



Immigration News Highlights

2022-36, 6 September 2022



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



Americas

Antigua and Barbuda

[Antigua and Barbuda Lifts All COVID-related Entry Restrictions](#)

The Tourism Authority of the twin islands of Antigua and Barbuda announced the abolishing of all COVID related entry restrictions. Travelers are now welcome in the country regardless of their vaccination status. [Read more.](#)

United States

[USCIS Updates Guidance Related to Religious Workers](#)

The USCIS issued an updated guidance related to special immigrant and nonimmigrant religious workers. The guidance covers details pertaining to religious worker filing process, verification of evidence, and the site-inspection process. [Read more.](#)



Asia Pacific

Australia

[Australia is relaxing visa rules to ease unprecedented labor shortage](#)

Australia has increased the visa quota to 109,900 for several skilled visa categories like the Skilled Independent visa, in a bid to combat their labor shortage. [Read more](#)

Bahrain

[New multiple entry e-visa announced with 6 month validity](#)

Bahrain's Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA) authority announced the launch of a new multiple-entry e-visa. The visa shall be issued to a trainer or trainee in the government or private sector for the purpose of training, and will be valid for a period of six months. [Read more](#)

Israel

[Israel enacts new visa rules for spouses visiting the West bank](#)

Israeli authorities enacted new visa requirements for those visiting the West Bank. According to the enactment, a foreigner maintaining spousal relations with a resident of Judea or Samaria would be required to apply for a visa permit, which shall be valid for a maximum period of 1 year. [Read more](#)

Kuwait

[Kuwait authorities have stopped issuing entry visas to family and tourists](#)

The Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior has suspended the issuance of family visit visas and tourist visas, effective immediately. However, this excludes e-visas and visas-on-arrival issued to nationals of select countries. [Read more](#)

Saudi Arabia

[Saudi Arabia eases tourist visa requirements for GCC, other countries](#)

Saudi Arabia amended their tourist visa and e-visa policy for residents of the Gulf Cooperation Council, United States, Britain and the EU, allowing them to apply for e-visas. Residents or holders of a tourist or business visa to the US, UK and the Schengen Area are also eligible for a visa on arrival. [Read more](#)

Saudi Arabia

[Saudi Arabia and Indonesia sign bilateral agreement on domestic workers](#)

On 11 August 2022, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia signed a bilateral agreement aiming to increase the number of Indonesian domestic workers in the Kingdom. Companies can now recruit workers directly through a “single-channel system”, simplifying the recruitment process. [Read more](#)

Singapore

[Modifications to be made to the work pass framework](#)

Singapore has announced changes to their work pass framework. Authorities will now process Employment Pass (EP) applications in two weeks instead of three, and employers will be required to advertise jobs for 14 days instead of the previous 28. [Read more](#)

Sri Lanka

[Sri Lanka introduces five-year multiple-entry tourist visa scheme](#)

The Sri Lankan government extended the validity of their multiple entry tourist visa to five years. This has been done in an effort to boost the tourism industry amid the economic crisis. [Read more](#)

Taiwan

[Taiwan re-instates visa free entry to specific countries](#)

Taiwanese authorities are set to restore visa-exempt entry for residents of US, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Europe and their diplomatic-ally nations. Arrivals would still be required to observe a three-day quarantine as a COVID prevention measure. [Read more](#)



Europe and Africa

Denmark

[New guidelines regarding bookings for preliminary permits](#)

The government of Denmark has stopped taking same-day biometrics appointments for quick start job applications through the Fast Track program. Applicants must now book their appointments at least one business day before their appointment date of choice [Read more](#)

France

[France to Remove Schengen Visa Cap for Tunisians](#)

The French authorities have removed a restrictive measure imposed on Tunisian nationals, which had previously allowed only a limited number of visa applications to be processed by the French embassy in Tunisia. [Read more](#)

Portugal

[Portugal Eases Visa Rules for Portuguese-Speaking Countries Amid Shortage of Workers](#)

In a bid to tackle labor shortage, Portuguese authorities have eased the movement to Portugal for citizens of eight Portuguese-speaking countries. Nationals of these countries will be granted preliminary visa applications, along with other simplifications in the visa application process. [Read more](#)

Turkey

[Turkey Warns of Imposing Visa Requirement for Schengen Citizens](#)

Turkish authorities are reportedly planning to impose visa requirements, as a reciprocal measure against the refusal of Schengen visas for Turkish nationals by Schengen associated countries. [Read more](#)

United
Kingdom

[Scale-up visa launched](#)

The British authorities have announced the launch of the Scale-Up visa, allowing businesses to employ high-skilled individuals who will receive 2 years' leave to remain in the UK without requiring further sponsorship or permission beyond the first 6 months . [Read more](#)



Thomas Wolf
Head of KPMG's Global
Immigration Network
T: +49 30 530199-300
E: twolf@kpmg-law.com

[social.kpmg](#)



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