

Table II
Classes of Immigrants Issued Visas at Foreign Service Posts
Fiscal Years 2018-2022*

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, posts were instructed to suspend routine visa services and provide only mission critical and emergency services in late March 2020. This had a significant impact on the provision of Immigrant and Nonimmigrant Visa-related services. Posts were only able to resume limited services on a post-by-post basis beginning in July 2020, as local conditions allowed.

Class of Immigrant	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Grand Total	533,557	462,422	240,526	285,069	493,448
Family-Sponsored Preference Total	211,641	190,938	90,435	63,858	156,800
<i>First Preference</i>					
Unmarried son or daughter of U.S. citizen and children	25,156	20,858	7,534	6,344	17,045
<i>Second Preference Exempt from Country Limitations</i>					
Spouse or child of Lawful Permanent Resident, and children	59,449	55,210	26,154	26,169	64,813
<i>Second Preference Subject to Country Limitations</i>					
Spouse or child of Lawful Permanent Resident, and children	21,770	8,680	0	0	4,558
Unmarried son or daughter of Lawful Permanent Resident, and children	26,117	22,346	11,183	6,265	15,315
<i>Third Preference</i>					
Married son or daughter of U.S. citizen, spouse and children	19,457	23,074	10,749	7,014	16,475
<i>Fourth Preference</i>					
Brother or sister of U.S. citizen, spouse and children	59,692	60,770	34,815	18,066	38,594
Employment-Based Preference Total	27,345	28,538	14,694	19,779	55,058
<i>First Preference</i>					
Priority worker, spouse and children	3,854	2,223	1,280	1,248	6,674
<i>Second Preference</i>					
Professional holding advanced degree or noncitizen of exceptional ability, spouse and children	3,119	3,497	2,236	1,479	5,468
<i>Third Preference</i>					
Skilled worker or professional, spouse and children	9,557	11,345	5,678	11,278	27,833
Other worker, spouse and children	1,190	1,683	1,632	1,021	4,633
<i>Fourth Preference</i>					
Minister of religion, spouse and children	269	141	165	70	509
Certain employees or former employees of the U.S. Government abroad, spouse and children	1,439	1,667	1,219	2,624	2,948
Certain former employees of the Panama Canal Company or Canal Zone Government, spouse and children	0	0	0	0	0
Certain former U.S. Government employees in the Canal Zone, spouse and children	0	0	0	0	0
Certain former employees of the Panama Canal Company or Canal Zone Government on April 1, 1979, spouse and children	0	0	0	0	0
Certain retired international organization employees and spouse, unmarried sons or daughters of int'l org. employees, surviving spouses of deceased int'l org. employees	6	6	7	2	5
Certain juvenile court dependents	0	0	0	0	0
Certain religious workers, spouse and children	78	57	31	27	60
Special Immigrant Broadcaster, spouse and children	26	30	21	7	43
Surviving Spouse or Child of Certain Deceased Employees of the U.S. Government Abroad	-	-	-	-	3
<i>Fifth Preference</i>					
Employment creation outside targeted area, spouse and children	96	52	28	61	46

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Employment creation in targeted rural/high unemployment area, spouse and children	219	178	131	153	199
Investor pilot program not in targeted area, spouse and children	24	7	13	0	1
Investor pilot program in targeted area, spouse and children	7,468	7,652	2,253	1,809	6,636
Non-Regional Center Unreserved Pool (Pub. L. 117-103)	-	-	-	-	0
Regional Center Unreserved Pool (Pub. L. 117-103)	-	-	-	-	0
<i>Fifth Preference Set-Asides (Pub. L. 117-103)</i>	-	-	-	-	0
Employment creation regional center high unemployment area, spouse, and children	-	-	-	-	0
Employment creation regional center rural area, spouse, and children	-	-	-	-	0
Employment creation regional center infrastructure, spouse, and children	-	-	-	-	0
Employment creation non-regional center high unemployment area, spouse, and children	-	-	-	-	0
Employment creation non-regional center rural area, spouse, and children	-	-	-	-	0
Noncitizen recruited outside the U.S. who has served or is enlisted to serve in the U.S. Armed forces for 12 years, spouse and children	0	0	0	0	0
Immediate Relative Total	236,526	186,584	108,292	170,604	212,185
Spouse of U.S. citizen	71,003	58,984	38,088	64,964	76,399
Spouse of U.S. citizen (conditional)	37,955	24,570	16,956	20,092	10,163
Child of U.S. citizen	38,393	32,283	18,921	36,095	39,638
Child of U.S. citizen (conditional)	6,280	3,876	1,952	2,116	1,412
Orphan adopted abroad by U.S. citizen	1,088	841	646	641	465
Child adopted abroad by U.S. citizen under Hague Convention	2,613	1,848	809	930	829
Orphan to be adopted in U.S. by U.S. citizen	177	151	103	100	98
Child to be adopted in U.S. by U.S. citizen under Hague Convention	172	144	79	118	134
Parent of U.S. citizen at least 21 years of age	78,362	63,442	30,492	45,119	82,319
Certain widow(er)s and children of certain widow(er)s of U.S. citizens	483	445	246	429	728
Special Immigrant Total	9,375	11,384	8,722	13,421	14,903
Returning Resident	1,276	1,171	648	3,145	4,269
Iraqi and Afghan translators, spouse and children	196	77	74	53	42
Certain Iraqis or Afghans employed by or on behalf of the U.S.	7,798	10,035	7,962	10,177	10,502
Government, or by the International Security Assistance Force or its successor, and Iraqi and Afghan SI cases converted under Section 1244, spouse, and children*					
Certain Family Members of U1 Nonimmigrants	105	101	38	46	90
Vietnam Amerasian Immigrants	92	96	95	63	168
DV Diversity Immigrants	48,578	44,882	18,288	17,344	54,334

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*FY 2021 and FY 2022 data include Conditional SQ Visa Category (CQ) included in SQ totals - Certain Afghan special immigrant visa (SIV) applicants who were physically present in Afghanistan and had completed all steps of the Afghan SIV application process except for the panel physician exam, and were deemed eligible, issued CQ visas pursuant to a medical exam waiver authorized by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security in August 2021. The SQ visa category is for Iraqis and Afghans employed by or on behalf of the U.S. government, or by the International Security Assistance Force or its successor, and Iraqi and Afghan SI cases converted under Section 1244.