

USCIS Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19)



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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When to File Your Adjustment of Status Application for Family-Sponsored or Employment-Based Preference Visas: July 2022

i ALERT: There are an exceptionally high number of employment-based visas available this fiscal year (October 2021 through September 2022).

[See less](#) ^

There are an exceptionally high number of employment-based visas available this fiscal year (October 2021 through September 2022). In partnership with the U.S. Department of State, we are committed to attempting to use all these visa numbers. There are many more visas available in the first (priority workers) and second (workers with advanced degrees or of exceptional ability) employment-based categories than pending adjustment of status applications pending with USCIS.

If you are eligible, please consider applying in the first or second employment-based preference categories. If you have a pending adjustment of status application based in the third employment-based preference category but also have a pending or approved petition and an available visa in the second employment-based preference category, we strongly encourage you to request that USCIS “transfer the underlying basis” of your pending application to the second employment-based preference category.

For more information, please see the section called “Transfer of Underlying Basis” on the [Green Card for Employment-Based Immigrants](#) page on our website.

Are you seeking to adjust your status and become a U.S. permanent resident under a family-sponsored or employment-based preference immigrant visa? If you have not yet had a relative or employer file an immigrant visa petition on your behalf, please learn more about the [Adjustment of Status Filing Process](#). If you already have a petition filed or approved on your behalf, you may have to wait for an available visa in your category (if applicable) before you can file your [Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status](#). This page will help you determine when to file your adjustment of status application.

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When to File

Use the Visa Bulletin charts below to determine when to file your adjustment of status application.

To use the charts:

1. Find your visa type in the first column (on the left) of the appropriate chart (Family-sponsored or Employment-based).
2. Stay in that row and move directly to the right to find the corresponding date under the country of your birth (as listed in the boldface columns across the top).
3. If the date on the chart is current ("C"), or your priority date is earlier than the date on the chart, you may file your adjustment of status application, if otherwise eligible to do so.
4. "U" means unauthorized; for example, numbers are not authorized for issuance.

Your priority date is generally the date when your relative or employer properly filed the immigrant visa petition on your behalf with USCIS. If a labor certification is required to be filed with your immigrant visa petition, the priority date is the date the labor certification application was accepted for processing by the Department of Labor.

July 2022

Dates for Filing for Family-Sponsored Adjustment of Status Applications

Family-Sponsored	All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed	China - mainland born	India	Mexico	Philippines
F1	01JUL16	01JUL16	01JUL16	01DEC01	22APR15
F2A	C	C	C	C	C
F2B	01OCT16	01OCT16	01OCT16	08AUG01	01OCT13
F3	01OCT09	01OCT09	01OCT09	15APR01	08NOV03
F4	08NOV07	08NOV07	22FEB06	15MAR01	22APR04

Final Action Dates for Employment-Based Adjustment of Status Applications

Employment-Based	All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA-mainland born	EL SALVADOR GUATEMALA HONDURAS	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
1st	C	C	C	C	C	C

Employment-Based	All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA-mainland born	EL SALVADOR GUATEMALA HONDURAS	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
2nd	C	01APR19	C	01DEC14	C	C
3rd	C	22MAR18	C	15JAN12	C	C
Other Workers	08MAY19	01JUN12	08MAY19	15JAN12	08MAY19	08MAY19
4th	C	C	08NOV17	C	01APR20	C
Certain Religious Workers	C	C	08NOV17	C	01APR20	C
5th Unreserved (C5, T5, I5, R5, and all others)	C	22NOV15	C	C	C	C
5th Set Aside (Rural - 20%)	C	C	C	C	C	C
5th Set Aside (High Unemployment - 10%)	C	C	C	C	C	C
5th Set Aside (Infrastructure - 2%)	C	C	C	C	C	C

About the Visa Bulletin

DOS publishes current immigrant visa availability information in a monthly [Visa Bulletin](#). The Visa Bulletin indicates when statutorily limited visas are available for issuance to prospective immigrants based on their individual priority date.

On Nov. 20, 2014, the Secretary of Homeland Security directed USCIS to work with DOS to:

- Ensure that all immigrant visas authorized by Congress are issued to eligible individuals when there is sufficient demand for such visas, and
- Improve the Visa Bulletin system for determining when immigrant visas are available to applicants during the fiscal year.

Additionally, in July 2015, the Administration issued its report on [Modernizing and Streamlining Our Legal Immigration System for the 21st Century \(PDF\)](#). This report included detailed recommendations to revise and update the monthly Visa Bulletin to better estimate immigrant visa availability and provide needed predictability to nonimmigrant workers seeking permanent residency.

USCIS, in coordination with DOS, revised the procedures for determining visa availability for applicants waiting to file for adjustment of status. The revised process will better align with procedures DOS uses for noncitizens who seek to become U.S. permanent residents by applying for immigrant visas at U.S. consulates and embassies abroad.

This revised process will enhance DOS's ability to more accurately predict overall immigrant visa demand in determining the cut-off dates for the Visa Bulletin. This will help ensure that the maximum number of immigrant visas are issued annually as intended by Congress, and minimize month-to-month fluctuations in Visa Bulletin final action dates. Additional goals are outlined in the White House report, [Modernizing and Streamlining Our Legal Immigration System for the 21st Century \(PDF\)](#).

New Visa Bulletin Charts

The Visa Bulletin will now have two different charts because of the revised procedures. DOS will post two charts per visa preference category in the DOS Visa Bulletin. The charts are:

- Application Final Action Dates (dates when visas may finally be issued); and
- Dates for Filing Applications (earliest dates when applicants may be able to apply).

When USCIS determines there are immigrant visas available for the filing of additional adjustment of status applications, the Dates for Filing Applications chart may be used to determine when to file an adjustment of status application with USCIS. Otherwise, the Application Final Action Dates chart must be used to determine when to file an adjustment of status application with USCIS.

In coordination with the DOS, USCIS will monitor visa numbers each month and post the relevant chart on this page under When to File.

Determining Visa Availability

USCIS considers several factors to determine if there is a greater supply of visas than the demand for those visas. To determine visa availability, USCIS will compare the number of visas available for the remainder of the fiscal year with:

- Documentarily qualified visa applications reported by DOS;
- Pending adjustment of status applications reported by USCIS; and
- Historical drop off rate of applicants for adjustment of status (for example, denials, withdrawals and abandonments)

