

*IMMIGRATION AND
NATURALIZATION SERVICE*

*Monthly Statistical Report
September FY 2001 Year End Report*



Prepared by the Office of Policy and Planning
October 31, 2001



Table of Contents

Inspections	2
Southwest Border Apprehensions	3
Applications for Immigration Benefits.....	4
Naturalization Benefits	5
Removals	6
Investigations.....	7
Asylum	8

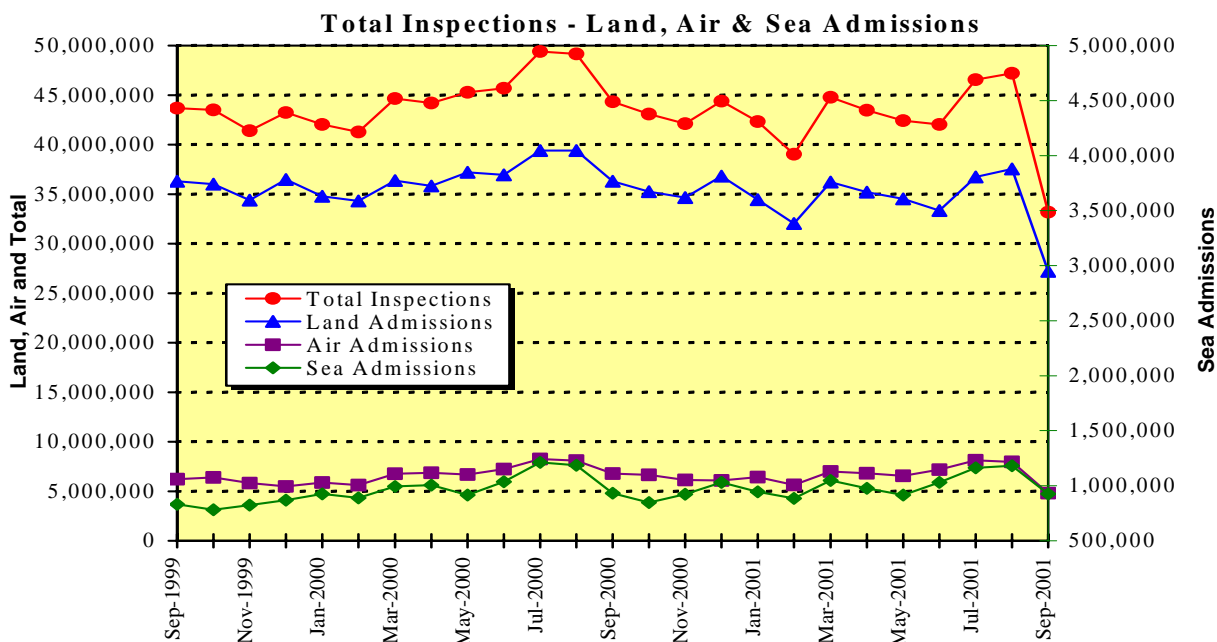
1. Data are preliminary and subject to revision; they are current as of February 12, 2003.

INSPECTIONS

Compared to September 2000, total inspections of citizens and aliens for entry to the United States decreased 25 percent. Air admissions decreased 29 percent and land admissions decreased 25 percent compared to the previous September. Sea admissions decreased 1 percent and inadmissibles decreased 5 percent compared to September 2000. Total inspections for fiscal year 2001 decreased 4 percent compared to fiscal year 2000.

	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 2000
	Sep-2001	Sep-2000	%Change	FY 2001 to Date	FY 2000 to Date	%Change	
Total Inspections	33,182,827	44,338,970	-25	510,583,046	534,184,259	-4	534,184,259
Air Admitted	4,793,053	6,784,265	-29	79,391,669	79,866,626	-1	79,866,626
Land Admitted	27,194,794	36,282,584	-25	413,947,270	437,374,387	-5	437,374,387
Sea Admitted	924,706	932,701	-1	11,869,375	11,569,132	3	11,569,132
Inadmissible	60,820	63,831	-5	700,807	775,005	-10	775,005

Data Source: PAS G-22.1



- Each September the INS experiences a seasonal decline in total inspections, when compared to the peak months of July and August. In fiscal year 2000, the September decline when compared to August was about 10 percent. However, the September decline in FY 2001 was 14 million or about 30 percent. Most of this decline is due to the drop in traffic at INS ports of entry following the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, which included the suspension of all air traffic to and from the United States.
- About 12 million U.S. citizens were admitted at INS ports of entry during September 2001, compared to approximately 21 million aliens admitted during the same month. The above categories of admission include individuals who make multiple entries, for example, citizens who leave and reenter the United States multiple times, permanent residents who make multiple entries, or aliens who hold non-immigrant visas or border crossing cards and commute back and forth each week from Canada or Mexico.
- The total inadmissible count for September 2001 was 60,820, a 5 percent decrease compared to September 2000. Inadmissible persons include aliens referred to secondary inspection who withdraw, are refused entry, are paroled in, or are referred to an Immigration Judge for a removal hearing. Also included are expedited cases where an alien can withdraw, or receives an expedited removal order, or is referred for a credible fear interview.

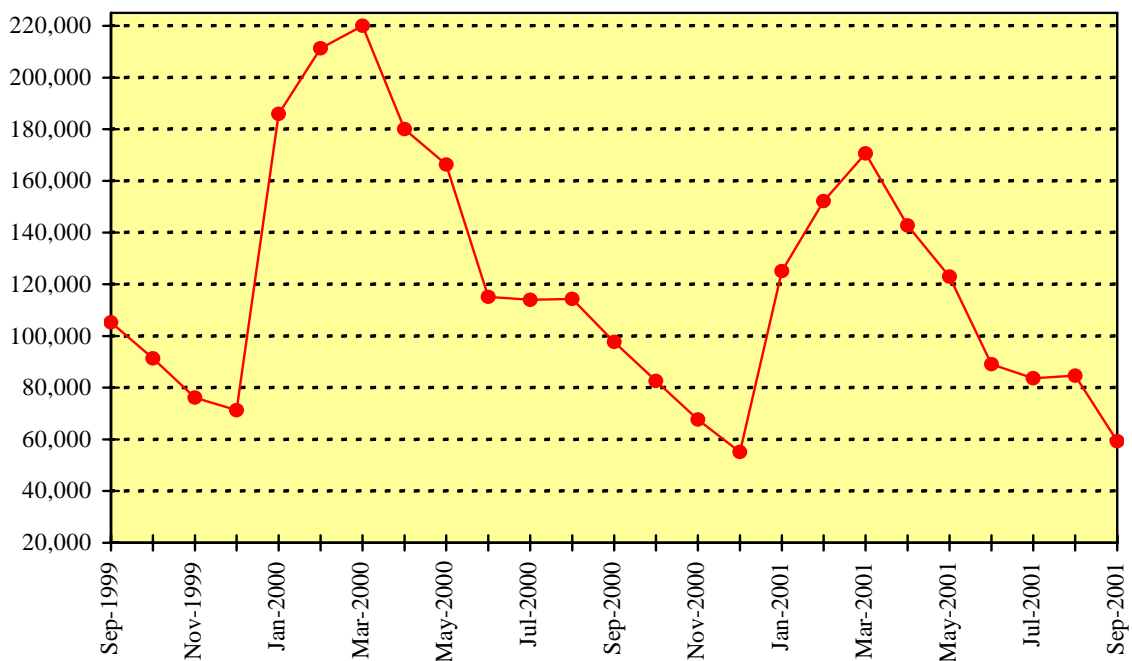
SOUTHWEST BORDER APPREHENSIONS

The U.S. Border Patrol made 59,276 apprehensions along the southwest border during September 2001, a 39 percent decrease when compared to September 2000. Voluntary returns conducted by Border Patrol agents decreased by 41 percent to 55,907. For fiscal year 2001, apprehensions were down 25 percent and voluntary returns were down 26 percent when compared to fiscal year 2000.

Southwest Border	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 2000
	Sep-2001	Sep-2000	%Change	FY 2001 to Date	FY 2000 to Date	%Change	
Apprehensions	59,276	97,744	-39	1,235,717	1,643,679	-25	1,643,679
Voluntary Returns	55,907	94,468	-41	1,191,047	1,603,038	-26	1,603,038

Data Source: PAS G-23.8 & G-23.18

Southwest Border Total Apprehensions



- Normally, apprehensions reach a yearly low in December followed by a strong seasonal increase in January. Seasonal highs tend to be reached in early spring. Apprehensions decrease but remain relatively high through the summer months and then start their autumn decline in September, which continues through the Christmas and New Year holidays.
- Southwest border apprehensions for September through December 2000 showed the expected seasonal pattern of decrease, while apprehensions from January through March showed the expected seasonal rise. September 2001 apprehensions showed an unusually large decrease when compared to the August 2001. While this decrease followed a seasonal trend, it was also due partly to a decline in attempted entries associated with the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Overall fiscal year 2001 apprehensions decreased by 25 percent or 407,962, when compared to the previous year.
- In FY 2000, Central American apprehensions on the southwest border reached 23,092, a decrease of 6,023 when compared to the previous year. For FY 2001, southwest border Central American apprehensions reached 22,515 a decrease of 2 percent compared to FY 2000. Of the 22,515 Central Americans apprehended in FY 2001, 39 percent were Honduran, 38 percent were El Salvadoran, 20 percent were Guatemalan, and 3 percent were Nicaraguan.

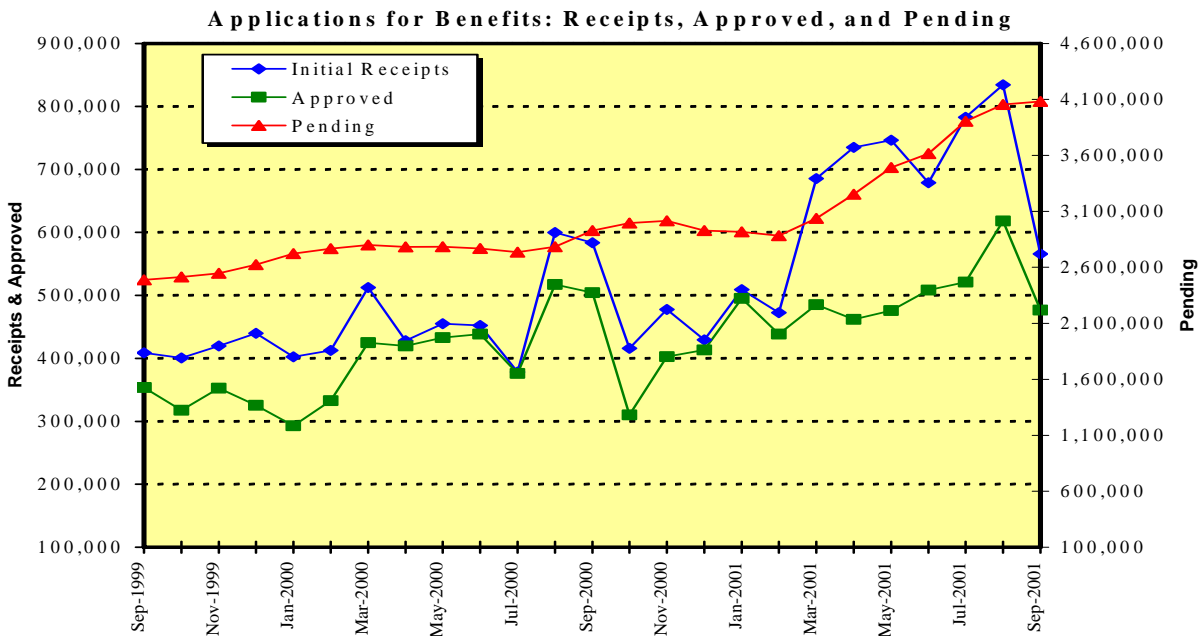
APPLICATIONS FOR IMMIGRATION BENEFITS

Applications and petitions for immigration benefits in September 2001 decreased 3 percent compared to the number received in September 2000. September approvals were down 6 percent, while denials increased by 22 percent when compared to September 2000. For fiscal year 2001, receipts increased 34 percent, approvals increased 18 percent, and pending cases increased by 39 percent when compared to fiscal year 2000.

	<i>Month</i>			<i>Fiscal Year</i>			<i>Total FY 2000</i>
	<i>Sep-2001</i>	<i>Sep-2000</i>	<i>%Change</i>	<i>FY 2001 to Date</i>	<i>FY 2000 to Date</i>	<i>%Change</i>	
Initial Receipts¹	565,838	583,710	-3	7,333,338	5,483,792	34	5,483,792
Approved	476,327	504,095	-6	5,606,705	4,734,328	18	4,734,328
Denied	43,032	35,159	22	460,844	353,479	30	353,479
Pending¹	4,083,052	2,928,254	39	4,083,052	2,928,254	39	2,928,254

Data Source: PAS G-22.2

¹ Receipts and Pending do not reflect an estimated 22,500 I-485s filed but not data entered.



- Major volumes in September 2001 receipts include: 130,550 I-765 employment authorizations; 92,947 I-130 relative petitions; 89,145 I-90 Green Card renewals/replacements; and 57,948 I-485 permanent resident adjustments.
- Major volumes of pending cases at the end of September 2001 include: 1,594,048 I-130 relative petitions; 971,866 I-485 permanent resident adjustments; 267,329 I-765 employment authorizations; and 256,527 I-90 Green Card renewals/replacements.
- Benefit statistics for September 2001 are preliminary and may be subject to change. September statistics on pending applications may be changed when the Service-wide Inventory Program (SWIP) is completed in November. Receipts and approvals declined sharply in September. There are two possible reasons for the decline. First, fewer applications may have been opened in the mailrooms and adjudicated due to a diversion of resources to conduct the SWIP. Second is the impact of the 245(i) extension under the Life Act. Although the program ended on April 30, there were a large number of backlogged cases related to the Life Act that did not get entered into INS systems until the end of August 2001. This partially accounts for the record high receipts in August and the following drop in receipts for September.

NATURALIZATION BENEFITS

Naturalization receipts in September 2001 increased 29 percent when compared to September 2000. Approvals for September 2001 were down 48 percent and denials were down 75 percent compared to September 2000. For fiscal year 2001, receipts increased 9 percent, while 613,161 applicants for naturalization took the oath of citizenship, a decrease of 32 percent compared to fiscal year 2000.

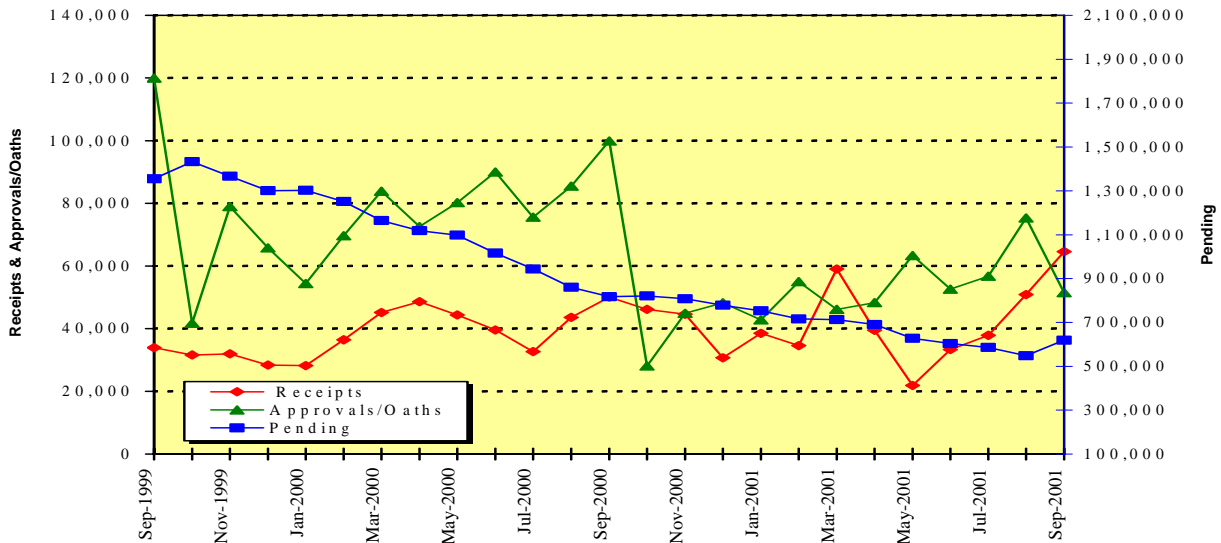
	Month ²			Fiscal Year			Total FY 2000
	Sep-2001	Sep-2000	%Change	FY 2001 to Date	FY 2000 to Date	%Change	
Receipts ¹	64,601	50,128	29	501,646	460,916	9	460,916
Approvals/Oaths	51,478	99,894	-48	613,161	898,315	-32	898,315
Denied	13,033	51,810	-75	218,326	399,670	-45	399,670
Pending ¹	618,750	817,431	-24	618,750	817,431	-24	817,431

Data Source: PAS G-22.3

¹ October 1999 started a new data series based on unadjusted receipts and pending. MSR reports prior to October 1999 showed Adjusted Receipts and Pending. The N-400 direct mail program eliminated the need for these adjustments.

² Receipts and Pending do not reflect an estimated 41,800 N-400s filed but not data entered.

N - 4 0 0 Naturalization Applications Receipts, Oaths/Approved, and Pending



- The number of pending cases decreased 24 percent compared to one year ago.
- The total number of denied applications during fiscal year 2001 decreased 45 percent compared to fiscal year 2000.
- The September 2001 drop in the number of naturalization oaths administered was in part due to the end-of-year Service-wide Inventory Program (SWIP) which reduced the amount of time available to process applications.

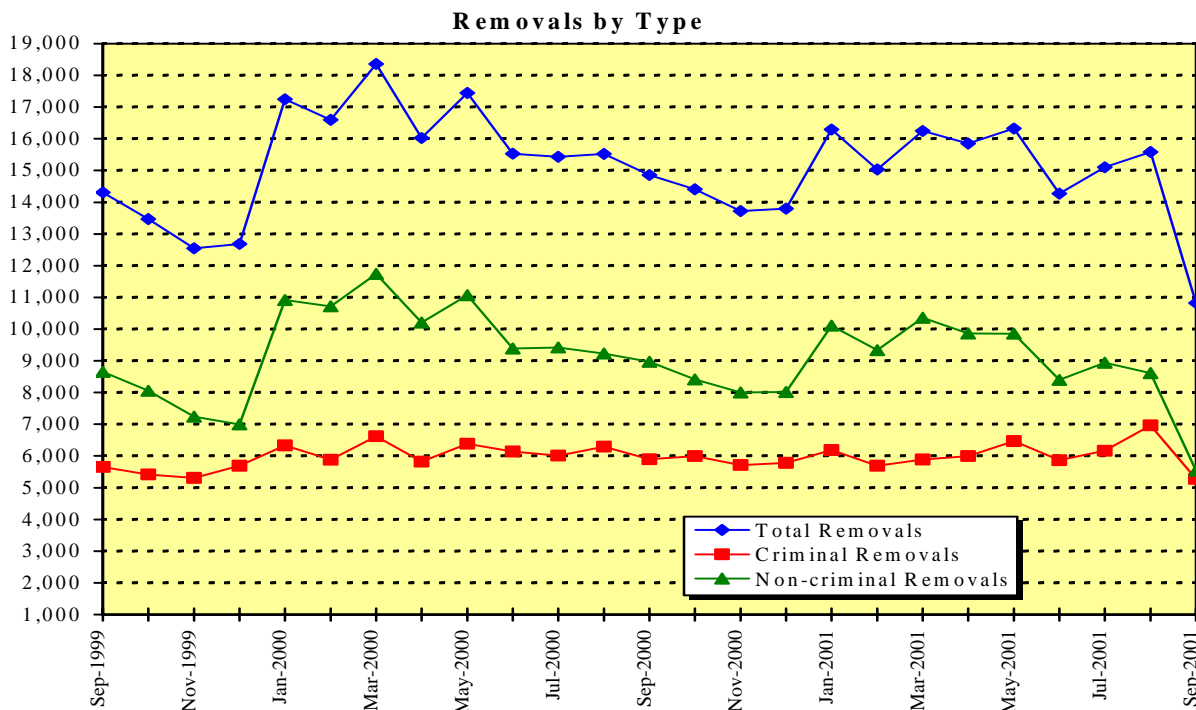
REMOVALS

Total removals for September decreased 27 percent compared to the same month a year before. In September 2001, INS removed 10,820 aliens from the United States, 5,281 of these aliens were criminals.

	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 2000
	Sep-2001*	Sep-2000	%Change	FY 2001 to Date	FY 2000 to Date	%Change	
Deportable	3,118	4,016	-22	46,093	48,267	-5	48,267
Inadmissible	7,702	10,844	-29	131,359	137,464	-4	137,464
Total Removals	10,820	14,860	-27	177,452	185,731	-4	185,731
Criminal Removals	5,281	5,893	-10	71,994	71,801	0	71,801
Non-criminal Removals	5,539	8,967	-38	105,458	113,930	-7	113,930

Data Source: HQSTA DACS Monthly Extract

* Current Monthly Data are Preliminary.



- Historically there are significant upward revisions in the removal statistics for three months after the initial reporting period, with smaller revisions thereafter. Each month the Office of Immigration Statistics revises the published statistics for the previous three fiscal years.
- Total removals in fiscal year 2001 decreased 4 percent compared to fiscal year 2000. In fiscal year 2001 expedited removals (69,785) have decreased 19 percent compared to fiscal year 2000. Other types of removals have increased 8 percent comparing FY 2001 to FY 2000. Non-expedited removals are 60 percent of total removals.
- The terrorist attacks of September 11 had an impact on removals. For example, transportation of aliens was disrupted for several days. In addition, fewer aliens sought admission to the United States and the number of aliens in expedited removal at ports of entry declined 50 percent compared to September 2000
- Preliminary data indicate that removals of criminal aliens increased slightly comparing fiscal year 2001 with fiscal year 2000. Non-expedited criminal removals have increased 4 percent.

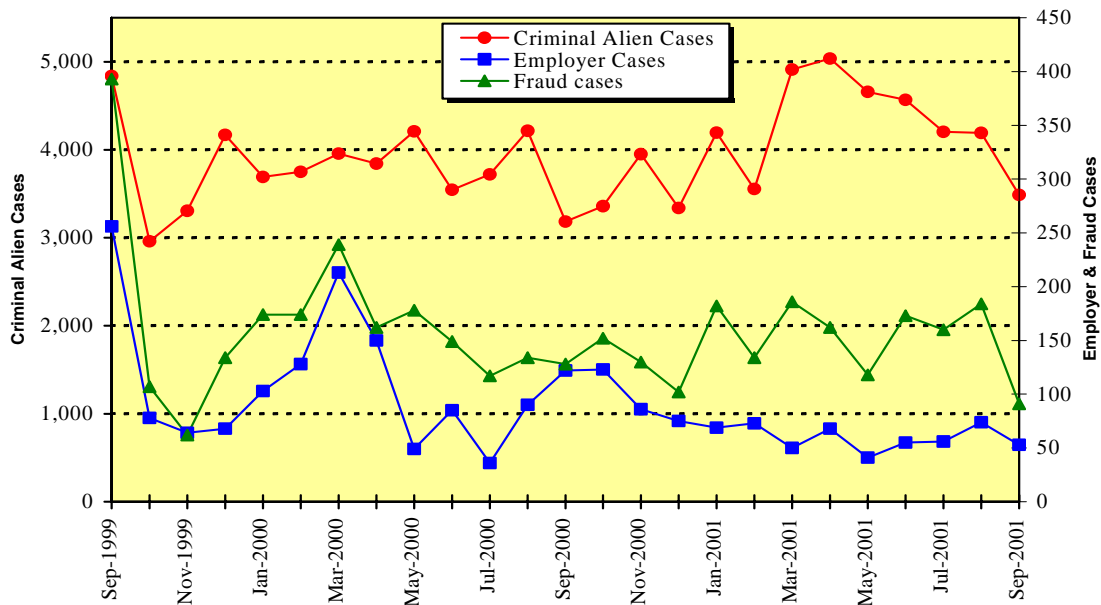
INVESTIGATIONS

Successful completions of criminal alien cases for September 2001 increased 10 percent when compared to September 2000, while employer cases decreased by 57 percent compared to the previous September. Fraud completions for September decreased 29 percent compared to the same month last year, while successful completions of smuggling cases increased 39 percent. For fiscal year 2001, successful completions of criminal alien cases increased 11 percent, employer cases decreased 31 percent, fraud completions increased 1 percent, and smuggling cases decreased by 6 percent compared to fiscal year 2000.

<i>Successful Completions</i>	<i>Month</i>			<i>Fiscal Year</i>			<i>Total FY 2000</i>
	<i>Sep-2001</i>	<i>Sep-2000</i>	<i>%Change</i>	<i>FY 2001 to Date</i>	<i>FY 2000 to Date</i>	<i>%Change</i>	
Criminal Alien Cases	3,488	3,184	10	49,456	44,546	11	44,546
Employer Cases	53	122	-57	823	1,186	-31	1,186
Fraud Cases	91	128	-29	1,774	1,758	1	1,758
Smuggling Cases	50	36	39	445	475	-6	475

Data Source: PAS G-23.19 & 19.1

Criminal and Worksite Cases Successfully Completed



- Definitions:** Successful Completion: a case that has resulted in an adverse action such as a prosecution, deportation, removal, denial, civil action, or cessation of targeted activity based on the outcome of the investigation. Case Types: Criminal alien cases include large-scale organizations engaged in ongoing criminal activity and individual aliens convicted of a crime such as drug trafficking or terrorism. Employer cases include investigations that target employers who knowingly hire or who continue to employ illegal aliens. Fraud cases include marriage fraud, immigration benefit fraud, Employer Sanctions document fraud, and entitlement fraud. Smuggling cases involve those which target persons or entities who bring, transport, harbor, or smuggle illegal aliens into or within the United States.

ASYLUM

The number of applications for asylum in September 2001 increased 39 percent compared to the number filed in September 2000. The pending caseload was 1 percent lower than in the same month last year.

	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 2000
	Sep-2001	Sep-2000	%Change	FY 2001 to Date	FY 2000 to Date	%Change	
Cases Filed	6,466	4,643	39	66,356	49,462	34	49,462
Approved	1,435	1,618	-11	20,651	16,810	23	16,810
Denied	837	675	24	13,044	7,329	78	7,329
Otherwise Closed	1,624	1,829	-11	22,718	23,015	-1	23,015
Referred to IJ	1,196	1,128	6	14,296	13,905	3	13,905
Pending	324,242	328,977	-1	324,242	328,977	-1	328,977

IJ - Immigration Judges at the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR).

Cases filed - includes both new and reopened applications.

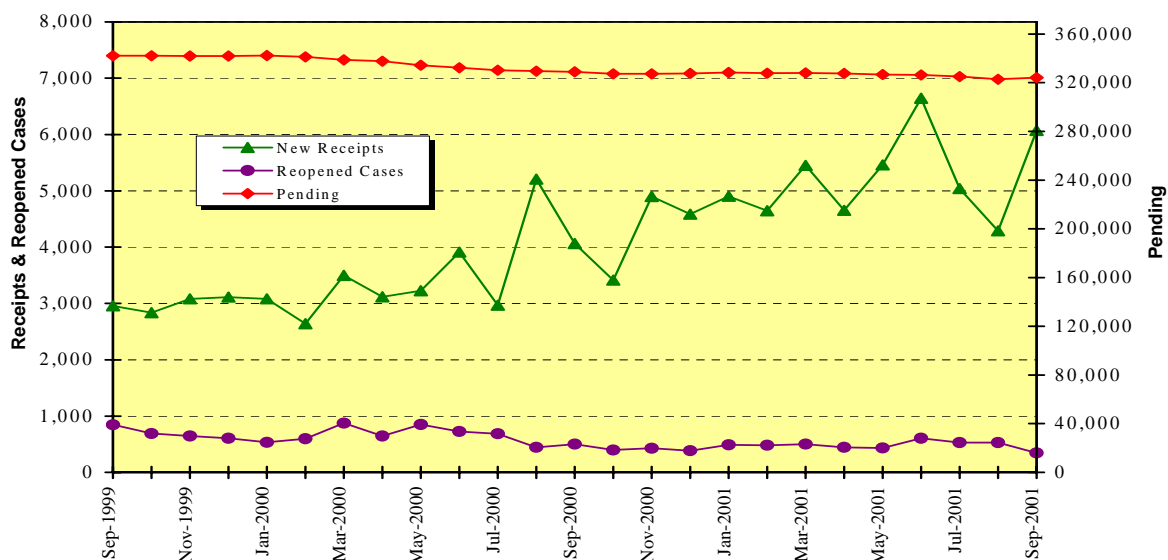
Denied - includes applications rejected under the one-year filing deadline.

Data Source: RAPS

Data are preliminary, for revised tables visit the "Asylees" page of the Statistical Yearbook at:

www.immigration.gov/graphics/shared/aboutus/statistics/index.htm

Asylum Applications Received, Reopened Cases & Pending



- Nationals of Mexico submitted the most asylum applications in FY 2001, followed by the People's Republic of China and Colombia.
- There has been a dramatic increase this fiscal year in new receipts covered by asylum reform. Many of these applicants are Mexican nationals who have been in the United States for a long period of time. A great number of these applications are rejected for failing to meet the one year filing deadline and failing to establish extraordinary or changed circumstances excusing them from the one year deadline.