

## The United States of America



### About the United States

**Capital City:**

- Washington, D.C.

**Monetary Unit:**

- U.S. dollar (USD)

**Major Language:**

- English

**Main Exports:**

- Transportation Equipment
- Electronics
- Civilian Aircraft & Parts
- Automotive Vehicles & Parts
- Chemicals

### Our Immigration Services in the United States

**Business Travel** – Guidance and assistance with Business Visitor Visas for foreign nationals who require a visa for entry to the U.S.

**Temporary Work Authorization** – For foreign nationals sponsored by a U.S. employer who will work as a professional in a specialty occupation (H-1B), intracompany transferee (L-1), treaty trader or investor (E-1/2), pursuant to Trade NAFTA (TN), etc.

**Employment-based Permanent Residency** – For self-sponsored or sponsored foreign nationals including PERM Labor Certification, Multinational Managers & Executives, Extraordinary Ability, Outstanding Researchers & Professors, National Interest Waivers, Investors

### The U.S. Economy

With a population of over 314 million, the U.S. is the third most populous country in the world. The U.S. has the largest and most technologically powerful economy in the world. Its gross domestic product accounts for nearly a quarter of the world's total and was estimated at \$14.7 trillion in 2010.

The United States' market-based economy is unparalleled. It is home to the largest stock exchange in the world, the New York Stock Exchange, and the largest gold reserves. It is rich in natural resources and its climate makes it a top agricultural producer. An original member of the G7, the U.S. is the largest trading nation and remains the largest manufacturer in the world.

The flexibility and efficiency of the U.S. labor market reflects the nation's diversity. U.S. companies are global leaders in innovation and technological advances, particularly in the computer, medical, aerospace, and military equipment industries. The U.S. is ranked 4th on the World Economic Forum's 2010-2011 Global Competitiveness Index and is ranked in the top ten on the Heritage Foundation's 2011 Index of Economic Freedom.

Sources and for more about the U.S. economy: <http://www.bea.gov/scb/index.htm>; and <http://www.fedstats.gov>

### Business Travel to the United States

Foreign nationals who wish to travel to the U.S. should ensure they possess a machine-readable passport that is valid for at least six months and contains at least two blank visa pages. Generally, business travelers seeking admission to the U.S. will fall in to one of two categories: those who require a B-1 visa stamp in their passport; and those who may enter,

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visa free, via the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). Foreign nationals who require a visa stamp in their passport should apply well in advance at a U.S. Consulate or mission abroad. If the foreign national is a citizen of one of the 36 VWP countries, they meet certain criteria, and they plan to stay less than 90 days, they must pre-register via the Customs & Border Protection's Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) web site prior to entry (<http://tinyurl.com/6druvy>). A list of VWP countries and information about ESTA eligibility may be found at the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/ysf59m>

Business visitors to the U.S. should be prepared to address inquiries by consular and immigration officials regarding the nature of their proposed activities in the U.S. during the visa application process and during admission, as officials will wish to ensure that the visitor has no intent of staying beyond the proposed travel or engaging in activities that are not consistent with admission as a business visitor. Business visitors to the U.S. may participate in business negotiations, attend meetings and conferences. A detailed list of activities permitted under the B-1 visa category can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/3ln2yrc>

Foreign nationals from certain countries should expect to undergo additional security checks and should allow additional time for processing. For a list of U.S. Embassies and Consulates abroad, visit: <http://www.usembassy.gov/>

### Living in the United States

Known as the "melting pot," the U.S. is one of the most ethnically diverse countries in the world. It is home to sophisticated international

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cities such as Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, and New York as well as rural areas that are the backbone of a thriving agricultural industry. Each of its 50 states has its own unique character and offerings including an array of natural resources and climate types.

English is the predominant language in the U.S., although languages from many foreign countries are spoken within cultural enclaves throughout the U.S. Free public education is generally available for children from kindergarten through 12th grade. A wide array of post-secondary educational institutions, including colleges, university and trade school are available.

## U.S. Work Permit Process

**1** U.S. sponsor files a petition to afford nonimmigrant or immigrant (long term/ short-term) employment authorization – or –  
In some instances where the sponsoring organization has received pre-approval or, pursuant to treaties, the foreign national may directly apply for admission at a port of entry or a visa at a U.S. Consulate abroad

**2** If a petition approval is first required, it will be followed by an application for a visa at a U.S. Consulate abroad

**3** Upon entry to the U.S., foreign national's application for social security number & employment eligibility verification

## How Goel & Anderson can assist your organization in the United States

Organizations that wish to employ foreign workers abroad require an immigration service provider with a record of successfully coordinating and delivering global, business immigration services for multinational organizations. Goel & Anderson practices exclusively in the field of immigration to assist your organization with the recruitment, hiring, and retention of foreign workers across the globe, particularly the U.S. We understand that time and resources are valuable to your business and that staffing an international project can be critical to your business' reputation and success. We are committed to efficiently delivering business immigration solutions that combine broad global coverage with a depth of local expertise.

We handle all U.S. matters directly and, for global matters, carefully select co-counsel who share our service and compliance-oriented approach to meet the needs of organizations doing business in the global marketplace. Our Global Immigration group and local counsel work closely together to ensure comprehensive business coordination and seamless delivery

## U.S. Business Culture

The culture and geographic location of an area will influence how business is done. Traditionally, the East Coast is considered more conservative and formal in dress and manners than the West Coast. The U.S. was founded on the work ethic that good, honest, hard work is rewarded. Because of this work ethic, time is money and punctuality is highly regarded. The U.S. business culture ascribes personality characteristics and values based on how people use time.

With headquarters outside of Washington, DC in Reston, Virginia and operations in Pune, India, Goel & Anderson is an immigration firm that is international in scope and personal in nature. We are known as a firm that is highly professional and also highly human. We offer clients extensive experience and a comprehensive understanding of all areas of business, employment, and family-based immigration law worldwide.

For more information about our Global Immigration Practice and services, please contact Jill Marie Bussey at [jill.bussey@goellaw.com](mailto:jill.bussey@goellaw.com) or +1 703.796.9881.

\*Goel & Anderson, LLC does not engage in the practice of law within India. All services in India are provided by our affiliate, G&A Immigration Services Private Limited.

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of services. Our immigration services include end-to-end processing, including: Work Permit and Visa Application preparation and filing; detailed guidance on entry and post-entry requirements; and tracking key expiration dates.

If your office in the U.S. anticipates engaging foreign talent, an early analysis of immigration options and strategies, as well as a thorough understanding of the sponsorship obligations, will better position your business' project for success. We also understand that, despite careful planning, emergent issues can arise. We are well positioned to assist your business to address unexpected business requirements. Further, because global immigration matters do not occur within a vacuum and the law is infrequently static, we seek local experts who may also assist with a range of related legal services, including corporate formation, contracts, employment agreements, licensing, and transactions and who will advise of changes in policy and procedures



Innovative Approaches to Immigration Law

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