

**Annual Report of Immigrant Visa Applicants in the Family-sponsored and
Employment-based preferences Registered at the National Visa Center
as of November 1, 2017**

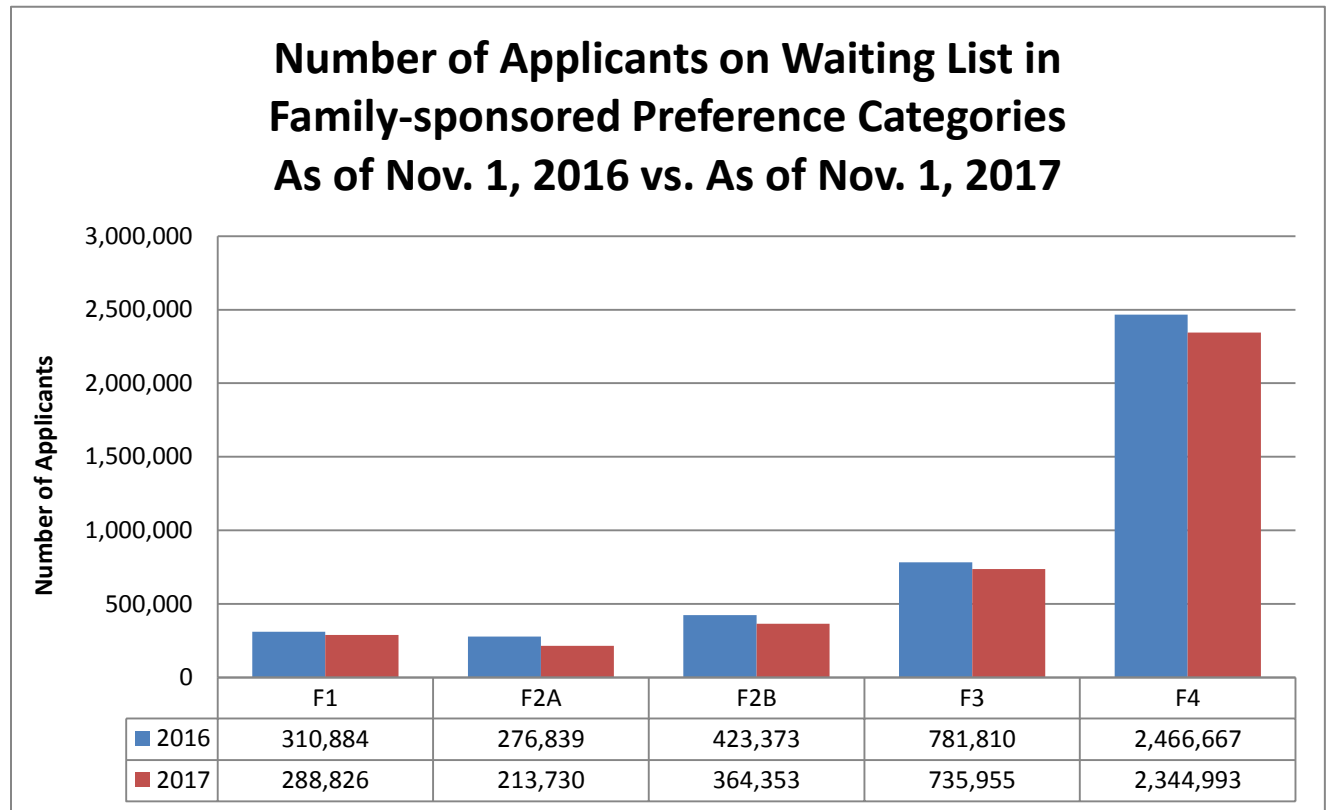
Most prospective immigrant visa applicants qualify for status under the law on the basis of family relationships or employer sponsorship. Entitlement to visa processing in these classes is established ordinarily through approval by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) of a petition filed 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, 2017, 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.

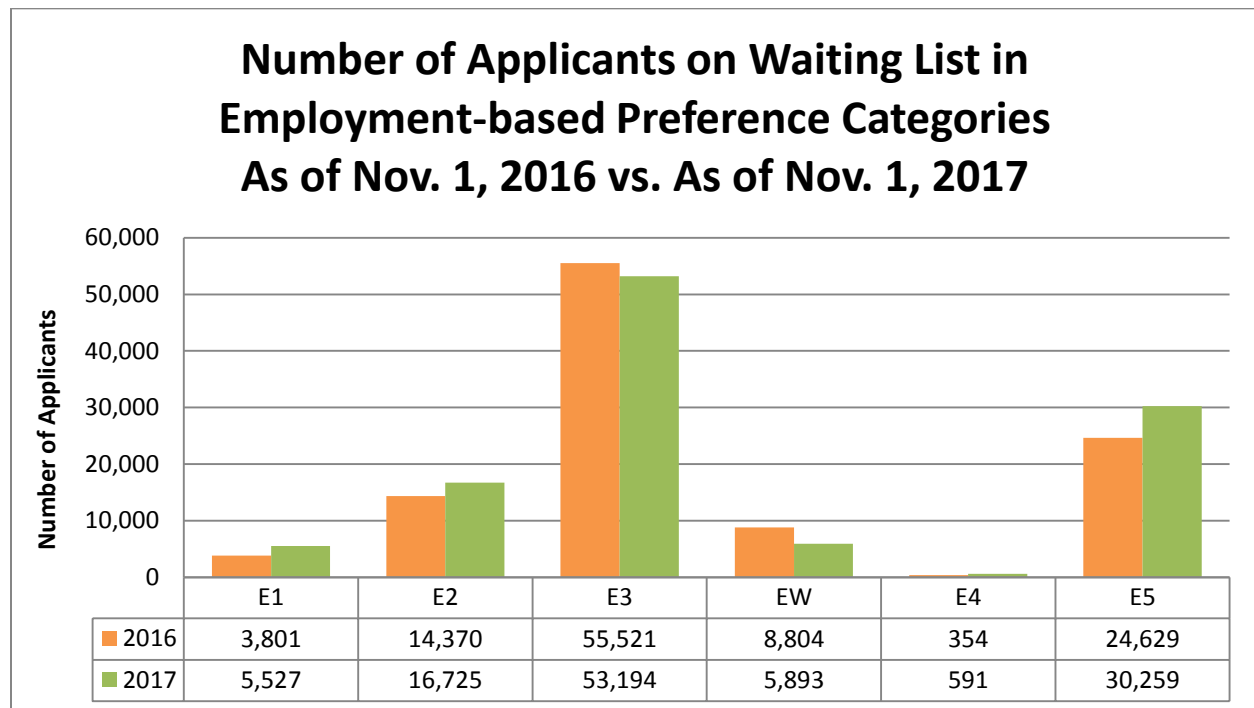
Family-sponsored Preferences

Category	as of Nov. 1, 2016	as of Nov. 1, 2017	% of Change From 2016 Totals
FAMILY FIRST	310,884	288,826	(-7.1%)
FAMILY SECOND TOTAL	700,212	578,083	(-17.4%)
2A-Spouses/Children:	276,839	213,730	(-22.8%)
2B- Adult Sons/Daughters:	423,373	364,353	(-13.9%)
FAMILY THIRD	781,810	735,955	(-5.9%)
FAMILY FOURTH	2,466,667	2,344,993	(-4.9%)
TOTAL	4,259,573	3,947,857	(-7.3%)



Employment-based Preferences

Category	as of Nov. 1, 2016	as of Nov. 1, 2017	% of Change From 2016 Totals
EMPLOYMENT FIRST	3,801	5,527	(+45.4%)
EMPLOYMENT SECOND	14,370	16,725	(+16.4%)
EMPLOYMENT THIRD TOTAL	64,325	59,087	(-8.1%)
Skilled Workers:	55,521	53,194	(-4.2%)
Other Workers:	8,804	5,893	(-33.1%)
EMPLOYMENT FOURTH TOTAL	354	591	(+66.9%)
EMPLOYMENT FIFTH TOTAL	24,629	30,259	(+22.9%)
TOTAL	107,479	112,189	(+4.4%)
GRAND TOTAL	4,367,052	4,060,046	(-7.0%)



Immigrant Waiting List By Country

Immigrant visa issuances during fiscal year 2018 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 eleven countries with the highest number of waiting list registrants in FY 2018 are listed below; together these represent 77.0% 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 2018 the per-country limit will be 25,620.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Applicants</u>
Mexico	1,259,080
Philippines	356,054
India	316,429
Vietnam	250,944
China-mainland born	236,933
Dominican Republic	175,162
Bangladesh	175,149
Pakistan	122,260
Haiti	104,096
El Salvador	71,828
Cuba	59,314
<u>All Others</u>	<u>932,797</u>
Worldwide Total	4,060,046

**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	106,532	36.9%
Dominican Republic	23,868	8.3%
Philippines	19,339	6.7%
Haiti	15,674	5.4%
Jamaica	14,268	4.9%
El Salvador	10,211	3.5%
Colombia	5,617	1.9%
Vietnam	5,412	1.9%
Guyana	5,206	1.8%
Honduras	5,117	1.8%
All Others	77,582	26.9%
Total	288,826	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 578,083. Of these, 213,730 (37%) are spouses and children of permanent residents of the United States (the 2A class), and 364,353 (63%) are adult unmarried sons/daughters of permanent residents (the 2B class). The Family SECOND preference represents 14.6% of the total Family preference waiting list. It will receive 114,200 visa numbers for FY 2018, 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 2018. 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	69,418	32.5%
Dominican Republic	28,256	13.2%
Cuba	11,757	5.5%
El Salvador	9,227	4.3%
Philippines	8,849	4.1%
Haiti	7,275	3.4%
China-mainland born	6,937	3.2%
Vietnam	6,336	3.0%
Guatemala	5,238	2.5%
Honduras	3,866	1.8%
All Others	56,571	26.5%
Total	213,730	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 2018. 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	143,707	39.4%
Philippines	51,980	14.3%
Dominican Republic	45,827	12.6%
Haiti	16,194	4.5%
El Salvador	10,739	2.9%
Vietnam	10,125	2.8%
Cuba	9,012	2.5%
China-mainland born	8,142	2.2%
Jamaica	4,886	1.3%
Guatemala	4,706	1.3%
<u>All Others</u>	<u>59,035</u>	<u>16.2%</u>
Total	364,353	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	205,005	27.8%
Philippines	128,108	17.4%
India	51,259	7.0%
Vietnam	45,493	6.2%
China-mainland born	23,416	3.2%
Dominican Republic	16,863	2.3%
Haiti	15,863	2.1%
Pakistan	15,037	2.0%
Cuba	14,502	2.0%
El Salvador	11,615	1.6%
<u>All Others</u>	<u>208,794</u>	<u>28.4%</u>
Total	735,955	100%

Family FOURTH Preference:

Applicants registered in the Family FOURTH preference total 2,344,993. 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	733,139	31.3%
India	223,476	9.5%
Vietnam	182,455	7.8%
Bangladesh	164,793	7.0%
China-mainland born	161,093	6.9%
Philippines	125,288	5.3%
Pakistan	101,387	4.3%
Dominican Republic	60,295	2.6%
Haiti	49,079	2.1%
El Salvador	29,915	1.3%
All Others	514,073	21.9%
Total	2,344,993	100%

The steadily growing waiting period in this preference is now over 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-three percent of all Employment preference immigrants were processed as adjustment of status cases at USCIS offices during FY 2017. 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	2,212	40.0%
India	402	7.3%
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	277	5.0%
Venezuela	249	4.5%
Korea, South	217	3.9%
Canada	210	3.8%
Iran	174	3.1%
Brazil	170	3.1%
France	94	1.7%
Mexico	92	1.7%
<u>All Others</u>	<u>1,430</u>	<u>25.9%</u>
Worldwide Total	5,527	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	10,961	65.6%
China-mainland born	1,689	10.1%
Korea, South	1,439	8.6%
Philippines	405	2.4%
Iran	256	1.5%
<u>All Others</u>	<u>1,975</u>	<u>11.8%</u>
Worldwide Total	16,725	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>
India	21,962	41.3%
Philippines	20,937	39.3%
China-mainland born	1,840	3.5%
Korea, South	933	1.7%
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	733	1.4%
All Others	6,789	12.8%
Worldwide Total	53,194	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	1,955	33.2%
Philippines	1,102	18.7%
Mexico	490	8.3%
Korea, South	476	8.1%
India	454	7.7%
All Others	1,416	24.0%
Worldwide Total	5,893	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	136	23.0%
Korea, South	38	6.4%
Mexico	32	5.4%
Brazil	31	5.3%
Cambodia	25	4.2%
All Others	329	55.7%
Worldwide Total	591	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	26,725	88.3%
Vietnam	649	2.2%
Hong Kong S.A.R.	423	1.4%
India	307	1.0%
Korea, South	278	0.9%
All Others	1,877	6.2%
Worldwide Total	30,259	100%

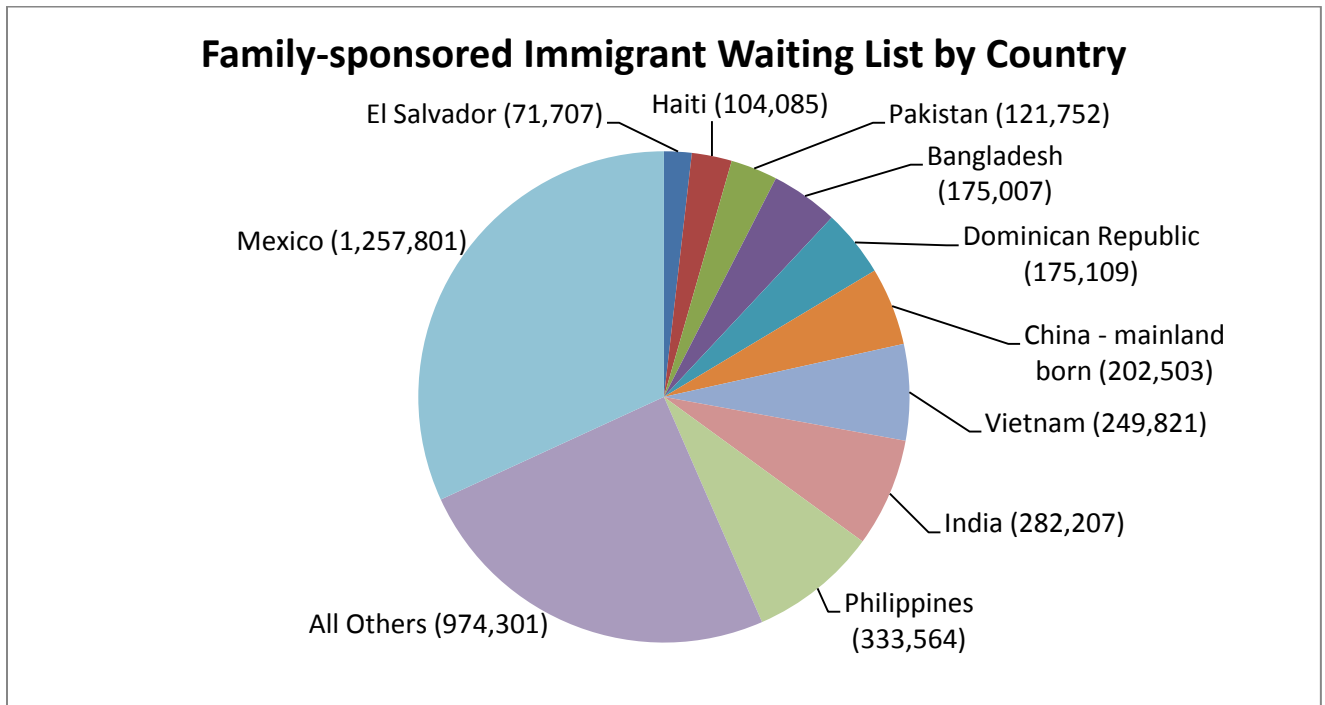
Visa availability is “current” at present for all countries except China-mainland born.

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 75.3% of the total. This list includes all countries with at least 70,000 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 2018 per-country limit will be 15,820.)

Family-sponsored Preferences

Country	Total
Mexico	1,257,801
Philippines	333,564
India	282,207
Vietnam	249,821
China-mainland born	202,503
Dominican Republic	175,109
Bangladesh	175,007
Pakistan	121,752
Haiti	104,085
El Salvador	71,707
All Others	974,301
Worldwide Total	3,947,857

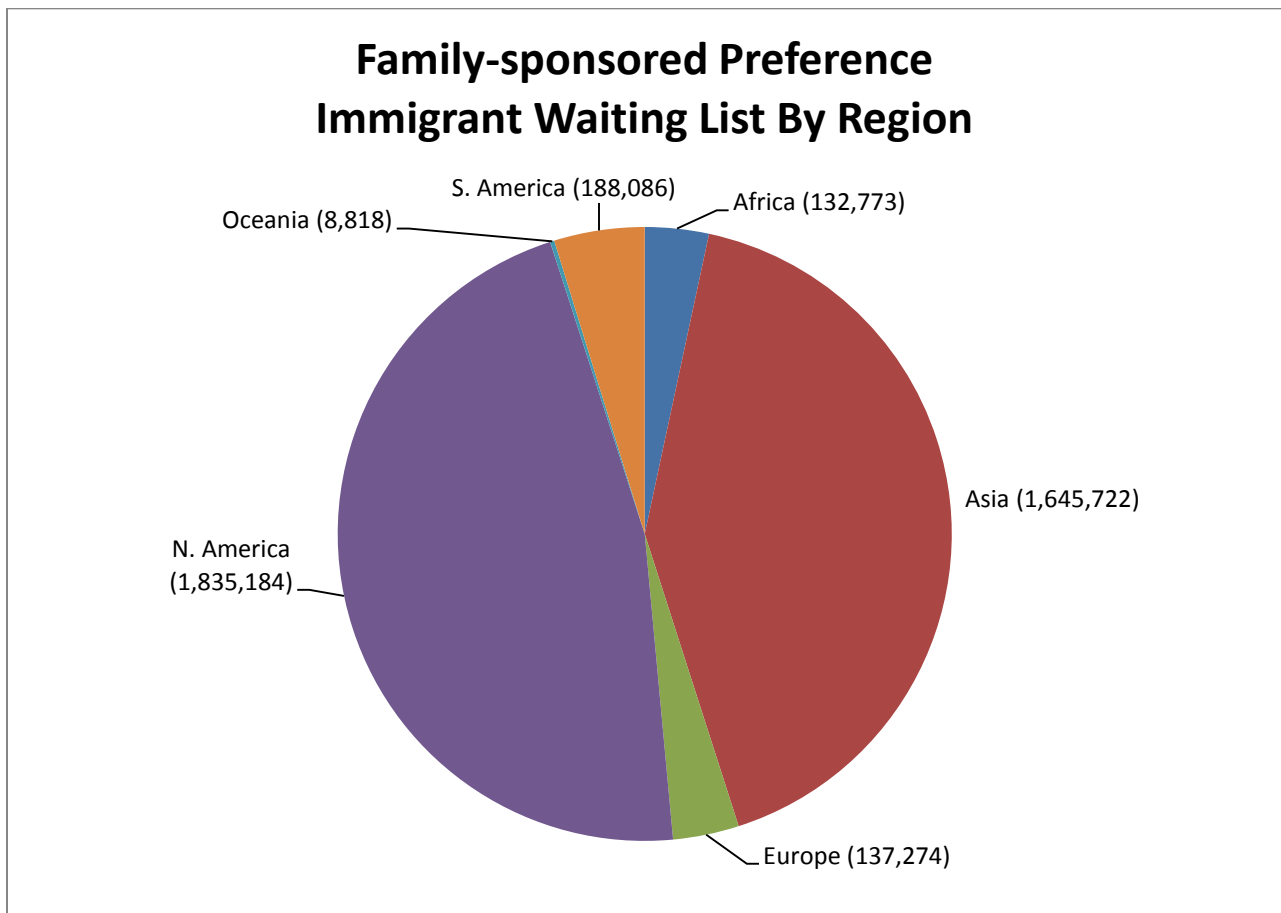


Family-sponsored Immigrant Waiting List By Region

A breakdown of the NVC waiting list by region is:

Region	Total
Africa	132,773
Asia	1,645,722
Europe	137,274
N. America*	1,835,184
Oceania	8,818
S. America	188,086
Family Total	3,947,857

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

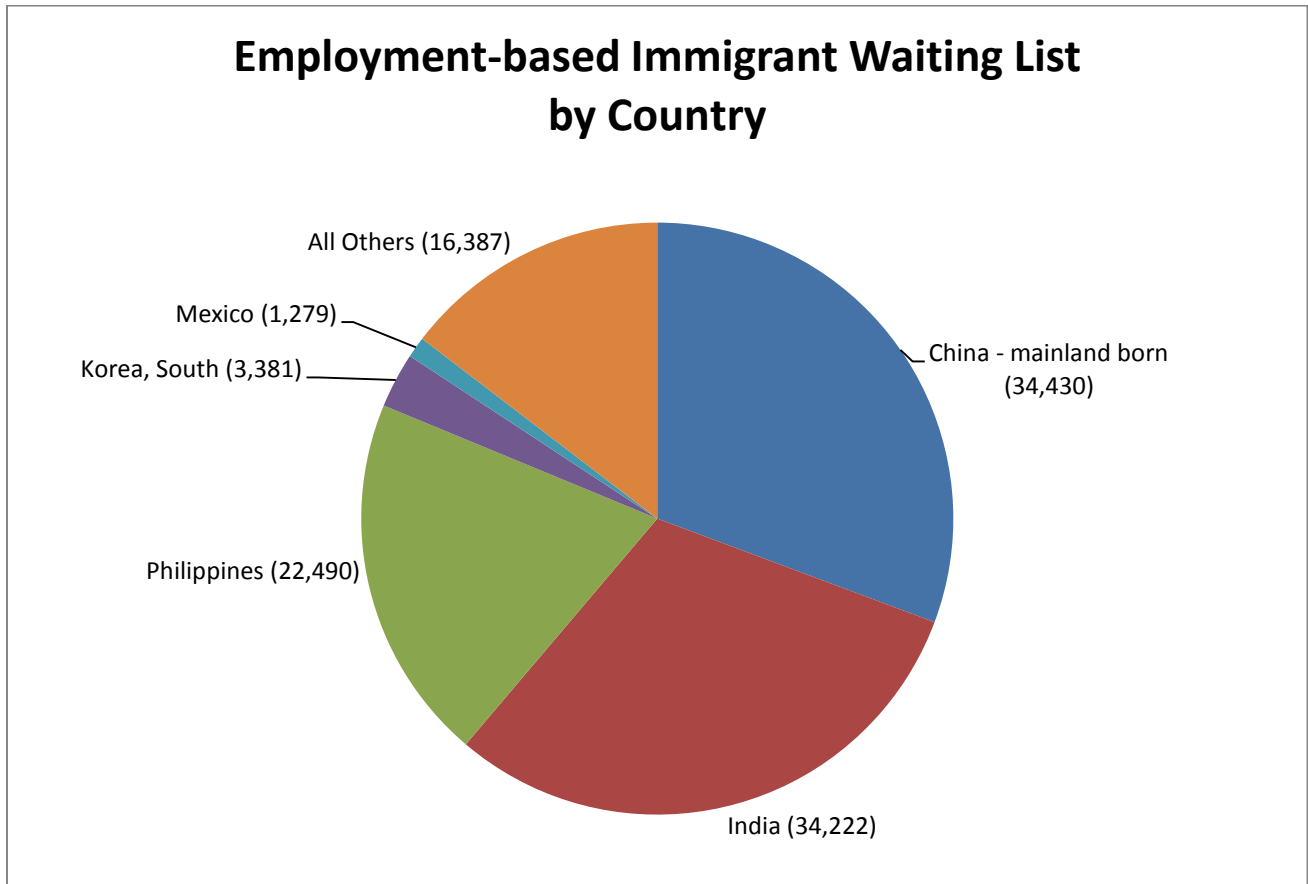


Employment-based Immigrant Waiting List By Country

The five countries with the highest number of Employment-based waiting list registrants are listed below; together these represent 85.4% 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 2018 per-country limit will be 9,800.)

Employment-based Preferences

<u>Country</u>	<u>Total</u>
China-mainland born	34,430
India	34,222
Philippines	22,490
Korea, South	3,381
Mexico	1,279
All Others	16,387
Worldwide Total	112,189



Employment-based Immigrant Waiting List By Region

A breakdown of the NVC waiting list by region is:

Region	Total
Africa	1,325
Asia	101,722
Europe	3,466
N. America*	3,064
Oceania	190
S. America	2,422
Employment Total	112,189

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

