

MARKETPLACE

JOURNAL

IMMIGRATION CORNER



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The June 2009 priority dates

The Third Preference Category, F-3 (married sons and daughters of United States citizens) priority date moved forward by 9 days from June 22, 1991 to July 1, 1991.

The Fourth Preference, F-4 (brothers and sisters of United States citizens) priority date moved forward by 24 days from July 8, 1986 to August 1, 1986.

Petitions by green card-holders

The Second Preference, F-2A (Spouse and minor children

(below 21 years old) of green card holder) moved forward by 2 months and 7 days, from October 8, 2004, to December 15, 2004.

The Second Preference, F-2B (unmarried sons and daughters, over 21 years of age, of green card holders) moved forward by 2 months, from February 1, 1998 to April 1, 1998.

Petitions by employers

The Third Preference (professionals and skilled workers) of Employment-Based Petitions (Labor Certification) remains unavailable. The priority date for unskilled (other) workers also remains unavailable.

Each month, the Visa Office of the State Department publishes the priority dates for that particular month. This means that visas (or green cards) would now be available for persons whose priority date is earlier than the cut-off date listed below. If your priority date was "current", but

retrogressed before your immigrant visa was issued (or before you adjusted status in the US), you would have to wait until it becomes current again.

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The June priority dates for the Philippines are as follows:

FAMILY CATEGORY:		Priority Date
First Preference	Unmarried sons and daughters of US citizens (over 21 years of age)	September 1, 1993 <i>(In May 2009, the priority date was August 1, 1993)</i>
Second Preference	2A. Spouse and minor children (below 21 years old) of green card holder	December 15, 2004 <i>(In May 2009, the priority date was October 8, 2004)</i>
	2B. Unmarried sons and daughters (over 21 years old) of green card holder	April 1, 1998 <i>(In May 2009, the priority date was February 1, 1998.)</i>
Third Preference	Married sons and daughters of US citizens.	July 1, 1991 <i>(In May 2009, the priority date was June 22, 1991.)</i>
Fourth Preference	Brothers and sisters of US citizens.	August 1, 1986 <i>(In May 2009, the priority date was July 8, 1986.)</i>
LABOR CERTIFICATION:		
Third Preference	Professional/skilled workers	UNAVAILABLE <i>(In May 2009, the priority date was the same.)</i>
Other workers	Non-skilled workers	UNAVAILABLE <i>(In May 2009, the priority date was the same.)</i>

Consumer confidence higher in RP than other countries—poll

by MA. ELISA P. OSORIO
Philstar.com

MANILA—Consumer confidence is higher in the Philippines than other countries with six out of 10 Filipinos saying that there is no significant drop in their personal finances despite the global economic slowdown, according to a survey conducted by AC Nielsen.

The survey, which covered 50 countries, ranked the Philippines as sixth in terms of consumer confidence.

AC Nielsen managing director Victoria R. Santos reported that there was a steep drop in the global consumer confidence for the first half of this year when compared to the second half of 2008.

Santos said that the global consumer confidence index is down to 77 from 84 during the last part of the previous year. Out of the 50 countries surveyed, all posted a drop in consumer confidence except Taiwan.

In the Asia Pacific region, the Philippines was third in terms of consumer confidence with Indonesia and India leading the pact.

In terms of job prospects, there is a moderate sentiment in the Philippines with 43 percent saying that the job market is good or excellent. However, Santos said that job security is still the biggest concern of most Filipinos.

Meanwhile, Filipinos are more confident for the first half of this year when compared to second half of last year with 63 percent saying that their personal finances did not go down significantly.

The survey, likewise, showed that most Filipinos save the extra cash that they have. For the first half of the year, 69 percent said that they will put their spare cash in savings.

This is followed by spending for new clothes with 35 percent saying that they will use their spare cash to purchase apparel. This is closely followed by spending for gadgets and other technology related items with 34 percent.

Only 32 percent said that they will use their spare cash to pay for debts and credit card loans while 27 percent said they will take holidays or vacations.

Only 17 percent of surveyed Filipinos consider investing in stocks or mutual funds while nine percent said they will allocate their money for their retirement fund.

Bangko Sentral sees remittances still driving economy

MANILA—Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. said yesterday a steady remittance inflows could still propel the country's economic growth this year and push the expansion towards the high end of the projected 3.1 to 4.1-percent range.

The level of remittance inflows this year has been the focus of much debate between government economists who see enough resilience to resist a decline and private sector economists who said inflows could decline for the first time since the Philippines started exporting workers.

But the BSP said remittance inflows could even out-perform the flat-growth rate that officials expect, saying that there is a chance for remittances to actually increase.

If the current trend in remittances could be maintained, Tetangco said there would still be an increase in inflows this year, which would continue to finance consumer spending despite the global recession.

Tetangco said there was also cautious optimism over the global financial markets that fueled hopes of the crisis finally bottoming out.

"Of course that is the financial market which some people believe has seen the worst," Tetangco said. "There is a considerable lag time between the recovery of the financial market and its transmission to the real economy but if we see the recovery in major economies that would translate to a corresponding recovery in emerging economies."

As long as the US economy would not suffer a setback, Tetangco said initial indicators of improving prospects could be sustained although he admitted that no one was calling the bottom on the decline of the real economy.

Tetangco explained that with the improvement in the US economy, however small, markets expect sympathetic movements in the other economies as well.

The BSP said the 7.5-percent decline in remittances projected by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is likely an underestimation of inflows that have historically defied projections. *(Philstar.com)*

BUSINESS

Quote of the Week

"You are surrounded by simple, obvious solutions that can dramatically increase your income, power, influence and success. The problem is, you just don't see them."

—Jay Abraham, Author,
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