

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

Monthly Statistical Report April 1999



Prepared by the Office of Policy and Planning
May 28, 1999

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Congressional: 202-514-5231

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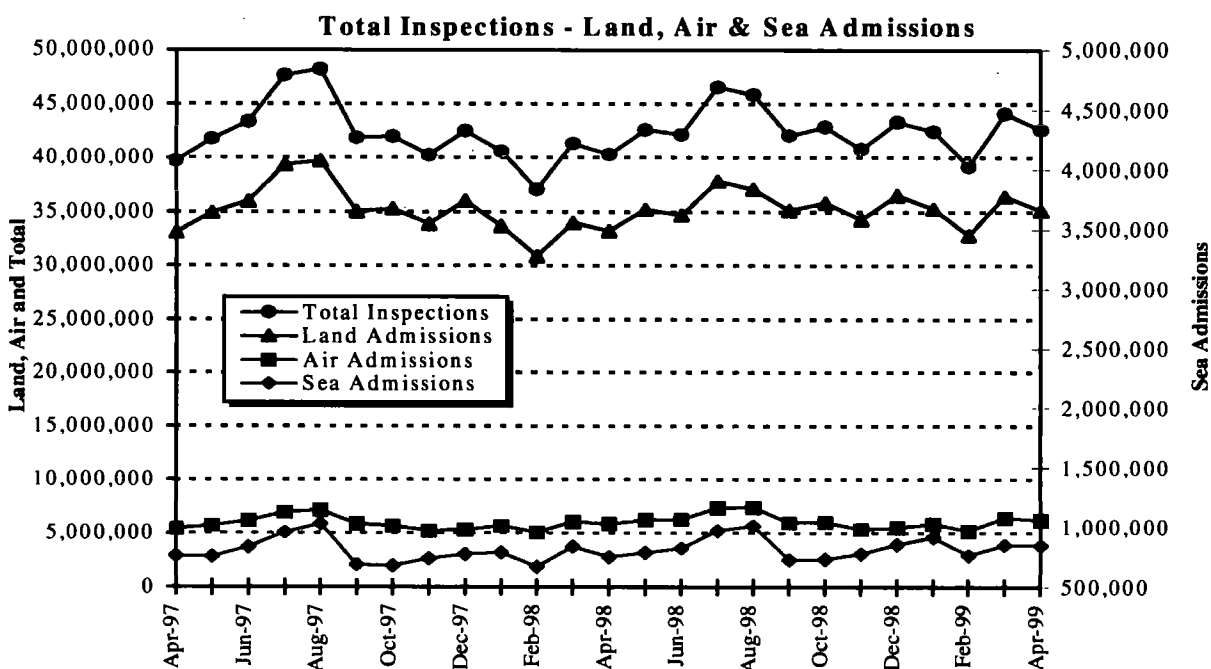
1. Monthly data are preliminary and subject to revision; they are current as of May 25, 1999.

INSPECTIONS

Compared to April 1998, total inspections of citizens and aliens for entry to the United States increased 6 percent. Air admissions and land admissions each increased 6 percent compared to the previous April. Sea admissions increased 12 percent, and inadmissibles increased 4 percent compared to April 1998.

	<i>Month</i>			<i>Fiscal Year</i>			<i>Total FY 98</i>
	<i>Apr-99</i>	<i>Apr-98</i>	<i>% Change</i>	<i>FY 99 to Date</i>	<i>FY 98 to Date</i>	<i>% Change</i>	
Total Inspections	42,619,934	40,310,764	6	295,478,224	284,045,658	4	503,355,242
Air Admitted	6,195,942	5,869,426	6	40,558,675	38,785,796	5	71,834,680
Land Admitted	35,153,425	33,241,808	6	246,367,655	237,079,184	4	417,109,980
Sea Admitted	845,049	753,312	12	5,744,501	5,245,354	10	9,566,460
Inadmissible	62,445	59,849	4	429,760	400,124	7	726,065

Data Source: PAS G-22.1



- April 1999 total inspections decreased 1,538,809 when compared to March 1999. This is a seasonal decrease consistent with previous years.
- About 14.4 million U.S. citizens were admitted at INS ports of entry during the month of April 1999, compared to approximately 28.2 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 April 1999 was 62,445. Inadmissible persons include aliens referred to secondary inspection who have withdrawn, were refused entry, were paroled in, or were referred to an Immigration Judge for a removal hearing. Starting in FY98, the inadmissible count also includes expedited cases withdrawn, expedited removal orders, and aliens referred for credible fear interviews.

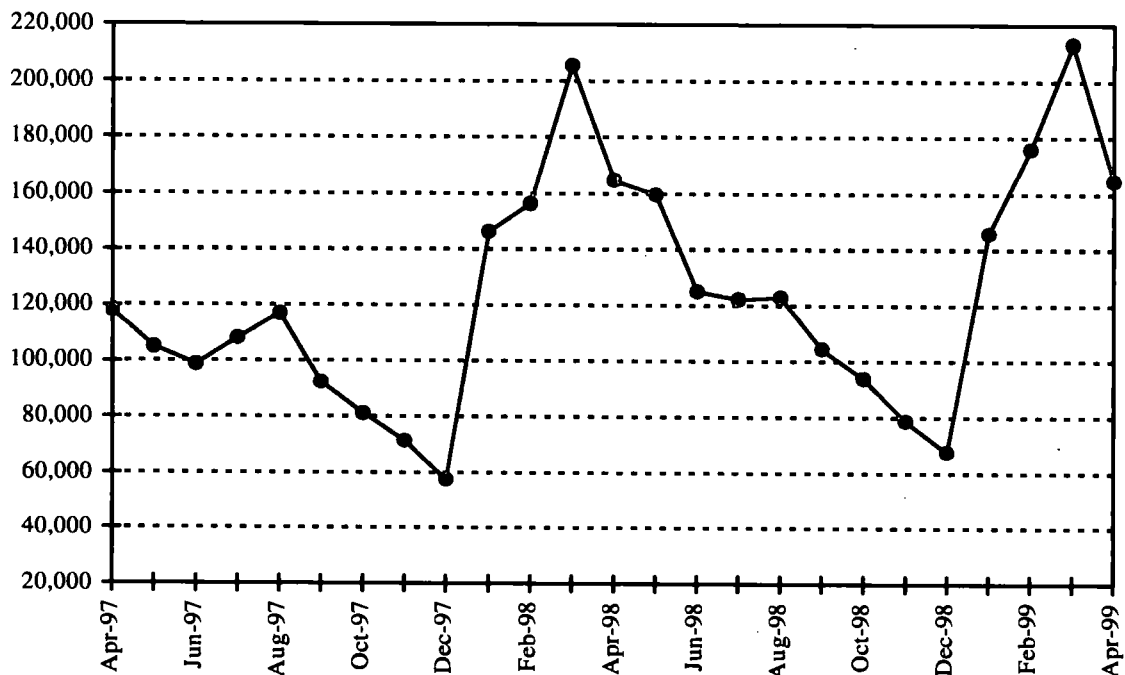
SOUTHWEST BORDER APPREHENSIONS

The Border Patrol made 164,653 apprehensions along the southwest border during April 1999, about the same number as reported in April 1998. Voluntary returns conducted by Border Patrol agents, decreased by 1 percent to 160,972.

Southwest Border	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 98
	Apr-99	Apr-98	%Change	FY 99 to Date	FY 98 to Date	%Change	
Apprehensions	164,653	164,703	0	939,839	882,674	6	1,516,680
Voluntary Returns	160,972	162,119	-1	912,992	865,342	6	1,484,982

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.
- For the first seven months of FY99, southwest border apprehensions were up 6 percent, compared to same period in FY98. The March 1999 figure set a new monthly record, exceeding the previous one set in April 1998 by 7,845 apprehensions.
- In FY98, Central American apprehensions on the southwest border reached 20,823, an increase of 6,946 when compared to the previous year. For the first seven months of FY99, southwest border Central American apprehensions reached 17,752 an increase of 57 percent compared to the same period in FY98. Of the 17,752 persons apprehended in FY99, 56 percent were Honduran, 24 percent were El Salvadoran, 17 percent were Guatemalan, and 2 percent were Nicaraguan.

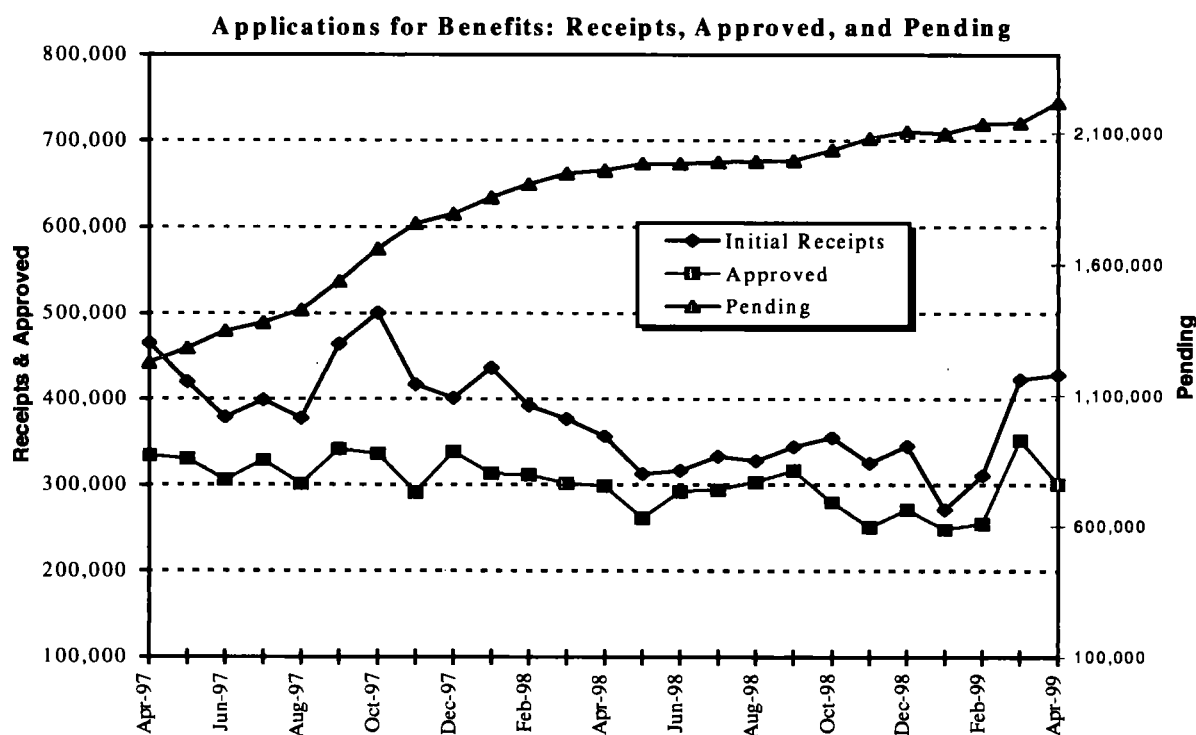
APPLICATIONS FOR IMMIGRATION BENEFITS

Despite the increases in applications and petitions for immigration benefits in March and April 1999, applications decreased 15 percent during the first seven months of FY99, when compared to the same period in FY98. Most of the 421,472 decrease is the result of fewer people applying for I-130 relative petitions (-52 %), and I-485 permanent resident adjustments (-26 %).

	<i>Month</i>			<i>Fiscal Year</i>			<i>Total FY 98</i>
	<i>Apr-99</i>	<i>Apr-98</i>	<i>%Change</i>	<i>FY 99 to Date</i>	<i>FY 98 to Date</i>	<i>%Change</i>	
Initial Receipts¹	428,464	356,854	20	2,461,251	2,882,723	-15	4,518,134
Approved	301,060	298,771	1	1,958,861	2,192,307	-11	3,661,395
Denied	26,157	35,307	-26	180,678	216,357	-16	344,192
Pending¹	2,221,299	1,959,217	13	2,221,299	1,959,217	13	1,994,864

Data Source: PAS G-22.2

¹ Receipts and Pending do not reflect an estimated 37,170 I-485s filed but not data entered.



- Major volumes in April receipts include: 132,965 I-765 employment authorizations; 47,325 I-130 relative petitions; 36,048 I-90 Green Card replacements; and 32,902 I-485 permanent resident adjustments.
- Major volumes of pending cases at the end of April 1999 are: 876,690 I-485 permanent resident adjustments; 570,350 I-130 relative petitions; 158,545 employment authorizations; and 171,082 I-90 Green Card replacements.
- Pending applications increased by 81,376 between March and April 1999.

NATURALIZATION BENEFITS

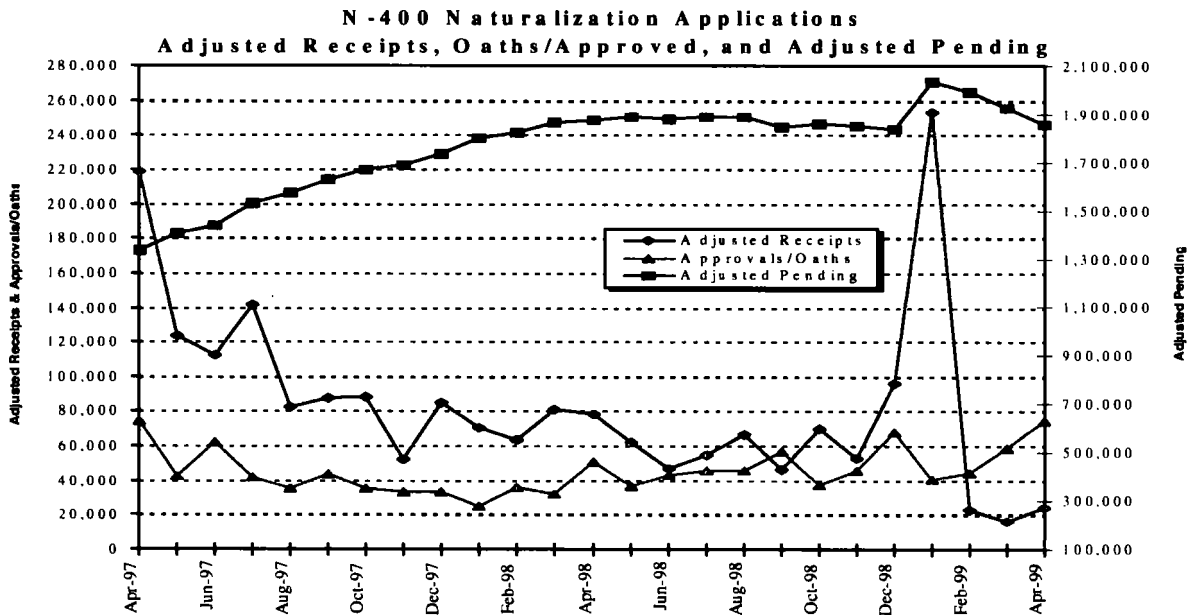
Naturalization receipts in April 1999 decreased 69 percent when compared to the previous April. This sharp decrease in receipts is due mostly to a large number of applicants having submitted their N-400 applications in early January to avoid paying the \$130 fee increase that went into effect January 15, 1999. The total number of receipts for the first seven months of FY99 is still 3% higher than the first seven months of FY98. By contrast, 74,859 applicants for naturalization took the oath of citizenship in April, a 46 percent increase compared to April 1998.

	Month ²			Fiscal Year			Total FY 98
	Apr-99	Apr-98	%Change	FY 99 to Date	FY 98 to Date	%Change	
Adjusted Receipts ¹	24,087	78,533	-69	535,176	518,689	3	794,749
Approvals/Oaths	74,589	50,945	46	369,089	245,561	50	473,152
Denied	25,418	10,996	131	192,597	58,146	231	137,395
Adjusted Pending ¹	1,855,344	1,875,934	-1	1,855,344	1,875,934	-1	1,850,223

Data Source: PAS G-22.3

¹Adjusted Receipts and Adjusted Pending include an estimated number of N-400s filed but not yet data entered.

²May 1998 started a new data series based on N-400 applications only. Reports prior to May 1998 counted all applications such as N-600s, N-643s, etc.



- The total number of denied applications during the first seven months of FY99 was up 231 percent compared to the first seven months of FY98. However, the number of denials, as a percentage of total completions within each year, reveals a slightly different picture. In the first seven months of FY98, 19 percent of completed applications were denied, compared to 34 percent in the first seven months of FY99.
- The number of pending cases decreased for the third straight month. Compared to the apex of 2,033,330 reached in January, the number of pending has dropped by 177,986 cases.

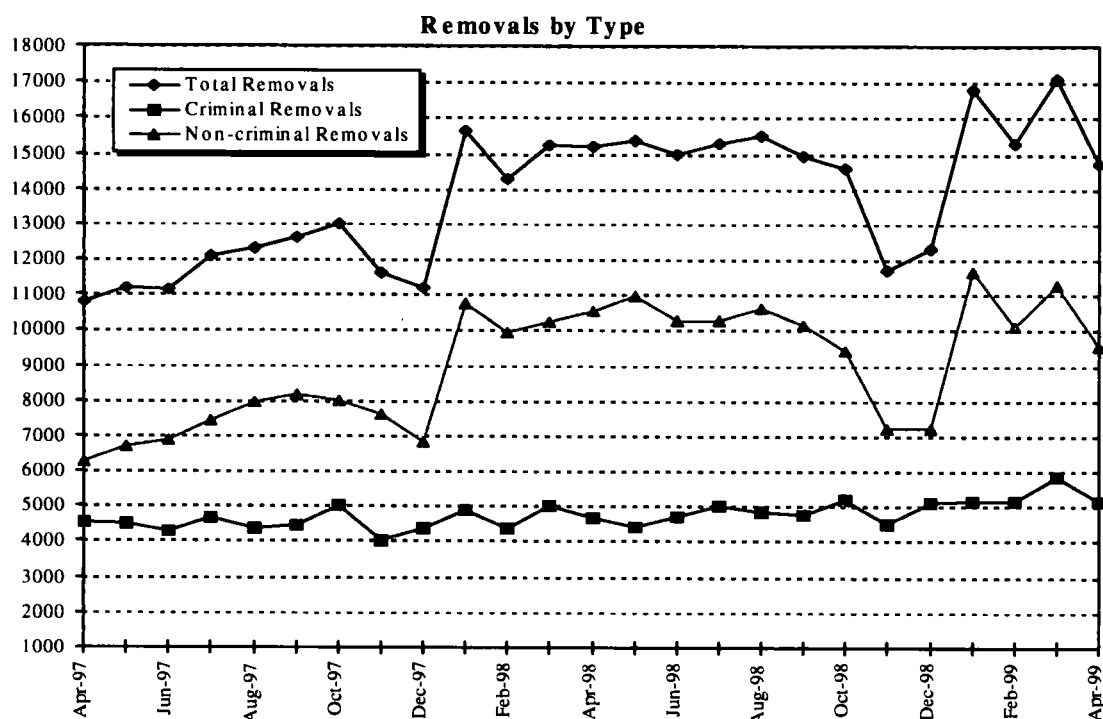
REMOVALS

Total removals for April decreased 3 percent compared to the same month a year before. In March 1999, INS removed 14,721 aliens from the United States, 5,161 of whom were criminals.

	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 98
	Apr-99*	Apr-98	%Change	FY 99 to Date	FY 98 to Date	%Change	
Deportable	3,842	3,997	-4	26,979	26,425	2	45,576
Inadmissible	10,879	11,204	-3	75,516	69,710	8	126,617
Total Removals	14,721	15,201	-3	102,495	96,135	7	172,193
Criminal Removals	5,161	4,646	11	36,008	32,269	12	56,033
Non-criminal Removals	9,560	10,555	-9	66,487	63,866	4	116,160

Data Source: HQSTA DACS Monthly Extract

* Current Monthly Data are Preliminary.



- The current month statistics are preliminary. Historically there are significant upward revisions in the statistics for three months after the initial reporting period. The March statistic for total removals has increased 6.4 percent (1,033 removals) since the preliminary number was released last month.
- Removals of aliens to the Central American countries of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras are about 75% of the pre-Hurricane Mitch levels.
- Criminal alien removals are up 12 percent over last year. Expedited removals during the period of January through April are up 28 percent over January-April 1998.

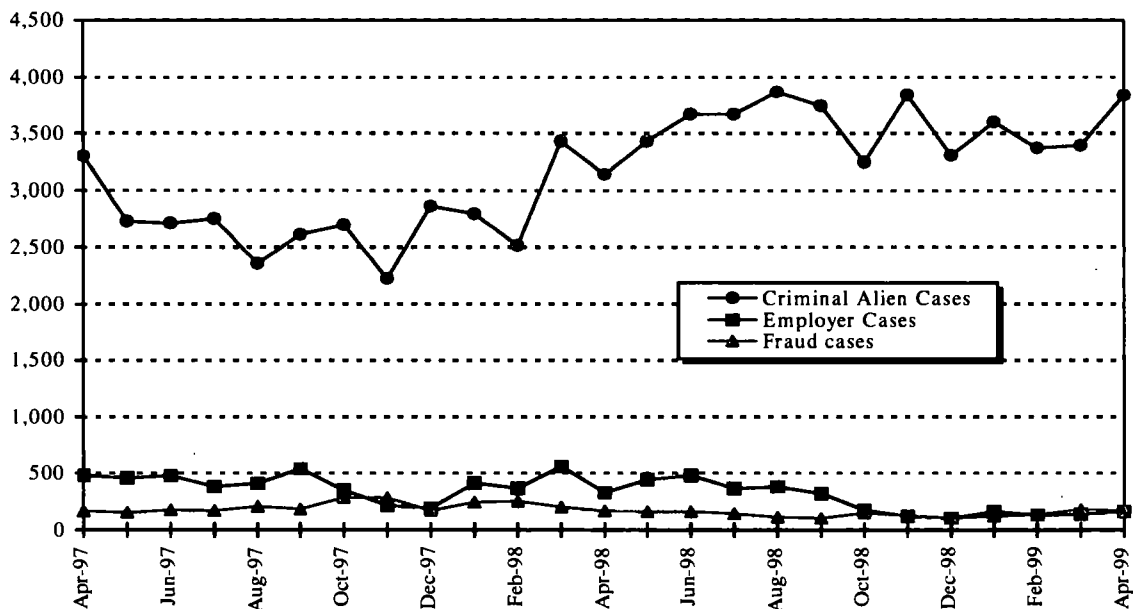
INVESTIGATIONS

Successful completions of criminal alien cases for April 1999 increased by 22 percent, while employer cases decreased by 51 percent compared to the previous April. Fraud completions for April decreased 1 percent compared to the same month last year, and successful completions of smuggling cases increased by two cases or 4 percent. Compared to last year, criminal alien cases were up 25 percent for the first seven months of FY99.

Successful Completions	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 98
	Apr-99	Apr-98	%Change	FY 99 to Date	FY 98 to Date	%Change	
Criminal Alien Cases	3,834	3,141	22	24,600	19,661	25	38,041
Employer Cases	165	334	-51	1,013	2,447	-59	4,455
Fraud Cases	168	170	-1	997	1,614	-38	2,306
Smuggling Cases	79	76	4	307	253	21	384

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

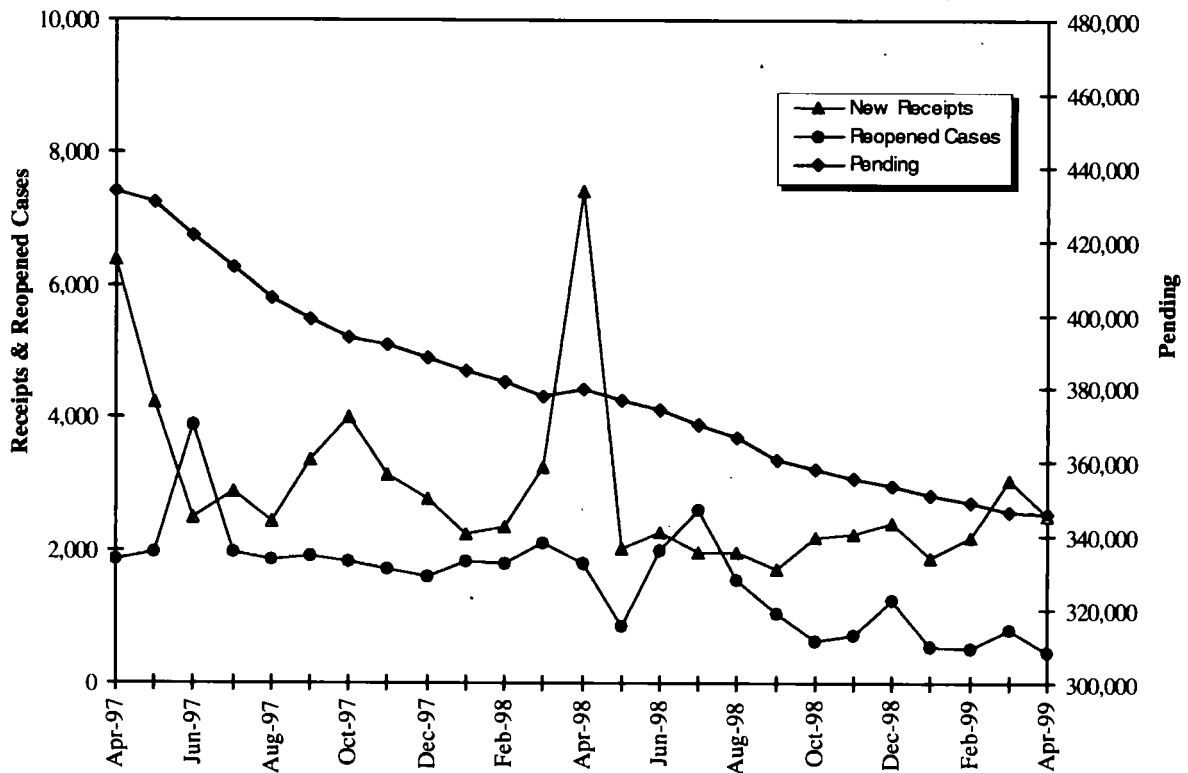
Applications for asylum reported in April 1999 decreased 66 percent compared to the number filed in April 1998. The pending caseload was 9 percent lower than in the same month last year.

	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 98
	Apr-99	Apr-98	%Change	FY 99 to Date	FY 98 to Date	%Change	
Cases Filed	3,196	9,434	-66	22,412	39,025	-43	57,786
Approved	876	199	340	7,076	4,476	58	10,364
Denied	117	101	16	1,015	2,317	-56	3,464
Referred to LJ	1,203	2,778	-57	10,354	17,840	-42	29,427
Pending	345,890	379,680	-9	345,890	379,680	-9	360,607

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

Data Source: RAPS

Asylum Applications Received, Reopened Cases & Pending



- Asylum applications by nationals of the People's Republic of China were the largest category of claims received in April, followed by El Salvador and Somalia.
- 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 1st. 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.

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

Monthly Statistical Report Second Quarter FY99 Ending March 31, 1999



Prepared by the Office of Policy and Planning
April 30, 1999

Contacts: Press: 202-514-2648

Congressional: 202-514-5231

Other: 202-305-1613



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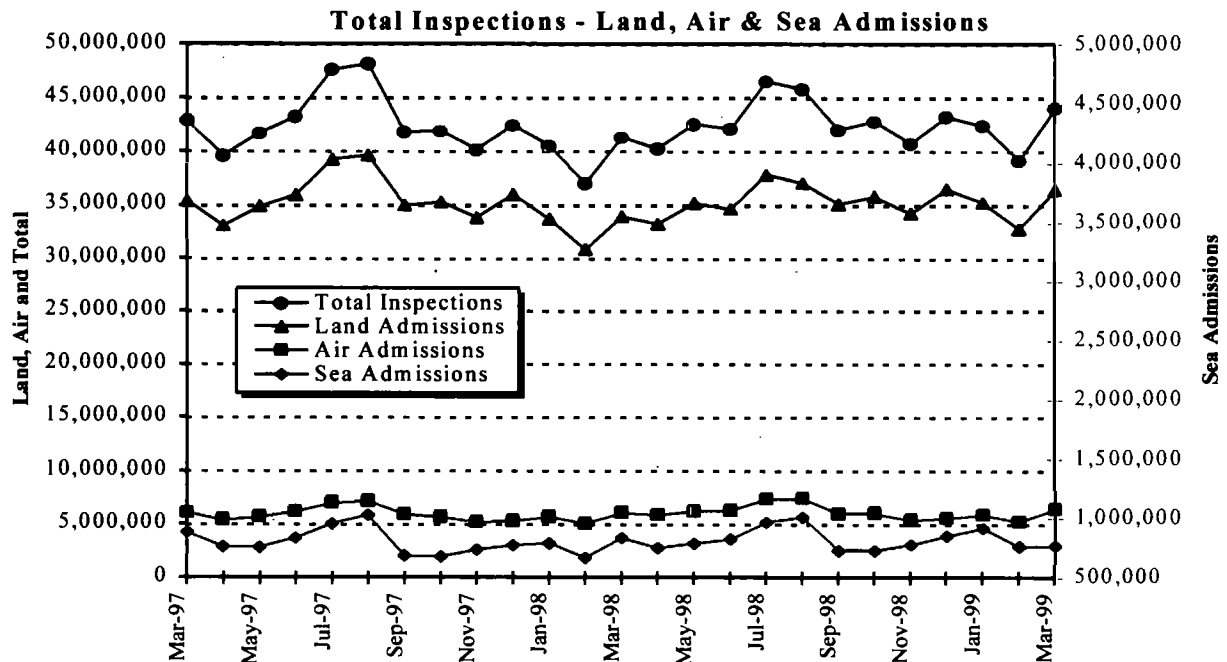
1. Monthly data are preliminary and subject to revision; they are current as of April 27, 1999.

INSPECTIONS

Compared to March 1998, total inspections of citizens and aliens for entry to the United States increased 7 percent. Air admissions increased 6 percent and land admissions increased 7 percent compared to the previous March. Sea admissions decreased 8 percent, and inadmissibles increased 2 percent compared to March 1998.

	<i>Month</i>			<i>Fiscal Year</i>			<i>Total FY 98</i>
	<i>Mar-99</i>	<i>Mar-98</i>	<i>%Change</i>	<i>FY 99 to Date</i>	<i>FY 98 to Date</i>	<i>%Change</i>	
Total Inspections	44,076,868	41,365,988	7	252,777,286	243,734,894	4	503,355,242
Air Admitted	6,416,044	6,058,098	6	34,362,124	32,916,370	4	71,834,680
Land Admitted	36,429,931	33,994,257	7	211,214,230	203,837,376	4	417,109,980
Sea Admitted	771,351	836,814	-8	4,820,159	4,492,042	7	9,566,460
Inadmissible	63,057	61,742	2	366,213	340,275	8	726,065

Data Source: PAS G-22.1



- March 1999 total inspections increased 4,871,466 when compared to February 1999. This is a seasonal increase consistent with previous years, although it exceeds the increases registered for March in the prior two years.
- About 15.0 million U.S. citizens were admitted at INS ports of entry during the month of March 1999, compared to approximately 29.0 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 March 1999 was 63,057. 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.

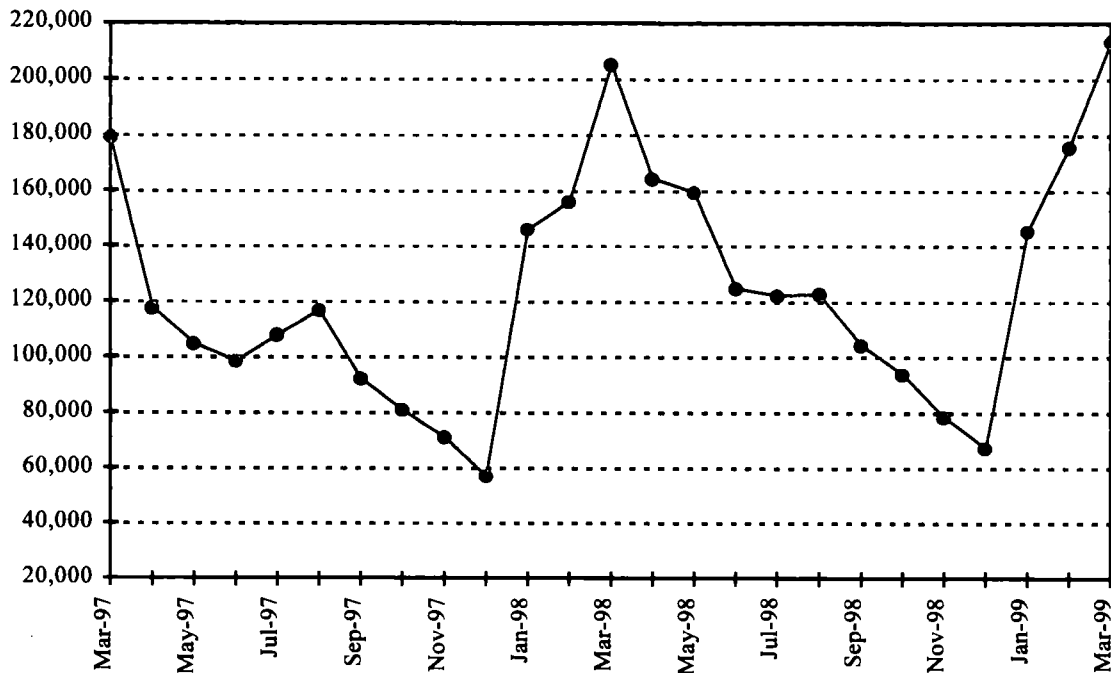
SOUTHWEST BORDER APPREHENSIONS

The Border Patrol made 213,306 apprehensions along the southwest border during March 1999, an increase of 4 percent compared to March 1998. Voluntary returns conducted by Border Patrol agents, increased by 3 percent to 208,851.

Southwest Border	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 98
	Mar-99	Mar-98	%Change	FY 99 to Date	FY 98 to Date	%Change	
Apprehensions	213,306	205,461	4	775,186	717,971	8	1,516,680
Voluntary Returns	208,851	203,358	3	752,020	703,223	7	1,484,982

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.
- Southwest border apprehensions for October, November, and December 1998 showed a seasonal pattern of decrease, while January, February, and March apprehensions showed seasonal increases. For the first six months of FY99, southwest border apprehensions were up 8 percent, compared to same period in FY98. The March 1999 figure set a new monthly record, exceeding the previous one set in March 1998 by 7,845 apprehensions.
- In FY98, Central American apprehensions on the southwest border reached 20,823, an increase of 6,946 when compared to the previous year. For the first six months of FY99, southwest border Central American apprehensions reached 15,350, an increase of 62 percent compared to the same period in FY98. Of the 15,350 persons apprehended in FY99, 55 percent were Honduran, 24 percent were El Salvadoran, 18 percent were Guatemalan, and 2 percent were Nicaraguan.

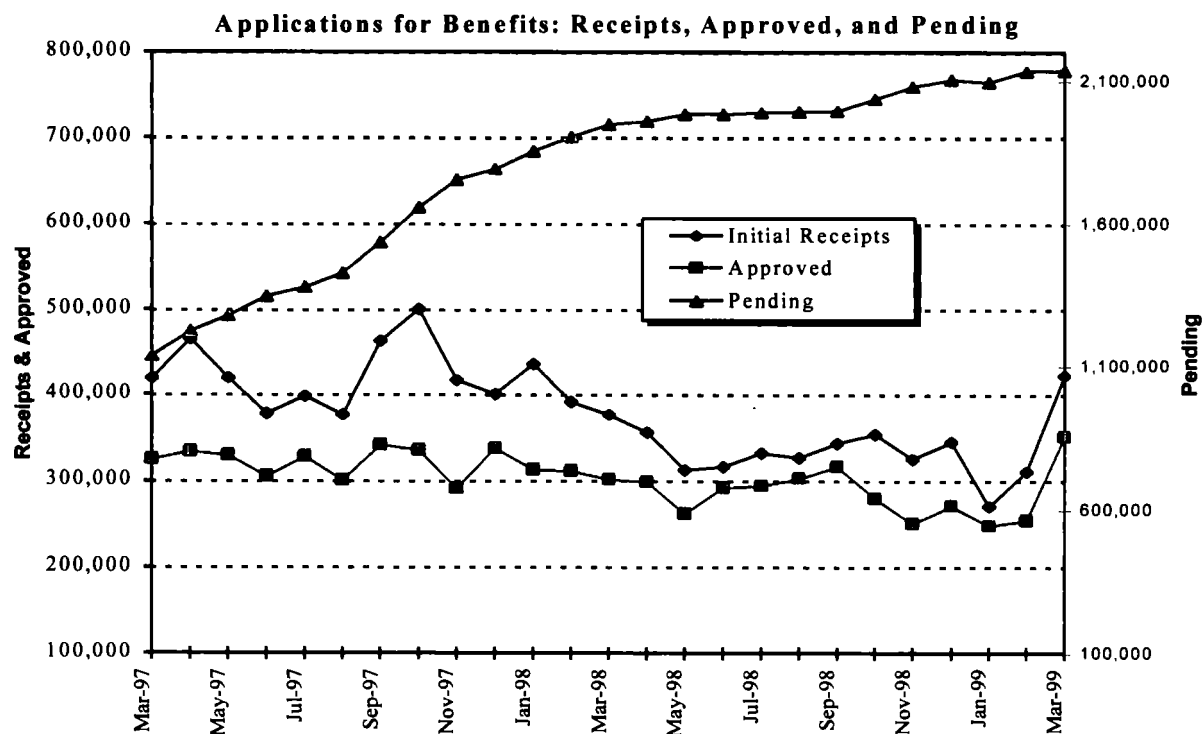
APPLICATIONS FOR IMMIGRATION BENEFITS

Despite a 36 percent increase in applications and petitions for immigration benefits between February and March 1999, applications decreased 20 percent during the first six months of FY99 when compared to the same period in FY98. Most of the 493,082 decrease is the result of fewer people applying for I-130 relative petitions (-59 %), and I-485 permanent resident adjustments (-29 %).

	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 98
	Mar-99	Mar-98	%Change	FY 99 to Date	FY 98 to Date	%Change	
Initial Receipts¹	423,488	377,436	12	2,032,787	2,525,869	-20	4,518,134
Approved	352,280	301,837	17	1,657,799	1,893,536	-12	3,661,395
Denied	31,544	31,456	0	154,521	181,050	-15	344,192
Pending¹	2,139,925	1,947,377	10	2,139,925	1,947,377	10	1,994,864

Data Source: PAS G-22.2

¹ Receipts and Pending do not reflect an estimated 26,175 I-485s filed but not data entered.



- Major volumes in March receipts include: 130,393 I-765 employment authorizations; 44,815 I-130 relative petitions; 31,279 I-90 Green Card replacements; and 36,253 I-485 permanent resident adjustments.
- Major volumes of pending cases at the end of March 1999 are: 872,325 I-485 permanent resident adjustments; 558,328 I-130 relative petitions; 135,218 employment authorizations; and 174,251 I-90 Green Card replacements.
- Pending applications increased by 5,087 between February and March 1999.

NATURALIZATION BENEFITS

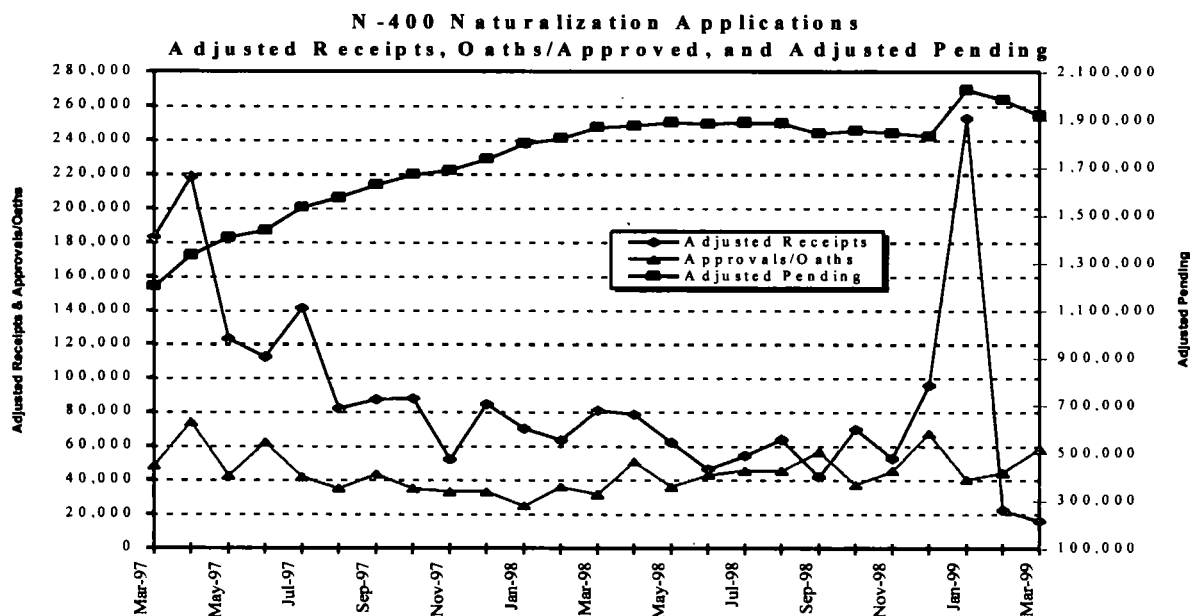
Naturalization receipts in March 1999 decreased 80 percent when compared to the previous March. This sharp decrease in receipts is due mostly to a large number of applicants having submitted their N-400 applications in early January to avoid paying the \$130 fee increase that went into effect January 15, 1999. The total number of receipts for the first half of FY99 is still 16% higher than first half of FY98. By contrast, 58,704 applicants for naturalization took the oath of citizenship in March, an 84 percent increase compared to March 1998.

	Month ²			Fiscal Year			Total FY 98
	Mar-99	Mar-98	%Change	FY 99 to Date	FY 98 to Date	%Change	
Adjusted Receipts ¹	16,320	80,997	-80	511,125	440,156	16	788,406
Approvals/Oaths	58,704	31,833	84	294,364	194,616	51	473,152
Denied	30,908	12,995	138	167,179	47,150	255	137,395
Adjusted Pending ¹	1,919,819	1,868,128	3	1,919,819	1,868,128	3	1,843,880

Data Source: PAS G-22.3

¹Adjusted Receipts and Adjusted Pending include an estimated number of N-400s filed but not yet data entered.

²May 1998 started a new data series based on N-400 applications only. Reports prior to May 1998 counted all applications such as N-600s, N-643s, etc.



- The total number of denied applications during the first half of FY99 was up 255 percent compared to the first half of FY98. However, the number of denials, as a percentage of total completions within each year, reveals a slightly different picture. In the first half of FY98, 20 percent of completed applications were denied, compared to 36 percent in the first half of FY99.
- The number of pending cases decreased 66,326 between February and the end of March 1999.

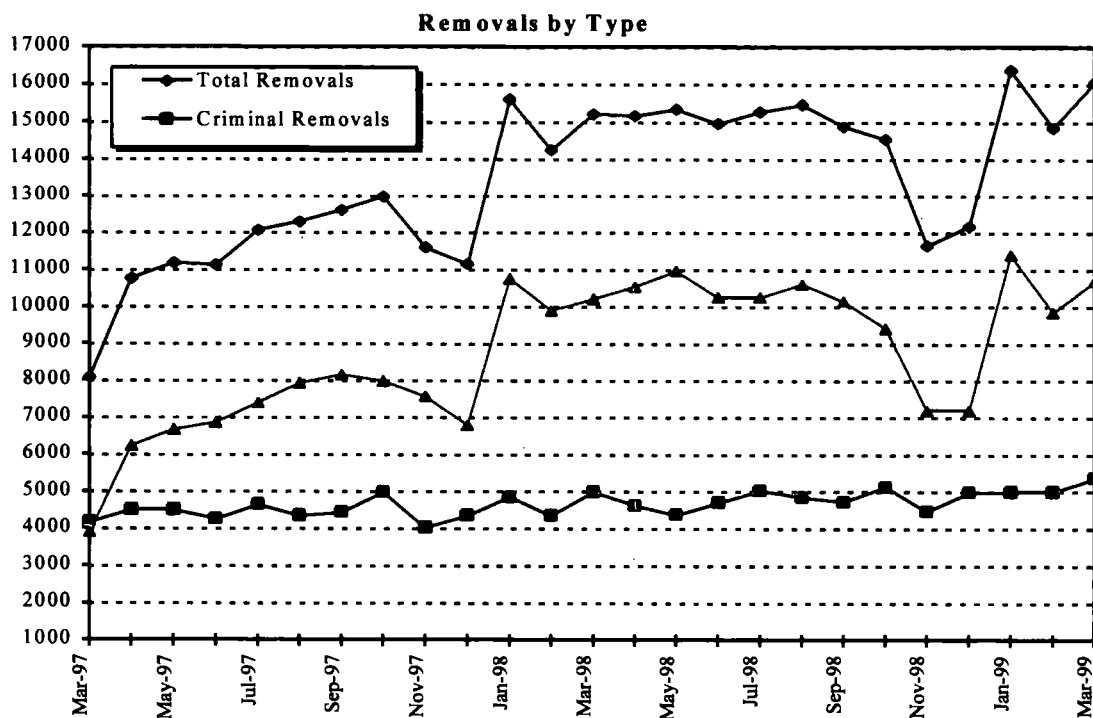
REMOVALS

Total removals for March increased 6 percent compared to the same month a year before. In March 1999, INS removed 16,064 aliens from the United States, 5,372 of whom were criminals.

	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 98
	Mar-99*	Mar-98	%Change	FY 99 to Date	FY 98 to Date	%Change	
Deportable	3,927	4,034	-3	22,380	22,409	0	45,498
Inadmissible	12,137	11,191	8	63,345	58,463	8	126,527
Total Removals	16,064	15,225	6	85,725	80,872	6	172,025
Criminal Removals	5,372	5,007	7	29,975	27,608	9	55,957
Non-criminal Removals	10,692	10,218	5	55,750	53,264	5	116,068

Data Source: HQSTA DACS Monthly Extract

* Current Monthly Data are Preliminary.



- The current month statistics are preliminary. Historically there are significant upward revisions in the statistics for three months after the initial reporting period. The February statistic for total removals has increased 6.9 percent (955 removals) since the preliminary number was released last month.
- Removals of aliens to Central America are beginning to return to pre-Hurricane Mitch levels. Removals to Honduras and Nicaragua are at nearly pre-storm levels; removals to El Salvador and Guatemala are about 60 percent of pre-storm levels.
- Criminal alien removals are up 9 percent over last year. Expedited removals during the period of January through March are up 28 percent over January-March 1998. ➤

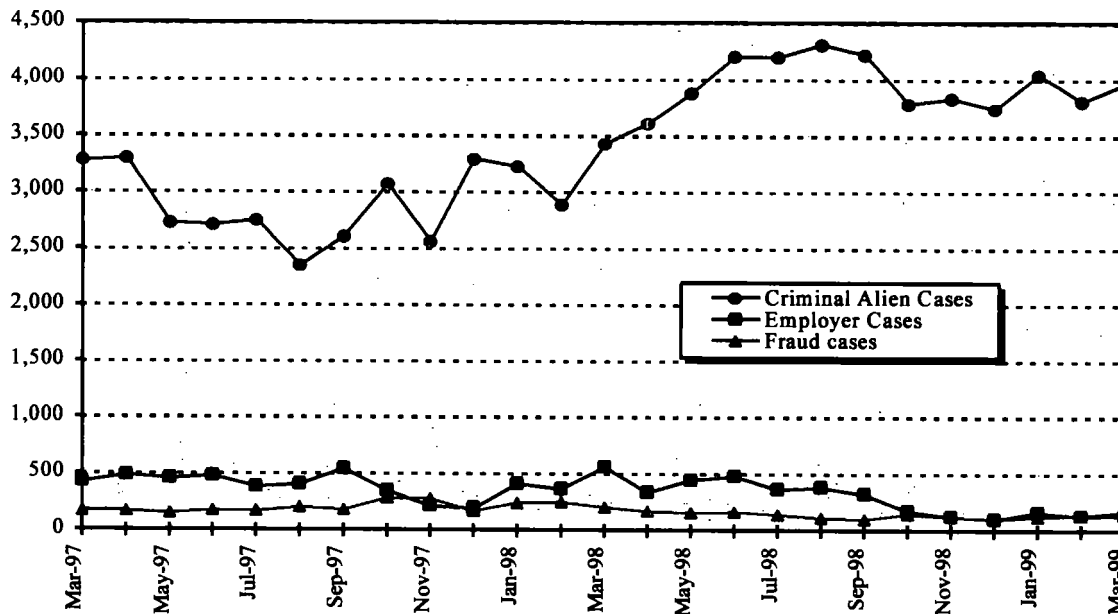
INVESTIGATIONS

Successful completions of criminal alien cases for March 1999 increased by 15 percent, while employer cases decreased by 75 percent compared to the previous March. Fraud completions for March decreased by 15 percent compared to the same month last year, and successful completions of smuggling cases increased by 22 cases or 58 percent. Compared to last year, criminal alien cases were up 25 percent for the first six months of FY99.

Successful Completions	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 98
	Mar-99	Mar-98	%Change	FY 99 to Date	FY 98 to Date	%Change	
Criminal Alien Cases	3,965	3,433	15	23,190	18,489	25	42,960
Employer Cases	143	563	-75	848	2,113	-60	4,455
Fraud Cases	174	205	-15	820	1,444	-43	2,306
Smuggling Cases	60	38	58	228	177	29	384

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

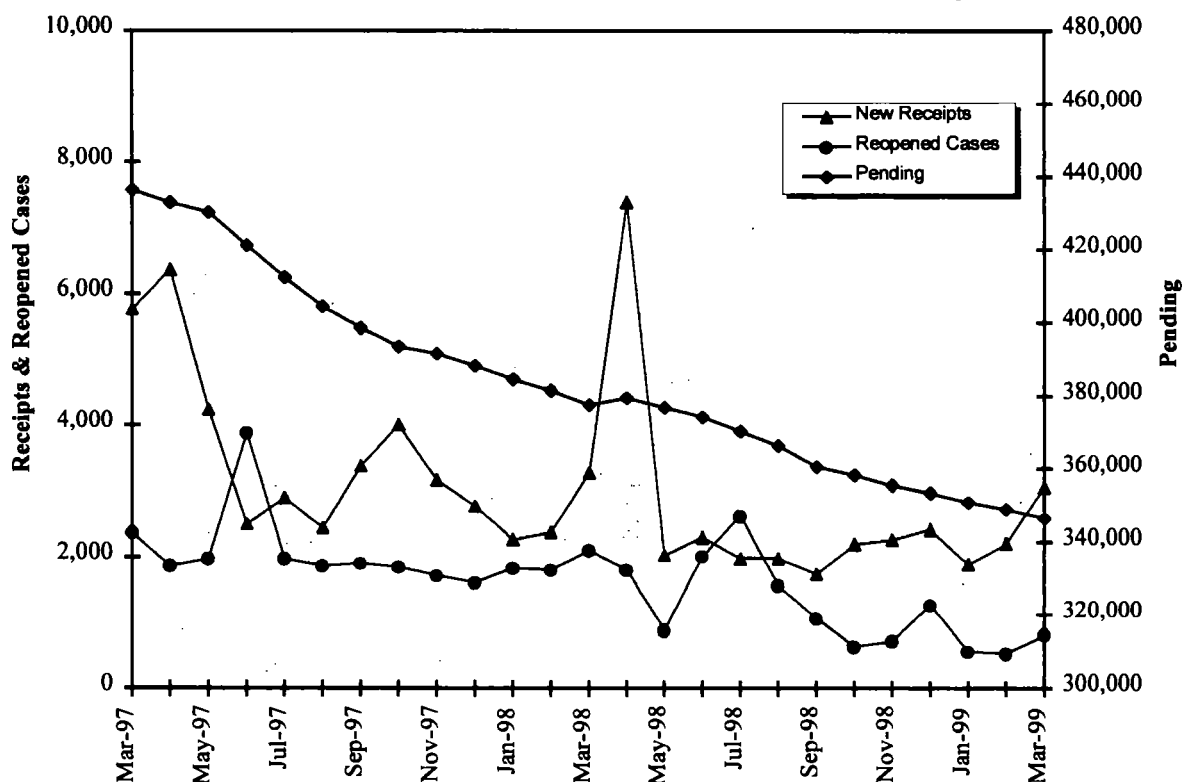
Applications for asylum reported in March 1999 decreased 28 percent compared to the number filed in March 1998. The pending caseload was 8 percent lower than in the same month last year.

	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 98
	Mar-99	Mar-98	%Change	FY 99 to Date	FY 98 to Date	%Change	
Cases Filed	4,001	5,533	-28	19,216	29,591	-35	57,786
Approved	2,082	319	553	6,200	4,277	45	10,364
Denied	189	153	24	898	2,216	-59	3,464
Referred to LJ	1,382	2,568	-46	9,151	15,062	-39	29,427
Pending	346,536	377,714	-8	346,536	377,714	-8	360,607

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

Data Source: RAPS

Asylum Applications Received, Reopened Cases & Pending



- Asylum applications by nationals of the People's Republic of China were the largest category of claims received in March, followed by Somalia and El Salvador.
- 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 1st. 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.