

D. AVAILABILITY OF EMPLOYMENT-BASED VISAS DURING SEPTEMBER

There has been a steady increase in both USCIS and Department of State demand patterns for employment-based visas during the fiscal year. As a result, most employment-based preference category limits for FY 2024 are expected to be reached during September, if not sooner. 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.

E. RETROGRESSION IN THE EMPLOYMENT-BASED THIRD PREFERENCE (EB-3) AND "OTHER WORKERS" (EW) CATEGORIES

As readers were informed was possible in Item D of the July 2024 and August 2024 *Visa Bulletin*, it has become necessary to retrogress the EB-3 final action dates for Rest of World, Mexico, and the Philippines, as well as the EW final action dates for Rest of World and Mexico. The issuance totals in these categories are rapidly approaching the annual limit for FY-2024, necessitating this slowdown of issuance rates. It is anticipated that the final action dates will advance in October 2024; however, date movement will depend on worldwide demand for EB-3 and EW visas and the estimated FY-2025 category limit.

F. DIVERSITY VISA LOTTERY 2025 (DV-2025) RESULTS

The Kentucky Consular Center in Williamsburg, Kentucky has registered and notified the selectees who are eligible to participate in the DV-2025 Diversity Visa (DV) program. Random selection of DV participants was conducted under the terms of section 203(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which makes up to *55,000 permanent resident visas available annually to persons from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States. Approximately 131,060 prospective applicants (i.e., selectees and their spouses and children) have been registered, can confirm their selection, and may be eligible to make an application for an immigrant visa. Since selection is random and blind to the number of family members who might immigrate with the selectee, and it is likely that some of the selectees will not complete their cases or will be found ineligible for a visa, this larger figure should ensure that all DV-2025 numbers can be used during fiscal year 2025 (FY25: October 1, 2024, until September 30, 2025).

Entrants registered for the DV-2025 program were selected at random from 19,927,656 qualified entries received during the 35-day application period that ran from noon, Eastern Daylight Time on Wednesday, October 4, 2023, until noon, Eastern Standard Time on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. The visas will be apportioned among the six geographic regions to ensure a maximum of seven percent are issued to persons chargeable to any single country. During the visa interview, principal applicants must provide proof of a high school education or its equivalent, or 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 all required steps.

Selectees who are physically present with legal status in the United States may apply to adjust their status by first contacting the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for information on the requirements and procedures. Once the total *55,000 visa numbers have been used, the program for fiscal year 2025 will end. Selectees who do not receive visas or status by September 30, 2025, will derive no further benefit from their DV-2025 registration. Similarly, spouses and children accompanying or following to join DV-2025 principal applicants are only entitled to derivative DV status until September 30, 2025.

Dates for the DV-2026 program registration period will be widely publicized in the coming months. Those interested in entering the DV-2026 program should check the Department of State's Diversity 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. This will result in reduction of the DV-2025 annual limit to approximately 54,850. Additionally, Section 5104 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2024 amended the NACARA's provisions on the Diversity Visa program such that the number of visas made available under the NDAA will also be deducted from the 55,000 DVs annually allocated. This will result in an additional reduction of the DV-2025 annual limit to approximately 51,350.

The following is the statistical breakdown by foreign state of chargeability of those registered for the DV-2025 program:

<u>AFRICA</u>		
ALGERIA 5,526	ESWATINI 6	NAMIBIA 5
ANGOLA 738	ETHIOPIA 3,674	NIGER 70
BENIN 1,032	GABON 81	RWANDA 1,385
BOTSWANA 7	GAMBIA, THE 159	SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE 3
BURKINA FASO 262	GHANA 2,686	SENEGAL 656
BURUNDI 773	GUINEA 1,291	SIERRA LEONE 957
CABO VERDE 52	GUINEA-BISSAU 12	SOMALIA 966
CAMEROON 3,962	KENYA 4,459	SOUTH AFRICA 163
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC 29	LESOTHO 10	SOUTH SUDAN 32
CHAD 419	LIBERIA 2,004	SUDAN 5,505
COMOROS 4	LIBYA 192	TANZANIA 371
CONGO, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE 2,729	MADAGASCAR 35	TOGO 2,287
CONGO, REPUBLIC OF THE 513	MALAWI 61	TUNISIA 96
COTE D'IVOIRE 883	MALI 167	UGANDA 1,061
DJIBOUTI 132	MAURITANIA 228	ZAMBIA 118
EGYPT 5,515	MAURITIUS 2	ZIMBABWE 210
EQUATORIAL GUINEA 24	MOROCCO 4,237	
ERITREA 142	MOZAMBIQUE 11	
<u>ASIA</u>		
AFGHANISTAN 4,009	JORDAN 775	SAUDI ARABIA 420
BAHRAIN 4	KOREA, NORTH 1	SINGAPORE 11
BHUTAN 269	KUWAIT 105	SRI LANKA 1,618
BURMA 1,723	LAOS 63	SYRIA 431
CAMBODIA 457	LEBANON 115	TAIWAN 227
INDONESIA 193	MALAYSIA 34	THAILAND 405
IRAN 5,267	MONGOLIA 174	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES 153
IRAQ 667	NEPAL 3,861	YEMEN 1,894
ISRAEL 104	OMAN 13	
JAPAN 149	QATAR 56	
<u>EUROPE</u>		
ALBANIA 1,598	GEORGIA 1,342	NORTH MACEDONIA 188
ANDORRA 3	GERMANY 479	NORTHERN IRELAND 6
ARMENIA 2,971	GREECE 37	NORWAY 7
AUSTRIA 51	HUNGARY 97	POLAND 309
AZERBAIJAN 1,730	ICELAND 5	PORTUGAL 38

BELARUS 1,577	IRELAND 29	Macau 6
BELGIUM 49	ITALY 263	ROMANIA 199
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA 35	KAZAKHSTAN 2,004	RUSSIA 5,519
BULGARIA 107	KOSOVO 260	SERBIA 154
CROATIA 7	KYRGYZSTAN 3,095	SLOVAKIA 26
CYPRUS 14	LATVIA 43	SLOVENIA 3
CZECH REPUBLIC 28	LIECHTENSTEIN 1	SPAIN 142
DENMARK 28	LITHUANIA 89	SWEDEN 49
Faroe Islands 1	LUXEMBOURG 4	SWITZERLAND 42
Greenland 1	MALTA 3	TAJKISTAN 2,982
ESTONIA 23	MOLDOVA 1,413	TURKEY 4,194
FINLAND 18	MONTENEGRO 38	TURKMENISTAN 2,010
FRANCE 275	NETHERLANDS 34	UKRAINE 4,002
French Polynesia 2	Aruba 1	UZBEKISTAN 5,564
Saint Barthelemy 2		
<u>NORTH AMERICA</u>		
BAHAMAS, THE 19		
<u>OCEANIA</u>		
AUSTRALIA 894	NAURU 17	SAMOA 16
Christmas Island 1	NEW ZEALAND 302	SOLOMON ISLANDS 15
Cocos (Keeling) Islands 53	Tokelau 15	TONGA 266
COOK ISLANDS 27	NIUE 1	TUVALU 4
FIJI 2,359	PAPUA NEW GUINEA 22	VANUATU 5
KIRIBATI 32	REPUBLIC OF PALAU 24	
<u>SOUTH AMERICA</u>		
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA 5	DOMINICA 4	PARAGUAY 20
ARGENTINA 130	ECUADOR 795	PERU 657
BARBADOS 4	GRENADA 1	SAINT LUCIA 6
BELIZE 1	GUATEMALA 230	SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES 7
BOLIVIA 102	GUYANA 18	SURINAME 6
CHILE 61	NICARAGUA 86	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO 40
COSTA RICA 72	PANAMA 29	URUGUAY 29
CUBA 2,348		

Natives of the following countries were not eligible to participate in DV-2025: Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China (including Hong Kong SAR), Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, South Korea, Venezuela, and Vietnam.

G. DETERMINATION OF THE NUMERICAL LIMITS ON IMMIGRANTS REQUIRED UNDER THE TERMS OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT (INA)

The State Department is required to make the determination of the worldwide numerical limitations, as outlined in Section 201(c) and (d) of the INA, on an annual basis. These calculations are based in part on data provided by U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) regarding the number of immediate relative adjustments in the preceding year and the number of aliens paroled into the United States under Section 212(d) (5) in the second preceding year. Without this information, it is impossible to make an official determination of the annual limits. To avoid delays in