

Table II
Classes of Immigrants Issued Visas at Foreign Service Posts
Fiscal Years 2017-2021*

*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	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Grand Total	559,536	533,557	462,422	240,526	285,069
Family-Sponsored Preference Total	212,155	211,641	190,938	90,435	63,858
<i>First Preference</i>					
Unmarried son or daughter of U.S. citizen and children	22,807	25,156	20,858	7,534	6,344
<i>Second Preference Exempt from Country Limitations</i>					
Spouse or child of alien resident, and children	61,883	59,449	55,210	26,154	26,169
<i>Second Preference Subject to Country Limitations</i>					
Spouse or child of alien resident, and children	21,197	21,770	8,680	0	0
Unmarried son or daughter of alien resident, and children	23,819	26,117	22,346	11,183	6,265
<i>Third Preference</i>					
Married son or daughter of U.S. citizen, spouse and children	20,716	19,457	23,074	10,749	7,014
<i>Fourth Preference</i>					
Brother or sister of U.S. citizen, spouse and children	61,733	59,692	60,770	34,815	18,066
Employment-Based Preference Total	23,814	27,345	28,538	14,694	19,779
<i>First Preference</i>					
Priority worker, spouse and children	2,529	3,854	2,223	1,280	1,248
<i>Second Preference</i>					
Professional holding advanced degree or alien of exceptional ability, spouse and children	3,223	3,119	3,497	2,236	1,479
<i>Third Preference</i>					
Skilled worker or professional, spouse and children	6,964	9,557	11,345	5,678	11,278
Other worker, spouse and children	929	1,190	1,683	1,632	1,021
<i>Fourth Preference</i>					
Minister of religion, spouse and children	203	269	141	165	70
Certain employees or former employees of the U.S. Government abroad, spouse and children	1,460	1,439	1,667	1,219	2,624
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	9	6	6	7	2
Certain juvenile court dependents	0	0	0	0	0
Certain religious workers, spouse and children	78	78	57	31	27
Special Immigrant Broadcaster, spouse and children	5	26	30	21	7
<i>Fifth Preference</i>					
Employment creation outside targeted area, spouse and children	136	96	52	28	61
Employment creation in targeted rural/high unemployment area, spouse and children	267	219	178	131	153

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Class of Immigrant	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Investor pilot program not in targeted area, spouse and children	11	24	7	13	0
Investor pilot program in targeted area, spouse and children	8,000	7,468	7,652	2,253	1,809
Alien 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	254,430	236,526	186,584	108,292	170,604
Spouse of U.S. citizen	70,809	71,003	58,984	38,088	64,964
Spouse of U.S. citizen (conditional)	41,822	37,955	24,570	16,956	20,092
Child of U.S. citizen	44,748	38,393	32,283	18,921	36,095
Child of U.S. citizen (conditional)	6,579	6,280	3,876	1,952	2,116
Orphan adopted abroad by U.S. citizen	1,391	1,088	841	646	641
Child adopted abroad by U.S. citizen under Hague Convention	2,882	2,613	1,848	809	930
Orphan to be adopted in U.S. by U.S. citizen	277	177	151	103	100
Child to be adopted in U.S. by U.S. citizen under Hague Convention	159	172	144	79	118
Parent of U.S. citizen at least 21 years of age	85,280	78,362	63,442	30,492	45,119
Certain widow(er)s and children of certain widow(er)s of U.S. citizens	483	483	445	246	429
Special Immigrant Total	20,034	9,375	11,384	8,722	13,421
Returning Resident	1,391	1,276	1,171	648	3,145
Iraqi and Afghan translators, spouse and children	222	196	77	74	53
Certain Iraqis or 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, spouse, and children*	18,349	7,798	10,035	7,962	10,177
Certain Family Members of U1 Nonimmigrants	72	105	101	38	46
Vietnam Amerasian Immigrants	36	92	96	95	63
DV Diversity Immigrants	49,067	48,578	44,882	18,288	17,344

*FY 2021 data includes 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.