

**Annual Report of Immigrant Visa Applicants in the Family-sponsored and
Employment-based preferences Registered at the National Visa Center
as of November 1, 2016**

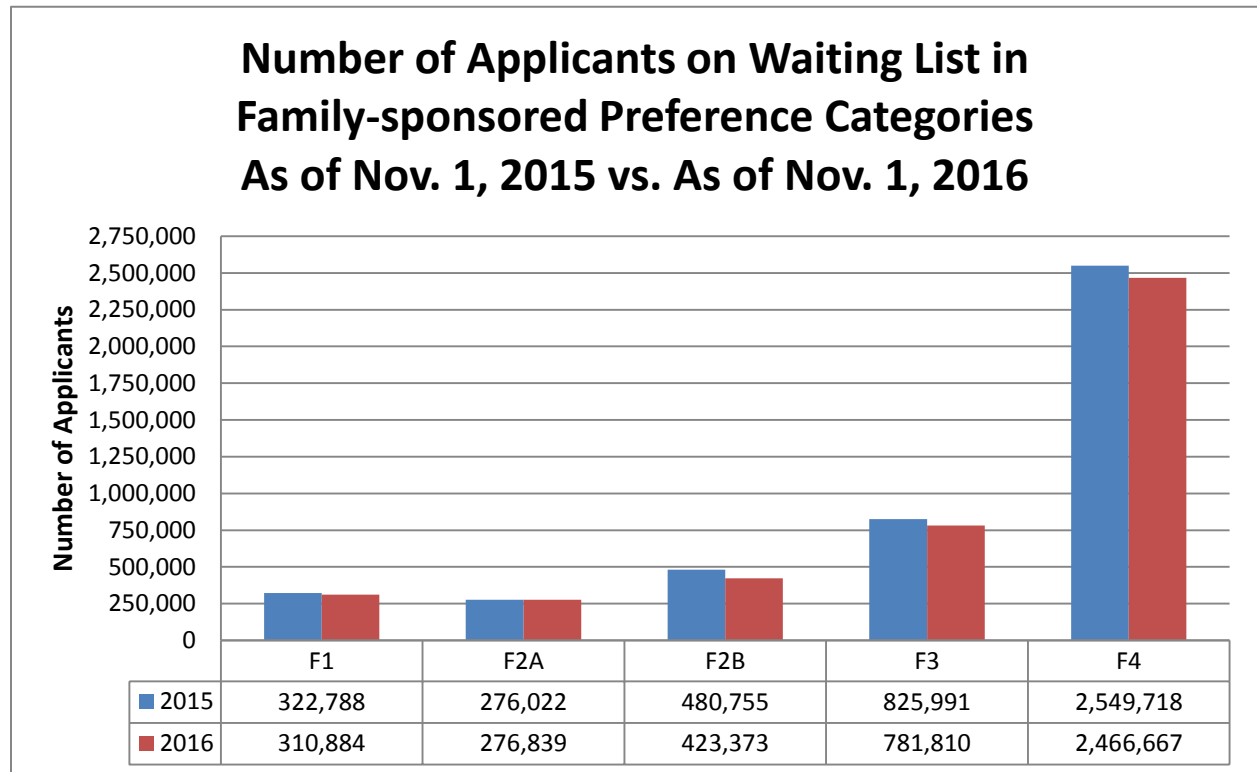
Most prospective immigrant visa applicants qualify for status under the law on the basis of family relationships or employer sponsorship. Entitlement to visa processing in these classes is established ordinarily through approval by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) of a petition filed on the applicant's behalf. The petitions of applicants who will be processed at an overseas post are forwarded by USCIS to the Department of State; applicants in categories subject to numerical limit are registered on the visa waiting list. Each case is assigned a priority (i.e., registration) date based on the filing date accorded to the petition. Visa issuance within each numerically limited category is possible only if the applicant's priority date is within the applicable final action dates which are published each month by the Department of State in the Visa Bulletin. Family and Employment preference applicants compete for visa numbers within their respective categories on a worldwide basis according to priority date; a per-country limit on such preference immigrants set by INA 202 places a maximum on the amount of visas which may be issued in a single year to applicants from any one country, however.

In October, the Department of State asked the National Visa Center (NVC) at Portsmouth, New Hampshire to report the totals of applicants on the waiting list in the various numerically-limited immigrant categories. Applications for adjustment of status under INA 245 which are pending at USCIS Offices are not included in the tabulation of the immigrant waiting list data which is being provided at this time. As such, the following figures ONLY reflect petitions which the Department of State has received, and do not include the significant number of applications held with the USCIS Offices.

The following figures have been compiled from the NVC report submitted to the Department on November 1, 2016, and show the number of immigrant visa applicants on the waiting list in the various preferences and subcategories subject to numerical limit. All figures reflect persons registered under each respective numerical limitation, i.e., the totals represent not only principal applicants or petition beneficiaries, but their spouses and children entitled to derivative status under INA 203(d) as well.

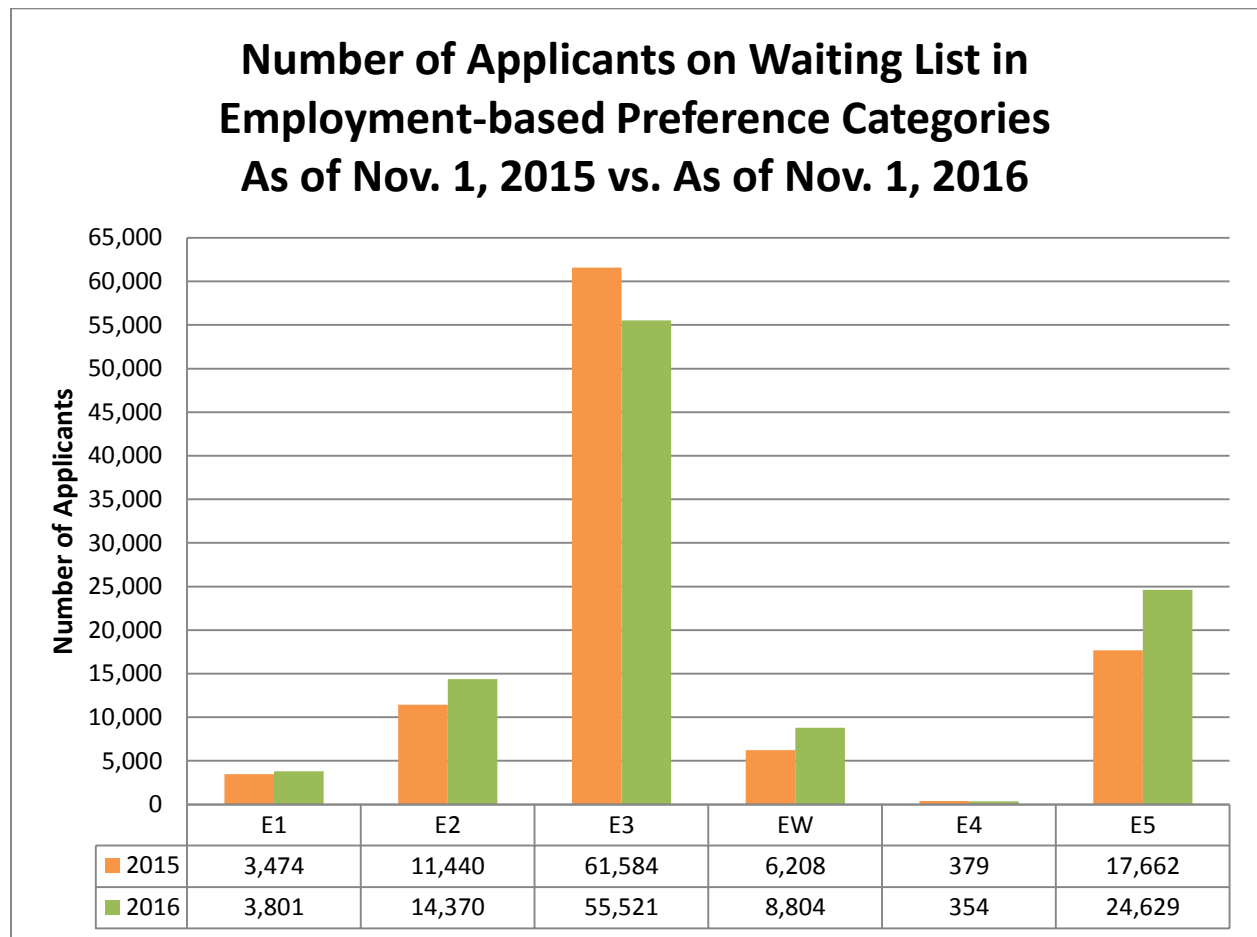
Family-sponsored Preferences

Category	as of Nov. 1, 2015	as of Nov. 1, 2016	% of Change From 2015 Totals
FAMILY FIRST	322,788	310,884	(-3.7%)
FAMILY SECOND TOTAL	756,777	700,212	(-7.5%)
2A-Spouses/Children:	276,022	276,839	(+0.3%)
2B- Adult Sons/Daughters:	480,755	423,373	(-11.9%)
FAMILY THIRD	825,991	781,810	(-5.3%)
FAMILY FOURTH	2,549,718	2,466,667	(-3.3%)
TOTAL	4,455,274	4,259,573	(-4.4%)



Employment-based Preferences

Category	as of Nov. 1, 2015	as of Nov. 1, 2016	% of Change From 2015 Totals
EMPLOYMENT FIRST	3,474	3,801	(+9.4%)
EMPLOYMENT SECOND	11,440	14,370	(+25.6%)
EMPLOYMENT THIRD TOTAL	67,792	64,325	(-5.1%)
Skilled Workers:	61,584	55,521	(-9.8%)
Other Workers:	6,208	8,804	(+41.8%)
EMPLOYMENT FOURTH TOTAL	379	354	(-6.6%)
EMPLOYMENT FIFTH TOTAL	17,662	24,629	(+39.4%)
TOTAL	100,747	107,479	(+6.7%)
GRAND TOTAL	4,556,021	4,367,052	(-4.1%)



Immigrant Waiting List By Country

Immigrant visa issuances during fiscal year 2017 will be limited by the terms of INA 201 to no more than 226,000 in the family-sponsored preferences and 140,000 in the employment-based preferences. (Visas for "Immediate Relatives" - i.e., spouses, unmarried children under the age of 21 years, and parents of U.S. citizens - are not subject to numerical limitation, however.)

It should by no means be assumed that once an applicant is registered, the case is then continually included in the waiting list totals unless and until a visa is issued. The consular procedures mandate a regular culling of visa cases to remove from the count those unlikely to see further action, so that totals are not unreasonably inflated.

The twelve countries with the highest number of waiting list registrants in FY 2017 are listed below; together these represent 78.0% of the total. This list includes all countries with at least 50,000 persons on the waiting list. There is a seven percent per-country limit, which visa issuances to any single country may not exceed. This limit serves to avoid the potential monopolization of virtually all the annual limitation by applicants from only a few countries. That limitation is not a quota to which any particular country is entitled, however. For FY 2017 the per-country limit will be 25,620.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Applicants</u>
Mexico	1,309,282
Philippines	387,323
India	331,423
Vietnam	266,297
China-mainland born	252,497
Dominican Republic	199,055
Bangladesh	179,504
Pakistan	127,768
Haiti	115,580
Cuba	106,351
El Salvador	78,947
Jamaica	54,398
All Others	958,627
Worldwide Total	4,367,052

**Immigrant Waiting List
By Preference Category**

FAMILY-SPONSORED PREFERENCES

Family FIRST Preference:

The worldwide Family FIRST preference numerical limitation is 23,400. The top ten countries with the highest F1 waiting list totals are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Family First Preference Total</u>	<u>Percent of Category Waiting List</u>
Mexico	107,380	34.5%
Dominican Republic	26,781	8.6%
Philippines	19,863	6.4%
Haiti	17,152	5.5%
Jamaica	16,346	5.3%
El Salvador	11,247	3.6%
Cuba	7,037	2.3%
Colombia	6,412	2.1%
Vietnam	6,265	2.0%
Guyana	5,915	1.9%
All Others	86,486	27.8%
Total	310,884	100%

Cases are being added to the waiting list in this category not only by the approval of new FIRST preference petitions, but also through automatic conversion of pending 2B cases into FIRST preference upon the naturalization of the petitioner.

The prospect for increasing future demand in the FIRST preference could result in slower advances in the worldwide final action date as a consequence. Only two countries, Mexico and Philippines, have FIRST preference final action dates which are earlier than the worldwide date. (NOTE: A Family 2B petition automatically converts to a Family FIRST petition if the petitioner naturalizes. However, Section 6 of the Child Status Protection Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-208, provides relief for Family 2B applicants who would be disadvantaged by a conversion to Family FIRST status due to a less favorable Family FIRST final action date).

Family SECOND Preference:

The total Family SECOND preference waiting list figure is 700,212. Of these, 276,839 (39.5%) are spouses and children of permanent residents of the United States (the 2A class), and 423,373 (60.5%) are adult unmarried sons/daughters of permanent residents (the 2B class). The Family SECOND preference represents 16.4% of the total Family preference waiting list. It will receive 114,200 visa numbers for FY 2017, just over half of the 226,000 family preference total; 77% of SECOND preference numbers are provided to 2A applicants, while the remaining 23% go to the 2B class.

2A: About 87,900 visa numbers are available for use during FY 2017. The top ten countries with the highest 2A waiting list totals are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Family 2A Preference Total</u>	<u>Percent of Category Waiting List</u>
Mexico	84,952	30.7%
Dominican Republic	38,377	13.9%
Cuba	17,204	6.2%
Philippines	12,625	4.5%
El Salvador	11,246	4.1%
Haiti	10,721	3.9%
China-mainland born	9,274	3.3%
Vietnam	8,470	3.1%
Guatemala	5,922	2.1%
Jamaica	4,890	1.8%
All Others	73,158	26.4%
Total	276,839	100%

Upon naturalization of the petitioner, a pending 2A case is converted automatically into the “Immediate Relative” visa category, which is not subject to numerical limit and therefore has no visa waiting period. As a result, the amount of cases being processed in the “Immediate Relative” category may increase and partially offset new F2A filings.

2B: Visa numbers for this class of adult sons and daughters will be approximately 26,260 during FY 2017. The waiting list far exceeds the annual limit. The top ten countries with the highest 2B waiting list totals are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Family 2B Preference Total</u>	<u>Percent of Category Waiting List</u>
Mexico	159,271	37.6%
Philippines	57,440	13.6%
Dominican Republic	53,069	12.5%
Haiti	19,671	4.7%
Cuba	19,247	4.6%
El Salvador	12,380	2.9%
Vietnam	11,592	2.7%
China-mainland born	10,148	2.4%
Jamaica	6,000	1.4%
Guatemala	5,416	1.3%
<u>All Others</u>	<u>69,139</u>	<u>16.3%</u>
Total	423,373	100%

Some of the 2B applicants were formerly counted in the 2A waiting list and have since turned 21.

Family THIRD Preference:

The annual visa limit is 23,400. Two oversubscribed countries (Mexico and Philippines) have sufficiently heavy demand in this preference to require a final action date substantially earlier than the worldwide date. The top ten countries with the highest F3 waiting list totals are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Family Third Preference Total</u>	<u>Percent of Category Waiting List</u>
Mexico	204,723	26.2%
Philippines	135,200	17.3%
India	55,499	7.1%
Vietnam	51,261	6.6%
China-mainland born	25,839	3.3%
Cuba	23,552	3.0%
Dominican Republic	17,591	2.2%
Haiti	16,272	2.1%
Pakistan	15,805	2.0%
Jamaica	12,432	1.6%
<u>All Others</u>	<u>223,636</u>	<u>28.6%</u>
Total	781,810	100%

Family FOURTH Preference:

Applicants registered in the Family FOURTH preference total 2,466,667. Annual visa issuances are limited to 65,000. The waiting period for the Family FOURTH preference is longer than any other category because the demand significantly exceeds the number of available visas. The countries listed below have the largest number of FOURTH preference applicants:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Family Fourth Preference Total</u>	<u>Percent of Category Waiting List</u>
Mexico	751,674	30.5%
India	233,642	9.5%
Vietnam	187,908	7.6%
China-mainland born	172,752	7.0%
Bangladesh	167,818	6.8%
Philippines	137,105	5.5%
Pakistan	104,866	4.2%
Dominican Republic	63,175	2.6%
Haiti	51,747	2.1%
Cuba	39,307	1.6%
<u>All Others</u>	<u>556,673</u>	<u>22.6%</u>
Total	2,466,667	100%

The steadily growing waiting period in this preference is now almost thirteen years for countries of most favorable visa availability and even longer for some oversubscribed countries.

EMPLOYMENT-BASED PREFERENCES

It is important to note that eighty-two percent of all Employment preference immigrants were processed as adjustment of status cases at USCIS offices during FY 2016. Cases pending with USCIS are not counted in the consular waiting list tally which is presented below. Therefore, in several Employment categories the waiting list totals being provided below significantly understate real immigrant demand. The Employment waiting list counts not only prospective workers, but also their spouses and children entitled under the law to derivative preference status.

Employment FIRST Preference:

Top countries are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Employment First Preference</u>	<u>Percent of Category Waiting List</u>
China-mainland born	1,180	31.0%
India	287	7.6%
Korea, South	231	6.1%
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	214	5.6%
Venezuela	205	5.4%
Canada	201	5.3%
Iran	173	4.6%
Brazil	112	2.9%
Russia	87	2.3%
Mexico	72	1.9%
All Others	1,039	27.3%
Worldwide Total	3,801	100%

Visa availability is "current" for all countries.

Employment SECOND Preference:

Top countries are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Employment Second Preference</u>	<u>Percent of Category Waiting List</u>
India	9,618	66.9%
China-mainland born	1,280	8.9%
Korea, South	1,189	8.3%
Philippines	400	2.8%
Canada	168	1.2%
All Others	1,715	11.9%
Worldwide Total	14,370	100%

This category is "current" at present for all but two countries.

Employment THIRD Preference:

Top countries are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Employment Third Preference: Skilled Worker/ Professional Components</u>	<u>Percent of Category Waiting List</u>
Philippines	23,923	43.1%
India	21,696	39.1%
China-mainland born	2,138	3.9%
Korea, South	892	1.6%
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	804	1.4%
All Others	6,068	10.9%
Worldwide Total	55,521	100%

Employment Third “Other Workers”:

Top Countries are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Employment Third Preference: Other Worker Components</u>	<u>Percent of Waiting List in These Classes</u>
China-mainland born	3,317	37.7%
Korea, South	2,069	23.5%
Philippines	745	8.5%
India	492	5.6%
Mexico	480	5.4%
All Others	1,701	19.3%
Worldwide Total	8,804	100%

Three oversubscribed countries (China-mainland born, India, and the Philippines) have sufficiently heavy demand in the Employment Third and Third “Other Worker” Preferences to require final action dates earlier than the worldwide dates.

Employment FOURTH Preference:

Top countries are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Employment Fourth Preference</u>	<u>Percent of Waiting List in These Classes</u>
India	113	31.9%
Mexico	17	4.8%
Israel	16	4.5%
Dominican Republic	14	4.0%
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	14	4.0%
<u>All Others</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>50.8%</u>
Worldwide Total	354	100%

Visa availability is “current” at present for all countries except for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico.

Employment FIFTH Preference:

Top countries are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Employment Fifth Preference</u>	<u>Percent of Waiting List in These Classes</u>
China-mainland born	22,910	93.0%
Hong Kong S.A.R.	447	1.8%
Vietnam	232	0.9%
Korea, South	109	0.5%
China-Taiwan born	106	0.4%
<u>All Others</u>	<u>825</u>	<u>3.4%</u>
Worldwide Total	24,629	100%

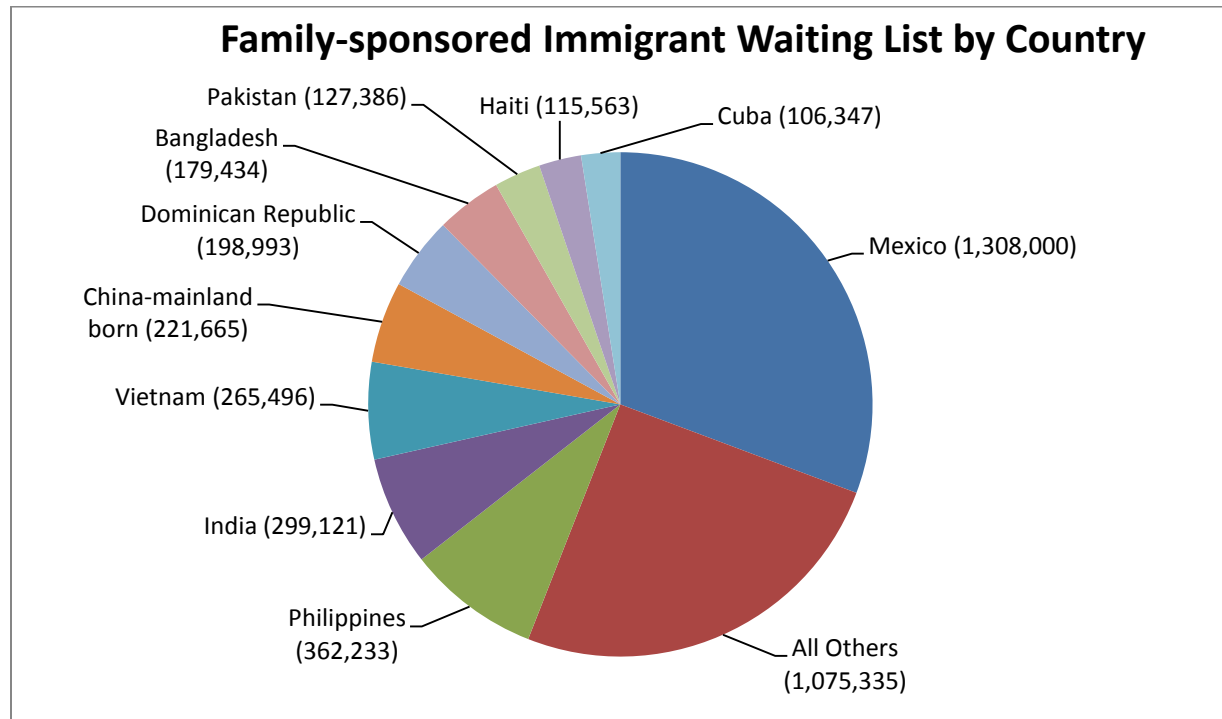
Visa availability is “current” at present for all countries except China-mainland born.

Family-sponsored Immigrant Waiting List By Country

The ten countries with the highest number of Family-sponsored waiting list registrants are listed below; together these represent 74.8% of the total. This list includes all countries with at least 106,000 persons on the waiting list. (The per-country limit in INA 202 sets an annual maximum on the amount of Family preference visas which may be issued to applicants from any one country; the FY 2017 per-country limit will be 15,820.)

Family-sponsored Preferences

Country	Total
Mexico	1,308,000
Philippines	362,233
India	299,121
Vietnam	265,496
China-mainland born	221,665
Dominican Republic	198,993
Bangladesh	179,434
Pakistan	127,386
Haiti	115,563
Cuba	106,347
All Others	1,075,335
Worldwide Total	4,259,573

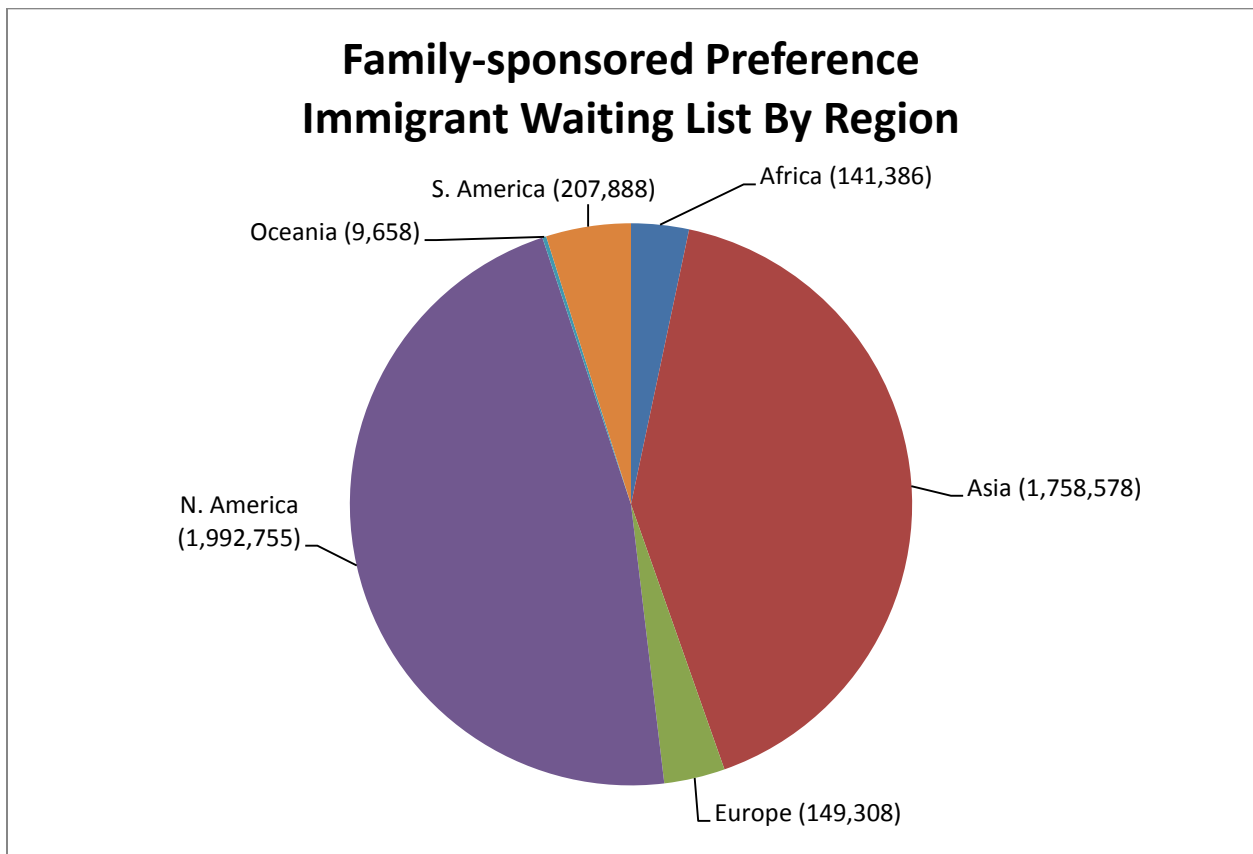


Family-sponsored Immigrant Waiting List By Region

A breakdown of the NVC waiting list by region is:

Region	Total
Africa	141,386
Asia	1,758,578
Europe	149,308
N. America*	1,992,755
Oceania	9,658
S. America	207,888
Family Total	4,259,573

*North America includes Canada, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.

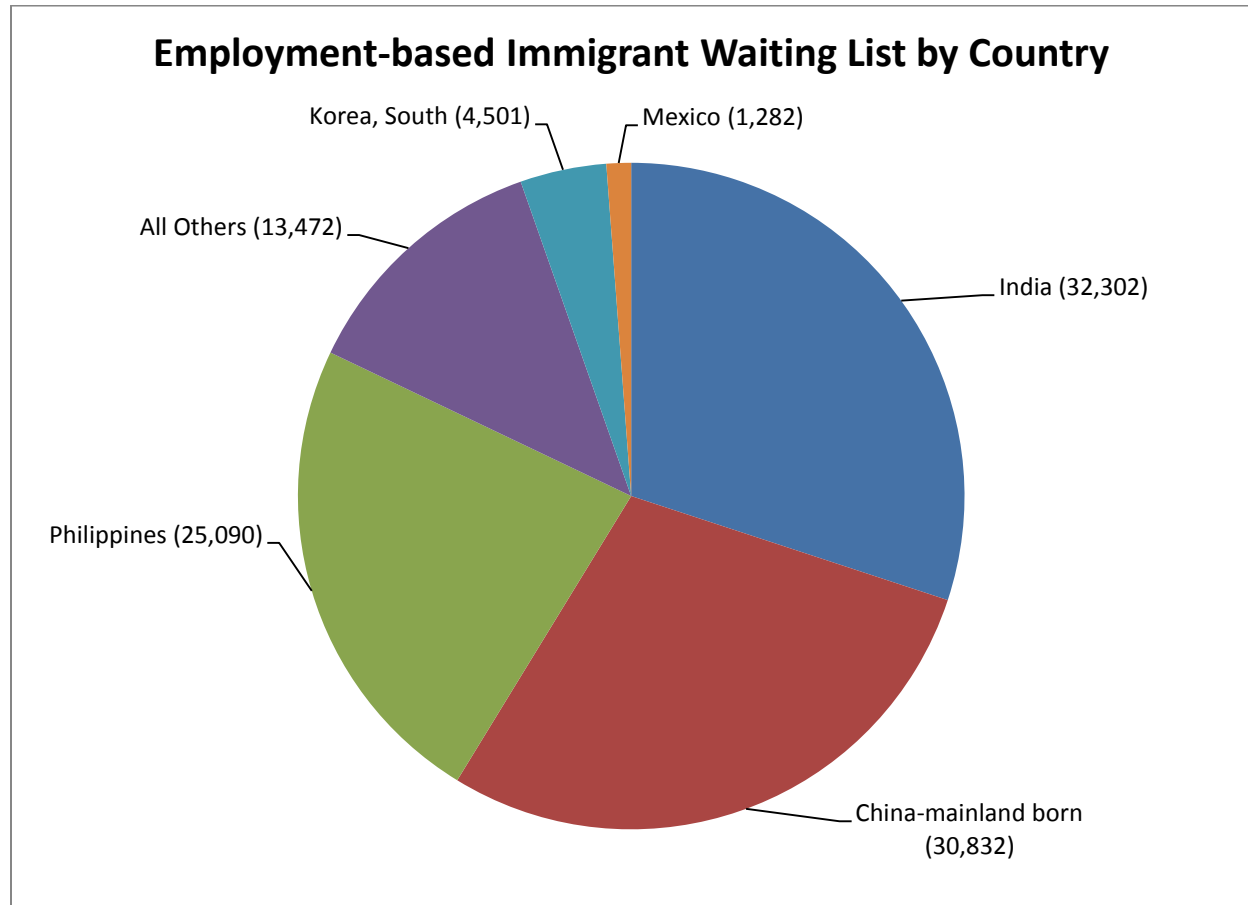


Employment-based Immigrant Waiting List By Country

The five countries with the highest number of Employment-based waiting list registrants are listed below; together these represent 87.5% of the total. This list includes all countries with at least 1,200 persons on the waiting list. (The per-country limit in INA 202 sets an annual maximum on the amount of Employment preference visas which may be issued to applicants from any one country; the FY 2017 per-country limit will be 9,800.)

Employment-based Preferences

Country	Total
India	32,302
China-mainland born	30,832
Philippines	25,090
Korea, South	4,501
Mexico	1,282
All Others	13,472
Worldwide Total	107,479



Employment-based Immigrant Waiting List By Region

A breakdown of the NVC waiting list by region is:

Region	Total
Africa	885
Asia	98,948
Europe	2,979
N. America*	2,884
Oceania	146
S. America	1,637
Employment Total	107,479

*North America includes Canada, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.

