

October 2010 Visa Bulletin  
Found at [www.travel.state.gov/visa/bulletin](http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/bulletin)

## **FAMILY-SPONSORED PREFERENCES**

Below are the "preference categories" for family immigration. Please note that lawful permanent residents may sponsor only spouses and children. Citizens may sponsor spouses, children, parents, married and/or unmarried adult children, as well as siblings.

**First Preference:** Unmarried Sons and Daughters of Citizens: 23,400 plus any numbers not required for fourth preference.

**Second Preference:** Spouses and Children, and Unmarried Sons and Daughters of Permanent Residents: 114,200, plus the number (if any) by which the worldwide family preference level exceeds 226,000, and any unused first preference numbers:

A. Spouses and Children: 77% of the overall second preference limitation, of which 75% are exempt from the per-country limit;

B. Unmarried Sons and Daughters (21 years of age or older): 23% of the overall second preference limitation.

**Third Preference:** Married Sons and Daughters of Citizens: 23,400, plus any numbers not required by first and second preferences.

**Fourth Preference:** Brothers and Sisters of Adult Citizens: 65,000, plus any numbers not required by first three preferences.

Family	All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA-mainland born	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
1st	15FEB06	15FEB06	15FEB06	15DEC92	01MAR97 <sup>1</sup>
2A	01APR10	01APR10	01APR10	01JAN10	01APR10
2B	01APR05	01APR05	01APR05	22JUN92	01SEP02
3rd	01MAY02	01MAY02	01MAY02	22OCT92	01MAR95
4th	01DEC01	01DEC01	01DEC01	08DEC95	01APR91

\*NOTE: For October, 2A numbers **EXEMPT from per-country limit** are available to applicants from all countries with priority dates **earlier** than 01JAN10. 2A numbers **SUBJECT to per-country limit** are available to applicants chargeable to all countries **EXCEPT the MEXICO** with priority dates beginning 01JAN10 and earlier than 01APR10. (All 2A numbers provided for the MEXICO are exempt from the per-country limit; there are no 2A numbers for MEXICO subject to per-country limit.)

How to read this chart: The dates posted are the filing dates for visas that are currently being processed by USCIS. This chart tells how old the applications are that are currently being processed. For example, visas for spouses and children of LPRs (lawful permanent residents) from China (Preference Category 2A) are taking roughly 6 months to process, while those from Mexico are taking 9 months. Visas for adult, unmarried sons & daughters from India (Preference Category 2B) are currently taking roughly 5 1/2 years, while those from Mexico are taking roughly 18 years to process.