



Immigration News Highlights

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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.

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[Americas](#)

[Asia Pacific](#)

[Europe and Africa](#)



Americas

Brazil

Brazil introduces mandatory US\$81 e-visa for Australians

Brazil has started imposing a compulsory 'e-visa' on travelers, with Australians facing a US\$81 fee per person for arrivals from 10 January 2024.

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United States

US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) updates guidance policy on family-based conditional permanent residence

USCIS is updating guidance on family-based conditional permanent residence in its Policy Manual. The update consolidates and updates guidance on eligibility, filing, and adjudication for Form I-751, petition to remove conditions on residence.

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United States

[US Citizenship and Immigration Services \(USCIS\) reaches fiscal year 2024 H-1B cap](#)

USCIS has received enough petitions needed to reach the congressionally mandated 65,000 H-1B visa regular cap and the 20,000 H-1B visa US advanced degree exemption, known as the master's cap, for fiscal year 2024.

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United States

[US Citizenship and Immigration Services \(USCIS\) changes filing location for form I-907 for pending form I-140](#)

USCIS will begin transitioning the filing location for Form I-907, Request for Premium Processing, when filed for a pending Form I-140, Immigrant Petition for Alien Workers, from the service centers to appropriate USCIS lockboxes.

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Asia Pacific

Australia

[Student and Student Guardian visa processing priorities](#)

Australia announced that a new Ministerial Direction for prioritizing student and student guardian visa applications has been signed. It formalizes the Australian Government's processing priorities for the student and student guardian visa programs.

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Iran

[Iran scraps visa requirement for travelers from India, other nations](#)

Iran has decided to remove visa requirements for visitors from India and 32 other countries to enhance tourism and promote international goodwill.

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Singapore

[Singapore and China and grant 30-day visa-free entry](#)

The Singapore Foreign Ministry announced that as part of an agreement to strengthen their economic accord, Singapore and China will implement a 30-day mutual visa exemption arrangement.

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Thailand

Thailand expands visa-free entry for Japanese tourists with business visits

The Thailand cabinet has approved the extension of visa-free entry for Japanese tourists with business visits, allowing them to stay in the country for 30 days without a visa. It will take effect from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2026.

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Europe and Africa

Cyprus

Cyprus introduces changes to citizenships rules

The parliament passed amendments to the Civil Registry Law designed to encourage highly skilled workers to apply for citizenship in Cyprus. Highly qualified employees of foreign companies who have level A2 Greek language knowledge can apply for citizenship after residing for five years in Cyprus.

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Finland

Finland Starts Testing Digital Travel Documents Again

Finland has started to test digital travel documents again. The documents are being tested at Helsinki-Vantaa Airport on flights to London, Manchester, and Edinburgh. The testing period of the digital travel documents will last until 31 March 2024.

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Finland

Appointments for 2024 are now available for booking

Finnish authorities have announced that individuals applying for citizenship or residence cards can now schedule appointments for early 2024. Starting from 2 January 2024, the appointment service will be updated, and the time required for renewing a residence card, applying for citizenship, or submitting a citizenship application at the service point will be reduced to 20 minutes.

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Hungary

Parliament has adopted a draft proposal on the General Rules of Entry and Residence of Third Country Nationals

The new Act on the entry and residence of third-country nationals will take effect on 1 January 2024, instead of the previously announced date of 1 September 2024. This Act will replace the existing Act II of 2007.

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Italy

Italy reaches seasonal work visa application limit

The Italian authorities have announced that Italian employers made a high number of requests for seasonal foreign workers, exceeding the 82,550-maximum limit on the first day of the opening.

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South Africa

South Africa takes a major step toward fixing work visa

South Africa's home affairs minister signed planned changes to work permit regulations aimed at fixing a bureaucratic mishap. The changes may include a range of measures suggested by a government study including the creation of a remote worker visa category.

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United Kingdom

Restrictive Changes Announced to Reduce Net Migration

The United Kingdom Home Secretary announced a five-point plan to reduce net migration to the United Kingdom. The changes include increasing the minimum salary for certain jobs under the Skilled Worker visa, prohibiting dependents for Health and Social Care visa workers, removing the salary discount for jobs on the Shortage Occupation List, and raising the financial requirements for family visa applicants.

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