

U.S. VISAS

U.S. Department of State • Bureau of Consular Affairs



H-2 Visa processing in Mission Mexico

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Our Message

We strive to process your employees quickly efficiently and dependably.

We are expanding capacity across Mission Mexico to meet increasing demand.

We evaluate all applicants consistently as required by the law. Every visa adjudication is a national security decision.



H-2A Visa Process Overview



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

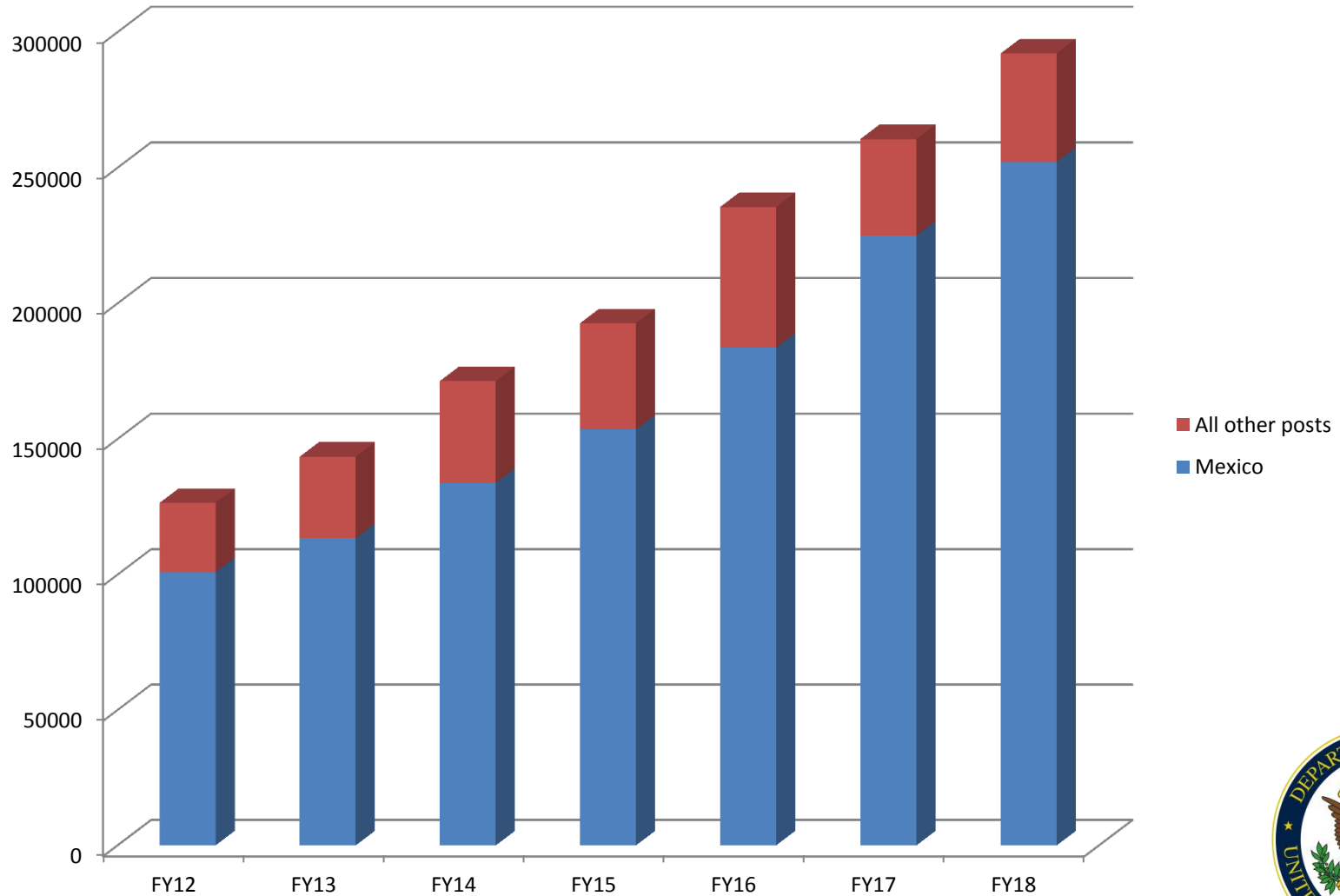


U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

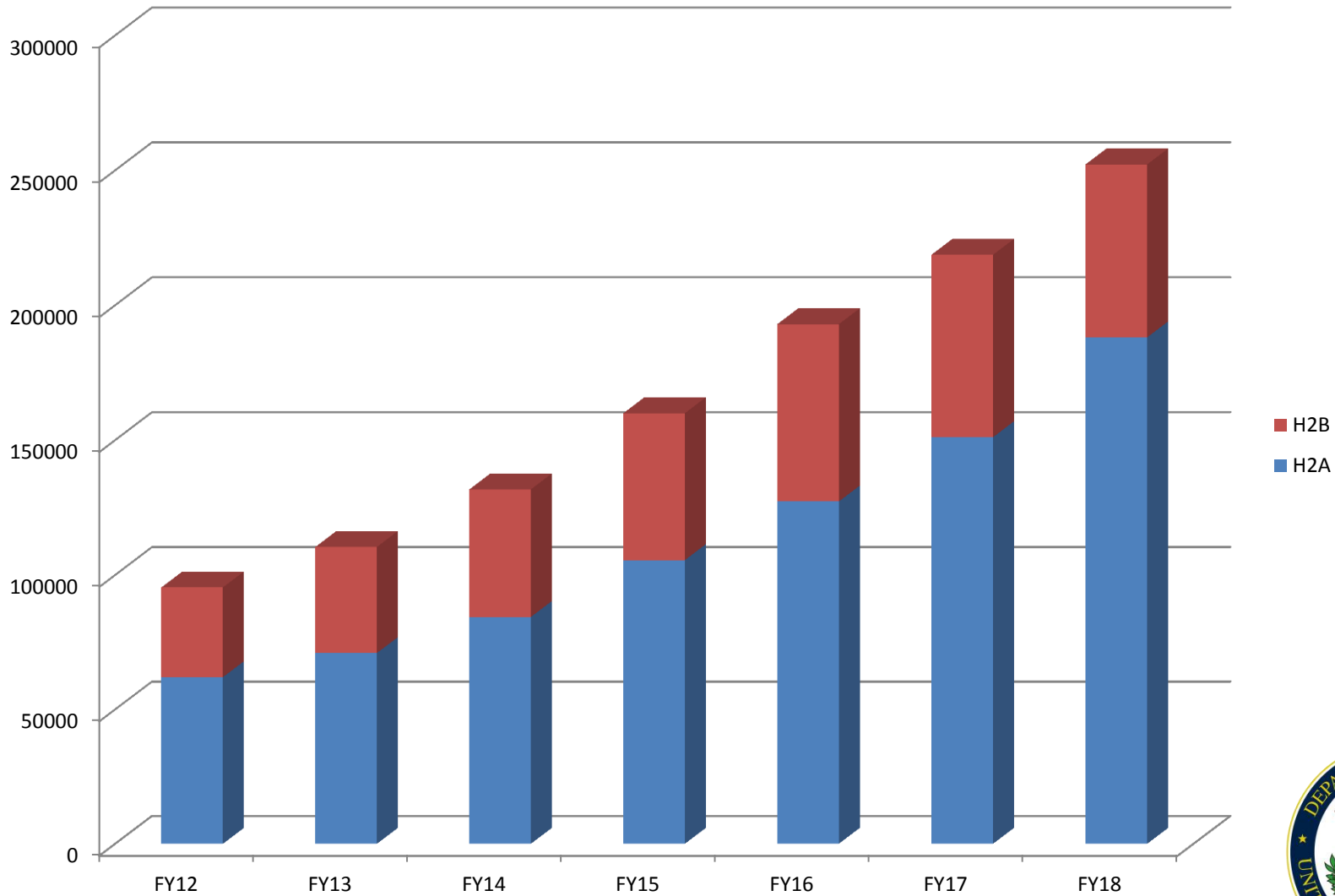
Visa
Adjudication



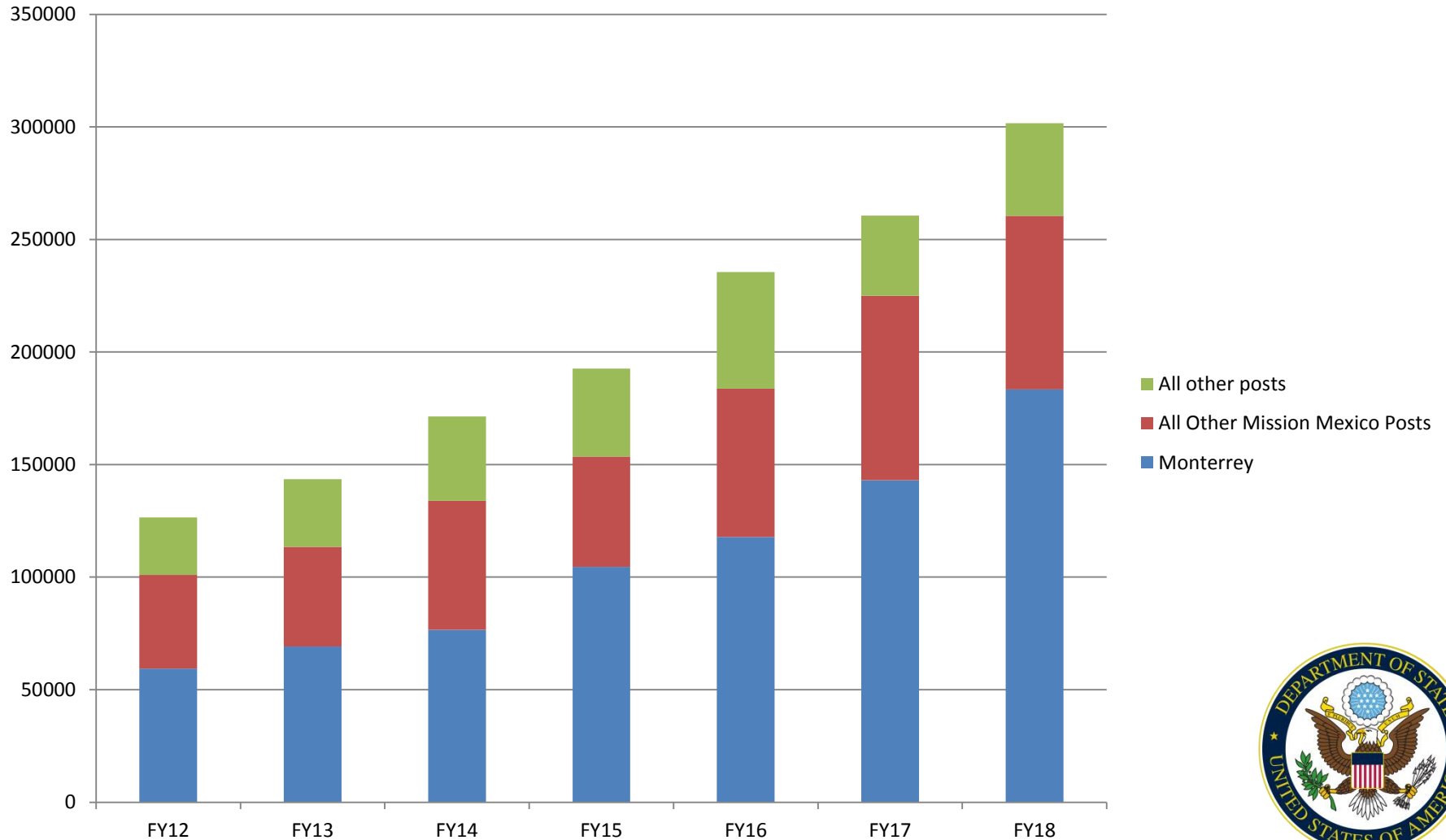
H-2 Visa Adjudications Worldwide



Mission Mexico Visa Adjudications



Expanding Capacity



Meeting Increasing Demand

- Peak Season 2018: March to June
 - Monterrey processed nearly 100,000 H-2 cases. We processed 12,000 cases per week in April.
 - Our capacity increased thanks to petitioners making greater use of the interview waiver scheduling option.
- Other posts in Mission Mexico are increasing their capacity and are ready to see more applicants.
- At some point, demand will outstrip supply in Monterrey. We need your help to diversify work across Mexico to meet our goal of providing quick, efficient, and dependable processing.



H-2 Interview Waiver Eligible Cases

Who is it for?

- For workers who have had the same type of visa (H-2A or H-2B) which expired less than 12 months ago and have no ineligibilities, arrests, or previous immigration violations.

What are the advantages to you?

- Workers eligible for interview waiver do not need to arrive to Monterrey until the second day.
- It allows us to increase our processing capacity.
- Carefully screening interview waiver cases helps us provide consistent results.



The Three Day Model

- Day 1 – Enrollment at the Applicant Service Center
- Day 2 – Consulate processes eligible interview waiver cases
- Day 3 – Consulate interviews applicants and delivers passports to the agents

- The three day model is what allows us to ensure that all cases are delivered to the local agent at 3:00 pm on the third day.
- This allows us to provide consistent, predictable results on the third day for the overwhelming majority of our cases.
- There are minor differences among posts in Mission Mexico, so I encourage you to talk to the representatives about their processing models during our the information fair. Due to local efficiencies, some posts are able to process cases within two days.



Increasing Capacity in Mission Mexico

Nuevo Laredo opened a new facility in May 2018.



Other border posts in Mexico will be renovated in the coming years.



National Security

Every visa decision is a decision that could impact U.S. National Security.

Any applicants who have visa ineligibilities can expect to carry out fully any associated penalties.

Employers and their agents should screen prospective workers for problematic immigration and criminal histories.

Applicants and agents will be held responsible for the accuracy and completeness of their visa applications. Failure to disclose requested information will result in a visa denial and may lead to a permanent ineligibility.



Common Questions

Why can't you tell me more about my applicant's case?

If a worker is found ineligible for a visa, he or she will receive a refusal letter with the specific reason why they were found ineligible. These records are confidential and we are not able to disclose or discuss the outcome of any visa interview. The worker should communicate this information directly to the agent or petitioner.



Common Questions

Why was my applicant refused? What is administrative processing?

Many H-2 applicants that are refused are ineligible to receive a visa for past immigration violations or for having criminal convictions.

In some cases, we may suspend processing for specific individuals to investigate their case more closely or request the applicant to provide more information.



Common Questions

How can I expedite my case at the Consulate?

Every post in Mission Mexico strives to keep wait times below 7 days during peak season. Due to the nature of the three-day model, there may not be appointments immediately available at times.

If one post is full for appointments, we encourage you to look at other posts for more immediate appointments.



Common Questions

How can I protect against allegations of prohibited fee payment?

- *Be aware of the process. If you are not paying for recruitment, it's likely that your workers are.*
- *Talk to your recruiters and agents about fees, and verify what they tell you with the workers.*
- *At the end of the day, if we have a report of fraud or illegal fee payment, we have to investigate it.*



How You Can Help

- Be aware of what your agents and recruiters are doing.
- Have open discussions with your employees about their experience and report any issues that come up.
- Be in touch with us if you have any concerns.



SYSTEMS

It is hard to overstate the importance of our systems.

- One morning of systems outages can produce a knock-on effect that impacts a whole week's worth of adjudications.



QUESTIONS?

It is our honor and privilege to serve you and the American people.



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