Consular Affairs
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Visa Bulletin

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Immigrant Numbers for December 2026

A. Statutory Numbers for Preference Immigrant Visas

This bulletin summarizes the availability of immigrant numbers during December for "Final Action Dates" and "Dates for Filing Applications," indicating when immigrant visa applicants should be notified to assemble and submit required documentation to the National Visa Center.

Unless otherwise indicated on the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) website at www.uscis.gov/visabulletininfo, individuals seeking to file applications for adjustment of status with USCIS must use the "Final Action Dates" charts below for determining when they can file such applications. When USCIS determines that there are more immigrant visas available for the fiscal year than there are known applicants for such visas, USCIS will state on its website that applicants may instead use the "Dates for Filing Visa Applications" charts in this Bulletin.

1. **Procedures for determining dates.** Consular officers are required to report to the Department of State documentarily qualified applicants for numerically limited visas; USCIS reports applicants for adjustment of status. Allocations in the charts below were made, to the extent possible, in chronological order of reported priority dates, for demand received by November 13th. If all reported demand could not be satisfied, the category or foreign state in which demand was excessive was deemed oversubscribed. The final action date for an oversubscribed category is the priority date of the first applicant who could not be reached within the numerical limits. If it becomes necessary during the monthly allocation process to retrogress a final action date, supplemental requests for numbers will be honored only if the priority date falls within the new final action date announced in this bulletin. If at any time an annual limit were reached, it would be necessary to immediately make the preference category "unavailable", and no further requests for numbers would be honored.

2. Section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) sets an annual minimum family-sponsored preference limit of 226,000. The worldwide level for annual employment-based preference immigrants is at least 140,000. Section 202 prescribes that the per-country limit for preference immigrants is set at 7% of the total annual family-sponsored and employment-based preference limits, i.e., 25,620. The dependent area limit is set at 2%, or 7,320.

3. INA Section 203(e) provides that family-sponsored and employment-based preference visas be issued to eligible immigrants in the order in which a petition on behalf of each has been filed. Section 203(d) provides that spouses and children of preference immigrants are entitled to the same status, and the same order of consideration, if accompanying or following to join the principal. The visa prorating provisions of Section 202(e) apply to allocations for a foreign state or dependent area when visa issuances will exceed the per-country limit. These provisions apply at present to the following

oversubscribed chargeability areas: CHINA-mainland born, INDIA, MEXICO, and PHILIPPINES.

4. Section 203(a) of the INA prescribes preference classes for allotment of Family-sponsored immigrant visas as follows:

Family-Sponsored Preferences

First: (**F1**) Unmarried Sons and Daughters of U.S. Citizens: 23,400 plus any numbers not required for fourth preference.

Second: Spouses and Children, and Unmarried Sons and Daughters of Permanent Residents: 114,200, plus the number (if any) by which the worldwide family preference level exceeds 226,000, plus any unused first preference numbers:

A. (**F2A**) Spouses and Children of Permanent Residents: 77% of the overall second preference limitation, of which 75% are exempt from the per-country limit.
B. (**F2B**) Unmarried Sons and Daughters (21 years of age or older) of Permanent Residents: 23% of the overall second preference limitation.

Third: (**F3**) Married Sons and Daughters of U.S. Citizens: 23,400, plus any numbers not required by first and second preferences.

Fourth: (**F4**) Brothers and Sisters of Adult U.S. Citizens: 65,000, plus any numbers not required by first three preferences.

A. Final Action Dates for Family-Sponsored Preference Class

On the chart below, the listing of a date for any class indicates that the class is oversubscribed (see paragraph 1); "C" means current, i.e., numbers are authorized for issuance to all qualified applicants; and "U" means unauthorized, i.e., numbers are not authorized for issuance. (NOTE: Numbers are authorized for issuance only for applicants whose priority date is **earlier** than the final action date listed below.)

Family-Sponsored	All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA-mainland born	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
F1	22JAN21	22JAN21	22JAN21	22SEP08	01NOV13
F2A	22NOV26	22NOV26	22NOV26	22MAY26	22NOV26
F2B	22AUG20	22AUG20	22AUG20	15MAY10	01OCT13
F3	22OCT15	22OCT15	22OCT15	15JUL02	01AUG06
F4	22OCT12	22OCT12	15FEB07	22APR01	15MAY09

For December, F2A numbers EXEMPT from per-country limit are authorized for issuance to applicants from all countries with priority dates earlier than 22MAY26. F2A numbers SUBJECT to per-country limit are authorized for issuance to applicants chargeable to all countries EXCEPT MEXICO, with priority

dates beginning 22MAY26 and earlier than 22NOV26. All F2A numbers provided for MEXICO are exempt from the per-country limit.

B. Dates for Filing Family-Sponsored Visa Applications

The chart below reflects dates for filing visa applications within a timeframe justifying immediate action in the application process. Applicants for immigrant visas who have a priority date earlier than the application date in the chart below may assemble and submit required documents to the Department of State's National Visa Center, following receipt of notification from the National Visa Center containing detailed instructions. The application date for an oversubscribed category is the priority date of the first applicant who cannot submit documentation to the National Visa Center for an immigrant visa. If a category is designated "current," all applicants in the relevant category may file applications, regardless of priority date.

A "C" listing indicates that the category is current, and that applications may be filed regardless of the applicant's priority date. The listing of a date for any category indicates that only applicants with a priority date which is **earlier** than the listed date may file their application.

Visit www.uscis.gov/visabulletininfo for information on whether USCIS has determined that this chart can be used (in lieu of the chart in paragraph 4.A.) this month for filing applications for adjustment of status with USCIS.

Family-Sponsored	All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA-mainland born	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
F1	01FEB21	01FEB21	01FEB21	01DEC08	22APR15
F2A	C	C	C	C	C
F2B	01SEP20	01SEP20	01SEP20	22MAR11	01OCT14
F3	01NOV15	01NOV15	01NOV15	01DEC02	22OCT06
F4	01NOV12	01NOV12	15AUG07	30APR01	15NOV09

5. Section 203(b) of the INA prescribes preference classes for allotment of Employment-based immigrant visas as follows:

Employment-Based Preferences

First: Priority Workers: 28.6% of the worldwide employment-based preference level, plus any numbers not required for fourth and fifth preferences.

Second: Members of the Professions Holding Advanced Degrees or Persons of Exceptional Ability: 28.6% of the worldwide employment-based preference level, plus any numbers not required by first preference.

Third: Skilled Workers, Professionals, and Other Workers: 28.6% of the worldwide level, plus any numbers not required by first and second preferences, of which not more than 10,000 may be provided to "*Other Workers".

Fourth: Certain Special Immigrants: 7.1% of the worldwide level.

Fifth: Employment Creation: 7.1% of the worldwide level, of which 32% are reserved as follows: 20% reserved for qualified immigrants who invest in a rural area; 10% reserved for qualified immigrants who invest in a high unemployment area; and 2% reserved for qualified immigrants who invest in infrastructure projects. The remaining 68% are unreserved and are allotted for all other qualified immigrants.

A. Final Action Dates for Employment-Based Preference Cases

On the chart below, the listing of a date for any class indicates that the class is oversubscribed (see paragraph 1); "C" means current, i.e., numbers are authorized for issuance to all qualified applicants; and "U" means unauthorized, i.e., numbers are not authorized for issuance. (NOTE: Numbers are authorized for issuance only for applicants whose priority date is **earlier** than the final action date listed below.)

Employment-Based	All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA-mainland born	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
1st	C	01AUG23	01FEB23	C	C
2nd	01APR25	01OCT21	01NOV13	01APR25	01APR25
3rd	15JUN24	22JAN22	22JAN14	15JUN24	15AUG23
Other Workers	01JUN22	01OCT19	22JAN14	01JUN22	01JAN22
4th	15DEC22	15DEC22	15DEC22	15DEC22	15DEC22
Certain Religious Workers	15DEC22	15DEC22	15DEC22	15DEC22	15DEC22
5th Unreserved *(including C5, T5, I5, R5, NU, RU)*	C	01JAN17	01DEC23	C	C
5th Set Aside: Rural (20%) *(including NR, RR)*	C	C	C	C	C
5th Set Aside: High Unemployment (10%) *(including NH, RH)*	C	C	C	C	C

5th Set Aside: Infrastructure (2%) *(including RI)*	C	C	C	C	C

*Employment Third Preference Other Workers Category: Section 203(e) of the Nicaraguan and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) passed by Congress in November 1997, as amended by Section 1(e) of Pub. L. 105-139, provides that once the Employment Third Preference Other Worker (EW) final action date has reached the priority date of the latest EW petition approved prior to November 19, 1997, the 10,000 EW numbers available for a fiscal year are to be reduced by up to 5,000 annually beginning in the following fiscal year. This reduction is to be made for as long as necessary to offset adjustments under the NACARA program. Since the EW final action date reached November 19, 1997 during Fiscal Year 2001, the reduction in the EW annual limit to 5,000 began in Fiscal Year 2002. For Fiscal Year 2027 this reduction will be limited to approximately 150.

B. Dates for Filing of Employment-Based Visa Applications

The chart below reflects dates for filing visa applications within a timeframe justifying immediate action in the application process. Applicants for immigrant visas who have a priority date earlier than the application date in the chart may assemble and submit required documents to the Department of State's National Visa Center, following receipt of notification from the National Visa Center containing detailed instructions. The application date for an oversubscribed category is the priority date of the first applicant who cannot submit documentation to the National Visa Center for an immigrant visa. If a category is designated "current," all applicants in the relevant category may file, regardless of priority date.

The "C" listing indicates that the category is current, and that applications may be filed regardless of the applicant's priority date. The listing of a date for any category indicates that only applicants with a priority date which is **earlier** than the listed date may file their application.

Visit www.uscis.gov/visabulletininfo for information on whether USCIS has determined that this chart can be used (in lieu of the chart in paragraph 5.A.) this month for filing applications for adjustment of status with USCIS.

Employment-Based	**All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed**	**CHINA-mainland born**	**INDIA**	**MEXICO**	**PHILIPPINES**
1st	C	01JUL24	01JUL24	C	C
2nd	15MAR26	01JAN23	15JAN15	15MAR26	15MAR26
3rd	01AUG24	01APR24	15JAN15	01AUG24	01JAN24
Other Workers	01JUL22	01OCT20	15JAN15	01JUL22	01JUN22
4th	01JAN25	01JAN25	01JAN25	01JAN25	01JAN25

Certain Religious Workers	01JAN25	01JAN25	01JAN25	01JAN25	01JAN25
5th Unreserved *(including C5, T5, I5, R5, NU, RU)*	C	01MAR21	01MAY24	C	C
5th Set Aside: Rural (20%) *(including NR, RR)*	C	C	C	C	C
5th Set Aside: High Unemployment (10%) *(including NH, RH)*	C	C	C	C	C
5th Set Aside: Infrastructure (2%) *(including RI)*	C	C	C	C	C

B. Availability of Family-Sponsored and Employment-Based Visas

Immigrant visa issuance rates have decreased in light of various actions the administration and Department of State have taken to protect national security and public safety, and to otherwise advance the interests of the United States, including Presidential Proclamation 10949 and Presidential Proclamation 10998. Consequently, to make visas available in accordance with sections 201-203 of the INA to sufficient prospective immigrants to use immigrant visa numbers that are available in FY 2027, dates for filing and final action dates had been advanced across various immigrant visa categories in recent months. Note that, based on immigrant visa demand, retrogression may be necessary in the upcoming months to keep issuances within annual limits. Visa categories may become "Unavailable" prior to the end of the fiscal year if annual limits, category limits, or pro-rated per-country limits are reached. This situation is being continually monitored, and any necessary adjustments will be made accordingly.

C. Scheduled Expiration of the Employment Fourth Religious Workers (SR) Category

H.R. 6500, signed on September 2, 2026, extends the Employment Fourth Preference Certain Religious Workers (SR) category through December 11, 2026. No SR visas may be issued overseas, or final action taken on adjustment of status cases, after midnight December 10, 2026. Visas issued prior to that date will be valid only until December 10, 2026, and all individuals seeking admission in the non-minister special immigrant category must be admitted (repeat admitted) into the United States no later than midnight December 10, 2026.

In the event there is no legislative action extending the category, it is likely it will become "Unavailable" on December 11, 2026. If extended, the category will be subject to the same final action dates as the other Employment Fourth Preference categories per applicable foreign state of chargeability.

D. U.S. Government Employee Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs)

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2024, signed into law on December 22, 2023, may affect certain current and former employees of the U.S. Government abroad, as well as certain surviving spouses and children of deceased employees of the U.S. government abroad, applying for SIVs or adjustment of status, as described in section 101(a)(27)(D) of the INA. This does not affect certain Iraqis and Afghans applying for SQ and SI SIVs. Applicants should contact the consular section at which they filed their Form DS-1884 for further information on the impact of that law on their case.

For the latest information on visa processing at U.S. embassies and consulates, please visit the Bureau of Consular Affairs website at travel.state.gov.

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