

# **Calculation of the Adjusted Visa Refusal Rate for Tourist and Business travelers under the Guidelines of the Visa Waiver Program**

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## **1. What is the Visa Waiver Program?**

The Visa Waiver Program enables nationals of certain countries to travel without a visa to the U.S., when the intended travel is for "B" visa purposes (tourism or business) for stays of 90 days or less, if the traveler meets certain requirements. For more information, see [http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without\\_1990.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1990.html). The Visa Waiver Program is administered by the Department of Homeland Security.

## **2. What is a Visa Refusal?**

Under U.S. immigration law, a visa must be denied if the applicant cannot establish his or her eligibility, either because the application does not meet the requirements of an established visa category, or because there are grounds for ineligibility based on other aspects of the visa case. A visa refusal is the formal denial of a nonimmigrant visa application by a U.S. consular officer acting pursuant to the Immigration and Nationality Act. (More about visa refusals may be found at [http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/ineligibilities/ineligibilities\\_1364.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/ineligibilities/ineligibilities_1364.html)).

## **3. What is a Refusal Overcome?**

Some visa refusals can be overcome by the presentation of additional information. "Overcomes" are cases in which an initial decision to deny a visa or suspend processing in a visa case is overcome by the new information or changed circumstances that establishes an applicant's eligibility for the visa (and the visa is then issued).

#### **4. What is a Waiver of Ineligibility?**

Some visa refusals require a waiver of ineligibility which must be approved by the Department of Homeland Security before a visa may be issued.

#### **5. How is the Visa Waiver Program Adjusted Visa Refusal Rate Calculated?**

The Visa Waiver Program nonimmigrant visa refusal rate is based on the number of visitor ("B") visa applications submitted, worldwide, by nationals of that country. (B visas are issued for short-term business or pleasure travel to the United States. For information about qualifying for a "B" visa for business or tourism, please see [http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types\\_1265.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1265.html))

The adjusted refusal rate equals: [Refusals minus Overcomes] divided by [Issuances plus Refusals minus Overcomes].

Example: Determination of "B" Visa Adjusted Refusal Rate for Country X:

"B" visa applicants from Country X, applying for their visas worldwide, had 305,024 issuances; 20,548 refusals; and 8,880 refusals overcome.

Refusals minus Overcomes =  $20,548 - 8,880 = 11,668$   
Issuances plus Refusals minus Overcomes =  $305,024 + 20,548 - 8,880 = 316,692$   
 $11,668$  divided by  $316,692 = 3.7\%$   
(Adjusted Refusal Rate)

The number of visa applicants who receive waivers of ineligibility is not considered when calculating Visa Waiver Program adjusted refusal rates.

This is because a visa applicant requiring a waiver of ineligibility must apply for that waiver and receive approval before obtaining a visa with the waiver annotated. Therefore, applicants requiring such a determination would not be eligible to participate in the Visa Waiver Program, because the decision regarding the application for waiver of ineligibility could not be made at a port of entry.

#### **6. Other Considerations Regarding the Visa Waiver Program Adjusted Refusal Rate.**

A country's visa refusal rate is just one of the criteria considered when determining a country's eligibility for Visa Waiver Program status. For more information, see "How a Country Qualifies for the Visa Waiver Program," at [http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without\\_1255.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1255.html). It is important to note that the Visa Waiver Program is administered by the Department of Homeland Security.

Adjusted visa refusal rates for nationals of Visa Waiver Program countries reflect only visa applications submitted at U.S. embassies and consulates abroad. They do not take into account persons who, under the Visa Waiver Program, travel to the U.S. without visas. Visa Waiver Program country refusal rates therefore tend to be higher than they would be if the Visa Waiver Program travelers were included in the calculation, since such travelers would in all likelihood have been issued visas had they applied.

**7. Current visa waiver program refusal rate data.**

[FY2006 NIV B Adjusted Refusals by Nationality](#)

**ADJUSTED REFUSAL RATE - B-VISAS (B1, B1/B2, B2) ONLY**  
**BY NATIONALITY**  
**FISCAL YEAR 2006**

COUNTRY NAME	ADJUSTED REFUSAL RATE
AFGHANISTAN	39.8%
ALBANIA	54.5%
ALGERIA	20.2%
ANDORRA	25.0%
ANGOLA	11.1%
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	19.1%
ARGENTINA	6.7%
ARMENIA	58.7%
AUSTRALIA	17.8%
AUSTRIA	15.8%
AZERBAIJAN	22.2%
BAHAMAS, THE	5.0%
BAHRAIN	6.3%
BANGLADESH	47.2%
BARBADOS	6.3%
BELARUS	26.5%
BELGIUM	10.7%
BELIZE	21.7%
BENIN	31.9%
BHUTAN	57.0%
BOLIVIA	31.4%
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA	21.3%
BOTSWANA	16.9%
BRAZIL	13.2%
BRUNEI	10.0%
BULGARIA	17.5%
BURKINA FASO	33.2%
BURMA	44.9%
BURUNDI	32.9%
CAMBODIA	58.3%
CAMEROON	45.8%
CANADA	25.5%
CAPE VERDE	38.0%
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	34.3%
CHAD	32.1%
CHILE	7.5%
CHINA - MAINLAND	24.5%
CHINA - TAIWAN	3.1%
COLOMBIA	33.3%
COMOROS	21.6%
CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE)	29.0%
CONGO (KINSHASA)	44.2%
COSTA RICA	24.1%
COTE D'IVOIRE	51.3%
CROATIA	4.9%

Data must be read in conjunction with the explanatory notes.

**ADJUSTED REFUSAL RATE - B-VISAS (B1, B1/B2, B2) ONLY**  
**BY NATIONALITY**  
**FISCAL YEAR 2006**

COUNTRY NAME	ADJUSTED REFUSAL RATE
CUBA	61.3%
CYPRUS	2.2%
CZECH REPUBLIC	9.4%
DENMARK	9.0%
DJIBOUTI	33.7%
DOMINICA	33.0%
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	33.8%
EAST TIMOR	0.0%
ECUADOR	35.5%
EGYPT	32.9%
EL SALVADOR	61.0%
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	17.2%
ERITREA	49.0%
ESTONIA	7.1%
ETHIOPIA	43.1%
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA	100.0%
FIJI	31.0%
FINLAND	12.9%
FRANCE	1.4%
GABON	26.2%
GAMBIA, THE	65.5%
GEORGIA	48.2%
GERMANY	8.7%
GHANA	66.1%
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	14.6%
GREECE	2.2%
GRENADA	27.4%
GUATEMALA	52.3%
GUINEA	52.9%
GUINEA - BISSAU	44.5%
GUYANA	60.3%
HAITI	32.7%
HONDURAS	38.0%
HONG KONG (BNO HK passport)	3.1%
HONG KONG S. A. R.	4.2%
HUNGARY	12.7%
ICELAND	16.0%
INDIA	19.5%
INDONESIA	35.1%
IRAN	45.1%
IRAQ	56.1%
IRELAND	17.4%
ISRAEL	4.2%
ITALY	2.4%
JAMAICA	35.9%

Data must be read in conjunction with the explanatory notes.

**ADJUSTED REFUSAL RATE - B-VISAS (B1, B1/B2, B2) ONLY  
BY NATIONALITY  
FISCAL YEAR 2006**

COUNTRY NAME	ADJUSTED REFUSAL RATE
JAPAN	12.8%
JORDAN	43.3%
KAZAKHSTAN	12.5%
KENYA	33.9%
KIRIBATI	18.2%
KOREA, NORTH	26.9%
KOREA, SOUTH	3.6%
KUWAIT	4.0%
KYRGYZSTAN	29.4%
LAOS	74.2%
LATVIA	21.6%
LEBANON	26.9%
LESOTHO	26.5%
LIBERIA	39.4%
LIBYA	43.8%
LIECHTENSTEIN	5.9%
LITHUANIA	27.7%
LUXEMBOURG	-0.8%
MACAU S.A.R.	8.0%
MACEDONIA	40.9%
MADAGASCAR	9.6%
MALAWI	35.1%
MALAYSIA	11.4%
MALDIVES	16.3%
MALI	42.7%
MALTA	2.8%
MAURITANIA	56.5%
MAURITIUS	10.0%
MEXICO*	30.9%
MOLDOVA	34.2%
MONACO	14.3%
MONGOLIA	49.9%
MOROCCO	31.2%
MOZAMBIQUE	15.9%
NAMIBIA	6.5%
NAURU	9.5%
NEPAL	55.3%
NETHERLANDS	10.7%
NEW ZEALAND	12.5%
NICARAGUA	48.0%
NIGER	51.9%
NIGERIA	54.0%
NORWAY	4.9%
OMAN	5.2%
PAKISTAN	31.3%

Data must be read in conjunction with the explanatory notes.

**ADJUSTED REFUSAL RATE - B-VISAS (B1, B1/B2, B2) ONLY  
BY NATIONALITY  
FISCAL YEAR 2006**

<b>COUNTRY NAME</b>	<b>ADJUSTED REFUSAL RATE</b>
PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY Travel Document	47.0%
PANAMA	15.9%
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	9.0%
PARAGUAY	26.3%
PERU	48.6%
PHILIPPINES	37.7%
POLAND	26.2%
PORTUGAL	10.0%
QATAR	4.1%
REPUBLIC OF PALAU	78.6%
REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS	14.7%
ROMANIA	34.1%
RUSSIA	15.3%
RWANDA	41.1%
SAMOA	22.1%
SAN MARINO	25.0%
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE	10.0%
SAUDI ARABIA	11.3%
SENEGAL	59.4%
SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO	24.3%
SEYCHELLES	12.3%
SIERRA LEONE	49.5%
SINGAPORE	8.5%
SLOVAKIA	16.0%
SLOVENIA	4.4%
SOLOMON ISLANDS	14.3%
SOMALIA	55.4%
SOUTH AFRICA	5.2%
SPAIN	6.2%
SRI LANKA	22.3%
ST. KITTS AND NEVIS	22.6%
ST. LUCIA	30.5%
ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	25.5%
SUDAN	40.5%
SURINAME	18.7%
SWAZILAND	11.4%
SWEDEN	8.0%
SWITZERLAND	7.0%
SYRIA	36.7%
TAJIKISTAN	31.2%
TANZANIA	22.2%
THAILAND	12.9%
TOGO	57.5%
TONGA	40.8%
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	19.8%

Data must be read in conjunction with the explanatory notes.

**ADJUSTED REFUSAL RATE - B-VISAS (B1, B1/B2, B2) ONLY  
BY NATIONALITY  
FISCAL YEAR 2006**

COUNTRY NAME	ADJUSTED REFUSAL RATE
TUNISIA	20.2%
TURKEY	15.4%
TURKMENISTAN	48.7%
TUVALU	8.0%
UGANDA	43.3%
UKRAINE	38.7%
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	9.8%
URUGUAY	12.6%
UZBEKISTAN	60.1%
VANUATU	30.0%
VATICAN CITY	0.0%
VENEZUELA	13.8%
VIETNAM	40.9%
YEMEN	60.2%
ZAMBIA	39.8%
ZIMBABWE	40.1%

\*Includes applications for both B visas and combination  
B-1/B-2/Mexican Border Crossing Cards