

Table II
Classes of Immigrants Issued Visas at Foreign Service Posts
Fiscal Years 1998 – 2002

Class of Immigrant	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Grand Total	375,684	413,662	413,521	406,080	389,157
Family-Sponsored Preference Total	165,986	191,393	181,127	146,204	129,414
First Preference					
Unmarried son or daughter of U.S. citizen, and children	14,353	18,936	19,670	15,871	15,817
Second Preference Exempt from Country Limitations					
Spouse or child of alien resident, and children	29,796	45,662	37,653	20,661	14,565
Second Preference Subject to Country Limitations					
Spouse or child of alien resident, and children	18,147	21,790	20,227	16,464	11,524
Unmarried son or daughter of alien resident, and children	17,542	22,029	22,866	17,559	15,329
Third Preference					
Married son or daughter of U.S. citizen, spouse and children	22,385	22,495	22,092	18,972	19,480
Fourth Preference					
Brother or sister of U.S. citizen, spouse and children	63,763	60,481	58,619	56,677	52,699
Employment-Based Preference Total	15,815	15,455	22,392	43,129	39,289
First Preference					
Priority worker, spouse and children	3,399	3,233	5,780	12,208	9,485
Second Preference					
Professional holding advanced degree or alien of exceptional ability, spouse and children	991	853	1,940	6,716	5,192
Third Preference					
Skilled worker or professional, spouse and children	6,552	7,682	10,793	20,710	21,507
Other worker, spouse and children	2,559	2,032	1,789	1,408	1,544
Fourth Preference					
Broadcaster in the United States employed by the International Broadcasting Bureau of the Broadcasting Board of Governors or grantees of that Board, and accompanying spouse and children ¹				-	-
Minister of religion, spouse and children	532	414	431	693	376
Certain employees or former employees of the U.S. Government abroad, spouse and children	519	683	974	849	766
Certain former employees of the Panama Canal Company or Canal Zone Government, spouse and children	2	-	6	3	5
Certain former employees of the U.S. Government in the Canal Zone, spouse and children	10	5	12	8	-
Certain former employees of the Panama Canal Company or Canal Zone Government on April 1, 1979, spouse and children	-	-	-	-	-
Spouse and child of certain foreign medical graduates	-	-	-	-	-
Certain retired international organization employees and spouse, unmarried sons or daughters of international organization employees, surviving spouses of deceased international organization employees	14	17	6	22	13
Certain juvenile court dependents	-	-	-	-	-

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Class of Immigrant	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Certain retired NATO–6 civilian employees and spouse, unmarried sons or daughters of NATO–6 civilian employees, surviving spouses of deceased NATO–6 civilian employees ²				-	-
Certain religious workers, spouse and children	725	462	595	461	353
Fifth Preference					
Employment creation outside targeted area, spouse and children	122	28	25	31	32
Employment creation in targeted rural/high unemployment area, spouse and children	241	45	41	20	16
Investor pilot program not in targeted area, spouse and children ³	3	-	-	-	-
Investor pilot program in targeted area, spouse and children ³	146	1	-	-	-
 Alien recruited outside the United States who has served or is enlisted to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces for 12 years, spouse and children	 21	 19	 11	 7	 6
Immediate Relative Total	147,760	156,048	163,610	172,087	178,142
Spouse of U.S. citizen	19,270	20,828	22,676	28,172	23,196
Spouse of U.S. citizen (conditional) ⁴	26,843	28,547	31,440	31,307	30,998
Child of U.S. citizen	30,188	32,175	33,268	33,098	33,668
Child of U.S. citizen (conditional) ⁴	6,328	5,780	5,399	5,102	6,813
Orphan adopted abroad by U.S. citizen	10,829	11,338	13,195	13,791	15,733
Orphan to be adopted in the U.S. by U.S. citizen	4,754	5,031	5,282	5,433	5,645
Parent of U.S. citizen at least 21 years of age	49,462	52,271	52,245	55,093	61,989
Parent of U.S. citizen who acquired status under the Virgin Islands Nonimmigrant Alien Adjustment Act (Pub. L. 97–271)	-	-	-	-	-
Certain widow(er)s of U.S. citizens	78	53	81	78	67
Children of certain widow(er)s of U.S. citizens	8	25	24	13	33
Special Immigrant Total	748	830	816	856	735
Returning resident	748	830	816	856	735
Certain persons who lost U.S. citizenship by marriage	-	-	-	-	-
Certain persons who lost U.S. citizenship by serving in foreign armed forces	-	-	-	-	-
Vietnam Amerasian Immigrants	399	245	1,052	426	374
DV Diversity Immigrants	44,955	49,672	44,513	43,371	41,197

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- ¹ Pub. L. 106–536 enacted November 22, 2000 created a new Employment Fourth Preference class under INA 101(a)(27)(M) for immigrants who will be employed as broadcasters by the International Broadcasting Bureau of the Broadcasting Board of Governors or by grantees of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, and accompanying spouse and children, in a number not to exceed 100 principal aliens in any fiscal year. This provision became effective October 1, 2000.
- ² Section 421(a) of the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act, Title IV of Division C of the Act of October 21, 1998 (Pub. L. 105–277) created a new Employment Fourth Preference class under INA 101(a)(27)(L) for certain retired NATO–6 civilian employees and spouse, unmarried sons or daughters of retired NATO–6 civilian employees, or surviving spouses of deceased NATO–6 civilian employees.
- ³ Section 610 of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1993 (Pub. L. 102–395), as amended by Section 116 of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998 (Pub. L. 105–119) and Section 402 of the Visa Waiver Permanent Program Act (Pub. L. 106–396), modified INA 203(b)(5) by creating a 10-year pilot program (October 1, 1993 through September 30, 2003) that sets aside up to 3,000 immigrant visas annually for aliens investing in qualifying regional centers in the United States for the promotion of economic growth.
- ⁴ Pub. L. 99–639 (Immigration Marriage Fraud Amendments of 1986) established a conditional immigration status for persons whose basis for immigration is a marriage of the petitioner that was entered into less than 2 years prior to the applicant's admission to the United States as an immigrant.