

Length of Visit of Nonimmigrants Departing the United States in 2003

Elizabeth M. Grieco

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Each year, millions of nonimmigrants, including tourists, business travelers, students, and diplomats, enter the United States. In 2003¹, there were an estimated 181 million nonimmigrant admissions². But how long after arrival do nonimmigrants typically remain in the United States? This Office of Immigration Statistics *Working Paper* examines the length of visit of nonimmigrants who departed the country in 2003.

The primary source of data on nonimmigrant admissions and departures is the Nonimmigrant Information System (NIIS) of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). NIIS compiles and maintains data collected from the Arrival-Departure Record, also known as Form I-94. Nonimmigrants arriving by air, land, or sea are required to complete Form I-94, with two important exceptions. Canadians who travel to the United States as tourists or on business generally do not need the I-94 Form. Also, certain Mexicans who have a nonresident alien Border Crossing Card, commonly known as a laser visa or multiple entry visa, may not require the I-94 Form for entry. These exceptions are significant because Canadian and Mexican citizens make up the vast majority of all nonimmigrant admissions. Of the 181 million nonimmigrant admissions in 2003, an estimated 157 million³ were Canadian and Mexican citizens who were not required to complete an I-94 Form.

The NIIS data, while limited in scope, represent the best available source for estimating the time spent by nonimmigrants in the country per visit. While it excludes the majority of short-term admissions from Canada and Mexico, NIIS does capture short-term admissions, including tourists, business travelers, and transit aliens, from all other countries. NIIS also captures temporary residents, such as students and high-skilled workers, long-term residents, such as fiancés(ées) of U.S. citizens, and diplomats, such as ambassadors and consular officers, from all countries, including Canada and Mexico. In 2003, NIIS recorded 27.8 million arrivals and 23.6 million departures.

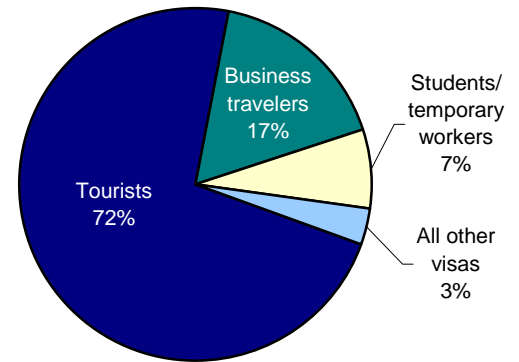
¹Years refer to fiscal years (October 1 to September 30).
²Note that the 181 million nonimmigrant admissions for fiscal year 2003 exclude sea and air crew admissions (D-1 and D-2 visas).
³Estimate based on data derived from both NIIS (Arrival File, FY 2003) and the Performance Analysis System (PAS).

This report uses NIIS data to describe the average period of time nonimmigrants who departed in 2003 had remained in the United States. In summary, over 89 percent of nonimmigrants entered as short-term visitors, either as tourists or business travelers (see Figure 1), and usually remained between a few days to a few weeks. Students and temporary workers, who represented 7 percent, usually stayed for 26 weeks, or about one-half year, per visit. This analysis was prepared in response to Section 103(c) and (d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which mandates an annual report to Congress on the duration of stay of nonimmigrants in the United States.

DEFINING "NONIMMIGRANT"

A nonimmigrant is a foreign national seeking to enter the United States temporarily for a specific purpose. Nonimmigrants are admitted for a temporary period of time and, once in the country, are restricted to the activity or reason for which their visa was issued.

Figure 1.
Percent Distribution of Nonimmigrant Departures by Broad Class of Admission: Fiscal Year 2003



Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Nonimmigrant Information System (NIIS), Departure File, FY2003. Based on 22.1 million matched records with valid dates of arrival and departure. Excludes majority of short-term nonimmigrants from Canada and Mexico.



Nonimmigrant Visas and Authorized Period of Stay

Nonimmigrant visas allow foreign nationals to travel to a U.S. port of entry, such as an international airport, a seaport, or a land border crossing. However, they do not guarantee entry. At the port of entry, an immigration officer of CBP authorizes a traveler's admission into the United States and the period of stay (i.e., the length of time the bearer of a nonimmigrant visa is allowed to remain in the United States) for that visit. The initial authorized stay is noted in the I-94 Form CBP issues to the nonimmigrant.

Nonimmigrant visa holders may apply to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to extend their initial period of stay provided they meet certain eligibility requirements. The initial stay and extensions of stay for each nonimmigrant visa are shown in Appendix 1. Many visas are valid for several years, allowing those visa holders to enter the United States multiple times. Nonimmigrants on long-term visas, however, are still issued an authorized period of stay by CBP each time they are admitted.

Nonimmigrants are not permanent residents but some may apply to adjust their status to lawful permanent residence (i.e., obtain a "green card") if they meet certain eligibility requirements. A nonimmigrant visa, however, does not necessarily lead to permanent resident status.

Visit, Multiple Entries and Departures, and Length of Temporary Residence

In this report, a *visit* refers to the time between a nonimmigrant entry and departure. Nonimmigrants such as tourists usually make single visits to the United States, arriving and departing only once. By comparison, nonimmigrants on long-term visas, such as temporary workers, diplomats, and students, often make multiple visits, arriving and departing several times during the period their visas are valid.

Note that the term visit refers to the trip, not the traveler. A tourist, for example, who came to the United States during a year for a four-week vacation made a single visit. A business traveler who made three one-week trips during the same

year made three visits. While the length of visit of most nonimmigrants is relatively short, lasting from a few days to a few weeks, visits can last for longer periods of time. A university student, for example, who remained in the country for four years made a single four-year visit.

Nonimmigrants on long-term visas who reside in the United States for extended periods often make multiple visits into and out of the country during their stay. For these nonimmigrants, the length of temporary residence encompasses multiple visits. For example, a temporary worker who resided in the United States for two years but left the country for four weeks at the end of the first eleven months would have made two visits (the first for 11 months and the second for 12 months) even though the actual length of temporary residence was two years.

This *Working Paper* analyzes the average length of visit and *not* the length of temporary residence. For nonimmigrants on long-term visas, especially those classes where a high proportion make multiple entries and departures during their stay, the length of visit will underestimate – possibly significantly – the actual length of temporary residence. Caution should be used when drawing conclusions about the length of temporary residence for long-term visa holders using the length of visit data provided in this report.

DATA AND METHODS

The data presented in this report are derived from the Nonimmigrant Information System of the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Customs and Border Protection. NIIS compiles and maintains information collected from nonimmigrants by DHS Form I-94, which asks for dates of arrival and departure as well as limited demographic information, such as name, sex, nationality, and date of birth. Each time a nonimmigrant enters the United States, the arrival portion of the I-94 Form is collected and the information is entered into the data system. Conversely, each time a nonimmigrant leaves the United States, the departure portion is collected and the additional information is entered into NIIS. The arrival and departure records are then electronically matched, producing a single record that includes

both the arrival and departure date. For this report, the length of visit in the United States was calculated using these matched arrival/departure records.

Data Presentation

This report uses five categories of admission to present the data, including 1) transit aliens, 2) short-term visitors, 3) students and temporary workers, 4) diplomats and other representatives, and 5) expected long-term residents. These five categories group visas based on both type and authorized period of stay.

Transit aliens, who are foreign nationals in immediate and continuous transit through the United States to foreign destinations, are included in the transit aliens category. Tourists and business travelers, who typically remain in the United States for a few days to a few weeks, are included in the short-term visitors category. Nonimmigrants who come to the United States to study or work and who usually remain in the country for several months to several years are included in the students and temporary workers category. Diplomats and representatives of international organizations, who typically remain in the United States for the duration of their service, are included in the diplomats and other representatives category. The expected long-term residents category includes those who arrived on nonimmigrant visas but are likely to become permanent residents, such as certain spouses and fiancés(ées) of U.S. citizens.

Matching Departure and Arrival Records

Nonimmigrant departure records were matched to arrival records using three criteria: the admission number included on the arrival and departure portions of the I-94 Form, the first letter of the nonimmigrant's last name, and the nonimmigrant's date of birth. Departures that occurred in 2003 were matched to arrivals that occurred between 1999 and 2003.

A total of 23.6 million nonimmigrant departures were recorded by NIIS during 2003. Of those, 22.1 million or 94 percent were matched to an arrival and showed valid arrival and departure dates (see Table 1).

The proportion of all admissions matched varies among the broad categories of admission. Short-term visitors had the highest match rate (95 percent), followed by diplomats and other representatives (93 percent), students and temporary workers (88 percent), and expected long-term residents (87 percent). Records missing the category of admission have the highest non-match rate (48 percent) but as a group represented less than 1 percent of all departures in 2003 (see Table 2).

Data Limitations. The length of visit estimates presented in this report are based on departures that occurred in 2003, were recorded by the NIIS data system, and were matched to arrivals that occurred between 1999 and 2003. In some cases, departures are not recorded by the NIIS data system, primarily because I-94 Forms are not always collected when nonimmigrants leave the United States. This would occur, for example, if an airline failed to collect the I-94 Form from departing air passengers or if nonimmigrants leave via land ports where there are less structured procedures to collect the forms. The exact number of uncollected departure forms is not known.

Even when a departure form is collected it may not be matched with an arrival form (see Table 1). Nonimmigrants who lose their departure forms are issued a second departure number, resulting in a non-match with the original I-94 Form number. Administrative or clerical error may mean the data collected was not correctly entered into the NIIS database, resulting in a non-match. Errors in the matching process may also affect the estimates.

As in any statistical analysis, the conclusions drawn from the calculated estimates may be biased if the missing data are significantly different from the data on which the analysis is based. Unfortunately, little is known about the extent of this potential bias or how it affects the data.

Methods of Analysis

In this report, the length of visit was calculated by subtracting the date of departure in 2003 from the date of arrival. Same-day departures were represented as one day. The mean, median, and frequency

Table 1.
Nonimmigrant Departures During Fiscal Year 2003 Matched to Nonimmigrant Arrivals, by Broad Category of Admission

Category of admission	Departure records		
	Number	Matched to arrival records ¹	Percent matched
Total	23,567,870	22,066,800	93.6
Transit aliens.....	510,906	408,765	80.0
Short-term visitors.....	20,782,452	19,712,202	94.9
Students and temporary workers.....	1,873,219	1,646,128	87.9
Diplomats and other representatives	216,894	202,766	93.5
Expected long-term residents	22,764	19,719	86.6
Unknown.....	161,635	77,220	47.8

¹Includes only those matched records with valid dates of arrival and departure. Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Nonimmigrant Information System (NIIS), Departure File, FY2003.

distribution of length of visit were calculated and are presented for each category of admission as well as class of admission (e.g., temporary visitors for business, exchange visitors, spouses and children of students) and visa type (e.g., H-1B, F-2, C-1) (see Table 3 to Table 8).

The mean length of visit represents the average number of days spent per trip by a nonimmigrant admitted to the United States. The median represents the number of days that divides the distribution of all lengths of visit in half, with half longer than the median and half shorter. The percentage of nonimmigrants remaining in the United States less than six months, six months to one year, and one year or more per visit are also shown.

RESULTS

Nonimmigrants included in NIIS who departed in 2003 remained in the United States an average, or mean, of 34 days, or just under five weeks, per visit (see Table 3). The median length of visit was eight days, indicating half of all departing nonimmigrants remained in the country for eight days or less. Over 95 percent of departing nonimmigrants remained for less than six months per trip, with approximately 4 percent remaining between six months and one year, and 1 percent remaining one year or more.

Transit Aliens

Transit aliens include foreign nationals in continuous and immediate transit through the United States as well as those in transit to and from the United Nations headquarters district in New York City. Of all

Table 2.
Percent Distribution of Departures by Broad Category of Admission: Fiscal Year 2003

Class of admission	Number	Percent of total
Total.....	22,066,800	100.0
Transit aliens	408,765	1.9
Short-term visitors	19,712,202	89.3
Students and temporary workers.....	1,646,128	7.5
Diplomats and other representatives.....	202,766	0.9
Expected long-term residents	19,719	0.1
Unknown.....	77,220	0.3

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Nonimmigrant Information System (NIIS), Departure File, FY2003.

Table 3.
Length of Visit of Nonimmigrants Who Departed During Fiscal Year 2003

Total matched records.....	22,066,800
<i>Mean and median</i>	
Mean (days) ¹	34
Median (days) ¹	8
<i>Percent distribution</i>	
Less than 6 months	95.1
6 months to 1 year	3.6
1 year and over.....	1.4

¹Same-day departures are represented as one day. Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Nonimmigrant Information System (NIIS), Departure File, FY 2003.

nonimmigrant departures included in NIIS in 2003, transit aliens represented less than 2 percent (see Table 2).

Transit aliens included in NIIS who departed in 2003 remained in the United States an average of five days per visit (see Table 4). The median length of visit was one day, indicating half of all departing transit aliens remained in the country for one day or less. Nearly all departing transit aliens remained in the country less than six months per trip.

Aliens in transit to the United Nations had the highest average length of visit (134 days per trip) but represented less than 1 percent of all transit aliens.

Short-Term Visitors

Short-term visitors include tourists and business travelers. Of all nonimmigrant departures included in NIIS in 2003, short-term visitors represented the largest group, accounting for over 89 percent (see Table 2).

Short-term visitors included in NIIS who departed in 2003 remained in the United States an average of 22 days, or just over three weeks, per visit (see Table 5). The median length of visit was seven days, indicating half of all departing short-term visitors remained in the country for one week or less. Of all departing short-term visitors, 97 percent remained for less than six months per trip, with 2 percent remaining between six months and one year, and less than 1 percent remaining one year or more.

On average, tourists stayed in the country an average of 24 days per visit while business travelers remained 11 days each trip.

Students and Temporary Workers

Students and temporary workers include students, exchange visitors, representatives of foreign media, temporary workers and trainees, treaty traders and investors, intracompany transferees, NAFTA workers, and their families. Of all nonimmigrant departures included in NIIS in 2003, students and temporary workers represented 7 percent of the total (see Table 2).

Students and temporary workers included in NIIS who departed in 2003 remained in the United States an average of 180 days, or about 26 weeks, per visit (see Table 6). The median length of visit was 109 days, indicating half of all students and temporary workers who departed remained in the country for 16 weeks or less. Approximately 67 percent of all departing students and temporary workers remained for less than six months per trip, with 19 percent remaining between six months and one year, and 13 percent remaining for one year or more.

Among all students and temporary workers, students had the greatest length of visit, with 314 days per trip, followed by the spouses and children of students, with 256 days per visit, NAFTA workers and

their families, with 254 days per trip, and spouses and children of temporary workers and trainees, with 192 days per trip.

Diplomats and Other Representatives

Diplomats and other representatives include foreign government officials, such as ambassadors and consular officers, representatives to international organizations, such as the United Nations and World Bank, and NATO officials, and their families, attendants, and personal employees. Of all nonimmigrant departures included in NIIS in 2003, diplomats and other representatives represented less than 1 percent of the total (see Table 2).

Diplomats and other representatives included in NIIS who departed in 2003 remained in the United States an average

Table 4.
Length of Visit of Transit Aliens Who Departed During Fiscal Year 2003, by Class of Admission

Category and class of admission	Matched records (number)	Length of visit				
		Mean (days) ¹	Median (days) ¹	Less than 6 months (percent)	6 months to 1 year (percent)	One year and over (percent)
Transit aliens.....	408,765	5	1	99.5	0.4	0.1
Aliens in transit (C-1).....	168,222	8	1	99.2	0.5	0.2
Aliens in transit to the United Nations (C-2).....	1,637	134	63	73.3	17.4	9.3
Foreign government officials and families in transit (C-3).....	8,496	4	1	99.6	0.3	--
Transit without visa (C-4).....	230,410	2	1	99.8	0.1	--

-- Figure rounds to 0.0. ¹Same-day departures are represented as one day. Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Nonimmigrant Information System (NIIS), Departure File, FY2003.

Table 5.
Length of Visit of Short-Term Visitors Who Departed During Fiscal Year 2003, by Class of Admission

Category and class of admission	Matched records (number)	Length of visit				
		Mean (days) ¹	Median (days) ¹	Less than 6 months (percent)	6 months to 1 year (percent)	One year and over (percent)
Short-term visitors.....	19,717,202	22	7	97.4	2.2	0.3
Temporary visitors for business.....	3,718,251	11	5	99.3	0.5	0.2
Business (B-1).....	1,889,980	15	6	98.8	0.9	0.3
Visa waiver (WB).....	1,827,070	8	5	99.8	0.1	0.1
Visa waiver, Guam (GB).....	1,201	4	4	99.9	0.1	--
Temporary visitors for pleasure.....	15,993,951	24	8	97.0	2.6	0.4
Pleasure (B-2).....	5,622,514	48	13	92.0	7.2	0.8
Visa waiver (WT).....	10,283,665	11	7	99.7	0.1	0.1
Visa waiver, Guam (GT).....	87,697	4	3	99.9	--	--
Bering Strait agreement entrants (BE).....	75	60	20	86.7	10.7	2.7

-- Figure rounds to 0.0. ¹Same-day departures are represented as one day. Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Nonimmigrant Information System (NIIS), Departure File, FY2003.

of 79 days, or just over 11 weeks, per visit (see Table 7). The median length of visit was 19 days, indicating half of all diplomats and other representatives who departed remained in the country for less than three weeks. Approximately 87 percent of all departing diplomats and other representatives remained for less than six months per trip, with 9 percent remaining between six months and one year, and 4 percent remaining for one year or more.

Expected Long-Term Residents

Nonimmigrants classified as expected long-term residents are likely to remain permanently in the United States. This category includes certain foreign spouses

and fiancés(ées) of U.S. citizens and the children of those alien spouses and fiancés(ées). It also includes victims of trafficking and criminal activity and other special immigrants. Of all nonimmigrant departures included in NIIS in 2003, expected long-term residents represent less than one-half of 1 percent of the total.

Expected long-term residents included in NIIS who departed in 2003 remained in the United States an average of 227 days, or over 32 weeks, per visit (see Table 8). The median length of visit was 224 days, indicating half of all departing expected long-term residents remained in the country for 32 weeks or

less. Approximately 44 percent of all expected long-term residents who departed remained for less than six months per trip, with 40 percent remaining between six months and one year, and 16 percent remaining for one year or more.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the Office of Immigration Statistics web page at uscis.gov/graphics/shared/statistics.

Table 6.

Length of Visit of Students and Temporary Workers Who Departed During Fiscal Year 2003, by Class of Admission

Category and class of admission	Matched records (number)	Length of visit				
		Mean (days) ¹	Median (days) ¹	Less than 6 months (percent)	6 months to 1 year (percent)	One year and over (percent)
Students and temporary workers	1,646,128	180	109	67.3	19.4	13.3
Treaty traders and investors and families	137,924	111	57	80.6	13.6	5.8
Treaty traders, spouses, and children (E-1)	36,489	114	60	79.8	13.9	6.3
Treaty investors, spouses, and children (E-2)	101,435	110	56	80.9	13.5	5.6
Students	334,866	314	220	44.8	24.9	30.3
Academic students (F-1)	329,844	316	224	44.4	24.9	30.6
Vocational students (M-1)	5,022	147	101	70.2	21.9	7.9
Spouses and children of students	22,331	256	190	48.4	29.8	21.7
Spouses and children of academic students (F-2)	21,729	260	199	47.4	30.3	22.2
Spouses and children of vocational students (M-2)	602	85	29	85.5	10.8	3.7
Temporary workers and trainees	397,506	153	86	70.6	19.4	10.0
Registered nurses (H-1A)	449	199	165	57.9	29.0	13.1
Specialty occupations (H-1B)	262,880	173	91	68.4	18.0	13.6
Nurses under the Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Act (H-1C)	18	189	120	66.7	11.1	22.2
Agricultural workers (H-2A)	8,095	154	139	66.2	31.7	2.1
Nonagricultural workers (H-2B)	45,963	171	170	54.5	44.1	1.4
Industrial trainees (H-3)	1,997	158	99	69.3	22.4	8.4
Workers with extraordinary ability/achievement (O-1)	20,469	76	30	88.1	8.7	3.1
Workers accompanying and assisting in performance of O-1 workers (O-2)	4,139	41	10	94.8	3.6	1.6
Internationally recognized athletes or entertainers (P-1)	31,296	41	11	94.1	4.7	1.2
Artists or entertainers in reciprocal exchange programs (P-2)	1,463	82	21	83.9	12.7	3.3
Artists or entertainers in culturally unique programs (P-3)	7,247	35	14	96.8	1.9	1.4
Workers in international cultural exchange programs (Q-1)	1,250	194	164	52.5	34.9	12.6
Workers in religious occupations (R-1)	12,240	169	94	68.4	19.1	12.5
Spouses and children of temporary workers and trainees	76,996	192	138	49.0	26.3	24.7
Spouses and children of H-1, H-2, and H-3 workers (H-4)	70,597	268	198	47.4	26.7	25.9
Spouses and children of O-1 and O-2 workers (O-3)	2,618	166	98	68.7	19.9	11.4
Spouses and children of P-1, P-2, and P-3 workers (P-4)	1,065	144	109	68.8	25.4	5.8
Spouses and children of R-1 workers (R-2)	2,716	179	110	63.8	22.3	13.9
Representatives (and families) of foreign information media (I-1)	27,403	49	9	92.6	5.2	2.2
Exchange visitors	277,534	159	113	73.3	18.9	7.8
Principals (J-1)	248,321	148	110	76.4	17.4	6.2
Spouses and children of exchange visitors (J-2)	29,213	253	196	47.2	31.4	21.4
Intracompany transferees	348,144	110	54	80.5	13.6	5.9
Principals (L-1)	247,850	83	37	87.2	9.1	3.7
Spouses and children of intracompany transferees (L-2)	100,294	177	128	64.1	24.6	11.3
Irish Peace Process Cultural Training Program (Q-2 and Q-3)	373	172	148	59.0	33.2	7.8
NAFTA	23,051	254	315	35.3	51.0	13.6
Professional workers, NAFTA (TN)	18,983	246	311	37.1	50.2	12.7
Spouses and children of NAFTA workers (TD)	4,068	293	326	27.2	54.8	18.0

¹ Same-day departures are represented as one day. Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Nonimmigrant Information System (NIIS), Departure File, FY2003.

Table 7.

Length of Visit of Diplomats and Other Representatives Who Departed During Fiscal Year 2003, by Class of Admission

Category and class of admission	Matched records (number)	Length of visit				
		Mean (days) ¹	Median (days) ¹	Less than 6 months (percent)	6 months to 1 year (percent)	One year and over (percent)
Diplomats and other representatives	202,766	79	19	86.5	9.2	4.3
Foreign government officials and families	111,359	74	10	86.8	8.8	4.5
Ambassadors, public ministers, career diplomatic or consular officers (A-1).....	20,589	128	60	75.8	16.1	8.1
Other foreign government officials or employees (A-2).....	89,686	59	8	89.7	6.8	3.5
Attendants, servants, or personal employees of A-1, A-2 (A-3).....	1,084	233	165	52.5	27.9	19.6
Representatives (and families) to international organizations.....	82,450	80	32	87.6	8.8	3.6
Principals of recognized foreign governments (G-1).....	9,371	139	76	74.0	18.0	8.0
Other representatives of recognized foreign governments (G-2).....	9,068	24	7	97.5	1.8	0.7
Representatives of nonrecognized foreign governments (G-3)	302	62	18	89.7	9.3	1.0
International organization officers or employees (G-4)	62,852	77	34	88.8	8.2	3.1
Attendants, servants, or personal employees of representatives (G-5).....	857	271	229	45.7	29.5	24.7
NATO officials and families (N-1 to N-7).....	8,957	128	58	73.5	18.5	8.0

¹Same-day departures are represented as one day. Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Nonimmigrant Information System (NIIS), Departure File, FY2003.

Table 8.

Length of Visit of Expected Long-Term Residents Who Departed During Fiscal Year 2003, by Class of Admission

Category and class of admission	Matched records (number)	Duration of stay				
		Mean (days) ¹	Median (days) ¹	Less than 6 months (percent)	6 months to 1 year (percent)	One year and over (percent)
Expected long-term residents	19,719	227	224	43.7	40.1	16.2
Spouses and fiancés(ées) of U.S. citizens.....	6,321	192	138	59.4	26.4	14.2
Fiancés(ées) of U.S. citizens (K-1)	3,889	220	161	54.0	28.2	17.7
Children of fiancés(ées) of U.S. citizens (K-2)	658	168	95	64.0	22.9	13.1
Spouse of U.S. citizen (K-3).....	1,546	136	98	70.3	22.6	7.1
Child of U.S. citizen (K-4).....	228	153	129	64.0	30.3	5.7
International organization special immigrant (N-8 to N-9).....	52	105	39	80.8	9.6	9.6
Victims of a severe form of trafficking (and spouses, children, and parents) (T-1 to T-4)	449	132	111	74.2	23.6	2.2
Victims of criminal activity (and spouses, children, and parents) (U-1 to U-4).....	134	153	114	68.7	24.6	6.7
Spouse or child of a lawful permanent resident who has been waiting 3 years or more for an immigrant visa (and dependent children) (V-1 to V-3).....	12,763	249	302	34.4	47.7	17.9

¹Same-day departures are represented as one day. Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Nonimmigrant Information System (NIIS), Departure File, FY2003.

Appendix 1.

Class of Admission, Showing Time Limits Associated with Each Nonimmigrant Visa

Class of admission	Initial stay	Extension	Maximum stay
TRANSIT ALIENS			
C-1, C-3 ¹	Up to 29 days	No	Up to 29 days
C-2	Duration of status	N/A	Duration of status
C-4	Up to 8 hours or next available flight	No	Up to 8 hours or next available flight
SHORT-TERM VISITORS			
B-1	Variable, up to 1 year	Yes	Up to 6 months per extension. No maximum number of extensions.
B-2	Standard admission is not more than 6 months. May be admitted for longer period, not exceeding 1 year, in special circumstances.	Yes	Up to 6 months per extension. No maximum number of extensions.
BE, WB, WT	90 days	No	90 days
GB, GT	15 days	No	15 days
STUDENTS AND TEMPORARY WORKERS			
E-1, E-2	Variable, up to 2 years	Yes	Up to 2 years per extension. No maximum number of extensions, with some exceptions.
F-1, F-2, J-1, J-2	Duration of status	N/A	Duration of status
M-1, M-2	Variable, up to 1 year	Yes	Up to 1 year per extension. No maximum number of extensions.
H-1A ²	Variable, up to 3 years	Yes	Up to 3 years per extension. Total stay limited to 5 years, with some exceptions.
H-1B	Variable, up to 3 years	Yes	Up to 3 years per extension. Total stay limited to 6 years, with some exceptions.
H-1C	Variable, up to 3 years	Yes	Total stay limited to 3 years
H-2A, H-2B	Variable, up to 1 year (same as validity of labor certification)	Yes	Up to 1 year per extension. Total uninterrupted stay resulting from extensions limited to 3 years.
H-3	Special education training, up to 18 months; other trainee, up to 2 years	Yes	Special education trainee, total stay limited to 18 months. Other trainee, total stay limited to 2 years.
H-4	Same as principal	Yes	Same as principal
I	Duration of employment	N/A	Duration of employment
L-1, L-2	Variable, up to 3 years	Yes	Up to 2 years per extension. Those with specialized knowledge limited to 1 extension. Total limitation is 7 years for managers and executives and 5 years for those with specialized knowledge.
O-1, O-2, O-3	Variable, up to 3 years	Yes	Up to 1 year per extension. No maximum number of extensions.
P-1, P-2, P-3	Athletic and entertainment groups, up to 1 year. Individual athletes, up to 5 years.	Yes	Athletic and entertainment groups, up to 1 year per extension, with some exceptions. Individual athletes, up to 5 years per extension, total stay limited to 10 years.
P-4	Same as principal	Yes	Same as principal
Q-1	Variable, up to 15 months	Yes	Total stay limited to 15 months
Q-2, Q-3	Variable, up to 3 years	Yes	Total stay limited to 3 years
R-1, R-2	Variable, up to 3 years	Yes	Up to 2 years per extension. Total stay limited to 5 years.
TN, TD	Variable, up to 1 year	Yes	Up to 1 year per extension. No maximum number of extensions.
DIPLOMATS AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES			
A-1, A-2, G-1, G-2, G-3, G-4, N-1, N-2, N-3, N-4, N-5, N-6	Duration of status	N/A	Duration of status
A-3, G-5, N-7	Variable, up to 3 years	Yes	Up to 2 years per extension. No maximum number of extensions.
EXPECTED LONG-TERM RESIDENTS			
K-1, K-2	90 days	No	90 days to marry and apply to adjust status
K-3, K-4, V-1, V-2, V-3	Variable, up to 2 years	Yes (with restrictions)	Up to 2 years per extension. No maximum stay.
N-8, N-9	Variable, up to 3 years	Yes	Up to 3 years per extension. No maximum stay.
T-1, T-2, T-3, T-4	3 years	No	Victims of severe forms of trafficking may apply for permanent resident status 90 days before expiration of their 3 year admission period.
U-1, U-2, U-3, U-4	Regulations not yet published.	--	--

¹C-1 visas were suspended as of 8/2/2003. ²H-1A visa program ended in 1995. Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security