



Office of Policy and Planning

Statistics Division

ANNUAL REPORT

Number 7

August 2002

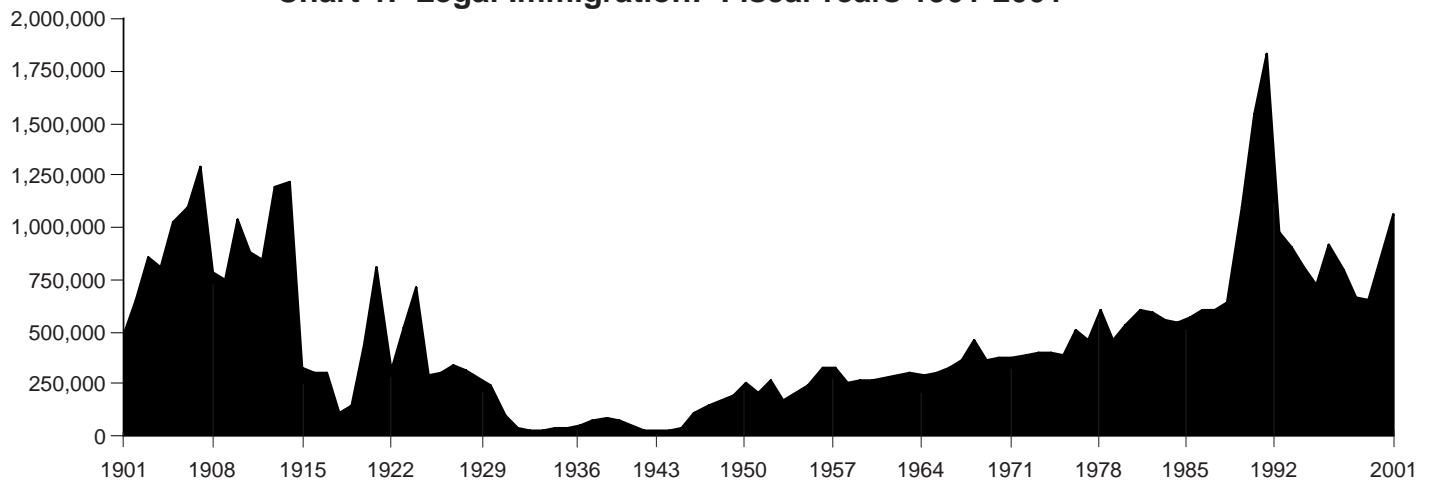
Legal Immigration, Fiscal Year 2001

This report provides a summary of INS statistics on immigrants admitted for lawful permanent residence during fiscal year 2001 (October 1, 2000–September 30, 2001). Included as lawful permanent residents for 2001 are: 1) aliens who were previously living abroad and 2) aliens who were already living in the United States, in some cases, for many years. The former obtain immigrant visas through the U.S. Department of State (DOS) allowing them to enter the United

a decision. Because the impact of the backlog is unknown with respect to annual changes in legal immigration and the demographic composition of immigrants, caution should be exercised in drawing conclusions from these data.

Data were obtained from the Computer Linked Applicant Information Management System (CLAIMS) of INS. CLAIMS maintains

Chart 1. Legal Immigration: Fiscal Years 1901-2001



States. The latter adjust status through the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

In recent years, including fiscal year 2001, the number of immigrants granted lawful permanent residence has been affected by a backlog in the number of adjustment of status applications pending

information from the Immigrant Visa and Alien Registration (OF-155A) of DOS for immigrant new arrivals and from applications to adjust 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.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✘ The number of persons granted lawful permanent residence in the U.S. increased to 1,064,318 in fiscal year 2001 from 849,807 in fiscal year 2000 (see Chart 1). This increase of 215,000 was concentrated almost entirely among adjustments of status and reflects efforts to address the application backlog at INS. At the end of fiscal year 2001, there were 970,000 adjustment of status cases pending a decision.
- ✘ Sixty-four percent of all legal immigrants in 2001 were family sponsored, 17 percent were admitted under employment preferences, 10 percent were admitted as refugees or asylees, and 3 percent were admitted under sections 202 and 203 of the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) of 1997 (see Table 1). The classes of admission with the greatest increases in legal immigration between 2000 and 2001 were spouses of U.S. citizens, employment preferences, and refugees.
- ✘ In 2001, as in 2000, the leading country of origin for legal immigrants was Mexico (206,426). India (70,290) replaced the People's Republic of China (56,426) as the second leading sending country, followed by the Philippines (53,154) and Vietnam (35,531) (see Table 2). These five countries represented 40 percent of all immigrants in 2001.
- ✘ The primary destination states for legal immigrants in 2001, as in every year since 1971, were California (282,957), New York (114,116), Florida (104,715), Texas (86,315), New Jersey (59,920), and Illinois (48,296). These six states accounted for 65 percent of all legal immigrants in 2001.

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 lawful permanent residence; aliens admitted for lawful permanent residence; immigrants admitted; and admissions.

There are two basic administrative paths open to aliens wishing to become lawful 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 apply for admission to the United States. They are granted lawful 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 the INS for adjustment of status to lawful permanent residence. Adjustment of status applicants are granted lawful permanent residence at the time their applications are approved. New legal immigrants are automatically authorized to work. They receive permanent resident cards (“green cards”) soon after becoming lawful permanent residents.

Limits: World-Wide Immigration

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 lawful 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;
- 3) children born abroad to lawful permanent residents on temporary trips abroad; and
- 4) certain categories of aliens paroled into the United States in the second preceding fiscal year (1999), plus unused employment preferences in the previous fiscal year.

The 1990 Act specifies that the family-sponsored limit may not fall below a minimum of 226,000 in any year. The number of lawful permanent residents issued visas or who adjusted in fiscal year 2000 under categories 1-3 listed above was 353,011. The number of unused employment-based visas in 2000 was

31,098. The exact number of parolees in 1999 was unknown but INS estimates it was far less than the 67,913 that would have been needed in order that the limit exceed 226,000 ($480,000 - 353,011 + 31,098$). The 2001 family-sponsored limit, therefore, was set to 226,000. The limits for each of the family-sponsored preferences and their descriptions are shown on the following page.

Employment-based limits — The 1990 Act specifies that the worldwide limit on employment-based preference immigrants is equal to 140,000 plus unused family-sponsored preference visas in the previous year. The limit for fiscal year 2001 was set to 192,074 ($140,000 + 52,074$ unused family preference visas in 2000).

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 ($226,000 + 192,074 = 418,074$), while dependent areas are limited to 2 percent of the total. The 2001 limit for independent foreign states was 29,265 (7 percent of 418,074) and the limit for dependencies was 8,361 (2 percent of 418,074).

Diversity limits — The annual limit for 2001 is 50,000. The limit was set at 55,000 effective in fiscal year 1995, but reduced to 50,000 if necessary beginning in fiscal year 1999 to allow 5,000 visas for use under the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act of 1997 (NACARA) program.

Categories of Immigrants Included in World-Wide Annual Limit Specified in Section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act: Fiscal Year 2001 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 ¹	Not limited ¹
Employment-based preferences		140,000	192,074
First	Priority workers	40,040	54,933 ³
Second	Professionals with advanced degrees or aliens of exceptional ability	40,040	54,933 ³
Third	Skilled workers, professionals, needed unskilled workers	40,040	54,933 ³
Fourth	Special immigrants	9,940	13,637
Fifth	Employment creation (“Investors”)	9,940	13,637
Diversity		55,000	50,000

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 fall 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.

Table 1. Immigrants Admitted by Major Category of Admission: Fiscal Years 1998-2001

Category of admission	2001		2000		1999		1998	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	1,064,318	100.0	849,807	100.0	646,568	100.0	654,451	100.0
New arrivals	411,059	38.6	407,402	47.9	401,775	62.1	357,037	54.6
Adjustments of status	653,259	61.4	442,405	52.1	244,793	37.9	297,414	45.4
Family-sponsored immigrants	676,107	63.5	584,159	68.7	476,445	73.7	475,750	72.7
Family-sponsored preferences	232,143	21.8	235,280	27.7	216,883	33.5	191,480	29.3
Unmarried sons/daughters of								
U.S. citizens	27,098	2.5	27,707	3.3	22,392	3.5	17,717	2.7
Spouses and children of								
alien residents	112,260	10.5	124,595	14.7	108,007	16.7	88,488	13.5
Married sons/daughters of								
U.S. citizens	24,878	2.3	22,833	2.7	24,040	3.7	22,257	3.4
Siblings of U.S. citizens	67,907	6.4	60,145	7.1	62,444	9.7	63,018	9.6
Immediate relatives of U.S.								
citizens	443,964	41.7	348,879	41.1	259,562	40.1	284,270	43.4
Spouses	270,545	25.4	197,525	23.2	127,988	19.8	151,172	23.1
Parents	80,964	7.6	67,619	8.0	61,483	9.5	61,724	9.4
Children	91,526	8.6	82,726	9.7	69,113	10.7	70,472	10.8
Children born abroad to								
alien residents	929	.1	1,009	.1	978	.2	902	.1
Legalization dependents	37	Z	55	Z	X	Z	21	Z
Employment-based preferences ..	179,195	16.8	107,024	12.6	56,817	8.8	77,517	11.8
Priority workers	41,801	3.9	27,706	3.3	14,898	2.3	21,408	3.3
Professionals with advanced								
degree or of exceptional								
ability	42,620	4.0	20,304	2.4	8,581	1.3	14,384	2.2
Skilled workers, professionals,								
unskilled workers	86,058	8.1	49,736	5.9	27,966	4.3	34,317	5.2
Special immigrants	8,523	.8	9,052	1.1	5,086	.8	6,584	1.0
Investors	193	Z	226	Z	286	Z	824	.1
Diversity program	42,015	3.9	50,945	6.0	47,571	7.4	45,499	7.0
Other categories	166,964	15.7	107,624	12.7	65,735	10.2	55,664	8.5
Amerasians	376	Z	943	Z	239	Z	346	.1
Parolees, Soviet and								
Indochinese	5,468	.5	3,163	.4	1,827	.3	1,225	.2
Refugees and asylees	108,506	10.2	65,941	7.8	42,852	6.6	52,193	8.0
Refugee adjustments	97,305	9.1	59,083	7.0	39,495	6.1	44,645	6.8
Asylee adjustments	11,201	1.1	6,858	.8	3,357	.5	7,548	1.2
Subject to annual limit	10,111	.9	4,567	.5	2,532	.4	7,546	1.2
Not subject to limit	1,090	.1	2,291	.3	825	.1	2	Z
Cancellation of removal ¹	22,506	2.1	12,349	1.5	9,032	1.4	428	.1
Subject to annual limit	3,157	.3	4,334	.5	8,459	1.3	428	.1
Not subject to limit								
(NACARA, Sec. 203)	19,349	1.8	8,015	.9	573	.1	X	Z
IRCA legalization	263	Z	421	Z	8	Z	955	.1
NACARA Sec. 202 ²	18,926	1.8	23,641	2.8	11,267	1.7	1	Z
HRIFA ³	10,111	.9	X	Z	X	Z	X	Z
Other	808	.1	1,166	.1	510	.1	516	.1

¹ Includes immigrants admitted under Section 203 of the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act of November, 1997 (19,349 in fiscal year 2001, 8,015 in fiscal year 2000, and 573 in fiscal year 1999) who are exempt from the 4,000 annual limit.

² Section 202 of the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act of November 1997.

³ Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act of 1998.

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

Table 2. Immigrants Admitted by Region and Selected Country of Birth: Fiscal Years 1998-2001

Region and country of birth	2001		2000		1999		1998	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All countries	1,064,318	100.0	849,807	100.0	646,568	100.0	654,451	100.0
Africa	53,948	5.1	44,731	5.3	36,700	5.7	40,660	6.2
Asia	349,776	32.9	265,400	31.2	199,411	30.8	219,696	33.6
Europe	175,371	16.5	132,480	15.6	92,672	14.3	90,793	13.9
North America	407,888	38.3	344,805	40.6	271,365	42.0	252,996	38.7
Caribbean	103,546	9.7	88,198	10.4	71,683	11.1	75,521	11.5
Central America	75,914	7.1	66,443	7.8	43,216	6.7	35,679	5.5
Other North America	228,428	21.5	190,164	22.4	156,466	24.2	141,796	21.7
Oceania	6,113	.6	5,136	.6	3,676	.6	3,935	.6
South America	68,888	6.5	56,074	6.6	41,585	6.4	45,394	6.9
Unknown	2,334	.2	1,181	.1	1,159	.2	977	.1
1. Mexico	206,426	19.4	173,919	20.5	147,573	22.8	131,575	20.1
2. India	70,290	6.6	42,046	4.9	30,237	4.7	36,482	5.6
3. China, People's Republic	56,426	5.3	45,652	5.4	32,204	5.0	36,884	5.6
4. Philippines	53,154	5.0	42,474	5.0	31,026	4.8	34,466	5.3
5. Vietnam	35,531	3.3	26,747	3.1	20,393	3.2	17,649	2.7
6. El Salvador	31,272	2.9	22,578	2.7	14,606	2.3	14,590	2.2
7. Cuba	27,703	2.6	20,831	2.5	14,132	2.2	17,375	2.7
8. Haiti	27,120	2.5	22,364	2.6	16,532	2.6	13,449	2.1
9. Bosnia-Herzegovina	23,640	2.2	11,828	1.4	5,442	.8	4,212	.6
10. Canada	21,933	2.1	16,210	1.9	8,864	1.4	10,190	1.6
11. Dominican Republic	21,313	2.0	17,536	2.1	17,864	2.8	20,387	3.1
12. Ukraine	20,975	2.0	15,810	1.9	10,123	1.6	7,448	1.1
13. Korea	20,742	1.9	15,830	1.9	12,840	2.0	14,268	2.2
14. Russia	20,413	1.9	17,110	2.0	12,347	1.9	11,529	1.8
15. Nicaragua	19,896	1.9	24,029	2.8	13,389	2.1	3,521	.5
16. United Kingdom	18,436	1.7	13,385	1.6	7,690	1.2	9,018	1.4
17. Colombia	16,730	1.6	14,498	1.7	9,966	1.5	11,836	1.8
18. Pakistan	16,448	1.5	14,535	1.7	13,496	2.1	13,094	2.0
19. Jamaica	15,393	1.4	16,000	1.9	14,733	2.3	15,146	2.3
20. Guatemala	13,567	1.3	9,970	1.2	7,308	1.1	7,759	1.2
Subtotal	737,408	69.3	583,352	68.6	440,765	68.2	430,878	65.8
Other and unknown	326,910	30.7	266,455	31.4	205,803	31.8	223,573	34.2

**Table 3. Immigrants Admitted by Selected State and Metropolitan Area of Intended Residence:
Fiscal Years 1998-2001**

State and metropolitan area	2001		2000		1999		1998	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All states	1,064,318	100.0	849,807	100.0	646,568	100.0	654,451	100.0
1. California	282,957	26.6	217,753	25.6	161,247	24.9	170,126	26.0
2. New York	114,116	10.7	106,061	12.5	96,979	15.0	96,559	14.8
3. Florida	104,715	9.8	98,391	11.6	57,484	8.9	59,965	9.2
4. Texas	86,315	8.1	63,840	7.5	49,393	7.6	44,428	6.8
5. New Jersey	59,920	5.6	40,013	4.7	34,095	5.3	35,091	5.4
6. Illinois	48,296	4.5	36,180	4.3	36,971	5.7	33,163	5.1
7. Massachusetts	28,965	2.7	23,483	2.8	15,180	2.3	15,869	2.4
8. Virginia	26,876	2.5	20,087	2.4	15,144	2.3	15,686	2.4
9. Washington	23,085	2.2	18,486	2.2	13,046	2.0	16,920	2.6
10. Maryland	22,060	2.1	17,705	2.1	15,605	2.4	15,561	2.4
11. Michigan	21,528	2.0	16,773	2.0	13,650	2.1	13,943	2.1
12. Pennsylvania	21,441	2.0	18,148	2.1	13,514	2.1	11,942	1.8
13. Georgia	19,431	1.8	14,778	1.7	9,404	1.5	10,445	1.6
14. Arizona	16,362	1.5	11,980	1.4	8,667	1.3	6,211	.9
15. Ohio	14,725	1.4	9,263	1.1	6,855	1.1	7,697	1.2
16. North Carolina	13,918	1.3	9,251	1.1	5,792	.9	6,415	1.0
17. Colorado	12,494	1.2	8,216	1.0	6,984	1.1	6,513	1.0
18. Connecticut	12,148	1.1	11,346	1.3	7,887	1.2	7,780	1.2
19. Minnesota	11,166	1.0	8,671	1.0	5,956	.9	6,981	1.1
20. Oregon	9,638	.9	8,543	1.0	5,233	.8	5,909	.9
Subtotal	950,156	89.3	758,968	89.3	579,086	89.6	587,204	89.7
Other	114,162	10.7	90,839	10.7	67,482	10.4	67,247	10.3
All metropolitan areas	1,064,318	100.0	849,807	100.0	646,568	100.0	654,451	100.0
1. Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA	98,997	9.3	70,644	8.3	55,236	8.5	60,220	9.2
2. New York, NY	92,361	8.7	85,867	10.1	80,893	12.5	81,417	12.4
3. Miami, FL	48,797	4.6	47,404	5.6	30,179	4.7	29,242	4.5
4. Chicago, IL	44,888	4.2	32,300	3.8	33,754	5.2	31,033	4.7
5. Washington, DC-MD-VA	39,815	3.7	29,394	3.5	23,976	3.7	25,639	3.9
6. San Jose, CA	28,715	2.7	16,874	2.0	10,252	1.6	11,811	1.8
7. Houston, TX	26,687	2.5	17,429	2.1	14,662	2.3	13,189	2.0
8. Orange County, CA	23,506	2.2	20,859	2.5	14,423	2.2	14,291	2.2
9. San Diego, CA	22,319	2.1	14,624	1.7	10,309	1.6	9,836	1.5
10. Oakland, CA	21,250	2.0	16,150	1.9	10,794	1.7	13,499	2.1
11. Boston-Lawrence, MA ¹	20,591	1.9	16,469	1.9	11,501	1.8	12,854	2.0
12. San Francisco, CA	18,729	1.8	16,143	1.9	11,755	1.8	14,553	2.2
13. Dallas, TX	18,611	1.7	14,044	1.7	9,598	1.5	9,641	1.5
14. Riverside-San Bernardino, CA	18,434	1.7	12,994	1.5	9,928	1.5	10,227	1.6
15. Fort Lauderdale, FL	16,214	1.5	14,835	1.7	8,407	1.3	9,954	1.5
16. Newark, NJ	15,801	1.5	11,055	1.3	9,751	1.5	9,551	1.5
17. Atlanta, GA	15,425	1.4	11,190	1.3	7,068	1.1	7,504	1.1
18. Philadelphia, PA-NJ	14,796	1.4	12,635	1.5	9,441	1.5	9,197	1.4
19. Detroit, MI	14,736	1.4	11,229	1.3	9,432	1.5	9,852	1.5
20. Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, WA ...	14,217	1.3	10,188	1.2	7,197	1.1	9,497	1.5
Subtotal	614,889	57.8	482,327	56.8	378,556	58.5	393,007	60.1
Other and unknown	449,429	42.2	367,480	43.2	268,012	41.5	261,444	39.9

¹ Includes Lowell and Brockton.