

# Annual Limit Reached in the EB-3 and EW Categories

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The State Department, working in close collaboration with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, has issued all available immigrant visas in the Employment-Based Third Preference (EB-3) category and the “Other Workers” (EW) subcategory for fiscal year (FY) 2025.

The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) limits the number of employment-based preference immigrant visas that may be issued within a fiscal year. Specifically, INA 203(b)(3) provides that the annual limit for EB-3 visas is 28.6 percent of the worldwide employment limit, of which up to 10,000 may be used for EW visas.

Since all available EB-3 and EW visas for FY 2025 have been used, embassies and consulates may not issue visas in these categories for the remainder of the fiscal year. The annual limits will reset with the start of the new fiscal year (FY 2026) on October 1, 2025. At that point, embassies and consulates may resume issuing immigrant visas in this category to qualified applicants.

