



- Legal immigration in 2003 (705,827) was lower than in 2002 (1,063,732).
- Thirty six percent of all immigrants were born in North America (16 percent in Mexico) and 35 percent were born in Asia.
- Sixty three percent of all immigrants intended to reside in six states: California, New York, Texas, Florida, New Jersey and Illinois.
- Nearly one of five immigrants intended to reside in New York City or Los Angeles.
- Refugee arrivals increased in 2003 by five percent to 28,306 after declining 61 percent from 2001 to 2002.
- USCIS Asylum Officers approved 29 percent of asylum cases adjudicated in 2003.
- Total nonimmigrant admissions in 2003 (27.8 million) decreased by 0.2 percent from 2002 (27.9 million). Half were from four countries – the United Kingdom, 16.3 percent; Mexico, 15.5 percent; Japan, 12.9 percent; and Germany; 5.2 percent.
- The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) naturalized 463,204 persons in fiscal year 2003. Forty two percent were born in Asian countries, and 28 percent were from North American countries.
- California was the intended residence of 29 percent of persons naturalized and New York was second with 14 percent.
- The number of deportable aliens located during 2003 declined 1.5 percent to one million.
- The number of removals increased almost 24 percent to more than 186,000.
- More than 79,000 criminal aliens were removed. Mexico led all countries of nationality with more than 62,500 (79 percent).