Cap Count for H-2B Nonimmigrants

The H-2B Program

The H-2B non-agricultural temporary worker program allows U.S. employers to bring foreign nationals to the United States to fill temporary non-agricultural jobs. For more information about the H-2B program, see the link to the left under "H-2B Non-Agricultural Workers."

What is the H-2B Cap?

There is a statutory numerical limit, or "cap," on the total number aliens who may be issued a visa to work in the United States. The cap is set by Congress, and can vary from year to year. Generally, an H-2B worker who extends his/her stay in H-2B status will not be counted again against the cap. Similarly, the spouse and children of H-2B workers classified as H-4 nonimmigrants are not counted against this cap. Additionally petitions for the following types of workers are exempt from the H-2B cap:

- Fish roe processors, fish roe technicians and/or supervisors of fish roe processing.
- From November 28, 2009 until December 31, 2014, workers performing labor or services in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and/or Guam.

Persons who are exempt from the H-2B cap

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Fiscal Year 2014 H-2B Cap Count

As USCIS receives H-2B petitions for fiscal year 2014, the chart below will be regularly updated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cap Type</th>
<th>Cap Amount</th>
<th>Beneficiaries Approved</th>
<th>Beneficiaries Pending</th>
<th>Target Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Date of Last Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H-2B: 1st Half FY 2014</td>
<td>33,000</td>
<td>10,869</td>
<td>2,759</td>
<td>13,628</td>
<td>12/16/2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H-2B: 2nd Half FY 2014</td>
<td>33,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>12/16/2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Refers to the estimated number of beneficiaries needed to be included on petitions filed with USCIS to reach the H-2B cap, with an allowance for withdrawals, denials, and revocations. This number will always be higher than the actual cap.
As noted, if the cap is not reached for the 1st half of the fiscal year, those numbers will be made available for use during the 2nd half of the fiscal year. In some fiscal years, therefore, depending on demand for H-2B workers, more than 33,000 cap-subject persons may be granted H-2B status during the 2nd half of the fiscal year.

This page can be found at http://www.uscis.gov/h-2b_count