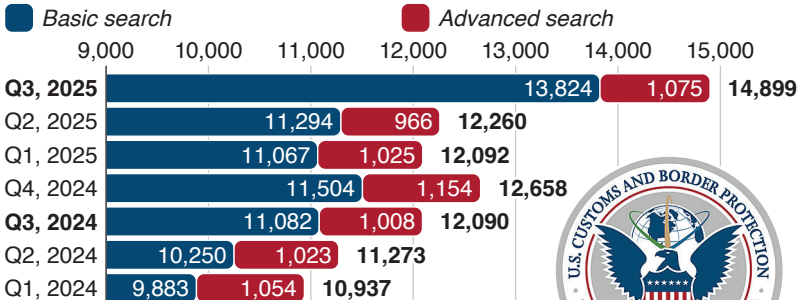


U.S. intrusive phone searches soar

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents searched 15,000 devices, largely smartphones, in the second quarter of the year – an increase of 23% on the same period last year



U.S. BORDER DEVICE SEARCHES (quarterly)



NOTE: CBP uses fiscal year that runs from Oct-Sep – so Q3 of agency's operating year is Q2 of calendar year



STEPS TO AVOID U.S. CUSTOMS SEARCHES

1 Leave your primary smartphone at home and take "burner" phone that only has important apps in it – essentially a sanitised version of your digital life. Or...

2 Take your primary phone but remove photos, messages and non-essential apps – in particular, dating apps and anything related to **LGBTQ+** communities

3 Print out boarding passes and any documents you might need so you never present smartphone to authorities – lessening risk of search