If you're waiting for a family-based green card — whether you were sponsored by a U.S. citizen parent, spouse, sibling, or a permanent resident family member — the monthly priority date updates from the U.S. Department of State directly impact when you can move forward with your case.

This month brings **unusually large forward movement** across multiple family-sponsored categories. Here's everything you need to know.

What Are Priority Dates and Why Do They Matter?

Every family-based green card petition is assigned a **priority date** — the date your Form I-130 petition was filed. Think of it as your place in line. The U.S. government releases updated cut-off dates each month, and your green card can only move forward once your priority date is earlier than the posted cut-off.

There are two charts to watch:

- **Final Action Dates** — When a visa number is actually available and your case can be **approved**.
- **Dates for Filing** — When you can **submit** your I-485 (Adjustment of Status) application, even before a visa number is fully available. This month, USCIS has confirmed applicants should use this chart for filing.

F-1: Unmarried Sons & Daughters of U.S. Citizens

Final Action Dates

Rest of World	China (Mainland)	India	Mexico	Philippines
Jan 22, 2021	Jan 22, 2021	Jan 22, 2021	Sep 22, 2008	Nov 1, 2013

Dates for Filing

Rest of World	China (Mainland)	India	Mexico	Philippines
Feb 1, 2021	Feb 1, 2021	Feb 1, 2021	Dec 1, 2008	Apr 22, 2015

What this means: F-1 saw roughly **one year of forward movement** for Rest of World, China, and India — a significant jump. Mexico (Sep 2008) and Philippines (Nov 2013) continue to face much longer waits, with backlogs of approximately 18 and 13 years respectively.

F-2A: Spouses & Minor Children of Permanent Residents

Final Action Dates

Rest of World	China (Mainland)	India	Mexico	Philippines
Oct 22, 2026	Oct 22, 2026	Oct 22, 2026	Apr 22, 2026	Oct 22, 2026

Dates for Filing

Rest of World	China (Mainland)	India	Mexico	Philippines
Current	Current	Current	Current	Current

What this means: Great news for this category. The Final Action Date is nearly current (Oct 22, 2026), and the **Filing chart is fully Current across all countries** — meaning if you're the spouse or minor child of a permanent resident, you can file your I-485 application **right now** regardless of your country of birth.

F-2B: Unmarried Sons & Daughters (21+) of Permanent Residents

Final Action Dates

Rest of World	China (Mainland)	India	Mexico	Philippines
Aug 22, 2020	Aug 22, 2020	Aug 22, 2020	May 15, 2010	Oct 1, 2013

Dates for Filing

Rest of World	China (Mainland)	India	Mexico	Philippines
Sep 1, 2020	Sep 1, 2020	Sep 1, 2020	Mar 22, 2011	Oct 1, 2014

What this means: F-2B also advanced by approximately **one year** for Rest of World, China, and India. The backlog is currently about 6 years for general categories. Mexico (May 2010) faces a 16-year wait, and Philippines (Oct 2013) a 13-year wait.

F-3: Married Sons & Daughters of U.S. Citizens

Final Action Dates

Rest of World	China (Mainland)	India	Mexico	Philippines
Oct 22, 2015	Oct 22, 2015	Oct 22, 2015	Jul 15, 2001	Jul 22, 2006

What this means: F-3 moved forward by roughly **one year** for Rest of World, China, and India — now at October 2015 (about an 11-year backlog). Mexico sits at July 2001 — a staggering **25-year wait**. Philippines is at July 2006, roughly a 20-year backlog.

F-4: Siblings of Adult U.S. Citizens

Final Action Dates

Rest of World	China (Mainland)	India	Mexico	Philippines
Oct 22, 2012	Oct 22, 2012	Dec 15, 2006	Apr 22, 2001	May 15, 2008

What this means: F-4 also saw approximately **one year of forward movement** for Rest of World and China. India's F-4 (Dec 2006) carries a 20-year backlog. Mexico remains the most severely impacted at April 2001 — a **25-year wait** for siblings of U.S. citizens.

This Month at a Glance

Category	Biggest Highlight
F-1	~1 year forward for ROW/China/India
F-2A	Filing chart is **Current** for all countries — file now
F-2B	~1 year forward for ROW/China/India
F-3	~1 year forward for ROW/China/India
F-4	~1 year forward for ROW/China

What Should You Do Now?

1. Find Your Priority Date

Your priority date is on your **Form I-797 (Approval Notice)** — the notice you received when your I-130 family petition was approved. This date determines your place in line.

2. Check If You Can File

Compare your priority date to the **Dates for Filing** chart above for your category and country of birth. If your priority date is *earlier* than the cut-off shown, you're eligible to file your I-485.

3. Prepare Your Application Package

If you're eligible to file, start gathering:

- Form I-485 (Application to Register Permanent Residence)
- Form I-765 (Application for Employment Authorization / EAD)
- Form I-131 (Application for Travel Document / Advance Parole)
- Civil documents (birth certificates, marriage certificates)
- Medical examination (Form I-693)
- Passport-style photographs

- Affidavit of Support (Form I-864)

4. Don’t Delay — Filing Windows Can Close

Priority dates can **retrogress** (move backward) in future months. If you’re eligible to file now, we strongly recommend doing so promptly. Filing your I-485 also lets you apply for a **work permit (EAD)** and **travel document (Advance Parole)**, giving you immediate practical benefits while your green card case is pending.