

**Annual Report of Immigrant Visa Applicants in the Family-sponsored and
Employment-based preferences Registered at the National Visa Center
as of November 1, 2018**

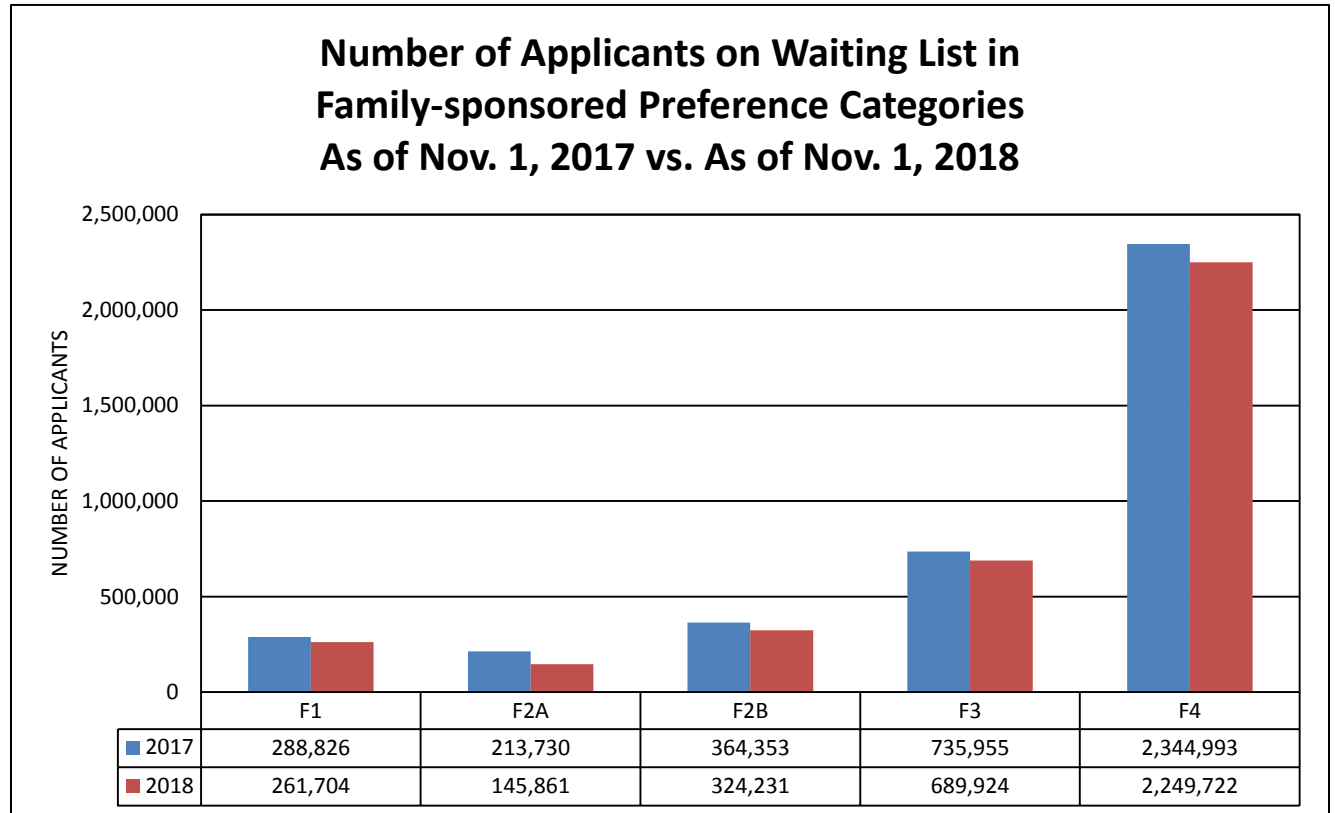
Most prospective immigrant visa applicants qualify for status under the law on the basis of family relationships or employer sponsorship. Entitlement to visa processing in these classes is established ordinarily through approval by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) of a petition filed on the applicant's behalf. The petitions of applicants who will be processed at an overseas post are forwarded by USCIS to the Department of State; applicants in categories subject to numerical limit are registered on the visa waiting list. Each case is assigned a priority (i.e., registration) date based on the filing date accorded to the petition. Visa issuance within each numerically limited category is possible only if the applicant's priority date is within the applicable final action dates which are published each month by the Department of State in the Visa Bulletin. Family and Employment preference applicants compete for visa numbers within their respective categories on a worldwide basis according to priority date; a per-country limit on such preference immigrants set by INA 202 places a maximum on the amount of visas which may be issued in a single year to applicants from any one country, however.

In October, the Department of State asked the National Visa Center (NVC) at Portsmouth, New Hampshire to report the totals of applicants on the waiting list in the various numerically-limited immigrant categories. Applications for adjustment of status under INA 245 which are pending at USCIS Offices are not included in the tabulation of the immigrant waiting list data which is being provided at this time. As such, the following figures ONLY reflect petitions which the Department of State has received, and do not include the significant number of applications held with the USCIS Offices.

The following figures have been compiled from the NVC report submitted to the Department on November 1, 2018, and show the number of immigrant visa applicants on the waiting list in the various preferences and subcategories subject to numerical limit. All figures reflect persons registered under each respective numerical limitation, i.e., the totals represent not only principal applicants or petition beneficiaries, but their spouses and children entitled to derivative status under INA 203(d) as well.

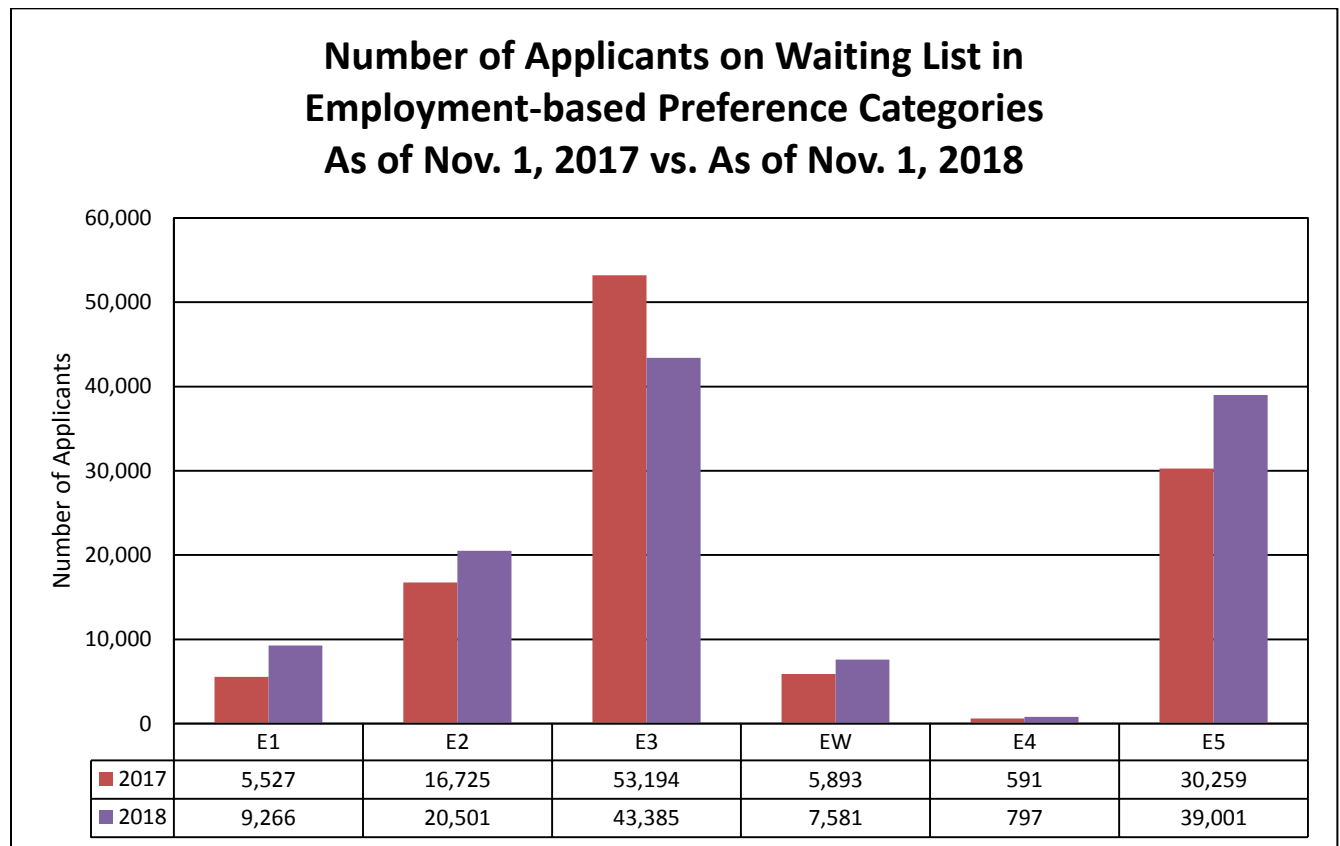
Family-sponsored Preferences

Category	as of Nov. 1, 2017	as of Nov. 1, 2018	% of Change From 2017 Totals
FAMILY FIRST	288,826	261,704	(-9.4%)
FAMILY SECOND TOTAL	578,083	470,092	(-18.7%)
2A-Spouses/Children:	213,730	145,861	(-31.8%)
2B-Adult Sons/Daughters:	364,353	324,231	(-11.0%)
FAMILY THIRD	735,955	689,924	(-6.3%)
FAMILY FOURTH	2,344,993	2,249,722	(-4.1%)
TOTAL	3,947,857	3,671,442	(-7.0%)



Employment-based Preferences

<u>Category</u>	<u>as of Nov. 1, 2017</u>	<u>as of Nov. 1, 2018</u>	<u>% of Change From 2017 Totals</u>
EMPLOYMENT FIRST	5,527	9,266	(+67.6%)
EMPLOYMENT SECOND	16,725	20,501	(+22.6%)
EMPLOYMENT THIRD TOTAL	59,087	50,966	(-13.7%)
Skilled Workers:	53,194	43,385	(-18.4%)
Other Workers:	5,893	7,581	(+28.6%)
EMPLOYMENT FOURTH TOTAL	591	797	(+34.9%)
EMPLOYMENT FIFTH TOTAL	30,259	39,001	(+28.9%)
TOTAL	112,189	120,531	(+7.4%)
GRAND TOTAL	4,060,046	3,791,973	(-6.6%)



Immigrant Waiting List By Country

Immigrant visa issuances during fiscal year 2019 will be limited by the terms of INA 201 to no more than 226,000 in the family-sponsored preferences and approximately 140,000 in the employment-based preferences. (Visas for "Immediate Relatives" - i.e., spouses, unmarried children under the age of 21 years, and parents of U.S. citizens - are not subject to numerical limitation, however.)

It should by no means be assumed that once an applicant is registered, the case is then continually included in the waiting list totals unless and until a visa is issued. The consular procedures mandate a regular culling of visa cases to remove from the count those unlikely to see further action, so that totals are not unreasonably inflated.

The eleven countries with the highest number of waiting list registrants in FY 2019 are listed below; together these represent 77.8% of the total. This list includes all countries with at least 55,000 persons on the waiting list. There is a seven percent per-country limit, which visa issuances to any single country may not exceed. This limit serves to avoid the potential monopolization of virtually all the annual limitation by applicants from only a few countries. That limitation is not a quota to which any particular country is entitled, however. For FY 2019 the per-country limit will be approximately 25,620.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Applicants</u>
Mexico	1,229,505
Philippines	314,229
India	298,571
Vietnam	231,519
China-mainland born	231,519
Bangladesh	169,231
Dominican Republic	146,160
Pakistan	115,625
Haiti	94,506
El Salvador	64,868
Cuba	55,847
All Others	840,393
Worldwide Total	3,791,973

**Immigrant Waiting List
By Preference Category**

FAMILY-SPONSORED PREFERENCES

Family FIRST Preference:

The worldwide Family FIRST preference numerical limitation is 23,400. The top ten countries with the highest F1 waiting list totals are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Family First Preference Total</u>	<u>Percent of Category Waiting List</u>
Mexico	104,251	39.8%
Dominican Republic	21,294	8.1%
Philippines	17,535	6.7%
Haiti	13,814	5.3%
Jamaica	11,982	4.6%
El Salvador	9,140	3.5%
Colombia	4,627	1.8%
Vietnam	4,579	1.7%
Honduras	4,448	1.7%
Guyana	4,078	1.6%
All Others	65,956	25.2%
Total	261,704	100%

Cases are being added to the waiting list in this category not only by the approval of new FIRST preference petitions, but also through automatic conversion of pending 2B cases into FIRST preference upon the naturalization of the petitioner.

The prospect for increasing future demand in the FIRST preference could result in slower advances in the worldwide final action date as a consequence. Only two countries, Mexico and Philippines, have FIRST preference final action dates which are earlier than the worldwide date. (NOTE: A Family 2B petition automatically converts to a Family FIRST petition if the petitioner naturalizes. However, Section 6 of the Child Status Protection Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-208, provides relief for Family 2B applicants who would be disadvantaged by a conversion to Family FIRST status due to a less favorable Family FIRST final action date).

Family SECOND Preference:

The total Family SECOND preference waiting list figure is 470,092. Of these, 145,861 (31%) are spouses and children of permanent residents of the United States (the 2A class), and 324,231 (69%) are adult unmarried sons/daughters of permanent residents (the 2B class). The Family SECOND preference represents 12.8% of the total Family preference waiting list. It will receive 114,200 visa numbers for FY 2019, just over half of the 226,000 family preference total; 77% of SECOND preference numbers are provided to 2A applicants, while the remaining 23% go to the 2B class.

2A: About 87,900 visa numbers are available for use during FY 2019. The top ten countries with the highest 2A waiting list totals are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Family 2A Preference Total</u>	<u>Percent of Category Waiting List</u>
Mexico	51,407	35.2%
Dominican Republic	15,985	11.0%
Cuba	13,868	9.5%
El Salvador	6,898	4.7%
Philippines	4,721	3.2%
Haiti	4,053	2.8%
Guatemala	4,015	2.8%
China-mainland born	3,817	2.6%
Honduras	3,434	2.4%
Vietnam	3,336	2.3%
All Others	34,327	23.5%
Total	145,861	100%

Upon naturalization of the petitioner, a pending 2A case is converted automatically into the “Immediate Relative” visa category, which is not subject to numerical limit and therefore has no visa waiting period. As a result, the amount of cases being processed in the “Immediate Relative” category may increase and partially offset new F2A filings.

2B: Visa numbers for this class of adult sons and daughters will be approximately 26,260 during FY 2019. The waiting list far exceeds the annual limit. The top ten countries with the highest 2B waiting list totals are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Family 2B Preference Total</u>	<u>Percent of Category Waiting List</u>
Mexico	139,673	43.1%
Philippines	46,646	14.4%
Dominican Republic	35,294	10.9%
Haiti	13,419	4.1%
El Salvador	9,187	2.8%
Vietnam	8,671	2.7%
Cuba	8,303	2.6%
China-mainland born	6,694	2.1%
Guatemala	3,992	1.2%
Jamaica	3,974	1.2%
<u>All Others</u>	<u>48,378</u>	<u>14.9%</u>
Total	324,231	100%

Some of the 2B applicants were formerly counted in the 2A waiting list and have since turned 21.

Family THIRD Preference:

The annual visa limit is 23,400. Two oversubscribed countries (Mexico and Philippines) have sufficiently heavy demand in this preference to require a final action date substantially earlier than the worldwide date. The top ten countries with the highest F3 waiting list totals are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Family Third Preference Total</u>	<u>Percent of Category Waiting List</u>
Mexico	205,277	29.8%
Philippines	119,315	17.3%
India	45,892	6.6%
Vietnam	39,249	5.7%
China-mainland born	20,397	3.0%
Dominican Republic	15,780	2.3%
Haiti	15,538	2.2%
Pakistan	14,129	2.0%
Cuba	12,235	1.8%
El Salvador	10,971	1.6%
<u>All Others</u>	<u>191,141</u>	<u>27.7%</u>
Total	689,924	100%

Family FOURTH Preference:

Applicants registered in the Family FOURTH preference total 2,249,722. Annual visa issuances are limited to 65,000. The waiting period for the Family FOURTH preference is longer than any other category because the demand significantly exceeds the number of available visas. The countries listed below have the largest number of FOURTH preference applicants:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Family Fourth Preference Total</u>	<u>Percent of Category Waiting List</u>
Mexico	727,289	32.3%
India	210,863	9.4%
Vietnam	173,086	7.7%
Bangladesh	160,345	7.1%
China-mainland born	153,106	6.8%
Philippines	113,489	5.0%
Pakistan	97,249	4.3%
Dominican Republic	57,737	2.6%
Haiti	47,660	2.1%
El Salvador	28,460	1.3%
All Others	480,438	21.4%
Total	2,249,722	100%

The steadily growing waiting period in this preference is now over thirteen years for countries of most favorable visa availability and even longer for some oversubscribed countries.

EMPLOYMENT-BASED PREFERENCES

It is important to note that eighty percent of all Employment preference immigrants were processed as adjustment of status cases at USCIS offices during FY 2018. Cases pending with USCIS are not counted in the consular waiting list tally which is presented below. Therefore, in several Employment categories the waiting list totals being provided below significantly understate real immigrant demand. The Employment waiting list counts not only prospective workers, but also their spouses and children entitled under the law to derivative preference status.

Employment FIRST Preference:

Top countries are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Employment First Preference</u>	<u>Percent of Category Waiting List</u>
China-mainland born	4,513	48.7%
India	876	9.4%
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	393	4.2%
Korea, South	358	3.9%
Canada	357	3.8%
Brazil	321	3.5%
Venezuela	285	3.1%
Iran	173	1.9%
France	138	1.5%
Germany	112	1.2%
<u>All Others</u>	<u>1,740</u>	<u>18.8%</u>
Worldwide Total	9,266	100%

A Final Action Date is established at present for all countries.

Employment SECOND Preference:

Top countries are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Employment Second Preference</u>	<u>Percent of Category Waiting List</u>
India	13,387	65.3%
China-mainland born	2,479	12.1%
Korea, South	1,526	7.4%
Philippines	367	1.8%
Canada	333	1.6%
<u>All Others</u>	<u>2,409</u>	<u>11.8%</u>
Worldwide Total	20,501	100%

This category is "current" at present for all but two countries.

Employment THIRD Preference:

Top countries are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Employment Third Preference: Skilled Worker/ Professional Components</u>	<u>Percent of Category Waiting List</u>
India	21,385	49.3%
Philippines	11,149	25.7%
China-mainland born	2,122	4.9%
Korea, South	817	1.9%
United Arab Emirates	628	1.4%
All Others	7,284	16.8%
Worldwide Total	43,385	100%

Employment Third “Other Workers”:

Top Countries are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Employment Third Preference: Other Worker Components</u>	<u>Percent of Waiting List in These Classes</u>
China-mainland born	2,128	28.1%
Philippines	971	12.8%
Vietnam	920	12.1%
Mexico	712	9.4%
Korea, South	674	8.9%
All Others	2,176	28.7%
Worldwide Total	7,581	100%

Three oversubscribed countries (China-mainland born, India, and the Philippines) have sufficiently heavy demand in the Employment Third and Third “Other Worker” Preferences to require final action dates earlier than the worldwide dates.

Employment FOURTH Preference:

Top countries are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Employment Fourth Preference</u>	<u>Percent of Waiting List in These Classes</u>
India	235	29.5%
Mexico	68	8.5%
Brazil	41	5.1%
Guatemala	34	4.3%
Israel	31	3.9%
All Others	388	48.7%
Worldwide Total	797	100%

The above Employment Fourth Preference category totals include the SR category.

Visa availability is “current” at present for all countries except for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico.

Employment FIFTH Preference:

Top countries are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Employment Fifth Preference</u>	<u>Percent of Waiting List in These Classes</u>
China-mainland born	33,957	87.1%
Vietnam	1,524	3.9%
India	541	1.4%
Korea, South	448	1.2%
Hong Kong S.A.R.	329	0.8%
All Others	2,202	5.6%
Worldwide Total	39,001	100%

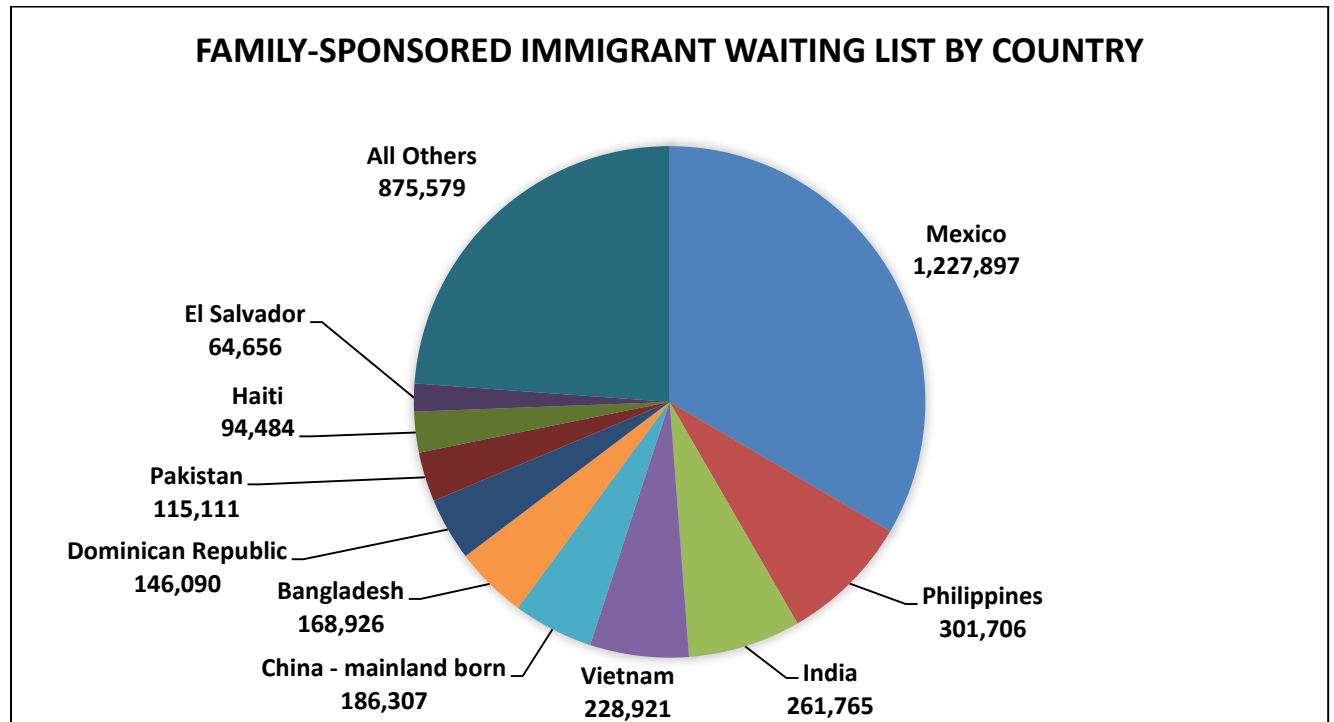
Visa availability is “current” at present for all countries except China-mainland born and Vietnam.

Family-sponsored Immigrant Waiting List By Country

The ten countries with the highest number of Family-sponsored waiting list registrants are listed below; together these represent 76.2% of the total. This list includes all countries with at least 64,000 persons on the waiting list. (The per-country limit in INA 202 sets an annual maximum on the amount of Family preference visas which may be issued to applicants from any one country; the FY 2019 per-country limit will be 15,820.)

Family-sponsored Preferences

Country	Total
Mexico	1,227,897
Philippines	301,706
India	261,765
Vietnam	228,921
China-mainland born	186,307
Bangladesh	168,926
Dominican Republic	146,090
Pakistan	115,111
Haiti	94,484
El Salvador	64,656
All Others	875,579
Worldwide Total	3,671,442

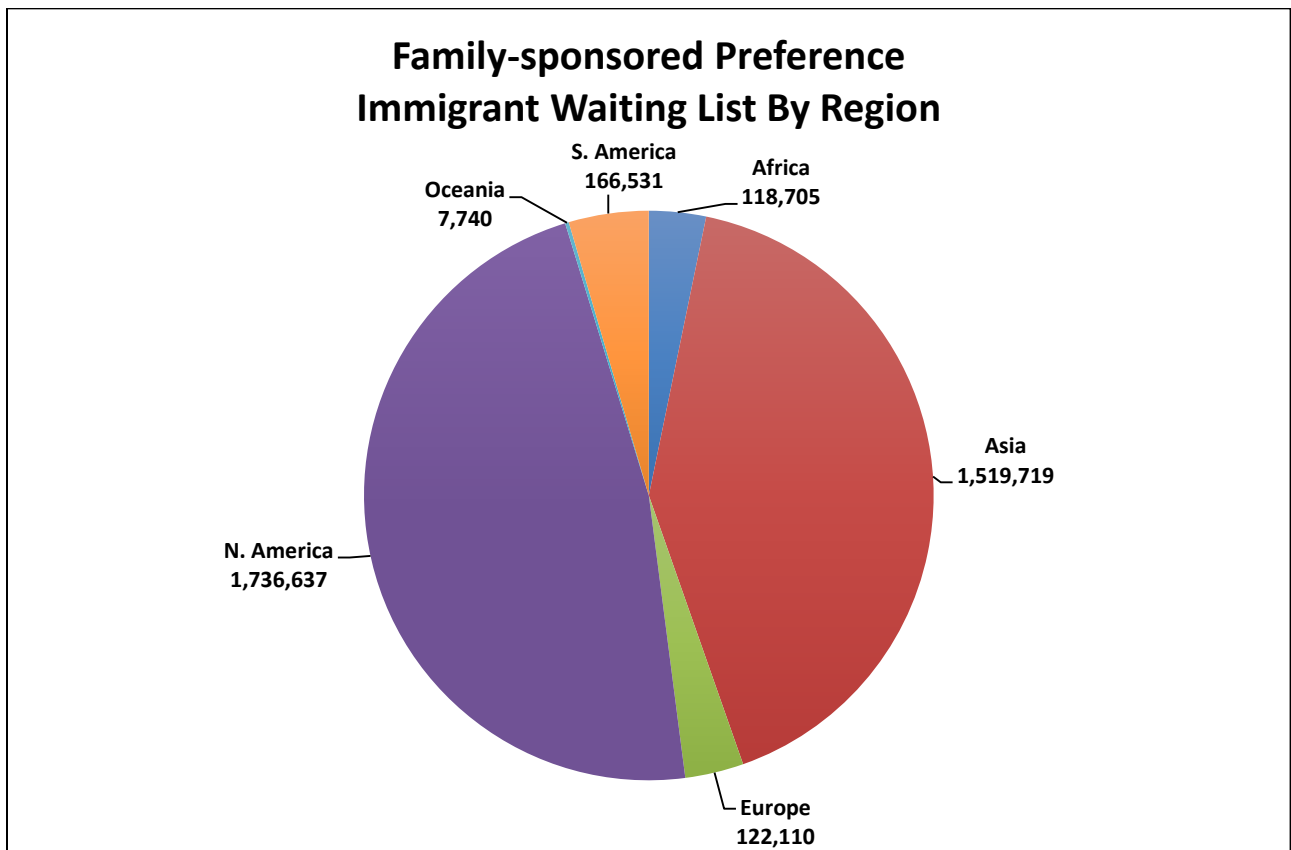


Family-sponsored Immigrant Waiting List By Region

A breakdown of the NVC waiting list by region is:

Region	Total
Africa	118,705
Asia	1,519,719
Europe	122,110
N. America*	1,736,637
Oceania	7,740
S. America	166,531
Family Total	3,671,442

*North America includes Canada, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.

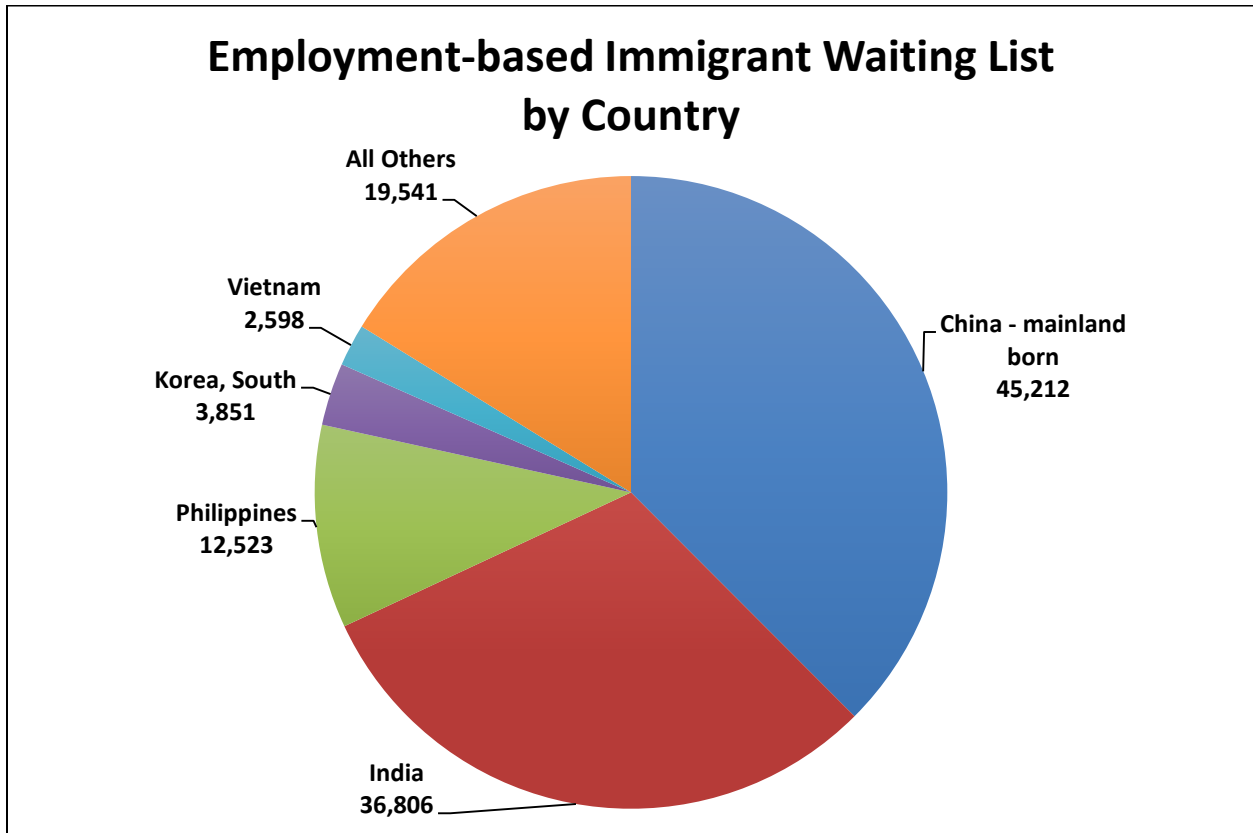


Employment-based Immigrant Waiting List By Country

The five countries with the highest number of Employment-based waiting list registrants are listed below; together these represent 83.8% of the total. This list includes all countries with at least 2,500 persons on the waiting list. (The per-country limit in INA 202 sets an annual maximum on the amount of Employment preference visas which may be issued to applicants from any one country; the FY 2019 per-country limit will be approximately 9,800.)

Employment-based Preferences

<u>Country</u>	<u>Total</u>
China-mainland born	45,212
India	36,806
Philippines	12,523
Korea, South	3,851
Vietnam	2,598
All Others	19,541
Worldwide Total	120,531



Employment-based Immigrant Waiting List By Region

A breakdown of the NVC waiting list by region is:

Region	Total
Africa	1,679
Asia	107,502
Europe	4,113
N. America	4,012
Oceania	201
S. America	3,024
Employment Total	120,531

*North America includes Canada, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.

