

U.S. Nonimmigrant Admissions: 2021

SCOTT MEEKS

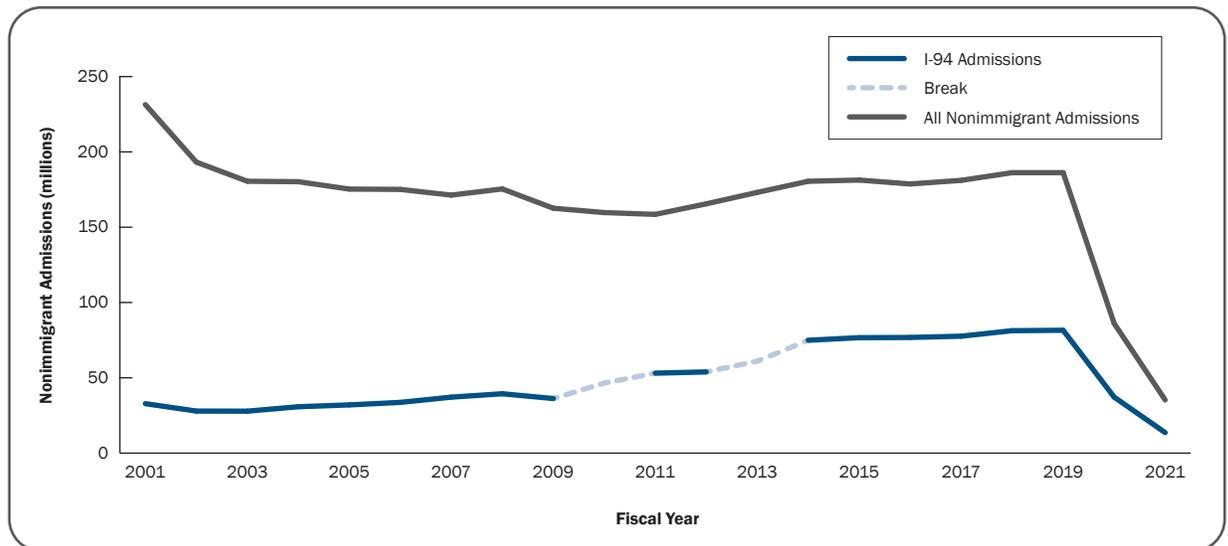
Nonimmigrants are foreign nationals with permanent residence outside the United States granted temporary admission to the United States. The major purposes for which nonimmigrant admissions are authorized include temporary visits for business or pleasure, academic or vocational study, temporary employment, and to act as a representative of a foreign government or international organization. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) collects information regarding nonimmigrant admissions at ports of entry (POEs) and from DHS Form I-94/I-94W¹ arrival records. The 2021 U.S. Nonimmigrant Admissions Annual Flow Report, authored by the DHS Office of Immigration Statistics (OIS), presents workload information on total nonimmigrant admissions and detailed data gathered from Form I-94 arrival records on the number and characteristics of nonimmigrant admissions to the United States in Fiscal Year 2021.^{2,3}

SUMMARY

In 2021, DHS granted 35 million nonimmigrant admissions to the United States, according to DHS workload estimates (Figure 1).⁴ These included 14 million admissions of nonimmigrants who were issued Form I-94—the primary focus of this report.⁵ Nonimmigrant admissions in 2021 were down 59 percent from 2020 and down 80 percent from the last 10 years’ average ending in 2019; a decade which experienced an average annual growth of

Figure 1.

Nonimmigrant Admissions: Fiscal Years 2001 to 2021



Notes: There are two major breaks in the I-94 data. Beginning in 2010, changes in the recording of admissions at the land ports increased I-94 admission counts. Beginning in 2013, I-94 automation at air and sea ports increased the number of admissions recorded in the I-94 data.
Source: DHS Office of Immigration Statistics.

¹ All references to Form I-94 arrival records include Form I-94W visa waiver arrival records where applicable.

² In this report, years refer to fiscal years, which run from October 1 to September 30.

³ Additional context may be found in the 2021 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, available at <https://www.dhs.gov/immigration-statistics/yearbook/2021>, and other OIS reports. Not all numbers reported are contained in this report's tables.

⁴ DHS, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Operations Management Reporting, fiscal year 2021.

⁵ The I-94 data do not describe all nonimmigrant admissions because certain visitors are not required to fill out the I-94 form, including a large share of Mexican and Canadian business and tourist travelers, as discussed elsewhere in this report. Current DHS data systems limit this report to describing the I-94 populations, but OIS is working to describe characteristics of all nonimmigrant admissions in future reports. All I-94 admissions counts exclude sea and air crew admissions (D1 and D2 visas).

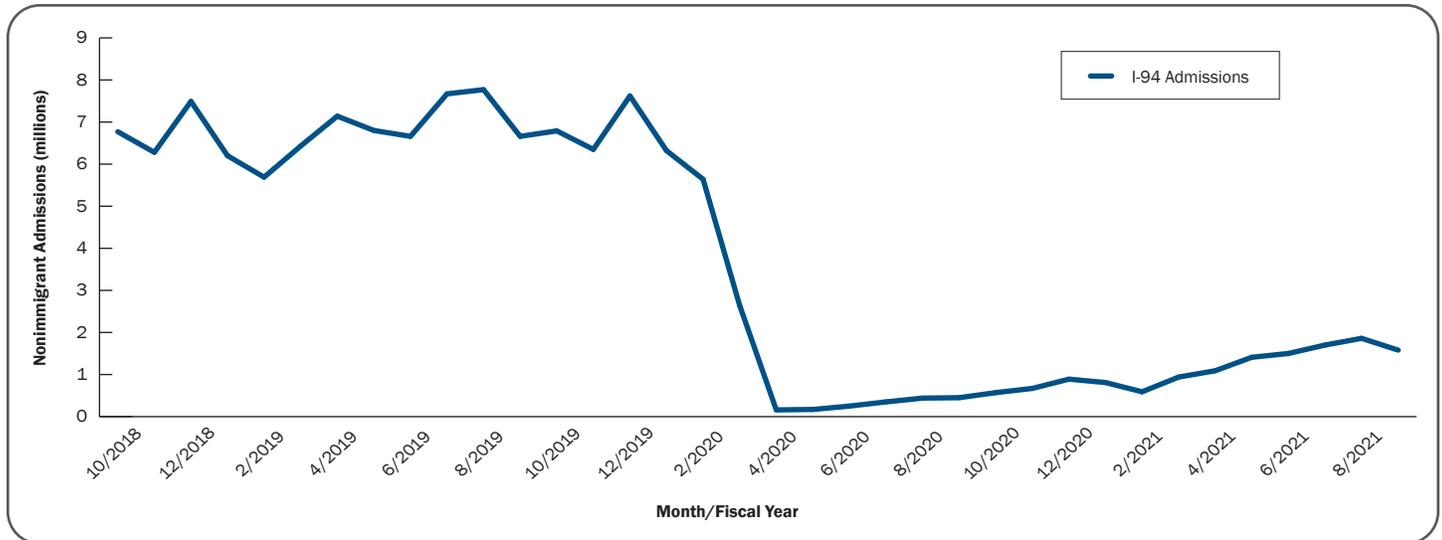


Homeland Security

Office of Immigration Statistics
OFFICE OF STRATEGY, POLICY, AND PLANS

Figure 2.

Nonimmigrant Admissions (I-94 only): Fiscal Years 2019 to 2021



Source: DHS Office of Immigration Statistics.

1.7 percent over that time. The abnormally low number of nonimmigrants reflects policy and behavioral changes resulting from the global pandemic. Of the 14 million I-94 admissions, 76 percent were temporary visitors for business and pleasure, 14 percent were temporary workers and their families, and 5.9 percent were students and their families (Table 1). The five leading countries of citizenship for I-94 admissions were Mexico (33 percent), Canada (11 percent), Colombia (6.7 percent), India (4.0 percent), and the Dominican Republic (2.7 percent) (Table 2). In 2020, Mexico, Canada, the United Kingdom, Japan, and South Korea were the five leading countries of citizenship.

NONIMMIGRANT DEFINITION, PROCESS, AND REQUIREMENTS

Defining “Nonimmigrant”

Nonimmigrants are foreign nationals admitted temporarily to the United States mostly within classes of admission defined in section

101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).⁶ Examples of nonimmigrant classes of admission include temporary visitors for pleasure and for business, temporary workers, academic and vocational students, treaty traders and investors, foreign nationals in transit, exchange visitors, foreign government officials, athletes and entertainers, and victims of certain crimes. Unlike individuals granted lawful permanent residence (LPR), or “green card” status, nonimmigrants are authorized to enter the country for specific purposes and limited periods of time. Nonimmigrants’ duration of stay and the scope of their lawful activities, such as employment, travel, and accompaniment by dependents, are governed by their respective classes of admission.⁷

⁶ Three nonimmigrant classes are authorized in sections other than INA § 101(a)(15). They include: (1) North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) nonimmigrants; (2) Nationals of the Freely Associated States admitted under the Compacts of Free Association between the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau; and (3) The Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Concerning Mutual Visits by Inhabitants of the Bering Straits Region.

⁷ Information relating to duration of stay can be found at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/visa-expiration-date.html>.

Nonimmigrant Admissions vs. Estimated Nonimmigrant Individuals vs. Nonimmigrant Visas Issued

This report covers admission events in 2021, not the number of individuals who entered the United States, nor the number of visas issued. Many nonimmigrants are admitted to the United States more than once in a year, and each entry is recorded separately and issued a new I-94 document at arrival. As a result, the count of admission events exceeds the number of individuals arriving. For more information, see OIS Fact Sheet, *Nonimmigrant Admissions and Estimated Nonimmigrant Individuals: 2016*.⁸ Admission events also differ from the number of nonimmigrant visas issued by the U.S. Department of State (DOS) for the following reasons: (1) a citizen from a country participating in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program (VWP) may travel to the United States without a visa; (2) a visa recipient may be admitted to the United States more than once on each visa, as is the case with many nonimmigrants; and, (3) a visa recipient may decide not to travel to the United States or decide to travel during the following fiscal year (subject to the validity of the visa).

⁸ Available at <https://www.dhs.gov/immigration-statistics/factsheets>.

Table 1.

Nonimmigrant Admissions (I-94 only) by Class of Admission: Fiscal Years 2019 to 2021

Class of admission	2019		2020		2021	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total*	81,563,139	100.0	37,176,105	100.0	13,623,118	100.0
Temporary workers and families	4,106,324	5.0	2,572,815	6.9	1,843,944	13.5
Temporary workers and trainees	2,558,973	3.1	1,791,758	4.8	1,448,739	10.6
CNMI-only transitional workers (CW1)	4,381	-	984	-	374	-
Workers in specialty occupations (H1B)	601,594	0.7	368,440	1.0	148,603	1.1
Chile and Singapore Free Trade Agreement aliens (H1B1)	836	-	631	-	373	-
Registered nurses participating in the Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas (H1C)	21	-	11	-	0	-
Agricultural workers (H2A)	442,822	0.5	510,343	1.4	586,992	4.3
Nonagricultural workers and returning H2B workers (H2B, H2R)	129,126	0.2	86,739	0.2	123,071	0.9
Trainees (H3)	2,141	-	820	-	400	-
Workers with extraordinary ability or achievement and their assistants (O1, O2)	163,342	0.2	79,089	0.2	34,907	0.3
Internationally recognized athletes or entertainers (P1)	101,878	0.1	54,816	0.1	37,213	0.3
Artists or entertainers in reciprocal exchange or culturally unique programs (P2, P3)	31,586	-	13,337	-	2,814	-
Workers in international cultural exchange programs (Q1)	3,414	-	1,555	-	102	-
Workers in religious occupations (R1)	14,817	-	7,015	-	4,374	-
North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) professional workers (TN)	725,929	0.9	485,948	1.3	385,869	2.8
Spouses and children of temporary workers and trainees (CW2, H4, O3, P4, R2, TD)	337,086	0.4	182,030	0.5	123,647	0.9
Intracompany transferees	987,834	1.2	470,641	1.3	182,379	1.3
Intracompany transferees (L1)	698,794	0.9	336,676	0.9	116,120	0.9
Spouses and children of intracompany transferees (L2)	289,040	0.4	133,965	0.4	66,259	0.5
Treaty traders and investors and spouses and children (E1 to E3)	515,672	0.6	291,588	0.8	200,672	1.5
Representatives of foreign media and spouses and children (I1)	43,845	0.1	18,828	0.1	12,154	0.1
Students	1,907,176	2.3	918,442	2.5	798,977	5.9
Academic students (F1)	1,817,724	2.2	876,157	2.4	758,458	5.6
Vocational students (M1)	18,385	-	9,454	-	7,872	0.1
Spouses and children of academic and vocational students (F2, M2)	71,067	0.1	32,831	0.1	32,647	0.2
Exchange visitors	620,479	0.8	226,474	0.6	174,412	1.3
Exchange visitors (J1)	548,717	0.7	195,459	0.5	151,257	1.1
Spouses and children of exchange visitors (J2)	71,762	0.1	31,015	0.1	23,155	0.2
Diplomats and other representatives	454,494	0.6	218,895	0.6	161,041	1.2
Ambassadors, public ministers, career diplomats, consular officers, other foreign government officials and their spouses, children, and attendants (A1 to A3)	222,077	0.3	106,451	0.3	87,679	0.6
Representatives to international organizations and their spouses, children, and attendants (G1 to G5)	177,000	0.2	82,939	0.2	50,760	0.4
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) officials, spouses, and children (N1 to N7)	55,417	0.1	29,505	0.1	22,602	0.2
Temporary visitors for pleasure	64,864,687	79.5	28,731,613	77.3	9,055,378	66.5
Temporary visitors for pleasure (B2)	43,968,625	53.9	20,175,009	54.3	8,169,825	60.0
Visa Waiver Program - temporary visitors for pleasure (WT)	19,745,020	24.2	7,991,484	21.5	883,556	6.5
Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program - temporary visitors for pleasure to Guam or Northern Mariana Islands (GMT)	1,151,042	1.4	565,120	1.5	1,997	-
Temporary visitors for business	9,059,770	11.1	4,209,153	11.3	1,346,208	9.9
Temporary visitors for business (B1)	5,853,592	7.2	2,825,830	7.6	1,223,567	9.0
Visa Waiver Program - temporary visitors for business (WB)	3,203,078	3.9	1,381,838	3.7	122,576	0.9
Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program - temporary visitors for business to Guam or Northern Mariana Islands (GMB)	3,100	-	1,485	-	65	-
Transit aliens	462,914	0.6	252,201	0.7	211,283	1.6
Aliens in continuous and immediate transit through the United States (C1)	449,524	0.6	245,463	0.7	207,307	1.5
Aliens in transit to the United Nations (C2)	740	-	595	-	132	-
Foreign government officials, their spouses, children, and attendants in transit (C3)	12,650	-	6,143	-	3,844	-
Commuter Students	8,787	-	2,753	-	514	-
Canadian or Mexican national academic commuter students (F3)	8,787	-	2,753	-	514	-
Alien fiancé(e)s of U.S. citizens and children	39,554	-	22,708	0.1	18,974	0.1
Fiancé(e)s of U.S. citizens (K1)	34,581	-	19,957	0.1	16,643	0.1
Children of K1 (K2)	4,973	-	2,751	-	2,331	-
Alien spouses of U.S. citizens and children, immigrant visa pending	34	-	16	-	0	-
Spouses of U.S. citizens, visa pending (K3)	25	-	9	-	0	-
Children of U.S. citizens, visa pending (K4)	9	-	7	-	0	-
Alien spouses of U.S. permanent residents and children, immigrant visa pending	107	-	6	-	D	-
Spouses of permanent residents, visa pending (V1)	35	-	D	-	D	-
Children of permanent residents, visa pending (V2)	65	-	D	-	0	-
Dependents of V1 or V2, visa pending (V3)	7	-	0	-	0	-
Other	75	-	31	-	D	-
Unknown	38,738	-	20,998	0.1	12,355	0.1

* Excludes sea and air crew admissions (D1 and D2 visas).

D Data withheld to limit disclosure.

- Represents zero or rounds to 0.0.

Source: DHS Office of Immigration Statistics.

I-94 Nonimmigrants

The remainder of this report focuses exclusively on nonimmigrants who fill out paper and electronic Forms I-94, which CBP collects from most classes of nonimmigrants arriving in the United States. Information collected from these I-94 records includes arrival and departure dates, POE, class of admission, country of citizenship, state of destination, age, and sex. The I-94 data do not describe all nonimmigrant admissions because certain visitors are not required to fill out the I-94 form—including the majority of short-term visitors from Mexico and Canada. Specific information regarding the I-94 form is located at the end of this report.

Process

Nonimmigrants traveling to the United States can apply for a visa through U.S. embassies or consulates, or they may travel to the United States without a visa under the VWP if they are a citizen or national of one of the 40 participating countries and meet eligibility requirements for traveling under that program.⁹ When arriving in the United States, nonimmigrants must show valid travel documents as part of the inspection process. CBP officers conduct arrival inspections and make admissibility determinations at the POEs.

Eligibility

To qualify for admission in a nonimmigrant status, a foreign national generally must:

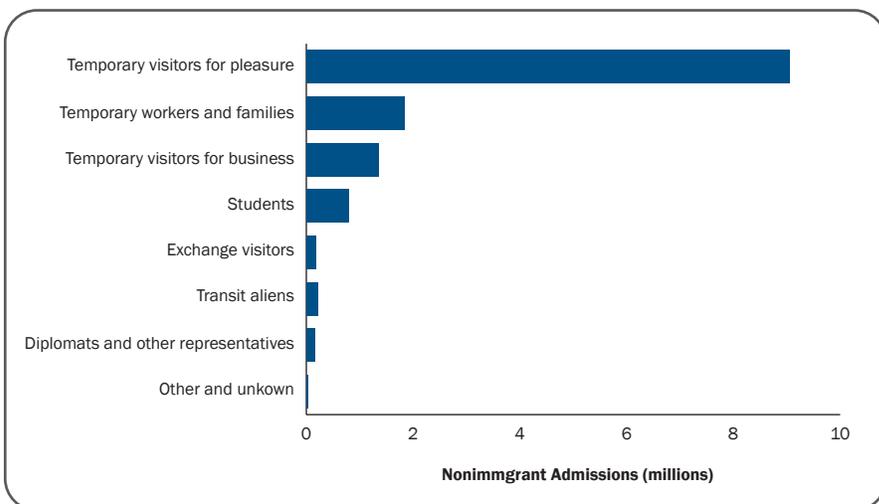
1. establish that the visit will be temporary;
2. agree to depart at the end of the authorized stay;
3. possess a valid passport;
4. maintain a foreign residence (in most cases);
5. be admissible to the United States or have been granted a waiver for any grounds of inadmissibility; and
6. agree to abide by the terms and conditions of admission.

In general, nonimmigrants must acquire a visa or other form of authorization abroad prior to traveling to the United States, with the specific requirements determined by a foreign national's

Figure 3.

Nonimmigrant Admissions (I-94 only) by Class of Admission: Fiscal Year 2021

Ranked by Class of Admission Group



Source: DHS Office of Immigration Statistics.

Table 2.

Nonimmigrant Admissions (I-94 only) by Country of Citizenship: Fiscal Years 2019 to 2021

Ranked by Country of Citizenship admissions count in 2021.

Country of citizenship	2019		2020		2021	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	81,563,139	100.0	37,176,105	100.0	13,623,118	100.0
Mexico	21,412,174	26.3	11,004,919	29.6	4,551,988	33.4
Canada	13,926,155	17.1	6,737,778	18.1	1,512,473	11.1
Colombia	1,108,458	1.4	466,993	1.3	915,230	6.7
India	2,316,025	2.8	1,059,774	2.9	540,303	4.0
Dominican Republic	516,384	0.6	266,300	0.7	362,857	2.7
Ecuador	480,255	0.6	222,479	0.6	347,530	2.6
Peru	371,948	0.5	182,868	0.5	322,114	2.4
Argentina	926,594	1.1	369,659	1.0	241,215	1.8
Guatemala	321,061	0.4	162,755	0.4	231,488	1.7
Honduras	242,057	0.3	119,460	0.3	212,104	1.6
Other	39,856,111	48.9	16,540,382	44.5	4,360,209	32.0
Unknown	85,917	0.1	42,738	0.1	25,607	0.2

Source: DHS Office of Immigration Statistics.

country of citizenship¹⁰ and the conditions of their visit, as discussed below. Yet possession of a valid travel document does not guarantee admission. Rather, CBP officers at POEs make the final determination whether a nonimmigrant may enter the United States and the authorized duration of stay.

Document Requirements

Most classes of nonimmigrants are required to obtain a visa to enter the United States. In these cases, foreign nationals must fill out a Form DS-160, *Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application*, or a Form DS-156, *Nonimmigrant Visa Application*. In addition, applicants aged 14

¹⁰Presidential Proclamation 9645, issued on September 24, 2017 and upheld by the Supreme Court on June 26, 2019, limited the types of nonimmigrant visas that may be issued to nationals of Chad, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Syria, Venezuela, and Yemen. Restrictions on Chad were lifted on April 10, 2019. Presidential Proclamation 10141, issued on January 20, 2021, ended the travel restrictions under Presidential Proclamation 9645. See <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/presidential-proclamation-archives/presidential-proclamation9645.html>.

⁹ A full list of VWP countries and requirements is available at <https://www.dhs.gov/visa-waiver-program-requirements>.

to 79 years generally are required to visit a U.S. embassy or consulate and be interviewed by a consular official.¹¹

U.S. Visa Waiver Program. The VWP, administered by DHS in consultation with DOS, permits nationals of designated countries to travel to the United States as tourists or business travelers without a visa for periods not to exceed 90 days. There are currently 40 countries participating in the Visa Waiver Program. Qualified nationals of VWP countries must be admissible to the United States and not have violated the terms of any previous admission under the VWP, possess a valid machine-readable passport, travel on an approved carrier and possess a round trip ticket if arriving by air or sea, and obtain travel authorization through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA). VWP travelers also waive their right to contest an immigration officer's determination of admissibility and their right to contest removal, other than on the basis of an application for asylum and related protections. Nationals of VWP countries traveling to the United States for a purpose other than tourism or business or whose stay will exceed 90 days must obtain a visa.¹²

Mexican Tourist and Business Admissions. Mexican citizens residing in Mexico who meet the requirements for a B1/B2 visa (temporary visitor for business or pleasure), who have a valid Mexican passport, and who demonstrate that they will return to Mexico upon completion of their stay may be eligible for a Border Crossing Card (BCC) or "laser visa." The BCC is a machine-readable card that is valid for 10 years and contains fingerprint and other biometric data.¹³ Stand-alone BCC cards authorize travel for up to 30 days within the U.S.-Mexico border region,¹⁴ or BCCs may be used in combination with a Mexican passport as a regular B1/B2 visa for admission for up to 180 days anywhere in the United States. Mexican nationals also may apply for regular B1/B2 visas, which are affixed to their passports. Most Mexican nationals remaining in the border zone are not required to fill out I-94 forms and are excluded from this report's data tables, as described in detail below.

Canadian Tourist and Business Admissions. Temporary Canadian visitors for business or pleasure to the United States are required to possess a valid Canadian passport or other Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative-approved form of identification but generally are not required to obtain a visa or apply for travel authorization through ESTA or to fill out I-94 forms. They are excluded from this report's data tables.

¹¹The Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application and related information are available at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/tourism-visit/visitor.html>.

¹²See <https://www.dhs.gov/visa-waiver-program> for additional details on the VWP.

¹³Mexican children under 15 years pay a reduced fee for a BCC. BCCs issued for the reduced fee expire on the child's 15th birthday unless the full fee is paid, in which case the child receives a BCC valid for the full 10 years. Visit <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/tourism-visit/border-crossing-card.html> for additional information on BCCs.

¹⁴The current BCC border zone is within 25 miles of the border in California and Texas, within 55 miles of the border in New Mexico, and within 75 miles of the border in Arizona.

TRENDS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF I-94 NONIMMIGRANT ADMISSIONS

Nonimmigrant Admissions during the COVID pandemic

Noncitizen flows in 2021 were not representative of typical trends in place prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic impacted both foreign nationals living within the United States and prospective travelers to the United States, creating difficulties such as travel restrictions and processing shutdowns and revealing status-specific vulnerabilities in terms of health care. The 2016-2021 period also saw numerous policy changes on immigration, including major changes to enforcement. Due to the tumultuous nature of 2021, it is difficult to trace shifting immigration flows to a single factor; rather, it is important to note that many factors together contributed to a very atypical year for nonimmigrant admissions (Figures 1 and 2).

Class of Admission¹⁵

DHS granted 14 million I-94 nonimmigrant admissions in 2021, a 63 percent decrease from 2020 and down 80 percent from the last 6 years' average prior to the global pandemic, during which nonimmigrant admissions grew by an average of 1.7 percent annually.^{16,17} The largest major class of admission in 2021 remained temporary visitors for pleasure (tourists), which represented 67 percent of I-94 admissions (Table 1 and Figure 3). Tourists include entrants under the Tourist Visitor Visa (B2), the Visa Waiver Program (WT), and the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program (GMT). B2 visas accounted for 60 percent of total admissions, and the Visa Waiver Program for another 6.5 percent.

Of the I-94 nonimmigrant admissions in 2021, 10 percent were in the temporary visitors for business category, down from 11 percent in 2020 and accounting for a decrease of 2.9 million nonimmigrants. Business visitors include entrants under the Business Visitor Visa (B1), the Visa Waiver Program (WB), and the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program (GMB).

Temporary workers and their families accounted for 14 percent of I-94 nonimmigrant admissions in 2021. Leading classes of admission among the worker visas were H2A temporary agricultural workers, TN (NAFTA) professional workers,¹⁸ H1B temporary workers in specialty occupations, and L1 intracompany transferees.¹⁹ Students and their families (F1, M1, F2, and M2 visas) represented 5.9 percent of I-94 admissions, proportionally

¹⁵For more information and definitions of the various classes of admission mentioned in this report, please visit: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/all-visa-categories.html>.

¹⁶Beginning in 2013, automation of Form I-94 collection caused a significant increase in I-94 counts, making trends prior to 2014 not comparable to those after.

¹⁷For additional data on admissions, please see the 2020 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics at <https://www.dhs.gov/immigration-statistics/yearbook/2020>. A full list of the classes of admission is also available at <https://www.dhs.gov/immigration-statistics/nonimmigrant/NonimmigrantCOA>.

¹⁸TN class of admission allows qualified Canadian and Mexican citizens temporary entry into the United States for business activities at a professional level. These include, for example, accountants, engineers, lawyers, pharmacists, scientists, and teachers.

¹⁹Intra-company transferees include executive, managerial, and specialized personnel entering to continue employment with an office of the same employer, its parent, branch, subsidiary, or affiliate thereof.

doubling that of 2020, but representing 120,000 fewer admissions.

Country of Citizenship

The top five leading countries of citizenship for I-94 nonimmigrant admissions to the United States in 2021 were Mexico, Canada, Colombia, India, and the Dominican Republic, totaling 8 million or 58 percent of total admissions (Table 2). In comparison, the top five leading countries in 2020 were Mexico, Canada, the United Kingdom, Japan, and South Korea, totaling 23 million nonimmigrant admissions or 61 percent of the total. Overall, Mexicans and Canadians accounted for 6 million or 45 percent of the total I-94 admissions in 2021. All admissions from VWP countries totaled 1.7 million or 13 percent of the total.

Ports of Entry

The ten largest POEs accounted for 8.6 million I-94 nonimmigrant admissions, 63 percent of the overall total in 2021 (Table 3). The top five POEs in admissions accounted for 45 percent of nonimmigrants: Miami (2.3 million), New York (1.2 million), Houston (1 million), Los Angeles (0.9 million), and Boston (0.7 million). Of the top ten POEs, New York, NY and Toronto, Canada²⁰ saw the largest decreases in admissions compared to 2020, down 79 and 63 percent, respectively. Houston and Dallas, TX were the only two POEs in the top ten to experience an increase in admissions from 2020, up 8.7 percent and 1.8 percent, respectively.

Reported State of Destination²¹

The most frequently reported states of destination for I-94 nonimmigrant admissions in 2021 were Florida (23 percent of the total), Texas (15 percent), California (14 percent), New York (8.7 percent), and Arizona (3.6 percent) (Table 4). These five states were the recorded destinations for 64 percent of the total or 8.7 million I-94 nonimmigrant admissions in 2021. In comparison, these same top five states accounted for 64 percent of the total or 23 million in 2020.

²⁰Nonimmigrants admitted to the United States through Toronto are admitted via the CBP preclearance program, through which CBP officers conduct the same immigration, customs, and agriculture inspections of international air passengers that are normally performed on arrival in the United States before passenger departures. Preclearance operations currently take place at 15 foreign airports in six different countries, including from Toronto and Vancouver in Canada.

²¹The state of destination reported by arriving nonimmigrants may not be their final destination for various reasons and also is not a required field on Form I-94. Data in this section therefore should be interpreted with caution.

Age and Sex

In 2021, 59 percent of I-94 admissions (8 million) were individuals between the ages of 25 to 54, a similar proportion as in 2020 (Table 5, Figure 4). The number of nonimmigrant admissions of those aged 55 to 64 years decreased to 1.6 million (12 percent) in 2021 from 4.9 million (13.2 percent) in 2020 (down 68 percent, the largest decrease of any age group). In 2021, 45 percent of I-94 nonimmigrant admissions were female and 55 percent were male. In comparison, 47 percent were female, and 53 percent were male in 2020.

THE I-94 FORM

Detailed nonimmigrant data in this report were obtained from CBP's TECS database, which maintains I-94 information.

Table 3.

Nonimmigrant Admissions (I-94 only) by Port of Entry: Fiscal Years 2019 to 2021

Ranked by Port of Entry admissions count in 2021.

Port of entry	2019		2020		2021	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	81,563,139	100.0	37,176,105	100.0	13,623,118	100.0
Miami, FL	5,998,033	7.4	2,866,240	7.7	2,346,017	17.2
New York, NY	7,466,278	9.2	3,109,094	8.4	1,150,489	8.4
Houston, TX	1,925,661	2.4	941,159	2.5	1,022,867	7.5
Los Angeles, CA	5,407,972	6.6	2,216,733	6.0	892,926	6.6
Boston, MA	2,386,786	2.9	1,030,273	2.8	719,661	5.3
Dallas, TX	1,489,147	1.8	696,557	1.9	709,312	5.2
Toronto, Canada	4,717,081	5.8	2,274,627	6.1	470,838	3.5
Chicago, IL	2,016,504	2.5	778,485	2.1	460,120	3.4
Newark, NJ	2,435,602	3.0	1,035,496	2.8	453,234	3.3
Atlanta, GA	1,639,548	2.0	710,183	1.9	384,942	2.8
Other	45,794,196	56.2	21,358,290	57.4	4,926,226	36.2
Unknown	286,331	0.4	158,968	0.4	86,486	0.6

Source: DHS Office of Immigration Statistics.

Table 4.

Nonimmigrant Admissions (I-94 only) by State of Destination: Fiscal Years 2019 to 2021

Ranked by State of Destination admissions count in 2021.

State of destination	2019		2020		2021	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	81,563,139	100.0	37,176,105	100.0	13,623,118	100.0
Florida	11,547,672	14.2	5,835,658	15.7	3,157,503	23.2
Texas	9,461,551	11.6	4,634,077	12.5	2,002,632	14.7
California	15,542,204	19.1	7,167,202	19.3	1,859,671	13.7
New York	8,969,038	11.0	3,826,288	10.3	1,183,339	8.7
Arizona	2,816,342	3.5	1,615,484	4.3	486,163	3.6
Michigan	1,122,095	1.4	587,019	1.6	367,311	2.7
New Jersey	1,451,345	1.8	603,570	1.6	364,637	2.7
Illinois	1,686,954	2.1	688,509	1.9	341,868	2.5
Georgia	992,139	1.2	470,421	1.3	274,610	2.0
Nevada	2,879,103	3.5	1,276,475	3.4	251,956	1.8
Other	17,647,326	21.6	7,966,674	21.4	2,703,920	19.8
Unknown	7,447,370	9.1	2,504,728	6.7	629,508	4.6

Source: DHS Office of Immigration Statistics.

Table 5.

Nonimmigrant Admissions (I-94 only) by Age Category and Sex: Fiscal Years 2019 to 2021

Age Group	2019			2020			2021		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Total	39,507,878	42,037,028	81,563,139	17,574,617	19,599,348	37,176,105	6,112,397	7,509,504	13,623,118
Under 18 years	4,401,723	4,247,488	8,650,717	1,783,682	1,728,552	3,512,406	607,046	587,993	1,195,182
18 to 24 years	3,746,863	3,418,313	7,166,479	1,654,121	1,602,501	3,256,762	737,749	888,840	1,626,675
25 to 34 years	8,103,108	8,617,285	16,723,129	3,761,300	4,296,383	8,058,082	1,288,613	1,822,061	3,110,932
35 to 44 years	6,985,061	9,030,238	16,018,302	3,136,456	4,305,372	7,442,162	1,065,040	1,653,718	2,719,051
45 to 54 years	6,778,784	7,993,425	14,775,662	2,960,927	3,671,634	6,632,882	972,521	1,293,212	2,265,936
55 to 64 years	5,533,981	5,300,485	10,837,381	2,481,868	2,430,315	4,912,449	810,306	771,137	1,581,574
65 years and over	3,955,956	3,427,523	7,386,155	1,795,299	1,563,692	3,359,333	631,090	492,488	1,123,669
Unknown	2,402	2,271	5,314	964	899	2,029	32	55	99

Source: DHS Office of Immigration Statistics.

In general, Canadians traveling to the United States on B1 tourist or B2 business visas are not required to complete the I-94 form; Canadian nonimmigrants in all other visa classes are required to do so. Mexican tourists and business visitors traveling with a BCC or a Form I-872, American Indian Card, and remaining in the border zone generally are not required to complete an I-94, depending on the length of their visits.²² These exceptions are significant because Canadian and Mexican tourists and business visitors make up most of all nonimmigrant admissions.²³

Readers should exercise caution when interpreting trends in I-94 admissions because I-94 policies and processing have changed in recent years. Between 2005 and March 2010, DHS completed updates to computer systems at vehicular lanes and pedestrian crossings along the Northern and Southwest Borders to record land admissions that previously were excluded from I-94 data systems. Consequently, the ratio of I-94 admissions to all nonimmigrant admissions in 2010 and 2011 exceeded those in previous years. Beginning in April 2013, CBP automated the I-94 process for nonimmigrants admitted at air and seaports. As part of this automation, CBP began generating electronic I-94s for short-term Canadian tourists and business travelers admitted at air and seaports who had previously been exempted from the form—a change resulting in additional increases in the I-94 data. (Canadian tourists and business travelers entering at land POEs are still largely excluded from the I-94 data.) CBP also implemented a new electronic ESTA system in 2009²⁴ and a new I-94 data-collection system in 2013 through the Automated Passport Control

²²Mexicans with BCCs may remain in the border zone for up to 30 days without obtaining an I-94; Mexicans entering with a passport and visa or an I-872 American Indian Card may remain in the border zone for up to 72 hours without obtaining an I-94. Mexicans traveling beyond the border zone, those who will remain beyond the time periods indicated above, and those who seek entry for purposes other than as a temporary visitor for business or pleasure are required to obtain and complete an I-94.

²³In addition to the Mexican and Canadian exemptions from I-94 requirements, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) officials seeking N1-N5 nonimmigrant classification also are not required to submit an I-94 but may do so to document their admissions. Members of the foreign military generally are not issued an I-94 when entering the United States under military orders.

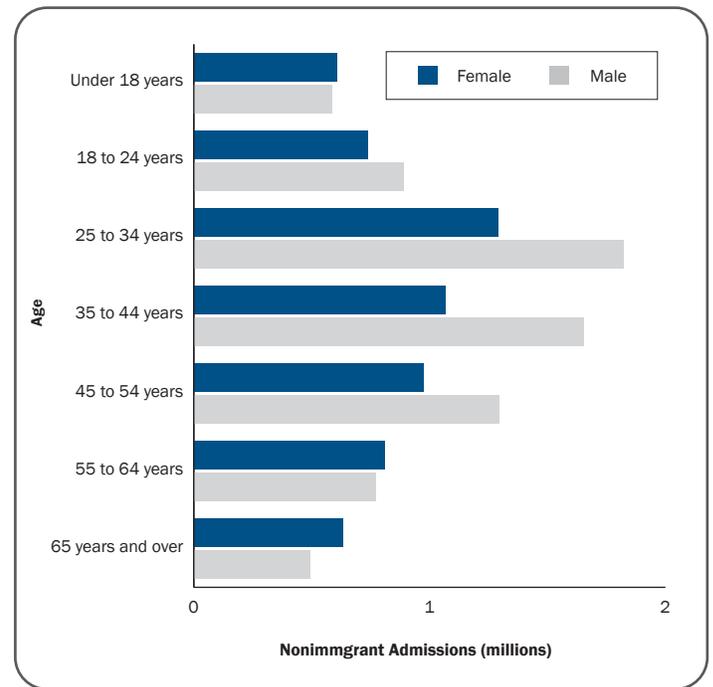
²⁴See the ESTA Implementation Timeline at <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/frequently-asked-questions-about-visa-waiver-program-vwp-and-electronic-system-travel>.

(APC) and Global Entry trusted traveler programs. These updates have resulted in more complete recording of country of citizenship but less complete recording of country of residence, sex, and state of destination.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the OIS web page at <http://www.dhs.gov/immigration-statistics>.

Figure 4.
Nonimmigrant Admissions (I-94 only) by Age Category and Sex: Fiscal Years 2019 to 2021



Source: DHS Office of Immigration Statistics.