Annual Flow Report

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Nonimmigrant Admissions to the United States: 2008

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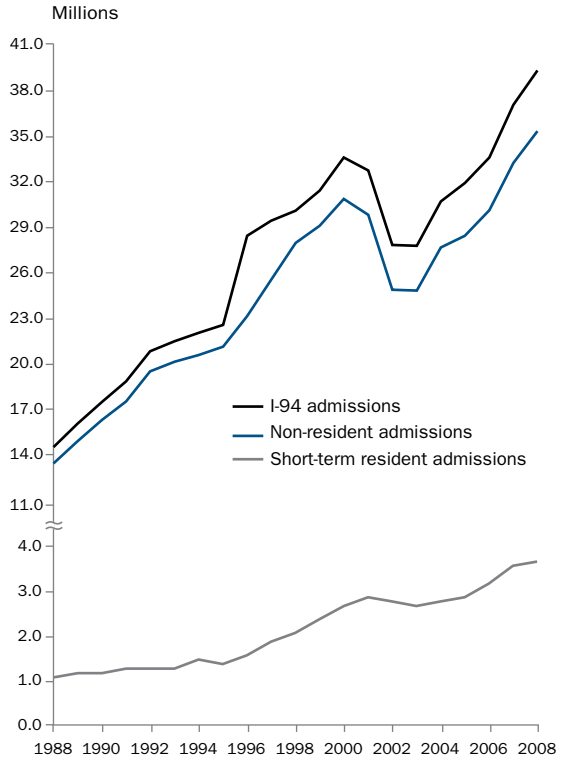
Nonimmigrants are foreign nationals granted temporary entry into the United States. The major purposes for which nonimmigrant admission may be authorized include temporary visits for business or pleasure, academic or vocational study, temporary employment, and to act as a representative of a foreign government or international organization. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) collects information on the characteristics of certain nonimmigrant admissions, those recorded on the I-94 Arrival/Departure Record. This Office of Immigration Statistics *Annual Flow Report* presents information gathered from the I-94 on the number and characteristics of nonimmigrant admissions to the United States in 2008.[1]

During 2008, there were 175 million nonimmigrant admissions to the United States according to DHS workload estimates.[2] These included tourists and business travelers from Canada, Mexican nationals with Border Crossing Cards, and all admissions requiring the submission of an I-94 form. I-94 admissions accounted for 23 percent (39 million) of the total admissions. The majority (90 percent) of I-94 admissions were short-term visitors, such as tourists and business travelers, while the remaining 10 percent (3.7 million) were temporary residents characterized by a longer duration of stay, such as specialty workers, students, and nurses (see Figure 1 and Table 1). The leading countries of citizenship for I-94 admissions were Mexico, the United Kingdom, and Japan.

DEFINING "NONIMMIGRANT"

A nonimmigrant is defined by Section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) as an alien who is not an immigrant and is admitted in one of the nonimmigrant alien classes of admission. A person granted lawful permanent resident status[3] is authorized to live, work, and study in the U.S. permanently; conversely, a nonimmigrant is in a temporary status as a visitor or short-term resident for a specific purpose and whose activities, such as employment, travel, and accompaniment by dependents, are prescribed by his or her class of admission. Examples of nonimmigrant classes of admission include foreign government officials; temporary visitors for business or pleasure; aliens

Figure 1.
Nonimmigrant Admissions (I-94 Only): 1988 to 2008



Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Fiscal Years 1988 to 2008.

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

[2] DHS Customs and Border Protection's Operations Management Reporting, FY2008.

[3] Commonly referred to as a legal permanent resident (LPR) or "green card recipient."

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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, LPRs, and special immigrants. Maximum duration of stay is determined by class of admission.

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 persons. As such, one nonimmigrant may enter the U.S. more than once, and each entry would count as a separate admission record. 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 the foreign national entered the United States.

Eligibility

In order to qualify for admission in a nonimmigrant status, a foreign national must meet all of the following criteria: provide evidence 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

Applicants for nonimmigrant admission are required to complete an I-94 form 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 are generally exempt from the I-94 requirement.

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 have ties to Mexico that would compel them to return.

I-94 Arrival/Departure Record Admissions. An I-94 form is required for all nonimmigrants entering the United States except the Canadian and Mexican citizens described above. The remainder of this report will focus on I-94 admissions.

Visa Required

If a visa is necessary for entry, the foreign national must apply at a U.S. embassy or consulate. The *Nonimmigrant Visa Application*, Form DS-156, must be completed and signed for all applicants; further, an interview is required for all applicants aged 14 to 79 years. Possession of a visa allows a foreign national to travel to a U.S. port of entry but does not guarantee admission. A U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer determines whether the nonimmigrant may enter the U.S. and the permitted duration of stay. Foreign nationals with a nonimmigrant visa must complete the I-94 form.

Visa Waiver Program

The Visa Waiver Program (VWP) allows nationals from participating countries to travel to the United States as tourists 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-participating countries must possess a machine-readable passport valid for six months beyond their expected stay, travel on an approved carrier and possess a return trip ticket if arriving by air or sea, and demonstrate both intent to stay 90 days or less and sufficient funds to support themselves during their stay. Nationals from 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. Those entering under the VWP must complete the I-94W form.

In 2008, 27 countries participated in the visa waiver program: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.[4]

Classes of Admission

For the purpose of this report, nonimmigrant classes of admission are grouped into the following broad categories based on grounds for admission into the United States and expected duration of stay: "short-term resident" (herein referred to as residents), "non-resident," and "expected long-term resident." This categorization differentiates nonimmigrants who live in the United States while working or studying from other nonimmigrants. The former are usually considered U.S. residents for purposes of official population enumeration. Resident nonimmigrant classes of admission include temporary workers and trainees, students, treaty traders and investors, intracompany transferees, representatives of foreign media, exchange visitors, and others (see Appendix A). Non-resident nonimmigrant classes of admission include temporary visitors for business or pleasure, foreign nationals in transit through the United States, and commuter students. The expected long-term resident category includes fiancé(e)s of U.S. citizens and their children and victims of trafficking and abuse. The majority of foreign nationals admitted in expected long-term classes are expected to apply for and to be granted lawful permanent resident status.

[4] A similar visa-free entry program exists for nationals of certain countries seeking admission to Guam only—the Guam Visa Waiver Program. In addition to the 27 counties included in the Visa Waiver Program, 10 more countries are included in the GVWP: Indonesia, Malaysia, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, South Korea, Solomon Islands, Taiwan, and Vanuatu. The vast majority of GVWP admissions are processed through Agana, Guam.

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DATA

The data in this report were obtained from the Treasury Enforcement Communications System (TECS) of CBP which compiles and maintains information collected from nonimmigrants on the I-94 Arrival/Departure Record. Information collected on the I-94 form includes arrival and departure dates, port of entry, class of admission, country of citizenship, state of destination, age, and gender.

TRENDS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF NONIMMIGRANT ADMISSIONS

Between 2007 and 2008, I-94 admissions increased 6 percent from 37.1 million to 39.4 million–the largest number of I-94 admissions recorded in a year. Nonimmigrant admissions decreased after September 11, 2001, but had recovered to pre-2001 levels by 2006. During the 20-year period from 1988 to 2008, the annual number of I-94 admissions increased by almost threefold.

As outlined under the section titled "Classes of Admission," I-94 admissions have been divided into resident, non-resident, and expected long-term resident categories. Residents accounted for between 9 and 10 percent of I-94 admissions in each year from 2006 to 2008 (see Table 1). During this period, non-residents represented 90 percent of annual I-94 admissions, while expected long-term residents accounted for only two-tenths of a percent. Resident and non-resident admissions are discussed separately below; the expected long-term resident category is not included because of low admission numbers.

Table 1.

Nonimmigrant Admissions (I-94 only) by Category of Admission: Fiscal Years 2006 to 2008

Category of admission	2008		2007		2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	39,381,928	100.0	37,149,651	100.0	33,667,328	100.0
Non-residents	35,434,175	90.0	33,301,754	89.6	30,198,154	89.7
Temporary visitors for pleasure	29,442,168	74.8	27,486,177	74.0	24,788,438	73.6
Temporary visitors for business	5,603,668	14.2	5,418,884	14.6	5,030,779	14.9
Transit aliens	387,237	1.0	396,383	1.1	378,749	1.1
Commuter students	1,102	–	310	–	188	–
Short-term residents	3,688,167	9.4	3,566,367	9.6	3,170,056	9.4
Temporary workers and families	1,949,695	5.0	1,932,075	5.2	1,709,268	5.1
Students	917,373	2.3	841,673	2.3	740,724	2.2
Exchange visitors	506,138	1.3	489,286	1.3	427,067	1.3
Diplomats and other representatives	314,920	0.8	303,290	0.8	292,846	0.9
Other	41	–	43	–	151	–
Expected long-term residents	59,097	0.2	76,158	0.2	76,783	0.2
Alien fiances of U.S. citizens and children	34,863	0.1	38,507	0.1	34,947	0.1
Alien spouses of U.S. citizens and children, immigrant visa pending	15,694	–	18,495	–	18,431	0.1
Alien spouses of U.S. permanent residents and children, immigrant visa pending	8,478	–	19,099	0.1	23,348	0.1
Other	62	–	57	–	57	–
Unknown	200,489	0.5	205,372	0.6	222,335	0.7

– Represents zero or rounds to 0.0.

Note: Excludes the majority of short-term admissions from Canada and Mexico. See Appendix A for classes included in each category.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Treasury Enforcement Communications System (TECS), Arrival File, Fiscal Years 2006 to 2008.

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Table 2.

Short-term Resident Nonimmigrant Admissions by Class of Admission: Fiscal Years 2006 to 2008

Class of admission	2008		2007		2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	3,688,167	100.0	3,566,367	100.0	3,170,056	100.0
Temporary workers and families	1,949,695	52.9	1,932,075	54.2	1,709,268	53.9
Temporary workers and trainees	1,101,938	29.9	1,118,138	31.4	985,456	31.1
Workers in specialty occupations (H1B)	409,619	11.1	461,730	12.9	431,853	13.6
Chile and Singapore Free Trade Agreement (H1B1)	153	–	170	–	129	–
Registered nurses participating in the Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas (H1C)	170	–	49	–	24	–
Seasonal agricultural workers (H2A)[1]	173,103	4.7	87,316	2.4	46,432	1.5
Seasonal nonagricultural workers and returning H2B workers (H2B,H2R)	109,621	3.0	154,895	4.3	134,071	4.2
Trainees (H3)	6,156	0.2	5,540	0.2	4,134	0.1
Workers with extraordinary ability or achievement and their assistants (O1,O2)	53,735	1.5	46,533	1.3	41,536	1.3
Internationally recognized athletes or entertainers (P1)	57,030	1.5	53,050	1.5	46,205	1.5
Artists or entertainers in reciprocal exchange or culturally unique programs (P2, P3)	17,125	0.5	16,735	0.5	17,234	0.5
Workers in international cultural exchange programs (Q1)	3,231	0.1	2,412	0.1	2,423	0.1
Workers in religious occupations (R1)	25,106	0.7	25,162	0.7	22,706	0.7
North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) professional workers (TN)	88,382	2.4	85,142	2.4	73,880	2.3
Spouses and children of temporary workers and trainees (H4,O3,P4,R2,TD)	158,507	4.3	179,404	5.0	164,829	5.2
Intracompany transferees	558,485	15.1	531,073	14.9	466,009	14.7
Intracompany transferees (L1)	382,776	10.4	363,536	10.2	320,829	10.1
Spouses and children of intracompany transferees (L2)	175,709	4.8	167,537	4.7	145,180	4.6
Treaty traders and investors and spouses and children (E1 to E3)	243,386	6.6	238,936	6.7	216,842	6.8
Representatives of foreign media and spouses and children (I1)	45,886	1.2	43,928	1.2	40,961	1.3
Students	917,373	24.9	841,673	23.6	740,724	23.4
Academic students (F1)	859,169	23.3	787,756	22.1	693,805	21.9
Vocational students (M1)	15,496	0.4	13,073	0.4	10,384	0.3
Spouses and children of academic and vocational students (F2,M2)	42,708	1.2	40,844	1.1	36,535	1.2
Exchange visitors	506,138	13.7	489,286	13.7	427,067	13.5
Exchange visitors (J1)	459,126	12.4	443,482	12.4	385,286	12.2
Spouses and children of exchange visitors (J2)	47,012	1.3	45,804	1.3	41,781	1.3
Diplomats and other representatives	314,920	8.5	303,290	8.5	292,846	9.2
Ambassadors, public ministers, career diplomats, consular officers, other foreign government officials and their spouses, children, and attendants (A1 to A3)	169,267	4.6	163,476	4.6	158,129	5.0
Representatives to international organizations and their spouses, children, and attendants (G1 to G5)	125,669	3.4	120,926	3.4	117,525	3.7
NATO officials and their families (N1 to N7)	19,984	0.5	18,888	0.5	17,192	0.5
Other	41	–	43	–	151	–

– Represents zero or rounds to 0.0.

[1] Between 2006 and 2008, annual increases in H2A admissions may be due to more complete recording of pedestrian admissions along the Southwest border.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Treasury Enforcement Communications System (TECS), Arrival File, Fiscal Years 2006 to 2008.

SHORT-TERM RESIDENT ADMISSIONS

Resident nonimmigrant admissions increased 3.4 percent from 3.6 million in 2007 to 3.7 million in 2008, continuing a long-term upward trend (see Figure 1). Resident admissions increased each year between 2003 and 2008 (following a post-2001 decline), for a total increase of 36 percent. From 1988 to 2008, the annual number of resident nonimmigrant admissions increased by more than threefold.

Class of Admission

The leading resident nonimmigrant categories in 2008 were temporary workers and families (53 percent) and students (25 percent) (see Table 2). These two categories accounted for over three-quarters of resident admissions. This composition remained relatively unchanged from 2006 to 2008.

Admissions of temporary workers and trainees declined slightly (1.4 percent) from 2007 to 2008. H1B admissions declined 11 percent from 461,730 in 2007 to 409,619 in 2008. Entries of seasonal nonagricultural workers (H2B and H2R) declined 29 percent from 154,895 in 2007 to 109,621 in 2008.[5] Student admissions rose 9 percent from 2007 to 2008, and 94 percent of that increase reflected academic student entries (F1). Entries of intracompany transferees (L1) grew 5.3 percent from 2007 to 2008, and exchange visitor admissions (J1) increased 3.5 percent during the same period.

[5] Issuances of H2R (returning H2B workers not subject to annual numerical limits) ceased at the end of 2007.

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Country of Citizenship

The leading countries of citizenship for resident nonimmigrant admissions to the United States in 2008 were Mexico (12 percent), India (12 percent), Japan (7 percent), South Korea (5.9 percent), and the United Kingdom (5.9 percent) (see Table 3). These five countries accounted for more than 40 percent of resident nonimmigrant admissions to the United States. From 2007 to 2008, notable increases in resident nonimmigrant admissions occurred among citizens from China (19 percent increase), Mexico (16 percent increase), and India (5.6 percent increase). The increase in admissions from China was largely accounted for by academic students (F1) and exchange visitors (J1). The increase from Mexico was primarily attributable to seasonal agricultural workers (H2A). Increased admissions from India were concentrated among academic student (F1) and intracompany transferee (L1) classes. Among top-ten sending countries, Japan and the United Kingdom had declining resident admissions from 2007 to 2008. The decrease in admissions from the United Kingdom (4.4 percent decrease) was concentrated among workers in specialty occupations (H1B), while the decrease from Japan (4.3 percent decrease) was attributable to academic students (F1) and workers in specialty occupations (H1B).

Select Classes of Admission by Country of Citizenship

The leading countries of citizenship for H1B admissions in 2008 were India (38 percent), Canada (5.7 percent), and the United Kingdom (4.7 percent) (see Table 4). Nationals from these three countries accounted for 48 percent of H1B admissions. In 2008, leading source countries for L1 admissions included India (17 percent), the United Kingdom (14 percent), and Japan (9.8 percent) (see Table 4). Forty percent of L1 admissions were accounted for by nationals of these three countries.

Nearly half of academic student admissions (F1) were nationals of five countries: South Korea (15 percent), China (11 percent), India (9.9 percent), Japan (6.8 percent), and Mexico (6.3 percent) (see Table 5). Between 2006 and 2008, South Korea, China, and India showed consistent increases in F1 admissions, while admissions from Japan declined during the same period.

Table 3.

Short-term Resident Nonimmigrant Admissions by Country of Citizenship: Fiscal Years 2006 to 2008

Country of citizenship	2008		2007		2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	3,688,167	100.0	3,566,367	100.0	3,170,056	100.0
Mexico	440,099	11.9	378,612	10.6	278,947	8.8
India	425,826	11.5	403,106	11.3	309,501	9.8
Japan	257,401	7.0	268,914	7.5	269,040	8.5
Korea, South	216,648	5.9	211,013	5.9	186,944	5.9
United Kingdom	216,280	5.9	226,262	6.3	217,776	6.9
Canada	209,125	5.7	209,464	5.9	192,380	6.1
China	163,433	4.4	136,886	3.8	107,902	3.4
Germany	153,396	4.2	151,690	4.3	142,076	4.5
France	119,284	3.2	115,309	3.2	106,025	3.3
Brazil	88,064	2.4	80,695	2.3	73,949	2.3
Other	1,378,438	37.4	1,365,421	38.3	1,268,630	40.0
Unknown	20,173	0.5	18,995	0.5	16,886	0.5

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Treasury Enforcement Communications System (TECS), Arrival File, Fiscal Years 2006 to 2008.

Table 4.

H1B and L1 Admissions by Country of Citizenship: Fiscal Years 2006 to 2008

Country of citizenship	2008		2007		2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
H1B Admissions, Workers in Specialty Occupations						
Total	409,619	100.0	461,730	100.0	431,853	100.0
India	154,726	37.8	157,613	34.1	125,717	29.1
Canada	23,312	5.7	26,209	5.7	24,912	5.8
United Kingdom	19,209	4.7	25,507	5.5	28,002	6.5
Mexico	16,382	4.0	18,165	3.9	17,654	4.1
China	13,828	3.4	16,628	3.6	14,548	3.4
Other	181,073	44.2	216,343	46.9	219,717	50.9
Unknown	1,089	0.3	1,265	0.3	1,303	0.3
L1 Admissions, Intracompany Transferees						
Total	382,776	100.0	363,536	100.0	320,829	100.0
India	63,156	16.5	51,469	14.2	33,414	10.4
United Kingdom	52,687	13.8	53,948	14.8	51,352	16.0
Japan	37,507	9.8	36,008	9.9	34,657	10.8
Germany	23,338	6.1	23,514	6.5	22,274	6.9
France	21,858	5.7	20,141	5.5	18,128	5.7
Other	183,631	48.0	177,875	48.9	160,341	50.0
Unknown	599	0.2	581	0.2	663	0.2

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Treasury Enforcement Communications System (TECS), Arrival File, Fiscal Years 2006 to 2008.

Table 5.

F1 Academic Student Admissions by Country of Citizenship: Fiscal Years 2006 to 2008

Country of citizenship	2008		2007		2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	859,169	100.0	787,756	100.0	693,805	100.0
Korea, South	127,185	14.8	117,446	14.9	101,705	14.7
China	90,290	10.5	67,303	8.5	49,095	7.1
India	85,067	9.9	74,276	9.4	59,878	8.6
Japan	58,081	6.8	64,641	8.2	69,652	10.0
Mexico	54,084	6.3	54,836	7.0	33,539	4.8
Other	439,023	51.1	404,520	51.4	375,368	54.1
Unknown	5,439	0.6	4,734	0.6	4,568	0.7

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Treasury Enforcement Communications System (TECS), Arrival File, Fiscal Years 2006 to 2008.

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State of Destination and Port of Entry

The most frequent destinations of resident nonimmigrant admissions in 2008 were California (14 percent), New York (13 percent), Texas (7.9 percent), Florida (7.1 percent), and New Jersey (4.3 percent) (see Table 6). These five states represented the destinations of nearly 50 percent of foreign nationals admitted.

The majority of resident nonimmigrants were admitted through the following ports of entry: New York (16 percent), Los Angeles (8.1 percent), Chicago (7.9 percent), Newark (7.2 percent), Miami (6.5 percent), and Washington, D.C. (6.2 percent) (see Table 7). In 2008, these six ports represented over half (52 percent) of resident admissions.

Age and Gender

In 2008, more than half (55 percent) of resident admissions were accounted for by individuals aged 25 to 44 (see Table 8). Another 23 percent of admissions were by persons aged 18 to 24. The majority (61 percent) of resident nonimmigrant admissions were males (see Table 8).

Table 6.

Short-term Resident Nonimmigrant Admissions by State of Destination: Fiscal Years 2006 to 2008

State of destination	2008		2007		2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	3,688,167	100.0	3,566,367	100.0	3,170,056	100.0
California	525,788	14.3	510,887	14.3	455,070	14.4
New York	490,386	13.3	477,225	13.4	431,220	13.6
Texas	292,340	7.9	293,897	8.2	237,928	7.5
Florida	262,459	7.1	272,923	7.7	250,131	7.9
New Jersey	157,601	4.3	157,535	4.4	136,670	4.3
Arizona	152,721	4.1	77,157	2.2	47,688	1.5
Massachusetts	145,459	3.9	141,527	4.0	128,498	4.1
Illinois	125,994	3.4	122,735	3.4	108,279	3.4
Virginia	113,609	3.1	115,695	3.2	105,900	3.3
Michigan	104,919	2.8	101,397	2.8	93,077	2.9
Other	1,248,623	33.9	1,223,962	34.3	1,106,070	34.9
Unknown	68,268	1.9	71,427	2.0	69,525	2.2

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Treasury Enforcement Communications System (TECS), Arrival File, Fiscal Years 2006 to 2008.

Table 7.

Short-term Resident Admissions by Port of Entry: Fiscal Years 2006 to 2008

Port of entry	2008		2007		2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	3,688,167	100.0	3,566,367	100.0	3,170,056	100.0
New York, NY	605,002	16.4	592,907	16.6	527,021	16.6
Los Angeles, CA	300,063	8.1	305,214	8.6	285,905	9.0
Chicago, IL	289,966	7.9	294,245	8.3	260,281	8.2
Newark, NJ	263,718	7.2	238,384	6.7	210,243	6.6
Miami, FL	240,484	6.5	258,050	7.2	245,525	7.7
Washington, DC	229,028	6.2	214,178	6.0	191,854	6.1
San Francisco, CA	216,781	5.9	203,232	5.7	174,556	5.5
Atlanta, GA	174,668	4.7	166,283	4.7	157,626	5.0
Houston, TX	148,018	4.0	139,344	3.9	120,215	3.8
Detroit, MI	115,672	3.1	115,200	3.2	108,165	3.4
Other	1,091,426	29.6	1,030,104	28.9	883,857	27.9
Unknown	13,341	0.4	9,226	0.3	4,808	0.2

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Treasury Enforcement Communications System (TECS), Arrival File, Fiscal Years 2006 to 2008.

Table 8.

Short-term Resident Nonimmigrant Admissions by Age and Gender: Fiscal Years 2006 to 2008

Age	2008		2007		2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	3,688,167	100.0	3,566,367	100.0	3,170,056	100.0
Under 18 years	300,021	8.1	297,342	8.3	268,941	8.5
18 to 24 years	862,766	23.4	790,955	22.2	674,135	21.3
25 to 34 years	1,290,337	35.0	1,263,655	35.4	1,127,800	35.6
35 to 44 years	737,357	20.0	730,876	20.5	658,364	20.8
45 to 54 years	345,682	9.4	334,716	9.4	302,901	9.6
55 to 64 years	120,250	3.3	118,118	3.3	110,349	3.5
65 years and over	27,059	0.7	26,257	0.7	22,858	0.7
Unknown	4,695	0.1	4,448	0.1	4,708	0.1
Gender						
Total	3,688,167	100.0	3,566,367	100.0	3,170,056	100.0
Male	2,248,999	61.0	2,176,405	61.0	1,930,791	60.9
Female	1,399,042	37.9	1,350,849	37.9	1,205,709	38.0
Unknown	40,126	1.1	39,113	1.1	33,556	1.1

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Treasury Enforcement Communications System (TECS), Arrival File, Fiscal Years 2006 to 2008.

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NON-RESIDENT ADMISSIONS

Trends in non-resident admissions paralleled trends in both resident admissions and total I-94 admissions. Non-resident admissions increased 6.4 percent from 33.3 million in 2007 to 35.4 million in 2008 (see Figure 1). Admissions declined following September 11, 2001, but subsequently increased each year between 2003 and 2008. In 2008, non-resident admissions surpassed previous peaks observed in 2000 and 2007. During the 20-year period from 1988 to 2008, annual non-resident admissions increased almost threefold.

Class of Admission

The leading non-resident nonimmigrant categories in 2008 were temporary visitors for pleasure (83 percent) and temporary visitors for business (16 percent) (see Table 9). These categories accounted for nearly all non-resident admissions. Admissions of temporary visitors for pleasure increased 7.1 percent from 2007 to 2008 largely due to a 12 percent increase in tourist (WT) admissions under the Visa Waiver Program.

Country of Citizenship

In 2008, the leading countries of citizenship for non-resident admissions were Mexico (19 percent), the United Kingdom (15 percent), Japan (10 percent), and Germany (5.5 percent) (see Table 10). These four countries accounted for the citizenship of half of all non-resident admissions. Between 2007 and 2008, the largest increases occurred among nationals of Italy (23 percent increase), France (22 percent), the Netherlands (19 percent), Germany (17 percent), and Brazil (15 percent). Nonresident admissions from Japan decreased 5.3 percent, and admissions from Mexico decreased 2.6 percent.

Table 9.

Non-resident Nonimmigrant Admissions by Class of Admission: Fiscal Years 2006 to 2008

Class of admission	2008		2007		2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	35,434,175	100.0	33,301,754	100.0	30,198,154	100.0
Temporary visitors for pleasure	29,442,168	83.1	27,486,177	82.5	24,788,438	82.1
Temporary visitors for pleasure (B2)	13,371,671	37.7	13,087,974	39.3	11,269,933	37.3
Visa Waiver Program – temporary visitors for pleasure (WT)	15,099,059	42.6	13,469,851	40.4	12,827,677	42.5
Guam Visa Waiver Program – temporary visitors for pleasure to Guam (GT)	971,438	2.7	928,352	2.8	690,828	2.3
Temporary visitors for business	5,603,668	15.8	5,418,884	16.3	5,030,779	16.7
Temporary visitors for business (B1)	3,052,581	8.6	2,928,875	8.8	2,673,309	8.9
Visa Waiver Program – temporary visitors for business (WB)	2,546,322	7.2	2,486,015	7.5	2,355,332	7.8
Guam Visa Waiver Program – temporary visitors for business to Guam (GB)	4,765	–	3,994	0.0	2,138	–
Transit aliens	387,237	1.1	396,383	1.2	378,749	1.3
Aliens in continuous and immediate transit through the United States (C1)	365,958	1.0	376,451	1.1	357,682	1.2
Aliens in transit to the United Nations (C2)	2,646	0.0	2,914	–	2,854	–
Foreign government officials, their spouses, children, and attendants in transit (C3)	18,633	0.1	17,018	0.1	18,213	0.1
Commuter Students	1,102	–	310	–	188	–
Canadian or Mexican national academic commuter students (F3)	1,102	–	307	–	188	–
Canadian or Mexican national vocational commuter students (M3)	–	–	3	–	–	–

– Represents zero or rounds to 0.0.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Treasury Enforcement Communications System (TECS), Arrival File, Fiscal Years 2006 to 2008.

Table 10.

Non-resident Nonimmigrant Admissions by Country of Citizenship: Fiscal Years 2006 to 2008

Country of citizenship	2008		2007		2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	35,434,175	100.0	33,301,754	100.0	30,198,154	100.0
Mexico	6,799,974	19.2	6,978,277	21.0	5,822,011	19.3
United Kingdom	5,245,691	14.8	4,888,077	14.7	4,716,936	15.6
Japan	3,647,282	10.3	3,851,493	11.6	4,036,212	13.4
Germany	1,964,919	5.5	1,686,278	5.1	1,560,568	5.2
France	1,586,159	4.5	1,294,853	3.9	1,082,521	3.6
Italy	1,031,901	2.9	837,921	2.5	709,409	2.3
Australia	806,069	2.3	753,482	2.3	695,696	2.3
Brazil	798,877	2.3	696,962	2.1	619,173	2.1
Korea, South	787,789	2.2	813,707	2.4	752,321	2.5
Netherlands	785,486	2.2	658,090	2.0	597,146	2.0
Other	11,880,832	33.5	10,764,044	32.3	9,533,740	31.6
Unknown	99,196	0.3	78,570	0.2	72,421	0.2

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Treasury Enforcement Communications System (TECS), Arrival File, Fiscal Years 2006 to 2008.

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State of Destination and Port of Entry

The primary destination states for non-resident admissions in 2008 were California (17 percent), Florida (16 percent), New York (14 percent), and Texas (7 percent) (see Table 11). These four states accounted for the destinations of more than half of non-resident admissions. The greatest percentage increases in admissions from 2007 to 2008 among leading destination states include New York (18 percent increase), Florida (11 percent), Nevada (10 percent), and New Jersey (10 percent). During the same period, admissions to Hawaii declined 5 percent, and admissions to Guam declined 3.4 percent.

The leading ports of entry for non-resident admissions in 2008 were New York, NY (13 percent), Miami, FL (11 percent), and Los Angeles, CA (9.2 percent) (see Table 12). These three ports of entry accounted for one-third of non-resident admissions. Newark, NJ admissions increased 18 percent and New York, NY admissions increased 15 percent between 2007 and 2008, while entries through Honolulu, HI and Agana, Guam decreased 7.9 percent and 4.1 percent respectively.

Age and Gender

In 2008, 60 percent of non-resident admissions consisted of foreign nationals aged 25 to 54, an additional 20 percent were aged 55 and over, and 11 percent were under the age of 18 (see Table 13). More than half (52 percent) of all non-resident admissions were accounted for by males (see Table 13).

Table 11.

Non-resident Nonimmigrant Admissions by State or Territory of Destination: Fiscal Years 2006 to 2008

State or territory of destination	2008		2007		2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	35,434,175	100.0	33,301,754	100.0	30,198,154	100.0
California	6,031,526	17.0	5,703,600	17.1	5,080,270	16.8
Florida	5,663,642	16.0	5,088,441	15.3	4,641,861	15.4
New York	5,068,048	14.3	4,290,067	12.9	3,789,639	12.5
Texas	2,498,049	7.0	2,510,085	7.5	2,196,467	7.3
Hawaii	1,492,252	4.2	1,570,786	4.7	1,635,475	5.4
Nevada	1,266,055	3.6	1,145,997	3.4	1,038,794	3.4
Guam	1,097,729	3.1	1,136,430	3.4	1,120,128	3.7
Arizona	844,779	2.4	851,068	2.6	715,505	2.4
New Jersey	793,265	2.2	719,617	2.2	628,710	2.1
Illinois	791,067	2.2	766,826	2.3	675,847	2.2
Other	6,280,978	17.7	5,975,043	17.9	5,373,158	17.8
Unknown	3,606,785	10.2	3,543,794	10.6	3,302,300	10.9

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Treasury Enforcement Communications System (TECS), Arrival File, Fiscal Years 2006 to 2008.

Table 12.

Non-resident Nonimmigrant Admissions by Port of Entry: Fiscal Years 2006 to 2008

Port of entry	2008		2007		2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	35,434,175	100.0	33,301,754	100.0	30,198,154	100.0
New York, NY	4,629,008	13.1	4,008,426	12.0	3,514,016	11.6
Miami, FL	3,948,711	11.1	3,683,012	11.1	3,322,930	11.0
Los Angeles, CA	3,261,624	9.2	3,128,031	9.4	3,093,563	10.2
Newark, NJ	2,039,448	5.8	1,722,097	5.2	1,511,231	5.0
San Francisco, CA	1,528,872	4.3	1,402,755	4.2	1,275,961	4.2
Chicago, IL	1,480,715	4.2	1,419,825	4.3	1,322,232	4.4
Atlanta, GA	1,376,402	3.9	1,248,063	3.7	1,080,704	3.6
Honolulu, HI	1,375,797	3.9	1,493,513	4.5	1,555,247	5.2
Agana, Guam	1,131,290	3.2	1,179,431	3.5	1,194,678	4.0
Houston, TX	1,078,927	3.0	1,040,405	3.1	919,575	3.0
Other	13,502,063	38.1	12,924,467	38.8	11,368,869	37.6
Unknown	81,318	0.2	51,729	0.2	39,148	0.1

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Treasury Enforcement Communications System (TECS), Arrival File, Fiscal Years 2006 to 2008.

Table 13.

Non-resident Nonimmigrant Admissions by Age and Gender: Fiscal Years 2006 to 2008

Age	2008		2007		2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	35,434,175	100.0	33,301,754	100.0	30,198,154	100.0
Under 18 years	3,915,961	11.1	3,697,774	11.1	3,407,236	11.3
18 to 24 years	2,854,680	8.1	2,667,267	8.0	2,407,425	8.0
25 to 34 years	7,417,159	20.9	7,008,076	21.0	6,425,006	21.3
35 to 44 years	7,729,140	21.8	7,294,564	21.9	6,573,291	21.8
45 to 54 years	6,251,620	17.6	5,768,270	17.3	5,147,325	17.0
55 to 64 years	4,458,913	12.6	4,189,264	12.6	3,812,572	12.6
65 years and over	2,768,166	7.8	2,628,329	7.9	2,378,311	7.9
Unknown	38,536	0.1	48,210	0.1	46,988	0.2
Gender						
Total	35,434,175	100.0	33,301,754	100.0	30,198,154	100.0
Male	18,333,371	51.7	17,318,208	52.0	15,757,616	52.2
Female	16,411,843	46.3	15,394,391	46.2	13,995,808	46.3
Unknown	688,961	1.9	589,155	1.8	444,730	1.5

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Treasury Enforcement Communications System (TECS), Arrival File, Fiscal Years 2006 to 2008.

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Appendix A.

Nonimmigrant Classes of Admission

Class	Description
Non-residents	
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
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
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
Short-term Residents	
Temporary workers and families	
Temporary workers and trainees	
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	Seasonal agricultural workers
H2B	Seasonal 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
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

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Appendix A.

Nonimmigrant Classes of Admission – *Continued*

Class	Description
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
Other categories	
Q2	Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program aliens
Q3	Spouses and children of Q2
Expected Long-term Residents	
Legal Immigration Family Equity (LIFE) Act	
K1	Fiancé(e)s of U.S. citizens
K2	Children of K1
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 categories	
N8	Parents of international organization special immigrants
N9	Children of N8 or international organization special immigrants

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

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