

Statistics for H2A, H2B, and H2R Visas 2006 - 2009

Overview

The United States admits temporary (for less than one year) non-professional foreign guestworkers through its H-2 program.

H-2A visas are issued for seasonal agricultural workers.

H-2B visas are issued for temporary non-agricultural workers. Industries that often use H-2B workers are forestry, construction, and landscaping.

The H-2R visa program only existed for part of fiscal years 2005, 2006 and 2007. The visas were issued to persons who had been issued an H-2B visa within any of the previous three fiscal years. The H-2B and H-2R issuance totals for each nationality added together produce the totals of H-2B temporary worker visas issued.

	Department of Labor ¹		Department of State ²		Department of Homeland Security ³	
	H-2A	H-2B, H-2R	H-2A	H-2B, H-2R	H-2A	H-2B, H-2R
2009*	99,472	154,489	60,112	44,847	149,763	56,543
2008	94,445	250,343	64,404	94,304	173,103	109,621
2007	89,575	254,615	50,791	154,895	87,316	154,895
2006	72,510	191,311	37,149	122,541	46,432	134,071

Data is compiled by three different entities, the Department of Labor, the Department of State, and the Department of Homeland Security, each of which are involved at different points in the process of obtaining H-2 Workers. For a more detailed explanation on the process, please see:

**Please note that all data reflects the U.S. government's fiscal year, which runs October – September.*

¹ Foreign Labor Certification Data Center Online Wage Library. H-2 B Program Data (<http://www.flcdatacenter.com/CaseH2B.aspx>), H-2 A Program Data, <http://www.flcdatacenter.com/CaseH2A.aspx>.

² Classes of Nonimmigrant Visas (Detailed Breakdown) Fiscal Years 2005 – 2009, <http://www.travel.state.gov/pdf/NIVClassIssued-DetailedFY2005-2009.pdf>

³ Randall Monger and Macreadie Barr, DHS Office of Immigration Statistics, Nonimmigrant Admissions to the United States: 2009, Table 2, [http://op.bna.com/dlrcases.nsf/id/lswr-854tv7/\\$File/Nonimmigrant%20Admissions%202009.pdf](http://op.bna.com/dlrcases.nsf/id/lswr-854tv7/$File/Nonimmigrant%20Admissions%202009.pdf).

Department of Labor

The United States Department of Labor records the number of workers requested by employers, as well as the number of employees certified by the department. Data is available from the Foreign Labor Certification Data Center Online Wage Library (www.flcdatacenter.com)

Fiscal Year	H-2A Requested	H-2A Certified	H-2B, H-2R Requested	H-2B, H-2R Certified
2009	118,128	99,472	214,744	154,489
2008	103,391	94,445	293,588	250,343
2007	93,339 ⁴	89,575	360,147 ⁵	254,615
2006	88,391 ⁶	72,510	247,287 ⁷	190,795

Total H-2 B Certifications in 2009 – 154,489

<i>Top Ten States for H-2B Certifications in 2009⁸</i>		
1.	Texas	21,302
2.	Florida	11,569
3.	Colorado	8,691
4.	Virginia	8,612
5.	Louisiana	7,716
6.	New York	6,861
7.	Maryland	6,795
8.	Pennsylvania	5,946
9.	North Carolina	5,156
10.	Utah	5,035

⁴ United States Department of Labor, Employment and Training Division, H-2A Program Data, <http://www.flcdatacenter.com/CaseH2A.aspx> retrieved September 2009.

⁵ United States Department of Labor, Employment and Training Division, H-2B Program Data, <http://www.flcdatacenter.com/CaseH2B.aspx> retrieved September 2009.

⁶ United States Department of Labor, Employment and Training Division, H-2A Program Data, <http://www.flcdatacenter.com/CaseH2A.aspx> retrieved September 20, 2007.

⁷ United States Department of Labor, Employment and Training Division, H-2B Program Data, <http://www.flcdatacenter.com/CaseH2B.aspx> retrieved September 20, 2007.

⁸ United States Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration Disclosure Data, email from May 26, 2010.

Top Ten Occupations for H2-B Certifications for 2009

Top Ten Occupations for H-2B Certifications in 2009

1.	Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers	62,930
2.	Forest and Conservation Workers	12,199
3.	Housekeeping Cleaners	8,997
4.	Industrial Commercial Groundskeepers	8,198
5.	Housekeepers, Supervisors	8,106
6.	Construction Workers	7,198
7.	Amusement Park Workers	6,410
8.	Horse Stable Attendants	3,989
9.	Dining Room Attendants	2,809
10.	Crab Meat Processors	2,343

Department of State

The Department of State interviews individual H-2 visa applicants at its Consulates, which then compile more detailed information. Total numbers are based on the visas issued by each Consulate.⁹

H-2A Visas 2006 - 2009

Total H-2A Visas Issued in 2009 – 60,112¹⁰

<i>Top Ten Countries of H-2A Visas Issued 2009</i>		
1.	Mexico	55,693
2.	South Africa	1,234
3.	Peru	910
4.	Guatemala	807
5.	Haiti	296
6.	Costa Rica	276
7.	New Zealand	171
8.	Romania	166
9.	Nicaragua	128
10.	Chile	43

Total H-2A Visas Issued in 2008 – 64,404

<i>Top Ten Countries of H-2A Visas Issued 2008</i>		
1.	Mexico	47,399
2.	South Africa	1,159
3.	Peru	900
4.	Guatemala	179
5.	Nicaragua	166
6.	Romania	157
7.	Haiti	110
8.	New Zealand	99
9.	Australia	79
10.	Ukraine	68

⁹ All statistics compiled from Table entitled, "FY2007 NIV Detail Table", accessible at Department of Homeland Security, Nonimmigrant Visa Statistics; <http://www.travel.state.gov/pdf/NIVClassIssued-DetailedFY2005-2009.pdf>, retrieved June 6, 2010.

¹⁰ Classes of Nonimmigrants Visas (Detailed Breakdown) Fiscal Years 2005 – 2009, <http://www.travel.state.gov/pdf/NIVClassIssued-DetailedFY2005-2009.pdf>, June 6, 2010

Total H-2A Visas Issued in 2007 – 50,791

Top Ten Countries of H-2A Visas Issued 2007

1.	Mexico	47,399
2.	South Africa	1,159
3.	Peru	900
4.	Guatemala	179
5.	Nicaragua	166
6.	Romania	157
7.	Haiti	110
8.	New Zealand	99
9.	Australia	79
10.	Ukraine	68

Total H-2A Visas Issued in 2006 – 37,149

Top Ten Countries of H-2A Visas Issued 2006

1.	Mexico	34,195
2.	South Africa	1,054
3.	Peru	841
4.	Nicaragua	146
5.	Guatemala	110
6.	Romania	87
7.	Australia	87
8.	New Zealand	84
9.	Haiti	78
10.	Chile	64

H2-B Visas 2006 - 2009

Total H-2B Visas Issued in 2009 – 44,847 (H-2B 44,847; H-2A 0)

Top Ten Countries of H-2B Visas Issued 2009

1.	Mexico	30,006
2.	Jamaica	3,161
3.	Guatemala	2,428
4.	Philippines	1,707
5.	South Africa	1,387
6.	United Kingdom	842
7.	Honduras	414
8.	Israel	381
9.	Indonesia	339
10.	Romania	323

Total H-2B Visas Issued in 2008 – 94,303 (H-2B 93,250; H-2R 1,054)

Top Ten Countries of H-2B Visas Issued 2008

1.	Mexico	74,398
2.	Jamaica	8,765
3.	Philippines	3,686
4.	Guatemala	3,275
5.	Romania	1,942
6.	South Africa	1,743
7.	Israel	1,491
8.	United Kingdom	1,451
9.	Australia	964
10.	El Salvador	755

Total H-2B and H-2R Visas Issued in 2007 – 129,547 (H-2B 60,227; H2-R 69,320)

Top Ten Countries of H-2B Visas Issued 2007

1.	Mexico	85,206
2.	Jamaica	14,682
3.	Guatemala	4,546
4.	Philippines	2,652
5.	Romania	2,640
6.	South Africa	1,902
7.	Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1,549
8.	Australia	1,209
9.	Costa Rica	1,179
10.	Dominican Republic	1,146

Total H-2B and H-2R Visas Issued in 2006 – 122,541 (H-2A 71,687; H-2B 50,854)

Top Ten Countries of H-2B Visas Issued 2006

1.	Mexico	79,992
2.	Jamaica	13,129
3.	Guatemala	4,961
4.	Romania	3,081
5.	South Africa	1,902
6.	Philippines	1,640
7.	Brazil	1,591
8.	Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1,540
9.	Bulgaria	1,345
10.	Dominican Republic	1,343

Department of Homeland Security

The Department of Homeland Security collects information based on the number of H2 visa entrances. Because visa holders are permitted to enter and leave within the valid dates of their visa, these numbers do not take into account multiple entrances from a single worker on the same visa.

H 2A Entries

Total H-2A Visa Entrances, 2009 – 149,763

<i>Top Ten Countries of Origin for H-2A Workers 2009¹¹</i>		
1.	Mexico	140,540
2.	Jamaica	3,902
3.	South Africa	1,157
4.	Peru	874
5.	Guatemala	815
6.	Canada	596
7.	Haiti	350
8.	Costa Rica	326
9.	New Zealand	183
10.	Romania	166

Total H-2A Visa Entrances, 2008 – 173,103

<i>Top Ten Countries of Origin for H-2A Workers 2008¹²</i>		
1.	Mexico	163,695
2.	Jamaica	4,131
3.	South Africa	1,285
4.	Peru	846
5.	Guatemala	533
6.	Haiti	483
7.	Canada	457
8.	Romania	293
9.	Nicaragua	228
10.	New Zealand	151

¹¹ United States Department of Homeland Security, Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2009, Temporary Admissions (Non-Immigrants), Table 32, Nonimmigrant Temporary Worker Admissions, <http://www.dhs.gov/files/statistics/publications/YrBk09NI.shtm>

¹² Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics, Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2008, Table 32, <http://www.dhs.gov/files/statistics/publications/YrBk08NI.shtm>

Total H-2A Visa Entrances, 2007 – 46,432

Top Ten Countries of Origin for H-2A Workers 2007¹³		
1.	Mexico	79,394
2.	Jamaica	3,954
3.	South Africa	1,039
4.	Peru	825
5.	Canada	517
6.	Guatemala	194
7.	Nicaragua	169
8.	Romania	161
9.	Haiti	136
10.	New Zealand	98

Total H-2A Visa Entrances, 2006 – 46,432

Top Ten Countries of Origin for H-2A workers 2006¹⁴		
1.	Mexico	40,283
2.	Jamaica	3,376
3.	South Africa	757
4.	Canada	454
5.	Guatemala	133
6.	Nicaragua	119
7.	Australia	84
8.	Haiti	72
9.	Romania	72
10.	New Zealand	58

¹³ Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics, Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2007, Table 33. (<http://www.dhs.gov/ximgtn/statistics/publications/YrBk07NI.shtm>) Accessed Sept 2009

¹⁴ Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics, Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2006, Table 33. (<http://www.dhs.gov/ximgtn/statistics/publications/YrBk06NI.shtm>) Accessed Sept 2007

H – 2B Entries

Total H2-B and H-2R Visa Entrances by Country of Origin, 2009 – 56,543

<i>Top Ten Countries of Origin for H-2B Workers 2009¹⁵</i>		
1.	Mexico	37,467
2.	Jamaica	3,947
3.	Guatemala	2,757
4.	Philippines	1,870
5.	South Africa	1,596
6.	United Kingdom	934
7.	Honduras	655
8.	Canada	638
9.	Israel	638
10.	Romania	527

Total H2-B and H-2R Visa Entrances by Country of Origin, 2008 – 154,895

<i>Top Ten Countries of Origin for H-2B Workers 2008¹⁶</i>		
1.	Mexico	74,938
2.	Jamaica	8,765
3.	Philippines	3,686
4.	Guatemala	3,275
5.	Romania	1,942
6.	South Africa	1,743
7.	United Kingdom	1,451
8.	Australia	964
9.	El Salvador	750
10.	Brazil	744

¹⁵ Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics: 2009, Table 32, <http://www.dhs.gov/files/statistics/publications/YrBk09NI.shtm>.

¹⁶ Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics: 2008, Table 32, <http://www.dhs.gov/files/statistics/publications/YrBk08NI.shtm>.

Total H2-B and H-2R Visa Entrances by Country of Origin, 2007 – 154,895

<i>Top Ten Countries of Origin for H-2B Workers 2007¹⁷</i>		
1.	Mexico	105,244
2.	Jamaica	14,964
3.	Guatemala	4,557
4.	Romania	2,803
5.	Canada	2,494
6.	Philippines	2,492
7.	South Africa	1,913
8.	United Kingdom	1,687
9.	Dominican Republic	1,420
10.	Australia	1,305

Total H2-B and H-2R Visa Entrances by Country of Origin, 2006 – 134,071

<i>Top Ten Countries of Origin for H-2B Workers 2006¹⁸</i>		
1.	Mexico	89,184
2.	Jamaica	11,488
3.	Guatemala	4,485
4.	Romania	2,868
5.	Canada	2,689
6.	South Africa	2,051
7.	United Kingdom	1,688
8.	Brazil	1,591
9.	Dominican Republic	1,462
10.	Philippines	1,447

¹⁷ Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics, Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2007, Table 33. (<http://www.dhs.gov/ximgtn/statistics/publications/YrBk07NI.shtm>) Accessed Sept 2009

¹⁸ Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics, Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2006, Table 33. (<http://www.dhs.gov/ximgtn/statistics/publications/YrBk06NI.shtm>) Accessed Sept 2007

H – 2 A Destinations by State for 2006 – 2009

Top Ten States for H-2A Destinations 2009

<i>Top Ten States for H-2A Destinations in 2009¹⁹</i>		
1.	Arizona	76,980
2.	Texas	7,893
3.	North Carolina	7,677
4.	Kentucky	5,228
5.	Florida	5,136
6.	Louisiana	5,054
7.	California	5,018
8.	Georgia	4,381
9.	New York	3,445
10.	Virginia	2,298

Top Ten States for H-2A Destinations 2008

<i>Top Ten States for H-2A Destinations in 2008²⁰</i>		
1.	Arizona	98,451
2.	California	8,889
3.	North Carolina	7,595
4.	Florida	5,295
5.	Kentucky	5,247
6.	Georgia	4,751
7.	Louisiana	4,562
8.	Texas	3,673
9.	New York	3,507
10.	Arkansas	2,469

¹⁹ United States Department of Homeland Security Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2009, Temporary Admissions (Nonimmigrants), Supplemental Table 3, <http://www.dhs.gov/files/statistics/publications/YrBk09NI.shtm>, retrieved June 9, 2010.

²⁰ United States Department of Homeland Security Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2008, Temporary Admissions (Nonimmigrants), Supplemental Table 3, <http://www.dhs.gov/files/statistics/publications/YrBk08NI.shtm>, retrieved June 9, 2010.

Top Ten States for H-2A Destinations 2007

<i>Top Ten States for H-2A Destinations in 2007²¹</i>		
1.	Arizona	26,450
2.	California	7,422
3.	North Carolina	7,236
4.	Georgia	4,324
5.	Kentucky	4,313
6.	Florida	4,200
7.	Louisiana	3,621
8.	New York	2,770
9.	Arkansas	2,468
10.	Virginia	2,300

Top Ten States for H-2A Destinations 2006

<i>Top Ten States for H-2A Destinations in 2006²²</i>		
1.	Arizona	5,464
2.	Georgia	3,504
3.	Kentucky	3,057
4.	Louisiana	2,590
5.	California	2,301
6.	Virginia	2,197
7.	Arkansas	2,100
8.	New York	2,060
9.	Tennessee	1,498
10.	Florida	1,355

²¹ United States Department of Homeland Security Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2007, Temporary Admissions (Nonimmigrants), Supplemental Table 3, <http://www.dhs.gov/files/statistics/publications/YrBk07NI.shtm>, retrieved June 9, 2010.

²² United States Department of Homeland Security Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2006, Temporary Admissions (Nonimmigrants), Supplemental Table 3, <http://www.dhs.gov/files/statistics/publications/YrBk06NI.shtm>, retrieved June 9, 2010.

H – 2 B Destinations by State for 2006 – 2009

Top Ten States for H-2B Destinations 2009

<i>Top Ten States for H-2B Destinations in 2009²³</i>		
1.	Texas	10,486
2.	Florida	5,415
3.	Louisiana	3,614
4.	Virginia	2,392
5.	Colorado	2,257
6.	California	2,066
7.	Maryland	1,988
8.	Mississippi	1,880
9.	Arizona	1,773
10.	Missouri	1,484

Top Ten States for H-2B Destinations 2008

<i>Top Ten States for H-2B Destinations in 2008²⁴</i>		
1.	Texas	21,541
2.	Louisiana	10,411
3.	Florida	9,844
4.	Colorado	6,376
5.	Arizona	4,106
6.	Virginia	3,953
7.	Pennsylvania	3,722
8.	Maryland	3,441
9.	California	3,199
10.	Alabama	2,225

²³ United States Department of Homeland Security Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2009, Temporary Admissions (Nonimmigrants), Supplemental Table 3, <http://www.dhs.gov/files/statistics/publications/YrBk09NI.shtm>, retrieved June 9, 2010.

²⁴ United States Department of Homeland Security Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2008, Temporary Admissions (Nonimmigrants), Supplemental Table 3, <http://www.dhs.gov/files/statistics/publications/YrBk08NI.shtm>, retrieved June 9, 2010.

Top Ten States for H-2B Destinations 2007

Top Ten States for H-2B Destinations in 2007²⁵		
1.	Texas	29,510
2.	Louisiana	13,042
3.	Florida	11,975
4.	Colorado	9,398
5.	Virginia	5,544
6.	California	5,405
7.	Pennsylvania	5,250
8.	Mississippi	5,115
9.	Maryland	4,804
10.	Arkansas	4,037

Top Ten States for H-2B Destinations 2006

Top Ten States for H-2B Destinations in 2006²⁶		
1.	Texas	22,046
2.	Florida	10,401
3.	Colorado	8,631
4.	Louisiana	7,557
5.	Virginia	5,533
6.	Maryland	5,053
7.	California	4,900
8.	Mississippi	4,774
9.	Pennsylvania	4,685
10.	New York	4,674

²⁵ United States Department of Homeland Security Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2007, Temporary Admissions (Nonimmigrants), Supplemental Table 3, <http://www.dhs.gov/files/statistics/publications/YrBk07NI.shtm>, retrieved June 9, 2010.

²⁶ United States Department of Homeland Security Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2006, Temporary Admissions (Nonimmigrants), Supplemental Table 3, <http://www.dhs.gov/files/statistics/publications/YrBk06NI.shtm>, retrieved June 9, 2010.