

75 countries excluded from permanent legal immigration to the US

US Department of State data, as analysed by the Migration Policy Institute and IEAM

Immigrant visas affected by the suspension

Fiscal year 2024	Visas
All immigrant visas issued	612,258
Issued to nationals of the 75 countries affected by the pause	280,015
Issued to nationals affected by the pause and/or the 2025 travel bans / restrictions	287,950

Visas issued to West African and Sahel nationals

Country	FY 2024 visas	Policy category
Senegal	1,119	Pause + travel restrictions
The Gambia	792	Pause + travel restrictions
Mali	275	Travel restrictions only
Niger	155	Travel restrictions only
Mauritania	128	Travel restrictions only

Countries particularly affected

Afghanistan · Cuba · Pakistan
Jamaica · Bangladesh · Colombia

The pause is reported to give the administration time to develop new screening methods for people considered likely to become a “public charge”.

Wider context

The 75-country list does not affect people entering the US on tourist, temporary work or student visas.

Many immigrants forgo benefits to which they are entitled because of administrative concerns or fear of harming a future immigration application.

This approach overlooks immigrants’ contributions to human capital, job creation and entrepreneurship.