

IMMIGRATION STATISTICS

Statistical data on immigration have been published annually by the U.S. government since the 1890s. Over the years, the federal agencies responsible for reporting on immigration have changed, as have the content, format, and title of the annual publication. Currently, immigration data are published in the *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics* by the Office of Immigration Statistics (OIS) in the Policy Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The following article provides statistics on the various categories of aliens admitted into the United States with special focus on statistics for the sub-continental countries of India, Bangladesh and Pakistan for the year 2005. All data for this article was obtained from The *2005 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics* published by the DHS.

Legal Permanent Residents

Legal permanent residents (LPRs) are persons who have been granted lawful permanent residence in the United States. They are also known as “green card” recipients. According to the statistics published by the DHS, the number of people who obtained legal permanent resident status in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 totaled 841,002, of which 41,903 were born in India, 14,504 in Pakistan and 7,204 in Bangladesh. For FY 2001, 1,058,902 persons were granted permanent resident status including 70,032 persons from India, 16,393 from Pakistan and 7,152 from Bangladesh. For FY 2002, 1,059,356 persons were granted permanent resident status out of which 70,823 were from India, 13,694 from Pakistan and 5,483 from Bangladesh. For FY 2003, 703,542 persons were granted permanent resident status, including 50,228 persons from India, 9,415 from Pakistan and 4,616 from Bangladesh. For FY 2004, 957,883 persons were granted permanent resident status, including 70,151 persons from India, 12,086 from Pakistan and 8,061 from Bangladesh. For FY 2005, 1,122,373 persons were granted legal permanent resident status out of which 84,681 from India, 14,926 from Pakistan and 11,487 from Bangladesh.

Statistics are also available for persons who obtained legal permanent resident status based on the class of admission. Out of the 84,681 Indian citizens that were granted permanent resident status in 2005, 47,705 were under “Employment Based Preferences” 19,108 were “Immediate Relatives of U.S. citizens” 15,256 were under “Family Based Preferences”, 60 were from Diversity Category, 2,331 were “Refugees and Asylees” and 221 from other categories.

Immigrant Orphans

In order to qualify for an immigrant visa as an adopted child of an American citizen, the child must be under the age of 16 at the time of the filing of the I-600 and meet the definition of “orphan” as per the provision in the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952. The only exception to the age criterion is for a child under age 18 who otherwise meets the definition of orphan and who was/will be adopted together with a sibling who is under age 16.

An “orphan” is a child who has no parents because of the death or disappearance of, abandonment or desertion by, or separation or loss from both parents. An orphan is also a child whose sole or surviving parent has forever and irrevocably released him or her for adoption and emigration because that parent cannot properly care for the child.

In FY 2005, 324 orphans were adopted from India, 27 from Pakistan and 10 from Bangladesh.

Refugees and Asylees

Refugees and asylees are persons who sought residence in the United States in order to avoid persecution in their country of origin. Persons granted refugee status applied for admission while outside the United States. Persons granted asylum applied either at a port of entry or at some point after their entry into the United States.

In FY 2005, a total of 53,738 refugees arrived in the United States from various countries, out of which 9 were from Pakistan. The total number of refugees from Pakistan for the years 2000 to 2005 was 47. For the same period, there were no refugees from either India or Bangladesh seeking to enter the USA.

For F.Y. 2005, the total number of persons who were granted asylum in the United States was 25,257 out of which 376 were persons originating from India, 157 were from Bangladesh and 266 were from Pakistan.

Naturalizations

Naturalization refers to the process by which legal permanent residents can gain citizenship if they are above 18 years of age. Most permanent residents are eligible to apply for naturalization within five years of obtaining their permanent residency.

In FY 2005, 602,972 naturalization petitions were filed, 604,280 persons were naturalized and 108,247 petitions were rejected. Out of the persons naturalized, 35,962 were Indian citizens, 5,503 were Bangladeshi citizens and 9,699 were Pakistani citizens.

Nonimmigrant Admissions

Nonimmigrant admissions refer to arrivals of persons who are authorized to stay in the United States for a limited period of time. Most nonimmigrants enter the United States as tourists or business travelers, but some come to work, study, or engage in cultural exchange programs.

In FY 2005, 175.4 million individuals entered the United States as non-immigrants, of which 28,510,374 entered as Temporary Visitors (tourist and business travelers), 1,046,421 as Students and Exchange Visitor (with families), 1,573,631 as Temporary Workers (with families), 156,945 as Foreign Government Officials (with families), 115,116 as Representatives to International Organizations (with families), 641 as NATO Officials (with families) and approximately 504,454 under all other categories.

The number of nonimmigrant admissions for the same period was 665,202 from India, of which 376,302 individuals were Tourists and Business Travelers, 61,146 were Students and Exchange Visitors, 194, 611 were Temporary Workers, 6,808 were” Diplomats and

other Representatives and 23,917 were from all other categories. Considering the temporary workers category alone, out of a total of 194,611 entrants, 102,382 were under the H-1B (skilled workers) category, 263 under the H-2A and H-2B (seasonal workers) category, 859 under the O-1 and O-2 (workers with extraordinary ability/achievement) category, 1,979 under the P1, P2 and P3 (athletes, artists and entertainers) category, 28,460 under the L-1 (intra-company transferees) category, 228 under the E-1, E-2 and E-3 (treaty traders and other investors) category and 60,440 under other temporary worker categories.

Enforcement Actions

Enforcement actions include the apprehensions, investigations, detention, and removal of foreign nationals who are in violation of the Immigration and Nationality Act. These actions occur at the borders of the United States, in the interior of the country, and at designated sites outside the United States.

In 2005, a total of 1,291,142 aliens were found to be deportable from the United States, including 771 aliens of Indian nationality, 792 of Pakistani nationality and 151 of Bangladeshi nationality. Of these aliens found deportable, 965,538 were granted Voluntary Departure (VD) and only 208,521 were formally removed. The number of Indian nationals who granted VD was 103 (11 on criminal grounds and 92 on non-criminal grounds), whereas the numbers for Pakistani and Bangladeshi nationals were 182 (14 on criminal and 168 under non-criminal) and 34 (3 on criminal and 31 under non-criminal). The number of Indian nationals who were removed from the U.S. was 453 (128 on criminal grounds and 325 on non-criminal grounds), whereas the number of Pakistani nationals removed was 405 (100 on criminal grounds and 305 on non-criminal grounds) and the number of Bangladeshi nationals removed was 75 (20 on criminal grounds and 55 on non-criminal grounds).