

U.S. Lawful Permanent Residents: 2022

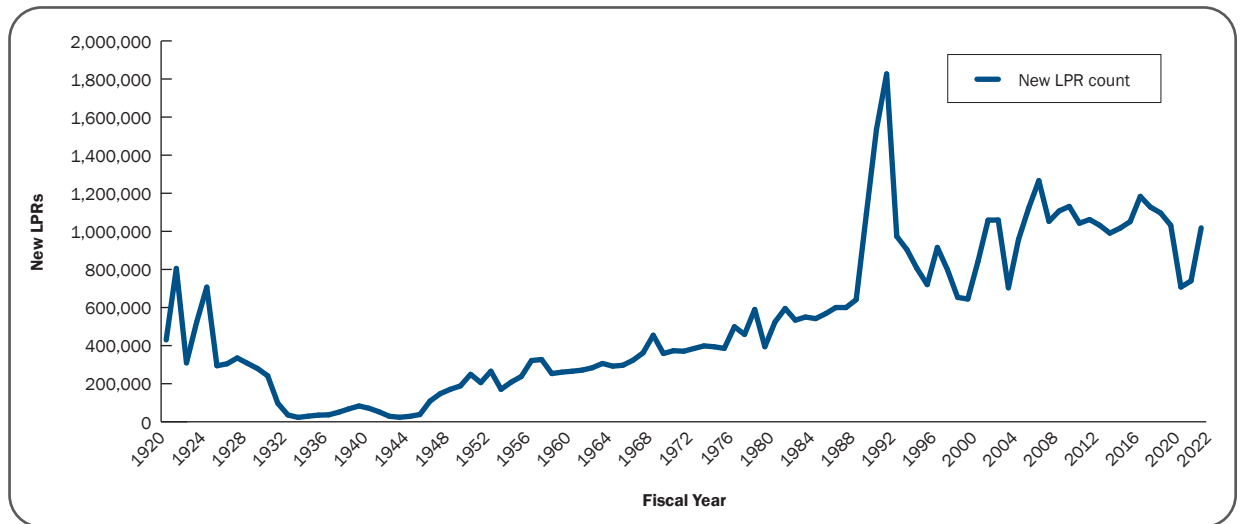
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Immigration law defines a lawful permanent resident (LPR) or “green card” holder as a foreign national who has been granted “the status of having been lawfully accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States as an immigrant in accordance with the immigration laws, such status not having changed.”¹ LPRs may live and work permanently anywhere in the United States, own property, and attend schools, colleges, and universities. They may also join the Armed Forces and may apply to become U.S. citizens if they meet certain additional eligibility requirements. The 2022 *Lawful Permanent Residents Annual Flow Report*, authored by the Office of Homeland Security Statistics (OHSS), presents information obtained from LPR applications on the number and characteristics of persons who became LPRs in the United States during Fiscal Year 2022.^{2,3,4,5}

SUMMARY

Nearly 1,018,000 persons became LPRs in 2022. This increase from 740,000 new LPRs in 2021 represents the highest single-year jump since 1991 and partly reflects mitigating challenges related to Coronavirus-2019 (COVID-19). The 2022 level of 1,018,000 is very close to the average for 2000 to 2021 of 1,017,000 new LPRs per year (Figure 1). The

Figure 1.
New Lawful Permanent Residents: Fiscal Years 1920 to 2022



Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

¹ 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(20).

² This report was prepared by the OHSS, which replaced the Office of Immigration Statistics in September 2023. The OHSS’ mission is to provide quality assurance and governance of Department-wide statistical data, support data-driven decision-making, and improve the efficiency and transparency of statistical reporting. The DHS Statistical Official heads OHSS.

³ This report includes OHSS’ analysis of relevant statutes, policy, and processes to provide background and context for DHS statistical data. The report has been reviewed for accuracy by relevant DHS Components.

⁴ In this report, “years” refer to fiscal years, which run from October 1 to September 30. Fiscal Year 2022 ran from October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022.

⁵ The 2022 *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics* and other OHSS reports contain additional context. Not all numbers reported are contained in this report’s tables.



majority of these new LPRs in 2022 (54 percent) were already present in the United States when they were granted lawful permanent resident status. About 58 percent were granted LPR status based on a family relationship with a U.S. citizen or current LPR. The leading countries of birth of new LPRs were Mexico, India, and the People's Republic of China (China).

THE LAWFUL IMMIGRATION PROCESS

The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) provides various bases for obtaining LPR status. These bases include (but are not limited to) sponsorship by a close family member who is a U.S. citizen or LPR, sponsorship by an employer, making investments that create a certain number of U.S. jobs, being from countries with relatively low levels of immigration to the United States (diversity visas), and being present in the United States in refugee or asylee status for at least one year. Each person seeking LPR status is subject to a background check as part of the adjudication of their benefit request.

New Arrivals versus Adjustments of Status

Two paths to LPR status are available, depending on whether a foreign national applies for an immigrant visa abroad or seeks LPR status from within the United States. Foreign nationals who live abroad and who have a petition or application approved by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) may apply for an immigrant visa at a U.S. Department of State (DOS) consular office. Once issued an immigrant visa by DOS, the foreign national may seek admission to the United States and become an LPR when admitted at a port of entry (POE). This report refers to these LPRs as *new arrivals*. A foreign national who is already present in the United States may file a Form I-485, *Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status*, with USCIS. These applicants may apply for authorization to accept employment and to depart and re-enter the United States while their Form I-485 is pending. If their I-485 is approved, they are generally granted LPR status at the time of approval.⁶ This report refers to these LPRs as *adjustments of status*.

Immediate Relatives of U.S. Citizens

The largest category of new LPRs consists of U.S. citizens' immediate relatives, defined as spouses, children (unmarried and under age 21), parents of U.S. citizens who are age 21 and over, and certain widows or widowers of U.S. citizens.⁷ Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens are not subject to numerical limits and typically account for over 40 percent of new LPRs annually.

Preference Immigration

The term *preference* is used in immigration law to designate numerically limited family and employment priority categories for LPR status. The INA specifies the worldwide level of preference immigration in these two groupings. (See **APPENDIX** for details on the calculation of these limits for 2022.)

⁶ Certain classes of immigrants, such as refugees and asylees, receive credit for additional time in LPR status prior to approval of their I-485s, which allows them to naturalize more quickly.

⁷ The term *children* includes orphans adopted abroad or coming to the United States to be adopted.

Family-sponsored preferences consist of four categories of relatives:

- First preference (F-1), a U.S. citizen's unmarried sons and daughters (age 21 years or older) and their children;
- Second preference, an LPR's spouse and children (F-2A), or an LPR's unmarried sons and daughters (age 21 years or older) and their children (F-2B);
- Third preference (F-3), a U.S. citizen's married sons and daughters and their spouses and children; and
- Fourth preference (F-4), siblings of a U.S. citizen (if the citizen is age 21 years or older) and their spouses and children.

The annual limit for family-sponsored preferences depends on the previous year's immigration levels and is set at a minimum of 226,000.

Immediate relatives and family-preference LPRs are collectively referred to as *family-based immigrants*. All family-based immigrants must be petitioned for by their U.S. citizen or LPR relative.⁸ Generally, that relative must financially sponsor the immigrant.⁹

Employment-based preferences consist of five categories of workers (and their spouses and children):

- EB-1 priority workers (e.g., persons of extraordinary ability, outstanding professors and researchers, certain multinational executives and managers);
- EB-2 professionals with advanced degrees or persons of exceptional ability;
- EB-3 skilled workers (e.g., those with at least two years of training or experience), professionals (those who hold baccalaureate degrees or a foreign equivalent degree), and unskilled workers (e.g., those with less than two years of training or experience);
- EB-4 "special" immigrants (e.g., special immigrant juveniles, ministers of religion, religious workers, employees of the U.S. Government abroad); and
- EB-5 immigrant investors.

The annual employment-based preference limit is equal to 140,000 plus any unused visas in the family-sponsored preference categories from the previous year. Typically, there have been very few unused family-preference visas in any given year, so employment limits have remained close to 140,000. Notably, over half of available family-sponsored preference visas were unused in both 2020 (54 percent) and 2021 (63 percent), likely due to COVID-19 challenges, resulting in the highest numbers of employment-based preference visas available since the implementation of modern limits in 1992. The year 2021 was also the first time the employment-based preference limit exceeded the family-based preference limit. While that limit was about 260,000 employment-based visas in 2021, over 66,000 went unused. In 2022, however, the limit was over 280,000, and only 10,000 went unused.

⁸ In certain circumstances, the widow or widower of a U.S. citizen may file a self-petition; see 8 U.S.C. 1151(b)(2)(A)(i) and 8 U.S.C. 1154(a)(1)(A)(ii).

⁹ Financial sponsorship includes signing an affidavit of support agreeing to make reimbursement should the sponsored relative receive any means-tested public benefits while in LPR status and before they are credited with 40 quarters (approximately ten years) of work.

Many EB-1 and EB-2, and all EB-3 immigrants must be sponsored by a U.S. employer, but some EB-1 and EB-2 employment-based immigrants may self-petition. Most EB-4 special immigrants file self-petitions, though some are the beneficiaries of petitions filed by employers. EB-5 immigrants all self-petition and must invest funds at amounts specified by regulation into a new commercial enterprise that will create at least ten full-time jobs for qualifying employees. In certain rural areas or areas with high unemployment, this required minimum investment amount is reduced.

In addition, most EB-2 and EB-3 petitions require that the Secretary of Labor certify that sufficient U.S. workers who are able, willing, qualified, and available could not be found in the region of intended employment, and that the employment will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of similarly employed U.S. workers. Some EB-1 and EB-2 employment-based immigrants are exempted from labor certification and job offer requirements, and some EB-2 and EB-3 employment-based immigrants fall within occupations for which the Department of Labor has “pre-certified” that hiring noncitizens in those occupations will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of similarly employed U.S. workers.

There are several categories of special immigrants eligible for EB-4 visas, some of the largest categories being special immigrant juveniles, certain ministers of religion and religious workers, and certain current and former employees of the U.S. Government abroad.¹⁰ Special immigrant visas (SIVs) were particularly important in 2021 and 2022 during Afghan relocation efforts. While these SIVs are an EB-4 visa category, Afghan SIV applicants are not counted against the EB-4 cap. The numerical limitations of Afghan and Iraqi SIVs are established by separate statutes. On December 29, 2022, Pub. L. 117-2617 amended the Afghan Allies Protection Act to extend the program through Dec. 31, 2024, and to increase the total number of principal noncitizens who may receive special immigrant status to 38,500.¹¹ Additionally, on July 20, 2022, USCIS transitioned the responsibility to adjudicate these SIV petitions to DOS. Efforts to resettle those Afghans relocated to the United States are ongoing.

In 2022, the limit on preference immigration was 507,507, which included 226,000 in the family-sponsored preference categories and 281,507 in the employment-based preference categories (see **APPENDIX**). Thus 2022 was the second time since the implementation of the INA that the employment-based preference limit exceeded the family-based preference limit. The INA also specifies per-country limits equal to 7 percent of the combined total number of visas allotted to family- and employment-based preferences. Dependent areas of foreign states are limited to 2 percent of this combined total.¹² In 2022, these limits amounted to 35,525 preference immigrants from any single country and 10,150 preference immigrants from any single dependent area.

¹⁰ For more information, see the USCIS website <https://www.uscis.gov/working-in-the-united-states/permanent-workers/employment-based-immigration-fourth-preference-eb-4>.

¹¹ See <https://www.congress.gov/bills/117/congress/house-bill/2617/text>.

¹² For more information regarding independent states, dependent areas, and visa allocations, see 9 Foreign Affairs Manual 503.2 at <https://fam.state.gov/FAM/09FAM/09FAM050302.html>.

Diversity Visas

The Diversity Immigrant Visa Program is designed to allow immigration from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States, defined by the INA as countries with fewer than 50,000 foreign nationals granted LPR status within family- and employment-based categories during the preceding 5 years. In 2022, the diversity visa limit was 54,850.¹³ The INA further limits the number of diversity visas per country to 7 percent of the worldwide total, or 3,840 in 2022. The INA additionally limits the number of diversity visas across six broad world regions based on regional immigration levels during the preceding five years, so high admission regions are eligible for fewer diversity visas. Nationals of eligible countries must have either a high school degree (or equivalent) or qualifying work experience to apply to the diversity visa program. Eligible foreign nationals who apply for the diversity program are randomly selected based on the allocations described above. Foreign nationals who are selected may then apply for a diversity visa.

Refugee and Asylee Adjustments of Status

The United States provides humanitarian protections to foreign nationals who have experienced past persecution or have a well-founded fear of future persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. Foreign nationals who have experienced or may experience this type of harm may be allowed to apply for protection from outside the United States as a refugee, along with their spouse and/or children. If the foreign national is physically present in the United States or is arriving at a POE, that individual may apply for this protection as an asylum applicant, along with their spouse and/or children.

As prescribed in the Refugee Act of 1980, the President, after consultation with Congress, establishes the number of foreign nationals who may be admitted to the United States as refugees each year. Since the passage of the Refugee Act of 1980, the United States has accepted more than 3.7 million refugees and asylees. The ceiling on refugee admissions was set between 70,000 and 85,000 each year from 2003 to 2016 but has varied in recent years. The ceiling was initially set at 110,000 in 2017 but was later reduced to 50,000 through a pair of Executive Orders.¹⁴ The ceiling continued to decline over the next three years to 45,000 in 2018, 30,000 in 2019, and 18,000 in 2020. Though the 2021 ceiling was originally set at 15,000, in May 2021 the new Biden administration raised the ceiling to 62,500. In 2022, the ceiling was 125,000. There is no numerical limit on the number of people who may be granted asylum each year.

The INA requires refugees to apply for adjustment to LPR status one year after admission into the United States. Asylees are

¹³ The INA establishes an overall diversity visa limit of 55,000 per year, which in the past has been reduced by 5,000 annually to offset Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) adjustments. In recent years, there have been far fewer new NACARA adjustments than numbers offset. By 2022, all earlier years' NACARA adjustments had been offset, leaving only the immediate prior year's NACARA adjustments remaining to be offset. At the time the 2022 diversity visa lottery was run, it was estimated that there would be about 150 NACARA adjustments that would apply to the diversity visa limit; thus the final limit was determined as 54,850.

¹⁴ Executive Orders 13769 and 13780, both titled as “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States.”

eligible to have their green card applications adjudicated one year after they are granted asylum but are not required to do so. Refugee and asylee adjustments of status are not subject to numerical limits.

Other Admission Categories

Remaining admission categories are generally limited to foreign nationals admitted under special legislation, and admission or adjustment may be subject to numerical limits. In 2000, the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (including the Battered Immigrant Women Protection Act) created the T and U nonimmigrant statuses permitting qualifying victims of trafficking and other statutorily enumerated crimes to be admitted as nonimmigrants for specified periods of time and then to apply for adjustment to LPR status. Certain foreign nationals admitted as parolees may adjust status from within the United States, and children born abroad to LPRs may enter the United States as new arrival LPRs.

Eligibility for Naturalization

Most LPRs who are at least 18 years of age are eligible to apply for citizenship after meeting certain requirements. These requirements generally include holding LPR status and residence in the United States for five years (or three years for those married to a U.S. citizen) and passing tests in English language and civics (unless an exemption or waiver applies for one or both tests). Typically, children in LPR status and under the age of 18 may automatically acquire citizenship through a U.S. citizen parent.

TRENDS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF NEW LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS

Historical Trends and Characteristics

Historically, the annual LPR flow has exhibited a general upward trend from 1944, increasing from an average of 250,000 new LPRs per year during the 1950s to averaging over 1 million per year since 1989. These increases are partly explained by changes in immigration law, including elimination in 1965 of the National Origins system and an increase in the annual immigration ceiling in 1990.¹⁵ The spike in lawful immigration from 1989 to 1991 resulted from the legalization of 2.7 million unauthorized immigrants under the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986. With the exception of 1992-1996, when the LPR flow was returning to normal levels after the historic 1991 peak, 2016 to 2020 exhibited the longest continuous decrease of new LPRs since 1940-1944. These LPR admissions fell for three consecutive years even before the global pandemic contributed to the 17-year low in 2020.

The United States granted just under 10 million individuals LPR status in the past decade (2013-2022). Of these, 54 percent were already present in the United States in another status and 46 percent were new arrivals. Sixty-four percent received LPR status as family-sponsored immigrants and 16 percent under employment-based

preferences. Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens consistently made up the largest subcategory of LPRs, comprising 45 percent of total LPRs. The largest shares of new LPRs in this period were born in Mexico (14 percent), India (7.2 percent), and China (6.7 percent).

More recently, in early 2021, monthly LPR numbers remained low, but by August they had rebounded to pre-pandemic levels, where they remained through 2022. The United States granted LPR status to 1,018,349 individuals in 2022, a 38 percent increase over 740,002 new LPRs in 2021 and a 44 percent increase over 707,362 new LPRs in 2020. Although new LPR counts were around their lowest points since 2003 in 2020 and 2021, the 2022 level is very close to the 2000 to 2021 average of 1,017,000 new LPRs per year, reflecting a return to pre-COVID 19 levels. Notably, low numbers in 2020 and 2021 came almost entirely from a reduction in family-sponsored immigrants, while numbers of employment-based preference LPRs increased. This was largely because many family-sponsored preference visas were unused during the pandemic due to embassy closures, and immigration law reallocates any unused family-sponsored preference visas in a fiscal year to employment-based preferences in the subsequent fiscal year. Both family-sponsored and employment-based new LPRs increased in 2022 (by 32 percent and 40 percent, respectively).

Processing Times During COVID-19

The most evident reason admissions and adjustments were so low in 2021 before rebounding in 2022 was the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in border closures, travel restrictions, processing delays, and facility closures that significantly impacted processing times. U.S. consulates and embassies around the world suspended routine visa services for varying lengths of time depending on location, which affected submission of forms DOS Form DS-230, *Application for Immigrant Visa and Alien Registration*, or Form DS-260, *Electronic Application for Immigrant Visa and Alien Registration* (see data section below). The average number of applicants pending the scheduling of an interview each month in Calendar Year 2019 was just under 61,000, but that number rose to just over 491,000 as of September 2021, before falling to 385,000 by the end of September 2022. Due to such backlogs and embassy closures, 122,000 family-sponsored preference visas were unused in 2020 and 144,000 in 2021, resulting in the record numbers of employment-based preference visas being available in 2021 and 2022.

Type and Class of Admission¹⁶

In the years just prior to 2022, adjustments of status made up a relatively high proportion of new LPRs. Between 2010 and 2018, adjustments accounted for 52 percent of new LPRs, while between 2019 and 2021, they accounted for 62 percent. In 2022 they dropped to account for just 54 percent (Table 1 and Figures 2 and 3) of new LPRs, similar to past totals.

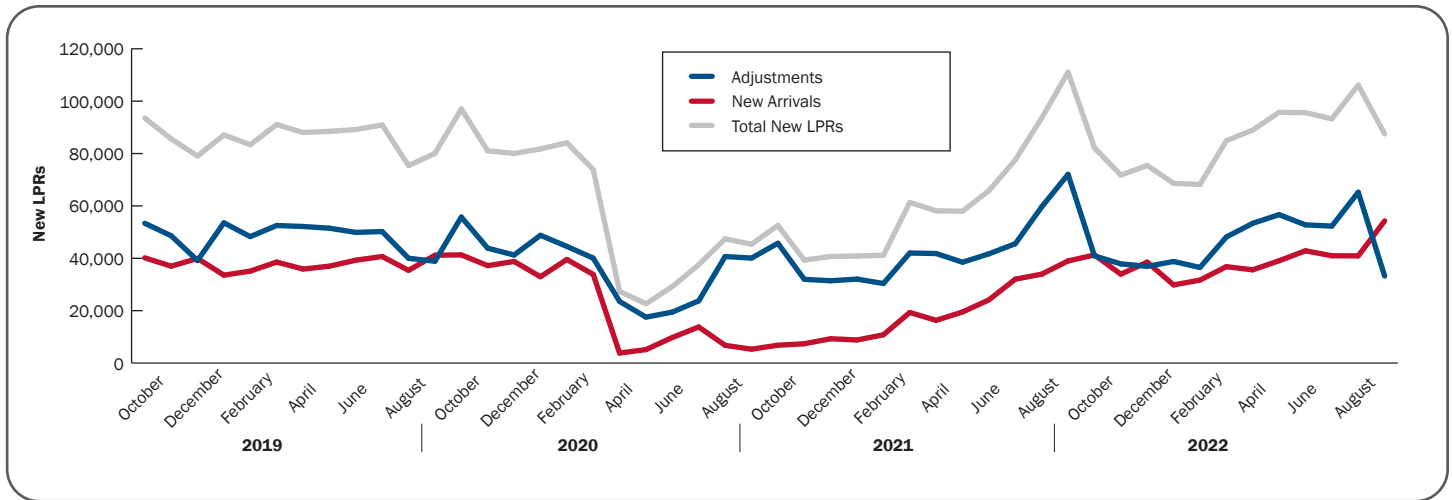
Family-sponsored immigrants (including immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and family-sponsored preference immigrants) represented 58 percent of total new LPRs in 2022 (Table 2, Figure 4).

¹⁵ Under the National Origins system included in the original version of the INA passed in 1952, immigration limits were established on a per-country basis, with each country's quota set by a formula based on the national origins of the U.S. population in the 1920 census.

¹⁶ In this report, *type of admission* distinguishes new arrivals (who receive admission to the United States at the same time as admission to LPR status) and adjustments of status (who are already within the United States). *Class of admission* refers to category of admission to LPR status rather than admission to the United States.

Figure 2.

New Lawful Permanent Residents by Type and Month: Fiscal Years 2019 to 2022



Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

The largest share of family-sponsored immigrants were immediate relatives of U.S. citizens (42 percent of total new LPRs in 2022). Spouses of U.S. citizens made up 23 percent of all new LPRs, parents made up 13 percent, and children (including adopted children) made up 5.6 percent. A slight majority of immediate relative immigrants become LPRs as adjustments (54 percent between 2010 and 2022).

Family-sponsored preference LPRs made up 16 percent of all new LPRs in 2022, up 7.4 percentage points from a low of 8.9 percent in 2021, and more in line with the proportion between 2010 and 2021 (20 percent). More than half of family-sponsored preference LPRs in 2022 were from the “spouses and children of LPRs” preference class (8.8 percent of total new LPRs). A quarter were in the “siblings of U.S. citizens” preference class (4.0 percent of total new LPRs). The majority of family-sponsored preference immigrants become LPRs as new arrivals (90 percent between 2010 and 2022).

Employment-based preference LPRs constituted 27 percent of all new LPRs in 2022, the highest proportion in over a decade, and well above the proportion between 2010 and 2021 (15 percent).¹⁷ Forty percent of employment-preference LPRs in 2022 were in the “professionals with advanced degrees or

¹⁷ The high proportion of employment-based preferences is partly due to the larger numbers of visas available, as discussed above, but also reflects that employment-based immigrants are much more likely than family-based immigrants to be adjustments rather than new arrivals, thus were less affected by COVID-related interruptions, consular processing delays, and travel restrictions.

Table 1.

New Lawful Permanent Residents: Fiscal Years 2020 to 2022

Category of admission	2020		2021		2022	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	707,362	100.0	740,002	100.0	1,018,349	100.0
New arrivals.....	268,153	37.9	227,206	30.7	465,718	45.7
Adjustments of status.....	439,209	62.1	512,796	69.3	552,631	54.3

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

persons of exceptional ability” preference class (11 percent of total new LPRs). The “skilled workers, professionals, and unskilled workers” and “priority workers” preference categories made up 29 percent and 20 percent of employment-preference LPRs, respectively (and 7.8 percent and 5.2 percent of total new LPRs). The majority of employment-based preference immigrants become LPRs as adjustments (86 percent between 2010 and 2022).

Refugee adjustments accounted for 2.9 percent of new LPRs in 2022, representing both the lowest count of refugee adjustments (29,423) and the lowest proportion of new LPRs since the passage of the Refugee Act of 1980, when current categories were created. Asylee adjustments accounted for 5.3 percent of new LPRs in 2022, representing the highest count of asylee adjustments (53,659) since 2011 and the highest proportion of new LPRs since 2008.

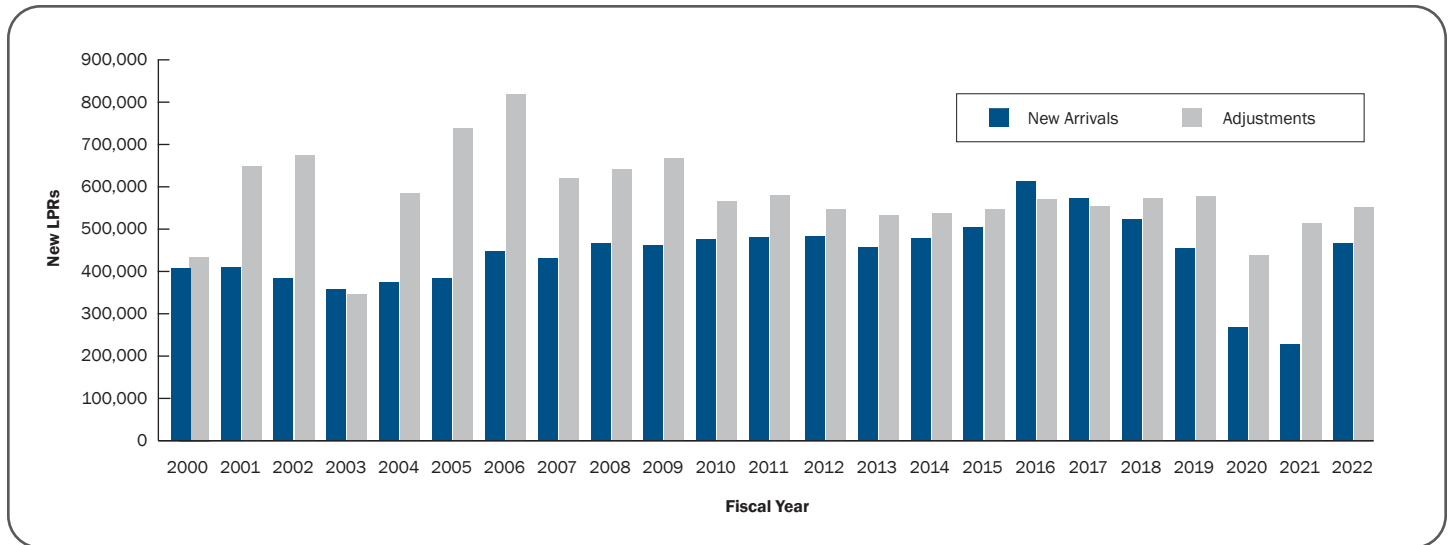
Diversity visa immigrants accounted for 4.2 percent of all new LPRs in 2022, a sharp increase from a historical low of 2.0 percent in 2021, but in line with the proportion between 2010 and 2021 (4.3 percent). The majority of diversity visa immigrants become LPRs as new arrivals (97 percent between 2010 and 2022).

Region and Country of Birth

The leading regions of birth of new LPRs in 2022 were Asia (41 percent) and North America (including the Caribbean and Central America) (33 percent) (Table 3). Together, Asia and North America have accounted for at least 70 percent of new LPRs each year since 2008. The leading regions of birth were not altered notably during the COVID pandemic.

Figure 3.

New Lawful Permanent Residents by Type (Adjustments of Status and New Arrivals): Fiscal Years 2000 to 2022



Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

Table 2.

New Lawful Permanent Residents by Major Class of Admission: Fiscal Years 2020 to 2022

Category of admission	2020		2021		2022	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	707,362	100.0	740,002	100.0	1,018,349	100.0
Family-sponsored immigrants	442,708	62.6	451,086	61.0	594,309	58.4
Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens	321,148	45.4	385,396	52.1	428,268	42.1
Spouses	195,718	27.7	251,825	34.0	238,632	23.4
Parents	88,051	12.4	80,515	10.9	132,505	13.0
Children*	37,379	5.3	53,056	7.2	57,131	5.6
Family-sponsored preferences	121,560	17.2	65,690	8.9	166,041	16.3
Unmarried sons/daughters of U.S. citizens	11,383	1.6	6,837	0.9	17,763	1.7
Spouses and children of lawful permanent residents	51,701	7.3	39,126	5.3	89,856	8.8
Married sons/daughters of U.S. citizens	13,930	2.0	6,625	0.9	17,449	1.7
Siblings of U.S. citizens	44,546	6.3	13,102	1.8	40,973	4.0
Employment-based preferences	148,959	21.1	193,338	26.1	270,284	26.5
Priority workers	47,388	6.7	61,451	8.3	53,433	5.2
Professionals with advanced degrees	43,666	6.2	59,834	8.1	109,081	10.7
Skilled workers, professionals, unskilled workers	43,218	6.1	54,099	7.3	79,362	7.8
Special immigrants	10,704	1.5	15,315	2.1	20,526	2.0
Investors	3,983	0.6	2,639	0.4	7,882	0.8
Diversity programs	25,028	3.5	15,145	2.0	43,233	4.2
Refugees and Asylees	63,875	9.0	56,397	7.6	83,082	8.2
Refugee adjustments	44,404	6.3	35,847	4.8	29,423	2.9
Asylee adjustments	19,471	2.8	20,550	2.8	53,659	5.3
Parolees	13	0.0	13	0.0	14	0.0
Other categories	26,779	3.8	24,023	3.2	27,427	2.7
Children born abroad to noncitizen residents	30	0.0	75	0.0	85	0.0
Certain Iraqis and Afghans employed by U.S. Government and their spouses and children	9,727	1.4	8,303	1.1	11,911	1.2
Cancellation of removal	3,685	0.5	5,017	0.7	4,160	0.4
Subject to annual limit	3,420	0.5	4,735	0.6	3,826	0.4
Not subject to limit (NACARA† Section 203)	265	0.0	282	0.0	334	0.0
Victims of human trafficking	866	0.1	942	0.1	712	0.1
Victims of crimes and their spouses and children	11,937	1.7	9,257	1.3	9,952	1.0
Other‡	461	0.1	387	0.1	545	0.1

* Includes adoptees.

† Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act of 1997.

‡ Primarily consists of those admitted or adjusted under special legislation.

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

In 2022, 14 percent of all foreign nationals granted LPR status were born in Mexico. Mexico has been the leading source of new LPRs each year since 1978. Since 2010, the proportion of new LPRs born in Mexico who adjust status has tended to fluctuate closely with the overall proportion of new LPRs adjusting status. Between 2010 and 2018, 51 percent of new LPRs born in Mexico adjusted status, while between 2019 and 2021 that proportion rose to 67 percent, before dropping back to 51 percent in 2022 (Tables 3 and 4).

Next-leading countries of birth of new LPRs in 2022 were India (13 percent), China (6.7 percent), the Dominican Republic (3.9 percent), Cuba (3.6 percent), and the Philippines (3.5 percent). Among the top ten leading countries of birth for new LPRs, India-born LPRs had the lowest proportion who gained LPR status as new arrivals (16 percent), while Vietnam-born LPRs had the highest proportion (77 percent).

State and Metropolitan Area of Residence

California was the state of residence of nearly one-fifth (18 percent) of those granted LPR status in 2022, and over half (57 percent) of new LPRs residing in California were adjustments of status (Tables 5 and 6). Next-leading states of residence for new LPRs in 2022 were Florida, New York, and Texas (each with 11 percent). Of the top ten states of residence for new LPRs, New York had the highest proportion (51 percent) of new arrivals, while Washington had the lowest proportion (32 percent). While the six leading states of residence have been the same for new LPRs every year since 1971, the proportion of new LPRs residing in these six states has decreased from 82 percent in 1990 to 60 percent in 2022, as new LPRs have become more likely to live in other parts of the country. In terms of new LPRs per capita in 2022, New Jersey had the highest number for the second year in a row (with 593 new LPRs per 100,000 population), while Montana had the lowest (with 43 new LPRs per 100,000 population) (Figure 4).¹⁸

The leading metropolitan area of residence for new LPRs in 2022 was New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA (15 percent) (Table 7). Other prominent metropolitan areas of residence

¹⁸ State populations sourced from the U.S. Census Bureau: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, December 2022, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for the United States, Regions, States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2022 (NST-EST2022-POP). Web. 7 April 2023. <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-state-total>.

Table 3.

New Lawful Permanent Residents by Region and Country of Birth: Fiscal Years 2020 to 2022 (Ranked by 2022 country of birth)

Region/country of birth	2020		2021		2022	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
REGION						
Total.....	707,362	100.0	740,002	100.0	1,018,349	100.0
Africa.....	76,649	10.8	66,211	8.9	89,571	8.8
Asia.....	272,597	38.5	295,306	39.9	414,951	40.7
Europe.....	68,994	9.8	61,521	8.3	75,606	7.4
North America.....	222,272	31.4	240,435	32.5	332,672	32.7
Caribbean.....	72,927	10.3	77,558	10.5	109,866	10.8
Central America.....	39,303	5.6	45,413	6.1	72,429	7.1
Other North America.....	110,042	15.6	117,464	15.9	150,377	14.8
Oceania.....	3,998	0.6	4,147	0.6	5,132	0.5
South America.....	62,219	8.8	71,371	9.6	99,025	9.7
Unknown.....	633	0.1	1,011	0.1	1,392	0.1
COUNTRY						
Total.....	707,362	100.0	740,002	100.0	1,018,349	100.0
Mexico.....	100,325	14.2	107,230	14.5	138,772	13.6
India.....	46,363	6.6	93,450	12.6	127,012	12.5
China, People's Republic....	41,483	5.9	49,847	6.7	67,950	6.7
Dominican Republic.....	30,005	4.2	24,553	3.3	40,152	3.9
Cuba.....	16,367	2.3	23,077	3.1	36,642	3.6
Philippines.....	25,491	3.6	27,511	3.7	35,998	3.5
El Salvador.....	17,907	2.5	18,668	2.5	30,876	3.0
Vietnam.....	29,995	4.2	16,312	2.2	24,425	2.4
Brazil.....	16,746	2.4	18,351	2.5	24,169	2.4
Colombia.....	11,989	1.7	15,293	2.1	21,723	2.1
Venezuela.....	12,136	1.7	14,412	1.9	21,025	2.1
Honduras.....	8,277	1.2	10,116	1.4	17,099	1.7
Guatemala.....	7,815	1.1	8,904	1.2	16,990	1.7
Jamaica.....	12,826	1.8	13,357	1.8	16,482	1.6
Korea, South.....	16,244	2.3	12,351	1.7	16,172	1.6
Afghanistan.....	11,407	1.6	9,488	1.3	14,193	1.4
Nigeria.....	12,398	1.8	13,100	1.8	12,385	1.2
Nepal.....	7,847	1.1	7,309	1.0	12,010	1.2
Ecuador.....	6,157	0.9	7,532	1.0	11,910	1.2
Pakistan.....	10,474	1.5	9,691	1.3	11,777	1.2
All other countries, including unknown.....	265,110	37.5	239,450	32.4	320,587	31.5

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

Table 4.

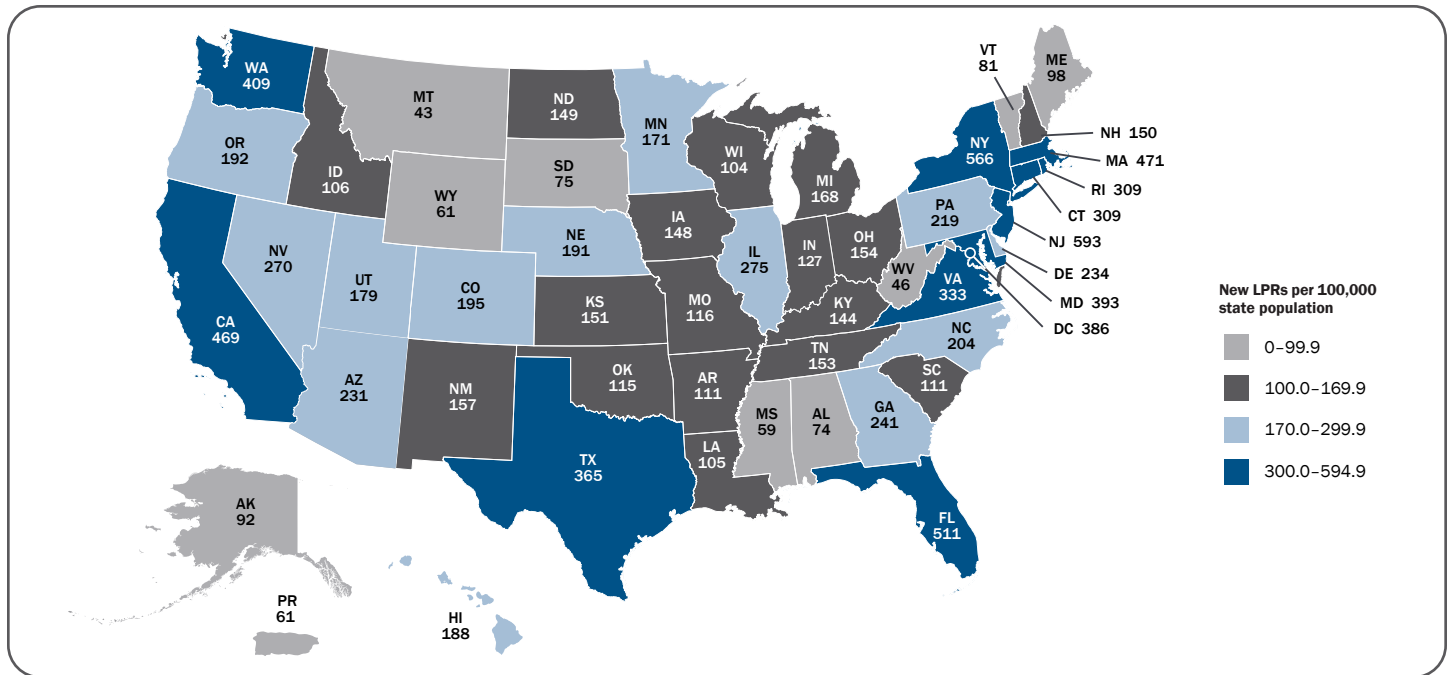
Type of Admission of New Lawful Permanent Residents for Top Ten Countries of Birth: Fiscal Year 2022

Country of birth	Total	Adjustments		New Arrivals	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Mexico.....	138,772	71,067	51.2	67,705	48.8
India.....	127,012	106,072	83.5	20,940	16.5
China, People's Republic.....	67,950	43,603	64.2	24,347	35.8
Dominican Republic.....	40,152	10,086	25.1	30,066	74.9
Cuba.....	36,642	15,047	41.1	21,595	58.9
Philippines.....	35,998	11,026	30.6	24,972	69.4
El Salvador.....	30,876	15,196	49.2	15,680	50.8
Vietnam.....	24,425	5,643	23.1	18,782	76.9
Brazil.....	24,169	18,102	74.9	6,067	25.1
Colombia.....	21,723	12,718	58.5	9,005	41.5

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

Figure 4.

New Lawful Permanent Residents per 100,000 State Population: Fiscal Year 2022



Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau.

included Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA and Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL, each hosting just over 6 percent of new LPRs. Together, the top ten metropolitan areas account for 50 percent of new LPRs.¹⁹

Age, Sex, and Marital Status

In 2022, the median age for new LPRs was 35 years. The median age of new arrivals was 33 and the median age for adjustments was 36. The median ages of females and males were very similar: 35 for females and 34 for males (Table 8).

A slight majority of new LPRs in 2022 were female (53 percent) (Table 9). Almost three-quarters (73 percent) of new LPRs over 18 years of age were married (Table 10).

Table 5.

New Lawful Permanent Residents by State of Residence: Fiscal Years 2020 to 2022 (Ranked by 2022 state of residence)

State of residence	2020		2021		2022	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	707,362	100.0	740,002	100.0	1,018,349	100.0
California	138,996	19.6	135,181	18.3	182,921	18.0
Florida	65,799	9.3	83,227	11.2	113,653	11.2
New York	81,755	11.6	76,127	10.3	111,309	10.9
Texas	74,565	10.5	78,873	10.7	109,720	10.8
New Jersey	30,275	4.3	37,844	5.1	54,958	5.4
Illinois	27,377	3.9	26,228	3.5	34,551	3.4
Massachusetts	22,107	3.1	22,431	3.0	32,885	3.2
Washington	21,549	3.0	22,145	3.0	31,835	3.1
Virginia	18,183	2.6	20,428	2.8	28,902	2.8
Pennsylvania	17,398	2.5	17,306	2.3	28,381	2.8
Other*	209,358	29.6	220,212	29.8	289,234	28.4

* Includes unknown, U.S. territories, and Armed Forces posts.
Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

¹⁹ For more data on LPRs by country, state, or Core-Based Statistical Area (CBSA) outside of this Flow Report and the Yearbook, please see OHSS Reading Room tables and LPR Web Profiles tables at <https://www.dhs.gov/ohss/topics/immigration/lpr>.

Table 6.

Type of Admission of New Lawful Permanent Residents for Top Ten States of Residence: Fiscal Year 2022

State of residence	Total	Adjustments		New Arrivals	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
California.....	182,921	104,428	57.1	78,493	42.9
Florida.....	113,653	59,798	52.6	53,855	47.4
New York.....	111,309	54,411	48.9	56,898	51.1
Texas.....	109,720	62,873	57.3	46,847	42.7
New Jersey.....	54,958	31,694	57.7	23,264	42.3
Illinois.....	34,551	17,123	49.6	17,428	50.4
Massachusetts.....	32,885	18,479	56.2	14,406	43.8
Washington.....	31,835	21,708	68.2	10,127	31.8
Virginia.....	28,902	14,761	51.1	14,141	48.9
Pennsylvania.....	28,381	15,148	53.4	13,233	46.6

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

Table 7.

New Lawful Permanent Residents by Metropolitan Area of Residence: Fiscal Years 2020 to 2022 (Ranked by 2022 metropolitan area of residence)

Metropolitan area of residence	2020		2021		2022	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	707,362	100.0	740,002	100.0	1,018,349	100.0
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA.....	99,746	14.1	101,708	13.7	148,559	14.6
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA.....	51,429	7.3	50,960	6.9	63,584	6.2
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL.....	39,318	5.6	49,288	6.7	62,475	6.1
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV.....	24,693	3.5	27,636	3.7	39,450	3.9
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX.....	26,861	3.8	26,146	3.5	38,186	3.7
San Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley, CA.....	27,376	3.9	24,670	3.3	35,369	3.5
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX.....	22,462	3.2	25,710	3.5	35,330	3.5
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI.....	25,043	3.5	23,988	3.2	31,564	3.1
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA.....	17,347	2.5	18,185	2.5	26,452	2.6
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH.....	17,695	2.5	18,147	2.5	26,370	2.6
Other.....	355,392	50.2	373,564	50.5	511,010	50.2

Notes: Metropolitan areas defined based on the 2020 update of CBSA definitions. Numbers from previous years may differ from previously published figures.

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

Table 8.

New Lawful Permanent Residents by Age: Fiscal Years 2020 to 2022

Age	2020		2021		2022	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	707,362	100.0	740,002	100.0	1,018,349	100.0
Under 5 years.....	17,929	2.5	12,700	1.7	22,971	2.3
5 to 14 years.....	74,089	10.5	67,744	9.2	102,008	10.0
15 to 24 years.....	100,749	14.2	99,168	13.4	142,755	14.0
25 to 34 years.....	177,079	25.0	201,241	27.2	237,655	23.3
35 to 44 years.....	153,114	21.6	184,329	24.9	240,932	23.7
45 to 54 years.....	98,066	13.9	98,112	13.3	137,863	13.5
55 to 64 years.....	52,991	7.5	47,790	6.5	81,864	8.0
65 years and over.....	33,344	4.7	28,917	3.9	52,299	5.1
Unknown age.....	1	0.0	1	0.0	2	0.0
Median age (years).....	34		34		35	

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

Table 9.

New Lawful Permanent Residents by Sex: Fiscal Years 2020 to 2022

Sex	2020		2021		2022	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	707,362	100.0	740,002	100.0	1,018,349	100.0
Female	380,786	53.8	403,479	54.5	543,797	53.4
Male	326,414	46.1	336,452	45.5	474,242	46.6
Unknown.....	162	0	71	0	310	0

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

Table 10.

New Lawful Permanent Residents by Marital Status: Fiscal Years 2020 to 2022

Marital status	2020		2021		2022	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	707,362	100.0	740,002	100.0	1,018,349	100.0
Married	435,758	61.6	493,500	66.7	625,325	61.4
Single	230,043	32.5	206,000	27.8	333,313	32.7
Other*.....	33,182	4.7	30,048	4.1	48,655	4.8
Unknown.....	8,379	1.2	10,454	1.4	11,056	1.1

* Includes persons who are widowed, divorced, or separated.

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

DATA

This report uses data from the USCIS Computer Linked Application Information Management System (CLAIMS) and Electronic Immigration System (ELIS). CLAIMS maintains information for applicants present in the United States from USCIS’ Form I-485. ELIS uses a combination of data sources for information on applicants living abroad: (1) biographical and demographic information from DOS’ Form DS-230 or Form DS-260; and (2) data on the date of entry, POE, and updated class of admission (if there is any change from the originally approved class of admission) collected by Customs and Border Protection at a POE. Since 2019, ELIS has also maintained information on family-sponsored applicants present in the United States from USCIS’ Form I-485.

The size and demographic composition of new LPR cohorts are affected by many factors including changes to immigration law and procedure, variation in application volume, and other factors related to application processing. For these reasons, caution should be exercised in drawing conclusions about the propensity to immigrate from the data presented in this report.

APPENDIX

Preference Immigration Limits²⁰

Section 201 of the INA defines a complex set of rules determining worldwide limits on the number of family- and employment-based visas, as well as other general rules defining the limits. Section 202 of the INA describes per-country limits based on the

worldwide total. Section 203 of the INA describes the allocation of immigrant visas.

Family-sponsored Preference Limit

The annual limit for family-sponsored preference immigration is calculated as 480,000 people minus the number of foreign nationals who were issued visas or who adjusted to LPR status in the previous year as (1) immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, (2) children born subsequent to the issuance of a visa to an accompanying parent, (3) children born abroad to LPRs on temporary trips abroad, and (4) certain categories of foreign nationals paroled into the United States in the second preceding year, and plus (5) unused visas in the employment-preference classes in the preceding year.

The family-sponsored preference limit may not fall below a minimum of 226,000 in any year. Because the calculated limit (based on visa usage during the prior year) for family-sponsored preference classes in 2022 was below 226,000, the family-sponsored preferences limit was set at 226,000 (Table A1).

Employment-based Preference Limit

The annual limit for employment-based preference immigration is equal to 140,000 plus unused numbers in the family-sponsored preference classes in the previous year. With 141,507 unused numbers in the family-sponsored preference classes in 2021, the 2022 employment-based preference limit was 281,507. The limit is 28.6 percent of this total for each of the first three employment-preference classes and 7.1 percent for each of the last two preference classes. In 2022, these limits were 80,511 and 19,987, respectively.

²⁰ The DOS Bureau of Consular Affairs is responsible for determining these limits. See DOS’s monthly Visa Bulletins for more information: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal/visa-law0/visa-bulletin.html>.

Per Country and Dependent Area Limits

A limit of 7 percent of the combined total visa limits for family-sponsored and employment-based preference classes is set for independent countries, and a limit of 2 percent is set for dependent areas. The 2022 per-country limit for independent foreign states was 35,525 (7 percent of 507,507; the sum of the 2022 employment-based and family-based preference limits), and the limit for dependencies was 10,150 (2 percent of 507,507).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the Office of Homeland Security Statistics webpage at <https://www.ohss.dhs.gov>.

Table A1.

Annual Limits for Preference and Diversity Immigrants: Fiscal Year 2022

Preference/description	Limit
Family-sponsored preferences	226,000
First: Unmarried sons and daughters of U.S. citizens and their children	23,400*
Second: Spouses, children, and unmarried sons and daughters of permanent residents	114,200†
Third: Married sons and daughters of U.S. citizens	23,400†
Fourth: Brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens (at least 21 years of age)	65,000†
Employment-based preferences	281,507
First: Priority workers	80,511‡
Second: Professionals with advanced degrees or aliens of exceptional ability	80,511†
Third: Skilled workers, professionals, and needed unskilled workers	80,511†
Fourth: Certain special immigrants	19,987
Fifth: Employment creation ("investors")	19,987
Diversity	54,850

* Plus unused family fourth preference visas.

† Plus unused higher preference visas.

‡ Plus unused employment fourth and fifth preference visas.

Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.