

Diana Fortune 2/18/98

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Steven M. Mertens

12/31/98 11:41:04 AM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc: Theodore Wartell/OMB/EOP, Patricia E. Romani/OMB/EOP
Subject: Monthly Naturalization Update -- October Data

INS submitted its monthly report on Naturalization Benefits Processing on December 18th reflecting October data (a hardcopy will be mailed). While completions are down for October, this report provides a more positive outlook on the naturalization program than September data and the INS follow-up briefing. Report highlights:

Completions:

- INS completed 59,700 applications compared to a goal for October of 99,000 (-39,300) and compared to September actuals of 78,266 (-18,566). INS blames the completion shortfall on continuing problems deploying/fixing interfaces in its CLAIMS4 system and hiring temporary employees in LA, NYC, and San Francisco.
- INS expects completions to resume an upward trend in November and December with December completions at or near the 99,000 goal.
- Officially INS remains committed to completing 1.5 million applications for citizenship in 1999 (this completion total equates to reducing the application wait time to 12 months). Unofficially, staff indicate that completing 1.3 million applications may be a more achievable result. While reduced completions in 1999 may marginally effect the 12 month goal -- the 6-9 month wait time goal for the end of 2000 is still on-track (this goal is reported in the President's budget narrative).

Applications:

- INS is projecting 704,000 naturalization applications receipts in 1999. October application receipts totaled 82,064 -- 23,430 over the 58,634 projected. The increase is due in part from people applying before the naturalization fee increase takes effect on January 15. This blip is expected to continue until mid-January and INS may re-estimate 1999 application projections upward to 800K.

Pending:

- The number of pending application at the end of October is 1,847,369 an increase of 12,000 from the September end total.

Management:

- The Deputy Commission has given preliminary approval to the Immigration Service Division organization and the placement of people in management positions.

- INS has fenced all base and the \$176 million in 1999 enhancements for naturalization processing purposes. OMB was concerned that estimated funding shortfalls in other immigration benefit programs would be fixed with naturalization funds.
- INS: has developed deployment plans for the 200 new adjudicators to be hired in 1999; is finalizing decisions on the telephone/customer service centers; and will be consolidating file review and medical waiver review in its Service Centers during the 3rd quarter. A completion timeline for these initiatives will be included in the January monthly report.

If you have any questions concerning the above or on the report or need additional information, please let me know. Thanks.

Message Sent To:

Michael Deich/OMB/EOP
Myrta Sale/OMB/EOP
Julie A. Fernandes/OPD/EOP
Kenneth L. Schwartz/OMB/EOP
David J. Haun/OMB/EOP

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

Monthly Statistical Report November 1998



Prepared by the Office of Policy and Planning

December 31, 1998

Contacts: Press: 202-514-2648

Congressional: 202-514-5231

Other: 202-305-1613



Table of Contents

Inspections.....	2
Southwest Border Apprehensions.....	3
Applications for Immigration Benefits.....	4
Naturalization Benefits.....	5
Removals.....	6
Investigations.....	7
Asylum	8

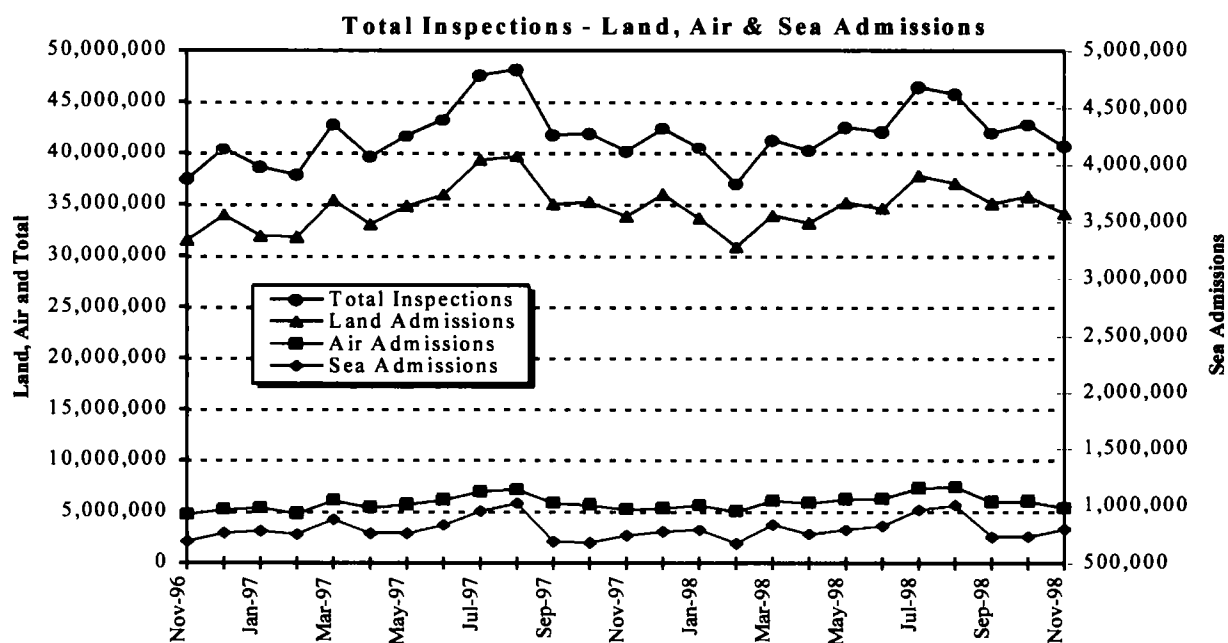
1. Monthly data are preliminary and subject to revision; they are current as of December 28, 1998.

INSPECTIONS

Compared to November 1997, total inspections of citizens and aliens for entry to the United States increased 1 percent. Air admissions increased 3 percent and land admissions increased 1 percent compared to the previous November. Sea admissions increased 8 percent, and inadmissibles increased 7 percent compared to November 1997.

	<i>Month</i>			<i>Fiscal Year</i>			<i>Total - FY 98</i>
	<i>Nov-98</i>	<i>Nov-97</i>	<i>%Change</i>	<i>FY 99 to Date</i>	<i>FY 98 to Date</i>	<i>%Change</i>	
Total Inspections	40,687,544	40,232,456	1	83,583,495	82,200,725	2	503,354,465
Air Admitted	5,366,980	5,201,408	3	11,358,374	10,868,025	5	71,838,261
Land Admitted	34,170,104	33,892,879	1	70,007,777	69,201,584	1	417,109,955
Sea Admitted	800,000	740,345	8	1,532,867	1,419,724	8	9,566,691
Inadmissible	53,729	50,310	7	111,403	102,213	9	721,501

Data Source: PAS G-22.1



- November 1998 total inspections decreased 2,208,407 when compared to October 1998. This is a seasonal decrease consistent with previous years.
- About 13.5 million U.S. citizens were admitted at INS ports of entry during the month of November 1998, compared to approximately 26.8 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 November 1998 was 53,729. 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.

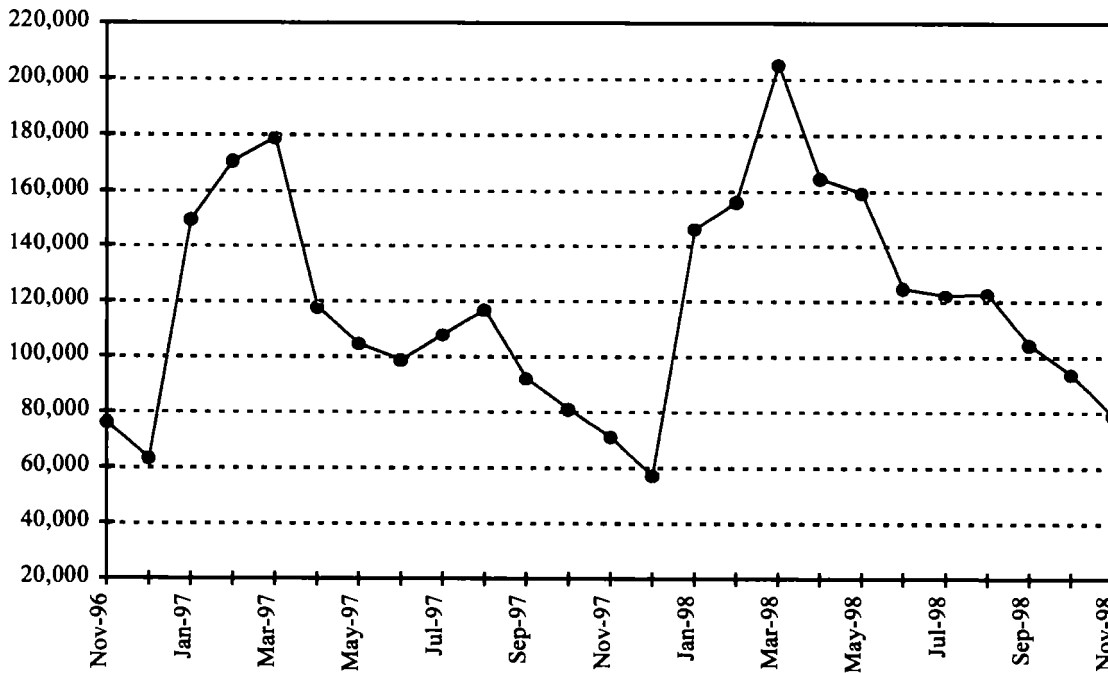
SOUTHWEST BORDER APPREHENSIONS

The Border Patrol made 78,766 apprehensions along the southwest border during November 1998, an increase of 10 percent compared to November 1997. Voluntary returns, conducted by Border Patrol agents, increased by 10 percent to 76,218.

Southwest Border	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 98
	Nov-98	Nov-97	%Change	FY 99 to Date	FY 98 to Date	%Change	
Apprehensions	78,766	71,325	10	172,726	152,521	13	1,516,680
Voluntary Returns	76,218	69,154	10	167,244	148,164	13	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.
- While southwest border apprehensions for November FY99 showed a seasonal pattern of decrease, November apprehensions were up 7,441 when compared to November of FY98. Compared to the first two months of FY98, fiscal year 1999 Apprehensions on the southwest border are up 13 percent.

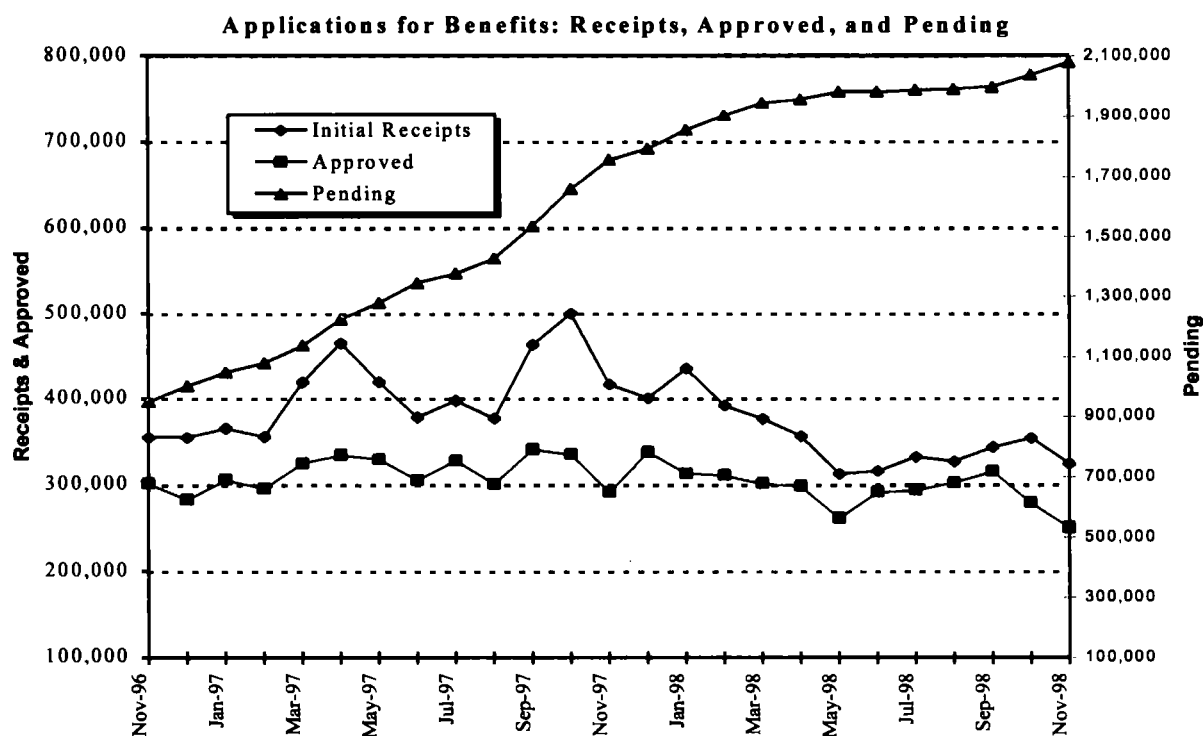
APPLICATIONS FOR IMMIGRATION BENEFITS

Applications and petitions for immigration benefits decreased 26 percent during the first two months of FY99 when compared to the same period in FY98. Seventy nine percent of this decrease is explained by decreases in four petitions/applications: 103,716 I-130 relative petitions; 54,906 I-485 permanent resident adjustments; 25,053 I-765 employment authorizations; and 5,189 I-131 advanced parole/reentry permits.

	<i>Month</i>			<i>Fiscal Year</i>			<i>Total FY 98</i>
	<i>Nov-98</i>	<i>Nov-97</i>	<i>%Change</i>	<i>FY 99 to Date</i>	<i>FY 98 to Date</i>	<i>%Change</i>	
Initial Receipts¹	324,970	417,304	-22	679,955	917,904	-26	4,518,051
Approved	250,914	292,110	-14	530,477	628,112	-16	3,659,708
Denied	23,348	27,812	-16	47,095	63,476	-26	344,190
Pending¹	2,082,664	1,755,747	19	2,082,664	1,755,747	19	2,000,014

Data Source: PAS G-22.2

¹ Receipts and Pending do not reflect an estimated 24,643 I-485s filed but not data entered.



- Major volumes in November receipts include: 95,580 I-765 employment authorizations; 33,151 I-130 relative petitions; 21,885 I-90 Green Card replacements; and 41,300 I-485 permanent resident adjustments.
- Major volumes of pending cases at the end of November 1998 are: 842,783 I-485 permanent resident adjustments; 552,936 I-130 relative petitions; 147,510 employment authorizations; and 185,740 I-90 Green Card replacements.
- Pending applications increased by 44,104 between October and November 1998.

NATURALIZATION BENEFITS

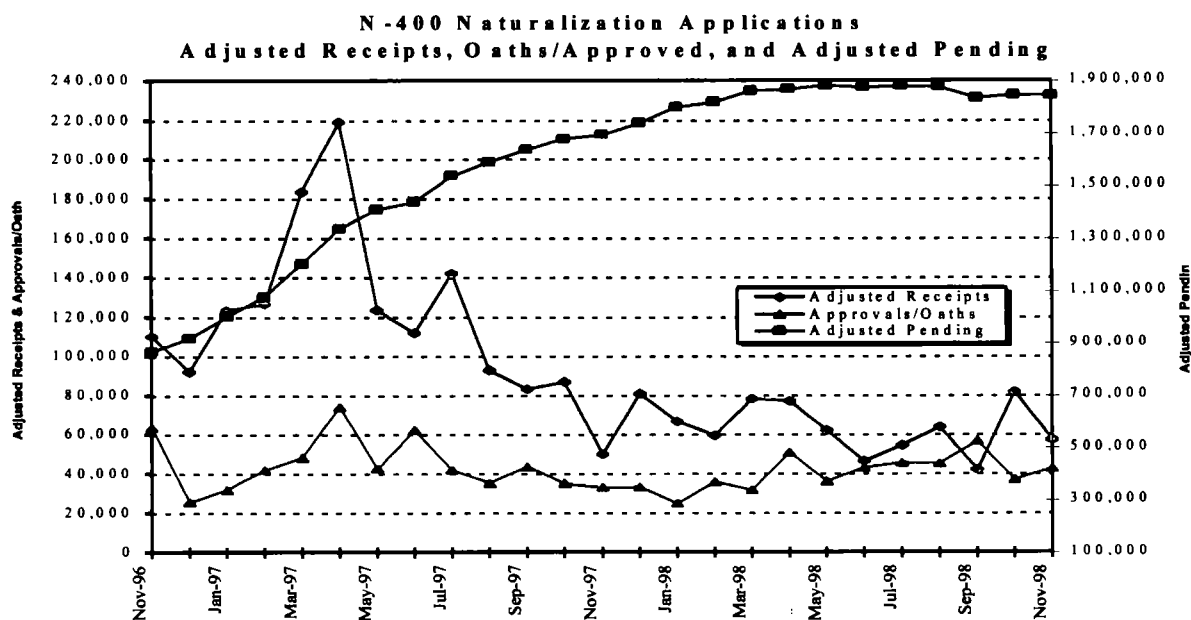
Naturalization receipts in November 1998 increased by 14 percent compared to the same month last year. In addition, 42,967 applicants for naturalization took the oath of citizenship in November, a 29 percent increase compared to November 1997. Denials increased by 270 percent compared to November 1997.

	Month ²			Fiscal Year			Total FY 98
	Nov-98	Nov-97	%Change	FY 99 to Date	FY 98 to Date	%Change	
Adjusted Receipts ¹	57,526	50,283	14	139,585	137,635	1	770,912
Approvals/Oaths	42,967	33,232	29	80,201	68,350	17	473,152
Denied	20,812	5,631	270	43,353	11,607	274	137,395
Adjusted Pending ¹	1,844,585	1,695,349	9	1,844,585	1,695,349	9	1,835,225

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.



- While adjusted receipts have decreased from their apex of 219,455 reached in April 1997, adjusted pending cases have generally increased and reached 1,882,433 in May of 1998. Since then, the number of pending cases declined to 1,835,225 by the end of September, but increased slightly during the first two months of fiscal year 1999.
- During FY 1997, Naturalization Quality Procedures and other efforts were introduced to ensure integrity in the naturalization process. While these efforts were successful, they added process requirements to an already manual, paper, and resource intensive process. Consequently, the number of applications the INS completed during FY 1997 and FY 1998 declined from the number achieved in FY 1996.

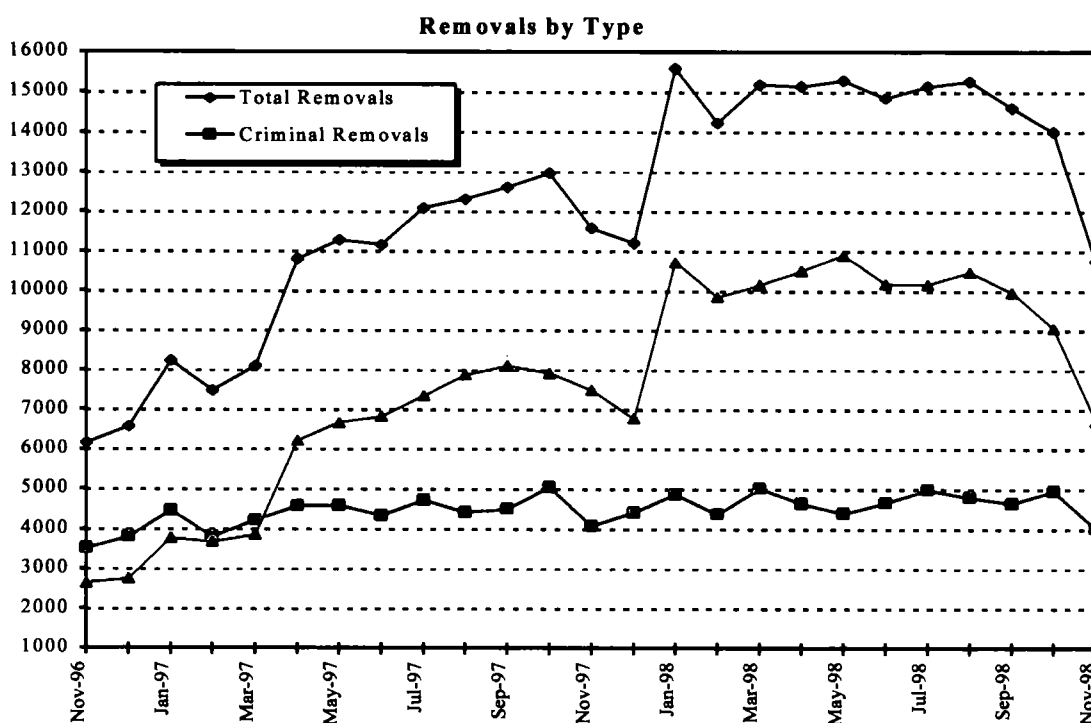
REMOVALS

Total removals for November decreased 7 percent compared to the same month a year before. In November 1998, INS removed 10,752 aliens from the United States, 4,022 of whom were criminals.

	Month			Fiscal Year			Total FY 98
	Nov-98*	Nov-97	%Change	FY 99 to Date	FY 98 to Date	%Change	
Deportable	3,028	3,441	-12	7,010	7,820	-10	45,260
Inadmissible	7,724	8,136	-5	17,755	16,745	6	125,894
Total Removals	10,752	11,577	-7	24,765	24,565	1	171,154
Criminal Removals	4,022	4,078	-1	8,980	9,131	-2	56,011
Non-criminal Removals	6,730	7,499	-10	15,785	15,434	2	115,143

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 October statistic for total removals has increased 4.4 percent (589 removals) since the preliminary number was released last month.
- The decline in removals from October to November had two main factors. The government responded to the crisis caused by Hurricane Mitch by temporarily suspending removals to El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua; there were approximately 1,200 removals to these countries each month before the suspension. Secondly, the number of Mexicans given an expedited removal declined by about 1,000.
- Criminal removals are 36 percent of total FY 1999 removals with crimes involving dangerous drugs accounting for 46 percent of the criminal removals.

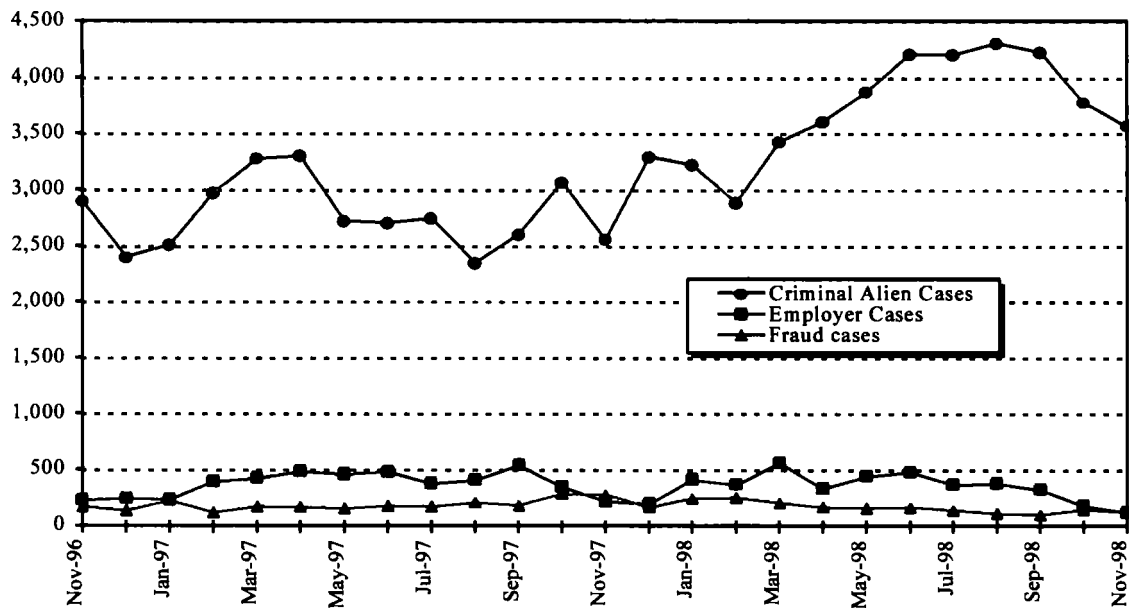
INVESTIGATIONS

Successful completions of criminal alien cases for November 1998 increased by 39 percent, while employer cases decreased by 44 percent compared to the previous November. Fraud completions for November decreased by 54 percent compared to the same month last year, while successful completions of smuggling cases increased by 29 cases or 171 percent.

<i>Successful Completions</i>	<i>Month</i>			<i>Fiscal Year</i>			<i>Total FY 98</i>
	<i>Nov-98</i>	<i>Nov-97</i>	<i>%Change</i>	<i>FY 99 to Date</i>	<i>FY 98 to Date</i>	<i>%Change</i>	
Criminal Alien Cases	3,564	2,565	39	7,350	5,639	30	42,960
Employer Cases	122	217	-44	302	568	-47	4,455
Fraud Cases	130	282	-54	280	568	-51	2,308
Smuggling Cases	46	17	171	80	50	60	386

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.

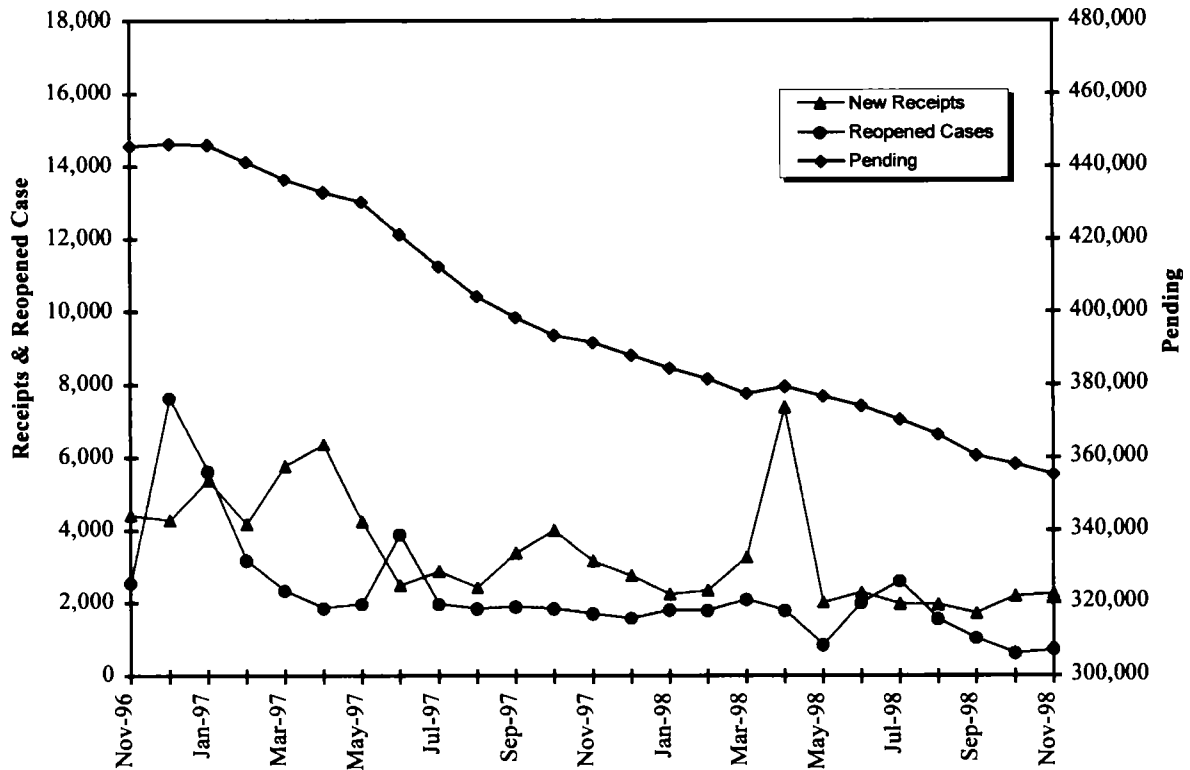
ASYLUM

Applications for asylum reported in November 1998 decreased 38 percent compared to the number filed in November 1997. The pending caseload was 9 percent lower than in the same month last year.

	<i>Month</i>			<i>Fiscal Year</i>			<i>Total FY 98</i>
	<i>Nov-98</i>	<i>Nov-97</i>	<i>%Change</i>	<i>FY 99 to Date</i>	<i>FY 98 to Date</i>	<i>%Change</i>	
Cases Filed	3,095	4,977	-38	6,036	10,981	-45	57,786
Approved	751	534	41	1,713	1,086	58	10,364
Denied	155	398	-61	264	915	-71	3,464
Referred to IJ	1,577	2,242	-30	3,489	5,095	-32	29,427
Pending	355,604	391,802	-9	355,604	391,802	-9	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 November, 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.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**

Route Slip

TO: MICHAEL DEICH	Take necessary action	
CHRIS SALES	Approval or signature	
JULIE FERNANDES	Comment	
KEN SCHWARTZ	Prepare reply	
DAVID HAUN	Discuss with me	
TED WARTELL	For your information	
	See remarks below	

From: Steve Mertens

Date: December 31, 1998

Remarks:

Attached is a copy of the December (covering October data) Immigration and Naturalization Benefits Processing Status Report for your information.

If you have any questions regarding the report, please let me know. Thanks.

Attachment

c: Ingrid Schroeder

Immigration and Naturalization Benefits Processing Status Report

to

**Department of Justice
Office of Management and Budget
The United States House of Representatives**

December 18, 1998

Summary of Achievements for November 1998

In November 1998, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) achieved the following milestones for initiatives described in the Conference Report:

Adjudication

Disability Exceptions Processing

- Public Health Service (PHS) issued Report on Disability Exceptions Processing Pilot, November 13, 1998. The INS is reviewing the report and data collected by PHS during the pilot as it evaluates next steps toward providing more consistent adjudication of Form N-648 (Medical Disability Waiver). These waivers provide applicants an exception to English and U.S. history and government requirements.

NQP 4

- Implemented National Quality Procedures (NQP4) at Service Centers, October 1, 1998.
- Implemented NQP4 at the local offices, November 1, 1998.

Information Technology

CLAIMS 4

- CLAIMS 4 deployed in Sacramento, CA; Charlotte, NC; and Indianapolis, IN.

Citizenship Audits and Reviews

- The Immigration Services Division (ISD), with Office of Internal Audit (OIA) oversight, completed a review of approximately 3,500 cases for applicants that were naturalized between October 1, 1996, and June 30, 1997, where there was evidence of potentially disqualifying criminal histories or deportation actions. The INS expects to issue a report to the Department of Justice, Justice Management Division (JMD) early in the 2nd Quarter of FY 1999. In turn, JMD will forward the report to Congress.

On October 21, 1998, Congress and the Administration approved the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (FY 1999 Appropriations Act). The INS continues to assess how funding provided in the Act will impact its programs in light of the shortfall of expected revenue for the Exams Fee Account.

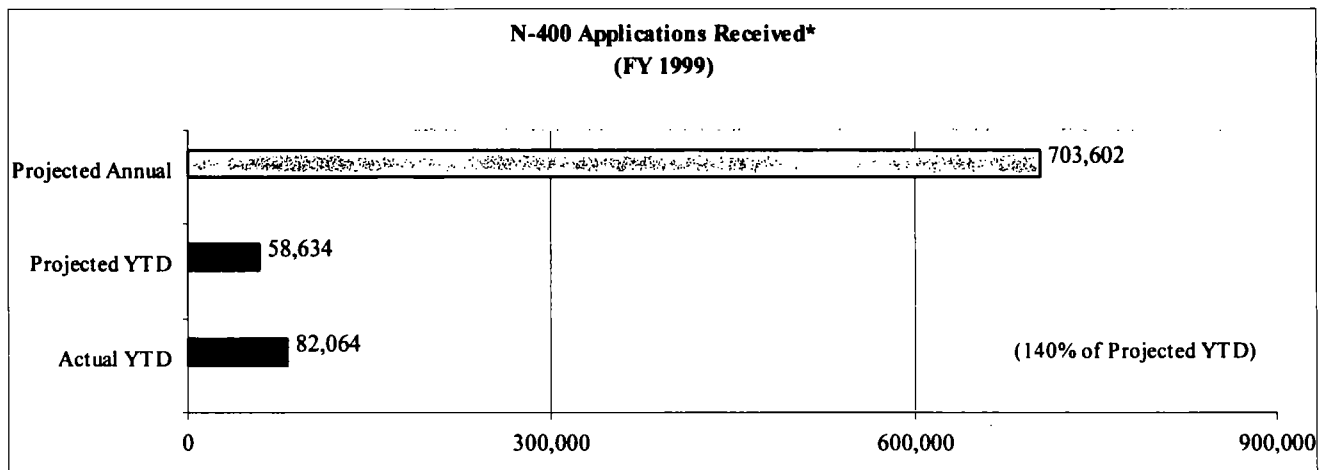
This report provides milestones for key naturalization initiatives described in the Conference Report accompanying the FY 1999 Appropriation Act.

This month, the INS has provided preliminary milestones for:

- Implementation of NQP4;
- Publication of a "Guide to Naturalization" and a revised Form N-400, Application for Naturalization;
- Citizenship testing;
- Deployment of CLAIMS 4; and
- Reviews of previously completed naturalization cases and ongoing procedural compliance.

Milestones have not yet been established for the following initiatives:

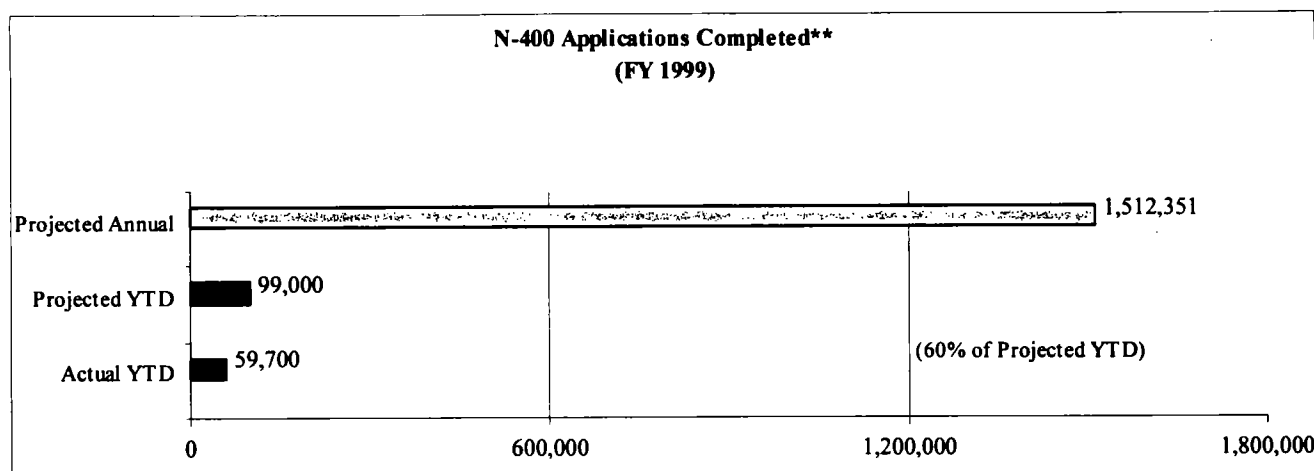
- Beginning a National Customer Service Center (telephone center);
- Implementing Records Centralization at one records facility;
- Hiring 200 term employees to form Backlog Reduction Action Teams;
- Implementing a pre-adjudication file review initiative at the Service Centers; and
- Consolidating disability exceptions processing.

Part I. Immigration Services Caseload Processing Status***Naturalization Applications (N-400) (FY 1999)***

*Projected Annual number of N-400 Applications Received is based on INS official projections made on July 14, 1998, by the Exams Fee Group. Actual YTD is October data. The INS Exams Fee Group met on December 3, 1998, to reproject all application and petition file receipts for FY 1999. New projections will be included in next month's report.

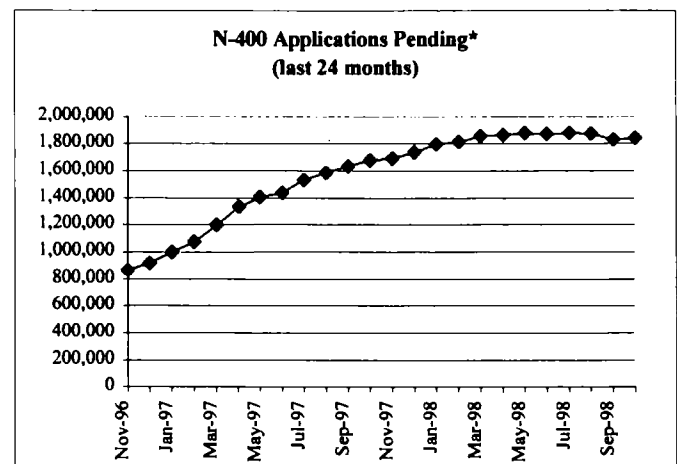
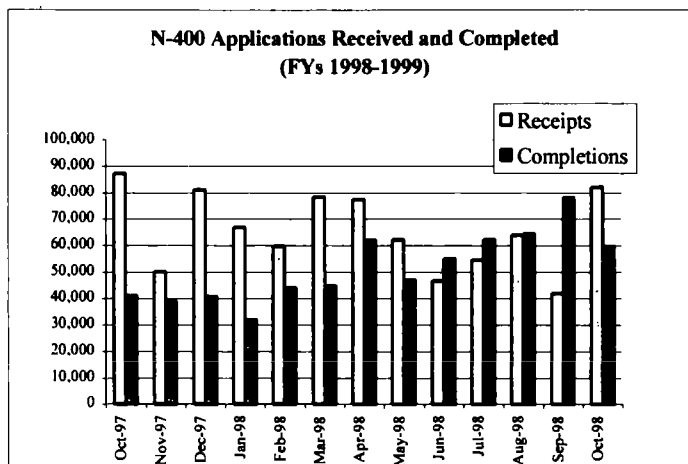
Note: Applications Received includes those applications received by the INS, but not yet data-entered.

- The INS received significantly more naturalization applications than projected, the most received in any single month since October 1997.



**Projected YTD completions as of August 1998. Actual YTD is October data.

- In October, the INS completed 59,700 naturalization applications, significantly fewer than projected and fewer than the monthly completions since July 1998.
- The shortfall of completions resulted from a series of ongoing systems problems and other issues that affected production:
 - Applicants with expired fingerprints fell into the interview schedules of many offices, including New York and Chicago. This resulted in lost productivity because the fingerprint checks must be completed and cleared before a final hearing can be scheduled. CLAIMS 4 was modified in October to correct this problem, however, the production benefit will not be realized until early in the 2nd Quarter of FY 1999.
 - Several of the INS' key Districts are experiencing problems hiring and retaining temporary employees. Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco have been severely impacted by this problem which results from low unemployment rates and uncertainty associated with offers of temporary employment.
 - Some cases have not been released to offices for interviews due to the lack of an electronic interface between the INS and the FBI for biographic information checks. This interface has been instituted, and completed checks should result in cases falling into the interview scheduler early in the 2nd Quarter of FY 1999.
 - Many offices experienced high no-show rates due to an upload problem from RNACS to CLAIMS 4, causing an omission of part of the applicant's mailing address or an incorrectly formatted address from the system. This resulted in many applicants failing to receive their notices and required Service Center personnel to reschedule applicants who encountered that problem. Correction to the system is planned for early in the 2nd Quarter of FY 1999.

Naturalization Applications (N-400) (FY 1999)

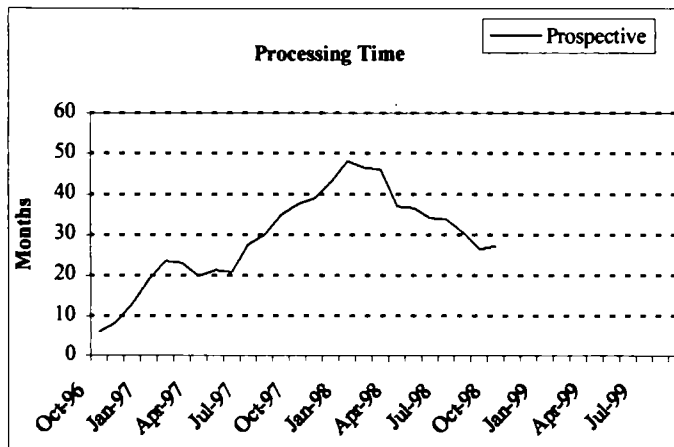
Note: Applications received and pending include those applications received by the INS, but not yet data-entered.

*The reported number of N-400 applications pending in October has been adjusted by the District Offices to more accurately reflect the results of their physical counts.

	Oct-98	Nov-98	Dec-98	Jan-99	Feb-99	Mar-99	Apr-99	May-99	Jun-99	Jul-99	Aug-99	Sep-99	FYTD
Projected Completions													
Annual Plan**	99,000	99,000	113,850	113,850	113,850	119,543	119,543	119,543	153,543	153,543	153,543	153,543	99,000
Actual Activity for FY 1999													
Completions	59,700	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	59,700
Receipts	82,064	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	82,064
Pending	1,847,369	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,847,369

**Projected YTD completions as of August 1998. Actual YTD is October data.

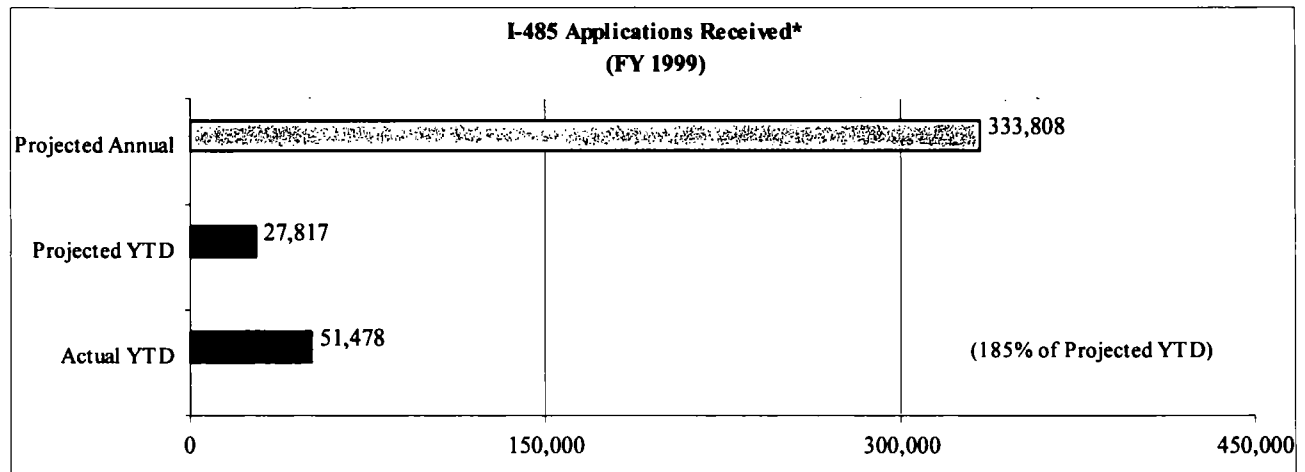
- The number of pending applications for naturalization increased from September 1998 to October 1998.

Naturalization Applications (N-400) (FY 1999)

Average Waiting Time (Retrospective): Most applications completed during October were filed approximately 16 months ago. This estimate is based on aggregating District Office reports of their estimated processing time. The INS is developing standard procedures to calculate the N-400 processing times, and plans to implement the new reporting system in several months.

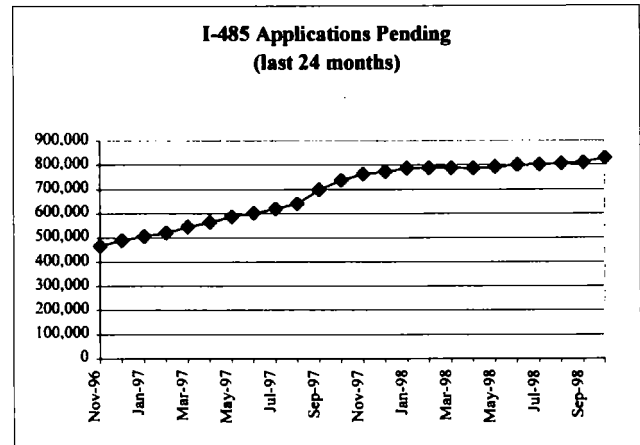
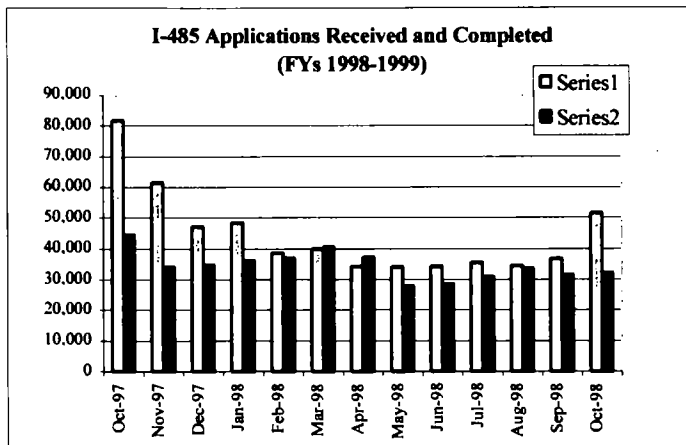
Projected Processing Time (Prospective): Most applicants filing during the month of October can expect to wait, on average, 27 months from filing to completion based on current pending levels and the last 3 months average level of completions.

- Projected Processing Time for naturalization applications remained constant from September 1998 to October 1998.
- Projected Processing Time is a mathematical calculation based on dividing total naturalization applications pending by the average level of naturalization applications completed over the previous 3 months. This measure, therefore, predicts how long applicants filing at the end of the reported month could expect to wait *if INS continues to process at current levels*. The INS has placed considerable emphasis and resources on the naturalization program. Because of these resources, INS expects to increase the level of monthly completions during FY 1999. As monthly completions increase, the projected processing time calculation will decrease.

Adjustment of Status Applications (I-485) (FY 1999)

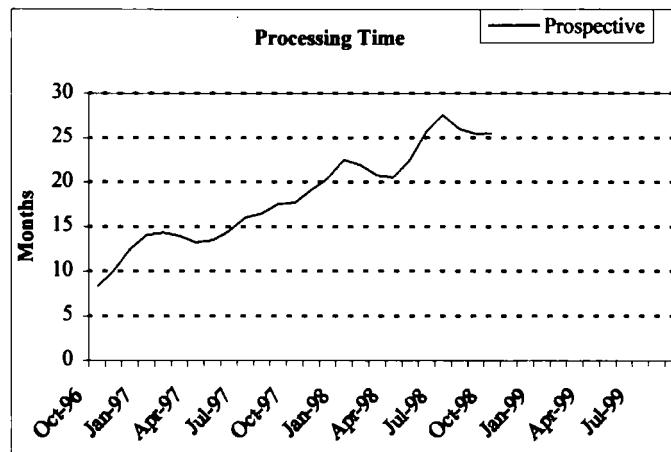
*Projected Annual number of I-485 Applications Received is based on INS official projections made on July 14, 1998 by the Exams Fee Group. Actual YTD is October data. The INS Exams Fee Group met on December 3, 1998, to reproject all application and petition file receipts for FY 1999. New projections will be included in next month's report.

- In October 1998, the INS received far more adjustment of status applications than it had projected.

Adjustment of Status Applications (I-485) (FY 1999)

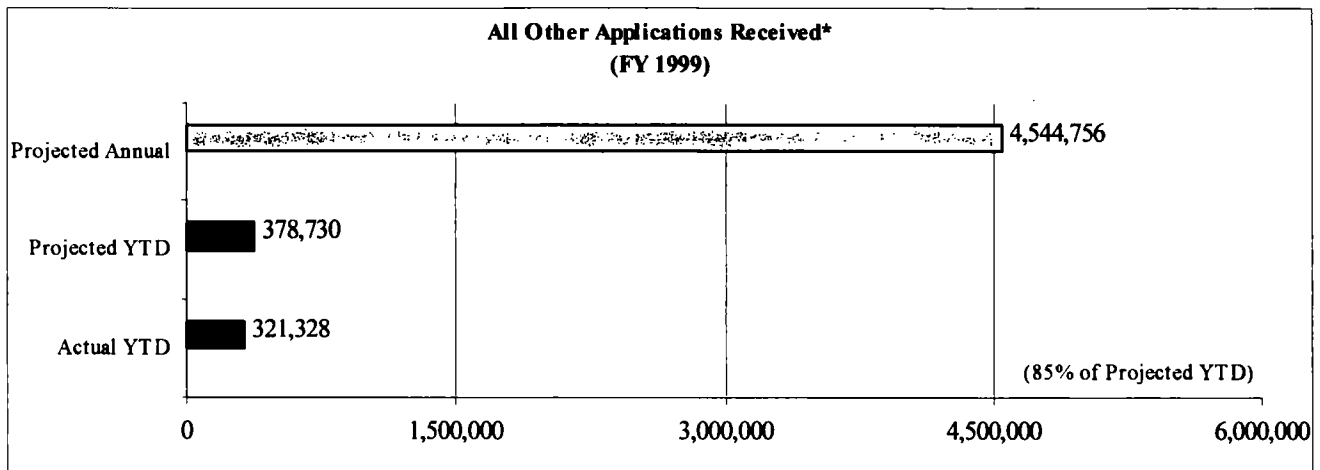
	Oct-98	Nov-98	Dec-98	Jan-99	Feb-99	Mar-99	Apr-99	May-99	Jun-99	Jul-99	Aug-99	Sep-99	FYTD
Actual Activity for FY 1999													
Receipts	51,478	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51,478
Completions	32,208	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,208
Pending	829,666	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	829,666

- The INS received more adjustment of status applications than it completed during October 1998.
- The number of pending adjustment of status applications increased slightly from September 1998 to October 1998.

Adjustment of Status Applications (I-485) (FY 1999)

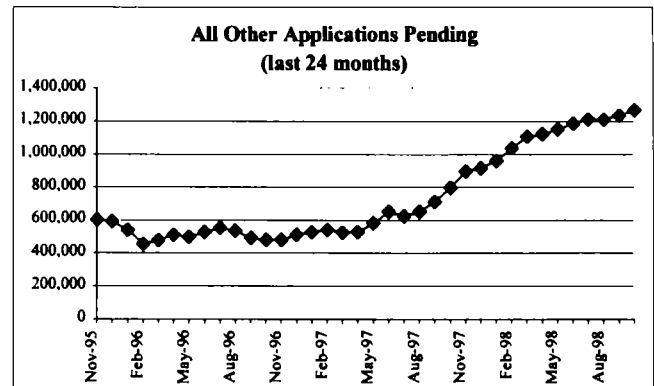
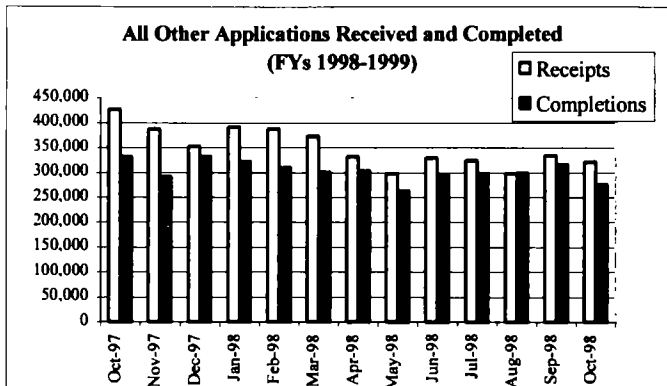
Projected Processing Time (Prospective): Most applicants filing during the month of October can expect to wait, on average, 26 months from filing to completion based on current pending levels and the last 3 months average level of completions.

- Projected Processing Time for adjustment of status applications increased slightly from September 1998 to October 1998.

All Other Applications and Petitions for Immigration Benefits (FY 1999)

*Projected Annual number of Applications Received is based on INS official projections made on July 14, 1998, by the Exams Fee Group. Actual YTD is October data. The INS Exams Fee Group met on December 3, 1998, to reproject all application and petition file receipts for FY 1999. New projections will be included in next month's report.

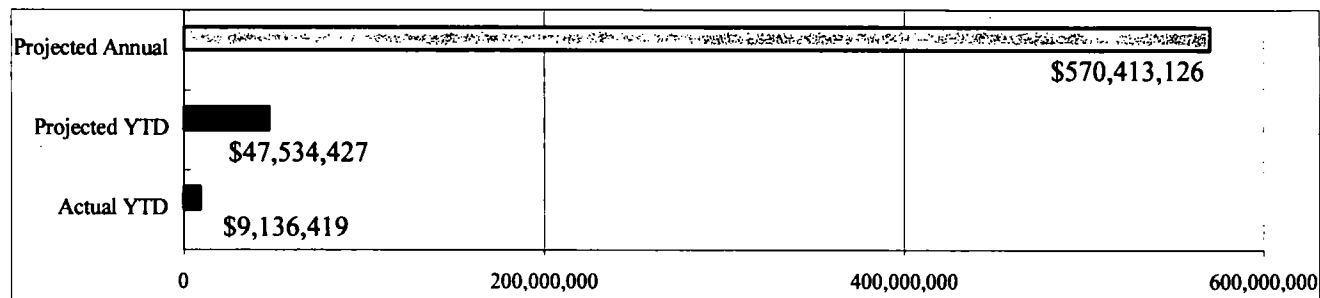
- In October 1998, the INS received fewer applications than projected.
- "All Other Applications" includes such applications as I-765, Application for Employment Authorization; I-130, Petition for Alien Relative; I-600/600A, Orphan Petitions; and I-821, Temporary Protected Status. It does not include N-400s or I-485s.

All Other Applications and Petitions for Immigration Benefits (FY 1999)

	Oct-98	Nov-97	Dec-97	Jan-98	Feb-98	Mar-98	Apr-98	May-98	Jun-98	Jul-98	Aug-98	Sep-98	FYTD
Actual Activity for FY 1999**													
Receipts	321,328	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	321,328
Completions	276,190	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	276,190
Pending	1,270,300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,270,300

**October data is drawn from the PAS Extract of December 2, 1998.

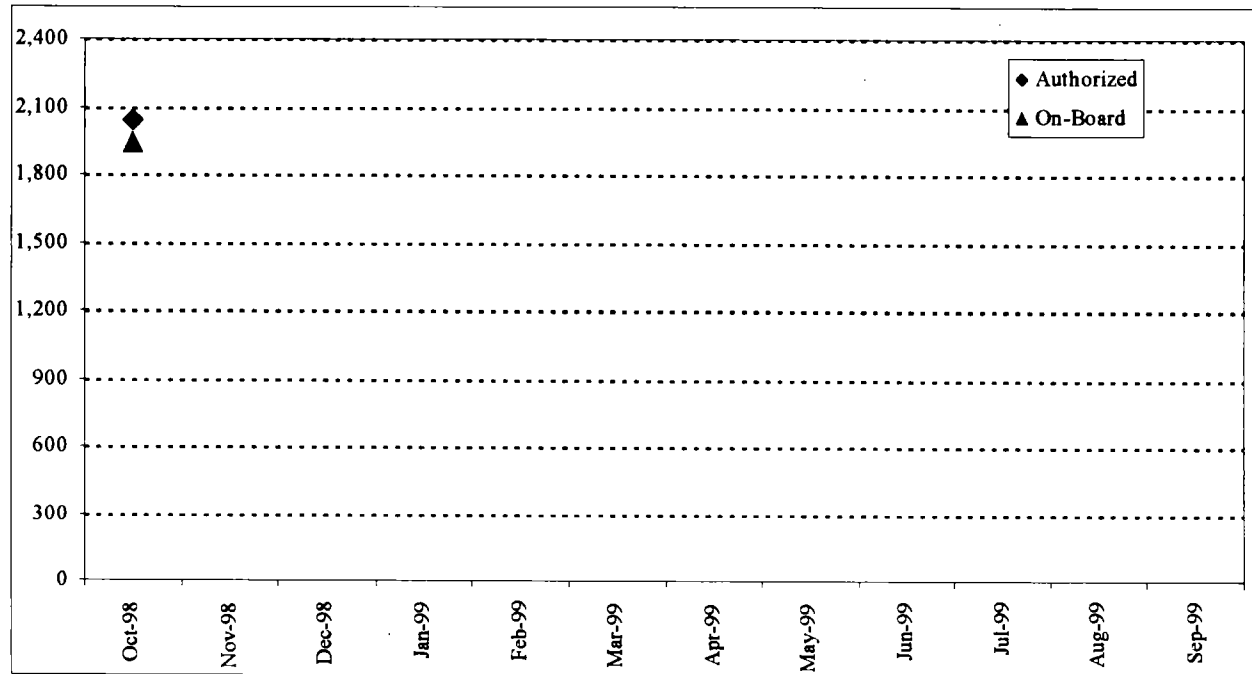
- The INS received more applications than it completed during October 1998.
- The number of pending applications increased from September 1998 to October 1998.

Part II. Financial Status for Immigration Services***Revenue (Examinations Fee Account)* (FY 1999)***

*Includes revenue from all program sources deposited in the Exams Fee Account. Projected Annual Revenue is based on INS official application receipt projections made on July 14, 1998, by the Exams Fee Group. Actual YTD is October data. The INS Exams Fee Group met on December 3, 1998, to reproject all application and petition file receipts for FY 1999. New projections will be included in next month's report.

- Extensive changes to the Financial Accounting Control System (FACS) mandated by Congress resulted in incomplete financial reporting in October. Data was downloaded late in the month and not all revenue was recorded. Corrections to the system are still being made.

Note: At the time of this report's publication, systems problems prevent the INS from submitting information on Obligations for Immigration Services and Obligation by Program. Data for both October and November will be submitted in the January report.

Part III. Immigration Services Staffing Status***Adjudications Officer Staffing (FY 1999)***

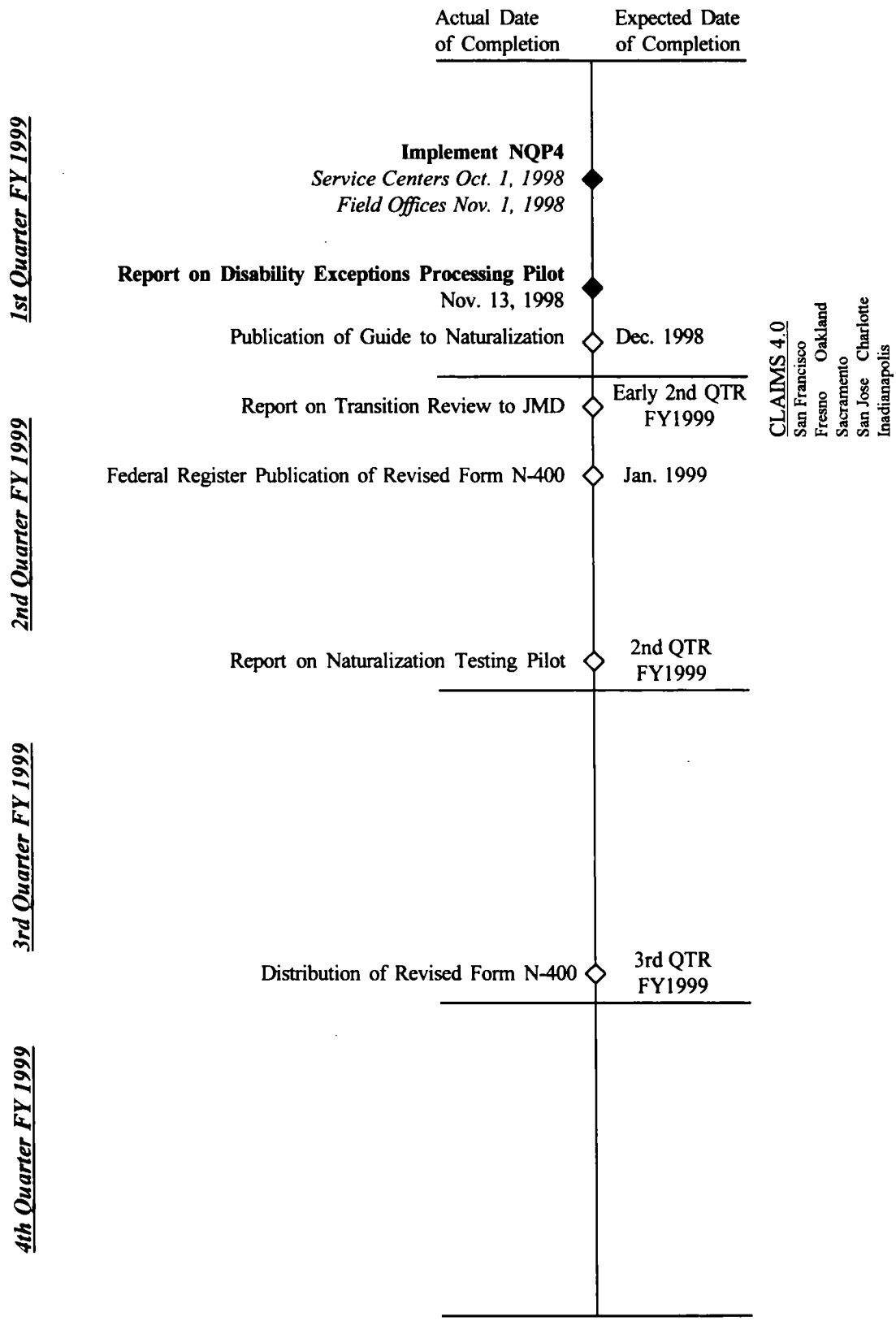
	Oct-98	Nov-98	Dec-98	Jan-99	Feb-99	Mar-99	Apr-99	May-99	Jun-99	Jul-99	Aug-99	Sep-99
<i>District Adjudications Officers (Permanent)</i>												
Authorized	1,213	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
On-Board	1,201	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Service Center Adjudications Officers (Permanent)</i>												
Authorized	433	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
On-Board	422	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>District Adjudications Officers (Term Enhancement Positions from FY 1998 Appropriation)</i>												
Authorized	400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
On-Board	323	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Total Adjudications Officers</i>												
Authorized	2,046											
On-Board	1,946											

*INS also employs temporary staff as funding permits; temporary staff are not reflected in this chart.

- The change from September to October for the authorized level of Service Center Adjudications Officers (CAOs) is due to positions other than CAOs being counted in the total for September. In the future, only CAO and Supervisory CAO positions will be included in this count.

Data: November 1998

IMMIGRATION SERVICES MILESTONES



◆ Denotes completed milestone

◇ Denotes milestone to be completed

Part IV. Planned Immigration Services Improvements for FY 1999**Preparation and Service**

Project Objective: To ensure that accessible and accurate information is available to the customer.

Monthly Development Update

- No milestone completion dates were planned for November 1998.

Development Plan*Milestones:***National Customer Service Center**

- Milestones are under development. Key programmatic decisions affecting the implementation timeline are still under consideration.

Publication of "Guide to Naturalization" and Revised Form N-400, Application for Naturalization

- Publication of Guide (expected December 1998).
- Federal Register publication of Revised Form N-400, Application for Naturalization (expected January 1998).
- Distribution of Revised Form N-400, Application for Naturalization (expected 3rd Quarter of FY 1999).

National Records Center

- Milestones are under development. Key programmatic decisions affecting the implementation timeline are still under consideration.

Citizenship Testing

Project Objective: To design and implement a standardized citizenship testing program.

Monthly Development Update

- No milestone completion dates were planned for November 1998.

Development Plan*Milestones:***Naturalization Testing Pilot at ASCs**

- Report on Naturalization Testing Pilot (expected 2nd Quarter of FY 1999). Until the report can be analyzed, no further decision will be made on conducting testing at the Application Support Centers (ASCs).

Citizenship Test Content

- Conduct meetings with numerous groups, including congressional staff whose members serve on the House or Senate committees (expected December 1998). The focus of these meetings will be to explain options on citizenship testing and gather input from the interested parties. This input will be incorporated into the Citizenship Test Content Report.

- Citizenship Test Content Report (expected December 31, 1998). It will provide options on the body of knowledge, depth of understanding, and proficiency levels for English and U.S. history and government that INS should consider for the future direction of citizenship testing.

Adjudication

Project Objectives: To standardize the interview and ceremony process and to reduce the number of case continuations.

Monthly Development Update

Pre-Adjudication File Review

- No milestone completion dates were planned for November 1998.

Disability Exceptions Processing

- PHS issued Report on Disability Exceptions Processing Pilot, November 13, 1998.

NQP 4

- Implemented NQP4 at the Service Centers, October 1, 1998, and in local offices, November 1, 1998.

Development Plan

Milestones:

Pre-Adjudication File Review

- Complete File Review Pilot Report issued September 30, 1998. Based on the findings of the pilot, if complete file review is implemented, INS could experience a 50 percent decrease in those continuances for naturalization caused by missing documentation.
- Key programmatic decisions affecting the implementation timeline are still under consideration.

Disability Exceptions Processing

- PHS issued Report on Disability Exceptions Processing Pilot, November 13, 1998. The INS is reviewing the report and data collected by PHS during the pilot as it evaluates next steps toward providing more consistent adjudication of Form N-648 (Medical Disability Waiver). These waivers provide applicants an exception to English and U.S. history and government requirements.
- Key programmatic decisions affecting the implementation timeline are still under consideration.

NQP 4

- Implemented NQP4 at Service Centers October 1, 1998.
- Implemented NQP4 at the local offices November 1, 1998.

Information Technology

Project Objective: Provide INS employees with needed automation and standardized system to process applications.

Monthly Development Update

- CLAIMS 4 deployed to the Sacramento, CA; Charlotte, NC; and Indianapolis, IN offices.

Development Plan

Milestones:

CLAIMS 4 Deployment

- Deploy CLAIMS 4 in the San Francisco, CA; Oakland, CA; San Jose, CA; Fresno, CA; Sacramento, CA; Indianapolis, IN; and Charlotte, NC; offices during 1st Quarter of FY 1999.
- The INS is assessing the impact that the deployment of CLAIMS 4 is having on naturalization productivity. Based on this assessment, the INS may schedule a more gradual deployment to minimize the negative impact on the naturalization program.

Citizenship Audits and Reviews

Project Objective: To ensure the integrity of the naturalization process.

Monthly Development Update

- The ISD, with Office of Internal Audit (OIA) oversight, completed the review of approximately 3,500 cases for applicants that were naturalized between October 1, 1996, and June 30, 1997, where there was evidence of potentially disqualifying criminal histories and deportation actions.
- The INS expects to issue a report to the Department of Justice, Justice Management Division (JMD) early in the 2nd Quarter of FY 1999. In turn, JMD will forward the report to Congress.

Development Plan

Milestones:

Ongoing Naturalization Reviews

- Transition Review completed November 20, 1998.
- Report on Transition Review to Management Planning Staffing at JMD (expected to be submitted early in the 2nd Quarter of FY 1999); JMD will forward the report to Congress. Recommendations based on the findings of the report will be integrated into the Service's quality assurance review process.
- KPMG audits of INS' compliance with NQP4 (expected 2nd/3rd Quarter of FY 1999).

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**

Route Slip

TO: MICHAEL DEICH	Take necessary action	
JULIE FERNANDES	Approval or signature	
KEN SCHWARTZ	Comment	
DAVID HAUN	Prepare reply	
INGRID SCHROEDER	Discuss with me	
	For your information	
	See remarks below	

From: Steve Mertens

Date: October 22, 1998

Remarks:

Attached is the first report INS will produce monthly in FY 1999 to track naturalization receipts and spending, citizenship application completions and the implementation of significant process and management improvements in the naturalization program. This report was directed by OMB as part of our approval of the naturalization reprogramming request and will also be used to keep the Hill abreast of INS progress in reducing the naturalization backlog.

As the cover note from the Commissioner indicates, OMB has suggested a number of changes to clarify and further explain the data provided and track progress on the accomplishments outlined in the reprogramming request. Our objective is to keep the report brief and readable explaining accomplishments with charts and bullets. We will be meeting with INS and Justice next week to refine this report.

If you have any comments or suggested improvements, please let me know. Thanks.

Attachment



U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service

Office of the Commissioner

425 I Street NW
Washington, DC 20536

OCT 15 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR STEPHEN R. COLGATE
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FROM: Doris Messner
Commissioner
Immigration and Naturalization Service

SUBJECT: Immigration and Naturalization Benefits Processing Status Report

Attached is the Immigration and Naturalization Service's (INS) report on the status of immigration and naturalization benefits processing. This report takes the place of the monthly Report to Congress on INS' Adjudications and Naturalization Processing Status, also known as the Rogers Report. The report also addresses the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) new reporting requirements described in an August 21 letter from Kenneth L. Schwartz, Deputy Associate Director, OMB, to you. We have worked closely with your staff and staff at OMB to present a report that meets the needs of the Department, OMB, and the Congress. This new report provides information on immigration and naturalization benefits processing in FY 1998 through August. The report includes both District Office and Service Center processing information.

It should be noted that the data in this report is current but may be updated in future months. This is because the District Offices are given the discretion to go back and edit the prior month's data if they find errors. Additional changes to this report have recently been requested by OMB staff. We are working to incorporate those changes in next month's report.

Please transmit this report to OMB as soon as possible. I understand that portions of this report will also be sent to the Appropriations Committees of Congress, similar to that of the previous Rogers Reports. If your staff have any questions regarding this matter, they may contact Jeffrey M. Weber, Assistant Commissioner for Budget, on 514-3206.

Attachment

Immigration and Naturalization Benefits Processing Status Report

to

**Department of Justice
Office of Management and Budget
The United States House of Representatives**

October 15, 1998

Summary

This report is the first in this new format. This report is intended to serve as both a summary of the FY 1998 naturalization program and the transition to the new reporting for initiatives affecting all immigration services. In upcoming reports, INS will list development plans for FY 1999 and expected milestones.

FY 1998 Accomplishments

Integrity

- Developed and implemented the Naturalization Quality Procedures (NQP3) and successfully completed the KPMG audits.
- Developed and implemented an in-house fingerprint program, as directed in the FY 1998 Appropriations Act.

Standardization

- Planned and implemented the transition to full Direct Mail for all new naturalization applications filed.

Automation

- Deployed CLAIMS 4.0 for all new applications filed at one of the four service centers.
- Deployed CLAIMS 4.0 for new applications interviewed at Chicago, Miami, Newark, Houston, and New York City.

Backlog Reduction

- Created Backlog Reduction Plans for every INS office.
- Deployed additional resources to offices to assist in production.

Customer Service

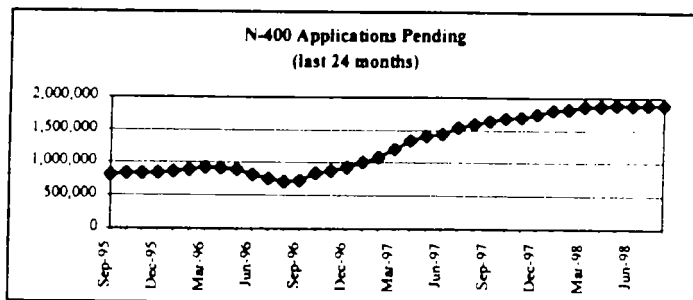
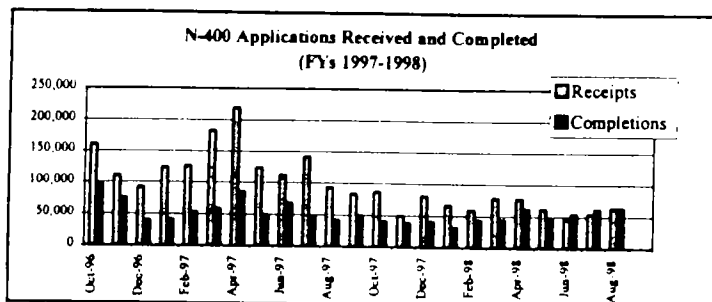
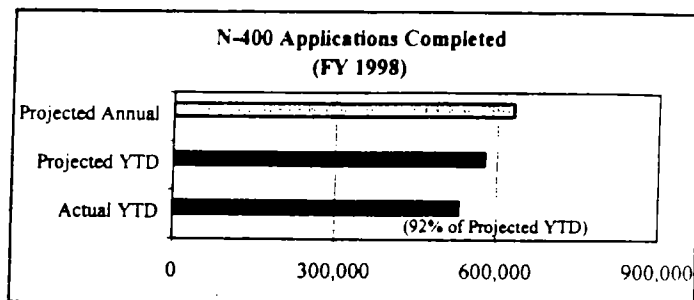
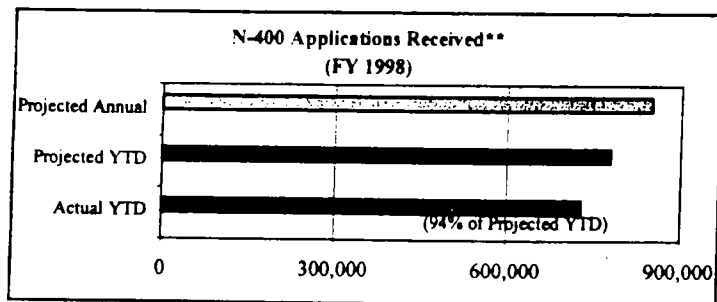
- Added a new section to the INS website for naturalization, and expanded existing information on immigration services related to new initiatives.
- Developed a new "Guide to Naturalization" and a new N-400 "Application for Naturalization."

Creation of Immigration Services Division

- Implemented a new organizational structure within an existing operational unit to merge the Office of Naturalization Operations and other operational immigration services.

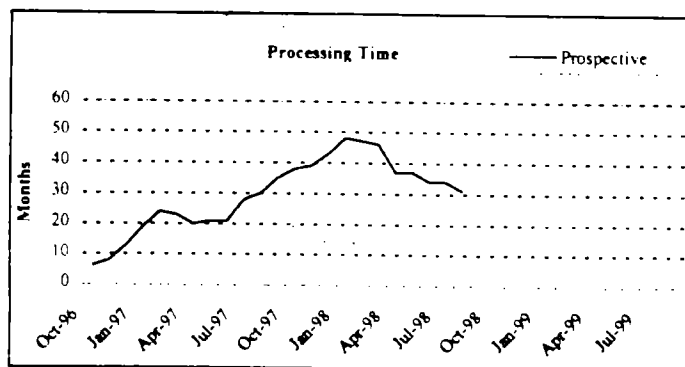
Part I. Immigration Services Caseload Processing Status

Naturalization Applications (N-400)



	Oct-97	Nov-97	Dec-97	Jan-98	Feb-98	Mar-98	Apr-98	May-98	Jun-98	Jul-98	Aug-98	Sep-98	FYTD
Actual Activity for FY 1998													
Receipts	87,352	50,283	81,093	66,882	59,700	78,507	77,378	62,217	46,696	54,699	63,967	-	728,774
Completions	41,094	38,863	40,881	32,076	44,024	44,828	61,941	47,000	55,066	62,136	63,879	-	531,788
Pending	1,680,664	1,695,349	1,740,080	1,801,049	1,818,684	1,861,570	1,868,221	1,882,433	1,875,281	1,881,409	1,878,199	-	1,878,199

For pending to be reduced long term, completions must exceed receipts on an ongoing basis. The level to which they exceed receipts indicates INS' progress. If receipts exceed completions long term, pending will increase.



Average Waiting Time (Retrospective): Most applications completed during August were filed approximately 16 months ago. This estimate is based on aggregating district office reports of their estimated processing time. The INS is developing standard procedures to calculate the N-400 processing times, and plans to implement the new reporting system in several months.

Projected Processing Time (Prospective): Most applicants filing during the month of August can expect to wait, on average, 31 months from filing to completion based on current pending levels and the last 3 months average level of completions.

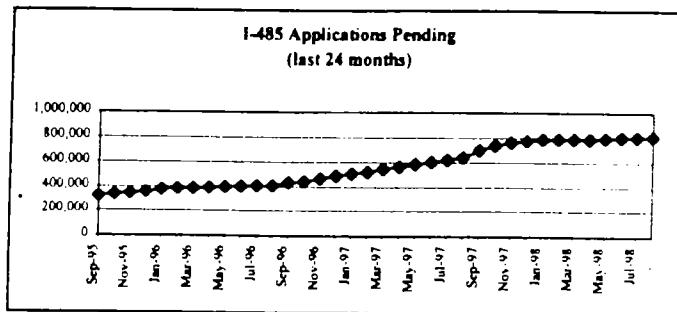
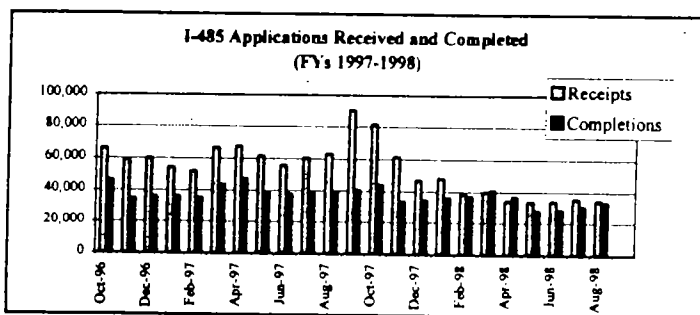
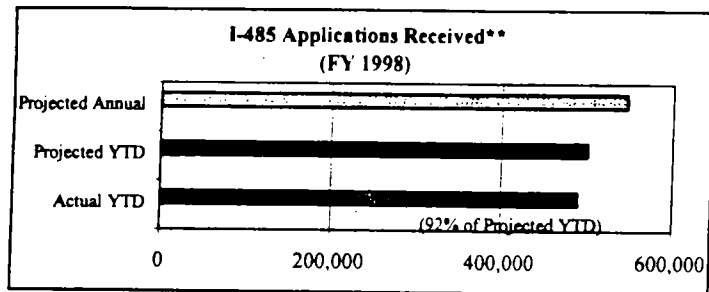
**Projected Annual number of N-400 Applications Received based on INS official projections as of July 9, 1998

Immigration and Naturalization Benefits Processing Status Report

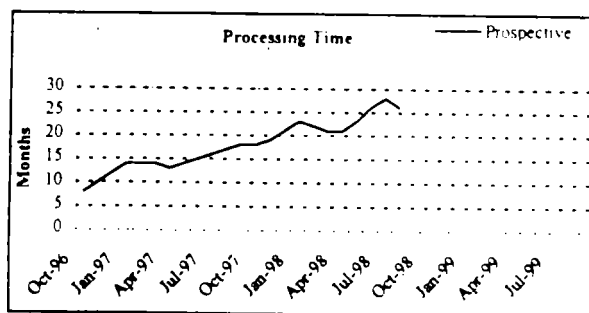
September 1998 Report

Page 4
Data: August 1998

Adjustment of Status Applications (I-485)



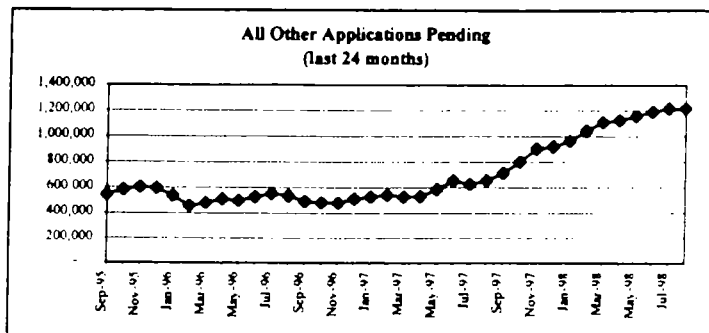
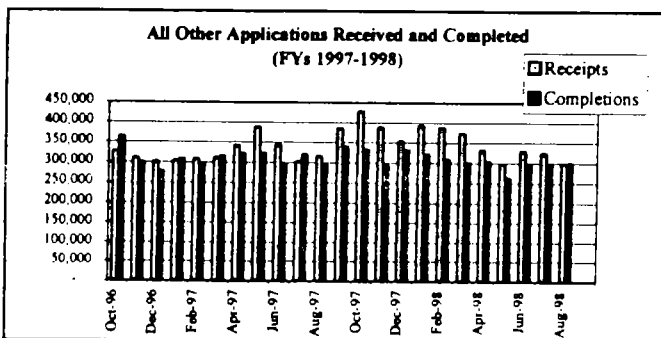
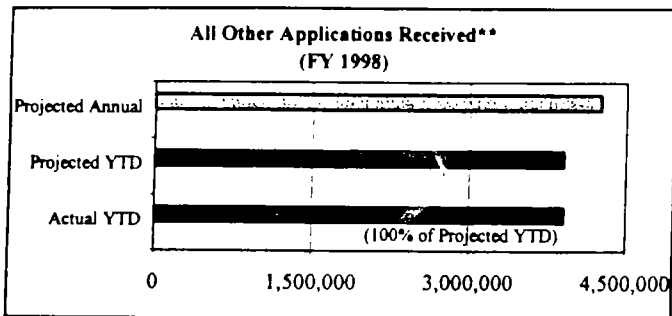
	Oct-97	Nov-97	Dec-97	Jan-98	Feb-98	Mar-98	Apr-98	May-98	Jun-98	Jul-98	Aug-98	Sep-98	FYTD
Actual Activity for FY 1998													
Receipts	81,746	61,570	47,068	48,412	38,655	40,017	34,343	33,993	34,133	35,558	34,539	-	490,034
Completions	44,328	34,054	34,754	36,144	37,080	40,658	37,108	27,946	28,493	30,785	33,587	-	384,937
Pending	738,878	763,925	775,188	788,781	790,208	790,134	788,341	793,807	801,711	802,973	807,086	-	807,086



Projected Processing Time (Prospective): Most applications filing during the month of August can expect to wait, on average, 26 months from filing to completion based on current pending levels and the last 3 months average level of completions.

**Projected Annual number of I-485 Applications Received based on INS official projections as of July 9, 1998

All Other Applications and Petitions for Immigration Benefits

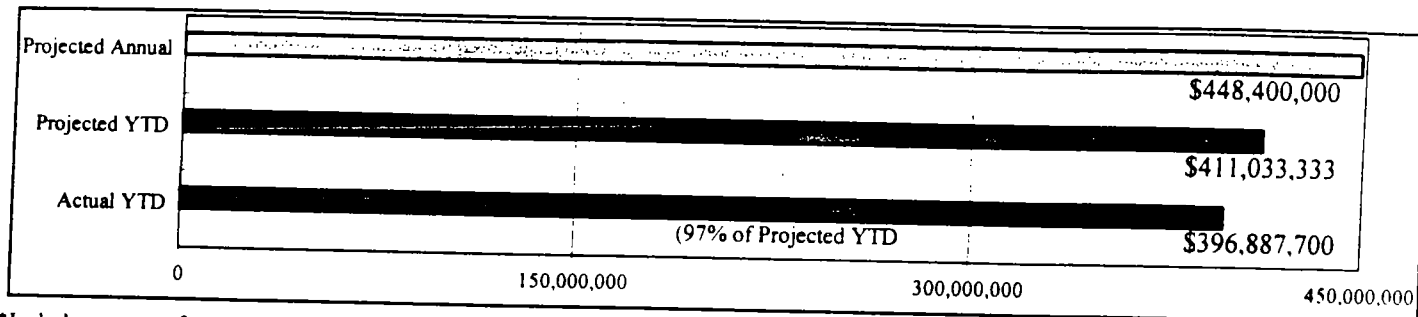


	Oct-97	Nov-97	Dec-97	Jan-98	Feb-98	Mar-98	Apr-98	May-98	Jun-98	Jul-98	Aug-98	Sep-98	FYTD
Actual Activity for FY 1998													
Receipts	427,519	388,278	353,053	392,562	388,432	374,026	332,025	298,335	329,659	324,639	298,539	-	3,907,067
Completions	332,563	292,533	332,186	321,298	309,857	301,183	304,334	262,932	296,303	297,845	299,886	-	3,350,920
Pending	800,635	899,030	917,813	960,750	1,038,398	1,108,856	1,124,984	1,155,971	1,188,524	1,215,499	1,213,889	-	1,213,889

**Projected Annual number of All Other Applications Received based on INS official projections as of July 9, 1998. Examples of "All Other Applications" include: I-765, Application for Employment Authorization; I-130, Petition for Alien Relative; I-600/600A, Orphan Petitions; and I-821, Temporary Protected Status.

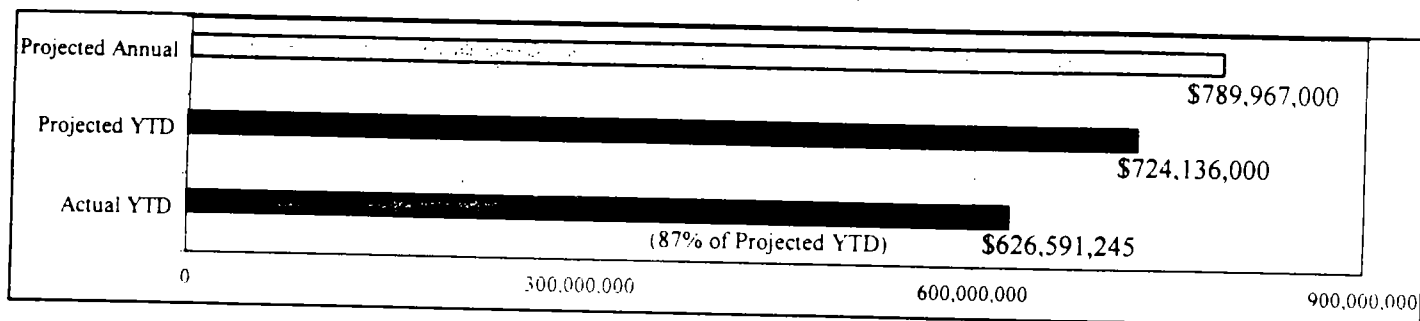
Part II. Financial Status for Immigration Services

Revenue (Examinations Fee Account) *



*Includes revenue from all program sources deposited into the Exams Fee Account. Projected Annual Revenue based on INS official application receipt projections as of July 9, 1998.

Obligations for Immigration Services (All Accounts)

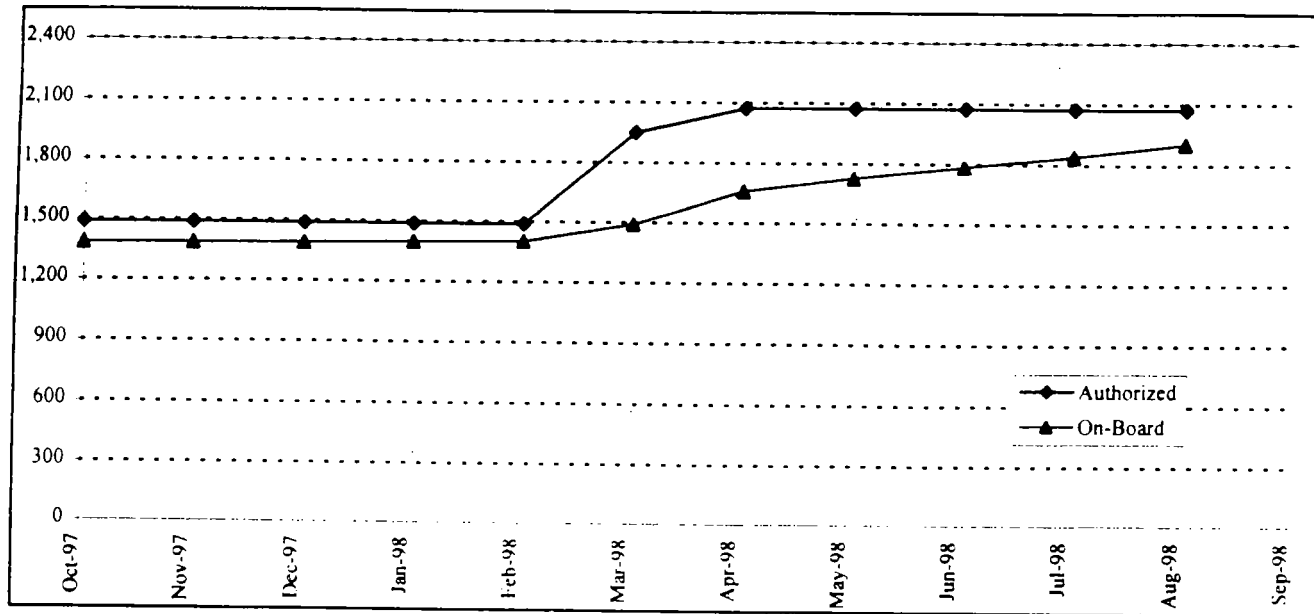


Obligation by Program (All Accounts. Dollars in thousands)

	Oct-97	Nov-97	Dec-97	Jan-98	Feb-98	Mar-98	Apr-98	May-98	Jun-98	Jul-98	Aug-98	Sep-98	Actual YTD
Inspections	1,134	2,864	1,903	1,188	1,806	2,048	1,636	-98	1,642	1,717	1,726	-	17,567
Investigations	548	559	867	935	622	642	1,037	586	646	1,116	709	-	8,267
Intelligence	62	82	112	73	84	68	96	74	77	181	86	-	995
Adj & Natz	12,934	16,044	22,941	40,458	16,480	38,114	36,509	20,504	22,908	49,252	47,603	-	323,747
S & E	6	3	9	8	-9	-13	2,660	-2,632	-16	5	4	-	25
Legalization	57	59	101	149	83	100	79	83	88	122	10	-	931
International	3,656	3,909	6,128	5,907	8,793	4,900	8,867	5,779	6,600	10,952	6,273	-	71,763
Training	105	141	176	114	111	130	182	135	204	525	216	-	2,039
Data & Comm	257	12,612	3,525	1,000	2,447	3,794	4,464	7,799	5,579	6,974	10,052	-	58,503
Info & Records	5,450	3,086	8,632	20,760	3,637	13,993	13,390	3,594	20,474	8,973	19,923	-	121,911
Construction	7	-1	3	4	0	0	11	0	0	4	4	-	32
Legal	340	426	720	473	497	505	727	540	524	705	543	-	6,000
Mgmt & Admin	505	626	995	701	592	1,413	1,079	897	5,667	1,241	1,096	-	14,812
Actual Total	25,061	40,410	46,112	71,770	35,142	65,694	70,738	37,260	64,392	81,768	88,244	-	626,591

Part III. Immigration Services Staffing Status

Adjudications Officer Staffing



	Oct-97	Nov-97	Dec-97	Jan-98	Feb-98	Mar-98	Apr-98	May-98	Jun-98	Jul-98	Aug-98	Sep-98
District Adjudications Officers (Permanent)												
Authorized	1,032	1,032	1,032	1,032	1,032	1,092	1,216	1,216	1,216	1,216	1,216	1,216
On-Board	983	987	989	996	999	1,024	1,053	1,080	1,112	1,144	1,176	
Service Center Adjudications Officers (Permanent)												
Authorized	457	457	457	457	457	457	457	457	457	457	457	457
On-Board	400	398	399	401	402	405	409	409	420	425	423	
District Adjudications Officers (Term Enhancement Positions from FY 1998 Appropriation)												
Authorized	0	0	0	0	0	400	400	400	400	400	400	400
On-Board	0	0	0	0	0	62	199	237	254	272	305	
Total Adjudications Officers												
Authorized	1,489	1,489	1,489	1,489	1,489	1,949	2,073	2,073	2,073	2,073	2,073	2,073
On-Board	1,383	1,385	1,388	1,397	1,401	1,491	1,661	1,726	1,786	1,841	1,904	

*INS also employs temporary staff as funding permits. temporary staff are not reflected in this chart

Part IV. FY 1998 Year-End Summary of Immigration Services Accomplishments

Integrity

NQP3

Project Objective: To ensure that all process steps in the naturalization process designed to promote integrity occur and are documented.

FY 1998 Accomplishments

- First KPMG audit of NQP3 implementation completed. Report issued December 16, 1997, stated that "INS had instilled a quality mindset."
- Second KPMG audit of NQP3 implementation completed. Report issued October 2, 1997, indicated that INS continued to make progress and promote integrity.
- INS issued NQP4 on June 5, 1998.

Fingerprinting

Project Objective: To meet FY 1999 Appropriations Act requirement that all fingerprinting for immigration benefit applications be conducted by the INS.

FY 1998 Accomplishments

- INS successfully piloted and implemented Machine Readable Data.
- INS opened 126 Application Support Centers, including 53 permanent, 53 collocated, and 20 temporary sites; entered into agreements with 40 Designated Law Enforcement Agencies to provide fingerprint services for the INS; and implemented the mobile fingerprint operation using 45 vehicles to cover 82 points of service.
- INS published a regulation on March 29, 1998, eliminating the Designated Fingerprinting Services program, outlining new filing procedures, and establishing a \$25 fee for fingerprinting services.
- INS conducted a cost/benefit analysis that determined live-scan printing was superior to standard ink printing.
- INS piloted digital transmission of fingerprints from the Spokane office to the Federal Bureau of Investigation on April 1, 1998.

Citizenship testing

Project Objective: To ensure integrity in the citizenship testing process.

FY 1998 Accomplishments

- The outside citizenship testing program was terminated as of August 30, 1998, by federal regulation published May 6, 1998.
- INS completed a 60-day in-house testing program pilot that began August 11, 1998, at 5 ASCs.

Standardization**Direct Mail**

Project Objective: To allow local offices to concentrate resources on the adjudication process by moving much of the up-front processing to the service centers.

FY 1998 Accomplishments

- INS completed all needed facility changes.
- INS issued all regulatory notices and other information.
- INS transitioned to full Direct Mail April 15, 1998. All new naturalization applications are now filed with one of four service centers.

Automation**CLAIMS 4.0**

Project Objective: To automate and standardize many of the manual, time-consuming, process controls intended to ensure integrity.

FY 1998 Accomplishments

- INS piloted CLAIMS 4.0 at Chicago District Office and Nebraska Service Center.
- INS expanded CLAIMS 4.0 to remaining three service centers during June 1998 for all new applications filed.
- INS expanded CLAIMS 4.0 to process naturalization applications reaching first interview in Miami, New York City, Newark, and Houston.
- INS began expansion of CLAIMS 4.0 to San Francisco.
- INS began expansion of CLAIMS 4.0 to Charlotte.
- INS delayed expansion of CLAIMS 4.0 to Los Angeles, pending facility changes, until February 1999.

Backlog Reduction**Backlog Reduction Plans**

Project Objective: To promote planned use of resources and predictable production.

FY 1998 Accomplishments

- Backlog Reduction Plans for all offices processing naturalization applications were received as of August 31, 1998.
- Local offices, with the regions and headquarters backlog reduction teams, established production projections for each office for the months of June and September 1998. INS will continue to project production on an office-by-office basis for each quarter of FY 1999. These projections will be used to promote planning and increase predictability in production.

Deployment of supplemental resources

Project Objective: To improve production by increasing resources in a targeted approach.

FY 1998 Accomplishments

- Distributed \$2.8 million to support overtime.
- Distributed \$1.0 million to fund rehired annuitant positions.
- Distributed \$2.4 million for contractor clerical support.
- Distributed \$82,000 for contractor support.
- Distributed \$5.6 million for facilities, equipment, and other support activities.

Customer Service

Availability of Immigration Services Information on the INS website

Project Objective: To increase the information available to applicants and advocates on process changes.

FY 1998 Accomplishments

- INS created a new section of the INS website devoted to naturalization, which includes eligibility information and information on how and where to apply for naturalization. It also contains an interactive citizenship practice test and houses the community "NatzNews" publication.
- INS added 27 additional immigration forms in downloadable format, including the N-400 "Application for Naturalization," to the website.
- INS' website includes instructions on fingerprinting and fingerprinting exceptions for all applications, as well as information related to the upcoming fee changes.

Development of "Guide to Naturalization" and new N-400, Application for Naturalization

Project Objective: To improve communication with and provide information to our customers prior to their applying for naturalization.

FY 1998 Accomplishments

- INS developed the "Guide" and the new N-400.
- Commissioner approved the "Guide" and the new N-400.
- INS requested funding for production of the "Guide" and the N-400 in FY 1999 Reprogramming.

Creation of Immigration Services Division

Project Objective: Creation of new organizational structure within existing operational unit.

FY 1998 Accomplishments

- The Office of Naturalization Operations and the operational components for all other immigration benefits were merged and placed under the authority of the Executive Associate Commissioner for the Office of Field Operations.
- William R. Yates named as Acting Deputy Executive Associate Commissioner for the new Immigration Services Division.
- INS developed a structure for the Immigration Services Division and named managers for key units.

National Immigration Forum

To: Leeann Shimabakuro
Company : LEEANN SHIMABAKURO
Fax Number : 202-456-7028
Phone Number : 202-456-5574

→ Julie F.
R-1

From : Judy Mark
Fax Number : 202-544-1905
Phone Number : 202-544-0004

Time Sent : Friday, Sep 11, 1998 05:40PM
Pages : 2
Description : ÉÃ

Campaign for American Citizenship

PRESS CONFERENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 11, 1998

Contact: Debra Dixon
(202) 544-0004, ext. 13

CITIZENSHIP DAY 1998: LAWMAKERS JOIN IMMIGRANTS TO DEMAND REFORMS AND RESOURCES FOR AILING CITIZENSHIP PROCESS

- What?** Hundreds of legal immigrants, many of whom are waiting to become citizens, will come to Washington on September 17, Citizenship Day. Members of Congress who support reforms and an increase in resources for the naturalization program will address the participants.
- When?** **Thursday, September 17, 1998**
1:00 pm
- Where?** **Rayburn B-340**
- Who?** **Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA)**
Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-IL)
Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY)
Rep. Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)
Rep. Patsy Mink (D-HI)
Al Cardenas, Vice-chairman, Florida Republican Party.
Other representatives of national and local organizations will speak on behalf of legal immigrants stuck in the citizenship backlog.
- Why?** There are currently 1.9 million immigrants waiting to become U.S. citizens. A legal immigrant submitting an application today can expect to wait anywhere from two to four years before being sworn in. The Clinton Administration has proposed reforms and requested \$171 million in reprogrammed funds to beef up staffing and technology. Congress and the Administration will decide in the next few weeks whether to take urgent action to rescue the nation's bridge to citizenship from total collapse.

-30-

National Immigration Forum

To: Cynthia Rice
Company : CYNTHIA RICE
Fax Number : 202-456-7431
Phone Number : 202-456-2846

From : Judy Mark
Fax Number : 202-544-1905
Phone Number 202-544-0004

Time Sent : **Friday, Sep 11, 1998 05:40PM**
 Pages : **2**
 Description : **ÉÃ**

Campaign for American Citizenship

PRESS CONFERENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 11, 1998

Contact: Debra Dixon
(202) 544-0004, ext. 13

CITIZENSHIP DAY 1998: LAWMAKERS JOIN IMMIGRANTS TO DEMAND REFORMS AND RESOURCES FOR AILING CITIZENSHIP PROCESS

- What?** Hundreds of legal immigrants, many of whom are waiting to become citizens, will come to Washington on September 17, Citizenship Day. Members of Congress who support reforms and an increase in resources for the naturalization program will address the participants.
- When?** Thursday, September 17, 1998
1:00 pm
- Where?** Rayburn B-340
- Who?** Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA)
Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-IL)
Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY)
Rep. Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)
Rep. Patsy Mink (D-HI)
Al Cardenas, Vice-chairman, Florida Republican Party.
Other representatives of national and local organizations will speak on behalf of legal immigrants stuck in the citizenship backlog
- Why?** There are currently 1.9 million immigrants waiting to become U.S. citizens. A legal immigrant submitting an application today can expect to wait anywhere from two to four years before being sworn in. The Clinton Administration has proposed reforms and requested \$171 million in reprogrammed funds to beef up staffing and technology. Congress and the Administration will decide in the next few weeks whether to take urgent action to rescue the nation's bridge to citizenship from total collapse.

-30-

National Immigration Forum

To: Leeann Shimabakuro
Company : LEEANN SHIMABAKURO
Fax Number : 202-456-7028
Phone Number : 202-456-5574

From :
Fax Number : 202-544-1905
Phone Number 202-544-0004 ext .20

Time Sent : Wednesday, Oct 7, 1998 06:26PM
Pages : 4
Description : 1-

For Your Information -

The attached letter, about the reprogramming request for naturalization, has gone out to all members of the House and Senate.

Citizenship Backlog Needs Congressional Attention

Congress Should Approve INS Reprogramming Request

October 7, 1998

Dear Representative,

We are writing to ask for your help in addressing problems with the naturalization process that are keeping hundreds of thousands of legal immigrants from realizing their dream of becoming U.S. citizens.

The Administration has a request pending before Congress to reprogram \$171 million needed by the Immigration Service for processing the backlog of applications for U.S. citizenship. The request was made by the Administration on August 7, 1998, in letters to the Chairs of the House and Senate Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations Subcommittees. The request requires the approval of the Chairs of those Subcommittees. The request should be approved before Congress adjourns. The Administration is *not* asking for additional money, but is asking that previously appropriated, but unspent, funds be used to reduce the backlog of citizenship applications.

The Administration is already planning to charge immigrants more for citizenship beginning in mid-January of next year. Fees will be raised from \$95 to \$225, even though it will pose a hardship for some immigrants. The Administration is also making structural and personnel changes within the INS designed to improve the efficiency of the naturalization processing system.

With the reprogrammed funds—as well as the increased fees charged to immigrants applying for citizenship—the Immigration Service will be able to hire additional staff and to make the changes needed to increase the efficiency of the naturalization application process. Without approval of the reprogramming request, there will be little prospect that immigrants applying for citizenship will have their application processed in a reasonable timeframe, even as the fees that they pay for this service more than double. Anxious prospective citizens will languish in the backlog for years longer before acquiring the cherished rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Your support on this issue is crucial to reduce the wait of *two years* now faced by the nearly *two million* applicants lost in the backlog. The process by which immigrants become citizens should be a welcoming one, and Congress can help make it one.

Thank you for your support on this matter.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

American Association of Jews from the Former USSR
American Immigration Lawyers Association
Arab American Institute
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO
B'nai B'rith
Council of Jewish Federations
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
Hermandad Mexicana Nacional
Immigration and Refugee Services of America
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium
National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials
National Council of La Raza
National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NAFFAA)
National Immigration Forum
National Korean American Service and Education Consortium
Organization of Chinese Americans
Polish American Congress
Presbyterian Church (USA), Washington Office
Union of Needletrades Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE)

Local Organizations and Governments

Albuquerque Border City Project, Albuquerque, NM
American Beginnings, Yuma, AZ
Asian American Civic Association, Boston, MA
Asian Community Mental Health Services, Oakland, CA
Asian Law Alliance, San Jose, CA
Asylum and Refugee Rights Law Project of the Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights,
Washington, DC
Berkeley Adult School, Berkeley, CA
Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of New Orleans, LA
Catholic Charities, Refugee and Immigrant Services, San Diego, CA
Catholic Charities, Immigrant Services, Honolulu HI
Center for Public Policy Priorities, Austin, TX
County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
D.C. Community Coalition, Washington, DC
Diocese of Providence, Office of Immigration and Refugee Services, Providence, RI
East Bay Citizenship Network, Oakland, CA
English Action Center, Richmond, CA
Filipinos for Affirmative Action, Oakland, CA

Freemont Adult School, Freemont, CA
Foreign Born Information and Referral Network, Columbia, MD
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights, Chicago, IL
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Migration Service, Philadelphia, PA
Hood River Valley Legalization Project, Hood River, OR
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Chicago, IL
Immigration Law Project, St. Louis, MO
International Institute of Boston, Boston, MA
International Institute of New Jersey, Jersey City, NJ
International Institute of Rhode Island, Providence, RI
Jewish Family and Children's Service of Southern New Jersey, Cherry Hill, NJ
Jewish Family Service, Division of Jewish Federation of Greater Clifton/Passaic, Clifton, NJ
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, Chicago, IL
Kassouf Foundation, Irvine, CA
Korean American Coalition, Washington, DC
Literacy South, Durham, NC
Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas, Greensboro, NC
Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas, Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services, Raleigh, NC
Lutheran Family Services, Refugee Office, Columbia, SC
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Fargo, ND
Lutheran Ministries of Georgia, Atlanta, GA
Lutheran Social Services of Michigan, Refugee and Immigration Services, Southfield, MI
Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota, Sioux Falls, SD
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, Boston, MA
Migration and Refugee Services, Dioceses of Trenton, Trenton, NJ
New Jersey Catholic Conference, Trenton, NJ
New Jersey Immigration Policy Network, Newark, NJ
New York Association for New Americans, Inc. (NYANA), New York, NY
New York Immigration Coalition, New York, NY
North Texas Immigration Coalition, Dallas, TX
Northern California Coalition for Immigrant Rights, San Francisco, CA
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Seattle, WA
Office of Human Relations and Human Relations Commission, County of Santa Clara, San Jose, CA
Riverside Language Program, New York, NY
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, San Jose, CA
SEACM, a Ministry to Refugees and Immigrants, Reading, CA
Services and Immigrant Rights and Education Network, San Jose, CA
Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees, Portland, OR
Texas Immigration and Refugee Coalition, Dallas, TX
Travelers Aid/Victim Services, New York, NY
Tressler Lutheran Services, Mechanicsburg, PA
United Neighborhood Houses of New York, New York, NY
United Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Austin, TX
VIVE, Inc., Buffalo, NY

National Immigration Forum

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 7, 1998

Contact: Angela Kelley
(202) 544-0004, ext. 19

DESPITE FEE INCREASE, ADMINISTRATION'S NATURALIZATION INITIATIVE A DRAMATIC STEP FORWARD

The Clinton Administration and the Immigration and Naturalization Service are announcing today the following in respect to the naturalization program: an increase in resources, management reforms, and a delay in the implementation of an increase in application fees from \$95 to \$225.

The National Immigration Forum commends the Clinton Administration for seeking an infusion of desperately needed resources and instituting long-overdue management reforms for the naturalization system. However, the proposed increase in fees is a bitter pill to swallow because it comes at a time when the nation's citizenship program is in a state of serious disarray.

"This is a dramatic step forward. The Clinton Administration has realized that the citizenship program needs to be fixed, and that can only happen with resources and reforms," said Frank Sharry, Executive Director of the National Immigration Forum.

"We will be working to ensure that any additional resources be used exclusively for naturalization processing and that they are used wisely," said Sharry. "But it is likely that far more will need to be done eliminate the backlog and bring the application processing time down to six months."

The citizenship backlog remains at record levels with 1.9 million immigrants said to be waiting from 2-4 years to naturalize.

The National Immigration Forum also calls on the I.N.S. to ensure that an adequate fee waiver policy is put into effect for those who cannot afford the increase in the application fee.