



# Immigration News Highlights

2023-28, 11 July 2023



The KPMG team regularly monitors recent developments across the globe in the Immigration space and publishes them as Immigration News Highlights. Please find the key developments that occurred over the last week enumerated below. [Click here to find all issues of the Immigration News Highlights on the GMS Flash Alert: Immigration page.](#)

[Americas](#)

[Asia Pacific](#)

[Europe and Africa](#)



## Americas

### Canada

[Canada announces first-ever express entry invitations for French-speaking newcomers](#)

The Government of Canada announced that the express entry system in Canada has been modified to give French-speaking immigrants a quick and easy route to citizenship. By encouraging individuals with job experience or fluency in French to apply for permanent residency, these adjustments aim to address labor shortages that serve a specified economic purpose.

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### United States

[US opens new immigration path for Central Americans and Colombians to discourage border crossings](#)

The US Government's Department of Homeland Security initiative will enable qualified immigrants from Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to fly to the United States and obtain government work permits if they have relatives who are citizens or lawful residents of the country and have applied for visas on their behalf. The initiative formally launched 10 July 2023.

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## United States

### USCIS launches online rescheduling of biometrics appointments

US Citizenship and Immigration Services introduced a new self-service application on 28 June 2023 that enables benefit requestors, their attorneys, and accredited agents to reschedule many biometric service appointments before to the scheduled appointment date.

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## Asia Pacific

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## Indonesia

### The Indonesian single-entry visa is no longer available onshore

The Government of Indonesia has blocked the online application (molina.go.id) since July 2023 which was used for acquiring a single-entry visa (B211) onshore. The previous regulation regarding the issuance of visas and residence permits during the pandemic and the national economic recovery since 2019, was repealed by “Newsletter Number 19 2023”.

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## Philippines

### Philippines to launch e-Visa for foreign visitors by Q3 of 2023

The Government of Philippines' Department of international Affairs (DFA) announced that Philippines will introduce the e-Visa system to international visitors in the third quarter of 2023. The DFA is collaborating with the Department of Information and Communications Technology to create the Philippine e-Visa system.

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## South Korea

### Korea to overhaul immigration, visa policies to foster future growth

The Government of Korea intends to increase the quota for employment visas for the professional sector by improving the breadth and duration of employment visas granted to foreigners. The new policy approach also includes the activation of region-based immigration systems and the extension of the granting of skilled worker visas. During the second part of this year, the government intends to expand the quota for E-7-4 employment visas.

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## Europe and Africa

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## Azerbaijan

### Visa-free regime nations for Azerbaijani and UAE residents

The Governments of Azerbaijan and the UAE have implemented a visa-free policy that enables citizens of both countries to live in each other's territory for up to 90 days without a visa. Currently, there are bilateral interstate agreements in place, following the principle of reciprocity, permitting visa-free entry and exit for residents of various countries such as Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova and others.

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## Bosnia and Herzegovina

### Saudi citizens granted visa-free entry to Bosnia and Herzegovina for 2023 tourism season

The Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina announced that Saudi nationals will be able to enter Bosnia and Herzegovina without a visa during the peak travel season of 2023. Saudi nationals are permitted up to 30 days residence during the three-month exemption.

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## Italy

### Italy to grant work permits to non-EU workers

The Government of Italy announced that it will grant 4,25,000 work licenses to non-EU citizens between this year and 2025, following concerns of a lack of employees in several industries, including tourism and construction. In addition to increasing the number of positions that foreign workers are qualified for, the government plans to steadily increase the number of permits issued year, reaching 1,65,000 in 2025.

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## United Kingdom

### Second APAC Youth Mobility Scheme ballot to open

The Government of United Kingdom announced that the second poll for the APAC Youth Mobility Scheme will begin on 24 July 2023. Travelers from Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong (with a SAR passport), and Japan who are between the ages of 18 and 30 can start applying for the Youth Mobility Scheme. After 26 July 2023, when the voting window closes, no additional ballot applications will be accepted by British officials.

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