



Our Dysfunctional Immigration System... By The Numbers

Our dysfunctional immigration system is indefensible and frustrates employers and workers alike. Instead of promoting job creation and economic growth, the current immigration system puts American companies and workers at a distinct competitive disadvantage in our global economy. The Chamber supports immigration reform because America cannot compete and win in a global economy without attracting and retaining the world's most talented and hardest workers.

6%...of all green cards go specifically to workers

Less than **6%** (about 59,000) of the approximately 1 million new lawful permanent residents we welcome each year are workers, selected based on their skill sets and jobs they will perform in the U.S.

10...Year wait for a green card for talented workers

A professional worker born in India with a U.S. Bachelor's degree must wait **10** years for a green card to be available after a sponsoring employer documents that U.S. workers are not available in sufficient numbers. During the ten year wait, this worker cannot be promoted until processing is completed. Facing these bleak prospects, many of these talented workers take their skills to other countries, where they create new products and jobs for America's competitors.

5...Days to fill the yearly H-1B high-skilled visa allotment

In the first **5** days of April 2013 all of the H-1B visa numbers for foreign professional hires for fiscal year 2014 were allocated, 6 months before the start of the fiscal year. In **5** of the years since Congress last considered immigration reform, there were zero H-1B visa numbers during the fiscal year – all of the H-1B visa numbers were awarded prior to the beginning of the government's fiscal year (meaning no businesses during the fiscal year could sponsor a single new H-1B worker).

7.5%...of all employers use E-Verify

Of the nation's 6.05 million employers, about **7.5%** currently participate in the voluntary E-Verify employment verification system. Without a uniform, national, mandatory employment verification system that is workable for employers and used by all businesses, the country will continue to be a job magnet for illegal immigrants.

4.64...additional U.S. jobs created for each H-2B seasonal worker

Every 100 lesser-skilled seasonal workers admitted in H-2B status is associated with an additional **464** jobs for U.S.-born workers, because lesser-skilled immigrants generally complement, and do not compete with, the existing American workforce.

70%...illegal workforce in agriculture

About **70%** of the workers in our agricultural sector are illegal, despite the fact that the H-2A visa category for seasonal agriculture workers is unlimited, due to the fact that the visa process for this category is unworkable for most employers.

0...temporary workers to fill lesser-skilled opening where Americans not interested

Current law provides for **0** (zero) lesser skilled workers to legally enter on temporary worker visas to perform in year-round positions after an employer tests the local labor market. The highest number and percentage of job growth in the U.S. through 2020 is expected in low and moderate skill jobs that cannot be mechanized or outsourced, many of which, like home health care, have insufficient numbers of interested American workers.

11 Million...encountering de facto amnesty

Current law creates de facto amnesty for **11 million** illegal immigrants living and working in our communities who are unable to pay their full share of federal, state and local taxes. An earned lawful status process, without a bar to citizenship, would allow the undocumented to get right with the law.

