

GMS Flash Alert

Immigration

2024-128 | June 14, 2024



United States – July 2024 Visa Bulletin

The July 2024 *Visa Bulletin* released by the U.S. Department of State reflects some notable movements from the June 2024 *Visa Bulletin*,¹ including retrogression in the EB-3 Dates of Final Action Chart (Professional and Skilled Workers) by almost one year, as well as advancements for India in the EB-1 Dates of Filing Chart and Date of Final Action Chart by almost one year. United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will continue to accept Forms I-485, *Applications to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status*, utilizing the Final Action Dates Chart for all employment-based preference categories.²

For coverage of last month's *Visa Bulletin*, see [GMS Flash Alert 2024-112](#), May 16, 2024.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Congress limits the number of immigrant visas (“green cards”) which may be issued each year. A per-country limit of 7 percent of the annual quota of available employment-based immigrant visas applies. Each month, the U.S. Department of State (DOS) releases a *Visa Bulletin* 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.

As part of the June 2024 *Visa Bulletin*, the DOS noted that high demand in the EB-2 and EB-3 categories will most likely necessitate retrogression of the worldwide final action date (including Mexico and Philippines) in July 2024.³ In the July 2024 *Visa Bulletin*, the DOS further notes that it will likely be necessary to either further retrogress the EB-3 final action date or make this category “Unavailable” in August. As there is a potential for further retrogression, it is recommended to submit I-485 applications for eligible applicants in July, especially in the EB-2 and EB-3 categories, and to submit I-485 applications for Indian-born nationals who are now eligible due to advancement in the EB-1 Dates of Filing Chart.

Employment-Based Preference Category Cut-Off Dates

Cut-Off Dates for Dates of Filing Chart for July 2024⁴

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. Notably, the cut-off date for India has moved forward by just over 10 months to February 8, 2022.

EB-2: The cut-off dates for all countries except China and India have moved forward by over one (1) month to March 22, 2023. The cut-off for China will stay at June 1, 2020. The cut-off for India has moved forward by a little more than one (1) month to June 22, 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, and the Philippines' cut-off date will stay at January 1, 2023. India's cut-off date has moved forward by two (2) weeks to October 1, 2012.

EB-3 Other Workers: All countries of chargeability except China, India, and the Philippines have cut-off dates that have advanced by approximately three (3) weeks, to January 8, 2021. China's cut-off date will remain June 1, 2017, and the Philippines' cut-off date will remain at May 15, 2020. India's cut-off date has advanced by two (2) weeks to October 1, 2012.

EB-4: The cut-off dates for all countries have moved forward by two (2) months to February 1, 2021.

Certain Religious workers: The cut-off dates for all countries have progressed by two (2) months to February 1, 2021.

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

Cut-Off Dates for Dates of Final Action Chart for July 2024⁵

EB-1: All countries of chargeability except China and India will be current. The cut-off date for China has advanced by two (2) months to November 1, 2022. Notably, the cut-off date for India has advanced by 11 months to February 1, 2022.

EB-2: The cut-off dates for all countries except China and India have advanced by two (2) months to March 15, 2023. The cut-off for China has advanced by one (1) month to March 1, 2020, and the cut-off for India has advanced by two (2) months to June 15, 2012.

EB-3 Professional and Skilled Workers: Notably, the cut-off dates for all countries of chargeability except China and India have retrogressed by 11 months to December 1, 2021. China's cut-off date will remain at September 1, 2020, and India's cut-off date has advanced by one (1) month to September 22, 2012.

EB-3 Other Workers: All countries of chargeability except China, India, and the Philippines have advanced three (3) months to January 1, 2021. China's cut-off date will remain January 1, 2017, India's cut-off date has advanced by one (1) month to September 22, 2012, and the cut-off date for the Philippines will remain at May 1, 2020.

EB-4: The cut-off dates for all countries have advanced two (2) months to January 1, 2021.

Certain Religious workers: The cut-off dates for all countries have advanced two (2) months to January 1, 2021.

EB-5: Final Action Dates are current for all countries, except for the C5, T5, I5, and R5 (i.e., 5th Unreserved) programs for China and India. The 5th Unreserved cut-off date for China will remain at December 15, 2015, and the cut-off date for India remains at December 1, 2020.

FOOTNOTES:

- 1 U.S. Department of State [website](#).
- 2 See the "[Adjustment of Status Filing Charts from the Visa Bulletin](#)" page on the USCIS website.
- 3 U.S. Department of State [website](#).
- 4 U.S. Department of State [website](#).
- 5 U.S. Department of State [website](#).

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