

H-2B By the Numbers (From DOL OFLC Processing Statistics)
(<https://icert.doleta.gov>)
AS OF 4/20/18

FY 2018 1st Half H-2B Cap:

- 33,000 cap on H-2B workers with start dates from October 1 to March 31
- First Half Cap met on December 15, 2017
- Total workers certified by DOL for the first half cap: 53,112
- Requested H-2B positions that went unfilled due to cap: $53,112 - 33,000 = 20,112$
- **About 37.9% of H-2B positions requested for the first half cap went unfilled due to the H-B cap, jeopardizing the survival of small and seasonal businesses and their American work force.**

FY 2018 2nd Half H-B Cap:

- 33,000 cap on H-2B workers with start dates from April 1 to September 30
- Second half cap met on February 27, 2018
- Total workers certified by DOL as of April 20: 86,441
- Pending as of 4/20/18: 44 cases, totaling 758 workers
- DOL is still processing labor certifications for the first half, be regulation, employers cannot submit petitions for H-2B workers more than 90 days before their date of need, so additional petitions may still be submitted to DOL for summer work.
- Total H-2B workers requested on January 1: 81,600 (per 1/3/18 DOL statement)
- Total H-2B workers requested for the second half of the fiscal year to date: 98,012
- Total H-2B positions to date expected to go unfilled: $98,012 - 33,000 = 65,012$
- **About 66.3% of H-2B positions requested for the second half cap will go unfilled without Congressional action due to the H-2B cap, jeopardizing the survival of small and seasonal businesses and their American work force.**

Additional Visas Authorized by the FY 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Law: 69,320, which is the highest number of H-2B returning worker visas ever issued when the returning worker exemption was law. This is the number of returning worker visas issued in 2007. See the attached report from the State Department and look for the designation H2R.

Total H-2B Visas Authorized in FY 2018: 135,320 (66,000 + 69,320)

Unemployment Rate:

- January 2018 National Unemployment Rate According to DOL Bureau of Labor Statistics: 4.1%
- February 2018 National Unemployment Rate According to DOL Bureau of Labor Statistics: 4.1%
- March 2018 National Unemployment Rate According to DOL Bureau of Labor Statistics: 4.1%
- See attached graph from the Bureau of Labor Statistics Website, which shows that the unemployment rate from January – March 2017 was between 4.4 and 4.6 percent, slightly higher than the current unemployment rate. When you look at the historical data, it is clear that the number of H-2B visas used or requested is inversely related to the unemployment rate. The H-2B cap was not reached in 2010 – 2013 due to the poor economy.