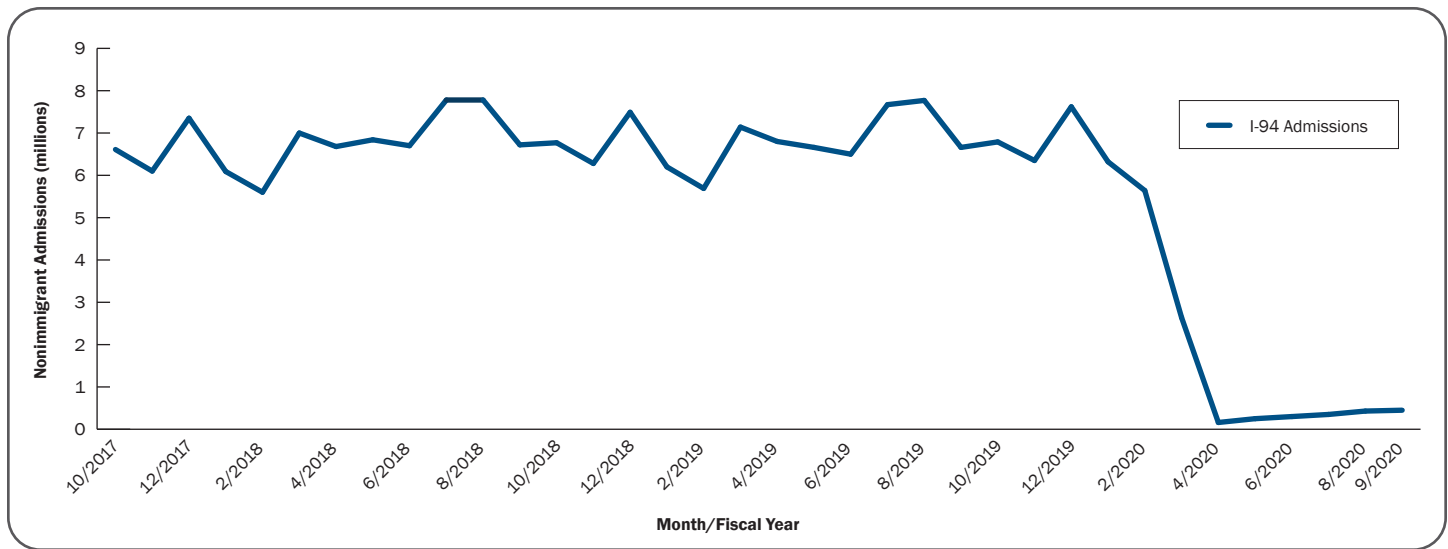


Figure 2.

I-94/I-94W Nonimmigrant Admissions: Fiscal Years 2018 to 2020



Source: DHS Office of Immigration Statistics

temporary visitors for business and pleasure, 6.9 percent were temporary workers and their families, and 2.5 percent were students and their families (Table 1). The five leading countries of citizenship for I-94/I-94W admissions were Mexico (30 percent), Canada (18 percent), the United Kingdom (5.8 percent), Japan (4.7 percent), and South Korea (3.0 percent). These countries were also the leading countries of citizenship in 2019 except for South Korea, which replaced the People’s Republic of China.

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).⁵ 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.

⁵ 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.

I-94 Nonimmigrants

The remainder of this report focuses exclusively on nonimmigrants who fill out paper and electronic Forms I-94/ I-94W, 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 most of short-term visitors from Mexico and Canada. Specific information regarding the I-94 form is located at the end of this report.

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

This report covers admission events in 2020, 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/I-94W 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*.⁶ Admission numbers 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).

⁶ Available at <https://www.dhs.gov/immigration-statistics/factsheets>.

