

Visa News and Statistics: Latin America is a Hot Market, but Australia is Falling Behind

Although the overall J1 visa numbers have increased dramatically since 2004, not all countries are seeing a rise in their number of visas. After carefully evaluating all of the J1 visa statistics issued by the U.S. State Department, U.S.E. found that more Latin Americans are receiving J1 visas, but there is a decrease of visas being issued to Australians.

In 2008, both Chile and Peru saw 169% and 155% increases in J1 visas from 2004 respectively and Brazil sent over 21,000 J1s to the U.S. Argentina and Ecuador saw a slight decrease in numbers from 2007 (3%) but have increased overall since 2004. In contrast, there has been a 19% decrease in the J1 participants from Australia since the year 2004, with each year seeing less and less participants. In 2004, Australia sent almost 6,000 J1 workers to the U.S. but only 4,855 in 2008. Russia is still the J1 leader sending over 31,500 participants per year. Other markets that have been increasing are Turkey and the Ukraine.

A breakdown of visa numbers can be seen below:

Latin American Countries

Country	2008 total J1s	% increase from 2007	% increase from 2004
Chile	4,211	15%	169%
Peru	8,864	20%	155%
Ecuador	2,673	-3%	134%
Brazil	21,125	17%	109%
Argentina	4,603	-3%	39%
Columbia	6,680	13%	170%
Mexico	6,082	4%	41%

Australia / New Zealand Countries

Country	2008 total J1s	% increase from 2007	% increase from 2004
Australia	4,855	-3%	-19%
New Zealand	1,598	0%	-23%

Others

Country	2008 total J1s	% increase from 2007	% increase from 2004
Jamaica	3,940	43%	456%
Ukraine	11,644	26%	281%
Turkey	13,038	38%	243%
Thailand	11,725	-8%	202%

Universal Student Exchange has been the leader in Latin American J1 recruiting for over 10 years. With offices based in Peru, Chile and Argentina and alliances in Brazil and Ecuador, we are well suited to help you with all of your Latin American hiring needs. Contact us now and get started! Call 646-205-0149 or send an email to employerservices@workuse.com.