



Colorado's H-2A Workers in Fiscal Year 2021¹

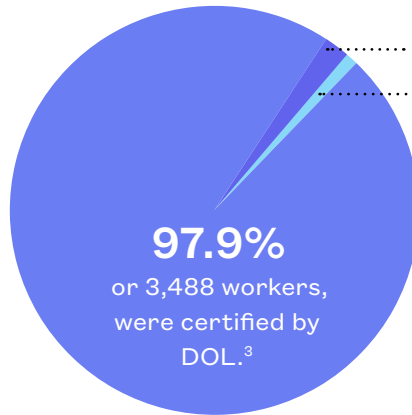
CERTIFICATION OF H-2A WORKERS BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

249

Employers initially submitted temporary employment certification applications to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) for the H-2A visa program² to fill

3,562

agricultural jobs in Colorado in fiscal year (FY) 2021.



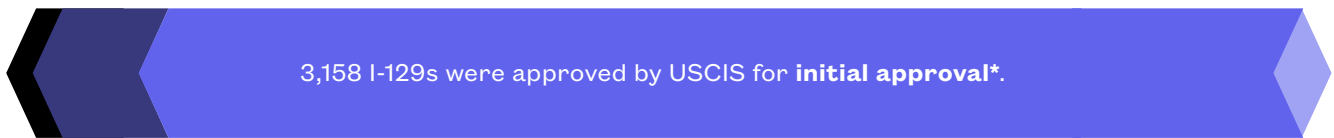
1.4%, or 50 workers, were withdrawn.
0.7%, or 24 workers, were denied.



EMPLOYER PETITIONS TO U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES FOR H-2A 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).

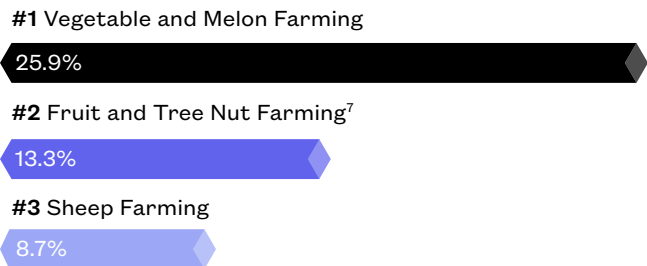
239 employers in FY 2021 submitted I-129s for approval⁵ to work in Colorado.



20 I-129s were **denied** by USCIS.
370 I-129s were approved by USCIS for **continuing approval****.

41

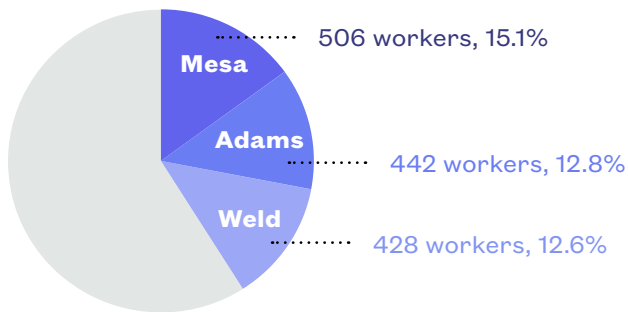
Industries received USCIS approval for H-2A workers to be employed in Colorado in FY 2021.⁶ These were the industries with the highest share of certified H-2A workers.



¹H-2A petitions with "new employment" or "new concurrent employment."

²H-2A petitions with anything other than "new employment" or "new concurrent employment."

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



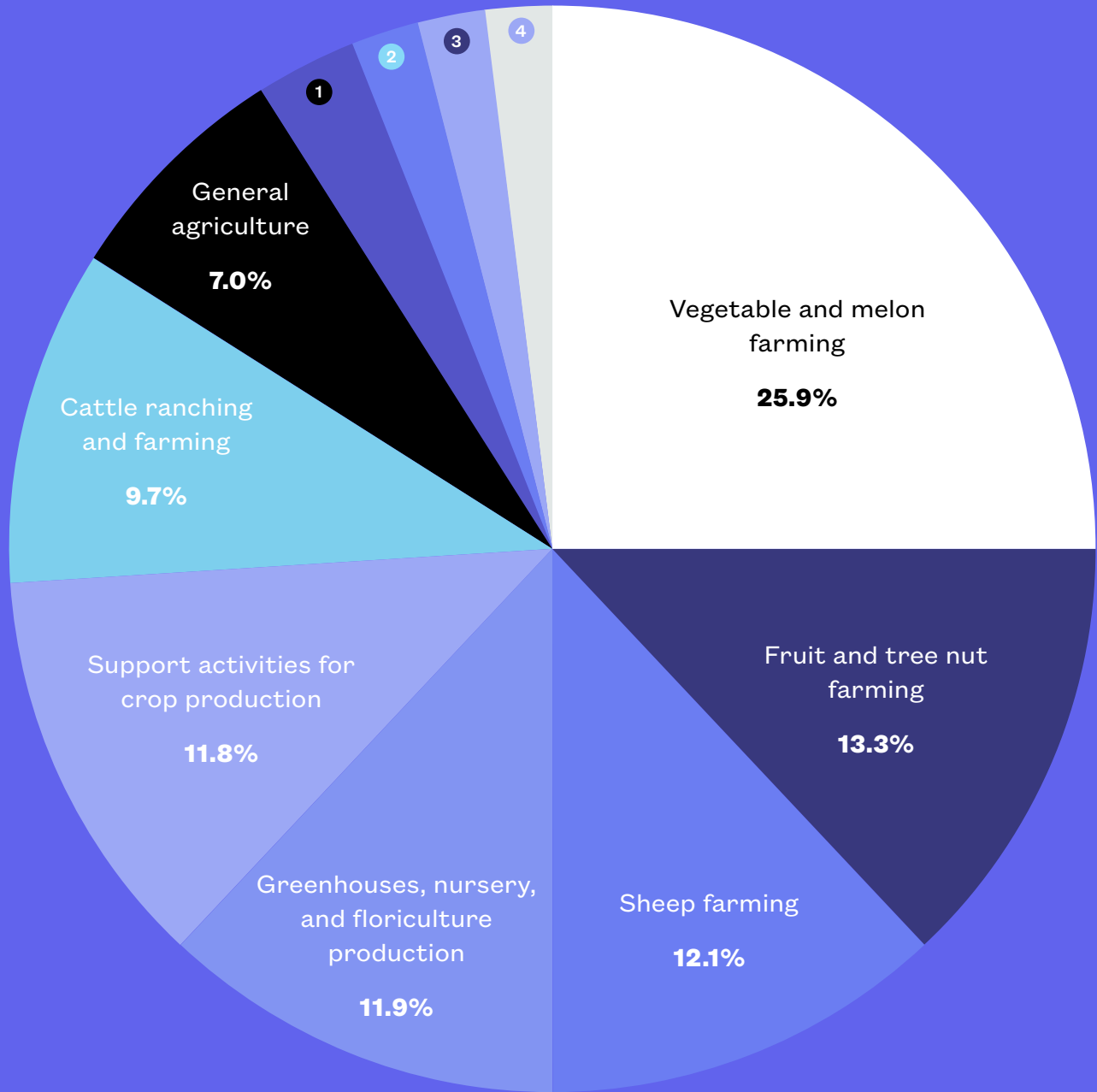
Top occupations receiving USCIS approval for H-2A workers in Colorado in FY 2021:



TOP 10 INDUSTRIES REQUESTING H-2A 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
Vegetable and melon farming	960	943	98.2%	818
Fruit and tree nut farming	444	429	96.6%	421
Sheep farming	408	398	97.5%	378
Support activities for crop production	389	378	97.2%	372
Greenhouses, nursery, and floriculture production	378	377	99.7%	376
Cattle ranching and farming	369	353	95.7%	305
General agriculture	221	221	100.0%	221
Miscellaneous nondurable goods merchant wholesalers	91	91	100.0%	90
Other crop production	77	75	97.4%	75
Oilseed and grain production	64	64	100.0%	63

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



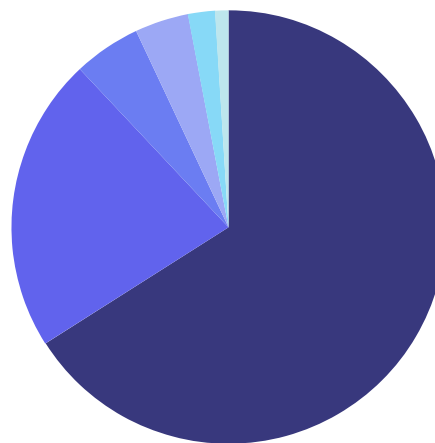
- 1 Miscellaneous nondurable goods merchant wholesalers - 2.8%
- 2 Other crop production - 2.4%
- 3 Oilseed and grain production - 2.0%
- 4 Other - 1.1%

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

Occupation	Workers Requested	Workers DOL Certified	Share Certified by DOL	Estimated Approved Workers by USCIS
Farmworkers and laborers, crop, nursery, and greenhouse	2319	2269	97.8%	2090
Farmworkers, farm, ranch, and aquacultural animals	819	797	97.3%	699
Nursery workers	229	229	100.0%	117
Agricultural equipment operators	121	119	98.3%	118
Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers	50	50	100.0%	50
Construction laborers	24	24	100.0%	24

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

- Farmworkers and laborers, crop, nursery, and greenhouse - 66.2%
- Farmworkers, farm, ranch, and aquacultural animals - 22.1%
- Nursery workers - 5.6%
- Agricultural equipment operators - 3.7%
- Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers - 1.6%
- Construction laborers - 0.8%

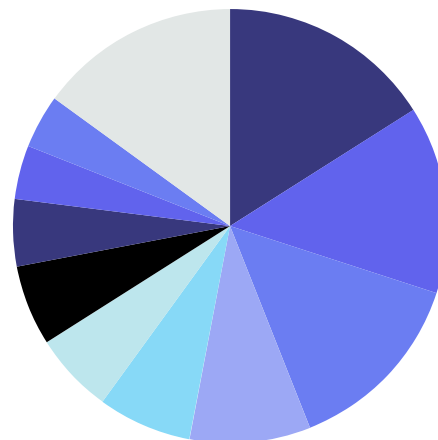


TOP 10 COLORADO COUNTIES WITH CERTIFIED H-2A WORKSITES, FY2021

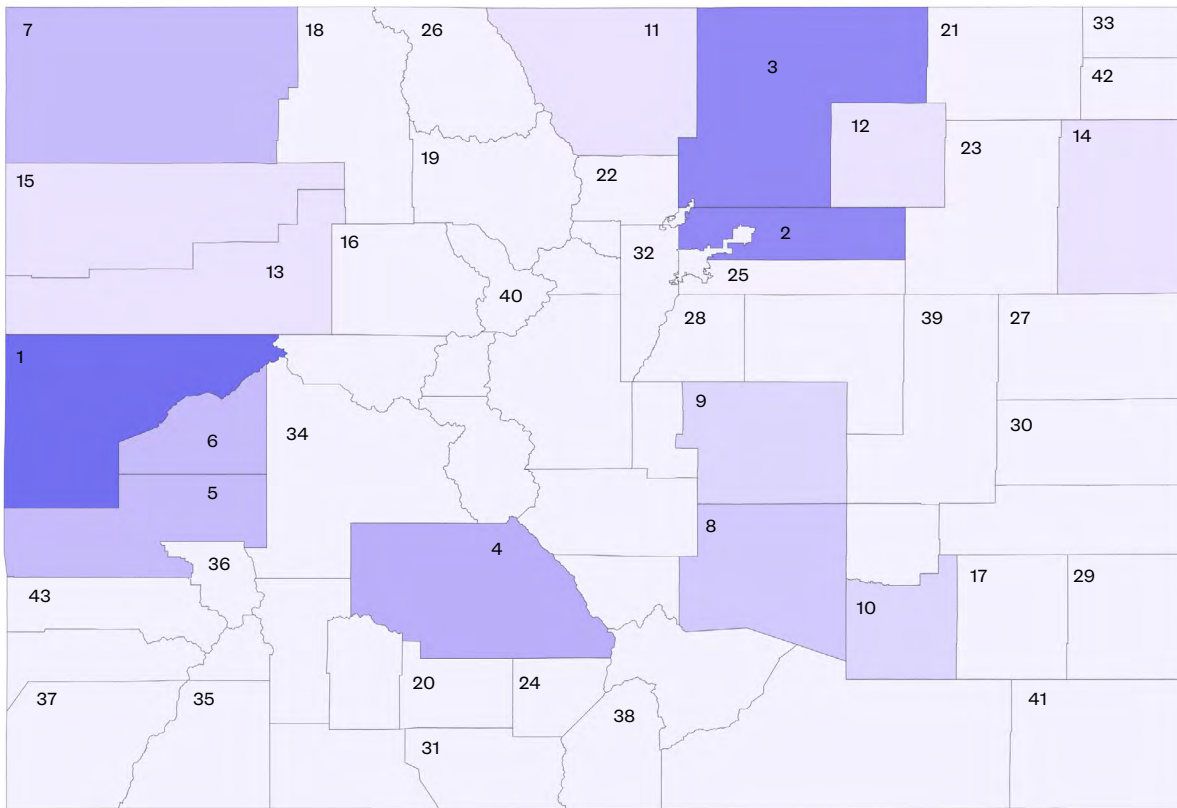
County	Workers Requested	Workers DOL Certified	Share Certified by DOL	Estimated Approved Workers by USCIS
Mesa	537	526	98.0%	506
Adams	447	446	99.8%	442
Weld	443	441	99.5%	428
Saguache	291	291	100.0%	286
Montrose	247	245	99.2%	218
Moffat	224	217	96.9%	154
Delta	228	215	94.3%	144
Pueblo	198	183	92.4%	183
El Paso	131	131	100.0%	130
Otero	116	116	100.0%	3.7%

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

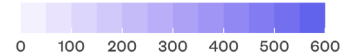
- Mesa County16.0%
- Adams County14.0%
- Weld County13.6%
- Saguache County 9.1%
- Montrose County 6.9%
- Moffat County5.8%
- Pueblo County5.8%
- Delta County4.6%
- El Paso County4.1%
- Otero County3.7%



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



Colorado H-2A Visas in FY 2021



County	Total Certified H-2A Workers
1 MESA	526
2 ADAMS	446
3 WELD	441
4 SAGUACHE	291
5 MONTROSE	245
6 DELTA	215
7 MOFFAT	217
8 PUEBLO	183
9 EL PASO	131
10 OTERO	116
11 LARIMER	63
12 MORGAN	52
13 GARFIELD	59
14 YUMA	52
15 RIO BLANCO	50

County	Total Certified H-2A Workers
16 EAGLE	43
17 BENT	34
18 ROUTT	28
19 GRAND	29
20 RIO GRANDE	26
21 LOGAN	22
22 BOULDER	21
23 WASHINGTON	14
24 ALAMOSA	18
25 ARAPAHOE	18
26 JACKSON	18
27 KIT CARSON	17
28 DOUGLAS	14
29 PROWERS	13
30 CHEYENNE	12

County	Total Certified H-2A Workers
31 CONEJOS	12
32 JEFFERSON	12
33 SEDGWICK	9
34 GUNNISON	8
35 LA PLATA	6
36 OURAY	7
37 MONTEZUMA	6
38 COSTILLA	3
39 LINCOLN	4
40 SUMMIT	3
41 BACA	2
42 PHILLIPS	1
43 SAN MIGUEL	1

ENDNOTES

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.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. The data include USCIS approval of an H-2A visa classification for noncitizens who will need to apply for an H-2A 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-2A status. Noncitizens who need to consular process must be issued an H-2A visa and be admitted to the United States in H-2A status before they can work for the employer. Thus, the number of USCIS-approved H-2A workers in this data does not equate to the number of noncitizens working in Colorado in FY2021 in H-2A status.
6. Ibid.
7. Methodology: To estimate the number of H-2A 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-2A workers by worksite county, occupation code, and industry which is provided in the DOL data set.