

*Department of Homeland Security*

*Fiscal Year 2004*

*Immigration Monthly Statistical Report*

*September 2004 Year End Report*



**Prepared by the Office of Immigration Statistics**

October 29, 2004



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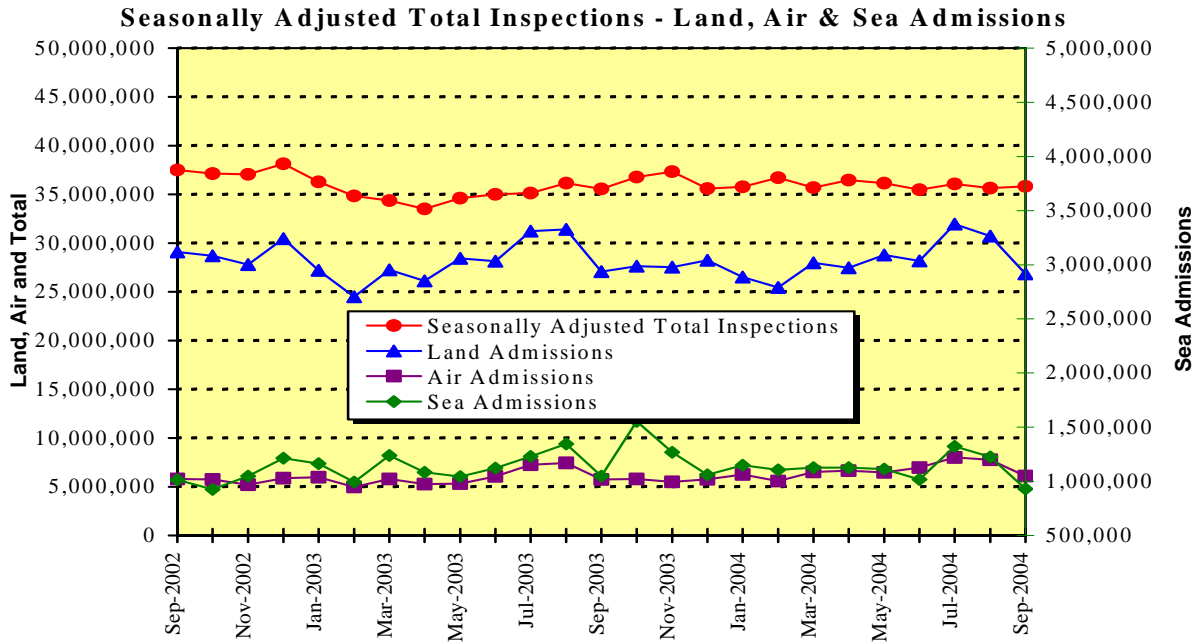
1. Monthly data are preliminary and subject to revision; they are current as of October 26, 2004

# INSPECTIONS

Compared to September 2003, total inspections of citizens and aliens for entry to the United States increased less than 1 percent. Air admissions increased 6 percent and land admissions decreased by 1 percent compared to the previous September. Sea admissions decreased 11 percent and inadmissibles decreased 1 percent compared to September 2003. For fiscal year 2004, total inspections increased 1 percent. Air admissions increased by 9 percent, sea admissions increased by 4 percent, and land admissions decreased less than 1 percent.

	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 2003
	Sep-2004	Sep-2003	%Change	FY 2004 to Date	FY 2003 to Date	%Change	
<b>Total Inspections</b>	34,357,407	34,193,939	0	433,144,618	427,690,315	1	427,690,315
<b>Air Admitted</b>	6,103,275	5,754,203	6	77,363,584	70,690,316	9	70,690,316
<b>Land Admitted</b>	26,845,312	27,065,954	-1	337,251,867	338,297,020	0	338,297,020
<b>Sea Admitted</b>	930,905	1,048,646	-11	13,999,502	13,458,254	4	13,458,254
<b>Inadmissible</b>	53,293	53,783	-1	628,290	674,474	-7	674,474

Data Source: PAS G-22.1



- About 13 million U.S. citizens were admitted at DHS ports of entry during September 2004, 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 fiscal year 2004 was 628,290, a 7 percent decrease compared to the total for fiscal year 2003. 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.
- The number of inspections has not reached the levels experienced before September 11, 2001. The seasonally adjusted inspections decreased 24 percent between August 2001 and October 2001, but have increased 8 percent since then.

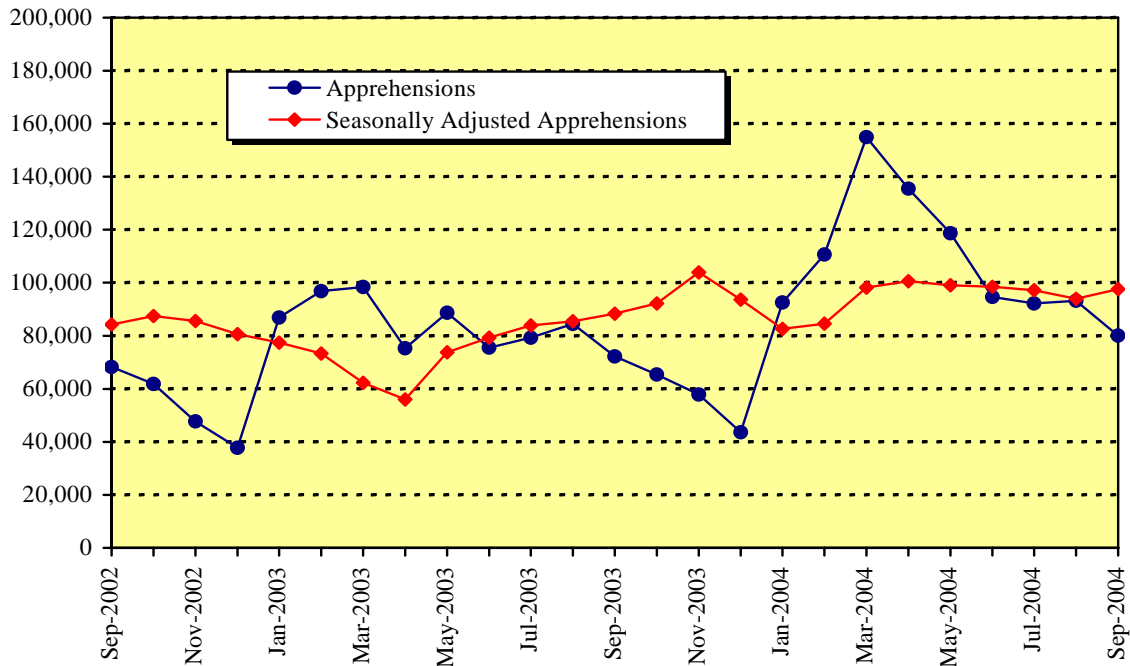
## SOUTHWEST BORDER APPREHENSIONS

The U.S. Border Patrol made 80,017 apprehensions along the southwest border during September 2004, an 11 percent increase when compared to September 2003. Voluntary returns increased by 3 percent compared to the same month last year. For fiscal year 2004, apprehensions increased 26 percent, while voluntary returns increased 22 percent compared to FY 2003.

Southwest Border	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 2003
	Sep-2004	Sep-2003	%Change	FY 2004 to Date	FY 2003 to Date	%Change	
<b>Apprehensions</b>	80,017	72,176	11	1,139,282	905,065	26	905,065
<b>Voluntary Returns</b>	67,868	65,737	3	1,020,325	836,672	22	836,672

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.
- Apprehensions reached 1,139,000 in fiscal year 2004, more than 500,000 fewer than the high point reached in fiscal year 2000 of 1,643,000.
- Seasonally adjusted apprehensions increased 3.9 percent between August and September 2004.
- In FY 2003, Central American apprehensions on the southwest border reached 31,049, an increase of 9,229 when compared to the previous year. For fiscal year 2004, southwest border Central American apprehensions reached 53,120, an increase of 71 percent compared to fiscal year 2003. Of the 53,120 Central Americans apprehended in FY 2004, 45 percent were Honduran, 31 percent were El Salvadoran, 20 percent were Guatemalan, and 3 percent were Nicaraguan.

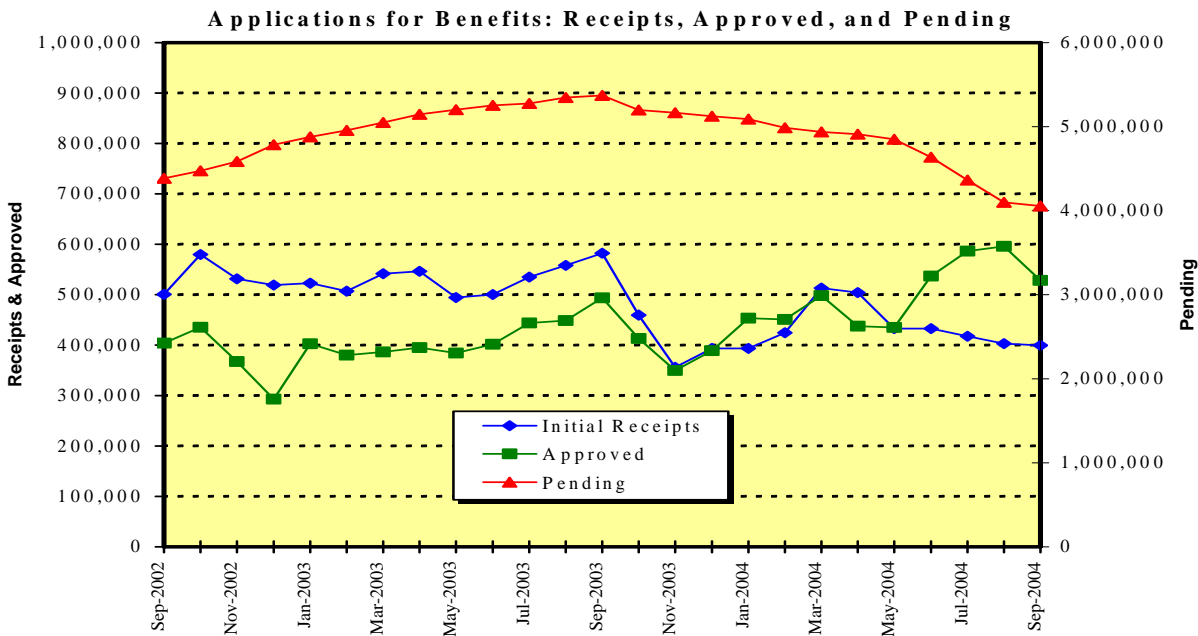
## APPLICATIONS FOR IMMIGRATION BENEFITS

Applications and petitions for immigration benefits in September 2004 decreased 31 percent compared to the number received in September 2003. September approvals were up 7 percent, while denials increased by 20 percent when compared to September 2003. For fiscal year 2004, receipts decreased by 20 percent, while approvals increased 17 percent and pending decreased 24 percent compared to fiscal year 2003.

	<i>Month</i>			<i>Fiscal Year</i>			<i>Total FY 2003</i>
	<i>Sep-2004</i>	<i>Sep-2003</i>	<i>%Change</i>	<i>FY 2004 to Date</i>	<i>FY 2003 to Date</i>	<i>%Change</i>	
<b>Initial Receipts<sup>1</sup></b>	399,391	582,484	-31	5,130,610	6,419,618	-20	6,419,618
<b>Approved</b>	528,546	493,842	7	5,675,290	4,833,017	17	4,833,017
<b>Denied</b>	70,961	59,126	20	767,887	665,895	15	665,895
<b>Pending<sup>1</sup></b>	4,054,913	5,370,248	-24	4,054,913	5,370,248	-24	5,370,248

Data Source: PAS G-22.2

<sup>1</sup> Receipts and Pending do not reflect an estimated 2,549 I-485s filed but not data entered.



- Major volumes in September 2004 receipts include: 104,747 I-765 employment authorizations 56,869 I-130 relative petitions; 45,817 I-485 permanent resident adjustments; and 49,007 I-90 Green Card renewals/replacements.
- Major volumes of pending applications at the end of September 2004 include: 1,830,171 I-130 relative petitions; 1,162,205 I-485 permanent resident adjustments; 275,062 I-90 Green Card renewals/replacements; and 184,314 I-765 employment authorizations.
- The total number of benefit applications received and pending declined 20 and 24 percent respectively between fiscal years 2003 and 2004. The decreases in receipts and pending applications are partially attributable to a revision in the methods used to collect data on I-129 and I-539 forms. Prior to fiscal year 2004 the number of persons on each application were counted, whereas beginning in October 2003 the number of applications were counted. The number of pending applications decreased approximately 160,000 between September 2003 and October 2004 as a result of the revised counting method. The total number of pending applications decreased by approximately 1.3 million over the entire fiscal year as the number of applications approved or denied exceeded the number of receipts by 1.3 million.

## N-400 NATURALIZATION BENEFITS

Naturalization receipts in September 2004 increased 15 percent, while approvals/oaths were up 41 percent and denials were up 58 percent when compared to September 2003. For fiscal year 2004, 536,174 persons took the oath of citizenship, an increase of 18 percent compared to fiscal year 2003.

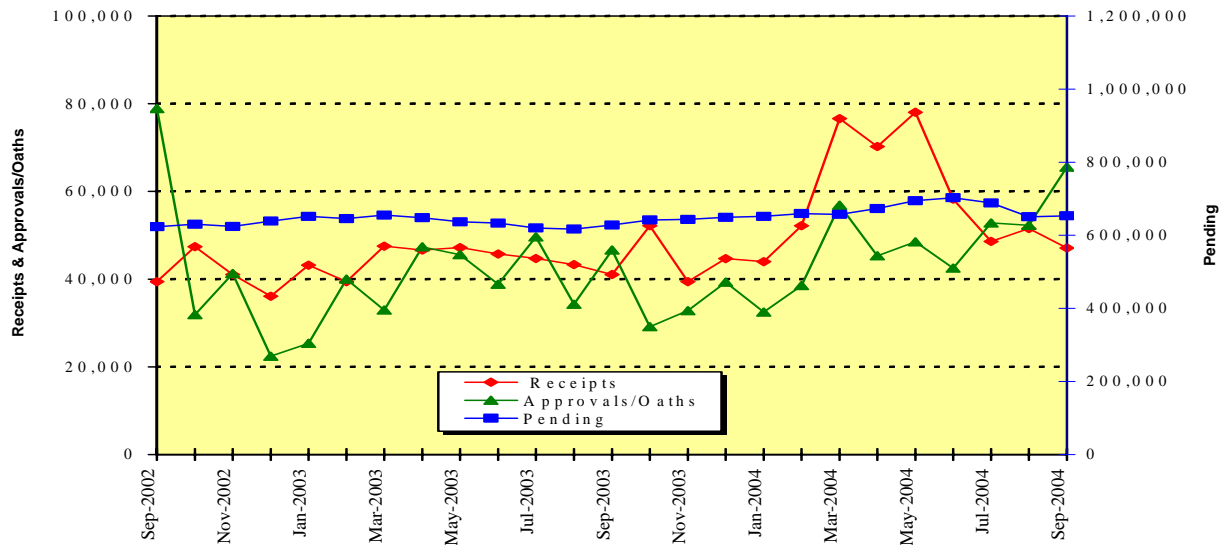
	Month <sup>1</sup>			Fiscal Year			Total FY 2003
	Sep-2004	Sep-2003	%Change	FY 2004 to Date	FY 2003 to Date	%Change	
<b>Receipts</b>	47,082	41,050	15	662,788	523,370	27	523,370
<b>Approvals/Oaths</b>	65,576	46,612	41	536,174	456,063	18	456,063
<b>Denied</b>	16,621	10,536	58	103,203	91,599	13	91,599
<b>Pending</b>	653,190	628,025	4	653,190	628,025	4	628,025

Data Source: PAS G-22.3

<sup>1</sup> Receipts and Pending do not reflect an estimated 3,436 N-400s filed but not data entered.

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**N - 4 0 0 N a t u r a l i z a t i o n A p p l i c a t i o n s  
R e c e i p t s , O a t h s / A p p r o v e d , a n d P e n d i n g**



- The number of pending cases reached 653,190 in September, an increased of 4 percent compared to the same month in fiscal year 2003.
- The USCIS instituted a new fee structure effective on April 30, 2004. The fee for N-400 Application for Naturalization increased by \$60 (not including a separate biometric fee).

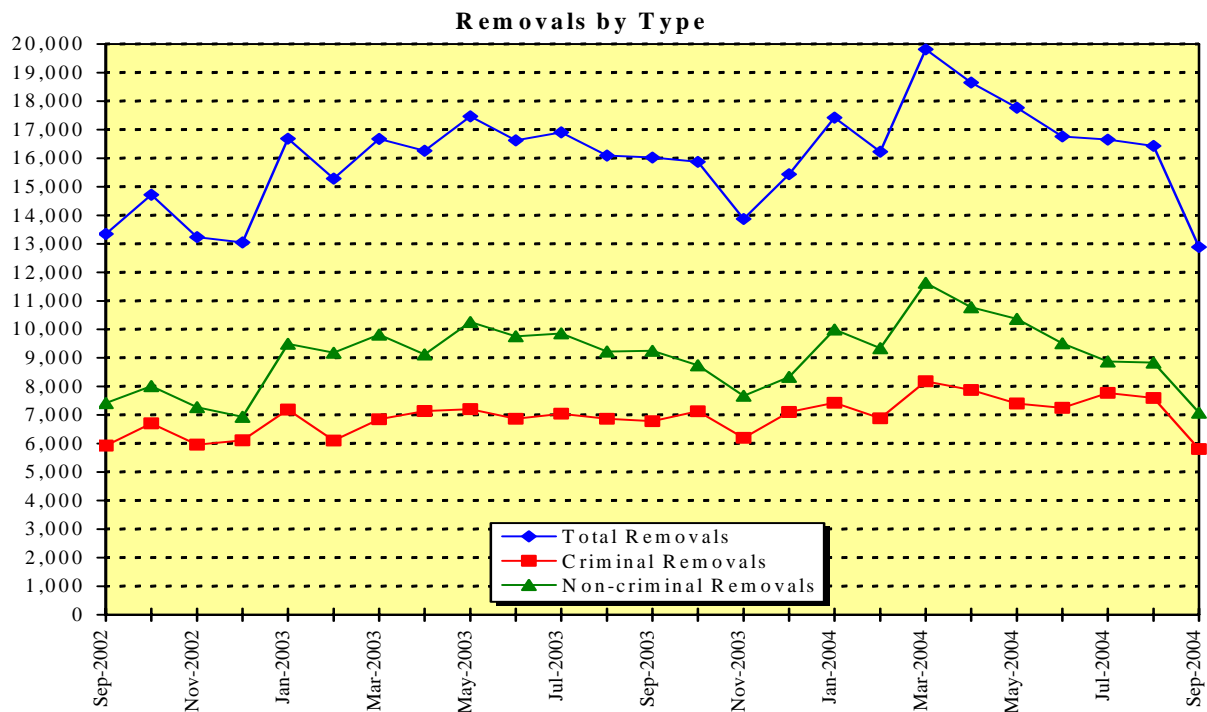
## REMOVALS

Total removals for September decreased 20 percent compared to the same month a year before. In September 2004, DHS removed 12,888 aliens from the United States, 5,807 of these aliens were criminals.

	<i>Month</i>			<i>Fiscal Year</i>			<i>Total FY 2003</i>
	<i>Sep-2004*</i>	<i>Sep-2003</i>	<i>%Change</i>	<i>FY 2004 to Date</i>	<i>FY 2003 to Date</i>	<i>%Change</i>	
<b>Deportable Inadmissible</b>	2,994	4,130	-28	47,842	50,135	-5	50,135
<b>Total Removals</b>	12,888	16,027	-20	197,792	189,027	5	189,027
<b>Criminal Removals</b>	5,807	6,779	-14	86,620	80,833	7	80,833
<b>Non-criminal Removals</b>	7,081	9,248	-23	111,172	108,194	3	108,194

Data Source: HQSTA DACS Monthly Extract

\* Current Monthly Data are Preliminary.



- The current month's statistics are preliminary. Historically there have been significant upward revisions in the statistics for three months after the initial reporting period. The August statistic for total removals has increased 13 percent (1,924 removals) since the preliminary number was released last month.
- Preliminary data indicate that total removals for fiscal year 2004 increased 5 percent compared to fiscal year 2003. In fiscal year 2004, expedited removals are 20 percent of total removals.
- Preliminary data indicate that removals of criminal aliens (including expedited) increased 7 percent in fiscal year 2004.

## ASYLUM

The number of applications for asylum in September 2004 decreased 23 percent compared to the number filed in September 2003. The pending caseload was 30 percent lower than in the same month last year.

	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 2003
	Sep-2004	Sep-2003	%Change	FY 2004 to Date	FY 2003 to Date	%Change	
<b>Cases Filed</b>	2,612	3,372	-23	34,184	48,656	-30	48,656
<b>Approved</b>	920	814	13	10,613	12,176	-13	12,176
<b>Denied</b>	743	1,088	-32	9,080	13,119	-31	13,119
<b>Otherwise Closed</b>	12,477	4,045	208	77,795	49,736	56	49,736
<b>Referred to IJ</b>	962	1,187	-19	13,158	15,687	-16	15,687
<b>Pending</b>	184,501	262,102	-30	184,501	262,102	-30	262,102

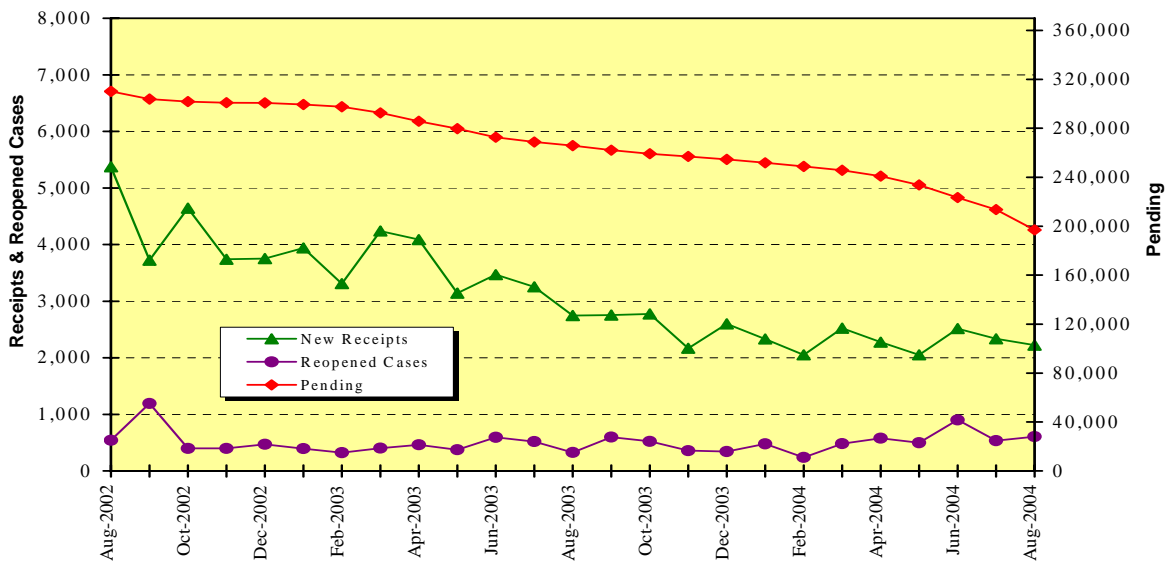
IJ - Immigration Judges at the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR).

Cases filed - includes both new and reopened applications.

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

Data Source: RAPS

**Asylum Applications Received, Reopened Cases & Pending**



- Nationals of the People's Republic of China submitted the most asylum applications in September 2004, followed by Haiti, Guatemala, El Salvador, Columbia, and Mexico.
- About 85 percent of the pending caseload involves aliens whose cases may be adjudicated under one of the provisions of the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act of 1997 (NACARA) or the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act of 1998 (HRIFA) rather than through an asylum process. The pending caseload excluding those special-group cases is approximately 30,500 cases.
- The substantial growth in cases otherwise closed is mostly attributable to the large number of cases adjudicated under NACARA.