

Table II
Classes of Immigrants Issued Visas at Foreign Service Posts
Fiscal Years 2020-2024*

*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	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Grand Total	240,526	285,069	493,448	562,976	612,258
Family-Sponsored Preference Total	90,435	63,858	156,800	194,419	205,762
<i>First Preference</i>					
Unmarried son or daughter of U.S. citizen and children	7,534	6,344	17,045	23,783	21,428
<i>Second Preference Exempt from Country Limitations</i>					
Spouse or child of Lawful Permanent Resident, and children	26,154	26,169	64,813	64,914	60,815
<i>Second Preference Subject to Country Limitations</i>					
Spouse or child of Lawful Permanent Resident, and children	0	0	4,558	16,121	13,073
Unmarried son or daughter of Lawful Permanent Resident, and children	11,183	6,265	15,315	27,588	24,610
<i>Third Preference</i>					
Married son or daughter of U.S. citizen, spouse and children	10,749	7,014	16,475	17,284	21,971
<i>Fourth Preference</i>					
Brother or sister of U.S. citizen, spouse and children	34,815	18,066	38,594	44,729	63,865
Employment-Based Preference Total	14,694	19,779	55,058	46,508	49,766
<i>First Preference</i>					
Priority worker, spouse and children	1,280	1,248	6,674	4,611	5,225
<i>Second Preference</i>					
Professional holding advanced degree or noncitizen of exceptional ability, spouse and children	2,236	1,479	5,468	6,533	10,255
<i>Third Preference</i>					
Skilled worker or professional, spouse and children	5,678	11,278	27,833	20,013	16,205
Other worker, spouse and children	1,632	1,021	4,633	5,930	6,044
<i>Fourth Preference</i>					
Minister of religion, spouse and children	165	70	509	264	217
Certain employees or former employees of the U.S. Government abroad, spouse and children	1,219	2,624	2,948	733	45
Certain former employees of the Panama Canal Company or Canal Zone Government, spouse and children	0	0	0	1	1
Certain former U.S. Government employees in the Canal Zone, spouse and children	0	0	0	4	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	7	2	5	0	5
Certain juvenile court dependents	0	0	0	0	0
Certain religious workers, spouse and children	31	27	60	50	55
Special Immigrant Broadcaster, spouse and children	21	7	43	15	0
Surviving Spouse or Child of Certain Deceased Employees of the U.S. Government Abroad	-	-	3	0	0
<i>Fifth Preference</i>					
Employment creation outside targeted area, spouse and children	28	61	46	42	59
Employment creation in targeted rural/high unemployment area, spouse and children	131	153	199	127	233

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Investor pilot program not in targeted area, spouse and children	13	0	1	4	9
Investor pilot program in targeted area, spouse and children	2,253	1,809	6,636	8,181	11,406
Non-Regional Center Unreserved Pool (Pub. L. 117-103)	-	-	0	0	0
Regional Center Unreserved Pool (Pub. L. 117-103)	-	-	0	0	3
<i>Fifth Preference Set-Asides (Pub. L. 117-103)</i>					
Employment creation regional center high unemployment area, spouse, and children	-	-	0	0	4
Employment creation regional center rural area, spouse, and children	-	-	0	0	0
Employment creation regional center infrastructure, spouse, and children	-	-	0	0	0
Employment creation non-regional center high unemployment area, spouse, and children	-	-	0	0	0
Employment creation non-regional center rural area, spouse, and children	-	-	0	0	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	108,292	170,604	212,185	245,696	265,467
Spouse of U.S. citizen	38,088	64,964	76,399	73,212	77,523
Spouse of U.S. citizen (conditional)	16,956	20,092	10,163	15,374	20,067
Child of U.S. citizen	18,921	36,095	39,638	46,456	47,343
Child of U.S. citizen (conditional)	1,952	2,116	1,412	1,653	2,273
Orphan adopted abroad by U.S. citizen	646	641	465	264	255
Child adopted abroad by U.S. citizen under Hague Convention	809	930	829	778	758
Orphan to be adopted in U.S. by U.S. citizen	103	100	98	102	69
Child to be adopted in U.S. by U.S. citizen under Hague Convention	79	118	134	115	98
Parent of U.S. citizen at least 21 years of age	30,492	45,119	82,319	106,872	116,348
Certain widow(er)s and children of certain widow(er)s of U.S. citizens	246	429	728	870	733
Special Immigrant Total	8,722	13,421	14,903	21,040	37,769
Returning Resident	648	3,145	4,269	2,058	1,026
Iraqi and Afghan translators, spouse and children	74	53	42	108	173
Certain Iraqis or Afghans employed by or on behalf of the U.S.	7,962	10,177	10,502	18,790	33,671
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	38	46	90	84	61
Special immigrant employees of U.S. Government abroad and family members, and surviving spouses/children of certain deceased employees ¹	-	-	-	-	2,838
Vietnam Amerasian Immigrants	95	63	168	237	155
DV Diversity Immigrants	18,288	17,344	54,334	55,076	53,339

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*FY 2021-FY 2024 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.

¹Section 5104 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2024 (formerly known as the “GRATEFUL Act”) authorized up to 3,500 visas to be issued in FY 2024 and up to 3,000 visas to be issued in FY 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter to special immigrant employees of the U.S. government abroad and family members, and the surviving spouses and children of certain deceased employees, under INA 101(a)(27)(D), for whom an employment-based fourth preference (EB-4) visa is not immediately available.