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Monthly number of refugees resettled in fiscal 2017 drops for most states

Number of U.S. refugees resettled in each state, by month



Note: Data do not include special immigrant visas and certain humanitarian parole entrants. Fiscal year began Oct. 1, 2016. Ordered by states with the highest number of refugees in October 2016.

Source: U.S. State Department's Refugee Processing Center accessed May 22, 2017.

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UNTIL THURSDAY, MAY 25 at 7 A.M. in WASHINGTON, DC

Fewer refugees arrive in U.S., with declines in 46 states

BY PHILLIP CONNOR

The number of refugees entering the United States each month has declined sharply so far in fiscal 2017, falling from 9,945 in October 2016 to 3,316 in April 2017, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of [U.S. State Department](#) data. All but four states reported declines in monthly arrivals.

Nationwide, the number of refugee arrivals decreased in each of the first five months of the fiscal year, the longest consecutive monthly decline on record (monthly data before 2000 are not

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available). In April, however, the number of arriving refugees rose to 3,316, compared with 2,070 in March.

President Donald Trump, by [executive order](#), has ordered a ceiling of 50,000 total refugee arrivals in fiscal 2017, less than half the annual limit set by the [Obama administration](#), though the order's implementation remains tied up in [court proceedings](#). If the new ceiling were in place, the U.S. could resettle a maximum of 7,586 additional refugees during the final five months of the current fiscal year, which ends in September (though refugee ceilings [went unreached](#) until recent years).

Earlier this month, [a group of U.S. senators](#) sent a letter to the U.S. State Department asking for more information about the refugee resettlement ceiling and whether refugees continue to be screened. As states have received fewer refugees, several refugee assistance organizations have also [laid off staff](#) and seen their programs quickly decrease in size.

So far in fiscal 2017, states that have received the highest number of refugees [in recent years](#) have seen the biggest numeric drop in monthly refugee arrivals. For example, 1,096 refugees resettled in Texas in October 2016, the first month of the current fiscal year. By April 2017, that number had dropped to 353.

Similarly, California and Arizona each had 500 fewer refugee arrivals in April 2017 than October 2016. Other states with substantial drops in monthly refugee resettlement include Michigan and New York. States with the most significant *percentage* decreases in resettled refugees include Maine (90% decrease), Oklahoma (87%), Virginia (81%) and Nebraska (80%).

Four states – Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Montana – had a higher number of refugees in April 2017 than October 2016. However, these states combined resettled only 155 refugees during

U.S. refugee resettlement has declined since October

Monthly number of U.S. refugees resettled in fiscal 2017



Note: Data do not include special immigrant visas and certain humanitarian parole entrants. Fiscal year began Oct. 1, 2016.

Source: U.S. State Department's Refugee Processing Center accessed May 22, 2017.

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the first seven months of fiscal 2017. (The monthly number of refugee arrivals by state in fiscal 2017 is available here.)

The State Department’s Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration reviews refugee applications based on referrals from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, U.S embassies, nongovernmental organizations and other programs. Applications are then processed by the State Department, the Department of Homeland Security’s U.S Citizenship and Immigration Services and other federal agencies. The application and approval process can take up to 24 months.

For U.S. resettlement, the International Organization for Migration and the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement work with [voluntary agencies](#) such as the International Rescue Committee or Church World Service to resettle refugees. These agencies have offices across the country and resettle refugees across many states. After 90 to 180 days, financial assistance from federal agencies stops.

Refugee arrivals decrease by more than 300 in several states

Number of refugee arrivals in October and April of fiscal 2017, by state

	October 2016	April 2017	Decline in arrivals
Texas	1,096	353	-743
California	814	338	-476
Arizona	547	87	-460
Michigan	563	168	-395
New York	560	179	-381
Washington	498	182	-316
Ohio	443	194	-249
Georgia	362	115	-247
Pennsylvania	336	112	-226
Minnesota	311	86	-225
Other states	4,415	1,502	-2,913
All states	9,945	3,316	-6,629

Note: Data do not include special immigrant visas and certain humanitarian parole entrants. Fiscal year begins Oct. 1, 2016. Ordered by states with the greatest numeric decrease between October 2016 and April 2017.

Source: U.S. State Department’s Refugee Processing Center accessed May 22, 2017.

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Monthly refugee arrivals into the U.S. by state, fiscal 2017

	2016			2017				Total
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	
Alabama	8	4	4	4	9	12	5	46
Alaska	17	3	2	10	9	1	13	55
Arizona	547	493	310	186	183	107	87	1,913
Arkansas			14	5	6	6	5	36
California	814	887	636	867	425	216	338	4,183
Colorado	192	217	179	156	113	42	63	962
Connecticut	47	73	62	87	35	8	29	341
Delaware				4	5			9
District of Columbia	2							2
Florida	267	263	276	265	126	46	106	1,349
Georgia	362	304	331	214	130	74	115	1,530
Hawaii	3							3
Idaho	127	106	87	57	51	14	28	470
Illinois	278	257	259	196	168	84	89	1,331
Indiana	278	123	119	92	97	48	78	835
Iowa	132	92	42	53	68	20	66	473
Kansas	82	93	67	89	90	19	38	478
Kentucky	283	333	258	180	108	51	68	1,281
Louisiana		12	16	5	10		14	57
Maine	59	74	48	15	26	12	6	240
Maryland	227	158	168	100	85	20	85	843
Massachusetts	176	154	123	161	95	74	86	869
Michigan	563	388	363	281	225	133	168	2,121
Minnesota	311	295	231	202	141	66	86	1,332
Mississippi			3	1			1	5
Missouri	190	209	142	194	131	61	74	1,001
Montana	4	8	7	12	17	4	5	57

Notes: Data do not include special immigrant visas and certain humanitarian parole entrants. Ordered alphabetically by state. Fiscal year starts on Oct. 1, 2016.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. State Department's Refugee Processing Center data, accessed May 22, 2017.

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Monthly refugee arrivals into the U.S. by state, fiscal 2017, continued

	2016			2017				Total
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	
Nebraska	199	162	145	159	135	69	40	909
Nevada	111	79	51	37	37	18	26	359
New Hampshire	97	20	56	25	13	6	29	246
New Jersey	57	29	52	63	53	4	34	292
New Mexico	64	20	23	4	9	9		129
New York	560	446	513	306	264	134	179	2,402
North Carolina	310	284	222	257	165	105	133	1,476
North Dakota	78	32	54	42	35	17	30	288
Ohio	443	465	432	309	230	79	194	2,152
Oklahoma	75	13	4	22	37	37	10	198
Oregon	188	132	162	131	51	23	41	728
Pennsylvania	336	357	288	289	120	47	112	1,549
Rhode Island	36	25	38	26	22		10	157
South Carolina	19	43	41	60	16	22	6	207
South Dakota	57	42	31	29	23	27	38	247
Tennessee	242	146	142	138	94	35	58	855
Texas	1,096	666	608	711	343	94	351	3,869
Utah	132	113	98	67	71	37	63	581
Vermont	46	23	35	34	27	3	20	188
Virginia	172	124	160	195	75	41	33	800
Washington	498	409	363	338	302	118	182	2,210
West Virginia	6		1			4		11
Wisconsin	154	179	105	99	105	23	74	739
All states	9,945	8,355	7,371	6,777	4,580	2,070	3,316	42,414

Notes: Data do not include special immigrant visas and certain humanitarian parole entrants. Ordered alphabetically by state. Fiscal year starts Oct. 1, 2016.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. State Department's Refugee Processing Center data, accessed May 22, 2017.

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