

GUATEMALA: AGRICULTURE AND WORKFORCE QUICK FACTS

Guatemala is known as the Land of Eternal Spring and is blessed with a large and varied agricultural economy, accounting for 13.5% of GDP and **31% of the labor force**.

Guatemala is the top remittance recipient in Central America because of Guatemala's large expatriate community in the US. These inflows are a primary source of foreign income, equivalent to two-thirds of the country's exports and about a tenth of its GDP. Remittances from nonimmigrant workers contribute to economic growth and stability.

Guatemala has a strong agricultural sector and is a major exporter of sugarcane, bananas, coffee, cardamom, vegetables, flowers, fresh fruits, and others. This diverse and rich experience provides workers with a strong agricultural skill set in a variety of farm settings.

Workforce Characteristics

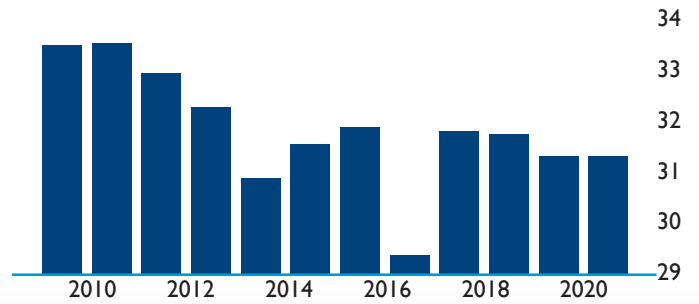
Guatemala's median age is 22 – a young workforce. There are 11,081,003 adults in Guatemala and the country is the most populous country in Central America. Workers from Guatemala are known for their work ethic and commitment to customer service.



Employment in Agriculture

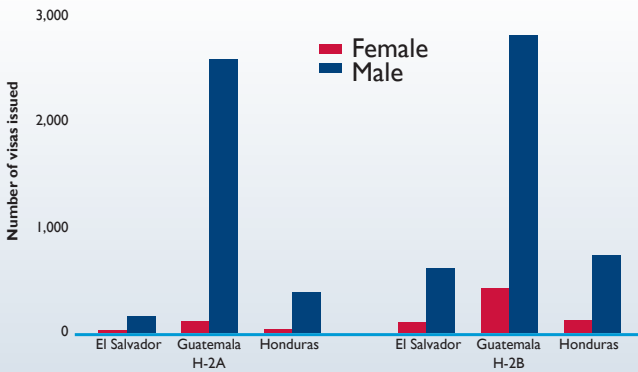
(% of total employment – FY 2019)

With 31% of its population working in agriculture, Guatemala has a large, experienced workforce available to U.S. growers. The skills of this workforce are readily transferable to needs of U.S. growers especially in the farm laborer occupational category. Guatemala’s Seasonal Labor Program includes workers in more than 60 different agricultural fields.



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“ The country’s agricultural sector accounts for approximately 13.5% of GDP and 31% of the labor force. ”



Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security
 Note: Sex distribution is an estimation, calculated through an extrapolation from the global sex distribution for H-2 visa issuances, disaggregated by specific visa classification and applied to specific nationalities

From the adjacent chart, Guatemala has experienced H-2A and H-2B workers and the Seasonal Labor Program aims to promote regular, orderly, and safe migration through a pre-established, organized, and safe selection and travel process.



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