

*IMMIGRATION AND  
NATURALIZATION SERVICE*

*Monthly Statistical Report  
September FY 1999 Year End Report*



Prepared by the Office of Policy and Planning  
October 29, 1999



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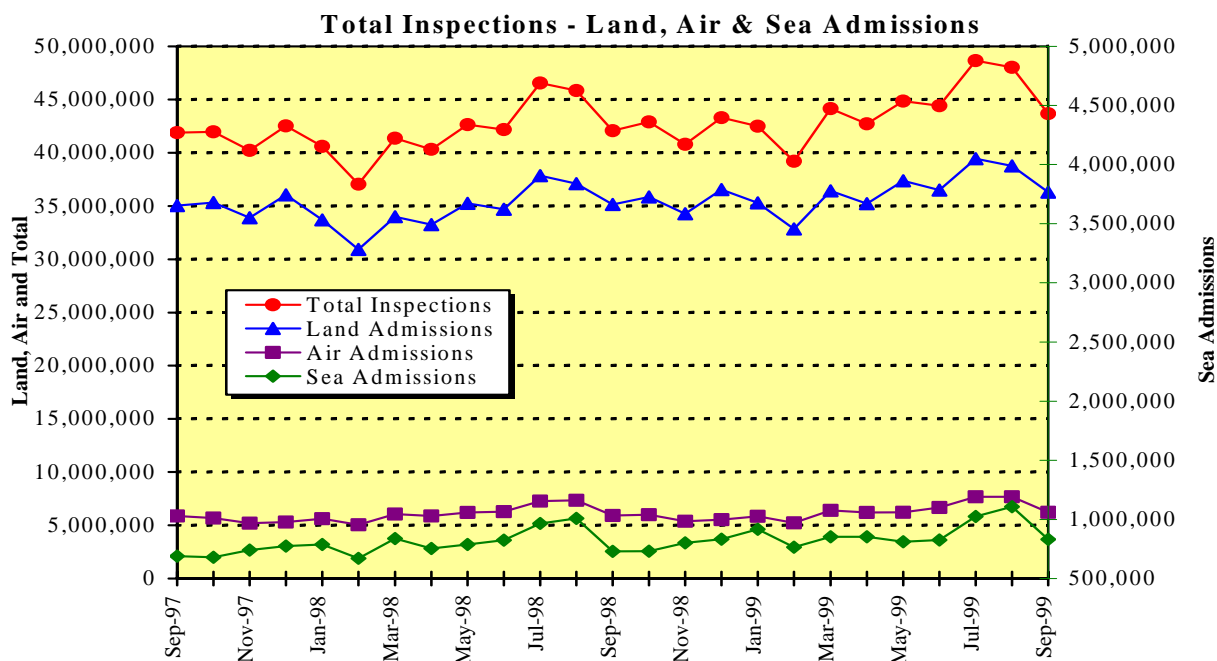
1. Data are preliminary and subject to revision; they are current as of February 12, 2003.

## INSPECTIONS

Compared to September 1998, total inspections of citizens and aliens for entry to the United States increased 4 percent. Air admissions increased 5 percent and land admissions increased 3 percent compared to the previous September. Sea admissions increased 14 percent, and inadmissibles increased 14 percent compared to September 1998.

	<i>Month</i>			<i>Fiscal Year</i>			<i>Total FY 98</i>
	<i>Sep-99</i>	<i>Sep-98</i>	<i>%Change</i>	<i>FY 99 to Date</i>	<i>FY 98 to Date</i>	<i>%Change</i>	
<b>Total Inspections</b>	43,683,756	42,079,852	4	525,186,487	503,355,448	4	503,355,448
<b>Air Admitted</b>	6,222,335	5,935,560	5	75,051,126	71,834,680	4	71,834,680
<b>Land Admitted</b>	36,290,144	35,142,140	3	434,806,525	417,109,980	4	417,109,980
<b>Sea Admitted</b>	831,450	730,597	14	10,352,177	9,566,460	8	9,566,460
<b>Inadmissible</b>	69,509	61,170	14	781,078	726,271	8	726,271

Data Source: PAS G-22.1



- INS inspected about 525 million people applying for admission at U.S. ports of entry in FY99, an increase of 4 percent compared to FY98.
- About 15 million U.S. citizens were admitted at INS ports of entry during the month of September 1999, compared to approximately 29 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 border crossing cards and commute back and forth each week from Canada or Mexico.
- The total inadmissible count for fiscal year 1999 was 781,078. Inadmissible persons include aliens referred to secondary inspection who have withdrawn, were refused entry, were paroled in, or were referred to an Immigration Judge for a removal hearing. Starting in FY98, the inadmissible count also includes expedited cases withdrawn, expedited removal orders, and aliens referred for credible fear interviews.

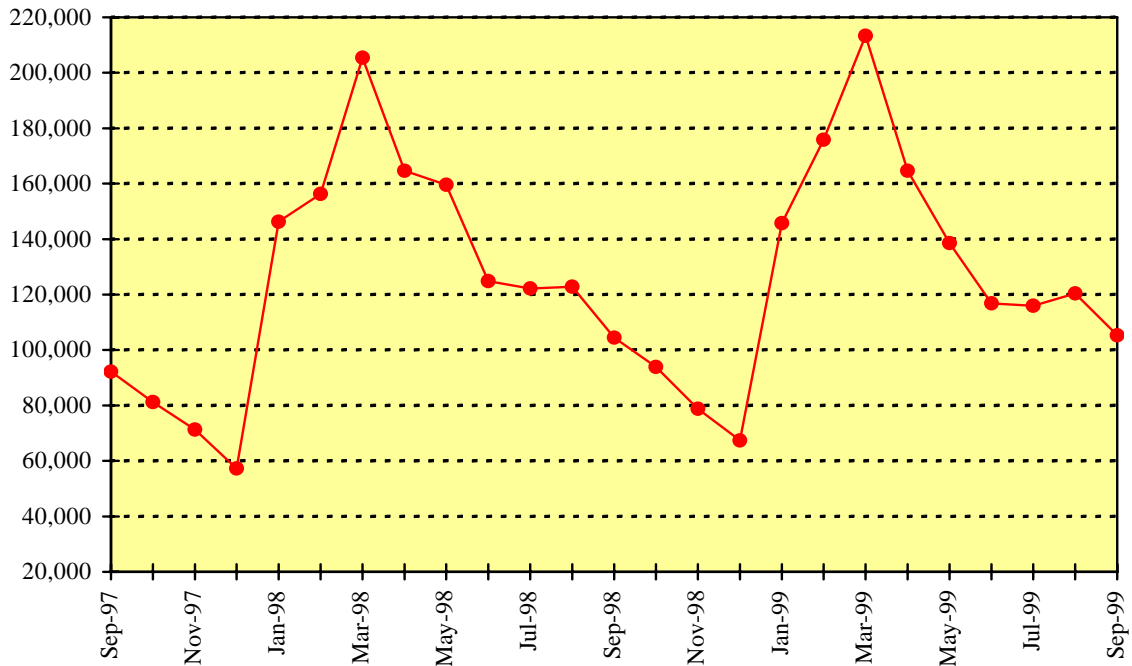
## SOUTHWEST BORDER APPREHENSIONS

The Border Patrol made 105,324 apprehensions along the southwest border during September 1999, 1 percent higher than September 1998. Voluntary returns conducted by Border Patrol agents, increased by 1 percent to 102,033.

Southwest Border	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 98
	Sep-99	Sep-98	%Change	FY 99 to Date	FY 98 to Date	%Change	
<b>Apprehensions</b>	105,324	104,448	1	1,537,000	1,516,680	1	1,516,680
<b>Voluntary Returns</b>	102,033	100,732	1	1,496,268	1,484,602	1	1,484,602

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 fluctuate 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.
- Fiscal year 1999 southwest border apprehensions were up 1 percent compared to fiscal year 1998 reaching 1,537,000.
- In FY98, Central American apprehensions on the southwest border reached 20,814, an increase of 6,937 when compared to the previous year. During FY99, southwest border Central American apprehensions reached 29,115 an increase of 40 percent compared to the same period in FY98. Of the 29,115 persons apprehended in FY99, 55 percent were Honduran, 26 percent were El Salvadoran, 16 percent were Guatemalan, and 3 percent were Nicaraguan.

## APPLICATIONS FOR IMMIGRATION BENEFITS

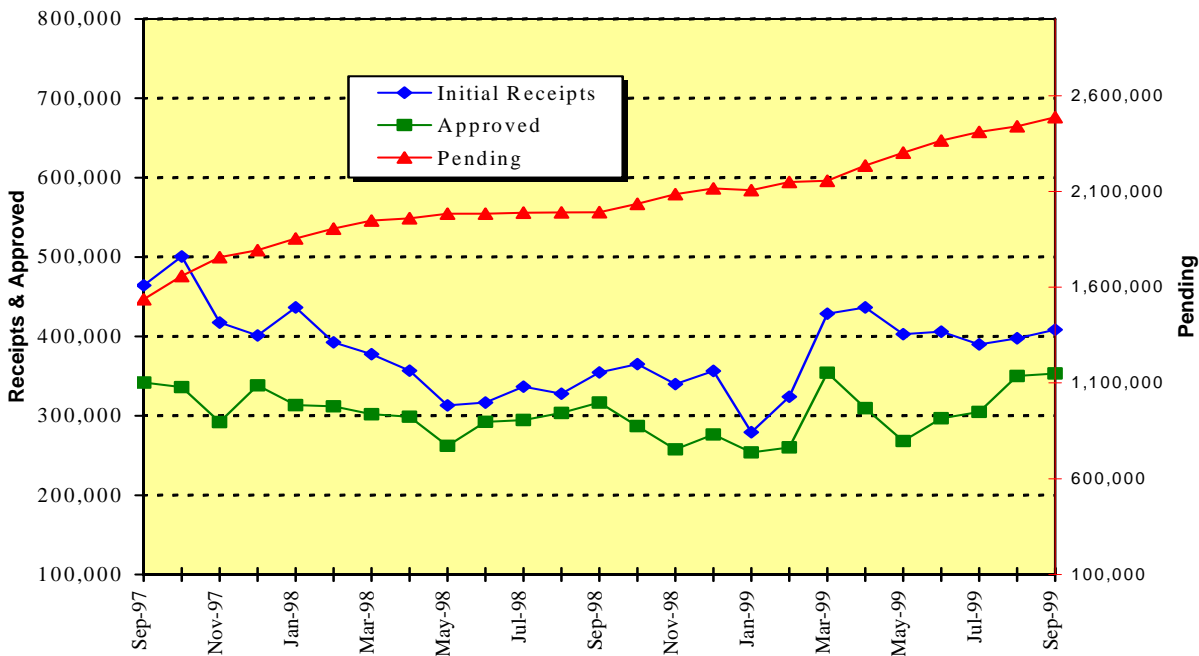
Applications and petitions for immigration benefits in September 1999 increased 15 percent compared to the number received in September 1998. September approvals were up 12 percent, while denials increased by 6 percent when compared to September 1998. In FY99, about 4.5 million applications for immigration benefits were received by the INS, slightly more than the number received in FY98. By contrast, pending cases increased by 25 percent, when compared to FY98.

	<i>Month</i>			<i>Fiscal Year</i>			<i>Total FY 98</i>
	<i>Sep-99</i>	<i>Sep-98</i>	<i>%Change</i>	<i>FY 99 to Date</i>	<i>FY 98 to Date</i>	<i>%Change</i>	
<b>Initial Receipts<sup>1</sup></b>	408,541	354,520	15	4,534,938	4,531,702	0	4,531,702
<b>Approved</b>	353,469	316,581	12	3,572,263	3,661,246	-2	3,661,246
<b>Denied</b>	27,246	25,608	6	314,833	344,192	-9	344,192
<b>Pending<sup>1</sup></b>	2,487,403	1,992,137	25	2,487,403	1,992,137	25	1,992,137

Data Source: PAS G-22.2

<sup>1</sup> Receipts and Pending do not reflect an estimated 34,000 I-485s filed but not data entered.

**Applications for Benefits: Receipts, Approved, and Pending**



- Major volumes in September application receipts include: 116,387 I-765 employment authorizations; 44,899 I-485 permanent resident adjustments; 42,205 I-130 relative petitions; and 32,165 I-90 Green Card replacements.
- Major volumes of pending cases at the end of September 1999 are: 950,987 I-485 permanent resident adjustments; 601,050 I-130 relative petitions; 186,036 employment authorizations; and 169,532 I-90 Green Card replacements.
- Pending applications increased by 47,414 between the end of August 1999 and the end of September 1999.

## NATURALIZATION BENEFITS

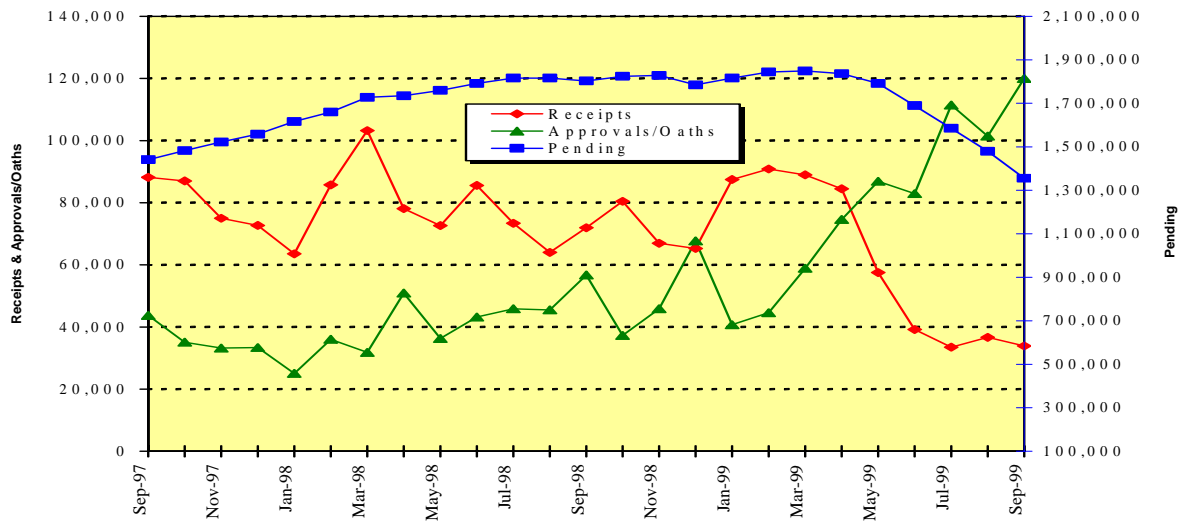
Naturalization receipts in September 1999 decreased 53 percent when compared to the previous September. Nevertheless, the total number of receipts for all twelve months of FY99 is only 18 percent below that recorded for fiscal year 1998. By contrast, 872,427 applicants for naturalization took the oath of citizenship during FY99, an increase of 84 percent compared to FY98.

	Month <sup>1</sup>			Fiscal Year			Total FY 98
	Sep-99	Sep-98	%Change	FY 99 to Date	FY 98 to Date	%Change	
<b>Receipts</b>	33,929	71,981	-53	765,346	932,957	-18	932,957
<b>Approvals/Oaths</b>	119,984	56,743	111	872,427	473,152	84	473,152
<b>Denied</b>	44,256	21,523	106	379,993	137,395	177	137,395
<b>Pending</b>	1,355,524	1,802,902	-25	1,355,524	1,802,902	-25	1,802,902

Data Source: PAS G-22.3

<sup>1</sup>Receipts and Pending do not reflect an estimated 4,400 N-400s filed but not data entered.

**N - 400 Naturalization Applications  
Adjusted Receipts, Oaths/Approved, and Adjusted Pending**



- In line with the Agency's goal to reduce naturalization backlogs, the number of pending cases decreased 460,742 between January 31, 1999 and the end of September 1999. Pending cases have decreased 25 percent compared to September FY98.
- The total number of denied applications during FY99 was up 177 percent compared to FY98. However, the number of denials, as a percentage of total completions within each year, reveals a slightly different picture. During FY98, approximately 23 percent of completed applications were denied, compared to approximately 30 percent for FY99.

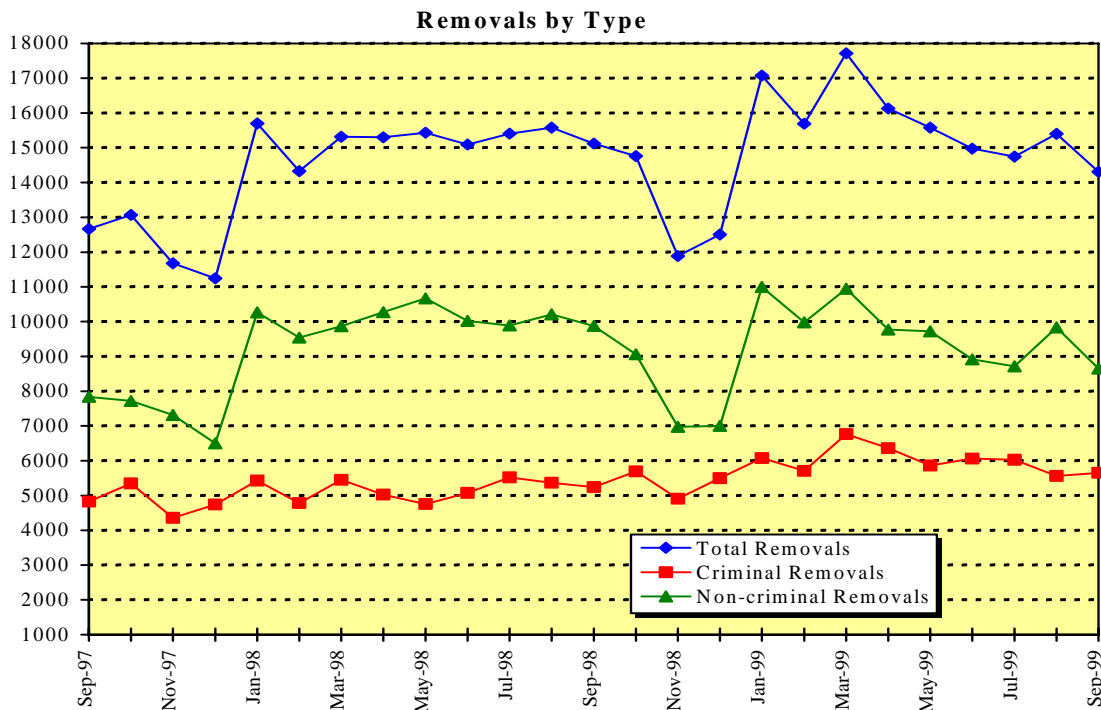
## REMOVALS

Total removals for September decreased 5 percent compared to the same month a year before. In September 1999, INS removed 14,307 aliens from the United States, 5,654 of these aliens were criminals.

	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 98
	Sep-99*	Sep-98	%Change	FY 99 to Date	FY 98 to Date	%Change	
<b>Deportable Inadmissible</b>	4,114	3,765	9	48,751	46,117	6	46,117
<b>Total Removals</b>	14,307	15,121	-5	180,760	173,270	4	173,270
<b>Criminal Removals</b>	5,654	5,243	8	70,186	61,119	15	61,119
<b>Non-criminal Removals</b>	8,653	9,878	-12	110,574	112,151	-1	112,151

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 FY99 increased 4 percent over FY98. There were 89,144 expedited removals in FY 1999, an increase of 17 percent over FY 1998. Non-expedited removals (91,616) declined 6 percent.
- Criminal alien removals are up 15 percent over last year. Criminal alien removals are 70 percent of non-expedited removals, but only 7 percent of the expedited removals.

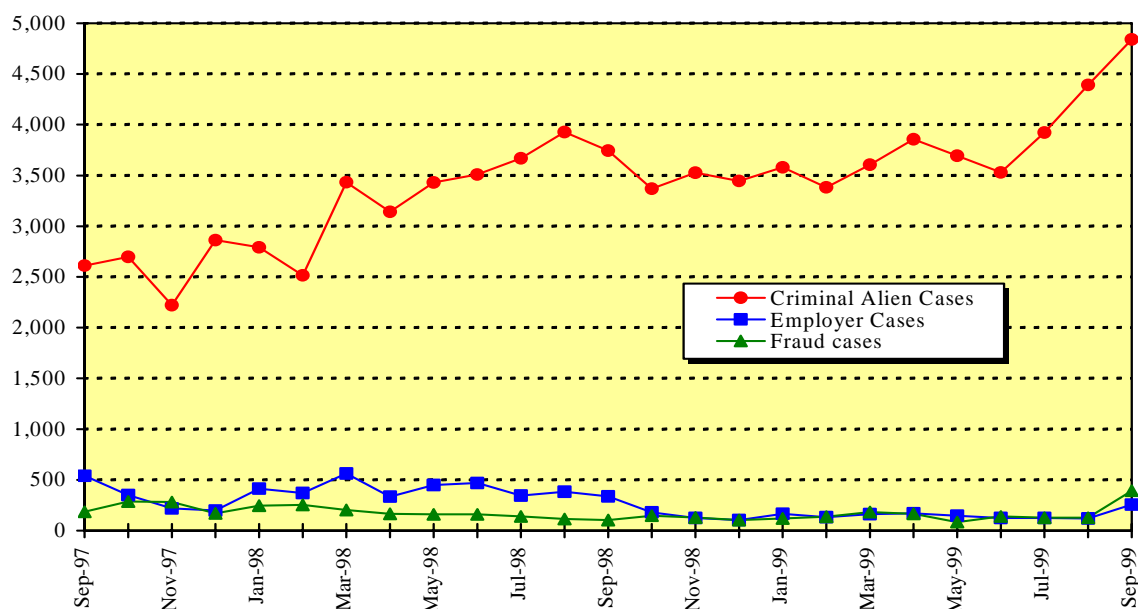
## INVESTIGATIONS

Successful completions of criminal alien cases for September 1999 increased by 29 percent, while employer cases decreased by 24 percent compared to the previous September. Fraud completions for September increased 278 percent compared to the same month last year, and successful completions of smuggling cases increased by 28 cases or 117 percent. Compared to last year, criminal alien cases were up 19 percent for fiscal year 1999.

<i>Successful Completions</i>	<i>Month</i>			<i>Fiscal Year</i>			<i>Total FY 98</i>
	<i>Sep-99</i>	<i>Sep-98</i>	<i>%Change</i>	<i>FY 99 to Date</i>	<i>FY 98 to Date</i>	<i>%Change</i>	
<b>Criminal Alien Cases</b>	4,840	3,744	29	45,146	37,941	19	37,941
<b>Employer Cases</b>	256	337	-24	1,810	4,429	-59	4,429
<b>Fraud Cases</b>	393	104	278	1,854	2,286	-19	2,286
<b>Smuggling Cases</b>	52	24	117	404	389	4	389

Data Source: PAS G-23.19 & 19.1

**Criminal and Worksite Cases Successfully Completed**



- Definitions:** Successful Completion: a case in which the subject was prosecuted or removed or a benefit was denied 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

Applications for asylum reported in September 1999 increased 34 percent compared to the number filed in September. The pending caseload was 5 percent lower than in the same month last year. There were 42,530 asylum cases filed in fiscal year 1999, the lowest number since fiscal year 1987.

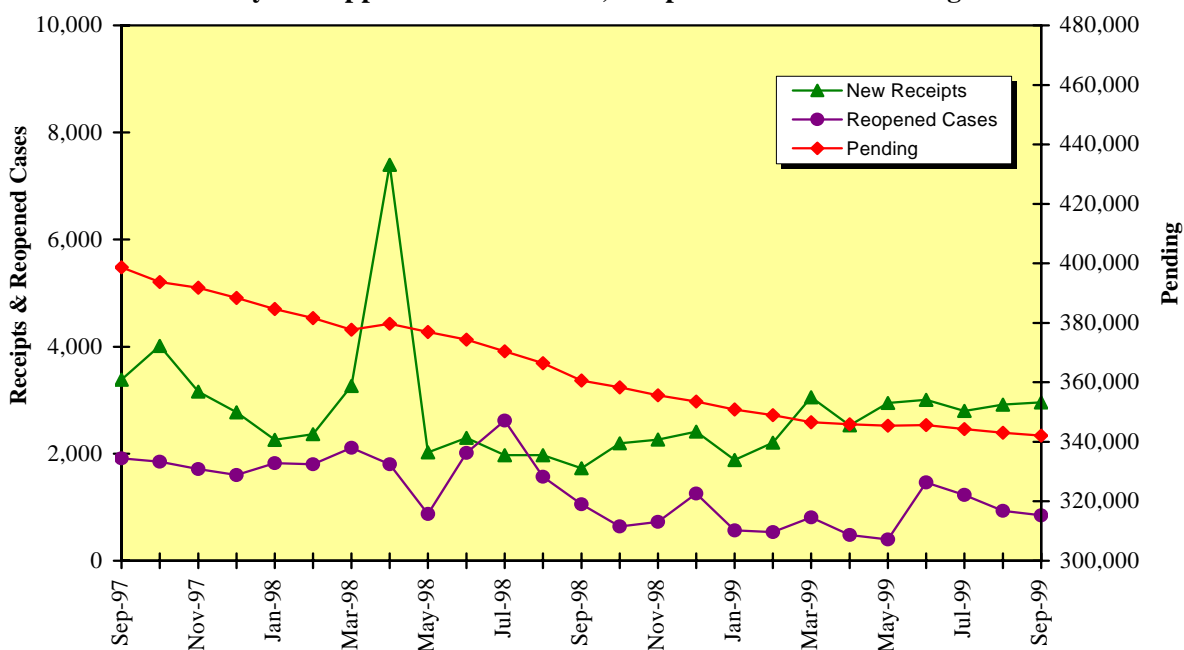
	<i>Month</i>			<i>Fiscal Year</i>			<i>Total FY 98</i>
	<i>Sep-99</i>	<i>Sep-98</i>	<i>%Change</i>	<i>FY 99 to Date</i>	<i>FY 98 to Date</i>	<i>%Change</i>	
<b>Cases Filed</b>	3,922	2,929	34	42,530	57,786	-26	57,786
<b>Approved</b>	943	1,128	-16	13,510	10,364	30	10,364
<b>Denied</b>	252	695	-64	1,908	3,464	-45	3,464
<b>Referred to IJ</b>	1,067	1,995	-47	16,054	29,427	-45	29,427
<b>Pending</b>	342,095	360,607	-5	342,095	360,607	-5	360,607

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

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](http://www.immigration.gov/graphics/shared/aboutus/statistics/index.htm)

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



- Nationals of the People’s Republic of China submitted the most asylum applications in September, followed by Somalia and Mexico.
- Beginning in the last week in March, and ending the last week in April 1998, the Asylum Program experienced a marked increase in the number of new receipts. This surge was caused by asylum seekers who have been in the country for long periods of time filing to meet a new one-year filing deadline, which was established in IIRAIRA and went into effect on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Asylum seekers must now apply for asylum within one year of entering the United States. The statute does provide for exceptions to this provision under extraordinary or changed circumstances.