

Table 1.1 Family Immigration as a Percentage of Total Immigration to the United States, 1925 to 2011

Year	Immediate Relatives of U.S. Citizens	Family-Sponsored Preferences	Family Immigration Total
1925 to 1930	124,609 (7.1%)	—	124,609 (7.1%)
1931 to 1940	91,670 (17.3)	—	91,670 (17.3)
1941 to 1950	185,604 (17.9)	—	185,604 (17.9)
1951 to 1960	284,929 (11.3)	—	284,929 (11.3)
1961 to 1968	289,667 (11.2)	—	289,667 (11.2)
1969 to 1970 ^a	139,238 (19.0)	184,890 (25.3%)	324,128 (44.3)
1971 to 1980	1,175,449 (26.2)	1,330,325 (29.6)	2,505,774 (55.8)
1981 to 1990	1,996,741 (27.2)	2,128,872 (29.0)	4,125,613 (56.2)
1991 to 2000	2,709,030 (29.8)	2,257,218 (24.8)	4,966,248 (54.6)
2001 to 2010	4,684,583 (44.6)	2,076,038 (19.8)	6,760,621 (64.4)
2011	453,158 (42.7)	234,931 (22.1)	1,062,040 (64.8)

Source: Author's compilation based on "Immigrants Admitted Under the Quota System: 1925–1968" and "Immigrants Admitted Under the Preference System: 1966–1991," in Carter et al. (2006); U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Yearbooks of Immigration Statistics: 1996–2011*.

^aThe Hart-Celler Act became effective June 20, 1968.

Table 2.1 Major U.S. Immigration Acts

Legislation	Major Provisions
Page Act of 1875	Excluded Asian contract laborers and Asian women engaged in prostitution
Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882	Halted Chinese immigration for ten years and prohibited Chinese from becoming U.S. citizens; was extended for another ten years in 1892 and became permanent in 1902
Immigration (Johnson-Reed) Act of 1924	Established national origins quotas; reduced the number of immigrants from southern and eastern European countries and virtually terminated immigration from Asia
Immigration and Nationality (McCarran-Walter) Act of 1952	Continued the national origins quota system; established preference categories based on immigrants' skills and family relationships; spouses and children of U.S. citizens were admitted without limit
Immigration and Nationality (Hart-Celler) Act of 1965	Ended the national origins quota system; established a preference system with a focus on immigrants' skills and family ties to U.S. citizens or residents; no numerical limit was set for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens
Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986	Instituted employer sanctions; initiated a legalization program for immigrants in the country without documentation
Immigration Act of 1990	Continued the previous acts' family preference provisions; expanded employment-based preferences with separate categories and instituted the diversity visa lottery program
Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) of 1996	Improved border and interior enforcement; incorporated employment programs and employment eligibility issues, including employer sanctions; restricted state and federally funded alien benefit programs

Source: Author's compilation.

Table 2.2 Preference Provisions in Major U.S. Immigration Acts

	1924 Immigration Act	1952 McCarran-Walter Act	1965 Hart-Celler Act ^l	1990 Immigration Act ^f	
Limit	150,000 ^a	154,657	290,000 ^m	700,000	675,000
Per-country limit	2 percent of the total population of foreign-born persons of each nationality recorded in the 1890 census, minimum of 100. After July 1, 1927: overall cap of 150,000 determined by national origins of the total U.S. population recorded in 1920, minimum of 100 (became effective July 1, 1929).	Set the annual quota for an area at one-sixth of 1 percent of the number of inhabitants in the United States in 1920 whose ancestry or national origin was attributable to that area, minimum of 100, ceiling of 2,000 for Asia-Pacific triangle countries.	20,000	7 percent of the total preference	
Family preferences limit			74 percent	465,000 ^s	480,000
Nonquota/ not limited	Wives and unmarried children ^b of U.S. citizens, Western Hemisphere immigrants, religious or academic professionals, ^c and students at least fifteen years of age	Spouses and children of U.S. citizens	Immediate family members (spouses, children, and parents) of U.S. citizens ^s	Immediate family members (spouses, children, and parents) of U.S. citizens ^s	

Table 2.2 Continued

	1924 Immigration Act	1952 McCarran-Walter Act	1965 Hart-Celler Act ^l	1990 Immigration Act ^r	
Limit	150,000 ^a	154,657	290,000 ^m	700,000	675,000
First preference	<p>Preferences within quotas*:</p> <p>1. Unmarried children,^d parents or wives of U.S. citizens twenty-one years of age or over</p> <p>2. Skilled agricultural laborers and their wives and children under the age of sixteen^e</p>	<p>Preference within quotas: highly skilled immigrants whose services were urgently needed in the United States and the spouses and children of such immigrants</p> <p>50 percent^f</p> <p>Parents of U.S. citizens^g</p>	<p>Unmarried sons and daughtersⁿ of U.S. citizens</p> <p>20 percent (58,000)</p> <p>Spouses and unmarried sons and daughters^o of permanent resident aliens</p> <p>20 percent (58,000)</p>	<p>Unmarried sons and daughtersⁿ of U.S. citizens</p> <p>23,400</p> <p>Spouses and children of lawful permanent residents (2A)^t and unmarried sons and daughtersⁿ of lawful permanent residents (2B)^u</p> <p>114,200</p>	<p>23,400</p> <p>114,200</p>
Second preference	<p>*(1) and (2) are not ranked; no more than 50 percent of the nationality quota</p>	<p>30 percent^h</p>			
Third preference		<p>Spouse and children of aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence</p> <p>20 percentⁱ</p>	<p>Members of the professions of exceptional ability in sciences and arts and their spouses and children</p> <p>10 percent (29,000)</p>	<p>Married sons and daughters^p of U.S. citizens and their spouses and children</p> <p>23,400</p>	<p>23,400</p>

Fourth preference	Brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters ^j of U.S. citizens ^g	Married sons and daughters ^p of U.S. citizens and their spouses and children	Brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens ^g and their spouses and children	
	Up to 25 percent of the quota unused for first three preferences ^k	10 percent (29,000)	65,000	65,000
Fifth preference	Nonpreference within quotas: applicant not entitled to one of the above preferences	Brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens ^g and their spouses and children	Employment-Based Preference ^v	
		24 percent (69,600)	First preference: workers with special talents or skills (40,000)	
Sixth preference	—	Skilled or unskilled workers in occupations in which labor was in short supply and their spouses and children	Second preference: workers with advanced degrees or technical expertise (40,000)	

Table 2.2 Continued

	1924 Immigration Act	1952 McCarran-Walter Act	1965 Hart-Celler Act ^d	1990 Immigration Act ^e
Limit	150,000 ^a	154,657	290,000 ^m	700,000 675,000
			10 percent (29,000)	Third preference: workers with needed job skills, professionals, and others (40,000)
Seventh preference		—	Refugees ^d	Fourth preference: special immigrants and religious workers (10,000)
			6 percent (10,200)	Fifth preference: investor immigrants (10,000)
				Diversity Immigration ^w
				40,000 55,000

Source: Compiled from Gimpel and Edwards 1999, Hutchison 1981, Keely 1975, Mitchell 1992, Tichenor 2002; see also 1952 and 1965 Immigration and Nationality Acts; U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Yearbooks of Immigration Statistics 1997–2010*; U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, *Triennial Comprehensive Report on Immigration* (2002).

Note: A “child” is defined as an unmarried person under twenty-one years of age, unless otherwise noted.

^aInitially 165,000. After July 1, 1927, the total quota was set at 150,000.

^bNonquota status was granted to the unmarried child under eighteen years of age. The Act of May 29, 1928 (45 Stat. 1009) changed the limiting age of an unmarried child from eighteen to twenty-one and added husbands of citizens provided that they were married before June 1, 1928. The Act of July 11, 1932 (47 Stat. 656) changed the date to July 1, 1932. Those who were married after that date were put under a preference category.

^cIncluded accompanying wives and children under eighteen years of age.

^dUnder twenty-one years of age. They were moved up to the nonquota category by the 1928 act.

^eAccording to section 6(a)(2) of the 1924 Immigration Act, this preference for skilled agricultural laborers “shall not apply to immigrants of any nationality the annual quota for which is less than 300.” The preferences within quotas were not ranked; that is, family preference did not take precedence over skilled laborer preference. By the 1928 act, the age of children had increased from sixteen to eighteen. This act also gave preference to unmarried children under twenty-one years of age and wives of alien residents lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

¹Plus any not required for second and third preferences.

²To sponsor parents or siblings, the petitioning U.S. citizen had to be age twenty-one or older.

³Plus any not required for first and third preferences. Unmarried sons and daughters, age twenty-one or older, of U.S. citizens were moved up from the fourth preference by the Act of September 22, 1959 (73 Stat. 644).

⁴Plus any not required for first and second preferences. Under the 1959 act, unmarried sons and daughters (over twenty-one years of age) of permanent residents were added here.

⁵Accompanying spouses and children were included in the preference by the 1959 act. Now “sons and daughters” referred to married sons and daughters, regardless of age. Unmarried sons and daughters over twenty-one years of age were moved up to the second preference.

⁶The 1959 act increased it to 50 percent.

⁷The 1980 Refugee Act slightly changed the preference provisions of the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act. The limit was now set at 270,000 instead of 290,000 (a single worldwide ceiling set by the 1978 law). Refugees were admitted separately and were no longer admitted under the preference system; therefore, the 6 percent preference for refugees from 1965 was now added to the second preference, increasing it from 20 percent to 26 percent, and the family preference limit also increased by 6 percent, from 74 to 80 percent. Percentages for other preference categories remained the same. The preference provisions set by the 1980 Refugee Act continued to be used until the 1990 Immigration Act became effective.

⁸The 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act set a ceiling of 170,000 on Eastern Hemisphere immigration. It also limited Western Hemisphere immigration, effective July 1, 1968, to 120,000 annually, without per-country limits. The 1976 Immigration and Nationality Act amendments applied the 20,000 per-country limit to the Western Hemisphere. The Immigration and Nationality Act Amendments of 1978 set a single worldwide ceiling of 290,000, and the Refugee Act of 1980 set the worldwide ceiling at 270,000.

⁹Aged twenty-one or older.

¹⁰The second preference “unmarried sons and daughters” included both minor and adult children.

¹¹Married sons and daughters were persons who had a recognized parent-child relationship and were married, regardless of age.

¹²The seventh preference category of the 1965 act reserved 6 percent of Eastern Hemisphere immigrant visas to refugees. With the ceiling for the Eastern Hemisphere visas initially set at 170,000, the number for the category was 10,200. It increased to 17,400 when the Immigration and Nationality Act Amendments of 1978 set a single worldwide ceiling of 290,000.

¹³A transitional limit of 700,000 was allocated between 1992 and 1994 until the 1990 Immigration Act came into effect in 1995.

¹⁴This number did not include 55,000 Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) legalizations (8 percent). Between 1991 and 1994, 55,000 visas per year were allocated for the spouses and children of migrants who became legal residents under IRCA, with the 1990 Immigration Act extending the cutoff date to May 1988.

¹⁵A: 77 percent of the second preference, of which 75 percent were issued without regard to the per-country limit.

¹⁶The second preference expanded by at least 62 percent after 1990.

¹⁷Total limit of 140,000: 120,000 plus 10,000 for religious workers and 10,000 for investors. Employment-based preferences included visas for spouses and children.

¹⁸Diversity immigration was determined by lottery. In 1995 the permanent diversity program came into effect, with 55,000 visas available annually. When Congress passed the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) in 1997, it reduced diversity to 50,000.

Table 2.3 Immigrants Arriving in the United States to Join a Relative or Friend, 1908 to 1927

Fiscal Year	Relative	Friend	Not Arriving to Join Either	Total Immigrants
1908 to 1914	5,348,687 (79.7%)	956,130 (14.3%)	404,540 (6.0%)	6,709,357 (100%)
1915 to 1920	1,055,878 (65.9)	228,482 (14.3)	318,320 (19.8)	1,602,680 (100)
1921 to 1927	2,536,856 (77.4)	310,564 (9.5)	431,156 (13.1)	3,278,576 (100)

Source: Author's calculations based on 1908 to 1910: United States and Dillingham (1993), vol. 20, table 40 (data not recorded before 1908); 1911 to 1927: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Immigration, *Annual Report of the Commissioner General of Immigration to the Secretary of Labor* "Table VII. Sex, Age, Literacy, Financial Condition, Etc., of Immigrant Aliens Admitted by Races or Peoples."

Table 2.4 Immigrants Admitted to the United States by Preference and Other Provisions, 1925 to 2010

Year	Natives of Eastern Hemisphere Countries ^a	Natives of Western Hemisphere Countries ^b	Immediate Relatives of U.S. Citizens	Others Under the Immigration Quota System	Family-Sponsored Preferences
1925 to 1930	903,119 (51.2%)	705,322 (40.0%)	124,609 (7.1%)	29,560 (1.7%)	—
1931 to 1940	308,341 (58.4%)	113,086 (21.4%)	91,670 (17.3%)	15,334 (2.9%)	—
1941 to 1950	583,707 (56.4%)	251,888 (24.3%)	185,604 (17.9%)	13,840 (1.3%)	—
1951 to 1960	1,098,970 (43.7%)	805,573 (32.0%)	284,929 (11.3%)	326,007 (13.0%)	—
1961 to 1968	927,285 (35.8%)	1,230,957 (47.5%)	289,667 (11.2%)	141,863 (5.5%)	—
1969 to 1970	—	—	139,238 (19.0%)	—	184,890 (25.3%)
1971 to 1980 ^f	—	—	1,175,449 (26.2%)	—	1,330,325 (29.6%)
1981 to 1990	—	—	1,996,741 (27.2%)	—	2,128,872 (29.0%)
1991 to 2000 ^g	—	—	2,709,030 (29.8%)	—	2,257,218 (24.8%)
2001 to 2010 ^h	—	—	4,684,583 (44.6%)	—	2,076,038 (19.8%)

Source: Author's compilation based on "Immigrants Admitted Under the Quota System: 1925–1968" and "Immigrants Admitted Under the Preference System: 1966–1991," in Carter et al. (2006); U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Yearbooks of Immigration Statistics: 1996–2011*.

^aBetween 1925 and 1929, the annual quota on natives of Eastern Hemisphere countries was 164,667, based on the 2 percent rule. For the years 1930 to 1965, a "national origins" formula was used. The 1965 Immigration Act abolished the quota system and set up an annual numerical limitation of 170,000 immigrants from the Eastern Hemisphere, with a per-country ceiling of 20,000. It also imposed a numerical limitation of 120,000 per year on Western Hemisphere immigration, which went into effect on July 1, 1968.

^bUnrestricted prior to July 1, 1968.

^fFor 1991 to 2000: because the 1990 Immigration Act became effective in fiscal year 1992, the number for 1991 includes immigrants with third-preference, sixth-preference, and special immigrant visas and their spouses and children.

^gIncludes diversity (1995 to 2000), diversity transition (1992 to 1997), and legalized dependents (1992 to 2000).

Employment- Based Preferences ^c	Other Preferences ^d	IRCA Legalizations	Refugees and Asylum Seekers	Others Not Under the Numerical Cap ^e	Total Immigrants
—	—	—	—	—	1,762,610 (100%)
—	—	—	—	—	528,431 (100%)
—	—	—	—	—	1,035,039 (100%)
—	—	—	—	—	2,515,479 (100%)
—	—	—	—	—	2,589,772 (100%)
65,779 (9.0%)	327,609 (44.8%)	—	39,079 (5.3%)	-24,690 (-3.4%)	731,905 (100%)
321,382 (7.2%)	1,295,033 (28.8%)	—	539,447 (12.0%)	-168,322 (-3.7%)	4,493,314 (100%)
518,966 (7.1%)	118,589 (1.6%)	1,359,186 (18.5%)	1,013,620 (13.8%)	202,088 (2.8%)	7,338,062 (100%)
980,826 (10.8%)	550,150 (6.0%)	1,329,638 (14.6%)	1,021,266 (11.2%)	247,289 (2.7%)	9,095,417 (100%)
1,611,123 (15.3%)	453,463 (4.3%)	—	1,325,365 (12.6%)	350,481 (3.3%)	10,501,053 (100%)

^aFor 1991 to 2000: includes Amerasian, cancellation of removal, children born abroad to alien residents, Cuban/Haitian entrants, NACARA, nationals of adversely affected countries, nationals of underrepresented countries, parolees, registered nurses and their families, registry, entry prior to July 1, 1972, and other; for 2001 to 2010: includes parolees, children born abroad to alien residents, NACARA, cancellation of removal, Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act (HRIFA) of 1998, and other.

^bIncludes transitional quarter (1976 to 1977).

^cCompiled from U.S. Department of Homeland Security *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics 2000*, "Table 4. Immigrants Admitted by Type and Selected Class of Admission: Fiscal Years 1986 to 2000." (In the *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics 2000*, an immigrant was defined as a person lawfully admitted for permanent residence.)

^dCompiled from U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics 2010*, "Table 6. Persons Obtaining Legal Permanent Resident Status by Type and Major Class of Admission: Fiscal Years 2001 to 2010."

**Table 2.5 Legal Permanent Immigration to the United States,
by Region, 1820 to 2010**

Period	Europe	Asia	The Americas	Africa	Oceania ^a	Total
1820 to 1850	2,199,610 (89.3%)	230 (0.01%)	107,844 (4.4%)	126 (0.005%)	156,388 (6.3%)	2,464,200 (100%)
1851 to 1890	11,525,127 (88.8)	300,399 (2.3)	1,072,338 (8.3)	1,737 (0.01)	72,241 (0.6)	12,971,842 (100)
1891 to 1920	15,933,279 (87.5)	645,641 (3.5)	1,544,531 (8.5)	16,161 (0.1)	79,149 (0.4)	18,218,761 (100)
1921 to 1960	4,757,634 (58.1)	318,931 (3.9)	3,028,501 (37.0)	29,495 (0.4)	51,597 (0.6)	8,186,158 (100)
1961 to 2000	4,045,147 (16.7)	7,549,649 (31.1)	11,801,140 (48.7)	641,565 (2.6)	210,969 (0.9)	24,248,470 (100)
2001 to 2010 ^b	1,263,937 (12.0)	3,784,554 (36.0)	4,511,094 (43.0)	860,447 (8.2)	81,021 (0.8)	10,501,053 (100)

Source: Author's calculations based on U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics 2010*.

^aIncludes others unidentified by nationality.

Table 2.6 International Family Unification Provisions

	Permanent Immigrants Using Family as a Category of Entry in 2010 (in Thousands) ^a	Citizens and Permanent Residents ^c Sponsor's Conditions for Family Reunification
China	n.d.	No conditions specified
Japan	21.9 (39.3%)	Must reside in Japan for more than ten years (five years of which with working or residency visa)
South Korea	31.2 (19.9)	No conditions specified
Taiwan	n.d.	Must hold either a valid permanent resident certificate or an alien resident certificate or hold residence in Taiwan; Hong Kong and Macau residents and Mainland Chinese nationals need proof of legal residence; public documents to prove kinship ties

Citizens and Permanent Residents	Foreign Workers ^d	
Included Family Members	Temporary Workers/ Migrants	Included Family Members
Foreign parents, spouses, children under eighteen years of age, foreign relatives over sixty (resident permit)		
Spouses who lived in Japan for more than three years and continuously more than one year, children who lived continuously more than one year	Foreign workers on temporary visas Nikkeijin (Japanese descent)	Not allowed to enter Family members based on family registry in Japan
Spouse of permanent residency holder (residency visa); minor children under twenty of a permanent resident parent (permanent residency visa); Korean-born children of a registered foreigner (dependent family visa); Korean-born children of a foreigner with trainee or nonprofessional status (family visitation visa)	Foreign workers Overseas Koreans in China and former Soviet Union	Not allowed to enter, but family visitation available Family members allowed to enter, depending on sponsor's employment period
Spouses who are Taiwanese nationals without household registration in Taiwan, foreigners, Hong Kong and Macau residents, or Mainland Chinese nationals; children under twenty years of age (resident visa)	Foreign contract workers	Permanent settlement and family reunification prohibited

Table 2.6 **Continued**

	Permanent Immigrants Using Family as a Category of Entry in 2010 (in Thousands) ^a	Citizens and Permanent Residents ^c Sponsor's Conditions for Family Reunification
Singapore	n.d.	No conditions specified
Canada ^b	170.6 (60.8)	Must provide financial support (sign a sponsorship agreement); basic income requirement

Citizens and Permanent Residents	Foreign Workers ^d	
Included Family Members	Temporary Workers/ Migrants	Included Family Members
Spouse and unmarried children under twenty-one years of age	Employment pass holders (salary requirements) Work permit holders	Spouse and unmarried children under twenty-one (dependent's pass); common-law spouse, unmarried daughters above twenty-one years of age, handicapped children above twenty-one years of age, stepchildren, and parents/parents-in-law (long-term visit pass)
Spouses, common-law partners, conjugal partners; dependent children, including adopted children; other eligible relatives	Foreign workers	Not allowed Allowed (especially for highly skilled workers) but may not work; spouses/common-law partners/minor and dependent children
Effective November 5, 2011, no new application to sponsor parents or grandparents is accepted for processing for up to twenty-four months, but the parent and grandparent super visa (December 2011) is available for a visit to Canada for up to two years		

Table 2.6 **Continued**

	Permanent Immigrants Using Family as a Category of Entry in 2010 (in Thousands) ^a	Citizens and Permanent Residents ^c Sponsor's Conditions for Family Reunification
France	82.8 (42.9)	Must be legal for one year to apply for family reunification; proof of financial resources; language test; "reception and integration contract"
Germany	54.9 (24.7)	Must have public documents to prove family relationships; interviews for spouses; basic German knowledge for spouses under family migration
Italy ^b	94.8 (28.6)	Housing requirement
United Kingdom ^b	109.3 (26.4)	Maintenance and accommodation requirements; sponsor must sign an undertaking

Citizens and Permanent Residents	Foreign Workers ^d	
Included Family Members	Temporary Workers/ Migrants	Included Family Members
Spouses, partners in a long-term relationship, registered partners (PACS); minor children, older children with strong family ties in France; parents and other relatives in case of strong family ties (discretionary)	Foreign workers	Allowed for highly skilled workers
Spouses, registered same-sex partners; children under sixteen; children between sixteen and eighteen in exceptional circumstances; parents over sixty-five	Foreign workers	Allowed for temporary workers with a residence permit
Spouses (older than eighteen); minor children, dependent adult children, children of spouses from previous relationship if other parents give consent; dependent parents	Foreign workers	Not allowed
Spouses, partners in a long-term relationship; minor children, older children for humanitarian reasons, minor children of single parent only if parent has sole custody; parents over sixty-five and under sixty-five for humanitarian reasons only; aunts, uncles, siblings of sponsor for humanitarian reasons	Foreign workers	Allowed for skilled workers (contingent upon worker's resources and accommodations); spouses/partners and minor children under 18 years of age

Table 2.6 **Continued**

	Permanent Immigrants Using Family as a Category of Entry in 2010 (in Thousands) ^a	Citizens and Permanent Residents ^c Sponsor's Conditions for Family Reunification
The Netherlands	20.8 (21.7)	Age (twenty-one years or older) and maintenance requirement; basic knowledge of Dutch language and society
Spain	56.1 (18.7)	Minimum of two years of living together; independent working and resident permits required; income and housing requirements
Denmark ^b	7.5 (18.2)	Includes residence permit holder; both spouses/partners over twenty-four years of age; condition of ties; pass a Danish language and society test; housing, maintenance, collateral requirements
Sweden	25.5 (39.6)	DNA analysis may be performed; maintenance requirement

Citizens and Permanent Residents	Foreign Workers ^d	
Included Family Members	Temporary Workers/ Migrants	Included Family Members
Spouses, registered partners; minor children, adult children if non-admission would cause hardship; solitary parents over sixty-five years of age	Foreign workers	Spouses and minor children allowed for workers with permit to remain in the country for a least one year
Spouses; children (under eighteen years of age), children from previous marriage, children of single parent if sponsor has sole custody; dependent parents; dependent grandparents	No specific reference to temporary workers	
Spouses, cohabitants, registered same-sex partners; children under fifteen years of age	No specific reference to temporary workers	
Spouses, cohabiting partners; children up to twenty-one years of age; people intending to marry or become cohabiting partners; other close family members (members of the same households as sponsor or special relationship of dependence)	Foreign workers usually on 2-year permits	Not specified

Table 2.6 **Continued**

	Permanent Immigrants Using Family as a Category of Entry in 2010 (in Thousands) ^a	Citizens and Permanent Residents ^c Sponsor's Conditions for Family Reunification
Norway	10.1 (18.0)	Also includes Nordic citizen and foreign national with a residence permit (would-be permanent resident); income requirement; employment or education (four years for a foreign national who has set up a family since coming to Norway) requirement

Source: Compiled from Kraller 2010, "Table 1: Definition of the Family (Reunification with Third Country Nationals)," Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development 2012; Jin Zhu and Zhu Zhe, "Residence Permits to Aid Visits by Family," *China Daily*, May 21, 2010; Tsuda 2008; HiKorea, E-Government for Foreigner, "Grant Sojourn Status," February 1, 2008; Bureau of Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of China (Taiwan), "Resident Visas"; Lin 2012; Government of Canada, "Citizenship and Immigration Canada"; Norwegian Directorate of Immigration, "Which Family Members Can Be Granted a Family Immigration Permit?"; Government Offices of Sweden, "Labour Immigration"; Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development 2001; Ministero Dell'Interno, "Entry of Foreign Nationals into Italy."

^aCompiled from "Fig. I.4. Permanent inflows into selected OECD and non-OECD countries, total and by category of entry, 2010," OECD 2012. In 2010, 66 percent of the immigrants to the United States used family as a category of entry. Family migration accounted for 36 percent of the flows in OECD countries, while work-related migration constituted 21 per-

Citizens and Permanent Residents	Foreign Workers ^d	
Included Family Members	Temporary Workers/ Migrants	Included Family Members
Spouses, partners, or cohabitants; fiancés (fiancé permit); children; single mother or father over the age of sixty living in Norway; full sibling under the age of eighteen without a living parent or caregiver in home country; citizen or permanent resident children, regardless of age, residing in Norway can bring over parents for parent visit up to nine months	Highly-skilled workers and specialists	Allowed (same as permanent residents/citizens)
	Low-skilled workers	Spouses or partners that have or are expecting child or have lived together for at least two years; biological/adopted children under 18 years of age

cent, free movements 20 percent, accompanying family of workers 8 percent, humanitarian migration (asylum seekers) 7 percent, and “other” 7 percent of the total migration flows.

^bThis number (percentage) includes the category “accompanying family of workers.” The percentage for “family” alone is 21 percent for Canada, 27 percent for Italy, 12 percent for the United Kingdom, and 12 percent for Denmark.

^cIn all countries, citizens and permanent residents (in some countries, residence permit holders too) are allowed to sponsor family members. While Asian countries lack provisions on sponsorship conditions, European countries have specific requirements that sponsors need to fulfill to bring over their family members.

^dTemporary workers in Europe, unless they are highly skilled, generally cannot bring over their family members. Many European countries have a generous policy for family reunification and this might explain the lack of discussion on temporary workers and their rights to family reunion.

Table 3.1 Chinese and Japanese Wives Coming to the United States Between 1908 and 1924

Fiscal Year Ended June 30	Chinese Wives Admitted		Japanese Wives of Residents
	Wives of U.S. Citizens	Merchants' Wives	
1908 to 1917	985	1,095	18,404 ^a
1918 to 1924	1,833	1,509	17,660
Total	2,818	2,604	36,064

Source: Compiled from U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Immigration *Annual Reports of the Commissioner General of Immigration to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, 1908–1924* (to the *Secretary of Labor*, 1914 and thereafter), “Table E. Japanese Arrivals in Continental United States, Showing Various Details Bearing on the Japanese Agreement (Wives to Residents),” and “Table 2. Chinese Seeking Admission to the United States, by Classes and Ports (Wives of U.S. Citizens and Merchants’ Wives, Admitted by Final Disposition).”

Note: The number of Japanese wives arriving in Hawaii was not included in the table. No data for Japanese wives of U.S. citizens were available in the reports, perhaps because the number of U.S. citizens of Japanese descent was too small to be significant. Pre-1908 annual reports had data only for merchants’ wives, not for wives of U.S. citizens.

^aIncluded the number of Japanese wives arriving in the United States during June 1908. No such data were available before the month of June 1908.

Table 3.2 The Immigration Act of 1924

Major Provisions and Family Preferences	
Limit	150,000 ^a (2 percent of the total population of foreign-born persons of each nationality recorded in the 1890 census, minimum of 100)
Per-country limit	After July 1, 1927: overall cap of 150,000 determined by national origins of the total U.S. population recorded in 1920, minimum of 100 (became effective July 1, 1929)
Nonquota	Wives and unmarried children ^b of U.S. citizens, Western Hemisphere immigrants, religious or academic professionals, ^c and students at least fifteen years of age
Preferences within quotas ^d	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Unmarried children,^e parents or spouses of U.S. citizens twenty-one years of age or over2. Skilled agricultural laborers and their spouses and children under the age of sixteen^f: no more than 50 percent of the nationality quota

Source: The Immigration Act of 1924 (43 Stat. 153).

^aInitially 165,000. After July 1, 1927, the total quota was set at 150,000.

^bNonquota status was granted to the unmarried child under eighteen years of age. The Act of May 29, 1928 (45 Stat. 1009) changed the limiting age of an unmarried child from eighteen to twenty-one. Husbands were added under the 1928 act provided that they were married before June 1, 1928. The Act of July 11, 1932 (47 Stat. 656) changed the date to July 1, 1932. Those who were married after that date were put under a preference category.

^cIncluded accompanying wives and children under eighteen years of age

^dUnder section 6(a)(2) of the 1924 Immigration Act, this preference for skilled agricultural laborers "shall not apply to immigrants of any nationality the annual quota for which is less than 300." The preferences within quotas (1) and (2) were not ranked; that is, family preference did not take precedence over skilled laborer preference.

^eUnder twenty-one years of age. By the 1928 act, they were moved up to the nonquota category.

^fBy the 1928 act, the age of children had increased from sixteen to eighteen. This act also gave preference to unmarried children under twenty-one years of age and wives of alien residents lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

Table 4.1 **Spouses and Children Admitted Under the War Brides Act, 1946–1948**

Year Ended June 30	Children	Husbands	Wives	Total
1946	721	61	44,775	45,557
1947	1,375	101	25,736	27,212
1948	968	94	21,954	23,016
Total	3,064	256	92,465	95,785

Source: House Committee on Judiciary, *Admission into U.S. of Certain Alien Fiancés and Fiancées of Members or Former Members of Armed Forces* (1949), 3.

Table 4.2 The McCarran-Walter Act of 1952

Major Provisions and Family Preferences	
Limit	154,657
Per-country limit	Modified the 1924 national origins system and set the annual quota for an area at one-sixth of 1 percent of the number of inhabitants in the United States in 1920 whose ancestry or national origin was attributable to that area, minimum of 100, ceiling of 2,000 for Asia-Pacific triangle countries
Nonquota	Spouses and children of U.S. citizens
First preference	Highly skilled immigrants whose services were urgently needed in the United States and the spouse and children of such immigrants (50 percent) ^a
Second preference	Parents of U.S. citizens ^b (30 percent) ^c
Third preference	Spouses and children of aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence (20 percent) ^d
Fourth preference	Brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters ^e of U.S. citizens ^b (25 percent maximum of any unused visas for first three preferences) ^f
Nonpreference	Applicant not entitled to one of the above preferences

Source: The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (66 Stat. 163).

Note: A “child” is defined as an unmarried person under twenty-one years of age, unless otherwise noted.

^aPlus any not required for second and third preferences.

^bTo sponsor parents or siblings, the petitioning U.S. citizen had to be age twenty-one or older.

^cPlus any not required for first and third preferences. Unmarried sons and daughters (over twenty-one years of age) of U.S. citizens were moved up from the fourth preference by the Act of September 22, 1959.

^dPlus any not required for first and second preferences. Under the 1959 act, unmarried sons and daughters (over twenty-one years of age) of permanent residents were added.

^eAccompanying spouses and children were included in the preference by the 1959 act. Now “sons and daughters” referred to married sons and daughters, regardless of age.

^fIncreased to 50 percent under the 1959 act.

Table 4.3 The Hart-Celler Act of 1965

Major Provisions and Family Preferences	
Limit	290,000 ^a
Per-country limit	20,000
Family preferences limit	74 percent
Not limited	Immediate family members (spouses, children, and parents) of U.S. citizens ^b
First preference	Unmarried sons and daughters ^c of U.S. citizens (20 percent) (58,000)
Second preference	Spouses and unmarried sons and daughters ^d of permanent resident aliens (20 percent) (58,000)
Third preference	Members of the professions of exceptional ability in sciences and arts and their spouses and children (10 percent) (29,000)
Fourth preference	Married sons and daughters ^e of U.S. citizens and their spouses and children (10 percent) (29,000)
Fifth preference	Brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens ^b and their spouses and children (24 percent) (69,600)
Sixth preference	Skilled or unskilled workers in occupations in which labor is in short supply and their spouses and children (10 percent) (29,000)
Seventh preference	Refugees ^f (6 percent) (10,200)

Source: The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 (79 Stat. 911).

Note: A "child" is defined as an unmarried person under twenty-one years of age, unless otherwise noted.

^aThe 1965 Hart-Celler Act (Immigration and Nationality Act) set a ceiling of 170,000 on Eastern Hemisphere immigration. It also limited Western Hemisphere immigration, effective July 1, 1968, to 120,000 annually without per-country limits. The 1976 Immigration and Nationality Act amendments applied the 20,000 per-country limit to the Western Hemisphere. The Immigration and Nationality Act amendments of 1978 set a single worldwide ceiling of 290,000, and the Refugee Act of 1980 set the worldwide ceiling at 270,000.

^bTo sponsor parents or siblings, the petitioning U.S. citizen had to be age twenty-one or older.

^cAge twenty-one or older.

^dThe second preference "unmarried sons and daughters" included both minor and adult children.

^eMarried sons or daughters were persons who had a recognized parent-child relationship and were married, regardless of age.

^fThe seventh preference category of the 1965 act reserved 6 percent of Eastern Hemisphere immigrant visas to refugees. As the ceiling for the Eastern Hemisphere visas was initially set at 170,000, the number for the category was 10,200. It increased to 17,400 when the 1978 law set a single worldwide ceiling of 290,000. By the 1980 Refugee Act, refugees were admitted separately and were not under the preference system. The 6 percent preference for refugees from 1965 was added to the second preference, increasing it from 20 percent to 26 percent.

Table 5.1 Existing Family Preference Provisions in 1980

	Major Provisions and Preference Categories
Annual immigration limit	270,000 ^a
Per-country limit	20,000
Family preferences limit	80 percent of the annual immigration limit (216,000) ^b
Not limited	Immediate family members (spouses, children, and parents) of U.S. citizens ^c
First preference	Unmarried sons and daughters ^d of U.S. citizens (20 percent) (54,000)
Second preference	Spouses and unmarried sons and daughters ^e of permanent resident aliens (26 percent) (70,200)
Third preference	Members of the professions of exceptional ability in sciences and arts and their spouses and children (10 percent) (27,000)
Fourth preference	Married sons and daughters ^f of U.S. citizens and their spouses and children (10 percent) (27,000)
Fifth preference	Brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens ^c and their spouses and children (24 percent) (64,800)
Sixth preference	Skilled or unskilled workers in occupations in which labor is in short supply and their spouses and children (10 percent) (27,000)

Source: The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 (79 Stat. 911); the Immigration and Nationality Act Amendments of 1978 (92 Stat. 907); the Refugee Act of 1980 (94 Stat. 102).

Note: A “child” is defined as an unmarried person under twenty-one years of age.

^aThe Refugee Act of 1980 set the ceiling at 270,000, lowered from a single worldwide ceiling of 290,000 under the 1978 law. By the 1980 act, refugees were admitted separately and were not under the preference system. The 6 percent preference for refugees from 1965 was added to the second preference, increasing it from 20 percent to 26 percent.

^bIncluded first, second, fourth, and fifth preferences.

^cTo sponsor parents or siblings, the petitioning U.S. citizen had to be age twenty-one or older.

^dAge twenty-one or older.

^eThe second preference “unmarried sons and daughters” included both minor and adult children.

^fMarried sons and daughters were persons who had a recognized parent-child relationship and were married, regardless of age.

Table 5.2 The Immigration Act of 1990

	Major Provisions and Preference Categories	
Period	1992 to 1994 ^a	1995 and after
Limit	700,000	675,000
Per-country limit	7 percent of the total preference	
Family preferences limit	465,000 ^b	480,000
Not limited	Immediate family members ^c of U.S. citizens ^d	
First preference	Unmarried sons and daughters ^e of U.S. citizens	
	23,400	23,400
Second preference	Spouses and children of lawful permanent residents (2A) ^f and unmarried sons and daughters ^e of lawful permanent residents (2B) ^g	
	114,200	114,200
Third preference	Married sons and daughters ^h of U.S. citizens and their spouses and children	
	23,400	23,400
Fourth preference	Brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens ^d and their spouses and children	
	65,000	65,000

(continued)

Table 5.2 Continued

	Major Provisions and Preference Categories	
Employment-based preference ⁱ	20 percent of the total limit	20.74 percent of the total limit
First preference	Workers with special talents or skills (40,000)	
Second preference	Workers with advanced degrees or technical expertise (40,000)	
Third preference	Workers with needed job skills, professionals, and others (40,000)	
Fourth preference	Special immigrants and religious workers (10,000)	
Fifth preference	Investor immigrants (10,000)	
Diversity immigration ^j	40,000	55,000

Source: The Immigration Act of 1990 (104 Stat. 4978).

Note: A "child" is defined as an unmarried person under twenty-one years of age, unless otherwise noted.

^aA transitional limit of 700,000 was allocated between 1992 and 1994 until the 1990 Immigration Act came into effect in 1995.

^bThis number does not include 55,000 legalizations under the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (8 percent). Between 1991 and 1994, 55,000 visas per year were allocated for the spouses and children of migrants who became legal residents under IRCA, with the 1990 Immigration Act extending the cutoff date to May 1988.

^cThe number of immediate family members (spouses, children, and parents) of U.S. citizens was not limited, but it was assumed to be 239,000 between 1992 and 1994, and 254,000 in 1995 and after. This number was used to determine the family preference limit for the next fiscal year. The annual floor of 226,000 for the family preference system was set. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Yearbooks of Immigration Statistics* explain (for each data on the preference system): "Immediate relatives [of U.S. citizens] may enter without any limitation; however, the limit for family-sponsored preference immigrants [for citizens and permanent residents] in a fiscal year is equal to 480,000 minus the number of immediate relatives [of U.S. citizens] admitted in the preceding year. The limit of family-sponsored preference visas cannot fall below a minimum of 226,000—the worldwide limit of 480,000 minus 254,000 [the number of immediate relatives assumed to enter]."

^dTo sponsor parents or siblings, the petitioning U.S. citizen must be age twenty-one or older.

^eAge twenty-one or older.

^f2A: 77 percent of the total limit, of which 75 percent were issued without regard to the per-country limit.

^gThe second preference expanded by at least 62 percent after 1990.

^hMarried sons and daughters are persons who have a recognized parent-child relationship and are married, regardless of age.

ⁱTotal limit of 140,000: 120,000 plus 10,000 for religious workers and 10,000 for investors. Employment-based preferences include visas for spouses and children.

^jDiversity immigration was determined by lottery. In 1995 the permanent diversity program came into effect, with 55,000 visas available annually. The Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act in 1997 reduced diversity to 50,000.