

BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS

U.S. Department of State



Who We Are and What We Do: Consular Affairs by the Numbers

The mission of the **Bureau of Consular Affairs (CA)** is to provide consular services that most efficiently and effectively protect U.S. citizens, ensure U.S. border security, facilitate the entry of legitimate travelers, and foster economic growth.

Overseas Citizens Services - Our Priority is to Help Americans

The Department estimates that 7.6 million U.S. citizens live abroad and more than 70 million U.S. citizens travel abroad annually.

- **Emergency Services:** Births, Deaths, Welfare/Whereabouts Inquiries, Illness/Injury, and Prison Visits. In FY 2013, we conducted 9,882 Prison Visits, registered 68,314 overseas births to U.S. parents; assisted the families of 11,058 U.S. citizens who died while abroad, handled 12,892 Welfare/Whereabouts Inquiries, and issued 38,342 emergency passports.
- **Children's Issues – Adoptions:** In FY 2013, there were 7,094 intercountry adoptions into the United States. An additional 84 children were adopted from the United States by foreign families; see adoption.state.gov for country-by-country statistics, alerts & notices.
- **Children's Issues – International Parental Child Abductions:** In CY 2013, there were 1,004 children who were reported abducted from the United States, and over 522 children who were reported returned. In CY 2013, there were 518 children who were reported abducted to the United States.
- **Toll free Number:** OCS Call Center: 1-888-407-4747 (overseas: 202-501-4444)
- **Website:** Visit travel.state.gov for Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information to help U.S. citizens travel abroad safely; studentsabroad.state.gov provides information for young travelers.

Passport Services - World's Premier Travel Document

There are 26 domestic passport agencies, three processing centers, two printing facilities

and more than 8,400 passport application acceptance facilities nationwide.

- **Passports and passport cards issued:** In FY 2013, we issued 13.5 million passports and passport cards. Since FY 2007, we have issued over 109 million passports and passport cards.
- **Passport cards issued to date:** 7.8 million (as of April 2014).
- **Passports in circulation:** Over 119 million valid U.S. passports are in circulation – about 38 percent of U.S. citizens have a passport (compared to 14 million in circulation in 1991).
- **Passport cards:** Entrance via land and sea from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda.
- **Toll free Number:** 1-877-4USAPPT (1-877-487-2778); TTY/TDD 1-888-874-7793.

Fraud Prevention - Protecting the Integrity of the Citizenship and Visa Process

- **Consular Integrity Training:** In FY 2013, CA's Office of Fraud Prevention Programs (FPP) trained over 2,000 consular and diplomatic security employees on preventing malfeasance and ensuring the integrity of all consular services.
- **Fraud Prevention Units:** FPP supports over 175 Fraud Prevention Units located at our consular posts abroad.
- **Referred Fraud Cases:** In FY 2013, passport and visa adjudicators referred more than 149,000 applications for review and possible investigation to Fraud Prevention Units domestically and abroad.
- **Fraud Alerts posted on FPP's web site:** FPP disseminated 61 consular fraud alerts in FY 2013.

U.S. Visa Facts

- **Visa Waiver Participants:** 38 (see travel.state.gov for latest information).
- **Visa Adjudicating Posts:** More than 220, each with its own post-specific website.
- **NIV applicants and issuances:** In FY 2013, we adjudicated almost 10.7 million

non-immigrant visa applications and issued over 9.1 million non-immigrant visas, including 545,614 student and 312,514 exchange visitor visas – 53.1% (858,128 FY-2013 vs. 560,502 FY 2001) more students and exchange visitors than before 9/11. *The Department of Commerce estimates that international travelers contribute more than \$152 billion to the U.S. economy. According to OpenDoors, international students contributed more than \$22.7 billion to the U.S. economy in 2013.*

- **Security:** Visa applicants are screened in cooperation with interagency partners; fingerprint and facial recognition checks are also conducted.
- **Immigrant Visas Issued:** In FY 2013, we issued 473,115 immigrant visas.
- **Diversity Visa Lottery (eDV) entrants:** 14.4 million people entered the DV 2015 lottery (including family members). Up to 50,000 Diversity Visas may be issued in FY 2015.

Additional CA Facts

- **Website and Social Media:** In 2013, there were 69 million visits to our travel.state.gov website. As of February 2014, @TravelGov had 368,000 Twitter followers & [Facebook.com/TravelGov](https://www.facebook.com/TravelGov) had more than 94,000 "likes."
- **Our Travel Warning and Travel Alert data is open to the public:** An open data API for developers is available for any organization to display our Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts. Learn more at Data.gov or [click here for the code.](#)
- **More than 12,000 direct hire and contract employees in 300 offices worldwide.**
- **Consular fees retained:** In FY 2013, the Bureau of Consular Affairs generated approximately \$3.33 billion in consular fee revenue, of which 80% (\$2.68 billion) was retained by the Department of State and shared among its regional and functional bureaus. **CA is almost entirely fee funded.**

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