



PEOPLE TO PEOPLE CONNECTIONS

A. Immigration

- Nearly one in six Americans claims German ancestry. In the 2000 census, 42.8 million people (15 percent of the population) considered themselves to be German. It was the most frequent response to the census question.
- 8,436 Germans immigrated to the U.S. in 2006.
- 15 million Americans have lived in Germany since WWII. According to the Statistisches Jahrbuch 2007, as of December 2006 there were 99,300 Americans living in Germany.

B. Travel and Tourism

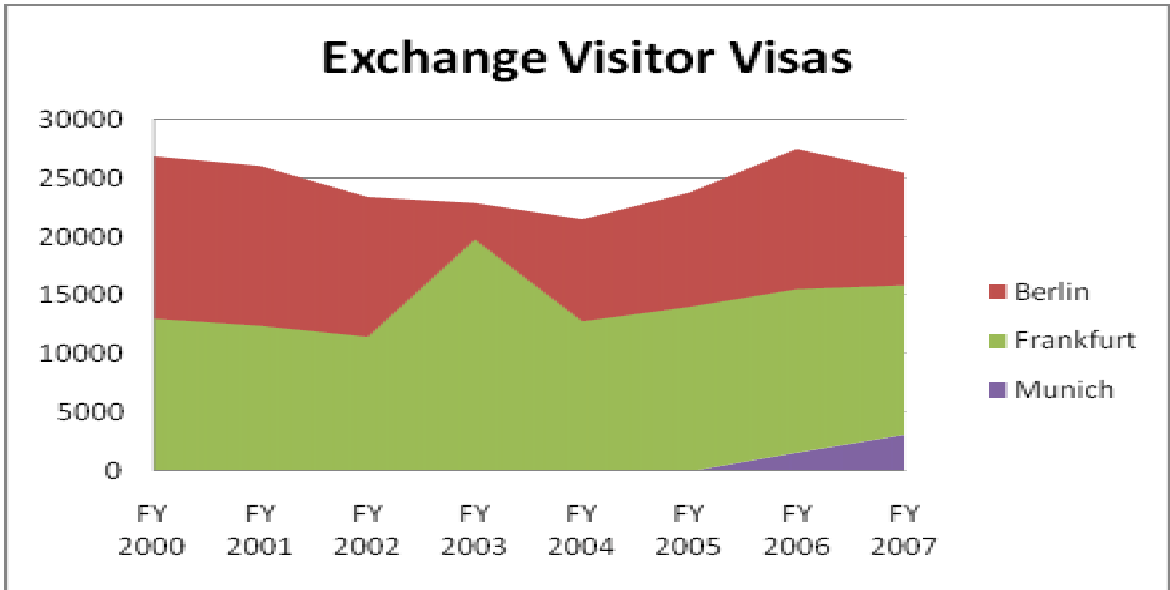
On a much more personal level, one of the most telling indicators of the close economic and social bonds between the U.S. and Germany is the extensive travel between the two countries. From high school exchange students choosing the United States for their first trip outside of the EU to multi-million dollar investments to winners of the diversity visa program to “snow-birds” who winter in Florida, Germans travel to the U.S. in the hundreds of thousands every year. Visas are obtained for those who wish to stay longer than 90 days, are traveling on private carriers, or have previous immigration violations (which can include overstays of only one day).

German Visitors to the U.S.

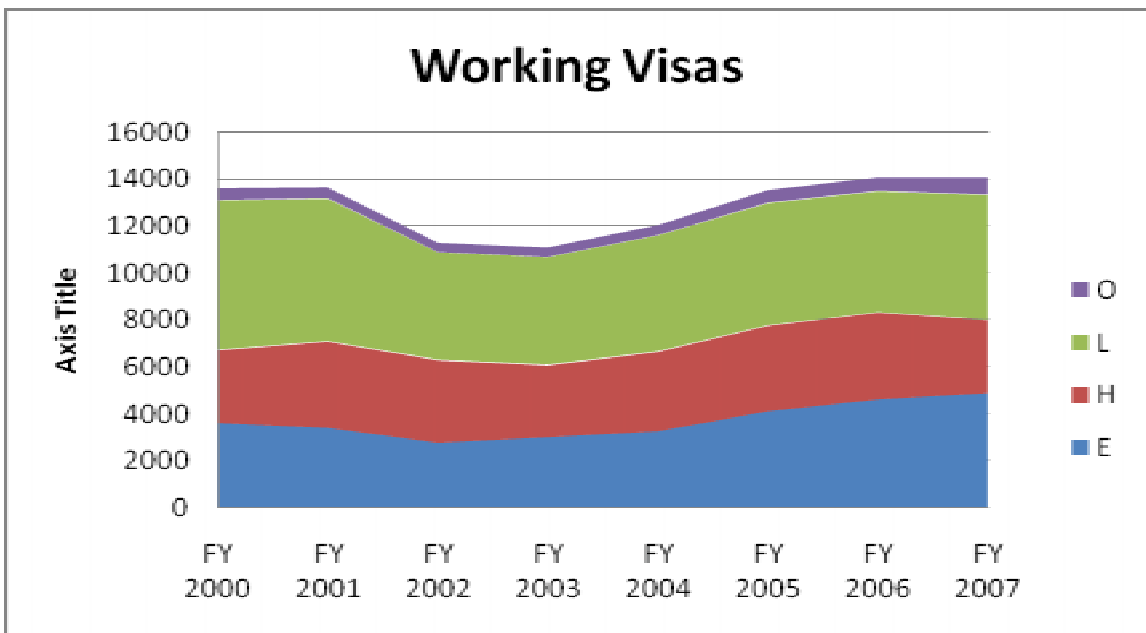
- In 2007 alone, there were roughly 1,524,000 Germans traveling to the United States, still behind trends in 2000, where 1,786,000 German travelers went to the United States.
- After September 11, 2001, the number of German tourists traveling to the U.S. fell to 1,314,000 in 2002 and 1,180,000 in 2003. However, this trend has now reversed and we are experiencing increases on an annual basis (1,386,000 in 2006).
- Germany currently represents the fifth largest group of international tourists traveling to the United States, and business travel is listed by German travelers as the main purpose for their travel to the United States.
- Approximately 10 million travelers from Western Europe visit the United States annually. Germany is the largest U.S. inbound market in continental Europe and in 2006, nearly 1.4 million travelers from Germany visited the United States, spending more than \$4.2 billion or \$3,000 per person. More than 50% planned their trip using a travel agent. The strong Euro is playing a major role in favor of European travel to the U.S. and this trend is expected to continue. The number of German travelers to the United States is expected to increase 22% by 2011.



- In 2007, German visitors to the U.S. spent just over \$5 billion, a 20 percent increase over the previous year. This amounted to roughly 4 percent of all tourism-related economic activity in the United States.
- One of the most lasting cross-cultural connections is built by students visiting the United States. The intended length of stay varies from a language course of only a few weeks to decades of study from high school through a PhD, and there is no mechanism for tracking how long a given student remains in the United States. Student visitors can be either full time students (F-category), or come under an exchange visitor program (J category), which includes visiting scholars, summer camp and seasonal student workers, au pairs, and more. The following chart illustrates the number of visas issued to academic and technical students in Germany each year since Fiscal Year 2000, and the second chart (following page) illustrates the number of Exchange visitors:
- Statistics vary, depending on the accounting criteria. The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System tracks how many individuals are in student or exchange visitor status at a given time, while visa issuance gives an indication of how many students are new or returning. Immigration and Customs Enforcement listed 7,102 German national students were enrolled in U.S. schools in June of 2006.
- German students tend to participate in far more exchange programs than full time studies. Tens of thousands of exchange visitors obtained visas to live, research, and study in the United States each year. These visitors range from High School exchange students to visiting professors to high-level researchers. Anecdotal evidence suggests that many of the high-level visitors began their U.S. connection on High school exchange programs, and many summer visitors are also renewing and maintaining the relationships they or even their parents began as young students.

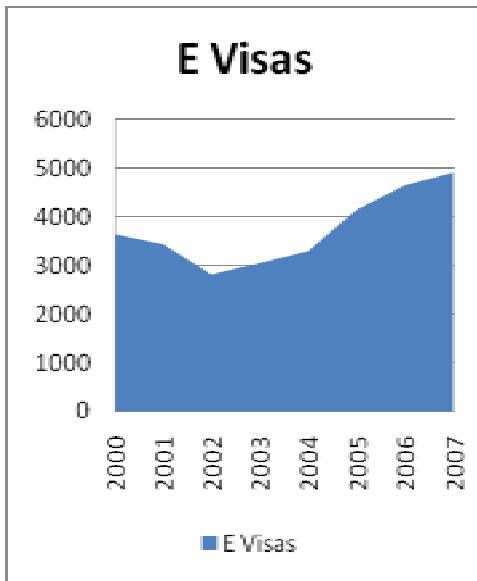


- While the academic and cultural benefits of German-American exchange should not be underestimated, there is a clear picture of the extent of the business connection can be seen through full-time working visas. There are four major categories of working visa, Temporary Workers (H visas), Aliens of Extraordinary Ability, internationally renowned specialists in their field (O visas), Intra-company transfers (L visas), and Treaty-Trader and –Investors (E visas).
- The chart below shows the trends in these types of visas issued in Germany in terms of fiscal years. Aggressive visa outreach programs at all visa-issuing consulates helped to speed the recovery after the September 11 tragedy. Already in FY 2006, issuances had exceeded the pre-September 11 levels, and the trend is continuing upward, so much so, that Munich’s Non-immigrant visas services were re-opened in 2006 to help accommodate the workload.



Of particular note in this category are the Treaty-Trade and Treaty-Investor (E) visas. This category is based on substantial international trade and direct investment in the United States, and all but a very few cases that apply in Germany are German nationals.

The diagram to the right shows the Impressive increase in the number of applications – both first-time and renewals – for investor and trader visas in the past 7 fiscal years. In monetary terms, these visas alone represented a trade volume of \$1.67 billion and direct investment of \$1.33 billion in FY 2007 alone.



U.S. Visitors to Germany

According to German National Tourist Office figures, visitors from the United States registered 4,661,543 overnight hotel stays in Germany in 2007. The U.S. ranks #2 in total overnight stays by foreign visitors after the Netherlands; and #1 for visitors from overseas. Bavaria is the number one destination for U.S. tourists in Germany. In 2006, more than 650,000 Americans visited Bavaria, including an estimated 165,000 attending Oktoberfest.

- Visitors from the U.S. to Germany spent roughly \$5.9 billion in 2007.

U.S. Mission to Germany. February 2009.