

**Annual Report of Immigrant Visa Applicants in the Family-sponsored and
Employment-based preferences Registered at the National Visa Center
as of November 1, 2013**

Most prospective immigrant visa applicants qualify for status under the law on the basis of family relationships or employer sponsorship. Entitlement to visa processing in these classes is established ordinarily through approval by Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) of a petition filed on the applicant's behalf. The petitions of applicants who will be processed at an overseas post are forwarded by CIS to the Department of State; applicants in categories subject to numerical limit are registered on the visa waiting list. Each case is assigned a priority (i.e., registration) date based on the filing date accorded to the petition. Visa issuance within each numerically limited category is possible only if the applicant's priority date is within the applicable cut-off dates which are published each month by the Department of State in the Visa Bulletin. Family and Employment preference applicants compete for visa numbers within their respective categories on a worldwide basis according to priority date; a per-country limit on such preference immigrants set by INA 202 places a maximum on the amount of visas which may be issued in a single year to applicants from any one country, however.

In October, the Department of State asked the National Visa Center (NVC) at Portsmouth, New Hampshire to report the totals of applicants on the waiting list in the various numerically-limited immigrant categories. Applications for adjustment of status under INA 245 which are pending at CIS Offices are not included in the tabulation of the immigrant waiting list data which is being provided at this time. As such, the following figures ONLY reflect petitions which the Department of State has received, and do not include the significant number of applications held with the CIS Offices.

The following figures have been compiled from the NVC report submitted to the Department on November 1, 2013, and show the number of immigrant visa applicants on the waiting list in the various preferences and subcategories subject to numerical limit. All figures reflect persons registered under each respective numerical limitation, i.e., the totals represent not only principal applicants or petition beneficiaries, but their spouses and children entitled to derivative status under INA 203(d) as well.

Family-sponsored Preferences

<u>Category</u>	<u>as of Nov. 1, 2012</u>	<u>as of Nov. 1, 2013</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease From 2012 Totals (and % of change)</u>
FAMILY FIRST	288,705	279,693	(- 3.1%)
FAMILY SECOND TOTAL	706,910	706,059	(- 0.1%)
2A-Spouses/Children:	220,313	238,417	(+ 8.2%)
2B- Adult Sons/Daughters:	486,597	467,642	(- 3.9%)
FAMILY THIRD	830,906	804,242	(- 3.2%)
FAMILY FOURTH	2,473,114	2,420,977	(- 2.1%)
TOTAL	4,299,635	4,210,971	(- 2.1%)

Employment-based Preferences

<u>Category</u>	<u>as of Nov. 1, 2012</u>	<u>as of Nov. 1, 2013</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease From 2012 Totals (and % of change)</u>
EMPLOYMENT FIRST	2,547	2,691	(+ 5.7%)
EMPLOYMENT SECOND	6,892	15,866	(+ 130.2%)
EMPLOYMENT THIRD TOTAL	99,978	87,937	(- 12.0%)
Skilled Workers:	86,862	76,742	(- 11.7%)
Other Workers:	13,116	11,195	(- 14.6%)
EMPLOYMENT FOURTH TOTAL	479	362	(- 24.4%)
EMPLOYMENT FIFTH TOTAL	3,162	4,748	(+ 50.2%)
TOTAL	113,058	111,604	(- 1.3%)
 GRAND TOTAL	 4,412,693	 4,322,575	 (- 2.0%)

Immigrant Waiting List By Country

Immigrant visa issuances during fiscal year 2014 are limited by the terms of INA 201 to no more than 226,000 in the family-sponsored preferences and approximately 150,000 in the employment-based preferences. (Visas for "Immediate Relatives" - i.e., spouses, unmarried children under the age of 21 years, and parents of U.S. citizens - are not subject to numerical limitation, however.)

It should by no means be assumed that once an applicant is registered, the case is then continually included in the waiting list totals unless and until a visa is issued. The consular procedures mandate a regular culling of visa cases to remove from the count those unlikely to see further action, so that totals are not unreasonably inflated. If, for example, a consular post receives no response within one year from an applicant to whom the visa application instruction letter (i.e., the consular Instruction Package) is sent when the movement of the visa availability cut-off date indicates a visa may become available within a reasonable time frame, the case is considered "inactive" under the consular procedures and is no longer included in waiting list totals.

The fifteen countries with the highest number of waiting list registrants in FY 2014 are listed below; together these represent 81% of the total. This list includes all countries with at least 50,000 persons on the waiting list. The per-country limit in INA 202 sets an annual maximum on the amount of preference visas which may be issued to applicants from any one country; the 2014 per-country limit will be approximately 26,320.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Applicants</u>
Mexico	1,312,198
Philippines	436,639
India	326,921
Vietnam	255,475
China-mainland born	239,182
Dominican Republic	175,313
Bangladesh	162,655
Pakistan	111,799
Haiti	109,489
Cuba	105,744
El Salvador	71,833
Jamaica	55,576
Korea, South	55,220
Peru	51,028
Colombia	50,979
<u>All Others</u>	<u>802,524</u>
Worldwide Total	4,322,575

**Immigrant Waiting List
By Preference Category**

FAMILY-SPONSORED PREFERENCES

Family FIRST Preference:

The worldwide Family FIRST preference numerical limitation is 23,400. The top ten countries with the highest F1 waiting list totals are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Family First Preference Total</u>	<u>Percent of Category Waiting List</u>
Mexico	95,317	34.1%
Dominican Republic	21,989	7.9%
Philippines	21,369	7.6%
Haiti	17,446	6.2%
Jamaica	16,158	5.8%
Cuba	8,511	3.1%
El Salvador	7,663	2.7%
Guyana	7,377	2.6%
Vietnam	6,453	2.3%
Colombia	5,502	2.0%
<u>All Others</u>	<u>71,908</u>	<u>25.7%</u>
Total	279,693	100%

Cases are being added to the waiting list in this category not only by the approval of new FIRST preference petitions, but also through automatic conversion of pending 2B cases into FIRST preference upon the naturalization of the petitioner.

Given the 467,642 Family 2B waiting list and the several years' interval between 2B petition filing and visa issuance, it is likely that increasing numbers of petitioners will be naturalized and the petitions converted to Family FIRST preference long before 2B visas become available. The prospect for increasing future demand in the FIRST preference could result in slower advances in the worldwide cut-off date as a consequence. Only two countries, Mexico and the Philippines, have FIRST preference cut-off dates which are earlier than the worldwide date. (NOTE: Section 6 of the Child Status Protection Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-208, provides relief for Family 2B applicants who would be disadvantaged by a conversion to Family FIRST status due to a less favorable Family FIRST cut-off date.)

Family SECOND Preference:

The total Family SECOND preference waiting list figure is 706,059. Of these, 238,417 (33.8%) are spouses and children of permanent residents of the United States (the 2A class), and 467,642 (66.2%) are adult unmarried sons/daughters of permanent residents (the 2B class). The Family SECOND preference represents 16.8% of the total Family preference waiting list. It will receive 114,200 visa numbers for FY 2014, just over half of the 226,000 family preference total; 77% of SECOND preference numbers are provided to 2A applicants, while the remaining 23% go to the 2B class.

2A: About 87,900 visa numbers are expected to be available during FY 2014. The top five countries with the highest 2A waiting list totals are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Family 2A Preference Total</u>	<u>Percent of Category Waiting List</u>
Mexico	93,553	39.3%
Dominican Republic	31,554	13.2%
Philippines	12,491	5.2%
Cuba	12,084	5.1%
Haiti	8,781	3.7%
All Others	79,954	33.5%
Total	238,417	100%

Upon naturalization of the petitioner, a pending 2A case is converted automatically into the "Immediate Relative" visa category, which is not subject to numerical limit and therefore has no visa waiting period. As a result, the amount of cases being processed in the "Immediate Relative" category may increase and partially offset new F2A filings.

2B: Visa numbers for this class of adult sons and daughters will be approximately 26,260 during FY 2014. The waiting list far exceeds the annual limit. The top ten countries with the highest 2B waiting list totals are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Family 2B Preference Total</u>	<u>Percent of Category Waiting List</u>
Mexico	195,354	41.8%
Dominican Republic	53,023	11.3%
Philippines	50,298	10.8%
Haiti	22,433	4.8%
Cuba	17,486	3.7%
China-mainland born	14,627	3.1%
El Salvador	13,836	3.0%
Vietnam	8,749	1.9%
Guatemala	6,529	1.4%
Ecuador	6,316	1.3%
All Others	78,991	16.9%
Total	467,642	100%

NOTE: Some of the 2B cases are applicants converted from the 2A class upon their turning 21.

Family THIRD Preference:

The annual visa limit is 23,400. Two oversubscribed countries (Mexico and Philippines) have sufficiently heavy demand in this preference to require a cut-off date substantially earlier than the worldwide date. The top ten countries with the highest F3 waiting list totals are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Family Third Preference Total</u>	<u>Percent of Category Waiting List</u>
Mexico	184,224	22.9%
Philippines	146,325	18.2%
Vietnam	63,970	7.9%
India	61,689	7.7%
China-mainland born	31,278	3.9%
Cuba	26,834	3.3%
Dominican Republic	15,923	2.0%
Pakistan	15,762	2.0%
Jamaica	13,633	1.7%
Iran	13,061	1.6%
All Others	231,543	28.8%
Total	804,242	100%

Family FOURTH Preference:

Applicants registered in the Family FOURTH preference total 2,420,977. Annual visa issuances are limited to 65,000. The waiting period for the Family FOURTH preference is longer than any other category because the demand severely exceeds the number of available visas. The countries listed below have the largest number of FOURTH preference applicants:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Family Fourth Preference Total</u>	<u>Percent of Category Waiting List</u>
Mexico	740,313	30.6%
India	223,608	9.2%
Philippines	171,397	7.1%
Vietnam	169,883	7.0%
China-mainland born	167,835	6.9%
Bangladesh	151,606	6.2%
Pakistan	88,913	3.7%
Dominican Republic	52,738	2.2%
Haiti	47,944	2.0%
Cuba	40,829	1.7%
All Others	565,911	23.4%
Total	2,420,977	100%

The steadily growing waiting period in this preference is now more than twelve years for countries of most favorable visa availability and even longer for some oversubscribed countries.

EMPLOYMENT-BASED PREFERENCES

It is important to note that eighty-six percent of all Employment preference immigrants were processed as adjustment of status cases at CIS offices during FY 2013. Cases pending with CIS are not counted in the consular waiting list tally which is presented below. Therefore, in several Employment categories the waiting list totals being provided below significantly understate real immigrant demand. The Employment waiting list counts not only prospective workers, but also their spouses and children entitled under the law to derivative preference status.

Employment FIRST Preference:

Top countries are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Employment First Preference</u>	<u>Percent of Category Waiting List</u>
China-mainland born	473	17.6%
Great Britain & Northern Ireland	255	9.5%
India	242	9.0%
Canada	216	8.0%
Korea, South	178	6.6%
Iran	100	3.7%
Venezuela	92	3.4%
France	73	2.7%
Japan	72	2.7%
Mexico	68	2.5%
<u>All Others</u>	<u>922</u>	<u>34.3%</u>
Worldwide Total	2,691	100%

Visa availability is "current" for all countries.

Employment SECOND Preference:

Top countries are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Employment Second Preference</u>	<u>Percent of Category Waiting List</u>
India	9,086	57.3%
China-mainland born	2,002	12.6%
Korea, South	1,100	6.9%
Philippines	704	4.4%
Canada	332	2.1%
<u>All Others</u>	<u>2,642</u>	<u>16.7%</u>
Worldwide Total	15,866	100%

This category is "current" at present for all but two countries.

Employment THIRD Preference:

Top countries are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Employment Third Preference</u>	<u>Percent of Category Waiting List</u>
Philippines	32,965	42.9%
India	21,720	28.3%
China-mainland born	3,670	4.8%
Korea, South	2,067	2.7%
Mexico	1,521	2.0%
<u>All Others</u>	<u>14,799</u>	<u>19.3%</u>
Worldwide Total	76,742	100%

Employment Third “Other Workers”:

Top Countries are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Employment Third Preference: Skilled Worker/ Professional Components</u>	<u>Percent of Waiting List in These Classes</u>
China-mainland born	4,571	40.8%
Mexico	1,690	15.1%
Korea, South	1,606	14.4%
Philippines	1,043	9.3%
India	572	5.1%
<u>All Others</u>	<u>1,713</u>	<u>15.3%</u>
Worldwide Total	11,195	100%

With visa demand well in excess of the Employment Third Preference annual limits, a significant wait for a visa must be expected to continue for the indefinite future.

Employment FOURTH Preference:

Top countries are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Employment Fourth Preference</u>	<u>Percent of Waiting List in These Classes</u>
India	93	25.7%
Philippines	24	6.6%
Korea, South	18	5.0%
Canada	16	4.4%
Nigeria	15	4.1%
Mexico	14	3.9%
All Others	182	50.3%
Worldwide Total	362	100%

Visa availability is "current" for all countries.

Employment FIFTH Preference:

Top countries are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Employment Fifth Preference</u>	<u>Percent of Waiting List in These Classes</u>
China-mainland born	3,863	81.4%
Korea, South	126	2.7%
China-Taiwan born	82	1.7%
Vietnam	73	1.5%
Venezuela	65	1.4%
Hong Kong S.A.R.	63	1.3%
All Others	476	10.0%
Worldwide Total	4,748	100%

Visa availability is "current" for all countries.

**Family
Immigrant Waiting List
By Country**

The ten countries with the highest number of Family-sponsored waiting list registrants are listed below; together these represent 74.8% of the total. This list includes all countries with at least 100,000 persons on the waiting list. (The per-country limit in INA 202 sets an annual maximum on the amount of Family preference visas which may be issued to applicants from any one country; the FY 2014 per-country limit will be 15,820.)

Family Preferences

<u>Country</u>	<u>Total</u>
Mexico	1,308,761
Philippines	401,880
India	295,167
Vietnam	255,202
China-mainland born	224,598
Dominican Republic	175,227
Bangladesh	162,527
Pakistan	110,968
Haiti	109,471
Cuba	105,744
All Others	1,061,426
Worldwide Total	4,210,971

**Family
Immigrant Waiting List
By Region**

A breakdown of the NVC waiting list by region is:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Total</u>
Africa	115,507
Asia	1,761,111
Europe	146,486
N. America*	1,954,736
Oceania	10,571
S. America	222,560
Family Total	4,210,971

*North America includes Canada, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.

**Employment
Immigrant Waiting List
By Country**

The five countries with the highest number of Employment-based waiting list registrants are listed below; together these represent 80.3% of the total. This list includes all countries with at least 3,000 persons on the waiting list. (The per-country limit in INA 202 sets an annual maximum on the amount of Employment preference visas which may be issued to applicants from any one country; the FY 2014 per-country limit will be approximately 10,500.)

Employment Preferences

<u>Country</u>	<u>Total</u>
Philippines	34,759
India	31,754
China-mainland born	14,584
Korea, South	5,095
Mexico	3,437
All Others	21,975
Worldwide Total	111,604

**Employment
Immigrant Waiting List
By Region**

A breakdown of the NVC waiting list by region is:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Total</u>
Africa	2,067
Asia	94,108
Europe	5,427
N. America*	6,641
Oceania	274
S. America	3,087
Family Total	111,604

*North America includes Canada, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.