



Immigration News Highlights

2023-33, 16 August 2023



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.](#)

[Americas](#)

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Americas

Brazil

[Brazil announces new digital visa required for all US travelers](#)

The government of Brazil announced that it will reintroduce visa requirements for travelers from the United States, Canada, and Australia from 1 October 2023. However, Americans will not be required to obtain a traditional visa through a consulate and have it stamped on their passport to enter Brazil. Instead, they will have the option to apply for an online visa.

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Canada

[Canada to launch new pilot programme for temporary foreign workers](#)

The Canadian government announced a new pilot program called the Recognized Employer Pilot to be launched in September 2023. This program falls under the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) and aims to address labor shortages in the country. Its purpose is to lessen the administrative workload for employers who have previously demonstrated their compliance with the requirements of the TFWP.

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Canada

[Minister highlights new tax-free first home savings account that helps Canadians reach their goals of home ownership faster](#)

The Ministry of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship announced the availability of the tax-free first home savings account. This account aims to make home ownership more accessible to Canadians nationwide. The tax-free first home savings account is a registered savings account that assists Canadians in becoming first-time home buyers.

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United States

[PERM, prevailing wage processing updates](#)

The Department of Labor has announced the latest information on the time it takes to process permanent labor certification (PERM) applications and prevailing wage determination (PWD) requests. As of 31 July 2023, the department was processing applications submitted in September 2022 and before, performing audits on applications submitted in June 2022 and before, and reviewing appeals for reconsideration submitted in September 2022 and before.

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Asia Pacific

India

[Ayush Visa launched for foreign travelers to promote medical tourism](#)

The Ministry of Home Affairs of India has announced the establishment of a new type of visa, known as the Ayush visa, which is specifically designed for international travelers seeking medical treatment, therapeutic care, wellness, and yoga in India. This new visa category aims to cater to the needs of foreign visitors who come to India for various forms of treatments, introducing a specialized visa scheme for this purpose.

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Indonesia

[Indonesia to launch Golden Visa programme by end of the year](#)

The government of Indonesia has announced that it will be launching its own Golden Visa programme by the end of 2023 to encourage overseas investments, global entrepreneurs, and business professionals.

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Kuwait

[Kuwaitis granted multiple entry tourist visas to India](#)

The Indian government has revealed that the Indian embassy provides Kuwaitis with a tourist visa that grants multiple entries. This visa allows Kuwaitis to visit India multiple times within a span of up to six months. Moreover, Kuwaitis can also travel to other South Asian countries and freely enter or exit India multiple times using this visa.

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Malaysia

[Malaysia's immigration department opens one-stop center to expedite Workforce Recalibration Programme 2.0 \(RTK 2.0\) verification process](#)

The Government of Malaysia announced a one-stop center to expedite RTK 2.0 verification process. Employers who have signed up for RTK 2.0 can visit the recently established centralized facility at the headquarters of Malaysia's Immigration Department (JIM) in Putrajaya.

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Vietnam

[Vietnam opens e-visa scheme to Taiwanese visitors](#)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) announced the approval to introduce an e-visa system for Taiwanese tourists. Individuals from all nations, including Taiwan, can apply for a 30-day single-entry e-visa online for a fee of US\$25.

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Europe and Africa

Egypt

[Egypt launches US Dollar-denominated pension plan for expatriates](#)

The Government of Egypt has introduced a pension scheme named "Tomorrow's Pension," aimed at attracting foreign currency amidst a shortage of funds. This plan, which is denominated in US dollars, was announced by Misr Life Insurance in collaboration with the National Bank of Egypt (NBE).

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Germany

[German embassy in India reduces Schengen visa processing time to 8 weeks](#)

The German government has announced that applicants from India for a German Schengen visa will now experience quicker processing times as the duration has been shortened to eight weeks. This is done by increasing the staff substantially in Mumbai.

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Greece

Greece to introduce caps on daily visitors to Acropolis

The Government of Greece has announced that from 4 September 2023 onwards, access to Greece's Acropolis will be restricted to a limited number of visitors each day, as local authorities aim to control the negative impacts of mass tourism.

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Ireland

Changes to naturalisation rules

Ireland's Department of Justice announced several key changes to immigration processes in Ireland. Among the changes are residency rules for citizenship applications and clarity on periods spent outside of Ireland in the lead up to a citizenship application. The changes took effect on 31 July 2023.

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Spain

Non-EU professionals with medical degrees can undergo recognition process until 29 September 2023

The Spanish Ministry of Health has announced that the period for the recognition process for non-EU professionals with medical degrees has been extended. Non-EU professionals can take the theoretical and practical test until 29 September 2023.

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