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Legal Immigration, Fiscal Year 1997

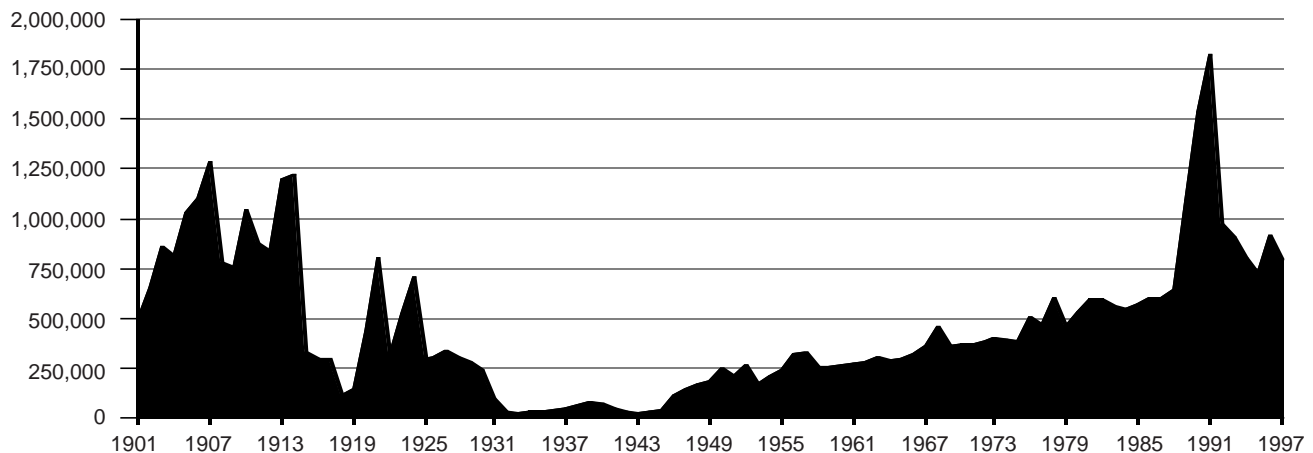
INTRODUCTION

The number of immigrants admitted for legal permanent residence in the United States in fiscal year 1997 (October 1, 1996-September 30, 1997) was 798,378 (see Chart 1). Included in this total were 380,718 aliens previously living abroad who obtained immigrant visas through the U.S. Department of State (DOS) and became legal

applications were pending a decision at INS at the end of the year (see Pending Adjustment of Status Applications section).

This report provides a summary of INS statistics on legal immigration for fiscal year 1997. Data on immigrant new arrivals were obtained from the Immigrant Visa and Alien Registration (OF-155A) of DOS. Data on immigrants who adjusted status

Chart 1. Legal Immigration: Fiscal Years 1901-97



permanent residents upon entry into the United States. The remaining 417,660 legal immigrants, including former undocumented immigrants, refugees and asylees, had been living in the United States an average of three years and adjusted status through the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).¹ Not included in fiscal year 1997 legal immigration are aliens whose adjustment of status

came from the application for adjustment of status (I-485) of INS. Further information about the data is included in the Appendix. An attached set of tables includes detailed statistical information for further reference.

¹ Refers to years spent in the previous nonimmigrant status; there may have been others preceding it.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ The number of aliens granted legal permanent residence was 13 percent lower in fiscal year 1997 (798,378) than in fiscal year 1996 (915,900). The decrease was due primarily to an increase in the number of adjustment of status applications pending a decision, not to a decline in the demand to immigrate.
- ❖ A reduction in the family preference limit from 311,819 to 226,000 also contributed to the decline in legal immigration between fiscal year 1996 and fiscal year 1997. The fiscal year 1996 limit was unusually high because of increases in adjustment of status applications pending a decision in fiscal year 1995 and the operation of the carryover provisions of immigration law.
- ❖ Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens increased both in number (from 302,090 to 322,440) and as a proportion of all immigrants (from 33.0 percent to 40.4 percent). There were few other major changes in the demographic composition of legal immigrants from fiscal year 1996 to fiscal year 1997.

Pending Adjustment of Status Applications

Legal immigration during fiscal year 1997, as well as in fiscal year 1995 and fiscal year 1996, was affected by an increase in adjustment of status applications pending a decision at INS. Prior to fiscal year 1995, applications pending had averaged about 120,000 each year. With the implementation of the Section 245 (i) provision of immigration law in fiscal year 1995, however, applications pending jumped to 321,000 (see Chart 2).² They continued to increase and reached 699,000 by the end of fiscal year 1997.

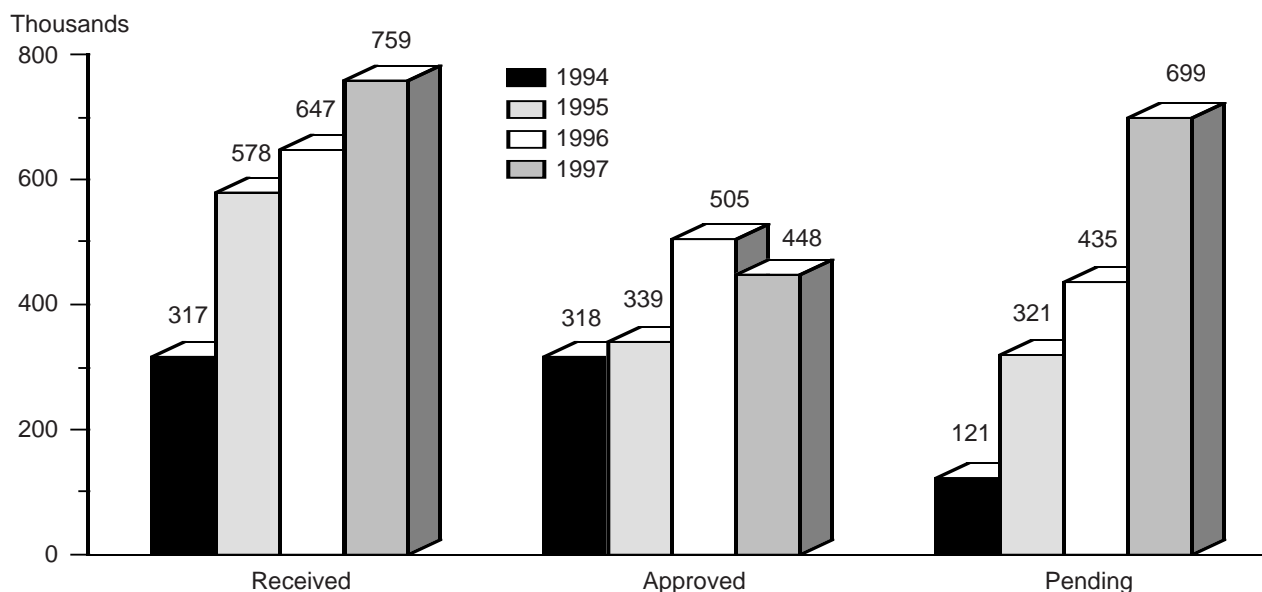
Section 245 (i) allowed illegal aliens who were living in the United States and eligible for legal permanent residence to pay a penalty fee and apply for adjustment of status at an INS office.³ Previously most illegal aliens were required to leave the country and obtain a visa abroad from the DOS. With Section 245 (i) in effect, the immigrant application workload shifted toward INS. Adjustment of status applications received by INS nearly doubled between fiscal year 1994 and fiscal year 1995 and continued to increase in fiscal year 1996 and fiscal year 1997. However, the number of applications approved failed to keep pace with the number received, thereby increasing the pending caseload.

It is difficult to estimate how much higher legal immigration would have been during fiscal years 1995-97 had adjustment of status applications pending not increased. The total increase in pending applications between the end of fiscal year 1994 (121,000) and the end of fiscal year 1997 (699,000) was 578,000. The potential increase in legal immigration depends on factors including the date of application, the class of admission, and whether or not the application is approved. This information is not available in automated form for pending applicants. INS considers estimates for the individual years too imprecise. However, for the entire three-year period, fiscal years 1995-97, it is estimated that approximately 350,000-450,000 out of the total 578,000 increase in pending caseload would have been included in the legal immigration numbers.

² Refugee and asylee adjustments of status applications are included to provide a complete picture of all adjustments of status. These two categories were not included in the adjustment of status application statistics cited in the Legal Immigration: Fiscal Year 1996 report because the focus then was on Section 245(i).

³ Section 245 (i) officially ended in January, 1998, but adjustments of status under this provision will continue for some time. A grandfather provision made eligible for adjustment the beneficiaries of an immigrant preference petition or labor certification application, including spouses and minor children, as long as they applied on or before the official ending date.

Chart 2. Immigrant Adjustment of Status Applications (I-485): Fiscal Years 1994-97



The upper bound estimate of 450,000 is based on the assumption that about 7 percent of applications would have been denied (the historical denial rate) and that 15 percent were family preference applicants (the proportion of all adjustment of status legal immigrants during fiscal years 1995-97), none of whom contributed to the increase in pending caseload. Family preference adjustment of status applications pending do not necessarily decrease legal immigration because the DOS, which regulates immigration under the preference system to match the annual limits as closely as possible, compensates by issuing visas to aliens abroad on a waiting list of applicants.⁴ The lower bound estimate of 350,000 takes into account the increase in the family preference limit in fiscal year 1996 attributable to pending adjustment of status applications in fiscal year 1995 (see Carryover Provisions section below).

These calculations suggest that legal immigration during fiscal years 1995-97 would have been about 120,000-150,000 higher on average per year without any increase in the pending caseload beyond the pre-Section 245(i) level. However, the average conceals some known sources of annual variation. Pending adjustment of status applications increased more during fiscal year 1995 and fiscal year 1997 than fiscal year 1996 when the increase in the family preference limit offset most of the loss from pending applications. Without pending adjustment of status applications, legal immigration in fiscal year 1995 and fiscal year 1997 might have been much higher and immigration in fiscal year 1996 marginally so, if higher at all. As a result, the annual trend in legal immigration during this period might have been one of modest or small increases rather than the fluctuations shown in the official statistics (804,416 in fiscal year 1994; 720,461 in fiscal year 1995; 915,900 in fiscal year 1996; and 798,378 in fiscal year 1997).

⁴ The DOS process tends to ensure that the total number of family preference applicants will be near the annual limit each year regardless of the number of pending adjustment of status applications even though individual applicants may experience delays. Unlike family preferences, there is little waiting for employment preferences (except the third preference for unskilled workers) so an increase in pending caseload would tend to decrease legal immigration.

Carryover Provisions of Immigration Law

The annual limits on family and employment preferences may fluctuate from year to year because

the previous year's total of preference immigrants, immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, and other small categories of immigrants affects the current year's limits (see Appendix). Unused family preferences are included in the calculation of the current year's employment preference limit. Unused employment preferences and the number of immediate relatives of U.S. citizens admitted for legal permanent residence are included in the calculation of the current year's family preference limit. In general, the family preference limit will be set above the minimum of 226,000 only when the previous year's total of immediate relatives of U.S. citizens minus the number of unused employment preferences falls below 254,000 (see Appendix for details). In fiscal year 1996, the limit was set at 311,819 because in 1995, the number of immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and employment preferences was much lower than expected due to increases in adjustment of status applications pending a decision. In 1997, the family preference limit was lowered to 226,000 because the large number of immediate relative immigrants in fiscal year 1996 offset the unused employment preferences that year by more than 254,000.

Demographic Characteristics of Legal Immigrants

Adjustment of status applications pending also may have affected the demographic composition of the legal immigrant population admitted in fiscal year 1997 and in the previous two years, fiscal year 1995 and fiscal year 1996. Caution should be exercised in drawing inferences about trends in immigration from the data in Tables 1-5.

Class of admission

The increase between fiscal year 1996 and fiscal year 1997 in the largest admission category, immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, was due to increases in the parents (from 66,699 to 74,114) and children (63,971 to 76,631) categories (see Table 1). Spouses, however, still accounted for the majority (170,263 or 52.8 percent) of immediate relatives of U.S. citizens admitted in fiscal year 1997.

The number of family-sponsored preference immigrants decreased from 294,174 in fiscal year 1996 to 213,331 in fiscal year 1997 due for the most part to the decrease in the annual limit in the second preference (spouses and children of legal permanent residents) to 114,200 from 200,019.

Family-sponsored immigrants (family preference immigrants and immediate relatives of U.S. citizens) accounted for two-thirds (67.1 percent) of all legal immigrants in fiscal year 1997 (see Chart 3). This represents an increase of nearly 10 percentage points since fiscal year 1994 (57.6 percent).

The number of employment-based preference immigrants decreased to 90,607 in fiscal year 1997 due to a decline of 20,160, or 32.1 percent, in third preference admissions. As of fiscal year 1997, employment-based immigration (excluding third preference admissions under the Chinese Student Protection Act) had not reached the annual limit of 140,000 set in 1992.

The number of legal immigrants in the two other major categories of admission—refugee adjustments of status and diversity immigrants—both decreased between fiscal year 1996 and fiscal year 1997. Although the number of Cuban refugee adjustments increased, total refugee adjustments of status decreased to 102,052 due to recent annual declines in the admission ceiling set by the President in consultation with Congress. The decrease in diversity immigration to 49,374 was consistent with the overall decline in legal immigration between fiscal year 1996 and fiscal year 1997.

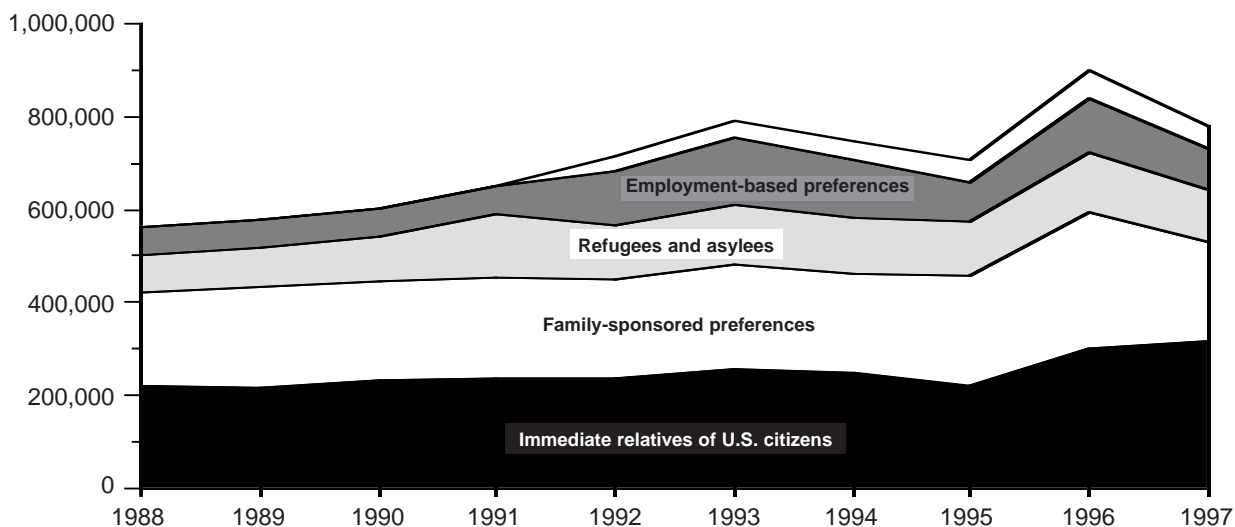
Region and country of birth

The leading regions and countries of birth for all legal immigrants were the same in fiscal year 1996 and fiscal year 1997 (see Table 2). North America was the leading region of birth of 38.5 percent of legal immigrants in fiscal year 1997, followed by Asia (33.3 percent) and Europe (15.0 percent). The top five sending countries did not change

between fiscal year 1996 and fiscal year 1997. They include Mexico, which was the country of birth of 18.4 percent of all legal immigrants in fiscal year 1997, followed by the Philippines, China, Vietnam, and India. These five sending countries were the birthplace of 39.3 percent of legal immigrants in fiscal year 1997. Cuba was the only sending country among the top 20 with a substantial increase in legal immigration between fiscal year 1996 and fiscal year 1997, due to an increase in Cuban refugee adjustments of status.

New York, NY was the top metropolitan area of intended residence of legal immigrants in fiscal year 1997, followed by Los Angeles, CA, Miami, FL, Chicago, IL and Washington, DC-MD-VA. One in three legal immigrants in fiscal year 1997, about the same proportion as in fiscal year 1996, intended to live in one of these five metropolitan areas. The increase in Cuban refugee adjustments between fiscal year 1996 and fiscal year 1997 accounted for most of the increase in legal immigration in Miami.

Chart 3. Legal Immigration by Admission Category Excluding IRCA: Fiscal Years 1988-97



State and metropolitan area of intended residence

The leading states and metropolitan areas of intended residence of legal immigrants in fiscal year 1997 were the same as those in fiscal years 1994-96 (see Table 3). California was the intended state of residence of one-quarter (25.5 percent) of legal immigrants in fiscal year 1997, followed by New York (15.5 percent) and Florida (10.3 percent), Texas (7.3 percent), and New Jersey (5.2 percent). These five states were the intended residence of more than 5 out of 8 legal immigrants in fiscal year 1997. California and Florida were the only leading states to show increases in legal immigration between fiscal year 1996 and fiscal year 1997.

Age, gender, and occupation

The age, gender, and occupational composition of legal immigrants in fiscal year 1997 were about the same as in fiscal years 1994-96. In fiscal year 1997, the majority (54.2 percent) were female (see Table 4). Median age was 28 years.

Less than one-half (46.7 percent) of legal immigrants ages 16-64 reported an occupation in fiscal year 1997 (see Table 5). Consistent with Census data on the foreign born population, the occupations most frequently mentioned by legal immigrants in fiscal year 1997 were: machine operators, fabricators and laborers; professional, specialty and technical occupations; and service occupations.

APPENDIX

Notes on Data

Terms and definitions — Legal immigrants according to immigration law are persons lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States. Other terms used in INS reports to refer to legal immigrants include: aliens who were granted legal permanent residence, aliens admitted for legal permanent residence, immigrants admitted, and admissions.

There are two general administrative paths open to aliens wishing to become legal permanent residents depending on their residence at the time of application. Aliens living abroad apply for an immigrant visa at a consular office of the Department of State. Once issued a visa, they may enter the United States. They are granted legal permanent residence at the time they pass through the port of entry. Aliens already living in the United States, including certain undocumented immigrants, temporary workers, foreign students, and refugees, become legal immigrants by filing an application with INS for adjustment of status to legal permanent residence. Adjustment of status applicants are granted legal permanent residence at the time their applications are approved. New legal immigrants are automatically authorized to work. They should receive alien registration cards (“green cards”) within several weeks of becoming legal permanent residents, but in recent years this process has sometimes taken longer.

Fiscal year legal immigration — INS tabulates data on legal immigrants each fiscal year. Technically, however, each year’s total includes a small number of aliens granted legal permanent residence in previous fiscal years on whom demographic information had not been entered into the automated systems used to generate the annual data.

Data quality — During fiscal year 1997, INS began to transition immigrant application processing from the Immigrant Card Facility (ICF) to the Computer Linked Applicant Information Management System (CLAIMS). This transition required changes in data entry procedures and data extraction routines. The completeness and accuracy of the fiscal year 1997 data were evaluated, and an unacceptably high number of records were found with missing or invalid information. Efforts are under way to correct such problems.

Preference Limits

The Immigration Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-649) restructured the immigrant categories of admission and made other modifications to the Immigration and Nationality Act. The 1990 Act divided the preference classes into two general categories: family-sponsored and employment-based. Limits on the number of visas issued in these two categories are determined annually.

Family-sponsored limits — The worldwide level for family-sponsored preferences is calculated as: 480,000 *minus* the number of aliens who were issued visas or adjusted to legal permanent residence in the previous fiscal year as 1) immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, 2) children born subsequent to the issuance of a visa to an accompanying parent, and 3) children born abroad to lawful permanent residents on temporary trips abroad, *plus* unused employment preferences in the previous fiscal year.

The 1990 Act specifies that the family-sponsored limit may not go below a minimum of 226,000 in any year. The number of legal permanent residents issued visas or who adjusted in fiscal year 1996 under categories 1-3 listed above was 306,489, and 21,173 employment-based visas were unused in 1996. The 1997 family-sponsored limit, therefore, was set to 226,000 (480,000 - 306,489 + 21,173 = 194,684 which is below 226,000). The limits for each of the family-sponsored preferences and their descriptions are shown below.

Employment-based limits — The 1990 Act specifies that the worldwide limit on employment-based preference immigrants is equal to 140,000 plus unused family-preference visas in the previous year. The limit for fiscal year 1997 was set to 140,000 (140,000 + no unused family-preference visas in 1996 = 140,000).

Per-country limits — The per-country limit on preference immigration for independent countries

is set to 7 percent of the total family and employment limits (226,000+140,000=366,000), while dependent areas are limited to 2 percent of the total. The 1997 limit for independent foreign states is 25,620 (7 percent of 366,000) and the limit for dependencies was 7,320 (2 percent of 366,000).

Diversity limits — This classification became effective in fiscal year 1995. The annual limit is set at 55,000.

Categories of Immigrants Included in World-Wide Annual Limit Specified in Section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act: Unadjusted and Fiscal Year 1997 Limits

PREFERENCE	DESCRIPTION	UNADJUSTED LIMIT	LIMIT
Family-sponsored immigrants		480,000 ¹	480,000 ¹
Family-sponsored preferences		226,000	226,000
First	Unmarried sons and daughters of U.S. citizens and their children	23,400 ²	23,400 ²
Second	Spouses, children, and unmarried sons and daughters of permanent resident aliens	114,200 ³	114,200 ³
Third	Married sons and daughters of U.S. citizens	23,400 ³	23,400 ³
Fourth	Brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens (at least 21 years of age)	65,000 ³	65,000 ³
Immediate relatives of adult U.S. citizens (spouses, children, and parents) and children born abroad to alien residents		Not limited; assumed to be 254,000 ¹	254,000 ¹
Employment-based preferences		140,000	140,000
First	Priority workers	40,040 ⁴	40,040 ⁴
Second	Professionals with advanced degrees or aliens of exceptional ability	40,040 ³	40,040 ³
Third	Skilled workers, professionals, needed unskilled workers, and Chinese Student Protection Act immigrants	40,040 ³	40,040 ³
Fourth	Special immigrants	9,940	9,940
Fifth	Employment creation (“Investors”)	9,940	9,940
Diversity		55,000	55,000
TOTAL		675,000	675,000

Note: The annual limits are adjusted based on visa usage in the previous year.

¹ The number of immediate relatives of U.S. citizens included in these figures is assumed to be 254,000. Immediate relatives may enter without any limitation, however, the limit for family-sponsored preference immigrants in a fiscal year is equal to 480,000 minus the number of immediate relatives admitted in the preceding year. The limit of family-sponsored preference visas cannot go below a minimum of 226,000—the worldwide limit of 480,000 minus 254,000. ² Plus unused family 4th preference visas. ³ Visas not used in higher preferences may be used in these categories. ⁴ Plus unused employment 4th and 5th preference visas.

Table 1. Immigrants Admitted by Major Category of Admission: Fiscal Years 1994-97

Category of admission	1997		1996		1995		1994	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All categories	798,378	100.0	915,900	100.0	720,461	100.0	804,416	100.0
New arrivals	380,718	47.7	421,405	46.0	380,291	52.8	490,429	61.0
Adjustments of status	417,660	52.3	494,495	54.0	340,170	47.2	313,987	39.0
Categories related to world-wide limits	675,816	84.6	772,737	84.4	593,234	82.3	662,029	82.3
Family-sponsored immigrants	535,771	67.1	596,264	65.1	460,376	63.9	463,608	57.6
Family-sponsored preferences	213,331	26.7	294,174	32.1	238,122	33.1	211,961	26.3
Unmarried sons/daughters of U.S. citizens	22,536	2.8	20,909	2.3	15,182	2.1	13,181	1.6
Spouses and children of alien residents	113,681	14.2	182,834	20.0	144,535	20.1	115,000	14.3
Married sons/daughters of U.S. citizens	21,943	2.7	25,452	2.8	20,876	2.9	22,191	2.8
Siblings of U.S. citizens	55,171	6.9	64,979	7.1	57,529	8.0	61,589	7.7
Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens ¹	322,440	40.4	302,090	33.0	222,254	30.8	251,647	31.3
Spouses	170,263	21.3	169,760	18.5	123,238	17.1	145,247	18.1
Parents	74,114	9.3	66,699	7.3	48,382	6.7	56,370	7.0
Children	76,631	9.6	63,971	7.0	48,740	6.8	48,147	6.0
Children born abroad to alien residents	1,432	.2	1,660	.2	1,894	.3	1,883	.2
Legalization dependents	64	Z	184	Z	277	Z	34,074	4.2
Employment-based preferences ..	90,607	11.3	117,499	12.8	85,336	11.8	123,291	15.3
Priority workers	21,810	2.7	27,501	3.0	17,339	2.4	21,053	2.6
Professionals with advanced degree or of exceptional ability	17,059	2.1	18,462	2.0	10,475	1.5	14,432	1.8
Skilled, professionals, unskilled ..	42,596	5.3	62,756	6.9	50,245	7.0	76,956	9.6
Chinese Student Protection Act	142	Z	401	Z	4,213	.6	21,297	2.6
Needed unskilled workers	8,702	1.1	11,849	1.3	7,884	1.1	9,390	1.2
Other skilled, professionals ..	33,752	4.2	50,506	5.5	38,148	5.3	46,269	5.8
Special immigrants	7,781	1.0	7,844	.9	6,737	.9	10,406	1.3
Investors	1,361	.2	936	.1	540	.1	444	.1
Diversity programs	49,374	6.2	58,790	6.4	47,245	6.6	41,056	5.1
Permanent	49,360	6.2	58,245	6.4	40,301	5.6	X	Z
Transition	14	Z	545	.1	6,944	1.0	41,056	5.1
Other categories	122,562	15.4	143,163	15.6	127,227	17.7	142,387	17.7
Amerasians	738	.1	956	.1	939	.1	2,822	.4
Parolees, Soviet and Indochinese	1,844	.2	2,269	.2	3,086	.4	8,253	1.0
Refugees and asylees	112,158	14.0	128,565	14.0	114,664	15.9	121,434	15.1
Refugee adjustments	102,052	12.8	118,528	12.9	106,827	14.8	115,451	14.4
Asylee adjustments	10,106	1.3	10,037	1.1	7,837	1.1	5,983	.7
Suspension of deportation ²	4,628	.6	5,811	.6	3,168	.4	2,220	.3
Total, IRCA legalization	2,548	.3	4,635	.5	4,267	.6	6,022	.7
Residents since 1982	1,439	.2	3,286	.4	3,124	.4	4,436	.6
Special Agricultural Workers	1,109	.1	1,349	.1	1,143	.2	1,586	.2
Other	646	.1	927	.1	1,103	.2	1,636	.2

¹ May enter without limitation; the number admitted may affect the limit on family-sponsored preference immigrants in the following year.

² Became cancellation of removal effective April 1, 1997 with the implementation of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996.

X Not applicable. Z Rounds to less than .05 percent.

Table 2. Immigrants Admitted by Region and Selected Country of Birth: Fiscal Years 1994-97

Region and country of birth	1997		1996		1995		1994	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All countries	798,378	100.0	915,900	100.0	720,461	100.0	804,416	100.0
Africa	47,790	6.0	52,889	5.8	42,456	5.9	26,712	3.3
Asia	265,786	33.3	307,807	33.6	267,931	37.2	292,589	36.4
Europe	119,898	15.0	147,581	16.1	128,185	17.8	160,916	20.0
North America	307,488	38.5	340,540	37.2	231,526	32.1	272,226	33.8
Caribbean	105,299	13.2	116,801	12.8	96,788	13.4	104,804	13.0
Central America	43,676	5.5	44,289	4.8	31,814	4.4	39,908	5.0
Other North America	158,513	19.9	179,450	19.6	102,924	14.3	127,514	15.9
Oceania	4,342	.5	5,309	.6	4,695	.7	4,592	.6
South America	52,877	6.6	61,769	6.7	45,666	6.3	47,377	5.9
Unknown	197	Z	5	Z	2	Z	4	Z
1. Mexico	146,865	18.4	163,572	17.9	89,932	12.5	111,398	13.8
2. Philippines	49,117	6.2	55,876	6.1	50,984	7.1	53,535	6.7
3. China	41,147	5.2	41,728	4.6	35,463	4.9	53,985	6.7
4. Vietnam	38,519	4.8	42,067	4.6	41,752	5.8	41,345	5.1
5. India	38,071	4.8	44,859	4.9	34,748	4.8	34,921	4.3
6. Cuba	33,587	4.2	26,466	2.9	17,937	2.5	14,727	1.8
7. Dominican Republic	27,053	3.4	39,604	4.3	38,512	5.3	51,189	6.4
8. El Salvador	17,969	2.3	17,903	2.0	11,744	1.6	17,644	2.2
9. Jamaica	17,840	2.2	19,089	2.1	16,398	2.3	14,349	1.8
10. Russia	16,632	2.1	19,668	2.1	14,560	2.0	15,249	1.9
11. Ukraine	15,696	2.0	21,079	2.3	17,432	2.4	21,010	2.6
12. Haiti	15,057	1.9	18,386	2.0	14,021	1.9	13,333	1.7
13. Korea	14,239	1.8	18,185	2.0	16,047	2.2	16,011	2.0
14. Colombia	13,004	1.6	14,283	1.6	10,838	1.5	10,847	1.3
15. Pakistan	12,967	1.6	12,519	1.4	9,774	1.4	8,698	1.1
16. Poland	12,038	1.5	15,772	1.7	13,824	1.9	28,048	3.5
17. Canada	11,609	1.5	15,825	1.7	12,932	1.8	16,068	2.0
18. Peru	10,853	1.4	12,871	1.4	8,066	1.1	9,177	1.1
19. United Kingdom	10,651	1.3	13,624	1.5	12,427	1.7	16,326	2.0
20. Iran	9,642	1.2	11,084	1.2	9,201	1.3	11,422	1.4
Subtotal	552,556	69.2	624,460	68.2	476,592	66.2	559,282	69.5
Other	245,822	30.8	291,440	31.8	243,869	33.8	245,134	30.5

Z Rounds to less than .05 percent.

**Table 3. Immigrants Admitted by Selected State and Metropolitan Area of Intended Residence:
Fiscal Years 1994-97**

State and metropolitan area	1997		1996		1995		1994	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All states	798,378	100.0	915,900	100.0	720,461	100.0	804,416	100.0
1. California	203,305	25.5	201,529	22.0	166,482	23.1	208,498	25.9
2. New York	123,716	15.5	154,095	16.8	128,406	17.8	144,354	17.9
3. Florida	82,318	10.3	79,461	8.7	62,023	8.6	58,093	7.2
4. Texas	57,897	7.3	83,385	9.1	49,963	6.9	56,158	7.0
5. New Jersey	41,184	5.2	63,303	6.9	39,729	5.5	44,083	5.5
6. Illinois	38,128	4.8	42,517	4.6	33,898	4.7	42,400	5.3
7. Virginia	19,277	2.4	21,375	2.3	16,319	2.3	15,342	1.9
8. Maryland	19,090	2.4	20,732	2.3	15,055	2.1	15,937	2.0
9. Washington	18,656	2.3	18,833	2.1	15,862	2.2	18,180	2.3
10. Massachusetts	17,317	2.2	23,085	2.5	20,523	2.8	22,882	2.8
11. Michigan	14,727	1.8	17,253	1.9	14,135	2.0	12,728	1.6
12. Pennsylvania	14,553	1.8	16,938	1.8	15,065	2.1	15,971	2.0
13. Georgia	12,623	1.6	12,608	1.4	12,381	1.7	10,032	1.2
14. Connecticut	9,528	1.2	10,874	1.2	9,240	1.3	9,537	1.2
15. Arizona	8,632	1.1	8,900	1.0	7,700	1.1	9,141	1.1
16. Minnesota	8,233	1.0	8,977	1.0	8,111	1.1	7,098	.9
17. Ohio	8,189	1.0	10,237	1.1	8,585	1.2	9,184	1.1
18. Oregon	7,699	1.0	7,554	.8	4,923	.7	6,784	.8
19. Colorado	7,506	.9	8,895	1.0	7,713	1.1	6,825	.8
20. Hawaii	6,867	.9	8,436	.9	7,537	1.0	7,746	1.0
21. Nevada	6,541	.8	5,874	.6	4,306	.6	4,051	.5
22. North Carolina	5,935	.7	7,011	.8	5,617	.8	6,204	.8
23. Puerto Rico	4,884	.6	8,560	.9	7,160	1.0	10,463	1.3
24. Tennessee	4,357	.5	4,343	.5	3,392	.5	3,608	.4
25. Missouri	4,190	.5	5,690	.6	3,990	.6	4,362	.5
26. Indiana	3,892	.5	4,692	.5	3,590	.5	3,725	.5
27. District of Columbia	3,373	.4	3,784	.4	3,047	.4	3,204	.4
28. Louisiana	3,319	.4	4,092	.4	3,000	.4	3,366	.4
29. Wisconsin	3,175	.4	3,607	.4	4,919	.7	5,328	.7
30. Oklahoma	3,157	.4	3,511	.4	2,792	.4	2,728	.3
31. Utah	2,840	.4	4,250	.5	2,831	.4	2,951	.4
32. Kansas	2,829	.4	4,303	.5	2,434	.3	2,902	.4
33. Iowa	2,766	.3	3,037	.3	2,260	.3	2,163	.3
34. New Mexico	2,610	.3	5,780	.6	2,758	.4	2,936	.4
35. Rhode Island	2,543	.3	3,098	.3	2,609	.4	2,907	.4
36. South Carolina	2,446	.3	2,151	.2	2,165	.3	2,110	.3
37. Nebraska	2,270	.3	2,150	.2	1,831	.3	1,595	.2
38. Guam	2,083	.3	2,820	.3	2,419	.3	2,531	.3
39. Kentucky	1,939	.2	2,019	.2	1,857	.3	2,036	.3
40. Alabama	1,613	.2	1,782	.2	1,900	.3	1,837	.2
Other	12,171	1.5	14,359	1.6	11,934	1.7	12,436	1.5
All metropolitan areas	798,378	100.0	915,900	100.0	720,461	100.0	804,416	100.0
1. New York, NY	107,434	13.5	133,168	14.5	111,687	15.5	124,423	15.5
2. Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA ..	62,314	7.8	64,285	7.0	54,669	7.6	77,112	9.6
3. Miami, FL	45,707	5.7	41,527	4.5	30,935	4.3	29,108	3.6
4. Chicago, IL	35,386	4.4	39,989	4.4	31,730	4.4	40,081	5.0
5. Washington, DC-MD-VA	31,444	3.9	34,327	3.7	25,717	3.6	25,021	3.1

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 3. Immigrants Admitted by Selected State and Metropolitan Area of Intended Residence:
Fiscal Years 1994-97—Continued**

State and metropolitan area	1997		1996		1995		1994	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
6. Orange County, CA	18,190	2.3	17,580	1.9	18,187	2.5	15,502	1.9
7. Houston, TX	17,439	2.2	21,387	2.3	14,379	2.0	17,600	2.2
8. San Jose, CA	17,374	2.2	13,854	1.5	12,855	1.8	16,207	2.0
9. San Francisco, CA	16,892	2.1	18,171	2.0	15,773	2.2	18,641	2.3
10. Oakland, CA	15,723	2.0	15,759	1.7	12,011	1.7	13,701	1.7
11. San Diego, CA	14,758	1.8	18,226	2.0	12,077	1.7	14,212	1.8
12. Boston-Lawrence, MA ¹	13,937	1.7	18,726	2.0	16,750	2.3	18,709	2.3
13. Dallas, TX	11,061	1.4	15,915	1.7	9,843	1.4	9,453	1.2
14. Philadelphia, PA-NJ	10,858	1.4	13,034	1.4	11,440	1.6	11,535	1.4
15. Newark, NJ	10,801	1.4	17,939	2.0	11,162	1.5	12,040	1.5
16. Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, WA ..	10,692	1.3	10,429	1.1	9,652	1.3	10,504	1.3
17. Fort Lauderdale, FL	10,646	1.3	10,290	1.1	8,373	1.2	7,846	1.0
18. Detroit, MI	10,019	1.3	11,929	1.3	9,899	1.4	8,736	1.1
19. Atlanta, GA	9,823	1.2	9,870	1.1	9,494	1.3	7,825	1.0
20. Bergen-Passaic, NJ	9,788	1.2	15,682	1.7	9,385	1.3	11,606	1.4
21. Riverside-San Bernardino, CA	9,518	1.2	10,314	1.1	7,568	1.1	9,163	1.1
22. Nassau-Suffolk, NY	9,167	1.1	10,594	1.2	8,039	1.1	10,649	1.3
23. Sacramento, CA	7,654	1.0	6,953	.8	4,641	.6	6,627	.8
24. Jersey City, NJ	7,529	.9	11,399	1.2	7,032	1.0	7,529	.9
25. Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI ..	6,859	.9	7,615	.8	7,027	1.0	6,056	.8
Other	277,365	34.7	326,938	35.7	250,136	34.7	274,530	34.1

¹ Includes Lowell and Brockton.

Table 4. Immigrants Admitted by Sex and Age: Fiscal Years 1994-97

Sex and age	1997		1996		1995		1994	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	798,378	100.0	915,900	100.0	720,461	100.0	804,416	100.0
Male	365,484	45.8	422,740	46.2	333,859	46.3	372,691	46.3
Female	432,699	54.2	493,142	53.8	386,582	53.7	431,684	53.7
Unknown	195	Z	18	Z	20	Z	41	Z
Total¹:								
Under 15 years	157,089	19.7	186,362	20.3	157,325	21.8	164,995	20.5
15-29 years	264,183	33.1	304,855	33.3	237,385	32.9	271,922	33.8
30-44 years	212,937	26.7	246,823	26.9	185,838	25.8	210,423	26.2
45-64 years	124,923	15.6	135,980	14.8	105,863	14.7	117,302	14.6
65 years and over	39,070	4.9	41,780	4.6	33,993	4.7	39,703	4.9
Unknown age	176	Z	100	Z	57	Z	71	Z
Male:								
Under 15 years	79,006	9.9	94,105	10.3	79,494	11.0	83,837	10.4
15-29 years	120,842	15.1	141,874	15.5	109,270	15.2	125,069	15.5
30-44 years	95,565	12.0	110,421	12.1	84,524	11.7	96,030	11.9
45-64 years	52,685	6.6	58,373	6.4	46,028	6.4	51,113	6.4
65 years and over	17,301	2.2	17,912	2.0	14,513	2.0	16,597	2.1
Unknown age	85	Z	55	Z	30	Z	45	Z
Female:								
Under 15 years	78,050	9.8	92,249	10.1	77,824	10.8	81,147	10.1
15-29 years	143,278	17.9	162,975	17.8	128,110	17.8	146,845	18.3
30-44 years	117,311	14.7	136,398	14.9	101,310	14.1	114,376	14.2
45-64 years	72,208	9.0	77,607	8.5	59,832	8.3	66,184	8.2
65 years and over	21,765	2.7	23,868	2.6	19,479	2.7	23,106	2.9
Unknown age	87	Z	45	Z	27	Z	26	Z
Median Age	28	X	28	X	28	X	28	X
Male	28	X	27	X	27	X	28	X
Female	29	X	29	X	29	X	29	X

¹ Male and female totals by age do not sum to total by age due to a small number of records with unknown gender.

X Not applicable. Z Rounds to less than .05 percent.

Table 5. Immigrants Aged 16 to 64 Admitted by Occupation: Fiscal Years 1994-97

Occupation	1997		1996		1995		1994	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Immigrants aged 16-64	586,830	100.0	669,814	100.0	514,993	100.0	584,521	100.0
Professional specialty and technical	61,733	10.5	74,220	11.1	58,214	11.3	66,380	11.4
Architects	539	.1	565	.1	472	.1	521	.1
Engineers, surveyors and mapping scientists	10,281	1.8	11,605	1.7	8,990	1.7	10,679	1.8
Mathematical and computer scientists	2,606	.4	3,276	.5	2,127	.4	2,778	.5
Natural scientists	3,516	.6	3,729	.6	2,371	.5	3,083	.5
Health diagnosing occupations	6,012	1.0	6,853	1.0	4,866	.9	4,581	.8
Physicians	5,237	.9	5,922	.9	4,072	.8	3,777	.6
Other	775	.1	931	.1	794	.2	804	.1
Health assessment and treating ..	9,023	1.5	12,482	1.9	11,654	2.3	11,741	2.0
Nurses	6,161	1.0	8,243	1.2	8,118	1.6	8,415	1.4
Other	2,862	.5	4,239	.6	3,536	.7	3,326	.6
Teachers, postsecondary	3,338	.6	4,664	.7	3,650	.7	4,432	.8
Teachers, except postsecondary...	7,757	1.3	8,701	1.3	7,221	1.4	7,354	1.3
Counselors, educational and vocational	259	Z	255	Z	186	Z	172	Z
Librarians, archivists, and curators	124	Z	223	Z	153	Z	222	Z
Social scientists and urban planners	710	.1	832	.1	577	.1	715	.1
Social, recreation, and religious workers	3,463	.6	3,665	.5	2,725	.5	4,172	.7
Lawyers and judges	827	.1	984	.1	810	.2	796	.1
Writers, artists, entertainers and athletes	5,161	.9	6,453	1.0	5,036	1.0	5,639	1.0
Health technologists and technicians	1,471	.3	1,062	.2	737	.1	822	.1
Technologists and technicians, except health	6,646	1.1	8,871	1.3	6,639	1.3	8,673	1.5
Executive, administrative, managerial	25,651	4.4	31,115	4.6	24,306	4.7	26,320	4.5
Sales occupations	13,906	2.4	14,955	2.2	11,329	2.2	12,696	2.2
Administrative support occupations	18,172	3.1	21,526	3.2	18,177	3.5	21,414	3.7
Precision production, craft, and repair	20,131	3.4	23,421	3.5	18,068	3.5	24,079	4.1
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	70,433	12.0	75,551	11.3	50,755	9.9	66,557	11.4
Farming, forestry, and fishing	11,809	2.0	13,195	2.0	11,282	2.2	14,054	2.4
Service occupations	52,051	8.9	60,722	9.1	45,609	8.9	49,363	8.4
No occupation	277,749	47.3	317,349	47.4	239,704	46.5	263,450	45.1
Homemakers	113,868	19.4	125,714	18.8	88,890	17.3	98,551	16.9
Unemployed or retired	84,198	14.3	98,761	14.7	78,093	15.2	81,297	13.9
Students and/or children under age 16	79,683	13.6	92,874	13.9	72,721	14.1	83,602	14.3
Unknown or not reported	35,195	6.0	37,760	5.6	37,549	7.3	40,208	6.9

Z Rounds to less than .05 percent.