

# Colorado's H-2B Workers in Fiscal Year 2021<sup>1</sup>

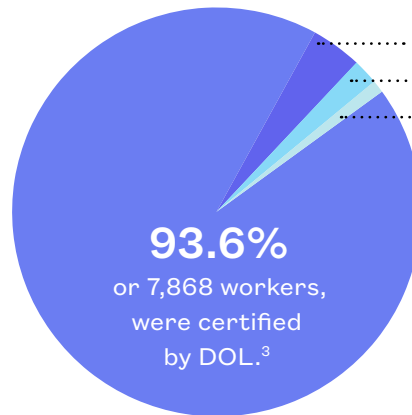
## CERTIFICATION OF H-2B WORKERS BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

# 257

Employers initially submitted temporary employment certification applications to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) for the H-2B visa program<sup>2</sup> to fill

# 8,403

jobs in Colorado in fiscal year (FY) 2021.



4.0%, or 336 workers, were withdrawn.

2.1%, or 180 workers, were denied.

0.2%, or 19 workers, were rejected.

# 88.1%

is the national certification rate for H-2B jobs.<sup>4</sup>

## EMPLOYER PETITIONS TO U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES FOR H-2B WORKERS

Once certified by DOL, employers submit a **Form I-129** (petition for a nonimmigrant worker) for no more than the number of workers (which is also the number of jobs) certified with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

**199 employers** in FY 2021 submitted I-129s for approval<sup>5</sup> to work in Colorado.



# 52

Industries received USCIS approval for H-2B workers to be employed in Colorado in FY 2021.<sup>6</sup> These were the industries with the highest share of certified H-2B workers.

#1 Landscaping

63.2%

#2 Hotel<sup>7</sup>

9.7%

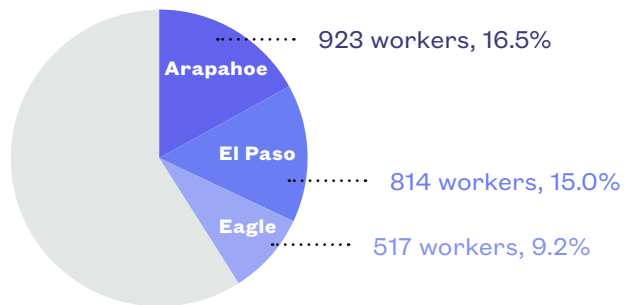
#3 Poured Concrete Foundation and Structure Contractors

3.7%

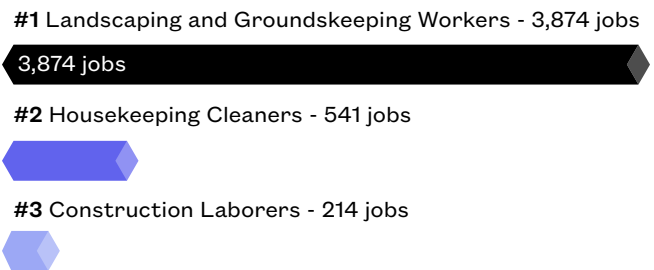
\*H-2B petitions with "new employment" or "new concurrent employment."

\*\*H-2B petitions with anything other than "new employment" or "new concurrent employment."

Colorado counties with the most certified H-2B workers in FY 2021:



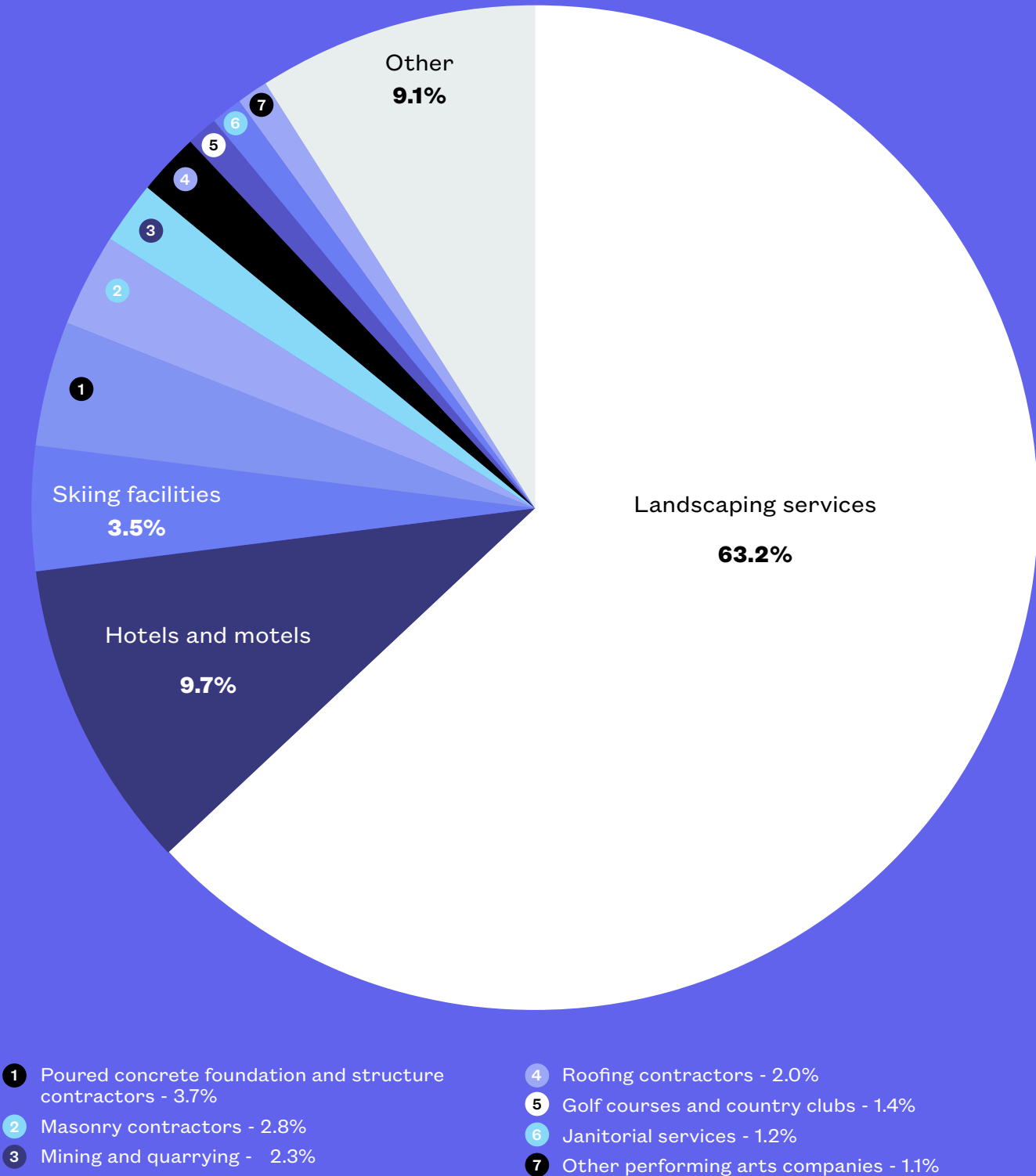
Top occupations receiving USCIS approval for H-2B workers in Colorado in FY 2021:



### TOP 10 INDUSTRIES REQUESTING H-2B WORKERS AND RECEIVING DOL CERTIFICATION AND USCIS APPROVAL IN COLORADO, FY 2021

Industry	Workers Requested	Workers DOL Certified	Share Certified by DOL	Estimated Approved Workers by USCIS
<b>Landscaping services</b>	5,049	4,672	92.5%	3,536
<b>Hotels and motels</b>	851	828	97.3%	542
<b>Skiing facilities</b>	540	501	92.8%	198
<b>Poured concrete foundation and structure contractors</b>	229	228	99.6%	206
<b>Masonry contractors</b>	171	171	100.0%	159
<b>Golf courses and country clubs</b>	165	165	100.0%	79
<b>Mining and quarrying</b>	146	146	100.0%	126
<b>Other performing arts companies</b>	120	120	100.0%	60
<b>Janitorial services</b>	133	119	89.5%	66
<b>Roofing contractors</b>	119	119	100.0%	113

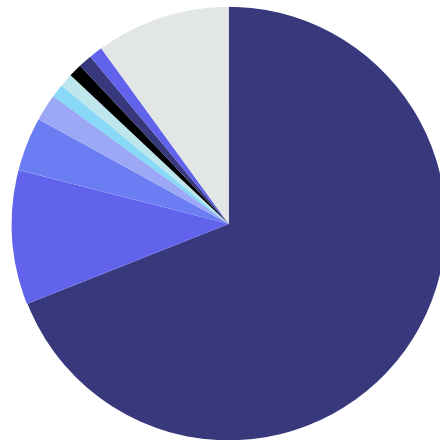
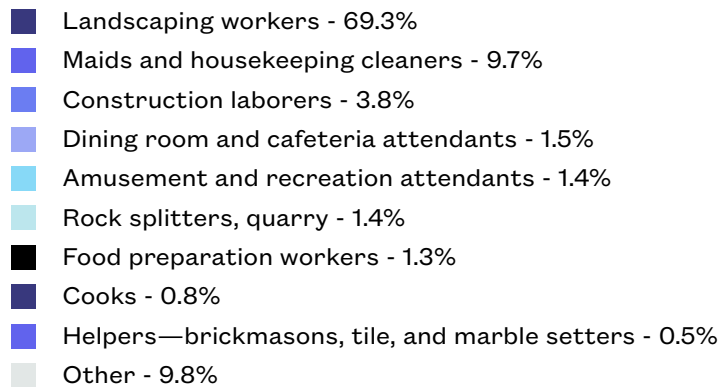
**ESTIMATED SHARE OF ALL H-2B WORKERS APPROVED BY USCIS FOR JOBS IN COLORADO,  
BY INDUSTRY**



**OCCUPATIONS OF H-2B COLORADO WORKERS:  
REQUESTED, DOL CERTIFIED, AND USCIS APPROVED**

Occupation	Workers Requested	Workers DOL Certified	Share Certified by DOL	Estimated Approved Workers by USCIS
<b>Landscaping workers</b>	5,418	5,041	93.0%	3,874
<b>Maids and housekeeping cleaners</b>	1,235	1,168	94.6%	541
<b>Construction laborers</b>	254	252	99.2%	214
<b>Amusement and recreation attendants</b>	138	138	100.0%	81
<b>Dining room and cafeteria attendants</b>	136	136	100.0%	84
<b>Cooks</b>	111	105	94.6%	42
<b>Food preparation workers</b>	105	105	100.0%	74
<b>Dishwashers</b>	108	88	81.5%	29
<b>Rock splitters, quarry</b>	80	80	100.0%	78
<b>Helpers—brickmasons, tile, and marble setters</b>	75	75	100.0%	30

**ESTIMATED SHARE OF ALL H-2B WORKERS APPROVED BY USCIS FOR JOBS IN COLORADO**

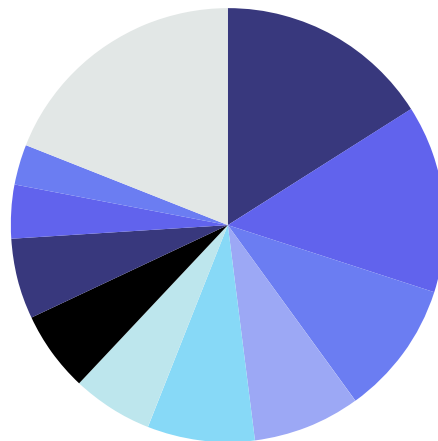


**TOP 10 COLORADO COUNTIES WITH CERTIFIED H-2B WORKSITES, FY2021**

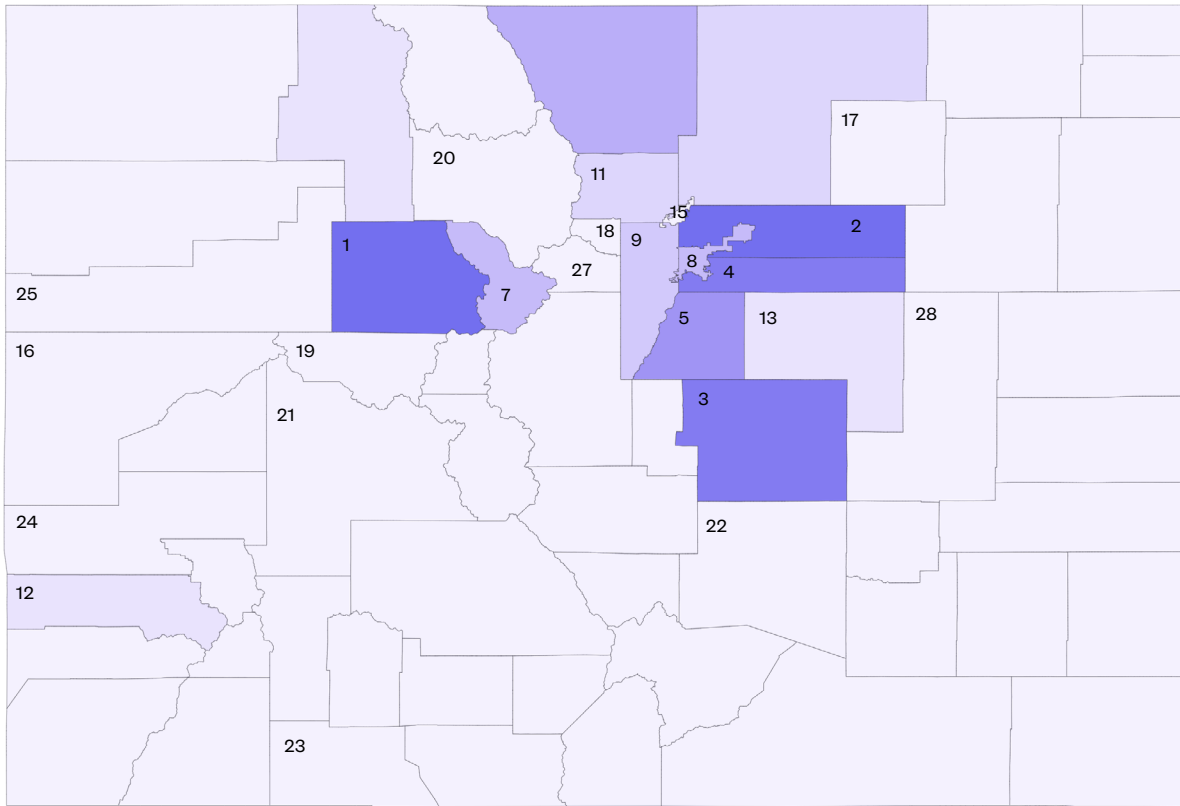
County	Workers Requested	Workers DOL Certified	Share Certified by DOL	Estimated Approved Workers by USCIS
<b>Eagle</b>	1,083	1,039	95.9%	537
<b>Adams</b>	1,068	1,023	95.8%	423
<b>El Paso</b>	988	973	98.5%	814
<b>Arapahoe</b>	982	916	93.3%	903
<b>Douglas</b>	701	701	100.0%	351
<b>Larimer</b>	602	557	92.5%	471
<b>Summit</b>	497	464	93.4%	140
<b>Denver</b>	486	406	83.5%	307
<b>Jefferson</b>	356	330	92.7%	360
<b>Weld</b>	271	255	94.1%	248

**ESTIMATED SHARE OF ALL H-2B WORKERS APPROVED BY USCIS FOR JOBS IN COLORADO**

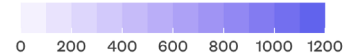
■ Arapahoe County . . . . .	16.1%
■ El Paso County . . . . .	14.6%
■ Eagle County . . . . .	9.6%
■ Larimer County . . . . .	8.4%
■ Adams County . . . . .	7.6%
■ Jefferson County . . . . .	6.4%
■ Douglas County . . . . .	6.3%
■ Denver County . . . . .	5.5%
■ Weld County . . . . .	4.4%
■ Summit County . . . . .	2.5%
■ Other . . . . .	18.6%



### MAP OF COLORADO COUNTIES WITH H-2B DOL CERTIFIED WORKERS IN FY2021



Colorado H-2B Visas in FY 2021



County	Total Certified H-2B Workers
1 EAGLE	1039
2 ADAMS	1023
3 EL PASO	973
4 ARAPAHOE	916
5 DOUGLAS	701
6 LARIMER	557
7 SUMMIT	464
8 DENVER	406
9 JEFFERSON	330
10 WELD	255
11 BOULDER	240
12 SAN MIGUEL	197
13 ELBERT	178
14 ROUTT	124
15 BROOMFIELD	85

County	Total Certified H-2B Workers
16 MESA	84
17 MORGAN	69
18 GILPIN	45
19 PITKIN	33
20 GRAND	31
21 GUNNISON	29
22 PUEBLO	25
23 ARCHULETA	21
24 MONTROSE	15
25 GARFIELD	10
26 LOGAN	8
27 CLEAR CREEK	6
28 LINCOLN	4

## ENDNOTES

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1. Fiscal year 2021 is defined as October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021.
2. American Immigration Council analysis of performance data from the U.S. Department of Labor for fiscal year 2021 — [www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/foreign-labor/performance](https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/foreign-labor/performance).
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. The data include USCIS approval of an H-2B visa classification for noncitizens who will need to apply for an H-2B visa at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate abroad (to “consular process”) as well as noncitizens who are lawfully present in the United States and for whom the USCIS approval includes authorization to work in H-2B status. Noncitizens who need to consular process must be issued an H-2B visa and be admitted to the United States in H-2B status before they can work for the employer. Thus, the number of USCIS-approved H-2B workers in this data does not equate to the number of noncitizens working in Colorado in FY2021 in H-2B status.
6. Ibid.
7. Methodology: To estimate the number of H-2B workers receiving USCIS approval, we combined the U.S. Department of Labor data with USCIS data using approximate string matching, a machine learning tool that identifies the likelihood that employer names from both data sets are a true match based various identifiers. This allowed us to match both data sets and provide a close estimate of the number of USCIS-approved H-2B workers by worksite county, occupation code, and industry which is provided in the DOL data set.