

*United States Department of State
Bureau of Consular Affairs*

VISA BULLETIN

Number 69 Volume IX

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IMMIGRANT NUMBERS FOR JUNE 2014

A. STATUTORY NUMBERS

1. This bulletin summarizes the availability of immigrant numbers during June. Consular officers are required to report to the Department of State documentarily qualified applicants for numerically limited visas; U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in the Department of Homeland Security reports applicants for adjustment of status. Allocations were made, to the extent possible, in chronological order of reported priority dates, for demand received by May 7th. If not all demand could be satisfied, the category or foreign state in which demand was excessive was deemed oversubscribed. The cut-off date for an oversubscribed category is the priority date of the first applicant who could not be reached within the numerical limits. Only applicants who have a priority date earlier than the cut-off date may be allotted a number. If it becomes necessary during the monthly allocation process to retrogress a cut-off date, supplemental requests for numbers will be honored only if the priority date falls within the new cut-off date announced in this bulletin.

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 in 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 demand exceeds 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.

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 available for all qualified applicants; and "U" means unavailable, i.e., no numbers are available. (NOTE: Numbers are available only for applicants whose priority date is **earlier** than the cut-off date listed below.)

<u>Family-Sponsored</u>	All Charge-ability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA-mainland born	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
F1	22MAR07	22MAR07	22MAR07	15DEC93	01JUN02
F2A	01MAY12	01MAY12	01MAY12	15MAR11	01MAY12
F2B	01APR07	01APR07	01APR07	01AUG93	15JUL03
F3	01OCT03	01OCT03	01OCT03	22JUL93	08MAR93
F4	15DEC01	15DEC01	15DEC01	08DEC96	15NOV90

*NOTE: For June, F2A numbers EXEMPT from per-country limit are available to applicants from all countries with priority dates earlier than 15MAR11. F2A numbers SUBJECT to per-country limit are available to applicants chargeable to all countries EXCEPT MEXICO with priority dates beginning 15MAR11 and earlier than 01MAY12. (All F2A numbers provided for MEXICO are exempt from the per-country limit; there are no F2A numbers for MEXICO subject to per-country limit.)

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, not more than 10,000 of which to "*Other Workers".

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

Fifth: Employment Creation: 7.1% of the worldwide level, not less than 3,000 of which reserved for investors in a targeted rural or high-unemployment area, and 3,000 set aside for investors in regional centers by Sec. 610 of Pub. L. 102-395.

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 available for all qualified applicants; and "U" means unavailable, i.e., no numbers are available. (NOTE: Numbers are available only for applicants whose priority date is **earlier** than the cut-off date listed below.)

<u>Employment-Based</u>	All Charge-ability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA-mainland born	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
1st	C	C	C	C	C
2nd	C	22MAY09	15NOV04	C	C
3rd	01APR11	01OCT06	15OCT03	01APR11	01JAN08
Other Workers	01APR11	01JAN03	15OCT03	01APR11	01JAN08
4th	C	C	C	C	C
Certain Religious Workers	C	C	C	C	C
5th	C	C	C	C	C
Targeted Employment Areas/ Regional Centers and Pilot Programs					

*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) cut-off 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 cut-off date reached November 19, 1997 during Fiscal Year 2001, the reduction in the EW annual limit to 5,000 began in Fiscal Year 2002.

6. The Department of State has a recorded message with visa availability information which can be heard at: (202) 485-7699. This recording is updated on or about the tenth of each month with information on cut-off dates for the following month.

B. DIVERSITY IMMIGRANT (DV) CATEGORY FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

Section 203(c) of the INA provides up to 55,000 immigrant visas each fiscal year to permit additional immigration opportunities for persons from countries with low admissions during the previous five years. The NACARA stipulates that beginning with DV-99, and for as long as necessary, up to 5,000 of the 55,000 annually-allocated diversity visas will be made available for use under the NACARA program. **This resulted in reduction of the DV-2014 annual limit to 50,000.** DV visas are divided among six geographic regions. No one country can receive more than seven percent of the available diversity visas in any one year.

For June, immigrant numbers in the DV category are available to qualified DV-2014 applicants chargeable to all regions/eligible countries as follows. When an allocation cut-off number is shown, visas are available only for applicants with DV regional lottery rank numbers BELOW the specified allocation cut-off number:

Region	All DV Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed Separately			
AFRICA	45,600	Except:	Egypt	28,200
			Nigeria	15,300
ASIA	7,425			
EUROPE	32,950	Except:	Uzbekistan	17,500
NORTH AMERICA (BAHAMAS)	18			
OCEANIA	1,185			
SOUTH AMERICA, and the CARIBBEAN	1,425			

Entitlement to immigrant status in the DV category lasts only through the end of the fiscal (visa) year for which the applicant is selected in the lottery. The year of entitlement for all applicants registered for the DV-2014 program ends as of September 30, 2014. DV visas may not be issued to DV-2014 applicants after that date. Similarly, spouses and children accompanying or following to join DV-2014 principals are only entitled to derivative DV status until September 30, 2014. DV visa availability through the very end of FY-2014 cannot be taken for granted. Numbers could be exhausted prior to September 30.

C. THE DIVERSITY (DV) IMMIGRANT CATEGORY RANK CUT-OFFS WHICH WILL APPLY IN JULY

For July, immigrant numbers in the DV category are available to qualified DV-2014 applicants chargeable to all regions/eligible countries as follows. When an allocation cut-off number is shown, visas are available only for applicants with DV regional lottery rank numbers BELOW the specified allocation cut-off number:

Region	All DV Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed Separately			
AFRICA	56,300	Except:	Egypt	30,900
			Nigeria	17,400
ASIA	8,900			
EUROPE	36,300			
NORTH AMERICA (BAHAMAS)	CURRENT			
OCEANIA	1,300			
SOUTH AMERICA, and the CARIBBEAN	1,550			

D. RETROGRESSION OF JUNE CUT-OFF DATES

WORLDWIDE F2A:

The cut-off date for the Family F2A category was advanced at a very rapid pace during fiscal year 2013 in an effort to generate demand to use all numbers available under that annual limit. Those movements have resulted in a dramatic increase in the level of applicant demand being received during the past seven months. This has required the retrogression of the Family F2A cut-off date for June in an effort to hold number use within the annual numerical limit. Further retrogression cannot be ruled out should demand by applicants with very early priority dates continue to increase.

MEXICO F2A:

Despite a previous retrogression, the level of demand has remained excessive, resulting in a further retrogression of this cut-off date to hold number use within the annual limit.

Employment Third, and Third Other Workers:

The unexpected and dramatic increase in demand being received from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service Offices during the past several months has resulted in number use approaching the annual limit for this category. As a result, it has been necessary to retrogress the Worldwide, China, and Mexico cut-off dates for the month of June.

Notices were included in several Visa Bulletins during the past year alerting readers to the possibility of such retrogressions. While corrective action in some categories has become necessary earlier than was anticipated based on the information available earlier, it is hoped that readers are not caught off guard by these retrogressions.

F. DIVERSITY VISA LOTTERY 2015 (DV-2015) RESULTS

The Kentucky Consular Center in Williamsburg, Kentucky has registered and notified the winners of the DV-2015 diversity lottery. The diversity lottery was conducted under the terms of section 203(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act and makes available *50,000 permanent resident visas annually to persons from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States. Approximately 125,514 applicants have been registered and notified and may now make an application for an immigrant visa. Since it is likely that some of the first *50,000 persons registered will not pursue their cases to visa issuance, this larger figure should insure that all DV-2015 numbers will be used during fiscal year 2015 (October 1, 2014 until September 30, 2015).

Applicants registered for the DV-2015 program were selected at random from 9,388,986 qualified entries (14,397,781 with derivatives) received during the 30-day application period that ran from noon, Eastern Daylight Time on Tuesday, October 1, 2013, until noon, Eastern Daylight Time on Saturday, November 2, 2013. The visas have been apportioned among six geographic regions with a maximum of seven percent available to persons born in any single country. During the visa interview, principal applicants must provide proof of a high school education or its equivalent, or show two years of work experience in an occupation that requires at least two years of training or experience within the past five years. Those selected will need to act on their immigrant visa applications quickly. Applicants should follow the instructions in their notification letter and must fully complete the information requested.

Registrants living legally in the United States who wish to apply for adjustment of their status must contact the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services for information on the requirements and procedures. Once the total *50,000 visa numbers have been used, the program for fiscal year 2015 will end. Selected applicants who do not receive visas by September 30, 2015 will derive no further benefit from their DV-2015 registration. Similarly, spouses and children accompanying or following to join DV-2015 principal applicants are only entitled to derivative diversity visa status until September 30, 2015.

Dates for the DV-2016 program registration period will be widely publicized in the coming months. Those interested in entering the DV-2016 program should check the Department of State's Visa web page in the coming months.

* The Nicaraguan and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) passed by Congress in November 1997 stipulated that up to 5,000 of the 55,000 annually-allocated diversity visas be made available for use under the NACARA program. The reduction of the limit of available visas to 50,000 began with DV-2000.

The following is the statistical breakdown by foreign-state chargeability of those registered for the DV-2015 program:

AFRICA

ALGERIA 3,076	ERITREA 815	NAMIBIA 19
ANGOLA 173	ETHIOPIA 4,988	NIGER 334
BENIN 1,758	GABON 81	RWANDA 690
BOTSWANA 12	GAMBIA, THE 110	SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE 0
BURKINA FASO 390	GHANA 3,381	SENEGAL 620
BURUNDI 188	GUINEA 2,314	SEYCHELLES 9
CABO VERDE 20	GUINEA-BISSAU 7	SIERRA LEONE 2,182
CAMEROON 5,000	KENYA 3,534	SOMALIA 275
CENTRAL AFRICAN REP. 33	LESOTHO 3	SOUTH AFRICA 924
CHAD 99	LIBERIA 5,000	SOUTH SUDAN 21
COMOROS 6	LIBYA 263	SUDAN 3,484
CONGO 243	MADAGASCAR 62	SWAZILAND 5
CONGO, DEMOCRATIC	MALAWI 27	TANZANIA 231
REPUBLIC OF THE 4,943	MALI 123	TOGO 1,824
COTE D'IVOIRE 1,487	MAURITANIA 29	TUNISIA 221
DJIBOUTI 77	MAURITIUS 55	UGANDA 642
EGYPT 4,988	MOROCCO 2,844	ZAMBIA 116
EQUATORIAL GUINEA 14	MOZAMBIQUE 11	ZIMBABWE 249

ASIA

AFGHANISTAN 305	ISRAEL 231	OMAN 15
BAHRAIN 12	JAPAN 636	QATAR 51
BHUTAN 45	JORDAN 374	SAUDI ARABIA 517
BRUNEI 0	NORTH KOREA 0	SINGAPORE 47
BURMA 453	KUWAIT 241	SRI LANKA 1,303
CAMBODIA 2,079	LAOS 1	SYRIA 598
HONG KONG SPECIAL	LEBANON 408	TAIWAN 498
ADMIN. REGION 160	MALAYSIA 129	THAILAND 81
INDONESIA 288	MALDIVES 2	TIMOR-LESTE 0
IRAN 4,992	MONGOLIA 186	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES 195
IRAQ 289	NEPAL 4,991	YEMEN 875

EUROPE

ALBANIA 2,946	GREECE 147	NORTHERN IRELAND 41
ANDORRA 2	HUNGARY 329	NORWAY 49
ARMENIA 2,049	ICELAND 42	POLAND 961
AUSTRIA 134	IRELAND 157	PORTUGAL 82
AZERBAIJAN 454	ITALY 779	Macau 29
BELARUS 1,466	KAZAKHSTAN 772	ROMANIA 1,068
BELGIUM 107	KOSOVO 227	RUSSIA 4,103
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA 171	KYRGYZSTAN 403	SAN MARINO 0
BULGARIA 1,418	LATVIA 92	SERBIA 399
CROATIA 87	LIECHTENSTEIN 3	SLOVAKIA 110
CYPRUS 32	LITHUANIA 287	SLOVENIA 11
CZECH REPUBLIC 125	LUXEMBOURG 0	SPAIN 393
DENMARK 65	MACEDONIA 436	SWEDEN 217
ESTONIA 71	MALTA 16	SWITZERLAND 194
FINLAND 88	MOLDOVA 2,809	TAJIKISTAN 528
FRANCE 816	MONACO 1	TURKEY 3,688
French Polynesia 11	MONTENEGRO 16	TURKMENISTAN 191
Saint Martin 1	NETHERLANDS 151	UKRAINE 4,679
St. Pierre & Miquelon 2	Aruba 5	UZBEKISTAN 4,368
GEORGIA 804	Curacao 13	VATICAN CITY 0
GERMANY 1,354	Sint Maarten 1	

NORTH AMERICA

BAHAMAS, THE 14

OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA 1,798	MICRONESIA, FEDERATED	PAPUA NEW GUINEA 20
Christmas Island 1	STATES OF 6	SAMOA 32
Cocos Islands 1	NAURU 19	SOLOMON ISLANDS 3
Norfolk Island 12	NEW ZEALAND 589	TONGA 123
FIJI 857	Cook Islands 14	TUVALU 1
KIRIBATI 6	Niue 3	VANUATU 7
MARSHALL ISLANDS 1	PALAU 6	

SOUTH AMERICA, CENTRAL AMERICA, AND THE CARIBBEAN

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA 6	GRENADA 8	SAINT LUCIA 18
ARGENTINA 109	GUATEMALA 86	SAINT VINCENT AND
BARBADOS 15	GUYANA 53	THE GRENADINES 7
BELIZE 3	HONDURAS 165	SURINAME 11
BOLIVIA 69	NICARAGUA 54	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO 193
CHILE 37	PANAMA 19	URUGUAY 20
COSTA RICA 72	PARAGUAY 6	VENEZUELA 1,556
CUBA 1,480	SAINT KITTS AND	
DOMINICA 5	NEVIS 7	

Natives of the following countries were not eligible to participate in DV-2015: Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China (mainland-born, excluding Hong Kong S.A.R., Macau S.A.R., and Taiwan), Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, South Korea, United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland) and its dependent territories, and Vietnam.

G. OBTAINING THE MONTHLY VISA BULLETIN

The Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs publishes the monthly Visa Bulletin on their website at www.travel.state.gov under the Visas section. Alternatively, visitors may access the Visa Bulletin directly by going to:

<http://www.travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/law-and-policy/bulletin.html>.

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