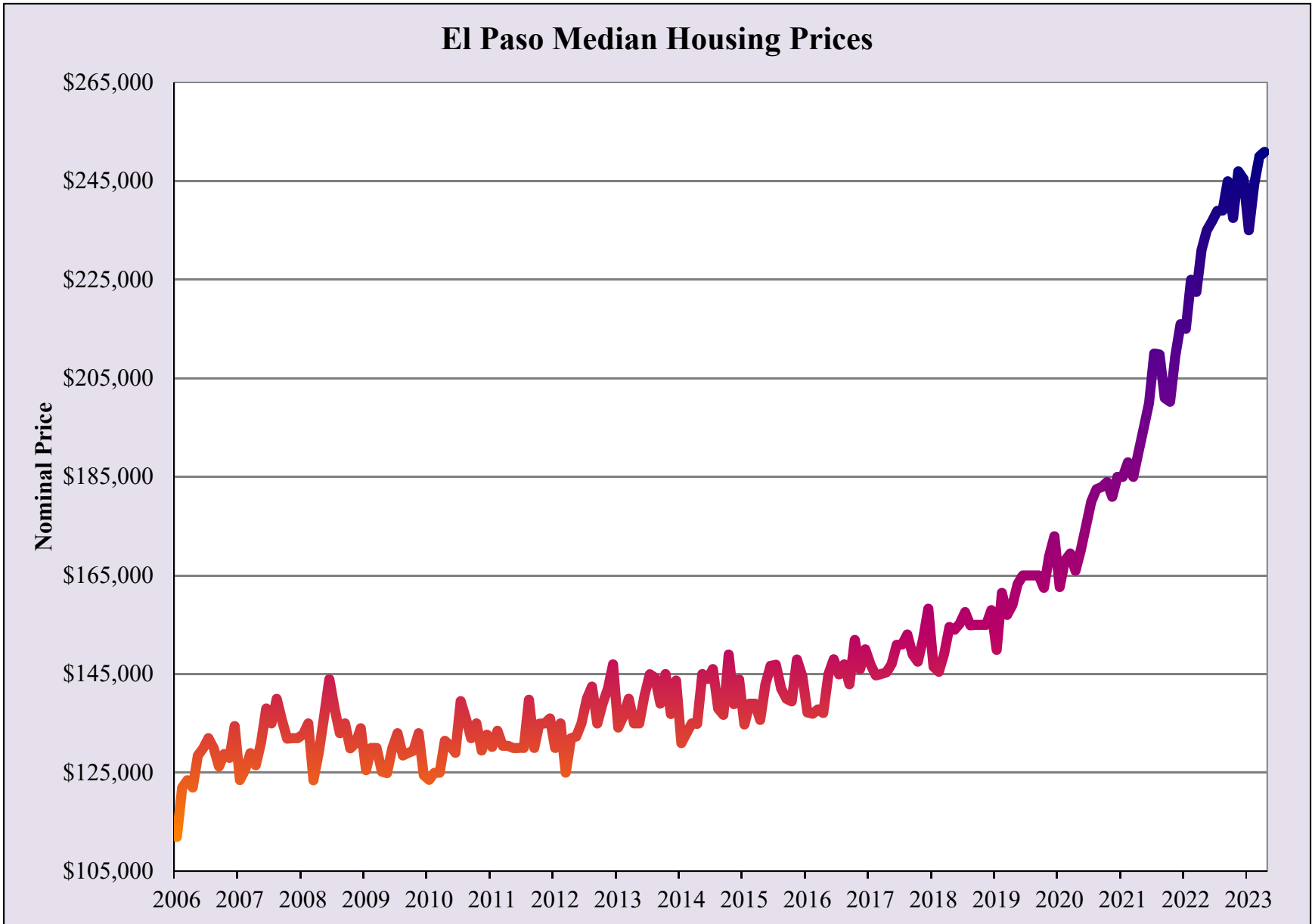
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using Texas Health and Human Services Commission



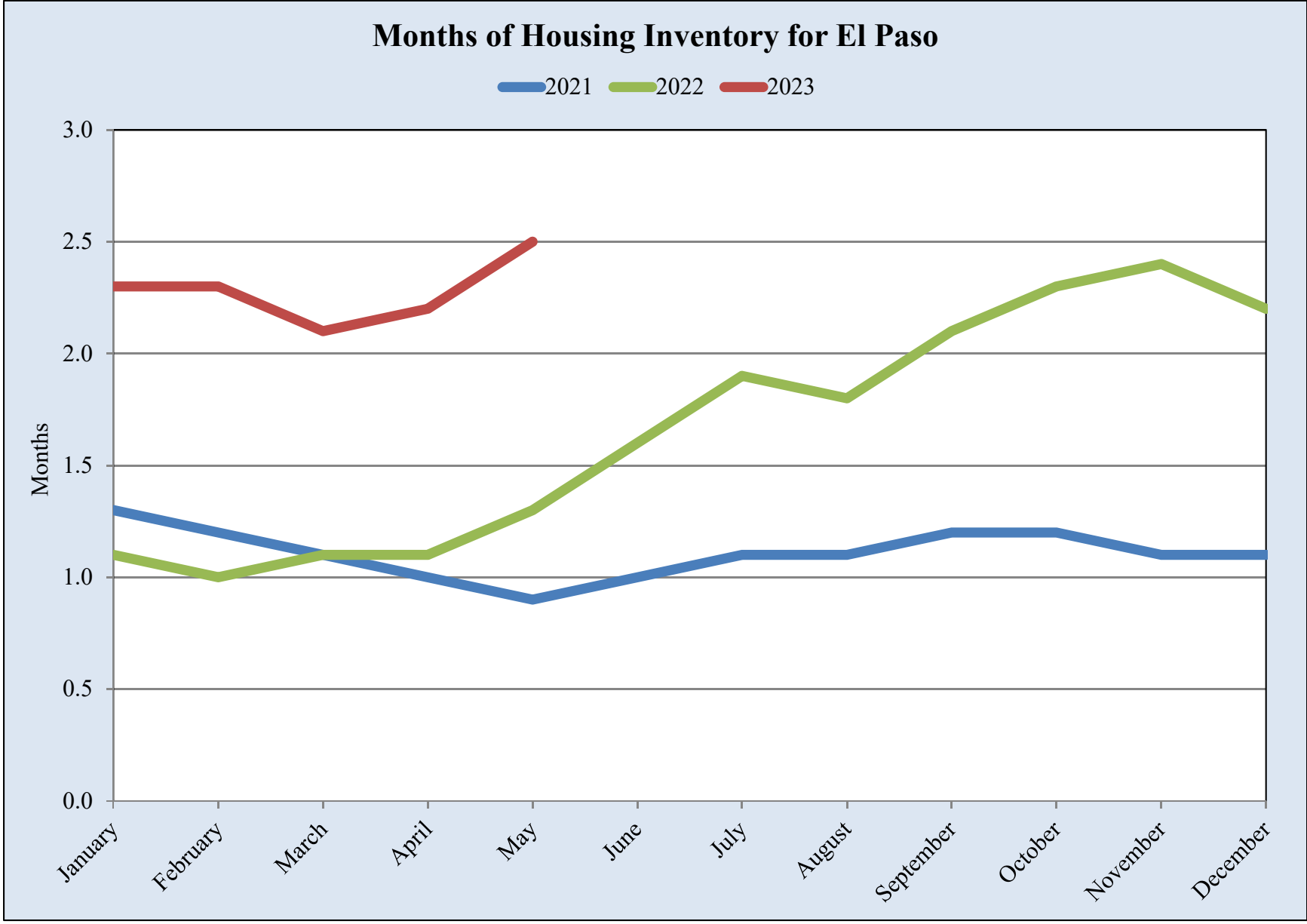
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using Texas Health and Human Services Commission



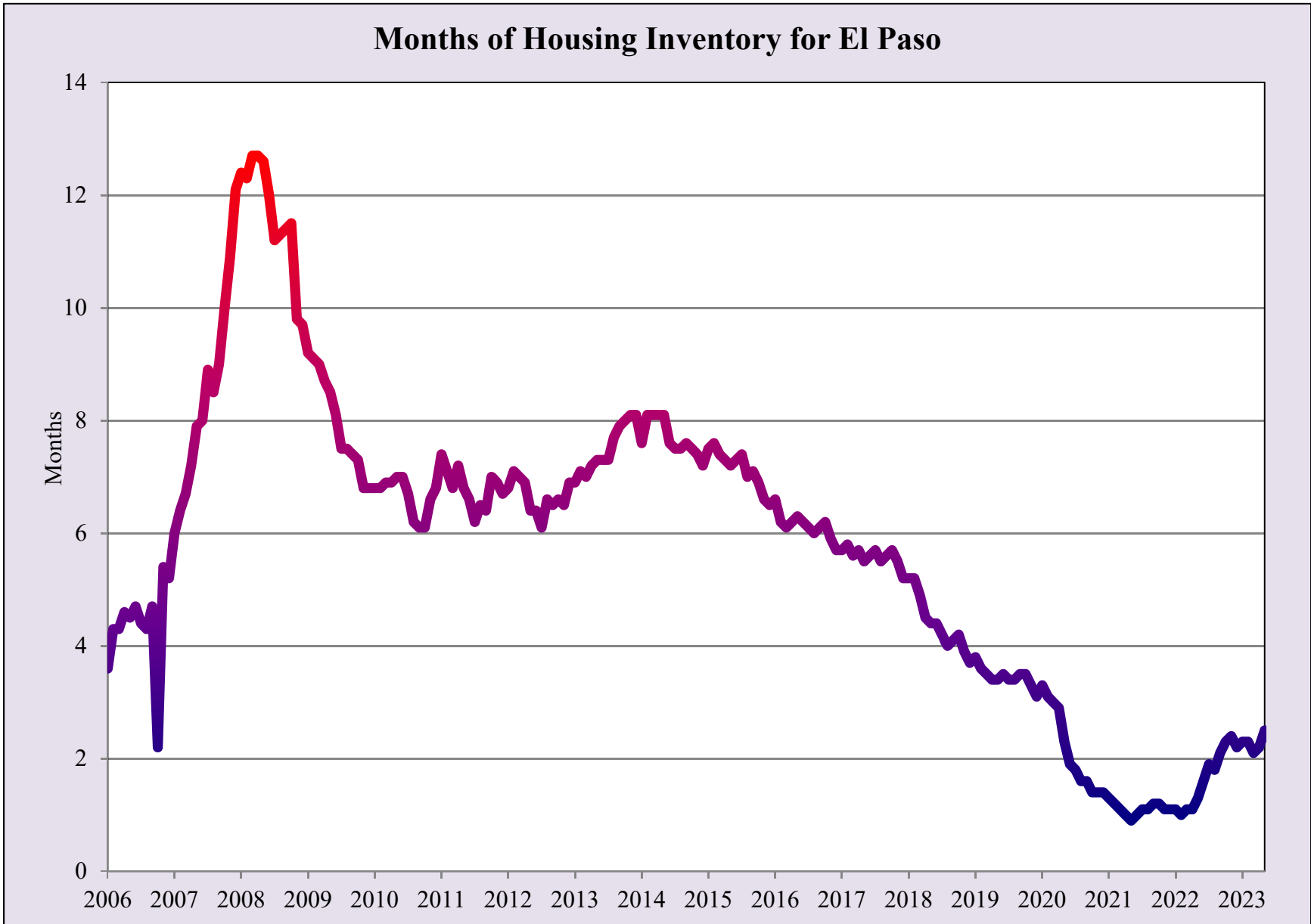
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using Texas A&M Real Estate Center Data



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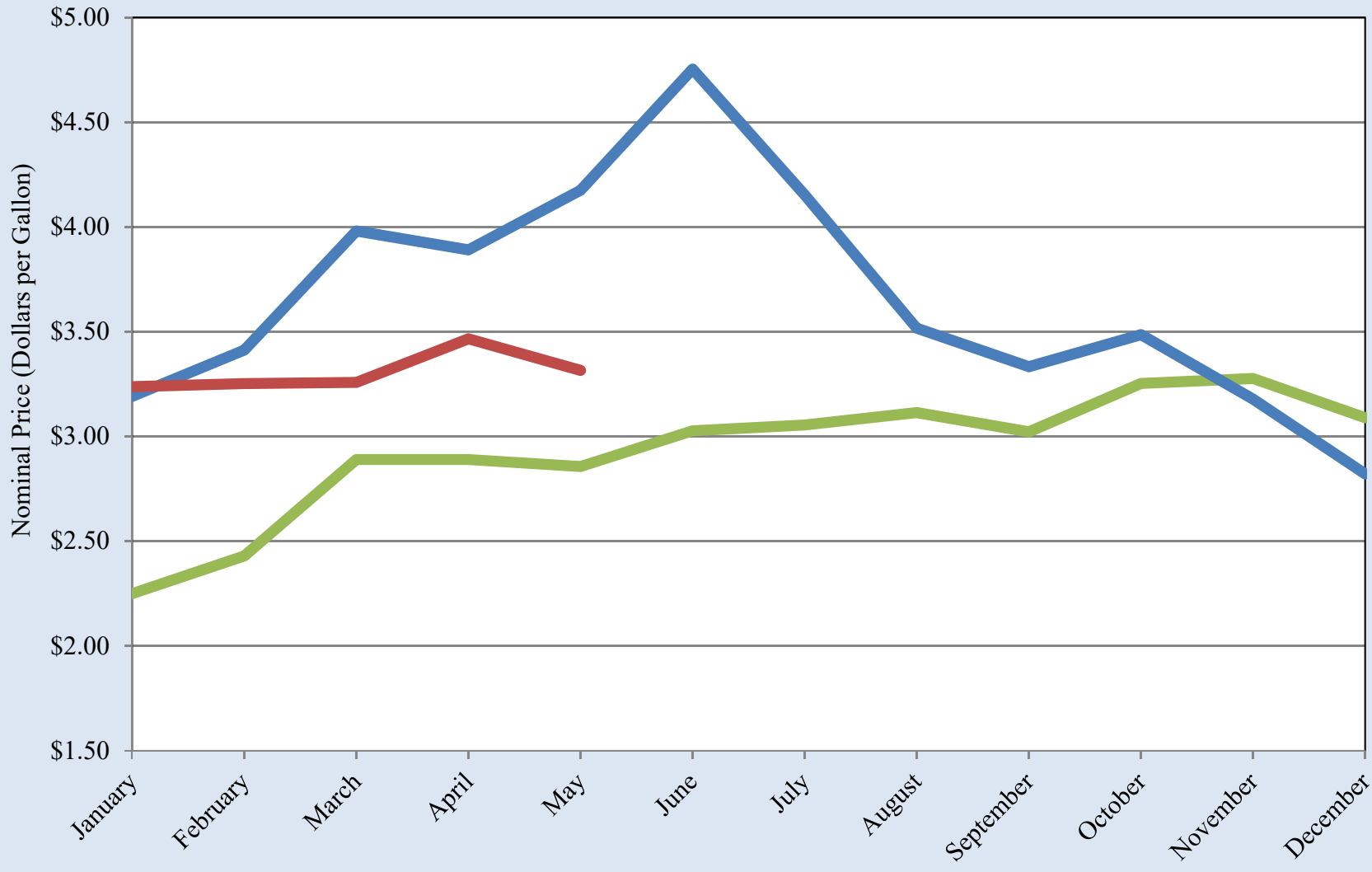
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using Texas A&M Real Estate Center Data



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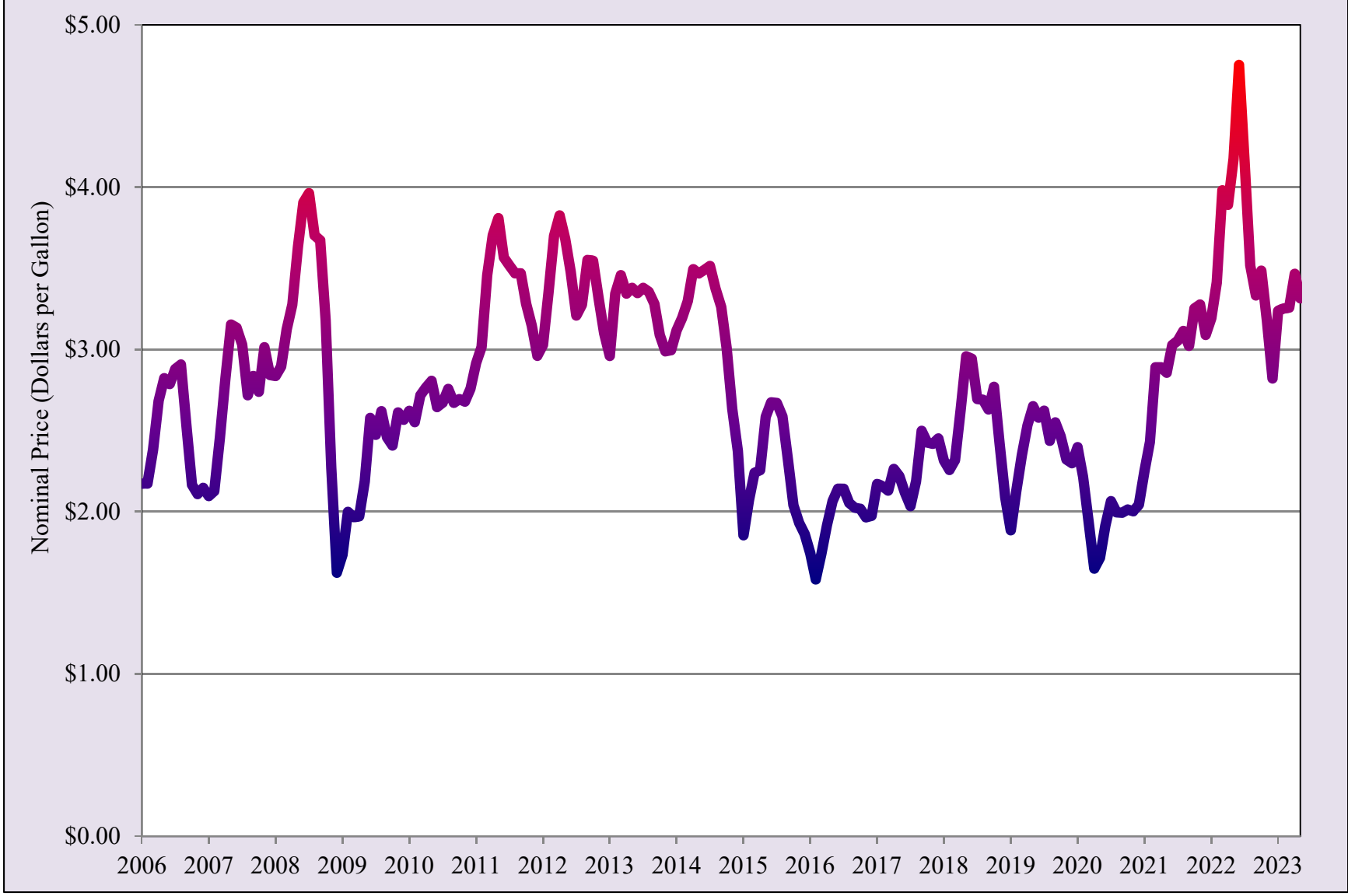
El Paso Gasoline Prices

2021 2022 2023



Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using GasBuddy.com Data

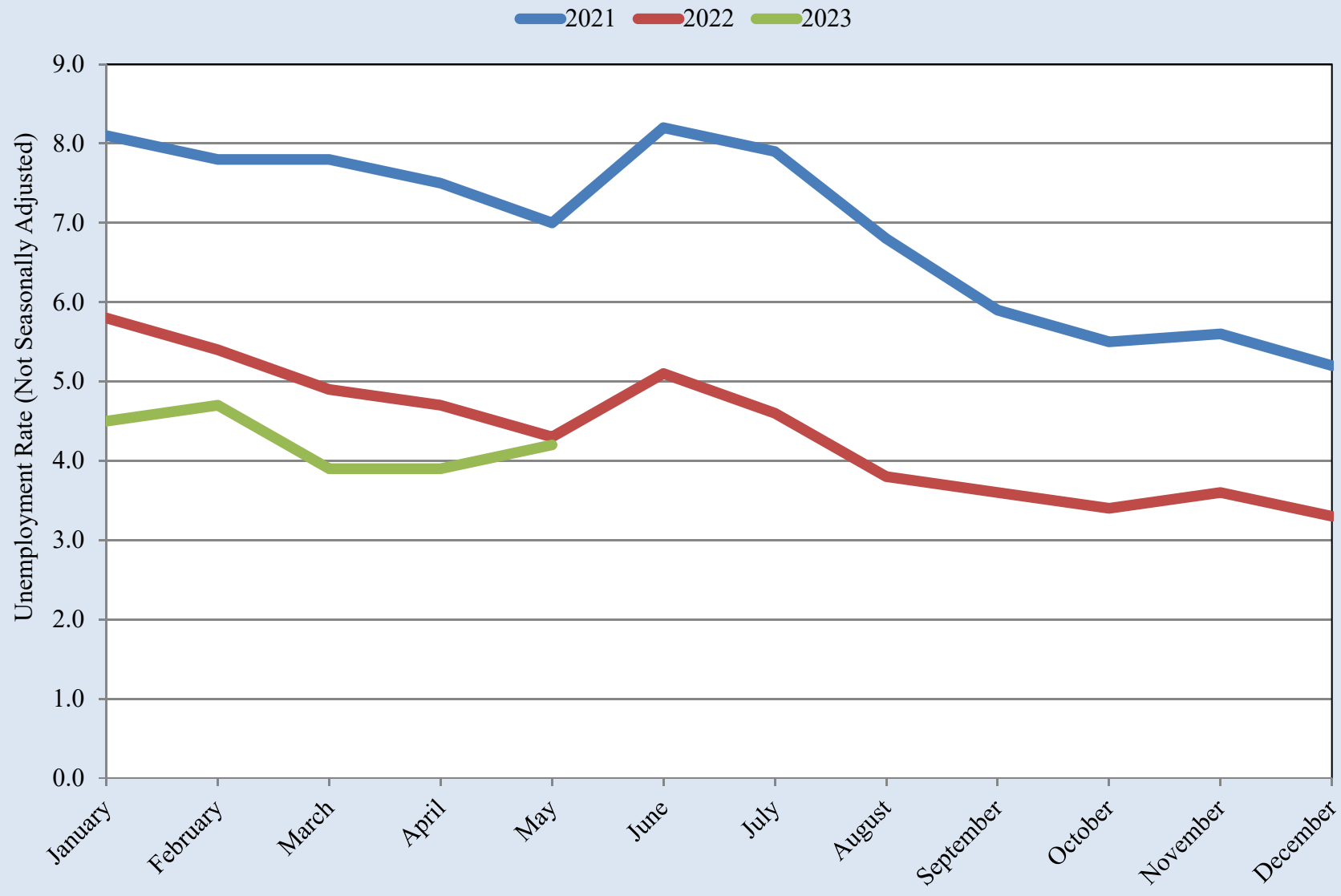
El Paso Gasoline Prices



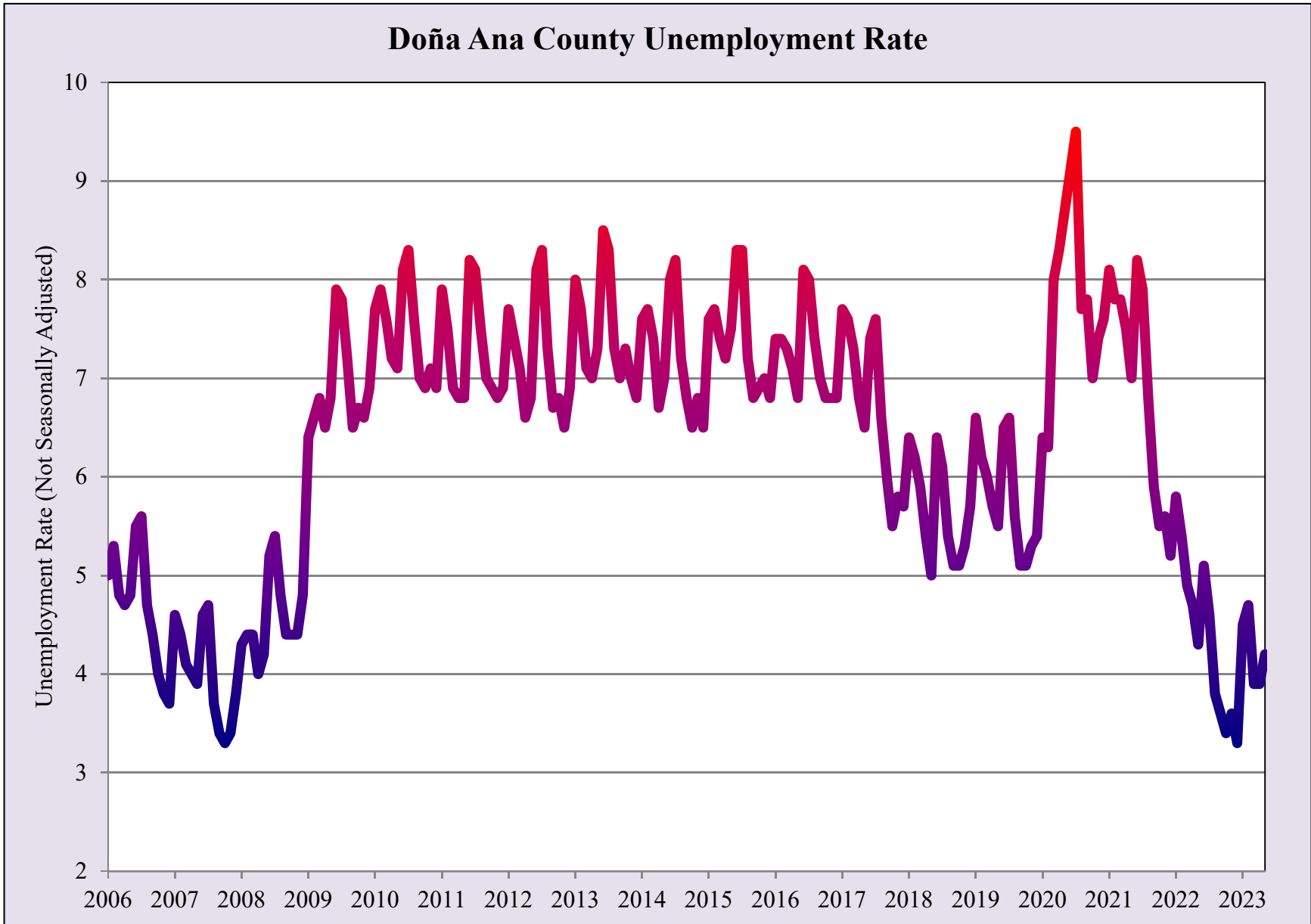
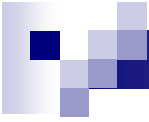
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using GasBuddy.com Data



Doña Ana County Unemployment Rate



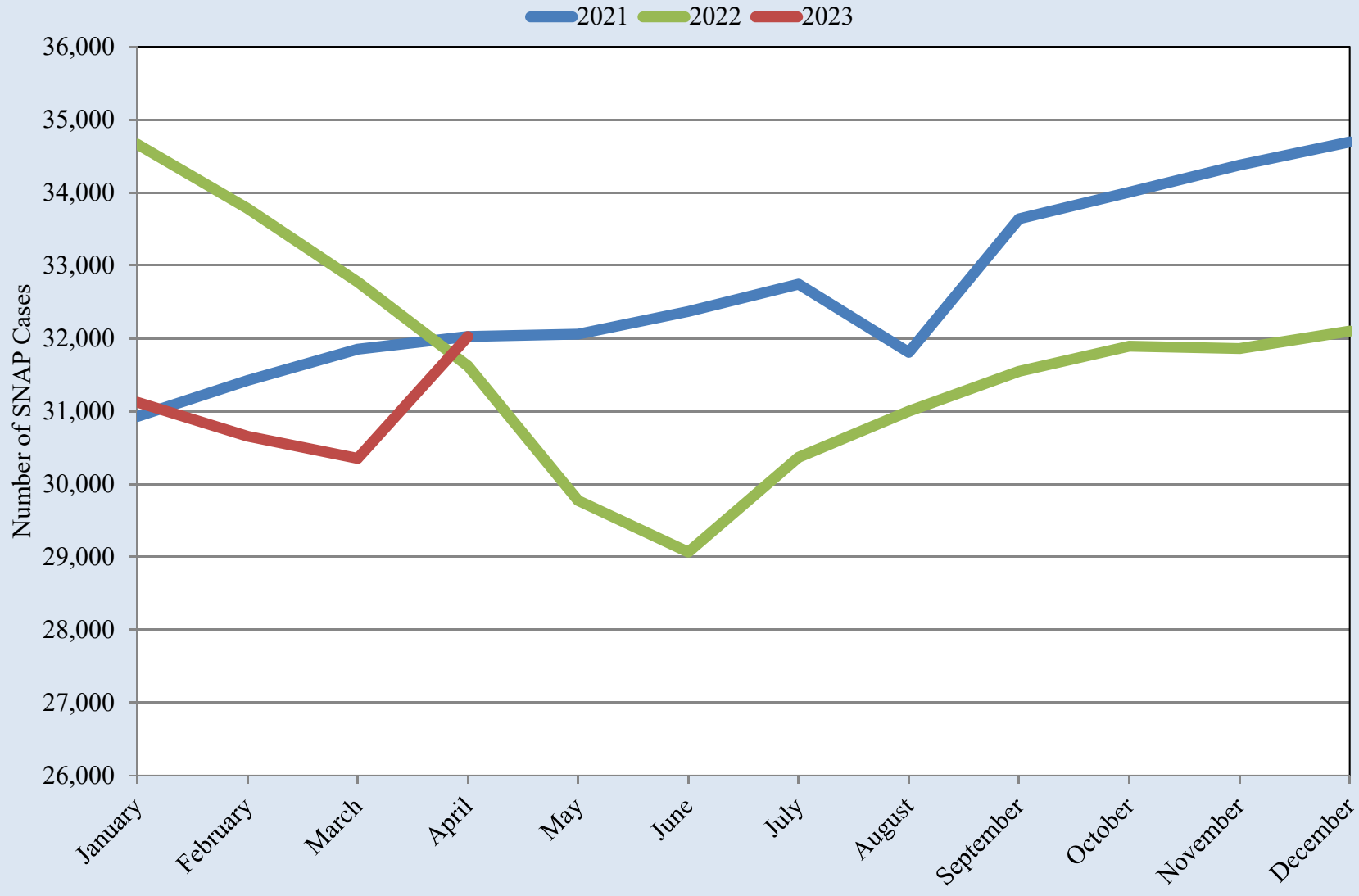
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using NM Workforce Data



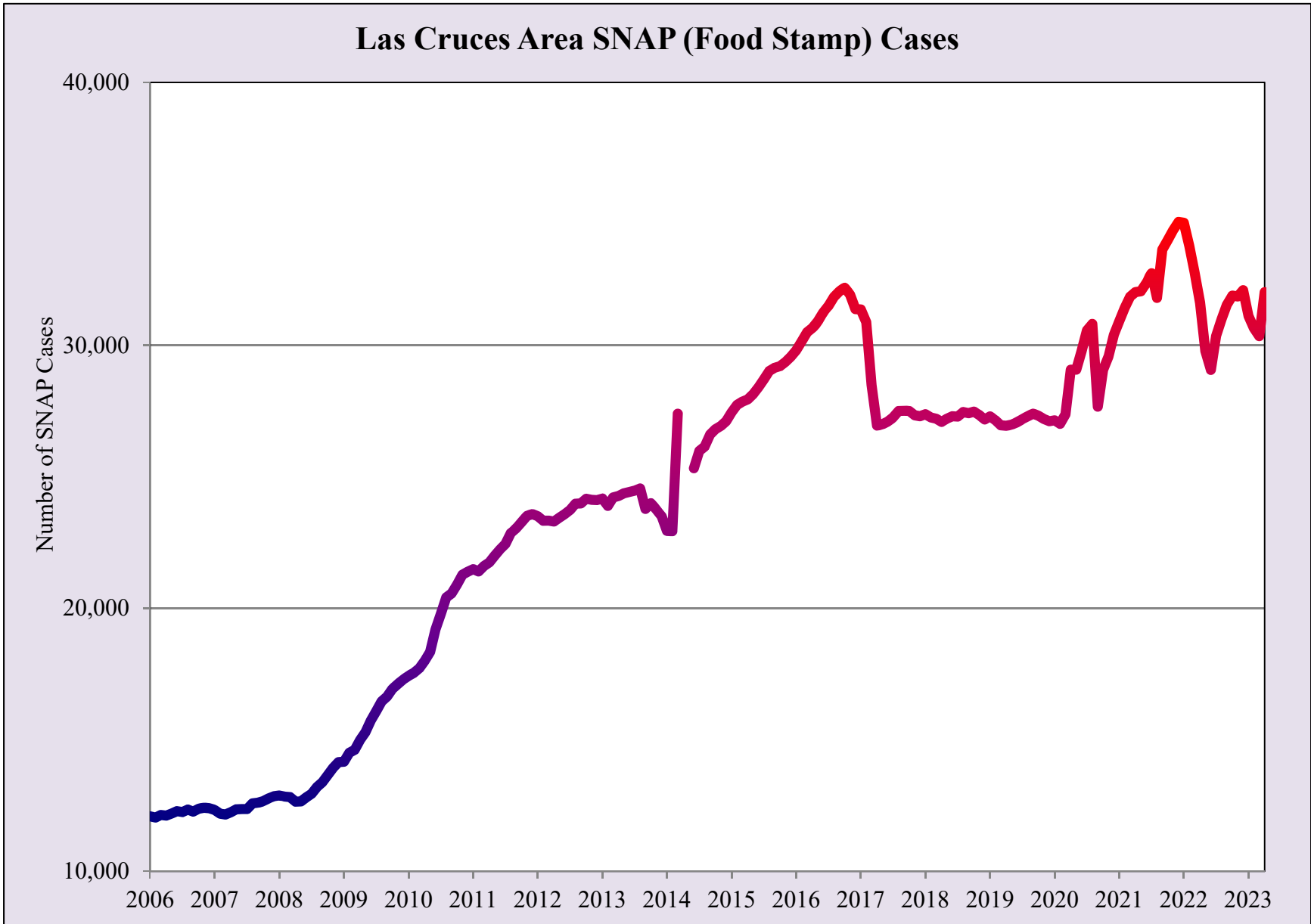
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using NM Workforce Data



Las Cruces Area SNAP (Food Stamp) Cases



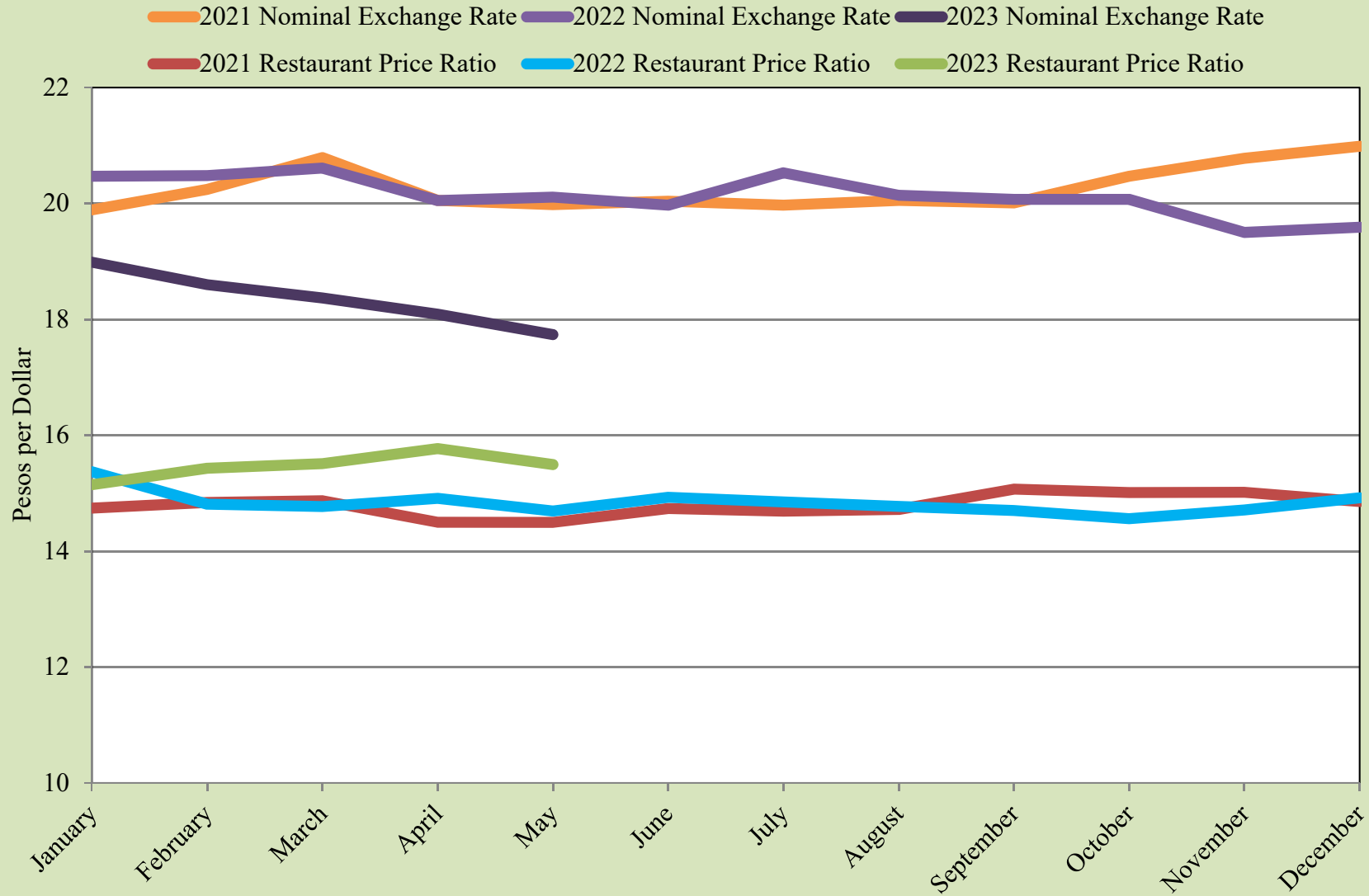
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using New Mexico Human Services Department Data



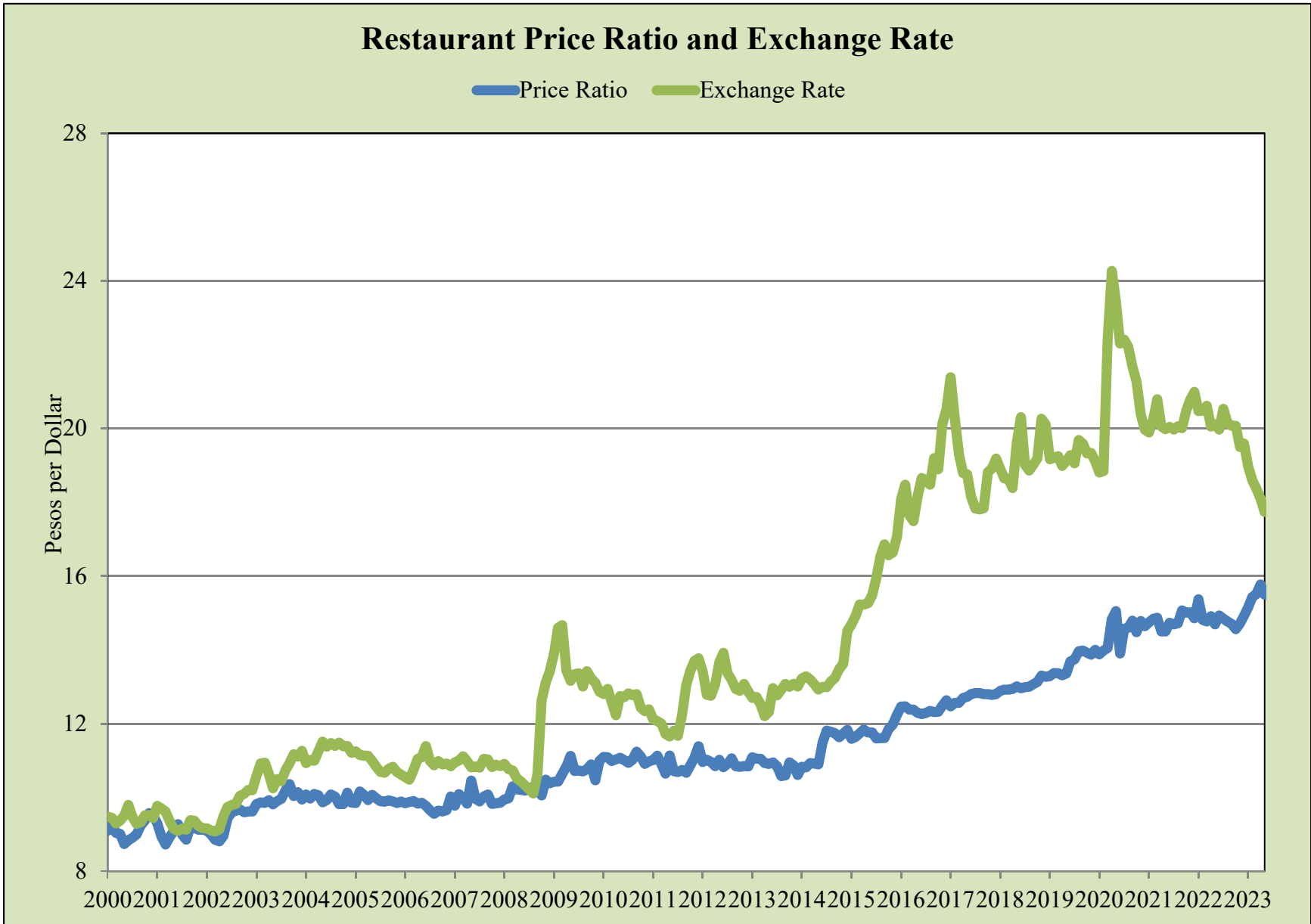
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using New Mexico Human Services Department Data



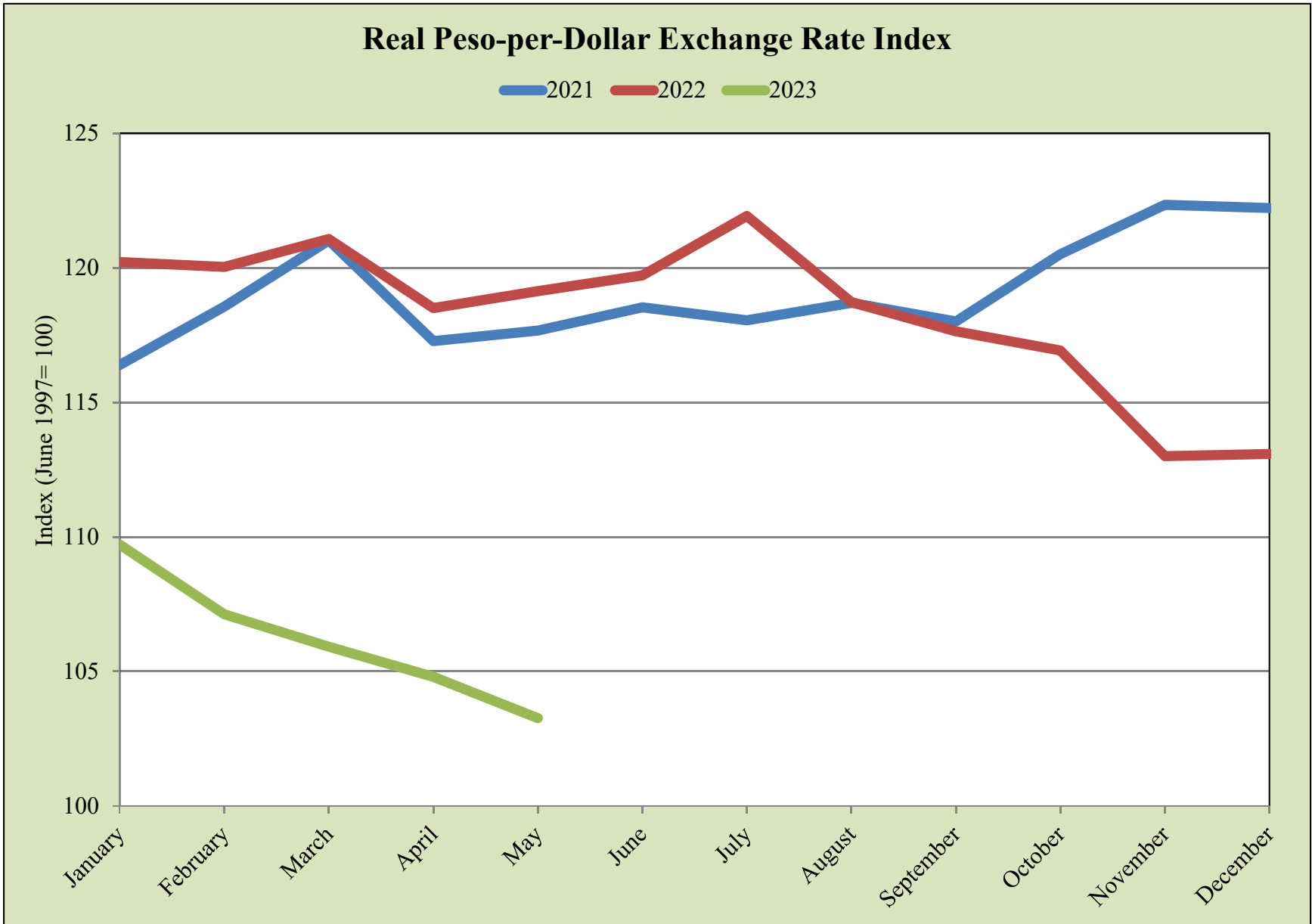
Restaurant Price Ratio and Exchange Rate



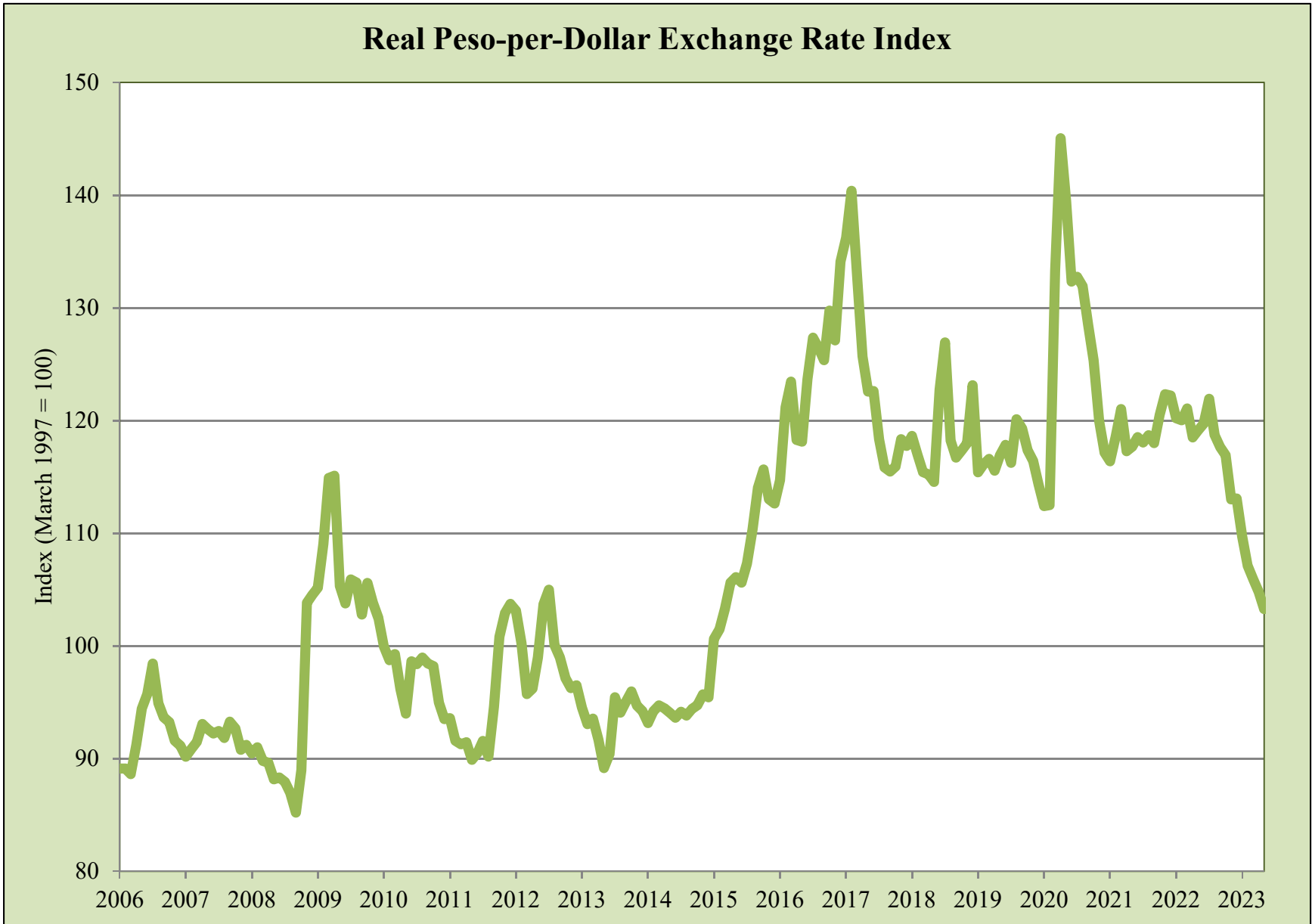
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using 85 identical franchise restaurant products sold on both sides of the border.



Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using Banco de Mexico Data



Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project



Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project

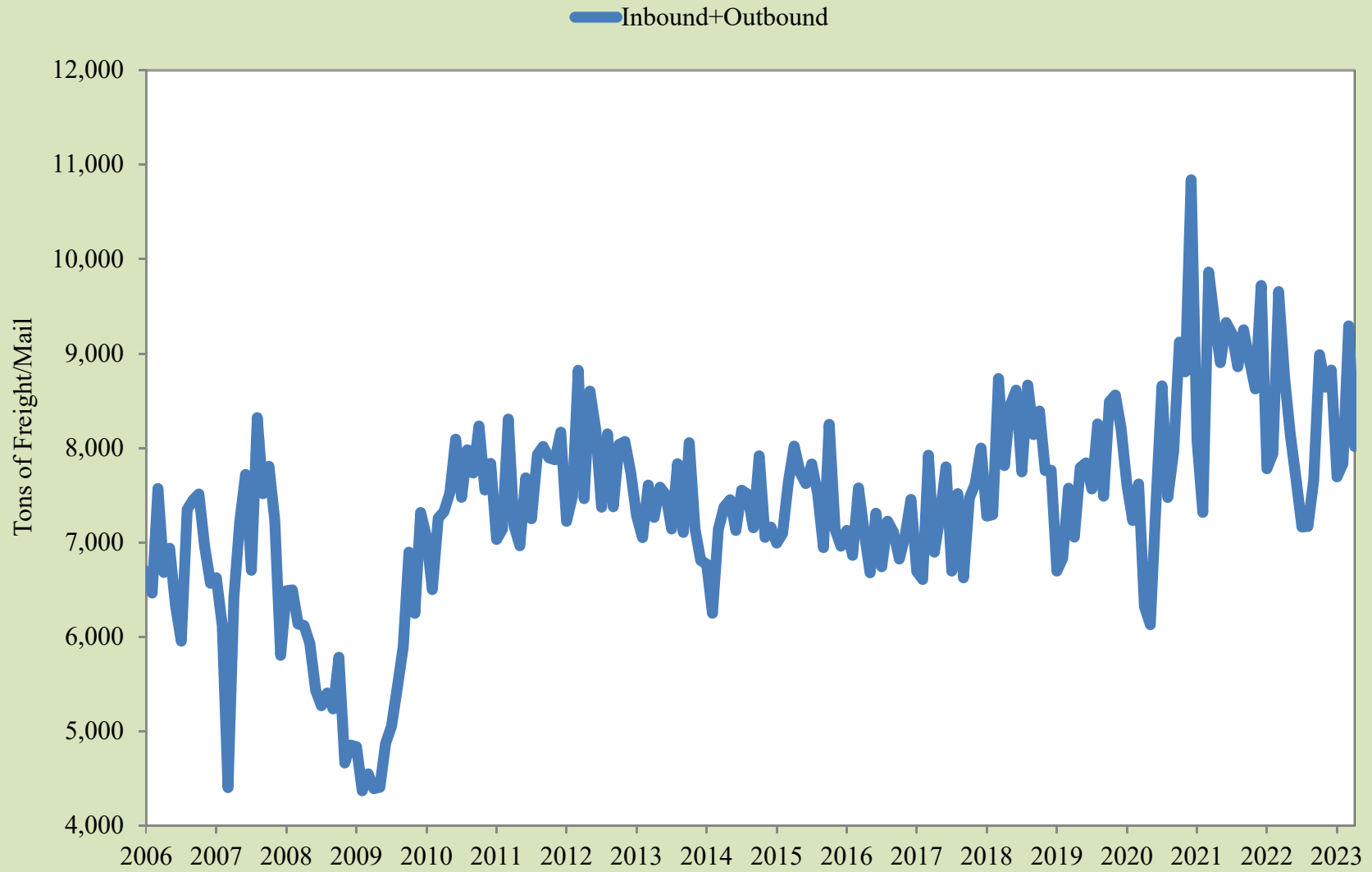
EPIA Freight and Mail



Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using EPIA Operations Data

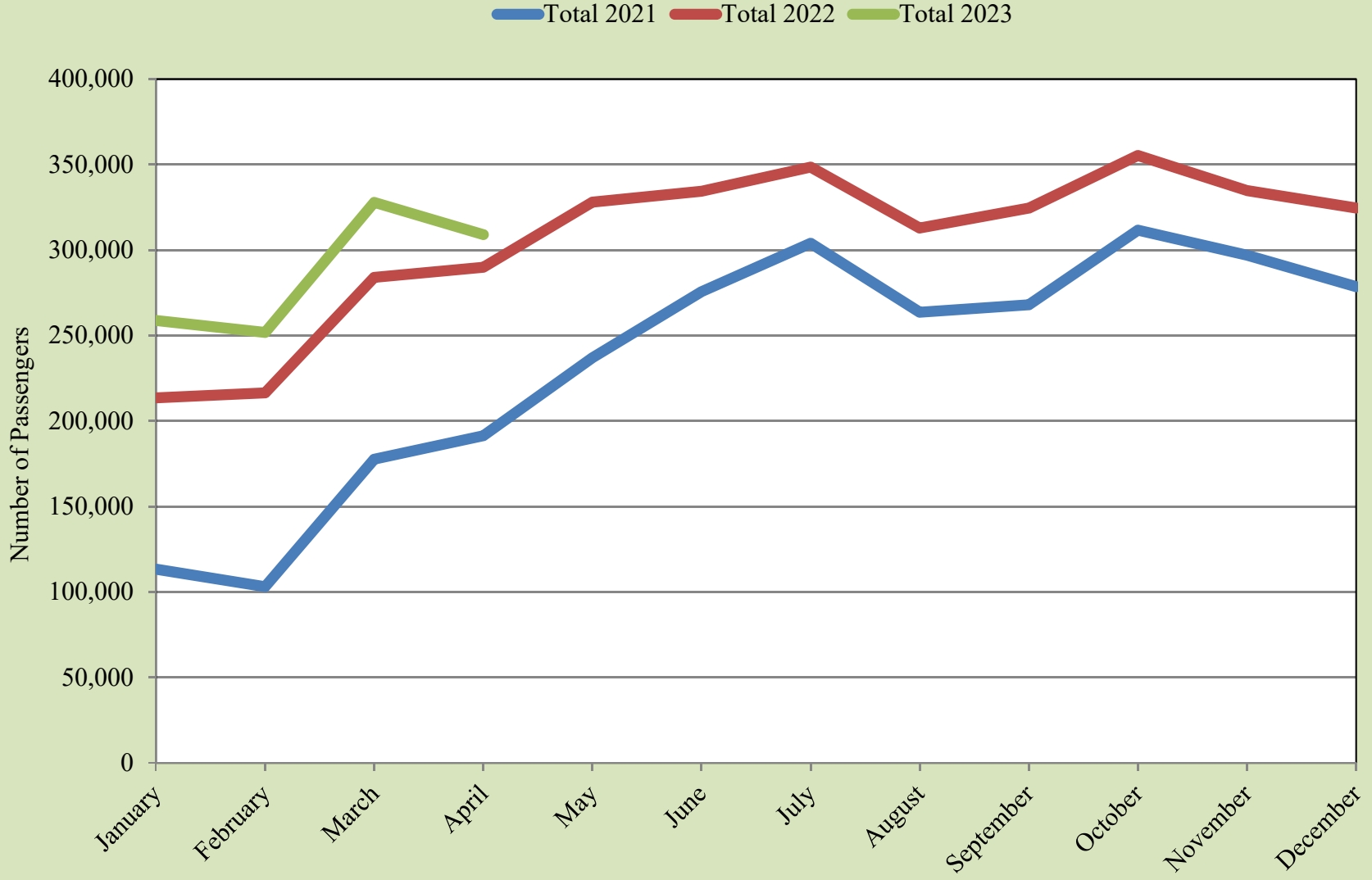


EPIA Freight and Mail

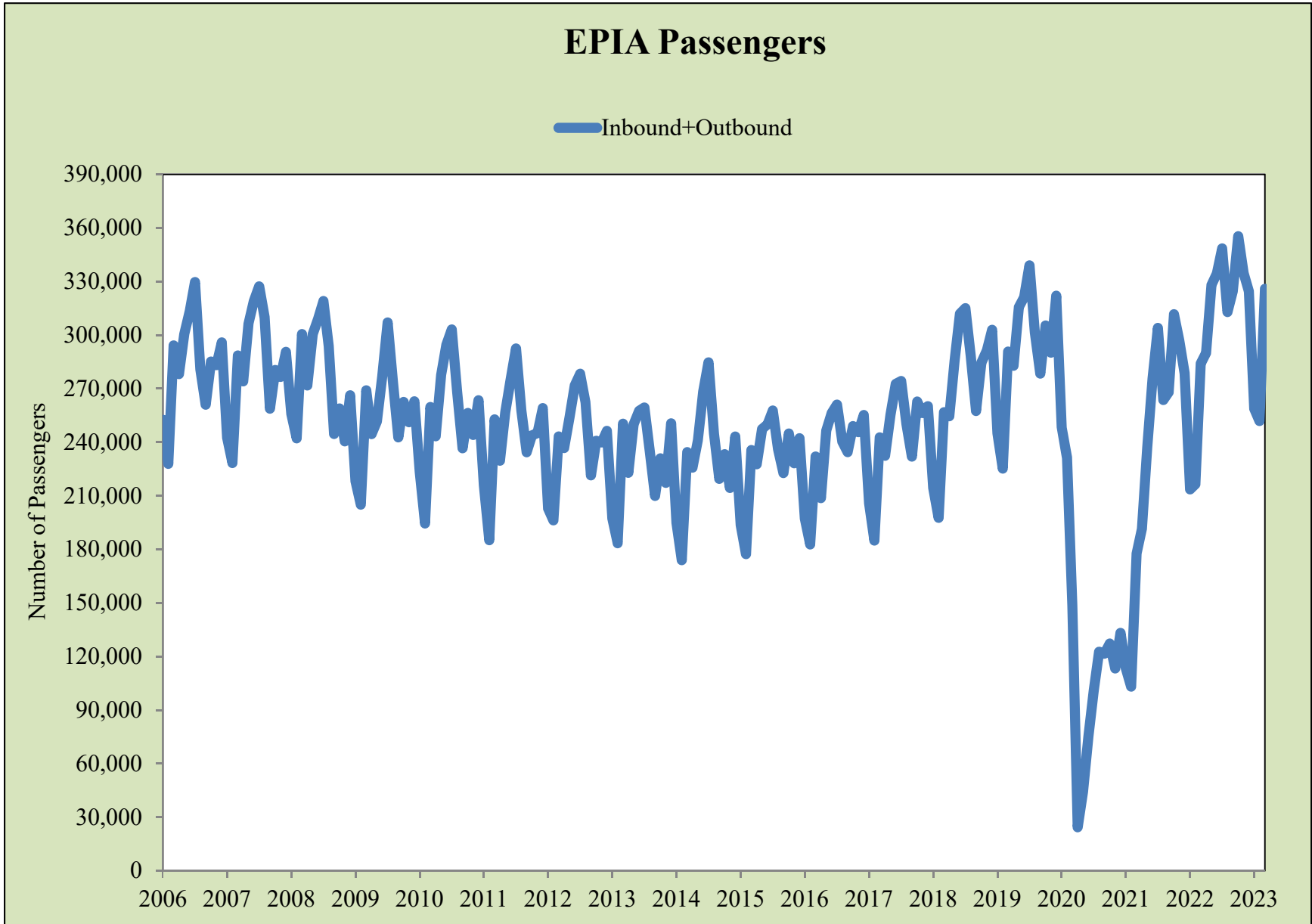


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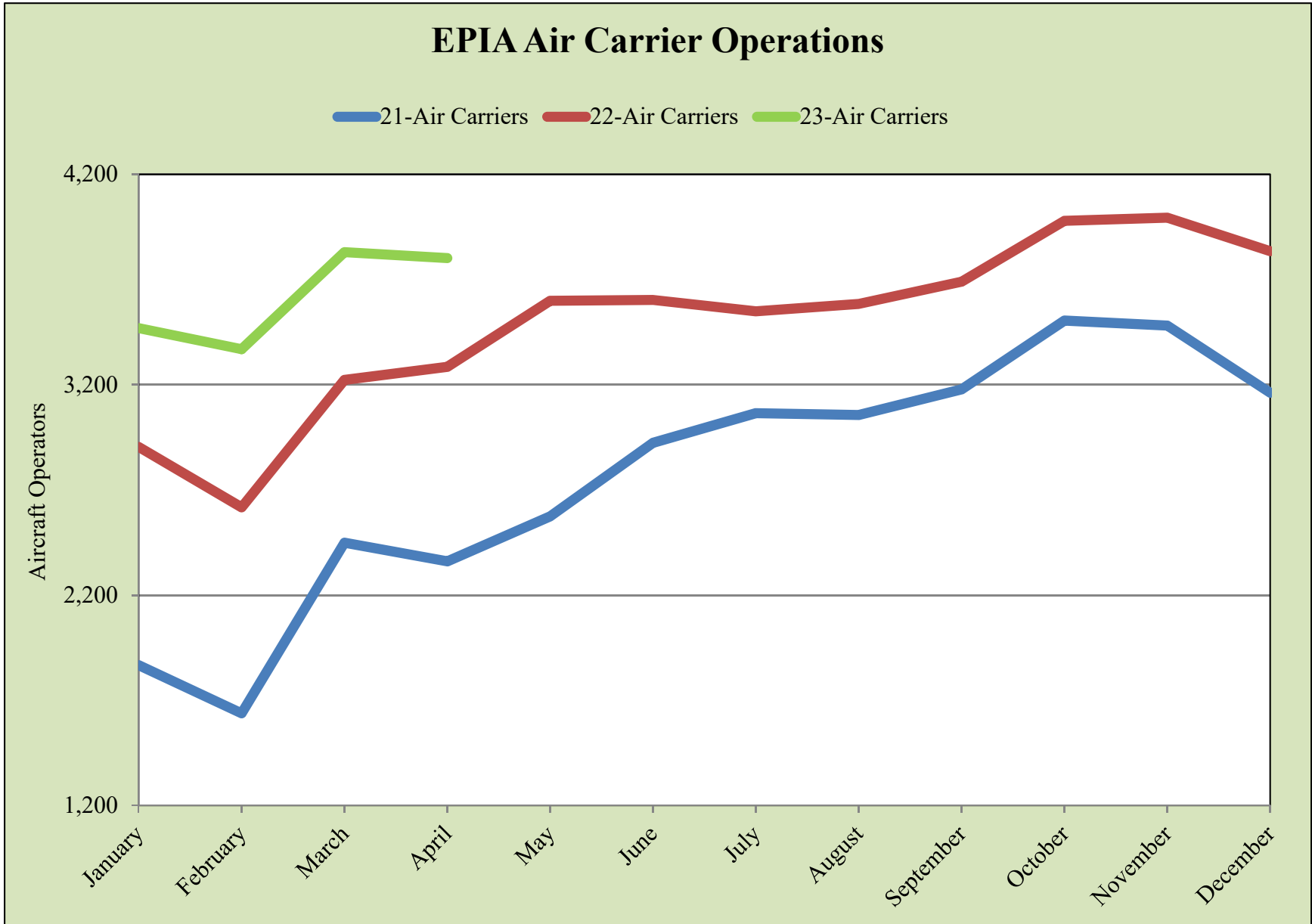
EPIA Passengers



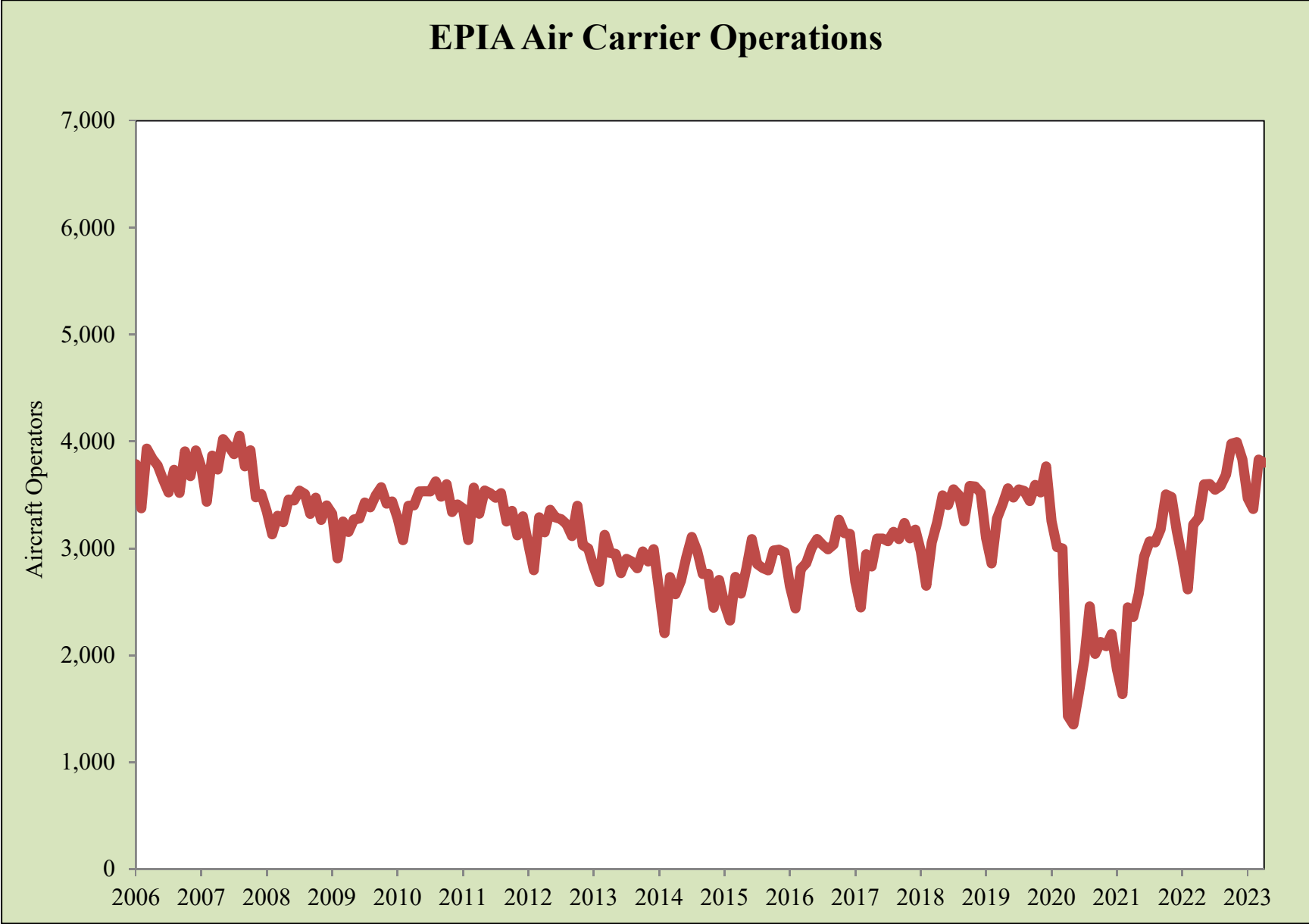
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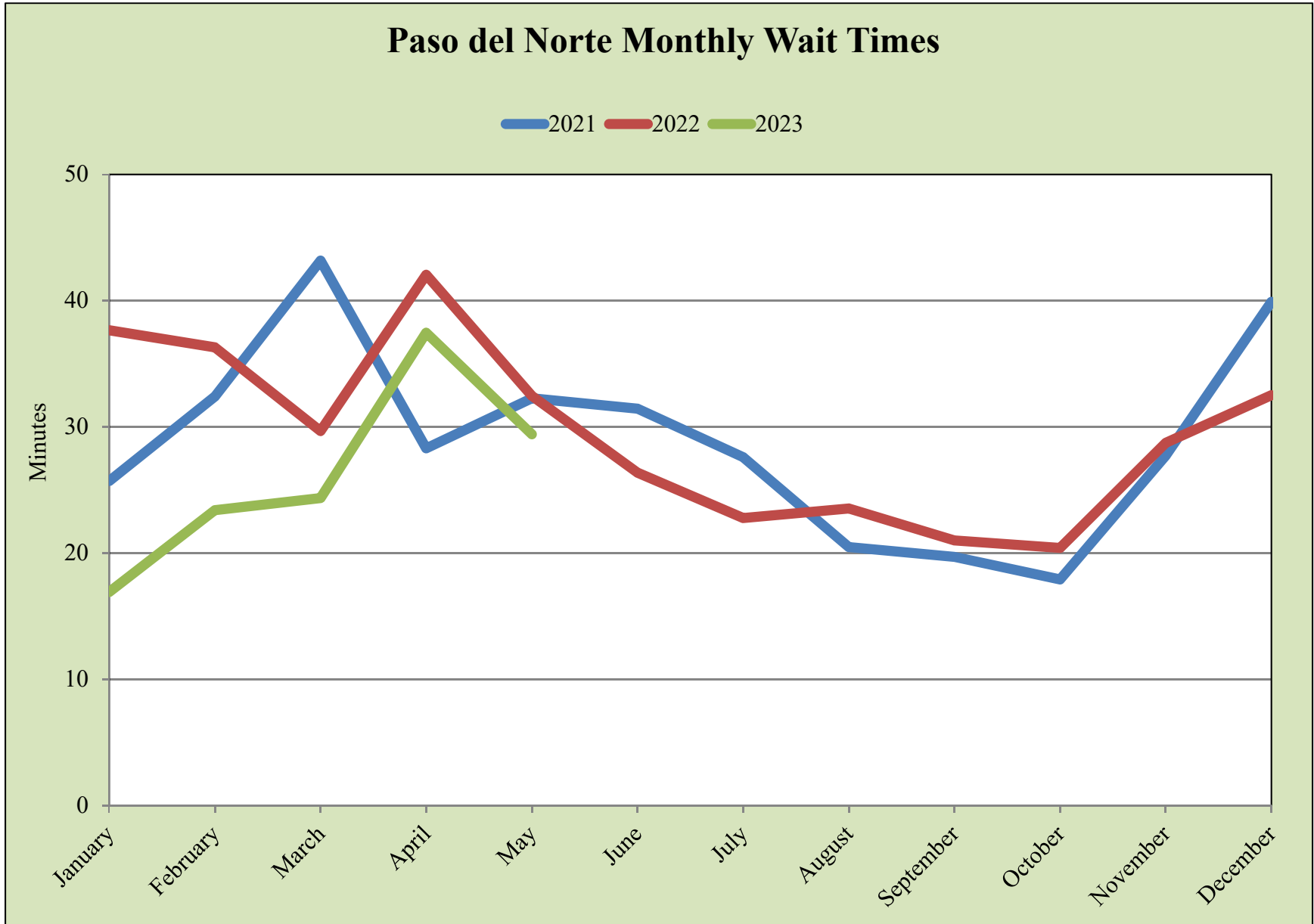
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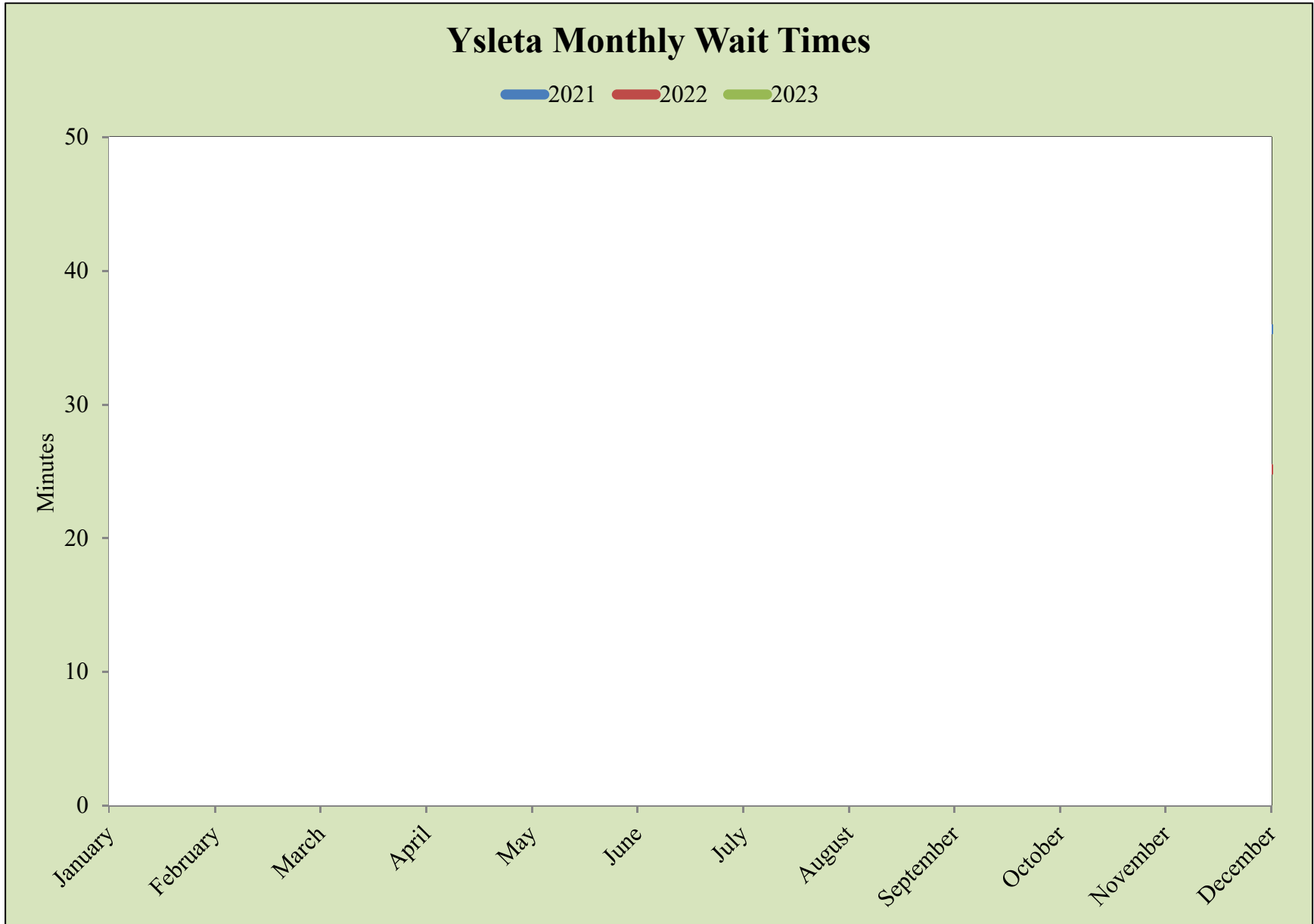
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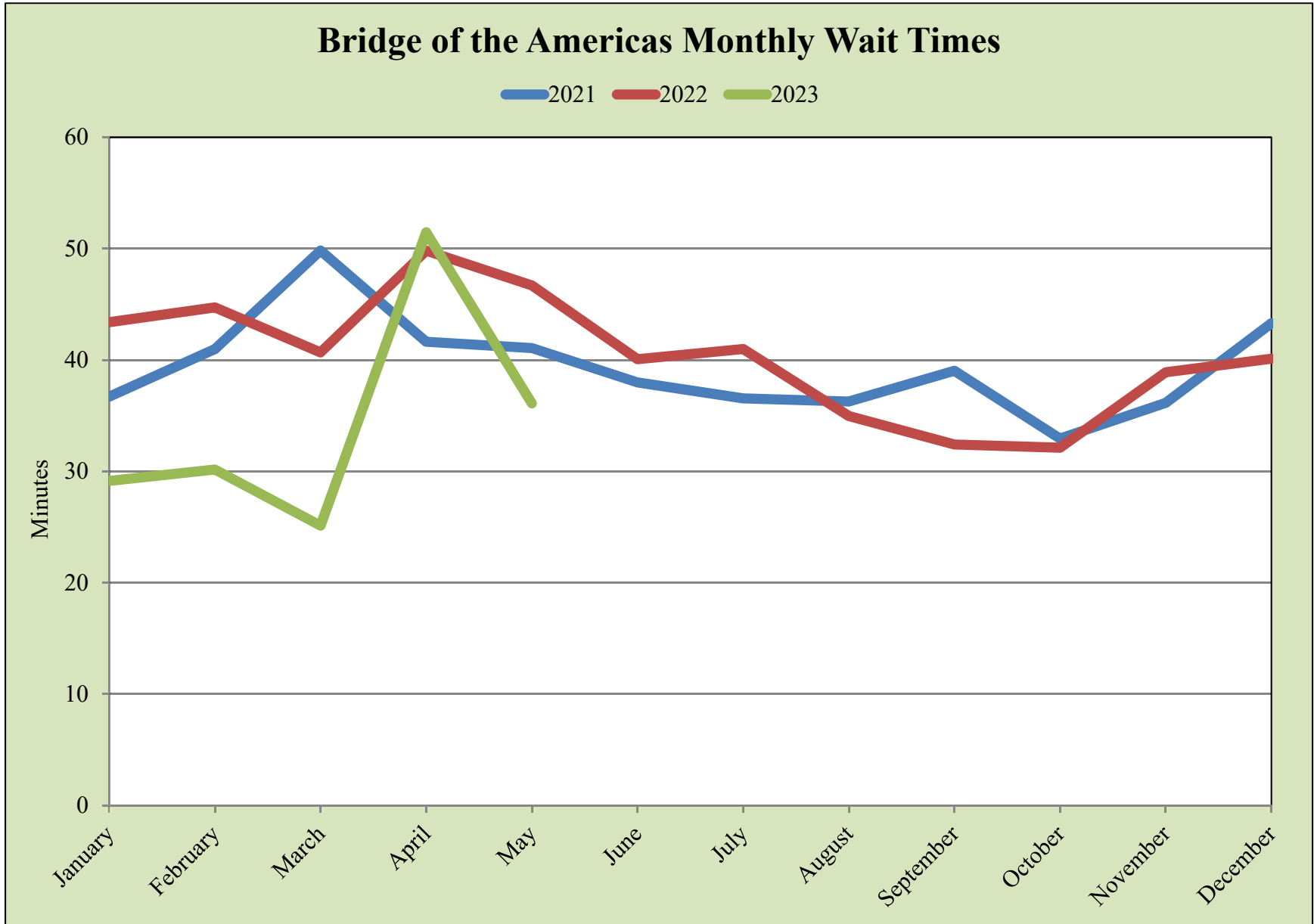
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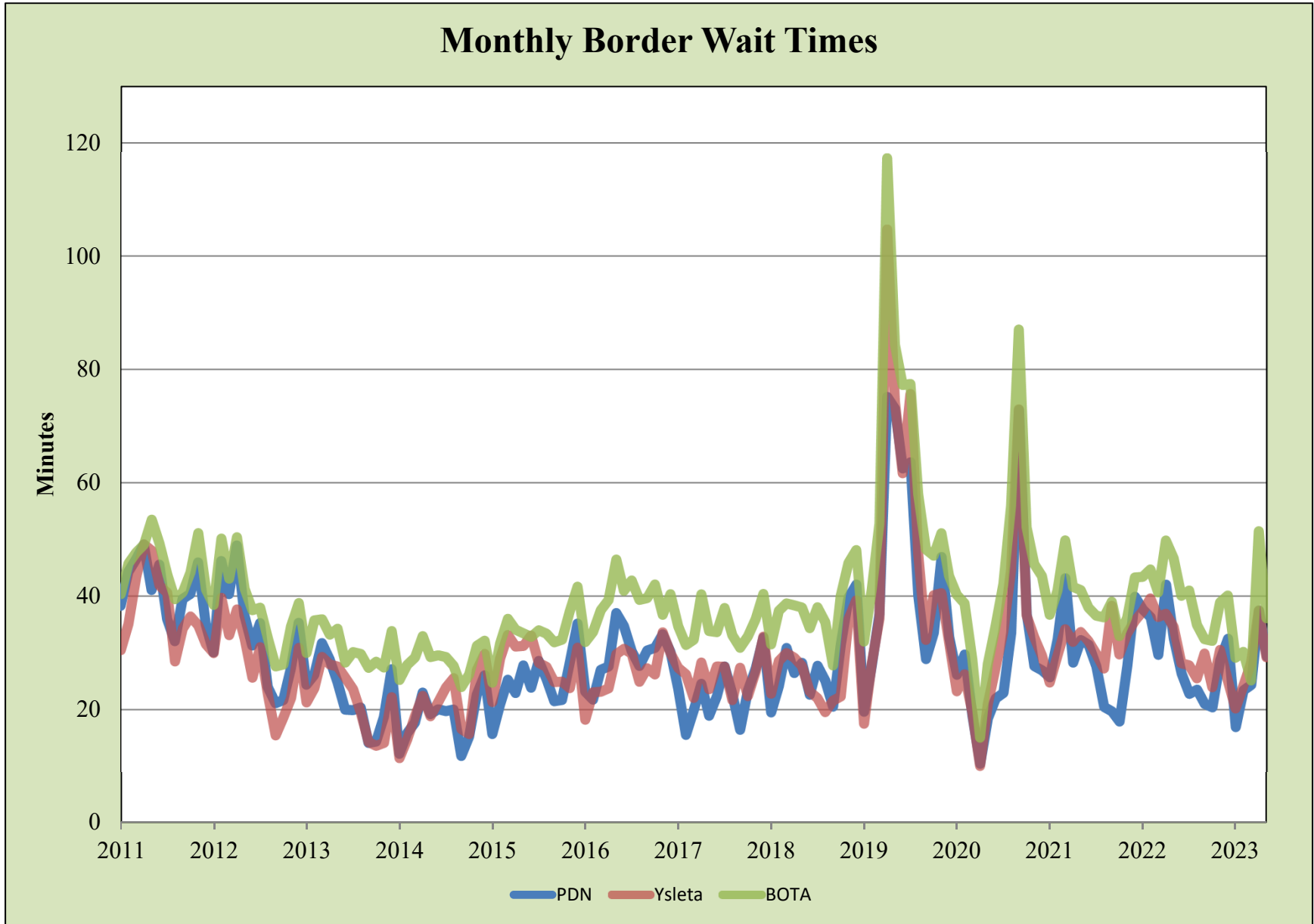
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using US Customs & Border Protection Data



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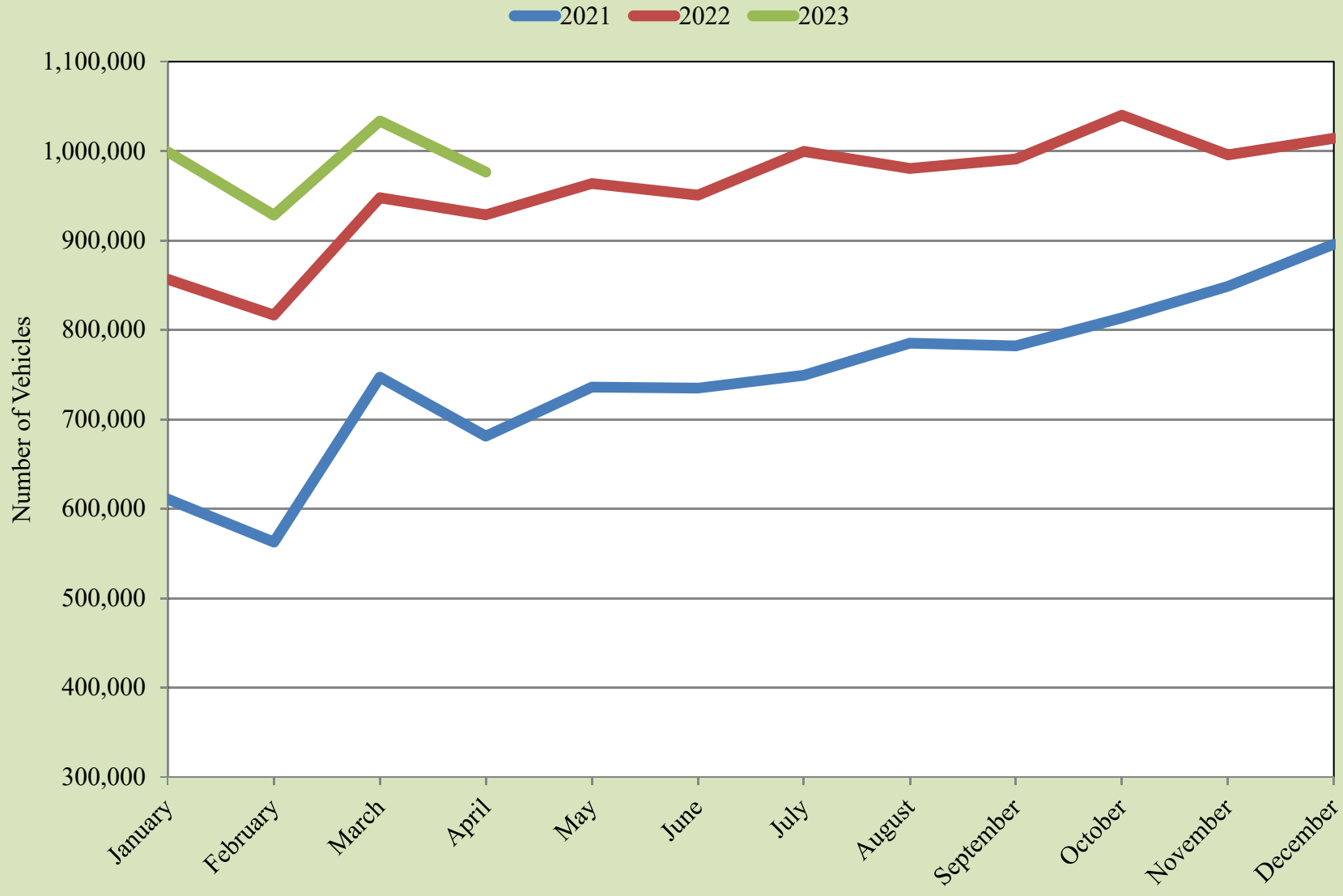
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using US Customs & Border Protection Data



Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using US Customs & Border Protection Data



Personal Vehicle International Bridge Crossings to El Paso



Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using US Customs & Border Protection Data



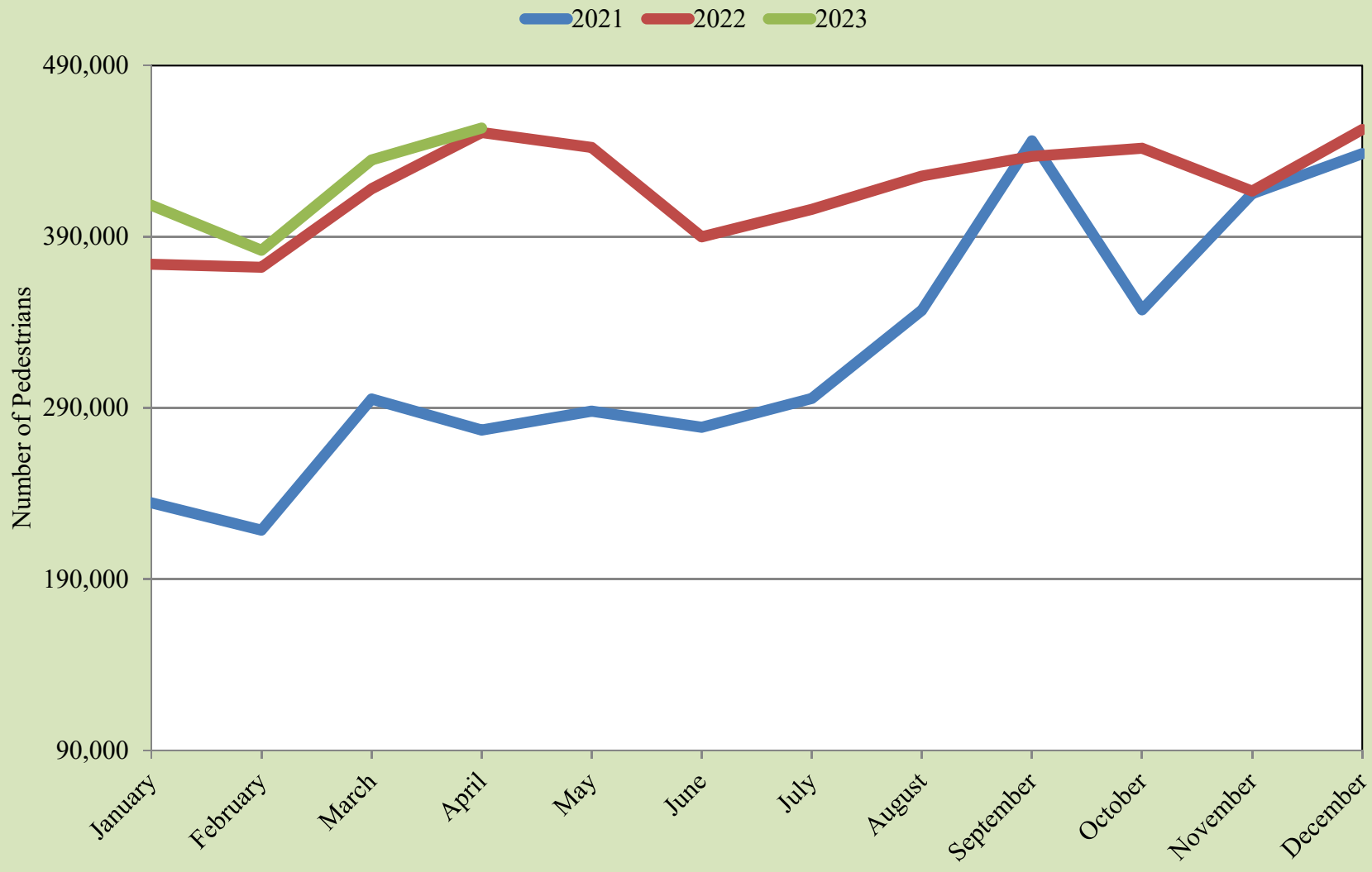
Personal Vehicle International Bridge Crossings to El Paso



Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using US Customs & Border Protection Data



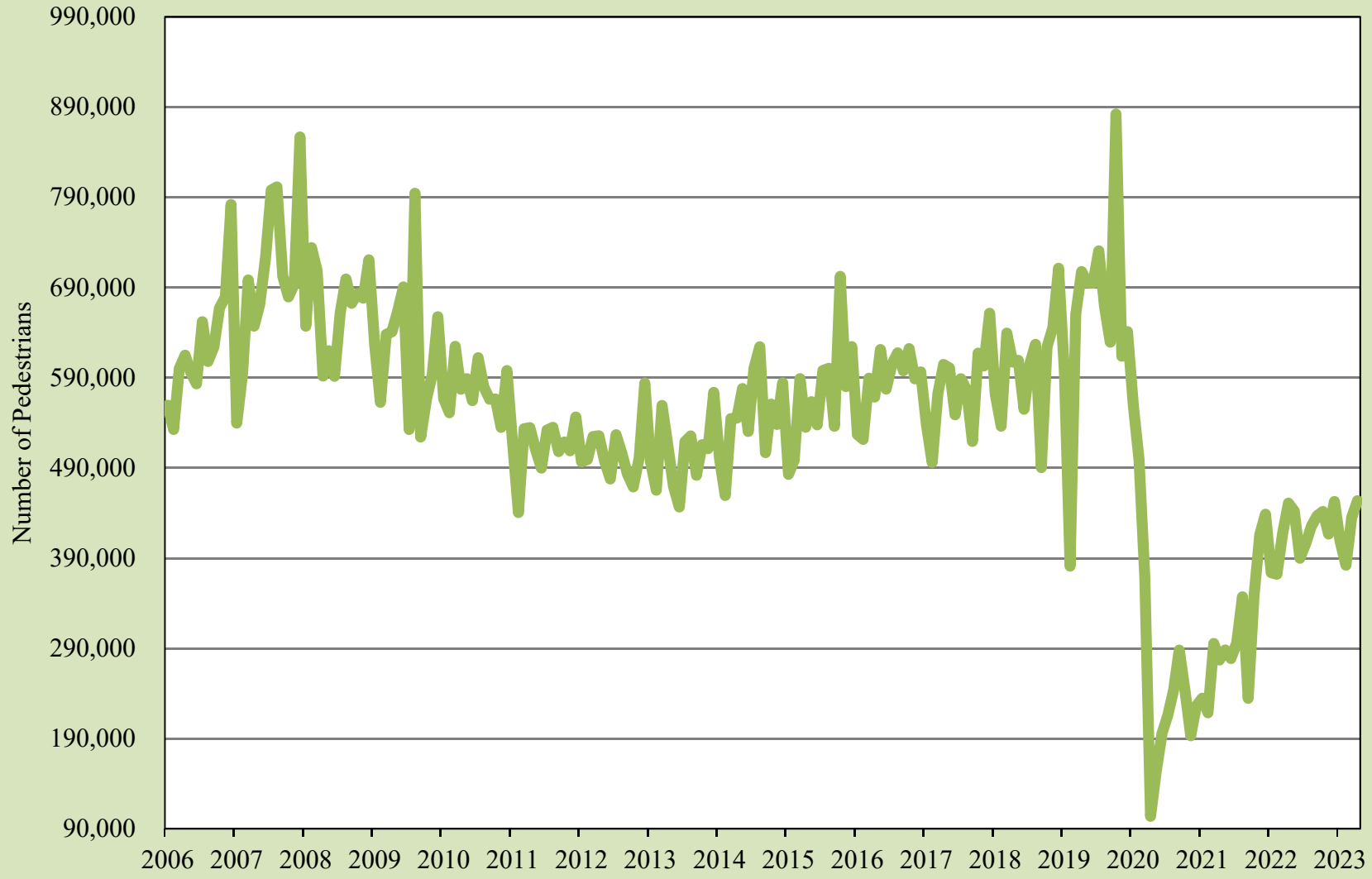
Pedestrian International Bridge Crossings to El Paso



Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using US Customs & Border Protection Data



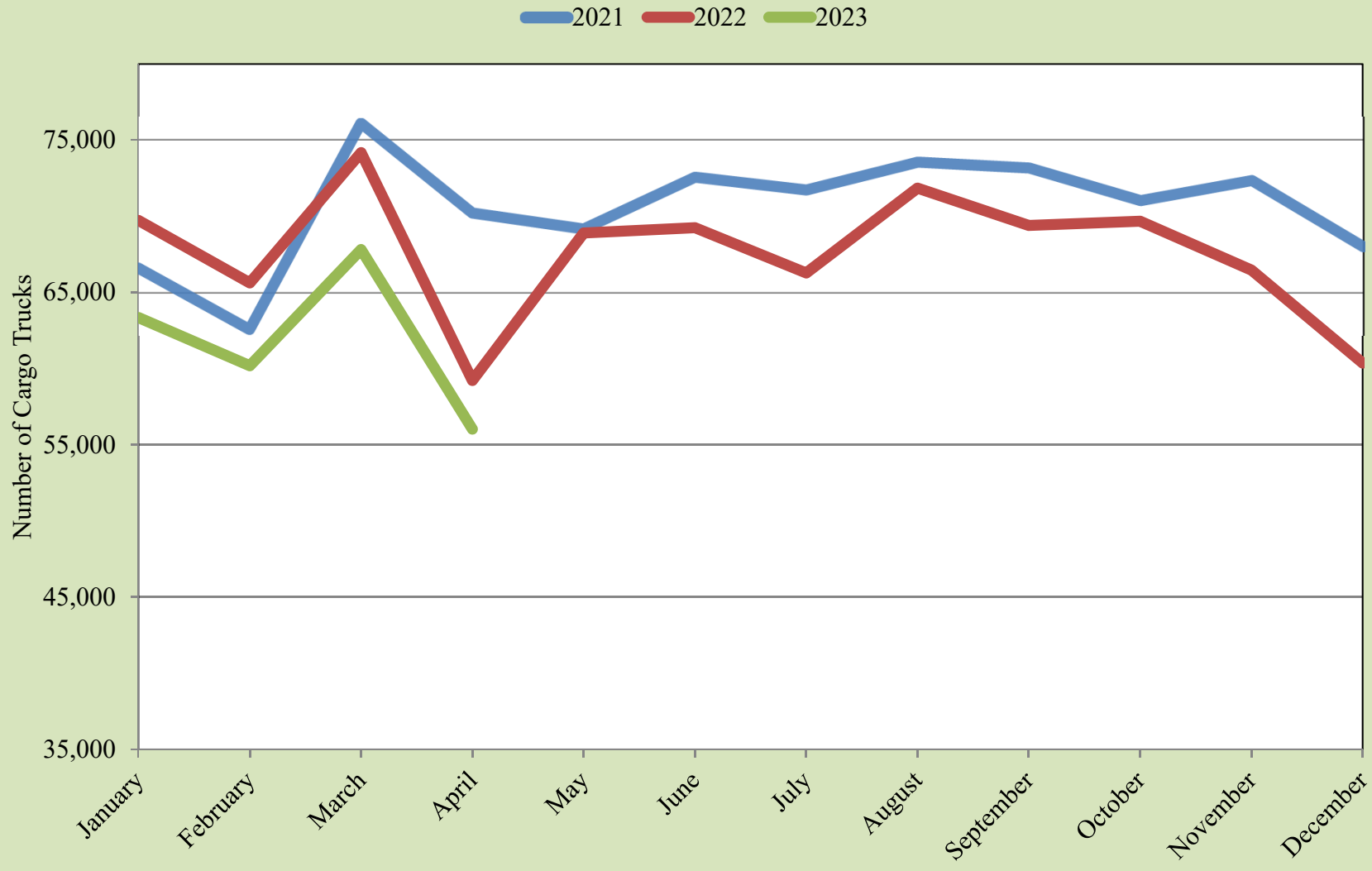
Pedestrian International Bridge Crossings to El Paso



Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using US Customs & Border Protection Data



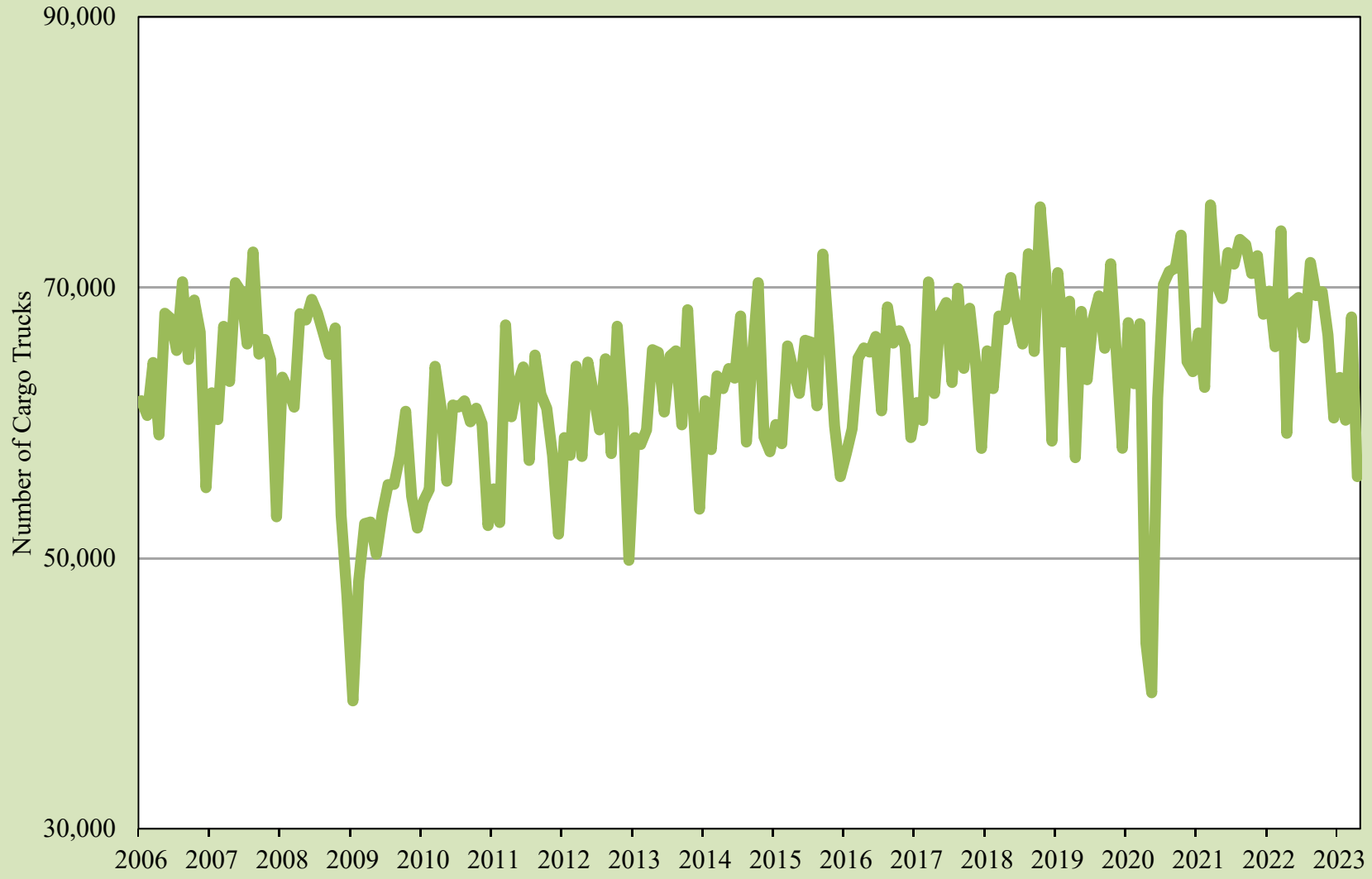
Cargo Truck International Bridge Crossings to El Paso



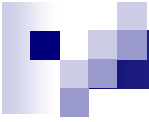
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using US Customs & Border Protection Data



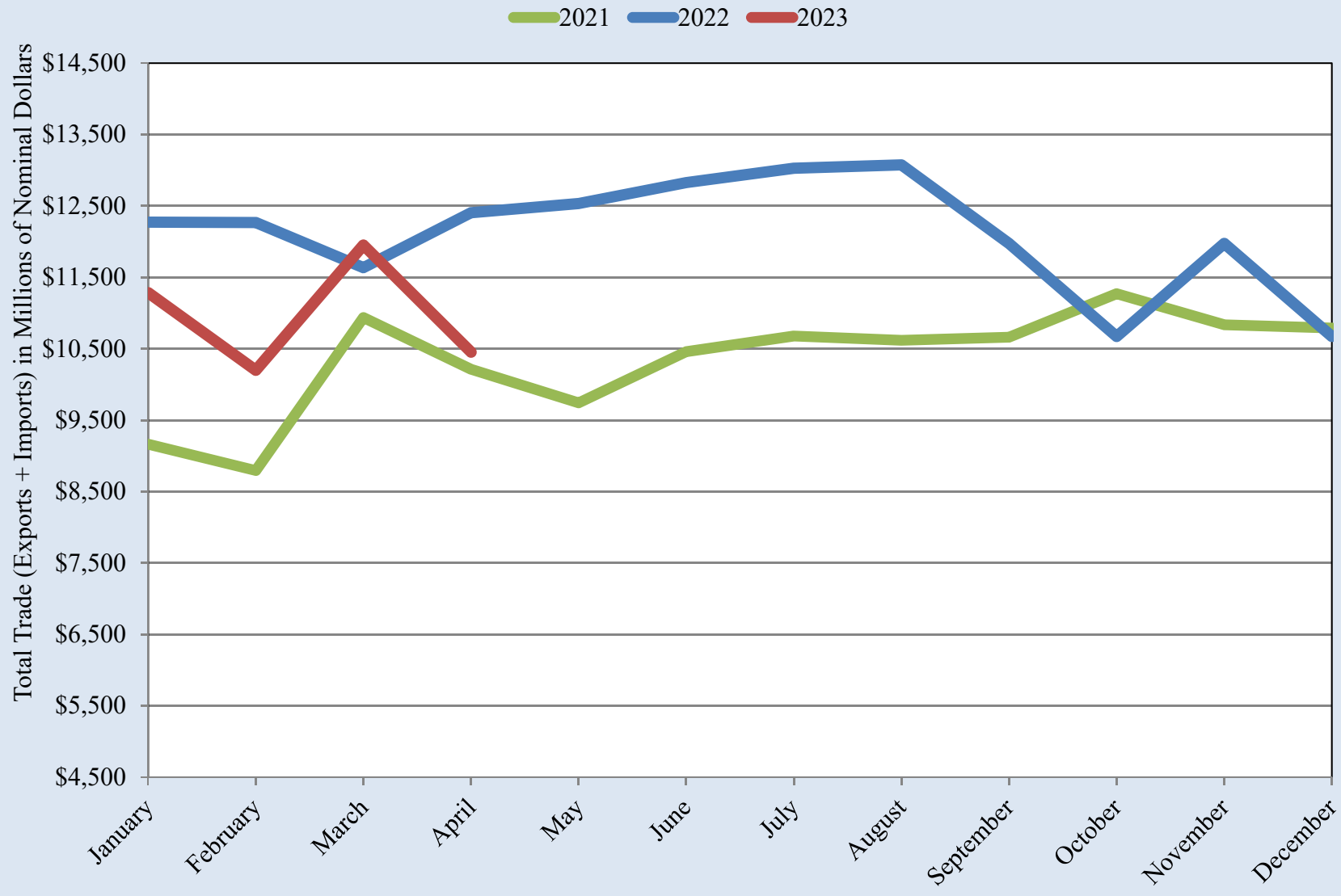
Cargo Truck International Bridge Crossings to El Paso



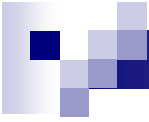
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using US Customs & Border Protection Data



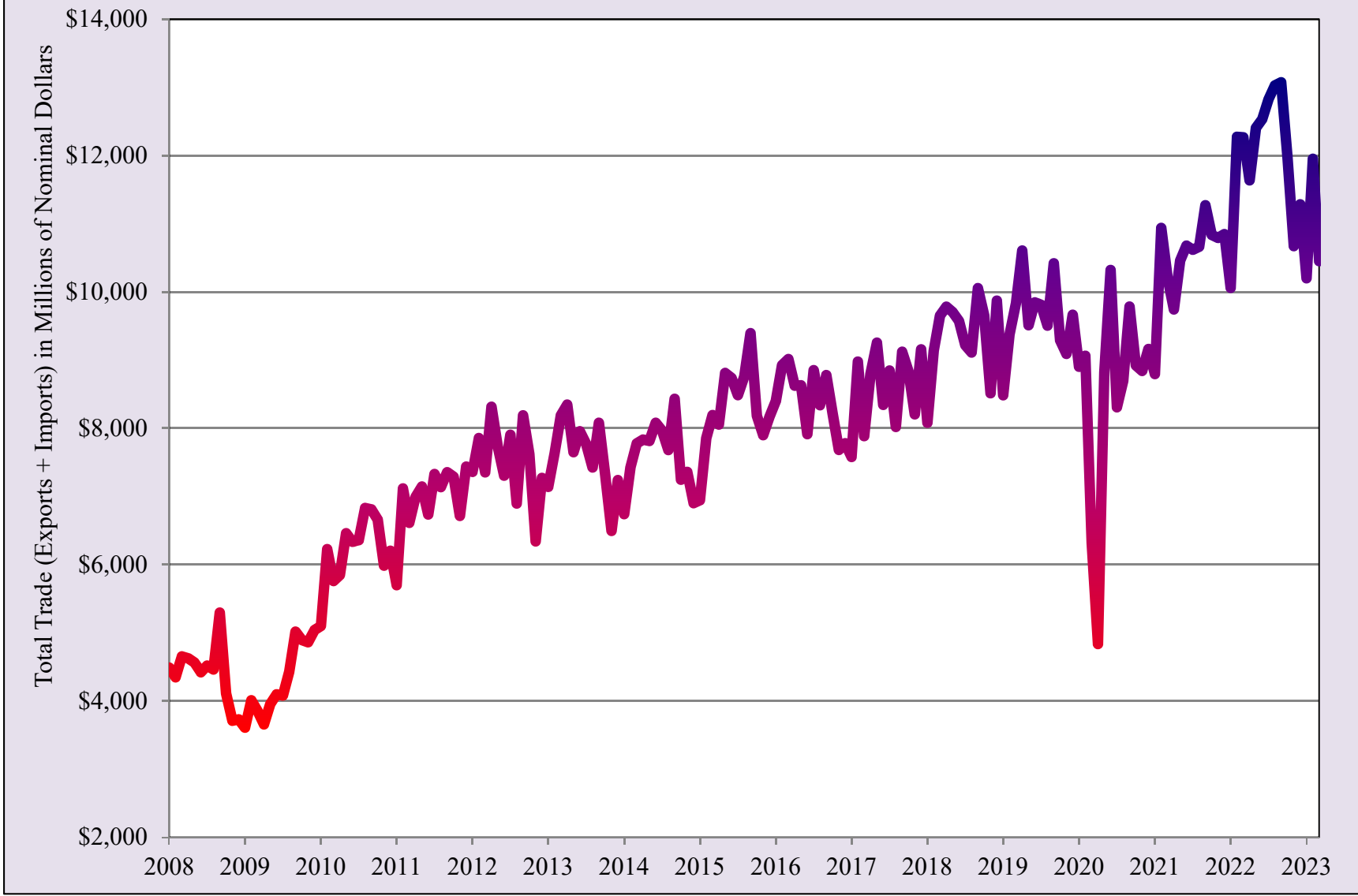
Total Trade through the El Paso Customs District



Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using US International Trade Commission Data



Total Trade through the El Paso Customs District

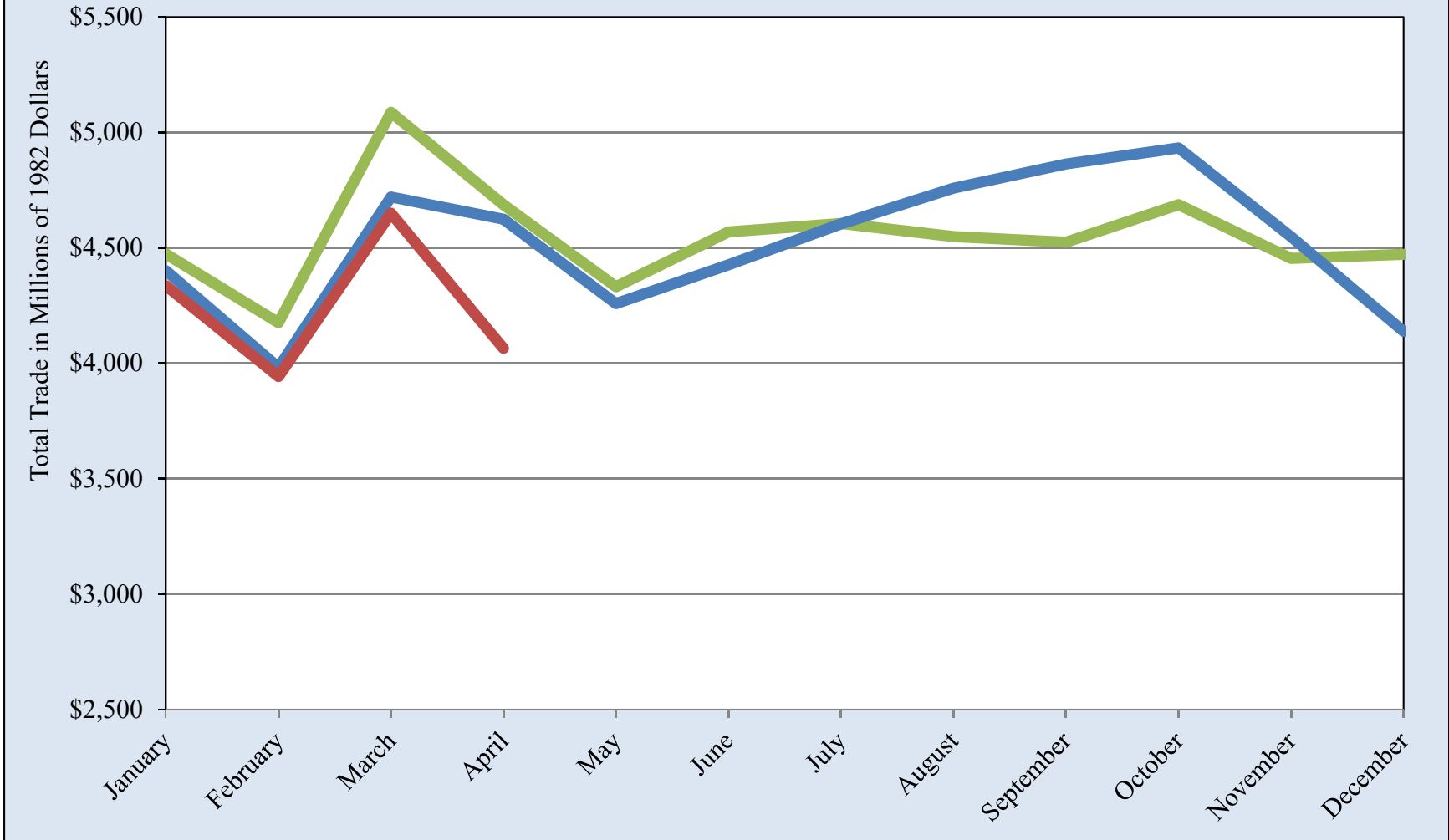


Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using US International Trade Commission Data



Real Total Trade through the El Paso Customs District

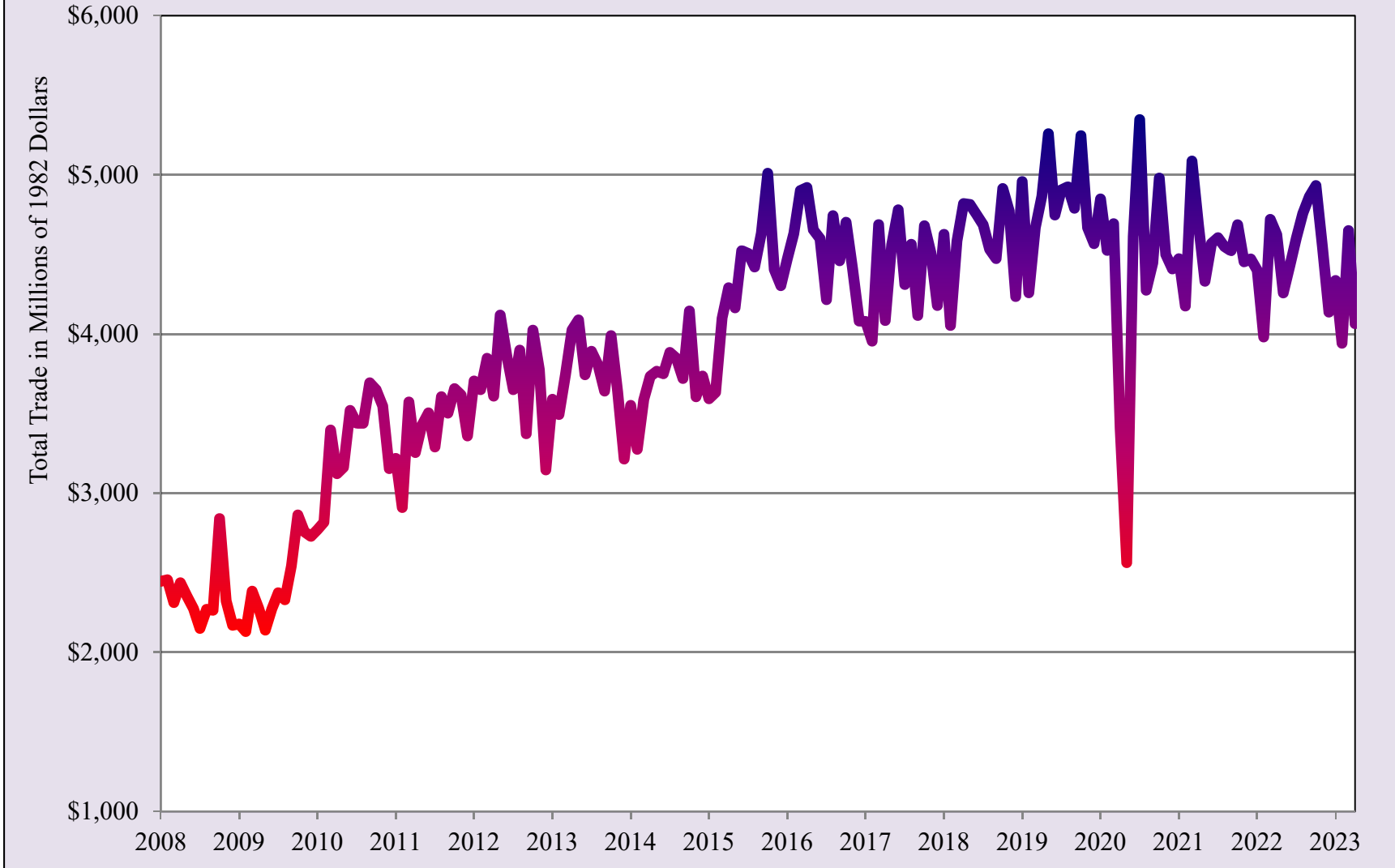
2021 2022 2023



Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using US International Trade Commission Data



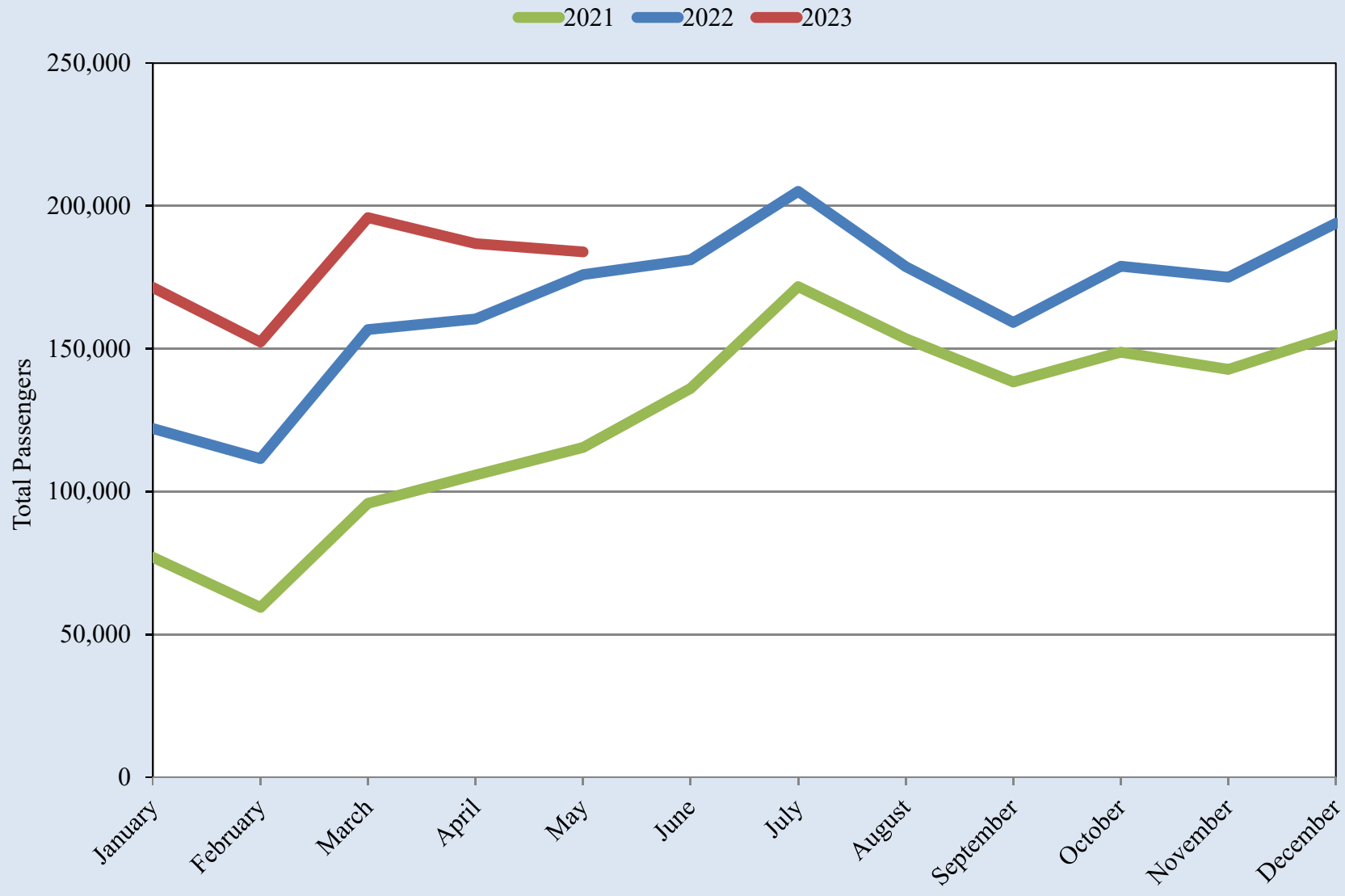
Real Total Trade through the El Paso Customs District



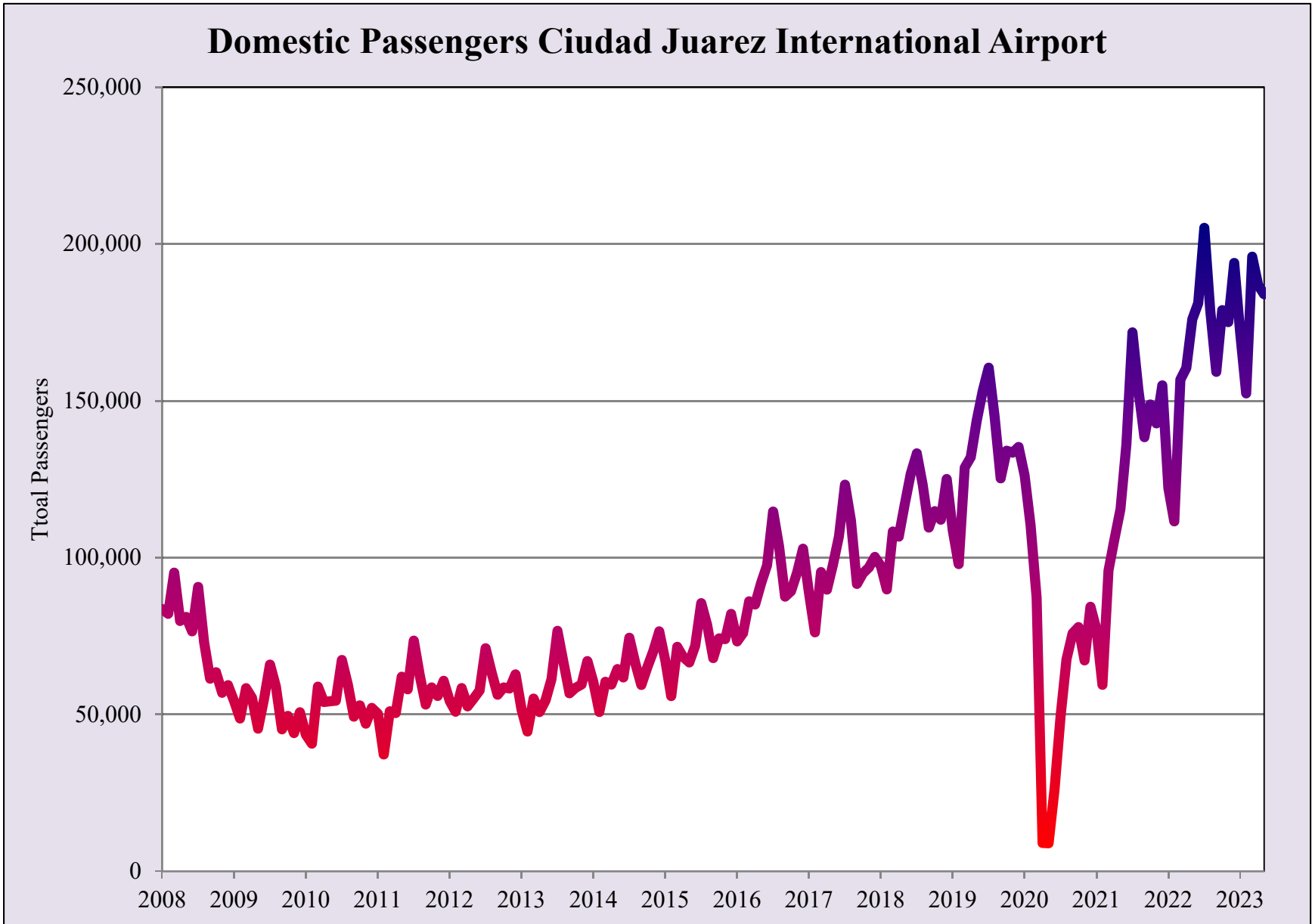
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using US International Trade Commission Data



Domestic Passengers Ciudad Juarez International Airport



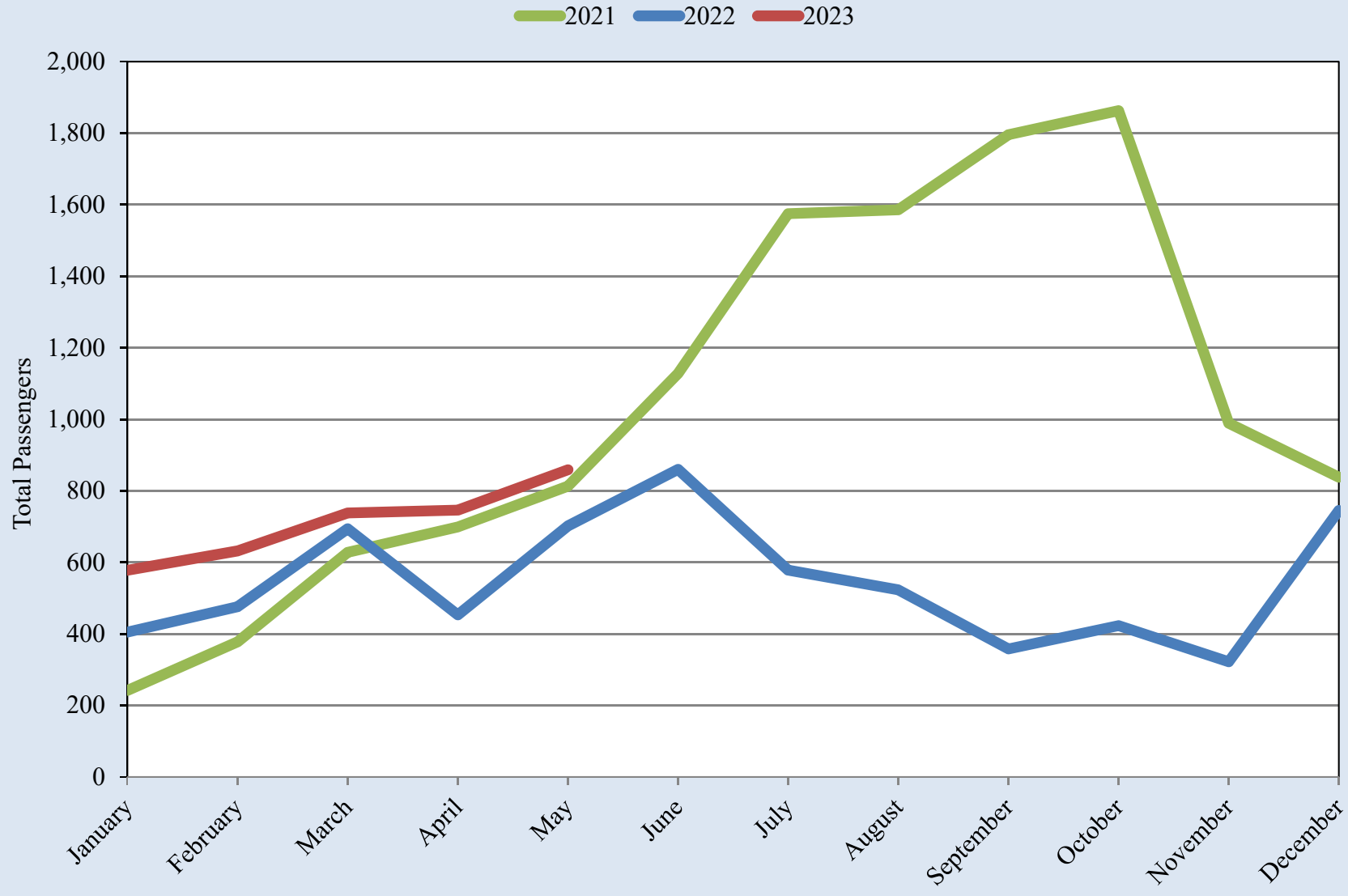
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using Grupo Aeroportuario Centro Norte - OMA Data



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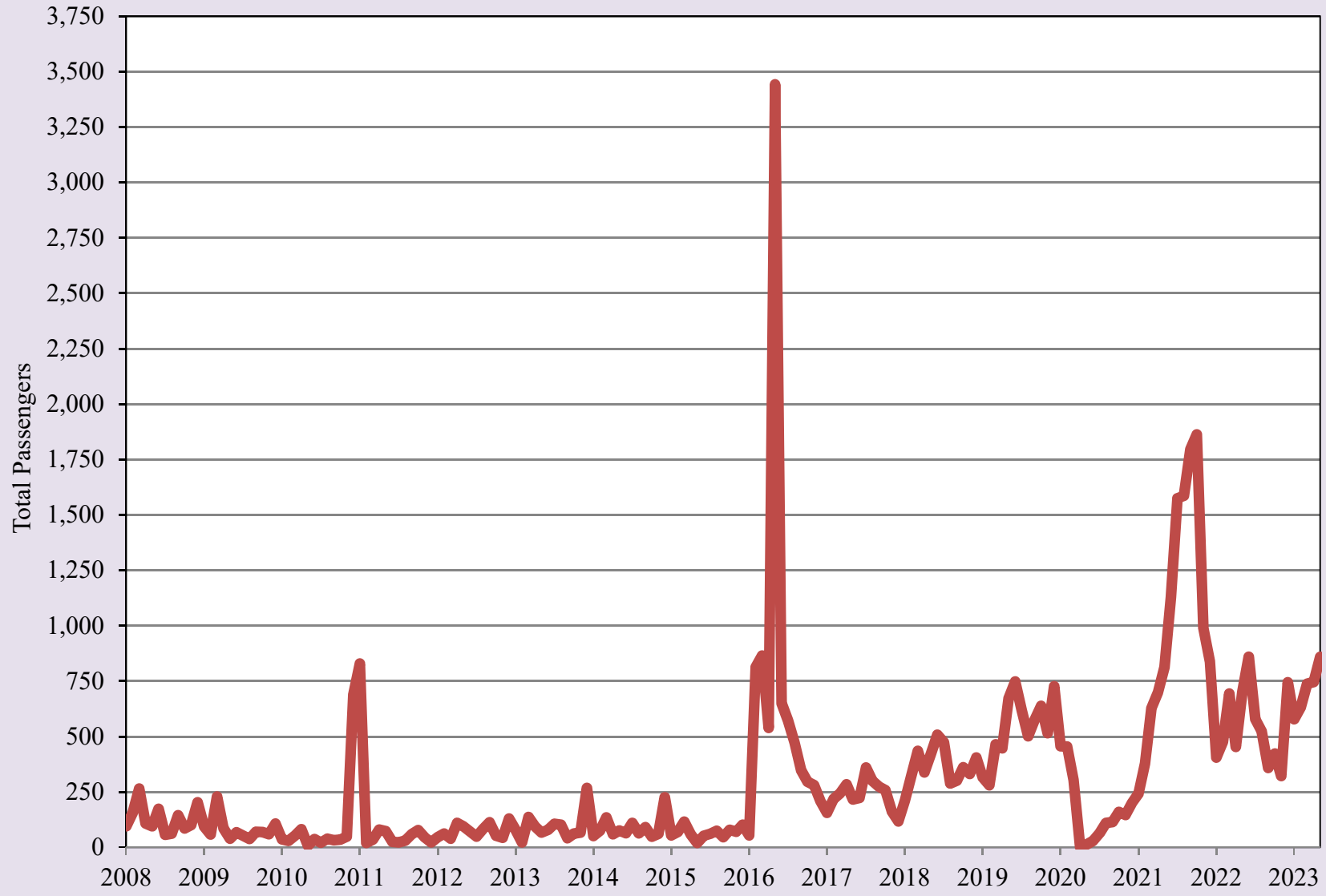
International Passengers Ciudad Juarez International Airport



Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using Grupo Aeroportuario Centro Norte - OMA Data



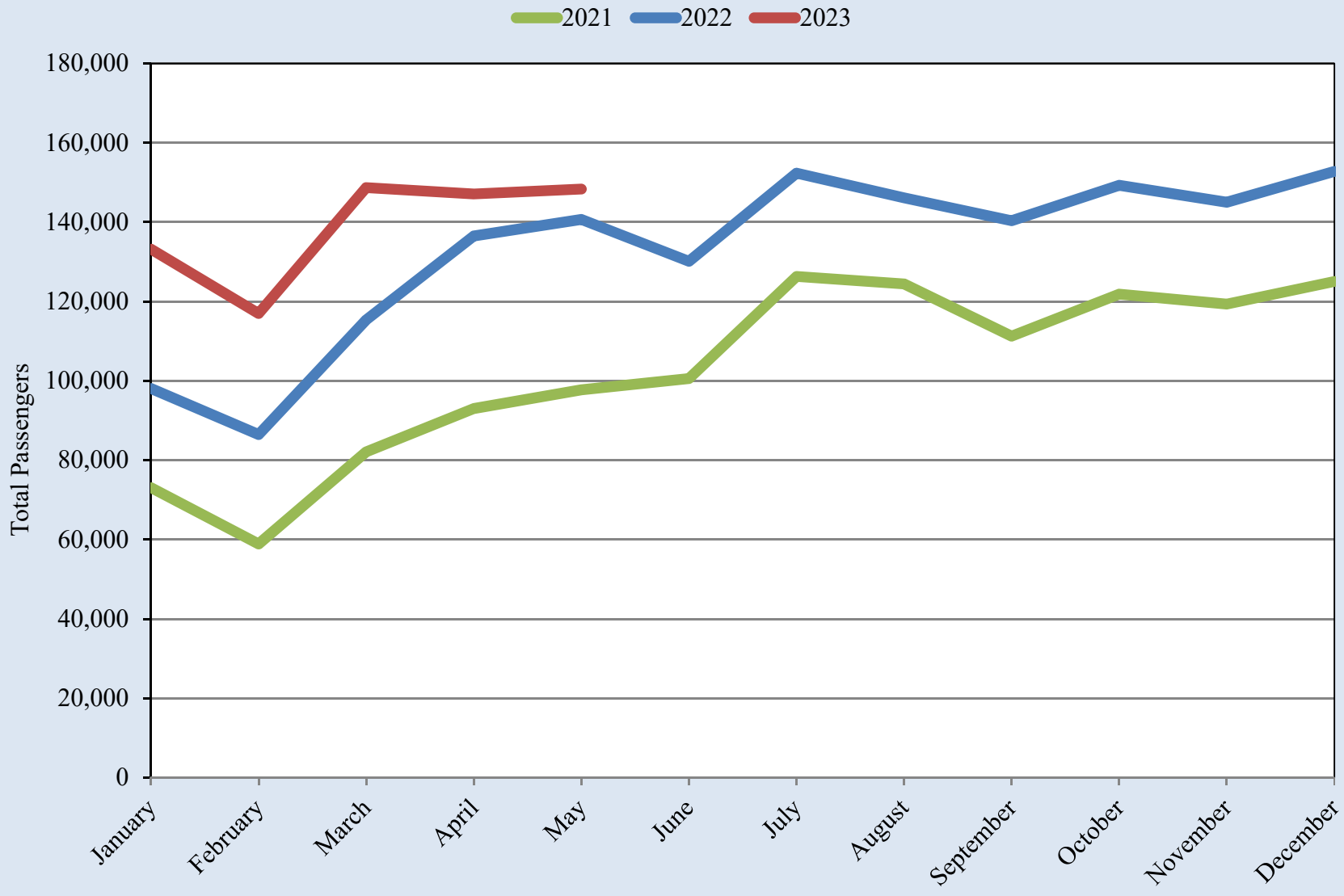
International Passengers Ciudad Juarez International Airport



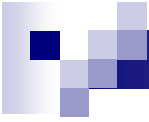
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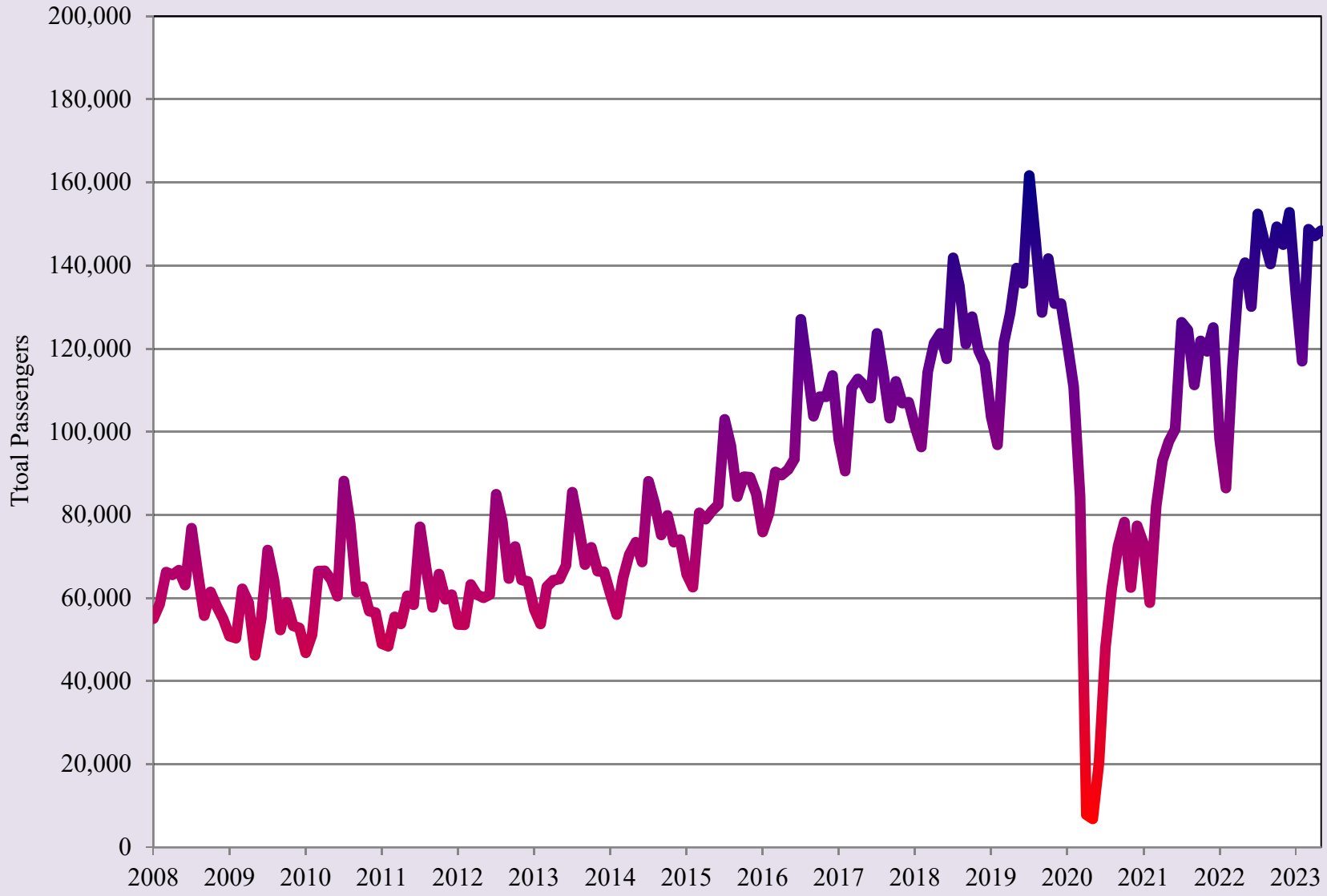
Domestic Passengers Chihuahua City International Airport



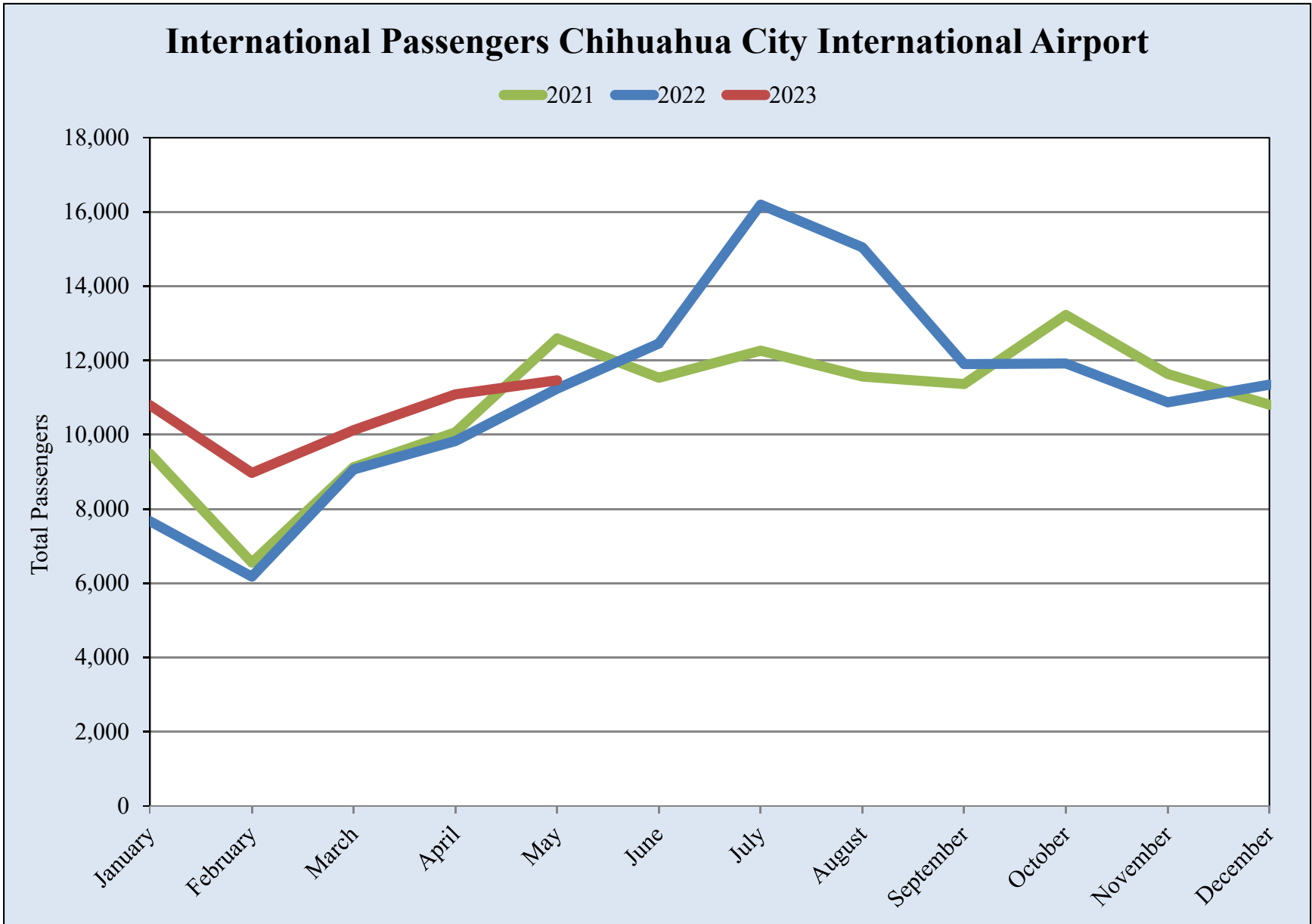
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using Grupo Aeroportuario Centro Norte - OMA Data



Domestic Passengers Chihuahua City International Airport



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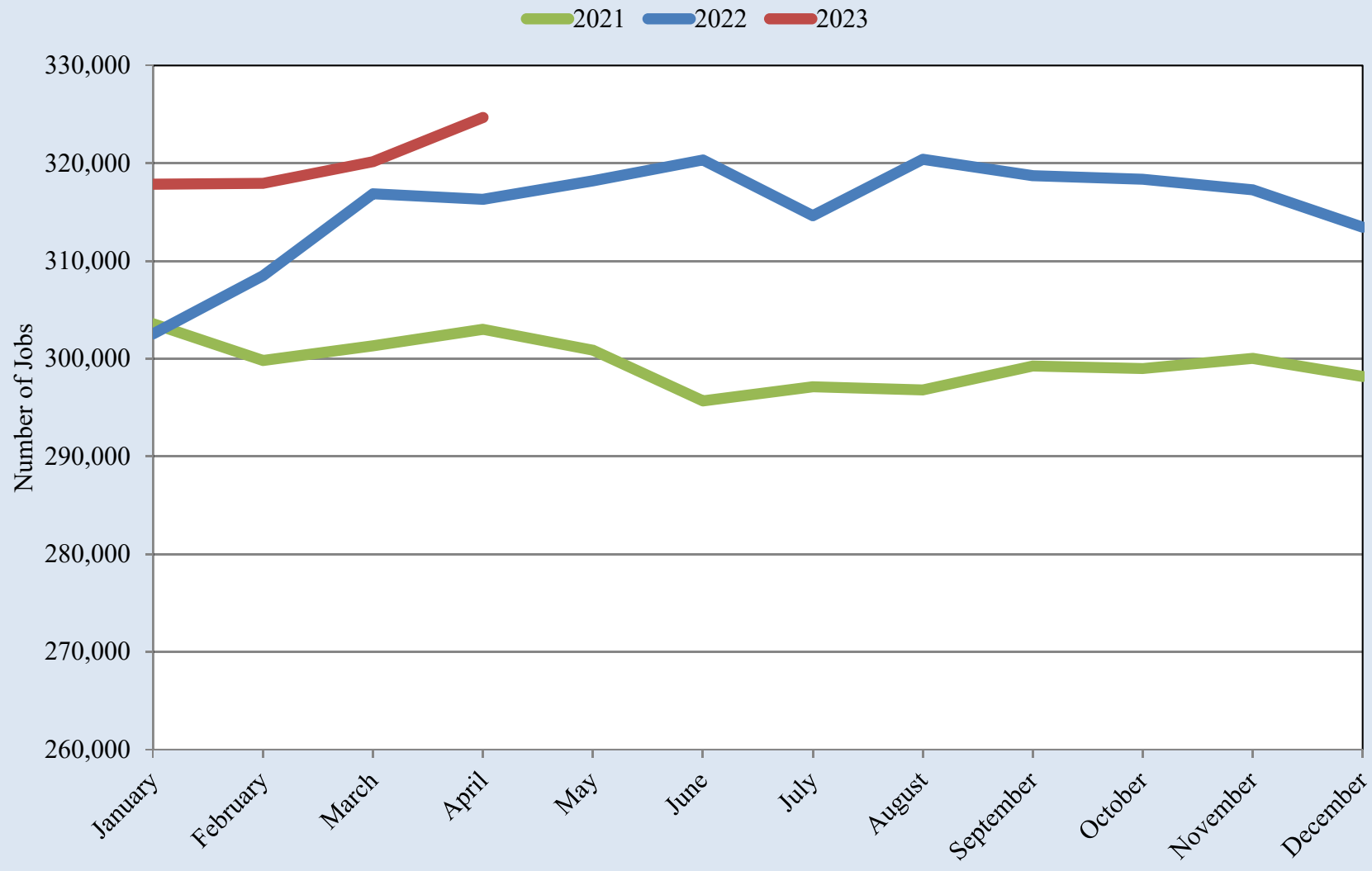
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using Grupo Aeroportuario Centro Norte - OMA Data



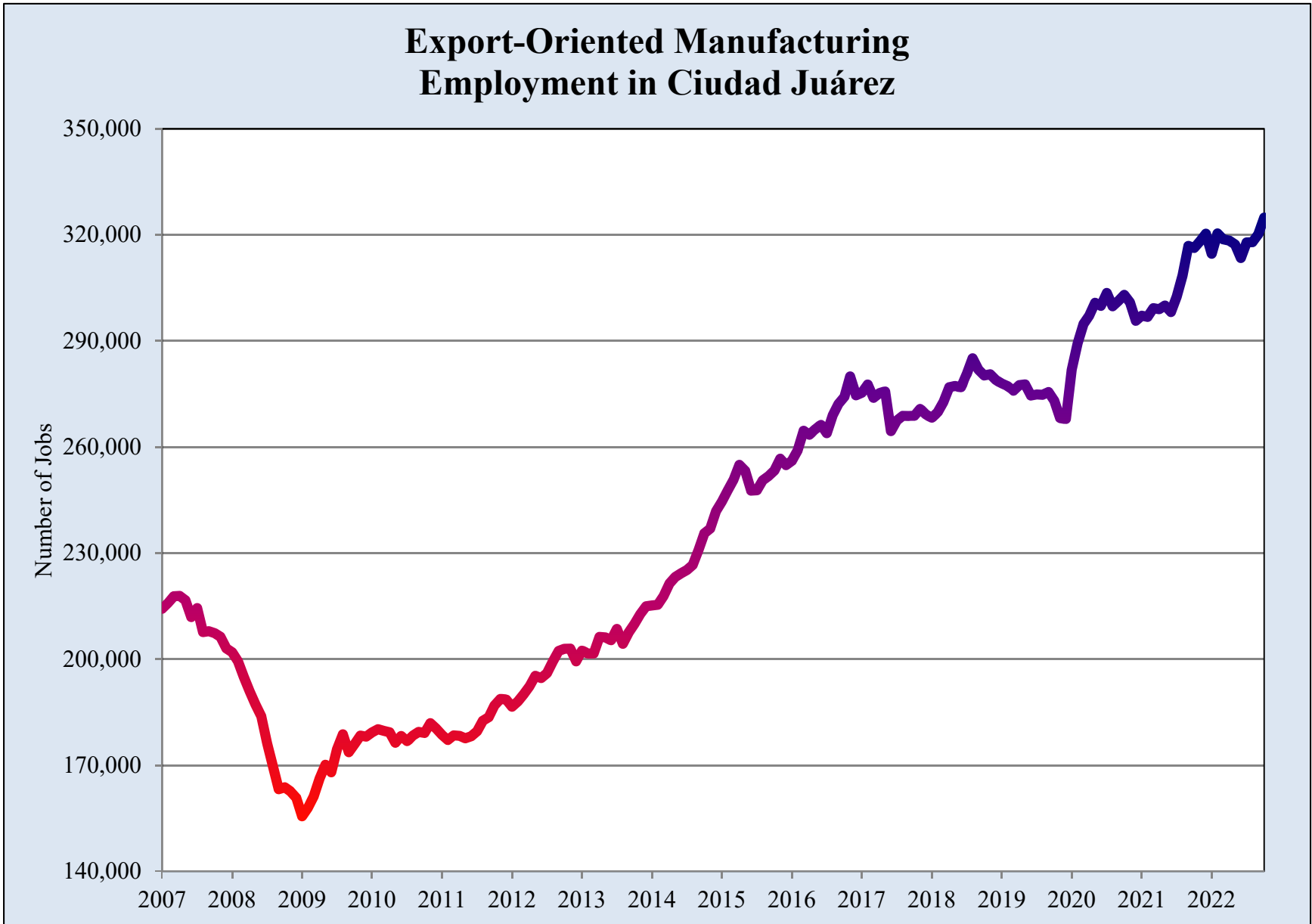
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using Grupo Aeroportuario Centro Norte - OMA Data



Export-Oriented Manufacturing Employment in Ciudad Juárez



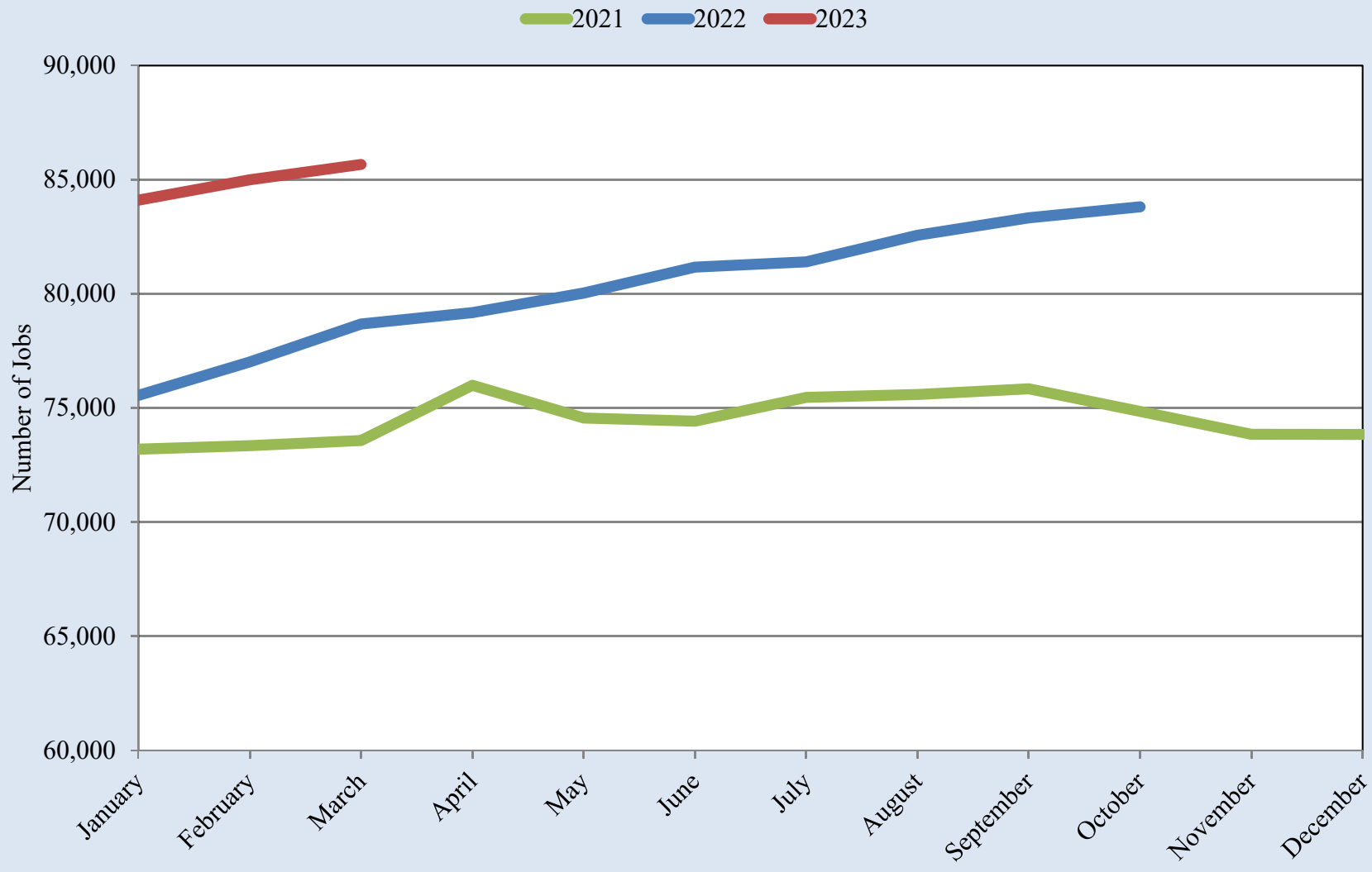
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using INEGI Data



Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using INEGI Data



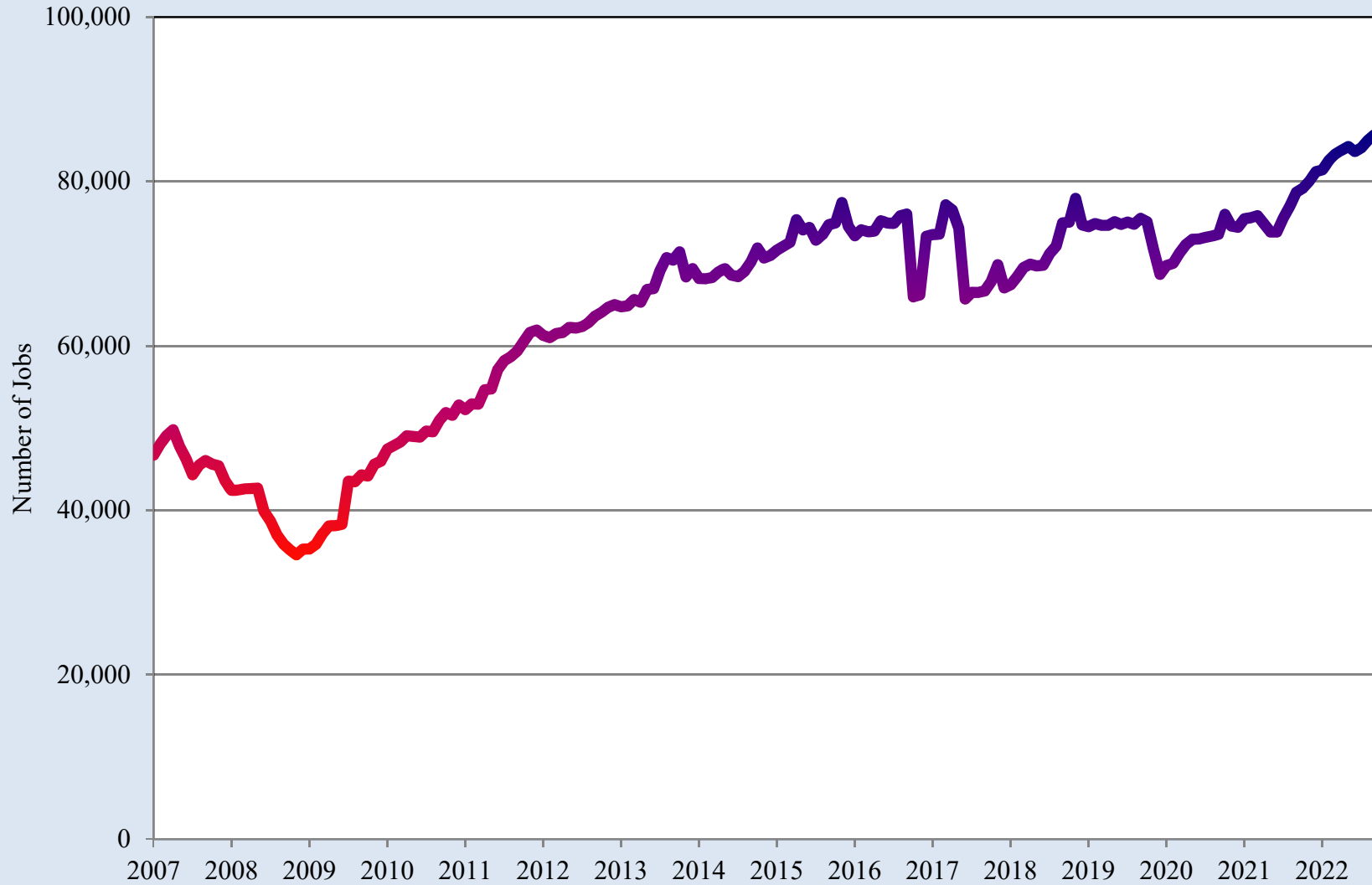
Export-Oriented Manufacturing Employment in Chihuahua City



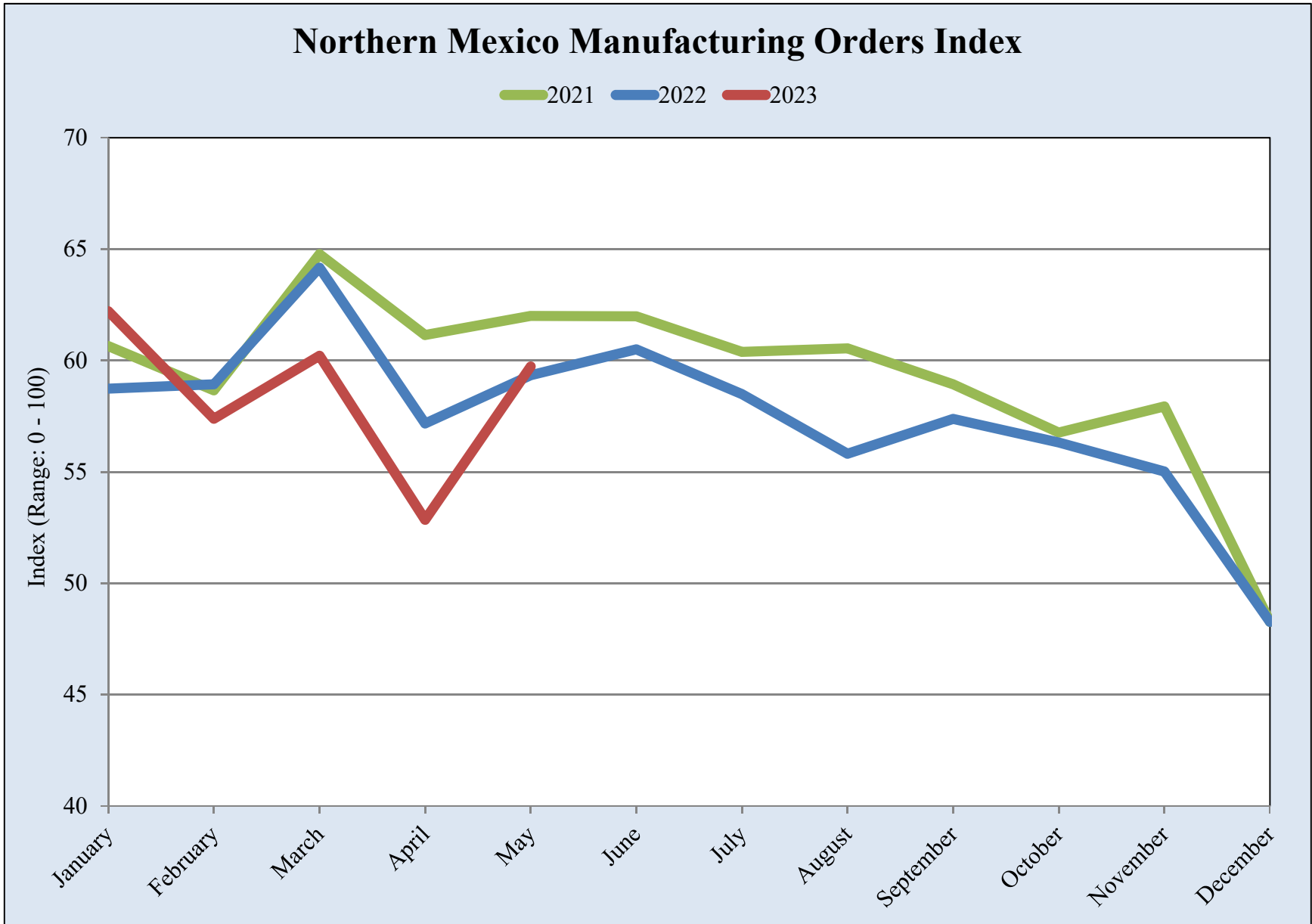
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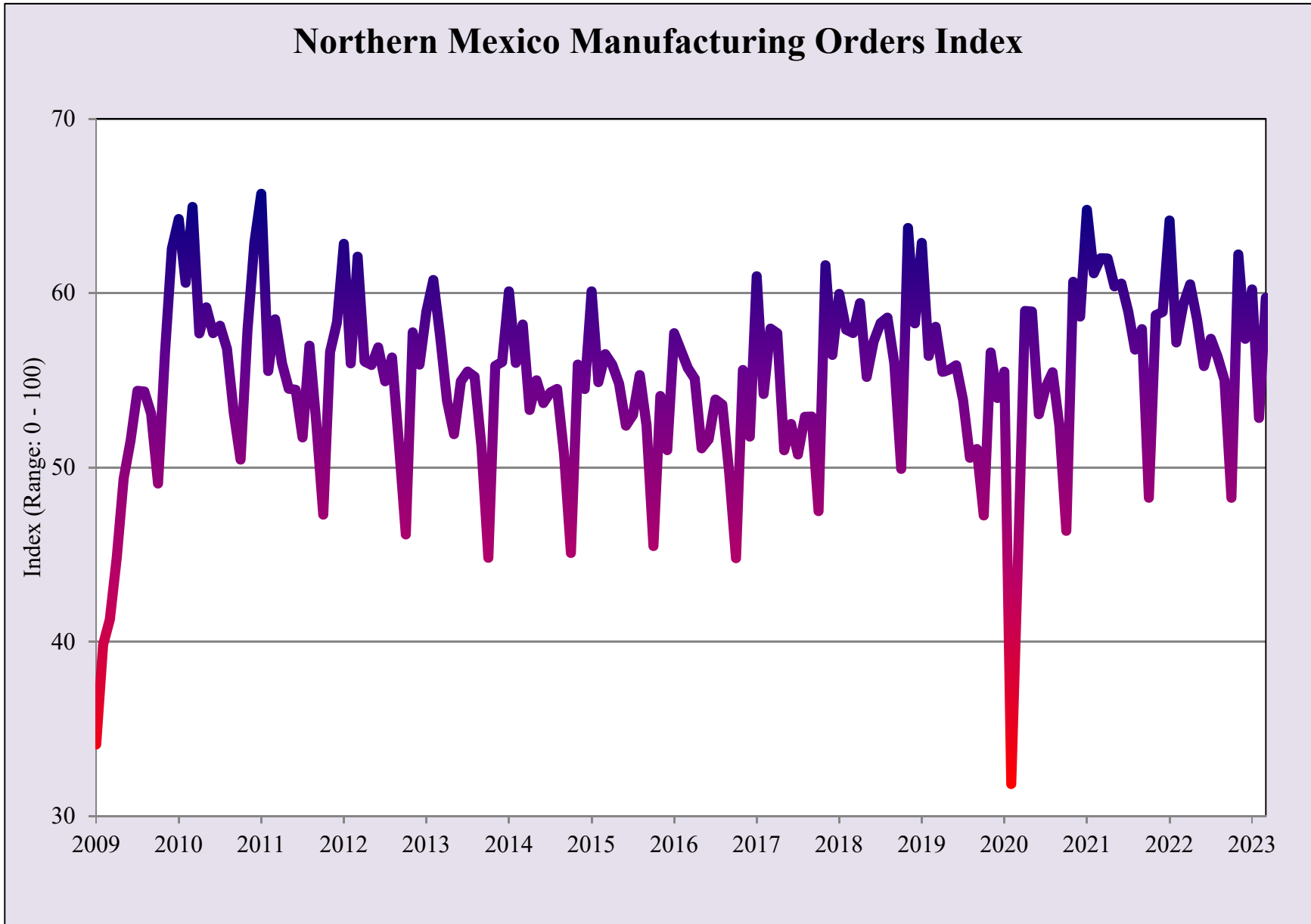
Export-Oriented Manufacturing Employment in Chihuahua City



Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using INEGI Data



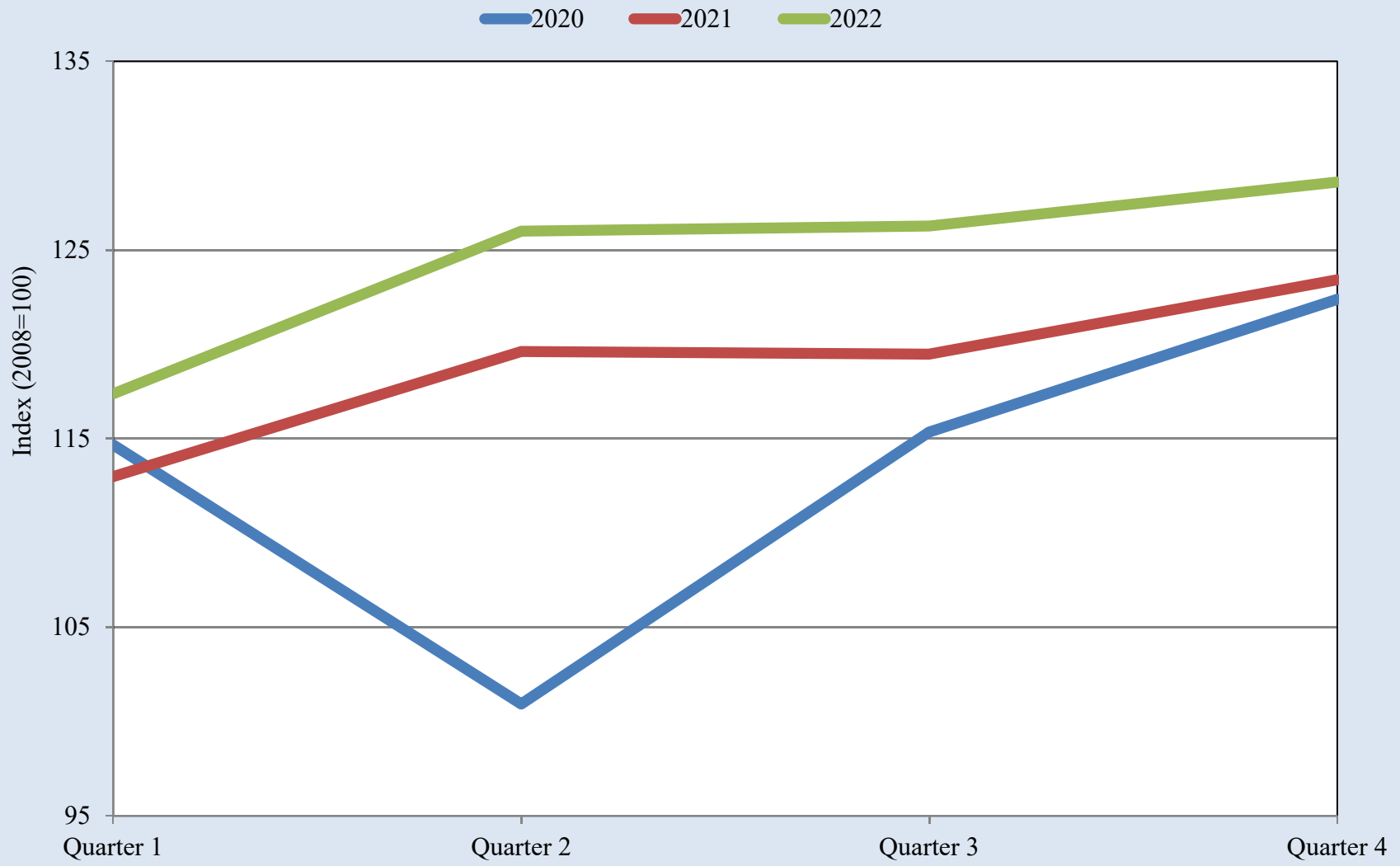
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using Banco de México Data



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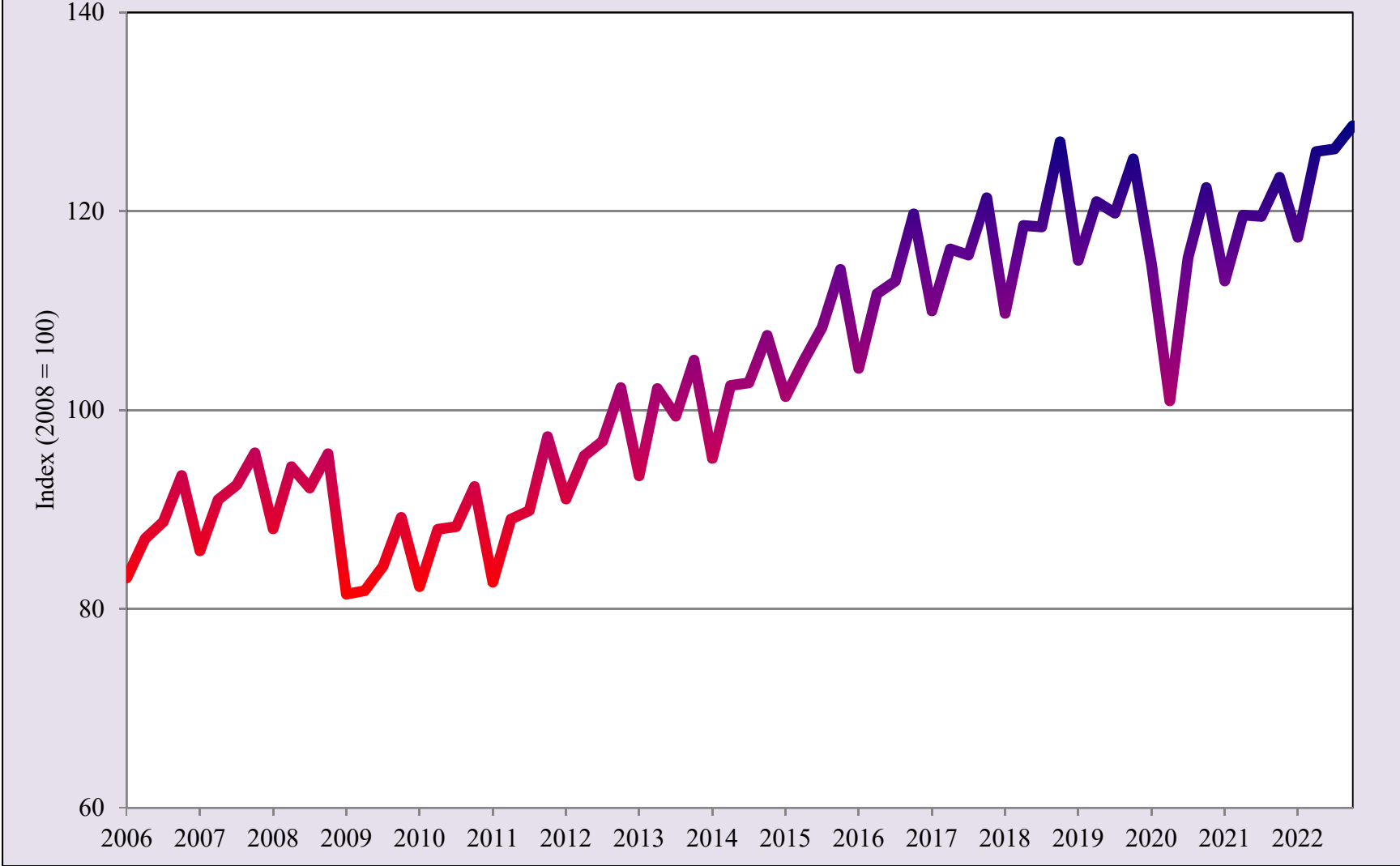
Quarterly Indicator of Economic Activity for the State of Chihuahua



Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using INEGI Data



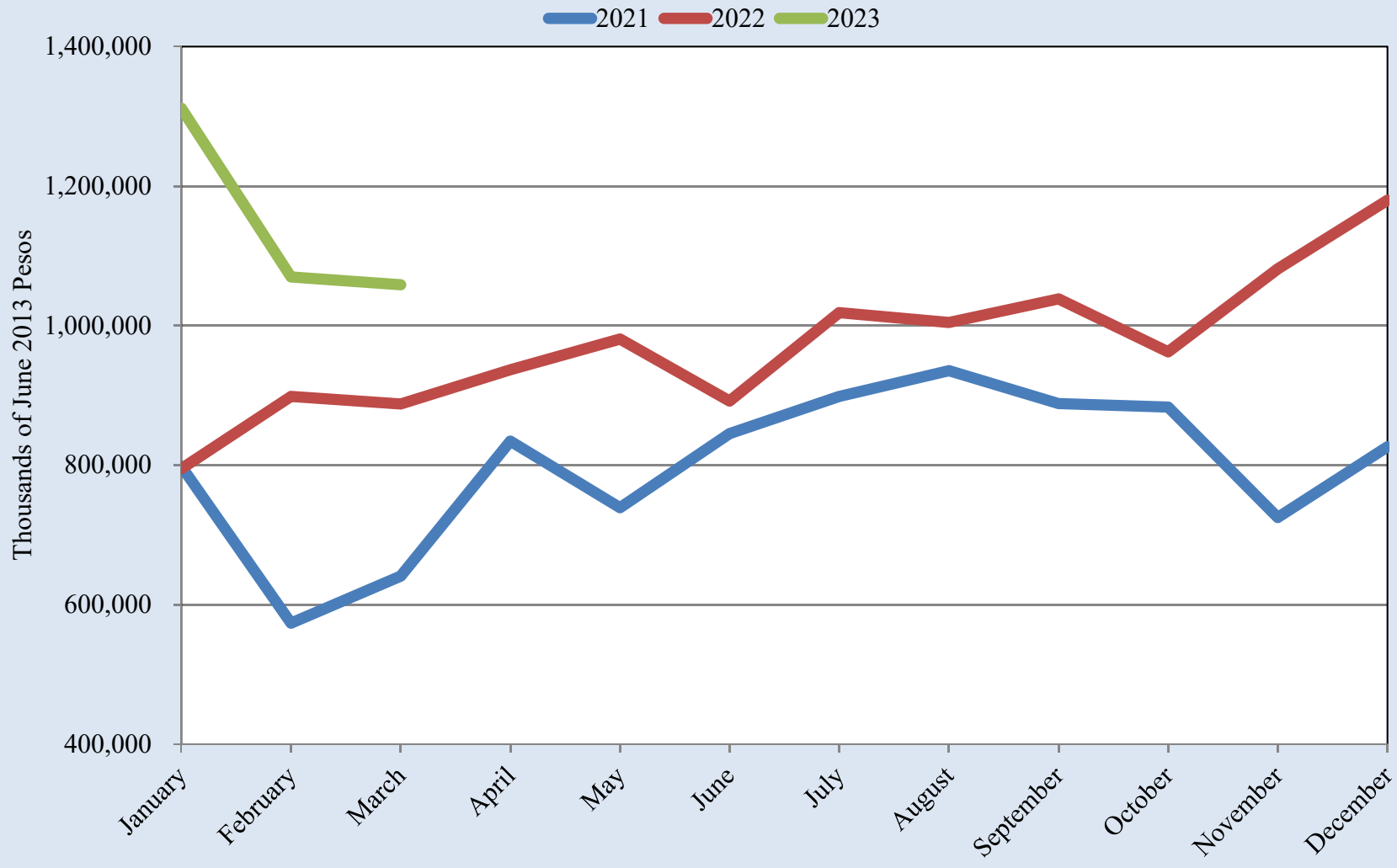
Quarterly Indicator of Economic Activity for the State of Chihuahua



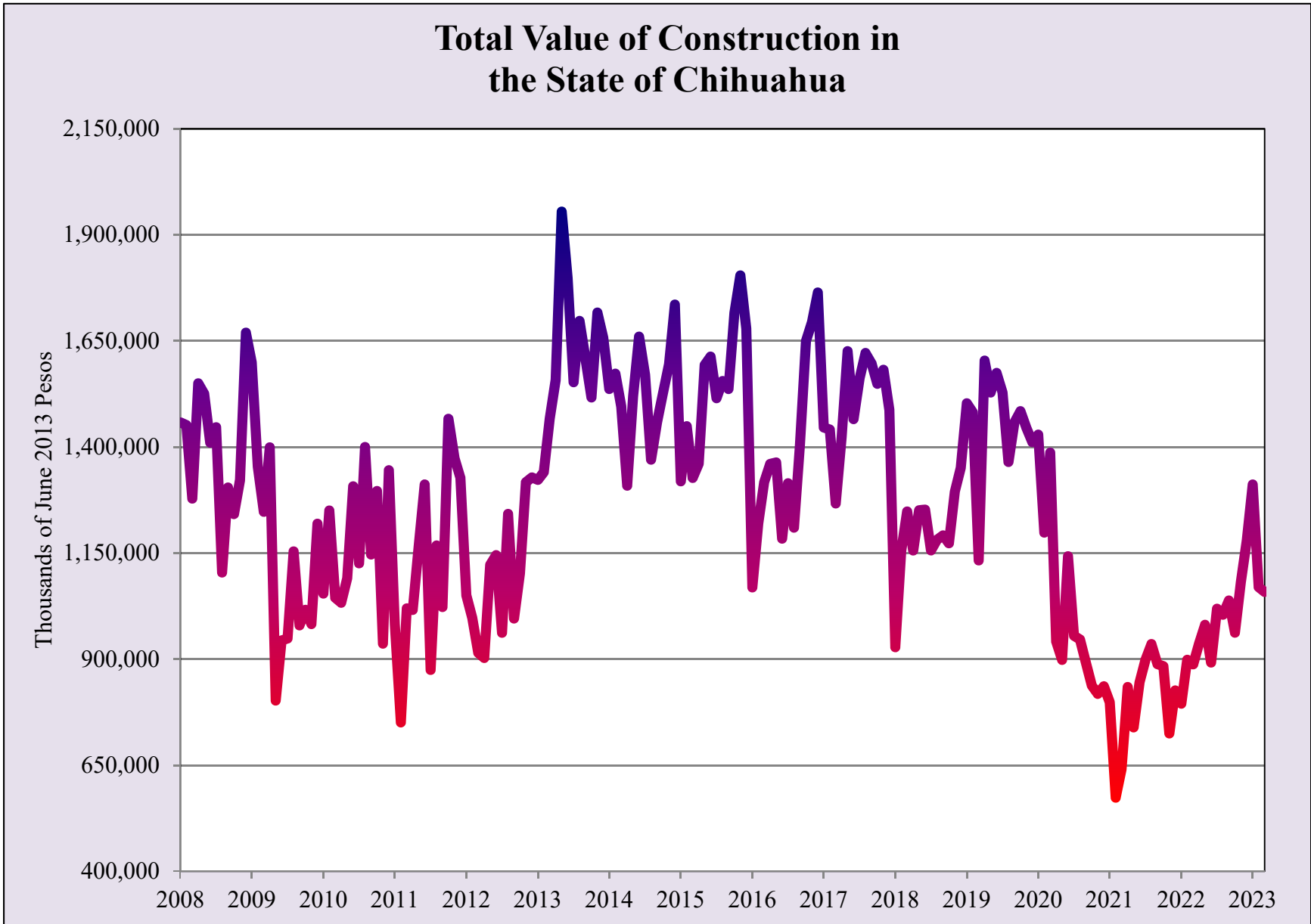
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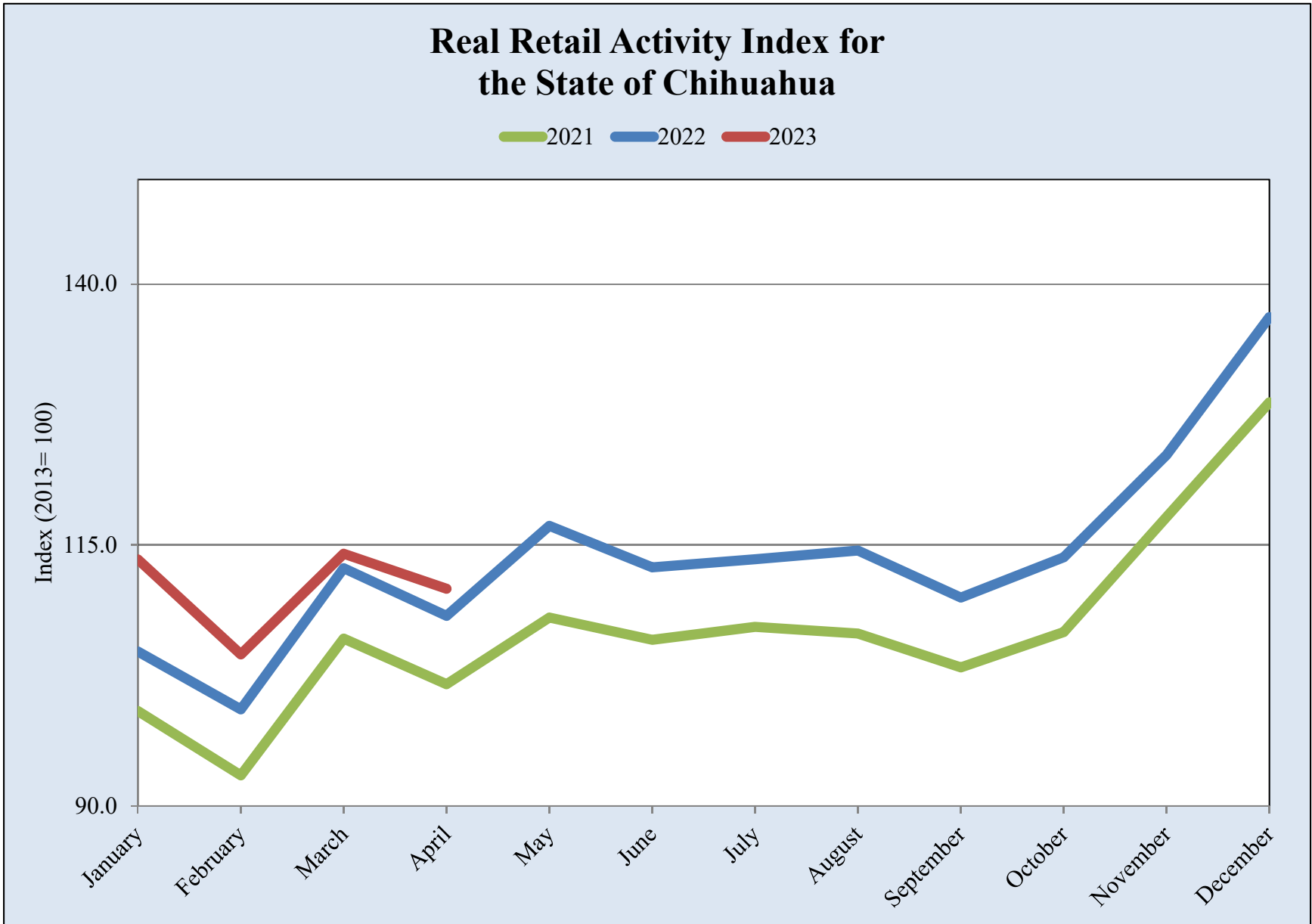
Total Value of Construction in the State of Chihuahua



Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using INEGI Data



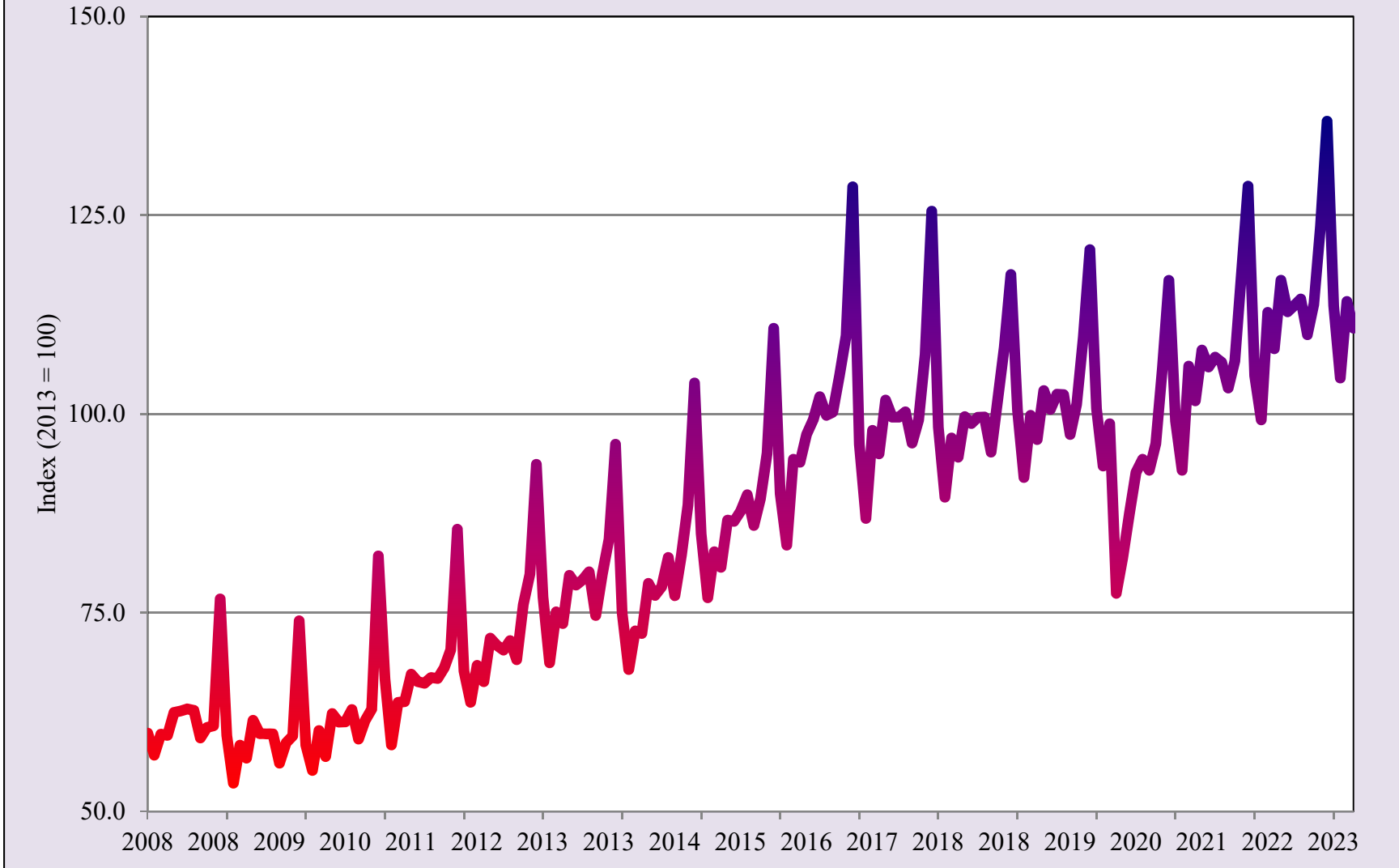
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using INEGI Data



Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using INEGI Data



Real Retail Activity Index for the State of Chihuahua



Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using INEGI Data



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