



Immigration News Highlights

2025-29, 22 July 2025



The KPMG team regularly monitors recent developments across the globe in the Immigration space and publishes them as Immigration News Highlights. Please find the key developments that occurred over the last week enumerated below. [Click here to find all issues of the Immigration News Highlights on the GMS Flash Alert: Immigration page.](#)

The information in Immigration News Highlights is sourced from the independent third parties listed below and shall not be attributed to KPMG. It does not represent the views or opinions of KPMG International Limited or any KPMG member firm. This information is provided for general information only. It is not intended to amount to advice or serve as a substitute for any professional advice, consultation, or service, [and should not be relied on without further consultation].

Although we make reasonable efforts to update this information, we make no representations, warranties or guarantees, whether express or implied, that this information is accurate, complete, or up to date.

[Americas](#)

[Asia Pacific](#)

[Europe and Africa](#)



Americas

Canada

Canada to begin 2025 parents and grandparents program intake

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) will begin issuing invitations to apply under the 2025 Parents and Grandparents Program starting 28 July 2025. IRCC will accept up to 10,000 complete sponsorship applications this year. Invitations will be sent over approximately two weeks to individuals who submitted an interest to sponsor form in 2020 and have not yet received an invitation. Applications can be submitted electronically through the Permanent Residence Portal or the Representative Permanent Residence Portal.

[Read More](#)

Manitoba temporarily pauses the intake of employer services applications under provincial nominee program

The Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program has temporarily paused the intake of new applications under its Employer Services stream, effective 04 July 2025. The province plans to reopen the intake on 05 August 2025. This pause affects foreign nationals whose employers intended to support their nomination during this period but does not impact candidates with

applications already submitted. The employer services stream allows Manitoba employers to nominate skilled foreign workers aligned with the province's labor needs.

[Read More](#)

Mexico

[Mexico launches digital consular service platform to streamline procedures for nationals in the United States](#)

The Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores of Mexico announced the completion of its consular service simplification process in the United States on 21 July 2025. The new system includes a digital appointment platform and a Single Window accessible via the Mi Consulado portal, aimed at improving efficiency, transparency, and reducing fraudulent practices. The Legal Advisory Program (PALE) now includes over 2,000 legal professionals, and requirements for returning to Mexico with household goods and work tools have been simplified

[Read More](#)

[United States reaches fiscal year 2026 H-1B visa cap for regular and advanced degree categories](#)

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services announced that it has received enough petitions to reach the mandated 65,000 H-1B visa regular cap and the 20,000 H-1B visa master's caps (advanced degree exemption) for fiscal year 2026. USCIS will continue to accept and process petitions that are exempt from the cap, including those for current H-1B workers seeking extensions, changes in employment terms, employer changes, or concurrent employment. The announcement was made on 18 July 2025.

[Read More](#)

[United States updates Form G-1055 fee schedule, removing fee waiver eligibility for certain parole-related applications](#)

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) published a new edition of Form G-1055, Fee Schedule, removing fee waiver eligibility for Form I-131 for nonimmigrants seeking parole in two categories: initial requests for arrival/departure records for parole in place, and re-parole requests from within the United States. USCIS will provide further details on the implementation of new immigration fees. The update was published on 18 July 2025

[Read More](#)

[United States implements new immigration fees under HR-1 effective July 22](#)

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services announced that new immigration-related fees under the HR-1 Reconciliation Bill will take effect for benefit requests postmarked on or after 22 July 2025. These include a US\$100 fee for Form I-589 (Application for Asylum), a US\$550 fee for initial Employment Authorization Document applications, and a US\$250 fee for Special Immigrant Juvenile petitions. The new fees are in addition to existing ones and are not eligible for waivers. Forms submitted without the correct fees after 21 August 2025 will be rejected.

[Read More](#)



Asia Pacific

Australia

[Australia activates multi-factor authentication for ImmiAccount to enhance security of immigration services](#)

The Department of Home Affairs of Australia announced that multi-factor authentication (MFA) is now live on ImmiAccount as of 18 June 2025. MFA adds a second layer of security for users accessing Australia's primary migration and visa system. Authentication is now required at each login, during account creation, and when making account changes. Users can choose between an authenticator app or email token for verification.

[Read More](#)

China

[China reports 333 million exit-entry trips in H1 2025 as visa-free entries by foreigners rise by 53.9 percent](#)

The National Immigration Administration (NIA) of China announced that immigration authorities inspected 333 million exit-entry trips in the first half of 2025, marking a 15.8 percent year-on-year increase. Of these, 38.05 million trips were made by foreign nationals, with visa-free entries reaching 13.64 million, a 53.9 percent increase compared to the previous year. The NIA also implemented new policies, including visa exemptions for ASEAN tourist groups entering Xishuangbanna and adding Indonesia to the list of countries eligible for China's 240-hour visa-free transit policy. The announcement was made during a press conference held on 16 July 2025.

[Read More](#)

India

[India launches e-visa program for Kuwaiti nationals across five visa categories](#)

The Bureau of Immigration, Government of India, implemented an e-visa program for Kuwaiti nationals effective 13 July 2025. Eligible applicants can now apply online for tourism, business, medical, Ayush (traditional Indian medicine), and conference visas. Tourist e-visas are valid for up to five years, business visas for up to one year, and other categories for shorter durations. Applications are submitted entirely online, with biometrics captured upon arrival.

[Read More](#)

Maldives

[Maldives announces investor visa program allowing residence through real estate investment](#)

The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Maldives announced the launch of the country's first-ever investor visa program, allowing foreign nationals to obtain long-term residence by investing in premium real estate. The program, developed in collaboration with Henley & Partners, includes strict due diligence measures and supports Vision 2040 strategy to

diversify the economy and attract high-value investors. The announcement was made during the Maldives–Singapore Business Forum 2025 held on Sentosa Island on 21 July 2025.

[Read More](#)

Thailand

[Thailand announces Destination Thailand visa offering five-year stay for remote workers and digital nomads](#)

The Royal Thai Government confirmed that the Destination Thailand visa (DTV) program has attracted over 35,000 applicants since its launch in 2024. The DTV is a five-year, multiple-entry visa allowing stays of up to 180 days per entry, targeting remote workers, freelancers, and wellness tourists. Applicants must demonstrate financial reserves of 500,000 and pay a THB10000 application fee. The program supports Thailand's broader strategy to boost tourism and economic activity. The update was published on 21 July 2025.

[Read More](#)



Europe and Africa

Denmark

[Denmark updates national sanctions list restricting entry of foreign religious preachers](#)

Udlændingestyrelsen (Danish Immigration Service) updated the national sanctions list on 18 July 2025, maintaining the total number of listed individuals at 15. One individual already on the list received a renewed entry ban for an additional two-year period. The list includes foreign religious preachers who are barred from entering Denmark and other Schengen countries.

[Read More](#)

European Union

[The European Union increases European Travel Information and Authorization System \(ETIAS\) fee to 20 euros](#)

The European Commission announced on 17 July 2025 that the fee for the ETIAS will increase from EUR7 to EUR20. The adjustment aims to cover operational costs and align with similar international travel authorization programs. The new fee will apply once ETIAS becomes operational, expected in late 2026. Individuals under 18 or over 70 will be exempt from the fee.

[Read More](#)

South Africa

[South Africa launches new Home Affairs service in Australia to reduce turnaround times for passports and Smart IDs](#)

The Department of Home Affairs of South Africa announced that Minister Leon Schreiber will launch a new service aimed at reducing turnaround times for passports and Smart IDs for South Africans living abroad. The service, previously piloted in the United Kingdom, will be introduced in Sydney on 16 July 2025 and in Melbourne on 18 July 2025, cutting processing times from over 12 months to just five weeks.

[Read More](#)

United Kingdom

United Kingdom reopens final ballot for India Young Professionals Scheme visa

The UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) issued updated guidance on 22 July 2025 for the India Young Professionals Scheme visa, confirming that the second and final ballot for 2025 is now open and will close by 24 July 2025. Indian citizens aged 18 to 30 can enter the ballot for a chance to live and work in the UK for up to two years. Entry is free, but applicants must meet eligibility criteria, including holding a bachelor's degree or higher and having at least GBP2,530 in savings. If selected, applicants have 90 days to apply for the visa, pay the GBP319 application fee and immigration health surcharge, and submit biometric data.

[Read More](#)



Thomas Wolf
Head of KPMG's Global
Immigration Network
T: +49 30 530 199-300
E: twolf@kpmg-law.com

[social.kpmg](#)



[Privacy](#) | [Legal](#)

© 2025 Copyright owned by one or more of the KPMG International entities. KPMG International entities provide no services to clients. All rights reserved.

KPMG is a global organization of independent professional services firms providing Audit, Tax and Advisory services. KPMG is the brand under which the member firms of KPMG International Limited ("KPMG International") operate and provide professional services. "KPMG" is used to refer to individual member firms within the KPMG organization or to one or more member firms collectively.

KPMG firms operate in 143 countries and territories with more than 265,000 partners and employees working in member firms around the world. Each KPMG firm is a legally distinct and separate entity and describes itself as such. Each KPMG member firm is responsible for its own obligations and liabilities. KPMG International Limited is a private English company limited by guarantee. KPMG International Limited and its related entities do not provide services to clients. For more detail about our structure, please visit <https://kpmg.com/xx/en/home/misc/governance.html>.