



Immigration News Highlights

2024-03, 16 January 2024



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 opens new temporary resident pathway for Palestinian extended family in Gaza

Canada has announced the introduction of a temporary residence program for extended family members of Canadian citizens and residents living in Gaza. This program will offer benefits such as health coverage and the opportunity to apply for a work permit or a study permit free of charge. A total of thousand temporary visas will be issued to relatives of Canadians residing in Gaza.

[Read More](#)

Chile

New National Immigration Policy issued

The Chilean government published a Decree in the Official Journal, which establishes the National Immigration Policy, giving it immediate application across the country. It contains the government's strategy with respect to dealing with recent migratory developments in the Latin-American region.

[Read More](#)

United States

Cap Reached for Additional Returning Worker H-2B Visas for the First Half of FY 2024

The US Citizenship and Immigration Services has reported that it has received enough petitions to reach the limit for the additional 20,716 H-2B visas available for returning workers for the first half of fiscal year 2024. These visas are subject to the H-2B supplemental cap temporary final rule with start dates on or before 31 March 2024.

[Read More](#)

United States

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to launch organizational accounts, enabling online collaboration and submission of H-1B registrations

The USCIS announced a series of customer experience enhancements for the H-1B cap season. These improvements are aimed at enhancing efficiency and facilitating collaboration for organizations and their legal representatives. The changes include the introduction of organizational accounts for non-cap filings and the upcoming H-1B cap season for fiscal year FY25.

[Read More](#)



Asia Pacific

Australia

Australia has launched the Pacific engagement visa

The Australian government has introduced a new visa subclass, known as Subclass 192 – Pacific Engagement visa, in 2024. This visa program offers up to 3,000 permanent places annually for citizens of participating Pacific Island countries and Timor-Leste, as well as their immediate family members. This initiative is in addition to Australia's regular permanent migration program.

[Read More](#)

China

China lifts and relaxes visa-on-arrival requirements for some categories

The Chinese government has implemented new policies to streamline entry procedures for individuals traveling for business, education, or tourism purposes who hold visa-on-arrival permits. These measures, which took effect in January 2024, enable certain categories of travelers to apply for re-entry visas or port visas upon arrival in the country.

[Read More](#)

China

[China agrees to provide visa-free entry for Swiss citizens](#)

Switzerland and Beijing have reached an agreement where Swiss citizens will be granted visa-free entry into China. In return, Switzerland has committed to offering increased visa facilitation for Chinese citizens and Chinese enterprises investing in Switzerland.

[Read More](#)

Saudi Arabia

[Kosovo & Saudi Arabia Reach Visa Waiver Agreement](#)

Kosovo and Saudi Arabia have reached an agreement for visa exemption for holders of diplomatic and official passports.

[Read More](#)

Saudi Arabia

[Saudi Arabia launches new residency programmes](#)

Saudi Arabia has launched new residency programs aimed at attracting skilled professionals and investment. The five new premium programs cater specifically to professionals in healthcare, sports, and real estate.

[Read More](#)

Thailand

[Thai visa-free policy for Chinese visitors to be made permanent in March](#)

Chinese nationals will be granted visa-free entry on a permanent basis beginning 1 March 2024, Chinese visitors have been allowed visa-free entry since September last year, but the privilege was due to expire in February 2024.

[Read More](#)

United Arab Emirates

[United Arab Emirates removes visas for Kosovo passport holders](#)

The United Arab Emirates has signed an agreement to remove entry visas for Kosovo passport holders.

[Read More](#)



Europe and Africa

Iceland

[Iceland reinstates pre-pandemic tourist tax](#)

The Icelandic government has reintroduced a tourist tax for hotel and alternative accommodation rooms, a fee that applied to visitors before the COVID-19 pandemic. As of January 2024, travelers to Iceland are again obliged to pay taxes for their accommodation in the island country.

[Read More](#)

Portugal

Portugal's updated golden visa program sets stage for Investment Fund Growth

Portugal's Golden Visa Program has undergone changes, and it no longer provides residency through property investment. This has led international investors to explore alternative options, such as investment funds, to obtain residency. The changes were introduced as part of the country's "More Housing" bill.

[Read More](#)

South Africa

South Africa announced automatic extension of exemption permits for nationals of Zimbabwe and Lesotho

Zimbabwean and Lesotho nationals who hold exemption permits have been granted an automatic two-year extension. Exemption permits that expired in December 2023, will now be valid until 29 November 2025.

[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](#)

© 2024 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>.