

Nonimmigrant Admissions to the United States: 2012

RANDALL MONGER

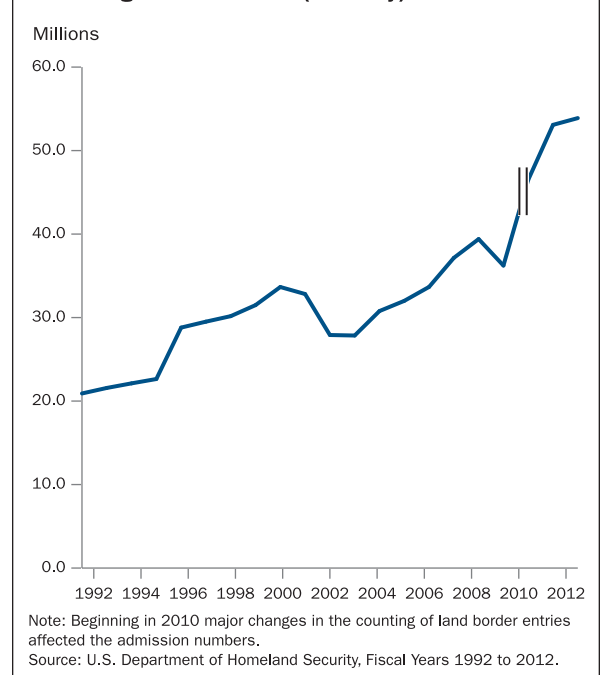
Nonimmigrants are foreign nationals granted temporary admission into the United States. The major purposes for which nonimmigrant admission may be authorized include temporary visits for business or pleasure, academic or vocational study, temporary employment, or to act as a representative of a foreign government or international organization. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) collects information on the characteristics of certain nonimmigrant admissions from I-94 arrival records. This Office of Immigration Statistics Annual Flow Report presents information gathered from I-94s on the number and characteristics of nonimmigrant admissions to the United States in 2012.¹

During 2012, there were 165 million nonimmigrant admissions to the United States according to DHS workload estimates.² These admissions included tourists and business travelers from Canada, Mexican nationals with Border Crossing Cards, and admissions of nonimmigrants who are issued Form I-94 (I-94 admissions³). I-94 admissions accounted for 33 percent (53.9 million) of the total admissions (see Figure 1). The majority (89 percent) of I-94 admissions were temporary visitors for business and pleasure, while 5.7 percent were temporary workers and families and 3.1 percent were students. The leading countries of citizenship for I-94 admissions were Mexico, the United Kingdom, and Japan.

DEFINING “NONIMMIGRANT”

Nonimmigrants are aliens whose classes of admission are specified in Section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Examples of nonimmigrant classes of admission include foreign government officials; temporary visitors for business and pleasure; aliens in transit; treaty traders and investors; academic and vocational students; temporary workers; exchange visitors; athletes and entertainers; victims of certain crimes; and family members of U.S. citizens, persons granted lawful permanent residence (legal permanent residents), and special immigrants. Maximum duration of stay is determined by class of admission. A person granted

Figure 1.
Nonimmigrant Admissions (I-94 only): 1992 to 2012



lawful permanent resident status⁴ is authorized to live, work, and study in the U.S. permanently; conversely, a nonimmigrant is authorized a temporary status for a specific purpose. The nonimmigrant’s activities, such as employment, travel, and accompaniment by dependents, are prescribed by his or her class of admission.

¹ In this report, years refer to fiscal years (October 1 to September 30).

² U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Operations Management Reporting, Fiscal Year 2012.

³ For this report, I-94 admissions refer to admissions documented with paper Form I-94/I-94Ws and electronic I-94Ws.

⁴ Commonly referred to as a legal permanent resident (LPR) or “green card recipient.”



Homeland Security

Office of Immigration Statistics
POLICY DIRECTORATE

THE NONIMMIGRANT ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Defining “Admissions”

In this report, nonimmigrant admissions refer to number of events (i.e., entries into the U.S.) rather than individuals. More than one entry by the same individual on the same day is counted as one admission. Admission numbers presented in this report will differ from the number of Department of State visa issuances, which includes all visas that were issued regardless of whether, or how many times, the foreign national entered the United States.

Eligibility

In order to qualify for admission in a nonimmigrant status, a foreign national generally must meet all of the following criteria: establish that the visit will be temporary, agree to depart at the end of the authorized stay, possess a valid passport maintain a foreign residence (in most cases), be able to provide proof of financial support, be admissible to the U.S. or have been granted a waiver for any grounds of inadmissibility, and abide by the terms and conditions of admission.

Documentary Requirements

In 2012, applicants for nonimmigrant admission were required to complete a paper Form I-94/I-94W or Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA)⁵ registration to enter the United States. However, Mexican nationals with Border Crossing Cards (when traveling within the border zone for a limited duration) and tourists and business travelers from Canada were generally exempt from these requirements.⁶

The Border Crossing Card (BCC) or “laser visa” issued to Mexican nationals is a machine-readable card that is valid for 10 years and contains a biometric indicator, such as a fingerprint. Applicants for a BCC must meet the same qualifications as applicants for a B1/B2 visa (temporary visitor for business or pleasure), have a valid Mexican passport, and demonstrate that they will return to Mexico upon completion of their stay.

I-94 Admissions

Visa Required. If a visa is necessary for entry, the foreign national typically must apply at a U.S. embassy or consulate. The Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application, Form DS-160, or the Nonimmigrant Visa Application, Form DS-156, must be submitted for all applicants; further, an interview generally is required for all applicants aged 14 to 79 years. Possession of a valid visa does not guarantee admission. A U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer determines if the nonimmigrant may enter the U.S. and the authorized duration of stay. During 2012, foreign nationals with nonimmigrant visas were required to complete the paper Form I-94.

Visa Waiver Program. The Visa Waiver Program (VWP) allows nationals from designated countries to travel to the United States as tourists

⁵ ESTA is an internet-based system that determines the preliminary eligibility of visitors to be admitted under the Visa Waiver Program prior to their embarking on trips to the United States. ESTA registration must be renewed every two years or when a visitor's passport expires, whichever occurs earlier. An electronic I-94W record is created upon admission at air and sea ports for ESTA-registered VWP entrants.

⁶ North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) officials (seeking N1-N5 nonimmigrant classification) were also not required to submit an I-94 but may do so to document their admissions.

or business travelers without a visa for a period not to exceed 90 days. It was established, initially as a pilot program, in 1986 with the intent to eliminate barriers to travel, to facilitate tourism, and to promote better relations with U.S. allies. Qualified nationals of VWP countries must be admissible to the United States and not previously violated the terms of any previous admission under the VWP; possess a valid unexpired machine-readable passport; travel on an approved carrier and possess a return trip ticket if arriving by air or sea; obtain travel authorization from ESTA); and waive their right to contest an immigration officer's determination of admissibility and the right to contest removal, other than on the basis of an application for asylum. At air and sea ports, an electronic I-94W record is created upon admission for ESTA-registered VWP entrants; at land ports, the paper Form I-94W is required. Nationals of VWP countries must obtain a visa if they are traveling to the U.S. for a purpose other than tourism or business or if their stay will exceed 90 days.

During 2012, 36 countries participated in the Visa Waiver Program: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, South Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

The Guam-Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands Visa Waiver Program (GCVWP) permits nationals of designated countries and geographic areas to be admitted to Guam or the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) without a visa. Admissions under the GCVWP may not exceed 45 days in Guam and/or CNMI. In 2012, Australia, Brunei, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom were included in the GCVWP.⁷

DATA

The data in this report were obtained from TECS, a computer system used by CBP, which compiles and maintains information collected from nonimmigrants on the paper Form I-94/I-94W and electronic I-94W. Information collected from these I-94 records includes arrival and departure dates, port of entry, class of admission, country of citizenship, state of destination, age, and sex. Caution should be exercised when interpreting trends in I-94 admissions, as year-to-year changes may not necessarily reflect changes in travel patterns or the demand for nonimmigrant entry into the U.S. For example, land admissions increased markedly in 2010 and 2011 because of changes in the way in which admissions were counted.⁸ Further, land admissions in 2012 were substantially affected by major construction at San Ysidro, the highest volume land port of entry in the U.S.

⁷ On November 28, 2009, the GCVWP replaced the Guam Visa Waiver Program (GVWP) which permitted nationals of participating countries to be admitted to Guam without a visa. Australia, Brunei, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, South Korea, Singapore, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and Vanuatu were included in the GVWP when it ended.

⁸ 2011 was the first full year in which nearly all land admissions were recorded. See Monger and Mathews, 2011 for a more detailed discussion of how counting changes affected admissions.

CHARACTERISTICS OF I-94 NONIMMIGRANT ADMISSIONS

Class of Admission

There were 53,887,286 I-94 nonimmigrant admissions in 2012 (See Table 1). The largest category of admission in 2012 was temporary visitors for pleasure which represented 78 percent of admissions. This category includes the B2 (temporary visitors for pleasure) and WT (Visa Waiver Program—temporary visitors for pleasure) classes of admission which accounted for 45 and 30 percent, respectively, of all admissions. Approximately 11 percent of admissions in 2012 were in the temporary visitors for business category of admission. B1 (temporary visitors for business) admissions represented 5.5 percent of all admissions and WB (Visa Waiver Program—temporary visitors for business) accounted for 5.1 percent. About 5.7 percent of all admissions were by temporary workers and their

families. The leading classes of admission in this category were TN NAFTA professional workers (1.4 percent), H1B workers in specialty occupations (0.9 percent), and L1 intracompany transferees (0.9 percent). Students accounted for 3.1 percent of admissions. F1 academic students was the largest class of admission in this category representing 2.9 percent of all admissions.

Country of Citizenship

The leading countries of citizenship for nonimmigrant admissions to the United States in 2012 were Mexico (31 percent), the United Kingdom (8.3 percent), Japan (7.7 percent), Germany (4.3 percent), France (3.6 percent), Brazil (3.3 percent), China (3.3 percent), South Korea (2.8 percent), Canada (2.7 percent), and Australia (2.5 percent) (see Table 2).

Table 1.

Nonimmigrant Admissions (I-94 only) by Class of Admission: Fiscal Years 2010 to 2012

Class of admission	2012		2011		2010	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	53,887,286	100.0	53,082,286	100.0	46,471,516	100.0
Temporary workers and families	3,049,419	5.7	3,385,775	6.4	2,816,525	6.1
Temporary workers and trainees	1,900,582	3.5	2,092,028	3.9	1,682,132	3.6
CNMI-only transitional worker (CW1)	10	—	—	—	—	—
Workers in specialty occupations (H1B)	473,015	0.9	494,565	0.9	454,763	1.0
Chile and Singapore Free Trade Agreement (H1B1)	D	—	30	—	163	—
Registered nurses participating in the Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Act (H1C)	29	—	124	—	295	—
Agricultural workers (H2A)	183,860	0.3	188,411	0.4	139,406	0.3
Nonagricultural workers and returning H2B workers (H2B, H2R)	82,921	0.2	79,862	0.2	69,499	0.1
Trainees (H3)	4,081	—	3,279	—	3,078	—
Workers with extraordinary ability or achievement and their assistants (O1, O2)	70,611	0.1	67,724	0.1	63,984	0.1
Internationally recognized athletes or entertainers (P1)	84,209	0.2	84,545	0.2	72,917	0.2
Artists or entertainers in reciprocal exchange or culturally unique programs (P2, P3)	22,116	—	22,660	—	20,882	—
Workers in international cultural exchange programs (Q1)	2,494	—	2,331	—	2,430	—
Workers in religious occupations (R1)	15,906	—	19,683	—	21,043	—
North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) professional workers (TN)	733,692	1.4	899,455	1.7	634,121	1.4
Spouses and children of temporary workers and trainees (CW2, H4, O3, P4, R2, TD)	227,637	0.4	229,359	0.4	199,551	0.4
Intracompany transferees	717,893	1.3	788,187	1.5	702,460	1.5
Intracompany transferees (L1)	498,899	0.9	562,776	1.1	502,732	1.1
Spouses and children of intracompany transferees (L2)	218,994	0.4	225,411	0.4	199,728	0.4
Treaty traders and investors and spouses and children (E1 to E3)	386,472	0.7	454,101	0.9	383,700	0.8
Representatives of foreign media and their spouses and children (I1)	44,472	0.1	51,459	0.1	48,233	0.1
Students	1,653,576	3.1	1,788,962	3.4	1,595,078	3.4
Academic students (F1)	1,566,815	2.9	1,702,730	3.2	1,514,783	3.3
Vocational students (M1)	17,600	—	18,824	—	17,641	—
Spouses and children of academic and vocational students (F2, M2)	69,161	0.1	67,408	0.1	62,654	0.1
Exchange visitors	475,232	0.9	526,931	1.0	543,335	1.2
Exchange visitors (J1)	421,425	0.8	469,993	0.9	484,740	1.0
Spouses and children of exchange visitors (J2)	53,807	0.1	56,938	0.1	58,595	0.1
Diplomats and other representatives	365,779	0.7	377,830	0.7	380,241	0.8
Ambassadors, public ministers, career diplomats, consular officers, other foreign government officials and their spouses, children, and attendants (A1 to A3)	207,349	0.4	215,186	0.4	214,111	0.5
Representatives to international organizations and their spouses, children, and attendants (G1 to G5)	135,623	0.3	139,378	0.3	141,492	0.3
NATO officials and their families (N1 to N7)	22,807	—	23,266	—	24,638	0.1
Temporary visitors for pleasure	42,025,488	78.0	40,578,964	76.4	35,131,310	75.6
Temporary visitors for pleasure (B2)	24,476,086	45.4	23,806,138	44.8	19,144,042	41.2
Visa Waiver Program – temporary visitors for pleasure (WT)	16,364,370	30.4	15,706,067	29.6	14,821,569	31.9
Guam Visa Waiver Program – temporary visitors for pleasure to Guam (GT)	X	—	X	—	120,544	0.3
Guam – CNMI Visa Waiver Program – temporary visitors for pleasure to Guam or Northern Mariana Islands (GMT)	1,185,032	2.2	1,066,759	2.0	1,045,155	2.2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1.

Nonimmigrant Admissions (I-94 only) by Class of Admission: Fiscal Years 2010 to 2012 — Continued

Class of admission	2012		2011		2010	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Temporary visitors for business	5,705,106	10.6	5,694,809	10.7	5,205,980	11.2
Temporary visitors for business (B1)	2,972,355	5.5	3,055,932	5.8	2,944,397	6.3
Visa Waiver Program – temporary visitors for business (WB)	2,729,775	5.1	2,635,472	5.0	2,256,611	4.9
Guam Visa Waiver Program – temporary visitors for business to Guam (GB)	X	–	X	–	904	–
Guam – CNMI Visa Waiver Program – temporary visitors for business to Guam or Northern Mariana Islands (GMB)	2,976	–	3,405	–	4,068	–
Transit aliens	313,514	0.6	322,499	0.6	327,584	0.7
Aliens in continuous and immediate transit through the United States (C1)	289,105	0.5	296,636	0.6	304,023	0.7
Aliens in transit to the United Nations (C2)	4,158	–	4,397	–	2,987	–
Foreign government officials, their spouses, children, and attendants in transit (C3)	20,251	–	21,466	–	20,574	–
Commuter Students	115,561	0.2	108,894	0.2	53,711	0.1
Canadian or Mexican national academic commuter students (F3)	115,561	0.2	108,892	0.2	53,711	0.1
Canadian or Mexican national vocational commuter students (M3)	–	–	D	–	–	–
Alien fiancé(e)s of U.S. citizens and children	32,102	0.1	27,700	0.1	34,893	0.1
Fiancé(e)s of U.S. citizens (K1)	27,977	0.1	24,112	–	30,445	0.1
Children of K1 (K2)	4,125	–	3,588	–	4,448	–
Alien spouses of U.S. citizens and children, immigrant visa pending	5,152	–	20,977	–	30,172	0.1
Spouses of U.S. citizens, visa pending (K3)	4,534	–	17,874	–	25,615	0.1
Children of U.S. citizens, visa pending (K4)	618	–	3,103	–	4,557	–
Alien spouses of U.S. permanent residents and children, immigrant visa pending	3,075	–	9,122	–	8,638	–
Spouses of permanent residents, visa pending (V1)	1,928	–	3,659	–	3,620	–
Children of permanent residents, visa pending (V2)	449	–	2,546	–	2,206	–
Dependents of V1 or V2, visa pending (V3)	698	–	2,917	–	2,812	–
Other	91	–	93	–	92	–
Unknown	143,191	0.3	239,730	0.5	343,957	0.7

X Not applicable.

– Represents zero or rounds to 0.0.

D Data withheld to limit disclosure.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), TECS, Arrival File, Fiscal Years 2010 to 2012.

Table 2.

Nonimmigrant Admissions (I-94 only) by Country of Citizenship: Fiscal Years 2010 to 2012

Country of citizenship	2012		2011		2010	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	53,887,286	100.0	53,082,286	100.0	46,471,516	100.0
Mexico	16,462,118	30.5	17,052,559	32.1	12,917,788	27.8
United Kingdom	4,486,666	8.3	4,547,728	8.6	4,539,433	9.8
Japan	4,141,299	7.7	3,777,643	7.1	3,831,174	8.2
Germany	2,308,207	4.3	2,182,441	4.1	2,076,216	4.5
France	1,913,551	3.6	1,845,227	3.5	1,696,770	3.7
Brazil	1,792,425	3.3	1,539,015	2.9	1,233,457	2.7
China	1,756,747	3.3	1,364,078	2.6	1,038,279	2.2
Korea, South	1,527,085	2.8	1,460,972	2.8	1,332,387	2.9
Canada	1,466,120	2.7	1,868,179	3.5	1,428,940	3.1
Australia	1,331,669	2.5	1,246,091	2.3	1,037,683	2.2
Other	16,406,792	30.4	15,698,851	29.6	14,773,452	31.8
Unknown	294,607	0.5	499,502	0.9	565,937	1.2

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), TECS, Arrival File, Fiscal Years 2010 to 2012.

Port of Entry

The largest 20 ports of entry represented 69 percent of nonimmigrant admissions in 2012 (see Table 3). About half of all nonimmigrants were admitted through the following ports of entry: New York (11 percent), Miami (9.5 percent), Los Angeles (7.2 percent), Newark (3.9 percent), San Ysidro (3.9 percent), Honolulu (3.5 percent), San Francisco (3.5 percent), Chicago (3 percent), Houston (2.6 percent), and Atlanta (2.6 percent). Admissions at San Ysidro, CA decreased 25 percent from 2011 to 2012. Notable increases in admissions occurred at Honolulu, HI (20 percent increase), Dallas, TX (15 percent increase), Agana, GU (11 percent increase), and Miami, FL (8.5 percent increase).

State of Destination

The most frequent states of destination for I-94 nonimmigrant admissions in 2012 were California (19 percent), Florida (13 percent), Texas (13 percent), and New York (12 percent) (see Table 4). These four states represented the destinations of 57 percent of foreign nationals admitted.

Age and Sex

In 2012, 61 percent of I-94 admissions were accounted for by individuals aged 25 to 54, and 52 percent of nonimmigrant admissions were male (see Table 5). Age and sex distributions remained relatively unchanged between 2010 and 2012.

Table 3.

Nonimmigrant Admissions (I-94 only) by Port of Entry: Fiscal Years 2010 to 2012

Port of entry	2012		2011		2010	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	53,887,286	100.0	53,082,286	100.0	46,471,516	100.0
New York, NY	5,744,877	10.7	5,344,781	10.1	5,119,971	11.0
Miami, FL	5,115,113	9.5	4,712,293	8.9	4,277,515	9.2
Los Angeles, CA	3,905,034	7.2	3,734,815	7.0	3,420,098	7.4
Newark, NJ	2,088,591	3.9	2,181,506	4.1	2,260,006	4.9
San Ysidro, CA	2,082,911	3.9	2,781,270	5.2	1,862,181	4.0
Honolulu, HI	1,892,134	3.5	1,581,719	3.0	1,456,867	3.1
San Francisco, CA	1,859,836	3.5	1,777,202	3.3	1,634,512	3.5
Chicago, IL	1,606,615	3.0	1,596,960	3.0	1,567,273	3.4
Houston, TX	1,382,759	2.6	1,425,534	2.7	1,291,591	2.8
Atlanta, GA	1,379,717	2.6	1,397,240	2.6	1,341,807	2.9
Otay Mesa, CA	1,303,897	2.4	1,215,475	2.3	1,000,424	2.2
Juarez-Lincoln Bridge, TX	1,302,120	2.4	1,273,830	2.4	905,928	1.9
Agana, GUAM	1,202,976	2.2	1,083,381	2.0	1,152,925	2.5
Washington, DC	1,165,318	2.2	1,127,737	2.1	1,124,523	2.4
Orlando, FL	1,048,272	1.9	924,684	1.7	928,145	2.0
Nogales, AZ	1,012,572	1.9	1,056,990	2.0	847,218	1.8
Dallas, TX	914,619	1.7	795,472	1.5	684,861	1.5
Hidalgo, TX	797,264	1.5	642,152	1.2	445,073	1.0
Bridge of the Americas, TX	756,757	1.4	880,325	1.7	741,650	1.6
Calexico East Port, CA	686,299	1.3	669,879	1.3	432,826	0.9
Other	16,463,045	30.6	16,691,741	31.4	13,914,741	29.9
Unknown	176,560	0.3	187,300	0.4	61,381	0.1

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), TECS, Arrival File, Fiscal Years 2010 to 2012.

Table 4.

Nonimmigrant Admissions (I-94 only) by State of Destination: Fiscal Years 2010 to 2012

State of destination	2012		2011		2010	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	53,887,286	100.0	53,082,286	100.0	46,471,516	100.0
California	10,208,709	18.9	10,306,971	19.4	8,251,404	17.8
Florida	7,234,508	13.4	6,690,019	12.6	6,064,266	13.0
Texas	6,854,454	12.7	6,559,787	12.4	4,739,265	10.2
New York	6,409,286	11.9	6,226,198	11.7	5,722,492	12.3
Hawaii	1,969,089	3.7	1,666,432	3.1	1,568,684	3.4
Nevada	1,793,376	3.3	1,729,040	3.3	1,481,485	3.2
Arizona	1,749,492	3.2	1,800,715	3.4	1,494,581	3.2
Washington	1,262,020	2.3	1,158,160	2.2	895,444	1.9
Michigan	1,158,744	2.2	1,338,947	2.5	999,172	2.2
Illinois	1,021,476	1.9	979,740	1.8	873,547	1.9
Other	9,952,348	18.5	9,787,909	18.4	9,082,064	19.5
Unknown	4,273,784	7.9	4,838,368	9.1	5,299,112	11.4

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), TECS, Arrival File, Fiscal Years 2010 to 2012.

Table 5.**Nonimmigrant Admissions (I-94 only) by Age and Sex: Fiscal Years 2010 to 2012**

Characteristic	2012		2011		2010	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
AGE						
Total	53,887,286	100.0	53,082,286	100.0	46,471,516	100.0
Under 18 years	6,067,171	11.3	5,771,094	10.9	4,898,300	10.5
18 to 24 years	4,978,091	9.2	4,910,932	9.3	4,413,891	9.5
25 to 34 years	11,433,982	21.2	11,402,173	21.5	10,192,941	21.9
35 to 44 years	11,685,053	21.7	11,844,788	22.3	10,231,864	22.0
45 to 54 years	9,566,343	17.8	9,422,045	17.7	8,100,205	17.4
55 to 64 years	6,181,493	11.5	6,003,548	11.3	5,306,174	11.4
65 years and over	3,873,243	7.2	3,623,230	6.8	3,225,188	6.9
Unknown	101,910	0.2	104,476	0.2	102,953	0.2
SEX						
Total	53,887,286	100.0	53,082,286	100.0	46,471,516	100.0
Male	27,825,034	51.6	27,385,129	51.6	23,828,461	51.3
Female	25,605,018	47.5	24,867,990	46.8	21,537,205	46.3
Unknown	457,234	0.8	829,167	1.6	1,105,850	2.4

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), TECS, Arrival File, Fiscal Years 2010 to 2012.

REFERENCES

Monger, Randall and Mathews, Megan, 2011. "Nonimmigrant Admissions to the United States: 2010," Office of Immigration Statistics, Policy Directorate, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/ni_fr_2010.pdf

Appendix A.

Nonimmigrant Classes of Admission

Class	Description
Temporary Workers and Families	
Temporary workers and trainees	
CW1	CNMI-only transitional workers
CW2	Spouses and children of CW1
H1B	Workers in specialty occupations
H1B1	Chile and Singapore Free Trade Agreement aliens
H1C	Registered nurses participating in the Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas
H2A	Agricultural workers
H2B	Nonagricultural workers
H2R	Returning H2B workers
H3	Trainees
H4	Spouses and children of H1, H2, or H3
O1	Workers with extraordinary ability or achievement
O2	Workers accompanying and assisting in performance of O1 workers
O3	Spouses and children of O1 and O2
P1.	Internationally recognized athletes or entertainers
P2.	Artists or entertainers in reciprocal exchange programs
P3.	Artists or entertainers in culturally unique programs
P4.	Spouses and children of P1, P2, or P3
Q1	Workers in international cultural exchange programs
R1	Workers in religious occupations
R2	Spouses and children of R1
TN.	North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) professional workers
TD.	Spouses and children of TN
Intracompany transferees	
L1.	Intracompany transferees
L2.	Spouses and children of L1
Treaty traders and investors	
E1.	Treaty traders and their spouses and children
E2.	Treaty investors and their spouses and children
E2C.	Treaty traders and their spouses and children CNMI-only
E3.	Australian Free Trade Agreement principals, spouses and children
Representatives of foreign information media	
I1	Representatives of foreign information media and spouses and children
Students	
F1.	Academic students
F2.	Spouses and children of F1
M1	Vocational students
M2	Spouses and children of M1
Exchange visitors	
J1	Exchange visitors
J2	Spouses and children of J1
Diplomats and other representatives	
A1.	Ambassadors, public ministers, career diplomatic or consular officers and their families
A2.	Other foreign government officials or employees and their families
A3.	Attendants, servants, or personal employees of A1 and A2 and their families
G1	Principals of recognized foreign governments
G2	Other representatives of recognized foreign governments
G3	Representatives of nonrecognized or nonmember foreign governments
G4	International organization officers or employees
G5	Attendants, servants, or personal employees of representatives
N1 to N7	North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) officials, spouses, and children
Temporary visitors for pleasure	
B2	Temporary visitors for pleasure
WT	Visa Waiver Program – temporary visitors for pleasure
GT.	Guam Visa Waiver Program – temporary visitors for pleasure to Guam
GMT	Guam-CNMI – temporary visitors for pleasure to Guam or Northern Mariana Islands

Appendix A.

Nonimmigrant Classes of Admission — Continued

Class	Description
Temporary visitors for business	
B1	Temporary visitors for business
WB	Visa Waiver Program – temporary visitors for business
GB	Guam Visa Waiver Program – temporary visitors for business to Guam
GMB	Guam-CNMI – temporary visitors for business to Guam or Northern Mariana Islands
Transit aliens	
C1	Aliens in continuous and immediate transit through the United States
C2	Aliens in transit to the United Nations
C3	Foreign government officials, their spouses, children, and attendants in transit
Commuter Students	
F3	Canadian or Mexican national academic commuter students
M3	Canadian or Mexican national vocational commuter students
Alien Fiancé(e)s of U.S. citizens	
K1	Fiancé(e)s of U.S. citizens
K2	Children of K1
Legal Immigration Family Equity (LIFE) Act	
K3	Spouses of U.S. citizens, immigrant visa pending
K4	Children of K3, immigrant visa pending
V1 to V3	Spouses and children of permanent residents, immigrant visa pending
Other	
N8	Parents of international organization special immigrants
N9	Children of N8 or international organization special immigrants
Q2	Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program aliens
Q3	Spouses and children of Q2

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.