

## Working in North America

The United States is a federal constitutional republic comprising fifty states and the federal district of Washington. Composed of 310 million people with one of the world's most ethnically diverse populations, the US is the world's largest national economy. US citizens are subject to three levels of government, federal, state and local; local government duties are split between county and municipal governments. English is the official language of the USA although Spanish is spoken by 12% of the population.

Canada is a federal state governed as a parliamentary democracy and is a constitutional monarchy. Officially bilingual between English and French and multicultural, Canada is composed of 33.4 million people. Canada is an advanced economy and one of the largest in the world. Per capita income is the ninth highest.

## Living in the United States

The primary mode of transport, particularly outside major cities is the car. Driving licences can only be obtained from the state in which one resides and driving regulations vary from state to state. For further information on driving in the United States, please consult the intended state of residence.

Healthcare is not universal and employers usually provide health insurance.

Within the United States, the currency is the US Dollar (USD).



## Living in Canada

English is spoken in nine of Canada's provinces with French spoken in Quebec.

Canada has a strong public healthcare system that treats all patients equally. Private Health Insurance in Canada is typically not provided by employers as it is unnecessary for essential medical procedures.

The currency used in Canada is the Canadian Dollar (CAD).

Same sex marriage ceremonies are permitted in all provinces of Canada.



## Employment Law

### United States

The US labour force comprises 154 million people. The government is the leading employer with a staff of 21 million. The largest private employment sector is healthcare and social assistance, comprising 16 million people.

Non-US citizens require a visa to work in the US.

For further information on obtaining a visa, driving licence requirements, social security numbers and taxation, please visit the United States of America website <http://www.usa.gov/visitors/work.shtml>.

### Canada

There are 17.6 million members of the Canadian labour force. The largest private employment sector is also healthcare and social assistance, with 2.2 million staff.

Those who are not permanent residents or Canadian citizens will require a working Visa.

For further details on credential recognition, social insurance numbers and other workplace information, please visit <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/newcomers/work/index.asp>.

