



*United States Department of State  
Bureau of Consular Affairs*

# VISA BULLETIN

**Number 81 Volume X**

**Washington, D.C.**

IMMIGRANT NUMBERS FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

A. STATUTORY NUMBERS FOR PREFERENCE IMMIGRANT VISAS

This bulletin summarizes the availability of immigrant numbers during September for "Final Action Dates" and "Dates for Filing Applications," indicating when immigrant visa applicants should be notified to assemble and submit required documentation to the National Visa Center.

Unless otherwise indicated on the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) website at [www.uscis.gov/visabulletininfo](http://www.uscis.gov/visabulletininfo), individuals seeking to file applications for adjustment of status with USCIS must use the "Final Action Dates" charts below for determining when they can file such applications. When USCIS determines that there are more immigrant visas available for the fiscal year than there are known applicants for such visas, USCIS will state on its website that applicants may instead use the "Dates for Filing Visa Applications" charts in this Bulletin.

1. Procedures for determining dates. Consular officers are required to report to the Department of State documentarily qualified applicants for numerically limited visas; USCIS reports applicants for adjustment of status. Allocations in the charts below were made, to the extent possible, in chronological order of reported priority dates, for demand received by August 4<sup>th</sup>. If all reported demand could not be satisfied, the category or foreign state in which demand was excessive was deemed oversubscribed. The final action date for an oversubscribed category is the priority date of the first applicant who could not be reached within the numerical limits. If it becomes necessary during the monthly allocation process to retrogress a final action date, supplemental requests for numbers will be honored only if the priority date falls within the new final action date announced in this bulletin. If at any time an annual limit were reached, it would be necessary to immediately make the preference category "unavailable", and no further requests for numbers would be honored.

2. The fiscal year 2023 limit for family-sponsored preference immigrants determined in accordance with Section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) is 226,000. The fiscal year 2023 limit for employment-based preference immigrants calculated under INA 201 is 197,091. Section 202 prescribes that the per-country limit for preference immigrants is set at 7% of the total annual family-sponsored and employment-based preference limits, i.e., 29,616 for FY-2023. The dependent area limit is set at 2%, or 8,462.

3. INA Section 203(e) provides that family-sponsored and employment-based preference visas be issued to eligible immigrants in the order in which a petition on behalf of each has been filed. Section 203(d) provides that spouses and children of preference immigrants are entitled to the same status, and the same order of consideration, if accompanying or following to join the principal. The visa prorating provisions of Section 202(e) apply to allocations for a foreign state or dependent area when visa demand exceeds the per-country limit. These provisions apply at present to the following oversubscribed chargeability areas: CHINA-mainland born, INDIA, MEXICO, and PHILIPPINES.

4. Section 203(a) of the INA prescribes preference classes for allotment of Family-sponsored immigrant visas as follows:

**FAMILY-SPONSORED PREFERENCES**

**First:** (F1) Unmarried Sons and Daughters of U.S. Citizens: 23,400 plus any numbers not required for fourth preference.

**Second:** Spouses and Children, and Unmarried Sons and Daughters of Permanent Residents: 114,200, plus the number (if any) by which the worldwide family preference level exceeds 226,000, plus any unused first preference numbers:

A. (F2A) Spouses and Children of Permanent Residents: 77% of the overall second preference limitation, of which 75% are exempt from the per-country limit.

B. (F2B) Unmarried Sons and Daughters (21 years of age or older) of Permanent Residents: 23% of the overall second preference limitation.

**Third:** (F3) Married Sons and Daughters of U.S. Citizens: 23,400, plus any numbers not required by first and second preferences.

**Fourth:** (F4) Brothers and Sisters of Adult U.S. Citizens: 65,000, plus any numbers not required by first three preferences.

**A. FINAL ACTION DATES FOR FAMILY-SPONSORED PREFERENCE CASES**

On the chart below, the listing of a date for any class indicates that the class is oversubscribed (see paragraph 1); "C" means current, i.e., numbers are authorized for issuance to all qualified applicants; and "U" means unauthorized, i.e., numbers are not authorized for issuance. (NOTE: Numbers are authorized for issuance only for applicants whose priority date is **earlier** than the final action date listed below.)

<b><u>Family-Sponsored</u></b>	All Charge-ability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA-	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
		mainland born			
F1	01JAN15	01JAN15	01JAN15	22APR01	01MAR12
F2A	01JAN18	01JAN18	01JAN18	01SEP16	01JAN18
F2B	22SEP15	22SEP15	22SEP15	01AUG01	22OCT11
F3	08JAN09	08JAN09	08JAN09	15JAN98	08JUN02
F4	22APR07	22APR07	15SEP05	01AUG00	22AUG02

For September, F2A numbers EXEMPT from per-country limit are authorized for issuance to applicants from all countries with priority dates earlier than 01SEP16. F2A numbers SUBJECT to per-country limit are authorized for issuance to applicants chargeable to all countries EXCEPT MEXICO, with priority dates beginning 01SEP16 and earlier than 01JAN18. All F2A numbers provided for MEXICO are exempt from the per-country limit.

**B. DATES FOR FILING FAMILY-SPONSORED VISA APPLICATIONS**

The chart below reflects dates for filing visa applications within a timeframe justifying immediate action in the application process. Applicants for immigrant visas who have a priority date earlier than the application date in the chart below may assemble and submit required documents to the Department of State's National Visa Center, following receipt of notification from the National Visa Center containing detailed instructions. The application date for an oversubscribed category is the priority date of the first applicant who cannot submit documentation to the National Visa Center for an immigrant visa. If a category is designated "current," all applicants in the relevant category may file applications, regardless of priority date.

The "C" listing indicates that the category is current, and that applications may be filed regardless of the applicant's priority date. The listing of a date for any category indicates that only applicants with a priority date which is **earlier** than the listed date may file their application.

Visit [www.uscis.gov/visabulletininfo](http://www.uscis.gov/visabulletininfo) for information on whether USCIS has determined that this chart can be used (in lieu of the chart in paragraph 4.A.) this month for filing applications for adjustment of status with USCIS.

<b>Family-Sponsored</b>	<b>All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed</b>	<b>CHINA-mainland born</b>	<b>INDIA</b>	<b>MEXICO</b>	<b>PHILIPPINES</b>
F1	01SEP17	01SEP17	01SEP17	01APR05	22APR15
F2A	01SEP23	01SEP23	01SEP23	01SEP23	01SEP23
F2B	01JAN17	01JAN17	01JAN17	01AUG04	01OCT13
F3	01MAR10	01MAR10	01MAR10	15JUN01	08NOV03
F4	01MAR08	01MAR08	22FEB06	15APR01	22APR04

5. Section 203(b) of the INA prescribes preference classes for allotment of Employment-based immigrant visas as follows:

**EMPLOYMENT-BASED PREFERENCES**

**First:** Priority Workers: 28.6% of the worldwide employment-based preference level, plus any numbers not required for fourth and fifth preferences.

**Second:** Members of the Professions Holding Advanced Degrees or Persons of Exceptional Ability: 28.6% of the worldwide employment-based preference level, plus any numbers not required by first preference.

**Third:** Skilled Workers, Professionals, and Other Workers: 28.6% of the worldwide level, plus any numbers not required by first and second preferences, of which not more than 10,000 may be provided to "\*Other Workers".

**Fourth:** Certain Special Immigrants: 7.1% of the worldwide level.

**Fifth:** Employment Creation: 7.1% of the worldwide level, of which 32% are reserved as follows: 20% reserved for qualified immigrants who invest in a rural area; 10% reserved for qualified immigrants who invest in a high unemployment area; and 2% reserved for qualified immigrants who invest in infrastructure projects. The remaining 68% are unreserved and are allotted for all other qualified immigrants.

**A. FINAL ACTION DATES FOR EMPLOYMENT-BASED PREFERENCE CASES**

On the chart below, the listing of a date for any class indicates that the class is oversubscribed (see paragraph 1); "C" means current, i.e., numbers are authorized for issuance to all qualified applicants; and "U" means unauthorized, i.e., numbers are not authorized for issuance. (NOTE: Numbers are authorized for issuance only for applicants whose priority date is **earlier** than the final action date listed below.)

	All Charge- ability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA- mainland born	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
<b><u>Employment- Based</u></b>					
1st	01AUG23	01FEB22	01JAN12	01AUG23	01AUG23
2nd	01JUL22	08JUL19	01JAN11	01JUL22	01JUL22
3rd	01MAY20	01SEP19	01JAN09	01MAY20	01MAY20
Other Workers	01MAY20	01SEP15	01JAN09	01MAY20	01MAY20
4th	01SEP18	01SEP18	01SEP18	01SEP18	01SEP18
Certain Religious Workers	01SEP18	01SEP18	01SEP18	01SEP18	01SEP18
5th Unreserved (including C5, T5, I5, R5)	C	08SEP15	01APR17	C	C
5th Set Asides:					
Rural (20%)	C	C	C	C	C
High Unemployment (10%)	C	C	C	C	C
Infra- structure (2%)	C	C	C	C	C

\*Employment Third Preference Other Workers Category: Section 203(e) of the Nicaraguan and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) passed by Congress in November 1997, as amended by Section 1(e) of Pub. L. 105-139, provides that once the Employment Third Preference Other Worker (EW) cut-off date has reached the priority date of the latest EW petition approved prior to November 19, 1997, the 10,000 EW numbers available for a fiscal year are to be reduced by up to 5,000 annually beginning in the following fiscal year. This reduction is to be made for as long as necessary to offset adjustments under the NACARA program. Since the EW final action date reached November 19, 1997 during Fiscal Year 2001, the reduction in the EW annual limit to 5,000 began in Fiscal Year 2002. For Fiscal Year 2023 this reduction will be limited to approximately 167.

**B. DATES FOR FILING OF EMPLOYMENT-BASED VISA APPLICATIONS**

The chart below reflects dates for filing visa applications within a timeframe justifying immediate action in the application process. Applicants for immigrant visas who have a priority date earlier than the application date in the chart may assemble and submit required documents to the Department of State’s National Visa Center, following receipt of notification from the National Visa Center containing detailed instructions. The application date for an oversubscribed category is the priority date of the first applicant who cannot submit documentation to the National Visa Center for an immigrant visa. If a category is designated “current,” all applicants in the relevant category may file, regardless of priority date.

The “C” listing indicates that the category is current, and that applications may be filed regardless of the applicant’s priority date. The listing of a date for any category indicates that only applicants with a priority date which is **earlier** than the listed date may file their application.

Visit [www.uscis.gov/visabulletininfo](http://www.uscis.gov/visabulletininfo) for information on whether USCIS has determined that this chart can be used (in lieu of the chart in paragraph 5.A.) this month for filing applications for adjustment of status with USCIS.

<b>Employment- Based</b>	<b>All Charge-ability Areas Except Those Listed</b>	<b>CHINA - mainland born</b>	<b>INDIA</b>	<b>MEXICO</b>	<b>PHILIPPINES</b>
1st	C	01JUN22	01JUN22	C	C
2nd	01DEC22	08OCT19	01MAY12	01DEC22	01DEC22
3rd	01MAY23	01NOV19	01AUG12	01MAY23	01MAY23
Other Workers	01JUN20	01JAN16	01AUG12	01JUN20	01JUN20
4th	01OCT18	01OCT18	01OCT18	01OCT18	01OCT18
Certain Religious Workers	01OCT18	01OCT18	01OCT18	01OCT18	01OCT18
5 <sup>th</sup> Unreserved (including C5, T5, I5, and R5)	C	01JAN16	08DEC19	C	C

(Chart B. DATES FOR FILING OF EMPLOYMENT-BASED VISA APPLICATIONS continued from previous page)

<b>Employment- Based</b>	<b>All Charge-ability Areas Except Those Listed</b>	<b>CHINA - mainland born</b>	<b>INDIA</b>	<b>MEXICO</b>	<b>PHILIPPINES</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> Set Aside: (Rural – 20%)	C	C	C	C	C
5 <sup>th</sup> Set Aside: (High Unemployment – 10%)	C	C	C	C	C
5 <sup>th</sup> Set Aside: (Infrastructure – 2%)	C	C	C	C	C

B. DIVERSITY IMMIGRANT (DV) CATEGORY FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

Section 203(c) of the INA provides up to 55,000 immigrant visas each fiscal year to permit additional immigration opportunities for persons from countries with low admissions during the previous five years. The NACARA stipulates that beginning with DV-99, and for as long as necessary, up to 5,000 of the 55,000 annually allocated diversity visas will be made available for use under the NACARA program. This will result in reduction of the DV-2023 annual limit to approximately 54,833. DV visas are divided among six geographic regions. No one country can receive more than seven percent of the available diversity visas in any one year.

For September, immigrant numbers in the DV category are available to qualified DV-2023 applicants chargeable to all regions/eligible countries as follows. When an allocation cut-off number is shown, visas are available only for applicants with DV regional lottery rank numbers BELOW the specified allocation cut-off number:

Region	All DV Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed Separately		
AFRICA	Current	Except: Algeria	45,000
		Egypt	43,200
		Morocco	63,400
ASIA	21,000	Except: Iran	16,000
		Nepal	21,000
EUROPE	32,000	Except: Russia	32,000
		Uzbekistan	17,000
NORTH AMERICA (BAHAMAS)	Current		
OCEANIA	2,500		
SOUTH AMERICA, and the CARIBBEAN	3,150		

Entitlement to immigrant status in the DV category lasts only through the end of the fiscal (visa) year for which the applicant is selected in the lottery. The year of entitlement for all applicants registered for the DV-2023 program ends as of September 30, 2023. DV visas may not be issued to DV-2023 applicants after that date. Similarly, spouses and children accompanying or following to join DV-2023 principals are only entitled to derivative DV status until September 30, 2023. DV visa availability through the very end of FY-2023 cannot be taken for granted. Numbers could be exhausted prior to September 30.

C. DIVERSITY (DV) IMMIGRANT CATEGORY RANK CUT-OFFS WHICH WILL APPLY IN OCTOBER

For October, immigrant numbers in the DV category are available to qualified DV-2024 applicants chargeable to all regions/eligible countries as follows. When an allocation cut-off number is shown, visas are available only for applicants with DV regional lottery rank numbers BELOW the specified allocation cut-off number:

Region	All DV Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed Separately		
AFRICA	10,000	Except: Algeria	7,500
		Egypt	5,500
		Morocco	5,600
ASIA	2,000	Except: Iran	1,750
		Nepal	1,300
EUROPE	4,500	Except: Russia	4,400
		Uzbekistan	1,250
NORTH AMERICA (BAHAMAS)	2		
OCEANIA	225		
SOUTH AMERICA, and the CARIBBEAN	375		

D. DIVERSITY VISA LOTTERY 2024 (DV-2024) RESULTS

The Kentucky Consular Center in Williamsburg, Kentucky has registered and notified the selectees who are eligible to participate in the DV-2024 Diversity Visa (DV) program. Random selection of DV participants was conducted under the terms of section 203(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which makes up to \*55,000 permanent resident visas available annually to persons from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States. Approximately 143,000 prospective applicants (i.e., selectees and their spouses and children) have been registered, can confirm their selection, and may be eligible to make an application for an immigrant visa. Since selection is random and blind to the number of family members who might immigrate with the selectee, and it is likely that some of the selectees will not complete their cases or will be found ineligible for a visa, this larger figure should ensure that all DV-2024 numbers can be used during fiscal year 2024 (FY24: October 1, 2023, until September 30, 2024).

Entrants registered for the DV-2024 program were selected at random from 22,185,619 qualified entries received during the 35-day application period that ran from noon, Eastern Daylight Time on Wednesday, October 5, 2022, until noon, Eastern Standard Time on Tuesday, November 8, 2022. The visas will be apportioned among the six geographic regions to ensure a maximum of seven percent are issued to persons chargeable to any single country. During the visa interview, principal applicants must provide proof of a high school education or its equivalent, or two years of work experience in an occupation that requires at least two years of training or experience within the past five years. Those selected will need to act on their immigrant visa applications quickly. Applicants should follow the instructions in their notification letter and must fully complete all required steps.

Selectees who are physically present with legal status in the United States may apply to adjust their status by first contacting the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for information on the requirements and procedures. Once the total \*55,000 visa numbers have been used, the program for fiscal year 2024 will end. Selectees who do not receive visas or status by September 30, 2024, will derive no further benefit from their DV-2024 registration. Similarly, spouses and children accompanying or following to join DV-2024 principal applicants are only entitled to derivative DV status until September 30, 2024.

Dates for the DV-2025 program registration period will be widely publicized in the coming months. Those interested in entering the DV-2025 program should check the Department of State’s Diversity Visa web page in the coming months.

\*The Nicaraguan and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) passed by Congress in November 1997 stipulated that up to 5,000 of the 55,000 annually-allocated diversity visas be made available for use under the NACARA program. This will result in reduction of the DV-2024 annual limit to approximately 54,850.

The following is the statistical breakdown by foreign state of chargeability of those registered for the DV-2024 program:

<b><u>AFRICA</u></b>		
ALGERIA 5,142	ERITREA 211	MOZAMBIQUE 7
ANGOLA 582	ESWATINI 2	NAMIBIA 10
BENIN 1,002	ETHIOPIA 3,034	NIGER 93
BOTSWANA 16	GABON 86	RWANDA 1,604
BURKINA FASO 191	GAMBIA, THE 156	SENEGAL 504
BURUNDI 876	GHANA 2,088	SIERRA LEONE 735
CABO VERDE 15	GUINEA 1,362	SOMALIA 2,383



CAMEROON 3,485	GUINEA-BISSAU 21	SOUTH AFRICA 199
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC 30	KENYA 3,760	SOUTH SUDAN 59
CHAD 490	LIBERIA 2,208	SUDAN 5,435
COMOROS 10	LIBYA 257	TANZANIA 348
CONGO, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE 2,580	MADAGASCAR 25	TOGO 2,105
CONGO, REPUBLIC OF THE 660	MALAWI 42	TUNISIA 221
COTE D'IVOIRE 672	MALI 119	UGANDA 1,515
DJIBOUTI 333	MAURITANIA 274	ZAMBIA 85
EGYPT 5,509	MAURITIUS 4	ZIMBABWE 216
EQUATORIAL GUINEA 19	MOROCCO 4,250	
<b><u>ASIA</u></b>		
AFGHANISTAN 4,536	JORDAN 1,188	QATAR 74
BAHRAIN 8	KUWAIT 162	SAUDI ARABIA 619
BHUTAN 347	LAOS 27	SINGAPORE 6
BURMA 1,667	LEBANON 214	SRI LANKA 2,622
CAMBODIA 340	MALAYSIA 32	SYRIA 692
INDONESIA 104	MALDIVES 1	TAIWAN 279
IRAN 5,077	MONGOLIA 300	THAILAND 467
IRAQ 1,348	NEPAL 3,863	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES 211
ISRAEL 71	OMAN 20	YEMEN 3,485
JAPAN 200		
<b><u>EUROPE</u></b>		
ALBANIA 2,667	GERMANY 466	NORTH MACEDONIA 258
ANDORRA 2	GREECE 66	NORTHERN IRELAND 1
ARMENIA 3,869	HUNGARY 102	NORWAY 9
AUSTRIA 34	ICELAND 5	POLAND 497
AZERBAIJAN 2,046	IRELAND 18	PORTUGAL 39
BELARUS 2,418	ITALY 256	Macau 4
BELGIUM 35	KAZAKHSTAN 2,728	ROMANIA 267
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA 31	KOSOVO 463	RUSSIA 5,514
BULGARIA 142	KYRGYZSTAN 4,464	SERBIA 186
CROATIA 30	LATVIA 97	SLOVAKIA 33
CYPRUS 25	LITHUANIA 106	SLOVENIA 2
CZECH REPUBLIC 46	MALTA 1	SPAIN 137
DENMARK 16	MOLDOVA 950	SWEDEN 31
ESTONIA 33	MONACO 1	SWITZERLAND 30
FINLAND 29	MONTENEGRO 21	TAJIKISTAN 3,580
FRANCE 327	NETHERLANDS 39	TURKEY 3,684
French Polynesia 1	Aruba 1	TURKMENISTAN 1,313
New Caledonia 4	Curacao 1	UKRAINE 4,286
GEORGIA 3,194	Sint Maarten 1	UZBEKISTAN 5,555
<b><u>NORTH AMERICA</u></b>		
BAHAMAS, THE 15		
<b><u>OCEANIA</u></b>		
AUSTRALIA 795	NAURU 32	SAMOA 9
Christmas Island 1	NEW ZEALAND 256	SOLOMON ISLANDS 22
Cocos Keeling Islands 48	Cook Islands 69	TONGA 246
FEDERATED STATES OF	PAPUA NEW GUINEA 15	TUVALU 11

MICRONESIA 1		
FIJI 2,936	REPUBLIC OF PALAU 4	VANUATU 29
KIRABATI 21		
<b><u>SOUTH AMERICA</u></b>		
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA 1	CUBA 3,081	PARAGUAY 9
ARGENTINA 127	DOMINICA 6	PERU 742
BARBADOS 4	ECUADOR 814	SAINT LUCIA 4
BELIZE 5	GUATEMALA 146	SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES 2
BOLIVIA 85	GUYANA 9	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO 37
CHILE 51	NICARAGUA 117	URUGUAY 14
COSTA RICA 68	PANAMA 17	

Natives of the following countries were not eligible to participate in DV-2024: Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China (including Hong Kong SAR), Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, South Korea, United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland) and its dependent territories, Venezuela, and Vietnam.

E. AVAILABILITY OF EMPLOYMENT-BASED VISAS DURING SEPTEMBER

Employment-based number use by both USCIS and Department of State has been steady during the fiscal year. As a result, most employment-based preference category limits and/or the overall employment-based preference limit for FY 2023 are expected to be reached during September. If at any time an annual limit were reached, it would be necessary to immediately make the preference category "unavailable", and no further requests for numbers would be honored.

F. DETERMINATION OF THE NUMERICAL LIMITS ON IMMIGRANTS REQUIRED UNDER THE TERMS OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT (INA)

The State Department is required to make the determination of the worldwide numerical limitations, as outlined in Section 201(c) and (d) of the INA, on an annual basis. These calculations are based in part on data provided by U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) regarding the number of immediate relative adjustments in the preceding year and the number of aliens paroled into the United States under Section 212(d)(5) in the second preceding year. Without this information, it is impossible to make an official determination of the annual limits. To avoid delays in processing while waiting for the USCIS data, the Visa Office (VO) bases allocations on reasonable estimates of the anticipated amount of visa numbers to be available under the annual limits, in accordance with Section 203(g) of the INA. On August 2nd, USCIS provided the required data to the VO.

The Department of State has determined the Family and Employment preference numerical limits for FY-2023 in accordance with the terms of Section 201 of the INA. These numerical limitations for FY-2023 are as follows:

Worldwide Family-Sponsored preference limit:	226,000
Worldwide Employment-Based preference limit:	197,091

Under INA Section 202(a), the per-country limit is fixed at 7% of the family and employment annual limits. For FY-2023 the per-country limit is 29,616. The dependent area annual limit is 2%, or 8,462.

G. FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION ON VISA PROCESSING AT U.S. EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES,  
PLEASE VISIT THE BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS WEBSITE AT TRAVEL.STATE.GOV

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