



Nonimmigrant Admissions and Estimated Nonimmigrant Individuals: 2022

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Immigration

The U.S. Nonimmigrant Admissions Annual Flow Report,¹ authored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Homeland Security Statistics (OHSS), describes the number and characteristics of nonimmigrants who were issued a Form I-94 upon admission (I-94 nonimmigrant admission events), but not the number of unique individuals admitted on nonimmigrant visas who were issued a Form I-94 (referred to in this report as “I-94 nonimmigrants”). This distinction is important because many nonimmigrants enter the United States more than once on multiple-entry visas. This factsheet presents data on I-94 nonimmigrant admission events and on the estimated number of unique individuals admitted to the United States as nonimmigrants and issued a Form I-94 (I-94 nonimmigrants) in 2022.² Overall, an estimated 26.3 million individuals entered the United States as I-94 nonimmigrants in 2022, making a total of 44.9 million entries. These numbers are down considerably since the last factsheet on this topic was issued in 2016,³ when 42.7 million individuals entered the United States as I-94 nonimmigrants, and there were 76.8 million total entries.

In 2022, on average, each I-94 nonimmigrant was admitted 1.7 times. Average admissions per nonimmigrant were higher for Mexicans (3.1 entries per person) and Canadians (1.9 entries per person); and higher for B1 temporary visitors for business (2.7 entries per person) and B2 temporary visitors for pleasure (1.9 entries per person). These numbers are comparable to those seen in 2016, though average admissions then were slightly higher for Mexicans (4.4 average entries per person).

DATA AND METHODOLOGY

This factsheet is limited to I-94 nonimmigrants, who are foreign nationals with permanent residence outside the United States granted temporary admission to the United States for a specific purpose, including 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. As discussed in greater detail in OHSS’ U.S. Nonimmigrant Admissions report, I-94 data do not describe all nonimmigrant admissions because certain visitors are not required to provide I-94 information.⁴ In general, Canadians traveling to the United States on B1 business or B2 tourist visas and Mexicans entering with Border Crossing Cards (BCCs) or B1/B2 visas who plan to remain in the border region are not required to provide I-94 data.⁵ These exceptions are significant because Canadian and Mexican tourists and business travelers make up most non-I-94 nonimmigrant admissions, which were 54 percent of all nonimmigrant admissions in 2022.

Unique nonimmigrant admissions are not readily available because U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) does not typically assign unique identifiers to nonimmigrants admitted to the United States and does not record person level data. As a result, DHS normally reports on total admission events, while many nonimmigrants are admitted to the United States more than once on a given visa. Therefore, to estimate unique nonimmigrant individuals, OHSS matches I-94 admission records on birth date, last name, and first three characters of the first name to identify unique individuals and create estimates of the total number of individuals admitted on I-94 visas.⁶

¹ <https://www.dhs.gov/ohss/topics/immigration/nonimmigrant-af>

² Years refer to U.S. fiscal years, which run from October through September. Fiscal year 2022 began October 1, 2021, and ended September 30, 2022.

³ For additional information, please see the 2016 Nonimmigrant Admissions and Estimated Nonimmigrant Individuals factsheet at: <https://www.dhs.gov/ohss/publication/fact-sheets>

⁴ For additional information, please see the 2022 U.S. Nonimmigrant Admissions report at <https://www.dhs.gov/ohss/topics/immigration/nonimmigrant-af>

⁵ 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.

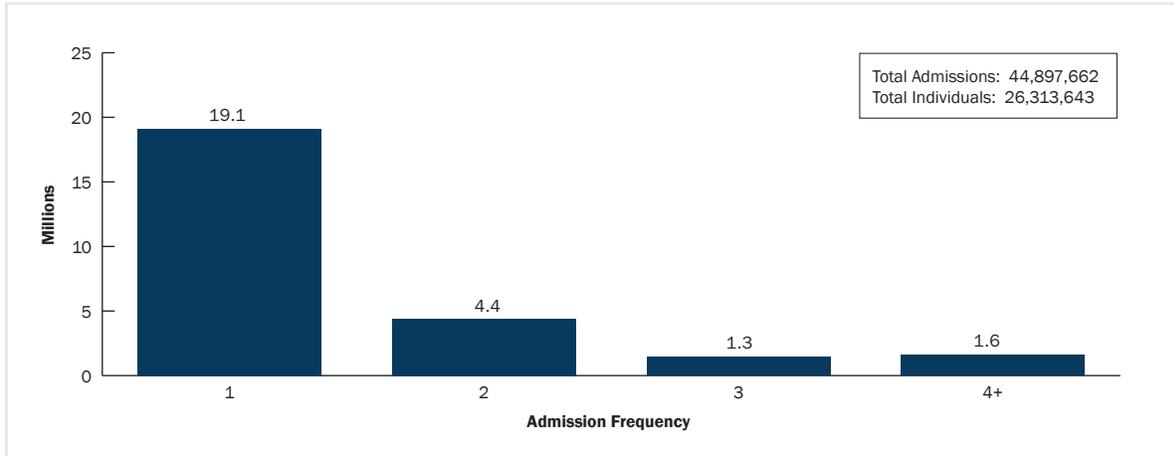
⁶ Future iterations of this analysis will incorporate matching algorithms from CBP’s Arrival and Departure Information System (ADIS) to identify individual I-94 admissions more accurately.

I-94 ADMISSION EVENTS AND UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS

Figure 1 depicts the number of times unique I-94 nonimmigrants were admitted to the United States in 2022. Out of an estimated 26 million individuals admitted as I-94 nonimmigrants, 19 million were admitted into the United States once, 4.4 million were admitted twice, 1.3 million were admitted three times, and 2.9 million were admitted three or more times.

Figure 1.

Estimated Nonimmigrant Individual Admissions Frequency (I-94 only): Fiscal Year 2022

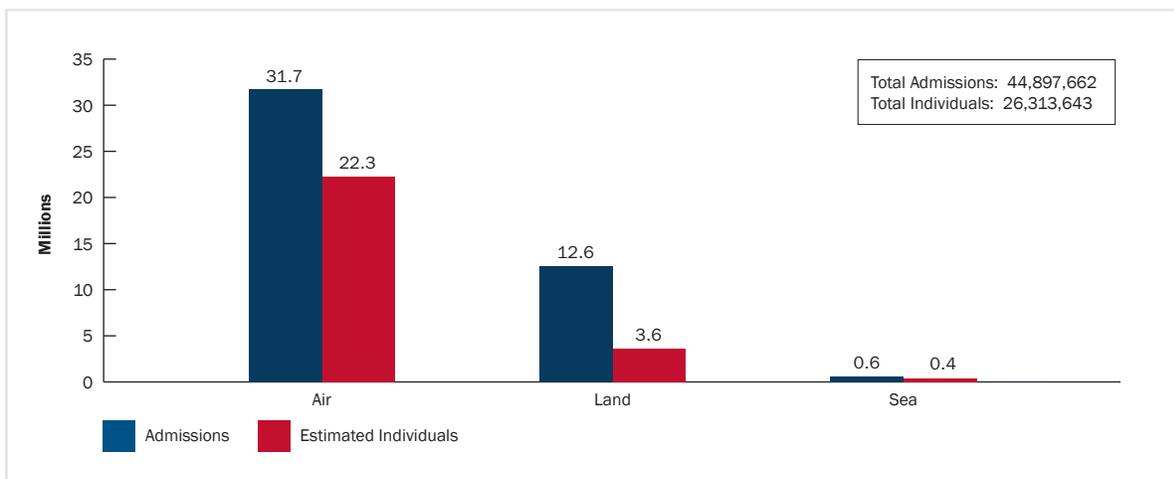


Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

Figure 2 indicates the number of I-94 admissions and estimated number of unique visitors to the United States by mode of transport. About 22 million individuals visited the United States by air in 2022, accounting for 32 million I-94 admission events. On average, I-94 nonimmigrants traveling by air were admitted to the United States 1.4 times in 2022, those traveling by land were admitted 3.6 times, and those traveling by sea were admitted 1.4 times. These estimates assume, however, that persons entered the United States each time via the same mode of transportation, which is not always the case.

Figure 2.

Nonimmigrant Admissions (I-94 only) and Estimated Individuals by Mode of Transport: Fiscal Year 2022



Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

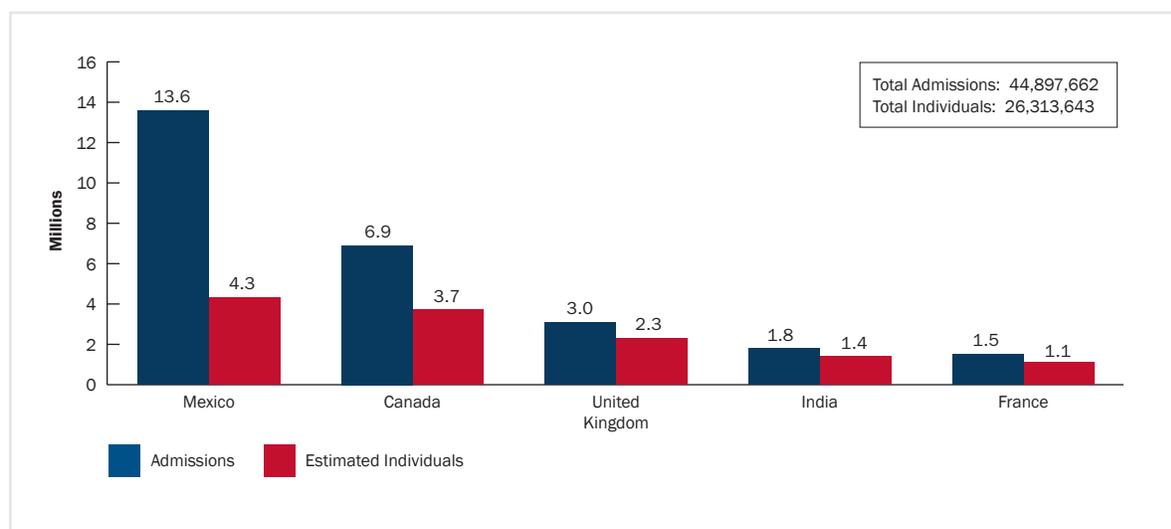
COUNTRIES OF CITIZENSHIP

Figure 3 presents the numbers of I-94 nonimmigrant admissions to the United States and the estimated number of unique I-94 nonimmigrant admissions for the top five admitted countries of citizenship. Similar to 2016, nonimmigrants from Mexico and Canada made more entries than those originating from countries further from the United States. Approximately 4.3 million nonimmigrants from Mexico and 3.7 million nonimmigrants from Canada accounted for 13.6 million and 6.9 million total I-94 admissions, respectively, followed by the United Kingdom with 2.3 million unique visitors accounting for 3.1 million total I-94 admissions. Comparing 2022 to 2016 top five countries of citizenship, India (1.4 million) and France (1.1 million) replaced the People’s Republic of China (China) and Japan in terms of unique I-94 visitors.

As mentioned earlier, Mexicans admitted on nonimmigrant visas who were issued an I-94 entered an average of 3.1 times during 2022 and Canadians entered an average of 1.9 times, while nonimmigrants from the United Kingdom and France each entered an average of 1.3 times, and nonimmigrants from India entered 1.2 times. I-94 nonimmigrants from all other countries together entered an average of 1.3 times in 2022.

Figure 3.

Nonimmigrants Admissions (I-94 only) and Estimated Individuals by Top Countries of Citizenship: Fiscal Year 2022



Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

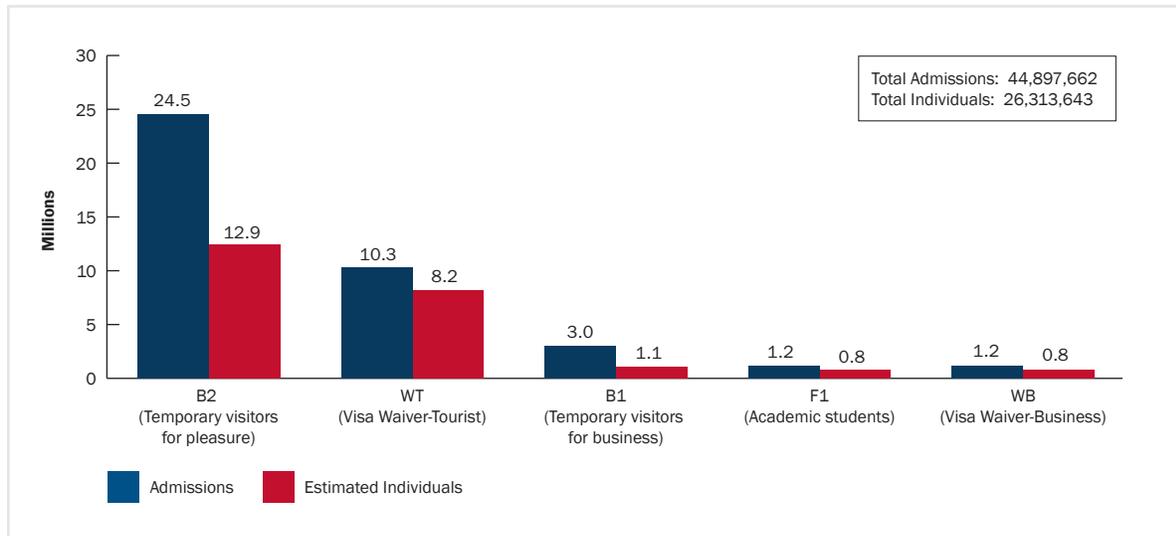
CLASSES OF ADMISSION

Nonimmigrants are admitted to the United States under several different visa classes, which are associated with specific reasons for admittance. As Figure 4 illustrates, more than half (24.5 million) of all I-94 nonimmigrant admissions to the United States in 2022 were B2 temporary visitors for pleasure (i.e., tourists), also making up about half of all unique entries (13 million). More than one-fifth of all entries were visitors entering via the WT⁷ Visa Waiver Program (10.3 million tourists), who made up about one-third of all unique I-94 nonimmigrant admissions (8.2 million). The third highest group of admissions were B1 temporary visitors for business (3 million, or 6 percent of all I-94 admissions), who made up slightly less than 5 percent of unique nonimmigrant admissions though they made more average entries per person (2.7) than B2s (1.9) or WTs (1.3). Nonimmigrants in all other classes of admission entered the United States an average of 1.9 times each in 2022, though TN North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) professional workers were the most prone to make multiple visits, averaging 5.9 entries to the United States over the course of the year.

⁷ WT=Waiver of Tourist Visa.

Figure 4.

Nonimmigrant Admissions (I-94 only) and Estimated Individuals by Top Classes of Admission: Fiscal Year 2022



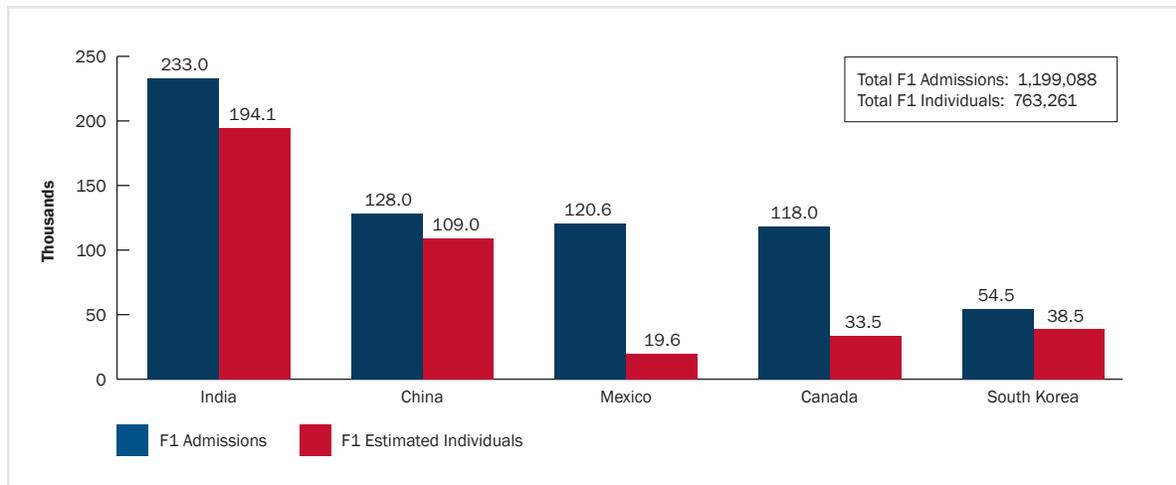
Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

Figures 5 through 7 provide additional details about certain foreign students (F1 visas), temporary workers in specialty occupations (H-1B visas), and non-agricultural temporary or seasonal workers (H-2B visas) disaggregated by top countries of nationality.

As Figure 5 illustrates, Indian students accounted for a plurality of the 1.2 million total F1 visa admissions in 2022, with an estimated 194,000 Indian students accounting for 233,000 total admissions (an average of 1.2 admissions per student). Chinese (which was the largest student group in 2016) and South Korean students were the next largest groups of individual students, with an estimated 109,000 Chinese students collectively admitted 128,000 times (1.2 admissions per student) and an estimated 38,000 South Korean students collectively admitted 54,000 times (1.4 admissions per student). Taken together, India and China made up almost 40 percent of all unique F1 entries to the United States. However, in terms of total F1 admissions, Canadian and Mexican students accounted for larger total admission numbers given their geographical proximity to the United States: an estimated 34,000 Canadians were collectively admitted 118,000 times (an average of 3.5 admissions per student), and an estimated 20,000 Mexicans were collectively admitted 121,000 times (averaging 6.2 admissions per student).

Figure 5.

Nonimmigrant Academic Student (F1) Admissions (I-94 only) by Top Countries of Citizenship: Fiscal Year 2022

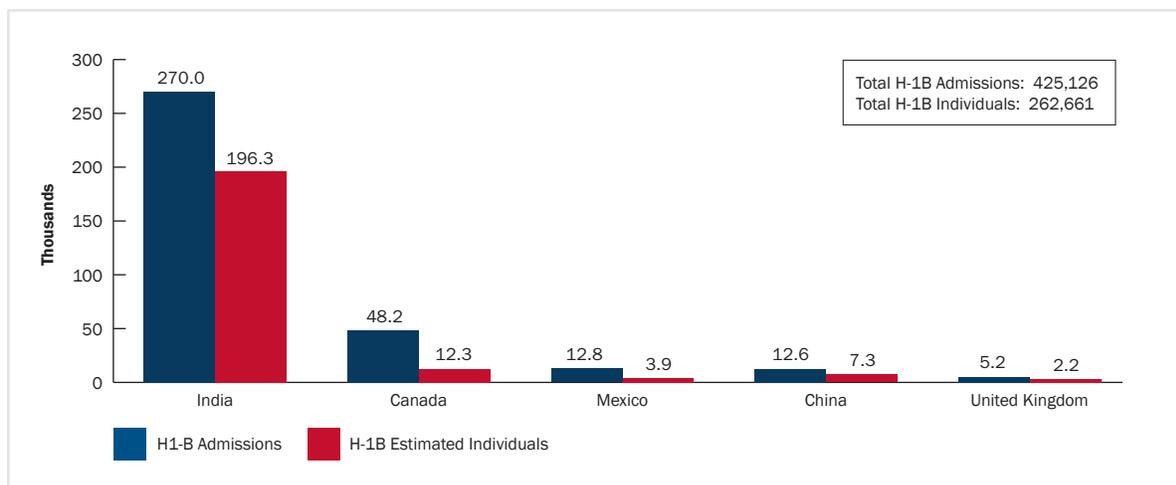


Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

Figure 6 depicts H-1B admissions by top countries of nationality. An estimated 263,000 individuals were admitted to the United States on H-1B visas in 2022, collectively accounting for 425,000 admissions. Similar to 2016, the majority of H-1B workers admitted in 2022 were Indian nationals, both in terms of total admissions and unique workers (270,000 and 196,000, respectively, or 1.4 admissions per worker). The next-largest groups of specialty workers were Canadians (12,000 workers admitted 48,000 times; 3.9 average admissions per worker), Chinese (7,000 workers admitted 13,000 times; 1.7 average admissions per worker), and Mexicans (3,900 workers admitted 13,000 times; 3.3 average admissions per worker).

Figure 6.

Nonimmigrant Temporary Workers in Specialty Occupation (H-1B) Admissions (I-94 only) and Estimated Individuals by Top Countries of Citizenship: Fiscal Year 2022

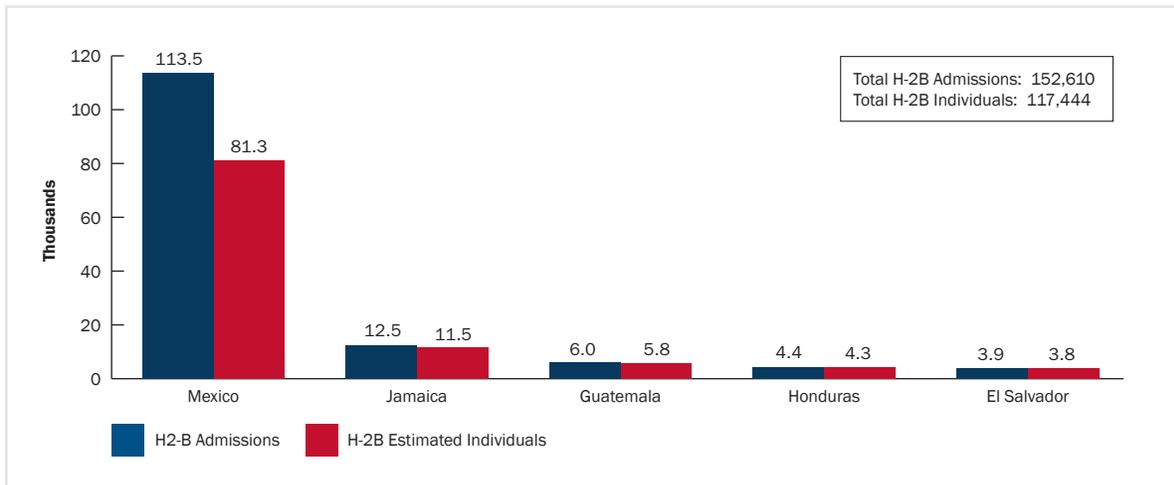


Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

Figure 7 depicts H-2B admissions by top countries of nationality. An estimated 117,000 individuals were admitted to the United States on H-2B visas in 2022, collectively accounting for 153,000 admissions. As in 2016, the majority of H-2B workers admitted in 2022 were Mexican nationals, both in terms of total and unique admissions (74 percent and 69 percent, respectively). Jamaicans were the next-largest group of H-2B workers (11,500 individuals, collectively making 12,500 entries). No other group accounted for more than 5 percent of H-2B workers, either in terms of total or unique admissions.

Figure 7.

Nonimmigrant Nonagricultural Temporary or Seasonal Workers (H-2B) Admissions (I-94 only) and Estimated Individuals by Top Countries of Citizenship: Fiscal Year 2022



Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

