

*IMMIGRATION AND
NATURALIZATION SERVICE*

*Monthly Statistical Report
September FY 2002 Year End Report*



Prepared by the Office of Policy and Planning
October 31, 2002



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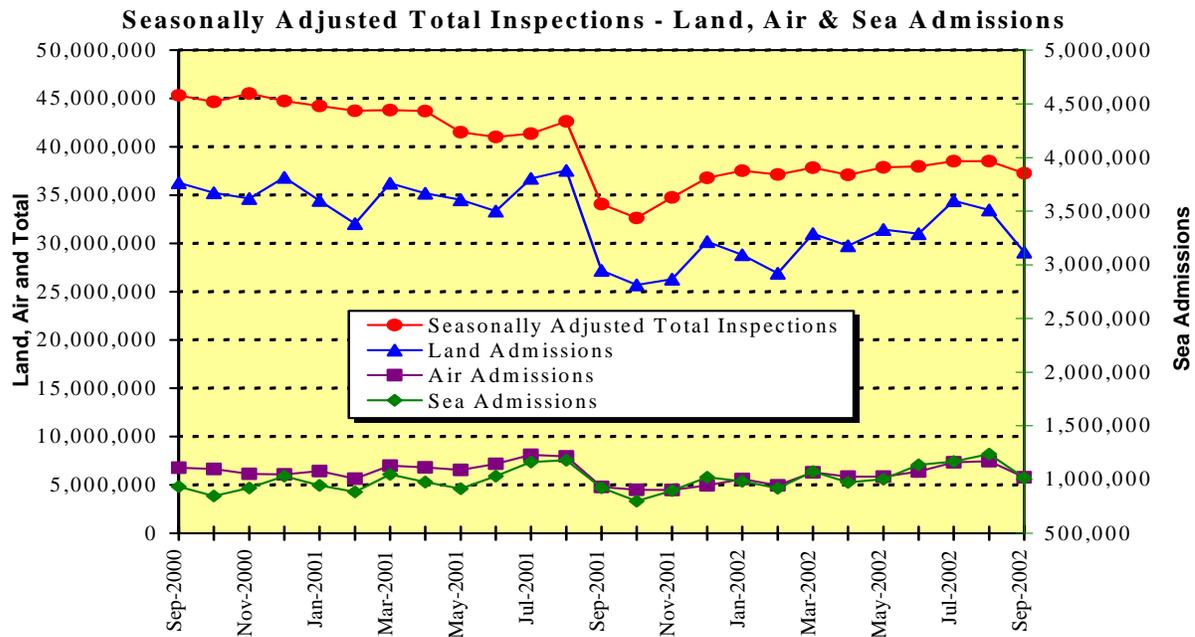
1. Data are preliminary and subject to revision; they are current as of February 12, 2003.

INSPECTIONS

Compared to September 2001, total inspections of citizens and aliens for entry to the United States increased 9 percent. Air admissions increased 21 percent and land admissions increased 7 percent compared to the previous September. Sea admissions increased 10 percent and inadmissibles decreased 5 percent compared to September 2001. Total inspections for fiscal year 2002 decreased 13 percent compared to fiscal year 2001.

	<i>Month</i>			<i>Fiscal Year</i>			<i>Total FY 2001</i>
	<i>Sep-2002</i>	<i>Sep-2001</i>	<i>%Change</i>	<i>FY 2002 to Date</i>	<i>FY 2001 to Date</i>	<i>%Change</i>	
Total Inspections	36,210,345	33,182,827	9	444,687,315	510,583,046	-13	510,583,046
Air Admitted	5,807,060	4,793,053	21	69,470,866	79,391,669	-12	79,391,669
Land Admitted	29,082,941	27,194,794	7	357,986,738	413,947,270	-14	413,947,270
Sea Admitted	1,014,334	924,706	10	12,225,794	11,869,375	3	11,869,375
Inadmissible	57,867	60,820	-5	733,440	700,807	5	700,807

Data Source: PAS G-22.1



- September 2002 total inspections decreased about 6,412,000 compared to August 2002. The same comparison for last fiscal year showed a decrease of about 14,016,000.
- About 14 million U.S. citizens were admitted at INS ports of entry during September 2002, compared to approximately 23 million aliens admitted during the same month. The above categories of admission include individuals who make multiple entries, for example, citizens who leave and reenter the United States multiple times, permanent residents who make multiple entries, or aliens who hold non-immigrant visas or border crossing cards and commute back and forth each week from Canada or Mexico.
- The total inadmissible count for September 2002 was 57,867, a 5 percent decrease compared to September 2001. Inadmissible persons include aliens referred to secondary inspection who withdraw, are refused entry, are paroled in, or are referred to an Immigration Judge for a removal hearing. Also included are expedited cases where an alien can withdraw, or receives an expedited removal order, or is referred for a credible fear interview.
- Total inspections are presented as a seasonally adjusted data series. These seasonally adjusted inspections decreased 25 percent between August 2001 and October 2001, but have increased 12 percent since then.

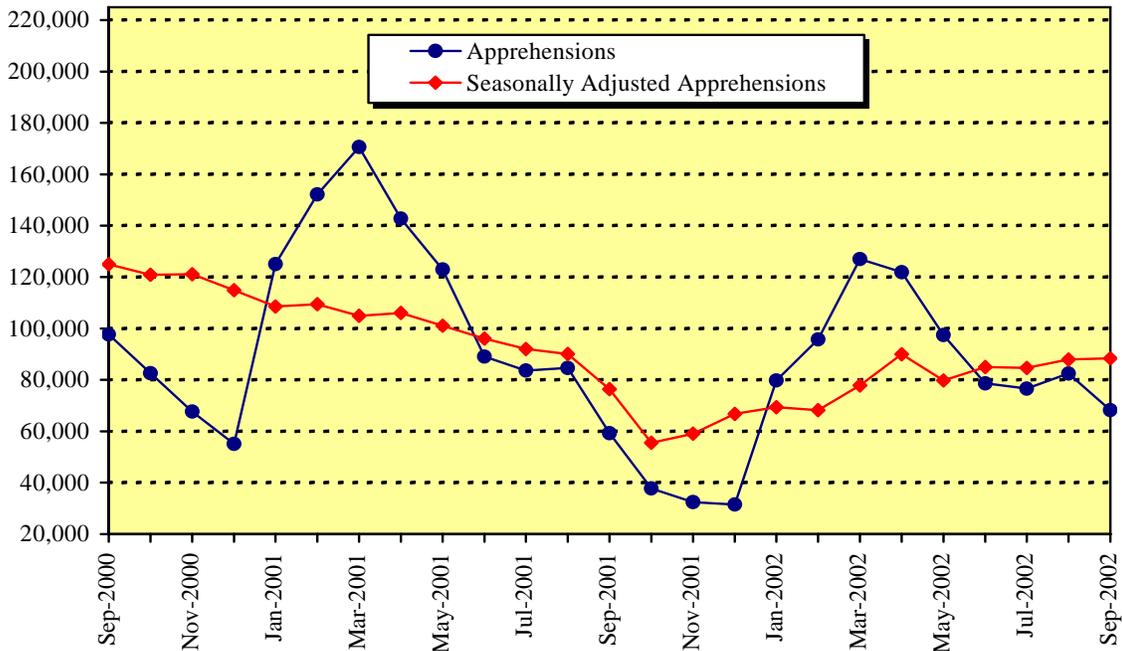
SOUTHWEST BORDER APPREHENSIONS

The U.S. Border Patrol made 68,263 apprehensions along the southwest border during September 2002, a 15 percent increase when compared to September 2001. Voluntary returns conducted by Border Patrol agents increased by 14 percent from a year ago to 63,614. For fiscal year 2002, apprehensions were down 25 percent and voluntary returns were down 26 percent when compared to fiscal year 2001.

Southwest Border	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 2001
	Sep-2002	Sep-2001	%Change	FY 2002 to Date	FY 2001 to Date	%Change	
Apprehensions	68,263	59,276	15	929,809	1,235,717	-25	1,235,717
Voluntary Returns	63,614	55,907	14	884,380	1,191,047	-26	1,191,047

Data Source: PAS G-23.8 & G-23.18

Southwest Border Total Apprehensions



- Normally, apprehensions reach a yearly low in December followed by a strong seasonal increase in January. Seasonal highs tend to be reached in early spring. Apprehensions decrease but remain relatively high through the summer months and then start their autumn decline in September, which continues through the Christmas and New Year holidays.
- Seasonally adjusted apprehensions decreased 65 percent between January 2000 and October 2001. Since reaching their lowest level in October 2001, seasonally adjusted apprehensions have increased 21 percent as of September.
- In FY 2001, Central American apprehensions on the southwest border reached 22,515, a decrease of 577 when compared to the previous year. For fiscal year 2002, southwest border Central American apprehensions reached 21,750, a decrease of 3 percent compared to fiscal year 2001. Of the 21,750 Central Americans apprehended in FY 2002, 41 percent were Honduran, 31 percent were El Salvadoran, 25 percent were Guatemalan, and 2 percent were Nicaraguan.

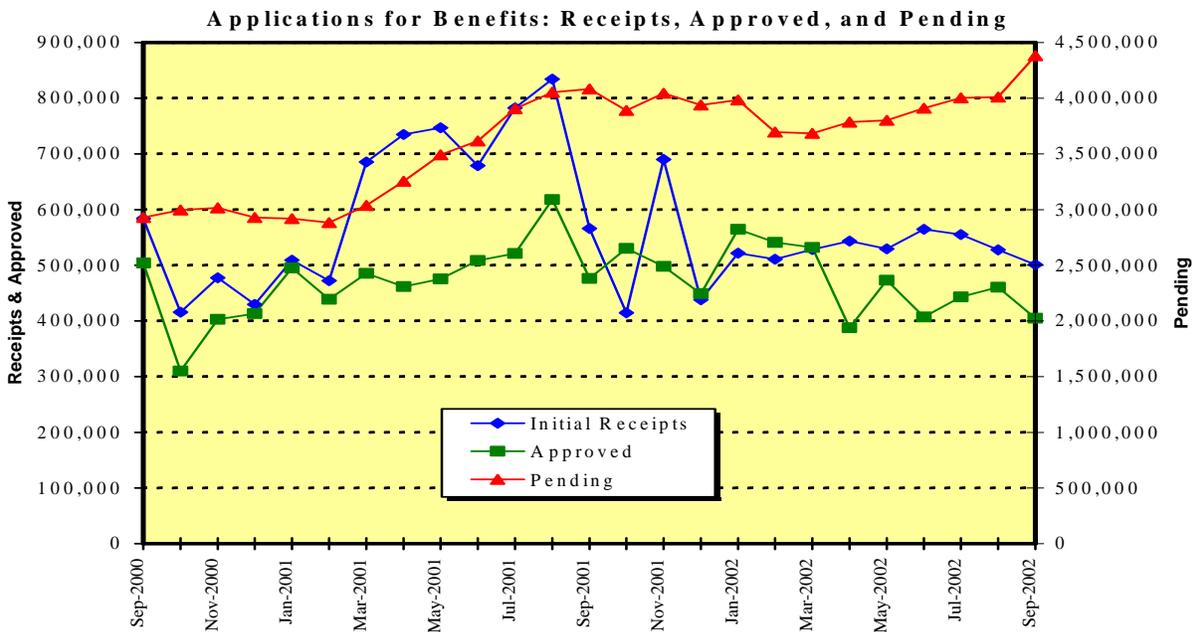
APPLICATIONS FOR IMMIGRATION BENEFITS

Applications and petitions for immigration benefits in September 2002 decreased 11 percent compared to the number received in September 2001. September approvals were down 15 percent, while denials increased by 48 percent when compared to September 2001. For fiscal year 2002, receipts were down 14 percent while approvals were down 2 percent when compared to fiscal year 2001.

	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 2001
	Sep-2002	Sep-2001	%Change	FY 2002 to Date	FY 2001 to Date	%Change	
Initial Receipts¹	501,047	565,838	-11	6,324,496	7,333,338	-14	7,333,338
Approved	404,706	476,327	-15	5,691,715	5,606,705	2	5,606,705
Denied	63,603	43,032	48	635,555	460,844	38	460,844
Pending¹	4,382,379	4,083,052	7	4,382,379	4,083,052	7	4,083,052

Data Source: PAS G-22.2

¹ Receipts and Pending do not reflect an estimated 6,600 I-485s filed but not data entered.



- Total immigration application pending cases reached 4,382,379, a 7 percent increase when compared to September 2001.
- Major volumes in September 2002 receipts include: 136,799 I-765 employment authorizations; 64,406 I-90 Green Card renewals/replacements; 64,304 I-130 relative petitions; and 62,374 I-485 permanent resident adjustments.
- Major volumes of pending cases at the end of September 2002 include: 1,613,826 I-130 relative petitions; 966,472 I-485 permanent resident adjustments; 499,725 I-90 Green Card renewals/replacements; and 392,907 I-765 employment authorizations.
- The end of year inventory of pending applications was conducted in September. The number of pending benefit applications/petitions increased approximately 346,000 as a result of the inventory; however, the pending application count may change over the next several months.

NATURALIZATION BENEFITS

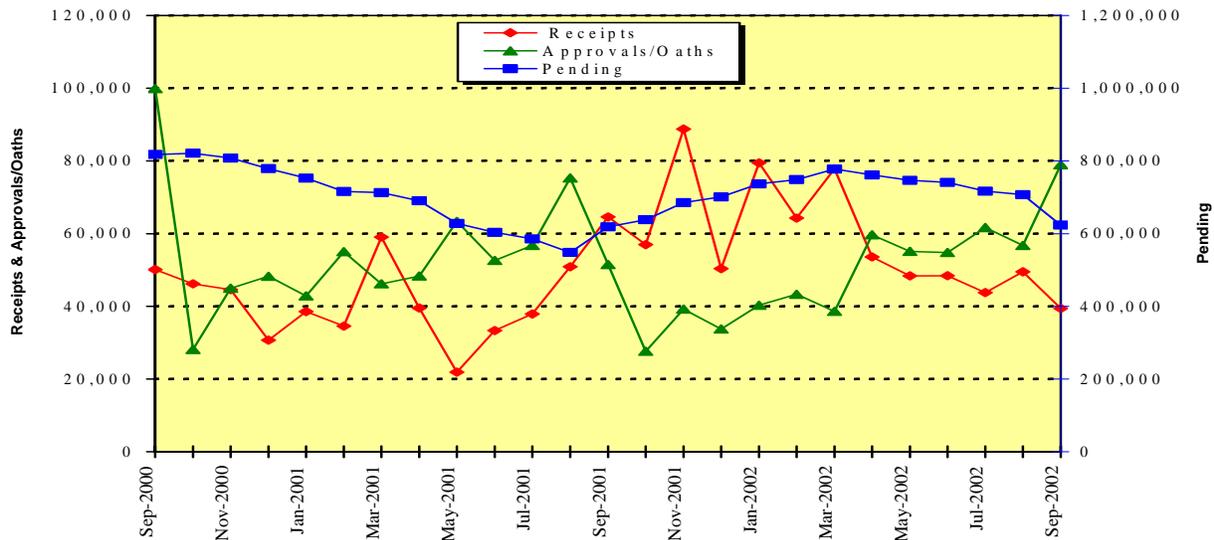
Naturalization receipts in September 2002 decreased 39 percent while approvals/oaths were up 53 percent and denials were up 62 percent when compared to September 2001. During fiscal year 2002, receipts were up 40 percent while 589,728 applicants for naturalization took the oath of citizenship, a decrease of 4 percent compared to fiscal year 2001.

	<i>Month¹</i>			<i>Fiscal Year</i>			<i>Total FY 2001</i>
	<i>Sep-2002</i>	<i>Sep-2001</i>	<i>%Change</i>	<i>FY 2002 to Date</i>	<i>FY 2001 to Date</i>	<i>%Change</i>	
Receipts	39,432	64,601	-39	700,649	501,646	40	501,646
Approvals/Oaths	78,920	51,478	53	589,728	613,161	-4	613,161
Denied	21,137	13,033	62	139,779	218,326	-36	218,326
Pending	623,519	618,750	1	623,519	618,750	1	618,750

Data Source: PAS G-22.3

¹ Receipts and Pending do not reflect an estimated 6,300 N-400s filed but not data entered.

**N - 4 0 0 N a t u r a l i z a t i o n A p p l i c a t i o n s
R e c e i p t s , O a t h s / A p p r o v e d , a n d P e n d i n g**



- The number of pending cases increased 1 percent compared to one year ago. Pending cases have increased for the months of September through March, but have decreased slightly for the months of April through September.
- September 2001 naturalization approvals/oaths decreased by 23,850 compared to August 2001. The same comparison for September 2002 showed an increase of 22,165.
- The end of year inventory of pending applications was conducted in September. The number of pending naturalization applications decreased approximately 22,000 as a result of the inventory; however, the pending application count may change over the next several months.

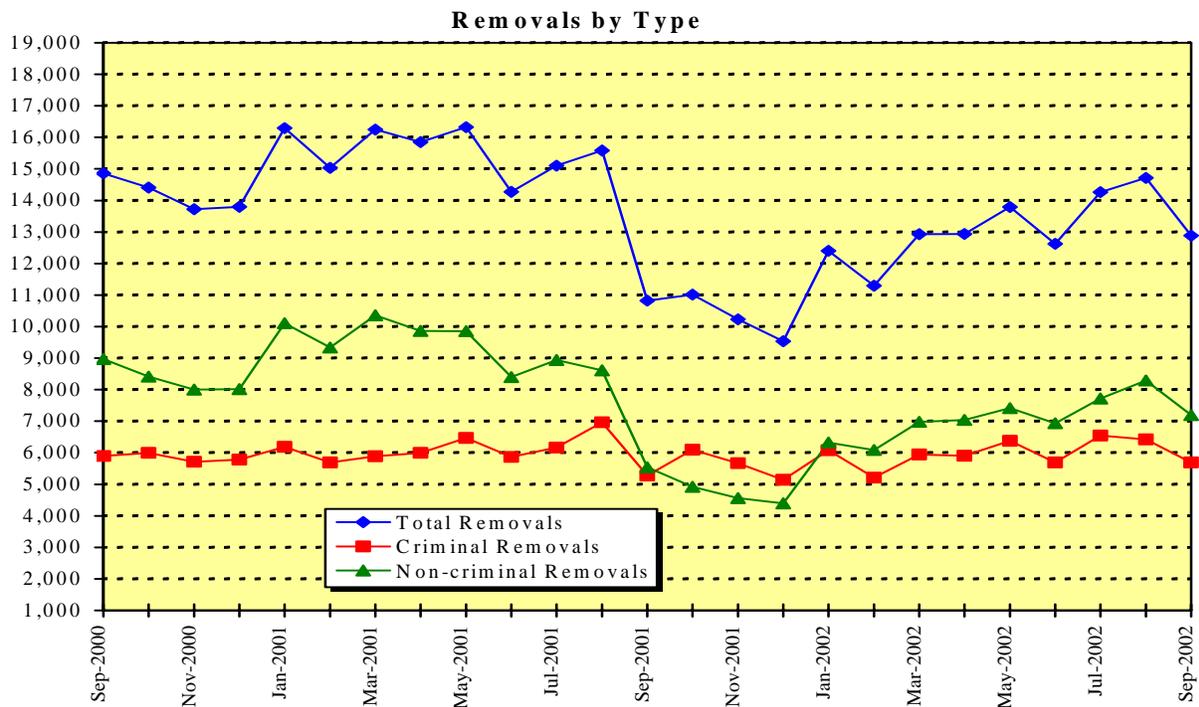
REMOVALS

Total removals for September increased 19 percent compared to the same month a year before. In September 2002, INS removed 12,882 aliens from the United States, 5,691 of these aliens were criminals.

	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 2001
	Sep-2002*	Sep-2001	%Change	FY 2002 to Date	FY 2001 to Date	%Change	
Deportable Inadmissible	3,699	3,118	19	45,585	46,093	-1	46,093
Total Removals	12,882	10,820	19	148,619	177,452	-16	177,452
Criminal Removals	5,691	5,281	8	70,759	71,994	-2	71,994
Non-criminal Removals	7,191	5,539	30	77,860	105,458	-26	105,458

Data Source: HQSTA DACS Monthly Extract

* Current Monthly Data are Preliminary.



- Historically there are significant upward revisions in the removal statistics for three months after the initial reporting period, with smaller revisions thereafter. Each month the Office of Immigration Statistics revises the published statistics for the previous three fiscal years.
- Total removals in fiscal year 2002 decreased 16 percent compared to fiscal year 2001. In fiscal year 2002, expedited removals (34,326) decreased 51 percent compared to fiscal year 2001. Other types of removals increased 6 percent comparing FY 2002 to FY 2001. Non-expedited removals were 77 percent of total removals. In fiscal year 2000 non-expedited removals were 54 percent of total removals; in fiscal year 2001 they were 60 percent of total removals.
- Removals of criminal aliens (including expedited) decreased 2 percent in fiscal year 2002. Non-expedited criminal removals increased slightly.

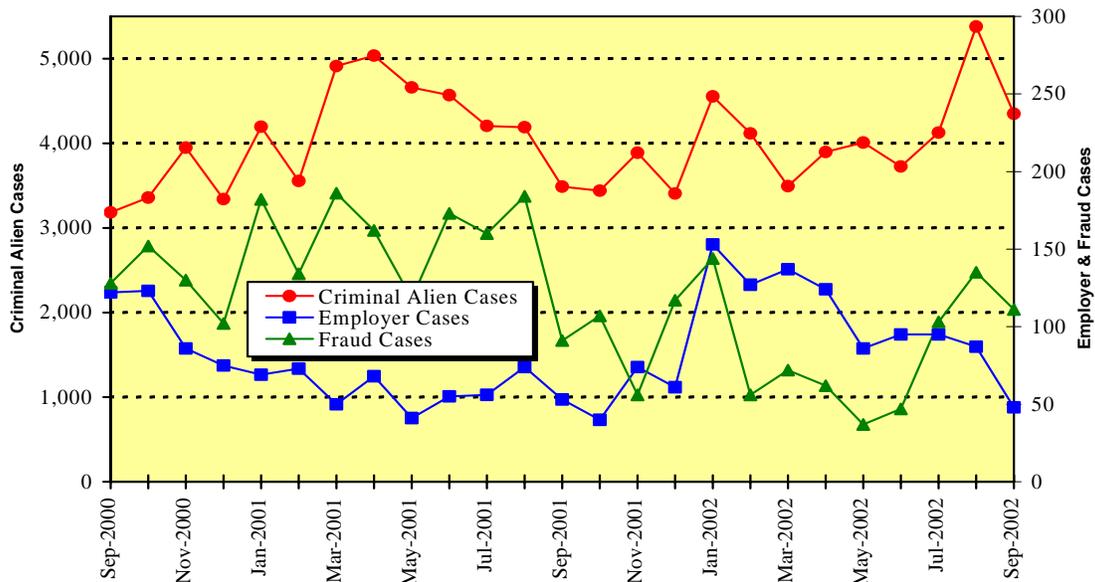
INVESTIGATIONS

Successful completions of criminal alien cases for September 2002 increased 25 percent when compared to September 2001, while employer cases decreased by 9 percent compared to the previous September. Fraud completions in September 2002 increased 22 percent compared to the same month last year, while there was a 38 percent decrease in the number of successful completions of smuggling cases. For fiscal year 2002, criminal alien cases decreased 2 percent, employer cases increased 37 percent, fraud cases decreased 41 percent, and smuggling cases decreased 25 percent compared to fiscal year 2001.

Successful Completions	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 2001
	Sep-2002	Sep-2001	%Change	FY 2002 to Date	FY 2001 to Date	%Change	
Criminal Alien Cases	4,350	3,488	25	48,390	49,456	-2	49,456
Employer Cases	48	53	-9	1,127	823	37	823
Fraud Cases	111	91	22	1,047	1,774	-41	1,774
Smuggling Cases	31	50	-38	332	445	-25	445

Data Source: PAS G-23.19 & 19.1

Criminal, Worksite, and Fraud Cases Successfully Completed



- Definitions:** Successful Completion: a case that has resulted in an adverse action such as a conviction, deportation, removal, denial, civil action, or cessation of targeted activity based on the outcome of the investigation. Case Types: Criminal alien cases include large-scale organizations engaged in ongoing criminal activity and individual aliens convicted of a crime such as drug trafficking or terrorism. Employer cases include investigations that target employers who knowingly hire or who continue to employ illegal aliens. Fraud cases include marriage fraud, immigration benefit fraud, Employer Sanctions document fraud, and entitlement fraud. Smuggling cases involve those which target persons or entities who bring, transport, harbor, or smuggle illegal aliens into or within the United States.

ASYLUM

The number of applications for asylum in September 2002 decreased 24 percent compared to the number filed in September 2001. The pending caseload was 6 percent lower than in the same month last year.

	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 2001
	Sep-2002	Sep-2001	%Change	FY 2002 to Date	FY 2001 to Date	%Change	
Cases Filed	4,937	6,466	-24	66,577	66,356	0	66,356
Approved	1,580	1,435	10	19,611	20,651	-5	20,651
Denied	1,453	837	74	15,734	13,044	21	13,044
Otherwise Closed	6,172	1,624	280	32,527	22,718	43	22,718
Referred to IJ	1,553	1,196	30	18,529	14,296	30	14,296
Pending	303,828	324,242	-6	303,828	324,242	-6	324,242

Immigration Judges at the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR).

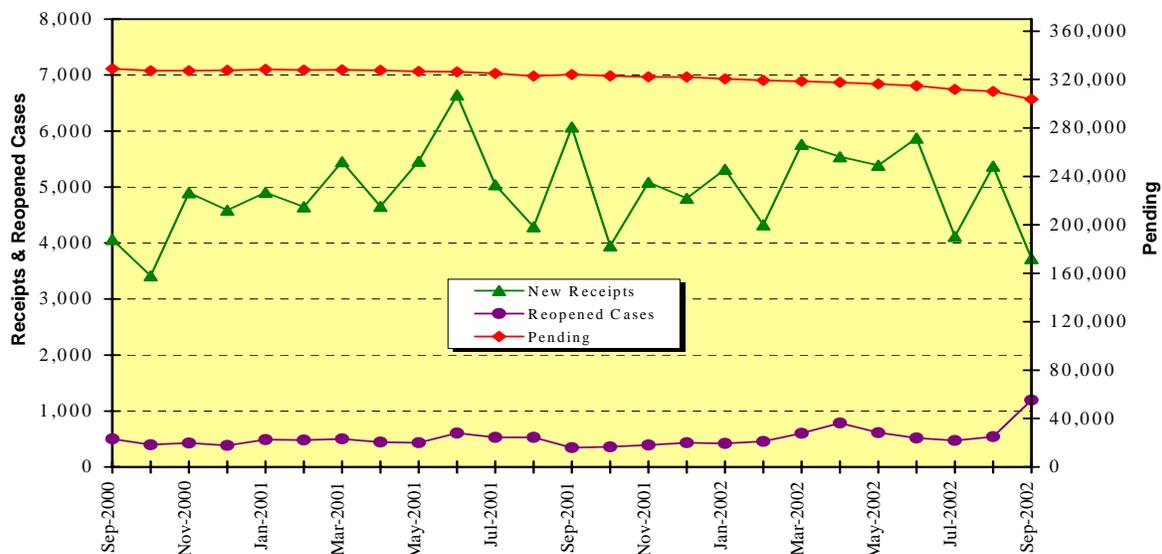
Cases filed - includes both new and reopened applications.

Denied - includes applications rejected under the one-year filing deadline.

Data Source: RAPS

Data are preliminary, for revised tables visit the "Asylees" page of the Statistical Yearbook at:
www.immigration.gov/graphics/shared/aboutus/statistics/index.htm

Asylum Applications Received, Reopened Cases & Pending



- Nationals of the People’s Republic of China submitted the most asylum applications in September 2002, followed by Colombia and Mexico.
- Almost 86 percent of the pending caseload involves aliens whose cases may be adjudicated under one of the provisions of the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act of 1997 (NACARA) or the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act of 1998 (HRIFA) rather than through an asylum process. The pending caseload excluding those special-group cases is approximately 41,400 cases.