

Table II
Classes of Immigrants Issued Visas at Foreign Service Posts
Fiscal Years 2016-2020*

*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, as local conditions allowed.

Class of Immigrant	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Grand Total	617,752	559,536	533,557	462,422	240,526
Family-Sponsored Preference Total	215,498	212,155	211,641	190,938	90,435
<i>First Preference</i>					
Unmarried son or daughter of U.S. citizen and children	21,800	22,807	25,156	20,858	7,534
<i>Second Preference Exempt from Country Limitations</i>					
Spouse or child of alien resident, and children	64,424	61,883	59,449	55,210	26,154
<i>Second Preference Subject to Country Limitations</i>					
Spouse or child of alien resident, and children	22,378	21,197	21,770	8,680	0
Unmarried son or daughter of alien resident, and children	22,938	23,819	26,117	22,346	11,183
<i>Third Preference</i>					
Married son or daughter of U.S. citizen, spouse and children	22,590	20,716	19,457	23,074	10,749
<i>Fourth Preference</i>					
Brother or sister of U.S. citizen, spouse and children	61,368	61,733	59,692	60,770	34,815
Employment-Based Preference Total	25,056	23,814	27,345	28,538	14,694
<i>First Preference</i>					
Priority worker, spouse and children	2,361	2,529	3,854	2,223	1,280
<i>Second Preference</i>					
Professional holding advanced degree or alien of exceptional ability, spouse and children	2,155	3,223	3,119	3,497	2,236
<i>Third Preference</i>					
Skilled worker or professional, spouse and children	7,961	6,964	9,557	11,345	5,678
Other worker, spouse and children	2,340	929	1,190	1,683	1,632
<i>Fourth Preference</i>					
Minister of religion, spouse and children	108	203	269	141	165
Certain employees or former employees of the U.S. Government abroad, spouse and children	1,529	1,460	1,439	1,667	1,219
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	8	9	6	6	7
Certain juvenile court dependents	0	0	0	0	0
Certain religious workers, spouse and children	66	78	78	57	31
Special Immigrant Broadcaster, spouse and children	23	5	26	30	21
<i>Fifth Preference</i>					
Employment creation outside targeted area, spouse and children	103	136	96	52	28
Employment creation in targeted rural/high unemployment area, spouse and children	350	267	219	178	131

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Class of Immigrant	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Investor pilot program not in targeted area, spouse and children	9	11	24	7	13
Investor pilot program in targeted area, spouse and children	8,043	8,000	7,468	7,652	2,253
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	315,352	254,430	236,526	186,584	108,292
Spouse of U.S. citizen	81,486	70,809	71,003	58,984	38,088
Spouse of U.S. citizen (conditional)	51,979	41,822	37,955	24,570	16,956
Child of U.S. citizen	59,885	44,748	38,393	32,283	18,921
Child of U.S. citizen (conditional)	7,496	6,579	6,280	3,876	1,952
Orphan adopted abroad by U.S. citizen	1,292	1,391	1,088	841	646
Child adopted abroad by U.S. citizen under Hague Convention	3,135	2,882	2,613	1,848	809
Orphan to be adopted in U.S. by U.S. citizen	566	277	177	151	103
Child to be adopted in U.S. by U.S. citizen under Hague Convention	208	159	172	144	79
Parent of U.S. citizen at least 21 years of age	108,788	85,280	78,362	63,442	30,492
Certain widow(er)s and children of certain widow(er)s of U.S. citizens	517	483	483	445	246
Special Immigrant Total	16,176	20,034	9,375	11,384	8,722
Returning Resident	1,533	1,391	1,276	1,171	648
Iraqi and Afghan translators, spouse and children	219	222	196	77	74
Certain Iraqis or Afghans employed by or on behalf of the U.S. Government, spouse, and children	14,366	18,349	7,798	10,035	7,962
Certain Family Members of U1 Nonimmigrants	58	72	105	101	38
Vietnam Amerasian Immigrants	6	36	92	96	95
DV Diversity Immigrants	45,664	49,067	48,578	44,882	18,288