



For Immediate Release:

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Study: H-2B Visa Program Supports U.S. Workforce, Positively Impacts Domestic Salaries and Jobs

WASHINGTON, DC (September 16, 2025) – The H-2B Workforce Coalition, an effort aimed at protecting American workers through a stable and reliable seasonal workforce, today released a new comprehensive economic analysis that explores the impacts and realities of the H-2B Visa Program. Completed by Edgewater Economics, the study finds that the H-2B program has not had a detrimental effect on jobs and the salaries of U.S. workers - it has increased wages and supported the labor force.

Traditionally, the H-2B program has allowed businesses to hire foreign national guest workers for seasonal jobs when they are unable to identify and hire domestic workers for these positions. **Through this new study, the program has found no evidence of the increase of H-2B Visas issues and a negative impact on the U.S. workforce's employment and wages.** In fact, the study notes each H-2B worker actually supports about three-to-five local U.S. worker jobs, where areas with greater H-2B workers saw wages grow 1.6% higher.

"Areas that were able to hire more H-2B workers due to the increase in H-2B visa cap experienced more employment growth and higher wage growth among U.S. workers," said **Dr. Steve Bronars, Partner at Edgeworth Economics**, validating the findings of an early analysis by the U.S. General Accountability Office.

"This new analysis demonstrates the clear value that the H-2B program has on local communities," said **Ashley McNeil, Vice President of Federal Government Affairs at American Hotel and Lodging Association, and Chair of the H-2B Workforce Coalition**. "The hotel industry, which is still 200,000 workers short compared to pre-pandemic levels, relies on legal guest worker programs to augment our workforce, particularly to address seasonal demands. Access to the H-2B visa program has been critical in allowing hotels and resorts of all sizes to meet travelers' needs, while supporting the local workforce and economy."

Largely, the H-2B program has allowed businesses to more efficiently address seasonal labor shortages during their peak season benefits full-year employees, who have the support they need to do their jobs more efficiently. The landscaping industry accounts for almost 40% of certified H-2B seasonal workers, on average. The industries that account for the second, third, and fourth most certified H-2B are Hotels and Motels (8.67%), Support Activities for Forestry (6.3%), and Seafood Product Preparation and Packaging (5.65%).

"This study reaffirms what our members have long recognized: despite extensive recruitment efforts, there remains a critical shortage of U.S. workers willing or available to fill temporary positions that are currently being filled by H-2B workers," said **Arnulfo Hinojosa, Chief Operating Officer at Federation of Workers and Employers of America, and Vice Chair of the H-2B Workforce Coalition**. "H-2B workers allow seasonal businesses to operate at a higher capacity and create more U.S. jobs."

"Lawncare and landscape professionals maintain homes, businesses, parks and other greenspaces," said **Andrew Bray, Senior Vice President, Government Relations & Membership at National Association of Landscape Professionals and Coalition Treasurer**. "The H-2B program not only supports local communities and jobs, it also is essential to our ability to maintain safe and healthy outdoor spaces."

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About the H-2B Coalition: The H-2B Workforce Coalition is comprised of thousands of employers and their representatives from the lodging, landscaping, seafood, restaurant, tourism, equine, forestry, amusement parks, golf courses and other industries. Our members are businesses that rely on the H-2B visa program to supplement their U.S. workforce during seasonal surge and peak business needs.