

7-2023

Borderplex Business Barometer, Volume 7, Number 7

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BORDERPLEX BUSINESS BAROMETER

July 2023

Border Region Modeling Project

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Border Commerce & Economics

Borderplex Business Barometer, Volume 7, Number 7

How can Consumers Lower Car Insurance Premia?

[The Volume 6, Number 9](#) issue of this report examined the unpopular topic of why car insurance is so expensive. It also promised to investigate if there are any steps consumers can take to lower the premia on those policies. This issue reviews several steps that can help.

In most states, automobile insurance is both mandatory and expensive. Because it is expensive, a persistent question among drivers is how to make car insurance more affordable. There are no easy steps to take, but vehicle owners can take several actions to lower insurance bills.

Nearly 66 percent of all households in the United States own their houses. Nearly all residences are insured. Purchasing homeowner and automobile coverage from the same insurance company, on average, generates discounts of 15 percent.

Some of the most expensive premia are charged to young drivers, many of whom are enrolled in school. Students who maintain grade averages of B or better, or are in the top 20 percent of their classes, can earn good student discounts. On average, those discounts generate savings of 14 percent per policy.

Defensive driver courses hone driving skills and improve decision-making behind the wheel. That leads to fewer accidents and insurance claims. Consequently, insurers are willing to provide drivers who complete defensive driving courses with discounts that generally average around 6 percent.

Not all states use explicit point systems, but avoiding tickets and accidents prevents unnecessary rate increases. Traffic violations and wrecks frequently raise policy premia. Obeying traffic rules will help drivers avoid accumulating expensive tickets that can also increase semi-annual insurance payments.

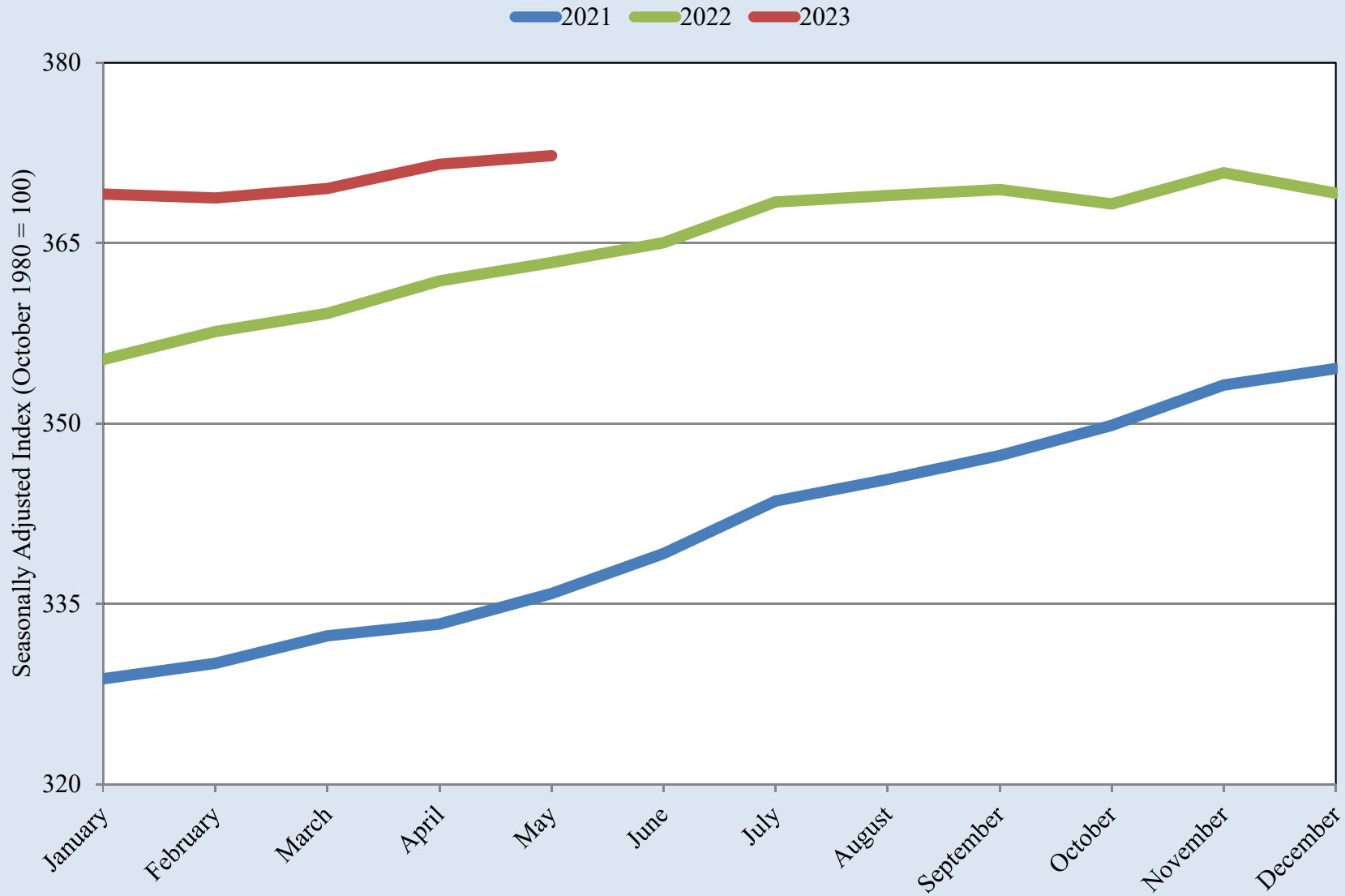
On average, drivers in the United States are behind the wheel for 13,000 miles per year. Drivers who accumulate 7,000 miles or less each year may qualify for low mileage discounts. Those discounts average approximately 5 percent per policy.

Many insurance companies monitor credit information. Paying bills on time helps maintain credit scores. Lower credit scores and good credit records often lead to lower insurance policy prices.

Thomas M. Fullerton, Jr., Chia-Chun Chiang, and Steven L. Fullerton



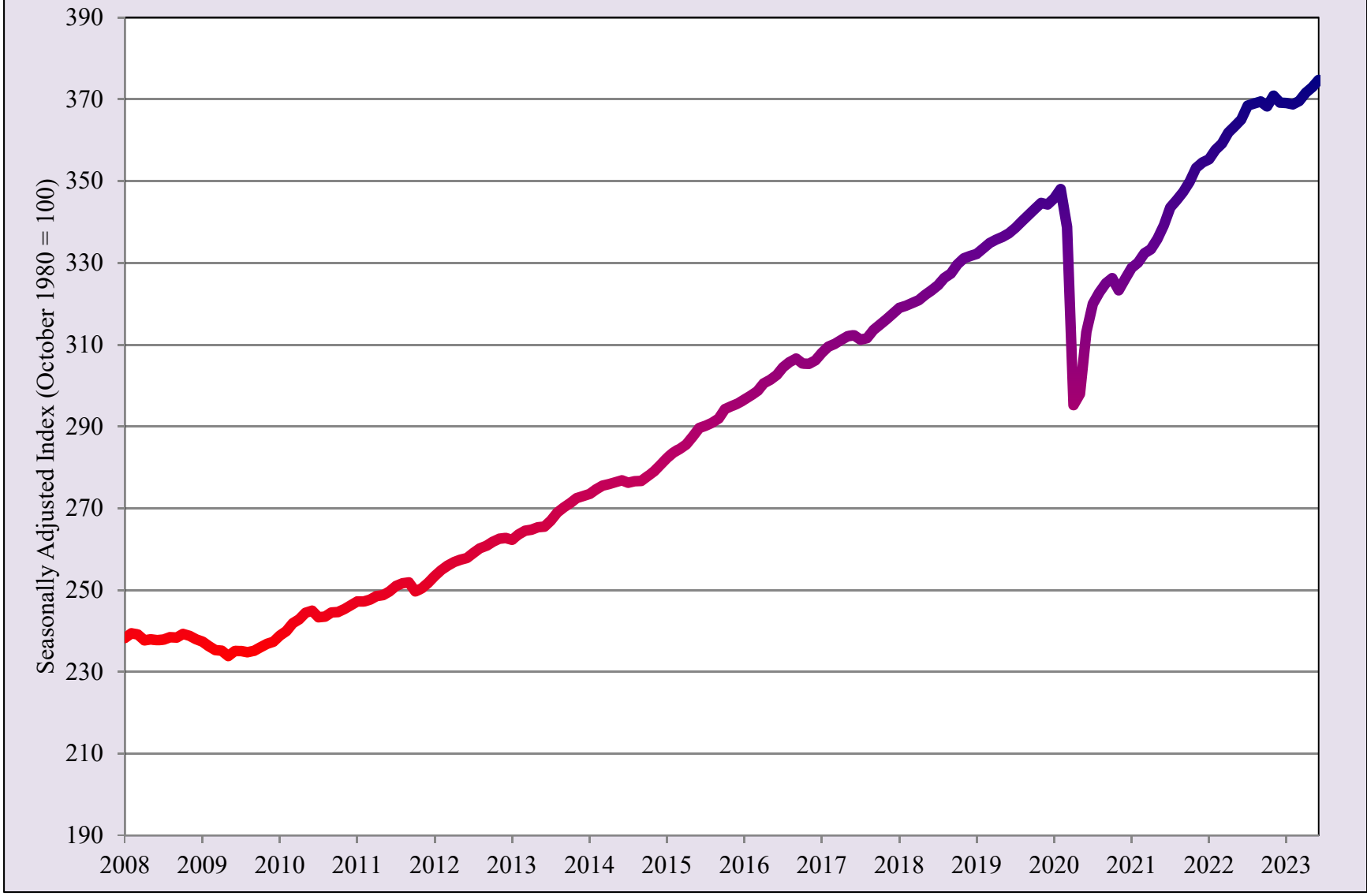
El Paso Metropolitan Business Cycle Index



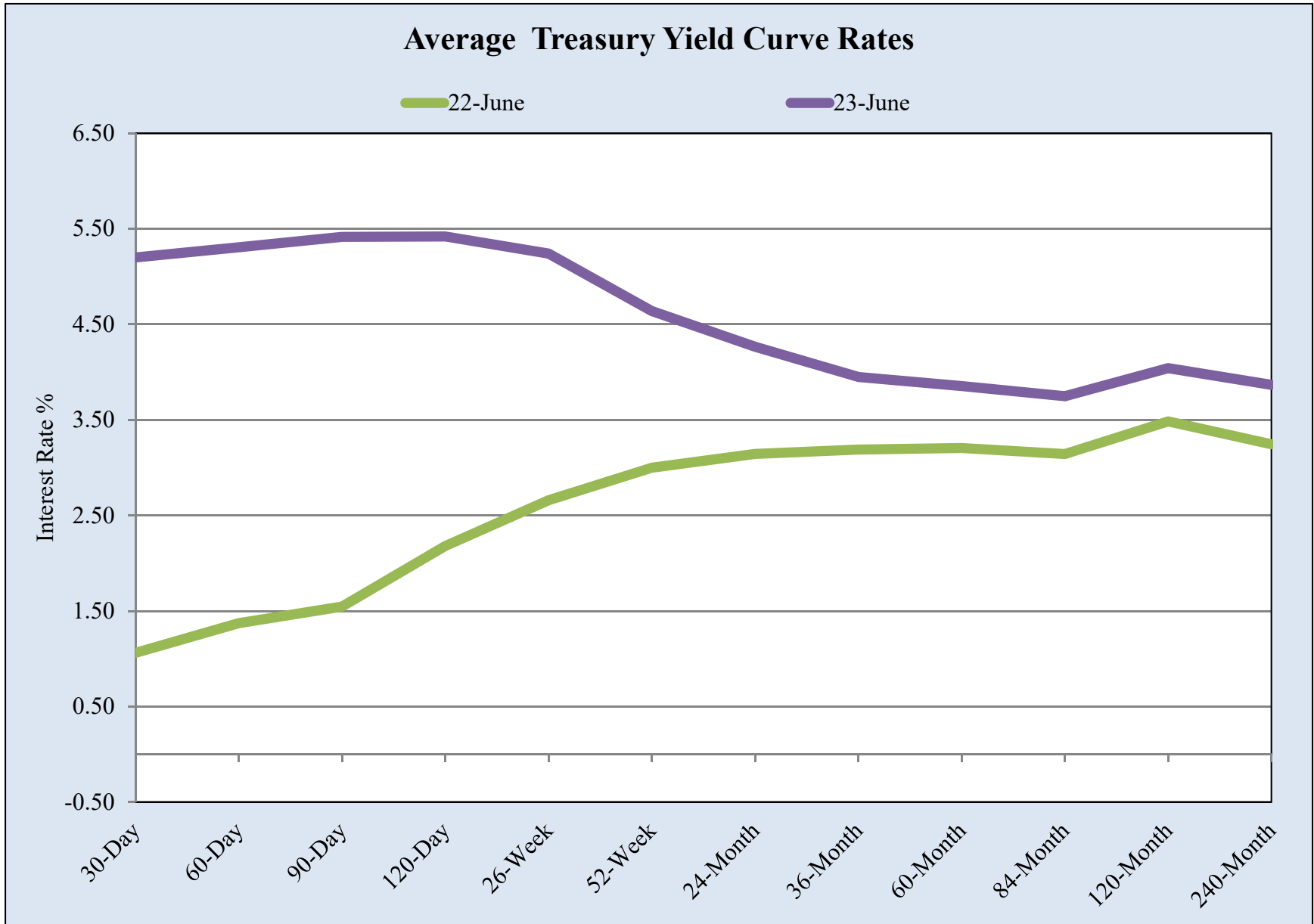
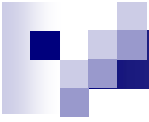
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas Data



El Paso Metropolitan Business Cycle Index



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

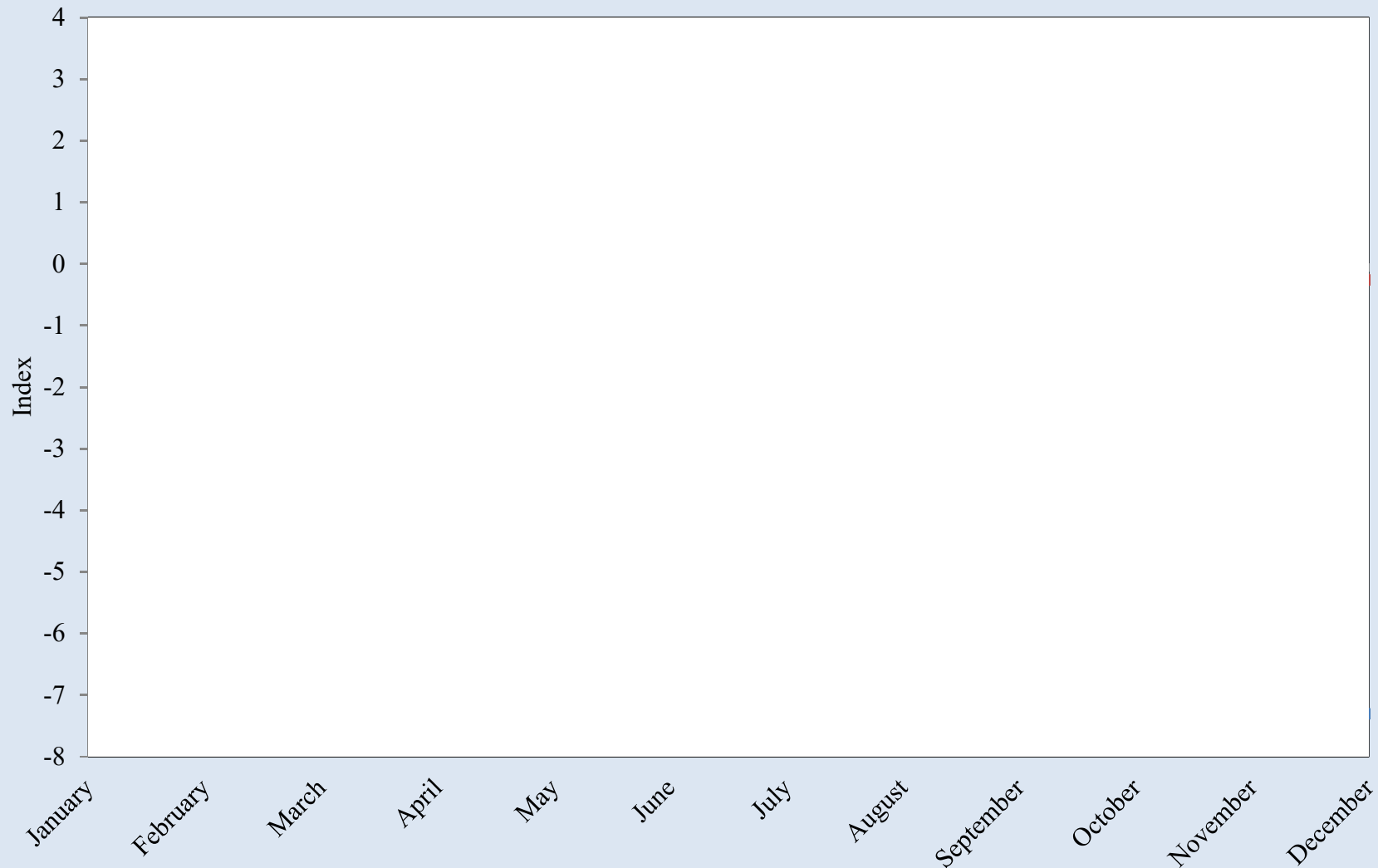


Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using US Treasury, Daily Treasury Yield Curve Rates Data

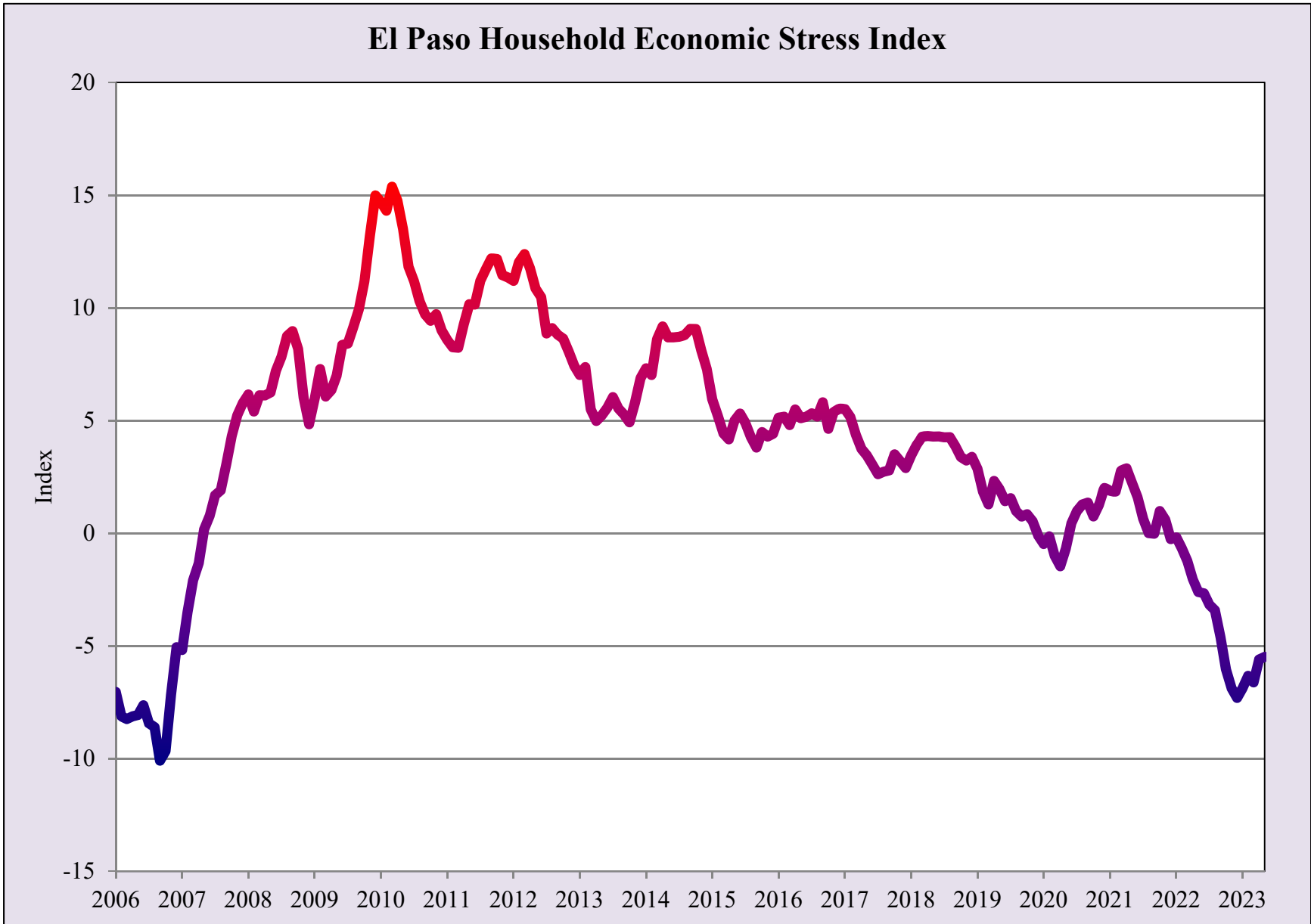


El Paso Household Economic Stress Index

— 2021 — 2022 — 2023



Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project

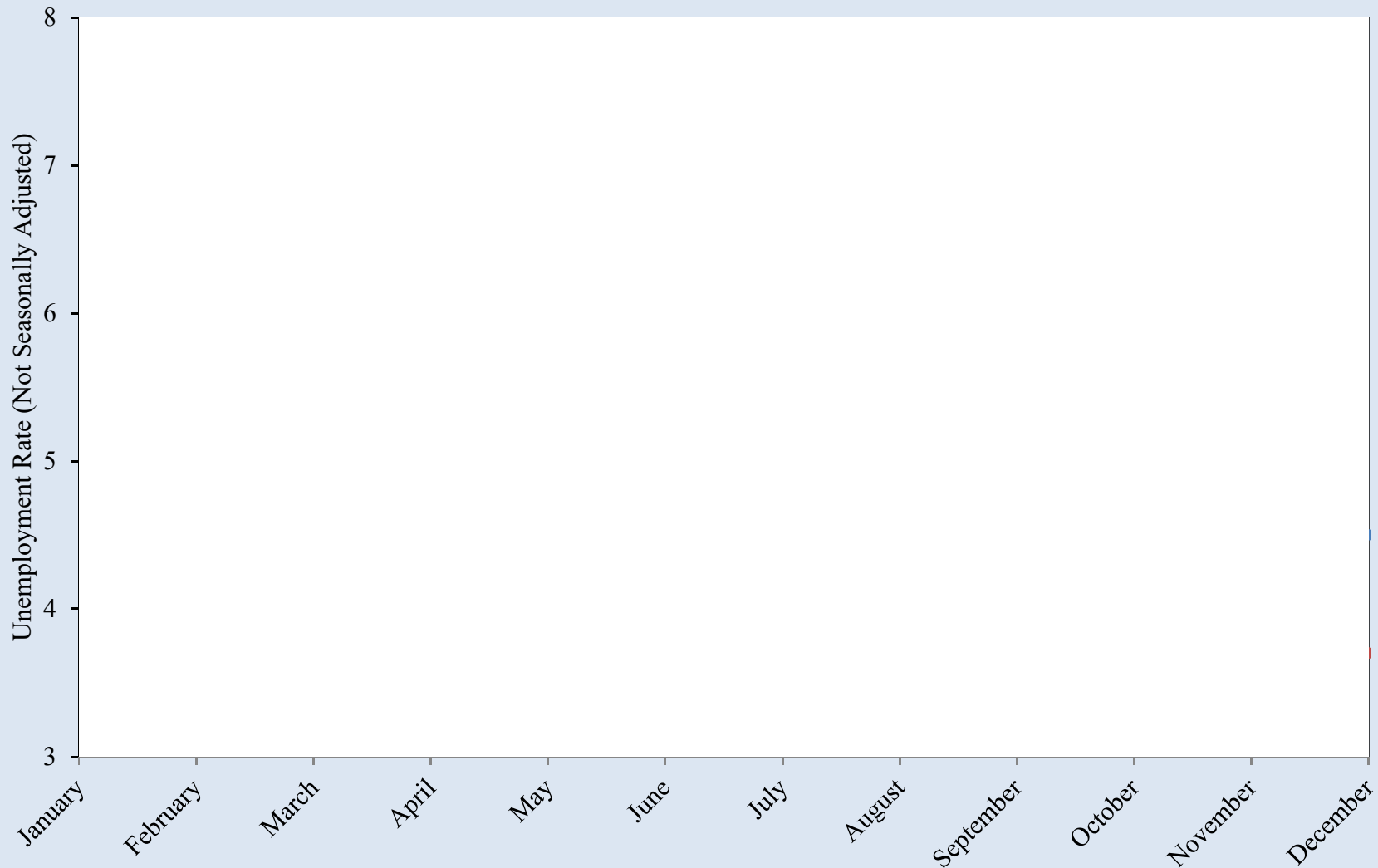


Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project

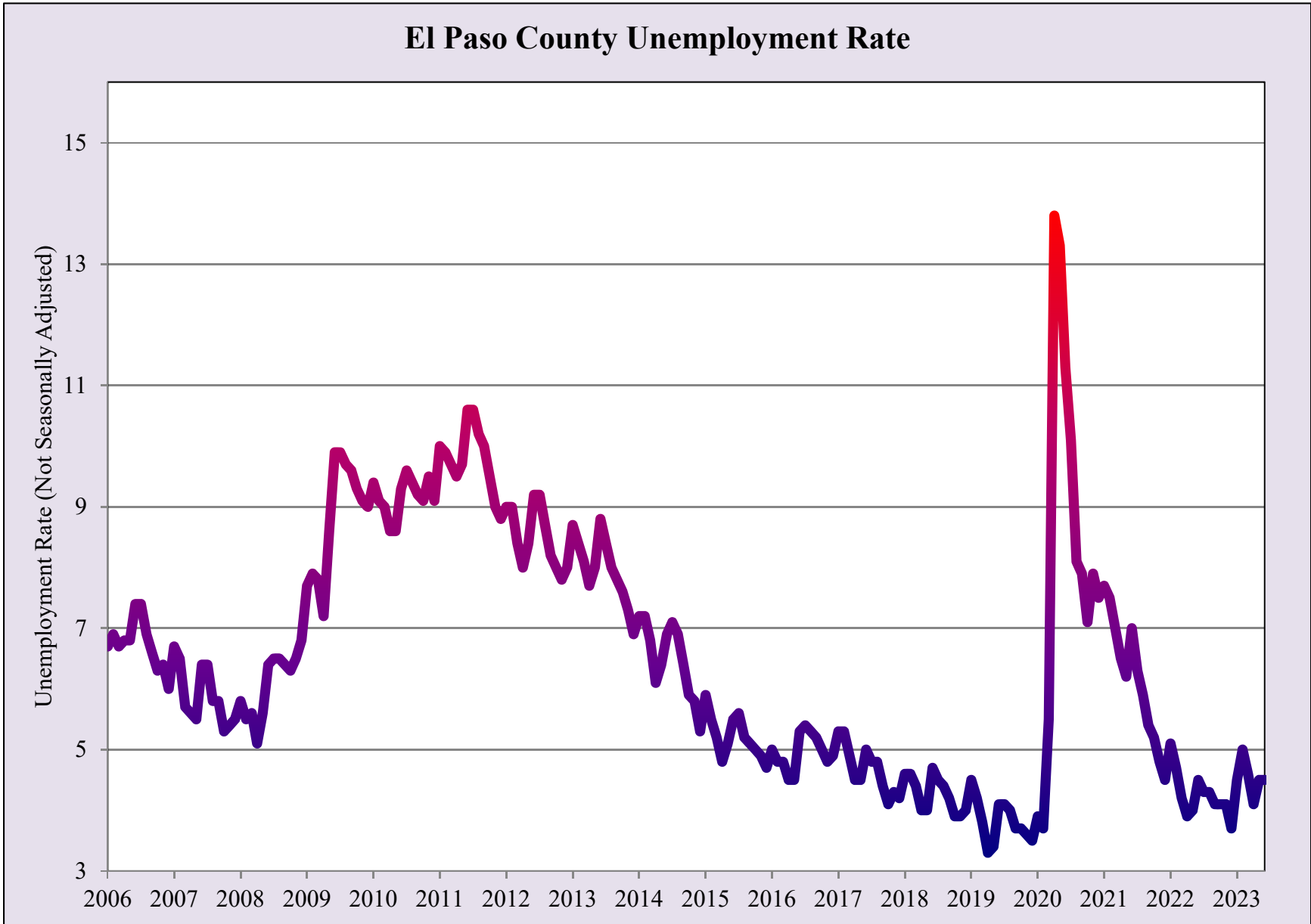


El Paso County Unemployment Rate

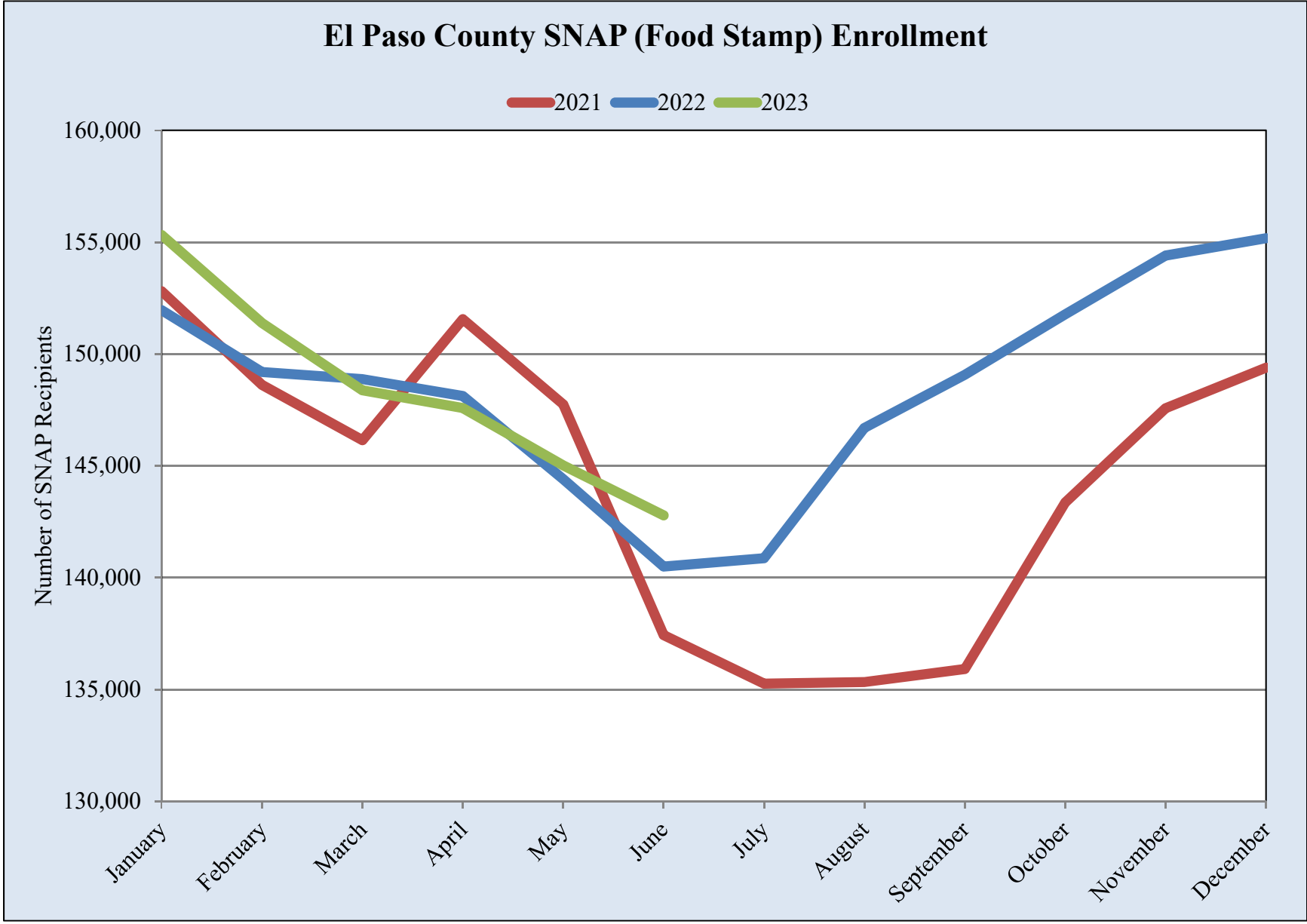
— 2021 — 2022 — 2023



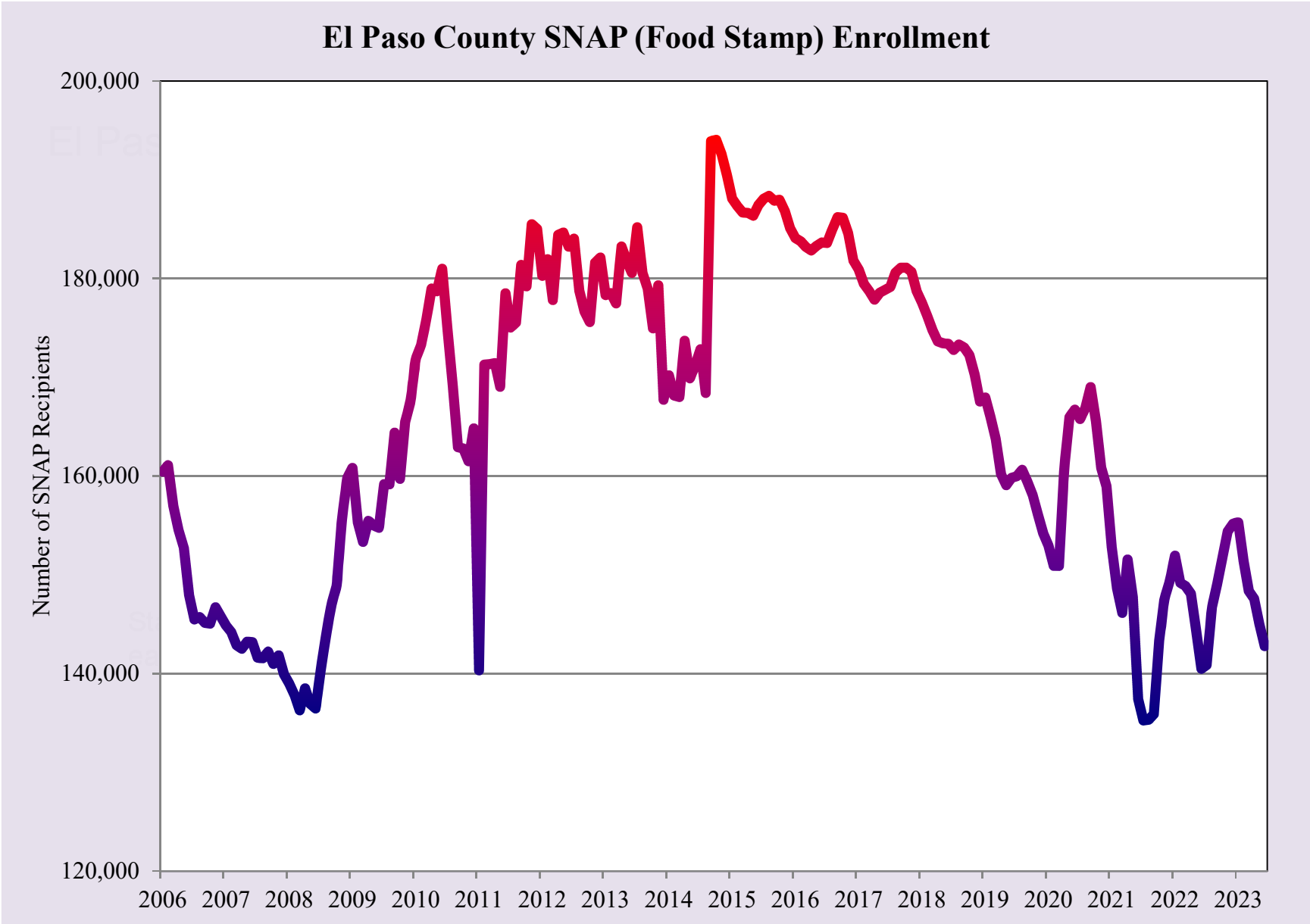
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using Bureau of Labor Statistics Data



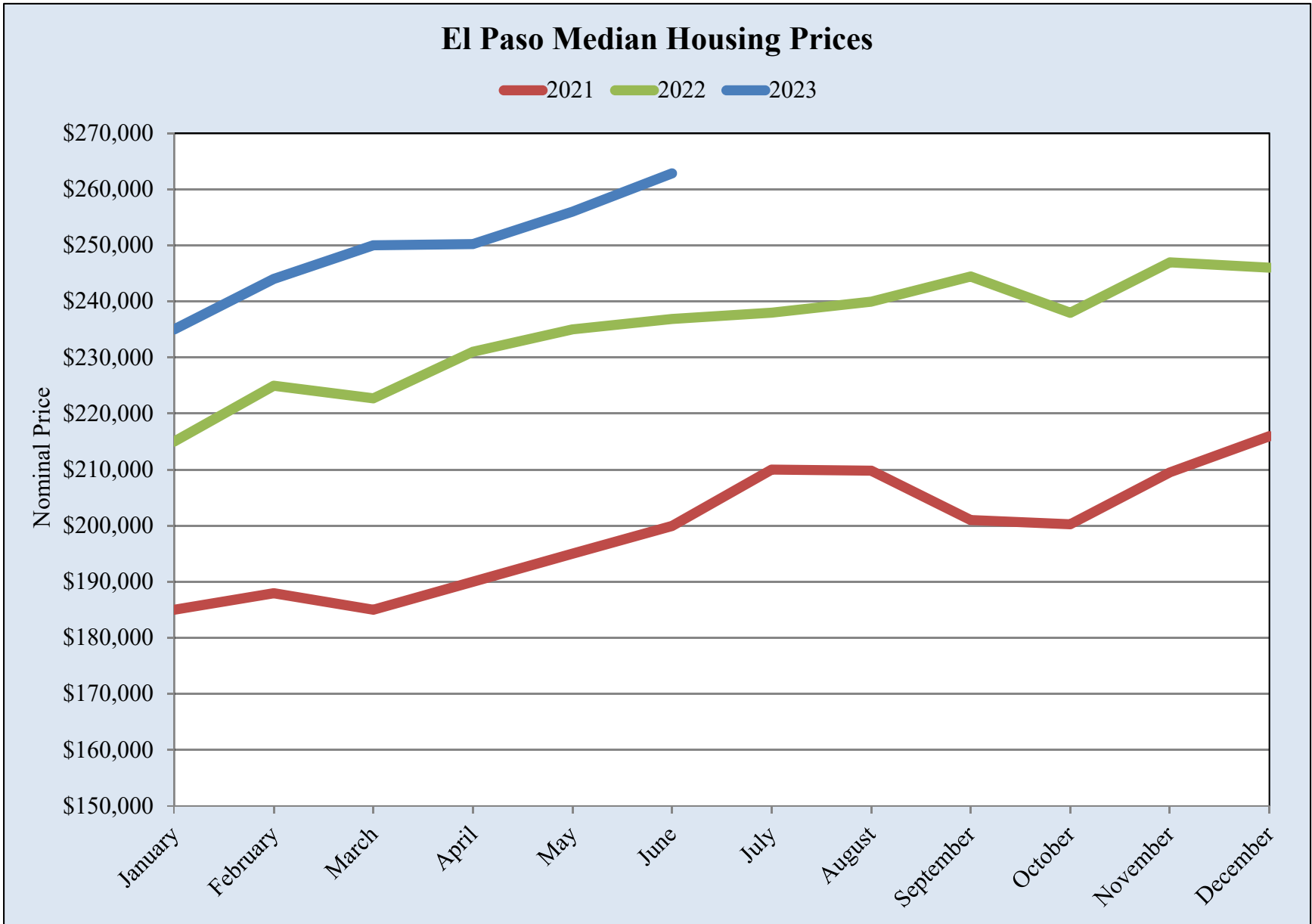
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using Bureau of Labor Statistics Data



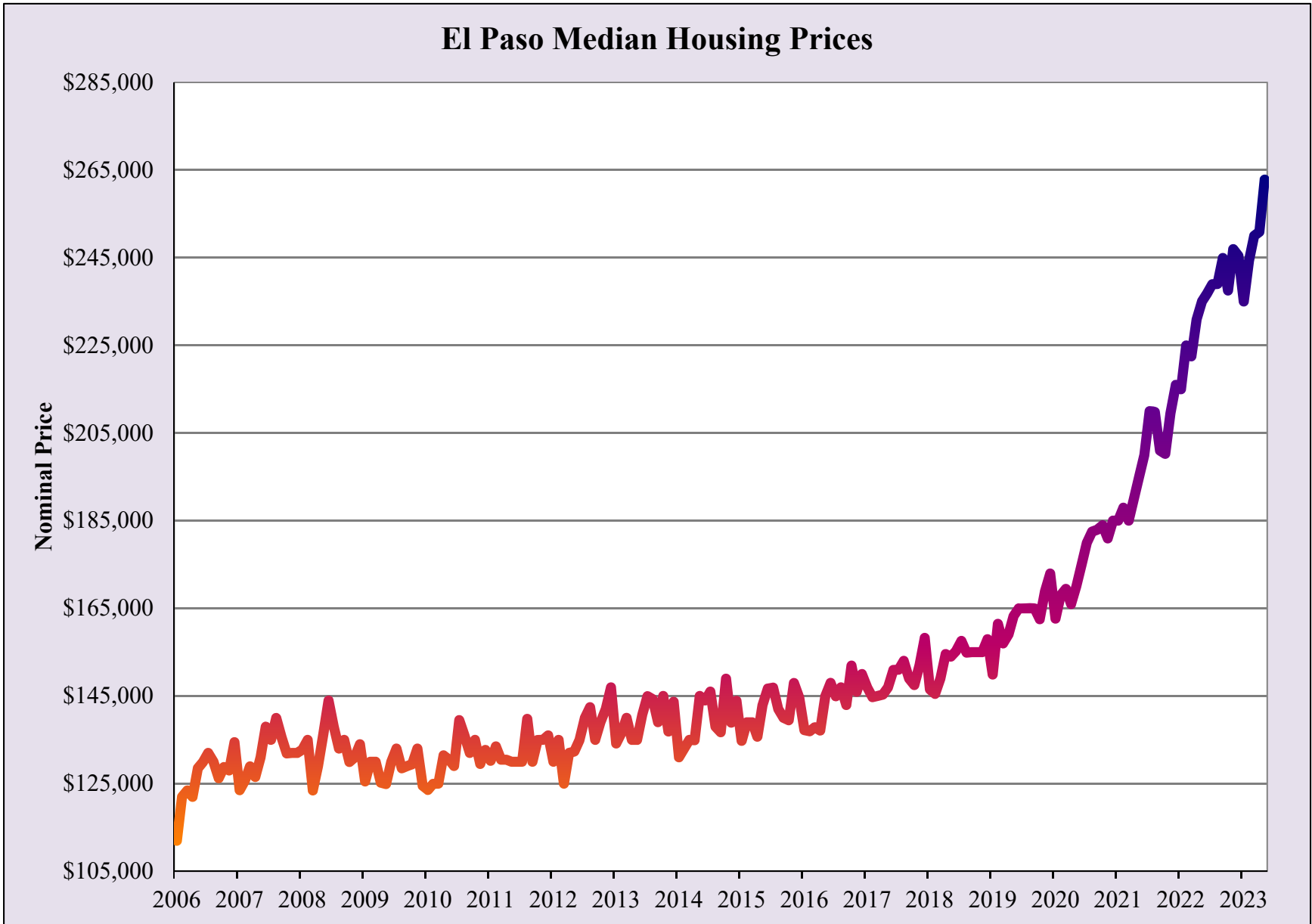
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using Texas Health and Human Services Commission



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



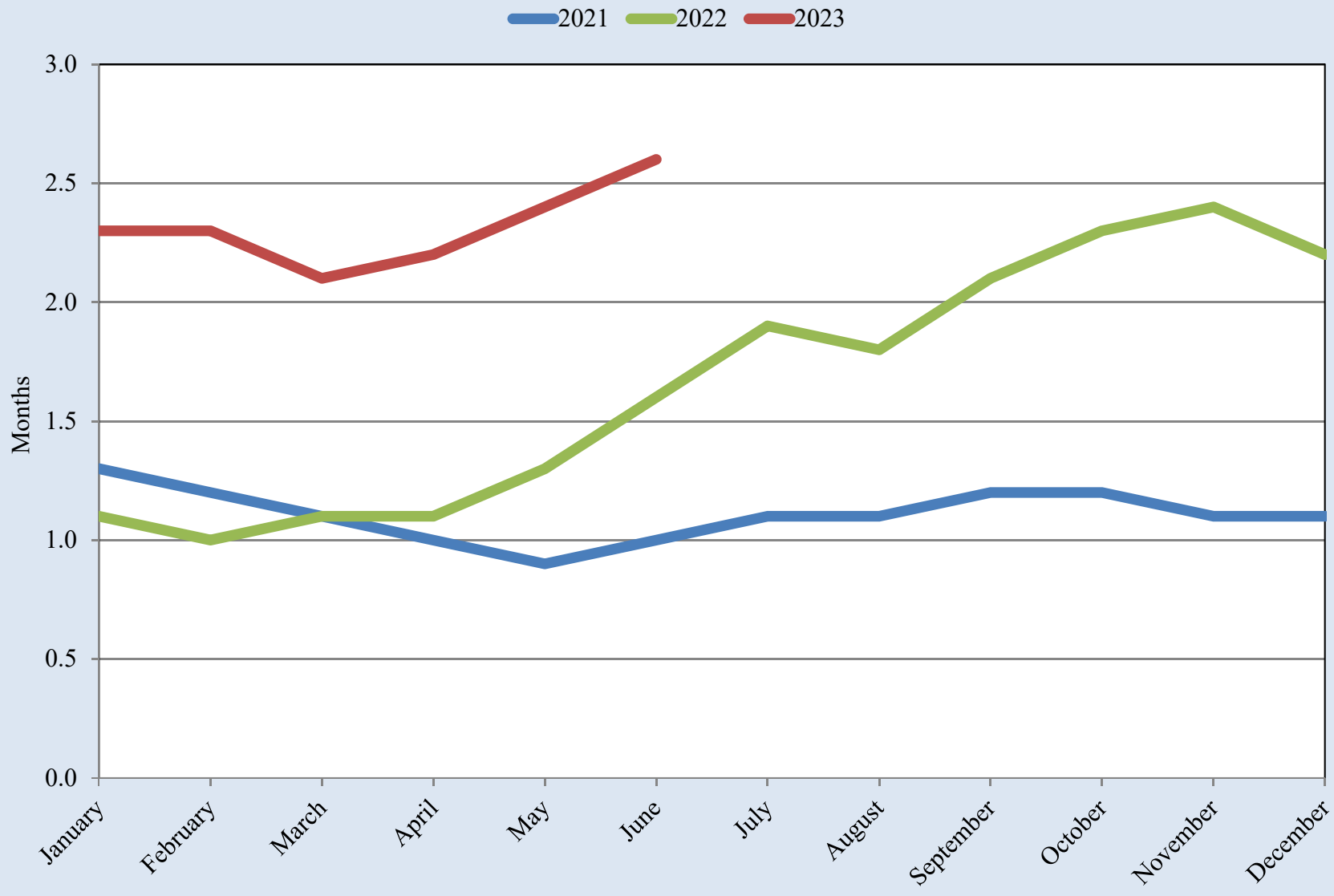
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using Texas A&M Real Estate Center Data



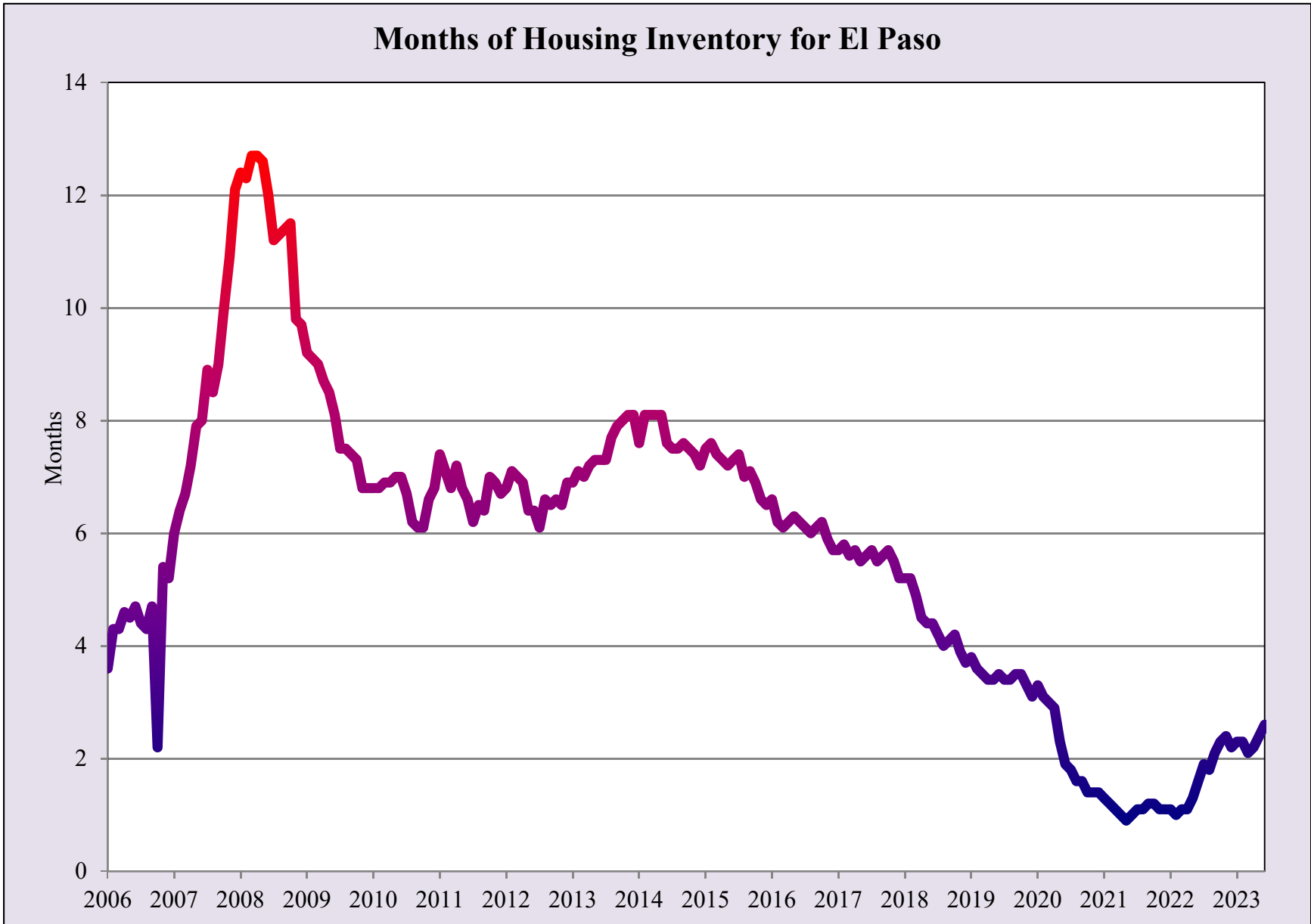
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using Texas A&M Real Estate Center Data



Months of Housing Inventory for El Paso



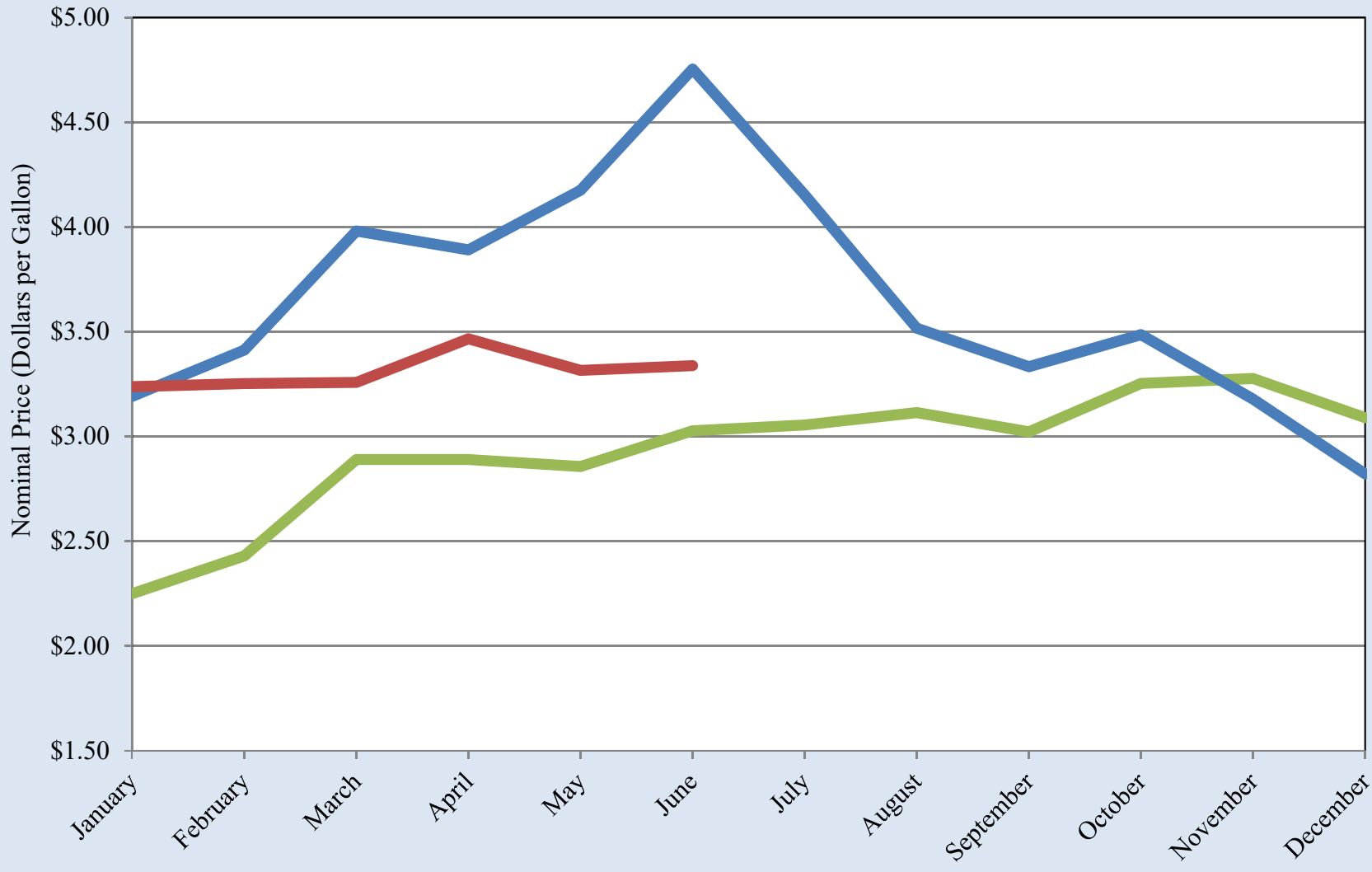
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using Texas A&M Real Estate Center Data



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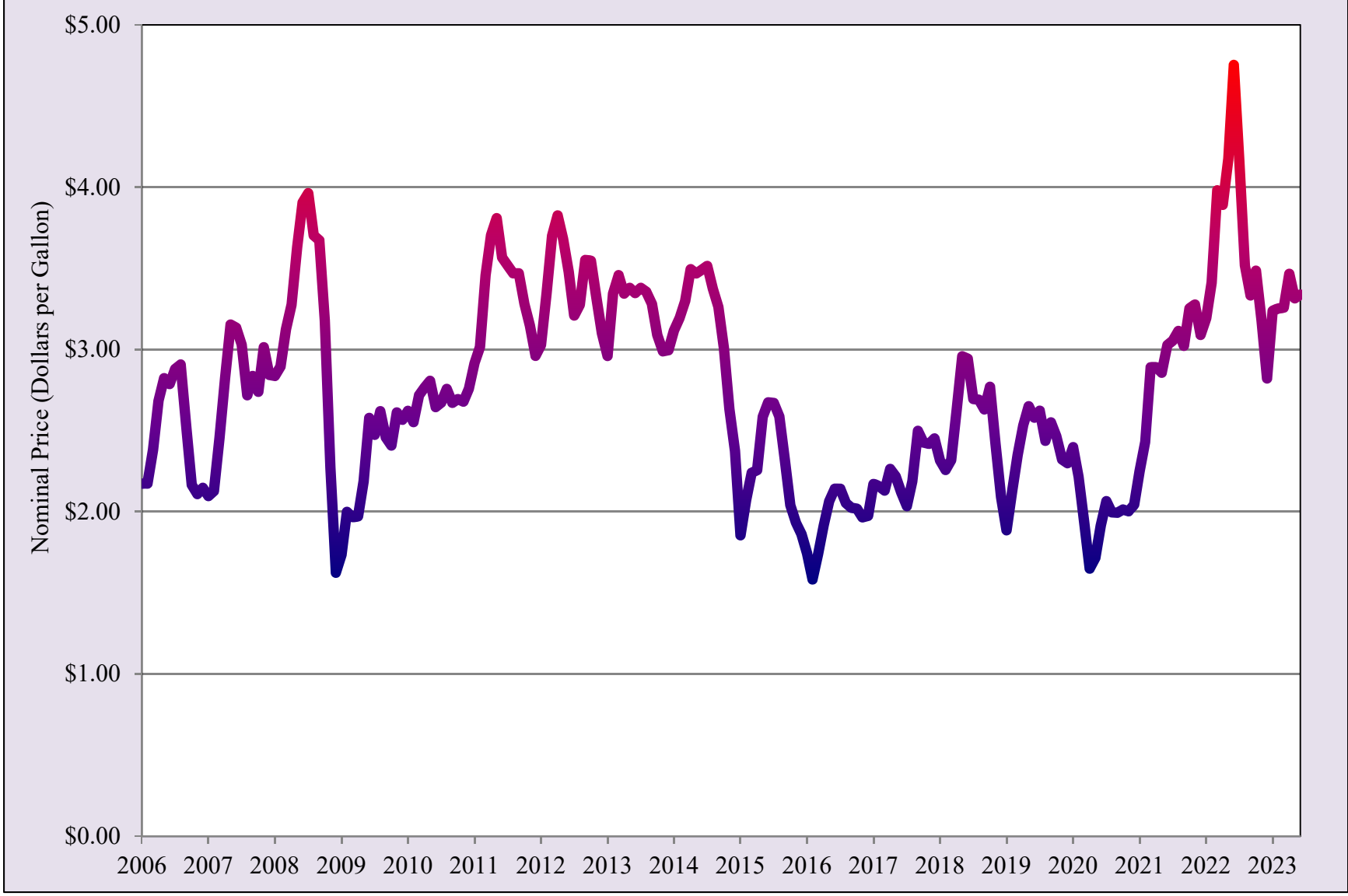
El Paso Gasoline Prices

2021 2022 2023



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

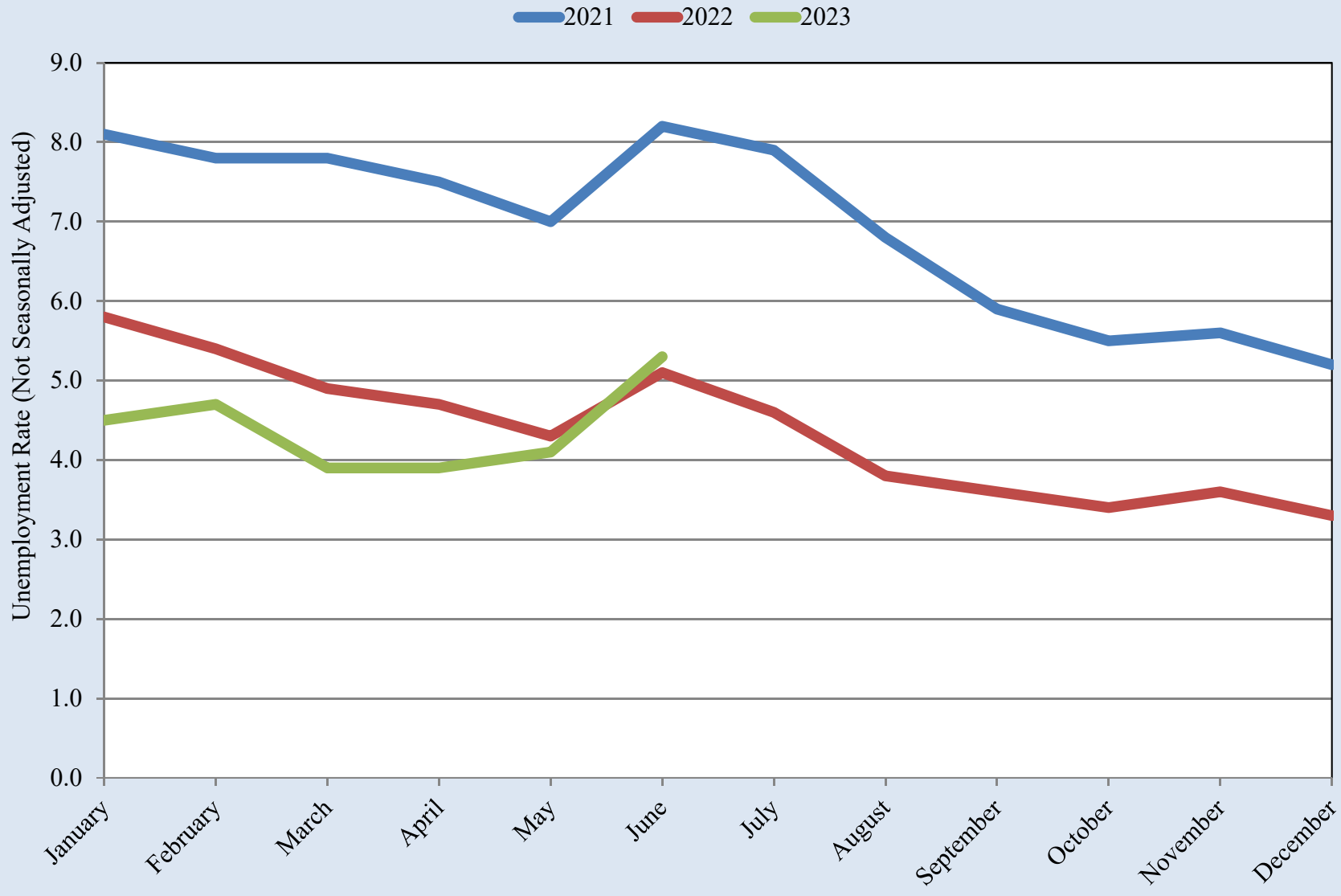
El Paso Gasoline Prices



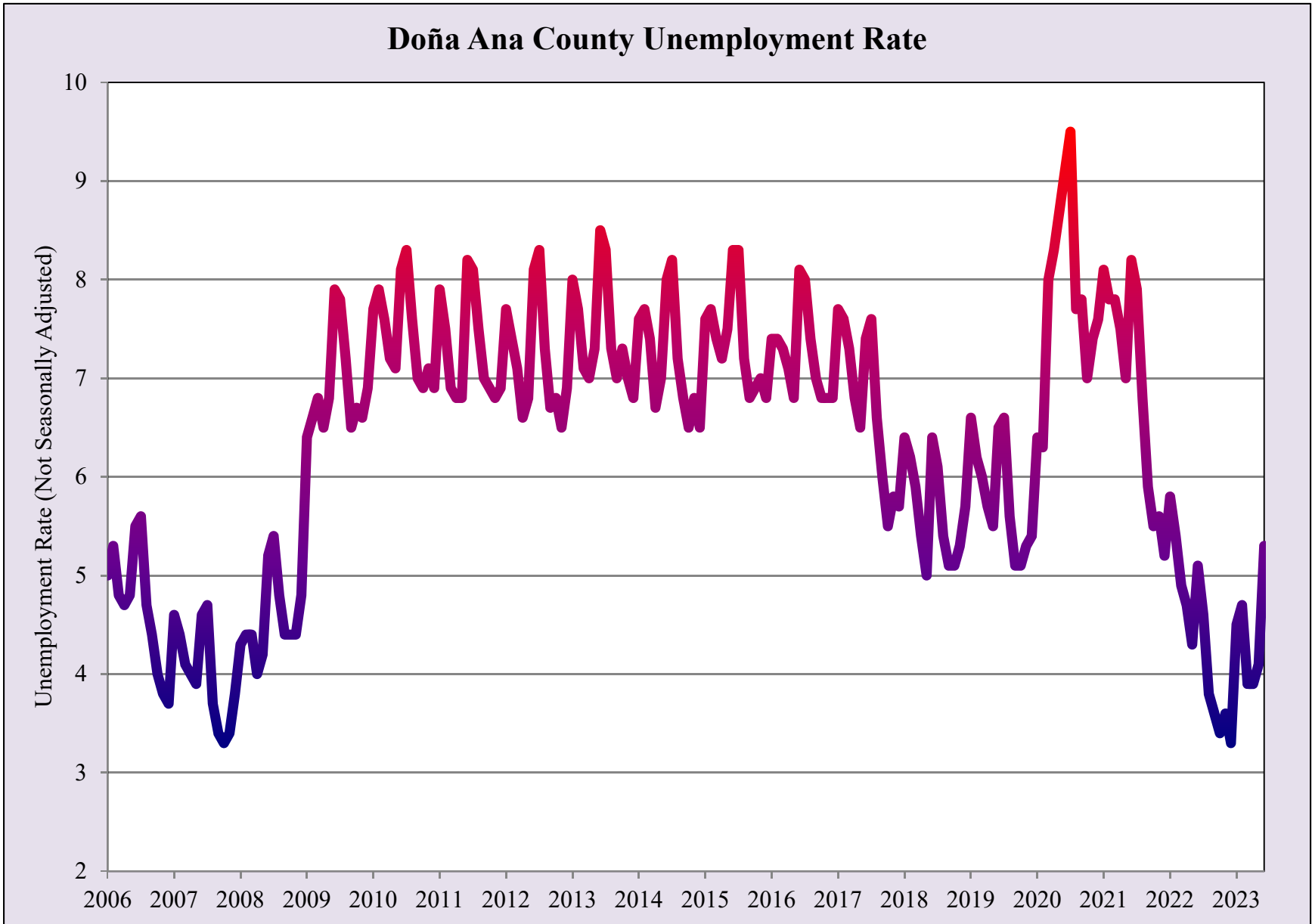
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using GasBuddy.com Data



Doña Ana County Unemployment Rate



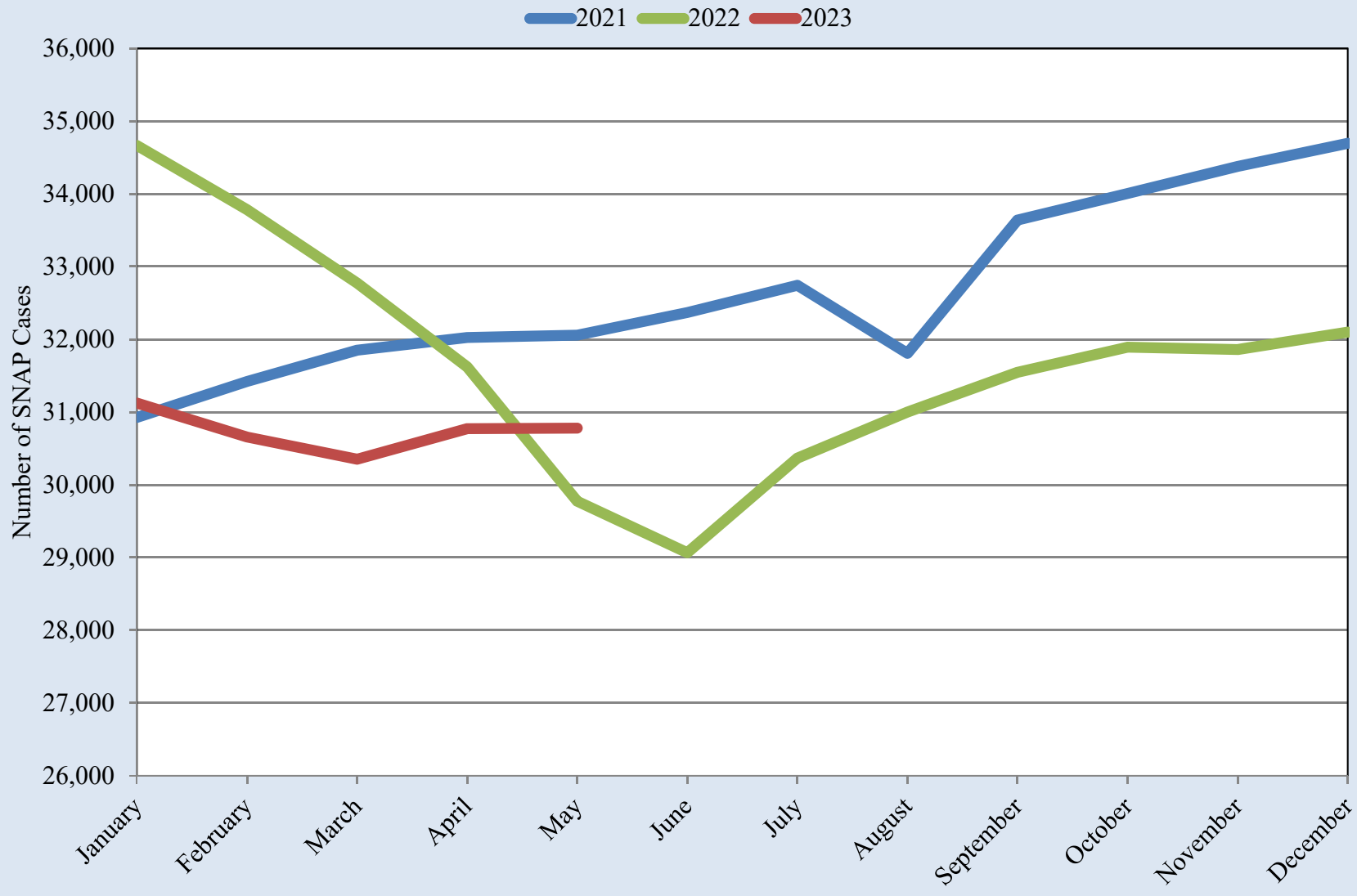
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using NM Workforce Data



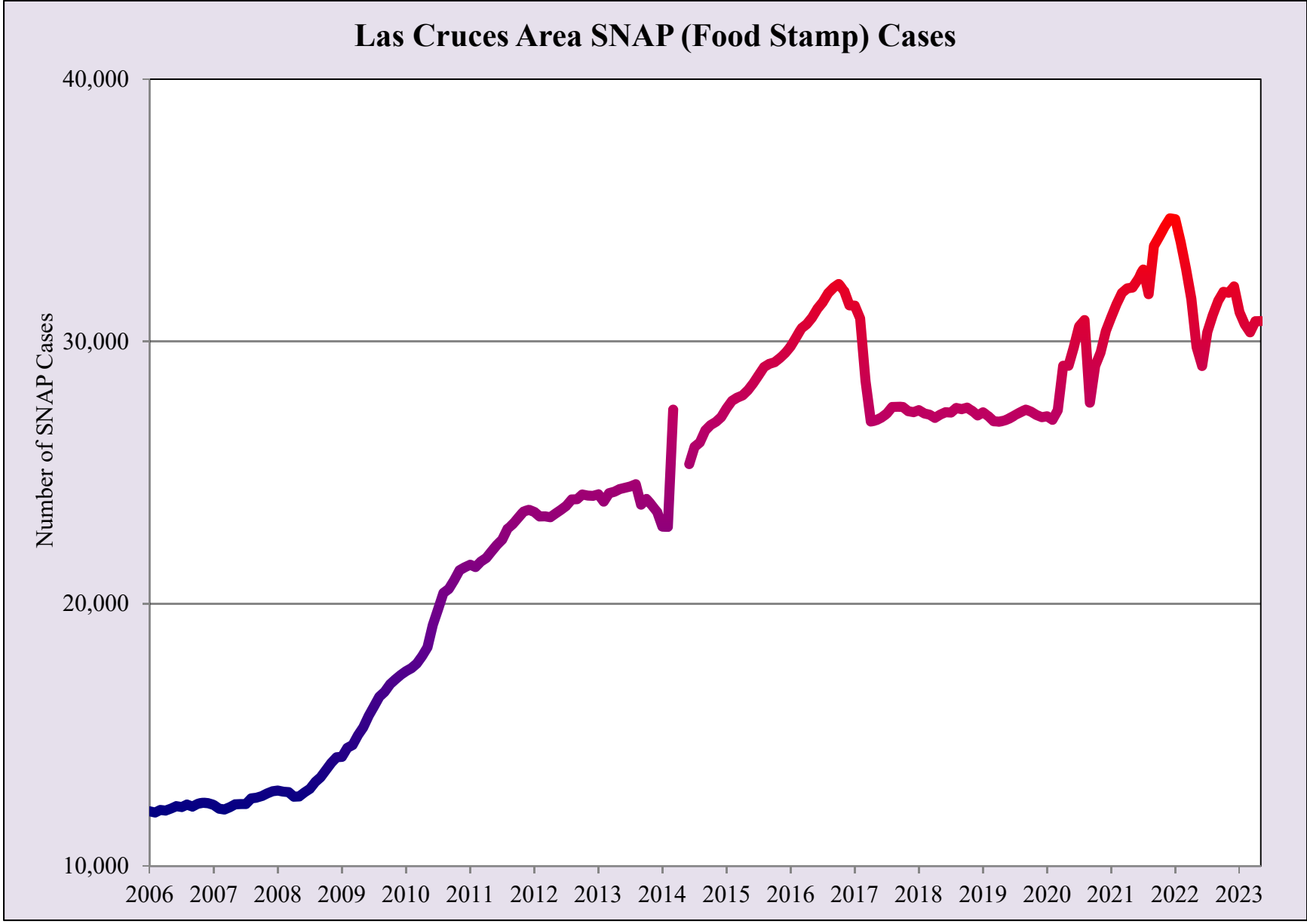
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using NM Workforce Data



Las Cruces Area SNAP (Food Stamp) Cases



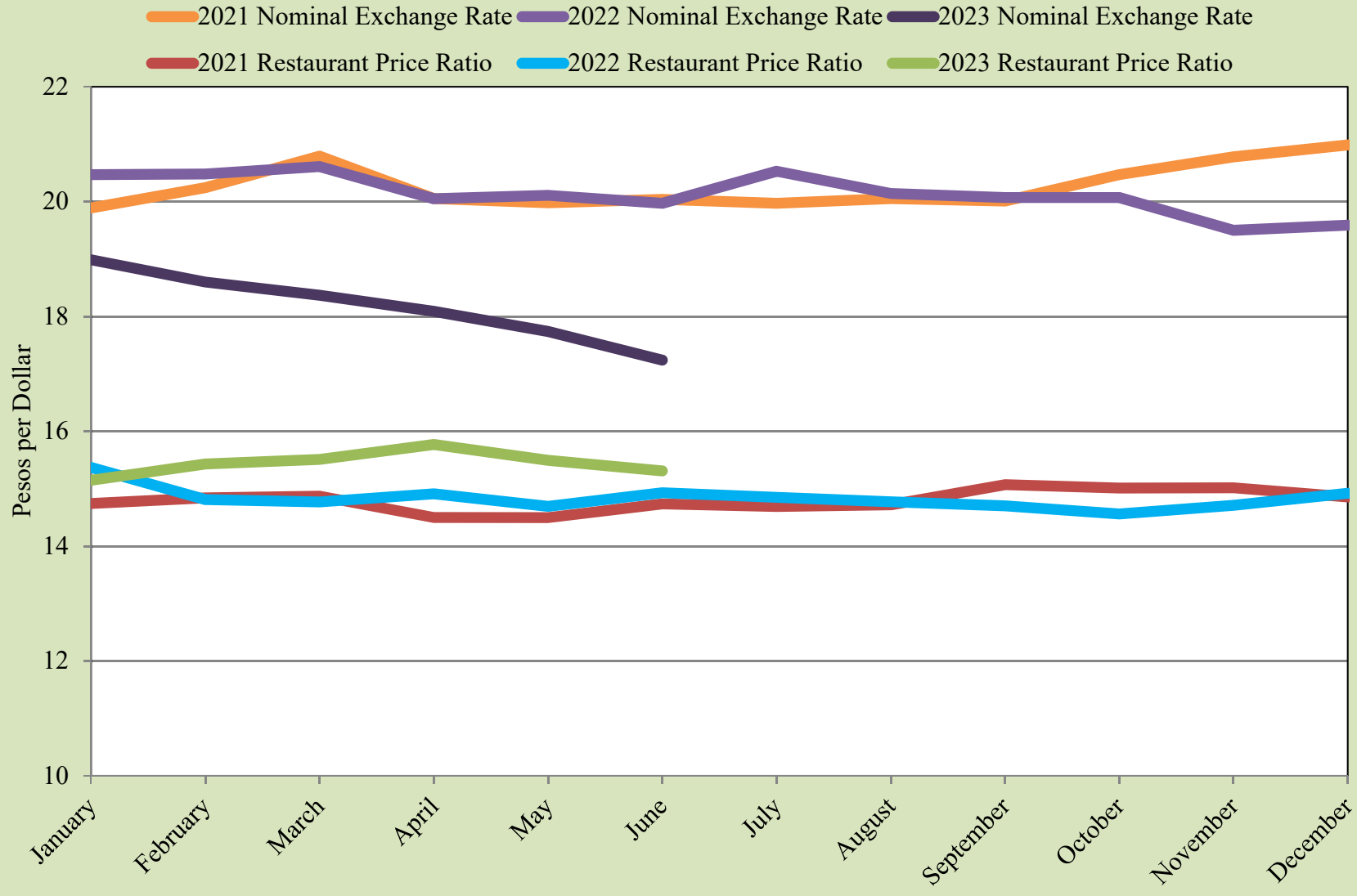
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using New Mexico Human Services Department Data



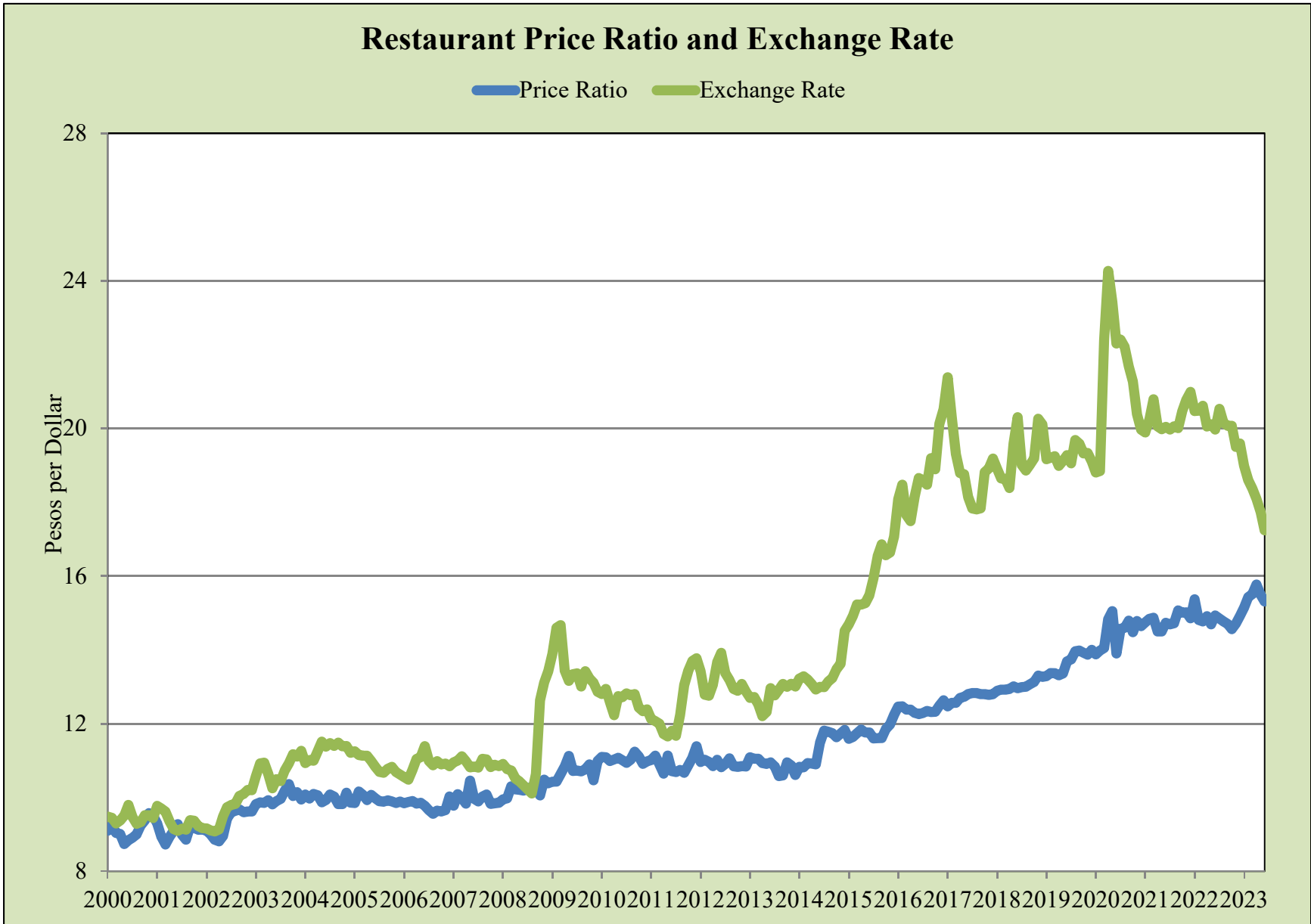
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using New Mexico Human Services Department Data



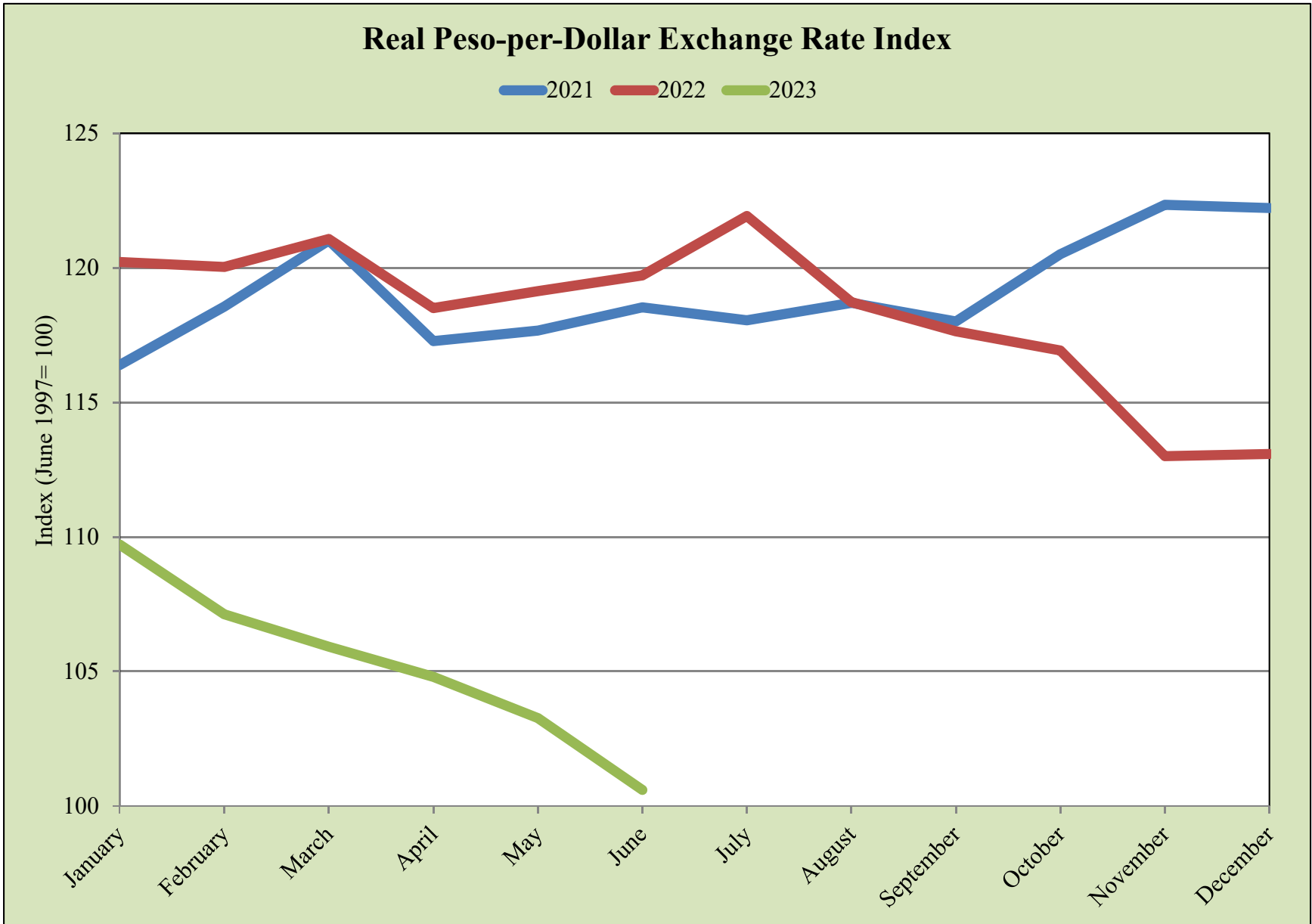
Restaurant Price Ratio and Exchange Rate



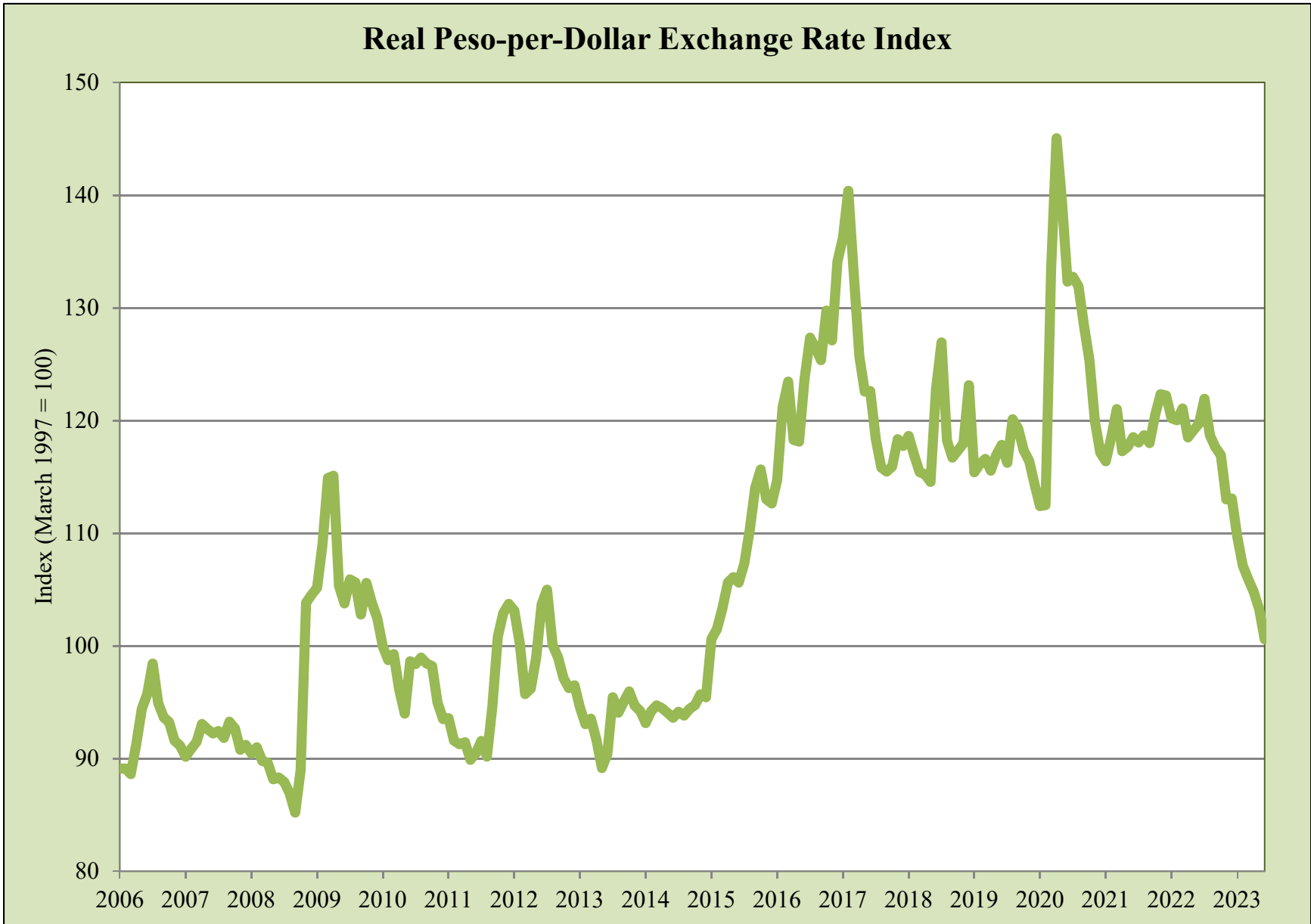
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using 85 identical franchise restaurant products sold on both sides of the border.



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



Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project



Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project

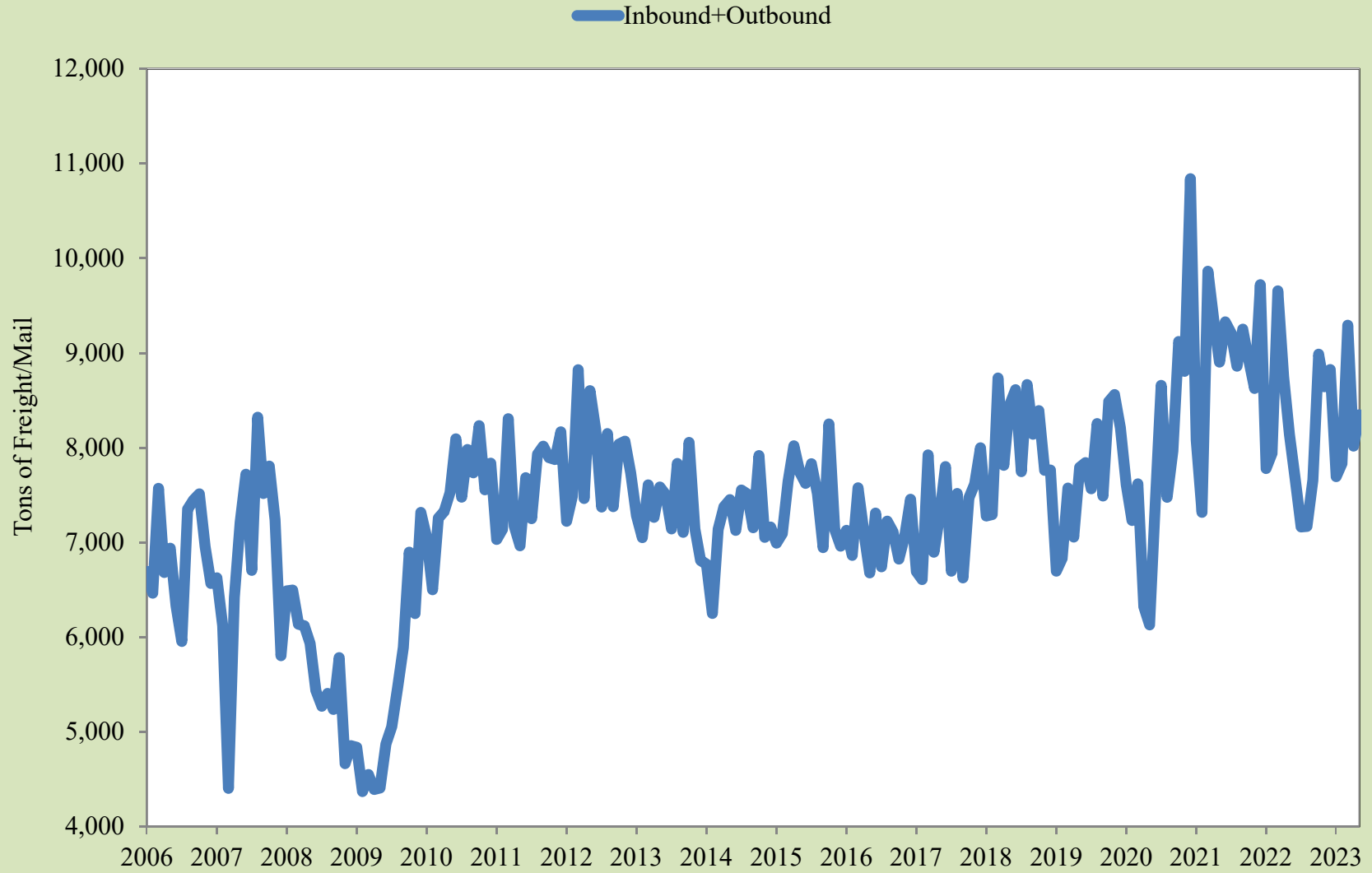
EPIA Freight and Mail



Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using EPIA Operations Data

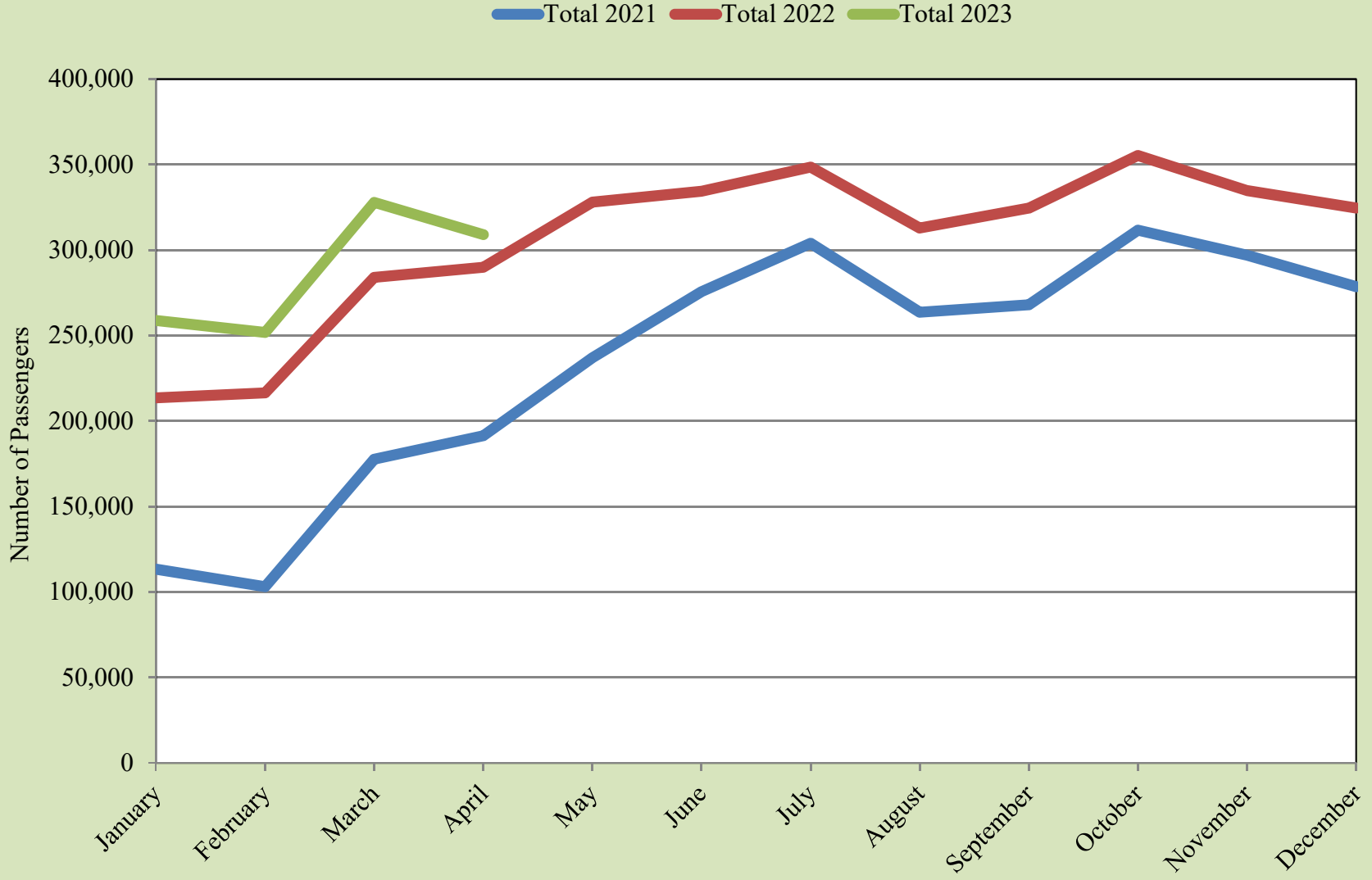


EPIA Freight and Mail

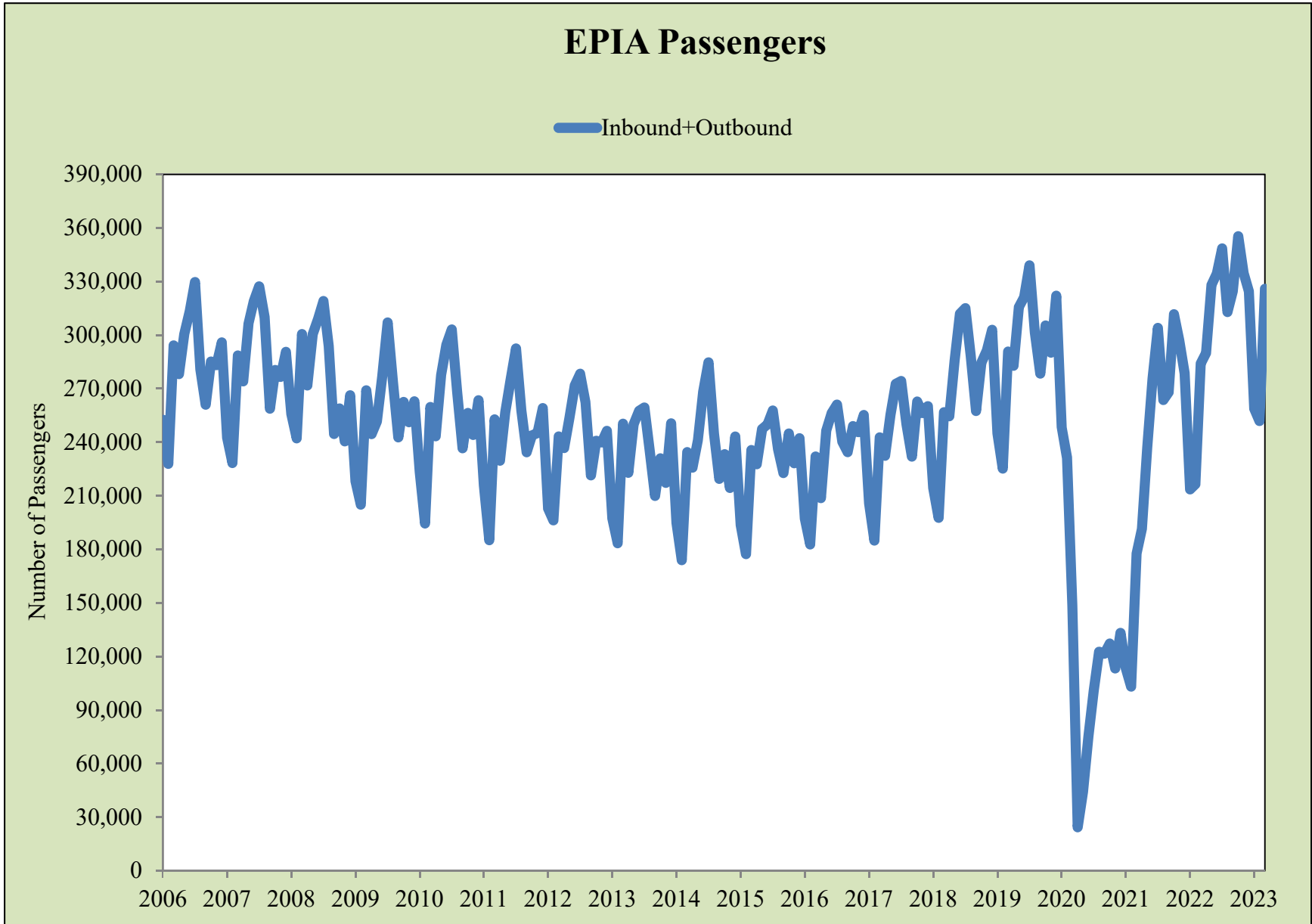


Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using EPIA Operations Data

EPIA Passengers



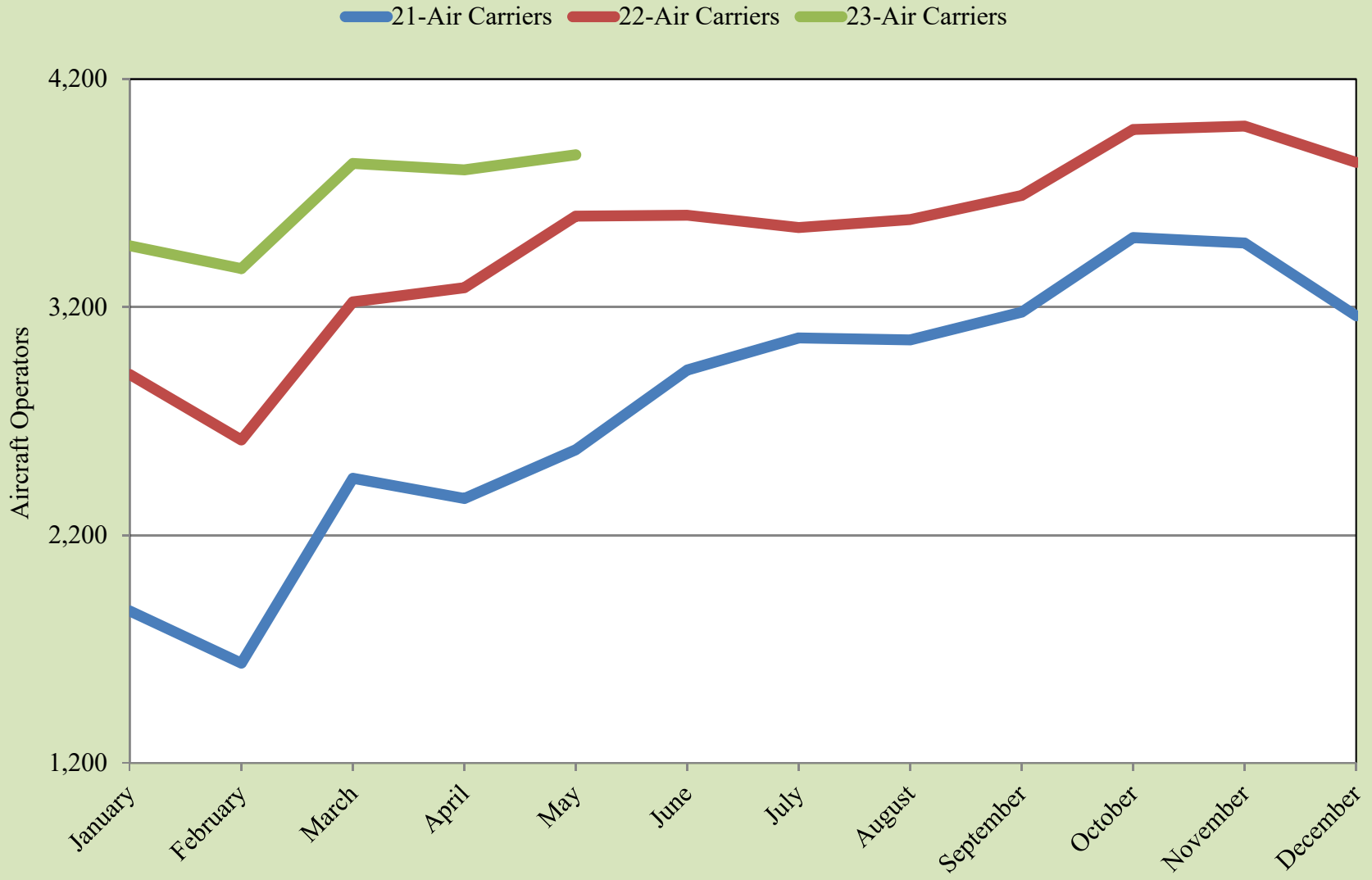
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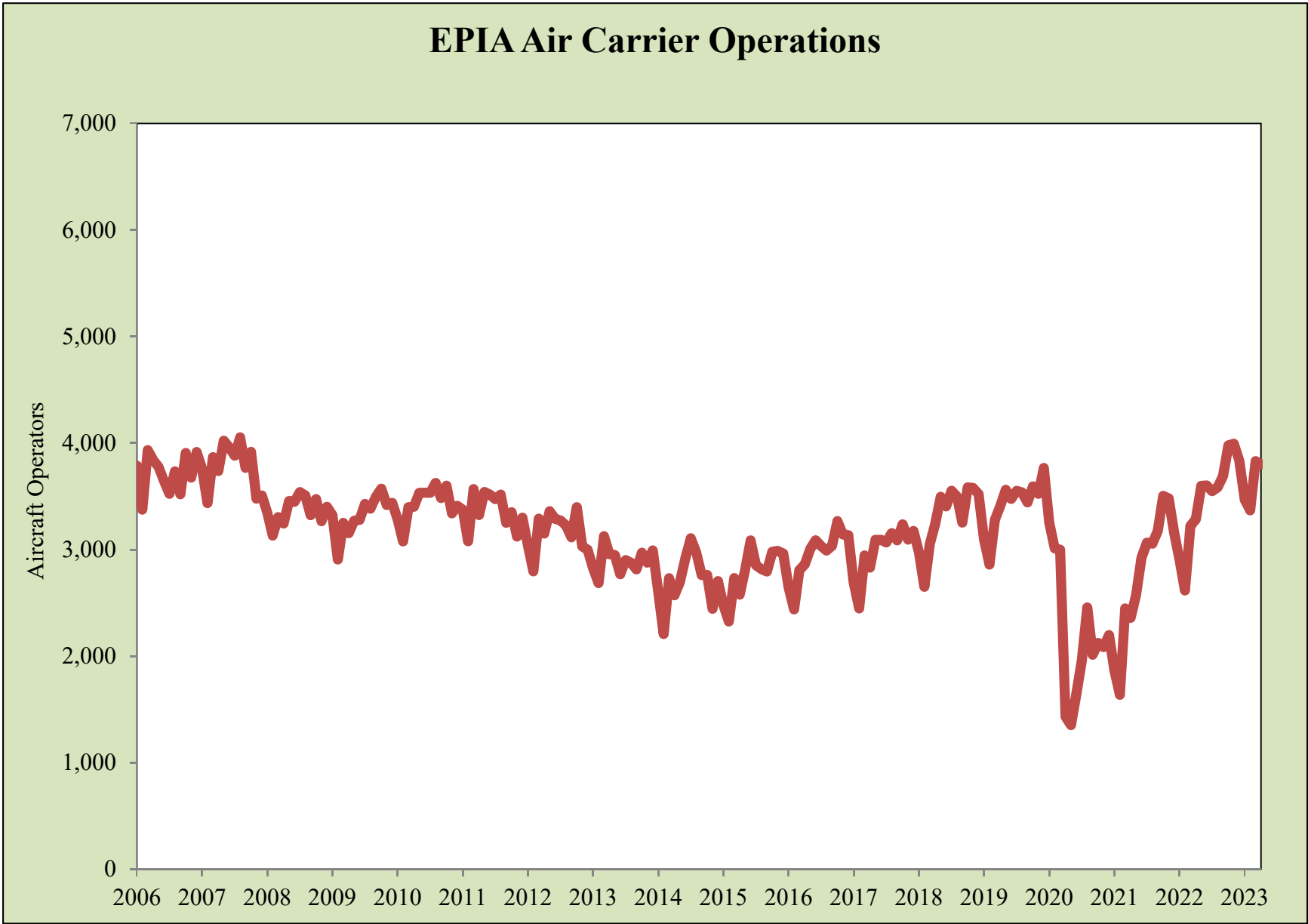
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EPIA Air Carrier Operations



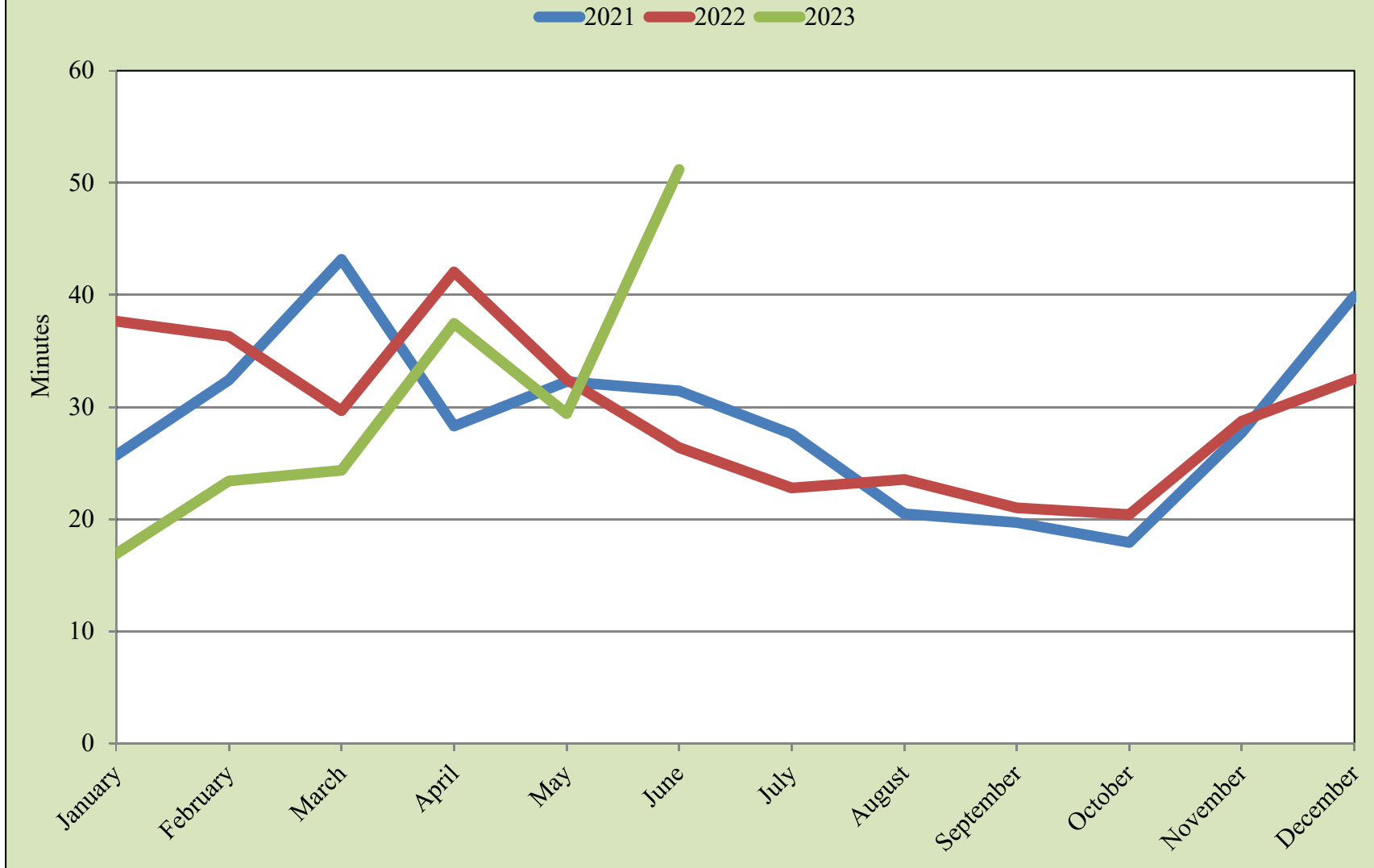
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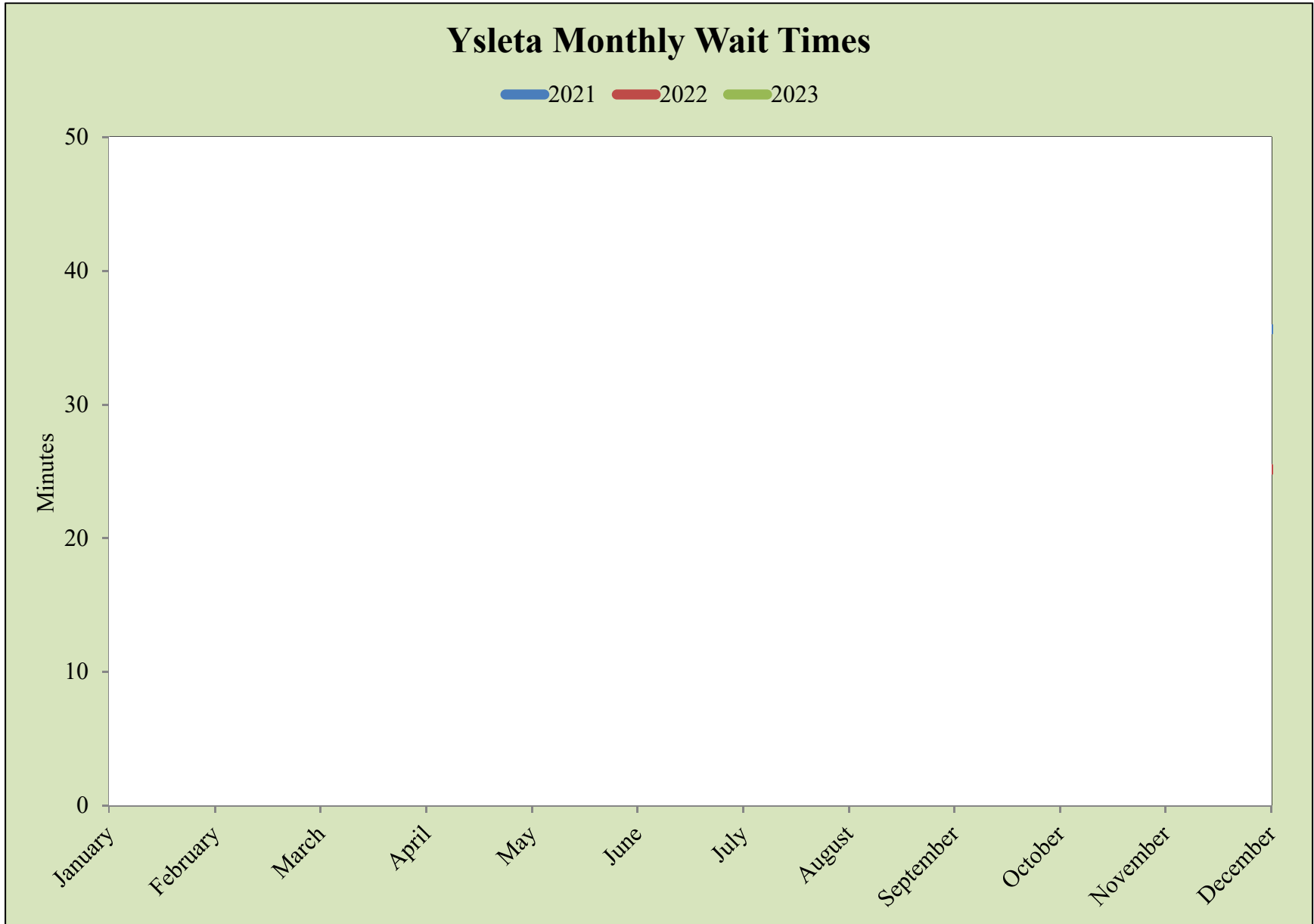
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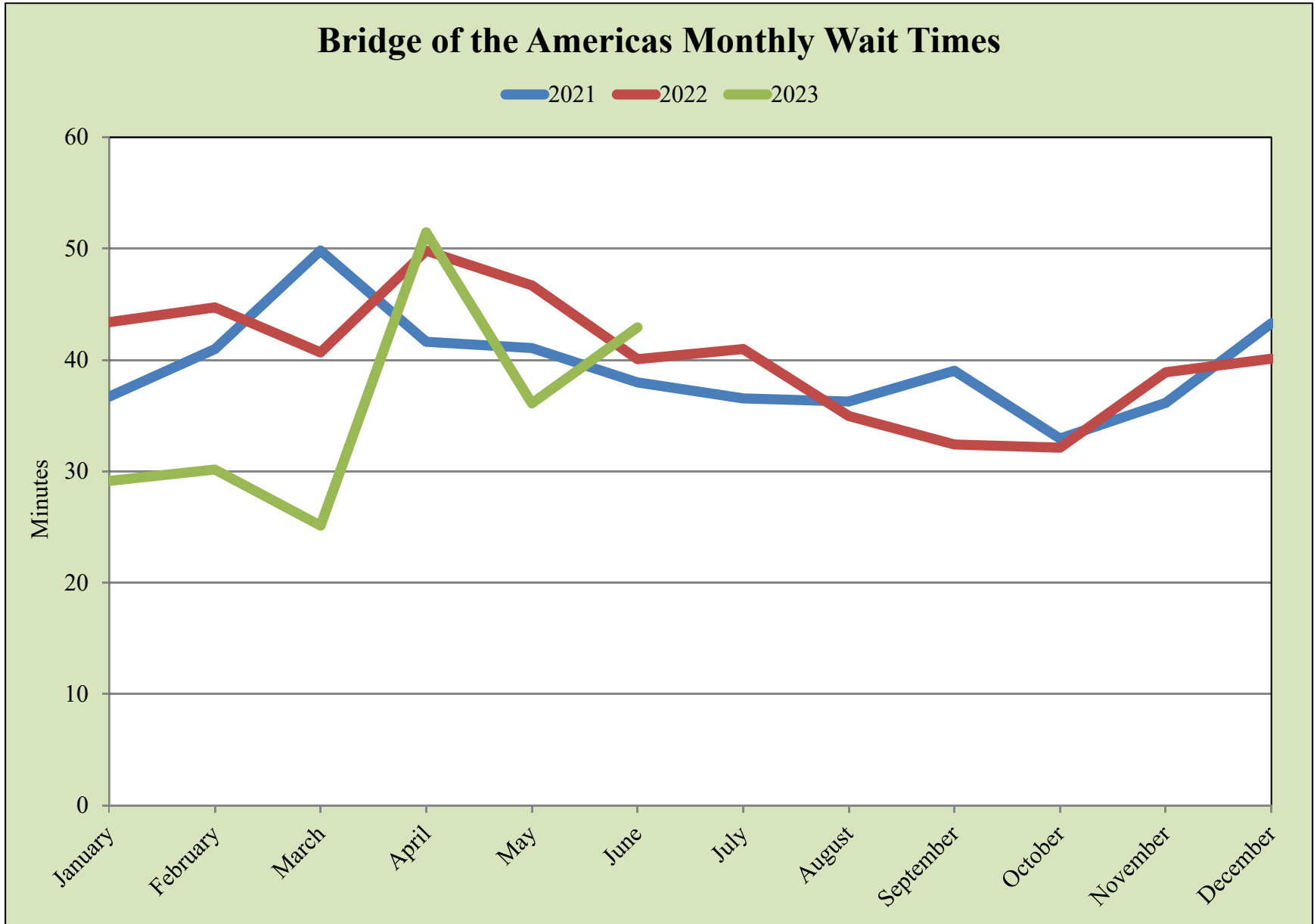
Paso del Norte Monthly Wait Times



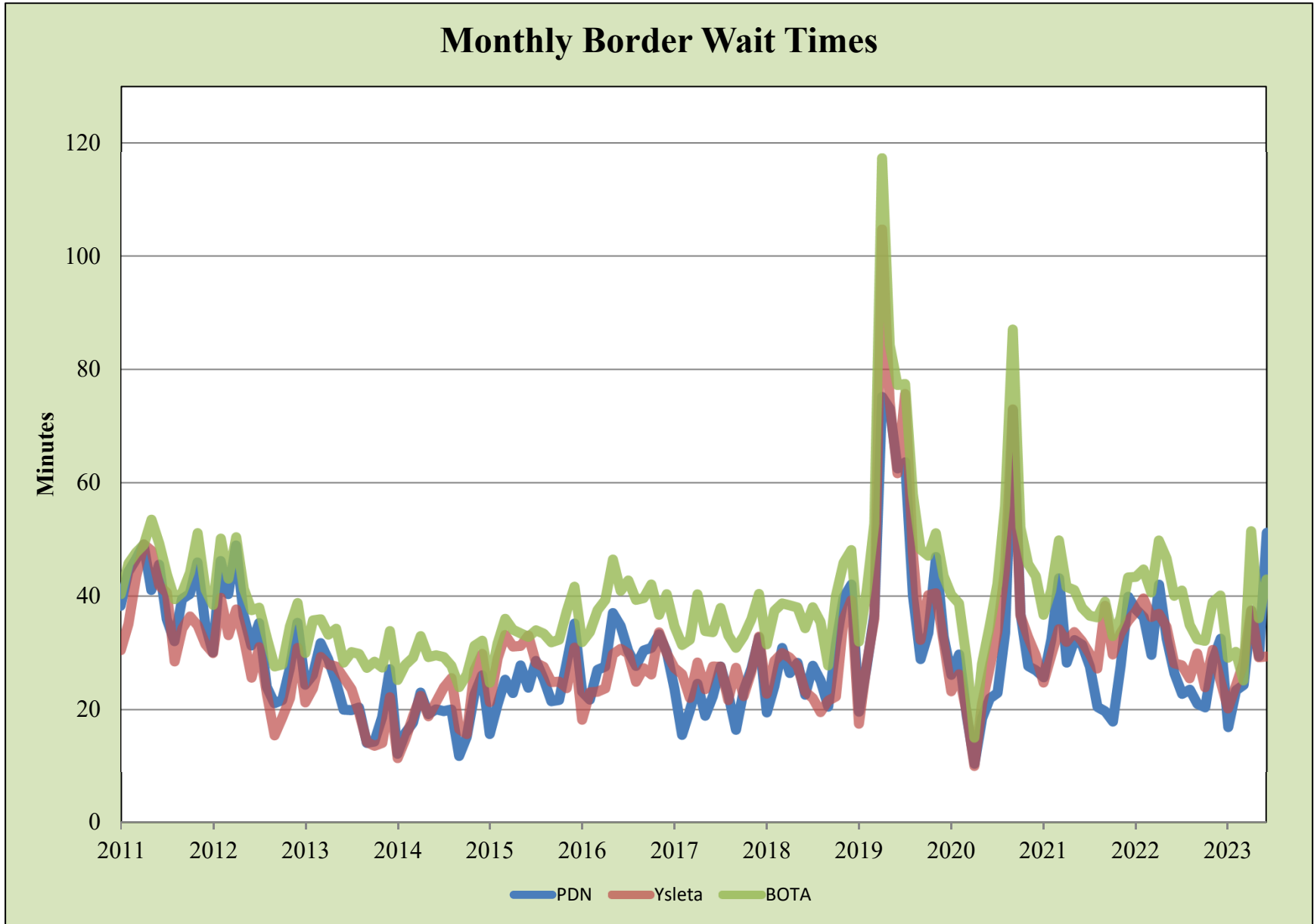
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using US Customs & Border Protection Data



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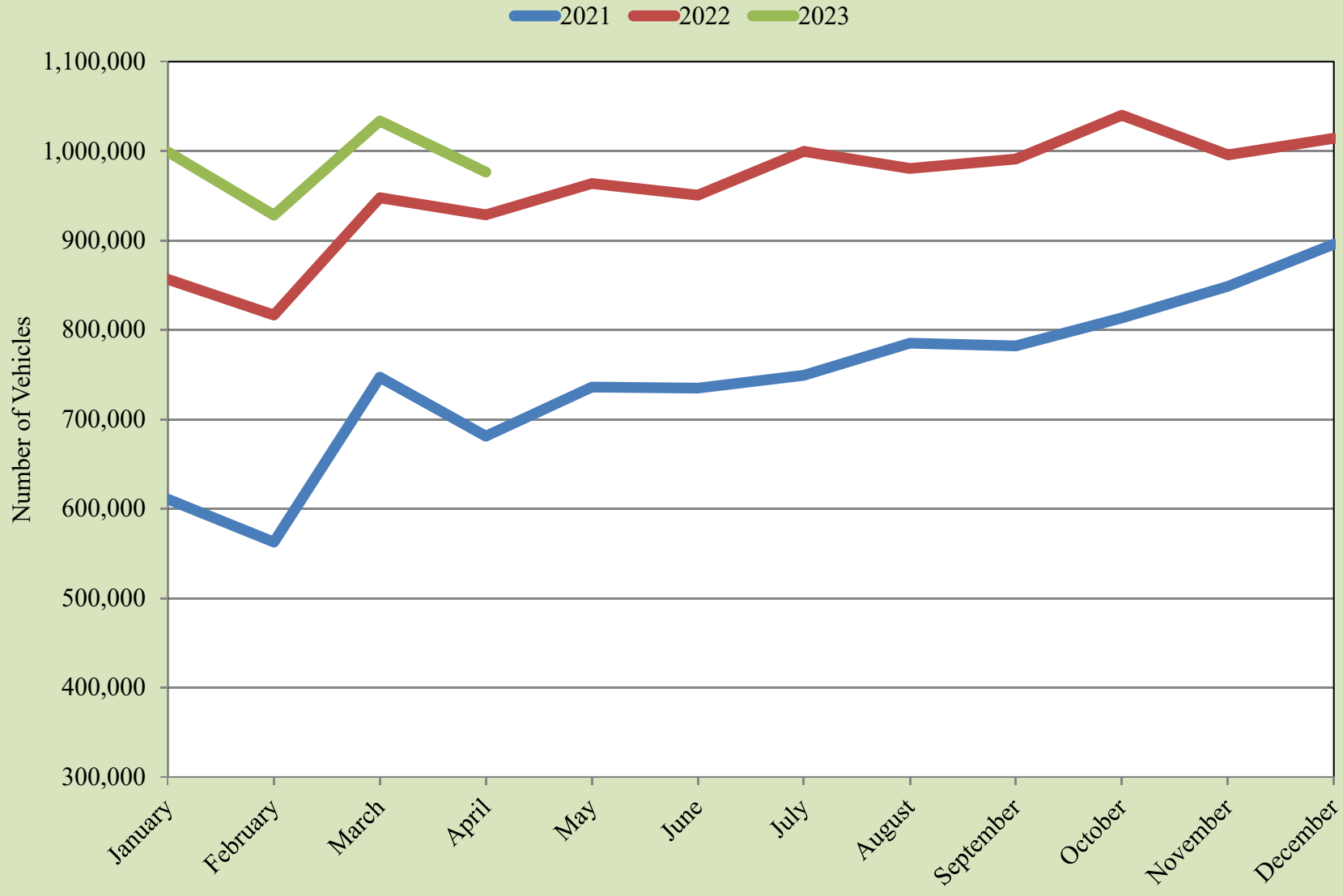
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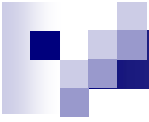
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using US Customs & Border Protection Data



Personal Vehicle International Bridge Crossings to El Paso



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



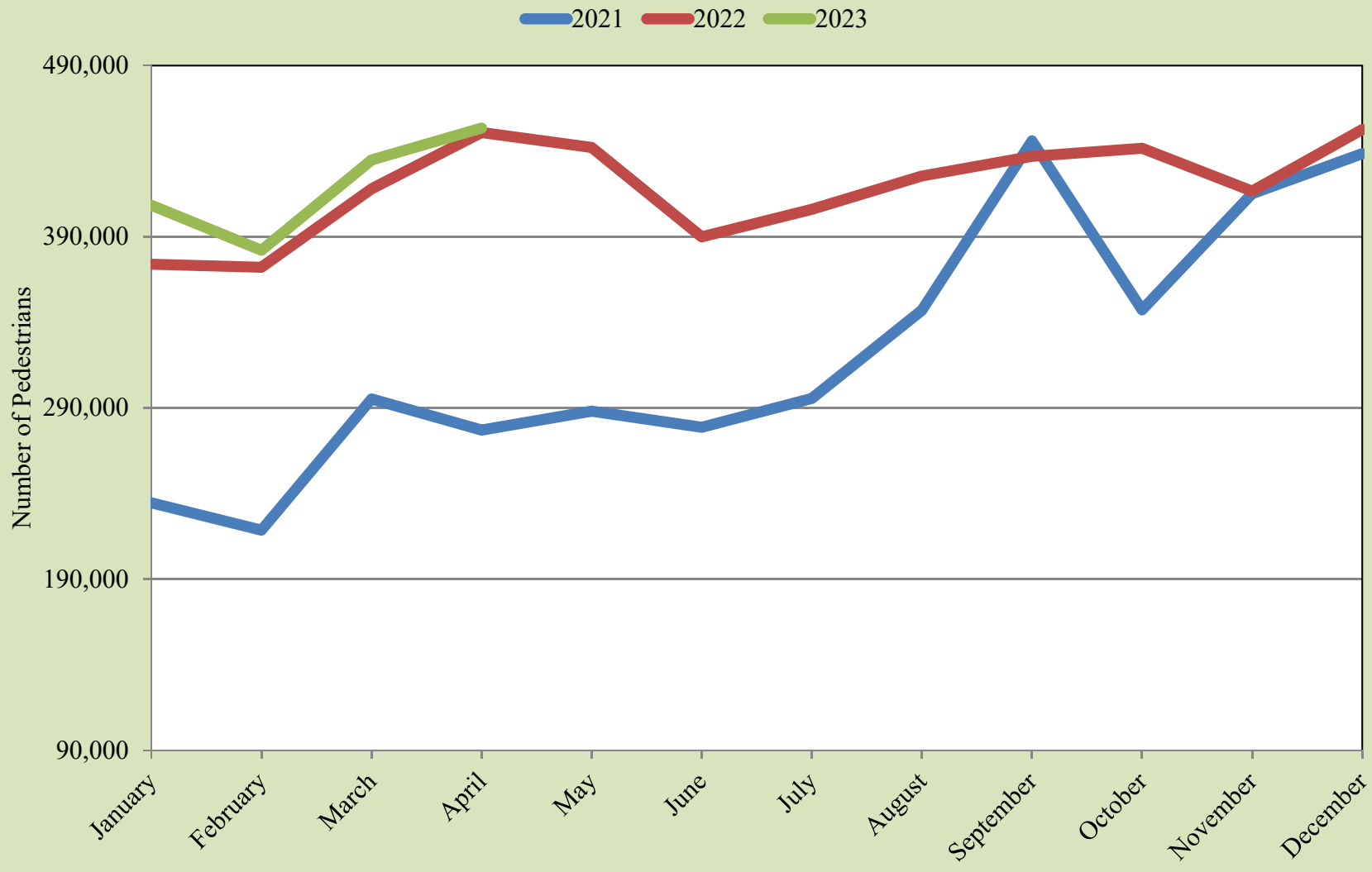
Personal Vehicle International Bridge Crossings to El Paso



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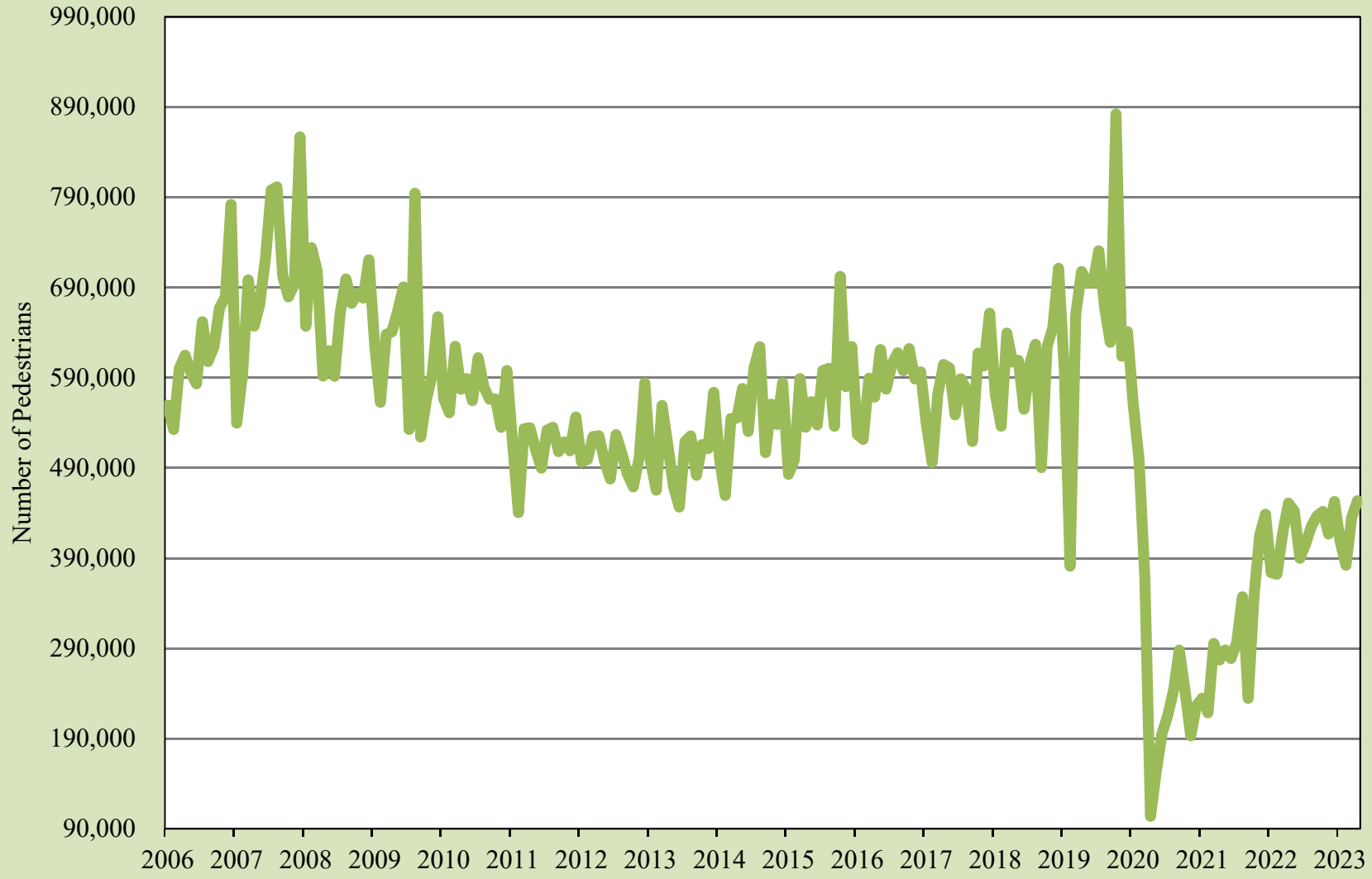
Pedestrian International Bridge Crossings to El Paso



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



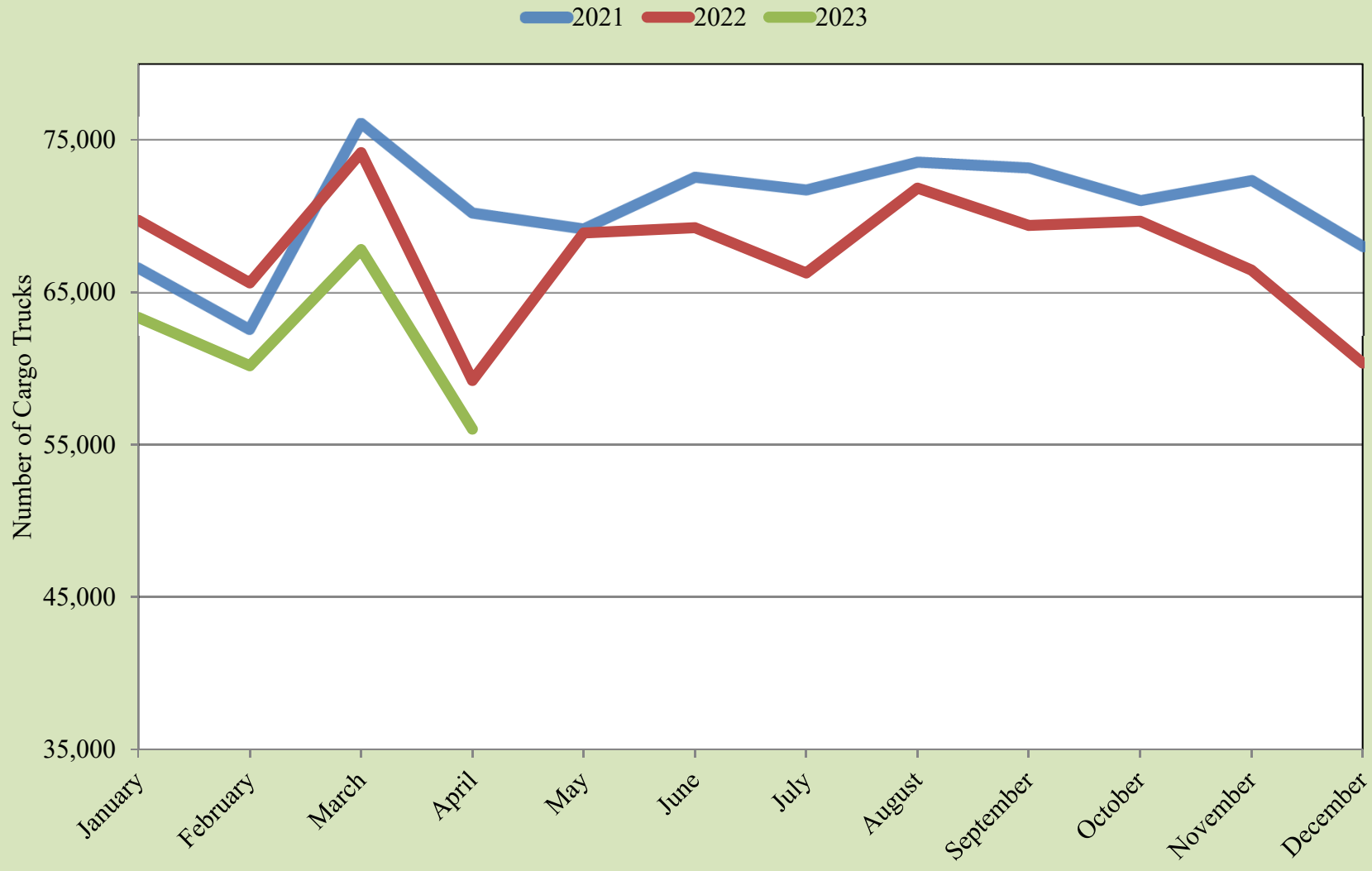
Pedestrian International Bridge Crossings to El Paso



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



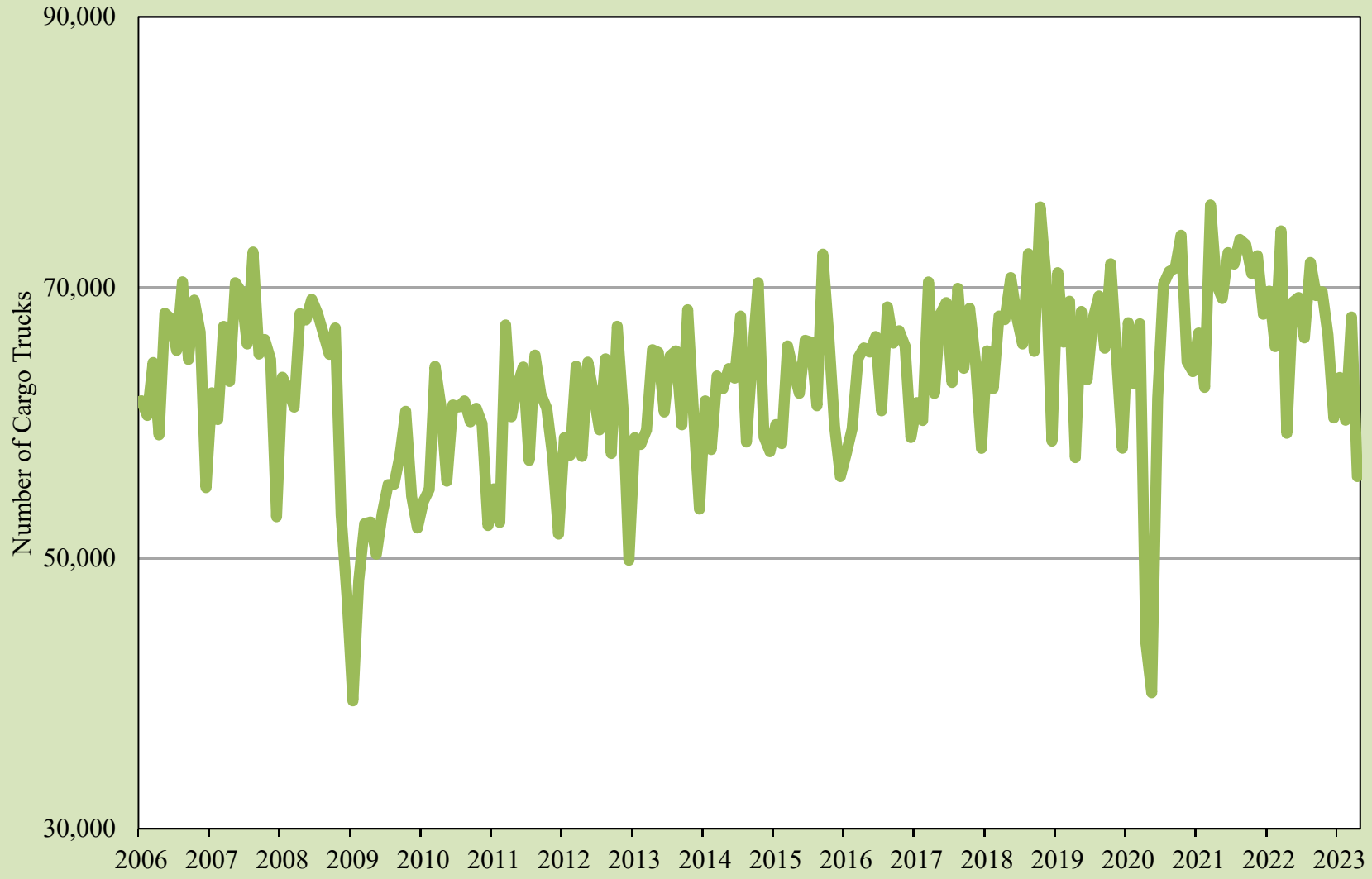
Cargo Truck International Bridge Crossings to El Paso



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



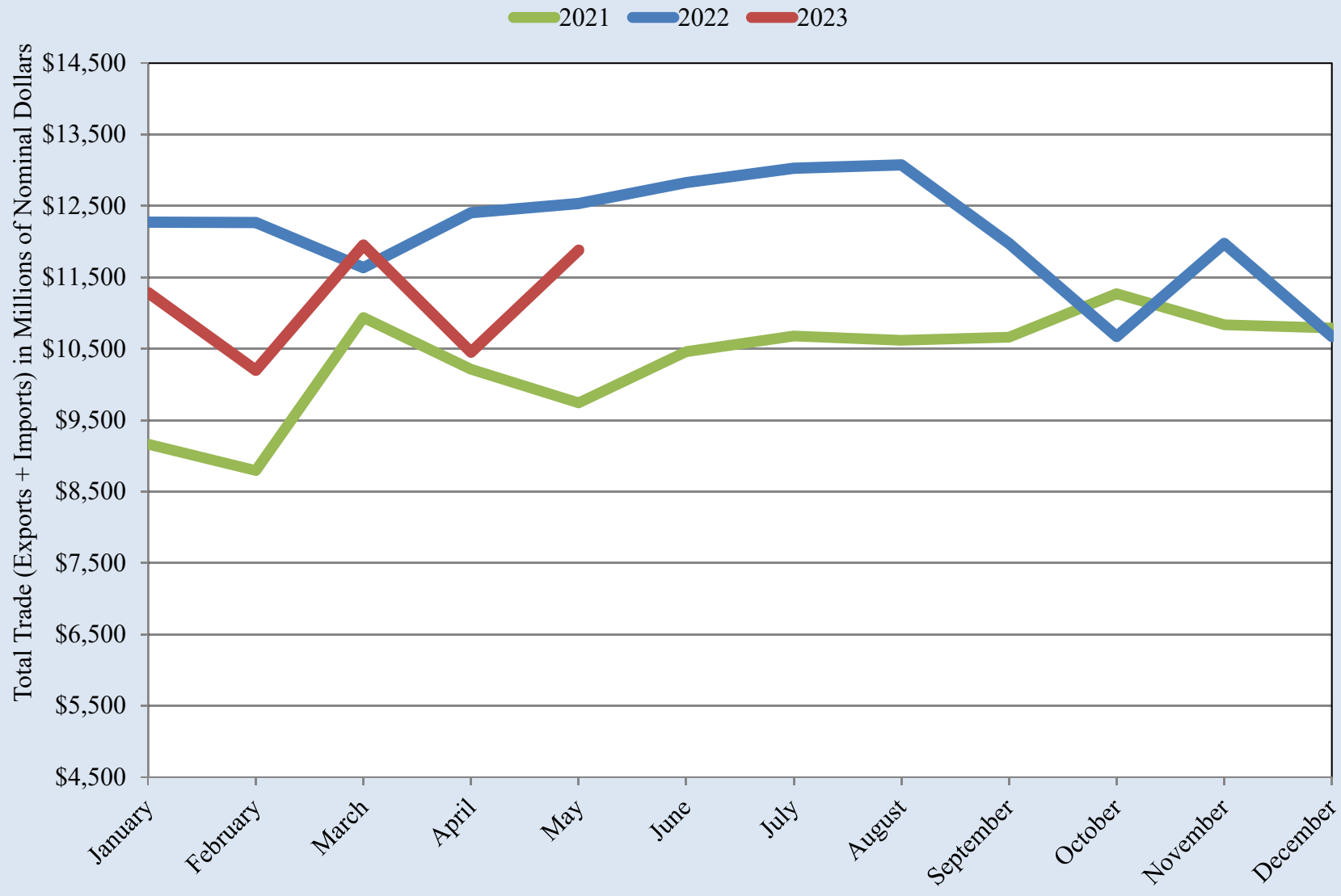
Cargo Truck International Bridge Crossings to El Paso



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



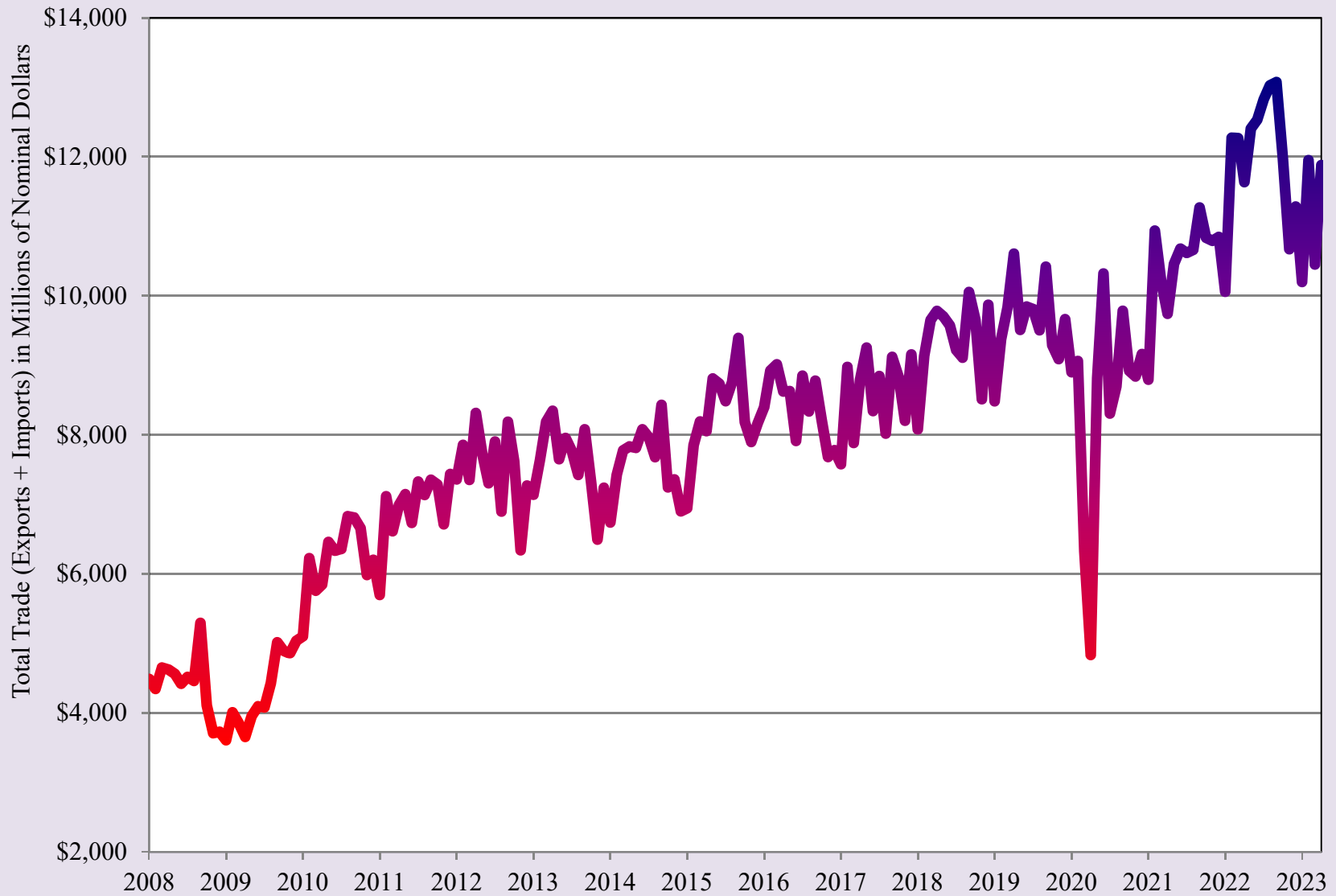
Total Trade through the El Paso Customs District



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



Total Trade through the El Paso Customs District

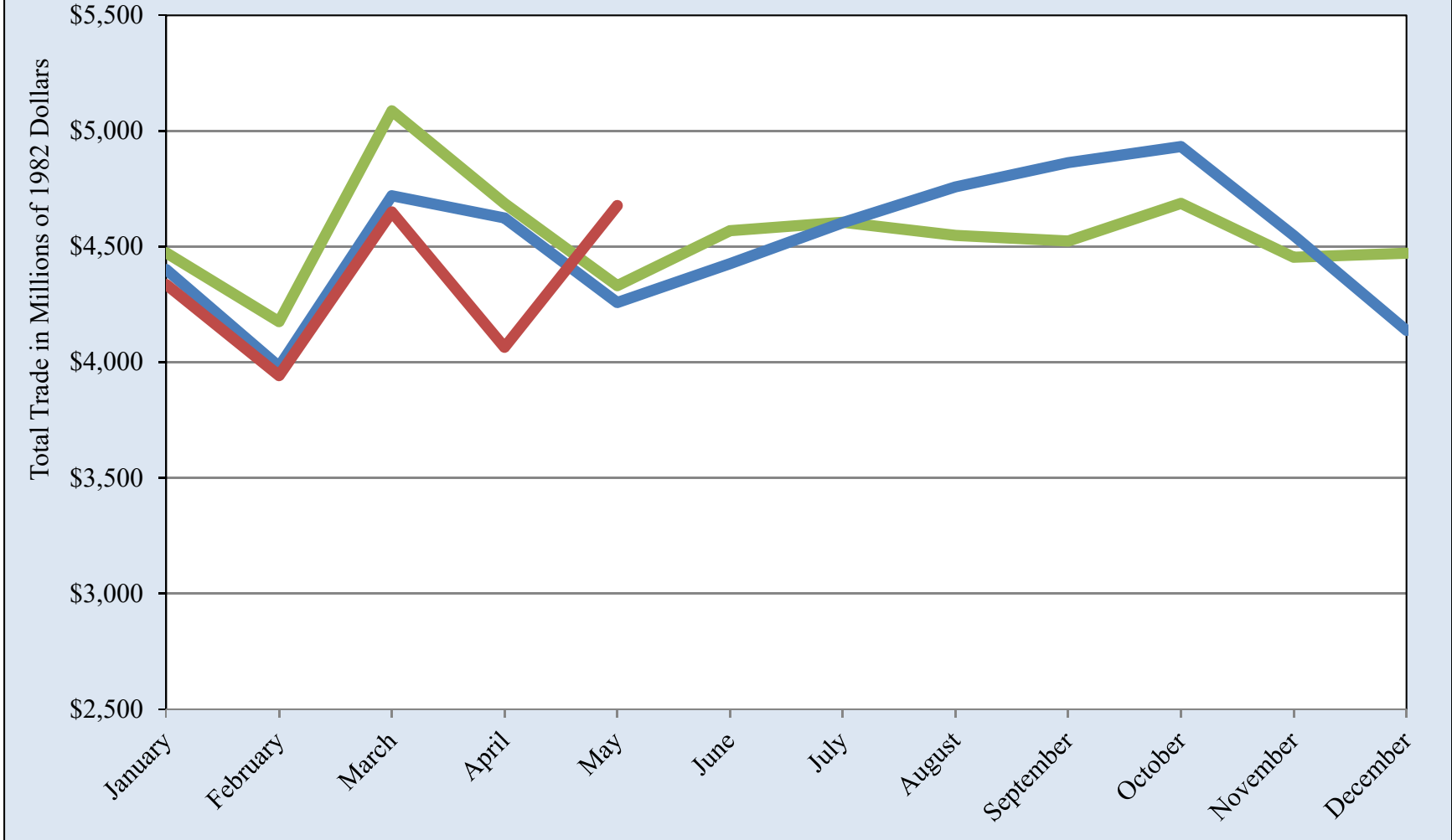


Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using US International Trade Commission Data



Real Total Trade through the El Paso Customs District

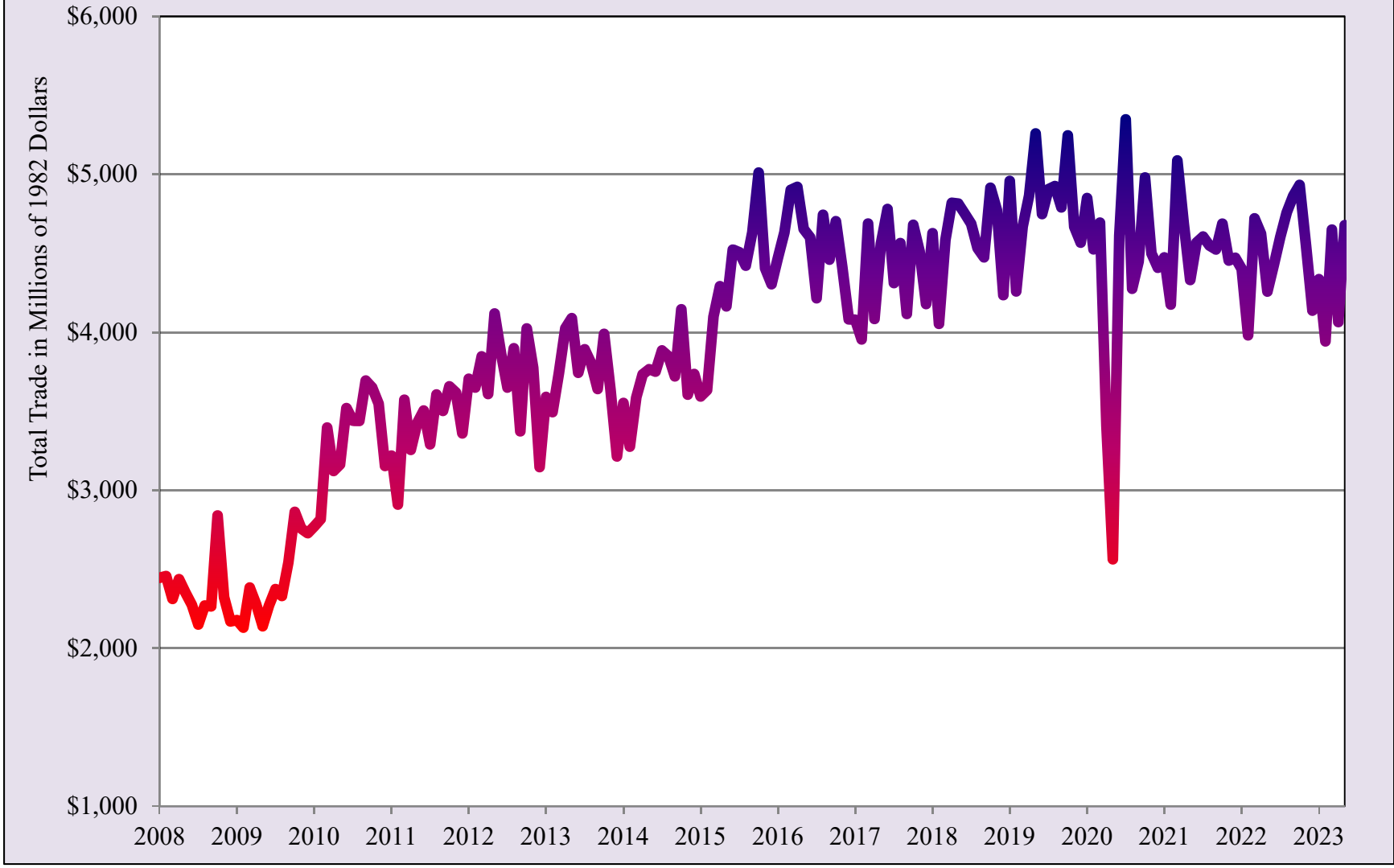
2021 2022 2023



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



Real Total Trade through the El Paso Customs District

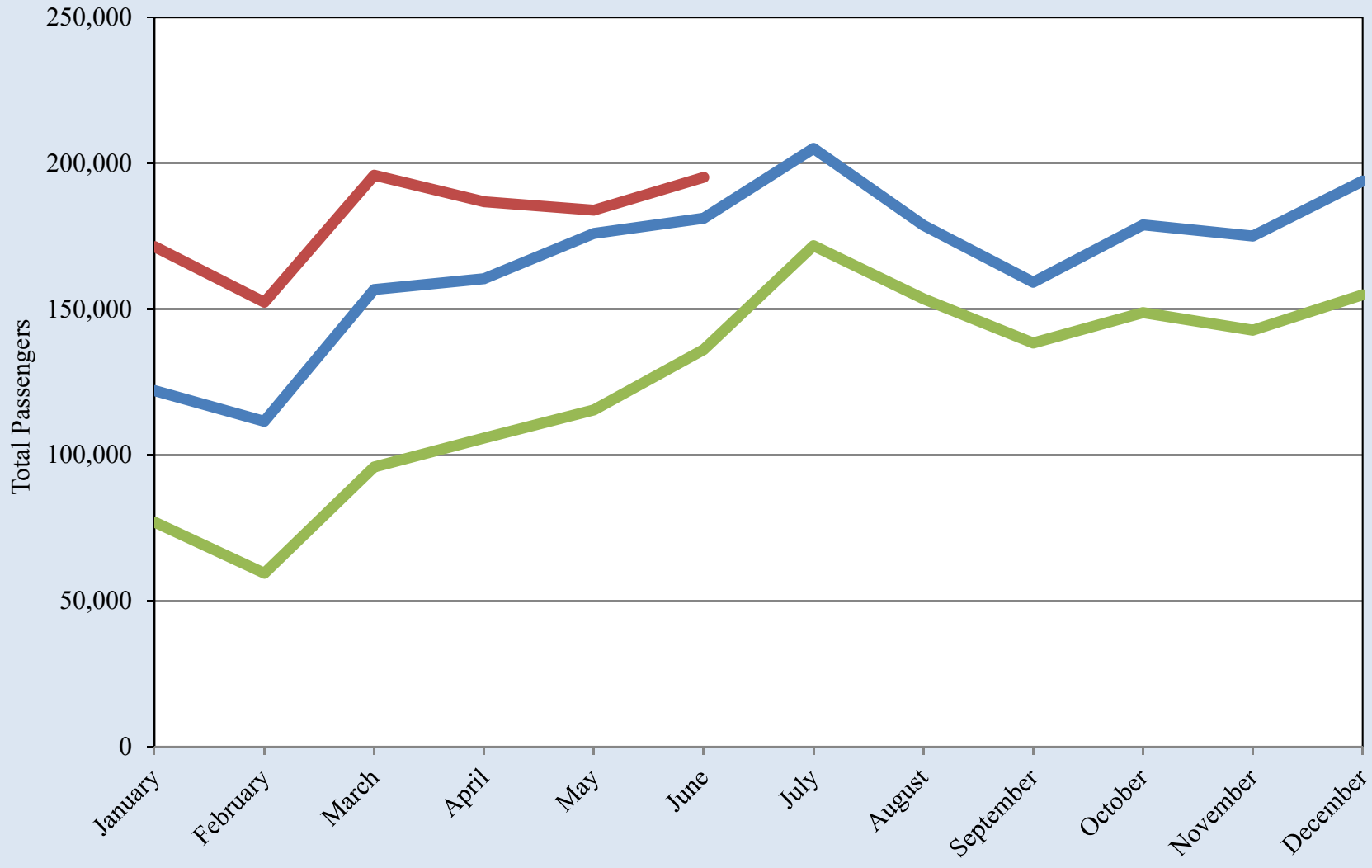


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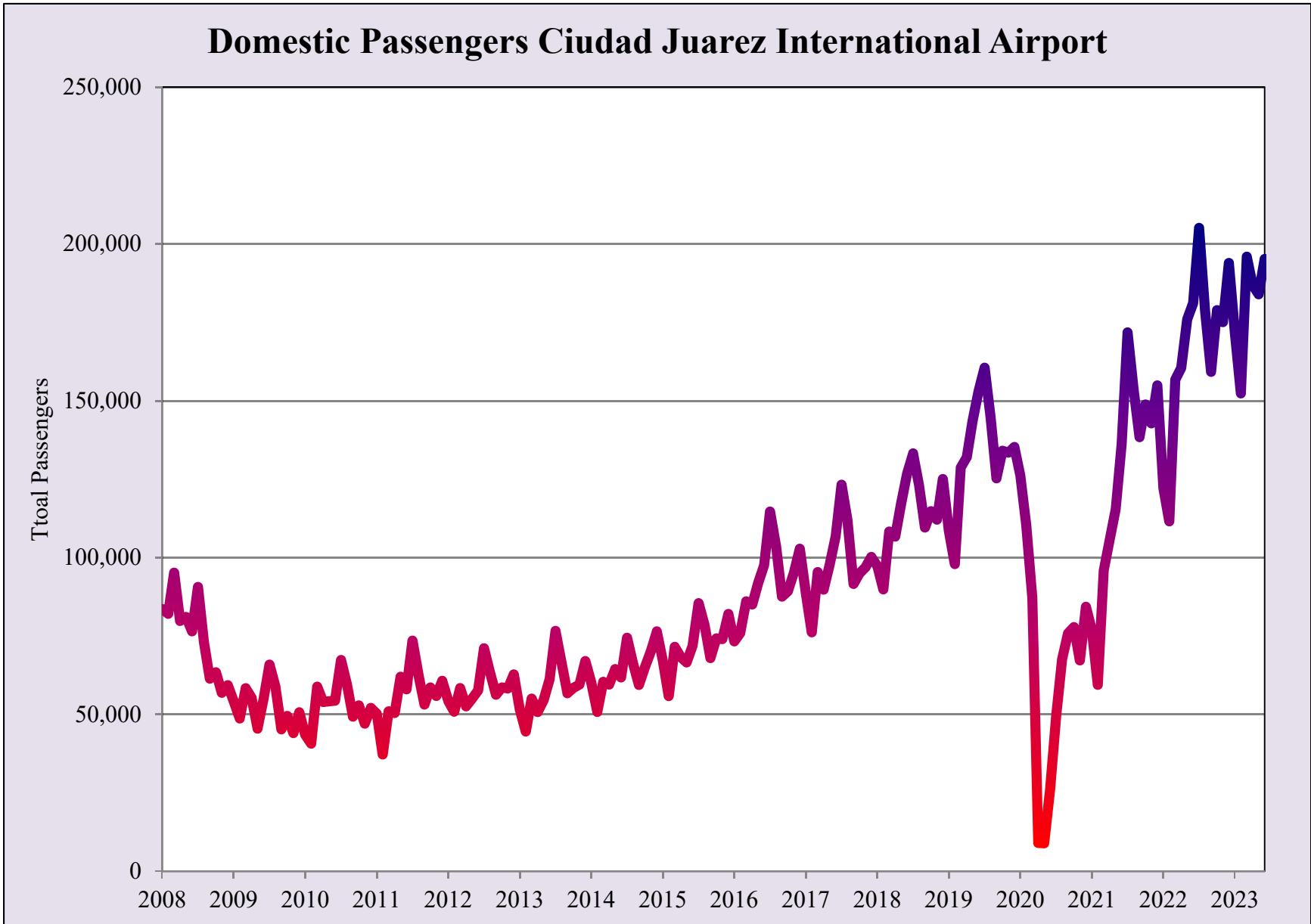


Domestic Passengers Ciudad Juarez International Airport

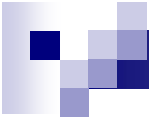
2021 2022 2023



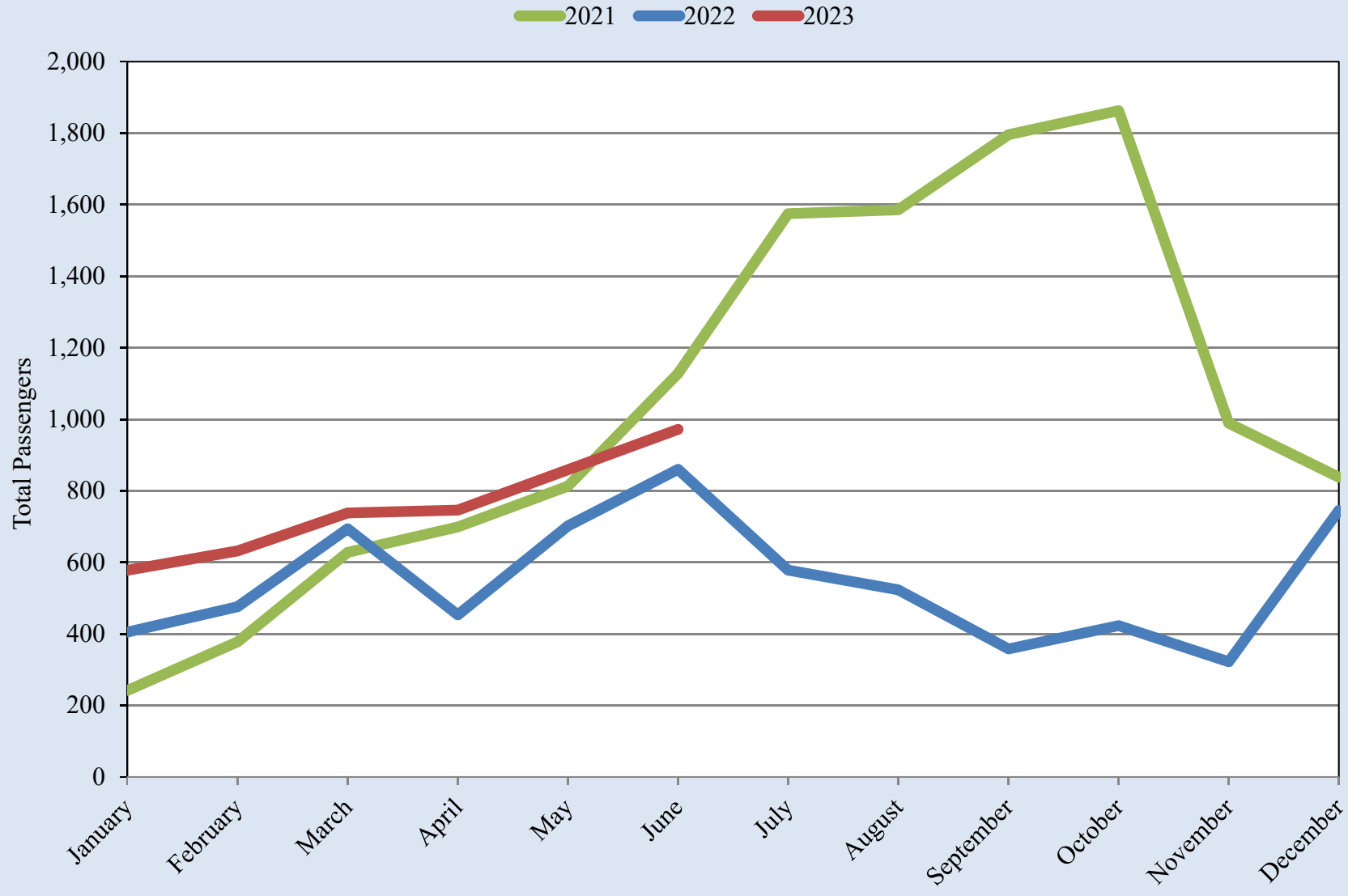
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using Grupo Aeroportuario Centro Norte - OMA Data



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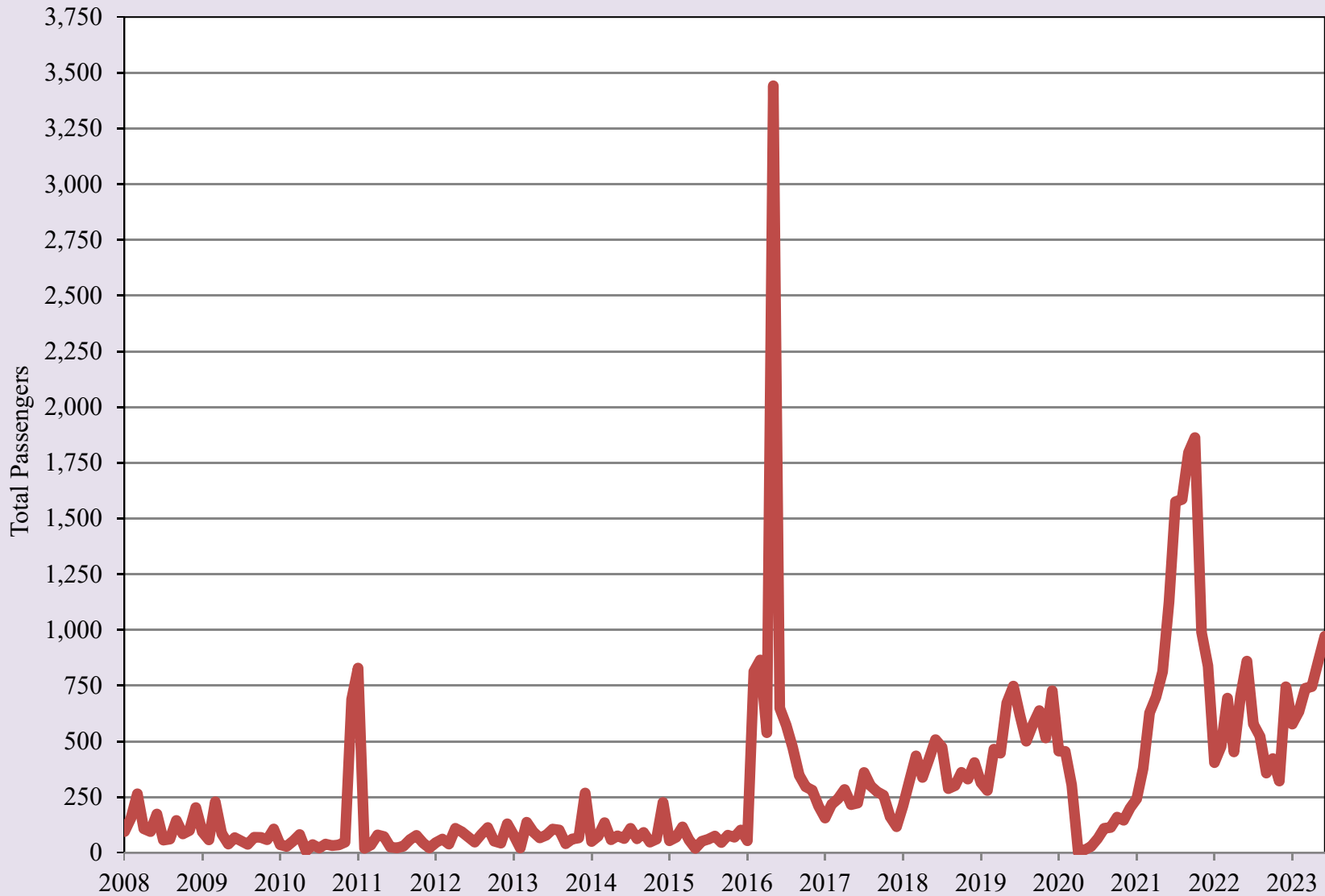
International Passengers Ciudad Juarez International Airport



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



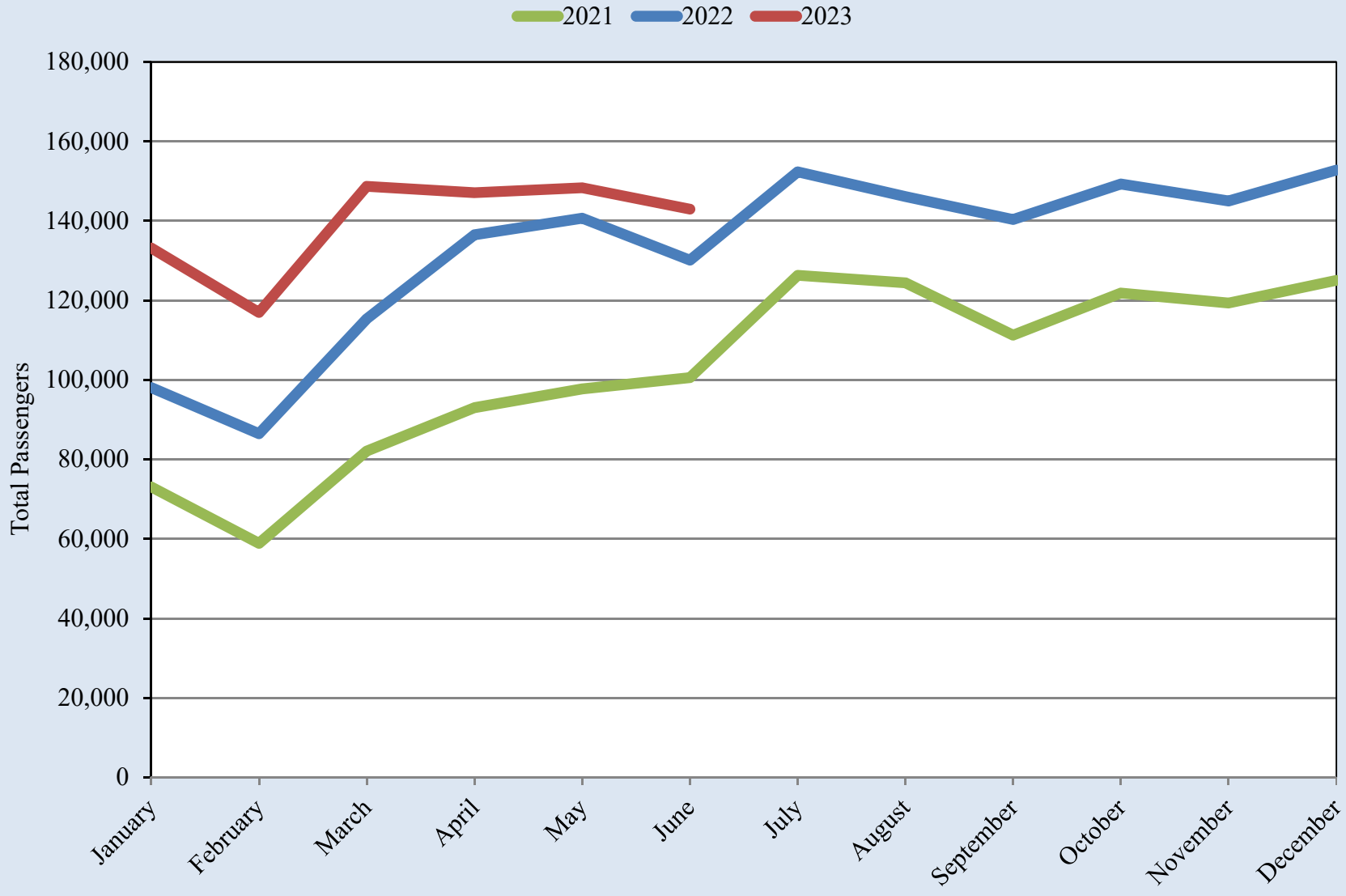
International Passengers Ciudad Juarez International Airport



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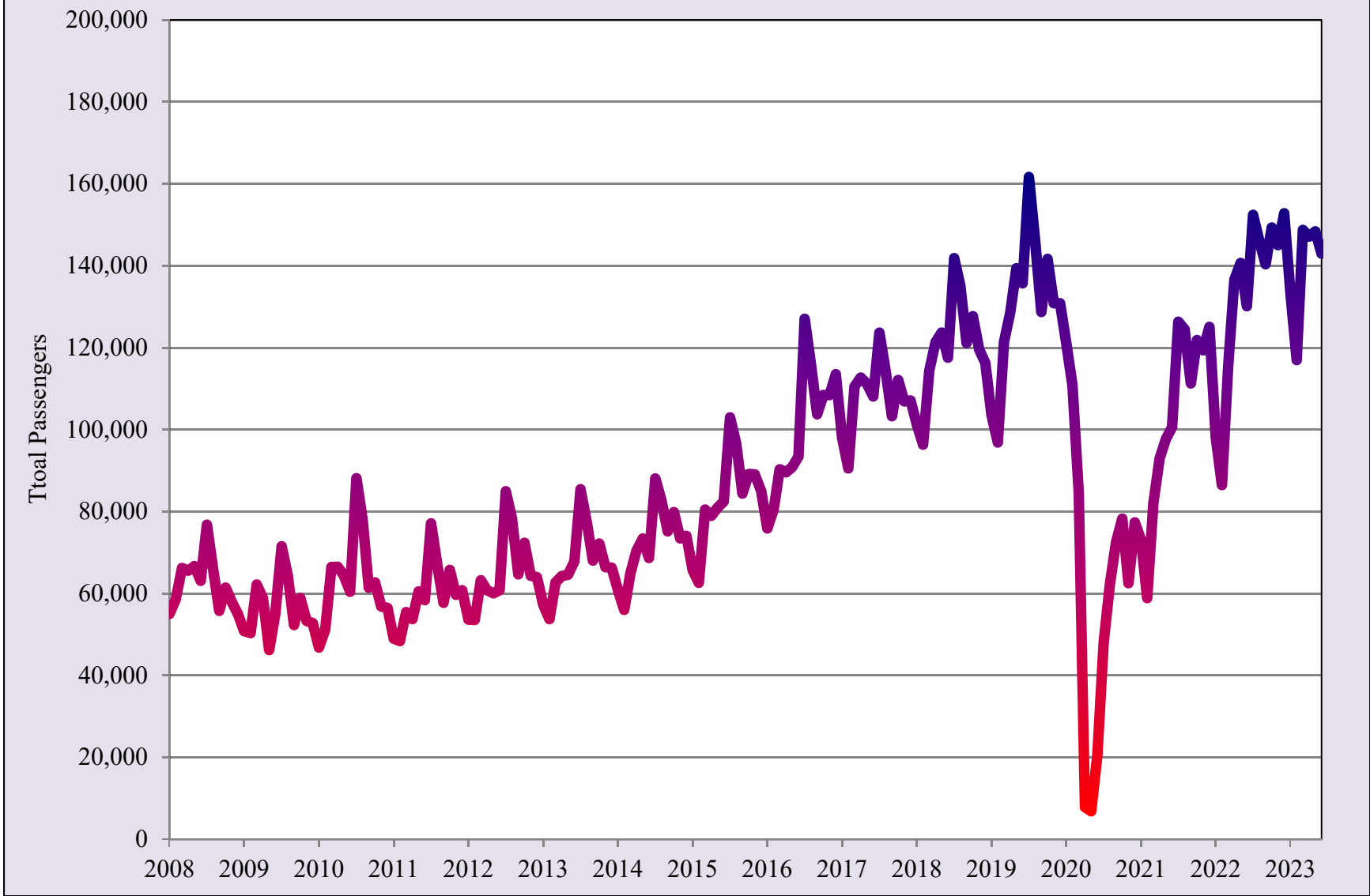
Domestic Passengers Chihuahua City International Airport



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



Domestic Passengers Chihuahua City International Airport



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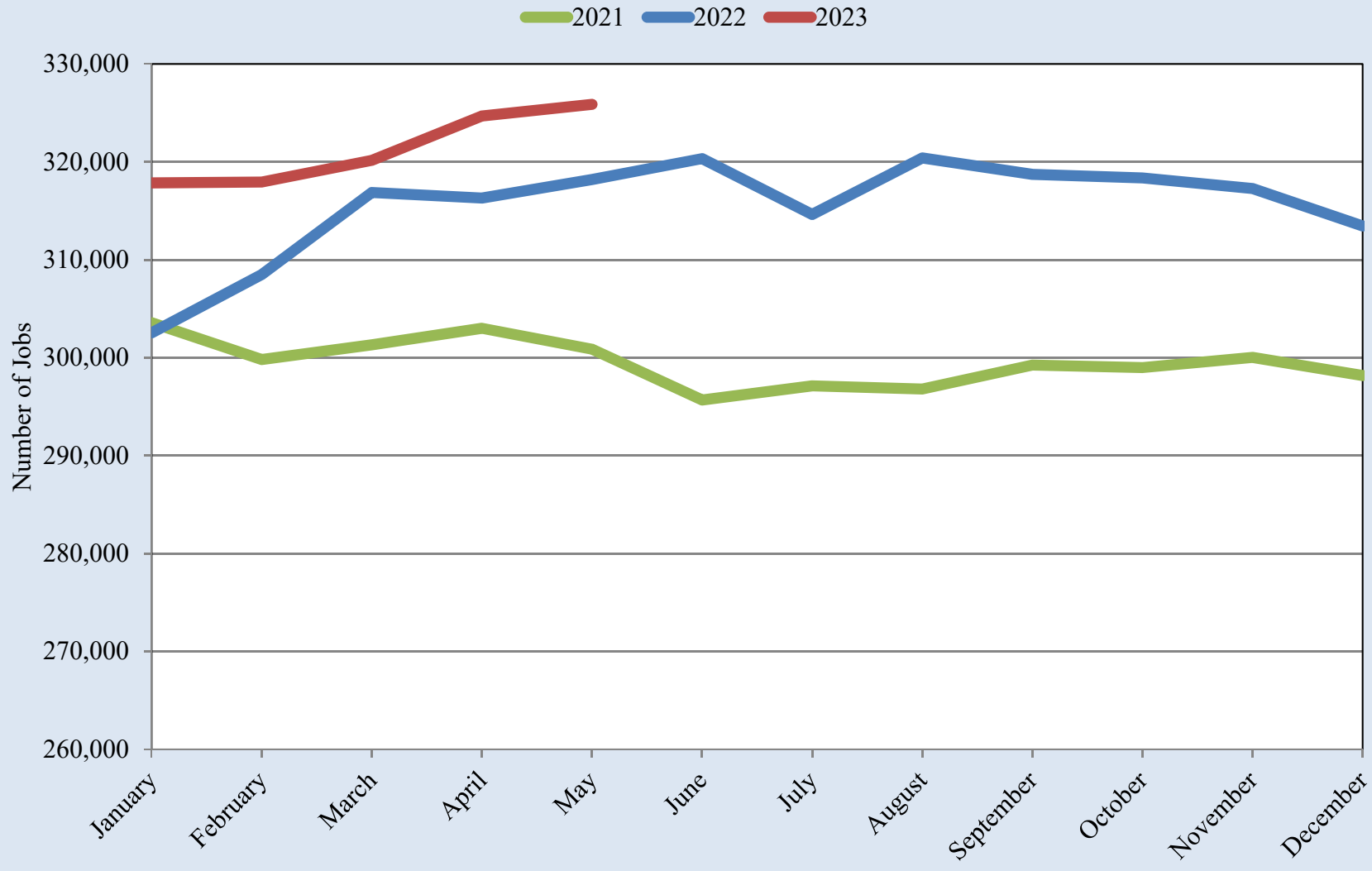
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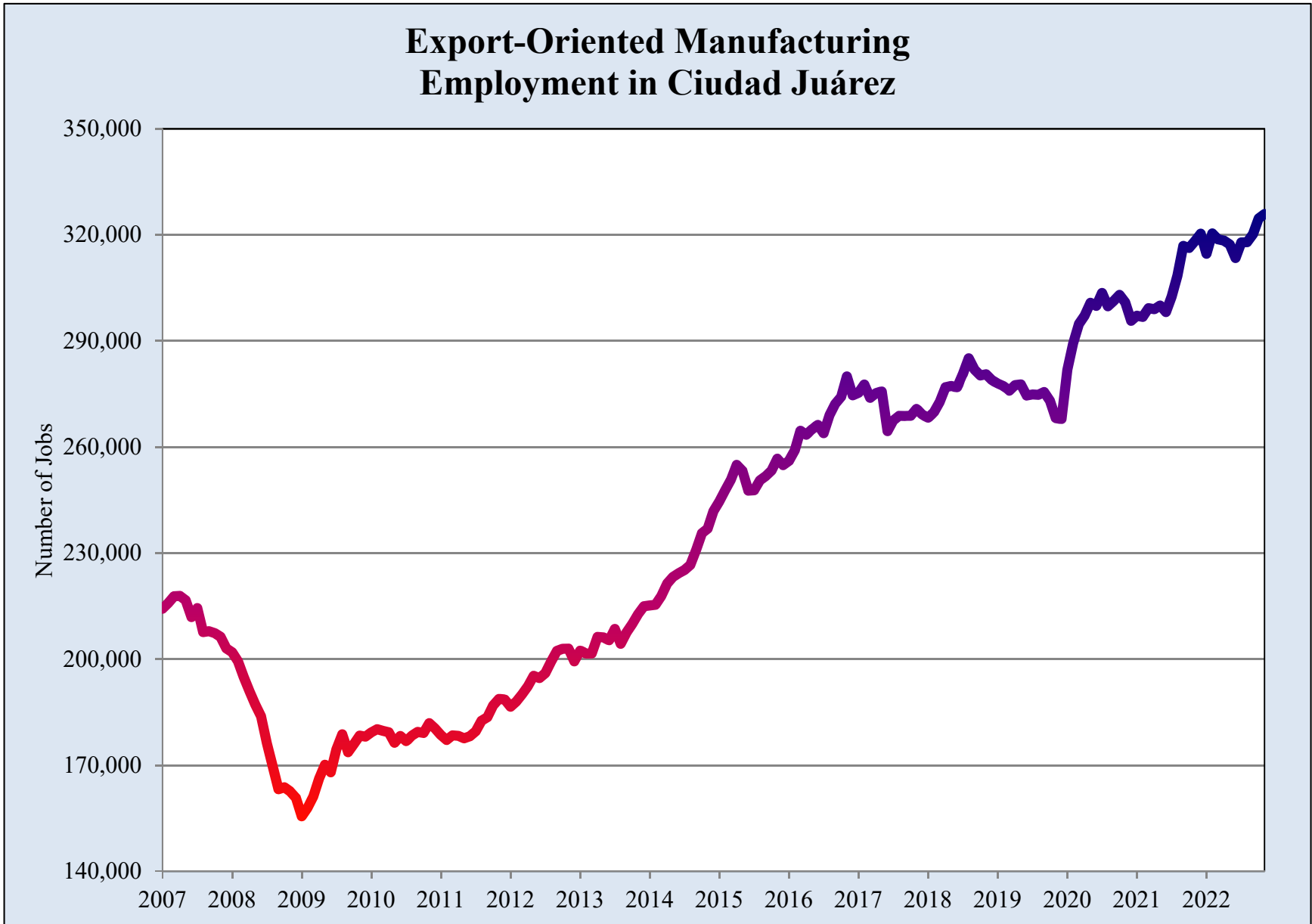
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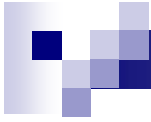
Export-Oriented Manufacturing Employment in Ciudad Juárez



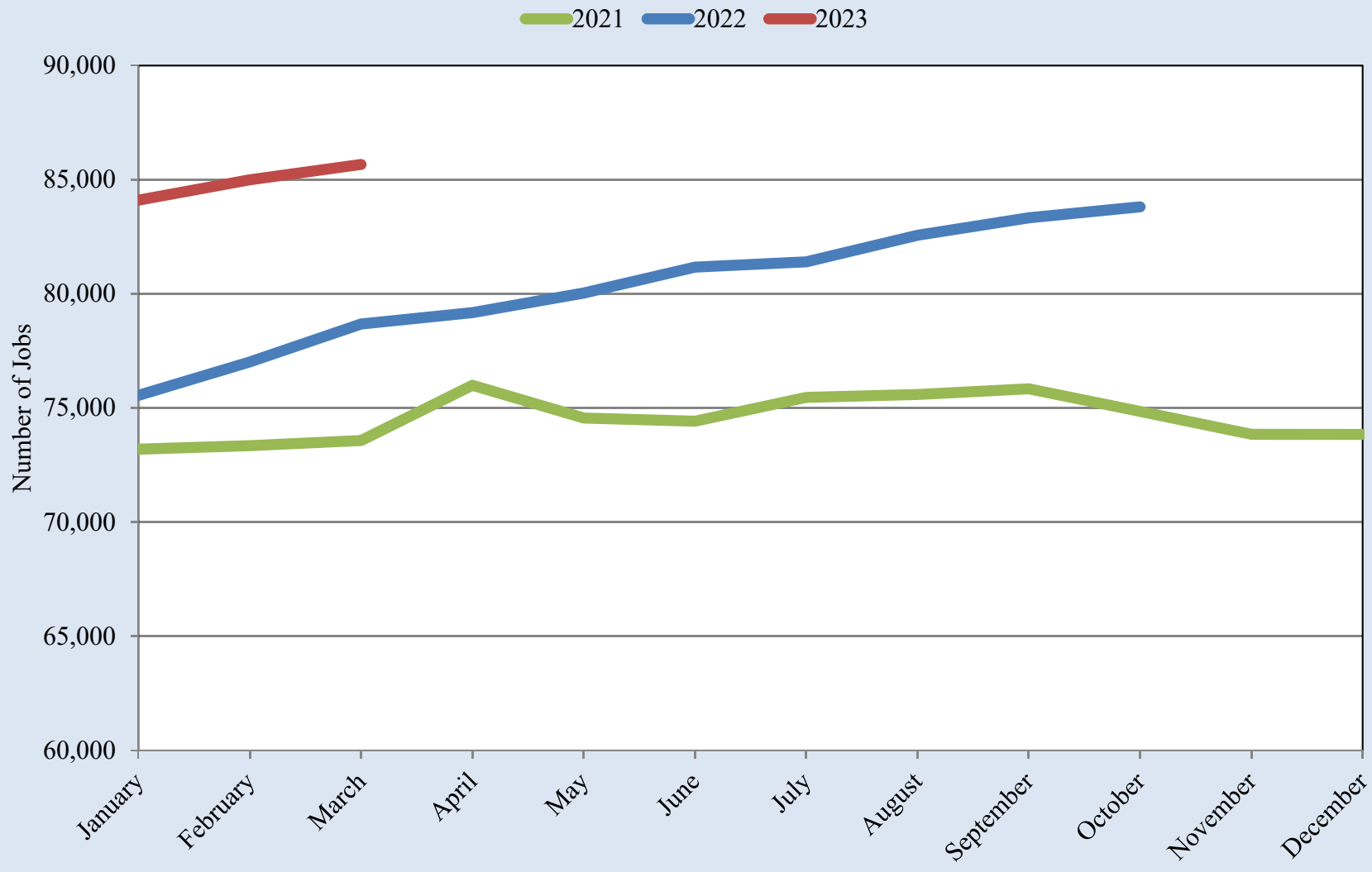
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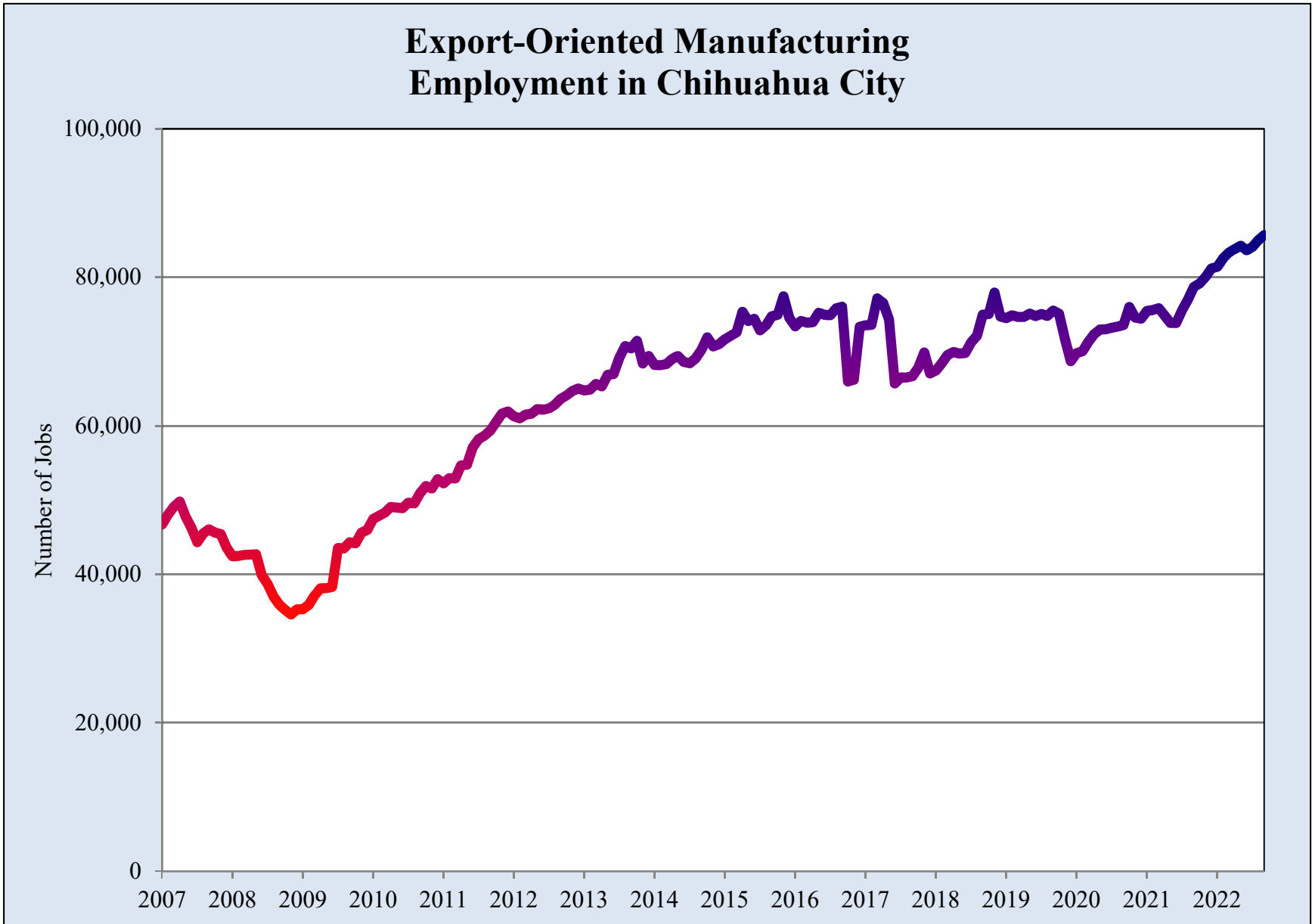
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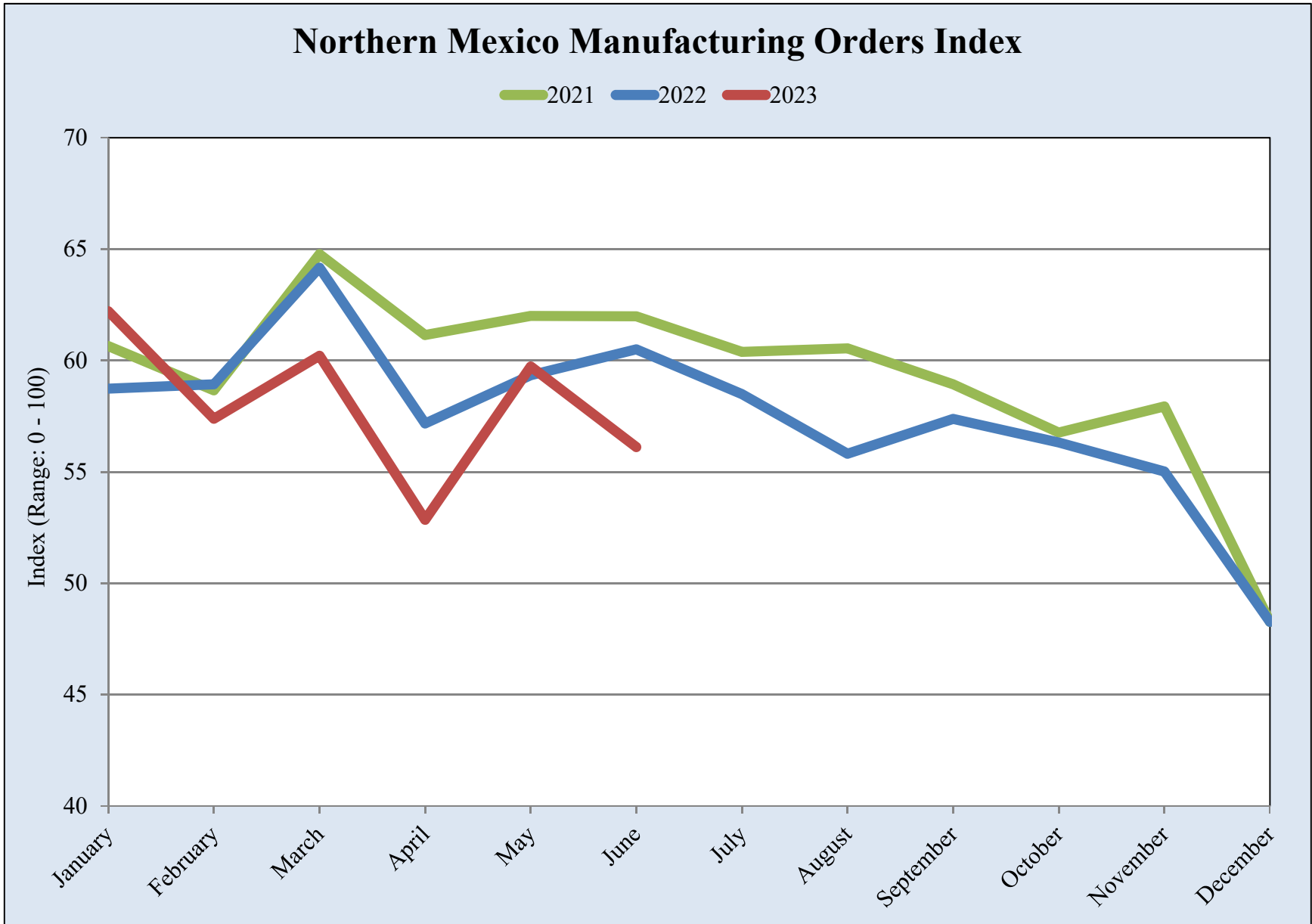
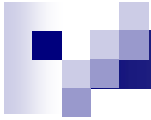
Export-Oriented Manufacturing Employment in Chihuahua City



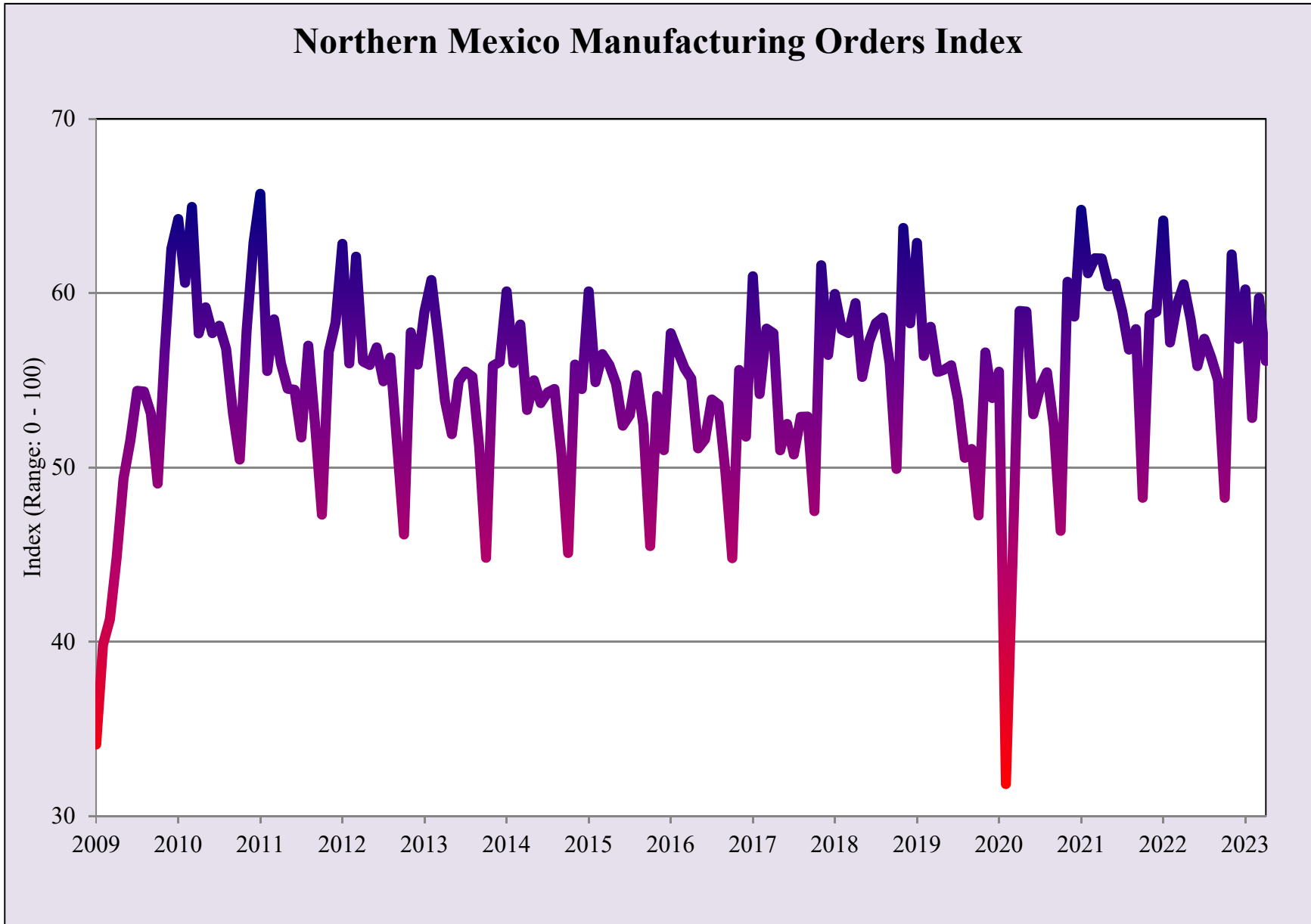
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using INEGI Data



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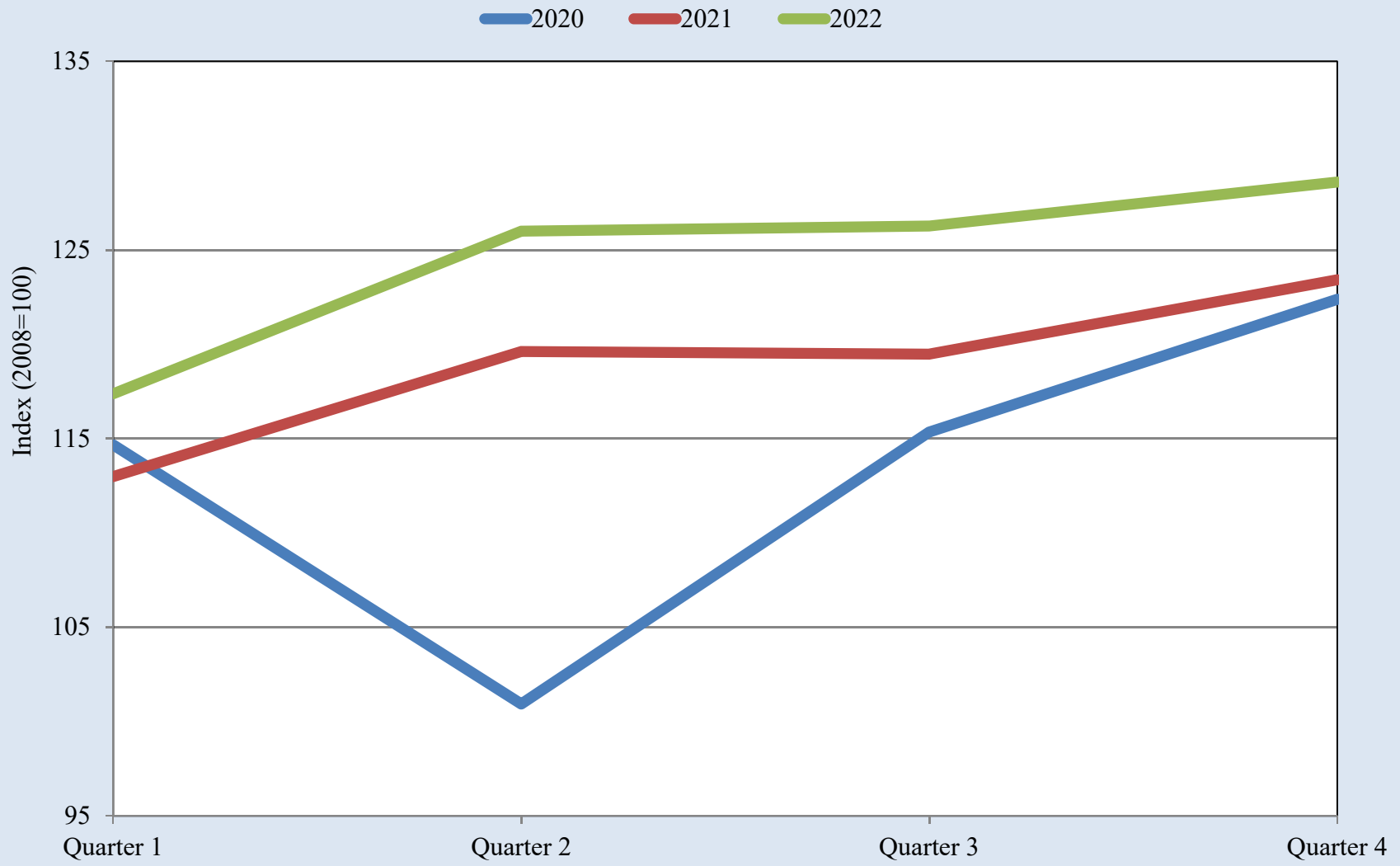
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using Banco de México Data



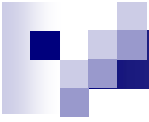
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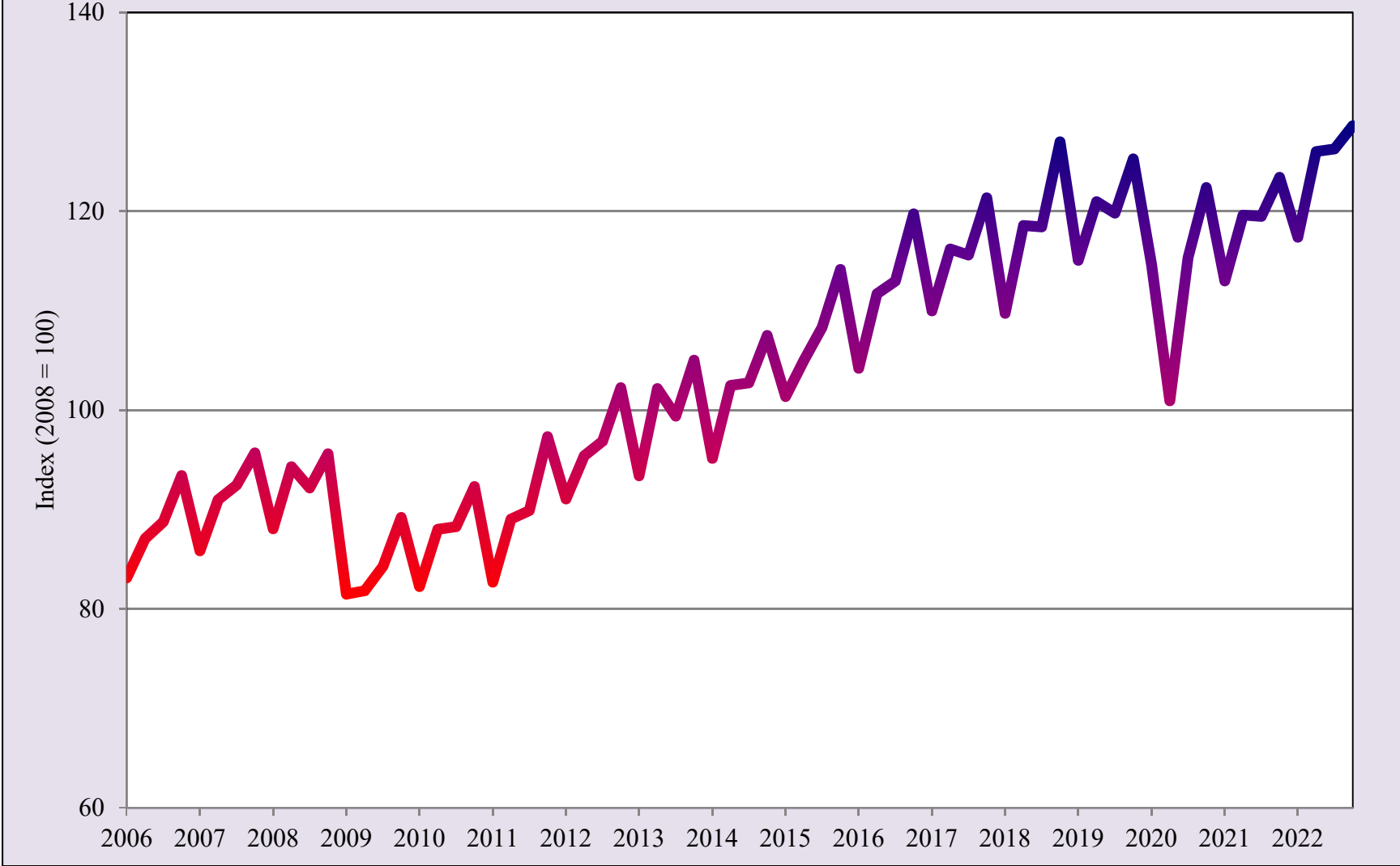
Quarterly Indicator of Economic Activity for the State of Chihuahua



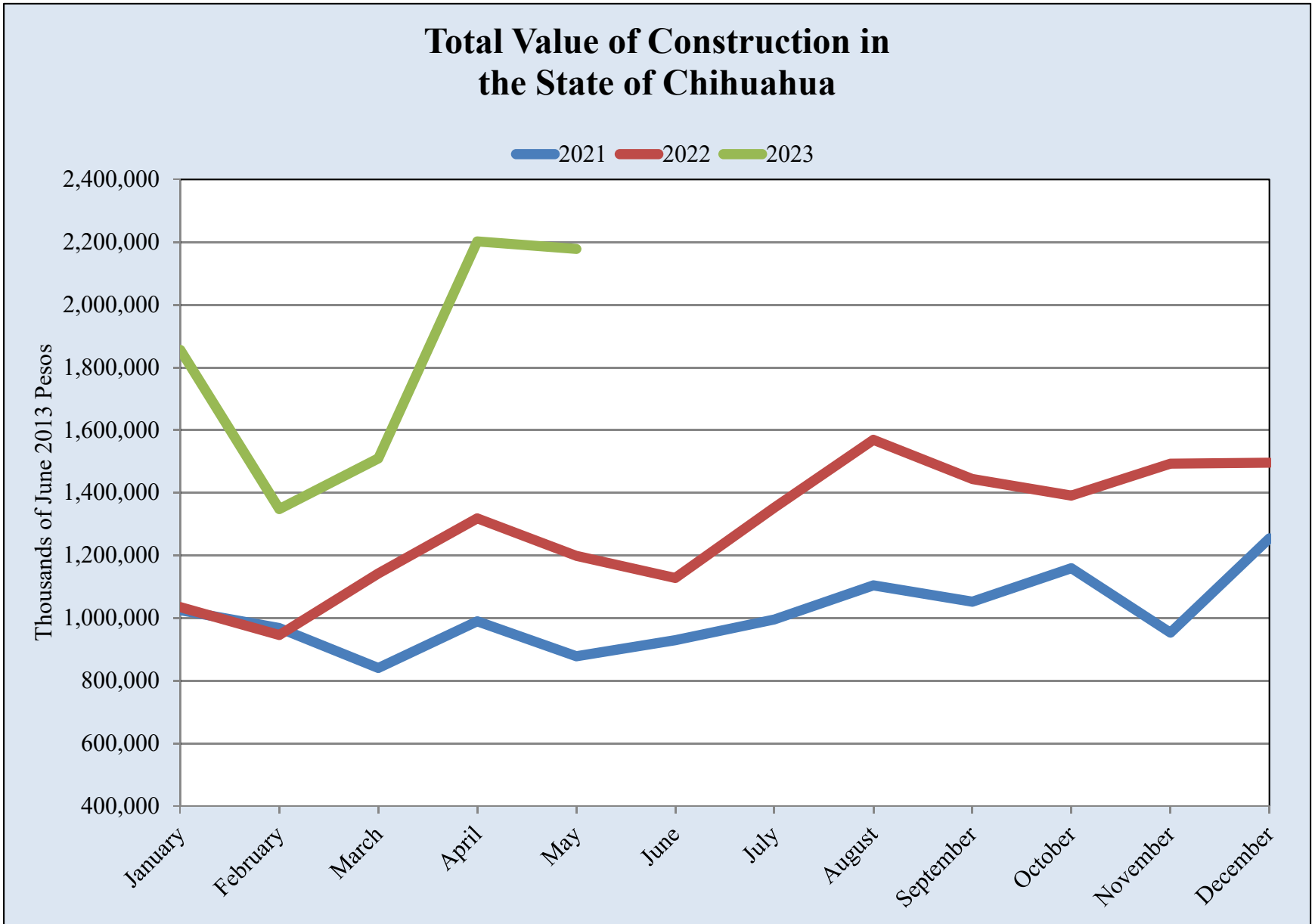
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Quarterly Indicator of Economic Activity for the State of Chihuahua



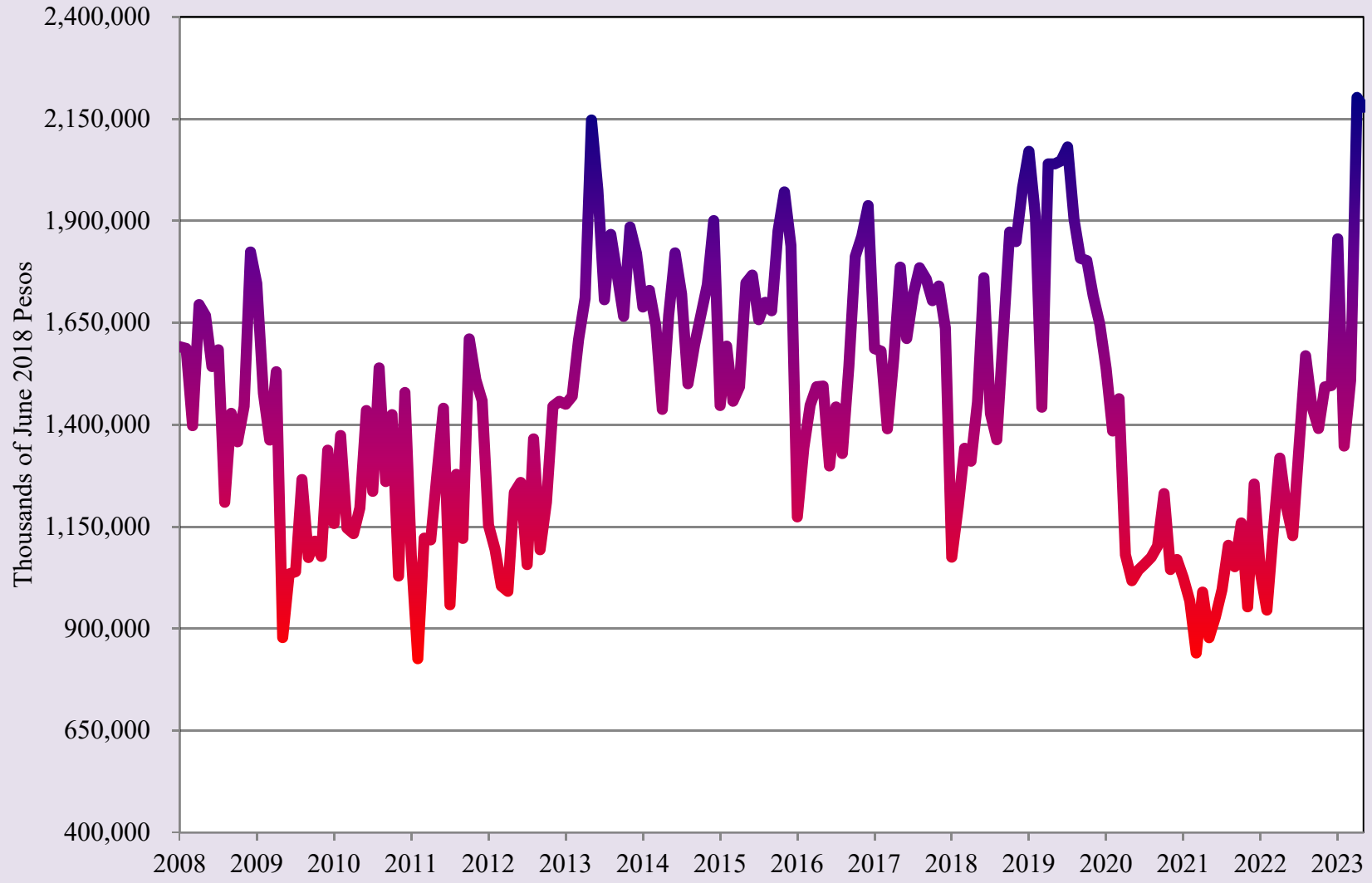
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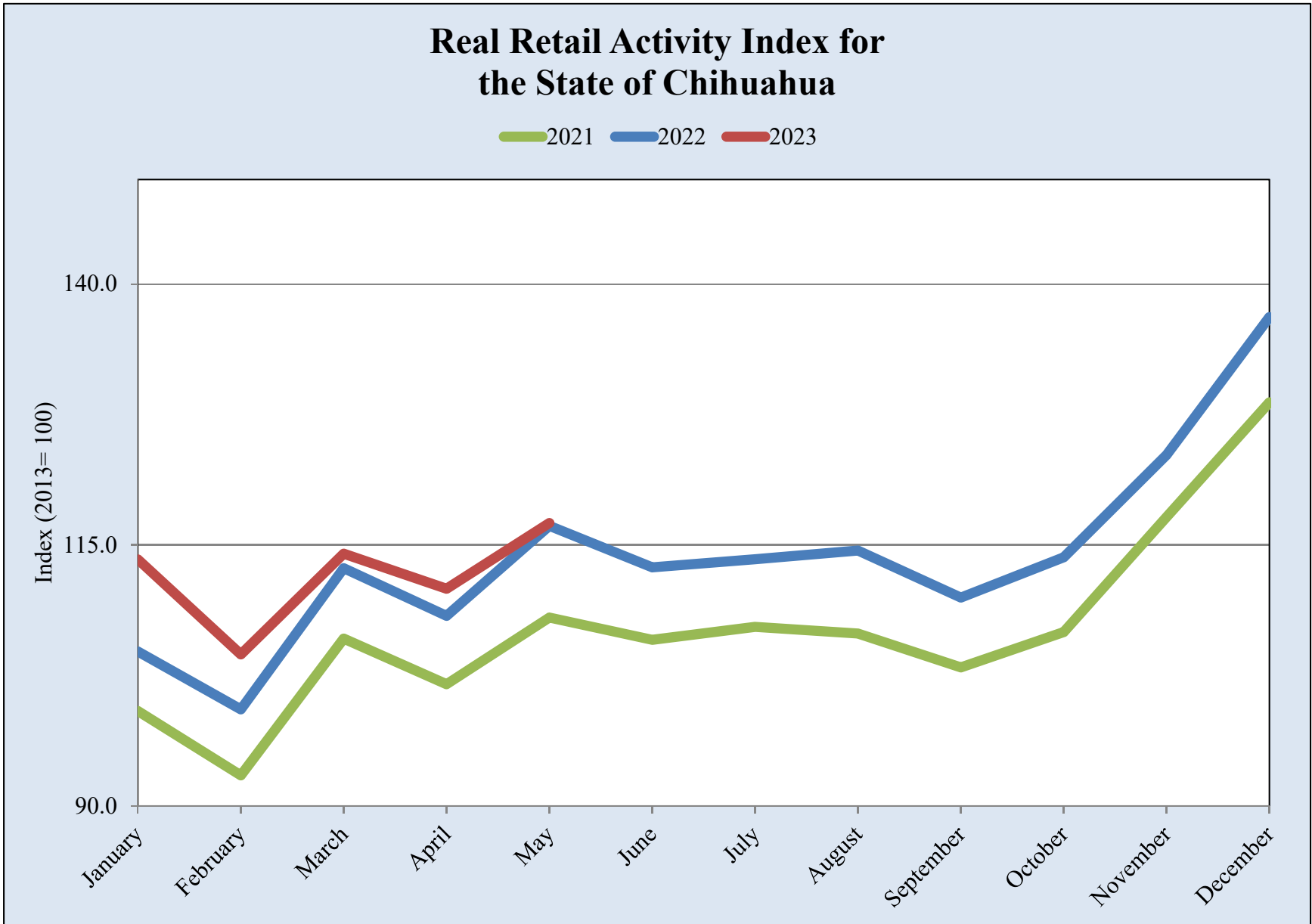
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using INEGI Data



Total Value of Construction in the State of Chihuahua



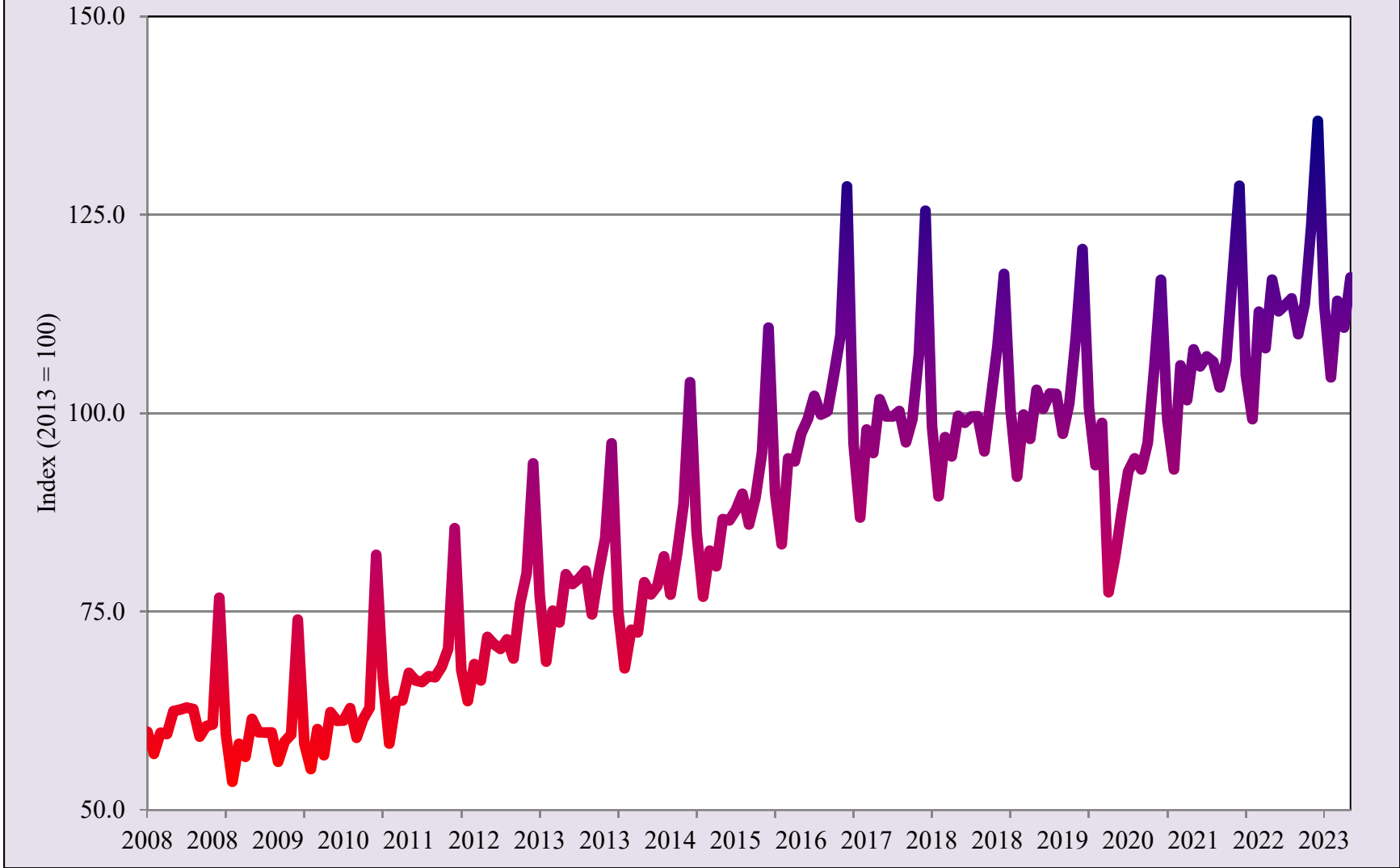
Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using INEGI Data



Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using INEGI Data



Real Retail Activity Index for the State of Chihuahua



Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project using INEGI Data



Order Your
***Short-Term
Outlook to
2024***





BORDERPLEX BUSINESS BAROMETER

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Ahmad M. Itani, Vice President for Research

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Erik Devos, Associate Dean
Faith Xie, Associate Dean
Eddie Wei, Hedrick Professor of Trade & Finance

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