KPMG

Immigration News Highlights

2026 - 40, 07 October 2026

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

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Americas | Asia Pacific | Europe and Africa

Americas

Canada

Canada announced funding for new initiatives to strengthen Francophone immigration and support Francophone minority communities

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada announced on 29 September 2026 an investment of approximately CAD1.2 million under the Francophone Immigration Support Program to support new projects promoting Francophone immigration and community development. The update includes a Newfoundland and Labrador initiative aimed at attracting Francophone and bilingual talent to address labor shortages and support population growth, as well as a Saskatchewan project focused on matching local labor market needs with international Francophone talent. IRCC also announced the implementation of the “Osez le Nord” promotional strategy to encourage Francophone immigration to Northern Ontario and support the regionalization of immigration. In addition, the government highlighted its ongoing commitment to Francophone immigration, noting that French-speaking permanent residents represented 8.9 percent of admissions outside Quebec in 2025 and that recruitment and integration efforts continue to support the vitality of Francophone minority communities across Canada.

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United States

United States implemented a visa bond requirement for certain B-1/B-2 visa applicants from designated countries

US Department of State announced on 02 October 2026 that nationals of specified countries applying for B-1/B-2 visitor visas may be required to post a visa bond before visa issuance under the visa bond program established pursuant to Section 221(g)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. The update requires affected applicants, if directed by a consular officer, to post a bond of US$10,000, US$15,000, or US$20,000 and submit Form I-352 before a visa may be issued. The requirement applies to eligible nationals from designated countries regardless of the location where the visa application is submitted. In addition, visa bond holders must comply with specific travel and visa conditions, including use of designated commercial airports of entry and timely departure from the US, for the bond to be cancelled and refunded.

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United States implemented updated EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program fees to support processing and integrity measures

US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced on 29 September 2026 updated fees for the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program to ensure full cost recovery for program administration and compliance activities. The update is intended to support statutory processing time objectives and strengthen program integrity measures, including audits, site visits, compliance reviews, and fraud prevention initiatives. USCIS stated that the fee adjustments implement requirements under the EB-5 Reform and Integrity Act of 2022, which directed the agency to establish program-specific fees that cover operational costs. The new fee structure is scheduled to take effect on 30 November 2026 following the completion of the rulemaking process initiated in October 2025.

Read more

United States implemented the transition to electronic admission records by ending routine passport stamping at ports of entry

US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced on 01 October 2026 that it will cease the routine use of admission stamps during primary processing as part of its broader modernization initiatives. The update is intended to reduce processing times and operating costs while supporting a more efficient arrival experience for travelers. Admission stamps may still be issued in limited circumstances, including during secondary processing, immigrant visa processing, or upon a traveler's request. Travelers can access evidence of admission, authorized stay information, and five years of arrival records through the CBP I-94 website or the CBP Link mobile application. CBP also reminded airline stakeholders of the importance of submitting accurate and timely Advance Passenger Information System data, as this information supports travelers' admission records and related services.

Read more

United States implemented an inflation-adjusted increase to the ESTA travel authorization fee

US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced on 01 October 2026 an inflation-adjusted increase to the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) fee. The update takes effect on 16 October 2026 and increases the ESTA fee from US$40.27 to US$40.62 for approved applications

submitted on or after that date. The fee adjustment is part of the annual inflation review required under H.R. 1 and affects travelers using the Visa Waiver Program to visit the United States for authorized short-term stays. Existing valid ESTA authorizations remain unaffected and do not require any additional payment or reapplication.

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Asia Pacific

Cambodia

Cambodia implemented electronic visa issuance at overseas embassies and consulates by ending passport visa stickers

Cambodia Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation announced on 03 October 2026 that Cambodian embassies and consulates worldwide have stopped issuing visas as physical stickers in passports and have transitioned to electronic visa issuance. The update follows earlier enhancements to Cambodia's e-Visa system, including the expansion of additional visa categories and the introduction of QR code-based visa certificates. While application procedures may continue to vary between diplomatic missions, visas issued through Cambodian diplomatic posts are provided electronically rather than as passport stickers. In addition, the change forms part of Cambodia's broader digitalization efforts, which also include the use of electronic visas and the Cambodia e-Arrival system for traveler processing.

Read more

New Zealand

New Zealand implemented a hybrid selection model for Parent Resident Visa expressions of interest

New Zealand Immigration announced on 05 October 2026 the implementation of a new hybrid selection model for all valid Parent Resident Visa expressions of interest (EOIs). The update places all valid EOIs into a single selection pool, with approximately 90 percent of applications to be selected in date order through a queue and around 10 percent selected through a random ballot process. The annual approval-in-principle cap of 2,500 Parent Resident Visas remains unchanged. Existing EOI holders are not required to take any action and will receive information about their queue position once transitional arrangements and final ordering have been completed, with the first selection round under the new model scheduled for 10 November 2026.

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Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia clarified Nitaqat employment contract requirements and workforce counting rules for Saudi nationals

Saudi Arabia's Qiwa platform announced on 01 October 2026 clarification of employment contract requirements affecting the calculation of Saudi employees under the Nitaqat Saudization program. The update specifies that, to be counted under Nitaqat, a Saudi employee must have a valid employment contract registered in Qiwa, meet the applicable salary threshold of at least SAR4,000, and not exceed five employment contracts during the

previous 52 weeks. The clarification also confirms that Saudi employees may hold a maximum of two active employment contracts at the same time, while certain conditions do not apply to part-time employees or students. In addition, the guidance outlines restrictions related to contract issuance and employment history, aimed at strengthening compliance and workforce reporting under the Saudization framework.

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Europe and Africa

Denmark

Denmark implemented updates to the AR6 online application to facilitate Quick Job Start requests under the Fast-Track Scheme

Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration (SIRI) announced on 01 October 2026 updates to its AR6 online application system to simplify requests for the Quick Job Start option under the Fast-Track Scheme. The update introduces a dedicated Quick Job Start section within the application, allowing employers to indicate whether an applicant requires expedited processing. For visa-exempt applicants, employers can request Quick Job Start and arrange an appointment for a provisional work permit after submitting the application. For applicants who require a visa, the update requires biometric enrolment within 14 days of application submission, with employment permitted only after a decision has been issued on the case.

Read more

Denmark implemented new residence permit rules for third-country students and accompanying family members

Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration (SIRI) announced on 30 September 2026 that new rules for third-country students enrolled in state-approved higher education programs in Denmark will take effect on 01 October 2026. The update reduces the post-study job-seeking residence permit period from three years to one year for eligible students who apply on or after 01 October 2026. In addition, accompanying spouses, cohabiting partners, registered partners, and children of students applying on or after that date will generally no longer be eligible for residence permits as accompanying family members. PhD students remain exempt from these changes and continue to be eligible for up to three years of job-seeking residence permission after graduation, while their accompanying family members may also continue to obtain residence permits under the existing rules.

Read more

Denmark updated the Positive List for People with a Higher Education to include an additional occupation

Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration (SIRI) announced on 01 October 2026 an update to the Positive List for People with a Higher Education, effective from the same date. The update was made following recommendations from the Regional Labour Market Councils and adds the occupation of midwife to the list. The newly added occupation applies only to the geographical area covered by the Regional Labour Market Councils of Eastern Denmark. The revised list expands eligibility under the Positive List framework for qualified applicants seeking residence and work opportunities in Denmark.

Read more

Denmark updated guidance on the application of the rule of presumption in residence and work permit assessments

Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration (SIRI) announced on 05 October 2026 an updated practice note outlining how the rule of presumption is applied during the assessment of residence and work permit applications under eligible work schemes. The update replaces the previous guidance issued in 2021 and provides a more comprehensive overview of the factors considered when evaluating cases subject to the rule of presumption. The revised practice reflects current decision-making practices and incorporates developments arising from decisions issued by SIRI and the Immigration Appeals Board. The guidance applies to work permit schemes covered by the rule of presumption and is intended to support consistent application of the relevant provisions in the Danish Aliens Act.

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Hungary

Hungary implemented online reporting procedures for guest self-employed residence permit holders through the Enter Hungary platform

Hungary National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing announced on 05 October 2026 that holders of valid residence permit for guest self-employment can fulfil their mandatory regular reporting obligations through the Enter Hungary electronic immigration platform. The update allows applicants to submit the required reporting form electronically via the online system used for immigration-related procedures. The authority also noted that compliance with this reporting obligation remains a prerequisite for obtaining an extension of a guest self-employment residence permit. As a result, affected residence permit holders are encouraged to use the Enter Hungary platform for all future reporting requirements.

Read more

Hungary implemented updated procedures and requirements for student residence permit applications and extensions

Hungary National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing announced on 05 October 2026 updated guidance for student residence permit applicants and holders regarding application, extension, and document collection procedures. The update outlines required supporting documents, including proof of student status, accommodation, financial resources, and health insurance, and requires applicants to attend the competent regional office following notification through the Enter Hungary system. Applicants may also be required to submit additional documentation through the online platform before a decision is issued. In addition, the guidance provides updated administrative fee information and confirms that residence permit cards will be delivered to the educational institution after approval.

Read more

Hungary implemented legislative amendments restricting new applications for guest worker residence permits

Hungary National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing announced on 05 June 2026 amendments to the regulations governing residence permits for guest workers. The update provides that, from 06 June 2026, third-country nationals can no longer submit new applications for guest worker residence permits because there are no designated third

countries whose nationals are eligible to apply under the revised framework. Applications already submitted with the required administrative fee paid by 05 June 2026 will continue to be processed under the previous rules, and existing permit holders may still apply for extensions or reissuance of their permits. The amendment does not affect residence permit categories issued for other purposes, while further legislative reviews and potential changes to Hungary's framework for the employment of third-country nationals are expected.

Read more

Hungary updated notification procedures for residence permit refusal decisions and appeal deadlines

Hungary's Directorate-General for Aliens Policing announced on 02 October 2026 that refusal decisions relating to residence permit applications submitted through diplomatic missions, as well as certain national permanent residence permit extension applications, may be served by public notice. The organization stated that applicants will also be informed through the relevant diplomatic mission, while emphasizing that the legal effect of service is based solely on the public notice publication. The Directorate-General clarified that a decision is deemed served on the 15th day after publication on its website and that appeals against refusal or procedure termination decisions must generally be lodged within eight days of service. For rejected applications to extend national permanent residence permits issued in the interests of the national economy, the appeal period is 15 days. The organization advised applicants to monitor public notices regularly and pay close attention to applicable appeal deadlines.

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Poland

Poland announced the extension of temporary border controls with Germany and Lithuania to address irregular migration concerns

Poland Ministry of the Interior announced on 01 October 2026 that temporary border controls at the country's borders with Germany and Lithuania will be extended for an additional six months until 30 March 2027. The update is intended to strengthen border security and manage irregular migration pressures. According to the authorities, since the controls were reintroduced in July 2025, entry has been denied to nearly 1,300 individuals at the Lithuanian border and nearly 1,200 individuals at the German border. The government stated that the extended measures are designed to support migration management efforts and enhance security at Poland's internal European Union borders.

Read more

Sweden

Sweden implemented new family immigration rules for young adults and family reunification applicants

Sweden Migration Agency announced on 01 October 2026 the implementation of new rules governing residence permits based on family ties. The update allows certain young adults who previously held residence permits linked to a parent to apply for an extension from within Sweden after turning 18, including, during a transitional period, some individuals who have already received expulsion decisions. In addition, a temporary measure valid until 31 December 2027 allows eligible individuals to apply for certain residence permits from within Sweden without first leaving the country, provided they meet the relevant permit requirements. The new legislation also introduces stricter family immigration conditions, including a general requirement that sponsors holding temporary residence permits must have resided in Sweden

for at least two years before a family member applies and enhanced maintenance requirements for both new and extension applications.

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Switzerland

Switzerland and India signed migration and youth mobility agreements to strengthen bilateral cooperation

The Swiss Federal Council announced on 05 October 2026 that Switzerland and India strengthened bilateral cooperation across migration, economic, education, and research matters during a state visit to India. The organization reported the conclusion of two agreements negotiated by the State Secretariat for Migration: a Migration and Mobility Partnership and an agreement on the exchange of young professionals. The Migration and Mobility Partnership formalizes existing migration cooperation, promotes legal mobility, and strengthens collaboration in education, science, and labor market matters. The young professionals exchange agreement enables eligible young citizens of both countries to undertake training or professional development placements in the other country and supports the development of professional and language skills. The organization also highlighted ongoing cooperation in trade, investment, research, artificial intelligence, and multilateral engagement between the two countries.

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Uganda

Uganda removed the yellow fever vaccination certificate requirement for entry and tourist visa applications

Uganda National Citizenship and Immigration Control (NCIC) announced on 02 October 2026 that travelers are no longer required to present a yellow fever vaccination certificate when entering Uganda. The update confirms that the certificate requirement has been removed from the country's entry requirements and from the documentation required for tourist visa applications. Travelers applying for tourist visa are still required to submit standard supporting documents and obtain visa approval before travel. While the certificate is no longer mandatory for immigration purposes, health authorities continue to recommend yellow fever vaccination for travelers visiting Uganda due to the ongoing public health risk of transmission.

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United Kingdom

United Kingdom closed the UK/European Applicant Transfer Scheme to new applications

UK Visas and Immigration announced on 01 October 2026 that the UK/European Applicant Transfer Scheme has been closed to new applications. The organization stated that individuals who have already submitted an application will be informed of the outcome in due course. The scheme was designed to allow eligible individuals in France, and certain accompanying family members, to enter the United Kingdom legally and, if successful, receive entry clearance for up to three months. UK Visas and Immigration confirmed that existing applications will continue to be processed under the established scheme procedures, including identity verification and biometric appointments. The organization also reiterated that successful applicants would not be permitted to work, study, or access public funds under this temporary entry clearance.

Read more

United Kingdom updated right to rent guidance for landlords and immigration status verification requirements

UK Visas and Immigration updated its landlord right to rent guidance on 01 October 2026, setting out revised requirements for verifying the immigration status of adult occupants in residential properties in England. The organization introduced updates relating to digital right to rent checks, including mandatory use of registered Digital Verification Service Providers for digital verification services and expanded use of eVisas as evidence of immigration status. UK Visas and Immigration also updated acceptable document requirements, reflected the removal of visa vignettes as evidence of immigration permission from 01 July 2026, and clarified procedures for European Economic Area citizens, their family members, and holders of digital immigration status. The guidance further outlines landlord responsibilities for conducting initial and follow-up right to rent checks, retaining records, and using Home Office verification services where required. The organization stated that landlords who comply with the prescribed.

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