

Table II
Classes of Immigrants Issued Visas at Foreign Service Posts
Fiscal Years 2019-2023*

*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	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Grand Total	462,422	240,526	285,069	493,448	562,976
Family-Sponsored Preference Total	190,938	90,435	63,858	156,800	194,419
<i>First Preference</i>					
Unmarried son or daughter of U.S. citizen and children	20,858	7,534	6,344	17,045	23,783
<i>Second Preference Exempt from Country Limitations</i>					
Spouse or child of Lawful Permanent Resident, and children	55,210	26,154	26,169	64,813	64,914
<i>Second Preference Subject to Country Limitations</i>					
Spouse or child of Lawful Permanent Resident, and children	8,680	0	0	4,558	16,121
Unmarried son or daughter of Lawful Permanent Resident, and children	22,346	11,183	6,265	15,315	27,588
<i>Third Preference</i>					
Married son or daughter of U.S. citizen, spouse and children	23,074	10,749	7,014	16,475	17,284
<i>Fourth Preference</i>					
Brother or sister of U.S. citizen, spouse and children	60,770	34,815	18,066	38,594	44,729
Employment-Based Preference Total	28,538	14,694	19,779	55,058	46,508
<i>First Preference</i>					
Priority worker, spouse and children	2,223	1,280	1,248	6,674	4,611
<i>Second Preference</i>					
Professional holding advanced degree or noncitizen of exceptional ability, spouse and children	3,497	2,236	1,479	5,468	6,533
<i>Third Preference</i>					
Skilled worker or professional, spouse and children	11,345	5,678	11,278	27,833	20,013
Other worker, spouse and children	1,683	1,632	1,021	4,633	5,930
<i>Fourth Preference</i>					
Minister of religion, spouse and children	141	165	70	509	264
Certain employees or former employees of the U.S. Government abroad, spouse and children	1,667	1,219	2,624	2,948	733
Certain former employees of the Panama Canal Company or Canal Zone Government, spouse and children	0	0	0	0	1
Certain former U.S. Government employees in the Canal Zone, spouse and children	0	0	0	0	4
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	7	2	5	0
Certain juvenile court dependents	0	0	0	0	0
Certain religious workers, spouse and children	57	31	27	60	50
Special Immigrant Broadcaster, spouse and children	30	21	7	43	15
Surviving Spouse or Child of Certain Deceased Employees of the U.S. Government Abroad	-	-	-	3	0
<i>Fifth Preference</i>					
Employment creation outside targeted area, spouse and children	52	28	61	46	42
Employment creation in targeted rural/high unemployment area, spouse and children	178	131	153	199	127

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Investor pilot program not in targeted area, spouse and children	7	13	0	1	4
Investor pilot program in targeted area, spouse and children	7,652	2,253	1,809	6,636	8,181
Non-Regional Center Unreserved Pool (Pub. L. 117-103)	-	-	-	0	0
Regional Center Unreserved Pool (Pub. L. 117-103)	-	-	-	0	0
<i>Fifth Preference Set-Asides (Pub. L. 117-103)</i>					
Employment creation regional center high unemployment area, spouse, and children	-	-	-	0	0
Employment creation regional center rural area, spouse, and children	-	-	-	0	0
Employment creation regional center infrastructure, spouse, and children	-	-	-	0	0
Employment creation non-regional center high unemployment area, spouse, and children	-	-	-	0	0
Employment creation non-regional center rural area, spouse, and children	-	-	-	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	186,584	108,292	170,604	212,185	245,696
Spouse of U.S. citizen	58,984	38,088	64,964	76,399	73,212
Spouse of U.S. citizen (conditional)	24,570	16,956	20,092	10,163	15,374
Child of U.S. citizen	32,283	18,921	36,095	39,638	46,456
Child of U.S. citizen (conditional)	3,876	1,952	2,116	1,412	1,653
Orphan adopted abroad by U.S. citizen	841	646	641	465	264
Child adopted abroad by U.S. citizen under Hague Convention	1,848	809	930	829	778
Orphan to be adopted in U.S. by U.S. citizen	151	103	100	98	102
Child to be adopted in U.S. by U.S. citizen under Hague Convention	144	79	118	134	115
Parent of U.S. citizen at least 21 years of age	63,442	30,492	45,119	82,319	106,872
Certain widow(er)s and children of certain widow(er)s of U.S. citizens	445	246	429	728	870
Special Immigrant Total	11,384	8,722	13,421	14,903	21,040
Returning Resident	1,171	648	3,145	4,269	2,058
Iraqi and Afghan translators, spouse and children	77	74	53	42	108
Certain Iraqis or Afghans employed by or on behalf of the U.S.	10,035	7,962	10,177	10,502	18,790
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	101	38	46	90	84
Vietnam Amerasian Immigrants	96	95	63	168	237
DV Diversity Immigrants	44,882	18,288	17,344	54,334	55,076

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*FY 2021-FY 2023 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.