



GMS Flash Alert

Immigration Edition

2024-018 | January 19, 2024



United States - February 2024 Visa Bulletin

The February 2024 *Visa Bulletin*¹ released by the U.S. Department of State reflects little change relative to the January 2024 *Visa Bulletin*². Next month's *Visa Bulletin* does indicate slight forward movement in the Final Action Dates chart, specifically in the EB-2 and EB-3 categories. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) confirmed that individuals may file a Form I-485, *Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status*, in February 2024 based on the Dates of Filing.³

WHY THIS MATTERS

Congress limits the number of immigrant visas ("green cards") which may be issued each year. Each country receives a maximum of 7 percent of the annual quota of available employment-based immigrant visas. Intending immigrants to the U.S. are generally charged to their country of birth, although some exceptions apply. The U.S. Department of State (DOS) releases a *Visa Bulletin* every month indicating the availability of statutorily-limited visas for prospective immigrants.

The cut-off dates reflected in the *Visa Bulletin*, coupled with USCIS' confirmation of which chart will apply, dictate eligibility to file a Form I-485 application in each month. In addition, the Final Action Dates chart in the applicable *Visa Bulletin* determines whether a pending Form I-485 or immigrant visa application may be approved.

Employment-Based Preference Category Cut-Off Dates

Cut-Off Dates for Dates of Filing Chart for February 2024

EB-1: All countries of chargeability except the People's Republic of China ("China") and India will remain current. The cut-off date for China remains at January 1, 2023, and the cut-off date for India remains January 1, 2021.

EB-2: The cut-off dates for all countries except China and India remain at February 15, 2023. The cut-off for China will stay at June 1, 2020, and the cut-off for India remains at May 15, 2012.

EB-3 Professional and Skilled Workers: The cut-off dates for all countries of chargeability except China, India, and the Philippines remain February 1, 2023. China's cut-off date will stay at July 1, 2021, India's cut-off date will remain at August 1, 2012, and the cut-off date for the Philippines will remain at January 1, 2023.

EB-3 Other Workers: All countries of chargeability except China, India, and the Philippines will have a cut-off date of December 15, 2020. China's cut-off date will remain June 1, 2017, and India's cut-off date remains at August 1, 2012. The cut-off date for the Philippines will stay at May 15, 2020.

EB-4: The cut-off date for all countries will remain at September 1, 2019.

Certain Religious workers: The cut-off date for all countries remains September 1, 2019.

EB-5: Cut-off dates are current for all countries, except for the C5, T5, I5, and R5 programs for China and India. The cut-off date for China remains at January 1, 2017, and the cut-off date for India remains at April 1, 2022.

Cut-Off Dates for Dates of Final Action Chart for February 2024⁴

EB-1: All countries of chargeability except China and India are now current. The cut-off date for China remains at July 1, 2022, and India's cut-off date remains September 1, 2020.

EB-2: The cut-off dates for all countries except China and India move forward to November 15, 2022. The cut-off for China will remain stable at January 1, 2020, and the cut-off for India will remain March 1, 2012.

EB-3 Professional and Skilled Workers: The cut-off dates for all countries of chargeability except China and India move forward to September 1, 2022. China's cut-off date will remain at September 1, 2020, and India's cut-off date will progress to July 1, 2012.

EB-3 Other Workers: All countries of chargeability except China, India, and the Philippines will have a cut-off date of September 1, 2020. China's cut-off date will remain January 1, 2017, India's cut-off date will advance to July 1, 2012, and the cut-off date for the Philippines will remain at May 1, 2020.

EB-4: The cut-off dates for all countries will remain May 15, 2019.

Certain Religious workers: The cut-off dates for all countries will remain May 15, 2019.

EB-5: Final Action Dates are current for all countries, except for the C5, T5, I5, and R5 programs for China and India. The cut-off date for China will progress to December 15, 2015, and the cut-off date for India remains December 1, 2020.

FOOTNOTES:

1 U.S. Department of State [website](#).

2 For coverage of the January *Visa Bulletin*, see [GMS Flash Alert 2023-242](#), January 14, 2023.

3 See the "[Adjustment of Status Filing Charts from the Visa Bulletin](#)" page on the USCIS website.

4 U.S. Department of State [website](#).

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