



# Immigration News Highlights

2024-07, 13 February 2024



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.](#)

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## Americas

### Canada

Permanent resident status for out-of-status construction workers in the Greater Toronto Area

The program granting permanent residency to construction workers and their families in the Greater Toronto Area who have lost their legal status has been extended for an additional six months, now set to expire on 2 July 2024.

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### Canada

Canada continues efforts to welcome French-speaking skilled newcomers

The Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship has announced that starting from February 2024, Express Entry rounds have commenced. These rounds are designed to invite potential candidates who possess category-specific work experience or demonstrate a high level of proficiency in the French language to apply for permanent residence.

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## Canada

### Requirements for digital nomads announced

Canadian officials have provided additional guidance on requirements for digital nomads. It states that a digital nomad only needs visitor status to relocate to Canada for up to 6 months at a time while they perform their job remotely for a foreign employer or, if they are self-employed, working for themselves or providing services to clients outside of Canada.

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## United States

### USCIS achieves record-breaking immigration case completion and backlog reduction

During fiscal year 2023, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services processed a record-breaking 10.9 million applications and resolved over 10 million pending cases. As a result, the agency was able to decrease its overall backlog by 15 percent.

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## Asia Pacific

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## Australia

### Final closure of the Pandemic Event visa

Starting from 1 February 2024, the Temporary Activity visa (subclass 408) for Australian Government endorsed events, specifically the COVID-19 Pandemic event, is no longer accepting new applications. In April 2020, the Australian Government introduced the Pandemic Event visa as a means for temporary visa holders to legally stay in Australia during the border closure.

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## Iran

### Iran announces 15-day visa-free policy for Indian tourists

Tehran announced the initiation of a 15-day visa-free policy for Indian tourists visiting the country. Under the new order, Indian citizens would be allowed to enter Iran with ordinary passports once every six months and with a maximum stay of 15 days which will not be extended.

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## Kuwait

### Kuwait revises family and tourist visa regulations to stimulate growth

The Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior has introduced new conditions for the issuance of family, commercial, and tourist visit visas. One-month family visas and three-month tourist visas announced under the new policy.

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## New Zealand

[New Zealand applies new changes to Permanent Resident and Working Holiday visa schemes](#)

New Zealand's government has implemented updates to its Permanent Resident Visa and Working Holiday visa programs to improve application processing efficiency. A notable modification includes the transition of Permanent Resident Visa applications to an online platform managed by Immigration New Zealand.

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## United Arab Emirates

[Emirates to launch pre-approved visa for some Indians](#)

United Arab Emirates has announced a partnership with VFS Global, which will enable Indian passport holders to travel to the country with a pre-approved visa, which applies to specific categories and can last for stays of up to 14 days. Indian nationals who have a valid six-month visa for the US, EU Residency, UK Residency, or US Green Card will be allowed to come to the country with a pre-approved visa-on-arrival, considering they fly with the Emirates.

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## Europe and Africa

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### France

[France to revoke birthright citizenship in overseas Mayotte to stem migration](#)

The minister announced that children born on the French Indian Ocean territory of Mayotte will no longer automatically qualify for citizenship of France, only children born to French parents in Mayotte will have the right to French nationality.

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### Germany

[Germany gives final approval to simplified citizenship rules](#)

The German Bundesrat has officially approved the streamlining of citizenship procedures. With this approval, Germany's citizenship law will undergo significant reforms, allowing foreigners to acquire citizenship while retaining their original passport alongside the German one.

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### Greece

[Greece plans another increase in minimum investment for Golden Visa Program](#)

Greece to raise the investor visa threshold and decrease the number of visas granted under the Golden Visa Program to attract more significant investments.

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## Italy

### Italy delays 2024 Work Permit application dates for foreign nationals

Italy has decided to postpone the deadlines for foreign nationals to submit their applications for one of the 151,000 work permits available this year. Non-seasonal workers will now be able to apply from 18 and 21 March, while seasonal workers will have the opportunity to apply from 25 March onwards.

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## Malawi

### Malawi announces visa-free entry for visitors From 79 nations

Malawi has announced a significant step towards boosting tourism and trade within its borders by lifting visa restrictions for travelers coming from 79 different countries.

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