

H-2B Temporary Non-Agricultural Visa Program

Nonimmigrant Visa (NIV) Issuance By Sex, Countries of Citizenship, Industry Sectors, Occupations, States of Intended Employment, and Age
Fiscal Year (FY) 2024

Workload Summary

Reporting Category	Q1 (Oct - Dec)	Q2 (Jan - Mar)	Q3 (Apr - Jun)	Q4 (Jul - Sep)	Total
DOL Labor Certifications Issued	2,969	1,995	8,462	122	13,548
- DOL Worker Positions Certified	59,390	43,195	128,521	1,889	232,995
- DHS USCIS Beneficiaries Approved	42,622	35,306	82,068	729	160,725
- State NIVs Issued	33,864	30,701	66,328	549	131,442
- Total NIVs Issued to Females	4,664	3,368	9,924	140	18,096
- Percent of All NIVs Issued	13.8%	11.0%	15.0%	25.5%	13.8%

SELECTED STATISTICS

Top 10 Countries of Citizenship

Male		
Country	NIVs Issued	% All NIVs Issued
Mexico (MEX)	81,625	62.1%
Guatemala (GUAT)	9,077	6.9%
El Salvador (ELSL)	6,050	4.6%
Jamaica (JAM)	5,429	4.1%
Honduras (HOND)	5,364	4.1%
South Africa (SAFR)	1,159	0.9%
Serbia (SBA)	667	0.5%
Colombia (COL)	516	0.4%
Costa Rica (CSTR)	510	0.4%
Romania (ROM)	461	0.4%
All Other Countries	2,488	1.9%

Female		
Country	NIVs Issued	% All NIVs Issued
Jamaica (JAM)	6,041	4.6%
Mexico (MEX)	5,264	4.0%
El Salvador (ELSL)	1,838	1.4%
Honduras (HOND)	1,654	1.3%
Guatemala (GUAT)	940	0.7%
South Africa (SAFR)	634	0.5%
Colombia (COL)	243	0.2%
Serbia (SBA)	179	0.1%
Dominican Republic (DOMR)	177	0.1%
Romania (ROM)	156	0.1%
All Other Countries	970	0.7%

Top 10 Industry Sectors

Male		
Industry Sector	NIVs Issued	% All NIVs Issued
Admin/Support, Landscaping Services	57,244	43.6%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	13,093	10.0%
Ag, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting	12,143	9.2%
Construction	11,025	8.4%
Accommodation and Food Services	7,955	6.1%
Manufacturing	6,572	5.0%
Transportation & Warehousing	1,199	0.9%
Wholesale Trade	853	0.6%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	829	0.6%
Mining, Quarrying, Oil, Gas Extraction	769	0.6%
All Other Sectors	1,664	1.3%

Female		
Industry Sector	NIVs Issued	% All NIVs Issued
Accommodation and Food Services	7,682	5.8%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	3,442	2.6%
Admin/Support, Landscaping Services	2,844	2.2%
Manufacturing	2,817	2.1%
Ag, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting	338	0.3%
Retail Trade	309	0.2%
Other Services (except Public Admin)	296	0.2%
Wholesale Trade	86	0.1%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	84	0.1%
Construction	83	0.1%
All Other Sectors	115	0.1%

Top 10 Occupations

Male		
Occupation	NIVs Issued	% All NIVs Issued
Landscaping/Groundskeeping Workers	57,089	43.4%
Forest and Conservation Workers	8,950	6.8%
Amusement and Recreation Attendants	6,196	4.7%
Construction Laborers	4,495	3.4%
Fast Food and Counter Workers	3,167	2.4%
Meat, Poultry, and Fish Trimmers	2,995	2.3%
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	2,852	2.2%
Restaurant Cooks	2,441	1.9%
Laborers, Freight, Material Movers	1,588	1.2%
Helpers/Production Workers	1,288	1.0%
All Other Occupations	22,285	17.0%

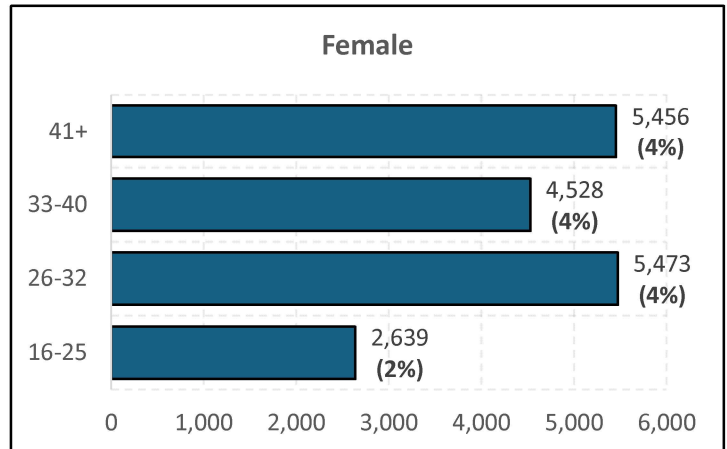
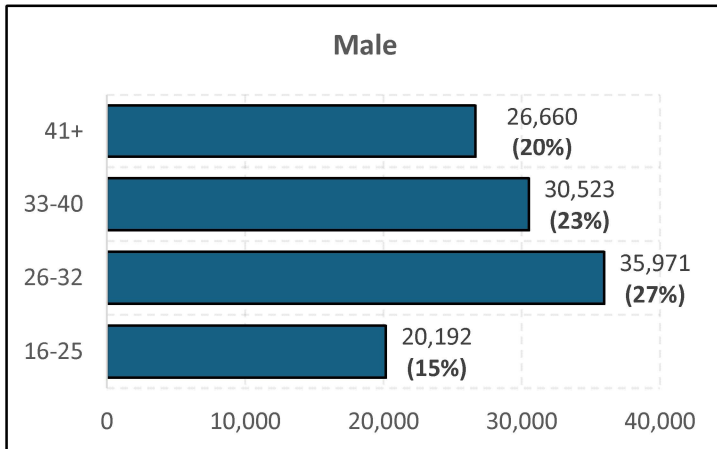
Female		
Occupation	NIVs Issued	% All NIVs Issued
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	6,203	4.7%
Meat, Poultry, and Fish Trimmers	2,041	1.6%
Restaurant Cooks	1,281	1.0%
Amusement and Recreation Attendants	1,272	1.0%
Fast Food and Counter Workers	1,015	0.8%
Waiters and Waitresses	853	0.6%
Landscaping/Groundskeeping Workers	621	0.5%
Laundry and Dry-Cleaning Workers	485	0.4%
Dishwashers	426	0.3%
Dining Room/Cafeteria & Bar Helpers	400	0.3%
All Other Occupations	3,499	2.7%

Top 10 States of Intended Employment

Male		
State of Employment	NIVs Issued	% All NIVs Issued
Texas	13,821	10.5%
Florida	7,892	6.0%
North Carolina	5,139	3.9%
Ohio	4,927	3.7%
Pennsylvania	4,657	3.5%
Colorado	4,072	3.1%
Louisiana	3,807	2.9%
Oregon	3,697	2.8%
Georgia	3,579	2.7%
Missouri	3,578	2.7%
All Other States	58,177	44.3%

Female		
State of Employment	NIVs Issued	% All NIVs Issued
Florida	2,760	2.1%
Louisiana	1,342	1.0%
South Carolina	1,309	1.0%
North Carolina	921	0.7%
Maine	864	0.7%
Michigan	708	0.5%
Texas	691	0.5%
Maryland	611	0.5%
Massachusetts	607	0.5%
Colorado	575	0.4%
All Other States	7,708	5.9%

Age Distribution



Technical Documentation

Methodology and Technical Notes

The information presented in this factsheet represents the product of a collaborative data sharing initiative between the Department of Labor (DOL) and the Department of State (State).

During FY 2023:Q4 and FY 2024, DOL certified 13,548 H-2B Applications for Temporary Labor Certification (H-2B Applications) for 232,995 worker positions where the U.S. employer requested an employment start date during FY 2024 (i.e., October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024). This data is based on applications processed through DOL's Foreign Labor Application Gateway (FLAG) System.

State provided DOL with a dataset of 147,659 H-2B nonimmigrant visas (NIVs) issued to foreign beneficiaries from September 1, 2023, through October 9, 2024. DOL matched 80.2 percent of the State H-2B records to the certified DOL H-2B Application records for FY 2024. The remaining 19.8 percent could not be matched due to manual entry errors, and missing case numbers carried over from the Department of Homeland Security system.

Workload Summary Table

- DOL Labor Certifications Issued shows the total number of unique H-2B Applications certified where the employment start date occurred in the reference quarter, and the total number of DOL Worker Positions Certified associated with those DOL H-2B Applications.
- DHS USCIS Beneficiaries Approved represents the maximum number of foreign beneficiaries approved for admission by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) associated with the total number of DOL H-2B Applications reported in the reference quarter.
- Finally, the State NIVs Issued represents the total number of unique foreign beneficiaries issued an H-2B NIV associated with the total number of DOL H-2B Applications reported in the reference quarter, including the total number of H-2B NIVs State issued to foreign beneficiaries self-reporting as "females" on State's DS-160 visa application form and expressed as a percentage of all H-2B NIVs issued during that period.

Selected Statistics Tables

Based on all H-2B NIVs issued in relation to the DOL H-2B Applications certified to begin employment during FY 2024, this section provides detailed information on the countries of citizenship, industry sectors, occupations, states of intended employment, and age distribution for foreign beneficiaries self-reporting as "Males" or "Females" on State's DS-160 visa application form.

Countries of Citizenship: Using the country of citizenship as reported by State based on the passport the applicant submitted with their visa application and then computed separately for "Males" and "Females," all computations are based on the total number of H-2B visas issued, sorted in descending order to show the Top 10 Countries of Citizenship, and then expressed as a percentage of all H-2Bs issued for that Country.

Industry Sectors: Using the 6-digit North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) self-reported by the employer on the DOL H-2B Application and then computed separately for "Males" and "Females," all computations are based on the total number of H-2B visas issued, sorted in descending order to show the Top 10 Industry Sectors, and then expressed as a percentage of all H-2Bs issued in that NAICS code.

Occupations: Using the 6-digit Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) System code assigned and validated by DOL on the DOL H-2B Applications and then computed separately for “Males” and “Females,” all computations are based on the total number of H-2B visas issued, sorted in descending order to show the Top 10 Occupations, and then expressed as a percentage of all H-2Bs issued in that SOC code.

States of Intended Employment: Using the primary U.S. destination state disclosed by the employer in Section F.b Items 1 through 6 of the DOL H-2B Application and then computed separately for “Males” and “Females,” all computations are based on the total number of H-2B visas issued, sorted in descending order to show the Top 10 U.S. States of Intended Employment, and then expressed as a percentage of all H-2B visas issued in that state of intended employment.

Age Distribution: Using the “Date of Birth” self-reported by the foreign beneficiary on the DS-160 visa application form and then computed separately for “Males” and “Females,” all computations are based on the total number of H-2B visas issued where the age of the foreign beneficiary - on the date State issued the H-2B - fell within one of the defined age groups, and then expressed as a percentage of all H-2Bs issued in that age group.

Other Data Limitations and Considerations

State Visa Data: Visa issuance data by gender is based on self-reported applicant biographic data and is not a factor in visa eligibility. Additionally, visa issuance data does not indicate whether the visa holders entered the United States to begin work. Please contact the Department of Homeland Security for admission data. Visa issuance data contained within this fact sheet is based on visas stemming from approved DOL certifications and will not match other H-2 visa data that State publishes, as other data may contain visa applicants who do not require DOL approval, e.g., those for Guam and the National Defense Authorization. These data are estimates based on compiled information from the DOL, State, and some units of Homeland Security.

For more information on H-2B temporary labor certification program, please visit the DOL OFLC website at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/foreign-labor> and State website at <https://www.state.gov/>.