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.

Grand Total 617,752 559,566 533,557 462,422 240,526 Family-Sponsored Preference Total 215,498 212,155 211,641 190,938 90,435 First Preference Unmarried son or daughter of U.S. citizen and children 21,800 22,807 25,156 20,858 7,534 Second Preference Exempt from Country Limitations 590use or child of alien resident, and children 64,424 61,883 59,449 55,210 26,154 Spouse or child of alien resident, and children 22,378 21,197 21,770 8,680 10,739 Unmarried son or daughter of elien resident, and children 22,598 23,819 26,117 22,346 11,183 Third Preference Married son or daughter of U.S. citizen, spouse and children 22,590 20,716 19,457 23,074 10,749 Fourth Preference Brother or sister of U.S. citizen, spouse and children 22,505 23,814 27,345 24,535 24,535 24,535 24,535 24,535 24,535 24,535 24,535 24,535 24,535 24,535 24,535 24,535	Class of Immigrant	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
First Preference Unmarried son or daughter of U.S. citizen and children 21,800 22,807 25,156 20,858 7,534 Second Preference Exempt from Country Limitations Spouse or child of alien resident, and children 64,424 61,883 59,449 55,210 26,154 Second Preference Subject to Country Limitations 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 22,378 21,197 21,770 8,680 0 Unmarried son or daughter of U.S. citizen, spouse and children 22,590 20,716 19,457 23,074 10,749 Fourth Preference Brother or sister of U.S. citizen, spouse and children 22,590 20,716 19,457 23,074 10,749 First Preference Brother or sister of U.S. citizen, spouse and children 22,505 23,814 27,345 28,538 14,694 First Preference Profesence Profesence 2,361 2,529 3,854 2,223 1,280 Skilled worker, spouse and children 7,961 6,964 9,5	Grand Total	617,752	559,536	533,557	462,422	240,526
Unmarried son or daughter of U.S. citizen and children Second Preference Exempt from Country Limitations Spouse or child of alien resident, and children 64,424 61,883 59,449 55,210 26,154 Second Preference Subject to Country Limitations 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 Third Preference Warried son or daughter of U.S. citizen, spouse and children 22,590 20,716 19,457 23,074 10,749 Fourth Preference Warried son or daughter of U.S. citizen, spouse and children 25,056 23,814 27,345 28,538 14,694 First Preference State of U.S. citizen, spouse and children 25,056 23,814 27,345 28,538 14,694 First Preference State of U.S. citizen, spouse and children 23,616 2,529 3,854 2,223 1,280 Second Preference State of U.S. citizen, spouse and children 23,616 2,529 3,854 2,223 1,280 Second Preference State of U.S. citizen, spouse and children 2,361 2,529 3,854 2,223 1,280 Second Preference State of U.S. citizen, spouse and children 2,361 2,529 3,854 2,223 1,280 Second Preference State of U.S. citizen, spouse and children 2,361 2,529 3,854 2,223 1,280 Second Preference State of U.S. citizen, spouse and children 2,361 3,223 3,119 3,497 2,236 State of U.S. citizen, spouse and children 2,361 3,223 3,119 3,497 2,236 State of U.S. citizen, spouse and children 2,361 3,262 3,263 3,119 3,497 2,236 3,241 3,242 3,243	Family-Sponsored Preference Total	215,498	212,155	211,641	190,938	90,435
Second Preference Exempt from Country Limitations 64,424 61,883 59,449 55,210 26,154 Spouse or child of alien resident, and children 64,424 61,883 59,449 55,210 26,154 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 22,388 23,819 26,117 22,346 11,183 Third Preference Married son or daughter of U.S. citizen, spouse and children 22,590 20,716 19,457 23,074 10,749 Fourth Preference 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 First Preference 2 25,056 23,814 27,345 28,538 14,694 Priority worker, spouse and children 2,361 2,529 3,854 2,223 1,280 Second Preference Priority worker, spouse and children 7,961	First Preference					
Spouse or child of alien resident, and children 64,424 61,883 59,449 55,210 26,154 Second Preference Subject to Country Limitations 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 Third Preference B 22,590 20,716 19,457 23,074 10,749 Fourth Preference B 61,368 61,733 59,692 60,770 34,815 Employment-Based Preference Total 25,056 23,814 27,345 28,538 14,694 First Preference B 7,361 2,529 3,854 2,223 1,280 Employment-Based Preference Total 2,306 23,814 27,345 28,538 14,694 First Preference 8 2,318 2,529 3,854 2,223 1,280 First Preference 8 2,155 3,223 3,119 3,497 2,236 Third Preference 8 2,155 3,223	Unmarried son or daughter of U.S. citizen and children	21,800	22,807	25,156	20,858	7,534
Spouse or child of alien resident, and children 22,378 21,197 21,707 8,680 0 Unmarried son or daughter of alien resident, and children 22,378 23,819 26,117 22,346 11,183 Third Preference B 22,590 20,716 19,457 23,074 10,749 Harried son or daughter of U.S. citizen, spouse and children 22,590 20,716 19,457 23,074 10,749 Fourth Preference 8 61,368 61,733 59,692 60,770 34,815 Employment-Based Preference Total 25,056 23,814 27,345 28,538 14,694 First Preference 21,515 3,223 3,854 2,223 1,280 Priority worker, spouse and children 2,361 2,529 3,854 2,223 1,280 Second Preference 2 2,361 2,529 3,854 2,223 1,280 Priority worker, spouse and children 2,361 2,529 3,854 2,223 1,280 Skilled worker or professional, spouse and children 7,961	Second Preference Exempt from Country Limitations					
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Unmarried son or daughter of alien resident, and children 22,938 23,819 26,117 22,346 11,183 Third Preference Married son or daughter of U.S. citizen, spouse and children 22,590 20,716 19,457 23,074 10,749 Fourth Preference 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 First Preference Profity worker, spouse and children 2,361 2,529 3,854 2,223 1,280 Second Preference Preference Profity worker, spouse and children 2,361 3,223 3,119 3,497 2,236 Skilled worker or professional, spouse and children 7,961 6,964 9,557 11,345 5,678 Other worker, spouse and children 7,961 6,964 9,557 11,345 5,678 Other worker, spouse and children 1,08 203 269 141 165 Certain employees or former employees of the U.S. Government abroad, spouse and child						
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Fourth Preference 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 First Preference Priority worker, spouse and children 2,361 2,529 3,854 2,223 1,280 Second Preference Professional holding advanced degree or alien of exceptional ability, spouse and children 2,155 3,223 3,119 3,497 2,236 Third Preference Skilled worker or professional, spouse and children 7,961 6,964 9,557 11,345 5,678 Other worker, spouse and children 7,961 6,964 9,557 11,345 5,678 Fourth Preference Minister of religion, spouse and children 10 20 1,683 1,632 Minister of religion, spouse and children 1,529 1,460 1,439 1,667 1,219 Certain former employees of the Panama Canal Company or Canal Zone 0 0 0 0 0 Government, spouse and children	· ·					
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 First Preference Priority worker, spouse and children 2,361 2,529 3,854 2,223 1,280 Second Preference Professional holding advanced degree or alien of exceptional ability, spouse and children 2,155 3,223 3,119 3,497 2,236 Third Preference Skilled worker or professional, spouse and children 7,961 6,964 9,557 11,345 5,678 Other worker, spouse and children 108 203 269 141 165 Fourth Preference 11,529 1,460 1,439 1,667 1,219 Minister of religion, spouse and children 1,529 1,460 1,439 1,667 1,219 Certain former employees of the Panama Canal Company or Canal Zone 1,529 1,460 1,439 1,667 1,219 Certain former U.S. Government employees in the Canal Zone, spouse and children 0 0	Married son or daughter of U.S. citizen, spouse and children	22,590	20,716	19,457	23,074	10,749
Employment-Based Preference Total25,05623,81427,34528,53814,694First Preference2,3612,5293,8542,2231,280Priority worker, spouse and children2,3612,5293,8542,2231,280Second Preference2,1553,2233,1193,4972,236Professional holding advanced degree or alien of exceptional ability, spouse and children2,1553,2233,1193,4972,236Intird Preference2,3409291,1901,6831,632Skilled worker or professional, spouse and children7,9616,9649,55711,3455,678Other worker, spouse and children2,3409291,1901,6831,632Fourth Preference108203269141165Minister of religion, spouse and children108203269141165Certain employees or former employees of the U.S. Government abroad, spouse and children1,5291,4601,4391,6671,219Certain former employees of the Panama Canal Company or Canal Zone00000Certain former U.S. Government employees in the Canal Zone, spouse and children00000Certain former employees of the Panama Canal Company or Canal Zone00000Certain former employees of the Panama Canal Company or Canal Zone00000Certain former employees of the Panama Canal Company or Canal Zone00 <t< td=""><td>Fourth Preference</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></t<>	Fourth Preference					
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Priority worker, spouse and children Second Preference Professional holding advanced degree or alien of exceptional ability, spouse and children 2,155 3,223 3,119 3,497 2,236 Third Preference Skilled worker or professional, spouse and children 7,961 6,964 9,557 11,345 5,678 Other worker, spouse and children 7,961 6,964 9,557 11,345 5,678 Other worker, spouse and children 8,2340 929 1,190 1,683 1,632 Fourth Preference 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 6 0 0 0 0 0 0 Certain former U.S. Government employees in the Canal Zone, spouse and children Certain former employees of the Panama Canal Company or Canal Zone Government on April 1, 1979, spouse and children 6 0 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 0 0 0 0 0	Employment-Based Preference Total	25,056	23,814	27,345	28,538	14,694
Second PreferenceProfessional holding advanced degree or alien of exceptional ability, spouse and children2,1553,2233,1193,4972,236Third Preference3,2233,1193,4972,236Skilled worker or professional, spouse and children7,9616,9649,55711,3455,678Other worker, spouse and children2,3409291,1901,6831,632Fourth Preference108203269141165Certain employees or former employees of the U.S. Government abroad, spouse and children1,5291,4601,4391,6671,219Certain former employees of the Panama Canal Company or Canal Zone00000Certain former U.S. Government employees in the Canal Zone, spouse and children00000Certain former employees of the Panama Canal Company or Canal Zone00000Certain former employees of the Panama Canal Company or Canal Zone00000Certain former employees of the Panama Canal Company or Canal Zone00000Certain former employees of the Panama Canal Company or Canal Zone00000Certain former employees of the Panama Canal Company or Canal Zone00000	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
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and children 2,155 3,223 3,119 3,497 2,236 Third Preference 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 Fourth Preference 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 0 0 Certain former U.S. Government employees in the Canal Zone, spouse and children 0 0 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 0 0						
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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 Fourth Preference 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 0 0 Certain former U.S. Government employees in the Canal Zone, spouse and children 0 0 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 0 0 0	and children	2,155	3,223	3,119	3,497	2,236
Other worker, spouse and children 2,340 929 1,190 1,683 1,632 Fourth Preference 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 0 0 Certain former U.S. Government employees in the Canal Zone, spouse and children 0 0 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 0 0 0	Third Preference					
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Minister of religion, spouse and children 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 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Other worker, spouse and children	2,340	929	1,190	1,683	1,632
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 0 0 Certain former U.S. Government employees in the Canal Zone, spouse and children 0 0 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 0 0 0	Fourth Preference					
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 0 0 Certain former U.S. Government employees in the Canal Zone, spouse and children 0 0 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 0 0		108	203	269	141	165
Certain former employees of the Panama Canal Company or Canal Zone Government, spouse and children 0 0 0 0 0 0 Certain former U.S. Government employees in the Canal Zone, spouse and children 0 0 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 0	Certain employees or former employees of the U.S. Government abroad,					
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Certain former U.S. Government employees in the Canal Zone, spouse and children 0 0 0 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 0	Certain former employees of the Panama Canal Company or Canal Zone					
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Certain former employees of the Panama Canal Company or Canal Zone Government on April 1, 1979, spouse and children 0 0 0 0 0						
Government on April 1, 1979, spouse and children 0 0 0 0	children	0	0	0	0	0
1 , , 1	Certain former employees of the Panama Canal Company or Canal Zone					
Certain retired international organization employees and spouse, unmarried	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	sons or daughters of int'l org. employees, surviving spouses of deceased int'l					
org. employees 8 9 6 6 7	org. employees	8	9	6	6	7
Certain juvenile court dependents 0 0 0 0 0	Certain juvenile court dependents	0	0	0	0	0
Certain religious workers, spouse and children 66 78 78 57 31	Certain religious workers, spouse and children	66	78	78	57	31
Special Immigrant Broadcaster, spouse and children 23 5 26 30 21		23	5	26	30	21
Fifth Preference						
Employment creation outside targeted area, spouse and children 103 136 96 52 28		103	136	96	52	28
Employment creation in targeted rural/high unemployment area, spouse and						
children 350 267 219 178 131	children	350	267	219	178	131

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
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
U.S. Affiled forces for 12 years, spouse and children	U	U	U	U	U
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.	14,366	18,349	7,798	10,035	7,962
Government, spouse, and children					
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