

Table II
Classes of Immigrants Issued Visas at Foreign Service Posts
Fiscal Years 1996 – 2000

Class of Immigrant	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Grand Total	423,440	416,919	375,684	413,662	413,521
Family-Sponsored Preference Total	207,734	170,785	165,986	191,393	181,127
First Preference					
Unmarried son or daughter of U.S. citizen, and children	15,847	17,185	14,353	18,936	19,670
Second Preference Exempt from Country Limitations					
Spouse or child of alien resident, and children	41,994	32,611	29,796	45,662	37,653
Second Preference Subject to Country Limitations					
Spouse or child of alien resident, and children	30,542	16,777	18,147	21,790	20,227
Unmarried son or daughter of alien resident, and children	33,406	21,368	17,542	22,029	22,866
Third Preference					
Married son or daughter of U.S. citizen, spouse and children	24,338	22,117	22,385	22,495	22,092
Fourth Preference					
Brother or sister of U.S. citizen, spouse and children	61,607	60,727	63,763	60,481	58,619
Employment-Based Preference Total	22,769	20,898	15,815	15,455	22,392
First Preference					
Priority worker, spouse and children	4,173	3,793	3,399	3,233	5,780
Second Preference					
Professional holding advanced degree or alien of exceptional ability, spouse and children	1,246	1,120	991	853	1,940
Third Preference					
Skilled worker or professional, spouse and children	10,888	10,068	6,552	7,682	10,793
Other worker, spouse and children	3,382	2,729	2,559	2,032	1,789
Fourth Preference					
Minister of religion, spouse and children	802	618	532	414	431
Certain employees or former employees of the U.S. Government abroad, spouse and children	996	603	519	683	974
Certain former employees of the Panama Canal Company or Canal Zone Government, spouse and children	12	6	2	-	6
Certain former employees of the U.S. Government in the Canal Zone, spouse and children	33	37	10	5	12
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	12	13	14	17	6
Certain juvenile court dependents	-	-	-	-	-
Certain religious workers, spouse and children	638	701	725	462	595
Fifth Preference					
Employment creation outside targeted area, spouse and children	186	182	122	28	25

Table II
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Fiscal Years 1996 – 2000

Class of Immigrant	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Employment creation in targeted rural/high unemployment area, spouse and children	401	922	241	45	41
Investor pilot program not in targeted area, spouse and children ¹	-	4	3	-	-
Investor pilot program in targeted area, spouse and children ¹	-	102	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	42	47	21	19	11
Immediate Relative Total	147,883	178,774	147,760	156,048	163,610
Spouse of U.S. citizen	20,199	24,440	19,270	20,828	22,676
Spouse of U.S. citizen (conditional) ²	32,093	33,042	26,843	28,547	31,440
Child of U.S. citizen	28,556	36,902	30,188	32,175	33,268
Child of U.S. citizen (conditional) ²	6,121	7,315	6,328	5,780	5,399
Orphan adopted abroad by U.S. citizen	7,151	9,176	10,829	11,338	13,195
Orphan to be adopted in the U.S. by U.S. citizen	4,189	4,445	4,754	5,031	5,282
Parent of U.S. citizen at least 21 years of age	49,477	63,359	49,462	52,271	52,245
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	85	90	78	53	81
Children of certain widow(er)s of U.S. citizens	12	5	8	25	24
Special Immigrant Total	890	853	748	830	816
Returning resident	890	853	748	830	816
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	964	835	399	245	1,052
DV Diversity Immigrants	43,158	44,727	44,955	49,672	44,513

¹ 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), modified INA 203(b)(5) by creating a 7-year pilot program (October 1, 1993 through September 30, 2000) 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.

² 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.